

COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



**THE CAIRNS CUP
IN ST. LOUIS**



The *Colorado State Chess Association, Incorporated*, is a Section 501(C)(3) tax exempt, non-profit educational corporation formed to promote chess in Colorado. Contributions are tax deductible.

Dues are \$15 a year or \$5 a tournament. Youth (under 20) and Senior (65 or older) memberships are \$10. Family memberships are available to additional family members for \$3 off the regular dues.

- Send address changes to *James LaMorgese*.
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On the cover:

*World Chess Hall of Fame / St. Louis, MO
(Photo by John Brezina)*

From the Editor

Well this issue went to overflow!

So much happening in the past three months that this issue took some time to splice together - not that I'm complaining mind you, it is a pleasure to put together, so keep on submitting and letting all of us know what is going on chesswise, because there is no such thing as too many chess happenings to report about inside and out of Colorado!

I especially enjoy placing personal travels of Colorado players in the Informant. Getting a local perspective to events happening beyond Colorado helps other readers share in the excitement of those travels.

There is truly a little bit of something for everyone in this issue. So kick back, relax, and enjoy!

May Caissa be with you.

Fred Eric Spell



In This Issue

4. Cairns Cup Report

John Brezina, w/J.C. MacNeil

8. 2019 Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championship

NM Todd Bardwick

13. Colorado Chess Club Directory

14. Remembering James Hamblin

Curtis Carlson

18. Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

J.C. MacNeil

26. 2019 Colorado Springs Open

Richard "Buck" Buchanan

30. DCC March Report

J.C. MacNeil

36. St. Louis Champions Showdown Report

J.C. MacNeil, John Brezina & Kevin Seidler

42. Tactics Time!

Tim Brennan

44. The Chess Detective[®]

NM Todd Bardwick

46. Upcoming Colorado Tournaments

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(Email articles to spellfe@hotmail.com)

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DENVER OPEN

April 26-28, 2019

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Cairns Cup Report

by John Brezina
with additional commentary
by J.C. MacNeil

Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield have and continue to do so much for chess in the USA. Elevating it to the professional standards it deserves.

Through his travels, John Brezina has become acquainted with many of the movers and shakers in the chess world - including Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield, founders of the of the St. Louis Chess Club. We all know the Sinquefield's are doing wonders for chess here in the United States. Most recently staging the Cairns Cup. Here is Mr. Brezina's report and photos from that event. The cover photo of this issue is the *World Chess Hall of Fame*, located directly across the street from the St. Louis Chess Club. (J.C. MacNeil)

John Brezina - The St. Louis Chess Club continues to innovate and come up with new tournaments, and the Cairns Cup is the latest. For fans of the Sinquefield Cup, this is the women's version. Ten of the worlds best female players play nine rounds of classical chess with total prize payouts of \$150,000.

The inaugural event went very well, having the model of the Sinquefield Cup to follow. It will be an annual tournament and I see it becoming a premier event for women. February was picked as the chess calendar for worldwide tournaments is becoming quite full. A great time for professional chess players. Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield have and continue to do so much for chess. Elevating it to the professional standards it deserves. This time and era in chess is similar to the 1960's when Jacqueline and Gregor Piatigorsky elevated the game during the Fischer era.

The name for the *Cairns Cup* comes from the maiden name of Jeanne Sinquefield, a great way to honor her family name. The opening ceremony was held at the beautiful *World Chess Hall of Fame* which provided a great venue to meet and greet the players. In addition I met Randy

Sinquefield and the great chess ambassador, Yasser Seirawan.

Another gentlemen that makes many appearances and is doing so much for chess is Michael Khodarkovsky. Good friend of Garry Kasparov and the President of the Kasparov Chess Foundation. He also works with the Grand Chess Tour and a VP on the FIDE board. A busy man that is always a joy to talk with.

Members of the US Chess Women's Committee were present as well to announce a \$100,000 grant from the St. Louis Chess Club to help promote girls in chess. Many would speak at the opening of the ceremonies including the honorary members, Jeanne and Rex. Master of ceremonies Maurice Ashley conducted brilliantly while Jennifer Shahade would introduce the players.



The number one seed Alexandra Kosteniuk garnered much attention as well as our two American participants Irina Krush and Anna Zatonskih. All the players were quite grateful and honored to be part of this inaugural event in their opening statements. Then came the drawing of lots where each player would choose a numbered collector chess piece, a Queen of course! Followed by more mingling and photo ops. Including all the players in the stairwell together. taken by Austin Fuller who shared this one, along with the others that include me.

I was only able to attend round one, but what a round! The tables were all set upstairs at the beautiful St. Louis Chess Club. There were many in attendance for the opening bell, which was rung by Carol B. Meyer, US Chess Executive Director. And of course making the ceremonial opening move, the honorable Jeanne "Cairns" Sinquefield.

The players came out swinging in round one, with four decisive games. In addition to a great spectator experience upstairs, the Kingside Diner downstairs had a room with great commentary by WGM Tatev Abrahamyan and WGM Tania Sachdev. Both were great at analyzing each game live while taking questions and were very gracious with their time. I look forward to Tatev playing in our very own Denver Open in April.

As many already may know, GM Valentina Gunina would finish in first place, half a point ahead of GM Alexandra Kosteniuk. Our very own Irina Krush would finish a respectable third. A great tournament I look forward to for hopefully many years.

And across the street at the *World Chess Hall of Fame*, another great exhibit is coming to a close soon, the Harry Benson Kings & Queens. The "older" folks may remember Life magazines from years ago. Harry joined Life as a photographer in 1970 and shortly thereafter was tasked with following a rising American star, Bobby Fischer! Capturing many historic photos and befriending Bobby on his road to the World Championship title. In addition, Mr. Benson has photographed every U.S. President since Dwight Eisenhower, and most Kings and Queens in between, hence the exhibits title.

Another wonderful time in St. Louis. Until next time, keep playing and helping spread our Royal game. Encourage and mentor young girls and boys to enter our wonderful world of chess. Let's keep surprising J.C. MacNeil with greater attendance numbers at the Denver Chess Club. And don't forget to register for the Denver Open at the end of April, as we will have some great players joining us that you won't want to miss!

J.C. MacNeil - I can't thank Mr. Brezina enough for these reports and photos from the world class chess events that he attends. You can see all of his excellent photos from the Cairns Cup here:

<http://tinyurl.com/yxw3ow8e>

We can only hope the Denver Chess Club will one day rise to the level of what the Sinquefield's have done in St. Louis. Thanks again to John Brezina. Thanks to the women players who made this a great chess tournament, and thanks especially to Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield.

In conclusion, let me add a couple of quotes about the St. Louis Chess Club:

"Everyone in the world knows about this chess club." - **GM Ben Finegold.**

"...the fact that they bring so many top, elite events to the U.S. Because of that, everyone is inspired..."

- **GM Maurice Ashley.**

"...now here in St. Louis, we are facing the renaissance of the great game of chess." - **GM Gary Kasparov.**



The players with their collector chess piece. From left to right: GM Irina Krush, GM Valentina Gunina, GM Alexandra Kosteniuk, IM Zhansaya Abdumalik, IM Elisabeth Paecht, GM Marie Sebag, GM Nana Dzagnidze, GM Bela Khotenashvili, GM Harika Dronavalli, and IM Anna Zatonskih.



The lineup of players for the Inaugural 'Cairns Cup'



Carol B. Meyer ringing the opening bell, with Chief Arbiter, Carol Jarecki.



Ms. Sinquefield about to make the 1st move for GM Nana Dzagnidze. Seemingly asking GM Irina Krush what move she would like.



The eventual Cairns Cup winner, GM Valentina Gunina.



GM Alexandra Kosteniuk and GM Irina Krush are all smiles.

2019 Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championship

by NM Todd Bardwick

264 kids braved a Friday night snow storm to compete in the 2019 Colorado State Scholastic Championship over the weekend of February 23-24 at Arapahoe County Fairgrounds.

CSCA will send three players to represent Colorado in the scholastic invitational tournaments that take place during the U.S. Open in Orlando, Florida, this summer and donate money to help with their travel expenses.

The 2019 Colorado Representatives are:

Denker Tournament of High School Champions - **Akshat Jain**
Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions - **Sullivan McConnell**
National Girls Tournament of Champions - **Sara Herman**

The five divisions for the tournament were K-1, K-3, K-6, K-8, and K-12

Trophy winners for the K-1 Division were:

1st - Om Thakekar
2nd - Shankar Parasuram
3rd - Isaac Lucas
4th - Trevor Thieszen
5th - Jason Wu

Trophy winners for the K-3 Division were:

1st - Vedant Margale
2nd - John Lessard
3rd - Darshan Satishkumar
4th - Owen Vonne
5th - Kaavya Sakthisaravanan
6th - Peyton Lin
7th - Tanya Prabhu
8th - Thomas Thieszen
9th - Emma Frost
10th - Abhijay Balamurugan

Trophy winners for the K-6 Division were:

1st - Tyler Thieszen
2nd - Alexander Zhang
3rd - Grayson Manuel
4th - Harsh Mali
5th - Isaiah Mares
6th - Cayden Hetzel
7th - Leo Hoffman-Busch
8th - Abhinav Krishna
9th - Joseph Morrison
10th - Ayush Vispute

Trophy winners for the K-8 Division were:

1st - Sullivan McConnell
2nd - Calvin Dejong
3rd - Neil Bhavikatti
4th - Davin Yin
5th - Vedanth Sampath
6th - Andrew Roerty
7th - Jack Nauman
8th - Aiden Sirotkine
9th - Mustafa Suleymanov
10th - Ari Wang

Trophy winners for the K-12 Division were:

1st - Akshat Jain
2nd - Griffin McConnell
3rd - Sara Herman
4th - Adrian Nica
5th - Suhaas Narayanan
6th - Wesley Woo
7th - Miles Brown
8th - Selah Williams
9th - Ryan Mantey
10th - Jason Lin

Team trophies for the K-3 Division went to:

1st - Denver Language School
2nd - Poder Academy
3rd - Belleview Elementary

Team trophies for the K-6 Division went to:

1st - Denver Language School
2nd - Poder Academy
3rd - Challenge School

Team trophies for the K-8 Division went to:

1st - Ridgeview Classical School
2nd - Campus Middle School
3rd - Challenge School

Team trophies for the K-12 Division went to:

1st - Fairview High School
2nd - Stargate School
3rd - Fossil Ridge High School

Crosstables are online at <https://caissachess.net/live/488>

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped the tournament run smoothly - Gunnar Andersen, Zach Bekkedahl, Penny Cannici, Pete Cannici, Dean Clow, Jesse Cohen, Jim Hammersmith, Lior Lapid, DuWayne Langseth, Brad Lundstom, and Josh Romero.

*(The pictures on the following pages
are courtesy of Paul Covington -
more pictures by Paul & John Brezina can be found here:
<http://www.coloradochess.com/gallery?p=index>)*









The talented Staff who made it all happen.



COLORADO CHESS CLUB DIRECTORY

Boulder Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays at the University Memorial Center (First Floor) on the CU Boulder campus, 6:30-9:30pm. 1669 Euclid Avenue, 80309. www.BoulderChess.com.

Carbondale Chess Club: Meets every Tuesday from 6:00pm until the wee hours at Kahhak Fine Arts & School, 411 Main Street, Carbondale, 81623. All levels and ages are welcome and chess coaching is available. Please contact Majid Kahhak at (970) 704-0622 or email: Mkahhak@sopris.net.

Castle Rock Chess Club: Meets every Monday from 6:00-9:00pm at the Philip S. Miller Library, 100 South Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, 80104.

Chess Knights: (Highlands Ranch) Meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. Highlands Ranch Library, 9292 Ridgeline Boulevard, 80129.

Information is also available on the Chess Knights' Web site at HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org.

Contact: Frank Atwood (720) 260-1493 or by email: FrankAtwood@HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org.

Chessmates Chess Club: (Fort Collins) 4825 South Lemay Avenue, 80525. Mondays & Thursdays 5:00-6:30pm for Advanced players, Tuesdays for Beginners from 5:15-6:15pm. Instructed by Zachary Bekkedahl. For more information contact Zachary Bekkedahl by email at info@chessmatesfc.com or go to www.chessmatesfc.com.

Colorado Springs Chess Club: Meets Tuesday evenings, 7:00-10:00pm, in the ballroom of the Acacia Apartments building, 104 East Platte Avenue. Scheduled activities every meeting at 8:00pm (must show up by 8:00pm or you might be locked out). For information see our website at www.SpringsChess.org or email Richard "Buck" Buchanan at buckpeace@pcisys.net or call (719) 685-1984.

Craig Chess Club: Call Rick or Mary Nelson, (970) 824-4780 to schedule play.

Denver Chess Club: Meets on Tuesdays, 6:00-10:00pm at the Third Christian Reformed Church, 2400 South Ash Street, Denver. (303) 733-8940. www.DenverChess.com.

Denver Chess / Meetup.com: This group is run through the social site Meetup.com, and our page is www.Meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess/. Players must join in order to receive information and sign up for events. Contact: David Costantino at avs1cup@yahoo.com or through the group's Meetup.com page.

Durango Chess Club: Meets on Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00pm at Durango Joe's Coffee Shop, 732 East College Drive.

Fort Collins Chess Club: Currently meets Tuesdays, 7:00pm, in the food court of the Lory Student Center (2nd level), Colorado State University. You can email Randy Reynolds at randy_teyana@msn.com.

On the web - groups.yahoo.com/group/fort_collins_chess.

Fort Lewis College Chess Club: Meets Thursday nights in the X-treme room which is located the College Union Building, the club is sponsored by the school and is a USCF affiliate club. For more info, contact Andrea Browne at (970) 247-6239.

Grand Junction Chess Club: Meets Mondays at 6:30pm in the Safeway at Starbucks, 2901 Patterson Road. Call Rick Lovato at (970) 243-1073.

Grand Junction Junior Chess Club: Meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Building, 2853 North Avenue. Call Rand Dodd at (970) 245-4015.

Greeley Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00pm at Your Place Coffee, 2308 West 17th Street, Greeley. Contact Brad Lundstrom at ChessCoach2014@gmail.com. Or call him at (970) 415-3855.

Lafayette Chess Club: Meets Mondays, from 6:00-9:00pm at the Mojo Coffeehouse, 211 North Public Road in Lafayette. For more information send an email to aerofirewp@yahoo.com or contact Victor Creazzi at (303) 332-7039.

Longmont Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00pm. Check www.LongmontChess.com for current meeting location. Email Todd Burge at Admin@LongmontChess.com or call (720) 220-5240.

North Jeffco Chess Club: Meets Thursdays from 7:00-10:00pm at the Grandview Tavern & Grill, 7427 Grandview Avenue in Arvada. Email jax@well.com for more information.

Northeast Denver Chess Club: Meets Mondays and Thursdays from 4:00-8:00pm at 2575 Vine Street, Denver. Call (303) 320-6716 for more info.

Pagosa Springs Chess Club: Meets on Tuesdays (6:00-9:00pm) and on Saturday mornings (9:00-Noon) at Nello's Restaurant, 135 Country Center Drive, #A. For more information contact Anthony Steventon by email at asteveton@centurytel.net or at (970) 731-3029.

Parker Chess Club: Meets every Thursday from 7:00-9:00pm at the new Parker library in Parker, CO. All levels and ages welcome. Contact John Brezina at skibrezina@gmail.com.

Pueblo Chess Club: Meets at the Hanging Tree Café, 209 South Union, 81003 on Tuesdays and Thursdays after 6:30pm. For more info contact Liz Nickovich at chessliz@comcast.net or by phone at (719) 696-8389.

Rifle Chess Club: Meets Thursdays, 6:30-9:00pm, at City Hall. For information email Dane Lyons at duilen@gmail.com.

Stonebridge Games Chess Club: (Longmont) Meets Tuesdays at 5:00pm. 449 Main Street, Longmont. Call (303) 776-3796 for more info.



Remembering James Hamblin

by Curtis Carlson

"The best advice for political actors is very often to simply stop trying to solve social problems, since interventions not based on precise understanding are likely to do more harm than good." -

Michael Huemer

"There is not an idea that cannot be expressed in 200 words. But the writer must know precisely what he wants to say. If you have nothing to say and want badly to say it, then all the words in all the dictionaries will not suffice." - **Eric Hoffer**

"Tactics are the Servant of Strategy." - **Mikhail Botvinnik**

"Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted." - **Aldous Huxley**

"Chess is ultimately escapism. Life is what really matters. And when you finally come to the realization that the possibilities of life are infinite and more fascinating than anything a game can throw up, then you become imbued with a sense of extraordinary power." - **Danny Gormally**

"60 days a year I play in tournaments. 5 days I rest, and 300 days I work on my game." - **Akiba Rubinstein**

Three issues of American Chess Journal are free at:

<http://www.chabris.com/pub/acj>.

ACJ was a good publication that unfortunately didn't survive.

I was stunned and saddened to hear my longtime friend James "Humble" Hamblin passed away on January 3 shortly after his 65th birthday. He was Colorado Junior Champion in 1973, Denver Champion three times and Colorado champion in 2003. We met in 1970 at a high school tournament and were good friends nearly half a century. We shared many adventures during the Fischer boom, playing in tournaments in Utah, Missouri, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, South Dakota, Montana, Oklahoma, and even some in Colorado! We saw the 1971 Fischer-Larsen games and analyzed the 1972 Fischer-Spassky games while they were in progress. The adjourned position from game three was shown on his black and white tv, and we struggled to set it up from the grainy display. When Bobby won we cheered! 1972 was a great time to play chess.

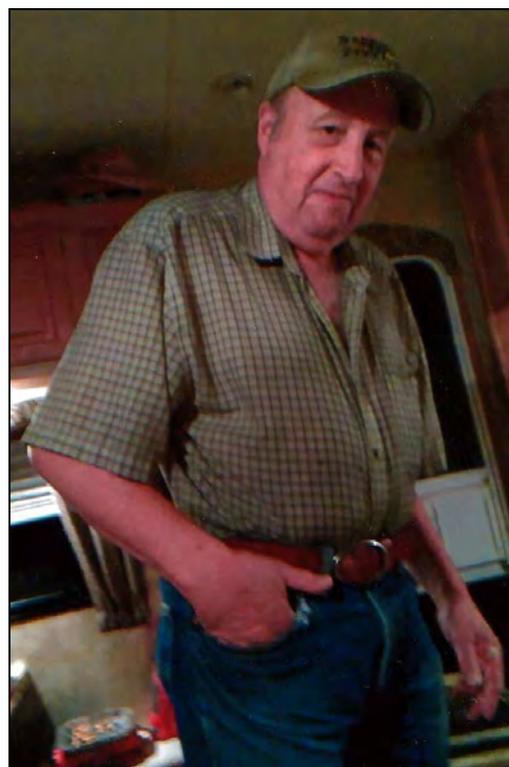
In 1970 "Humble" and I had a mini world championship 30-30 match. We tied at 12-12 and considered ourselves co-champions! In high school (before he drove) he often rode his bike from his Lakewood home to the Denver Chess Club, which was then at the downtown YMCA. He spent many hours playing all comers. He had a sharp sense of humor and said many funny things. Once while we were having lunch I gave my cat a small piece of hamburger, which it didn't eat. James said it wasn't a cannibal! He always made me laugh. We had a dozen tournament games from 1970-80; I won four and the rest were drawn. I survived several bad positions (see games below) so the

lopsided score is misleading. James just didn't play tough on his friends! I envied his tactical strength. He memorized many of Alexander Alekhine's brilliant attacking games; one of his favorites was:

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1012325>.

New Jersey master Marvin Sills lived in Denver from 1968-70 and thought James had the talent to be a grandmaster. Unfortunately "Humble" was inconsistent and lost too many games to lower rated players. He loved chess and never let a loss upset him.

In 1970 I persuaded James to try his hand at postal chess. He joined The Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA) and did well in most of his games until dropping out after about a year. He disliked the slow pace of postal play. He would likely have won many tournaments had he persisted, but chess by mail isn't for everyone. "Humble" would probably have liked this Mikhail Tal quote: "I drink, I smoke, I gamble, I chase women, but correspondence chess is a vice I don't have!" Chess players are unique.



James Edmond Hamblin in 2018.

(Thanks to his brother Joe for providing this picture.)

James lived in Arizona for six months in early 1973, and played actively there. In June, Steve Dykstra, Mark Sherbring, Mike Dalesio and I drove to Phoenix for a tournament. He was pleasantly surprised to see us. He disliked working at a fiberglass warehouse, and after quitting said it was a dog's job! My mother (1925-2001) thought that was funny, and shortly before she died (more than 20 years after she last saw him) she asked if he still had a dog's job! I wasn't sure, but hoped not.



WAFIA wins the 1972 Denver Chess League!

Standing L-R: Mark Sherbring, James Hamblin, Robert Ascher, Tom Barber, Curt Carlson; **Kneeling L-R:** Mike Dalesio, Richard Wilds; **Sitting:** Steve Henderson.

Where are they now? Sherbring lives in Omaha, Ascher lives in Loveland, Carlson lives in Stockton, Dalesio lives in Arizona, Henderson lives in Southern California.

Whereabouts of Barber and Wilds are unknown.

James joined the Armed Forces in 1974. His mother proudly showed me his picture in Navy Uniform. Not surprisingly, he disliked the military's rigid discipline and was back in Colorado by 1976. For 40 more years he was a regular at CSCA events. His last tournament was the 2017 Wyoming Open; see <https://tinyurl.com/y2ra4ge8>. His final rating was only 2037, far below his true strength.

In the early 70's 2250 rated Robert Wendling was our region's strongest player. In five games from 1971-73 James had a very respectable 2-3 against him (when I had an embarrassing 0-6). James defeated 2300 rated Don Sutherland in the one game they played at the Denver Chess League. "Humble" was an excellent student who graduated near the top of his 1972 Lakewood High School class, which was also when I graduated from Wheat Ridge. I'll never forget the hundreds (if not thousands) of blitz games we played over the years. He won about two thirds. He liked tactical slugfests and defeated many strong players in complicated positions. He especially liked the King's Gambit, and with his beloved Alapin Sicilian defeated six time US champion Walter Browne at the 1983 National Open (see game below). He was lucky when Walter missed a good continuation, but a win is a win! Even Grandmasters make mistakes.

Like many chess players James never married and had no children. After moving to Stockton in 1983 I had little contact with him. We chatted briefly at the 1983 Pasadena US Open, where he said he'd let GM Andy Soltis off the hook. I last saw him in 1986 at the Colorado Open, and we last talked on the phone in 2001 shortly after Steve Dykstra died. I didn't know

then it would be the last time we ever spoke. RIP James Edmond Hamblin, who will be much missed by his family and many friends.



(Jim scaring off a burglar! June 27, 1972)

Here are some of his best games. As always, annotations are mine with help from Houdini Chess Engine (HCE), Komodo Chess Engine (KCE), and Chessbase. I am indebted to Joe Hamblin, Dean Brown, and Joe Eversole for providing information useful for this article. Two of James' best games were in my last article; see <https://tinyurl.com/y5gd4y64>, page 24. I didn't know then they should have been in this one.

1983 National Open James Hamblin (2100, age 29)

Six time US Champion GM Walter Browne (2600, age 34)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 (James won many games with his beloved Alapin.) 2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be2 e6 8.O-O Be7 9.Nbd2 dxe5 10.dxe5 O-O 11.Qa4 (White maneuvers his queen to the strong e4 square to support the e5 pawn. Also reasonable were 11.Re1 Qc7 12.Bd3 = HCE, and 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.a4 = KCE.) 11...Qc7 12.Qe4 b6 13.Rd1 Bb7 14.Nf1 Ncb4 15.Qg4 Qc2 16.Nd4 Qg6 17.Qh3 (17.Qxg6 hxg6 18.a3 Nc6 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Bd2 Rac8 21.Ne3 = HCE.) 17...Bg5 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Nf3 Qe7 20.Rd4 f5 (Of course not 19...Nc2? 20.Bd3 +-) 21.exf6?! (Opening the f file for Black's rooks is dangerous. Better was 21.Rh4 Rad8 22.a3 {22.Rxh7? Nf4+} 22...Nc6 23.Ne3 = HCE) 21...Rxf6 22.Qh4 h6? (Right was 22...Nc2 -. Walter must have disliked 23.Bd3, but White's attack runs out of steam after 23...Nxd4 24.Qxh7+ Kf7 25.Qh5+ g6 26.Qh7+ Ke8 27.Bxg6+ Kd7 28.Nxd4 Nf4 +- HCE.) 23.Rc1!? Nxa2? (Walter liked to grab pawns, but 23...e5! was stronger, since after the rook moves Black gets a powerful knight on f4. Best was 23.Rad1!, since 23...e5 is met by 24.Rxd5 Bxd5 25.Rxd5 Nxd5 26.Bc4 = HCE.) 24.Re1 =+ (24.Rcd1 =

HCE, KCE.) 24...Nab4 25.Bd1 (25.Rg4 Raf8 26.N1d2 Rf4 += HCE.) 25...Raf8 += 26.Ng3 R6f7 27.Qg4? (Best was 27.Qxe7 Rxe7 28.Bb3 += where it's hard for Black to exploit his extra pawn.) 27...Nf4 -/+ 28.Ne5



28...h5? +- (Walter must have been in his usual time pressure. 28...Qc5! 29.Rd2 {29.Rxf4 Rxf4 30.Qxe6+ Kh7 31.Qg6+ Kh8 32.Bf3 R4f6 -+; 29.Nxf7 Qxd4 30.Nh6 Kh8 31.Nhf5 exf5 32.Nxf5 Qf6 -+ HCE, KCE.} 29...Nh3+! 30.Qxh3 Rxf2 -+ is crushing.) 29.Nxh5 Nxh5 30.Rd7! Nd5? (Also hopeless was 30...Qf6 31.Nxf7 Rxf7 32.Rxf7 Qxf7 33.Qxh5.) 31.Rxe7 Rxe7 32.Qxh5 1-0 A fortunate win for James against a famous GM. Sometimes good players are unlucky! I suspect Walter was unhappy about this game!

This was one of the first games of Walter Browne's I saw: (<https://tinyurl.com/yxtzobt2>). He played 50...Nc4 instantly, and it made a deep impression on me and numerous other spectators. Hard to believe it was 45 years ago! Chess players accumulate many memories in their long lives.

