

# COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



**COLORADO OPEN  
EXTRAVAGANZA**



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

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

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

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

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

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*On the cover:*

**'Colorado Open Tournament Room'**  
(Foreground - Tim Brennan (l) playing Alex 'Eye of the' Stiger)  
*by Brad Lundstrom*

## From the Editor

I'm going to keep this short & sweet ... welcome back OTB chess in Colorado!

Just take a look below to see the happenings and resurgence of (*masked*) face-to-face chess. Thanks to "*The Queen's Gambit*" and isolation, chess playing is drawing new players - consider all the new players that attended the Colorado Open this year.

Let's hope that we can be at the end of the tragedy that has been going on the past two years and move forward to welcoming new and returning players to the board!

May Caissa be with you.

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#### Informant Article Submission Deadlines:

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

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## CSCA President's Message

Happy Fall 2021!

Chess is experiencing strong growth in national tournaments and state attendance is booming as well!

Our 2021 Colorado Open saw a huge increase in attendance over our previous 2019 Colorado Open (2020 was canceled last year due to the pandemic). Total players: 2021 Colorado Open - 157 up from 118 in 2019. Total Blitz players - 56 up from 26 in 2019. We had an amazing 54 new unrated players in the Colorado Open and 22 new unrated in the Blitz.

During our Colorado Class Tournament held in July, we saw similar growth with 63 players and that included 20 new unrated players. This was double our projections and a promising surprise.

Coming into a new era with life normalizing (here is hoping that continues!) it is obvious the effect of the pandemic and online chess has made in bringing in a huge new group of tournament chess players. *Chess.com* reports membership is now over 35 million chess players.

The “*Queen’s Gambit*” mini-series was an amazing hit with an estimated over 62 million people having already viewed it and a great many have become interested in chess. Looking back at the 2019 CSCA minutes two years ago at this time, the Colorado Class was canceled due to low attendance and both the Blitz and Quick tournaments were noted as “low attendance”. Those days are far behind us and we must adapt and quickly to maximize all the opportunities to grow Colorado chess.

As I’ve talked about elsewhere, we completed the Colorado Open Championship on Labor Day weekend, but had to respond to diverse problems, with variable success. We also elected a new board at the membership meeting, with each board member elected by unanimous vote of the members in attendance. The new board went straight to work to complete the work on the Colorado Open and to make improvements for the future. I called for a special meeting of the board on September 13 to identify and address all the open items from the tournament. All the officers were in attendance, as were the acting Colorado Open tournament directors, some former CSCA board members, and our new at-large representative. Everyone worked cooperatively to make future CSCA tournaments be the well-run and enjoyable successes players and organizers should rightfully expect. The tournament directors reported on the results of the games played. The board voted to submit these results for USCF ratings and to publish the results after members were allowed time to review and advise of any corrections needed. I also assigned a number of committees and individuals to take specific actions to ensure that tournaments are adequately staffed, directors have and use the best tournament direction tools available, problems are identified and corrected in time to pair rounds correctly, and everyone - organizers and players alike - knows their rights and responsibilities. I will report on these efforts as they are completed. I know they will help make our future tournaments the best they can be, and the successes we’ve come to expect from CSCA tournaments.

The really fun and exciting part for the CSCA Board comes next as we set dates and plan our CSCA state tournaments. We also will be reaching out to areas all over the state looking to encourage and support local tournaments.

Looking forward to seeing you at many tournaments this year!

**Brad Lundstrom**

*President / Colorado State Chess Association*



# Colorado State Chess Association Special Board Meeting

A special board meeting was called by CSCA President Brad Lundstrom, and held online September 13, 2021. The meeting began at 7:00pm with **Brad Lundstrom** (CSCA President) presiding and **Scott Lett** (Secretary) reporting minutes.

**In attendance - Voting Board Members:** **Brad Lundstrom** (President), **Jesse Cohen** (Vice President), **Scott Lett** (Secretary), **Josh Samuel** (Treasurer), **Andrew Starr** (At-large Representative).

**Non-voting attendees** - Paul Covington (President Emeritus), Earle Wilke, Shirley Herman, Rhett Langseth, DuWayne Langseth, Richard Shtivelband, Tom Nelson, Brian Walker, Todd Bardwick.

The purpose of the special meeting was to report to the board on problems encountered at the 2021 Colorado Open Chess Championship, to receive from Brian Walker and Earle Wilke the tabulated results of games played, to vote on specific actions, to provide an opportunity for feedback from other attendees, and to assign other actions deemed appropriate by the President. These aims were accomplished, as summarized here.

## Summary

Brad Lundstrom provided a summary of the 2021 Colorado Open and special problems encountered. The tournament enjoyed an unexpectedly large turnout with many unrated players, which created a burden on data entry. The Chief Tournament Director (Richard 'Buck' Buchanan) suffered a medical crisis, and was ultimately unable to continue as TD. Brian Walker (Open) and Earle Wickle (Blitz) stepped in, with lots of help from DuWayne Langseth, Shirley Herman and others, but data entry problems resulted in errors in results and pairings. Brad stepped in to make and broker changes to the overall running of the tournaments, ultimately shortening both the blitz and classical open tournaments due to delays and other problems.

## Actions taken / Board votes

The CSCA Board voted to take the following actions:

Based upon the level of confidence expressed by the TD's - accept the results for Colorado Open Blitz (Earle) and Colorado Open (Brian).

Publish results on CSCA site and submit for ratings. Submit corrections to USCF if any players bring corrections to CSCA attention. Delay sending out of as-yet unpaid prizes until the players have a chance to appeal the results. (Votes: 5 for, and 0 against).

Accept the onsite decision to eschew the standard tiebreaks and award Colorado Co-Championship to Rhett Langseth and Lior Lapid. (Votes: 4 for, and 1 against (Jesse Cohen)).

## Discussions, Followup Assignments from the President

State Championship Title:

Todd Bardwick advocated for following the USCF rules of chess, which give explicit rules and recommendations for tiebreaks, and appealed to the 70-year history of awarding a single Colorado Champion title. Shirley Herman and Andrew Starr also provided some clarifications of the USCF rules. DuWayne Langseth argued that the "decision was made," despite the fact that a Board vote was to be taken and had yet to be cast.

Brad described the special conditions of the 2021 tournament, including force majeure of Buck's medical crisis and the problems encountered by the replacement tournament directors and volunteers, the cancellation of one round of the tournament, resulting in two perfect scores at the end of the remaining rounds. Based upon agreement between Lior Lapid, Rhett Langseth, Brad Lundstrom, DuWayne Langseth and others, it was decided at the tournament to award Co-Champion titles to Rhett Langseth and Lior Lapid. The second Board vote decided 4-to-1 to ratify Brad's onsite decision.

After the vote, Scott Lett echoed the preference expressed by Jesse Cohen and Todd Bardwick to follow the sporting rules of chess and use tiebreaks or a playoff to select a single champion, rather than an ad hoc agreement between players and organizers, but ultimately decided not to overrule promises made onsite. Scott recommended establishing and publicizing policies for such force majeure events (e.g. tornadoes, earthquakes, medical emergencies, active shooters), but no action is taken at this time.

## Decorum at the Tournament

Josh Samuel expressed considerable frustration that the tournament conditions were chaotic and noisy, and not up to standards he expects of the Colorado Open Championship, that the tournament directors did not enforce quiet conditions, and that some senior players and Board members were part of the problem. He pointed to the Colorado Chess by-laws to illustrate the importance of providing conditions conducive to good play.

Scott Lett pointed to Chapter 5 of the USCF rules of chess, which give rights of players to expect conditions to be conducive of good chess and the exceptions to standard rules, tiebreaks, etc, be announced and posted in advance. Brad appointed a committee of Tom Nelson, Josh Samuel and Scott Lett to form a committee to make recommendations for future events.

Jesse Cohen pointed out that this was an extreme exception to how Colorado Chess tournaments are run, that we should apologize and explain this to the unrated participants, lest they think this is how we run events. Brad pointed to the letter he posted on the CSCA website that he asserted should suffice for an apology. DuWayne Langseth recommended refunding fees to all unrateds. Richard suggested CSCA reach out to DCC tournament directors for advice and assistance. No specific board action was taken on these ideas.

#### **Financial Reporting, Prizes and Expenses**

Josh Samuel requested that a more organized and transparent approach be taken to making requests of the Treasurer to send out prize and other payments. Brad agreed to send a summary to Josh to help him organize these requests.

Earle pointed out that the financial report generated by *CaissaChess* is automated and more than suffices for Treasurer records. Andrew Starr also highly recommended standardizing on *CaissaChess* to avoid onsite problems with data entry errors, publishing pairings and results, and calculating tiebreaks. No specific board action was taken on these recommendations.

#### **Updating CSCA Membership Roster / Tournament Director List**

Josh Samuel will update the USCF affiliate director list, in particular adding Brian Walker to the list of Colorado Tournament Directors. Scott Lett will follow up with Brad to gain access to the source data for the official membership list.

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## **2021 Chess Journalists Association National Awards**

**Colorado had a wonderful talented group of chess writers nominated.  
Congratulations to this fine group for their outstanding work in 2021!**

**Best Online State Magazine** - Fred Eric Spell

**Best Feature Article** - Lior Lapid / Griffin McConnell & Team at 2021 Online Tournament for People with Disabilities

**Best Personal Narrative** - Curtis Carlson / US Open 1974

**Best Instructional Article** - Todd Bardwick / The Chess Detective "Deflection"

**Richard 'Buck' Buchanan & Sara Herman both win national awards by the 2021 Chess Journalists Association**

**Best Single Article of Local Interest** - Richard 'Buck' Buchanan / Tribute to Philippovich Ponomarev

**Best Chess Twitch Channel** - Sara Herman

**Well done Buck and Sara - Congratulations!**

#### **About Sara Herman's Twitch Channel ([twitch.tv/zefcatt](https://www.twitch.tv/zefcatt)):**

Sara has been streaming since 2018.

Sara became a twitch partner without *Chess.com* assistance (1000 subs / 348,000 views / 1,423 hours streamed).

Sara's Twitch Channel went from 1700 bullet to 2400 on stream in 2 years.

#### **Notable Players connected to Sara's Twitch Channel:**

Danny Rensch played in *lichess.org* on Sara's stream.

Sara is followed by *chess.com*, *botezlive*, *anna rudolf*, *chessbrah*, *Naroditsky*, *Eric Rosen*, *Nieman*, *Jobava*, *Hammer* and more.

Sara defeated Andrea Botez in a match commentated by Levy Rozman.

Sara completed a sub battle with Ray Robson.

Sara's channel was mentioned during a recent YouTube video by Hikaru Nakamura.

#### **About Sara Herman:**

Sara is Colorado's #1 rated Female player - USCF 2038

Sara placed 2nd in the 2019 U.S. Open - Women's Tournament of Champions



# COLORADO CHESS HALL OF FAME

## Induction Ceremony – September 4, 2021

**This year's inductees are:**

**NM Todd Bardwick, John Harris, IM Michael Mulyar, Brian Wall**

**Selection Committee: Randy Canney, Richard 'Buck' Buchanan, Todd Bardwick, Brad Lundstrom**

### **National Master Todd Bardwick:**

- ◆ Todd Bardwick learned chess at age 6 from his father, Alan Bardwick (highest rating 2148, Senior Tournament Director, and past Denver Chess Club President and CSCA Board member).
- ◆ Todd got a B.S. in Civil Engineering from CU Boulder in 1985; then worked as a rocket scientist (stress engineer) for General Dynamics for five years in San Diego.
- ◆ As a full-time chess teacher for the last 30 years, Todd is one of the most experienced chess teachers in the country having taught over 15,000 chess classes.
- ◆ Todd founded the Rocky Mountain Chess Camp (one of the oldest children's chess camps in the country) in 1995 and introduced chess to thousands of people at the (formerly named) Pepsi Center at the annual Chess Knight with the Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche (2007-2016).
- ◆ Todd is a USCF Professional Chess Coach (one of seven in the nation) and a USCF Associate National Tournament Director.
- ◆ Todd is the only five-time consecutive Denver Open Champion (1992-1996). He was also the Denver Chess Club Champion (1981-1983), Colorado State High School Champion (1981), Colorado Chess Tour winner (1995-1996), and took second place 1993 Colorado Open (behind Michael Mulyar).
- ◆ He played in the longest continuous game between masters in U.S. history, a 12 hour draw against FM David Lucky in the 4th Round of the 1995 Colorado Open.
- ◆ Todd wrote the monthly Colorado Chess column in the Rocky Mountain News (1993-2009) and The Chess Detective® column in Chess Life for Kids magazine (2002-2017).
- ◆ He is the author of eight chess books that are sold throughout the world in English and translated and sold in Russia, Korea, and The Czech Republic. (*Teaching Chess in the 21st Century, Chess Workbook for Children, Chess Concepts and Coloring Book, Chess Handbook, Chess Strategy Workbook, Chess Tactics and Combinations Workbook, Attacking the Chess King Workbook, and Chess Endgame Workbook*).
- ◆ Todd served 15 years on the CSCA Board of Directors including President of Colorado State Chess Association (2004-2006).

### **John Harris:**

- ◆ Leader and organizer in Colorado chess from the 1960's to the early 1970's.
- ◆ Always well dressed in a nice suit and tie.
- ◆ Part of team that brought the U.S. Open to Aspen in 1968, that was won by GM Bent Larsen.
- ◆ Became friends with Bent Larsen, and when Fischer asked for the Candidates Semifinal match to be in the USA (normally must be in a neutral country) Larsen said that he liked Colorado and would agree to play here.
- ◆ 1971 was a brutally hot summer in Denver with highs in the 90's, much hotter than in the mountains and Aspen. Turned out hard for Larsen (he lost all 6 games - <https://tinyurl.com/7kf7af7u>).
- ◆ John Harris played tennis with Fischer during his match against Larsen in Denver in the summer of 1971.

### **International Master Michael Mulyar:**

- ◆ Became International Master (2001).
- ◆ U.S. Open Co-Champion (1999, 2007).
- ◆ U.S. Junior Co-Champion (1998).
- ◆ U.S. Open 2nd Place (2014) (lost play-off to Conrad Holt).

- ◆ Colorado State Champion (1992, 1993, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2013, 2015).
- ◆ Current GM norms (2013; Washington International).
- ◆ Best FIDE rating 2446 (2002).
- ◆ Best tournament ever: 1999 U.S. Open in which he defeated 4 Grandmasters on the way to tying for 1st with a score of 7.5/9 (including wins over Serper, Paragua, Adianto, Kudrin). According to PCA ratings of 2000 his level of play reached 2485.

### **Brian Wall:**

- ◆ Colorado Junior Champion 1972.
- ◆ Scored at least as much as any Colorado resident in 8 Denver Opens, 9 Colorado Closed or Opens, if not clear first.
- ◆ Has written over 20,000 chess related emails.
- ◆ Colorado Senior Open Champion 3 times.
- ◆ One time clear first Colorado Closed while also playing Colorado Senior at the same time.
- ◆ Co-Author *How To Play Chess Like An Animal*.
- ◆ Countless tournament victories for 50 years.
- ◆ Won clear first, Kansas Open 2007.
- ◆ Clear first, North American Open in Stillwater, OK.
- ◆ Clear second behind Josh Bloomer, 2017 New Mexico Open.
- ◆ Led 5 teams, Colorado vs New Mexico matches.
- ◆ DCC President for 10 years, from having no club to one of the biggest in the country.

## **Congratulations to our 2021 Colorado Chess Hall of Fame Inductees!**



***NM Todd Bardwick***



***John Harris***



***IM Michael Mulyar (l)***



***Brian Wall (l)***

# Colorado Open Extravaganza

by CSCA President Brad Lundstrom

Our 2021 Colorado Open was held over the Labor Day weekend of September 4th & 5th. Our site was the *Embassy Suites North* in Denver. We had a surprisingly excellent turnout with 157 players and 54 new unrated players. It was a full weekend with the prior Friday evening, September 3<sup>rd</sup> featuring our 2<sup>nd</sup> class induction into the *Colorado Chess Hall of Fame* followed by the Colorado Blitz 5 minute state championship.

We also held our annual CSCA membership meeting on that Sunday between rounds four and five as is customary at the Colorado Open.

In the Open, we had state Co-Champions which is a rare occurrence as we traditionally use tie breaks to declare one state champion. Due to round three being canceled in that Open section and two players tying for 1<sup>st</sup> with 4.5 points that did not play each other, we reached agreement to allow Co-Champions this year. This decision was upheld by the CSCA Board in a post tournament meeting.

Over \$5,000 in total prizes is still being paid out with our Colorado State Co-Champions each collecting \$525 for their excellent efforts!

## Congratulations to all our tournament champions!

### Open

**Lior Lipad and Rhett Langseth**

are our new 2021 Colorado State Co-Champions! (5.0)

3<sup>rd</sup> place **Neil Bhavikatti** (4.5)

### Under 1900

1<sup>st</sup> **Jeffery Baffo** a perfect (5.0)

2<sup>nd</sup> **Bennet O'Brien** (4.5)

3<sup>rd</sup> **Alex Stiger** (4.0)

### Under 1600

1<sup>st</sup> **William Wolf** (4.5)

Tie 2<sup>nd</sup> **Andre Menard, Mark Zeringue, Derek Yin, Kat Perlik** (4.0)

### Under 1300

1<sup>st</sup> **Laura Alonso** (5.0)

Tie 2<sup>nd</sup> **Owen Vonne, Rowen Oregel, Andrew Sheldon** (4.5)

The great news is many interesting, hard fought and beautiful games were played in every section of this tournament! Due to time deadlines getting everything in to Fred Spell, our outstanding editor of quarterly *Colorado Chess Informant*, we will welcome any games from this event that you would like included in our next issue. If you send me your games, with or without your notes, we will look forward to adding them.

As I've talked about elsewhere, we completed the Colorado Open Championship on Labor Day weekend, but had to respond to diverse problems, with variable success. We also elected a

new board at the membership meeting, with each board member elected by unanimous vote of the members in attendance. The new board went straight to work to complete the work on the Colorado Open and to make improvements for the future. I called for a special meeting of the board on September 13th to identify and address all the open items from the tournament. All the officers were in attendance, as were the acting Colorado Open tournament directors, some former CSCA board members, and our new at-large representative. Everyone worked cooperatively to make future CSCA tournaments be the well-run and enjoyable successes players and organizers should rightfully expect. The tournament directors reported on the results of the games played. The board voted to submit these results for USCF ratings and to publish the results after members were allowed time to review and advise of any corrections needed. I also assigned a number of committees and individuals to take specific actions to ensure that tournaments are adequately staffed, directors have and use the best tournament direction tools available, problems are identified and corrected in time to pair rounds correctly, and everyone - organizers and players alike - know their rights and responsibilities. I will report on these efforts as they are completed. I know they will help make our future tournaments the best they can be, and the successes we've come to expect from CSCA tournaments.

Many thanks to Buck Buchanan, Brian Walker, Shirley Herman, Paul Covington and DuWayne Langseth for stepping up to save a difficult situation.

Looking forward to seeing you in many tournaments this coming year!

