

The
CalChess
Journal
Fall Edition 2021



CalChess

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Letter from the Editor

Greeting Chess Players,

For the last quarter century, I have been fortunate enough to work with many of the most talented educators and players in the California chess community. Many of my chess friends have shared that the last couple of years have been particularly challenging. However, as chess players, meeting challenges is what we are trained for and as the new Editor for the CalChess Journal, I take great pride in sharing how together we have transcended the challenges of the pandemic. As our community re-emerges from the great shutdown, we are truly entering a new era for California chess, and I hope to reflect that by sharing your games, photos, achievements and stories with the rebirth of The CalChess Journal.



121st US Open Cherry Hill, NJ

By Lauren Goodkind



Players from throughout the United States traveled to Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 20 minutes from the historic city of Philadelphia, to play in the 121st US Open, July 31 to Aug. 8. The expansive Crown Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill hosted 515 players played in the main 9-round event — a single large section which enabled all participants to face players of all ratings. Although most participants were from East Coast states, players came from all over the United States, including Hawaii. I was among 22 players from California competing in the main section. Three schedules were available: The traditional, the 6-day schedule or the 4-day schedule. As a sign of the times during the COVID pandemic, everybody wore masks while playing and bottles of hand sanitizers were readily available in the playing halls.

I played in the 4-day section of this tournament.

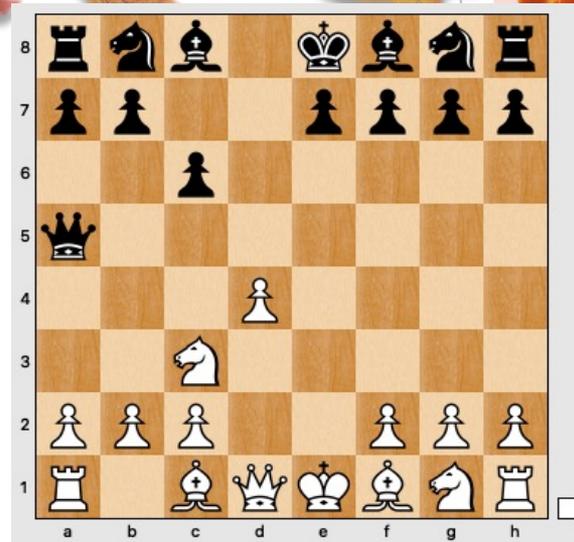


3 The main playing hall was impeccable and awaiting the start of the first round

In the first round, I played Michael Deng, 9-year-old boy from Maryland. He started with a 1096 rating, but impressively increased that to 1432 by tournament's end. An impressive learning experience for Michael!

[Event "121st US Open"]
[Site "Cherry Hill, New Jersey"]
[Round "1"]
[White "Michael Deng"]
[Black "Lauren Goodkind"]
[Result "0-1"]
[ECO "B01"]
[Event Date "2021.07.31 - 2021.08.08"]

1.e4 d5 { This opening is called the Scandinavian Defense. While perfectly playable, I don't think many masters play this opening. }
2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 {I moved c6 to create an escape square for my queen. }

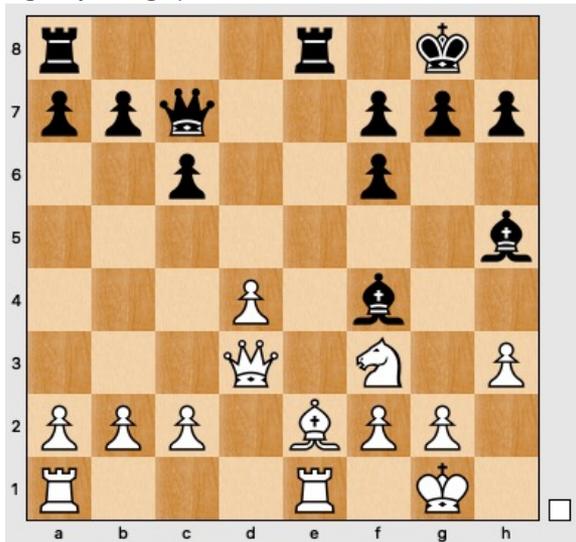


5.Bd2 Nf6 6.Ne4 { My knight should not capture Michael's knight since his bishop on e2 is attacking my queen on a5. } 6...Qc7 7.Nxf6+ { I captured his knight with the e pawn so I can open up lines for f8 bishop. If I had taken the knight with the g pawn, then my pawn structure would have been pretty bad with three pawn groups. } 7...exf6

8.Bc4 Bd6 9.Nf3 O-O 10.O-O Bg4 {I moved my bishop here to pin Michael's knight to his queen. }

