

COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



*Colorado Players at the National
K-12 Grade Championships in Spokane
DCC Fall Classic
Winter Springs Open
Chess in Education Conference in New York
Checkmate! USA vs India match
Articles & Analysis by Jeffrey Baffo and more...*



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coloradocsca@gmail.com

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Send all email correspondence to
coloradocsca@gmail.com

On the cover:

Henry Kovacs at the National K-12 Grades Championship

Photo by John Brezina

From the Editor

Happy New Year Colorado chess players,

2025 was an incredible year of chess coverage for me. The year started in Wijk Aan Zee, then Freestyle in Paris & Las Vegas, London for the FIDE team championships, the Super Nationals in Orlando, numerous Colorado tournaments in between, and ending in Spokane for the K-12 Grade Nationals. All of this pales in comparison though to the highlight of becoming a first time grandpa in October this past year! I'll still be covering chess as best I can but my role as grandpa will be priority. Our new CSCA president Kevin McConnell takes the reigns from Earle Wikle to lead us into another great year of chess in Colorado. Thank you to both men and all those that volunteer around our state to keep Colorado chess alive and well. All of these tournaments don't just 'happen', it takes dedicated volunteers behind the scenes devoting their time to our beloved game. A thank you to Lloyd Gauthier too who is updating our club info and CSCA social media pages, "check" them out....

- John Brezina

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Email article submissions to skibrezina@gmail.com

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CSCA President Kevin McConnell's Message

Happy New Year, I can't believe 2026 is already here! We held a special member's meeting on December 8th and voted on the newly amended CSCA bylaws. The vote was unanimous in favor and the new bylaws are posted on the CSCA website. We held a board meeting last month and under the new bylaws, voted two new at-large members to the board. Please join me in welcoming former board member Andy Starr and brand new member Lloyd Gauthier to our 2026 board. Andy has singlehandedly found and locked down the venue for our "Boulder Open" and Lloyd has been designing flyers for the CSCA for months and is a real addition to the board.

On Saturday November 22nd we held our very first Freestyle chess tournament. We had 31 participants and everyone had a great time! Now we are gearing up for the 2026 State Scholastic Chess Championships and hope you and your children will join us at STEM School of Highlands Ranch on February 13th, 14th and 15th for all of the state scholastic events! This year we will be holding 4 tournaments.

On Friday February 13th, we will be holding the Colorado State Scholastic Blitz Championship where we will crown the best speed player for K-5 and K-12. On Saturday February 14th, we will be holding the K-1 Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championship. This will be a one-day 5 round event and the tournament registration is up on the CSCA website. Also, on Saturday February 14th, we will hold the very first "Rising Talent" unrated scholastic championship for kiddos who don't want to jump through the hoops of getting both a Colorado State Chess Association membership as well as a United States Chess Association membership. This will be a one-day 5 round unrated tournament. Lastly, on Saturday and Sunday the 14th and 15th of February, we will hold the Colorado State Scholastic Chess Championship. This will be a USCF rated 6 round 2-day tournament to decide state champions for K-3, K-5, K-8, K-12 and our Colorado State women's champion.

There is one other tournament to tell you about in February. We are proud to announce another new one-day Saturday tournament. "Speed Saturday" is a one day tournament where you can compete in a quick chess tournament, a blitz chess tournament and a bullet chess tournament all in one day. You can play in all three tournaments and enjoy 29 games of chess in one day, or order these tournaments a la carte and play in just one or two of these tournaments.

March 6th through March 8th, we will be holding the Colorado Closed and Scholastic Closed State Championship. We will accept the 6 highest rated Colorado based players and the 6 highest rated scholastic players according to the February 2026 USCF supplemental ratings. We will also be featuring a Colorado State Challenger section and Scholastic Challenger section with the next 6 highest rated players. Registration for this tournament should be up on the CSCA website in the next week or so. Two weeks after this tournament we will hold the Colorado State Quick Chess Championship on Friday night March 20th, right before DCC's Spring Classic tournament.

That's a lot of information and I will stop and let everyone digest! We are off to a great start for 2026 and I look forward to seeing you at one or all of the tournaments!

With gratitude,

Kevin McConnell
President Colorado State Chess Association



Kevin McConnell & his boys (2020)

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Colorado Players at the 2025 National K-12 Grades Championships

By John Brezina

The 2025 National K-12 Grades Championship took place on Dec 12-14, 2025 in Spokane Washington. This USCF sanctioned event drew nearly 1500 kids from around the nation and there were a number of Colorado kids in attendance. There are many chess events around to cover, and this one piqued my interest since it is where my new granddaughter lives and we had already planned a trip out there that particular weekend.



One half of the enormous playing hall

About a month before I reached out to the organizers to get media access and take pictures of our Colorado players. It takes a lot of planning ahead of time when I cover these events around the world, not to mention lodging and transportation. For this event I needed to watch a Safesport volunteer video in addition to a background check since kids were involved and the process went well since I had previously worked with this staff earlier in the year at the Super-Nationals. Once completed I researched the playing venue, the Convention Center in downtown Spokane, and round times that I could attend.



To the victors goes the spoils

I arrived Saturday afternoon in order to catch the start of round four. The players were all in one large room except for the K-1 group which had a slightly different schedule. I scanned pairings in order to find the 14 Colorado players in a sea of 1500! It was nice seeing some of the arbiters I have known for years here covering the kids as I usually see them in St. Louis with the top players in the world. After some announcements, it was time to start ushering parents out minutes before the start of the round.



*John Schoenke
12th grade*



*Siddhishree Sundaram
2nd grade*

I made my way around the large playing hall trying to capture as many of our players as possible, but some games ended rather quickly before I could reach them all. The main stage had tables filled with endless rows of trophies and nearby were the top DGT boards from each grade level. After an hour on the floor I headed out to the lobby where I met some of the parents and others I have known through chess. ChessKids was present with a booth headed by Fun Master Mike Klein who attended one of our Colorado State Scholastic tournaments several years ago. There was apparel for sale as well as food vendors and ample space for parents to anxiously await their kids' results.



FM Mike Klein working the ChessKid booth

But the most exciting area that drew quite a crowd was a table setup for GM Michael Rohde where he took on "all-comers" in blitz. It was my first time photographing this longtime American Grandmaster where our very own Henry Kovacs had a chance to play him. It was quite a game and fun to watch as a crowd gathered around including his mother who filmed the game. Unfortunately Henry had to eventually resign as he was a piece down and couldn't stop the GM from queening his pawn. After exploring more of the side events, I made my way back to the playing hall where some tough games were still in progress before heading out.



GM Rohde drew a crowd including Henry's brothers



Henry Kovacs resigning after a tough fight with the GM

I made my way back Sunday morning for round 6 starting at an early 9:00am. I could only photograph for an hour that morning as I had other obligations and therefore could not be around for the trophy presentations that afternoon. It was quite humbling to peruse the top player ratings in each grade. The top player in the entire field was IM Erick Zhao rated at a whopping 2513. And he is only in eleventh grade where he won his division with 6.5/7 points. Fourth grade and up had at least one player or more rated above 2000. Even second grade had a player rated at 1959, so never take a kid you face across the board for granted.

Our Colorado players are listed here with their grade, rating, and final score.

John Schoenke 12th grade (1849) 4.0/7
Amitai Sebba 11th grade (1910) 4.5/7
Ariana E Dani 10th (1692) 4.0/7
Henry Wallace Kovacs 9th grade (1884) 4.0/7
Felix McMillan 6th grade (1857) 5.0/7
James Corbett 6th grade (1216) 3.0/7
Eric N Gessler 6th grade (865) 3.0/7
Stepan Artemovich Rostovtsev 5th grade (1084) 3.0/7
Dylan Albert Kovacs 4th grade (913) 3.0/7
Christian Hardy 3rd grade (1182) 4.0/7
Micah Corbett 3rd grade (341) 1.0/7
Siddhishree Sundaram 2nd grade (1098) 4.0/7
Charlie Kovacs 2nd grade (1181) 3.5/7
Connor Wolf Gorby 1st grade (895) 5.0/7

It is worth mentioning the gratitude that parents deserve for making the trip out to such chess events for their kids. Most participants flew in from around the country, and adding that up with lodging is quite an investment. No different than sports or music endeavours that kids are involved with as well that take involved parents to facilitate. Flying out Monday morning on an early 5:00am flight, I was pleasantly surprised by all the chess kids in the gate area with their rather large trophies. Another nice surprise was being greeted by the Kovacs family just before boarding. Young Henry came over to say hi along with his two brothers that also play chess, Charlie & Dylan. A perfect weekend for me, visiting family and covering chess!



***Amitai Sebba
& his mother***



***Henry Kovacs
& his mother***

Dedicated parents make these tournaments happen!



International Arbiter Brian Yang at work with the kids



Top rated player IM Erick Zhao (2518) at the board

More photos from the 2025 National K-12 Grades Championships



A rare picture of me in action: Taking the cover photo (photo by Joyce Kovacs)



**GM Magesh Panchanathan
& Henry Kovacs**
(photo by Joyce Kovacs)



WGM Zoey Tang



Denver Chess Club Fall Classic 2025

by Earle Wikle

This year's DCC Fall Classic was held over National Chess Day at the Hilton Gardens located at the intersection of East Union Ave. and S. Syracuse St, in the Denver Tech Center area. The event is one of the Denver Chess Club's four premier weekend events held throughout the year. Peter Barlay and I directed the event with 132 players in four sections (Premier, U1900, U1600, and U1300).

In the Premier section, newly titled FIDE Master Gunnar Andersen won the tournament with 4.5 points. Defeating Nation Master Griffin McConnell in the last round to take the lead after a second round draw with Candidate Master Dmitry Kishinevsky. NM Griffin McConnell and NM Matthew Wofford tied for second and third with 4 points. Ed Yasutake and Sikander Baker-Nagar tied for the U2100 prize with 3.5 points, and Shankar Parasuram won top upset in the Premier section.

In the U1900 section, Larry Wutt won the tournament with 4.5 points. Kenzie Moore placed second with 4 points, and Aaron Gindi and Ashwin Mathimaran tied for third placed with 3.5 points. Matt Baird won the top upset prize for the U1900.

In the U1600 section, Carter Edwards won the tournament with a perfect 5 points, Carter Worcester and David Cease tied for second and third with 4 points. David Cease won the top upset prize in the U1600.

In the U1300 section, Datreion Leverston and Landon Williams tied for first and second with 4.5 points. Noah Keene and Veronica Pinna tied for third place with 4 points. Also with 4 points, Christopher Laberge won the U1000 prize as well as the top upset U1300 prize.

Everyone had a good time and we look forward to keeping these events going at the Hilton Garden's.



DCC Fall Classic 2025 Cross-table Premier (+1600 USCF)

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Perf.	Est. Post	Prize
1	FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN	2374	W17 (w)	D24 (b)	W14 (w)	W7 (b)	W3 (w)	4½	2374 (0)	2377	\$680.00 : 1st
2	NM MATTHEW WOFFORD	2176	W30 (w)	W19 (b)	W4 (w) 207	L3 (b)	W10 (w) 24	4	2345 (169)	2197	\$361.25 :
3	NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL	2167	W20 (w)	W21 (b)	W5 (w) 101	W2 (w) 9	L1 (b)	4	2334 (167)	2189	\$361.25 :
4	LM SULLIVA MCCONNELL	2383	W16 (b)	W15 (w)	L2 (b)	W13 (w)	D6 (b)	3½	2262 (-121)	2374	
5	FM HERNÁNDEZ MARQU?	2268	W28 (b)	W9 (w)	L3 (b)	D8 (w)	W16 (b)	3½	2168 (-100)	2259	
6	NM DANIEL HERMAN	2168	L19 (b)	W30 (w)	W35 (b)	W11 (w)	D4 (w) 107.5	3½	2116 (-52)	2166	
7	CM RHETT LANGSETH	2141	D32 (b)	W29 (w)	W12 (b)	L1 (w)	W18 (w)	3½	2160 (19)	2143	
8	SIKAN BAKER-NAGAR	2044	L21 (w)	W20 (b)	W19 (w)	D5 (b) 112	W22 (w)	3½	2066 (22)	2047	\$127.50 : U2100
9	EDWARD YASUTAKE	1977	W36 (w)	L5 (b)	H---	W34 (w)	W23 (b)	3½	2078 (101)	1991	\$127.50 : U2100
10	LM BRIAN WALL	2200	D29 (b)	D35 (w)	W32 (b)	W14 (w)	L2 (b)	3	1989 (-211)	2182	
11	JASON NIGATU	2021	D22 (w)	W31 (b)	H---	L6 (b)	W25 (w)	3	2024 (3)	2021	
12	SHUBH MISRA	1979	W34 (b)	D13 (w) 117.5	L7 (w)	D22 (b)	W24 (w) 41	3	2033 (54)	1988	
13	NM EAMON MONTGOMERY	2214	W18 (w)	D12 (b)	W24 (w)	L4 (b)	U---	2½	2171 (-43)	2210	
14	CM DEAN CLOW	2023	W33 (b)	W23 (w)	L1 (b)	L10 (b)	D21 (w)	2½	2015 (-8)	2020	
15	CRAIG D WILCOX	2012	W27 (w)	L4 (b)	L22 (w)	D19 (b)	W26 (w)	2½	1878 (-134)	1992	
16	KEITH OXMAN	1936	L4 (w)	D36 (b)	W31 (w)	W33 (b)	L5 (w)	2½	1973 (37)	1937	
17	TANYA GURP PRABHU	1917	L1 (b)	L34 (w)	W36 (w)	D20 (b)	W33 (w)	2½	1853 (-64)	1903	
18	CM BRAD LUNDSTROM	1900	L13 (b)	W26 (w)	H---	W35 (w)	L7 (b)	2½	1914 (14)	1901	
19	VICTOR POWERS	1883	W6 (w) 285	L2 (w)	L8 (b)	D15 (w) 64.5	W34 (b)	2½	2012 (129)	1904	
20	FORREST LUNDSTROM	1864	L3 (b)	L8 (w)	W30 (b) 28	D17 (w) 26.5	W29 (b) 30	2½	1983 (119)	1884	
21	FELIX MCMILLAN	1786	W8 (b) 258	L3 (w)	H---	D24 (b) 117	D14 (b) 118.5	2½	2064 (278)	1838	
22	RYAN HAJJALI	1727	D11 (b) 147	D32 (w) 61	W15 (b) 285	D12 (w) 126	L8 (b)	2½	1981 (254)	1791	
23	ALEXANDER KISLUKHIN	U	W25 (w)	L14 (b)	W28 (b)	H---	L9 (w)	2½	1967 (1967)	1966	
24	NM DMITR KISHINEVSKY	2020	W26 (b)	D1 (w) 177	L13 (b)	D21 (w)	L12 (b)	2	1931 (-89)	2006	
25	DANIEL MARMER	1952	L23 (b)	D33 (w)	D34 (b)	W32 (w)	L11 (b)	2	1769 (-183)	1923	
26	JEFFREY BAFFO	1700	L24 (w)	L18 (b)	B---	W28 (w) 215	L15 (b)	2	1762 (62)	1708	
27	ARIANA E DANI	1693	L15 (b)	L28 (w)	H---	D31 (b) 78	W36 (w)	2	1749 (56)	1701	
28	HENRY WALL KOVACS	1915	L5 (w)	W27 (b)	L23 (w)	L26 (b)	D31 (w)	1½	1736 (-179)	1883	
29	MARK BRANDAO	1894	D10 (w) 153	L7 (b)	L33 (w)	W36 (b)	L20 (w)	1½	1754 (-140)	1869	
30	KRISH MATHIMARAN	1892	L2 (b)	L6 (b)	L20 (w)	B---	D32 (w)	1½	1715 (-177)	1866	
31	MATTHEW ABRAHAM	1849	H---	L11 (w)	L16 (b)	D27 (w)	D28 (b) 33	1½	1692 (-157)	1826	
32	JOHN SCHOENKE	1849	D7 (w) 146	D22 (b)	L10 (w)	L25 (b)	D30 (b) 21.5	1½	1823 (-26)	1842	
33	DUSTIN P FERGUSON	1747	L14 (w)	D25 (b) 102.5	W29 (b) 147	L16 (w)	L17 (b)	1½	1785 (38)	1755	
34	SANDEEP MATHEW	1660	L12 (w)	W17 (b) 257	D25 (w) 146	L9 (b)	L19 (w)	1½	1782 (122)	1681	
35	SHANKAR PARASURAM	1601	B---	D10 (b) 299.5	L6 (w)	L18 (b)	U---	1½	1823 (222)	1611	\$85.00 : Premier Top Upset
36	COLE STRONG	1617	L9 (b)	D16 (w) 159.5	L17 (b)	L29 (w)	L27 (b)	½	1564 (-53)	1601	

DCC Fall Classic 2025 Cross-tables **U1900**

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Perf.	Est. Post	Prize
1	LAURENCE ROB WUTT	1800	W16 (b)	W11 (w)	H---	W9 (w) 12	W2 (b) 2	4½	2212 (412)	1870	\$510.00
2	KENZIE MOORE	1802	W19 (w)	W6 (b)	W7 (w)	W3 (b) 31	L1 (w)	4	1970 (168)	1831	\$382.50
3	AARON GINDI	1833	D14 (b)	W21 (w)	W15 (b)	L2 (w)	W8 (w)	3½	1825 (-8)	1834	\$127.50
4	ASHWIN MATHIMARAN	1768	W17 (w)	L7 (b)	W19 (w)	W13 (b)	D5 (w) 58.5	3½	1860 (92)	1784	\$127.50
5	VEDANTH PEESAPATY	1885	L11 (b)	W14 (w)	W10 (b)	D7 (w)	D4 (b)	3	1788 (-97)	1867	
6	NICK HVIZDA	1718	W20 (b)	L2 (w)	D8 (b) 53.5	D14 (b)	W18 (w)	3	1735 (17)	1721	
7	KAavya SAKTHISARA-VANAN	1684	W23 (b) 153	W4 (w) 84	L2 (b)	D5 (b) 100.5	D10 (w) 17.5	3	1883 (199)	1737	
8	ANTHONY R WHITT	1825	L15 (w)	W17 (b)	D6 (w)	W20 (w)	L3 (b)	2½	1643 (-182)	1793	
9	CHRISTOPH KISICKI	1812	W24 (b)	W10 (w)	H---	L1 (b)	U---	2½	1846 (34)	1815	
10	WILLIAM L WOLF	1719	W18 (w)	L9 (b)	L5 (w)	W21 (b)	D7 (b)	2½	1658 (-61)	1708	
11	LUCAS VAZQUEZ	1703	W5 (w) 182	L1 (b)	H---	U	W14 (w)	2½	1917 (214)	1731	
12	ANDREW ROBICHAUD	1532	L13 (w)	L19 (b)	H---	W22 (w)	W20 (b)	2½	1501 (-31)	1528	
13	HANS KRULL	1755	W12 (b)	L15 (w)	W18 (b)	L4 (w)	U---	2	1612 (-143)	1731	
14	WYATT BACKHOUSE	1665	D3 (w) 84	L5 (b)	W21 (b)	D6 (w) 26.5	L11 (b)	2	1627 (-38)	1658	
15	MATT BAIRD	1636	W8 (b) 189	W13 (b) 119	L3 (w)	U---	U---	2	1938 (302)	1693	\$85.00 Upset
16	NEEL YADATORE	1603	L1 (w)	L20 (b)	W17 (w)	L18 (w)	W22 (b)	2	1422 (-181)	1566	
17	NIALl RIAN CASE	1560	L4 (b)	L8 (w)	L16 (b)	B---	W21 (w)	2	1448 (-112)	1538	
18	COLIN SCHAUB	1512	L10 (b)	W24 (w) 106	L13 (w)	W16 (b) 91	L6 (b)	2	1603 (91)	1534	
19	JAMES W NEWBY JR.	1615	L2 (b)	W12 (w)	L4 (b)	H---	U	1½	1568 (-47)	1608	
20	ZEPHYR ZINK	1467	L6 (w)	W16 (w) 136	H---	L8 (b)	L12 (w)	1½	1470 (3)	1465	
21	QUINN LEDUC	1394	B---	L3 (b)	L14 (w)	L10 (w)	L17 (b)	1	1160 (-234)	1366	
22	SEYAM NAIMI	U	U---	U---	H---	L12 (b)	L16 (w)	½	1132 (1132)	1157	
23	ALEXANDER WANG	1837	L7 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	1284 (-553)	1813	
24	SHAN M OBAIDULLAH	1618	L9 (w)	L18 (b)	U---	U---	U---	0	1112 (-506)	1582	

DCC Fall Classic 2025 Cross-tables **U1600**

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Perf.	Est. Post	Prize
1	CARTER GR EDWARDS	1577	W16 (w)	W15 (b)	W3 (w)	W4 (b) 12	W7 (w)	5	1989 (412)	1642	\$425.00 : U1600
2	CARTER WORCESTER	1289	W6 (b) 149	D12 (w) 91	D11 (b) 103	W16 (w) 113	W4 (w) 300	4	1719 (430)	1486	\$255.00 :
3	DAVID CEASE	942	W14 (b) 469	W5 (w) 557	L1 (b)	W8 (w) 423	W12 (b) 529	4	1705 (763)	1283	\$255.00 :
4	KARTHIKEYA KANNAN	1589	W21 (b)	W20 (w)	W8 (b)	L1 (w)	L2 (b)	3	1492 (-97)	1567	
5	JONATHAN OLSON	1499	D23 (w)	L3 (b)	W17 (w)	W18 (b)	D11 (w)	3	1298 (-201)	1469	
6	JASON WUU	1438	L2 (w)	L23 (b)	W25 (w)	W21 (b)	W16 (w)	3	1395 (-43)	1428	
7	TARUN KARTHIKEYAN	1423	W26 (b)	L18 (w)	W22 (b)	W12 (w) 48	L1 (b)	3	1364 (-59)	1419	
8	RYAN GUPTA	1365	W11 (w) 130	W19 (b) 74	L4 (w)	L3 (b)	W15 (w) 46	3	1456 (91)	1393	
9	SRII RUP BEZAWADA	1353	L12 (b)	W24 (w)	D15 (w) 29	D10 (b) 73.5	W14 (b) 58	3	1466 (113)	1383	
10	RANDOLPH G SCHINE	1500	L22 (b)	D17 (w)	D21 (b)	D9 (w)	W18 (w)	2½	1283 (-217)	1456	
11	PRANAV MALE	1495	L8 (b)	W14 (w)	D2 (w)	D15 (b)	D5 (b) 2	2½	1395 (-100)	1469	
12	JON EISEN	1471	W9 (w)	D2 (b)	W23 (w)	L7 (b)	L3 (w)	2½	1281 (-190)	1431	
13	ERIK KNUDSEN	1438	W24 (b)	W22 (w)	H---	U---	U---	2½	1800 (362)	1464	
14	JAMES LAMORGESE	1411	L3 (w)	L11 (b)	W24 (w)	W22 (b)	L9 (w)	2	1185 (-226)	1362	
15	VIAAN KHADELWAL	1411	W27 (b)	L1 (w)	D9 (b)	D11 (w) 42	L8 (b)	2	1281 (-130)	1382	
16	SAM THOMA NESBITT	1402	L1 (b)	W26 (w)	W19 (w) 37	L2 (b)	L6 (b)	2	1278 (-124)	1374	
17	KARTHIKA SAKTHISARA-VANAN	1330	L19 (w)	D10 (b) 85	L5 (b)	W26 (w)	D21 (w) 36.5	2	1298 (-32)	1324	
18	JARED HALL	925	B---	W7 (b) 498	U	L5 (w)	L10 (b)	2	1341 (416)	997	
19	ADEEL BHATTI	1439	W17 (b)	L8 (w)	L16 (b)	H---	U	1½	1233 (-206)	1404	
20	WILLIAM WHITWORTH	1426	W25 (w)	L4 (b)	H---	U---	U---	1½	1338 (-88)	1418	
21	SIMON STEELE	1403	L4 (w)	D25 (b)	D10 (w) 48.5	L6 (w)	D17 (b)	1½	1229 (-174)	1362	
22	DEAN W BROWN	1400	W10 (w) 100	L13 (b)	L7 (w)	L14 (w)	D25 (b)	1½	1212 (-188)	1355	
23	THWAYNE JOHNSON	1394	D5 (b) 52.5	W6 (w) 44	L12 (b)	U---	U---	1½	1470 (76)	1408	
24	SHRI SHA RAMKUMAR	1133	L13 (w)	L9 (b)	L14 (b)	D25 (w)	W26 (b)	1½	1107 (-26)	1122	
25	CHARLIE KOVACS	1087	L20 (b)	D21 (w) 158	L6 (b)	D24 (b) 23	D22 (w) 156.5	1½	1200 (113)	1112	
26	ELLA ZHANG	1046	L7 (w)	L16 (b)	B---	L17 (b)	L24 (w)	1	733 (-313)	1007	
27	ADRIENNE KMETZ	U	L15 (w)	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	1011 (1011)	1005	