(Final Standings can be found online here:

<https://tinyurl.com/83t6nf2y>)

**Sullivan McConnell** (2277)

**Gary Warmerdam** (1855)

Round 1

(Notes by Gary Warmerdam)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.O-O d6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Ba4 O-O 10.Bg5 Qe7 11.Qf3 Bd4 12.Rae1 Rab8 13.Bb3 Qe5 14.Bf4 Qh5 15.Qd3 Bb6 16.e5 dxe5 17.Bxe5 Bf5 (If he had played 18.Qc4 he would have almost certainly simply won my c6 pawn, and if I move my bishop back to d7 to guard it, he can take on f6 and give me 2 sets of doubled pawns. We both missed this.) 18.Qg3 Qg6 19.Qxg6 hxg6 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Re7 Rbd8 22.h3 Rd2 23.Nb1 (I knew that I at least had a psychological edge as he was forced to retreat his knight to indirectly defend c2. He moved his knight back and forth at least 3 times.) 23...Rd6 24.g4 (I was happy when he played this as I wanted to reroute my bishop to a6 via c8 anyway to remove his ability to defend f2.) 24...Bc8 25.Nc3 f5 26.g5 Rd2 27.Nb1 Rd4 28.Rfe1 Ba6 29.Nc3 Rd2 30.Nd1 c5 (I was happy to find this move. If he plays 31.c4 he blocks his own bishop in, although in retrospect, c4 may have been good

for him.) **31.Ne3** (I just thought that this move was bad as c4 looks pretty devastating now.) **31...c4 32.Ba4 Rfd8 33.Bc6 R8d4** (I thought this move was good but the engine says somehow that a4 for White is somewhat holding - from a minus 3 advantage to a minus .8 advantage. He understandably did not see this move as it looks absurd, instead he played 34.Nf1 which just gives me the advantage right back and gives up the pawn on c2. I had my 3 pawn advantage back after that and was able to convert the win.) **34.Nf1 Rxc2 35.Be8 Re4 36.R1xe4 Bxf2+ 37.Kh1 fxe4 38.Bxf7+ Kf8 39.Rxc7 Bb6 40.Rd7 Bc8 41.Rd6 Kxf7 42.Nd2 Ke7 0-1**

**Trevor Mills** (1590)

**Tim Brennan** (1932)

Round 1

1.f4 b5 2.Nf3 Bb7 3.e3 a6 4.a4 b4 5.Be2 Nf6 6.d3 e6 7.O-O Bc5 8.d4 Ba7 9.Kh1 c5 10.c3 cxd4 11.exd4 bxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Ne5 d6 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Bf3 Qc7 16.Bxc6+ Qxc6 17.Qf3 Rc8 18.Qxc6+ Rxc6 19.Ba3 a5 20.Ra2 Ne4 21.Re1 d5 22.Rb2 Kd7 23.Rb5 Rhc8 24.Rb7+ R8c7 25.Rxc7+ Rxc7 26.Bf8 g6 27.g4 Rc4 28.Na3 Rxa4 29.Nb5 Bb8 30.Rb1 Bxf4 31.Na3 Rxa3 32.Bxa3 Nxc3 33.Rb7+ Bc7 34.Rb3 Ne4 35.Rf3 f6 36.Kg2 Bb6 37.Bc5 Bxc5 38.dxc5 Kc6 39.Ra3 Nxc5 40.Rxa5 Kb6 41.Ra3 Kb5 42.Kf3 Kb4 43.Ra2 d4 44.Rb2+ Kc3 45.Rb5 Kc4 46.Rb8 d3 47.Ke3 f5 48.gxf5 gxf5 49.Rb6 h5 50.h3 e5 51.Rb8 f4+ 52.Kf3 Kc3 0-1

**Andrew Starr** (1826)

**Brian Wall** (2200)

Round 1

(Notes by Andrew Starr)

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nf6** (Not the typical move. 4...Nb6 is more common but Brian expressed disdain for this line.) **5.Nc3 g6** (5...e5 Black should aim to counter in the center immediately or White gets a major advantage.) **6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 c6** (White already has a large advantage.) **11.Re1 Nbd7 12.d5** (12.Bf4 would be a slight improvement. White could have improved the position of his dark-squared bishop, and at the same time get his rook off the a1-h8 diagonal, then aim for breaking in the center.) **12...cxd5 13.Nxd5 e6 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bxb7 Rb8 16.Bc6** (Perhaps Brian missed this move when calculating Bxb7, but unfortunately I miscalculated the position after 16...Ne5 17.Qxd8 Rfxd8 18.Bb5, and White has lost most of his advantage. 16.Be4 Bxb2 17.Bxb2 Rxb2 18.Qd4 Rb8 19.Qxa7 I did not see this line during the game, but while the computer says this line is far better, I prefer the practical advantages of 16.Bc6 anyway due to the superior pawn structure. That being said, this is the only line that keeps an advantage.) **16...Ne5 17.Qxd8 Rfxd8 18.Bb5 Rbc8** (18...Nd3 19.Re2 Nxc1 20.Rxc1 the computer assesses this position as equal but practically White is much much better here.) **19.Bg5** (Brian said he missed this move.) **19...Nf3+** (The best reply. After any other move White is simply better. Had I not missed this move I may have not played 19.Bg5.) **20.gxf3 Bxg5 21.Rad1 Be7 22.b3** (22.a3 I also considered this move since it allows me to kick the bishop from c5 in the future and prevents Black from bothering my rook with Bb4.) **22...a5**

**23.Kf1 Kf8 24.Ke2 Bc5** (This prevents me from trading off both pairs of rooks.) **25.f4 Ke7 26.Kf3 Kf6 27.Bd7** (At this point I realized I did not have any winning chances, so I played this move seeing that Black will either have to let me improve the bishop and be slightly better, or instead accept the repetition.) **27...Rc7** (27...Rb8 28.Bc6 and White will relocate the bishop to the b1-h7 diagonal and be slightly better.) **28.Bb5 Rcc8 29.Bd7 Rc7 30.Bb5 Rcc8** (I'm a little disappointed that I seem to have let the win slip away in this game, but you can't complain about a draw against such a strong player.) ½-½

**Tim Brennan** (1932)

**Ken Doykos** (1700)

Round 2

1.b4 d5 2.Bb2 e6 3.a3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c5 5.bxc5 Bxc5 6.e3 O-O 7.d3 Nbd7 8.Nbd2 Qc7 9.Rg1 e5 10.g4 e4 11.g5 Ne8 12.dxe4 Bd6 13.exd5 Bxh2 14.Rh1 Be5 15.Nd4 g6 16.Qg4 f5 17.Qh4 Nb6 18.Nb5 Qe7 19.Bxe5 Rf7 20.Bd4 f4 21.Bd3 Bf5 22.e4 Nxd5 23.Kf1 Ne3+ 24.Kg1 Nd6 25.Nxd6 Qxd6 26.fxe3 fxe3 27.Bxe3 Qe5 28.Rf1 Raf8 29.Bc4 Be6 30.Bxe6 Qxe6 31.Rxf7 Rxf7 32.Qh3 Qe5 33.Nb3 Qxe4 34.Rh2 Qxc2 35.Rxc2 1-0

**Lior Lapid** (2286)

**DuWayne Langseth** (1966)

Round 2

(Notes by Lior Lapid)

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 f5 4.Bf4 Bd6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Bxd6 Qxd6 7.c5** (My goal in closing the position was probably too simple, but I was aiming for a good knight vs bad bishop scenario.) **7...Qe7 8.f4** (When playing 8.f4, I considered the difference between the e5 square for White and the e4 square for Black, concluding that the tradeoff favored me because White can always trade off a bishop for a knight on e4 while Black cannot trade off his bishop for a knight on e5. Given the closed structure in the center, it is clear that knights should be strongly favored over bishops in this position. Still, this committal move was unnecessary and simple development with 8.Nf3 was more accurate.) **8...O-O 9.Nf3 c6** (9...b6 is far more active, e.g. 10.b4 a5 11.a3 Ng4 and White is



CSCA President Emeritus - Paul Covington



*Eamon Montgomery - Lior Lapid*

the one in trouble.) 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.O-O Ne4 12.Bxe4 fxe4 13.Ne5 Qh4 14.b4 Nxe5 15.fxe5 (A tough choice, and I chose wrongly - 15.dxe5 is better. I had strongly considered this option because the beautiful d4 outpost was hard to resist, but 15...b6 concerned me. Still, after 15...b6 16.Qa4 - the only move that retains an advantage for White, preventing 16...Ba6 - 16...Bb7 17.Ne2 and White should be strategically winning.) 15... Bd7 16.Qd2 Rxf1+ 17.Rxf1 Rf8 18.Rxf8+ Kxf8 19.Qf2+ Qxf2+ 20.Kxf2 (Perhaps Black should not have rushed to trade the heavy pieces, as this endgame is exceedingly difficult to hold with the pressure of the ticking clock. I think this must be objectively winning for White as well.) 20...Kf7 21.Kg3 Kg6 22.Kg4 Be8 23.Nb1 (First stop: the a5 square.) 23...Kh6 24.Kh4 g5+ 25.Kh3 Kg6 26.Nd2 Bd7 27.Kg3 Kh5 28.Nb3 Kg6 29.Na5 Bc8 30.Kh3 Kf5 31.Kg3 (Lazy. I was only thinking strategically in this game, and my king shuffle was intended to provoke h5, but here I missed a chance to force the issue with 31.b5 cxb5 32.c6 b6 or 32...bxc6 33.Nxc6 g4+ 34.Kh4 and the threat of Ne7# forces Black to play 34...Kg6 and lose the bishop.) 31...h5 (This is what I had been waiting and hoping for. Now White is able to create new weaknesses on the kingside.) 32.h4 (The idea is to eventually seize the f4 square for my knight, and this is good enough to win, but the cleaner 32.b5! was missed yet again.) 32...Kg6 33.Nb3 (Next stop: the h3 square en route to the f4 square. Gotta love knights in closed positions!) 33...Bd7 34.Nc1 Kh6 35.Ne2 Kg6 36.Ng1 g4 (If not now, the g-pawn would have been forced to move on the next turn after Nh3.) 37.Ne2 (Next stop: a dream home on f4. From here, the knight will keep Black's king tied down to the h5 pawn, which frees my king start the long march over to the queenside.) 37...Bc8 38.Nf4+ Kh6 39.Kf2 (The plan is to put the king on a5 and then start advancing the queenside pawns. After a well timed a4, b5, and bxc6, Black will find himself in Zugzwang with a bishop needing to cover both a6 and e6 and a king needing to protect the h5-pawn.) 39...Bd7 40.Ke1 Bc8 41.Kd2 Bd7 42.Kc3 Bc8 43.Kb3 Bd7 44.Ka4 b6 (Preventing the plan outlined above, but at a cost. White will either create an outside passed pawn or, if Black trades it off, the king's invasion on the

queenside will decide the game.) 45.cxb6 axb6 46.Kb3 b5 47.Kc3 Bc8 48.Kc2 Bd7 49.Kb3 (Zugzwang, as 49...Bc8 is met with 50.a4.) 49...Kg7 50.Nxh5+ Kg6 51.Nf6 Bc8 52.g3 Kf5 53.Ng8 Bd7 54.Ne7# (A picturesque finish!) 1-0

**Iris Li** (1607 - age 8)

**Brad Lundstrom** (1989 - age 65)

Round 2

(From Brad Lundstrom - A well played endgame by Iris Li, hard to believe she is only eight years old! She is our 2021 Colorado Girls State Champion and representative at the US Open Tournament of Champions.)

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Be2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.O-O O-O 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Be3 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Bxc5 Qxc5 12.c3 a5 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Bxe2 15.Nxe2 Rfd8 16.Qc2 Rd6 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.a3 g6 19.Qb3 b5 20.a4 bxa4 21.Qxa4 Rd2 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.Rxd2 Nf3+ 24.gxf3 Rxd2 25.b4 Qg5+ 26.Kh1 Qf5 27.Kg2 axb4 28.Qxb4 Rd3 29.Qg4 Qxg4+ 30.fxg4 Rxc3 31.Rd1 Kg7 32.g5 Rc5 33.h4 h6 34.f4 Rc3 35.Rd8 h5 36.Re8 Rc6 37.Kg3 Re6 38.Rc8 Re7 39.Kf3 f6 40.Kg3 Kf7 41.Kf3 fxg5 42.fxg5 Rd7 43.Ke4 Ke7 44.Ke5 Kf7 45.Ke4 ½-½

**Shirley Herman** (835)

**Arjun Iyer** (1305)

Round 3

(Shirley scores a big upset with a well played endgame.)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 O-O 5.Nf3 b6 6.a3 Be7 7.g3 d5 8. cxd5 exd5 9.Bg2 Nc6 10.O-O Bf5 11.Re1 Qd7 12.Nb5 Bh3 13.Bf4 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Rac8 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.Nxa7 Ra8 17.dxe5 Rxa7 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Qb3 Qf5 20.Rac1 Rc8 21.Rc2 h5 22.Recl Bg5 23.Rxc7 Rxc7 24.Rxc7 Rxc7 25.Bxc7 Qe4+ 26.Qf3 Qxf3+ 27.Kxf3 b5 28.Ba5 Kf8 29.Bc3 Kg8 30.h4 Bh6 31.e4 dxe4+ 32.Kxe4 g5 33.Bf6 gxh4 34.Bxh4 Bf8 35.Bf6 Bc5 36.Bd4 f5+ 37.Kd3 Bxd4 38.Kxd4 Kg7 39.Kc5 f4 40.Kxb5 Kf6 41.b4 fxg3 42.fxg3 Kf5 43.Kc6 Kg4 44.b5 Kxg3 45.b6 h4 46.b7 h3 47.b8Q+ Kg2 48.Qg8+ Kf3 49.Qg1 Kf4 50.a4 1-0



*Neil Bhavikatti - Daniel Herman*



Rhett Langseth - Charles Unruh

**Ted Belanoff** (2204)

**Lior Lapid** (2286)

Round 4

(Notes by Lior Lapid)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Be7** (I tried this just once before, in my game vs Richard Shtivelband at the 2018 Colorado Closed. In my opinion, though White can obtain a slight advantage if well prepared, this rare move is a decent surprise weapon and somewhat underrated.) **4.Be3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Nxf6+ Bxf6 7.Nf3 c5 8.c3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bd7 10.Nb5 O-O 11.Bc5 Be7 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Nc7 Ba4 14.Qxa4 Qxc7 15.Bd3 Nd7 16.O-O Nc5 17.Qc4** (17.Qc2 was more accurate, with a likely draw after the final exchange of minor pieces, as Black's next move forces the weakening of White's queenside.) **17...b5 18.Qxb5 Rab8 19.Qc4 Rxb2 20.Rfb1 Rfb8 21.Rxb2 Rxb2 22.Rb1 Rxb1+ 23.Bxb1 Qd6 24.Qd4** (I was surprised when this move was played instantaneously. White is correct in his assessment that the resulting endgame is drawn, but the knight is a tricky piece in such positions and Black has the better pawn structure as well, so it is not so simple to hold this position in practice - 24.Bc2 g6 25.g3 is probably a more practical approach, and with queens on the board I wasn't sure how to even try to make progress.) **24...Qxd4 25.cxd4 Na4 26.a3 Kf8 27.Kf1 g6 28.Bc2 Nc3 29.Bd3 Ke7 30.Ke1 Kd6 31.Kd2 Nd5 32.Bc4 Ne7 33.Kd3 Ng8 34.Bb3 Nf6 35.Bd1 Nd5 36.Kc4 Nb6+ 37.Kd3** (37.Kb5 was the most active and best defense, and if 37...Kd5 38.Ka6 Kxd4 39.Kxa7 - it is now Black who needs to be very careful.) **37...g5 38.Bf3 f5 39.g3 Nd7 40.Bd1 Nf6 41.Kc4 Ne4 42.f3 Nd2+ 43.Kb5** (This time, though it's hard to believe at first glance, this move is the losing mistake - 43.Kd3 Nf1 44.h4 f4 45.hxg5 fxg3 46.Ke2 g2 47.Kf2 Ne3 48.Bb3 Nf5 49.Kxg2 Nxd4 50.Ba2) **43...Nb1 44.Kb4 Kd5 45.Bb3+ Kxd4 46.Bxe6 f4 47.gxf4 gxf4 48.Bf5 Nd2 49.Bxh7 Nxf3 50.Bg6 Nxh2 51.Bh5 f3 52.Kb5** (52.Bxf3 Nxf3 53.Kb5 Ne5 54.Ka6 Nc6 - and the knight saves the day in the nick of time.) **52...f2 53.Be2 Ke3 54.Bc4 Nf3 55.Ka6 Nd2 56.Bb5 Nb1 57.a4 Nc3 58.Bf1 Nxa4 59.Kxa7 Nc5** (The dream square for this knight is f4,

eliminating the short diagonal from the bishop's reach. Then, after Kd2-e1, it will be easier to block the bishop on the longer diagonal since Black's two remaining pieces control the vital e2 square.) **60.Kb6 Ne6 61.Kc6 Nf4 62.Kc5 Kd2 63.Kd4 Ke1 64.Bc4 Ne2+ 0-1**

**Tim Brennan** (1932)

**Bennett O'Brien** (1740)

Round 4

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Bc4 Nge7 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bb5 a6 7.Bxc6+ Nxc6 8.O-O Be7 9.d3 O-O 10.Qe1 b5 11.a4 Nb4 12.Qe2 d4 13.Nd1 Bd7 14.axb5 Bxb5 15.Nf2 Rc8 16.b3 a5 17.Ne5 a4 18.Nfg4 f5 19.Nf2 Nc6 20.bxa4 Ba6 21.Bd2 Nxe2 22.fxe5 c4 23.Nh3 cxd3 24.cxd3 Rc2 25.Rfc1 fxe4 26.Rxc2 exd3 27.Qg4 dxc2 28.Qxe6+ Kh8 29.Qxa6 d3 30.Qc4 Qb6+ 31.Kh1 Qb1+ 0-1**

**Bruce Johnson** (1721)

**Paul Covington** (1800)

Round 4

(From Paul Covington - This game had a straight path without complications. Everyone was tired at this point which explains this game. Bruce is a true gentleman. Afterwards we started going through this game and one of Jeffrey Baffo's students joined us. He is about 7 year old and added his thoughts into our analysis. This was the highlight for us! Children have such a different perspective on things. This young man was very articulate with such a fresh view of the game. He made our day.)

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Nd5 6.e3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 b5 8.axb5 cxb5 9.Be2 e6 10.O-O Bb7 11.Ne5 Nd7 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Bf3 Be7 14.Ba3 O-O 15.Bxb7 Qxb7 16.Qh5 Bxa3 17.Rxa3 a5 18.Rfa1 b4 19.Rxa5 b3 20.Rb1 Qe4 21.Ra1 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 b2 0-1**



Brian Walker handing Rhett Langseth his prize check



*Jeffrey Baffo contemplating his next move*

**Phillip Brown** (1685)  
**Tyler Thieszen** (1419)  
 Round 5

1.c4 e5 2.g3 f5 3.e3 d5 4.Bg2 c6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nf6 7.Ne2 Nbd7 8.Nbc3 Nc5 9.Qc2 Be6 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Rc8 12.Nxe6 Nxe6 13.Qxf5 Nc7 14.O-O Bb4 15.Bh3 Rb8 16.Ne2 O-O 17.Qd3 Qd6 18.a3 Bc5 19.b4 Bb6 20.Bb2 Ne6 21.Rac1 Ng5 22.Bg2 Nfe4 23.Nf4 Rbd8 24.h4 Ne6 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.Qxe4 Nxf4 27.gxf4 Qd2 28.Qc4+ Kh8 29.Qc3 Qd7 30.Rfd1 Qg4+ 31.Kf1 Rxd1+ 32.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 33.Kg2 Qg4+ 34.Kf1 Rc8 35.Qb3 Rd8 36.Ke1 Qxh4 37.Be5 Qh1+ 38.Ke2 Qd5 39.Qc2 Qc6 40.Qb2 Qg6 41.e4 Qg4+ 0-1

**Felix LeMarinel** (1127)  
**George Voorhis** (1790)  
 Round 5

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 O-O 5.Nf3 d6 6.Be2 Re8 7.O-O b6 8.h3 Bb7 9.Qc2 Na6 10.a3 Rc8 11.Be3 c5 12.d5 Nc7 13.Qd2 a6 14.Bh6 Bh8 15.Nh2 b5 16.cxb5 axb5 17.f3 Ba6 18.Rac1 Nh5 19.Rfe1 Ng3 20.Bf4 Nh5 21.Be3 Ng3 22.Bf2 Nxe2+ 23.Nxe2 e5 24.Be3 Qh4 25.Bg5 Bf6 26.Bxf6 Qxf6 ... 1-0

**Harsh Mali** (1509)  
**Ted Doykos** (1787)  
 Round 5

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bg5 Qb6 6.b3 e6 7.Nd2 Qxd4 8.Ngf3 Qc3 9.Rc1 Ba3 10.Be2 Bxc1 11.Qxc1 Nd7 12.O-O Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.Bf3 f6 15.Re1 Qc3 16.Be3 e5 17.Qa3 Ne7 0-1

**Rowen Oregel** (1119)  
**Andrew Sheldon** (Unrated)  
 Round 5

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bf4 Qa5+ 12.c3 Ngf6 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Be7 15.Ne4 Qd8 (15...Rd8 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Bxf6 gxf6) 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Rh3 Bxe5

18.dxe5 Qd5 19.Qxd5 cxd5 20.O-O-O Ke7 21.Rd4 f6 22.Rg3 Rhg8 23.Rdg4 Kf7 24.f4 Rac8 25.exf6 gxf6 26.Rg6 Rxc6 27.Rxc6 Rg8 28.Rxb6 Rxc6 29.Rh7+ Rg7 30.Rh8 Rg8 31.Rh7+ Rg7 32.Rh8 Rg8 ½-½

**Andrew Roerty** (1730)  
**Owen Curtis** (1197)  
 Round 5

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.Bg5 Qb6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Qd2 Qc7 9.Nb5 Qb6 10.b4 Bf8 11.Be3 Qd8 12.Nxa7 Nc6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bd3 Qc7 15.Bf4 c5 16.c3 cxb4 17.cxb4 Qb6 18.Rb1 Ra4 19.Qc2 Ra8 20.O-O Ba6 21.b5 Bb7 22.a4 Nc5 23.Be3 Qa5 24.Bxc5 Rc8 25.Qd2 Qxd2 26.Nxd2 Bxc5 27.a5 d4 28.b6 Ra8 29.a6 Bxa6 30.Bxa6 Rxa6 31.b7 Kd7 32.b8Q Rxb8 33.Rxb8 d3 34.Ne4 Be7 35.Rd1 Ra2 36.Kf1 f5 37.exf6 gxf6 38.Rxd3 0-1

**Joseph Simon** (1303)  
**Matthew Hills** (1379)  
 Round 5

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nd7 3.c4 e5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Nc3 Ngf6 6.Be2 O-O 7.O-O Re8 8.Bg5 exd4 9.Nxd4 Nf8 10.f4 h6 11.Bh4 Nxe4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Nxe4 Qxe4 14.Kh1 Ng6 15.Bf3 Qe3 16.Bh5 Nxf4 17.Rf3 Qe5 18.Bxf7+ Kxf7 19.Qd2 g5 20.g3 Qe4 21.Re1 Qxe1+ 0-1

**Alex Stiger** (1746)  
**Tim Brennan** (1932)  
 Round 5

1.d4 b5 2.e4 a6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.O-O e6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Nbd2 g5 10.Ne4 g4 11.Nfd2 h5 12.c4 Nf4 13.Nf6+ Kd8 14.Nde4 bxc4 15.Bxc4 d5 16.Nc5 Bc8 17.Bb3 Nd7 18.Ncxd7 Bxd7 19.Qd2 Ng6 20.Rac1 Bb5 21.Rfe1 Nf8 22.Qa5 Rc8 23.a4 Bd3 24.Re3 1-0

