

COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



*Tribute to Martin Luther King Tournament
Colorado State Scholastic Championships
DCC Spring Classic
Colorado Closed Championships
Sunil Weeramantry lecture
Clutch Chess: Champions Showdown
Tactics Time! and more...*



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

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On the cover:

K-12 State Scholastic Champion Grayson Manuel

Photo by John Brezina

From the Editor

Spring has arrived and a lot of chess with it! 2026 is off to a great start here for Colorado chess as can be seen in this issue. The State Scholastics in February was a great success with the new location and I was honored to be able to photograph the entire event. I am very proud of one of my Parker chess club players, Ashwin Mathimaran for winning the K-8 Championship a year after his brother Krish won the same title! It has been a privilege to see many of these young players grow up through my camera's lens. Congratulations to Kevin McConnell for running a successful scholastic tournament with so many helpers behind the scenes. Earle Wikle has been instrumental in getting our DGT boards running at so many Colorado tournaments as well. There are so many volunteers around our state that keep Colorado chess vibrant so please thank them next time you play a game. Last I want to say how honored I was to have my good friend Sunil Weeramantry return to our Parker chess club once again to share his incredible knowledge about our royal game with another fantastic lecture. See my article in this issue. Enjoy our latest Informant here and please share feedback with me to improve this publication.

- John Brezina

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Informant Article Submission Deadlines:

January issue - December 24 / April issue - March 24

July issue - June 24 / October issue - September 24

Email article submissions to skibrezina@gmail.com

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CSCA President Kevin McConnell's Message

Happy Spring!

The Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championships were held in February and we had the biggest turnout in 5 years! The new venue at STEM School Highlands Ranch was amazing and John Brezina took some incredible photographs. We launched the new "Rising Talent" one-day unrated chess championship in concert with the two-day USCF rated Colorado State Scholastic Championship and saw 243 participants, a 23% increase from 2025!

We sent out an electronic survey to all families that participated and had 41 completed surveys turned in. The overwhelming majority of these surveys were positive about the event and the only serious complaint was that more and better seating was needed for the parents and family members as they waited for their players between rounds. We will be mindful of that as we continue to search for the perfect venue for the Colorado State scholastic Chess Championship moving forward.

We held the Colorado Closed and Scholastic Closed Chess Championships in early March and I would like to congratulate the winners:

Scholastic Challenger - Neel Yadatore

Scholastic Closed - Felix McMillan

Closed Challenger - Dean Clow and Jason Nigatu (a very rare tie of all tie breaks produced co-champions)

Closed State Champion - Sullivan McConnell

I would also like to congratulate the Colorado Quick Chess State Champion - FM Gunnar Andersen

As of this writing, we have the tournament announcements posted for the next 4 Colorado State Chess Association chess events! Something you will notice in all CSCA tournament listings moving forward is that there will always be 3 different registration rates to choose from. We will have an "Early Bird" rate which will reward tournament players who register the earliest. There will be a "Last Chance" discounted rate for players who register after the "Early Bird" discount has expired, but sign up more than a week before the tournament, and there will be a "Full Price" registration rate for players that sign up less than one week before the tournament. Our goal is to have CSCA tournament announcements posted 3 months in advance of their event dates, so that tournament players will have lots of time to plan which events they want to play in!

I am so pleased to announce that the Boulder Open is back, (April 25th and 26th) and already has 18 people signed up to play! At the end of May (May 30th and 31st), we are holding the Colorado State Senior Chess Championship and U/50 tournaments. These tournaments will be held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, CO. In June we will be holding the Colorado Class Championships at the Hyatt Place Colorado Springs, CO. Finally, on July 25th, we will be holding the Colorado All-Girls State Scholastic Chess Championship at the Hilton Garden Inn Denver Tech Center in Denver, CO.

Opportunities abound for playing chess over the next 4 months! I look forward to seeing you at the tournaments!

With gratitude,

Kevin McConnell
President Colorado State Chess Association



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2026 Tribute to Martin Luther King Tournament

by Earle Wikle

On a chilly winter weekend with light snow in Denver on January 17 and 18 (10 to 15 degree F) at the Hilton Garden Inn on E. Union in the DTC area. The Denver Chess Club hosted their yearly Tribute to Martin Luther King chess tournament. The first of four DCC premier tournaments for the year. The tournament attracted 156 players with 5 sections. The current tournament format titled Tribute to Martin Luther King has been run since 2015, but the Denver Chess Club started hosting a Martin Luther King tournament as far back as 2002. It was a good weekend for chess and the Hilton Garden Inn newly remodel hotel made for great comfort, and much thanks goes out to fellow TDs Peter Barlay and Max Higa for helping to keep everything running in the tournament without any problems.



The Hilton Garden Inn playing hall

In the Premier section, NM Suhaas Narayanan and NM Eamon Montgomery tied for first and second with 4.5 points. While LM Brian Wall, Chris Motley, and Amitai Sebba tied for third and combined U2100 with 4 points. Top upset in the Premier section was won by Felix McMillan win over NM Daniel Herman in round one.



NM Suhaas Narayanan



NM Eamon Montgomery

In the U1800 section, Jonathan Sealander took clear first with 4.5 points. With a tie for second and third going to Eli Cohrs and Max Higa with 4 points. Ying-Te Yen won the upset with a win over Logan Stewmon. In the U1600 section, a two way tie for first and second between Greg Wheeler and Viaan Khandelwal, each with 4 points, and a three way tie for third between, Ryan Gupta, Tarun Karthikeyan, and Luis Revera, each with 3.5 points, and rising talent Nivid Singhal won the U1600 upset prize.



Jonathan Sealander

In the U1400 section, there was a tie for first and second between Lan Truong and Anay Gupta, with 4.5 points. Jason Wu placed third with 4 points, and Dylan Kovacs took the upset prizes with a 394 rating point difference win over Jared Hall.

In the U1200 section, Unrated Matt Cornish won the tournament with 5 points. However, the winnings are limited to \$150 for unrated players and the extra money was split between the next place prizes. Fared Ahamad took second with 4.5 points, and Ethan Dunn and Rishabh Nair tied for third with 4 points, but Rishabh took the bigger prize for U1000. The upset prize was won by Anshul Singhal with a 593 rating point difference over Jonathan McCormick.



DCC President Earle Wikle addressing the players



2026 Tribute to MLK Tournament cross-tables

PREMIER

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	NM SUHAAS NARAYANAN	2197	W17 (w)	W31 (b)	H---	W19 (b)	W10 (w)	4½	\$575.00
2	NM EAMON MONTGOMERY	2189	W32 (b)	W22 (w)	W13 (b)	W12 (w)	D3 (b) 7.5	4½	\$575.00
3	LM BRIAN WALL	2204	W24 (b)	D15 (w)	W27 (b)	W4 (b)	D2 (w)	4	\$183.33
4	CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY	1963	W44 (b)	W34 (w)	W30 (b) 247	L3 (w)	W16 (b)	4	\$183.33
5	AMITAI SEBBA	1891	L42 (b)	W44 (w)	W34 (b)	W33 (w)	W12 (b) 219	4	\$183.33
6	NM DANIEL HERMAN	2170	L25 (w)	D18 (b)	W28 (b)	W26 (w)	W17 (w)	3½	
7	SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR	2053	L43 (w)	W35 (b)	D11 (w)	W40 (b)	W22 (w)	3½	
8	SHUBH MISRA	2049	W26 (b)	D23 (w)	D15 (b)	W25 (w)	D11 (b)	3½	
9	CRAIG WILCOX	2004	L34 (b)	H---	W39 (w)	W41 (b)	W29 (w)	3½	
10	DEREK YIN	1967	W28 (w)	W43 (b)	H---	X---	L1 (b)	3½	
11	VEDANT MARGALE	1877	W48 (b)	D27 (w)	D7 (b) 88	W13 (w) 159	D8 (w) 86	3½	
12	CM DEAN CLOW	2110	W40 (b)	W14 (w)	W25 (b)	L2 (b)	L5 (w)	3	
13	SEAN PEARSON	2036	W41 (w)	W16 (b)	L2 (w)	L11 (b)	W32 (w)	3	
14	FORREST LUNDSTROM	1923	W29 (w)	L12 (b)	L17 (w)	W46 (b)	W33 (b)	3	
15	KEITH OXMAN	1900	W50 (w)	D3 (b) 152	D8 (w) 74.5	L17 (b)	W34 (w)	3	
16	VEDANTH PEESAPATY	1868	W49 (b)	L13 (w)	W18 (b)	W21 (w) 29	L4 (w)	3	
17	EMMETT LIGNELL	1842	L1 (b)	W46 (w)	W14 (b) 81	W15 (w) 58	L6 (b)	3	
18	WYATT BACKHOUSE	1715	D21 (b) 91	D6 (w) 227.5	L16 (w)	W43 (b) 107	W31 (b) 183	3	
19	JASON NIGATU	1997	H---	W42 (w)	W23 (b)	L1 (w)	U---	2½	
20	JACOB GELLER	1978	L27 (b)	D28 (w)	H---	W35 (b)	D25 (w)	2½	
21	HENRY KOVACS	1897	D18 (w)	D33 (b)	W43 (w)	L16 (b)	D27 (w)	2½	
22	KRISH MATHIMARAN	1885	W47 (w)	L2 (b)	D29 (w)	W42 (b)	L7 (b)	2½	
23	JOHN SCHOENKE	1874	W36 (w)	D8 (b) 87.5	L19 (w)	L29 (b)	W40 (w)	2½	
24	NEEL YADATORE	1846	L3 (w)	L29 (b)	D47 (w)	W48 (b)	W41 (w)	2½	
25	FELIX MCMILLAN	1838	W6 (b) 332	W37 (w) 153	L12 (w)	L8 (b)	D20 (b) 70	2½	\$100.00
26	ROHAN DAVID	1814	L8 (w)	D36 (b)	W49 (w)	L6 (b)	W39 (w) 37	2½	
27	ASHWIN MATHIMARAN	1790	W20 (w) 188	D11 (b) 43.5	L3 (w)	D32 (b) 27	D21 (b) 53.5	2½	
28	ENRICO MOSS	1778	L10 (b)	D20 (b) 100	L6 (w)	W50 (w)	W43 (b) 44	2½	
29	SANDEEP MATHEW	1745	L14 (b)	W24 (w) 101	D22 (b) 70	W23 (w) 129	L9 (b)	2½	
30	LM RICHARD SHTIVELBAND	2210	W39 (w)	W38 (b)	L4 (w)	F---	U---	2	
31	TANYA GURPUR MADKE PRABHU	1898	W46 (b)	L1 (w)	L33 (w)	W45 (b)	L18 (w)	2	
32	OWEN CURTIS	1844	L2 (w)	W50 (b)	H---	D27 (w)	L13 (b)	2	
33	MATTHEW ABRAHAM	1825	H---	D21 (w) 36	W31 (b) 73	L5 (b)	L14 (w)	2	
34	RYAN HAJJALI	1801	W9 (w) 203	L4 (b)	L5 (w)	W36 (b)	L15 (b)	2	
35	DUWAYNE LANGSETH	1800	L37 (b)	L7 (w)	W44 (b)	L20 (w)	W46 (w)	2	
36	MAXIM SEBA MILLAN	1621	L23 (b)	D26 (w) 96.5	H---	L34 (w)	W45 (b) 121	2	
37	EDWARD YASUTAKE	1991	W35 (w)	L25 (b)	H---	U---	U---	1½	
38	CRAIG MOFFITT	1906	W45 (b)	L30 (w)	H---	U---	U---	1½	
39	DANIEL MARMER	1851	L30 (b)	D45 (w)	L9 (b)	W47 (w)	L26 (b)	1½	
40	WILLARD DAVIS	1829	L12 (w)	W47 (b)	H---	L7 (w)	L23 (b)	1½	
41	CLIFTON FORD	1804	L13 (b)	W48 (w)	H---	L9 (w)	L24 (b)	1½	
42	ANDREW ROBICHAUD	1705	W5 (w) 186	L19 (b)	H---	L22 (w)	U---	1½	
43	MICHAEL SILBERBERG	1822	W7 (b) 231	L10 (w)	L21 (b)	L18 (w)	L28 (w)	1	
44	NICK HVIZDA	1752	L4 (w)	L5 (b)	L35 (w)	D49 (b)	D48 (w)	1	
45	KAAVYA SAKTHISARAVANAN	1742	L38 (w)	D39 (b) 54.5	H---	L31 (w)	L36 (w)	1	
46	QUINN LEDUC	1735	L31 (w)	L17 (b)	B---	L14 (w)	L35 (b)	1	
47	ABHIJAY BALAMURUGAN	1673	L22 (b)	L40 (w)	D24 (b) 86.5	L39 (b)	H---	1	
48	ARIANA DANI	1659	L11 (w)	L41 (b)	H---	L24 (w)	D44 (b) 46.5	1	
49	CHATTIN SIMPSON	1620	L16 (w)	H---	L26 (b)	D44 (w) 66	U---	1	
50	SAI SWANIT DASARI	1737	L15 (b)	L32 (w)	H---	L28 (b)	U---	½	

U1800

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	JONATHAN SEALANDER	1757	W11 (w)	W8 (b)	H---	W7 (w)	W3 (b)	4½	\$400.00
2	ELI COHRS	1717	D12 (b)	W19 (w)	D16 (b)	W9 (w)	W8 (b)	4	\$250.00
3	MAX HIGA	1707	W17 (w)	W20 (b)	W4 (w)	W13 (b)	L1 (w)	4	\$250.00
4	TYLER HICKS-WRIGHT	1587	W10 (w)	W15 (b) 117	L3 (b)	D6 (w) 52	W13 (w)	3½	
5	HARRY BESSEY-SALDANHA	1783	W24 (b)	L7 (w)	H---	W20 (b)	D6 (w)	3	
6	DANIEL SMITH	1691	L13 (w)	W17 (b)	W14 (w)	D4 (b)	D5 (b) 46	3	
7	DARSHAN SATISHKUMAR	1648	W14 (w)	W5 (b) 135	D13 (w)	L1 (b)	D10 (w)	3	
8	OMAR AL-MUTLAQ	1625	W9 (b)	L1 (w)	W19 (b)	W15 (b) 79	L2 (w)	3	
9	WILLIAM WHITWORTH	1420	L8 (w)	B---	W12 (b) 126	L2 (b)	W15 (w) 284	3	
10	YING-TE YEN	1418	L4 (b)	W22 (w) 97	H---	W16 (w) 285	D7 (b) 115	3	\$100.00
11	SHANKAR PARASURAM	1549	L1 (b)	L18 (w)	W24 (b) 27	W19 (w)	D14 (b)	2½	
12	LINCOLN MOTT	1546	D2 (w) 85.5	D21 (b) 70.5	L9 (w)	H---	W18 (b)	2½	
13	STEVEN GARVERICK	1450	W6 (b) 241	W16 (w) 253	D7 (b) 99	L3 (w)	L4 (b)	2½	
14	AAROH ANASPURE	1430	L7 (b)	W24 (w) 146	L6 (b)	W17 (w) 91	D11 (w) 59.5	2½	
15	JAKE NGUYEN	1704	W22 (b)	L4 (w)	W18 (b)	L8 (w)	L9 (b)	2	
16	LOGAN STEWMON	1703	W25 (w)	L13 (b)	D2 (w) 7	L10 (b)	H---	2	
17	NIALL CASE	1521	L3 (b)	L6 (w)	B---	L14 (b)	W21 (w) 166	2	
18	DREW BANAZEK	1453	L20 (w)	W11 (b) 96	L15 (w)	W21 (b) 234	L12 (w)	2	
19	DANIEL DUGGAN	1432	W21 (w) 255	L2 (b)	L8 (w)	L11 (b)	W24 (w) 144	2	
20	KENNETH DOYKOS	1700	W18 (b)	L3 (w)	H---	L5 (w)	U---	1½	
21	JACK ADI GOTTLIEB	1687	L19 (b)	D12 (w)	H---	L18 (w)	L17 (b)	1	
22	TIMOTHY J MENDOZA	1515	L15 (w)	L10 (b)	H---	D24 (w) 30.5	U---	1	
23	JAMES LAMORGESE	1533	H---	U---	U---	U---	U---	½	
24	MARK LAUER	1576	L5 (w)	L14 (b)	L11 (w)	D22 (b)	L19 (b)	½	
25	JEFFREY COHEN	1476	L16 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

U1600

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	GREG WHEELER JR	1538	D10 (b)	W17 (w)	H---	W14 (b)	W3 (w) 46	4	\$287.50
2	VIAAN KHANDELWAL	1530	W14 (w)	H---	D12 (b) 4.5	W11 (w)	W4 (b)	4	\$287.50
3	RYAN GUPTA	1584	W13 (w)	W6 (b)	D4 (w)	W8 (b)	L1 (b)	3½	\$41.67 :
4	TARUN KARTHIKEYAN	1492	W15 (w)	W18 (b) 71	D3 (b) 46	W12 (w) 47	L2 (w)	3½	\$41.67 :
5	LUIS RIVERA	1448	L18 (w)	W15 (b)	H---	W10 (w)	W8 (b) 119	3½	\$41.67 :
6	KARTHIKEYAN KANNAN	1523	W7 (w)	L3 (w)	L11 (b)	W18 (b) 40	W14 (w)	3	
7	DAVID CEASE	1387	L6 (b)	L13 (b)	W16 (w) 113	W19 (w) 139	W12 (b) 152	3	
8	JAMES LAMORGESE	1567	H---	W11 (w)	W9 (b)	L3 (w)	L5 (w)	2½	
9	ZANDER MCELHINNEY	1432	D12 (b) 53.5	W10 (w)	L8 (w)	D13 (b) 15.5	D11 (b)	2½	
10	ADEEL BHATTI	1428	D1 (w) 55	L9 (b)	W17 (w)	L5 (b)	W19 (b) 98	2½	\$100.00
11	NIVID SINGHAL	1273	W16 (w) 227	L8 (b)	W6 (w) 250	L2 (b)	D9 (w) 79.5	2½	\$100.00
12	SRII BEZAWADA	1539	D9 (w)	W19 (b)	D2 (w)	L4 (b)	L7 (w)	2	
13	ERIK KNUDSEN	1463	L3 (b)	W7 (w)	H---	D9 (w)	U---	2	
14	ARI MELTZER	1404	L2 (b)	W16 (b) 96	W18 (w) 159	L1 (w)	L6 (b)	2	
15	ADI RAO	1265	L4 (b)	L5 (w)	B---	L16 (b)	W17 (b) 135	2	
16	MR. RANDOLPH G SCHINE	1500	L11 (b)	L14 (w)	L7 (b)	W15 (w)	H---	1½	
17	DEAN W BROWN	1400	D19 (w) 63	L1 (b)	L10 (b)	B---	L15 (w)	1½	
18	ADAM KINSEY	1563	W5 (b)	L4 (w)	L14 (b)	L6 (w)	U---	1	
19	KARTHIKA SAKTHISARAVANAN	1526	D17 (b)	L12 (w)	H---	L7 (b)	L10 (w)	1	

U1400

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	LAN TRUONG	1212	W15 (b)	W18 (w) 121	H---	W12 (w) 112	W7 (b)	4½	\$270.00
2	ANAY GUPTA	1165	W11 (w) 164	W17 (b)	W12 (b) 159	W4 (w) 21	D3 (w) 111.5	4½	\$270.00
3	JASON WUU	1388	W20 (b)	D4 (w)	W18 (b)	W5 (w)	D2 (b)	4	\$110.00
4	SHRI RAMKUMAR	1186	W16 (w)	D3 (b) 101	W6 (w) 138	L2 (b)	W8 (w)	3½	
5	STEVE MERRICK	1021	W9 (w) 259	W6 (b) 303	H---	L3 (b)	W11 (w) 308	3½	
6	JASON BAUER	1324	W21 (b)	L5 (w)	L4 (b)	W16 (w)	W14 (b)	3	
7	HEYMANTH MANIKHANDAN	1166	L18 (b)	W15 (w)	W17 (b)	W14 (w)	L1 (w)	3	
8	HANSIT RAVADA	1066	W13 (b) 241	L12 (w)	W19 (b) 152	W9 (w) 214	L4 (b)	3	
9	NOAH KEENE	1280	L5 (b)	D21 (w)	W13 (b) 27	L8 (b)	W15 (w)	2½	
10	JAMES CORBETT	1137	H---	U---	U---	W21 (w)	W17 (b)	2½	
11	BRENDAN MAHONEY	1329	L2 (b)	L19 (w)	W21 (b)	W18 (w) 4	L5 (b)	2	
12	KEN BECKRICH	1324	W14 (w)	W8 (b)	L2 (w)	L1 (b)	U---	2	
13	JOHN HOLET	1307	L8 (w)	L14 (b)	L9 (w)	W20 (b)	W19 (w)	2	
14	RUSHIITHA BEZAWADA	1156	L12 (b)	W13 (w) 151	W16 (b)	L7 (b)	L6 (w)	2	
15	DYLAN KOVACS	824	L1 (w)	L7 (b)	W20 (b) 347	W19 (w) 394	L9 (b)	2	\$100.00
16	BRAD CLER	U	L4 (b)	W20 (w)	L14 (w)	L6 (b)	W21 (b)	2	
17	ANJALI KANITKAR	942	W19 (b) 276	L2 (w)	L7 (w)	H---	L10 (w)	1½	
18	ARJUN YARLAGADDA	1333	W7 (w)	L1 (b)	L3 (w)	L11 (b)	U---	1	
19	JARED HALL	1218	L17 (w)	W11 (b) 111	L8 (w)	L15 (b)	L13 (b)	1	
20	SHIRLEY HERMAN	1171	L3 (w)	L16 (b)	L15 (w)	L13 (w)	B---	1	
21	CHARLIE KOVACS	1129	L6 (w)	D9 (b) 75.5	L11 (w)	L10 (b)	L16 (w)	½	



U1200

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	MATT CORNISH	U	W41 (b)	W13 (b)	W19 (w)	W12 (w)	W6 (b)	5	\$150.00
2	FAREED AHAMAD	853	W18 (w) 320	H---	W26 (b) 346	W21 (w) 110	W12 (b) 231	4½	\$300.00
3	ETHAN DUNN	1020	D25 (w)	D5 (b) 87	W32 (w)	W28 (b)	W14 (w)	4	\$125.00
4	RISHABH NAIR	988	W24 (b)	D16 (w) 103.5	H---	W10 (w) 107	W15 (b)	4	\$175.00
5	JACOB JUST	1194	D22 (b)	D3 (w)	H---	W36 (b)	W21 (b)	3½	
6	CHRISTIAN HARDY	1104	W34 (b)	D14 (w)	W9 (b)	W7 (w)	L1 (w)	3½	
7	GLEN HOLGUIN	944	W36 (b)	W10 (w) 151	H---	L6 (b)	W18 (b) 229	3½	
8	ALISON WALKER	864	W17 (b) 321	L12 (w)	H---	W27 (w) 279	W20 (b) 110	3½	
9	ANSHUL SINGHAL	606	H---	W25 (b)	L6 (w)	W17 (b) 579	W26 (w) 593	3½	\$100.00
10	SIDDHISHREE SUNDARAM	1095	W29 (w)	L7 (b)	W31 (w)	L4 (b)	W28 (w)	3	
11	JARED COBURN	1092	W30 (b)	L21 (w)	H---	D25 (b)	W29 (w)	3	
12	MATTHEW KONERTH	1084	W31 (w)	W8 (b)	W20 (w)	L1 (b)	L2 (w)	3	
13	MICHAEL SEGUIN	1007	W38 (b)	L1 (w)	D24 (b)	D26 (w) 96	W31 (b)	3	
14	ANIRUDH SAIBALAN	982	X---	D6 (b) 61	W16 (w) 213	H---	L3 (b)	3	
15	SHISHIR MUKKALA	907	L26 (w)	W40 (b)	W38 (w)	W19 (b) 135	L4 (w)	3	
16	LAWRENCE PELO	1195	W28 (w)	D4 (b)	L14 (b)	W24 (w)	U---	2½	
17	DAVID BRYANT	1185	L8 (w)	H---	W41 (b)	L9 (w)	W39 (w)	2½	
18	VERONICA PINNA	1173	L2 (b)	W22 (w)	H---	W35 (b)	L7 (w)	2½	
19	STEVEN ENDERSBEE	1042	W40 (b)	W37 (w)	L1 (b)	L15 (w)	D25 (b)	2½	
20	DENNIS LOBODA	974	W39 (b)	W27 (w) 169	L12 (b)	H---	L8 (w)	2½	
21	BLAIR OLIVER	963	W35 (w)	W11 (b) 129	H---	L2 (b)	L5 (w)	2½	
22	MAXWELL CALE	868	D5 (w) 163	L18 (b)	L25 (w)	W34 (b)	W35 (b)	2½	
23	JAMES CORBETT II	U	H---	U---	U---	W33 (w)	W30 (b)	2½	
24	LOGAN SCHIFF	U	L4 (w)	W29 (b)	D13 (w)	L16 (b)	W36 (w)	2½	
25	JEREMY REDENIUS	U	D3 (b)	L9 (w)	W22 (b)	D11 (w)	D19 (w)	2½	
26	JONATHAN MCCORMICK	1199	W15 (b)	H---	L2 (w)	D13 (b)	L9 (b)	2	
27	GAUTAM AATHI	1143	W33 (w)	L20 (b)	L28 (w)	L8 (b)	B---	2	
28	SAM REDENIUS	872	L16 (b)	W39 (w)	W27 (b) 271	L3 (w)	L10 (b)	2	
29	MATT JENSEN	742	L10 (b)	L24 (w)	W39 (b)	W37 (w)	L11 (b)	2	
30	JOHN HARVEY JR	618	L11 (w)	L38 (b)	B---	W32 (b)	L23 (w)	2	
31	SCOTT WOODHAM	479	L12 (b)	W41 (w) 522	L10 (b)	W38 (w)	L13 (w)	2	
32	SEAN RUNDGREN	U	F---	W34 (w)	L3 (b)	L30 (w)	W38 (b)	2	
33	VIK VAD	830	L27 (b)	L36 (w)	H---	L23 (b)	W37 (w)	1½	
34	ELI ROSENSTEIN	778	L6 (w)	L32 (b)	H---	L22 (w)	W40 (b)	1½	
35	YIXUAN CHEN	U	L21 (b)	H---	W37 (b)	L18 (w)	L22 (w)	1½	
36	CHAD WILLIAMSON	U	L7 (w)	W33 (b)	H---	L5 (w)	L24 (b)	1½	
37	JOSHUA FAULCONER	110	B---	L19 (b)	L35 (w)	L29 (b)	L33 (b)	1	
38	JONATHAN MOORE	U	L13 (w)	W30 (w)	L15 (b)	L31 (b)	L32 (w)	1	
39	RAYMOND MARSHMAN	U	L20 (w)	L28 (b)	L29 (w)	W40 (w)	L17 (b)	1	
40	CHUCK PRICE	477	L19 (w)	L15 (w)	H---	L39 (b)	L34 (w)	½	
41	KAVIN PRAVEENBABU	1001	L1 (w)	L31 (b)	L17 (w)	U---	U---	0	