DCC Fall Classic 2025 Cross-tables **U1300**

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total		Prize
1	DATREION LEVERSTON	1190	W26 (w)	W39 (b)	W9 (w)	D10 (w)	W3 (b) 52	4½		\$318.75
2	LANDON WILLIAMS	1159	W27 (b)	W20 (w)	H---	W13 (b) 7	W10 (w)	4½		\$318.75
3	NOAH D KEENE	1242	W25 (w)	W19 (b)	W23 (w)	W7 (b)	L1 (w)	4		\$85.00
4	VERONICA IR PINNA	1062	W30 (w)	W14 (b) 57	H---	W22 (w) 100	D6 (b) 66	4		\$85.00
5	CHRISTOPH LABERGE	695	W18 (w) 386	L23 (b)	W19 (w) 370	W12 (b) 483	W17 (b)	4		\$127.50 :U1000
6	TOM CRABB	1194	L20 (b)	W27 (w)	W21 (b)	W15 (w)	D4 (w)	3½		
7	ANANYA MEDU	1130	W16 (w)	W29 (b)	W17 (w)	L3 (w)	D9 (b)	3½		
8	CHRISTIAN HARDY	1116	W35 (w)	L17 (b)	W26 (w)	W31 (b) 17	D13 (w) 25	3½		
9	BLAKE MORRIS	991	X---	W22 (w) 171	L1 (b)	W23 (b) 142	D7 (w) 69.5	3½		
10	JOHN HOLET	U	W33 (b)	W32 (w)	W12 (w)	D1 (b)	L2 (b)	3½		
11	LAN TRUONG	1239	L15 (b)	W34 (w)	L13 (w)	W32 (b)	W24 (w)	3		
12	HEYMA MANIKHANDAN	1178	W34 (b)	W15 (w)	L10 (b)	L5 (w)	W26 (b)	3		
13	HSET HSET NAING	1166	H---	W36 (w)	W11 (b) 73	L2 (w)	D8 (b)	3		
14	VIVIA W POWERS	1119	W21 (b)	L4 (w)	L20 (b)	W27 (w)	W31 (w) 14	3		
15	SHIRLEY HERMAN	1034	W11 (w) 205	L12 (b)	W35 (w)	L6 (b)	W22 (b) 128	3		
16	EDDIE SHEA	825	L7 (b)	L31 (w)	W34 (b) 77	W39 (w)	W30 (b)	3		
17	BRENDAN MAHONEY	U	W24 (w)	W8 (w)	L7 (b)	W18 (b)	L5 (w)	3		
18	DYLAN ALBE KOVACS	1081	L5 (b)	W28 (w)	W30 (b)	L17 (w)	H---	2½		
19	STEPAN ROSTOVTSEV	1065	W38 (b)	L3 (w)	L5 (b)	D21 (w)	W33 (w)	2½		
20	GERA CRUZ	975	W6 (w) 219	L2 (b)	W14 (w) 144	H---	U	2½		
21	CALEB ALEX WEILER	821	L14 (w)	W24 (b) 235	L6 (w)	D19 (b) 122	W32 (w) 255	2½		
22	ANJALI KANITKAR	1162	W40 (w)	L9 (b)	W29 (w)	L4 (b)	L15 (w)	2		

DCC Fall Classic 2025 Cross-tables U1300 cont.

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total		Est. Post	
23	AN ANDY GIA HOANG	1133	W28 (b)	W5 (w)	L3 (b)	L9 (w)	U---	2		1093	
24	RUSHIITH BEZAWADA	1056	L17 (b)	L21 (w)	W36 (b)	W35 (w)	L11 (b)	2		999	
25	JOHN E ROSE JR	1038	L3 (b)	D37 (w)	W39 (w)	H---	U	2		1007	
26	TYLER AMICK	917	L1 (b)	W38 (w)	L8 (b)	W37 (b)	L12 (w)	2		903	
27	PATRICK BARNETT	845	L2 (w)	L6 (b)	W38 (w)	L14 (b)	W36 (b)	2		849	
28	DAVID PAU GREAVES	840	L23 (w)	L18 (b)	H---	D36 (w)	W37 (b)	2		822	
29	JASMIN T MAHONEY	829	W31 (b) 304	L7 (w)	L22 (b)	L30 (w)	W39 (b)	2		845	
30	NATE FAUDEL	U	L4 (b)	W40 (b)	L18 (w)	W29 (b)	L16 (w)	2		857	
31	MICHAEL DE SEGUIN	1133	L29 (w)	W16 (b)	H---	L8 (w)	L14 (b)	1½		1048	
32	GLEN ANTH HOLGUIN	1076	W37 (w)	L10 (b)	H---	L11 (w)	L21 (b)	1½		1014	
33	ANIRUDH SAIBALAN	1044	L10 (w)	L35 (b)	H---	W40 (w)	L19 (b)	1½		985	
34	FRANK F ATWOOD	902	L12 (w)	L11 (b)	L16 (w)	W38 (b)	D35 (b)	1½		858	
35	MASON DONEY	816	L8 (b)	W33 (w) 228	L15 (b)	L24 (b)	D34 (w) 43	1½		833	
36	DAN M RUPAREL	690	H---	L13 (b)	L24 (w)	D28 (b) 75	L27 (w)	1		674	
37	DAVID KENNEDY	647	L32 (b)	D25 (b) 195 .5	H---	L26 (w)	L28 (w)	1		641	
38	GAVIN M MORRIS	623	L19 (w)	L26 (b)	L27 (b)	L34 (w)	B---	1		586	
39	GERAL FITZGIBBONS	588	B---	L1 (w)	L25 (b)	L16 (b)	L29 (w)	1		557	
40	BENJAMIN SMITH	892	L22 (b)	L30 (w)	H---	L33 (b)	U---	½		832	
41	KEVIN REILLEY	1221	F---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0		1173	

Games from the Denver Chess Club Fall Classic 2025

ROUND 1

KEITH OXMAN 1936 -

LM SULLIVA MCCONNELL 2383

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Bd6
5.g3 Nge7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 f5 8.exd5 exd5
9.d4 f4 10.c4 Ng6 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5
Bxe5 13.Bxd5+ Kh8 14.Nf3 c6 15.Be4
Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Bg4 17.Rd3 fxg3 18.hxg3
Bf6 19.Kg2 Rae8 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Bf4
Kg8 22.Ng5 Re2 23.Rd2 Rxd2 24.Bxd2
Bxb2 25.Rb1 Bd4 26.Bf4 b6 27.Re1 Bf6
28.Ne4 Be7 29.c5 bxc5 30.Bd6 Bf3+
31.Kg1 Bxd6 32.Nxd6 Rd8 33.Ne4 Rd5
34.g4 Re5 0-1



FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2374 -
TANYA GURP PRABHU 1917

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.d4 e6 5.0-0
Nf6 6.c4 dxc4 7.Ne5 Nxd4 8.e3 Nc6
9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Nxf7+
Ke7 12.Nxh8 g5 13.Nc3 Bg7 14.e4 Bxh8
15.e5 Nd5 16.Bxg5+ Kf7 17.f4 Bg7
18.Ne4 Bf8 19.Rac1 Ba6 20.f5 c3
21.fxe6+ Kxe6 22.Rxf8 Rxf8 23.Nxc5+
Kf5 24.bxc3 Be4 25.Bh4 Re8 26.e6 Ne7
27.Nb7 Nc8 28.e7 Ke6 29.Re1+ Kd7
30.Nc5+ Kc7 31.Rd1 Nd6 32.Bf6 Nf5
33.Rd8 Bf7 34.Be5+ Kb6 35.Nd7+ Kb7
36.Rxe8 Bxe8 37.Nf6 Ng7 38.Nxh7 Nf5
39.Nf6 Ng7 40.h4 Bf7 41.h5 1-0

HENRY WALL KOVACS 1915 -
FM HERNÁNDEZ MARQU 2268

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d3 0-0 5.0-0
d6 6.e4 e5 7.c3 a5 8.a4 Re8 9.Re1 Nc6
10.Nbd2 h6 11.h3 Be6 12.Nc4 Nxe4
13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.dxe4 Qxd1 15.Rxd1
Bb3 16.Re1 Rad8 17.Be3 Rd7 18.Nd2 Be6
19.Bf1 Red8 20.Nc4 f5 21.f3 Bf8 22.Kg2
Kh7 23.Kh2 Be7 24.Kg2 h5 25.h4 f4
26.gxf4 Bxh4 27.Re1 exf4 28.Bxf4 g5
29.Be3 g4 30.f4 Rd3 31.Bxd3 Rxd3
32.Rh1 Bxc4 33.Rxh4 Rxe3 34.Rxh5+
Kg6 35.Rg5+ Kf7 36.Rxg4 Rxe4 37.Rh1
Be6 38.Rh7+ Kf6 39.Rh6+ Ke7 40.Kf3
Bd5 41.Kg3 Rxa4 42.Rg7+ Bf7 43.Rxf7+
Kxf7 44.Rh7+ Ke6 45.Rxc7 Nd8 46.f5+
Kxf5 47.Rd7 Rg4+ 48.Kf3 Rg8 49.Rd5+
Ke6 50.Rxa5 Kd6 51.Ke4 Rg4+ 52.Kd3
Ne6 53.b4 Nc7 54.Rc5 b6 55.Rh5 Nd5
56.Rh6+ Kc7 57.Rh7+ Kc6 58.Rh6+ Kb7
59.Rd6 Rg3+ 60.Kc4 Nxc3 61.Rh6 b5+
62.Kc5 Rg5+ 63.Kd4 Na4 64.Rh7+ Ka6
65.Rh6+ Nb6 66.Rf6 Rg3 67.Rh6 Rb3

68.Kc5 Rc3+ 69.Kd4 Rc4+ 70.Kd3 Rxb4
71.Kc3 Rg4 72.Kb3 Ka5 73.Rh7 Rg3+
74.Ka2 Nc4 75.Rh5 Ka4 76.Rf5 b4 77.Rf1
Ra3+ 78.Kb1 Nd2+ 0-1

NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2214 -
CM BRAD LUNDSTROM 1900

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5
5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Nbd7 8.e3 c6
9.Bd3 Nf8 10.Nf3 Be6 11.0-0 Be7
12.Rab1 Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.b4 Nd7
15.b5 c5 16.e4 cxd4 17.exd5 dxc3 18.dxe6
Ndf6 19.exf7+ Kxf7 20.Rfe1 Qc7 21.Ne5+
1-0

MARK BRANDAO 1894 -
LM BRIAN WALL 2200

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.e4 Nxe5
5.f4 Nec6 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.a3 0-0 8.Nf3 Re8
9.b4 Bf8 10.Bd3 a5 11.b5 Ne7 12.0-0 d6
13.Qe1 Nd7 14.Qg3 Nc5 15.Bc2 f5 16.e5
Be6 17.Rd1 Bxc4 18.Be3 b6 19.Qh3 g6
20.Ng5 h6 21.exd6 cxd6 22.Bd4 Re8
23.Rac1 Ne6 24.Nxe6 Bxe6 25.Qe3 Nd5
26.Nxd5 Bxd5 27.Qf2 Be4 28.Bxb6 Qd7
29.Bb3+ d5 30.a4 Bb4 31.Qd4 Kf7
32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.Bxd5+ Qxd5 34.Qxd5+
Bxd5 35.Rxd5 Ke6 36.Rd3 Rc4 37.g3 Bd6
38.Bxa5 Rxa4 39.Bd2 Ra1+ 40.Kg2 Rb1
41.h3 Rxb5 42.g4 Be7 43.Kg3 Bd6 44.Kf3
Bb8 45.h4 fxg4+ 46.Kxg4 h5+ 47.Kf3 Kf5
48.Be3 Ke6 49.Bd2 Bd6 50.Be3 Rb4
51.Bd2 Ra4 52.Be3 Be7 53.Bf2 Bf6
54.Rb3 Ra5 55.Rd3 Ra1 56.Rb3 Bd8
57.Rd3 Be7 58.Rb3 Bd6 59.Rd3 Rf1
60.Kg2 Rc1 61.Kf3 Bc5 62.Bxc5 Rxc5
63.Ke4 Rc4+ 64.Kf3 Rc1 65.Ra3 Rh1
66.Kg3 Rg1+ 67.Kf3 Rg4 68.Ra6+ Kf7
69.Ra7+ Kf6 70.Ra6+ Kg7 71.Ra7+ Kf6
72.Ra6+ Kf5 73.Ra5+ Ke6 74.Ra6+ Kd5
75.Ra5+ Kd4 76.Ra6 Kd3 77.Rd6+ Kc2
78.Rf6 Kd2 79.Re6 Kd1 80.f5 gxf5 81.Re5
Rxb4 82.Rxf5 Kd2 ½-½



NM MATTHEW WOFFORD 2176 -
KRISH MATHIMARAN 1892

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Bb5+
Nc6 6.dxc5 e6 7.b4 Nge7 8.0-0 h6 9.Nbd2
g5 10.Re1 Bg7 11.c3 0-0 12.h3 Bxf3
13.Nxf3 a5 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.h4 g4 16.Nh2
h5 17.f4 Nf5 18.Nf1 Qe7 19.Bd3 Nxh4
20.b5 Na7 21.Be3 Rac8 22.Ng3 Ng6
23.Qe2 Bh6 24.Nxh5 Qh4 25.Nf6+ Kg7
26.Bf2 Nxf4 27.Bxh4 Nxe2+ 28.Rxe2

Rxc5 29.Nxg4 Bf4 30.Rf1 Rxc3 31.Bf6+
Kg8 32.Bb1 Rfc8 33.Rxf4 Rc1+ 34.Rf1
Nxb5 35.Re2 R1c4 36.Ne3 Rc3 37.Rf3
Nd4 38.Rh3 Ne2+ 39.Kf2 Nf4 40.Rh8#1-0

LUCAS VAZQUEZ 1703 -
VEDANTH PEESAPATY 1885

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.d4 d5 5.0-0
0-0 6.Nbd2 c6 7.c4 Re8 8.Re1 Bg4 9.e4
dxe4 10.Nxe4 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nxe4
12.Rxe4 Nd7 13.Bf4 Qb6 14.Qe2 Bxd4
15.Rxd4 Qxd4 16.Rd1 Qf6 17.Rxd7 e5
18.Bh6 e4 19.Bg4 Re7 20.h4 Rxd7
21.Bxd7 Qd6 22.Bh3 Re8 23.Bf4 Qe7
24.Qe3 b6 25.Qc3 f5 26.b4 Rd8 27.Bf1
Qe6 28.Bh6 Rd7 29.a4 Qd6 30.c5 Qd4
31.Qb3+ Kh8 32.Bc1 Rg7 33.Bb2 Qd7
34.Bxg7+ Qxg7 35.cxb6 axb6 36.a5 b5
37.Qe6 Qb7 38.Qe5+ Kg8 39.Qa1 Qa7
40.Be2 e3 41.Qa2+ Kf8 42.Bf3 c5 43.bxc5
exf2+ 44.Qxf2 Qxa5 45.c6 Qc7 46.Qc5+
Ke8 47.Kf2 f4 48.gxf4 Qxf4 49.Qe3+
Qxe3+ 50.Kxe3 Kd8 51.Kf4 h6 52.Be4
g5+ 53.hxg5 hxg5+ 54.Kxg5 b4 55.Kf4 b3
56.Ke3 b2 57.Kd2 Kc7 58.Kc2 1-0



ALEXANDER WANG 1837 -
KAavya SAKTHISARAVANAN 1684

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3
Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.Nf3 h6 8.e3 Bb7
9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nbd7
12.b4 Rc8 13.Rb1 Be4 14.Rb2 c5 15.Ba6
Rc7 16.bxc5 bxc5 17.Nd2 Ba8 18.f3 cxd4
19.Qxd4 Nb6 20.Qh4 Qd6 21.Qf2 Na4
22.Rb4 Qxa6 23.e4 Nc3 24.Bb2 Qe2
25.Qg3 Rc5 26.e5 Qxd2 27.Bxc3 Qxc3
28.exf6 Qxf6 29.Rfb1 Bd5 30.h4 Rfc8
31.Kh2 Kh7 32.Rf4 Qe7 33.Rg4 g6 34.h5
g5 35.Re1 Qc7 36.f4 f5 37.fxg5 fxg4
38.Re5 Rc3 39.Qf4 Rf8 40.g6+ Kg7
41.Qd4 Rf5 42.g3 Qxe5 43.Qxa7+ Rc7 0-1



**ROUND 2**

**LM SULLIVAN MCCONNELL 2383 -
CRAIG WILCOX 2012**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3 e6
5.Ne4 f5 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.dxc3 Be7 8.Bf4 0-
0 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.0-0-0 Qa5 11.Kb1 b5
12.Rg1 Rb8 13.Bg5 Bxg5 14.Nxg5 b4
15.c4 Rb6 16.f4 Ra6 17.a3 bxa3 18.Qxa5
Rxa5 19.b3 Nd4 20.Bd3 h6 21.Nh3 Ra6
22.Ka2 Rd8 23.c3 Nc6 24.g4 Ne7 25.Be2
Bb7 26.g5 Kh7 27.gxh6 gxh6 28.Rd3 Ng6
29.Bh5 Ne7 30.Bf7 Rf8 31.Ng5+ Kg7
32.Ne4+ Kxf7 33.Nxc5 Rb6 34.Rxd7 Rb8
35.Kxa3 Bc6 36.Rxa7 Ra8 37.Rxa8 Bxa8
38.Rd1 Bb7 39.Rd6 Bc6 40.Rxe6 Ra6+
41.Kb2 Ra7 42.Rxh6 Kg7 43.Rf6 Be4
44.Ne6+ Kh7 45.h4 Ng8 46.Ng5+ Kg7
47.Rd6 Nh6 48.h5 Nf7 49.Rg6+ Kh8
50.Ne6 Bf3 51.h6 Bh5 52.Rg7 Ra6 53.Nd4
Nxb6 54.Rb7 Rg6 55.c5 Rg8 56.c6 Rc8
57.b4 Be8 58.b5 Kg8 59.e6 Kf8 60.Rh7
Ng8 61.Nxf5 Rb8 62.c4 Bxc6 63.Rf7+
Ke8 64.Ng7+ Kd8 65.Rf8+ Kc7 66.Rxb8
Kxb8 67.bxc6 Kc7 68.f5 Kxc6 69.Ne8 1-0

**NM DMITR KISHINEVSKY 2020 -
FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2374**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.e3 0-0
5.Be2 d5 6.c4 c5 7.cxd5 Qxd5 8.0-0 Nc6
9.Nc3 Qd7 10.Rc1 Rd8 11.a3 b6 12.b4
cxb4 13.axb4 Nxb4 14.Ne5 Qxd2 15.Qb3
Nfd5 16.Rfd1 Qxb2 17.Qxb2 ½-½

**FM HERNÁNDEZ MARQU 2268 -
EDWARD YASUTAKE 1977**

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6
5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.d4 Bd6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0
Re8 9.c4 c5 10.Be3 Nd7 11.Qc2 Qc7
12.h3 Nf8 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.Nd4 Rxe3
15.fxe3 Bxh3 16.Bf3 Bd7 17.b4 Bd6 18.c5
Be5 19.Bd5 Rd8 20.Rad1 Bg4 21.Nf3 Re8
22.Qc4 Bh5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.Bf3 Bg6
25.Qd4 Qe7 26.Qd6 Rxe3 27.Qxe7 Rxe7
28.Rd8 Bc2 29.Rb8 a5 30.bxa5 Rc7
31.Re1 Ba4 32.c6 bxc6 33.Ree8 g6
34.Rxf8+ Kg7 35.a6 Bb5 36.Rg8+ Kh6
37.Rb7 1-0

SHUBH MISRA 1979 -

NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2214
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4
Nf6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 Ng6 9.Be3
cxd4 10.Nxd4 Ne5 11.Be2 Re8 12.Nd2
Bf8 13.N2f3 Nc4 14.Bxc4 dxc4 15.Nd2

Qd5 16.Qa4 b6 17.Qxc4 Qxc4 18.Nxc4
Ba6 19.b3 Rac8 20.Rac1 Bxc4 21.bxc4
Rxc4 22.Rfd1 Ne4 23.Bd2 Nxd2 24.Rxd2
g6 25.Rd3 Bh6 26.Rcd1 Ra4 27.Nb5 Rxa2
28.Rd7 Ree2 29.Rf1 Be3 30.Rxa7 Rxf2
31.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 32.Kh2 Rxa7 33.Nxa7 f5
34.g4 fxg4 35.hxg4 Kf7 36.Kg2 Bc5
37.Kf3 Kf6 38.Kf4 Bd6+ 39.Ke4 Kg5
40.Kf3 h5 41.gxh5 Kxh5 42.Nb5 Bc5
43.Nc7 g5 44.Nd5 g4+ 45.Kg3 Bd6+
46.Kg2 Bc5 47.Kg3 Kg5 48.c4 Kf5
49.Nc3 Bd6+ 50.Kg2 Bc5 51.Kg3 Bd6+
52.Kg2 Be5 53.Nd5 Bd4 54.Kg3 Bc5
55.Nc3 Bd6+ 56.Kg2 ½-½

ROUND 3

**NM MATTHEW WOFFORD 2176 -
LM SULLIVA MCCONNELL 2383**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3
Bd7 6.Be2 f6 7.0-0 Qc7 8.Bf4 0-0-0 9.Bg3
f5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.b4 Be7 12.b5 Na5
13.Nd4 Nh6 14.Nd2 Kb8 15.Rc1 Ba3
16.Rc2 Bc5 17.f4 Rhg8 18.Bf2 Rc8
19.N2b3 Nxb3 20.axb3 b6 21.b4 Bxd4
22.Bxd4 Nf7 23.Kh1 g5 24.g3 gxf4
25.gxf4 Nh6 26.Ra2 Rg7 27.Qd2 Be8
28.Rfa1 Qd8 1-0



**NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL 2167 -
FM HERNÁNDEZ MARQU 2268**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5
5.Nb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bd3 0-
0 9.0-0 d6 10.f4 a5 11.a4 Nb4 12.Qf3 c6
13.Kh1 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Ne8 15.f5 Bf6
16.Bf4 Qe7 17.Rad1 Be5 18.Bxe5 dxe5
19.Qe3 f6 20.Rd2 Qb4 21.Rfd1 b6 22.Rd8
Bb7 23.R8d7 Rb8 24.Qd3 Bc8 25.Rd8 Ra8
26.Qd2 Qe7 27.h4 Qf7 28.Qc3 Rb8 29.g4
Nc7 30.R8d6 c5 31.Nd2 Ne8 32.Rd8 Nc7
33.Nf3 Re8 34.Kh2 Ba6 35.Rxe8+ Qxe8
36.g5 Rd8 37.Rg1 Kh8 38.Nd1 Qh5
39.Nf2 Bb7 40.Kg3 Ne8 41.Qb3 Rd6
42.g6 Bd5 43.exd5 Qxf5 44.Qd3 Qf4+
45.Kg2 f5 46.Nh3 Rxg6+ 47.Nfg5 Qxh4
48.Qxf5 Rf6 49.Qxe5 Nd6 50.Kh2 h6
51.Ne6 Nf5 52.Qf4 Qh5 53.Nxg7 1-0

**FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2374 -
CM DEAN CLOW 2023**

1.Nf3 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.b4 Bg7
5.Bb2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.d4 Qe8 8.c4 Nbd7
9.d5 Nb6 10.Qb3 e5 11.Nc3 e4 12.Nd4
Qf7 13.a4 Ng4 14.Rad1 Re8 15.c5 Nd7
16.Ne6 Nde5 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.cxd6 c6
19.f4 exf3 20.exf3 Ne3 21.f4 N5c4 22.Ba1
Nxg2 23.Ne4+ Kh6 24.Ng5 Qg8 25.Qxc4

Ne3 26.Qe2 Nxd5 27.Qg2 Nxf4 28.gxf4
Re3 29.Nf7+ 1-0

**NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2214 -
NM DMITR KISHINEVSKY 2020**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5
5.dxc5 Nc6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.g3 Qa5 8.Bg2
Qxc5 9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.Qxc3 d5 11.Nd2 Ng4
12.0-0 Nd4 13.Bf3 Ne5 14.Kg2 Ndxif3
15.exf3 d4 16.Qb4 Qc6 17.Qb5 Qc7 18.f4
Nd3 19.Qb3 Nc5 20.Qc2 Bd7 21.b4 Ba4
22.Qb2 Nd3 23.Qxd4 Rfd8 24.Qe3 Bc6+
25.Kg1 e5 26.fxe5 Nxe5 27.Bb2 Nd3
28.Bc3 Qd7 29.b5 Bxb5 30.cxb5 Rac8
31.Nb1 Re8 32.Qd4 Qxd4 33.Bxd4 Red8
34.Be3 Ne5 35.a4 g5 36.Na3 b6 37.Rac1
g4 38.Rxc8 Rxc8 39.Rc1 Rd8 40.Nc4
Nf3+ 41.Kg2 h5 42.Nd2 Ne5 43.Rc7 Ra8
44.Re7 Ng6 45.Rd7 Kf8 46.Rd5 h4
47.gxh4 Nxh4+ 48.Kg3 Ng6 49.Kxg4 Ke7
50.h4 Ke6 51.Rg5 Ne5+ 52.Kg3 Rh8
53.Bd4 f6 54.Bxe5 fxe5 55.Nf3 Rc8
56.Rxe5+ Kf6 57.Rg5 Rc3 58.Rg4 Rc5
59.Rd4 Ke6 60.Kg4 Rc2 61.Rf4 Ke7
62.Nd4 Rc8 63.Nf5+ Ke6 64.Ng7+ Ke7
65.h5 Rc1 66.h6 Rg1+ 67.Kh5 Rh1+
68.Rh4 Rc1 69.h7 Rc8 70.Kg6 Rh8
71.Nf5+ 1-0



**SHANKAR PARASURAM 1601 -
NM DANIEL HERMAN 2168**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4
5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Bg5
h6 9.Bd2 d5 10.exd5 Re8+ 11.Ne2 Bxd2+
12.Qxd2 cxd5 13.0-0 c5 14.Rad1 Qb6
15.c4 d4 16.b3 Bb7 17.Rfe1 Qc6 18.f3
Ng4 19.Be4 Rxe4 20.fxe4 Ne3 21.Ng3
Nxd1 22.Rxd1 Re8 23.Re1 Qg6 24.b4
cxb4 25.Qxd4 a5 26.Qd7 Qb6+ 27.Kh1
Rd8 28.Qa4 Bc6 29.Qc2 Qd4 30.Nf5 Qe5
31.h3 Kh8 32.c5 Qf4 33.Nd6 Rd7 34.Qe2
Qg3 35.Qe3 Qxe3 36.Rxe3 a4 37.Kg1 Kg8
38.Nc8 Kf8 39.Nd6 Re7 40.Kf2 Re5
41.Ke2 Rxc5 42.Kd2 Bd7 43.e5 Bb5+
44.Kc2 f6 45.Nc4 Rc5 46.Kd3 Rd5 47.Re4
Rxc4 48.Rxc4 b3 49.axb3 axb3 50.exf6
gxf6 51.g4 b2 52.Kc2 Bxc4 53.Kxb2 Bf1
54.h4 Be2 55.g5 fxg5 56.hxg5 h5 57.Kc1
h4 58.Kd2 h3 59.Ke1 h2 60.Kf2 h1Q
61.g6 Qf3+ 62.Kg1 Qg3+ 63.Kh1 Bf3#
0-1

ROUND 4**NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL 2167 -****NM MATTHEW WOFFORD 2176**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3
Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d3 e6 9.0-0
Ne7 10.Qe1 0-0 11.b3 Bd7 12.Bb2 Nc6
13.e5 d5 14.Ba3 Nb4 15.Bxb4 cxb4
16.Ne2 Qe7 17.Ned4 a5 18.Qe3 Ra6
19.Rae1 Rc8 20.Re2 a4 21.g4 Kh8 22.Rg2
f6 23.exf6 Bxf6 24.Ne5 axb3 25.axb3 Rf8
26.Rgf2 Be8 27.g5 Bg7 28.f5 gxf5
29.Nxf5 Rxf5 30.Rxf5 d4 31.Qe4 Kg8
32.Rf6 Ra5 33.Ng4 Bg6 34.Rxe6 Qd7
35.Rxg6 hxg6 36.Qxg6 Kh8 37.Re1 Ra8
38.Qh5+ Kg8 39.g6 Ra6 40.Qh7+ Kf8
41.Rf1+ Ke8 42.Qg8+ 1-0

**CM RHETT LANGSETH 2141 -****FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2374**

1.e4 c5 2.d3 b5 3.a4 b4 4.c4 g6 5.Be3 e5
6.Nd2 Nc6 7.Nb3 d6 8.Be2 Bg7 9.Bg4
Bb7 10.h4 h5 11.Bh3 Bh6 12.Qd2 Bxe3
13.Qxe3 Nh6 14.Qg3 Qe7 15.Nf3 a5 16.0-0
Kd8 17.Ng5 Ng4 18.Bxg4 hxg4 19.Qxg4
Be8 20.Qg3 f6 21.Nf3 Qh7 22.d4 cxd4
23.Nfxd4 exd4 24.Qxd6+ Bd7 25.Qxf6+
Kc7 26.Qf4+ Kc8 27.g3 g5 28.Qxg5 Rg8
29.Qd5 Re8 30.Qb5 Rb8 31.Qa6+ Kc7
32.Nxa5 Rb6 33.Qb5 Rxb5 34.axb5 Ne5
35.Nb3 Nf3+ 36.Kh1 Nxb4 37.Ra7+ Kd8
38.Rfa1 Qxe4+ 39.Kg1 Qg2# 0-1

LM SULLIVA MCCONNELL 2383 -**NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2214**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nge2 a6 4.a4 Nc6 5.g3
Nf6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 cxd4
9.Nxd4 Qc7 10.Nb3 d6 11.f4 Rd8 12.Be3
b6 13.Qe2 Rb8 14.Kh1 Na5 15.Nd2 Bb7
16.Nc1 d5 17.e5 Nd7 18.Nf3 Nc4 19.Bd4
Be5 20.e3 Bf8 21.b3 Na5 22.Nbd2 Nc6
23.Bg1 Ne7 24.Rfc1 Rbc8 25.Nd4 Qb8
26.b4 Rc7 27.Be3 Rdc8 28.Qd3 Nc6
29.N4b3 Ne7 30.Nf3 Nf5 31.Bd2 Rc4
32.a5 b5 33.g4 Ne7 34.Nbd4 Qc7 35.Re1
Ng6 36.Ra3 Be7 37.Qe3 Qd8 38.Bf1 R4c7
39.Bd3 Ngf8 40.Kg1 Nb8 41.f5 Nc6
42.Rf1 Nxd4 43.Nxd4 h6 44.Qf2 Bh4
45.Qe2 Bg5 46.Be1 Bh4 47.f6 Bxe1
48.Qxe1 Nh7 49.h4 Qf8 50.Qg3 g6 51.Bb1
Kh8 52.Qe3 1-0

FM HERNÁNDEZ MARQU 2268 -**SIKAN BAKER-NAGAR 2044**

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 Be7
5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 a5 7.0-0 a4 8.a3 Nc6 9.e5
Nd7 10.Re1 f6 11.d4 fxe5 12.dxe5 Nc5

13.h4 Qe8 14.Nf1 Ne4 15.Be3 Na5
16.N1d2 Nxd2 17.Nxd2 c5 18.c4 d4
19.Bg5 Bd7 20.Rc1 Bxg5 21.hxg5 Qg6
22.f4 Bc6 23.Be4 Bxe4 24.Nxe4 Nb3
25.Rc2 Rad8 26.Qd3 Qf5 27.Rd1 Rd7
28.Nd6 Qxd3 29.Rxd3 Na5 30.Ne4 b6
31.Kg2 Kf7 32.g4 Kg6 33.Kg3 Rdf7
34.Rf3 d3 35.Rc3 Nb3 36.Rcxd3 Nd4
37.Rf2 Rxf4 38.Rxf4 Ne2+ 39.Kf3 Nxf4
40.Rd6 Nh3+ 41.Kg3 Nxb5 42.Nxg5 Kxg5
43.Rxe6 Rf4 44.Re7 Rxg4+ 45.Kf3 Rxc4
46.Rxg7+ Kf5 47.Rxh7 Kxe5 48.Rb7 Rf4+
49.Ke3 Rf6 50.Ra7 Kd5 51.Rxa4 Rh6
52.Kd2 Rh2+ 53.Kc3 Rh3+ 54.Kc2 Rf3
55.Rh4 Rg3 56.a4 Kc6 57.Rh7 Rg4 58.b3
Rg2+ 59.Kc3 Rg3+ 60.Kc2 Rg2+ 1/2-1/2

**LM BRIAN WALL 2200 -****CM DEAN CLOW 2023**

1.Nc3 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.d3 Nf6 4.dxe4 d6
5.e5 dxe5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.Nf3 Be6
8.Nxe5 Nbd7 9.Nf3 c6 10.Be2 Nd5
11.Bd2 Bf5 12.Nd4 Bg6 13.Ne6+ Kc8
14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Bf3 1-0

NM DANIEL HERMAN 2168 -**JASON NIGATU 2021**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0
d6 6.Re1 c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8
9.Be3 Nd5 10.Bc1 Nc6 11.c3 h6 12.Na3
Be6 13.e4 Nb6 14.Be3 Na4 15.Re2 Rac8
16.h4 b5 17.e5 b4 18.cxb4 cxb4 19.Nc2
Bc4 20.Ree1 Nxb2 21.Ncd4 Na5 22.e6 f5
23.h5 Nd3 24.Red1 Nc6 25.Nxc6 Rxc6
26.Rac1 Rdd6 27.Rc2 Be3 28.Nd4 Ra6
29.hxg6 Nb2 30.Rxc3 bxc3 31.Rc1 Ra3
32.Nxf5 Rxe6 33.Bd4 Rxg6 34.Nxe7+ Kf7
35.Nxg6 Kxg6 36.Rxc3 Rxc3 37.Bxc3
Na4 38.Be4+ Kf7 39.Bd2 Kg7 40.a3 Nb6
41.Bc3+ Kf7 42.Bd4 Be6 43.f4 Kg8
44.Kf2 Nc4 45.Be5 a5 46.Ke2 Bf7 47.Kd3
Nb2+ 48.Kd4 Na4 49.Bd5 Bxd5 50.Kxd5
Nc3+ 51.Ke5 Kf7 52.f5 h5 53.Kf4 Ne2+
54.Kf3 Nc3 55.Bd4 Nb5 56.Bb2 Nd6
57.Kf4 Nc4 58.Bc3 a4 59.Kg5 Nd6
60.Bb4 Ne6+ 61.Kf4 Nf6 62.Bd6 Nd5+
63.Kg5 Nf6 64.Be5 Ng4 65.Bd4 Nh2
66.Kxh5 Nf3 67.Bc3 Ng1 68.g4 Ne2
69.Be5 Nc1 70.g5 Nd3 71.g6+ Kg8
72.Bd6 Nf2 73.f6 1-0

ROUND 5**FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2374 -****NM GRIFFIN MCCONNELL 2167**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7
5.d3 c5 6.c4 0-0 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nc3 Nc6

9.Bd2 b6 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Rc1 Bf6
12.Qc2 Bg4 13.Qa4 Qd7 14.b3 Rad8 15.h3
Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Nd4 17.Bg4 Qxa4 18.bxa4
Nc6 19.a5 Ne5 20.Rb1 Nxb4 21.hxg4 Rd6
22.Rb5 Rc8 23.Rc1 Bd8 24.axb6 axb6
25.a4 Rdc6 26.d4 Be7 27.Kg2 cxd4
28.Rxc6 Rxc6 29.Rxd5 Rc4 30.Rd7 Kf8
31.Ra7 f6 32.Kf3 Rc2 33.Bf4 Ra2 34.Ra6
Bc5 35.g5 Kf7 36.gxf6 gxf6 37.Bc7 Rb2
38.Bd8 h5 39.a5 bxa5 40.Rxf6+ Kg7
41.Rf5 Rc2 42.Bxa5 Kg6 43.Rd5 Ba7
44.Bb4 Rc4 45.Bd2 Rc2 46.Bf4 Rc3+
47.Ke4 1-0

NM DANIEL HERMAN 2168 -**LM SULLIVA MCCONNELL 2383**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.cxd5 Bxf3
5.gxf3 Qxd5 6.e3 e5 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2
Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qd6 10.Qb3 b6 11.d5 Nb8
12.Bb5+ c6 13.dxc6 Nxc6 14.Rd1 Nge7
15.Bc1 Qf6 16.Ke2 0-0 17.Ba3 Na5
18.Qb4 Nf5 19.Qe4 g6 20.Bxf8 Rxf8
21.Rd5 Rc8 22.Qxe5 Qxe5 23.Rxe5 Rxc3
24.Rd1 Nb7 25.Rd7 Nc5 26.Rxa7 Rc2+
27.Kf1 Kg7 28.a4 Rc1+ 29.Kg2 Nh4+
30.Kg3 Nf5+ 31.Rxf5 gxf5 32.Be8 Rg1+
33.Kf4 Kf6 34.Rxf7+ Ke6 35.e4 fxe4
36.fxe4 Rg8 37.Rxh7 Rxe8 38.Rh6+ Kf7
39.Rxb6 Rxe4+ 40.Kf5 Rxa4 41.Rb5 Ne4
42.Rb7+ Ke8 43.Rh7 Nxf2 44.h4 Ne4
45.Ke6 Ra6+ 46.Ke5 Nf6 47.Rb7 Nd7+
48.Kf5 Ra5+ 49.Kg6 Nf8+ 50.Kf6 Ra6+
51.Kf5 Ng6 52.h5 Ne7+ 53.Kg5 Kf8 54.h6
Rg6+ 55.Kh5 Rg1 56.Rb2 Kf7 57.Rf2+
Ke6 58.Rf8 Ng6 59.Ra8 Kf5 60.Ra5+ Ne5
61.Kh4 Rh1+ 62.Kg3 Rxh6 63.Ra8 Rg6+
64.Kf2 Rg5 65.Ra4 Ke6 66.Ra6+ Kd5
67.Ra5+ Kd4 68.Ra4+ Nc4 69.Ra8 Rf5+
70.Ke2 Nb6 71.Rh8 Rf4 72.Re8 Nd5
73.Rd8 Rf7 74.Re8 Nc3+ 75.Ke1 Ne4
76.Ra8 Nc3 77.Rd8+ Kc4 78.Kd2 Nd5
79.Rh8 Rf2+ 80.Ke1 Ra2 81.Rd8 Kd4
82.Rh8 Nf6 83.Rh4+ Ne4 84.Rh8 Nf2
85.Rd8+ Ke3 86.Re8+ Ne4 87.Kd1 Rf2
88.Kc1 Kd4 89.Rd8+ Kc5 90.Kd1 Nc3+
91.Ke1 Re2+ 92.Kf1 Rc2 93.Rd7 Nd5
94.Ke1 Kc4 95.Rd8 Kd4 96.Rh8 Ke4
97.Re8+ Kd3 98.Rd8 Ke3 99.Re8+ Kf3
100.Kd1 Rh2 101.Kc1 Ne3 102.Re7 Kf4
103.Re8 Re2 104.Re7 Kf3 105.Rf7+ Kg2
106.Rf8 Kg3 107.Rf7 Kg4 108.Rf8 Kg5
109.Ra8 Kf6 110.Rh8 Rg2 111.Re8 Rg1+
112.Kb2 Ke5 1/2-1/2

NM MATTHEW WOFFORD 2176 -**LM BRIAN WALL 2200**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Rc8 8.f3 a6
9.Be2 e6 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.Nb3 0-0 12.Bf4
Ne5 13.g4 Bc6 14.a4 Nc3 15.fxg4 Nxe4
16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Bd3 Bxh1 18.Rxh1 e5
19.Be3 d5 20.Kb1 b5 21.a5 Rc6 22.Rd1
Qd6 23.Qg2 d4 24.Bf2 Rd8 25.Bg3 Rc7
26.Qe4 Bf6 27.g5 Bxg5 28.Bxe5 1-0



**KEITH OXMAN 1936 -
FM HERNÁNDEZ MARQU 2268**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 Bb7 9.axb5 axb5 10.Rxa8 Bxa8 11.c3 d5 12.d3 dxe4 13.dxe4 Qxd1 14.Bxd1 Rd8 15.Bc2 b4 16.Nbd2 Nd7 17.Nc4 f6 18.Ne3 Nc5 19.Nd5 b3 20.Bb1 Bd6 21.Nh4 Na5 22.Rd1 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Nc4 24.Nf5 Ra8 25.Nxd6 cxd6 26.Bd3 Nxd3 27.Rxd3 Ra1 28.Rd1 Nxb2 29.Rf1 Nd3 0-1

**CM RHETT LANGSETH 2141 -
CM BRAD LUNDSTROM 1900**

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.Be2 Ne7 6.c4 0-0 7.0-0 d4 8.c5 Bc7 9.Nc4 Ng6 10.b4 b5 11.cxb6 axb6 12.Bd2 f5 13.Qb3 Kh8 14.Ng5 f4 15.Nxb6 Bxb6 16.Nf7+ Rxf7 17.Qxf7 Ra7 18.Qc4 Qf6 19.a4 Be6 20.Qc2 Nh4 21.Qd1 Qg6 22.g3 Rf7 23.Bh5 Qg5 24.Bxf7 Bxf7 25.Kh1 Bh5 26.gxh4 Qxh4 27.f3 g5 28.Qe1 Qh3 29.Qf2 g4 30.Qg2 Qxg2+ 31.Kxg2 gxf3+ 32.Rxf3 Bxf3+ 33.Kxf3 1-0

**SIKAN BAKER-NAGAR 2044 -
RYAN HAJJALI 1727**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.0-0 Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.h3 g6 7.c3 a6 8.Bf1 e5 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bg7 11.d5 Ne7 12.Qb3 b5 13.Qa3 Qc7 14.Bd2 0-0 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Qxe7 Rfe8 17.Qa3 a5 18.Rc1 Qb8 19.Qf3 b4 20.Bg5 Nh5 21.Nd2 Bf8 22.Nc4 Bb5 23.Be3 Bxc4 24.Rxc4 Bd6 25.Rac1 Ra6 26.g3 Ra8 27.h4 Qd8 28.Rc6 Ng7 29.Bg5 Qd7 30.Kh2 f5 31.Bh3 Rec8 32.exf5 gxf5 33.Bf6 e4 34.Rxc8+ Rxc8 35.Rxc8+ Qxc8 36.Qxe4 Nh5 37.Bd4 Nxd3 38.fxd3 1-0

**KENZIE MOORE 1802 -
LAURENCE WUTT 1800**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.d3 e5 6.Nc3 Nge7 7.a4 0-0 8.Bc4 d6 9.h3 Kh8 10.Ng5 Qe8 11.Nb5 Qd8 12.Nxf7+ Rxf7 13.Bxf7 a6 14.Nc3 Qf8 15.Bc4 Qf6 16.f4 Qh4 17.Qe1 Qh5 18.Qe2 Qh4 19.Qf2 Qh5 20.Qf3 Qh4 21.fxe5 Nxe5 22.Qf8+ Bxf8 0-1

**ASHWIN MATHIMARAN 1768 -
VEDANTH PEESAPATY 1885**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 Qb6 4.Nc3 e5 5.Be3 Qxb2 6.Nce2 Bb4+ 7.Kf2 dxe4 8.Rb1 Qa3 9.dxe5 exf3 10.Nxf3 Ne7 11.Qd4 c5 12.Qd3 Qxa2 13.c3 Bf5 14.Qb5+ Nd7 15.Rc1 a6 16.Qxb7 Rb8 17.Qc7 Nd5 18.Qd6 Rb6 19.Ra1 Qb3 20.Nd2 Bxc3 21.Nxb3 Rxd6 22.Nxc3 Nxe5 23.Bxc5 Nxc3 24.Bxd6 Ne4+ 25.Ke1 Nxd6 26.Rxa6 Ke7 27.Nd4 Bd7 28.Be2 Rb8 29.Kf2 Rb4 30.Nf3 Ng4+ 31.Kf1 Rb1+ 32.Ne1 Nf5 33.Bxg4 Ne3+ 34.Ke2 Nxd4 35.Kd2 Rb7 36.Nd3 Be6 37.h3 Nf6 38.Rha1 Nd7 39.Ra7 Rb5 40.R7a5 Rb3 41.R5a3 Rb5 42.Ra5 ½-½

**CARTER EDWARDS 1577 -
TARUN KARTHIKEYAN 1423**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Kf1 d5 8.Qa4 dxe4 9.Ne5 Qxd4 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bxc6+ Kf8 12.Be3 Ba6+ 13.Kg1 Qc4 14.Na3 Bxa3 15.Qxa3+ Ne7 16.Bxa8 f6 17.Rc1 Qe6 18.Rxc7 Kf7 19.Bd5 Qxd5 20.Qxe7+ Kg6 21.Qxg7+ Kf5 22.Rc5 Rd8 23.Rxd5+ Rxd5 24.Qxh7+ Ke5 25.Qe7+ Kf5 26.g4+ Kxg4 27.Qe6+ Rf5 28.h3+ Kh4 29.Qxe4+ Rf4 30.Qxf4+ Kh5 31.Qg4# 1-0

**CARTER WORCESTER 1289 -
KARTHIKEYA KANNAN 1589**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qf6 5.Nxc6 Qxc6 6.Bd3 Bc5 7.0-0 d6 8.Nc3 Qd7 9.Re1 Ne7 10.Bg5 Ng6 11.Qe2 Ne5 12.h3 c6 13.Na4 Bb6 14.Nxb6 axb6 15.f4 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 0-0 17.a3 f6 18.Bh4 Qe6 19.Rad1 f5 20.Qxd6 Qxd6 21.Rxd6 fxe4 22.Rxe4 Bf5 23.Re7 Rf7 24.Rxf7 Kxf7 25.g4 Bxc2 26.Rd7+ Kg8 27.Rxb7 b5 28.Bf2 Rd8 29.Be1 Rf8 30.Rc7 Be4 31.Bc3 Rf7 32.Rc8+ Rf8 33.Rxf8+ Kxf8 34.Kf2 g6 35.Ke3 Bc2 36.Kd4 Ke7 37.Ke5 Kf7 38.f5 g5 39.Bd2 h6 40.h4 Bd1 41.hxg5 hxg5 42.Kd6 Bxg4 43.Bxg5 Bf3 44.Kc5 Be4 45.b3 Bd5 46.a4 Bxb3 47.a5 Bc2 48.a6 b4 49.a7 b3 50.a8Q Bxf5 51.Qb7+ Kg6 52.Qxb3 Kxg5 53.Qg3+ Kf6 54.Kxc6 Be6 55.Kd6 Bf5 56.Qf4 Kg6 57.Ke5 Bc2 58.Qf6+ Kh7 59.Kd6 Bg6 60.Ke7 Kh6 61.Qh4+ Kg7 62.Qg5 Kh8 63.Kf8 Kh7 64.Qh4+ Bh5 65.Qxh5# 1-0



