

# COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



**GRIFFIN McCONNELL PLAYS IN FIDE'S  
ONLINE OLYMPIAD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**



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. 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. Scholastic tournament membership is available for \$3.

- Send address changes to - *Attn: Alexander Freeman* to the email address [CSCA@CovingtonComputers.com](mailto:CSCA@CovingtonComputers.com).
- Send pay renewals & memberships to the CSCA. (See back cover for EZ renewal form instructions.)

The *Colorado Chess Informant* (CCI) is the official publication of the CSCA, published four times a year in January, April, July and October.

Articles in the CCI **do not** necessarily reflect the views of the CSCA Board of Directors or its membership.

#### CSCA Board of Directors

**President:**

Paul Covington

**Vice President:**

Brad Lundstrom

**Secretary:**

Alexander Freeman

**Treasurer:**

Joshua Samuel

**Junior Representative:**

Andrew Roerty

**Members at Large:**

Gracie Salazar Mukayess

Alayne Wilinsky

#### CSCA Appointees

**USCF Delegates:**

Paul Covington

Richard "Buck" Buchanan

**CCI Editor:**

Fred Eric Spell

**Correspondence Chess:**

Klaus Johnson

**Scholastic Chess:**

Tom Nelson

**Webmaster & Tournament**

**Clearinghouse:**

Dean Clow

**CSCA Historian:**

Todd Bardwick

*Send all email correspondence to*  
[CSCA@CovingtonComputers.com](mailto:CSCA@CovingtonComputers.com)

*On the cover:*

**Griffin McConnell**

*by Chandler Toffa*

## From the Editor

And so we begin the New Year with renewed hope that can only arrive none too soon...

Hello everyone and Happy New Year! I hope that you have enjoyed the holiday season as much as you can and that you are safe and as happy as can be. I understand that a few of our fellow Colorado chess players have been afflicted with Covid-19 but as I understand, they are all on the road to recovery or have already healed up and are back at life full tilt.

As you can read in this issue, the CSCA Board of Directors are working hard to at least plan on having some in-person tournaments held this year. We all hope that it does indeed come to pass - so stay tuned.

The lead story in this issue is about a remarkable young man and his wonderful play at FIDE's Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities that was recently held. Griffin McConnell and his fellow Team USA members surprised the pundits and played outstanding chess to come in Tied-Tenth place in the tournament. Well done Team USA!

Enjoy this issue, stay safe, and perhaps we will soon meet once again over-the-board.

May Caissa be with you.

*Fred Eric Spell*



## In This Issue

**4. President's Notes**

*Paul Covington*

**6. Griffin McConnell & Team USA...**

*NM Lior Lapid*

**8. My Favorite Game from the Olympiad**

*Griffin McConnell*

**10. 2020 Colorado Closed Tournament Report**

*Paul Covington*

**12. The 1981 Boulder Open (& more)**

*Curtis Carlson*

**19. Colorado Chess Club Directory**

**20. Tactics Time!**

*Tim Brennan*

**22. The Chess Detective®**

*NM Todd Bardwick*

#### Informant Article Submission Deadlines:

**January issue** - December 21 / **April issue** - March 21

**July issue** - June 21 / **October issue** - September 21

(Email article submissions to [ColoradoStateChess@hotmail.com](mailto:ColoradoStateChess@hotmail.com))

© 2021 Colorado State Chess Association



**The Chess Journalists of America**  
**are Proud to Present to the**  
**Colorado Chess Informant, Fred Eric Spell - editor**  
**The Chess Journalist Award for**  
**Electronic State Magazine / Newsletter**

*Joshua M. Anderson*

**JOSHUA ANDERSON**  
Chairman - CJA Awards Committee

*I want to personally thank all who contributed to make this happen.  
This is truly and honor to once again receive this award from the  
Chess Journalists of America!*

**Fred Eric Spell**  
*Editor / Colorado Chess Informant*



# President's Notes

This has been a difficult year for each of our members. Not having in-person chess has impacted everyone, including the CSCA Board. A number of changes to the Board and to our meetings have kept us busy.

The Board members who were elected in September 2019 expected to serve for one year. So as the 2020 Colorado Open (and CSCA Board elections) did not happen, new Board members have joined us. This was accomplished over several months and followed our current Bylaws. I thank each member who served the CSCA on the 2019-2020 Board as we had to make many tough decisions. I will always remember the incredibly high standard you established. Now, the 2020-2021 Board has a lot of work to do! Your new Board:

**President: Paul Covington**  
**Vice President: Brad Lundstrom**  
**Treasurer: Joshua Samuel**  
**Secretary: Alexander Freeman**  
**Member-at-Large: Gracie Salazar Mukayess**  
**Member-at-Large: Alayne Wilinsky**  
**Junior Representative: Andrew Roerty**

So many of our traditional events were postponed last year, we are starting fresh for 2021. The **2021 Colorado Open** is scheduled for September 3-5, 2021.

The **Scholastic State Championship** normally in February is scheduled for March 26-27, 2021. This is only penciled-in at this time. If we are NOT allowed to have this event, we will conduct a playoff event (top 4 rated in each section) to select our representatives to National Invitationals Tournament of Championships (Denker (9-12), Barber (6-8), Haring (All-Girls), and Rockefeller (K-5)).

The Senior Championship, in person we hope - is being planned for late April/mid May.

The Class Championship schedule is still in work - no schedule yet.

The 2021 Colorado Closed has not been scheduled yet (likely in the Fall).

This past year has emphasized the need to update our Bylaws. Bylaws are designed to protect the integrity of the organization and establish how the members want their business to be conducted. On the other hand, the Board members need to be able to adapt to changing circumstances which requires the Bylaws to provide flexibility so the Board can accomplish the goals of the CSCA.

One of my dreams is to bring a National tournament to Denver - a US Open level event. We can only achieve these types of goals by getting some stability on the CSCA Board. Every year we vote on our leadership and have both a change in leadership and a change in our goals. We are better than this!

The FIDE Scholastic World Championship is still scheduled for July 4<sup>th</sup> week. Teams from all over the world will come to Denver. This will be a spectacular event - I hope it is not canceled. I hope our CSCA members will volunteer their time to make this event great for these children.

As we head into 2021, I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas/Hannukah/Holiday Season and are looking forward to playing chess in 2021.

**Paul Covington**  
**President / CSCA**

# Colorado Chess Hall of Fame

## Official Call for Nominations

This is the official call for nominations for the 2021 Colorado Chess Hall of Fame class. When you nominate someone, please provide details to support the nomination. For example: their contribution to Colorado chess, game scores, published articles, and other supporting information honoring your nominee.

**Cutoff date for nominations is April 30, 2021.** Please send the nominations to Randy Canney, Committee Chairman. His email: [RCanney@hotmail.com](mailto:RCanney@hotmail.com).



## Current Members of the Colorado Chess Hall of Fame:

**Richard “Buck” Buchanan**

**Alexander Fishbein**

**Royal Franklin**

**Christine Hendrickson**

**John Howell**

**Dr. J. Juan Reid**

**John Watson**

## Griffin McConnell & Team USA at the 2020 Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities

by NM Lior Lapid

Last year, I had the privilege of accompanying my student Griffin McConnell to Ankara, Turkey, where he competed in the 1<sup>st</sup> FIDE Confederation Cup for People with Disabilities from December 7-14, 2019. Griffin was the only player to represent the United States in that prestigious event, so he joined five South American and Central American teammates as Board 4 for Team Americas. I served as team captain in that event, and our team earned the Bronze medal, but the real star of the Confederation Cup was none other than Griffin himself. To list just a few of his outstanding accomplishments: Griffin was the only player in the tournament to win all of his games, his brilliant victory over Jarno Scheffner (featuring a queen sacrifice) won a prize for the Best Game of the entire tournament, and, to my amazement, he became something of an overnight celebrity. Local Turkish chess fans were coming up to Griffin and bashfully asking for his autograph. His teammates hailed him as a hero. A Russian woman even tried to steal his trophy at the awards ceremony. It was Griffin's first experience abroad, and he considers it his most memorable tournament to this day. "I was sad when it was over," he recalls, "but then I realized it was not really over because of the friends I made for life."

Fast forward to September, 2020, when I was delighted to receive an email from the FIDE Events Manager of the US Chess Federation asking if I would be interested in serving as captain of Team USA for the 2020 FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities. *Interested?! I didn't need to be asked twice.* It was exciting to know that Griffin was going to play Board 2, as I began coaching him nearly three years ago and became close friends with him during our week in Turkey. My role as team captain was supposed to be easy and painless, to attend one Captains Meeting on Zoom and choose the team lineup for each round. Nothing more. Initially, that's all I planned to do. But something was bothering me...

Prior to the Olympiad, almost everyone I spoke with predicted that we were going to get crushed. A few of the players themselves expressed a lack of confidence, which was understandable. According to average ratings, our team was ranked 39<sup>th</sup> out of the 61 teams participating. Some countries like Russia fielded three teams that were *all* far above Team USA in the rankings. We took this a challenge. In our very first team meeting, the players set an ambitious goal for a top ten finish. I offered to play training games and prepare openings with all who were interested in working with me. Team USA was on a mission to shock the world.

Three weeks before the Olympiad began, I was pleased to begin intensive training sessions with Griffin McConnell (Board 2), Pranav Shankar (Board 3), and Jessica Lauser (Board 4). The week of the Olympiad itself was one of the most exciting and exhausting weeks of my life. My mornings would start with live online commentary followed by our daily team meetings on Zoom, which usually lasted at least two hours, followed by

another two to three hours each day researching our upcoming opponents and doing opening preparation for the specific players that Griffin, Pranav and Jessica were likely to face next. Finally, five to seven hours each afternoon and evening were spent in private lessons to help these three players learn and review the intricacies of the openings they intended to play the following morning.

Griffin has been officially nicknamed "*The Colorado Kid*" in recent FIDE articles about the Olympiad, and I want to focus on the tournament experience of our local hero. In the very first round, Team USA was paired against Russia 2, one of the top ten teams in the world, ranked 9<sup>th</sup> by average rating. Griffin was facing International Master Alexey Pakhomov, but he was not intimidated. Griffin is accustomed to being the underdog. He has been defying the odds, both on and off the chessboard, ever since he was a young boy. Griffin's first-round win came by default due to his opponent's connection issues after just seven moves. Still, he was very well prepared in the opening and it was wonderful to see that he had already built up a big advantage in that short time. With Pranav coming through in a big way on Board 3, Team USA started the Olympiad with a bang, pulling off a major upset right off the bat by holding Russia 2 to a tie.

Round 2, on the other hand, was more painful for our team. We were paired against the #3 ranked Philippines, and their 4-0 clean sweep felt devastating. For Griffin in particular, there was another serious concern. He suffered a seizure in the middle of this game, an experience that was to repeat in his fifth-round game as well. In both cases, his position was fine before the seizure but completely lost soon after. True to his warrior spirit, Griffin refused to stop fighting despite his brain fog and the subsequent time trouble that his seizures inevitably caused.

We were paired against another higher ranked team in round 3, Romania 2, and Griffin's miraculous win against Mihai Dima was the deciding game in Team USA's narrow 2.5-1.5 victory. In a must-win situation, with his game as the last to finish, Griffin pulled a rabbit out of his hat in one of the most spectacular comebacks I've ever witnessed in live tournament chess. Griffin relied on his trusted Caro-Kann Defense with Black and it was working like a charm, as he reached a technically winning endgame in under 25 moves. Griffin continued working his tremendous endgame skills, confidently outplaying his opponent for the next 20 moves or so, and I was delighted by what I was seeing as I gave optimistic predictions in the live commentary.

What happened next was like something out of a movie. In time trouble, Griffin made a serious blunder and gave his opponent a chance to hold a draw. Then, a couple moves later, Griffin blundered again and his position was suddenly lost. *Completely* lost. He was down a knight in a rook endgame with equal pawns. It was all over, and our team was destined to go down for the second round in a row - or so we thought. I must have temporarily forgotten that Griffin "*The Comeback Kid*" McConnell is

a veritable magician when it comes to finding hidden resources in seemingly hopeless positions. In an epic turn of events, Griffin somehow managed to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and, to everyone's amazement, Team USA won the match.

Perhaps inspired by Griffin's remarkable comeback the previous day, Round 4 was a highlight of the Olympiad for our entire team. We were paired against a third top-10 opponent in just four rounds, this time facing 10<sup>th</sup> seed North Macedonia. Griffin was up against the undefeated Vladimir Trkaljanov. To put this Rocky story into perspective, Trkaljanov defeated every single opponent he played in this Olympiad except for one. His win over Irina Ostry in round 7 was not only nominated for the Gazprom Brilliancy Prize (for the most spectacular game out of over 800 games played in the Olympiad), but it is currently the frontrunner to win that prestigious award. That's Vladimir "Drago" Trkaljanov for you, and Griffin was the only player to defeat him.

The story behind Griffin's victory is as dramatic as the game itself. The day before the fourth round, realizing we were facing an uphill battle on all four boards, my opening preparation for Griffin, Pranav and Jessica was more intense than it had been for the previous three rounds combined. I had spotted a flaw in Trkaljanov's repertoire on the Black side of the Scotch. Despite being a very strong player, he was relatively easy to prepare for because he follows a very narrow (though very aggressive) repertoire as Black. His 4...Qh4!? surprise weapon against the Scotch had worked well in the majority of his games, but it wasn't entirely sound.

