


COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT

**Colorado State
Senior Champion
Earle Wikle**



*DCC Denver Open
Colorado Class Championships
Colorado Quick Championship
Colorado State Senior Championship
Sunil Weeramantry to visit Colorado
The Longest Master Game in US History
2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships
And much more...*



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On the cover:

Earle Wikle 2025 Colorado Senior Champion

Photo (from 2023) by John Brezina

From the Editor

Summer has arrived and Colorado chess shows no signs of slowing down. Our latest issue is packed full of great chess coverage thanks to our many contributors. Congratulations to our new State Senior Champion Earle Wikle. He has also written his last President's message in this issue as he needs a well deserved break. I've worked with him since taking over as editor and he has done much for Colorado chess. It is not easy organizing and running all these State tournaments, especially as a volunteer who also has a job. Thanks Earle for your dedication to Colorado chess and all the volunteers across our state that keep our royal game alive and well. I'm excited to share my World Rapid & Blitz report in this issue from New York and a small recap of the SuperNationals that some Colorado players attended. So much chess to share but we'll save some for the next issue as this one has become our biggest yet...

- John Brezina

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Email article submissions to skibrezina@gmail.com

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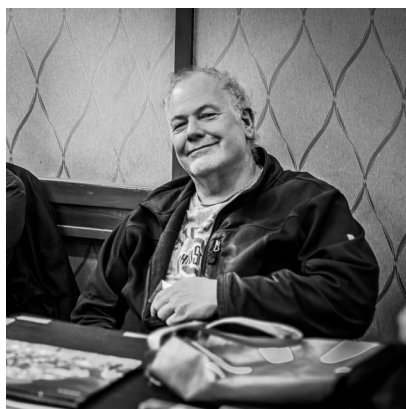
CSCA President Earle Wikle's Message

Happy summer everyone, I hope you are all having an enjoyable summer. We had a very active Spring with DCC Club Championship, Denver Open, Class Championship, Quick Championship, and the Senior and U50 Championship. There was several weeks in a row I had tournaments to direct.

If you have not yet checked out the Renaissance festival, please give it a try. Every week there are two monks to challenge for chess. The festival runs every weekend from June 21 through August 3, in Larkspur, Colorado. I will be one of the monks Sundays July 6, and July 20.

This will be my last president message for now, and maybe for a while. I plan to be still involved, but have a lot on my plate with my work. Hopefully, someone will have more time and dedication than what I have been able to contribute the past year. I want to thank everyone for coming out to play in the tournaments I organized and directed and all those that helped out over the past three years. We had some good times. Thank you all!

Sincerely,
Earle Wikle
CSCA President



Earle Wikle directing the DCC MLK tournament & Earle the Monk
Thanks Earle for all your hard work!

Follow the CSCA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoChess>



DuWayne Jesse Andrew Earle
Langseth Cohen Starr Wikle



Sunil Weeramantry to give lecture at Parker Chess Club

Sunil Weeramantry returns to Colorado to give a free lecture at the Parker library on Monday September 22, 2025 from 6-8pm during our regular club meeting. Join us in welcoming this esteemed teacher, author and chess coach. His stories and connections in the chess world are legendary and we are honored and privileged to have him visit Colorado and our Parker chess club. He will be available for photos and autographs afterwards time permitting.

Please contact John Brezina at skibrezina@gmail.com or through the Parker Chess Club website for more info: <https://parkerchessclub.godaddysites.com/>



Photos from his July 2022 visit to the Parker Chess Club



Sunil & stepson Hikaru Nakamura



Sunil & Bruce Pandolfini

Colorado State Champion Eamon Montgomery Simul

By John Brezina

The Parker Chess Club had a special guest give a simul on April 21, 2025. Colorado State Champion Eamon Montgomery faced ten players from the Parker club during our regular club meeting. It was a great opportunity for the kids to get a chance to play the State Champion. Board one in the simul was special as it was autographed by Hikaru Nakamura and later presented to Eamon as a gift for his generous participation in the event. In addition, Nakamura's long time second Kris Littlejohn joined us to keep a close eye on the games as can be seen in one of the photos below. Some of the games did not finish due to time limitations in the library but Eamon won those that did finish and we later discussed that he had winning positions on all but one that would have been a draw.

Eamon Montgomery's coaching links for more info:

<https://lichess.org/coach/EamonMont>

<https://chessmatesfc.com/coach/eamon-montgomery/>



Colorado Represented at 2025 Super Nationals VIII

By John Brezina



I had the privilege to attend one day at the Super Nationals in Orlando Florida on May 10, 2025. This event only happens every four years and I was anxious to see the enormity of such a chess tournament. I believe the record attendance in the past was near 5,500 kids and this year it was only about 4,500 kids. Only 4,500, right! The enormous Orange County Convention Center in Orlando handled this crowd easily and efficiently. It was an impressive task by US Chess and all the tournament directors and volunteers to run such a large event. In addition to the tournament, many side events kept everyone busy including Grandmaster simuls, lectures, book signings and sales of everything chess. Special guest Grandmaster Susan Polgar attended several days to give lectures, sign copies of her new book "Rebel Queen" and pose for many photos with her fans.

Kids competed for individual titles as well as team competitions. Private rooms near the playing halls housed many different teams from all over the country. Four main playing halls split up the different age groups and grades which made for an enormous amount of area to try and cover. I set a record 30,000 steps to cover as much ground as I could on my one day visit. I was able to capture much of the event including the playing halls before the round began but not allowed photos during the round.



Susan Polgar giving a lecture and Q&A



*Colorado's Stepan Artemovich Rostovtsev
and his mother
2.0/7 points K-5 Championship*



Former Coloradan Andy Rea working the floor



*Colorado's John Schoenke
5.0/7 points K-12 U1900*

Several Colorado kids participated and I was able to catch up with some of them as can be seen in the photos. It was not easy tracking them down in such a sea of players and with limited time. In addition to our own players we also had our very own National Tournament Director Todd Bardwick as section chief of the K-12 Championship section. Todd also let me know that another director and former Colorado player Andy Rea was in another hall who I paid a visit to. The most special moment for me was to capture a young 14-year old Tani Adewumi at the board before the start of his game. It was nice to speak with him briefly about our encounter five years earlier that he had remembered. An impressive young man that will be a Grandmaster soon I believe.

See all of my photos here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/R38kNhtGwebuGh7A>



Colorado's Tanya Prabhu
3.5/7 points K-12 U1900



The incredible Tani Adewumi
6.0/7 points K12 Championship



The crew of directors it takes to run such a large tournament
(Photo courtesy of David Llada)



Todd Bardwick

Since passing the National Tournament Director test a couple years ago, Todd Bardwick got the opportunity to be a Section Chief for the first time. Head Tournament Director Jeff Wiewel (whom Todd worked for in the 2022 National K-12 Grade Level Championship in Washington, D.C.), had the faith in him to be Section Chief of the K12 U1900 Section and the high profile K12 Championship Section. The K12 Championship Section had 237 players including over 90 players rated over 2000, 38 masters, 2 International Masters, and a 15 year old Grandmaster. Todd was also the Section Chief for the K12 Blitz tournament on Thursday night before the tournament.

DCC Denver Open

Reprinted with permission from JC Macneil



...who is not at all easy to win against.

All the photos used in this report are by John Brezina. The heading photo is Sullivan McConnell, maybe showing Mr. Colorado Chess, Brian Wall, that he is already completely winning :-). I went mostly retro with the pictures within the text, just because black and white photography is rarely seen anymore. Note that the photos are not necessarily related to the text. See all of Mr. Brezina's photos here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FszrjqZ1zxVcoxUw9>

I should mention that Mr. Brezina was only able to get to the tournament late in the last round. Thus, no room shots.

The 2025 DCC Denver Open registration of 141 players was certainly not bad, but somewhat short of the average of 185 players at the three previous DCC Denver Open tournaments. Anyway, this year in the **Championship section**, Sullivan McConnell, with 4.5 points, took 1st place and won - are you ready for this - 1200 dollars!! Which I think is the highest DCC tournament prize ever. I'm sure that if Sullivan had not been paired against his brother, Griffin, in Round 4, his score would have been 5-0.



Griffin McConnell, figuring things out

Suhaas Narayanan and Sikander Baker-Nagar ended up with 4 points, and they share the combined 2nd and 3rd place prize of 1250 dollars. There was a four way tie for the 4th place prize. Brian Wall, Rhett Langseth, Daniel Herman, and Christopher Motley each won 80 dollars. Mr. Motley (2001) had the pleasure of

upsetting both Eamon Montgomery (2259) and Griffin McConnell (2223). See **Chris Peterson's Best Game** below.



Quite a range of ages in this picture

With 3 points, Caleb Koeller, Jason Nigatu, Forrest Lundstrom, and Kaavya Sakthisaravanan share the U2000 Prize of 240 dollars. Kaavya had a full point 1st round bye, lost her Round 2 game, then upset her next three much higher rated opponents to earn her share of the prize money. The 80 dollar Championship section Upset Prize went to Leif McFadden (1742) when he took the full point from the potential Candidate Master, Rhett Langseth (2135) in Round 2.

In the U2000 section, Sean Pearson took no prisoners and won the 1st place prize of 480 dollars with a perfect 5-0 score. Candidate Master, Mike Maloney, only lost to Mr. Pearson, and he won the 320 dollar 2nd place prize. Ethan Crane, Khris Mathimaran, Logan Stewmon, and Rohan David all finished with 3 points and they each won 80 dollars. In addition, Mr. David (1585) also won the U2000 80 dollar Upset Prize for his win against Jeremy Roldan (1886) in Round 2.



I got this. The rest is going to be easy

In the U1700 section, Scott Marvel and Ashwin Mathimaran each finished with 4.5 points, and they share the combined 1st and 2nd place prize of 720 dollars. Colin Schaub (1287) won the 3rd place prize of

180 dollars in addition to winning the 80 dollar Upset Prize for his Round 2 win against Nii Codjoe (1615) The 4th place prize was won by Jack Gottlieb, Anthony Cordova, Philip Schiff, Trevor Bradford, and Dustin Ferguson. They all finished with 3.5 points, and each player won 20 dollars.



Emma Hellmer (b) vs. Madeleine Finch (w). More women in chess would be a good thing

In the U1400 section, Unrated Emma Hellmer took 1st place with 4 wins and a Round 2 draw. But being Unrated, only qualified to win 250 dollars instead of 400. The extra 150 dollars was added to the Tarun Karthikeyan and Quinsien Joel prize. They each won 4 games, and instead of winning 200 dollars each, they both took home 275 dollars. Viaan Khandelwal ended up in 4th place with 3.5 points, and that was worth 80 dollars. Jinhyun Shin (920) won the 80 dollar Upset Prize for his Round 1 win over Madeleine Finch (1301), who is not at all easy to win against.



This player has just hit the clock and, too late, maybe thinking, uh-oh :-)

In the U1100 section, Eric Zhang, Ryan Gupta, and Robert Downes all scored 4 points, and they each won 266 dollars and 67 cents. Liam Newell and Jacob Just ended up with 3.5 points, and they each won 40 dollars. Anirudh Saibalan (848) won the 80 dollar U1100 Upset Prize when he won his game against Mr. Downes (1036) in Round 1.



Total concentration

DCC President Earle Wikle and I don't always see eye to eye, but I sure cannot gripe about his prize fund money distribution. It's as fair as fair can be, with as many winners as possible. 7290 dollars was shared by 39 winners!! Who has ever heard of rewarding 4th place? Not to mention that having five sections means that, regardless of a player's rating, they have a chance to win prize money. Plus, adding an 80 dollar Upset Prize for each section is great. Not only does the player win USCF rating points, and bragging rights, but they also win bonus money to spend. In addition, Mr. Wikle sets up the DGT boards at DCC tournaments.

I've said that I was going to quit writing these DCC reports, but a couple of people, whom I regard highly, have encouraged me to continue. So I will, even though I'm old and tired - but still good looking :-). Besides, what else do I have to do? I am truly grateful to the thousands, ok hundreds, of chess players who read these DCC reports regularly.

Best Game

by NM Christofer Peterson

There were a lot of great games played at the 2025 Denver Open, and picking just one to write about wasn't easy. I want to give a quick shoutout to Mike Maloney, who had two excellent games I seriously considered covering. Brian Wall, as always, played entertaining, chaotic chess — his games were also in contention. But ultimately, I decided on the game between NM Eamon Montgomery and Christopher Motley. Eamon had a tough tournament, and Christopher had a great one. There's always something interesting about a matchup where a higher-rated player is struggling and the lower-rated player is in form. As someone who's often near the top of the seed list in tournaments I've played, I know what kind of pressure that creates. When you're rated ~300 points higher, everyone expects you to win. If you do, no one says anything. If you don't, it becomes a spectacle.

So I'm not highlighting this game just because a lower-rated player won — though that's always fun to see — but because of the clean, principled play Christopher showed throughout. His opening was sharp, his middlegame plans were clear, and he played with confidence. It was a really nice game. As for Eamon, everyone has an off tournament now and then, and I don't think anyone doubts he'll be back in form soon.

NM Montgomery, Eamon (2237) Motley, Christopher (1960) Round 2 of Denver Open 2025

1. d4 I've talked about Eamon before. He's a dangerous opponent — solid, principled, and rooted in strong positional and strategic play. While he tends to shy away from wild tactics, he's shown many times that he can calculate with the best of them. 1... d5 Christopher Motley is an interesting player. He knows his openings very well and often gets strong positions right out of the gate. I've been on the wrong end of his prep before. That said, games against stronger players sometimes slip away — often in heartbreaking fashion. In one of our games, for example, he got a crushing advantage out of the opening, but I managed to trick him into trapping his queen. If he can patch whatever is going wrong in the middlegame, he'll be a very tough player to deal with. I'm curious to see how he handles Eamon, who plays it safe early on. Let's see if he can put his motley band of pieces to good use. 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c6 4. e3 Nf6 5. Nf3 Bd6 6. Bd3 O-O 7. O-O dxc4 8. Bxc4 b5 9. Bd3 Nbd7 10. Qc2 Bb7 The Chigorin variation of the Semi-Slav has been played at the highest levels. Compared to many other defenses to the Queen's Gambit, it scores well. While it's fallen a bit out of fashion due to its drawish tendencies, players like Aronian, Firouzja, Giri, and even Carlsen still bring it out. 11. a4?! It's natural for White to strike at the queenside, and the a4 break is thematic in many lines. But here, it plays into Black's hands. Without a c-pawn, White can't challenge b4 — which Black can now claim with tempo. This line exists in databases, but Black has a very strong record thanks to how easy it is to play. (11. a3A more modest approach to blunt Black's expansion and keep the position rich.) (11. Ng5 h6 12. Nge4 Eljanov played this way, aiming to trade down quickly for a draw.) (11. Rd1 Carlsen's choice in another game.) 11... b4 12. Ne4 Nxe4 13. Bxe4 f5 14. Bd3 c5! The light-squared bishop is now active, White's center is coming under pressure, and c4 is looming. 15. Qe2 (15. dxc5?? The tactics are a little messy but bear with me. 15... Bxf3 16. cxd6 (16. gxf3 Bxh2+!! 17. Kh1 (17. Kxh2 Qh4+ 18. Kg2 Qg5+ 19. Kh1 Rf6 mate is coming) 17... Qh4 Black wins easily.) 16... Rc8 (16... Qg5 17. g3 Ne5 18. Be2 Qh5 19. Bxf3 Nxf3+ 20. Ka2 f4!! 21. exf4 Qd5! 22. Rd1 Nd4+ 23. Kg1 Nxc2 24. Rxd5 exd5 Black is up a rook.) 17. Qb3 (17. Qb1 Qg5 18. g3 Qh5 19.

h4 Ne5 20. Bd2 Qg4 21. Kh2 g5 White's king is in trouble and material must be sacrificed to survive.) 17... Nc5 18. Qc4 Bd5 19. Qd4 Nxd3 20. Qxd3 Bc4 21. Qd4 Bxf1 22. Kxf1 White is underdeveloped, the king is exposed, and Black is up the exchange.) 15... Qc7 (15... Qe7 Would've kept the queen tucked safely away from coming c-file fireworks.) 16. h3?! (16. b3 White must stop c4. It's not ideal, but it dulls the bite.) 16... Bxf3 17. Qxf3 (17. gxf3 Rf6 18. Bd2 Raf8 19. Bb5 Qd8 Black is infiltrating. White will struggle to find a coherent defense.) 17... c4 18. Be2! It makes some sense to keep e2 open for the queen, but there was no danger of getting trapped. Be2 would've saved a tempo. Perhaps Eamon hoped to provoke b3 and block c3 — but he's too far behind in development. 18... b3 19. Bd1 Nf6 20. Bd2 Ne4 21. Be1 Rab8 22. Rc1 Rfc8 23. Be2 Despite Black's pressure, the engine gives White a slight edge again. With near-perfect play, White might slip out of the bind. 23... c3 24. Bxc3 Qf7 (24... Qd8 This keeps the queen active on both wings. Centralizing the queen is a key strategic idea. From f7, her access is more limited.) 25. Ba6 (25. Bb5 A useful defensive try. It cuts coordination and might allow Qd1-b3 later to pick off b3.) 25... Rxc3! A nice positional exchange sac. It doesn't win by force but keeps White tied up. Instead of improving his pieces, White has to keep defending. 26. bxc3 b2 27. Rce1 Nxc3 (27... Qc7 Let's get the queen involved. Nd2 is a constant threat, so there's no rush. Simplifying with ...Nxc3 makes White's job easier. 28. Bd3 Nd2 29. Qe2 Qxc3 30. Bb1 White is completely bottled up. 30... g6 31. Qa6 Qc7 32. Rd1 Nxf1 33. Rxf1 Kg7 Black can now steadily improve and dominate along the c-file.) 28. Qc6?? (28. Bd3 White had to turtle up and play for counterplay later. Trading queens helps Black's bind.) 28... Qc7 29. Qxc7 Bxc7 30. Bd3 Nxa4 31. Bb1 Nc3 A picturesque bind. The a-pawn now rolls freely. 32. f4 a5 33. Rf2 a4 34. Bd3 a3 35. Bc4 b1=Q (35... Kf7 36. g4 b1=Q 37. Rxb1 Rxb1+ 38. Kg2 Rb4 39. Bd3 Nd1 40. Re2 Rb3 41. Ba6 Nxe3+ 42. Kf2 Bxf4 Total collapse.) 36. Bxe6+ Kf8 37. Rxb1 Rxb1+ 38. Kh2 Rb2 (38... Re1 Let the stew simmer. White's collapse is inevitable and Black can extract more material. 39. d5 a2 40. Rxa2 Nxa2 Black is up a full rook and piece.) 39. Rxb2 axb2 40. Bxf5 b1=Q 41. Bxb1 Nxb1 Black is up two pieces for three pawns. Maybe White can hope for a knight-and-bishop checkmate scenario, but even that is unlikely — maintaining one pawn will be easy. 42. Kg3 Nc3 43. Kf3 Bb6 44. f5 Ke7 45. g4 Kf6 46. Kf4 h6 47. h4 Bc7+ 48. Kf3 h5 49. gxh5 Kxf5 50. d5 Ne4 51. h6 gxh6

And White threw in the towel here. A very nice game by Christopher Motley. He really showed how positional exchange sacrifices can establish a bind, then converted with solid endgame technique. This game is a great reminder that material is only part of the story — positional understanding can trump it. 0-1

Congratulations to Christopher Motley on an excellent game and a strong tournament performance. If your rating had been just two points lower, you would have earned quite a bit more prize money — one of the quirks of using the latest US Chess supplement instead of live ratings. Either way, this game was a standout, and I hope we get to see more like it from you in future events.

Quick Note on the Monthly Write-Ups
I also want to apologize for not doing write-ups for the last couple of DCC Monthlies. As some of you know, I'm in medical school, and we just wrapped up our final preclinical semester. It's been a lot. For context, most college students take around 12–16 credit hours per semester. Medical students do 25–30, and the material is way more intense. Now that we're done with preclinicals, I'm heading off to Minot, North Dakota to start my clinical rotations at Trinity Health Hospital. I'll be learning on the job and getting a real sense of what it takes to be a doctor.

I'm hoping to keep these write-ups going when I can, but school has to come first. Thanks for your patience — and keep sending in your best games. Thank you, kindly Chris. Your instructional analysis of the Best Game benefits the players in addition to everyone who plays through the game.

Thanks again to all,
J.C. MacNeil



Games from Denver Open

Round 1

LM SULLIVAN MCCONNELL 2339
JASON NIGATU 1978

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Qd3 Nf6 7.c4 g6 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.h3 a6 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Nd4 Qc7 13.Be3 Rac8 14.a4 Qa5 15.f3 Nd7 16.Qe2 Nc5 17.Ra3 Ne6 18.Nb3 Qh5 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nc5 21.Nxe5 dxc5 22.Rb3 Qe5 23.Qd2 Rc7 24.Bf4 Qd4+ 25.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 26.Kh2 Rd7 27.Re1 e6 28.dxe6 fxe6 29.Be5 Re8 30.Rb6 Kf7 31.Kg3 h5 32.Re4 g5 33.h4 gxh4+ 34.Kxh4 Bxe5 35.Rxe5 Rd4+ 36.Kh3 Rxc4 37.Rxh5 Kg6 38.Rh4 Rxh4+ 39.Kxh4 Re7 40.Kg4 Kf6 41.Kf4 Rd7 42.Ke3 Ke5 43.g4 Rd4 44.b3 c4 45.Rxe6+ Kd5 46.Rd6+ Kxd6 47.Kxd4 b5 48.bxc4 b4 49.a5 Ke6 50.f4 Kd6 51.f5 b3 52.Kc3 Ke5 53.Kxb3 Kd5 1-0

AUSTIN POWELL 1922

NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2259

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.Be3 Na6 8.0-0 Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 Qe8 11.h3 Nh6 12.dxe5 0-1

NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL 2223

FORREST LUNDSTROM 1891

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3 e6 5.Nxd4 cxd4 6.Ne2 Qg5 7.Bc4 Qxg2 8.Ng3 Qh3 9.Qf3 Nf6 10.e5 d5 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Bf1 Qg4 13.Qb3 Ng8 14.Qxb7 Rd8 15.d3 Qh4 16.Qxa7 Ne7 17.Qa5 Nc6 18.Qd2 Nxe5 19.Be2 Bd6 20.Qg5 Bb4+ 21.Kd1 Qxg5 22.Bxg5 Rb8 23.Bc1 Ke7 24.a3 Bd6 25.Re1 Ng6 26.Bf3 Kd8 27.b3 Ne7 28.Bb2 e5 29.Nh5 Rg8 30.Rg1 Kc7 31.Kd2 f5 32.Be2 g5 33.Nf6 Rg7 34.f4 exf4 35.Bxd4 Nc6 36.Nxd5+ Kb7 37.Bxg7 g4 38.Nf6 Be6 39.Nxg4 fxg4 40.Bxg4 Bf7 41.Bf3 Kc7 42.Bc3 Ne7 43.Rg7 Rf8 44.Rxh7 Kb8 45.Be4 Be6 46.Rh8 Rxh8 47.Bxh8 f3 48.Bxf3 Bf4+ 49.Kc3 Ng6 50.Bf6 Bxh2 51.Be4 Nf8 52.Rh1 Bd6 53.b4 Nd7 54.Bd4 1-0

MATTHEW ABRAHAM 1865

CM RHETT LANGSETH 2135

1.d4 d6 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Nbd7 4.h3 e5 5.Bh2 c6 6.Nf3 Qb6 7.Qc1 e4 8.Nfd2 d5 9.Be2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.a4 a5 12.c4 dxc4 13.Nxc4 Qd8 14.Nc3 Nb6 15.Nd2 Bf5 16.Qb1 Bb4 17.Qc2 Re8 18.Rfd1 Qe7 19.Bf1 Qe6 20.Be5 Nfd7 21.Bg3 Bg6 22.Ne2 Bh5 23.Rdc1 g5 24.Nc3 Bg6 25.Qb3 Qe7 26.Nc4 Nxc4 27.Bxc4 Nb6 28.Be2 Bf5 29.Bh5 Be6 30.Qc2 Rac8 31.Qxe4 Qd7 32.Qf3 Nc4 33.Ne4 Be7 34.Nf6+ Bxf6 35.Qxf6 Qe7 36.Qh6 Rf8 37.b3 Nd2 38.Bd1 Ne4 39.Bc2 f5 40.Be5 Rf7 41.Bd1 g4 42.hxg4 fxg4 43.f3 gxf3 44.Bxf3 Bd5 45.Qh5 Qg5 46.Qxg5+ Nxc5 47.Bh5 Rf5 48.Bg4 Rxe5 49.dxe5 Re8

50.e6 Nxe6 51.Bxe6+ Rxe6 52.Rc3 Rg6 53.Ra2 Kf7 54.Rf2+ Ke6 55.Re2 Rg4 56.Kh2 Rb4 57.e4 Bxb3 58.Rc5 Rxa4 59.Rh5 Rd4 60.Rxa5 b5 61.Ra6 Rc4 62.Ra3 Bc2 63.e5 Be4 64.Ra7 b4 65.Ra8 Kxe5 66.Re8+ Kd5 67.Rd2+ Kc5 68.Re5+ Kb6 69.Rb2 Bc2 70.Re3 Ka5 71.Ra2+ Kb5 72.Re8 b3 73.Rb8+ Kc5 74.Ra5+ Kd4 75.Rg5 c5 76.Rg3 Rb4 77.Rg4+ Kc3 78.Rg3+ Bd3 79.Ra8 c4 80.Ra1 b2 81.Rb1 Kc2 82.Rxb2+ Rxb2 83.Rg7 Kd2 84.Rf7 c3 85.Rc7 c2 0-1

NM DANIEL HERMAN 2121

LAURENCE WUTT 1834

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d5 5.e3 0-0 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 h6 8.Bh4 Bf5 9.c4 g5 10.Bg3 e6 11.Qb3 Nh5 12.Qxb7 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qd7 14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Bb5 Nd8 16.Qxd5 exd5 17.b3 Rb8 18.Be2 Re8 19.Rac1 Ne6 20.Bd1 g4 21.Ne5 Bxe5 22.dxe5 c5 23.f4 h5 24.Bc2 Bxc2 25.Rxc2 d4 26.Ne4 Re7 27.Kf2 Rc8 28.exd4 Nxd4 29.Rxc5 Rxc5 30.Nxc5 Rc7 31.Rc1 Nf5 32.b4 Rc6 33.Rh1 Rh6 34.Ne4 Kg7 35.Nf6 Kg6 36.Rc1 Rh8 37.Rc6 Kg7 38.Ne4 Rb8 39.a3 a5 40.bxa5 Rb2+ 41.Kg1 Rb1+ 42.Kh2 Ne3 43.Nd2 Rb2 44.Rc3 Nf5 45.Nc4 Rb1 46.a6 h4 47.a7 hxg3+ 48.Rxg3 Nxg3 49.Kxg3 f5 50.a8Q 1-0

CM MIKE MALONEY 1900

FRANK A DEMING 1700

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.h3 a6 8.a4 h6 9.Re1 Re8 10.Nbd2 Bd7 11.Nf1 Ne7 12.Qb3 Rf8 13.d4 exd4 14.cxd4 Ba7 15.e5 dxe5 16.dxe5 Ne8 17.e6 fxe6 18.Bxe6+ Kh8 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Bc6 21.Ne5 Nd6 22.Ng3 Rf6 23.Bb3 Ndf5 24.Nxf5 Nxf5 25.Qc3 Qd4 26.Rac1 Qb6 27.Ng4 Rd6 28.Bc2 Nd4 29.Re7 Rg8 30.Bd1 Rg6 31.a5 Qa7 32.Rxc7 h5 33.Ne3 Nb5 34.Qe5 Nxc7 35.Qxc7 Rg5 36.Rxc6 Qd4 37.Qxb7 Rxa5 38.Rc8 Ra1 39.Rxg8+ Kxg8 40.Qb3+ Kh8 41.Qc2 a5 42.Kh2 a4 43.Qc8+ Kh7 44.Bc2+ g6 45.Qf8 Qe5+ 46.g3 Qg7 47.Qb4 Qf6 48.Kg2 Qc6+ 49.Qe4 a3 50.Qxc6 1-0



JONAS HAMILTON 1699**KEITH OXMAN 1900**

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6
5.exd6 exd6 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Nb4 8.Be4
d5 9.cxd5 N4xd5 10.Nbc3 c6 11.0-0 Be7
12.a3 a5 13.Ng3 0-0 14.Qd3 Nf6 15.Bf5
g6 16.Bxc8 Rxc8 17.Bh6 Re8 18.Rad1
Nbd5 19.Rfe1 Bd6 20.Bg5 Bf4 21.Rxe8+
Qxe8 22.Bxf6 Nxf6 23.Qf3 Bg5 24.Nge4
Nxe4 25.Nxe4 Be7 26.h4 Bxh4 27.Nd6
Qd7 28.Nxc8 Qxc8 29.d5 cxd5 30.Qxd5
Qc2 31.Rd2 Qc1+ 32.Kh2 Qc7+ 33.g3 Bf6
34.Qb5 b6 35.Rd7 Qc5 36.Qe2 Qe5
37.Qc4 Qh5+ 38.Kg2 g5 39.g4 Qg6
40.Rb7 Bxb2 41.Rb8+ Kg7 42.f3 Qd6
43.Re8 Qxa3 44.Qc8 Qc5 45.Rg8+ Kf6
46.Qd8+ Qe7 47.Qxb6+ Qe6 48.Qxb2+
Ke7 49.Qa3+ Kf6 50.Qc3+ Ke7 51.Qe5+
Kd7 52.Qc8+ 1-0

CHRIS C BURKHARDT 1519**CHARLI ZETTEROWER 1672**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 e6 4.Nf3 Ne7 5.Bd3
g6 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.0-0 Qc7
9.Nb3 b6 10.Qd2 Ba6 11.Rac1 Bc4
12.Qb4 Re8 13.Bxc4 dxc4 14.Qxc4 Nd5
15.Qd3 a5 16.a3 Qb7 17.Nbd2 Nd7 18.c4
Ne7 19.Ne4 Bf8 20.Nd6 1-0

NII CODJOE 1615**CALEB M KNEDLIK 1513**

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 g6 3.Bd3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.b3
0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Nbd2 e5 8.Bb2 Re8 9.e4
Nh5 10.Ne1 exd4 11.f4 c5 12.g4 Nh6
13.g5 Nh5 14.Be2 Nxf4 15.Rxf4 Qxg5+
16.Rg4 Qh6 17.Be1 d3 18.Bxd3 Bxa1
19.Ndf3 Qg7 20.Bh6 Bd4+ 21.Nxd4
Qxd4+ 22.Kh1 Ne5 23.Rg3 Nxd3 24.cxd3
Rxe4 25.Nf3 Qd5 26.Qa1 Rd4 27.Kg1
Qh5 28.Nxd4 Qxh6 29.Nb5 Qf4 30.Nc7
Rb8 31.Qe1 Be6 32.Nxe6 fxe6 33.Qxe6+
Qf7 34.Re3 Rf8 35.Kg2 Kg7 36.Qe7 Qxe7
37.Rxe7+ Rf7 38.Re8 Kf6 39.h4 Re7
40.Rxe7 Kxe7 41.Kf3 Ke6 42.a4 a5
43.Kg4 h6 44.Kf4 d5 45.Kg4 Ke5 46.Kf3
Kd4 47.Kf4 Kxd3 48.Ke5 d4 49.Kf6 g5
50.h5 g4 51.Kg6 g3 52.Kxh6 g2 53.Kh7
g1Q 54.h6 Qh2 55.Kg7 Qxh6+ 56.Kxh6
Kc3 0-1

Round 4**NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL 2223****LM SULLIVAN MCCONNELL 2339**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4
c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5
9.Qd2 0-0 10.Be2 Ndx5 11.Nxc6 Bxc3
12.Nxd8 Bxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Ng6 14.Nxf7
Rxf7 15.g3 Bd7 16.Bh5 Rc8 17.Bxg6
hxg6 18.Ne2 g5 19.fxg5 Rf2 20.Raf1 Rg2
21.Rfg1 Rf2 22.Rf1 Rg2 23.c3 ½-½

PATRICK ZIJLSTRA 2196**LM BRIAN D WALL 2210**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2
Nd7 6.c3 Ne7 7.a3 c5 8.b4 cxd4 9.cxd4 h6
10.Nc3 Bh7 11.Qb3 Nc6 12.Be3 Be7 13.0-0
0-0 14.Rfc1 Nb6 15.Na4 Nxa4 16.Qxa4

a6 17.Rc3 f6 18.b5 axb5 19.Qxb5 Ra7
20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 f5 22.Nd2 f4
23.Qg6 Qd7 24.Bxf4 Rxf4 25.Rg3 Bh4
26.Rh3 Bxf2+ 27.Kh1 Qf7 28.Qc2 Bxd4
29.Re1 Nxe5 30.Qc8+ Kh7 31.Qc2+ Qg6
32.Qd1 Nd3 0-1

CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY 2001**CM RHETT LANGSETH 2135**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7
5.Rg1 h5 6.h3 exd4 7.Nxd4 d5 8.Nxd5
Nxe4 9.Nb5 Bd6 10.Qe2 0-0 11.Nxd6
cxd6 12.Qxh5 Re8 13.Be3 Re5 14.Qd1
Qa5+ 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Qxc3+
17.Ke2 b6 18.Rb1 Ba6+ 19.Kf3 Rf5+ 0-1

NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2259**SIKAN BAKER-NAGAR 2016**

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4 Nf6 5.0-0
0-0 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 Bf5 8.Ne5 Nbd7
9.cxd5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 cxd5
12.Qd4 e6 13.Be3 Qc7 14.f4 Rfe8 15.Rfe1
Qa5 16.Rxc8+ Rxc8 17.Qxa7 Qb5 18.Rc1
Rxc1+ 19.Bxc1 Qxe2 20.Qf2 Qd1+ 21.Qf1
Qc2 22.Qe1 Bf8 23.Qd2 Bc5+ 24.Kh1
Qb1 25.a3 h5 26.h4 Be4 27.Kh2 Bxg2
28.Kxg2 Qe4+ 29.Kh2 d4 30.b4 Bb6
31.Qg2 Qe1 32.Qxb7 Qxc1 33.Qxb6 Qc2+
34.Kh3 Qe4 35.Kh2 Qe2+ 36.Kh3 d3
37.Qd8+ Kh7 38.Qf6 Qf1+ 39.Kh2 Qf2+
40.Kh3 Qa7 41.Kg2 Qd7 0-1

NM DANIEL HERMAN 2121**LEIF MCFADDEN 1742**

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4
5.Be2 e6 6.c4 Nb6 7.h3 Bh5 8.exd6 cxd6
9.Nc3 d5 10.c5 Nc4 11.0-0 Bxf3 12.Bxf3
Be7 13.b3 Na5 14.b4 Nc4 15.Bf4 Nc6
16.b5 N6a5 17.Re1 0-0 18.Qe2 Bf6
19.Rad1 Qd7 20.Rd3 Rac8 21.Bg4 Rfe8
22.Qc2 Kh8 23.h4 Rcd8 24.h5 Qe7 25.Qc1
Rg8 26.Bd1 Rge8 27.Ba4 Rf8 28.h6 g6
29.Bd6 Rxd6 30.cxd6 Qxd6 31.Bb3 Rc8
32.Ne2 Qb6 33.Qf4 Qd8 34.Rf3 Bg5
35.Qxf7 Bxh6 36.Nf4 Nd2 37.Rh3 Bg7
38.Nxg6# 1-0

SEAN PEARSON 1894**CM MIKE MALONEY 1900**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0-0 Nge7
5.Re1 a6 6.Bf1 d6 7.c3 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5
9.d4 Nf6 10.h3 Be7 11.Be3 Nd5 12.Bc1 0-0
13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Nbd2 Nf6 15.Qc2 Qb6
16.Nb3 Be7 17.Be3 Qc7 18.Bg5 b5
19.Bd3 h6 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Qe2 Bb7
22.Nc5 Rfd8 23.Rad1 Ne7 24.Nxb7 Qxb7
25.Nd2 Rac8 26.a4 Rb8 27.axb5 axb5
28.Ne4 Nd5 29.Qf3 Qc7 30.Ra1 Nf4
31.Nxf6+ gxf6 32.Bf1 Rd2 33.Re4 e5
34.g3 Nd5 35.Qh5 Kf8 36.Qxh6+ Ke7
37.Qxd2 Qd8 1-0

EMMETT LIGNELL 1890**ROHAN DAVID 1585**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+
5.bxc3 c5 6.Bg5 Qa5 7.Bd2 Nc6 8.e3 d6
9.Nf3 0-0 10.Bd3 e5 11.Qc2 Re8 12.e4

exd4 13.cxd4 Qc7 14.d5 Ne7 15.0-0 Ng6
16.Bc3 Ng4 17.e5 N4xe5 18.Nxe5 dxe5
19.Rae1 Bd7 20.Re3 Re7 21.Rfe1 Rae8
22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.Qb2 f6 24.f4 e4 25.Qf2
b5 26.cxb5 Bxb5 27.f5 g5 28.Qb2 Bd3
29.Rh3 e3 30.Bxf6 gxf6 31.Qxf6 Rg7
32.Qh6 Bxf5 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Qh5+ Kf8
35.Rf3 Re5 36.Qh8+ Kf7 37.g4 Qd7
38.Rxf5+ Rxf5 39.gxf5 Qxd5 40.f6 Kxf6
41.Qh6+ Kf7 42.Rxe3 Qd1+ 43.Kg2 Qg4+
44.Kf1 Qf4+ 45.Ke2 Qc4+ 46.Kf2 Qc2+
47.Kg3 Qg6 48.Qh8 Qd6+ 49.Kf2 Qd2+
50.Re2 Qf4+ 51.Kg2 Qg4+ 52.Kf1 Kg6
53.Qe8+ Rf7+ 54.Ke1 Qg1+ 55.Kd2 Qd4+
56.Kc2 Qc4+ 57.Kb2 Kh7 58.Qe4+ Qxe4
59.Rxe4 Kh6 60.h4 Rf2+ 61.Kb3 Rf3+
62.Ka4 Rf5 63.hxg5+ Kxg5 64.Rc4 Kf6
65.Kb5 ½-½

SCOTT MARVEL 1569**ANTHONY CORDOVA 1561**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6
5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 g6 7.Bd3 Bg7 8.Ne2 0-0
9.Qc2 Nd7 10.Bd2 f5 11.0-0-0 Nf6 12.f3
Bd7 13.h3 Rc8 14.g4 fxg4 15.hxg4 c5
16.dxc5 Rxc5 17.Bh6 Qc7 18.Bf4 Qa5
19.Bd6 Nd5 20.Bxc5 Qxc5 21.Qd2 Be6
22.Be4 Ne3 23.Bxc6 Nxd1 24.Bd5 Ne3
25.Bb3 Nc4 26.Qf4 Ne5 27.Rd1 Qf2
28.Nd4 a5 29.a4 Qh4 30.Qe4 b6 31.Qb7
Qf6 32.Bd5 Rd8 33.Nc6 Bh6+ 34.Kc2
Nxc6 35.Qxc6 Qxc6 36.Bxc6 Rxd1
37.Kxd1 Kf8 38.b4 Bg7 39.bxa5 bxa5
40.Kd2 Ke7 41.Kd3 Kd6 42.Be8 Ke7
43.Bc6 Kd6 44.Be8 Ke7 45.Bc6 Kd6 ½-½

ASHWIN MATHIMARAN 1553**DUSTIN P FERGUSON 1464**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 a6 4.Nf3 Qc7 5.d3
d6 6.g3 b5 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.a3 Nd7 9.Bd2
Ngf6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Re1 0-0 12.f5 h6
13.fxe6 fxe6 14.Nh4 Kh7 15.Ne2 g5
16.Nf3 Rg8 17.b4 e5 18.h3 g4 19.Nh4
gxh3 20.Bxh3 Nh5 21.Bf5+ Kg7 22.Be6
Bxh4 23.Bxg8 Nxb3 24.Nxb3 Rxb3
25.Qg4+ Bg5 26.Bxg5 hxg5 27.Nh5+ Kh6
28.Re2 Nf8 29.Rh2 Kg6 30.Qf5+ 1-0



