

# COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT

**KEVIN MCCONNELL'S  
MASTERS & EXPERTS  
INVITATIONAL**

**CHESS  
TOURNAMENT**



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.

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- 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.

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*On the cover:*

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## From the Editor

New Year - new hopes & dreams! Happy New Year everybody!

Considering what has been going on these past two years, Colorado chess has been chugging along. Not to mention the various chess clubs in the state, but wonderful individuals like Kevin McConnell who along with Mirza Peljto are establishing a reputation for themselves by running some nice tournaments called the *Masters and Experts Invitational* - the latest edition can be read about here in this issue. Thank you to all who are keeping the faith and moving Colorado chess right along!

There are still challenges ahead for chess in our great state but I have full faith and confidence that we will break through this and get back to playing chess at a regular pace - with even more opportunities for over-the-board play yet to be scheduled.

I wish for everyone for the coming year, good health, happiness and plenty of time for recreation hobbies, just like our beloved game of kings called chess!

May Caissa be with you.  
*Fred Eric Spell*

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#### 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))

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# CSCA President – Brad Lundstrom’s Membership Message

I am hoping you all had a wonderful holiday season. and wishing you a very happy 2022!

Looking at the fall of 2021, I was so impressed at the busy chess activities at the *Denver Chess Club*, the McConnell Masters/Experts tournament series, the Summit School of chess tournaments and many more across our state. Special recognition goes out to Earle Wikle and the *Colorado Springs Chess Club* with the most active local tournament schedule in Colorado!

We are blessed in Colorado with many excellent chess teaching programs headed by **Lior Lapid** - PALS Chess, **Jesse Cohen** - Summit County Chess, **Todd Bardwick** - Chess Academy at Denver, **Zachary Bekkedahl** - Chessmates, and many private chess coaches that stay very busy teaching the benefits of chess. There are new chess clubs in Fort Collins-CSU and Greeley-UNC that are seeing many new players of all ages coming into our game. Our CSCA Vice President, **Jesse Cohen**, has put in a great deal of effort and communication implementing an online chess league for high school chess teams that is rapidly gaining steam! I direct a seniors chess program in Greeley and we have members up into their 90’s still learning and playing chess regularly. Many other activities are booming across Colorado and if you’d like to be recognized let us know about what you are doing in your own chess adventures.

One of my goals has been to get Colorado chess out into mainstream media. Our recent press releases were picked up by the Denver Post newspaper and KDVR Television Fox News and both did wonderful stories on our own amazing **Griffin McConnell** and his adventures in Colorado Chess, national and international tournaments. Be sure you keep up with our CSCA website for current news and upcoming tournaments.

Plans are either completed or close to being tied up with many state championship events scheduled the first half of this year. Check Colorado Chess Upcoming Tournaments for the Colorado K-12 Scholastic Championships, the Colorado Closed Championship, the Senior Open, Class Championships, a new 10 minute Colorado Championship and of course our Colorado Open at the end of next summer, Labor Day weekend.

Some great news ... US Senior Tournament Director, **Tom Nelson** has agreed to direct all of our CSCA tournaments. Also, a word of appreciation to CSCA member at large **Andy Starr**, who is working with Tom in implementing **Dean Clow**’s Caissa program into our upcoming tournament plans. Our CSCA Board has received a great deal of feedback and suggestions and we have developed an effective checklist to ensure tournaments run like clock work going forward. You will be hearing more about the North American Disabilities Cup to be held in Denver in March and a Denver Open in May.

Finally, we are all so fortunate and appreciative of our very talented and hard working editor, **Fred Eric Spell** with the quarterly *Colorado Chess Informant* which is available free and online at our CSCA website.

We are all looking forward to an awesome 2022 in Colorado Chess and are thankful for all of you that enjoy and participate in the joys of chess!

**Brad Lundstrom**  
*President / Colorado State Chess Association*



# Colorado State Chess Association Board Meeting

A special board meeting was called by CSCA President Brad Lundstrom, and held online on October 27, 2021. The meeting began at 7:00pm with Brad Lundstrom, CSCA President, presiding and Scott Lett, Secretary reporting minutes.

## 1. In attendance:

### Voting Board Members:

Brad Lundstrom, President  
Jesse Cohen, Vice President  
Scott Lett, Secretary  
Joshua Samuel, Treasurer  
Andrew Starr, At-large Representative  
Alayne Wilinsky, At-large Representative

### Non-Voting Attendees:

Shirley Herman  
Paul Covington  
Tom Nelson

## 2. Purpose of meeting

The purpose of the special meeting was a regular board meeting.

## 3. Summary:

Brad brought the meeting to order.

Brad recapped the financial outcome of the Colorado Open. He also gave a proposal for staffing future tournaments, revising his proposal from the previous meeting.

Brad recapped some press coverage of CSCA events and in particular article(s) about Griffin McConnell.

Scott recapped the last meeting, a special CSCA board meeting to address lessons learned from the Colorado Open.

Joshua and Scott recapped the progress of one of the tournament committees.

Scott gave an update on curating a CSCA membership roster, which at present doesn't exist, from the online database of membership on [caissachess.net](http://caissachess.net). There was a variety of discussion about standardizing the use of caissachess for directing tournaments and making financial reports. There was also a discussion of the proposal to increase the minimum number of directors at future tournaments.

Brad led the discussion of the proposed CSCA tournament schedule for 2022.

Paul recapped a recent informational USCF meeting that he attended in place of Brad, who could not attend.

## 4. Actions taken:

Board Votes / none taken.

## 5. Discussions, Followup Assignments from the President:

Scott to follow up with Dean Clow, Brad wishes to sit in.

Scott to draft a tournament guideline. (Later, Brad reassigned this to himself, and Paul provided a TD checklist from the USCF).

Paul to provide a link to his recording of this meeting.

Brad to begin searching for venues for tournaments.



## 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: [Mkahlhak@sopris.net](mailto:Mkahlhak@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 Frank Deming at [frank.deming@icloud.com](mailto:frank.deming@icloud.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.



# Colorado Masters & Experts Invitational Tournament Series

by CSCA President Brad Lundstrom

Sixteen of Colorado's best chess players accepted their invitations and met for a one day, three round G/70; d/05 chess tournament at the Embassy Suites North in Denver on Sunday, December 19, 2021. The tournament was part of an ongoing series that Kevin McConnell, father of chess prodigies Sullivan and Griffin McConnell, organizes to allow some of Colorado's strongest players to meet.

Kevin McConnell and Mirza Peljto generously covered the tournament expenses, allowing 100% of the registration fees of \$800 TO be awarded to the tournament participants as prizes. Thanks to our outstanding US Chess Senior Tournament Director, Tom Nelson who did an excellent job running the event. Also, a thank you to DuWayne Langseth who filled in for the final round to ensure all the players had opponents.

Many more exciting highlights followed the main tournament when a series of players with tied scores played tie break matches with two - 5 minute games to be followed by an Armageddon game if necessary. However, it never came to that as all the matches were decisive.

National Masters: Gunnar Andersen and Sullivan McConnell both drew with National Master Lior Lapid and ended up tied for 1st at 2.5. Their playoff tiebreak with the two - 5 minute games was won by Sullivan 2-0 so he earned 1st place money. Lior Lapid finished tied for 3rd with National Masters: Akshat Jain, Brian Wall and Zachary Bekkedahl. In their tie break playoffs, Zachary Bekkedahl went 2-0 over Akshat Jain and Lior Lapid scored 2-0 over Brian Wall. In the final playoff series Lior Lapid scored 1.5- .5 over Zachary Bekkedahl to claim the 3rd place prize.

In the Expert playoffs, Neil Bhavikatti and Griffin McConnell played off with Neil winning 2-0 and earning the 1st Experts prize. Many great match ups and games were played and as early as round one this year's Colorado Open Co-State Champions: Lior Lipad and Rhett Langseth squared off. In a fiercely contested and wildly complicated game, Lior prevailed in the longest game played that round.

It was great to see Zachary Bekkedahl playing again after a long break and his first round loss to Gunnar Andersen was an epic struggle annotated by Gunnar elsewhere in this issue.

So many other great games were played by this excellent group. I was impressed at the friendship, respect and goodwill all the players had for each other.

Many of these top players will be meeting again soon in a future McConnell's series and we will look forward to seeing many of

them at the Colorado Closed Championship scheduled for March 2022.

## Games from the Masters & Experts Invitational

**Zachary Bekkedahl** (2161)

**Gunnar Anderson** (2354)

Round 1

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.O-O Be7 7.b3 O-O 8.Bb2 Qc7 9.Nbd2 e5 10.Nc4 h6 11.Ne3 Re8 12.Nh4 Be6 13.f4 Rad8 14.f5 Bc8 15.Qe1 b5 16.Nf3 Bb7 17.g4 Nd4 18.h4 Nh7 19.c4 bxc4 20.bxc4 Rb8 21.Bc3 Bf6 22.g5 hxg5 23.Ng4 (23.hxg5) 23...Qe7 24.hxg5 Nxc5 25.Bxd4 cxd4 26.Nxf6+ (26.Nxc5 Bxc5 27.Qg3) 26...Qxf6 27.Qg3 Nxf3+ 28.Bxf3 Be6 29.Kf2 Rb2+ 30.Be2 Kf8 31.Rh1 (31.Rg1) 31...g6 32.Rh6 Ke7 33.Rg1 Re8 34.Qf3 Rxa2 35.fxg6 Rxe2+ 0-1

**Brad Lundstrom** (1914)

**Akshat Jain** (2241)

Round 1

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.e4 e6 6.Nge2 Nge7 7.O-O O-O 8.d3 a6 9.a4 d6 10.f4 Nd4 11.Kh1 Bd7 12.Rb1 Rb8 13.b4 Nxe2 14.Nxe2 b5 15.bxc5 dxc5 16.axb5 axb5 17.cxb5 Bxb5 18.f5 Qxd3 19.Rxb5 Qxd1 20.Rxd1 Rxb5 21.fxe6 fxe6 22.Nf4 Rfb8 23.Nxe6 Be5 24.Bf1 Rb1 25.Bc4 Kh8 26.Ng5 ½-½