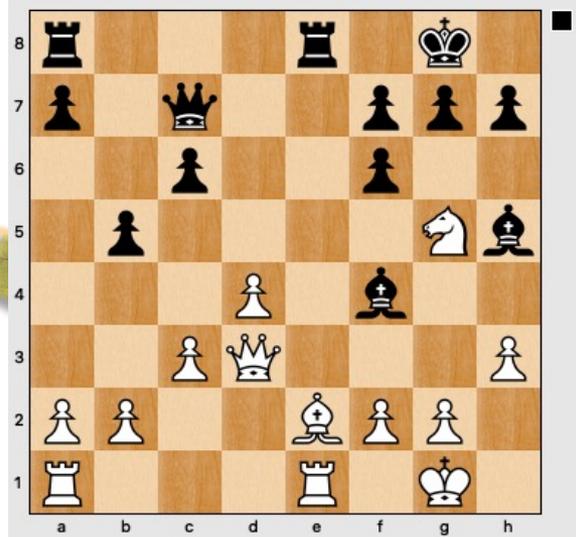


11.h3 Bh5 12.Re1 Nd7 { Now my piece development is finally finished. } 13.Be3 \$2 { I'm not too sure why he played this move. } 13...Nb6 14.Be2 Nd5 { I moved here to centralize my knight and to attack his bishop. } 15.Bd2 Nf4 16.Bxf4 Bxf4 17.Qd3 { According to the computer, the position is still equal, and nobody has an advantage. } 17...Rfe8 {I moved here to get the rook on the open file since this rook isn't doing anything. }



121* US Open, Continued

18.c3 b5 19.Ng5 {This move was very unexpected. There's a lot of things going on now. His queen and knight are threatening to safely capture my h7 pawn with check. My unprotected h5 bishop is being attacked by his e2 bishop. And his unprotected knight on g5 is being attacked by my f6 pawn and bishop. }

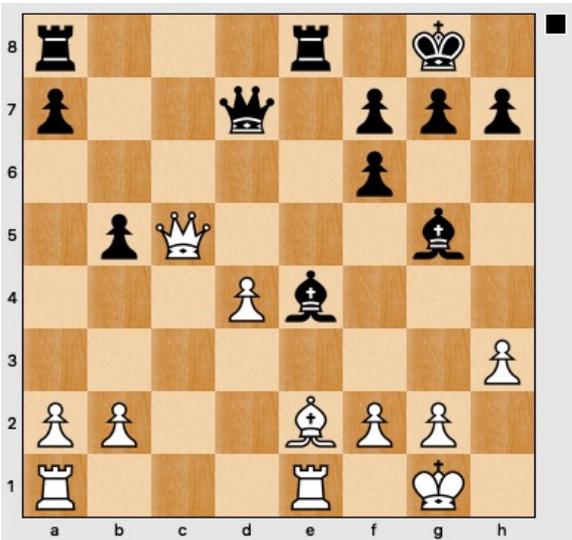


19...Bg6 {This is a wonderful move because my bishop defends the h7 pawn and attacks white's queen at the same time! Now Michael is in trouble because he cannot effectively save his queen and g5 knight in one move. }

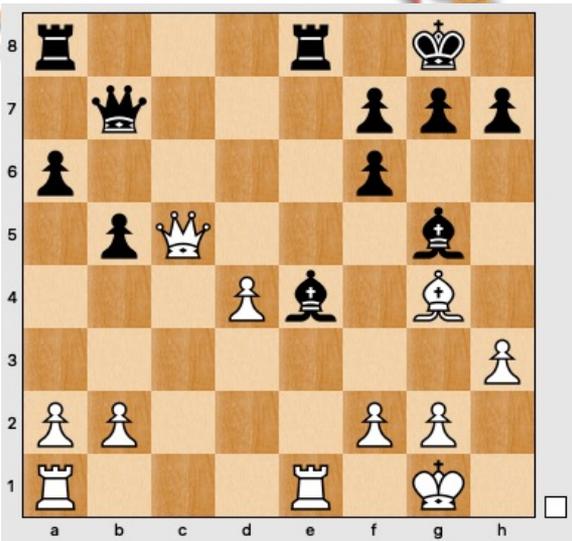


121* US Open, Continued

20.Qf3 Bxg5 { I am quite happy now since I am officially up a piece now. } 21.c4 Be4 { To improve the position of my bishop and to attack his queen. } 22.Qc3 Qd7 23.cxb5 cxb5 24.Qc5 {He is threatening Bxb5. }

