

COLORADO CHESS

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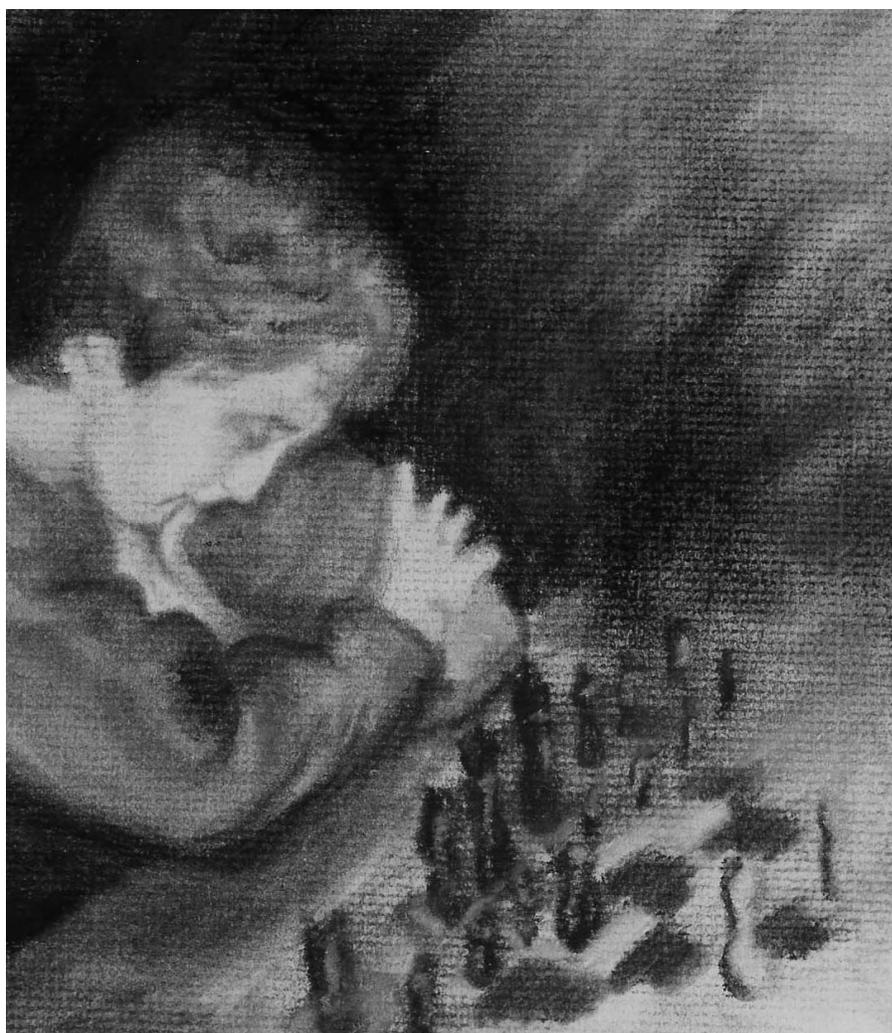
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INFORMANT

Colorado's Newest Expert!



Thirteen year old Tyler Hughes

**COLORADO STATE
CHESS ASSOCIATION**

The COLORADO STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION, INC. is a Sec. 501 (C) (3) tax-exempt, non-profit educational corporation formed to promote chess in Colorado. Contributions are tax-deductible. Dues are \$15 a year or \$3 a tournament. Youths under 21 and Senior memberships (65 or older) are \$10.

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

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**The Editor's Square
CO Chess Informant
Editor Tim Brennan**

Greetings Chess Friends,

There has been a lot going on in Colorado Chess the past few months, both on and off the board! The Denver Chess Club has had to move and change locations due to unforeseen and unexpected events. As of this printing they are not sure where they will be playing their future tournaments. Be sure and check the Colorado Chess Informant website for details as they change, or talk to club officers.

I would like to take the time to thank all of the people who work behind the scenes to make the chess tournaments in Colorado happen. It takes a lot of work to put on a chess tournament, including securing a location, advertising, handling the money, and sending the results to USCF. This does not even include all of the stuff during the tournament. Be sure and thank the tournament director and their assistants the next time you attend a tournament which you enjoy.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue. I received a lot of great submissions. Philipp Ponomarev and Brian Wall both took the time to annotate their games from the Colorado Closed, which I think that people will enjoy. Looking inside a master's mind can be both fruitful, and sometimes scary! Anthea Carson submitted some more of her beautiful artwork. Paul Grimm provided another funny update on his "mission from God" to get to 1800, and also a little something for the math nerds out there! I also received some great first time submissions from Randy Reynolds, Pete Short and Vance Aandahl (first time at least when I was the editor). Thanks guys! Mark Scheidies recorded some great games from the Boulder Open, and Buck Buchanan did the same for the Winter Springs Open. The mysterious Kosher Patzer sent in another page from his chess diary for a third issue in a row! Todd Bardwick, Bruce Galler and Nina Thomas submitted some nice photos. I am hoping that the photo quality will be better this issue than it has been in the past. The pictures they have submitted in the past look much better on my computer screen, than they have once I get the magazine back from the printer.

I hope to see you out on the Colorado Tour! There have been a lot of fun events the past couple of months, and I am sure the ones coming up will be great also!

Cheers,




On the cover: Super nice teen Tyler Hughes has been an unstoppable war machine the past few months. He drew a GM at the Loveland Open to push his USCF rating over 2000, and hasn't looked back. He won the Colorado Closed Scholastic with a perfect score, and also won the DCC May Daze Open section with a perfect score. *Artwork by Anthea Carson.*

Games from 2004 Colorado Springs Open

selection and comments by Richard Buchanan

Ted Doykos - Jim Hamblin [A06]CSO R1, Tennison Gambit

1.Nf3 d5 2.e4 (What's this? A gambit played AGAINST Jim? Can he bear the pressure?) 2...dxe4 3.Ng5 e5 4.d3 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.Ngxe4 Nd4 8.Qd1 Nxe4 9.dxe4 Qh4 10.Qd3 f5 11.Bd2 Bxc3 12.Bxc3 fxe4 13.Qd2 e3 (Yeah, I guess he can.) 0-1

Larry Wutt - Gary Frenzel [A65]CSO R1, Benoni

1.d4 e6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e4 exd5 6.cxd5 Be7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.Re1 Ng4 11.Bf4 Nge5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Be2 b5 14.Bxe5 dxe5 15.Bd3 c4 16.Bc2 Bc5 17.Rf1 Bd4 18.Rb1 Qg5 19.Kh1 Bg4 20.f3 Bd7 21.Ne2 Be3 22.b3 cxb3 23.Rxb3 Bb6 24.f4 exf4 25.Nxf4 Qe5 26.Rg3 Bd8 27.Qf3 Rc8 28.Qe2 a5 29.Nd3 Qe7 30.e5 b4 31.d6 Qe8 32.Nf4 f5 33.e6 Bb5 34.Bd3 Bxd3 35.Qxd3 Rc3 36.Qd5 Rxg3 37.hxg3 Bb6 38.e7+ Rf7 39.Qe6 Kh8 40.Nd5 1-0

James Kulbacki - Brian Wall [A40]CSO R2, Benoni

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 f5 6.e4 fxe4 7.h4 d6 8.h5 Qa5 9.Bd2 g5 10.Qc2 Bf5 11.Ne2 h6 12.Ng3 Bh7 13.Nxe4 Nd7 14.Bd3 0-0-0 15.0-0 Ngf6 16.Nxf6 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 exf6 18.Rab1 Ne5 19.Qf5+ Kb8 20.Qxf6 Qxa2 21.Be3 Qxc4 22.Qg7 Qxd5 23.f4 Rhg8 24.Qh7 gxf4 25.Rxb7+ Qxb7 26.Rb1 Rxg2+ 27.Kf1 Rb2 0-1

Josh Bloomer - Mitesh Shridhar [B52]CSO R2, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 g6 6.c3 Bg7 7.d4 Ngf6 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxe5 Ne4 10.Qa4 c4 11.e6 fxe6 12.Qxc4 Nd6 13.Qxe6 Qc7 14.Bf4 Nc5 15.Bxd6 Nxe6 16.Bxc7 Nxc7 17.Nbd2 0-0-0 18.Nc4 Bf6 19.Rad1 Nd5 20.g3 Rhf8 21.Nce5 Kc7 22.Nd4! 1-0

Jesse Hester - Arthur Kaufman [B02]CSO R2, Alekhin

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nc3 Nxc3 4.bxc3 d6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Qd5 7.d4 Bf5 8.Rb1 b6 9.Rb2 e6 10.Be2 Be4 11.Nh3 Ba3 12.Nf4 Qa5 13.Rb3 Bxc1 14.Qxc1 Qxa2 15.Kd2 g5 16.Nh5 Ke7 17.Nf6 (Black lost on time, but if the bishop moves, then 18 Ra3 scores the queen.) 1-0

Brian Walker, Sr - Andy Rea [E32]CSO R2, Nimzoindian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Qc2 d5 6.e3 b6 7.Bd2 Bb7 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Ne4 10.Bb4 c5 11.dxc5 bxc5 12.Bc3 Nd7 13.Rd1 Qe7 14.Be2 f5 15.0-0 Nb6 16.b4 Nxc4 17.Bxc4 dxc4 18.Ne5 Rad8 19.Nxc4 Qg5 20.f4 Qh5 21.Be5 Bd5 22.Nb2 cxb4 23.axb4 Rc8 24.Qa4 Nf6 25.Bd4 Rc7 26.Bc5 Rxc5 27.bxc5 Ng4 28.h3 Nxe3 29.Rxd5 Qe2 0-1

Roderick Santiago - Imre Barlay [E70]CSO R2, King's Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.Qd2 c6 7.Be2 a6 8.Bh6 Qa5 9.Bxg7 Kxg7 10.Nf3 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nbd7 13.g4 e5 14.g5 Ne8 15.h4 exd4 16.Qxd4+ Ne5 17.Be2 b5 18.f4 c5 19.Qd5 Nc7 20.Qxd6 Nxc4 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.Qf6+ Kg8 23.h5 Ne8 24.Qe7 Ng7 25.hxg6 fxg6 26.0-0 Rf7 27.Qe5 Raf8 28.Rad1 Qc7 29.Qd5 Kh8 30.Qd6 Qc8 31.f5 gxf5 32.Nd5 f4 33.Nf6 Rxf6 34.gxf6 Qg4+ 35.Kf2? Qg3+ 36.Ke2 Qe3# 0-1

Tim Fisher - Ron Wood [B52]CSO R2, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Qe2 a6 8.Rd1 Qc7 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 g6 11.Bg5 Bg7 12.Bxf6 exf6 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.Qc4 Rc8 15.Qe2 0-0 16.c3 Re8 17.Nxc6 Rxc6 18.Qf3 Re5 19.Rd3 f5 20.Nb4 Qe8 21.Nxc6 fxe4 22.Qd1 exd3 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.Qxd3 Qc6 25.Rd1 Qb6 26.b3 Qa5 27.g3 Qxa2 28.f4 Bf6 29.c4 Be7

(Continued on page 4)

CSCA Sense

By CSCA President Andrew Rea

If it's June, it's election season! Not our CSCA elections for the Board of Directors, per usual, those will be at our CSCA Annual Meeting, Saturday September 4, 5:00 before Rd2 of the Colorado Open at Glendale Community Center! Instead we now have annual USCF elections, either or both for the USCF Policy Board and for states Delegates to the USCF Delegates meeting each year at the US Open. Let it be noted that what follows is strictly my opinion, not necessarily reflecting the views of the CSCA Board.

In any event, we have 4 good candidates for Delegate, 2 of whom will be voted for as Delegate, with the other two as Alternates. We have 1 person, Dean Brown, who is definitely planning to be at the US Open, that's a fair consideration when voting! It is also fair to note that we know less about the candidates for USCF Policy Board. In my opinion, the two best candidates are Randy Bauer and Mikhail Korenmen, with a close honorable mention to Elizabeth Shaughnessey. USCF finances has been a perennial bone of contention, Randy Bauer has been an Auditor for the state of Iowa past 20 years, now their Budget Director, brings additional experience as an organizer and a member of Iowa's state board. I think we can get a very detailed and non-politicized view of USCF finances by electing Randy. As for Mikhail Korenmen, let's see what was happening in Kansas chess before his arrival.... And in a few years he has put Lindsborg on the map, with well regarded events, both for Masters and Scholastics. He brings a record of attracting sponsorship; I think we would do well to see if he can help on the national level as USCF strives for further sponsored events. Re Elizabeth Shaughnessey, she has gone through the grass roots- after her emigration- from club organization to healthy involvement with Northern California chess. Its not an accident she has gained many prominent endorsements, I think a vote for her would be well considered, much more so than our other candidates.

Let's not understate the value of our votes- last year the President of New Jersey's state federation finished fifth with write-in votes. Much as many do not share the views of, say, Sam Sloan, at least he runs a public campaign. This is much better than having stealth candidates taking advantage of voter apathy. I can hardly expect our membership to agree with me on my view of the candidates- as with other matters, disagreement is to be expected, we can hardly expect unanimity!

Moving on to a few other matters, I want to thank Paul Grimm and Betty Baffo for getting the CSCA Tour Database revised! This will make it easier to have updates posted more quickly! Getting back to disagreement in our ranks- please remember that while we have a Board of Directors, we are not omniscient- so if you have a question or concern that you do not think is being seriously addressed, please let me or one of my colleagues know! We are volunteers, we try very hard, but we are also flawed- so if we are missing the boat, it's no problem in being so advised!

Last, not least, is that I am glad to let all know we had another good year of fundraising for the Denker and Polgar funds! This was a new challenge, the inaugural Polgar Invitational in addition to the Denker, but we will be able to largely fund the trips for Brandon Cooksey and McKenzie Mical thanks to your generous contributions!! Good luck to both at their events, running during the US Open early August, good luck to all at our next several events!! To include the Colorado Open- new site, and more space than we had last year! ♖

Letters to the Editor

Open Letter to Colorado Chess Informant and the Denver Chess Club,

I write this letter to state why I will not be supporting the "fundraising" tournaments in the future. In the past months I have played tournaments with reduced prize money to help out Lisa, the Denker representative, as well as the Polgar representative. If I played chess for the prize money I would be wasting my time. I play because I enjoy it.

Just because I enjoy it does not mean that I will continue supporting these tournaments. Why? I have never met or even seen any of these people we are helping at the tournaments that are being run for them. I am not saying that this is a scam, I think it is a matter of courtesy that they appear so we all know who we are helping.

My suggestion is this in regards to the Denker and Polgar reps. I would give them free entry into the tournament. That would give them more experience and let the people interact with those who they are helping. I hope the tournament directors will consider this. Until then my participation is up in the air.

Thank you for this forum,

Michael Marson



Tim and Todd

Your CCI had some good articles in it.

Best was Bardwick's chess movie article.

I would even like to re-pub it in the OCQ giving Todd and CCI full credit of course. Okay?

A couple of other humorous articles in the recent CCI were good too. Black pieces on black squares might need some work.

Frank Berry, Editor of Ok Ch Quarterly



Hi Tim,

Would you please update the CSCA posting for the location of the CU/Boulder Chess Club. We have been in a different place for some time now and apparently it never got changed on the CSCA website. You can get the correct info. at our website: <http://www.colorado.edu/StudentGroups/CUChess/index.html> or here it is below:

TIME: Every Wednesday, 7:00 pm - midnight

LOCATION: University Memorial Center (UMC) on Boulder Campus. Rooms 382 to 386. The UMC is on the north side of Broadway at approximately 16th St. and Broadway.

Thanks very much. If you have any questions, please send me an email or give me a call.

Dave Bayless (303) 444-2144



30.Qc3 Qa3 31.Kg2 Qc5 32.b4 Qe6+ 33.Kg1 b5 34.Re1 Qe7 35.Rc1 bxc4 36.Qxc4 Qb6+ 37.Kg2 d5 38.Qxd5 Qxb4 39.Rc8+ Kg7 40.Qe5+ f6 41.Qc7 Qe4+ 42.Kg1 Qe3+ 43.Kg2 Qe4+ 44.Kg1 1/2-1/2

Andy Rea - Josh Bloomer [E63]CSO R3, King's Indian
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.g3 d6 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 a6 8.h3 Rb8 9.Kh2 b5 10.Ng1 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Ng4+ 12.Qxg4 Bxg4 13.hxg4 bxc4 14.Bd5 e6 15.Bxc4 d5 16.Bb3 c5 (Josh will win because of his strong bishop, his central pawn mass, and the lack of co-ordination among the white pieces.) 17.Nf3 c4 18.Bc2 d4 19.Ne4 f5 20.gxf5 gxf5 21.Neg5 Qe7 22.Nh3 e5 23.Rd1 Qb7 24.Nd2 Qc6 25.b3 c3 26.Nc4 Rbd8 27.b4 Kh8 28.Na5 Qg6 29.Ba3 Rf6 30.b5 Qh5 31.Kg2 Re8 32.Bd3 axb5 33.Bxb5 Ra8 34.Bb4 Rb6 35.a4 Qf7 36.Rh1 Qd5+ 37.f3 Rxb5! 38.axb5 Qxb5 39.Nc4 Rxa1 40.Rxa1 h6 a1.Ra8+ Kh7 42.Nxe5 Qxe2+ 43.Nf2 Qxe5 44.Ra7 c2 45.Bd2 Qe2 46.Bf4 Kg6 47.Ra3 Be5 48.Bc1 Qe1 49.Ra6+ Bf6 50.Bb2 c1Q 51.Rxf6+ Kxf6 52.Bxd4+ Kf7 (Josh played some very fine chess in this tournament.) 0-1

Shane Gaschler - Jim Hamblin [C73]CSO R3, Ruy Lopez
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d4 f6 7.Nh4 g6 8.f4 exf4 9.Bxf4 f5 10.Nxf5 (Another sacrificial attack against Jim. But this one is more successful.) 10...Qf6 11.0-0 gxf5 12.Nc3 Bg7 13.e5 Qg6 14.Qd3 d5 15.Na4 Ne7 16.Qa3 Bf8 17.Rf3 Qg4 18.Raf1 Rg8 19.g3 Rg6 20.Nc5 Kf7 21.Qa5 Rb8 22.Nd3 Re6 23.Qxc7 Rb7 24.Qa5 Rb5 25.Qd8 Qg8 26.a4 Rb8 27.Bc1 Qg4 28.Rf4 Qg6 29.Nc5 Rb7 30.Nxb7 Bxb7 31.Qc7 1-0

Ken Doykos - James McKenna [A35]CSO R3, English
1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nc2 Qb6 10.Ne3 Rc8 11.Ned5 Qc5 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Ne4 Qd4 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Rb1 0-0 16.b3 Rc7 17.Bb2 Qg5 18.Bc3 b5 19.Qd5 Qxd5 20.cxd5 Ne5 21.Bxe5 dxe5 22.d6 exd6 23.Rfd1 Rfc8 24.Rxd6 Rc1+ 25.Rd1 Rxb1 26.Rxb1 Rc2 27.Rd1 Be6 28.Bd5 Rxe2 29.Bxe6 fxe6 30.Rd8+ Kf7 31.Rd7+ Kf6 32.Rxa7 h5 33.h4 e4 34.a4 e3 35.fxe3 Rxe3 36.Kf2 Rxb3 37.axb5 Rxb5 38.Ra4 e5 39.Kf3 Rb3+ 40.Ke4 Rxc3 41.Ra6+ Kg7 42.Kxe5 Rg4 43.Ra7+ Kh6 44.Ra8 Rxb4 45.Kf6 Rf4+ 46.Ke5 Kg5 47.Rg8 Rf5+ 48.Ke4 h4 49.Rh8 Kg4 50.Rh6 g5 51.Rh8 Rf1 52.Ke5 Kg3 53.Rh5 Kg4 54.Rh8 h3 55.Rh7 Rf2 56.Ke4 h2 57.Ke3 Rf3+ 0-1

Richard Cordovano - James Kulbacki [C13]CSO R3, French
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Ne4 6.Bxe7 Nxc3 7.Bxd8 Nxd1 8.Rxd1 Kxd8 9.f4 b6 10.Nf3 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.c3 Ke7 13.Ke2 c5 14.g4 g6 15.Rc1 Rac8 16.h3 h5 17.Kd2 Rc7 18.Ke2 Rbc8 19.gxh5 gxh5 20.Reg1 cxd4 21.Nxd4 Nc5 22.Nb5 Rd7 23.Nd6 Rf8 24.Rg7 Na4 25.Rhg1 Nxb2 26.Rh7 Nc4 27.Nxc4 dxc4 28.Rgg7 Ke8 29.Rg3 Rd5 30.Rxb5 Ra5 31.Rh7 Rxa2+ 32.Ke3 b5 33.Kd4 Rf2 34.Ke3 Rf1 35.h4 Rh1 36.h5 a5 37.h6 a4 38.Rg2 Kd7 39.Rgg7 Kc6 40.Rxf7 Rxf7 41.Rxf7 Rxb6 42.Kd4 Rg6 43.Rf8 Rg1 44.Re8 Kd7 45.Rb8 Rb1 46.Kc5 Rd1 47.Rb7+ Kd8 48.Rb6 Kd7 49.Rb7+ Kd8 1/2-1/2

Anthea Carson - Gary Frenzel [C01]CSO R3, French
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.Bg5 b6 9.Re1 Bb7 10.Re3 c5 11.Qe2 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Bc5 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Rh3+ Kg6 15.Qd3+ Kxg5 16.Qf5# 1-0

Renae Delaware - Steve Sabean [C47]CSO R3, Scotch
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 bxc6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Re1 d6 11.Rb1 Qe7 12.Bg5 Qe5 13.Qd2 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Re3 Qe6 16.Rg3 a5 17.Re1 f5 18.Kf1 Qxa2 19.Qxh6 Qf7 20.exf5 Rxe1+ 21.Kxe1 Qe7+ 22.Kd2 1-0 

by LM Brian Wall

Brian Wall's Colorado Closed

I promised Tim Brennan I would analyze every game of the Colorado Closed 2004 I played in. I promised I would not release it to the general public so it would be a surprise. I am sending these games only to Tim and to the other participants of the Closed so that they could make comments on my games or their own.

My credentials for playing in the Closed are as follows - I won the Closed a couple of years ago, I tied for 1st in the Colorado Open twice, 25 years apart.

My opponent in the first round came in the form of a lovely lady from Wyoming who arrived the night before the tournament. I felt obligated to buy her dinner (and a pitcher of beer for me). I got little sleep, I drove to the Tabor Center, I left my car door open!! (I found this out after the day's events), I moved the tables around clumsily and smashed my opponent's clock! (which I eventually replaced with a better one a month later), I miraculously achieved a drawn rook versus rook and knight ending which I had been practicing shortly before the tournament (my sole preparation was an intense study of Dvoretzky's Endgame Manual, lent to me by Tyler Hughes - the review said it was " the best Chess book ever written "), I then proceeded to hallucinate a mate in the middle of the board!!!! (which is actually impossible without help from my own pieces!!!!), I cursed my luck, stumbled away from the board, noticed all the spectators seemed frozen in horror, looked at it again!!!!!!!! (it was also displayed on my demonstration board!!!!) and STILL thought it was mate, walked away and my flag finally fell. I didn't realize it wasn't mate till TD Andy Rea told me much later!!!!

Moral of the story - if you are going to drink before a big Chess game, make sure you are an alcoholic!! - otherwise the perceptual problems come as too big of a shock! Paul Nikitovich told me a similar story during the tournament which might account for his worst result in decades!

My first official opponent who did not have blonde hair or answer to the name Demon Rum was Double Doctor Mikhail Ponomarev. What can I say about him? The man is indestructible. 5 different prisons, 10 years in the Gulag, years Mikhail says that the Soviet au-

thorities would not let him play Chess, a Doctor of Medicine and Psychology, a famous poet.

My Grandfather, my Father and myself all had children in our forties. Mikhail had his last child, Philip, at 57! Bravo, Mikhail! (OK, we still can't beat actor Tony Randall of the Odd Couple who married and had a child with a woman half a century his junior - 75, 25 with a five second delay).

Mikhail remembers tournaments in Russia the rest of us only read about, he has analyzed with Tal, who knows the wealth of his Chess experiences? Martina Navratilova, the female tennis star, claimed that tournaments are won before the games begin - when in the last 7 decades did Mikhail pick up the skills to beat me - the 1930's?, the 1940's?, the 1950's? Most of you who read this will never play in a State Championship. What's it like? It's war! Normally a blunder in a Colo. tournament creates some slight discomfort, mild indigestion. In this tournament, one weak move might lead to a loss or at least, prolonged suffering.

Keep in mind that we may have roughly the same rating but not the same knowledge. We may have some patterns and endgames in common but basically we know mostly different ideas. The struggle is to try not to wander too far into your opponent's area of expertise. That is why we move slowly in the openings sometimes- we are trying to review what systems are viable - a normal chessplayer in the same position might be wondering what piece to lift off the back rank or what Pandolfini position does this most resemble.

I have played hundreds (or is it thousands?) of games with the Ponomarevs. I can't tell - at my age everything happened yesterday or 20 years ago. The games were mostly \$1 per person per game with me choosing a random partner. They respect the game, think deeply, are interested in the truth of a position and will analyze for hours without a computer to find it.

W: Mikhail Ponomarev (221)
B: Brian Wall (2238) [A40]
Colorado Closed 2004
March 20, 2004

Feb 2004 USCF rating list-
Brian Wall - #88 in the U.S. for quick players at 2272

April 2004 USCF rating list -
Mikhail Ponomarev - 2211 at age 78 - # 25 in the country for standard ratings over 65's, #13 in the country for quick ratings over 65's at 2127. #25 is Colorado's Imre Barlay at 1997 for quick ratings over 65.

