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# COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



**THE ULTIMATE WHERE'S WALDO?  
THE BABYSITTER'S SUPREME NIGHTMARE?  
SEE PAGES 4-6 FOR DETAILS!**



**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 \$5 a tournament. Youth (under 21) and Senior (65 or older) memberships are \$10.

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Send address changes and memberships to Randy Reynolds. Send pay renewals to Bruce Bain.

**CSCA Board of Directors**

**President:** Todd Bardwick  
(303) 770-6696  
[tbardwick@yahoo.com](mailto:tbardwick@yahoo.com)

**Vice-President:**  
Richard Buchanan  
(719) 685-1984  
[buckpeace@pcisys.net](mailto:buckpeace@pcisys.net)

**Secretary:** Randy Reynolds  
(970) 206-9107  
1839 Thyme Court  
Fort Collins, CO 80528  
[randy\\_teyana@msn.com](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com)

**Treasurer:** Bruce Bain  
(303) 934-1513  
2224 W. Hillside Ave.  
Englewood, CO 80110-1153  
[yaxisx@aol.com](mailto:yaxisx@aol.com)

**Members at Large:**  
Richard Cordovano  
(719) 593-0622  
[richard\\_cordovano@hotmail.com](mailto:richard_cordovano@hotmail.com)

Tom Nelson  
(303) 713-1327  
[tmbdnelson@comcast.net](mailto:tmbdnelson@comcast.net)

**Junior Representative:**

Dylan Lehti  
(303) 683-2987  
[dlehti@juno.com](mailto:dlehti@juno.com)

**USCF Delegates:**

Richard Buchanan  
Dean Brown

**Editor:** Randy Reynolds  
(970) 206-9107  
1839 Thyme Court  
Fort Collins, CO 80528  
[randy\\_teyana@msn.com](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com)

**CSCA Depts. and Appointees****Webmaster**

**Tournament Clearinghouse:**  
Rick Nelson (970) 824-4780  
[rick@ramdesigns.com](mailto:rick@ramdesigns.com)

**Prison Chess:** Randy Canney

**CO Chess Tour:** Randy Reynolds

**Scholastic Chess:** Tom Nelson  
[tmbdnelson@comcast.net](mailto:tmbdnelson@comcast.net)

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**Contributors** to this issue of the *Informant*:

Todd Bardwick  
Tim Brennan  
Buck Buchanan  
Mel Cahoon  
Tyler Hughes  
Lee Lahti  
Tom Nelson  
Brian Wall

**Cover photos:**

(U) A look from the balcony at the Colorado State Chess Championships. *Photo by Randy Reynolds.*

(L) The main playing hall of the National Elementary K-6 Championships, held in Denver this year. *Photo by Randy Reynolds.*

## The Passed Pawn

### CO Chess Informant Editor

#### Randy Reynolds

Greetings Chess Enthusiasts!

**B**eing an editor of a state chess publication is not an easy task. An unpaid volunteer, they toil countless hours putting together a publication that hopes to cater to rather diverse chess community. They beg and plead with some to send them chess-related articles, while begging and pleading with others to STOP sending them articles. They endure numerous paper cuts while putting labels on and mailing the magazines out, and their final reward? A reader comments: “The picture on the cover was too dark.” Such is their lot.

That said, anyone up for the job of Colorado Chess Informant editor??

My name is Randy Reynolds. I’m the current secretary of CSCA and have heard the frustration from many of you on the recent Informants’ delay. I’m not interested in pointing fingers, not after the first paragraph, but I am interested in picking up the pieces and attempting to restore the Informant to its former glory. I’ve only been in Colorado since 2000 and have only a small collection of Informants. But I see a need to carry on the “bad but still captivating jokes” of Jeff Baffo, the “Tactics Time” and interviews of Tim Brennan and want to continue this legacy.

Obviously, an editor can never bear the full weight of this publication, and that’s where I reach out to the membership for help. All of you who are reading this, even if from another state, are a part of Colorado chess. You will decide what our new chess heritage in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be. You will be my eyes and ears in the places I am not present. Basically, unless you’d like this magazine to turn into 24 pages of the Fort Collins Chess Club events, I’ll need articles from you.

These articles don’t even have to be master-level works. Since the average rating of CSCA is around the 1300’s, many will enjoy articles written by lower-rated players. I’d personally love to hear more games and articles from the E and D class players because then I’ll know your weaknesses and be able to beat yo... er, I mean, because then I’ll have more insight into the wonderful chess games going on by our up and coming chess players! Heh, you get the point, anyway. My E-mail address is [randy\\_teyana@msn.com](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com). Please send anything, even comments about this issue.

Thanks this issue to Brian Wall for his creative spirit and numerous articles, giving this editor a wide variety from which to choose (as well as some good chances to sharpen my editor skills by figuring how to chop an 18 page epic down to 3!). Lee Lahti provides an insightful look into a recent team over-the-border tournament. Todd Bardwick gives a review of a recent made-for-TV chess movie. And Tom Nelson, Tyler Hughes, and Mel Cahoon give a few articles to give insight on what’s going on in our scholastics front. It’s certainly been busy this season. Enjoy! ☺



*RSR*

By Randy Reynolds

## Call for Submissions Or, How to Beat Randy Reynolds In Chess Guaranteed

Every editor, especially volunteer ones, have their weaknesses. Just like in chess, where you might know certain players who always miss forks, leave pieces en prise, or incessantly screw up their Sicilian Dragon on the 10<sup>th</sup> move, editors have their fallible points as well. The key is to use the strengths you have (as an editor or chess player) to compensate for those weaknesses and make them less pronounced.

Having only done this for 1 ½ issues, I can already tell that my chief weakness appears to be isolationism. Being the first editor in quite a while not from the Denver area makes it a bit difficult to stay in the loop on chess happenings, and I'm not the most outgoing person in the world. Thus, it gets tough to solicit articles from Colorado players. It's not entirely a problem; Brian Wall, one of the state's most prolific chess writers, has volunteered some good, entertaining articles for this issue, which I thank him for. Still, diversity is a value I endorse, and unless I get articles from a wider group, this magazine will likely become the new (Brian) Wall Street Journal.

So, how to use my strengths to compensate for this? Well, I do have rating points. 1529 of them, to be exact. So maybe I can bribe you guys with automatic won games against me! Submit an article, have it published, and you'll win the next time we meet, guaranteed!

Still not clear enough? Here are the official rules, then:

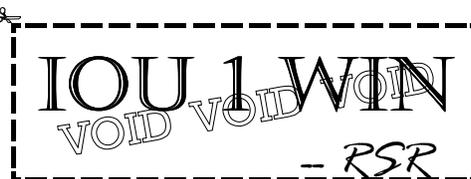
1. Player (that's you) submits an original article, interview, or well-annotated game to Randy Reynolds (randy\_teyana@msn.com) for publication in the next Colorado Chess Informant. The article should be related to Colorado chess in some way.
2. If article is published in a future Infor-

mant (and there's lots of space in future Informants for this), the submitting player will receive in the mail (or at a tournament) a coupon from me entitling the recipient to one free chess win the next time we meet in a tournament game.

3. When the coupon is redeemed, Randy will play a few moves of the rated game (just so it is recorded as a rated game, not a forfeit) before resigning.

Now of course, there are a few restrictions: The coupon cannot be transferred or sold. The coupon **MUST** be used on our very next game, regardless of what round it's in (no saving the coupon for a last round "prize money" victory). The coupon will expire 2 years after it is issued. And I reserve the right to play you in an unrated game after the rated game loss. After all, I'm going to need something to do for those few hours before the next round. Oh, and one per customer. You can't submit 15 annotated games and expect 15 coupons from me. The expectation is, after you've submitted one article, you'll see it's not so hard and you'll want to submit another. I might have to revise this rule if this is not the case.

So this might attract lower-rated players to submit Informant articles, but what about players who are rated about the same or significantly higher than me? Is it worth it? Certainly. You might have a 90% chance of beating me, but do you really want to risk that 10%? And it doesn't take a Kasparov to know that draws in 2006 are up 12% over last year. And don't be one of those who think, "It can't happen to me." Don't take that chance; submit your article to the Informant today! ♁



## CSCA Sense

By CSCA President Todd Bardwick

The 2006 National Elementary (K-6) Chess Championships, the largest chess tournament in the history of Colorado, took place May 12-14 at the Convention Center in downtown Denver. 1960 children from across the country competed in nine sections.

The organizers from USCF were very impressed with the help they got from the Colorado volunteers, headed up by Tom Nelson.

Mary Nelson, Jim Hammer-smith, Lee Simons, and myself all got a rare opportunity to help direct a national tournament. What really struck me about the professional tournament director crew that USCF brought in was how knowledgeable they were about the rules of game and how to fairly apply them. Of course, many of them contributed to writing the rulebook!

Thank you to all the volunteers. Hopefully, they will decide to bring the event back to Denver in the future!

For the final standings for the tournament, go to <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2006/elem/> and click on Results on the left column. ♁

## Behind the Scenes at the 2006 USCF Bert Lerner National Elementary (K-6) Chess Championships, May 12-14

By Tom Nelson — CSCA Scholastic Coordinator

**T**hursday, May 11, 7:30 a.m.  
All is quiet. With coffee in hand I watched as the first wave of volunteers arrived, the Chess Club from Adams City High School, Bruce Bain, and LaMoyné Splichal. For the next two days these men along with the USCF staff transformed the Denver Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel into the site of the 2006 K-6 Nationals. Entering the main tournament hall we began setting up the 850+ chess boards and sets needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders who would be playing. Sections were set up and board numbers given to each board. At the Hyatt there were five pallets of boxes, each containing a trophy to be handed out Sunday afternoon. 6 hours later the trophies had been unboxed and were lined up ready to be seen by all.

Throughout the morning Chess Control (CC), the communication center for players, parents, coaches, and bystander, is set up, computer, printer, charge card machine, pamphlets. The USCF personnel and our volunteers are ready to receive the first of many questions throughout the

tournament. People begin to arrive and new registrations are entered into the computer, electronically sent over the internet and entered into the appropriate sections. Registration for the Bug House and Blitz tournaments are taken.

After lunch, more set up in the main tournament hall. At the Hyatt we begin to bring in the bookstore materials and set up the skittles room. Bruce Galler and his crew arrive to set up the video production area for the live commentary. The computer room, F2, has been set up, 6 computers, one for each section. Bug House and Blitz tournament entries are enter into one computer, while everyone else is checking and double checking to make sure everything is ready for the main event. The volunteer room, F1, is opened and made ready.

**Thursday night**, set for the main tournament hall is completed. The Blitz and Bug House tournaments are being played. The Tournament Directors (TD's) for the weekend are having their 9 p.m. meeting to go over the guidelines they are to fol-

low during the tournament. Chess Control is taken down for the night. At 11 p.m. I head home; the USCF staff is still working in F2 until 1 a.m.

**Friday, May 12, 7:30 a.m.** Coffee in hand I watch as our volunteers begin to arrive. LaMoyné welcomes them, gives them their blue vests, and instructs them where to go and what needs to be done. Bruce B. goes to chess control and spends the rest of the day answering questions, registering people for the tournament, and running back and forth between CC and F2. The K-1 room at the Hyatt is set up, 175 boards.

**Noon** – lunch is supplied for the volunteers in F1. Preparation is made for the opening ceremony in the main hall and in the K-1 playing area. In F2, pairings are printed, stapled to foam boards and then carried to their appropriate sections. A second set of pairings is printed, run over to the skittles room in the Hyatt, and stapled to similar foam boards.

**12:30 p.m.** – Opening ceremony takes place and the players find their names on the pairing boards as the tournament begins. As each game finishes, one of the TD's confirms the result with the player's and marks the results on the score sheet. Volunteers in blue vests act as runners gathering up the score sheets from the



A room of trophies: A look at the hundreds of trophies awarded at the Bert Lerner National Elementary Championships. Photo by Todd Bardwick.

TD's and taking them to the results tables. Here more volunteers enter each games result on pairing sheets which are then taken down to the computer room and entered into the appropriate section's computer.

**"We worked real hard together to make our game a draw."**

-- Young cooperative chess players at Nationals

In the K-1 area as the kids finish their games they are taken out one at a time to be hand delivered to their parents. It does not go as well as we would like so between the first and second rounds a better set up is determined to make things go smoother. The parents of the Colorado Springs Bobcats Chess Club, along with Karen and Richard Herbst made themselves available for the rest of the tournament and the K-1 section runs like clock work.

Bruce Galler's commentary area needs more seats. People are really enjoying the commentary regarding the games on the number one boards in three divisions.

**1 a.m. Saturday** – I head to bed. The USCF staff works until 2 a.m.

**Saturday, May 13, 7:30 a.m.** No coffee



Boards 1425-1432 (no, that's not a misprint) of the National Elementary tournament. *Photo by Randy Reynolds.*

this morning. As I watch the volunteers arrive we get a surprise, Diane Vigoda has brought donuts and muffins. LaMoyné hands out blue vests, Bruce B. goes to CC, pairing boards are checked and another day begins.

In F2, the wall of signs is beginning to fill. The staff's favorite quotes from players find their way to this wall. Like:

"We worked real hard together to make our game a draw."

Or two young K-1 contestants playing around in the waiting area:

"Oh, we're not done with our game yet. Our brains just got tired so we're taking a break."

**1:30 a.m. Sunday** – I head to bed. The USCF staff has done the same.

**Sunday, May 14, 7 a.m.** – While enjoying a cup of coffee I spot one of the GM's. He invites me join him and shares a few moments going over his ties to Denver. He remembers I played in the Friends and Family tournament in Milwaukee and congratulates me on a draw I had against a player 800 point's higher, one of his former students. At 8 a.m., LaMoyné hands out blue vests, Bruce B. goes to CC, pairing boards are checked and another day begins.

**2 p.m.** the final round starts. As each division finishes the computer people enter the final results. After double and triple checking the final standings we take the outcomes to the skittles room and the bookstore for posting. Volunteers wait for the players to bring their boards and pieces to the tables in the back of the playing areas. Each player is handed a medallion before he or she leaves the arena. After the K-1 games are completed the room is rearranged to accommodate the awards ceremony.

**7 p.m.** – While the awards ceremony is taking place, chess control is packed up, Bruce Galler and his crew take down the video area, boxes of chess boards and chess pieces are taken from the main playing area to the bookstore to be sold or prepped for shipping, and the volunteer room is cleaned up. The computer people are entering the results into the USCF web site, where anyone can immediately go to see the final results.

**9 p.m.** – The awards ceremony is over. The computer room has been taken down, supplies packed for shipping. I help take some of the USCF staff's personal belongings back to the Hyatt. Shortly thereafter the USCF staff enjoys their end of the tournament meal. I say my goodbyes and head out to the parking garage.

**10 p.m.** – I spot a young boy, locked out of the convention center where his team is having a pizza party. We walk with another adult around the convention center to the security entrance where someone can take him to his team. I go back to the Hyatt to let Diane Reese, the USCF Events Coordinator, know.

**11 p.m.** – As I sit in my van ready to leave as it started so it ends - all is quiet.

The chess playing community from the state of Colorado successfully worked with the USCF to put on a marvelous national chess tournament. Thank you and congratulations to all who worked **behind the scenes!** ☺

## Colorado State Scholastic Championship report: A view from the balcony

by Randy S. Reynolds

**G**azing over the balcony in the playing hall, I looked over the vast number of eager chess participants excited about the game, the breathtaking trophies, and the fellow tournament directors. I couldn't help but feel a surge of power, like God must feel when He helps direct a chess tournament.

The shirts they gave all the volunteers this year were a radical departure from the conservative blues for the past few years. This year, they were a loud yellowish-orange tint. I commented to some of the other volunteers, "Wearing this shirt, I'm a little worried I'm going to be accidentally shot by Dick Cheney!"

Of course, the biggest part of the scholastic championship is to discover CSCA's candidate for the Denker Tournament of Champions and our female representative for the Susan Polgar tournament, both at the U.S.

Open. Tyler Hughes, a perennial favorite, fell to the champion Brandon Cooksey two years ago and was beat out by tiebreaks against Dustin Eager last year for first place. Now a staggering 350 rating points above the next closely rated player (who happened to be 6<sup>th</sup> grader Curtis Crockett), would Tyler finally have the edge needed to grab that elusive 1<sup>st</sup> place in 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>? And would his newly donned shades help him retain his poker face and remove the "chess tells" that so plague us all?

Tyler had an early challenge in his 2nd round against Karl Heimbrock, who took Tyler to the very limit of time control in a tight game before finally bowing out. Tyler related his most difficult game was probably against 1200 (but vastly underrated) Derek Nelson, and he shares his thoughts about that game on the next page.

When all the smoke had cleared, though, Tyler sat alone as the only undefeated player in the 10-12 section, as the four other players with 5 out of 6 points watched their co-champion hopes fade. Congratulations to Tyler, a rightly deserved championship with a perfect 6 of 6!

And then there was the question of who will be our representative for the Susan Polgar tournament. Inexplicably, there has been a dearth in the number of girls playing in the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> section, and so it was basically Polgar tournament veteran Natasha Deakins against up-and-coming Kaila Smith. I kept waiting for the "mano a mano" (Is that the right term? Or would it be "womano a womano"?) match to occur to decide it all, but it never happened. That's because Natasha jumped out to an early lead after day 1, having 3 points to Kaila's 1.5 and needing only a win or Kaila loss to clinch the Susan Polgar invitation.

That's when Kaila staged a massive rally on Sunday, while Natasha struggled against the powerhouses put out by Cherry Creek High and Regis Jesuit High. When the smoke finally cleared, Kaila Smith became our new Susan Polgar tournament attendee with 3.5 points. Congratulations to Kaila!

I wish our scholastic champions the very best of luck as they journey to Chicago this summer for their national championship tournaments! ♞



Colorado Polgar Invitational Representative Kaila Smith. Blurriness is a result of intense chess concentration, and not any fault of the photographer. *Photo by Randy Reynolds.*



Colorado Denker Tournament of Champions Representative Tyler Hughes. Again, blurriness is from intense chess concentration, and not the fault of the photographer. *Photo by Randy Reynolds.*

by Tyler Hughes

# My Longest Yard

**F**or me, this last round game was the most important. The previous year I had reached this same score in the tournament, 5-0, but had only drawn in the final round. Last year's draw was on my mind as I began the game. My opponent this year was Derek Nelson, who had a very strong performance in this tournament. He defeated three 1500s, as well as an 1800, gaining almost 200 points in this tournament alone. I didn't want to become his fifth upset of the tournament.

**W: Nelson, Derek (1232)**

**B: Hughes, Tyler (2142) [A05]**

High School State Championship 2006  
Denver, Colorado (6), February 19, 2006  
[Annotated by Tyler B Hughes]

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.d3 0-0 5.Nbd2** I had not really seen White's formation before this game. I decided to play the thematic King's Indian ...d6 and ...e5 moves anyway as it blunts White's Bb2.

**5...d6 6.c4 e5 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Rc1 Re8** I want to attack White on the kingside, but I need to wait until he castles before I begin. If I show my hand too early he could simply leave his king in the center.

**9.Rc2** I didn't understand this move during the game. I now realize that the point of Rc2 is to allow Qa1, with a bishop and queen battery on the a1-h8 diagonal.

**9...b6 10.Be2 Nf8 11.Ng5** This move surprised me. Derek wanted to take advantage of my light squares on the queenside which were weakened by the move ...b6.

**11...c6 12.Qa1 h6 13.Nge4 Nxe4 14.Nxe4 f5 15.Ng3 Nh7** Bringing more force to the kingside in preparation for when he castles.