**Anthony Whitt** (1876)

**Brian Wall** (2200)

Round 1

1.e4 e6 2.b3 d5 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Qg4 Nc6 7.Nf3 Nb6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.d3 c4 11.dxc4 dxc4 12.O-O h5 13.Qg3 h4 14.Qg4 h3 15.g3 Bc5+ 16.Kh1 Qe7 17.Nbd2 O-O-O 18.Ne4 Nd5 19.Bd4 Bxd4 20.Nxd4 c5 21.Nd6+ Kb8 22.bxc4 cxd4 23.cxd5 exd5 24.Rab1+ Ka8 25.Qf3 Bc6 26.Qd3 Rxd6 27.exd6 Qe4+ 28.Qxe4 dxe4 29.Rfd1 d3 30.cxd3 exd3+ 31.Kg1 Rd8 32.Kf2 Rxd6 33.Ke3 Re6+ 34.Kd4 Ba4 35.Rd2 Bc2 36.Rb5 Ra6 37.Rb2 Rd6+ 38.Kc5 Re6 39.Rbxc2 dxc2 40.Rxc2 Kb7 41.Kd5 Re1 ½-½

**Gunnar Andersen** (2354)

**Neil Bhavikatti** (2182)

Round 2

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Ne2 O-O 6.g4 Ne4 7.Bg2 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bd6 9.O-O Nd7 10.Rb1 Qe7 11.Bg3 c6 12.Qd3 e5 13.c4 dxc4 14.Qxc4 Nb6 15.Qc3 e4 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Ng3 Bxc4 18.Nxe4 Qh6 (18...Qg6) 19.Ng3 Bh3 20.Bxh3 Qxh3 21.e4 Rae8 22.Qa5 Nc4 23.Qc3 Nd6 24.f3 f5 25.Qc5 Rf6 26.Rbe1 Rh6 27.Rf2 f4 28.Ne2 Rg6+ 29.Kh1 Qh4 30.Ref1 Rf8 31.Nc1 Nf7 32.Nd3 Ng5 33.Ne5 Rh6 34.Rg2 Rh5 35.Rfg1 Re8

36.Qxa7 Qh3 37.Qxb7 h6 38.Qf7+ Kh7 (38...Nxf7) 39.Qg6+ Kg8 40.Qxe8+ Kh7 41.Qg6+ Kg8 42.Qf7+ Kh7 43.Qxf4 1-0

**Brian Wall** (2200)

**Brad Lundstrom** (1914)

Round 2

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Be7 6.Nf3 O-O 7.e4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 b6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.O-O Bb7 11.Re1 h6 12.b4 c6 13.Bb2 Qc7 14.Rad1 Rfd8 15.c5 Nd5 16.Ne5 N7f6 17.g3 b5 18.f4 a5 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Ng5 hxg5 21.fxg5 b4 22.gxf6 Bxf6 23.axb4 Nxb4 24.Bh7+ Kh8 25.Qb3 Kxh7 26.Qxb4 Bxe5 27.dxe5 Rd5 28.Rxd5 cxd5 29.Bd4 Bc6 30.Qb6 Ra7 31.Qxc7 Rxc7 32.Ra1 Kg6 33.Kf2 Kf5 34.Kf3 f6 *(The following is a rough re-creation - the final position is accurate.)* 35.g4+ Kg6 36.Kf4 Kf7 37.h4 Ke7 38.Ra6 Kf7 39.h5 fxe5+ 40.Kxe5 Ke7 41.g5 Kf7 42.g6+ Ke7 43.Ra2 Be8 44.Ra6 Bd7 45.Kf4 Kf8 46.Rb6 Bc6 47.Ke5 Rc8 48.Kxe6 Be8 49.Kxd5 Rd8+ 50.Kc4 Bd7 51.Rb7 Bc6 52.Rf7+ Ke8 53.Rxg7 Bg2 54.Kc3 Kf8 55.Rf7+ Ke8 56.h6 Bd5 1-0 *(Time)*

**Brad Lundstrom** (1914)

**Griffin McConnell** (2099)

Round 3

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 d5 3.Bb2 g6 4.c4 c6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 O-O 7.d4

a6 8.O-O b5 9.Ne5 Bb7 10.Nd2 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.c5 a5 13.a3 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.f4 b4 16.axb4 axb4 17.Nf3 e6 18.Qd2 Qa5 19.Bd4 Ba6 20.Ne1 Ra8 21.Nd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 Rfb8 23.Ra1 Qc7 24.e4 Bf8 25.Qe3 Ra3 26.f5 Bg7 27.fxe6 fxe6 28.Bh3 Re8 29.Rae1 Raa8 30.exd5 cxd5 31.Rf2 Nb8 32.Ref1 Nc6 33.Rf7 Qxf7 34.Rxf7 Kxf7 35.Bf1 Rab8 36.h4 Ke7 37.h5 Kd7 38.hxg6 hxg6 39.Bd3 Rg8 40.Bxg6 Bh6 41.Qxh6 Nxd4 42.Kg2 Kc6 43.Bf7 Rxg3+ 44.Kh2 Rxb3 45.Bxe6 Nf3+ 46.Kg2 Kxc5 47.Bxd5 Kxd5 48.Qd6+ Ke4 49.Qxb8 Nxe5 50.Qb7+ Kf4 51.Qc7 Rb2+ 52.Kh3 Ke4 53.Qb7+ Kd4 54.Qb6+ ... 0-1 *(White later lost in a time scramble.)*

**Brian Wall** (2200)

**Akshat Jain** (2241)

Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 e6 9.O-O Be7 10.Qe2 Nd5 11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 O-O 13.Bd3 dxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qxe5 Bf6 16.Qe4 g6 17.Be3 Qc7 18.c4 Bd7 19.Rac1 Bc6 20.d5 Bd7 21.Qf3 Be5 22.h4 Rfc8 23.h5 exd5 24.cxd5 Qd8 25.g3 Bh3 26.Rfe1 Qf6 27.Qxf6 Bxf6 28.hxg6 hxg6 29.Rxc8+ ½-½



*Griffin McConnell - Neil Bhavikatti*



*Lior Lapid - Brian Wall*



*Zachary Bekkedahl - Akshat Jain*



*Brad Lundstrom - Griffin McConnell*



*Joshua Samuel - Neil Bhavikatti*



*Rhett Langseth - Zachary Bekkedahl*



*Lior Lapid - Gunnar Andersen*



*Anthony Whitt - Raymond Haskins*



*Akshat Jain - Brian Wall*



*James Neil - Sullivan McConnell  
With tournament organizer Kevin McConnell  
watching the game.*



*Tom Nelson - US Senior Tournament Director*

# Masters & Experts Invitational Denver, Colorado / December 19, 2021 Chief Tournament Director - Tom Nelson

## Final Standings

Player (Rating)	Pts.	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3
1. <b>Gunnar Andersen</b> (2354)	2.5	W7	W6	D3
2. <b>Sullivan McConnell</b> (2272)	2.5	W15	D3	W9
3. <b>Lior Lapid</b> (2299)	2.0	W12	D2	D1
4. <b>Akshat Jain</b> (2241)	2.0	D14	W11	D5
5. <b>Brian Wall</b> (2200)	2.0	D11	W14	D4
6. <b>Neil Bhavikatti</b> (2182)	2.0	W17	L1	W10
7. <b>Zachary Bekkedahl</b> (2161)	2.0	L1	W17	W12
8. <b>Griffin McConnell</b> (2099)	2.0	W16	L9	W14
9. <b>James Neal</b> (2201)	1.5	D10	W8	L2
10. <b>Joshua Samuel</b> (1905)	1.5	D9	W16	L6
11. <b>Anthony Whitt</b> (1876)	1.5	D5	L4	W16
12. <b>Rhett Langseth</b> (2140)	1.0	L3	W15	L7
13. <b>DuWayne Langseth</b> (1923)	0.5	U	U	D15
14. <b>Brad Lundstrom</b> (1914)	0.5	D4	L5	L8
15. <b>Richard Roloff</b> (1919)	0.5	L2	L12	D13
16. <b>Raymond Haskins</b> (2231)	0.0	L8	L10	L11
17. <b>Mirza Peljto</b> (1852)	0.0	L6	L7	U

**CSCA**  
COLORADO STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION

# Miscellaneous Games & More

by Curtis Carlson

*“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.” - George Orwell*

*“Nonsense remains nonsense, even when talked by world famous scientists.” - John C. Lennox*

*“A match for the world championship ultimately means playing for two titles at once, champion and ex-world champion!” - GM David Bronstein*

*“The nature of man is to try to solve problems and innovate; but over the millenniums, people had many good ideas for products and services but no way to make them a reality, because they often required capital, property rights, and free markets” - Richard Rahn*

*“The institutions of political exchange reverse the invisible hand, turning acts that claim to benefit the public interest into outcomes that largely benefit private interests.” - Steve Horwitz (1964-2021)*

*“The secret to happiness in life isn't what you see, but what you overlook.” - Clay Johnson (fictional TV character)*

*“There can never be peace in a victimhood culture.” - Jonathan Haidt*

*“Life is a game of chess.” - Miguel Cervantes*

*“...when your opponent is out of plans, it is very useful to play patiently. Patient play reduces the risk of blunders, and can potentially confuse the opponent.” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

*“Music is probably the only real magic I have encountered in my life. There's not some trick involved with it. It's pure and it's real. It moves, it heals, it communicates and does all these incredible things.” - Tom Petty*

*“If you are the smartest person in the room, then you are in the wrong room.” - Confucius*

Since my last three articles were about US Opens this time I'll just share unforgettable games and random memories. In 55 years of chess playing there's a lot to ponder! It's amazing how time flies.

*“The last person to trust with power is someone who is dying to have it. The best person to wield power is someone who is reluctant to do so, but who will do it for a while as a civic duty. That is why term limits should make it impossible to have a whole career in politics.” -Thomas Sowell*

*“Lots of things happen after you die. They just don't involve you.” - Andrew Schull*

*“Emanuel Lasker noted that an army of chess pieces, much like lightning, always moves along the path of least resistance ... I would like to add that the success of any army, or chess brigade, will always be decided over battles over fortified positions!” - GM Igor Zaitsev*

My first rated tournament was the 1969 Denver Open, where I scored 3-4. My first rated game was against my longtime friend Bob O'Donnell, who also beat me in the 5th round of the 1971 DO. I managed to draw our third game:

Colorado Open

Round 5 / August 9, 1972

Bob O'Donnell (2059, age 22)

Curtis Carlson (1832, age 18)

E45 TC: 50/120 (<https://tinyurl.com/4ddbpe6>)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Ba6 6.Ng3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 0-0 8.Bd3 d5 9.cxd5 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 exd5 11.0-0+= Nbd7!? (Better was 11...c5 and 12...Nc6 putting pressure on d4) 12.f3 Re8 13.e4!?= (Black now equalizes easily. White's game is easier after 13.Bb2 and 14.Rae1, and only then e4) 13...dxe4 14.fxe4 Nc5 15.Qf3 Ncxe4 16.Nxe4 Rxe4 17.Bg5 Re6 18.Rae1 Rxe1 19.Rxe1 Qd5 20.Bxf6 Qxf3 21.gxf3 gxf6 22.Re7 Rc8=+ 23.Kf2 Kf8 24.Rd7 Ke8 25.Rd5 Ke7 26.Ke3 Rg8 27.Rh5 Rg2 28.a4 Ra2 29.Rxh7 Rxa4 30.Rh8 a5 31.Rc8 Kd7 32.Rf8 Ke7 33.Rc8 ½-½ HCE says it's still =+. Black could play for a win with 33...Kd6 34.Rf8 Ra3, but after two embarrassing defeats I only wanted not to lose again.