The exclamation points is where Fritz thinks we played the best moves. Double exclamation does not mean great move here - it means best move although there are other good ones.

White - Dr. Mikhail Ponomarev (2211)
Black - Brian Wall (2238) minus a hangover (-100)

Round 1 Board 2
30 moves in 90 minutes then Game in 55 minutes with a 5 second delay on the second time control.

1. d4 g6 2. e4! Bg7! 3. Nc3! d6!
3 ... d5!?! surprises most ICC opponents but we had played many games with this already.

4. Bc4 c6 5. a4 a5?! My ignorance rarely ceases to amaze me- there are 73 games in the database after 5 a4 - how come they all knew that the natural 5 ... a5 was wrong and 5 ... Nf6 was correct? Nine minutes of "thought" didn't help.

6. Qf3! TN A good Theoretical Novelty. Bravo, Mikhail! I was kind of afraid of the move but decided he wouldn't play it because it looked a little primitive, a little Ayo-Isaac-Kikaish. I don't know what logarithm Mikhail uses to find moves but at age 78 he surpasses the previous 3 chess players who faced this position and found the best move - we are on our own now.

6 ... e6! Against Ayo or Isaac or Kika (roughly age 6) I might have lingered over 6 ... Nd7!! longer.

7. Nge2! Na6 This system is like the early American revolutionaries - the goal is to hide from the enemy and snipe at the English behind trees. The problem is that there are no good places to put the pieces so they struggle behind the lines. The good part is that there are few trades if you want to win. Old friend IM John Watson in "Chess Strategy in Action" disputes the theory that cramped players crave trades and freer positions should avoid them.

8. O-O! Nb4! (8 ... h6, ... Qe7, ... d5)
9. Bb3! Ne7 10. Bg5! I felt sick after this move (or was it a bad olive in my martini?). The dark squares just collapsed thanks to 10 ... f6? 11 B:f6 0-0 12 B:e7 and as a substitute I have a

pathetic c8-bishop which can move one square and a knight which can be driven to a6 after White plays Nb1, pawn-c3. That's sweet - 2 minor pieces fighting for the valuable a6-square. This tournament is off to a rollicking start.

10 ... O-O! 11. Bf6! Bxf6! (... b6!, ... d5!) 12. Qxf6! b6! 13. Nf4? I call this move Rumsfeld because I need a scapegoat. The good Doctor has a big advantage after 10 Bg5 but none after 16 Qe5. I think 13 Nf4 is mostly to blame-it is a little inflexible and restricts White's queen a bit. A better plan is to centralize White's rooks and wait to see what happens.

13 ... d5! 14. f3 Ba6! 15. Rfd1! Nc8! 16. Qe5 I saw the idea of 16 ... Re8! threatening ... f6, trapping the queen and encouraging 17 Nfe2 but I didn't see the next move 17 ... c5! taking more advantage of the Qe5-Re8 opposition. This line more than any other highlights why 13 Nf4 (The Rumsfeld) was a hasty choice. Another good move is 16 ... Nd6!! supporting 17 ... Bc4! - I decided to force his queen to trade or retreat.

16 ... Qd6 17. Qg5 Qe7! 18. Qg3 This part of the game amused me - most Colorado Chessplayers watch their pawns fiercely when playing me like a Western woman grabs her children during a shootout. A flickering feeling of ecstasy passes over their worried faces when they manage to trade instead of lose something. The Colorado Closed is about the only tournament where a player might refuse me a draw or avoid an even swap. Mikhail is going through contortions to mate me in the middle game! One has to admire his constitution - what is he made of- titanium? 78 years old and he still hates draws.

18 ... Nd6! 19. Re1! Bc4! (... de!) 20. Bxc4! My d-pawn looks like it might be vulnerable to some N:d5 shots exploiting the Re1-Qe7 opposition but it's really not - 20 ed Nf5 21 Qg4 B:b3 22 cb and I actually am rich with good options here like 22 ... Nc2, cd, N:d5, Qf6, N:d4, Rad8 and ... Rac8 in descending order of strength at 16 ply, all with the edge to me.

20 ... Nxc4! 21. b3! Nxc2! Fritz and ex-Colo Junior Champion Eric Anderson told me after the game that 21... Nd6!! was better than my plan.

22. bxc4! Nxa1!! (.. dc!, ... N:e1!) 23. Rxa1! Qb4! 24. Rc1! (21 Nfe2!!) Qxc4! 25. Nce2 (25 Nfe2, Qf2 are

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

roughly equivalent with Mischa's move) **Qxa4!** =

26. Nh5! = f5! (... f6! =) **27. e5** (27 ed! =, 27 Qe5! =, 27 Qg5) **Qa2?** with 3 minutes to make 4 moves, Fritz says at 16 ply there are 4 moves that are equal - 27 ... Kh8, .. Ra7, ... Rf7 and ... Qb5). My lame idea was to get closer to the time control by attacking the knight.

28. Kf1! c5 (28 ... Rf7 29 Nf6+ Kh8 30 Qg5 is also better for the great Ponomarev) **29. Nf6+! Kg7!** **30. dxc5!** (30 Nf4!! is even more vicious threatening N:e6+ or N:h7) **bxcs!**

31. Nd7! (again 31 Nf4!! is even more vicious) **d4!** I stared at the demonstration board after the time control and thought I found a brilliant move. I did. The point is that the e6 square is worth more than my rook. My move is best but it's not quite good enough. I am still very proud of it and hoped to hold on. The idea is always the same, the idea that transcends all others and leads to millions of victories - forget the material balance and coordinate your pieces.

32. Nxf8! Rxf8 I did not seriously consider 32 ... K:f8! because 33 Qg5 looks so awful for me. It turns out that 33 ... Rb8! creates some counter-play and that 33 Nf4!! or 33 Qh4! is stronger - as GM Dmitry Gurevich says before a postmortem - " Let's see how far I was from reality! "

33. Rxc5!! obvious but best by far. **33 ... d3! 34. Nc3??** (34 Nc1!! is the only good move as Philip Ponomarev pointed out after the game _ Mikhail's move is second best but throws away all the advantage! I saw the strength of 34 Nc1 and was wondering what to do about it. A key idea is 34 c1 d2 35 N:a2 d1(Q)+ 36 Qe1 with everything under control.) **Qb3?**

We each had 24 minutes - my clock ran down to 15 and I started to panic - I couldn't grasp the position - the variations were a blur- there seemed to be no clear place for the queen to be. It turns out that 34 ... Qa3!!, .. Qc2! or ... Qb2! were good for rough equality.

35. Qg5! Rf7! (... Qb6!) **36. Qd2! Qb4 37. Rb5! Qd4 38. Rxa5! Rb7!** I am a piece down but every piece and pawn left is where they should be - are you getting the idea of how to play Master Chess yet? What do I have to do? Notice that after you harmonize your position the material flows back to you. Quantum Physic - Energy = Matter

= Time in different forms. C'mon, people this isn't rocket science - Well, Ok, it is. Chess is a river - the material drops while you powerfully post your pieces, then the material returns after they get there. Let your pieces breathe, let them float and do not begrudge your learned opponent a few trifles. Let freedom ring in every Chess Club in America! It does not matter if this exact position is sound or not. This is how real Chess is played. I have 5 minutes left - Mikhail used half of his 18 minutes to play

39. Ra4 Qxe5! 40. Qxd3! Qxh2! 41. Qd4+ 7 minutes for Mikhail - 4 for me.

41 ... Kf7?? The first really awful move of the game - I stopped recording moves and times here - the rest is a recreation. 41 ... e5 is much better but still losing.

42. Qh4?? equal now I think.

42 Nb5!! is a killer and there are other good moves too but none so devastating. Now I trade queens, throw a pawn wave at his pawns, trade them off and reach a drawn King and rook and versus King, rook and knight endgame.

42 ... Qxh4 43. Rxb4 Kf6 44. g3 h5 45. Kf2 Rc7 46. Ne2 e5 47. Rb4 Rc6 48. Ke3 g5 49. Ra4 f4+ = definitely equal now theoretically because all the pawns come off.

50. gxf4 exf4+ 51. Kf2 The next decision haunted me during the time scramble - I was eager to trade the pawns off but 51 .. Rc2 looks like a positional draw with chances for a cheap time win. Mikhail kept recording moves after I stopped which helped me catch up in time to about 3 minutes each with time delay.

51 ... g4 52. Rxf4+ Ke5 53. Re4+ Kf6 54. Ra4 gxf3 55. Kxf3—The rest you know - we played about 20 random moves until I concocted a checkmate from barley and hops and fairy dust. I even forgot to ask TD Andy Rea to start counting for the 50 move rule - I even forgot to get rid of my superfluous extra h-pawn. Don't try this at home, kids.

1-0

Round 2

What's it like playing in a State Championship? It's running the gauntlet as Chess genius after Chess genius pounds you over the head with tomahawks.

After playing a man with 7 decades

Chess experience in Round 1, six of them in Russia, Chess capital of the World, my next opponent is an Aerospace Engineer, Chess trained in Russia with the physical stamina of a tri-athlete! Oh, this should be fun!

I consider Josh Bloomer and Dennis Kholodar the coolest guys to hang out with in Colorado Springs. Dennis has more energy and ambition in his little pinkie than I have in my whole body. Send Dennis to a store to pick up a pack of smokes at 7-11 and he will arrive 3 hours later because he had to scale a mountain on the way.

Dennis is currently studying French because a degree in Aerospace Engineering, becoming a tri-athlete and knowing Russian and English are mild, humdrum accomplishments in his family and he needs to self-improve.

Dennis is a good friend, he gave me a book by Mordecai Richler for my birthday. Dennis hangs out in Starbucks after work to observe American behavior. One Polish immigrant told me , "I love America - it's the Americans I have a problem with!"

Dennis seems on good terms with everyone. Dennis will probably build a skyscraper in Colorado Springs before some woman discovers his good qualities and slows him down.

I know Dennis has been working very hard on his Chess - I studied Dvoretzky's Endgame Manual for about 3 weeks before the Closed, Dennis studied it for at least 3 months. Dennis has played the Dragon since his teen years - Bobby Fischer denigrated the Dragon so Dennis has no trouble in America reaching his favorite position. Dennis thinks like a Chessmaster, by that I mean he goes into half hour huddles searching deeply for the essence of the position. His post-mortems invariably include variations his opponent never considered.

One thing I absolutely adore about all Russian Chessplayers is their love of endgames. Try to get an American to look at an endgame and he gets a glazed look in his eyes and excuses himself to McDonald's. Show an interesting endgame to a Russian and his eyes lights up as he reaches for the Vodka. Deep snow produces deep thinkers.

Last year there were four Colorado Springs experts, a young, hungry lion pride, trying to become Masters (the other Colorado Springs experts seemed to be trying to become A-players

again.), Dennis Kholodar, Josh Bloomer, Arthur Kaufman (Coffman?) and Adam Weissbarth.

State's evidence -

Rating History for DANIEL P AVERY
USCF ID 12405387 Expires 09-04 State COLORADO

Source Regular Rating Quick
05-05 Unofficial 1996 1967
12-03 Annual List 2006 1975
10-03 Supplement 2014 1984
08-03 Supplement 2033 1984

Dan will be back on top soon as long as he can keep Michael Marson up North.

As much as I enjoyed analyzing with them and helping them achieve their goals, when I actually play them a rated game, the Devil gets a hold of me. They seem like lumberjacks moving their feet very rapidly trying to stay on a log floating downstream and I figure all I need to do is give them one good forearm smash to the back of the head and they will topple backwards helplessly into the dreaded Expert River again. As much as I like them, some pit bull Highlander instinct comes out, born from all my hard work in Chess and I want to prove over the board - "No, Mountain folk, there can be only one!" I can't help it - if someone is rated between 2200-2210 or 2000-2010, the temptation is too great.

Dennis wouldn't even be playing in these tournaments except that he hurt his knees exercising so hard and decided to take a physical break and become a Chess Master just for fun.

One amusing anecdote - I was trying to get together a few friends for a retreat to the mountains - Dennis called Towbin to see if he could come along - Steve Towbin has lived with a beautiful young woman named Lisa and even longer with a pot-bellied pig (my suggested name - Pot Roast) - Towbin left a message on Kholodar's answering machine saying he couldn't make it because of his pig and Dennis couldn't believe his ears, thinking it must be some flaw in his command of English. As many times as he listened to the message, his mind could not accept it's meaning.

W: Brian Wall (2238)
B: Dennis Kholodar (2208) [A65]
Colorado Closed 2004
March 20, 2004

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White - Humble local guy Brian
Black - Trained Russian assassin Dennis Kholodar

The exclamation marks are where Fritz thinks we made the best move, a rare occurrence.

1. d4 Nf6! 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3! exd5! 5. cxd5! d6 6. e4! g6 7. f3 Bg7! 8. Bg5 O-O! 9. a4 a6 10. Qd2! Nbd7! 11. Nh3! Qa5! 12. Nf2 Re8 13. Be2 b5! 14. O-O! b4! 15.Ncd1! h5 TN
Theoretical Novelty by Chess Master Dennis Kholodar. I'm telling you, these Colorado Springs Chessplayers study my openings, looking for tiny loopholes in my rock-solid repertoire.
15 ... Qc7 was played in Muelders-Boeykens Belgium Championship Round 1 and in Walter Browne - Victor Rajna 3/31/2000 in the San Francisco, California Master Tournament and 15 ... Nb6 was played in Morovic-Khatena 4/12/1995 Newark.

A few words about this position from a guy who has played it for 15 years. IM-Elect David Vigorito taught me this system 15 years ago. There is usually a White logjam on e2 because the f1-bishop wants to go there - it is exposed to a Black knight on e5 if he goes to d3. The g1-knight also wants to go to e2. I usually go through contortions following a plan invented by GM Yasser Seirawan, that is, Ne2-c1-a2 followed by Be2, 0-0 and pawn-b4. White is usually very happy if he can sneak his knight into f2, avoiding the pretzel twist. Some White players of this system even waste two tempi to get it there with Ng1-e2-c1-d3-f2!!

Another thought - I can probably prevent ... b5 by playing Ra3 but it is sometimes a very clever idea to let the opponent overextend. What does Dennis achieve by ... b5-b4 except to weaken his hold on c4? I used this plan even more effectively against Colorado's only GM Sharavdorj (Shrivon ICC) in the Levy Memorial 2003 and was killing him for about 40 moves before I decided to get "fancy" and sac the exchange.

One of the convenient things about this system is that it can be used versus both the King's Indian and the Benoni. It has been one of my major workhorses and it is rare for me to lose a game with it.

It is interesting to see what Fritz thinks of this book line - working backwards Fritz is not impressed with 15 ... h5, rating it 13th best with 13 ... Ra7 coming out on top. Fritz advised me to do the same on move 13 with 13 Ra2.

These moves don't come easy to humans. The amusing recommendation for me is 5 ... Bd6! instead of 5 ... d6, an offbeat line sometimes tried by GMs.

16. Ne3 16 Re1 is good too. Even natural and thematic moves can be improved on. Fritz likes 16 Nd3! best to discourage ... Ne5.

16 ... Nh7 17. Nc4! Qc7! 18. Bf4! Ne5! 19. Bxe5! Bxe5! 20. Nxe5! Rxe5! 21.Nd3 Re8! 22. b3 Fritz behavior here is similar to Classical French positions - contact with the enemy is limited and I have a wide range of moves with similar values keeping the advantage. My move is 20th best but only 12% of a pawn difference from #1 choices 22 Rac1, Rfe1, a5, Rf2 and Rfc1 - in other words the game has not reached its crisis or critical tactical point yet.

Since this is not very helpful I can say that I played 22 b3 to lock in the c4 square for my pieces but later changed to a more dynamic plan of keeping my knight on d3, lining up the rooks as best I could and playing for the e5 pawn break. I had to fight my human prejudice of Nd3-b2-c4 because in every human game this is where the GMs put their knight.

Humans can find new patterns, it just takes longer.

22 ... Qe7 A good move but he doesn't see my plan yet.

23. Rac1! a5 A good move but he doesn't see my plan yet.

24. Rfe1 I spent about 9 minutes between 22 b3 and 25 e5 trying to set up the maximum amount of impact for my pawn break. Fritz prefers the traditional plan of 24 Nb2 but my plan is a close second.

24 ... Qf6 14 minutes left to move 30. Dennis said he was unconcerned about e5 because he had seen Benoni positions where the d-pawn became weak. My first thought was that sometimes people in far off lands trying to assimilate American culture remain decades behind and perhaps Dennis had only gotten as far as the drug culture of the 1960's. In any case I have been trying to prepare e5 and ... Qf6 just encourages it.

25. e5! 46 minutes left to move 30

25. ...dxe5 26. Nxc5! Rd8! 27.Red1 Bf5 Black is running out of position and time. It's hard to choose one move that did the damage - it was more like a

gradual decline. The main concept of this line as I play it is to hold the Kingside secure and attack on the Queenside and center.

28. Bb5! Since Dennis only had 3 minutes left to move 30, I tried to think of the trickiest line I could. It worked.

28 ... Nf8 29. Bc6! Rac8 30. Nb7! Ne6! OK, I have to give Dennis credit here -with 5 seconds on his clock, he comes up with an amazing plan to sac the exchange in order to post his knight on d4 and have dark square control.

31. Nxa5 Sure, taking the exchange is good but my brilliant counterplan is to let him keep his rook and mop up his queenside pawns instead. I followed the identical plan against Towbin later in the tournament.

31 ... Nd4 32. Rc4 Fritz asks the Question, " Brian, why are you being so elaborate when you can just undermine the d4-knight with 32 f4!"

32. ..g5 Dennis acts like he has pocket Fritz because he stops the computer's suggestion which only makes my real plan stronger.

33.Rxd4 Fritz - "33 Q:b4 is simpler, Brian."

33 ... exd4! 34. Qxd4! Qxd4+ 35. Rxd4 Bd7! 36. Rxb4! Bxc6 37. Nxc6! I thought for 4 minutes comparing 37 dc and N:c6 and it slowly dawned on me that the c6-knight is a real monster.

37 ... Rd7! If 37 ... R:d5 then 38 Ne7+. This is the first time in my life that I have actually felt sorry for my opponents pieces. They just can't achieve anything - they are frozen doing absolutely nothing. Let's see why.

- 1 - Kingside pawns are symmetrical
- 2 - The queenside pawns are symmetrical except that Dennis doesn't have any.
- 3 - He cannot double rooks on the e-file and one rook on the e-file does nothing due to Kf2.
- 4 - His King wanders around aimlessly.
- 5- He cannot create a passed pawn.

I try to associate mental pictures with Chess positions to remember them better. In this case I tried to imagine a stationary object being attacked by a mobile force. Dennis can do nothing against the slow forward march of my queenside pawns. I finally came up with the image of an alarm clock on a dresser being assaulted by a crack SWAT team.

38. a5 Kg7 39. Rb5! When Dennis moved his King, my d-pawn became capturable. My Philosophy training makes the common Chess phrase - "38 ... R:d5 is impossible due to " painful to my sensitive ears.

39 ... Ra8 40. b4! Kf6 41. Kf2! I was very proud that my sac-the-exchange-not-win-the-exchange plan was working but Paul Nikitovich said - "What's the big deal? - You have 3 pawns for the exchange!"

41 ... Kf5 42. Rc5! g4 Poor Dennis had used up another time control trying to find a way to break down my fortress. I actually felt bad about his lack of time or counterplay. 5 minutes left for Dennis. Fritz clearly recognizes Kholodar's helplessness- the top 10 moves all do nothing and have almost identical values.

43. b5! h4 44. fxd4+ Ke4! If 44 ... K:g4 then 45 Ne5+. I came up with a very sadistic plan here of h3 and g3, followed by marching my h-pawn up the board. Thank Goodness I didn't have to do that.

45. b6! Kd3? A blunder with one minute left for Dennis ends it to our mutual relief.

46. Ne5+! Black Resigns 1-0

Round 3

**W: Philipp Ponomarev (2235)
B: Brian Wall (2238) [C01]**
Colorado Closed 2004
March 21, 2004

April 2004 Rating list - Top Quick players under age 21

#27 at 2093 - Philipp Ponomarev
#87 at 1898 - Colorado's Robert Ramirez

April 2004 - Standard Ratings of Players under age 21 -
#45 Philipp Ponomarev at 2235.

Round 3 of the Colorado Closed and my third Russian opponent! Since my maternal Grandmother was born in Kiev you could say the Colo Closed was half Russian.

Americans - Bloomer, Kaufman, Nikitovich 1/2 - Wall
Russians - Dennis Kholodar, Mikhail and Philipp Ponomarev 1/2 - Wall

Philipp happily remembers building
(Continued on page 9)

by Randy Reynolds

What's your Chess Potential Quiz

Sometime during everyone's chess career (usually several times), they will hit a plateau and wonder if this is it, whether this will be as good as their chess game will ever get. Fortunately, most times the slump will end with chess player finally making a breakthrough to get to the next level of play, though it may take months or even years to achieve. But isn't there a better way to quickly ascertain one's full potential in chess?

Now there is. With the Chess Potential Quiz, it becomes perfectly simple to determine exactly how far you have the potential of going in the world of chess. This can potentially save years of frustration and money spent on books and supplies by determining today whether you've actually got a "tomorrow" for chess. And now, for the first time, we provide this exclusive quiz for your personal enrichment and enjoyment.

Please choose and circle the one (1) answer that best describes you.

- 1. It's the endgame, and you have a King, Bishop, and Knight against a lone King:**
 - a) You confidently checkmate your opponent in less than 50 moves.
 - b) You could probably checkmate your opponent, but it'll take much more than 50 moves.
 - c) You might be able to checkmate your opponent if you had an infinite amount of moves.
 - d) You play timidly, as you're a bit worried the lone king will checkmate you!
- 2. Concerning rating points:**
 - a) You know the formulas by heart and can tell anyone your "real time" rating.
 - b) You know where to go to calculate your rating after each tournament and do so.
 - c) You just know that if you win, rating goes up, if you lose, rating goes down.
 - d) Ratings are magically created through supernatural means by the nice fairies who live at New Windsor (soon to be Tennessee).
- 3. You're playing the white side of the Ruy Lopez opening. You are:**
 - a) absolutely positive that the first 20 moves you've played is still in book.
 - b) surprised that the first 20 moves you've played are still in book.
 - c) amazed you still have equality after the first 20 moves.
 - d) lucky if you remember that tricky 3. Bb5 move.

- 4. In a friendly game, your opponent leaves his queen en prise. You:**
 - a) allow him/her to take back the move, since you know you'll beat him/her anyway.
 - b) allow him/her to take back the move, as you'd rather see a more competitive game.
 - c) snatch the free queen; it may be your only chance to win.
 - d) completely miss it and move Nd5, only to have the knight taken by that very same queen.
- 5. I record my moves using:**
 - a) Descriptive notation (N-KR4)
 - b) Short algebraic notation (Nh5)
 - c) Long algebraic notation (f6-h5)
 - d) Notation? I draw out the whole position on little 3x5 cards after every move.
- 6. In a close tournament game, I am running short on time. I usually:**
 - a) concentrate on finding good moves, not on how much time I have. It's better to have a good plan with a few seconds than no plan and lots of time.
 - b) play speed chess mode, coming up with moves that aren't bad but not really driving towards a definite plan, either. I hope that my opponent blunders.
 - c) panic and play Jedi mind tricks on my opponent that he blunders or doesn't see my flag when it falls.
 - d) wait until my opponent goes to the bathroom or out for a smoke, then switch the clock to the other side of the board. I pray he/she doesn't notice.
- 7. Chess strategy, to me, is:**
 - a) discovering the imbalances in any given position and formulating a viable plan for taking advantages of the imbalances.
 - b) throwing out as many traps as possible, hoping my opponent will eventually fall into one of them.
 - c) making sure I'm not giving away pieces for free before making my move.
 - d) staring at my opponent intently between moves, making tapping noises, and doing anything else I can to psyche out or disturb my opponent's concentration.
- 8. Euwe, Maroczy, Najdorf, Alekhine, Pirc:**
 - a) I know how to correctly pronounce each name and can give a brief bio on each one of them.
 - b) I think I know how to pronounce at least one and can provide the nationality of

- some of them.
- c) I know I DON'T know how to pronounce any of them, but I've seen the names in some of my chess books, so I know they MUST be important.
- d) Are these guys related to that J'adoubé guy somehow?
- 9. My favorite computer chess program is:**
 - a) The one I've personally written. It rocks.
 - b) Fritz 8.0. The sheer calculating power is unbelievable.
 - c) Chessmaster 9000. Seems pretty cool, and I found it at Best Buy. Years of commercialization can't be wrong, right?
 - d) Battle Chess. It's just cool to see the pieces beat the crap out of each other.
- 10. My chess career will be considered complete and memorable if:**
 - a) I'm able to take down Grandmasters like the uncanny style of Tyler Hughes.
 - b) I can write interesting articles and/or books about chess and become as prolific a writer as Pandolfini, Silman, Seirawan, or, if I'm really lucky, Brian Wall.
 - c) I can avoid ever falling victim to any swindle, trap, cheapo, or other little trick of Paul Grimm's that he is worldly renown for.
 - d) I get paired black against Dean Brown, so I can force him to not play just once on his 1998 Championship board.

Scoring:

- 4 points for every "a".
- 3 points for every "b".
- 2 points for every "c".
- 1 point for every "d".

0-9 points: Hmm...Chess really isn't your game, seriously. And here's why: counting is sometimes an important skill in chess. Not completely vital, but counting will definitely help you figure out if you can queen a certain pawn or if you have enough attackers or defenders or whatnot. This test has determined you either have a serious problem with counting, or you have a problem finishing things. Either way, it is recommended you forego chess and take a serious look at a career in football. They don't worry too much about counting – they just shout out numbers at random before they hike the ball.