**NOAH D KEENE 1242 -
DATREION LEVERSTON 1190**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 Bc5 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 Ng6 9.Nb3 Be7 10.Nbxd4 Ncxe5 11.b3 Bf6 12.Rb1 Nxf3+ 13.Nxf3 Bf5 14.Ba3 Qxd1 15.Rbxd1 Rfe8 16.e3 Bg4 17.Rd2 c6 18.Nd4 Rad8 19.h3 Bc8 20.Rfd1 Nf8 21.Kh2 Ne6 22.Nxe6 Bxe6 23.Rxd8 Bxd8 24.Bb2 Bb6 25.Bd4 Rd8 26.Bf3 c5 27.Bc3 Rxd1 28.Bxd1 Bc7 29.Bc2 a6 30.a4 Bd7 31.Be4 b5 32.axb5 axb5 33.Bd5 b4 34.Bb2 Kf8 35.Kg2 f5 36.h4 Be8 37.Kf3 Bh5+ 38.Kg2 Bd1 39.e4 fxe4 40.Bxe4 Bxb3 41.Bd5 Bd8 42.Kf3 Bc2 43.Ke3 h5 44.Kd2 b3 45.Be5 Ba5+ 46.Bc3 Bf5 47.Bxa5 b2 48.Bb6 b1Q 49.Bxc5+ Ke8 50.Bd4 Qd3+ 51.Ke1 Qxd4 52.Kf1 Bh3+ 53.Kg1 Bf5 54.Bc6+ Ke7 55.Bd5 Be4 56.Bxe4 Qxe4 57.c5 Ke6 58.c6 Qxc6 59.g4 hxg4 60.h5 Qc5 61.h6 g3 62.hxg7 Qxf2+ 63.Kh1 Qh2# 0-1

**LANDON WILLIAMS 1159 -
JOHN HOLET UNRATED**

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Be2 Bf5 6.0-0 e6 7.a3 c6 8.d4 Be7 9.Bd2 Qc7 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.Bf1 0-0 12.Ne2 Bd6 13.g3 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Nc3 Rad8 17.Qe2 Rfe8 18.Qd1 Qd7 19.Bg5 Qc7 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.cxd3 h6 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Qc2 Bd4 25.Nb5 Qb6 26.Nxd4 Qxd4 27.Qc3 Qd5 28.Rc1 Re2 29.Rc2 Re6 30.d4 Re4 31.Qf3 Re1+ 32.Kg2 Qxd4 33.Qc3 Qd5+ 34.f3 Rd1 35.Re2 Qb5 36.Qc2 Rd8 37.Qe4 c5 38.h4 Kf8 39.Qe7+ Kg8 40.Qxd8+ Kh7 41.Qd2 Qc6 42.Qc2+ g6 43.Qe4 Qb5 44.h5 Kg7 45.hxg6 Qd7 46.gxf7 Qxf7 47.Qe7 Kg6 48.Qxf7+ Kxf7 49.Rc2 b6 50.b4 cxb4 51.axb4 Ke6 52.Kh3 1-0



2025 Winter Springs Open

by Earle Wikle

When I first came to Colorado Springs, I played my first weekend tournament in Colorado at the Winter Springs Open, run by Buck Buchanan in Manitou Springs. I knew Buck from when I first started playing chess back in Ohio. Just after Buck moved to Colorado, he came back to Dayton, Ohio where I played my first rated tournament. Buck was the joy of the occasion with Chuck Unruh and Richard Ling hugging each other at the door of the tournament room when Buck arrived. So when I moved to Colorado and got settled in, I sought out some chess, and low and behold there was Buck Buchanan. Buck always kept an interest in the Dayton Chess club in Ohio, and eventually he saw me become the president of the club and 6 time champion. So when I arrived in Colorado, Buck already knew of me and vaguely remembered me being introduced to him by Chuck Unruh at my first rated tournament. As many of you know Buck health has taken an unfortunate cores, and that is why I will do my best to keep this tournament and the summer tournament going, in honor of my friend Buck Buchanan.

The Open – June section was won by FM Gunnar Andersen with 4 points. A three way tie for second and third between, NM Eamon Montgomery, CM Rhett Langseth (Now NM, Congrats), and CM Craig Wilcox. In the U1800 – July section, Nick Hvizda won first with 4 points, and a three way tie for second and third between, Tristan Cruz, James Lamorgese, and Lincoln Mott. In the U1400 – August Section, Arjun Yarlagadda won first with 4 points, second place with 3.5 points was won by Brendan Mahoney, and third place was a tie between, Nathaniel Heithoff and Gerardo Cruz. It was a fun filled weekend of chess with blitz tournaments and the classical tournament. I look forward in continuing the tradition in Colorado Springs.



Buck Buchanan (2019)



2025 Winter Springs Open Cross tables

OPEN

1 FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN	2375	W20 (b)	W3 (w)	W5 (b)	W2 (w) \$360.00 : 1st
2 NM EAMON MONTGOMERY	2202	W21 (w)	W16 (b)	W6 (w)	L1 (b) \$130.00 : 2nd
3 CM RHETT LANGSETH	2142	W13 (w)	L1 (b)	W4 (w)	W10 (b) \$130.00 : 2nd
4 CRAIG WILCOX	1999	W14 (w)	X---	L3 (b)	W12 (w) \$130.00 : 2nd
5 NM DANIEL HERMAN	2188	W8 (b)	W10 (w)	L1 (w)	D7 (b)
6 SHUBH MISRA	2054	W18 (b)	W12 (w)	L2 (b)	D9 (w)
7 JASON NIGATU	1991	L10 (b)	W19 (w)	W14 (b)	D5 (w)
8 CM BRAD LUNDSTROM	1902	L5 (w)	D11 (b)	W13 (w)	W17 (b)
9 SANDEEP MATHEW	1681	L15 (w)	B---	W19 (b)	D6 (b)
10 NEEL YADATORE	1792	W7 (w)	L5 (b)	W17 (w)	L3 (w)
11 WILL EVANS	1733	L16 (b)	D8 (w)	W20 (b)	D14 (w)
12 WILLIAM WOLF	1721	W17 (w)	L6 (b)	W16 (w)	L4 (b)
13 IAN KATZ	1880	L3 (b)	D20 (w)	L8 (b)	W20 (w)
14 CLIFTON FORD	1800	L4 (b)	W21 (b)	L7 (w)	D11 (b)
15 LM RICHA SHTIVELBAND	2223	W9 (b)	F---	U---	U---
16 MARK KROWCZYK	1961	W11 (w)	L2 (w)	L12 (b)	U---
17 SUPREME KING	1938	L12 (b)	W18 (w)	L10 (b)	L8 (w)
18 LAURENCE WUTT	1875	L6 (w)	L17 (b)	B---	U---
19 CHRISTOPHER MOTLEY	2011	H---	L7 (b)	L9 (w)	U---
20 ALEKSAND BOZHENOV	1931	L1 (w)	D13 (b)	L11 (w)	L13 (b)
21 DANIEL MARMER	1906	L2 (b)	L14 (w)	U---	U---

U1800

1 NICK HVIZDA	1708	W17 (b)	W13 (w)	W2 (b)	W4 (w) \$316.00 : 1st
2 TRISTAN CRUZ	1629	W3 (w)	W7 (b)	L1 (w)	W8 (w) \$108.00 : 2nd
3 JAMES LAMORGESE	1431	L2 (b)	W11 (w)	W15 (b)	W7 (w) \$108.00 : 2nd
4 LINCOLN MOTT	1298	B---	W10 (b)	W5 (w)	L1 (b) \$108.00 : 2nd
5 MAX HIGA	1728	W8 (w)	D6 (b)	L4 (b)	W13 (w)
6 RYAN GUPTA	1498	W9 (b)	D5 (w)	L7 (b)	W10 (b)
7 JAKE NGUYEN	1732	W12 (b)	L2 (w)	W6 (w)	L3 (b)
8 WILLIAM NIXON	1457	L5 (b)	W16 (w)	W14 (w)	L2 (b)
9 DREW BANAZEK	1331	L6 (w)	W12 (w)	L11 (b)	W15 (b)
10 ADAM KINSEY	1627	W16 (b)	L4 (w)	D13 (b)	L6 (w)
11 NIAL CASE	1577	L13 (w)	L3 (b)	W9 (w)	D12 (w)
12 AAROH AN ANASPURE	1457	L7 (w)	L9 (b)	W16 (w)	D11 (b)
13 ADEEL BHATTI	1398	W11 (b)	L1 (b)	D10 (w)	L5 (b)
14 SCOTT MASSEY	1725	H---	D15 (w)	L8 (b)	U---
15 JOSE A LLACZA	1702	H---	D14 (b)	L3 (w)	L9 (w)
16 DEAN W BROWN	1400	L10 (w)	L8 (b)	L12 (b)	B---
17 STEVEN GARVERICK	1456	L1 (w)	U---	U---	U---

U1400

1 ARJUN YARLAGADDA	1212	W11 (w)	W14 (b)	W7 (w)	W4 (w) \$272.00 : 1st
2 BRENDAN MAHONEY	1195	W15 (b)	D3 (w)	W10 (b)	W6 (w) \$162.00 : 2nd
3 NATHANIE HEITHOFF	1382	W8 (w)	D2 (b)	H---	W9 (w) \$48.00 : 3rd
4 GERARDO CRUZ	1207	W12 (b)	W16 (w)	W5 (w)	L1 (b) \$48.00 : 3rd
5 DAVID RAND KENT V	1305	D10 (w)	X---	L4 (b)	W8 (b)
6 OWEN MCKEEL	1349	L9 (b)	W13 (w)	W11 (b)	L2 (b)
7 NIVID SINGHAL	1259	W13 (b)	W9 (w)	L1 (b)	U---
8 ANANYA MEDU	1161	L3 (b)	W12 (w)	W16 (b)	L5 (w)
9 LAWRENCE PELO	1153	W6 (w)	L7 (b)	W14 (w)	L3 (b)
10 SHIRLEY HERMAN	1124	D5 (b)	W18 (w)	L2 (w)	D13 (b)
11 MICHAEL DE-SEGUIN	1099	L1 (b)	W15 (w)	L6 (w)	W14 (b)
12 SIDDHISH SUNDARAM	1098	L4 (w)	L8 (b)	W18 (b)	W16 (w)
13 JARED W COBURN	1110	L7 (w)	L6 (b)	W15 (w)	D10 (w)
14 SEAN MATTHEWS	823	W18 (b)	L1 (w)	L9 (b)	L11 (w)
15 DAN M RUPAREL	642	L2 (w)	L11 (b)	L13 (b)	W18 (w)
16 JOHN HARVEY JR.	627	B---	L4 (b)	L8 (w)	L12 (b)
17 ANIRUDH SAIBALAN	982	H---	F---	U---	U---
18 MIHALY TOTH	1200	L14 (w)	L10 (b)	L12 (w)	L15 (b)

Games from the 2025 Winter Springs Open

ROUND 1

**ALEKSAND BOZHENOV 1931 -
FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2375**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.f4 Bg7
5.Nf3 a6 6.a4 e6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.d3 d5 9.Bb3
Rb8 10.Qe1 0-0 11.f5 gxf5 12.Qh4 c4
13.dxc4 dxe4 14.Ng5 h6 15.Nh3 Ng6
16.Qh5 Qh4 17.Nf4 b6 18.Qxh4 Nxh4
19.Nce2 a5 20.Nh5 Ba6 21.Nxg7 Kxg7
22.Be3 Rfd8 23.Rfd1 e5 24.Rxd8 Nxd8
25.g3 Nf3+ 26.Kg2 Ne6 27.Rd1 Rc8
28.Bxb6 Bxc4 29.Nc3 Bxb3 30.cxb3 Ned4
31.Bxa5 Nxb3 32.Bb6 Nfd2 33.Be3 Nc4
34.Bc1 Nxc1 35.Rxc1 Nxb2 36.a5 Nd3
37.Ra1 Rxc3 38.a6 Rc2+ 39.Kg1 Rc8
40.a7 Ra8 41.Kf1 Nb4 42.Ke2 Nc6 43.Ra6
Rxa7 44.Rxc6 Ra2+ 45.Kf1 Rxh2 46.Rd6
e3 0-1

**NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2202 -
DANIEL MARMER 1906**

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Bf5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6
5.Bg5 Bb4 6.e3 c6 7.Qb3 a5 8.a3 Bxc3+
9.bxc3 Ra6 10.c5 b5 11.a4 bxa4 12.Qb7 0-
0 13.Bxa6 Nxa6 14.Qxa6 Qb8 15.Bxf6
Qb2 16.0-0 gxf6 17.Qxa5 Bc2 18.Qb4 Rb8
19.Qxb2 Rxb2 20.Rfc1 Kf8 21.Ne1 Bb3
22.Nd3 Rd2 23.Nb4 Ke8 24.Nxc6 Kd7
25.Na5 e5 26.Nxb3 axb3 27.Rcb1 1-0

**CM BRAD LUNDSTROM 1902 -
NM DANIEL HERMAN 2188**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Na3
b5 6.Nc2 Bb7 7.a4 Nbd7 8.Bd2 e6 9.Na3
c6 10.b3 c3 11.Be1 b4 12.Nc4 c5 13.Be2
Be7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Nfe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5
Qc7 17.Nf3 Rfd8 18.Qc2 Be4 19.Bd3
Bxf3 20.gxf3 cxd4 21.Kh1 Rd5 22.Rg1
Rad8 23.e4 Rh5 24.f4 Rh3 25.Rg3 Rxg3
26.hxg3 Qc6 27.f3 Nd7 28.Ra2 Nc5
29.Kg2 g6 30.Kf2 e5 31.fxe5 Qe6 32.f4
Qxb3 33.Ke2 Qxc2+ 34.Rxc2 b3 0-1

**CM RHETT LANGSETH 2142 -
IAN KATZ 1880**

1.d3 e5 2.e4 Be5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Be2 h6 5.c3
d5 6.b4 dxe4 7.bxc5 exf3 8.Bxf3 Nge7 9.0-
0 Be6 10.Re1 Qd7 11.Na3 a6 12.Be3 Bd5
13.d4 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 0-0 15.dxe5 Nf5
16.Bf4 Qe6 17.Qe4 g5 18.g4 Nh4 19.Bg3
Ng6 20.Nc4 Rae8 21.Rab1 Nd8 22.Ne3
Ne7 23.Nf5 Nd5 24.Nxh6+ Qxh6 25.Qxd5
c6 26.Qd7 Re6 27.Kg2 Rfe8 28.h4 gxh4
29.Rh1 Qg6 30.Bxh4 Qxg4+ 31.Kf1 Qc4+
32.Kg1 Rg6+ 33.Bg3 Qe6 34.Qd4 Rg4
35.Qd3 Qg6 36.Qxg6+ Rxg6 37.Rd1 Ne6
38.Rb1 Nd8 39.Rh5 Ne6 40.Rxb7 Nxc5
41.Rb6 Ne4 42.Rxa6 Nxc3 43.fxg3 Rxg3+
44.Kf2 Rxc3 45.Ra5 Re6 46.Rh4 Kg7
47.Rg4+ Kf8 1-0

**LAURENCE WUTT 1875 -
SHUBH MISRA 2054**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.0-0 Nge7
5.Re1 a6 6.Bf1 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.c4 Nf6
9.b3 Be7 10.Bb2 0-0 11.d4 cxd4 12.Nxd4
Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Bd7 14.Nc3 Bc6 15.Rad1
Qxd4 16.Rxd4 Bc5 17.Rd2 Rfe8 18.a3 a5
19.Bd3 Rad8 20.Red1 Rd7 21.h3 Red8
22.Kf1 Ne4 23.Nxe4 Bxe4 24.Ke2 Bxd3+
25.Rxd3 Rxd3 26.Rxd3 Rxd3 27.Kxd3
Bxf2 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4 Kf8 30.c5 f6
31.Kc4 Ke7 32.Kb5 Kd7 33.Kb6 Kc8
34.Kb5 Kc7 35.Kc4 b6 36.cxb6+ Kxb6
37.b5 h5 38.Ba3 g6 39.Be7 f5 40.Bd8+
Kb7 41.Bf6 Be3 42.h4 Bf4 43.Bd4 Bg3
44.Bf6 e5 45.Bg5 e4 46.Kd5 Kb6 47.Kc4
f4 48.Bd8+ Kb7 49.Kd4 e3 50.Kd3 Kc8
51.Bg5 Kc7 52.Ke2 Kb6 53.Kd3 Kxb5
54.Be7 Kc6 55.Bd8 Kd5 56.Bf6 Ke6
57.Bd8 Kf5 58.Be7 Kg4 59.Ke2 Bxh4
60.Bd6 Bf2 61.Bb4 Kg3 62.Kf1 f3
63.Bd6+ Kg4 64.Bc7 Bg3 0-1

Round 2

**FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2375 -
CM RHETT LANGSETH 2142**

1.Nf3 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.g3 Nbd7 4.Bg2 e5 5.0-
0 c6 6.c4 e4 7.Ng5 d5 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Nc3
h6 10.Nh3 Bb4 11.f3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 exf3
13.Bxf3 0-0 14.Nf4 Nb6 15.Qb3 Re8
16.a4 Be6 17.a5 Nc4 18.a6 b6 19.Bg2 Rc8
20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Qc2 Rf8 22.Bf4 Qe8
23.e4 Qh5 24.exd5 exd5 25.Bf3 Qf7
26.Rae1 Kh8 27.Be5 Qd7 28.Qg6 Nd2
29.Rf2 Nxf3+ 30.Rxf3 Ng4 31.Rxf8+
Rxf8 32.Bd6 Rf7 33.Qe6 Nf6 34.Be7 Kg8
35.Bxf6 Qxe6 36.Rxe6 Rxf6 37.Re8+ Rf8
38.Re5 Rc8 39.Rxd5 Rxc3 40.Rd7 Rc4
41.Kf2 Ra4 42.Rxa7 Rxd4 43.Rb7 Rd2+
44.Ke3 Ra2 45.Rxb6 Kh7 46.h4 Ra3+
47.Kf4 Ra4+ 48.Ke5 Ra3 49.h5 Rxg3
50.a7 Ra3 51.Rb7 Ra6 52.Kd5 Ra1 53.Kc6
Rc1+ 54.Kd7 Rd1+ 55.Kc8 Rf1 56.Rc7
Ra1 57.Kb8 Rf1 58.a8 Q Rf8+ 59.Rc8 Rf7
60.Qe4+ g6 61.Qxg6# 1-0

**MARK KROWCZYK 1961 -
NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2202**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3
0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8
9.Bg5 Re8 10.0-0-0 h6 11.Bd2 Na6
12.Bd3 c6 13.h3 Nc5 14.Bc2 a5 15.Be3
Bf8 16.Rd2 Nh5 17.g4 Nf6 18.Rhd1 h5
19.g5 Nfd7 20.b3 Nb6 21.Ng1 Ncd7
22.Kb2 Be5 23.Bxc5 Nxc5 24.a3 a4
25.Rd8 Be6 26.Rxa8 Rxa8 27.b4 Nxc4+
28.Kc1 Nb3+ 29.Bxb3 axb3 30.Nb1 Nxa3
31.Nf3 Nc4 32.Rd3 Ra2 33.Nfd2 Rc2+
34.Kd1 Nb2+ 0-1

**NM DANIEL HERMAN 2188 -
NEEL YADATORE 1792**

1.d4 c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.c4 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6
Bxa6 6.Nc3 d6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 g6 9.g3
Bg7 10.Kg2 0-0 11.Nf3 Na6 12.Nd2 e6
13.Nc4 exd5 14.exd5 Nc7 15.Bf4 Ra6
16.Qd2 Qd7 17.h3 Rd8 18.a4 Qf5 19.Ne3
Qd7 20.g4 Rb8 21.Ra2 Rb4 22.Nc2 Rb8
23.Re1 Rab6 24.Na3 Nxc4 25.hxg4
Qxg4+ 26.Bg3 Bxc3 27.bxc3 Qxa4 28.c4
Ra8 29.Raa1 Qd7 30.Nc2 Rxa1 31.Rxa1
Qf5 32.Ne3 Qf6 33.Ra7 Ne8 34.Ng4 Qd8
1-0

**SHUBH MISRA 2054 -
WILLIAM WOLF 1721**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.c4 a6
5.Ba4 g6 6.0-0 e5 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.d3 Bg7
9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Nd5 Qd8
12.Qb3 0-0 13.Bxd7 Bxd7 14.Qxb7 Rb8
15.Qxa6 Bg4 16.Nd2 Rxb2 17.Nb3 Be2
18.Rfb1 Rxb1+ 19.Rxb1 Bxd3 20.Re1 f5
21.exf5 Rxf5 22.Qb7 Rf7 23.Qb6 Qf8
24.f3 e4 25.Nd2 exf3 26.gxf3 Rxf3
27.Nxf3 Qxf3 28.Qd8+ Kh7 29.Qd7 h5
30.Ne3 Be4 31.Qxd6 h4 32.a4 Kh6
33.Qd2 Qh1+ 34.Kf2 Qxh2+ 35.Ng2+ Kh7
36.Rxe4 Qg3+ 37.Kg1 h3 38.Rh4+ Kg8
39.Qd5+ Kf8 40.Qd8+ Kf7 41.Rf4+ Ke6
42.Qe8+ Kd6 43.Qb8+ Kd7 44.Rf7+ Ke6
45.Qxg3 Bd4+ 46.Rf2 g5 47.Qxg5 hxg2
48.Kxg2 Be3 49.Rf6+ Ke7 50.Qg7+ Ke8
51.Rf8# 1-0

**JAKE NGUYEN 1732 -
TRISTAN CRUZ 1629**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7
5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 e5 8.Bg5 h6
9.Be3 Nbd7 10.Rd1 Qe7 11.Nb5 0-0
12.Qg3 Nxe4 13.Qxg6 exd4 14.Rxd4 Ng5
15.Bb3 Kh8 16.Qh5 Nf6 17.Qh4 Nfe4
18.Kd1 a6 19.Bxg5 Nxc5 20.Rg4 axb5
21.f4 f6 22.fxg5 fxg5 23.Qh5 Rae8 24.Rg3
Rf2 25.Bd5 Qe5 26.Rd3 Qxb2 27.Qxe8+
Bf8 28.Ke1 Qxc2 29.Rd1 Rf5 30.Rf1
Qc3+ 31.Ke2 Re5+ 32.Qxe5+ Qxe5+
33.Kf2 c6 34.Bb3 d5 35.Kg1 Be5+ 36.Kh1
Bd6 37.Kg1 Qh2+ 38.Kf2 Be5+ 39.Kf3
Qf4+ 40.Ke2 Qe3# 0-1

**RYAN GUPTA 1498 -
MAX HIGA 1728**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qd2 Be7
9.f3 0-0 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.Nd5 Bxd5
12.exd5 Nb6 13.Qa5 Nbd7 14.Kb1 b6
15.Qb4 a5 16.Qa4 Qc7 17.Bb5 Nc5
18.Nxc5 bxc5 19.c4 Rfd8 20.g4 Nd7 21.h4
Nb6 22.Qc2 Rdb8 23.g5 Nc8 24.h5 Na7
25.a4 Nxb5 26.cxb5 f6 27.g6 h6 28.Qd2
Bf8 29.f4 Re8 30.f5 Rec8 31.Rc1 Raa7
32.Rhg1 Rc7 33.Rg4 Kh8 34.Rcg1 Raa7
35.Qh2 Qb7 36.Qg2 Rd7 37.Qd2 Qb6
38.Qh2 Qc7 39.Qh4 Qd8 40.Qg3 Qa8
41.Qf3 Qb7 ½-½