*“The human mind is very deceptive. It does not think of wealth and poverty in absolute terms, but always in relative terms. That's why God says that the love of money is the root of all evil. It's not a condemnation of convenience or quality of life. It's a condemnation of envy.” - Naresh Krishnamoorti*

*“I am not one of those foolish people who make excuses for everything; it was a complete oversight.” - Jose R. Capablanca, referring to 29.Qa8 in his game with George Thomas (<https://tinyurl.com/2p8emumf>)*

*“We learn from history that we do not learn from history.” - Georg Hegel*

Another difficult opponent was Alan Sebeckis, who beat me in 1970 Colorado Junior Open (where he tied for first) and a few other tournaments before I finally held a bad middlegame:

Denver Open

Round 5 / July 1, 1973

Alan Sebeckis (2080, age 22)

Curtis Carlson (1979, age 19)

B96 TC: 50/120 (<https://tinyurl.com/mry769tn>)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.a3 Rb8 11.f5 e5 12.Nb3 Be7! +? (Again very routine. Much better was 12...h5= stopping White's next) 13.g4 h6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.h4 Bb7 16.g5 Nd7? (16...Nh7 is only slightly worse) 17.Rg1 Nc5? 18.Nxc5 Qxc5 19.Rg3 (White is still better but HCE prefers 19.f6+) 19...b4 20.Nd5?=(20.f6 and 20.ab Qb4 21.f6 are both +-) 20...bxa3 21.Qxa3 Qxa3 22.bxa3 hxg5 23.hxg5 Bxd5 24.Rxd5 Rh5

25.f6 gxf6 26.gxf6 Bf8 27.Bxa6 Bh6+ 28.Kd1 Rb1+ 29.Ke2 Rh2+ 30.Kd3 Rd1+ 31.Kc3 Rxd5 32.exd5 Rf2 33.Bd3 Bc1 34.a4 Ba3 35.Rg8+ Kd7 36.Bb5+ Kc7 37.Rg7 Rxf6 38.Be8 Bc5 39.Bxf7 Kb6 40.Be8 Ka5 41.Rg2 Rf3+ 42.Kd2 Rf2+ 1/2-1/2 I didn't lose! Not all my luck is bad.

*"Chess has its reasons, of which reason itself is well aware" - Blaise Pascal*

*"The importance of rapid development varies greatly according to the pawn position. If there is an open or readily open file, the time factor is vital; if not, ideal posting of pieces is more important than getting them all into play in a minimum number of moves." - GMC C.J.S. Purdy*

*"It takes considerable knowledge just to realize the extent of your own ignorance." - Thomas Sowell*

My life record against Alan is a better than deserved three losses, three draws, and one win. I don't remember seeing him after our last game in the 1975 Colorado Open. I believe he lives in San Diego and (like many others from our generation) has retired from tournament play.

*"We all play for mate; some just do it in a more indirect way than others." - GM Peter Heine Nielsen*

*"A big part of the task in economic development is educational because many citizens and even their leaders lack a framework for understanding the modern economy, seeing their role in it, or perceiving their stake in the behavior of other groups in society. Lack of understanding often allows special interests to block change that will widely benefit the nation's prosperity." - Michael Porter*

*"We all make the same types of mistakes over and over, because of the basic wiring of our brains." - Dan Ariely*

Good old Bob O'Donnell won the 1973 Denver Open with a perfect 5-0, beating Bob Wendling in round 2:

#### Denver Open

Round 2 / June 30, 1973

Robert O'Donnell (1932, age 23)

Robert Wendling (2195, age 25)

B80 TC: 50/120 (<https://tinyurl.com/4cujmahm>)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.g3 Be7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 a6 9.f4 Qc7 10.Kh1 Nc6 11.Nb3 d5 12.exd5 Rd8 13.Qe2 exd5 14.f5 d4 15.Ne4 Nd5 16.Qh5 g6 17.fxg6 hxg6 18.Qh6 Bf8 19.Qg5 Bg7 20.Bf4 Nxf4 21.Rxf4 Be6? (Sometimes routine developing moves are the worst! 21...Qe7= HCE) 22.Nf6+ Bxf6 23.Qxf6 Bd5? (23...Qe5 or 23...Qe7 went into a pawn down ending Black must have disliked, but now Black loses instantly) 24.Rh4 1-0

*"From the position of the pawns, one can guess the state of the king." - Iosif Brodsky*

Bob W was hard to recognize here. After disappointing results in 1972, he won his three 1973 tournaments but stumbles badly here. It's curious to see him on the wrong side of the kind of

quick crush he often inflicted on me (and everyone else).

*"I'm a Libertarian because I do care about the poor ... and I don't care how good your intentions are." - Steve Horwitz*

*"No price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself." - Friedrich Nietzsche*

*"Civilization advances by extending the number of important operations we can perform without thinking about them." - A. N. Whitehead*



*(Six World Champions! Bobby must have held the camera.)*

*"There is no perfect policy response to a pandemic, but acknowledging tradeoffs, examining consequences across groups and over time, and advocating for a more voluntary, decentralized approach can minimize human costs and maximize overall health and well-being" - Kerry McDonald*

*"A computer's assessment is an estimate of it's own chances against itself, which doesn't always tally with how the chances between two human players are actually split" - GM Anish Giri*

*"The totalitarian state aims at obliterating all distinctions between itself and the citizenry (society) by penetrating and controlling every aspect of organized life." - Richard Pipes*

I finally beat Bob O'D in our fourth game, which was also the first time I outrated him.

#### Wyoming Open

Round 2 / September 22, 1973

Robert O'Donnell (1932, age 23)

Curtis Carlson (2032, age 19)

B90 TC: 50/120 (<https://tinyurl.com/2rbhj5rv>)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.g4 0-0 11.0-0 b5 12.g5 Nh5 13.Ne2 Nb6 14.Ng3 Nf4 15.h4 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.Na1? (Right was 17.Nd4) Rc8-/+ 18.Bxf4?-+ (18.Nf5 Bf5 19.ef c3 was bad but this is worse) 18...c3! *"The game was*

*lost because, at a certain moment, the defender was unable to keep up with his opponent in the speed of regrouping his forces.” - Aron Nimzovich 19.Qd3 Qa5 20.Nb3 Qxa2 21.bxc3 Bc4 22.Qd2 d5 23.Qf2 exf4 24.Nf5 Ba3+ 25.Kd2 Bxb3 26.Nd4 dxe4 27.fxe4 Bc5 28.Ra1 Qxc2+ 29.Nxc2 Bxf2 0-1*  
As I said before, some games are just plain fun.

*“If you have a choice, they don’t have a monopoly” - Tyler Cowen*

*“If science can’t be questioned, it’s not science anymore it’s propaganda. That’s the truth.” - Aaron Rodgers*

*“Marshall was never a fan of defending positions, even with a material advantage. He would always rather be the one to sacrifice.” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

From 1969-76 Bob and I broke even in seven rated games. I last saw him at the 1979 Chicago US Open. He has lived in Michigan more than 40 years and was state champion in 1984. Bob once drew GM Walter Browne in a rated game and still plays actively at age 70. We haven’t sat at the same chessboard for more than 45 years, but I’ll never forget our hard fought games.

*“In a game the last error is decisive; in composing, it is the first that is fatal.” - A. J. Roycroft*

*“When there are passed pawns on the board, one should be especially careful about opening the files next to them!” - GM Isaac Boleslavsky*

*“Freedom is never more than a generation away from extinction.” - Ronald Reagan*

In the last round of the 1973 Wyoming Open I had my second rated game with Brian Wall, who (**fortunately for me**) was not yet playing the Fishing Pole attack.

**Wyoming Open**  
**Round 5 / September 23, 1973**  
**Brian Wall (1940, age 18)**  
**Curtis Carlson (2032, age 19)**

**B99 TC: 50/120 (<https://tinyurl.com/4sm4e5t2>)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.fxg5 Ne5 13.Qe2 Nfg4 14.h3 hxg5 15.Bg3 Nf6 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.Nf3 Rg8 (**Typical of the passive play of my youth. HCE gives 17...Nh5, aiming at g3 and f4. Brian adroitly stops this with his next move**) 18.g4 b5 19.Qd2 b4 (**Better was 19...Bb7, since White now transfers his knight to g3 without material loss**) 20.Ne2 Bb7 21.Ng3 0-0-0=+ 22.Qe2 Qa5 23.Kb1 Nd7 24.Rhf1 (**Curiously, HCE now wants to bring the knight back with 24.Nf1-d2-b3. One problem computers don’t have is a human like consistency**) 24...Kb8 25.Nd2 f6 26.Rf3 Rc8 27.Nh5 Rc6 28.Nc4 Qc7 29.Ne3?! Rc8 (**Black has the edge after 29...Rd6 and 30...Rd4**) 30.Rff1 ½-½ Here I accepted Brian’s draw offer, although HCE likes Black after 30...Rf8 31.Nc4 Nc5 where a queenside pawn advance looks good. *“Remember, in positions with central pawn chains, action*

*must be taken on the flank(s).” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

Brian seemed happy with half a point, so he must have understood the position better than me. This was the third consecutive time I scored 3.5-1.5 in the Wyoming Open, and the second time I won the first two and drew the last three.

*“Stasis is easily the biggest enemy of prosperity.” - John Tamny*

*“Work is more than just a way to earn a living ... studies consistently show that those who don’t work are much less happy than those who do, are more prone to depression and addiction, and are less likely to be successful at forming relationships and raising families” - Steven Malanga*

*“In chess, nothing is weak or strong unless there are means of taking advantage of it.” - GMC C.J.S. Purdy*



**Garry Kasparov** ✓  
@Kasparov63

Congrats to Magnus for a dominant performance vs Nepomniachtchi, who failed to put up any resistance after the game 6 loss. Carlsen rarely had to show his best here, but you cannot blame the shark if his opponent becomes a minnow!