Games from the 2026 Tribute to MLK Tournament

ROUND 5

LM BRIAN WALL 2204

NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2189

1.Nc3 c5 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4
5.Nxd4 d6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Bd7 8.0-0 Be7
9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 a6 11.Nce2 Rc8 12.c4
Nxd4 13.Qxd4 b5 14.Rfc1 bxc4 15.Rxc4
Rxc4 16.Qxc4 Qb6 17.e5 ½-½

**NM SUHAAS NARAYANAN 2197 -
DEREK YIN 1967**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nb6 6.Be3 Be7 7.Nf3 N8d7 8.Be2 0-
0 9.0-0 Nf6 10.h3 Bd7 11.Ne5 h6 12.Rc1
Rc8 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qb3 c5 15.Rfd1 c4
16.Qc2 Rfd8 17.d5 exd5 18.e5 Nh7
19.Bg4 Qc6 20.Bxb6 axb6 21.Bxc8 Rxc8
22.Nxd5 Bf8 23.h4 b5 24.Qf5 Ra8 25.a3
Re8 26.Nb4 Bxb4 27.axb4 Nf8 28.Rd6
Qc7 29.Rcd1 Qe7 30.e6 fxe6 31.Qxb5 Rc8
32.h5 c3 33.bxc3 Rxc3 34.Rb6 Rc7
35.Qe5 Rc4 36.Qd6 Qf7 37.Rb5 Rc2
38.Qd4 Rc7 39.Rc5 Rd7 40.Qa1 Re7
41.Qe5 Qe8 42.Qc3 Qf7 43.Rd3 Rd7
44.Rxd7 Qxd7 45.Qf3 b6 46.Rc1 Qd4
47.b5 Qb2 48.Qc6 Qd4 49.g3 Qb2 50.Kg2
Qd4 51.Rc4 Qd3 52.Rf4 Qd8 53.Qb7 Kh7
54.Rf7 1-0

CM DEAN CLOW 2110

AMITAI SEBBA 1891

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 c6 5.0-0
Bg7 6.c3 Qb6+ 7.d4 Nfd7 8.Kh1 c5 9.e3
Nc6 10.Nbd2 Nf6 11.Ne5 h5 12.h3 Bf5
13.Qa4 Rc8 14.Re1 0-0 15.Kh2 Ne4
16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.Qxa7 b6
19.Qa6 c4 20.Bf1 Be6 21.Qa3 Ra8
22.Qxe7 f6 23.a4 Rf7 24.Qa3 Rfa7 25.b3
cxb3 26.Bb5 Qxc3 27.Bb2 Qc2+ 28.Re2
Qxe2+ 29.Bxe2 Bf8 30.Qxf8+ Kxf8
31.Bb5 Rc8 32.Rb1 Rc2+ 33.Kg1 Rac7
34.g4 Rxb2 35.Rxb2 Rc1+ 0-1

VEDANT MARGALE 1877

SHUBH MISRA 2049

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0-0 Nge7
5.c3 a6 6.Ba4 b5 7.Bc2 d5 8.d4 cxd4
9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.cxd4 Bb7 11.Nc3 dxe4
12.Bxe4 Bxe4 13.Nxe4 Nf5 14.Be3 Be7
15.Qd2 0-0 16.Rfd1 Rc8 17.Rac1 Qd5
18.Nc3 Qd7 19.a3 Rfd8 20.Qe2 Bf6 21.d5
Nxe3 22.fxe3 Bxc3 23.dxe6 Qxe6
24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Rxc3 Qd6 26.Qc2 g6
27.Rc8 Rxc8 28.Qxc8+ Kg7 29.Qc3+ Qf6
30.Qd2 ½-½



**MAX HIGA 1707 -
JONATHAN SEALANDER 1757**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3
Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Bg5 Qb6 8.Nd2 c5 9.c4
Qxb2 10.Rb1 Qxd4 11.Qxd4 cxd4
12.Rxb7 Nd7 13.Ngf3 Nc5 14.Rc7 f6
15.cxd5 fxe5 16.d6 Nd3+ 17.Kf1 Nxe5
18.Nxe5 Bxd6 19.Nf7 Bxc7 20.Nxh8 Ne7
21.hxg5 g6 22.g4 Be5 23.Nxg6 Nxg6
24.gxh5 Nf4 25.Ke1 Rc8 26.Kd1 d3
27.Nf3 Bc3 28.h6 Rb8 29.Nd2 Rb2
30.Nb3 Rb1+ 31.Nc1 Ne2 0-1

OMAR AL-MUTLAQ 1625

ELI COHRS 1717

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+
5.bxc3 0-0 6.Nf3 d5 7.Qc2 b6 8.Bg5 h6
9.Bh4 Nbd7 10.e3 c5 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.cxd5
exd5 13.0-0 Rc8 14.Qb2 Re8 15.Bf5 Rc7
16.Bxd7 Rxd7 17.Ne5 Rc7 18.f4 Qc8
19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Nf3 Rxe3 21.Qd2 Rce7
22.Rac1 Re2 23.Qd1 Qg4 24.g3 Qh3
25.Rf2 Rxf2 26.Kxf2 Ba6 27.Rc2 cxd4
28.cxd4 Bc4 29.Kg1 Qe6 30.Nh4 Bb3
31.Rc8+ Qxc8 32.Qxb3 Qc1+ 33.Kg2
Qd2+ 34.Kh3 Re2 35.Qxd5 Rxh2+ 36.Kg4
h5+ 37.Kf5 Kg7 38.Qc6 Qd3+ 39.Qe4
Qb5+ 40.d5 Qd7+ 0-1

GREG WHEELER JR 1538 -

RYAN GUPTA 1584

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be5 4.Qg4 g6
5.Qg3 d6 6.Nge2 Qe7 7.Nd5 Qd8 8.a3 Nf6
9.Ndc3 Ng4 10.0-0 Nd4 11.Nxd4 Bxd4
12.d3 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.h3 f4 15.Bxf4
Nxf2 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Qxe3 Nxh3+
18.gxh3 Qh4 19.Qf3 Bxh3 20.Qf7+ Kd8
21.Qf6+ Qxf6 22.Rxf6 Ke7 23.Rh6 Bd7
24.Nd5+ Kd8 25.Rf1 c6 26.Nf6 d5
27.Nxd7 Kxd7 28.Bb3 Rhg8+ 29.Kh2 Rg7
30.Rg1 Rag8 31.Rxg7+ Rxg7 32.Kh3 Kc7
33.Re6 Kd7 34.Rxe5 Kd6 35.Re3 Rg1
36.Rg3 Rxg3+ 37.Kxg3 Ke5 38.c3 Kf5
39.d4 Ke4 40.Bc2+ Ke3 41.Bf5 Kd2
42.Be8 Kc2 43.Bxb7 Kxb2 44.Bxc6 Kxc3
45.Bxd5 Kxd4 46.Bf7 Ke5 47.Kg4 Kf6
48.Be8 Ke7 49.Bc6 Kd6 50.Bb5 Kc5
51.a4 Kb4 52.Kh5 a6 53.Be8 Kc5 54.Kh6
Kd6 55.Kxh7 Ke7 56.Bc6 Kd6 57.Bb7 a5
58.Ba6 Kc5 59.Kg6 Kb4 60.Bb5 Kc5
61.Kf6 Kb4 62.Ke7 Kc5 63.Kd7 Kb6
64.Kd6 Kb7 65.Kc5 Ka7 66.Kc6 Kb8
67.Kb6 Ka8 68.Kxa5 Ka7 69.Bc6 Kb8
70.Kb6 Kc8 71.a5 Kb8 72.a6 Kc8 73.a7

Kd8 74.a8Q+ Ke7 75.Qe8+ Kf6 76.Kc5
Kg7 77.Kd6 Kf6 78.Qe5+ Kf7 79.Bd5+
Kg6 80.Be4+ Kf7 81.Qe6+ Kg7 82.Ke7
Kh8 83.Qh6+ Kg8 84.Bd5# 1-0

TARUN KARTHIKEYAN 1492

VIAAN KHANDELWAL 1530

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nf6
5.h3 e6 6.Bf4 Nc6 7.c3 h6 8.Nf3 Be7
9.Nbd2 Bd7 10.Ne5 0-0 11.Nxd7 Qxd7
12.Nf3 Rfe8 13.0-0 Bd6 14.Ne5 Qc7
15.Re1 Nd7 16.Nxc6 Bxf4 17.Nb4 Rad8
18.Qf3 a5 19.Nc2 Qd6 20.g3 Bg5 21.h4
Bf6 22.Bb5 e5 23.Bxd7 Rxd7 24.Re2
Rde7 25.Rae1 e4 26.Qg4 Re6 27.Ne3 Qd8
28.Nf5 Kh7 29.Qh5 Qd7 30.Ne3 Rd6
31.Qf5+ Qxf5 32.Nxf5 Rde6 33.Ne3 Rd6
34.Nf5 Rd7 35.Ne3 b5 36.Ng4 Rb7
37.Nxf6+ gxf6 38.g4 Rg8 39.Kh2 Rxg4
40.Kh3 f5 41.f3 Rf4 42.Re3 Rd7 43.Kg3
Rxf3+ 44.Rxf3 exf3 45.Kxf3 Kg6 46.Kf4
Rd6 47.Rh1 Re6 48.h5+ Kf6 49.Rh2 Re4+
50.Kf3 Kg5 51.b3 b4 52.c4 dxc4 53.bxc4
Rxd4 54.Rc2 Kxh5 55.c5 Rd8 56.c6 Rc8
57.Rc5 Kg5 58.a3 bxa3 59.Rxa5 Rxc6
60.Rxa3 h5 61.Kg3 Re6 62.Kh3 f4
63.Ra5+ f5 64.Ra8 Re3+ 65.Kg2 Rg3+
66.Kf2 Kg4 67.Rg8+ Kh3 68.Rh8 h4
69.Rh5 Kg4 70.Rh8 Ra3 71.Rg8+ Kh3
72.Rg5 Ra2+ 73.Kf3 Ra4 74.Rxf5 Kh2
75.Rh5 h3 76.Kg4 Kg2 77.Rd5 f3+ 78.Kf5
f2 79.Rd2 h2 80.Rd8 f1Q+ 81.Ke5 Qb5+
82.Ke6 Ra6+ 83.Ke7 Qe5+ 84.Kf7 Rf6+
85.Kg8 Qg5+ 86.Kh8 Rh6# 0-1

ANAY GUPTA 1165

JASON WUU 1388

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6 4.Nxc6
dxc6 5.Nc3 Be5 6.h3 Qd4 7.Qe2 0-0 8.d3
Bb4 9.Bd2 Re8 10.a3 Ba5 11.g4 Nd5
12.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2 cxd5 14.c3 Qe5
15.Bg2 f5 16.gxf5 Bxf5 17.0-0-0 dxe4
18.dxe4 Bxe4 19.Rde1 Qf5 20.Bxe4 Rxe4
21.Rxe4 Qxe4 22.Re1 Qc6 23.Rg1 Rf8
24.Qd4 Qf6 25.Qxf6 Rxf6 26.Rg2 Rf3
27.Rh2 Kf7 28.Kd2 Kf6 29.Ke2 Rf5
30.Ke3 Rg5 31.f4 Rh5 32.Ke4 Ke6 33.b4
Rh4 34.Rg2 Kf6 35.Rg3 h6 ½-½

**HEYMANTH MANIKHANDAN 1166 -
LAN TRUONG 1212**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 c6 4.e3 g6 5.c3
Bg7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.Nbd2 Re8 8.c4 e6 9.Bg5
Nbd7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.h3 Nd7
13.Nb3 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.cxd5 Nxd3
16.Qxd3 cxd5 17.Nbd4 a6 18.Rac1 Qd6
19.Rfd1 Bd7 20.b3 Rad8 21.Rd2 Qf6
22.Rdc2 Bf8 23.Rb1 Bd6 24.b4 Qg7 25.a3
Qh6 26.Ra2 Re4 27.Ne2 Bf5 28.Qd1 Qh5
29.Ned4 Bxh3 30.gxh3 0-1

Tribute to MLK game annotations by Richard Shtivelband

White: Richard Shtivelband
 Black: Daniel Marmer
 Date: 1/17/26
 Result: 1-0
 Time Control: G/90; +30"
 Termination: Resignation
 White rating: USCF 2210
 Black Rating: USCF 1851



In the first round of this tournament, I face Daniel Marmer, who is a chess devotee who has achieved the level of USCF Class A. He is a personable guy who also plays the game of Go, but his true passion is Mathematics where he is currently pursuing his Ph.D. Normally reserved, he lights up when you ask him about his research topic and I feel fortunate to have made his acquaintance. Let's take a look at the game that Daniel and I played here in Round 1 of the 2026 edition of the DCC Tribute to MLK Jr. Open being held here in Denver, Colorado at the Hilton Hotel -- Garden Inn.

1. c4 Nf6 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 g6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Ne2 d6 6.O-O Bg7 7.Nbc3 O-O 8.d3 e6? (After this move, black suffers without chances for counterplay. 8...Nd4 or 8...Ne8 intending ...Nc7 and ...Ne6 securing control of the d4 square were better tries.) **9.h3** (how to take advantage? In 'systems' openings like this Botvinnik setup, White claims an advantage very simply. White controls 4 ranks of squares while Black controls only 3 ranks. The 5th rank is in dispute. With all of the pieces remaining on the board, White's pieces will naturally find more active squares than Black's pieces and this will tend to lead to greater piece coordination and harmony amongst the White forces compared to the Black forces as well. Eventually, a tactical skirmish by one side or the other will take place at some point and as I believe it was Fischer who may have said something to the effect that better positions lead to better tactical chances.) **a6 10.Be3 Nd7 11.d4** (Another important moment. Black intends to plant his knight on d4 gumming up White's chances for a dynamic and more open tactical position. And so, before that is allowed to happen, White plays 11.d4 himself.) **cxd4 12.Nxd4** (It's usually a good idea to recapture with the knight here first instead of the bishop. Although both recaptures should be fully considered! The positional reasons why taking on d4 with the knight makes more sense here is because if White loses his dark squared bishop after say...Nc6xBd4, then White will have a lot more trouble attacking the Black king than as seen later in the game because the fianchettoed ...Bg7 will be really difficult to oppose let alone favorably exchange off. Also, as GM Jan Markos, has noted in one of his essays in his thought provoking book, Under the Surface, bishops tend to improve with the opening of lines and the exchange of pieces and pawns as is quite natural in the course of a typical and more importantly legal chess game...) **...Qc7?** (Typical plans for Black in these 'dragon' structures include placing the queen on a5 with the possibility of swinging the queen to the kingside or at least exchanging queens which would help Black sit better defending his currently cramped space. Also ...a5 intending ...Nc5 or intending ...a4 with the idea of ...Qa5 make sense. I have to give credit to my friend and stylistic nemesis here, FM Gunnar Andersen, here as I spent quite some time researching ways to counter his pet hyper-accelerated dragon. Without, a whole lot of success I may add...) **13.b3 Rb8** (Unfortunately for Black, one move leads into another which leads into another until his position simply drifts into a passive position without any real chances for counterplay via a suitable pawn break like ...b5 or ...d5 or even ...f5. White is in clear control of the game here.) **14.Rc1 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Ne5 16.Qd2** (Another moment for White to consider his next plan. With the Bd4-Ne5-Bg7 piece constellation, the plan of putting my queen on b2 and introducing the possibility of a powerful discovered check occurred to me.) **Nc6 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rfd1 Rd8 19.Qb2 Kg8 20.Rd2** (Time for the next plan. White intends to target the backwards d6 pawn by doubling rooks along the d-file and perhaps playing Qa3.) **b5** (A very important moment. Black seeks counterplay with ...b5 intending ...b4 closing up the queenside. This would help make his position a lot more tactically stable, especially if after ...b4 he could play ...Nc5 and then the position would stabilize with chances for both sides.) **21.cxb5 axb5 22.Nd5!** (A typical Sicilian defense motif. What's interesting to note is that the activity seeking ...b5 is met by an equally energetic response in the sequence after in the past 2 moves.) **Qb7** (22... exd5 23.exd5 intending dxc6 offers white a dangerous and extra passed c-pawn. It doesn't hurt that White's bishop on g2 gains more influence along the h1-a8 long diagonal to boot.) **23.Nf6+ Kh8** (23...Kf8 24.Nxh7+ is no better for Black.) **24.Rcd1** (I considered 24.Rxd6 Rxd6 25.Ne8+ with 26.Nxd6 winning a pawn as well. Both 24.Rcd1 and 24.Rxd6 are strong continuations, but I generally prefer to keep the tension in the position and leave my opponent considering difficult and unpleasant choices as opposed to clarifying the position and risking missing a tactical possibility and clarifying into a position whose character I didn't intend to enter. Also, I find the resulting tactics tend to be complex. So this way of playing suits me stylistically.) **e5 25.Rxd6 Rxd6 26.Rxd6 Nd4 27.Rd8+** (I also considered here 27.Qd2 with the idea of Qh6 and Qh7++ to follow. I decided here that maybe I should overcome my tactically averse nature and consider a more clarifying option... Just not 27.Qc1?? Ne2+ with a big oopsies...) **Kg7 28.Ne8+ Kh6 29.Qd2+ g5 30.Qb4!** (My original intention entering this checking sequence was to play 30.h4 here or perhaps even 30.f4. Somehow, I wasn't seeing positions in my mind that offered the clarity I wanted, and this spurred me to search for other options. White is still, of course, much better after both pawn moves but the idea of 30.Qb4! came to me as a result of a 'resultant' thinking process. My greatest frenemy and fellow seatmate on the bus on the way to the tournament, USCF LM Brian Wall, has mentioned to me that considering a chess position can be like looking through a kaleidoscope at times. In this case I think he may well be very correct.) **f6 31.Qf8+** (Daniel considered playing on with 31...Kg6, but decided to call it a game as we both saw 32.Qxf6 Kh5 33.Ng7 coming up next). **1-0**

As I complete these initial notes to this game with Daniel, please keep in mind that I am not utilizing a computer engine to assist with the analysis. While I respect very greatly the power and strength of the computer engines, I have found that I would prefer to use my own computer engine... I.e. my mind. I find playing the game that way much more enjoyable as I get to be the sole author of my own moves and my opponent and I get to have a conversation together of sorts by playing a game of chess together.

2026 Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championships

By Kevin McConnell (photos by John Brezina)

A New Chapter in Colorado Scholastic Chess: The 2026 State Championships at STEM School of Highlands Ranch

The 2026 Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championships opened with a quiet, but meaningful shift in venue and vision. After years at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, the state's top youth players gathered for a championship that felt like a fresh start. The move to the STEM School of Highlands Ranch was a deliberate reimagining of what a scholastic chess tournament could be: geographically friendly, educationally aligned, and welcoming to new players.



The new venue in Highlands Ranch

Friday Night Blitz Returns

The State Scholastic Blitz Chess Championship returned this year after a 5-year hiatus, kicking off the weekend with fast-paced excitement and strategic flair. On Friday night, 33 children competed in a spirited, high-energy event that set an upbeat tone for the following two days of the Saturday and Sunday championships. The turnout marked a strong comeback for blitz within Colorado scholastic chess, showcasing sharp calculation under pressure.



Friday night blitz action



The spacious playing hall in the gymnasium

The relocation to the STEM School of Highlands Ranch brought the tournament into a setting that felt more approachable for students and families. The new site's proximity to families across the metro area reduced travel time and made it easier for siblings and parents to participate in or attend the event between rounds. But beyond geography, the venue's educational purpose more closely aligned itself with the spirit of scholastic chess



K-12 Blitz Champion Vedant Margale



K-5 Blitz Champion Ella Zhang

A first-of-its-kind: the Rising Talent championship

In a landmark move for Colorado chess, 2026 introduced the Rising Talent Chess Championship—a one-day, unrated tournament designed for first-time participants. This addition lowered barriers in two crucial ways. First, players could enter the Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championship experience without the need to join the United States Chess Federation (US Chess) or the Colorado State Chess Association (CSCA), saving families significant upfront costs. Second, it offered a complete, single-day competition, allowing new players to experience a full state-level event without the commitment of a traditional two-day format.

The Rising Talent Chess Championship complemented the larger Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championship by inviting newcomers to test their mettle in a friendly, supportive environment. This structure ensured that first-time participants could learn the rhythms of tournament play—pairings, time controls, and scorekeeping—without the pressures that sometimes accompany a longer, more formal event. It also created a natural funnel for growth: standout performances and positive experiences in the Rising Talent could inspire families to pursue official US Chess or CSCA membership in future seasons, should their young players wish to advance.



The combined playing hall for K-1 and Rising Talent



Vice President Jesse Cohen watching the players



Anxious parents watching the kids



*K-12 Rising Talent Champion
Caleb Welch*



Rising Talent action for unrated players



*K-5 Rising Talent Champion
Grayson Evans*

Impact on participation and community feedback

Together, the two tournaments energized the Colorado scholastic chess scene. Participation rose by an impressive 23% compared to previous years, a testament to the dual appeal of a more accessible venue and an inclusive new format. Our chess community responded with enthusiasm, reflected in a Google survey sent to all participating families. Of those surveyed, 41 responses were completed and returned, providing a pulse check on the tournament experience.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Families praised the inviting, educational atmosphere and the improved accessibility of the event format. The one prominent note for improvement centered on seating: the community requested more and better seating for families and relatives waiting during rounds. The CSCA took these comments seriously, and plans for future editions will incorporate expanded seating areas and more room in general, so families can cheer on players more comfortably!



Chief TD Tom Nelson addresses the players and parents



The Championships are underway in the STEM School



The 2025 Champions are introduced by VP Jesse Cohen



The top boards for each section played on DGT boards with live feeds to watch



The 2026 Championships get started on board 1

The 2026 Championships at STEM School of Highlands Ranch marked more than a change of scenery; it signaled a recommitment to a chess culture where learning, accessibility, and participation are the core goals of scholastic chess. By embracing a one-day, unrated entry path for newcomers and pairing it with a traditional two-day championship for seasoned competitors, the Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championship program honored both novice and veteran players. This dual-format approach can serve as a model for other states seeking to balance inclusivity with competitive rigor.

Photos from the 2026 State Scholastic Championships



Photos from the 2026 State Scholastic Championships



*The people that made this Colorado tournament possible
Thank you to these volunteers!*

2026 State Scholastic Champions



***K-1 Champion
Connor Wolf Garby***



***K-3 Champion
Christian Hardy***



***K-5 Champion
Dylan Kovacs***



***K-8 Champion
Ashwin Mathimaran***



***K-12 Champion
Grayson Manuel***



***Top Colorado female player
Tanya Prabhu***

Christian will be our Colorado Representative for the Ashley K-3 Tournament of Champions. Dylan will be our Colorado Representative for the Rockefeller K-5 Tournament of Champions. Ashwin will be our Colorado Representative for the Barber K-8 Tournament of Champions. Tanya will be our Colorado Representative for the Ruth Haring Tournament of Champions. Grayson will be our Colorado Representative for the Denker K-12 Tournament of Champions.