Round 3**NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2202 - SHUBH MISRA 2054**

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.0-0 e6 5.c4 d4 6.e3 Nc6 7.exd4 cxd4 8.d3 h6 9.a3 a5 10.Re1 Bd6 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Qc2 Re8 13.Rb1 a4 14.b4 axb3 15.Rxb3 Nd7 16.Ne4 Be7 17.g4 Nc5 18.Nxc5 Bxc5 19.g5 h5 20.Qe2 Qe7 21.Nd2 Bxa3 22.Qxh5 Bxc1 23.Rxc1 Ne5 24.Re1 Ng6 25.Be4 Nf8 26.Nf3 Qd6 27.Rb5 g6 28.Qh4 Ra7 29.Ne5 Qe7 30.Ng4 Nh7 31.Nf6+ Nxf6 32.gxf6 Qf8 33.Rh5 gxf5 34.Qg5+ Kh8 35.Qxh5+ Kg8 36.Qh7# 1-0

CM RHETT LANGSETH 2142 - CRAIG WILCOX 1999

1.d3 c5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Nbd2 Qc7 6.a3 d5 7.b4 a6 8.Be2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bb2 Rd8 11.Qc2 b6 12.Rfe1 dxe4 13.dxe4 Bb7 14.b5 axb5 15.Bxb5 Qf4 16.g3 Qc7 17.e5 Ng4 18.c4 Nd4 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Qd3 Nh6 21.a4 Nf5 22.Ne4 Rac8 23.g4 Nh6 24.Nfg5 g6 25.Qh3 Kg7 26.Nf6 Rh8 27.Rad1 Rcd8 28.Rd3 Qc5 29.Qh4 Ng8 30.Ngxf7 Qxe5 31.Rxe5 Bxf6 32.Qg3 Rxf7 33.g5 Bxe5 34.Qxe5+ Kf8 35.Qc7 Rc8 36.Qxb7 Ne7 37.Rxd4 1-0

CLIFTON FORD 1800 - JASON NIGATU 1991

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.Be2 Nc5 9.f3 a5 10.Qd2 Nh5 11.g4 Nf4 12.Bxf4 exf4 13.h4 a4 14.0-0-0 Qf6 15.g5 Qe5 16.Kb1 a3 17.Rc1 axb2 18.Rc2 Bd7 19.Bd1 Nb3 20.Qd3 Nc1 21.Qd2 Nxa2 22.Nge2 Ra3 23.Nxa2 Rxa2 24.Nc3 Ra3 25.Kxb2 Rfa8 26.Qd3 b5 0-1

WILLIAM WOLF 1721 - MARK KROWCZYK 1961

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 c5 4.b4 c4 5.d3 b5 6.a4 bxa4 7.dxc4 Bxb4+ 8.c3 Be7 9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Qxa4+ Bd7 11.Qg4 g6 12.Bc4 Qb7 13.0-0 h5 14.Qf4 Bc6 15.Nbd2 Nd7 16.Ba6 Qc7 17.Nc4 Bxf3 18.Nd6+ Bxd6 19.Qxf3 Rd8 20.exd6 Qxd6 21.Bf4 e5 22.Bg5 f6 23.Bc4 Qe7 24.Be3 e4 25.Qg3 Ne5 26.Rxa7 Qd6 27.Bb5+ Kf8 28.Bc1 h4 29.Qh3 Nd3 30.Bxd3 Qb6 31.Ba3+ Ke8 32.Bb5+ 1-0

Round 4**FM GUNNAR ANDERSEN 2375 - NM EAMON MONTGOMERY 2202**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 a6 4.c4 d6 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 0-0 9.g3 b6 10.Bg2 Bb7 11.0-0 Qc7 12.Rc1 Re8 13.f4 Nbd7 14.Qe2 Rac8 15.g4 Nf8 16.g5 N6d7 17.Kh1 Qb8 18.Qg4 Nc5 19.f5 e5 20.Nc2 Nd3 21.f6 Bd8 22.fg7 Ne6 23.Rxf7 Nef4 24.Qf5 Be7 25.Rf1 Rcd8 26.Nd5 Bxd5 27.exd5 Qc8 28.Ba1 Qxf5 29.Rxf5 Nxg2 30.Kxg2 Nf4+ 31.Kg3 Rc8 32.Nb4 b5 33.Nc6 Bd8 34.Kg4 Bb6 35.h4

Ng2 36.Rf8+ Rxf8 37.gxf8Q+ Rxf8 38.Ne7+ Kg7 39.Rxf8 Kxf8 40.Nf5 Bc5 41.Bc3 bxc4 42.b4 Ne3+ 43.Nxe3 Bxe3 44.Kf3 Bb6 45.a4 Kf7 46.h5 Ba7 47.a5 Bg1 48.Ke4 Ba7 49.Bd2 Bb8 50.Be3 Ke7 51.Bb6 Kf8 52.Ke3 1-0

JASON NIGATU 1991 - NM DANIEL HERMAN 2188

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bc5 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nge2 Nc6 6.0-0 a6 7.d3 d6 8.h3 Be6 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Ne7 11.c4 Nf5 12.Kh2 Re8 13.Nc3 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.Nxb5 Qb8 16.a4 Qb6 17.Qc2 Nd4 18.Nxd4 Bxd4 19.Rb1 Qb4 20.b3 Reb8 21.Bd2 Qb6 22.Be1 Rxa4 23.bxa4 Qxb1 24.Qxc7 Qb6 25.Ba5 Qxc7 26.Bxc7 Ra8 27.Bxd6 Rxa4 28.Be7 Ra2 29.g4 h6 30.Kg3 Rc2 31.d6 Rc3 1/2-1/2

NEEL YADATORE 1792 - CM RHETT LANGSETH 2142

1.e4 d6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 c6 6.Nge2 Be6 7.d3 Qc8 8.h3 0-0 9.Be3 Rd8 10.f4 exf4 11.gxf4 Nh5 12.Bf2 f5 13.Qc2 Rf8 14.Qd2 fxe4 15.Nxe4 d5 16.cxd5 Bxd5 17.0-0 Qc7 18.Be3 Nd7 19.N2c3 Be6 20.Rac1 Nb6 21.Rf3 Rad8 22.Qf2 Bf5 23.Nb5 Qb8 24.Nd4 Nd5 25.Rf1 Bxe4 26.dxe4 Nxe3 27.Qxe3 Bc5 28.Rd1 Qd6 29.Qb3+ Kh8 30.Rfd3 Nxf4 31.R3d2 Bxd4+ 32.Kh1 Qg6 33.Qf3 c5 34.b4 b6 35.a4 Nxg2 36.Qxg2 Qxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Rd6 38.a5 Rg6+ 39.Kh1 h6 40.a6 Rf3 41.Rd3 Rxd3 42.Rxd3 Rg1+ 43.Kh2 Ra1 44.b5 Kg8 45.Kg3 Rb1 46.Kf4 g6 47.e5 Kf7 48.Ke4 Rxb5 49.Kd5 Ra5 50.e6+ Ke7 51.Rg3 g5 52.h4 Rxa6 53.hxg5 b5 54.gxf6 Rd6+ 55.Ke4 Rxe6+ 56.Kd5 Kd7 57.Re3 Rxe3 58.h7 Re5# Kxd4 0-1

SHUBH MISRA 2054 - SANDEEP MATHEW 1681

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Bg4 7.Be3 Nc6 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Be2 Ne8 12.f4 f5 13.Bf3 Bh6 14.Qd2 fxe4 15.Bxe4 Nf5 16.Bxf5 Rxf5 17.g4 exf4 18.gxf5 fxe3 19.Qg2 Kg7 20.fg6 hxg6 21.Rf3 Kh7 22.Raf1 Ng7 23.Rf6 Qe8 24.Nc4 Nf5 25.R6xf5 Bg7 26.Nf6+ Bxf6 27.Rxf6 e2 28.Rf7+ Kh6 29.Re1 Qxf7 30.Qxe2 Rf8 31.Qe3+ Kg7 32.Qe7 Kg8 33.Qxf7+ Rxf7 34.Re6 Kg7 35.Kg2 Rf5 36.Re7+ Rf7 37.Rxf7+ Kxf7 38.Kg3 Kf6 39.Kg4 g5 40.c4 c6 41.dxc6 bxc6 42.b4 d5 43.cxd5 cxd5 44.Kf3 Ke5 45.Ke3 d4+ 46.Kd3 Kf4 47.a4 Kg3 48.b5 Kxh3 49.a5 g4 50.b6 axb6 51.axb6 g3 52.b7 g2 53.b8Q g1Q 54.Qh8+ Kg2 55.Qg7+ Kh1 56.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 57.Kxd4 1/2-1/2

CRAIG WILCOX 1999 - WILLIAM WOLF 1721

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 e6 6.Nc3 axb5 7.dxe6 fxe6 8.Bxb5 Bb7 9.Nf3

Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qe2 d5 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Ng5 Qc8 14.e4 h6 15.exd5 hxg5 16.d6 Nc6 17.dxe7 Re8 18.Bc4 Kf7 19.Nb5 Nd4 20.Nd6+ Kg8 21.Rxd4 Qc6 22.Qxe6+ Kh7 23.Qh3+ Kg6 24.Bd3+ Ne4 25.Bxe4+ Kf6 26.Qf5+ Kxe7 27.Bxg5# Kd8 1-0

NICK HVIKZDA 1708 - LINCOLN MOTT 1298

1.c4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 c6 5.d4 d5 6.Bf4 Be7 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.0-0 Ne4 9.h4 Ndf6 10.Nd2 Nh5 11.Be5 0-0 12.Kh2 Bd6 13.Nf3 Nhf6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Ne5 Ng4+ 16.Nxg4 Nxc3 17.bxc3 fxg4 18.e4 Qa3 19.exd5 exd5 20.cxd5 Qxc3 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.Rc1 Qb2 23.Rc2 Qb4 24.Bxc6 Ba6 25.Bxa8 Bxf1 26.Bd5+ Kh8 27.Qxf1 Qxd4 28.Bg2 Qa4 29.Rd2 Qa5 30.Re2 Qb5 31.Qe1 h6 32.Re5 Qd7 33.Re7 Qb5 34.Rxa7 Qc5 35.Ra8 Rxa8 36.Bxa8 Qc8 37.Bg2 Qg8 38.Qb1 Qf8 39.Qb2 Kh7 40.a4 h5 41.a5 Qc8 42.Qb6 g5 43.Be4+ Kg7 44.Qb7+ Qxb7 45.Bxb7 gxf4 46.a6 hxg3+ 47.fg3 h4 48.a7 hxg3+ 49.Kxg3 Kf6 50.a8Q Ke5 51.Qa5+ Kd4 52.Qd5+ Ke3 53.Qe4+ Kd2 54.Qd4+ Ke2 55.Ba6+ Ke1 56.Qf2+ Kd1 57.Bd3 Kc1 58.Qc2#1-0

JAMES LAMORGESE 1431 - JAKE NGUYEN 1732

1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 d5 5.Nbd2 Bd6 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 b5 9.e5 Be7 10.Nf1 Ng6 11.d4 Bb6 12.c3 Qc7 13.h4 f6 14.h5 Nge7 15.Bf4 g5 16.hxg6 Nxg6 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.exf6 Rxf6 19.Bg5 Rf7 20.N1h2 h5 21.Qd3 Nce7 22.Ne5 Rf5 23.Bxe7 Nxe7 24.Qxb5 cxd4 25.cxd4 Bxd4 26.Qe8+ Kg7 27.Nef3 Bxb2 28.Rab1 Ba3 29.Nd4 Rf6 30.Qxh5 Bd7 31.Ng4 Be8 32.Nxf6 Bxh5 33.Nxe6+ Kxf6 34.Nxc7 Rd8 35.Re6+ 1-0

ARJUN YARLAGADDA 1212 - GERARDO CRUZ 1207

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Bg4 3.h3 Bxf3 4.Qxf3 e5 5.Bc4 Qf6 6.Qb3 b6 7.Nc3 c6 8.Nd1 Qg6 9.Ne3 Nd7 10.d3 Nc5 11.Qc3 Ne7 12.b4 Nd7 13.a4 f5 14.exf5 Nxf5 15.Nxf5 Qxf5 16.b5 c5 17.0-0 h5 18.Qd2 Be7 19.f4 Rf8 20.Rf2 Bh4 21.Rf3 0-0-0 22.a5 e4 23.dxe4 Qxe4 24.Bd5 Qf5 25.axb6 Nxb6 26.Bc6 Rf7 27.Qe2 Bf6 28.Raa3 Re7 29.Rae3 Bd4 30.Kh1 Bxe3 31.Rxe3 Rxe3 32.Bxe3 Qf6 33.Bf2 Rf8 34.Bh4 Qf7 35.Be7 Re8 36.Bxe8 Qxe8 37.Qe6+ Kb7 38.Qxd6 Qxb5 39.Qe5 a5 40.Bxc5 Nd7 41.Qd5+ Qc6 42.Qb3+ Kc7 43.Bd4 a4 44.Qd3 Nc5 45.Qe3 Ne6 46.Be5+ Kb7 47.f5 Qc5 48.Qf3+ Ke8 49.fxe6 Qxe5 50.Qc6+ Qc7 51.Qxa4 Kd8 52.Qd4+ Ke8 53.Qd7+ Qxd7 54.exd7+ Kxd7 55.Kh2 h4 56.g3 g5 57.gxf4 gxf4 58.Kg2 Kd6 59.Kf3 Kd5 60.Kg4 Kc4 61.Kxh4 Kc3 62.Kg5 Kxc2 63.h4 1-0

Mindsets Chess in Education Conference in New York City

By John Brezina

The Mindsets Chess in Education conference took place December 6, 2025 in New York city. It was hosted by the National Scholastic Chess Foundation and the Kasparov Chess Foundation and explored the role of chess in education. I was made aware of this conference a year earlier at the St. Louis chess conference. That was such a great experience so I was looking forward to the next one. It is amazing how fast a year goes by when Sunil Weeramantry reached out to me to photograph the event. Such an honor after photographing his "retirement" event earlier this year in New York as well.



It was a ticketed event and sold out as more than 150 educators descended on New York at the beautiful Quorum event center which was next to Rockefeller Center. Anyone that has been to New York in December knows how beautiful it is decorated for the Christmas season. And the center of attention is always the big beautiful Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center overlooking the famed ice rink. Fortunately the weather cooperated through the weekend which allowed for much sight-seeing. In addition to the great lineup of speakers for the conference, a pre-event reception was scheduled the night prior for ticket holders at the Hunter College Campus School where Sunil Weeramantry taught chess for over 40 years.



The Hunter College Campus



Fall's last gasps in Central Park

I made my way walking through Central Park stopping at the Chess & Checkers Club on my way to the Hunter College campus near the northeast side of the park. Hunter is a public school that caters to gifted students through a tough admissions program and excels in many fields including chess of course. The campus is an enormous brick building resembling a castle and was established in 1869. It was my first visit to the school and guests gathered near the auditorium where food and drinks were set up along with chess boards. Everyone mingled and socialized before Sunil took the stage to welcome patrons and some special guests which included Jeff Bulington, Dr. Barry Hymer & Grandmaster Peter Wells amongst others. Hunter principal Dawn Roy joined Sunil onstage and they reminisced about their long relationship at the school where chess is part of the curriculum.

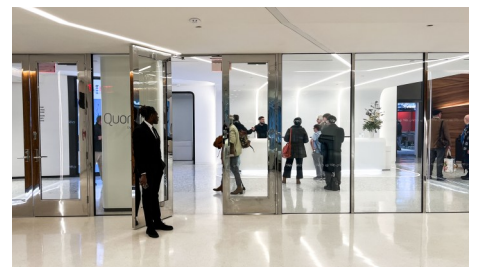


Sunil and principal Dawn Roy onstage



Hunter's full chess trophy case

The conference took place early the next morning with a continental breakfast beforehand which gave people a chance to connect with educators and chess personalities from across the country. It was a first class experience from the time you entered the building and made your way up the escalator to the ultra-modern designed Quorum reception area where the doorman professionally welcomed you. I met the men there that were responsible for this spectacular gathering: Sunil Weeramantry & Robert McLellan from the National Scholastic Chess Foundation along with the President of the Kasparov Chess Foundation Michael Khodarkovsky. A great lineup of speakers were invited including the former world chess champion Garry Kasparov.



The entrance to the Quorum center

A room overlooking the busy New York streets below showcased chess sets from around the world as guests enjoyed their coffee. Many old friends reunited as they gathered before the start of the conference including Sunil's longtime friend Bruce Pandolfini. I made my way into the Grand Hall before the crowd and entered into a stunning conference room with a 270 degree video display overlooking the room with an incredible sound system. The front of the hall had a stage and podium set up with a room full of chairs and tables ready for the guests.



Worldly chess sets above the NY streets



The Grand Hall ready for the conference

Last call on the coffee was made for people to start making their way into the Grand Hall where Robert McLellan was at the podium to start off the day by introducing Sunil & Michael to the stage. They both welcomed everyone to this gathering of chess educators and shared some of their respective foundations work in the chess community. Then the first speaker of the day was introduced, Jeff Bulington, director of the Franklin Chess Center in Meadville Mississippi. He transformed the school by introducing chess to students that had never been exposed to it and showed the power of chess in education. It was so transformative that 60 Minutes did a segment on the chess center that is well worth watching. The Q&A session after his talk was most engaging as it allowed for a greater conversation on chess in education.



Michael Khodarkovsky & Sunil Weeramantry



Jeff Bulington started off the conference

The next panel discussed the philosophy of games and learning through play before taking a short break for coffee. I stayed near Sunil to capture some photos of his long time friends that gathered along with fans of his. Next up was stu-

dent engagement through literacy & improvisation. First to speak was Alan Abrams who co-authored Great Moves: Learning Chess through History with Sunil and Robert McLellan. Then Mike Amori, an educator from the Chatsworth School in New York, captured the attention of guests with his animated and exceptional story telling skills which showed how to engage with kids.



Sunil & friends during the coffee break



Co-author Alan Abrams at the podium



The audience paying close attention

The next speaker was the newly appointed executive director of the National Scholastic Chess Foundation, NM Matan Prilleltensky. He had replaced Sunil Weeramantry at the helm of the foundation where Sunil served for over 40 years. His talk was titled A Mastery Based Approach to Chess Education that highlighted teaching the skills that students need not only for chess but all through life. While he continued to speak I stepped out as the next special guest speaker was arriving where I was able to capture the first moments of his arrival.



Garry Kasparov arrives

Sunil Weeramantry then took the podium to introduce the most anticipated speaker, who really needs no introduction, Garry Kasparov. I've been fortunate to have heard Garry speak a number of times including in our own backyard in Boulder Colorado recently (see our January 2025 issue). He can command an audience with his incredible intellect and speaking skills like no other. He reflected on how chess education must evolve as society transitions to an artificial intelligence world amongst many other subjects. I try to capture as many photos as possible since I feel I'm covering history when photographing him. His stories and connections to chess are legendary and are in so many books I have read. After his talk, guests had a chance to ask questions of the former world champion and hands raised around the room to get that rare chance. There were more questions than time would allow, so in order to stay on schedule, Mr. Kasparov had to bid farewell. An hour lunchtime break was announced where a buffet table was set up in the lobby.



Mr. Kasparov charming the crowd



The Q&A was popular with the champion

I came around to the exit area of the stage in the lobby area where many fans had lined up to try and catch a glimpse and autograph from Mr. Kasparov. There are two only other chess players I know that can draw a crowd such as this anytime they appear, Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura. At least that has been my experience I have witnessed many times before. Security details got in place and readied to usher the former champion through as people anxiously awaited. But he had to whisked through without stopping as he was on a tight schedule to appear at another meeting that afternoon. He was taken into a back private room for lunch with special VIP guests. I was fortunate to be invited in for photos with him after they had finished eating. Soon after he was escorted out by his right hand man Michael Khodarkovsky and security detail.



A lunch buffet is served



Some lucky VIP's meeting Mr. Kasparov

After a nice relaxing lunch, everyone returned for the afternoon lineup of speakers. Sunil joined other chess educators on a panel to discuss chess in the curriculum, a subject dear to his heart. The next panel titled Building a Bridge from High School to Competitive College Chess was spearheaded by GM Alexander Onischuk as the chess program director at Texas Tech University. Along the same lines the next panel described teaching chess as an academic subject for college credit. Three teachers spoke: Alexey Root from University of Texas Dallas, Jeff Day from Texas Tech University, and Jonathon Singler from Webster University.



GM Onischuk panel on chess in college



One final coffee break before the last two panelists. It was a great time to mingle and connect with those that spoke on stage and swap contacts. Many took photos in the Grand Hall to remember such a wonderful experience. Sunil returned to the podium to introduce the next panel of speakers and joined them as well to discuss the "defining success at chess". Will Trepp of The Rockport Group touched on the benefits of chess and how it applies to one's profession. Chess has many transferable skills to the real world job scene, primarily a problem solving skill. Also speaking was Mississippi's state chess champion Master Benson Schexnaydre, the only homegrown player in the state to ever reach master status. Of special note was watching a proud Jeff Bulington in the back of the room video recording his state champion.



The final coffee break in the lobby



Sunil & Will Trepp discuss success & chess

Last but not least was the keynote address by GM Peter Wells and Dr. Barry Hymer. Their acclaimed book, Chess Improvement: It's All in the Mindset, was the catalyst for their talk. Touching on the subject matter of how the struggling growth mindset in chess evolves and is different for everyone that plays. We have all reached struggling points on the ladder rungs of chess. After a short Q&A session it was time to wrap things up. Before that, representatives from the St. Louis Chess Club were called up to the podium to make a special announcement. The Chess Conference returns to St. Louis in 2026 on October 22-24. I highly recommend getting tickets early and start planning now.



GM Peter Wells and Dr. Barry Hymer



The conference returns to St. Louis in 2026

Sunil Weeramantry & Michael Khodarkovsky returned onstage one final time to thank everyone for joining the 2025 conference and to join them in the lobby for a cocktail reception. A great end to the day to catch up and discuss the conference with others. Also set up in the lobby was a table for a book signing by the key-

note speakers GM Wells and Dr. Hymer. A line formed quickly to get a signed copy of their book and a short chat with the ole' chaps from England. Everything wrapped up at about 6:30pm at the Quorum, but the night was still young.



Books ready to be signed at the reception



The authors arrive for the fans



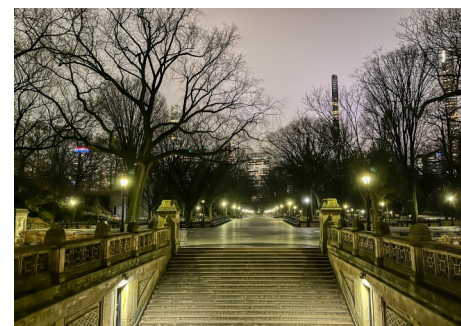
A great ending to the conference

There was another late night reception that all ticket holders were invited to, a special evening at La Fonda, a Puerto Rican eatery and bar. It was located in upper Manhattan, so a short drive or subway ride was necessary. A new pop-up chess business called Chess Place sponsored the event and provided gift bags as you entered the restaurant. There was a great live jazz band playing while tables were lined with chess sets for a great evening of fun and entertainment. Each guest received a meal off their menu and two drink coupons. I can personally attest that the food was excellent! I tried to capture the ambience of the night in photos while trying to slip in an occasional game of chess. An incredible day and night of bringing a wonderful community together

through our great game of chess. Chess has always been much more than just a game to me, but an art through my camera lens and a builder of great friendships I have made all around the world. Enjoy these last photos from the late reception and New York at night...



Great music, great food & drink, great company, and chess! A perfect evening



Beautiful Central Park at night



The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree

Checkmate USA vs INDIA

By John Brezina

October 4, 2025

It was back in June when I first learned of this exciting new chess exhibition and format while speaking to organizer Salim Belcadi in London at the FIDE Team Championships. He was excited to tell me about this planned tournament in Arlington Texas and had invited me to attend. The players and format had me intrigued, and being an easy flight from home I could not say no. Since it was just a one night event on the weekend, my wife would be joining me for the quick visit to the Dallas area.



