

John L. Watson



John Leonard Watson was born on September 5, 1951 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Watson family moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 1960. John learned how to play chess from his father in 1962 when he was 11 years old.

In the summer of 1965, John immersed himself in chess books to improve his game. His favorites were *Modern Ideas in Chess* by Richard Reti and *The Golden Treasury of Chess* by I.A. Horowitz.

When he was 14, John entered his first rated tournament, the 1966 Iowa Open in Des Moines; he finished in second place, earning a 2161 rating. There were few tournaments in Omaha in those days, so John traveled to Kansas City, Des Moines, and Lincoln (Nebraska).

In 1969 Watson won the National High School Championship in New York, becoming the nation's first ever High School National Champion.

John moved to Denver in 1973 and on May 18, 1974, he opened The Chess House near downtown Denver at 138 West 5th Avenue with Chris Hendrickson. The Chess House rapidly became the center of chess activity in Denver. Checkers, Scrabble, Go, and Backgammon were also popular there. GM Bent Larsen visited The Chess House; John helped organize the Bent Larsen Simul on July 18, 1974.

Watson was the editor of the *Colorado Chess Bulletin* from February 1974 to June 1975, before passing it to Bob O'Donnell. John also wrote many instructional columns for the *Colorado Chess Bulletin* during the 1970s, notably annotating games for the 1977 Junior Invitational tournament held in downtown Denver at the Petroleum Club.

John won the Colorado Open in 1974 and 1975. He narrowly lost the State Championship on tiebreaks to Curtis Carlson in 1976.

John closed the Chess House in early 1976 and moved to Berkeley, California.

Watson was awarded the International Master title in 1979. He is a United States Chess Federation Senior and Life Master.

Watson has a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California in San Diego (1988) and worked as a communications engineer for Hughes Network Systems.

After leaving engineering, Watson has made a chess career as a player, teacher, and author. His most famous students are the 1997 World Junior Champion, GM Tal Shaked (who played in the 1998 U.S. Championships in Denver), Senior Master Patrick Hummel (the 1999 National High School Champion), and Abby Marshall, a woman FIDE Master who won the 2009 Denker Tournament of Champions. John has also taught other U.S. scholastic champions.

John was awarded the United States Chess Federation's Frank J. Marshall Award in 2008 and the USCF Outstanding Career Achievement Award in 2020.

For all his lifelong chess accomplishments, Watson was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame in 2022 (along with GM James Tarjan and the late Daniel Willard Fiske). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SophxPYqt4k>

John married Maura Giles-Watson, who teaches English Literature at the University of San Diego in 2003.

Tournament Success

Besides winning the 1979 U.S. High School Championship and Colorado State Championship in 1974 and 1975, Watson has won numerous chess tournaments.

Watson played in the prestigious Lone Pine International tournament in 1976, 1979, and 1981.

John's best tournament result was winning the 1979 Bar Point Invitational in New York.

Watson also tied for first with Nick de Firmian in the 1981 American Open.

He played in the U.S. Championship in 2003.

Commentator

Watson was a commentator at the 1977 U.S. Junior Championships in Denver and the U.S. Championships from 2005-2007.

John hosted a weekly Internet radio show 'Chess Talk with John Watson' on Chess.FM, the radio arm of the Internet Chess Club. He recorded hundreds of chess instructional videos for the Internet Chess Club.

Journalist and Author

Watson is likely best known for being one of the premier chess authors in the world.

Early in his career, John wrote the *Chessman* comics, which were illustrated by Chris Hendrickson and later Svein Myreng.

He has written articles for about a dozen state magazines, European chess magazines, *Chess Life*, *Inside Chess*, and *The Week in Chess* (London Chess Centre), among others. For twenty years he wrote a monthly theoretical column for ChessPublishing.com. John contributed book reviews to *The Week in Chess* for fifteen years, and is currently the book reviewer for *Chess Life*.

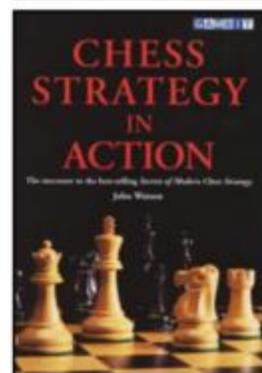
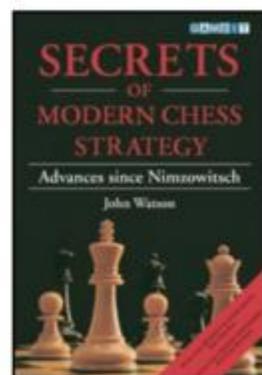
Watson has written over 30 chess books. His most famous are:

Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy, Advances since Nimzowitsch (1998) – won both British Chess Federation and U.S. Chess Federation Book of the Year Award.

Chess Strategy in Action (2003) – the successor to *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* - won the ChessCafe Book of the Year.

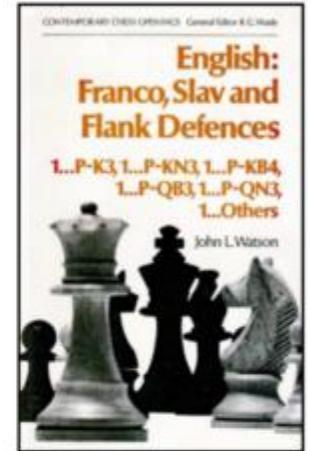
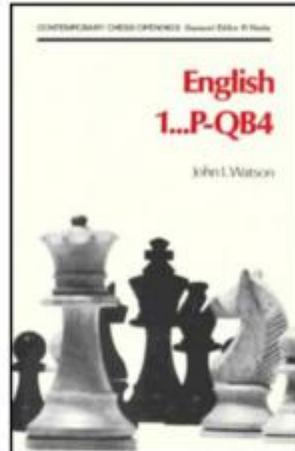
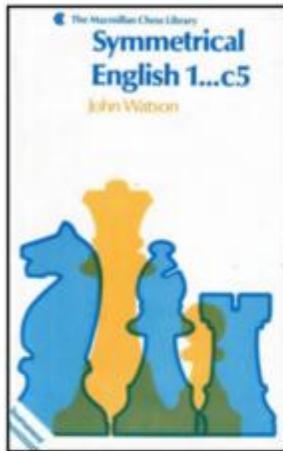
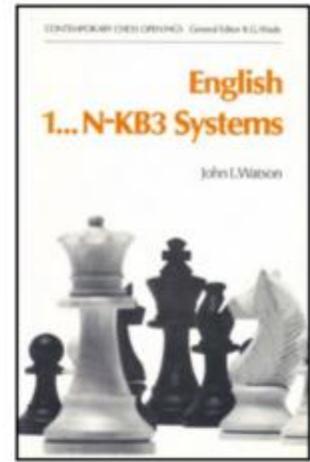
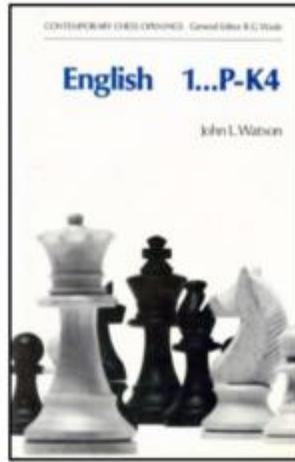
These two books explore and theorize how chess has radically changed since the early 20th century, and how old and supposedly 'time-tested' rules for the conduct of play have been replaced by broader and revolutionary practice. Both books have been translated into several languages.

Most of Watson's books are on the Opening; he is best known Opening books are on the English Opening and French Defense.