**EMMA N HELLMER UNR
QUINSEN JOEL 1207**

1.d4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Bd3 Bg6 5.f4 e6 6.Nf3 Ne7 7.0-0 Nd7 8.c3 Nf5 9.g4 Nh4 10.f5 exf5 11.Nxh4 Qxh4 12.Bxf5 0-0 13.Bf4 Bxf5 14.gxf5 Be7 15.Qa4 Kb8 16.e6+ Ka8 17.exd7 Rxd7 18.Nd2 Bg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5+ 20.Kh1 Qxd2 21.Rab1 Re7 22.Qd1 Qxd1 23.Rbxd1 Rhe8 24.Kg1 Re2 25.Rf2 Kb8 26.Kf1 Rxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Kc7 28.Rg1 g6 29.Rg3 Kd6 30.fxg6 fxg6 31.Rf3 Ke6 32.Kg3 Re7 33.h4 Rf7 34.Rf4 Rf5 35.b4 h6 36.Kg4 Kf6 37.Rxf5+ gxf5+ 38.Kf4 Kg6 39.a4 b5 40.axb5 cxb5 41.Ke5 a6 42.Kxd5 Kf6 43.h5 Kg5 44.Ke5 f4 45.d5 f3 46.d6 f2 47.d7 f1Q 48.d8Q+ Kxh5 49.Qe8+ Kh4 50.Qe7+ Kh3 51.Qe6+ Kg3 52.Qxh6 Qe2+ 53.Kd4 Qc4+ 54.Ke5 Qxc3+ 55.Kd5 Qc4+ 56.Ke5 Qc7+ 57.Qd6 Qg7+ 58.Kd5+ 1-0

**TARUN KARTHIKEYAN 1387
KAI LUCAS GRAYSON 1199**

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.h3 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.d3 e6 8.Bd2 Qc7 9.Qc2 Be7 10.Nh4 Bg6 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.a3 1-0

**RYAN GUPTA 1045
JACOB JUST UNR**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be3 b6 6.c4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Be2 Bg4 9.Bd3 c5 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 cxd4 12.cxd4 0-0 13.0-0 Nbc6 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Ng5+ Kg8 1-0

Round 5**LM SULLIVA MCCONNELL 2339
LM BRIAN D WALL 2210**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Be3 Be7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.e5 Nfd7 8.f4 c5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.g3 a6 11.Bg2 b5 12.a3 b4 13.axb4 cxb4 14.Na4 a5 15.f5 Nb6 16.Nxb6 Qxb6 17.Nf4 Bd7 18.0-0 Kh8 19.Kh1 a4 20.Bg1 Na5 21.f6 gxf6 22.exf6 Bd6 23.Nh3 Rg8 24.Qh6 Rg6 25.Qh5 Qd8 26.Nf4 Bxf4 27.Rxf4 Rc8 28.Be3 Rxc2 29.Rh4 Qg8 30.Bh6 Rf2 31.Qe5 Nc4 32.Bg7+ Rxg7 33.fxg7+ Qxg7 34.Qb8+ Qg8 35.Qxb4 Ne3 36.Qe1 Nxg2 37.Qxf2 Nxh4 38.Qf6+ Qg7 39.Qxh4 Qg6 40.Kg1 Bb5 41.Qf4 Kg7 42.Qe5+ Kh6 43.Rd1 Bc4 44.h4 Qh5 45.Rd2 Qxe5 46.dxe5 Kg6 47.Rf2 h5 48.Rf6+ Kg7 49.Rf4 Kf8 50.Kf2 Ke7 51.Ke3 Bb3 52.Rf6 Bc2 53.Rf2 Bg6 54.Kd4 Kd7 55.Kc5 Kc7 56.Rf4 1-0

**SUHAAS NARAYANAN 2084
NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL 2223**

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 b6 8.Bg5 Nd5 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Na3 c3 11.e4 cxb2 12.Qxb2 Nf6 13.e5 Nd5 14.Rfc1 Bb7 15.Nc4 Nc6 16.h4 Rad8 17.a3 Rd7 18.Re2 a6 19.Rd1 Rfd8 20.Ncd2 Na5 21.Rdc1 Rc8 22.Ng5 h6 23.Nge4 Rcd8 24.Nb3 Nxb3 25.Qxb3 Ba8 26.Qa4 a5 27.Qb3 c6

28.Nd6 Rxd6 29.exd6 Qxd6 30.Rd2 b5 31.Bxd5 a4 32.Qa2 exd5 33.Re2 Bb7 34.Rce1 Kf8 35.Qc2 g6 36.h5 Rd7 37.hxg6 Qxg6 38.Qc5+ Qd6 39.Qxd6+ Rxd6 40.Re8+ Kg7 41.R1e7 Ba6 42.Ra8 c5 43.dxc5 Rc6 44.Raa7 b4 45.axb4 a3 46.Rxf7+ Kg6 47.Rfc7 Re6 48.Re7 Rc6 49.Re3 a2 50.Ra3 Bc4 51.Rxa2 Bxa2 52.Rxa2 Kf5 53.Re2 Rc8 54.f3 Rb8 55.Rb2 d4 56.c6 Ke6 57.Kf2 Kd6 58.b5 Re8 59.Re2 Kc7 60.Rd2 Rd8 61.f4 Kb6 62.Kf3 Kxb5 63.c7 Rc8 64.Rxd4 Rxc7 65.Rd6 Rh7 66.Kg4 Kc5 67.Rg6 h5+ 68.Kh4 Kd4 69.Rg5 Ke4 70.Rxh5 Ra7 71.Kg4 Rg7+ 72.Rg5 Rh7 73.Re5+ Kd4 74.Re8 Kd5 1-0

**CM RHETT LANGSETH 2135
NM DANIEL HERMAN 2121**

1.d3 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c3 c5 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.e4 e5 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 Be6 9.a4 Re8 10.Ng5 Bd7 11.Qb3 Na5 12.Qc2 d4 13.Ngf3 Bd6 14.Nc4 Nxc4 15.dxc4 Ne8 16.Re1 Ne7 17.Bg5 f6 18.Bd2 Ne6 19.g3 g6 20.Bh6 Rf7 21.Bf1 Ng7 22.Qd2 Bg4 23.Bg2 Qd7 24.Qc1 Qe6 25.Nd2 Nh5 26.Bh1 Kh8 27.f3 Bh3 28.g4 Bxg4 29.fxg4 Qxg4+ 30.Bg2 Bf8 31.h3 Qg3 32.Nf1 Qd3 33.Bd2 Qxc4 34.Bf3 Ng7 35.cxd4 cxd4 36.Qxc4 Rxc4 37.Recl Rfc7 38.Be2 Rxc1 39.Rxc1 Rxc1 40.Bxc1 Bb4 41.Bd2 Bxd2 42.Nxd2 Ne6 43.Kf2 h5 44.Bc4 Nf4 45.Kg3 Kg7 46.h4 f5 47.Nf3 Kf6 48.Nxd4 fxe4 49.Ne2 g5 50.Nc3 gxh4+ 51.Kxh4 e3 52.Kg3 Ke7 53.Kf3 h4 54.Ne2 h3 55.Kxe3 h2 56.Ng3 Kd6 57.Ke4 Kc5 58.b3 Kb4 59.Kxe5 Nh3 60.Nh1 a6 61.Kf5 b5 62.axb5 axb5 63.Bf1 Ng1 64.Kf4 Kxb3 65.Bxb5 Kc3 66.Kg3 Kd2 67.Kxh2 Nf3+ 68.Kg3 Nd4 69.Bd7 Ke3 70.Kg4 Ke4 71.Ng3+ Ke5 72.Ba4 Ne6 73.Kf3 Nd4+ 74.Kg4 Ne6 75.Nf1 Nd4 76.Nd2 Ne6 77.Nf3+ Ke4 78.Be8 Nd4 79.Bg6+ Kd5 80.Ng5 Ke5 81.Bh7 Kd6 82.Be4 Ke5 83.Bb7 Kf6 84.Bc8 Ke5 85.Kg3 Kf6 86.Kf4 Ne2+ 87.Kg4 Ke5 88.Nf3+ Ke4 89.Bb7+ Ke3 90.Ne1 Kd4 91.Kf3 Nc3 92.Kf4 Nd5+ 93.Kg4 Ne3+ 94.Kf4 Nd5+ 95.Kg5 Ke5 96.Nf3+ Kd6 97.Kf5 Ne7+ 98.Ke4 Nc6 99.Nd2 Kc7 100.Ba6 Kd6 101.Nb3 Nb4 102.Bb5 Nd5 103.Bc4 Nf6+ 104.Kd4 Nd7 105.Nd2 Nc5 106.Ba2 Ne6+ 107.Ke4 Nc5+ 108.Ke3 Ke5 109.Nc4+ Kf6 110.Kd4 Ne6+ 111.Ke4 Ng5+ 112.Kd5 Ne6 113.Ne3 Ne7+ 114.Ke4 Nb5 115.Nd5+ Kg5 116.Ke5 Na3 117.Bb3 Nb1 118.Bd1 Nd2 119.Ne3 Kh4 120.Kf4 Kh3 121.Bg4+ Kh2 122.Be6 Kg1 123.Bh3 Kf2 124.Bg4 Ke1 125.Nc2+ Kf2 126.Bh5 Nf1 127.Be8 Ng3 128.Bb5 Ne2+ 129.Kg4 Nc3 130.Ba6 Nd5 131.Kg5 Ne3 132.Nd4 Kg3 133.Bb7 Kf2 134.Kf4 Ng2+ 135.Ke4 Ne3 136.Bc8 Nc4 137.Nf5 1/2-1/2

**SIKAN BAKER-NAGAR 2016
PATRICK ZIJLSTRA 2196**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Qb6 6.Ba4 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.d4 cxd4 9.Bb3 Nc7 10.cxd4 Na5 11.Be3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Nd5 13.Bg5 d6 14.Nc3 Be6 15.exd6 Qxd6 16.Ne4 Qb6 17.Nc5 Bg4 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Qc6 20.Rfc1 0-0 21.Na6 Qd6 22.Nc7 Nxc7 23.Bf4 e5 24.dxe5 Bxe5 25.Rd1 Qf6 26.Bxe5 Qxe5 27.Qxb7 Rfb8 28.Qc6 Ne6 29.Rd7 Qxb2 30.Re1 Qxb3 31.Re3 Qb1+ 32.Kh2 Re8 33.Rxe6 Qb8+ 34.Red6 a5 35.Rb7 Qc8 36.Rc7 Qb8 37.Rdd7 Re6 38.Qf3 f6 39.Qd5 Qe8 40.Re7 1-0

**CRAIG D WILCOX 2036
JASON NIGATU 1978**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.Nd2 Nxg3 10.hxg3 c6 11.Qc2 Be6 12.0-0 0-0 Nd7 13.a3 Be7 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Qc7 16.Bc4 Bxc4 17.Nxc4 0-0-0 18.Rhe1 Nf6 19.Ne5 Nxe4 20.Qxe4 Bd6 21.f4 Kb8 22.Kb1 a6 23.Rc1 Bxe5 24.dxe5 Rd2 25.Rc2 Rhd8 26.Rec1 Qb6 27.Qc4 R8d7 28.f5 Qd4 29.Qxd4 R7xd4 30.Re1 Rd1+ 31.Rc1 Rxc1+ 32.Kxc1 Kc7 33.e6 fxe6 34.Rxe6 Rd5 35.Rd6 Rxd6 1/2-1/2

**CM MIKE MALONEY 1900
JEREMY ROLDAN 1886**

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nxe4 5.dxe4 Qxd1+ 6.Kxd1 Nc6 7.c3 e5 8.Kc2 Be5 9.f3 0-0 10.Bc4 a5 11.Ne2 Na7 12.a4 c6 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 g5 15.Bg3 Bd6 16.Bf2 b5 17.axb5 Nxb5 18.Rhd1 Bc7 19.Bc5 Re8 20.Ng3 Kg7 21.h3 Kg6 22.Ra4 h5 23.Nxh5 Rd8 24.Rxd8 Bxd8 25.Ng3 Bc7 26.Ne2 Bb7 27.b4 Bd6 28.Bxd6 Nxd6 29.Bd3 axb4 30.Rxa8 b3+ 31.Kxb3 Bxa8 32.Kb4 Kf6 33.Kc5 Ke7 34.Kb6 Bb7 35.Ng3 f6 36.Nf5+ Nxf5 37.exf5 Bc8 38.Kxc6 Bd7+ 39.Kb6 Kd6 40.c4 Be8 41.Be4 Bd7 42.c5+ Ke7 43.c6 Be8 44.g3 Kd6 45.h4 gxh4 46.gxh4 Ke7 47.Bd3 Kd6 48.h5 e4 49.Bxe4 Kd5 1-0

**ANTHONY CORDOVA 1561
ASHWIN MATHIMARAN 1553**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bb4 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 0-0 9.Nge2 Be6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Bg3 Bxg3 12.Nxg3 b6 13.b4 Qd6 14.a3 a6 15.Na4 Nbd7 16.Rc1 b5 17.Nc5 Nxc5 18.Rxc5 Nd7 19.Rc3 Nb6 20.e4 dxe4 21.Bxe4 Nc4 22.Nf5 Bxf5 23.Bxf5 Rfd8 24.Rg3 Qxd4 25.Qh5 Rd5 26.Qh3 Kh8 27.Rg4 Qf6 28.Bd3 Ne5 29.Rg3 Rad8 30.Bc2 Rd2 31.f4 Rxc2 0-1



Christopher Motley annotates his games from the Denver Open

□ **Motley, Christopher**
 ■ **Deguire, Benjamin**
 Denver Open 2025 (1)
 [chris]

E91
1960
1761
 16.05.2025

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 g6 4.e3!?
 This has been my go to for a while now. The Panov leads to absolutely nothing for white, but my opponents from Colorado never play d5.

[4.e4 d6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4± The Maróczy bind gives white the advantage against the Accelerated Dragon. I have played this many times with varied success.]

4...Bg7 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 0-0
 [6...d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5



A) 8.Bc4? The most played move in the database already gives black a slight edge.

A1) 8...Nb6! My favorite move for black, which puts pressure on white's IQP, and leads to a practically winning, but objectively equal position with perfect play. 9.Bb3 0-0 10.0-0 Nc6 11.d5 Na5 12.Re1 (12.h3

Nxb3 13.axb3 Bf5=) 12...Bg4 13.Bg5! The top move in recent correspondence games. The line is equal with perfect play, but gives black three pieces for the queen. Enjoy (13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Nxb3 15.axb3 Re8 16.Rd1 Nc8 17.Be3 Nd6 18.Rxa7 Rxa7 19.Bxa7 Qa5 20.Bd4 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 Qa1+ 22.Nd1 Rc8=) 13...Re8 14.d6 Qxd6 15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.Rxe7+ Qxe7 17.Bxe7 Kxe7 18.Nd5+ Kf8 19.Qd2 Bxf3 20.Nc7 Bc6 21.Qxa5 Kg8 22.Nxa8 Rxa8 23.Qa3= Objectively equal but way more fun for black;
A2) 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Qc7 10.Qb3 0-0 11.0-0 Nc6 12.Qa3=;

B) 8.Qb3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Be2 Nc6 11.0-0 b6= This is the most played line in correspondence with a 100% draw rate.]



7.d5!? This may technically be the best move by a smidge. Be2 and Qb3 transpose into the main Panov lines.

7...d6

[7...e6! Played the most times in correspondence, and is probably objectively best. 8.Be2 exd5 9.cxd5 d6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Be3 Nc5 12.Re1 Re8 13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Nd4 h5=]

8.Be2 This move is the main move and it's fine. The move that I think may be harder for black to meet is h3.

[8.h3! Never played in correspondence, but the move forces black to challenge the d pawn immediately with e6. In practical play it's very easy for black to go wrong here, usually by misplacing the light squared bishop.

A) 8...Nbd7? Already inaccurate. 9.Be2 Nc5 10.0-0

A1) 10...Bf5? 11.Be3 Nfe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Ng5 Bf5 14.b4! Bxa1 15.Qxa1 Black's king is too weak here, engine says black can give up a pawn and keep the position only +1 for white. f6! 16.Nxh7 (16.bxc5! fxcg5 17.Bxg5 dxc5 18.Re1±) 16...Kxh7 17.bxc5 dxc5 18.Bxc5±;

A2) 10...e6 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.Nd4! Black has a weak d pawn for nothing. Bd7 13.Be3 Re8 14.Bf3 Nfe4 15.Rc1±;

B) 8...Bf5? Inaccurate 9.Be2 Ne4 10.Nxe4 Bxe4 11.0-0 Na6! (11...Bxf3 12.Bxf3 a5 13.Be3 Na6 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qe2 Rfc8 16.Rfc1 a4 17.h4!±) 12.Nd4± Threatening f3, black has to play

precisely with their light squared bishop on e4;

C) 8...Bd7? Inaccurate 9.Be2 e6 (9...Bc8?± The top move in the database) 10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.Nd4± Black has a weak d pawn, or white gets the two bishops;
D) 8...e6! Best 9.Be2 exd5 10.cxd5 Re8 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Be3 Nc5=]

8...Bg4?! Inaccurate. The problem with this natural move, is that black actually doesn't want to take on f3. The reason is because with a light squared bishop on f3, black can no longer challenge white's d pawn via e6 without opening up white's bishop. **9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Be3 a6**



11.Rc1?!

[11.h3! Best. After the trade, black no longer has counterplay in the center with e6. This means black has to try for the b5 break, which white can prevent entirely. Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Rc8 13.Be2! Ne5 (13...Nc5 14.Qb1! Preventing b5, Rc1 and b4 are next.)

14.Qb3 Qc7 15.Bb6 Qb8 16.a4± Black is getting squeezed, and the knight on e5 means nothing.]

11...Rc8 Both sides have played natural moves, but amazingly white is almost winning according to the engine. This is an instructive position for me as the advantage is almost entirely based on pawn structure. As long as white plays moves that limit black's pawn breaks, white will continue to improve pieces until black crumbles. All black can do here is shuffle and try not to weaken themselves. **12.b3± Qa5** Here I played too quickly and made a move that does absolutely nothing. **13.a3??** The only point to this move was that I thought he couldn't take it. My plan was to plan Rb1 and b4, hanging a pawn and a knight, both of which I thought he couldn't take without losing his queen. If my opponent wasn't allowed to play moves, maybe this plan would actually make sense.

[13.Bd2! I don't know exactly why, but Stockfish says this move is basically winning for white. Here's a sample line: Nc5 14.h3 Bd7 15.Re1 Rfe8 16.Bf1 b5 17.Nxb5 Qxa2 18.Nbd4 Nfe4 19.Ra1 Qb2 20.Rb1 Qxb1 21.Qxb1 Nxd2 22.Nxd2 Bxd4 23.Nf3 Bf6 24.b4± Black had to give away his queen, +1 for white.]

[13.Qd2? This allows black to get his counterplay in with b5. Bxf3 14.Bxf3 b5!]

[13.Nd4! A positional move that doesn't allow black to get in the b5 break. Instead, after the trade of bishops, they can prepare the e6 break. Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Rfe8 15.Rfd1 e6 16.dxe6 fxe6± White is clearly

better here. Stockfish will setup the d5 break perfectly in order to free up black's position, but the position is extremely difficult for a human. Black's d pawn is chronically weak, all white has to do is prevent the b5 break.]

13...b5! There is no need to enter complications by taking on a3, this is the break black has been striving for!

[13...Qxa3! 14.Ra1 Qb4 15.Ra4 Qxc3 16.Bd4 Nxd5!+ Black gets everything and more for the queen.]

14.Bd4? My last two moves have completely justified black's setup. His bishop on g4 can now trade on f3 for value, and he got the b5 break for free. Black is much better.

[14.Nd4! The last chance to save white's position. Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Nb8!∞ The only move to prevent Nc6. White should be positionally worse on the queenside, but black has a knight on b8.]

14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Doubling my pawns is the only try that doesn't lose instantly.

15...bxc4 16.Bxc4



Ne5?! I was very happy to see this move during the game. I thought for sure Ben was going to play Nb6 and force me to trade my dark squared bishop. There black would maintain a solid pawn structure, and white would have no counterplay. After this move, however, I have some compensation for my doubled f pawns on the queenside. Without a pawn on d6, I can use the c5 square for my knight, which in turn makes my queenside majority more mobile. Also I may be able to play d6 myself at some point. **17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Na4 Nh5**

[Stockfish wins this position by giving away the a-pawn, as white cannot maintain the connected passers.

18...Qd8 19.Bxa6 (19.Qe2 Not taking the pawn allows black to play on the dark squares around white's king. The position is pretty miserable for white. Nh5 20.Qe3 Nf4

21.Kh1 Qd7 22.Rg1 Qf5 23.Rcd1 Nh3 24.Rg3 Bh6 25.Qe2±) 19...Rxc1 20.Qxc1 Qxd5 21.Qe3 Qd6 22.Bc4 Qxa3 23.Qxe5 e6±]

19.b4 Qd8 20.Nc5 Nf4?! Inaccurate, although I think 16...Ne5 was the real mistake.

[20...Bh6! 21.Rc3 Bf4± This is still apparently winning, although I thought I was fine after Kh1-Rg1-Rg2]

21.Kh1 Forced, to prevent e6, and now black's a-pawn is a goner. **21...Qb6??** Attempting to defend the pawn tactically, but dropping an exchange. The rest of the game was pretty easy from here.

[21...a5?! Doesn't help black, and allows my knight to get to c6. 22.Nb7 Qd7 23.Nxa5]



22...Qa7 23.Nxf8 Bxf8 24.Qe1 Qa4 and d6 were my first instincts. I calculated that d6 just doesn't work, and saw that Qa4 allows Qd4. This move attacks black's e5 pawn, while also centralizing the queen. My queen will most likely land on e3, and then I'll take the a6 pawn. F6 or Bg7 make the d pawn much easier to push.

[24.d6? e6 25.d7 Rd8= The pawn is lost.]

[24.Qa4?! Playable, but allowing Qd4. There no need to go after the a6 pawn immediately. Qd4 25.Qxa6 Rc7! Black has counterplay.]

24...Bh6! Defending the e5 pawn tactically, as Qxe5 is met with Nd3!
25.d6?? Creating the threat of Bxf7+,

but not stopping his!

[25.Rc2!+- Taking away the threat wins.]

25...Qb7??

[25...Nd3! Saves the game for black! 26.Bxd3 Rxc1 27.Qxe5 Qxf2! 28.Qe2 Rxf1+ 29.Qxf1 Qxf1+ 30.Bxf1 exd6 31.Bxa6 Bc1! 32.a4 Bd2 33.b5 Ba5=]

26.Qe4



The position is hopeless for black now. 26...Qd7 27.dxe7 Qh3 28.Rg1 Kg7 29.Bf1 Rxc1 30.Qxe5+ f6 31.e8N+ Kf7 32.Nd6+ Kg8 33.Qe8+ Kg7 34.Qf7+ Kh8 35.Qxf6+ Kg8 36.Bxh3 1-0

Montgomery, Eamon
Motley, Christopher
Denver Open 2025 (2)
[chris]

D46
2237
1960
17.05.2025

This is the game that won Chris Peterson's best game award. It was a

fun one! 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6?! The triangle variation. This would be a good way to enter the Semi-Slav, except it allows 4.e4 where black has to enter an ugly groveling line. My goal of playing this was to prevent the exchange QGD. 4.e3 This is the most popular move in the database, avoiding sidelines and entering the Meran. I was happy to get a Semi-Slav for the first time.

[4.e4! The highest scoring move in correspondence. dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 Na6 Ba5 and Bd6 are both good moves for white.]

4...Nf6 5.Nf3



Bd6?! Nbd7 should be played first. This move order allows some dangerous lines involving e4 for white. Black has to be accurate in order to avoid them.

[5...Nbd7 6.Bd3 Transposes to the game in the correct move order.]

6.Bd3 0-0?! A mistake showing why Nbd7 needs to be played earlier.

[6...Nbd7?! This again, allows e4 for white. 7.e4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nxe4

9.Bxe4 Nf6 10.Bc2± White is already significantly better. This line scores heavily in correspondence for white with an 80%(!) win rate.]

[6...dxc4! Doesn't allow white e4, keeping the game in Meran territory. Technically 5...Bd6 is playable because of this move, however, this allows the bishop to go to b3 which the engine prefers. 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bb3! ± (8.Bd3 Nbd7 Everyone plays the bishop back to d3, which transposes back into the Meran. 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2)]

7.0-0

[7.e4! Enters a dangerous greek gift line for black. dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nxe4 9.Bxe4 c5 10.Bxh7+! Kxh7 11.Ng5+ Kg6 12.h4 Kf6!= The only move that saves black. There is no reason to allow this variation.]

7...dxc4?!

[7...Nbd7 Should be played before dxc4. 8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 Leads into the Meran.]

8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3

[9.Be2?! Nbd7 10.Qc2 Bb7 Alex Yermolinsky vs Josh Bloomer 2019: 11.a3 a5 12.Rd1 Qb8 13.h3 b4 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 c5 16.Qh4 Rc8 17.Bd2 c4 18.Rdc1 c3! The thematic Semi-Slav sacrifice to push the b pawn through. This is also similar to the sacrifice I made in this game. 19.bxc3 b3 20.Rcb1 a4 21.Bd3 h6 22.e4 Ba6 23.Bxa6 Rxa6 24.e5 Bf8 25.Qg4 Rac6 26.h4 Rc4 27.Re1 Nc5 28.Bxh6 Nd3 29.Ng5 gxh6 30.Nxe6+ Kh8 31.Nxf8 Nxe1 32.Nd7 b2 33.Qf4 Nf3+ 34.gxf3 bxa1Q+ 35.Kh2 Qbb1 0-1]

[9.Bb3! Still the best square for the bishop. The reason is because without a black knight on d7, a5 can't exploit the bishop on b3 like normal. a5? With a knight on d7 this would be the typical response. 10.e4! Black cannot meet this move with e5, and must suffer with a worse pawn structure. b4! Best (10...Be7? 11.e5 Nd5 12.Re1± White has a dream attacking position.) 11.e5 bxc3 12.bxc3 Be7 13.exf6 Bxf6± Many moves are good for white here.]

9...Nbd7



After four inaccuracies, I have made it into the Meran. 10.Qc2 Best. 10...Bb7 Best. 11.a4? Giving black b4 for nothing. The next eight moves I make are with tempo!

[11.a3 This is the mainline, and the best try for white. a5! 12.e4 e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.h3=]

[11.e4! The second top try in correspondence. e5 12.h3 a6 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Be3

Re8 16.a4 Qe7 17.Ne2 Bd6 18.Rfd1=]

11...b4 12.Ne4 Nxe4 13.Bxe4 f5! 14.Bd3 c5! The third pawn push with tempo! Here I'm threatening Bxf3 with lethal threats against white's king. 15.Qe2

[15.Rd1?? Just to show the threat. Bxf3 16.gxf3 Qh4 17.f4 Rf6! 18.Bf1 Rg6+ 19.Bg2 Qg4 20.f3 Qxf3+]

15...Qc7 Threatening the h2 pawn, white already has to give it up to prevent Bxf3 and c4! 16.h3?!

[16.b3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 Bd6= With the two bishops Stockfish says white has compensation.]

16...Bxf3! 17.Qxf3 c4! 18.Bc2 b3! The eighth move with tempo. White's position is horrible. 19.Bd1 Nf6 20.Bd2 Ne4 21.Be1



Eamon maneuvers his bishop to prevent the c3 push, allowing my knight to get to the uncontested e4 outpost. 21...Rab8

[21...Rac8! Is Stockfish's first choice. The engine is in no rush to shove the pawns through. Instead, sitting on

white's passive position leads to a winning advantage. 22.Qe2 Qd7 23.f3 Nf6



24.f4 White's pawns are forced into a stonewall to prevent e5 and f4 breaks. (24.e4? White's center has no support with his bishops on the back rank! Bb8! 25.Qe3 a5 26.Be2 Ba7 27.Bf2 fxe4 28.fxe4 e5!+-) 24...Nd5 25.Bd2 Bb4 26.Bxb4 Nxb4 27.Kh2 Na2 28.Qd2 Qd6 29.Bf3 Rfd8



Black has slowly rolled the c pawn push until it wins perfectly. 30.Kh1 Qb4 31.Rf2 a5 32.Qxb4 (32.Kh2 c3! 33.bxc3 Nxc3 34.Bd1 Rb8 35.Qb2

Nxd1 36.Rxd1 Qxa4+-) 32...axb4 33.Bd1 Ra8 34.g4 g6 35.Kh2 Rxa4 36.Kg3 Nc3! 37.Rxa4 Nxa4 38.Rh2 c3 39.Bxb3 cxb2 40.Bxe6+ Kg7 41.Ba2 b3 42.Bb1 Rc8+-]

22.Rc1 Rfc8?! Readying my rooks to push the pawns through. This allows Be2! however, when I have to sacrifice my c pawn.

[22...g6! A fantastic prophylactic move! Preventing Be2 due to Ng5! trapping the queen. 23.Qe2 Rfc8 24.f3 Nf6± Black will finesse this position to a win.]

23.Be2! I was so focused on Qe2 I had basically forgotten about this move.

Thankfully I found a break through.

23...c3 24.Bxc3 Qf7!



Threatening both Ng5! and Rxc3!

25.Ba6? Eamon missed my next move and collapsed quickly here. Playing in such a cramped position may have finally cracked him.

[25.Bb5! White is actually better! However, the variations are still difficult for white to play and maintain

an edge. Rxc3?! (25...h5! 26.Qe2 g5! ± Should be played. Black still has counterplay for the pawn.) 26.bxc3



A) 26...b2! 27.Rb1 Ba3 28.c4 Nd2 29.Qe2 Nxf1 30.Qd3!! The engine thinks this nuance is extremely important. Taking the knight with the king or queen drops the eval from +2 to equality. You can see how difficult this is even when white is better. (30.Qxf1? a6! 31.Bxa6 Rb3! Suddenly the pawn had become extremely scary again. 32.Kh2 Rc3 33.Qe2 f4! Black has apparently equalized.; 30.Kxf1? f4! Black develops counterplay along the f file. 31.c5 fxe3 32.Qxe3 Qf5 33.Bd3 Qd5 34.Kg1 Rb3!±) 30...Nd2 31.Qxd2 White is up two pawns and the b pawn has been tempered; B) 26...a6? 27.Bxa6 b2 28.Rb1 Nxc3 29.Qc6 Qc7 30.Qxc7 Bxc7 31.Bb5!+- The line from the game no longer works! Nxb5 32.Rxb2+-] 25...Rxc3! 26.bxc3 b2 27.Rce1?? [27.Rb1! The obvious move actually

saves the game for white. In this line the endgame isn't winning! Nxc3 28.Qc6 Qc7! 29.Qxc7 Bxc7 30.Bb5 Nxb1 31.Rxb1 Bd6 32.Kf1! White is just in time before Ba3-Rc8-Rc1+]

27...Nxc3 28.Qc6 Forking my pieces, but the endgame is a forced win for me. 28...Qc7! 29.Qxc7 Bxc7 30.Bd3 Nxa4 31.Bb1 Nc3 32.f4 White is completely helpless. 32...a5



33.Rf2 a4 34.Bd3 a3 35.Bc4 b1Q 36.Bxe6+ Kf8 37.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 38.Kh2 Rb2 39.Rxb2 axb2 40.Bxf5 b1Q 41.Bxb1 Nxb1 42.Kg3 Nc3 43.Kf3 Bb6 44.f5 Ke7 45.g4 Kf6 46.Kf4 h6 47.h4 Bc7+ 48.Kf3 h5 49.gxh5 Kxf5 50.d5 Ne4 51.h6 gxh6 0-1

B04
McConnell, Griffin 2220
Motley, Christopher 1960
Denver Open 2025 (3) 17.05.2025
[chris]

1.e4 Nf6!? I didn't feel like playing against the Rossolimo. I haven't studied enough of the g6 lines. 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 5.Nxe5 c6 6.c4?! Already black equalizes instantly. It's amazing how many strong players play this move against me. 6...Nb4 7.Be3 Bf5 8.Nd3 e5!



Bortnyk approved. 9.Nxb4 Bxb1?! Not the strongest for black, who should actually be better in this line.

[9...Bxb4+! 10.Nc3 Qa5 11.Qc1 The best move, but even here white has to be accurate to survive. (11.Qb3?? A common mistake the wins nicely for black. exd4 12.Bxd4 Na6! 13.Be2 0-0-0 14.Rd1 Rxd4! 15.Rxd4 Nc5 16.Qd1 Na4! 17.0-0 Nxb2 18.Qb3 Bxc3+; 11.Rc1 exd4 12.Qxd4 0-0 13.a3 Be7 14.Be2 Nd7

15.0-0 Rfd8 16.Qf4 Bg6 17.Rfd1 Nf8! Routing the knight to e6.) 11...exd4 12.Bxd4 0-0 13.a3 Re8+ 14.Be2 Bxc3+ 15.Bxc3 Qd8 16.Qd2 Na6 (16...Bd3?? Tempting but 17.0-0-0! Wins the bishop for white!) 17.Qxd8 Raxd8 18.Bd2! White has to maneuver the bishop to e3 in order to castle. The immediate Bd3 was also threatened by black. (18.Kf1? Nc5 19.g4! The only move that continues fighting for white. Bd3 20.Bxd3 Rxd3 21.Re1 Ne4! With accurate play white can try to hold on, but it's clear black has a dominant position.) 18...Be4 19.Rg1 Nc5 20.Be3 b6!] 10.Rxb1 Bxb4+ 11.Ke2! Black doesn't have enough pieces to exploit the king on e2. The position is equal. 11...Qh4?! Attempting to punish white for playing the bongcloud. I was hoping for g3 Qh5+ and f3 here. [11...Nd7 12.a3 Be7=]



12.a3! I had basically forgotten about this move. Without g3, Qh5+ and f3

doesn't look as enticing.

[12.g3? Qh5+! 13.f3 Nd7 14.Kf2 exd4 15.Qxd4 0-0-0! 16.Qg4 Hoping a queen trade will safen his position. (16.Qxa7?? The black king is safe, and white's king is too exposed. Rhe8!-+) 16...Qa5 17.Rd1 g6!]

12...Bd6 13.g3 Now g3, and against any check to the king Griffin can just side step. 13...Qe4 14.f3 Qg6 15.Kf2 The king is tucked in safely, and my queen is now a liability. 15...Nd7 16.Bd3 Qh5 17.f4! Forcing the queens off. Here white might get more space and the bishop pair. 17...Qxd1 18.Rhxd1 exd4 My only hope is to trade the dark squared bishops and tuck my king into f8 after Re1+. I calculated this line the best I could and went for it. 19.Bxd4



Bc5 20.Bf5 Bxd4+ 21.Rxd4 Nf6 22.Re1+ Kf8 23.g4! I had missed that after g6 in response to this move, g5 is winning! 23...h6! The best defense. Here the win for white becomes impossibly difficult.

[23...g6? 24.g5! gxf5?? (24...Nh5 25.Bg4! Ng7 26.Rd7! Re8 27.Rxe8+ Nxe8 28.Rxb7+-; 24...c5! This is the Stockfish defense. White still wins 25.Rd2 Nh5 26.Bg4 Nxf4 27.Kf3 Ne6 28.Bxe6 fxe6 29.Rd7 h6 30.Rxe6+-) 25.gxf6+-]

24.Rd6! Best. Preventing g6 but allowing Re8.

[24.h4?! I thought this was still winning for white, but here I get enough counterplay with the open h file. g6 25.g5 hxg5 26.hxg5 (26.fxg5 gxf5 27.gxf6 Rh6! White can't defend f6 without dropping h4.) 26...Ng8! Keeping the h file open. 27.Be4 Rh2+ 28.Bg2 Ne7 29.Rd7 Nf5 30.Rxb7 Rd8 31.Re2 Rh4! Black has just enough counterplay to hold.]



24...Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.g5? Technically the mistake that equalizes for black. Although after 23...h6 the path to victory was extremely difficult. [26.c5!!



The only win. This move prepares to play g5 and allow Rxh2+. With the pawn on c5, the rook is secured on d6 and the c5 pawn is actually very difficult to target. As you'll see in the upcoming engine lines, this pawn ends up winning white the game. Giving away the d5 square like this isn't easy for a human to play, but Nd5 is never a move as it gives away the seventh rank. Black only has one reasonable move here in Ke7.

A) 26...Nd5?? 27.Rd7! Black's queenside pawns fall, but even worse his rook is trapped; B) 26...g6? Still loses for black. 27.Rxf6 Ke7 28.Rd6 gxf5 29.gxf5 f6 30.Re6+ Kf7 This is a very instructive ending. In order to win, white forces black's rook to the 7th and then walks the king up to h5. From there the white rook just needs to land on g6 in order to win. 31.Re3 Rd8 32.Rb3 Rd7 33.Kg3 Kg7 34.Kh4 Re7 35.h3 Kh7 36.Kh5 Kg7 37.h4 Kh7 38.Rd3! An important touch, making sure black's rook is kept off the d file

where it could poke at white's pawn from d5. (38.Rg3!? Bringing the rook to g6 immediately is winning, but white is in no hurry and could have made further improvements. Rd7 39.Rg6 Rd5+- Winning, but black has been given some counterplay.) 38...Kg7 39.b4 Kh7 40.Rg3 Rg7 41.Rg6 (41.Rxg7+?? Kxg7=) 41...Rf7 42.Rxh6+ Kg7 43.Rg6+ Kh7 44.Kg4 Rf8 45.h5 Rf7 46.h6 Rf8 47.Kh5 Rf7 48.Rg1 Kh8 49.Rd1 Kh7 50.Rd6 Kh8 51.Kg6 Rf8 52.h7+-; C) 26...Ke7 Threatening Rd8. White has no time to prepare the g5 push with Kg3, and must allow his h and b pawns to drop in order to win. 27.g5!! hxg5 28.fxg5



The knight has no where to go without dropping black's queenside pawns. Rxh2+ 29.Kg3 Black loses a piece here, but the win isn't trivial. Rxb2 30.gxf6+ gxf6 31.Bc8! Winning the b pawn Rb3+ 32.Kf4 Rxa3 33.Bxb7 Rc3 34.Rxc6 As long as white can maintain his c pawn, the endgame

is technically winning. Kd7 35.Ke4 Rc1 36.Kd4 Rd1+ 37.Kc3 Rc1+ 38.Kd2 Rc4 39.Rc8 f5 40.Ba6 Rd4+ 41.Kc3 Re4 42.c6+ Kd6 43.Bb5 Re7 Black has to guard the seventh now. White's king can tuck into a5. 44.Kb4 Re4+ 45.Ka5 Re7 46.Rb8 Rc7 47.Rd8+ Ke6 48.Rd1!



The endgame is study-like f4 49.Rd4! Black is zugzwanged, he has to push his pawns to their deaths. f5 50.Rxf4 Ke5 51.Rf1 f4 52.Rd1 Ke6 53.Rd4 f3 54.Rf4 Ke5 55.Rxf3 Kd6 56.Rd3+ Kc5 57.Rd7 Rc8 58.c7 The last pawn must be given. a6 59.Bxa6+-] 26...hxg5 27.fxg5 Rxh2+ 28.Kg3 Rh5 29.Kf4

(Diagram)



Here he offered a draw and I immediately took it. As it turns out, white only has one move that doesn't lose instantly after Rh4+ 1/2-1/2

Analysis: **29...Rh4+ 30.Kf3!**

Draw by three-fold is most likely here, although Stockfish thinks it can press on.

[30.Ke5?? Loses to a nice tactic. Ng4+! 31.Kf4 (31.Bxg4 Rxc4 White can't defend both pawns.) 31...Nh6+! 32.Ke5 (32.Kg3?? Nxf5+!) 32...Nxf5 33.Kxf5 Rxc4+] [30.Kg3?? Ne4+! 31.Kxh4 (31.Bxe4 Rxe4 One of white's pawns drop. 32.c5 Re5+) 31...Nxd6 32.Bd3 c5+] [30.Ke3?? Ng4+! 31.Kd2 Ne5 32.b3 Ke7! 33.c5 g6+ Black is up a pawn and all of white's pawns are too loose.]

30...Nh7?

[30...Rh5 31.Kf4 Rh4+ 32.Kf3 Rh5 33.Kf4 1/2-1/2]

31.Kg3! The only defense for white.

31...Rh5 32.Bxh7! Again the only move

[32.Kf4? Rh1! 33.Bxh7??