*(Garry Kasparov speaks his mind!)*

I played in the Al Wallace Memorial eight times from 1971-80 and tied for first twice (**1977 and 1980**). Here is a close game with Sal Martinez, who was always hard to beat.

**Al Wallace Memorial**  
**Round 4 / March 31, 1974**  
**Sal Martinez (1968, age about 30)**  
**Curtis Carlson (2032, age 20)**

**B87 TC: 50/120 (<https://tinyurl.com/yfyujw2m>)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Be7 9.f4 0-0 10.Qf3 Bb7 11.a3 Nbd7 12.f5 e5 13.Nde2 Nc5 14.Bd5 Bxd5 (**14...Nce4!-/+ HCE**) 15.exd5 Qb6 (**15...h6 planning ...Nh7 and ...Bh4=+ HCE**) 16.Be3 b4 17.Na2 e4 (**17...a5-/+ HCE**) 18.Qg3 Nxd5 19.axb4 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 Nd7 21.Qxb6 Nxb6 22.Nac3 Rfc8 23.Rfd1 Rc4 24.Rd4 Rxd4 25.Nxd4 d5 26.Nc6 Bf6 27.b5 axb5 28.Rxa8+ Nxa8 29.Nxb5 Nb6 30.b3 Kf8 31.Kf2 Ke8 32.Ke3 Kd7 33.Ncd4 Nc8 34.c4 Bg5+ 35.Ke2 dxc4 36.bxc4 Nd6 37.c5 Nxb5 38.Nxb5 1/2-1/2 on move 53. I played a poor middlegame after a good opening, but live and learn.

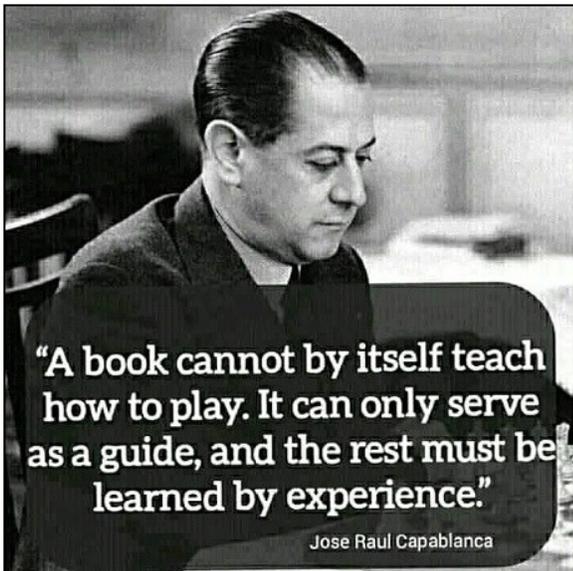
*“History is written by the victors.” - Winston Churchill*

From 1972-76 I was fortunate to have had three wins and three draws with Sal. I don't remember seeing him after the 1976 Colorado Open, but will never forget our hard fought games.

*"In chess, men of letters, artists, and aristocrats found the perfect tool to assess their intellectual capacities and their intelligence. It was celebrated as a pedagogical instrument that would help acquire and demonstrate a perfect command of one's reason and intelligence."* - Florian Vauléon

*"Science is the great antidote to the poison of enthusiasm and superstition."* - Adam Smith

*"Nothing of me is original. I am the combined effort of everybody I've ever known."* - Chuck Palahniuk



## Brief Book Reviews

### 1) *The Unstoppable American* (2021) by GM Jan Timman

Dutch super GM Jan Timman writes another good one. He analyzes all of Bobby's games from the 1970 Interzonal and the 1971 Candidates matches. JT's admiration for RJF is unbounded, but doesn't seem to affect his objectivity. It is especially interesting to compare new (computer aided) annotations with those in his classic *The Art of Chess Analysis* (1980). In the first 1971 Fischer-Larsen game he originally said 32...a5 was best, but now thinks it was OK because 34...Ke6 (instead of 34...g5?) 35.Bb6 Kd6 is hard for White to win. He agrees with his earlier self that 15.Bc4 in the first game with Petrosian wasn't best, but now thinks 15.Bd3 was as good as the 15.Rd1 he originally suggested, since White enters a worse but holdable ending either way. *TUA* is like Timman's other works, well written and enjoyable. Not recommended for *Brian Wall*, but a good read for anyone else.

*"In chess many factors play a role ... I have prepared myself conscientiously for this match. I am confident I will play accurately and well. For me, chess is much more than just a sport. It has a relationship to intellectual development and*

*art."* - GM Tigran Petrosian (1971)

*"Success in Chess is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration."* - GM Bobby Fischer

*"Fischer ... grew more lonely as he was edging his way to the world title. And in later years, his loneliness caught up with him."* - GM Jan Timman

*"Fischer's objectivity during the post-mortem is notable: his successor, Anatoly Karpov often had great trouble admitting that he had a bad position."* - GM Jan Timman

*"Fischer won the final six games in Palma ... this was a harbinger for the Candidates Matches that were awaiting him."* - GM Jan Timman

*"The only satisfaction I got was when he (Mark Taimanov) was paired against Fischer in the closing ceremony."* - GM Lajos Portisch, speaking of his failure to qualify for the 1971 Candidates Matches after Matulovic played carelessly against Taimanov

*"He seemed like a regular guy to me with whom you'd be happy to go to a bar, push down a couple of brewskis."* - Colorado expert Mike Archer, who loaned Bobby some books during the Larsen match.

*"When you are confronted with an unexpected situation, it is important to maintain your concentration as much as possible. Why should you get up and walk into the semi darkness, probably getting involved in conversations about irrelevant matters?"* - GM Jan Timman, referring to Bobby's remaining at the board when the lights went out in game 8 vs. Petrosian

*"At the start, I did not feel too well. But when in the 4th game, where he had White, right from the opening Petrosian avoided any aggression, I realised I would win the match."* - GM Bobby Fischer

*"I must say in all sincerity that Fischer performed splendidly. His play leaves a very good, pleasant impression."* - GM Boris Spassky (1971)

*"A good six months later, Fischer would play a World Championship Match in Reykjavik that became even more legendary. And a good eight months later, Euwe laid the wreath on the shoulders of the unstoppable American."* - GM Jan Timman

### 2) *The Art of Positional Play* (1976) by GM Samuel Reshevsky

I finally read this after ignoring it 45 years. The author mirrors Capablanca in his high opinion of himself, but the notes aren't bad for a pre-computer book. It seems to be aimed at 1600-2000 rated players but still a good read for anyone besides *Brian Wall*.

*"Almost every decisive game depends on errors."* - GM Samuel Reshevsky

*"It is well known that the two bishops are most effective when their owner also controls an open file with his rooks."* - GM Samuel Reshevsky

*“Chess by definition is positional. Tactical play is concerned with the immediate details of executing the maneuvers necessary to the success of the plan and the attainment of the objective.” - GM Samuel Reshevsky*

*“The only good rook is a working rook!” - GM Samuel Reshevsky*

*“I have come to the conclusion ... that it often pays to continue in equal positions, especially in the endgame where many players are more likely to go astray.” - GM Samuel Reshevsky*

*“...never forget that your opponent is always thinking of ways he can hurt you. The time to relax is after the game.” - GM Samuel Reshevsky*

*“A tactical opportunity is often the only hope when all seems lost ... the only truly won game is the one that is posted on the scoreboard.” - GM Samuel Reshevsky*

*“The quality of a piece is measured by its mobility.” - GM Samuel Reshevsky*

*“Every plan should include a consideration of the opponent’s plan.” - GM Samuel Reshevsky*

### 3) *Amazing chess Tactics* (2020) by Lyudmil Tsvetkov

As far as I can tell (from [Google](#)) Tsvetkov is only about expert strength but has nonetheless written several books. He has a controversial reputation, but *ACT* is reasonably good. It has 820 tactical puzzles of varying difficulty. A good book to read on a plane, a train, or an automobile.

*“This is a book containing ‘amazing chess tactics’. In sharp distinction to what many chess tactics books offer, the current collection emphasizes the unique, unexpected, paradoxical and highly unusual. Situations you will only rarely encounter in a usual chess game. As the puzzles are unusual and don’t conform to the most familiar patterns, the contents and solutions offered are highly instructive by default.” - Lyudmil Tsvetkov*

*“I would assess the easiest puzzles are a fit for 1600 Elo players and higher, while the most difficult ones will suit the 3200 Elo players and higher perfectly. Of course, if you devote sufficient time to it, you might be able to crack even the toughest challenges - who knows? In any case, the amount to learn is enormous. Happy solving!” - Lyudmil Tsvetkov*

*“No man is a failure who has friends, and a friend who has been dear to you and has stood by you without fail throughout a lifetime is a treasure beyond account.” - Robert Higgs*

### 4) *Chess Exam and Training Guide* (2004) by IM Igor Khmelnskiy

I like the format of this book. It has 100 positions with two questions about each one. The author suggests four possible moves to consider, and besides the right answer most of the time two are obviously wrong and the last is almost right. He also asks the reader to determine who stands better. The answers are on the following page so there’s no flipping back and forth to

look them up. This seems to be for 1800-2200 strength players, but will benefit anyone since it makes you think. Recommended for everyone, even [Brian Wall](#).

*“Specifics of the pawn structure serve as one of the leading indicators of future plans.” - IM Igor Khmelnskiy*

*“Simplification (even with some material loss) in order to reach a known position is one of the key resources in the endgame.” - IM Igor Khmelnskiy*

*“Don’t miss the opportunity to convert a material advantage into a nice material gain!” - IM Igor Khmelnskiy*

*“Study the common traps in the openings you play.” - IM Igor Khmelnskiy*

*“Don’t underestimate advantage in space.” - IM Igor Khmelnskiy*

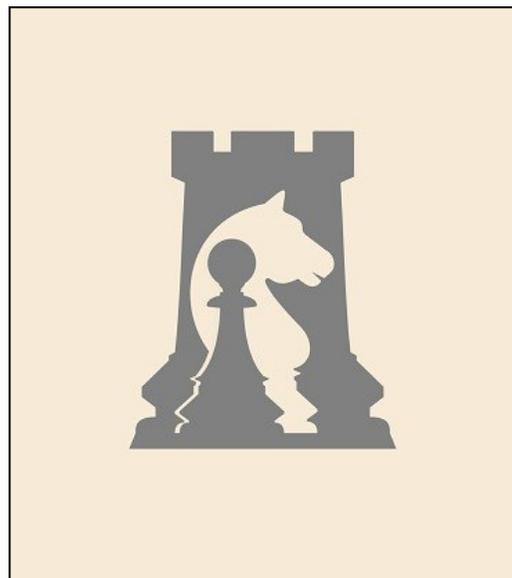
*“Keep looking for defensive resources - it is never too late to resign!” - IM Igor Khmelnskiy*

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to share memories and make fun of [Brian Wall](#). If there are any questions, corrections, or suggestions I’m at [curt2309@comcast.net](mailto:curt2309@comcast.net).