10-14 points: First of all, the CSCA is thrilled to see you interested in chess. Let's just say that right off the bat. However, it's not very likely you're ever going to become a real chess expert. Don't take that the wrong way; we all know that life is short and it's just probably not

(Continued on page 9)

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worth investing time and/or money for something that's just doesn't seem your style. We'll still gladly welcome you to any meetings or tournaments, but just don't be surprised if you try to make your way to Camp Rollandet some week and your "unique" intellect makes you end up in Invesco Field. Enough said.

15-18 points: Your chess potential is scary. And that doesn't mean scary, like, it's scary how high your rating's going to be some day. But it's not hopeless. What you need most right now is a mentor – someone, anyone whom you trust who plays chess better than you. Finding someone like that is definitely the easy part. He or she is that person that will guide you into the proper etiquette of chess behavior. Your mentor will explain to you why you shouldn't bring your king out to the 4th rank in the opening, why knights move "so gosh-dern funny", as you put it, and why trying to initiate a "wave" down your row in a tournament is considered inappropriate. Therein lies your salvation, my friend! Once these charming little nuances and misunderstandings are flushed out, the sky is then the limit. Stick to that mentor as if your future chess life depends on it, because it probably does!

19-24 points: You have reached the level to show some potential to perform well in chess. Congratulations! The level of your play right now may be a little low, and you may get frustrated in some of your attempts to win games, but you've definitely got the spark that may eventually flame into a chess pro. Did you know that Bobby Fisher scored a 21 the first time he took this chess quiz? Granted, he was only 3 at the time, but still, you get the point. Keep up the study, and in no time everyone will fear your chess skills.

25-31 points: This shows a good level of chess maturity, with still good potential to improve. So maybe you won't ever beat GM Alexander Shabalov in a simultaneous exhibition (especially since the Edward Levy tournament is no more); is that really the end of the world? Just continue to study and practice your chess, and eventually open section players will say "Dang, I have to play XXX!" instead of "Goody, I get to play XXX!" (By the way, if you asked yourself who Shabalov

was while reading this, you just lost 5 points. Sorry, but I don't make the rules. Oh, wait, I guess I do...)

32-37 points: You've probably been playing chess for a long time, and you've become quite fond of the game. You've likely actually won a tournament or two by now, or if you haven't, it will probably be in your future. You'll be one of the ones who, in about 50 years or so, future CSCA president Dylan Lehti will talk about at an Ann Davies Memorial tournament, and everyone will agree that you were one of the great ones. Remember that there is always room for chess growth still, though I'm afraid at only a 1519 rating, I can't exactly tell you how. It's one of those Zen things – when you don't know how to improve, you'll know how. Now join me in a mantra – ohmmmmmm...

38-40 points: Dang, can I just get your autograph right now?? Because sooner or later, you're going to be wearing 3D virtual reality glasses and challenging X3D Fritz (or future day equivalent) to a best of 7 match for half a million dollars or so. They'll be having you write your own column in USCF's Chess Life (or whatever the new organization calls their magazine after USCF files their inevitable chapter 11). Keep working hard at the game you have a natural gift for, and if you're lucky, you might actually become one of the 3 people in the known universe who can actually make a living through playing chess.

Over 40 points: Now you've **really** done it, haven't you? It just wasn't enough for you to lie about all your answers just so you could impress your friends, was it? No, no, you just **had** to have the highest score of any member of CSCA, so you just had to cheat and give yourself more than 4 points somewhere along the way. Shame on you! CSCA sees a good career for you as a chess swindler, but not the Grimm type. No, you're the swindler who'll yell "Hey, isn't that Garry Kasparov?!" in a tournament game and then try to throw an extra queen or two on your side of the board while your opponent turns his head to look. Might win you a couple of upset prizes, but it'll still leave you feeling hollow inside. Just a final caveat: those tricks don't work as well when you're playing in national tournaments, so beware! ♔

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snow tunnels in Siberia (to play, not to escape the KGB).

Philipp and Josh Bloomer used to terrorize scholastic Chess tournaments - now that they are 21 they beat up adults. If you check the last 50 rated games in Colorado that Philipp and Josh played, I doubt you would find a handful of losses. They compete against much better players on ICC so that Colorado players by comparison are a light snack. All these two have to do to win a Colorado Chess tournament is show up.

I often notice when I play Chess that my opponent and I have a completely different idea of what is going on. Unexpected moves by weak players are often just bad moves but in this game I felt like the clueless one. Most of our moves were best according to Fritz 8 but all it takes is one bad move in the Championship to suffer.

Our ratings at the time were 3 points apart and I would call this a Changing of the Guard game except Philipp had already beat me in a very close game in the Denver Chess Club Championship 2004.

Philipp won the Closed with the Fischer-like score of 6-0 if you don't count his family draw with Poppa. Maybe Bloomer, Nikitovich and Kaufman could claim it shouldn't be so because they had better or even winning positions against him but Towbin and I are mute - we got slammed into the rail right out of the gate.

Date - It was the first day of Spring and felt like the last day of Winter.

First Time Control - 30/90 Second Time Control—Irrelevant if you are playing Philip.

Opening - Schmidt - Benoni

White - Philipp Ponomarev 2235 and going straight up like a rocket

Black - Brian Wall 2238 and falling like a safe

Exclamation points by Fritz 8 - in both this game and my last round with Nikitovich we made the best moves roughly half the time and often the second best moves too. That's the level of play you need to compete in the Colorado Closed.

1. d4 e6 2. e4! c5 The Devil made me do it. I was intending a French just one move ago. I generally play the White side of this.

3. d5! exd5! 4. exd5! d6! 5. Bd3 This move confused me because my plan with White here is Nc3, a4, Nf3-d2-c4, Be2, 0-0, h3, Bf4, Re1.

5. ...Nf6! 6. c4 g6 7. Nc3 Bg7! 8.Qe2+! OK, I knew I was supposed to play ... Be7 in this line but most players don't like Qe2+ for some reason. Philipp caught me trying to get away with a fianchetto.

8 ... Kf8 The best move is actually 8 ... Kd7, hideous as it looks - at least my h8-rook gets to e8.

Philipp once told me the endgame was his strongest part so that 8 ... Qe7 9 Nb5 Q:e2+ 10 N:e2 Kd7 11 Bf4 looked miserable.

I decided to keep queens on and try to crawl on my belly through broken glass to h7 with my King.

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California Dreaming

The Kosher Patzer gets some Sun and Fun on the West Coast

The subject of the Chess Palace (located in Los Angeles) came up during one of our usual Blitz sessions during lunch with Pete Short and Tim Brennan. I asked Pete Short if he remembers playing at the Chess Palace when he lived in LA in the early 90's and the answer back from Pete was a resounding yes! He continued with how well the tournaments were run from the Chess Palace store. I said that I thinking about looking them up with my upcoming trip to Orange County and Pete suggested that I check to see if they had a web-site. Turns out they do and it's a pretty good one. Among many events hosted, they listed a regular Saturday morning Round Robin with 4 games in G75. The Saturday tournament fit right into my schedule and I was off to California!

The Chess Palace has moved from its original location in Long Beach to its current store in Los Alamitos in Southern California. For me, it's appealing too because I went to High School in Los Alamitos. It's funny in a way because I considered joining the chess club in High School but thought it was for dorks. It turns out that it would take a bunch of years before I could accept being a chess geek/dork and play chess in Southern California.

W: Kosher Patzer (1615)
B: Dan Alvira (1769) [B21]
 Chess Palace Round Robin
 May 8, 2004

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 e5 I haven't seen this response to the Morra Gambit. I looked up unusual lines in the Morra Gambit and the early e5 by Black was listed as an opening line (but not as move 3).

4.cxd4 exd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qa4 Bc5 Black immediately goes on the offensive.

7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Be2 Ng4 This is already looking bad for the Patzer. I over-react and castle. Fritz recommends Nc3 first and is of course the correct move order to prevent what happens next.

9.0-0 Nxf2! 10.Rxf2 Qb6 Darn it! Now White goes down the exchange plus a pawn. The Patzer thinks he's been had by some California smarty who knows a trick line to the Morra.

However, White has some pluses in his position. Black has an isolated pawn on d7. Black's Bishop on c8 won't be useful for awhile. Also, White has a target, c7 and I have the dark squared Bishop.

11.Nc3 Bxf2+ 12.Kf1 Ne7 I think White assumed the White Knight was going to d5

13.Bf4 0-0 14.Nb5 Qf6? Trying to stop White's initiative. Black double attacks the Bishop on f4 and the pawn on b2 as well as threatening the unprotected Rook on a1.

15.Be5 Qb6 16.Nc7 Rb8 17.Nb5 a6 Black doesn't want a draw by repetition of move. So, he allows White to regain his material and continue the fight.

18.Bxb8 axb5 19.Qxb5 Qxb5 20.Bxb5 Bc5 21.Bg3 Nc6 22.Rd1 Re8 23.e5 Bb6 Black wants to continue to pile up attackers on the e5 pawn with Bc7. However, that leaves the Black-Bishop un-protected...

24.a3 Bc7 White offers a draw and Black ignores the offer. 22) ..Be7 would have been better for Black. Instead the Bc7 allows White the attack.

25.e6! Fritz gives move 25) an exclamation mark as well.

25...Bxg3 26.exd7 Bxd7 27.Rxd7 Bf4 Black loses another tempo to save the Bishop but gives up his remaining Queen-side pawn.

28.Rxb7 Rc8 To worsen matters for Black, he has to spend another tempo to un-pin the Knight or lose it to a double attack.

29.Bxc6 Rxc6 30.Nd4 Rf6 31.Ke2 White gives up the h2 pawn and the King heads for the Queen-side. Trying to keep the pawn would prove disastrous for White [31.Kg1 Be3+ 32.Kh1 Rf1#]

31...Bxh2 32.a4 h5 33.b4 Bg3 34.Nf3 Re6+ 35.Kd3 Rc6 36.b5 Rd6+ 37.Kc4 Rd1 Fritz recommends g5 for Black and at the same time says "it doesn't change the outcome of the game".

38.a5 Rc1+ 39.Kd3 Rc5 40.a6 Rd5+ 41.Ke4 Rd8 42.a7 Re8+ 43.Kd5 Rd8+ 44.Kc4 Rc8+ 45.Kb4 Bd6+ 46.Ka5 f6 47.Rd7 Bf4 48.b6 Ra8 This guy just doesn't want to give up.

49.Ka6 Be3 50.Rb7 Bf4 51.Re7 Bd6 52.b7 Resigns 1-0 ♖

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9. Bg5 h6 10. Bh4 a6 11. f4 I didn't expect this move, clamping down on the Kingside.

11. ..b6 Philipp planned his brilliant sacrifice here - by contrast, I didn't suspect it at all until it happened!

12. Nf3! Ra7 13. O-O! Bg4 14. Rae1! Re7! I am happy to trade any of Philip's attacking pieces at this point.

15. Qc2 Bxf3 16. gxf3 Another surprise

16. ..Rxe1! 17. Rxe1! Nbd7! I was actually getting excited about my position because I was planning a bid for the dark squares with the positional pawn sac 18 ... g5!!

18. Bxg6!!! My thoughts at this point -

1. Gee, that seems a radical way to prevent ... g5.
2. This is the kind of move I am supposed to make, not my opponents.
3. According to my own theories a pawn near the King is worth a piece. He's getting two pawns plus all the light squares. I am in big trouble!
4. I would have a good position if we were playing checkers.
5. No, wait, it gets better. I am playing Checkers and Philipp is playing Atomic Chess!!

Atomic chess (wild 27) is a chess variant in which any capture also destroys the capturing piece (or pawn) and any piece (but NOT pawns) in a one square radius (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal). There is no chain reaction -- only direct captures detonate. For captures en passant, ground-zero of the explosion is the square on the sixth rank upon which the capturing pawn lands.

Win by capturing or destroying your opponent's king without simultaneously destroying your own king. You may not make a move which destroys your own king. Check and checkmate are not recognized; you may move into check, castle out of check, or castle through check.

6. I will probably lose if I accept the sacrifice - can I refuse it? - as Philipp said after the game, he is only one doubled pawn up - when I looked at 18 ... Rg8 19 Bh7 Rh8 20 Bf5 I felt sick and decided that if I was going to lose, I would rather die a piece up - in case of a blunder I might start drawing or winning.

7. - Mikhail Ponomarev came up after it was all over and said "Great game!" - it sounded to me like Grande Partie. I had to agree. 18 B:g6!!! is the move that makes it great.

18. ..fxg6! Declining with 18 ... b5 19 Bd3 is +1.5 for Philipp and anything else is -2 or worse for me.

19. Qxg6! Rg8!! 19 ... h5! is met by strongly
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by 20 Ne4 or 20 Re6 . Any other move is disastrous. My position has termites.

20. Kf1 Fritz prefers 20 Kh1 or 20 Qf5 but Philipp is better no matter what.

20 ... Bh8! Best by far.

21. Qxh6+! Fritz prefers 21 Qf5 for a long time here but I don't trust computers on longterm sacrifices. Fritz doesn't want to give it up here, but I am patient. Eventually if you go ahead a few moves it finally admits its mistake.

21 ... Bg7! 22. Qg6! Fritz finally catches up with Philip's genius here - now the evaluation is about 1.5 + for Philip, the same as if I had declined with 18 ... b5 instead of 18. ..fg.

Going backwards I can conclude that

1. capturing or not capturing on g6 is about equivalent on move 18
2. Philip's 20 Kf1 was the strongest
3. The 21 ... Kf7 22 Ne4! line is a little worse for me than 21 ... Bg7 22 Qg6!
4. Philip's 21 Q:h6+ is the best move.
5. 20 ... Bh8 is still best.
6. 19 ... h5 is no better after 20 Ne4 Rh6 21 Qf5 - in fact it is precisely the same as the move we are up to now, 22 Qg6 - both are +1.56.
7. Conclusion - Philip's 18 B:g6!!! is sound - the best Fritz can find is +1.5 for me in any line I choose - just conceptually, exploding my Kingside must be good.

22 ... Rh8 22 ... Bh8! is a tad better - anything else is an immediate disaster. I am putting up a reasonable defense under the circumstances.

23. Bg5! Only move. He thinks fast. Philip took 7 minutes on this move and less than 2 minutes on his last 4 before this. GM Leko would have grabbed the draw with both hands after 23 Ne4 R:h4 24 N:d6 Kg8 25 Re8+ N:e8 26 Qe6+ Kh7+ 27 Qf5+ Kg8 28 Qe6+ Kh7 29 Qe4+ Kg8 30 Qe6+ =

23 ... Rxb2 The only better move is 23 ... Kg8. I saw the hideous endings after 23 ... Kg8 24 Ne4 Nf8 25 B:f6 N:g6 26 B:d8 or 23 ... Kg8 24 Ne4 Nf8 25 N:f6+ Q:f6 26 Q:f6 B:f6 27B:f6 R:h2 28 Re7 Nh7 29 Kg1 and considered my chances here were zero, considering Philip's endgame prowess. In a couple of moves my attitude would change and I would view these endings as the Promised Land. I decided to keep the pieces on

the board, even if they were mostly his.

24. Re6!!The only move, played almost instantly. It's all really bad for me now. Some sample lines -

1. 24 Re6!! Kg8 25 B:f6 N:f6 26 Ne4 N:e4 27 Re8+
2. 24 Re6!! Qc8 25 Ne4 N:e4 26 fe +7
3. 24 Re6!! Rh5 25 Ne4 or 25 Q:h5
4. 24 Re6!! Qb8 25 Ne4 +7

You can see that Philip's pieces invade on the light squares and torture my pieces on the dark squares.

24 ... Rh1+ 25. Kg2! Rh5! 26. Ne4 The best move again, played instantly.

26 ... Rxc5+! 27. Nxc5 Played in under 2 minutes. 27 Q:g5! is slightly more crushing than 27 fg which is slightly more crushing than 27 N:g5 at 17 ply. You can probably guess how much fun I was having. Move 30 seemed a long way to go.

27 ... Kg8! Still churning out best/only moves like a trooper.

28. Qf7+! Kh8!! 29. Re! Qf8!! 30. Rh1+! Bh6!! Made it past the first time control! How we looking?

31. Qg6! Oh. Black Resigns 1-0

Over half my moves were the best available. How did this happen?

Round 4

What is it like playing in the State Championship? The main thing is that there is no break, no easy pairing, no release from the stress. In a normal tournament if I lose a game or two I can coast my way home. In this tournament one heartbreaking loss is followed by another brutal game with another impossible to beat killer.

What can I say about Steve Towbin? At the time of this game, he was 36, I was 48. I have known him at least 24 years. I remember how nice his parents were as they drove Little Stevie Wonder to Chess tournaments and hung around while he played. It took me at least 2 decades to win a rated game from him.

With some people in my life, it is like fire and kerosene - we can't go a day without a fight. With other people like Josh Bloomer, Robert Ramirez, Tyler Hughes and Steve Towbin we don't fight, even on our worst day. There is one eerie thing about Steve is that I feel like I am with my clone when I am with him. His genetic history is English and

Latvian Jew, mine is Irish and one of my great-grandparents was a Latvian Jew. I am not used to anyone getting every joke I make like Steve Towbin. Robert Ramirez also appreciates my sense of humor - he says, " I don't know how anyone could stop from laughing all day if they spend it with Brian." Anthea said that Steve was funnier than I am, which cuts like a knife around 3 A.M. I lose about one hour of sleep per night due to that comment. I would compare our senses of humor to the famous naval battle of the English versus the Spanish Armada. My humor is heavy and slow and ponderous like the Spanish ships and Steve's is light and quick like the victorious English attack ships- his Zorro-like tongue wins every time.

I would guess that Steve has played at least one million games of Chess. He has won the Bullet (one-minute) Championship of Colorado the last 3 times. Like most Chessplayers Steve has no problem spending thousands of hours playing the game but he has a huge problem spending a few thousand on books and equipment. Steve claims he hasn't cracked a Chess book in 10 years. His play is based mostly on Internet speed games.

One of my dreams in Chess is to be 100% completely unpredictable in the opening. That is why I play everything. I am practicing for the day when I can just throw a dartboard at a bunch of random openings and play whatever the dart says. Steve Towbin comes closest to this ideal than anyone I know. GM Ivanchuk is the other. Grandmaster Bronstein followed this policy in his Botvinnik match - " I wanted to be unrestrained in the openings." Steve's basic premise is just to always surprise you. Steve even went one step further- he told me his goal this tournament was to invent a new opening each round! Wow! He pretty much surprised everyone every round - I am not sure if even Steve knew what he was going to play. Steve invented an opening the night before his game with Bloomer - Josh refuted it in 5 moves! - I cannot responsibly reproduce it here due to the impressionable nature of children. Are they out of the room? Good. The opening of Bloomer-Towbin was 1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d5!??? 3 ed Qd5 4 Nc3 Qh5!??? 5 Nb5! Kd8!??!

Q -How do you prepare for a mental patient?

A -You can't. My only internal preparation for Steve went like this - I can play 1 e4 and wait for some foolishness or I can play 1 d4 and wait for some

foolishness.

The scary part about playing Steve is the thought - if he can see tactics so fast, how much does he see when he actually thinks for 15 minutes? In one sense his play reminds me of Kent Evenson's - mad dashes of brilliance mixed in with huge gaps of ignorance. Playing those two is like playing a boilermaker. Steve would vehemently disagree with this but if another Master asks me what Steve's play is like, my answer would be - Zero positional sense - a random tactical generator (Mark Sherbring's self-description of his own play).

Steve Towbin (ICC Latvia) - responds -

Latvia tells you: and this "Zero-positional sense" is way off-track... it's fine to say that in your opinion you think that my tactics outshine my positional play, but "zero-positional sense" sounds like I don't know what a doubled pawn is, or what to do against a pawn chain, or the difference between a closed game and an open game ...

Brian - told ya.

Another facet of Steve's play is that he resigns very late and is looking feverishly the whole time for some tactical trick to justify his creative positional concepts. If you can't keep up with his tactics, Steve is going to eat you alive - throw something at you you've never seen and snag a piece by seeing farther. If you happen to achieve a winning position he relentlessly discovers little tricks to harass you - he doesn't go down easily - he exploits every chance - near the end of the game you feel like a little terrier is biting your calf and you can't shake him off until you drop kick him into the couch.

Many night after the Tuesday Night Denver Chess Club blitz tournaments Steve and I would take our 1st/second place prize money along with a gaggle of fawning admirers to Old Chicago's. Steve claims I am the only man in America who gains weight eating salads because I order two large and pour 3 times the normal amount of salad dressing on them. My only feeble comeback is I ask the other Chessplayers if the light bouncing off Steve's bald head is distracting them.

Steve is a living lighthouse to anyone who achieved a rating goal, then decided to keep playing. Steve achieved an unofficial Master rating, then kept

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Colorado Chess Road Warriors

By Tim Brennan

In the April Issue, there was a feature called "Colorado Chess Road Warriors", which talked about Colorado Players who had traveled to Kansas and New Mexico to play in some chess tournaments. I thought that this might be a fun feature to have every issue. Personally I think it is always exciting to play chess in a different location. In some ways this is sort of like when Homer Simpson was excited about going on vacation because he would be able to watch TV in a different time zone, and explore strange and exotic new malls! Recently I have received emails from fellow Colorado Chess Players who were planning upcoming trips to Utah, Kansas, Chicago, Florida and Nevada. If you have any interesting stories from these tournaments or other out of state events please let me know!

Over Easter weekend, April 8-12th, Paul Grimm and I traveled to Reno, Nevada for the "Far West Open", which was held at the Sands Regency Hotel Casino in downtown Reno. This tournament has been "hibernating" for the past eight years according to tournament organizer Jerry Weikel. This is the sister tournament to the Western States Open, which is held each fall in Reno. The tournament was held during the same weekend as the Foxwoods tournament in Connecticut, so most of the big names in American chess were not there, however there were 4 GMs and 5 IMs out of the 198 players. Paul and I both played in the B section, and luckily did not have to play each other! I have played more rated games against Paul than any other person, and it would have been a shame to travel all the way to Reno just to be paired against him! Paul got off to a great start, being undefeated after the first five rounds, with three wins and two draws. Paul lost the sixth and final round, but still ended up with some prize money. The prize money was paid out at the cashier cage in the casino, which was sort of unusual. I guess they wanted the cash to burn a hole in your pocket with plenty of slot machines and table games all around!

I personally did ok with three points out of six. There were basically two types of players at the tournament. Young hotshots who seemed to be under rated, and older gentlemen who were most likely retired. I saw a lot of analog clocks and descriptive notation being used by the second group. One player in the young hotshot category was wearing sunglasses, as if he was playing on the "World Poker Tour". He told Paul that he did this for psychological purposes. With antics like this I am reminded of Bobby Fischer who said he did not believe in chess psychology, he believed in good moves.

Speaking of Bobby Fischer, his latest opponent, Boris Spassky, is scheduled to appear in Reno at the Western States Open this fall. At the Far West Open, Larry Evans gave a lecture, and real time game analysis which was very interesting. Larry admitted to preferring to do on the fly analysis of lower rated players because they make more obvious mistakes.

The tournament had a lot of nice touches, such as free coffee and coffee cake each morning, and plastic Easter eggs, some with special prizes involved. I won a free buffet, which helped to make up for my lack of a plus score! The Reno buffets are not as impressive as the ones in Vegas, but the price was good. After the tournament was over the organizer sent a letter to each participant with a copy of the crosstable and a summary of the tournament. The prices were very reasonable (the hotel room was 19 dollars on Thursday and Sunday night!) Overall I had a lot of fun, and would recommend Reno tournaments! ♠

playing so it was never published - he never got his certificate. Don't let this happen to you.

White - Life Master Brian Wall (300 games as a Master) 2238

Black - Shoulda-Coulda-Been-a-Master Steve Towbin 2100

Opening - Albin Counter Gambit

I will put automatic exclaims with every Fritz approved #1 choice so you can compare Colorado Championship play with supposed perfection. This may boost your confidence against us or destroy it. Let us see.

1. d4 1:26 d5! 1:24 2. c4 1:25 e5 1:17 To most of you this is the Albin Counter-Gambit. Bobby Fischer's influence on me was so strong that I played very few 1 d4 games in my youth. To me this the Budapest-or-Albin- Gambit, I-always-forget-which. Some things it is better to learn young. I never feel as confident playing 1 d4 - Pat Ament, Boulder, Colo Chessplayer and World-renowned Rock Climber told me - " With writing, you have to purge yourself of a lot of junk before the good stuff comes out." That's how I feel about 1 d4 - I didn't play enough meaningless, junky game as a kid to get a real feel for it. Josh Bloomer, Colorado's foremost theoretician told me I am one of the few Colorado players who play 1 d4 and I only do it sporadically.

3. dxe5 1:24 d4 1:17 4. Bf4 1:23 What I am trying to say in my usual verbose way is that I chose 4 Bf4 because of the Budapest line 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 de Ng4 where 4 Bf4 is considered most accurate because 4 Nf3 allows 4 ... Bc5 5 e3 which shuts in the c1-bishop. I wasn't kidding when I said I mixed these two openings up. Steve's opening choice was astute. World Champion Petrosian said that you must look at the opening with a mine-sweeper, meaning examining every move carefully for flaws. Steve almost forces you to play that way because he throws grandes at you early.