**16.0-0** I was very happy to see him castle. I could now openly attack.

**16...h5 17.Bf3?** The bishop is awkwardly placed on f3. I can easily attack it with ...Ng5.

**17...Bd7 18.b4 h4** The knight is forced into the corner. 19.Ne2 is not at all attractive because then I would play 19...Ng5. After 19...Ng5 White cannot avoid the doubling of his kingside pawns, which leaves his king quite exposed on the g-file.

**19.Nh1** This knight never emerges from the corner. Black is effectively a piece up for the time being. [ 19.Ne2 Ng5]

**19...Rc8** To remove the rook from the same diagonal as White's Bf3.

**20.h3** Here I spent some time deliberating on how best to continue my attack. I eventually decided that I needed to open up the c8-h3 diagonal for my light squared bishop with ...f4. To this I first need to get my Bg7 off of the a1-h8 diagonal.

**20...Bh6 [20...f4? 21.exf4 exf4?? 22.Bxg7+-] 21.Be2 f4 22.exf4 exf4?** (see diagram)



A mistake. [22...Bxf4 Now both of my bishops are pressuring the kingside, and my queen can come to g5 next.]

**23.Bg4?** Failing to take advantage of my error the previous move. [23.f3!= This is why 22...exf4 was a mistake. The main reason I took with the pawn was that I wanted to use the pawn to pry open white's kingside with ...f3. However, White can prevent this with the strong move 23.f3. Now the Nh1 can reenter the game through f2, and Black's attack is stalled with no constructive way forward.]

**23...Bxg4 24.hxg4 f3** The purpose behind 22...exf4. White's king's pawn protection is compromised.

**25.Bc1 Bg7 26.Bb2 Bxb2 27.Qxb2 Qd7** Trying to induce gxf3.

**28.gxf3?!** White had a stronger defense available, 28.Qd4. [ 28.Qd4 Not cooperating with Black by keeping the pawn cover for his king intact. 28...Re5+ Black has a good game but there is no immediate win.]

**28...Rf8 [ 28...Ng5? 29.Qf6! The queen is problematic. Therefore I played ...Rf8 before ...Ng5.]** (see diagram)



**29.Qd4 Ng5** Now White's king is forced to walk forward.

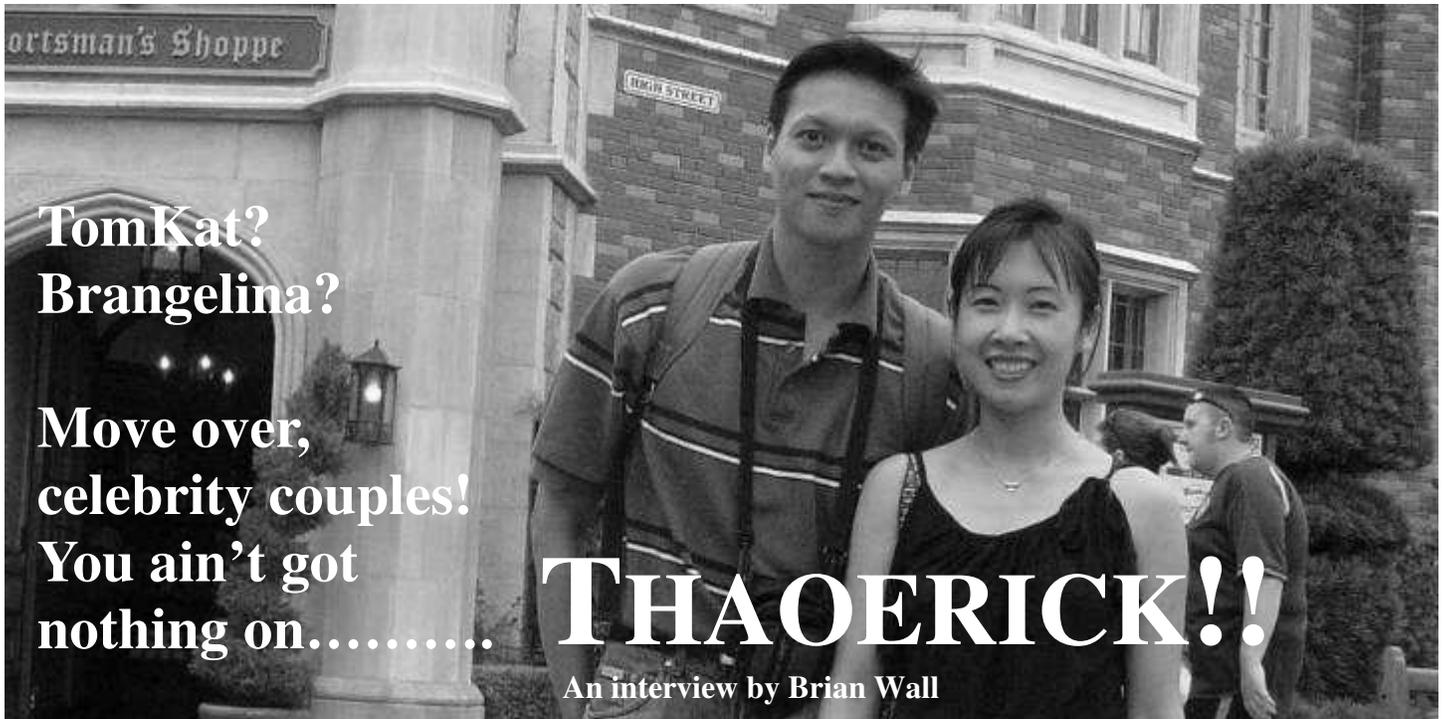
**30.Kg2** There was no other move. Against any other move I would simply play Nxf3 followed by a catastrophe on g4.

**30...Nxf3 31.Qe4 h3+** Forcing the king further up the board.

**32.Kg3 [ 32.Kxh3 Qh7+ 33.Kg3 Qh2#]**

**32...Qf7** A stronger move than 32...Qh7. White cannot prevent ...Rae8 forcing the queen to give up the defense of f4. White is lost. [32...Qh7 This move is also winning, but I did not want to allow White to bail out with Qxf3, getting a rook and knight in return for the queen. 33.Qxf3 Rxf3+ 34.Kxf3 Qh4+]

**33.d4 Rce8 34.Qd3 Qf4+ 35.Kxh3 Qh2# 0-1 ♚**



TomKat?  
Brangelina?

Move over,  
celebrity couples!  
You ain't got  
nothing on.....

**THAOERICK!!**

An interview by Brian Wall

There is something compelling about Thao Le, a beautiful young woman from Vietnam who only started playing Chess at work 3 years ago. She is already almost 1500 and even more impressive, I know 3 Denver chess players who started dating single Asian Moms after meeting Thao Le. Somehow her grace, her poise, her charm, her sincerity, her serenity, her smile forever alters the beholder's idea of beauty and happiness. Read this interview with caution -- you may find yourself on a one way boat to China in a few months, idly dreaming of finding another Thao Le. ( silent h - Thao rhymes with now and Le rhymes with see. )

Two people, a man and a woman, a happy couple who both play chess is an ideal sought by millions worldwide. There are inherent problems built into this dream, #1 - the shortage of women and #2 - Chess tends to have an unbalancing, addictive effect. When I see it done right I am intrigued. How do they achieve just the right balance?

Roderick Santiago, a Denver chess player from the Philippines and Thao Le, a Denver chess player from Vietnam, make a very attractive couple. They are always

smiling. I visited them in Thao's Lakewood, Colorado apartment. Thao's son John from an earlier marriage, 6 years old, played chess on the computer while I pleaded with the adults to reveal the secret of their domestic bliss. There was a beautiful floral arrangement, a place to worship Buddha and a lovely dinner of rice, pork, chicken and fish. Twenty-five years ago there was trouble in Denver as people grew accustomed to their new Asian neighbors. There were reports of missing dogs, odd chicken sounds and strange tasting candy. I uncovered no livestock in the bathtub. I did detect two gerbils in good health. They did not seem unduly concerned.

The two things that struck me from talking to Thao Le were - #1 - her uncommon honesty and #2 - her devotion to family. The Asian custom of revering their elders instead of shuffling them off to nursing homes like we do in America has always impressed me. I was already used to hearing about this from my five years working at Wang Labs Inc., a computer company that hired many Cambodians, Laotians, etc. I was once the only White guy at a Laotian wedding. The colorful costumes reminded me of the Hispanic

culture in Denver. So many Asians send money back home to their relatives it is enough to make most Americans feel very ashamed.

I asked Thao Le if her uncommon directness and honesty were a Vietnamese thing or a Thao Le thing.

**Thao Le:** Oh, it's a Thao thing. In my family my stepfather spanked anyone who lied. Hard. My husband lied about everything. Everything - so much that when he told the truth I couldn't tell the difference anymore. He was a great dancer, great liar. I am a bad dancer, bad liar. He left Denver. He stays in America. We do not get along well. Roderick always tells me the truth. Roderick is a good guy forever.

**Roderick:** Well, I confessed all my sins before we dated so there was nothing to lie about. I am just better about getting away with it. Thao is very direct - her Chess is the same way. She is always doing something in Chess, trying to build something, attack something. She comes right after it. She is the same way in life. Direct. Honest. Won't hold back.

**Brian:** What country did you come from?

**Thao Le:** Vietnam. Da Nang. Came to America May 1995 with Father only. My parents remarried and had more children. My Mother had another boy by stepfather. She stayed in Vietnam. My Father has three more girls.

I have one boy, John, age six. I send \$2,000 a year to my Mother in Vietnam. That is a lot of money back there. A house with land is \$20,000. Saigon is more expensive. We respect our elders there, especially if they are wise and have an education. I have been back to visit. I send fax when I send money and my Mother sends me a thank you with family news.

I started playing Chess in October 2002 on my lunch hour. I worked at the Post Office and when the machine breaks down we had to wait. 10-20 people played Chess there - all amateurs. My co-worker friend, Modesto Soles, taught me how to play. I only have a few Chess books. Weapons of Chess - Pandolfini. Amateur Mind and Reassess Your Chess - IM Jeremy Silman. A tactics book.

At first after an hour I was going crazy, dropping pieces, tired in the middle game. I last longer now.

**Brian:** What do you miss about Vietnam?

**Thao:** In my country, babysitting is free. Everyone helps raise the children. In America, nobody help. Everything for money.

Going to school in Vietnam was the happiest time in my life. I can do flower arrangements. I like Karaoke, Vietnamese love songs. I know astrology. I pre-checked Roderick in my astrological charts. We have a good relationship. Everything good. Divorcing my husband was a hard time. I waited three years to date again.

**Brian:** What did you like about Roderick?

**Thao:** Looks handsome. Nice guy. Good rating. He gets along well with my son. He is better with English.

**Roderick:** When she was 1200, my 1700 rating seemed like a big deal. Now she is 1400. Will you leave me for a higher rated player?

**Thao Le:** Why? Chess is just a hobby.

**Brian:** What about a highly paid, handsome Grandmaster Opening specialist?

(Thao Le looks skyward and calculates the possibility. Incapable of lying, she furrows her brow.)

**Thao Le:** I don't know. Roderick is bad in the opening. I have to ask better players. I trust Roderick when he say I make a bad move but I don't trust him when he say I make a good move.

## e4 or d4? The debate rages on...

Thao Le only plays 1 e4. Roderick Santiago always plays 1 d4. Roderick got to John first and told him that 1 e4 is a quick way to lose.

I tested John and the game went:

John, age 6	1 d4
Brian, age 51	1 ... d5
John	2 Nc3
Brian	2 ... c6
John	3 e4

...transposing to 1 e4 opening Caro-Kann.

The fight for John's chess soul -- unresolved.

**Brian:** What is it like playing each other at home?

**Thao Le:** I get mad when I lose because I don't like to lose. I get mad when I win because I want Roderick to improve and stay ahead of me, not stay the same rating.

**Roderick:** I try to make sure the game looks like a plausible draw to keep the peace. I worry her rating will get too high and she will dump me.

**Brian:** What did you like about Thao Le?

**Roderick:** Everything but I was afraid to ask her out because a co-worker Kevin Hampstead always brought her to Chess Club and I could not tell what she meant when she said he was a friend. After a couple of months I found out he was not her boyfriend so I asked her out a few times. It took her 8 months to say yes. She wasn't ready at first. Our first date was the Boulder Open. Thao told me I had to do well. I was first under 1800.

**Thao Le:** After my divorce many men ask me out but I only say yes to Roderick. I wasn't interested in the others.

**Brian:** What attracted you to chess?

**Roderick:** I liked it as a teenager, then I gave it up for 15 years. Just started playing seriously again four years ago. I heard Thao sign up to DCC for a year so I figured she would make a good Chess buddy.

**Thao Le:** My job did not require a lot of thinking. I like to think. I am happy when I think about Chess.

**Brian:** What is good about having a chess boyfriend?

**Thao Le:** We get to spend time together. We get to analyze the games afterwards. Roderick does not play with me a lot at home, we play the computer, not each other.

**Brian:** Will you still be playing Chess at age 60?

**Thao Le:** Yes, I will be 1800 then. ♚

See some  
classic Thao games,  
starting on page 26.

# Knights of the South Bronx

A review by Todd Bardwick

On Tuesday, December 6, 2005, the latest chess movie, *Knights of the South Bronx*, starring Ted Danson (of Cheers and Becker), premiered on the A&E network.

The movie is based on the true story of David MacEnulty (played by Danson), an English teacher, who improves the lives of several poor children in the South Bronx by teaching them how to play chess. Through chess, he teaches them a skill set that helps them with life's challenges and their chess success changes their outlook on life in a positive way. A nice touch was giving MacEnulty a cameo appearance at the end of the movie as the announcer at the chess tournament awards ceremony.

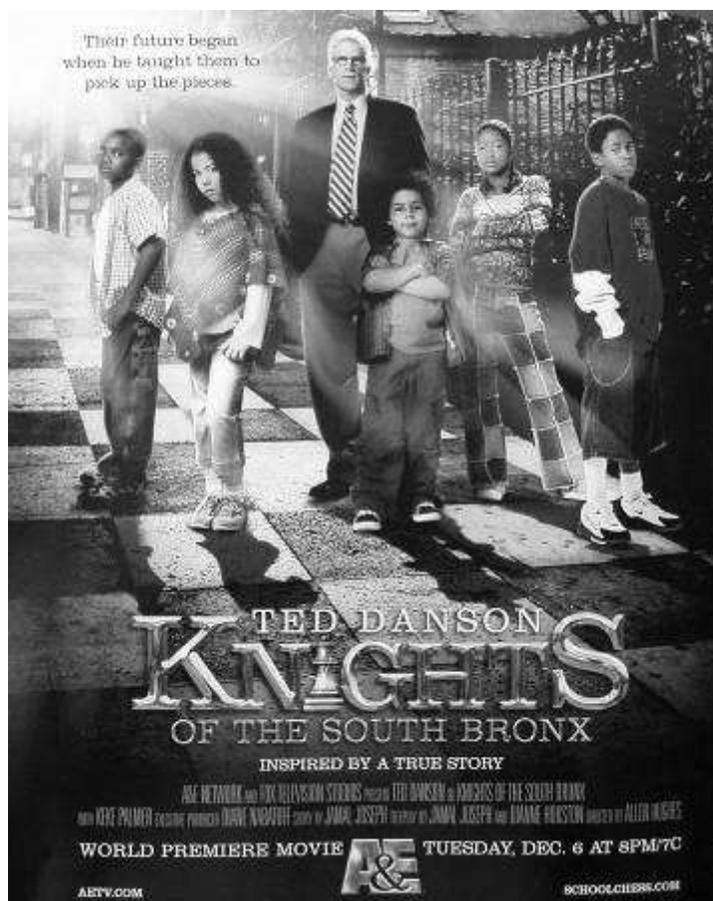
Danson portrays MacEnulty as Richard Mason, who is fired from his high-paying corporate job and becomes a substitute teacher and mentor for a group of fourth grade students.

The movie shows the kids in a realistic light from a chess perspective and how they handle themselves when they win and lose. Despite a few swear words that were inappropriate and unnecessary for a children's movie, I thought *Knights of the South Bronx* was entertaining and accurately portrayed the benefits of chess for kids.

In the credits they do a nice job of giving chess quotes from the real-life kids, whose lives have been changed by chess.

Dawson, the young kindergartener, was my favorite kid. When asked why he thinks he won his first tournament game (all the other kids lost theirs because they were intimidated by various elements in the wealthier surroundings), he says that he pretended that his pieces were ninja warriors and nothing can stop them. (The ninjas appear on the chessboard in his mind during his final game). Mason tells the other kids that they need to find their ninja. Of course, many kids think in this sort of way about the powers of their mighty warrior pieces. Actually, some adults do, too. I had to laugh at a flashback of my own that happened about ten years or so ago when Bill Engles was running the G/30 tournaments out of the Wendy's, downtown on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall. I had my own ninja...Frosty the Snowman! I couldn't get the theme song of Frosty out my head and, amazingly, gained great confidence as I sang it to myself during my games.

Most of the chess scenes were reasonably accurate, but they did make some serious chess blunders that a novice tournament player can easily identify.



Hollywood has a long history of messing up chess movie scenes by making major chess errors. (see my column entitled, "Oscars for Chess on the Big Screen" in the April 2004 Colorado Chess Informant or online at <http://www.coloradomasterchess.com/Informant/Chess%20Oscars.htm>)

Mason's simultaneous exhibition in the park is where the chess errors begin. They added this scene to make the movie more interesting, but it probably didn't happen in real life. I looked up MacEnulty's rating on the USCF website and he has a provisional rating of only 1654. I suspect that large crowds in New York City don't show up to watch a Class B player give a simul!

Fourteen adults show up to play in the simul, during which, Mason pretty much checkmates or announces mate in two to all of his opponents on the same pass. Of course, although this is unrealistic, for the sake of a movie, I understand that they have to keep the movie moving along. At the end of the scene after he defeats everyone, the announcer says, that Mason beat 14 players in 18 minutes. Considering the timeline: he must physically move to the next board, often wait for the opponent to move when he arrives, think for a second or two, and remember that some players will pass...even Kasparov couldn't do a simul this fast on a good day!!

During the simul, they focus in on one of the games with this position, with Mason playing white and to move...



White is pretty much winning with any move; the most obvious of which is dxc6+. The camera angle is from white's perspective.

Mason is thinking (way too long to keep pace with the final time of the event mentioned above). Then the camera angle changes as the board is seen from black's perspective, and, poof...the black knight on f6 has vanished! Mason plays Ng5 and says, "I think that is mate in two."

As the camera angle moves back to white's side, and the mysterious f6 knight reappears! Mason's opponent tips over his king. With or without the knight, it isn't mate in two as black can postpone mate longer than two moves.

I guess MacEnulty wasn't even consulted on the chess position here, as he would have surely objected and given them a position that works (there is not shortage of realistic looking mate-in-two problems floating around).

Another chess mistake came in the classroom when Mason was teaching the children about checkmates. He describes a three-move repetition, but calls it a stalemate.

The major chess errors don't stop here. Fast-forward to the final scene at Nationals.

First to Jimmy's final game. We see him playing white at the start of the game from across the board. Notice that the white king was to the left of his queen. But the white queen is actually properly placed on a white square. Of course, this means that whoever set up the board incorrectly rotated it 90 degrees.

The last chess error is a classic movie/television chess mistake and shows up in Dawson's final game, right after the ninjas come out of the shadow of the pieces.

Dawson's opponent keeps checking him back and forth with his queen from the h-file. Dawson keeps escaping check. On the last move of the game, Dawson retreats a rook to block the check and announces checkmate! Now it is physically possible (though not likely) to block a check and give discovered checkmate at the same time. In the position though, a pawn is one square diagonally in front of the interposing rook, as seen from the queen's perspective.