**Charles Unruh** (2073)  
**Rhett Langseth** (2124)  
 Round 5

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Bc4 Ke8 7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Bg5 Nbd7 9.O-O a6 10.a4 b6 11.Nd2 Bb7 12.f3 Bb4 13.Nd1 Rd8 14.Nb3 Nc5 15.Be3 Ne6 16.c3 Bd6 17.Nf2 Ke7 18.Rfd1 Rdg8 19.a5 b5 20.Bxe6 Kxe6 21.Nd3 Rb8 22.Nbc5+ Ke7 23.Nxb7 Rxb7 24.Bc5 Nd7 25.Bxd6+ cxd6 26.Nb4 Nc5 27.Rd5 Rd7 28.Rad1 Ke6 29.Nd3 Nxd3 30.R1xd3 Rc8 31.b4 Rc6 32.Kf2 g6 33.Ke2 f5 34.Kd2 Rf7 35.Ke3 fxe4 36.fxe4 Rf1 37.Ke2 Rg1 38.Kf2 Rc1 39.Ke2 Rc2+ 40.Kf3 Ke7 41.h4 R2xc3 42.Rxd6 Rxd3+ 43.Rxd3 Rc4 44.Rd5 Rxb4 45.Rxe5+ Kd6 46.Rd5+ Ke6 47.Rc5 Rc4 48.Rg5 Ra4 49.h5 Kf6 50.hxg6 hxg6 51.Rc5 Rxa5 52.Kf4 Ra2 53.Rc6+ Kf7 54.g4 b4 55.Rb6 a5 56.Ke5 Rg2 57.Rb7+ Kg8 58.Kf4 Kf8 59.Kg5 Rg3 60.Ra7 Ra3 61.Kf6 Ke8 62.Ke6 Kd8 63.Kd6 Rd3+ 64.Ke6 Ra3 65.Kd6 Ke8 66.Kc6 Rc3+ 67.Kd6 Ra3 68.Kc6 Kb8 69.Rb7+ Kc8 70.Ra7 Rc3+ 71.Kd6 Rc4 72.Kd5 b3 73.Rxa5 Rb4 74.Ra1 b2 75.Rb1 Kd7 76.Ke5 Ke7 77.g5 Rb5+ 78.Kf4 Ke6 79.Ke3 Ke5 80.Kd3 Rb8 81.Kc2 Kxe4 82.Rxb2 Rxb2+ 83.Kxb2 Kf4 84.Kc2 Kxg5 85.Kd2 Kg4 0-1

**Elliott Woo** (2024)**Gary Warmerdam** (1855)

Round 5

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5  
 Be7 7.Bf1 O-O 8.c4 Nxe5 9.Rxe5 Bf6 10.Re1 Nf5 11.Nc3 g6  
 12.b3 c6 13.Bb2 d5 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Rb1 Nd4 16.Nb5 Qb6  
 17.Bxd4 Bxd4 18.Nxd4 Qxd4 19.Re7 b5 20.Rc1 b4 21.Rcc7  
 Bg4 22.Qe1 a5 23.h3 Bf5 24.g4 Bd3 25.Qe3 Qxe3 26.dxe3 Bb1  
 27.Bg2 Rad8 28.Red7 Be4 29.f3 Bb1 30.f4 Be4 31.g5 Rxd7  
 32.Rxd7 Bxg2 33.Kxg2 Rc8 34.Rxd5 Rc2+ 35.Kg3 Rxa2 36.e4  
 Ra3 37.Kg4 Kf8 38.h4 Rxb3 39.Rxa5 Rb1 40.Rb5 b3 41.Kf3 b2  
 42.Ke2 Rh1 43.Rxb2 Rh2+ 0-1

**Wesley Woo** (1753)**Keith Oxman** (1900)

Round 5

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3 Be7 6.Nf3 c6 7.Be2  
 O-O 8.O-O dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Rc1 Nxc3  
 12.bxc3 e5 13.Bb3 e4 14.Nd2 Nf6 15.h3 Bf5 16.c4 h5 17.d5

Rac8 18.Nb1 Qe5 19.Nc3 Rfd8 20.f4 Qd6 21.Rf2 Qc5 22.Re2  
 cxd5 23.cxd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Rxd5 25.Qe1 Rd3 26.Rec2 Rxe3  
 27.Qf2 Rd3 28.Nxe4 Qxf2+ 29.Nxf2 Rxc2 30.Rxc2 Rd1+  
 31.Nxd1 Bxc2 32.Ne3 Bd3 33.g4 hxg4 34.hxg4 b5 35.Kf2 b4  
 36.Nd5 a5 37.Ne7+ Kf8 38.Nc6 Bb1 39.Nxa5 Bxa2 40.Ke3 Ke8  
 41.Kd4 Kd7 42.Kc5 b3 43.Nc4 Ke6 44.Kd4 Bb1 45.Nd2 Bc2  
 46.Nc4 Kf6 47.g5+ Kf5 48.Ke3 Ke6 49.Kd4 f6 50.gxf6 gxf6  
 51.Nb2 Kf5 52.Ke3 Kg4 53.Nc4 f5 54.Nb2 Kg3 55.Nc4 Be4  
 56.Nb2 Bc6 57.Nc4 Bb5 58.Nb2 Kg2 59.Nd1 Kf1 60.Nb2 Ke1  
 61.Kd4 Kd2 62.Ke5 Kc2 63.Kxf5 Kxb2 0-1



## Thoughts on the 2021 Colorado Open & Blitz Championships

by Jeffrey Baffo

There were problems and severe delays in this tournament. I'm sure the details of which will be well documented elsewhere, therefore I will begin this article with something much more important, and that is to give thanks. For all of the issues and frustrations, I had a blast. Everyone involved in putting on these dual events deserves a HUGE and heartfelt THANK YOU. Nobody, me included, crybaby that I am, felt the anguish of the mistakes and problems more than Chief TD, Richard "Buck" Buchanan and his staff. They labored mightily to fix things, but not fast enough for us chess bums. In any case, since I trust in our State Chess Association leadership, I know that El Presidente, Brad "The Sombrero" Lundstrom and his fellow board members will diligently diagnose and cure whatever it was that ailed us. OK, I promise that will be my final post about the negative aspects of the "Trail of Tears Tournament" as I will dub the 2021 Colorado Open. Now on to more interesting things, chess, for instance!

First the Blitz championship. It was shortened from nine rounds to six. I did well. How well? Sitting on board 2 in the final round with a chance to score 5.5 out of 6. I'd say that's pretty good. 4 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss. The loss was in the last round to Mr. Ted Belanoff, a fine young man and very strong player. No other way to say it, he squashed me like a bug. The highlight for me was in round 4, playing former Master Charles Unruh. I played a very good game start to finish and delivered a "coup mortel" queen sac for mate with about 14 seconds on my clock.

Now to the main tournament. My section was the U1900. I was perfect. 5-0. In normal circumstances I would be doing metaphorical cartwheels, but this was sadly a very muddled picture due the horrendous pairing problems they had in the first 3 rounds. I sent my games to the Informant and you may see them elsewhere in this publication. Somehow, I was able to stay focused on the chess in front of me, and shut out the distractions. Once I became enraptured/engrossed in my games, everything else melted away. Therefore, the chaos favored me; I didn't have a \$140 hotel bill and 75-mile drive on my mind. Sadly, many of my opponents did. All three nights of chess ended late. I was lucky enough to be only 25 minutes away from my house. Sleeping in your own bed and being surrounded by all your familiar accoutrements, not to mention the love and support of your family, is HUGE. Home field advantage is real. The influx of 60+ new players was noted by many people and rightly so. This has the potential to be the start of a new (and sustainable!) boom in our noble game. That should put a smile on all chess players' faces. Also a positive factor was the location. Though no location is going to please everyone, the *Embassy Suites, DTC North* is a solid choice. Clean, modern, full-service Hotel with tons of amenities and food options all around. Third positive was the huge turnout! When was the last time a Colorado tournament topped 150 participants? Last but certainly not least; every single chess player there was a warrior. This crowd of Cassia devotees produced a hefty prize fund indeed. Yes, the prize money was nice, but if you hung in there through it all, you did it mostly because you love a good (chess) fight! To all the players, prize winner or not, BRAVO, you fought on a decidedly uneven and treacherous battlefield. Now it's up to us to build on these positives and make sure Colorado Chess is the Ultimate Winner!



# My Games from the Colorado Open

by Jeffrey Baffo

## Round 1

**Tyler Thieszen** (1419)

**Jeffrey Baffo** (1746)

### Dark Knight System (Nimzovitch Defense)

**1.e4 Nc6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d4 e5 4.dxe5 Nxe5 5.f4 Nc6 6.e5 Ng8 7.Nf3** I had this same position vs a strong expert some years back and a thrilling draw ensued. **Bb4 8.Bd2 Nge7 9.Bc4 0-0 10.Ne4?!** “Leaving the B floating” as I call it, is a powerful technique that I myself, jump at the chance to do. However, as with most chess strategies there are exceptions. In this case, I would even go so far as to say that 10.Ne4 as a “minor blunder” if there is such a thing. Here is my thinking on that; the hanging bishop motif is defined by me (and what other authority should you listen to, really?) as the nimble dodge of the knight, avoiding a bishop takes knight exchange and essentially making the bishop highly uncomfortable. The idea being to make the bishop a “rebel without a cause”, more of a target for pawn harassment than an offensive threat. Here, however, there are multiple factors working against that.

1. White hasn't castled! Forgive me if I get all “Fred Reinfeld” on you, but the things we teach beginners are sometimes true! Unless you're in a tightly closed position your order of business should be as follows:

- ◆ Minimum pawn moves to occupy or influence the center
- ◆ DEVELOPMENT! as follows;
- ◆ Kinghts before bishops
- ◆ Kingside before queenside
- ◆ Castle early
- ◆ Connect your rooks by sensible deployment of your queen
- ◆ Reposition pieces as needed to maintain optimum central influence

2. My “floating bishop” isn't one! It's solidly defended by it's compadre knight, and more importantly, it's not in danger of being overrun by a pawn wave. The “Noah's Ark” style trap doesn't work here due to there not being enough pawns available! White's QP was KIA and the White bishop pawn is blocked ... by it's own bishop.

3.The knight jump to e4, while being a dream square for a knight, is woefully unstable here. In fact, the knight's presence here facilitates a type of “fork trick” pawn-attack, helping Black to blast open the center. And that, dear reader, refers us back to factor number one listed above. White's king is still in the center. And that center is getting very busy.

**10...d5 11.exd6 Nf5?!** Not a bad move, but a little too fancy. I should just recapture the pawn by 11...cxd6 and be satisfied with a completely equal position. But I want more. My (over?) bold knight maneuver steps up the pressure and puts White in a very tough spot. Should he grab the pawn sacrifice Black is offering

or should he do something about king safety? **12.Ne5?** White immediately blunders. Correct here is 12.Bxb4 Nxb4 13.Bb3 Nxd6 14.Nxd6 cxd6 15.0-0 and although he hasn't won material, White is on solid positional footing. With Black's isolated pawn and his own king being safe now, he can even claim a small advantage. **12...Nxe5 13.fxe5 Qh4+** and it's all over. Not only does White drop a piece but his king is still in the crosshairs. Not much to learn in the rest of the game, although the semi-smother mate at the end is mildly amusing. **14.Nf2 Qxc4 15.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 16.Ke2 cxd6 17.Nd3 Qe4+ 18.Kd2 Qe3+ 19.Kc3 Be6 20.b3 Rac8+ 21.Kb2 Qd4+ 22.Kb1 Ne3 23.Qf3 Nxc2 24.Nb2 Na3 CHECKMATE 0-1**

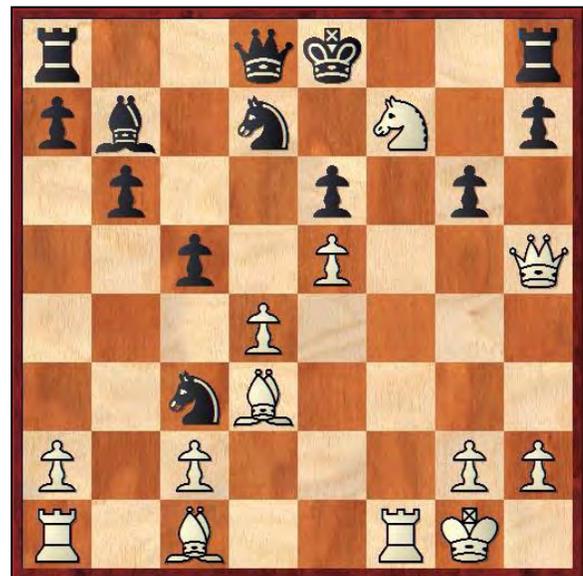
## Round 2

**Jeffrey Baffo** (1746)

**Matthew Miller** (1708)

### Dark Knight System (Nimzovitch Defense)

**1.Nc3** My only chance to play the White pieces in this whole tournament. It also transposes into a form of the Nimzovitch defense. So, weirdly (not counting my forfeit win from round 3) ALL of my games were the same opening. Bizarre. **1...e6 2.d4 b6 3.e4 Bb7 4.f4 Bb4 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Qe2 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.0-0 c5 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 Nd5 12.Bd2?!** Not my proudest moment. Black's tentative play has allowed me a huge attack and I miss my “dare to be great” moment. Aaagghh! I settle for a cravenly defensive move in response to a threat I could have and should have ignored. Correct here would have been the immediate 12.Ng5! and if Black continues with the very logical looking 12...Nxc3 13.Qh5 g6, White has a hammer blow, 14.Nxf7!!!



*Position after 14.Nxf7!!! Yes, that move merits all three punctuations. I'll leave the reader the gruesome pleasure of working out White's nasty follow up.*

The actual game merits no comment except that it is rare to have two games in a row end in actual checkmate. To quote the great man; "I'm a butcher not an artist..." 12...Qc8 13.Ng5 f6 14.exf6 N7xf6 15.Nxe6 Kf7 16.Ng5+ Kg8 17.c4 Nc7 18.d5 Nce8 19.Bf5 Qd8 20.Qe6+ Kf8 21.Qf7 CHECKMATE 1-0

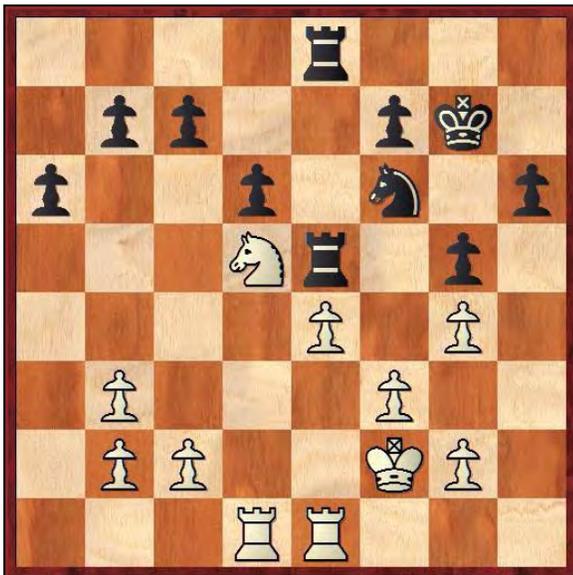
**Round 4**

**Jesse Mellinger** (1523)

**Jeffrey Baffo** (1746)

**Nimzovitch Defense**

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.Bc4 Bg7 6.Be3 0-0 7.0-0 Ng4 8.Bf4 e5 9.dxe5 Ngxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Bb3 Be6 12.Qc1 a6 13.Bh6 Qh4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Qe3 Ng4 16.Qg3 Qxg3 17.hxg3 Rfe8 18.Rae1 Bxb3 19.axb3 Nf6 20.f3 Re7 21.g4 h6 22.Kf2 Rae8 23.Rd1 Rc8 24.Rfe1 Rce8 25.Kg3 g5 26.Kf2 Re5 27.Nd5?? Up to this point, Jesse has simply outplayed me. He deserved to win or at least draw this game. Here I provide a diagram so that it may serve as a warning to all players.



*The Macabre message here is as an ancient a piece of chess wisdom as you are likely to find;  
NEVER TRADE INTO A KING & PAWN ENDING UNLESS  
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING!*

Nxd5 28.exd5 Rxe1 29.Rxe1 Rxe1 30.Kxe1 Yikes! White forced this position yet Black wins it going away. Gruesome. Kf6 31.Kf2 Ke5 32.c4 b5 33.cxb5 axb5 34.f4+ Kxd5 35.Kf3 Kd4 36.Kg3 Ke3 37.fxg5 hxg5 0-1

**Round 5**

**Ken Doykos** (1700)

**Jeffrey Baffo** (1746)

**Nimzovitch Defense**

Ken is a living legend in Colorado Chess. He has an aggressive yet sound style of play. To me he is like a class-player version of Botvinnik or Kramnik. He normally pushes me to my maximum

effort in our games. Here, sadly he blunders on unlucky move 13 dropping a piece. Even so he fights on and gets a scary looking attack.

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d5 Nb8 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 Ng4 8.Bd4 Bxd4 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.h3 Nf6 11.Be2 e5 12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.Bc4? "Obvious" but at the same time surprising. What is amazing is that such a normal looking move should turn out to be a game losing blunder. Nc6!



*Of course! White's queen simply has no way to save itself and maintain it's support of his bishop at the same time.*

14.Qe3 Bxc4 15.Qh6 Qe7 16.0-0-0 Rfe8 17.Ng5 Qf8 18.Qh4 Qg7 19.Rhe1 d5 20.exd5 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Nxd5 23.Rd1 Nf6 24.Rd3 h6 25.Nf3 Re8 26.Qg3 Re7 27.h4 Ne4 28.Qg4 f5 29.Qf4 h5 30.Ng5 Qe5 31.Qxe5 Nxe5 32.Rd8+ Kg7 33.Nxe4 fxe4 34.Rd5 Kf6 35.Rd4 Ng4 36.f3 exf3 37.gxf3 Ne5 38.Kd2 Rd7 39.Rxd7 Nxd7 40.Ke2 g5 41.hxg5+ Kxg5 42.Kf2 Kf4 43.c3 Ne5 0-1



# 2021 Colorado Blitz Championship

by CSCA President Brad Lundstrom

Congratulations to our new 2021 Colorado State Blitz Champion Griffin McConnell!

53 players battled in one open section that offered rating group prizes for the Colorado State Blitz Championship on Friday evening, September 3rd.

The action was fast and furious. There were many upsets and several unrated players surprised us!

Congratulations to our prize winners!

## Open

1st - Griffin McConnell 6-0 took home top prize of \$150  
2nd - Ted Belanoff 5.0 / Rhett Langseth 5.0 / Scott Lett 5.0

## Under 1900

1st - William Wolf 5.0

## Under 1400

1st - Rowen Oregal 4.0 / Tanya Prabhu 4.0

## Unrated

1st - Albero Molina 4.0 / Owen Curtis 4.0

Our planned 5 minute nine round tournament experienced pairing challenges and ran much slower than anticipated. Eventually it became evident we would be finishing far later than we all expected. With the lateness of the hour and concerns over health and safety for those that would be driving, I called for a vote to shorten the tournament to six rounds. We did call our national US Chess leadership and they agreed with the decision. After a narrow vote we reduced our tournament to six rounds. We learned a lot and it will get much better going forward.

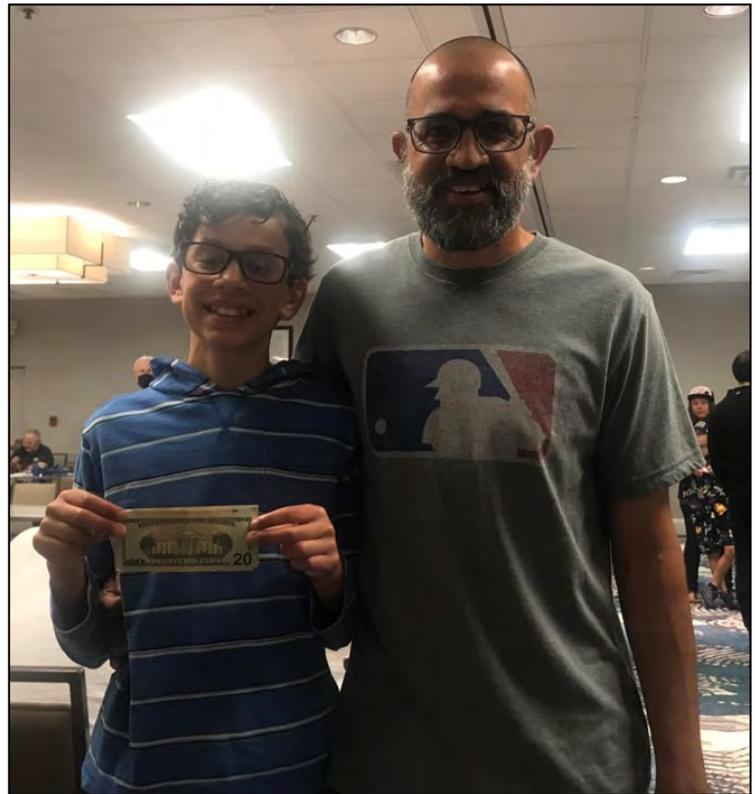
Our new 2021 Blitz State Champion Griffin McConnell was featured in a Fox Television news story earlier this year as he shared his amazing life and chess story.

He amazed us all once again by defeating his brother Sullivan in the final round. Sullivan a National Master, is the current Colorado Closed Invitational State Champion, and it was the first time Griffin had beaten him in a state tournament. Colorado is extremely proud of this dynamic duo!





*Unknown player with the cool chess shirt.*



*Rowen Oregel (and dad) with his prize money.*



*Tanya Prabhu (with parents) ties for first in the Blitz, Under 1400.*



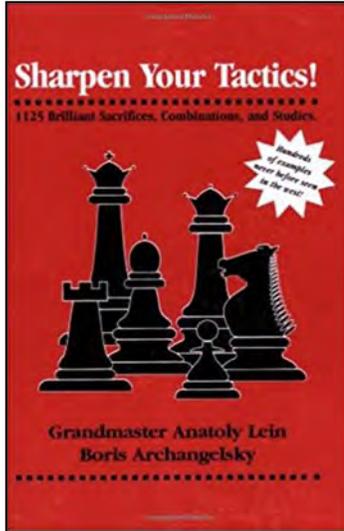
*William Wolf won prize money in the Blitz & Open over the weekend.*

# A Fantastic Cook!

by Jeffrey Baffo

Greetings, my most esteemed readers.  
The book here is "Sharpen Your Tactics!"

1...Kxh7? 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg6 fxd6 4.Qxg6+ Kh8 5.Qh6+ Kg8 6.g6 Rf7 7.gxf7+ Kxf7 8.Qh5+ Kg7 9.f5 exf5 10.Bh6+-



I am here today with a correction to this fantastic book, which I highly recommend, btw. Necessary background and disclosures; the way I "solve" a chess problem is to play it out against a chess engine (usually the phone app "Chess Genius" aka the best six dollars you will ever spend for a chess app) and if I can make the engine resign or mate it, I consider that problem solved. Now let me take pains here; I always check the solution as shown by the author. (Side note, this is a "three star" problem, the author's way of telling you it will be HARD!)