There was only one problem: Griffin doesn't play the Scotch. He has played the Ruy Lopez as White since long before I met him. Yet I was brazenly trying to convince him *and* his brother (Colorado State co-champion Sullivan McConnell) to play an opening that Griffin had never played before in his life. Griffin initially declined, understandably, and Sullivan was also highly skeptical. Feeling very nervous - ready to take the blame if this high-risk strategy backfired - I nevertheless continued making the case. Trkaljanov's hyperaggressive style did not seem well-suited to prolonged and passive defense, and with a carefully prepared pawn sacrifice on move 6, Griffin was certain to put him in that uncomfortable position for the first time. According to the database, *none* of Trkaljanov's previous opponents had ever played 6.Be2! against him.

To Griffin's credit, he bravely chose to venture into what was completely uncharted territory for him, understanding that this meant committing dozens of new moves and new ideas to memory. Had Trkaljanov deviated from his main repertoire, the result may have been different. Luckily, he played the same way he had always played before, and after 15 moves Griffin had already won Black's errant queen for a rook, knight, and pawn while still maintaining a powerful attack. The rest, as they say, was "just a matter of technique," and Griffin's technique is one of his biggest strengths. I cannot put into words how relieved I was that our gamble paid off against such a dangerous opponent. Had Griffin lost that game, I would not have been able to shake the feeling that I let him *and* our entire team down by persuading him to play a brand new opening and willingly enter his

opponent's pet line. It could have been a disaster, but as it turned out, everything in round 4 unfolded like a dream. Pranav and Jessica also won their games in impressive fashion, and our team successfully flipped the script: some may have expected the lopsided 3.5-0.5 result, but few could have guessed that it would be in favor of the underdogs.

Griffin suffered a major seizure shortly after his upset victory over Trkaljanov. During our lesson later that afternoon, he was visibly exhausted. The intense opening preparation that he had done the night before, and even that very morning, seemed to have taken a toll on him as well. We decided to do minimal preparation for round 5 in order to give him enough time to rest and recover. I was so concerned about his health that I asked him to take the next round off, letting one of our reserve players take his place for that game, but Griffin is a trouper and he was determined to play all seven rounds. After suffering yet another seizure during his game in round 5, he rebounded with a big win in round 6, a come-from-behind victory in which his alchemy transformed a lost position into a winning one yet again. Griffin selected this as his best game of the tournament, and he annotated it on the following page.

Despite losing to Chile in round 5, our team finished strong with wins over Argentina and Brazil in the final two rounds. We faced higher ranked teams in every single round, yet Team USA only lost two out of those seven matches. More importantly, the players accomplished the dream that they had set out to achieve from the very beginning, as Team USA tied for 10<sup>th</sup> place. No other team ranked #39 or below even finished in the top 25.

Needless to say, Griffin's teammates all played a valuable role. Top board Michael Aigner went undefeated in the final five rounds, saving his best for last with a Capablanca-esque victory in round 7 that was nominated for the Brilliancy Prize. Jessica, the three-time and reigning U.S. blind champion, fought back from adversity and also played her best game in the final round to help our team finish on a high note. Pranav earned a phenomenal 5/7 score on Board 3, despite being outrated in most games. Oskar Zoffer, the top reserve player, joined me for lively game commentary and post-game interviews every day. Nguyen Nam Tran, the second reserve player, is only 9 years old and was the youngest player in the world to qualify for this Olympiad.

It is safe to say that Team USA defied all expectations in this Olympiad. But that's not so surprising, is it? Throughout their lives, everyone on this incredible team has fought back from adversity and proven that the word "disability" has nothing to do with words like dreams, determination, and *this* ability. We all needed some inspiration in 2020. I found mine in the games and friendship of the remarkable people on Team USA, and also in Griffin's own wise words: "I used to ask 'Why Me?' and throw myself pity parties, but that only made things worse. My parents taught me that you can overcome anything if you learn to look at the positive. I'm alive. I'm alive. Just being alive is the biggest blessing of all."



# My Favorite Game from the Olympiad

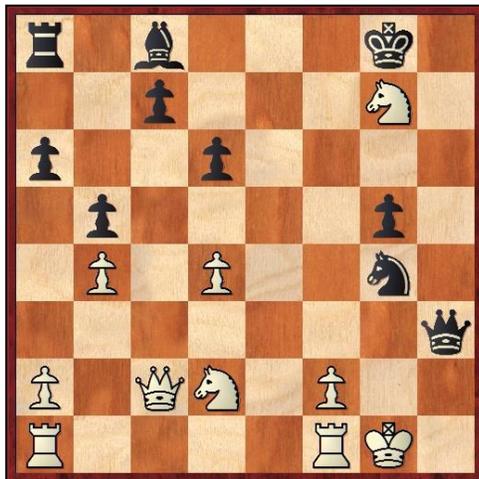
by Griffin McConnell

**Griffin McConnell** (1823)  
**Luis Sanz** (2186)

**FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities**  
**Round 6 / November 26, 2020**  
**USA vs Argentina**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.h3 g6 7.c3 Bg7 8.Bg5 h6 9.Be3 O-O 10.Nbd2 b5 (This is very ambitious, a very simple move would be Nd7! preparing f5.)(10...Nd7 11.O-O f5) 11.Bc2 Bb7 12.O-O Ne7 13.b4 (I am trying to gain space but Black's attack is faster.) 13...Nd7 14.g4 (This is bad. My king will be exposed, rule of thumb never open up the pawns if your king is here.)(14.Nb3 Rb8 15.Na5) 14...f5 15.gxf5 gxf5 16.exf5 (This just opens up the light square bishop for Black.) 16...Nxf5 17.d4 (I tried to be active in this terrible position.) 17...Qe8 18.Bxf5 Rxf5 19.Nh4 Rg5+ (Wrong idea, Rh5! was winning. Rg5 is just losing the exchange.)(19...Rh5 20.Qg4 Nf6 21.Qg3 Qc6) 20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Nf5 exd4 (Now I am winning.) 22.cxd4 Nf6 23.Kh2 (Re1! was more simple.)(23.Re1 Qd7 24.Ne7+ Kh8 25.Ng6+ Kh7 26.Qb1) 23...Qe6 24.Qc2 (I blunder here in this position, Qb3! was great for me because of forking ideas.) (24.Qb3 Bd5 25. Qd3) 24...Bc8 25.Nxg7 (I missed a critical line after Nxg7 and Qxh3+.) 25...Qxh3+ 26.Kg1 Ng4 (26...Qg4+

27.Kh2 Bb7 28.f3 Qh4+ 29.Kg2 Ng4) 27.Qb3+ (My opponent missed this move trading the queens.) 27...Qxb3 28.Nxb3 Kxg7 29.Rac1 Ra7 30.Rfe1 Kf7 31.f3 (This is easier - 31.f4 gxf4 32.Rf1.) 31...Nf6 32.a3 Nd5 33.Nd2 (It is even now.) 33...a5 34.Ne4 Kg6 (34...axb4 35.axb4 Bd7) 35.Nxd6 (Winning a pawn.) 35...Bd7 36.Re5 (This was his last chance to get a even position after Nf4!! It is a great move because of where my king is placed.) 36...c6 (36...Nf4 37.Nxb5 Bxb5 38.Rcc5) 37.Nxb5 (The difference is now the d6 square is free for my knight so after Rb7, Nd6 attacks the rook again.) 37...Ra8 38.Nc3 (Trying to trade off the pieces.) 38...Nxc3 39.Rxc3 axb4 40.axb4 Ra1+ 41.Kf2 Kf6 42.Rec5 Rb1 43.d5 (This forces to trade the pawns.) 43...cxd5 (43...Rxb4 44.dxc6 Bc8 45.Ra3) 44.Rxd5 Ba4 45.Rd4 Rb2+ 46.Kg3 Bb5 47.f4 gxf4+ 48.Kxf4 Be2 49.Rc6+ Kf7 50.Ke5 Ke7 51.Rc7+ Ke8 52.Ke6 Ba6 53.Ra7 (This is winning but I missed a mate in 2 - 53.Re7+ Kf8 54.Rd8#) 53...Re2+ 54.Kd5 (This just simplifies in a winning endgame.) 54...Bc8 55.Re4+ Rxe4 56.Kxe4 Kd8 57.Kd5 Bd7 58.Kd6 1-0



NM Lior Lapid & Griffin McConnell  
 (2019)



## The Games of Griffin McConnell at the FIDE Online Olympiad for People with Disabilities

**November 21, 2020 - December 3, 2020**

**G/25; +10 (from move 1)**

**1. Poland 2. Russia 3. Ukraine - 10. USA (tied)**

### Round 1

**Griffin McConnell** (1823) USA  
**Alexy Pakhomov** (2315) Russia

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 cxd4  
7.Qxd4 *Black Timed Out* 1-0

### Round 2

**Henry Lopez** (2107) Philippines  
**Griffin McConnell** (1823) USA

1.d4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.e3 Bg4 6.Qb3 b5 7.c5  
Nbd7 8.a4 e5 9.Qa3 Rb8 10.axb5 axb5 11.Qa6 Qc8 12.b4 Bxf3  
13.gxf3 Be7 14.Qxc8+ Rxc8 15.Bh3 exd4 16.exd4 0-0 17.Ra7  
Rfd8 18.Ra6 h6 19.0-0 Nh5 20.Ra7 Nhf6 21.Bf4 Ra8 22.Rfal  
Rxa7 23.Rxa7 g5 24.Bg3 h5 25.Bf5 h4 26.Bc7 Rc8 27.Ba5 Re8  
28.Rxd7 Nh5 29.Kf1 Nf4 30.Ne2 Nh5 31.Rc7 Ng7 32.Bd7 Rf8  
33.Rxc6 f5 34.Rc8 *Black Resigns* 1-0

### Round 3

**Mihai Dima** (1997) Romania  
**Griffin McConnell** (1823) USA

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.c4 e6 6.Nc3 Ne7 7.Qb3 Qc7  
8.Nge2 Nd7 9.Nf4 g6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Be3 Bh6 12.Rc1 Qb6  
13.Qxb6 axb6 14.a3 f6 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Be2 Kf7 17.Nd3 Bxd3  
18.Bxd3 Ng4 19.Bxh6 Nxb6 20.Ne2 Nef5 21.g3 Rhe8 22.0-0  
Kf6 23.Rcd1 Re7 24.Rfel Rae8 25.Kf1 Ng4 26.Bxf5 Kxf5  
27.Rd2 b5 28.Rc2 g5 29.hxg5 Kxg5 30.Kg2 Nh6 31.Rd2 Nf5  
32.Kf1 Re4 33.Red1 Kg4 34.Ng1 R4e7 35.Kg2 h4 36.gxh4  
Nxb4+ 37.Kf1 Re4 38.Rd3 Rf8 39.Rg3+ Kh5 40.Rh3 Rff4  
41.Ne2 Rf3 42.Ng3+ Kg6 43.Rh2 Rg4 44.Ke2 Rff4 45.Ke3 Nf3  
46.Rh8 Kg7 47.Rb8 Kf6 48.Rf8+ Kg5 49.Rg8+ Kf6 50.Nh5+  
Kf7 51.Rxg4 Rxg4 52.Kxf3 Re4 53.Ng3 Re8 54.Rd3 Re1 55.Re3  
Rb1 56.Re2 Kf6 57.Kf4 Rd1 58.Ke3 b6 59.Rd2 Re1+ 60.Kf4  
Rc1 61.Ne2 Rf1 62.Ke3 Ke6 63.Nf4+ Kd6 64.Nd3 c5 65.dxc5+  
bxc5 66.Ke2 Rh1 67.Rc2 c4 68.Nb4 d4 69.Rd2 Rh4 70.Kf3 Kc5  
71.Kg3 Rh8 72.Nc2 d3 73.Ne3 Kd4 74.Kf4 Rf8+ 75.Nf5+ Kc5  
76.f3 Re8 77.Ng3 Kd4 78.Ne2+ Rxe2 79.Rd1 Rxb2 *White Timed  
Out* 0-1

### Round 4

**Griffin McConnell** (1823) USA  
**Vladimir Trkaljanov** (2096) North Macedonia

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Be2 Qxe4  
7.Ndb5 Kd8 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Nge7 10.Re1 Qd5 11.Bd3 a6  
12.c4 Qc5 13.Be3 Qe5 14.Bb6 axb5 15.Rxe5 Nxe5 16.Bd4 Nxd3  
17.Qxd3 bxc4 18.Qxc4 d5 19.Qb3 f6 20.Re1 Ra5 21.Rxe7 Kxe7  
22.Qb4+ c5 23.Bxc5+ Rxc5 24.Qxc5+ Ke6 25.Qc7 Bd7 26.Qxb7

Rc8 27.Qb3 Rc4 28.c3 Bc6 29.f3 h5 30.Kf2 Kf7 31.Ke3 Kg6  
32.g3 Ba4 33.Qb1+ Kh6 34.Kd3 Bc6 35.Qc1+ Kg6 36.h4 Bb5  
37.Kd2 Bc6 38.Qb1+ Kh6 39.Qb6 Kg6 40.g4 Kh6 41.gxh5 Kxh5  
42.Qc7 Kg6 43.h5+ Kh7 44.Qc8 *Black Timed Out* 1-0