Especially considering that this is a chess movie, these technical chess errors are inexcusable. For a small fraction of Dawson's pay, couldn't they hire MacEnulty or some other chess player to edit the chess scenes? ♞

## Polgar visits Denver

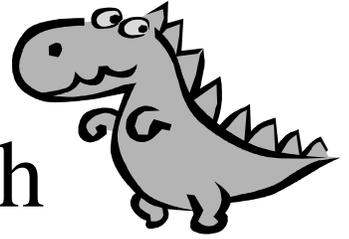
As part of the National Elementary K-6 Championships in Denver (see page 4 for related story), Susan Polgar visited Colorado and gave a 25 person simultaneous exhibition before the start of the first round. In addition, Ms. Polgar also provided a short lecture on Saturday afternoon where she took questions from the audience. She spoke on how it's important to practice chess every day to become familiar with the patterns in chess. "Chess is a game you must play against yourself," said Polgar, expressing the point that you must will yourself to play your best chess every game, and not play differently based on your opponent's rating.



Susan Polgar ponders her move in this simultaneous exhibition held at the Hyatt Regency in Denver. Photo by Todd Bardwick.

# The Day 1300's Ruled the Earth

by Brian Wall



2006 Wyoming Open. Laramie College, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

When they ran out of room at Motel 6, Chris Peterson and I decided to sleep in our cars in the parking lot of Laramie College. Brian Walker Senior was horrified the next morning and offered up his home but it was fun – it reminded me of being a teenager and taking chess road trips. I had come prepared with blankets and pillows which I shared with Chris. The best part was Campus Security asking us if the gallon water jugs we had put on the trunks to keep cool were "Moonshine"... Only in Wyoming. Later I laughed because I parked halfway over a white line in the moonlight and there was a little green Volkswagen squeezed in front of me Monday morning, a completely full parking lot plus a very nasty name-calling note urging me to learn how to park and questioning my orientation.

There was a motivation seminar next door. Eric Scott provided everyone with his own motivation by cracking 3 bullwhips in the parking lot, practicing knife throwing and putting a flare under my car to make me think I had blown my engine. Eric is a real Wyoming cowboy - I have seen him riding a horse and roping steers in his early teens.

When I saw the pairing I wished I was a 1400 so I could have the exquisite pleasure of playing a 1329 every 4th round of every tournament. Lee managed to play some really good chess for the first three rounds, including a draw to James Kulbacki, and this was his reward.

## Round 4, Board 2

**White - Lee F. Lahti (1329)**

**Black - Brian Wall (2231)**

**1. c4 g6 2. Nc3 Bg7 3. g3** At this point I started wondering what a 1329 was. Lee is hiding his pieces so I can't take them, his position looks the same as a Grandmaster position but who is leading the forces? What is a 1329? What other skills does a 1329 possess?

**3 ... c5 4. Bg2 Nc6 5. Nf3 Nh6 6. O-O Nf5**

I call this the Mother-in-law\* Variation. The knight just sits there, you can't get rid of her. g4 is met by ... Nh4 or ... Nd4. e4 is met by ... Nd4. So the knight just camps there intrusively on f5 like your mother-in-law\* watching TV in the living room and you are too afraid of your wife's reaction to do anything about it.

The Mother-in-law Variation has been played by Robert Wade, Bent Larsen, Helgi Olafsson, Florin Gheorghiu and others. Florin was one of those guys that broke Bobby Fischer's youngest Grandmaster records.

I thought I invented ... Nf5 one day and it seemed to freeze White in his tracks, they just can't figure out what to do about the Knight. Sometimes I throw in ... h5 as well and that really throws them for a loop. I believe GM Alexander Ivanov likes to play this way.

**7. d3** To conquer the boredom of Fort Collins openings I started making up 1329 jokes to myself.

**Joke 1 - How do you tell if a 1300 changes his style?**

**Answer - He loses to skewers instead of back rank mates.**

**Joke 2 - How many 1300s does it take to change a light bulb?**

**Answer - 10:**

- 1 to buy a Reinfeld book
- 1 to buy a Pandolfini book
- 1 to buy Chessmaster 30,000
- 1 to buy Megabase 2019
- 1 to buy CT-Art
- 1 to buy Fritz 20
- 1 to buy an ICC membership
- 1 to buy Rapid Chess Improvement by De La Maza
- 1 to buy the Amateur Mind by IM Jeremy Silman

**and one to forget everything he learned, get his hands soaking wet and drop the light bulb.**

I tried to tell the Wyoming players my great

new Chess jokes right after the game but the Queen of Wyoming Chess, Elizabeth Scott, playfully slapped my face at the start of my light bulb joke, saying, "I am 1400 but still ...." I laughed and said, "I deserved it." I'm used to it. Anthea started my 2006 Colorado Closed by throwing a glass of water in my face. It comes with the territory when you're Irish.

**7 ... Rb8 8. Bh3?** Theoretical Novelty by Lee F. Lahti

Whenever the pawns are moved to highlight a bishop - pawns h2-g3-f2 Bishop-g2, I imagine the bishop as a beautiful dancer and the pawns as the stage lights.

A bishop is worth 1/4 of a pawn more than a knight.

So this is a 1329, I thought. Spending 3 tempi to lose 1/4th of a pawn.

I imagined the maneuver g3, Bf1-g2-h3-f5 as paying \$100 to see Las Vegas showgirls and one of the girls runs off stage and elopes with the trombone player.

8 Bh3? is Fritz 8 choice #27, pretty reasonable for a 1329 TN. To actually halt opening development to chase the dream of a poor trade is mindboggling.

I thought d5-control was important in the English Opening, not f5. Must have been a typo or maybe my knight just drives normal people half-mad. A knight on the 4th rank is probably just as scary as a knight on the 6th rank to a 1329.

**Joke 3 - When does a 1329 Prairie dog start chirping as a warning to the others? Whenever an enemy piece makes it past the third rank perimeter check.**

**Joke 4 - What constitutes an exciting time for a 1300?**

**Showing you his home movie of the time he lasted 100 moves against a 1600.**

\* My real mother-in-law was a wonderful, gracious New England lady I adored named Phyllis Perkins, about 5 feet tall, a very funny, hardworking nurse, a mother of 4 girls. Phyllis once told me: Patience is a virtue which few women have and no men.

**8 ... a6** I suppose if I was a 1329 I would leap away half out of breath and play **8 ... Nd6!!**, considering myself very lucky that I saw the threat to wreck my Kingside.

I knew **8 ... d6** would make **8 Bh3** look even more ridiculous but I did not want to dignify the "threat" with a response. I wanted to be like a proud Papa letting children, dogs and cats play on my lap while I read the evening newspaper, paying them little heed as I relaxed comfortably on the recliner with a whisky and coke after a hard day at the office.

I am used to the trade-trade-trade-lose approach from Colorado players. They are eager to trade anything for anything.

**Joke 5** - How do you know if a 1329 is playing a well balanced game?

A: They lose and trade an equal number of pieces.

**Joke 6** - How do you know if a 1329 just won a game?

A: The ambulance just carried off his opponent.

**9. Bxf5 gxf5 10. e4 d6 11. Be3? b5** I decided to ignore what he was doing but after I moved I realized I should have won a pawn with **11 ... fe!! 12 Nxe4 Bxb2. 11 ... fe!! 12 de? Bg4!!** threatening **... Ne5** or **... Nd4** depending on circumstances wins even more material because **13 h3 B:h3 14 Re1 Bg4** renews the threats.

The basic idea of the English opening is a lover's rendezvous at the focal point **b7** where the **Bg2** and **Rb1** meet. I am following the same strategy in reverse with my **g7**-bishop and **b8**-rook trying to kiss at **b2**.

9 year old student Thomas Farley suggested another win with **11 ... f4! 12 gf Bh3** threatening **... B:f1** or **... Rg8. if 11 ... f4! 12 B:f4 Bg4!** is impossible to meet again.

Farley's **11 ... f4!!** is the second best move after **11 ... fe!!!** Good instincts for a kid. When I rang his doorbell I showed him my Wyoming Open trophy and he showed me an almost identical looking one for going 7-0 somewhere. Then he ran upstairs and fetched a much bigger one. Boys will always be boys.

Thomas also showed me the best way to teach kids chess I have ever seen. It is called Majestic Chess, mixing Knight's Quests, Cyclops, wizards, skullbones, etc. with different Chess Challenges. Thomas will play it 5 hours a day given a chance. My 7 year old son Devon and 9 year

old Isaac Martinez now own it.

**12. Qd2** More of the "trade anything for anything before I lose it" philosophy. Plan - **Bh6**. Fortunately for Lee, his trading fever got him off the coming **... Bg4** pin.

**12 ... bxc4!! 13. dxc4! fxe4!! 14. Ng5!** It's never too late to start a Fishing Pole attack.

**14 ... Ne5** I have many other wins. I dismissed **14 ... h6!! 15 N:f7 K:f7 16 Qd5+ Be6 17 Q:c6 R:b2!** as too messy but this is a good line for me.

I didn't really analyze the best line **14 ... Nd4!** one of the key points is **14 ... Nd4! 15 Nc:e4 h6 16 B:d4 cd 17 Nf3 f5!** trapping a knight

**15. Bf4!** The best answer to the threat of **15 ... h6**

**15 ... Bb7** I had so many good moves I couldn't choose so I opted for the double fianchetto which Grandmaster Wojtkiewicz seems to love every game. Even better - **15 ... Ng6!!**, **... f5!!**, **... Nd3!!**, **... Qb6!!** and **... h5!!**

**16. Bxe5! Bxe5! 17. Rab1!** 1329 thinking: babysit pawns with the highest possible pieces, Queen and rook. **17 Rae1** and **b3** would be a better way to relieve the **b2**-pressure.

**17 ... f5** Two bishops and an extra pawn looked good to me even though Fritz likes **17 ... Qa5!!** or **... Qd7!!** or **... h5!!** or **... Qc8!** a little better.

**18. Nd5 h6** Not bad but preventing **19 Ne6** with **19 ... Bc8!!!**, **... Qd7!!** or **... Qc8!!** is better. It is hard for humans to move backwards with **19 ... Bc8!!** It seems like admitting a mistake, like being a quitter, like undeveloping.

**19. Ne6! Qd7** (see diagram)

Shamik Dasgupta, the Boulder physicist, assured me, even though I was skeptical, that if you try to walk through a wall enough times, eventually, theoretically, you will. I suddenly wondered if Lee Lahti had somehow miraculously drifted into a won game with **20 f3** since **20 f3 Q:e6?? 21 Nc7+!** picked off my Queen. Maybe this was the event Shamik was talking about, the one game where the 1329 walks through the Wall. Maybe this is the one game in 10 to the 25th power possibilities where 1300 rules makes sense, stutter-step your bishop to wreck his Kingside, prove Knights beat Bishops, punish the chess master for delaying castling. Maybe



this is the one day 1300's rule the earth. I guess it was my guilty conscience about making up all those chess jokes; I thought God was trying to punish my arrogance. A Catholic upbringing will do that to you.

It turns out I have lost some advantage but I am still OK. Chris Peterson suggested **20 Qd1** and **21 Qh5** checkmate but Lee knew the antidote to that - **20 ... h5!**

On the move I feared, **20 f3** I can handle it best by reactivating the **... Ne6**-capture-threat with **20 ... Kf7!!** or **... Rc8!!** - **20 ... ef!** is OK too.

I am comfortably better after any 20th move but I thought maybe something had gone horribly wrong. **20 Rfd1** or **b4** are best but I have several good answers to either move.

**20. Nec7+?** Wow, Lee is changing his whole approach to Chess midgame - from not knowing the value of the pieces or tempi on move 8 to not seeing the fork after **20 ... Q:e6?? 21 Nc7+**. Missing the fork means he has to move a knight. Another 1300 moment.

**20 ... Kf7!!** Lee's idea might have been **20 ... Kd8?? 21 Qa5!! Rc8! 22 N:a6+! Ke8! 23 Nb6!! Qd8! 24 b4!!**

It's 1300 heaven where offside knights somehow beat centralized bishops. The whole variation is forced. I almost walked into that 1300 nightmare.

Luckily for me, after **20 ... Kf7!!** or **... Kf8!!** the parallel universe wormhole has closed and the laws of physics start working again.

**21. f3 e3!!** I call this the bypass: the **f1**-rook wants to smack my King so I deny him access. **21 ... Bd4+!!** or **... ef!!** are fine too but it's natural to close lines around your King.

My idea is **21 ... e3!! 22 Q:e3?? Bd4** pinning

the Queen or 21 ... e3!! 22 N:e3 Q:c7 winning a knight.

**22. Qe2 e6!!** There goes a knight.

**23. f4 Bd4! 24. Qh5+** 1329 see a check, 1329 give a check.

**24 ... Kg7!** Now we can add 25 ... e2+ to Lee Lahti's list of laments.

**25. Rfd1** I was praying for 25 Rfe1 Q:c7!!! 26 N:c7 e2 checkmate which several chess players tried to block with the illegal 27 Nd5!!!

**25 ... exd5! 26. Nxd5! Bxd5! 27. cxd5! Rxb2!!**

Mad running, warm embrace and kiss between Rb2 and Bd4. This is the main idea of the English setups - it's hard to stop even if you know it's coming.

**28. Rxb2 e2+!** Lee muttered under his breath, "This is going to be brutal."

**29. Rxd4 e1=Q+! 30. Kg2! cxd4! 31. Re2!** Since Lee wasn't resigning and we were in Wyoming I wondered if the mandatory moonshine he drank at the border check and my two queens made him think he was seeing double.

**31 ... Qa5! 32. Qf3! Re8 33. g4** Lee Lahti to Brian, "I wish I knew how to quit you."

**33 ... fxxg4! 34. Qf2! Qxd5+!** mate in 9

I was always proud of my high pain tolerance until Lee Lahti kept playing on in this position. I have to give him credit. Steve Henderson once told me he resigned because his position was so bad "every move hurt". I have done similar stuff in the not too distant past, playing on to reach the time control out of stubbornness and frustration against Randy Canney, Eric Billaux in slow chess and countless others in blitz games.

**35. Kg1 Q7c6!** Mate in 3 **0-1**

Time control reached - Game in an hour now.

Last round Lee could have trapped Dean Brown's queen with ... Bd7 but he thought Dean's queen had a escape square so he covered the imaginary escape square and prayed Dean would let him trap the queen next move. By then Dean had woken up, covered the threat and went on to win. Brown-Lahti reminded me of Tom Mullikin's hilarious details of Life in the Lower Sections in the HB Foundation Minnesota tournament. Negotiating takebacks in slow games, talking to opponents during the game, en passant confusion, displays of wrath upon losing - it's a whole different world down there. ☹

by Tim Brennan

## But There's More!....

[Ed. note: Tim responds to Brian with his own caustic sense of humor. Clever, Tim, but I'd watch out for Elizabeth Scott for the next little while...]

Here are my attempts at 1300 light bulb jokes :-). [Ed. note: And yes, I think there really are that many he comes up with...]

Joke 1- Q. How many 1300s does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. None - they are supposed to be in the dark

Joke 2 - Q. How many 1300s does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. One. But he has to tell you first how he was winning at some point in the game against the Master they just played.

Joke 3 - Q. How many 1300s does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Don't ask me. My USCF rating is 1311, but I really play like a 1500 according to my ICC rating.

Joke 4 - Q. How many 1300s does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Two. One to ask if he can still move the bulb after touching it first. One to incorrectly capture it en passant.

OK I better get back to work! Thanks for the creative inspiration!

Later,  
Tim

haha, I am having fun with these 1300 jokes. Here are a few more I came up with.

Joke 5 - Why is the 1300 still rated 1300? They haven't finished reading "How to Reassess your Chess" yet.

Joke 6 - Why did the 1300 cross the road? To go buy another book on openings.

Joke 7 - Why does the 1300 keep playing? They suck even worse at poker.

Joke 8 - What do you call a 1300 who doesn't

think they are underrated?  
A liar.

Joke 9 - What do you call a 1300 who doesn't have any lame excuses about why they lost?  
Asleep

Joke 10 - What does a 1300 call the time he beat a drunk 1700 at 3AM on ICC?  
The greatest day of my life.

Joke 11 - How did the 1300 beat a Master?  
With a really large stick

Joke 12 - What is a 1300's favorite TV show?  
Lost

Joke 13 - How did the 1300 draw a master?  
With construction paper and crayons.

Joke 14 - Q. How many 1300s does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. 1345. Huh? Oh sorry - I thought you were asking what my highest rating ever was. That reminds me of the time I came in second place at this tournament in LA...

Joke 15 - Q. Why was the little Asian boy only 1300?

A. He only learned the moves this morning.

Whoa, whoa, easy there! Let's take a little breather with that, Tim!

Got a favorite 1300 joke? Or maybe it's time to take revenge out on the masters! How about these?

Q. How many chess masters does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Light bulbs? Bah, them's for Patzers. I play BLINDFOLDED!!!

Q. How many grandmasters does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Only one. But all the rest will analyze his techniques over the next 100 years and question why he didn't screw the light bulb in exactly the same way as Fischer or Kasparov.

Hello? Hello? I-is this thing on?

OK, so maybe my comedic timing is off. Send your favorite 1300 (or master) joke to

**randy\_teyana@msn.com**

Best ones get printed next issue!

# 2006 Colorado Closed Report

by Randy Reynolds

The 2006 Colorado Closed was held at the Ramada Continental in Denver on the weekends of March 25-26 and April 1-2. The average rating of our Closed participants was 2120 (a modest 35 point increase from last year), while the average rating of the scholastic participants was 1671 (which is a 70 point drop from last year, attributed mostly to Mr. Hughes' promotion into the "Big boys" club this year).

After the first weekend of play in the regular section, Robert Ramirez was comfortably ahead of the competition. He rebounded from a first round draw against David Wallace (who withdrew from the tournament a round later) to notch 3 straight wins, grabbing one game leads over next closest competitors Josh Bloomer and Randy Canney. Meanwhile, in the scholastic section, Dmitriy Tarasov bolted out of the starting gate and never looked back, notching up a perfect 4 wins, including a 337 point upset over high seed Richard Herbst. This put everyone else at least 1 1/2 games back (Garrick Talmage was the closest after the first weekend).

For the second weekend in the scholastic section, Dmitriy continued his breakneck pace, scoring 2 more wins and finally a draw on Sunday to easily outpace the fellow competitors to 6.5 points out of 7. Richard Herbst matched Dmitriy's second weekend performance to grab 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 4.5 points.

However, smooth sailing for the leader was not happening in the regular Closed. The 1-2 punches of Wall and Hughes left Robert Ramirez with only .5 points for the second weekend. And thus, the championship was left wide open clear up until the last round.

It finally took the creative strategy of Jim Hammersmith to determine the winner. Deftly, he spent the night calling everyone in the United States except his Sunday opponent Josh Bloomer and asked them to set their clocks ahead one hour that night. Some say this voluntary action already exists as a "Daylight Savings Time", but I know Hammersmith's cunning enough to know a clever plan when I see one. And so Hammersmith must have been on the

phone all night. And even more amazing, everyone in the U.S. complied with his request, with the exception of the people of Arizona and Hawaii (probably because they are staunch Bloomer supporters).

And so it was that Jim Hammersmith won the 2006 Colorado Closed with a simple press of the clock and an hour of patience. Jim scored 4 out of 6 points for the championship. It was definitely a surprising end to the tournament, which had no dominant player this year and was a monumental struggle for all players involved.