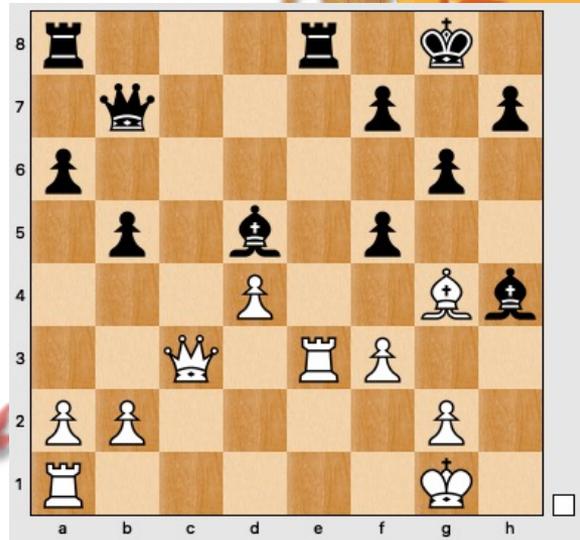


24...a6 { Now my a6 pawn is protecting my pawn on b5. } 25.Bg4 Qb7 {I moved my queen here to threaten to capture Michael's g2 pawn with my bishop. However, Qb7 is not the best move. }

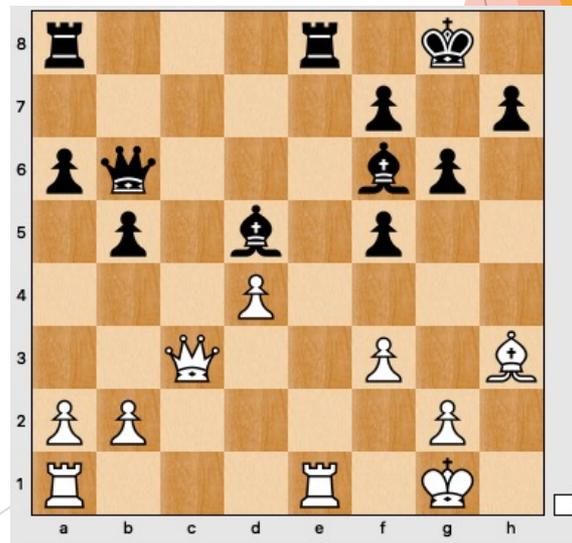


26.f3 { Instead of f3, the winning line according to the computer is: }
 (26.Rxe4 Qxe4 27.Bf3 {Attacking my queen. Once my queen moves to

a safe square, then his bishop can capture my rook on a8.}) 26...Bd5 27.Qc3 g6 { I move here to threaten f5, to trap Michael's bishop. } 28.h4 { He moved here to avoid his bishop from getting trapped. } 28...Bxh4 { I am happy to capture a free pawn and to attack his rook on e1. } 29.Re3 f5 {Now his bishop is in a terrible position. }