Sometimes my method of solving agrees with the author's sometimes it does not. In some cases, I just beat the engine because it did not mount the best defense (I only give it a few seconds per move) and the last case is that sometimes I can NOT solve it at all. In that instance two cause and effect scenarios must be explored. Either I did not solve due to my own chess inadequacies ("No way!!" - B. Preston & T. Logan) or, and this is very rare, the problem has some sort of error in it. Here we are with one of the latter situations. A most delicious dish by a fantastic cook! The solution is flawed due to the far too commonly encountered case of the defender failing to find the best defense. In this case, we must forgive "Esser" due to the fact that the "cook" if you will, like a lot of brilliant moves, looks completely pointless if not downright idiotic. Here we go;

**Breyer - Esser**  
Budapest, 1917

("Sharpen Your Tactics!" Problem 919 pg. 164,  
White to play and win.)

1.Rh7 (Diagram 1)

This move is shocking but cold, clinical, and calm analysis shows it does NOT deserve the vaunted "exclam" punctuation. Just for fun let's see what happens if Black snatches that Tower of Terror.



(Diagram 1)

Wowzer! What a gorgeous attack, magnificently prosecuted by Breyer. Let's not let the following correction ("cook", in chess slang) detract from that. Breyer was a total attacking maniac there. Bravo. *HOWEVER*... what the defender (Black) missed is arguably at least as brilliant. Black Jiu Jitsu's Whites attack with the following magnificent counter attack;

1...Bxg5!!-+ (Diagram 2)



(Diagram 2)

As the reader may suspect, this was the engine's discovery, not mine. Still, let's appreciate the stupidity on display here. Stupid-good, that is. Black makes a goofy, random looking desperation spite capture, that can't possibly have any impact on the position, let alone actually flip the script and allow him, Black to win, can it?!?!? Oh, yes it can! Amazingly, White is lost here. Whether he persists in forcing Black to take his rook or tucks tail and runs, White is lost. Here are the key moves; 2.fxd6 Kxh7 3.Qh5+ Kg8 4.Bxg6?? fxd6+-+ and here is where we see the value of Black's seemingly stupid 1...Bxg5!! It's CHECK!!! (Simply removing the rook from danger does no good, either ... 2.Rh1 Be7 3.Ne4 Kg7 and Black is decisively up in material).

Well dear reader, I warmly recommend my method of "solving" chess problems. Not only does it give you simulated playing experience (with the engine's help) you can find some very educational hidden variations. Now get out there in that chess kitchen and do your own cooking!



## COLORADO CHESS CLUB DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

Information is also available on the Chess Knights' Web site at [HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org](http://HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Fort Collins Chess Club:** Currently meets Tuesdays, 7:00pm, in the food court of the Lory Student Center (2nd level), Colorado State University. You can email Frank Deming at [frank.deming@icloud.com](mailto:frank.deming@icloud.com).

On the web - [groups.yahoo.com/group/fort\\_collins\\_chess](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fort_collins_chess).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# 2021 Colorado Class Championships

by Tom Nelson / Chief Tournament Director & Director of Colorado Scholastic Chess

First congratulations to our 2021 Class Champions. Using the standard USCF Tie Breaks, Modified Median, Solkoff, Cumulative Score and Opposition Cumulative Score for players with the same scores.

**Master/Expert Section - Daniel Herman**  
**Class A Section - DuWayne Langseth**  
**Class B Section - Phillip Brown**  
**Class C Section - Daniel Pfeil**  
**Class E Section - Matthew Miller**

This year's tournament was a 4 round Swiss with a Time Control of G/90; inc/30, and had 62 players. It was held at *The Ranch, Thomas M. McKee 4-H, Youth & Community Building 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, Colorado 80538.*

For eighteen of the players this was their first USCF tournament. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in tournaments to come.

A special thanks goes out to Shirley Herman who diligently worked out the proper payout of prize money with our Class E Section with the \$50 limit allowed to unrated players.

Our most captivating game came in the Class A section with a knight and bishop mate in the fourth round as Andrew Starr battled it out with Sandeep Mathew. With no prize money to be won both of players tested the others' skills neither willing to offer a draw.

One of the most exciting aspects of the tournament came at the end as several of the players decided to join together in forming new chess clubs. One in the Ft. Collins area and one in the Centennial area. If you are interested in learning more about these chess clubs let us know and we can put you in contact with the organizers.

One last special thanks to Brad Lundstrom our CSCA President who diligently worked to make this year's tournament available.

It's good to have over the board tournaments once again taking place in Colorado.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Here is a very nice game from the Class D section:*

**Nathan Muennich** (1168)  
**George Roberts** (unrated)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.c4 c6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.Nc3 a6 8.O-O Bd6 9.Re1 O-O 10.a3 Re8 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.e4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Qd8 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Rc1 Rd8 17.Nd2 Nxd4 18.Nc4 Qe7 19.Nb6 Nc6 20.Qc2 Rb8 21.Red1 Nd4 22.Nxc8 Rbxc8 23.Qxc8 Ne2+ 24.Kf1 Nxc3+ 25.hxg3

Rxc8 26.Rxc8+ Kh7 27.Rcd8 Qg5 28.R8d7 Qh5 29.Bxb7 a5 30.Kg2 g5 31.Bf3 g4 32.Be4+ Kg7 33.Ra7 Kf6 34.Rdd7 Qe5 35.Rxf7+ Kg5 36.f4+ 1-0

(Results can be found here online: <https://tinyurl.com/x32hkxz4>)



*The Tournament Playing Room*

*Here are the four games with annotations from our new 2021 Colorado Masters/Expert Champion, Daniel Herman:*

**Anthony Whitt** (1919)  
**Daniel Herman** (2124)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bc4 Nb6 (5...d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4) 6.Bb3 c4?! (6...d6 7.O-O / 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 O-O 10.O-O Bd7 11.Nc3 Bc6 / 7...Nc6 8.exd6 Bxd6 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 O-O 11.Nc3) 7.Bc2 d6 8.d4 (8.exd6 Bxd6 9.O-O Nc6 10.d4 cxd3 11.Qxd3 Bc7) 8...cxd3 9.Qxd3 Nc6 10.Bg5?? (10.exd6 Bxd6 or 10...Qxd6 11.Qe2 Be7 12.O-O O-O / 11.O-O Be7 12.Qe4 (White has a very pleasant position.) 10...Nxe5 11.Qb5+ Qd7 12.Qe2 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Be7?! (13...Qc6 14.Qg3 Qb5 15.Bb3 Bd7 16.Nd2 Qe5+ 17.Be3 Qxg3 18.hxg3 Bc6 19.f3 Be7 20.a4 / 13...Qb5 14.Bc1 Bd7!) 14.h4?! (14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.O-O O-O 16.a4 Nd5 17.Re1 Nf6 18.Nd2 Qc7 19.Ne4 Nxe4 20.Qxe4 g6) 14...Bxg5? (14...Qb5 15.Bc1) 15.hxg5 Qb5 16.g6 (I completely missed this move.) 16...Qxb2? (16...Qe5+ Extremely risky after a pawn up for nothing position from the opening.) 17.Qxf7+ Kd8 18.Rxh7?! (18...Qxg7 18.Qxg7 Re8 19.gxh7 Bd7 20.h8Q Rxh8 21.Rxh8+ Kc7 22.Rxa8 Nxa8, with an unclear position though I would be very concerned about the g-pawn running.) 18...Re8 19.Rxg7?? (19.Qxg7 Bd7 20.Ba4 Qxa1 21.Bxd7 Qxb1+ 22.Ke2 Qxa2+ 23.Kf1 Qb1+ 24.Ke2 Qa2+) 19...Bd7 20.Ba4 (My opponent offered a draw.) 20...Qxa1 21.Bxd7 Qxb1+ 22.Ke2 Qc2+?! (22...Qxa2+ 23.Kf3) 23.Ke1?! (23.Kf3 Qxc3+) 23...Qb1+ 24.Ke2 Qxa2+ 25.Kf3 Qd5+ 26.Kg3? (26.Ke2 Qe4+ / 26...Qe5+ 27.Kd1 Qxg7 28.Qxg7 Nxd7 / 27.Kd1 Qd3+ 28.Ke1 Qxc3+ 29.Ke2 Qxg7 30.Qxg7 Nxd7. I was very confident I would win something like this by pushing the a-pawn and my two rooks stopping the g-pawn when necessary.) 26...Qg5+ 27.Kh2 Re7 28.Qxe7+

**Qxe7 29.Rxe7 Kxe7 30.Bb5 Kf6 31.Bd3 Nd5 32.Kg3 Ne7 33.Be4 0-1**

**Daniel Herman** (2124)

**Marcus Blann** (1983)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Ngf3 a6 6.Be2 Nf6 7.O-O Be7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.Nbd4 (10.Qd3 O-O 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Re8 13.Qd2) 10...O-O 11.Be3 (11.Bg5) 11...Re8 12.Qd3 Nc6 13.c3 Ne4 14.Rad1 Bg4 (Black has more active pieces and space for the isolated queen pawn.) 15.Nc2 Bxe3 (The computer doesn't call this an inaccuracy but I would, 15...Bc7 16.Qxd5 Qf6 / 15...Bf5 16.Qxd5 Qxd5 17.Rxd5 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Bxc2) 16.Nxe3 Bxf3? (16...Nf6 17.Nxg4 Nxg4 18.Qc2 Nf6 19.Rfe1 Qb6 20.g3 Rad8 21.Bf1 g6 22.Qb3 Qc7 23.Bg2 / 16...Be6 with dark squared bishops exchanged White has all the fun.) 17.Bxf3 Ne5 18.Qxd5 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Qg5+ 20.Qxg5 Nxe5 21.Kg2 (I didn't play this endgame too bad but there were small points of improvement.) 21...Ne6 22.Rd7 Rab8 23.Rfd1 h5 24.Kg3 g6 25.Nd5 Kg7 26.Nc7?! (26.Rd6 Nc5 27.b4 Na4 28.c4 Red8 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Ne3 Rxd1 31.Nxd1 Kf6 32.Kf4 a5) 26...h4+?! (26...Nxc7 27.Rxc7 b5 the engine restrains the majority and somehow defends against two rooks on the seventh ... 28.Rdd7 Rf8 29.Rc6 a5 30.Ra7 a4 31.Rcc7 Rb6 32.f4 Rf6 33.Rc5) 27.Kxh4 Nxc7 28.Rxc7 Re2?! (28...b5 29.Rdd7 Rf8 30.Rd6 Rh8+ 31.Kg3 Rbd8 32.Rxa6 Rh5 33.f4 Rd3+ 34.f3 Rd1 35.Raa7 / 29.Rdd7 1-0) 29...Rf8 30.Rxb7 Rxf2 31.Kg3 Rc2 32.Rdc7 g5?! (32...Rc1) 33.a4 Kg6 34.Rc6+ f6 35.Rxa6 Re8 36.Rbb6 Ree2 37.Rxf6+ Kg7 38.Rg6+ Kf7 39.Rxg5 Rxb2 40.Rb5 Rxh2 41.Rxb2 Rxb2 42.Kg4 Rg2+ 43.Kf5 Rh2 44.Ra7+ Kg8 45.f4 Rc2 46.Kg6 Rg2+ 47.Kf6 Rc2 48.Rc7 Ra2 49.Rc8+ Kh7 50.Rc4 Kg8 51.f5 Rb2 52.Rb4 Rc2 53.Rb8+ Kh7 54.Ke7 Rxc3 55.f6?! (55.Rb7) 55...Re3+?! (55...Rc7+ 56.Kd6) 56.Kf8 Re4 57.a5 Rg4 58.f7 Re4 59.a6 1-0

**Mirza Peljto** (1908)

**Daniel Herman** (2124)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.Nf3 d6 6.c3 g6 7.Nbd2 Bg7 8.h4 e5 (After I played this move, I felt it might have been two early. 8...g5 / 8...Nd7 - no need to clarify the structure.) 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Qb3 0-0 11.0-0-0?? (My attack comes much faster. Better was 11.h5 g5 12.Nh2. I wasn't really ecstatic about something like this.) 11...a5 12.a4?! (12.h5 g5) 12...Na6 13.Be4?! (13.Bxa6 Qxa6) 13...Nc5 14.Qa3 b6 15.Kb1?! (15.h5 g5 16.Ne1 Rd8 17.Kc2 Bf8 18.Qa2 Bd7 19.b3 c6 20.Nd3 b5 21.Nxc5 Bxc5) 15...Bd7? (15...Bg4) 16.b3? (16.h5 Bxa4 / 16.Nb3 ... the machine points out this mini tactic - 16...Bxa4 17.Nxc5 Bxd1 18.Rxd1 bxc5 19.Qxc5 ... not the most fun exchange to be up.) 16...Rfd8 17.Rhe1 Bf8 18.Qa2 c6?! (18...Bg4) 19.Qc2?! (19.h5 gxh5) 19...Rab8 20.Ka2 b5 21.axb5 exb5 22.Bd5 Qe7?! (22...b4 23.c4) 23.b4?! (23.Kb1) 23...axb4 24.exb4 Na6 25.Kb1 Nxb4 26.Qb3 Nxd5 27.exd5 e4?! (27...Bf5+ 28.Ne4 Ra8 29.Re3 Ra4 30.Nd2 h5 31.Qxa4 bxa4 32.Kal Rxd5 33.Rbl Qxh4 34.g3) 28.Nd4 Ra8 29.d6 (29.Nxe4 was best. 29...Bg7 30.d6 Qe5 31.Ng5 Qxd6 32.Qxf7+ Kh8 33.Qe8+ Rxe8 34.Nf7+ Kg8 35.Nxd6 Rxe1) 29...Qxd6 30.Nxe4 Qa6 31.Kc2 Bg7 32.Nc3 b4 33.Qxb4 Rab8 34.Qe7 Qb6 35.Ndb5 Qxf2+ 36.Re2 Bf5+ 37.Kb3 Be6+ (A terrible blunder,

37...Rxb5+ 38.Nxb5) 38.Qxe6 (My opponent offered a draw.) 28...Rxd1 39.Rxf2 fxe6 40.Nxd1 Rxb5+ 41.Kc4 (41.Kc2 Rb4 42.h5 gxh5 43.Kd3 h4 44.Ne3 Rd4+ 45.Ke2 Be5 46.Nc2 Rg4 47.Kf3 Rg3+) 41...Rd5 42.Ne3 Rd4+ 43.Kc5 Rxh4 44.Kd6 Bd4 45.Rf3 Bxe3 46.Rxe3 Rg4 47.g3 Kf7 48.Rf3+ Kg7 49.Kxe6 Re4+ 50.Kd5 Re1 (50...Rb4 51.Kc5 Ra4 52.Kd5 h5 53.Kc5 Rg4 54.Kd5 Kh6 55.Rb3 Ra4 56.Ke6 Kg5 57.Rb6) 51.Kd4 h5 52.Ra3 (52.Re3 Rxe3 53.Kxe3 Kf6 / 53...Kh6 54.Kf4 g5+ 55.Kf3 Ke5 / 55...Kf5 56.g4+ / 56.Ke3 Kf5 57.Kf3 Kf6 58.Kf2 Ke6) 52...Kh6 53.Re3 (53.Ra5 Rg1 54.Ke3 Rxg3+ 55.Kf4 Rg1 56.Ra6 Rg4+ 57.Kf3 Kg5 58.Ra2 Rf4+ 59.Kg3 h4+) 53...Rxe3 54.Kxe3 Kg5 55.Kf3 h4 56.gxh4+ Kxh4 57.Kg2 Kg4 58.Kh2 Kf3 59.Kg1 Kg3 60.Kh1 (Checkmate is now unavoidable. 60.Kf1 was best.) 60...g5 61.Kg1 g4 62.Kh1 Kf2 0-1

**Daniel Herman** (2124)

**Rhett Langseth** (2132)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nge2 Nbd7 5.h3 h5 6.g3 c6 7.Bg2 b5 8.0-0 a5 (8...Be7) 9.Be3 (9.d5 Bb7 10.dxc6 Bxc6 11.a3 Be7 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Bb7 14.Nc3 h4 15.g4 b4) 9...b4 10.Na4 Ba6 11.Re1 Be7 12.f4 Qc7 13.Rc1 c5 14.c3 Bb7 (14...O-O 15.Nxc5) 15.d5 (15.fxe5 dxe5 16.d5 O-O 17.c4 Ne8 18.Rc2 Nd6 19.Nc1 f5 20.Nd3 Nxe4 21.Qxh5 Nxe3) 15...0-0 (15...h4 16.a3 bxa3 17.bxa3 Ba6 18.c4 Nh5 19.g4 exf4 20.Nxf4 Nxf4 21.Bxf4 Ne5 22.Nb2) 16.c4 Nh7 17.Rf1 exf4 (17...Rae8 / 17...h4 18.f5 / 18.g4 exf4 19.Bxf4 Ne5 / 18...Qd8 19.g4 / 18.gxf4) 18.gxf4 Bf6 (18...Bh4 19.Kh1 Rae8 20.Bg1 Re7 21.Bh2 Rfe8 22.Ng1 Rxe4 23.Bxe4 Rxe4 24.Nf3 Bd8 25.Qd3) 19.Ng3 g6 (19...h4 20.Nf5 Rae8 21.Qd2 Bc8 22.Kh1 g6 23.Nh6+ Kg7 24.Ng4 Be7 25.e5 dxe5 26.f5) 20.e5 dxe5 (20...Nxe5 21.fxe5 Bxe5) 21.Ne4 exf4 (21...Bg7 22.f5) 22.Nxf6+ Nhx6 23.Bxf4 Qc8 24.Qf3 Ra6 25.Rce1 Re8 26.Bg5 Kg7 (26...Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Nh7 28.Bh6 Re6 29.Rxe6 fxe6 30.Qe4 Nhf8 31.Qe3 Kf7 32.Qf4+ Kg8 33.Qd6) 27.Rxe8 Qxe8 28.Nxc5 Qe5 29.Bf4 Qd4+ 30.Be3 Qxc4 31.Nxb7 Qxa2 32.Bd4 Qc4 33.Qf4 Qb5 34.Nd6 Qb8 35.Bxf6+ Kg8 36.Bd4 f5 (Checkmate is now unavoidable. 36...f6 was best. 37.Qe4) 37.Qh6 Nf6 38.Qxg6+ Kh8 39.Nf7# 1-0



Front: Anthony Whitt (l) vs Daniel Herman.

Back: Rhett Langseth (l) vs Marcus Blann.

## Colorado Scholastic Champions Fare Well at 2021 U.S. Open

by CSCA President Brad Lundstrom

### 37th Annual U.S. Open Tournament of State Champions

Elementary, Middle, High School, Girls & Seniors  
Crowne Plaza, Philadelphia-Cherry Hill, NJ  
July 31 - August 3, 2021

Congratulations to our state representatives and champions on your strong results at the 2021 U.S. Open Tournament of Champions! Against the best players in the nation, you all did very well and all of Colorado chess is very proud of you! This will forever be a great memory for you and is a gift as we share our love of chess and care about each other's successes.

#### Final Results:

**Derek Yin** / *Rockefeller (Elementary Championship)*  
placed 27th with 3.0 points.

**Davin Yin** / *Barber (Middle School Championship)*  
placed 23rd with 3.0 points.

**Vedanath Sampath** / *Denker (High School Championship)*  
placed 34th with 2.5 points.

**Iris Li** / *Haring (Girls Championship)*  
placed 21st with 3.0 points.

well. He shares that this is a good opportunity for the school kids and they were all very enthusiastic about it.



*Davin Yin - Colorado Middle School Champion*

#### Thoughts from Davin Yin about his tournament:

**Blitz:** There was a blitz tournament first thing in the morning. This didn't go particularly well with some low level mistakes and tactical awareness (2.5/8). Later in the afternoon there was a typical opening ceremony with nothing too exciting or interesting.

**Round 1:** Seeing as I was barely in the top half based on rating, I ended up playing the lowest rated player in the section; overall it was a fairly smooth and easy win.

**Round 2:** This was more or less a typical game with me losing a piece to a tactic but then winning it back.

**Round 3:** I was paired with the second highest rated player in the section after he drew a 2000. I ended up having a d and e pawn for an f and c pawn, however I had a hard time pushing them and ended up losing the d-pawn due to a tactical oversight in time trouble.

**Round 4:** Played a 1400 and got into a very drawish, locked position. However due to a couple mistakes from him, I broke through and won.

**Round 5:** I played a 2000 and failed to hold a slightly unpleasant position with another oversight in time trouble.

**Round 6:** Paired against another 2000 and managed to get a nice position, however ended up missing a few moves and went into a pawn up endgame. Unfortunately, I messed this up and only got a draw.



*Here is Vedanath accepting his Colorado High School Championship Trophy from CSCA President Brad Lundstrom*

During his time at the U.S. Open, Vedanath was able to meet some of his chess idols and get in touch with other players. He was happy to play some games with other U.S. Open players as

Below is Davin's games. He might share more later. He's crazy busy with soccer. He has soccer training every day and games 2 to 3 times a week this fall. He's playing soccer both at BC United Club and Fairview HS.

He finished Calculus A/B last year. So math is easy for him this year. He's taking Pre-IB courses and will take several AP tests this year.