*“... a theory belongs to empirical science if we can say what ... we should accept as a refutation ... a theory belongs to science if it is in principle refutable. A theory which cannot clash with any possible or conceivable event is...outside science.” - Karl Popper*

*“Castle because you have to, not because you can. There may be a better move.” - Richard Reti*

*“We are in truth but pieces on this chess board of life, which in the end we leave, only to drop one by one into the grave of nothingness.” - Omar Khayyam*



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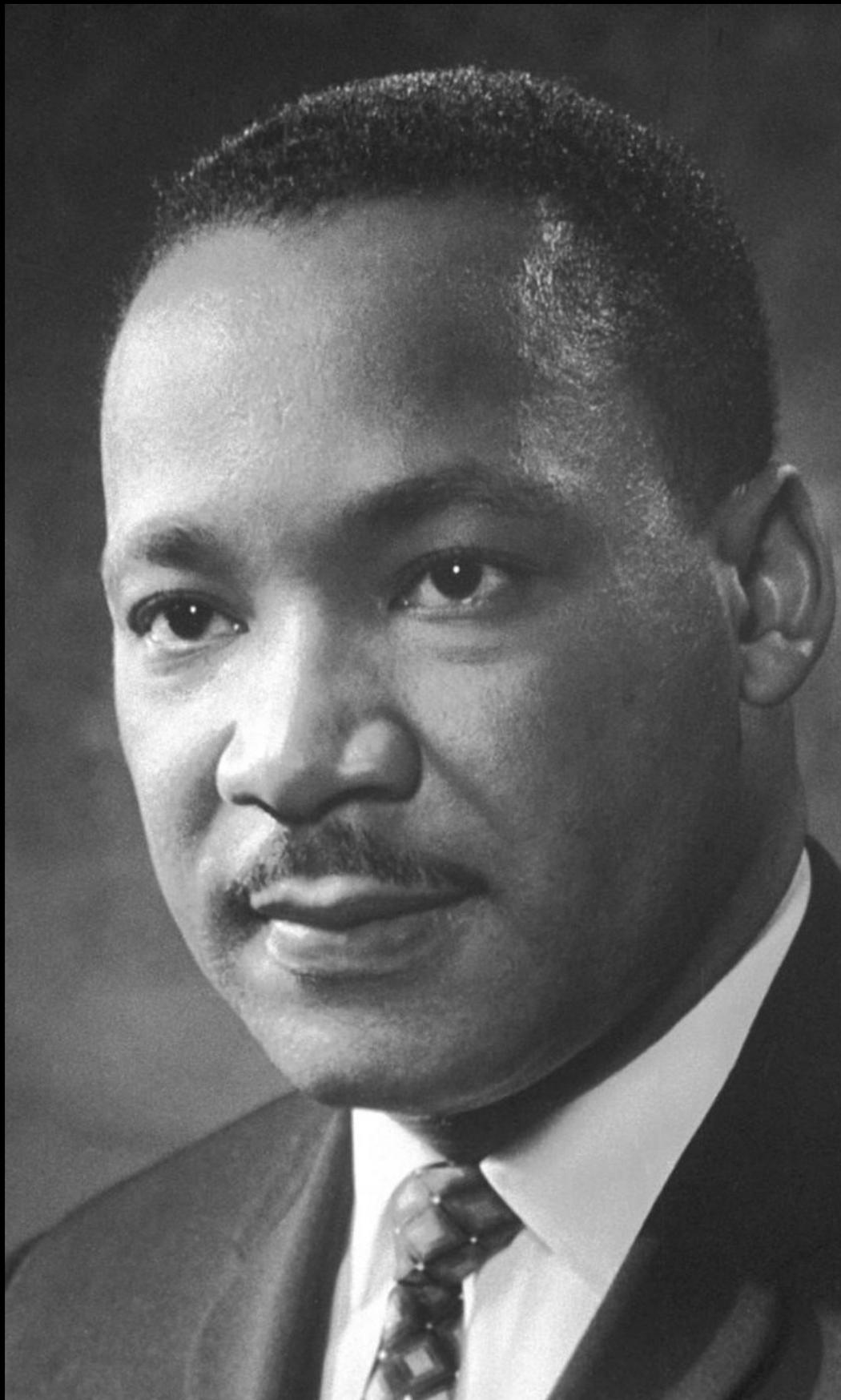
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# Denver Chess Club December 2021 Report

by J.C. MacNeil (With permission from the Denver Chess Club / [www.DenverChess.com](http://www.DenverChess.com))

Unfortunately, once again I am having to start out a DCC tournament report by talking about Covid-19. Another frequent DCC player has tested positive. This time the player believes he contracted the virus on Friday (12/17) when he was at another location in a crowded room with many people not wearing masks. He was symptom free when he attended the DCC to play the 3rd round on Tuesday (12/21). He has stated that Wednesday morning he woke up with a congested nose, and as a precaution took a quick Covid-19 test that was positive. The player is fully vaccinated and also has had the booster shot. He immediately quarantined himself and says the symptoms remain mild and that he is recovering without treatment.

Due to the fact that all DCC players are vaccinated and have been wearing masks at all times while in the playing room, we decided to wait till players showed up for the last round to announce the positive test. Before the round started, we took a vote to see if players wanted to play the round, and if we should go ahead with the upcoming DCC January tournament. Everybody in the room voted yes to both. Nobody went home or criticized our decision. Thank you all for that.

I believe that most DCC players have accepted that this is the new normal and they want to play live over the board tournament chess regardless. As I do. Still possible new Covid-19 variants will remain a serious concern into the foreseeable future. I don't want to say forever, but who knows. Consequently, the DCC will continue to require the vaccine and mask wearing for all players at all times.



Anyways, all that said, maybe readers want to know who won what in the December tournament. First, attendance remains great with over 90 players this month playing at least one game. Although again the registration for the Premier section was pitiful, with only 9 players registering. This would not be bad if all nine played each week, but that was not the case. It pains me to relate the actual week by week Premier section attendance. 1st round, 8 players. but 1 no show. 2nd round, 5 players. NM Ray Haskins gets a forced bye again. A crying shame. 3rd

round, 6 players. At least no forced byes. 4th round, 2 players. Yes 2. Did I say pitiful? Maybe abysmal is a better word.



Consequently, Richard Shtivelband had no problem going 4-0 again to take clear 1st place and win \$123.03. New to the DCC Reza Najafizada and Ray Haskins finished with 2 points and they shared the combined 2nd and 3rd place prize of \$123.04. Also new to the DCC, Clay Polk wins the \$20.00 Open Upset prize for his round 1 upset of Mr. Haskins.



Alexander Huberts - Randolph Schine

The U1900 section had a 42 player registration, with an average of 26 playing each week. Down a little from previous months. Probably due to the holiday, but certainly nothing to complain about. Alexander Huberts played very well to take clear 1st place in this section with a perfect 4-0 score to win \$119.11. Craig Moffitt may have equaled that score if he had not had to take a last round bye. Mr. Moffitt, like usual, played well and took clear 2nd place with 3.5 points to earn \$71.47.

Five players tied for 3rd place. Alberto Medina, Turpana Molina, Luis Jimenez, Tyler Mandel and Jeff Nohrden all ended up with 3 points. Alberto, Turpana, Luis and Tyler all had big upset wins, Mr. Nohrden is unrated (and so upset wins can't be determined) but he completely outplayed yours truly in the last round to earn his share of the \$47.65 3rd place prize.

Kaavya Sakthisaravanan deserves special mention. This youngster I'm guessing is like 6 years old and she had two over 500 point upset wins this month. One against Trevor Mills, and the other over the long time strong DCC player, Bill O'Neil. I saw the end of her game against Bill and she played a rook and pawns ending perfectly to take the full point. A well earned \$20.00 Upset prize for the young lass. I should mention that Kaavya only lost to Grayson Manuel, another youngster who had a big upset of his own. Winning against the strong, experienced, and much higher rated Jason McEwen in the last round.

The U1500 section also had an excellent registration of 40 players. After taking a 1st round bye, Seth Fortinsky won his next 3 games to claim the clear 1st place prize of \$119.11. The combined 2nd and 3rd place prize of \$119.10 was shared by 6 players. Joe Aragon, Jeff Manuel, Ian Lieberman, Jackson Trust, Michael McNamara, and Michael Melcher who all finished with 3 points and each won 19.85. Mr. McNamara had a big upset win over Mr. Aragon. Mr. Melcher had a nice upset win against Mr. Lieberman and a small last round upset draw against Mr. McNamara. Mr. Manuel, along with a 1st round bye, had a nice upset draw in round 3 against Mark Zeringue. I'd say this indicates the competition between these players was really tight.

The actual \$20.00 U1500 Upset prize was won by Lian Newell for his 521 point rating difference win over Jaxon Cardenas-Gunny. Looking at all the upsets to me it's evident that regardless of a player's rating in any section the games at the DCC are competitive and hard fought. And that's as it should be.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, and thanks to all the players who are attending the DCC. The DCC is looking forward to the New Year in the hope that Covid-19 will be brought under control somehow.



And a special thank you to Meint Olthof, shown above playing the White pieces against Alberto Medina, in his last game at the *Denver Chess Club* before recently moving to Cape Cod. The DCC would not be where it is today without all that Mr. Olthof did for the club over the last several years. Thanks again, Meint. You will be missed!