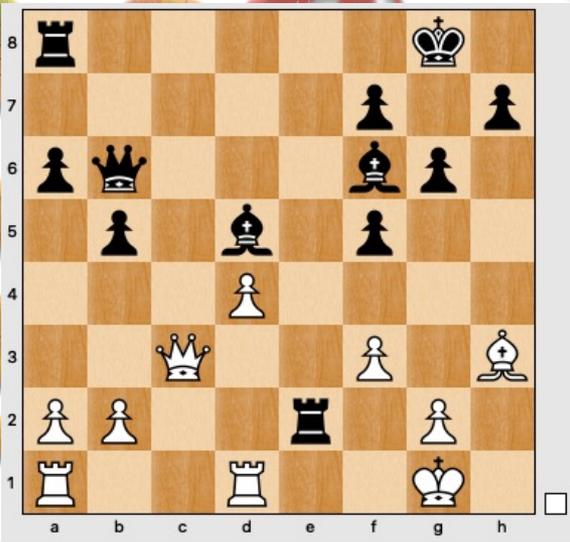


30.Bh3 Bg5 31.Re5 Bf6 32.Ree1 Qb6 {Threatening Bxd4+, winning Michael's queen. }

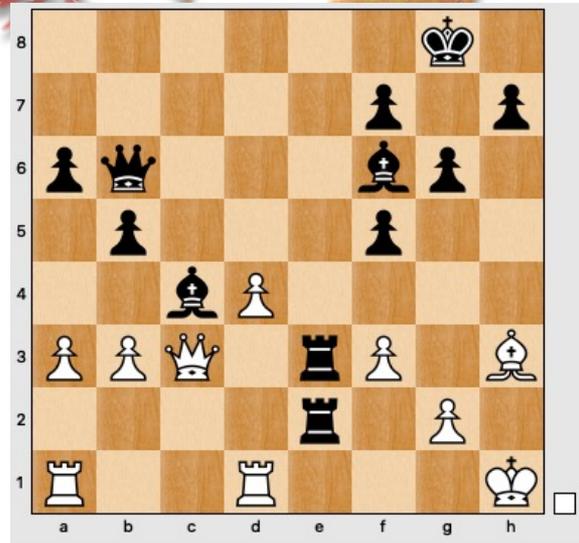


121st US Open, Continued

33.Red1 Re2 {Now I am invading his territory. }



34.a3 Rae8 35.Kh1 Bc4 36.b3 R8e3



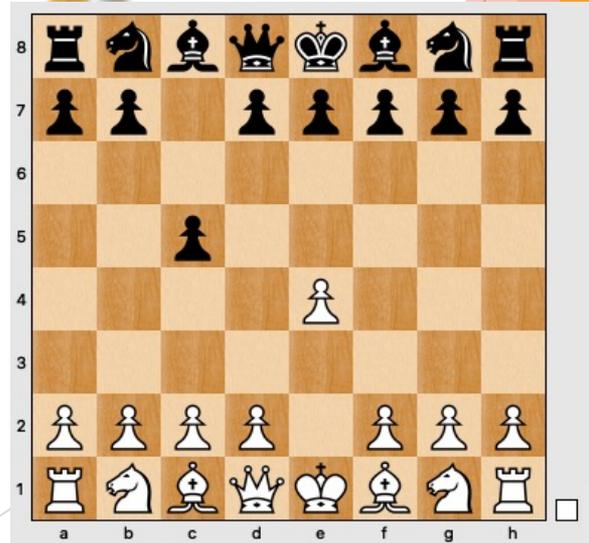
{Michael resigned here. If . . . } 37.Qb4 { then I go } ({ If . . . } 37.Qc1 { then I go } 37...Bxb3 { and his position is falling apart. }) 37...Be7 { trapping his queen. } *

In the first round, other Northern California players won their games and some of them lost. FM Vyom Vidyarthi, rated 2348, and WCM Omya Vidyarthi, rated 2036, both won their games. Henry Deng, rated 2065, and Ethan Guo, rated 1869, also won their games. Jayden Xu, rated 1768, Barbara Goodkind, rated 1791, Sadhana Arivoli, rated 1548, Aradhana Arivoli, rated 610, Ella Guo, rated 1520, and Andrew Ballantyne, rated 1446 lost their games.

In the second round, I played against Grandmaster Alexander Shabalov, a four-time winner of the US Chess Championship. This was my very first time playing against a grandmaster, one-on-one in an in-person tournament.

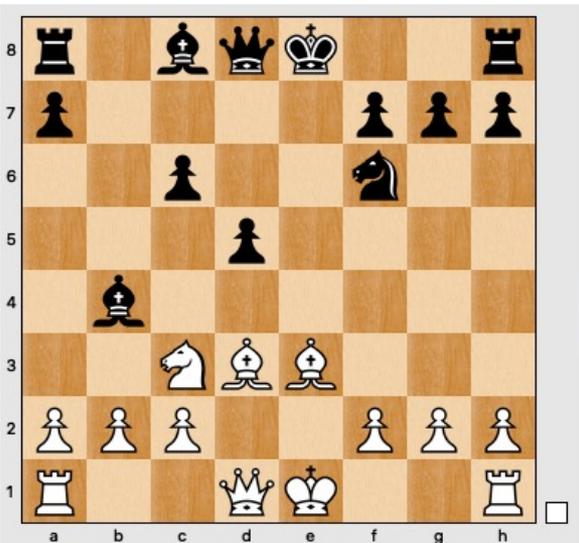
[Event "121st US Open"]
 [Site "Cherry Hill, New Jersey"]
 [Round "2"]
 [White "Lauren Goodkind"]
 [Black "GM Alexander Shabalov"]
 [Result "0-1"]
 [ECO "B33"]

1.e4 c5 {This opening is called the Sicilian Defense, a very common opening. }



121st US Open, Continued

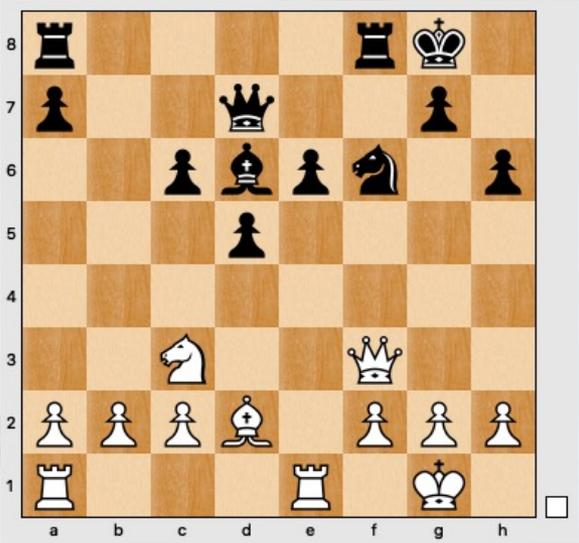
2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Be3 Bb4 7.Bd3 d5
 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.exd5 exd5 { Alexander is threatening to fork my knight and bishop by moving his pawn to d4. }