With the king on f4, black is actually winning here. (33.Bc8! Best. Rh4+ 34.Ke3 Rxc4 35.Bxb7 Ke7 36.Rxc6 Rxc6 37.Bxc6 Nxc6+ Black is pressing) 33...Rxb7 34.g6! fxc6 35.Rxc6 Kf8! 36.Rd6

A) 36...Rh2? 37.b4 Ke7 38.Rg6 (38.Rd3?? Rh4+ 39.Ke5 Rxc4+) 38...Kf7 39.Rd6 Ke7 40.Rg6 Holds for white;

B) 36...Rh3!



This is the point, with the king on g3 this move isn't possible. Black can now play Rb3 and force white's rook to d2. Due to white's queenside pawn structure, the passed g pawn makes this a win for black. 37.Rd7 Rb3 38.Rd2 Ke7 Step one complete, white's rook is now passive. 39.Ke5 Re3+ 40.Kf4 Re1 41.Kf5 Rg1 42.Ke5 (42.b4 Here the a-pawn becomes the target. g6+ 43.Ke5 Re1+ 44.Kf4 Rc1 45.c5 Rc3 46.Ra2 Kf6+; 42.Re2+) 42...Rg5+ 43.Kf4 Rh5 44.Kg4 Rc5 45.Rd4 a5 46.b4 axb4 47.axb4 Re5 48.c5 Kf6

White's rook can't leave the fourth rank without dropping the b pawn. 49.Rd6+ Re6 50.Rd4 Re7 51.Rd6+ Ke5 52.Kg3 Rf7 53.Rd3 Rf4 54.Rb3 g5+ The rook has been pacified, black wins.]

32...Rxb7 33.g6! Rh8 34.gxf7+ Ke7

35.Rd3 Rf8 36.Rb3 b6 37.c5 b5

38.Rd3 Rxf7 39.b4= In this line white's pawns are secured and black can't make progress.



Black has to know a lot of theory just to survive. Nc5?? Rerouting the knight to e6 seems natural, however the knights are grossly misplaced in this position, and black has spent too many tempi to do it. (6...c6 This is the only try for black, anything else can justifiably receive a "???" 7.Be3 d5 8.e5! With this line in particular, black is hard pressed to find a decent setup for his pieces, namely his knight on f6. Bc5 9.Qd2 Bxe3 10.Qxe3 0-0 11.0-0-0 Ng4 12.Qd2 Qb6! 13.Nd4! Black is basically busted in this line as well. Nh6 14.h3 Qc7 15.g4± White is borderline winning) 7.Be3 Ne6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.0-0-0 10.h3! Black has nothing to do here, the calm kingside attack for white just wins. The misplaced knights will be kicked with tempo by white's pawns, and black's counterattack hasn't even begun. c6 11.g4 b5 12.g5! If black moves his knight here the pawns will crash into black's kingside and destroy everything. b4 (12...Nd7?? 13.f5!

■ **Motley, Christopher**

■ **Langseth, Rhett**

Denver Open 2025 (4)

[chris]

C41

1960

2109

18.05.2025

1.e4 d6 2.d4!

[2.f4?! I've basically been playing this against Rhett every game for years, but he has learned not to allow the scary attack.

A) 2...Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7?!

He used to play into the scary attack like this. This is how I beat him when I won my first Colorado Springs City Championship in 2022: 4.d4 e5 5.Nf3 exd4 6.Qxd4

(Diagram)

Nc7 14.f6! gxf6 15.gxf6 Bxf6 16.Qxd6 Ne6 17.Qxc6 Rb8 18.Nd5+-) 13.gxf6 bxc3 14.Qxc3 Bxf6 15.e5! Every blow with tempo! The position is completely lost for black. Be7 16.Rg1 Preparing f5 c5 17.f5 Nd4 18.f6! Nxf3 19.Rxg7+ Kh8 20.Qd3!! Rb8 21.Qxh7# 1-0 Motley, C (1933)-Langseth, R (2154) City Championship 2022 (4);

B) 2...c5! Best obviously;

C) 2...e5

C1) 3.Nf3 exf4 4.d4 g5 5.g3 (5.Bc4!? g4 6.0-0! gxf3 7.Qxf3 White is objectively lost but black has to play like an engine to survive. I had a game against Rhett here in the 2023 Colorado Closed Challenger section, where I ended up losing a winning position.) 5...g4 6.Nh4 f3 7.Bf4 Ne7 8.h3 h5 9.c3 Nbc6 This line is interesting but I've never liked it for white; **C2) 3.d3 f5!** This is what Rhett plays currently, with a dead equal game. There are only three games here in all of Megabase, and its move four...]

2...Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Rg1

(Diagram)



The strongest aggressive line against the Philidor. h3 and g4!? are the two other g4 systems. Bc4 is by far the most played move in both correspondence and fide tournaments. **5...h5 6.h3! exd4?!**

[6...c6 Best 7.a4 Be7 8.Be2 a6 9.a5 b5 10.axb6 Qxb6 11.g4 hxg4 12.hxg4 d5 13.exd5 exd4 14.Na4 Qa5+ 15.Kf1 cxd5 16.Nxd4 Ne5 17.Nc3 Qd8 18.Nf5± Leela and Stockfish agree until here.]

7.Nxd4

[7.Qxd4 This is another good option, and maybe more principled than Nxd4. Best line is +1 for white: c6 8.Bf4 Nc5 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bb3 Qb6 11.0-0-0 (11.Bxd6± Taking the pawn is also good for white. Nxb3 12.Qe5+ Be6 13.axb3 Nd7 14.Qf4 Bxd6 15.Qxd6 0-0-0 16.0-0-0 Nc5 17.Qf4 b4±) 11...b4 12.Na4 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Qxd4 14.Rxd4 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Re1+ Be6±]

7...d5? 8.Nxd5 A more natural way to take the pawn in my opinion.

[8.exd5! Best, but I didn't know what to do after Bb4. Bb4 9.Qe2+ Qe7 (9...Kf8?! 10.Bg5 Nb6 11.0-0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Nbx5 13.c4 Nc3 14.Ne6+ Ke7 15.Nxd8+ Nxe2+ 16.Bxe2 Rxd8 17.Rxd8 Kxd8 18.Bxh5 Be6+-) 10.Qxe7+ Kxe7 11.Bd2 Nb6 12.0-0-0 Bd7 13.a3 Bxc3 14.d6+ Kf8 15.Bxc3 Ne4± Black is basically busted according to Stockfish and Leela.]

8...Nxe4?

[8...c6 Best 9.Nxf6+ Nxf6 10.Qd3± White is a healthy pawn up.]

9.Nb5! Bd6



10. Qe2? I thought I could win the h pawn after forcing black to castle. I can, but it loses instantly.

[10.Nxd6+! cxd6 (10...Nxd6 11.Qe2+ Kf8 12.Bf4 Nf6 13.0-0-0+ +2.5) 11.Be3 Ndf6 12.Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.Qd5 Qe5 14.Bb5+ Ke7 15.Bc4 Qxd5 16.Bxd5 Nf6 17.Bf3± Leela and Stockfish both give +2]

10...0-0 11.Nxd6 cxd6

[11...Nxd6?? 12.Ne7+ Qxe7

(12...Kh7?? 13.Qxh5#) 13.Qxe7 Re8 14.Qxe8+ Nxe8+-]

12.Qxh5?? The e file is too strong for black. The game is now over.

[White is still better after a fantastic queen sac: 12.Bd2! Re8 13.0-0-0 Nc3 14.Qxe8+! Qxe8 15.Bxc3 Qd8 16.g4!±]

12...Re8! 13.Be3

[13.Ne3 This is the best try, but my king is still stuck in the center. Kicking the knight from e4 is basically impossible. Rhett said he was going to play Ndc5 here. Ndc5+ I can't get my bishop out to castle long, white is busted.]



13...Re5! 14.Qd1 Qa5+ 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Qxc3+ 17.Ke2 b6 18.Rb1

[18.Qe1 Qxc2+ 19.Qd2 Ba6+ 20.Ke1 Qa4+-]

18...Ba6+ 19.Kf3 Rf5+

0-1

Analysis: I resigned in light of **20.Kg3 Qe5+ 21.f4 Qxe3+ 22.Kh2 Qxf4+**

23.Kh1 Bxf1 24.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 25.Qxf1 Rxf1+ 26.Rxf1

□ Powell,Austin
■ Motley,Christopher
Denver Open 2025 (5)
[chris]

D85
2038
1960
18.05.2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3
c5 8.Be3



I honestly wasn't even expecting him to go into the exchange Grünfeld, so the Be3 line caught me off guard. It's an important line to know with black but I've never seriously studied it. 8...0-0?! A surprisingly bad move as it doesn't pressure white's center fast enough. Qa5 and Bg4 instead are good options. [8...Qa5 The main option by far, which leads to a thematic endgame in the Grünfeld. 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.Rb1 Slight finesse to provoke a6 and weaken the b6 square in the coming

ending. Rb5 is threatened. (10.Rc1 Leads to the same position without a6 in. cxd4 11.cxd4 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2=) 10...a6 11.Rc1 cxd4 12.cxd4 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2=]

[8...Bg4 This is potentially the most complicated and interesting line for black. 9.Rc1 0-0 10.Be2 Qa5 11.0-0 Qxa2 12.Rb1 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 14.d5 Na5 15.Bg5 Qa3 16.Re1 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Be5∞]

9.Be2! 75% win rate in correspondence! White will comfortably castle and any pressure on the d pawn can now be met with d5. 9...Bg4

[9...b6 Going for the double fianchetto is the most played here. Black gets a cramped position and white gets a strong center. 10.Rc1 Bb7 11.d5 Nd7 12.c4±]

10.0-0 Qa5 I'm playing normal Grünfeld moves but with castling already in. Black cannot properly break down white's center. 11.Rb1 Nc6? Another Grünfeld move that just doesn't work after castling.

[11...Qxc3 12.dxc5 Nc6 13.Rxb7 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bd4! Stockfish says black can attempt to hold this. +0.6 for white.]

12.Rb5?! [12.d5! Locks black into a passive position. Nd8 13.c4 Qc7 14.Nd2 Bxe2 15.Qxe2± Black is borderline lost.]

12...Qxc3 13.Rxc5 Qa3 14.d5

(Diagram)



Rfd8?

[14...Ne5? 15.Nxe5 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Bxe5 17.Qc2± White's center pawns will begin to roll.]

[Black's only chance is 14...Nb4!? with strange complications. But this is engine chess. 15.Nd4 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Qxa2 17.Qb5 Qa3±]

15.Qb3? This move deserves a question mark even though white is still better.

[15.Qc1! Forcing black to trade while doubling white's rooks. The position is abysmal for black. Qxc1 16.Rfx1 Ne5 17.Rc7 Bf6 18.Rxb7+- (Or.. 18.Nxe5 Bxe2 19.f4+-)]

15...Qxb3 16.axb3 Now black has a passed a-pawn that has potential when paired with the dark squared bishop. Also white's rooks haven't been doubled with tempo. White should still be winning either the b or e pawn here though. 16...Ne5?! Black should just lose a pawn here without compensation. [The engine says black can still fight by lodging their knight into d4. Thanks to white's weak b pawn, it's actually

tricky to hold onto it as long as black defends his e7 pawn. 16...Bxf3! 17.Bxf3 Nd4 18.Rc7 Kf8 19.Bg5! This is a funny line. f6 20.Be3 f5 21.Bg5! Re8 22.Rxb7 h6 23.Be3 Reb8 24.Rd7 Every other move is equal. Rd8! (24...Rxb3? 25.Bxd4 Bxd4 26.d6! Opening the diagonal. exd6 27.exf5 Re8 28.Rxd6±) 25.Rxd8+ (25.Rb7 Rdb8 26.Rd7 Rd8 27.Rb7 Rdb8 1/2-1/2) 25...Rxd8 26.Rd1 fxe4! 27.Bxd4 Bxd4 28.Bxe4 e5! ± The position is difficult for white to win.]

17.Rfc1 e6 Trying to break apart the center and create counterplay.

[17...f5 Is what the engine gives with the same idea.]

18.dxe6? He alleviated all of my problems with one move and offered a draw here. Now the endgame is pretty interesting, and quickly turns favorable for me.

[18.Rc7 White is just winning a pawn here. Bxf3 (18...exd5?? 19.Nxe5! Bxe5 20.Bxg4 Bxc7 21.Rxc7+-) 19.gxf3 exd5 20.exd5 Rxd5 21.Rxb7 a5± This is much better for white. Next white will double on the 7th and force black to play Rf8.]

18...Nxf3+ 19.Bxf3 Bxe6

(Diagram)



20.Rc7 b6 My queenside pawns will become monsters quickly. 21.b4 Be5 22.R7c6 Bd7 23.R6c2 Rdb8 Preparing the a5 push. 24.Be2 a5 25.f4 Bg7



26.b5? From here I won the endgame smoothly.

[26.bxa5 bxa5 27.Bc4 Stockfish holds this, although this is still very unpleasant for white.]

26...a4! 27.Bc4 a3 28.e5 Bf8 29.Kf2

Ra5! Forcing Bd2 and allowing my dark squared bishop to land on c5 with check. 30.Bd2 Bc5+ 31.Kf3 Ra4 32.g4



Rd8! Best. I wanted to sac the exchange but white can immediately sac back into a drawn endgame. This move threatens Rxc4, and also places my rook on the correct file.

[32...Rxc4? 33.Rxc4 Bxb5 34.Rxc5 bxc5 35.Rxc5 a2 36.Bc3± This looked drawn to me, but Stockfish says black is winning here! Although it's not trivial: Be8 37.Ke4 Ra8 38.Ba1 Bd7 39.h3 (39.f5?? gxf5+ 40.gxf5 Ra4+ 41.Ke3 Bxf5+-) 39...Be6 40.Kf3 Ra4 41.Rc2 h5 42.Rc3 Kh7 43.Rc7 Ra3+ 44.Rc3 Ra7 45.Re3 Rd7 46.Ra3 Rd1 47.Bb2 Rg1 48.Ra4

(Diagram)



hxg4+ 49.hxg4 Bd5+ 50.Ke3 Rxc4 51.Ra5 Rg3+ 52.Kd4 Be6 53.Ra8 Rf3 54.Ke4 Rb3 55.Bd4 Rb5 56.Kd3 Bd5 57.Ra6 Rb8 58.e6 fxe6 59.Be5 Rb1 60.Ra3 Kh6 61.Ke2 Kh5 62.Kf2 Kg4 63.Rg3+ Kf5 64.Rg5+ Ke4 65.Rxc6 a1R 66.Bxa1 Rxa1+-]

33.h3? Walking face first into the sac.

[33.Be1 I was ready to sac the exchange here. Rxc4! 34.Rxc4 Bxb5 35.Rd4c3 a2 36.Bf2 Rd3+ 37.Rxd3 Bxd3 38.Ra1 Bb1!+- I love it]

33...Rxc4! 34.Rxc4 Bxb5 35.R4c2

[35.Rxc5 Now if he tries to sac back I have a trick. bxc5 36.Rxc5 a2! With no way to save his bishop and prevent promotion.]

35...Rd3+ 36.Ke4 Rxh3 Threatening Bc6 checkmate. The rook is perfectly placed on the third rank, covering the c3 square for his bishop. 37.Rxc5 bxc5 38.Rxc5 a2 39.Rc8+ Kg7 40.Rc1 Bd3+! 41.Kd5 Bb1 42.f5 gxf5 43.gxf5 Rd3+ 0-1

Cross Tables for DENVER OPEN 2025

Organizer EARLE P WIKLE (12126030)
Chief TD THOMAS NELSON (12854867)
Chief Ast. TD BENJAMIN DEGUIRE (30412244)
Assist. TD SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR (16973491)
Assist. TD EARLE P WIKLE (12126030)

Section 1 - CHAMPIONSHIP

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1 CO	SULLIVAN MAC MCCONNELL 14696346 / R: 2355 ->2363	4.5 N:C	W	11 W B	9 W W	5 D B	8 W W	4
2 CO	SUHAAS NARAYANAN 14290675 / R: 2084 ->2099	4.0 N:1	D	24 W B	13 D W	10 W B	21 W W	8
3 CO	SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR 16973491 / R: 2011 ->2070	4.0 N:C	W	31 L B	8 W W	22 W B	20 W W	14
4 CO	BRIAN D WALL 10923344 / R: 2200 ->2206	3.5 N:C	W	17 D B	10 W W	27 W B	14 L B	1
5 CO	DANIEL HERMAN 14345456 / R: 2134 ->2137	3.5 N:1	W	30 W B	28 L B	1 W W	19 D B	6
6 CO	RHETT LANGSETH 13392987 / R: 2112 ->2110	3.5 N:1	W	22 L B	19 W W	24 W B	7 D W	5
7 CO	CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY 16231534 / R: 1962 ->2022	3.5 N:C	W	25 W B	20 D B	8 L W	6 W B	15
8 CO	GRIFFIN THOMAS MCCONNELL 14692997 / R: 2224 ->2219	3.0 N:1	W	12 W B	3 D W	7 D W	1 L B	2
9 CO	CRAIG D WILCOX 12418845 / R: 2002 ->2012	3.0 N:1	W	29 L B	1 H W	W	28 D W	11
10 CO	CALEB NOAH KOELLER 30341176 / R: 1987 ->1993	3.0 N:1	W	32 D B	4 D W	2 D W	13 D B	12
11 CO	JASON NIGATU 30595735 / R: 1985 ->1991	3.0 N:1	L	1 W B	29 D W	23 W W	25 D B	9
12 CO	FORREST R LUNDSTROM 12771495 / R: 1893 ->1908	3.0 N:1	L	8 W B	31 D W	25 W W	23 D W	10
13 CO	KAAYVA SAKTHISARAVANAN 16909357 / R: 1743 ->1799	3.0 N:2	B	L	2 W W	18 D B	10 D W	16
14 CO	PATRICK JAN ZIJLSTRA 31983589 / R: 2204P25->2170	2.5 N:1	W	18 D B	21 W W	19 L B	4 L B	3
15 CO	AUSTIN POWELL 30672143 / R: 2043 ->2034	2.5 N:1	L	20 W W	33 D B	28 W B	27 L W	7
16 CO	LUIS A JIMENEZ 14736983 / R: 2034 ->2002	2.5 N:2	L	28 L W	22 W B	31 W W	24 D B	13
17 CO	SHUEH MISRA 16824026 / R: 1936 ->1936	2.5 N:2	L	4 W B	32 L W	20 W B	30 D B	19
18 CO	OWEN SEBASTIAN CURTIS 17334272 / R: 1876 ->1873	2.5 N:2	L	14 D W	30 L B	13 W B	31 W W	28
19 CO	LEIF PAUL MCFADDEN 30596924 / R: 1751 ->1792	2.5 N:2	B	W	6 L W	14 L B	5 D W	17
20 CO	EAMON CURCHIN MONTGOMERY 15755701 / R: 2237 ->2218	2.0 N:1	W	15 L B	7 W W	17 L W	3 U W	1
21 CO	BRAD LUNDSTROM 10410347 / R: 1942 ->1950	2.0 N:1	W	33 D B	14 H W	L	2 U W	1
22 CO	MATTHEW ABRAHAM 31326521 / R: 1865P25->1868	2.0 N:2	L	6 W W	16 L W	3 H B	D	25
23 CO	HENRY WALLACE KOVACS 17262461 / R: 1851 ->1846	2.0 N:2	D	27 D W	24 D B	11 L W	12 D B	26
24 WA	MICHELLE ZHANG 16640681 / R: 1812 ->1826	2.0 N:2	D	2 D W	23 L W	6 L B	16 W W	30
25 CO	BENJAMIN DEGUIRE 30412244 / R: 1764 ->1762	2.0 N:1	L	7 B B	D	12 L W	11 D W	22
26 CO	FELIX MCMILLAN 30251494 / R: 1744 ->1750	2.0 N:3	H	L	27 D B	30 D B	29 D W	23
27 CO	YUVAL LAOR 20033521 / R: 2047 ->2026	1.5 N:3	D	23 W B	26 L W	4 L W	15 U W	1
28 CO	WILLIAM L WOLF 14762885 / R: 1825 ->1830	1.5 N:2	W	16 L B	5 D W	15 L W	9 L B	18
29 CO	WILLARD DAVIS 12780420 / R: 1851 ->1829	1.0 N:1	L	9 L W	11 H B	D	26 U W	1
30 CO	LAURENCE ROBERT WUTT 12745430 / R: 1835 ->1805	1.0 N:1	L	5 D B	18 D W	26 L W	17 L B	24

31	DANIEL MARMER CO 12889369 / R: 1763 ->1746	1.0 N:1	L	3 L B	12 L B	16 L W	18 W W	32
32	THOMAS HAMMONS CO 31646590 / R: 1746 ->1717	1.0 N:1	L	10 L W	17 D B	33 H W	L	31
33	TANYA GURPUR MADKE PRABHU CO 16349446 / R: 1794 ->1775	0.5 N:1	L	21 L B	15 D W	32 U B	U	1

Section 2 - U2000

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	
1 CO	SEAN EVAN PEARSON 30888353 / R: 1899 ->1972	5.0 N:1	W	17 W B	10 W W	9 W W	2 W B	5
2 CO	MIKE MALONEY 12318730 / R: 1900 ->1921	4.0 N:1	W	29 W B	27 W W	7 L B	1 W W	8
3 CO	ETHAN CRANE 32385569 / R: 1865P7 ->1883P11	3.5 N:2	H	W	13 L B	5 W B	25 W W	15
4 CO	KRISH MATHIMARAN 30150019 / R: 1794 ->1809	3.5 N:2	W	18 D B	15 D W	12 W B	21 D W	7
5 WY	ROHAN JACOB DAVID 30456709 / R: 1690 ->1793	3.5 N:1	W	30 W B	8 W W	3 D B	7 L W	1
6 CO	LOGAN STEWMON 32113992 / R: 1700P20->1735P25	3.5 N:2	L	7 W B	22 W W	27 D B	15 W B	16
7 CO	EMMETT LIGNELL 30624060 / R: 1901 ->1895	3.0 N:2	W	6 W B	11 L B	2 D W	5 D B	4
8 CO	JEREMY BRIAN ROLDAN 15475345 / R: 1876 ->1864	3.0 N:2	W	22 L B	5 W W	25 W B	12 L B	2
9 CO	MICHAEL JOSEPH SILBERBERG 32183484 / R: 1802 ->1821	3.0 N:2	W	24 W B	23 L B	1 W W	10 U W	1
10 VT	JONAS HAMILTON 12881698 / R: 1699 ->1739	3.0 N:2	W	19 L W	1 W B	24 L B	9 W W	18
11 CO	ELI COHRS 30399807 / R: 1677 ->1703	3.0 N:2	W	28 L W	7 L B	18 W B	27 W W	19
12 CO	DARSHAN SATISHKUMAR 16961241 / R: 1676 ->1701	3.0 N:2	D	20 W B	14 D B	4 L W	8 W B	23
13 CO	RYAN HAJJALI 31590689 / R: 1536 ->1647	3.0 N:2	D	16 L W	3 D B	19 W B	26 W W	20
14 CO	OWEN EMERSON CHRIST 15562723 / R: 1500 ->1589	3.0 N:2	H	L	12 W B	30 D B	20 W W	25
15 CO	VEDANTH PEESAPATY 30753657 / R: 1804 ->1793	2.5 N:3	W	21 D B	4 D B	16 D W	6 L B	3
16 CO	JEFFREY BAFFO 10340195 / R: 1700 ->1700	2.5 N:3	D	13 W B	26 D W	15 D B	18 L W	6
17 CO	MAX HIGA 12864407 / R: 1681 ->1692	2.5 N:3	L	1 D B	19 L W	20 W B	30 W W	27
18 CO	ANDREW ROBICHAUD 30154062 / R: 1538 ->1558	2.5 N:3	L	4 B B	W	11 D W	16 L B	10
19 CO	KEITH JAY OXMAN 12459346 / R: 1900 ->1900	2.0 N:3	L	10 D B	17 D W	13 W B	22 L B	11
20 CO	CLIFTON P FORD 10384591 / R: 1827 ->1800	2.0 N:3	D	12 L W	25 W B	17 D W	14 L B	13
21 CO	SANDEEP MATHEW 15620507 / R: 1653 ->1660	2.0 N:3	L	15 W W	29 W W	23 L W	4 U W	1
22 WY	JOSEPH F PLESO 14387135 / R: 1568 ->1569	2.0 N:1	L	8 L W	6 W B	29 L B	19 B W	1
23 CO	ARIANA E DANI 31363347 / R: 1536 ->1506	2.0 N:1	B	L	9 L W	21 X B	L	12
24 CO	JAMES WILLIAM NEWBY JR. 12699600 / R: 1701 ->1687	1.5 N:1	L	9 W B	30 L B	10 H W	U	1
25 CO	SHANKAR N PARASURAM 16967084 / R: 1611 ->1605	1.5 N:3	D	26 W B	20 L B	8 L W	3 L B	14
26 CO	ADAM KINSEY 30751175 / R: 1702P10->1628P13	1.0 N:1	D	25 L W	16 H B	L	13 U W	1
27 CO	BRANDON M LARSON 30400384 / R: 1506 ->1476	1.0 N:1	B	L	2 L W	6 L W	11 L B	17
28 CO	EARLE P WIKLE 12126030 / R: 1840 ->1818	0.5 N:1	L	11 H B	U	F	U	1
29 CO	FRANK A DEMING 10267811 / R: 1700 ->1700	0.0 N:1	L	2 L B	21 L B	22 U W	U	1
30 CO	KENNETH DOYKOS 10358086 / R: 1700 ->1700	0.0 N:1	L	5 L B	24 L W	14 L W	17 U W	1

Section 3 - U1700

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1 MI	SCOTT MARVEL 14236716 / R: 1569 ->1661	4.5 N:2	W B	22 W W	29 W B	8 D W	4 W B	6
2 CO	ASHWIN MATHIMARAN 17295785 / R: 1547 ->1643	4.5 N:3	D B	28 W W	15 W B	24 W W	7 W B	4
3 CO	COLIN SCHAUB 30267540 / R: 1287P19->1512P24	4.0 N:3	L W	7 W B	12 W W	27 W B	14 W W	10
4 CO	ANTHONY CORDOVA 12620540 / R: 1561 ->1618	3.5 N:3	W W	12 W B	25 W B	9 D W	1 L W	2
5 CO	JACK ADIN GOTTLIEB 30962561 / R: 1579 ->1601	3.5 N:3	W W	20 L B	8 D W	25 W B	26 W W	13
6 CO	TREVOR LEE BRADFORD 30570869 / R: 1495 ->1560	3.5 N:3	D W	24 W B	32 W W	28 W B	9 L W	1
7 SD	DUSTIN PAUL FERGUSON 31304371 / R: 1450 ->1559	3.5 N:3	W B	3 W W	18 W W	10 L B	2 D W	8
8 NE	PHILIP ROSS SCHIFF 31165152 / R: 1510 ->1557	3.5 N:3	W B	31 W W	5 L W	1 W B	16 D B	7
9 CO	NICK EVAN HVIDZA 30977338 / R: 1636 ->1627	3.0 N:3	W B	26 W W	14 L B	4 L W	6 W B	15
10 CO	SHAN M OBAIDULLAH 15756966 / R: 1564 ->1564	3.0 N:3	W B	21 W W	19 L B	7 W W	23 L B	3
11 CO	JAMES LAMORGESE 15455006 / R: 1537 ->1533	3.0 N:4	D B	15 D W	23 D B	26 D W	20 W B	24
12 CO	NIAL RIAN CASE 30894700 / R: 1469 ->1490	3.0 N:4	L B	4 L W	3 W B	31 W W	21 W B	19
13 CO	KARTHIKEYAN KANNAN 31472391 / R: 1689 ->1646	2.5 N:4	D W	23 L W	24 W B	32 W B	28 L B	5
14 CO	GREG WHEELER JR. 31475075 / R: 1553P15->1538P19	2.5 N:4	W W	30 L B	9 H B	L W	3 W B	28
15 CO	SARVESH RAJESH 16925315 / R: 1367 ->1452	2.5 N:3	D W	11 L B	2 W W	17 W B	25 L W	9
16 CO	RYAN HAIG 30755385 / R: 1328P25->1395	2.5 N:4	L B	29 W W	22 W B	19 L W	8 D W	18
17 CO	CHARLIE W ZETTEROWER 10232368 / R: 1672 ->1614	2.0 N:4	L B	19 L W	28 L B	15 W B	32 W W	26
18 CO	BRADFORD C BLAKE 11052533 / R: 1604 ->1600	2.0 N:4	D W	32 L B	7 D W	21 D W	24 D B	16
19 CO	CHRIS C BURKHARDT 17031943 / R: 1519 ->1497	2.0 N:4	W W	17 L B	10 L W	16 W B	27 L W	12
20 CO	ERIK KNUDSEN 12631175 / R: 1461 ->1463	2.0 N:4	L B	5 W W	31 H B	D B	11 U B	
21 CO	DEAN W BROWN 10224098 / R: 1475 ->1455	2.0 N:4	L W	10 D W	27 D B	18 L B	12 W W	31
22 CA	DREW H CLARK 30178041 / R: 1457 ->1436	2.0 N:4	L W	1 L B	16 W W	30 X W	U B	
23 TX	ANGELINA HERNANDEZ 16271614 / R: 1389 ->1435	2.0 N:4	D B	13 D B	11 W W	29 L B	10 U B	
24 CO	JOHN LESSARD 16689027 / R: 1374 ->1416	2.0 N:4	D B	6 W W	13 L W	2 D B	18 L W	11
25 CO	CALEB M KNEDLIK 32148414 / R: 1523 ->1507	1.5 N:4	W B	27 L W	4 D W	5 L W	15 U W	
26 CO	MR. RANDOLPH G SCHINE 12544184 / R: 1500 ->1500	1.5 N:4	L W	9 W B	30 D W	11 L W	5 L B	17
27 CO	NII CODJOE 31452635 / R: 1615P7 ->1495P12	1.5 N:4	L W	25 D B	21 L B	3 L W	19 W W	32
28 CO	LUCAS VAZQUEZ 16200106 / R: 1494 ->1482	1.5 N:4	D W	2 W B	17 L B	6 L W	13 L W	14
29 CO	KENDALL ENRIQUE RUGGLES-DELGADO 31346915 / R: 1531P5 ->1472P8	1.0 N:4	W W	16 L B	1 L B	23 F B	U B	
30 CO	DANIEL HUNNINGHAKE 31708887 / R: 1376P16->1304P20	1.0 N:4	L B	14 L W	26 L B	22 L W	31 B W	
31 WY	ELIZABETH SCOTT 12582914 / R: 1300 ->1300	1.0 N:4	L W	8 L B	20 L W	12 W B	30 L B	21
32 CO	ROBERT WILLMANN 20016539 / R: 1483 ->1430	0.5 N:4	D B	18 L W	6 L B	13 L W	17 L B	27

Section 4 - U1400

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	
1 CO	EMMA N HELLMER 32448954 / R: Unrated->1606P5	4.5 N:4	W W	16 D W	10 W B	9 W W	3 W B	5
2 CO	TARUN BALA KARTHIKEYAN 30684949 / R: 1411 ->1427	4.0 N:4	L W	6 W B	18 W W	4 W W	10 W B	8
3 CO	QUINSEN DAVID JOEL 30577770 / R: 1207P10->1385P15	4.0 N:4	W W	12 W B	19 W W	7 L B	1 W W	9
4 CO	VIAAN KHADELWAL 31323282 / R: 1243 ->1313	3.5 N:4	W B	8 D W	9 L B	2 W W	14 W B	10
5 CO	MADELEINE FINCH 30219070 / R: 1302 ->1306	3.0 N:4	L B	14 W B	16 W B	13 W W	6 L W	1
6 CO	RAVI THANGIRALA 31353090 / R: 1215P11->1287P16	3.0 N:4	W B	2 L W	7 W W	12 L B	5 W W	15
7 CO	LAN TRUONG 30588843 / R: 1155 ->1249	3.0 N:4	W W	18 W B	6 L B	3 L W	8 W W	12
8 CO	SHAWN WILLIAM QUINN 31277186 / R: 1235P23->1243	3.0 N:4	L W	4 W B	17 W W	19 W B	7 L W	2
9 NE	JASON BAUER 16875478 / R: 1342P5 ->1324P10	2.5 N:4	W W	13 D B	4 L W	1 W B	15 L B	3
10 CO	KAI LUCAS GRAYSON 31584616 / R: 1206 ->1227	2.5 N:4	W W	17 D B	1 W B	15 L B	2 L W	4
11 CO	HEYMANATH KUMAR MANIKHANDAN 30451349 / R: 1202 ->1178	2.5 N:4	D W	15 L B	12 L B	14 W W	19 W B	16
12 CO	WESTON ALEXANDER TAYLOR 30776543 / R: 1384 ->1329	2.0 N:4	L B	3 W W	11 L B	6 W W	13 L B	7
13 CO	SHIRLEY HERMAN 14812654 / R: 1134 ->1119	2.0 N:4	L B	9 B B	L W	5 L B	12 W W	18
14 CO	JINHYUN SHIN 12868290 / R: 920 ->1050	2.0 N:4	W W	5 L B	15 W W	11 L B	4 U B	
15 CO	HSET HSET NAING 32395245 / R: Unrated->1166P10	1.5 N:4	D B	11 W W	14 L B	10 L W	9 L B	6
16 CO	DATA MANIA 31908583 / R: 1196P5 ->1149P9	1.5 N:4	L B	1 L B	5 H B	W W	18 L W	11
17 CO	JOHN E ROSE JR. 12548439 / R: 1069 ->1017	1.5 N:4	L B	10 L W	8 L W	18 H B	B B	
18 CO	TOM NEEDHAM 12743781 / R: 1200 ->1200	1.0 N:4	L B	7 L W	2 W B	17 L B	16 L B	13
19 CO	PETRA LAMBERT-GORWYN 15689074 / R: 945 -> 920	1.0 N:4	B B	L W	3 L B	8 L B	11 U B	
20 CO	THOMAS NELSON 12854867 / R: 1300 ->1300	0.0 N:4	U B	U B	U B	U B	U B	



Section 5 - U1100

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	ERIC RUIYUAN ZHANG NH 30624180 / R: 1067P14->1219P18	4.0	F	W 21	W 14	W 5	W 2
				B	W	W	B
2	RYAN GUPTA CO 31190040 / R: 1075 ->1158	4.0	W 22	W 7	W 17	W 4	L 1
			B	W	B	W	W
3	ROBERT GORDON DOWNES CO 32262982 / R: 1039P7 ->1109P12	4.0	L 7	W 22	W 9	W 8	W 6
			B	W	B	W	B
4	JACOB JUST CO 32447828 / R: Unrated->1194P5	3.5	W 9	W 10	D 5	L 2	W 11
			B	W	B	B	W
5	LIAM NEWELL CO 16113278 / R: 1052 ->1120	3.5	W 20	W 14	D 4	L 1	W 13
			W	B	W	B	W
6	JOSHUA RYAN KOSIBA WY 32442513 / R: Unrated->1071P4	3.0	H	W 23	D 11	W 12	L 3
				B	W	B	W
7	ANIRUDH SAIBALAN CO 30519650 / R: 851 ->1044	3.0	W 3	L 2	W 15	U	W 16
			W	B	W		B
8	BLAIR OLIVER CO 32389670 / R: 1029P13->1019P17	3.0	X	L 12	W 16	L 3	W 20
				W	B	B	W
9	GAUTAM AATHI CO 31074968 / R: 949 -> 984	3.0	L 4	W 25	L 3	W 18	W 17
			W	B	W	W	B
10	GLEN ANTHONY HOLGUIN CO 30373052 / R: 950 -> 969	3.0	W 25	L 4	H	W 20	D 12
			W	B		B	W
11	BRADY DRISCOLL TX 16761967 / R: 838P8 -> 918P13	3.0	D 15	W 24	D 6	W 17	L 4
			B	W	B	W	B
12	VERONICA IRIS PINNA CO 31397274 / R: 1058P25->1035	2.5	D 21	W 8	H	L 6	D 10
			W	B		W	B
13	DON M HENRY CO 12748605 / R: 1064 ->1019	2.5	L 14	D 20	W 24	W 21	L 5
			B	W	B	W	B
14	GABRIEL BRIONES NV 31920138 / R: 979 -> 991	2.0	W 13	L 5	L 1	U	W 24
			W	W	B		B
15	JARED HALL CO 31847334 / R: 998P23-> 983	2.0	D 11	H	L 7	U	W 23
			W		B		W
16	JARED W COBURN CO 32008587 / R: 1003P23-> 964	2.0	W 19	L 17	L 8	W 22	L 7
			B	W	W	B	W
17	HOLT CRAWFORD CO 32355462 / R: 946P3 -> 932P8	2.0	W 18	W 16	L 2	L 11	L 9
			W	B	W	B	W
18	SHAYAAN EHAN OBAIDULLAH CO 31268553 / R: 1106 ->1005	1.5	L 17	L 19	W 21	L 9	D 22
			B	W	W	B	W
19	ALEXANDER ROMAN ZIEMEK CO 32452259 / R: Unrated-> 978P2	1.5	L 16	W 18	H	U	U
			W	B			
20	CHARLIE KOVACS CO 30767851 / R: 905 -> 884	1.5	L 5	D 13	W 23	L 10	L 8
			B	B	W	W	B
21	ANAY GUPTA CO 31356867 / R: 832 -> 812	1.5	D 12	L 1	L 18	L 13	B
			B	W	B	B	
22	LUC LESSARD CO 16619895 / R: 708 -> 706	1.5	L 2	L 3	X	L 16	D 18
			W	B		W	B
23	DAVID MCMILLAN CO 31462890 / R: 886P18-> 813P22	1.0	H	L 6	L 20	D 24	L 15
				W	B	W	B
24	COLLIN KOSIBA WY 15300894 / R: 793P9 -> 748P13	1.0	H	L 11	L 13	D 23	L 14
				B	W	B	W
25	DAVID W ZIEMEK CO 32452976 / R: Unrated-> 593P2	0.0	L 10	L 9	F	U	U
			B	W			



DCC Championship Tournament

By JC MacNeil

DCC Tuesday night attendance is good and getting better.

This month was the annual DCC Championship tournament. Each champion receives a trophy along with a 20 dollar bonus prize, in addition to their 1st place prize money. In the Tuesday night Premier section, Daniel Herman became the 2025 DCC Premier Champion when he won his last round game against Rhett Langseth. Finishing with 4.5 points, and winning 163 dollars and 39 cents. Rising star Grayson Manuel only lost to Mr. Herman to end up with 4 points, and he won the 2nd place prize of 98 dollars and 3 cents. Mr. Langseth took home the 3rd place prize of 65 dollars and 36 cents with 3.5 points.

Forrest Lundstrom (1844) won the 30 dollar Premier 1st Upset Prize with his Round 1 win against Eamon Montgomery (2273) The 20 dollar 2nd Upset Prize was won by Vedant Margle (1837) when he won his Round 1 game against none other than Richard Shtivelband (2205) Then in Round 2, Vedant also won against soon to be a USCF Master, Rhett Langseth.

In the Tuesday night U1900 section, after taking a 1st round bye, John Schoenke won four straight to finish in 1st place and win 157 dollars and 85 cents, in addition to becoming the DCC U1900 Champion. Karthikeya Kannan won the 2nd place prize 94 dollars and 71 cents with 4 points, which included a 170 rating point difference win against Kristopher Zelkin. Kaleth Torrens-Martin and Mr. Zelkin finished with 3.5 points and they share the 3rd place prize of 69 dollars and 14 cents.

The 30 dollar U1900 1st Upset Prize was won by Shankar Parasuram (1532) in Round 3 when he won against Jeff Nohrden (1754). Thursday night TD, Weston Taylor (1329), won the 20 dollar 2nd Upset Prize when he beat long time DCC player Randolph Schine (1519) in Round 3. Weston also held another long time DCC player, Bill O'Neil (1600), to a draw in Round 2.

There was a three way tie for 1st place in the Tuesday night U1500 section. Turan Karthikeyan, Bhaskar Rajagopal, and Tyler Hicks-Wright all ended up with 3 points, and they share the combined 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize of 315 dollars and 69 cents. Tyler finished with three upset wins. Thus, not only winning money but also plenty of USCF rating points. I guess on tie breaks, Turan will be the DCC U1500 Champion. The 30 dollar U1500 1st Upset Prize was won by Anay Gupta (801) in Round 4 when he took the full point from Gera Cruz (993). Mr. Cruz, in turn, won the 20 dollar 2nd Upset Prize when he held Mr. Rajagopal (1359) to a draw in Round 2.