I congratulate all players involved with the regular and scholastic Closed. Regardless of your final score, you play in the most challenging tournament Colorado has to offer and should be saluted for your engineering of some of the best chess games Colorado has to offer. Speaking of which, pages 16-17 contain most of these games, as courteously provided by Buck Buchanan. Also see Mel Cahoon's column on page 28 for other references to the Closed. ☞

## Colorado Closed

(25 Mar - 2 Apr 2006)

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Rd7	Total
1	Hammersmith, James	12498634	2059	D3	L2	W7	W6	U	D4	X5	4.0
2	Ramirez, Robert W	12776467	2047	U	W1	W4	W7	D5	L6	L3	3.5
3	Hughes, Tyler B	12799460	2137	D1	W7	L6	U	W4	L5	W2	3.5
4	Canney, Randy C	10407443	2225	W6	U	L2	W5	L3	D1	W7	3.5
5	Bloomer, Josh S	12626102	2179	W7	W6	U	L4	D2	W3	F1	3.5
6	Wall, Brian D	10923344	2231	L4	L5	W3	L1	W7	W2	U	3.0
7	Hamblin, James E	10922593	2038	L5	L3	L1	L2	L6	U	L4	0.0

## Colorado Closed Scholastic

(25 Mar - 2 Apr 2006)

#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Rd7	Total
1	Tarasov, Dmitriy	12859058	1639	W4	W3	W2	W7	W5	W6	D8	6.5
2	Herbst, Richard E	12792169	1976	D3	W7	L1	D5	W6	W8	D4	4.5
3	Zax, Jacob M	12744381	1597	D2	L1	W5	L6	W8	D4	W7	4.0
4	Crockett, Curtis P	12822680	1753	L1	L5	W6	W8	W7	D3	D2	4.0
5	Talmage, Garrick	12757238	1672	W8	W4	L3	D2	L1	D7	L6	3.0
6	Twerskoi, David	12844819	1435	L7	D8	L4	W3	L2	L1	W5	2.5
7	Nemekhbayar, Amarjin	12922997	1578	W6	L2	D8	L1	L4	D5	L3	2.0
8	Lehti, Dylan M	12909537	1718	L5	D6	D7	L4	L3	L2	D1	1.5

# Games from Colorado Closed and Colorado Scholastic Closed

Prepared by Richard Buchanan

The following includes a selection from the available games of the Scholastic Closed and all the games I had or could find from the Closed Championship. David Wallace only played the first two rounds.

## ROUND ONE

Jim Hammersmith - Tyler Hughes, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Nge7 5.Bb5 a6 6.Bxc6 Nxc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.Bd2 d5 10.e5 f5 11.Ne2 b5 12.c3 d4 13.cxd4 Nxd4 14.Nexd4 cxd4 15.Qb3 a5 16.Qxb5 Bd7 17.Qb3 Rb8 18.Qc2 Qb6 19.Rfc1 Rb7 20.Qd1 Qa6 21.Be1 Rxb2 22.Bf2 Bb5 23.Bxd4 Rb4 24.Be3 Rd8 25.d4 Be2 26.Qd2 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Qb7 28.Kg2 Rb2 29.Rc2 Rxc2 30.Qxc2 Rc8 31.Qb3 Qxb3 32.axb3 Rc3 33.Kf2 Bb4 34.Rb1 Rc2+ 35.Kg3 Kf7 36.Rc1 Rxc1 37.Bxc1 Ke7 38.Kf2 Kd7 39.Ke3 Kc6 40.Kd3 Kd5 41.Bb2 Be7 42.Bc3 Bd8 43.h3 Bb6 44.Be1 Bc7 45.Bd2 ½-½

Brian Wall - Randy Canney, Bird

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 0-0 5.c4 e5 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 b6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Na3 e6 10.Nc2 d5 11.d3 Qc7 12.Qe1 Rad8 13.Kh1 d4 14.Qf2 Rfe8 15.Nd2 Ng4 16.Qg1 Ne7 17.h3 Nf5 18.hxg4 Nxg3+ 19.Kh2 Nxe2 20.Qf2 Nxf4 21.Nf3 Nxd3+ 22.Qg3 Qxg3+ 23.Kxg3 Nxb2 24.Rae1 d3 25.Ne3 d2 26.Rb1 Be4 27.Rxb2 Bxb2 28.Ng5 Bxg2 29.Kxg2 f5 30.Nd1 Bg7 31.Kf3 e5 32.Ke2 Bh6 33.gxf5 Bxg5 34.fxg6 h5 35.Rf5 Bf4 36.Rxh5 Re6 37.g7 Kxg7 38.Nc3 Rg6 39.Rh8 Rg2+ 40.Kd1 Rd3 0-1

Jim Hamblin - Josh Bloomer, King's Gambit

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 exf4 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bb5+ c6 6.dxc6 Nxc6 7.d4 Bd6 8.Qe2+ Be6 9.Ng5 0-0 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 Bc7 13.c3 Nd5 14.Qxe6+ Kh8 15.Na3 Rf6 16.Qe2 Qd6 17.Rf3 Re6 18.Qf1 Rae8 19.Nc4 Qd8 20.Bd2 Qe7 21.Ne5 Bxe5 22.dxe5 g5 23.c4 Qc5+ 24.Kh1 Ne3 25.Qd3 Ng4 26.Be1 Nxe5 27.Bc3 Kg8 28.Qf5 Qe7 29.Bxe5 Rxe5 30.Qd3 Re1+ 31.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 32.Rf1 Qe2 33.Qb1 Qxc4 34.h4 g4 35.b3 Qe4 36.Qc1 g3 37.Qc5 Re5 38.Qxa7 f3 39.Qb8+ Kg7 40.Qc7+ Kh6 0-1

## ROUND TWO

Josh Bloomer - Brian Wall, Nimzoindian

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 Bb4 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.exf6 hxg5 9.fxg7 Rg8 10.g3 Bb7 11.Bg2 c5 12.0-0 a6 13.Nxg5 Qxg5 14.Bxb7 Ra7 15.Ne4 Qe7 16.Qh5 Rxg7 17.Qh8+ 1-0

Tyler Hughes - Jim Hamblin, QGD

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nbd2 Nbd7 6.b3 Bd6 7.Bb2 0-0 8.Bd3 Qe7 9.Ne5 dxc4

10.Ndxc4 Bb4+ 11.Kf1 Nd5 12.a3 Bd6 13.Nxd6 Qxd6 14.Qc2 f5 15.g3 N7f6 16.Kg2 Bd7 17.Rac1 Be8 18.b4 a6 19.Qc5 Qd8 20.a4 Ne4 21.Qc4 Qf6 22.Ba3 Kh8 23.Qc2 Nec3 24.Qb3 Ne4 25.b5 axb5 26.Bxf8 Qxf8 27.Ra1 b4 28.a5 g5 29.h4 g4 30.Bxe4 fxe4 31.h5 Qf5 32.h6 Bh5 33.Qc4 Rf8 34.Raf1 Be8 35.Qc5 Qf6 36.Qc1 Qd8 37.Qd1 Rg8 38.Rh4 Qxa5 39.Rxg4 Rf8 40.Qa1 Qb5 41.Kg1 Bg6 42.Rxg6 1-0

Randy Canney - David Wallace, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 a6 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 d6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qc7 9.Re1 Nd7 10.g4 g5 11.Bxg5 h5 12.gxh5 Ngf6 13.Nd5 exd5 14.exd5+ Kd8 15.Nc6+ Bxc6 16.dxc6 Rg8 17.cxd7 Rxg5 18.Qf3 Be7 19.Qxa8+ Kxd7 20.Qf3 d5 21.Rad1 Qd6 22.c4 Bd8 23.cxd5 Bc7 24.h3 Qh2+ 25.Kf1 Nxb5 26.d6 1-0

Jacob Zax - Dimitriy Tarasov, English

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.d4 d6 7.0-0 Re8 8.d5 Nb8 9.b4 a5 10.bxa5 Rxa5 11.e4 Nbd7 12.Rb1 Nc5 13.Nd2 Bg4 14.Qc2 Nfd7 15.Nb3 Ra6 16.Be3 Qa8 17.h3 Bh5 18.Rb2 Nb6 19.Nxc5 dxc5 20.Ne2 Ra4 21.g4 Nxc4 22.Rxb7 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Rxa2 24.Qc4 Rxe2 25.gxh5 Rxg2+ 26.Kxg2 Qxb7 27.d6 Bf6 28.Qe2 Qxe4+ 29.Kh2 cxd6 30.Rg1 h6 0-1

Amarjin Nemezhbayar - Richard Herbst, Bogoinian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 c5 5.e3 b6 6.g3 Bb7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Na6 9.a3 Bxd2 10.Nbxd2 Rc8 11.Rc1 d5 12.Ne5 Nd7 13.f4 f6 14.Nef3 Qe7 15.Re1 e5 16.Qb3 Qf7 17.fxe5 dxc4 18.Qxc4 fxe5 19.Qxf7+ Rxf7 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.dxe5 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Re7 23.Nf3 Nb8 24.Rcd1 Nc6 25.Rd5 h6 26.Red1 Rce8 27.Kf2 Kf8 28.b3 Nxe5 29.Nxe5 Rxe5 30.Rxe5 Rxe5 31.Rd7 Re7 32.Rxe7 Kxe7 33.Ke2 Ke6 34.Kd3 Kd5 35.a4 a6 36.g4 b5 37.a5 g5 38.e4+ Ke5 39.Ke3 c4 40.bxc4 bxc4 41.h3 c3 42.Kd3 c2 43.Kxc2 Kxe4 44.Kc3 Kd5 45.Kb4 Kd4 46.Ka3 Kc5 47.Kb3 Kb5 48.Kc3 Kxa5 49.Kd4 Kb4 50.Ke4 a5 51.Kf5 a4 52.Kg6 a3 53.Kxh6 a2 54.Kxg5 a1 Q and Black won a few moves later. 0-1

## ROUND THREE

Jim Hamblin - Jim Hammersmith, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.exd5 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Nbd7 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.d6 exd6 9.Qe2+ Qe7 10.Qxe7+ Kxe7 11.Bg5 Nb6 12.0-0-0 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 a6 15.Bd3 Be6 16.Kb1 Rac8 17.Nge2 Nfd5 18.Nxd5+ Nxd5 19.a3 f5 20.f4 Ne3 21.Rd2 Rhf8 22.Re1 Nxe2 23.Rg1 Ne3 24.Re1 Nd5 25.Bc2 Kd7 26.Bb3 Nc3+ 27.Nxc3 Bxb3 28.h4 g4 29.Nd1 Bd5 30.Nc3 Bf3 31.h5 Rfe8 32.Rxe8 Rxe8 33.Ka2 Bf6 34.b4 Re3 35.Kb2 Bh1 0-1

Brian Wall - Tyler Hughes, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.Be3 d6 9.Bxa7 Rxa7 10.0-0 Nge7 11.f4 0-0 12.f5 e5 13.c4 a5 14.Kh1 a4 15.N3d2 Nd4 16.Qf2 f6 17.Nc3 Bd7 18.g4 Qa5 19.Rab1 Be8 20.Rg1 g5 21.h4 h6 22.Rg3 Kf7

23.Rh3 Ng8 24.Qh2 Bc6 25.hxg5 fxg5 26.Rxh6 Nxh6 27.Qxh6 Rg8 28.Qxd6 Qd8 29.Qxe5 Re8 30.Qg3 Ra8 31.Kg2 Rh8 32.Rh1 Rxh1 33.Kxh1 a3 34.b4 b6 35.Kg2 Qb8 36.Nd5 Qxg3+ 37.Kxg3 Ra4 38.e5 Bxd5 39.cxd5 Rxb4 40.e6+ Ke7 41.Ne4 Ne2+ 42.Kf3 Rxe4 43.Kxe4 Nf4 44.Bb5 Kd6 45.Bc6 Ke7 46.Kd4 Kd6 47.f6 1-0

Randy Canney - Robert Ramirez, Trompawsky

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 Bf5 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 e6 7.Nc3 Nd7 8.Qf3 c6 9.Nge2 Nb6 10.Bb3 Bd3 11.Nf4 Bc4 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.0-0 f5 14.Qh5 Qf6 15.d5 cxd5 16.Nb5 Rc8 17.Nxa7 Rd8 18.Nb5 Bd6 19.b3 Ne5 20.Nxd6+ Rxd6 21.Rac1 Nc6 22.Rfd1 0-0 23.Qe2 Rfd8 24.Qb5 Qe7 25.Ne2 e5 26.Qd3 Qd7 27.Ng3 Ne7 28.Qc3 Qe6 29.Qb4 R6d7 30.Ne2 Nc6 31.Qd2 Qg6 32.Qc2 h5 33.Qb2 f6 34.Kh1 Rg7 35.Rg1 Kh7 36.b4 h4 37.b5 Na5 38.Qc2 Nc4 39.h3 Nd6 40.Nc3 d4 41.exd4 exd4 42.Nd1 Ne4 43.Qd3 f4 44.Kh2 Rdg8 45.b6 and now 45...Qxg2+ forces mate. 0-1

Garrick Talmage - Jacob Zax, French

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Kd1 Qxc3 11.Rb1 d3 12.Qxd3 Qxe5 13.Bb2 Qf5 14.Qf3 b6 15.Bb5+ Bd7 16.Bxd7+ Nxd7 17.g3 Nc5 18.Rc1 Rc8 19.Qxf5 Nxf5 20.Nf3 Ke7 21.Re1 Ne4 22.Be5 f6 23.Ba1 Rc4 24.h3 Nc3+ 25.Kd2 Rge8 26.g4 Ne4+ 27.Kd1 Nxf2+ 28.Kd2 Ne4+ 29.Kd1 Nfd6 30.Nd4 e5 31.Nf3 Nb5 32.Re3 Nbc3+ 33.Ke1 d4 34.Rd3 Na2 35.Rcd1 Nec3 36.Bxc3 Nxc3 37.R1d2 Ne4 38.Re2 Nc5 39.Rxd4 Rc3 40.Kf2 Rxa3 41.g5 Ne6 42.gxf6+ Kxf6 43.Rde4 Nf4 44.Rd2 Nxb3+ 45.Kg3 Ng5 46.Rd6+ Ke7 47.Rxe5+ Kxd6 48.Rxg5 Rcc3 49.Rf5 a5 0-1

David Twerskoi - Curtis Crockett, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Nf6 6.f3 Bg7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Nc3 Qb6 9.Na4 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qe5 11.Be3 Ng4 12.Nxc6 Nxe3 13.Nxe5 Nxd1 14.Kxd1 Bxe5 15.Kc2 b6 16.Rc1 Ba6 17.Kb1 Rac8 18.Be2 Rfd8 19.g3 e6 20.Rhe1 Rc7 21.b3 Bd4 22.Rcd1 e5 23.Nb2 d6 24.Nd3 Bb7 25.Bf1 f5 26.Bg2 Rf8 27.Rf1 Rcf7 28.Rfe1 g5 29.Bh3 g4 30.fxg4 fxe4 31.Nb4 Bc3 32.Nc2 Bxe1 33.Nxe1 Rd8 34.g5 Rf2 35.b4 Kf7 36.c5 bxc5 37.bxc5 d5 38.Rc1 Bc6 39.Nc2 Rb8+ 40.Ka1 d4 41.a3 d3 42.Nb4 d2 43.Rd1 Ba4 0-1

Dylan Lehti - Amarjin Nemezhbayar, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 Bb4+ 6.c3 Be7 7.Nd6+ Bxd6 8.Qxd6 Qe7 9.Qxe7+ Ngxe7 10.Na3 a6 11.Nc4 0-0 12.Nb6 Rb8 13.Nxc8 Rbxc8 14.Be3 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Bc5 Rfd8 17.Ba3 Nf4 18.Rd1 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1 Na5 20.g3 Ne6 21.b3 Ng5 22.Bg2 b6 23.c4 Nc6 24.Re1 f6 25.h4 Ne6 26.Bd5 Kf7 27.f4 g6 28.Bxc6 Rxc6 29.fxe5 f5 30.Re2 Nc5 31.Bxc5 Rxc5 32.e6+ Ke7 33.Ke1 Rc6 34.Kf2 Rxe6 35.Rxe6+ Kxe6 36.Kf3 Ke5 37.Ke3 a5 38.a3 h6 39.b4 a4 40.Kf3 Kd4 41.c5 bxc5 42.b5 Kd5 43.Ke3 c4 44.b6 Kc6 45.Kd4 Kxb6 46.Kxc4 Ka5 47.Kc5 g5 48.Kd5 f4 49.gxf4 gxf4 50.Ke4 Kb5 51.Kxf4 Kc4 52.Ke3 Kb3 ½-½

**ROUND FOUR**

Jim Hammersmith - Brian Wall, Alekhine

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 exd6  
6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.Nge2 Bf6 9.0-0 Nxd4  
10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Re1+ Be6 12.Nd5 Qh4 13.Qf3  
0-0-0 14.Re4 Qxf2+ 15.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2 Nxd5  
17.cxd5 Bxd5 18.Rd4 Be6 19.Bf4 c5 20.Rc1 b6  
21.Rxd6 Rxd6 22.Bxd6 Rd8 23.Ba6+ Kd7 24.Bf4  
Kc6 25.Be2 Bxa2 26.Ra1 Be6 27.Rxa7 Rd4  
28.Be5 Rh4 29.h3 g6 30.Ra3 Rb4 31.Ra8 h5  
32.Bc3 Rf4+ 33.Kg3 Rf5 34.Bd3 h4+ 35.Kxh4  
Rf2 36.Kg3 1-0

Josh Bloomer - Randy Canney, Dutch

1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 d5 5.0-0 Bd6 6.c4  
c6 7.b3 Qe7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Nbd2 b6 10.Ne5 Bb7  
11.Rc1 a5 12.Nd3 Na6 13.Nf3 Nb4 14.a4 c5  
15.Nfe5 Ne4 16.Nxb4 axb4 17.f3 Nf6 18.cxd5  
exd5 19.e3 Rac8 20.Qd2 Ba6 21.Rfe1 c4 22.Qe2  
Qe6 23.Bf1 c3 24.Qxa6 cxb2 25.Rxc8 Rxc8  
26.Nd3 Re2 27.Qxb6 b1Q 0-1

Robert Ramirez - Jim Hamblin, French

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5  
6.Ngf3 cxd4 7.Nb3 Nc6 8.Nbxd4 Bc5 9.c3 Qb6  
10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 f6 12.exf6 Rxf6 13.Kh1 e5  
14.fxe5 Ndx5 15.Nb3 Be3 16.Nxe5 Bxc1 17.Rxf6  
1-0

Amarjin Nemekhbayar - Dimitriy Tarasov, King's Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.g3 d6  
6.Bg2 Nbd7 7.e4 e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qe2 a5 10.0-0  
Nh5 11.Nh4 Nf4 12.Qd1 Nxc2 13.Kxg2 f5 14.exf5  
gxf5 15.Qh5 f4 16.Kg1 Bh3 17.Rd1 fxc3 18.hxg3  
Qf6 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Rae8 21.Kh2 Bd7 22.Rf1  
Ne4 23.Nxe4 Rxe4 24.b3 Qb2+ 25.Kh1 Re2  
26.Nf3 Be8 27.Qg4 Bg6 28.Nd2 Be4+ 0-1

Richard Herbst - Garrick Talmage, Pirc

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Qd2 0-0  
6.0-0-0 Nbd7 7.Bh6 c5 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.f4 cxd4  
10.Qxd4 Qa5 11.Nf3 Qc5 12.Qd2 a6 13.Bd3 b5  
14.h3 Bb7 15.Rde1 Rae8 16.g4 b4 17.Nd1 a5  
18.Qf2 a4 19.Nd2 Qc7 20.g5 Nh5 21.Rhf1 Nc5  
22.Qe3 Ba6 23.Bc4 b3 24.axb3 axb3 25.cxb3 Rb8  
26.Qc3+ Kg8 27.Bxa6 Nxa6 28.Qxc7 Nxc7  
29.Nc3 Rfc8 30.Kc2 Na6 31.Nc4 Nc5 32.Nd5 Kf8  
33.Re3 Nxb3 34.Rxb3 Rxc4+ 35.Nc3 Rbc8  
36.Kd3 e6 37.Ke3 Ke7 38.Rb7+ R8c7 39.Rxc7+  
Rxc7 40.Kd4 Rb7 41.Rf2 Rb4+ 42.Kd3 Kd7  
43.Ke3 Kc6 44.Rc2 Kb6 45.f5 Kb7 (Just a guess -  
can't read the move.) 46.fxc6 fxc6 ½-½