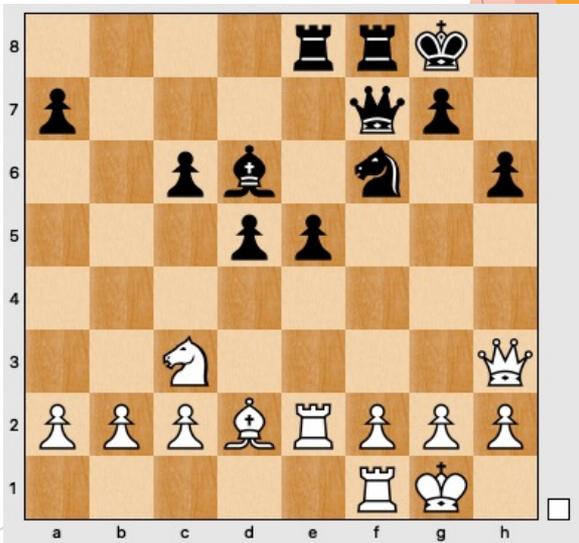
10.Bd2 { I moved Bd2 to unpin my c3 knight and to avoid his potential d4 pawn fork. } 10...O-O 11.O-O h6 12.Qf3 { Time to get my queen out. }



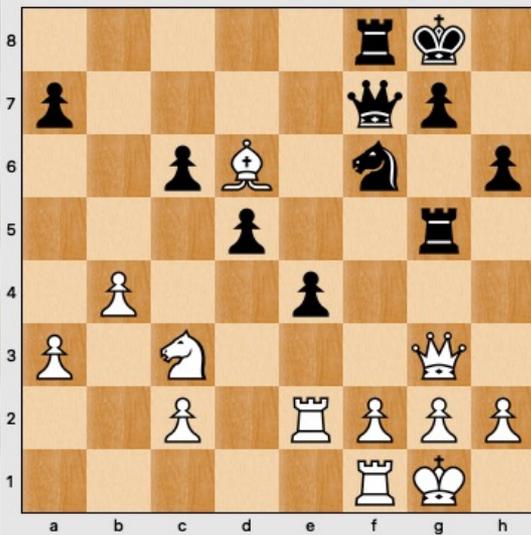
12...Bd6 13.Bf5 Be6 14.Rfe1 { I moved this rook out to get my rook on the open file. The computer doesn't like this move and suggests that Bf4 is the best move in this position. } 14...Qd7 { This is a strong developing move. Now Alexander is threatening to capture my bishop on f5. } 15.Bxe6 fxe6 { My position is a little difficult now. I wish I had at least one pawn in the center. }



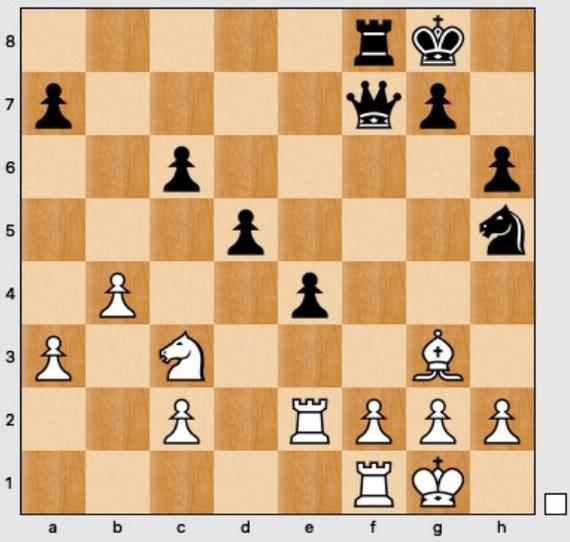
16.Qh3 Rae8 17.Re2 Qf7 18.Rf1 e5 { Alexander now has clear control of the center. My position is passive. }



19.a3 e4 20.b4 Re5 21.Bf4 Rh5 22.Qg3 Rg5 { His rook is now attacking my queen. } 23.Bxd6 { In this position, I thought that losing my queen for a bishop and rook would be the best option here. }