### Round 5

**Tomas Figueroa Morales** (2093) Chile  
**Griffin McConnell** (1823) USA

1.d4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 a6 5.c5 Bf5 6.Qb3 Qc8 7.Bf4  
Nbd7 8.h3 h5 9.e3 Ne4 10.Na4 f6 11.Rc1 g5 12.Bh2 e6 13.Bd3  
Be7 14.Ng1 g4 15.f3 gxh3 16.gxh3 Ng5 17.Bxf5 exf5 18.h4 Ne6  
19.Ne2 Bd8 20.Qd3 Ng7 21.Rg1 Kf7 22.Kf2 Bc7 23.Bf4 Nf8  
24.Rg2 Nfe6 25.Rcg1 Rg8 26.Bh6 Qd7 27.e4 dxe4 28.fxe4 fxe4  
29.Qxe4 Qd5 30.Qg6+ Ke7 31.Nac3 Qd8 32.Qh7 Qf8 33.Bxg7  
Qf7 34.Rg6 Nf8 35.Bxf6+ *Black Resigns* 1-0

### Round 6

**Griffin McConnell** (1823) USA  
**Luis Sanz** (2186) Argentina

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.h3 g6 7.c3 Bg7  
8.Bg5 h6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Nbd2 b5 11.Bc2 Bb7 12.0-0 Ne7 13.b4  
Nd7 14.g4 f5 15.gxf5 gxf5 16.exf5 Nxf5 17.d4 Qe8 18.Bxf5  
Rxf5 19.Nh4 Rg5+ 20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Nf5 exd4 22.cxd4 Nf6  
23.Kh2 Qe6 24.Qc2 Bc8 25.Nxg7 Qxh3+ 26.Kg1 Ng4 27.Qb3+  
Qxb3 28.Nxb3 Kxg7 29.Rac1 Ra7 30.Rfe1 Kf7 31.f3 Nf6 32.a3  
Nd5 33.Nd2 a5 34.Ne4 Kg6 35.Nxd6 Bd7 36.Re5 c6 37.Nxb5  
Ra8 38.Nc3 Nxc3 39.Rxc3 axb4 40.axb4 Ra1+ 41.Kf2 Kf6  
42.Rec5 Rb1 43.d5 cxd5 44.Rxd5 Ba4 45.Rd4 Rb2+ 46.Kg3 Bb5  
47.f4 gxf4+ 48.Kxf4 Be2 49.Rc6+ Kf7 50.Ke5 Ke7 51.Rc7+ Ke8  
52.Ke6 Ba6 53.Ra7 Re2+ 54.Kd5 Bc8 55.Re4+ Rxe4 56.Kxe4  
Kd8 57.Kd5 Bd7 58.Kd6 *Black Resigns* 1-0

### Round 7

**Jose Eduardo Bastos Maia** (2043) Brazil  
**Griffin McConnell** (1823) USA

1.d4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qc2 g6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bf4 Nh5 7.Be5  
f6 8.Bxb8 Rxb8 9.e3 Bf5 10.Qb3 Bh6 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Qxd5  
Qxd5 13.Nxd5 Kf7 14.Nc3 Rhd8 15.Bc4+ e6 16.0-0 Rbc8  
17.Bb3 g5 18.Rac1 g4 19.Nd2 g3 20.f4 gxh2+ 21.Kxh2 Nxf4  
22.exf4 Rxd4 23.Nf3 Rxf4 24.Rcd1 Rc7 25.Rfe1 Re7 26.Rd4  
Kf8 27.Rxf4 Bxf4+ 28.g3 Bh6 29.Nd4 Bg4 30.Nxe6+ Bxe6  
31.Rxe6 Rxe6 32.Bxe6 Bc1 33.b3 Ke7 34.Bd5 b6 35.Bb7 a5  
36.Kh3 Kd6 37.a4 f5 38.Ne2 Bb2 39.Kh4 Ke5 40.Kg5 Ba3  
41.Kh6 Kf6 42.Kxh7 Bd6 43.Kh6 Be5 44.Nf4 Bd4 45.Nd5+ Ke5  
46.Nf4 Be3 47.Kg6 Bd2 48.Bc8 Ke4 49.Bxf5+ Kf3 50.Nh5 Ke3  
51.g4 Kd4 52.Kf6 Kc5 53.g5 b5 54.axb5 Kxb5 55.g6 Kb4  
56.Be6 a4 57.bxa4 Kxa4 58.Kf7 Bh6 59.Nf6 Kb4 60.Ng4 *Black  
Resigns* 1-0



# 2020 Colorado Closed Tournament Report

by Paul Covington / Chief Tournament Director

The Colorado Closed event had upsets, surprises and exciting games over the weekend of October 30 - November 1. The games were played in the Embassy Suites (Hampden Road) North Tech Center in Denver.

Because of COVID restrictions, many things were different. We wiped down the chess pieces and boards to aid those at most risk. We used DGT boards broadcasting the games via computer to <https://tinyurl.com/y2jadnsp> (not sure how long it will be available).

I need to start with the pairings, which were handled on Zoom. I listed the players names by ratings, then used a randomizer to shuffle the names three times, so no bias. Then, based on this ranking, players selected a card which I had placed face down on the table after being shuffled. I did this in such a way that I did not know what the cards were. The card they picked was their pairing number. For players who were not present on Zoom, a person who was not a player chose a card. The process was long but insured what is called double blind random selection. The results were: 1. Brian Wall; 2. Gunnar Andersen; 3. Sullivan McConnell; 4. Daniel Herman; 5. Rhett Langseth; and 6. Lior Lapid.

Phase two was very confusing. Earle Wikle and I have worked for two days get the feel for the DGT boards and updating their software. We were confident we were ready. We setup the boards, and got stumped. Randomly various pieces would disappear from the computer monitor. We were delayed starting round one because of this problem. Unable to solve the issue, I started the event. After the round Earle and I spent hours figuring out what caused this - about 2:30am I realized the aluminum tables were causing an issue. To test the theory, Earle put a DGT carrying case under one of the boards, and suddenly it worked properly. Once we got the hotel to substitute the tables everything worked.

Round 2 started on schedule. Earle worked to get the commentary broadcast system working and people started signing on and watching and interfacing with our commentators. Kevin McConnell had arranged for various chess players to discuss the games in progress. That was done from a different room and added to the event, even getting interviews with some of the players.

Round Robin tournaments are different in that you already know who you are going to play and can prepare. This made the games real struggles and every player struggled at times.

In the end Gunnar Andersen and Sullivan McConnell tied for first. They shared 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place prizes, winning \$150 each. In the Colorado Closed we do not use tiebreaks, so they are the Co-Champions!

This is how the financials worked. Six players' entries equaled \$300. The prize fund was \$300. The hotel ballroom (playing site) cost \$274.50, paid from the general fund. My hotel room cost

was \$183 (my donation to CSCA . Other expenses, Earle Wikle bought his meals. DuWayne Langseth bought my lunch Saturday - thank you! I paid for my other meals. Thank you to all who helped make this event successful. Earle Wikle, the commentators, Chris Peterson - hosting the final round, Shirley Herman - photo support, Kevin McConnell for arranging the commentators and most of all, our six players who poured out their hearts playing those tough games ( the longest one was 4.5 hours!). I was privileged to direct the event and watch the games!

## GAMES FROM THE COLORADO CLOSED:

### ROUND 1

#### Sullivan McConnell (2224) / Lior Lapid (2302)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.0-0 a6 7.Be2 b5 8.d3 e6 9.Kh1 Bb7 10.e5 Nxe2 11.Qxe2 f5 12.Be3 Rc8 13.Qf2 Qc7 14.d4 Nh6 15.h3 cxd4 16.Nxd4 Nf7 17.a4 b4 18.Na2 g5 19.Rae1 gxf4 20.Bxf4 Rg8 21.Rg1 Bf8 22.c3 bxc3 23.Nxc3 Bc5 24.Be3 Nxe5 25.Nxf5? Rf8?? 26.Ng7+ Ke7 27.Qh4+ Kf7 28.Nh5 Be7 29.Rgfl+? Nf3 30.Rxf3+ Bxf3 31.Qf2 Kg6 32.Qc2+ Rf5 33.Nf4+? Kg7 34.gxf3 Rxf4 35.Rg1+ Kh8 36.Qg2 Bf6? 37.Bxf4 Qxf4 38.Ne4 Bd4 39.Rd1? Rg8 40.Qe2? Qh4 41.Qh2 d5? 42.Nd6 e5?? 43.Nf7+ Kg7 44.Nxe5 Re8 45.Qg2+ Kf8 46.Qg4 Qxg4 47.Nxg4 Bxb2 48.Rxd5 Re6 49.Kg2 Kf7 50.Kg3 Bc3 51.Kf4 Rb6 52.Kf5 h5 53.Nf2 Rf6+ 54.Ke4 Kg6 55.f4 Rb6 56.Nd3 Re6+ 57.Re5 Rc6 58.Rc5 Re6+?? 59.Kf3 Rd6 60.Rxc3 Rd4 61.Rc6+ Kf5 62.Rc5+ Kf6 63.Nb2 Rb4 64.Rc6+ Kf5?? 65.Nc4 1-0

#### Rhett Langseth (2138) / Daniel Herman (2138)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Bd3 c5 6.dxc5 Nc6 7.Bb5 Qa5 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Be5 Ne4 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.Bxc3 Nxc3 12.Qd2 Qxc5 13.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 14.bxc3 Ba6 15.Rb1 Kd7 16.Nf3 Kd6 17.Kd2 f6 18.Rb3 e5 19.Rhb1 c5 20.R3b2 f5 21.c4 d4 22.e4 Bxc4 23.exf5 Bd5 24.Nh4 e4 25.c3 Rhc8 26.f3 e3+ 27.Kd3 Ke5 28.cxd4+ cxd4 29.f4+ Kxf4 30.Kxd4 Rd8 31.g3+ Kg4 32.Kxe3 Re8+ 33.Kf2 Rac8 34.Rb4+ Kh3 35.R1b2 Re4 36.Nf3 Rxb4 37.axb4 Rc3 38.Nd2 Kxh2 39.Nf1+ Kh3 40.Ne3 Be4 41.b5 Rc5 42.Rb4 Re5 43.Ra4 Re7 44.Nf1 Kg4 45.Ke3 Kxf5 46.g4+ Kxg4 47.Nd2 Kf5 48.Nxe4 g5 49.Rc4 h5 50.Kd3 Re5 51.Ng3+ Ke6 52.Rc6+ Kd7 53.Kc4 h4 54.Nh5 Rf5 55.Ra6 g4 56.Rxa7+ Kc8 57.Ng7 Rg5 58.Ne6 Re5 59.Nd4 Re1 60.Kc5 h3 61.Nc6 h2 62.Kb6 h1Q 63.Rc7# 1-0

#### Brian Wall (2209) / Gunnar Andersen (2290)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 a6 9.f4 d6 10.Be3 b5 11.Bf3 Bb7 12.a4 b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Na5 15.Bd4 Bh6 16.g3 Nxb3 17.cxb3 Qa5 18.Qe2 Bg7 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Qxe7 Qb6+ 21.Rf2? Rfe8 22.Qh4 Re3 23.Kg2 Rxf3 24.Rxf3 Bxd5 25.Raf1 Qe3 26.g4 Qe2+ 27.R1f2?? Bxf3+ 28.Kg3 Qe1 29.f5 Bd5 30.f6+ Kh8 0-1

### ROUND 2

#### Gunnar Andersen (2290) / Lior Lapid (2302)

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.d3 Nd7 7.Bd2 Qb6 8.0-0-0 d4 9.Ne2 a5 10.g4 Ne7 11.g5 c5 12.h4 Nc6 13.h5 Nce5 14.Qg3 c4 15.Nxd4 cxd3 16.Bc3 Rc8 17.Bxd3 Ba3 18.Bb5 Bd6 19.Nxe6 Rxc3 20.Nxg7+ Kf8 21.Qxc3 Bb4 22.Qc8+ Kxg7 23.h6+ Kg6 24.Qxh8 1-0

**Daniel Herman (2138) / Brian Wall (2209)**

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 g6 5.Bc4 c6 6.h3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bg5 f6 9.exf6 exf6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Nc3 g5 12.Bg3 f5 13.Re1 Bf7 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Bb3 f4 16.Bh2 Nd7 17.c3 Nb6 18.Bc2 Qf6 19.h4 gxh4 20.Nd2 Qg5 21.Nf3 Qh6 22.Re7 h3 23.gxh3 Bf6 24.Rxb7 Qxh3 25.Bxf4 Bh5 26.Bg3 Rf7 27.Rxf7 Kxf7 28.Bd3 Rg8 29.Bf1 Qf5 30.Be2 Nc4 31.Ne5+ dxe5 32.Bxh5+ Kg7 33.Bg4 Qg6 34.Be6 Rd8 35.b3 Nb6 36.Bg4 exd4 37.cxd4 Kh8 38.Rc1 Qe4 39.Rc7 Bxd4 40.Bf3 Qe5 1-0