Curtis Crockett - Dylan Lehti, QGD

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 c6 5.Bg5 Nbd7  
6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Nh5 10.Be5  
Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Nf6 12.c5 Nd7 13.f4 Nxe5 14.fxe5  
f5 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Qh5+ Kd7 17.0-0-0 Kc7  
18.Rdf1 Bd7 19.Qf3 Rf8 20.Rf2 Bg7 21.Qg3+  
Kc8 22.Rxf8 Qxf8 23.Rf1 Qe8 24.h4 e5 25.Ne2  
exd4 26.exd4 Qh8 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.Kb1 Qh4  
29.Qd6 Qh6 30.Qe7 Kc7 31.Rf7 Rd8 32.Rxg7  
Qh1+ 33.Kc2 1-0

**ROUND FIVE**

Josh Bloomer - Robert Ramirez, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6  
6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.0-0  
0 Bd7 11.Kb1 0-0-0 12.Be2 h5 13.Rhf1 Be7  
14.Rf3 Kb8 15.Nxc6+ Bxc6 16.Rd3 h4 17.Bf3  
Qa5 18.Bg4 Rc8 19.Qe1 Rc7 20.Bh3 Rhc8 21.f5  
Qe5 22.Qxh4 Qxh2 23.Rg3 d5 24.fxe6 d4 25.Ne2  
Ba4 26.b3 d3 27.Rgxd3 Qe5 28.Nd4 f5 29.Qg3 f4  
30.Qf3 Bb5 31.c4 Bxc4 32.bxc4 Rxc4 33.exf7  
R8c5 34.Nb3 Re2 35.Rd4 R5c3 36.Qf1 ½-½

Randy Canney - Tyler Hughes, Torre

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d5 5.c3 0-0  
6.e3 Nbd7 7.b4 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Qe8 10.c4  
dxc4 11.Bxc4 e5 12.Re1 Rc8 13.h3 c5 14.bxc5  
bxc5 15.Qb3 Rb8 16.Qa3 e4 17.Nh2 cxd4 18.exd4  
Nd5 19.Qxa7 h6 20.Be3 N7b6 21.Rab1 Qe6  
22.Rec1 Nxc4 23.Nxc4 Qa6 24.Qxa6 Bxa6  
25.Rxb8 Rxb8 26.Ng4 Nxe3 27.Ncxe3 Rd8 28.d5  
f5 29.Rc6 Bd3 30.Rxg6 fxc4 31.Nf5 Rd7 32.Rxg4  
Kh7 33.Nxg7 Rxg7 34.Rxg7+ Kxg7 35.d6 Kf6  
36.Kh2 Ke6 37.Kg3 Bf1 38.Kh2 Kxd6 39.g4 Bb5  
40.Kg3 Ke5 41.h4 Be8 42.a3 Bc6 43.h5 Be8  
44.f4+ Kd4 45.Kf2 Kd3 46.Ke1 Ke3 47.g5 hxg5  
48.h6 gxf4 49.h7 f3 50.h8Q f2+ 51.Kd1 f1Q+  
52.Kc2 Ba4+ 53.Kb2 Qe2+ 54.Ka1 Qd1+ 0-1

Brian Wall - Jim Hamblin, Slav

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Bf5  
6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 Nd5 10.e4  
Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bg6 12.f4 f5 13.Rb1 Rb8 14.e5 b5  
15.Bxc6 bxc4 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.Qa4+ Kc8  
18.Qxc4+ Kd7 19.Qa4+ Kc8 20.Qc6+ Qc7  
21.Qxe6+ Kd8 22.Be3 Rf8 23.d5 Rxb1 24.Rxb1  
Bf7 25.Qa6 Bc5 26.Qd3 Bc8 27.d6 Qc8 28.e6  
Bxe3+ 29.Qxe3 Rf6 30.Qxa7 1-0

**ROUND SIX**

Jim Hammersmith - Randy Canney, Max Lange Attack

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5  
6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bc5 8.Be3 Bd7 9.Bxc6 bxc6  
10.0-0 Bb6 11.Nd2 c5 12.Nxe4 cxd4 13.Bg5 Qc8  
14.Ng3 h6 15.Qh5 Be6 16.a4 Kd7 17.Bd2 a5  
18.Qf3 g6 19.c3 dxc3 20.Bxc3 e5 21.Rfd1 Kc7  
22.Rac1 Kb7 23.Rxd5 Qc6 24.Rd2 Qxf3 25.gxf3  
Rhd8 26.Ne4 Rxd2 27.Bxd2 Rd8 28.Bxh6 Rd4  
29.Be3 Rxa4 30.Bxc5 Ra2 31.Ba3 Bd4 32.Nc5+  
Bxc5 33.Rxc5 Ra1+ 34.Kg2 Kb6 35.Rc3 Rd1  
36.Bc5+ Kb5 37.Be3 a4 38.Rc7 Kb4 39.Rc6 Kb3  
40.Rb6+ Kc2 41.Rb4 Bb3 42.Rd4 Kxb2 43.Rxd1  
Bxd1 44.Bd4+ Kb3 45.Kg3 a3 46.Kf4 a2 47.h4  
Kc4 48.Ba1 Bc2 49.Kg5 Kd3 50.f4 Ke4 51.f5 gxf5  
52.f4 Bd1 53.Bb2 Bg4 54.Ba1 Be2 ½-½

Tyler Hughes - Josh Bloomer, QGA

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Bxc4 Nc6  
6.0-0 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Qb3 Qd7 9.Qxb7 Rb8  
10.Qa6 Nf6 11.e5 Ng4 12.Bf4 Bc5 13.Nbd2 0-0  
14.Bg3 Rf5 15.Rac1 Bb6 16.Qa4 Nxe5 17.Nxe5  
Nxe5 18.Qxd7 Nxd7 19.Bxc7 Bxc7 20.Rxc7 Rxb2  
21.Nc4 Rc2 22.Rxa7 Rd5 23.Ra4 Nc5 24.Ra8+  
Kf7 25.Nb6 Rd6 26.Nc8 Rd7 27.Nb6 Rd6 28.Nc8

Rd7 29.Nb6 Rb7 30.Na4 Ne4 31.f3 Nc3 32.Nxc3  
dxc3 33.Rc8 Rbb2 34.Ra1 Rxc2+ 35.Kh1 Rxh2+  
36.Kg1 c2 37.Rc1 Rd2 0-1

Robert Ramirez - Brian Wall, Center Counter

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.h3 c6  
6.Nf3 Bf5 7.Bc4 e6 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.Qe2 b5 10.Bd3  
Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Nd5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.0-0 Rb8  
14.Bh4 Qc7 15.Ng5 Nf6 16.Rae1 Bd6 17.Nxe6  
fxe6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Rxe6+ Kd7 20.Qf5 Kc6  
21.Rfe1 Rbd8 22.R1e3 b4 23.a3 a5 24.axb4 axb4  
25.b3 Qa5 26.Qxf6 Rhe8 27.g3 Rxe6 28.Rxe6 Rd7  
29.Re8 Qa1+ 30.Kg2 Qd1 31.Rc8+ Kb7 32.Qh8  
Rf7 33.f4 Re7 34.h4 h5 35.Re8 Qe2+ 0-1

Dimitriy Tarasov - David Twerskoi, Sicilian

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6  
6.Bc4 g6 7.f3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 a6 10.0-0-0  
Qc7 11.Bb3 b5 12.g4 Bd7 13.h4 h5 14.g5 Ne8  
15.f4 e6 16.Rdf1 b4 17.Nce2 a5 18.Nb5 Qb8  
19.Bc4 Ne7 20.Nbd4 Qc8 21.Bd3 Rb8 22.f5 exf5  
23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Ng3 a4 26.Kb1 b3  
27.cxb3 axb3 28.a3 Nc7 29.Nxh5 Bh8 30.Nf6+  
Kg7 31.Rc1 Qd8 32.h5 1-0

**ROUND SEVEN**

Tyler Hughes - Robert Ramirez, Kevitz-Trajkovic

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.d5 Ne7 5.h4 Neg8  
6.a3 a5 7.Nf3 Ng4 8.Qc2 d6 9.e4 N8h6 10.Bd3  
Be7 11.Ng5 c6 12.f3 Nf6 13.Be3 Nh5 14.Ne2  
cxd5 15.cxd5 Nf6 16.0-0 0-0 17.b4 Ne8 18.bxa5 f5  
19.Bb6 Qd7 20.Ne6 Rf7 21.Rab1 Bxh4 22.Bb5  
Qe7 23.Bd8 Qxd8 24.Nxd8 Rc7 25.Qd3 Nf6  
26.Ne6 Bxe6 27.dxe6 Rd8 28.Rfc1 Re7 29.exf5 d5  
30.Bd7 Nxd7 31.Qxd5 1-0

Randy Canney - Jim Hamblin, Four Knights

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Nxe5  
Qe7 6.f4 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d6 8.Nf3 Qxe4+ 9.Kf2  
Ng4+ 10.Kg1 Kd8 11.d4 Bf5 12.Ng5 Qe8 13.h3  
Nh6 14.c4 Bd7 15.Nc3 Nf5 16.Kf2 f6 17.Nf3 h5  
18.g4 hxg4 19.hxg4 Rxh1 20.Qxh1 Nh6 21.g5  
Ng4+ 22.Kg3 c6 23.Bd2 Kc7 24.d5 Qg6 25.dxc6  
bxc6 26.Rc1 Re8 27.Qg1 Kb8 28.b4 Be7 29.b5  
Bd8 30.bxc6 Bxc6 31.Rb1+ Ka8 32.Qd4 f5  
33.Nd5 Rh8 34.Qb2 1-0

Jacob Zax - Amarjin Nemekhbayar, QGD

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d4 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Nf3 h6  
6.Bh4 0-0 7.Qc2 b6 8.e4 Nxe4 9.Bxe7 Qxe7  
10.Nxe4 cxd5 11.Qxe4 Qb4+ 12.Nd2 c6 13.b3  
Rd8 14.Rc1 f5 15.Qe3 Na6 16.Be2 Qd6 17.Nf3 c5  
18.dxc5 Qxc5 19.Qxc5 Nxc5 20.0-0 Bb7 21.Rcd1  
Ne4 22.Nd4 Nc3 23.Rc1 Nxa2 24.Ra1 Nc3  
25.Rac1 Rxd4 26.Rxc3 Rad8 27.Re3 Kf7 28.Re1  
Rd2 29.Bh5+ Kg8 30.Rxe6 Rb2 31.Bg6 Rf8  
32.Re7 Bc6 33.f3 Rf6 34.R7e6 Rxe6 35.Rxe6  
Rb1+ 36.Kf2 Rb2+ 37.Kg3 Bd7 38.Rd6 f4+  
39.Kxf4 Rxc2 40.Rxd7 Rxg6 41.Rxa7 Rf6+  
42.Ke4 Kh7 43.Ra6 Kg6 44.e5 Re6+ 45.Kd5 Kf5  
46.Rxb6 Re2 47.Rb4 Rxh2 48.c6 Rd2+ 49.Kc5 1-0

by Lee Lahti

## The Border War: Ft. Collins vs. Cheyenne

About 18 months ago, Brian Wall had an article thread on his mailing list with the subject "Which is the Best Chess Club in Colorado". In it, the idea of team matches between some of the clubs was discussed. I really liked the idea. It seemed like a good follow-up to the Team tournament the Fred Reinfeld Foundation had put on a few months earlier. The idea as it was being described in the thread was for the team matches to include the Denver, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins chess clubs but I was hoping it would be expanded to include others. Unfortunately nothing ever came of it at that time.

In December 2005 a few of us from Fort Collins attended the Cheyenne Holiday Quick Chess tournament. While there, I mentioned the idea to Allan Cunningham and Bryan Walker that we needed to have some type of inter-club match between the Cheyenne and Fort Collins chess clubs. They both thought the idea sounded good, and so we eventually issued a challenge to the Cheyenne chess club for a team match the first week in March.

When we started discussing potential team members, both clubs had enough interest for two teams of four players each. But, as we got closer to the match dates each club only had 6 players that could play both nights. So rather than having two alternates not being able to participate we changed the match to teams of 6. We chose to still play a round-robin against all players from the other club so to accommodate the increase in team size, the time control was 25 minutes plus a 5 second delay and we would play 3 rounds per night.

Here were the finalized team rosters:

Board	Fort Collins	Cheyenne
1	Frank Deming (1767)	Don Larson (1515)
2	Dean Mitchell (1649)	Allan Cunningham(1435)
3	Randy Reynolds (1570)	Tony Laird (1364)
4	Bryan Bean (1385)	Rick Darnell (1179)
5	Lee Lahti (1282)	Alex Mc Mahon (882)
6	Ken Johnson (705)	Kendel Crose (814)
	Average - 1393	Average: 1198

March 2<sup>nd</sup> finally arrived and the 6 players representing Fort Collins made the drive up to Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne for rounds 1-3. When we were ready to start the 1st round, Kendal Crose (the board 6 player for Cheyenne) had not arrived yet but there were a couple of other Cheyenne players available to participate. So Cheyenne substituted in James Kulbacki, rated 1880. That's kind of like substituting sulfuric acid for Tabasco sauce, but it increased Cheyenne's rating to 1375, so we let it slide.

(For individual round pairings, see the crosstable below. See selected match games on page 20.)

**Round 1** -- In the first round, most of the games went Fort Collins' way.

Alex was playing quickly against me, and the game was even. Alex had 18 minutes to my 3 and we each had king, knight and three pawns remaining – Alex with a passed pawn on the queenside and myself with three pawns to two on the kingside. I blundered my knight away but decided to press on. [Ed. note: See article "The Day 1300's Ruled the Earth" on page 12 for another example of Lee's... persistence.] Alex blocked 1 of my remaining pawns with his sole kingside pawn. If I moved my other pawn, the Knight would capture it. Alex kept advanc-

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Post	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Randy S Reynolds	12842017	1570	1592	FTC	W12	W14	W5	U---	W15	W11	5.0
2	Anthony R Laird	12399238	1364	1392	CHEY	L3	W7	L6	W16	W4	W8	4.0
3	Frank A Deming	10267811	1767	1753	FTC	W2	W11	L9	L5	W10	W12	4.0
4	Lee Lahti	12914550	1282	1301	FTC	D11	W12	W14	W15	L2	D5	4.0
5	Allan Cunningham	11132570	1435	1455	CHEY	L6	W8	L1	W3	W7	D4	3.5
6	Dean H Mitchell	10504694	1649	1680	FTC	W5	W9	W2	U---	U---	U---	3.0
7	Ken Johnson	12962213	705	836	FTC	W14	L2	D12	L11	L5	W15	2.5
8	Bryan C Bean	12535369	1385	1369	FTC	L9	L5	W11	L10	W12	L2	2.0
9	James E Kulbacki	10287863	1880	1873	CHEY	W8	L6	W3	U---	U---	U---	2.0
10	Shawn L Svare	12707940	1648	1645	CHEY	U---	U---	U---	W8	L3	W13	2.0
11	Alex E Mc Mahon	13193875	882	909	CHEY	D4	L3	L8	W7	L13	L1	1.5
12	Donald W Larson	12670707	1515	1443	CHEY	L1	L4	D7	W13	L8	L3	1.5
13	Cory E Foster	12928613	1138	1139	FTC	U---	U---	U---	L12	W11	L10	1.0
14	Richard Darnell	12878048	1179	1129	CHEY	L7	L1	L4	U---	U---	U---	0.0
15	Kendel Boy Crose	12670706	814	789	CHEY	U---	U---	U---	L4	L1	L7	0.0
16	Carl J Herrmann	12954873	987	983	FTC	U---	U---	U---	L2	U---	U---	0.0

ing the queenside pawn with his King for support, forcing my King to back up to the first rank. I finally had nothing else to move except to push my pawn. Alex, without even thinking about it, grabbed the pawn with his Knight. However, by taking the pawn he put me in stalemate, so the game was a draw. But to add insult to injury, if he had ignored the pawn and brought his Knight in to attack my King it was mate! A swindle worthy of Paul Grimm!

But the first round's biggest surprise was Ken Johnson beating Rick Darnell in a 474 point upset! With that win and my lucky draw, the first round was 4.5-1.5 in favor of Fort Collins instead of tied at 3-3.

**Round 2** -- To start the second round Allan beat Bryan, and Randy beat Rick. By the midpoint of the time control Frank had beaten Alex, and Ken lost to Tony so each team had 2 points so far this round. Dean was facing James and I was playing Don, both of them 230 points higher than us. Statistically, Cheyenne should have won this round 4-2 and narrowed the lead in the match to 6.5-5.5. I caught a break as Don dropped a Bishop as he was beginning to get into time pressure, then immediately resigned. Dean probably played the best game of the tournament so far and ground out a win against James. So Fort Collins actually won Round 2 4-2 and took the lead 8.5-3.5 at this point.

Allan: "What's the final match score for tonight?"

Lee: "13 to 5."

Allan: "Wow, we really beat up on you guys, didn't we?"

**Round 3** -- Round 3 saw some interesting matchups. I pulled off a quick win against Rick Darnell when he lost his queen just 12 moves into the game while trying to stop my early attack on his King. Bryan shortly thereafter picked up his first point of the night with a nice win over Alex. Randy's was next to end in a game filled with mate threats for both sides. Allan brought about a quick end to their game by opening his King's position to a mate in 2 which Randy saw. Ken pulled off another huge upset by playing even with Don, getting into a King, 3 pawns, and opposite colored bishop end game and holding on for the draw - a 405 draw upset. Dean ground down a win against Tony after dropping a Bishop early in the game. James pulled out the only win for Cheyenne in Round 3 by defeating Frank. So Fort Collins finished this round the same as the first: 4.5-1.5, and was now holding a commanding 13-5 lead in the match.

Quote of the night:

Allan: So what's the final match score for tonight?

Lee: 13 to 5.

Allan: Wow, we really beat up on you guys, didn't we?

When the Cheyenne team came down to Fort Collins on March 7<sup>th</sup>, we needed to make a few substitutions for members who could not attend. For Cheyenne, Kendel Crose resumed his place over Cheyenne's first week substitute James Kulbacki and Shaun Svare, who recently moved to Wyoming, took over for Rick Darnell. For Fort Collins, Cory Foster



Row 1 (left to right): Bryan Bean, Kendel Crose, Lee Lahti. Row 2 (left to right): Allan Cunningham, Frank Deming, and a blurry individual battle for chess club supremacy. Photo by Randy Reynolds.

took over for a sick Dean Mitchell. With these substitutions, the team averages for rounds 4-6 were 1276 for Cheyenne and 1308 for Fort Collins – very even, anything could happen.

**Round 4** -- We had to make an additional substitution for round 4 when Randy was running late. [Ed. note: Uh..The dog ate my chessboard. Seriously!] So instead, Carl Herrmann (987) played against Tony, a tough spot to be put in - playing someone nearly 400 points higher than you. In this round, the Cheyenne club played very well to prove

they were not going to be pushed over. Allan pulled off the biggest upset for the Cheyenne team so far by defeating Frank. Kendel and I played a very error-prone game. The saying "He who makes the last blunder loses" was quite true in our game. I was able to survive the blunderfest and win the lone game for Fort Collins.