**Brian Wall** (2200)

**Evan Helman** (1839)

Round 1

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0-0 e6 6.c4 dxc4 7.Qa4 Qb6 8.Nbd2 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nd5 10.Nxc6 Qxc6 11.Qxc6+ bxc6 12.Nxc4 Ba6 13.b3 0-0-0 14.Ne5 Bxe2 15.Nxf7 Bxf1 16.Bxf1 Bc5 17.Nxh8 Rxh8 18.Bd2 Rf8 19.Ba6+ Kd7 20.Rf1 Nf6



21.Be3 Bxe3 22.fxe3 Kc7 23.Bc4 Rd8 24.Bxe6 Re8 25.Bf5 Rxe3 26.Rf2 Kb6 27.Kg2 h6 28.Rd2 a5 29.Bg6 Re6 30.h3 Nd5 31.Bd3 Rf6 32.Rf2 Rxf2+ 33.Kxf2 Nb4 34.Bb1 Kc5 35.Ke3 Nd5+ 36.Ke4 Nc3+ 37.Kf5 Nxb1 38.Kg6 Nc3 39.h4 Ne4 40.g4 Nf6 41.g5 hxg5 42.Kxg5 Kb4 43.Kg6 Ka3 44.Kxg7 Nh5+ 45.Kg6 Nf4+ 46.Kf5 Nh5 47.Kg6 Nf4+ 48.Kf5 Nh5 49.Kg6 Nf4+ 50.Kg5 Ne6+ 51.Kf6 Nf4 52.Kf5 Nh5 53.Kg6 Nf4+ 1/2-1/2

**Seth Fortinsky** (703)

**Petra Lambert-Gorwyn** (1110)

Round 2

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nh6 4.h3 g6 5.Nc3 c6 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 Nd7 8.d5 c5 9.Nxb5 Qa5+ 10.Nc3 f6 11.Bd2 Bg7 12.Qc1 Nf7 13.Ne2 Qd8 14.Ng3 Nb6 15.Ba5 Qe7 16.Qe3 0-0 17.c4 Bh6 18.Qd3 Bd7 19.Bd2 Bg7 20.0-0 a5 21.a4 g5 22.Nh2 Nh6 23.Bd1 f5 24.exf5 Nxf5 25.Bc2 Bh6 26.b3 Nd4 27.Bd1 Rf7 28.Qe3 Nf5 29.Nxf5 Bxf5 30.Ng4 Bxg4 31.Bxg4 Nd7 32.Be6 Raf8 33.Bxa5 Kh8 34.Bxf7 Qxf7 35.Bd2 Qf6 36.a5 Nb8 37.a6 Nd7 38.a7 Nb6 39.b4 Nxc4 40.Qc3 Nxd2 41.Qxd2 g4 42.Qd3 gxh3 43.Qxh3 Ra8 44.b5 Qe7 1-0

**Richard Shtivelband** (2264)

**Brian Wall** (2200)

Round 2

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bc5 5.e3 a6 6.Nge2 d6 7.0-0 Ba7 8.d4 0-0 9.b3 h6 10.Bb2 Bf5 11.Nd5 Re8 12.Nec3 exd4 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.exd4 Be4 16.Bxe4 Rxe4 17.Qf3 Re8 18.Rad1 Qd7 19.Ne3 Rab8 20.Nf5 Ne7 21.Nxg7 1-0

**Abhijay Balamurugan** (1219)  
**Raymond Haskins** (2168)  
 Round 2 (Extra Game)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 e6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 Qc7 6.d3 Nd7 7.Bf4 Ngf6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rfe1 e5 11.Bg5 Re8 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Ng5 Rf8 14.Nf3 Rb8 15.Ra3 h6 16.h3 Be6 17.Bb3 b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Nxd5 21.exd5 b4 22.Rb3 f5 23.Qe3 Qa5 24.Qd2 Qa8 25.c3 bxc3 26.Qxc3 Qxd5 27.Ra3 Bf6 28.Qc2 Rfe8 29.Nd2 e4 30.dxe4 fxe4 31.Nxe4 Bxb2 32.Rae3 Qh5 33.g4 Qf7 34.Kg2 Be5 35.Nxc5 Rb2 36.Qxb2 Qd5+ 37.Kg1 Bxb2 38.Rxe8+ Kh7 39.Nd7 Kg6 40.Nf8+ Kg5 41.f4+ Kxf4 42.Rf1+ Kg3 43.Re3+ Kh4 44.Ng6+ Kg5 45.Ne7 1-0

**Seth Fortinsky** (703)  
**Liam Newell** (554)  
 Round 3

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qf6 5.c3 Bc5 6.Be3 b6 7.Be2 Bb7 8.Bf3 0-0-0 9.b4 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Bxd4 11.cxd4 c5 12.bxc5 bxc5 13.e5 Qf4 14.Bxb7+ Kxb7 15.Qb3+ Kc7 16.0-0 Rb8 17.Qc3 Qxd4 18.Qxd4 cxd4 19.Na3 Ne7 20.Rfc1+ Nc6 21.f4 d6 22.Nc4 dxe5 23.Nxe5 Rb6 24.Nxf7 Rf8 25.Ng5 Rxf4 26.Ne6+ Kd6 27.Nxf4 g5 28.Nd3 Kd5 29.Rab1 Rxb1 30.Rxb1 Ke4 31.Rb3 Ne5 32.Nxe5 Kxe5 33.Kf2 Ke4 34.Ke2 h5 35.Rb5 d3+ 36.Kd2 h4 37.Rxg5 Kf4 38.Rd5 1-0

**Tyler Mandel** (1476)  
**Kenneth Doykos** (1700)  
 Round 3

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nd2 Qb6 5.Ngf3 e6 6.h4 Bg4 7.Nb3 Ne7 8.Be2 Nd7 9.h5 h6 10.a4 a5 11.Rh4 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nf5 13.Rh1 c5 14.c3 cxd4 15.cxd4 Bb4+ 16.Kf1 Rc8 17.g4 Ne7 18.g5 hxg5 19.Bxg5 Nf5 20.Rc1 Rxc1 21.Qxc1 Qa6+ 22.Kg2



Qc4 23.Be2 Qxc1 24.Rxc1 0-0 25.Rc7 Nb6 26.Bb5 Rc8 27.Rxb7 Nc4 28.Ba6 Ra8 29.Bb5 Nxb2 30.Rd7 Rc8 31.Ra7 Nc4 32.Rd7 Bc3 33.Rd8+ Rxd8 34.Bxd8 Nxd4 35.Nxd4 Bxd4 36.f4 Bc3 37.Kg3 Nd2 38.Kf2 Ne4+ 39.Kf3 Nd2+ 40.Ke2 Ne4

41.Bc7 Ng3+ 42.Kd3 Bb4 43.Bd6 Be1 44.Bd7 Nxh5 45.f5 exf5 46.Bxf5 g6 47.Bc8 Nf4+ 48.Kc2 Ne6 49.Bb7 d4 50.Kd3 g5 51.Bf3 Bb4 52.Bxb4 axb4 53.Kc4 d3 54.Kxb4 d2 55.a5 Nc7 56.Kc3 Kf8 57.Kxd2 Ke7 58.Kc3 Kd8 59.Kc4 Kc8 60.Kc5 Kb8 61.Kb6 Na8+ 62.Kc6 Ka7 63.Be2 Kb8 64.Kd6 Nc7 65.Ke7 Nd5+ 66.Kxf7 Nf4 67.Bf3 Ka7 68.Kf6 Ka6 69.Kxg5 Ne6+ 70.Kf6 Nd4 71.Bd5 Kxa5 1-0

**Brian Wall** (2200)  
**Raymond Haskins** (2180)  
 Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 a6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qe2 b5 9.Bb3 Be7 10.Rd1 Qb6 11.Be3 Qb7 12.Bf4 b4 13.e5 dxe5 14.Bxe5 bxc3 15.Bxc3 0-0 16.Bc2 Nbd7 17.Ng5 e5



18.Rd3 h6 19.Nh3 Bb4 20.Bxe5 Nxe5 21.Qxe5 Re8 22.Qg3 Bf5 23.Rf3 Bxc2 24.Rxf6 Re6 25.Rxe6 fxe6 26.Qe3 Qe4 27.Qb6 a5 28.Rf1 Qe5 29.Kh1 Bf5 30.Qc6 Qd5 31.Qxd5 exd5 32.Nf4 0-1

**Richard Shtivelband** (2264)  
**Raymond Haskins** (2180)  
 Round 4

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.e4 e6 7.Be3 a6 8.Be2 Bd7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Rc1 0-0 11.f4 Re8 12.Qd2 Bf8 13.Nc2 Qc7 14.Rfd1 Rad8 15.Bf3 Qb8 16.Bb6 Rc8 17.c5 dxc5 18.e5 Nd5 19.Nxd5 exd5 20.Bxd5 Be6 21.Ne3 Nb4 22.Bxe6 Rxe6 23.Nc4 Nxa2 24.f5 Rxe5 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Qd7 Rc6 27.Re1 Qxb2 28.Rb1 Qf6 29.Bc7 Nb4 30.Re8 Qh6 31.Rxf8+ 1-0



(Final Standings can be found online here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2emfpubf>)



## LM Brian Wall Simul at the Parker Chess Club

by J.C. MacNeil & John Brezina (With permission from the Denver Chess Club / [www.DenverChess.com](http://www.DenverChess.com))

Without a doubt, chess in the United States is growing in popularity, and John Brezina's efforts to promote chess at his chess club is aiding that growth here in Colorado. I am privileged to select and caption a few of his photos used in this report. See all of Mr. Brezina's excellent pictures from the event here: <https://tinyurl.com/24k5xn9h>. Also check out the *Parker Chess Club* website - <https://parkerchessclub.godaddysites.com>.

*John Brezina continues* - What a great simul event we had December 6th at the *Parker Chess Club*. Thank you to Life Master Brian Wall for visiting the club and playing a 15+1 board simul for many of our regular club members. Most had never been part of a simul before and what a great experience it is to play against such a strong Master.



I've known Brian for over 20 years and his passion for chess continues to amaze me. At 66 years old, his play and analytical prowess is a treat to watch. A wealth of chess knowledge and a Colorado legend, he always has an interesting story to tell. In our short two hour window at the club, we planned to have 15 boards in order to finish on time. But we had another special guest join us so we added a board 16 for NM Kris Littlejohn to help slow Brian down a bit. We also had two other strong Colorado players visit to watch the simul, Dean Clow and Kevin Seidler, both who have helped with our Parker tournaments in the past. Brian was very gracious in the simul allowing unlimited passes and engaged the kids very well. We began with a short introduction before starting the simul and altered all the boards for him to play half with white and half with the black pieces.

Brian made his way around the boards and kept it entertaining while serious at the same time. His focus and attention at each board was great to see and the kids kept their eyes on him as he



would approach. Some players kept score sheets and had them signed afterwards.

The last three boards to finish belonged to Alexey Stolpovskikh and his two sons, Ilya & Vladimir. But after one and a half hours of total play time, they too would succumb to Mr. Wall. He would finish with 15 wins and 1 loss. In fairness to Brian, Kris Littlejohn does have some experience in studying deep lines and variations.