4. ...g5!? 1:05 See what I mean? This move has been played once in Longnev-Oshana U.S. Amateur Team East February 1993. A hideous endorsement for the variation but if Steve had followed up with his own post-mortem suggestion of 5 Bg3 Nc6! it might be a viable idea. As you can see, Steve has me confused in one of his tactical highballs - the only problem is he doesn't know what's going on himself- he makes it all

up as he goes along. At least we are not playing the My-database-is-bigger-than-your-database game which passes for Chess nowadays. Steve plays the opening the way I do - in the immortal greeting of Dan Avery before every game - " Let's have fun!" I onced Fritzed various variations of the Albin and Budapest and discovered that the machine and humans had very different ideas of how to play the opening. This meant that I paid very careful attention to my moves because I knew we were in a very tricky, hidden cave of Chess. The right moves look wrong. The wrong moves look right. I also have a very high pspect for Steve's play so I wanted to give of my best. Jesse Cohen had played some ... f6 idea against me and I was shocked at how every Fritz move looked wrong to me. That experience put me on High alert against Steve.

I honestly don't know why millions play solid openings like the Nimzo-Indian when thousands of unexplored positions of the future lurk in every corner. A thousand years from now the databases will have hundreds of games here. Why not exploit the possibility to be first on the block?

5. Bg3! 1:21 h5? 1:02 Steve, Fritz and I all agree that this is the source of difficulties. In the stem game 5 ... Nc6 6 a3 Be6 was played.

6. h4! 1:20 g4! 55 7.e4! 1:19 dxe3 44

Weakening one square to a player of my caliber is like dropping a Queen to Jesse Hester.

I got the concept of 7 e4 from studying computer games. Humans have a tendency to rush to develop pieces quickly - computers have shown me that before you develop a piece, resolve the pawn war first. When we see what Steve does about e4, we wil know where the pieces belong. This requires a little patience and confidence.

I am putting the times in this game so you can see that Steve is playing 19th Century Chess - no book knowledge, just trying to throw sand in my eyes every move. Beating Steve is like trying to catch his greased pig or a Ninja. You can see that Steve is trying every move to come up with something original, even on Move 1.

I would have won this position from either side. With Black I would have played 7... Nc6 8 f4 gf 9 gf Nge7 10 Bd3 Ng6 11 f4 Bh6 and Steve would have been hopelessly confused and

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by Andy Rea

Philipp Ponomarev and Tyler Hughes Triumph at 2004 Closed!

The 2004 Colorado Closed was held at split venues, the Saturday rounds at the Tabor Center, the Sunday rounds at VFW#1. As can be observed from the crosstables both groups were closely contested! The Championship section was a two-player race, with Philipp Ponomarev proving too powerful and scoring a hard-earned first place, becoming the first player to win both the Scholastic and Championship Closes!

The very first round was critical- our participants don't get time to warm up! Josh Bloomer built a strong position against Philipp, but a strong position is not enough these days against Philipp, you have to earn the full point against typically tenacious defense and opportunistic counterattacks. Josh slipped, and Philipp recovered for not mere equality but winning the game, always a nice way to start! Josh was so distraught that he then won his next 4 rounds!

Ordinarily 4-1 would be at least tied for first, but Philipp wasn't getting many other bad positions- he won 3 of his next 4, drawing his father Mikhail Ponomarev, defeating his other opponents to hold a half-point lead going to critical Round 6. Philipp scored a convincing win against Denis Kholodar, would Josh be able to stay alive against Brian Wall? Brian might not have had his best Closed, finishing fourth with 4-3, but I can think of easier opponents to face in must-win situations!!

It proved to be an interesting game, but Josh was looking for not intereswting, but winning- wait til next year! Brian scored the win, leaving Josh to fight with Mikhail Ponomarev for sec-

ond place in the final round. In other news, Philipp scored a crusher against Steve Towbin in the last round, no simple go through the motions draw in spite of having clinched the Closed! His 6.5 result is in rarefied air, the perfect 7-0 mark still not yet achieved! As for second place, Josh and Mikhail played a scrappy fighting draw, leaving each at 4.5!

We had four other players, most notably our defending champion, Paul Nikitovich. Paul's result was disappointing- he was not playing badly, but not well enough to win, and of course there isnt much sympathy among our contestants- one players misfortunes is ones own successes... Nevertheless, having all of one draw after five rounds, many a player would be sorely tempted to withdraw, but Paul persisted with good sportsmanship, closing with a win and a draw. Steve Towbin started well with two wins out of the chute; as the 8th seed, it was a lot to expect Steve to hold the pace, but it was not for lack of determination on his part! Finishing fifth was Denis Kholodar, who joins me among Colorado players who have gotten above 2200 and fallen back- I wish him better luck and skill than I have had in getting back to Master status! Denis won only one game- he was the only player to defeat Mikhail, that's noteworthy! Finally, someone has to land in the basement, in this event it was Arthur Kaufman, just a little outgunned, just enough to not score the points he usually gets when he is playing in other events!

Again, congratulations to Philipp for his excellent performance in the Championship! Moving on to the Scholastic section, we had a very

close race for first place! Tyler Hughes could not have had a better start on the first weekend, 4-0! However, Sam Galler didn't get the memo as to not to expect to win in Rd5 against Tyler, Sam scored a well deserved upset! With 2 rounds to go, there is Tyler at 4-1, joined by Richard Herbst- and two players at 3.5, Kevin Seidler and Brandon Cooksey, the Scholastic was definitely up for grabs!

Round 6 was critical- Tyler defeated Kevin while Brandon scored the full point against Richard, leaving these two as the prime contenders for first place! Mainly, while Brandon was collecting a last-round forfeit victory, would Tyler be able to defeat Jesse Hester and avoid the usual tiebreak mayhem? Indeed he did as Jesse uncharacteristically dropped a piece some 6 moves or so- never a good time for such a blunder, ouch! Of course Tyler's score of 6-1 was built on good chess throughout, a well earned result!!

Brandon Cooksey finished second at 5.5, with Kevin Seidler winning the battle of third place against Richard Herbst in the last round- per tradition, draw is not a large part of the Colorado Closed vocabulary, especially in the Scholastic section! Jesse Hester batted .500 in his Scholastic Closed debut, edging Sam by a half-point. Our 7th place finisher, Garrick Talmage, had a far better result than his score suggests- he arrived at Rd1 as our designated Alternate, thus not likely to play... and yet there is always a first, one of our eight committed players was absent 30 minutes into the 1st round, so Garrick stepped in to play- much better than having multiple forfeits!

Pair Num	Player Name	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
1	PHILIPP M PONOMAREV	6.5	W	3D	2W	4W	8W	7W	5W	6W
2	MIKHAIL P PONOMAREV	4.5	W	4D	1D	8W	7L	5W	6D	3W
3	JOSH S BLOOMER	4.5	L	1W	8W	7W	5W	6L	4D	2W
4	BRIAN D WALL	4.0	L	2W	5L	1W	6D	8W	3D	7W
5	DENIS B KHOLODAR	2.5	D	7L	4D	6L	3W	2L	1D	8W
6	STEPHEN H TOWBIN	2.5	W	8W	7D	5L	4L	3L	2L	1W
7	PAUL S NIKITOVICH	2.0	D	5L	6L	3L	2L	1W	8D	4W
8	ARTHUR GENE KAUFMAN	1.5	L	6L	3D	2L	1D	4L	7D	5W

Pair Num	Player Name	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8
1	TYLER B HUGHES	6.0	W	7W	2W	4X	L	6W	3W	5W
2	BRANDON COOKSEY	5.5	W	6L	1W	5W	7D	3W	4X	W
3	KEVIN M SEIDLER	5.0	D	5X	W	7W	6D	2L	1W	4W
4	RICHARD E HERBST	4.0	X	W	6L	1W	5W	7L	2L	3W
5	JESSE R HESTER	3.5	D	3W	7L	2L	4X	W	6L	1W
6	SAM GALLER	3.0	L	2L	4X	L	3W	1L	5W	7W
7	GARRICK TALMAGE	1.0	L	1L	5L	3L	2L	4X	L	6W

Even so, Garrick was the least strong player in the Scholastic, his colleagues showed no mercy, but he took his defeats well, and gained the admiration and respect of his fellow participants for his excellent sportsmanship! All of our players are winners, only two can be champions- hear hear for Philipp and Tyler!!



By Philipp Ponomarev *Philipp Ponomarev annotates his Colorado Closed games*

Colorado Closed 2004, Round 1

White: Josh Bloomer (2179)

Black: Philipp Ponomarev (2286)

I have noticed that usually my worst round of any tournament is the first round. I shake the rust off by playing very tactical chess against lower rated opposition. And in the subsequent rounds, after releasing all of the blitz energy in the first game, I can calm down and play solid positional games where I try to methodically suffocate my opponent. This is why I frequently get into trouble in the first round; which is a bad idea when you are facing a great positional player like Josh.

1) e4 Nf6 2) e5 Nd5 3) d4 d6 4) Nf3 Bg4 5) Be2 e6 6) 0-0 Nc6 I was thinking of trying 6) ..Be7! here, but I stuck with what I usually play.

7) c4 Nb6 8) ed cd 9) d5 ed 10) cd Bf3 11) gf!? I do not see this very often when playing GMs on ICC, but computer programs almost always choose this variation.

11) ..Ne5 12) Bb5 Nbd7 13) f4 Ng6 14) Re1 Be7 15) f5 Ne5 16) Nc3 Josh would never fall for 16) f4?? Qb6.

a6 17) Bd7 Qd7 18) f4 Nc4 19) Qe2 Rc8 20) b3 Nb6 21) f6 gf 22) Bb2 Rg8? The best move here was 22) ..Kf8! Saving the check for a more convenient time. The move I played basically gave Josh the go-ahead to capture the g-file and attack me.

23) Kh1 Kf8 There was an interesting possibility here to sac the exchange on c3 and capture the d5 pawn with the knight, after which the move Qc6 would be fairly uncomfortable for white.

24) Rg1 Rg6?? This move should have lost the game for me. I underestimated how strong white's queen invasion on h5 was. At this point both Josh and me started hallucinating.

25) Qh5 Kg8 26) Ne4?? Both of us missed the killer 26) f5!! Rg5 27) h4!! Because we thought that the black queen could go to h3 with checkmate. But as we all know queens cannot jump over pawns!

26) ..Qb5 27) Rad1 Qb4 28) Qe2? f5! 29) Rg6 hg! 30) Rd4 Rc1! 31) Kg2 Qe1 32) Qe1 Re1 33) Nc3 Nd7 34) b4 Nb6

White Resigns, in view of Bf6 when white will

have to give up a few more pawns in order to hold on to his pieces. I was very lucky to win this game, and it also inspired me to play solidly through out the rest of the tournament.

Colorado Closed 2004, Round 3

W: Arthur Kaufman (2100)

B: Philipp Ponomarev (2286)

1) Nf3 d5 2) c4 d4 3) b4 c5 4) bc Nc6 5) d3 e5 6) g3 Bc5 7) Bg2 Nge7 8) 0-0 0-0 9) Ba3 Qd6?! Simply trading bishops was better, after my move white stands better. (diagram)



After 9. ...Qd6

10) Bc5 Qc5 11) Nbd2 f5 12) Rb1 h6 13) Qc2 a6?! Here Rb8 was more accurate and more active.

14) Qb3 Kh8 15) Qb6 Qd6 16) Rfc1 Rb8 17) Nb3 Kh7 My strategy is to defend solidly and to wait for my opponent to make a mistake, because there are no viable attacking possibilities for me.

18) Na5 Qa3 19) Nc6 Nc6 20) Qb3? Arthur should have tried Qc7 here.

20) ...Qe7 21) Nd2 Bd7 22) Qb6 Rfc8 23) Rc2 Nd8 24) Qb4? Arthur made the mistake that I was waiting for. Otherwise this game would most have likely ended in a draw.

24) ...Qb4 25) Rb4 b5!! 26) Rbb2 b4 27) Nb1 a5 28) Nd2 a4 29) f4? ef 30) gf Ne6 31) Nf3 a3 32) Rb1 Ba4 33) Rd2 Rd8 34) Ne5 b3 35) ab Rb3 36) Ra1 Rb2?! Nf4 was even stronger.

37) Ra3 Rd2 38) Ra4 Re2 39) Nc6 Rd6 40) c5 Rg2 41) Kg2 Rc6 White Resigns.

Colorado Closed 2004, Round 5

W: Philipp Ponomarev (2286)

B: Paul Nikitovich (2212)

1) d4 Nf6 2) Nc3 d5 3) Bg5 Bf5 4) f3 c5 5) dc d4 6) e4 dc 7) Qd8 Kd8 8) ef cb 9) Rb1 Nbd7 10) c6 bc 11) Rb2 g6 12) fg? A horrible move opening the h-file for my opponent, and making his rook the strongest piece on the board. The right plan for white was Ba4 and then Ba6 with a great game for white.

12) ...hg 13) Bd2 Rh5 14) Bd3 Bc4 was much better.

14) ...Bg7 15) Rb1 Nc5 16) Bc4 Nd5 17) Ne2 e6 18) a3? Ng3 was much more solid and forcing.

18) ...Kc7 19) Kf2 Rah8 20) Rhe1Rd8 21) Bd5?! Nf4! was sounder and stronger.

21) ...Rdd5 22) Ba5 Kd7 23) Nf4 Bd4 24) Kf1 Rh2 25) Nd5 ed 26) Rb8 Ne6 27) Rb7 Ke8 28) Bd2? Here c3! To kick the bishop out was necessary.

28) ...Kf8 29) Bb4? Again c3 followed by f4! was winning.

29) ...c5 30) Bd2 Rh1 31) Ke2 Rh2 32) Kd1 Capturing on a7 was much stronger.

32) ...Bf2 33) Rf1? Here I missed a very strong move in Re5!

33) ...Rg2 34) Bh6? Taking on a7 was a must.

34) ...Ke8 35) Rh1 c4 36) Bf4 Bg7! Was very strong.

36) ...Bd4 37) Bd6 Bf6 38) Ra7 c3 Now Paul has the advantage.

39) a4 Rd2 40) Kc1 Nd4 41) Rh2 Ne2 42) Kb1 d4 43) Rc7 d3 44) cd Rb2 45) Ka1 Rd2 Wow! Thank God c2 doesn't work due to me capturing the knight with check. Here I could have taken a draw by going Kb1, but I saw that Paul only had 2 minutes left.

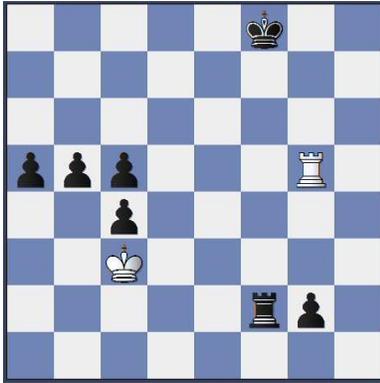
46) Re2 Re2 47) Kb1 Rb2 48) Kc1 Bd4 49) Bf4 Rf2 50) Rc4 Bf6 51) a5 Rf3 52) a6 Rf4?? 53) Rf4 Bg5 54) a7 Bf4 55) Kd1 1-0

Colorado Closed 2004, Round 6

(Continued on page 18)

Tactics Time!

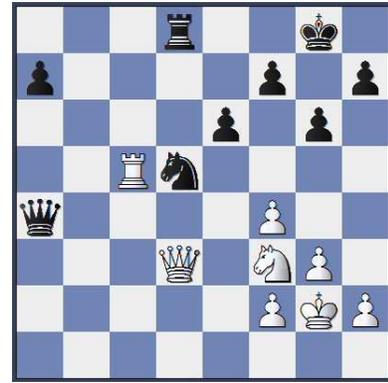
One of the best ways to improve your game is to study tactics, such as the following from recent games played in Colorado. Answers on page 16



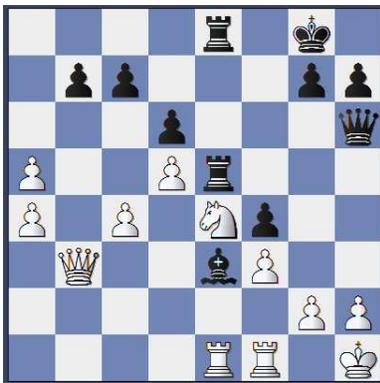
1. Grimm, Paul - Corbert, Tom
Rated Match 2004
 White to Move



2. Wall, Brian - Renae Delaware
Geezer vs Teaser Training 2004
 Black to Move



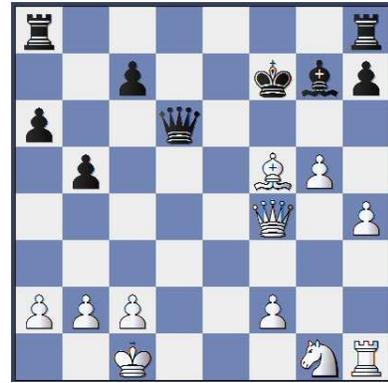
3. Timmins - Short, Pete
Denver Chess Club 2004
 Black to Move



4. Anderson, Paul - Wall, Brian
Colorado Springs CC 2004
 Black to Move



5. Foster, Cory - Reynolds, R.
Fort Collins Spring Fling 2004
 Black to Move



6. Ponomarev, P - Shridhar, M
Boulder Open 2004
 White to Move



7. Gitis, A - Bagstad, G
Boulder Open 2004
 Black to Move



8. Brennan, T. - MacNeil, J.C
Denver Chess Club 2004
 White to Move



9. Carson, A. - Frenzel, Gary
Winter Springs Open 2004
 White to Move

Rating Loss—Bah Humbug!

By Andy Rea

Some of you have asked why I have dropped rating points, ‘slumming’ in the 2000s, rather than 2100s. I still lose too many games, same as other players not moving up the charts!

Clearly I win my fair share, but we all have to realize that occasionally enough we get outplayed. You can have a good struggle and still lose! Never take it personally, your opponent is supposed to resist! From about 1999 to early 2004 I managed to score +5 -0 =2 against Philipp Ponomarev. This helped my rating, but now I have two losses this spring to Phillip. That’s the way to get even for me scoring at least two wins more than I should have in that stretch Seeing as Mikhail Ponomarev recently published one of his losses, I can do the same as well.

W: Philipp Ponomarev (2235)

B: Andy Rea (2063) [A43]

Boulder Open (3), 2004

1.d4 c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 g6 5.f4 Bg7

White wants to hit with an early e4-e5, but he can't be cavalier about this, he needs some help from his pieces. **6.Bb5+ Nfd7** The right knight



Philipp Ponomarev

crushing, White's development lags, no hammer on the h file, but all isn't well at all. White just about owns the king side, his king can't castle yet is safe, and the position is open enough to where Black is not keen on trading either Bishop for a Knight. **15.Qf2 0-0 16.Ne2 Ra7**

17.0-0 A bit breezy around g1, but how exactly does Black get there?

17...e6 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.g5 Bh8 20.Bg4 White keeps Black on the defensive! Not a simple choice

either - ok, we can leave out Kf7, but Re8/Qe8/Qe7 all have different merits. **20...Re8 21.Ne3 Nc4** A hidden warning point! Of course

21...a4 gets hit with 22. a3. Instead of just trading, classical as it might be to relieve pressure, more consideration needed to be given to ..Nb8-c6 while White doesn't have an annoying threat for the time being. **22.Rb1 Ndb6** Looks good, less filling! This wood shuffling bit usually gets punished.

23.b3 Nxe3 24.Bxe3 a4 25.Rfd1

axb3 26.axb3 Rd7 c5 has to be defended. Ra2 wasn't going anywhere, truly LGLF. **27.Ng3 Bb7 28.Qf1 Qc7 29.Qh3 Rde7 30.Kh2** In spite of some wood shuffling, Black has stayed alive, but there remain many problems - Bc3 will run into Ne2 (eventually), the two rooks are glued to e6, White also has the potential to pile on d6. So, the text entombs Bh8 but, after Kf7, frees up one rook. Meanwhile, d6 is less weak, and Bc3 won't exactly roam freely. **30...d5 31.e5 d4 32.Bd2 Qc6 33.Re1 Ra8 34.Ra1 Kf7 35.Ne4 Qxe4 36.Rxe4 Rxa1** The sacrifice lets Black

get in some offensive shots, not exactly check-mate though! Even so it is not as bad as long as White's Queen doesn't barge in - a big if!

37.Re1 Ra2 38.Qd3 Ba6 White will gladly trade c2 for the a file. **39.Qe4 Bb7 40.Qe2! Ba6 41.Qd1 Bb5 42.Bf3 Rea7 43.Bxb4?! d3!** White had thought he could also take on c5, but that of course isn't so strong, thus White has lost his advantage. Philipp catches on in time (damn!) and makes sure I don't get to cruise for free on the 2nd rank. **44.Kg3 Rxc2 45.Re3! cxb4 46.Rxd3! Bxd3 47.Qxd3** Black cannot expect to infiltrate the King side without considerable material loss. **47...Rc3?** [Of course 47...Rc8 is very reasonable, no loss of piece(s) after 48.Qd6 Nd7 49.Qxb4 Yet there are problems defending against white's passed pawn and not getting mugged on the king side. Its likely drawn, but the text looked about the same without the extra defensive chore.] **48.Qd8 Rd7 49.Qxh8 Rdd3** The key isn't having h7 and g6, rather it is not allowing Qxb6+. As is, the knight is needed to get to d5 should white not get in Qb7 not check. **50.Qf6+ Ke8 51.Qxe6+ Kf8 52.Qf6+ Ke8 53.Qh8+ Kd7 54.Qxh7+ Kc8??** Total collapse - White can't mate Queen alone, eg. [54...Kd8 55.Qg8+ Ke7 56.Qg7+ Ke8 57.Qxg6+ Kf8 Still wins, the King gets to f5 safely with 58.h7 But the text gives White no chance to miss, which is leading with your chin against a player as strong as Philipp!]

55.Qb7+ Kd8 56.Qxb6+ Ke7 57.Qxb4+ Kf7 58.Qb7+ Black was careless and lazy, White wasn't flawless but made sure there wasn't just the one stumble! And we see why Philipp is moving up the charts, and I am not! **1-0** ♠

photo by Bruce Galler

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Position after Bf3

7.h4 Just a bit aggressive, but why not!
7...h5 is the natural answer, but terribly weakens f7, ergo **g6**, so this isn't correct at all. Fine let the h-pawn advance. Black has

other alleys for brawling. **7...a6 8.Be2 b5 9.Bf3**

Black should be ok as long as he keeps e4-e5 from being to painful. The text reflects that both knights cannot be on d7, add starch to ..b4 and hits Bc3 with ..Nc4. **9...Nb6** And even challenge white to play e5 anyway! **10.Qd2**

[10.e5 dxe5 11.d6 Ra7 12.Ne4 f5 13.Nxc5 exd6 is not what White is looking for.]

10...N8d7 11.h5 b4 12.Nd1 a5 13.h6 Bf6 14.g4 Ba6 It's tempting to be happy as Black. e5 isn't

Tactics Time answers:

1. White missed a chance for a brilliant stalemate with **Rb1+**, and instead played **Rxb7** hoping for **Rxb7** with stalemate. After **Rxb7** Tom played **g5+**, then took the rook with an easy win. After **Rb1+** the white rook keeps checking the black king, and there is no where to hide. The white rook can never be captured because it will be stalemate.
2. This was a training game in which Brian got 49 seconds (his age) and Renae got five minutes. They were preparing for a thematic tournament in Colorado Springs, in which each player started with the same position in the Nimzovich-Larsen attack: modern variation after the moves 1. b3 e5 2. Bb2 Nc6 3. e3 Nf6 4. Bb5 Bd6. In this position Black mates with **12...Qh4+ 13.Kf3 Nh2#** the queen and knights working well together.
3. **Nxf4+** unleashes a nice discovered attack on the queen.
4. Fritz 8 gave the move **1. Qxh2+!!** a double exclamation, and wrote "The nicest combinations are those leading to mate." **1. ..Kxh2 2. Rh5#**
5. **Qh7#** is an interesting mate.
6. **Bg6+!** Double discovered checks can be nasty! The Black King must move to e7, but the bishop falls after 21...Ke7 22.Qf7+ Kd8 23.Qxg7. All other moves lead to mate. 21...Ke6 22.Qf7+ Ke5 23.Nf3# or 21...Kxg6 22.h5# or 21...Kg8 22.Qf7#
7. **Nxd5** snags a nice center pawn. The Rook on d2 appears to be guarding it, but is overloaded with guarding the pawn on b2.
8. **Qb6+** is the quickest way to mate. In the game I got flashy and played the overly complicated Qe8+, which mates in seven, because I did not see the easier mate in two.
9. **Qf5#** mates the king in the middle of the board after sacrificing two bishops, which dragged the black king from a safe home on g8 to a deadly exposed spot on g5.

by Vance Aandahl

Chess in the Other Zone

In his well-researched article "Oscars for Chess" in the April 2004 Colorado Chess Informant, NM Todd Bardwick observes that although chess has "a rich movie tradition," it usually is just a minor element incorporated into the film "to show the cleverness of one of the characters." How true! Chess has been used (and frequently abused) in hundreds of movies and TV shows, maybe even thousands, but I know of only four feature-length major-studio movies in which chess is the main subject. (Todd includes two of these, *SEARCHING FOR BOBBY FISCHER* and *THE LUZHIN DEFENSE*. The other two that I'm familiar with are *BRAIN-WASHED*, a German film made in the 1950's that was inspired by Austrian playwright, biographer, and novelist Stefan Zweig's story "The Royal Game," and *THE CHESS PLAYERS*, which was made in the 1960's by the brilliant and much-honored Indian director Satyajit Ray.)

It's interesting to note that three of these four feature-length chess dramas have as their central theme the idea that chess players become obsessed with the game and go insane. This is depressing, tiresome, and not exactly true due to the fact that many chess players are already insane before they take up the game.