As always, thanks to everyone who is making the DCC a great chess club. The TD's of course, but especially the players.

J.C. MacNeil, over and out

DCC APRIL TUESDAYS 2025 (DCC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP)

Event Date(s) 2025-04-01 thru 2025-04-29

Sponsoring Affiliate DENVER CHESS CLUB

Organizer EARLE P WIKLE

Chief TD PETER BARLAY

Chief Assist. TD PHILLIP BROWN

Assist. TD SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR

Section 1 - PREMIER (1700+ OR UNRATED)

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	DANIEL HERMAN CO 14345456 / R: 2121 ->2138	4.5	W	20 W	5 W	2 W	6 D 3
			N:C	B	W	B	W
2	GRAYSON MANUEL CO 16746206 / R: 1943 ->1988	4.0	W	9 W	8 L	1 W	4 W 6
			N:1	W	B	W	B
3	RHETT LANGSETH CO 13392987 / R: 2130 ->2123	3.5	W	19 L	7 W	14 W	8 D 1
			N:1	W	B	W	B
4	SIKANDER BAKER-NAGAR CO 16973491 / R: 2023 ->2011	3.0	L	8 W	15 W	5 L	2 W 9
			N:2	B	W	B	W
5	FORREST R LUNDSTROM CO 12771495 / R: 1877 ->1893	2.5	W	17 L	1 L	4 D	9 W 8
			N:1	W	B	W	B
6	MARK OVERTON BROWN CO 17089483 / R: 1879 ->1886	2.5	H	W	12 W	7 L	1 L 2
			N:2		W	B	B
7	VEDANT PRAVIN MARGALE CO 16018722 / R: 1813 ->1878	2.5	W	18 W	3 L	6 H	U
				B	W	W	
8	KRISH MATHIMARAN CO 30150019 / R: 1776 ->1794	2.0	W	4 L	2 W	20 L	3 L 5
			N:2	W	W	B	W
9	BENJAMIN DEGUIRE CO 30412244 / R: 1754 ->1764	2.0	L	2 W	20 H	D	5 L 4
			N:2	B	W		B
10	PATRICK JAN ZIJLSTRA CO 31983589 / R: 2202P24->2204P25	1.5	H	U	U	W	16 U
						W	
11	AUSTIN POWELL CO 30672143 / R: 2040 ->2043	1.5	U	U	U	H	W 13
							W
12	WILLIAM L WOLF CO 14762885 / R: 1706 ->1723	1.5	W	14 L	6 H	U	U
				W	B		

13	MAXIM SEBASTIAN MILLAN CO 30600784 / R: 1702 ->1697	1.5	H	U	U	B	L 11
							B
14	JEREMY BRIAN ROLDAN CO 15475345 / R: 1892 ->1876	1.0	L	12 W	19 L	3 U	U
				B	W	B	
15	MIKE MALONEY CO 12318730 / R: 1900 ->1900	0.5	H	L	4 U	U	U
					B		
16	KAANYA SAKTHISARAVANAN CO 16909357 / R: 1717 ->1715	0.5	H	U	U	L	10 U
17	EAMON CURCHIN MONTGOMERY CO 15755701 / R: 2260 ->2243	0.0	L	5 U	U	U	U
				B			
18	RICHARD SHTIVELBAND CO 12630593 / R: 2223 ->2206	0.0	L	7 U	U	U	U
				W			
19	VEDANTH PEESAPATY CO 30753657 / R: 1822 ->1804	0.0	L	3 L	14 U	U	U
				B	B		
20	DANIEL MARMER CO 12889369 / R: 1811 ->1772	0.0	L	1 L	9 L	8 U	U
				W	B	W	

Section 2 - U1900

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	JOHN SCHOENKE CO 30689481 / R: 1849 ->1885	4.5	H	W	15 W	10 W	2 W 5
			N:2		B	W	B
2	KARTHIKEYAN KANNAN CO 31472391 / R: 1554 ->1689	4.0	W	25 W	3 W	5 L	1 W 7
			N:2	B	W	W	B
3	KRISTOPHER ZELKIN CO 30155254 / R: 1773 ->1762	3.5	W	31 L	2 D	21 W	10 W 11
			N:3	W	B	W	B

4	KALETH M TORRENS-MARTIN	3.5	W	21	H	W	13	U	W	14		
CO	32117937 / R: 1668P25->1709		W			B			W			
5	MICHAEL JOSEPH SILBERBERG	3.0	W	14	W	7	L	2	W	8	L	1
CO	32183484 / R: 1818 -->1802	N:3	B	W	B	W	B	W	W			
6	JEFF NOHRDEN	3.0	W	12	D	10	L	8	D	13	W	15
CO	30350883 / R: 1766 -->1739	N:3	B	W	B	W	B	W	W			
7	BENJAMIN BEREZNAK	3.0	W	17	L	5	W	12	W	16	L	2
CO	32079917 / R: 1001P1 -->1555P6	N:3	B	B	B	W	B	B	W			
8	SHANKAR N PARASURAM	2.5	H	W	23	W	6	L	5	U		
CO	16967084 / R: 1566 -->1611			B	W	B						
9	WILLIAM O'NEIL	2.5	D	23	D	18	D	15	L	14	W	21
CO	12519208 / R: 1600 -->1600	N:4	W	B	B	W	B	B	W			
10	MR. CHARLES F LARIMER	2.5	W	19	D	6	L	1	L	3	W	22
CO	11424040 / R: 1556 -->1571	N:3	W	B	B	B	W	B				
11	ASHWIN MATHIMARAN	2.5	L	15	W	30	D	14	W	21	L	3
CO	17295785 / R: 1562 -->1547	N:4	W	B	B	W	B	B				
12	JAMES LAMORGESE	2.5	L	6	W	19	L	7	W	25	D	13
CO	15455006 / R: 1547 -->1537	N:4	W	B	B	B	W	B				
13	CALEB M KNEDLIK	2.5	W	26	H	L	4	D	6	D	12	
CO	32148414 / R: 1518P22->1523	N:4	B		W	B	B	W				
14	STEVEN MENDELSON	2.5	L	5	W	26	D	11	W	9	L	4
CO	30262296 / R: 1499 -->1513	N:4	W	B	B	B	W	B				
15	LUCAS VAZQUEZ	2.5	W	11	L	1	D	9	W	17	L	6
CO	16200106 / R: 1427 -->1494	N:3	B	W	B	W	B	W	B			
16	ANDREW ROBICHAUD	2.0	W	29	H	H		L	7	U		
CO	30154062 / R: 1551 -->1538		B				W					
17	MR. RANDOLPH G SCHINE	2.0	L	7	W	25	L	18	L	15	W	26
CO	12544184 / R: 1500 -->1500		W	B	B	W	B	B				
18	WESTON ALEXANDER TAYLOR	2.0	H	D	9	W	17	U		U		
CO	30776543 / R: 1340 -->1384			W	B							
19	JOSEPH ARAGON	2.0	L	10	L	12	W	26	L	20	W	25
CO	11345409 / R: 1300 -->1315		B	W	W	B	B					
20	JAMES MACNEIL	1.5	H		U	U	U	W	19	U		
CO	12532599 / R: 1607 -->1613							W				
21	NIALL RIAN CASE	1.5	L	4	W	29	D	3	L	11	L	9
CO	30894700 / R: 1487 -->1469	N:4	B	W	B	W	B	W	B			
22	DREW H CLARK	1.5	U	H	L	25	W	27	L	10		
CA	30178041 / R: 1484 -->1457				W	B	W					
23	JUSTIN ALBERT BARHITE	1.5	D	9	L	8	D	24	H		U	
CO	14745807 / R: 1436 -->1439		B	W	B							
24	LEE ANDREW PETTERSON	1.0	U	H	D	23	U		U			
CO	31367810 / R: 1561 -->1554				W							
25	JONATHAN OLSON	1.0	L	2	L	17	W	22	L	12	L	19
CO	32197946 / R: 1415P15->1372P20		W	W	B	B	B	W				
26	SHIRLEY HERMAN	1.0	L	13	L	14	L	19	W	29	L	17
CO	14812654 / R: 1129 -->1134		W	W	B	B	B	W				
27	PRANAV MALE	0.5	H	U	U	U	L	22	U			
CO	30742195 / R: 1408 -->1387						W					
28	KARTHIKA SAKTHISARAVANAN	0.5	H	U	U	U	U	U	U			
CO	17129234 / R: 1326 -->1326											
29	PAUL KULLBACK	0.5	L	16	L	21	H	L	26	U		
CO	12807970 / R: 1340 -->1300		W	B			W					
30	ARTHUR TARATUTA	0.5	H	L	11	U	U	U	U			
CO	30860696 / R: 1152P25->1147			W								
31	RUSSELL N WATTERSON	0.0	L	3	U	U	U	U	U			
CO	12443282 / R: 1500 -->1500		B									

Section 3 - U1500

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	
1 CO	TARUN BALA KARTHIKEYAN 30684949 / R: 1397 ->1411	4.0 N:4	W B	7W W	6L B	3W B	11W B	4
2 CO	BHASKAR CHANDRA RAJAGOPAL 30670828 / R: 1359 ->1376	4.0 	W W	26D B	18W W	5W B	10D W	3
3 CO	TYLER G HICKS-WRIGHT 12825344 / R: 1235 ->1325	4.0 N:4	W W	21W B	9W W	1D W	4D B	2
4 CO	ANDREW JEFFREY NOHRDEN 30993654 / R: 1286 ->1307	3.5 	W B	30W W	13W B	10D W	3L W	1

5	ALEXANDER ROKUS VON KAENEL CO 31565098 / R: 1219 ->1238	3.5	D	28	W	20	L	2	W	18	W	8
			B	W	B	W	B	W	B			
6	CAMERON MCCANLESS CO 32151796 / R: 1151 ->1202	3.0	W	19	L	1	W	9	W	12	U	
			W	B	W	B		B				
7	ANAY GUPTA CO 31356867 / R: 759 -> 832	3.0	L	1	W	24	W	27	L	8	W	18
			W	B	W	B	B	B				
8	ARTHUR TARATUTA CO 30860696 / R: 1147 ->1141	2.5	H	U	W	20	W	7	L	5		
					B	W	B	W				
9	BLAIR OLIVER CO 32389670 / R: 1026P8 ->1029P13	2.5	W	12	L	3	L	6	D	19	W	24
			W	W	B	B	B	W				
10	PETER F WIESER CO 12674266 / R: 1415 ->1400	2.0	W	27	W	11	L	4	L	2	U	
			B	W	B	W	B	W				
11	MYLES AUSTIN LEWIS CO 15355386 / R: 1214 ->1199	2.0	W	25	L	10	W	18	L	1	U	
			W	B	W	B	W	B				
12	RICHARD EVELEIGH CO 13474198 / R: 1099 ->1078	2.0	L	9	W	22	W	25	L	6	U	
			B	W	B	W	B	W				
13	ROYCE HAYNES CO 15681062 / R: 872P12-> 917P15	2.0	W	24	L	4	W	19	U		U	
			W	B	W							
14	FLORENCE LEUNG NY 12558126 / R: 1391 ->1398	1.5	H	W	17	U		U		U		
				B	W							
15	JOHN E ROSE JR. CO 12548439 / R: 1066 ->1069	1.5	H	U	U	W	24	U				
						W						
16	HAYDEN JAMES ACORD CO 32426948 / R: Unrated->1069P1	1.5	U	U	H	W	29	U				
						W						
17	JEFF MANUEL CO 17048943 / R: 1066 ->1064	1.5	H	L	14	W	21	U		U		
				W	B							
18	GERA CRUZ CO 15385187 / R: 1005 -> 973	1.5	W	31	D	2	L	11	L	5	L	7
			B	W	B	B	B	B	W			
19	BAILEY DENIS CO 32359689 / R: 1300P1 -> 944P5	1.5	L	6	W	30	L	13	D	9	U	
			B	W	B	W						
20	ADAM L BARLOW CO 32030015 / R: 761P15-> 755P18	1.5	H	L	5	L	8	W	30	U		
				B	W	B		B				
21	EDGAR IVAN RAMOS CO 32389749 / R: Unrated-> 676P3	1.5	L	3	H	L	17	U		W	30	
			B		W	B				W		
22	SHERMAN GRAYS CO 32360469 / R: 1100P5 ->1020P7	1.0	H	L	12	D	23	U		U		
				B	W							
23	JAMES ANDERS CO 32080562 / R: 952P13-> 959P14	1.0	U	H	D	22	U		U			
					B							
24	CIMMERON A GONZALES-MASCARENAS CO 32369216 / R: Unrated-> 556P5	1.0	B	13	L	7	W	26	L	15	L	9
			L	B	W	W	B	B	B			
25	CHRIS SAHLEN CO 32386287 / R: 389P1 -> 525P4	1.0	L	11	W	26	L	12	U		U	
			B	B	B	W						
26	EDEN D ELLIS CO 31911627 / R: 298P19-> 267P22	1.0	L	2	L	25	L	24	B		U	
			B	W	B							
27	TAYVEN HAYNES CO 31709350 / R: 242P8 -> 242P10	1.0	L	10	B	L	7	U		U		
			W		B							
28	CARLOS ROBLES CO 32335829 / R: 1300P2 ->1280P3	0.5	D	5	U	U	U	U		U		
			W									
29	BARNABAS EICHOR CO 31986772 / R: 453P7 -> 453P8	0.5	H	U	U	U	L	16	U			
							B					
30	ROBERT B CLARKE CO 30888486 / R: 268 -> 256	0.5	L	4	L	19	H	L	20	L	21	
			W	B			W	B				
31	CHRIS DEGUIRE CO 32394221 / R: Unrated-> 583P1	0.0	L	18	U	U	U	U		U		
			W									





COLORADO CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Earle Wikle



The 2025 Class Championship was held in Greeley, Colorado at the Adult Center on May 31 to June 1. LM Richard Shtivelband won the Master/Expert section with 3-1, and Suhaas Narayanan was second with 2.5-1.5. Class A was a tie with 3-1 between Shubh Misra and Daniel Marmer. Class B was a tie with 2.5-1.5 between James Newby and Scott Massey. Class C and Class D were combined for playing games, but awarded prizes separately. Class C was won by Matthew Miller with 4-0 and Class C Second place was a tie between Shan Obaidullah and Lucas Vazquez. Class D was a tie with 2.5 points between Eashan Sarkar and Jason Wu. Class E was won with 3.5 points by Lucas Konstanty and a tie for second with 3 points between Stepan Rostovtsev, Robert Downes, Blair Oliver, and Frank Atwood.

Section 1 - MASTER/EXPERT (2000+)

Pair Num	Player Name	USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	RICHARD SHTIVELBAND	12630593 / R: 2206 ->2212	3.0	W	2W	3W	4L 2
CO			N:C	W	B	B	B
2	SUHAAS NARAYANAN	14290675 / R: 2099 ->2113	2.5	L	1D	4W	3W 1
CO			N:C	B	W	B	W
3	RHETT LANGSETH	13392987 / R: 2133 ->2124	2.0	W	4L	1L	2W 4
CO			N:1	B	W	W	W
4	LUIS A JIMENEZ	14736983 / R: 1961 ->1947	0.5	L	3D	2L	1L 3
CO				W	B	W	B

Section 2 - CLASS A (1800 - 1999)

Pair Num	Player Name	USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	SHUBH MISRA	16824026 / R: 1936 ->1953	3.0	W	2W	7L	3W 5
CO			N:1	B	W	B	W
2	DANIEL MARMER	12889369 / R: 1760 ->1847	3.0	L	1W	9W	6W 3
CO			N:1	W	W	B	W
3	EMMETT LIGNELL	30624060 / R: 1895 ->1904	2.5	W	8D	5W	1L 2
CO			N:2	W	B	W	B
4	CALEB NOAH KOELLER	30341176 / R: 1993 ->1973	2.0	L	7W	6D	8D 9
CO			N:2	B	W	B	W
5	JOHN SCHOENKE	30689481 / R: 1878 ->1882	2.0	W	9D	3D	7L 1
CO			N:2	B	W	B	B
6	KENZIE L MOORE	13028820 / R: 1800 ->1800	2.0	B	L	4L	2W 8
CO					B	W	W
7	JOSH D BLANCHFIELD	12722646 / R: 1842 ->1853	1.5	W	4L	1D	5U
CO				W	B	W	
8	DUWAYNE LANGSETH	11197175 / R: 1802 ->1800	1.5	L	3B	D	4L 6
CO				B		W	B
9	BRAD LUNDSTROM	10410347 / R: 1950 ->1914	1.0	L	5L	2D	10D 4
CO				W	B	W	B
10	EARLE P WIKLE	12126030 / R: 1824 ->1829	1.0	H	U	D	9U
CO						B	

Section 3 - CLASS B (1600 - 1799)

Pair Num	Player Name	USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	JAMES WILLIAM NEWBY JR.	12699600 / R: 1687 ->1722	2.5	W	4W	5H	U
CO				B	W		
2	SCOTT F MASSEY	12059850 / R: 1700 ->1716	2.5	W	5L	3D	6W 4
CO			N:2	B	W	B	B
3	ROHAN JACOB DAVID	30456709 / R: 1793 ->1774	2.0	W	6W	2L	4L 5
CO			N:3	W	B	W	B
4	ABHIJAY BALAMURUGAN	16913354 / R: 1705 ->1708	2.0	L	1W	6W	3L 2
CO			N:3	W	B	B	W
5	JON RIETFORNS	12601772 / R: 1636 ->1633	2.0	L	2L	1B	W 3
CO				W	B		W
6	BARRY L HEPSLEY	10495857 / R: 1700 ->1700	1.5	L	3L	4D	2B
CO				B	W	W	

Section 4 - CLASS C (1400 - 1599) & CLASS

Pair Num	Player Name	USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	MATTHEW R MILLER	30218424 / R: 1554 ->1635	4.0	W	6W	2W	3W 4
CO			N:3	B	W	B	W
2	EASHAN SARKAR	16143655 / R: 1362 ->1424	2.5	W	7L	1W	5D 3
MN			N:4	B	B	W	W
3	JASON WUU	16168111 / R: 1312 ->1357	2.5	B	W	5L	1D 2
CO					B	W	B
4	SHAN M OBAIDULLAH	15756966 / R: 1564 ->1545	2.0	L	5W	7W	6L 1
CO			N:4	W	B	W	B
5	LUCAS VAZQUEZ	16200106 / R: 1471 ->1445	2.0	W	4L	3L	2B
CO				B	W	B	
6	ELIJAH S. KADRIC	30937565 / R: 1411 ->1409	2.0	L	1B	L	4W 7
CO				W		B	W
7	LLOYD CHARLES HEIKES	16056538 / R: 1466P17->1402P20	1.0	L	2L	4B	L 6
CO				W	W		B

Section 5 - CLASS E/UNRATED (1199-)

Pair Num	Player Name	USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	LUCAS KONSTANTY	32468778 / R: Unrated->1258P4	3.5	W	8W	5W	9D 2
CO				B	W	B	B
2	STEPAN ARTEMOVICH ROSTOVTSSEV	31215371 / R: 1114 ->1123	3.0	D	13W	11W	7D 1
CO				W	B	B	W
3	ROBERT GORDON DOWNES	32262982 / R: 1109P12->1114P15	3.0	W	12H	D	6W 7
CO				B		W	W
4	BLAIR OLIVER	32389670 / R: 1019P17->1053P21	3.0	L	7W	16W	8W 10
CO				B	W	B	W
5	FRANK F ATWOOD	12117960 / R: 856 -> 902	3.0	W	16L	1W	14W 9
CO				W	B	W	B
6	RANDY RICHTER	17158047 / R: 817 -> 856	2.5	W	15L	7D	3W 11
CO				B	W	B	W
7	WILLIAM F FLAGG	32461868 / R: Unrated->1048P4	2.0	W	4W	6L	2L 3
CO				W	B	W	B
8	SHAYAAN EHAN OBAIDULLAH	31268553 / R: 1005 -> 987	2.0	L	1W	13L	4W 14
CO				W	B	W	B
9	EDDIE SHEA	32154198 / R: 747P18-> 825P22	2.0	W	14W	10L	1L 5
CO				W	B	W	W
10	HOWARD M SKINNER	16387535 / R: 1179P14->1085P18	1.5	D	11L	9W	12L 4
CO				B	W	W	B
11	GERALD FITZGIBBONS	30675670 / R: 581 -> 607	1.5	D	10L	2W	16L 6
CO				W	W	B	B
12	BRYCE PORTER	30453492 / R: 306P20-> 298P23	1.5	L	3B	L	10D 16
CO				W		B	B
13	GRANT DEAN NEWBY	31271372 / R: 639P25-> 661	1.0	D	2L	8H	U
CO				B	W		
14	SHARJEEL DIYAN OBAIDULLAH	32460443 / R: Unrated-> 610P4	1.0	L	9W	15L	5L 8
CO				B	W	B	W
15	DENNIS PAUL NEWBY	32437744 / R: 728P3 -> 580P5	0.5	L	6L	14H	U
CO				W	B		
16	SALVADOR D BLANCHFIELD	32466650 / R: Unrated-> 265P4	0.5	L	5L	4L	11D 12
CO				B	B	W	W

Games from the COLORADO CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SHUBH MISRA 1891

JOSH BLANCHFIELD 1842

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.exd5 cxd5
5.d4 Nf6 6.Bf4 a6 7.Be2 e6 8.h3 Bh5 9.0-0
Bd6 10.Ne5 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 0-0 12.Rfe1
Nc6 13.Rad1 Rc8 14.Rd3 Ne7 15.Bg5 Ng6
16.Rf3 Be7 17.Nxg6 hxg6 18.Bf4 Qb6
19.Be5 Qc6 20.Rc1 Qc4 21.Qd2 Ne4
22.Nxe4 dxe4 23.Rb3 b5 24.a3 Rfd8
25.Rc3 Qd5 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.c3 Rd8
28.Qc2 Qb3 29.Qe2 Qa2 30.Re1 f5
31.Qd2 Qd5 32.Qe3 a5 33.Rc1 Kf7 34.Bf4
Qa2 35.Qd2 Bf6 36.Bc7 Ra8 37.Bf4 Qc4
38.Bg5 Rd8 39.Bxf6 Kxf6 40.Qf4 Rd5
41.Re1 b4 42.Qb8 Kf7 43.axb4 axb4
44.Ra1 Rd7 45.Ra8 Kf6 46.h4 bxc3
47.Qf8+ Rf7 48.Qd8+ Re7 49.Ra7 Qb4
50.Qf8+ 1-0

SCOTT MASSEY 1700

ROHAN DAVID 1585

1.e4 c5 2.d3 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 a6 5.Bg2
g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.c3 Nc6 8.Nh4 0-0 9.f4 Qc7
10.f5 b5 11.Na3 Rb8 12.Nc2 a5 13.Bd2 b4
14.Rb1 Ba6 15.Ne1 Ne5 16.Bf4 Nfd7
17.Rf2 bxc3 18.bxc3 Rxb1 19.Qxb1 Ng4
20.Rc2 Nge5 21.Qd1 Qa7 22.Qd2 Rb8
23.Nhf3 Rb1 24.Nxe5 Bxe5 25.Kf2 a4
26.Nf3 a3 27.Nxe5 Nxe5 28.Bxe5 dxe5
29.fxg6 hxg6 30.Kf3 Qb7 31.Qe3 Qb6
32.Ke2 Rb2 33.Qd2 c4 34.dxc4 Bxc4+
35.Kf3 Rxc2 36.Qxc2 Qb2 37.Qd1 Qxc3+
38.Kg4 Bxa2 39.Qd8+ Kg7 40.Qxe7 Be6+
41.Kh4 Qd2 42.g4 Qh6+ 43.Kg3 Qf4+
44.Kh4 Qxh2+ 45.Bh3 Qf2+ 46.Kg5 Qf4+
47.Kh4 Qf6+ 48.Qxf6+ Kxf6 49.g5+ Ke7
50.Bf5 Bxf5 51.exf5 a2 52.fxg6 fxg6
53.Kg4 a1Q 54.Kf3 Qd4 55.Ke2 Qc3
56.Kf2 e4 57.Ke2 Qd3+ 58.Kf2 Ke6
59.Kg2 Qf3+ 60.Kh2 e3 61.Kg1 e2
62.Kh2 Kf5 63.Kg1e1Q+64.Kh2Qeg3#0-1

LUIS A JIMENEZ 2037

LM RICHARD SHTIVELBAND 2208

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.e4 e5 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4
5.c3 Be7 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 Na5 8.Bxf7+ Kf8
9.Qa4 Kxf7 10.Qxa5 exd4 11.cxd4 c6
12.Qa4 Qb6 13.0-0 h6 14.Be3 Nf6
15.Nbd2 Re8 16.h3 Bf8 17.Qc2 Qb5 18.e5
dxe5 19.Nxe5+ Kg8 20.Qg6 Qd5 21.Ndf3
c5 22.Rfd1 c4 23.Bxh6 b5 24.Bg5 Rxe5
25.dxe5 Qe4 0-1

CM RHETT LANGSETH 2135

SUHAAS NARAYANAN 2084

1.d3 e5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Be2 Nf6 4.Nf3 d5
5.Nbd2 Be5 6.0-0 0-0 7.c3 a5 8.a4 Re8
9.Qc2 h6 10.h3 d4 11.Nc4 Qe7 12.Re1
Nd7 13.Nh2 Nf8 14.Bg4 Ne6 15.Nf3 Qf6
16.g3 Ba7 17.Nh4 Ng5 18.Bxc8 Raxc8
19.Kg2 Rcd8 20.Nf5 Ne6 21.Qe2 Kh7
22.Rd1 Rd7 23.Na3 Nc5 24.Qc2 Rcd8
25.cxd4 Nb4 26.Qc4 Rxd4 27.Nxd4 Rxd4
28.Qc3 Rxd3 29.Rxd3 Ncxd3 30.Qd2

Bxf2 31.Qe2 Ne1+ 32.Kh2 Nf3+ 33.Kh1
Nd4 34.Qg4 Be1 35.Bf4 Nd3 36.Kg2 exf4
37.Rd1 Nf2 38.Rxel Nxe4 39.hxg4 fxg3
40.Rf1 Qh4 41.Rh1 Qxg4 42.Rg1 Qf3+
43.Kh3 g2+ 44.Kh2 Qf2 45.Rxg2 Nf3+
46.Kh1 Qh4+ 47.Rh2 Qxh2# 0-1

EMMETT LIGNELL 1890

SHUBH MISRA 1891

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Be2 Nf6 5.0-0
Be7 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 d5 8.exd5 exd5
9.Bf4 a6 10.Bf3 0-0 11.Nce2 Re8 12.c3 h6
13.h3 Bd6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Nxc6 bxc6
16.c4 Be6 17.Nd4 Rad8 18.Qa4 c5
19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Rfd1 d4 21.Bc6 Rf8
22.Qxa6 Ra8 23.Qxa8 Rxa8 24.Bxa8 Qb8
25.Bf3 e5 26.Bd5+ Nxd5 27.cxd5 Kf7
28.a4 Qb6 29.a5 Qa6 30.b4 cxb4 31.Rdb1
d3 32.Rxb4 d2 33.Rbb1 e4 34.Rd1 Qd3
35.a6 e3 36.fxe3 Qxe3+ 37.Kh1 Qa7
38.Rxd2 Ke7 39.d6+ Kd7 40.Kh2 g5
41.Raa2 h5 42.Rd1 g4 43.h4 g3+ 44.Kxg3
Qe3+ 45.Kh2 Qf4+ 46.g3 Qc4 47.Rdd2
Qc6 48.a7 Qa8 49.Ra3 Kd8 50.d7 Qxa7
51.Rxa7 Ke7 52.d8Q+ Ke6 53.Rf2 Ke5
54.Re7# Kd5 1-0

JOSH BLANCHFIELD 1842

JOHN SCHOENKE 1826

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7
5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Be2 Bb7
9.0-0 Ne4 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Rc1 Nd7
12.a3 a5 13.Nb5 c6 14.Nc3 Rfd8 15.Qb3
b5 16.a4 b4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Nd2 c5
19.Nc4 cxd4 20.exd4 Nf6 21.Rfd1 Qe6
22.Qg3 Ba6 23.Bf1 Bxc4 24.Bxc4 Qb6
25.Qe5 Rd7 26.Bb5 Rd6 27.Qc5 Qd8
28.Qe7 Rxd4 29.Qxd8+ Rxd8 30.Kf1
Rxd1+ 31.Rxd1 Kf8 32.Ke2 Rc8 33.h3
Ke7 34.Ke3 Rc2 35.Rd2 Rxd2 36.Kxd2
Kd6 37.Ke3 Ke5 38.g3 Nd5+ 39.Ke2 Kd4
40.Kd2 g5 41.h4 h6 42.hxg5 hxg5 43.Be2
f5 44.Bb5 f4 45.gxf4 gxf4 46.Ba6 f3
47.Bb7 Nf4 48.Ba6 Nd3 49.Bxd3 exd3
50.b3 Ke4 51.Kd1 Ke5 52.Ke1 ½-½

ROHAN DAVID 1585

ABHIJ BALAMURUGAN 1700

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.Nxe5
Nxe5 5.d4 c6 6.Ba4 Qa5+ 7.Nc3 Bb4
8.Bb3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qxc3+ 10.Bd2 Qxd4
11.0-0 Qb6 12.Be3 Qd8 13.Bd4 f6
14.Bxe5 fxe5 15.Qh5+ Ke7 16.Rad1 Qf8
17.Qxe5+ Kd8 18.Rd6 Qe7 19.Qd4 Nf6
20.e5 Ne8 21.Re6 Qa3 22.c4 Kc7 23.Rxe8
Rxe8 24.c5 b6 25.Bf7 Qxc5 26.Qd6+
Qxd6 27.exd6+ Kd8 28.Bxe8 Kxe8 29.f4
Ba6 30.Re1+ Kf8 31.Re7 c5 32.Rxd7 c4
33.Rc7 Bb5 34.Kf2 Rd8 35.a4 Bxa4
36.Rxc4 Bb5 37.Rb4 a6 38.Rd4 Kf7 39.f5
Kf6 40.g4 Ke5 41.Ke3 Rxd6 42.Re4+ Kf6
43.h4 h6 44.Kf4 Rc6 45.g5+ hxg5+
46.hxg5+ Kf7 47.Re3 Ba4 48.Rd3 Ke7
49.Rd5 Bb3 50.Rd2 Bc2 51.Rd5 Re5

52.f6+ gxf6 53.gxf6+ Ke6 54.Rd2 Bg6
55.Rb2 b5 56.Ra2 Rf5+ 57.Ke3 Rxf6
58.Rxa6+ Ke5 59.Ra2 Rb6 60.Kd2 Kd4
61.Ra3 b4 62.Rg3 b3 63.Rg4+ Be4 64.Rg8
b2 65.Rg3 b1Q 66.Rd3+ Qxd3+ 67.Ke1
Rb1+ 68.Kf2 Rf1# 0-1

BARRY HEPSLEY 1700

SCOTT MASSEY 1700

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d6
5.h3 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 c5 9.c3
Nbd7 10.Rc1 Rc8 11.Qe2 cxd4 12.cxd4
Re8 13.Ba6 Rb8 14.Nb3 Ne4 15.Bf4 e5
16.dxe5 dxe5 17.Bh2 Ndc5 18.Bxb7 Rxb7
19.Nxc5 Nxc5 20.Rfd1 Rd7 21.Rxd7
Qxd7 22.b3 Qb7 23.Ne1 ½-½



SUHAAS NARAYANAN 2084

LM RICHARD SHTIVELBAND 2208

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Bg5 Be6 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Nf3 c6 8.Bd3 Be7
9.0-0 0-0 10.Rb1 Nh5 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.b4
a6 13.a4 f5 14.b5 axb5 15.axb5 f4 16.bxc6
bxc6 17.e4 Ra3 18.exd5 exd5 19.Nb5 Ra2
20.Qb3 Rfa8 21.Rfe1 Qf6 22.Bxh7+ Kxh7
23.Rxe6 Qf5 24.Ree1 Nhf6 25.Nd6 Qc2
26.Ng5+ Kg8 27.Qf3 Qg6 28.h4 Rd2
29.Qxf4 Raa2 30.Nf5 Re2 31.Qf3 Qe8
32.Rxe2 Rxe2 33.Ne3 Rd2 34.Rd1 Rxd1+
35.Qxd1 Qb8 36.Qf3 Qb1+ 37.Kh2 Qa2
38.Qf5 Nf8 39.h5 Qe2 40.Qf3 Qd2 41.Qf4
Qe2 42.g4 Qa2 43.Kg2 Qa6 44.Nf5 Qe2
45.Qf3 Qe1 46.Qe3 Qd1 47.f3 Qc2+
48.Qf2 Qc1 49.Ne7+ Kh8 50.Nf7+ Kh7
51.Qe2 Qf4 52.Qd3+ Ne4 53.Nf5 Kg8
54.Ne5 Nf6 55.Ne7+ 1-0

CM RHETT LANGSETH 2135

LUIS A JIMENEZ 2037

1.d3 d5 2.c3 Nf6 3.Nf3 c5 4.Nbd2 Nc6
5.e4 e5 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 d4
9.Nc4 Qc7 10.a4 h6 11.g3 Be6 12.Nfxe5
Nxe5 13.Nxe5 dxc3 14.f4 c4 15.bxc3 cxd3
16.Qxd3 Rfd8 17.Qc2 Qc5+ 18.Kg2 Nxe4
19.Bf3 Nd6 20.Be3 Qc7 21.Qb2 Bf5
22.Bd4 Rac8 23.Bxa7 Qxc3 24.Qxc3 Rxc3
25.Bf2 Bf6 26.a5 Rc2 27.Kg1 Nc4
28.Bxb7 Rdd2 29.Nxc4 Rxf2 30.Ne5 Bxe5
31.Rxe5 Bh3 32.Re8+ Kh7 33.Be4+ 1-0

Photos from the COLORADO CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Photos by Earle Wikle



2025 COLORADO QUICK CHAMPIONSHIP *By Earle Wikle*

The Colorado State Quick Championship this year was held Friday night June 6, in Colorado Springs at the Hyatt Place on Garden of the Gods. Peter Barlay and myself, directed the event with a turnout of 30 players. Gunnar Andersen, returned to Colorado and dominated the tournament with a 5-0 score showing his growing skills in chess to become the 2025 Colorado Quick Champion. Rhett Langseth, Daniel Herman, Mark Krowczyk, and Rowan Oregel, all tied for second with 4-1 points.

Section 1 - OPEN

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	GUNNAR ANDERSEN CO 14011512 / Q: 2221 ->2238	5.0	W	19 W	8 W	7 W	2 W 3
2	RHETT LANGSETH CO 13392987 / Q: 2089 ->2096	4.0	W	12 W	5 W	18 L	1 W 8
3	DANIEL HERMAN CO 14345456 / Q: 2062 ->2075	4.0	W	11 W	10 W	4 W	6 L 1
4	MARK KROWCZYK CO 12496393 / Q: 1886 ->1899	4.0	W	23 W	30 L	3 W	9 W 10
5	ROWEN OREGEL CO 17314325 / Q: 1840 ->1878	4.0	W	22 L	2 W	11 W	19 W 7
6	CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY CO 16231534 / Q: 1901 ->1913	3.5	W	20 D	15 W	14 L	3 W 17
7	JUAN CAMILO PENA BOL 32449264 / Q: Unrated->1984P10	3.0	W	13 W	9 L	1 W	18 L 5
8	MAX HIGA CO 12864407 / Q: 1805 ->1816	3.0	W	16 L	1 W	13 W	12 L 2
9	ANDREW SEBASTION PLATT VA 30644854 / Q: 1794 ->1798	3.0	W	24 L	7 W	20 L	4 W 14
10	BILL WEIHMILLER CO 12515063 / Q: 1758 ->1766	3.0	W	28 L	3 W	22 W	17 L 4
11	BUDDY DIAMOND JR. CO 15106306 / Q: 1612P25->1650	3.0	L	3 W	16 L	5 W	25 W 18
12	JOHN BREZINA CO 12870487 / Q: 1649 ->1649	3.0	L	2 W	25 W	29 L	8 W 20
13	JAMES WILLIAM NEWBY JR. CO 12699600 / Q: 1584 ->1598	3.0	L	7 W	24 L	8 W	29 W 19
14	RODERICK BEECHER GORBY CO 13680710 / Q: 1924 ->1888	2.5	D	25 W	26 L	6 W	15 L 9
15	REYNOLD PERONNEAU MACKEY JR. CO 15366831 / Q: 1734 ->1725	2.5	W	27 D	6 L	17 L	14 W 22
16	GERARDO CRUZ CO 12629855 / Q: 1423 ->1410	2.5	L	8 L	11 D	27 W	30 W 25
17	DUWAYNE LANGSETH CO 11197175 / Q: 1908 ->1867	2.0	W	21 L	18 W	15 L	10 L 6
18	DR. SUPREME KING CO 12397514 / Q: 1811 ->1794	2.0	W	29 W	17 L	2 L	7 L 11
19	JOSE A LLACZA CO 14383991 / Q: 1715 ->1686	2.0	L	1 W	23 W	30 L	5 L 13
20	DEAN W BROWN CO 10224098 / Q: 1400 ->1402	2.0	L	6 W	28 L	9 W	23 L 12
21	SHIRLEY HERMAN CO 14812654 / Q: 1362 ->1324	2.0	L	17 L	29 W	24 L	22 W 26
22	LUCAS VAZQUEZ CO 16200106 / Q: 1229P18->1278P23	2.0	L	5 W	27 L	10 W	21 L 15
23	HSET HSET NAING CO 32395245 / Q: 1256 ->1247	2.0	L	4 L	19 W	28 L	20 W 30
24	CONNOR WOLF GORBY CO 30734613 / Q: 1076 ->1116	2.0	L	9 L	13 L	21 W	28 W 27
25	SAMVED MUKHERJEE CO 30756134 / Q: Unrated->1313P11	1.5	D	14 L	12 W	26 L	11 L 16
26	ROBERT WILLMANN CO 20016539 / Q: 1433P14->1355P18	1.0	H	L	14 L	25 D	27 L 21
27	EMEKA NRIKWAMNDU CO 32458462 / Q: Unrated->1080P6	1.0	L	15 L	22 D	16 D	26 L 24
28	MIHALY TOTH CO 12927302 / Q: 1045 ->1024	1.0	L	10 L	20 L	23 L	24 W 29
29	JOHN ALEXANDER WISMILLER CO 31839997 / Q: Unrated-> 900P10	1.0	L	18 W	21 L	12 L	13 L 28
30	HANNO PERONNEAU MACKEY IV CO 32406258 / Q: 162 -> 161	1.0	B	L	4 L	19 L	16 L 23



Champion Gunnar Andersen



COLORADO STATE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

By Earle Wikle

The Colorado State Senior Championship this year was held on June 7-8 in Colorado Springs at the Hyatt Place Garden of the Gods. The tournament had a small turn out this year because of the need to reschedule the tournament from April due to the hotel accidentally dropping the tournament off their calendar. The next available date on their calendar was June 7-8, and that put the tournament in conflict with the Las Vegas National Open tournament. That meant some of the players that might have come, went and played at the National Open.

The tournament was small but had a relaxing schedule. LM Brian Wall, the winner of last year's tournament, was the favorite of the tournament and looked to be headed towards another championship, but then lost with the black pieces against Mark Krowczyk. Brian thought he could have drawn if he played it differently. The loss put yours truly playing white against Mark Krowczyk in the last round for the championship. Honestly, I never thought I would have a chance to be in the position to win the tournament. I think with Mark putting all his effort into winning against LM Brian Wall, it tired him out and opened the door for me to win my game over him. My fortunes prevailed for me as I won my first and only state championship to become 2025 Colorado State Senior Champion. LM Brian Wall, Mark Krowczyk, Bill Slichenmyer, and Bradford Blake tied for second.

In the Under 50 section, Rhett Langseth finished first with 3.5 points, and Chris Motley finished second with 2.5 points.

Thank you all who played, you made the tournament easy to manage.