Proud parent photos from the 2026 State Scholastic Championships



Games from the 2026 State Scholastic Championships

ROUND 1

**YING-TE YEN 1515 -
DEREK YIN 1977**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bc4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.a3 e6 7.d3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5
Bc6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Rb1 Nd7 12.Qd2
16.Rfe1 Qd7 17.Ne2 c4 18.Ba2 cxd3
19.cxd3 Bb5 20.Qd2 Qf5 21.d4 h5 22.Nc3
Bd3 23.Rbd1 Bc2 24.Rc1 Be4 25.Nxe4
dxe4 26.Qe3 exf3 27.Qxe8+ Rxe8
28.Rxe8+ 1-0

**GRAYSON MANUEL 1975 -
OLIVER HASSELKUS 1475**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Qb3 Nf6 6.Bg5 c6 7.e4 dxe4 8.Bc4 Be7
9.Bxf7+ Kf8 10.Nge2 Nbd7 11.Rd1 Qb6
12.Nf4 Qxb3 13.Bxb3 Nb6 14.Bxf6 Bxf6
15.Nxe4 Bf5 16.Nxf6 gxf6 17.f3 Re8+
18.Kf2 h5 19.h4 Nd7 20.Rhe1 c5 21.Be6
Bxe6 22.Nxe6+ Kf7 23.Nxc5 Nxc5
24.dxc5 Rc8 25.Rd7+ Kg6 26.Rc1 Rc6
27.Rxb7 Rhc8 28.b4 Re6 29.Re1 Rec6
30.Ree7 Kf5 31.Rb7 a5 32.a3 axb4
33.axb4 Ra8 34.Rd5+ Kg6 35.b5 Rcc8
36.b6 Ra2+ 37.Re2 Ra5 38.b7 Rb8 39.Rb2
f5 40.Rd6+ Kf7 41.c6 f4 42.c7 Rg8
43.c8Q Re5 44.Qd7+ Kf8 45.Rf6# 1-0



**OWEN MCKEEL 1298 -
AMITAI SEBBA 1930**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7
5.Bb5 Nd4 6.Ba4 a6 7.Nxd4 cxd4 8.Ne2
b5 9.Bb3 Bb7 10.d3 e6 11.0-0 Ne7 12.c3
dxc3 13.bxc3 b4 14.Bb2 0-0 15.Qd2 d5
16.e5 bxc3 17.Nxc3 d4 18.Ne4 Qb6
19.Ba3 Bxe4 20.dxe4 Rfe8 21.Rab1 Qa7
22.Rfc1 Rac8 23.Bd6 Bf8 24.Ba4 Red8
25.Rb4 Rxc1+ 26.Qxc1 Ne8 27.Qc7 Qxc7
28.Bxc7 Bxb4 29.Bxd8 Bc5 30.Bc6 Nb6
31.a4 Nc4 32.Bb7 d3+ 33.Kf1 Ne3+
34.Kf2 Nd5+ 35.Ke1 Bb4+ 36.Kd1 Ne3+
37.Kc1 d2+ 38.Kb2 d1Q 39.Bxa6 Qc2+
40.Ka1 Bc3# 0-1

**VEDANT MARGALE 1912 -
DAVID RANDALL KENT V 1282**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3
Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.Bd3 h6
9.0-0 0-0 10.a4 c4 11.Be2 Bd7 12.g4 f6
13.exf6 Rxf6 14.g5 hxg5 15.Bxg5 Rg6
16.Qd2 Nf5 17.Kh1 Qa5 18.Ne5 Nxe5

19.dxe5 Rf8 20.f4 Bc6 21.Bf3 d4 22.Qe2
Qxc3 23.Bxc6 bxc6 24.Rac1 Ne3 25.Rg1
Nd5 26.Qh5 Nxf4 27.Bxf4 Rxf4+
28.Rxf4 Rxf4 29.Qe8+ Kh7 30.Qg6+ 1-0

**SHUBH MISRA 2032 -
ANJALI KANITKAR 956**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 f6 4.Bc4 Nge7
5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5 fxe5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4
c6 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Qxe5 Rh7 11.Qd6 g5
12.Bg3 Rg7 13.Qxh6 d5 14.Qh5+ Rf7
15.exd5 Nxd5 16.0-0 b5 17.Bb3 Be7
18.Nc3 Be6 19.Rfe1 Qd7 20.Qg6 Bf5
21.Qxg5 Rf6 22.Nxd5 cxd5 23.Qxf6 Be4
24.Qh8+ Bf8 25.Qh5+ Kd8 26.Rxe4 dxe4
27.Rd1 Qxd1+ 28.Qxd1+ Ke7 29.Qd5 Rd8
30.Qe6# 1-0



**HAVEN BEKKEDAHL 954 -
JASON NIGATU 2027**

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd2 0-0 7.Be2 h6 8.0-0 Bf5
9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Nbd7 11.Ne5 Ne4
12.Bd3 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bd7
15.f4 Qe7 16.Qf3 Bc6 17.Rae1 Qxa3 18.f5
f6 19.c4 Qc5+ 20.Qf2 Qxf2+ 21.Rxf2 fxe5
22.Rxe5 Rfe8 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.h3 a5
25.f6 Rf8 26.f7+ Rxf7 27.Bh7+ Kf8
28.Rd2 dxc4 29.Re2 Rf6 30.h4 b5 31.c3
b4 32.cxb4 axb4 33.g4 Bf3 34.Re1 Bxg4
35.Kh2 Bf5 36.Bxf5 Rxf5 37.Kg3 c3
38.Re1 Re5 39.Kf3 b3 40.Ke3 b2 41.Rf1+
Kg8 42.Kd4 c2 43.Kxc5 c1Q+ 44.Rxc1
bxc1Q+ 45.Kd5 Qd2+ 46.Ke5 Qd6+ Kd4
0-1

**FELIX MCMILLAN 1889 -
NIHAL ALAM 876**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6
5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Nbd2 0-0
9.Qc2 h6 1-0

**JORDAN WEIGEL 876 -
ROHAN DAVID 1842**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.0-0 a6 5.a4
Nxe4 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Bf4 Bg4 9.h3
Bh5 0-1

**BENJAMIN APPLGATE 501 -
NIVID SINGHAL 1493**

1.e4 d5 2.f3 e5 3.Nc3 d4 4.Nd5 c6 5.Nb4
Bxb4 6.c3 Bc5 7.b4 Bb6 8.a4 dxc3 9.dxc3
Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 a6 11.a5 Bc7 12.Nh3 Be6
13.f4 Bxh3 14.gxh3 exf4 15.c4 Nf6

16.Bd3 Ke7 17.b5 axb5 18.cxb5 cxb5
19.Ba3+ Kd8 20.Rf1 Rxa5 21.Rxf4 Rxa3
22.Rxa3 Bxf4 23.Ra8 Kc7 24.Ra5 Rd8
25.Kc2 Nc6 26.Rxb5 Nd4+ 27.Kc3 Nxb5+
28.Kc4 Nd6+ 29.Kc5 Ndx4+ 30.Kc4 b5+
31.Kb4 Rxd3 32.Kxb5 Rxh3 33.Kc4 Rxh2
34.Kd4 g5 35.Kc4 g4 36.Kb5 g3 37.Kc4
g2 38.Kd4 g1Q+ 39.Kc4 Rc2+ 40.Kd3
Qd1# Kd4 0-1

**SRII BEZAWADA 1448 -
NIROBHRO IQBAL 405**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.h3 Bg7 5.Nf3
0-0 6.Bc4 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.d5 Nbd7 9.Re1
e5 10.dxe6 fxe6 11.Bxe6+ Kh8 1-0



**VIAAN KHANDELWAL 1573
PARKER BAGLEY 103**

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 b5 3.Bxb5 c6 4.Bc4 d5
5.exd5 Na6 6.dxc6 Qd4 7.Qe2 Qd6 8.Nc3
Nb4 9.Bb3 Ba6 10.d3 e4 11.Nxe4 Nxd3+
12.cxd3 Bxd3 13.Nxd6+ Kd7 Qxd3+ Bxd6
Bf4+ Ke8 1-0

**JAMES NICHOLS U -
CHRISTIAN HARDY 1141**

1.e4 e5 2.d3 Nf6 3.Qf3 Nc6 4.Be2 Nd4
5.Qe3 Nxc2+ 6.Kd2 Nxe3 7.Kxe3 Bc5+
8.d4 Bxd4+ 9.Kd2 Nxe4+ 10.Kd3 Nxf2+
11.Kc4 Nxh1 12.Nd2 d5+ 13.Kb5 Qe7
14.Ndf3 Bd7+ Bd3 Qc5# 15.Ka5 0-1



ROUND 6**HENRY KOVACS 1886 -
GRAYSON MANUEL 1975**

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e3 a6 6.Bxc4 b5 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 c5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Be2 0-0 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.Rd1 Rc8 13.a3 Qc7 14.Bd2 Rfd8 15.Rac1 Bd6 16.h3 Qb8 17.Qb1 Ne5 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Be1 h6 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 21.Rd1 Qa8 22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.Qd1 Qxd1 24.Bxd1 Ne4 25.Nxe4 Bxe4 26.Bc3 Bxc3 27.bxc3 Kf8 28.Be2 ½-½

**LEIF PAUL MCFADDEN 1832 -
TANYA PRABHU 1844**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bd3 c5 8.Bg5 Bd7 9.0-0 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Be7 11.Qf3 Qb6 12.Be3 Nd5 13.Nf5 Nxe3 14.Nxg7+ Kf8 15.fxe3 f6 16.Nh5 f5 17.Nf4 Bg5 18.Kh1 Ke7 19.e4 fxe4 20.Qxe4 Qc6 21.Qb4+ Ke8 22.Nxe6 Be7 23.Qd4 Rg8 24.Ng7+ Kd8 25.Bf5 Bf6 26.Qxd7+ Qxd7 27.Bxd7 Kxd7 28.Rad1+ Ke7 29.Nf5+ Kf7 30.Nh6+ Kg6 31.Nxg8 Rxc8 32.Rd6 Rf8 33.g4 Kg7 34.Rdxf6 Rxf6 35.Rxf6 Kxf6 36.Kg2 Ke5 37.Kf3 b5 38.h4 h6 39.g5 hxg5 40.hxg5 Kf5 41.g6 Kxg6 42.Ke4 Kf6 43.Kd5 Kf5 44.Kc5 a6 45.Kb6 Ke5 46.Kxa6 Kd5 47.Kxb5 Kd6 48.Kb6 Kd7 49.Kb7 Kd6 50.a4 Kd5 1-0

**DARSHAN SATISHKUMAR 1639 -
VEDANT MARGALE 1912**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.0-0 a6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bc4 Nf6 10.Re1 Be7 11.Bf4 e5 12.Bg5 Qc7 13.h3 0-0 14.Rb1 Be6 15.Qe2 a5 16.a4 h6 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Red1 Rfd8 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Qc4 Qd7 21.Qa2 Rab8 22.Rd2 Rb4 23.Rbd1 Qe7 24.f3 Bg5 25.Rd3 d5 26.exd5 exd5 27.b3 Kh7 28.Ne4 dxe4 29.Rxd8 Qc5+ 30.Kf1 Bxd8 31.Rxd8 exf3 32.gxf3 Rf4 33.Rd3 e4 34.Rd2 Rxf3+ 35.Kg2 Qg5+ 36.Kh1 Qxd2 0-1

**KRISH MATHIMARAN 1885 -
ARIANA E DANI 1594**

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.e3 e6 6.Nge2 Nh6 7.d4 cxd4 8.exd4 d6 9.Bxh6 Bxh6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Kh1 Bg7 12.f4 Qb6 13.d5 Ne7 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.Rb1 Nf5 16.Na4 Qb4 17.Rf3 Qxc4 18.b3 Qa6 19.Rd3 Rd8 20.Nc5 Qb6 21.Na4 Qc7 22.Re1 Qe7 23.Nac3 d5 24.Nb5 a6 25.Nbd4 Nxd4 26.Nxd4 Bxd4 27.Rxd4 b5 28.Qe2 Bb7 29.Re1 Kf7 30.Bh3 Re8 31.Qf2 Qf6 32.Re5 Rac8 33.Qe3 Bc6 34.g4 Bd7 35.g5 Qe7 36.f5 gxf5 37.Bxf5 exf5 38.Rxe7+ Rxe7 39.Qf3 Re1+ 40.Kg2 Rc2+ 41.Kg3 Rg1+ 42.Kf4 Rg4+ 43.Ke5 Ke7 44.Rxg4 fxg4 45.Qf6+ Ke8 46.Qh8+ 1-0

**FELIX MCMILLAN 1889 -
ASHWIN MATHIMARAN 1834**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Be7 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Nbd2 Nbd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.c4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nb6 11.Bb3 Bd6 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 Bf4 14.Kh1 Qd6 15.h3 Bh5 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Ne4 Qg6 18.Qd3 Rfe8 19.Bc2 Nd5 20.a3 Qc6 21.Rfe1 ½-½

**NEEL YADATORE 1831 -
JASON NIGATU 2027**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Nbd2 Nxd2 6.Qxd2 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.Be2 Be7 9.h4 a6 10.g4 Qb6 11.c3 Bd7 12.g5 cxd4 13.exd4 0-0-0 14.0-0-0 f6 15.Rdg1 Be8 16.h5 f5 17.Qe3 Na5 18.Be5 Rg8 19.Nh4 Bb5 20.b4 Bxe2 21.Qxe2 Nc4 22.Nf3 a5 23.Nd2 axb4 24.Nxc4 Qa6 25.Bd6 Rxd6 26.Nxd6+ Qxd6 27.Re1 Bxg5+ 28.Kc2 Re8 29.Qb5 Re7 30.Qxb4 Qf4 31.Re2 Kb8 32.Rhe1 h6 33.Qb6 Rc7 34.Rxe6 Qd2+ 35.Kb1 Qd3+ 36.Ka1 Qxc3+ 37.Qb2 Bd2 38.Rd1 Qxb2+ 39.Kxb2 Bc3+ 40.Kb3 Rc4 41.f3 Bxd4 42.Rd3 Bf6 43.Rd6 Rh4 44.R3xd5 Rxh5 45.Rb6 Rh1 46.Rdb5 Rb1+ 47.Kc4 Rxb5 48.Rxb5 Kc7 49.Rxf5 Kc6 50.Rc5+ Kb6 51.a4 Ka6 52.Rb5 g5 53.a5 h5 54.Rb6+ 1-0

**ROHAN DAVID 1842 -
RYAN GUPTA 1618**

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Qb6 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.0-0 e6 7.b3 Nf6 8.Bb2 Be7 9.Kh1 Ba6 10.d3 0-0 11.h3 c4 12.Re1 cxd3 13.cxd3 Rad8 14.Nc3 c5 15.Qc2 c4 16.dxc4 dxc4 17.Na4 cxb3 18.axb3 Qb7 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.e4 Bd3 21.Qf2 Bxe4 22.Nc3 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Qxb3 24.Rxa7 Qxc3 25.Rxe7 Qb4 26.Rd7 Qxe1+ 27.Qxe1 Rxd7 28.Qh4 Kg7 29.Kg2 Rd2+ 30.Kg3 Rg8 31.Qh5 Rd5 32.f5 Rxf5 33.Qh4 Rg5+ 34.Kf2 Rd8 35.Qf4 Rdd5 36.h4 Rdf5 37.Qh2 Rg6 38.Qh3 Rd5 39.Ke3 Rh5 40.f4 f5 41.Kd4 Rg4 42.Ke5 Rhxh4 43.Qc3 Rxf4 44.Kd6+ Kg6 45.Ke7 Rd4 46.Qg3+ Rhg4 47.Qe5 Rge4 48.Qf6+ Kh5 49.Qxf7+ Kg4 50.Qxh7 f4 51.Qg6+ Kf3 52.Qg1 e5 53.Ke6 Ke2 54.Qg2+ Kd3 55.Qf3+ Re3 56.Qd1+ Ke4 57.Qc2+ Kf3 58.Kf5 Re2 59.Qb3+ Kf2 60.Qh3 f3 61.Qh2+ Ke1 62.Qg3+ f2 63.Qc3+ Kd1 64.Qa1+ Kd2 65.Qb2+ Ke1 66.Qc1+ Rd1 67.Qc3+ Kf1 68.Qh3+ Ke1 69.Qc3+ Red2 70.Qe3+ Re2 71.Qc3+ Kf1 72.Qh3+ Ke1 73.Qc3+ Red2 74.Qe3+ Kf1 75.Qh3+ Ke2 76.Qg4+ Kd3 77.Qf3+ Kd4 78.Qe4+ Kc3 79.Qxe5+ Kc2 80.Qc5+ Kb1 81.Qb4+ Rb2 82.Qe4+ Kc1 83.Qe3+ Rdd2 84.Qc3+ Kbl 85.Qc4 f1Q+ 0-1

**TARUN KARTHIKEYAN 1485 -
RYAN HAJJALI 1806**

1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 e6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.f4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.a3 d5 8.exd5 exd5 9.Ba2 0-0 10.d3 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nd4 13.Qd1 Qd7 14.Ne2 Rfe8 15.Nxd4

Bxd4+ 16.Kh2 Nf5 17.Qf3 Rad8 18.c3 Bf6 19.g3 d4 20.c4 Ne3 21.Rf2 Re7 22.Bd2 Qf5 23.Bb1 Rde8 24.b4 b6 25.Ra2 Nxc4 26.g4 Nxd2 27.Raxd2 Qd7 28.f5 Qd6+ 29.Kg1 Re3 30.Qf4 Re1+ 31.Kg2 Qxf4 32.Rxf4 Bg5 33.fxg6 Bxf4 34.Rf2 fxg6 35.Ba2+ Kh8 36.Rxf4 R1e2+ 37.Kg3 Rxa2 38.bxc5 bxc5 39.Kh4 Rxa3 40.Rf7 Rxd3 41.Rxa7 c4 42.Kg5 Rxh3 43.Kf6 Rf3+ 44.Kg5 Ref8 45.Kh6 R3f7 46.Ra1 d3 47.g5 Rf4 48.Rh1 d2 49.Rh3 d1Q 50.Rh2 Qd7 51.Rf2 Qg7# 0-1

**ANAY GUPTA 1411 -
RUSHIITHA BEZAWADA 1161**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 Ne4 6.Nxd4 Nxe5 7.Bb3 Bc5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 Nxf2 10.Kxf2 Qh4+ 11.Kf1 Bxd4 12.c3 Qf2# 0-1

**NIVID SINGHAL 1493 -
DYLAN KOVACS 994**

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Bf5 3.c4 c6 4.Qb3 Qc8 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bg3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Nf6 11.Ne5 Be7 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Bd6 14.Ng6 Bxg6 15.Bxd6 Rd8 16.Be7 Ne4 17.Bxd8 Nd2 18.Qd1 Nxf1 19.Be7 0-1

**CHRISTIAN HARDY 1141 -
CHARLIE KOVACS 1061**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.d3 Nf6 6.Bg5 g6 7.Qd2 Bg7 8.0-0 Qc7 9.Rfe1 Nd4 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 f6 13.Bf4 Qc5 14.Qe2 0-0 15.Bxd7 Qxd5 16.Be6+ Kh8 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Qd2 e5 19.Bh6 g5 20.Bxg7+ Kxg7 21.c3 h5 22.cxd4 exd4 23.Qe2 Rfe8 24.Qxh5 Bf7 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.Qf3 Bxa2 27.h3 Bf7 28.Rxa7 Re1+ 29.Kh2 Kg6 30.h4 Be6 31.h5+ Kh6 32.g4 Rh1+ 33.Kxh1 Bd5 34.Qxd5 f5 35.Qe6# 1-0

**SIDDHISHREE SUNDARAM 1074 -
VIAAN KHANDELWAL 1573**

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bh5 5.d4 e6 6.Bf4 Nd7 7.Be2 Bg6 8.e5 c5 9.0-0 Ne7 10.Re1 Nc6 11.Nb5 a6 12.Nd6+ Bxd6 13.exd6 0-0 14.c4 cxd4 15.cxd5 exd5 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Nf6 18.Bg5 Qxd6 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Qxf6 gxf6 21.Rd1 Rad8 22.Bf3 b6 23.Bxd5 Rd7 24.Bc4 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 b5 26.Be2 Re8 27.Bf3 Re6 28.Rd8+ Kg7 29.Ra8 Bd3 30.Ra7 Rd6 31.Bh5 Bg6 32.Bxg6 hxg6 33.Kf1 f5 34.Ke2 Kf6 35.Ke3 g5 36.f4 Ke5 Ke4+ ½-½



2026 Colorado Closed Championships

by Earle Wikle

Each year the CSCA host an invitational tournament trying to gather the top players that are illegible to play in a round robin tournament. This is in an effort to get the best competition playing each other with four sections; the Championship, the Challenger, the Scholastic Championship, and the Scholastic Challenger. Both the rounds on Saturday were pivotal for the tournament in almost every game. Featuring some long games that lasted well over a 100 moves. Such great fighting chess with close results. Thank you to all the players who committed to playing in this year's Closed Championship.



In the Championship section Brian Wall finally scored a half point in round three. In round four just when it looked like Sullivan was going to run away from the field, the old lion Brian Wall won over Sullivan. This made the last round a bit of a challenge between the leaders NM Daniel Herman and LM Sullivan McConnell. Daniel played Brian and needed a win since he lost against Sullivan in round 3, and Griffin played Sullivan, the pairing were determined a week before by drawing for lots. Brian and Daniel drew and Griffin and Sullivan also drew resulting in a tie for first, but the tie breakers favored Sullivan and he took home the trophy.



In the Challenger section, rounds 2 and 3 proved to be critical with some hard fought draws. Dean Clow took the lead in round 3, only to lose to Sikander in round 4. After a slow start for Robert Bucholtz and a long second round draw with Sikander, Rob got his first win against last year's winner Patrick Zulstra. I think Rob said he waited a whole year for a rematch. This help Rob turn his tournament around to take third. While in the end, Jason Nigatu and Dean Clow tied for first and second with a complete tie in tiebreakers. Therefore, each was awarded a trophy.

In the Scholastic Championship section, this was a complete dog fight between the players of this section that was a pleasure to watch. With less than 125 rating point's difference between highest to lowest rated player and the results showed it with 1 point difference between first and last place. Some really hard fought games. Even in the final round Felix McMillan needed a win over Amitai Sebba to place first and take home the trophy.



In the Scholastic Challenger section, Neel Yadatore dominated the tournament only to appear somewhat tired in the last game. However, even though Ashwin Mathimaran won his last round game against Neel, Neel had built up such a commanding lead with four straight wins that even with a loss he still placed clear first, and Ashwin placed second.