Last winter my pals IM John Watson and IM Jeremy Silman urged me to watch LEXX 4.18 ("The Game"), an episode from a Canadian TV show. The episode was written and directed by Paul Donovan in 2002. Jeremy loves "The Game," calling it "the greatest rendition of chess that's ever appeared on TV -- and almost certainly better than anything that's even graced the big screen," and to make sure I saw it, he very generously sent me a DVD with "The Game" and three other LEXX episodes. John, who calls "The Game" a "wonderful production," cautioned me not to watch the other three episodes lest they "sour me on the show." If you're interested in watching "The Game" without having to buy it or rent it, the Denver Public Library system has at least one copy of the DVD (I noticed it at the Schlessmann Branch), and I'll be glad to loan my copy to anyone who asks.

After enjoying "The Game" three times, I have to agree with John and Jeremy (even though normally I like to argue with them). "The Game" stands head and shoulders above the flicks whose directors clearly are obsessed with proving that chess players can all too easily become obsessed. Although it does com-

ment satirically on the psychology of chess players, for the most part it focuses on strategy and tactics. In all three respects (psychology, strategy, tactics), "The Game" succeeds in conveying essential truths.

I'm not familiar with Canadian TV, but as I watched "The Game," I quickly figured out the premise on which the LEXX show is based. LEXX is an enormous interstellar spaceship, a living organism that resembles a wingless Eretor-set dragonfly with gigantic eyeballs and is manned by a small crew of lunatics. The tone of the show is a fizzy cocktail of silliness, parody, black comedy, and intellectual wit. The intentionally cheesy dialogue and acting along with the weird props, costumes, and special effects left me feeling like someone had slipped something into my chamomile tea.

As "The Game" opens, one of LEXX's crew, an undead Divine Assassin named Kai, agrees to play a game of chess with a villain named Prince. The stakes are high.

If Prince wins, two of Kai's fellow crew members will forfeit their lives -- a jittery and apparently inept worrywart named Stanley Tweedle and someone named Xev who looks like a voluptuous harem girl with plump beestung lips. (Later I found out from Jeremy that Xev is a humanoid female who's half cluster lizard and half love slave. Hoo boy!)

If Kai wins, Prince will free Kai from the ranks of the undead. Zombies are undead, and so are vampires, but Kai appears to belong in a third category. His spirit has been separated from his body. Only if the two parts of him are reunited will he be able to finish his life and find rest in death.

Kai and Prince play their high-stakes game in the middle of a bleak and desolate landscape in the Other Zone, defined by Kai (rather wittily, I think) as an "unstable partial universe." The Other Zone setting consists entirely of snow and rock -- a stark contrast of white and black with virtually no other colors. Not only is the color symbolism perfect for a game of chess, the fact that the Other Zone is actually an isolated location in Iceland seems appropriate too. After all, it was in Iceland that Bobby Fischer defeated Boris Spassky, and if I remember correctly, Iceland has more FIDE-titled players per capita than any other country in the world.

The chessboard and pieces require a careful description. Each of the board's sixty-four squares has a hole in the middle and is divided into two halves that can be separated and closed

again, similar to the two vertical planks on a guillotine that clamp around a victim's neck and hold his head in place under the blade. Various characters from the LEXX show stand out of sight underneath the board with only their heads sticking up through the holes in the squares, and these apparently disembodied heads wear distinctive hats to indicate which piece they represent. For example, Prince's head is the White king, Kai's head is the Black king, and Xev's head is the Black queen. As Kai and Prince take their seats and look down at the board, they see miniature versions of their heads sitting on e1 and e8.

Goofy oversized keyboards protrude from both sides of the board. When one of the players is ready to make a move, he punches keys and turns a crank. The necessary squares open up, an unseen mechanism underneath the board slides the chosen piece to its new square (all we see is a head gliding across the surface of the board), and then the piece is clamped in place as the two halves of the new square close tightly around the neck of the head. An elaborate contraption moves the knights by hoisting them out of their original square in a container (with the head sticking out of the top and the body hidden inside) so they can pass over other pieces before being lowered into their new square. Whenever a piece is captured, the square is cleared by yet another contraption that swings down an ax or mace, smashing the head of the captured piece like a ripe melon and splattering the faces of the other pieces with gorgeous gouts of bogus blood and brains. The completely phony special effects make this carnage comical rather than horrifying.

How, you ask, could such a juvenile, lurid, garish, demented depiction possibly reveal essential truths about the noble game of chess? Let me count the ways.

For openers, the entire game is shown clearly from start to finish. It's a Bishop's Opening melee featuring the complicated double-edged tactics that arise when one player castles kingside and the other castles queenside, with a race to see which player can checkmate the other first. Since I'm a patzer, I couldn't be sure, but the quality of the play struck me as being quite high, so I guessed that when he wrote the screenplay, Paul Donovan used the score of an actual game between two strong players. Jeremy confirmed my guess. The game comes from the famous 1834 match between Labourdonnais and MacDonnell to determine (unofficially) which of the two should be honored as the strongest chess player in the world.

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(Continued from page 17)

After Jeremy explained its origin, I realized that I may have even looked at the game before. About fifty years ago I found a 19th-century opening book in a used bookstore. The book was crammed with obsolete attacking lines including numerous wildly imaginative gambits involving the sacrifice of not just one pawn but two or three, and sometimes even a piece. I could use these to surprise, crush, and humiliate my pals at Smiley Junior High School! I learned the hard way, but not before having a passionate love affair with the swashbuckling MacDonnell Double Gambit. Wanting to know more about the wily Scot, for a month or so I played through every game of his I could get my hands on.

But I digress. Here's the game that Donovan borrowed:

W: Labourdonnais (Prince)
 B: MacDonnell (Kai)
 London match, game 21, 1834
 Bishop's Opening 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Qe2 Nf6 4.d3 Nc6 5.c3 Ne7 6.f4 exf4 7.d4 Bb6 8.Bxf4 d6 9.Bd3 Ng6 10.Be3 0-0 11.h3 Re8 12.Nd2 Qe7 13.0-0 (Silman: "White enjoys a clear advantage.") 13...c5 14.Kb1 cxd4 15.cxd4 a5 16.Ng3 Bd7 17.g4 h6 18.Rdg1 a1 19.g5 hxg5 20.Bxg5 a3 21.b3 Bc6 22.Rg4 Ba5 23.h4 Bxd2 24.Nxd2 Ra5 25.h5 Rxg5! (Silman: "This sacrifice turns things around. Suddenly Black gets a winning attack!") 26.Rxg5 Nf4 27.Qf3 Nxd3 28.d5 (Silman: "Or 28.Qxd3 Ne4! and White is doomed.") 28...Nxd5! 29.Rhg1 Nc3+ 30.Ka1 Bxe4? (Silman: "Botching it. Correct was 30...Nxe4! 31.Rxg7+ Kh8 and Black's attack will triumph.") 31.Rxg7+ Kh8 32.Qg3 Bg6 33.hxg6 Qe1+ 34.Rxe1? (Silman: "White makes the final mistake. He could have won with 34.Nb1! Kxg7 35.gxf7+ Qg3 36.fxg8=N+! Kf8 37.Rxg3.") 34...Rxe1+ 35.Qxe1 Ne1 (Silman: "The picturesque ...Nc2 mate can't be stopped!") 36.Rh7+ Kg8 37.gxf7+ Kxh7 38.f8=N+ Kh6 39.Nb1 Nc2# 0-1

Not only is this game a good one, what's even more pleasing is that after every move, Kai, Prince, and the talking-head pieces discuss the purpose of the move and debate its merits. This ongoing analysis is rudimentary but also fairly accurate as far as it goes. As a result "The Game" could actually be used as an instructional tape for beginners. By emphasizing the importance of relentless ongoing analysis, and furthermore by showing that brilliant tactics sometimes trump general principles, "The Game" reveals two essential truths about chess.

I wish I could tell you that Donovan's presentation of chess is completely flawless. Unfortu-

nately, just as Todd could see chess flaws in every one of the six movies he reviewed, so too I see flaws in "The Game." Most of the dialogue correctly refers to pawns as pawns and pieces as pieces, but there are several lines when someone uses the word "piece" when referring to a pawn. This is a mere peccadillo and can easily be forgiven, but I have to scold Donovan for changing the moves of the game at the very end. First, Prince plays the pointless 38.f8=Q instead of the actual 38.f8=N+. (I assume that Labourdonnais was desperately hoping that MacDonnell would respond with 38...Kg7 instead of 38...Kh6, an error that allows the knight to leapfrog back to the defense of c2 by means of another check.) What's worse, when Kai announces checkmate, Prince continues the game by moving his king to b1, whereupon Kai actually takes the king. Maybe Donovan felt it was dramatically important to let his audience see Prince's head get smashed, but that excuse won't cut it with chess players.

But Donovan's presentation of the psychology of chess players is truly flawless. Being undead, Kai's body and mind are required to function without any spirit. Consequently he is unnaturally logical, rational, and imperturbable. He cannot feel emotions and makes no attempt to feign them. The look in his eyes is cold, empty, and profoundly detached. Prince, on the other hand, oozes all the emotions that normal people find repulsive and loathsome. He gloats over the board, sneering at Kai with oily arrogance, his eyes glittering with sadistic glee. His theatrical gestures, his haughty tone of speech, his disdainful facial expressions, and his endless bragging make it clear that he considers himself superior to everyone else in the universe. Now, I ask you, isn't it true that these two personality types are evident in appreciable numbers at most chess tournaments?

Moreover, when the talking-head pieces are arguing about tactics and strategy, they bombard each other with a non-stop barrage of childish taunts, threats, insults, jeers, and sarcastic remarks. Whenever they think Kai has blundered, Prince's pieces chant, "Resign! Resign! Resign!" or "Bad move! Bad move! Bad move!" After a capture, the White king (Prince's head) ecstatically sighs, "The violence! Oh, the violence!" Reacting to what appears to be a blunder, another piece snickers and asks, "What are you, a retard?" Finally, they are reduced to shouting "Nana nana na na!" at each other like a roomful of sugar-crazed seven-year-old brats. In this way "The Game" reveals the most essential truth of all. It shows us the heart and soul of chess. ♖

(Continued from page 14)

W: Denis Kholodar (2189)
 B: Philipp Ponomarev (2286)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Nc6 6.exd6 exd6 7.h3 Bh5 8.0-0 Be7 9.c4 Nb6 10.d5 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Ne5 12.Be2 0-0 13.Qc2 f5 14.Nd2 g6 15.Nf3 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Bf6 17.Bh6 Re8 18.Rae1 Qd7 19.b3 Qf7 20.g4 Be5 21.gxf5 gxf5 22.Kh1 Kh8 23.Rg1 Rg8 24.Qd2 Nd7 25.Bf4 Rae8 26.Rxg8+ Rxg8 27.Rg1 Rg6 28.Rg2 Qg7 29.Bg5 Nc5 30.Bh4? Qh6!! 31.Qxh6 Rxh6 32.Bg3 f4 [32...Rxb3+!] 33.Bh2 Rxh3 34.Bg4 Rd3?! [34...Rc3!!] 35.f3 Rd1+ 36.Rg1 Nd3 37.Rxd1 Nf2+ 38.Kg2 Nxd1 39.Bg1 b6 40.Bf2 Kg7 41.Bd7 Kg6 42.Be1 Bc3 43.Bh4 Ne3+ 44.Kh3 Bf6 45.Be1 Nc2 46.Bf2 Ne3 47.Be1 a5 48.Be8+ Kg5 49.Bd7 Nf5 50.a3 Nd4 51.b4 axb4 52.axb4 Nxf3 53.Bf2 Ne5 54.Bb5 Nd3 55.Bh4+ Kf5 56.c5 Nxb4 57.cxb6 cxb6 58.Be1 Nxd5 59.Bd3+ Ke5 60.Bxh7 Kd4 61.Kg4 Ke3 62.Bg8 Bc3 63.Bf2+ Kxf2 64.Bxd5 Ke3 65.Bc6 Be1 66.Bb5 d5 0-1

Colorado Closed 2004, Round 7

W: Philipp Ponomarev (2286)
 B: Steve Towbin (2058)

1) d4 e5 2) de Nc6 3) Nf3 d6 4) Bg5 Qd7 5) Nc3? For some reason I forgot that Steve had a knight on c6.
 5) ...de 6) a3 Nb5!?! was very interesting.
 6) ...f5 7) Nb5 f4 Steve played this pawn move immediately, probably thinking that I overlooked it. I was actually hoping that he would play it!
 8) g3!! Rb8 9) Qd7 Bd7 10) 0-0-0 Capturing with gf is even stronger.
 10) ...Bg4 11) Ne5!! Ne5 12) Bf4 Ng6 If Bd6 then Rd6!
 13) Bc7 Rc8 14) Bg2 Kf7 15) Bd5 Be6 16) Bb7 Re8 17) e4 Bc5 18) b4 Be7 19) f4 Bc4 20) Na7 Bb4 21) ab Re7 22) Ba5 Rb7 23) Nc7 Ba6 24) Nd6 Ke7 25) Nb7 Bb7 26) f5 Ne5 27) Bd8 Kf7 28) Bc7 Ng4 29) Rd7 Ke8 30) Rhd1 Be4 31) Rg7 Kf8 32) Rg4 Nf6 33) Re4 Ne4 34) Rd8 Black Resigns.



Ann Schine Tribute

The Denver Chess Club hosted a new tournament this year called the "Ann Schine Tribute". The tournament was created by DCC member and former officer Randy Schine. The tournament was dedicated to his wife, who passed away last year. Randy said a few words before the start of the tournament. He said that although his wife did not play chess, she was always very supportive of Randy playing chess. Randy hopes that this will become an annual event. Randy donated money to the club to help pay for the location, and prizes beyond those collected from the entry fees. Interesting prizes were given, such as being able to play at free at future DCC events, and magnetic chess sets. The tournament was a CSCA and DCC Grand Prix event, and was advertised in Chess Life magazine.

Ann Schine Prize Winners

from Chief TD La Moyné Splichal

Here are the prizewinners from the ANN SCHINE TRIBUTE chess tournament, April 17-18, 2004. It was held @ the 3rd floor of the LoDo Tattered Cover Bookstore, on the 16th St. Mall, Denver - Colorado. 5 rounds, TL: G/90. Congrats to the players, thanks to all for attending the fine event.

La Moyné Splichal, Chief Tmt. Director.

ANN - OPEN

1st - Phil Ponomarev, \$112.50 (deduct \$15 EF, masters play free @ DCC unless they win.)

2nd - Tyler Hughes, \$67.50

3rd (tie) - Mikhail Ponomarev, \$18.75 (deduct \$15 EF, masters play free @ DCC unless they win.)

- Andy Rea, \$18.75

U1900 - Morgan Robb, \$52.50

U1900 2nd - JC Mac Neil, \$30

Top Scholastic - Tyler Hughes, he can play free @ DCC events through Aug. 18, 2004.

Top Upset - Stanimir Ilic won a magnetic analy-

sis chess set.

SCHINE - U1700

1st (tie) - Roderick Santiago & Curtis Crockett each won \$95.00

3rd - Tom Corbett won \$35.00

U1500 - Dylan Lehti won \$65.00

U1500 2nd (tie) - Pete Short & Amarjin Nemek-hbayar each won \$17.50

Top Scholastic - Curtis Crockett, he can play free @ DCC events, through Aug. 18, 2004.

Top Upset - Thao Uyen Le won a magnetic analysis chess set.

TRIBUTE - U1200

1st - William B Greenleaf, \$93.75

2nd - Ryan Cowdin, \$48.75

3rd - Renae Delaware, \$26.25

U1000 (tie) - Tom Mullikin, Lee Lahti, & Eric Parish each won \$16.25

Top Unrated Player - Don Ohlin won \$30.00

Top Scholastic - Ryan Cowdin, he can play free @ DCC events through Aug. 18, 2004.

Top Upset - Isaac Martinez won a magnetic analysis chess set. ♖

(Continued from page 12)
outplayed.

With White if Steve had tried 7 ... Nc6 I would have beaten him with 8 Nd2. The game position is irrelevant - the result is preordained since the dawn of Time.

8. Qxd8+! 1:14 Threatening the pawn on c7, as GM Dzindi would say.

8. ..Kxd8! 44 Preserving his queenside pawn structure for the rest of the game.

9. fxe3! 1:14 **Be6** 40 Steve credited his loss after the game with missing the ... Nc6, ... Bg7 combo to pick up the e-pawn. His first chance was on move 5 and here is his last chance with 9 ... Nc6! or 9 ... Bg7! - then we have a ball game instead of a tsunami. Steve is about to learn an invaluable lesson.

10. Nc3! 1:13 Hey, don't be so smug like - "I would have played that too! I must be good!" - would you have played 10 Ne2, an equally good move? I didn't think so.

10. ..c6? 39 It is interesting that Steve plays the same move that got Karpov in trouble, a move that seems like an automatic move to make a nest for the King. An excellent Chess book would be - "Losing moves that usually work in similar positions."

11. O-O-O+ 1:11

I see that smug look returning. 11 Nge2! was just as good. I told you this line is hard to play. 11 Rd1+, 11 Ne4 and 11 Bf4 are strong too. Steve's in trouble, running out of time and position, as GM Dzindi likes to say.

11. ..Kc7 38 This is where the game began to remind me of the Seirawan-Karpov game cited below. I was getting that Deva Jew feeling. Like Karpov, Steve finds himself in early difficulties and tries with all his strength to fight his way out of trouble with accurate moves, ignoring the clock. I respect players who believe in Board Control over Clock control. I am one of them.

Steve's move is another entry in the "Losing moves that usually work in similar positions." book - the very strength that allows humans to compete with computers, pattern recognition, can also be our downfall. The truth is we make most moves based on memory of previous games to save time. 11. ..Nd7 and ..Nh6-f5 is marginally better.

I thought here for 16 minutes. I like to call these 3-dimensional moments because in my humble opinion B-players play 2-dimensional Chess, like billiards. Anything attacked is automatically defended or moved and they expect the same from their opponents, which means that a huge percentage, say 30% of Chess is incomprehensible to them. My impression of a B-player post-mortem - "I wanted to put my

knight there because it looks so strong but then luckily I noticed that would cost me a pawn so I made a safe move. "Master Chess is more spiritual - we cannot see clearly that we will get our material back, but we have faith in our pieces to get the job done.

To a Master, the c-pawn is a trifle but the undeveloped Kingside is a disaster.

12. Nge2! 56 I have other good moves - My original intention 12 Ne4! is a safe way to keep the advantage but I like to make the move that ignores material loss if possible to upset my opponent.

12. ..Bxc4 15 Towbin seems to do everything Karpov did with the same result. Kathy Schneider's concept of getting pieces off the bank rank and trying to connect the rooks with 12. ..Ne7! or 12. ..Bh6 would be much better.

The reason Steve whacked off the pawn was that he anticipated my evil plan - 12 Nge2 Nd7 13 Nf4 Ne7 14 either knight to d5+ , a pretty cute idea for a silly human. A possible continuation here is 14 Ncd5+ cd 15 cd N:d5 16 N:d5+ Kc6 17 e4 with Steve struggling miserable between a loss and a draw. The Fritz take on all this is that my plan is good for some advantage but there are other easier ways to develop an attack like 12 ... Nd7 13 Ne4 or 14 Nd4.

The main damage to Steve's position was done by the natural, safe looking 10. ...c6.

13. e6+ 49 I suddenly decided that opening up the position with a huge development lead must be right. GM Goldin, among others, has noted that one of the hardest parts of Chess is selecting the best among many good moves. GM Goldin is the Grandmaster that hardly spends any time at the board but wins the tournaments anyway. I was proud of 13 e6+ because it accentuates the need for squares over pawns in the middle game, something most players struggle with uncomfortably. My simple original plan of 13 Nd4 or Nf4 Be6 14 N:e6 fe 15 Bc4 Rh6 16 Rhf1 Nd7 17 Rf7 Ne7 is overwhelming after 18 Ne4, 18 Rd6 or 18 Bf4. I admit I like to throw material away to demonstrate mental superiority over the material superiority of my opponent. Soundness is pleasant when it accidentally occurs but not necessary to me. I expect the computer to disagree with me because I like to win "my way". Winning my way means making the move that most humans would have a hard time playing. Any Fritz-Brian convergence is always a shock to me.

13. ..Kc8! 12 Steve gets a bonus point for avoiding 13 ... Kb6 14 Rd8!

14. Nd4! 46

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by Paul Grimm

USCF Rules Corner: Pre-Mature Flag Fall on Mechanical Clocks

I was playing Lou Berman an extra-rated game at the DCC in May. I was so desperate for rating points in my “climb” for 1800 (*Editor’s note:* See Operation Swindle Master article) that I thought playing Lou would be an “easy and free” one or two points. Instead, I find myself in a death race with extreme time pressure because I squandered all my time in a failed attack. We are using an analog clock. In the mad scramble, I make a move, hit the clock, which then tips over onto its face. I lift the clock back up and see that Lou’s flag has fallen and call “TIME!”

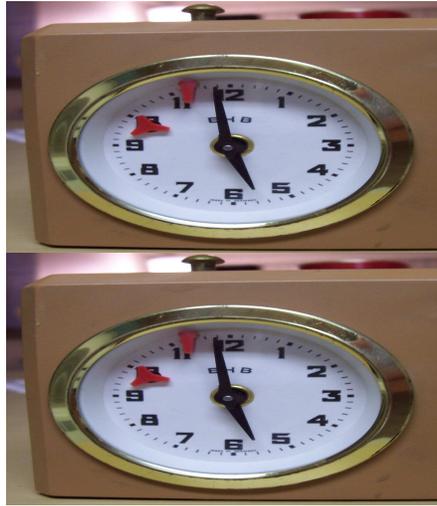
Spectators, Lou, and myself can hardly believe what just happened (now that’s a **SWINDLE!**) and now Lou makes a claim that my knocking the clock over caused his flag to fall prematurely. I claim, “If you had any time left on your clock, the flag wouldn’t have fallen regardless of the clock being knocked over.” Spectator Pete Short asks me: “Hey Paul, did you learn that cheap trick on the 16th Street Mall!?” It’s funny now, but it wasn’t then.

Lou asked me for a draw and, of course, I refused (drawing someone 400 points below me is like losing and contrary to the quest for 1800!). I counter-offered that we switch to a time-delay clock. Pete offered up his time-delay clock and Lou and I agreed to play with two minutes of sudden death. This is actually a big advantage for Lou who had less than 3 seconds and me too, with only 25 seconds.

“Did you learn that cheap trick on the 16th Street Mall?”

I did win, but that was beside the point now. I was curious what the new 5th Edition USCF Official Rules of Chess says about situations involving apparent mal-

function of a mechanical clock. Here’s what I found out:



Game Over? Clock flag fell, but the hand has not reached the time control.

Photo by Tim Brennan

Rule 16G. Pre-Mature Flag Fall: (a) *With an analog clock, if a clear white space shows between the right side of the minute hand of the clock and the left side of the 12 marker on the clock’s face the flag is considered to have fallen prematurely. (see illustration)*

If this happens, the director should deny the claim of win by time forfeit and, if possible, replace the clock.

Rule 16H. Apparent flag fall can cause forfeit: (a) *Analog clock: Even though it may seem the flag fell early, if the clear white space described in 16Ga is not apparent, the player’s time has expired.*

And more importantly, note this TD Tip:

TD Tip: *For instance, if the right side of the minute hand is touching the left side of the hour marker, even though it may not reach the center of the marker, the time has been used up. Players should realize this possibility exists and should refrain from using all of their apparent time, if possible.*

So the proper way to adjudicate the situation above is for the TD to examine

the clock and make a determination with that guidance.

(As a tie-in to a previously written article in the January Informant [“Draw by Insufficient Losing Chances”], if both players agree, it is possible for the analog clock to be replaced by a digital clock. However, remember there is no requirement for a game clock to be switched from analog to digital unless a “draw offer by insufficient losing chances” is made and declined (rule 14H). Then the TD should force the use of a time-delay clock if a situation of “insufficient losing chances” really exists [C-player beating or drawing master 90% of the time].)

OK, enough on premature flag falls. Watch out for those 16th Street Mall swindlers and consider avoiding this situation in the first place by purchasing a digital

clock w/time delay! 😊🕒

Joke and Riddle

I was attending a two day meeting, in which the person running the meeting would post little riddles during the breaks on the white board. This was one I found interesting, and was the first person to solve it :-)

*Thirty men and women two
All lined up with nothing to do
Dressed in formal Black and White
When we move we being to fight*

Let me know if you need the answer. I also saw a joke in the Rocky Mountain News “Jokeline” section, which chess players might appreciate.

The bishop was attending the 100th anniversary of a church. The minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk. “Does anyone know what bishop does?” he asked.

After a moment of silence, one little boy answered, “He’s the one you can move diagonally.”

- Tim Brennan

Boulder Open 2004

The Boulder Open was held at the Coors Events Center on the University of Colorado's Main Campus in Boulder. This event almost did not take place this year. Paul Grimm sent an email to Béla Géczy, the long time organizer of the Boulder Open, in January to see when the Boulder Open would be held, so that the DCC would not schedule a tournament at the same time. Béla wrote back, "I have stopped chess altogether for at least one year. As far as I know, there will be no 2004 Boulder Open." After receiving this email Paul informed the other CSCA officers who worked to help keep the tournament alive. The tournament had three sections, an under 1200, under 1800 and open section.