As Cheyenne won this round 5-1, things just got a lot closer (14-10).

**Round 5** -- Randy had arrived about 5 minutes after the start of round 4, so he was available to resume his position in round 5 - which was good since Carl had to leave. This round also started in Cheyenne's favor, winning 2 of the first 3 matches. The game between Bryan and Don looked like it was nearly over at this point as well, with Don holding on in a drawn K-P vs K endgame. But Don gave up the opposition and let Bryan promote and win, instead of the expected draw. Now there were still 2 games going on - Shaun vs Frank and Randy vs Kendel. Shaun and Frank played a very even match. And Kendel overcame his first round blunderfest to play Randy nearly even - being only a pawn down with lots of material on the board despite the rating difference. With two wins here, Cheyenne would close the match results to 16-14. However both games were won by Fort Collins on time. So after winning round 5 4-2, Fort Collins was now leading 18-12 in the team results. Getting to 18 points in the team results with one round to spare meant we could not lose the match, only drawing with a perfect 6-0 performance from Cheyenne in the last round.

**Round 6** -- Two games ended pretty quickly in this round in Cheyenne's favor. Allan & I were playing a very even game. I considered offering a draw to Allan more than once and in a normal game, I felt Allan would probably take a draw offer but it was doubtful in this case. If the positions were reversed and I knew that taking a draw would eliminate the slim chances my team still had in a team match, I would not take the offer. So we battled on. Allan had K+B+4 pawns to my K+N+4 pawns with only 3 minutes for each of us, when I made the first mistake of the game - getting my knight pinned by Allan's bishop. But I was able to pull off my second swindle of the match - getting Allan to put me in stalemate with 25 seconds on my clock as he pushed a passed pawn toward promotion. With the 1/2 point from my game, Fort Collins had won the match regardless of the outcome of the other games. It turned out that the Fort Collins players had won the other 3 matches, so the Fort Collins Chess Club had won round 6 3.5-2.5 and had won the inaugural Cheyenne-Fort Collins Team Challenge with a final score of 21.5-14.5.

From the post-match discussions, everyone sounds like they had a good time with this event. We will be issuing other challenges in the future but also let it be known - the Fort Collins chess club is ready to accept any challenges that come its way!

# Selected Games from the Fort Collins/Cheyenne Team Match

**W: Kulbacki, James (1880)**

**B: Mitchell, Dean (1649) [D06]**

Fort Collins/Cheyenne Match Fort Collins (2),  
March 2, 2006

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bc4 c6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bf4 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 11.Qc2 h6 12.e5 Nh5 13.Be3 Bg5 14.Ne4 f6 15.exf6 gxf6 16.Nc5 Qe7 17.Qb3 Ng7 18.h4 Bxe3 19.fxe3 Na6 20.Rac1 Nxc5 21.Rxc5 Kh8 22.Rfc1 Rg8 23.Kh1 Nf5 24.Bxf5 exf5 25.Rxf5 Qg7 26.Qc2 Rae8 27.Re1 c5 28.dxc5 Be4 29.Qe2 Bxf5 30.Nd4 Be4 31.Rg1 Re7 32.Nxb5 a6 33.Nd6 0-1

**W: Johnson, Ken (730)**

**B: Darnell, Rick (1155) [B09]**

Fort Collins/Cheyenne Team Match Fort Collins (1), March 2, 2006

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Qe2 c5 7.e5 Ne8 8.Be3 Qb6 9.0-0-0 Be6 10.Kb1 Qa6 11.Qd2 Bc4 12.f5 Nc7 13.Bxc4 Qxc4 14.Bh6 Bxh6 15.Qxh6 f6 16.fxg6 hxg6 17.h4 Nd5 18.Nxd5 Qxd5 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.h5 Rg8 21.Qh6# 1-0

**W: Lahti, Lee (1320)**

**B: Cunningham, Allan (1423)**

**[D34]**

Fort Collins/Cheyenne Match Fort Collins (6),  
March 7, 2006

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.g3 c5 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d4 0-0 9.Bg5 cxd4 10.Nxd4 h6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qc2 Be6 14.b3 Qa5 15.Rac1 Rfc8 16.Na4 Be7 17.Rfd1 Ba3 18.Rb1 Rab8 19.e4 g6 20.Qd2 Qxd2 21.Rxd2 dxe4 22.Bxe4 c5 23.Nc3 c4 24.Bd5 Bxd5 25.Nxd5 Kf8 26.Rc2 cxb3 27.Rxc8+ Rxc8 28.Rxb3 Bd6 29.Nc3 Be5 30.Nb5 a6 31.Na3 Rc3 32.Rxc3 Bxc3 33.f3 a5 34.Nb5 Bb4 35.h3 1/2-1/2

**W: Mitchell, Dean (1649)**

**B: Laird, Tony (1364) [E94]**

Fort Collins/Cheyenne Match Fort Collins (3),  
March 2, 2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qc2 a5 10.Be3 b6 11.Nd2 Ng4 12.Bxg4 Bxg4 13.f3 Bc8 14.f4 f5 15.fxe5 Bxe5 16.Bh6 Qh4 17.Nf3 Qxh6 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Qe2 Qg7 21.Rad1 Rad8 22.Qe3 Rd7 23.a3 Nb7 24.Nb5 Nd6 25.Nxd6 Rxd6 26.Rfe1 e4 27.b4 axb4 28.axb4 Rdd8 29.h3 h5 30.Rd2 Rf6 31.c5 bxc5 32.bxc5 Qf7 33.Red1 Qe7 34.Rb1 Qf7 35.Rbd1 Rf8 36.Ra1 h4 37.Ra7 Bc8 38.d6 cxd6 39.Rxf7 R6xf7 40.cxd6 Bb7 41.d7 1-0

**W: Deming, Frank (1790)**

**B: Kulbacki, Jim (1880) [C40]**

Fort Collins/Cheyenne Match Fort Collins (3),  
March 2, 2006

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bc4 b5 4.Bb3 d6 5.exf5 Bxf5 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d3 Nc6 8.a3 Qd7 9.Nc3 a6 10.h3 Be7 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Be6 13.Bxe6 Qxe6 14.Bg5 0-0 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qe2 Rae8 17.Qe4 Nd8 18.Rae1 Ne6 19.g3 Qf7 20.Kg2 Nc5 21.Qe2 e4 22.Ng5

**W: Reynolds, Randy (1570)**

**B: Crose, Kendel (870) [B00]**

Ft. Collins/Cheyenne Team Match Fort Collins (5), March 7, 2006

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.d5 Nce7 4.Nf3 Ng6 5.c4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 a5 7.Qb3 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 a4 9.Qc3 Nf6 10.Nxe5 d6 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.Be2 Qe7 13.f3 g5 14.0-0-0 Bd7 15.Qb4 b6 16.h3 c5 17.Qc3? Kf8 18.Qe3 Nh5 19.g4? Ng3 20.Rh2 Nxe2+ 21.Qxe2 Qe5 22.Nf1 Qf4+ 23.Kb1 Ra5 24.Qe3 Qe5 25.Qc3 Qxc3 26.bxc3 b5 27.cxb5 Bxb5 28.Ne3 g6 29.Rdh1 Bd3+ 30.Ka1 a3 31.Rd1 Bb5 32.Rb1 1-0

**W: Cunningham, Allan (1423)**

**B: Deming, Frank (1790) [B52]**

Fort Collins/Cheyenne Match Fort Collins (4),  
March 7, 2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.c4 Ngf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.d4 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 cxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.b3 Rc8 12.Qd2 Qa5 13.f3 b5 14.Nd5 Qd8 15.Rac1 Nxd5 16.cxd5 Ne5 17.f4 Ng4 18.Nc6 Qd7 19.Bd4 e5 20.Bb2 exf4 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Qxf4 f6 23.h3 Ne5 24.Nxe5 fxe5 25.Qe3 Rxf1+ 26.Rxf1 Rc2 27.Rf2 Qc7 28.Kh2 Rxf2 29.Qxf2 Qf7 30.Qxf7+ Kxf7 31.Kg3 Kf6 32.h4 g5 Fritz screams out 33. h5 here, but this is where recording of moves stopped 1-0



## Tactics Time! -- Call for Submissions

The Tactics Time column is taking a brief sabbatical but will return soon. Do you have a recent Colorado game with an interesting tactic? Please send it to [randy\\_teyana@msn.com](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com) -- it can be anything from a one move trick to something that takes many computers working around the clock to figure out!



by Brian Wall

# The Perfect Game

I stayed with Josh Bloomer during the 2005 Winter Springs Open. We were both surprised when we analyzed his game with Arthur Glassman: practically every move was either played by a Grandmaster in the opening or confirmed as best by Fritz 8.

2005 Winter Springs Open

**W: Josh Bloomer (2193)**

**B: Arthur Glassman (1910)**

**1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5** Chess confuses me. If the goal is ... c6 and ... Qc7, a safe hideout, what makes 3 ... Qa5 any better than 3 ... Qd8, ... Qd6 or ... Qe5+? Same tempi.

**4. d4 c6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Bc4 Bf5 7. Bd2 e6 8. Nd5** as far as I can tell, first played in Denmark 1980 by Markus Trepp versus Morten Andersen The idea is to force the Black Queen all the way back to d8.

**8 ... Qd8 9. Nxf6+ gxf6 9 ... Q:f6** should be OK - played 364 times by Westerinen, Patrick Wolff, Etienne Bacrot, Vinay Bhat, Josh Waitzkin, Eva Repkova and others.

9 ... gf has been played 419 times by Fressinet, Stefanova, Horvath, Nisipeanu, Pierre Munster and others.

Eric Prie has played 9 ... Q:f6 15 times since 1993.

**10. Bb3 Nd7 11. Qe2 Be7 12. O-O-O Qc7 13. Rhe1 O-O-O** Reached twice before.

**14. Nh4** technically a Theoretical Novelty by Josh Bloomer but you can see he is following the same plan as Marijana Savic versus Irina Brandis Ionescu in the 2004 Bucharest Women's tournament.

In that game Marijana played 8 Ne4 instead of 8 Nd5 so Irina saved a tempo with 8 ... Qc7 instead of being forced back to d8. Despite that glitch Josh was able to adapt, adopt and improve Marijana's middle game plan. Game given below.

**14 ... Bg6! 15. g3!** Protecting the h4-knight and supporting Bf4

**15 ... f5** Creating a Swiss Cheese Factory.

**16. Bf4! Bd6** Trading off the only night watch-

man of the Swiss Cheese Factory.

**17. Ng2!** Letting the g6 bishop rot in hell.

" Do not disturb stupid pieces. " - Najdorf

**17 ... Rhe8 18. h4!** Throwing pebbles at the blind, caged bird on g6.

**18 ... Bxf4+ 19. Nxf4!** It is hard to say which is more defenseless: Glassman's dark squares, light squares or remaining bishop.

Arthur wore a T-shirt that said something like, "My best days were yesterday."

**19 ... e5** Desperation time - 19 ... h6 or ... h5 are easily defeated by multiple approaches:

19 ... h5 20 c3, N:g6, N:h5 and B:e6 all win.  
19 ... h6 20 B:e6, N:g6, Qd2 and Qe3 all win

**20. dxe5! Rxe5! 21. Qf3! h5! 22. Nxe5!** Free pawn, solid position

**22 ... Rxe1! 23. Rxe1! Ne5! 24. Qe2! Ng4 25. Nf4! Nf6 26. Nxe6!** 26 h5! Nh7 27 Qe7! is another good approach, among many others.

**26 ... fxe6! 27. Qe6+! Qd7! 28. Rd1! Qxe6! 29. Bxe6+! Kc7 30. Rxd8!** 30 Bf7! is good too.

**30 ... Kxd8! 31. Bf7! 1-0**

A near perfect game - only moves 26 and 30 were second best by a hair when the game was completely won already.

I took a nap and had a dream while I was writing this about a Chess book devoted to second best moves.

-----  
I was visiting Camp Bayless last night and when I logged onto ICC Josh said - Check out my last game, another brilliancy in the same line.

3 minute game

**W: Josh Bloomer (2232 ICC)**

**B: BlueBishop (2235 ICC)**

ICC game, April 5, 2006

**1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 Nf6 5. Nf3 Bf5 6. Bc4 e6 7. Bd2 c6 8. Nd5 Qd8 9. Nxf6+ gxf6 10. Bb3 Qc7 11. Qe2 Be7 12. O-O-O Nd7 13. Rhe1 O-O-O 14. Nh4 Bg6 15. g3 Bd6!** Better than Glassman's 15 ... f5 but still better for Josh. Josh took 15 seconds for

15 moves.

**16. Kb1! a6 17. Ka1** To escape the glare of the g6-bishop

**17 ... F5** Must be the Glassman/turtle/ostrich archetype revealing itself.

**18. c4** Fritz loves the old plan of 18 Ng2! and 19 Bf4

**18 ... Be7! 19. Bf4** Going back to the idea of trading off the dark-square defender

**19 ... Bd6 20. Bg5** Going away from the idea of trading off the dark-square defender

**20 ... Rde8 21. c5! Be7! 22. Bf4!** Instead of going for the trade Josh grabs the critical diagonal leading to BlueBishop's King.

**22 ... Qd8 23. Nf3** Fritz prefers the route 23 Ng2, 23 Be5 and 24 Nf4

**23 ... Bh5!** That's why.

**24. Bc4 Bxf3** BlueBishop attains the main goal of the Caro-Kann structure - trading off the light-squared bishop. His position is still much worse.

**25. Qxf3! Nf6 26. Bxa6** 9 seconds

based on 26 B:a6 ba 27 Q:c6+ Qc7 28 Q:c7 checkmate. Only 26 R:e6!!! works better.

**26 ... Nd5 27. Bxb7+!!!** 26 seconds

**27 ... Kxb7 28. Qb3+!!** 1 second

**28 ... Kc8**

if 28 ... Ka6 29 Rd3 wins

if 28 ... Ka7-8 29 Qa3-4+ Kb7 30 Rd3 wins

**29. Qb8+!** 4 seconds

**29 ... Kd7 30. Qb7+!** 1 second

**30 ... Nc7 31. d5!!** 5 seconds

**31 ... exd5 32. Rxd5+!!** 1 second; mate next

**32 ... cxd5 33. c6# 1-0**

A brutal but aesthetic finale. ♔

Throughout chess, many ideas on chess strategy and openings have been invented, disproved, revitalized, again disproved through rigorous GM analysis, brought back again, and then finally included in a Silman or Nunn book. But there is only one chess idea that has been around since the dawn of the game, the question that will forever bedevil those who learn the moves, the pre-eminent query of queries in chess:

# Which Way should the Knights point?

Comprehensive Analysis by Randy S. Reynolds

I offer here a brief analysis of the seven most common styles of knight positioning in an attempt to demystify this riddle and give guidelines on which way the knights should be pointing. Obviously, every situation is different, and improperly facing knights can easily send a won game into a losing spiral, and it is well known that knights faced properly can salvage even the most hopeless game through sheer psychological impact. The decision is yours, but knowing the general ideas behind the knight orientations will still help immensely. And thus, here are the seven positions:

## 1. Straight ahead

This is the standard, classical pose for the knights – blindly staring ahead, as if they were zombies or something. No character, no ambition, just staring ahead, checking out their counterparts in the initial position. This is the recommended positioning for players who still play the same e4 opening they used since they were taught the game at 7, and especially those who get aggravated when anything other than e5 comes as the response. These are the people who go into Starbucks just to order a regular black cup of coffee. A conventional choice, of course. Nothing will necessarily go awry on your game, but don't expect anything to fall in your favor, either. GM Larry Evans revealed in his May 2006 Chess Life column (page 27) that he prefers to have knights pointing straight ahead. (Figures...) Anyway, if you do this, at least consider some of the alternatives below – if you dare!

## 2. Towards the opponent king

The whole intent in chess is to take down the opponent's king. There's no secret, no

mystery in this. So why not keep those knights constantly focused on your opponent's king, watching his every move? Seems like a great way to psyche out the enemy king, with two knights staring him down, like a couple of devoted hitmen. If I were the enemy king, I know I'd strongly consider giving my opponent the bishop pair or even going down the exchange just to get those eyes off of me. Here's a tip: For extra flair, use "j'adoube" whenever the opponent's king moves and change the angle of the knights to match the king's new position. Your opponent's king's poise will never be the same again!

## 3. Away from your opponent

Ah, somehow this one has become the "thumbing your nose" of chess. It can also stand in as a handy substitute for any other obscene gesture you'd like to silently communicate to your foe. The history on this knight positioning is obscure at best, but it's been rediscovered from time to time, most recently from Colorado swindler Paul Grimm, who saw it played by Paul Anderson against him in a game (*Colorado Chess Informant*, April 2004, page 13). This stance has a bonus side-effect of allowing the horses to constantly gaze at your intellectual prowess throughout the game. But beware: presenting the posteriors to your opponent is akin to waving a red cape, and most opponents will fight

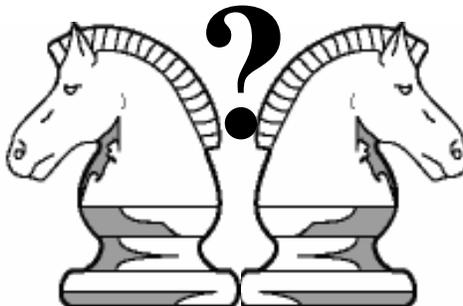
you with reckless (and often brilliant) abandon as if they are already a piece down. NOT recommended.

## 4. Towards each other

Staring into each other's eyes, the two knights in this structure somehow become emotionally bonded to each other, like some bizarre, chess version of Brokeback Mountain. Er...uh...or something like that. Anywho, the two knights staring back at each other has always been considered as one of the stronger positionings for knights, and many grandmasters make sure their knights always start their game with that bond intact. But remember to always have a backup position, for almost inevitably one of the pair will eventually be traded off, and when that happens, chaos will ensue if the remaining horse is left to stare aimlessly. Above all, NEVER LET A KNIGHT STARE AIMLESSLY!!

## 5. Away from each other

This is the obvious converse of the previous position. Concocted back in the 70's era of Starsky and Hutch and revitalized in later decades around shows like Miami Vice and even Pulp Fiction, this is the "cool" stance for the knights. This is the "I got your back" stance, obviously popularized by all the buddy cop shows and movies. Although the knights lack the bond as explained in the previous stance, they often will make up for this in trust, the attribute where I know my partner has got my back, so I'm just gonna act all cool and do my job over here. Try to wear a pair of sunglasses if you play this way. Once again, don't let a sole knight stare aimlessly, so come up with another formation when the partner knight is captured (but captured in a really cool way!).



### 6. Towards your intended threat

This takes a real chess player to master. This flamboyant stance for the horse says, "Hey, look at me, I'm about to fork your king and rook on c7, and I don't really care if you discover that, because I'm so good, I'll beat you even if you defend the threat." The positioning is always worthwhile when there's a discovered attack uncovered by the move, in hopes of drawing attention away from the real threat (see stance 7 for more on this). Very aggressive stance; not for the faint of heart.

### 7. Away from the intended threat

Come on, admit it. Every time you've got some great fork (or even any tactic) set up, you'll typically turn your focus to some other area of the board, staring at even a locked up queenside, just hoping you'll lead your opponent to focus their attention there and miss your precious tactic. It never works, and your opponent always seems to find the best defense, but you do it anyway. So why should your knight be any different from you? Face them to look at some other part of the board, and even if your opponent isn't buying your bluff, perhaps he'll follow your knight's line of sight and completely miss the tactic staring you, your knight, and all observers right in the face!