All in all a great success as he finished 15-0 against our *Parker Chess Club* regulars. I received very positive feedback from players and parents alike. They very much appreciated the chance to play such a strong player and the experience of such a simul. Afterwards I treated Brian, Kris, Dean & Kevin to dinner at the local *Tailgate Tavern*.

Luckily, we were able to keep Brian seated and not break out dancing as he did with Elena Novik at the closing ceremony of the U.S. Chess Championships. A very memorable evening for myself and others. Thank you, *Denver Chess Club* President Brian Wall.



# The Elements of Magic, Part 1: The Pin, the File, and the Superior Minor Piece

by Jeffrey A. Baffo

At times the game of chess seems magical. It has moments that defy all logic and veer off into the realm of fantasy. All the rules we have been taught seem useless the variations make no sense and we miss the most beautiful moves and ideas. Instead of entering into the delightful realm of magical happenings, we settle for mundane and boring technical actions. Why is this? The answer is *to be practical*. Pursuing beauty and brilliance is a fool's errand. Those kinds of situations simply happen too rarely. Be sensible! It's not worth the time and effort it would take.

Uncovering one sparkling, priceless gem out of hundreds or thousands of lumps of mud and rock is a poor use of time, isn't it? Practical, "down to earth" chess play is what "pays the bills" so to speak. That's what's going to get you the result you are after; the won or drawn game. It may be boring, but doing things the practical way get's you prize money, rating points, and titles.

I am not being sarcastic or rhetorical. I honestly believe everything I wrote above is true. But the purpose of this article is paradoxical; to ask you to pursue beauty and brilliance anyway! I believe finding that glittering diamond in a crater of ugly mud is what separates us from the machines, restores faith, and refreshes the soul.

In the pursuit of chess excellence there are too basic schools of thought. The *seek and find* method or the *analysis only* method. So, which is right? Are there "clues" to tip you off? Something to guide you, alert you to a magical situation, a tactical or strategic masterpiece that could happen in *your* game? Or does the need for brute force analysis rule the day? In truth, dear reader I believe that a fusion of the two offers the best philosophy. As a human being in a clock-limited game, we can not search every variation at every move. On the other hand, no "seek and find" method known will point you to every brilliant idea, for many of those are hidden in plain sight, in positions that look unremarkable, normal, even boring and only meticulous analysis of all available moves would give a person any hope of finding them.

So, dear reader, please come with me on this journey of mystery and discovery. Forget about your rating. Numerical chess ratings are useful statistics and have their essential place in our world of tournament chess, but they are not the sum total of what YOU are. I ask you to REFUSE to let a number define your humanity, your potential, or your ability to create beauty.

*We start our quest here...*



*International tournament held in the Vienna Chess Club during March-April 1908*

Here is the game in question. A convincing win for Duras in a snappy 31 moves. Nothing to criticize here. But if we seek magic, we have a treasure trove awaiting. Our point of interest is the position after Black's 24th move. See diagram on next page.

**Oldrich Duras**  
**Rudolph Swiderski** [C77]  
Vienna, 1908

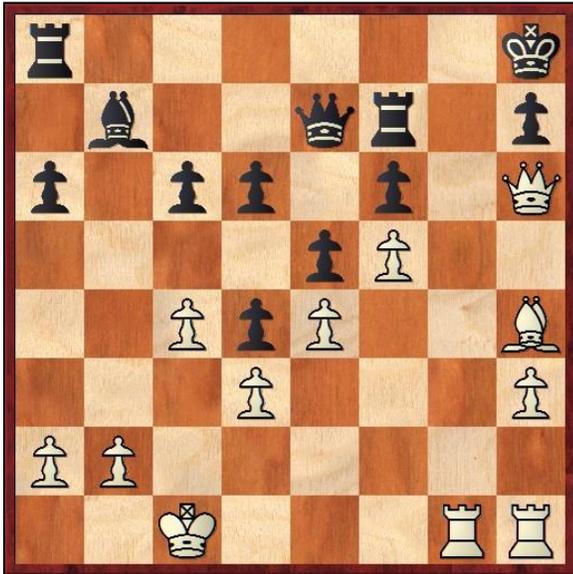
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c4 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.Nc3 Nd7 9.Be3 Bf6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.g4 c5 12.Qd2 Nb8 13.0-0-0 Nc6 14.Nd5 Nd4 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Bg5 Qe6 18.f4 f6 19.f5 Qe7 20.Bh4 c6 21.g5 Kh8 22.gxf6 gxf6 23.Rdg1 Bb7 24.Qh6 Rf7 25.Rg6 Raf8 26.Rhg1 d5 27.Be1 dxc4 28.dxc4 c5 29.R6g4 Bc6 30.Qh4 Qb7 31.Qg3 1-0

If we are using the Seek & Find method, our three main clues would be:

- The open g-file.
- The possibility of a pin along the a1-h8 diagonal by either White queen or bishop.
- The deadly strength of the White dark-squared bishop compared to the utter uselessness of Black's white-squared counter part (Superior Minor Piece).

Brute force analysis mean we must look at 25.Rg7. It threatens mate and therefore must be examined. However even if a human being would look at the move it's doubtful that he or she would spend much time on it. It just looks stupid, pointless, outright losing on the spot, yes? All of us know how to count captures and recaptures. A White rook on g7 is madness, defended only once it would be obliterated by 3 defenders, correct? The answer is the same now as it was when the Torpedo bombers from Task forces 16 and 17 attacked the Japanese carriers at the battle of Midway 75 odd years ago. Despite 3 separate waivers of these

Airmen being slaughtered, there sacrifice was not in vain. They weakened Japan's defense to a point where subsequent attacks would score home. So it is here. Allow yourself to be blown away, stupefied, amazed, gob-smacked by the following sequence. For maximum effect, at least at first, do NOT play it out electronically, with an engine looking over your shoulder. No, dear reader, this sequence deserves your best chess set, set up on your finest table and played out with your own hands.



*(25.Rg7!!! Rxf7 26.Bxf6 Qf7 27.Rg1! Rg8 28.Rg4!!! and mate 29.Qxh7+!!! Kxg7 30.Rh4! can be delayed but not avoided.)*

After your human eyes and immortal soul have witnessed and understood this beauty, then feel free to reinforce your learning with your favorite silicon partner. After all, it was machine-aided research that discovered this beauty not the actual human Grandmaster. He chose the pedestrian but no less effective move in the game.

Think of it this way, any bulldozer, jack hammer or pick-ax could uncover a fabulously valuable gemstone, but only the human mind could understand it's true worth. And only the human spirit could appreciate the soul-stirring beauty.



# COLORADO SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

- APRIL 2-3, 2022 -

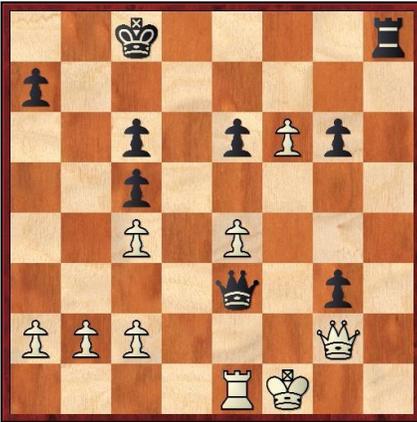
(MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW)

CHECK [WWW.COLORADOCHESS.COM](http://WWW.COLORADOCHESS.COM)

# 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. Dylan Goertz - Jason McEwen**  
*Denver Chess Club / February 2020*  
 Black to move



**2. Michael Igoe - Archer Murane**  
*Denver Chess Club / February 2020*  
 White to move



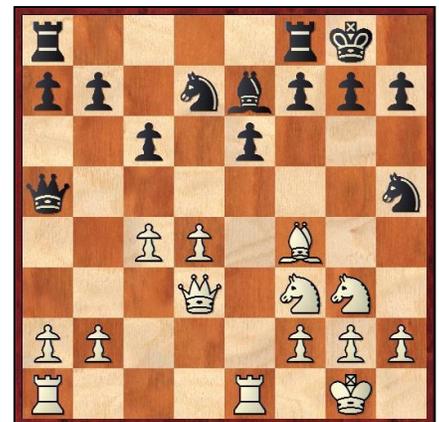
**3. Mark McGough - Brian Rountree**  
*Club Chess!! - Strong Swiss / 2020*  
 White to move



**4. Andrew Eskenazi - Owen Christ**  
*Colorado Springs Open / 2020*  
 White to move



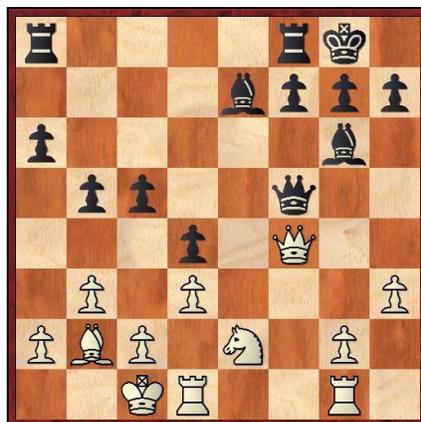
**5. Phillip Brown - Meint Olthof**  
*Denver Chess Club / March 2020*  
 White to move



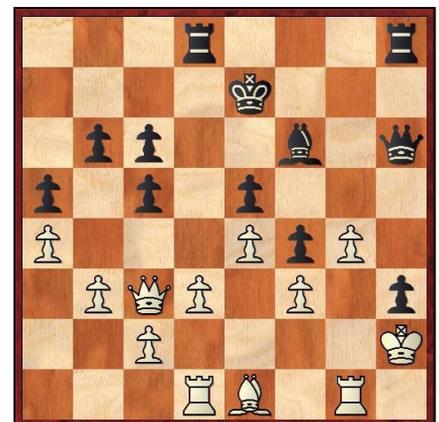
**6. Griffin McConnell - Earle Wikle**  
*Denver Chess Club / March 2020*  
 White to move



**7. Alayne Wilinsky - Walter Lowe**  
*Denver Chess Club / March 2020*  
 White to move



**8. Victoria Gordon - Stephen Goebel**  
*Denver Chess Club / March 2020*  
 Black to move



**9. Sara Herman - Navneet Ramkumar**  
*Colorado Springs Open / 2020*  
 White to move



## Tactics Time Answers:

1. **29...Rh1+!! 30.Qxh1 Qf2#**
2. **11.d4** attacks both the bishop on c5 and the misplaced knight on f4.
3. In the game White traded rooks, and the game ended in a draw, but **24.Rf1** pinning the bishop to the king was winning.
4. **29.Qxf5!! exf5 30.Bxb7 Bxb7 31.Bxf4** and White is up material.
5. In the game White played **14.Be3** and missed **14.Bxd6** picking up a pawn and overloading the Black queen. **14...Qxd6 15.Qxb6**.
6. **15.Bd2** retreats the bishop, which was under attack, but also attacks the Black queen on a5, which has no way to move, and maintain defense of the knight on h5. **15...Qc7 16.Nxh5**.
7. **21.Bxd5** wins a piece, taking advantage of the pinned e-pawn. **21...exd5 22.Rxe7**.
8. **20...Bg5** pins the White queen to the king.
9. **35.g5** forks the Black queen and bishop. If **35...Bxg5 36.Qxe5+ Kd7 37.Qxg5**.