Game selection and annotations by Mark Scheidies

Open Section

Wall,B - Ramsey,P

1.e4 c5 2.Nh3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf4 Bg7 5.g3 e6 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 b6 8.h4 Bb7 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Qd2 d5 11.0-0-0 Nxc2 12.Kxc2 d4 13.Kb1 Qd7 14.Rc1 dxe3 15.fxe3 0-0-0 16.d4 Kb8 17.d5 Nc6 18.Qe2 exd5 19.exd5 Ne5 20.e4 Qg4 21.Qf2 Bh6 22.Rhf1 Bxf4 23.Qxf4 Qxf4 24.gxf4 Nc4 25.Rf2 f5 26.Nd1 Nd6 27.e5 Ne4 28.Bxe4 fxe4 29.d6 Bc8 30.Ne3 Rhf8 31.Rg1 Bf5 32.Kc2 Kc8 33.Rg5 Be6 34.h5 Rg8 35.hxg6 Rxg6 36.Rh5 Rg3 37.Kd2 Bxa2 38.Rxh7 Rd7 39.Rh6 a5 40.Nf5 Rd3+ 41.Ke1 Rf7 42.Ne7+ Kd8 43.f5 Rg7 44.Ng6 e3 45.Rfh2 Bc4 46.R2h4 Bb5 47.f6 [47.Rh8+ Kd7 (47...Be8 48.Rxe8+ Kxe8 49.e6 Rg8 50.f6) 48.Rb8] 47...Rxxg6 [transposing the moves from the game almost holds for black, but not quite... 47...e2! 48.Kxe2 Rxxg6 49.Rxxg6] 48.Rxxg6 e2 49.Kxe2 Rg3+ 50.Kf2 Rxxg6 51.f7 1-0

Ponomarev,P - Shridhar,M

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nc6 5.d5 Ne5 6.Qd4 Nf7 7.h4 Nd6 8.0-0-0 a6 9.Re1 b5 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.g4 e5 12.dxe6 dxe6 13.Nxe4 e5 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Rxe5+ Kf7 16.g5 Nf5 17.Qf4 Qc6 18.Bh3 Bg7 19.Rxf5+ Bxf5 20.Bxf5 Qd6 21.Bg6+! Ke7 22.Qf7+ Kd8 23.Qxxg7 Rf8 24.Nh3 1-0

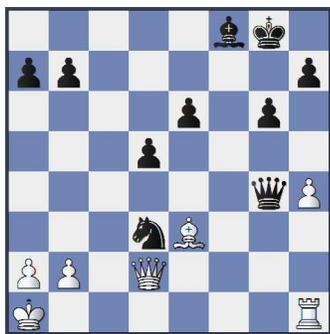
Gitis,A - Bagstad,G

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.d5 Nce7 4.g3 Ng6 5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qe7 7.Ne2 Nf6 8.0-0-0 9.c4 Bxd2 10.Qxd2 d6 11.Nbc3 Nh5 12.Bf3 Nf6

13.h4 Bh3 14.Bg2 Qd7 15.Kh2 Bxxg2 16.Kxxg2 Qg4 17.Rh1 [17.Qg5] 17...Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 19.f3 Qf5 20.h5 Ne7 21.Nc3 Qd7 22.h6 g6 23.Ne4 f5 24.Ng5 f4 25.g4 c6 26.Rhd1 cxd5 27.cxd5 Qb5 28.a4 Qb6 29.Ne4 Rfd8 30.Qe2 Rac8 31.Rd2 Rc7 32.Qe1 Rdc8 33.Qh4 Rf8 34.Ng5 Nxd5! 35.Ne6 [35.Rxd5 Qxb2+] 35...Ne3+ 36.Kh3 Rcf7 [36...Qc6 37.Rf2 Re8 38.Nxc7 Qxc7] 37.Nxf8 Qc6 38.Rf2 Rxf8 39.Qe7 Rf7 40.Qe6 a5 41.Kh4 Kf8 42.Rd2 Qxf3 43.Qxd6+? [43.Qc8+! Ke7 44.Qc7+ Ke8 45.Qb8+ Kd7 46.Qxd6+ Ke8 47.Qd8#] 43...Kg8 44.Rg1 Nf5+! 45.Kg5 [45.gxf5 Qh5#] 45...Nxd6 46.Rxd6 Qe3 47.Rgd1 f3+ 0-1

Hughes,T - Robb,M

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 f6 7.Qh5+ g6 8.exf6 Nxf6 9.Qf3 0-0 10.Qd3 c5 11.Nf3 cxd4 12.Qxd4 Nc6 13.Qa4 Qb6 14.0-0-0 Qxf2 15.Bd3 Bd7 16.Rdf1 Qc5 17.Qf4 Bd6 18.Qd2 Nh5 19.Ne2 Nb4 20.g4 Nf4 21.Kb1 Nfxd3 22.cxd3 Bb5 23.Nc1 Rac8 24.Ne1 Qd4 25.Be3 Rxc1+ 26.Qxc1 Bxd3+



After 29. ...Nxd3

with only a slight edge for black.] 30...Qe4 [30...Qc4! with a threat of Nxb2 is difficult to answer. 31.Rd1 Nb4 32.b3 Bg7+ 33.Kb1 Qe4+ 34.Kc1 Bc3! 35.Qf2 Be1! (Fritz is finding these moves, not me!!) 36.Qe2 Nxa2+ 37.Kb2 Nc3 38.Qxe1 Nxd1+ 39.Qxd1 Qxe3] 31.Rd1 Nb4 32.Rc1 e5 33.a3 Nc6 34.Rf1 Nd4 35.Bxd4 Qxd4 36.Qxd4 exd4 37.Kb1 Kg7 38.Kc2 Be7 39.Rf4 Bf6 40.Kd3 h6 41.h5 Kf7 42.hxxg6+ Kxxg6 43.Rg4+ Kf7 44.Rg2 h5 45.Rc2 h4 46.Rc7+ Kg6 47.Rxb7 h3 48.Rc7 h2 49.Rc1 Kg5 50.b4 Kg4 51.a4 Bg5 52.Rh1 Kg3 53.Kxd4 Kg2 54.Rxxh2+ Kxxh2 55.Kxd5 1/2-1/2

Mink,C - Wall,B

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Ng4 5.c3 a6 6.Ba4 Bc5 7.d4 Ba7 8.b4 exd4 9.cxd4 Nxb4 10.Nc3 0-0 11.h3 Nf6 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 b5 14.e5 bxa4 15.exf6 g5 16.Nxxg5 Qxf6 17.Nf3 Qc6 18.Ne5! Qe6 [18...Qxc3? 19.Qg4+ Kh7 20.Bf6 Rg8 21.Qe4+ Rg6 22.Nxxg6 and wins.] 19.Re1 Bb7 20.Re3 Nd5 21.Rg3+ [Fritz claims

a win with 21.Nxd5! Bxd5 (21...Qxd5 22.Qg4+ Kh7 23.Qf5+ Kg8 24.Rg3+ Kh8 25.Bf6#) 22.Ng4 Qg6 (there's nothing better) 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Rg3 Qf5 25.Qd2] 21...Kh7 22.Qd3+ f5 23.Rg6 Qe8 24.Qd2 Qxxg6 25.Nxxg6 Kxxg6 26.Re1 Rae8 27.Nxd5 Bxd5 28.Rxe8 Rxe8 29.f3 Rb8 1/2-1/2

Ponomarev,M - Nikitovich,P

This is a complicated and interesting game, which I probably shouldn't even have tried to annotate in the time I had available. Hopefully there are some good ideas here, and forgive me for any errors that may be in my notes! 1.d4 c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.e4 d6 5.f3 Be7 6.Be3 Na6 7.Qd2 Nc7 8.g4 Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.a5 b6 11.axb6 Rxb6 12.b3 Rb8 13.Nge2 Nb5 14.Nxb5 axb5 15.Ng3 g6 16.Bh6 Nd7 17.Be2 Bh4 18.0-0 f6 19.Be3 0-0 20.Qa5 Qe7 21.Bxb5 Bg5 22.Bxxg5 fxxg5 23.Bxd7 Bxd7 24.Kg2 Rf7 25.Qd2 Bb5 26.Rf2 Rbf8 27.h3 Bd7 28.Ra7 Qf6 29.c3 h5 30.b4 cxb4 31.cxb4 Rh7 32.Qe3 Rff7 33.Ra8+ Kg7 34.gxxh5 gxxh5 35.Ra7 both sides make some errors here, presumably in time pressure. 35...Bxxh3+?! 36.Kxxh3 g4+!?! not a good move according to Fritz, but a very good move in the psychological sense that it complicates a lost position and give white many chances to err. 37.Kh2? [37.fxxg4! hxxg4+ 38.Kg2 Rh2+ 39.Kxxh2 Qxf2+ 40.Qxf2] 37...Qh4+ 38.Kg1 Qxxg3+ 39.Rg2 Qh4 40.Rxf7+ Kxf7 41.fxxg4 hxxg4 42.Qf2+ Ke7 43.Qxxh4+ Rxxh4 44.b5? [44.Rh2 trades off the rooks and goes into a pawn ending won for White, as black must waste too much time going after white's distant passed b-pawn. 44...Rxxh2 45.Kxxh2 Kd7 46.Kg3 Kc7 47.Kxxg4 Kb6 48.Kf5 Kb5 49.Ke6] 44...Kd7 45.Rc2 [45.Rh2 still barely wins.] 45...Rh3 46.Rb2 [46.b6 Rb3 47.Rc7+ Kd8 48.Rc6 Kd7 49.Kf2 and neither side has any real winning attempts.] 46...Kc7 47.b6+ Kb7 48.Rb4 [after this move things start to swing toward Black's favor. 48.Kg2 Re3 49.Rb4 Rd3 50.Rb2! Rd4 51.Re2 Kxb6 (51...Rd3 52.Rb2 Re3 53.Rb4) 52.Kg3 Kc5 53.Kxxg4 is drawish.] 48...Rd3 49.Rc4 Kxb6 50.Rc6+ Kb5 51.Rxd6 Re3 52.Kf2 Rxe4 53.Kg3 Kc5 54.Rd8 Rd4 55.Kh4 Rxd5 56.Rc8+ Kd4 57.Kxxg4 Ke3 58.Rh8 e4 59.Rh3+ Kd4 60.Rh1 [Does 60.Ra3 have a chance to hold? In these ending, the defending side typically wants to have the rook on the 'long' side of the pawn. Then the question is whether White can get his king in front of the pawn. 60...Ke5 (60...e3 61.Kf3 Rf5+ 62.Ke2 Rf2+ 63.Ke1 Rb2) 61.Ra8 Rd2! 62.Kg3 Kd4 63.Ra4+ Ke3 64.Rb4 Rd3 65.Kg2 Rd2+ 66.Kg3 Rd4 67.Rb3+ Rd3 68.Rb4 Ke2+ 69.Kf4 e3] 60...Ke5 61.Rh8 Rd3 62.Re8+ Kd4 63.Rd8+ Ke3 64.Re8 Rd7 65.Ra8 Rg7+ 66.Kh3 Kf3 67.Rf8+ Ke2 68.Ra8 e3 69.Rd8 Ke1

(Continued on page 23)

Measuring Chess Rating Consistency

by Paul Grimm

Who's the Most CONSISTENT in Colorado?

It's a well known fact that chess play over time is far from consistent. A player's chess playing strength, measured by USCF rating, varies from tournament to tournament, supplement to supplement. It's not uncommon for people to move 100 points to either side of their long-term average (a 200-point performance zone).

Even within the same game, a player's strength varies from move to move. We all know a single "class C/D/E move" can wipe out the steady progress made by 20 "master-class moves". (My last game with Greg Bonifate at the Boulder Open comes to mind . . . can you say "yard

sale"? Aauuggghh!!!!) 🤔

One way to measure a person's chess rating consistency is to calculate the *standard deviation* (SD) of any given set of chess ratings using the formula:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\sum^n (x_n - x_{avg})^2}{n(n-1)}}$$

where x is a number in a list of numbers n numbers long, and x_{avg} is the average of the n -list of numbers. The idea is to get the sum of the quantity of each number minus the list average, square it, add everything up, divide by the quantity $n(n-1)$ and take the square root of the whole shebang (yes, an actual math term, *shebang*). Is this article bringing back high school math-class nightmares yet? Ok, no more math.

The bigger the SD, the more "inconsistent" the person's rating is.

So how is SD calculated? Let's use the example of an active and well-known Colorado chess player who is known for losing to people 500 points below his nominal rating and beating people 500 or more points above. He's everyone's potential worst nightmare and he goes by the ghoulish and wicked name of . . .

Dean Brown! 🤔

Here is Dean's 2-year rating history:

Jun 2004	1388
Apr 2004	1384
Feb 2004	1480
Dec 2003	1382
Oct 2003	1367
Aug 2003	1397
Jun 2003	1378
Apr 2003	1448
Feb 2003	1464
Dec 2002	1472
Oct 2002	1470
Aug 2002	1308

Using the formula, above, we calculate Dean's SD to be 54.0. If Dean had the exact same rating in each supplement, he would be perfectly consistent and his SD would be ZERO.

Using the same formula, I picked 16 active Colorado players who have established ratings and have not been trending up or down over the last two years (ie, they have probably reached their potential as chess players, barring a future "breakthrough" in chess understanding).

Here's what I came up with, listing in order of increasing SD (or decreasing consistency, top to bottom) (see next column) :

Now a few notes here:

- We can see that Brian Wall is by and far a very consistent player. This should actually be no surprise since the USCF uses a formula that allows for less change in rating for anyone higher than 2000.
- The reason Tim Brennan's SD is so high is because his rating has actually been trending upwards from 1417 to 1700 for the last two years—he's in a different situation than the other 15 "old dogs" who seem to

have maxed out! 👍 Once Tim establishes himself inside his "performance zone", his SD should drop.

Name	Standard Deviation
Brian Wall	10.9
Paul Anderson	17.4
Ken Doykos	23.0
Victor Smith	23.2
La Moyne Splichal	25.8
Billy Willson	37.6
Andy Rea	38.0
Paul Grimm	42.7
Anthea Carson	44.8
Shannon Fox	47.1
Rod Santiago	48.4
Dean Brown	54.0
Norbert Martinez	54.2
Randy Schine	69.9
JC Mac Neil	75.1
Tim Brennan	91.0
Average Standard Deviation: 44.0	

- Ken Doyko's can attribute his low score to the fact that he's been floating around his 1800-rating floor a lot the last two years. Either he hasn't been playing much, or people in Colorado have been beating up on this nice man and need to give him a break—unless they're trying to break 1800

this year! 🤔

You can calculate SD the easy way by using either a scientific calculator or Microsoft Excel. Now if someone comes up to you at the next chess tourney and says "MY STANDARD DEV IS SMALLER THAN YOURS!" you'll know they are both a GEEK and insulting you too! So just drag 'em to their rating floor I say!





Sanjay Derbyshire Drawing by Anthea Carson to get one of Anthea's chess portraits email her at emilioanthea@yahoo.com

(Continued from page 21)

70.Rd6 e2 and black has reached the classic Lucena position. 71.Rd8 Rc7 72.Kg2 Rc1 73.Rd7 Rd1 74.Ra7 Kd2 75.Ra2+ Kd3 0-1

Nikitovich,P - Ponomarev,P

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Nc6 6.c4 Nb6 7.e6 fxe6 8.d5 exd5 9.cxd5 Bxf3 10.gxf3 Nb4 11.Nc3 c6 12.Qb3 N4xd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxb7 Rc8 15.Qxa7 g6 16.Qd4 e5 17.Qg4 Qd7 18.f4 Rb8 19.Qxd7+ Kxd7 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.Bg4+ Kc7 22.0-0 Bc5 23.a3 Bd4 24.Ra2 Rhf8 25.Bh6 Rf6 26.Bg5 Rff8 27.Bh6 Rf7 28.b4 g5 29.Rc2 Rf6 30.Bxg5 Rg6 31.h4 h6 32.Bf5 Rg7 33.Rfc1 Ne7 34.Be4 hxg5 35.h5 c5 36.Kg2 Rf7 37.h6 Rbf8 38.f3 Nf5 39.Rxc5+ Bxc5 40.Rxc5+ Kd6 41.Rc6+ Kd7 42.Rb6 Nd6 43.Bd5 Rh7 44.a4 Rc8 45.a5 Rc7 46.a6 Rxb6 47.Bb7 Rh8 48.Bd5 Ra7 49.b5 Rc8 50.Bb3 Rc3 51.Bd5 Rc5 0-1

Hughes,T - Wall,B

I was amused to see the player names on the Brian's scoresheet... 'The Monster' (Tyler) vs 'Dr. Frankenstein' (Brian)!! 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 Nxd4 5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Nxe5+ Ke6 7.Qxd4 c5 8.Qc4+ Kxe5 9.Nc3 d5 10.exd5 Kd6 11.Bf4+ Kd7 12.0-0-0 Bd6 [12...Qa5 appears to be a better defense, but Black's position is barely holding together.] 13.Bxd6 Kxd6 14.Nb5+ Kd7 15.d6! b6 16.Nc7 Kc6 17.Nxa8 Re8 18.Qf7 Bd7 19.Nc7 Re2 20.Qb3 Rxf2 21.Qe3 Rf5 22.g4 Rf3 apparently

Brian's discrete way of tipping his king over. 23.Qxf3+ a very impressive game by Tyler. 1-0

Drebenstedt,J - Walker,B

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 c5 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.Nb5 cxd4? 9.Nc7+ Kf8 10.Nxa8 Nxe5 11.Qxd4 Nbc6 12.Qd2 b6 13.f4 Ng4 14.0-0-0 Bb7 15.Bb5 Bxa8 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Nf3 f6 18.Nd4 Bd7 19.h5 Kf7 20.Qe2 f5 21.Rhe1 Qd6 22.g3 Nf6 23.Nf3 Ne4 24.Ne5+ Ke7 25.g4 Rf8 26.Qh2 Rc8 27.Qh4+ Ke8 28.gxf5 Ba4 29.Rxe4 Rxc2+ 30.Kb1 Rxb2+ 31.Kxb2 Bxd1 32.Rd4 Be2 33.f6 1-0

Boulder Open 2004 U1800 Section

MacNeil,J - Madole,T

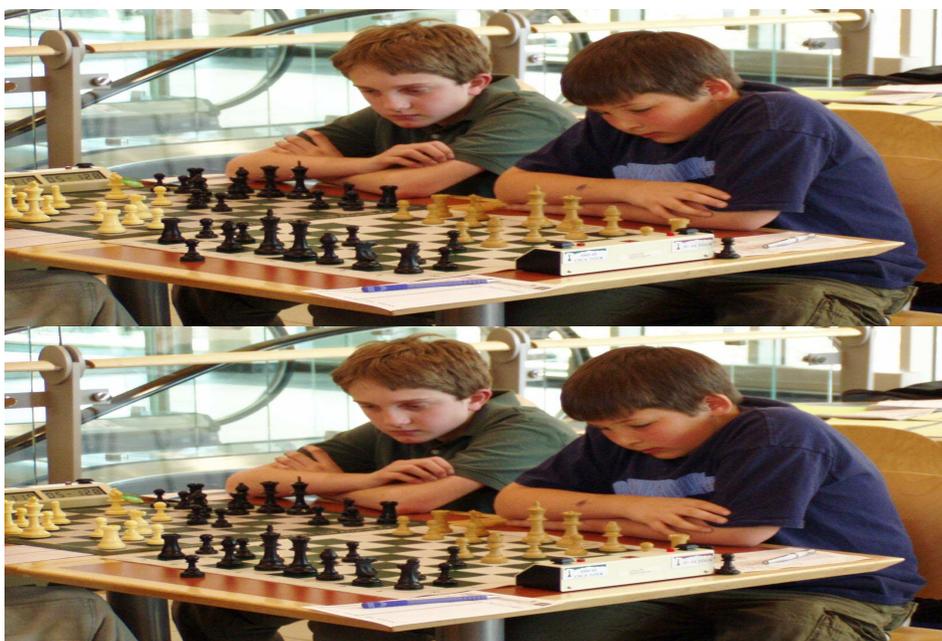
1.b4 e5 2.b5 d5 3.Bb2 Bd6 4.Nf3 Nd7 5.e3 Ngf6 6.c4 e4 7.Nd4 Nb6 8.Qc2 Qe7 9.a4 a5 10.Na3 Bd7 11.Be2 0-0 12.0-0 Rfc8 13.Rfc1 Bxh2+ 14.Kxh2 Ng4+ 15.Bxg4 Qh4+ 16.Bh3 Bxh3 17.gxh3 Qxf2+ 18.Kh1 c5 19.bxc6 Rxc6! 20.d3 [20.Nxc6? Qf3+=] 20...Qxe3 21.Nxc6 Qxh3+ 22.Qh2 Qf3+ 23.Qg2 Qh5+ 24.Kg1 g6 25.Ne7+ Kf8 26.Nxd5 Nxa4 27.Bf6 exd3 28.Nb5 Re8 29.Re1 Re2 30.Rxe2 dxe2 31.Re1 Qh6 32.Qxe2 1-0

Aragon,J - Sohn,I

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Nb5 0-0 8.Nxd6 Qxd6 9.b3 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Bb2 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Rad8 13.Be2 c5 14.f4 Nc6 15.Bf3 Ne4 16.Qd3 f5 17.Ba3 Rf6 18.Rac1 b6 19.c3 Rh6 20.Rfd1 Qf6 21.Bb2 [21.Rc2] 21...Qh4 22.Rc2 [22.h3 Qf2+ 23.Kh2 Rxh3+!] 22...Qxh2+ 23.Kf1 Qg3 24.Bxe4 fxe4 0-1

Marson,M - Fox,S

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 6.e3 b6 7.Bxc4 Bb7 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Rd1 Nbd7 11.e4 Qc7 12.Bg5 Rfe8 13.Rac1 Rad8 14.e5 Nd5 15.Bxd5 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 exd5 17.Qh5 Nf8 18.Nb5 Qd7 19.Nd6 Re7 20.Rd3 h6 **DIAGRAM** 21.Rf3! Ng6 [21...hxg5 22.Rh3 Qxh3 (forced) 23.Qxh3] 22.Ngxf7 Rf8 23.Qxg6 Re6 24.Nxh6+ Kh8 25.Rxf8# 1-0 ♠



Tyler Hughes (left) and Richard Herbst (right) at the Colorado Closed

Photo by Todd Bardwick

CLUB DIRECTORY: PLACES FOR YOU TO PLAY CHESS

Editor's note: PLEASE! Send new or updated information to editor for listing here.

The Denver Chess Club is currently working on a new location. Contact Paul Grimm at grimm_p@msn.com On the web at <http://www.denverchess.com>

The Aurora Chess Club meets Saturdays, 1-4 PM, at the Aurora Public Library, 14949 E. Alameda. Certified coach available. Contact Jeff Baffo at jbaffo@aol.com or (303) 617-9123.

The Centennial Chess Club CHANGE! New Contact Jeff Baffo. Jbaffo@aol.com Meetings will be at the *new* Smoky Hill Library! 5430 S. Biscay Circle Centennial, Colorado 80015. Sundays 1:30 – 4:00 pm (303) 617-9123

Chess Knights meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evening from 7-9pm. We meet in Library conference room. Information on the Chess Knights' Web site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chess-knights/>. Contact: Frank Atwood 720 260-1493

The Glendale Chess Club meets Fridays, 6:00 PM, Glendale Community Center, 999 S. Clermont, Room 2B.

The Lakewood Chess Club meets Thurs, noon to 4:00 p.m., at Clements Community Center, 16th & Yarrow, also on Sun., 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Higher Grounds Coffee House, 14th and Washington in Golden. Info, contact Bill Riley at 303-232-7671 or 303-232-6252.

Colorado Springs Area

Colorado Springs Chess Club meets Tues, 7:00, at Acacia Apts Platte & Tejon in downtown Colorado Springs. Many activities, tournaments. Call Richard Buchanan at (719) 685-1984.

Monument Academy Chess Club has nearly 50 members. Monument Academy has grades K-9, with nearly all of members in K-5. Schools in the area interested in a match, contact Mike McConnaughey at mmconna@aol.com.

USAF Academy Chess Club meets most Fridays during the school year, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Fairchild Hall, Room 5D2. Call Jim Serpa or Pete Cohen, (719) 333-4470.

Other Areas

Alamosa Chess Club meets Thurs, 7-10 PM, Adams State College Student Center food court. Call Ken Dail (719) 589-0995.

Boulder Chess Club meets Saturday afternoons 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm in northwest Boulder 80304 Beginning late October and Continuing through the school year except holidays. This club offers: USCF Rated Events, Casual Play, Equipment, Book Library, Under 18 Permitted, Refreshments, Beginners Welcomed. Contact Dan Lang at (303) 417-1263 (home) or email at DWL3858@attbi.com. Visit us on the web at <http://boulderchessclub.com>

Carbondale Chess Club meets every Tuesday from 6pm until ?? at Kahhak Fine Arts & School, 411 Main St, Carbondale. All levels and ages are welcome and chess coaching is available. Rated games and tournaments offered soon. Please contact Majid Kahhak at (970)704-0622 or e-mail at: Mkahhak@aol.com.

Casper Chess Club (Casper Wyoming), meets Tuesdays at 6:30 - 10:30 PM, St. Patrick's Church, 400 Country Club Rd, Casper, Wyoming.

CU/ Boulder : Every Wednesday, 7:00 pm - midnight

LOCATION: University Memorial Center (UMC) on Boulder Campus. Rooms 382 to 386. The UMC is on the north side of Broadway at approximately 16th St. and Broadway. Dave Bayless (303) 444-2144.

Colorado State University Chess Club now meets Mondays at 7:30 PM, in the Lori Student Center's basement near the Subway on the CSU campus, Fort Collins. Now officially recognized and funded by CSU.

Craig Chess Club meets Thursdays, 6-9 PM, School Administration Bldg, 755 Yampa. Call Rick or Mary Nelson, (970) 824-4780.