**Davin Yin** (1811)  
**Gage Carr** (Unrated)  
Round 1

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 a6 5.Ba4 Bc5 6.d3 h6 7.c3 0-0 8.Bc2 Re8 9.h3 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 Ba7 13.a3 Nf6 14.Be3 Be6 15.Nc3 Qd7 16.Qd3 Rad8 17.Rfd1 g6 18.Bxh6 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Qf3 Qe5 21.Bf4 Qc5 22.Be3 Bd5 23.Nxd5 Rxe3 24.Nxe3 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qe5 26.b4 c5 27.Ng4 Nxg4 28.Qxg4 Bb8 29.Qg3 Qxg3 30.fxg3 Bxg3 31.bxc5 Bf4 32.Kf2 Bc7 33.Rd7 Ba5 34.Rxb7 1-0

**Davin Yin** (1811)  
**Sean Tan** (2041)  
Round 2

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 Be7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c3 Qc7 9.Qc2 b6 10.Re1 Ba6 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.a3 Rad8 13.c4 Nf6 14.Ne4 Qd7 15.Bf1 h6 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Be3 Bb7 18.Qe2 Ne7 19.Rab1 Ng6 20.Red1 Qc6 21.Bg2 Qa4 22.Ne1 Bxg2 23.Nxg2 Rd7 24.Ne1 Rfd8 25.f4 e5 26.f5 Ne7 27.Qf3 Nc8 28.Rd2 e4 29.Qxe4 Re7 30.Qf3 Rxe3 31.Qg4 Nd6 32.Ng2 Ree8 33.Nf4 Qd7 34.Nd5 Bd4+ 35.Kg2 Qxf5 36.Qh4 Qg5 37.Qxg5 hxg5 38.Rf1 Re5 39.b4 Nf5 40.Rxf5 Rxf5 41.Ne7+ Kf8 42.Nxf5 cxb4 43.Nxd4 Rxd4 44.axb4 Ke7 45.Kf3 Ke6 46.Re2+ Kf5 47.Ke3 Rd7 48.h3 Ke5 49.Kd2+ Kd6 50.g4 g6 51.d4 b5 52.c5+ Kd5 53.Kd3 f6 54.Re1 Rh7 55.Re3 Rf7 ½-½

**Evan Park** (2362)  
**Davin Yin** (1811)  
Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Ne7 7.g3 Nbc6 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 f5 10.Nb5 fxe4 11.Nd6 Nf5 12.Bxe4 Nxd6 13.Qxd6 Bc7 14.Qd3 Ne5 15.Qc3 d5 16.Bf4 Nc6 17.Bxc7 Qxc7 18.Bg2 Bd7 19.Rfe1 Rae8 20.Rad1 Bc8 21.Rd2 Re7 22.Qe3 Kh8 23.c3 Ref7 24.Nd4 Nxd4 25.Qxd4 b6 26.f4 Re7 27.Re5 Rfe8 28.Rde2 Kg8 29.h4 Kf8 30.Kh2 Ba6 31.Re1 Qc4 32.Qxc4 Bxc4 33.a3 Bd3 34.R1e3 Bf5 35.Bxd5 g6 36.Bf3 h5 37.Be4 Kf7 38.Bxf5 gxf5 39.Rd3 Rc7 40.Re2 Ree7 41.Red2 Kf6 42.Rd8 Rf7 43.Kg2 Rce7 44.Rh8 Kg6 45.Rd6 Rh7 46.Rxh7 Kxh7 47.Kf3 Kg6 48.c4 Kf6 49.b3 Rg7 50.Rd8 Rc7 51.Rh8 Kg6 52.Rg8+ Kf6 53.a4 Rd7 54.Ke2 Re7 55.Rg5 Rh7 56.Kd3 e5 57.fxe5+ Kxe5 58.b4 Rd7+ 59.Kc3 Ke4 60.c5 Rd3+ 61.Kc4 Rd5 62.Rxh5 bxc5 63.bxc5 a6 64.c6 Rd4+ 65.Kc5 Rxa4 66.c7 Kd3 67.Rh8 Rc4+ 68.Kb6 1-0

**Davin Yin** (1811)  
**Stewart Hall** (1427)  
Round 4

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0

0-0 8.Re1 b5 9.a4 b4 10.b3 a5 11.Bb2 Ba6 12.h3 d4 13.Nh2 e5 14.f4 Nd7 15.f5 g6 16.Ng4 Kg7 17.Qf3 g5 18.Nf1 f6 19.h4 h6 20.Nf2 Rh8 21.Qe2 Qg8 22.Bf3 Kf8 23.Kh1 Qg7 24.Bh5 Bd6 25.Nd2 Ke7 26.Nc4 Bxc4 27.dxc4 Rag8 28.Rg1 Bc7 29.Nd3 Bb6 30.Rg2 Nd8 31.Kg1 Nb7 32.Rf1 Nd6 33.Rff2 Qf8 34.Kf1 Qa8 35.Bf3 g4 36.Bxg4 Qxe4 37.Bh3 Qxe2+ 38.Rxe2 Kf7 39.Nf2 Bc7 40.g4 Bd8 41.Rg1 h5 42.Ne4 Ke7 43.g5 Nxe4 44.Rxe4 Kf7 45.Bc1 Rg7 46.Kf2 Rhg8 47.g6+ Ke8 48.Bh6 Re7 49.g7 Nb6 50.Bg2 Nc8 51.Re2 Rxxg7 52.Bc6+ Kf8 53.Bd5 1-0

**Chen-Chen Ye** (2105)  
**Davin Yin** (1811)  
Round 5

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 Ne7 8.h4 d5 9.Bd2 a5 10.h5 c5 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.h6 g6 14.exd5 exd5 15.Ne2 Bxd2+ 16.Qxd2 d4 17.Rh3 Qd5 18.Kf1 Nc6 19.Nf4 Qc4+ 20.Kg1 0-0 21.b3 Qb4 22.Qc1 Kb7 23.Nd3 Qb6 24.c3 Rhe8 25.cxd4 cxd4 26.Qc4 f5 27.Nc5+ Ka7 28.Na4 Qb7 29.Rc1 Rc8 30.Nc5 Qb6 31.f4 Re7 32.a3 Rec7 33.b4 Re7 34.Na4 Qb7 35.b5 Rec7 36.b6+ Ka8 37.bxc7 Rxc7 38.Rb3 0-1

**Arnav Gupta** (2038)  
**Davin Yin** (1811)  
Round 6

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 h6 9.Re1 Re8 10.d5 a5 11.Rb1 Nc5 12.h3 Kh7 13.b3 Bd7 14.a3 Qe7 15.Qc2 Nh5 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4 Na4 18.Ra1 Nxc3 19.Qxc3 f5 20.Bb2 f4 21.Kh2 g5 22.c5 g4 23.hxg4 Bxg4 24.cxd6 cxd6 25.Rec1 Rac8 26.Qd3 Rg8 27.Rxc8 Bxc8 28.Rg1 Bf6 29.Bf1 fxg3+ 30.fxg3 Qg7 31.Nd4 Nxg3 32.Rxg3 Qxg3+ 33.Qxg3 Rxg3 34.Kxg3 exd4 35.Bc1 Be5+ 36.Bf4 Kg6 37.Bxe5 dxe5 38.Bb5 Kf6 39.Kh4 Ke7 40.Kh5 ½-½



**Derek Yin - Colorado Elementary School Champion**

*Thoughts about the trip from Derek Yin* - The tournament was really fun. It was my first out-of-state tournament. I met some people that I knew online. It was my first time on an airplane since Covid-19. The airplanes weren't too fun. I also went to Princeton the day before the tournament started. The opening ceremony was kind of boring. Some parts of the tournament weren't too fun like in the 1st and 3rd round where I got crushed. But overall, the trip was pretty fun.



**Iris Li - Colorado Girls Champion**

Iris Li is 8 years old, a rising 4th grader in Stargate School. She won the Haring section (K-12 girls) of this year’s Colorado Scholastic Championships. She is very excited to represent Colorado in the National Girls Tournament of Champions this year. Iris started learning chess at the age of 6. She was immediately drawn to the game and spent 1-2 hours a day on chess. Iris has been to several national tournaments. After playing in the World Open in Pennsylvania this month, Iris is qualified to represent the United States for the World Cadet Championships 2022 (U10 Girls section). Her favorite chess player is *Hou Yifan*. She would like to become a doctor or scientist when she grows up. In addition to chess, Iris enjoys reading, solving math problem, playing piano, violin, basketball, and spending time with her two siblings. Her rating recently topped 1600 and we all are excited to watch our new young star’s future!



*U.S. High School Denker Tournament group. All photos to this point are courtesy of Yan Yin.*

Also representing Colorado in the 4th Annual Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions was Joshua Samuel. He placed 25th out of 40 players, and finished with a score of 3.0/6.0 - a nice showing by our Senior rep! Here is his last round game against *J Timothy Sage* of Massachusetts:

**J Timothy Sage** (2132)

**Joshua Samuel** (1924)

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.a3 c4 7.Nbd2 Bd7 8.b3 cxb3 9.Nxb3 Be7 10.c4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Na5 12.Nxa5 Qxa5+ 13.Bd2 Qc7 14.Qb3 Rc8 15.Rc1 Qb6 16.Qd3 Nh6 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.O-O O-O 19.Rb1 Qc7 20.Rfc1 b5 21.Qe3 bxc4 22.Qxh6 Kh8 23.Rc3 Rg8 24.h4 Rg6 25.Qf4 f5 26.g3 Qa5 27.Qd2 Qd5 28.Kh2 Rgg8 29.Qh6 Rg6 30.Qd2 Bb5 31.Rg1 Bd8 32.Qc2 Ba6 33.Qa4 Qb5 34.Qd1 Ba5 35.Rc2 c3 36.Ng5 Kg7 37.Qc1 h6 38.Nh3 Qd5 39.Nf4 Qf3 40.Re1 Qc6 41.Qe3 Qe4 42.Qc1 Qc6 43.Qe3 Kh7 44.Nxg6 Kxg6 45.h5+ Kh7 46.f3 Bb7 47.Rf1 Ba6 48.Rd1 Qd5 49.g4 Bb7 50.Rf1 Rf8 51.g5 f4 52.Qd3+ Rf5 53.Rg2 Qd8 54.gxh6 Qh4+ 55.Kg1 Kxh6 56.Rg4 Rg5 57.Rf2 Rxg4+ 58.fgx4 Qh1# 0-1



*In-between rounds Josh had the opportunity to take some nice pics of players and of the tournament:*





# Colorado Masters & Experts Invitational Tournament Series

by CSCA President Brad Lundstrom

Looking at the lists of many of Colorado's top players that played in these tournaments is like reading a "Who's Who" for living legends in Colorado chess history. Check the names and ratings out and enjoy some beautiful and hard fought games from our best!

The amazing McConnell family hosted an invitational Masters/Experts Tournament Series looking to get the top rated Colorado chess players available to compete head to head. The series featured four tournaments with a very interesting idea of alternating time controls. The tournaments were played at the Embassy Suites North in Denver. The tournament series was a wonderful idea that came from Kevin McConnell and gave Colorado's top rated players an opportunity to get back to over the board chess, after more than a year off, in a safe and comfortable tournament. The McConnell's generously donated the funds for the playing site, tournament director and rating fees, which meant the \$50 per player/per tournament entry fees were all put into the prize fund with a 100% for player prizes.

## Congratulations to the four tournament winners:

**Tournament #1 - Akshat Jain**

**Tournament #2 - Lior Lapid**

**Tournament #3 - Sullivan McConnell**

**Tournament #4 - Lior Lapid, Group 1 &**

**Chris Peterson Group 2**

**Tournament #4 - Featured Quick Chess playoffs  
but ended in tie matches!**

**Lior Lapid-Chris Peterson going 1-1 &**

**Rhett Langseth-Griffin McConnell 1-1**

Thanks to Kevin McConnell &  
Tournament Director Extraordinaire Tom Nelson!

You can find the Final Standings online here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ffedw9h9>

## For a few games - we start with Sullivan McConnell's win:

**Sullivan McConnell** (2235 / 1945)

**Brian Wall** (2200 / 2117)

August 7, 2021 / Round 3

(Notes by Sullivan McConnell)

**1.e4 Nf6** (The Alekhine's Defence - at the very least a quite tricky move, and instead of the main lines I chose a quieter more 'drawish' line.) **2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 d4 4.exf6 dxc3 5.fxg7 cxd2+ 6.Qxd2 Qxd2+** (Queens are off by move 7!)

**7.Bxd2 Bxg7 8.O-O-O** (This is a vital fundamental position - White is slightly better, because he is ahead in development, and

he boasts a better pawn structure. This game revolves on that lead in development and mostly on the weaknesses.) **8...Nc6** (8...O-O This is already much worse for Black! His king will not be safe over here - 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.Bb5 Bd7 11.Bf4 a6 12.Ba4 Be6 13.Bxc6 bxc6 This just shows the bite of this line.) **9.Bc4** (I wanted to prevent 9...Be6 and also leave the Black king glued to the kingside for now. Now castling queenside hangs a pawn.) **9...Bd7** (The move I expected. Now Black is uncomfortable. 9...Ne5 was better, and my advantage would have been reduced greatly. 10.Bb3 Bd7 11.Ne2 however there are still issues, for example 11...O-O is nearly lost! 11...O-O-O this is best. I would have grinded on, but objectively there is nothing. 12.Bc3 f6 this is considered a larger advantage for White than before, but it is the easiest to play for black. 13.Bxe5 fxe5 and Black comfortably equalizes. 12.Rhe1 Rad8 13.Bg5 the pawn weaknesses shows.)

**10.Nf3 Ne5** (A faulty train of thought. Brian underestimates the danger.) **11.Nxe5 Bxe5 12.Be3** (A little slip up. I was worried about 12.Rhe1 not yielding enough after 12.Rhe1 Bd6 here I did not know how to continue, but I missed the wonderful 13.Bg5 this forces a weakness, and there is a game still to be played. 13...e6 14.g3) **12...Bd6** (Black should be fine, correct?) **13.Rhe1 Bc6** (Activity!)

**14.g3 h515.h4** (This is already considered equal by the engine but humanwise, Black still remains under pressure.) **15...a6** (Brian lacks ideas, and 15...f6 is ugly, but necessary, to prevent 16.Bg5! / 16.a3 a6 17.Be6 Bd7 18.Bd5 O-O-O 19.Bf3) **16.Bg5** (Only one move here for Black. can you find it?) **16...Kf8** (16...e6, Brian thought this wouldn't work out, or he just miscalculated it. Here I was thinking seriously about what to do. I don't know what I would have done. One thing is for sure though, White is better and Black is lacking coordination.)

**17.Rd2** (A terrible move! I wanted to play the winning line, but did not wish to squander what was a well played game. 17.Rxd6 exd6 18.Re7 d5 19.Bd3 Black cannot move! 19...Rg8 20.Rxc7 Kg7 21.Be3 This was the position I needed to see in my variations. White is dominating with the bishops, the king remains weak, and he can do practically nothing. Winning for White.) **17...f6 18.Be3 Be8** (Passive, and a step in the wrong direction.)

**19.Bd5 c6** (One lesson to be learned from this game is DO NOT push your pawns in endgames if you don't have to! Pawn weaknesses are why I won this game and why Brian lost it. This makes b6 extremely weak, but more importantly undermines the safely placed Bd6... 19... Rb8 20.Ba7 Ra8 21.Be3) **20.Bf3 Bf7 21.a3** (I take my time, and I get even more - 21.Bf4 Re8) **21...Kg7 22.Bf4** (A beautiful idea! After this simple move, you

see the fragility of Black's position. The underactivated pieces, the pawn weakness, and an unsafe king all come together for a winning position for White.) **22...Rae8** (There was nothing left to do - 22...Bxf4 23.gxf4 Rhe8 24.Rd7 / 22...Be5 23.Rxe5 fxe5 24.Bxe5+ Kh6 25.Bxh8 Rxb8 26.Rd7 / 22... e5 23.Rxd6 exf4 24.Re7 Rhe8 25.Rxb7 / 22...Rad8 23.Bxd6 exd6 24.Re7 - dont need pawns to be winning here! / 22...Bc5 23.b4)

**23.Bxd6 exd6 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Rxd6 Re1+ 26.Rd1 Re7 27.Kd2 f5 28.Re1** (All trades are bad.) **29...Rd7+ 29.Kc3 Kf6 30.Rd1** (Now he either trades or lets my rook into the position.) **30...Rxd1 31.Bxd1 Ke5 32.Bf3 Be8 33.Be2 a5 34.Kd3 c5 35.Ke3 b6 36.c3 Bg6 37.Bc4 Be8** (Even without the g3 pawn, this might still be winning, virtue of the fact that all my pawns are on dark squares.) **38.Bg8 Bg6 39.Bc4** (39.b4 axb4 40.axb4 cxb4 41.cxb4 Be8)

**39...Be8 40.Ba6 Bg6 41.Bc8 Bf7 42.b4 cxb4 43.cxb4 axb4 44.axb4 Bg6 45.Ba6 Be8 46.Bb7 Bg6 47.Bc8 Bf7 48.f4+ Kf6 49.Kd4 Be8** (49... Be6. A wonderful game that displays that sometimes something that looks like a meaningless advantage can be a powerful weapon if the right circumstances occur.) **50.Kd5 Bg6 1-0**

*And now, some of Lior Lapid's games:*

**Lior Lapid** (2268)

**Neil Bhavikatti** (2117)

May 29, 2021 / Round 3

(Notes by Lior Lapid)

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.h4 d5 4.Nd2 Bf5 5.Nxe4 Bxe4 6.f3 Bf5 7.g4 Bc8 8.e3 c5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.0-0-0 cxd4 11.exd4 Qb6 12.c4 e6 13.Kb1 Bb4 14.Qe3 0-0 15.c5 Qc7 16.a3 Ba5 17.b4?** (I considered 17.Bd3 but was worried about 17...f6 18.Bf4 e5 but miscalculated the position. White is winning after 19.dxe5 fxe5 20.Bg3+-)

**17...Bxb4** (17...b6!! is a real stunner that we both missed: if 18.bxa5 bxc5-+ and Black is suddenly winning.) **18.axb4 Nxb4 19.Qa3?** (19.Bf4 Qa5 20.Rh2! the aggressive advance of the f, g and h pawns has surprisingly enhanced White's defensive resources as well.) **19...a5 20.Ne2 b6 21.Bf4 Qb7 22.Qb2?** (22.Bd6 Rd8 23.Rd2 bxc5 24.dxc5) **22...bxc5 23.dxc5 Bd7 24.Nc3 Rfc8 25.Bd6 Bc6 26.Rd4** (26.Rh2! was missed again.) **26...Ra7 27.h5 Qd7 28.h6 Rb7 29.Ka1 Ba4**

**30.Bb5?** (In time trouble, I played this move with feigned confidence but it turns out to be another mistake. I considered 30.Rxb4 Rxb4 31.Qh2 f6 and should have played it, as 32.hxg7 Qxg7 33.Bd3 is easily winning.)

**30...Bxb5 31.Nxb5?** (Pattern recognition can be deceiving, as this seemingly automatic move is actually a mistake. 31.hxg7! this line is remarkable 31...f6

a) 31...Bd3 32.Rxd3 Nxd3 33.Qh2+-;

b) 31...Ba4 32.Rxb4 Rxb4 33.Qh2 Bc2 34.Qxc2 f5 35.Rxb7!  
Kxb7 36.Qh2+ Kg8

b1) 36...Kxg7 37.Be5+ Kf7 / 37...Kg8 38.Qh8+ Kf7 39.Qh7+ /

38.Qh7+ Ke8 39.Qg8+ Ke7 40.Bd6+ Qxd6 41.Qg7+ Kd8 42.cxd6;

b2) 36...Kg6 37.Qh5+ Kxg7 38.Be5+ Kf8 39.Qh8+ Kf7 40.Qh7+;

c) 31...f5 32.Rxb7 Kxb7 33.Qh2+ Kxg7 34.gxf5 exf5 35.Rh4; 32.Rxb7!! Kxb7 33.Bf8 Qc7 34.f4 Kg8 35.Qh2 Qxg7 36.Bxg7 Kxg7 37.g5 and although material is technically equal, White's attack is irresistible.)

**31...Qxb5??** (These things happen in wild positions with mutual time trouble. As Tartakower famously said, the winner is the one who makes the next to last blunder! 31...f6 32.Nc3 Nc6 33.Qd2 Nxd4 34.Qxd4 is what I had calculated. I assumed I was winning, but it is still very easy to go wrong in time trouble. Black is still alive and kicking after the active 34...Rb4!) **32.Rxb4** (A very flawed but also very exciting game.) **1-0**

**Lior Lapid** (2270 / 2164)

**Dimitry Kishinevsky** (2127 / 2011)

July 10, 2021 / Round 1

1.d4 d6 2.e4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bg5 Nc6 5.d5 Nb8 6.Qd2 e5 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Bd3 a6 9.a4 Qa5 10.Ra3 Nf6 11.f3 0-0 12.Bh6 Rc8 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Bc4 Qb4 15.Ba2 Ra7 16.Nge2 Be8 17.Qe3 Nbd7 18.0-0 Qb6 19.a5 Qc7 20.g4 Nf8 21.h4 Bb5 22.h5 N8d7 23.Kg2 gxf5 24.g5 Ng8 25.Rh1 Ne5 26.Rxb5 Qd7 27.Ng3 Kh8 28.Qf4 Ng6 29.Qxf7 1-0

**Jason Wycoff** (1889)

**Lior Lapid** (2179)

September 11, 2021 / Round 4

(Notes by Lior Lapid)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Bd3 c5 5.dxc5 Nf6 6.e5 Nfd7 7.f4 g5?** (I've repeatedly made reckless g-pawn advances in recent games against Akshat Jain, Eamon Montgomery, and Jason Wycoff, and I should really start restraining myself from now on. Whenever I think of my own move as "creative," that usually means it's a blunder. Chess is a humbling game. The simple 7...Nxc5 gives Black a pleasant position.)

**8.Ndf3 gxf4 9.Bxf4 Nc6 10.Nh3 Nxc5 11.Nfg5** (11.0-0±) **11...Qa5+ 12.c3 Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 b6 14.Qf3 Ba6!** (Anticipating White's next move, but with the wrong idea in response.) **15.Nxf7 0-0?** (Played instantly, but 15...Rf8 was the only winning move. 15...Rf8! 16.Nd6+ Kd7 17.Qe3 Qa4!-+ intending ... Qc2)

**16.Nh6+** (It can be hard to resist a check sometimes, especially when retreating, but the knight is misplaced here. 16.Nfg5! and the position is double-edged and completely unclear. It is not only Black's e6 pawn that is now targeted, but in many lines, the sacrifice on h7 is sound as well.) **16...Kh8 17.Qh5** (Having overcommitted to the attack, White's own king is now caught in the center.) **17...Qa4 18.g3 Qe4+ 19.Kd2 Qd3+ 20.Ke1** (20.Kc1 Nd4) **20...Qe4+ 21.Kd2 Nd4 0-1**



# Denver Chess Club August 2021 Report

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

We were all anticipating the return of DCC Tuesday night tournament games. Not knowing if the registration would be high or low after 19 months of being closed due to the nationwide pandemic, and with the DCC requiring a full COVID vaccination. In addition to requiring players to also sign a DCC liability waiver. We did not in our wildest dreams anticipate that the re-opening at the door registration line would back up nearly around the block. Okay, that is an exaggeration, but the line did extend a ways out the door for pretty much the entire registration time period. Brian Wall said he arrived early and from the parking lot watched the line forming in stunned disbelief.