James Hamblin (2200, age 31)

David Jellison (2250, age 31)

1985 Boulder Open

1.e4 e5 2.f4 (Humble loved gambits and sharp play!) 2...Qh4+!? (Dave must have wanted to avoid main lines, but this move is dubious.) 3.g3 += Qe7 4.fxe5 (White acts before Black can play ... d5 but HCE prefers 4.Nc3 exf4 5.Bg2 +=) 4...d6 5.Nc3 dxe5 6.Nf3 = Bg4 (Perhaps too optimistic. Better is 6...Nf6 = HCE.) 7.h3 Bd7? (As Magnus might say, too weak too slow! 7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Qf6 += HCE. Now Black is in trouble.) 8.Nd5 Qd6? (From bad to worse! Dave was worried about losing his e-pawn, but best was 8...Qd8 9.Nxe5 Bd6 10.d4 ± HCE.) 9.d4 ± f6 10.c4! Bc6? (The only try to survive was 10...c5. Now the game is over.) 11.dxe5 fxe5 12.c5 Qxc5 (This is hopeless but 12...Qd8 13.b4! is also lost.) 13.Nxc7+ Ke7 14.Nxa8 Bxe4

15.Bg5+ Kf7 16.Rc1 (16.Bc4+!) 16...Qa5+ 17.Bd2 1-0 17...Bb4 18.Rc7+ Ne7 19.Bc4+ Ke8 20.O-O is a massacre. James adroitly crushes one of Colorado's top players.

James Hamblin (2200, age 35)

Randy Canney (2300, age 27)

1988 Boulder Open

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bb3 d5 6.exd5 cxd5 7.d4 Bg4 = (HCE prefers 7...Bb4 +=, KCE also likes 7...Bd6 +=) 8.Nf3 Be7 9.Bxf4 O-O 10.Qd3 Nc6 11.O-O Rc8 12.Kh1 Re8?! (This natural move leads to difficulties. HCE prefers 12...h6 {12...Be6 13.Ng5} 13.Bg3 Be6 =) 13.Be5 ± Nb4 (13...Nxe5? 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.Bxd5 is bad for Black. If 13...Be6 14.Ng5 White suddenly has a lot of threats.) 14.Qe3!? (It seems wrong to put the queen on the same file as Black's rook, but James is after the king. HCE and KCE like 14.Qb5! threatening to weaken Black's kingside with 15.Bxf6) 14...Bh5 ± (Another natural move which turns out badly. 14...Be6 = supports both d5 and f7.) 15.a3 Ng4?! (Black is only slightly worse after 15...Nc6 16.Rae1. 16.Bxf6!? Bxf6 gains a tempo on White's queen.) 16.Qf4! Nc6 17.Nxd5 (d5's defenders are gone! Also good was 17.Qf5 g6 18.Qf4 provoking a weakness.) 17...Na5? (Better but still losing was 17...Ngxe5 18.dxe5 Bxf3 19.Rxf3 Kh8 +- KCE.) 18.Ba2 (18.Bc7! +- HCE.) 18...Rxc2? (A blunder, but 18...Nc4 19.Nxe7+ Rxe7 20.Rae1 is also bad.) 19.Qf5 Rvg2 (19...Nf2+ 20.Rxf2 Bg6 21.Qxc2! Bxc2 22.Bc7 Qc8 23.Rxc2 +- HCE) 20.Kxg2 Qxd5 21.Qxg4 (21.Qxh5!) 1-0 When I see games like this I wonder how James ever lost to me.

"Humble" wasn't always successful with his Gambits.

Here is one he almost wins, but doesn't.

James Hamblin (2200, age 26)

Richard "Buck" Buchanan (2000, age unknown)

Pueblo Open 1980

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.O-O g4!? (Optimistic. 5...Nc6, 5...h6, and 5...d6 all give Black the advantage according to HCE.) 6.Ne1 = Bd4+!? (More optimism! 6...d5 7.exd5 Ne7 = HCE.) 7.Kh1 ± d5 8.exd5 Qh4!? (Even more optimism! 8...Ne7 9.Rxf4 Be5 10.Rf1 O-O was better but also difficult for Black.) 9.Rxf4 +- (James had a way of getting won positions in nine moves with the King's Gambit!) 9...Bc5 10.d4 Bd6 11.Re4+ (When playing the King's Gambit one shouldn't worry about material! After 11.Nc3 Bf4 12.Bxf4 White's development advantage is overwhelming.) 11...Kd8 12.Bf4?! (It's curious James missed 12.Nf3! Qh5 13.Ne5 +-) 12...Nf6 13.Re5 ± Bxe5 14.dxe5? (This automatic recapture is wrong. Best was 14.g3! then 14...Ne4 {14...Qh5? 15.dxe5 +-} 15.gxh4 Nf2+ 16.Kg1 Nxd1 17.Bxe5 ± maintains the edge.) 14...Ne4 15.Qc1?! = (15.g3 ± or 15.Be3 += were better.) 15...g3! 16.Nf3?! += (16.h3 Bxh3 17.Nf3 Qh5 18.Kg1 = HCE. It's safer for White to keep Black's g-pawn on the board) 16...Nf2+ 17.Kg1 gxh2+ 18.Nxh2? -+ (The only move was 18.Bxh2. With with no pawns around his king, White loses quickly.) 18...Rg8! 19.Kf1 Ng4! 20.Nxg4 Rvg4 21.Be3 Qh1+ 0-1 A nice finish by "Buck".

James Hamblin (1967, age 24)

Curtis Carlson (2200, age 24)

Denver Chess Club / June 3, 1978

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 e6 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.Qe4 d6 8.Nf3 (8.Bxd5 exd5 9.Qxd5 Be6 is good for Black) 8...dxe5 9.Nxe5 Qc7 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.O-O (11.Nd2 Bd6 12.Nf3 O-O 13.O-O = Nunn-Kuligowski 1978. The text is OK but 11.Nd2 is probably better, to answer ...Bd6 with Nf3) 11...Bd6 12.f4! (Typical of James' optimism. HCE prefers 12.Qh4 =) 12...Nf6?! (I don't recall why I made this retreat. Obvious and good was 12...O-O += HCE.) 13.Qe2 (13.Qf3 = HCE.) 13...O-O += 14.Be3 Rb8 15.Bd4? (Safer was 15.b3 Rd8 += HCE.) 15...Nd5 (It's still += after this, but Black can safely play 15...Bxf4. If 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Qg4+ Bg5 18.Rxf6 Qe5 -/+, or if 18.h4 h5 19.Qxh5 Be3+ 20.Kh1 Qe5-/+ HCE. I should have just left the knight on d5.) 16.g3 c5 17.Be5 Bb6? (This bad move loses the advantage. Right was 17...Bxe5 18.fxe5 Ne7 19.Na3 Bb7 when the inability to block the long diagonal with a pawn makes White regret 12.f4. The knight will soon occupy f5 and ideas of ...Qc6 gives Black a good game. Even in my youth {I'm 65 so 24 seems young!} I was reluctant to make exchanges, even when they were good.) 18.Na3 = a6? (This routine move leads to disadvantage. More consistent was 18...Qb7 19.Bxd6 Rxd6 20.Rad1 = HCE.) 19.Bd3 += f6? (Black seems determined to ruin his game. 19...Bxe5 20.fxe5 Rb8 += admits the mistake but was best.) 20.Bxd6 ("Humble" gets a clear edge after 20.Nc4! Bxe5 21.fxe5 Rb8 22.Rad1 ±, showing ...Rb6 was a waste of time. Black now gets his awkward rook to a better square.) 20...Rxd6 21.Nc4 Rdd8 22.Rad1 Rfe8 += 23.Bc2 Nb6 24.Qh5 f5 25.Nd6!? (25.Ne5 += occupying e5 was more natural. James always liked tactical shots.) 25...Re7 = 26.Nxc8 Qxc8 27.Rxd8+ Qxd8 28.Qe2 Nd5? (A weak move that allows White to activate his bishop. Right was 28...c4 stopping Qa6 and Bb3.) 29.Rd1 (Not a bad move, but White should have stopped Black's next with 29.Bb3) 29...c4 30.Qxc4 (30.Bxf5 exf5 31.Rxd5 Qxd5 32.Qxe7 g6 = HCE, which never occurred to me during the game.) 30...Qb6+ 31.Qd4 Qxb2 32.Bxf5 Nxc3?? (A gross blunder that should have lost. Best was 32...Qxc3 33.Bxe6+ Rxe6 34.Qxd5 Qe3+ when White's exposed king makes it hard to exploit the extra pawn.) 33.Bxe6+ (33.Qd8+ Kf7 34.Bxe6+ is a bloodbath, although the text is also winning.) 33...Kf8 34.Qd8+ Re8 35.Qd6+ (35.Qc7! Ne2+ 36.Kf1 Qf6 37.Bc4 forces resignation.) 35...Re7 36.Re1? = (36.Qd8+ Re8 37.Qc7 transposes into the note on move 35.) 36...Ne4 Draw. A terrible game by me, but at least I did better than Walter Browne! Studying this game for the first time in 41 years is sobering. It's less embarrassing than remembered, but worse than I thought! Computers are cold blooded truth tellers with little respect for one's feelings.

Three months later we're playing again!

James Hamblin (1967, age 24)

Curtis Carlson (2200, age 24)

Colorado Open / Round 4

September 3, 1978

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 (Humble eschews his Alapin, which is surprising after our last game) 2...d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6

6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.O-O Nbd7 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3!? (James avoids the well known 12.fgx5 Ne5 13.Qe2 Nfg4) 12...gxf4 13.Bh4 (13.Bxf4 e5 14.Nf5 exf4 gives inadequate compensation for the piece) 13...b5 (Not a bad move, but best was 13...Qc5! 14.Nce2 Rg8 += HCE.) 14.Bxf6?! (James wants to regain his pawn, but 14.Rhf1 Bb7 = HCE.) 14...Nxf6 15.e5? Bb7 -+ 16.Qh3 dxe5 17.Nxe6 Qc8? (Afraid of ghosts. Simply 17...fxe6 18.Bg6+ Kf8 19.Qxe6 Qc4 -+) 18.Ng7+ Kf8 19.Nf5 b4 20.Na4 Qc6? (Right was 20...Qc7 21.Rhe1 Re8 +=) 21.Nxe7 Kxe7 += And here James amazed me by resigning! After 22.Rhe1 e4 23.Qh4 Kf8 24.Bc4 ± White stands very well. 22.Qf5 = and 22.Rde1 = are also good. I assumed he saw something I hadn't, and hid my surprise. Unfortunately for me, in the next round tournament winner Randy Canney chose not to resign a winning position. You can't always get lucky, especially when you play badly.



When looking for pictures of James I came across this one I took of Korchnoi playing blitz with Browne at Lone Pine 1979.

Jay Whitehead is watching and learning.

It's hard to believe this was 40 years ago!

Time flies, but it really flies when you play chess.

I appreciate the opportunity to share games and memories. In *How Life Imitates Chess*, Garry Kasparov said he learned from his own books as he wrote them; I can relate, since I'm learning from my own articles! When I resumed submissions in 2016 (after a 35 year hiatus) I didn't expect to be remembering so many fallen comrades. I've played more than half a century and have seen many friends come and go. You never know who will be next.

IM Erik Kislik (author of the excellent *Applying Logic in Chess*) has many fine videos on YouTube - check them out!

<http://tinyurl.com/yyjycuc6>

As always, you can email me at curt2309@comcast.net if there are any questions, comments, or corrections.



Denver Chess Club's 'Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'

by J.C. MacNeil

Once again the DCC staged a Tribute to Martin Luther King chess tournament. I am pleased that we say "Tribute to..." If anyone is deserving of gratitude, respect, and admiration, it is this man.

Dr. King was a tireless advocate for civil rights for all Americans. In 1983, after years of political posturing, his birthday was finally recognized as a national holiday. Quoting then President Ronald Reagan, *"This year marks the first observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a national holiday. It is a time for rejoicing and reflecting. We rejoice because, in his short life, Dr. King, by his preaching, his example, and his leadership, helped to move us closer to the ideals on which America was founded."*

Quoting from a Denver Post guest opinion article by Steve Rendle, a Denver area businessman. *"While America has clearly come a long way since the civil rights movement, we're reminded constantly in media and our daily interactions of how far we still have to go."* He goes on to say his organization aims *"...to advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace."* This is a white CEO recognizing that would be good for business. More power to him, I say.

We had an excellent turnout of 71 players, and a fantastic prize fund of \$1700.

In the Open Section with Gunnar Andersen playing, who do you suppose took clear 1st place. Right, and with a 5-0 score to boot. Mr. Andersen wins \$375 for his excellent play. Both Alaa-Addin Moussa and Sullivan McConnell lost to Mr. Andersen but otherwise won all their other games. Each finishing with 4 points and sharing the combined 2nd and 3rd place prizes. They take home \$187.50

each. Brian Wall was left out of the money when he gave up a draw to Griffin McConnell in round 2, and then lost to Sullivan in round 3.

Brad Lundstrom, Calvin DeJong, Joe Hubler, Edward Yasutake, and Wesley Woo all ended up with 3 points and they shared the \$100 U2000 prize. Everybody knows Mr. Lundstrom can play and Brian Wall says the young Calvin "...is clearly a future Chessmaster. A bright star with a serious demeanor."

Wesley Woo is another young player who is likely to become really good at this game. Rated only 1612 he lost to Rhett Langseth in round 2, then had 4 upset wins or draws to achieve his score and he will probably gain over 100 rating points. Mr. Yasutake also earned his \$20 by upsetting much higher rated players - Richard Shtivelband in round 1, and Neil Bhavikatti in round 3.

In the U1800 section, Haroun Mueller-Omar played like Gunnar Andersen and won all his games to finish with a perfect 5-0 score and win the top prize of \$300. I thought I had chances to take a point from Mr. Mueller-Omar in round 4... up until I blundered a piece. After which I dragged the game out as long as possible, but Haroun had no trouble "technique-ing" me till, as they say, resistance was futile.

I don't know Andrew Roerty, but he is a young player that only lost to Mr. Mueller-Omar in round 2, and won all his other games. Finishing with 4 points to take clear 2nd place and win \$150.

Gary Bagstad, Steve Kovach, Phil Brown and myself, all ended up tied for 3rd place with 3.5 points, and we each won \$25. Me, Gary, and Phil took a 3rd round bye, while Steve played all his games. Steve, Gary, and I all lost to the section winner. Mr. Brown lost to Mr. Bagstad, instead of losing to Mr. Mueller-Omar.

The U1500 prize in this section was shared by Derek Isabelle, Shiven Sexena and Nathan Woo. All ending up with 3 points and each won \$25. I was most definitely lucky to win against Derek in Round 1. A touch move slip cost my opponent a bishop, but gave him passed pawns that I didn't know if i could stop

till I finally noticed that a check would win his rook too. Both Shiven and Nathan had 4 big upset wins or draws. Shiven only lost to the 2nd place winner in the last round. Nathan lost to the higher rated Harsh Mali in round 1.

The U1400 section was won by Coleman Hoyt with 4.5 points. Coleman is serious about improving his game, and it shows. He only allowed a draw to the higher rated, Andrew Eskenazi in round 3. His clear 1st place victory won him \$150. Paul DeJong won the 2nd place prize of \$75 with 3.5 points. He had took a 3rd round bye and also upset Mr. Eskenazi in the last round to earn the prize. Only 10 players registered to play in this section, consequently there was only these two prizes.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, and thanks to all the players who passed up watching playoff football to make this tournament a success.

We will start the selection of games with that of the Champion, Gunnar Andersen, along with his analysis:

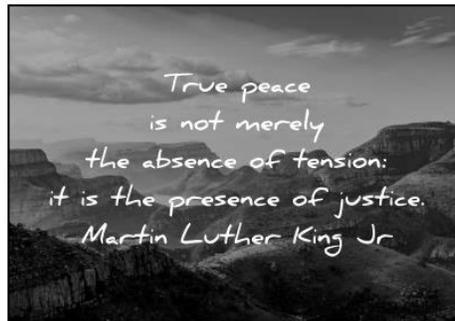
Gunnar Andersen (2335)
Sami Al-Adsani (1854)
Round 1

Sami was one of my students when I worked for Chessmates in Fort Collins, so it was a bit of a difficult game to play for me psychologically because this is someone whom I want to succeed - but for the time I had to do my best to defeat him.

1.f4!? (In celebration of a particular occasion.) **1...d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0-0 g6 6.d3 Bg7** (Bc3 is better.) **7.c3 0-0 8.Qe1 d4 9.Nbd2?** (The worst novelty in the history of novelties, perhaps ever. Preferred is 9.Na3) **9...Rb8?!** (9...dxc3 10.bxc3 Nd5 11.Nb1 yuck.) **10.Nb3?!** (Knight does not belong here.) **10...b6 11.cxd4 Nxd4?** (Bad because the knight on b3 is not a good piece at all, so it is useful for White to trade it.) **12.Nbxd4 cxd4 13.Qb4!** (Attacking things and repositioning my queen to a better spot.) **13...Nd5 14.Qb3 Bg4? 15.Ne5!** (He needs to take this guy, other moves will lose material by force because of the number of looming threats.) **15...Bxe5** (15...Be6 16.Nc6 Qd7 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Qxd5 19.Nxe7+

Kh8 20.Nxd5 +-; 15...e6 16.Nxg4) **16.fxe5 Ne3 17.Bxe3 dxe3** (This pawn will be incredibly weak and I will eventually win it.) **18.Rae1 Be6** (18...Qd4? 19.Rf4 +-; 18...a5?!; 18...e6? 19.h3 Bf5 20.g4 +-) **19.Qa3 a5** (19...Qd4!? 20.Qc3 Qxc3 21.bxc3 Bxa2 22.Ra1) **20.Rf4 f6 21.Ref1!** (Good repositioning.) **21...g5?!** (21...b5) **22.exf6!** (La petite combinaison!) **22...Rxf6** (22...gxf4 23.fxe7 Qd4 24.exf8Q+ Rxf8 25.Qxf8+ Kxf8 26.Rxf4+ Qxf4 27.gxf4 +-) **23.Re4?!** (23.Rxf6 exf6 - I did not consider this because it allows his queen to go to the middle of the board with tempo. 24.d4! Qxd4 25.Qe7 Bxa2 26.Be4 Bf7 27.Rxf6 Rf8 28.Rd6 Qg7 (28...Qxb2? 29.Rh6! +-) 29.Rd8 Rxd8 30.Qxd8+ Qf8 31.Qxg5+ Bg6 32.Bd5+ Kh8 (32...Kg7 33.Qxe3 ± - White is much better.) 33.Qe5+ Qg7 34.Qb8+ +-) **23...Rxf1+ 24.Bxf1 Qd7?** (24...Qf8 25.Rxe3, no mate, 25...Qf6! however, this line was good for him compared to the game. 26.Qc3 Bxa2 27.Qxf6 exf6 28.Re7 - White has a slight plus.) **25.Qc3 ±** (Idea Qe5. 25.d4 this might be better objectively speaking but my move was okay too.) **25...Rf8?!** (A mistake, now Black is lost. 25...Qd6) **26.Qe5 +- Rf6 27.Qxg5+ Kf8 28.Qxe3 Bh3 29.Rf4 Bxf1 30.Rxf6+ exf6 31.Kxf1 Qc6** (Rest is a matter of technique.) **32.Kf2 Qh1 33.Qh6+ Kg8 34.Qh3 Qc6 35.Qg4+ Kf8 36.Qd4** (In such positions it is often correct to not take decisive action until absolutely necessary. Every move that White makes, Black must spend time calculating against phantom threats, wearing himself down and losing time in the process.) **36...Kg7 37.h4 h5** (The pawn on g3 is now the fulcrum of this pawn structure, and this is a pleasant thing as the pawn on g3 is easier to protect than the pawn on h2. Thus, h4 is a good idea, furthermore, since the pawn on h5 cannot be protected easily it is another weakness which White can attack.) **38.a4 b5 39.Qa7+ Kg6 40.Qe7** (More silly repositioning, the idea is Qe4+) **40...Qb6+ 41.Qe3 Qb8 42.b3 b4?!** (In general the weaker side should seek to exchange a greater number of pawns than the opponent.) **43.Qe4+ Kg7 44.Qe7+ Kg6 45.Qc5** (More frivolous posturing.) **45...Qa8 46.e4** (Only now do I push this pawn so as to prevent his queen from accessing the h1 square.) **46...Qd8**

47.Ke3 Qb8 48.Kf3 Qd8 (The astute observer will note that, compared to the 48th position, the position is almost the same, with the notable exception of White's king, which is now poised on f3 rather than f2. From f3, the king is slightly improved in this king of endgame as it can hide behind the pawn shield d3 e4.) **49.d4 Kh6 50.d5** (Only now did I decide to take progressive action.) **50...Qd7** (50...Qg8 51.Kf2 poses questions to Black.) **51.Qf8+ Kh7 52.Qxf6 Qg4+ 53.Kf2** (White loses the e4 pawn but it will be worth it.) **53...Qxe4 54.Qf7+ Kh6 55.Qe6+ Qxe6 56.dxe6 Kg6 57.Kf3** (57.e7 Kf7 58.e8Q+ Kxe8 59.Kf3 Kf7 60.g4 hxg4+ 61.Kxg4 Ke6) **57...Kf6 58.g4** (Everything wins here obviously but I did not want to calculate so I just played this move.) **58...hxg4+ 59.Kxg4 Kxe6 60.Kf4** (Outside passed pawn decides. It is oftentimes a good idea to play the easiest variation that requires the lowest amount of energy, especially when one must play two more games on the same day.) **60...Kf6 61.Ke4 Ke6 62.Kd4 Kd6 63.Kc4 1-0**



Neil Bhavikatti (2111)
Gunnar Andersen (2335)
Round 2

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nge2 e5 6.Be3 exd4 7.Nxd4 Nge7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 f5 10.exf5?! (This is a very devious trick which many fall for in this system.) **10...Bxd4 11.Bxd4 Nxf5 12.Be3 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Rxf1+ 14.Qxf1** (Black has a small plus because of the fact that White's pawn structure is worse.) **14...Ne5?!** (14...Be6 mainline, 15.Qf4 Qe7 16.Rf1 a6 17.Bg4 Bf7 18.Bf3) **15.Rd1 Be6?! = 16.Rd4** (16.c5! critical, 16...Qe7 (16...d5? 17.Qf4 Nf7 18.Nb5 c6 (18...Rc8 19.Nxa7 Rb8 20.Nb5 the White knight lands on d4 which is perfect for him 20...Rc8 21.Nd4 ±)

19.Nc7) 17.cxd6 cxd6 =) **16...Qe7 17.b3 c6** (Need to protect d5.) **18.Kh1** (18.Ne4 Rf8 19.Qd1 d5 20.cxd5 Bxd5) **18...Bf5 19.Rf4 Nf7?!** (Position is DEAD equal now. Dead drawn, though? This is a different story. 19...Rf8 thought that this was equal but schizoid stockfish disagrees 20.e4 Bd7 21.Rxf8+ Qxf8 22.Qxf8+ Kxf8 23.g3 Kf7 24.Kg2 Stockfish 8 64 BMI2: 24...g5 25.Kf2 Kf6 26.Ke3 Be6 27.h4 b6 28.Nd1 h6 29.Nc3 Bf7 30.hxg5+ hxg5 31.Nd1 Bg6 32.Nf2 c5 33.Bf3 Nc6 34.Nd3 a5 35.Be2 Nb4 36.Nxb4 cxb4 - 0.54/23) **20.e4** (20.Bd3! Qxe3 21.Bxf5 gxf5 (21...Qxc3?? 22.Be6 +-) 22.Rxf5 Qxc3 23.Rxf7 Re8 24.h3 Re1 25.Rf8+ saw this drawing line in the game 25...Kg7 26.Rf7+ Kg6 27.Rf6+ Kg5 28.Rf5+ Kh4 29.Rf4+ Kg5 30.Rf5+ Kg6 31.Rf6+ Qxf6 32.Qxe1 =) **20...Be6** (Very sneaky prophylaxis.) **21.Bg4?? g5 +-** (White can resign. The rook on f4 cannot be maintained and thus the bishop on g4 will be loose. Neil chose the best continuation but alas it is still losing.) **22.Bxe6 gxf4 23.Bf5 Qe5 24.Ne2 Nh6 25.Qxf4 Nxf5 26.Qxe5** (26.exf5 Qxe2; 26.Qxf5 Qxf5 27.exf5 Re8 28.Ng1 Re1 - I saw this and it is easily winning.) **26...dxe5 27.exf5 Rd8 28.Kg1 Rd2 29.Kf2 Rxa2 30.g4??** (Now there is not even the slightest inkling of a chance for White. 30.Ke3!? continues the game pointlessly for a longer period of time 30...Rb2 31.Nc1 Rxc2 etc.) **30...a5** (Pawns e5 and a5 draw lines to the back rank so now we can say even sacrificing the exchange is winning.) **31.g5 b5 32.h4 bxc4 33.bxc4 a4 34.h5 a3 35.f6 Rxe2+ 36.Kxe2 a2 37.g6 hxg6 38.hxg6 a1Q 0-1**

Gunnar Andersen (2335)
Alaa-Addin Moussa (2151)
Round 3

1.e4 (Here I played e4 in what turned out to be, by far, my most difficult game this tournament.) **1...c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2 Nxe4 6.Qxe4 Nd7 7.Bc4 e6 8.d4 Nf6 9.Qh4 Be7 10.0-0-0 11.Bd3** (I was spending a lot of time around here looking for ways to win early, the attack appears dangerous but it is apparently not so.) **11...g6 12.Bg5** (12.Bh6 Re8 13.Qf4 (13.Rfe1 Nh5 14.Qe4 Bf8 15.Bxf8 Rxf8 - Black's pieces are a bit awkward and he still has positional problems, namely his bishop on c8) 13...Nd5 14.Qd2 Nb4 15.Be2 c5