So, there you have it; the seven stances of knights and the basic analysis of each of them. I hope this has been an informative and insightful look into this most important aspect of chess. Please join me next time for my latest article: The King's Cross: Should you break/cut it off if you don't believe in that kind of thing? ♞



An example of positioning 4 for the knights.

## Fishing for ICC Handles

by Brian Wall

One time I went to Zack Malone's house (redheaded chess and baseball Colorado Springs kid) and he asked his mom, "What took you so long shopping?"

Laurie Malone replied, "Well, your sister Liesl and I took half an hour to decide what mouthwash was the right color to match the shower curtains."

12 year old Zack did a cocker spaniel impression as he tilted his head, lifted one ear and just sort of stared into space.

One time Renae Delaware told me she argued for hours with her sister about what kind of shower curtains to buy. I didn't think anything of it until I bought Renae a digital clock and an ICC membership for Christmas 2005. 5 months later I asked her why she hadn't signed up yet.

Renae: I haven't thought of the right handle yet.

I have to admit when she did choose a handle, it was perfect - ClassiGal, because she plays the violin, attends symphonies and mostly listens to classical music at home. Also because she handles all situations that don't involve mice or loud noises with poise and aplomb way beyond her years.

Let's watch ClassiGal in this classic fishing pole game:

**W: Renae Delaware (1387 ICC)**  
**B: Lerik (1438 ICC) [C03]**

Internet Chess Club, May 29, 2006

**1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Nxf6+ Qxf6 6. Nf3 c5 7. d5** Theoretical Novelty, Renae Delaware

For some odd reason 7 dc is the only move played in the database but 7 Bg5 gaining a tempo is clearly best. Renae employs the bypass, not a bad move. If Renae has one consistent opening prefer-

ence it is a desire for an open game with a sac-sac-mate finish.

**7 ... Bd6 8. dxe6 Qxe6+! 9. Be3 O-O! 10. Ng5!!** It's never too early or late to start a Fishing Pole attack. Lerik lasts 8 moves.

**10 ... Qe5! 11. Qh5!!** Of course there are normal equal moves like 11 Bd3, Qd3 or c3 but the Fishing Pole is more than an opening - it's a way of life. It's just a jigsaw puzzle - Knight to King Knight's five, Pawn to King's Rook four, Bishop to Queen's Bishop four, Queen to King's rook five - checkmate!

**11 ... h6! 12. h4!!** (see diagram)



12 Bd3 is the normal move but ClassiGal is on automatic pilot.

**12 ... Nc6 13. O-O-O!!** I call this Plan B in the Fishing Pole if the first wave hasn't won yet. The King often ends up on King's Bishop one so it's a lucky treat if you get to castle.

**13 ... f6 14. Bc4+!!** It's over.

**14 ... Kh8 15. Qg6** As always, the main difficulty in the Fishing Pole is not a counterattack from your opponent but which win to choose from. 15 Nf7+!!, Rd5!, Qg6!, Rhe1! and Rxd6 all win.

**15 ... fxe5 16. hxe5!! Ne7 17. Rxe6+!!** sacking a rook to checkmate next move.

**17 ... gxe6 1-0**

# Colorado Chess Festival -- 1st Weekend

<b>Tour Weekender Open</b>				<b>(25-26 Mar 2006)</b>				
#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Robb, Morgan T	12635085	1866	W5	W14	W3	W2	4.0
2	Dasgupta, Samik	12915636	1917	W16	W15	W4	L1	3.0
3	Zupa, Daoud G	12407991	1938	W21	W13	L1	W7	3.0
4	Stoneking, Jason M	12605208	1617	W10	W6	L2	W9	3.0
5	Splichal, LaMoynes	10329515	1600	L1	W21	D6	W14	2.5
6	Kulbacki, James E	10287863	1880	W9	L4	D5	W11	2.5
7	Pineda, Andrew	12599124	1690	D18	W12	W8	L3	2.5
8	Tsend-Ajush, Batmunkh	13239632	Unr	W19	H	L7	W13	2.5
9	Doykos, Ted K	12724380	1667	L6	W10	W18	L4	2.0
10	Carson, Anthea J	12614322	1669	L4	L9	W17	W18	2.0
11	Fisher, Timothy M	12470788	1565	L13	W19	W15	L6	2.0
12	Sotaridona, Leonardo	12938967	1807	H	L7	H	X19	2.0
13	Grimm, Paul M	12461913	1721	W11	L3	D14	L8	1.5
14	Mc Roberts, Holly J	12822112	1419	W20	L1	D13	L5	1.5
15	Walker, Brian L	12406768	1745	W17	L2	L11	D16	1.5
16	Fromme, Joseph T	12532662	1662	L2	D17	D21	D15	1.5
17	Martinez, River	13174310	1558	L15	D16	L10	W21	1.5
18	Powell, Terry	12506219	1426	D7	H	L9	L10	1.0
19	Peterson, Christofer	12859076	1668	L8	L11	B	F12	1.0
20	Santiago, Roderick	12873808	1722	L14	H	H	U	1.0
21	Mac Neil, James C	12532599	1695	L3	L5	D16	L17	0.5

<b>Tour Weekender U1400</b>				<b>(25-26 Mar 2006)</b>				
#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total
1	Rountree, Robert	12937640	1134	W3	D2	W7	W4	3.5
2	Le, Thao Uyen	12916841	1439	W5	D1	W4	W6	3.5
3	Sherman, Mikal James	13410111	Unr	L1	W5	W10	W7	3.0
4	Mullikin, Thomas	12905792	1094	B	W10	L2	L1	2.0
5	Lim, Hoang U	13211302	1042	L2	L3	B	W10	2.0
6	Schneider, Kathy A	12545281	736	L10	B	W8	L2	2.0
7	Mc Allister, Leslie Anne	12871607	736	D9	W8	L1	L3	1.5
8	Johnson, Ken	12962213	695	B	L7	L6	H	1.5
9	Varney, Michael C	12924887	1124	D7	H	H	U	1.5
10	Koenig, Susan D	12814971	1262	W6	L4	L3	L5	1.0

# Colorado Chess Festival -- 2nd Weekend

<b>McMahon Swiss</b>									
<b>(1 Apr 2006)</b>									
#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Total
1	Wallace, David A	10364132	2043	W2	L3	X6	D4	W13	3.5
2	Munafu, Michael James	12625903	1925	L1	W4	L3	H	H	2.0
3	Robb, Morgan T	12635085	1866	L4	W1	W2	L6	U	2.0
4	Sotaridona, Leonardo	12938967	1807	W3	L2	W8	D1	W6	3.5
5	Carson, Anthea J	12614322	1669	L6	L8	L11	W14	L12	1.0
6	Peterson, Christofer	12859076	1668	W5	W7	F1	W3	L4	3.0
7	Twerskoi, Vladislav	12926467	1614	U	L6	U	U	U	0.0
8	Splichal, LaMoyné	10329515	1600	D9	W5	L4	D13	W11	3.0
9	Stoneking, Jason M	12605208	1617	D8	W15	L13	W16	D10	3.0
10	Martinez, River	13174310	1558	W12	L13	W14	L11	D9	2.5
11	Martinez, Norbert	12471639	1500	L13	W27	W5	W10	L8	3.0
12	Mc Roberts, Holly J	12822112	1419	L10	L16	W27	W28	W5	3.0
13	Stark, Nathan A	12504691	1473	W11	W10	W9	D8	L1	3.5
14	Delaware, Renae D	12913218	1446	L16	W28	L10	L5	H	1.5
15	Powell, Terry	12506219	1426	U	L9	L16	W17	U	1.0
16	Aragon, Joseph R	11345409	1342	W14	W12	W15	L9	U	3.0
17	Mauger, Joseph Patrick	12923205	1335	L28	W21	W29	L15	L18	2.0
18	Parish, Eric J	12844886	1211	L19	W23	L28	W21	W17	3.0
19	Wise, Frank	12894195	1246	W18	L29	L23	W25	W22	3.0
20	Varney, Michael C	12924887	1124	U	U	W24	W26	U	2.0
21	Rountree, Robert	12937640	1134	W22	L17	W26	L18	L24	2.0
22	Lim, Hoang U	13211302	1042	L21	L26	W25	W24	L19	2.0
23	Mullikin, Thomas	12905792	1094	W24	L18	W19	L27	H	2.5
24	Leeds-Tilley, Kyle M	13212071	1010	L23	W25	L20	L22	W21	2.0
25	Schneider, Kathy A	12545281	736	L26	L24	L22	L19	H	0.5
26	Johnson, Ken	12962213	695	W25	W22	L21	L20	U	2.0
27	Webb, Jayson	13309280	1057	W29	L11	L12	W23	L28	2.0
28	Sherman, Mikal James	13410111	Unr	W17	L14	W18	L12	W27	3.0
29	Tsend-Ajush, Batmunkh	13239632	Unr	L27	W19	L17	H	H	2.0

<b>Quads</b>							
<b>(2 Apr 2006)</b>							
#	Name	ID	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Total
1	Lundstrom, Brad	10410347	1957	W4	W3	L2	2.0
2	Mac Neil, James C	12532599	1695	W3	W4	W1	3.0
3	Schaeffer, Jay M	12459975	1711	L2	L1	D4	0.5
4	Splichal, LaMoyné	10329515	1600	L1	L2	D3	0.5
5	Deakins, Natasha	12939875	1258	W8	W7	L6	2.0
6	Mc Roberts, Holly J	12822112	1419	L7	L8	W5	1.0
7	Parish, Eric J	12844886	1211	W6	L5	L8	1.0
8	Stoneking, Jason M	12605208	1617	L5	W6	W7	2.0
9	Leeds-Tilley, Kyle M	13212071	1010	W12	D11	W10	2.5
10	Mullikin, Thomas	12905792	1094	L11	L12	L9	0.0
11	Rountree, Robert	12937640	1134	W10	D9	L12	1.5
12	Varney, Michael C	12924887	1124	L9	W10	W11	2.0
13	Johnston, Christopher	New	Unr	W16	W15	W14	3.0
14	Lim, Hoang U	13211302	1042	W15	L16	L13	1.0
15	Schneider, Kathy A	12545281	736	L14	L13	L16	0.0
16	Slates, Derek W	12848914	910	L13	W14	W15	2.0
17	Collins, Timothy A	13323324	1796	W20	W19	W18	3.0
18	Keyston, Ron	13339651	997	W19	D20	L17	1.5
19	Lowy, Ben	New	Unr	L18	L17	L20	0.0
20	Sherman, Mikal James	13410111	Unr	L17	D18	W19	1.5

# DCC Daylight Savings Mini-Event

Name	ID	Pre	Post	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Score	
<b>Open Section</b>										
1	David A Wallace	10364132	2043	2074	W9	W8	W2	W3	W6	5.0
2	Brian D Wall	10923344	2231	2228	W7	W3	L1	W4	W8	4.0
3	Robert W Ramirez	12776467	2047	2043	W4	L2	W6	L1	W9	3.0
4	Christofer Peterson	12859076	1668	1700	L3	W9	W8	L2	W11	3.0
5	Dashzeveg Samdan	12909929	1515	1539	L8	L7	B---	W11	W10	3.0
6	Michael J Munafo	12625903	1925	1920	H---	W10	L3	W7	L1	2.5
7	Garrick Talmage	12757238	1672	1674	L2	W5	D10	L6	B---	2.5
8	Brad Lundstrom	10410347	1947	1928	W5	L1	L4	W10	L2	2.0
9	Randy S Reynolds	12842017	1529	1530	L1	L4	W11	B---	L3	2.0
10	Kagen J Schaefer	12704566	1697	1673	W11	L6	D7	L8	L5	1.5
11	Dean W Brown	10224098	1512	1467	L10	B---	L9	L5	L4	1.0
<b>Reserve Section</b>										
1	Joseph H Pakh	12795426	1265	1300	H---	H---	W9	W8	W2	4.0
2	Brian E Clason	12900631	1144	1240	W6	W5	W3	W4	L1	4.0
3	Philip G Meyer	12835697	1132	1242	W10	W8	L2	W9	W7	4.0
4	Alex Chen	12926100	1271	1243	L9	W12	W5	L2	W8	3.0
5	Thomas Mullikin	12905792	1094	1164	W7	L2	L4	W11	W9	3.0
6	Kathy Schneider	12545281	736	758	L2	L7	B---	W12	D10	2.5
7	Scott W Sills	12866611	1320	1259	L5	W6	L8	W10	L3	2.0
8	Gary G Frenzel	12528565	1141	1127	W12	L3	W7	L1	L4	2.0
9	Peter Lundstrom	12540017	936	1014	W4	W10	L1	L3	L5	2.0
10	Lee Lahti	12914550	1329	1237	L3	L9	W12	L7	D6	1.5
11	Joseph R Aragon	11345409	1342	1315	U---	U---	U---	L5	B---	1.0
12	Stan C Schaefer	unr.	unr.	360	L8	L4	L10	L6	U---	0.0

## Thao Games

Annotated by Brian Wall

### W: Thao Le (1400)

Vietnamese newcomer to Chess

### B: LaMoyne Splichal (1600)

Tournament organizer extraordinaire, huge prize winner at the first Levy Memorial

**1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e5 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Nxd4?** Well known beginner mistake because the Oriental Queen dominates from the center and cannot be dislodged naturally by a piece. 5 ... Bb4 = is a normal 4 Knight's Scotch.

**6. Qxd4 c5?** LaMoyne disagrees and chases the Queen anyway. His pawn structure now looks like someone cut him with a razor.

**7. Qe5+! Be7 7 ... Qe7 8 Q:e7+ B:e7 9 e5! Ng4 10 Nd5! Bd8 11 Bf4!** is obviously a much better endgame for Thao. Many of her games are long grueling endgames.

**8. Bg5 d6 9. Qf4 h6! 10. Bxf6! Bxf6 11. Rd1 Be5 12. Bb5+! Bd7 13. Qd2 Qf6?** 13 ... Qg5! is fine, threatening the g-pawn and a Queen trade. Maybe LaMoyne dropped his Queen on the way to the right square and had to live with it. Maybe he didn't want to trade Queens with a mere 1400. Maybe he regrets it now. Thao's garden blossoms.

**14. Bxd7+! Kxd7 15. Nd5! Qg6 16. O-O! Qxe4** Commander Splichal tries to get some material compensation for his displaced King but this makes it worse.

**17. Rfe1! Qh4 18. Rxe5!** It is always a mystery to me how some people can get so good so fast. How do you go from not knowing the moves to playing 18 R:e5!!

in two years?  
**18 ... Rad8 18 ... de 19 Nf6+ Ke6 20 Qd6+ Kf5 21 g4+** wins the queen or checkmates

Anything else is a quicker mate - sample:  
18 ... de 19 Nf6+ Kc6 20 Qd7+ Kb5 21 Nd5+ Ka5 22 Rd3 Qb4 23 N:b4 b5 24 Ra3+ K:b4 25 Qd5 Rhd8 26 c3 checkmate

**19. Re7+! Kc8 20. Qa5! Rd7** Only the hopeless 20 ... Q:e7 loses the Queen and stalls the mate.

**21. Rxd7! 21 ... Kxd7 22. Qc7+! Ke6 23. Qxb7** Crushing. There was also a forced mate with 23 Re1+ K:d5 24 Q:b7+ Kd4 25 Re3 c4 26 Qb5 Q:f2+ 27 K:f2 Re8 28 c3 checkmate

**23 ... Rd8** LaMoyne is a piece down with a King on the run. There is nothing

(Continued on page 27)

# DCC Spring Mini-Event

Name ID Pre Post Rd1 Rd2 Rd3 Rd4 Score

## Open Section

1	Tyler B Hughes	12799460	2137	2146	W6	W5	D2	W3	3.5
2	Robert W Ramirez	12776467	2047	2056	W14	W8	D1	W5	3.5
3	James E Hamblin	10922593	2038	2047	W10	W4	W9	L1	3.0
4	Samik Dasgupta	12915636	1917	1918	W13	L3	W6	W11	3.0
5	Daoud G Zupa	12407991	1938	1930	W7	L1	W11	L2	2.0
6	Jay M Shaeffer	12459975	1711	1724	L1	W7	L4	W12	2.0
7	Vibi Varghese	12919769	1480	1494	L5	L6	B---	W14	2.0
8	Philip G Meyer	12835697	1132	1178	B---	L2	D12	D10	2.0
9	David A Wallace	10364132	2043	2038	H---	W12	L3	U---	1.5
10	River Martinez	13174310	1558	1541	L3	L13	W14	D8	1.5
11	Nathan A Stark	12504691	1473	1503	D12	W14	L5	L4	1.5
12	Leonardo Sotaridona	12938967	1807	1770	D11	L9	D8	L6	1.0
13	Terry K Powell	12506219	1426	1447	L4	W10	U---	U---	1.0
14	Christofer Peterson	12859076	1668	1608	L2	L11	L10	L7	0.0

## Reserve Section

1	Scott W Sills	12866611	1320	1357	W10	W6	D2	W5	3.5
2	Joseph H Pahk	12795426	1265	1322	W7	W11	D1	W4	3.5
3	Natasha Deakins	12939875	1258	1250	L8	W7	W11	W12	3.0
4	Michael A Igoe	13135227	1368	1336	L9	W8	W6	L2	2.0
5	Alex Chen	12926100	1271	1237	L11	W10	W12	L1	2.0
6	Barry Rabinovich	12871094	1223	1215	W12	L1	L4	W8	2.0
7	Jackson Chen	13383565	1035	1038	L2	L3	B---	W11	2.0
8	Jay Kranzdorf	12929030	992	1060	W3	L4	W10	L6	2.0
9	Philip G Meyer	12835697	1132	1167	W4	U---	U---	U---	1.0
10	Thomas Mullikin	12905792	1094	1048	L1	L5	L8	B---	1.0
11	Connor Rudolph	13117367	995	997	W5	L2	L3	L7	1.0
12	Steven Shotwell	12957350	976	949	L6	B---	L5	L3	1.0

Tom can also try moving the c3-knight to avoid exchanges. There is almost a proper continuation for every possible tournament position, depending on whether you need a win, a loss or a draw.

Tom picked one of the good moves.

**5. Qf3** Theoretical Novelty by Tom Mullikin, usually reserved for prototypes of rocket fuel.

**5 ... Qa5!** 5 ... N:c3 is about equal but this move sends Tom's rocket into a tailspin.

Masters are accustomed virtually every game to ignore our opponent's pseudo-threats and pursue our own plans. 6 Bd3! N:c3 7 Bd2! is routine for us. Tom probably saw 6 Bd3 N:c3 7 bc? Q:c3+ 8 Kd1 Q:a1 and figured he could definitely improve on that line.

**6. Kd1?? Bg4!** (see diagram)



Wow - Tom was looking left and Thao blindsided him like a car passing on the right. The idea is 6 ... Bg4! 7 Q:g4 N:f2+ The rest of the game would cause a traffic jam from the looky-loos if you put it on the road.

**7. Nxe4! Bxf3+! 8. gxf3! dxe4! 9. Bd2 Qb6 10. Bc3! e6 11. a3 Nd7 12. fxe4! c5 13. Ne2 O-O 14. f4 cxd4! 15. Bxd4 Bc5 16. Bc3 Nxe5+ 17. Kc1! Be3+ 18. Kb1 Rd1+ 19. Nc1 Rxc1+ 20. Ka2 Rxa1+ 21. Kxa1 Bxf4! 22. h3 Rd8 23. Be2 Nc6 24. Bxg7!** Not dead yet.

**24 ... Be5 25. Bxe5! Nxe5 26. Rb1! Rd2! 27. Bd1 Nc4! 28. b3 Nxa3** One of 9 moves leading to checkmate, the quickest being 28 ... Qa5.