**Sullivan McConnell (2224) / Rhett Langseth (2138)**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.f4 exd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Nf3 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Qe7 10.0-0 Bxe4 11.Re1 d5 12.c4 c6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Be3 f6 15.Bf2 Kf7 16.Rac1 Qd6 17.Nd2 Bf5 18.Rc3 Be7 19.h3 Rhe8 20.Rec1 Bd7 21.Nf1 Bd8 22.Qd3 Kg8 23.Rd1 Be6 24.Qf5 Be7 25.g3 Re2 26.Bc5 Bb6 27.Bxb6 axb6 28.Rd2 Re1 29.Kf2 Rae8 30.Ne3 Ra1 31.Nxd5 Rd8 32.Rcd3 Qc5+ 33.Ne3 Rxd3 34.Qe6+ Kf8 35.Rxd3 Qe7 36.Qxe7+ Kxe7 37.Nf5+ Kf7 38.Rb3 Rxa2 39.Rxb6 Ra7 40.Nd4 Be4 41.Nb5 Ra4 42.Nd6+ Kg6 43.g4 Bc6 44.f5+ Kg5 45.Kg3 Bd5 46.Rb5 Bg8 47.Rxb7 Rd4 48.Rxg7+ Kh6 49.Rxg8 Rxd6 50.Rb8 Rd7 51.Rb6 Kg7 52.Rb3 h5 53.Kh4 hxg4 54.hxg4 Rd1 55.Rb6 Rh1+ 56.Kg3 Rf1 57.b4 Rb1 58.b5 Rb4 59.Rb8 Rb1 60.b6 Rg1+ 61.Kh3 Rh1+ 62.Kg2 Rb1 63.b7 Rb2+ 64.Kg3 Rb1 65.g5 Rb3+ 66.Kf2 Rb5 67.gxf6+ Kh7 68.Kc3 Rb1 69.f7 Rb3+ 70.Kd2 Rb5 71.Rh8+ Kxh8 72.f8R+ Kg7 73.b8Q Rd5+ 74.Ke2 1-0

**ROUND 3****Lior Lapid (2302) / Rhett Langseth (2138)**

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.f3 Nbd7 4.Be3 e5 5.d5 Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.Qd2 h5 8.Nc3 Nh7 9.g3 Nb6 10.h4 a5 11.b3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Bd3 Qd7 14.a4 Nf6 15.0-0-0 Nc8 16.Bxf5 Qxf5 17.Qc2 Qxc2+ 18.Kxc2 Nd7 19.Rf1 Ne5 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.Ne4 Bd6 22.Ne2 Ne7 23.g4 hxg4 24.fxg4 Ng6 25.h5 Nf4 26.Nxf4 exf4 27.Rf3 Rae8 28.Kd3 Re7 29.Ng5 Re3+ 30.Rxe3 fxe3 31.Re1 Bf4 32.Ne6 Rf7 33.Rf1 Bg3 34.Rxf7 Kxf7 35.Nd8+ Kf6 36.Nxb7 Kg5 37.Kxe3 Be1 38.Nxc5 Kxg4 39.Ne6 Kxh5 40.Nxg7+ Kg6 41.Ne6 Bg3 42.Kd4 Bf2+ 43.Kd3 Bg3 44.c5 Kf6 45.Kc4 c6 46.Nd4 cxd5+ 47.Kxd5 Ke7 48.Nf5+ Ke8 1-0

**Brian Wall (2209) / Sullivan McConnell (2224)**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Bd3 f6 7.0-0 Qc7 8.Bf4 0-0-0 9.Re1 h6 10.h4 f5 11.Na3 c4 12.Be2 Bxa3 13.bxa3 Nge7 14.Rb1 Rdg8 15.a4 Be8 16.Bc1 Kb8 17.Ba3 Nc8 18.Qd2 Bh5 19.Rb5 a6 20.Rb2 Ka7 21.Reb1 b6 22.Bd6 Qd7 23.Bxc4 Nxd6 24.exd6 Bxf3 25.Rxb6 dxc4 26.Rb7+ Qxb7 27.Rxb7+ Kxb7 28.gxf3 Rd8 29.d5 exd5 30.Qxd5 Rhf8 31.a5 Rf6 32.Qc5 Rxd6 33.Qb6+ Ka8 34.Qxa6+ Na7 35.Qxc4 g5 36.hxg5 hxg5 37.Kf1 Rfe6 38.f4 Rc6 39.Qd5 gxf4 40.c4 Red6 41.Qxf5 Rd4 42.Kg2 Rdx4 43.Kf3 Kb7 44.Kg4 Ka6 45.f3 Nb5 46.Qd3 Kxa5 47.Qd2+ Nc3 48.Qb2 Rb4 49.Qa3+ Ra4 50.Qb3 Rcc4 51.Qb8 Nxa2 52.Qd8+ Kb4 53.Qf8+ Kb3 54.Qf5 Nc3 55.Qe6 Nd1 56.Qg8 Ra5 57.Qe6 Nf2+ 58.Kh4 Nd3 59.Qb6+ Ka4 60.Qb1 Ne5 61.Qa1+ Kb3 62.Qxa5 Nxf3+ 63.Kh3 Ng1+ 64.Kg2 Ne2 65.Qd2 Rc2 66.Qd3+ Kb2 67.Kf3 Rc3 68.Kxe2 Rxd3 69.Kxd3 Kc1 70.Ke4 Kd1 71.Kf3 Ke1 72.Ke4 f3 73.Kxf3 ½-½

**Daniel Herman (2138) / Gunnar Andersen (2290)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be2 d6 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Qd2 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bc6 12.f3 Nd7 13.Be3 a5 14.b3 Nc5 15.Rab1 e6 16.Bd4 Bxd4+ 17.Qxd4 e5 18.Qe3 Ne6 19.Rfd1 f5 20.Rd2 Nd4 21.exf5 Nxf5 22.Qf2 Qg5 23.Rbd1 Ne3 24.Rxd6 Nxd1 25.Rxd1 Rad8 26.Nd5 Kg7 27.Kh1 Rd6 28.Qc5 Rfd8 29.Kg1 b6 30.Qf2 Bxd5 31.cxd5 Rxd5 32.Rxd5 Rxd5 33.Qxb6 Rd2 34.Kf2 Rxa2 35.Qc7+ Kh6 36.Qc8 Qh4+ 37.Ke3 Qd4# 0-1

**ROUND 4****Lior Lapid (2302) / Daniel Herman (2138)**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.dxc5 Qa5+ 6.Nd2 Qxc5 7.c4 d4 8.exd4 Qxd4 9.Qc2 Qe5+ 10.Be2 Bf5 11.Qb3 Nd7 12.Ngf3 Qc7 13.0-0 Bh6 14.Nd4 Bg6 15.N2f3 0-0 16.Nh4 Qf4 17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Rad1 Nc5 19.Qh3 Kg7 20.g3 Qc7 21.Qg4 e6 22.b4 f5 23.Nxf5+ exf5 24.Qd4+ Kh7 25.Qxc5 Qxc5 26.bxc5 Rac8 27.Rd5 Rc7 28.Rfd1 Re8 29.Bf3 Bf8 30.Rd7 Re7 31.Rd8 Bg7 32.R1d5 Bc3 33.Ra8 Bb4 34.h3 Bxc5 35.g4 fxg4 36.hxg4 Red7 37.Rc8 b6 38.Re8 Kg7 39.Kg2 Re7 40.Red8 Bb4 41.g5 Rxc4 42.R5d7 Rc7 43.Rd4 Bc3 44.R4d5 Re5 45.Kg3 Rc5 46.Kg4 Be1 47.Rxe5 Rxe5 48.Rd5 Rxd5 49.Bxd5 Bxf2 50.Kf4 Be1 51.Ke3 Bb4 52.Bb3 Ba3 53.Kf4 Bc1+ 54.Kg4 Kf8 55.Bc4 Ke7 56.Bb3 b5 57.Bd5 a5 58.Bc6 b4 59.Ba4 f6 60.Bc2 fxg5 61.Bxg6 Kd6 62.Kf3 Ke5 63.Bf7 Kd4 64.Ke2 Kc3 65.Bb3 Kb2 66.Kd3 g4 67.Ke2 g3 68.Kf3 Bf4 69.Bd5 Bd6 70.Ke2 a4 71.Kd3 b3 72.axb3 g2 0-1

**Rhett Langseth (2138) / Brian Wall (2209)**

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Qd3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Bg5 g6 6.Bxf6 exf6 7.f4 Na6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.a3 0-0 10.Kf2 Nc7 11.a4 Re8 12.e3 Bd7 13.Be2 b6 14.Nb5 Bf8 15.Nh4 a6 16.Nxc7 Qxc7 17.g4 fxg4 18.Nxg6 hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Bg7 20.Rag1 Rf8 21.f5 Rf7 22.Rxg4 Kf8 23.Qh7 Bxf5 24.Qxf5 Re8 25.Rhg1 Qe7 26.R1g3 Qe5 27.Qh7 1-0

**Gunnar Andersen (2290) / Sullivan McConnell (2224)**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 a6 11.a3 Be7 12.b4 Qc7 13.Bf4 b5 14.Qc2 h6 15.h4 Nb6 16.g4 Nc4 17.Bd2 Qb6 18.Kg2 Qc7 19.Kf1 a5 ½-½

**ROUND 5****Brian Wall (2209) / Lior Lapid (2302)**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5 7.Bd2 Qa4 8.Qg4 g6 9.Qd1 b6 10.Nf3 Ba6 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.0-0 Bxd3 13.cxd3 Qxd1 14.Rfxd1 cxd4 15.cxd4 Nge7 16.g4 h6 17.Kg2 Kf8 18.a4 Kg7 19.Rdb1 Rab8 20.Rb2 Rbc8 21.Rab1 Rb7 22.Rc2 a6 23.Rcb2 Rcb8 24.Kf1 b5 25.axb5 Rxb5 26.Rxb5 Rxb5 27.Rxb5 axb5 28.Ke2 Ng8 29.Be3 Kf8 30.Kd2 Ke8 31.Kc3 Kd7 32.Kb3 Kc7 33.Bd2 g5 34.Be3 f5 35.exf6 Nxf6 36.h3 Kb6 37.Ne5 Kc7 38.Nxc6 Kxc6 39.f4 Nh7 40.Kb4 Kb6 41.Bd2 Kc6 42.Ka5 gxf4 43.Bxf4 Ng5 44.h4 Nf7 45.Be5 Nxe5 46.dxe5 Kc5 47.g5 hxg5 48.hxg5 b4 49.Ka4 Kd4 50.g6 Kc3 51.g7 b3 52.g8Q b2 53.Qb8 Kc2 54.Qc7+ Kd2 55.Qb6 Kc1 56.Qc5+ Kd1 57.Qb4 Kc2 58.Qb3+ Kd2 59.d4 Kc1 60.Qc3+ 1-0

**Gunnar Andersen (2290) / Rhett Langseth (2138)**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Rg1 h6 6.g4 exd4 7.Nxd4 Ne5 8.h3 d5 9.f4 Nfxg4 10.Nf3 Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 Nh2 12.Bb5+ c6 13.Qf2 Bc5 14.Qxc5 Nf3+ 15.Ke2 Nxg1+ 16.Qxg1 0-0 17.Bd3 dxe4 18.Nxe4 Re8 19.Be3 Bf5 20.Nc5 Qd5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Nd3 c5 23.Qg4 Qe4 24.Qf3 Qc4 25.Kd2 Rad8 26.Rg1 Qxa2 27.f5 c4 28.Qg4 Rxd3+ 29.cxd3 Qxb2+ 30.Kd1 Qb1+ 31.Bc1 Qb3+ 0-1

**Sullivan McConnell (2224) / Daniel Herman (2138)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.a4 Bg7 5.Nf3 e6 6.e5 d5 7.Nb5 Bf8 8.d4 Nh6 9.Be3 Nf5 10.Bf2 a6 11.Nc3 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nfxd4 13.Bxd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Qc7 15.h4 h5 16.Be2 Be5 17.Qd3 Bd7 18.Nd1 Rc8 19.c3 b5 20.b4 Bb6 21.Ra3 Ke7 22.a5 Ba7 23.Qg3 Rcg8 24.Qg5+ Ke8 25.Rh3 Qd8 26.Kd2 Qe7 27.Ne3 d4 28.Qxe7+ Kxe7 29.cxd4 Bxd4 ½-½



# The 1981 Boulder Open (& more)

by Curtis Carlson

*"If you want to succeed, you have to put chess first in your life. But that is not enough - you must also put it second and third, as Fischer has done."* - GM Miguel Najdorf

*"As it often happens, when you try to lure the opponent into unfamiliar territory, you can become a victim of your own cunning yourself."* - GM Viktor Moskalenko

*"It's OK to eat fish, cuz they don't have any feelings."* - Kurt Cobain

*"A lifetime is not long enough to learn everything about chess."* - GM Alexander Alekhine

*"Chess is imagination."* - GM David Bronstein

*"If your 'criminal justice reform' includes turning more things into crimes, you might be doing it wrong. Very wrong."* - Steve Horwitz

*"Don't believe everything you see on the internet."* - Abraham Lincoln

*"The amateur is often consumed with gathering material, while ignoring position. The Master is always thinking about how good or bad the position is. Material count is secondary."* - FM Craig Mar

I was a regular participant in Colorado chess tournaments for a dozen memorable years. My first was the 1969 Denver Open, and my last was the 1981 Boulder Open. My five games from Boulder are examined here, which were played just after Ronald Reagan was inaugurated. Life is long and time flies.

*"Chess tactics are rays of lightning in the dark."* - GM Viktor Moskalenko

*"The whole of chess is one masked knight move!"* - Savielly Tartakover

*"...for the highest achievements, one needs the notorious 'killer instinct', a ruthless character; it is not enough to gain victories thanks to the circumstances, one needs to be able to win in spite of them."* - GM Vladimir Tukmakov

In July 1980 my longtime friend Craig Madsen of Utah invited me to play in a Salt Lake City Futurity. My 6.5-4.5 result vs 2200+ opponents got me a 2260 FIDE rating, but my play was terrible and at age 26 I was ready to give up chess and refocus on education, which had been badly neglected. But no one gives up chess! Six months later I was back at the board.