We averaged 63 players playing in the USCF rated tournament each week. In my memory this is the first time we have had such a consistent turnout for the entire month. A total of 94 players played at least one rated game. Which I believe is also a DCC monthly attendance record. Another good sign was the uptick in the number of casual players in attendance. Regrettably, the games did not start on time until the final week. Although this was not entirely the fault of the DCC Tournament Directors. Here I'm offering some reasons and excuses for the late starts: 1) The DCC willingness to accommodate late arrivals. 2) Understandably many new players had questions at the registration table. 3) New players not signing up for a USCF membership before arriving at the door. 4) New TD's being unfamiliar with Caissachess software. 5) A bewildering and unexpected software glitch. Going forward, our goal for the Tuesday night games is to start at 7:00pm, or be no more than 5

minutes late, and more importantly, to avoid re-pairings altogether. Aside from the round starting time delays, I would say the reopening of the DCC was a great success.

So now on with who won what in the return of the DCC Tuesday night live over the board games. The 17 player Open section featured 3 Masters, 4 Experts, and 3 strong Class A players. Sullivan McConnell had no trouble with any of them. He is simply winning all his games. He secured clear 1st place with a round to spare, allowing him to bypass the last round. His streak was highlighted by a win against NM Richard Shtivelband in round 3. This fine 4-0 score earned Sullivan the \$137 1st place prize.

There was a massive 7-way tie for the combined 2nd and 3rd place prize of \$129. NM Shtivelband, NM Brian Wall, along with the strong 1900+ rated players George Woodbury, Dr. Mirza Peljto, Vedanth Sampath, and much better than his 1779 rating, Evan Helman all finished with 3 points and equally share the prize money. Richard Herbst - who long-time Colorado players will remember as a youngster from back in the day - is now a young adult with a successful pharmaceutical career in New York City. He is keeping up his game by playing regularly at the famous Marshall Chess Club. Richard was visiting Colorado and took 4 byes for pairing purposes to play and win a last-round game against the strong Expert Jesse Hester to also have 3 points, but not winning any money due to the DCC bye policy of only one bye counts towards prize money.



The \$20 Open section Upset prize was won by the youngster, Harsh Mali. Rated 1435, Harsh held the strong 1906 rated Dr. Peljto to a draw in round 2, who in turn had a big upset win against Griffin McConnell in round 4. Then to put the icing on the cake, he held Brian Wall to a draw in round 5. Dr. Peljto is making a habit of not allowing the “Super GM” to win. I should also mention that Mr. Helman also held the “Super GM” to a draw in round 1. As did Griffin McConnell in round 3. and Mr. Woodberry in round 5. The “Super GM” did manage to actually win a game in round 2 against 1432 rated Elijah Warwick, who must have been having an off day.

Now that I’m done ribbing the DCC President, I should mention that he - along with Michael Mulyer, Todd Bardwick, and John Harris, - have been inducted into the Colorado Chess Hall of Fame. Of this select group, unquestionably Mr. Brian Douglas Wall is the most deserving. If only for the fact that, unlike the others, he has from the beginning played in every possible Colorado chess tournament. Winning most of them to become Colorado state champion numerous times. His love of the game and burning desire to win is an inspiration for us all.



*Colorado Chess Hall of Fame inductee Brian Wall playing White, eventually giving up a draw to George Woodberry.*

Dylan, Trevor, Jesse, and Charlie all had big upset wins to earn their share of the prize money. Best was Mr. Flaxbeard’s last round 428 rating point difference win over Phil Brown. Mr. Brown being upset twice in a tournament is a very rare event. The actual \$20 Upset prize was won by Arjun Iuyer, who won against long time DCC player, Randolph Schine. I know for sure that had to have been a hard fought game.

We also had interesting results in the U1500 section. First, unrated Yosef Gross took clear 1st place with a 4.5 point score. He took a 3rd round bye and won all his other games. This fine performance won him \$133. Then unrated Seth Lichtenstein took clear 2nd place with 4 points. Losing his 1st round game but then winning 4 straight to take home \$80. I think it’s great when new players come into the DCC and win money in maybe their first USCF rated chess tournament.

Also in this section there was another multiple player tie for the 3rd place prize. Drew Clark, Noah Peterson, Alex Sottile, and Richard Robichaud all finished with 3.5 points and each won \$13.25. Alex is only rated 294 so when he won against Nash Nicholas in round 3 it was an enormous 1132 point upset. I guess since Alex was winning a place prize the actual \$20 Upset prize went to Michael Melcher for his 274 point rating difference win against Justin Moss in round 4. I’ll ask the TD’s why Alex didn’t get the higher value Upset prize with Drew, Noah and Richard then winning \$17.67 each. The cross tables for all sections of this tournament can be found online at: <https://tinyurl.com/2ecse564>.

I am most pleased to be reporting all the new names mentioned as prize winners in this report. I hope they have found their *Denver Chess Club* experience to be exciting as well as beneficial. Congratulations to all the prize winners, and thanks to the DCC Tournament Directors for handling the difficult registration process. Now if they can just get their act together and start the games on time.



*Sullivan McConnell with the Black pieces playing Jesse Hester (top). His brother Griffin has the White pieces against Mirza Peljito (front).*

In the U1900 section, I was real glad to see long-time DCC member Bill O’Neil win 1st place money. Mr. O’Neil shares the combined 1st and 2nd place prize of \$213 with unrated Kristopher Zelkin, who I believe is new to the DCC. Bill lost to Mr. Zelkin in round 1 then won 4 in a row, which included a nice upset win against the hard to beat, Phil Brown. Kristopher won his share of the prize money with 3 wins and 2 draws. All of his points were against strong experienced players. In particular a draw against Ricardo Bogaert and a last round win against James LaMorgese could not have been easy. Although Mr. LaMorgese did say he let a promising position slip away - or Mr. Zelkin took it away.

Five players share the \$53, 3rd place prize. Ken Doykos, Dylan Goertz, Trevor Mills, Jesse Mellinger, and Charlie Flaxbeard.



Bill O'Neil with the White pieces against Phil Brown.

And here are a few games from this tournament:

**Elijah Warwick** (1438)

**Brian Wall** (2200)

**DCC August 2021 / Round 2 / August 10**

1.d4 Nc6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Nce7 4.Nc3 Ng6 5.e4 Nf6 6.g3 Bc5 7.Bg2 d6 8.Nge2 a6 9.0-0 h5 10.h4 Ng4 11.b4 Ba7 12.Bg5 f6 13.Bd2 Nf8 14.Nc1 g5 15.hxg5 Ng6 16.gxf6 Qxf6 17.Nd3 Nf4 18.gxf4 Qh4 19.Re1 Nxf2 20.Nxf2 Qxf2+ 21.Kh2 Qh4+ 22.Bh3 Qxh3# 0-1

**Phillip Brown** (1742)

**Owen Christ** (1473)

**DCC August 2021 / Round 3 / August 17**

1.c4 e5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.d3 Nge7 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Qb3 Nf5 9.Qxb7 Na5 10.Qa6 c6 11.Ng5 Nd4 12.b4 h6 13.bxa5 Bc8 14.Bxc6+ Kf8 15.Bb7 hxg5 16.Bxc8 Rxc8 17.Rb1 Qd7 18.Qb7 Qh3 19.Qg2 d5 20.Ba3+ Ke8 21.Qxh3 Rxh3 22.Nxd5 Nxe2+ 23.Kg2 g4 24.Rb7 Bh6 25.Nf6+ Kd8 26.Rd7# 1-0

**Jason McEwen** (1750)

**Archer Murane** (1423)

**DCC August 2021 / Round 3 / August 17**

(Notes by Jason McEwen)

1.e4 (My last four rated games have all been d4 openings, so time to shake things up.) 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 6.d3 (6.d4 is better here.) 6...Bc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bg5 Bb7 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 (To fight for d4.) 10...b4 11.d4 Na7 (This move surprised me, and leads to a lost pawn.) 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.dxe5 (Took with pawn instead of the knight because I didn't think after Nxe5 Bxe5 dxe5 I'd be able to hold onto that pawn. This way the knight supports the pawn.) 13...Be7 14.cxb4 Bxb4 15.a3 (I don't really like this move, probably should have gone Rc1 or something.) 15...Bxd2 16.Nxd2 Qg5 17.f4 Qg6 18.Qe2 Nb5 (I missed this knight coming back into the game. Threatening the annoying Nd4 attacking my queen, and then

Nxb3 removing a defender from the e4 pawn allowing it to fall.) 19.Qd3 (Stops Nd4.) 19...Rad8 20.a4 (I've had enough of this knight and want him to back to the rim and be dim.) 20...Na7 21.Bd5 (There's some potential danger brewing with my unprotected queen and the e4 pawn being pinned, and his rook looking at my queen, plus his bishop was his strongest piece, so this move was to try and negate his bishop and if c6 then my bishop slides to c4 and protects my queen allowing the e4 pawn to move.) 21...Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Bxd5 23.exd5 (My dream. His best bishop is now gone, I undouble my pawns, and his knight is now even further restricted. Also that b2 pawn - he can't take it as Rfb1 traps the queen.) 23...c5 24.Ne4 (He still can't take on b2.) 24...Rc8 25.b3 (Multipurpose - stops c4 and I want to lift my rook which would allow him to take on b2 threatening my rook on a1, this prevents that.) 25...Rc7 26.Rf3 Qb4 (I think the thought is Qd4 to try and force a queen trade.) 27.Rh3 (A mistake - Nf6+ forces mate. This move is still +8 but still room for me to blunder it away. 27.Nf6+ gxf6 28.Rg3+ Kh8 29.Qf5 he can throw away pieces but mate is inevitable.) 27...g6 (Best try was f5. 27...f5 28.exf6 Qd4.) 28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.Rxh7# 1-0



Kristopher Zelkin has the White pieces playing against James LaMorgese.

Ken Doykos is playing Black against Jesse Mellinger.

**Torin Brown** (Unrated)

**Chad August** (985)

**DCC August 2021 / Round 4 / August 24**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e3 Nbd7 6.cxd5 Nb6 7.Bc4 Nxc4 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qxc4 0-0 10.Ne5 a6 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.h3 b5 13.Qb3 Rab8 14.0-0 b4 15.Na4 Nxd5 16.Nc5 Qc6 17.Bd2 e6 18.Rfc1 a5 19.a3 Ne7 20.axb4 axb4 21.Na6 Rb6 22.Rxc6 Rxc6 23.Bxb4 Bf6 24.Bxe7 Bxe7 25.Nb4 Rb6 26.Ra4 c5 27.dxc5 Bxc5 28.Qc3 Rc8 29.Qe1 Bd6 30.Nd3 f5 31.b4 e5 32.Qb1 e4 33.Nf4 Rbc6 34.Qb3+ Kg7 35.g3 Rc1+ 36.Kg2 Re1 37.Ne6+ Kh6 38.f4 Re2+ 39.Kf1 Rcc2 40.Nd4 Rf2+ 41.Ke1 Rb2 42.Qc4 Rh2 43.Nxf5+ gxf5 44.Qe6+ Kg7 45.Ra7+ Kf8 46.Qf7# 1-0

**Abhinav Krishna** (1171)**J.C. MacNeil** (1600)**DCC August 2021 / Round 4 (Extra Game) / August 24***(Notes by J.C. MacNeil)*

1.e4 c5 *(My score in the last 10 rated games I've played: 2 wins - 8 losses. Ces't la vie.)* 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.f4 Bb4 7.Bd2 d6 8.Qf3 Nf6 9.g4 Nc6 10.Nb3 h6 11.0-0-0 b5 12.e5 Nd7 13.exd6 Bxd6 14.Be3 Bb7 15.Bg2 Na5 16.Qf2 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Bxg2 18.Qxg2 Rc8 19.f5 Qc6 20.Qe2 e5 21.Ne4 Be7 *(Now I'm thinking maybe I'm not losing.)* 22.Qd3 0-0 23.c4 bxc4 24.Qxd7 Qxe4 25.Qxe7 cxb3+ *(Now I know I'm not losing.)* 26.Bc5 Qc2# 0-1

**Richard Herbst** (2128)**Jesse Hester** (2051)**DCC August 2021 / Round 5 / August 31***(Notes by Richard Herbst)*

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 h6 8.Bc4 Qc7 9.Bb3 b5 10.Nh4 Bb7 11.f3 Nbd7 12.Qd2 Nb6 13.0-0-0 Rc8 *(He probably should have played 13...g6 to keep my knight out of f5.)* 14.Nf5 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Qxc4 16.Qxd6 *(Nice and fancy, but I should have gone for 16.Nxd6+ Bxd6 17.Qxd6 b4 18.Qxe5+ Kf8 19.Rd4! and then b4 hangs. I missed Rd4 from afar and instead thought I would have to give up my knight on c3.)* 16...Bxd6 17.Nxd6+ Ke7 18.Nxc4 Rxc4 19.Rd2 Rhc8 20.Rhd1 Ke8 21.Ne2 R8c7 22.b3 R4c6 23.Ng3 Bc8 24.Kb2 Be6 25.Ne2 Rc8 26.Nc1 Nd7 27.Nd3 Rc3 28.Bg1 a5 29.Nc1 Ke7 30.Ne2 R3c6 31.Ra1 f5 32.exf5 Bxf5 33.c3 a4 34.Ka3 Ra8 35.Kb2 Rac8 *(He also had the opportunity for 35...a3+!, and then after Kc1 he has the plan of Ke6-Nf6-Nd5-Rac8 which could make this a very tough conversion.)* 36.Rd5 Ke6 *(I didn't play the ending great but managed to put enough pressure on the clock that he eventually blundered with this move with under 2 minutes.)* 37.Rad1 b4 38.Rxd7 bxc3+ 39.Nxc3 *(It was nice to finish off with this move in view of*

*Drew Clark with the Black pieces against Yosef Gross.*

39...Rxc3 40.R1d6#.) 39...axb3 40.axb3 1-0

**Dr. Mirza Peljto** (1869)**Brian Wall** (2200)**DCC August 2021 / Round 5 / August 31**

1.d4 Nc6 2.Nf3 f6 3.d5 Ne5 4.e4 Nxf3+ 5.Qxf3 e5 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.Qxe3 d6 9.g4 h5 10.gxh5 Rxh5 11.Be2 Rh3 12.f3 Ne7 13.Qf2 g5 14.0-0-0 Ng6 15.Bb5+ Kf7 16.Bf1 Rh4 17.Ne2 c6 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Qc5 dxc5 20.Rxd8 Ke7 21.Rd1 Be6 22.Ng3 Rhh8 23.Rd3 a5 24.Rc3 Kd6 25.Bc4 Bd7 26.Rd1+ Kc7 27.Rcd3 Rh7 28.Rd6 Rf8 29.Nh5 Be8 30.Nxf6 Rxh2 31.Ne8+ Rxe8 32.Rxg6 Re7 33.Rxg5 Rf2 34.Rf1 Rh2 35.Rfg1 Rf2 36.Rf1 Rh2 37.b3 Kb6 38.Rg6 Bd7 39.Rd1 ½-½



# The 1977 U.S. Open (& More)

by Curtis Carlson

*“Truth is stranger.” - Ann Landers*

*“Man is neither to be obeyed nor to be commanded.” - Ayn Rand*

*“Alekhine grew up on the combination; he was in love with it. Everything strategic was...only preparation - practically a necessary evil. The shattering blow, the unexpected tactical trick - that is the Alekhine style.” - GM Emanuel Lasker*

*“Geometric ideas are primary.” - Hegel*

*“Put your faith in principles. Organizations and individuals will let you down. It is lonely being right; this is the way of the world.” - David E. Shellenberger*

*“Victim mentality is popular because it provides a permanent alibi for personal failings. It can also be used as both a weapon and social currency.” - Zuby*

*“I will never understand being proud of something one has no control of ... be proud of what you accomplished!” - George Kerber*

*“Of course there is luck in chess. My opponent was lucky. He was lucky to be playing an idiot.” - James Loy*

*“A rough and ready rule is that it nearly always pays to advance the front member of a doubled Pawn.” - GMC C.J.S. Purdy*

*“Mind your decisions!” - Presh Talwalkar*

My last two articles were about US Opens in New York City (1974) and Lincoln (1975). This time I'll share memories from Columbus, Ohio (1977). I scored 8-4 in the 1976 US Open in Fairfax, Virginia, but played terribly so (for now) I'll skip ahead. After a poor finish in the North American Open nice memories of my team winning the 1975 Pan Am made me optimistic about doing well in Columbus again.

*“Science cannot solve the ultimate mystery of nature. And that is because, in the last analysis, we ourselves are part of nature and therefore part of the mystery that we are trying to solve.” - Max Planck*

*“Tartakover once sagely compared an open file to an open wound!” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“But the worst enemy you can meet will always be yourself.” - Friedrich Nietzsche*

After a shaky win over a C player in round one and an easy win over an A player in round two I had an interesting game in round three.

78th US Open

Round 3 / August 9, 1977

Jack Gersho (1935, age 60)

Curtis Carlson (2223, age 23)

E17 TC: 50/150 (<https://tinyurl.com/k8j87zmx>)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.0-0 Ne4 8.d5 Nxc3 9.bxc3 d6 10.Re1 e5 11.e4 Nd7 12.Nd2 Bf6 13.Nf1 g6 14.Bh6 Bg7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.f4 Ba6 17.Ne3 exf4 18.gxf4 Qf6 19.Qg4 Nc5 20.Nf5+ Kh8 21.Nd4 Rae8 22.Qg3 Bxc4 23.Re3 Qg7 24.Rae1 f6 25.Bh3 Bxa2 26.Bf1 a5 27.Bb5 Re7 28.c4 a4 29.Nc6 Ref7 30.f5 gxf5 31.exf5 Qxg3+ 32.hxg3 Bb3 33.Nd4 Rg8 34.Kh2 Nd7 35.Nxb3 axb3 36.Rxb3? Ne5+ 37.Re4 Ra8 38.Rbe3 Rg7 39.Kh3 Rg5 40.Rf4 Rh5+ 41.Rh4 Rxf5 42.Bc6 Ra2 43.Bd7 Rf2 44.g4 Rh2+ 45.Kg3 Rag2+ 0-1

After the game Jack said he should have taken my knight on move 36, since it was a killer on e5. I think Nimzovich would have agreed.

*“For five months I had the World Champion as my own personal trainer!” - GM Garry Kasparov, referring to his 1984 match with GM Anatoly Karpov*

*“Don't ever take for granted the awesomeness of normal.” - Steve Horwitz*

*“What is a good life if not receiving an abundance of small acts of kindness? In this way I have truly won the lottery.” - Robert Higgs*

This was my only game with Montreal's Jack Gersho (1917-2004). Games like this make me wish I had studied openings more carefully.

*“Good ideas don't require force.” - Anonymous*

*“Asking whether chess be game, science or art turns out to be rather like asking whether atoms are dangerous, useful, or interesting. It depends on the point of view.” - A. J. Roycroft*

*“Experience is the hardest kind of teacher. It gives you the test first and the lesson afterward.” - Oscar Wilde*

After three wins I was paired with a famous Grandmaster:

78th US Open

Round 4 / August 10, 1977

Curtis Carlson (2223, age 23)

GM Leonid Shamkovich (2469, age 54)

E17 TC: 50/150 (<https://tinyurl.com/kp5ksvz4>)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 Bb4 8.Qd3 Nc6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.f4 d6 12.Qg3 h6 13.Bh4 0-0 14.e5 dxe5 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Ne4 Be7 17.fxex5 Bb7 18.Rad1 e5 19.Nd6 Bxd6 20.Rxd6? (20.ed Qb6 21.Qe5+/- HCE) 20...c4 21.Rfd1?! (Too routine. Since the d file is easily blocked the rook should stay on f1. HCE gives 21.Rd4 Qb6 22.Qf2 Qb2 23.Be4=) 21...Qc5+ 22.Kh1 Rab8! (HCE prefers 22...Bd5 23.Bf3 Bf3 24.gf Kh7=) 23.Qf4? (I don't remember the reason for this mistake. I must have planned 24.Qd4, but unfortunately Black also gets to move!) (“Again, please remember, that we are not always able to

*fulfill our plans!" - GM Johan Hellsten*) After the game Black asked later why not 23.R6d4 Bd5 24.Rg4, which I looked at for a long time. I saw no continuation after 24...Kh8 but White stands well after 25.Rf1+=) 23...Bd5 24.b3 cxb3 25.cxb3 Rb4 26.Qd2 a5 27.Rf1 Re4 28.Bh5 Rxe5 29.Bxf7+ Kh8 30.Rd7 Qb5 0-1

An embarrassment. At least I did well for a while, although I could have resigned anytime after Black's 25th. My opponent said I was a great big patzer, which was hard to disagree with after 23.Qf4.

*"A waste is a resource awaiting the harness that will tame it." - Howard Bloom*

*"In the social equation, the value of a single life is nil; in the cosmic equation, it is infinite." - Arthur Koestler*

*"...we find that time in chess is nothing else than the ability to do or endure; it is, in fact, the thing itself, because strictly speaking, no time no game. How to get to the heart of this mystery should be the great endeavor of the student." - James Mason*

This was my only game with Leonid Shamkovich (1923-2005). It was also my second rated game with a Grandmaster and the first I lost! There's no regret like the regret of bad chess.