Cross Tables

Location COLORADO SPRINGS, CO Event Date(s) 2025-06-07 thru 2025-06-08

Sponsoring Affiliate COLORADO STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION

Organizer EARLE P WIKLE Chief TD EARLE P WIKLE Chief Ast. TD PETER BARLAY

Section 1 - SENIOR AGE 50+

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	EARLE P WIKLE CO 12126030 / R: 1829 ->1877	3.5	H	W	17 W	9 W 3
2	BRIAN D WALL CO 10923344 / R: 2219 ->2207	3.0	W	5 W	4 L	3 W 9
3	MARK KROWCZYK CO 12496393 / R: 1950 ->1962	3.0	W	12 W	7 W	2 L 1
4	BILL SLICHENMYER CO 12411509 / R: 1714 ->1761	3.0	W	13 L	2 W	10 W 8
5	BRADFORD C BLAKE CO 11052533 / R: 1600 ->1629	3.0	L	2 W	14 W	16 W 11
6	BILL WEIHMILLER CO 12515063 / R: 1639 ->1666	2.5	H	W	11 L	8 W 12
7	GERARDO FERNANDEZ NERI CO 14126602 / R: 1659 ->1656	2.5	W	16 L	3 H	W 14
8	DUWAYNE LANGSETH CO 11197175 / R: 1800 ->1800	2.0	W	10 L	9 W	6 L 4
9	SCOTT F MASSEY CO 12059850 / R: 1716 ->1725	2.0	W	15 W	8 L	1 L 2
10	PATRICK S KELLER CO 12461865 / R: 1573 ->1559	2.0	L	8 W	15 L	4 W 16
11	WILLIAM PURSEL CO 12275320 / R: 1738 ->1700	1.5	D	17 L	6 W	13 L 5
12	ROBERT CARLSON CO 14678120 / R: 1577 ->1563	1.5	L	3 D	13 W	17 L 6
13	DEAN W BROWN CO 10224098 / R: 1446 ->1456	1.5	L	4 D	12 L	11 W 17
14	SHIRLEY HERMAN CO 14812654 / R: 1146 ->1169	1.5	H	L	5 W	15 L 7
15	MIHALY TOTH CO 12927302 / R: 1200 ->1200	1.0	L	9 L	10 L	14 B
16	JOHN ALEXANDER WISMILLER CO 31839997 / R: 797P5 -> 797P8	1.0	L	7 B	L	5 L 10
17	ROBERT WILLMANN CO 20016539 / R: 1414 ->1394	0.5	D	11 L	1 L	12 L 13

Section 2 - UNDER AGE 50

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	RHETT LANGSETH CO 13392987 / R: 2124 ->2123	3.5	W	7 W	5 W	2 D 3
2	CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY CO 16231534 / R: 2022 ->2015	2.5	W	4 H	L	1 W 7
3	ABHIJAY BALAMURUGAN CO 16913354 / R: 1708 ->1692	2.0	L	5 W	6 D	7 D 1
4	EASHAN SARKAR MN 16143655 / R: 1424 ->1438	2.0	L	2 L	7 B	W 6
5	ELIAS CHRISTIAN WINTERMUTE CO 30628545 / R: 760P14-> 862P17	2.0	W	3 L	1 L	6 B
6	MAX HIGA CO 12864407 / R: 1692 ->1646	1.5	H	L	3 W	5 L 4
7	JOHN LESSARD CO 16689027 / R: 1416 ->1463	1.5	L	1 W	4 D	3 L 2



Games from the COLORADO STATE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

BRADFORD BLAKE 1604

LM BRIAN WALL 2206

1.c4 Nf6 2.d3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0
5.Bf4 d6 6.d4 Na6 7.Qd2 Re8 8.e3 c5
9.Be2 Bf5 10.Bd3 cxd4 11.exd4 e5
12.dxe5 dxe5 13.0-0-0 Qxd3 14.Qxd3
Bxd3 15.Rxd3 exf4 0-1

MARK KROWCZYK 1949

ROBERT CARLSON 1577

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.e3
e6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nh4 Bg6 9.Bd2
Nbd7 10.f4 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nd5 12.Nxg6
hxc6 13.Ne4 c5 14.Rf3 cxd4 15.exd4 Qb6
16.Bxd5 Qxd4+ 17.Be3 Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1
exd5 19.Rxd5 Nf6 20.Nxf6+ Bxf6 21.Rd7
b6 22.Bd4 Rfd8 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Bxf6
Rd1+ 25.Kf2 gxf6 26.Rb3 f5 27.Ke3 Rg1
28.Kf3 Rd1 29.g3 Rh1 30.h4 Rd1 31.Ke3
Kf8 32.Rd3 Rxd3+ 33.Kxd3 Ke7 34.Kc4
a6 35.Kd5 Kd7 36.b3 b5 37.b4 Kc7
38.Ke5 a5 39.bxa5 Kb7 40.Kf6 1-0



PATRICK S KELLER 1573

DUWAYNE LANGSETH 1800

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.Nf3
Nf6 5.Bc4 Bg4 6.d3 e6 7.Bd2 Nc6 8.Nb5
Qd8 9.Qe2 a6 10.Nc3 Nd4 11.Qd1 Nd7
12.Ne4 Ne5 13.Bg5 f6 14.h3 Nxf3+
15.Kf1 Nh2+ 16.Kg1 Bxd1 17.Rxd1
Nh3+ 18.gxf3 Nxf3+ 19.Kg2 Nxg5
20.Nxg5 fxc5 21.Bxe6 Qd6 22.Rhe1 Kd8
23.c3 Qc6+ 24.Kg1 Qf3 25.Bg4 Qf7
26.Be6 Qf6 27.Re4 Bd6 28.d4 c6 29.d5
Kc7 30.Rc4 Rhe8 31.Rcd4 Rxe6 0-1

BILL SLICHENMYER 1757

DEAN W BROWN 1447

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6
5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qf6 8.Qb3 0-0
9.d3 Bc5 10.Nd2 Qe6 11.Qxe6+ fxe6
12.Nf3 Bd6 13.Bd2 Nh6 14.a4 Nf7 15.Bc3
h6 16.b4 Kd7 17.Rab1 b5 18.Ra1 Ra8
19.Rfb1 g5 20.Bd2 c5 21.bxc5 Bxc5
22.Bc3 Kd6 23.Bb4 Bxb4 24.Rxb4 Kc5
25.Rab1 c6 26.Kf1 Rhd8 27.Ke2 a5
28.R4b2 Rab8 29.Nd2 Nd6 30.Nb3+ Kb6
31.c4 Ka6 32.Nc5+ Kb6 33.Nxe6 Re8
34.c5+ Kb7 35.cxd6 Rxe6 36.axb5 Ra8
37.bxc6+ Kxc6 38.Rb5 a4 39.R5b4 a3
40.R4b3 Rxd6 41.Ra1 a2 42.Rf2 Kd7
43.Raxa2 Rxa2 44.Rxa2 Rc6 45.Ra7+ Kd6
46.Rh7 Kc5 47.Rd7 Rd6 48.Rxd6 Kxd6

49.Kd2 Kc5 50.Kc3 h5 51.g3 g4 52.h4
Kb5 53.d4 exd4+ 54.Kxd4 Kc6 55.Ke5
Kd7 56.Kf6 Ke8 57.e5 Kf8 58.e6 Ke8
59.e7 1-0



JOHN LESSARD 1402

CM RHETT LANGSETH 2107

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5
5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Bg5 Bb4 8.0-0
0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 Ke7 10.Bc4 Re8
11.Rhe1 Kf8 12.h3 a5 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.a4
Nb6 15.Bb3 Bd7 16.Nh4 Bxa4 17.Bxa4
Nxa4 18.Rd7 Rac8 19.Re3 Red8 20.Rxd8+
Rxd8 21.Rf3 Rd6 22.Nf5 Rd7 23.Rg3 Nc5
24.Rg7 Nxe4 25.Rxh7 Kg8 26.Rg7+ Kh8
27.f3 Nd6 28.Nxd6 Kxg7 29.Nxb7 a4
30.Nc5 Rd5 31.Nxa4 Ra5 32.Nb2 Ra1+
33.Kd2 Rg1 34.g4 Rh1 35.Kd3 Rxh3
36.Ke4 Rh2 37.Kd5 Rxc2 38.Na4 Ra2
39.Nc5 Ra3 40.Ne4 Kf8 41.Kc6 Ra7 42.g5
fxg5 43.Nxg5 Ke7 44.Ne4 Ra3 45.c4 Rxf3
46.Kxc7 f5 47.Nd2 Rc3 48.Kc6 Rc2
49.Kd5 Rxd2+ 50.Kxe5 Rc2 51.Kxf5
Rxc4 52.Ke5 Rc5+ 53.Kd4 0-1

LM BRIAN WALL 2206

BILL SLICHENMYER 1757

1.Nc3 e5 2.e3 d5 3.Qh5 Nc6 4.Bb5 Qd6
5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Qxe5+ Be7
8.Qxg7 Bf6 9.Qg3 0-0-0 10.Qxd6 Rxd6
11.d4 Re6 12.Ne2 Re8 13.Bd2 Ne7 14.0-0
-0 Rhg8 15.Nf4 Nf5 16.h3 Nd6 17.Nh5
Bd8 18.g4 Ne4 19.Rh2 f6 20.Nh4 Nd6
21.Bb4 f5 22.Bxd6 Bxh4 23.Bg3 Bxg3
24.Nxg3 fxc4 25.hxc4 Rxc4 26.Rxh7 Rf8
27.Rd2 b6 28.b3 Rg6 29.Nh5 Rg1+
30.Kb2 Rh1 31.Nf6 Rg1 32.Nh5 Rh1
33.Nf6 Rg1 34.Rh6 Rf7 35.c4 dxc4
36.bxc4 Bf3 37.e4 Re1 38.e5 Rg1 39.d5
Re1 40.e6 Rf8 41.Kc3 Rd8 42.Rh3 Be4
43.e7 1-0

GERARDO NERI 1659

MARK KROWCZYK 1949

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 b6 3.Bf4 Bb7 4.Nbd2 Bd6
5.Bxd6 cxd6 6.e4 Nf6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0
Nc6 9.c3 Ne7 10.Qc2 Ng6 11.e5 dxe5
12.dxe5 Nd5 13.Be4 Qc7 14.Rfe1 Rac8
15.a3 Ndf4 16.g3 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Nd5
18.Neg5 f5 19.exf6 Rxf6 20.Nh4 Nde7
21.Rad1 Rcf8 22.Nxg6 Nxg6 23.Ne4 Rf5
24.Rd6 Rxf2 25.Qxf2 Rxf2 26.Kxf2 Ne7
27.Red1 Nd5 28.Rd4 b5 29.a4 bxa4

30.Rxa4 Nb6 31.Rad4 Kf8 32.b4 Ke7
33.b5 h6 34.h4 Nd5 35.c4 Nb6 36.c5 Nd5
37.Rc4 Qa5 38.Rc2 Qa4 39.Re2 Qd4+
40.Kf3 Qd1 41.c6 Qf1+ 42.Rf2 Qd3+
43.Kg4 Qxe4+ 44.Rf4 Qxf4+ 45.gxf4
Kxd6 46.cxd7 Kxd7 47.f5 Ne3+ 48.Kh5
Nxf5 49.Kg6 Kd6 50.h5 Kd5 0-1

DUWAYNE LANGSETH 1800

SCOTT MASSEY 1700

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 g6 3.Bd3 Bg7 4.c3 d6 5.Nf3
0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.Re1 Re8 8.e4 cxd4 9.Nxd4
Nc6 10.h3 Bd7 11.Be3 Ne5 12.Be2 Nc4
13.Bc1 Rc8 14.Nd2 Ne5 15.N2f3 Nc6
16.Be3 a6 17.Qd2 Qc7 18.Rac1 Qa5 19.a3
Qc7 20.Ng5 Ne5 21.Qe2 h6 22.Ngf3 Nc4
23.Bd3 Nxe3 24.Qxe3 Qb6 25.b4 Rc7
26.Nf5 Qxe3 27.Nxe3 Bc6 28.Nd2 Rec8
29.f3 Nh5 30.Nec4 Bb5 31.Nb6 Bxd3
32.Nxc8 Rxc8 33.Nb3 Nf4 34.Kh2 Ne2
35.Rcd1 Bc4 36.Na5 Nxc3 37.Rc1 b6
38.Nxc4 Rxc4 39.Rc2 b5 40.Rec1 f5
41.exf5 gxf5 42.g3 Kf7 43.Kg2 Bf6
44.Kf2 Bd4+ 45.Ke1 e5 46.Kd2 d5 47.Rf1
Ke6 48.g4 Na4 49.h4 Rxc2+ 50.Kxc2 Be3
51.Rh1 Nb6 52.g5 hxc5 53.h5 Kf7 54.h6
Kg8 55.h7+ Kh8 56.Kd3 Bd4 57.Rh5 f4
58.Rxg5 Kxh7 59.Rh5+ Kg6 60.Rh8 Nc4
61.Ra8 Bb2 62.Rxa6+ Kf5 63.a4 bxa4
64.Rxa4 Ba3 65.Kc3 Bb2+ 66.Kb3 e4
67.fxe4+ Kxe4 68.b5 Bd4 69.Kc2 Ke3
70.Ra8 f3 71.Re8+ Kf2 72.Kd3 Be5
73.Rd8 Ne3 74.Rc8 Ba7 75.Ra8 Bb6
76.Ra6 Nc4 77.Ra8 Kf1 78.Rf8 f2 79.Rf5
Ke1 0-1



EARLE WIKLE 1824**ROBERT WILLMANN 1429**

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3
Ne7 6.Be2 b6 7.Be3 Bb7 8.Rc1 Nd7 9.b4
h6 10.Qb3 a6 11.0-0 f5 12.c5 d5 13.exd5
exd5 14.a4 c6 15.b5 bxc5 16.dxc5 g5
17.Nd4 Nxc5 18.Bh5+ Kf8 19.Qa3 Bxd4
20.Bxd4 1-0

**WILLIAM PURSEL 1737****BILL WEIHMILLER 1633**

1.d4 e6 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.e4 c5 4.d5 Bxc3+
5.bxc3 Nf6 6.dxe6 fxe6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Qh5+
Kf8 9.c4 Ne7 10.Qf3+ Kg8 11.Bd3 Nbc6
12.Bf4 Qa5+ 13.Bd2 Qc7 14.Ne2 Nxe5
15.Qh5 Nxd3+ 16.cxd3 Ng6 17.0-0 d6
18.Nf4 Qf7 19.Nxg6 hxg6 20.Qe2 Bd7
21.f4 Bc6 22.Rae1 Re8 23.Be3 Qf6 24.Rf2
Qh4 25.g3 Qxg3+ 26.Kf1 Qh3+ 27.Kg1
Rh4 28.Rg2 Bxg2 29.Kf2 Qxh2 30.Rg1
Bh3+ 31.Ke1 Qxe2+ 32.Kxe2 Bf5 33.a4
Rh2+ 34.Bf2 Kf7 35.a5 Bxd3+ 36.Kxd3
Rxf2 37.Rb1 Rb8 38.Ke3 Ra2 39.Rd1 Ke7
40.Rg1 Kf6 41.Rd1 Rd8 0-1

SHIRLEY HERMAN 1110**BRADFORD BLAKE 1604**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.cxd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bf4 c6 6.Nbd2 Bf5 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Be2 Be7
9.0-0 0-0 10.a3 a5 11.Re1 Re8 12.Rc1 a4
13.Nb1 Ne4 14.Nc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bxa3
16.Ra1 Bb2 17.Rxa4 Bxc3 18.Rxa8 Qxa8
19.Rf1 Qa5 20.Nh4 Bg6 21.Nxg6 hxg6
22.Qb3 b5 23.Be7 Qxc7 24.Qxc3 Qb6
25.Rc1 Re8 26.Bg4 f5 27.Bf3 Nf6 28.h3
b4 29.Qb3 Ne4 30.g3 Nd2 31.Bxd5+ Kh7
32.Qd1 Ne4 33.g4 Nc3 34.Rxc3 bxc3
35.Bb3 fxg4 36.Qxg4 Qxb3 37.Qxc8 c2
38.Qg4 c1Q+ 39.Kh2 Qd5 40.Qh4+ Kg8
41.f3 Qd2+ 42.Kg3 0-1

ABHIJ BALAMURUGAN 1700**MAX HIGA 1680**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bc4 Nc6
5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.Qxd4 e5 8.Qd3
Be7 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.0-0-0 Be7
12.Nb5 Qb6 13.Nxd6 Rd8 14.Nxc8 Qh6+
15.Qe3 Qxe3+ 16.fxe3 Raxc8 17.Rxd8+
Rxd8 18.Rd1 Kf8 19.Rd5 f6 20.Kd2 a6
21.a4 Kc8 22.c3 Rd6 23.b4 Kd7 24.a5 Bd8
25.Ke2 g5 26.g4 h6 27.Bb3 b6 28.axb6
Bxb6 29.c4 Bc7 30.Ba4+ Kc8 31.c5 Rd8
32.Kd3 Rxd5+ 33.exd5 e4+ 34.Kxe4 Bxh2
35.Kf5 Be5 36.Kg6 Bc3 37.b5 axb5
38.Bxb5 Bd2 39.e4 Bc3 40.Kxh6 Be5
41.Kg6 Kd8 42.Kf7 Bd4 43.c6 Be5
44.Ke6 Kc7 45.Ba4 Bf4 46.Kxf6 Kd6

47.c7 Kxc7 48.e5 Kd8 49.e6 Bd6 50.Kxg5
Be5 51.Kf5 Bc3 52.d6 1-0

EASHAN SARKAR 1362**JOHN LESSARD 1402**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Bb5
Bd7 6.Nf3 Nxe5 7.Nxe5 Bxb5 8.Qb3 Qa5
9.a4 Ba6 10.Bd2 c4 11.Qc2 Ne7 12.0-0
Nc6 13.f4 Bd6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.f5 e5
16.f6 gxf6 17.Rxf6 exd4 18.cxd4 Qc7
19.Qf5 Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Bc8 21.Qg5 Qg3
22.Qh5 Qg7 23.Qf3 Bc7 24.Na3 Qg3
25.Re1+ Kd8 26.Qe2 Qh2# Qf3 Qg3 Qxg3
Bxg3 Ref1 Ke8 0-1

MARK KROWCZYK 1949**LM BRIAN WALL 2206**

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 Bxc3+
5.bxc3 f5 6.e4 fxe4 7.f3 Nf6 8.fxe4 d6
9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.Nf3 Ng4 11.0-0 0-0
12.Ng5 Nde5 13.Be2 h6 14.Ne6 Bxe6
15.dxe6 h5 16.h3 Rxf1+ 17.Qxf1 Nf6
18.Bf4 Qc8 19.Bxe5 dxe5 20.Qf2 Qxe6
21.Qxc5 Nxe4 22.Qe3 Nf6 23.Qh6 Kf7
24.Rf1 Rg8 25.g4 Ke8 26.Qe3 b6 27.g5
Nd7 28.Qe4 Qd6 29.Rd1 Nc5 30.Qa8+
Kf7 31.Qf3+ 1-0

**SCOTT MASSEY 1700****EARLE WIKLE 1824**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6
5.Nc3 Ne7 6.Be2 Nbc6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Re1
Qd7 9.Nb5 0-0-0 10.Nxd6+ Qxd6 11.Bg5
f6 12.Bh4 Nf5 13.Bg3 Nxg3 14.hxg3 g5
15.c3 h5 16.Qd2 Ne7 17.Nh2 Bd7 18.Nf3
h4 19.gxh4 g4 20.Nh2 g3 21.Nf3 gxf2+
22.Kxf2 Rdg8 23.Rg1 Qg3+ 24.Kf1 Nf5
25.Bd3 Nxh4 26.Nxh4 Rxh4 27.Ke2 Bg4+
28.Kf1 Bh5 29.Bf5+ Kd8 30.Be6 Rf4+
31.Qxf4 Qxf4+ 32.Ke1 Qe3+ 33.Kf1 0-1

BILL WEIHMILLER 1633**DUWAYNE LANGSETH 1800**

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 f5 3.e3 e6 4.b3 Bd6 5.Bb2
Nf6 6.Nc3 c6 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.d3 Ng4 9.Qd2
e5 10.h3 Ngf6 11.0-0-0 Qe7 12.Kb1 b5
13.Rdf1 b4 14.Nd1 c5 15.c4 e4 16.Nh4
Nb6 17.g3 Be6 18.cxd5 Nbxid5 19.d4 a5
20.Bb5+ Kf7 21.g4 g6 22.g5 Qa7 23.gxf6
Rhd8 24.Ng2 Nb6 25.Bc6 Rac8 26.d5 Bd7
27.Bxd7 Rxd7 28.Nf2 c4 29.bxc4 Nxc4
30.Qd4 Qb7 31.Rc1 Rdc7 32.Rhd1 Na3+
33.Ka1 Rxc1+ 34.Bxc1 Nc2+ 35.Kb2
Nxd4 36.Rxd4 a4 37.Kb1 Qc7 38.Bd2
Qc2+ 39.Ka1 a3 0-1

BILL SLICHENMYER 1757**PATRICK S KELLER 1573**

1.e4 h6 2.Bc4 d6 3.Nc3 Nd7 4.Nf3 e6 5.d3
Be7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf8 8.Bb3 g5 9.h3 e5
10.d4 g4 11.hxg4 Bxg4 12.dxe5 Bxf3
13.gxf3 dxe5 14.0-0-0 Qxd2+ 15.Rxd2 h5
16.Nd5 Ne6 17.f4 exf4 18.Bxf4 0-0-0
19.Nxe7+ Nxe7 20.Be3 Nc6 21.Rxd8+
Kxd8 22.c3 Ne5 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Bd4
Nd3+ 25.Kd2 Nxf2 26.Bxf2 Ke7 27.Ke2
e5 28.Bh4+ Ke6 29.Rg1 Rf8 30.Rg6+ Kd7
31.Bf6 Ke6 32.Bg7+ Kf7 33.Bxf8 Kxg6
34.Be7 Kf7 35.Bh4 Kg6 36.Kd3 Kf7
37.Kc4 1-0

CM RHETT LANGSETH 2107**CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY 2016**

1.d3 d5 2.c3 Nf6 3.Nf3 c5 4.Nbd2 Nc6
5.e4 e5 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 d4
9.Nc4 Qc7 10.a4 Be6 11.Qc2 h6 12.g3
Nd7 13.Bf1 a6 14.Nfd2 b5 15.Na3 Rab8
16.axb5 axb5 17.c4 Nb4 18.Qd1 bxc4
19.Ndxc4 g5 20.Qh5 Kg7 21.f4 f6 22.Rd1
Bf7 23.Qe2 Rh8 24.Bh3 Nc6 25.Rf1 Qb7
26.Qg4 Rbd8 27.fxg5 hxg5 28.Bxg5 fxg5
29.Nd6 Bxd6 30.Rxf7+ Kxf7 31.Rf1+ Nf6
32.Qe6+ Kg7 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Qg6+ Qg7
35.Be6# 1-0

EARLE WIKLE 1824**MARK KROWCZYK 1949**

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e4 Bb4
5.Qc2 0-0 6.Nd5 Re8 7.Be2 b6 8.0-0 Bb7
9.d3 Nd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd5 11.cxd5 exd4
12.Qc4 Bc5 13.b4 Bd6 14.Bb2 c6 15.dxc6
dxc6 16.Bxd4 b5 17.Qc3 Nxe4 18.dxe4
Rxe4 19.Be3 Be5 20.Qxc6 Rh4 21.g3 Rc8
22.Rad1 Qf8 23.Qxb5 Qe7 24.gxh4 Rb8
25.Qd5 Bf6 26.Bc4 Bxh4 27.Bc5 Qf6
28.Qxf7+ 1-0

LM BRIAN WALL 2206**SCOTT MASSEY 1700**

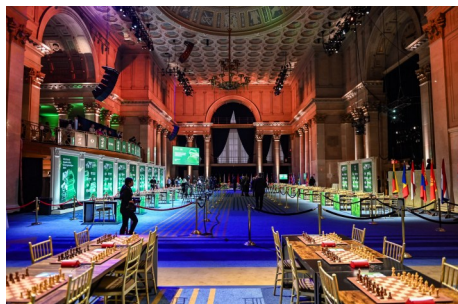
1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Nfd7 4.d4 e6 5.f4
c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 b6 8.Qd2 Bb7 9.g4
Be7 10.0-0-0 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4
Be5 13.Kb1 a6 14.f5 Qh4 15.Rg1 Nxe5
16.Be2 Nd7 17.Bxg7 Bxg1 18.fxe6 fxe6
19.Bxh8 Qxh2 20.Qg5 Bc5 21.Bd3 Be7
22.Qg8+ Nf8 23.Bg7 Kd7 24.Re1 Qd6
25.Be5 Qc5 26.Qg7 Re8 27.Bd4 Qd6
28.Na4 Qb4 29.Nxb6+ Kc6 30.c3 Qd6
31.Qf7 Qd8 32.Na4 Bc8 33.b4 Ng6
34.Qxh7 Nf4 35.Bf1 Bf6 36.Qa7 Bxd4
37.cxd4 Re7 38.Rc1+ Kd6 39.Qc5+ Kd7
40.Qc6# Re8 1-0



2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships

By John Brezina

2024 was an incredible year for chess and it ended with perhaps the most stunning and exciting event. The World Rapid & Blitz Championships took place in New York at the beautiful Cipriani Wall Street venue. A fitting place for such a prestigious and large tournament. The saying that everything is bigger in Texas can also be said for Wall Street in New York. The biggest buildings, the biggest names in chess, and the biggest prize money at \$1.5 million. The tournament always takes place between Christmas and New Year's and I was able to attend most of the event. This year between the rapid & blitz tournaments, a special Wall Street Gambit conference was held to discuss links between chess and finance.



The stunning Cipriani playing hall

The first three days held the rapid tournament with 13 rounds for the Open and 11 rounds for the Women's section. I arrived on the final day of rapid action and learned the day before about the infamous "jeans gate" drama that unfolded at the end of day two. A quick summary for those that actually have not heard about it (hard to believe), but Magnus Carlsen was issued a warning after round 6 about a dress code violation. To make a long story short, it escalated into a much larger issue after the arbiter made the decision to forfeit Magnus if he continued to wear jeans at the board. Underlying issues between FIDE and Magnus have been brewing for some time and this only lit the final fuse. After the organizers decided to not pair Magnus for round nine, the world #1 player pulled out of the tournament altogether and threatened to leave New York and skip the blitz and conference as well which had organizers in a panic.

So I did not expect to photograph Magnus as I arrived early into New York but was still thrilled to be able to capture so many other top players from around the world. I occasionally run across other chess personalities and I was pleasantly surprised to see a famous chess author of one of my favorite books in the media room along with his kind wife. Frank

Brady penned the popular book "Profile of a Prodigy", the story of Bobby Fischer. It inspired my desire to dig deeper into the world of chess and I was happy to see him invited as a special guest. He was also the founding editor of Chess Life magazine that I still read today.



The honorable Dr. Frank Brady

The Open section was held in the large and stunning Cipriani main hall and across the street another magnificent hall housed the Women's section. It was difficult to choose which side to cover but I managed to cross back and forth to capture the most. The main top boards were up close to the spectator lanes while the bulk of the players were in the back more which were off limits and more difficult to capture photos. Nonetheless it was a feast for my lens. I made my way to the Open for round ten which had 4 players tied for first with 7 points: Grischuk, Erigaisi, Duda, and Murzin. The young Volodar Murzin and veteran Alexander Grischuk won their respective games to lead going into the final three rounds. World Champion challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi won his game to close in just half a point behind.



Grischuk faces the young Murzin

Going into round nine for the Women's section, three players remained tied at 6.5 points: World Champion Ju Wenjun and the top Indian players Humpy Koneru and Harika Dronavalli. There were only three rounds left on the final rapid day since they played eleven rounds total and the games were staggered 15 minutes apart

from the Open section games. They would all draw their round nine games and the former world blitz champion Kateryna Lagno won hers to catch up and create a four way tie into the final two rounds. Later in the day it was announced that Magnus Carlsen would return for the conference and play in the blitz which was incredible news for all the fans that no doubt came to see the World Blitz Champion defend his title.

Upstairs in the main hall a VIP section provided a bird's eye view of the playing hall from a stunning balcony. A back row lane was roped off behind the top boards as well for the VIP's to get up close for the action. The middle of the playing hall had a large section roped off for general spectators as well which was great to see for fans. The VIP area also had a back room that provided food and drinks and an interview area set up for Take Take Take interviews that were done by Mr. Gotham Chess himself Levy Rozman. Chess boards were set up as well for casual games or positional discussions by anyone including former World Champion Vishy Anand. Definitely a great chess people watching area as Magnus himself would take breaks in the VIP room as well.



VIP Vishy Anand in the VIP room



Hans Niemann interviewed by Levy Rozman for Take Take Take

Back to the final rapid action where in round 11 the top two in the Open faced off. Murzin faced the formidable Grischuk where it ended in a draw. With two rounds to go it was all still up in the air. Four more players trailed by half a point: Nepo,



Nepomniachtchi & Grischuk in round 12

Pragg, Erigaisi, and Dominguez. The penultimate round had two of the three boards end in draws. It was the youngsters Pragg and Murzin that had a big battle over the board. A rook and pawn endgame that Murzin was able to convert and promote his unstoppable g-pawn after 45 moves. With this win Murzin was the sole leader into the last round. Grischuk trailed by only half a point while four others a point behind. Murzin faced the Armenian GM Karen Grigoryan who was a point behind the leader. Grischuk drew his last game leaving Murzin with just needing a draw to clinch the title. The youngster held out into a knight and bishop vs. knight and bishop endgame that left neither with any chances and a repeat of moves and a draw after 43 moves. The 18-year old Russian GM Volodar Murzin is the World Rapid Champion!



World Rapid Champion Volodar Murzin

The penultimate round for the Women's section had four ladies tied at 7 points. They all drew their games but three others won to make a seven way tie going into the final round. World Champion Ju Wenjun made a quick draw in 24 moves against Bibisara Assaubayeva and Tan Zhongyi did the same with Dronavalli in 23 moves. But the defending World Rapid champion Humpy Koneru fought a long tough game against Irine Sukander. They entered a rook pawn endgame where Humpy cut off the white King which allowed her King to safely escort her own d-pawn to promotion and force resignation after 67 moves. The 38-year old veteran Humpy Koneru is back to back World Rapid Champion!



World Rapid Champion Humpy Koneru

After an exhausting day of rapid, some morning sightseeing around New York was a great way to refresh as the weather cooperated nicely with comfortable temps and blue skies which can be rare this time of year. I was sure to make it back in time for the Wall Street Gambit conference and blitz exhibition that was held in the Cipriani hall. Freedom Holding Inc. was a major sponsor of the event and CEO Timur Turlov spoke briefly and then played some serious chess. He is also President of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation and a great benefactor to chess.



Maurice Ashley & Ketj Tsatsalashvili host an incredible conference

In addition to numerous speakers, a chess tournament was held for conference participants and more thrilling, a chance to play blitz against three chess giants: Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana and Vishy Anand. Tickets to attend started at \$1000 and much higher for a VIP ticket to play the world #1. A once in a lifetime opportunity for die hard chess fans or enthusiasts to hear some great speakers and get up close with these legends of chess. The cocktail hour to end the evening was a great way to meet and greet the players and others.



A rare chance to play the former World Champion Vishwanathan Anand

The next morning I took the subway up to Washington Square Park which is always a great spot for some chess. A sunny and chilly morning attracted some die-hard "teachers" who were always ready to give some lessons. I always like to stop in and donate to the cause.



"Ulysses" recognized me so I had to sit down for a "lesson"

I returned early to the playing hall along with 188 players who showed up to blitz in the Open section and 108 players in the Women's section. This is what most fans, including myself, love to watch. It takes nerves of steel to compete with the best in the world at blitz and the top eight players in each section move on to a knockout stage the next day. The Open players would play an exhausting 13 games of blitz to determine the best while the Women's section played a daunting 11 games of blitz.

With so many games to watch, which to choose first? Magnus of course! I arrived early and tried to get a good view of board one where everyone anxiously awaited to see if the world #1 would show up to defend his title after the drama in the rapid match. After some announcements, players were told to start their clocks and the blitz began. But no Magnus to be found. His opponent, German GM Michael Bezold, playing the white pieces, calmly made his first move after the arbiter started the clock in lieu of Magnus. The crowd stood by in disbelief and perhaps a bit of disappointment that maybe Magnus would not play after all.



Magnus arriving fashionably late to game one of blitz to the relief of fans

And then in typical Magnus style, he shows up quickly out of nowhere and shakes hands to start about a minute behind in a 3+2 blitz game. An almost gasp of relief from the crowd, and myself, that we'd see the best in the world in action after all. The games and action were quick and tricky to get around to capture as many players as possible. I know, poor me. But as a fan too I can't help but try to follow some games a little more closely from time to time. Certain games were difficult to get a good angle of as crowds swelled around the top boards. But after round one, the dust and nerves settled and few surprises. Although one big upset was from the young American player Awonder Liang who took down number six Daniil Dubov.



Alice Lee faces Megan Paragua

On the Women's side, Lei Tingjie was the number one seed but drew her game in round one. Some other upsets included former US Women's Champion Jennifer Yu defeating newly crowned World Rapid Champion Humpy Koneru. Mariya Muzychuk and Harika Dronavalli both lost their first round games as well. Defending Blitz Champion Valentina Gunina won her first game and would eventually make the cut for the 8-player knockout.

During all these games there was action in the VIP room too when an NFL player from the Buffalo Bills showed up. Wide receiver Mack Hollins was a special VIP guest and a pretty good chess player too, as I can attest to. He played a number of people including Freedom Holding CEO Timur Turlov. Mack is a big chess fan and gentleman who was spotted in Toronto at the Candidates too. You never know who will show up to these tournaments. Even astrophysicists enjoy the game of chess as I spotted Neil deGrasse Tyson hanging around the VIP club.



Sponsor CEO Timur Turlov battles NFL player Mack Hollins



Hikaru Nakamura & fans between rounds

Back on the floor Magnus was slowed down a bit by drawing Benjamin Bok in round three and then drawing Sam Shankland in round five. After seven rounds, one player remained undefeated, Fabiano Caruana. It was his nemesis from the 2018 World Championship match that finally slowed him down with a draw in round eight. Round eleven was epic because of two particular games. The first was the incredible matchup between Magnus and Hans Niemann. Everyone knows the history of these two players and Hans led by half a point. I somehow managed to get near this game along with one of the largest crowds I have ever seen form. It was one of the most intense games I have witnessed, and an incredible draw was the result.



The much anticipated re-match Hans Niemann and Magnus Carlsen

But during the final moments of the Magnus & Hans game, a loud wailing filled the giant hall. A few boards over was the stunning climax of the encounter between Daniel Naroditsky and legend Vasyil Ivanchuk. Notorious for getting into time trouble, Vasyil was low on time in a won rook and pawn ending. But in a nervous finish he blundered away the game and flagged, moaning profusely and nearly paralyzing himself at the board for some time and needed help to recover and stabilize his emotions. Chess is tough, and it reminds me of Walter Browne's great book, "The Stress of Chess".



A stunned & bewildered Vasyil Ivanchuk

The penultimate round twelve was a horse race to the finish line. Magnus played a brilliant game against Sam Sevian with a huge crowd watching and tied for the lead at 9 points. But he was tied with eight more players that also reached 9 points which set up an incredible final round. Those eight players faced off in the final round and all four boards drew to end with 9.5 points. Easy enough, those eight players would go to the knockout stage, right? Nope. Dubov and Duda both won their last games to reach 9.5 points too. So tie breaks would decide the final eight players. Dubov would be out since he forfeited a game earlier by "over sleeping" which hurt his tie break chances. Daniel Naroditsky was also out by the slimmest of margins. A tough pill to swallow after tying the field. While much of this was occurring, I happened to be in the VIP room where Magnus was awaiting the final results of the tie-breaks. Once he learned he'd be in the knockout stage, a happy Magnus sat down with Levy Rozman for a lengthy interview. Jeans and all.



Magnus and the notorious jeans

The Women's section also had a tough race to the finish line. Vaishali Rameshbabu was dominating the field and led by a full point into the last round. Lei Tingjie was a point behind and both secured the knockout stage with draws. Seven others finished at 8.0 points but only six spots remained. Tie breaks again to decide and it was unfortunate for Humpy Koneru. The new World Rapid Champion would only be watching from the sidelines. The only American player to qualify was the US Women's Champion Carissa Yip.

New Year's Eve 2024 would be one to remember as far as chess goes. Three American players made it to the knockout stage: Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So, and Hans Niemann. The first quarter final match would be unforgettable for me and many others. With four great boards to cover, I had to focus on one. The pairings were announced and the matchup between Magnus & Hans was too good to pass up. The fans and media focus on these two were like nothing I had ever seen. The first gladiator at the board was Magnus who sat for some time before his opponent arrived for an "uncomfortable" handshake. The best of four games would decide the winner.



Fans await the "Thrilla" in New York

Their intense first game showed off each other's incredible blitz skills as it sizzled into a draw. An earthquake in game two as Hans mated Magnus on the board with the white pieces. Magnus arrived unusually early for game three. A must win or draw game and no one does it better. Hans succumbed to the pressure and lost game three. Tied. Emotions were riding high for the final game. It was the "Thrilla in Manila" equivalent, but in New York. Another epic finale and I was thrilled to have been witness to it. Nerves of steel by both players at the board were at another level. A rook and pawn ending ensued and hands flew back and forth like two prize fighters in the ring. Blitz, blow after blow, and then Hans fell to the mat and resigned. But it was afterwards that would be remembered by millions, the "shot" heard 'round the world. Shortly after Hans' resignation, Magnus grabbed his own King, looked at the camera with an incredulous expression, and slammed it with the utmost authority. The crashing sound resonated throughout the hall as if to say, "Take that!"



The slam heard 'round the world

The Women's quarter final was played alongside the Open players which made it much easier to cover. I tried best to slide back and forth to all the games to capture as much drama as I could. Vaishali, Lei, and Kateryna all went the full four games to advance while Ju won her spot in only three games. Ju Wenjun showed her blitz skills again in the semi-finals by defeating Vaishali in three games as well. Lei Tingjie had her work cut out in the semi-finals. It took her six tense games to finally defeat Kateryna Lagno. Lei would have to face another intense six games against the World Champion Ju Wenjun in the finals. But this time six was her unlucky number as she resigned and handed Ju Wenjun another crown.



Lei Tingjie resigns to the World Classical and now Blitz Champion Ju Wenjun

The Open semi-finals pitted Magnus against Duda and Nepo against Wesley So. His last match with Hans must have lit a fire in Magnus as he swept Duda with a 3-0 score. Wesley put up a good fight in five games but ceded the finals to Nepo. Another world championship final between these two, except this time it is for the blitz crown. These two players know each other well and their first four games were all drawn, but not without some incredible fighting spirit. The match continued and the first to win the next game would be crowned champion. Game five, draw. Game six, draw. Someone had to win a game to decide the match, but how many games would be played? Game seven, draw. Then Magnus spoke with the arbiter and made a suggestion that later became known to the crowd on the edge of their seats.



Everyone waits for the decision

Just when you thought the drama was over. Both players left the boards and wandered in the back of the hall while arbiters and officials took Magnus' suggestion into account. He asked if it was possible that the title be shared as they could otherwise theoretically play on forever with draws. Sound familiar? Kasparov vs. Karpov. It had already been a long day of intense blitz games and matches, players were tired, it was late into the evening of New Year's Eve. Everything came to a halt and it seemed an eternity before something had to give. And then a decision was made, Magnus and Nepomnitchi would be Co-World Champions and share the crown!



The World Blitz Co-Champions Magnus Carlsen & Ian Nepomni-

A stunned crowd tried to comprehend what just happened. Cheers erupted for both players but with a sense of unease. It will be a contentious decision debated for years but a decision was made, for better or for worse. The players all joined in for a final press conference in the media room before making their way back to the hall for the closing ceremony for spectators. A nice touch was towards the end of the evening, Cipriani staff came around with complimentary champagne for everyone to celebrate the New Year.

I made my way back to the VIP room to collect my belongings after a long day and it could not have ended any better. Before leaving, I met the parents of the two best players in the world. Henrik Carlsen and Sunil Weeramantry were both waiting for their "kids", Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura. A chance encounter that produced one of my all-time favorite photos. If 2025 is anything like 2024, it will definitely be a Happy New Year!