*"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the level of thinking we were at when we created them."* - Albert Einstein

*"I began my first steps as a positional player, but when I was fourteen I felt there was something wrong with this approach. I felt a revolution - I didn't like my old way. I came to understand that chess has something extra besides strategy - attacks,*

*sacrifice, creative ideas."* - GM Boris Spassky

*"Yura commented on his own games, including lost ones, with almost poetic inspiration. For improvement and progress in the game this is extremely important!"* - GM Boris Postovsky (speaking of GM Yuri Razuvaev)

In January 1981, after a failed attempt in a new job, I enrolled at the University of Colorado. When two longtime friends (IM Walter Morris and IM John Donaldson) arrived for the Boulder Open I also entered at the last moment and nearly won the tournament. As usual, my play was terrible, but undeserved good fortune kept me in the running until the last round when Bob Fordon finally took me down. I should have been happy, since I only dropped one of three lost positions, but I still kick myself for not winning. Chess really is one long regret! As always, notes are mine with help from Houdini Chess Engine 6.02 (HCE).

*"If one piece stands badly the whole game stands badly."* - GM Siegbert Tarrasch

*"If a player dominates squares of one colour, the winning breakthrough almost always occurs on a square of the other colour."* - GM Neil McDonald

*"Critical thinkers prize truth and so are constantly on the lookout for inconsistencies, both in their own thinking and in the arguments and assertions of others."* - Gregory Bassham

## Boulder Open - Round 1 / January 31, 1981

Curtis Carlson (2268, age 27)

Brad Lundstrom (1914, age 26)

B19 TC: 40/100 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2013821>) 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 e6 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 Nd7 10.Bf4 Ngf6 11.0-0-0 Nd5 12.Be5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qc7 14.Qf3 (Not sure why I played this. 14.c4+= and 14.Kb1+= give White a slight advantage.) 14...Bd6= 15.Nh5 Bxe5 16.dxe5 0-0-0 17.Rhe1 g6 (This weakening move isn't necessary. Better were 17...Rhg8= and 17...Qe7=) 18.Nf6 Nxf6 19.Qxf6 Rhe8 20.h5 Qe7 (20...gh! 21.Qh6 Rd1 22.Rd1 {22.Kd1? Qa5-/+} 22...Qe5=+) 21.Rxd8+ Kxd8 22.Qf4 g5?+/- (22...gh 23.Qh6 Rg8=HCE) 23.Qd4+ Kc7 24.Qxa7 Qb4 25.c3 (23.Rd1 was better since White has a clear edge after 23...Qf4 24.Kb1 Qe5 25.a3+/- 26.Qe3+/- is also good.) 25...Qg4 26.Qd4?+= (This loses most of White's advantage. 26.Qa5 Kb8 27.Rd1+/- HCE) 26...Qxg2 27.Qd6+ Kb6 28.Rd1 Qxf2 29.Rd4 Rg8? (This loses quickly. It was necessary to keep White's queen off c7 with 29...Rc8=. We were low on time and Brad wanted to safety his rook.) 30.Rb4+ Ka7 31.Qc7 (More more forcing was 31.Ra4 Kb6 32.Qb4 Kc7 33.Qe7 Kb6 34.Rb4 Ka6 35.Qb7 Ka5 36.Ra4 Ka4 37.Qa6#, but this was too deep for me. Overly passive play was always my bane.) 31...Qf1+ 32.Kc2 Qe2+ 33.Kb3 Qd1+ 34.Ka3 Rb8 35.Qa5# 1-0

This was my third and last game game with Brad, who has been a

good friend since we met at the 1972 Denver Open. I was saddened to hear he recently caught the Corona virus, but I'm confident he'll beat it like a Grandmaster beats a beginner.

*"Closed-mindedness means premature intellectual old age." - John Dewey*

*"It doesn't matter how many pieces are hanging, they can only take one at a time." - GM Mikhail Tal*

*"The endgame is the part of the game where the advantages achieved in the opening and the middlegame are turned into victory." - GM Paul Keres*

### Boulder Open - Round 2 / January 31, 1981

Todd Bardwick (2012, age 17)

Curtis Carlson (2268, age 27)

A29 TC 40/100 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2013822>) 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 e4 7.Ng5 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Re8 9.f3 exf3 10.Nxf3 d5 11.d4 Ne4 (This is OK but 11...h6 is more common.) 12.Qd3 (12.Qc2 dc 13.Rb1 f5= HCE) 12...dxc4 13.Qxc4 Nd6 14.Qd5!? (Perhaps too optimistic. HCE prefers 14.Qc5, 14.Qb3= while Stockfish11 likes 14.Qa4=) 14...Be6== 15.Qh5 f6= (HCE's second choice. Best was 15...Bc4 16.Bf4 Be2 17.Bf4 Bd3==) 16.Nd2 Nc4?? (This blunder should have lost. More consistent was 16...Bf7 17.Qf3 Na5= HCE) 17.Be4+- f5 (17...h6 18.Qg6+- is no better) 18.Bxf5?= (It was nice of Todd to return the favor, since Black could resign after 18.Rf5+-) 18...Bxf5 19.Qxf5 (19.Nc4 Be6= HCE) 19...Nxd2 20.Bxd2 Nxd4 21.Qf7+ Kh8 22.cxd4!? (White has the better minor piece so 22.Rad1= or exchanging under better circumstances with 22.Bh6 gh 23.Rad1= were preferable.) 22...Nxd4+ 23.Kh1 Qxd2=+ (Now Black is actually a little better due to White's exposed king.) 24.Rad1?! (This move is natural, but HCE prefers to first weaken Black's pawns with 24.Rac1 c6 25.Rcd1 when a 7th rank capture leaves Black without connected pawns.) 24...Qxe2 25.Rd7 Rg8 26.Rxc7 b5== 27.Qf2 Qe4+ (Since White's king is less secure Black of course keeps queens on the board.) 28.Qf3 Qe5 29.Rd7 a6-/+ 30.Rf7 Rac8 31.Rf8? (31.Rf2 or 31.Rf5 was more stubborn, when it's hard to defeat the active major pieces.) 31...Rcxf8 32.Qxf8 Qd5+ 33.Qf3 Qxa2-+ 34.Rf2 Qc4 35.Rd2 Rc8 36.Qd1 b4 37.Rd8+ Rxd8 38.Qxd8+ Qg8 39.Qa5 b3 40.Qc3 Qb8 41.Qb2 a5 0-1

Unbelievable that I won this, but as Nimzovich said, *"Sometimes the gods are kind."*

*"...chess can be a very cruel sport and if you are weak at some point, your name will not always save you." - GM Viktor Moskalenko*

*"Forks, pins, and checks are the only three tactical weapons in chess." - GM Vasily Smyslov*

*"Creativity is, above all, about searching for the unexpected. When the chips are down and you have nothing to lose, start looking around for moves that you would never normally consider, because chances are that your opponent isn't considering them either." - GM David Smerdon*

This was my second and last game with Todd, who beat me badly in Colorado Springs seven months earlier. He has done much to promote chess with his excellent books and his *Chess Life for Kids* column. At the 1978 Colorado Open he was elected junior representative to the CSCA board, and, unlike his predecessor, wasn't voted out of office the next year. Todd's in Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd\\_Bardwick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd_Bardwick), his excellent article about Bobby Fischer's 1971 Colorado visit is at <https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/wp-thumbnails/2018/09/Fischer-visits-Aug-2018-1.pdf>, and a list of his books (and other achievements) is at <https://coloradomasterchess.com/todd-bardwick/>. He has made good use of the internet.

*"If your eyes are the windows to your soul, your games are the windows to your chess soul. They reveal your style and temperament, your likes and dislikes, your strengths and weaknesses." - GM Neil McDonald*

*"Your eye on the wings, your mind on the center, that is the deepest meaning of positional play." - GM Aron Nimzovich*

*"Watch your spelling. Writers who mispelle a lott of words are properly regarded as illiterate." - Kenneth R. Merrill*



*St. Petersburg 1896: Under Mikhail Chigorin's thoughtful portrait, Emanuel Lasker, Chigorin, Wilhelm Steinitz, and Harry Nelson Pillsbury look at the Two Knights / Classical Variation (C59). They're not sure if 10...Bd6, 10...Qc7, 10...Bc5, or 10...Qd4 is best! In 1892 Steinitz avoided this position twice with 9.Nh3 in his match with Chigorin. Chigorin and Steinitz must have liked each other to sit so close when one of them could have sat on the other side of the table.*

*"It's to Petrosian's advantage that his opponents never know when he is suddenly going to play like Mikhail Tal." - GM Boris Spassky*

*"You cannot be taught chess. You have to learn it for yourself." - GM Mikhail Botvinnik*

*"I hope you see the value of studying classic games. Sometimes they are good for inspiration, sometimes for a tactical idea or a*

*strategic nuance, and sometimes they show you everything you have to do to win a game!" - GM Neil McDonald*

### Boulder Open - Round 3 / January 31, 1981

**Curtis Carlson** (2268, age 27)

**Steve Dillon** (2054, age 21)

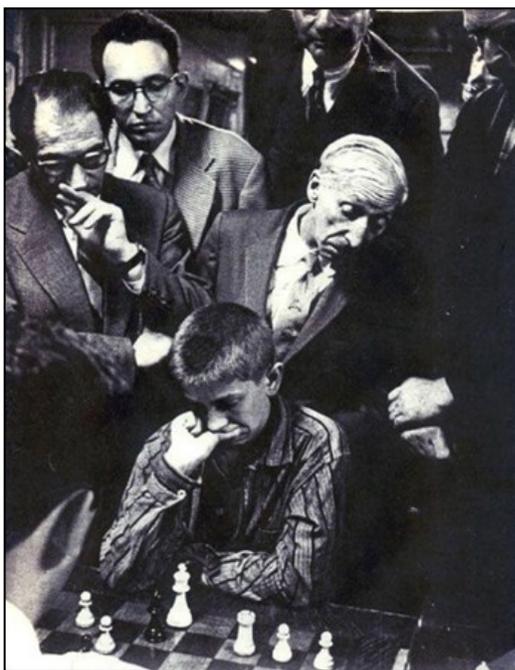
B57 TC: 40/100 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2013823>) 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Qb6 7.Nb3 e6 8.Be3 Qc7 9.Be2 Be7 10.f4 Bd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Kh1 a6 13.a4 b6 14.Bf3 Rab8 15.Qe2 Nb4 16.Bf2 Ne8! (Book is 16...e5 which HCE and Komodo 8 both rate as equal.) 17.Rfd1+= (Also good was 17.Nc1 Bc6 18.Nd3+= trading off the pesky knight, while GM Efim Geller would have liked 17.Bg3+=) 17...Bc6 18.Nd4 Ba8 19.e5 (Since White has more space this impatient move could be delayed. 19.Be1 and 19.Nb1 {a la Karpov} were better.) 19...Bxf3 20.Nxf3 d5 21.f5!?= (Against correct play this impatient move gives White nothing. Right was 21.Rd2+= HCE) 21...Nc6?+/- (21...Qc8= HCE) 22.Qxa6+/- Nxe5?+/- (Bad but still fighting was 22...Qd7 23.Qe2 Qc8+/-) 23.Nxe5 1-0

This was my third and last game with Steve. I don't remember seeing him again after this misfortune, but he was always a difficult opponent.

*"I would settle for 19th, if only Fischer were to finish 20th!" - GM Samuel Reshevsky (referring to Buenos Aires 1960)*

*"One small change in the mechanism of thinking can give a chess player more than six months of work for the sake of it." - GM Vasily Smyslov*

*"If a strong player analyzes a position in depth, the outcome is not a question of style." - GM Bent Larsen*



*New York 1957 - Edward Lasker looks over the shoulder of fourteen year old Bobby Fischer.*

*"Everything, even the most paradoxical chess ideas, are absolutely natural, and you just need to delve deeply into each situation." - GM Yuri Razuvaev*

*"I love playing with an isolated pawn!" & "Chess becomes magical when we use sacrifices." - GM Viktor Moskalenko*

*"Does that mean Bobby Fischer is twice as good as you are?" - Dean Carlson (circa 1970, when my rating was 1400 and Bobby's was almost 2800.)*

My opponent in the fourth round was Mexico's Arturo de la Garza, who tied for first place. It was our second meeting three years after I won our first:

### American Open - Round 7 / November 24, 1977

Los Angeles, California

**Curtis Carlson** (2245, age 23)

**Arturo de La Garza** (1900, age 19)

C42 TC: 40/120 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2014353>) 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Nc3 Bf5 10.Re1 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 dxc4 13.Qxc4 Nd7 14.Qb3 Qc7 15.c4 c5 16.d5 Ne5 17.h3 Rae8 18.Bb2 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Be5 20.Rxe5 Rxe5 21.Qg3 f6 22.Bxe5 Qxe5 23.Qxe5 fxe5 24.Re1 Re8?+/- (24...Rf4= HCE draws easily.) 25.f4 e4 26.Kf2 Kf7 27.Ke3 g6 28.Rb1 b6 29.a4 Re7 30.a5 Rb7 31.axb6 axb6 32.Kxe4 Kf6 33.g4 h6 34.g5+ hxg5 35.fxg5+ Kxg5 36.d6 Rh7 37.Rd1 Rh4+ 38.Ke5 1-0

In the 8th round I drew 2390 rated Jeff Kent to finish 6-2 when a win would have given me a tie for a place prize with two Grandmasters. Unfortunately for me, my good fortune wasn't quite that good.