16.c3 Nc6) **12...Re8 13.c3** (13.Rfe1 better and more active. 13...Nh5 14.g4 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Qxd4 16.Ne4!! This is what I missed.) **13...Nh5 14.Bxe1** (14.Rfe1) **14...Qxe7 15.Qe4 Nf6 16.Qe5?! =** (16.Qf4! and I use e5 for the knight instead 16...b6 17.Ne5 - White has the typical small plus in the Caro-Kann.) **16...b6 17.Qf4 Bb7 18.Rfe1 Rad8 19.Rad1 Nh5 20.Qh6 Qf8** (Here Alaa-Addin tries to trade queens, which is a good decision. 20...e5!) **21.Qg5 Qe7 22.Qh6** (I thought I would repeat to see if he was playing for a win or if he thought a draw is okay for Black here. This is good knowledge to have, and it is also a psychological ploy which can be annoying for the person who wants a draw.) **22...Qf8 23.Qe3** (Tacitly declining the draw, although the position is dead equal.) **23...c5 24.Bb5 cxd4 25.Nxd4 Re7 26.Nc6 =** (26.Bc6? this was my original intention but I realize that it is duly refuted by Black's next 26...Rxd4!) **26...Bxc6 27.Bxc6 Rc7 28.Bf3 Ng7** (28...Nf6 29.Rxd8 Qxd8 30.Rd1 Rd7 31.Rxd7 Qxd7) **29.Rd3?!** (Just a bad choice. Here it is worth talking about the fact that both sides of the strategic goal to control the d file, if one side can do this then they will be slightly better. Black is better equipped to do this because one of his rooks is already on the 7th rank, from where it can go to d7 and then Black has already doubled on this file. By necessity, both pairs of rooks will be traded and the ensuing endgame will be queen and bishop vs queen and knight. 29.Rxd8! this is a better move, accepting the fact that White cannot get what he wants. 29...Qxd8 30.Rd1 Rd7 31.Rxd7 Qxd7 32.Qe5 better than the game. The position is still equal, but White has maybe two more tempi than in the game.) **29...Rcd7 30.Red1 Nf5 31.Qe4 Qe7 32.g3 h5 33.b4** (I did not want his queen to reach the c5 square, and I want to push my queenside pawns so this is not a bad choice.) **33...Rxd3 34.Rxd3 Rxd3 35.Qxd3** (I would like to remind the observer that this position is still, in fact, completely equal. Capablanca stated that a queen and a knight is superior to a queen and bishop because the knight has the ability to change colors, so it typically cooperates better with the queen than a bishop would. Capablanca also stated that a bishop and a rook are superior to a bishop

and a knight. The latter assumption appears to be true, however I read an article one time by some GM Larry (I think Kaufman but if might have been Evans) who stated that the former assumption does not appear to be the case statistically, and that the reason for the apparent superiority of the QN vs QB combination is due to king safety. Thus, king safety is the most important thing in this position, and passed pawns are a distant second.) **35...h4 36.Qd2** (Preventing his queen from reaching g5.) **36...hgx3** (Decreasing the White king safety.) **37.hgx3 e5 38.Qd5** (This position is still even according to the engine, and I felt that it should be even as well.) **38...Nd6 39.Bg2 e4 40.Kh2** (The last two moves by White have been prophylaxis against Black's idea ...e5-e4-e3, weakening the White king more.) **40...b5** (This move is good because it stalls White's queenside advance.) **41.Qc5** (Threat Bxe4.) **41...f5** (41...Kg7 42.Bxe4 Qxe4 (42...Nxe4 43.Qxe7) 43.Qxd6 Qe2 44.Qd4+ Kg8 45.Qxa7 Qh5+ this is still a dead draw though.) **42.Bf1 f4?!** (Now I have some minute plus. 42...a6! Black can play ...f4 whenever he wants, so it makes sense to wait to play this move. 43.a4 bxa4 44.Bxa6 e3 - I considered playing in this fashion but it is still equal.) **43.Bxb5 e3** (43...fxg3+ 44.fxg3 Qe6! this was my idea for Black and it seems to draw very quickly. 45.a4 Nxb5 46.axb5 e3 47.Qc6 Qe5 48.Qxg6+ Kh8 49.Qh6+ Kg8 - White's legion of pawns is insufficient for a win due to Black's passed e pawn.) **44.Qd5+ Kh7?** (At this moment, time pressure reared its ugly head. Here, I have 10 minutes and Alaa-Addin only had 4 minutes. This position is STILL even.) **45.Bd3! Qf6? ±** (The normal 45...exf2 is met by 46.Qh5+! Kg8 47.Qxg6+ Kf8 48.Qh6+ Ke8 49.Qxf4 Qe1 50.Qxd6 Qg1+ 51.Kh3 f1B+ 52.Bxf1 Qxf1+ +-; 45...Nf5! this is better and Alaa-Addin pointed this out to me in the post mortem. 46.Qf3 a la the game continuation - 46...fxg3+ 47.fxg3 Qd6 48.Bxf5 Qd2+ 49.Kh3 gxf5 50.Qxf5+ and now it is White who must force a draw via perpetual check.) **46.Qf3?! fxg3+ 47.Qxg3!?** = (47.Kxg3 Qg5+ (47...Nf5+ did not like this stuff, also saw another cute line.) 48.Kh3 - I missed this line as well (48.Qg4 Ne4+!! 49.Bxe4 Qxg4+ 50.Kxg4 e2 Black wins); 47.Kg2 -

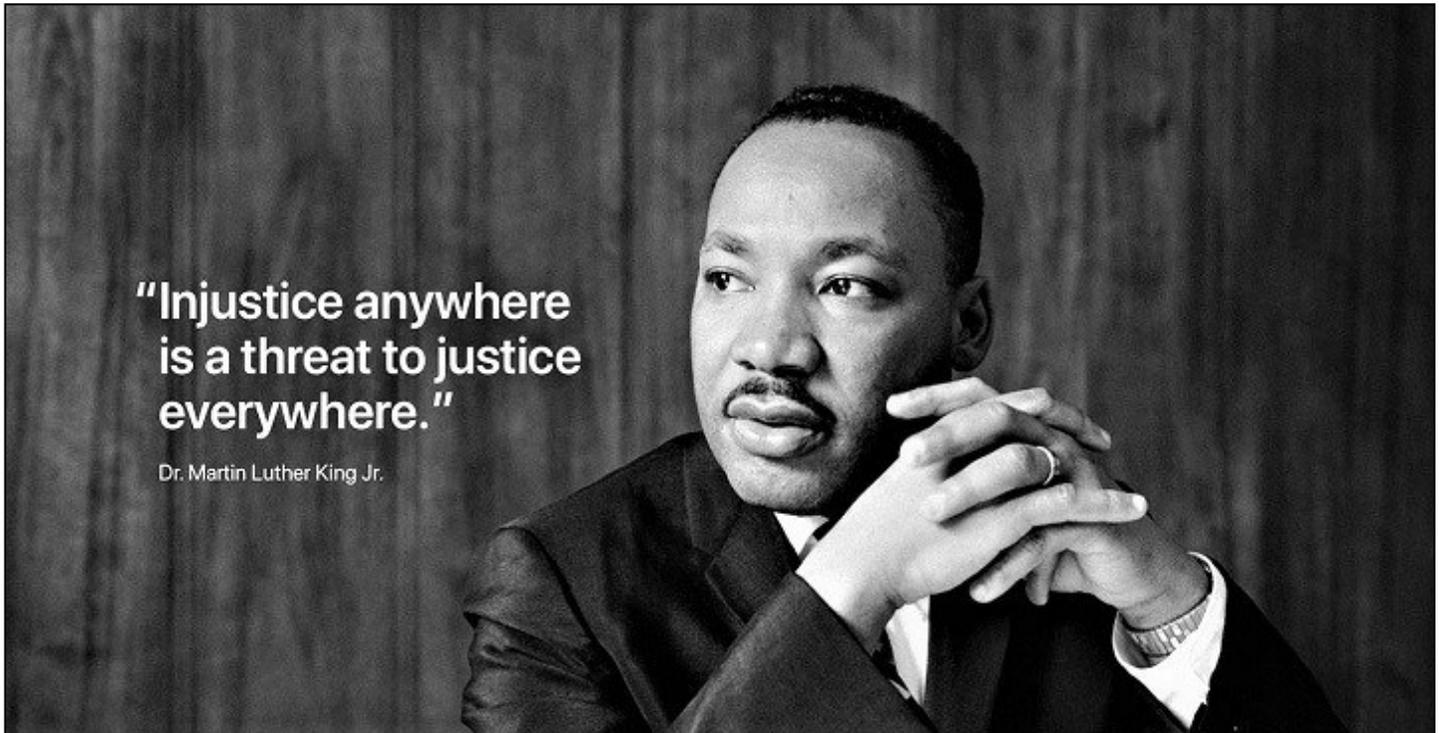
I should have considered this move more, 47...Qxf3+ 48.Kxf3 Ne4 (48...exf2 49.Kxg3 Ne4+ 50.Kg2 Nxc3) 49.fxg3 Nxc3 50.a3 e2 51.Bxe2 +-) **47...exf2** (Here Alaa-Addin has less than one minute and I had around 5. The position here, in my humble opinion, is a bit easier to play for White because Black needs to watch out for tricks from White.) **48.Kg2 Ne4** (I saw this.) **49.Qe3** (49.Qh3+ Kg7 - I did not think this was anything special.) **49...Nxc3** (49...Qf5!! is a move I found during the game surprisingly. The idea is that the knight on e4 is immune - 50.Qxa7+ (50.Be2 luckily for White this move is possible. I may have found it in time trouble, not sure. We saw this in the post mortem.) 50...Kh8 51.Qa8+ Kh7 52.Qxe4?? f1Q+ 53.Bxf1 Qxe4+ - Black wins.) **50.Qxa7+ Kh6 51.Qe3+ Kh7 52.b5** (I think this is objectively the best move.) **52...Nxa2!?** (In my original annotations to this game, I gave this move two question marks. However, I am not so sure now.) **53.Qa7+** (This was my trick, however shocking new information has been made available to me. 53.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 54.Kxf2 Nb4 55.Be4!! - I missed this move. 55...Kh6 56.Ke3 Kg5 57.Kd4 Kf6 58.Kc4) **53...Kh6 54.Qxa2** (Here, Alaa-Addin flagged. I thought that perhaps this position might still be a draw, but there were 8 pieces on the board instead of 7. However, what I forgot was that since after Qg5+ Kxf2, there are 7 pieces. The tablebase states that the position is drawn! 54.Be2) **54...Qg5+** (Please note that the game ended here. The rest is part of the drawing proof. 55.Kxf2 Qg4 (55...Qh4+ 56.Ke3 (56.Kg2 Qg4+ 57.Kf2 Qh4+ 58.Ke3 Qg5+ 59.Ke4 Qf5+ 60.Kd4 Qf6+ 61.Kc5 (61.Kc4 Qf7+) 61...Qf8+ 62.Kc6 Qc8+ 63.Kd6 (63.Kb6 Qb8+ 64.Kc6 Qc8+ 65.Kd6 Qd8+ 66.Ke5 Qxd3 67.Qd5) 63...Qd8+) 56...Qg5+ 57.Kf3 Qh5+ 58.Kg3 (58.Kf2 Qh2+; 58.Ke4) 58...Qg5+ 59.Kf2 Qh4+ 60.Kf3 (60.Kg1 Qg3+ 61.Kf1 Qxd3+) 60...Qh3+ 61.Ke4 Qf5+ 62.Kd4 Qf6+ 63.Kc5 Qe7+ 64.Kc6 Qe8+ 65.Kd6 Qb8+ 66.Kd7 Qb7+ 67.Ke6 Qb6+ 68.Ke5 Qe3+ 69.Be4 Qg5+ = 70.Ke6 Qxb5) 1-0

Sullivan McConnell (2071)

Gunnar Andersen (2335)

Round 4

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.f4 c6 4.d4 d5



**"Injustice anywhere
is a threat to justice
everywhere."**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

5.exd5 cxd5 = (After 5 moves Black is already equal.) 6.Nf3 Bg4 (Score is 20%.) 7.Be2 Bxf3 (Now I do not have my bad bishop.) 8.Bxf3 e6 9.Ne2 Nc6 10.c3 Nf6 11.Qd3 0-0 (11...Qb6 this inferior move was chosen in the other game in this line that I can find in my database.) 12.Be3 Rb8 13.Bf2 Ne8 (d6 is good for this guy.) 14.h4 b5 15.h5 b4 16.g4? (White's attack is completely preposterous.) 16...bxc3 17.bxc3 Qa5 18.Bg2 Nf6 19.Qh3? (Here Sullivan thought he was winning and I thought I was better, it turns out that I am correct.) 19...Rb2 20.hxg6 Qb5! (This is a very good move.) 21.gxh7+? Kh8 (I had a game with Richard Shtivelband which I did not post but he had a pawn on h7 which acted as a shield for my king. This is the same case, down two pawns also but my attack is too strong.) 22.Nc1 Nb4!? (This is good but I had much better. 22...Rc2!! he cannot keep his Ra1 alive. Black wins 23.g5 Ne4 24.Bxe4 dxe4) 23.cxb4 Qxb4+ 24.Kf1 Rxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Qxd4+ 26.Kg3 Qxa1 (Black has restored material equality.) 27.g5 Ne4+? (Now White is fine. 27...Ne8! ironically retreating the knight to the back rank is the best way to continue the attack!) 28.Bxe4 dxe4 29.Qg2 Qc3+?! (One imprecise move and now Black has squandered the majority of his advantage. 29...Qd4!) 30.Kg4 Qc4 31.Re1 e3 (This

is not a bad idea, I need to keep this pawn to retain anything at all.) 32.Qe2 Qxe2+? (32...Qd5! 33.Qxe3 Rc8 this way of continuing the attack is better but White can still hold. If Black moves his bishop too far away then he can suffer pain along the dark square diagonal.) 33.Rxe2 Bd4 34.Nb3 Bb6 35.Na1?? (Sadly, White is now lost again. 35.a4 a5 36.Rc2! provides salvation.) 35...Rc8 36.Nc2 Rc3 37.Kf3 Kxh7 38.Ke4?? → (Game over. 38.Ne1 Kg6 39.Ng2 this was a better try for White which Sullivan suggested, 39...Kh5 40.Ne1 Ra3 41.Ke4 Kg6 42.Kf3 Ba5 43.Nc2? (43.Ng2 Bd2 this should be very pleasant for Black but it takes a lot of precision.) 43...Rxa2 44.Rxe3 Bc7; 38.Nxe3 Ra3 39.Ke4 Bxe3 40.Rxe3 Rxa2 - Black should barely be winning here, we looked at this in the post mortem.) 38...Rc4+! (A good shot.) 39.Kd3 (39.Kf3 Bc7 when f4 drops, so too does g5.) 39...Rxf4 40.Nxe3? (Now White loses immediately. It was nice that 3 of my 5 games ended in pawn endings as these are things which I have studied religiously.) 40...Rf3 41.Ke4 Rxe3+ 42.Rxe3 Bxe3 43.Kxe3 Kg6 44.Kf4 e5+ (Easily winning, I used to teach kids this.) 45.Kxe5 Kxg5 46.Ke4 Kg4 47.Ke3 f5 48.Kf2 Kf4 49.a4 a5 50.Kg2 Ke3 51.Kf1 f4 52.Ke1 f3 53.Kf1 f2 (Sullivan throws in the towel.) 0-1

Gunnar Andersen (2335)

Kevin Seidler (2142)

Round 5

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ (Kevin is a very good dynamic player, so I decided to try a bit more of a positional approach to the Sicilian.) 3...Nc6 4.0-0 a6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.b3 e5 7.d3 Nf6 8.Nbd2 h6 9.Re1 Be7 10.Bb2 Bg4 11.Nf1 Qd7 12.Ne3 Be6 13.c3 0-0 (13...g5 14.Qc2 g4 15.Nd2 d5 16.d4 cxd4 17.cxd4 dxe4 (17...exd4 18.Bxd4 dxe4 19.Nxe4 Qxd4 20.Qxc6+) 18.dxe5) 14.Qc2 Ng4 15.d4 cxd4? ±



(The big mistake of the opening! It is very surprising that this natural move leads to White obtaining a large advantage.) 16.cxd4 Nxe3 17.Rxe3 (Black's bishops are not able to activate

themselves easily.) 17...f6? (17...exd4 this was the lesser evil although the pawns are very weak, e.g. 18.Nxd4 (18.Bxd4) 18...Bf6 19.Rd1 Rac8 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rc3 c5 23.g3 ±) 18.Rd1 Qb7 19.Nh4 Rf7 20.Rg3 g5 (Followed by a draw offer. By accepting a draw I would have fixed first place because I was a point ahead of the pack, but I declined because White is better here and I wanted the glory.) 21.dxe5 fxe5? (Now I assessed White's position as winning. The pawn on d6 is destructible.) 22.Ng6 Rd8 23.Nxe7+ +- Rxe7? (23...Qxe7 this was better but still losing, 24.Qxc6 Rc8 25.Qxd6 Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Rc2 27.h4! (27.Rxe6 Rxb2 28.h4 transposes.) 27...Rxb2 28.Rxe6 Rxf2 29.Rxh6 Rxa2 30.Rxg5+ Kf7 - White is winning.) 24.Bxe5 Bf5 (Tactically refuted but there's not much better.) 25.Bf6 Rxe4 (I saw all of this before I took on e5, and I knew that it was winning for White. 25...Bxe4 26.Qe2 swerve.) 26.Bxd8 (26.Bxg5! this was interesting, but I did not see it at all. This is a computer move, of course 26...hxg5 27.Rxg5+ Kh7 28.Rxf5 Qe7 29.Rf4 d5 30.f3!) 26...Re1+ 27.Rxe1 Bxc2 28.Re8+! (The hesitation check is called for here, luring the Black king to the 7th rank.) 28...Kf7 29.Re7+ Qxe7 30.Bxe7 Kxe7 (This ending is winning easily.) 31.Rh3?! (31.Rc3! Bb1 (31...Be4 32.Re3 d5 33.f3 somehow I forgot about this f3 move, so the game continued for a lot longer than it needed to) 32.Rxc6 Bxa2 33.b4 - Kevin said he intended this in the game.) 31...Kf6 32.Rxh6+ Ke5 33.Kf1 Bb1 34.a3 Ba2 35.Rh3 c5 36.Ke2 d5 37.Re3+ (37.Rc3 Kd4 38.Rg3; 37.Kd2) 37...Kd4 38.Rd3+ Ke4 39.Kd2 d4 40.Rg3 Kf4 41.h3 (So that I can check on the side.) 41...a5 42.Kc2 a4 (Forced otherwise his bishop is trapped.) 43.bxa4 Be6 44.a5 c4 45.a6 c3 46.Rg4+ (A nice check.) 46...Ke5 (46...Bxg4) 47.Rxg5+ Kf4 48.Rg4+ Ke5 49.a7 Bf5+ (49...Bd5 50.Rg5+ Kd6 51.Rxd5+ Kxd5 52.a8Q+) 50.Kd1 d3 51.Rg5 1-0

Select Games From Round 1

Rhett Langseth (2120)

Vedanth Sampath (1762)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Bf4 d6 5.Nbd2 Bf5 6.Qb3 Nbd7 7.Ng5 d5 8.Qxb7 (8.e4 Nxe4 9.Ndx4 Bxe4

10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Qxb7) 8...c5 (8...Rb8 9.Qxa7 e5 10.Bxe5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nd7 12.f4 0-0 13.e4 dxe4 14.0-0-0) 9.e4 (9.e3 cxd4 10.exd4) 9...dxe4 10.Bc7 Qc8 11.Ba6 Nb6 12.Qxc8+ (12.dxc5 Nbd5 13.Qb5+ Qd7 14.c6) 12...Bxc8 13.Bb5+ Bd7 14.dxc5 Bxb5 15.cxb6 axb6 16.Bxb6 Rb8 17.a4? (17.Bd4 0-0 18.0-0 -0 Ra8 19.a3) 17...Rxb6 18.axb5 0-0 19.Ra5 (19.c4 ±) 19...h6 20.Nh3 Nd5 21.Nxe4? Re6 22.f3 f5 23.c4 fxe4!



24.cxd5 Re5 25.0-0 Rxd5 26.fxe4?? Bd4+ 27.Nf2 Bxf2+ 28.Kh1 Bb6 29.Rc1 Re5 30.Raa1 Rxc1+ 31.Rxc1 Rf4 32.g3 Rxe4 33.Rc6 Bc3 34.Kg2 Rb4 35.Kf3 Bg5 36.Rxg6+ Kf7 37.Rb6 Bf6 38.h4 Ke8 39.g4 Kd7 40.b3 Kc7 41.Rc6+ Kb7 42.Rc5 Bxh4 43.Rc3 Bg5 44.Rd3 Kb6 45.Rc3 Kxb5 46.Rd3 Rf4+ 47.Kg3 Kb4 48.Rd7 e5 49.Rd5 Rd4 50.Rxd4+ exd4 51.Kf3 d3 52.Kf2 d2 53.Ke2 Kxb3 54.Kd1 Kc3 55.Ke2 Kc2 56.Kf3 d1Q+ 57.Ke4 Qd3+ 58.Ke5 Qe3+ 59.Kf5 Qf4+ 60.Kg6 Qxg4 61.Kf7 h5 62.Ke8 Qe6+ 63.Kf8 Bh6# 0-1

Karthik Selva (1655)

Griffin McConnell (2018)

Notes by Griffin McConnell: 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.e5 Ng8 6.d4 d5 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nge7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxe7 (Bxe7? Why take? It was a good bishop. My knight on e6 is bad so I want to play Nf5 and Nce7. In a bishop pair you never take a knight unless you have a good reason for it.) 10...Nxe7 11.Bd3 b6 12.h4 0-0 13.Rg1 (Karthik is committing to attack the king side with g4.) 13...dxc4 14.Bxc4 Bb7 15.g4 Nd5 16.Qd3 Kh8 (Nf4 fails to Qe3 and you have to go back to Nd5 because Nh3 Rh1 wins the knight.) 17.g5 h5 18.Nd2 Nf4 (Ng2+ is a big problem.) 19.Qg3 Ng6



(Ng6?! lose a key pawn h5, but also stops g6! which is crushing followed by Qg5 or getting Rg5) 20.Be2! c5 (Only chance of counter-play because of his king in the center.) 21.dxc5 bxc5 22.Bxh5 Qc7 (e5 is weak so f4 should be played here.) 23.Bxg6 (Bxg6?? This is losing. Why?, well after fxg6 this bishop is now a killer bishop, this also shuts down the h-file so h5 is harder to pile on. The rook is now eyeing on f2 and so you can double your rooks.) 23...fxg6 24.f3 (Waste of time.) 24...Rf5 25.f4 Raf8 (f4 pawn is gone.) 26.Rf1 Rxf4 (Rxf4! if rook takes Qxe5+ and this is losing. If queen takes Rxf4 Rxf4 Qxe5 winning.) 27.Qe3 Rxf1+ 28.Nxf1 Rf3 29.Qe2 Rxc3 30.h5 Bf3 31.Qh2 Bxh5 32.Qf4 Rf3 33.Qh2 Rf5 34.Ne3 Rxg5 35.Nc4 Qf7 36.Ra2 Qf3 37.Rd2 Qe4+ 0-1

Norbert Martinez (1500)

Haroun Mueller-Omar (1788)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.h3 Be6 8.Nbd2 Qb6 9.Qc1 Nc6 10.c3 Rac8 11.dxc5 Qxc5 12.Nb3 Qb6 13.Nfd4 Bd7 14.Qd1 Nd8 15.Bg3 a5 16.Rb1 a4 17.Nd2 e5 18.N4f3 Bf5 19.Nc4 Rxc4 20.Bxc4 Bxb1 21.Qxb1 d5 22.Be2 Ne4 23.Bh2 Ne6 24.Qc2 f6 25.Bd1 Ra8 26.a3 Bh6 27.Kh1 N6c5 28.Nd2 Qa6 29.c4 Nxd2 30.Qxd2 Qxc4 31.Be2 Qe4 32.Bf3 Qd3 33.Bxd5+ Kf8 34.Qxd3 Nxd3 35.Kg1 Nxb2 36.Rb1 Ra5 37.Bxb7 Rb5 38.Ba6 Rb6 39.Be2 Kf7 40.g3 Bf8 41.Ra1 Rb3 42.Rc1 Bxa3 43.Rc7+ Be7 44.Ra7 a3 45.Kg2 Rc3 46.f4 Rxe3 47.Kf2 exf4 48.gxf4 Rxh3 49.Bg3 f5 50.Kg2 Rh6 51.Bf2 Ke6 52.Ra6+ Kd5 ... 0-1

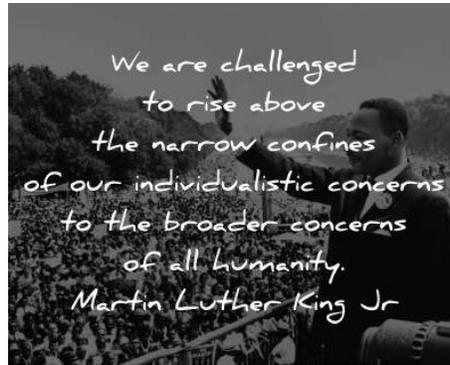
Coleman Hoyt (1390)
Adam Rodriguez (1039)

I arrived at this tournament with some anxiety. I'm the second highest rated player in the section, trailing Andrew by a mere 7 points. I am required to give a stellar performance or see my rating and pride suffer. This first game went excellently for me and set the mood for the rest of the tournament. I don't have enough time to annotate these games as much as I sometimes do, but I hope you can appreciate them nonetheless. (Coleman Hoyt)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5
 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.Nc3 c6 7.h3 0-0 8.0-0
 Nbd7 9.Bg5 a6 10.a3 Be7 11.Bc4 b5
 12.Ba2 Bb7 13.Re1 Qc7 14.Qd2 h6
 15.Bh4 Rad8 16.Qe2 Rfe8 17.Bg3 a5
 18.Nd4



(This was my "main idea" for the game. I saw the knight would have a glorious post on f5 and just went straight for it. Of course, it cannot be captured on d4 because the bishop will capture the queen.) 18...Qb6 19.Nf5 g6 (Recognizing the knight is intimidating on f5 but provoking it to transform from an issue to a nightmare! A... nightmare? Puns aside, the game is over.) 20.Nxh6+ Kg7 21.Nxf7 Rc8 22.Qd2 Rh8 23.Nxh8 Rxb8 24.Qe3 Bc5 25.Qe2 Bc8 26.Rad1 Qc7 27.Be6 Nb6 28.Bxc8 Rxc8 29.Rd3 Nh5 30.Qg4 Nxg3 31.Rxg3 Qd6 32.Rd1 Qf6 33.Rf3 Qe7 34.b4 axb4 35.axb4 Bxb4 36.Rg3 Qf6 37.Rd7+ Nxd7 38.Qxd7+ Kh6 39.Qxc8 Bxc3 40.Rxc3 Qf4 41.Qh8+ Kg5 42.Rg3+ Qxg3 43.fxg3 b4 1-0