The Durango Chess Club meets every Wednesday at 6:15 at the Steaming Bean on 915 Main Avenue. For questions concerning that club, contact John Mical jbovinski@cs.com.

Estes Park The Chess Club, Stanley Steamers is not in session for the summer but you can still play on Mon. nights at the Estes Park Library from 6:00-9:00pm. We welcome all. Info, call Estes Park Library at (970) 586-8116.

The Fort Collins Chess Club is open to anyone interested in playing chess. For more information please visit us on the web at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fort_collins_chess, or call Bret McKee at (970) 495-1787 for more information.

The Fort Lewis College Chess Club meets Thurs nights in X-treme room located in College Union Building, the club is sponsored by the school and is a USCF affiliate club. Questions? Contact Andrea Browne at (970)247-6239 or e-mail flchess-club@hotmail.com.

Glenwood Springs Chess Club meets Thurs nights, 6:30 until we get tired, basement of Black Diamond Studios, 823 Cooper Ave., Downtown Glenwood Springs. Call Jon Rietfors (970) 928-8344 or email jrietfor@sopris.net for info. All welcome!

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

The Greeley Chess Club meets Thurs, 7-11 PM, meets at Best Western Inn, Bourbon on Eighth St Restaurant, 8th Ave and 8th St, new poc: Gary Dorsey, 970-353-1539

Gunnison Chess Club open to all community members. Meets in the College Union Rm 202 7:00pm to 10:00pm on Tuesdays. All levels are welcomed. Contact Jacob Hadar at 641-5856 or e-mail at jacob.hadar@western.edu

The Longmont Chess Club meets Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Meeker Center, 831 Meeker Street, in Longmont, Colorado. (One block east of 9th and Lashley St.)

The Loveland Chess Club meets Mondays, 7 PM, at the 425 W. 10th St. Call Charles Moore, (970) 667-7043.

The Pueblo Chess Club meets Mondays, 6-10 PM, at the Barnes & Noble, 4300 N. Freeway Rd. Contact: Chris Clevenger at (719) 647-1712.

by Pete Short

USCF Rules Corner: The recording of moves

After deciding to play in my first tournament with my friend Shannon Fox in Huntsville, Alabama in the fall of 1992, I purchased a USCF Rule Book. Having played team sports in my youth, I knew that chess would have a variety of rules of conduct in addition to those involving movement of the pieces. The first and most daunting rule I encountered was the notation of moves. Rapidly before the date of the event, I learned the algebraic method of recording moves. I'm sure in that first tournament I spent more time thinking about my notation than the actual moves on the board. Over time, notation has become quite natural to me and I no longer have to look on the board for the alpha and numeric aides on the ranks and files.

When I moved to Colorado six years ago I began to notice an interesting trend – Many tournament directors do not enforce the notation requirement during rated games. Quietly I have played many games against opponents who did not record the game while I arduously recorded each move. I've always felt that players who did not record their games were missing out on not only a great post-mortem tool but the artistic record of the game itself. Imagine if Bach or Mozart would have only played their music and not created the sheet music to last the ages. I've yet to create a [Four Seasons](#) or [Fifth Symphony](#) in over-the-board play, but if I ever beat Billy Willson, I'll have the *bona fides* to prove it with my barely legible score sheet.

Recently I noticed two long-time players debating the notation rule in the middle of a heated rated game at a local club. The only available rule book at the tournament site was an abbreviated version of the rules and not the "official" USCF Rule Book. However, even that copy clearly stated that notation is not optional but a standard requirement for both players. The following rules were extracted from the fifth edition of the [U.S. Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess](#) (ISBN: 0-8129-3559-4, McKay Chess Library, Random House, Inc., New York, 2003). I would encourage every chess player to purchase and read this book. In advance of that purchase, here are the applicable rules regarding chess notation all chess players are required to follow during rated games.

15. THE RECORDING OF MOVES

15A. Manner of keeping score. In the course

of play each player is required to record the game (both the player's and the opponent's moves), mover after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, on the score sheet prescribed for the competition. Algebraic notation is standard, but descriptive or computer notation is permitted. The player may first make the move, and then write it on the score sheet or vice versa. (The tournament director may excuse a player from keeping score if they are physically handicapped and have no assistance or are beginner players who have not yet learned notation.)

15B. Scorekeeping in time pressure, non-sudden death time control. If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a non-sudden death time control, both players are excused from the obligation to keep score until the end of the time control period. Doing so, however, may make it impossible to claim a draw by triple occurrence of position or the 50-move rule or a win on time forfeit. Scorekeeping must resume with the start of the next time control period, and missing moves should be filled in.

15C. Scorekeeping in time pressure, sudden death time control. If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a sudden death time control, both players are excused from the obligation to keep score. A score sheet is not required to win on time in sudden death control.

15D. Use of opponent's score sheet for assistance. A player who has an incomplete score sheet and wishes to consult the opponent's score sheet for assistance may ask to borrow it from the opponent under the following conditions:

- **15D1. Clock times.** Both players have at least five minutes remaining in the current time control.
- **15D2. Borrower's clock runs.** The clock of the player making such a request is running and shall continue to run until the score sheet has been returned.
- **15D3. Compliance.** The opponent is urged to comply with such a request but this is not mandatory. If the opponent denies the request, the player may stop both clocks and see a director. A director who agrees that the request is appropriate shall instruct the opponent to lend the player the score sheet. The opponent may not refuse, as all score sheets belong to the organizers.
- **15D4. Excessive requests.** Repeated requests of this type may be deemed by the director to be inappropriate, and the offender may be penalized.

15E. Borrowing not needed. A player who is able to read the opponent's score sheet without borrowing it is free to use the information gained for assistance in keeping score.

15F. Reconstruction after time control. After the end of a time control, if the next control is not sudden death, each player must make all efforts to fill in any missing moves on that player's score sheet.

- **15F1. Reconstruction of a score sheet by one player.** After the completion of a time control, a player who alone has to complete the score sheet must do so before making another move, and with that player's clock running if the opponent has made a move. An additional set and board may be used.
- **15F2. Reconstruction of score sheets by both players.** After the completion of a time control, if both players need to complete their score sheets, the clocks should be stopped until they are completed. Additional chess sets and boards may be used. This does not apply if the director rules that it is unnecessary.
- **15F3. Reconstruction impossible or unnecessary.** If it is impossible or unnecessary to reconstruct the moves as prescribed above, the game shall continue. The players should make a clear diagram of the position reached, and the next move played will be considered the first one of the following time control unless the players agree that a latter move number has been reached.
- **15F4. Reconstruction when the next time control is sudden death.** Upon making the time control, if the next control is sudden death, it is less important to fill in the missing moves. The director has the option of waiving the requirement of reconstructing.

15G. Ownership of score sheets. The score sheets of all games in a tournament are the property of the sponsoring organization(s). If the organizer requires that a copy of each game score be submitted by the players, duplicate score sheets must be provided, and players who fail to submit score sheets may be penalized.

15H. Reporting of results. When a game is completed, the result must be immediately reported in the manner required by the director. Both players, not just the winner, are responsible for registering the result. If they do not do so, they may each be penalized.



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14 Nd4! and 14 Nf4! are equivalent because 14... B:f1 15 Rhf1 is disastrous for Steve either way.

14. ..Bxe6! 9 Steve's time dilemma is not a complete accident. I am playing strongly which puts pressure on my opponent therefore he is afraid to make a hasty move and end up in an even worse position. It is torture to be a strong analyst in a lost position because every line you calculate = pain.

15. Be5 42 I am very proud of this move for the simple reason I had no idea I was going to play it until I did an every-legal-move search and discovered that I could add his rook to the ranks of the homeless. My clever idea of tormenting his rook was inferior to the simple plan of bringing in new pieces to increase the pressure with 15 N:e6 fe 16 Bc4 Rh6 17 Rhf1 I was trying to match Steve's creativity with startling ideas of my own.

15. ..Rh6! 8 **16. Bf4!** 42 This is the idea - where do you go? Follow the bouncing ball.

16. ..Rf6 7 It is already better to abandon the rook with 16... Ne7 but that is like admitting defeat to a human. He'll be begging to give me the exchange before I'm done with him.

17. Bg5 42

Rook harassment is also the theme after 17 N:e6! fe 18 Ne4 Rf5 19 Bc4 Rd5 or 17 N:e6 R:e6 18 Bc4

I overheard several late-arriving spectators asking the others what Steve was doing while I was bringing out my pieces.

Steve's rook reminds me of a Perkins waitress who runs around trying to serve the whole restaurant when her co-worker calls in with the flu.

17. ..Rf2 5 Steve is like a monkey with his hand caught in a jar because he won't let go of the peanut. It's OK to bring another piece out, Steve, just drop the rook and run.

18. Nxe6! 41 Sigh. My move is best but 18 Ne4 would have been more esthetically pleasing.

18. ..fxe6! 5 19. Ne4 37 My position is so good that refusing to let Steve hand over the exchange for nothing is best after 19 Bc4!

19. ..Rf5! 5 **20. Bc4!** 36 **Rd5!** 4

Watching Steve's rook is like watching O.J. Simpson evade the police on the California highway. It would have been a lot simpler to just surrender right away, Steve. Are you angling for the Insanity Defense? (Great name for a new Chess Opening).

Watching Steve's clock tick down is almost as exciting as the moves. Here I got that Deva Jew feeling again because I mirrored my play against Dennis Kholodar 2 rounds earlier - I eschewed winning the exchange and instead I aim for the pawns - the extra pawns I get on the Kingside look exactly like the extra pawns I swiped on Kholodar's queenside. I felt that Steve would have to prove to me that his rook was worth more than my bishop before I took it.

Steve's move is forced because of B:e6+ and Rd8+ threats.

21. Ng3! 34 Fritz fakes me out by agreeing with me when I least expect it.

21. ..Bh6 3 **22. Bxh6** 33 The strongest is 22 B:d5! but I was loathe to end the cat and mouse game with his rook in time pressure.

22. ..Rxd1+ 2 Moses finally reaches the Promised Land.

22... N:h6! 23 B:d5 cd 24 e4 gives me the exchange and better development for a pawn. 22... Rc5 23 Bg5 R:c4+ 24 Kb1 looks like salvation for a moment but my lead in development is worth a piece.

23. Kxd1 32 I was very proud of this idea, bringing my King over to help my rook support my pawn wave. Black's Kingside is disintegrating after 23 R:d1! N:h6 24 B:e6+ Kc7 25 N:h5 Sometimes I have to put my hand over the multi-outlet power strip menacingly so Fritz remembers his place.

23. ..Nxb6! 2 **24. Bxe6+** 32 There always seems to be an alternative to the obvious move this game - 24 Rf1! is marginally better.

24. ..Kc7 2 All three legal moves are roughly the same but the best was to copy me with 24... Kd8!

25. Nxb6! 31 Like last move, Rf1 is a good alternative to the obvious capture.

25. ..Na6 2 I don't think there is any actual hope in 25... Nd7!

26. Nf6 24 Trying to round up the last pawn. 26 Rf1! is strong for the 3rd time

in a row. I have many winning moves on each turn the rest of the game.

26. ..Rd8+ 2 **27. Ke2!** 24 I admitted to Steve that my heart skipped a beat when I thought I was losing a piece to 27... Rd6 before I spotted 28 Ne8+. Always let them win the post-mortem. That was a warning sign that I was being swept away by Steve's time pressure and I needed to slow down. I might not be so lucky the next time.

27 ... Nc5 43 seconds **28. Nxb6!** 23 It seemed weird to rescue Steve's wayward knight on h6 but my move is best.

28. ..Nxe6 20 **29. Nxb6!** 22 **Nc5** 14 seconds

30. Rd1 14 **Rh8** 3 seconds As you can see from the times, Steve gave this game his all.

31. Nf5! 1:13 **Rg8!** 44 **32. Rg1** 1:10 **Na4!** 36 At this point I felt sorry for my opponent again. Like Kholodar, Steve fought until he only had a couple of minutes left and a totally hopeless position but was helpless against the advance of my passed pawns. Sometimes it is embarrassing to be this good. I have no good advice here because my pawns are racing like greyhounds and his pawns are idling like tree sloths.

33. g4! 1:09 **Nxb2!** 35 **34. g5!** 1:09 **Kd7** 34 Moving immediately is a hint to your opponent to resign but Steve is in terrier mode.

35. h5 1:03 **Na4!** 30 **36. g6!** 1:00 **Nc3+** 28 **37. Kf3!** 56

My moves are not always Fritz best but they are consistent with the plan I initiated with 23 Kd1 - do everything in my power to advance my kingside pawns as swiftly as possible and with the maximum amount of support from my pieces.

37. ..Nd5! 25 **38. g7** 54 **Nf6!** 20 **39. Nh6!** 51 **Re8** 9 **40. Rg6!** 50 **Ke7** 6 **41. g8=Q** 49

What I liked about this line is that all his pieces come off the board. Steve tries to scare me with his King now, waving his pawns and making all kinds of mean faces.

I worked my move out practically to mate - Fritz likes 41 Nf5+! Ke6 42 e4! - Fritz is an excellent closer.

41. ..Nxb6! 6 **42. Rxb6** 49 **Rxb6!** 6 **43. Nxb6+** 49

Do you ever experience an irrational fear that you will forget to make the natural only move for no good reason at all?

43. ..Ke6 5 **44. e4!** 48 Dvoretzky calls my e and h pawns "pants legs" and has all kind of rules for when they win and draw. I don't even need my knight here.

44. ..b5 4 **45. e5!** 48 **a5** 3 Nobody likes a quitter, Steve.

46. h6! 48 **Kf7!** 3 **47. h7!** 47 mate in 10

47. ..Kg7! 3 **48. e6** 47 minutes Black Resigns 1-0

2 minutes 45 seconds

not sure why - Mate was still 9 long moves away with many possible errors.

Round 5

Let me make this perfectly clear. THERE ARE NO EASY PAIRINGS IN THE CLOSED!

Arthur Kaufman is the 4th Colorado Springs expert to invade the Closed in 2 years - besides Kholodar and Bloomer, Adam Weissbarth debuted last year. If I go back a bit I remember Dan Avery and Eric Billaux playing a few years ago, so that makes 6 by my count. Colorado Springs should challenge New York and Moscow for World Chess supremacy. Arthur is a cross between John Henry (who fought the railroad machine with a hammer in each hand), Denzel Washington (Academy award winner) and Snidely Whiplash (who always tied Dudley Do-Right's girlfriend to the railroad track). Arthur is definitely not your run-of-the-mill Chessplayer - debonair, smooth, handsome, well dressed, well groomed, muscular, eloquent, elegant, thoughtful, intelligent, professional, interesting, sincere, knowledgeable and a good Father to 4 children. After watching him mesmerize his umpteenth swooning woman at Chess tournaments, my jealousy got the better of me and I asked Arthur how he always kept in shape, praying that was his secret to attracting women.

Arthur, surprised - " In shape? Oh, no! I used to be in the lumber business, cutting down trees in the forest. I was in shape then!"

That's where I got the John Henry analogy. I picked up the Denzel vibe because he always seems so confident in his abilities. The Snidely Whiplash take
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OPERATION “SWINDLE MASTER”: Quarterly Update #2 by Paul Grimm

In my quest to achieve 1800 before the end of this year (Operation Swindle Master, my 2004 Chess Resolution), I would call the second quarter “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”! The Good News is I rebounded quickly from a 2-year low of 1597 in the Feb 04 USCF ratings supplement to 1714 in the April supplement—the largest gain in rating points in a consecutive supplement in my chess career! The Bad News is my strategy to “swindle” my way to 1800 isn’t working too well right now (and might not ever). The number one problem, you ask? It’s simple: *Players in Colorado aren’t letting me win enough!* The Ugly News I’ll

save for later so just read on. He he he he. 😏

SUMMARY: A key element of my strategy was match play against people ***I thought*** I could whoop up on. Hmmm. Well, some people I did whip up on (thank you La Moyne Splichal and Tom Corbett). . . and some were less than cooperative (cough, cough, Anthea Carson, Tim Brennan, cough, cough). Basically, I’m coming to the conclusion that there are no such things as “free” rating points to pluck off the ratings tree. At best, my match play might be making up for lost rating points in

normal weekend tournaments, barely. 😞

Another problem was me *NOT* sticking to my plan when I get upsets: Instead of withdrawing from tournaments after achieving huge round 1 upsets against Mitesh Shridhar (~200) and Phil Laxar (430+), did I withdraw from the remainder of the monthly club tourney? NOOOO! Instead I stuck around to get beat by Jesse Hester, Dylan Lehti, and Anthea Carson. Twenty-five point rating gains vanished like time off my analog clock (and I’m not joking about my chess clock either!).

So what am I going to do about this? First, I have to decide what’s more fun: (1) Playing lots of chess and not getting to 1800, **or** (2) Sticking to my plan and sitting out when upsets do come my way. For someone who refuses to resign totally lost positions because he likes the game so much, it’s kinda hard to imagine me sitting out too many events.

SOOO, here’s the **Ugly News** to assist my strategy: Until the chess players in Colorado recognize I’m really trying to do this state a favor (inflating my rating) by letting me win more games,

I REFUSE TO WASH MY DCC T-SHIRT until I make 1800!

I’ll be wearing the SAME shirt to every tournament for the rest of the year!

Forget everything I ever said in previous “chess etiquette” articles about not distracting your opponent. I’m gonna start playing hard ball, so look out and consider adding an air freshener to your standard chess equip-

ment list!

I wrap up this article with the usual summary of quarterly facts:

MISCELANEOUS FACTS:

1. **Honorable Mentions in the Grimm “Hall of Shame”** (goes to individuals who helped and hurt me the most in my quest for 1800):

- **Biggest Helpers:** La Moyne Splichal and Tom Corbett, whom I swept in a matches 4-0 and 6-0, gaining 40 rating points each

time! 😊

- **Biggest Hinderances:** Anthea Carson and Tim Brennan. I had previously beaten Anthea 6-1 in tournament play, only to find out she wasn’t going to roll over in match play. I go over to her house thinking the noise of Brian Wall’s chatter while playing on ICC, plus her two little kids running around would be more than enough to distract her. I think the plan backfired. Next time, we play in a library! And helping Tim break 1700

for the first time wasn’t part of my plan to get to 1800! 🏆

- **Biggest Swindle** (winning a game I should’ve lost): Grimm vs. Tien Nguyen (1498), 4/6/04 at DCC. Despite having 2 queens, Tien touched the wrong queen and instead of checkmating me, I checkmated him after he had to give up one queen to block my king-checking queen!

😏

2. **Biggest Upset:** Beating Philip Laxar (2115) from my dubious middle-game position. Actually Philip is rusty and hasn’t played in a while; I probably won’t be beating him again.

3. **Biggest Loss of a “won” game:** Grimm Vs. Rod Santiago at the School of Mines Tourney, 4/6/04. Rod’s uncastled, under-developed, down on time, lacking space and positionally crushed, but do I

win?? NOOOO . . . enough said. 🏆

4. **Most ridiculous moments:**

- First, when Tim Brennan (your Informant Editor) suggested I write the USCF and get my own club affiliate number, then offer to babysit Eruna Derbyshire’s kids in exchange for holding round-robin matches against all of her kids (except Sanjay, rated 1450 and rising). With average ratings below 1000, I suppose that is a pretty low-risk strategy that might assure me reaching 1800 after a couple

hundred round-robin matches, just maybe. . . 🍷

- Second, the scandal known in DCC circles as “**Salad-Gate**”: Anthea beats me in match play so I casually offer to buy her a \$5 salad in exchange for not rating the event (not expecting her to actually accept my “gambit”). . . she agrees without a second thought or any argument at all! I say “Deal!” and when people find out, it causes a mild uproar. I end up losing 30 rating points and Anthea misses out on a salad!

See you on the CO Tour—Paul Grimm 🏆

photo by Nina Thomas



Paul wearing his famous Denver Chess Club T-Shirt

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I got from his mustache and because he is a mortgage broker, same as old friend Mark "Mushroom" Sherbring.

Arthur is very serious about his Chess lately. He wants to join me on Chess road trips across the country, playing in big tournaments.

Arthur bet Kholodar \$100 he would be a Chessmaster by the end of the year. Arthur keeps jokingly offering to "let Dennis off the hook by accepting \$50 now!" - Dennis replies each time, in his deep, serious Russian voice - "Why would I make a \$150 mistake?".

Arthur studies Chess hard - those Colorado Springs experts feed off each other like a voracious flock of ratings vultures, studying theory, trading info on their likely opponents. Eric Billaux does not study with Weissbarth, Kholodar, Avery, Kaufman and Bloomer but that Belgian outsider is another hungry Colorado Springs expert determined to boot my overly plump tailfeathers off my comfortable perch.

Arthur will make it to Master - how do I know? - he calls my house and asks me what he needs to do, where his weaknesses are, what openings he needs to be playing. He is going to have to become a Master - the calls are long distance. He reads Chess books, he trades ideas with friends. Chess mastery is half talent, half desire and Arthur has both. Arthur has an open mind - he will adapt and triumph, just like he always does.

Arthur has played the Grunfeld and Tarrasch defenses against me as Black. I really had no idea what to expect but he seems comfortable on either side of mainline Queenpawn openings. Against Philip Ponomarev he had what looked to me like a very good Benko Gambit reversed position.

So far I couldn't help noticing that White had won all four of my games so I was praying I could stop that trend in this game.

Arthur respects my play, my speed, my power, maybe even a little too much. Our post-mortems consist of Arthur praising my play and me insisting I had nothing. Arthur has seen me do things with a Chess Clock you wouldn't try on a farm animal.

Robert Ramirez has a theory that people's personalities are reflected in their Chess. I was impressed by Arthur in this game. The fine balance he achieves in life between work and play seemed

to be reflected in the fine balance between board and clock control - he always had a reasonable position and enough time to think, whereas Tyler Hughes, Dennis Kholodar and myself habitually take these half-hour deep thinks and often end up in terrible time pressure, usually unnecessary in retrospect. We rarely make a different move than the one we wanted to in the first place. Stuart Rachel's Russian trainer said that time pressure is simply a bad habit - "You would be in time pressure even if you had to make 40 moves in 6 hours!" - Arthur's overall game left a very harmonious impression on me and he was supposed to be the "breather" round.

Old friend Bill Engles watched this game closely - his observation was that - "Brian was trying to make something out of nothing but he didn't have enough oomph in the position".

I felt like my play and my plans were strained and artificial and Arthur's were smooth, correct and natural. I was surprised when Fritz preferred my position out of the opening because I never felt I was getting anywhere. I ended up a pawn down. Every time I saw a good move for him he played it. Frustrating - I am not used to that!

I used an old trick that had helped me play 10 consecutive Colorado tournaments with only one loss - I offered a draw and hoped my rating could earn what I was incapable of achieving over the board. Arthur thought a couple of minutes and agreed. He asked me if he had winning chances after the game and I shook my head "No", trying to make us both feel better. I had a solid position for my pawn and it would not have been easy for him. Arthur was trying to salvage some dignity from this tournament and a draw with me was a good start. The draw ended my chance to be Closed Champion this year but I felt lucky to get it.

A couple of Colorado Opens ago I lost a painful game to Dan Avery by a few seconds, ending my bid to win that year. Little Tyler came over, staring at me with big, trusting 11 year old eyes because he knew how much it must hurt. I laughed it off because I wanted to show him that we shouldn't ever let Chess steal our smile. Tyler Hughes is the most gracious winner and loser I've ever met. When he wins, he explains the turning points of the game and when he loses he tries to grasp the essence of the loss, the lesson learned. How do you stop anyone with that attitude?

Colorado Closed 2004

3-27-2004, the morning after my 49th birthday party at Old Chicago's in Downtown Denver, attended by 3 humans and 14 Chessplayers.

Location - VFW #1, now defunct as the Denver Chess Club headquarters until we potty train our members.

Round 5 Board 2

White - Arthur Kaufman 2134, on a mission from God to become a Chessmaster.

Black - Brian Wall, who can't remember anymore a day when he wasn't.

The exclamation points are where Fritz thinks we made the best move.

1. Nf3 This move already discouraged me a little - it meant to me that there was not going to be any tactical slugfest if Arthur could help it. I settled in for a long grueling game.

1 ...g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2! c5 4. d3 Nc6! 5. O-O! d6 6. e4 Nh6!? I investigated putting the knight here about 2 or 3 years ago and it seems to unsettle the strongest opponents, even computers. I like it better when my knight gets to f5 before White plays e4.

7. c3! f5 8. Bg5 O-O 9. a4 fxe4! 10. dxe4! Bg4 11. h3 Be6! 12. Qe2 Qd7! 13. Kh2! Nf7! I felt like I was scrambling just to keep it together but Fritz likes my game here. We dance along on a narrow bandwidth of equality for a long time.

14. Be3 a6 Colorado Swisses do not prepare me for long stretches of perfect moves like Arthur comes up with here which is why it takes a Closed or two normally to build up psychological endurance. I will show you all the moves I was wishing he wouldn't see.

15. Nbd2! b5 16. axb5! Darn.

16 ... axb5! 17. Rxa8! Drat.

17 ... Rxa8! 18. e5! Miss something, damnit, Gumbo.

18 ... Ra2 19. Qxb5! &^^%\$% Cy-clops

19 ... Ncxe5! 20. Qb8+! Rats.

20 ... Qc8! 21. Qxc8+! Are you shooting for the Guinness Book of World Records for most consecutive perfect moves?

21 .. Bxc8! 22. Nxe5! Bxe5! 23. Bd5 This is more like a top level ping pong match than Chess. If you refuse to blunder anytime soon then I will have to end this torture with one of my own.