*"It is hard to describe the feeling I experienced when I realized there would be no match with Fischer. I felt a sense of loss... some kind of vacuum opened up in my life. It did not cause me pain, but a great deal of time passed before I was able to overcome that feeling of regret. I realized that the most vivid thing that could have happened in my life would not take place." - GM Anatoly Karpov*

*"Greater beauty is possible in the study than in the game." - Richard Reti*

*"The consumer surplus generated by Google, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook... in the last few decades has contributed orders of magnitude more to human well-being than the sum total of everything the US government has done in its 200+ years of existence." - Steve Horwitz*

### Boulder Open - Round 4 / February 1, 1981

**Curtis Carlson** (2268, age 27)

**Arturo de la Garza** (2282, age 23)

C89 TC: 40/120 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2013883>) 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 Bb7 (Arturo played this move in an earlier round so in anticipation of getting paired with him I looked up the line the night before. I would never have found the next few moves over

the board.) 12.Qf3 Bd6 13.Bxd5 c6 14.Re2 cxd5 15.d4 (The book stopped here and said the position was +=, but HCE rates it as equal.) 15...Qc7 16.g3 b4 17.Nd2 (As always, passive play. 17.Bf4 {+= HCE and Komodo 12.1} doubles White's f-pawns but enters the ending with an extra pawn and a bad Black bishop.) 17...a5 18.Nf1 Rae8 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Bd2 Re4 21.Ne3 Qd7 22.Qf5 Qc6 23.Rc1 g6 24.Qf6 Re6 25.Qd8+ Re8 26.Qg5+/- (In the post mortem longtime master Vik Pupols said 26.Qa5 was safe but I was reluctant to put my queen in China when a war might erupt in Europe. HCE likes my move more.) 26...Be7 27.Qf4 Qd6!? (27...b3+/- HCE keeps the c-file closed.) 28.Ng4? += (28.cb ab 29.Rc7+/- HCE; 28...Qf4 29.gf Bb4 30.Bb4 ab 31.Rc7+/. Activating my rook was more important than stopping my structure from being weakened.) 28...Qxf4 29.Bxf4 h5 30.Ne3 Rc8! (Now the file stays closed and White's edge is minimal.) 31.Ng2 Bf6? (We both made a lot of mistakes in time pressure. Right was 31...bc 32.bc Ba6= HCE) 32.Kf1? (Again, White should jump at the chance to get his rook in play with 32.cb ab 33.Rc8 Bc8 34.Be5+/-) 32...bxc3 33.bxc3 g5 34.Be3? (More weak play. 34.Bd2+= frees White's rook from defending the c-pawn and leaves e3 vacant for the knight.) 34...Ba6+ 35.Ke1 Rb8 36.Kd2 (36.Bd2= was still right.) 36...Rb2+ 37.Rc2 Rb1 38.Ne1?! (It was foolish to keep playing to win against Black's active pieces. Necessary was 38.Rc1 Rb2 39.Rc2=. Now White drifts into a bad position.) 38...Kf8 39.h3 Bc8 40.Nf3 Bf5 41.Rc1 Rb2+ 42.Ke1 Rxa2 43.Nxg5 Bxg5 44.Bxg5 a4 45.c4 a3 46.Bd2 Rb2 47.cxd5 Bd3 48.d6 a2 49.Bc3 Re2+ 50.Kd1 Rxf2 51.d5 Ke8 52.Be5 Bf5 53.Ke1 Rg2 54.g4 hxg4 55.hxg4 Bxg4 56.Kf1 Rd2 57.Re1 Kd7 58.Bc3 Bh3+ 59.Kg1 Rg2+ 60.Kh1 Kxd6 61.Re3 Rc2 62.Bh8 Bg2+ 63.Kh2 Bxd5+ 64.Kg3 Rc1 65.Ra3 Kc5 66.Ra5+ Kc4?? (A generous move that allows a draw. "Most tournament wins are the result of a dour battle of mutual mistakes, disappointments, and presents." - GM Yuri Razuvaev) 67.Rxa2= Rg1+ 68.Kf4 Rf1+ 69.Ke5 Re1+ 70.Kf4 Re4+ 71.Kf5 Re8 72.Bf6 Be4+ 73.Kf4 Bd3 74.Ra4+ Kd5 75.Rd4+ Ke6 76.Rd8! ½-½

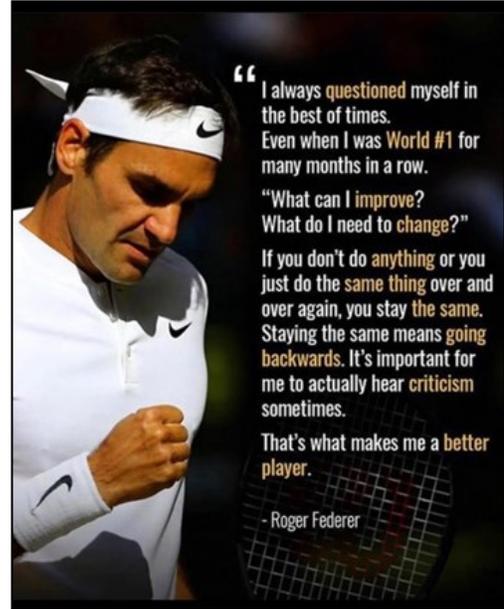
This game took six and a half hours. Going over it again after 40 years is sobering, since it makes me wonder how I could ever have thought I was any good at this accursed game. This ending reminds me of the 8th 1935 Alekhine-Euwe game;

see <https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1013095>. Alekhine was less fortunate.

*"With the shift from a manufacturing to a service economy, many social critics have expressed nostalgia for the era of factories, mines, and mills, probably because they never worked in one."* - Steven Pinker

*"Where there is a risk and a struggle for initiative, there is a worthy place for gambit ideas."* - GM Yuri Razuvaev

*"Without property rights, no other rights are possible. Since man has to sustain his life by his own effort, the man who has no right to the product of his effort has no means to sustain his life."* - Ayn Rand



*Roger Federer plays tennis like Magnus Carlsen plays chess!*

*"I have mentioned many times that success in chess is decided not only by talent, but also other qualities, including the character of a player."* - GM Mikhail Botvinnik

*"I realized how devoted Fischer is to chess. One even gets the impression that without chess he is lonely..."* - GM Boris Spassky (after the 1966 Piatigorsky Cup)

*"One way of looking at chess development is to regard it as a fight for freedom... recognition of this should lift a player above much useless detail, just as if he had vision, from an airplane, of a crowded town."* - Gerald Abrahams

I began the fifth round feeling optimistic - not only I had won two equal positions and received a point and a half from two lost positions, my fifth round opponent wasn't an IM but expert Bob Fordon whom I had already beaten twice. In the 1976 Denver Open he dropped a piece with White on move 17, and I decisively won our second game:

#### Greeley Open - Round 4 / April 13, 1980

**Curtis Carlson (2245, age 27)**

**Robert Fordon (2151, age 30)**

B43 TC 40/120 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2014164>) 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Kh1 Bb4 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.f4 d5 11.e5 Nd7 12.Qe1 Be7 13.Bf3 (13.Qg3 was more active.) 13...0-0 14.b3 Bb7 15.Bb2 c5 16.Qg3 Qd8?+/- (This must be to stop 17.Rae1, but White has no advantage after 16...Nb6 or 16...f5 or 16...Kh8 HCE) 17.Ne2 (Instead of this slow move 17.Rad1!+/- threatens 18.Nd5! ed 19.Bd5 Bd5 20.Rd5 g6 21.Rfd1 exploiting the pin created by Black's 16th. I should have been looking for ways to blow open the center. "It's important to realise when it's time to stop manouvering and it's appropriate to make a commital decision." - GM Zenon Franco) 17...Qb6 (17...f5 and 17...Rb8 were better) 18.Rad1?! (Now this is slow. The time was

right for 18.f5+/-) 18...Kh8? (Also too slow. 18...f5 and 18...f6 were both equal HCE) 19.f5!+/- (At last! "If you want to learn to win, you must not be afraid to disturb the balance. Better yet, learn to disturb it!" - GM Mikhail Tal) 19...d4 20.c3 Bxf3 21.Rxf3 exf5 22.cxd4 g6?+- (This is suicide. The only try was 22...cd 23.Nd4 f4 24.Qf4 Nc5, but Black's game is still bad.) 23.d5 f6 24.d6 f4 25.Rxf4 Bd8 26.e6 Re8 27.e7 (27.ed! was best.) 1-0

This was on my 26th birthday, which was also Garry Kasparov's 17th and Thomas Jefferson's 237th. In the final round I won a bad ending against Dan Wilkinson and tied for first with the late Dave Jellison, whom I drew in round three. It was my last game with my old friend, who died too young in 2018. RIP Dave.

*"Chess is a struggle of intellects."* - GM Emanuel Lasker

*"I realize now that the modern industrial society of which I was so wary has in fact made possible a fantastic standard of living and widespread freedom."* - Johan Norberg

*"To learn is to face transformation."* - Parker J. Palmer

After a game like this it was easy to feel confident about winning again. In retrospect, I should have been more cautious since Bob had worked hard on his game and was strong enough draw IM John Donaldson in the previous round. Now he had an easier opponent in me!

#### Boulder Open - Round 5 / February 1, 1981

**Robert Fordon** (2125, age 31)

**Curtis Carlson** (2268, age 27)

A22 TC 40/120 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2013824>) 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 e4 7.Ne1 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Re8 9.Nc2 b6 (9...d5, 9...d6, and 9...Ne5 are more common. HCE also likes my move and 9...h6=) 10.f3 Bb7 11.fxe4 Nxe4 12.Rf4 Na5 13.Ne3 Nf6? (A weak move. Much stronger was 13...Qe7 that meets 14.Nd5? with 14...Qc5-/) 14.Nd5+= Nxd5 15.cxd5 Qe7 16.e4!? (Natural, but 16.e3+/- gave White a clear advantage. 16.c4+= was also possible.) 16...c6= 17.dxc6 dxc6 18.d4 c5 19.Qf1 cxd4 20.cxd4 Rac8 21.a4 Nb3 (Also good were 21...Rc2 22.Ba3 Qc7= and 21...Nc4= HCE) 22.Ba3 Qd7 23.Rd1 Qxa4 24.Rxf7 Qxa3 (I intended 24...Ba6 but missed 25.Ra7, which is still OK since 25...Bf1 26.Ra4 Bg2 27.Kg2 Re4 28.Rb4 Re3 29.Rb6 Nd4= HCE) 25.Rxb7 Rf8 26.Qd3 Qb2?! (As Magnus said, too weak too slow! This lets White advance his e-pawn and activate his bishop without distraction. Since White has moved heavy pieces off the back rank right was 26...Rc1 27.h3 Qa4! 28.Rc1 Nc1 29.Qe3 Qd4 30.Qd4 Ne2 31.Kh2 Nd4 32.Ra7= HCE) 27.e5!+/= Qf2?+- (Black is worse but still fighting after 27...Nc1 28.Qe3 Ne2 29.Kh1 Nd4 30.e6 Nf5 31.Qd3 Qf6+=) 28.Kh1 Rc2? (A ridiculous move, but 28...Na5 29.Ra7 and 28...Nc1 29.Qd2 Qd2 30.Rd2 were also hopeless.) 29.Qxb3+ (As Brian Wall said, sometimes pieces hang with check! I should have resigned here.) 29...Kh8 30.Qd5 Rd2 31.Rc1 Rxd4 32.Rf7 1-0

This wasn't my finest tournament, since instead of finishing 3.5-1.5 I could easily have gone 1-4 or worse. But despite moves like 16...Nc4 against Bardwick and 28...Qf2 here (not to mention the

hopeless ending vs. de la Garza) I actually gained rating points! Bob tied for first with Arturo, who won a close game against 2300 rated Jerry Kearns in the last round. I was the only one in the tournament to have faced both tournament winners. I put half a dent in one and the other put a huge dent in me.

*"For such conditions one can even play at the North Pole!"* - GM Paul Keres (After learning of the \$125,000 Fischer-Spassky match prize fund in 1972)

*"But even the best and most promising idea cannot be affirmed of its own accord, but is carried out by people, on whom the success of the idea depends."* - GM Nikolai Vladimirovich Krogus

*"For me, Fischer's most salient feature is his technique, which has been perfected to the point of automatism."* - GM Mikhail Tal

I didn't play in another tournament for two years, when I got paired with Grandmasters in consecutive rounds (I drew Biyiasas and lost to Tarjan, which will be the subject of another article) in a small San Jose event. My move to Stockton in 1983 made Brian happy, since he didn't have to face me again. I haven't been in a tournament since 1989, but if he moves to California I might come out of retirement to resume terrorizing him.