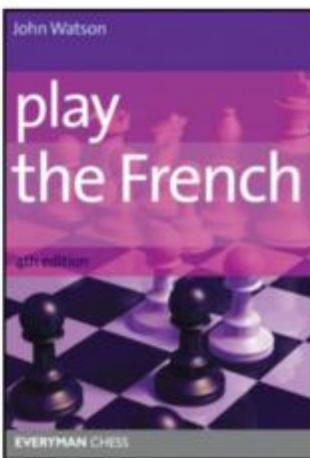
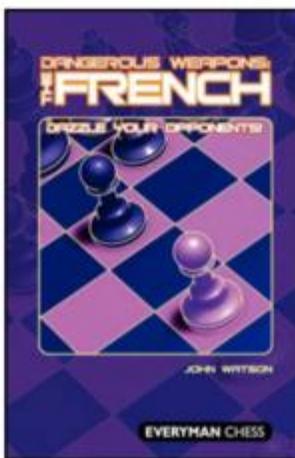
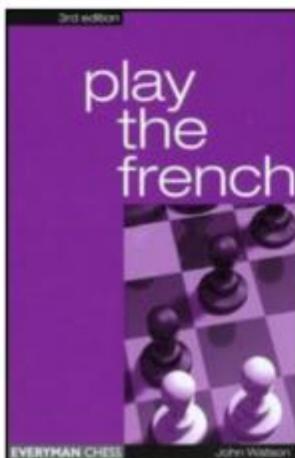
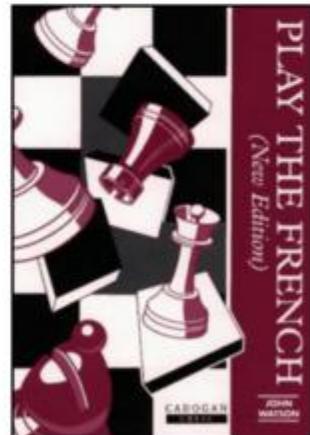
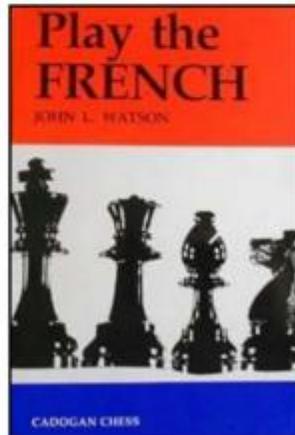
Books on the English Opening

- English 1...P-K4* (1979)
- English 1...N-KB3 Systems* (1979)
- English 1...P-QB4* (1980)
- English: Franco, Slav and Flank Defenses* (1981)
- Symmetrical English: 1...c5* (1988)



Book on the French Defense

- Play the French* (1984)
- Play the French (New Edition)* (1996)
- Play the French, 3rd Edition* (2003)
- Dangerous Weapons: The French* (2007)
- Play the French, 4th Edition* (2012)



Other Opening books

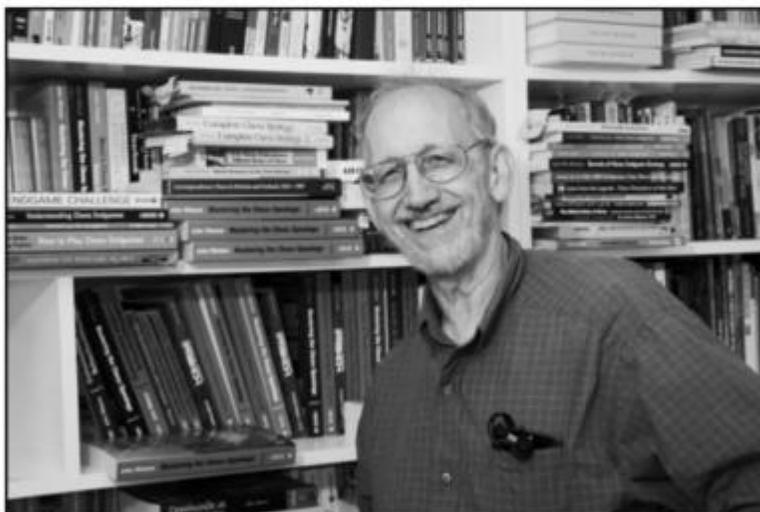
Queen's Gambit, Chigorin Defence (1981)
6...Nc6 Sämisch Variation, King's Indian Defense (1982)
Taimanov and Knight's Tour Benoni (1985)
4.Nc3 Gambit in the Queen's Gambit Accepted and Slav (1986)
The Kan Variation of the Sicilian (1986)
The Big Book of Busts (1995) with Eric Schiller
The Unconventional King's Indian Defense (1997)
The Gambit Guide to the Modern Benoni (2001)
Survive & Beat Annoying Chess Openings (2003) with Eric Schiller
How to Succeed in the Queen Pawn Openings (2006) with Eric Schiller
Mastering the Chess Opening, Volume 1 (2006)
Mastering the Chess Openings, Volume 2 (2007)
Mastering the Chess Openings, Volume 3 (2008)
Mastering the Chess Openings, Volume 4 (2010)
Chess Openings for Kids (2011) with Graham Burgess
A Strategic Chess Opening Repertoire for White (2012)
Taming Wild Chess Openings (2015) with Eric Schiller



The Chess House

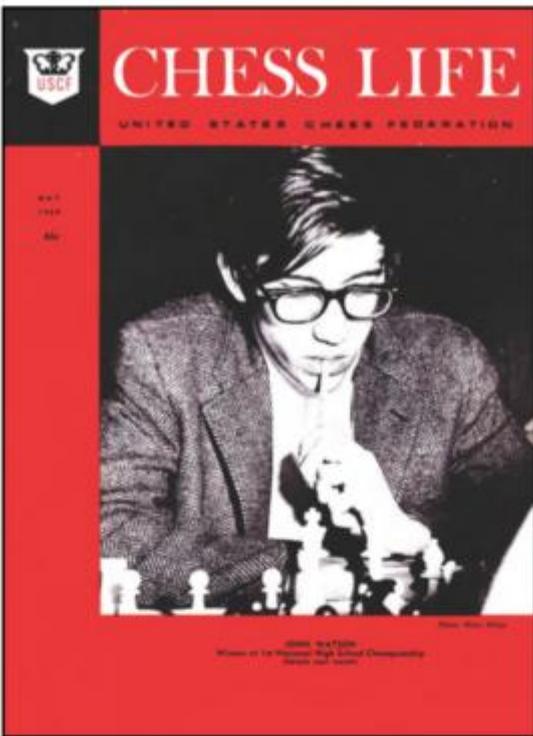
John also authored:

2nd Marshall International Chess Tournament, New York 1979 (1979)
U.S. Open St. Paul, 1982 (1982) with Jim Marfia
1983 U.S. Open (1984) with Jim Marfia
1984 New York International (1984)



John Watson with chess books





Watson 1967



Chess Life - May 1969

Candidate For USCF Secretary

Eric D. Bone
 Address: 5105 Tamarack Drive
 Baytown, Texas 77520
 Age: Twenty-nine.
 Occupation: Computer Programmer for NASA at the Manned Spacecraft Center.

I am indeed pleased to be a candidate for the office of Secretary of the United States Chess Federation. I have been an active tournament player in the USCF since 1954, have been involved in chess promotion and organization since about 1960, and have been a USCF State Director from Texas since 1966. However, except for a few tournaments in Nevada and two Western Opens in 365 weeks, most of my activity has been confined to my own section of the country. For this reason, my name may be relatively unknown to many of you. I am a USCF Expert whose rating makes occasional excursions into the

Master ranks—and then quickly retreats! I had my first taste of organizational work on a small scale while in college at the University of Texas. Since then I have been quite active in various capacities on a local and state level. I have participated in the affairs of the Houston Chess Club for the past seven years, serving variously during that period as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Tournaments and Matches (not to mention Janitor). I have acted as an organizer and promoter for most of the chess tournaments held in the Houston area in the last several years and have also directed quite a number of them.