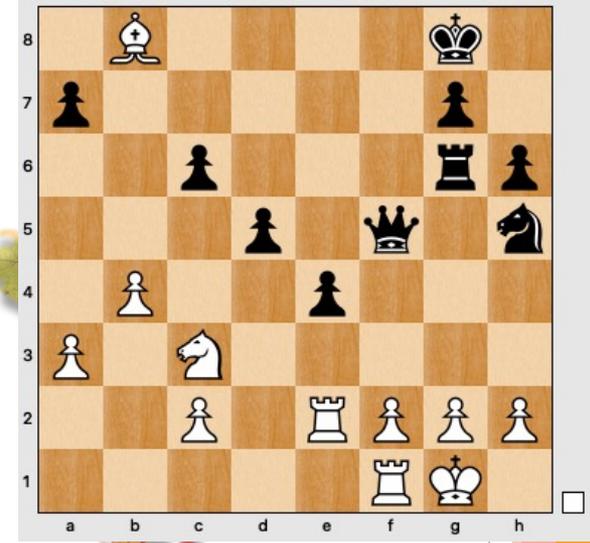


(23.Bxg5 Bxg3 { If my bishop captures his rook, then his bishop can capture my queen. }) (23.Qe3 { I didn't want to move my queen to e3 due to } 23...d4 { which forks my queen and knight. } ({ Or he could also move } 23...Ng4 { causing a lot of damage to my position. })) 23...Rxd6 24.Bxg3 Nh5 { I'm still holding on, but my position is passive. Alexander has a strong pawn chain in the center. }

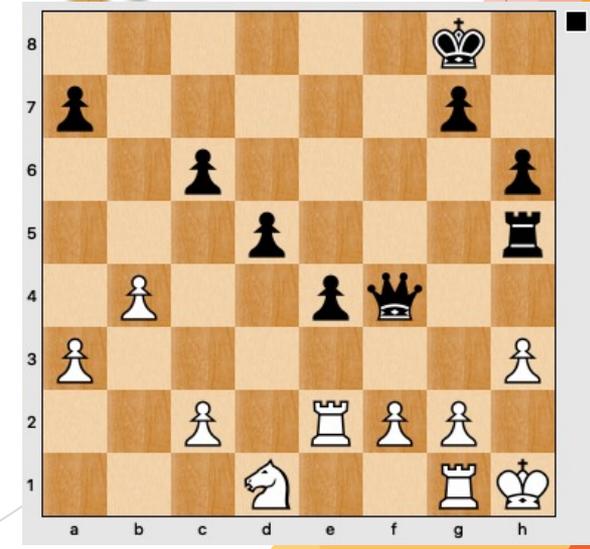


121st US Open, Continued

25.Be5 Qf5 26.Bd6 Rf6 27.Bb8 Rg6 { Now his rook is pinning my g2 pawn. Since Alexander's queen, rook, and knight are pretty close to my king, I decided that I want my bishop to defend the kingside and not to capture the pawn on a7. }

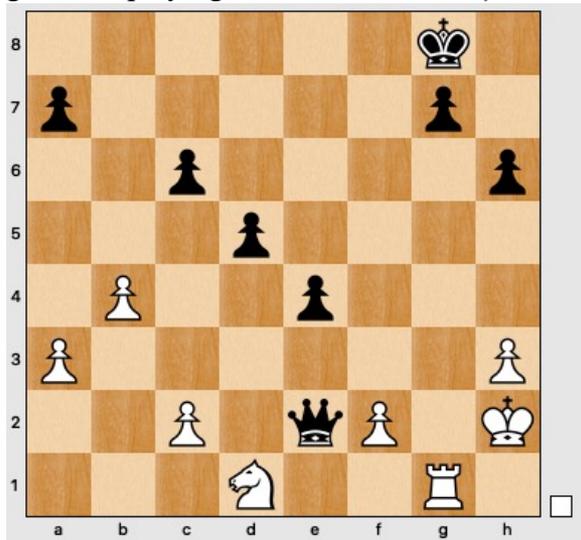


28.Kh1 Nf4 29.Bxf4 Qxf4 30.Rg1 Rg5 31.Nd1 Rh5 { He is threatening checkmate now. } 32.h3 { To stop the checkmate. }



121st US Open, Continued

32...Rxb3+ 33.gxh3 Qf3+ 34.Kh2 Qxe2 { I resigned here. I felt that I resigned a little too early because Alexander still had more work to do to achieve a decisive winning position. After all, I still have my knight and rook. Regardless, playing him was an honor! } *



In the second round, other Northern Californian players won their games and some of them lost. Vyom beat another northern California player, Henry Deng. Sadhana, Barbara, Jayden, Ethan, and Ella, won their games. Omya and Andrew lost their games. Aradhana did not play this round.