Alayne Wilinsky (1208)
Paul Kullback (1300)

I haven't published too many annotated games, and it's not just because I'm a Class E player and I don't really know what I'm talking about, but rather, when I do they are usually less filled with analysis and more dripping with self-deprecation and/or loathing. I'll try again! (Alayne Wilinsky)

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 (My games with the London are either completely wild or rather passive and boring; this one was more the latter. I don't think I played this one aggressively enough.) 2...Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 (3...c5 is way more annoying; it grabs more space and potentially ruins any plans of having a solid dark square pawn fortress or alternately, if no exchange, any plans of placing my bishop on d3 because of pushing to c4. I'm always happy when my opponent doesn't play it.) 4.e3 e6 5.Nbd2 Be7 6.c3 (6.c4 I usually play c3 because it's more standard/safe for the London (I think? maybe? That's how I learned this opening, anyway). But as I play it more I'm learning that c4 is better in a lot of cases and you don't really need to ALWAYS maintain the stonewall-like structure on the dark squares.) 6...0-0 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.Bg3 Ne7 9.Ne5 (9.Qe2) 9...Ng6 10.Ndf3 Bxe5 11.Nxe5 Nd7 (I feel like my opponent made too many knight moves here instead of focusing on finishing development of his bishop.) 12.Nxg6 fxe6 13.0-0 Nf6 14.f3 Qe8 15.Bxc7 Rf7 16.Bg3 Nd7 17.Bd6 (I realized this was a better square one move too late.) 17...e5 18.Bb5 (18.e4) 18...a6 19.Bxd7 Bxd7 20.Bxe5 Qe7 21.Re1 Re8 22.Qe2 Qg5 23.f4 Qf5 24.e4 Qe6 (24...dxe4 25.Qxe4) 25.exd5 Qxd5 26.Qd2 Be6 (An idle threat; unless there is an immediate way to pressure my

queen off the 2nd rank, I think this is premature.) 27.b3 b5 28.Rac1 Ref8 29.Rf1 Qe6 30.c4 bxc4 31.bxc4 Qd7 32.d5 Bb7 33.Rcd1 (Better to move the other rook since f pawn is sufficiently guarded.) 33...Rf5 34.c5 Rd8 35.Rf3 (35.Qc2) 35...Qf7 36.Rd3 g5 37.Rd4 (37.g3 not sure why I was so hesitant to push the g pawn; my king is safe enough. Seems obvious in retrospect. Hindsight is 20/20, etc.) 37...h6 38.c6 Bc8 39.d6 gxf4 40.Bxf4 g5 41.d7 gxf4 42.dxc8Q Rxc8 43.Rd8+ 1-0

Select Games From Round 2

Griffin McConnell (2018)
Brian Wall (2264)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 c6
 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.c3
 Nf8 9.h3 Ng6 10.Bh2 Nh5 11.Nf1 Nh4
 12.Ne3 0-0 13.0-0 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Re8



15.Nf5 Bf8 16.Bg3 Qf6 17.N3h4 Re4
 18.Nxg6 Qxg6 19.Ne3 f5 20.Nc2 f4
 21.Bh2 Bf5 22.Qf3 Rae8 23.Rfe1 Bd6
 24.Kf1 h5 25.Bg1 Qh7 26.Qd1 Qg6 27.f3
 Re2 28.Rxe2 Bd3 29.Ne3 fxe3 30.Rc1 h4
 31.Rcc2 Bf4 32.Rc1 Re6 33.b3 Rf6
 34.Rcc2 b5 35.Rb2 a6 ... 1/2-1/2

Haroun Mueller-Omar (1788)
Andrew Roerty (1556)

Andrew is a strong player who will go pretty far if he keeps it up. He finished the tournament in 2nd place so he was on his game this weekend. (Haroun Mueller-Omar)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 (I always wanted to play the Ruy Lopez, but I rarely get e5 as a response when I play e4. It's been two years and I had my first opportunity to play a Ruy Lopez over the

board.) **3...Nf6** (Could be a Berlin.) **4.0-0 d6** (I believe this is the Steinitz, but I am not very familiar with the plans in this position so I tried to steer the game toward a closed position where I could play slower and make some middlegame plans.) **5.Re1 Bd7 6.c3 Be7 7.d3!?** (Since I was trying to stay close to a Closed Ruy Lopez structure, I wanted to prepare d4 with a move like h3, but if I play it here, my opponent might play Rg8 and turn into Kramnik at Candidates 2018. So I chose a waiting move.) **7...0-0 8.h3 h6 9.Nbd2 a6 10.Ba4 b5 11.Bc2!?** **Re8 12.Nf1 Bf8 13.Ng3 d5**



(At this point, I was out of my element. I haven't seen many games with Black playing d5 in the middlegame. I figured he may be looking to weaken my control over the f5 square so I didn't want to initiate an exchange and help his knight into the center with f5 coming next move.) **14.b4?** (I don't play many Ruy Lopez games so I was not paying attention to the bishop on f8 staring at my b-pawn.) **14...d4 15.cxd4 Bxb4 16.d5!** (This gives my opponent some choices to evaluate. He told me later that he was not thrilled about exchanging two minor pieces for a rook and a pawn, which made sense since we are still in the middlegame and my minor pieces would be stronger at this point.) **16...Nd4 17.Rf1 Nxf3+!?** (My opponent considered my bishop to be hampered by its own pawns, and did not think that trading his knight for that bishop would be a good strategic choice. I still thought that I could improve the piece by sacrificing the d5 pawn. He didn't have enough time to blockade the pawn with a knight and prevent me from sacrificing it. He would have had to use his bishop to blockade it, which is not

ideal as his dark squared bishop was fairly active. The dynamics of the position were very interesting.) **18.Qxf3 c6?** (I give this move one ? from a strategic point of view. White's slacker knight on c2 suddenly comes to life and terrorizes the Black kingside. This was a fairly critical position for Black as he had to come up with the right plan. In a blocked center, you typically want to look for pawn breaks and the two that Black has available are c6 and f5 - c6 is very tempting to play since White's backward pawn is exposed, but the ramifications are that White's light squared bishop turns into a beast and it became too strong after this pawn break. As suggested by Gunnar Andersen after the game, better might have been to blockade the d5 pawn with the bishop and prepare an f5 break.) **19.dxc6 Bxc6 20.Bb3 Qd4?** (Aggressive, but tactically flawed.) **21.Bxh6!** (Since h6 was played, the g-pawn is overworked! **21.Nf5 Qd7 22.Qg3 Nh5 23.Qg4 Bf8 24.Qxh5 +-)** **21...Bd7 22.Nf5!** (Forcing Black's light squared bishop off the board. Now, the archer on b3 is uncontested. **22.Nh5!!** is significantly better and wins immediately.) **22...Bxf5 23.Qxf5 Bf8 24.Bg5 Be7 25.Rac1!!** (A very carefully thought-out move. White's queen is on her way to g6, but before it leaves it's powerful post, it uses its influence to dominate the c-file. I could not find a forced mate with Qg6 and I believed that I may need another piece to remove one of the kingside defenders.) **25...a5??** (Black is already busted. I expected Qd7, but the text move is too slow.) **26.Qg6!** (26.Bxf6!! Qb6 (26...Bxf6 27.Rc7 Qd8 28.Rd7+-) 27.Bxe5 +-) **26...Rf8 27.Bh6!** (Rude and shameless chesspieces all enabled thanks to the hard-working gentleman on b3.) **27...Nh5 28.g4 Kh8 29.Qxh5 gxh6 30.Qxh6+ Kg8 31.Rc6! 1-0**

Frank F Atwood (1107)

Coleman Hoyt (1390)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.h3 a6 5.a3 Nc6 6.Bc4 e6 7.d3 Be7 8.Bg5 b5 9.Bb3 Bb7 10.Qe2 b4 11.axb4 cxb4 12.Na4 Na5 13.Ba2 Bc6 14.b3 Qc7 15.0-0 0-0 16.c3 Bxa4 17.bxa4 bxc3 18.Rfc1 Rfc8 19.Rc2 Rab8 20.Nd4 Rb4 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bxe6+ Kf8 23.Bxc8 Qxc8 24.Rac1 Rb3 25.Qe1 Qe5 26.Rxc3 Rxc3 27.Rxc3

Qxg5 28.Rc8+ Kf7 29.Qe2 Qe5 30.Qa2+ Qe6 31.Rf8+ 0-1

Select Games From Round 3

Sullivan McConnell (2071)

Brian Wall (2264)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.c3 Bd6 8.Bxd6 Qxd6 9.Nbd2 Nge7 10.Nf1 0-0 11.Ne3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 b5 13.0-0 a5 14.Be2 b4 15.f4 a4 16.a3 bxc3 17.bxc3 Rfb8 18.Qc1 f5 19.g3 Na5 20.Qc2 Rb3 21.Qc1 Rc8



22.Nd1 Nec6 23.Qe3 Nd8 24.g4 fxg4 25.Bxg4 Nc4 26.Qh3 Nd2 27.Re1 Ne4 28.f5 e5 29.f6 Rc7 30.Bf5 gxf6 31.Re2 exd4 32.Rg2+ Ng5 33.Qh5 Rg7 34.h4 Ndf7 35.hxg5 fxg5 36.cxd4 Qf4 37.Qg4 Qxg4 38.Bxg4 Rd3 39.Rb1 h5 40.Rb8+ Nd8 41.Rxd8+ Kf7 42.Rd7+ Kg6 43.Rxg7+ Kxg7 44.Bxh5 Rxd4 45.Rg3 Kf6 46.Nc3 Kf5 47.Kf2 Rd2+ 48.Be2 Kf4 49.Rd3 Rc2 50.Nxd5+ Ke5 51.Nb6 Ra2 52.Nxa4 Kf4 53.Nc3 Ra1 54.a4 Ke5 55.Rd5+ Kf4 56.Bf3 Re1 57.Ne2+ Rxe2+ 58.Kxe2 g4 59.Rd4+ Ke5 60.Rxg4 Kd6 61.a5 Kc7 62.Rg6 Kb8 63.Rg7 1-0

Steve Kovach (1659)

Haroun Mueller-Omar (1788)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.a3 Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Bg5 Re8 11.Re1 b6 12.Bh4 Bb7 13.Bg3 Qc8 14.Qd2 Ba6 15.Bxa6 Qxa6 16.Qe2 Qb7 17.Ne5 Bf8 18.Nxd7 Qxd7 19.Rad1 Red8 20.h3 Rac8 21.Bh4 Be7 22.Ne4 Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Bxh4 24.Qxh4 Qd5 25.c3 Qf5 26.Qe4 Qb5 27.Qe2 Qb3 28.Rd2 Qa4 29.Qd1 Qb5 30.Re5 Rd5 31.Rxd5 Qxd5 32.Re2 Rd8 33.Re5 Qxe5 0-1

Coleman Hoyt (1390)
Andrew Eskenazi (1397)

Notes by Coleman Hoyt: 1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 (Would you believe me if I told you I didn't see Andrew play c6, thought it was a Sicilian, and played this?? Well, I did. Apparently it's a real opening but what a slap in the face this was. I was much more careful for the remainder of the tournament!) 2...d5 3.e5 Bg4 4.d4 Nd7 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 e6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Bd3 Ng6 9.Qg4 c5 10.Bxg6 hxg6 11.Bg5 Qb6 12.0-0-0 13.Rxd4 Nxe5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Re1 f6 16.Rxd5 Kf7 17.Rd7+ Kg8 18.Rxe5 fxe5 19.Qc4+ (A losing position demanded a knight sacrifice which exploded into an out of control assault on the vulnerable king, ending in perpetual check. Nice! High praise from Andrew, "You were like Tall!") ½-½

Select Games From Round 4

Haroun Mueller-Omar (1788)
J.C. MacNeil (1697)

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 c5 4.c4 Bf5 5.d3 e5 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Be2 Qd7 8.f3 h5 9.g3 g5 10.Qd2 Bh6 11.0-0-0 0-0-0 12.Kb1 Be6 13.Bf1 d5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Ne4 b6 16.Ne2 f5 17.Nf2 Ndb4 18.Bg2 Bg7



19.Nc1 Qf7 20.Ba1 e4 21.Qc3 cxb3 22.a3 Rd7 23.axb4 Rc7 24.Qe1 Rd8 25.g4 Bf8 26.Bc3 Bd6 27.gxf5 Bxf5 28.Bh3 Bxh3 29.Nxh3 Qf5 30.Nf2 Qe6 31.Ne4 Be7 32.Rg1 g4 33.fxg4 hxg4 34.b5 Na5 35.Qg3 Rd5 36.Qxg4 Qxg4 37.Rxg4 Rxb5 38.Kb2 Rd7 39.Rf1 Rbd5 40.Rf5 Nc6 41.Rg6 Nb4 42.Bxb4 Bxb4 43.Re6 Bc5 44.Nf6 Ba3+ 45.Kxa3 Ra5+ 46.Kb2 Rg7 47.Rf2 Rg1 48.Nxb3 Rb5 49.Rc2+ Kb7 50.Ne4 a5 51.Nd6+ 1-0

Paul DeJong (1287)
Coleman Hoyt (1390)

Notes by Coleman Hoyt: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 0-0 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.e3 Be6 11.Nf3 Nd7 12.c4 e5 13.Rb1 b6 14.Bd3 dxc4 15.Bxc4 Bg4 16.Bd5 Rae8 17.Qa4 Qf5 18.Qb3 Nf6 19.Bc6 Re6 20.Ne5 cxd4 21.Nxg4 Nxg4 22.Bf3 dxe3 (I considered the superior 22...Nxe3! but did not have the guts to play it and/or the time to calculate it deep enough. The inferior pawn grab almost cost me the game!) 23.0-0 exf2+ 24.Kh1 Qf4 25.Bxg4 Re3 26.Qd1 f5 27.Qd5+ Kh7 28.Bf3 Re5 29.Qd6 Rf6 30.Qxf6 gxf6 31.Rxf2 Qd4 32.Kg1 Rc5 33.Rd1 Qe3 34.Rd7+ Kg6 35.Rd1 Rc2 36.Rdf1 a5 37.Bd1 Rd2 38.Bf3 b5 39.Bd1 Kf7 40.g3 Ke6 41.Kg2 b4 42.Bb3+ Kd6 43.axb4 Rxf2+ 44.Rxf2 Qxb3 45.bxa5 Qd5+ 46.Kh3 Qxa5 47.Kg2 Qd5+ 48.Kf1 Qe4 49.Rd2+ Kc6 50.Re2 Qf3+ 51.Rf2 Qg4 52.Kg2 Kd5 53.Ra2 Qe4+ 54.Kh3 f4 55.Ra5+ Ke6 56.Ra6+ Kf5 57.g4+ Kg6 58.Ra5 Qe3+ 59.Kg2 Qd2+ (I applied a positional idea very well for a long time. I did crack when I finally had a crushing position, but regained my composure and played patiently to recover the win.) 0-1

Select Games From Round 5

Calvin DeJong (1942)
Brian Wall (2264)

Notes by Brian Wall: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Ng4 5.h3 h5!! (Fishing Pole.) 6.c3 a6 7.Ba4 Bc5 8.d4 Ba7!! (Hyper-Pole in case I need to play ... b5 to break the pin after ... d6. There is always a Hyper-Pole pause here, even in blitz. Calvin took 5 minutes. Calvin's father Paul DeJong was busy taking \$75 off of Andrew Eskenazi's dinner table this round.) 9.Bxc6?? dxc6!! 10.Nxe5?? Nxe5!! 11.dxe5! Qe7!! (I discovered this move in my famous Marvin Lee game, 2007 Kansas Open.) 12.Bf4? g5!! (As I played many times in blitz - due to the increment I had more time than I started with.) 13.Be3? (-.75 TL, DeJong 'Theoretical Lemon' by Calvin DeJong. The Irish Pawn Chain approach. 13.Bh2 g4 14.hxg4 hxg4 15.Qd3 Rxh2!! +5, Marvin Lee flagged against me here, 2007 Kansas Open.) 13...Bxe3!! 14.fxe3!

(Full Metal Jacket (all 8 pawns) and an Irish Pawn Chain (Tripled pawns).) 14...g4!! 15.e6? (-1.25/0) 15...Bxe6!! 16.Qd4! Rh7!! 17.c4?? (-2.6) 17...gxh3!! 18.g3?? (-4.25/0) 18...h4!! (18...Qg5!!; 18...Rd8!!; 18...Kf8!!) 19.Qe5! hxg3!! (19...f6!!; 19...0-0-0!!) 20.Qxg3! 0-0-0!! (+4) 21.Nc3! Bxc4 22.Rf2 Rhh8 23.Kh1! Rdg8 24.Qf4! Qg5 25.Rd1?? Qg2+!! (Mate in 4.) 26.Rxg2! hxg2+!! 27.Kg1! Rh1+!! 28.Kf2! Rf1+!! (I was going to promote to a borrowed George Peschke rook next.) 0-1

Haroun Mueller-Omar (1788)
Gary Bagstad (1709)

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 d5 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.f4 Qh4+ 6.g3 Qe7 7.Nf3 Nf6 1-0

Scott Williams (1202)
Coleman Hoyt (1390)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Nc6 5.h3 a6 6.c3 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 Qc7 9.Qc1 b5 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Re1 Rc8 12.Bf4 b4 13.c4 0-0 14.Nbd2 e5 15.Bh2 h6 16.Nf1 Nh7 17.Ne3 Ng5 18.Qd1 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Nd4 20.Qg4 Kh7 21.Nf5 Ne6 22.Bd1 g6 23.Nxe7 Qxe7 24.Bg3 h5 25.Bh4 f6 26.Qe2 Nd4 27.Qd2 g5 28.Bg3 h4 29.Bh2 Bc6 30.Kh1 Bd7 31.Bg1 f5 32.f3 Nc6 33.Ba4 Nd8 34.Bxd7 Qxd7 35.Qxg5 Ne6 36.Qxh4+ Kg6 37.Qg3+ Kf6 38.Qf2 Nf4 39.Qd2 Rg8 40.Be3 Nxe2 41.Rg1 f4 42.Rxg2 fxe3 43.Qe2 Qxh3+ 44.Rh2 Qg3 45.Qxe3 Rh8 46.Qe2 Rcg8 47.Rxh8 Rxh8+ 48.Qh2 Qxh2# 0-1



The final standings can be found here:
<https://tinyurl.com/y2ccdjnw>



2019 Colorado Springs Open

by Chief Tournament Director
Richard "Buck" Buchanan

The Colorado Springs Open came on a pleasant March weekend (no storms) in the Manitou Springs City Hall. Of course, as usual it came on that weekend when Daylight Saving Time returned. The ever-obliging TD changed his usual pattern and started the Sunday morning round at 10:00am - but, of course, that felt like 9:00am - but who's counting?

The 40 players were led by three formidable masters. But of those, Gunnar Andersen took two byes and then lost in round four to Earle Wikle, who seems to have good results against him. And Brian Wall dropped a point in round two to Edward Yasutake, who had a very fine tournament and took the U2000 prize rather than share second place with the other 4-pointers. So it was left to Josh Bloomer to sweep mercilessly though the field, even though in the last two rounds he was paired with his pupils in the Herman family.

Other prize winners were Sam Bridle (U1900) with 3.5, with Aditya Krishna, Vibi Varghese and Robert Carlson splitting the U1700 prize. Dean Brown and Grayson Harris shared the U1500 bread, while Vedant Margale and Nick Torres split the combined U1400 and U1300 prizes.

The event was also marked by the complete failure of my printer, so I resorted to hand-written pairing sheets and wallcharts, taking me back to the old days of my early TD career. Players seemed to adjust well to the new/old experience, but myself I would really rather have not.

ROUND 1

Coleman Hoyt (1509)
Sullivan McConnell (2137)

Ruy Lopez. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d3 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Bd7 13.Nf1 Rfb8 14.b4 Nc6

15.bxc5 dxc5 16.d4 cxd4 17.cxd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.e5 Nd5 20.Be4 Nc3 21.Qc2 g6 22.Bxa8 Rxa8 23.Qd3 Qb6 24.Nd2 Bf5 25.Qf3 Rc8 26.g4 Bc2 27.Nb3 a5 28.Qf4 Rd8 29.Qd2 Bxb3 30.axb3 Qe6 31.Rxa5 Bb4 32.Ra1 Qxb3 33.Qb2 Qc4 34.Qc2 d3 35.Qb2 Ne2+ 36.Kf1 Nxc1 37.Rexcl Qe4 38.Kg1 d2 39.Rd1 Qf4 40.Qb3 Bc5 41.Rf1 Qxe5 42.Qf3 Bd6 43.Qg3 Qxa1 44.Qh4 Qxf1+ 45.Kxf1 d1Q+ 46.Kg2 Be5 47.Qe7 Bg7 48.f4 Rd2+ 49.Kg3 Qg1+ 50.Kh4 Qf2+ 51.Kg5 h6# 0-1

Tyler Chase (1431)
Griffin McConnell (2030)

Scotch. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Bg5 d6 6.Nxd4 Ne5 7.Be2 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.f4 Ng6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nd5 c5 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Nb3 Nxf4 15.Kh1 Qe5 16.Nd2 Nxe2 17.Qxe2 b5 18.b3 Bb7 19.c4 Bc6 20.Rae1 g6 21.Qd3 Rad8 22.Rf3 f5 23.Rfe3 fxe4 24.Nxe4 Qf5 25.Ng3 Qf2 26.Ne4 Qf4 27.Rf3 Bxe4 28.Qxe4 Qxe4 29.Rxe4 Rxf3 30.gxf3 Kf7 31.Kg2 Re8 32.Rxe8 Kxe8 33.Kg3 Kf7 34.Kf4 Kf6 35.h4 b4 36.Ke4 Ke6 37.f4 h6 38.Kf3 Kf5 39.Kg3 Ke4 40.Kg4 a5 41.Kg3 h5 42.Kg2 Kxf4 43.Kh3 Kf3 0-1

Herbert Conley (1331)
Clifton Ford (1811)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.d5 0-0 7.Bg5 b6 8.e4 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Qc2 Ba6 11.a4 exd5 12.cxd5 Bxf1 13.Kxf1 Re8 14.Nf3 d6 15.Ke2 Qf4 16.Nd2 Qg4+ 17.Kf1 Nd7 18.f3 Qg5 19.Nc4 Qf6 20.Kf2 Ne5 21.Ne3 c4 22.Rhd1 Qf4 23.h3 Nd3+ 24.Rxd3 cxd3 25.Qxd3 Rac8 26.g3 Qf6 27.Ra3 Rc5 28.Ng4 Qg6 29.Qa6 Rxd5! 30.Ra2 Ra5 31.Qb7 h5 32.Qd7 Re6 33.Ne3 Qf6 34.Nd5 Qe5 35.h4 Rxd5 36.exd5 Qxd5 37.Qd8+ Kh7 38.Qg5? Qxa2+ 0-1

Frank Deming (1700)
Ayush Vispute (1307)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Nc6 7.a3 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Nc3 Qg6 10.Nd5 Qxe4+ 11.Ne3 Nd4 12.Bd3 Qc6 13.c3 Nxb3 14.Qxb3 Bc5 15.Nd5 0-0 16.0-0-0 Kh8 17.f3 d6 18.Ne7 Be6 19.Qc2 Be3+ 20.Kb1 Qb6 21.Qe2 Bg5 22.Nf5 Qb3 23.Ne3 Qa2+ 24.Kc1 Bb3 25.Bc2 Bxe3+ 26.Qxe3

Qa1+ 27.Bb1 Bxd1 28.Rxd1 Rac8 29.g4 d5 30.Qxe5 Rfe8 31.Qf5 g6 32.Qf6+ Kg8 33.h4 Re2 34.Qb6 Rxc3+ 0-1

ROUND 2

Brian Wall (2212)
Edward Yasutake (1874)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 g6 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5 Nc6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.h3 f6 8.f4 Be6 9.Be3 Nh6 10.g4 0-0 11.Nf3 Qb6 12.Qd2 Nf7 13.Bd3 fxe5 14.f5 exd4 15.fxe6 Nfd8 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.Bxd4 Nxd4 18.0-0-0 Rf2 19.Qxf2 Nb3+ 20.axb3 Qxf2 21.Nxd5 Qc5+ 22.Nc3 Nc6 23.Kb1 Rd8 24.Be4 Nd4 25.Bxb7 Rd6 26.Rhe1 Nxb3 27.Nd5 Nd4 28.Rc1 Qb5 29.Nxe7+ Kg7 30.Rc7 Qd3+ 31.Ka2 Qb3+ 32.Kb1 Rxe6 33.Nd5+ Kh6 34.Rxe6 Nxe6 35.Re7 Nc5 36.Bc6 Qd3+ 37.Ka2 Qa6+ 38.Kb1 Qxc6 39.Nf4 Qd6 40.Rf7 Qd1+ 41.Ka2 Qa4+ 42.Kb1 Qe4+ 43.Kc1 0-1

Clifton Ford (1811)
Rhett Langseth (2130)

1.d4 d6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nbd7 4.Nc3 e5 5.g3 c6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8 9.Rd1 Qc7 10.Be3 Bf8 11.Ng5 h6 12.Nge4 Ng4 13.Bc1 f5 14.h3 exd4 15.Rxd4 Nge5 16.Nd2 c5 17.Rf4 Nf6 18.Nd5 Qf7 19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.e4 g5 21.Rxf5 Bxf5 22.exf5 Nc6 23.Bd5+ Kh8 24.g4 Re1+ 25.Kg2 Nd4 26.Qc3 Rg1+ 0-1

Sullivan McConnell (2137)
Ted Doykos (1808)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Bd3 g6 6.Bf4 Bg7 7.Nd2 Nh6 8.Ngf3 0-0 9.0-0 f6 10.Qe2 Re8 11.Bb5 Nf7 12.Rfe1 e5 13.dxe5 fxe5 14.Bg3 Bd7 15.Nb3 a6 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Rad1 Qb6 18.Qd2 a5 19.h4 a4 20.Nc1 Bh6 21.Qc2 e4 22.Nd4 Rad8 23.Nce2 Ne5 24.Bf4 Bg7 25.Nc1 Bf6 26.Bg3 Ng4 27.Qe2 h5 28.Qc2 Rd7 29.f3 Ne5 30.Bf2 exf3 31.Rxe5 Bxe5 32.Qxg6+ Rg7 33.Qxh5 Rxc2+ 34.Kf1 Qxb2 35.Nd3 Qxc3 36.Nxc6 Qxc6 37.Nxe5 Qc2 38.Qxe8+ Kh7 39.Qf7+ Rg7 40.Qh5+ Kg8 41.Qxf3 Qxa2 1-0