On a state level, I have held office in the Texas Chess Association (TCA) since 1965. The first year I served as TCA Vice-President, and subsequently I have been three times elected to the combined office of Secretary-Treasurer

of the TCA. It is from my experience in this latter post in particular (one which has indeed been more than just a title) that I believe I have gained valuable background for the duties which I now seek.

If elected, I pledge to work very hard to carry out the duties of the office and to support the new administration and the Federation in every possible way. I do not believe that my physical distance from the other offices and from Newburgh would significantly render more difficult the duties of USCF Secretary or the coordination between that office and the USCF business office. On the contrary, I think that such geographical dispersion of the offices is, in general, a good and useful idea. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you soon, and I hope I will be able to work with and for you for the next three years.

School Championship will be held at the same location April 25, 1970, and should draw well over 400 entrants. Many schools which didn't play in the first one have indicated they plan to enter next year. Regardless of where you are, your school can be represented—start planning now!

GAMES FROM THE 1968 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP
 White: John Jacobs (Bryan Adams, Dallas, Tex.)
 Black: James MacFarland (Burst Hills, N.Y.)

1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. P-K3, P-Q4; 4. P-Q3, N-Q3; 5. N-B3, Q-N2; 6. P-G3, N-K2; 7. P-QN4, P-B3; 8. P-QR4, N-B4; 9. B-K2, B-E2; 10. B-N3, P-B3; 11. B-B4, P-P; 12. N-P, N-N; 13. B-N, B-B2; 14. B-B3, K-K2; 15. Q-K2, B-Q2; 16. O-O, Q-R-K1; 17. N-R3, E-Q1; 18. K-R-N1, B-B; 19. P-R, Q-B2; 20. N-N3, B-N; 21. P-R, Q-N2; 22. Q-B2, K-R2; 23. Q-N3, Q-Q; 24. B-Q, N-E2; 25. B-N4, N-B4; 26. R/1-B1, E-N2; 27. F-N3, B-B2; 28. R/1-B2, P-R; 29. R-R, P-Q3; 30. P-Q3, P-B; 31. B-B3, K-P; 32. P-K4, N-Q3; 33. B-Q; 34. B-Q3, P-B; 35. B-Q3, P-B; 36. N-K3, White resigns.

White: James Cardamone (NorthEast Catholic, Philadelphia, Pa.)
 Black: John Watson (Brownell-Talbot, Omaha, Neb.)

1. P-K4, P-Q4; 2. N-K3, P-Q; 3. P-Q4, P-P; 4. N-P, N-K3; 5. N-Q3, P-K3; 6. P-B3, B-N2; 7. B-K2, O-O; 8. Q-Q3, N-B3; 9. O-O-O, N-N; 10. B-N, B-K2; 11. N-Q3, B-N; 12. P-R, B-B1; 13. E-N1, Q-B2; 14. B-B1, P-Q3, B-N1; 15. P-Q4, P-Q4; 16. P-K4, Q-N2; 17. P-Q4, P-P; 18. B-P, R-K1; 19. R-R, Q-P; 20. Q-P, N-K2; 21. Q-B1, Q-R; 22. B-R, K-R; 23. P-N, Q-R/P; 24. K-R1, B-B1; 25. Q-Q1, B-B7; 26. P-B3, B-Q7; 27. P-B3, K-R1; 28. Q-Q1, Q-B7; and Black won.

White: Robert Enders (University City, Mo.)
 Black: Peter Koelsch (New Shrewsbury, N.J.)

1. P-K4, P-Q4; 2. N-K3, P-Q; 3. P-Q4, P-P; 4. N-P, N-K3; 5. N-Q3, P-Q3; 6. P-B3, B-N2; 7. B-K2, O-O; 8. Q-Q3, N-B3; 9. O-O-O, N-N; 10. B-N, B-K2; 11. N-Q3, B-N; 12. P-R, B-B1; 13. E-N1, Q-B2; 14. B-B1, P-Q3, B-N1; 15. P-Q4, P-Q4; 16. P-K4, Q-N2; 17. P-Q4, P-P; 18. B-P, R-K1; 19. R-R, Q-P; 20. Q-P, N-K2; 21. Q-B1, Q-R; 22. B-R, K-R; 23. P-N, Q-R/P; 24. K-R1, B-B1; 25. Q-Q1, B-B7; 26. P-B3, B-Q7; 27. P-B3, K-R1; 28. Q-Q1, Q-B7; and Black won.

White: Robert Enders (University City, Mo.)
 Black: Peter Koelsch (New Shrewsbury, N.J.)

1. P-K4, P-Q4; 2. N-K3, P-Q; 3. P-Q4, P-P; 4. N-P, N-K3; 5. N-Q3, P-Q3; 6. P-B3, B-N2; 7. B-K2, O-O; 8. Q-Q3, N-B3; 9. O-O-O, N-N; 10. B-N, B-K2; 11. N-Q3, B-N; 12. P-R, B-B1; 13. E-N1, Q-B2; 14. B-B1, P-Q3, B-N1; 15. P-Q4, P-Q4; 16. P-K4, Q-N2; 17. P-Q4, P-P; 18. B-P, R-K1; 19. R-R, Q-P; 20. Q-P, N-K2; 21. Q-B1, Q-R; 22. B-R, K-R; 23. P-N, Q-R/P; 24. K-R1, B-B1; 25. Q-Q1, B-B7; 26. P-B3, B-Q7; 27. P-B3, K-R1; 28. Q-Q1, Q-B7; and Black won.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

With 270 players from 21 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico, the National High School Championship made a spectacularly successful debut at the McAlpin Hotel in New York April 11-13. Entrants came from as far as Hawaii and all eight USCF regions were represented. The individual Champion, with a 74-1/2 score, was John Watson, a senior at Brownell-Talbot High School, Omaha, Nebraska; while the team title, determined by combining the scores of each school's four best scorers, went to the "Gompers" team of Chicago, Ill., all of whose members attend Lane Technical High School.

This was a sensational tournament, in which what almost happened was perhaps as notable as what did. Pre-tournament ratings had John Jacobs of Bryan Adams, Dallas, Tex. (2200) ranked first, Eugene Meyer of Woodstock, N.Y. (2125) second, and Watson (2085) third. The three won their first four games, but in round five, Jacobs was upset by James MacFarland of Burst Hills, N.Y. (1780), who tied Meyer, Watson, Elliott Winslow of University City, Mo. (1800), and Alexander Sax of Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Central Islip, N.Y. (1820). Watson had drawn a game earlier. Watson then scored a key victory over Meyer in the seventh round, but he was tied at 6 1/2 by Jacklyn, who upset Winslow. The prospect of a sixth-grader becoming National High School Champion aroused much speculation as the final round and the decisive encounter, Watson vs. Jacklyn, were awaited. However,

the outcome was somewhat of an anti-climax—Jacklyn mishandled the opening and was unable to put up much opposition thereafter, resigning on the 28th move.