In the third round, I beat Tim Antonelli, a 1585 player from Massachusetts. He gave me a pretty tough fight, but I managed to win in the endgame. Vyom won in the third round, so he won three games in a row! Ethan impressively beat his master opponent, Arthur Macaspac, rated 2215, giving Ethan also three winning games in a row! Aradhana impressively drew her game against a 1485 player. Barbara, Henry, and Andrew, also won their games. Omya, Jayden, Sadhana, and Ella lost their games.

In the fourth round, I played against Jaron Bernard, rated 1660. He gave me a tough fight. In the endgame, I was in a slightly winning position that consisted of several pawns and bishops. I made some

mistakes due to time pressure and Jaron managed to promote one of his pawns to a queen. He eventually checkmated me with his newly promoted queen. Vyom had the honor of playing against Grandmaster Joel Benjamin and lost. Ethan Guo, rated 1869, lost to Grandmaster Brandon Jacobson, rated 2578 with the black pieces. Omya, Jayden, Sadhana, Henry won their games. Barbara impressively drew against a 2074 player. Andrew and Aradhana lost. Ella did not play this round.

In the fifth round, I beat David Riley, rated 1481, with the black pieces. Jayden won his game against an unrated player. Andrew won his game. Sadhana, Ella, and Barbara lost. Ethan drew against Evan Rabin, a master rated 2201 with the black pieces. Henry drew his game. Aradhana impressively drew against a 1546 player with the white pieces.

In the sixth round, I chose to not play, and I took a bye to attend the United States Chess Federation Award Ceremony, which was held in another room connected to the Crown Plaza Hotel. My parents, my sister, and my friend attended the ceremony to support me as I happily



accepted my “Meritorious Services” award. I gave a short speech before receiving my award plaque. Abel Talamantez, from San Francisco’s Mechanics Institute Chess Club, won the “Organizer of the Year” Award. It was nice to see many other notable chess people at the ceremony, including the world’s youngest grandmaster, 12-year-old Abhimanyu Mishra, Mr. Barber, and former US Women’s Chess Champion WIM Alexey Root. Other notable Northern California people that attended included FIDE Master Jim Eade.

Here am I with Abel Talamantez

Here is the link to the list of winners of the 2021 Annual Award recipients:



Scan or click the QR code



121st US Open, Continued

There was a mix-bag of results for our Northern California players for round six. Vyom impressively drew against Peruvian Grandmaster Emilio Daza, rated 2635, with the white pieces. Omya beat Jayden Xu with the white pieces. Barbara played and beat my first-round opponent, Michael Deng. Sadhana, Ethan, Andrew, and Ella won their games. Henry and Aradhana both lost their games.

In the seventh round, I played Stuart Elvers, rated 1367. He fought hard and I eventually checkmated with my queen in the late middlegame. Sadhana impressively beat Zachary Kinney, a 1905 player. Omya won her game. Vyom, Jayden, and Henry drew their games. Barbara, Ethan, Andrew, Ella, and Aradhana lost.

In the eighth round, I played against chess master Bob Holliman, rated 2200, with the white pieces on board 66. We castled on opposite sides and then he lost a pawn after we traded rooks. Eventually, he got into a passive position where I had dominating position with my queen, my knight, and some pawns. I got my powerful queen and my knight in his position. Once I moved my knight to check his king, he said, “Nice!” and then resigned. If he didn’t resign, then he would have to give up his queen for checkmate in a losing position. Other Northern California players, Vyom, Jayden, Henry, and Ella won. Omya drew her game. Sadhana, Barbara, Ethan, Andrew, and Aradhana lost.

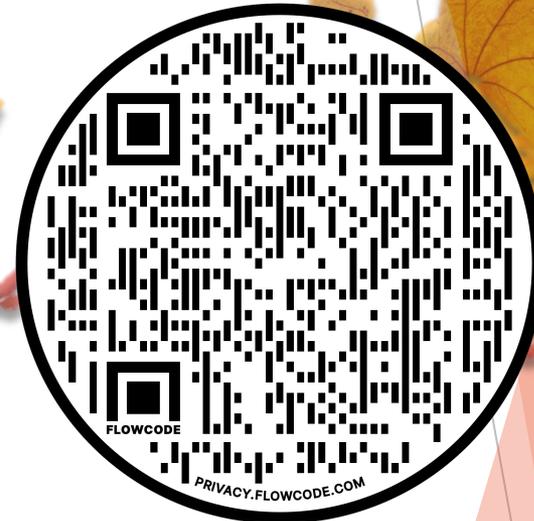
In the final round, round nine, Barbara and I decided to not play and got half point byes instead. We decided to explore the city of Philadelphia for the first time in our lives before taking the train to Washington, DC the next day. We enjoyed seeing the Liberty Bell, eating cheesesteak sandwiches at Reading Terminal Market, and more. Regarding the other Northern California players, Vyom had the honor of playing Grandmaster Aleksey Sorokin, rated 2643, with the black pieces and lost. Jayden lost to Ethan Guo. Sadhana impressively drew against Guy Hoffman, rated 1906, with the black pieces. Omya lost her game. Henry drew his game. Andrew won his game. Ella and Aradhana lost their games.