**29. Rb2 Rxd1+ 29 ... Qa5** is a little quicker mate again but Thao likes to grab some material as she mates for good measure.

**30. Ka2 Qa5** Mate in 3. **0-1** ♚

(Continued from page 26)  
really good to play.

**24. Re1+! 24 ... Kf5 25. Qxf7+! 1-0**

(25 Q:f7+ Kg5 26 f4+ Q:f4 27 Q:g7+ Kh4 28 Nf4 d5 29 g3 checkmate)

**W: Tom Mullikin (1041)**

consistent 4 digit player

**B: Thao Le (1384)**

The Pearl of the Orient

March 26, 2006, Tour Weekender (played along with Colorado Closed)

**1. d4 d5 2. e4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6** This move was played by Barb Fortune of Wyoming a lot and has also been called the Campomanes Defense.

**4. e5 Ne4**

If 4 ... Nfd7 White could play 5 e6, a positional pawn sacrifice, as David Neal-Gliksman did against me 10 years ago. There are other perfectly good moves too like 5 Nf3, Be3, Bd3, Nh3. Since the black c-pawn will most likely advance c7-c6-c5 White ends up with a tempo up in a Caro-Kann/French structure. I had something similar in a final round decisive Colorado Closed game against Andy Rea.

Knowing what to do after 4 ... Ne4 is confusing.

5 Bd3 looks promising but 5 ... N:c3 6 bc both sides have a good French. Black hasn't buried his bishop yet and White is up a tempo if Black plays ... c5.

5 N:e4 de 6 Ne2 or others look reasonable to try and round up the e4-pawn but Black can wriggle.

## Mel Cahoon - Chess Jester

A page for young chess players (and young at heart)

This is Mel Cahoon, in my first column. Don't bother looking for my rating; I'm not much of an over-the-board player, but I enjoy learning and reading about chess.

I decided to start putting together a small column for our younger readers to enjoy. I know there are many young chess players who sign up for this magazine every year at the state scholastic championships by becoming CSCA members. But how many of you REALLY want to read some complex article about some weird game between expert players where they argue over whether this move or that wins a sliver of a pawn?

So I'm hoping to write something that will more valuable to our up-and-coming chess stars. Although most of this is well-known by seasoned players, these practical ideas can help improve your game immensely. Because if there's one thing that's sad to watch, it's seeing a game that ends in a draw because someone didn't know how to promote a pawn, or checkmate with a rook, and so on.

Hopefully this will be an area for younger players to look to get tips on how to make their game that much better. And if you have different ideas, feel free to have a parent write to [mel.cahoon@yahoo.com](mailto:mel.cahoon@yahoo.com) with ideas for future columns.

Enjoy! *Mel*

The Colorado Closed was recently played, the most challenging chess championship in the state. How many of the 16 last names listed below can you find in this word search?

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| BLOOMER (Josh)    | NEMEKHBAYAR (Amarjin) |
| CANNEY (Randy)    | RAMIREZ (Robert)      |
| CROCKETT (Curtis) | TALMAGE (Garrick)     |
| HAMBLIN (James)   | TARASOV (Dmitriy)     |
| HAMMERSMITH (Jim) | TWERSKOI (David)      |
| HERBST (Richard)  | WALL (Brian)          |
| HUGHES (Tyler)    | WALLACE (David)       |
| LEHTI (Dylan)     | ZAX (Jacob)           |

O A N A B R B R E T B X  
 R A Y A B H K E M E N A  
 T Y E N N A C T X V H L  
 S E T E T M A A O U V I  
 B M E W A M Z S G Z Z C  
 R T O H E E A H W M R G  
 E A S M R R E M O O L B  
 H L M I A S S T C O G C  
 W M M T O M L K A S O E  
 O A H H L I E B O I R A  
 R G L E A T L E A I L K  
 R E A L T H A M B L I N

**Mel's Tip of the Month** — Stalemate. By many, it's considered the longest four-letter word in the English language. It cuts your full point you were going to get for winning the game in half, robbing you of your win. Sometimes, stalemate is unavoidable; your opponent just thought of a really clever way to endlessly check you, and if you take the piece, it's stalemate. But most times, avoiding stalemate just requires a little patience before touching any piece.

Always ask yourself before you make your move, "If I'm not checking the opponent king, does my opponent have a legal place to move after I move my piece here?" If he/she doesn't, it's stalemate and you'll want to find another move. Also remember, if the king is in check, it's NEVER stalemate. So you can check the enemy king all you want, but many times a non-checking move is the best way to win. More on that next issue. -- Mel

## CLUB DIRECTORY: PLACES FOR YOU TO PLAY CHESS

**Editor's note: PLEASE! Send new or updated information to [randy\\_teyana@msn.com](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com) for listing here.**

### DENVER AREA

**The Denver Chess Club** meets Tuesdays 6:30-11 PM at the 1st Avenue Presbyterian Church (1 block West of Broadway and 1st & Acoma). Contact Bruce Bain at (720) 318-6496 or E-mail yaxix@aol.com for more info.  
[www.denverchessclub.org](http://www.denverchessclub.org)

**The Aurora Chess Club** meets Saturdays, 1-4 PM, at the Aurora Public Library, 14949 E. Alameda. They now have a coach for those that want to learn to play. Contact Jeff Baffo at [jbaffo2004@msn.com](mailto:jbaffo2004@msn.com) or (303) 617-9123.

**Chess Knights** meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evening from 7-9pm. From 470 & Broadway, on Broadway go 1.3 miles south, at the light, turn right onto Highland Ranch Parkway, go 0.2 miles, to the first light, turn left onto Ridgeline Blvd., go 0.2 miles, the library is on the left. We meet in the conference room on the left beyond the restrooms. Information is also available on the Chess Knights' Web site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HighlandsRanch-ChessClub/>. Contact: Frank Atwood 720-260-1493 or [frank\\_atwood80120@yahoo.com](mailto:frank_atwood80120@yahoo.com)

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

The **Lakewood Chess Club** meets on Thursdays, from noon to 4:00 p.m., at the Clements Community Center, 16th and Yarrow, and also on Sundays, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Higher Grounds Coffee House, 14th and Washington in Golden. For more information, contact Bill Riley at 303-232-7671 or 303-232-6252.

### AROUND THE STATE AND REGION

**Colorado Springs Chess Club** meets Tuesday evenings, 7 - 10 PM, in the cafeteria of the Acacia Apartments Building,

104 E. Platte. Scheduled activities every meeting at 8:00. For information see our website at:  
[www.foxfrenchtranslations.com/cscc](http://www.foxfrenchtranslations.com/cscc) or contact Buck Buchanan at [buckpeace@pcisys.net](mailto:buckpeace@pcisys.net) or (719) 685-1984.

**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.

**Alamosa Chess Club** meets Thursdays, 7-10 PM, Adams State College Student Center in the food court. For info call Ken Dail (719) 589-0995.

**Carbondale Chess Club** meets every Tuesday from 6pm until the wee hours at Kahhak Fine Arts & School, 411 Main St, Carbondale. All levels and ages are welcome and chess coaching is available. Rated games and tournaments will be offered soon. Please contact Majid Kahhak at (970)704-0622 or e-mail at: [Mkahhak@sopris.net](mailto:Mkahhak@sopris.net).

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

**Castle Rock Chess Club** meets first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Grange cultural arts center. The Grange is located at 3692 Meadows Boulevard in Castle Rock. From the Founders Parkway/ Meadows Parkway exit off I-25, go west on Meadows Parkway to the 4-way intersection with Meadows Boulevard. Go straight through the light; the Grange is 1 mile down on your right. All levels of play welcome. Contact Cindy Chipman at (720) 733-1357 or Bethany Snyder at (303)814-3953.

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

The **Durango Chess Club** meets at 6:30 PM Wednesdays. Speed chess and informal instruction take place along with regu-

lar games in a casual atmosphere. Newcomers of all ages are welcome. No dues are required. The location alternates weekly between Steaming Bean and Magpies Newsstand. Call John Mical, 259-4718.

The **Fort Collins Chess Club** currently meets Tuesdays, 7 PM, in the food court of the Lory Student Center (2nd level), Colorado State University. E-mail Randy Reynolds at [randy\\_teyana@msn.com](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com).  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fort\\_collins\\_chess/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fort_collins_chess/)

The **Fort Lewis College Chess Club** meets Thursday nights in the X-treme room which is located the College Union Building, the club is sponsored by the school and is a USCF affiliate club. If you have any questions you can contact Andrea Browne at (970)247-6239.

**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 Thursdays, 7-11 PM, Best Western Inn, Bourbon on Eighth St Restaurant, 8th Ave and 8th St. Call Gary Dorsey at (970) 353-1539.

The **Longmont Chess Club** meets Thursdays, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Abbondanza Pizzeria, 461 Main St., in Longmont, Colorado. Contact James Drebenstedt at (720) 494-0993 for more info.

The **Rifle Chess Club** meets Thursdays, 6:30-9:00 PM, at City Hall. For info. email Dane Lyons at [duilen@gmail.com](mailto:duilen@gmail.com).

**Pueblo Chess Club** meets at the Barnes and Noble on Mondays, Daily Grind (209 S. Union) on Wednesdays, and WireWorks Coffee House (100 Broadway) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All nights 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Come any night to drop by and pick up a game... For more info contact Liz Wood at 719-566-6929.

# Colorado Chess Tour Standings (thru May)

## Top 10 Overall

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Brian Wall	2219	280.32	34
2	David Wallace	2037	227.32	30
3	Phillip Ponomarev	2339	181.52	14
4	Richard Cordovano	1648	176.33	32
5	Brad Lundstrom	1950	171.62	23
6	Roderick Santiago	1738	169.99	27
7	Christofer Peterson	1577	168.39	35
8	Daniel Avery	1981	158.27	12
9	Leonardo Sotaridona	1818	158.1	25
10	Markus Petters	2024	152.07	13

## Top 10 Active

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Kathy Schneider	771	59.73	45
2	Thomas Mullikin	1084	94.14	43
3	Dean W. Brown	1431	126.92	36
4	Christofer Peterson	1577	168.39	35
5	Brian Wall	2219	280.32	34
6	Richard Cordovano	1648	176.33	32
7	David Wallace	2037	227.32	30
8	Roderick Santiago	1738	169.99	27
9	James Hamblin	2044	142.32	26
10	Lee F. Lahti	1274	73.18	25

## Top 10 Expert

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	David Wallace	2037	227.32	30
2	Markus Petters	2024	152.07	13
3	Tyler Hughes	2139	150.19	19
4	Robert Ramirez	2041	143.38	22
5	James Hamblin	2044	142.32	26
6	Richard Buchanan	2005	124.77	14
7	Jesse Cohen	2144	119.27	10
8	Josh Bloomer	2185	103.82	15
9	James Hammersmith	2069	76.83	13
10	Alexander Gitis	2038	51.82	5

## Top 10 Class A

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Brad Lundstrom	1950	171.62	23
2	Daniel Avery	1981	158.27	12
3	Leonardo Sotaridona	1818	158.1	25
4	Shaun T. MacMillan	1866	134.43	19
5	Samik Dasgupta	1915	95.27	14
6	Paul Anderson	1806	89.87	11
7	Arthur Glassman	1914	88.33	11
8	Anthony Telinbacco, Jr.	1822	85.64	12
9	Daoud Zupa	1951	84.54	12
10	Richard Herbst	1933	77.81	13

## Top 10 Class B

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Richard Cordovano	1648	176.33	32
2	Roderick Santiago	1738	169.99	27
3	Joe Fromme	1669	151.68	23
4	Larry Wutt	1790	135.11	20
5	Paul Grimm	1652	111.9	21
6	Anthea Carson	1661	110.45	19
7	Jay Shaeffer	1682	76.63	12
8	Ted Doykos	1636	75.7	14
9	Garrick Talmage	1660	73.52	18
10	La Moyne Spichal	1600	72.59	18

## Top 10 Class C

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Christofer Peterson	1577	168.39	35
2	Dean W. Brown	1431	126.92	36
3	Nathan Stark	1458	91.07	13
4	Tim Fisher	1580	81.16	15
5	Rena Delaware	1437	80.49	17
6	River Martinez	1505	79.27	23
7	Gerard Sunderland	1511	78.82	13
8	Daniel St. John	1487	65.76	11
9	Samdan Dashzeveg	1450	60.32	19
10	Vibi Varghese	1466	59.05	14

## Top 10 Class D

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Joseph Pahk	1252	85.7	22
2	Lee F. Lahti	1274	73.18	25
3	Thao Le	1389	72.14	22
4	Scott Sills	1319	53.61	13
5	Fred Eric Spell	1306	52.66	12
6	Natasha Deakins	1288	48.32	12
7	Robert Zing	1322	41.72	9
8	Peter Grigg	1232	40.31	7
9	Terry Powell	1371	31.23	12
10	Fred Strelzoff	1224	27.53	6

## Top 10 Class E

	Name	Rating	Points	Games
1	Thomas Mullikin	1084	94.14	43
2	Kathy Schneider	771	59.73	45
3	Michael Filppu	971	59.47	17
4	Philip Meyer	1135	56.35	14
5	Cory Foster	1170	49.92	15
6	Gerald Maier	1073	43.54	15
7	Hoang Lim	1000	42.11	23
8	Kyle Leeds-Tilley	924	41.58	13
9	Robert Rountree	1125	39.43	11
10	Michael Varney	959	29.19	16

# Upcoming Tournaments

## Denver Open, July 1 & 8, 2006

5 round Swiss system tournament.

**Time Control:** G70/5

**Site:** Tabor Center Food Court, corner of 16th St. & Lawrence, Downtown Denver

**Sections:** Open, Under 1800, Under 1400

**Entry fee:** DCC members \$25 early registration (if postmarked before Tuesday, 27 June 06) Non-members \$30 early registration (if postmarked before Tuesday, 27 June 06) DCC members \$30 (on site) Non-members \$35 (on site)

**Prizes:** based upon entries

**Registration:** 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM Saturday, July 1, Rounds: Sat, 1 July: 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 4:00 PM, and Sat, 8 July, 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM.

**Entries:** Bruce Bain 2224 West Hillside Ave, Englewood CO 80110-1153

**Phone:** 720-318-6496

**E-mail:** YaxisX@aol.com

Mail early registration checks to: DCC President Bruce Bain and include your full name, address, and phone number

A COLORADO TOUR EVENT

## 2006 Kansas Open, July 22 - 23, 2006

5 round Swiss system tournament.

**Time Control:** Game 120 (two hours). (1 hour 55 minutes with 5 second time delay preferred)

**Site:** Wichita Airport Hilton

**Directions:** Hilton (Reservations locally at 316-945-5272 or toll-free at 1-800-247-4458 [1-800-AIR-HILT]) Room Rate = \$71-single or double (up to 4 in a room). To guarantee this rate, reservations need to be made by 7/6/2006, Reservations after this date, will be accepted based on availability, at best available rate at time of reservation.

**Entry fee:** \$45 advance, must be postmarked by July 14, \$65 thereafter

**Registration:** 7:30-8:30 PM on 7/21 or 8:30am – 10:00am on 7/22, Rounds: 7/22- 10:30, 3:00, 7:30; 7/23 – 9:00, 1:30 (could start earlier, if possible).

**Entries:** Laurence Coker 8013 W. 145th St, Overland Park, KS 66223

**Phone:** 913-851-1581

**E-mail:** wlcoker7@hotmail.com

## Pikes Peak Open, August 5 - 6, 2006

5 round Swiss system tournament.

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

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

**Sections:** One open section

**Entry fee:** EF \$30 if rec'd by 8/3, \$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

No e-mail entries, please.

CSCA required, OSA.

Colorado Tour Event.

## Colorado Open, Sept. 2-4, 2006

6 round Swiss system tournament

**Time Control:** 40/2, G/60.

**Site:** Ramada Continental Hotel; 2601 Zuni Street; Denver, CO. 80211

**3 sections. Open: EF:** \$45 if rec'd by 9/1 5 pm. \$55 on-site. **Prizes:** \$\$320-200-130; U2000: \$90-\$45. Unr: \$50.

**U1800: EF:** \$40 if rec'd by 9/1 5 pm. \$50 on-site. **Prizes:** Guaranteed \$\$240-160-100; U1600: \$70-35.

**U1400: EF:** \$35 if rec'd by 9/1 5 pm. \$45 on-site. **Prizes:** \$\$200-120-80; U1200/U1000: \$50-\$25 ea. class.

25% entry fee discount for juniors/seniors.

CSCA Membership Mtg 9/2 at 4 pm.

**Registration:** 8:30-9:45. **Rounds:** 9/2/06 10, 5. 9/3/06 & 9/4/06: 9, 3.

Pre-register on-line [www.coloradochess.com](http://www.coloradochess.com) before 9/1/06, 5pm

**Entries:** Chief TD Mary Nelson, 11 West Victory Way #204, Craig, CO 81625

**E-mail:** [mnelson@ramdesigns.com](mailto:mnelson@ramdesigns.com)

Colorado Tour event.

USCF & CSCA required.

NS, NC, W.

(Continued on page 32)

*(Continued from page 31)***Membership Meeting Open, Sept. 2, 2006**

3 round Swiss system tournament

**Time Control:** G/60**Site:** Ramada Continental Hotel; 2601 Zuni Street; Denver, CO. 80211

One open section.

**Entry fee:** \$25,\$5 disc. jr/sr if rec'd by 9/1 5pm. \$35 onsite.**Prizes:** Guaranteed \$\$80-45; U1800/1600/1400/1200 ea. \$30.**Registration:** 8:30-9:45. **Rounds:** 10, 1, 5.Pre-register online [www.coloradochess.com](http://www.coloradochess.com) before 9/1, 5pm**Entries:** Chief TD Mary Nelson, 11 West Victory Way #204, Craig, CO 81625.**E-mail:** [mnelson@ramdesigns.com](mailto:mnelson@ramdesigns.com)

Colorado Tour event

USCF &amp; CSCA required. NS, NC, W.

**Larimer County Open, October 14-15, 2006**

5 round Swiss system tournament.

**Time Control:** G/90 for rds 1-2, G/120 for rds 3-5**Site:** Ramada Inn, 3836 E. Mulberry, Fort Collins, CO.**Directions:** I-25 exit 269B. Site is on right side of the road. NW corner of I-25 and Mulberry.**Sections:** Open, Under 1400**Entry fee:** \$30 if rec'd by 10/11, \$35 at site.**Prizes:** 70% of entry fees.**Registration:** 8:30 - 9:30, Rounds: 10, 1:30, 5; 9:30, 2.**Entries:** Randy Reynolds 1839 Thyme Court, Fort Collins, CO 80528**Phone:** (970) 310-4224**E-mail:** [randy\\_teyana@msn.com](mailto:randy_teyana@msn.com)

CSCA membership required (\$15), OSA.

25% off for jr/sr/unrated if advanced entry received.

Colorado Tour Event.

**Winter Springs Open, December 2-3, 2006**

4 round Swiss system tournament.

**Time Control:** 40/2 and G/1**Site:** Masonic Lodge, 455 El Paso Blvd, Manitou Springs, CO.**Sections:** JUNE (open), JULY (U1800), AUGUST (U1400).**Entry fee:** \$25 if rec'd by 11/30, \$30 at site.**Prizes:** Cash prizes per entries.**Registration:** 8:30-9:30, Rounds: 10, 4; 9, 3.**Entries:** Richard Buchanan, 844 B Prospect Place, Manitou Springs, CO 80829.**Phone:** (719) 685-1984**E-mail:** [buckpeace@pcisys.net](mailto:buckpeace@pcisys.net)

\$6 off EF for juniors, seniors, unrateds.

CSCA membership req'd (\$15, 10 for jrs, seniors), OSA.

Colorado Tour Event.

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