Robert Enders of University City, Mo. placed second and last year's Eastern States High School Champion, Ray Tilton of Brush, Cleveland, Ohio tied each with 7-1 scores. Both finished strong after being upset in the early going—Enders by John Berlichy of Horace Greeley, Chappaqua, N.Y., and Tilton by David Hasegawa of the winning Gompers team. Fourth through twelfth with 6 1/2-1/2 were Paul Jacklyn; John Jacobs; Eugene Meyer; Daniel Harger of Roosevelt, Des Moines, Iowa; Elliott Winslow; Allan Savage of Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D.C.; Arthur Keske of Chardon, Ohio; Harold Boas of Evanston, Ill.; and Nicholas Ocipoff of Bayside, Queens, N.Y. Best scoring 12th grader was Watson, 11th grader Meyer, 10th grader Enders, and 9th grader Boas. The 8th Grade Championship went to Danny Shapiro of Great Neck, N.Y. South JHS (rated only 1283) with 6 points; 7th Grade Champion with 5 1/2 was Jon Bertrac of Perpetua, Socorro, San Jose, Puerto Rico. The B prize went to Nicholas Ocipoff, the C to Bob Norman of Eden Prairie, Minnesota; the D to Leonard Gross of Stuyvesant, New York, N.Y.; the E to James Giles of New Canaan, Conn.; the Under-1000 to Andrew Targoff of Stuyvesant; and the Under-800 to John Hasey of Great Neck, N.Y. North JHS. Robert Anderson of Gompers was the Unrated trophy with 6, an tie-break over 9th grader Vic Barkowski of Churchill Area, Pittsburgh, Pa.; third with 5 1/2 was Richard Lorenz of John F. Kennedy, Willingboro, N.J.

Robin Karall, an 8th grader at Trisard JHS, Bronx, N.Y., led four others to win the Girls Championship with 3 points, defeating second place Ann Marie Patrick of Notre Dame, Baltimore, Md. in the last round.

The Team Championship was another closely contested struggle. Gompers' 23 1/2-6 1/2 score edging second place Woodrow Wilson (Washington, D.C.) and third place Evanston Township (Evanston, Ill.) by a half point. The winners' top four scorers were David Hasegawa, Charles Ingersoll, Robert Anderson, and Larry Frye. Woodrow Wilson's team consisted of Allan Savage, Alexander Sax, Gary Melitzer, and Edward Friedman; Evanston's of Harold Boas, Philip Wang, Jay Adler, and Sidney Lewis. 4th through 10th place prizewinners were Roosevelt (Des Moines, Iowa), Stuyvesant (New York, N.Y.), University City, Mo., Abraham Lincoln (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Brookline, Mass., Highland Park, N.J., and Seabois (Birmingham, Mich.).

Many who did not participate cited "the great distance involved," which frequently was only a few hundred miles. Roger Calhoun and Christopher Aninger probably find this claim humorous—they came all the way from Kailua, Hawaii—a distance of 3,000 miles! They posted respectable scores of 5 and 4 respectively. Also of note were the entry of 13 players from Churchill Area 18 of Pittsburgh, 250 miles away (the most from any school), the entry of 7 from Marquette HS of Milwaukee, 800 miles distant, and the total of no less than 22 participants from the state of Illinois. Tournament Directors were William Goldberg and Sanford Gross, assisted by David Kaplan and Bob Moran.

The Second Annual National High



Watson - May 1976



Smyslov reading Chessman comics



Watson - 1977 US Open



1977 US Open - Watson vs. Dmitry Agrachov



1977 US Open - GM William Lombardy vs. Watson



Petrosian with Chessman comics



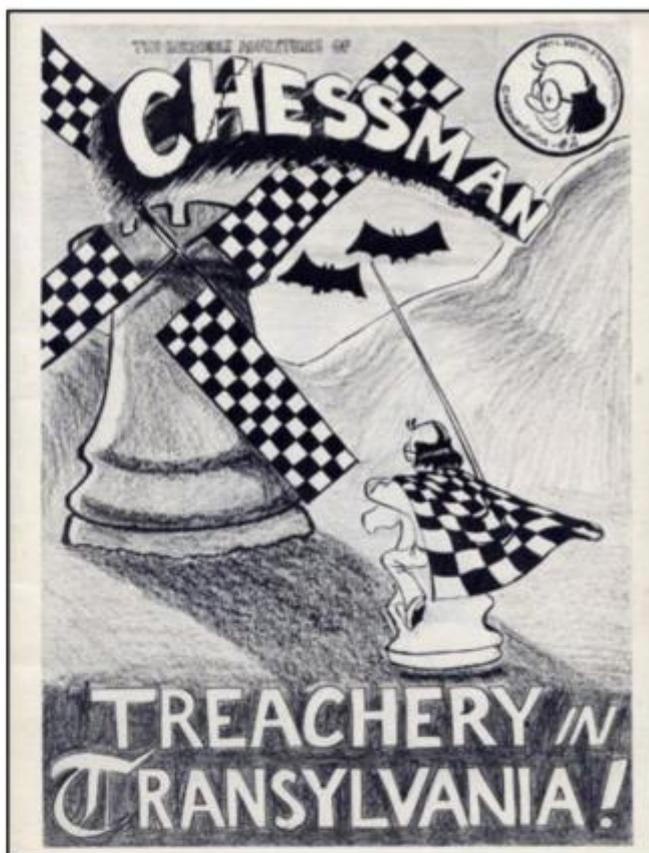
Miles reading Chessman comics



Commentating at the 1977 US Junior Championships in Denver



Chessman comics - #1 1975



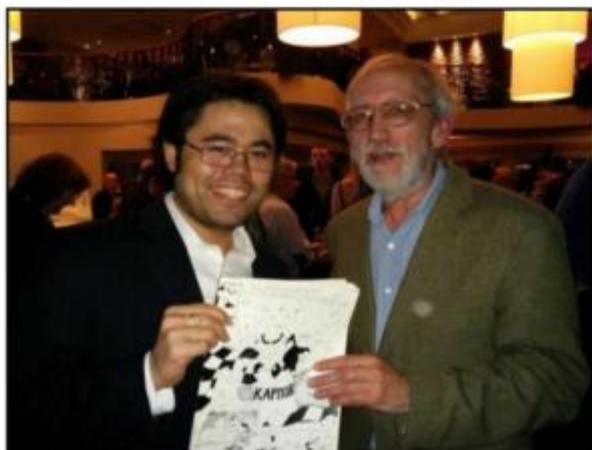
Chessman #2_ Treachery in Transylvania! - 1982



2003 US Chess Championship



2019 Denver Open



John with Hikaru Nakamura and Chessman Comic



John at the demonstration board

Watson won the 1969 National High School Championship with a 7.5 score. This was the first National High School Chess Championship tournament in the country.

[Event "1969 National High School Championship"]

[Site "New York"]

[Date "April 12, 1969"]

[Round "?"]

[White] **James Cardamone (1843)** -Northeast Catholic School, Philadelphia,PA"]

[Black] **John Watson (2065)** -Brownell-Talbot High School, Omaha, NE"]

[Result "0-1"]

Game annotated by John Hartmann

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Nxd4 (9...d5 is almost universally played today.) 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Rc8 13.Kb1 Qc7 14.Rc1 (Freeing the queen from its defensive duties. 14.g4 allows Black to try and lure the queen with 14...Bh6!? (14...Nxd5!? is another idea: 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.c3 e6) 15.Qc3 Nxd5 +=; 14.c3 may improve: 14...Qa5 15.Be3.) 14...a6 15.g4 b5 16.h4 Qb7 17.c4 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Rxc4?! 19.Rxc4 Qxd5 20.Qc3? Ne4! 21.Qe1 (21.Qe3 Qxc4 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Rc1 Qe6 24.Qxe4 Qxe4+ 25.fxe4 Kf6+) 21...Qxc4 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.fxe4 Qxe4+ 24.Ka1 Rc8 25.Qd1 Rc2 26.h5 Rd2 27.h6+ Kf8 28.Qe1 Qc2 0-1



Position after 20.Qc3

All the following games are annotated by John Watson

Bob Shean was the 1963 & 1964 Colorado Open Champion and the 1959 & 1983 Denver Open Champion. Shean was also the President of the Colorado State Chess Association from 1972-73 and then again from 1976-77.