Aditya Krishna (1630)
Daniel Herman (2120)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Qc2 d5 5.e5 Nfd7 6.d4 Na6 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nb4 9.Qb3 Nxd3+ 10.Qxd3 Be7 11.Nc3 0-0

12.0-0 b6 13.Bd2 a5 14.Rac1 Ba6 15.Nb5 f6 16.Rfe1 fxe5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5 Bd6 19.Rh5 g6 20.Rh3 a4 21.Rc6 Bf4 22.Rxe6 Qd7 23.Rxb6 Bxb5 24.Qxb5 Qxb5 25.Rxb5 Bxd2 26.Rxd5 Rae8 27.g4 Re2 28.Rd7 h6 29.Ra3 Rxf2 30.Rxa4 Rg2+ 31.Kh1 Rxh2+ 32.Kg1 Be3+ 33.Kf1 Rhf2+ 34.Kg1 Re1# 0-1

Ayush Vispute (1307)

Brad Lundstrom (1974)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.c3 Nd7 6.Be2 Ne7 7.Be3 Qc7 8.0-0 c5 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.c4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Nxe5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Bb5+ Nc6 15.Re1+ Be6 16.Rc1 Bd6 17.Nf3 0-0 18.Ne5 Qd8 19.Nxc6 bxc6 20.Bxc6 Rc8 21.Bxa7 Bxh2+ 22.Kxh2 Qc7+ 23.Kg1 Qxa7 24.Qa4 Qb6 25.Bb5 Rb8 26.Bd7 Qxb2 27.Rb1 Qd2 28.Rbd1 Qb2 29.Bxe6 fxe6 30.Qa7 Qb6 31.Qe7 Qxf2+ 32.Kh1 Rbe8 33.Qd6 Rf6 0-1

James Mulberry (1500)

Gerald Mena (1469)

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be2 c5 5.d3 Nc6 6.Rb1 Qc7 7.Bd2 e6 8.0-0 a6 9.Qc1 Nd4 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Nd1 Ne7 12.c3 0-0 13.c4 Bd7 14.b3 Rac8 15.Qa3 Nc6 16.f4 f5 17.Bf3 e5 18.Nf2 exf4 19.exf5 Rxf5 20.Ne4 Be5 21.Bg4 Rff8 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.Qc1 Qg4 24.Qd1 h5 25.Rf3 Ne7 26.Qe1 g5 27.Bb4 Rcd8 28.Nxd6 Rxd6 29.Bxd6 Bxd6 30.Qe4 Qf5 31.Re1 g4 32.Rff1 b6 33.Qe6+ Qxe6 34.Rxe6 Bc5 35.Rh6 Rf5 36.Re1 Kg7 37.Ree6 Rg5 38.b4 Ng8 39.Rxh5 Rxh5 40.bxc5 bxc5 41.Rxa6 Re5 42.Rc6 Ne7 43.Rc7 Kf6 44.a4 Ke6 45.a5 Kd6 46.Ra7 Nc8 47.Ra6+ Kc7 48.Rg6 Re3 49.Rxg4 f3 50.gxf3 Rxf3 51.Kg2 Rxd3 52.h4 Nd6 53.Rg5 Kc6 54.Rg6 Ra3 55.h5 Rxa5 56.h6 Ra8 57.Rg7 Rf8 58.h7 Rh8 59.Ra7 Nxc4 0-1

ROUND 3

Josh Bloomer (2335)

Brad Lundstrom (1974)

Sicilian. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.Kb1 Qc7 12.h4 Rfc8 13.h5 Qa5 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.a3 Rab8 16.Bd3 b5 17.Qg5 Nh7 18.Rxh7 Bxd4 19.Qh6 b4 20.Rh1 Qe5 21.f4 Qf6 22.e5 bxc3 23.Rh8+ 1-0

Rhett Langseth (2130)

Sara Herman (1994)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.c3 Bg7 4.Nd2 c5 5.e4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.e5 Ne4 8.Nb3 Qb6 9.f3 Qb4+ 10.Ke2 g5 11.Bc1 f6 12.Qc2 0-0 13.fxe4 fxe5 14.Bxg5 b6 15.Nf3 exd4 16.Kf2 Bg4 17.Bd3 Nd7 18.Nbd2 h6 19.a3 Qd6 20.Bh4 Rac8 21.Qb1 Qf4 22.Ke1 Ne5 23.Bf2 Rc1+ 24.Ke2 Rxb1 25.Raxb1 Nxf3 26.gxf3 Bxf3+ 27.Ke1 Bxh1 28.Bg1 dxe4 29.Bc4+ Kh8 30.Kd1 e3 31.Nf1 Qxf1+ 32.Bxf1 Rxf1+ 33.Kc2 Be4+ 0-1

Daniel Herman (2120)

Edward Yasutake (1874)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Bg7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Qd2 Be6 11.0-0 Qa5 12.Rac1 Rfc8 13.b3 a6 14.a4 b5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Nxb5 Qxd2 17.Bxd2 Nxe4 18.Be3 Ra2 19.Bd3 Nd2 20.Bxd2 Rxd2 21.Rfd1 Rb2 22.Rb1 Ra2 23.Be4 Bd7 24.Nd4 Rc5 25.b4 Rc8 26.b5 Ra4 27.Bd5 e6 28.Bc6 Bxd4 29.Bxd7 Rxc4 30.b6 Rab4 31.b7 Ba7 32.g3 d5 33.Bb5 Rd4 34.Rdcl Rxb1 35.Rxb1 Bb8 36.Rc1 Kg7 37.Rc8 Bd6 38.b8Q Bxb8 39.Rxb8 Rb4 40.Rb7 Kf6 41.Bc6 Rxb7 42.Bxb7 Ke5 43.Kf1 Kd4 44.Ke2 e5 45.Bc6 f5 46.f3 g5 47.Bd7 f4 48.g4 h6 49.Bf5 e4 50.Bh7 Ke5 51.Kd2 Kd4 52.Bg6 exf3 53.Bd3 f2 54.Ba6 Ke4 55.Ke2 f1Q+ 56.Kxf1 Ke3 57.Be2 d4 58.Ke1 f3 59.Bd1 Kf4 60.h3 Kg3 61.Kf1 d3 62.Kg1 f2+ 63.Kf1 Kxh3 64.Kxf2 Kh2 65.Ke3 Kg3 66.Kxd3 Kf4 67.Kd4 h5 68.gxh5 g4 69.Bxg4 Kg5! 70.Ke5 Kh6 71.Kf6 Kh7
(What a game!) ½-½

Shrey Rohilla (732)

Dean Brown (1444)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c5 3.c3 cxd4 4.cxd4 Qb6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.e3 Qxb2 7.Qc1 Qxc1+ 8.Rxc1 a6 9.Nf3 e6 10.Bd3 Ba3 11.Rc2 Nb4 12.Rd2 Nxd3+ 13.Rxd3 Bb4 14.0-0 Bxc3 15.Rxc3 Nd5 16.Rc2 Nxf4 17.exf4 d6 18.h3 0-0 19.Re1 Bd7 20.Rc7 Bc6 21.f5 exf5 22.Ree7 h6 23.Nh4 Rae8 24.Ng6! Rxe7 25.Nxe7+ Kh7 26.Nxc6 bxc6 27.Rxc6 Ra8 28.Rxd6 g6 29.Rd7 Kg7 30.Kf1 Kf8 31.Rc7 Rd8 32.Rc4 Rd5 33.Ke2 Ke7 34.Kd3 Kd6 35.Ra4 ½-½

ROUND 4

Edward Yasutake (1874)

Sullivan McConnell (2137)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nxd4 Nxd4 6.Qxd4 Qf6 7.Be3 Bd7 8.Nc3 c6 9.a4 Be7 10.f4 Nh6 11.0-0-0 Qxd4 12.Bxd4 0-0 13.h3 Be6 14.Bd3 f5 15.Rhe1 Bh4 16.Re2 fxe4 17.Nxe4 d5 18.Nd6 Bf5 19.Be5 Bxd3 20.Rxd3 Nf7 21.Rf3 Nxd6 22.Bxd6 Rfe8 23.Rfe3 Rxe3 24.Rxe3 Kf7 25.Kd2 Re8 26.b4 Rxe3 27.Kxe3 Ke6 28.Bc5 b6 29.Bd4 g6 30.Be5 a6 31.b5 axb5 32.axb5 cxb5 33.Bc7 h5 34.g4 hxg4 35.hxg4 Be1 36.Bxb6 Bb4 37.Kd3 Ba3 38.Be3 Bb2 39.Bd4 Bc1 40.Be3 Bb2 41.Bd2 Ba3 42.Bc3 ½-½

Griffin McConnell (2030)

Daniel Herman (2120)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3 Nxb5 5.Nxb5 a6 6.Nc3 b5 7.0-0 Bb7 8.d3 e6 9.Bf4 d6 10.Qd2 Nf6 11.Rae1 Be7 12.h3 0-0 13.Nh2 d5 14.e5 Nh5 15.Ne2 d4 16.f3 Bh4 17.g3 Nxf4 18.Qxf4 Bg5 19.Qg4 Bd2 20.Rd1 Be3+ 21.Kg2 Qc7 22.Qh5 g6 23.Qh4 Qxe5 24.Ng4 Qg5 25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Qxg5 Bxg5 27.Nd7 Rfd8 28.Nxc5 Bc6 29.c3 dxc3 30.bxc3 Be7 31.Nb3 a5 32.Ned4 Be8 33.Ne2 a4 34.Na1 Rac8 35.Nc2 e5 36.d4 f6 37.Ne3 Bf7 38.Rd2 exd4 39.cxd4 b4 40.Rb1 Bf8 41.Rbb2 Rc7 42.Kf2 Rdc8 43.d5 Bc5 44.Nd4 Rd7 45.Ndc2 Re8 46.Rd3 Rxd5 47.Ke2 Rxd3 48.Kxd3 b3 49.axb3 axb3 0-1

Gunnar Andersen (2355)

Earl Wikle (1989)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Na3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Qb6 8.Nc2 Nge7 9.Bd3 Nf5 10.Kf1 Nb4 11.Nxb4 Bxb4 12.a3 Be7 13.g4 Nh4 14.Nxh4 Bxh4 15.Be3 Be7 16.Kg2 Bb5 17.Bc2 0-0 18.Qb1 h6 19.h4 f6 20.g5 fxe5 21.gxh6 e4 22.Rg1 Be2 23.Bd1 Bf3+ 24.Kf1 Qb5+ 25.Ke1 Bxh4 26.Rxg7+ Kh8 27.Qc2 Rac8 28.Qb3 Qa5+ 29.Kf1 Bxd1 30.Qxb7 Bf6 31.Rh7+ Kg8 32.Rg7+ Kh8 33.Rxd1 Rb8 34.Rh7+ Kg8 35.Qxa7 Qb5+ 36.Kg1 Qe2 37.Rg7+ Kh8 38.Rd2 Qe1+ 39.Kh2 Ra8 40.Qd7 Rad8 41.Qxe6 Bxg7 42.hxg7+ Kxg7 43.Rc2 Rh8+ 44.Kg3 Qg1+ 0-1

Ted Doykos (1808)**Christopher Motley** (1573)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Rc1 Nc6 9.b3 0-0 10.Be2 e5 11.d5 Ne7 12.Nf3 f5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.0-0 g5 16.g3 Bf6 17.Ne1 Qg7 18.Kh1 e4 19.Qd2 g4 20.Ng2 Bd7 21.Nf4 Bg5 22.Rg1 Nc8 23.Bd1 Ne7 24.Nce2 Ng6 25.Qb4 Be7 26.Qxb7 Ne5 27.Rg2 Bg5 28.Qb4 Qe7 29.Qc3 a5 30.Rb1 Rfc8 31.h4 Nf3 32.hxg5 hxg5 33.Qh8+ Kxh8 34.Ng6+ Kg7 35.Nxe7 Rh8+ 0-1

Andrew Eskanazi (1488)**William Wolf** (1312)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.Nc3 axb5 6.e4 d6 7.Bxb5+ Bd7 8.Qd3 g6 9.Nge2 Bg7 10.f3 0-0 11.Be3 Bxb5 12.Nxb5 Qa5+ 13.Nec3 Na6 14.Qd2 Rfb8 15.a4 Nb4 16.0-0 Nd7 17.Bh6 Bh8 18.f4 c4 19.f5 Nc5 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.Qf4 f6 22.Qg4 Kf7 23.Ne2 Nbd3 24.Nxd6+ exd6 25.Rxf6+ Bxf6 26.Rf1 Ne5 27.Qh4 Ncd7 28.Bg5 Rh8 29.Qf4 Nd3 30.Qxd6 Qa7+ 31.Kh1 Nf2+ 32.Rxf2 Qxf2 33.Qxd7+ Kf8 34.Qd6+ Kg7 ½-½

Ayush Vispute (1307)**Shirley Herman** (989)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.Bd3 dxe5 8.g4 Bg6 9.Bxg6 hxg6 10.Nxe5 Nc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qf3 Qxd4 13.Qxc6+ Qd7 14.Qf3 e6 15.Be3 Bb4+ 16.Nd2 Rb8 17.0-0-0 0-0 18.c5 Na4 19.Ne4 Qb5 20.Rhg1 Ba3 21.Kd2 Qxb2+ 22.Ke1 Rfd8 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Kf1 Qb5+ 25.Kg2 c6 26.Kh2 Nxc5 27.Nf6+ gxf6 28.Qxf6 Nb7 29.Bh6 Bd6+ 30.f4 Qe2+ 31.Rg2 Bxf4+ 32.Bxf4 Qf3 33.Qg5 Kf8 34.Qh6+ Ke8 35.Qh8+ Kd7 36.Rd2+ Kc8 37.Rxd8+ Nxd8 38.Qe5 Qf2+ ½-½

ROUND 5**Sara Herman** (1994)**Brian Wall** (2212)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.f4 b5 6.a3 Bb7 7.Be2 Nd7 8.Bf3 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.f5 gxf5 11.exf5 e4 12.Be2 Ne5 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.Nh3 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.0-0 Nf6 17.Rae1 0-0 18.Bg5 Rb8 19.Rf4 Bc6 20.Nf2 Rxb2 21.Ncxe4 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 f6 23.Bh4 Rxc2 24.Rg4 Kf7 25.Nc5 Rb8 26.Ne6 Bf8 27.Bf2 Re8 28.Kf1 c3 29.a4 Bd5 30.Bc5 Rxc2

31.Rxc2 Bxc2+ 32.Kxc2 Bxc5 33.Rc1 Bb4 34.Nxc7 Re2+ 35.Kf3 Re5 36.Nxa6 Rxf5+ 37.Ke4 Re5+ 38.Kd3 Ba5 39.Rb1 Rd5+ 40.Kc4 Rh5 41.Rh1 c2 42.Kd3 Rxd2 43.Rc1 h5 44.Nc5 h4 45.Nb3 Rh3+ 46.Kxc2 Rc3+ 0-1

Rhett Langseth (2130)**Brad Lundstrom** (1974)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Bf4 d6 5.Nbd2 0-0 6.e4 Nbd7 7.Bc4 Nh5 8.Be3 e5 9.b4 Nf4 10.0-0 a5 11.Bxf4 exf4 12.b5 Re8 13.a4 Nf8 14.Bd5 Ra7 15.Qb3 Be6 16.Rfe1 Bxd5 17.Qxd5 Qd7 18.Nc4 h6 19.b6 cxb6 20.Qxd6 Rc8 21.Qxb6 Ra6 22.Qb5 Qc7 23.Nfd2 Rc6 24.Nxa5 Rxc3 25.Nab3 Ne6 26.e5 Qd8 27.Ne4 Nc7 28.Qb6 Nd5 29.Qxd8+ Rxd8 30.Nxc3 Nxc3 31.Rac1 Nxa4 32.Rc7 b5 33.Rb7 Nc3 34.Kf1 Bf8 35.e6 fxe6 36.Rxe6 g5 37.Rg6+ Kh8 38.Rgb6 Rd5 39.Rb8 Kg7 40.R6b7+ Kg8 41.Rc7 b4 42.Rcc8 Rf5 43.Nc5 b3 44.Rxb3 Kf7 45.Rxc3 1-0

Edward Yasutake (1874)**Earle Wikle** (1989)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Ne7 6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.f4 Nbc6 9.Nf3 f6 10.c3 cxd4 11.cxd4 fxe5 12.fxe5 Bd7 13.Bd3 Qb6 14.Nc3 Nf5 15.Na4 Qd8 16.Bxf5 Rxf5 17.Nc5 b6 18.Nb3 a5 19.0-0 a4 20.Nc1 Na5 21.Qb4 Nc4 22.Rf2 Be8 23.Ne2 Bg6 24.Rc1 Rf7 25.b3 axb3 26.axb3 Ne3 27.Qd2 Ng4 28.Rff1 Be4 29.Ng5 Rf5 30.Nxe6 Qh4 31.h3 Rf2 32.N6f4 Rf8 33.hxg4 R8xf4 34.Rc8+ Kf7 35.Qxf4+ Rxf4 36.Nxf4 Qxg4 37.Rc7+ Ke8 38.Rf2 g5 39.Ne2 h5 40.Nc3 Bxg2 41.Rxc2 Qxd4+ 42.Kf1 Qd3+ 43.Ke1 d4 44.Ne2 Qe3 45.Rg3 Qxe5 46.Rc4 h4 47.Rd3 h3 48.Rxh3 Qf5 49.Rg3 d3 50.Rg2 Qe5 51.Rd4 Qe3 52.Rdg4 Kd7 53.Kd1 dxe2+ 54.Rxe2 Qxb3+ 55.Ke1 Qb1+ 56.Kd2 Qb2+ 57.Ke3 Qc1+ 58.Kf3 Qf1+ 59.Ke3 (Black's flag falls) 1-0

Nicolas Torres (1276)**Ted Doykos** (1808)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bf4 Ngf6 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rfe1 Rc8 12.Re3 Nb6 13.Be5 Ng4 14.Re2 Nxe5 15.Rxe5 Bf6 16.Rh5 g6 17.Rh3 Nd5 18.Qd2 Bg7 19.Ne4 Nf6 20.Re1 h5 21.Qf4 Ng4 22.c3 Bh6 23.Qd6 Qxd6 24.Nxd6 Rcd8 25.Nxb7 Rb8 26.Nd6

Rxb2 27.Ne5 Nxe5 28.dxe5 Rxa2 29.Ne4 Rb8 30.Nf6+ Kg7 31.Rg3 Kh8 32.Rh3 Bf4 33.g4 Ra5 34.gxh5 Rxe5 35.Rxe5 Bxe5 36.hxg6+ Kg7 37.Nd7 Rb1+ 38.Kg2 Bd6 39.gxf7 Kxf7 40.Rf3+ Ke7 41.Nf6 Be5 42.Ne4 Re1 43.Nc5 Kd6 44.Nb7+ Kc7 45.Rf7+ Kb6 46.Nd8 Bxc3 47.Rb7+ Ka6 48.Rb3 Bf6 49.Nxc6 Ra1 50.Nb8+ Ka5 ½-½

Grayson Harris (1461)**Ayush Vispute** (1307)

1.d4 f5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 d6 4.Be2 g6 5.h4 h6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.Qf3 e6 8.Qg3 Kf7 9.Nc3 Nh5 10.Qh3 Nxf4 11.exf4 Bxd4 12.Nge2 Bg7 13.h5 g5 14.Qxf5+ Bf6 15.fxg5 hxg5 16.Ne4 Rh6 17.Bxe6+! Bxe6 18.Nxg5+ Kg8 19.Qxe6+ Kg7 20.Qf7+ Kh8 21.Nf4 Qe7+ 22.Qxe7 Bxe7 23.Nf7+ Kg7 24.Nxh6 Kxh6 25.Ne6 Na6 26.0-0-0 Re8 27.Rde1 Bg5+ 28.Nxg5 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Kxg5 30.Rh1 Nb4 31.h6 Nd5 32.h7 Nf6 33.h8Q Kg6 34.Rh6+ Kg5 35.Qxf6+ Kg4 36.Rh4# 1-0

Steven Readell (1293)**Andrew Eskenazi** (1488)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Bd3 Bxd3 5.Qxd3 e6 6.Nf3 c5 7.Qb5+ Qd7 8.Qxd7+ Nxd7 9.c3 Ne7 10.Na3 a6 11.0-0 Nf5 12.Nc2 Be7 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxe7 Kxe7 15.g4 Nd6 16.exd6+ Kxd6 17.Rfe1 Rac8 18.Ne5 Rhf8 19.Nxd7 Kxd7 20.Re2 Rc6 21.dxc5 Rxc5 22.Nd4 Rfc8 23.f4 Rc4 24.h3 Re8 25.Rae1 Kd6 26.Re3 g5 27.Nf5+ Kd7 28.fxg5 hxg5 29.Ng7 Rg8 30.Nh5 Rg6 31.Rf3 Ke8 32.b3 Rc7 33.Ng3 Re7 34.c4 d4 35.Ne4 e5 36.Nf6+ Rxf6 37.Rxf6 e4 38.Rd6 d3 39.Re3 Re5 40.Kf2 f5 41.Rd4 Kf7 42.Ke1 Kf6 43.Kd2 Re6 44.c5 Ke5 45.gxf5 Kxf5 46.Rd7 Re5 47.b4 a5 48.a3 b6 49.c6 axb4 50.c7 Rc5 51.axb4 Rc2+ 52.Kd1 Kf4 ½-½



COLORADO SPRINGS OPEN

MARCH 9 & 10, 2019

RICHARD "BUCK" BUCHANAN

CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

	PLAYER	RATING	PTS.	RD1	RD2	RD3	RD4	RD5
1)	JOSH BLOOMER	2335	5.0	W20	W25	W11	W9	W5
2)	BRIAN WALL	2212	4.0	W27	L4	W29	W17	W9
3)	RHETT LANGSETH	2130	4.0	W22	W13	L9	W25	W11
4)	EDWARD YASUTAKE	1874	4.0	W37	W2	D5	D8	W10
5)	DANIEL HERMAN	2120	3.5	W23	W15	D4	W18	L1
6)	SAM BRIDLE	1826	3.5	W31	H	L7	W23	W19
7)	GUNNAR ANDERSEN	2355	3.0	H	H	W6	L10	W27
8)	SULLIVAN MCCONNELL	2137	3.0	W28	W26	H	D4	U
9)	SARA HERMAN	1994	3.0	W39	W17	W3	L1	L2
10)	EARLE WIKLE	1989	3.0	W30	H	D12	W7	L4
11)	BRAD LUNDSTROM	1974	3.0	W21	W32	L1	W27	L3
12)	BRIAN ROUNTREE	1913	3.0	H	W34	D10	H	D15
13)	CLIFTON FORD	1811	3.0	W40	L3	H	W28	D16
14)	FRANK DEMING	1700	3.0	L32	D21	D20	W35	W28
15)	ADITYA KRISHNA	1630	3.0	W24	L5	H	W21	D12
16)	VIBI VARGHESE	1610	3.0	W38	L18	H	W22	D13
17)	ROBERT CARLSON	1504	3.0	W35	L9	W32	L2	W29
18)	GRIFFIN MCCONNELL	2030	2.5	W36	W16	H	L5	U
19)	CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY	1573	2.5	F	W39	H	W26	L6
20)	JAMES MULBERRY	1500	2.5	L1	L29	D14	W40	W33
21)	VEDANT MARGALE	1489	2.5	L11	D14	W36	L15	W35
22)	GRAYSON HARRIS	1461	2.5	L3	W40	H	L16	W32
23)	DEAN BROWN	1444	2.5	L5	W31	D35	L6	W34
24)	NICOLAS TORRES	1276	2.5	L15	W30	L25	W37	D26
25)	MARK KROWCZYK	1918	2.0	W29	L1	W24	L3	U
26)	TED DOYKOS	1808	2.0	W33	L8	H	L19	D24
27)	DEREK ISABELLE	1539	2.0	L2	W37	W38	L11	L7
28)	COLEMAN HOYT	1509	2.0	L8	W33	W34	L13	L14
29)	GERALD MENA	1469	2.0	L25	W20	L2	X	L17
30)	ANDREW ESKENAZI	1488	2.0	L10	L24	W40	D33	D31
31)	STEVEN READEL	1293	2.0	L6	L23	H	X	D30
32)	AYUSH VISPUTE	1307	1.5	W14	L11	L17	D34	L22
33)	WILLIAM WOLF	1312	1.5	L26	L28	B	D30	L20
34)	SHIRLEY HERMAN	989	1.5	X	L12	L28	D32	L23
35)	SHREY ROHILLA	732	1.5	L17	B	D23	L14	L21
36)	TYLER CHASE	1431	1.0	L18	L38	L21	B	U
37)	NEIL HENDREN	1334	1.0	L4	L27	W39	L24	U
38)	OWEN CHRIST	1111	1.0	L16	W36	L27	F	U
39)	MARK ZERINGUE	1400	0.0	L9	L19	L37	F	U
40)	HERBERT CONLEY	1331	0.0	L13	L22	L30	L20	U

DCC March 2019 Report

by J.C. MacNeil

Before getting into who won what in this month's tournament, I'd like to encourage anyone and everyone reading this report to register to play in the 2019 Denver Open. IM Danny Rensch will be doing a 30 board simul and we have an all-star lineup already registered for the Championship section. It is a rare occurrence to have this many titled players playing at a tournament in Denver. It will be a golden opportunity for Colorado players to see live and in person professional chess players at work over the board. Attendance alone will be the determining factor to decide if we can make the Denver Open special again next year.