*"One day the whole world will laugh at the move f2-f3 in the Samisch Variation of the King's Indian Defense." - GM Eduard Gufeld*

*"Time flies when you're having fun, and sometimes even when you are not." - Robert Higgs*

*"The problem isn't that Johnny can't read. The problem isn't even that Johnny can't think. The problem is that Johnny doesn't even know what thinking is; he confuses it with feeling." - Thomas Sowell*

#### 78th US Open

Round 7 / August 14, 1977

Robert Corwin (1945, age about 30)

Curtis Carlson (2223, age 23)

B51 TC: 50/150 (<https://tinyurl.com/jzaftyy4>)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 cxd4 6.Qxd4 e5 7.Qd3 h6 8.a4 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bxd7 Bxd7 11.Nd2 Be6 12.Nc4 Rc8 13.Ne3 Qb6 14.Rd1 Rfd8 15.b3 Rxc3 16.Qxc3 Nxe4 17.Qe1 d5 18.a5 Qc6 19.c4 d4 20.Nf1 f5 21.Bb2 Bf6 22.Nd2 Nc5 23.Nf3 Qc7 24.Ra3 Bf7 25.b4 Ne6 26.Nd2 e4 27.c5 Be5 28.h3 Nf4 29.Qf1 e3 30.fxe3 dxe3 31.Bxe5 Qxe5 32.Nf3 Rxd1 33.Qxd1 Qb2 34.Qd8+ Kh7 35.Nh4 Qxa3 36.Nxf5 Qc1+ 37.Kh2 Qd2 0-1

Some games are just plain fun.

*"Everyone knows Albert Einstein was a genius. Few know he had a brother Frank who was a monster." - Tim Stevens*

*"Wherever the free market has been permitted to operate, wherever anything approaching equality of opportunity has existed, the ordinary man has been able to attain levels of*

*living never dreamed of before. Nowhere is the gap between rich and poor wider, nowhere are the rich richer and the poor poorer, than in those societies that do not permit the free market to operate." - Milton Friedman*

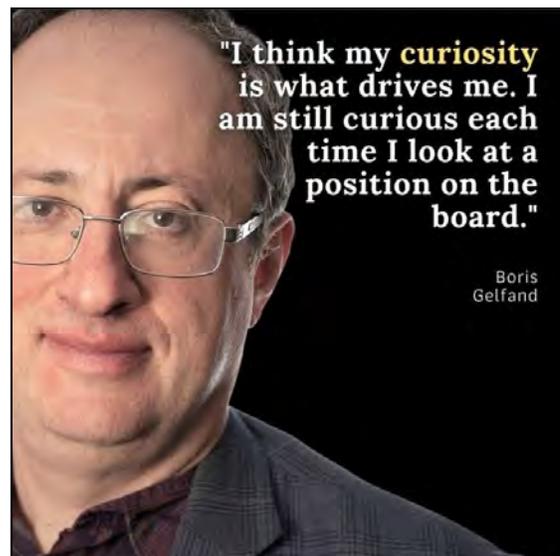
*"I have frequently stated that I regard chess as an art form, where creativity prevails over other art factors." - GM Vasily Smyslov*

This was my only game with Massachusetts' Bob Corwin, who annotated it in his *Chess Horizons* column. I wish I was as strong as his notes made me appear.

*"Don't take your family for granted, because people who love you even after they know you don't come along every day." - Gabriel Andreas (from StoryPeople)*

*"Individuality is the aim of political liberty." - James Fenimore Cooper*

*"Lord, the money we do spend on government! And it's not one bit better than the government we got for one-third the money twenty years ago" - Will Rogers*



#### 78th US Open

Round 8 / August 15, 1977

Curtis Carlson (2223, age 23)

Luis Garcia (2350, age 21)

B31 TC: 50/150 (<https://tinyurl.com/d836pw7u>)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 d5 11.e5 Ne8 12.h3 Nc7 13.Nc3 Na5 14.Be2 Be6 15.Bg5 Rc8 16.a4 b4 17.Na2 Nc6 18.Nc1 Bd7 19.Bd3 a5 20.Nb3 Ne6 21.Be3 f6 22.exf6 exf6 23.Qd2 Re8 24.Bb5 Bf8 25.Rac1 Qb6 26.Nc5 Qa7 27.Nxd7 Qxd7 28.Qc2 Ned8 29.Bf4? (Since Black's pieces are passive White has time for 29.Nd2 Re6 30.Nb3+- HCE) 29...Rxe1+ 30.Rxe1 Ne6 31.Bd2? (There was no reason to allow Black's next. Best was 31.Qc1+= HCE) 31...Nexd4= 32.Nxd4? (I was intent on destroying my game. White avoids inferiority with 32.Qd3= HCE) 32...Nxd4 33.Qxg6+? (Another weak move. White's only hope was 33.Qd3 Nb5 34.ab keeping queens on

**the board)** 33...hgx6-/+ 34.Bxd7 Rc2 35.Be3 Bc5 36.Kf1 Kg7? 37.Rc1? (“No chess player, however great, ever managed to get through life without getting into a host of difficult positions. It follows that finding the best way out of difficulties - ‘wriggling’ - is the hallmark of greatness in chess.” - GMC C.J.S. Purdy. **Black’s last allowed 37.Rd1 Nb3 38.Be5 Nc5 39.Rd5=.** Black should just have taken the b2 pawn. We were both low on time.) 37...b3 38.Ke1 Nf3+ 39.gxf3 Bxe3 40.Rb1 Bxf2+ 41.Kf1 Bd4 42.Be6 Rf2+ 43.Ke1? Rxf3 44.Bxd5 Rxb3 45.Ke2 Be5 0-1 on move 51.

For the second time in the tournament I skillfully turned a good position into a bad one. It’s hard to understand how the obvious knight manoeuvre on move 29 was missed (not to mention 37.Rd1), but in my long chess career I’ve missed many things.

*“The ultimate measure of wealth is the number of choices we have.” - Ken Schooland*

*“Nothing can equal the psychological effect of real art - neither factual descriptions nor intellectual discussion.” - Albert Einstein*

*“...the engine today takes exactly one minute to show that everything I did ... in preparation for the 1993 World Championship match with Short, is complete nonsense. It really shocked me.” - GM Garry Kasparov*

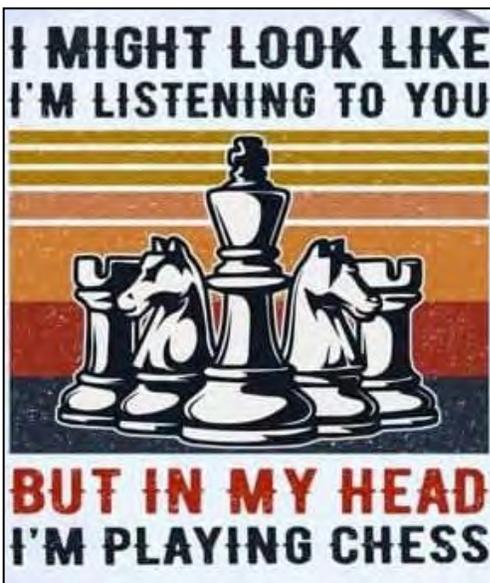
This was my only game with FIDE master Luis Garcia of Columbia. He seems to have retired from tournament play around 1980.

*“I am a piece of art, and all art is useless.” - Oscar Wilde*

*“...there is more to chess analysis than calculating variations: flair and imagination play a vital part.” - GM Neil McDonald*

*“Even the most hard-boiled rationalist is not immune from shattering nightmares and haunting fears.” - Carl Jung*

*“Great events turn on small hinges.” - Stephen King (from a novel)*



*“There is simply no way for the U.S. government to pay what it owes, but it can inflate its way out of a big chunk of that debt” - Alvaro Vargas Llosa*

*I’ve always struggled with: 1) What I should do for a living; and 2) Which chess openings should I play. After 61 years there hasn’t been a lot of progress on these matters.” - GM Nigel Davies*

78th US Open

Round 10 / August 17, 1977

Curtis Carlson (2223, age 23)

Robert A. Jones (1940, age about 22)

B17 TC: 50/150 (<https://tinyurl.com/26ve8syk>)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 8.Bd3 h6 9.N5f3 c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Ne5 Nbd7 12.Ngf3 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 0-0 14.Bd2!? Qd5 15.0-0-0 Qxa2 16.c3 Rd8 17.g4?-/+ (Foolishly optimistic. Right was 17.Bb1=) 17...Bd7 18.g5?-/+ hxg5?=(18...Ba3! 19.ab? Qa1 20.Kc2 Ba4# was better.) 19.Bxg5 Ba4 20.Rdg1?-/+ (20.Bf6 gf 21.Qh5 fe 22.Rhg1 Kf8 23.Qh8 Ke7 24.Qh4= HCE) 20...Qa1+? (17...Rd3 18.Qd3 Bf2-+ HCE. During the game I was kicking myself for not playing Bb1 sooner.) 21.Bb1+- Be7 22.Bxf6?=(This lemon eliminates an important defensive piece but replaces it with a powerful attacking piece. 22.Bh6+- or 22.Rg3+- HCE) 22...Bxf6 23.Qh5 Be8 24.Ng4 Bxc3! 25.Nh6+ Kh8 26.Ng4+ Kg8 27.Nh6+ Kh8 28.Nxf7+ Kg8 29.Qh7+? (White has nothing more than a perpetual draw but in mutual time pressure I was still chasing the ghost of a win.) 29...Kxf7-+ 30.Qh5+ Kg8 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qh8+ Ke7 33.Qh4+ Bf6 34.Rxg7+ Bf7 35.Rxf7+ Kxf7 36.Qh7+ Bg7 37.Qg6+ Kf8 0-1

This game is memorable since it was played in intense time pressure. I never knew how bad it was until the computer showed me the light. This was the third time I lost after standing better, but fortunately the trend didn’t continue.

*“Any pawn move leads to some kind of weakening.” - GM Johan Hellsten*

*“Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril.” - Oscar Wilde*

*“Statistical facts don’t come to people naturally. Quite the opposite. Most people understand the world by generalizing personal experiences which are very biased.” - Gapminder.org*

This was my only game with Wisconsin’s Robert Jones. At the 1978 US Open in Phoenix he said he felt lucky to have won. In retrospect, I was lucky not to have lost sooner.

*“Around the age of sixteen, I realized that ... my prodigious ability to dream was no match for my glaring lack of talent.” - John Grisham*

*“The queen: Care should be taken never to exchange her for less than nine pawns.” - GMC C.J.S. Purdy*

*“In a sense, what frequently happens is the pursuit not of an objective advantage, but of positions in which our opponent will find it much harder to discover the proper replies.” - Igor Zaitsev*

78th US Open  
 Round 12 / August 19, 1977  
 Curtis Carlson (2223, age 23)  
 Harry Kaminker (2290, age 23)

B45 TC: 50/150 (<https://tinyurl.com/wy5j35v>)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.g3 d6  
 7.Bg2 Bd7 8.0-0 a6 9.b3 Be7 10.Bb2 Qc7 11.Nde2 0-0  
 12.Qd2 Rac8 13.h3 Rfd8 14.g4 Be8 15.g5 Nd7 16.f4 b5 17.a3  
 b4 (17...d5= and 17...Nb6= were also good.) 18.axb4 Nxb4  
 19.f5+= d5 20.fxe6? (20.ed ed 21.f6+= HCE) 20...fxe6 21.exd5  
 Nb6? (HCE gives 21...Bg6!+, which is why my 20th was bad  
 since this isn't possible with a pawn still on f7. 21...Nf8+=  
 and 21...Qe5+= were also possible.) 22.Nd4+/- N6xd5  
 23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Rae1 (24.c3 Nc6 25.Ne6 Qb6 26.Kh1 Rd7  
 27.Rae1+- HCE) 24...Bb5 (Best was 24...Bc5+/- 25.Kh1 Bf7+/-  
 - HCE) 25.Rxe7 (This sacrifice was attractive in our mutual  
 time pressure, but simply 25.Rf2+- was easier to play.)  
 25...Qxe7 26.Nf5? (An easy move to make when both flags  
 were ready to drop, but 26.Rf2+/- HCE was still best.)  
 26...Qc5?+- (Tal would like 26...Qa7! 27.Bd4 Rc2!+. On c5  
 Black's queen blocks his c8 rook.) 27.Bd4 Qc7 28.Bxg7?  
 (Going for the king, but winning material with 28.c4! dc  
 29.Qb4+- was obvious and good.) 28...Bxf1= 29.Qd4 Qc5??  
 30.Nh6#!

I went for a cheapo and it worked. 29...Rd6 30.Kf1 Re6 31.c3=  
 HCE. This could easily have been the fourth game I lost after  
 standing better, but as Nimzovich said, sometimes the gods are  
 kind.

*"What a science does, or should do, is simply to allow the  
 average man, through professional specialization, to command  
 the heights of genius." - James M. Buchanan*

*"Good behavior is achieved ... not by rules or catechisms ... but  
 rather ... by forming one's character well, and then acting in  
 accordance with it." - Deirdre McCloskey*

*"A belief in the existence of Santa Claus is more rational than  
 imagining White has adequate compensation after the  
 unwarranted 3. c3?" - GM Nigel Short (Referring to the  
 Morra Gambit)*

This was my only game with Canadian FM Harry Kaminker.  
 Curiously, the game appeared on the tournament crosstable as a  
 win for him, even after the game was in the round bulletin. I  
 reported the error to USCF four months later when I first saw it;  
 they said it would be corrected, but it never was. My final score  
 was 8.5-3.5 which was OK considering how poor my play was,  
 but 44 years later the 1977 yearbook still shows 7.5-4.5. I wish it  
 would get fixed, but probably never will be.

*"In order to create an interesting, valuable work of art the  
 composer needs a high standard of technique as well as  
 imagination. He also needs a great deal of knowledge ... each  
 successive chess generation has to rediscover the basic ideas."  
 - Genrick Kasparyan*

*"Short words are best and the old words when short are best of  
 all." - Winston Churchill*

*"If ten percent is good enough for the Baptist Church, it ought  
 to be good enough for the U.S. Congress." - Walter E.  
 Williams*

## Blast from the Past

Fifty years ago I was a seventeen year old high school senior  
 who scored 3.5-2.5 in the top section of the 1971 Colorado  
 Open. I had this memorable game with Arizona expert Dan  
 Gollub:

Colorado Open  
 Round 3 / September 5, 1971  
 Dan Gollub (2000, age about 30)  
 Curtis Carlson (1661, age 17)

B99 TC: 50/150 (<https://tinyurl.com/565r2zn9>)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4  
 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.a3 Rb8 12.Bxf6  
 Nxf6 13.g5 Nd7 14.h4 b4 15.axb4 Rxb4 16.f5 Nc5 17.f6 gxf6  
 18.gxf6 Bf8 19.Qh5? Qa5+ 20.Bb5+ axb5 21.Nc6 Qa1+  
 22.Kd2 Qxb2 23.Rb1 Nb3+ 24.Kd3 Nc5+ 1/2-1/2

After drawing 2062 rated Bob Shean two months earlier, I was  
 elated to draw another expert. I should have continued, since  
 Black is winning after 25.Kd2 Ne4! 26.Ne4 Rd4! 27.Nd4 Qd4  
 28.Kc1 d5+-. My opponent circled 'WHITE WON' on his  
 scoresheet before the game started, and it was amusing to see  
 him cross it out and circle 'DRAW' instead.

*"Socialists believe that human beings will work harder and  
 smarter for the State than they will for themselves or their  
 families. This is much closer to witchcraft than science." -  
 Lawrence W. Reed*

*"Along with the excitement of competition and the pleasure of  
 social activity that chess brings to our lives, there is also the  
 joy of intellectual challenge. We all want to get better at it.  
 There is something deeply satisfying about seeing our skill and  
 knowledge grow." - GM Neil McDonald*

*"Capitalism, as its name implies, is largely aimed at the  
 accumulation of capital. But notably, the way you accumulate  
 capital is by saving and investing, that is, by foregoing  
 consumption" - Patrick Carroll*

This was my first game with Dan Gollub. I don't remember  
 seeing him after I won our second and last game in a 1976  
 Phoenix round robin.

## Brief Book Reviews

1) *Zlotnik's Middlegame Manual* (2020)  
 by IM Boris Zlotnik

An outstanding book for the serious student. It has 124 well  
 annotated games that focus on typical middlegame pawn  
 structures, restricted mobility in the King's Indian, and  
 exchanging fianchettoed bishops. There are also 162 good  
 exercises. *ZMM* is 400 pages long and requires a large time  
 commitment, but will reward careful study. Highly  
 recommended.

*“For human players ... it is appropriate to base our forward planning mainly on patterns and structures, since it is impossible for us to calculate as deeply as the computer.” - IM Boris Zlotnik*

*“The computer’s evaluation ... has a purely academic character, which is a long way from the realities of practical play.” - IM Boris Zlotnik*

*“We think in terms of plans and schemes, where engines just consider moves.” - GM Vladimir Kramnik*

*“Symmetrical positions do not in themselves indicate that the players are shying away from the struggle; what they generally indicate is that they are postponing the struggle to a later stage of the game.” - GM David Bronstein*

*“It is curious that Botvinnik detested blitz games and prohibited his pupil from playing blitz.” - IM Boris Zlotnik*

*“Chess is a very concrete and dynamic game and a single weakness means nothing without taking account of the position as a whole.” - IM Boris Zlotnik*

### 2) *111 Middlegame Crimes and Punishments* (2020) by GM Alexander Galkin & WIM Anastasia Travkina

According to the authors, this book is aimed at strong tournament players (1900-2300 Elo or improving juniors). It shows where grandmasters went wrong, and with hints challenges the reader to find better continuations. I learned much from this format, and it’s especially interesting to see why some natural GM moves are bad. Not recommended for *Brian Wall* but good for everyone else.

*“One of the most important success factors in chess is a player’s ability to exploit their opponent’s mistakes, both tactical and positional.” - GM Alexander Galkin*

*“...underestimating one’s opponent’s counterplay cardinally changes our evaluation of the position.” - GM Alexander Galkin*

*“There’s a dynamic clump of pieces and pawns in the center of the board. In playing such positions, it’s very important to keep an eye on all the subtleties.” - GM Alexander Galkin, referring to the position after White’s 36th in Eljanov - Moroni 2019 (<https://tinyurl.com/nes4e3ky>)*



*Iron Mike Tyson terminates Arnold Schwarzenegger*

*“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” - Isaac Asimov*

*“If all the rich countries in the world were to cut their carbon emissions to zero tomorrow and for the rest of the century, the effort would make an almost unnoticeable reduction in temperatures by 2100” - Bjorn Lomborg*

*“Mastering calculation is a question of practice, practice, practice.” - GM Neil McDonald*

### 3) *Fundamental Chess Strategy in 100 Games* (2020) by IM Boroljub Zlatanovic

Another good read which reminds me of Nimzovich’s *Chess Praxis*. In well annotated complete games Zlatanovic illustrates important concepts: the center, bishop vs knight, the bishop pair, open files, pawn structures, coordination and harmony, the initiative, and blockades. Highly recommended for everyone besides *Brian Wall*.

*“Please remember the following quote: ‘Pawn and knights should stay on squares of the same colour, and bishops of opposite ones.’” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

*“If you follow games by great masters, chess looks like a really simple game. Actually, it is sometimes. Dominate the center and you will dominate all over the board.” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

*“...in some positions, the bishop pair is worth more than a pawn. Do not fall victim to an illusion. An extra pawn is not always a reason to play for a win.” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

*“It is very useful to establish ‘overcontrol’ of blockading squares.” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

*“There was no player of the past with better conversion technique than the Cuban legend.” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic (Referring to Jose Capablanca)*

*“In positions where all the pieces are on their best squares, pawn play should be on the agenda!” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

*“One of Botvinnik’s trademarks: attacking, provoking, weakening and retreating. Tactics come in handy when you outplay your opponent strategically.” - IM Boroljub Zlatanovic*

### 4) *Winning Chess Manouvers* (2015) by GM Sarhan Guliev

Yet another good middlegame book. 24 brief chapters cover many different themes including *Alekhine’s Nail*, *Fischer’s Hedgehog*, *Morphy’s Needles*, and much more. It also has good exercises. A fine read for serious students. *“I sincerely hope you will enjoy this book!” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“Every rule has exceptions, and one must adopt a sceptical attitude to them all. Nothing should be accepted on faith, everything must be doubted - that is how great players have always behaved. And rightly so.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“A practical player, during a game, is only interested in three things: the pawn structure, the piece set-up and the concrete*

*variations. All other questions are academic, historical, and, above all, unnecessary.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“The chess elite, with a few rare exceptions, consists of players with a high cultural erudition in the game. It could not be otherwise.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“...in considering a move which he understands to be risky, a player can draw unwitting support from the great players of the past. He can draw confidence from knowing that a great player once played something similar.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“A favorable change in the pawn structure does not occur of its own volition, but usually results from the successful implementation of the correct plan.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“Nobody can ignore the most important principle of studying endgames: miracles do not happen - one must work.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“It is impossible to learn to play well, by relying solely on general principles and considerations. Nothing can replace the basic fundamental that chess is a game of calculation.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

*“Just as in any other sphere of human activity, the process of acquiring knowledge in chess is objective and individual. That which is invented by one individual becomes the property of many. Ideas, refined through practice, lose the personality of their inventor. One should recognize this and kneel before all those who contribute to the development of chess art.” - GM Sarhan Guliev*

##### 5) *Chess Blueprints* (2010) by IM Nikolay Yakovlev

Another outstanding book which Nimzovich would enjoy. It seems to be aimed at 1800-2200 strength players, but will benefit anyone. It has five broad categories (*Strongpoints and Weaknesses, Playing in and for the Center, Position Play, Attack, and Defense*) which focus on strategic ideas. There is a lot to digest but careful study will be rewarded.