An incredible way to end the year and my trip with these two gentlemen

Botvinnik vs. Bronstein; Showdown for the IQP

By Jeffrey Baffo

Botvinnik, Mikhail - Bronstein, David I [C08] [French, Tarrasch]

World Championship 19th Moscow (15), 17.04.1951

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Ng3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 8.O-O Be7 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Nd4
Diagram below



The Isolated Queen Pawn. Once it appears on the board for either side, it defines tactics and strategy for that game. Pros: It provides central control, outpost squares, and attacking chances via open files and dynamic piece play. Cons: It can often become a target in the endgame. It can be blockaded and attacked. Players with the IQP must capitalize on activity before the position simplifies. The heart of it; balancing short-term initiative with long-term positional concerns.

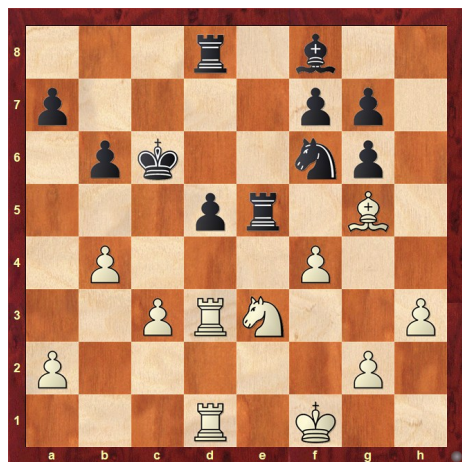
10...Qd7 11.N2f3 O-O 12.Ne5 Qc8 13.Bg5 Re8 14.Nd3 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Qg4?! Diagram below



Huh? Just handing Botvinnik a better endgame and daring him win it! Why would Bronstein do this? Won't this lead to an exchange of Queens? Isn't a Queen trade one of the main goals of the side wishing to destroy the IQP? This seems to be working against his own best interests here, but who can fathom the motives of those fighting on Mount Olympus?

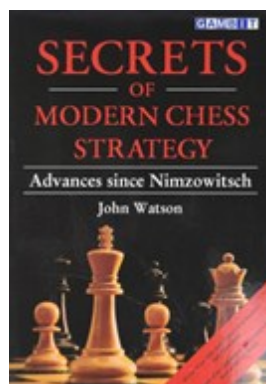
16.Be3 Bc5 17.h3 Qg6 18.Qxg6 hxg6 [Black has "accomplished" his goal, The Queens are gone. But, again, why, why, why?? By this simplification he has thrown away all dynamic tactical possibilities he could have had, the things that the holder of the IQP normally strives for. He still has a middlegame of sorts, but one where he has all the losing chances, and the best he can hope for is a grueling, skin of the teeth draw.]

19.Rad1 Re4 20.c3 b6 21.Nc2 Rd8 22.Rd3 Kf8 23.Rfd1 Ke7 24.Kf1 Kd7 25.Bg5 Kc6 26.b4 Bf8 27.Ne3 Re5 28.f4? Diagram below



["The authorities" say that Botvinnik threw away all his hard work. The word from on High here is that he could have won with moves like 28.h4 or 28.B:f6. Watson gives 28.Bxf6 gxf6 29.f4 Rh5 30.c4 Bxb4 31.Nxd5 Bd6 32.Nxf6 Rhh8 33.Ne4 Be7 34.Rxd8 Rxd8 35.Rxd8 Bxd8 36.Ke2, etc. (Never has the "etc" been more imperiously wielded!) I think that's an exaggeration and would prefer to say he could have kept strong winning chances.

I'll be bold enough to say this; even with best play it's still massively complicated. And let's turn off the engines for a minute! This isn't God vs. God, it's two human beings, bitter rivals in a metaphorical death match. These men were stretched to the breaking point, exhausted by brain-busting efforts of World Champion level chess and the weight of what it meant to win or lose in Soviet Russia's national game. I assume bitterly disappointed; Botvinnik can find nothing better than to repeat moves] **28...Re4 29.f5 Re5 30.Bf4 Re4 31.Bg5 Re5 32.Bf4 Re4 33.Bg5 ½–½**

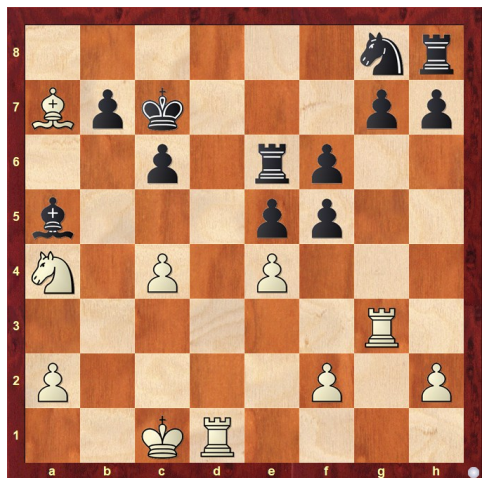


My inspiration for this article comes from pg. 61 of this masterful work, specifically his chapter on the ISOLATED QUEEN PAWN. **Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy: Advances since Nimzowitsch – Gambit Chess Publishing, 1999**

Chasing a dream *Jeffrey Baffo, May 2025*

"Of course, analysis can sometimes give more accurate results than intuition, but usually it's just a lot of work. I normally do what my intuition tells me to do. Most of the time spent thinking is just to double-check." – Magnus Carlsen

There are many times when chasing after perfection can ruin you at the chess board. At least in terms of your competitive success. If you see a winning continuation, but suspect there is something better, which should you choose? In practical terms, it is very old, time-tested wisdom to "Play what you see" rather than being led into difficult complication that seem to promise more. Here is a good example;



White to play and win. In our source material, we are told that "White blew it..." with 19.exf5 after which White has a hard job to even keep a superior position let alone win the game. Our author purposes the much better move; 19.Bc5 (preventing Black from playing ...Re7, with the goal of eventually getting a Rook to the 7th himself.

So, 19.Bc5 will win the game as our talented titled author rightly points out. But what about the (unnecessary!) chase of perfection? While almost all chess players paying their own entry fee will choose practicality, I hope there are still those willing to risk competitive disaster for the sake of artistic beauty. Here that chance exists but likely requires as much faith as it does skill. Here the objectively strongest move is also the most paradoxical and beautiful. 19.c5!! which looks completely wrong. It does nothing to secure the 7th rank, blocks his own Bishop, and seemingly gives Black a free move. But it also wins with a stunning positional idea, a bind that puts Black into a deadly Zugzwang. Let's explore how this works. If Black attempts the most thematic defense, to guard his 7th rank, then White's idea reveals it's fundamental and shocking secret; a check mate attack!

19.c5!! 1...Re7?? 2.Nb6 Bxb6 [2...Nh6 3.Rgd3 Ng4 4.Rd7+ Rxd7 5.Rxd7#] 3.Bxb6+ Kc8 4.Rd8#

That check mate theme forces Black to start suicidal actions, chucking pieces just to stay alive. For example; [19...Ne7 20.Bb6+ Kc8 21.Rgd3 Nd5 22.exd5 cxd5 23.Bxa5 Ra6 24.Nb6+ Kb8 25.Rxd5 Rxa5 26.Rd8+ Ka7 (26...Rxd8 gets mated!) 27.Rxh8+]

I leave you with my adaptation of Wilder's famous quote;

"Every good (and beautiful) thing in the world stands on the razor-edge of danger."

**EXCELLING AT
POSITIONAL
CHESS**



JACOB AAGAARD
EVERYMAN CHESS

pg. 22, introducing the term "primary concept" as a way of understanding the essential gist of a position. **Excelling at Positional Chess, Everyman Chess, 2003** [Jacob Aagaard](#) A wonderful and highly recommended book!

French Defense;Epicenter by Jeffrey Baffo, Sep. 2022, revised April, 2025

Finally! It's time for the TRUTH about The French Defense. It is much more than just a very old, very popular Chess Opening. It is a conspiracy, a union, a cabal, a secret society.

"But wait!!" You say. "Who would bother with creating any sort of clandestine society centered around *that* opening?!?! The French Defense is a moth-eaten-abandoned-sofa of a chess opening. It is UNSOUND. Even Mikhail Botvinnik gave up on it, for gosh sake. Wouldn't people in this secret French opening group, who've studied the depths and intricacies of it, know that? Wouldn't they, better than anyone else, be aware of the true wretched nature of it?" The shocking answer, dear reader is YES. Yes, they do know the French Defense is horrible. They know all it's dirty little secrets. Now comes the nightmare reveal; this only fuels their fervor. Read on, young Padawan, this will all make sense before the end.

So, to save you, my dear reader from tumbling down this one-way rabbit hole, I have penetrated this group of radical researchers. I got into one of their secret meetings! Now I must admit that I only got to one meeting in which the focus was but a single variation. Then I got out while the getting was good. I may be stupid, but I'm not crazy. I got away with my life. If you know my luck than you know I have none to push.

It takes but a sip of this toxic cocktail, you will have an understanding of the whole bottle. So, pay attention my chess playing compadre, lest you fall into Gallic meat Grinder.

We begin. What you are about to read is the feverish notes I took during the meeting and the detailed research I was able to reconstruct back at home. I know it reads like a stream of consciousness, fragmented, difficult to follow, in places incomprehensible. But dear reader, if you persist, you may learn secrets that have been closely guarded for centuries. The chess equivalent of Bohemian Grove and the Cremation of Care ritual is about to be revealed to you.

(2) French, study material - Baffo,Jeffrey [C17]

20.07.2016 [French, all lines]

1.Nc3 d5 [1...Nf6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 Nfd7 4.d4 e6 5.Nf3 Bb4 6.Bd2 c5 7.Nb5 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 0-0 9.c3 Nc6 10.Bd3 f5 11.0-0 c4 12.Be2 f4 13.g3 fxg3 14.fxg3 a6 15.Nd6 Qe7 16.Ng5 Ndx5 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nxc8 Raxc8 1-0 (18) Wolfe,W-Baffo,J Pike's Peak Open 2016 2016 [French, non-standard Winawer]]

2.e4 e6 3.d4 Bb4 [3...Be7 4.e5 b6 (4...c5) 5.Be3 Ba6 6.Bxa6 Nxa6 7.a3±; 3...Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7

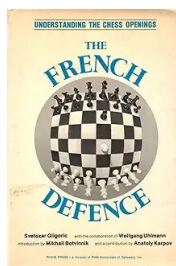
a) 4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 (6...Bxf6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Be7 (9...b6 10.Bc4 Bb7 11.d5 b5 12.Bb3 c5 13.Nd6 Bxd5 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.Qxd5 Nb6 16.Qf5 g6 17.Qf4 Bg7 18.Rhe1 Qc7 19.Qh4 Rad8 20.Nxb5 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Qc6 22.Na3 h6 23.Qf4 Re8 24.c3 Nd5 25.Qc4 Nf6 26.Re1 Ne4 27.Re2 Re6 28.Nb1 g5 29.Nbd2 Nd6 30.Rxe6 1-0 (30) Almasi,Z (2630)-Tukmakov,V (2604) Pula 2001) 10.h4 b6 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.Neg5 h6 (12...Nf6 13.Ne5 (13.Qe2 Casual game 2006 Baffo - Emerson 1-0 x16 13...h6 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Qxe6+ Kh8 16.Ne5 1-0) 13...h6 14.Kb1± F/13 Oct 2016) 13.Bh7+ Kh8 14.Be4 Bxe4 15.Nxe4 Nf6 16.Nxf6 Bxf6 17.g4±) 7.Nf3 f5

a1) 7...Nd7 8.Qd2 Nb6 9.Qh6 Komodo 9.02;

a2) 7...Nd7 8.Qd2 f5 9.Ng3 Stockfish 7;

a3) 7...Nd7 8.Qd2 f5 9.Ng3 Houdini 4 x64;

a4) 7...Nd7 Baffo - Cordova Training game 2009 1-0 x17;



The French Defence – May, 1976 [Svetozar Gligorić](#) Botvinnik was prevailed upon to write a sort of introduction for this wonderful book. See pages 1-9 for his fascinating thoughts. They amount IMHO, to a line by line eulogy for his once beloved opening.

- a5)** 7...c6 8.Bc4 Nd7 9.c3 Qc7 10.0-0 b6 11.Re1 Bb7 12.a4 a5 13.Qe2 Rg8 14.Ng3 0-0-0 15.Bxe6 fxe6 (15...Kb8? 16.Bxf7 1-0 on line CC game 2010) 16.Qxe6 Rxd3 17.fxd3 Bf8 18.Qf7±;
- a6)** 7...a6 8.c4 f5 9.Nc3 Bf6 10.Qd3 Nc6 11.0-0-0 Bg5+ 12.Kb1 Qe7 13.d5 Nb4 14.Qe2 b6 15.Nxg5 1-0 Baffo - Gaige2009 CCCC x22; 8.Nc3 a6 9.g3 b5 10.Bg2 Bb7 11.0-0 c5 (11...c5 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Ne5 Stockfish 7; 11...c5 12.Ne2 0-0 13.dxc5 Komodo 10 64-bit; 11...c5 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Qxd8+ Komodo 8);
- b)** 4...Bb4 The MacCutcheon! 5.e5 h6 6.Be3 The sources I have all correctly associate this move with Janowski. Therefore, why not name it the Janowski attack? Mike and I played many games with this line. 6...Ne4 7.Qg4 g6 (7...Kf8 8.a3 (8.Nge2 c5 9.dxc5 Nc6 10.0-0-0 Nxc3 11.Nxc3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Kd2 Nxe5 14.Qb4 Nc6 15.Qxa5 Nxa5 16.Rb1 Bd7 17.c4 Bc6 18.cxd5 exd5 19.Bb5 Ke7 20.Kc1 Rhe8 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Bd2 Nc4 23.Re1+ Kf8 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Kd1 f6 26.Bf4 Re7 27.Bd6 Nxd6 28.cxd6 Rd7 29.Rb8+ Kf7 30.Rc8 Ke6 31.Rxc6 Rxd6 32.Rc7 Rd7 33.Rc8 Rd6 34.Rc7 Rd7 35.Rc5 Kd6 36.Ra5 Kc6 37.Kd2 Kb6 38.Ra3 Re7 39.Rb3+ Kc6 40.Rb8 Rb7 41.Rc8+ Rc7 42.Rd8 Rd7 43.Rb8 Rb7 44.Rc8+ Rc7 45.Rd8 Rd7 46.Re8 Kb5 47.Re3 a5 48.Rb3+ Kc4 49.Rc3+ Kb4 50.Rb3+ Kc4 51.Rc3+ ½-½ (51) Jacek Tomczak (2633)-Michael Prusikin Berlin GER 2018) 8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nxc3 10.Bd3 Bd7
- b1)** 10...Na4 11.Nh3 Nb2 12.Be2 b6 13.Bc1 Nc4 14.Nf4 Ba6 15.Bd3 Nc6 16.Nh5 Ke7 17.Qxg7 Qf8 18.Qg4 Kd7 19.Nf6+ Kc8 20.Nxd5 h5 21.Qe4 f5 22.Ne7+ Nxe7 23.Qxa8+ Kd7 24.Qxf8 Rxf8 25.f3 Nd5 26.Kf2 b5 27.h4 Nc3 28.Bh6 Rh8 29.Bg5 Kc6 30.g4 fxd4 31.fxd4 hxd4 32.h5 Kd7 33.Bf6 Rg8 34.h6 g3+ 35.Kg1 g2 36.Rh3 1-0 (36) Vilka Sipila (2443)-Petri Kekki (2348) Helsinki FIN 2016;
- b2)** 10...Nc6 11.Nh3 f5 12.exf6 Qxf6 13.0-0 e5 14.dxe5 Bxg4 15.exf6 d4 16.fxd7 Kxg7 17.Bd2 Bxh3 18.gxh3 Ne5 19.Bxc3 dxc3 20.Be4 Rad8 21.f4 Nc4 22.Rf3 Nd6 23.Rg3+ Kf6 24.Bg2 Nf5 25.Rxc3 Rhg8 26.Kh1 c6 27.Rd3 Rde8 28.Bf3 Re7 29.Bg4 Rge8 30.Rg1 Re1 31.Rd7 R8e7 32.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 33.Kg2 Rc1 34.Bxf5 Kxf5 35.Kf3 b5 36.Rf7+ Ke6 37.Rxa7 Rxc2 38.Rh7 Kd5 39.Rd7+ Kc4 40.Re7 Rc3+ 41.Re3 Rxe3+ 42.Kxe3 c5 43.h4 h5 44.h3 Kb3 45.f5 c4 46.f6 c3 47.f7 c2 48.f8Q c1Q+ x 81 ½-½ (48) Kalle Niemi (2357)-Sergey Volkov (2645) Stockholm SWE 2017 [Baffo,Jeffrey];
- b3)** 10...c5 11.dxc5 Nc6 12.Nf3 f5 13.exf6 Qxf6 14.Qh5 e5 "With = chances." Pshakis. 15.Bg6 Kg8 (15...Be6) ; 11.h4 Nc6 12.Ne2 Nxe2 13.Qxe2 a6 14.h5± Live book, June 10 2020) 8.a3 Bxc3+ (8...Ba5 9.Nge2 h5 10.Qh3 c5 11.dxc5 Nc6? 12.b4 Nxc3 13.Nxc3 Bc7 14.f4 g5 15.Bb5 f6 16.0-0 fxe5? 17.fxd5 e4 18.g6 Be5 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Rad1 Qc7 21.Rf7 Bxh2+ 22.Qxh2 Qxh2+ 23.Kxh2 Rg8 24.Bxc6+ bxc6 25.Bg5 Ba6 26.Rdd7 Rxg6 27.Rde7+ 1-0 (27) Nils Grandelius (2152)-Camelia-Adriana Ciobanu (2609) Jerusalem ISR 2015) 9.bxc3 Nxc3 (9...c5 10.Bd3 h5 (10...Nxc3 11.dxc5 Nc6 12.Nf3 h5 13.Qf4 d4 14.Bd2 Nd5 15.Qe4 Nc3 16.Bxc3 dxc3 17.0-0 Qc7 18.Rfe1 Bd7 19.Rab1 0-0-0 20.Ng5 Be8 21.Qf4 Kb8 22.Ba6 Na5 23.Qb4 Rd5 24.Ne4 Rxe5 25.Qxc3 f6 26.Nd6 Qxc5 27.Qxc5 Rxc5 28.Nxb7 Nxb7 29.Rxb7+ Ka8 30.Rxe6 Rc6 31.Rxc6 Bxc6 32.Rf7 f5 33.f3 Kb8 34.Kf2 h4 35.h3 Rd8 36.Ke3 Rd6 37.Bd3 Bd5 38.Rh7 g5 39.Bxf5 Ra6 40.Kd4 Bb7 41.Rg7 Rxa3 42.Rxg5 a5 43.Rg4 Ra1 44.Rxh4 a4 45.Kc3 a3 46.Be6 Re1 47.Bb3 Rg1 48.Rg4 Kc7 49.h4 Ba6 50.h5 Bc8 51.Rg5 Bh3 52.Rg7+ Bd7 53.Kb4 Ra1 54.h6 Kd6 55.h7 Rh1 56.g4 Bc6 57.Rf7 1-0 (57) Jacek Tomczak (2410)-Marcin Sieciechowicz (2598) Darlowko POL 2018) 11.Qf4 Nxc3 12.dxc5 Nd7 13.Nf3 Qa5 14.0-0 Nxc5 15.Qf6 Rf8 16.Bh6 Rg8 17.Bd2 Nd7 18.Qf4 Qc7 19.Ng5 Rg7 20.Rfe1 Ne4 21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.Nxe4 g5 23.Nf6+ Kd8 24.Qd4 Qb6 25.Qd3 Qa6 26.c4 Qc6 27.Rad1 a5 28.Bc3 b6 29.Re4 Ra7 30.Rd4 Ke7 31.Rd6 Qc7 32.a4 h4 33.Bb2 Nc5 34.Ba3 Rg6 35.Rxb6 1-0 (35) Ludy Helsio Paulo Sousa-Rao S V Srinath Lisbon POR 2019 35...Qxb6 36.Bxc5+ 1-0 (36) Ludy Helsio Paulo Sousa-Rao S V Srinath Lisbon POR 2019) 10.Bd3 Nc6 (10...Bd7 11.Ne2 Nxe2 12.Qxe2 c5 13.dxc5 Nc6 14.Bd2 11.Ne2 (11.Bd2 Ne4= Baffo - Emerson 2004 0-1 x36) 11...Nxe2 12.Qxe2 Bd7 13.h4 f5 14.Qd2 h5 15.Bg5 Qc8 16.Bf6 Rh7 17.Qf4 Kf8 18.g4 hxd4 19.f3 gxf3 20.0-0-0= Fritz' book.;
- 5.e5 Nfd7 (5...Ne4 6.Nxe4 (6.Bxe7 F/13's recommendation. 6...Qxe7 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Qe2 Bd7 9.0-0-0 Bc6 10.g3 Nd7 11.Bg2 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Nh3 0-0-0 14.Ng5 Bd5 15.c4 Bc6 16.Nxe4 Qb4 17.a3 Qb6 18.c5±) 6...dxe4 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.Qe2 b6 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.g3 Nd7 11.Bg2 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.f4 0-0-0 14.Nh3±) 6.h4 Bxg5
- a)** 6...a6 7.Qg4 Bxg5 (7...Nc6 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Qxg7 Rf8 10.Nf3 f6 11.exf6 Nxf6 12.Qg5 Bd7 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 14.Ne5 Rg8 15.Qe3 Rdf8 16.f3± AAC lines without ...c5) 8.hxd5 c5 9.Nf3 (9.dxc5 Nxe5 10.Qg3 Stockfish 070216 10...Nbc6 11.f4 Nd7 (11...Nd7 12.0-0-0 Nxc5 13.g6 Komodo 10 64-bit 13...h6 14.gxf7+ Kxf7 15.Nf3±) 12.g6 fxd6 13.Rxh7± Fritz 13) 9...cxd4 10.Qxd4 Nc6 11.Qf4 Qc7 12.0-0-0 Ndx5 13.Kb1 Qb8 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Re1 Be6 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 Qd6 18.Be2 0-0-0 19.Qd4± French, A.A.C. ...7th move, d [Baffo,Jeff];
- b)** 6...h6 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.f4 a6 9.Qg4 0-0 10.Nf3 c5 11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Ne2 Nb6 13.Ng3 Kh8 14.Kb1±;
- c)** 6...0-0 7.Qg4 f6 8.Bd3 f5 (8...fxg5? 9.Qxe6+ Kh8 10.hxd5 Nf6 11.gxf6 Bxe6 12.Rxh7+ Kg8 13.Rxg7+ Kh8 14.Rh7+ Kg8 15.fxe7 Qe8 16.exf8Q+ Qxf8 17.Nf3+--);
- d)** 6...f6 7.Qh5+ Kf8 8.exf6 Nxf6 9.Qf3 c5 10.dxc5 Without comment in my sources an F/13 live book has no other options, but 10.Nge2 is rated almost as good. (10.Nge2 Kf7 11.0-0-0±) 10...b6 (10...Nc6) 11.h5 h6 12.Bh4 bxc5 13.Nge2 ± Nc6 14.Nf4 Nd4 15.Qd3 Kg8 16.Ng6 Rh7 17.Nxe7+ Fritz 13;

e) 6...c5 7.Bxe7 (7.Nb5 This is Baffo - Foster 2008 1-0 x47) 7...Kxe7 (7...Qxe7 8.Nb5 0-0 (8...Kd8 9.c3±) 9.Nc7 cxd4 10.Nxa8 f6 11.Qxd4 Nc6 12.Qd2 fxe5 13.0-0-0 Nf6 14.f3 Qd6 15.Ne2 Bd7 16.Nc3 Rxa8 17.Ne4 Qe7 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Bb5 Nb8 20.Qb4 F/13 book) 8.dxc5

e1) 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.dxc5 Qa5 (9...Nxc5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Qd4 f6 12.0-0-0 Kf7 13.Nb5 b6 14.c4 Nc6 15.Qc3 d4 16.Qa3±) 10.Qd2 Qxc5 11.0-0-0 h6 12.Qf4 a6 13.Bd3 b5 14.h5 Bb7 15.Rhe1 Nb4 16.a3 Nxd3+ 17.Rxd3 a5 18.Nd4 Bc6 19.Na4 bxa4 20.Rc3 Qxc3 21.bxc3 Rac8 22.Qh4+ Ke8 23.Re3 Nc5 24.f3 Bd7 25.g4 Kf8 26.Qe1 Ra8 27.f4 Ke7 28.f5 Rhc8 29.f6+ gxf6 30.exf6+ Kxf6 31.Qh4+ Kg7 32.g5 Rh8 33.Rg3 Ne4 34.gxh6+ Kxh6 35.Rg1 Rag8 36.Qf4+ Rg5 37.Nf3 e5 38.Nxe5 1-0 (38) Baffo, J-Morris, G Class Championships 2009 2009;

e2) 8.f4 cxd4 9.Qxd4 F/13 book; 8...Nc6 (8...Nxe5 9.Nf3 Qc7 10.Nb5 Nxf3+ 11.Qxf3 Qxc5 12.Qg3 Nc6 13.Qxg7=; 8...Nxc5 9.Qd4 Qb6 10.0-0-0±) 9.Nf3 Nxc5 10.Qd2 Bd7 (10...Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Qg5+ Kf8 13.Qxd8+ Nxd8 14.Nd4±) 11.0-0-0 a6 12.Qg5+ Kf8 13.Qe3 b6 14.h5 Be8 15.h6 g6 16.Qf4 b5 17.Ng5 Qe7 18.Re1 b4 19.Nd1 Rb8 20.Rh3 a5 21.b3 Nd7 22.Ne3! Rb6 (22...Ndxe5 23.Nc4 dxc4 24.Rxe5!! Qd6 25.Rhe3+-) 23.Ng4 Kg8 24.Kb1 Ncxe5 25.Rxe5 f5 26.Rhe3 Nxe5 27.Nxe5 d4 28.Re1 Rd6 29.Bc4 Kf8 30.Nc6 Bxc6 31.Nxe6+ 1-0 Baffo - Marples CC 2011;

7.hxg5 Qxg5 8.Qd3 h6

a) 8...g6 9.Nf3 Qe7 10.0-0-0 Nc6 11.Qe3 Nb6 (11...h5 Baffo - Stewart CC 2009 12.g4 Nb6 13.gxh5 gxh5 14.Qf4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 dxc4 16.d5 exd5 17.Nxd5 1-0 Black resigns) 12.Rh6 (12.Bd3 Baffo - Cousins Rapid 2013 draw x30 P-385) ;

b) 8...Nc6 9.Nf3 Qg6? 10.Qxg6 fxg6 11.Nb5 Rb8

b1) 11...0-0? 12.Nxc7+- On line CC 2010 1-0 x29;

b2) 11...Nb4 12.Nxc7+ (12.0-0-0 Na6 13.Bd3 Nf8 14.Ng5 Bd7 15.c3 h6 16.g4 Rg8 17.Nh3 g5 18.f4 gxf4 0-1 Blitz game.) 12...Kd8 13.Nxa8 Nxc2+ 14.Kd2 Nxa1 15.Bd3+- phatchess (1797)-busio1 (1787) Chess.com 2020 [Baffo,Jeffrey]; 12.Nxc7+ Ke7 13.Nb5 Nb6 14.c3±;

c) 8...a6 Baffo - Grimm 2005 1-0 x32 9.Rxh7 Rxh7 10.Qxh7 Qg4 11.Nf3 Nf8 12.Qd3±;

9.Nh3 Qg6 10.Qxg6 fxg6 11.Bd3 Nf8 12.Nb5 Kd8 13.0-0-0 a6 14.Na3±; 3...c5 Fritz 13: 4.exd5 Nf6

a) 4...exd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Qe2+ Be7 7.Nxd5 Bc6 8.Bxc6+ Nxc6 9.Nxe7 Ngxe7 10.dxc5 0-0 11.Nf3 Qa5+ 12.c3 Qxc5 13.0-0 Rfe8 14.Re1 Rad8 Fritz 13;

b) 4...cxd4 5.Qxd4 exd5 6.Qxd5 Qe7+ 7.Be3 Nf6 8.Bb5+ Nbd7 9.Qg5 (9.Qf3) 9...a6 10.Be2 h6 11.Qg3 Qb4 12.0-0-0 a5 13.a3 Qe7 14.Nf3 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Qxe4 16.Rhe1 g6 17.Bb5 Bg7 18.Bd4 1-0 (18) phatchess (1658)-althorp (1612) Chess.com 2020 [French, Marshall var.];

5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.dxe6 Bxb5 7.Nxb5 Qa5+ 8.Nc3 fxe6 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Qe2 0-0-0 12.Qxe6+ Rd7 13.0-0 Re8 14.Qc4 h5; 3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Be7 (4...Nf6 5.Bg5 (5.Nxf6+ Qxf6 6.Nf3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.Bg5!! Bxf3 9.Qd2!! (9.Qxf3? Qxg5?? (9...Qxf3=) 10.Qxa8 1-0 (10) phatchess (1569)-fredotley (1537) [Baffo,Jeffrey])) 5...Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 f5 8.Nc3 Bf6 9.Qd2 c5 10.d5 0-0 (10...Rg8? 11.0-0-0 Bd7 12.Qe3 Qb6 13.Ne5+- On line CC game 2010 1-0 x17 13...c4 14.Qe2) 11.0-0-0±) 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Bd3 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Kh8 10.Be3 Bd7 11.Qe2 a6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.Bg5 Nc6 14.Nf3 Rfe8 15.h3 Nb4 16.Ne5! Rf8 17.Bxh7 Kxh7 18.Nxd7+-; 3...Ne7 4.h4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Nd5 (5...f5 6.Nc3±) 6.Nf3 Be7 7.h5 (7.a3=) 7...Nf6 8.Bd3± h6 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Ng3 a5 11.0-0 0-0 12.c3 b6 13.Bf4 Bb7 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nd5 16.Bxh6 gxh6 17.Qe4 f5 18.exf6 Nxf6 19.Qg6+ Kh8 20.Qxh6+ Kg8; 3...c6 All the A.I. DB's and Engines call this B15, so actually a transposition to the Caro Kann. 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.e5 c5 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Ne7 8.a4 h6 9.Ba3±]

4.e5 [4.Bd2 dxe4 5.Qg4∞ Nf6 6.Qxg7 Rg8 7.Qh6 Qxd4 (7...Nc6 8.Nge2 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.0-0-0; 7...c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.0-0-0=) 8.Nge2]

4...Ne7 [4...c5 5.Qg4



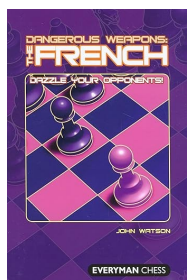
5.Bd2!! This was my first thought when I was just beginning to grapple with the Winawer. I shied away because my hero-worship young mind couldn't get past that it wasn't what Bobby did. Now, more than 50 years later (My first tournaments were circa 1971) it turns out that this this humble looking move may be the very epicenter of the entire variation!

(5.Bd2 cxd4 6.Nb5 Bf8 (6...Bc5 7.Qg4 Kf8 8.b4 Be7 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.Nbxd4 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Nh6 12.Qg3 Qb6 13.c3±; 6...Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Nc6 8.f4 Nge7 9.Nd6+ Kf8 10.Nf3 Nf5 11.Nxf5 exf5 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Qa5+ 14.c3 Be6 15.Be2±) 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bd3 Bc5 9.a3 Qb6 10.b4 Be7 11.Nfxd4 Nxd4?! Black gets three pieces for the Queen, but the main positional features here do not allow the pieces to perform to their full potential and White has a solid plus. 12.Be3 Qxb5 13.Bxb5+ Nxb5 14.c4 dxc4 15.Qg4 g6 (15...Bf8 16.Bc5 Nc7 (16...Bxc5? 17.Qxg7+–) 17.Qxc4 Bxc5 18.Qxc5 Nd5 19.Qb5+ Bd7 20.Qxb7 Rc8 21.0–0±) 16.0–0 Nc3 17.Qxc4 Nd5 18.Bxa7±) 5...Ne7 (5...g6 6.dxc5 (6.Nf3 Nc6 7.a3 Qa5 8.Bd2 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxe5? 10.Qg3 (10.Qe2! Nc4 11.Nb3 Qb6 12.axb4 Nxd2 13.Qb5+ Qxb5 14.Bxb5+ Kf8 15.Kxd2) 10...Bd6 11.Ncb5 Qd8 (11...Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 Nc4+ 13.Bxc4 Bxg3 14.hxg3+–) 12.Nxd6+ Qxd6 13.Nb5 Qb8 14.Bb4 Nc4 15.Nc7+?! (15.Nd6+!– Kd7 16.Bxc4 Ne7 (16...dxc4 17.0–0+–) 17.0–0–0 dxc4 18.Qf3 MATE in 22!) 15...Kd7 16.Nxa8 Qxg3 17.hxg3 b5 18.Bxc4 bxc4 ½–½ x 38 Baffo-Evans Loveland Open 2010) 6...Bxc3+ (6...Bxc5 7.Nf3 (7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 Nc6 9.Nf3 Qb6 10.Nd4 Qxb2 0–1 (10) phatchess (1741)-ilriga (1715) Chess.com 2020; 7.Nf3 a6 8.Bd3 Stockfish 11 0.92/29; 7.Bd3 Be7 8.Nf3 Stockfish 9 0.80/36; 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bd3 Stockfish 8 0.41/25) 7...Nc6 (7...Qb6 8.Nxd5! Bxf2+ 9.Ke2 Qc5 10.Nb4±) 8.Bd3 (8.Bb5 Baffo - Evans PPO 0–1 x 60) 8...h5 9.Qg3 Nb4 10.0–0) 7.bxc3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Qa5 9.Bd2 Qxc5 10.Rb1 Qa3 11.Bd3 Qxa2 12.0–0 Qa5 13.Rfe1 Qc7 14.h4 Bd7 15.Qf4 h6 16.Nh2 Rh7 17.Nf3 0–0–0 18.c4 Nce7 19.c5 f5 20.Qb4 Nc6 21.Qa3 Nge7 22.Rb2 1–0 (22) Baffo-Evans Match 2009 (22.Ba6)) 6.dxc5 Nbc6 (6...Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Qc7

a) 7...0–0 8.Bd3 Qc7 9.Nf3 Nf5 10.0–0 Nd7 11.Ba3 Fritz 13;

b) 7...Ng6 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.Be3 0–0 10.Bd3 Qc7? 11.Bxg6 hxg6 12.Qh3 Re8 13.0–0 Nf8 14.Rab1+–;

c) 7...Nbc6 8.Qxg7 (8.Nf3) 8...Rg8 9.Qf6 Qa5 10.Bd2 Qxc5 11.Nf3 Bd7 12.Ng5 0–0–0 13.Bd3 Nf5 14.0–0 Rg6 15.Qxf7 Nxe5 16.Qxh7 Rdg8 17.Qh5 d4 18.cxd4 Qxd4 19.Rad1=; 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 Qxe5+? 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.Bf4 Qf6 12.Bd6?! (12.h4! White is almost winning here.) 12...Bd7 13.Rb1 Rg6 14.Rxb7 Nf5 15.Qh3!? (15.h4! Crushing... 15...Nxd6 16.cxd6 Na5 17.h5 Rg5 18.f4 Rg4 19.Rc7+–) 15...Nxd6 16.cxd6 0–0–0 17.Rc7+ (17.Rb3 Baffo - Seidler 2009 0–1 x time scramble Rapid) 17...Kb8 18.Qd3 Is virtually mating...) 7.Bd2 NEW RR!!! = by F/13 (nearly dead on 0.00) (7.Qxg7 This is dumped as RR due to the line that follows. 7...Rg8 8.Qxh7 d4 (8...Nxe5 9.Bd2 Bd7 10.0–0–0 Qc7 11.f4 Ng4 12.Nh3 Qxc5 13.Bd3 0–0–0 14.Qxf7 Ne3±) 9.a3 Qa5 10.Rb1 dxc3 11.Be3 cxb2+ (11...Nxe5 12.Ne2 cxb2+ 13.axb4 Qxb4+ 14.Bd2 Qxc5 15.Rxb2 Ng4 16.f3 Qf2+ 17.Kd1 Ne3+ 18.Bxe3 Qxe3 19.Rb3 Qe5 20.Nc3) 12.axb4 Qxb4+ 13.Bd2 Qxc5 14.Qe4 (14.Nf3 Nxe5 15.Ng5 Rxg5 16.Bxg5 N5g6 17.h4 Qe5+ 18.Kd2 Qa5+ 19.Kd1 Qa2 20.Kd2 e5 21.Bd3 Bf5 22.Bxf5 Nxf5 23.Rhd1=) 14...Qa3 15.Nf3 a5 16.Bb5 Rxg2 17.Ng5 Qc5 18.Qxg2 Qxb5 19.Ne4 Qxe5 20.Bc3 Nd4 21.f4 Qh8 22.Bxb2 Nef5 23.Qf2 e5 24.c3 Ne6 25.fxe5 Ng5 26.Nf6+ Qxf6 27.exf6 Ne4 28.Qf4 1–0 (28) French Winawer-Baffo,J) 7...0–0 8.Nf3 Ng6 9.Bd3 Bxc5 10.Qh5 Nb4 11.Ng5 h6 12.Nf3 Nxd3+ 13.cxd3 Qe8 14.d4 Be7 15.0–0 Bd7 16.Rfe1 f5 17.exf6 Rxf6 18.Qg4 e5 19.Qg3 e4 20.Nxd5±; 4...Qd7 5.Bd2 Ne7 6.Qg4 Nf5 7.Bd3 h5 8.Qf4 Nc6 9.Bxf5 exf5 10.Nf3 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Qe7 12.Qg3 Rh7 13.h4 Be6 14.Bd2 0–0–0 15.0–0 Qd7 16.b4 Ne7 17.a4 Qc6 18.b5 Qxc2 19.Rfc1 f4 20.Qg5 1–0 (20) Nunn,J (2625)-Hort,V (2595) Amsterdam 1988]



Repertoire Recommendation

Dangerous Weapons: The French: Dazzle Your Opponents – Illustrated, April, 2007 Jam-packed with provocative and critical new ideas for White and Black. Highly recommended! [John Watson](#)

5.Bd2 [RR change! I've decided against playing 5.Qg4 trying to force things into the DW lines with this move is not to my taste. Even Watson equivocates about it saying it can "lead to a long discussion..." I'm going with the Alburt/Dzin "Explained" repertoire suggestion of 5.Bd2; 5.a3 The main line and seldom used by me. Despite my avowed desire to stay away from my opponent's preparation, it is a solid and interesting choice. What follows is analysis from various sources. 5...Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Qg4 cxd4 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 Qa5 10.Rb1 Qxc3+ 11.Bd2 Qc7 12.f4 Nbc6 13.Nf3 Bd7 14.g3 F/13 2nd choice and my preference. Why allow Black to plunge the position into utter chaos? This move begins a consolidation process in which White gathers to him several trumps; the passed h pawn, pressure against Black's advanced d p pawn, the two Bishops's, b file attack, etc. (14.Ng5!? The famous "Englishman refutation" which Botvinnik called the line after he lost to Alexander in the line (USSR-UK 1946). But I don't trust it. 14...Rxc5 This is F/13 book, and surprisingly is only a slight edge to white. 15.fxg5 0-0-0 16.Qxf7 Qxe5+ 17.Kd1 Nf5 18.g6 Ne3+ 19.Kc1±) 14...0-0-0 15.Qd3 Kb8 (15...Nf5?! 16.Bh3±) 16.Be2 Nf5 17.0-0±]

5...c5 [5...b6 pg. 377 COW, Explained, line B 6.Nce2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Ba6 (7...c5 8.c3 Ba6 9.h4 h5 10.Nf3 Nf5 11.Nf4 Bxf1 12.Kxf1 Nc6 13.g3 Qd7 14.Kg2 g6 15.b4 c4 16.a4 a5 17.b5 Nd8 18.Ng5±) 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.f4 c5 10.g4 Nbc6 11.Nf3 Bxe2 12.Bxe2 cxd4 13.Rhf1 a5 14.Bb5 Qc7 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.Qxd4 Rac8 17.Rd2 Nc6 18.Qe3 Nb4 19.c3 Qa7 20.f5 Qc7 21.f6 Qc5 22.Qg5 Nxa2+ 23.Kd1 g6 24.Qh6 Nxc3+ 25.bxc3 Fritz 13-Baffo, J Blitz 7m+5s]

6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.c3 [8.f4 COW, Explained. pg. 354 8...a6 9.Nd6 cxd4 10.Nf3 Nbc6 11.Bd3 f6 12.0-0 fxe5 13.fxe5 Rxf3 14.Rxf3 Nxe5 15.Qf4 Nxf3+ 16.gxf3 Nc6 (16...Nf5 17.Bxf5 exf5 18.Re1 Bd7 19.Qe5→) 17.Qf7+ Kh8 18.Kh1 Qg8 (18...g6 19.Bxg6 Qe7 20.Qf4 hxg6 21.Qh6+ Kg8 22.Qxg6+ Kf8 (22...Qg7 23.Qe8±) 23.Rg1 Qxd6 24.Qg8+ Ke7 25.Rg7+ Kf6 26.Rf7+ Ke5 27.Qg5#) 19.Qf4 Nd8 20.Rg1 e5 21.Qxe5 Nf7 22.Qxd5 Nxd6 23.Qxd6 Be6 24.Qxd4 Rd8 25.Qh4 Bd5 26.Kg2 h6 27.a3± White is a pawn up but his exposed King makes the win highly problematic, if there is a win. (27.a3 Rf8 28.Be4 Rf6 Fritz 13)]

8...Nbc6 9.f4 cxd4 10.cxd4 a6?! [This is from a practice game Shredder (2036) vs. Fritz July 2016]

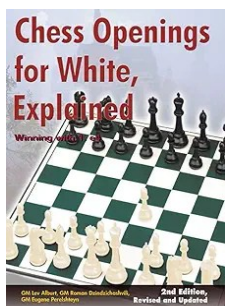
[10...Nf5 11.Nf3 f6 12.Bd3 a6 13.Bxf5 axb5 14.Bd3±]

11.Nd6 Nf5 12.Nxf5 exf5 13.Nf3 Bd7 14.Rc1 f6 15.Rc5 Be6 16.exf6 Qxf6 17.Be2 Rfc8 18.0-0 b6 19.Rc3 Qe7 20.Rfc1 Qb7 21.Qe3 Bd7 22.Ng5 h6 23.Bf3 hxg5 24.Bxd5+ Kf8 25.fxg5 Rc7 26.Qh3 Ke7 27.Re3+ Kd6 28.Qg3+ Kxd5 29.Re5+ Kd6 30.Re8+ f4 31.Qxf4+ Kd5 32.Qe4+ Kd6 33.Rxc6+

1-0

"It's all true!" A French playing friend of mine confessed to me. He admitted everything. Out it came. Here is his statement for all of posterity to hear, remember, and judge. "These people have secret meetings, clandestine "dead drops" at libraries, cyber consultations in "dark web" chat rooms and web sites. Their whole purpose and sum goal of these fanatics is to trick others into playing this opening. And it has to be in tournaments, because "they" don't care if you play it casually. No. They want you to invest something; time, money, rating points. Why? Because they want to suck you in deeper, they want you with a gambler's addiction to the French Defense."