[Event "1974 Al Wallace Memorial"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "March 31, 1974"]

[Round "5"]

[White] **John Watson (2169)"]**

[Black] **Robert Shean (2006)"]**

[Result "1-0"]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be4 e6 7. Bb3 b5 8. O-O Be7 9. f4 Qc7 10. f5 e5 11. Nde2 Bb7 12. Nd5 Bxd5 13. Bxd5 Nxd5 14. Qxd5 Qc5+ 15. Qxe5 dxc5 16. Nc3 Nd7 17. Nd5 Bd8 18. a4 b4 19. Be3 Rb8 20. b3 f6 21. Bf2 g5 22. Rfd1 h5 23. Rd2 Rb7 24. Rad1 Rh7 25. Ne3 Be7 26. Ne4 Rc7 27. Kf1 Bf8 28. Nd6+ Kd8 29. Rd5 Ke7 30. a5 Rg7 31. Ke2 Rh7 32. Nc8+ Ke8 33. Nb6 h4 34. h3 Rf7 35. Kd3 Rb7 36. Nxd7 Rfxd7 37. Ke4 Rde7 38. Rd8+ Kf7 39. Ra8 Rc6 40. Rdd8 Be7 41. Rh8 Kg7 42. Rac8 Rxc8 43. Rxc8 Rd7 44. Be3 Rd1 45. Rc7 Kf8 46. Rc6 Ra1 47. Rxa6 Ra2 48. Kd5 Bd8 49. Bxc5+ Ke8 50. Bb6 Bxb6 51. Rxb6 Rxa5+ 52. Ke6 1-0



Position after 31...Rh7

Don Sutherland was the 1973 Colorado Open Champion and 1973 Individual U.S. Armed Forces Chess Champion.

[Event "1974 Appreciation Open"]

[Site "Denver, Colorado"]

[Date "May 26, 1974"]

[Round "4"]

[White] **John Watson (2212)"]**

[Black] **Don Sutherland (2312)"]**

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. Bg5 c6 5. Qd2 Qa5 6. Be4 Nf6 7. f4 b5 8. Bxf6 Bxf6 9. Nxb5 Qxd2+ 10. Kxd2 cxb5 11. Bd5 Bxd4 12. Bxa8 e6 13. Nf3 Bb6 14. c3 Kd7 15. a4 bxa4 16. Rxa4 Na6 17. Nd4 Nc5 18. Ra3 Rd8 19. b4 Kc7 20. Nc6 Nxe4+ 21. Ke2 Rf8 22. Nxa7 Nf2 23. Nb5+ Kd7 24. Rha1 d5 25. Nd4 Kd6 26. h3 f6 27. Rf1 Ne4 28. Nf3 g5 29. c4 gxf4 30. c5+ Nxc5 31. bxc5+ Bxc5 32. Ra4 e5 33. Rd1 Bf5+ 34. Kb2 Rb8+ 35. Ka1 d4 36. Ra6+ Ke7 37. Re1 Bd3 38. Ra5 Bb4 39. Ra7+ Ke6 40. Rc6+ Kf5 41. Bb7 Bc3+ 42. Ka2 Rg8 43. Ka3 Rg3 44. Rd6 Be2 45. Nh4+ Kg5 46. Nf3+ Kf5 47. Nh4+ Kg5 48. Be4 1/2-1/2



Position after 35.Ka1

Shamkovich was a Russian Grandmaster who left the Soviet Union in 1975, moving first to Israel, then Canada, and finally to the United States. He won the 1975 Canadian Chess Championship and was inducted into the World Chess Hall of Fame in 2004.

[Event "1981 Edward Lasker Memorial"]

[Site "New York"]

[Date "April 1981"]

[Round "7"]

[White "John Watson (2489)"]

[Black "Leonid Shamkovich (2537)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e6 3. e4 d5 4. e5 Ne4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. d4 Be7 7. Bd3 Nxc3 8. bxc3 dxc4 9. Bxc4 Na5 10. Bd3 c5 11. O-O Bd7 12. Be3 cxd4 13. cxd4 Be6 14. Nd2 Qd5 15. Qg4 g6 16. Be4 Qd7 17. Rac1 Rd8 18. Rfd1 Bd5 19. h4 Nc6 20. h5 Nb4 21. a3 Nc6 22. Rc3 Bxe4 23. Nxe4 Nxe5 24. Qf4 Nc6 25. d5 f5 26. Rcd3 exd5 27. Rxd5 Qxd5 28. Rxd5 Rxd5 29. Nc3 Rd7 30. Qc4 Rf8 31. Nd5 Bd6 32. Bg5 Be5 33. g3 Rd6 34. Nf4 Rf7 35. Nd3 Bd4 36. Bf4 Rdd7 37. hxg6 hxg6 38. Qe6+ Rde7 39. Qxg6 Nd8 40. Bg5 Bg7 41. Bxe7 Kxe7 42. Qg5+ Kd7 43. Qd2 Kc8 44. Qe3 a6 45. Qe8 Bf8 46. Qe5 Bg7 47. Qd5 Bf8 48. Ne5 Rc7 49. Nc4 Rf7 50. a4 Kc7 51. a5 f4 52. Qe5+ Kc6 53. Qb8 Kb5 54. Ne5 Nc6 55. Nxc6 Kxc6 56. Qe8+ Rd7 57. Qe8+ Rc7 58. Qxf8 fxg3 59. Qf6+ Kd7 60. Qd4+ 1-0



Position after 24...Nc6

Ron Henley achieved the IM title in 1980 and GM title in 1982. In the 1990s he was a second, analyst, and trainer for former World Champion Anatoly Karpov in several matches.

[Event "1981 Edward Lasker Memorial"]

[Site "New York"]

[Date "April 1981"]

[Round "10"]

[White "Ron Henley (2480)"]

[Black "John Watson (2489)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6 8.g3 f6 9.Bd3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Be7 11.Ne2 fxe5 12.fxe5 0-0 13.Nf4 Nxd4! 14.Nxd4 Nxe5 15.Nc2 Bb4+ 16.Bd2 Bxd2+ 17.Kxd2 Nxd3 18.Nxd3 e5 19.Kc1 Bf5 20.Kb1 Rac8 21.Rf1 Qb5 22.Rxf5 Rxf5 23.a4 Qb6 24.a5 Qb5 25.Ra3 d4 26.Qh1 Ref8 27.Qe4 Rf1+ 28.Nde1 h6 29.Ka2 Qc4+ 30.Rb3 Qa4+ (30...Qa4+ 31.Ra3 Qb5 32.Nf3 Qc4+ 33.b3 Qc7) 0-1



Position after 13.Nf4

Arthur Bisguier won the 1954 U.S. Championship and three U.S. Open titles (1950, 1956, and 1959). Watson and Bisguier tied for third place with Joe Bradford and Tom Unger in the tournament, behind Andrew Soltis and William Martz.