*"Fischer is too deeply convinced that he is a genius. Self-confidence that borders on a loss of impartiality in assessing one's potentialities is a poor ally in a difficult contest."* - GM Mark Taimanov (1960)

*"Admit your faults. I would if I had any."* - Milton Berle

*"Nearly all the time you are in the power of chess. You live in a narrow little world of 64 squares, a world of fantasy, not knowing either the past, or the future. You are always in the present. You sense that you are alive, that someone is always challenging you, someone is constantly threatening you."* - GM Larry Evans



*Two almost world champions! WGM Alisa Galliamova with GM Vassily Ivanchuk. Unfortunately they divorced in 2001.*

*Garry Kasparov feared Ivanchuk, which is understandable when you see:*

<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1060207>

*"The strongest weapon in chess is the next move." - GM David Bronstein*

*"The next time you think about offering a draw, ask yourself if you would dare offer Karpov a draw in the position. If not, play on." - IM Robert Wade*

*"Do not forget that chess is played with the mind and not with the hands!" - Georges Renaud & Victor Kahn*

My longtime friend Ken Jones of Independence, Missouri won this nice correspondence game against a strong opponent. Notes in *red italics* are his, *green italics* are mine:

### ICCF 2019-2020

**Kenneth E. Jones (ICCF 2334)**

**Humberto E. Cruz (ICCF 2361)**

*C50 (https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2015377) This is my first ICCF win after almost 40(!) straight draws, the majority of which were with higher-rated opponents. Sometimes I wonder whether all the work is worth it. While I do learn a lot, especially with the necessary deep dives into opening theory, the thrill of victory is increasingly rare: 1.e4 e5 (My opponent has only a small number of ICCF games in the database. We had played some time ago and he sprung an equalizing novelty in the Pirc. I could find no record of his ever playing 1...e5 though.) 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4! (My first use of this in ICCF as well. Winning chances against the Marshall Gambit or the Berlin Defense are around 1%.) 3...Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 (Already a slight misstep. The current praxis is to delay castling.) 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Be7=HCE (This set-up was recommended by Lysyj & Ovetchkin in their 2012 repertoire book "The Open Games for Black", but Delchev countered with the following idea in his "Bc4 Against the Open Games" some 6 years later.) 8.Bg3! (HCE says 8.Nc3, 8.h3, and saving the bishop from ...Na5 with 8.a3 are all equal.) 8...d6 (HCE gives the crazy 8...Na5 9.Ne5 d6 10.Qe1 b6 11.Nf3 Nc4 12.dc Nh5+=) 9.a4! (Saving the better bishop.) 9...Na5 10.Ba2 c5 11.Nbd2 Nh5 (Consistent, but it is not at all clear this exchange is desirable.) 12.c3 Rb8= (I must admit the plan behind this move escapes me even to the present day. 12...Rb8 also mystifies me but it's HCE's first choice! It says 12...Bg5 and 12...Ng3 are equal, while Komodo 13.01 prefers 12...g6. HCE and Stockfish 10 say the text is also equal.) 13.Re1 g6 (The semi-transparent trap 13...Be6? 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Nxe5 Nxc3 16.Ng6 was made possible because White's rook isn't hanging.) 14.h3 (Forcing Black to make a decision.) 14...Nxc3 15.fxc3 Be6?! (But this is a major misevaluation of the resulting positions. Black's play is inconsistent, since the e6 trade his weakens his kingside and gives White a small but enduring edge. In other words, Black should play ...Be6 or ...g6, but not both! After the committal 13...g6 Black would do well to get his king off the a2-g8 diagonal with 15...Kg7. HCE says 15...Bf6, 15...Bd7, and 15...a6 are equal.) 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Kh2! += (Since White's plan is b2-b4, he preempts any disruption that ...Qb6+ would cause.) 17...Nc6 18.b4 cxb4 19.cxb4 Nxb4?! (Best.!? I disagree with Ken here, since this trades the b4 pawn for the valuable e6 pawn and opens the b file for White's rooks. HCE and CWC prefer 19...b5 (see below). It was also better just to play 19...Kg7+= getting off the hot diagonal, and protecting*

*e6 with 19...Qd7+= was possible. White is better in all lines due to Black's damaged kingside, but removing guard from d5 and f5 makes it worse. Black could try and make use of his Rb8 with 19...b5! but after 20.axb5 Rxb5 21.Qa4 Qb6?! 22.Nc4 Qb7 23.Na5! leaves White with the better minor piece. Black should avoid exchanging knights since the difference in strength between the remaining minor pieces is more evident. 21...Qb6!? and 22...Qb7 walks into an a5 fork, so HCE prefers 21...Qb8 22.Nc4 Rc8! 23.Qa2 Nb4 24.Qa7 Rb7+=. Despite Black's weakened kingside pressure on the b4 pawn keeps the game close to level. 22.Rec1+= or 22.Qa2+= may be better.) 20.Qb3 Na6 21.Qxe6+ Kh7 22.Qd5! (Black was threatening 22...Qe8 and 23...Qf7, trading queens. Eingorn described "simple positions" as those with a single strategic theme about which all play revolves. It's easy to see White dominates the light squares with a good knight vs bad bishop. White's strong center is what Black should have avoided, but it's now obvious 12...Rb8! was to protect the b7 pawn.) 22...Bf6 (If now 22...Qe8 23.d4! Black doesn't have 23...Bf6 since 24.Nc4 is too strong. White ultimately wants to play d4 but must be careful not to unleash Black's bad bishop.) 23.Rab1 Qe7 24.Nc4 Rfd8 25.Ne3 Nc5+= (Black is not without some trumps, though - this is an excellent square for his knight. He attacks the weak pawn on d3 and threatens to relieve the pressure with ...Qe6.) 26.Qc4 Bg7 27.a5 (Played not so much to deter ...b7-b6 [Black shouldn't voluntarily weaken even more White squares] but anticipating the defensive idea ...Qd7-a4.) 27...Qd7 28.Rb5 (Now chasing the rook away with ...a6 will allow it to post up on b6.) 28...Rf8 (Interestingly enough, the open f-file doesn't really play much part in the course of the game for either side.) 29.h4! (Giving Black something else to think about. A well-timed h4-h5 will give White another powerful square for a knight on f5.) 29...Rbc8 (Black's lack of space means he can't do much except shuttle his major pieces around. HCE likes 29...Rbd8+= and 29...Qf7+=) 30.Reb1 Qf7 31.Nd5 Qd7 32.h5! g5 (A tough decision. Now Black's bishop is even worse, but on 32...gxh5 33.Nh4 White would not only gain the f5 square but have an opportunity to consider Qc2-e2 to infiltrate the kingside under the right conditions.) 33.Ne3 Rc7? (33...Qf7! is the only hope by forcing an immediate queen trade. Naturally this endgame will be interminable torture for Black as the White knight's bounce around between c4, d5, f5 & g4, but I could not demonstrate a forced win. HCE can't decide between 33...Rc7 and 33...Qf7, which are both +/- After 34.Qf7 Rf7 35.Nd2! Black can only wait with 35...Bf8 and ...Kg8 and ...Rc6. Another try leading to crazy complications is 33...a6 34.Rb6 Qe8, threatening the h5 pawn and ...Nd7. The game could continue 35.Rd6 b5 36.Qd5 Qh5 37.Kg1 Qf7 38.Nf5+/- HCE. It's hard to find a good continuation for Black.) 34.Qd5! (Once again eyeing the weak d6 pawn, and also keeping Black's knight immobile by intensifying pressure on b7.) 34...Rf7 35.Nf5 Bf8 36.d4! (Having established dominance on both flanks, it's time to move in the center. The time is right for this advance since the bishop can't occupy the newly opened long diagonal.) 36...exd4 37.N3xd4 Qe8 38.g4! Rcd7 (38...Qe5+!? 39.Kg1 Qxe4 40.Qxe4 Nxe4 41.Ne6 Rcd7 42.Nxf8+ Rxf8 43.Rxb7 gives excellent winning chances as the weak h6 pawn requires constant care in any endgame. The tactics all work after 38...Qxe4?? 39.Rxc5 Qxb1 {39...Qf4+ 40.Kh3 dxc5 41.Ne6+-} 40.Rxc7 Rxc7 41.Ne6+-) 39.Re1 (While*

there are many promising plans here, White decides to redeploy his forces for the e4-e5 break.) 39...Rf6 (After 39...Qe5+ White has the pleasant choice of 40.Kg1, 40.g3 or even 40.Qxe5. Black never wants to trade and give White both the open efile and a protected outpost on e6.) 40.Re3 Qf7 41.Rb1 Qe8 42.Nf3 Re6?! (HCE suggests 42...Qe6 but it's still close to +/- after 43.Rd1 Kg8 44.Qd4.) 43.Rbe1+- Rd8 44.Kh3! (Removing the king from the h2-b8 diagonal and guarding g4.) 44...Qd7 45.Qa2! (The final piece, removing the queen from a vulnerable spot with plans of raking the a1-h8 & b1-h7 diagonals.) 45...Rde8 46.e5!+- Kh8 47.Qc2 a6 (Denying me the chance to show some nice sharp lines: [47...Qc7 48.exd6 Bxd6 49.Rxe6 Nxe6 (49...Rxe6 50.Qc3+ Kh7 51.Nxh6!! Rxh6 52.Nxg5+ Kg8 53.Re8+ Bf8 and White stairsteps in with 54.Qc4+ Kg7 55.Qd4+ Kg8 56.Qd5+ Kg7 57.Qf5! winning in all lines.) 50.Qb2+ Kh7 sees the incredible 51.Re4!! Nf4+ 52.Rxf4 Bxf4 53.Qf6 with a winning attack, for example Re2 54.Qxh6+ Kg8 55.Qf6! Kh7 56.Qg6+ Kh8 57.g3!! (chasing the bishop from its best square.) Bc1 58.h6 Qd7 59.Nd6 Re7 60.Ne5+-] [47...Qh7 48.exd6! Rxe3 49.Rxe3 Rxe3 50.Qxc5! Rd3 51.Qe5+ Kg8 52.Qe8+-] [47...dxe5 48.Nxe5+- and] [47...d5 48.N3d4+- are simple enough.) 48.exd6 Rxe3 49.Nxe3 Qc6 (49...Bxd6 50.Qc3+ Kg8 51.Nf5 Bf8 (( 51...Rxe1? 52.Nxh6+! Kh7? 53.Nxg5+ Kxh6 54.Qf6#)) 52.Qc4+ Kh7 53.Nxh6!! Kxh6 (53...Bxh6 54.Rxe8 Qxe8 55.Qxc5+-) 54.Rxe8 Qxe8 55.Qg8! (idea 56.Qh8 mate!) would've been more satisfying.) 50.Nf5 Rxe1 51.Qc3+! Kg8 52.Qxe1 (Of course after 52...Bxd6 53.Nxh6+ and eventually g5 will fall as well, and 52...Kh7 53.Qc3 Ne6 54.Qf6 Qd7 55.Ne5 soon settles matters.) 1-0

A fine achievement by Ken. I can imagine Capablanca, Smyslov or Karpov playing this entire game move by move, except for 46.e5 which reminds me of Tal, Alekhine, or Kasparov! If they play again, Humberto will probably keep his e6 pawn.

*"...playing against 16 year old Fischer proved by no means easy. His immeasurable thirst for victory and considerably improved skill make him a dangerous opponent for any contestant. Fischer disliked easy draws and fought on until the material on the board was completely exhausted."* - GM Mikhail Tal (referring to the 1959 Zurich International tournament)

*"I am convinced, the way one plays chess always reflects the player's personality. If something defines his character, then in will also define his way of playing."* - GM Vladimir Kramnik

*"The pawns are the soul of chess, but they are also soldiers."* - GM Viktor Moskalenko

*Postscript: Ken's response to my notes: ...let me expound on why I thought 19...Nxb4 best. Take the game position after 25...Nc5. Though White has pressure on the b-file, he isn't going to win the game on the queenside. I can't create a weakness there. In fact, under the right circumstances Black would allow a trade of both his pawns for White's a-pawn if he can generate play on the open lines. The remaining pawns are then basically symmetrical as White's doubled g-pawns don't mean much, especially in any kind of endgame. Even without that queenside dissolution, as the game progressed I found lots of variations that would end up +/- but were exceedingly hard to crack. I even alluded to that in my notes to 33...Rc7. In variations after 19...Rc8 20.b5, though, one*

*can foresee White's continued expansion on the queenside, creating a Black pawn weakness there, then pressuring it in conjunction with a central breakthrough. Perhaps it's a difference of opinion on practical chances of a win. Anyway, your evaluation could ultimately be proven to be valid, and as the above tangent is a little long-winded, your note should stand... I agree with your game suggestion of 42...Qe6 as better, and interestingly, it was one of the times Black can try to dissolve the queenside as I mentioned above. After 43.Rd1 b6!?! 44.axb6 axb6 45.Qc2 White will eventually pick up the b-pawn. After a lot of analysis I found a way to limit Black's counterplay and reach a winning position. It's hard to disagree with this! More thanks to Ken for this insightful followup.*

*"Nothing is more powerful than reason."* - Saint Augustine

*"Caissa looks after her own. The most experienced players know that even the bitterest feelings after a defeat soon start to dissipate, the moment one wins again."* - GM Yuri Razuvaev

*"Many feel powerless in the age of globalization, and that feeling is understandable when we consider how much is determined by the decentralized decisions of millions of people. If others are free to run their own lives, we have no power over them. But in return, we acquire a new power over our own lives. That kind of powerlessness is a good thing. No one is in the driver's seat because all of us are steering."* - Johan Norberg

Ken Jones has been my good friend since we met at the 1977 American Open. He began his tournament career in 1970 at age 14, and has been one of Missouri's top players more than 30 years. He's a five time state Champion who has also done well in several of USCF's Absolute (**correspondence**) Championships, where his best result was in 1992 when he tied for third only half point out of first. Ken's USCF rating peaked at 2350 in the mid 1980's, and in retirement he still maintains a Master's rating despite the time demands of his two year old granddaughter. I look forward to seeing more of his triumphs.

*"Inexact criticism of master games harms players of all classes, even tyros; it tends to falsify one's sense of position and to make one either too daring or too cautious in judging combinations."* - Cecil Purdy (first world correspondence champion)

*"The psychological value of a move can sometimes (more than) compensate for its lack of objective value."* - GM Davorin Kuljasevic

*"Attacking moves should look pretty, but good defensive moves often appear quite unattractive."* - GM Boris Gulko

*"My whole take on Libertarianism is simply that I don't know what's best for other people."* - Penn Jillette

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to share memories. I'm at [curt2309@comcast.net](mailto:curt2309@comcast.net) if anyone cares to shower me with lavish praise, or make fun of Brian Wall.