Outside the arena on a hot day in Texas

The USA vs India match would be a spectacle like no other chess event I have attended. Five players from each country would be paired up with their counterparts. The top pairing was the world champion Gukesh Dommaraju vs Hikaru Nakamura. If that wasn't enough alone, Fabiano Caruana was paired against Arjun Erigaisi. US women's champion Carissa Yip faced newly crowned grandmaster Divya Deshmukh. The two 15-year-olds, Tanitoluwa Adewumi and Ethan Vaz, would later electrify the audience of youngsters. And finally a pairing I was excited to see was between two well known chess personalities and streamers, IM Levy Rozman vs IM Sagar Shah.



The incredible lineup of players



The format started out in a game with both players having 10 minutes plus a one second increment once the players were under one minute on their clock. Draw offers and resignations were prohibited and all games had to be played to checkmate. A flag fall or a theoretically drawn position would end the game as well. In case of a draw, the match continued with faster games. First a five minute game, and if necessary, one minute bullet games until a decisive result was reached. And all of this happened front and center on the stage while fans could make all the noise they could muster for their favorite players one match at a time. Think of a boxing match with noisy fans while player(s) were literally 'throwing' pieces instead of punches, in the end anyway.



The E-Sports arena set for chess

This was a complete turnaround from normal chess where spectators had to remain silent. The E-sports arena in Arlington had over one thousand spectators all cheering on their players, an electric atmosphere that chess has never seen. We arrived early in the afternoon before the match later that evening where we met Salim and his wife and received our passes. Being early allowed me to get some photos of the venue and extra exhibitions that were taking place. The lobby area as you entered had a nice merchandise shop setup along with some chess tables where some special guests were taking on all-comers in blitz.

As people continued to pour in, there seemed to be an equal number of both US and Indian fans as told by the special team jerseys that were being sold and worn. Another special addition was a book signing table setup for Chess.com CCO Daniel Rensch. I was fortunate to get my signed copy early by him before the crowds and I can attest that his story is quite remarkable. Dark Squares is a fascinating look into his early years and how chess had "saved his life". The lobby filled up and everywhere you turned, something exciting was going on. In a middle table, Norwegian GM Aryan Tari had fans lined up for a chance to play blitz and signed autographs. Another side table had US GM Jeffrey Xiong playing two games at once in blitz. Next to him was 15-year-old GM Andy Woodward blitzing all comers too.



Danny Rensch signing his book



Fans line up to play GM Aryan Tari



GM Jeffrey Xiong plays two at once

While all this was taking place, I entered into the playing zone hall where final preparations were being made for the match. A beautiful venue with a large video screen backdropped over an enormous stage. A sea of seats for fans lined the floor with a special VIP section up front. We made our way backstage where players and staff were getting ready and came across Tani Adewumi and his father. I have followed Tani's story for some time and have been fortunate to have met them several times. Not only did I get to introduce my wife to them, but also commentator James Dash who was also getting ready to go onstage. We spoke with him for some length as I have met him at the Freestyle chess events where he has been a regular commentator and brings a great energy to the game.



A fans view of the stage and screens during the Q&A

Back on the floor a number of fans were in their seats early for the media segment with the players onstage taking questions from the media first and then some lucky fans. What a great way to start off the event, a chance to ask the world champion a question. Some video presentations highlighted the players and pumped up the crowd. Afterwards the players returned backstage until the "kickoff". I went back into the lobby where it was near capacity and bustling with chess activities. About thirty minutes before showtime, an announcement was made to line up and enter the playing hall where the lighting set a great ambience for this entertaining chess format.



Fans line up to enter the stadium

Even the seats in the back had a good view of the raised stage and players but more so with the giant screen above them that also displayed the players heart rates.

Vendors in the back sold drinks and popcorn and it looked more like a movie setting than your typical chess game. The hosts took the stage, James Dash and Twitch streamer Jules Gambit, who welcomed fans to this unique experience. Then James, with a WWF announcing voice, first introduced the Indian team one at a time to great fanfare and screams from the audience. First Arjun Erigaisi entered from the back of the hall and whisked his way through the aisles around the crowd getting high fives and well wishes from fans. Each player enjoyed the same fanfare with the world champion getting the loudest cheers as the final entrant for the visitors.



Sagar Shah high-fiving fans at the start

Then the home team. The stadium turned up a notch in volume as Fabiano Caruana was first introduced for team USA. He was followed by Tani and then Carissa Yip who relished in high fiving fans as they made their way through fans and then onto the stage. The volume rose again as the number one chess YouTuber, Gotham-Chess' Levy Rozman, made his way through an ecstatic stadium and played to the crowd as he moved onto the stage. And just when you think it couldn't get more wild and loud, number one chess streamer and number two player in the world, Hikaru Nakamura was introduced and entered the stadium draped in the USA flag garnering loud cheers. He made his way through droves of fans and finally through the front VIP section past his brother Asuka Nakamura and step-father Suni Weeramantry before completing the field onstage.



Hikaru making his way to the stage while his brother Asuka takes a photo



A familiar VIP

James Dash invited the captains Hikaru & Gukesh to the front of the stage to speak a few words, or perhaps a little "trash talking", to get things started. With that aside, the first pairing was called to the table, Fabiano & Arjun. Fans for both cheered wildly as they approached and shook hands as they sat down across from each other. Then the lights darkened in the stadium with only a spotlight shining on the gladiators. The arbiter, dressed as a referee, checked with both players if they were ready, had them shake hands, and then let the battle begin as if boxers were in a ring. Fabiano continued his excellent form as he just came off the Grand Chess Tour Finals win in Brazil days earlier, taking Arjun down in 60 moves. The crowd went wild as the win flashed across the big screens. Team USA 1, Team India 0.



The captains flank hosts Jules & James



The dramatic start of the match

During the game, in the back of the playing hall, another stage was set for the broadcast team that included co-host James Dash, GM Robert Hess, and GM Harshit Raja. A great commentary team to help spice the games up with their quick and cunning analysis live for the crowd. Next up were the youngsters, Tani & Ethan. After speaking to the audience with a short introduction, another dramatic and visual start to the game where both players' heart



The great commentary team: GM Robert Hess, James Dash, and GM Harshit Raja

rates were the highest, even before the start of the game. Both fought tough as veterans at the board and seemed deadlocked. Fans began chanting Tani, Tani, Tani! Indian fans started chanting Ethan, Ethan, Ethan! Perhaps motivated by the audience, Ethan sacrificed an exchange to try and start something. But Tani held tough and found the eventual checkmate to an erupting crowd. Afterwards, Jules interviewed a beaming Tani who was enjoying his victory onstage. Team USA 2, Team India 0.



The youngsters start their game



Tanitoluwa Adewumi at the board

The ladies were up next. Divya had just recently earned the Grandmaster title and Carissa had already earned her second GM norm. These two will be facing each other many times in the years ahead no doubt. The opening started normal but Divya slipped shortly after by losing a piece with a great find by Carissa. While Divya tried fighting on, being up a knight, Carissa cruised to a comfortable win to secure the match. Team USA 3, Team India 0. Nobody expected such a lopsided start. Would the remaining two pairings play now that the match was decided? Of course, it was what the fans were here for!



A future GM vs a newly crowned GM



Fans cheer on Carissa Yip's victory

I was excited for the next game between Levy and Sagar, and so were the fans as could be heard in the stadium. I've met them both, but never have photographed them at the board or watched them play live. My wife and I were fortunate to have VIP passes where she was able to sit in the front row next to the world champion's father Rajinikanth and Sagar's wife Amruta. What a pleasure to introduce her to both of them. While I was mostly moving around to take photos, I came back to our seats occasionally and before the start of Sagar's game. I asked Amruta what it was like sitting in the audience and watching her husband play in front of such a crowd. A reversed role for both of them since they usually are working hard on the other side of the cameras for Chessbase India. She said she was a bit nervous and excited at the same time.



Anxious Amruta watching her husband



The world champion's father Rajinikanth



A little jesting before the game begins

The players were called up to the front of the stage to great applause as two of the most recognized chess personalities on YouTube. Levy first pumped up the crowd by encouraging lots of cheering and then started a little trash talking. All in kind spirits for the match setting. Sagar responded in kind, but both sat down with great respect for each other and shook hands. Levy engaged the crowd repeatedly, even letting the audience call out his opening move. 1.f4! Both of these players are International Masters and know the game well. Levy has played more recently than Sagar has, but he showed great skill and intensity at the board. An unusual game ensued but fizzled into a repetition of moves where Levy once again asked the crowd if he should take the draw. A resounding yes and the first draw of the night. The pressure is turned up as they prepare for another game, but at five minutes.



Levy engaging the fans in game one



An intense Sagar Shah during game two

Sagar started strong by capturing an early pawn. But as often in blitz, chaos took over as both players were extremely low on time. Sagar knocked over some pieces by accident as happens and the referee stepped in to penalize the Indian player. Sagar could not recover and blundered a piece and the game by running out of time. A respectful handshake between the two as

the crowd erupted again. Levy was called up by Jules again to address the crowd. He was in his element and commending the crowd for their enthusiasm and enjoyment of this new and wild format of chess. There was only one game left for the visiting Indian team to salvage some pride.



Levy Rozman reveling in his victory

Finally the marquee match between the world champion and the number two player in the world. Hikaru and Gukesh were called up to speak a few words before sitting down to close out the match. Hikaru played with white pieces as all the American players did, with the thought that there would be a possible rematch in India where they would play all games with white. Their first game ended in a draw after a quiet game where no one pushed too hard. The five minute blitz game was more tense but fizzled out into another draw, setting an epic final bullet game.



The start of the epic match



The world champion draws game 1 & 2

Another rule was that they were not allowed to play the same opening moves in consecutive games of their individual match, so Hikaru opened with the dubious 1.b4! Nakamura is in his wheel-house playing bullet as everyone knows. The world champion took advantage and looked better early on until time pressure

took over. Gukesh, under extreme time pressure, slipped into a mating net and the crowd went wild. Hikaru, seizing on the crowd's emotions after such an intense game, picked up the defeated enemy king and flipped it into the audience! I was filming this final game while taking photos front and center in the middle of the crowd where the flipped king flew right over me. The energy level was palpable around me as the screens flashed the USA victory with a clean sweep over the Indian team.



Sunil & Asuka watching the climax



Fans on the edge of their seats for the end



Hikaru pumping up the crowd after the king flip and checkmate on the board



A familiar face livestreaming the finale

What an incredible finish to a fun and professionally run exhibition of chess in a format never seen before. The US team lined up onstage to all speak a few words to the fans and thank everyone involved in putting such an event together. A nod to their worthy opponents as well who put up

an incredible fight despite the lopsided finish. The final presentation was from a representative from TAG Heuer Carrera watches who presented each player on the winning team with one of their beautiful watches.



Caruana holds up his new watch prize



The victors! Team USA

Fans lined up to try and get a photo or autograph from the players before they headed backstage. Many obliged as best they could with such large crowds. I made my way backstage where players came back and still took time to meet and take photos with many of the staff members who helped make everything happen. Some lucky VIP fans also had a chance to get autographs and photos as well backstage even after such a long and exciting evening. I hope that sponsors can get behind more of these kinds of events as it made for an exciting night of chess. The reasonable ticket prices were well worth the value for the long night of chess and entertainment. Thank you to Salim Belcadi and sponsors for putting such an extraordinary event together. Looking forward to the rematch in India...



Some lucky young VIP fans getting an autograph from Hikaru backstage

Head Monk

By Paul Anderson
Colorado Springs Chess Club President



Fortunately, the 2025 President of the Colorado State Chess Association, Earle Wikle, stepped in to help out as Assistant Monk to keep this long-standing tradition going. Many thanks to him for his assistance as I learned the ropes at my new level of Monkdom.



The Colorado Springs Chess Club is an affiliate of Chess.com and meets every Sunday night for online chess. We typically have a 30-minute, Blitz Arena at 6:15pm followed by a Rapid Swiss at 7:00pm (4SS, G/10+5).

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

However, things are changing.

The attendance numbers are down this year. With a membership of over 800, you would think we could get a handful of players to show up on a Sunday night! Of course, I am not one to talk, as I am part of the reason for the decrease. My numbers are down from 43 events in 2024 to 28 in 2025.

My excuse for not showing up on Sunday night is that I got a new job this year: Head Monk.

After 26 years of being Assistant Monk, I was thrust into the leadership role at the Gaming Monks chess booth in Larkspur, Colorado.

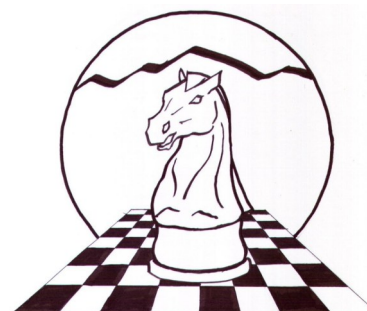
This means that I have to show up both Saturday and Sunday for 8 weeks at the Colorado Renaissance Festival to keep this chess promotion tool going that Buck Buchanan started when he was the President of the Colorado State Chess Association.

I wasn't sure I would like playing all 16 days at the chess booth, as I was only Assistant Monk for 2-3 days in the past three years with Buck. However, it turned out to be the highlight of my chess year.

I finished the year +534-11=0 with a 97.98% winning percentage. It is quite the ego boost and a nice reminder that, perhaps, I do have a talent for chess after all.

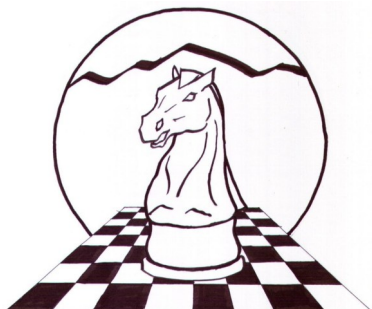
But, after close to 40 games a day, on a huge chess set, needless to say, I am too wiped out to play more chess online Sunday night.

So, if you want to play me next summer on Sundays, you'll have to stop by the chess booth!



Tuesday Night Chess

By Paul Anderson
Colorado Springs Chess Club President



The Colorado Springs Chess Club is an affiliate of USCF and meets every Tuesday night for OTB chess. We typically have a month-long, Swiss tournament (G/90+30) at 6:00pm. See the calendar for details:

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

However, things are changing.

The attendance numbers are up this year. With only a dozen or so Supporting Members, you would think only a handful of players would come down to the club on a Tuesday night! But our numbers are the best we've had since I have been running things.

Year	Total	Unique	Events	Average
2025	351	110	21	16.71
2024	303	95	14	21.64
2023	234	95	13	18.00
2022	126	56	11	11.45
2021	117	61	8	14.63
2020	64	31	6	10.67
2019	280	71	19	14.74
2018	323	62	20	16.15
2017	232	50	19	12.21
2016	201	54	16	12.56
2015	157	52	13	12.08
Grand Total	2388	428	160	14.93

While space prevents me from mentioning all 110 players who came out to play some chess in 2025, I do wish to thank all of them for helping make the club a continued fixture in the Colorado Springs entertainment scene.

However, I do have some space to mention our 2025 champions.

In October, we held our 59th Colorado Springs City Chess Championship. Daniel Marmer won his first city title and became the 39th player to hold this title.

In November, we held our 2nd Colorado Springs City Quick Chess Championship. FM Gunnar Andersen came back for a 2nd city title, this time a Quick one in addition to his Speed title. He became the 2nd player to hold this title.

Unfortunately, Gunnar was too Quick for me and finished his games before the prize presentation. (see below: right, Paul Anderson, not pictured, Gunnar Andersen)



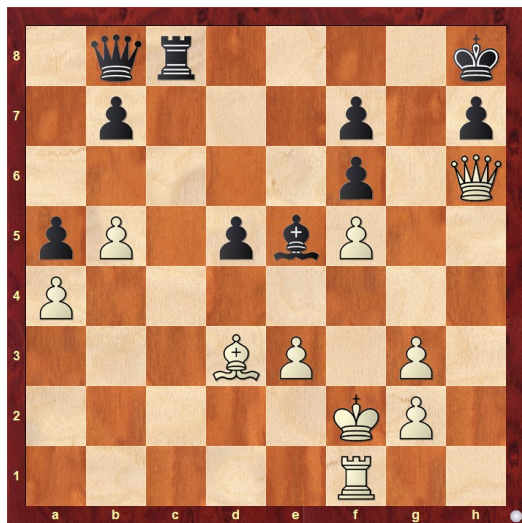
In December, we held our 30th Colorado Springs City Speed Chess Championship. Rhett Langseth decided to stay ahead of Gunnar and picked up his 3rd city title (1 City, 2 Speed). He has moved into 5th place on the All-Time title list behind LM Josh Bloomer (11), Dan Avery (10), Paul Anderson (8), and NM Buck Buchanan (5).



The Banquet

Jeffrey Baffo, Oct 2025

Greetings, dear reader. Today I have a sumptuous spread for you to sample. Choice morsels of Chess Wisdom for your discerning pallet. Consider the following diagram, White to move. Our example comes from Art of Attack(1)



Clearly, swinging the Rook over to the h1 must be the correct idea. But, how to continue? Let's assume 1.Rh1 Kg8! as our starting moves. 2.Vukovic explains that Black's deviously simple idea is to just run away towards the Queen side, for instance 2.Qxh7+ Kf8 3.Qh8+ Ke7 and Black is doing well, thank you very much. Hmmm... White has got to have something better!

1.Rh1 Kg8 2.Kf3! In Art of Attack, Vukovic presents a breathtaking idea: a rook lift to h5, which, he says, is to be followed by the sacrificial thrust Rg5+!! fxg5 f6!, seemingly sealing Black's fate with a poetic mating net. It's the kind of tactic that makes hearts race—a truly beautiful, inspiring motif. But beauty, however dazzling, must answer to truth. Modern engines reveal a sobering reality: after 2.Rh5 Bxg3+ 3.Ke2, Black's quiet reply Re8! (See line below.) turns the tide. The once-inevitable mate dissolves into a forced draw, or worse, a loss if White presses forward too hard. The true path to victory lies not in brilliance, but in humility: 2.Kf3!, a quiet king move that sidesteps tactical pitfalls and prepares the attack with discernment. Now 3.Rh4 is a simple and unstoppable Rook lift, ending the game very quickly. The possibility of Black's saving resource 3... Re8 is a classic example of a beautiful idea being slain by an ugly fact—a reminder that even in chess, the heart can deceive, and humility often leads to exaltation.

"But when you are invited (to the Banquet) go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you."

— Luke 14:10 (ESV)

3...Re8!= 4.Rg5+ fxg5 5.Qxg5+= And White must humbly accept the shared point, since Vukovic's mating idea actually loses (5.f6?? Rxe3+! 6.Kxe3 Qf4+ 7.Ke2 Qg4+ 8.Kd2 Qb4+ 9.Ke2 Qe1+ 10.Kf3 Qf2+--+)]

¹ Vuković, Vladimir (2004). The art of attack in chess (Reprint ed.). Everyman Chess. (Original work published 1965, p. 103). Highly recommended! This is one of those foundational works you can build your chess education on. A Masterclass for attacking the King.

² Vukovic's comment shows that he considered this crucial Black resource but incorrectly dismisses it; "After 3.Ke2, Black can do nothing in the face of Rg5+ and f6..."

Rules vs. Analysis; Trust, but Verify 1

by Jeffrey Baffo, Nov. 2025

This article explores a subtle moment in a classic Karpov game where a well-known pedagogical principle—piece redundancy—is challenged by modern analysis. Rather than disproving Dvoretsky’s insight, I aim to refine it, showing how today’s tools can help students think critically, honor legacy, and grow in discernment.

In chess teaching, two camps often emerge: one that reveres principles as trustworthy guides, and another that dismisses them as outdated dogma in the face of concrete analysis. But the truth lies not at either extreme. The mature player learns to walk the golden path between them—trusting rules as starting points, but verifying them through calculation, context, and discernment. Principles illuminate the board; analysis confirms the path.

“What is the rule we’re examining here? Ah, dear reader, I’m so glad you asked. Succinctly put it is the Rule of the Redundant (Superfluous) piece. When an opponent has more than one piece aimed at an important square. No less a legendary coach/teacher than Mark Dvoretsky put it this way; “(since) only one (of the opponent’s pieces) will be able to occupy the (strategically important square) the others will turn out to be superfluous.”

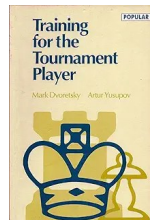
First let’s get some context on our source material;

Training for the Tournament Player⁽²⁾ (1993) is a curated collection of Dvoretsky’s training materials and lessons, compiled with Artur Yusupov. It reflects their shared pedagogical philosophy and Russian training methods done in a modular and stand-alone lesson-based format. Our particular examination is the lesson on Superfluous piece, pages 98-101.

In *Training for the Tournament Player*, Dvoretsky introduces the concept of the redundant piece—typically a Knight—that duplicates the function of another without adding new pressure or coverage. When defending against such a setup, one should resist the temptation to exchange these seemingly active pieces. Doing so often relieves the opponent of their own inefficiency, allowing them to re-coordinate without cost.

Conversely, if you are the one holding the redundant pair, your goal is to either exchange or reposition one of them to restore dynamic balance—what we might call “full employment.” This principle echoes broader themes in Dvoretsky’s pedagogy: precision, restraint, and the art of not helping your opponent solve their problems. This rule is both true and important.

¹“Trust, but verify” (Russian: *доверяй, но проверяй*, *doveryai, no proveryai*) is a Russian proverb that became widely known in English after Suzanne Massie, a scholar of Russian history, introduced it to President Ronald Reagan. He used it frequently during arms control negotiations with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.—Wikipedia



²Authors: Mark Dvoretsky (renowned Russian trainer) and Artur Yusupov (former World Championship semi-finalist and student of Dvoretsky). First English Edition: Published in 1993 by B.T. Batsford, translated from the original German edition (1991).

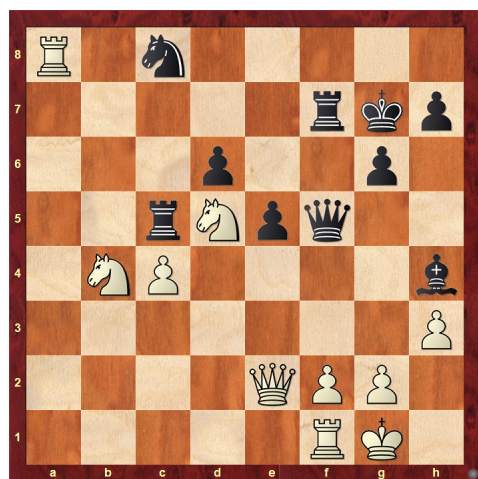
One of the games Dvoretsky chooses to illustrate the concept is given below.

Karpov, Anatoly (2725) - Dolmatov, Sergey (2535)

IBM Amsterdam, 1980 [B33, Sicilian Pelikan/Sveshnikov]

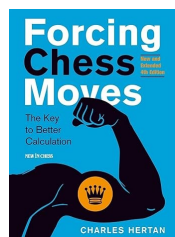
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.Be2 Bg5 14.0-0 Be6 15.Qd3 Qd7 16.Qg3 f6 17.Rfd1 a5 18.Na3 Na7 19.h3 Kh8 20.Bg4 Rfc8 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Qd3 Rc5 23.Nc2 g6 24.b4 axb4 25.Ncxb4 Rb7 26.a4 bxa4 27.Rxa4 f5 28.Ra6 Nc8 29.Ra8 Kg7 30.Qe2 fxe4 31.Qxe4 Qf5 32.Qe2 Rf7 33.c4 Bh4 34.Rf1 Ne7 35.Ra6 Qd7 36.Qe4 Nxd5 37.Nxd5 Be7 38.Rfa1 Bf8 39.Qe2 Rc6 40.R6a3 Rc5 41.Rf3 Rxf3 42.Qxf3 Qf7 43.Qg4 h5 44.Qe4 Rc8 45.Ra3 Qf5 46.Ra7+ Kh6 47.Qe3+ g5 48.Qe2 Rb8 49.g4 hxg4 50.hxg4 Qb1+ 51.Kg2 Rb7 52.Rxb7 Qxb7 53.Qf3 Qc8 54.Qf6+ Kh7 55.Qf7+ 1-0

An excellent win by Anatoly Karpov; Engine rated this very accurate, 94.9%, for an in-game performance rating of 2900. Where then, did Dolmatov go wrong? Since he was gradually squeezed to death by Karpov's Patented Python Play, that's not so easy to pinpoint. I'd judge (with engine help, of course!) that it was somewhere around move 38, where he started to place (or be forced) his pieces passively. Even though Dolmatov was able to successfully trade pieces (the time-honored method to ease the defense) until there were only the Queens and a single piece each left, Karpov never let go of his dangerous King-directed initiative, despite the greatly reduced material. Dolmatov kept on heroically until he found himself staring at a force mate.