Colorado Closed cross-tables

2026 Colorado Closed Championships

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	LM SULLIVAN MCCONNELL	2366	W5 (w)	D4 (b)	W2 (b)	L6 (w)	D3 (b)	3
2	NM DANIEL HERMAN	2149	D4 (b) 31.5	W3 (b) 67	L1 (w)	W5 (w) 65	D6 (b) 27.5	3
3	NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL	2216	W6 (b)	L2 (w)	D5 (b)	D4 (w)	D1 (w) 75	2½
4	NM SUHAAS NARAYANAN	2212	D2 (w)	D1 (w) 77	D6 (b)	D3 (b) 2	D5 (w) 1	2½
5	NM EAMON MONTGOMERY	2214	L1 (b)	W6 (w)	D3 (w) 1	L2 (b)	D4 (b)	2
6	LM BRIAN WALL	2204	L3 (w)	L5 (b)	D4 (w) 4	W1 (b) 162	D2 (w)	2

2026 Colorado Closed Challenger

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	CM DEAN CLOW	2100	W3 (w)	W6 (b)	D2 (b)	L4 (w)	W5 (b)	3½
2	JASON NIGATU	2027	W6 (b)	D5 (b) 8	D1 (w) 36	D3 (w) 2.5	W4 (b) 22	3½
3	ROBERT BUCHOLTZ	2032	L1 (b)	D4 (w) 8.5	W5 (w) 11	D2 (b)	W6 (b)	3
4	SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR	2049	L5 (w)	D3 (b)	W6 (w)	W1 (b) 51	L2 (w)	2½
5	PATRICK ZIJLSTRA	2043	W4 (b) 6	D2 (w)	L3 (b)	D6 (w)	L1 (w)	2
6	CRAIG WILCOX	2004	L2 (w)	L1 (w)	L4 (b)	D5 (b) 19.5	L3 (w)	½

2026 Colorado Closed Scholastic Championship

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	FELIX MCMILLAN	1889	W3 (b) 86	D6 (b)	D5 (w)	L4 (w)	W1 (b) 41	3
2	AMITAI SEBBA	1930	W6 (w)	D4 (b)	D3 (w) 22	W5 (b)	L2 (w)	3
3	GRAYSON MANUEL	1975	L2 (w)	W5 (w)	D1 (b)	D6 (b)	D4 (w)	2½
4	KRISH MATHIMARAN	1885	L5 (b)	D1 (w) 22.5	D6 (w)	W2 (b) 4	D3 (b) 45	2½
5	HENRY KOVACS	1886	W4 (w)	L3 (b)	D2 (b) 1.5	L1 (w)	D6 (b)	2
6	JOHN SCHOENKE	1856	L1 (b)	D2 (w) 16.5	D4 (b) 14.	D3 (w) 59.5	D5 (w) 15	2

2026 Colorado Closed Scholastic Challenger

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	NEEL YADATORE	1831	W3 (w)	W5 (w)	W6 (b)	W4 (b)	L2 (w)	4
2	ASHWIN MATHIMARAN	1834	W5 (b)	D6 (w)	D4 (w)	D3 (b)	W1 (b)	3½
3	KAAVYA SAKTHISARAVANAN	1727	L1 (b)	W4 (b)	D5 (w)	D2 (w) 53.5	W6 (b)	3
4	ARIANA DANI	1594	D6 (b)	L3 (w)	D2 (b) 120	L1 (w)	W5 (w) 24	2
5	RYAN GUPTA	1618	L2 (w)	L1 (b)	D3 (b) 54.	W6 (w)	L4 (b)	1½
6	VIAAN KHANDELWAL	1573	D4 (w) 10.5	D2 (b) 130.	L1 (w)	L5 (b)	L3 (w)	1

Games from the Colorado Closed Championships

ROUND 5

LM BRIAN WALL (2204) -

NM DANIEL HERMAN (2149)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 e6 5.a4
b4 6.c4 Bb7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.0-0 Be7
9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Nb3 a5 11.Bf4 Nbd7
12.Qc2 c6 13.Rfc1 Ne4 14.Ne1 f5 15.f3
Nd6 16.Bxd6 Bxd6 17.f4 Qe7 18.Nd3 g5
19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.fxe5 Bc7 21.Nc5 Bb6
22.e3 Bc8 23.Nd3 Bd7 24.Rf1 Kh8
25.Rac1 Be8 26.Nc5 Bg6 27.Qd2 Ra7
28.Rf2 Qe8 29.Kh1 h5 30.h4 Bd8 31.hxg5
Bxg5 32.Nd3 h4 33.gxh4 Rh7 34.Kg1
Bxh4 35.Nf4 Bxf2+ 36.Kxf2 Bf7 37.Qc2
½-½

NM SUHAAS NARAYANAN (2212) -

NM EAMON MONTGOMERY (2214)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2
0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Na6 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bg5
f6 10.Bh4 Qe8 11.Rc1 Kh8 12.Re1 f5
13.exf5 gxf5 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.h3 Nh6
16.Ng5 e6 17.Bh5 Qd7 18.Qe2 Qc7
19.Red1 e4 20.Nb5 cxb5 21.cxb5 Qf4
22.g3 Qe5 23.bxa6 bxa6 24.Rc6 Rb8 25.b3
Rb6 26.Rxh6 Bxh6 27.Nf7+ Rxf7 28.Bxf7
Rd6 29.Rxd6 Qxd6 30.Qb2+ Bg7 31.Qc2
Bb7 32.Bg5 Be5 33.Qd2 Qxd2 34.Bxd2
Kg7 35.Bc4 Bd4 36.Be3 Bb6 ½-½

NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL (2216) -

LM SULLIVAN MCCONNELL (2366)

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d3 Bb4 4.Bd2 d4
5.Nce2 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 e5 7.f4 f6 8.Nf3
Qe7 9.Ng3 c5 10.Be2 Nc6 11.0-0 g6 12.c3
a5 13.Rf2 a4 14.Raf1 exf4 15.Qxf4 a3
16.b3 dxc3 17.Rc1 Nb4 18.Bf1 g5 19.Qe3
Nh6 20.h3 0-0 21.Rxc3 b6 22.d4 Ba6
23.dxc5 Bxf1 24.Nxf1 bxc5 25.Ne1 Ra5
26.Nd3 Nxd3 27.Rxd3 Nf7 28.Ng3 Ne5
29.Nf5 Qa7 30.Rd5 e4 31.Qxa7 Rxa7
32.bxc4 Nxc4 33.Rc2 Ne5 34.Rb5 Rd8
35.Rb3 Kf7 36.Kh2 Ke8 ½-½

PATRICK ZIJLSTRA (2043) -

CM DEAN CLOW (2100)

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.Bc4 f5 4.d4 exd4
5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bg5 fxe4 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.0-0
Bxc3 9.bxc3 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 c6 11.Bxf6
Qxf6 12.Qxe4+ Kd8 13.Rad1 Kc7 14.a4
d6 15.Rfe1 Bd7 16.Qd3 Bf5 17.Qg3 Rae8
18.Rxe8 Rxe8 19.Bb3 Re2 20.Kf1 Re5
21.f4 Rc5 22.c4 Be6 23.Qd3 Qxf4+
24.Kg1 Bf5 25.Qe2 Re5 26.Qf2 Qxf2+
27.Kxf2 Be6 28.Rd4 a5 29.c3 b5 30.axb5
cxb5 31.Bc2 Bxc4 32.Bxh7 a4 33.Rd1 a3
34.h3 a2 35.g4 g5 36.Ral Kb6 37.Bf5 Kc5
38.Kf3 Bd5+ 39.Kf2 b4 40.cxb4+ Kxb4
41.Rd1 Ka3 42.Bg6 Bb3 0-1

SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR (2049) -

JASON NIGATU (2027)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.Ba4 Ngf6
5.d3 e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.c4 0-0 8.h3 a6 9.Nc3

Qc7 10.Ne1 b6 11.f4 Bb7 12.Bb3 b5
13.cxb5 axb5 14.Kh1 Bc6 15.f5 d5 16.Qe2
Rae8 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.Be3 c4 19.dxc4 dxc4
20.Bc2 b4 21.Bf4 Bd6 22.Bxd6 Qxd6
23.Rd1 Qc7 24.Qxc4 bxc3 25.Ba4 Ne5
26.Qb3 Bxa4 27.Qxa4 Qc4 28.Qxc4 Nxc4
29.Nc2 Nxe4 30.Kg1 Rxf1+ 31.Kxf1 cxb2
0-1

CRAIG WILCOX (2004) -

ROBERT BUCHOLTZ (2032)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7
5.Bf4 a6 6.c5 Ne4 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Ng5 Qf6
9.e3 Qg6 10.Qc2 Nf6 11.0-0 Bd7 12.h4
h6 13.Nh3 Nd5 14.h5 Qxh5 15.Be2 Qg6
16.Be5 Be7 17.Nf4 Nxf4 18.Bxf4 Re8
19.Rh3 Bc6 20.Rg3 Qh7 21.Be5 Bf6
22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Rh1 Ke7 24.Rgh3 Qg7
25.g3 Rcg8 26.Bc4 Qg6 27.Rh5 f5 28.b4
Qf6 29.a4 Rg5 30.Rxg5 hxg5 31.Rd1 Rh2
32.Qa2 f4 33.b5 axb5 34.axb5 Bd7 35.c6
bxc6 36.Qa3+ Ke8 37.Qa8+ Qd8 38.Qa4
cxb5 39.Bxb5 c6 40.Bc4 fxe3 41.fxe3 Qb8
42.Qa3 Qxg3 43.Rf1 f5 44.Qa8+ Ke7
45.Qg8 Qxe3+ 46.Kb1 Qd2 47.Qg7+ Kd8
48.Qf6+ Kc7 49.Qe5+ Kb7 50.d5 cxd5
51.Ba6+ Kxa6 52.Qd6+ Ka5 53.Qc5+ Ka4
54.Qa7+ Kb4 55.Qb6+ Ka3 56.Qa7+ Ba4
0-1

AMITAI SEBBA (1930) -

FELIX MCMILLAN (1889)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 e6
5.Bc4 a6 6.Nf3 b5 7.Bb3 Bb7 8.0-0 Bc5
9.Bg5 Ne7 10.Rc1 d6 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.Rfd1
0-0 13.e5 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nxe5 15.Qe2 Bb6
16.Ne4 d5 17.Nc3 f6 18.Bf4 Kh8 19.Bg3
N7c6 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Rxd5 Qe8 22.Rd6
Re8 23.Kf1 Nd4 24.Rxc8 Qxc8 25.Qd1
Qc5 26.Rd5 Qb4 27.a3 Qxb3 28.Rxd4
Qxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Nc4 30.b3 Nxa3 31.Rd6
Bc7 32.Rxa6 Bxg3 33.hxg3 Nc2 34.Rb6
Re8 35.f3 Nd4 36.Kf2 Kg8 37.Rb7 Kf8
38.g4 Re2+ 39.Kg3 Rb2 40.g5 Rxb3
41.gxf6 gxf6 42.Rd7 Nf5+ 43.Kg4 Ne7
44.Kh5 Rb2 45.Rb7 b4 46.Kh4 Rd2 47.g4
Rd4 48.Kh5 Rf4 49.g5 f5 0-1

JOHN SCHOENKE (1856) -

HENRY KOVACS (1886)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 Nbd7 8.f3 Qc7
9.0-0-0 Be7 10.a3 h6 11.Be3 Ne5 12.Kb1
Bd7 13.g4 b5 14.h4 Rc8 15.Be2 Nc4
16.Bxc4 Qxc4 17.g5 Ng8 18.gxh6 ½-½

GRAYSON MANUEL (1975) -

KRISH MATHIMARAN (1885)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5
dxc4 6.e4 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Bxc4 b5
9.Bd3 Bb7 10.d5 b4 11.dxc6 Nxc6 12.Ne2
Rd8 13.e5 Qe7 14.Qc2 a6 15.Rc1 Qd7
16.Be4 Rc8 17.Qa4 Nd8 18.Qxd7+ Kxd7
19.Bxb7 Rxc1+ 20.Nxc1 Nxb7 21.Ke2

Be7 22.Rd1+ Kc7 23.Nb3 a5 24.Nfd4 Kb6
25.Rc1 Nc5 26.Nxa5 Kxa5 27.Nc6+ Kb6
28.Nxe7 Re8 29.Rc4 Rxe7 30.Rxb4+ Kc6
31.Rc4 Kd5 32.Rc2 Ra7 33.b4 Nd7 34.f4
Ke4 35.g3 Nb6 36.b5 g5 37.fxg5 hxg5
38.h4 gxh4 39.gxh4 Kxe5 40.Kf3 Kf5
41.h5 Kg5 42.Rh2 Kh6 43.Ke4 Ra5
44.Rf2 Nc4 45.Kd4 Nd6 46.Kc5 Ne4+
47.Kb6 Nd6 48.Kc5 Nf5 Kd4 Nd6 Ke5
Nf5 Kf6 Ra7 b6 Rb7 49.a4 ½-½

VIAAN KHANDLWAL (1573) -

KAAVYA SAKTHISARAVANAN(1727)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Bd3 Be7
9.f3 h5 10.Qd2 b5 11.Bg5 Nbd7 12.h3
Nb6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Qf2 Bg5 15.h4 Bh6
16.g3 b4 17.Ne2 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.f4
Rc8 20.Rd1 Qe7 21.fxe5 Qxe5 22.Qd4
Bxe2 23.Qxe5+ dxe5 24.Kxe2 Rxc2+
25.Kf3 Rxb2 26.Rd5 0-0 27.Ra1 Rc8
28.Rxe5 Rc3# Rd5 0-1

ARIANA DANI (1594) -

RYAN GUPTA (1618)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4
5.c3 Be7 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 Nf6 8.Bxf7+ Kf8
9.0-0 Na5 10.Qa4 Kxf7 11.Qxa5 exd4
12.cxd4 Nxe4 13.Qd5+ Be6 14.Qxe4 c6
15.Nc3 Bf6 16.Be3 Qd7 17.Ng5+ Bxg5
18.Bxg5 h6 19.Bh4 g5 20.Bg3 h5 21.f4 g4
22.Bh4 Bf5 23.Qe2 Rae8 24.Qd2 Qe6
25.Rfe1 Qc4 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Re1 Rxe1+
28.Bxe1 b5 29.a3 c5 30.dxc5 dxc5
31.Qd5+ Qxd5 32.Nxd5 c4 33.Nc3 a6
34.Kf2 Ke6 35.Ke3 Kd6 36.Kd4 Bd3
37.Ne4+ Kc6 38.f5 Kd7 39.Nc5+ Ke7
40.Nxd3 Kf6 41.Nc5 Kxf5 42.Nxa6 Kg5
43.Nc7 h4 44.Nxb5 g3 45.hxg3 hxg3
46.Bxg3 Kg4 47.Kxc4 1-0

NEEL YADATORE (1831) -

ASHWIN MATHIMARAN (1834)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5
5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7
8.d4 Qxd5 9.dxe5 Qxg2 10.Qf3 Qxf3
11.Nxf3 Nd7 12.Bf4 0-0-0 13.Ng5 Re8
14.0-0 Bc5 15.Be3 Bxe3 16.fxe3 Nxe5
17.Nxf7 Rhf8 18.Nxe5 Rxf1+ 19.Kxf1
Rxe5 20.b3 Rxe3 21.Kf2 Re6 22.Nd2 Nc6
23.Nf3 Nb4 24.Nd4 Rd6 25.c3 Nd5 26.c4
Nb4 27.Ke3 Rxd4 28.Kxd4 Nc2+ 29.Ke5
Nxa1 30.Ke6 Nc2 31.Kf7 Kd7 32.Kxg7
Ke7 33.Kxh7 Kf7 34.h4 Nb4 35.h5 Nxa2
36.h6 Nb4 37.c5 Nc6 38.b4 0-0-1



2026 Denver Chess Club Spring Classic

by Earle Wikle

The 2026 DCC Spring Classic was the DCC second weekend tournament of the year at our favorite hotel the Hilton Garden Inn in the DTC area. The tournament had 136 total players with four sections, and was a moderate success with several masters in the Premier section.

In the Premier section, FM Gunnar Andersen won clear first with 4.5 points, and 2nd, 3rd, and combined U2100 with 4 points was split three ways between LM Sullivan McConnell, NM Griffin McConnell, and NM Dmitry Kishinevsky. The second place U2100 was split eight ways between, Murat Erkan, NM Ray Haskins, Grayson Manuel, Brad Langer, CM Brad Lundstrom, Emmett Lignell, Neel Yadatore, and Ashwin Mathimaran. Ashwin Mathimaran won the Premier Upset prize for his (367) rating point win over NM Eamon Montgomery in round one.

In the U1900, Max Higa dominated the section with 4.5 points. A full point ahead of the six-way tie for 2nd and 3rd, between Laurence Wutt, John Schoenke, Hans Krull, Darshan Satishkumar, Thomas Mack-Crane, and Lincoln Mott. Reyansh Agarwal won the U1900 upset prize with a (265) point upset win.

In the U1600, Chris Burkhardt won clear first with 4.5 points, and the father and son Karthikeyan Kannan and Tarun Karthikeyan tied for 2nd and 3rd with 4 points. Eric Zhang won the U1600 upset prize.

In the U1300, Yao Chang and 7-year-old rock star Siddhishree Sundaram tied for first and second with 4.5 points. Datreion Leverston, Chris Laberge, and Kellan Alvey, tied for third. There was a four-way tie for the U1000 between, Blair Oliver, Anshul Singhal, Vik Vad, and Eli Rosenstein. The U1300 upset was won by Barbara Iglesias with a (549) rating point upset over Ethan Dunn.

PREMIER

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN	2373	W21 (b)	W10 (w)	D3 (b)	W5 (w)	W2 (b)	4½	\$720.00: 1st
2	LM SULLIVAN MCCONNELL	2366	W14 (w)	W17 (b)	W16 (w)	W4 (b)	L1 (w)	4	\$315.00 : 2nd, 3rd, &
3	NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL	2216	W41 (b)	W15 (w)	D1 (w) 78.5	W19 (b)	D6 (b) 7	4	\$315.00 : 2nd, 3rd, &
4	NM DMITRY KISHINEVSKY	2031	W33 (b)	W26 (w)	W7 (b) 170	L2 (w)	W11 (b)	4	\$315.00 : 2nd, 3rd, &
5	FM PATRICK VAN HOOLANDT	2251	W29 (b)	W28 (w)	H---	L1 (b)	W19 (w)	3½	
6	NM SUHAAS NARAYANAN	2230	W30 (w)	D20 (b)	H---	W9 (b)	D3 (w)	3½	
7	NM DANIEL HERMAN	2201	D31 (b)	W23 (w)	L4 (w)	W26 (b)	D12 (b)	3	
8	MURAT ERKAN	2067	D37 (w)	D22 (b)	W24 (w)	D15 (b)	D13 (w)	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd
9	NM RAYMOND HASKINS	2044	D32 (w)	H---	W34 (b)	L6 (w)	W31 (b)	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd
10	GRAYSON MANUEL	2021	W38 (w)	L1 (b)	D35 (w)	D20 (b)	W29 (w)	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd
11	BRAD LANGER	1936	D22 (w)	W37 (b)	H---	W16 (b) 117	L4 (w)	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd
12	CM BRAD LUNDSTROM	1919	L25 (b)	W39 (w)	H---	W35 (b)	D7 (w) 141	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd
13	EMMETT LIGNELL	1911	D35 (w)	W27 (b)	L19 (w)	W22 (b)	D8 (b) 78	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd
14	NEEL YADATORE	1868	L2 (b)	L34 (w)	B---	W33 (b)	W28 (w) 54	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd
15	ASHWIN MATHIMARAN	1836	W40 (b) 367	L3 (b)	W36 (w)	D8 (w) 115.5	D16 (b) 108.5	3	\$11.25 : U2100 2nd +
16	SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR	2053	W39 (b)	W25 (w)	L2 (b)	L11 (w)	D15 (w)	2½	
17	SHUBH MISRA	1996	W34 (b)	L2 (w)	D25 (b)	D31 (w)	D23 (w)	2½	
18	KALEB GOSDIN	1994	H---	W32 (b)	W20 (w)	U---	U---	2½	
19	DANIEL MARMER	1927	D23 (b)	W31 (w)	W13 (b)	L3 (w)	L5 (b)	2½	
20	KRISH MATHIMARAN	1903	W36 (b)	D6 (w) 163.5	L18 (b)	D10 (w) 59	D24 (b)	2½	
21	KEITH JAY OXMAN	1900	L1 (w)	D35 (b)	W32 (w)	D23 (b)	D25 (w)	2½	
22	WILL EVANS	1776	D11 (b) 80	D8 (w) 145.5	H---	L13 (w)	W35 (b)	2½	
23	BENJAMIN SIMBERG	1740	D19 (w) 93.5	L7 (b)	W30 (w) 108	D21 (w) 80	D17 (b) 128	2½	
24	SANDEEP MATHEW	1730	L28 (b)	W41 (w) 117	L8 (b)	W37 (w) 80	D20 (w) 86.5	2½	
25	NICK HVIZDA	1729	W12 (w) 190	L16 (b)	D17 (w) 133.5	D28 (b) 96.5	D21 (b) 85.5	2½	
26	ARIANA E DANİ	1625	B---	L4 (b)	W29 (w) 229	L7 (w)	D30 (b) 111.5	2½	
27	JOSE PARRA	U	H---	L13 (w)	L31 (b)	W39 (w)	W32 (b)	2½	
28	VEDANT PRAVIN MARGALE	1922	W24 (w)	L5 (b)	H---	D25 (w)	L14 (b)	2	
29	FORREST R LUNDSTROM	1854	L5 (w)	W38 (b)	L26 (b)	W34 (w)	L10 (b)	2	
30	TANYA GURPUR MADKE PRABHU	1848	L6 (b)	D33 (w)	L23 (b)	W36 (w)	D26 (w)	2	
31	ROHAN JACOB DAVID	1826	D7 (w) 187.5	L19 (b)	W27 (w)	D17 (b) 85	L9 (w)	2	
32	OSCAR JULIAN IGLESIAS FLORES	1800	D9 (b) 122	L18 (w)	L21 (b)	W38 (w)	L27 (w)	1½	
33	RYAN HAJJALI	1788	L4 (w)	D30 (b) 30	H---	L14 (w)	D34 (b)	1½	
34	ENRICO MOSS	1785	L17 (w)	W14 (b) 83	L9 (w)	L29 (b)	D33 (w) 1.5	1½	
35	JEFFREY BAFFO	1716	D13 (b) 97.5	D21 (w) 92	D10 (b) 152.5	L12 (w)	L22 (w)	1½	
36	STEVEN GARVERICK	1630	L20 (w)	B---	L15 (b)	L30 (b)	D38 (w) 78.5	1½	
37	WILLARD DAVIS	1810	D8 (b) 128.5	L11 (w)	H---	L24 (b)	U---	1	
38	TIM MOON	1787	L10 (b)	L29 (w)	H---	L32 (b)	D36 (b)	1	
39	CLIFTON P FORD	1800	L16 (w)	L12 (b)	H---	L27 (b)	U---	¾	
40	NM EAMON MONTGOMERY	2203	L15 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
41	WYATT BACKHOUSE	1847	L3 (w)	L24 (b)	U---	U---	U---	0	

U1900

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	MAX HIGA	1760	W24 (b)	W6 (w)	H---	W13 (b)	W2 (w) 92	4½	\$540.00
2	LAURENCE ROBERT WUTT	1852	W21 (b)	W8 (w)	H---	W4 (w)	L1 (b)	3½	\$112.50
3	JOHN SCHOENKE	1790	L13 (w)	W19 (b)	W10 (w)	D5 (b)	W9 (b) 104	3½	\$112.50
4	HANS P KRULL	1736	W19 (w)	W12 (b)	W7 (w)	L2 (b)	D6 (w)	3½	\$112.50
5	DARSHAN SATISHKUMAR	1663	D16 (b)	D9 (w) 115.5	W18 (b)	D3 (w) 63.5	W13 (w)	3½	\$112.50
6	THOMAS MACK-CRANE	1633	W18 (w)	L1 (b)	W17 (w)	W11 (w) 32	D4 (b) 51.5	3½	\$112.50
7	LINCOLN MOTT	1512	W23 (b) 129	W11 (w) 153	L4 (b)	H---	W10 (w) 155	3½	\$112.50
8	JUSTIN T DOUNCE	1639	W17 (b)	L2 (b)	L15 (w)	W20 (w)	W18 (b)	3	
9	OSCAR EMILIO IGLESIAS GALVEZ	1894	L12 (w)	D5 (b)	W23 (w)	W15 (b)	L3 (w)	2½	
10	CARTER GRAVES EDWARDS	1667	W20 (b)	D13 (w)	L3 (b)	W14 (w)	L7 (b)	2½	
11	JACOB ZIMBELMAN	1665	W15 (w)	L7 (b)	W12 (w)	L6 (b)	D16 (w)	2½	
12	REYANSH AGARWAL	1629	W9 (b) 265	L4 (w)	L11 (b)	W17 (w)	D15 (b)	2½	\$90.00 :
13	JONATHAN OLSON	1611	W3 (b) 179	D10 (b) 28	W14 (w)	L1 (w)	L5 (b)	2½	
14	NIALL CASE	1551	H---	W16 (w)	L13 (b)	L10 (b)	W20 (w) 42	2½	
15	SHANKAR N PARASURAM	1520	L11 (b)	W21 (w) 96	W8 (b) 119	L9 (w)	D12 (w) 54.5	2½	
16	SARVESH RAJESH	1517	D5 (w) 73	L14 (b)	H---	W21 (w) 99	D11 (b) 74	2½	
17	ANMAR ADNAN ALMALLAK	1463	L8 (w)	W24 (w) 135	L6 (b)	L12 (b)	W21 (w) 153	2	
18	DANIEL SEAN DUGGAN	1454	L6 (b)	B---	L5 (w)	W23 (b) 187	L8 (w)	2	
19	LUCAS VAZQUEZ	1594	L4 (b)	L3 (w)	L21 (b)	B---	D23 (w) 23.5	1½	
20	JACK GOTTLIEB	1593	L10 (w)	W23 (w) 48	H---	L8 (b)	L14 (b)	1½	
21	TRISTAN CRUZ	1616	L2 (w)	L15 (b)	W19 (w)	L16 (b)	L17 (b)	1	
22	JOSE PARRA	U	H---	U---	U---	U---	U---	½	
23	RYAN GUPTA	1641	L7 (w)	L20 (b)	L9 (b)	L18 (w)	D19 (b)	½	
24	DREW BANAZEK	1598	L1 (w)	L17 (b)	H---	U---	U---	½	