*“I have to say that improving our positional understanding needs to go together with improving our tactical vision. The author tried to follow this principle while working on this book.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“In chess it is always important to find new objects for attack.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“The ability to switch plans under changing conditions is one indicator of genuine skill.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“In the middlegame the primary goal of a chessplayer is to utilize the features of the position so as to best take advantage*

*of the interaction of his pieces.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“...the true worth of the pieces depends on the particulars of the position. When a player evaluates a position, he must look beyond the point values of the pieces and take into account the factors of space, mobility, and force. The fighting value of the remaining units is a prime feature of the resulting position.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“Chess is a very concrete game: sometimes one tiny pawn move can be ruinous. Therefore we need to train in the calculation of variations. There is no way around it.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“...it is often difficult to establish correctness of a sacrifice simply by calculating variations. A player’s intuition, optimism, and imagination all have their roles to play.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

*“The value of chess knowledge can be found in the fact that it opens the mind to the means for solving problems and for the creative achievement of specific goals. As the ancient Romans exclaimed, ‘Finis coronat opus!’ The end crowns the work.” - IM Nikolay Yakovlev*

As I was finishing this article I was saddened to hear my longtime friend *Joe Eversole* died of a heart attack on September 17. He was active in Colorado tournaments in the ‘70s and ‘80s. IIRC we had only one rated game in 1977 I was lucky to draw. RIP Joe.

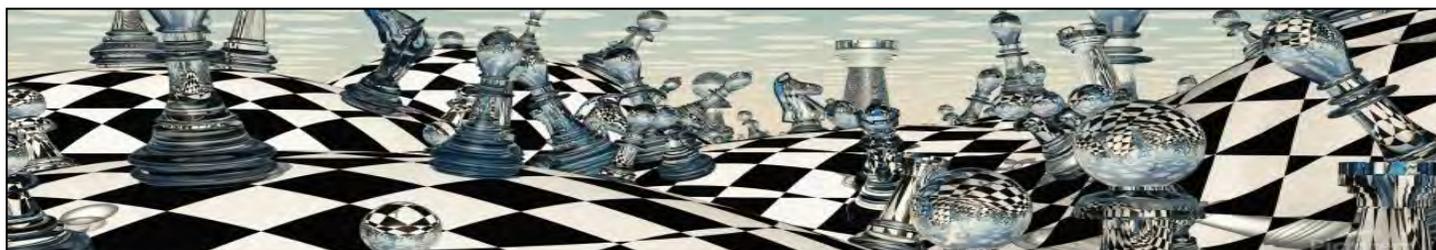
*“There seems to be an interesting law: bad and pretentious language drives out good and simple language.” - Karl Popper*

*“It is paradoxical that in spite of all the quaking it causes, the combination, appearing in the role of restless performer, cannot add to either player one drop of statistical advantage. So the evaluation of the advantage, both at the start and at the ending, is consequently equivalent.” - GM Igor Zaitsev*

*“Sometimes it takes a second-rate mind to expose third-rate ones.” - Joe Harder*

My longtime friend and nemesis *Brian Wall* was recently inducted into the *Colorado Chess Hall of Fame*. How he managed that I’ll never know, but congratulations to him! 154 of my games from past, present, and future articles are at <https://tinyurl.com/jzpmp376>.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to share memories. I’m at [curt2309@comcast.net](mailto:curt2309@comcast.net) if there are questions, comments, corrections, or suggestions.



# Big Center, what are you good for?

by Jeffrey Baffo

## Is it a weapon or a target?

In reviewing Jeremy Silman's brilliant lesson<sup>1</sup>, which contained the game Gligoric - Smyslov, Kiev 1959, I am struck by how excellent a teaching game this is! Bravo J.S.! As I absorbed Silman's teaching, the idea came to me that to really help retain as much of his wisdom and insights as possible I would do a paraphrase, put his teachings in my own words and then share this with our *Colorado Chess Informant* readers.

The game in this article is a powerful argument against the big center. Smyslov<sup>2</sup>, a true genius of chess, takes apart a top tier Grandmaster - Gligoric<sup>3</sup> and makes it look easy. This victory is so convincing it may make you swear off advancing center pawns altogether.

### Svetozar Gligoric - Vassily Smyslov

USSR vs Yugoslavia, Kiev (Round 3), 1959<sup>4</sup>

(Gruenfeld Defense: Exchange. Spassky Variation - D87)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.Rc1 Rd8



(White to play his 12th move. Just look at it!  
The classic big center! Magnificent! But Smyslov  
"ain't afraid of no ghosts" ... Watch how he fights!)

12.h3 b6 13.f4 e6 14.Qe1 Bb7 15.Qf2?! Na5 16.Bd3 f5! 17.e5 c4 18.Bc2 Nc6 19.g4 Ne7 20.Kh2 Qc6 21.Ng3 b5 22.a4 a6 23.Rb1 Rab8 24.Bd2 bxa4 25.Ra1 Ba8 26.Bxa4 Qc7 27.Ra2 Rb6 28.gxf5 exf5 29.Bc1 Nd5 30.Ne2 a5 31.Bc2 Rb3 32.Bxb3 cxb3 33.Ra4 Bf8 34.Bb2 Ne3 35.Rfa1 Nc4 36.Ng3 Be7 37.Nf1 Qc6 38.Rxc4 Qh1+ 39.Kg3 h5



(The Black pawn, queen, and bishop, a deadly battery!, form an unstoppable mating team.) 0-1

The focus of our research today, the "Big Center" aka, dream center, mobile center, broad-front center. My definition; the "d" and "e" pawns unopposed or under-opposed by enemy pawns. Silman's teaching points boil down to the big center as a potent weapon (when correctly handled) or as a clumsy target when mishandled. When I decided to delve into my own version of Silman's masterful pedagogy, I wanted to go beyond that simple dichotomy, expand it if I could...

Throughout this section of his book, Silman certainly frames it with pin-point accuracy. He has the student ask all the right rhetorical questions ... isn't the center important? Shouldn't a big pawn center be a powerful weapon? So, target or weapon, which will it be? And are there clues you can pick up to tell you which one a big center will be? This game certainly shows how to face the big center correctly, and more than just stave it off, aggressively counter-attack it. I believe the main mechanism to fight against a large, space-gaining pawn center is to attack it as if it were a large army pushing deep into enemy territory but leaving behind unoccupied land. Essentially what we have is a Napoleon invading Russia analogy. The pawn center or pawn wall may still be intact, may even be strongly supported, but in its wake are square that no longer enjoy that most essential element of homeland defense; infantry (pawn) support. Dear Reader, if you don't already own the 4th edition of this master work, get it! Read thru part 7 for Silman's detailed dissection of this game and the "big center" ideas it contains. You'll be a better player for it.



<sup>1</sup>How to Reassess your Chess (4th edition): Chess Mastery Through Chess Imbalances, 2010, 658 pages, Siles Press, ISBN 978-1890085131.

<sup>2</sup>Vasily Vasilyevich Smyslov; (Born - 24 March 1921 / Died - 27 March 2010) was a Soviet/Russian Grandmaster, World Chess Champion from 1957 to 1958.

<sup>3</sup>Svetozar Gligorić (Born - 2 February 1923 / Died - 14 August 2012) was a Yugoslav/Serbian Grandmaster, and was one of the most successful tournament players of the mid-20th century. He was also multiple time candidate for the World Chess Championship qualifying matches.

<sup>4</sup>How to Reassess your Chess (4th edition) Part Seven, Space, pg. 340.



Picture by Christopher J May  
[www.flickr.com/photos/ghosstrider/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ghosstrider/)

Longtime CSCA player Keith Oxman not only plays a strong game of chess but he is also a master of the saxophone and was recently honored as one of the top ten jazz musicians in Denver by *Westword.com!*  
<https://tinyurl.com/78kb7aa9>

**Congratulations Keith, Colorado Chess players are proud of you!**



Picture by Susan Gatschet  
<https://tinyurl.com/9y7uj5yw>



**Joe Eversole**

had our own language of Drilos, Screech Womp Womp, I'm an artist not a Butcher. I have been part of the Chess family for half a century now. I miss you, Joe. - *Brian Wall*

Reporting some sad news that Colorado Chess has lost one of our best, as a chess player and person. Joe Eversole had a dynamic style and is famous for a great game he played against former world champion Mikhail Tal at a U.S. Open. After the game Joe analyzed with Tal and the game was later published in Chess Life. Joe showed me the game personally and it was a treasure in his full and happy life. RIP Joe. - *Brad Lundstrom*

I had known Joe (Ever-so-slow) Eversole for almost 50 years. Despite me being 300 pounds and Joe half that, Joe died of a heart attack September 17, 2021 in Washington State. Joe was always great to be around with millions of constant jokes. Joe and his wife Martha lived with Debbie and I at 1560 N Ogden Street in/about 1982. Debbie used to make smothered burritos for all the Friday night blitz players at our place so I married her. Joe was also a dishwasher at Jeff Maguire's *Paris on the Platte* restaurant. James Hamblin and Joe were great friends.

Tal's first game in America was a game with Joe Eversole at the National Open. Joe wrote notes and the game was published in Chess Life, New in Chess, the Colorado Informant and my old website *www.Walverine.com*. I talked to Joe a few months ago. Joe was upset when James Hamblin died a few years ago. Joe had remarried after Martha. He was a card dealer the last 15 years. All the Chessplayers I knew early on were close and special, we

(Joe Eversole's game against Mikhail Tal - <https://tinyurl.com/v5kmzb6n>)

# Tactics Time!

by Tim Brennan

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



**1. Ben Gurka - Wesley Woo**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
Black to move



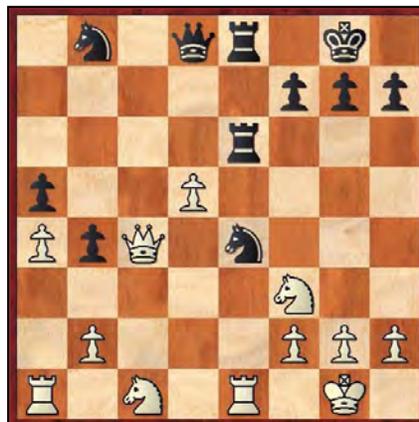
**2. Mark Brown - Andrew Roerty**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
White to move



**3. Robert Carlson - Francisco Baltier**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
Black to move



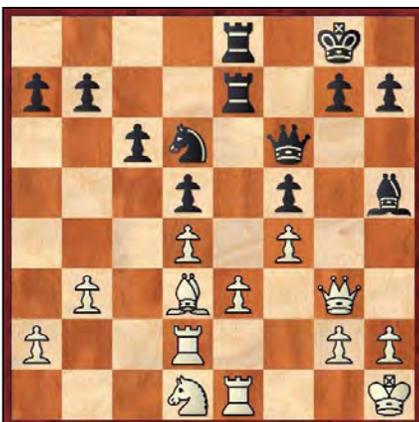
**4. David Grover - Kary Fang**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
Black to move



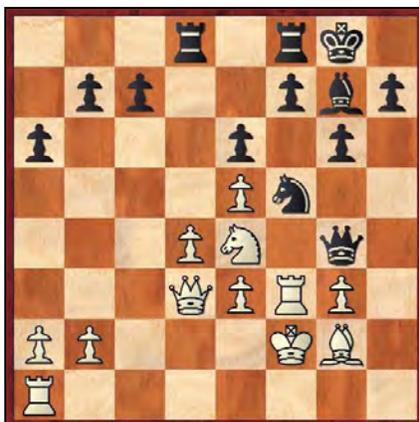
**5. Charles Zhang - Murlin Varner**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
Black to move



**6. Rithvik Ijju - Ted Doykos**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
Black to move



**7. Robert Cernich - Ryan Snodgrass**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
Black to move



**8. Alayne Willinsky - Murlin Varner**  
Colorado Open / 2019  
White to move



**9. Jason McEwen - Brian Ledsworth**  
Denver Chess Club / February 2020  
White to move



## Tactics Time Answers:

1. **6...Nxd5** is a neat opening trick. The knight is pinned, but if **7.Bxd8** Black gets their queen back after **7...Bb4+ 8.Qd2 Bxd2+ 9.Kxd2 Kxd8** and Black is up a piece.
2. **19.Nxe6+!** forks the Black king and queen. If **19...fxe6 20.Qxg6+ Kh8** (**20...Kf8 21.Bh6#**) **21.Qh7#**.
3. Francisco missed a forced checkmate with **36...Rd1+ 37.Rxd1** (**37.Kh2 Qh1#**) **37...Rxd1+ 38.Kh2 Qh1#**, but eventually won the game.
4. **31...Rh1+!! 32.Kxh1 Rh8+ 33.Kg1 Qh2#**.
5. **19...Nd2** discovers an attack on the White queen and the White rook. **20.Nxd2 Rxe1+ 21.Nf1** and Black wins the exchange.
6. **20...Qa5+** forks the knight and king.
7. **25...Qxd4!** wins a pawn. The queen cannot be captured because of **26.exd4 Rxe1+ 27.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 28.Bf1 Rxf1#**.
8. **22.Rf4 Qh5 23.Rh1** traps the Black queen.
9. **30.Rxb6+ axb6 31.Qxb6+ Bb7 32.Qc7#**.



# The Chess Detective®

## Rook Lift Problems

by NM Todd Bardwick

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

In the July edition of the *Colorado Chess Informant*, we looked at some examples of Rook Lifts.

Now it's your turn try to test your attacking skills using this aggressive rook maneuver.

(Answers are on the next page)



**1. Position after 23.Nf1**  
Black to move



**2. Position after 29...Qc6**  
White to move



**3. Position after 31...Kf8**  
White to move



**4. Position after 22...Qe8**  
White to move



**5. Position after 22...Nc6**  
White to move



**6. Position after 25.Bf3**  
Black to move

NM Todd Bardwick is the author of  
'Chess Strategy Workbook', 'Chess Endgame Workbook', 'Chess Tactics & Combinations Workbook' &  
'Attacking the Chess King Workbook for Rated Players'.  
He can be reached at [www.ColoradoMasterChess.com](http://www.ColoradoMasterChess.com)



- 1.** Black put pressure on the g-file by playing the rook lift, **23...Rg7 24.Rf2 Be3 25.b3 Nf4 26.Resigns**

This position is from a game between Ljubomir Ljubojevic and Garry Kasparov played in Niksic, Montenegro, in 1983.



- 2.** White played his second rook lift of the game with **30.Rdd3 Ba5 31.Rdc3 Bxc3 32.Qa6 Resigns** (32...Qxa6 33.Nc7 mate or, if 32...Qd7 or 32...Qc8, then 33.Nb6+)

Ian Rogers played White in this game against Gilberto Milos in the 1992 Olympiad in Manila, Philippines.



- 3.** White played **32.Ra3** (32.Rf1+ doesn't work because of the bishop on a6.) **32...Rc8 33.Rf3+** (All of White's forces are now aimed at the Black king.) **33...Nf6 34.h3 Qg6 35.Rxf6+ Bxf6 36.Ne6+ Ke8 37.Nxf6+ Resigns**

This position is from a game in 1978 played in Daugavpils, Latvia, between Garry Kasparov and Semon Palatnik.



- 4.** **23.Rd3** (Lifting the correct rook. The f1 rook cuts off the Black king from escaping via the f-file. **23...Rxe6 24.Rh3 Qe7 25.Qh6+ Kg8 26.Rf8+** (A nice sacrifice.) **26...Qxf8 27.Qxh7#**

This position is from a game between Joseph Henry Blackburne and Wilhelm Steinitz played in London, England, in 1883.



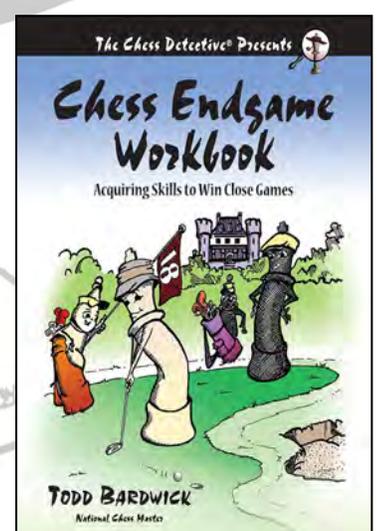
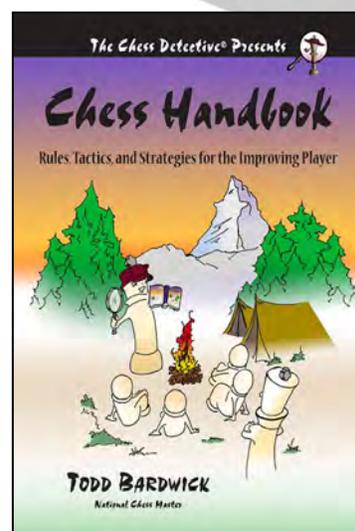
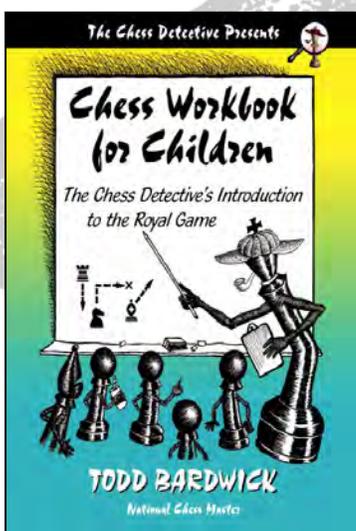
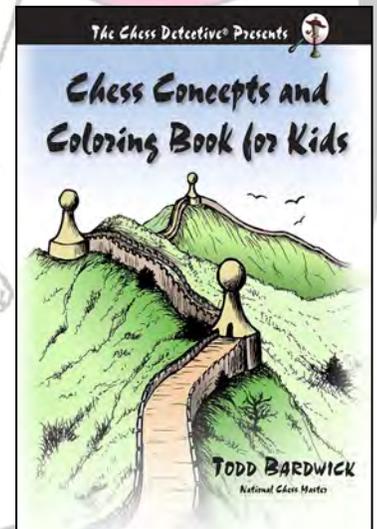
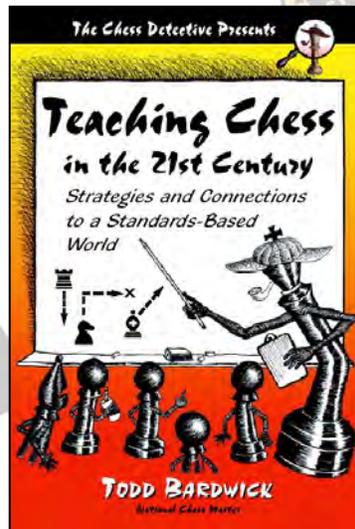
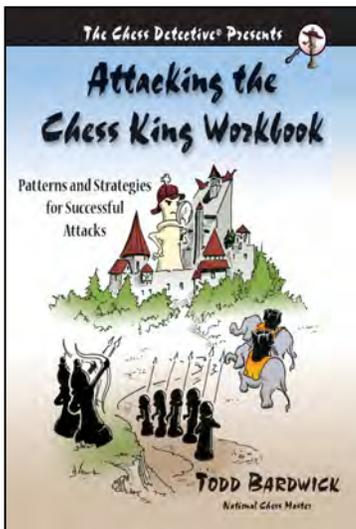
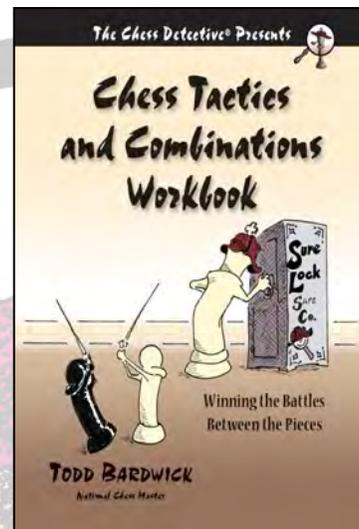
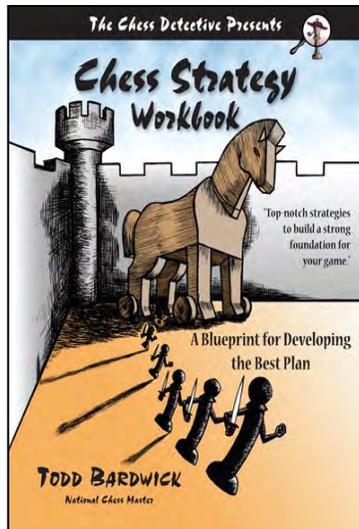
- 5.** **23.Bxh7+!** (A common theme of sacrificing a bishop to open a file for the rook to justify the rook lift.) **23...Kxh7 24.Rf4 f6 25.Rh4+ Kg8 26.Qh3 Nd8 27.Bd4 b6 28.Nxe6 Nxe6 29.Qxe6+ Qf7 30.Qe4 g5 31.Rh6 Ra7 32.Rch3** (The previously lifted rook also enters the attack.) **32...Qg7 33.Rg6 Rff7 34.c4 Resigns**

This position occurred in 1976 in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, between Ljubomir Ljubojevic and Ulf Andersson.



- 6.** **25...Rxh2+! 26.Kxh2 Bg3+** (Preventing 27.g3 which would open up the g2 square for the White king.) **27.Kh1 g5!** (Fixing White's g-pawn so it can't move to g5 to stop the rook lift.) **28.Be4 Rf6** (Finally, the other rook lifts and can now safely head to h6 to mate the White king.) **29.Resigns**

This position is from a game between Dylan Lehti and Richard Herbst, played in Denver in 2008.



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

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| DCC Fall Classic 2021                      | October 16 - 17, 2021  | Denver           |
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| IHOP Chess Nov 2021                        | November 20 - 27, 2021 | Colorado Springs |
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| IHOP Chess Dec 2021                        | December 11 - 18, 2021 | Colorado Springs |
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| DCC 2022 MLK Jr. Memorial                  | January 15 - 16, 2022  | Denver           |
| IHOP Chess Jan 2022                        | January 22 - 29, 2022  | Colorado Springs |
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| Denver Scholastic Chess Series #2          | October 16, 2021  | Englewood |
| 2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #2 | October 23, 2021  | Denver    |
| Denver Scholastic Chess Series #3          | November 13, 2021 | Englewood |
| 2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #3 | November 20, 2021 | Denver    |
| Denver Scholastic Chess Series #4          | December 11, 2021 | Englewood |
| 2021-2022 Summit School of Chess Series #4 | December 11, 2021 | Denver    |
| Denver Scholastic Chess Series #5          | January 8, 2022   | Englewood |
| Denver Scholastic Chess Series #6          | February 5, 2022  | Englewood |
| Denver Scholastic Chess Series #7          | March 12, 2022    | Englewood |
| Denver Scholastic Chess Series #8          | April 2, 2022     | Englewood |
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