[Event "1982 U.S. Open"]

[Site "St Paul, Minnesota"]

[Date "August 19, 1982"]

[Round "11"]

[White "Arthur Bisguier (2498)"]

[Black "John Watson (2503)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.Be2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Na6 9.Be3 Nc5 10.Bf3 Nfd7 11.0-0 e5! 12.Ndb5 exf4 13.Bxf4 Ne5 14.Be2 Be6 15.b3 a6 16.Nd4 Nc6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Re1 Qa5 19.Bd2 Qb6 20.Be3 Rad8 21.Kh1 Qb8 22.Bf3 Be5 =+ 23.Ne2 a5 24.Nd4 Bd7 25.Bg4 Qe8 26.Bxd7 Qxd7 27.Qf3 Re8 28.Rcd1 Qe7 29.Rfe1 Rfe8 30.Bf2 Qg5 31.Qh3 Qe7 32.Nf3? Be3 33.Bxc5 (33.Ng5 Qxg5 34.Qxc3 Nxe4 35.Qf3 f5 -/+) 33...Bxe1 34.Bxd6 Qxe4+ 35.Ng5 Qh4 36.Qxh4 Bxh4 37.Nf3 Bf6 38.a3 e5 39.Rd5 Re3 40.h4 Rxb3 41.Bxc5 Re3 42.Nd2 Bxh4 43.Kh2 Bg3+ 44.Kg1 Re8 45.Nf1 Be1 46.Bb6 Rxc4 47.Bxa5 Bxa5 48.Rxa5 Rc2 49.Kh2 Rec2 50.Ra8+ Kg7 0-1



Position after 32.Nf3

Nick De Firmian achieved the Grandmaster title in 1985. He won the U.S. Championships in 1987 (with Joel Benjamin), 1995, and 1998 (in Denver). He tied for first in 2002, but lost the playoff to Larry Christiansen. De Firmian is also a noted expert in chess openings as he wrote the 13th, 14th, and 15th editions of *Modern Chess Openings*.

[Event "10th Annual People's Tournament"]

[Site "Berkeley, CA"]

[Date "February 1983"]

[Round "?"]

[White "Nick De Firmian (2551)"]

[Black "John Watson (2491)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Bd7 8.dxc5 Ba4 9.Rb1 Nd7! 10.Rxb7 Nxc5 11.Rb4 Qa5 12.Nd4 0-0 13.Bd3 Qc7! 14.0-0 (14.f4 a5 15.Rb1 Ne4-/+ 14...a5 15.Rxa4 [15.Bxh7+? Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Nb5 Bxb5 18.Rh4 f5 19.exf6 Rxf6 (Watson 84)] 15...Nxa4 16.Qh5 Ng6 17.Nf3 Ne5 18.Bd2 (18.Ng5 h6 19.Nxf7 Nf4! 20.Bxf4 Qxf7-+) 18...Nxd3 19.cxd3 Rab8 20.d4 Rb2 21.Be1 Nf4 22.Qg5 Ne2+ 23.Kh1 Qc4 24.Nd2 Rxd2 25.Qxd2 Ng3+ 26.hxg3 Qxf1+ 27.Kh2 Rb8 0-1



Position after 13.Bd3

Grandmaster Peter Biyiasis was the Canadian Champion in 1972 and 1975. He was a frequent training partner of Bobby Fischer in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

[Event "11th Annual People's Tournament"]

[Site "Berkeley, California"]

[Date "February 1984"]

[Round "?"]

[White "John Watson (2528)"]

[Black "Peter Biyiasis (2540)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 Nbd7 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 Kh8 9.Be2 Ng8 10.g4 Ndf6 11.Nd2! Ne8 12.h4 f5 13.f3! += fxg4 14.fxg4 c5 15.Nf1! Bf6 16.g5 Be7 17.Ng3 Ng7 18.Qd2 Bd7 19.0-0-0 Be8 20.Rdg1 a6 21.h5+- gxh5 22.Nxh5 Bg6 23.Rh4! Rf7?! 24.Ng3 Qf8 25.Rgh1 Ne8 26.Bh5+- Bxh5 27.Rxh5 Qg7 28.Nf5 Qg6 29.Qe2! (with the idea of Nh4, g6) 29...Ng7 30.Rxh7+ Qxh7 31.Rxh7+ Kxh7 32.Qg4 Rf6 33.gxf6 1-0



Position after 22...Bg6

International Master Nikolay Minev was the Bulgarian Champion in 1953, 1965, and 1966. Watson won the Brilliancy Prize for this game and had a perfect score going into the last round of the tournament, which he lost to GM Walter Browne.

[Event "1984 National Open"]

[Site "Las Vegas, Nevada"]

[Tournament Dates "April 23-25, 1984"]

[Round "?"]

[White "Nikolay Minev (2412)"]

[Black "John Watson (2528)"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 a5 (TN at the time) 8.Bd3 Na6 9.Be2 (9.Nge2 Ne5 10.Be2 e6 11.a3 cxd5 12.cxd5 Bd7 13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 Na6 15.Rb1 Nh5 P. Cramling-Kindermann, Dortmund 1986; 16.g4 unclear --Suba in ECO, but 16...Nf4 looks very comfortable for Black, and awkward for White.) 9...Bd7 10.a3 Nh5 11.g3 Qe8 12.Rb1 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4 Ne5! 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 e4 18.bxc5 (18.Nge2? Nd3+ 19.Bxd3 exd3 20.Qxd3 f4 21.g4 f3!-+) 18...Bxc3+ 19.Kf1 f4! 20.Ne2 (20.g4 Ng3+ 21.fxg3 fxg3+ 22.Kg2 Rf2+ 23.Kxg3 Rd2) 20...fxg3 21.Nxg3 [21.Nxc3 Rxf2+ 22.Ke1 Qe5 (22...e3) 23.Nxe4 Ra3 24.Bxg3 (24.Qe1 Rxc2) 24...Rxg3 25.Kxf2 Qf4+] 21...Nxg3+ 22.Bxg3 Qg6 23.Kg2 Rxf2+! 24.Kxf2 Rf8+ 25.Kg2 Rf3 26.Rh2 (26.Rg1 Rxg3+ 27.Kf2 Rxg1 28.Qxg1 Bd4+) 26...Rxg3+ 27.Kh1 Bxh3 28.Rb3 (28.Qe2 Bd4; 28.Qg1 Be5! 29.Qxg3 Qxg3 30.Rg1 Qxg1+ 31.Kxg1 Bxh2+ 32.Kxh2 Bf1) 28...Bg4 0-1



Position after 23.Kg2

The Chess Palace, founded in 1990, is one of Southern California's premier chess clubs offering weekly tournaments, instruction, and large collection of chess books and merchandise. David Bronstein, Walter Browne, Susan Polgar, and Eduard Gufeld are some of the notable players who have visited the Chess Palace over the years.

[Event "Chess Palace March Championship"]

[Site "Long Beach, California"]

[Date "March 14, 1993"] [Round "3"]

[White "John Watson (2430)"]

[Black "Juan Fong (2229)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4 Nxc4 8.Rg1 Nxc2 9.Nxc2 Bxc2 10.Rxc2 Nf8! 11.Rg2 Bc7!? (12...Ng6! 13.Bg5 f6 14.Bh6 +=) 13.Be3 b5 14.0-0-0 Bb7 15.d5?! (15.e5±) 15...Qe7! 16.Qd2! b4 (16...exd5 17.Nxb5; 16...0-0-0 17.Qd4 Ng6! 18.Qxa7 Bb8 with an unclear position.) 17.Na4! (17.d6!?) 17...exd5 18.Bc5 Bd6 19.Qxb4 0-0-0!? (19...Bxc5! 20.Nxc5= Rc8!? (20...Bc6) 21.Qxb7 Qxc5 22.exd5 +=) 20.Bxc4 (20.Rg7 Ng6 21.exd5 also unclear) 20...Ng6 21.exd5 Nf4?! 22.Rg3! += Nxd5 (22...exd5 23.Re3 Qc7 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.Kb1 +=) 23.Bxd5 Bxd5? (23...exd5 24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.Nc5+-) 24.Rc3 Kd7 25.Rxd5 exd5 26.Qb5+ Kc7 27.Bb6+ Kb8 28.Bc7+ 1-0



Position after 19...0-0-0

Gata Kamsky just turned 19 at the time of this game. Two years later he was ranked 4th in the world. Kamsky lost to Anatoly Karpov in the final of the 1996 FIDE World Championship.