Register for the Danny Rensch simul here:

<http://tinyurl.com/y669f9w4>

And for the tournament here: <http://tinyurl.com/y6pruc58>

Not a single DCC player complained about our new policy of allowing players to play up only one section. It certainly made the Premier section games much more competitive. Gunnar Andersen went 4-0 and won the 1st place prize of \$119 dollars. But I know for a fact that his last round game with Sullivan McConnell was a dogfight. In his notes to the game, Gunnar says from move 72 thru move 79 he had to find the only moves to win or Sullivan could have held the draw. Mr. Andersen credits Sullivan with these words: *"I think that he is phenomenal, and has a truly exceptional talent for chess."*

Richard Shtivelband and Griffin McConnell shared the combined 2nd and 3rd place prize of \$116, both finishing with 3 points. Mr. Shtivelband added to his victory total against Brian Wall with a nice last round win. Griffin won his last round game over the hard to beat Mark Krowczyk to earn his share of the prize. Incredibly both Eamon Montgomery and Vibi Varghese had identical 185 point Upset wins, so I think for the first time two players shared the \$20 Upset prize. Eamon once again won against Brian Wall, and Vibi upset Vedanth Sampath.

The story of the U1900 section was two Unrated players were on the top boards for the last round. Both Roberto Ropa and Will Strong are new to the DCC and we are glad to have them. They both play very well. Mr. Ropa was paired against Haroun Mueller-Omar for the last round. Mr. Mueller-Omar won the game to take the clear 1st place prize of \$108 with a perfect 4-0 score. Mr. Strong was paired against Ben Gurka, who had lost to Aditya Krishna in round 2. So Will had a chance to tie for 1st place, but Mr. Gurka was having none of that. Thus they ended up as part of a 6-way tie for the combined 2nd and 3rd place prize of \$110.

In addition to his big upset over Mr. Gurka, Aditya earned his share of the prize money by crushing me in the last round. I helped him by making a really bad move. Aditya took advantage of that without hesitation or even a trace of mercy. I also lost to Mr. Strong in round 3. In a good game, he kept making threats until I cracked under the pressure. Ken Doykos and Dwight Sehler also finished with 3 points to share the prize. Mr. Doykos mentioned to me that he has a 17 game no loss streak going. More power to him I say. Along with Aditya, another youngster

won prize money in this section. Abhinav Krishna won the \$20 Upset prize for his huge 652 rating point difference win over George Peschke in round 2.

Speaking of youngsters playing at the DCC, in the U1500 section two kids that I don't think are even 10 years old yet, were lighting it up. Grayson Manuel at the end of round 3 had 3 points, from a combined rating point upset difference of over 1500 points. I am not making that up. Kaavya Sakthisaravanan started off with two over 500 point rating difference wins. Please don't ask me to pronounce her name.

Kaavya lost her last two games to experienced adult players, Tyler Bowling and Elena Novik, but not without a fight. Mr. Bowling, the big meanie, then also ended Grayson's streak in round 4 to share the combined 1st and 2nd place prize of \$174 with Petra Lambert-Gorwyn. They each finished with 3.5 points. Grayson's 3 point score took the 3rd place prize of \$44. Kaavya wins the \$20 Upset prize for her round 2 win against Elijah Warwick.

Congratulations to all the prize winners. Thanks to all the players who are making all 3 sections of the DCC Tuesday night tournament competitive. The 5 round April tournament will be for the title of DCC 2019 Tuesday Night Champion. A trophy, in addition to the prize money will be awarded in all 3 sections.

Jesse Hester (1913)

Gunnar Andersen (2331)

Round 1 / Notes by Gunnar Andersen

1.e4 c5 (My first Sicilian of 2019 although it is my main opening.) **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 a6 6.Bf1 Nf6 7.c3 0-0 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3** (Brian Wall and I are the experts of this opening.) **12...Bg4 13.Bg5** (In this line this move is bad because it forces Black to choose one of his good plans which is ...f6 cracking away at e5.) **13...f6** (This idea makes a lot of sense because Black's bishop sucks on g7 so if we trade him off we have fewer problems from that perspective as well as from the perspective that we have less space. Trades are good for Black.) **14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Bxf6 Rxf6** (e7 pawn is backward but that is the only real problem for Black otherwise he's fine and his knight should be superior to its counterpart the bishop.) **16.Be2 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 e6 18.Bg4 Qd6 19.Qb3 b5 20.a4 b4 21.cxb4 Nxd4** (This should be favorable for Black, I thought during the game - however it is "only" equal.) **22.Qc3** (Here i am not sure if I played all the best moves.) **22...Rf4 23.Bh3 Raf8 24.Rad1 e5 25.Rd2?! Qf6 26.Qc5?** (Now he is lost, although he missed an interesting attempt.) **26...Rxf2 27.Qxd5+** (27.Qxf8+ Qxf8 28.Rxf2 Qd6 I was concerned about this line but this is of course winning for Black as well.) **27...Kh8** (White resigns) **0-1**

Evan Helman (1865 - age 18)

Brian Wall (2220 - age 63)

Round 1 / Notes by Brian Wall

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 Nxe4 5.d5 Bc5 (Been waiting 11 years to get some rating points off my wine merchant Scottish Postal Champion George Brunton Fraser defense analysis.) **6.dxc6 Bxf2+ 7.Ke2 Bb6!!** (Played by Tim Krabbe

and Peter Heine Nielsen 30 years ago, leading to beautiful Chess fractals and 1,000 imbalances, but ignored by the world until I lit it on fire.) **8.Qd5 Nf2** (Evan and I played 20 blitz games on 2019 Superbowl Sunday from this position, then he went home and weaponized his computer.) **9.cxb7** (The Grandmaster Ara Minasian variation. 9.Rg1!! 0-0 10.cxb7 Bxb7 11.Qxb7 Qf6 is my main line.) **9...Bxb7! 10.Qxb7!** (10.Qxe5+ -1.5 10...Kf8; 10.Qb5 -3.5 10...e4 (10...Nxb1; 10...0-0)) **10...Nxb1!** (I have two pawns, a rook and a safer king for two pieces. My stranded knight is the key issue. All of Evan's pieces are on ridiculous squares. I beat GM Ara Minasian with this in a 2012 ICC 3 minute game. 10...0-0 -1.11/0 11.Rg1 (11.Qxb6 axb6 12.Kxf2 e4 13.Nd4 d5 (13...c5)) 11...Qf6; 10...Rb8 -1.5 11.Qd5 (11.Qxb6 Rxb6 12.Kxf2) 11...0-0 (11...Nxb1 12.Qxe5+)) **11.Be3?** (-1 Humans generally love to play Be3 at different stages of the George Brunton Fraser defense and computers generally loathe it. (11.Qd5 0-0 (11...f6); 11.Nxe5 0-0 (11...c6); 11.Na3 c6 (11...0-0; 11...Rb8); 11.a4 0-0; 11.Kd1 0-0 (11...Nf2+; 11...c6); 11.Bg5 f6 12.Bh4 Rb8 (12...g5; 12...0-0); 11.Kd3 c6 (11...0-0; 11...Nf2+; 11...Rb8; 11...f6); 11.Qe4 f6! (11...0-0!! 12.Ng5 g6 I named 13.Qh4 the Devon Wall variation because my son liked to threaten checkmate 13...h5 14.Na3 (14.g4 f6 (14...Nf2; 14...d5; 14...Bf2) 15.Nf3 hxg4 16.Qxg4 Qe8)) 12.c4; 11.Nbd2 0-0!! (11...Rb8!; 11...c6)) **11...Bxe3!!** (+1 after 8 minutes I hated to improve Evan's heinous king position but I wanted to keep the b-file open. 11...0-0!! 1.33/0 12.Bxb6 axb6 13.Nbd2 d5 14.Qc6 (14.Rd1 Qd7; 14.Kd1 Nf2+) 14...Re8; 11...Rb8! +8; 11...c6) **12.Kxe3! 0-0!!** (12...Rb8!!) **13.Bd3?** (-2 with the idea of the smoother Nbd2, Rxh1 instead of the awkward g3, Bxh1. 13.Nbd2! -1 13...d5!! a) 13...Rb8! 14.Qd5 (14.Qxa7 Re8 (14...d5; 14...e4)) 14...c6 (14...Qf6; 14...Rxb2); **b)** 13...c6; 14.Bb5 a6 (14...e4; 14...Rb8)) **13...d5!!** (+1.3 I spent 5 minutes to make the second best move. I saw 13...e4!! +2 14.Bxe4 **a)** 14.Na3 Re8 +2 (14...exf3; 14...exd3; 14...d5); **b)** 14.Qxe4 Re8 +2.6; 14...Re8 +2 15.Kd2 -1.4 **a)** 15.g4 -2 15...d5 (15...h5; 15...Rb8); **b)** 15.Nbd2 -2.6 15...d5 16.g4 (16.Rxh1 dxe4!! +3) 16...Rb8!! +3; 15...d5 (15...Rb8) 16.Bd3 Rb8 (16...Nf2; 16...a5) ; 13...Rb8! +2.5 14.Qe4 g6 (14...f5 15.Qd5+ Kh8) 15.Nbd2) **14.Nbd2! e4!!** (+1.4 14...Rb8! +1; 14...Re8! +1) **15.Rxh1!** (15.Nxe4 -2 15...Re8 (15...Rb8; 15...dxe4 16.Bxe4 Re8)) **15...Rb8!** (Minutes earned me the third best move 1.11/0. 15...Re8!! 1.55/0 16.Kf2 exf3; 15...exf3! 1.25/0; 15...exd3?? a natural move that loses all advantage.) **16.Qxa7!** (-1 16.Qc6? -2 16...Re8!!) **16...exf3!!** (+1.7 usually bishops are worth more but now Evan's minor pieces don't protect each other or his pawns. I spent 5 seconds because I had already worked out that I didn't want Evan's king hiding behind connected knights.) **17.Qd4?** (-3 17.Kxf3! -1.8 17...Rxb2!! +1.7 **a)** 17...Rb6 +1 18.Ke2 Qe8+; **b)** 17...Qf6+ +1 18.Ke2 Rxb2 (18...Rfe8+; 18...Qc6); **c)** 17...Re8!! +1.8 18.Qd4 Rxb2 (18...Rb6; 18...c5); 18.Qd4 Re8!! +1.7 (18...c5; 18...Qg5; 18...g6; 18...Qe7; 18...h5; 18...Rxd2 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qxd2 Qf6+; 18...h6)) **17...fxg2!!** (+3 after 15 minutes. Time left - Evan 38:03 + a 5 second delay, Brian 29:10 + a 5 second delay. 17...c5!! +3.26, my birthday 18.Qf4 (18.Qg4 Rxb2 (18...c4; 18...fxg2; 18...Re8+)) 18...fxg2 19.Rg1 (19.Rb1 Rxb2; 19.Rd1 c4) 19...c4) **18.Rg1! Qg5+!!** (+2 one minute earned me the third best move but I liked the possible queen trade. 18...c5!! +3.26,

my birthday 19.Qf4 (19.Qg4 Re8+ (19...Qe7+)) 19...c4!!; 18...Re8+!! +2 19.Kf3 c5; 18...Rxb2!! +2 19.Rxg2 g6; 18...Qe7+!! +1.7 19.Kf3 c5) **19.Kf3??** (-5 19.Qf4! Rfe8+ 20.Kf3 Qxf4+ 21.Kxf4 Rxb2 22.Rxg2 Rxa2 +2 looked pretty juicy to me.) **19...c5!** (+2 I saw 19...Rb6!! +5 but what bothered me is sometimes the b6-rook checks on f6 and sometimes captures on b2. I wanted to capture b2 in one move. 20.Bb5 **a)** 20.Qe3 Rf6+ 21.Ke2 Qg4+ 22.Ke1 Re6; **b)** 20.Ke2 Rxb2 +6 (20...Re8+ 21.Kd1 Rxb2 +5) 21.Bb1 (21.Qe3 Qxe3+ 22.Kxe3 Re8+) 21...Re8+ 22.Kd1 Qxd2+ 23.Qxd2 Rxb1+ +11; **c)** 20.Qxb6 cxb6; **d)** 20.Bf5 Qxf5+; 20...Rxb5; 19...Qxd2?? 20.Bxh7+!!) **20.Qf2?** (-4 now it starts looking like target practice at Lakeside Amusement Park. 20.Qf4! -2 20...Qxf4+ 21.Kxf4 Rxb2 22.Rxg2 Rxa2 +2) **20...Rxb2!!** (+3.6 20...c4!! +4; 20...Rb6!! +3; 20...Rfe8!! +2.8) **21.Qxg2?** (-6 21.Rxg2! -4 21...Qf6+ (21...Qh5+)) **21...Qf6+!! 22.Ke2! Qxc3!!** (+6 Pawn Wave Guy. 22...Re8+!! +6) **23.Kd1** (-9 23.Qg5 -9 23...Re8+; 23.Qxg7+ -10) **23...g6!!** (7.77/0 23...Rfb8!! +9 24.Qxg7+ (24.Qe2 Rxa2; 24.Qg5 c4) 24...Qxg7; 23...Re8!! 7.77/0; 23...c4!! 8.33/0; 23...Ra8!! 7.77/0) **24.Bb1?** (-10 24.Qe2! -7.77/0 Ra8 (24...Qa3; 24...c4; 24...Rbb8; 24...Rb7)) **24...Rfb8!! 25.Qg5?** (25.Bf5! -14 Only Move 25...d4 (25...Qd4; 25...Rxa2; 25...Rxd2+ 26.Qxd2 Qf3+)) **25...Rxd2+!!** (+20 25...Rxb1+!! mating 26.Ke2 Re8+ 27.Kf2 Qd4+ 28.Kf3 Rxg1 29.Qxg1 Qxg1 30.a4 g5 31.Nf1 Qxf1+ 32.Kg4 Qf4+ 33.Kh3 Qf3#) **0-1**

John Brezina (1692)

Coleman Hoyt (1476)

Round 1 / Notes by Coleman Hoyt

(My first game in the U1900 section! What a thrilling start.)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qd2 h6 (Come on, you really think I'm gonna castle here? After I nearly got stung by that game with Brian Norris-Saucedo? I'm playing h6 right now. This is the beauty of the Najdorf Sicilian as Black to me. The longer I wait to castle, the more I goad White into launching an attack that simply can't pan out in his favor. There's no bishop sacrifice to expose the king. There's no intimidating g4 push. As long as I don't castle until White commits to a less dynamic position, I can shut down these ideas with the h-pawn. If his bishop retreats along the same diagonal hence it came, I can eye down the bishop pair with Ng4. Instead, it tried to maintain the pressure, and I had a surprise!) **10.Bh4 Qb6! 11.Nb3 Nxe4! 12.Nxe4 Bxh4 13.Be2 d5 14.Nc3 Bg5 15.Qd3 Ne5 16.Qg3 Ng6 17.Rae1 Bf4 18.Qf3 Qd6 19.g3 Bg5 20.Bd1 0-0** (There's something that just feels so badass about castling so late, as if I knew I exactly what I was doing all along. I didn't, but computer analysis finds no issue with my laziness.) **21.Qd3 Rd8 22.Bh5 Ne5 23.Qd4 Bf6 24.Qf4 Nc4 25.Qc1 b5 26.Rd1 Qb6 27.h4 Bb7 28.Bf3** (Lichess says the next move is the first significant error on my part. Up to this point I, by all means, outplayed John, amassing a bishop pair, an extra pawn, a safer king, and a more active position. For all these advantages, Stockfish 10 estimates I am up 6 pawns. So how did I blow it? Let's see my kingdom fall, shall we?) **28...Ne5 29.Bg2 g5** (My idea was to play g4 and then Nf3+ to shut down John's bishop. What was the rush? I had everything, patience would have been my saving grace.) **30.Nd4 g4?** (Really bad.) **31.Qxh6 Bg7 32.Qg5 f6**

33.Qd2 Nc4 34.Qc1 f5 35.Qg5 Nxb2 36.h5 Nxd1 (Yay!) 37.Rxd1 e5?? (Really, really bad.) 38.Nxf5 Qf6 39.Qxg4 e4 40.h6 Bc8 41.Nxd5 Rxd5 42.Rxd5 (Not a mistake on my part, but an exchange sacrifice to hold a losing position is sort of a canary in the coal mine. I'm dead now.) 42...Bxf5 43.Rxf5 Qxh6 44.Rh5 Qc1+ 45.Kh2 Rd8 46.Qe6+ Kf8 47.Qxe4 Qd1 48.Qf5+ Ke8 49.Qe6+ Kf8 50.Rf5+ Bf6 51.Rxf6+ Kg7 52.Qf7+ Kh8 53.Rh6# (On one hand, I can't be mad that I lost to such a stronger, more experienced player, especially knowing I played like a pro for the first 27 moves. On the other, to squander such a beautiful position and lose is a tragedy. It's stories like these that make up the mythos of chess. Without great struggle, there would be no great game to speak of.) 1-0

Gunnar Andersen (2331)

Kevin Seidler (2150)

Round 2 / Notes by Gunnar Andersen

1.e4 c5 (1...c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4) 2.Nf3 a6 (This line is known to be dubious.) 3.c4 (When Black does not play ...Nf6 it is usually fine to play c4. Here it is especially sensible.) 3...Nc6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 e6 7.Be2 Qc7 8.Be3 Be7 9.Rc1 0-0 10.0-0 (I have suffered a great many hedgehog debacles as Black from pompous IM's on *chess.com* so I was familiar with all the ideas.) 10...Rd8 11.f4 d5? (Premature, sadly Black is positionally lost after this move. 11...d6 12.Nd5 is typical 12...exd5 13.cxd5 now there's a pin on the c file.) 12.cxd5 exd5 13.e5 Ne8 (On e8 the knight defends c7. 13...Ne4 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Nxd5 Qb7 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Qc2 a very grotesque alternative.) 14.Bf3 (14.Nxc6 bxc6) 14...Be6 15.Kh1 Nxd4 16.Qxd4 Qd7 17.Na4 (White has a blockade over the d4 square. This is important because it restricts all of Black's pieces - if the pawn on d5 is gone then Black would be a bit happier because he can utilize his pieces on the d file as well as his bishop on e6. The power of the blockade is multifaceted.) 17...Rac8 18.Nb6 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Qb5 20.g4 g6 21.f5 gxf5 22.gxf5 Bxf5 23.Nxd5 Qd7 24.Rg1+ (24.Rd1 Bf8) 24...Bg6 25.Rd1 (Now here White is just winning but I screwed it up.) 25...Bf8 26.Ne7+ Qxe7 27.Qxd8 Qxe5 28.Qd4 Qf5 29.Bxb7 Nd6 30.Bg2 Qc2 31.Qd2?? (This ostensibly innocuous move that trades queens actually throws away all of White's advantage.) 31...Qa4?? (Kevin cannot be blamed for missing this as he was in time trouble. 31...Nc4! = 32.Qxc2 Bxc2 33.Re1 Bb4 34.Bd5 Bxe1 35.Bxc4 = there is nothing more than a draw here; 31...Qf5 32.Qd5) 32.b3 Qh4 33.Qf2 Qh5 34.Qf3 Qa5 35.Qa8 Qh5 36.Rxd6 Qe2 37.Bg1 (Black resigns.) 1-0

Coleman Hoyt (1476)

Derek Isabelle (1571)

Round 2 / Notes by Coleman Hoyt

(It's hard to not be proud of your game when the Lichess server announces "No significant mistakes found." How did I stumble into such precise play? Well, I finally had my comeuppance for the February game with Tyler Bowling. In the Colorado Open I lost a game because I planned one move in my head and my hand played a different one. I believe the curse has been lifted and I must once again be feared as a player who might play with enduring accuracy.)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.c3 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Ngf3 Bb4 (Black is trying to punish me but I have made no error to deserve this. The bishop is misplaced on b4 and I will make it move as soon as I close up the center.) 7.e5 Nge7 8.a3 Bxd2+ (I was wondering if this was bad for me, after all, the board does seem a bit closed. It's good because my knight was not very active and his remaining bishop is useless compared to my pair.) 9.Bxd2 Nf5 10.Bc3 Qb6 11.Bd3 (Black's 'pile on the d4 pawn' is now refuted. The light bishop is ready to unleash a check on the Black king while opening the White queen up to d4: Nfxd4 12. Nxd4 Nxd4 13. Bxd4 Qxd4 14. Bb5+) 11...0-0 12.0-0 h6?! (Waste of a move.) 13.Bc2 Bd7 14.Qd3 Na5? (Yes, Black wants to discourage g4 but this doesn't cut it. I'm easily able to take Bb5 away from Black.) 15.a4! g6 16.Qd2 Nb3 17.Bxb3 Qxb3 18.g4 Ng7? (That knight is still dead, Black should reinforce the h-pawn instead with ...Kh7.) 19.Qxh6 Rfc8?? (A surprisingly bad move it turns out. Derek and I both missed Black's surprising ability to defend h7. Best was 19...g5! 20. Nxc5 Qc2! although Black is still losing, White's path to victory is longer and trickier. Derek misses this, so my queen slips into the back of the board, supported by a knight to destroy him.) 20.Ng5 Kf8 21.Ra3 Qc4 22.Qh8+ Ke7 23.Qxg7 Rf8 24.Qf6+ Ke8 25.Nh7 Bc6 26.Nxf8 b6 27.Rc1 Kxf8 28.Bd2 Qe2 29.Rf3 (Completely winning.) 29...Qxf3 30.Bh6+ Ke8 31.Qxf3 Kd7 32.Qxf7+ Kc8 33.Rxc6+ Kd8 34.Qc7+ (Missing 34.Bg5# but I only had 17 seconds left on my clock.) 34...Ke8 35.Rxe6# (First upset of the year!) 1-0

Eamon Montgomery (2125)

Gunnar Andersen (2331)

Round 3 / Notes by Gunnar Andersen

1.Nf3 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.0-0 0-0 (I liked Eamon's setup a lot here.) 5.d4 b5 (I was feeling absolutely inspired on this particular day so I played a creative move.) 6.Ne5 c6 7.a4 b4 8.a5 Qc7 9.Nd3 Na6 (Apparently someone else has had this idea before, and the b4 pawn can be won.) 10.Nd2 (10.Bd2 Rb8 11.Ra4! White is better.) 10...d6 11.e4 Rb8 12.Nc4 Bg4! (A splendid pendulum idea - I want to put my bishop on e6 anyway so I do this first to disrupt his otherwise harmonious development.) 13.Qe1 (13.Qd2 blocks the Bc1 and now I can play ...d5 if I so choose, because Qf4 is not dangerous whereas Bf4 was; 13.f3 ruins his bishop, it cannot see the diagonal anymore so I can play for ...d5s or ...c5s both; 13.Bf3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 I thought this should be beneficial for Black.) 13...Be6 14.Ne3 c5 15.dxc5 Nxc5? (Not bad but I played with the wrong idea. 15...dxc5 was what I planned but I was excited to get a dragon pawn structure via ...Nxc5 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.Bf4 Qd8 18.exd5 Rc8 we considered something like this and agreed it's pleasant for him.) 16.Nxb4 Nxe4? (16...Qb7! 17.Nbd5 (17.Ned5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Rfe8 19.Qd1 Bd7 Black has compensation) 17...Nfxe4) 17.Bxe4? (17.Na6! ± Qc6 18.Nxb8 Rxb8 ± White is better objectively but in practice it's actually really weird - Black has some strange compensation because White's pieces are badly coordinated.) 17...Nxe4 18.Ned5 (18.Na6 Qb7 19.Nxb8 Ng5 now Black is even better here.) 18...Bxd5 19.Nxd5 Qxc2 20.Nxe7+ Kh8 21.Bf4 Bxb2?! (21...Rbe8 22.Rc1 Qd3! I missed this 23.Rd1 Qf3 -+) 22.Rd1? (22.Qd1! = missed this too.) 22...Rfe8 23.Bxd6 (23.Nd5 Nc3?