U1600

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	CHRIS BURKHARDT	1497	W27 (b)	D10 (w)	W14 (b)	W2 (b) 9	W6 (w) 22	4½	\$450.00
2	KARTHIKEYAN KANNAN	1506	W21 (b)	W13 (w)	W6 (b) 13	L1 (w)	W7 (b)	4	\$270.00
3	TARUN KARTHIKEYAN	1480	W26 (w)	D23 (b) 24.5	D4 (w) 54	W20 (b)	W10 (w)	4	\$270.00
4	SUBHANKER ROY	1588	D14 (b)	W18 (w)	D3 (b)	D5 (w)	W15 (b)	3½	
5	SETH LICHTENSTEIN	1573	W19 (w)	L7 (b)	W9 (w)	D4 (b) 7.5	W14 (w)	3½	
6	ROBERT CARLSON	1519	W20 (w)	W8 (b)	L2 (w)	W22 (b)	L1 (b)	3	
7	JONATHAN JENKINS	1436	W16 (b)	W5 (w) 137	H---	D10 (b)	L2 (w)	3	
8	DEAN W BROWN	1400	W25 (b)	L6 (w)	D21 (b)	D11 (w) 50	W20 (b)	3	
9	SHRI SHARAN RAMKUMAR	1335	L23 (w)	W26 (b)	L5 (b)	W25 (w)	W21 (b)	3	
10	ERIC RUIYUAN ZHANG	1221	W12 (b) 224	D1 (b) 138	W23 (w) 308	D7 (w) 107.5	L3 (b)	3	\$90.00 :
11	RANDOLPH SCHINE	1500	D15 (w)	D17 (b)	D19 (w)	D8 (b)	H---	2½	
12	JON EISEN	1445	L10 (w)	W24 (w)	H---	L15 (b)	W22 (b)	2½	
13	JASON WUU	1428	W22 (w)	L2 (b)	L20 (w)	D16 (b)	W24 (w)	2½	
14	HEYMANTH KUMAR MANIKHANDAN	1354	D4 (w) 117	W15 (b)	L1 (w)	W19 (b)	L5 (b)	2½	
15	ANAY GUPTA	1304	D11 (b) 98	L14 (w)	W24 (b)	W12 (w) 141	L4 (w)	2½	
16	ELLA ZHANG	1178	L7 (w)	L20 (b)	B---	D13 (w) 125	W26 (w) 80	2½	
17	ERIK KNUDSEN	1470	D24 (b)	D11 (w) 15	H---	D21 (w)	U---	2	
18	NIVID SINGHAL	1463	H---	L4 (b)	L22 (w)	W26 (b)	D19 (w)	2	
19	SRII RUPPESH BEZAWADA	1337	L5 (b)	W27 (w)	D11 (b) 81.5	L14 (w)	D18 (b) 63	2	
20	ALEXANDER ROKUS VON KAENEL	1320	L6 (b)	W16 (w)	W13 (b) 108	L3 (w)	L8 (w)	2	
21	RUSHIITHA BEZAWADA	1319	L2 (w)	W25 (b)	D8 (w) 40.5	D17 (b) 75.5	L9 (w)	2	
22	ANANYA MEDU	1173	L13 (b)	B---	W18 (b) 290	L6 (w)	L12 (w)	2	
23	OWEN EMERSON CHRIST	1529	W9 (b)	D3 (w)	L10 (b)	U	U---	1½	
24	GARY JELINEK	1242	D17 (w) 114	L12 (b)	L15 (w)	W27 (b) 58	L13 (b)	1½	
25	ANIRUDH SAIBALAN	1135	L8 (w)	L21 (w)	W27 (b) 165	L9 (b)	H---	1½	
26	STEVE MERRICK	1258	L3 (b)	L9 (w)	H---	L18 (w)	L16 (b)	½	
27	JOSEPH ARAGON	1300	L1 (w)	L19 (b)	L25 (w)	L24 (w)	U---	0	

U1300

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	YAO CHANG	1175	W22 (b)	W20 (w)	W16 (b)	D2 (w)	W6 (w) 91	4½	\$337.50
2	SIDDHISHREE SUNDARAM	1132	X---	W3 (b) 157	W5 (w)	D1 (b) 21.5	W8 (w) 146	4½	\$337.50
3	DATREION LEVERSTON	1289	W27 (b)	L2 (w)	W21 (w)	W26 (b)	W16 (b)	4	\$60.00 :
4	CHRISTOPHER LABERGE	1052	W39 (b)	W8 (w) 226	D6 (w) 107	D11 (b) 43	W14 (w)	4	\$60.00 :
5	KELLAN ALVEY	U	W25 (b)	W10 (w)	L2 (b)	W9 (w)	W11 (w)	4	\$60.00 :
6	BRENDAN MAHONEY	1266	W32 (b)	W19 (w)	D4 (b)	W18 (w)	L1 (b)	3½	
7	GLEN ANTHONY HOLGUIN	1025	L16 (b)	W35 (w)	H---	W30 (b)	W18 (b) 126	3½	
8	ASHER KIRSCHBAUM	1278	W41 (w)	L4 (b)	W28 (w)	W23 (b)	L2 (b)	3	
9	TOM NEEDHAM	1200	W33 (w)	D23 (b)	D12 (w)	L5 (b)	W20 (w)	3	
10	ETHAN THOMAS DUNN	1153	W28 (w)	L5 (b)	L30 (w)	W35 (b)	W26 (w)	3	
11	VERONICA IRIS PINNA	1138	W30 (w)	W15 (b)	H---	D4 (w)	L5 (b)	3	
12	STEPAN ARTEMOVICH ROSTOVTSSEV	1069	D34 (b)	W37 (w)	D9 (b) 65.5	L16 (w)	W28 (b)	3	
13	JIYAAN SATHISHKUMAR	1050	L15 (w)	L28 (b)	W29 (w)	W39 (b)	W30 (w)	3	
14	CAMERON MILLER	U	W26 (w)	L18 (b)	W24 (w)	W19 (w)	L4 (b)	3	
15	JUSTIN MAGRUDER	U	W13 (b)	L11 (w)	L19 (b)	W32 (w)	W25 (w)	3	
16	BRODERICK EVILSIZER	U	W7 (w)	W17 (b)	L1 (w)	W12 (b)	L3 (w)	3	
17	GERA CRUZ	1160	W35 (b)	L16 (w)	W36 (b)	H---	U	2½	
18	STEVEN BUTCHER	1151	W29 (b)	W14 (w)	H---	L6 (b)	L7 (w)	2½	
19	DON M HENRY	1130	W36 (w)	L6 (b)	W15 (w)	L14 (b)	D23 (w)	2½	
20	BLAIR OLIVER	979	W38 (w)	L1 (b)	H---	W33 (w)	L9 (b)	2½	\$33.75
21	ANSHUL SINGHAL	887	H---	W31 (w) 169	L3 (b)	L22 (w)	W33 (b)	2½	\$33.75
22	VIK VAD	780	L1 (w)	D25 (w) 137	X---	W21 (b) 107	U---	2½	\$33.75
23	ELI LES ROSENSTEIN	765	W24 (b) 404	D9 (w) 217.5	H---	L8 (w)	D19 (b) 182.5	2½	\$33.75
24	LAWRENCE PELO	1169	L23 (w)	W34 (w)	L14 (b)	L28 (b)	W39 (w)	2	
25	JARED W COBURN	1054	L5 (w)	D22 (b)	H---	W36 (w)	L15 (b)	2	
26	ISAAC BEGLEY	945	L14 (b)	W29 (w)	W32 (b)	L3 (w)	L10 (b)	2	
27	SHIRLEY HERMAN	938	L3 (w)	L30 (b)	L39 (w)	W38 (b)	W36 (b)	2	
28	MEGHNA LAMBU	631	L10 (b)	W13 (w) 419	L8 (b)	W24 (w) 538	L12 (w)	2	
29	JOHN HARVEY	619	L18 (w)	L26 (b)	L13 (b)	B---	W35 (w) 18	2	
30	BARBARA LIZ IGLESIAS	604	L11 (b)	W27 (w) 334	W10 (b) 549	L7 (w)	L13 (b)	2	\$90.00
31	ALISON WALKER	1056	H---	L21 (b)	U	W34 (w)	U---	1½	
32	FRANK F ATWOOD	852	L6 (w)	W38 (b)	L26 (w)	L15 (b)	D34 (b)	1½	
33	GABRIEL JUDSON HUGHES	803	L9 (b)	W39 (w)	H---	L20 (b)	L21 (w)	1½	
34	BRYCE PORTER	271	D12 (w) 399	L24 (b)	H---	L31 (b)	D32 (w) 290.5	1½	
35	DAVID KENNEDY	637	L17 (w)	L7 (b)	W38 (w)	L10 (w)	L29 (b)	1	
36	GERALD FITZGIBBONS	526	L19 (b)	B---	L17 (w)	L25 (b)	L27 (w)	1	
37	JOSHUA FAULCONER	111	B---	L12 (b)	F---	U---	U---	1	
38	VAYUN TUMMALA	U	L20 (b)	L32 (w)	L35 (b)	L27 (w)	B---	1	
39	DIANA FISLER	U	L4 (w)	L33 (b)	W27 (b)	L13 (w)	L24 (b)	1	
40	DAN M RUPAREL	686	H---	U---	U---	U---	U---	½	
41	ANDREW MARSHALL MINKEL	884	L8 (b)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
42	JONATHAN MOORE	553	F---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



Games from the DCC Spring Classic

ROUND 5

LM SULLIVAN MCCONNELL (2366) - FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN (2373)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0-0 Nge7 5.Re1 b6 6.c3 a6 7.Bf1 d5 8.e5 d4 9.d3 Bb7 10.c4 Qc7 11.Na3 h6 12.h4 g5 13.hxg5 Ng6 14.gxh6 Bxh6 15.Bxh6 Rxh6 16.Qd2 Rh5 17.Be2 Qe7 18.Bd1 0-0-0 19.Kf1 Qc7 20.Ng1 Rh2 21.Nf3 Rh1+ 22.Ke2 Rxe1+ 23.Qxe1 Nxe5 24.Kd2 Nxf3+ 25.gxf3 Rh8 26.Kc2 Qf4 27.b4 Rh2 28.Kb3 Ne5 29.Be2 Nxf3 30.Bxf3 Qxf3 31.Rd1 Qxf2 32.Qxf2 Rxf2 33.Nc2 Bf3 34.Rg1 Rd2 35.bxc5 bxc5 36.Na1 Rxd3+ 37.Ka4 Kc7 38.Nb3 Bd1 39.Rg8 Bxb3+ 40.axb3 Rd1 41.Ka3 e5 42.Re8 Kd6 43.Kb2 f5 44.Ra8 e4 45.Rxa6+ Ke5 46.Rc6 e3 47.Rxc5+Kf4 48.Rxf5+Ke5 0-1



NM SUHAAS NARAYANAN (2230) - NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL (2216)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 0-0 9.Nge2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Nh5 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Qd2 Re8 13.Rae1 Ndf6 14.Nc1 Ne4 15.Qc2 f5 16.f3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Qg5 18.e4 fxe4 19.fxe4 Be6 20.e5 Rf8 21.Rxf8+ Rxf8 22.Rf1 Qe3+ 23.Kh1 Rxf1+ 24.Bxf1 Qe1 25.Kg1 Qe3+ 26.Kh1 Nf4 27.Nd3 Bf5 28.Qf2 1/2-1/2

BRAD LANGER (1936) - NM DMITRY KISHINEVSKY (2031)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nxd5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nf3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Be7 9.a3 Nc6 10.Bd3 Bf6 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.0-0 0-0 13.h3 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Bb4 Qg5 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Bxf8 Bxh3 18.Qd3+ Kg8 19.Qxh3 Rxf8 20.Rad1 Bxb2 21.Qb3 Qf6 22.Rxd5 Re8 23.Qb5 Qc6 24.Qd3 Bxa3 25.Rh5 g6 26.Rh3 Bb2 27.Qb3 Be5 28.Rf3 Qc7 29.Rd1 a5 30.Rfd3 Bf6 31.Qa4 Re5 32.Rd5 b6 33.Rd7 Qc3 34.g3 b5 35.Qf4 b4 36.Qh6 Re1+ 37.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 38.Kg2 Qe4+ 39.Kg1 Qe1+ 40.Kg2 Qe4+ 41.Kg1 Qc6 42.Qd2 b3 43.Rd6 Qc3 44.Qh6 b2 45.Rd1 Qc2 46.Re1 b1Q 47.Qe3 a4 48.Qe8+ Kg7 49.Kg2 Qb7+ 50.Kg1 Qcc6 0-1



FM PATRICK VAN HOOLANDT (2251) DANIEL MARMER (1927)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg7 7.e4 0-0 8.Rc1 Nh5 9.Be3 e5 10.d5 c6 11.g3 f5 12.exf5 cxd5 13.fxg6 hxg6 14.Qxd5+ Kh7 15.Nf3 Qf6 16.Ne4 Qf5 17.Bh3 Nf6 18.Bxf5 Nxd5 19.Bxc8 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Nc6 21.Bxb7 Nb4 22.Bxa8 Nd3+ 23.Ke2 Nxc1+ 24.Rxc1 Rxa8 25.Rc7 Kh6 26.h4 Rb8 27.b3 a5 28.Ra7 Rb5 29.Nfg5 Rd5 30.Nf6 Rd8 31.Nf7# 1-0

CM BRAD LUNDSTROM (1919) - NM DANIEL HERMAN (2201)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 a6 6.0-0 b5 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.a4 b4 9.Nbd2 c5 10.b3 cxd4 11.exd4 Be7 12.Bb2 0-0 13.Rc1 Nbd7 14.Re1 Nb6 15.Nc4 Nxc4 16.Bxc4 Bd5 17.Ne5 Rc8 18.Bxa6 Rxc1 19.Bxc1 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Qa8+ 21.Qf3 Qxa6 22.Bg5 Nd5 23.Bxe7 Nxe7 24.Rc1 Nd5 25.Rc5 Qb7 26.Kg1 Qe7 27.Nd3 Qg5+ 28.Qg3 Qd2 29.Qf3 Nc3 30.Kg2 Ne2 31.Qe3 Qxd3 32.Qxd3 Nf4+ 33.Kf3 Nxd3 34.Rb5 f5 35.Ke3 Nc1 36.Rxb4 Rc8 37.Rc4 Rxc4 38.bxc4 Nb3 39.Kd3 Kf7 40.Kc3 Na5 41.Kb4 Nc6+ 42.Kc5 Na5 43.Kb4 Nc6+ 44.Kc5 Na5 45.Kb4 1/2-1/2



MAX HIGA (1760) - LAURENCE ROBERT WUTT (1852)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Be3 Rb8 11.Bd3 0-0 12.0-0 Bg4 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Qxg4 Kh8 15.c3 g6 16.Bh6 Bg7 17.Bxg7+ Kxg7 18.Rad1 Rb7 19.Nc2 f6 20.Ne3 Kh8 21.Bc2 Rg7 22.Qe6 Rd7 23.Rd2 Re8 24.Qh3 Ne7 25.Rfd1 Nc8 26.Nd5 Rg7 27.a4 Rf8

28.axb5 axb5 29.Qd3 f5 30.Qxb5 f4 31.Bd3 h5 32.Ra1 Qg5 33.f3 Qh4 34.Bf1 g5 35.Ra8 g4 36.Qe2 Qd8 37.Qd1 Rfg8 38.Ba6 gxf3 39.Qxf3 Qh4 40.Re2 Rg3 41.hxg3 Rxg3 42.Rxc8+ Kg7 43.Qf2 Qg5 44.Qa7+ 1-0

HANS P KRULL (1736) - THOMAS ALEXANDERMACK-CRANE

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 d6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Be6 10.f3 Rc8 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.cxd5 Ne5 13.Qa4 a6 14.Ra1 Ned7 15.b4 Nb6 16.Qb3 Nfd7 17.Rxc8 Qxc8 18.Rc1 Qb8 19.a4 Rc8 20.Rxc8+ Qxc8 21.a5 Na8 22.b5 Nc7 23.Qc2 Nc5 24.bxa6 N7xa6 25.Bxa6 bxa6 26.Nc6 Qb7 27.h3 Kf8 28.Bxc5 dxc5 29.Qxc5 Bh6 30.Qb6 Qxb6+ 31.axb6 Be3+ 32.Kf1 Bxb6 33.Ke2 Ke8 34.Kd3 a5 35.Kc4 Bc7 36.Kb5 Kd7 37.Nxa5 Bxa5 38.Kxa5 Kd6 39.Kb5 Ke5 40.Kc6 f5 41.Kd7 fxe4 42.fxe4 Kxe4 43.Kxe7 Kxd5 44.Kf6 Ke4 45.Kg5 Ke5 46.h4 Ke6 47.Kh6 Kf5 48.Kxh7 Kg4 49.Kxg6 Kxh4 1/2-1/2





**OSCAR EMILIO IGLESIAS GALVEZ
JOHN SCHOENKE (1790)**

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 dxc4 6.Bxc4 c6 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.Nh4 Be4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Nf3 Nb6 13.Bb3 Nd5 14.Bh2 Bd6 15.Qd3 Bxh2+ 16.Nxh2 Ndf6 17.Bc2 g6 18.b4 Qe7 19.a3 a5 20.b5 c5 21.dxc5 Rfd8 22.Qe2 Rd2 23.Qc4 Qxc5 24.Qxc5 Nxc5 25.Rac1 Nd3 26.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Ne5 28.Bb3 Rc8 29.f4 Ned7 30.Nf3 Rc3 31.Nd4 Nc5 32.Bc2 Rxe3 33.Nf3 Nd5 34.a4 Rc3 35.Rd2 Rc4 36.Kf2 Rxf4 37.Rd4 Rxd4 38.Nxd4 Nc3 39.Nb3 Nxb3 40.Bxb3 Ne4+ 41.Ke3 Nc5 42.Bc2 b6 43.Kd4 Kf8 44.g4 f6 45.h4 Ke7 46.Kc4 Kd6 47.Kd4 e5+ 48.Kc4 Ke6 49.Bd1 f5 50.gxf5+ gxf5 51.h5 h6 52.Bc2 Ne4 53.Bd1 Ng3 54.Bf3 e4 55.Bd1 Ke5 56.Kc3 f4 57.Bg4 f3 58.Kd2 f2 59.Bh3 f1 Q 60.Bxf1 Nxf1+ 0-1

**CHRIS BURKHARDT (1497) -
ROBERT CARLSON (1519)**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Nc3 e6 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Qxd5 exd5 12.Be3 Bb4+ 13.Ke2 0-0 14.g4 Rfe8 15.Kd3 Ba5 16.Bg2 Red8 17.a3 Bb6 18.Rac1 Rac8 19.Rc2 f6 20.b4 Ne7 21.Rhc1 Rxc2 22.Rxc2 Rd7 23.a4 Nc6 24.Rb2 a5 25.bxa5 Bxa5 26.Rb5 b6 27.Bxd5+ Rxd5 28.Rxd5 Nb4+ 29.Kc4 Nxd5 30.Kxd5 Kf7 31.Kd6 g6 32.d5 h5 33.Kc6 Ke7 34.d6+ Kd8 35.Bxb6+ Bxb6 36.Kxb6 1-0



**JONATHAN REX JENKINS (1436) -
KARTHIKEYAN KANNAN (1506)**

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 h6 5.Bf4 g5 6.Be5 Nbd7 7.cxd5 Nxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxd5 9.e4 Nf6 10.Bc4 e6 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bxe6 Nxe5 13.Bxc8 Qxc8 14.dxe5 Qc7 15.Qb3

0-0-0 16.Rad1 Rxd1 17.Rxd1 Qe7 18.Qc4 Kb8 19.Qd4 Bg7 20.Qd6+ Qc7 21.e6 Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Be5 23.Rd7 fxe6 24.Re7 Rd8 25.f3 Rd2 26.Rxe6 Bd4+ 27.Kf1 Rxb2 28.Nd1 Rxa2 29.Rxh6 Rd2 30.Ke1 Rxc2 31.Kf1 Ra2 32.h4 gxh4 33.Rxh4 b5 34.f4 b4 35.Rh3 Ra3 36.Rh2 b3 37.e5 b2 38.Nxb2 Ra1+ 39.Ke2 Bxb2 40.Kd3 Ra3+ 41.Ke4 Ra4+ 42.Kf5 Bd4 43.Rh3 Ra5 44.Ke6 Kc7 45.Kf7 Rd5 46.Rf3 a5 47.e6 Rf5+ 48.Kg6 Rf6+ 49.Kg5 Rxe6 50.f5 Rd6 51.Kf4 c5 52.Ke4 a4 53.Ra3 Ra6 54.Kd5 Kb6 55.Kc4 Bb2 56.Rf3 a3 57.f6 Ra4+ 58.Kd5 Rd4+ 59.Ke6 Re4+ 60.Kd5 Re5+61.Kd6 Re8 62.Kd7 Ra8 63.f7 c4 0-1

**YAO CHANG (1175) -
BRENDAN MAHONEY (1266)**

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.exd5 a6 6.a4 g6 7.e4 Bg7 8.Bd3 Nf6 9.Nge2 Bg4 10.a5 0-0 11.0-0 Re8 12.f3 Bc8 13.Bd2 Nbd7 14.Na4 b5 15.axb6 Nxb6 16.Ba5 Nfd7 17.Nec3 Rb8 18.Nxb6 Nxb6 19.Na4 Bd4+ 20.Kh1 Re5 21.Bxb6 Rxb6 22.Nxb6 Qxb6 23.Qe2 Rh5 24.Bxa6 Be5 25.f4 Bxa6 26.Rxa6 Qxb2 27.Qxb2 Bxb2 28.Rxd6 f5 29.e5 c4 30.e6 Kf8 31.Re1 Bf6 32.Rc6 Bh4 33.e7+ Bxe7 34.Rc8+ Kf7 35.Rc7 Rh4 36.Rex7+ 1-0



**SIDDHISHREE SUNDARAM (1132) -
ASHER KIRSCHBAUM (1278)**

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 d4 6.Ne2 e5 7.Ng3 Nf6 8.Bc4 b5 9.Bb3 a5 10.a4 g6 11.0-0 Bg7 12.d3 0-0 13.Bg5 Nbd7 14.c3 dxc3 15.bxc3 h6 16.Be3 Nb6 17.axb5 cxb5 18.d4 exd4 19.Bxd4 a4 20.Ba2 a3 21.Rad1 Na4 22.Be5 Qe7 23.Bd6 Qb7 24.Bxf8 Rxf8 25.Rfe1 Nd7 26.Re3 Qc7 27.Rc1 Ne5 28.Qe2 Rc8 29.Qxb5 Qa7 30.c4 Bf8 31.Qxe5 Nb2 32.Qb5 Rb8 33.Qd5 h5 34.Nxh5 gxh5 35.Rg3+ Bg7 36.Qg5 f6 37.Qxf6 Nd3 38.c5+ Kh8 39.Qf5 Bd4 40.Qxh5+ Qh7 41.Qxh7+ Kxh7 42.Rxd3 Be5 43.Rxa3 Rd8 44.Ra7+ Kg6 45.c6 Bf4 46.Rb1 Rd2 47.Ra6 Bc7 48.e5 Re2 49.e6 Kf6 50.g3 Bd6 51.Rc1 Bc7 52.Ra7 Bb6 53.c7 Bxc7 54.Raxc7 Rxa2 55.Re1 Ra8 56.e7 Re8 57.Rd7 Kf7 58.Rd8 Rxe7 59.Rxe7+ Kxe7 60.Rd3 Kf6 61.h4 Kf5 62.Rd5+ Ke6 63.h5 Kxd5 64.h6 Ke6 65.h7 Ke5 66.h8Q+ Kd5 67.g4 Ke6 68.g5 Kf5 69.f4 Kg6 70.Qh6+ Kf7 71.g6+ Kf6 72.g7+ Kf7 73.Qh8 Ke6 74.g8Q+ Kf5 75.Qf7+ Kg4 76.Qhg8+ Kf3 77.Qg2+ Ke3

78.Qe6+ Kxf4 79.Qf2+ Kg4 Qg6+ Kh3 Qh2# 1-0



2026 Colorado Quick Championship

By Earle Wikle

The 2026 Colorado Quick Championship was held March 17, Friday night before the DCC Spring Classic at the Hilton Garden Inn. With the tournament in Denver, it helped boost the attendance to 46 players and therefore add a sixth round. The tournament was a success, but next year we will make some adjustments to help improve round times. With 5.5 points FM Gunnar Andersen won the Colorado Quick Championship in clear first. Second and third was split between Kaleb Gosdin and Chris Motley each with 5 points. Zander McElhinney won first prize for U1500 and there was a seven-way tie for the second U1500, Dean Brown, Brendan Wells, Max Opperman, Felix Graham, Vedanth Peesapaty, David Cease, and Sean Matthews.