# The Chess Detective®

## Thinking Like a Snake

by NM Todd Bardwick

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

Meet Monty, a five-foot long, ten-year-old, python.

Monty, who is one of my student's pet snake, pretty much lies around in his cage all day, but when it is feeding time he demonstrates good form on how to win a chess game when you have an advantage in material or space.

Python's are a member of the constrictor family of snakes. Constrictors wrap around their prey each time they breath in and slowly suffocate them.

Active, well-placed pieces are essential for good chess play. Of equal importance, is restricting your opponent's piece play.

Consider this position from a correspondence game from 1965-1968.



**Delinda (Black)**  
**Estrin (White)**  
Position after 13...Nc6

White has sacrificed a pawn to tie up Black's position and restrict his development.

Notice that not only is Black's extra pawn a backward pawn on d6, but White has no plans to let it advance anytime soon.

The d6 pawn blocks the d7 pawn, which in turn keeps the c8 bishop from entering the game through the center.

Black desperately needs to get this bishop out to complete his development.

White now stops Black's fianchetto idea by controlling the b6 square 14.a5 g6 15.Be3 0-0 16.Bb6. Now the b7 pawn can't move and there is now way out for the c8 bishop. Since the bishop can't get out, the rook is also trapped.

16...Bb8 17.g4 Kg7 18.0-0-0 Kf6 19.Ng2 Ke7 20.h4 Ba7 21.b4 Bxb6 22.Nxb6 Rb8. Now that Black's queenside is all locked up, White opens the kingside where he has more pieces.

23.h5 g5 24.Ne3 Ng7 25.h6 Resigns. After the Black knight on g7 moves away, White's knight will happily jump into f5 and then he will double his rooks on the d-file and crash into black's position through the center.

Pythons aren't the only type of snake important to chess.

Rattlesnakes also play an important role.

Rattlesnakes strike fast, bite, and poison their prey. When you are attacking the king or behind in material, you need to think like a rattlesnake. Of course, you strike at your opponent's king.

This is particularly important when you are behind in material because your opponent is thinking like a python ... restricting your play and trading pieces to convert his advantage into a winning endgame.

This position is from Hamburg in 1922 with Black to move.



**Moritz (Black)**  
**Emmrich (White)**  
Position after 26.Re1

White is ahead two exchanges to a pawn. He would like to be a python, trade pieces and win the endgame.

Black must be a rattlesnake and strike fast at the White king.

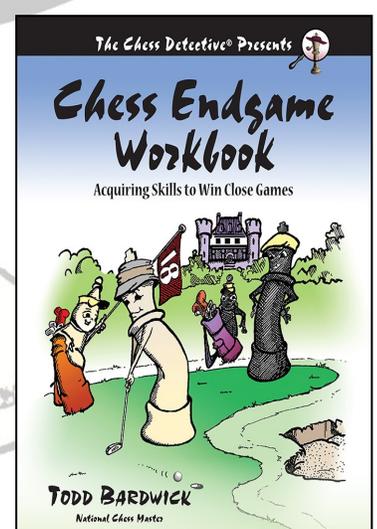
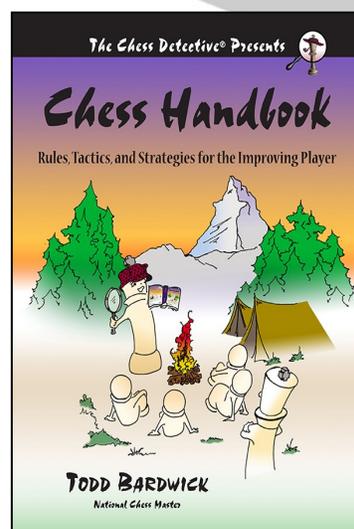
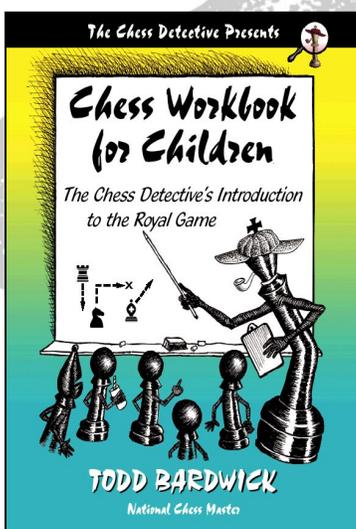
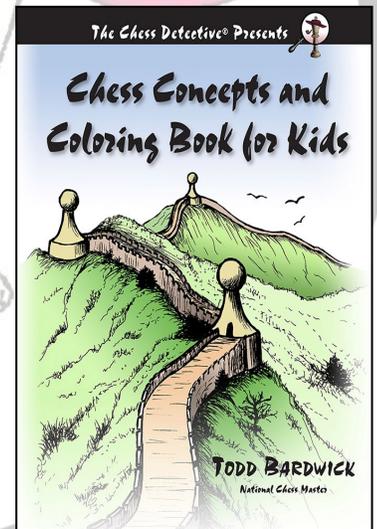
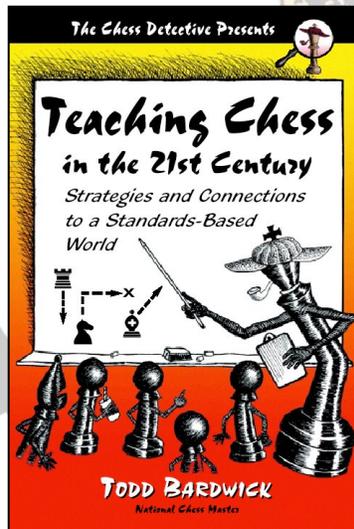
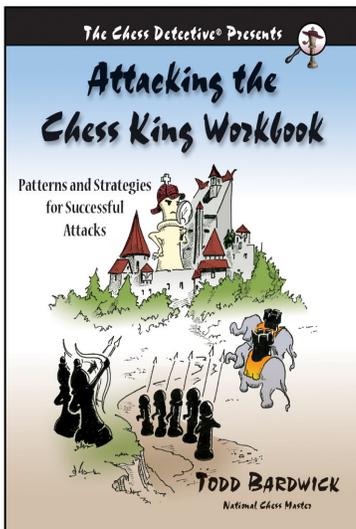
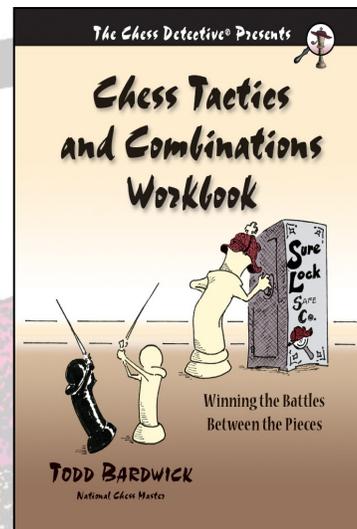
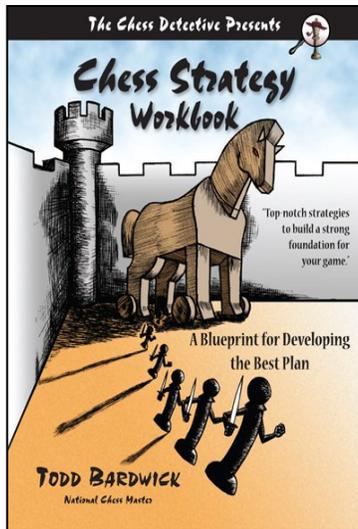
Fortunately, Black has lots of pieces hovering around White's king.

Black can win with the pretty 26...Qxh2+!! 27.Kxh2 Ng4+ 28.Kg1 Nh3+ 29.Kf1 Nh2#.

In the actual game, Black played 26...Bd5? 27.cxd5 Nh3+ 28.Kf1 and Black Resigned.



NM Todd Bardwick is the author of  
'Chess Strategy Workbook', 'Chess Endgame 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>*

# UPCOMING COLORADO TOURNAMENTS

(For more detailed information, go online to: <http://www.coloradochess.com/newtourn.shtml>)

Name	Date	City
DCC 2022 MLK Jr. Memorial	January 15 - 16, 2022	Denver
IHOP Chess Jan 2022, (2) Saturdays	January 22 - 29, 2022	Colorado Springs
2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #5	January 22, 2022	Denver
IHOP Quick Chess Jan 2022	January 23, 2022	Colorado Springs
CSU Chess - Rocky Mountain Championship	January 29, 2022	Fort Collins
Northern Colorado Chess Club: Second Saturday Swiss	February 12, 2022	Fort Collins
2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #6	February 26, 2022	Denver
2022 Colorado Closed and Scholastic Closed Championship	March 11 - 13, 2022	Denver
2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #7	March 19, 2022	Denver
2022 Colorado Senior Championship -- more information to follow	April 2 - 3, 2022	Loveland
2022 Colorado Class Championship -- more information to follow	June 4 - 5, 2022	Colorado Springs
2022 Colorado Open Blitz Championship	September 2, 2022	Denver

# UPCOMING COLORADO SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENTS

(For more detail information go online to: <http://www.coloradochess.com/tournament/scholastic>)

Name	Date	City
2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #5	January 22, 2022	Denver
Denver Scholastic Chess Series #6	February 5, 2022	Englewood
2022 Colorado Scholastic Blitz Championship	February 11, 2022	Aurora
2022 Colorado Scholastic Championship	February 12 - 13, 2022	Aurora
2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #6	February 26, 2022	Denver
2022 Colorado Closed and Scholastic Closed Championship -- more information to follow	March 11 - 13, 2022	Denver
Denver Scholastic Chess Series #7	March 12, 2022	Englewood
2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #7	March 19, 2022	Denver
Denver Scholastic Chess Series #8	April 2, 2022	Englewood
Denver Scholastic Chess Series #9	April 30, 2022	Englewood



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