

Remembering Steve Dykstra, The Dutchman

by Tim Stevens

Steve Dykstra was a mainstay in Denver tournaments for thirty years prior to his passing in April 2001. Steve, often called "The Dutchman" by his chess friends, was a gentleman and universally well liked. He was easily approached for a game by all levels of players, despite being one of the strongest Experts in the area. He placed chess friendship well above chess victories and that showed to all who knew him. Steve is missed!

We show two of Steve's games, one a win in the 1970's over a much higher rated Expert player and another a win when Steve was himself rated an Expert.

White: Steve Dykstra, 1536 Black: Richard Noel, 2107

North American Open, Stillwater Oklahoma, August 1975

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.e4 e6 4.c4 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be2 Ne7 (Leads to a passive position for Black, 7...Nf6 would be better) 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Nd7 10.Bf4 Nf6 11.Nd2 a6 12.a4 Ne8 13.Nc4 f5 14.f3 Kh8 15.Qd2 Ng8 16.Rad1 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Ngf6 18.Bh6 Rf7 19.f4 fxe4 20.Bg5 Qe7 21.Nb6 Rb8 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Bg4 Rc7 24.Be6 Rf8 25.Nxe4 Qg7 26.Nxf6 Nxf6 27.Rde1 h6 28.Bh4 Nh5 29.g4! Nf6 30.Re2 b5 31.Qd3 Rb7 32.Rf3 Nd7 33.g5 h5 34.Bxd7 Rxd7 35.Re6 Bxb2 36.Rxg6 Qd4 37.Rh6+ Kg8 38.Qg6+ Rg7 39.Qe6+ Black resigns (due to 40.g6)



This game illustrated Steve's style of opening with the Queen's Pawn and then developing a Kingside attack. This is also the case in the next game, even though the attack doesn't develop until the endgame!



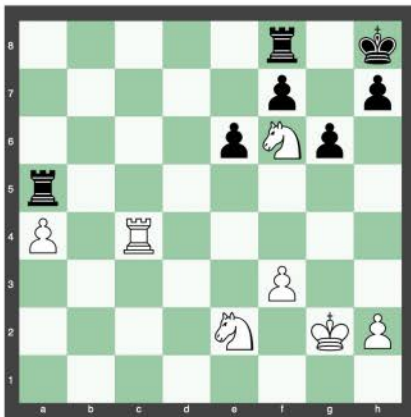
White: Steve Dykstra, 2058 Black: Jeff Baffo, 1890
 Denver Open, 24 July 1999

Notes by John Watson

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 Bb7 6.Nc3 axb5 7.Bxb5 Qa5 8.Bd2 Qb6 9.Qb3 e6 10.e4 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 Bxd5 12.Qd3 Qb7



(This was always thought better for White until Nikoloff-Wolff, Toronto 1985 and Litvinchuk-Wolff, USA 1985) 13.Ng3 (13.f3 has been played many times) 13...Bxg2 14.f3 Be7 15.N1e2 (I think this is a new idea. Wolff gave 15.a4 Bxh1 16.Nxh1 0-0 17.0-0-0 Nc6 18.Bc3 d5 with a clear advantage for Black) 15...Bxh1 16.Nxh1 0-0 17.a4 d5 18.b3 Nc6 19.Bxc6 (Black is still a lot better, but it's best to simplify in such a position) 19...Qxc6 20.Rc1 Qd6 21.N1g3 Rfd8 22.Kf1 g6? (22...c4! 23.bxc4 dxc4 24.Qxd6 Bxd6 25.Ne4 Rxa4 and Black is much better) 23.Kg2 c4 24.bxc4 Qa6 25.Qc3 dxc4 26.Bh6 Bf8 27.Bxf8 Rxf8 28.Ne4 Qa5 29.Nf6+ Kh8 30.Qxa5 Rxa5 31.Rxc4 =



(Steve clearly outplays his opponent from now on. He always was very tough in the late hours of a game!) 31...Rd8 32.Nc3 Kg7 33.Nfe4 Rd3 34.Nc5 Rd2+ 35.Kg3 h5 36.h4 Rc2 37.Kf4 Ra8 38.Ke3 Rg2 39.N3e4 Rh2 40.Ng5 Ra2 41.Kf4 Rh2 42.Kg3 Ra2 43.Rb4 Rc8? (43...Ra7) 44.Rb7! +- Kg8 45.Nce4! Rxa4 46.Rxf7 (45.Nf6+!)



46...Rxe4 47.fxe4 Rc5 48.Rg7+ Kh8 49.Re7 e5 50.Rxe5 Rc3+ 51.Nf3 Re3 52.Kf4 Re2 53.Kg5 Rg2+ 54.Kh6 Kg8 55.Ng5 Kf8 56.Kxg6 and Black resigned.

This article was written in 2001 however misplaced at that time so now published 25 years later.