Quick Champion Gunnar Andersen

2026 Colorado Quick Championship

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Prize
1	FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN	2237	W32 (w)	W12 (b)	W7 (w)	D14 (b)	W5 (b)	W4 (w) 42	5½	\$275.00 : 1st Place
2	KALEB GOSDIN	1914	W34 (w)	W20 (b)	W4 (w) 365	L5 (w)	W16 (b) 226	W7 (b) 34	5	\$137.50 : 2nd & 3rd
3	CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY	1913	W39 (b)	W15 (w)	L5 (b)	W23 (w)	W6 (b) 186	W8 (w) 20	5	\$137.50 : 2nd & 3rd
4	FM NOEL MARQUS	2279	W30 (b)	W37 (w)	L2 (b)	W10 (w)	W14 (w)	L1 (b)	4	
5	LM SULLIVAN MAC MCCONNELL	2126	W21 (w)	W13 (b)	W3 (w)	W2 (b)	L1 (w)	U---	4	
6	NM RHETT LANGSETH	2099	L23 (w)	W34 (b)	W28 (w)	W13 (b)	L3 (w)	W12 (w)	4	
7	CM DEAN CLOW	1948	W33 (b)	W18 (w)	L1 (b)	W28 (w)	W10 (b)	L2 (w)	4	
8	DANIEL AVERY	1933	W24 (w)	L28 (b)	W32 (w)	W21 (b)	W11 (w)	L3 (b)	4	
9	DUWAYNE LANGSETH	1926	L15 (b)	W39 (w)	W20 (b)	W18 (w)	L12 (b)	W17 (w)	4	
10	WILLIAM L WOLF	1865	W25 (w)	W23 (b)	W16 (w) 275	L4 (b)	L7 (w)	W20 (w)	4	
11	DANIEL MARMER	1845	W40 (b)	L26 (w)	W31 (b)	W15 (w)	L8 (b)	W23 (w)	4	
12	ALEKSEY KAIKOV	1721	W41 (b)	L1 (w)	W22 (b)	W26 (w)	W9 (w) 205	L6 (b)	4	
13	AARON GINDI	1632	W44 (b)	L5 (w)	W33 (b)	L6 (w)	W26 (b)	W24 (w)	4	
14	NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL	2122	W22 (b)	W17 (w)	W26 (b)	D1 (w) 57.5	L4 (b)	U---	3½	
15	ZANDER JAMES MCELHINNEY	1058	W9 (w) 868	L3 (b)	W27 (w) 462	L11 (b)	W31 (b) 246	D18 (w) 223.5	3½	\$125.00 : U1500 1st
16	NM DANIEL HERMAN	2140	W31 (b)	W38 (w)	L10 (b)	W17 (w)	L2 (w)	U---	3	
17	ROHAN JACOB DAVID	1591	W42 (w)	L14 (b)	W24 (w)	L16 (b)	W29 (w)	L9 (b)	3	
18	JUSTIN T DOUNCE	1505	W29 (w)	L7 (b)	W25 (w)	L9 (b)	D22 (w)	D15 (b)	3	
19	DEAN W BROWN	1440	L20 (w)	L25 (b)	W35 (w)	L24 (b)	W42 (w)	W33 (b)	3	\$10.71 : U1500 2nd
20	BRENDAN WELLS	1304	W19 (b) 136	L2 (w)	L9 (w)	W25 (b)	W32 (w)	L10 (b)	3	\$10.71 : U1500 2nd
21	MAX OPPERMAN	1220	L5 (b)	W44 (w)	W37 (b) 597	L8 (w)	W28 (b) 247	U---	3	\$10.71 : U1500 2nd
22	FELIX GRAHAM	1219	L14 (w)	W29 (b) 47	L12 (w)	W38 (w) 470	D18 (b) 143	D27 (b) 150.5	3	\$10.71 : U1500 2nd
23	VEDANTH PEESAPATY	1150	W6 (b) 949	L10 (w)	W38 (b) 539	L3 (b)	W27 (w) 370	L11 (b)	3	\$10.71 : U1500 2nd
24	DAVID CEASE	1071	L8 (b)	W36 (w)	L17 (b)	W19 (w) 369	W30 (b) 273	L13 (b)	3	\$10.71 : U1500 2nd
25	SEAN MATTHEWS	803	L10 (b)	W19 (w) 637	L18 (b)	L20 (w)	W40 (b)	W42 (w)	3	\$10.71 : U1500 2nd
26	PRUTHIVIRAJ CHAUDHARI		U W27 (w)	W11 (b)	L14 (w)	L12 (b)	L13 (w)	W32 (b)	3	
27	SUBHANKER ROY	1520	L26 (b)	W40 (w)	L15 (b)	W33 (w)	L23 (b)	D22 (w)	2½	
28	NIALL RIAN CASE	1467	W36 (b)	W8 (w) 466	L6 (b)	L7 (b)	L21 (w)	D29 (b)	2½	
29	BRENDAN MAHONEY	1266	L18 (b)	L22 (w)	W36 (b)	W37 (w) 551	L17 (b)	D28 (w) 100.5	2½	
30	OLIVER HASSELKUS	1344	L4 (w)	L35 (b)	W41 (w)	W34 (b)	L24 (w)	U---	2	
31	DANIEL HUNNINGHAKE	1304	L16 (w)	W43 (b)	L11 (w)	W42 (b)	L15 (w)	U---	2	
32	LUCAS VAZQUEZ	1304	L1 (b)	W41 (w)	L8 (b)	W39 (w)	L20 (b)	L26 (w)	2	
33	BRAD CLER	1099	L7 (w)	W42 (b)	L13 (w)	L27 (b)	W41 (w)	L19 (w)	2	
34	SAM REDENIUS	968	L2 (b)	L6 (w)	W44 (b)	L30 (w)	W36 (b)	U---	2	
35	JEREMY REDENIUS	783	L37 (b)	W30 (w) 561	L19 (b)	L40 (w)	W44 (b)	U---	2	
36	RICARDO GONZALEZ		U L28 (w)	L24 (b)	L29 (w)	W43 (b)	L34 (w)	B---	2	
37	SUPREME KING	1817	W35 (w)	L4 (b)	L21 (w)	L29 (b)	U---	U---	1	
38	WILLIAM ZHENG	1689	W43 (w)	L16 (b)	L23 (w)	L22 (b)	U---	U---	1	
39	RISHABH UNMESH NAIR	947	L3 (w)	L9 (b)	W43 (w)	L32 (b)	U---	U---	1	
40	CHRISTOPHER MICHAUD	786	L11 (w)	L27 (b)	L42 (w)	W35 (b)	L25 (w)	U---	1	
41	LAZARUS DANIELS	378	L12 (w)	L32 (b)	L30 (b)	W44 (w)	L33 (b)	U---	1	
42	ASHER CHANCE		U L17 (b)	L33 (w)	W40 (b)	L31 (w)	L19 (b)	L25 (b)	1	
43	LIAM ADAMS		U L38 (b)	L31 (w)	L39 (b)	L36 (w)	B---	U---	1	
44	ARTHUR LAMBERT		U L13 (w)	L21 (b)	L34 (w)	L41 (b)	L35 (w)	U---	0	

Sunil Weeramantry lecture at the Parker Chess Club

By John Brezina

March 2026

Esteemed chess coach and author Sunil Weeramantry returned to Colorado and gave a lecture at the Parker Chess Club. This followed on the Monday after the DCC Spring Classic where many of those players joined us to welcome Sunil back. His career in chess is remarkable and continues to this day where he appears to have barely slowed down. His passion for the game has not waned as was clear in his lecture.



A big crowd welcomed Sunil

He became a chess master before I was born at the age of 15! Sunil won the New York State Championship in 1975 and represented Sri Lanka first in the 1978 Chess Olympiad. He was later inducted into the New York State Chess Hall of Fame where he settled down and started his chess teaching career in 1979 at Hunter College Campus Schools in Manhattan. He founded the National Scholastic Chess Foundation in 1990 where his chess programs have made their way into many schools. He is also an author and chess coach who has coached many teams and individuals to national and international scholastic tournaments. He continues to serve on many boards and trusts which has benefited chess greatly and we are honored that he came back to our chess club.



Sunil Weeramantry in his element

His lecture was during our regular club meeting and many of our club players joined us in addition to some special guests. Denver Chess Club president and former president of the Colorado State Chess Association Earle Wikle was present

along with former Colorado Chess Informant editor Jeffery Baffo. A FIDE Master and trainer Patrick Van Hoolandt also joined us after playing in the Spring Classic the day before. He is a FIDE official (Vice-President of the Advisory Board of President Arkady Dvorkovich), President of the Francophone Chess Association, and FIDE Delegate for Monaco where he represented Monaco in eight Chess Olympiads. I was quite honored he accepted my invitation after first meeting him and photographing him at the Spring Classic.



Our special attentive guests

Our room began filling up as we set up tables and chairs where I recorded and photographed the entire lecture. I had also invited a reporter from our local newspaper that covered the lecture and our club. Fans arriving early had a chance to meet Sunil beforehand and get the best seats. We set up two demo boards for the crowd and some of our club players helped with the games. Viaan and Marcine helped for the first half of the lecture and then Krish and Ashwin took over the demo boards for the second half. Ashwin Mathimaran recently won the K-8 state scholastic championship where his brother Krish had won it the previous year.



Brothers Krish and Ashwin helping out

We began the lecture with some introductions before Sunil took over and showed his skills at teaching chess. He took positions from several old games to highlight certain tactics and motifs that reached a broad range of skill levels in the audience. I enjoyed his engagement with the audience where he would ask the next

move in the position and hands would shoot up from anxious kids. His memory skills were on display too as he remembered the names of nearly everyone he had met as he called on them. He would interject stories throughout the lecture about many famous chess players the way only Sunil can. His knowledge and "contact list" of chess players he has known and worked with are legendary.



Sunil engaging the audience

Before we knew it, an hour and a half had passed and he had to wrap things up although he could have easily continued on. We planned to leave a little time afterwards for fans to meet and greet and have books autographed. Many of our young players were getting photographs with Sunil as we wrapped things up too. Thank you to everyone that helped set up this event and also to Sunil Weeramantry for taking time out of his busy schedule for this special evening.

Video of lecture:

<https://youtu.be/FeTUa8GvTU8?si=bPu2r3cyMGapcYbR>



2025 Clutch Chess: Champions Showdown

By John Brezina

October 2025

The St. Louis chess club has put some unique chess matches together and this one may top them all. A first ever Clutch Chess match to help kick off the grand re-opening of the St. Louis chess club after renovations and expansion. Only four players were invited: The current world champion D Gukesh, the number one player in the world Magnus Carlsen, the number two player Hikaru Nakamura, and the number three player Fabiano Caruana. Not a bad lineup. This match took place just after the US Championships which was also part of the grand re-opening throughout October.



The new entrance to the St. Louis chess club

A unique format where they played 18 rapid games over a three day period. Day one and wins were worth 1 point and a \$1000 bonus. Then day two wins were worth 2 points and \$2000, and the final clutch day wins were worth 3 points and \$3000 to allow a comeback late in the match. Each day they played two games with one another with each color. The last day's wins were important as the prizes rose considerably. \$120,000 for first place, \$90,000 for second, \$70,000 and lastly \$60,000. Add the bonus prizes for wins and the remaining into a champion's jackpot, a worthwhile three days of work at the board.



Channel 5's Frank Cusumano interviews Magnus Carlsen

The day before the match was a media day and autograph session for fans, which is always my favorite and a long time coming back since the renovations. Local news sportscaster from channel 5 news Frank Cusumano interviewed Magnus Carlsen and then his father Henrik. Sagar Shah and his wife Amruta from Chessbase India were at the St. Louis Chess Club for the first time as well and it was a treat to see them interview all the play-

ers. In another backroom, GM Cristian Chirila, with C-squared podcast, set up his interview table where he interviewed several players as well. Most notably was Magnus Carlsen, and what a treat to watch afterwards as they shared photos of their kids on their phones since they both had recently become new dads.



The C-Squared Podcast team together Fabiano Caruana & Cristian Chirila

After all the interviews, the four players had tables set up around a room where fans eagerly lined up for autographs. People were lined up in small groups and brought upstairs to meet and greet each player. Most fans brought items to be autographed and then took photos and even had time to chat a bit with the players. Chess streamers are fans too as I saw Kostya Kavutskiy join the line along with former Colorado player Sara Herman aka ZefCatt.



"ZefCatt" Sara Herman with Hikaru Nakamura



A great book to bring and be signed by the subject

Afterwards a players meeting was held by arbiter Chris Bird to lay out the "clutch chess" rules and draw lots for pairings. A unique gift is generally used for the numbers and this time it was a box containing sunglasses from Versace for each player. While that alone is impressive, more so was a photo op of all the players together donning their cool shades! With pairings all set, players readied themselves for three days of chess. Six games were played each day, two against each opponent as white and black. Time controls were 10 minutes with a 5 second increment.



Perhaps the coolest chess players ever by Versace

Spectators were allowed in once again to catch a glimpse of these giants of chess. There were no bad pairings with such players and either table was great to watch. Day one and the first round pitted the current world champion Gukesh with former world champion Magnus while the two American players faced each other. Boy, which game to watch! Most eyes were on the two world champions where it seemed that Gukesh had to prove his current title. Magnus however showed why he is still number one in the world and especially at faster time controls. He ground Gukesh down and won their first game with the black pieces while Caruana also won his game against Nakamura. The champions drew their next game while Nakamura exacted his revenge in game two to tie their match.



Two world champions meet

Round two and a 2018 Championship rematch between Magnus and Fabiano sported a draw while Gukesh defeated Hikaru with the black pieces. The second games were reversed as Magnus won with black pieces while Hikaru and Gukesh drew. This format made for more decisive games, especially with the black pieces as in round three, Gukesh delivered a win over Fabiano and Hikaru stunned Magnus with a victory as well. Gukesh finished day one with the lead at 4.0 points with Magnus a half point behind. But wins on day two would be worth more...



One great pairing after another

Magnus and Fabiano both stepped it up a notch on day two. Magnus was hot and cold as he won both games against Gukesh but lost both against Fabiano. And then he won both games against Hikaru and finished the day in the lead with 11.5 points and Fabiano in second behind a point. Hikaru struggled with only one win for the day while Gukesh fared worst with no wins. On the final day where a win was worth 3 points, Magnus continued his winning ways by taking down Gukesh and Fabiano both by a score of 2-0 and clinching the overall victory with two games to spare. A true definition of coming through in the "clutch" games.



Magnus finished way ahead of the field with a score of 25.5 points while Fabiano took second place at 16.5 points. Hikaru took third with 14.0 while the world champion Gukesh finished with 10.0 points. There was speculation that Gukesh was saving some of his opening prep and energy for the FIDE World Cup which would be held a few days later. Overall an incredible exhibition by these incredible players and a great event to kick off the newly renovated St. Louis chess club.



C.H.E.S.S. Goals

By Paul Anderson, Colorado Springs Chess Club President



From 2004 to 2021, I wrote a weekly chess blog called *Colorado Springs Chess News*. It lasted 18 years and 468 blogs and gave me a chance to share club news, chess games, and my chess thoughts.

In 2020, the pandemic gave me some incentive and lots of time to keep the blog going when the club shut down, along with every other human activity. I used the blog to promote the online version of the Colorado Springs Chess Club:

https://www.chess.com/club/colorado-springs-chess-club?ref_id=7846680

In 2022, the 2-year layoff had developed some rust on my chess organizational skills. So, when the physical club re-opened, the first casualty of having to re-learn how to run the chess club was blog-writing. Maybe I got COVID. I was just not as productive as I used to be. Is one of the symptoms of COVID sloth?

In addition, in 2021 the old blog website was sold to another company, and I had lost all the archives. Well, I had saved them to the harddrive, but no one else but me could view them. So, this summer I have made it my goal to restore all the Colorado Springs Chess News blogs to their online glory on my new blog:

<https://cschessnews.blogspot.com/>

Since I am a two-birds, one-stone kind of guy, I am going to see if I can organize them into a chess book as well. However, it is a daunting task, especially for someone suffering from COVID-related sloth.

I used the blog to flesh out my ideas for chess lessons and pick games that corresponded with those lessons. One of those lessons was on goals. I don't know if I ever published my Goals lesson before, but since John Brezina asked for an Informant article, I thought that this would be a good stone to motivate me to give John some content and write *Chapter One: C.H.E.S.S. Goals*.

So, here is a preview of my upcoming chess book:

Chapter One: C.H.E.S.S. Goals

“The archer cannot hit a bullseye without a target”

What you should learn:

- The 2 goals of chess.
-
- Your approximate rating and personal goal.
-
- The 4 Ps of improvement.
-

The first secret I learned about chess improvement was about making goals. You have to have them. And you have to know how to accomplish them.

I picked the archer analogy since it is an alias for the Bishop, but also it paints a clear picture of someone trying to hit a specific goal: the center of a target. An archer may shoot well and may even be improving consistently. However, until he tests his accuracy with a target, how does he know if he is reaching his goal?

The main problem with how most players learn chess is that they get distracted from the biggest target. They start with a target that is too small to hit consistently. When they miss the target far more often than they hit it, they get discouraged. William Tell wasn't shooting apples off his kid's head on day one. So it is with chess. It helps to have the right target.

The right target is understanding the true goal of chess.

One of the small targets many sources tell the beginner is that the object of the game of chess is to capture the King. This is terrible advice. It is not even true. According to the rules, the King can never be captured.



I have heard anecdotes about scholastic chess players who continue to play with both Kings having been captured. I run across this poor instruction a lot at the Colorado Renaissance Festival. When I checkmate a novice player, that player often feels obligated to capture a guarded piece with the King to allow its own capture. I try to explain to them, "The King is Eternal."

What I mean when I say, "The King is Eternal," is that the King does not die. He is not as prideful as most humans. He knows when he is lost. He may sacrifice his entire army, but when he is going to be captured, he will surrender. This is the essence of Checkmate. Checkmate is a chess position before the King is captured and capture cannot be prevented. "Shah mat" is Persian for "The King is helpless" and the origin of the word Checkmate. So, when you tell your opponent, "Checkmate," you are not claiming a win. You are reminding the opponent that the only legal move is Resignation.

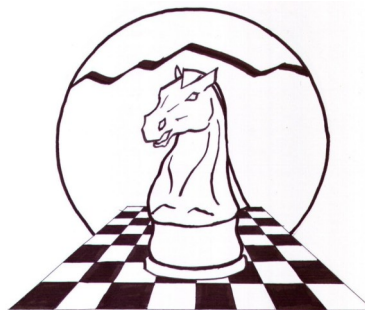
There is a parable in the Bible about two kings going to war. It corresponds perfectly to chess. A king is not going to get himself killed. He is not a soldier. He is a diplomat. He will make sure he survives to fight another day. And the more experienced a king becomes the earlier he can see the outcome of the battle and attempt to get the most peaceful resolution possible.

Luke 14:31-32 (KJV)

Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace.

Some sources do a little better job in giving the beginner a bigger target. They define the object of chess as Checkmate. However, this is still misleading.



The United States Chess Federation (USCF) is the governing body for chess in America. They publish a book that contains the official rules for playing tournament chess. While most of the book is about rules for running a sanctioned tournament and is not necessary for the vast majority of chess players to read, the beginning of the book does contain the rules about how to play chess.

They state the goal of chess as follows:

*“The objective of each of the two players in a game of chess is to win the game by checkmating the opponent’s king.”
(page 7, Rule 4A. Checkmate)*

The problem with this objective is that it is followed by a list of ways that each of the two players can win without Checkmate. Does this mean that both players failed to accomplish the objective if one player resigns before Checkmate?

In fact, my experience in tournament chess has shown that Checkmate is rare. The vast majority of my wins come from games that do not end in Checkmate or have a forced Checkmate in x-number of moves line at resignation (I will call this the Mate category). When I first did the calculations at 636 games, only 140 of my games were in the Mate category (22%). In addition, 6% of those games were from my losses. So, if the goal of chess is Checkmate, I am failing the goal 84% of the time, and that is a statistic that would make me quit.

Clearly, the objective is much more simple.

The goal of chess is to get your opponent to admit defeat.

There are many ways that your opponent can admit defeat. He can express it verbally (I resign). He can tip over his King. He can let his clock run out. He can play on until Checkmate. He can leave the game or not show up. He can have the Tournament Director declare it a loss. However, all of these methods have the same result. You win. You get the point. Mission accomplished. Goal achieved!

The most common way to get your opponent to admit defeat is by gaining a sufficient material advantage. In Luke 14, we see the bigger army wins. This principle holds true for most chess games. However, there are other ways. Learning good time management is another large ring on the chess target. And, of course, Checkmate is the bullseye.

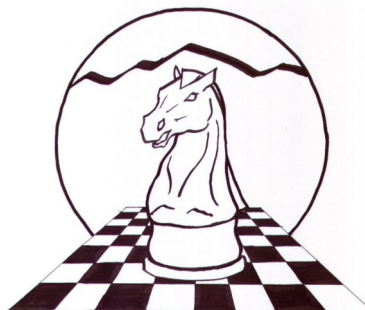
Of course, you can win ‘em all.

Before you get your opponent to admit defeat, you have to make sure that you won’t have to admit defeat yourself. So, the biggest secret about chess goals is that the first goal of chess is not to win, but rather to hold the draw. A Draw is when neither player can get the other player to admit defeat or force one of the automatic resignations. Plan B in chess is to make the opponent resign. A Draw is similar to Resignation in that it can be voluntary or forced.

Goals Of Chess:

1. Hold The Draw
 - A. Insufficient Material (auto-draw)
 - B. Repetition (auto-draw)
 - C. Moves (auto-draw)
 - D. Stalemate (auto-draw)
2. Force Resignation
 - A. Time (auto-resign)
 - B. Mate (auto-resign)
 - C. Forfeit (auto-resign)
 - D. Adjudication (either)

More to come this summer...



Remembering Steve Dykstra, The Dutchman

by Tim Stevens

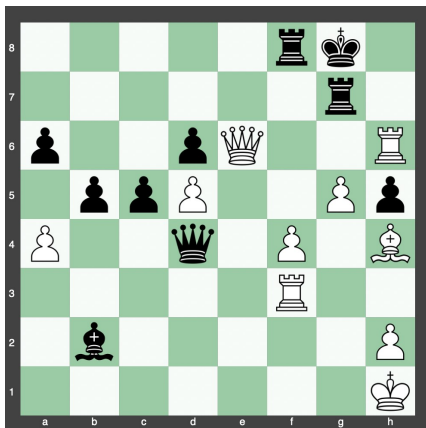
Steve Dykstra was a mainstay in Denver tournaments for thirty years prior to his passing in April 2001. Steve, often called “The Dutchman” by his chess friends, was a gentleman and universally well liked. He was easily approached for a game by all levels of players, despite being one of the strongest Experts in the area. He placed chess friendship well above chess victories and that showed to all who knew him. Steve is missed!

We show two of Steve’s games, one a win in the 1970’s over a much higher rated Expert player and another a win when Steve was himself rated an Expert.

White: Steve Dykstra, 1536 Black: Richard Noel, 2107

North American Open, Stillwater Oklahoma, August 1975

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.e4 e6 4.c4 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Be2 Ne7 (Leads to a passive position for Black, 7...Nf6 would be better) 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Nd7 10.Bf4 Nf6 11.Nd2 a6 12.a4 Ne8 13.Nc4 f5 14.f3 Kh8 15.Qd2 Ng8 16.Rad1 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Ngf6 18.Bh6 Rf7 19.f4 fxe4 20.Bg5 Qe7 21.Nb6 Rb8 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Bg4 Rc7 24.Be6 Rf8 25.Nxe4 Qg7 26.Nxf6 Nxf6 27.Rde1 h6 28.Bh4 Nh5 29.g4! Nf6 30.Re2 b5 31.Qd3 Rb7 32.Rf3 Nd7 33.g5 h5 34.Bxd7 Rxd7 35.Re6 Bxb2 36.Rxg6 Qd4 37.Rh6+ Kg8 38.Qg6+ Rg7 39.Qe6+ Black resigns (due to 40.g6)



This game illustrated Steve’s style of opening with the Queen’s Pawn and then developing a Kingside attack. This is also the case in the next game, even though the attack doesn’t develop until the endgame!