24.Ne3 (24.Qd2!) 24...Ne2+ 25.Kh1 Qc6+ 26.f3 Nxf4 27.gxf4 Rb3) **23...Nxd6 24.Rxd6 Qc7** (Now Eamon resigned, there is no way to avoid material losses.) **0-1**

Michael Igoe (1425)

Haroun Mueller-Omar (1891)

Round 3 / Notes by Haroun Mueller-Omar

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 (My first Sicilian Dragon over the board. I've been wanting to play this for a while. My first attempt at an Open Scilian ended poorly after I played 4...a6, where my opponent played c4 and the game was suffering.) **6.Bc4!?** (I am not familiar with the Sicilian Dragon where White castles kingside and places the bishop on c4. Usually, in the classical line, it sits on e2. It's worth noting that White always has to think about the center fork trick now with Nxe4 followed by d5.) **6...Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4?!** (This weakens the dark squares around the king and seems too premature to be so aggressive without developing more pieces.) **8...Nc6** (8...Qb6! 9.Kh1 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 Qxd4) **9.f5?** (Attacking before fully developing is usually not a good idea, especially when the king is unsafe.) **9...Nxe4** (9...Qb6! 10.Nce2 Nxe4) **10.Nxc6 Qb6+!** (Picking up the bishop pair in addition to the central pawn.) **11.Kh1 Qxc6 12.Nxe4 Qxc4 13.Nd2 Qd5!** (A centralized queen is a strong piece, especially when there are no meaningful ways for the other side to harass it.) **14.fxg6?!** (Although this resolves the tension on the f5 pawn, it gives Black another open file to work with. It happens to be the open file that the white king is hiding on.) **14...hgx6 15.Qe2 Be6 16.Nf3 Rac8 17.c3 Qh5 18.Qf2 Bf6!** (Coordinating the c-file with the 8th rank and the h-file.) **19.Qxa7 Kg7 20.Bf4 Qg4 21.Qe3 Rh8 22.Rad1 Re5!** (Removing any ideas of trades on the g5 square and bringing the rook to an extremely active square. The rook on c5 gained a total of 1 new square to move to compared the a move before, but the rook on h8 gained 3 more squares!) **23.Bg3?? Qxg3 24.Kg1 Rxh2! 25.Qd2 Rd5!?** (Missing a computer forced mate in 12. Fritz 15: 25...Rch5 26.Nxh2 Qxh2+ 27.Kf2 Bc4 28.Qd3 Bh4+ 29.Ke3 Qg3+ 30.Kd4 Bxd3 31.Rxd3 Qe5+ 32.Kc4 Qb5+ 33.Kd4 Rd5+ 34.Ke3 Rxd3+ 35.Ke2 Rxc3+ 36.Kd2 Qd3#-#12/21) **26.Qc2 Rxd1 27.Qxd1? 0-1**

Gunnar Andersen (2331)

Sullivan McConnell (2138)

Round 4 / Notes by Gunnar Andersen

1.d4 (I took a long walk around Sloan Lake before this game, and I decided that I would play the Veresov during this walk. I would highly recommend anyone to walk around Sloan Lake, but I would not recommend them to play the Veresov - I chose this opening just off the cuff and I have a lot of experience with it from when I was Sullivan's age, so I thought it would be funny to play it against him.) **1...Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Ne4 4.Nxe4 dxe4 5.e3 c5 6.c3 Qb6 7.Qb3 Be6 8.Qb5+ Qxb5 9.Bxb5+ Bd7 10.a4 e6 11.Ne2 a6 12.Bc4 Nc6 13.Ng3??** (A ridiculous oversight. I was moving far too fast here, that is the only explanation for what happened. The g3 square is a key square for White's bishop and now it is gone, so the bishop will be trapped.) **13...f6 14.Bf4 e5 15.dxe5 fxe5 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bh4 g5** (This is all correct from my opponent so far.) **18.Nxe4**

(Around here I understood that the game is completely out of my control so I just decided to see what will happen.) **18...gxh4 19.Nf6+ Ke7 20.Nd5+ Kd8?!** (And now White is doing fine again. Chess is a cruel game! Surprisingly, the king sortie up the board was the best here. 20...Kd6 21.0-0-0 Rd8 this is the point with his king on d6, the rook can go to d8 22.Rd2 Bg7 23.Rhd1 Bc8 this is a computer line but it is clear now that Black will eventually wiggle away from White's nonsense and have a winning position.) **21.Nb6 Ra7?!** = (Losing the last piece of advantage that Black had. Best was 21...Rc8! The bishop on d7 is disappearing if he tries to keep his rook so this is the best choice. 22.0-0-0 Nb8 23.Nxc8 Kxc8 24.b3 Be7 Black enjoys a stable and lasting advantage with the two bishops. Furthermore, the pairs of rooks on the board benefit Black here; 21...Rb8 This is MUCH worse because with the rook on a7 Sullivan can in some cases play ...b5 and the rook guards d7 laterally. 22.0-0-0 Nd4 (22...Rh7 23.Be6 Kc7 24.Nxd7 +-)) **22.0-0-0 Rh7 23.Be6 Nb8** (23...Kc7 24.Nxd7 this is a hideous version of the other line 24...Be7 25.Bd5 White wins e5.) **24.Rxd7+ Rxd7** (24...Nxd7 this was better I thought but I also thought White is fine here, 25.Rd1 Kc7 26.Nxd7 Ra8 27.Nf6 Rg7 28.Nd5+ Kc6 = thought it was equal.) **25.Bxd7 Kc7** (25...Nxd7 26.Rd1 Kc7 27.Nxd7 +- everything falls apart for Black sadly 27...Bd6 28.Nb6 Kxb6 (28...h5 29.a5 rook on a7 is dead permanently) 29.Rxd6+ Kc7 30.Rxh6 +-)) **26.Nc8** (Very lucky here, I was definitely walking the tight rope.) **26...Ra8** (26...Nxd7 27.Nxa7 c4 I looked at this sort of stuff. The knight is marooned and Black gets to play Nc5-d3 which is very good for Black.) **27.Bh3 Nc6 28.g3!** (This move is very good, a more dogmatically minded person would think that it is bad to exchange the healthy g pawn for one of Black's sickly doubled rook pawns. However, the position is of a concrete nature - White must obtain activity for his rook. Seeking counterplay along the d file is futile because there are no squares for penetration, thus opening the h file is more important.) **28...hgx3 29.hxg3 Rxc8 30.Bxc8 Kxc8 31.g4** (Not the best move but it threatens g5.) **31...Kd7 32.f3** (Very important so that he does not play e4 himself in good conditions. At this point, Black should seek outposts for his knight - namely c4, so ...Na5-c4 was probably the best plan.) **32...Ke6 33.Kd2 c4** (I was happy to see this because now he cannot put his knight on c4. However, d3 is an equally nice square - but it takes time to go there.) **34.Ke2 Ne7** (34...Na5 this was one option 35.f4 Nb3 36.Rh5 Nc1+ 37.Kd2 Nd3 Black has a pleasant position.) **35.f4 exf4?!** (This opens the game. Now, the rook has 3 files to work on - eventually one of these will be very useful. This also does not give his knight any outposts.) **36.exf4 b5?** (Opening more files. I thought that at this point I would win this game.) **37.axb5 axb5 38.Kf3** (White's king is headed for e4, where it wants to go to f5 or d5 when it gets the chance. I can use the a-file to assist myself in this operation.) **38...Nc6 39.Ke4 Bg7?** (39...Kd6? Sullivan proposed this in the post mortem but it seems to weaken the kingside too much 40.Rd1+ Ke6 (40...Kc5 41.Rd5+ Kb6 42.Rf5 the rook weasels in and White wins the h6 pawn) 41.f5+ we looked at this primarily and it seemed that White was doing well in all variations.) **40.Ra1 b4?** +- (This should have been the final mistake needed from my opponent but my technique was absolutely atrocious in this game.) **41.Ra6 Kd7 42.Kd5 bxc3 43.bxc3** (43.Rxc6?? cxb2 44.Rb6 c3 this was

one amusing way to lose a completely winning position.) **43...Ne7+ 44.Kxc4 Nc6 45.Kd5** (More undulating, I couldn't find a simple plan. 45.Kc5; 45.f5! according to stockfish, this is how you should play this position. I never wanted to play f5 because then he can blockade the dark squares but it is apparently an illusion 45...Bf8 46.Kd5 Ne7+ 47.Ke4 Nc6 48.f6 Nb8 49.Ra8 Kc7 50.Kd5 Kb7 51.Rxb8+ even this now.) **45...Ne7+ 46.Kc4** (If you are feeling indecisive you should repeat moves until you don't feel that way anymore.) **46...Ke8 47.Ra8+ Kf7 48.Ra7 Kf8 49.Ra6 Kf7 50.Ra7** (The issue is I want to play Kd3 then c4 but if I do that he plays ...Nd5 so I need to be patient.) **50...Kf8 51.Ra4** (Around here I decided that I will transfer my rook to c5.) **51...Kg8 52.Rb4 Kf7 53.Rb7 Kf8 54.Rb5 Kg8 55.Kd3 Ng6 56.Rf5 Ne7 57.Rc5** (Success! Now White can continue with his plan.) **57...Kf7 58.Ke4 Ke6 59.c4 Kd6 60.Ra5 Bf8 61.Ra8** (61.c5+ Kc6 62.Ra8 Bg7 63.Ra7 Bf8 64.Ra6+ Kd7 (64...Kxc5 65.Rf6! I did not see this idea) 65.Rf6 Ke8 I think this actually transposes to the game.) **61...Bg7 62.Ra7 Bf8 63.Ra6+ Kd7 64.Rf6 Ke8 65.c5 Ng8 66.Ra6?** (Very stupid, this is a pretty big oversight. I thought that the activity was worth the sacrificed pawn but it is not the case. 66.Rc6 Kd7 67.Rg6 Ne7 68.Rf6 Ke8 I can just win slowly here, there was no need for what I did) **66...Bxc5 67.Kd5 Be3 68.Ke6** (68.Re6+ Ne7+ 69.Ke4 Bc5 70.Rxh6 I should have AT LEAST found this if I was going to sacrifice my c5 pawn but I stopped calculating after Ne7+.) **68...Kf8! 69.f5??** = (Here Sullivan was suffering from a time deficiency. With this move the position is now equal.) 69.Ra3 Bf2 I can fight a while longer.) **69...Kg7 70.Rc6 Bf4 71.Rb6 h5?!** (I was upset that I allowed this move but it is apparently bad. 71...Bg5 72.Rb7+ Kf8 73.Rf7+ Ke8 74.Rg7 Kf8 75.Ra7 the position is just dead.) **72.gxh5 Bg5?** ± (At this point, White is just winning again. I am happy to say that I managed to convert this perfectly from this point in spite of the fact that there was absolutely no margin of error - any mistake before move 79 would lead to a draw.) **73.Rb7+** (White is now winning and I played the only winning move in every case until I win a piece.) **73...Kh6 74.Kf7 Kh7 75.Kf8+ Kh8 76.Rb6 Nf6 77.Kf7 Nxh5??** (77...Nd7 78.Rd6 Ne5+ 79.Ke8 Bf4 80.f6 Nf7 81.Rd4 Be5 82.Rd7 Nd6+ 83.Ke7 +-) **78.Kg6** (Sullivan said he missed this idea.) **78...Bd8 79.Rb8 Nf4+ 80.Kf7 Kh7 81.Rxd8 Nh5 82.Rd1 Ng3 83.f6 Nf5 84.Rh1+ Nh6+ 85.Rxh6+ Kxh6** (Black resigned. I lost to Sullivan last month, which I also published on the *Denver Chess Club* website, and would encourage people to take a look at it.) **1-0**

Brian Wall (2220)

Richard Shtivelband (2274)

Round 4 / Notes by Brian Wall

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.cxd4 Nf6! 6.Nc3! Bb4! 7.Nf3! Nc6! 8.Be2! (8.Bd3!! 0-0 (8...Qa5)) **8...Bf5 9.0-0!! Bxc3!** (9...Qa5!! 10.Bf4 (10.Bd2; 10.Qb3)) **10.bxc3!** (+.44) **10...0-0-0!** (10...0-0!!) **11.c4!!** (+.5) **11...Qe4! 12.d5!** (+.5, 12.Bb2!! +.6) **12...Rhe8! 13.Re1! Bg4?** (-1) **14.Be3!** (14.Bb2!! Bxf3 **a**) 14...Qf4 15.g3 Qh6 16.Qc2; **b**) 14...Qg6 15.Qd2 (15.Nh4); **c**) 14...Na5 15.Ne5; 15.Bxf3 Qxe1+ 16.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 17.Rxe1 Na5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.c5 (19.Re4); 14.Qb3!! Na5 (14...Ne5 15.Nxe5 Bxe2 16.f4) 15.Qc3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Qg6+ 17.Kh1) **14...Bxf3! 15.gxf3!** (15.Bxf3!! Qxc4 (15...Qh4 16.g3

Qxc4 17.Rc1 (17.dxc6)) 16.Rc1 +.5 I looked at this during the game and couldn't understand it (16.dxc6 +.2 I played something like this unsuccessfully about 20 years ago which affected my decision 16...Rxd1 17.cxb7+ Kb8 18.Rexd1 (18.Raxd1)) 16...Qb5 (16...Qb4? -1.7 17.dxc6 Rxd1 18.cxb7+ Kb8 19.Rexd1) 17.dxc6 (17.a4 Qb4 18.dxc6 Rxd1 19.cxb7+ Kb8 20.Rexd1 1.11/0 Qe7 21.Rd4 (21.Bf4 Ne4 22.Rxc7 Qxc7 23.Bxc7+ Kxc7 24.g4 g6 25.Rd4 f5 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.Rd5 Kxb7 28.Rxf5 Kb8 29.Rd5)) 17...Rxd1 18.cxb7+ Kb8 19.Rexd1 (19.Rexd1)) **15...Qh4! 16.Kh1!** (16.Rb1!! +.5 this is what I wanted to play but I tried a different strategy of safeguarding my king first 16...Ne5 -.3; **a**) 16...Na5 -.5 17.Qc2 (17.Kh1; 17.Qc1; 17.Qd2; 17.Bd3; 17.Qd3; 17.Qd4); **b**) 16...b6 -.9 17.Qa4 Na5 18.Qb5; 17.Qa4 Nxd5 18.Qxa7 Nc3 19.Qxb7+ Kd7 -.3 I was afraid of something like this where my queen chases the b7-pawn but it is not decisive 20.Rb5.) **16...Rd6 17.Rg1!!** (+.7) **17...Re5 18.Rxg7!!** (+1.8 I evaluated this position as +2. 18.f4!! +2 18...Re7; **a**) 18...Nxd5 19.cxd5 Rxd5 20.Qa4 (20.Qb3; 20.Qc2); **b**) 18...Re8 19.Rxg7 (19.Qc2; 19.Bd3; 19.Qb1); **c**) 18...Rxe3 19.fxe3 g6 20.Rb1 (20.Bf3; 20.Qa4; 20.Qd3; 20.Qb3; 20.Rg2; 20.Qc2; 20.Qb1); **d**) 18...Re4 19.Bd3 (19.Rxg7; 19.Rb1); 19.Rxg7 (19.Qc2; 19.Qb1; 19.Bf3; 19.Bd3; 19.Rb1; 19.Qf1)) **18...b5** (-3 a hideous Medusa move which turned my brain to stone - I thought my center was collapsing 9 minutes spent - time left, Brian 33:33 + a 5 second delay, Richard 34:03 + a 5 second delay.) **19.Qg1** (+1 but I had much better. 19.f4!! 3.33/0 Re8 20.Qb1 **a**) 20.Qc2 +3 20...Ne7 (20...Nd8 21.Rb1 (21.Rc1; 21.Bd3; 21.Rd1; 21.Bf3)) 21.Rc1 (21.Rb1; 21.Bc5; 21.Rxf7; 21.Rag1; 21.Rd1); **b**) 20.Qd3 +3 20...Nd8 21.Rb1 +3 **b1**) 21.Rc1; **b2**) 21.c5 Rxd5 22.Qxb5; **b3**) 21.Qf5+ Nd7 22.c5 Rh6 23.Rg2 (23.h3 Qxh3+ 24.Qxh3 Rxh3+ 25.Kg2 Rhxe3 26.fxe3 +2.5); **c**) 20.Rc1 +3 20...Nb4 21.a3 (21.Rb1; 21.cxb5; 21.Qd4); **d**) 20.cxb5 +3 20...Ne7 **d1**) 20...Qh6 21.Rxf7 (21.Rg5); **d2**) 20...Nd8 21.Qd4 (21.Bf3; 21.Rc1; 21.Qa4); 21.Qa4 Nf5 (21...Nexd5 22.Qxa7 +4) 22.b6 +9;; 19.Rc1!! +2.6 19...Rh5 **a**) 19...Ne7 20.Rxf7 (20.f4; 20.cxb5); **b**) 19...Nb4 20.Qb3 (20.a3; 20.Bc5; 20.f4; 20.Qd2); 20.Rg2 Ne7 (20...Na5 21.cxb5!!) 21.Bc5 (21.Bxa7; 21.Qe1; 21.Qd2; 21.Qb3; 21.Qc2; 21.Rc3; 21.Qd3); 19.Bc5; 19.Rb1; 19.cxb5) **19...Nd4! 20.Bf1!!** (The only good move took me 9 minutes but I missed the next one. Time left - Brian 11:34 + a 5 second delay, Richard 33:54 + a 5 second delay.) **20...bxc4!** (20...Nxf3!! 21.Qg3 +1.) **21.Rxf7!** (+.55 all that huge advantage gone so quick, 2 minutes spent. 21.Rg3!! +2 with the threat of Rh3 did not occur to me. My head was spinning and I was mourning the loss of my proud pawn center. I was under 10 minutes. 21...Nxd5 (21...c3 22.Rh3 Nxf3 23.Rxf3) 22.Rh3!! Nxf3 23.Qg8+ Qd8 24.Qg4+; 21.Rc1! +.4 21...Nxf3 22.Qg3 (22.Qg2); 21.f4! +.5 21...Rexd5 22.Rxf7) **21...Nxd5!** (-.1.11, 21...Nxf3!! 22.Qg3!! +.55) **22.Rf8+!! Kb7! 23.Bxc4!** (Second best 42 seconds spent I have rapidly descended from +3 to slightly worse. Time left - Brian 5:44 + a 5 second delay, Richard 16:02 + a 5 second delay. 23.f4!! +1 23...Rf5 24.Rxf5 Nxf5 25.Rb1+ +1.) **23...Rg6!** (-1 second best took me completely by surprise. We were down to about 6 minutes each. I was trying to analyze 23...Nxe3!! about equal 24.fxe3 Nxf3 25.Rf4 (25.Qg2; 25.Rxf3 Qxc4 26.Qg2 is what I was looking at.) 25...Qh3 26.Qb1+ (26.Rb1+)) **24.Bxd5+** (+1 trying to simplify in time pressure. 24.Rb1+!! +1 24...Rb6

25.Bd3!! (25.Bxd5+; 25.Rxb6+; 25.Qf1; 25.Qc1; 25.Bxd4 are all good moves for me but I was freaking out) ; 24.Qf1; 24.Qb1+; 24.Qc1?? Qxh2+ 25.Kxh2 Rh5# is something to look out for.) **24...Rxd5! 25.Rb1+!!** (+1 I stopped keeping score. Time left Brian 3:20 + a 5 second delay, Richard 6:08 + a 5 second delay.) **25...Kc6??** (-1.8 I expected 25...Rb6! -1 26.Rf7 (26.Rxb6+ axb6)) **26.Qf1??** (Equal. 26.Qc1+!! +2.5 did not occur to me. How in the hell did I lose this game? 26...Kd7 (26...Rc5 27.Qf1!! +1.8; 26...Kd6 27.Bf4+) 27.Rf7+ Ke6 (27...Ke8 28.Qxc7 Ne6 29.Rxh7) 28.Qxc7 Qd8 29.Bxd4 Qxc7 30.Rxc7 Rxd4 31.Rxa7 +3) **26...Rh5??** (-12 I saw none of 26...Ne2!! 27.Bf4 (27.Rf4 Nxf4 28.Qc4+ Kd7 29.Bxf4; 27.Rf7) 27...Rg1+ 28.Qxg1 Nxf4 29.Rf7 Rd7 30.Rc1+ Kb5 31.Rb1+ (31.Rxd7) 31...Kc6 32.Rc1+) **27.Qc4+!! Rc5! 28.Qa6+!! Kd5!** (-14 28...Kd7 -16 Richard made this move but did not take his hand off 29.Qc8+ Kc6 (29...Ke7 30.Qd8+ mates 30...Ke6 31.Re8+ Kf5 32.Qxh4 Rg4 33.Qxg4+ Kf6 34.Bxd4+ Re5 35.Qh5 Kg7 36.Bxe5#; 29...Kd6 30.Rd8+ mates 30...Qxd8 31.Qxd8+ Kc6 32.Qxd4 Rc2 33.Bf4 Rb2 34.Rxb2 Rd6 35.Qa4+ Kd5 36.Qb3+ Kd4 37.Rd2+ Kc5 38.Rc2+ Kd4 39.Qc4#) 30.Qe8+!! +16 30...Kd6 31.Bf4+ Qxf4 (31...Re5 32.Qxe5+ mates 32...Kc6 33.Qxc7+ Kd5 34.Qa5+ Kc4 35.Rc1+ Ne2 36.Rxc2+ Kd4 37.Qd2#; 31...Kd5 32.Rf5+ mates 32...Kc4 33.Qa4+ Kd3 34.Qd1+ Kc4 35.Qc1+ Kd3 36.Qd2+ Kc4 37.Rb4#) 32.Rxf4) **29.Bxd4??** (-5.55 I had 45 seconds to Richard's 2 minutes and my brain stopped working. I forgot my queen was hanging. 29.Rd8+ -1.5 hanging a rook was my second choice 29...Qxd8; 29.Qb7+ +14 but I did not think I had enough time to work it all out 29...Kd6 **a)** 29...Ke6 30.Qc8+ +14; **b)** 29...Rcc6 30.Bxd4 +14; **c)** 29...Rgc6 30.Bxd4 +18; **d)** 29...c6 30.Bxd4 mates 30...Qg5 31.Qf7+ Re6 32.Bxc5 Kxc5 33.Qxa7+ Kd6 34.Rd1+ Qd5 35.Rd8+ Ke5 36.Qg7+ Rf6 37.Qg5+ Rf5 38.R8xd5+ cxd5 39.Qe7+ Kf4 40.Qe3#; **e)** 29...Ke5 30.Bf4+!! mates 30...Qxf4 31.Re1+ Ne2 32.Rxe2+ Kd4 (32...Kd6 33.Rd8# (33.Rxf4?? Rc1+!! 34.Re1 Rxe1# I was afraid of this happening)) 33.Rxf4+ Kd3 34.Qe4+ Kc3 35.Qc2#; 30.Bf4+; 29.Qa4!! +8; 29.Qc8!! +7; 29.Qf1!! +4; 29.Qxa7!! 2.65/0; 29.Qd3 +3) **29...Rxa6!! 30.Bxc5 Kxc5** (+6 30...Rh6!! +15) **0-1**

Mark Krowczyk (1936)

Griffin McConnell (2030)

Round 4

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 g6 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.e3 0-0 8.Rc1 c6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.0-0 Qa5 11.Nd2 h6 12.Nb3 Qd8 13.Bh4 Re8 14.Re1 g5 15.Bg3 Ne4 16.Ne2 Nf8 17.f3 Nfg3 18.Nxg3 a5 19.Nf5 Ng6 20.Nxg7 Kxg7 21.Nd2 f5 22.Qc2 Qf6 23.Nf1 f4 24.Bxg6 Qxg6 25.Qxg6+ Kxg6 26.exf4 Rxe1 27.Rxe1 gxf4 28.Re8 Kf7 29.Rd8 Rb8 30.Nd2 b6 31.Kf2 Ke7 32.Rh8 c5 33.dxc5 bxc5 34.b3 c4 35.bxc4 Rb2 36.Ke1 Be6 37.cxd5 Bxd5 38.a3 Ra2 39.Rxh6 Rxa3 40.h4 Ra1+ 41.Ke2 a4 42.Ra6 a3 43.Kd3 a2 44.Kc2 Rg1 45.Kb2 Rxg2 46.Kc2 Rg1 47.Kb2 Rd1 48.Ne4 Bxe4 49.fxe4 f3 0-1

Haroun Mueller-Omar (1891)

Roberto Bolivar (1544)

Round 4 / Notes by Haroun Mueller-Omar

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 (My opponent possessed a provisional rating, and had very good results so far. I decided to play an

aggressive response to the Sicilian.) **3...d6?! 4.Nf3?! (4.cxd4!?** although the pawn structure is somewhat symmetrical here and both sides enjoy the open c-file, Black has done nothing to develop the kingside. Black will have to make another pawn move to develop the king's bishop, while White is already slightly ahead in development and enjoys more space. If Black plays for d5, then exd5 leads to an isolated queen pawn position where White will be ahead in development and Black will lose time by retreating the queen as it is not the ideal piece to blockade the isolated queen's pawn. Next time, I will go for this line.) **4...Nc6 (4...dxc3) 5.Bc4 Ne5?!** (Moving a piece twice in the opening is not advisable when behind in development.) **6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qh5 e6 8.Qxe5 Nf6 9.f3 a6 10.cxd4 h6!?** (My opponent tries to trap my queen.) **11.Bf4 g5 12.Bg3 Bg7 13.Qd6 Qxd6 14.Bxd6 b5 15.Bd3!** (The bishop on d3 seems to bite on granite, but more importantly, the knight wants to travel to the outpost on c5 via Nb1-d2-b3-c5 and it may remain a powerful piece if Black's dark squared bishop is ever traded off.) **15...Kd7 16.Be5 Nh5?!** (Although this move seems to simplify the game, Black's knight is no good on g7 and if he does not maneuver it to a better square, then it will not participate in the important battles. Additionally, c5 is a weak square and only the dark squared bishop and knight will fight for it.) **17.Bxg7 Nxf7 18.Nd2 Bb7 19.Nb3 Rac8 20.Nc5+** (20.a4 Bc6 21.axb5 Bxb5 22.Bxb5+ axb5 23.Ra7+ Rc7 24.Nc5+) **20...Kc6 21.b4 Rhd8 22.Nb3 Kb6 23.Kd2 f5 24.Rhe1!** (One of the rooks will make it to c5 and then White can recapture with the pawn if a rook exchange occurs. If Black does nothing, then White will double on the c-file and keep good pressure on the position.) **24...f4?!** (Locking the position will take away counterplay from Black and makes the game easier to play for White.) **25.Rc5 Rxc5 26.dxc5+ Kc7 27.Kc3 e5 28.a4 bxa4 29.Rxa4 Ra8 30.Bc4!** (Preventing the knight from making any useful maneuver. The knight is completely out of play.) **30...Kc6??** (This falls to a tactic, but Black's position was already quite difficult.) **31.Na5+ Kc7 32.Nxb7** (If Kxb7, then Bd5+ skewers the rook.) **1-0**

Aditya Krishna (1658)

J.C. MacNeil (1706)

Round 4 / Notes by J.C. MacNeil

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Na3 Nf6 6.Bc4 Qe4+ 7.Qe2 Qxe2+ 8.Kxe2 a6 9.Re1 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.Kf1 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nbd7 13.Bf5 Bd6 14.Bxe6 (Apparently forgetting that bishops can move backwards to block checks, instead of winning a piece for two pawns I lose a rook.) **14...Bxh2?? 15.Bd5+** (Of course.) **15...Ne5 16.Bxa8 Kd7 17.Bb7 b4 18.d4 Nxf3 19.Bxf3 bxa3 20.bxa3 cxd4 21.cxd4 Bd6 22.Rb1 Rc8 23.Bg5 Ne8** (And in this train wreck of a position I resigned.) **1-0**

See Mr. Brezina's photos of the DCC March tournament here: <http://tinyurl.com/y4nkx6tv>

And the Final Standings here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxrsqu2w>



St. Louis Champions Showdown Report ... a Once in a Lifetime Trip That Every Chess Player Should Make

by J.C. MacNeil, John Brezina & Kevin Seidler



car, or 2 hours by plane. It is a once in a lifetime trip that every chess player should make. When you get there, the first thing you see is the world's largest chess piece (verified by the Guinness book of world records). Right next to that piece is a large chess board where they also put out a big plastic set in the morning. For a donation of at least \$1000, various individuals and organizations have their names on one of the 64 squares. The giant board and pieces sit in front of the Chess Hall of Fame.



*Mr. Seidler is quite pleased to be pictured with
GM Hikaru Nakamura*

Once again John Brezina attended a great St. Louis Chess Club tournament. This time accompanied by Kevin Seidler. We have the benefit of them both writing about their experience at the St. Louis Champions Showdown. Which was another interesting tournament format from the premier chess club in America. Mr. Brezina has again allowed me the privilege of selecting and captioning his photos from the event. The heading photo is the all-star lineup of players at this event.