In conclusion, dear reader, will 5.Bd2 finally bring down these Francophile Phanatics? Will their sordid Ponzi scheme finally crumble? Time will tell.



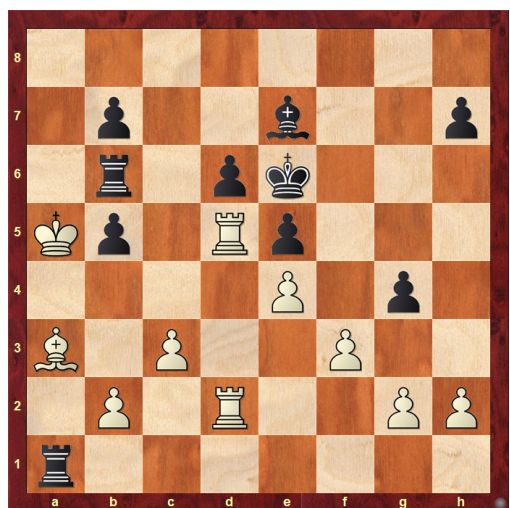
Chess Openings for White, Explained: Winning with 1.e4, Second Revised and Updated Edition, March 30, 2010. In need of some 2025 updates, but still a marvelous repertoire book! Highly recommended. [Lev Alburt](#), Roman Dzindzichashvili, et al. | Mar, 2010

The Ultimate Compliment *Jeffrey Baffo, May 23, 2025*

Lasker, Emanuel - Steinitz, William [C62]

World Championship USA/CAN (9), 14.04.1894 [Ruy Lopez, Steinitz variation]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Bc4 [It's true that taking on c6 would get a known theoretical position with White having an extra tempo, Nc3. Despite that, it's just not that good for White, things are still in dynamica equality. Add to that the fact that handing over the two Bishops is not something strong players did easily and Lasker's move makes sense.] **5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d4 exd4 7.Qxd4 c5 8.Qd3 Nf6±** **5...Be6** [The Rock Solid nature of the Stenitz variation is shown by the fact that he can even allow White a little Sizzling Cow action and still be o.k. to wit; 5...Nf6 6.Ng5 d5 7.exd5 Na5 8.b3 h6 9.Nf3= And Stenitz noted that his cute litte 4.a6 move is ...very useful here, since it prevents 8.Bb5+.] **6.Bxe6 fxe6 7.d4 exd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4** [Sound enough for rough equality this is following the "Stenitz recipe" for these types of positions. But, perhaps stung by his loss in this game he afterwards suggested this alternate line.] **[8...Qd7 9.Nxc6 Qxc6 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.Qg4 Kd7 13.Qxg7 Qb6 14.-- ΔRag8 with reasonable counter play.] 9.Qxd4 Ne7** [9...Nf6 Looks risky but actually a decent move as long as Black avoids castling too soon. 10.Bg5 Be7 11.0-0-0 Ng4! (11...0-0? 12.e5!→) 12.Bxe7 Qxe7±] **10.Bg5 Nc6 11.Bxd8** [Lasker was always mining every possible "play the man" resource. He noted a tendency for Steinitz to avoid early entry into a Queenless middle game and combined with his own well-founded confidence in his endgame skill and the superior physical stamina of a much younger man in long game.] **11...Nxd4 12.0-0-0 Nb5** [In hindsight, Steinitz didn't like this creation of doubled b-pawns. He was coldly objective in his post-game comments on this decision, in effect saying he was trying to do too much. He lamented his lack of K.I.S.S. principles here, preferring] **[12...Nb3+ 13.axb3 Rxd8=] 13.Nxb5 axb5 14.Bxc7 Rxa2 15.Bb6 Be7** [15...b4 Again a storm of self-loathing broke forth from Wilhelm and he sorely decried not playing 15...b4 to "prevent" White's next move. Again, I think Steinitz was just reacting emotionally to a still-weighing-on-his-mind loss. His position is fine. But one thing Lasker would do repeatedly in his games which seemed to drive old Willie absolutely bonkers, was to create these absolutely bullet-proof positions where his opponent had zero active prospects, yet Lasker could still make little piddly but annoying pressure moves. White's position after 16.c3 is just such a situation, and Steinitz immediately errs.] **16.c3 Kf7? 17.Kc2** [Lasker starts moving against the b pawns.] **17...Rha8 18.Kb3 R2a4 19.f3 R8a6 20.Bd4 g6 21.Rd3 Ke8 22.Rhd1** [Lasker keeps going with the little pin prick moves and Steinitz has no way to strike back. The game itself is still only slightly in White's favor, nowhere near winning, but Steinitz' mental game is dying.] **22...e5?** [Steinitz finally cracks and make a serious error on the board, admitting he saw, but grossly underestimated the strength of White's 24th move.] **23.Be3 Kd7 24.Bc5** [Pile up on a pinned pawn. Simple, almost beginner-level technique.] **24...Ra1 25.R1d2 Ke6 26.Ba3 g5** ["The Principle of Two Weaknesses". Lasker sees that pounding on the sickly d6 pawn is not enough to win the game and gives Black another problem, the forward Black b-pawn.] **27.Rd5 Rb6 28.Kb4 g4!** [Steinitz fights back admirably, but Lasker is up to the challenge.]



29.Ka5! See diagram at left [Steinitz, famous throughout the chess world for his writings and games extolling the "Fighting King" (Steinitz believed that a well-placed king could contribute to the fight rather than just being a passive target.) sees his rival Lasker use that idea against him. Incredible!] **[29.fxg4?! Re1 30.Ka5 Bd8∞** And Black has muddled the waters and has some fighting chances.] **29...Ra6+** **[29...Bd8 30.Rxb5±** And, amazingly, White is still in charge as Black has no good way to exploit a discovered check here.]

30.Kxb5 h5 31.Rd1 Rxd1 32.Rxd1 gxf3 33.gxf3 Ra8 34.Kb6 Rg8 35.Kxb7 Rg2 36.h4 Rh2 37.Kc6 Bxh4 38.Rxd6+ Kf7 39.Kd5 Bf6 40.Rd7+ Kg6 41.Ke6 h4 42.Rd1 h3 43.Rg1+ Rg2 44.Rxg2+ hxg2 45.Bc5 Bd8 46.b4 Kg5 47.Kd7 Bf6 48.b5 Kf4 49.b6 1-0

How strong was Emmanuel Lasker? Consider this game; the engines rate White's play at about 95% accuracy, a phenomenal performance. I believe strongly that Emanuel Lasker held deep respect for Wilhelm Steinitz, the man he defeated to become World Chess Champion in 1894. The match was a decisive victory for Lasker, but he never dismissed Steinitz's contributions to chess. In fact, Lasker admired Steinitz's pioneering work in positional play and strategic principles, which laid the foundation for modern chess thinking. In this particular game we see Lasker use one of those ideas to defeat him, yes, but not to disrespect or "flex" on Steinitz, but to honor him.

Tactical Techniques; #2, Fork Trick 25 May 2025 By Jeffrey Baffo

The **Fork Trick** is a tactical sequence where a knight captures a center pawn and when the opponent recaptures, he is hit with a pawn fork. A very common example occurs in many versions of the open game. Here is one from the **Three Knights game** 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 5.Kxf2 Nxe5 6.d4 Qf6+ 7.Kg1 Ng6

An example game;

Baffo, Jeffrey (1750) - Hunter, Danny (1375) [C46]

DCC Nearly Normal 2021 (1), 19.06.2021 [3 Knights game, Fork trick]

1.Nc3 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e4 Bc5 4.Nxe5 diagram below



The game continued 4...**Bxf2?!+** Short term pleasure for long term pain. Black gets a couple check but concedes too many positional trumps in return. 5.Kxf2 Nxe5 6.d4 Ng6 7.Bc4 Qf6+ 8.Ke1 Nh6 9.g3 c6 10.Rf1 (Diagram below) Qe7 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.Bxf7+ Kd8 13.Qe2 [More accurate is 13.Qd2 Rf8 14.Bxg6± Fritz 17 2.58/32] 13...d6 14.Kd2 Be6 15.Bxe6 Qxe6 16.Rae1 Kc7 17.Kc1 Raf8 18.Kb1 Ne7 19.Rd1 d5 20.Rfe1 dxe4 21.Nxe4 Re8 22.Qd2 Nd5 23.a3 Rhf8 24.Nc5 Qg6 25.Qa5+ Kb8 26.Nd7+ Ka8 27.Nxf8 Rxf8 28.Qd2 1-0

This tactic is a much closer thing, i.e. more double edged than other types of tactics due to the time factor. In essence the sacrificing player doesn't even win material or seriously harass the enemy King. His main point is to gain a strong pull in the center (trading his f-pawn for Black's e-pawn) for "sweet spot" (e4/e5/d4/d5) domination.



The inventory; in return for a small initiative and spoiling Castling, Black has conceded to White;

- *The Initiative
- * central dominance
- * a lead in development,
- * control of the half-open f-file,
- *the dangerous Italian diagonal (a2-h7)
- *two misplaced Knights.

That's too much!



Factors favoring (required for) the Attack

Minor pieces clustered in the center; almost always involving a Bishop standing on the squares f3/f4 or c3/c4
 The attacker's Knight able to capture a center pawn (usually on e4/e5) that is only defended by pieces
 The defender is not able to Castle
 Your King is castled or at least not vulnerable

Factors favoring the Defense

Pawn protection for your central pawn, for example d3/d6 pawns protecting their side's e-pawns.
 A lead in development (many time that is dramatic; the pawn is not lost, it's gambitted!)
 You are already castled

Now, here's the right way for Black to handle the Fork Trick;
(Analysis) [3 Knights game, Fork trick]

1.Nc3 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e4 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Nxe5 5.d4 Bd6 6.dxe5 Bxe5= diagram below



That's much better! Black has kept his share of the center and has not fallen behind in development. In fact, his strong centralized Bishop is a real plus. There is now a threat to double White's pawns gives him a full share of fighting chances. Likely White will continue with **7.Bd3, 7.Nb5, or 7.Ne2** and a lot of chess playing to come. Both players can legitimately fight for the lead.

The Chess Doctor gives you his Diagnosis (DX) and Treatment (RX)

Jeffrey Baffo, June 2025

DX; Based on your last game, I can say with certainty that all of you guys are a bunch of blundering, all-over-the-map, inconsistent GOOF BALLS!

RX; You have talent but lack consistency. Paradoxically, I recommend you abandon the study of tactics in favor of the study of consistency. Here is my program;

Blundering is the Achilles' heel of many strong players—it's not about knowledge, but about **consistency and mental discipline**. You need a **structured training program** to **eliminate blunders** and **build reliability** in your play:

1. Mental Checklist Before Every Move

Before making any move, run through a **blunder-prevention checklist**:

- **What did my opponent's last move do?** (Threats, traps, positional shifts)
- **Am I leaving anything hanging?** (Loose pieces, unguarded pawns)
- **What are my opponent's tactical options after my move?** (Forks, pins, skewers)
 - **Is my king safe?** (Checks, open files, weak diagonals)
 - **Am I walking into a tactic?** (Discovered attacks, sacrifices)

2. Slow Down & Build Thought Discipline

- Play **longer time controls** (30+ minutes per game) to **force deep calculation**.
- Use **increment-based time controls** (like 10+5) to **avoid rushed moves**.
- Before moving, **verbalize your thought process** (even if just in your head).

•

3. Post-Game Blunder Analysis

- After each game, **identify blunders** and **categorize them**:
 - **Tactical oversight** (missed forks, pins, etc.)
 - **Positional misjudgment** (weak squares, bad trades)
 - **Time pressure mistakes** (rushed moves)
- Use **chess engines** to pinpoint **patterns in your blunders**.

○

4. Training with Focused Exercises

Instead of **puzzle drills**, try:

- **Blindfold chess** (forces visualization, reducing impulsive moves).
- **Guess-the-move exercises** (analyzing GM games and predicting moves).
- **Playing with a blunder penalty** (if you blunder, restart the game).

5. Specialized Courses

The Interwebz are full of such well thought-out training programs. Find them!

6. Psychological Training

- **Mindfulness exercises** (reduces impulsivity).
- **Breathing techniques** (calm decision-making).
- **Confidence-building routines** (trusting your calculations).

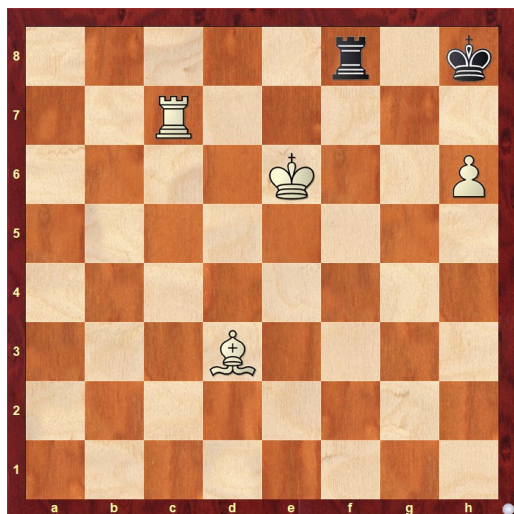
•

This isn't just about **playing better**—it's about **thinking better**. Stick to this, and you'll see a **dramatic drop in blunders**.

Essential Truth

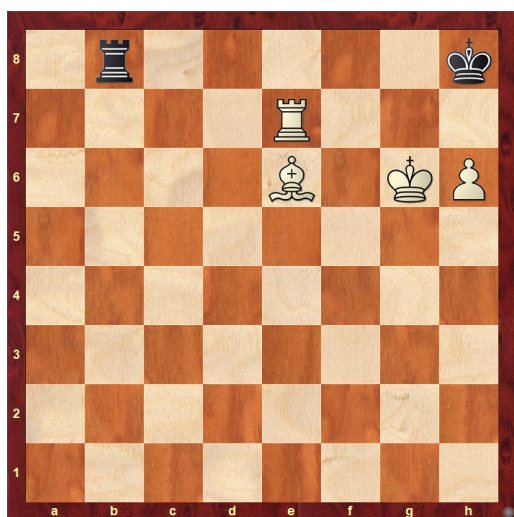
Jeffrey A. Baffo, July, 2025

I found this position in a book on Endgames*. It is the 80th move and White to play.



Sadly, for White, he blundered here, at the very cusp of winning the game. His chosen move was 80.Ke7? and this was met by the clever 80...Rf7+! the game was drawn at that point. A very handy stalemating resource well worth remembering. In the book, our author mentions the concept of “Wrong Rook Pawn” and informs the reader that, even a Bishop and pawn up, if the defending (Black) King can reach the corner, such a situation is always drawn. Very true, and a foundational bit of chess endgame knowledge for all of us.

So, what is it that makes this position a win for White and not a draw because of the “Wrong Rook Pawn”? Our author again steps in to tell us it is, of course, the presence of the pair of Rooks. How is this, under what conditions? Is this always true? Are there exceptions to the win? Not sure, the Grandmaster simply warns us to be aware of stalemating tricks and then says “With a pair of Rooks, White wins...” Sure enough, eight moves later we see this diagram;



[After 80.Re7 Kg8 81.Bf5 Kh8 82.Ke5 Kg8 83.Kf4 Kh8 84.Kg5 Kg8 85.Be6+ Kh8 86.Kh5 Rb8 87.Kg6 diagram at left] and our author pronounces “and the mate threat with ♖h7 wins.” Done and Dusted, as our English friends are known to say. However, I do have one question, the type of question an engine-looking-over-my-shoulder-no-talent-hack like me is wont to ask; Wouldn’t it have been better to start off with the ESSENTIAL truth?

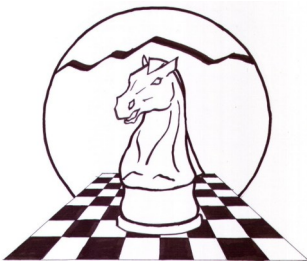
AND THAT IS THIS: that the original position for this example is a FORCED MATE? Well, it is. Mate in 12, to be exact, according to our Silicon Serpent. So that begs the question, why didn’t our Grandmaster author state that? Well, we can speculate; first and foremost; it’s not essential to the lesson we are meant to learn; “A pair of Rooks makes a drawn Wrong Rook Pawn position a win.” Also, maybe...that the book is called Practical Endgame Play, and not “Mating Attacks in the Endgame”. And, finally, what human brain could see a forced mate in 12? But still, as a reader, I’d like the courtesy of being told. If I were to go on a trip to Antarctica, even tho’ I couldn’t see it from my driveway, I’d sure like to know that’s our ultimate destination. Checkmate or the possibility of Checkmate simply must be investigated. It is the one essential truth of our game.



*A massive 544 pg. book which delves into the type of simplified positions (The author calls them NQE’s, for Not Quite Endgames”) the tournament player is likely to reach. Highly recommended! (GM Glenn Flear, Everyman Chess) , 2007

The Burden Award

By **Paul Anderson**
Colorado Springs Chess Club President



The 3-peat was the hot topic with this year’s Super Bowl, but it didn’t happen. No NFL team has been able to win three in a row in its 59 year history, with only nine teams having a shot after back-to-back wins (including the Denver Broncos after victories in Super Bowl 32 & 33). However, the Colorado Springs Chess Club can claim a 3-peat!

It all started back in 1989 when National Master Jim Burden became the 21st Colorado Springs City Chess Champion. He continued his winning ways in 1990 and 1991 to win three titles in a row. While others have passed his number of titles, he is the only person to accomplish the 3-peat in the 58 years of that event, leaving him in 5th place for total titles even after 33 years.

	Last Name	First Name	Titles
1	Bloomer	Josh	11
2	Avery	Dan	10
3	Anderson	Paul	8
4	Buchanan	Richard	5
5	Burden	Jim	3
6	Wikle	Earle	2
7	Wall	Brian	2
8	Smits	Ron	2
9	Motley	Chirs	2
10	MacMillan	Shaun	2

< > 1 2 3 4 5

The other players have benefited from the addition of the City Speed Chess Championship, which added a second title to win each year. Who knows, if the Speed Champ had been around in his time, Jim might have earned the 3-peat in that event as well. However, that title didn’t start until 1996, after Jim had left Colorado for greener pastures, and no one has recorded a 3-peat in the 29 years of that event.

While riding the high of being a three-time champ, he took his winning ways to Las Vegas for the 2nd Annual North American Open in 1992, where he faced 3-time US Champion, GM Larry Christiansen. He found himself in this position against the Grandmaster (White to move).



Here is where the story takes a sour turn. Jim found the move to trap the Queen but was unable to hold onto the win. And the Burden Award was born. Well, it stayed hidden until 2005, when chessgames.com made it their Game Of The Day, and when LM Brian Wall saw it, he turned it into an annual, April Fools Day, email award.

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1089372>

[Event "North American Open"]
 [Site "Las Vegas, NV USA"]
 [Date "1992.01.??"]
 [EventDate "?"]
 [Round "4"]
 [Result "0-1"]
 [White "James L Burden"]
 [Black "Larry Mark Christiansen"]
 [ECO "B06"]
 [WhiteElo "?"]
 [BlackElo "?"]
 [PlyCount "136"]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 c6 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.f3 O-O 7.Qd2 d5
 8.Bb3 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nxe4 10.fxe4 e5 11.d5 Qh4+ 12.Qf2 Qxe4
 13.O-O-O a5 14.a3 a4 15.Ba2 Bg4 16.Ne2 Nd7 17.Ng3 Qxe3+
 18.Qxe3 Bxd1 19.Rxd1 c5 20.Ne4 b6 21.Rf1 f6 22.Qh3 f5 23.Ng5
 Nf6 24.d6 Kh8 25.Nf7+ Rxf7 26.Bxf7 Ng4 27.Kb1 Nh6 28.Bc4 Ng4
 29.Qd3 Rd8 30.d7 e4 31.Qd6 Be5 32.Qe7 Bf6 33.Qe8+ Kg7 34.Qf7+
 Kh6 35.h3 Ne3 36.Qxf6 Rxd7 37.Qe6 Rd4 38.Re1 Nxe2 39.Rg1 Nf4
 40.Qg8 e3 41.Qf8+ Kh5 42.h4 Rxc4 43.Qf6 Kh6 44.Qg5+ Kg7
 45.Qe7+ Kh6 46.Qxe3 Re4 47.Qf2 Nh3 48.Qd2+ Kh5 49.Re1 Rxe1+
 50.Qxe1 f4 51.Qe7 h6 52.Qf6 g5 53.hxg5 hxg5 54.Qxb6 f3 55.Qxc5
 Kg4 56.Qe3 Kg3 57.c4 Kg2 58.c5 f2 59.Qe4+ Kh2 60.Qf3 g4 61.Qe2
 g3 62.c6 g2 63.Qe5+ Kh1 64.c7 g1=Q+ 65.Kc2 f1=Q 66.Kc3 Qc1+
 67.Kb4 Qb6+ 68.Kxa4 Qcc6+ 0-1

The Burden Award is for a chess player who drops their Queen but comes back to win. It is one of my favorite email themes that LM Brian Wall does, and I have made it my mission to keep the award alive.

You can sign up for his emails and to get into the archives here:

<http://www.taom.com/mailman/listinfo/brianwall-chesslist>

While the award doesn't always go out on April Fools Day, it is nice when we can get close. It just seems appropriate to honor someone for dropping their Queen on this day. Brian prefers slower time controls and a good story for his pick. However, there have been exceptions to the rule. In fact, the pickin's were so slim in 2023 that we have yet to find a winner. So, if you lost your Queen in 23 and came back to win, send the game my way, and you too could be added to the list.

I have collected most of the winners in a game library on Chess.com and updated the list in one of my blogs I wrote back in 2010, when I first won the award.

Game Of The Week (6/12/2010)

This week's game comes from my latest chess achievement: 2010 Jim Burden Award winner! It is quite an honor for me to be mentioned with such chess greats:

The Burden Award Winners:

<https://www.chess.com/c/2R5RvQB66>

2022 Paul Anderson - game
 2021 Lorna Idol - game
 2020 LM Brian Wall - game
 2019 Chris Motley - game
 2018 Larry Osborn - game
 2017 LM Brian Wall - game
 2016 Paul Anderson - game & game
 2015 Daniel Herman
 2014 Tim Brennan - game

2013 Scott Massey - game
 2012 Tom Mullikin - game
 2011 Devon Wall - game
 2010 Paul Anderson - game
 2009 Francisco Baltier
 2008 Tim Fisher - game
 2007 Chris Peterson - game
 2006 Tobias Linaard - game
 2005 Josh Smith - game

As I add this new feather in my chess cap, I would like to thank LM Brian Wall for creating this award and giving it to me. He wrote in his Yahoo group:

"I am awarding the 2010...Jim Burden give-up-a-Queen-for-nothing-and-still-win award this year to Paul Anderson for sheer desire, persistence and multiple entries. I believe people should get what they want before they die even if it lets them down. If this was a movie, Paul would gently die in his sleep like a big bear now. Getting what you need is the kiss of death in a movie script."

I certainly hope there is not a curse attached with this award, as I haven't heard about the recent whereabouts of the previous winners. In fact, my hope is that this award will be a great blessing to my chess career and that this day will go down in the annals of chess as a day of feasting and gift giving like Purim in the time of Queen Esther.

You see, the game reminded me a lot of the story of Esther whose rise to prominence was precipitated by the actions of the foolish Queen Vashti. King Xerxes, the ruler of Persia and Media, had been telling the Queen, "Do not go out too early. You must remain with the King."

However, she did not obey. The King burned with anger like Ralph Kramden towards his rebellious wife. However, being King has its benefits. He punished the Queen for her departure by removing her from the game and sending out an edict to all the land:

"He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, proclaiming in each people's tongue that every man should be ruler over his own household."
Esther 1:22 NIV

Not much has changed today; guys still want to keep the Queen at home and will banish anyone who violates this rule.

Of course, thanks to LM Brian Wall's award, I have learned an important lesson in chess. Just like the removal of Queen Vashti was only the beginning of the story for Esther, the loss of a Queen does not mean the loss of the game.

The game of chess is more than position and material. It is also a battle of time and will. God had removed Queen Vashti for a reason: to allow Queen Esther to fulfill her role in bringing about triumph for the Jews.

So, when I blundered away my Queen, I wasn't about to give up. There could be another Queen just waiting in the wings.

I had a facebook friend challenge me to describe myself using only song titles from my favorite band. I chose the Triumph song "Never Surrender" as my motto because it served me well in life and chess. I don't know if I would have actually won this game, as I had only evened the position when my opponent resigned.

"...And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"
Esther 4:14 NIV

For Such A Time As This (White to move)

www.chessvideos.tv/chess-game-replayer.php?id=71240



[Event "2010 Jim Burden Award Contest"]
 [Site "https://cschessnews.blogspot.com/"]
 [Date "2010.02.19"] [Round "?"]
 [White "Tonèek 1"]
 [Black "Anderson, Paul"]
 [Result "0-1"] [ECO "B06"]
 [WhiteElo "1621"]
 [PlyCount "50"]
 [EventDate "2010.04.01"]

1. d4 c6 2. e4 g6 3. Nf3 d6 4. Bf4 Bg7 5. Bd3 Bg4 6. Nbd2 Bxd4 7. c3 Bg7 8. O-O e5
 9. Be3 Nd7 10. Qb3 Qb6 [diagram] 11. Bxb6 Nxb6 12. a4 Be6 13. Qc2 Ne7 14. b4 O-
 O 15. c4 Rad8 16. a5 Nbc8 17. Ng5 Bd7 18. Rad1 h6 19. Nh3 Kh7 20. Nf3 f5 21. c5
 fxe4 22. Bxe4 d5 23. Bxg6+ Nxg6 24. Rfe1 Bxh3 25. Nxe5 Bf5 0-1

Without further ado, I present to you the winner of the 2024 Jim Burden Award: Nick Petersen.

This is Nick's first time winning the award, and the game is a first for having the current winner (Nick) defeating a past winner (Chris Motley - 2019) to gain the prize. Black to move.



[Event "DCC Fall Classic"]

[Site "https://cschessnews.blogspot.com/2021/07/blunders-are-way.html"]

[Date "2024.10.13"]

[Round "4"]

[White "Nick Petersen"]

[Black "Christopher Motley"]

[Result "1-0"]

[WhiteElo "2021"]

[BlackElo "2004"]

[TimeControl "G/90 + 30"]

[Link "https://www.chess.com/analysis/library/4BEshR15cJ"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 d5 4. e3 Be7 5. Bd3 b6 6. Nge2 Bb7 7. O-O O-O 8. Qc2 \$5
c5 9. Bd2 \$2 Nc6 10. cxd5 Nb4 11. Qb1 Nxd3 12. Qxd3 exd5 13. Ng3 a5 14. a4 \$6 Re8 \$6
(14... Ba6 15. Nb5 c4 \$1 16. Qc2 Bxb5 17. axb5) 15. b3 Ne4 16. Rfc1 Bf6 17. Be1 g6
18. f3 \$2 Nxe3 19. Bxe3 Rxe3 \$1 20. Qxe3 Bxd4 21. Qxd4 cxd4 22. Nb5 d3 23. Rd1 Qf6
24. Bf2 Bc6 \$5 (24... Ba6 \$1 25. Nc7 Ra7 26. Nxa6 Rxa6 27. Ra2 Ra8 28. Rad2 Rc8 29.
Rxd3 Qb2) 25. Nd4 Re8 26. Rxd3 Bd7 27. Rad1 h5 28. h4 Be6 \$5 (28... g5 \$1) 29. Nb5
Rc8 30. R3d2 \$6 (30. Nd4) 30... Bf5 \$6 (30... g5 \$1) 31. Rxd5 Bc2 32. Rd6 \$1 Qe7 \$6
(32... Qb2 33. Rd8+ Rxd8 34. Rxd8+ Kh7) 33. Re1 Qf8 34. Rxb6 Bxb3 35. Na7 Rb8
36. Ra6 Bxa4 37. Rxa5 Bd7 38. Rd5 Be6 39. Rd2 Qe8 40. Rc2 Qa4 41. Rec1 Bf5 42.
Rd2 Qa3 43. Red1 Re8 \$6 44. Nb5 Qa5 45. Nd6 Rd8 \$5 46. Rd5 Qa4 47. R1d4 Qa1+ 48.
Rd1 Qa4 49. R1d4 Qa1+ 50. Kh2 Be6 51. Rd1 Qa2 (51... Bxd5 \$1 52. Rxa1 Rxd6) 52.
R5d2 Qb3 53. Rd3 Qb2 54. R1d2 Qb4 55. Rd4 Qc5 56. Ne4 Qe5+ 57. Kg1 Bd5 \$4 58.
Rxd5 Qa1+ (58... Rxd5 59. Rxd5 Qxd5 60. Nf6+) 59. Kh2 Rf8 60. Bd4 Qa8 61. Bf6
Qb8+ 62. g3 1-0

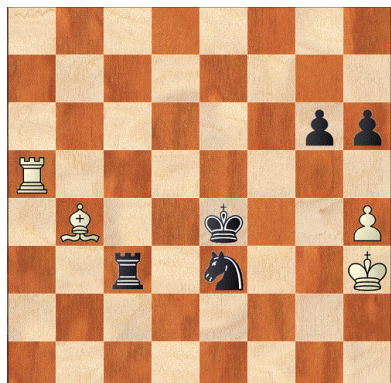
The Colorado Springs Chess Club is an affiliate of Chess.com & USCF and meets every Sunday night for online chess & Tuesday night for OTB chess. See the calendar for details:

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

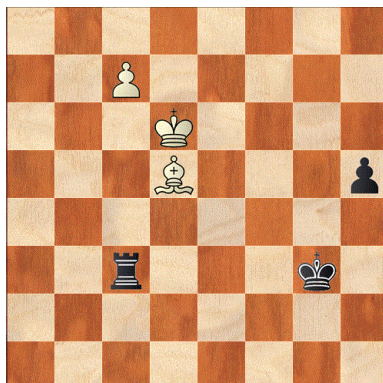


Tactics Time!

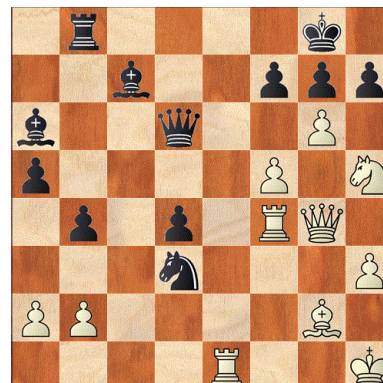
These positions came from recent games played in Colorado. Answers on the next page.



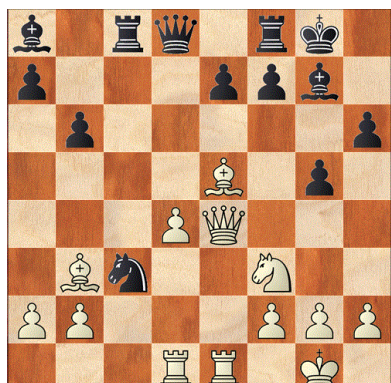
1. Brian Wall—Rhett Langseth
Denver Open 2023
 Black to Move



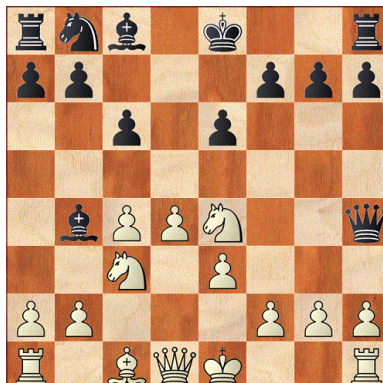
2. Matt Hassen—Iris Li
Denver Open 2023
 Black to Move



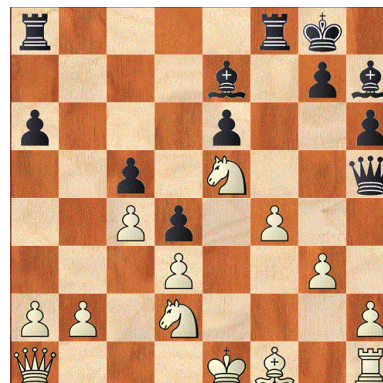
3. Davin Yin—Daniel Herman
Colorado Open 2023
 Black to Move



4. Earle Wikle—Brian Wall
Denver Chess Club 2023
 White to Move



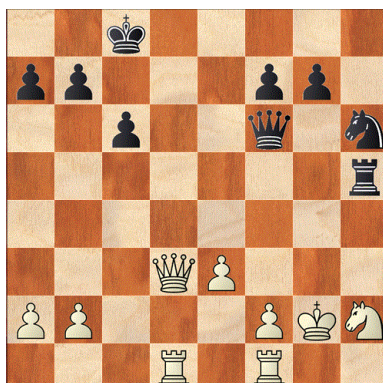
5. Alex Barraza - Shirley Herman
Denver Chess Club 2023
 Black to Move



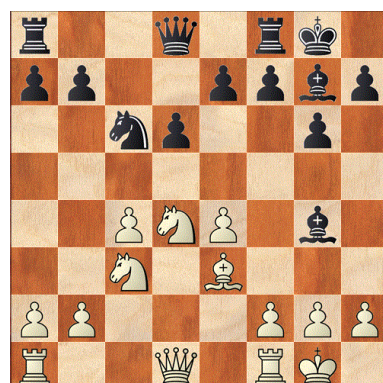
6. Rhett Langseth—Turpana Molina
DCC Fall Classic 2023
 Black to Move



7. Brian Wall—Luis Jimenez
Denver Chess Club 2023
 White to Move



8. Brian Wall—Julien Botto
Denver Chess Club October 2023
 Black to Move



9. Willard Davis - Alec Newport
Fall Classic 2023
 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. **87...Rb3** protects the Rook while attacking the Bishop and maintaining the discovered checks with the knight. The game continued **88.Bf8 Nc4+** winning the Rook.
2. Black has to play **73...Rxc7** in order to save a draw. Instead Black played **73...Kg3** which allows **74.Bc6** protecting the pawn for promotion.
3. **29...Nf2+!** Forking the King and Queen. If **30. Rxf2 Qh2#**
4. **21.Qg6** and Black cannot stop **Qxg7#**
5. **9...Qxe4** wins a piece. The knight on c3 is pinned.
6. **23...Rxf4!!** White cannot capture the Rook because of **24.gxf4 Bh4#**
7. **38.Bxh7+** discovered attack.
8. Black is down a Rook, but missed a perpetual check with **27...Rxb2+ 28.Kxb2 Qh4+ 29.Kg2 Qg4+ 30.Kh2 Qh4+**
9. White's Queen is under attack but if he plays **Qxg4** Black gets a piece back on d4. Instead White can play **11.Nxc6!** Taking a piece while attacking the Black Queen. **11...Bxd1 12.Nxd8**. When the smoke clears White will be a piece ahead.

The Longest Continuous Master Game in United States History

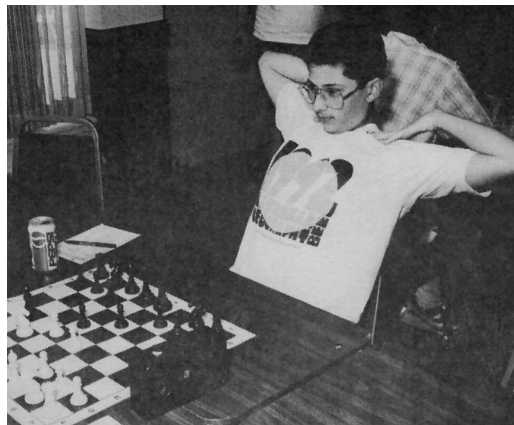
Revisiting the 1995 Colorado Open

BY NM TODD BARDWICK
www.ColoradoMasterChess.com

Thirty years ago in 1995, the Colorado Open (which is always held over Labor Day weekend) took place on September 2-4, at the Holiday Inn at 4040 Quebec St. near the old Stapleton Airport, just south of I-70 off Quebec St.

In those days, the tournament was six rounds; two Saturday, two Sunday, and two Monday. The standard time control was 40/2, 20/1 (40 moves in two hours and then 20 moves in one hour repeating).

Colorado chess was by far the strongest back in the late 1980s to mid-1990s and as a teenager in those years, Michael Mulyar (16 years old at the time of the 1995 Colorado Open) dominated the tournament scene and won the 1995 Colorado Open for the third time in four years; David Lucky interrupted his streak by winning the Colorado Open in 1994.



Michael Mulyar

Both Michael and David were strong 2400+ rated players...David had tied for second in the 1995 US Open two weeks earlier which included a win against GM Walter Browne; Michael would achieve the IM title in 2001 and tie for first at the US Open in both 1999 and 2007.

In the January 1996 *Colorado Chess Informant*, I wrote an article "A Long Day's Journey Into Knight (& A Long Knight's Journey into Day)" about my Round 4 game, a 12-hour marathon, against David Lucky. Literary expert and 1970 Denver Open champion Vance Aandahl suggested the title from Eugene O'Neill's famous play entitled *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

In rewriting that game today, I discovered how far computers have come in the last 30 years. In 1995, I checked my analysis with an engine that was probably about 2500 at that time...today Stockfish's strength is over 3600. Some of the top moves chosen by the computer in 1995 aren't even in the top three computer moves today!

David moved from Southern California to Colorado right before winning the 1994 Colorado Open. He and I met the Monday morning of that tournament before his 5th round victory over (now GM) Jesse Kraai of New Mexico.