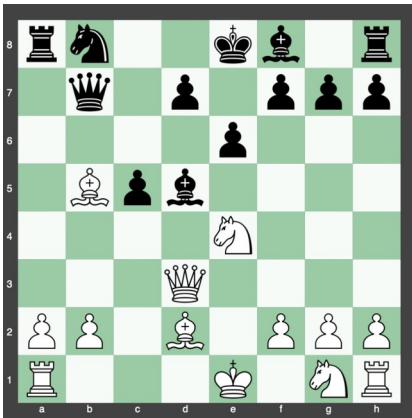


White: Steve Dykstra, 2058 Black: Jeff Baffo, 1890

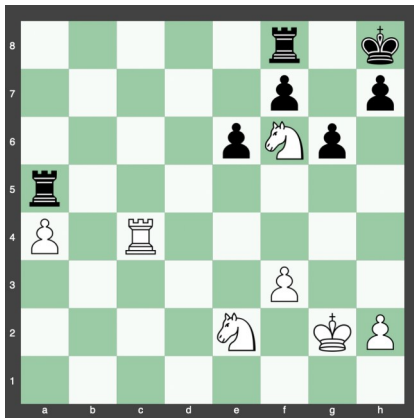
Denver Open, 24 July 1999

Notes by John Watson

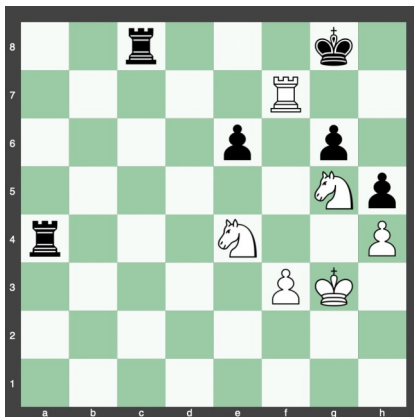
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 Bb7 6.Nc3 axb5 7.Bxb5 Qa5 8.Bd2 Qb6 9.Qb3 e6 10.e4 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 Bxd5 12.Qd3 Qb7



(This was always thought better for White until Nikoloff-Wolff, Toronto 1985 and Litvinchuk-Wolff, USA 1985) 13.Ng3 (13.f3 has been played many times) 13...Bxg2 14.f3 Be7 15.N1e2 (I think this is a new idea. Wolff gave 15.a4 Bxh1 16.Nxh1 0-0 17.0-0-0 Nc6 18.Bc3 d5 with a clear advantage for Black) 15...Bxh1 16.Nxh1 0-0 17.a4 d5 18.b3 Nc6 19.Bxc6 (Black is still a lot better, but it's best to simplify in such a position) 19...Qxc6 20.Rc1 Qd6 21.N1g3 Rfd8 22.Kf1 g6? (22...c4! 23.bxc4 dxc4 24.Qxd6 Bxd6 25.Ne4 Rxa4 and Black is much better) 23.Kg2 c4 24.bxc4 Qa6 25.Qc3 dxc4 26.Bh6 Bf8 27.Bxf8 Rxf8 28.Ne4 Qa5 29.Nf6+ Kh8 30.Qxa5 Rxa5 31.Rxc4 =



(Steve clearly outplays his opponent from now on. He always was very tough in the late hours of a game!) 31...Rd8 32.Nc3 Kg7 33.Nfe4 Rd3 34.Nc5 Rd2+ 35.Kg3 h5 36.h4 Rc2 37.Kf4 Ra8 38.Ke3 Rg2 39.N3e4 Rh2 40.Ng5 Ra2 41.Kf4 Rh2 42.Kg3 Ra2 43.Rb4 Rc8? (43...Ra7) 44.Rb7! +- Kg8 45.Nce4! Rxa4 46.Rxf7 (45.Nf6+!)



46...Rxe4 47.fxe4 Rc5 48.Rg7+ Kh8 49.Re7 e5 50.Rxe5 Rc3+ 51.Nf3 Re3 52.Kf4 Re2 53.Kg5 Rg2+ 54.Kh6 Kg8 55.Ng5 Kf8 56.Kxg6 and Black resigned.

This article was written in 2001 however misplaced at that time so now published 25 years later.

The Annotator Missed What the Warrior Would Have Seen

By Jeffery A. Baffo

Tartakower and Cukierman (2611) - Alekhine and Turover (2821) [A47]

Exhibition/Consultation game, Paris, 27 October 1931

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.e3 Bb7 4.Bd3 e6 5.Nbd2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.c4 Be7 8.b3 cxd4 9.exd4 d5 10.Bb2 Nb4 11.Bb1 0-0 12.Re1 Rc8 13.Ne5 Nc6 14.Ndf3 Bb4 15.Re3 Ne7 16.Ng5 h6 17.Nh3 Bd6 18.Qe2 Nf5 19.Bxf5 exf5 20.Rc1 Rc7 21.f3 Qc8 22.Rec3 Re8 23.cxd5 Nxd5 24.Rxc7 Bxc7 25.Qc4 Qe6 26.Re1 Qd6 27.Qa4 Bc6 28.Qa3 Nb4 29.Rc1 f6 30.f4 fxe5 31.fxe5 Rxe5 32.dxe5 Qd2 33.Nf2 Nd3 34.Rf1 Nxb2 35.Qe7 Qd5 36.Ne4 Bxe5 0-1

A Missed Alekhine Brilliancy in a 1931 Consultation Game

By Jeffery A. Baffo, Jan. 2026

Consultation games are usually treated as pleasant curiosities—side events played for entertainment, camaraderie, or a bit of friendly spectacle. They rarely produce deep theory or lasting instructional value. But every now and then, one of these “footnote games” hides a tactical gem that deserves its moment in the spotlight.

Such is the case with a lesser-known consultation game from Paris, 1931, featuring a notable quartet: Tartakower & Cukierman versus Alekhine & Turover.

The opening was a flexible Queen’s Indian (A47)—a fitting battleground for Tartakower’s hypermodern instincts and Alekhine’s dynamic imagination. The game itself is solid, even elegant, and at first glance nothing seems out of the ordinary. But buried in the complications around Black’s 29th move lies a tactical possibility so striking, so quintessentially Alekhine, that it demands a closer look.

And the irony? Alekhine himself missed it in his own notes.

The Setting

By 1931, Alexander Alekhine was near the height of his powers. Chessmetrics places him at 2821, #1 in the world at the time. His partner, Isaac Turover, was a strong amateur and well-known scientific mind—an unusual but enthusiastic collaborator.

On the other side of the board sat Saviely Tartakower, one of the great wits and theoreticians of the era, paired with the lesser-known but tactically sharp Moïse Cukierman, a Paris master of respectable strength.

Despite the rating imbalance, the White team produced a solid master-level performance—precise, principled, and structurally sound. But Alekhine, even in a casual setting, played with the same dynamic ambition that defined his tournament masterpieces.

The Critical Moment: 29...f6

The turning point arrives after a long maneuvering phase. Black plays the seemingly natural: 29...f6

A move that looks simple—“kick the knight, gain space, challenge the center”—but in reality is a structural commitment that loosens the dark squares around the king and invites tactical complications.

Alekhine, annotating the game later (possibly as he often did, blindfold, without a board), wrote:

"By making this move, Black had to reckon with the following variations..."

📍 Paris, October 1931 — The Colonial Exposition in Full Swing

The major event dominating Paris in October 1931 was the Exposition Coloniale Internationale — the massive Paris Colonial Exposition, which ran from May to November 1931 in the Bois de Vincennes.

It was enormous:

- Between 7 and 9 million visitors came from around the world.
- It showcased replicas of colonial architecture, including a full-scale Angkor Wat reconstruction.
- It was designed to display the “diverse cultures and immense resources” of France’s colonial empire.
- It was one of the largest world-fair-style events Paris ever hosted.

By October 1931, the exposition was still in full operation — bustling, crowded, and culturally dominant.

A consultation game is a casual or semi-formal chess game in which two or more players collaborate on each side, discussing moves and forming joint decisions rather than playing individually.

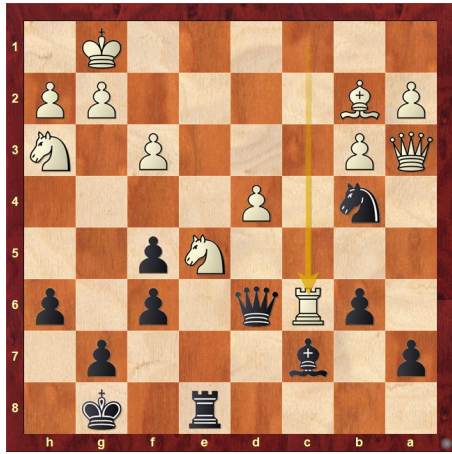
A historical rating system created by statistician Jeff Sonas that retroactively estimates player strength across different eras using performance-based mathematical models.

He then presented two lines, labeled “A” and “B,” showing the dangers and resources available. In Variation A, he gives the natural continuation:

30.Rxc6 (diagram below) Nxc6

Black maintains his winning edge, perfectly adequate. Safe. Human.

But not the best.



The Sacrifice Alekhine Missed Engines—and a careful human eye—reveal that Black had a far more dramatic option: 30.Rxc6 Qxc6!! A queen sacrifice of eye-catching clarity. If White accepts, then: 31.Nxc6 Re1+ 32.Kf2 Nd3 mate. Stunning! The knight delivering mate with the Queen’s ghost still hovering over the board. A classic Alekhine combination—forcing, aesthetic, and a domination of key squares. And the most delightful twist? Alekhine had already identified the Nd3 motif in his other variations. He saw the pattern. He understood it’s power. He simply didn’t connect the dots in this particular line. Such is the peril of blindfold annotation, even for a genius.

Alekhine the Annotator vs. Alekhine the Warrior

It must be said: Had this exact position arisen over the board, with Alekhine in full competitive mode, calculating with that predatory intensity he was famous for, I have no doubt he would have found the sacrifice.

This is the same Alekhine who produced combinations at San Remo 1930 and Bled 1931 that still make students shake their heads in disbelief. The same Alekhine who reveled in complications, who invited chaos, who trusted his tactical vision more than most players trust their own senses.

In other words, if the move had appeared in the actual game, I am sure Alekhine would have had a “Hold my beer*...” moment and slammed down Qxc6!! with theatrical flair.

But annotating blindfold, months later, reconstructing variations from memory?

Even Alekhine was human. And that humanity is part of the charm.

Lessons from a Forgotten Game

This consultation game—played casually, annotated casually, and nearly forgotten—offers several enduring lessons:

- Natural moves can hide tactical landmines. Even a simple ...f6 can unleash a flood of forcing lines.
- Structural concessions demand precision. Weakening your king’s shelter is acceptable, sometimes even essential—if you calculate everything.
- Even great players miss beautiful ideas. And that’s okay. It makes the game richer, not poorer.
- Engines don’t diminish the classics. They illuminate them, revealing hidden gems without erasing the artistry.
- Consultation games can produce real instructional value. Especially when giants like Alekhine and Tartakower are involved.

Closing Thoughts

The queen sacrifice Alekhine missed is more than a tactical curiosity. It’s a reminder that chess history is full of undiscovered beauty—lines that were never played, combinations that were never seen, ideas that waited decades for someone to uncover them.

In this case, the combination feels like something Alekhine would have found, should have found, and almost certainly could have found—had the moment arisen in battle rather than in memory.

And now, nearly a century later, it becomes one more story in the endlessly unfolding tapestry of our game. A brilliant tactical moment that was hidden away.

But not forever.

*A humorous way of saying, “Alekhine would have locked onto the position with predatory certainty and demanded the absolute best move, no matter how wild.”

Trust Your Instincts

Jeffrey A. Baffo, January 22, 2026

Game Overview

Time Control: Game in 5 (no delay or increment)

Format: Rated online blitz

Engine Analysis: Stockfish (Chess.com) and Fritz 17 running on my laptop.

This is the story of a move the engine disliked, but the position loved.

(56) Tjand (1809) - phatchess (1844) [C28]

Live Chess Chess.com, 22.01.2026 [Vienna Game by transposition]

The engine rated my opponent's overall accuracy at 75.9% for a performance rating of 1800 and rated mine at 83.5% accuracy yielding an estimated rating of 2150.

Blitz is the perfect laboratory for instinct — and this game is a case study.

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d3 Bb4 5.Bd2 d6 6.Nge2 h6 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Nxc3 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.g4 d5 11.Bb5 a6 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qe2 Rb8 14.0–0–0 d4 15.Na4 Qd6 16.Bb4 Rxb4 17.axb4 Qxb4 18.b3 0–0 19.Qd2 Qa3+ 20.Kb1 Rb8 21.Nb2 Nd7 22.h4 Nc5 23.h5 Bxb3 24.cxb3 Nxb3 0–1

At move 16, the game offered a striking fork in the road — one path endorsed by the cold precision of the engine, the other chosen by human instinct, feel, and yes, a little faith. In the Chess.com review, their engine, Stockfish, recommends 16...c5, a ridiculous-looking move that is shockingly strong: it wins a piece, clamps down on the center, and claims a centipawn¹ advantage north of +2.00. But is it *practically* correct? My choice, 16...Rxb4, is an intuitive exchange sacrifice that may be objectively inferior but is dynamically dangerous. It opens lines, exposes the enemy king, and injects immediate chaos into the position. In blitz, where discomfort and initiative often outweigh sterile accuracy, this kind of move can be deadly. The contrast between these two choices — one precise, one provocative — lies at the heart of this article. Below is the full game with my notes, including the engine-approved line that appears winning but leads to “infinite resistance”².

¹A “centipawn” is the basic unit engines use to evaluate a position. It represents one-hundredth of a pawn, so a score of +1.00 means “White is ahead by the equivalent of one pawn,” while –0.50 means “Black is slightly better by half a pawn.” Engines arrive at these numbers by comparing the current position to millions of known patterns and calculating the expected outcome (win/draw/loss) if both sides play perfectly. Material, king safety, mobility, pawn structure, initiative, and tactical threats are all converted into this single numerical estimate.

²Engines evaluate positions using the centipawn scale, where one pawn equals 100 points. A score of +2.00 means “White is ahead by the equivalent of two pawns if both sides play perfectly.” But this number is only a prediction of long-term outcome, not a guarantee of practical winning chances. Some positions receive large positive evaluations even though the stronger side has no clear way to break through. The late great chess teacher Jeremy Silman popularized the term “Infinite Resistance” for these situations — fortress-like structures where the defending side can hold on seemingly indefinitely, despite the engine’s optimistic score. In such positions, the centipawn number reflects theoretical advantage, while the actual game depends on psychology, technique, and human fallibility. This is why an engine may claim +2.00 in a position where no human — and sometimes not even the engine itself — can demonstrate a forced win.

(56) Tjand (1809) - phatchess (1844) [C28]

Live Chess Chess.com, 22.01.2026

[Vienna Game]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d3 Bb4 5.Bd2 d6 6.Nge2 h6 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Nxc3 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.g4? d5
 [10...Bxc4 is also very solid for Black, but with legitimate chances to play for a win yet with very little risk.
 11.dxc4 Ne7=] **11.Bb5 a6** [11...Qd7 12.h4 0-0-0] **12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qe2 Rb8?! 14.0-0-0 d4! 15.Na4 Qd6!**
16.Bb4? Rxb4? [Cold and antiseptic as always, the engines call this out as a mistake. Even with engine level
 precision, I'm not so sure. See the analysis below.] [16...c5!? This looks insane! Doesn't this poor foot soldier
 jump to a meaningless death? The pawn steps into a double attack and (apparent) tempo loss to boot, due to the
 threat to the Black Queen. Exactly the type of move that requires time; lots of time. The tactics here are aes-
 thetically pleasing not to mention instructive. 17.Nxc5! This is the line which makes things unclear. (17.Bxc5?
 Qc6-+ 18.b3 Nd7 19.Bb4 Bxb3 20.Nb2 Ba2 21.Bd2-+ (21.c4 a5 22.Bxa5 Qa6 23.Bb4 c5 24.Be1 Qxa3
 25.Bg3 Bb3-+) 21...Nc5 and Black is winning.) 17...a5 18.Nb7 Qb6 19.Nxa5 c5] The b-file pin means the
 Bishop must "take a bullet" for his Majesty. As you can see, the Bishop is stuck, waiting to be captured at
 Black's leisure. White cannot even effectively threaten to save it for many moves; time which Black will use
 to improve all his pieces. But can he win? 20.c3 Nd7 21.Rd2 Nf8 22.Kb1 Ng6 23.Rc1 0-0 24.Qd1 Rfc8
 25.Rdc2 Nf4 26.Qd2 cxb4 27.cxb4 Rxc2 28.Rxc2 Qb5 29.Nc4 f6 30.b3 Incredibly, this seems to hold. The
 win, if it exists at all, is still many moves away. "Infinite resistance" indeed.] **17.axb4 Qxb4 18.b3! 0-0?**
19.Qd2? Qa3+ 20.Kb1 Rb8! 21.Nb2 Nd7 22.h4?! Nc5 23.h5 Bxb3!! 24.cxb3 Nxb3 [Jeffrey Baffo won by
 resignation] **0-1**

Conclusion;

The engine's preferred move, 16...c5, is a thunderbolt of tactical complexity, winning a piece and earning a centipawn score north of +2.00. Yet the resulting position offers Black no practical way to break through White's titanium shield of three connected passed pawns — a fortress so resilient that even Stockfish struggles to demonstrate real progress. My intuitive 16...Rxb4, by contrast, receives a far lower numerical score but leaves the evaluation hovering near equality and unleashes immediate, dangerous attacking chances. In human terms — and perhaps even in objective terms — the intuitive move is the better practical choice. It avoids the engine's Möbius loop of "infinite resistance" and steers the game into dynamic waters where ideas, initiative, and instinct matter more than sterile centipawns. Sometimes, trusting your instincts is the most accurate move you can make — not because the engine approves, but because the position does.



16...Rxb4 (left) unleashes chaos and equal chances; 16...c5 (right) unveils a computer thunderbolt that wins material but traps Black in "infinite resistance." One line breathes fire, the other freezes the board. Choose your truth.



The Vortex Trap: The Tactical Cost of Tunnel Vision in Chess

Jeffrey A. Baffo — March, 2026

A position can erupt into chaos in an instant, but just as often it morphs quietly, almost imperceptibly, until we realize—too late—that what once felt stable has become something far more volatile. Sometimes that shift into chaos isn't caused by the position alone, but by the feeling the position gives us. A hint of danger, a glimmer of tactical possibility, a sudden flash of urgency—these are the tiny sparks that ignite what I now call The Vortex.

The Vortex begins as a warning or an opportunity. It feels like clarity. It feels like the moment the entire game hinges on. But that feeling is the trap. It narrows our awareness to a single thread of calculation, pulling the mind inward like a whirlpool. The beautiful tactic that demands to be solved, the forcing sequence that feels too sharp to ignore, the red-light moment that convinces us we must act now—these are the seductive cues that trigger tunnel vision.

And in that narrowing, we stop seeing the wider landscape where the real story of the position is unfolding.

In hockey, this kind of attention collapse is called puck watching—a moment when players fixate on the puck and lose track of spacing, assignments, and the developing play around them. Chess has its own version of this phenomenon, and it can strike even strong players without warning. One forcing line becomes so urgent, so fascinating, that it pulls the mind inward like a black hole. The pieces remain powerful, the position remains sound, but the player's awareness contracts at the exact moment it needs to expand.

The Graveyard Spiral: When Awareness Collapses Completely

Pilots also have a term for the most dangerous form of tunnel vision: loss of situational awareness.

In the intensity of a dogfight — what fighter pilots call “the merge”— the pilot's entire world can collapse to a single opponent, a single angle, a single maneuver. The adrenaline is intoxicating. The focus feels perfect. The pilot is certain he is doing exactly what the moment demands.

And that is precisely when the ground becomes invisible.

Many aviation disasters happen not because the pilot lacked skill, but because the pilot's awareness narrowed so completely that the horizon vanished. The aircraft enters what's known as a graveyard spiral — a tightening, accelerating turn that feels stable right up until the moment of impact.

Chess has its own graveyard spiral.

A player becomes absorbed in one forcing line, one seductive tactic, one “must be right” continuation. The rest of the board fades. The opponent's resources fade. The evaluation fades. And then — one move later — the position explodes.

Not because the player was weak.

Not because the player was rushed.

But because the player was narrow.

Fpj3876 (1994) - phatchess (2076) [Alekhine's Defense, B02]

Live Chess Chess.com, 17.03.2026 Game in 10, no increment or delay

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nf3 d6 4.exd6 cxd6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 Nc6 7.0-0 e6 8.d4 Be7 9.a3 0-0 10.c3 e5 11.h3?! e4
12.Nh2 d5 13.Be3? Be6?! 14.Nd2?! Bg5? 15.Qh5 Bxe3 16.fxe3 f5 17.Rf2 Qf6?! 18.Raf1 Qg6 19.Qh4 Rac8 20.Qf4?!
Rfd8?! 21.a4 Na5 22.Bc2 Bd7?! 23.b4? Nac4!
24.Nxc4 Nxc4



[The game's move is not bad at all, but 24...dxc4! is better, it opens up the possibility of a dangerous fork on the now vacant square of d5. White cannot avoid this without serious concessions, for example; 25.Qe5 Re8 26.Qa5 Qg3 27.Qxa7 (27.Rxf5 Bxf5 28.Qxf5 Qxe3+ 29.Kh1 Rf8 30.Qe6+ Kh8 31.a5 Rxf1+) 27...Qd6 28.a5 (28.Rxf5 Bxf5 29.Rxf5 Ra8 30.Qxb7 Re7 31.Rd5 Qg3 32.Qxe7 Qxe3+ 33.Kh1 Qe1+ 34.Nf1 Qxf1+ 35.Kh2 Qf4+ 36.Kg1 Nxd5-+) 28...Nd5-+]]
25.a5 Nd6?! 26.Bb3! Be6 27.Ng4?? fxg4 28.Qf8+?? Rxf8 [0-1, by resignation]

The Vortex in Practice: A Case Study

Here is a perfect example from a recent game of mine. The position was sharp but stable. My opponent had played accurately up to move 23. Then things got interesting:

23...Nac4

White replied 24. Nxc4, and I recaptured 24...Nxc4.

A natural move. A principled move. A strong move.

But the engine later revealed a rare tactical motif:

24...dxc4!! — a clearance move that opens the d5-square for a dangerous ...Nd5 fork.

This is the kind of idea that hides behind our habits:

- “Recapture toward the center.”
- “Don’t open lines toward your king.”
- “Simplify when better.”
- “Keep the structure healthy.”

All true. All reasonable. All deeply ingrained.

And all wrong in this one specific moment.

The engine’s move violates three human heuristics at once. It looks anti-positional. It looks risky. It looks unnecessary.

And yet it works — brilliantly — because it clears a square for a tactical knight jump.

Would a human find it in G/10?

Almost never.

Would a human find it in G/90 with a 30-second increment?

Still unlikely — unless they are able to slow down at the exact moment “the natural move” appears. That is the heart of the Vortex.

Momentum: The Silent Predator

We don’t blunder because we move too fast.

We blunder because we move too comfortably.

Momentum seduces us into believing the story we’ve already told ourselves:

- “This is the right recapture.”
- “This is the natural continuation.”
- “This is the move that fits the position.”

But chess is full of exceptions.

And exceptions frequently hide behind the moves that feel automatic.

The Vortex doesn’t begin with calculation. It begins with assumption.

Breaking the Spell

The antidote is not deeper calculation.

It is interrupting momentum.

A single breath.

A single pause.

A single question:

- What am I not seeing?
- What changes if I break the pattern?
- What square becomes available if I violate my instinct?
- If this move is so natural, why does the position feel sharp?

This is how we widen our awareness.

This is how we avoid the fireball.

This is how we stay out of the Vortex.

Conclusion: Awareness Over Habit

Chess improvement is not just about tactics or openings. It is about cultivating the discipline to slow down when the move feels obvious. To resist the seduction of the natural move. To widen the field of vision when the position demands it.

The Vortex is real.

It is powerful.

And it is avoidable.

Slow down.

Confirm or deny.

And the board — like the horizon — will stay exactly where it belongs.

THE EQUILIBRIUM PARADOX: Why Opposite Material Imbalances Can Still Be Equal

By Jeffery A. Baffo

Engines think in numbers, but sometimes those numbers don't seem to add up. That's because, on rare occasions, the engine doesn't just give you a number — it gives you a revelation. One such moment came when I was analyzing a sideline of the Scandinavian (Center Counter) Defense. Two variations, branching from the same position, diverged significantly in material counts. Black reaches an interesting decision point he can either grab a pawn or sacrifice one. In one line, White is a pawn up. In the other, Black is a pawn up. A full two-pawn swing.

In one line, White is a pawn up. In the other, Black is a pawn up — a full two-pawn swing. And yet an undeniable balance is struck; the engine calmly confirms both positions as:
— Equal.

At first glance, this feels impossible. And that feeling is a powerful clue, you are looking at the practical representation of a foundational landmark in chess understanding: material is not the sole defining truth of the position — the truth of a position lies not in the material count, but in the harmony and interplay of its elements. Let's look at the fragment that sparked this insight.

The Position That Almost Breaks the Mind

1. e4 d5
2. exd5 Nf6
3. d4 Nxd5
4. c4 Nb6
5. Bd3 e5!? (diagram ->)



Black reaches an interesting decision point: he can either grab a pawn or sacrifice one

6. dxe5 Be6
 7. Nf3 Nc6
- the engine gives the calm verdict: =

Black is a pawn down, yet fully equal.
Now compare a variation at Black's crucial 5th move:

- 5... Qxd4 (diagram ->)
6. Nf3 Qd8
7. O-O g6



Here Black doesn't sacrifice, he grabs...snatching White's d-pawn. Black is now a pawn up.
 And the engine again says: =
 A pawn down. A pawn up. Both equal. How can this be?
 Dynamic Equality vs. Static Equality

The answer lies in understanding that equality is not a single point on a number line — it is a balance of forces. And those forces can be balanced in radically different ways.

Line A: Black is a pawn down, but dynamically equal
 In the 5...e5 line, Black gives up the e-pawn but gains:

- rapid development
- pressure on c4 and d4
- open lines for bishops
- harmonious piece placement
- zero weaknesses
- initiative

White's extra pawn is meaningless because he cannot consolidate it without concessions. Black's activity is the compensation.