See all of Mr. Brezina's photos from the tournament here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vgiypcf2QSL5tD5V8>

On the first floor is an art gallery, currently showing, "Universal Turf" by Peter Manion. Also, a TV playing famous clips of Bobby Fischer including a skit done with Bob Hope. Plus a gift shop, with everything from chess books and shirts, to a 3-D chess set. Currently on the 2nd floor, is the Harry Benson exhibit. Photographs from a famous photographer which includes photos of Presidents mixed in with many photos of Bobby Fischer and even Magnus Carlsen. On the 3rd floor, we see the St. Louis Blitz and Rapid Trophy, the Sinquefeld Cup, and a couple of chess sets made of crystal. Also, current photos of US players like Nakamura, Fabiano, Wesley So adorn the walls.



Kevin Seidler presenting the world's largest chess piece.



... and with GM Fabiano Caruana

Quoting Kevin Seidler: "Going to St. Louis, the chess capital of the United States, is a trip of about 840 miles. About 12 hours by

Across the street is the Kingside Diner, serving really good food. Decorated on the outside windows were a variety of silhouettes of chess pieces. A lot of famous people have gone there in the past, including Hollywood legend, Humprey Bogart. There is even a library of chess books that you can browse through. Right next door is, of course, the St. Louis Chess Club itself, connected by a door and sharing a common wall.



GM Caruana being interviewed.

When you walk into the St. Louis Chess Club, what you might not realize is that there are 3 levels. On the lower floor from where you enter, is Spectrum Studios where they do all the filming with the commentators such as Yassir Seirawan, Jennifer Shahade, Maurice Ashley, and Tatev Abrahamyan. Only staff and those working on the filming were permitted to this lower level. On the main level to the left is a library of chess books for sale. In front is a reception desk where at least 2 or 3 staff are on hand to greet the players or club members as they enter. One surprising thing was the tight security. If you wanted to watch the games upstairs, you had to turn in your cell phone, which was not allowed in the gaming area.

The list of players at the Champions Showdown - The Kings - included American players; Hikaru Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So, Leinier Dominguez, and Sam Shankland. Then we also had Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland, Pentala Harikrishna of India, David Navara of Czech Republic, Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria, and Richard Rapport of Hungary.



John Brezina with GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda

The matchups were: Nakamura vs. Duda, Caruana vs. Harikrishna, So vs. Navara, Dominguez vs. Topalov, and finally, Shankland vs. Rapport. There were several photographers including Colorado's own John Brezina, who were all trying to get great shots, especially right before and after the games.



*The handshake before the start of the game
GM Nakamura vs. GM Duda...*



*...and before the start of the game
GM Harikrishna and GM Caruana*



GM Navara and GM So are apparently helping the arbiters by resetting the pieces.



The game GM Dominguez vs. GM Topalov is in progress...



... as is the game GM Shankland vs. GM Rapport

increment. This was February 20th-23rd for the rapid (12 games total). Then the blitz on the 24th and 25th (24 games total) with a time control of G/3 with a 2-second increment. One thing I found out later was that promptness was a necessity. If you were late, there was a \$1000 fine that was deducted from your prize fund. If you had a cell phone in the playing area, that was a \$500 fine.



Mr. Seidler observing a GM Dominguez vs. GM Topalov game.

As for the games themselves, what was interesting was how quickly the players moved in the beginning, each seemed to either be prepared or really know their openings. Then it was fascinating how nervous some of the players always were. Shankland and Rapport, who also were playing each other, always seemed to have a lot of nervous energy. Caruana and Harikrishna quite the opposite, Caruana was almost impossible to read any kind of emotion from. Dominguez seemed to play well even when very low on time, several times getting down to just a few seconds before making his move. The games were intense, the playing room so silent except for the sound of the clock and pieces moving.



GM Rapport walking by as Mr. Seidler is observing GM So's game.

Each matchup had a prize fund of \$60,000 with first place taking \$36,000 and second place taking \$24,000. Each rapid game (4 a day for the first 3 days) were played at G/15 with a 10-second

Overall, it was quite an experience to be that close to some of the top players in the world. Literally within 5 feet of them while they played. Then also, they walk right past you when you're in

the spectator area. Most of the players seemed very preoccupied with their match, after all, it was big money. At the same time, it was interesting how down-to-earth a lot of them were. Kind enough to snap a photo or shake your hand. There wasn't much time for conversation because the break time between rounds was short. Sometimes they also had live brief interviews with each of the players. The tension within the room was definitely palpable, with two arbitrators keeping constant watch over the games. Again this is a wonderful experience. It feels like a chess theme park."

Quoting John Brezina: "Back to St. Louis for a Winterfest of wild and wonderful chess! The Champions Showdown returns in late Winter, instead of the usual Fall, due to a busy chess schedule this year. America's five best players would each play a match with world class players consisting of 12 Rapid games and a blistering 24 Blitz games. New faces to St. Louis this year included GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland, GM Pentala Harikrishna of India, and Richard Rapport of Hungary.



A great shot of GM Harikrishna in deep think mode.

Also new to St. Louis this year was our very own Colorado Candidate Master, Kevin Seidler. I extended a last minute invitation for Kevin to visit the chess capital of the US and watch some world class chess. In addition to watching rounds 1-8 of the Rapids, we were able to meet some of the players, tour the club, see the World Chess Hall of Fame, play a little chess and ping pong, then finish with some great BBQ. Many of you know Kevin as he has been a longtime DCC patron as well as a chess teacher.



The first matchup of Hikaru Nakamura and Jan Duda would provide the most exciting games. The young Duda, coming off a strong performance at the World Rapid & Blitz championships, would meet his match in St. Louis. Naka would handily win the Rapids and then easily cruise through the Blitz match.



(GM Hikaru Nakamura)

*Combined Rapid and Blitz final score:
GM Nakamura, 28.5 - GM Duda, 18.5*

World Champion challenger Fabiano Caruana would play Pentala Harikrishna in what turned out to be the most one-sided match of the bunch. Perhaps motivated after the Rapid games with Magnus Carlsen in London, he outplayed his Indian opponent by a four to one margin in Rapids and nearly the same in Blitz. Both players showed much calm and little emotion over the board.



(GM Fabiano Caruana)

*Combined Rapid and Blitz final score:
GM Caruana, 35.5 - GM Harikrishna, 12.5*

US number three rated, Wesley So would defeat the ever friendly Czech David Navara in the Rapid portion by a two to one margin. And then in the Blitz match, much to my surprise, Navara would equal the score 12-12 with very strong blitz play. But, since the scores were combined, Wesley won the match.



(GM Wesley So)

*Combined Rapid and Blitz final score:
GM So, 28 - GM Navara, 20*

Sam Shankland, the US Champion who has been playing quite well recently, seemed a bit out of form against Richard Rapport. Having a rough start especially in the Rapid portion, but making the Blitz a closer race. Both were enjoyable to watch not only at their play, but the emotions showed at the board.



(GM Richard Rapport)

*Combined Rapid and Blitz final score:
GM Rapport, 31.5 - GM Shankland, 16.5*

And what turned out to be the most evenly matched players, Veselin Topalav would just beat out Leimier Dominguez. Winning the Rapid portion but falling short in the Blitz. GM Dominguez is well known for his Blitz skills and he will be interesting to watch this year. He has switched his Federation from Cuba to the United States.



(GM Veselin Topalov)

*Combined Rapid and Blitz final score:
GM Topalov, 25.5 - GM Dominguez, 20*

It is shaping up to be an exciting year for chess. With Candidates qualifiers and an expanded Grand Chess Tour. Not only new cities but more wildcard slots will allow new faces to compete in the tour. The American players will be exciting to follow as there is a very strong chance we will see another US player compete for the World Championship crown next year.

So keep playing and growing our beloved game. Thanks again to J.C. MacNeil for his tireless devotion to the Denver Chess Club. And also to all the volunteers that help run chess clubs around the country. Please give a little thank you the next time you sit down to play.

Lastly, I was thrilled to run into many old friends at the St. Louis Club. Especially Rick, whose picture adorns the cover of my photo book. He was thrilled to see his picture on the cover and was a celebrity around the club for a day! Until next time..."



Mr. Brezina's friend Rick is holding the photo book, alongside his good friend Chuck.

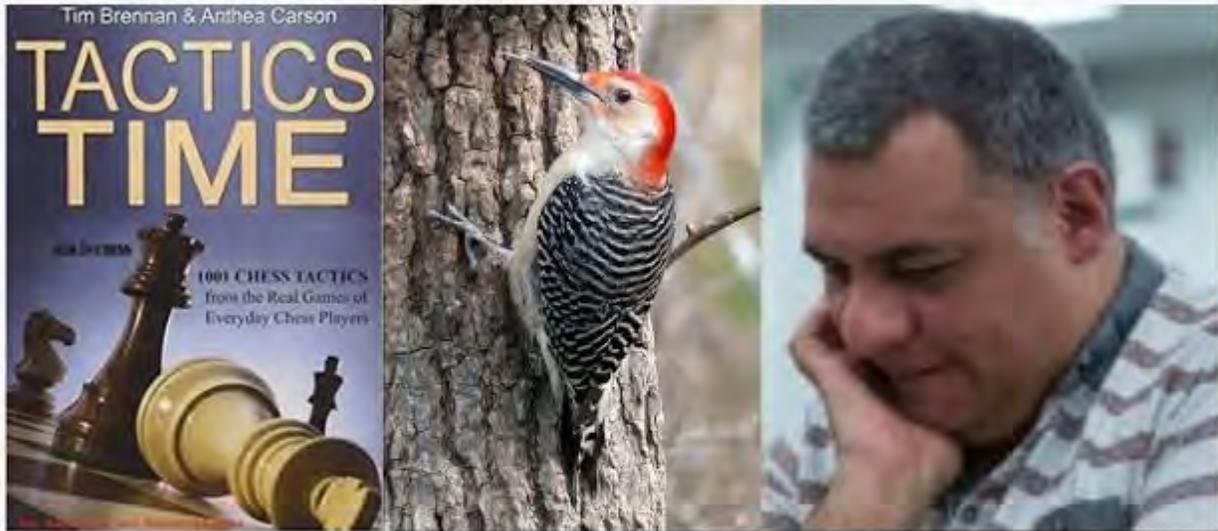
The photo book that Mr. Brezina mentions is awesome. It is a collection of not only local Colorado players but also International stars. Assembled in an interesting hodgepodge way. The copy he kindly donated to the DCC has received rave reviews. If you would like a copy for yourself, contact Mr. Brezina at skibrezina@gmail.com.



Chessabie

Tactics Time 1

MoveTrainer™ Tactics course by Tim Brennan, Anthea Carson & New in Chess ★★★★★



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by Tim Brennan, Anthea Carson & New in Chess

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Tactics Time!

by Tim Brennan

One of the best ways to improve your game is to study tactics, such as the following, from games played by Colorado players. Answers are on the next page.



1. Neil Bhavikatti - Brian Wall
DCC October / 2018
Black to move



2. Richard Shtivelband - Andrew Starr
DCC Fall Classic / October 2018
White to move



3. Jack Woehr - Ben Gurka
DCC September / 2018
White to move



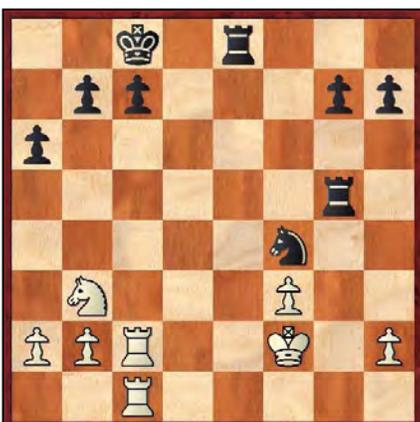
4. Michael Crill - Sulleiman Omar
DCC September / 2018
White to move



5. Coleman Hoyt - Joseph Aragon
DCC September / 2018
White to move



6. Richard Ray - Brian Saucedo
DCC Fall Classic / October 2018
Black to move



7. Griffin McConnell - Brian Wall
DCC September / 2018
Black to move



8. Karl Irons - Richard Shtivelband
Pikes Peak Open / August 2018
Black to move



9. Alexander Freeman - Robert Carlson
Pikes Peak Open / August 2018
White to move



Tactics Time Answers:

- 1.** **29...Rxb3!** wins a piece. If White recaptures, then **30...Ra1+** skewers the king and rook.
- 2.** **25.Rh7+!! Kxh7 26.Qxf7+ Kh8 27.Rh1+ Bh4 28.Rxh4#**
- 3.** **35.Ba3+** removes the defender of the rook on e8. **35...Kg8 36.Rxe8+.**
- 4.** **9.Qa4+** picks up the loose bishop. **9...Qd7 10.Qxb4.**
- 5.** **16.Ng5** and checkmate cannot be stopped. **16...Re8 17.Qxh7+ Kf8 18Qxf7#**
- 6.** **16...Ndf3+** (or **16...Nef3+** first) **17.Bxf3 Nxf3+** forks the king and queen.
- 7.** **22...Nh3+ 23.Kf1 Rg1#**
- 8.** **28...Qxh2+!! 29.Nxh2 Rxh2+ 30.Kxh2 Rh6#**
- 9.** **41.Bh7+ Kf8 42.Bg7#**



The Chess Detective®

Smothered Mate Problems

by NM Todd Bardwick

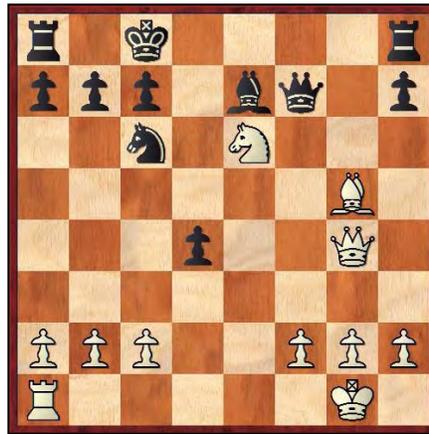
(Reprinted with permission of the Author, the United States Chess Federation & Chess Life magazine.)

We looked at some examples of smothered mates where a knight checkmated the opposing king where he was trapped by his own pieces in the January edition of the *Colorado Chess Informant*. Now it's your turn to find the smothered mate. Remember smothered mates often involve double checks and sacrifices. Answers are on the next page.



#1

Position after 13.Be2
Black to move



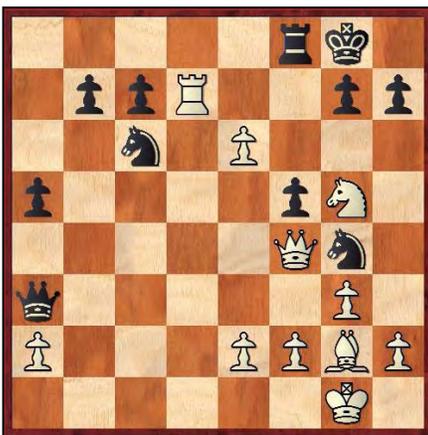
#2

Position after 19...Kc8
White to move



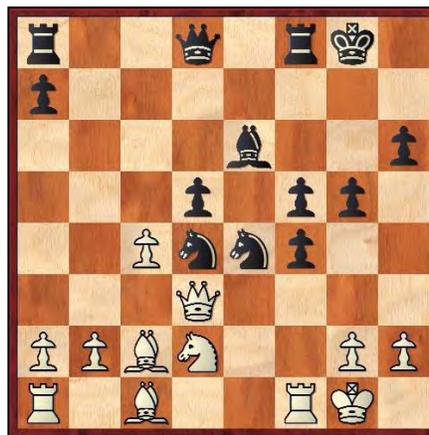
#3

Position after 20.Qg3
Black to move



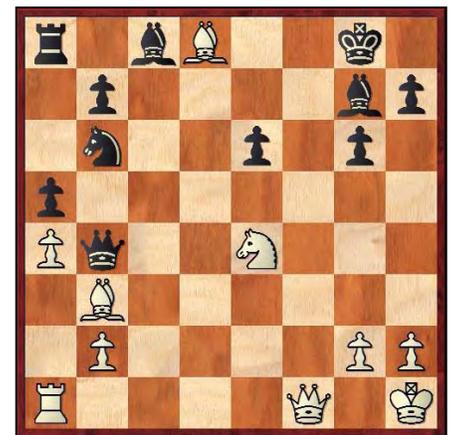
#4

Position after 23...Nc6
White to move



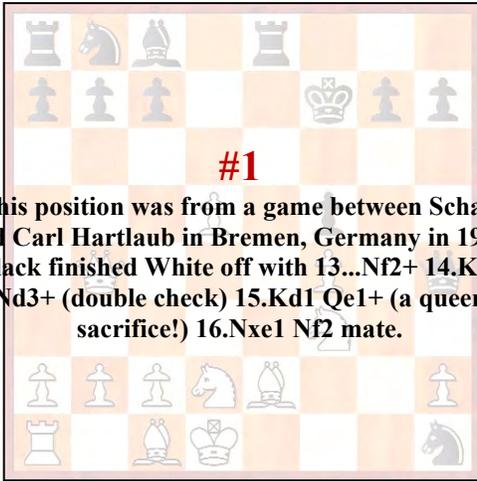
#5

Position after 18.Qd3
Black to move

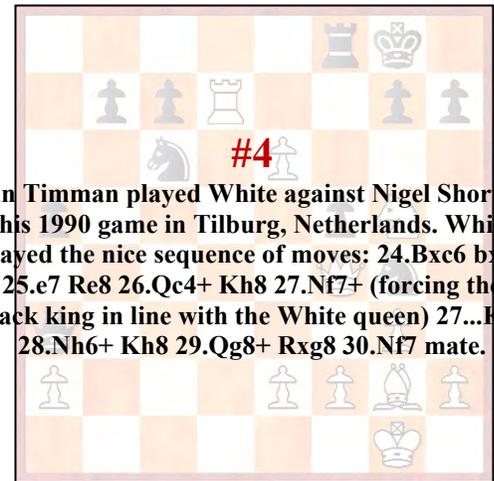


#6

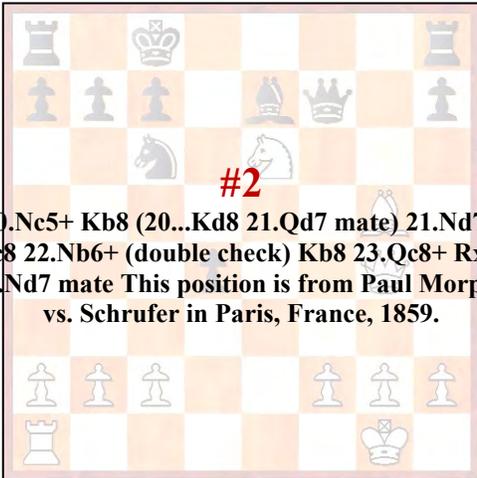
Position after 22...Qb4
White to move



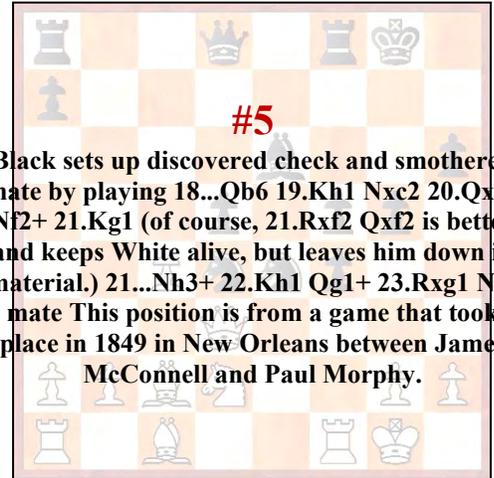
This position was from a game between Schaff and Carl Hartlaub in Bremen, Germany in 1907. Black finished White off with 13...Nf2+ 14.Ke1 Nd3+ (double check) 15.Kd1 Qe1+ (a queen sacrifice!) 16.Nxe1 Nf2 mate.



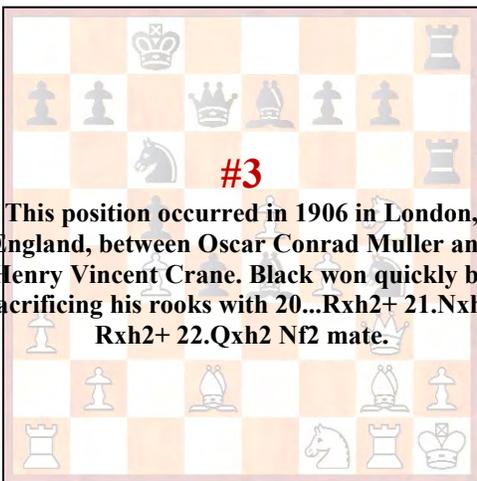
Jan Timman played White against Nigel Short in this 1990 game in Tilburg, Netherlands. White played the nice sequence of moves: 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.e7 Re8 26.Qc4+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ (forcing the Black king in line with the White queen) 27...Kg8 28.Nh6+ Kh8 29.Qg8+ Rxc8 30.Nf7 mate.



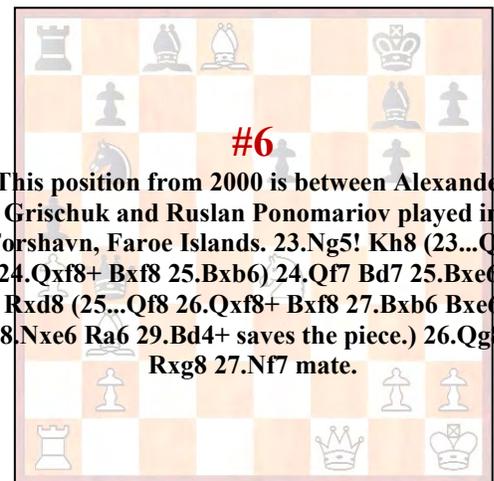
20.Nc5+ Kb8 (20...Kd8 21.Qd7 mate) 21.Nd7+ Kc8 22.Nb6+ (double check) Kb8 23.Qc8+ Rxc8 24.Nd7 mate This position is from Paul Morphy vs. Schrufer in Paris, France, 1859.



Black sets up discovered check and smothered mate by playing 18...Qb6 19.Kh1 Nxc2 20.Qxc2 Nf2+ 21.Kg1 (of course, 21.Rxf2 Qxf2 is better and keeps White alive, but leaves him down in material.) 21...Nh3+ 22.Kh1 Qg1+ 23.Rxg1 Nf2 mate This position is from a game that took place in 1849 in New Orleans between James McConnell and Paul Morphy.



This position occurred in 1906 in London, England, between Oscar Conrad Muller and Henry Vincent Crane. Black won quickly by sacrificing his rooks with 20...Rxh2+ 21.Nxh2 Rxh2+ 22.Qxh2 Nf2 mate.



This position from 2000 is between Alexander Grischuk and Ruslan Ponomarev played in Torshavn, Faroe Islands. 23.Ng5! Kh8 (23...Qf8 24.Qxf8+ Bxf8 25.Bxb6) 24.Qf7 Bd7 25.Bxe6! Rxd8 (25...Qf8 26.Qxf8+ Bxf8 27.Bxb6 Bxe6 28.Nxe6 Ra6 29.Bd4+ saves the piece.) 26.Qg8+ Rxc8 27.Nf7 mate.

Todd Bardwick is the author of "Chess Strategy Workbook: A Blueprint for Developing the Best Plan." He can be reached at www.ColoradoMasterChess.com



UPCOMING COLORADO TOURNAMENTS

DCC April 2019 Championship

April 2-30
5 Round / Swiss
G/70; d/05
Denver

Strong Swiss April

April 3-24
4 Round / Swiss
G/90; inc/30
Colorado Springs

Club Chess!! Classical Wednesdays

April 3-24
4 Round / Swiss
G/90; inc/30
Colorado Springs

Club Chess!! Spring Lightning Blitz

April 11
5 Round / Double Swiss
G/5
Colorado Springs

Club Chess!! Friday Night Quick

April 12
4 Round / Swiss
G/24; inc/05
Colorado Springs

Club Chess!! Spring Lightning Blitz

April 18
5 Round / Double Swiss
G/5
Colorado Springs

Club Chess!! Friday Night Quick

April 19
4 Round / Swiss
G/24; inc/05
Colorado Springs

Bughouse Birthday Bash

April 20
5 Round / Double Round Robin
G/5
Colorado Springs

April Action

April 20
4 Round / Swiss
G/30; d/05
Colorado Springs

Club Chess!! Spring Lightning Blitz

April 25
5 Round / Double Swiss
G/5
Colorado Springs

Club Chess!! Friday Night Quick

April 26
4 Round / Swiss
G/24; inc/05
Colorado Springs

Denver Open

April 26-28
5 Round / Swiss
40/90; G/30 (Championship)
G/90; d/10 (Rds 1-3) / G/90; inc/30 (Rds 4-5)
- (All Other Sections)
Denver

CSCC May Swiss 90

May 7-28
4 Round Swiss
G/90; inc/30
Colorado Springs

Colorado Class Championships

May 18-19
5 Round / Swiss
(Time Control TBD)
(Location TBD)

UPCOMING COLORADO TOURNAMENTS

CSCC June Swiss 90

June 4-25
4 Round / Swiss
G/90; inc/30
Colorado Springs

Pikes Peak Open

August 17-18
5 Round / Swiss
G/90; d/05 (Rds 1-2) / G/90; inc/30 (Rds 3-5)
Manitou Springs

Colorado Open

August 31 - September 1
5 Round / Swiss
(Time Control TBD)
(Location TBD)

Winter Springs Open

December 7-8
4 Round / Swiss
G/90; inc/30
Manitou Springs

For more detailed information on these upcoming Colorado events, please visit the CSCA website at

<http://www.coloradochess.com/newtourn.shtml>



UPCOMING COLORADO SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENTS

April Scholastic Action

April 20
4 Round / Swiss
G/30; d/05
Colorado Springs

Summit School of Chess Tournament Series #8

May 4
5 Round / Swiss
G/30
Golden

Denver Scholastic Chess Series #9

May 4
5 Round / Swiss
Denver

June - Chess Academy of Denver

June 1
5 Round / Swiss
Denver

July - Chess Academy of Denver

July 13
5 Round / Swiss
Denver

August - Chess Academy of Denver

August 3
5 Round / Swiss
Denver

For more detailed information on these upcoming Colorado events, please visit the CSCA website at

<http://www.coloradochess.com/tournament/scholastic>





*From the 2019 International Snow Sculpture Championships held in Breckenridge, CO
Photo courtesy of Laura Miles*

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