23 ... Ra4? There wasn't really a happy choice. I usually buy my way out of trouble with an exchange sac but **23 ... R:b2 24 Nc4 B:c3? 25 N:b2 B:b2** fails to **26 Rf1-b1-b8.**

23 ... Rc6 is met by **24 b4.**

23 ... Ra7 is met by **24 Rc1** preparing **25 b4.**

So Arthur has this little annoying edge whatever I do and humans suck at evaluating tiny edges. **23 ... Ra7, ... R:b2** or **.. Ra6** are all better than what I do.

24. Nc4! Shoot - can't believe I just missed it - I must have seen it and forgotten it. Now I've got a Nb6 problem.

24 ... e6! Best way out of the mess but I have really goofed my game up bad.

25. Nb6! Ra5! Down to 6 minutes to get to move 30. Arthur has 11 minutes.

26. Nxc8! I'd hate to play pool with the guy - he doesn't miss a shot.

26 ... exd5! 27. Ne7+! Kf8! Hey, it's not like I am missing many best moves either.

28. Nxd5! Rb5! 29. Rb1 7 minutes left **c4! 30. Nb4! Bf6** (25 seconds left) 1/2?

I was just trying to make a decent enough move here to offer a draw. Arthur thought for 2 minutes and stopped the clocks while I was away from the board.

(Game drawn by agreement) 1/2-1/2

The final round is against my teenage rival Paul Nikitovich, whom I have not beaten in rated play in 3 decades. This may be the closest I ever come to winning.

Old friend Curtis Carlson, who like 1977 Colorado Open Co-Champion David Jellison, claims to have given up Chess despite the fact that they play 2,000 Internet Chess games a year. Curt often regales me with stories of our teenage years I had forgotten. The latest was the time Curt was about 19, I was about 18 and Paul was about 17, a little under-age to see Flesh (not Flash)
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Gordon, an R-rated Science Fiction spoof. Curts is laughing to this day because I blurted out, "Come closer, Paul and got his wallet with the men!" Masculinity is a very touchy subject at 17.

Paul was always very brave, both in Chess and Life. One time a French pickpocket pulled a knife on Paul in a French subway - Paul refused to back down and got his wallet back anyway. Paul skis, speaks several languages, snowboards, is well traveled, prepares and eats fantastic meals, is well educated, loves wine, women and song. He learned to attack in Chess 25 years before I did - his best attacks are sound, sacrificial and elegant. He has experience playing much better players than Colorado players so he expects to win here. He once played a Dragon similar to the famous Karpov-Korchnoi Dragon that won Best Novelty in the Informant (the real one). He bet Jerry Kearns that he could get his game published in the Informant. Using his connections, that game is in there (about 1975 I think - Stuart Wagman-Nikitovich). Stuart Wagman has played hundreds of rated Dragons.

Nikitovich-Wall

Fritz checked for exclams - half of our moves were the best available. I included the times to record Paul's time pressure.

Paul saved the game due to an incredible feat - his last 7 moves of the first time control, all played within his last minute, were all the best despite being very complex positions.

By contrast, I used 9 minutes for the same 7 moves, played 6 perfect moves and one third best move - that one move, 24 ... Nd2, made all the difference between winning and drawing.

Count Niko-King Wall

1. d4 1:29 **c5** 1:26 **2. d5!** 1:28 **f5** 1:22 I intended on winning, despite having never done so before. Randy Canney had beat my Clarendon Court Opening last year and Paul had scoffed at my anti-positional play. I chose this opening for maximum humiliation factor after his inevitable loss.

Paul attended my Old Chicago's Chess/Birthday Party the night before. Although we had both recently won the Closed, we were both out of the running this year. We have been friendly rivals for over 30 years.

Most of our Colorado opponents go Sydney Safeco on us - my opening is the opposite of that approach - positionally daring.

That's why Paul shook his head and chuckled after 2 ... c5 - Paul - "That's why I love Brian - he'll play anything!"

The only reason I play it is that Nikita Zanichkovsky is so beautiful - we watched her Chess video by British IM Levitt on this opening - Clarendon Court is his apartment complex.

There is a famous woman's Chess story that goes like this - 2 women playing— 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 0-0 N:e4 - sensing something wrong the woman playing White asked in confusion - "I am playing the Guicco Piano - what are you playing!?"

I developed a habit of playing 1 d4 c5 and then whatever White did, I would play 2 ... f5, sometimes producing weird positions. After Nikita complained that they don't always play 2 d5, I made up identical T-shirts for us with Chess designs that said - "I am playing the Clarendon Court, what are you playing?"

3. g4 1:18 There are two approaches to the Clarendon Court -

1. The Lemmiwinks approach - let Black play ... Nf6, g6, Bg7, 0-0, d6, Na6, Bd7, Nc7, a6, Rb8, b5 in one minute while White spends half an hour to deploy his pieces anyway he likes. This approach is concerned with the safety and soundness of White's position.

2. The Tasmanian Devil approach. Tear away at the h7-g6-f5 pawn chain with pawn daggers e4 and g4 - try to expose Black's King so he can find no peace. This approach is concerned with making Black pay for his daring, making Black edgy and uncomfortable.

These are Chess choices that relate to every game, as basic as Vanilla and Chocolate. Anyone good enough to qualify for the Closed knows how to torment a weakness.

I had a lot of experience with this approach based on -

1. The Ponomarevs have ripped into my Clarendon Court with g4 dozens of times in blitz.

2. As a result, I have Fritzed it and have some idea what the computer wants me to do.

3. I have also been exposed to the g4 or

e4 plan many times on ICC when playing the Dutch 1 d4 f5 or the Beefeater, invented by GM Dzin (pronounced Gin, hence Beefeater has gin in it - also Black always gobbles up White's queenside) 1 d4 g6 2 c4 Bg7 3 Nc3 c5 4 d5 B:c3+! (Borrowed from the Nimzo-Indian) bc f5!!, sort of a cross between the Clarendon Court and the Nimzo-Indian defense.

I took 3 g4 calmly, having faced it many times before. However some of those games were miniature debacles, one in particular haunts me to this day—Tactical Master - Brian Wall

1 d4 f5 2 g4 fg 3 h3 gh 4 R:h3 Nf6 5 Qd3 c5!! 6 R:h7!! and I should have resigned.

So 3 g4 puts me on high alert and priority #1 is to survive the opening- Bette Davis in All About Eve - "Better fasten your seat belts, we are in for a bumpy ride."

3 ... fxc4! 1:22 **4. e4!** 1:17 **d6!** 1:22 **5. Nc3!** 1:14 **g6** 1:19 **6. Be2** 1:12 **Nf6!** 1:16 **7. h3!** 1:06 **g3** 1:09 **8. fxg3!** 1:00 **Bg7!** 1:00 **9. Bf4** 52 **O-O** 56 **10. Qd2** 50 **Nbd7** 55 **11. g4** 41 **Ne5!?** 53 **12. Bxe5!** 38 **dxe5!** 53 **13. g5** 35 **Ne8!** 46 **14. h4!** 29 **Nd6!** 44 **15. h5!** 28 **Rf4!** 44 **16. Qe3** 23 **b5!?** 38

Sort of a bluff - I made the move confidently the way Mark Sherbring would bet on a weak hand. Paul likes to attack and sacrifice, he does not like to nurse little pawns through to victory. I was determined to break his rhythm. Sensing a critical moment, Paul uses over half his time to orient himself. Paul is definitely a board control, not a clock control player. In the post-mortem, referring to moves like 11 ... Ne5 and 16 ... b5, Paul said, "Your play amazed me. You used to be very greedy and take all my pawns and let me mate you. Now you counterattack instead!"

Fritz would just halt his Kingside dreams and munch material - 17 hg hg 18 Q:c5 and dare me to show compensations. Humans don't like their will interfered with.

17. Nh3 11 **b4** 31

Ah, my plan of hyper-piece activity over pawn structure is working and Paul is running out of time too. Two other moves were better - 11 ... B:h3 and 11 ... Rh4 - How am I supposed to judge 1/10ths of a pawn differences? - I have a face, not a monitor under my hair. Paul has one sequence and one

sequence only to secure a small advantage and no time to find it.

18. Nxf4! 9 **exf4!** 31 **19. Qxf4!** 8 **bxc3!** 23 **20. O-O?** 6 minutes left to get to move 30. 20 b3! is the only move, 20 b4 is second best. When Colin James III from Loveland whipped out his dual processor Fritz 8 computer at the Closed, some of us analyzed our Closed games on it. Fritz found some beautiful Nikitovich wins against the Ponomarevs. When Fritz pointed out 20 0-0? was a mistake, Paul sneered and said, "I was getting mated in all the other lines I looked at!"

20 ... e5!? 17 I told Paul in the post-mortem - "I was trying to confuse you here in time pressure. "Paul- "You did!" There are 2 better moves - 20. ..cb!! and 20. ..d4+!! but my move and 20. ..Bh3! are pretty good too.

21.dxe6! 4 Best - if the queen moves pawns are falling with tempo on b2, e4 and g5.

21 ... Bxe6! 17 21 ... cb!! and 21 ... Bd4+! are strong as well.

22. Rad1 3 22 b3! edges Paul's move by a nose. After 22 b3!, Nf7! or ... Qe7 or ... Bd4+ all leave Black in control. 20 0-0 did a lot of damage.

22 ... Bd4+! 17 For some reason I kept misestimating 22 ..cb!, almost as good as my move.

23. Kg2 3 23 Kh2!, Kh1, Kg2 and 23 R:d4 are all close in value - they all stink.

23. ..Nxe4 14 This time 23 ... cb!, ... Qe7, ... Qd7 and ... Ne4 are all close in value, about 1.6 pawns in my favor. 2850's, computers and Brian crash through the pawn structures, everyone else tiptoes through the tulips. My move is based on 23... N:e4 24 Q:e4 Bd5. I felt like I was winning and was going to finally break the curse.

24. Bf3! 1 **Nd2?** 11 From move 24 to the time control both sides play the best moves except this one and it costs me the win. Paul had 4 seconds after completing move 30. He simply refuses to lose to me! 24 ... Nd2? wins against any move except the one Paul found. He must have paid off a Voodoo witch doctor 30 years ago.

24 ... Q:g5? 25 Q:g5 N:g5 26 B:a8 is nada but

(Continued on page 31)

Tournament

Announcements:

Teasers vs. Geezers:

CO Junior-Senior Tourney, July 17, 2004

5 round Swiss system tournament.

Time Control: G/30

Site: CampFire USA Camp Rollandet. 5161 Sheridan.

Directions: From I-25, go west on I-70. North on Sheridan 1/2 mile, turn LEFT at Camp Rollandet sign.

One Open section: Juniors only play adults and vice versa.

Entry fee: \$20

Prizes: TBD. 60% of entry fees will go to Denker & Polgar nominees. 1st & 2nd for top geezers (adults) and top teasers (juniors)

Registration: 9:00 - 9:45. on-site registration only, no pre-registration., Rounds: 10:00 am and every hour thereafter except for extra 30 min for lunch between Rnd 3 & 4.

Entries: Paul Grimm grimm_p@msn.com

Phone: 720-283-3996

A CO Tour event. CSCA membership required. No discounts due to this being a fundraiser.

Pikes Peak Open, August 7 - 8, 2004

5 round Swiss system tournament.

Time Control: 40/90 and G/1 for rds 1-3, 40/2 and G/1 for rds 4-5

Site: Manitou Springs City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs.

Sections: One open section

Entry fee: \$30 if rec'd by 8/4, \$35 at site. \$8 discount for juniors, seniors, unrated

Prizes: Cash prizes per entries

Registration: 8:30 - 9:30, Rounds: 10, 2:30, 7, 9, 3.

Entries: Richard Buchanan 844 B Prospect Place, Manitou Springs CO 80829

Phone: (719) 685-1984

E-mail: buckpeace@pcisys.net

CSCA required, OSA.

No e-mail entries, please.

Colorado Tour Event.

2004 Northwest Colorado Open, August 21 - 22, 2004

4 round Swiss system tournament.

Time Control: 40/2, G/1

Site: Moffat County School Administration Building, 775 Yampa Avenue Craig, Colorado.

Directions: When coming in on US 40 from the east, take a right at first stop light, Yampa Ave. go north. Building is on right in middle of block between 7th and 8th streets. Parking in rear.

Open: open to all: Entry fee: \$30 by 8/20 or with online registration, \$35 at site. \$7 off for juniors, seniors, unrateds. Prizes: \$\$ 300: \$140-90, U1800 \$50 Unrated \$20

Reserve: open to U1600: Entry fee: \$25 by 8/20 or with online registration, \$30 at site. \$6 off for juniors, seniors Prizes: \$\$200: \$90-50, U1400 \$35, U1200 \$25

Registration: 8:30-9:30 am, Rounds: 10am - 4pm, 9am 3pm.

Entries: Mary Nelson

Phone: 970 824-4780 or 970 629-8603

E-mail: mnelson@ramdesigns.com

CSCA Tour event:

CSCA and USCF membership required.

NS, NC, W.

2004 Colorado Open, September 4 - 6, 2004

6 round Swiss system tournament.

Time Control: 40/2, G/60 except Round 2 only, G/130

Site: Glendale Community Center, 999 S Clermont St, Glendale, CO

Open: Entry Fee \$41 Prizes \$330-210-120, U2200/U2000 ea 90-40, Unr 60-3

Premier U1800: Entry Fee \$38 Prizes \$250-170-110 U1600 85-40

Reserve U1400: Entry Fee \$35 Prizes \$210-

140-100, U1200/

U1000 ea 75-35

Registration: 9/4

8:30-9:45, Rounds:

9/4: 10:15-5:35;

9/5 & 9/6: 9:00-

3:15.

Entries: Paul

Grimm 1641 W.

Canal Circle #722,

Littleton, CO

80120

Phone: 720-283-

3996

E-mail:

grimm_p@msn.com

CSCA Annual Meeting 9/4 5:00

Unrateds must play in Open section.

Chief TD Mary Nelson.

NS, NC, USCF Grandprix & CSCA Tour Event.

Online Registration COMING SOON.

Membership Meeting Open, September 4, 2004

3 round Swiss system tournament.

Time Control: G/50

Site: Glendale Community Center, 999 S. Clermont St, Glendale, CO

Entry fee: \$20

Prizes: \$\$90-45, Top U1800/1600/1400/1200 ea \$33, all \$\$ guaranteed

Registration: 10:30-11:15, Rounds: 11:30-1:15-3:05.

Entries: Paul Grimm 1641 W. Canal Circle #722, Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: 720-283-3996

E-mail: grimm_p@msn.com

Chief TD Mary Nelson

CSCA Meeting 5:00

CSCA Tour Event

2004 Larimer County Open, October 2 - 3, 2004

5 round Swiss system tournament.

Time Control: G/90 for rounds 1-2, G/120 for rounds 3-5

Site: Pulliam Community Building, 545 N. Cleveland St

Directions: Between 5th and 6th streets on highway 287 in Loveland. Parking in rear.

Open: Open to all USCF members

U1400: Open to all USCF members under 1400 and unrated players.

Entry fee: \$25 by 9/25, \$30 otherwise. \$6 off for juniors, seniors, and unrateds

Prizes: Based on entries

Registration: NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION, DUE TO SITE POLICY!! PRE-ENTRIES ONLY!!, Rounds: Sat. 10 AM, 1:30

PM, 5 PM; Sun: 9:30 AM, 2 PM.

Entries: Randy Reynolds 1839 Thyme Court, Fort Collins, CO 80528

Phone: (970) 206-9107

E-mail: teyanak5@comcast.net

CSCA Tour event.

CSCA and USCF membership required. OSA. NS, NC. Scholastics

Scholastics

CFJ July Scholastic July 24 2004 Ft. Collins

CFJ Aug Scholastic Aug 14 2004 Ft. Collins

CFJ Sept Scholastic Sept 4 2004 Ft. Collins

The Opening (CSSCS) September 4 2004 Colorado Springs

CFJ October Scholastic Oct 2 2004 Ft. Collins

The Main Variation (CSSCS) October 2 2004 Colorado Springs

The Combination (CSSCS) November 6 2004 Colorado Springs

CFJ Nov Scholastic Nov 6 2004 Ft. Collins

CFJ Dec Scholastic Dec 4 2004 Ft. Collins

The Holiday Middlegame (CSSCS) December 11 2004 Colorado Springs

The Holiday Transition January 15 2005 (CSSCS) Colorado Springs

Pre-State Endgame (CSSCS) February 5 2005 Colorado Springs

The Series Finale (CSSCS) April 2 2005 Colorado Springs

Note: The dates in the previous issue for the Northwest Colorado Open were incorrect. The correct dates are August 21-22. This promises to be a great tournament!

by NM Todd Bardwick

THE CHESS DETECTIVE: HUNTING THE KING WITH THE EXCHANGE SACRIFICE

Even when it means opening up the position in front of the enemy king, most novice chess players have difficulty sacrificing pieces because they place too much emphasis on material advantages.

This doesn't mean that material isn't important. Just remember that material imbalances must be carefully weighed against the other types of chess imbalances: king safety, piece activity, pawn structure, and space.

During the course of the game, these imbalances are constantly fluctuating and the master must carefully weigh each one against the other in order to determine the most favorable outcome.

Since the object of the game is checkmate, the highest importance must be placed on king safety.

The exchange sacrifice, giving up a rook for a bishop or a knight, is one of the most common types of sacrifices in chess.

Here is an example from the Exchange Variation of the French Defense.

First, let's pick up the clues in the position and get a general



Position after 13.Be2 (from d3)

overview of what is happening.

Notice the pawn structure is symmetrical and the players are castled on opposite sides. When opposite side castling occurs, the general strategy for each player is to launch an attack in front of the opposing king in an attempt to hunt him down and checkmate him.

Time is of the essence; usually the player to break through first will win the game.

White's last move 13.Be2 protects the knight and breaks the pin on the queen.

The most important square in front of the white king is f3. The white knight is attacked twice and defended three times. The exchange idea of 13...Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Rxe1+ 15.Bxe1 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 leaves white's pawn structure intact and his king out of harms way.

Black can sacrifice the exchange in order to pry open the white king with 13...Rxe2! (eliminating the bishop, a key defender of f3) 14.Qxe2 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qh3 16.Qf1 (stopping 16...Qg2 mate) 16...Qxh2 mate

In this position from the 1995 Denver Open, Senior Master David Gliksman demonstrates the beauty of the exchange sacrifice as he successfully hunts down the black king.

Sharnopolsky (2100)



Gliksman (2407)
Position after 22...Kc7

Black's king is partially exposed and is hoping to find a safe haven on the queenside.

The game continued, 23.Rxd7+! (A pretty exchange sacrifice that tears open black's defenses.) 23...Kxd7 24.Rd1+ (Bringing the other rook into the attack without the loss of tempo.) 24...Kc7 25.Nb5+! cxb5 (if 25...Kb8 or 25...Kc8, then 26.Qxc6 is mating. 25...Kb7 is met by 26.Rd7+ with mate soon.) 26.Qb6+ Kc8 27.Qc6+ Kb8 28.Rd7 Resigns

It is important to keep in mind that when you sacrifice material to make sure that you get some other type of advantage to offset your material loss, or your "sacrifice" is unsound and would be more accurately described as a blunder! ♖

Todd Bardwick can be reached through his website at www.ColoradoMasterChess.com

(Continued from page 29)

24 ... N:g5! is the one killer shot I needed to find - Black's threats of ... Bh3+ or N:f3 or cb are best met by 25 B:a8 Q:a8+ 26 Kh2 and I have a number of good wins—26 ... Nf7!! ... h6! and ... N:e4! to mention the creme de la creme.

25. bxc3!! 1 That was a disappointment - with so little time he finds the only move. I sensed at the time that Paul had found the only escape hatch and wondered if maybe I would be better off moving quicker. My normal opponent-in-time-pressure habit is to remain calm and make good moves which adds more pressure.

25. ...Nxf3! 6 Somehow the insanity

has petered out into equality. I have 2 other options that don't win either - 25 ... N:f1 and 25 ... B:c3.

26. Rxf3! 1 The rascal just keeps finding the right moves! - 26 cd or 26 hg can be met by 26 ... Q:g5+ and the crazy-looking 26 K:f3 can be met by 26 ... Qe7!... Qd5+, ... Bd5+ or ... Qa5.

26 ... Bd5! 3 27. cxd4! 51 seconds 27 hg is not bad either - 27 hg B:f3+ 28 K:f3 = Qd5+ or hg.

27. ..Bxf3+! 3 minutes 28. Kxf3! 48 seconds

28 Q:f3 is not as safe due to 28 ... Q:g5+

28. ..Qd5+! 3 minutes The attack is basically dead now - 28 ... Qd7 or ... Qe7 should be good for a draw too.

29. Kg3! 15 sec Refusing to blunder! I had high hopes with 15 seconds on Paul's clock and many ways to go wrong.

29 ... Rf8! 3 min 29 ... gh should draw too.

30. Qe3! 4 seconds Finding the right move again with 4 seconds left - How does he do it? - if you ever qualify for the Colorado Closed, expect your opponents to perform miracles. The Closed is where the impossible becomes the norm.

30. ...gxh5! 2 minutes 11 seconds 30...Rf5 and 30. ...a5 should draw too.

31. Re1 31 One of many drawing moves - Paul had used half of his last hour and I still clung to a little hope of victory in a second time control. Reading my mind, Paul offered a draw a few moves later and I was too embarrassed to Bloomer him.

31 ... cxd4! 53 32. Qb3! It's pretty drawish - when my d-pawn goes I will be left with rook pawns. I lost interest here. 17 h4+ 43 33. Kxh4! 16 Qxb3 43 34. axb3 16 Rf2! 43 35. Re4 15 minutes 30 seconds

1/2-1/2 on Paul's offer ♖

Colorado Tour Standings

compiled by Paul Grimm

Overall

Rank	Name	Rtg	Pts	G	W	D	Win%
1	Andrew B Rea	2055	470.8	42	24	9	67.9%
2	Brian D Wall	2233	404.3	32	19	8	71.9%
3	Mitesh Shridhar	1761	388.4	34	16	8	58.8%
4	Alexander Gitis	2033	347.7	31	19	5	69.4%
5	Roderick Santiago	1634	317.3	41	22	4	58.5%
6	Tyler B Hughes	1971	308.5	24	17	2	75.0%
7	Dashzeveg Sharavdorj	2474	289.4	15	10	3	76.7%
8	Jesse R Hester	1720	280.4	30	11	9	51.7%
9	Patrick R Ramsey	1943	280.1	23	11	5	58.7%
10	James E Hamblin	2101	264.4	15	10	2	73.3%
11	Paul M Grimm	1667	252.9	35	18	4	57.1%
12	Chris L Mink	2013	251.7	20	11	3	62.5%
13	James C Mac Neil	1725	250.3	24	15	5	72.9%
14	Philipp M Ponomarev	2222	243.4	14	9	2	71.4%
15	Anthea J Carson	1607	223.8	33	16	2	51.5%

Rank	Name	Games
1	Dean W Brown	44
2	Andrew B Rea	42
3	Roderick Santiago	41
4	Kathy A Schneider	39
5	Paul M Grimm	35
6	Mitesh Shridhar	34
7	Anthea J Carson	33
8	Brian D Wall	32

Most Active

9	Alexander Gitis	31
10	Allan Ufer	31
11	Jesse R Hester	30
12	Imre Barlay	25
13	Ted K Doykos	25
14	James C Mac Neil	24
15	John F Schultz	24

Master/Expert

1	Andrew Rea	470.8
2	Brian D Wall	404.3
3	Alexander Gitis	347.7
4	Dashzeveg Sharavdorj	289.4
5	James E Hamblin	264.4
6	Chris L Mink	251.7
7	Philipp M Ponomarev	243.4
8	Jesse R Cohen	212.7
9	Imre Barlay	201.2
10	Paul S Nikitovich	201.1

A

1	Tyler B Hughes	308.5
2	Patrick R Ramsey	280.1
3	James H Drebenstedt	211.2
4	Andrew M Smith	172.7
5	David M Landers	158.4
6	Kenneth P W Doykos	147.1
7	David E Bowers	138.4
8	Brad Lundstrom	127.3
9	Shaun T Mac Millan	112.0
10	Daoud G Zupa	90.0

B

1	Mitesh Shridhar	388.4
2	Roderick Santiago	317.3
3	Jesse R Hester	280.4
4	Paul M Grimm	252.9
5	James C Mac Neil	250.3
6	Anthea J Carson	223.8
7	Richard E Herbst	173.5
8	Dustin H Eager	167.0
9	Joshua Suresh	155.8

Class Standings

10 La Moyne Splichal 154.5

C

1	Dean W Brown	221.8
2	Norbert E Martinez	143.3
3	Gerard F Sunderlan	136.0
4	Ted K Doykos	135.2
5	John F Schultz	126.6
6	Seth B Musselman	121.3
7	Joseph P Haines	119.1
8	Timothy M Fisher	113.9
9	Thomas H Corbett	113.2
10	Shannon J Fox	112.3

D

1	Joseph R Aragon	92.5
2	William G Barfuss	91.3
3	Jack C Coleman	79.2
4	Larry A Wells	70.0
5	Al Skari	69.4
6	Cory E Foster	68.9
7	Gregory Bonifat	66.2
8	Tom R Madol	66.1
9	Frank Shotwell	64.7

E

1	Allan Ufer	118.1
2	Renae D Delaware	85.0
3	Kathy A Schneider	78.8
4	Scott W Sills	75.4
5	Dylan M Lehti	62.4
6	Fred Eric Spell	49.9
7	Cathleen Hopfe-Heintz	37.7
8	Richard H Wyatt	35.2
9	Brian K Scheufel	32.7

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