Line B: Black is a pawn up, but statically equal
 In the 5...Qxd4 line, Black wins a pawn but suffers:

- loss of time
- queen displacement
- lagging development
- no central presence
- no initiative
- a slightly awkward kingside

White's compensation is not material — it's time, space, and ease of development.
 In both cases, the sum total of advantages and disadvantages balances out.
 Different paths. Same plateau.

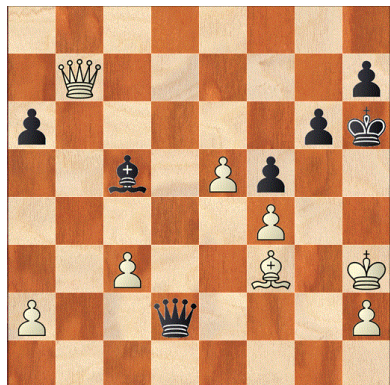
The Heart of the Lesson: What Compensation Really Means
 Compensation is not a mystical force. It is the concrete, measurable value of:

- development
- activity
- initiative
- structural integrity
- king safety
- long-term potential

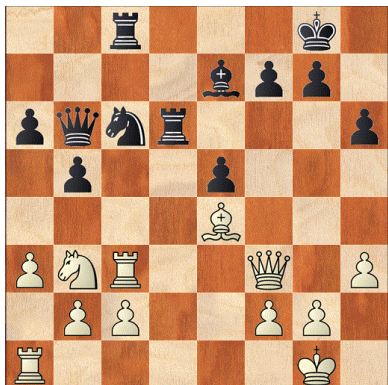
A pawn is worth one point.
 But a tempo can be worth half a pawn.
 A lead in development can be worth a pawn.
 A compromised structure can be worth more than a pawn.
 Engines don't evaluate material.
 They evaluate truth.
 And the truth of these two positions is that the imbalances — though opposite — are equivalent.
 This is the paradox that every improving player must eventually face:
 You can be a pawn down and equal.
 You can be a pawn up and equal.
 Because equality is not material — it grows and develops from the overall balance.

Tactics Time!

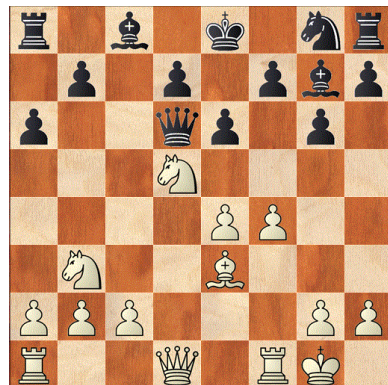
These positions came from recent games played in Colorado. Answers on the next page.



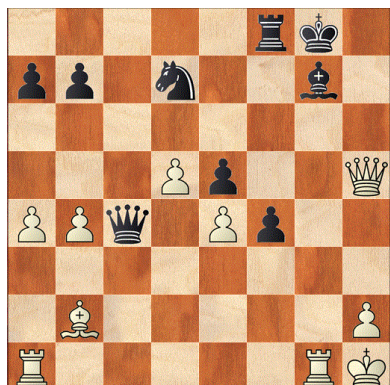
1. Amitai Sebba - Tanya Prabhu
CO Scholastic Champ 2024
Black to Move



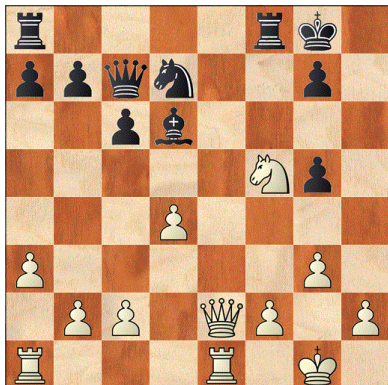
2. Derek Yin - Vedant Margale
CO Scholastic Champ 2024
White to Move



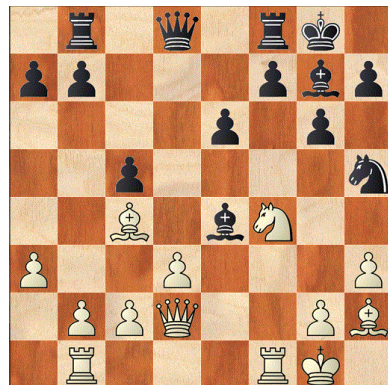
3. Satishkumar - Sankaranarayanan
CO Scholastic Champ 2024
White to Move



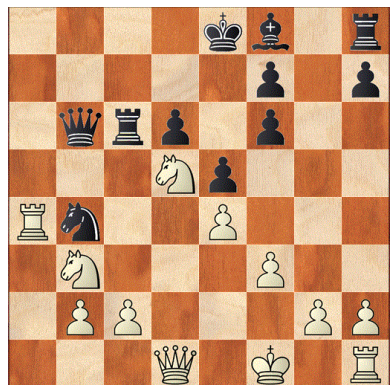
4. E Montgomery - V. Peesapaty
Tribute to MLK 2024
White to Move



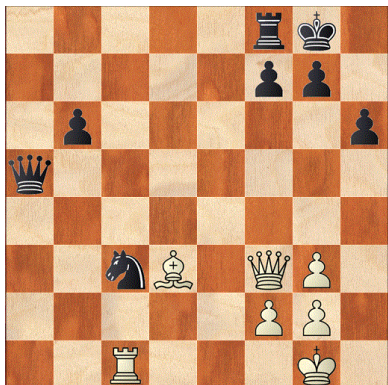
5. K. Zelkin - N. Case
Tribute to MLK 2024
White to Move



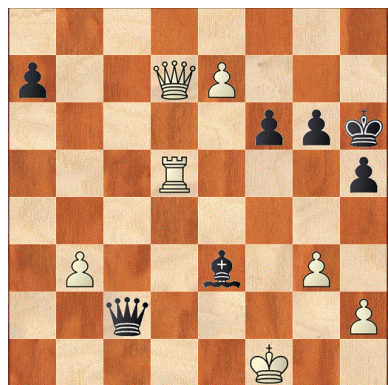
6. Chris Fimbel - Hansit Ravada
Tribute to MLK 2024
White to Move



7. S. Kaja - A. Brown
Tribute to MLK 2024
Black to Move

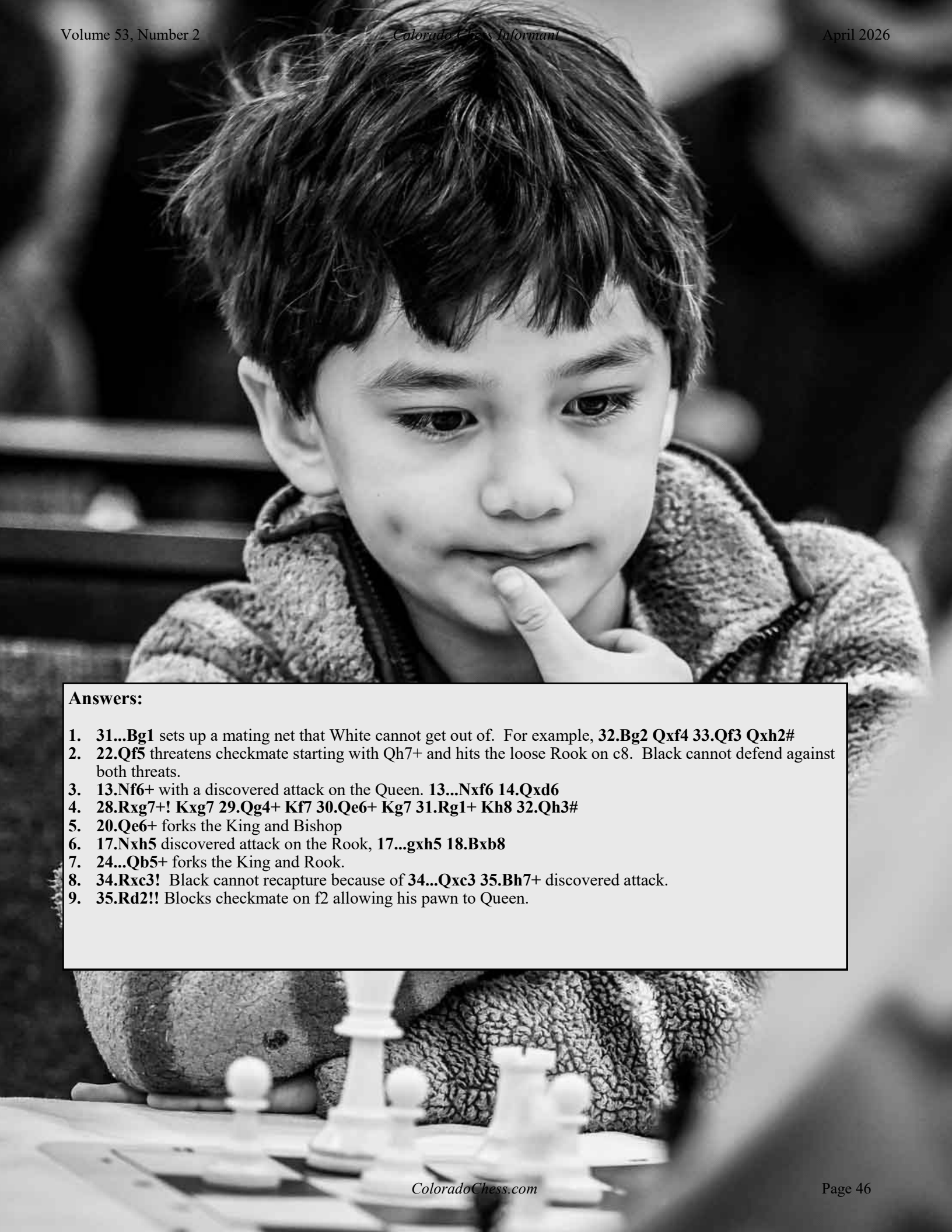


8. Will Osborne - Owen Curtis
Tribute to MLK 2024
White to Move



9. Demetri Jones - Brad Edson
Tribute to MLK 2024
White to Move

Follow Tim Brennan on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/tacticstime>
Find his books here: <https://www.amazon.com/Tactics-Time-Chess-Everyday-Players/dp/9056914383>

**Answers:**

1. **31...Bg1** sets up a mating net that White cannot get out of. For example, **32.Bg2 Qxf4 33.Qf3 Qxh2#**
2. **22.Qf5** threatens checkmate starting with **Qh7+** and hits the loose Rook on c8. Black cannot defend against both threats.
3. **13.Nf6+** with a discovered attack on the Queen. **13...Nxf6 14.Qxd6**
4. **28.Rxg7+! Kxg7 29.Qg4+ Kf7 30.Qe6+ Kg7 31.Rg1+ Kh8 32.Qh3#**
5. **20.Qe6+** forks the King and Bishop
6. **17.Nxh5** discovered attack on the Rook, **17...gxh5 18.Bxb8**
7. **24...Qb5+** forks the King and Rook.
8. **34.Rxc3!** Black cannot recapture because of **34...Qxc3 35.Bh7+** discovered attack.
9. **35.Rd2!!** Blocks checkmate on f2 allowing his pawn to Queen.

NEVER RESIGN

By NM Todd Bardwick

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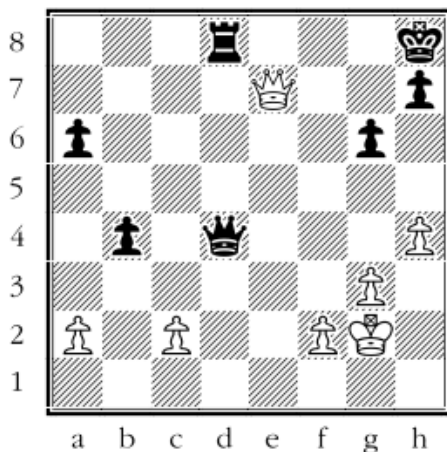
One of Winston Churchill's most famous quotes was: "Never, never, never give up." Nobody ever won a chess game by giving up. Amateur players should never resign. I know you have seen games where masters resign, but remember this usually occurs when their opponent is also a master.

Have you ever had a game where you were hopelessly lost, and your opponent blundered and you won or drew the game? We all have.

In my tournament career, I have had two masters (both have been Colorado State Champion multiple times!) blunder into a mate in one when they had plenty of time left on their clock. Anything is possible!

Here is an example from the Denver Chess Club on October 10, 2006, where White was considering resigning, but was sure happy he didn't!

Suchlicki (1959)



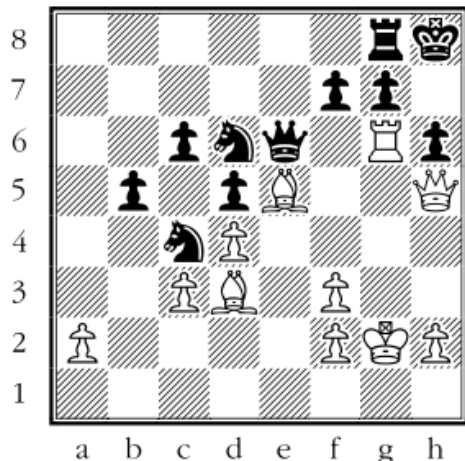
Monroe (1493)

Position after 40.h4

White is down a rook for a pawn and is hopelessly lost. For the last five moves or so, he was considering resigning. Black blundered with **40...Rd7?? 41.Qf8 mate!**

Here is a position from the 2003 European Team Championship where a strong master, Van der Stricht (2465), commits the ultimate blunder, resigning in a winning position!

Van der Stricht (Belgium)



GM Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland)

Position after 36.Rg6 (from g4)

White is threatening 37.Qxh6 mate, as well as capturing the Black queen.

36...Black Resigns!?

Black can play 36...Nxe5! 37.Rxe6 Nxd3! (with the threat of 38...Nf4+) 38.Rxh6+ gxh6+! 39.Kf1 Rg6 and Black is ahead in material!

If your position is hopelessly lost and you feel like resigning, here is some practical advice...play quickly. Your opponent can't accuse you of poor sportsmanship by stalling, and he often starts moving faster as well, increasing the chance of blundering!

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

UPCOMING COLORADO TOURNAMENTS

Upcoming Tournaments

More info can be found online at [Colorado State Chess Association](https://coloradostatechess.org)

April Wednesdays at Hive5 (G/70 d10) Standard April 1 - 29, 2026 Wellington Colorado
Hive5 5round Easter Saturday Special! (Guaranteed Prize fund) Standard April 4 Wellington Colorado
Kings of Chess Tournament – Premier Open -SATURDAY Standard April 4, 2026 Aurora
IHOP Stetson Hills Saturday Evening Quick Quads Standard April 4, 2026 Colorado Springs
IHOP Quick Quad Mondays in April 2026 Standard April 6 - 27, 2026 Colorado Springs
Denver Chess Club – DCC April Tuesdays 2026 Standard April 7 - 28, 2026 Denver
Summit Chess Monthly Open (April) Standard April 18, 2026 Golden
IHOP Stetson Hills Saturday Evening Quick Quads Standard April 18, 2026 Colorado Springs
Boulder Open 2026 Standard April 25 - 26, 2026 Boulder
Kings of Chess Tournament – Premier Open -SATURDAY Standard May 2, 2026 Aurora
IHOP Quick Quad Mondays in May 2026 Standard May 4 - 25, 2026 Colorado Springs
Denver Chess Club – DCC May Tuesdays 2026 Standard May 5 - 26, 2026 Denver
IHOP Stetson Hills Saturday Evening Quick Quads Standard May 9, 2026 Colorado Springs
Summit Chess Monthly Open (May) Standard May 16, 2026 Golden
IHOP Stetson Hills Saturday Evening Quick Quads Standard May 23, 2026 Colorado Springs
CO State Senior Chess Championship and Under 50 Open Standard May 30 - 31 Loveland, Colorado
IHOP Quick Quad Mondays in June 2026 Standard June 1 - 29, 2026 Colorado Springs
Denver Chess Club – DCC June Tuesdays 2026 Standard June 2 - 30, 2026 Denver
IHOP Stetson Hills Saturday Evening Quick Quads Standard June 6, 2026 Colorado Springs
2026 Colorado Class Championships Standard June 20 - 21, 2026 Colorado Springs, Colorado
IHOP Stetson Hills Saturday Evening Quick Quads Standard June 27, 2026 Colorado Springs

Scholastic Tournaments

More info can be found online at [Colorado State Chess Association](https://coloradostatechess.org)

PALS April 2026 Scholastic Chess Tournament Scholastic April 4, 2026 Denver
Kings of Chess Tournament -SATURDAY – APL Library Scholastic April 4, 2026 Aurora
Denver Scholastic Chess Series #8 Scholastic April 11, 2026 Englewood
2025-2026 Summit School of Chess Series #8 Scholastic April 18, 2026 Golden
Kings of Chess Tournament -SATURDAY – APL Library Scholastic May 2, 2026 Aurora
PALS May 2026 Scholastic Chess Tournament Scholastic May 9, 2026 Denver
Denver Scholastic Chess Series #9 Scholastic May 9, 2026 Englewood
2025-2026 Summit School of Chess Series #9 Scholastic May 16, 2026 Golden

Colorado Chess Club Directory

<https://ColoradoChess.com/Club/>

Aurora Chess Club: Saturdays

More Info: www.aurorachessclub.com

Aurora Library Chess Club: Fridays

<https://auroraco.libnet.info/events?term=chess&r=range&start=2026-01-11&end=2026-12-31>

Boulder Chess Club: Wednesdays

More Info: www.meetup.com/boulderchess

Boulder Library Chess Club For Kids: Mondays

<https://calendar.boulderlibrary.org/calendar/events/?t=d&q=chess&cid=12892&cal=12892&inc=0>

Broomfield Library Chess Club: 1 Thursday/month

<https://compass.broomfield.org/event/broomfield-chess-club-47196>

Castle Rock Chess Club: Mondays

More Info: www.castlerockchessclub.org

Colorado Springs: Balanced Rook Chess Club: Thursdays

More Info: <https://www.facebook.com/BalancedRook>

Colorado Springs Chess Club: Tuesdays

More Info: <https://sites.google.com/view/colorado-springs-chess-club/home>

Colorado Springs: CS Kids Chess Club: Mondays

More Info: www.facebook.com/groups/131445216496856

Colorado Springs: IHOP Quick Quads: Mondays & 2 Saturdays each month

More Info (Search for IHOP): <https://www.coloradochess.com/newtourn.shtml>

Colorado Springs: Switchback Chess Club: Saturdays

<https://www.instagram.com/switchbackchessclub/>

Colorado Springs: Sr. Center Chess Club {55+}: Fridays

<https://seniorcenter.pymca.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/12/YMCASGroupSpring2026.pdf>

Colorado Springs: Silver Key Chess Club {55+}: Tuesdays

<https://www.silverkey.org/activity-centers/>

Denver Chess Club: Tuesdays

More Info: <https://denverchess.com/tournaments/upcoming>

Denver: Learn to Play Chess MeetUp: Multiple club's events listed each week

More Info: www.meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess

Denver: Oprah's Rook Club: Wednesdays

More Info: <https://linktr.ee/oprahrookclub>

Denver: Chess Night at Stella's Coffee Haus: Mondays

More Info: www.meetup.com/stellas-coffee-community/

Durango Chess Club: Mondays

More Info: www.guildhousegames.com/event-calendar.html

Erie: Library Adult Social Chess Club: 1 Tuesday/month

<https://highplains.libcal.com/event/15734802>

Erie: Library Teen Chess Club: 1 Monday/month

<https://highplains.libcal.com/event/14991230>

Erie: Library Chess Club 3rd – 5th: 1 Monday/month

<https://highplains.libcal.com/event/14991028>

Fort Collins Chess MeetUp Group: Wednesdays

More Info: www.meetup.com/fort-collins-chess-meetup-group

Fort Collins: Strategic Minds Chess Academy: Wednesdays & Saturdays

More Info: <https://www.hive5studios.com/chess>

Frisco: Summit County Chess Club: Wednesdays

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064653976129

Granby Library Chess Club: Mondays

More Info: <https://gld.librarycalendar.com/events/month>

Grand Junction/Palisade: Grand Valley Chess: Mondays & Thursdays

<https://grandvalleychess.com/>

Grand Junction Pawns & Pints: Sundays

More Info: <https://www.instagram.com/pawnsandpints.gj/>

Greeley Chess Club

More Info: Contact Brad Lundstrom: ChessCoach2014@GMail.com



Colorado Chess Club Directory

Highlands Ranch: Chess Knights: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month

More Info: www.HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org

Lafayette Chess Club: Thursdays

More Info: www.facebook.com/groups/840770652747409

Longmont: Library Drop In Chess: 1 Sunday/month

<https://highplains.libcal.com/event/15769790>

Longmont: Library Middle/High School Chess Club: 1 Tuesday/month

<https://highplains.libcal.com/event/15734802>

Louisville: Sr. Center Chess: Mondays

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/living-in-louisville/recreation-senior-center/programs-activities/senior-services/senior-classes-programs>

Loveland: Chilson Sr. Center Drop-In Open Chess Challenge {55+}: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

<https://www.lov.gov.org/services/parks-recreation/chilson-senior-center>

Montrose Library Chess Club: Tuesdays

More Info: <https://www.montroselibrary.org/series/chess-club-2/>

Monument: Silver Key Chess Club {55+}: Mondays

<https://www.silverkey.org/activity-centers/>

Parker Chess Club: Mondays

More Info: <https://parkerchessclub.godaddysites.com/club-info>

Pueblo Chess Club: Mondays & Fridays

More Info: <https://www.pueblochess.com/>

Vail Chess Club: 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

More Info: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580147297162

Wellington: Strategic Minds Chess Academy: Saturdays

<http://www.hive5studios.com/chess>

Statewide Colorado USCF Tournament Listings

State Wide Colorado State Chess Association www.coloradochess.com/tournaments/view-upcoming/

State Wide CAISSA Chess (Filter "State" for CO) <https://caissachess.net/caissalive>

Chess Lessons: Denver Metro Area

Chess Academy of Denver <https://coloradomasterchess.com/>

Chessmates Chess Club www.chessmatesfc.com/

Mile High Chess <https://milehighchess.com/>

PALS Chess Academy <https://palschess.com/>

Summit School of Chess <https://summitschoolofchess.com>

Kings of Chess www.kingsofchess.com/

Strategic Minds Chess Academy <https://www.hive5studios.com/chess>

Learn to Play Chess MeetUp: www.meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess





Click below for more information about the Colorado SLCA
[Colorado Student Led Chess Association](#)

State
**CHESS
TOURNAMENT**

April 11, 2026
9:30 AM - 4 PM at Rock
Canyon High School

SCAN THE QR CODE!

A large, square QR code is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the poster, intended for scanning to access more information about the tournament. The background of the poster is a dark, textured surface, possibly a chessboard, with a large, clear glass chess king piece in the foreground on the left side.

Balanced Rook Chess Club

Colorado Springs' Social Chess Club

A friendly, casual atmosphere for players of all skill levels to connect, learn, and play.



Thursdays 6:00pm ~ 9:00pm

Stop in for one over the board game or several

Location: Wackadoo Brewing

5158 Centennial Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO

All ages and skill levels are welcome

Parents: please plan on staying with your children

Cost: Free



<https://www.Facebook.com/BalancedRook>

Email: BalancedRook@Gmail.com



2026 Colorado State Senior Championship & Under 50 Open

May 30-31 2026

4 Round Swiss Chess Tournament
Round Times: Sat & Sun 10am & 4pm
Time Control: G/90; +30

The Top Senior will be invited to the 2026 US Open's John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions

Entry Fee: \$55 if registered by 4/14 | \$65 by 5/17 | \$75 after 5/17

Prizes (based on 55 entries)						
	Senior			Under 50		
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Championship	\$450	\$275	\$175	\$350	\$225	\$125
U1500	\$125	\$75		\$125	\$75	



Location: Embassy Suites
 4705 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland, CO 80538

Register Today: <https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/8730>

Contact: ColoradoCSCA@Gmail.com
USCF membership required - www.uschess.org

2026 COLORADO CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS CHESS TOURNAMENT


4 Round Swiss Tournament: G/90,+30

\$2,800 in Prizes [based on 65 entries]



Entry Fee: \$55 if registered before 5/11 | \$65 by 6/6 | \$75 after 6/6

🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆 **JUNE 20-21, 2026** 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆

LOCATION: HYATT PLACE COLORADO SPRINGS GARDEN OF THE GODS



Register: <https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/8731>
 Contact: kevin@palschess.com | 303-501-0974
 USCF membership required: www.uschess.org

2026 BOULDER OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

5 Round Swiss Tournament: Sat: G/90;d10 | Sun: G/90,+30

APRIL 25-26, 2026

\$2,000 in Prizes [based on 48 entries]

Entry Fee: \$60 if registered before 3/23 | \$70 after | \$80 day of



LOCATION: 500 30TH STREET, BOULDER, CO

Register: <https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/8322>
 Contact: AndrewRStarr@gmail.com | 303-552-6032
 USCF membership required: www.uschess.org



Colorado State Champion



Eamon Montgomery

Colorado State Senior Champion



Earle Wikle

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Address: _____



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

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 to learn of mailing address to send in completed form and payment.

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