Our point of interest is after 33...Bh4 34.Rf1 Ne7 Our author tags Black's 34th move as an error, exchanging off one of White's Knights, helping White solve the redundant piece. However, Dvoretsky's suggested improvement; 34...e4 which he confidently asserted would "give Black a good game..." does not work. He gives no analysis or lines, just an overarching theme; that, at some point, Black would be able to execute the maneuver Qf5/e5/d4 and "exert pressure" on c4".

Dvoretsky's recommendation of 34...e4 is thematic, aiming for central pressure via Qf5–e5–d4. Yet engine analysis reveals a subtle refutation: 35.Ra3!, followed by the unstoppable Re3. This "forcing retreat," as Charles Hertan(3) might call it, turns Black's advanced pawn into a target. If Black attempts to prevent the lift with ...Bg5, White responds with f4!, challenging the bishop and opening lines. The envisioned queen maneuver collapses under tactical scrutiny. This moment reminds us that even elegant strategic ideas must be tested against the cold clarity of calculation. Respect the Rules but calculate the consequences. Trust—but verify.

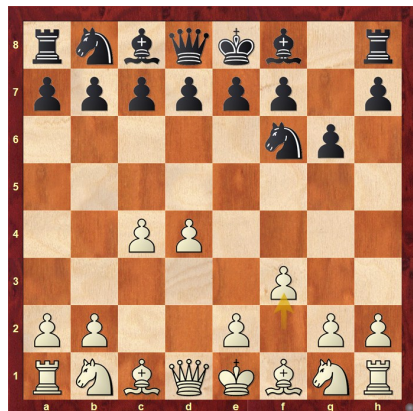


3Charles Hertan's *Forcing Chess Moves: The Key to Better Calculation* offers a refreshingly practical approach to tactical training, urging players to adopt "computer eyes" by prioritizing forcing moves—checks, captures, and threats—as the gateway to deeper calculation. It's widely praised for helping players overcome human bias and recognize winning ideas that often go unnoticed. New In Chess, 2008, reprinted 2019

Botvinnik, Mikhail (2627) - Alatorsev, Vladimir (2499) [E85]

URS-ch07 Moscow, 10.1931 [Baffo, Jeffrey//F17/Stockfish]

King's Indian Defense: Sämisch, Orthodox Variation

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7

[Today, the well-versed opening student would realize that "...due to the weakness of d4...as Botvinnik himself would observe decades later the Gruenfeld type response 3...d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6 6.Be3 was = and would lead to dynamic play for both sides. But a young up and comer, Botvinnik was very enthusiastic about 3.f3, -- waxed enthusiastically about 3.f3 "...it is very strong not to develop the Queen's Knight, but (to play) 3.f3, after which Black cannot play the Gruenfeld Defense..."]

4.e4 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.Nge2 Nc6?! [A better chance at counterplay would be 7...exd4 8.Nxd4 c6 9.-- ♖d5] 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.d5 [9.0-0-0 Soltis's notes in his wonderful 2014 book(1) on Botvinnik that long castles is a little too frisky due to 9...Nb6 10.b3 exd4 11.Nxd4 a5] 9...Ne7 [9...Ncb8 to re-route to c5]

10.g3 [Soltis passes over this move but Stockfish (Chess.com's version) puts this down as Botvinnik's only error in this game, preferring the belligerent 10.h4. My Fritz engine and it's "Live Book" feature prefer 10.g4 thinking about 40 ply deep.] [10.h4; 10.g4]

10...f5 11.Bg2 fxe4?! [Another small error, relieving the tension prematurely. Stabilizing the center like this helps White use his space advantage to greater effect. 11...Nf6 or ...a6 kept more chances of counterplay] 12.fxe4 Nf6 13.h3 b6? [Soltis queries this but does not amplify on the punctuation. Both Fritz and Stockfish think it's just a normal move.]

14.b3 Kh8 15.g4 Neg8 16.Ng3 Bd7 17.0-0-0 [Soltis makes a strange comment that "White can keep the Queenside closed or exploit attempts to open it..." He then says Black should try to open the Queenside with ...b5. These are two self-contradicting statements with equally internally opposed lines to go along with them. It would be more accurate to say something like "Black can play in risky style to open the Queenside, but White can always exploit that. Meanwhile, he himself has a way to force open lines for his attack..."] 17...h6? [Creating a target for White's pawn attack.]

18.g5 hxg5 19.h4 Bg4 [19...g4 Soltis points out that Black has no good way to keep lines closed. 20.h5 g5 21.h6+--] 20.hxg5+ Nh5 21.Nce2 Ne7 22.Rh4 Qd7 23.Rdh1 Kg8 24.Rxg4! (See diagram below)



Take a moment to notice how White's solid pawn structure and advantage in space make it impossible for Black's pieces to contribute to the defense of the Black King. His Queen Rook and Queen Knight are kept out. These advantages allow for White's exchange sacrifice, drawing the Black Queen into a deadly trap.] **Qxg4 25.Bh3 Qf3 26.Rf1 Nxb3 27.Be6+!** [Taking the Queen wins too, but the game continuation is much stronger.] **1-0**



¹Andrew Soltis' Mikhail Botvinnik: The Life and Games of a World Chess Champion (2014) is a richly detailed and deeply researched portrait showing both the strategic genius and complex humanity of the Soviet Chess patriarch.

Forcing vs. Forceful, looking beyond “Checks, Captures, Threats”

Jeffrey A. Baffo, Nov. 2025

The diligent chess learner will at some point in his upward climb hear the advice to “...always look for checks, captures, threats!”. True words. This tactical trilogy is the cornerstone of sound play. If a player truly mastered and consistently applied that to his chess games, I’d wager he’d quickly be a competent tournament player, say in the 1600-1800 ELO range. However, chess is too complex for a one-size fits all approach. Looking for Checks, Captures, and Threats is like remembering to hold your breath if you go beneath the water. Undeniably essential, but not enough for the deep-sea exploration.

Beyond checks, captures, and threats lies an ocean of subtlety—moves with quiet power, that shape the game without seeming to force anything at all. These are not the brute-force checks and captures that compel an opponent’s hand, but rather what I call **forceful** moves—ideas so potent that they alter the landscape of the position regardless of how the opponent replies. A forceful move may look quiet, even retreating, yet it carries within it hidden power: it denies escape squares, reassigns functions, or sets traps that cannot be sidestepped. Unlike forcing moves, which limit choices, forceful moves expand pressure until every choice is poisoned. They are the subtle levers of control that engines spot so quickly, but humans often overlook because they defy our instinct to always move forward.

**Christiansen, Larry Mark (2566) - Zhu Chen (2538) [A28]
USA-CHN Summit Seattle (3.6), 16.03.2001**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bc5 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e3 0-0 8.Be2 Qe7 9.0-0 Ne4 10.Nxe4 Qxe4 11.Bd2 Qe7 12.a3 Bd6 13.Qc2 c5 14.Bd3 Qh4 15.f4 Bb7 16.e4 f6 17.Rf3 h6 18.Raf1 Rae8 19.Rg3 Kh8 (see diagram below) 20.Qd1 f5 21.e5 Be7 22.Be1 Bd8 23.Rxg7 Qxe1 24.Rxe1 Kxg7 25.Bxf5 Re7 26.Qh5 Kg8 27.Re3 Rg7 28.Rg3 Bg5 29.Qg4 Bf6 30.Qh3 Bg5 31.fxg5 Rgf7 32.gxh6+ 1-0



Diagram: White to move. (Black has just played 19... Kh8) The quiet retreat 20.Qd1!!—not forcing, but forceful—transforms the position by trapping (denying her the g4 square.) Black’s queen and enabling Rh3 with devastating effect. Visually, humans have a curious blindness to backwards moves. This move also seems to drop an important center pawn to boot, all in all, a move a person would struggle to even include for serious analysis, let alone choose in a serious tournament game.

The beauty of chess lies not only in its tactics but in its truths—quiet, layered, and often hidden in plain sight. Moves like 20.Qd1!! remind us that strength isn’t always loud, and control isn’t always direct. To train the eye for such forceful subtleties is to step into the strategic soul of the game. In the game above, trapping the Black Queen is not affected by the apparent insufficient guard on the e4 pawn, to wit; 20.Qd1 Bxe4 21.Bxe4 Rxe4 and 22.Rh3 throws a net unceremoniously on her Ladyship. Training yourself to look for **forcing** moves is the foundation, being able to find **forceful** moves is the pinnacle.

Elements of the Pin 1—Tactical Chess Techniques; #4, “The Pin” 3 Dec. 2025

Element 1: Definition & Geometry

- A pin is a tactic involving **three pieces in a line** — diagonal, vertical, or horizontal.
- The pinning piece (attacker) aims down the line.
- The pinned piece (middle) belongs to the defender.
- The shielded piece (rear) is the more valuable piece being protected. (Standard phrasing: “the more valuable piece behind.”)
- The essence: the pinned piece is restricted because moving it would expose the shielded piece.

Element 2: Types of Pins

- Absolute Pin: The shielded piece is the king. The pinned piece cannot legally move.
- Relative Pin: The shielded piece is valuable (queen, rook, etc.). The pinned piece can move, but doing so would expose the shielded piece to capture.
- Threat Pin: The pinned piece is shielding a critical square (e.g., guarding against back rank mate). Moving it would unleash disaster.
- Cross Pin: A piece is pinned along two lines simultaneously — rare, but devastating when it occurs.

Element 3: Tactical Outcomes

- Material gain: The pinned piece may be captured because it cannot escape and cannot be defended.
- Mating attack: Pins (especially absolute pins!) often support checkmating nets by immobilizing defenders.
- Forced immobility: Sometimes the pinned piece must “die in place,” sacrificed to protect the shielded piece.
- Exploitation: Increasing the pressure on a pinned piece. Attacker can use superior force to pile up more attackers against the pinned piece than the defender can cope with, winning material and/or forcing positional concessions.

Element 4: Strategic Implications

- Immobilization: Even if defended, the pinned piece is shackled and cannot fulfill other duties.
- Pressure motif: The attacker gains leverage by tying down the pinned piece.
- Positional weakness: A knight pinned to a queen may still defend squares, but its potential is frozen.
- Long-term bind: Pins can create enduring positional problems, not just immediate tactical threats.

Element 5: Illustrations & Examples

- A pinned piece is chained — present on the board, but powerless to act.
- Absolute pin → “You cannot move — the law forbids it.”
- Relative pin → “You may move — but the cost will be high.”
- Threat pin → “You are guarding a gate — abandon it, and the enemy walks in.”



Illustration

**phatchess (1964) – Simon (2141) [C48 Spanish 4 Knights]
Rapid game, Chess.com 3 December 2025**

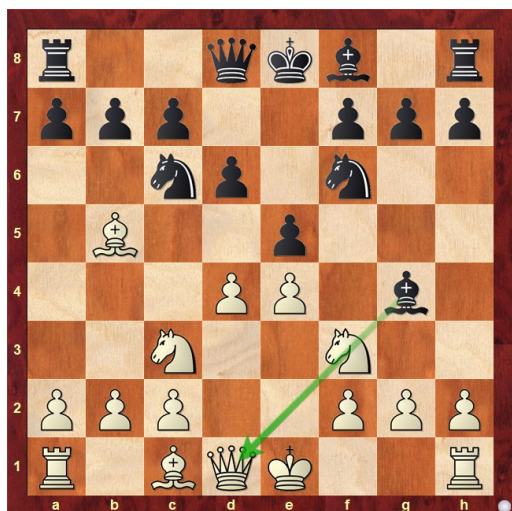
The reader is invited to play along to the moves of the following game and see almost all of the elements of pin come to life in an actual game.

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.e4 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bb5 d6 (diagram) 5.d4 Bg4?? 6.d5! a6 7.dxc6? axb5 8.cxb7 Rb8 9.Qd3 c6 10.Be3?! Rxb7 11.Rd1?! Be7 12.h3?! Bxf3 13.gxf3 0–0 14.f4 b4?! 15.Na4? Qa5 16.b3 exf4 17.Bxf4 d5? 18.e5?! Ne4 19.Rg1? Bh4?! 20.Bg3? Bxg3! 21.fxg3 Qa7 22.Qd4 Qb8 23.Rd3 Re7 24.Kf1 Rxe5 25.g4 Qd6 26.Rg2 Qf6+ 27.Kg1 Rfe8 28.Nc5 Nxc5 29.Qxc5 Re1+ 30.Kh2 Qf4+ 31.Rdg3 R1e2 32.Qg1 Re1 33.Qf2 Qd6 34.Rg1?! R1e2 [Simon2141 won by resignation] 0–1



White to play his 5th move. Black faces an absolute pin, as indicated by the green arrow. In element order; His white squared Bishop is the **Pinning Piece**, the Black Knight is the **Pinned Piece** and the Black King is the **Shielded Piece**. Here White played 5.d4 threatening to push again (6.d5) to intensify the pin. See how Black responds in our next diagram.

As you can see in our game score above, Black does not break the pin (5...Bd7 or Nd7) nor does he kick (5...a6) the pinned piece. Rather he creates his own (relative) pin. See the situation illustrated below.

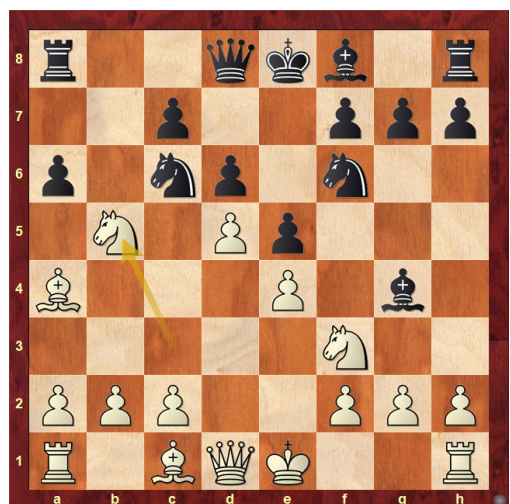


After the moves 5.d4 Bg4, we see Black establishing a **relative pin**. The pinning piece (Black Bishop) is worth about 3 points. The Pinned piece (White Knight) is about equal value. However! The Shielded Piece (White Queen) has triple that value at about 9 points! Trading 3 for 9 is not a good idea! But what about what Black did? Is Black's choice a good move? See our next diagram.



Black has chosen to “**Kick**” the pinning piece with 6...a6 (see arrow) which, forces White to pick from 3 options; exchange pieces (White’s Bishop for Black’s Knight) abandon the pin (leave the pinning diagonal a4-e8) or maintain the pin by 7.Ba4. But doesn’t 7.Ba4 allow Black to break the pin with 7...b5 (?) I certainly though so. (Spoiler alert; I was wrong!!)

I chose to exchange pieces (and went on to lose...was this cosmic justice/punishment for missing the right move?) with 7.dxc6 (see game score) but I had a much better move. See next (analysis) diagram.



Here’s what could have happened. After 7.Ba4 (maintaining the pin) if Black tries to break the pin with the aggressive pawn thrust b5, White simply takes it! In other words White’s pin is so powerful he’s willing to give up a piece (temporarily) to keep it!. The moves that got us here were. **7.Ba4 b5 8.Nxb5** which will lead us in to our final diagram.



To catch us up, the moves that got us here were **1.Nc3 Nf6 2.e4 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bb5 d6 (diagram) 5.d4 Bg4?? 6.d5! 7.Ba4 b5 8.Nxb5 axb5 9.Bxb5**. Black’s Knight is *still* pinned and attacked twice. White will win back his Knight and in the end be two pawn up with very good winning chances.

Summary

Pins are among the most frequent and forceful tactics in chess, appearing in almost every game at every level from beginner skirmishes to grandmaster. Their strength lies in the way they immobilize a defender, often turning a single alignment of pieces into lasting pressure, material gain, or even a decisive mating attack. To understand and employ pins properly is to unlock one of the game's most reliable weapons; to neglect them is to miss countless opportunities. Mastering both the use of pins and the art of breaking them will elevate your play dramatically, sharpening your tactical vision and deepening your strategic awareness.

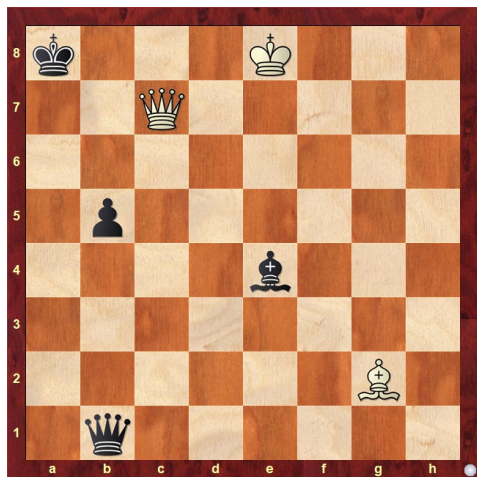
Pins are important and powerful, and knowing how to defend against them is just as vital. A pinned piece can often be liberated through careful technique: breaking the pin by moving the shielded piece out of danger, interposing another defender between attacker and pinned piece (ideally one of equal or lesser value than the shielded piece), or kicking the pinning piece away with a pawn or minor piece attack. Each of these methods restores mobility and prevents the attacker from exploiting the bind. By mastering *both* the art of employing pins and the skill of neutralizing them, players gain a complete understanding of this fundamental tactic — reaping the benefits while avoiding the dangers.

Glossary of Pin related Terms

- **Pin:** A tactic where a piece (the pinned piece) cannot move without exposing the more valuable *shielded piece* (standard phrasing: “valuable piece behind”) to capture.
- **Shielded Piece:** The rear piece in a pin — the one being protected. If it is the king, the pin is absolute; if it is another valuable piece, the pin is relative.
- **Absolute Pin:** A pin against the king. The pinned piece cannot legally move, since doing so would expose the king to check.
- **Relative Pin:** A pin against a valuable piece (queen, rook, etc.). The pinned piece can move, but doing so would expose the shielded piece to capture.
- **Threat Pin:** A pin where the pinned piece is shielding a critical square (e.g., guarding against back rank mate). Moving it would unleash disaster even if no immediate capture occurs.
- **Cross Pin:** A rare but powerful situation where a piece is pinned along two lines simultaneously (for example, both vertically and diagonally). See bonus diagram.

Breaking a Pin: The act of neutralizing a pin. This can be done by:

- Moving the shielded piece (standard phrasing: “the more valuable piece behind”) out of the line of attack.
- **Interposition Defense:** Placing another piece between the pinning and pinned pieces to block the line of attack. Importantly, the value of the interposed piece is usually equal to or less than the shielded piece — otherwise the defense may be self-defeating.
- Exchanging or forcing away the pinning piece.
- **Kicking the Pinning Piece:** A common defensive tactic where the defender attacks the pinning piece (often with a pawn push) to force it to retreat or exchange. Example: after ...Bg4 pins a knight on f3, White plays h3 to “kick” the bishop.



Bonus diagram. Illustrating the cross-pin; White to move plays 1.Qh7! winning.

Elements of Positional Play, #1; Position Over Submission —

Critical Mass and the Path to Victory(1)

By Jeffrey Baffo

Element 1: Definition & Core Idea

- Position over submission is the principle that control and domination of the board are the true foundation of victory.
- Once positional advantage reaches critical mass—when your pieces are harmonized and the opponent's options restricted—the chance for a decisive finish will always present itself.
- The essence: tactical victory flows naturally from positional superiority.

Element 2: The Trade-Off

- Even from a dominant position, the final blow may require heavy lifting: precise calculation, patient maneuvering, or the discipline to wait until the attack becomes unmistakable.
- The tighter your positional grip, the simpler the tactical finish becomes.
- A loose, murky position demands brilliance to convert; a commanding one makes the win flow naturally.

Element 3: Practical Outcomes

- Clarity of Attack: When positional control is strong, the finishing combination is easier to see and execute.
- Safety in Waiting: If the winning line is not yet clear, continue grinding, tacking, and tightening until clarity arrives.
- Guarantee of Victory: Positional domination ensures that opportunities for decisive tactics will eventually appear.

Element 4: Strategic Implications

- Control First: Prioritize development, space, and coordination over speculative attacks.
- Critical Mass Threshold: Recognize when your position has accumulated enough force that the opponent is bound to collapse.
- Conversion Discipline: Train yourself to resist premature attacks; wait until the tactical finish is visible and reliable.

Element 5: Illustrations & Examples

- In the Alekhine–Albin–Chatard Attack, White's early pawn sacrifice is not about grabbing a quick knockout, but about building pressure. Once the pieces are harmonized—knights on strong outposts, rooks connected, queen poised—the opponent's defenses collapse.
- Fighters in combat sports know the same truth: secure dominant position, and the submission will eventually present itself.



Example game; phatchess (1671) - Dray_mond11 (1657) [C13 French Defense Alekhine/Albin/Chatard attack] On line blitz, Game in 5, no increment., 08.12.2025

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 Bxg5 7.hxg5 Qxg5 8.Qd3 Nc6?! (See diagram below)
 9.Rxh7 9...Rxh7 10.Qxh7 Ndx5 [10...Nxd4 11.Nge2 Nxe2 12.Bxe2 Qxe5]
 11.dxe5 Qxe5+ 12.Be2 d4 13.Nf3 Qa5 14.Qg8+ Ke7 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.0-0-0 Nxe2+ 17.Nxe2 Qg5+
 18.Kb1 b6 19.Qd8# 1-0



Here I wrongly choose to attempt the “submission”, that is to say, I cash in my strong initiative for a lowly Rook pawn Rxh7. The right choice was POSITION! Suffocate my opponent by 9.Nf3! when Black may not be losing but he is certainly in a cramped, defensive position with no counterplay. White, on the other hand still keeps the option of winning Black’s h-pawn later. After 9.Nf3 Black has the dismal choice between 9.Nf3 Qe7 (9...Qg6 10.Qxg6 fxg6 11.Nb5) 10.Rxh7 Rg8 11.0-0-0 in both cases White is firmly in command with good winning chances.

Summary

Positional domination is the guarantee of victory. The submission—whether checkmate, decisive attack, or material win—flows naturally once control reaches critical mass. The art lies in knowing when to strike and when to wait. By mastering both the patience to build position and the calculation to finish, players elevate their game from opportunistic tactics to inevitable triumph.