## 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](http://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: [Mkakhak@sopris.net](mailto:Mkakhak@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](http://HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org).

Contact: Frank Atwood (720) 260-1493 or by email: [FrankAtwood@HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@chessmatesfc.com) or go to [www.chessmatesfc.com](http://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](http://www.SpringsChess.org) or email Richard "Buck" Buchanan at [buckpeace@pcisys.net](mailto: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](http://www.DenverChess.com).

**Denver Chess / Meetup.com:** This group is run through the social site [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com), and our page is [www.Meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess/](http://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](mailto:avs1cup@yahoo.com) or through the group's [Meetup.com](http://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](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com).

On the web - [groups.yahoo.com/group/fort\\_collins\\_chess](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.LongmontChess.com) for current meeting location. Email Todd Burge at [Admin@LongmontChess.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:duilen@gmail.com).

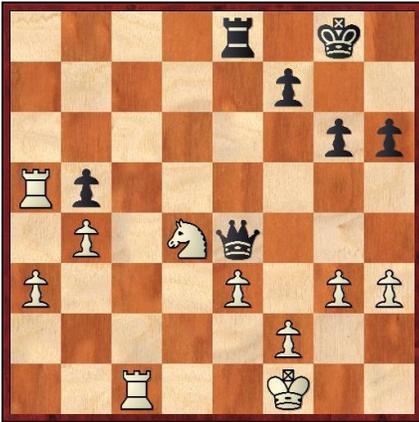
**Stonebridge Games Chess Club:** (Longmont) Meets Tuesdays at 5:00pm. 449 Main Street, Longmont. Call (303) 776-3796 for more info.



# 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. Mark McGough - Brian Rountree**  
*Club Chess!! Strong Swiss / 2019*  
Black to move



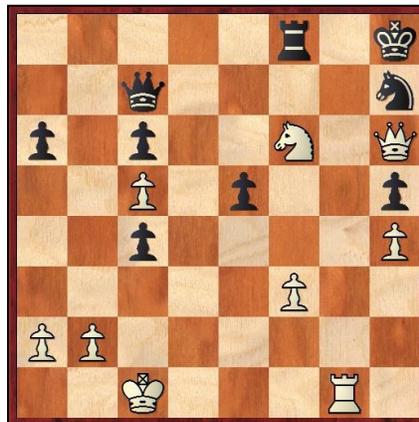
**2. Daniel Herman - Vibi varghese**  
*Pikes Peak Open / 2019*  
White to move



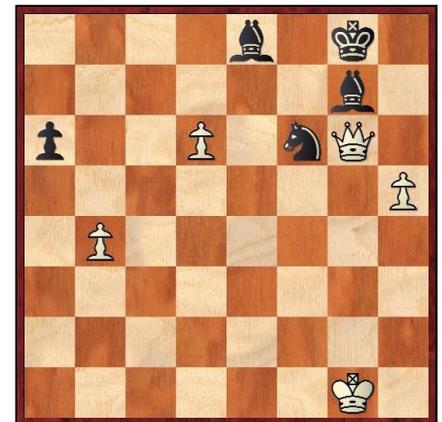
**3. Christopher Motley - Elliott Woo**  
*Pikes Peak Open / 2019*  
Black to move



**4. Sami Al-Adsani - Daniel Herman**  
*Pikes Peak Open / 2019*  
Black to move



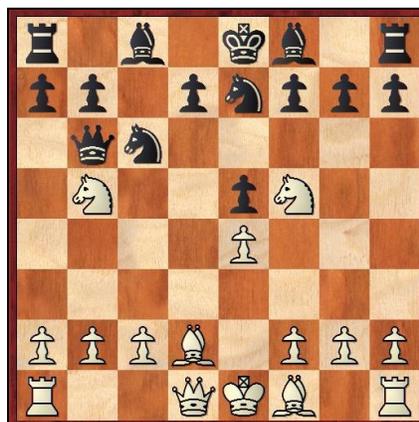
**5. Jesse Hester - Barry Rabinovich**  
*Pikes Peak Open / 2019*  
White to move



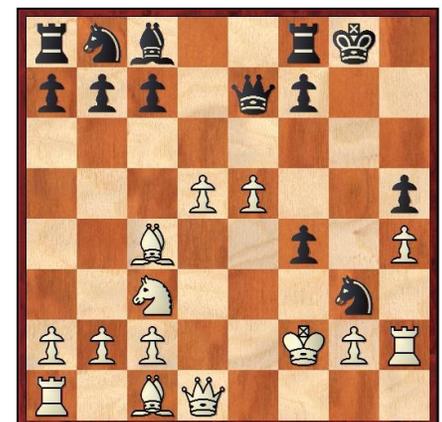
**6. Gunnar Anderson - Eric Billaux**  
*Pikes Peak Open / 2019*  
White to move



**7. Ted Doykos - Phillip Brown**  
*DCC October / 2019*  
Black to move



**8. Coleman Hoyt - Owen Christ**  
*DCC Fall Classic / 2019*  
White to move



**9. Brian Rountree - Mark McGough**  
*Club Chess!! Strong Swiss / 2019*  
Black to move



## Tactics Time Answers:

1. **33...Qh1+** Skewers the king and rook **34.Ke2 Qxc1**.
2. **17.Rxg7!!** White cannot recapture because of **17...Kxg7 18.Qh6+ Kh8 (18...Kg8 19.Rg1 Kh8 20.Qg7#) 19.Bd4 Kg8 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Qxh7#**.
3. **22...Nd5** Forks the bishop and rook.
4. **14...Bxf2+!** If White recaptures **15...Ng4+** followed by **16...Ne3** winning the queen.
5. **28.Qxf8+!! Nxf8 29.Rg8#** Arabian Mate.
6. **64.Qxe8+!!** Parting with the lady. **64...Nex8 65.d7** and the pawn will queen.
7. **24...c4** Traps the queen.
8. **9.Nfd6+ Kd8 10.Nxf7+ Ke8 11.Nbd6#** ...is a beautiful horse ballet!
9. **14...Qc5+** Forks the king and bishop in a crazy King's Gambit position.



# The Chess Detective®

## Raking Bishops

by NM Todd Bardwick

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

Most chess players understand the power of the bishop pair.

When the light and dark squared bishops are on diagonals next to each other, they can be quite a powerful attacking force, and are called raking bishops or Harrwitz bishops, named for German chess master, Daniel Harrwitz (1823-1884).

A common position for Harrwitz bishops occur in the Danish Gambit after 1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Bc4 cxb2 5.Bxb2.

Raking bishops work together similar to that of a rook-rook roller when checkmating a lone king.

Here is a position from Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1987 between Grandmasters Nigel Short and Jan Timman that shows the power of raking bishops.

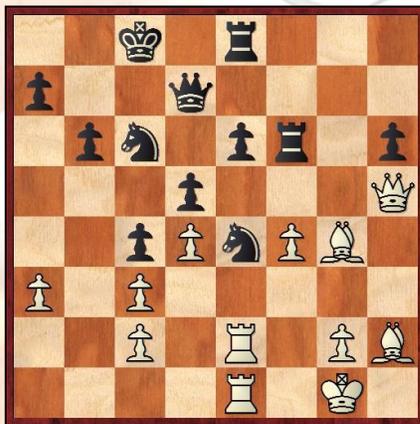


George Rotlewi



Akiba Rubinstein

Timman



Short

Position after 32...Ne4

33.Rxe4! dxe4 34.d5 Nd8 35.Qe5 (The diagonal powers of the queen act as a third bishop!) 35...Rf5 36.dxe6 Qd2 (36...Rxe5 loses to 36.exd7+ followed by 37.dxe8Q) 37.Qxe4 Rd5 38.e7+ Kc7 39.f5+ Resigns

Probably the most famous game of all time that demonstrates the power of raking bishops is Akiba Rubinstein's masterpiece while playing Black in a game against George Rotlewi in Lodz, Poland, 1907.

Rubinstein



Rotlewi

Position after 19.e5

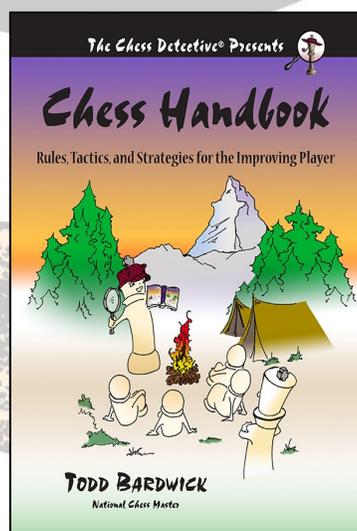
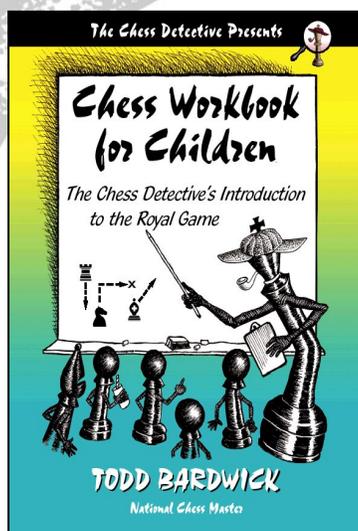
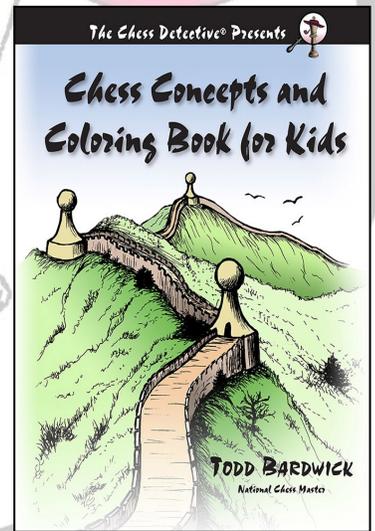
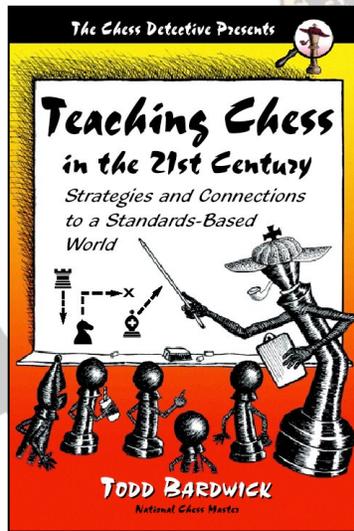
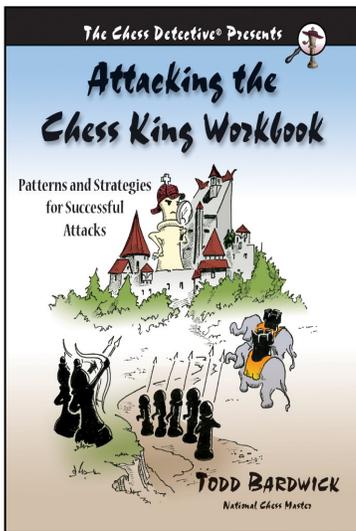
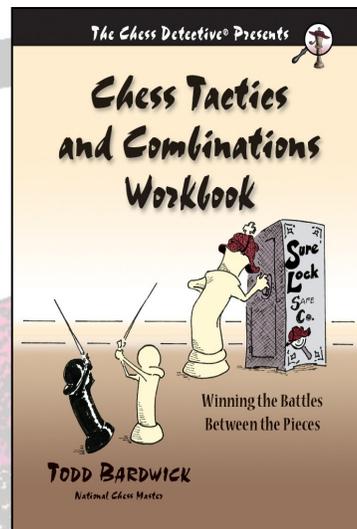
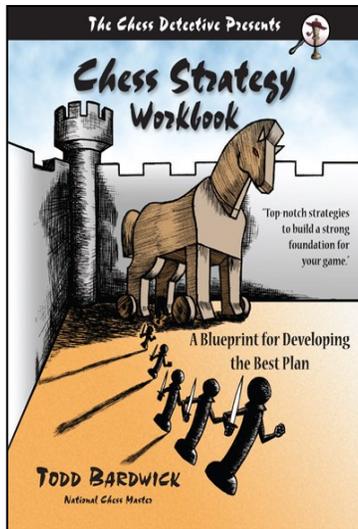
19...Bb6+ 20.Kh1 Ng4! 21.Be4 Qh4 22.g3 Rxc3!! (Sacrificing the queen while reducing the protection of the bishop on e4) 23.gxh4 Rd2!! (A second sacrifice, chasing the queen away from protecting the e4 bishop) 24.Qxd2 Bxe4+ 25.Qg2 Rh3! (26...Rxh2 mate cannot be stopped) 26.Resigns

Black's awesome bishops created the opportunities for the successful piece sacrifices.



NM Todd Bardwick is the author of 'Chess Strategy Workbook', 'Chess Tactics & Combinations Workbook' & 'Attacking the Chess King Workbook for Rated Players'

He can be reached at [www.ColoradoMasterChess.com](http://www.ColoradoMasterChess.com)



NM Todd Bardwick's books can be purchased at Amazon.com here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y4dk56ky>



## Renew your CSCA membership today!

*If your membership has or is about to expire, it is time to act!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



- Junior (under 20) (\$10)
- Adult (20-64) (\$15)
- Senior (over 64) (\$10)

Make checks payable to the CSCA.  
Contact the CSCA at [CSCA@CovingtonComputers.com](mailto:CSCA@CovingtonComputers.com)  
to learn of mailing address to send in completed form and payment.