[Event "1993 World Open"]

[Site "Philadelphia, Pennsylvania"]

[Date "July 2, 1993"] [Round "2"]

[White "John Watson (2459)"]

[Black "Gata Kamsky (2797)"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Nh2 Qe8 9.Be2 Nf4 10.Bf3 f5 11.g3 Nxc3 12.Bg2 f4 13.Nf3 g5 14.Bxc3 g4 15.Bg2 (15.Nh4 gxh3 16.g4 h5!) 15...gxf3 (15...fxg3?! 16.Nh4!) 16.Qxf3 Qg6 17.Bh3! Na6? (17...fxg3! 18.Qxg3 Qxg3 19.fxg3 Bxc3 20.Rxc3 Nd7 21.g4! +=; 17...Bxc3?! 18.Rxc3 Nd7 19.Bd2 Rf7 20.Qh1!) 18.Bxc8 Rxc8 19.g4? (19.gxf4! exf4 (19...Nb4 20.f5! Nc2+ 21.Kd1 Nxa1 22.Qh3) 20.Bd2!±) 19...c6! 20.Rh5?! (20.b3! is unclear) 20...Nb4! (now Black has the upper hand) 21.Kd2?! (21.Qd1 exd5! 22.a3 Nc2+! 23.Qxc2 d4 -/+) 21...exd5 22.exd5 Rc4 23.a3 Rd4+ 24.Ke2 Nc2 (24...Rd3! 25.axb4 Rxf3 26.Kxf3 I thought this might be okay, but in the cold light of day Black is winning.) 25.Rb1 Rc4 (If 25...Rxd5, White has 26.Nxd5!? Nd4+ 27.Kd3! Qxh5 28.gxh5 Nxf3 29.Bd2) 26.Qh1 Nxa3?! (26...Nd4+! 27.Kd3 Qxg4 28.f3 Qc8!) 27.bxa3 Rxc3! (27...f3+ 28.Kd3=) 28.f3! b6 29.Bd2! Rc4 30.g5! Rfc8 31.Qh3 (A complex game. We both played pretty poorly, but the moves weren't obvious and we were in some time trouble early on.) ½-½



Position after 16...Qg6



Josh Bloomer vs. John Watson
2019 Denver Open

Watson and Gufeld tied for third place with Jack Peters, Sergey Janovsky, Roland Eskstrom, and William Duckworth. Grandmaster Gufeld is one of the most prolific chess authors of all time, writing over 80 chess books.

[Event "1995 American Open"]
 [Site "Los Angeles, California"]
 [Date "November 24, 1995"] [Round "3"]
 [White "John Watson (2444), FIDE - 2395"]
 [Black "Eduard Gufeld (2591), FIDE - 2435"]
 [Result "1-0"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 O-O 5. Nf3 d6 6. h3 a6 7. Be3 c6 8. Be2 b5 9. a3 Nbd7 10. O-O bxc4 11. Bxc4 d5 12. exd5 Nb6 13. Ba2 cxd5 14. Ne5 Be6 15. Qe2 Ne8 16. Nd3 Bc8 17. Nc5 e6 18. Rfd1 Nd6 19. Bf4 Nbc4 20. Bxc4 Nxe4 21. b3 Nd6 22. Be5 Bh6 23. Qf3 Nf5 24. Ra2 Nh4 25. Qf6 Qxf6 26. Bxf6 Nf5 27. g4 Bg7 28. Bxg7 Nxg7 29. Kg2 f6 30. b4 h5 31. f3 hxg4 32. hxg4 Ra7 33. Rh1 f5 34. Nd3 fxd4 35. fxd4 Re7 36. Ne2 Bd7 37. Ne5 Be8 38. Rc1 Rb7 39. Rc8 g5 40. Rac2 Bb5 41. Ng1 Ne8 42. Ngf3 Rg7 43. Rd8 Nf6 44. Rxf8+ Kxf8 45. Rc8+ Be8 46. Ra8 Ne4 47. Nd3 Ke7 48. Rxa6 Kf6 49. Ra8 Bb5 50. Nc5 Nxc5 51. bxc5 Bd3 52. Ne5 Be4+ 53. Kf2 Rb7 54. c6 Rb2+ 55. Ke3 Rb3+ 56. Kd2 Rb2+ 57. Kc3 Re2+ 58. Kb3 Ke7 59. Ra7+ Ke8 60. c7 1-0



Position after 24...Nh4

Ivanov won the tournament by half a point. This was Igor's only loss - no draws. Ivanov won the U.S. Grand Prix many years.

[Event "1997 Lina Grumette Memorial Day"]
 [Site "Irvine, California"]
 [Date "May 25, 1997"]
 [Round "3"]
 [White "John Watson (2423)"]
 [Black "Igor Ivanov (2522)"]
 [Result "1-0"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5 5.Nge2 d6 6.a3 Ba5 7.Rb1 Nc6!? (7...Na6!?) 8.d5!? (8.b4! cxb4 9.axb4 Bxb4 10.Rxb4 Nxb4 11.Qa4+ Nc6 12.d5 +=) 8...Ne7 (8...exd5! 9.cxd5 Ne5) 9.b4 Bb6 10.Ng3 cxb4 11.axb4 a5 12.Ba3! 0-0 13.Be2 exd5 14.Nxd5!? Nexd5 15.cxd5 axb4 16.Bxb4 Ba5 17.0-0?! Re8?! (17...Bxb4 18.Rxb4 Qa5 19.Rb5 +=) 18.Ba3! Re5 19.Bf3 Re8 20.Bb2 Nd7 21.Bg4! Nc5 22.Bxc8 Qxc8 (22...Rxc8? 23.Nh5±) 23.Rc1 (23.Nh5!? f6 24.Qf3) 23...f6 24.Rc4! b5? (24...Bd8!±) 25.Rg4 Kf8 26.Rh4! h6 27.Qh5 Qb7 28.Nf5! Re4 (28...Qxd5 29.Bxf6! Ne6 30.Rd1+-) 29.Bxf6! Rxh4 30.Qxh4 gxf6 31.Qxf6+ Kg8 (31...Qf7 32.Qxd6+ Ke8 33.Qc6+) 32.Ne7+ 1-0



Position after 23...f6

A few months before this tournament, at age 22, Polgar beat FIDE World Champion Anatoly Karpov in an exhibition match, 5-3.