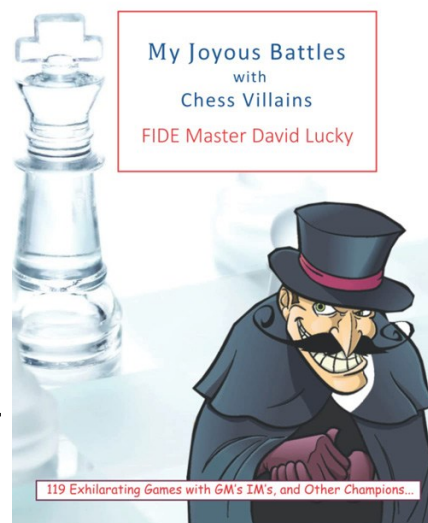
We later discovered we both played in the 1979 US Open in Chicago. (DCC President Haynes Hendee chaperoned high school students Yury Oshmyansky, Dan Wilkinson, and myself to the tournament in Chicago.)

Since the 1995 Colorado Closed, David had been playing excellent chess as he had 28 wins and only one draw (to Michael Mulyar) in his last 29 Colorado games, prior to the 1995 Colorado Open.

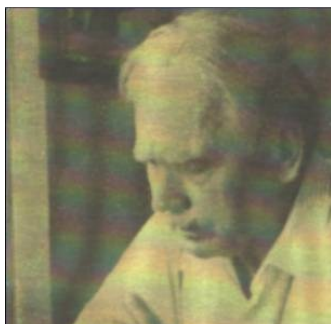
Besides OTB chess, Senior Masters are also excellent blitz players. One day I went up Boulder to see David where we visited several cafes where chess players hung out, finishing at the CU Chess Club. David played a dozen or so games against 2100 rated players, giving them 5 minutes to his 30 seconds. Before watching him play, I would have bet on the experts to beat him with those time odds...after all, 30 seconds for the game means he would run out of time in 30 moves if he spent one second per move. He won all the games easily, never using more than 20 seconds on his clock!

In 2020, David published "My Joyous Battles with Chess Villains" containing 119 of his wins and draws against many masters, IMs, and GMs. Included are wins against Colorado players Brian Wall, Brad Lundstrom, and myself.

Up through 2003, all of David's games, articles, and crosstables identified him as David Gliksman, while after 2003 he appears as David Lucky. Both Gliksman and Lucky are basically same name – Gliksman is derived from a native German spelling and Lucky is rooted in English.



Here is my journey playing 26.5 hours (against opponents with an average rating of 2321) with only two hours of sleep!



Mikhail Ponomarev

On Sunday, September 3, I woke up at 7:00 a.m. I played White in my Round 3 game against Mikhail Ponomarev (2272), starting at 9:00 a.m. It was one of my more interesting and better played games which ended in a victory about 1:30 pm in the afternoon.

I didn't get my normal afternoon nap – which I sure could have used – not knowing that September 3-4 would be the longest chess-playing stretch in my life.

After lunch and the annual CSCA Membership Meeting that afternoon, the 4th Round began at 5:00 pm. I had the Black pieces against David.

Little did David or I know that we would fight past midnight and well into the morning. I finally achieved a draw on move 143 by claiming a 50-move draw at 5:00 a.m. on September 4 (only 12 hours later!), the only 50-move draw in my life.

Although the endgame with R+N vs. R is a theoretical draw (in most cases!), David had no losing chances and opted to play into the wee hours of the morning. He had an earlier draw in the tournament and couldn't afford another one if he realistically was going to successfully defend his state title.

Fortunately for me, the tournament time control was not sudden death (where I would have been hard pressed to defend such a position under a time constraint). We played into the 7th time control - 20 moves in an hour, repeating. David was familiar with a well-publicized game earlier in the year where GM Walter Browne won a R+N vs. R endgame against SM Thomas Wolski in a sudden death game. The ending is difficult for the weak side, but drawable. David chose to test my endgame play and endurance.

This game not only holds the Colorado record for the longest game between masters, but is also the longest continuous game (without an adjournment) between masters in the United States. With digital clock technology and delay and increment time controls, it is unlikely this record, or the world record for longest game, will ever be broken.

In the Guinness Book of Records, the world record for the longest master game ever went 269 moves and took 20 hours and 15 minutes! It was a draw between Ivan Nikolic and Goran Arsovic in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on February 17, 1989.

Another interesting aspect of this game is David first moved his g1 knight on move 43 ... which may be the latest a player of his strength ever developed the knight!

The beneficiaries of this game were our 5th round (Mulyar for me and James McCarty for David) and our 6th round opponents. David later told me that he played his last round games like a blitz game, where he made moves that made sense, but was too tired to analyze them and hoped for the best!

I arrived home the morning of September 4 at 5:30 am, set my alarm clock for 7:30, and returned back to the hotel to play Black in my 5th round game against SM Michael Mulyar on Board 1 at 9:00.

When I arrived at the hotel, there was a pot of coffee outside the tournament room beckoning to me, so not caring if I slept all day Tuesday, I downed the coffee to stay awake. Sounded like a good idea at the time, but not being a coffee drinker, it gave me diarrhea, resulting in trips to the bathroom every 20 minutes or so during the game against Michael!

Five months earlier in the last round of the Colorado Closed, I played Black against Michael and after achieving a terrible position out of a Stonewall Dutch, somehow managed to come back and win. This time I improved my opening position out of the Stonewall.

Michael won the six-hour game, where at times knights were sometimes moving two squares diagonally like bishops in my head.

My 6th round game started right away at 3:00 against Colorado Springs Expert Chris Brunt. I drew Chris with the White pieces in a 4-hour game where I fell asleep in time pressure. Chris was kind enough to wake me up!



White: David Gliksman (Lucky) (2459)
Black: Todd Bardwick (2210)

French Defense, Tarrasch Variation

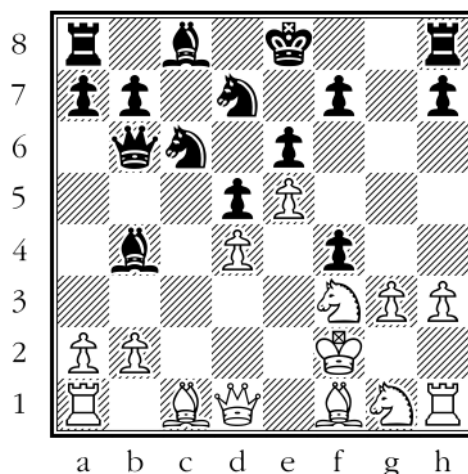
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4

This was a favorite variation of Colorado expert Martin T. "Tuna" Deschner. "The Tuna" was a fixture on the Denver chess scene since the late 1960s; sadly he passed away in 2018.

5...c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6 8.g3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf2 g5!?

This move first made its appearance in 1984 between Yudasin and Kaplun. The more common line, 10...f6, had fallen out of favor at that time. Soon after this game, I talked to IM John Watson who was writing a new book on the French Defense which would be available in early 1996. John said that this line had become popular at the GM level and he has devoted appropriate space for it in his book. John also told me that, in his estimation, about half of the top 50 players in the world at that time used the French Defense as their favorite weapon against 1.e4.

11.h3 gxf4



12.Bxf4 f6 13.Kg2 Be7

Another idea for Black in these types of positions is ...Bf8, ...Bg7, and ...0-0.

14.Rh2 Nf8

Better is 14...fxe5 15.dxe5 Nc5. Accepting the pawn sacrifice with 14...Qxb2+ 15.Kh1 gives White active piece play for the pawn. David is a tactical wizard and after his long think on 14.Rh2, I decided to trust his analysis and declined the pawn.

15.Kh1 Bd7 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Rd2 O-O-O?

Black should play 17...Ng6 to chase the bishop off the h2-b8 diagonal. Black's king is now stuck in the center of the battle on the open c-file.

18.Rc1?!

18.b4! is much stronger.

18...Be8?!

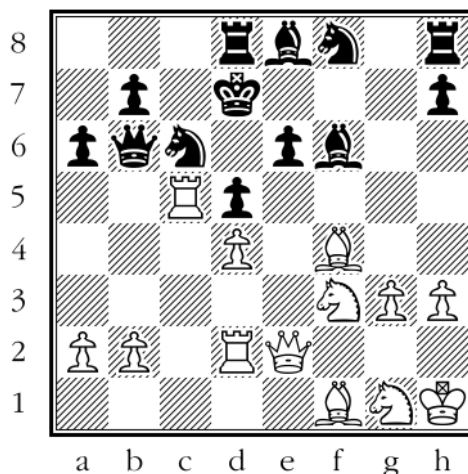
Trying to improve the bad light-squared French bishop. 18...Ng6 is clearly best here. A possible continuation is then 19.Bd6 Be7 20.Bxe7 Nxe7.

19.Rc5

Threatening 20.Rb5. Lifting the other rook with 19.Rd3 with the idea of 20.Rb3 is stronger.

19...a6 20.Qe2 Kd7?!

20...Be7 attacking the rook with the idea of moving the bishop to d6 is best, although White has control of e5, active pieces, and possible exchange sacrifices on c6. I knew this move was a crazy idea at the time, but was imagining variations where after exchanges on e5 my king might live peacefully on d6.



21.Ne5+ Bxe5 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.Qxe5 Ng6 24.Qg7+ Kd6 25.Bg2

25.h4 with idea of 26.Bh3 is another way to develop the bishop. After 25.h4, 26.h5 is also possible.

25...Rd7?

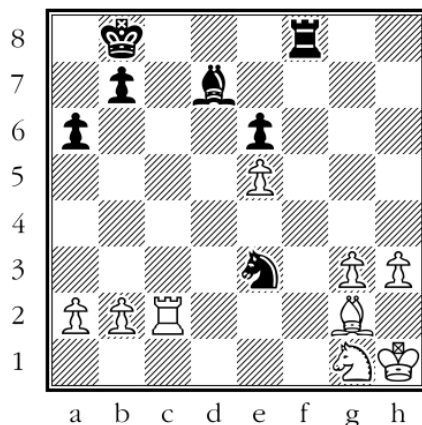
25...Bc6 blocking the c-file with the idea of ...Qc7 or ...Rd7 is a better try in a bad position.

26.Qf6

Pinning the e-pawn to Black's king. This pin is the threat I missed when I played 20...Kd7. I was hoping to trade pieces or attack on the kingside after chasing the White queen away with my rook. White has an abundance of riches and could have also played 26.Qh6 or 26.Rxd5+ exd5 27.Qf6+ Kc7 28.Rc2+ Qc6 29.Rxc6+ with an advantage.

26...Rf8 27.Rxd5+ Kc7 28.Rxd7+ Bxd7 29.Rc2+ Kb8 30.Qg7

Unfortunately the h7 pawn also falls.

30...Qd6 31.Qxh7 Ne7 32.Qe4 Nd5 33.Qe5 Qxe5 34.dxe5 Ne3**35.Rd2 Bb5 36.g4 Kc7 37.b3 a5**

In a losing position, Black is trying to create counterplay on the queenside and hopefully centralize his king quickly.

38.a4 Nxg2 39.axb5

39.Kxg2 activating the king is more accurate. Both players are in time pressure.

39...Ne3 40.Rd3 Nd5

(end of first time control: 5:55, 5:57)

41.Rf3 Rb8 42.Rf7+ Kb6 43.Nf3!

The g1 knight enters the game for the first time!

43...Rc8 44.g5 Rh8 45.h4 Ne3 46.Kh2 Nf5 47.Kh3

White missed sacrificing the exchange with 47.Rxf5! exf5 48.Kg3 and Black can't stop White's passed pawns.

47...Kxb5 48.Rxb7+

David suggested later that 48.g6! is easily winning for White as he rushes to advance his passed pawns before Black's king can return to the kingside.

48...Kc6 49.Rf7 Kd5 50.g6 Ke4 51.Rh7?

Considerably helping Black's drawing chances. 51.Kg4 is easily winning as the White king helps the pawns advance. A sample line is 51...Nh6+ 52.Kg5 Nxf7+ 53.gxf7 Kxf3 54.Kg6.

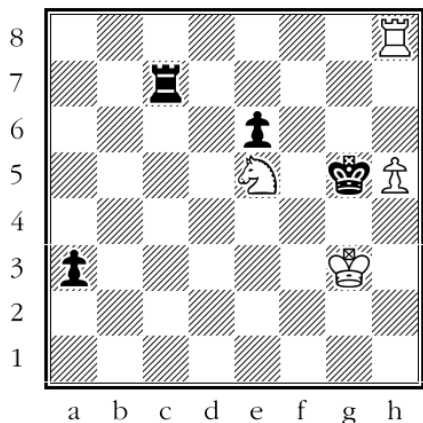
51...Rg8 52.Ng5+ Kxe5 53.h5 Rb8 54.Nf3+ Kf4 55.Nd2 Rd8 56.Nc4 Rd3+ 57.Kh2 Rxb3

Black has managed to capture White's last queenside pawn. Now with the superior king position, all Black has to do is stop the g- & h- pawns to draw.

58.Rf7 Kg5 59.g7 Nh6 60.Rf8 a4

(end of second time control: 6:56, 6:59)

61.Rh8 Rb7 62.Rxh6 Rxg7 63.Rh8 Rc7 64.Ne5 a3 65.Kg3

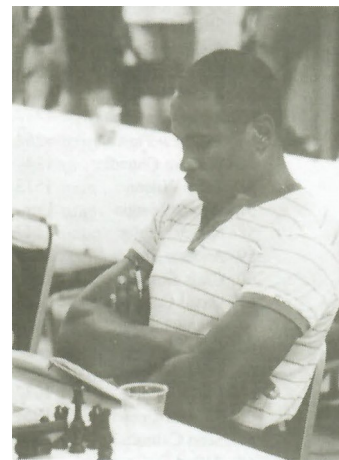


65...a2?!

65...Ra7 is a much easier draw which would have given both of us a lot more sleep since the knight must be sacrificed for the a-pawn, avoiding the R + N vs. R ending. I debated for a while about which move to play and picked the wrong one...it's getting late!

66.Nf3+ Kf6 67.Ra8 Rc5 68.h6

It is now midnight and the other long game, Zupa vs. Morrow, just ended. They had an exciting 2 rook and pawn endgame with each side's pawns close to promoting. We are sad to see them leave as now there are no other games left in the room to watch. The tournament room is really quiet. Only David, TD Ron MacRall, and I remain. Ron had to stay up all night with us and didn't complain too much. Afterwards, Ron announced that he would only direct sudden-death tournaments in the future!



TD Ron MacRall

68...Kg6 69.Rxa2 Kxh6

This starts the first 50 move draw count for Black.

70.Kf4 Rf5+ 71.Kg4 Kg7 72.Re2 Kf6 73.Nd4 Re5 74.Rf2+ Kg6 75.Nf3 Re4+ 76.Kg3 Ra4 77.Ne5+ Kg5 78.Rf8 Rb4 79.Kf3 Ra4 80.Ke3 Rb4

(end of third time control: 7:20, 7:58)

81.Nf3+ Kg6 82.Nd4 Rb1 83.Kf4 Rf1+ 84.Nf3 Kg7 85.Ra8 Kf6 86.Ra6 Rb1 87.Nd2 Rb7 88.Ne4+ Ke7 89.Nc5 Rb1 90.Ke5 Re1+ 91.Ne4 Kd7 92.Rd6+ Ke7 93.Rxe6+

This move starts a new 50 move draw count. Rook + knight vs. rook is a theoretical draw, but not an easy one. Every couple years or so a GM loses this ending. I put a star on my scoresheet and ran through the math calculation of what time in the morning the 50-move count would end. I was thinking it would be interesting if we were still playing when the other players started showing up for Round 5!

If I can hold the draw, I would play Black the next morning against Michael Mulyar on Board 1. I figured Michael is now snug in his bed getting a good night's sleep!

93...Kd7 94.Rh6 Kc7 95.Kd5 Rd1+ 96.Kc4 Kd7 97.Rg6 Ke7 98.Ra6 Kf7 99.Nc3 Rd2 100.Nd5 Rd1

(end of fourth time control: 7:37, 8:32)

101.Rd6 Kg7 102.Kc5 Rd2 103.Re6 Kf7

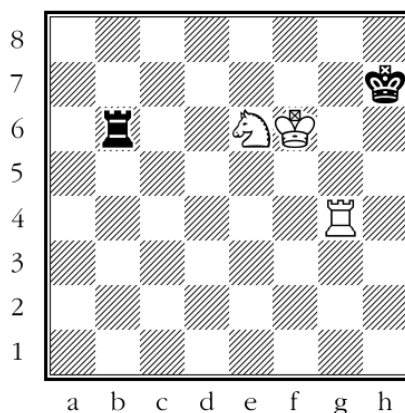
Staying as far away as possible from White's king.

104.Kd6 Rd1 105.Re2 Kg6 106.Ke6 Rg1

Thirteen moves are burned off the 50-move count; Black now has to be extra careful not to get checkmated or forked by the knight.

107.Nf4+ Kg7 108.Ke7 Rg4 109.Re4 Rg1 110.Re6 Rg5 111.Rf6 Ra5 112.Rg6+ Kh7 113.Rg4 Ra7+ 114.Kf6 Ra6+ 115.Ne6 Rb6

A strategy for Black is to keep the knight pinned to the king so it can't help form a mating net. If the White king breaks the pin, Black will annoy the king with checks. Black also strives to keep his rook and king far apart to avoid potential knight forks.



116.Rh4+ Kg8 117.Ra4 Kh7 118.Ra8 Rd6 119.Ra1 Rb6 120.Ra2 Rd6 Fortunately for Black, he always has one square available for the king to avoid mate. (end of fifth time control: 8:51, 9:43)

121.Rh2+ Kg8 122.Rh6 Ra6 123.Kf5 Ra5+ 124.Kg6 Ra6 125.Kh5 Ra1 126.Rf6 Rh1+ 127.Kg6 Rg1+ 128.Ng5 Rg2

A similar position as occurred on move 115. This position is rotated 90 degrees with the knight pinned one file from the edge of the board instead of 2 files.

129.Re6 Kf8 130.Re1 Rg4 131.Re3 Rg1 132.Kf6 Rf1+ 133.Nf3 Ra1 134.Nd4 Rf1+ 135.Nf5 Rf2

We have seen this position's cousin before!

136.Ra3 Ke8 137.Rd3 Rf1 138.Rd2 Rf4 139.Ke5 Rf1 140.Nd6+ Ke7

(end of sixth time control: 9:33, 10:23)

141.Ra2 Re1+ 142.Ne4 Kf7 143.Ra7+ Kg6 Draw!



Thanksgiving 2017

1995 Colorado Open – Open Section

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1	MICHAEL A MULYAR CO 12524770 / R: 2434 ->2438	5.0	W 21	W 11	W 6	W 2	D 5	3
2	JAMES M MC CARTY CO 12157520 / R: 2318 ->2343	5.0	W 29	W 20	D 10	D 1	W 4	7
3	MIKHAIL PONOMAREV CO 12540474 / R: 2272 ->2284	4.5	W 16	L 14	W 5	W 19	D 10	1
4	DAVID LUCKY CA 10462967 / R: 2459 ->2441	4.0	W 15	W 19	D 8	D 5	D 2	9
5	TODD A BARDWICK CO 10406137 / R: 2210 ->2231	4.0	W 12	W 13	D 3	L 4	D 1	8
6	BRUCE A MONSON CO 12455259 / R: 2218 ->2205	4.0	W 33	L 28	L 1	W 11	W 17	15
7	BRAD LUNDSTROM CO 10410347 / R: 2128 ->2132	4.0	D 23	D 27	W 19	W 22	L 11	2
8	CHRIS L BRUNT CA 12523693 / R: 2121 ->2131	4.0	D 17	L 23	W 4	W 12	D 20	5
9	MICHAEL P SHEDD CO 11143113 / R: 2066 ->2096	4.0	H 0	D 0	W 12	W 28	D 18	4
10	RICHARD W BUCHANAN CO 10273030 / R: 2103 ->2103	3.5	W 24	L 31	W 2	L 21	D 3	11
11	ALLEN M DERMAN CO 10936071 / R: 2086 ->2101	3.5	W 26	L 1	W 15	L 6	D 7	10
12	PETER DAW IL 12567514 / R: 1964 ->1989	3.5	L 5	D 32	L 9	W 8	W 23	19
13	TOBIAS A MYERS WI 12621781 / R: 1866 ->1915	3.5	W 18	L 5	D 20	W 14	W 28	21
14	CRAIG D WILCOX CO 12418845 / R: 2056 ->2007	3.0	W 30	L 3	D 17	D 13	W 25	27
15	YUVAL LAOR CO 20033521 / R: 1900 ->1918	3.0	L 4	L 25	W 11	W 30	L 22	6

16	VANCE S AANDAHL		3.0	L	3 L	30 W	23 H	0 W	24 D	17
CO	10407842 / R: 1905	->1900	N:2							
17	GARY BAGSTAD		3.0	D	8 D	22 W	14 H	0 L	6 D	16
CO	10924031 / R: 1800	->1846	N:1							
18	HANS M MORROW		2.5	L	13 W	33 W	29 D	20 L	9 U	0
UT	10413818 / R: 2133	->2104	N:2							
19	JAMES HAMMERSMITH		2.5	W	25 D	4 D	7 L	3 D	21 L	12
CO	12498634 / R: 2096	->2078	N:1							
20	DAOUD ZUPA		2.5	W	32 L	2 W	13 D	18 L	8 U	0
CO	12407991 / R: 2016	->2018	N:1							
21	LES HAYNES		2.5	L	1 W	24 W	30 L	10 D	19 L	13
AZ	10375517 / R: 1963	->1949	N:2							
22	BRUCE GERALD DRANEY		2.5	D	27 D	17 W	31 L	7 L	15 H	0
NE	10374545 / R: 1999	->1948	N:3							
23	TOM ROODE		2.5	D	7 L	8 L	16 W	31 L	12 W	28
CO	12437957 / R: 1829	->1826	N:2							
24	LARRY ALAN DUKE		2.5	L	10 L	21 W	26 H	0 L	16 W	31
CO	11484743 / R: 1836	->1820	N:3							
25	ROLAND C MOMBELLI		2.5	L	19 L	15 B	0 W	29 D	14 U	0
CO	12609426 / R: 1769	->1787	N:2							
26	KENNETH E SCHWARTZ		2.5	L	11 L	29 L	24 W	32 W	34 H	0
CO	12611184 / R: 1710	->1704	N:4							
27	PAT BRUNO		2.5	D	22 L	7 H	0 H	0 W	31 L	14
CO	12619759 / R: 1526	->1549	N:3							
28	NADIR S ZULQERNAIN		1.5	B	0 L	6 H	0 L	9 L	13 L	23
WA	12602600 / R: 1716	->1690								
29	DAVID MURRAY III		1.0	L	2 W	26 L	18 L	25 U	0 U	0
AZ	12079470 / R: 1914	->1900								
30	MARCEL E COLE		1.0	L	14 W	16 L	21 L	15 U	0 U	0
CO	12566239 / R: 1500	->1522								
31	TODD LITTELL		1.0	B	0 L	10 L	22 L	23 L	27 L	24
CO	12592085 / R: 1424P14->1433P19									
32	JEFF S WESTMORELAND		0.5	L	20 L	12 H	0 L	26 U	0 U	0
CO	11091601 / R: 1672	->1648								
33	DANNY KAISER		0.0	L	6 L	18 U	0 U	0 U	0 U	0
CO	12641954 / R: 1782	->1776								
34	JESSE D GROVES		0.0	U	0 U	0 U	0 U	0 L	26 U	0
CO	12645406 / R: 1035P15->1052P16									



Garry Kasparov (left) and David Lucky

ZUGZWANG

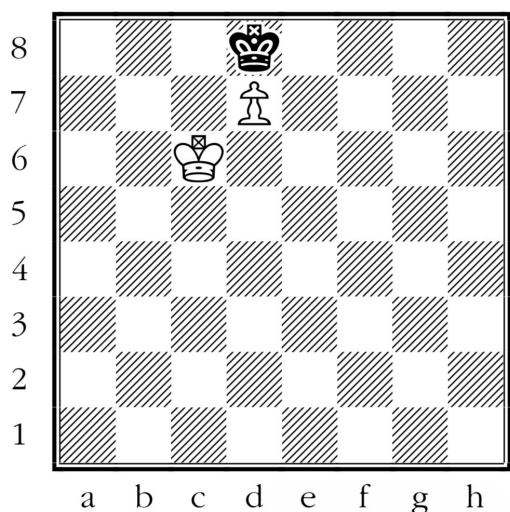
By NM Todd Bardwick

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It is usually a good thing when you are the player to move.

However, when there are only a few pieces left on the board in the endgame with your move choices decreased, a situation occasionally occurs when any move you make will yield an undesirable result. The German word *zugzwang* describes this situation when you would prefer to pass your turn, if you could.

Here is a basic *zugzwang* position.



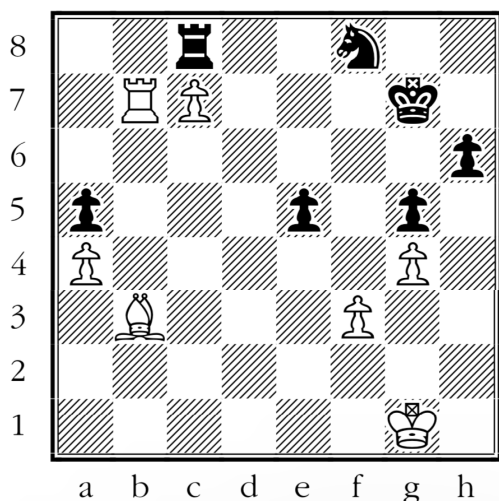
With Black to move, he must play 1...Ke7 allowing 2.Kc7 and the White king successfully escorts the pawn to the promotion square. Black would be in *zugzwang* and will lose the game in a position he is hoping to draw.

Now pretend it is White's move, and since he is trying to win, he would be in *zugzwang* because he loses the pawn if his king moves away from it and playing 1.Kd6 would result in stalemate.

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

Here is an example from 1959 in Mar Del Plata, with Black to move.

Rossetto

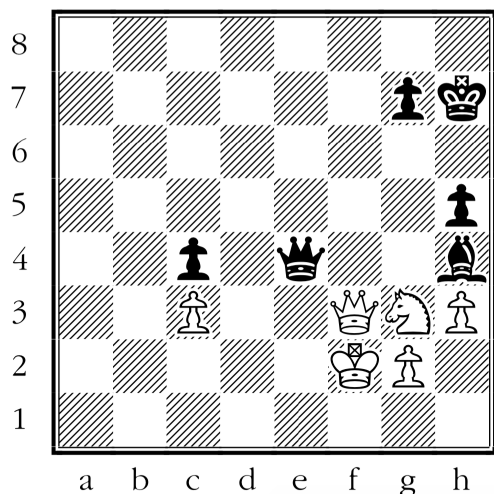


Fischer

Position after 37.hxg4



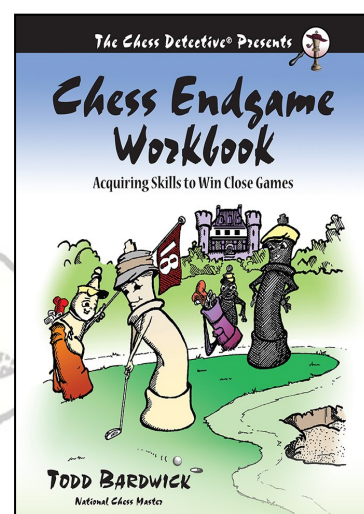
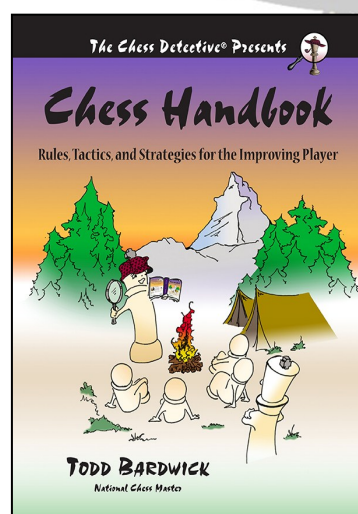
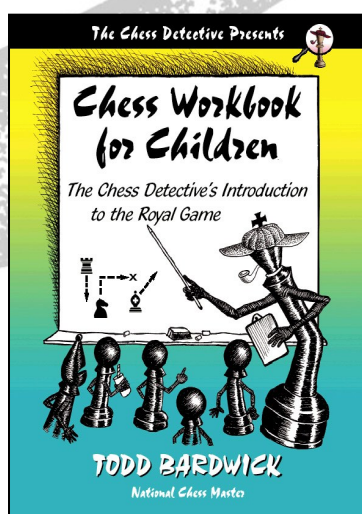
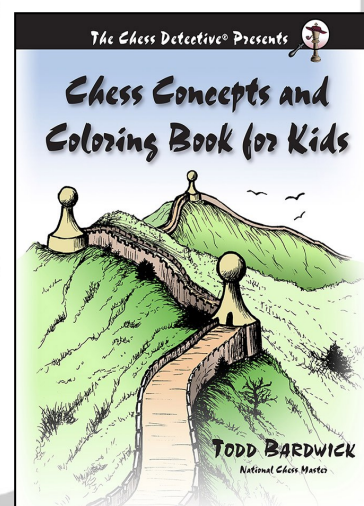
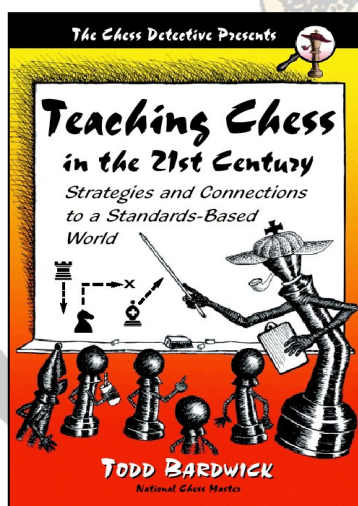
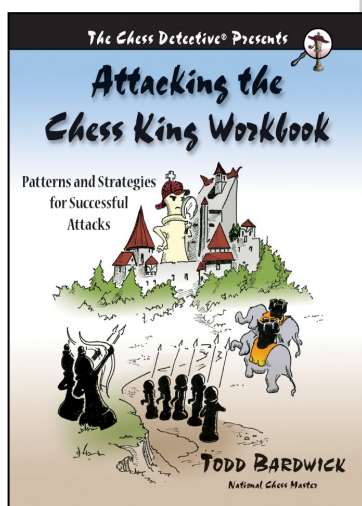
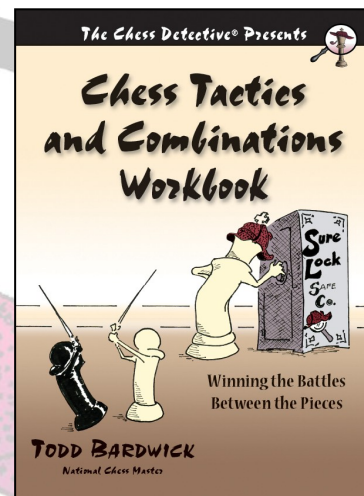
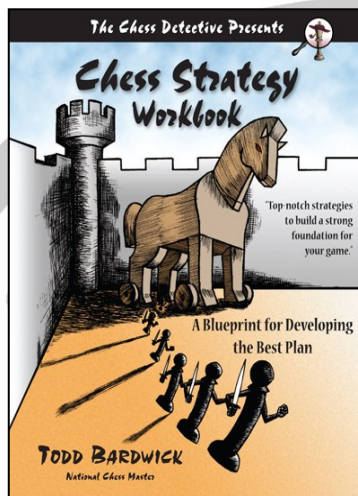
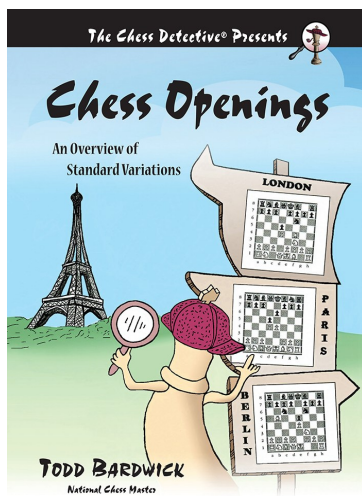
Note that either 37...e4 or 37...h5 loses a pawn (and it would be Black's move again). If Black's knight were to move, it would unprotect e6 and White would win by playing 38.Be6. 37...Kf6 loses the knight after 38.Rb8 Rxc7 39.Rxf8+. Finally, if the Black rook moves to a8 or e8, then 38.c8=Q+ would successfully promote the pawn. Therefore, Black is in *zugzwang*!



Here is a position where Black can play the amazing **1...Qe5!** and White is in *zugzwang*!

Observe that White's pawns cannot move. The knight is pinned to the king and also cannot move. If White moves his king to f1 or g1, Black will capture the knight. By the process of elimination, only queen moves remain. The White queen must stay in contact with the knight to be the second defender. The only safe square for the queen that keeps the knight protected is e3. After **2.Qe3**, Black plays **2...Qxe3+ 3.Kxe3 Bxg3** winning the knight and the game.

When you approach the endgame and make the observation that one of the players has a limited number of moves, always be on the lookout for possible *zugzwang* positions.



NM Todd Bardwick's books can be purchased at Amazon.com here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4dk56ky>

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More info can be found online at <https://www.coloradochess.com/newtourn.shtml>

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Denver Chess Club - DCC August Tuesdays 2025 August 5 - 26, 2025 Denver
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2025 Colorado Open August 30 - 31, 2025 Denver, CO
IHOP Quick Quad Mondays in September 2025 September 1 - 29, 2025 Colorado Springs
Denver Chess Club - DCC September Tuesdays 2025 September 2 - 30, 2025 Denver
PALS September 2025 Chess Tournament - Open Section September 20, 2025 Denver

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Kings of Chess Tournament - Saturday July 19, 2025 Hoffman Library July 19, 2025 Aurora
Kings of Chess Tournament - Saturday Aug 16, 2025 Hoffman Library August 16, 2025 Aurora
PALS September 2025 Scholastic Chess Tournament September 20, 2025 Denver

COLORADO CHESS CLUB DIRECTORY

Aurora Chess Club: Meets every Saturday at the All Saints Lutheran Church 10:30am-1:30pm 15625 E. Iliff Ave. Aurora, CO 80013. Contact info: www.aurorachessclub.com

Boulder Chess Club: Meets every Wednesday. Players of all skills welcome. We meet in the UMC building on the CU Boulder campus in colder months, and when it's warm we move to a beautiful area of Foothills Community Park. For detailed information about all of our event locations and times please join our Meetup group: <https://www.meetup.com/boulderchess/>

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

Castle Rock Chess Club: Meets every Monday from 6:00-8:00pm at the Philip S. Miller Library, 100 South Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, 80104. www.castlerockchessclub.org

Chess Knights: (Highlands Ranch) Meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm. Highlands Ranch Library, 9292 Ridgeline Boulevard, 80129. Information is also available on the Chess Knights' Web site at HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org. Contact: Frank Atwood (720) 260-1493 by email: FrankAtwood@HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org.

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

Colorado Springs Chess Club: Weekly on Tuesday 104 E. Platte Ave, Colorado Springs, CO at 6 pm. We meet in the Ballroom of the Acacia Apartment Building, which is just across the hall from the front door. Please knock if no one is at the door. USCF-rated games start at 7pm. For more info call or text Paul at 719-551-9833 or email cschess@juno.com.

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

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

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

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

Fort Collins Chess Club: This is an online club and also a place to advertise face-to-face club meetings. We are having problems with a consistent site to play at. Until further notice go to <https://lichess.org/team/fort-collins-co-chess-club> to get weekly information on the next club meeting.

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

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

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

Greeley Chess Club: Meets Thursday's, 6:00-9:00pm at *Zoe's Cafe* located at 715 10th Street in Greeley. Club is informal and free of charge. Please show support of Zoe's by purchasing food and drinks - tips are donated to charity projects they support. Club is directed by Brad Lundstrom - he can be reached at (970) 415-3855 or at ChessCoach2014@gmail.com.

Lafayette Chess Club: www.facebook.com/groups/840770652747409

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

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

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

Parker Chess Club: Meets every Monday from 6:00-8:00pm at the Parker library in Parker, CO. All levels and ages welcome. Contact John Brezina at skibrezina@gmail.com <https://parkerchessclub.godaddy.com/>

Pueblo Chess Club: Mondays from 5pm to 8pm at the Williams Pavilion (Admin building near the fountain) in the City Park. For further info: John Shriver, 719-821-2402 or Liz Nickovich, 719-696-0497 Quarterly non-rated tournaments. www.pueblochess.com

The South Metro Denver Chess Club: Presently we meet at The Half-Penny Brewery on Thursdays from 6pm until closing. This unique venue is at 5150 East Arapahoe Road in Centennial. Call or text Dan Ruparel at 303-570-5931 for more info or here: [Learn to Play Chess! Events \(meetup.com\)](http://Learn to Play Chess! Events (meetup.com))

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

I am trying to update our chess club directory for Colorado. If you know of any clubs not listed or have updated info for any here, please contact me at
skibrezina@gmail.com

Updated June 25, 2025**Chess Clubs**

Aurora	Aurora Chess Club	www.aurorachessclub.com	Saturday
Boulder	Boulder Chess Club	www.meetup.com/boulderchess	Wednesday
Canon City Library Chess Club	www.canoncity.org/calendar.aspxCID=0&Keywords=&startDate=&endDate=&		Wednesday
Castle Rock	Castle Rock Chess Club	www.castlerockchessclub.org	Monday
Col. Springs	Briargate Chess Club	www.facebook.com/briargatechess	Thursday
Col. Springs	Col. Springs Chess Club	https://sites.google.com/view/colorado-springs-chess-club/home	Tuesday
Col. Springs	Col. Springs Kids Chess Club	www.facebook.com/groups/131445216496856	Monday
Denver	Denver Chess Club	https://denverchess.com/	Tuesday Thursday
Denver	MeetUp: Learn to Play Chess	www.meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess	Misc
Denver	Oprah's Rook Club	www.meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess	Wednesday
Denver	The South Metro Denver Chess Club	www.meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess	Thursday
Durango	Durango Chess Club	www.guildhousegames.com/event-calendar.html	Monday
Fort Collins	Fort Collins Chess MeetUp Group	www.meetup.com/fort-collins-chess-meetup-group	Wednesday
Fort Collins	Northern Colorado Chess	https://nocochess.weebly.com/	Tuesday 2nd & 4th Saturday
Glenwood Springs Library Chess Club		https://gcpld.org/events/	3rd Thursday
Granby	Granby Library Chess Club	https://gcld.librarycalendar.com/events/month	Tuesday
Greeley	Greeley Chess Club	Contact Brad Lundstrom: chesscoach2014@gmail.com	Thursday
Highlands Ranch Chess Knights		www.HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org	2nd & 4th Wednesday
Lafayette	Lafayette Chess Club	www.facebook.com/groups/840770652747409	Thursday
Montrose	Montrose Library Chess Club	https://www.montroselibrary.org/series/chess-club-2/	Tuesday
Parker	Parker Chess Club	https://parkerchessclub.godaddysites.com/club-info	Monday
Pueblo	Pueblo Chess Club	https://www.pueblochess.com/	Monday
Summit County Chess Club		www.facebook.com/people/Summit-County-Chess-Club/100064653976129/	Tuesday Wednesday Friday

Chess Tournaments

State Wide	Colorado State Chess Assoc.	www.coloradochess.com/newtourn.shtml?id=1477#tournamentContent
State Wide	CAISSA Chess (Sort for CO)	https://caissachess.net/caissalive

Chess Lessons In & Around Denver

Chess Academy of Denver	https://coloradomasterchess.com/
Chess Wizards	https://chesswizards.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
The Knight School	https://www.theknightschool.com/denver-chess

Oprah's Rook Club at Woods Boss Brewing Company

Join others to enjoy a game and a brew every Wednesday from 7-10pm at the Woods Boss Brewing Company in downtown Denver as part of Oprah's Rook Club. These photos are from a recent visit of mine in June where they had Grandmaster Vojtech Plat show up to play blitz along with Brian Wall and many others. A great crowd and place to play some chess and socialize.

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

Oprah's Rook Club (@oprahrookclub2.0) • Instagram photos and videos



Colorado State Champion



Eamon Montgomery

United States Chess Champion



Fabiano Caruana

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