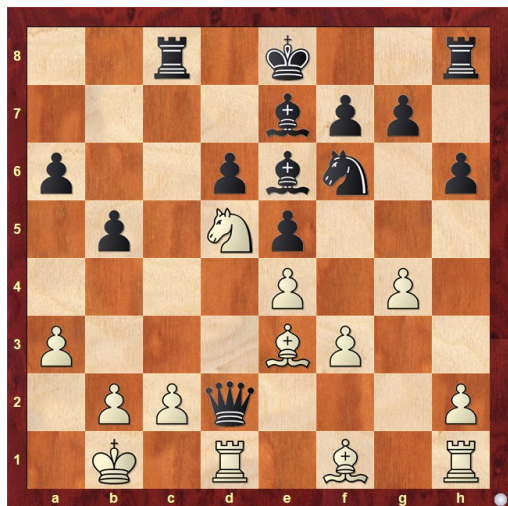
He Missed the Gist

Jeffrey A. Baffo, Dec. 2025

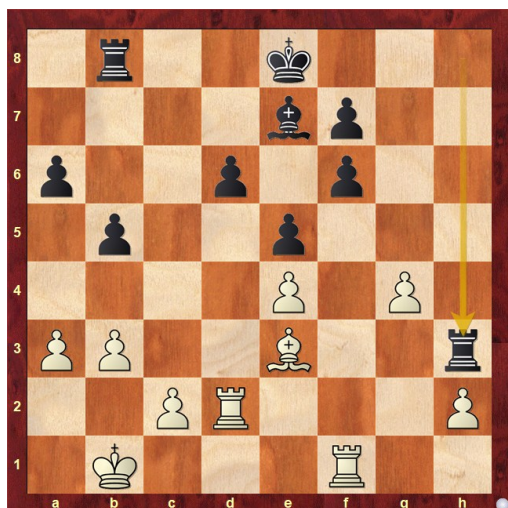
In chess analysis, the first and most essential task is to **grasp the gist of a position** — its heart, its essence, the underlying imbalances that define what is truly at stake. It is tempting, almost irresistible, to dive straight into calculating moves and variations. Yet calculation without context is like packing for a journey without knowing the destination: you may fill the suitcase, but with the wrong things. The gist tells you where you are headed. It reveals whether the struggle is about pawn structure, piece activity, king safety, or initiative. Only once the core imbalance(s) is understood does calculation become meaningful, because then each line is weighed against the true demands of the position.

To miss the gist is to risk chasing shadows — flashy tactics or promising strategy that look appealing but fail to address the deeper currents of the game. To perceive it is to anchor your analysis in reality, ensuring that every move you consider is tested against the position's essence. This is why masters like Silman insist on beginning with imbalances: they are the compass that guides calculation. Without them, analysis is aimless; with them, it becomes purposeful, precise, and profound.

Position 67, Reassess Your Chess Workbook(1)

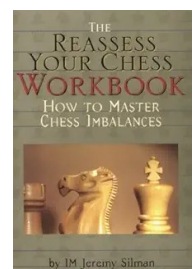


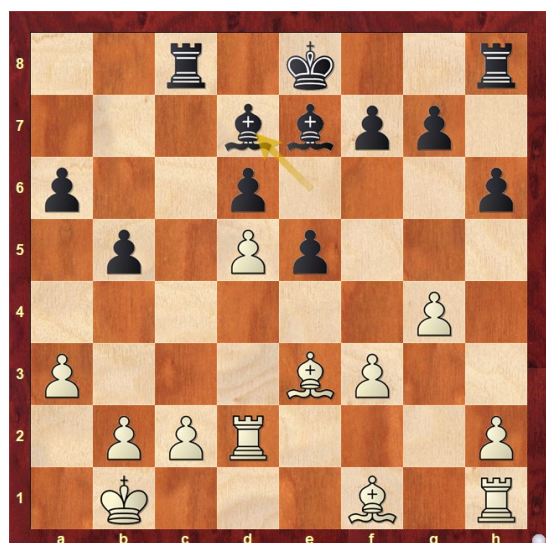
White to move. Clearly, he must reestablish approximate material equality by recapturing the Queen. But for this move only, he has the option to insert 17.Nxf6+. The big question is: should he? I say no. The moves that followed, 17...gxf6 18.Rxd3 h5 19.Rg1 hxg4 20.fxg4 Bc4 21.b3 Bxf1 22.Rxf1 Rh3! (diagram below) create a favorable endgame for Black. White's now backwards h-pawn being particularly sensitive. The move I would have preferred was to simply recapture immediately;



Anand himself remarked, when annotating the game for New In Chess; "Black appears to have committed a whole host of positional sins, yet stands better!" 17...gxf6! was by no means forced. Silman suggests that Ivanchuk likely anticipated the more "normal" recapture 17...Bxf6, which would have preserved Black's structure. To accept the doublet was bold and creative, maybe even surprising Ivanchuk. It shifted the character of the game entirely. By embracing minor structural damage, Anand opened up counterplay that ultimately outweighed the static weakness, a reminder that sometimes the best move is the one that defies conventional expectations.

¹The Reassess Your Chess Workbook: How to Master Chess Imbalances by Silman, Jeremy (2000) Simply marvelous! But not a light read. This baby will make you sweat!





Let's compare this with Silman's suggested continuation. After the logical continuation 17.Rxd2 Nxd5 (Clearly, Black can not allow the Knight to live as it would be the perfect piece to exploit the outpost square d5!) 18.exd5 Bd7 (*diagram*) 19.h4! Much better. White would have kept a small edge, based on a better pawn structure, complete with dynamic pawn breaks possible on both wings, those being (properly timed and supported of course!) c4 and/or g5.

There are three prime factors for consideration at our starting diagram

- 1) the Bishop vs. Knight imbalance
- 2) urgent and compelling pawn tension (Black needing to resolve the backwards pawn on d6).
- 3) The initiative

All three of those factors are augmented for White in the second diagram, whereas they are tilted in favor of Black in the text continuation.

(415616) Ivanchuk, Vassily (2720) - Anand, Viswanathan (2690) [B66]
Linares m Linares (1), 1992

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0 h6 9.Be3 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 b5 11.f3 Qa5 12.a3 e5 13.Be3 Be6 14.Kb1 Be7 15.g4 Rb8 16.Nd5 **Qxd2** 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Rxd2 h5 19.Rg1 hxg4 20.fxg4 Bc4 21.b3 Bxf1 22.Rxf1 Rh3 23.Re2 Kd7 24.g5 Ke6 25.gxf6 Bxf6 26.Bd2 Be7 27.Be1 f6 28.Bg3 d5 29.exd5+ Kxd5 30.Rf5 Kc6 31.Ref2 Rh6 32.Kb2 Kd7 33.Re2 Bd6 34.Rf3 Rc8 35.Be1 Ke6 36.Rd3 Rh7 37.Rg3 Bc5 38.Ka2 Rd7 39.Rc3 Rcc7 40.h4 Rd1 41.Bf2 Bd6 42.Rg3 e4 43.Rxe4+ Be5 44.Rxe5+ fxe5 45.Kb2 Rd2 0-1

Just as an aside, Chess.com rated Vishy's endgame play at 100%

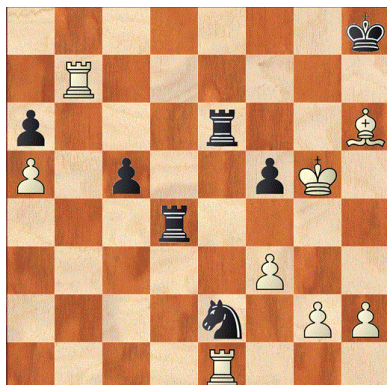
Conclusion;

In the end, I hope the lesson of this article will be that it is not simply about one move versus another, but about the discipline of seeing deeply into a position, to pick up the gist of it. Chess demands a kind of differential diagnosis: (2) before prescribing moves, one must first identify the imbalances that define the position. Jeremy Silman's brilliant workbook (may his memory be honored) taught generations of players that these imbalances are not static trophies to be collected, but living factors that augment, cancel, or transform with each passing move. What looms large on move 10 may be irrelevant fluff by move 25. To calculate without grasping the gist is to prepare for a journey without knowing the destination; to weigh and measure imbalances as they shift is to navigate with a compass. Ivanchuk's misstep reminds us that the heart of analysis lies not in chasing variations, but in perceiving the essence — the gist — that gives those variations meaning.

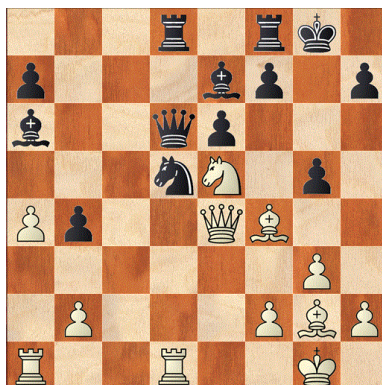
²In medicine, a "differential diagnosis" means listing and weighing the possible explanations for a patient's symptoms before deciding which one best fits. It's like considering several suspects in a mystery until the evidence points to the right culprit.

Tactics Time!

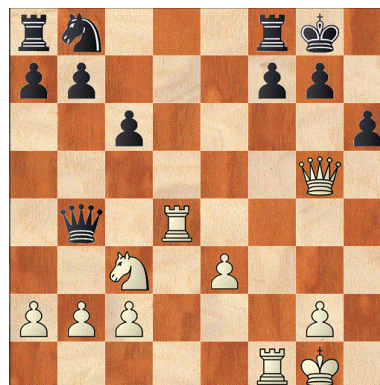
These positions came from recent games played in Colorado. Answers on the next page.



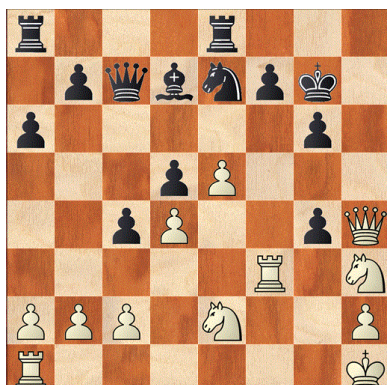
1. Brian Wall - Luis Jiminez
March Denver Chess Club 2024
White to Move



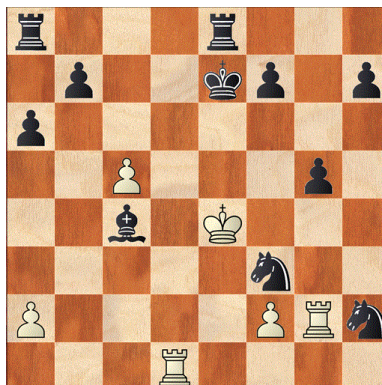
2. Grayson Manuel-Turpana Molina
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White to Move



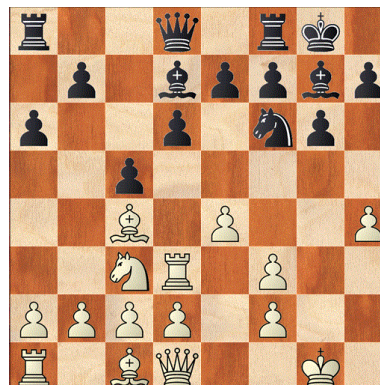
3. Gera Cruz - Niall Case
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Black to Move



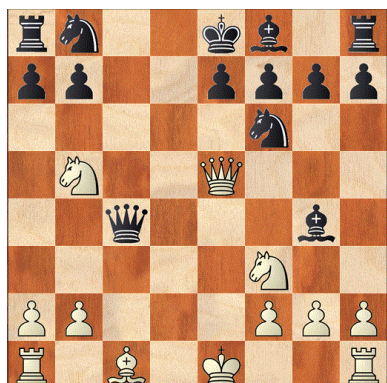
4. Jacob David - Shawna Pei
CO State Scholastic 2024
White to Move



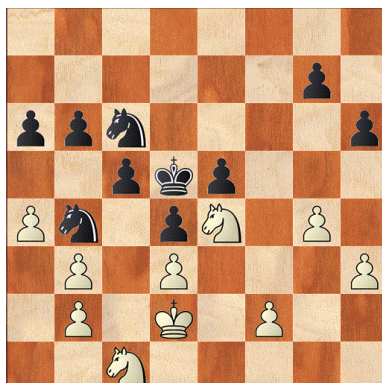
5. Jax Jalloh - Felix McMillan
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Black to Move



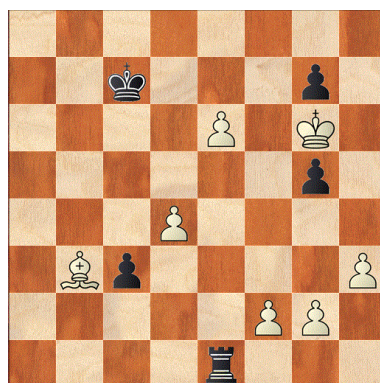
6. Owen Laris - A. Shrikkanth
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Black to Move



7. D. Yin - K. Sakthisaravanan
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White to Move

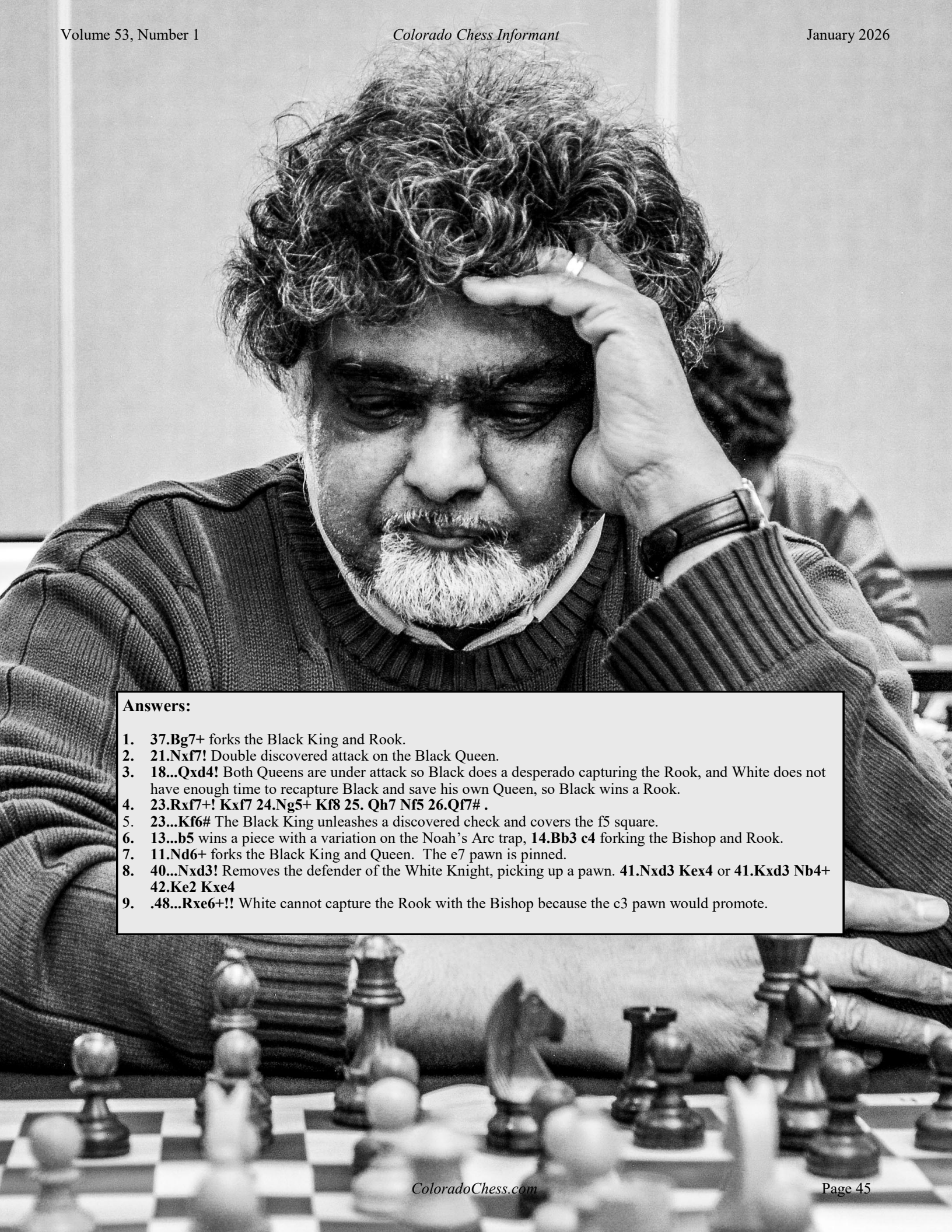


8. A. Balamurugan - R. Degeest
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Black to Move

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. **37.Bg7+** forks the Black King and Rook.
2. **21.Nxf7!** Double discovered attack on the Black Queen.
3. **18...Qxd4!** Both Queens are under attack so Black does a desperado capturing the Rook, and White does not have enough time to recapture Black and save his own Queen, so Black wins a Rook.
4. **23.Rxf7+! Kxf7 24.Ng5+ Kf8 25. Qh7 Nf5 26.Qf7# .**
5. **23...Kf6#** The Black King unleashes a discovered check and covers the f5 square.
6. **13...b5** wins a piece with a variation on the Noah's Arc trap, **14.Bb3 c4** forking the Bishop and Rook.
7. **11.Nd6+** forks the Black King and Queen. The e7 pawn is pinned.
8. **40...Nxd3!** Removes the defender of the White Knight, picking up a pawn. **41.Nxd3 Kex4** or **41.Kxd3 Nb4+ 42.Ke2 Kxe4**
9. **.48...Rxe6+!!** White cannot capture the Rook with the Bishop because the c3 pawn would promote.

A QUEEN'S BEST FRIEND

By NM Todd Bardwick

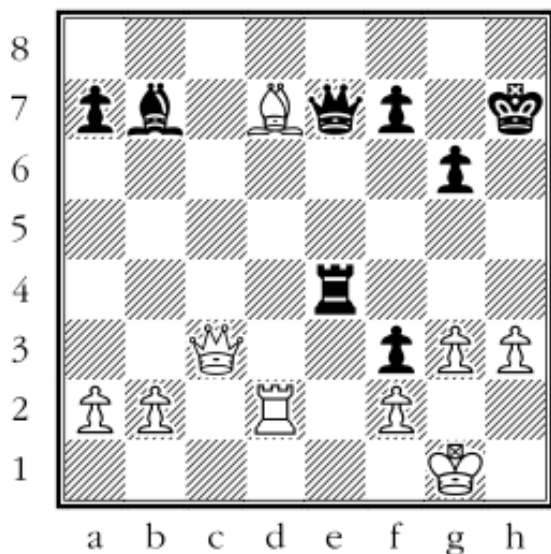
(Reprinted with permission of the Author, the United States Chess Federation & Chess Life magazine.)

We all learn from an early age that it is good to have lots of friends. Friends are fun to spend time with, talk to, and play with. Friends also protect and support us.

A queen can easily annoy the enemy king, but she usually can't checkmate him all by herself. If she can find a friend on her team to attack a square next to the opposing king, she can often move right up next to the king safely and checkmate him.

Consider this position from the 2000 Colorado Closed with Black to move.

Andy Rea (2079)



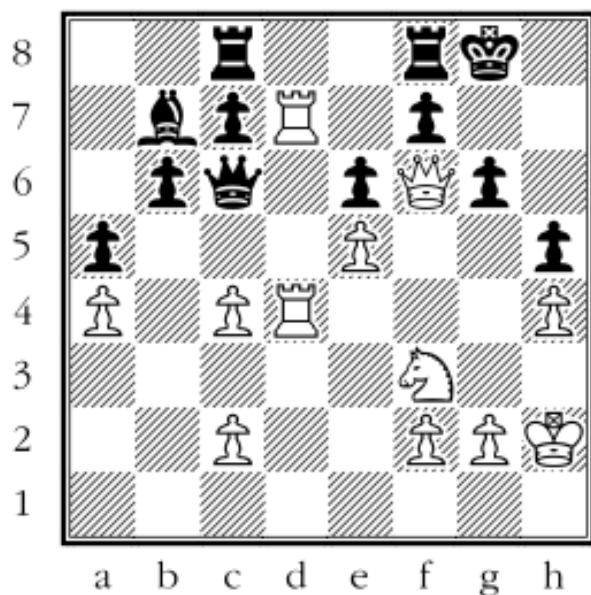
Michael Ginat (2296)
Black to move

An important observation is the Black pawn on f3 attacks the heart of the White king position. Black dreams about ways to get his queen to g2, where she is protected by the friendly f3 pawn and checkmate the White king.

28...Re1+ 29.Kh2 Rh1+! Sacrificing the rook to clear a path for the lady! **30.Kxh1 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Qf1!** Threatening mate on g2 with the support of the pawn on f3. If White eliminates the pawn by sacrificing his queen with 32.Qxf3, then 32...Bxf3 and the bishop becomes the queen's new best friend!

Here is a position from Tillburg in 1991 between two world-class players.

GM Timman



GM Short

White to move

Notice that the White queen is close to the Black king. But she has no friends to help her out. Black's king and rook on f8 protect the f7 pawn from the attacking queen and d7 rook.

The White knight could be a great friend to the queen because he can attack both white and black squares. But the only place he can move to is away from Black's king to e1 because of the Black bishop and queen battery aimed at g2. White's rook on d4 and kingside pawns can't attack any squares near the Black king.

Short finds an unusual and surprising middlegame friend for his queen...the king! He played **32.Kg3! Rce8 33.Kf4! Bc8 34.Kg5! Resigns** White's king is heading for h6 where he can protect the g7 square for his queen. If 34...Bxd7 35.Kh6! and 36.Qg7 mate.

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

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PALS January 2026 Chess Tournament – Open Section Standard January 10, 2026 Denver
Summit Chess Monthly Open (January) Standard January 24, 2026 Golden
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More Info: www.meetup.com/boulderchess

Castle Rock Chess Club: Mondays

More Info: www.castlerockchessclub.org

Colorado Springs: Balanced Rook Chess Club: Thursdays

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

Colorado Springs Chess Club: Tuesdays

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

Colorado Springs: CS Kids Chess Club: Mondays

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

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

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

Denver Chess Club: Tuesdays

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

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

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

Denver: Oprah's Rook Club: Wednesdays

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

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

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

Durango Chess Club: Mondays

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

Fort Collins Chess MeetUp Group: Wednesdays

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

Fort Collins: Strategic Minds Chess Academy: Wednesdays & Saturdays

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

Granby Library Chess Club: Mondays

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

Grand Junction Pawns & Pints: Sundays

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

Greeley Chess Club

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

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

More Info: www.HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org

Lafayette Chess Club: Thursdays

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

Montrose Library Chess Club: Tuesdays

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

Palisade: Grand Valley Chess: Mondays & Thursdays

More Info: <https://www.instagram.com/grandvalleychess/>

Parker Chess Club: Mondays

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

Pueblo Chess Club: Mondays & Fridays

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

Summit County Chess Club: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

More Info: www.facebook.com/people/Summit-County-Chess-Club/100064653976129/

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

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



Statewide Colorado USCF Tournament Listings

State Wide Colorado State Chess Association www.coloradochess.com/newtoun.shtml?id=1477#tournamentContent

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

Chess Lessons: Denver Metro Area

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

Chessmates Chess Club www.chessmatesfc.com/

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

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

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

Kings of Chess www.kingsofchess.com/

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

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

Balanced Rook Chess Club

Colorado Springs' Social Chess Club

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



Thursdays 6:00pm ~ 9:00pm

Stop in for one over the board game or several

Location: Wackadoo Brewing

5158 Centennial Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO

All ages and skill levels are welcome

Parents: please plan on staying with your children

Cost: Free



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

Email: BalancedRook@Gmail.com

Denver Chess Club's Tribute to MLK 2026 January 17-18

5 Round Swiss Tournament

Round Times: Sat 10:00am, 2:30pm, 7:00pm | Sun 10:00am, 3:00pm

Time Control: G/90; +30

Entry Fee: \$65 if registered by 1/11 - \$75 after
+\$10 for non DCC members | +\$10 to play up a section

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Denver Tech Center

7675 E Union Ave, Denver CO 80237

Online Registration: <https://caissachess.net/online-registration/index/7848>

Contact: Earle Wikle: Earle.Wikle7@Gmail.com

USCF membership required - www.uschess.org



Colorado State Champion



Eamon Montgomery

Colorado State Senior Champion



Earle Wikle

Renew your CSCA membership today!

If your membership has or is about to expire, it is time to act!

Name: _____

Address: _____



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

Make checks payable to the CSCA.
Contact the CSCA at coloradocsca@gmail.com
to learn of mailing address to send in completed form and payment.

Join or renew online at www.coloradochess.com under the Memberships tab