[Event "1998 U.S. Open"]
 [Site "Kona, Hawaii"]
 [Date "August 4, 1998"]
 [Round "4"]
 [White "John Watson (2388), FIDE - 2398"]
 [Black "Judit Polgar (2620), FIDE - 2715"]
 [Result "1/2-1/2"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.g3 Qb6 7.Nb3 Ng4 8.e3 f5 9.Qe2 a5 10.Bg2 a4 11.Nd4! Be5 (11...Nxd4 12.exd4 Qxd4 13.0-0 with an attack) 12.Ndb5 0-0 13.0-0 Nce5 14.Rb1 h5 15.b4! axb3 16.axb3 Qd8 17.b4 Be7 18.e5 h4 19.e4! fxe4 20.Nxe4 hxg3 21.hxg3 Nf6 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Bf4 Nf7 24.Be4! (24.Qh5!) 24...Ng5! 25.Bg6? (25.Bxg5 Bxg5 26.Nd6) 25...Nh3+ 26.Kg2 Nxf4+ 27.gxf4 Bg5! 28.f5!? (28.Nd6 Bxf4 29.Qh5 Qg5+ 30.Qxg5 Bxg5 31.Ra1 Rb8 32.b5±) 28...Bh6! 29.Rb3 b6 30.Nd6 bxc5 31.Rh1! (31.fxe6 dxe6 32.bxc5 Qg5+ 33.Rg3 Qxc5=) 31...cxb4! (31...Qc7 32.Rxh6! gxh6 33.Qh5+-) 32.Rxh6? (32.Qg4!) 32...Qg5+ (32...gxh6 33.Rg3+-) 33.Rg3 Qxh6 34.Rh3!? (34.fxe6!?) dxe6 35.Nxc8 Rf6! is unclear) 34...Qg5+ 35.Rg3 Qh6 36.Rh3 Qg5+ 37.Rg3 ½-½



Position after 18...h4

Julio Becerra Rivero (born in Cuba) achieved the Grandmaster title in 1997.

[Event "1999 Linares Tournament"]

[Site "Linares, Spain"]

[Tournament Date "February 21 - March 10, 1999"] [Round "7"]

[White "John Watson, FIDE - 2420"]

[Black "Julio Becerra Rivero, FIDE - 2550"]

[Result "1-0"]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Na6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.Be3 Nd7
9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 (11...Ndc5 12.0-0-0!) 12.f5 Ndc5 (12...gxf5
13.exf5+; 12...Bh6!? 13.0-0-0! Bxe3+ 14.Qxe3 c6 15.h4!?!±) 13.Be2 Nd3+
(13...Bh6? 14.Rd1; 13...gxf5 14.exf5 e4 15.Qg3! Kh8 16.0-0-+) 14.Bxd3 Qxd3
15.Rd1 Qxc4 16.f6 Bh8 17.Nd5 Rfd8 18.b3! Qc2 (18...Qb5!? 19.a4 Qa5+ 20.Bd2
Qc5 21.b4 Qc4 22.Rc1 Qd4 23.Bc3 Qc4 24.Bb2 Qa2 25.Qa3! Qxa3 26.Bxa3+-)
19.0-0 Qxa2 20.Bh6 Rxd5 21.Rxd5 Nb4 22.Rxe5 Nc6 23.Rd5 Re8 24.Qc3 Qa6
25.e5 Qb6+ 26.Kh1 a5 27.Rd7 (27.e6!) 27...Qb5 28.Qc4 Qxc4 29.bxc4 Rxe5
30.Rxc7 Re8 31.Rxb7 a4 32.Rc7 Nd4 33.Re7 (33.Re7 Ra8 34.Rfe1 Ne6
35.R1xe6) 1-0



Position after 17...Rfd8

This game was played at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in San Francisco, the oldest continuous operating chess club in the United States that opened in 1854. Over the years, the Mechanics' Institute has hosted many national and international tournaments.

[Event "Falconer Scheveningen Team Mat"]

[Site "Mechanics' Institute - San Francisco, California"]

[Date "March 15, 1999"] [Round "4"]

[White "John Watson (2494)"]

[Black "Ronald Cusi (2424)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5
9.Qc2!? Nbd7 [9...g4 10.Ne5 Qxd4 11.Rd1 (11.Be2) 11...Qc5! (11...Qb6 12.Be2)
12.Rd8+!? Kxd8 13.Nxf7+ Ke8 14.Nxh8 e5 15.Ng6 Nbd7 16.Be2 is unclear]
10.Be2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qb6 12.h4 Nh5 13.Be5! Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Nf4 15.hxg5 Nxg2+
16.Kf1 Nf4 17.Rh4 Nxe2 18.Qxe2 Bg7? (18...b4? 19.Qf3; 18...Qc7! 19.Qf3 Bg7
20.g6 fvg6 21.Nxg6 Rg8 22.Nf4±) 19.gxh6 Bxe5 20.dxe5 Rd8 (20...b4 21.Qg4
bxc3 22.Qg7 Rf8 23.h7+-) 21.Qg4! Rxd1+ 22.Nxd1 Qd8 23.Ne3 Kd7 24.Qd1+
Ke7 25.Qxd8+ Kxd8 26.Ng4 b4 27.Ke1 a5 28.Nf6 a4 29.Kd1 c5 30.h7 Ke7
31.Rg4 Rd8+ 32.Kc1 Rh8 33.Rg8 Rxh7 34.Nxh7 Bxe4 35.Nf6 Be6 36.Rc8 1-0



Position after 20...Rd8

Gawain Jones became a Grandmaster in 2007. He represented England in the World Junior and World Youth Championships on many occasions and has been one of England's highest rated players in 2008.

[Event "2015 Gibraltar Tournament"] [Site "Gibraltar, British Overseas Territory"]

[Date "February 2, 2015"] [Round "7"]

[White "Gawain Jones, FIDE - 2671"]

[Black "John Watson, FIDE - 2319"]

[Result "0-1"]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 Ne6 7.Nge2 a6 8.Qd2 Rb8
9.Rc1 Bd7 10.Nd1 Re8 11.Nf2 b5 12.cxb5 axb5 13.g3 e5 14.d5 Ne7 15.Bg2
(15.Rd1 c6 16.dxc6 Nxc6! 17.Qxd6 Qa5+ +=; 15.g4!? c6 16.dxc6 Bxc6 17.g5 Nh5
18.Ng3 Nf4! 19.Ng4 Ba8= intending...d5) 15...c6 16.dxc6 Bxc6 17.0-0 d5 18.Rfd1
Qd7!? 19.Be5 Qb7 20.Qb4 Ne8 21.Rc2 Nb6 22.b3 dxe4 23.fxe4 Bh6 24.Nc3
Nbd7 25.Bd6 Rbc8 26.Re2 Qb6 -/+ 27.Rd3?! Ng4 28.Ned1 (28.Na4 Nxf2!
29.Nxb6 Nxd3 30.Qc3 Nc1-+) 28...Ba8 (28...Bb7!) 29.Bh3? (29.h3 Nxf2 30.Nxf2
Nc5 31.Bxc5 Rxc5 32.Kh2 Rec8 -/+) 29...Nxf2 30.Nxf2 (30.Rxf2 f5 with the idea
31.exf5 e4!-+) 30...Rc1+ 31.Kg2 [31.Rc1 Rc2 32.Rf1 Nf6-+; 31.Bf1 Bb7! with
the idea 32.a4? (32.h3 Rec8-+) 32...bxa4 33.Qxb6 Nxb6 34.bxa4 Ba6-+] 31...f5-+
32.Be7 Qe6 33.Bd6 (33.Qd6 Qxd6 34.Bxd6 Nf6-+) 33...Nf6 34.Rf3 Qf7!?
(34...Nd5! 35.exd5 Qxd5) 35.Qxb5?! fxe4 36.Nxe4 Nxe4! 37.Qd7 (37.Rxf7
Nxd6+ 38.Kf2 Nxb5) 37...Qxf3+!? 38.Kxf3 Nf6+ (38...Nc5+!) 39.Kf2 Nxd7
40.Bxd7 Bf8 41.Bxe8 Bxd6 42.b4 Rh1 43.Ke3 Bxb4 44.Rc2 Bd5 0-1



Position after 37.Qd7