121st US Open, Continued



Grandmaster Aleksandr Lenderman, from New York, rated 2703, won the entire tournament with an impressive 8.5 out of 9 points. He left with \$8,200 in prize money. He drew his last round game against GM Benjamin Gledura. Final places for Northern California were Vyom, 49th place; Omya 109; Henry, 114; Ethan, 120. Even though I didn't play two rounds, I ended up in 131st place. Other NorCal players were Jayden, 250; Sadhana, 264; Barbara 294, Andrew 343; Ella, 372; Aradhana, 497.

Here are the final standings:



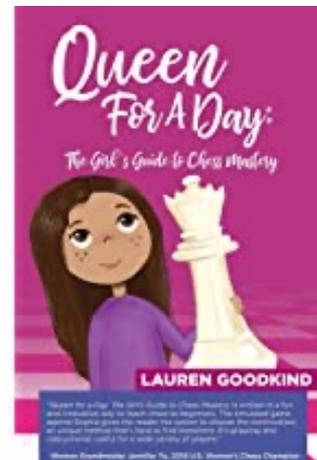
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The top boards got to play with wooden chess pieces and boards which were connected to internet.

To see all the top board games, go here:



Scan or click the QR code



Team CalChess are Champions of Champions

By Tom Langland

Northern California dominated the 2021 National Invitational Tournament of State Champions held in conjunction with the US Open at Cherry Hill, New. Each state was allowed to send their individual state champion for K-5, 6-8, High School, Girls and Senior. Out of the five titles to be awarded, the CalChess representatives won 3 of them as well as the overall State Team Champions!



Vyom Vidyarthi with Mr. Barberl

Coming in clear first in the Barber Middle School Championship was FIDE Master (FM) Vyom Vidyarthi a score of 5.5 out of 6. Vyom seeded #3 on the wallchart, stayed undefeated throughout the event, eliminating his closest rival Terry Lou with a hard-fought battle in the last round. By move 20 Vyom was clearly winning and eventually was up 2 clear pawns. Slowly Terry got back into the game evening the position to a Rook and Pawn endgame, but Vyom was able to achieve the winning Lucena position, keeping Terry's king two files away from his passed pawn.



Henry Deng

In the Rockefeller K-5 Championship, Henry Deng seeded fourth and turned in a consistent performance of 5.0 out of 6 games, finished tied for first place. His last round game was against top seeded Ryo Wenyu Chen rated over 300 points higher than Henry. Henry remained composed while his opponent could figure out whether to try to use his king to guard his own pawns or attack Henry's. Eventually the pawns

were traded off and a draw was agreed, leaving Henry with the better tiebreaks of the three players with 5 out of 6.

The Haring Championship for girls, named after our own Ruth Haring, Ruiyang Yan had already locked up at least a tie for first place after the first five rounds using her considerable experience for her age, at top level play both in the US and Internationally. So even with a last round set-back Ruiyang won 1st place and a \$5000 scholarship with her better tiebreaks.



Ruiyang Yan

The Denker Championship of High School Champions was the first tournament of the invitationals to be established, dating back to 1984. Northern California representative Milind Maiti (officially rated 2230) was in a field with a Grandmaster, an International Master and 5 FIDE Masters. After slow start with a first round draw, Milind got 3 wins in the next four rounds, losing only to 2411 rated Shunkai Pend of Oregon. In the last round Milind held his 2424 rated opponent to a draw. Milind performance shows that his recent rating rise to 2340 indicates his studies during COVID-19 has paid off!

The first-place finishers in each of the scholastic events receive a \$5,000 scholarship to a school of higher learning, and winners also receive invitations to the 2022 US Chess national championships for their category: Yan to the U.S. Junior Girls Championship, Vidyarthi to the U.S. Cadet Championship.

Continued on page 34



Henry, Vyom and Milind with their team awards

The Eade Spring Classic

By Chris Torres



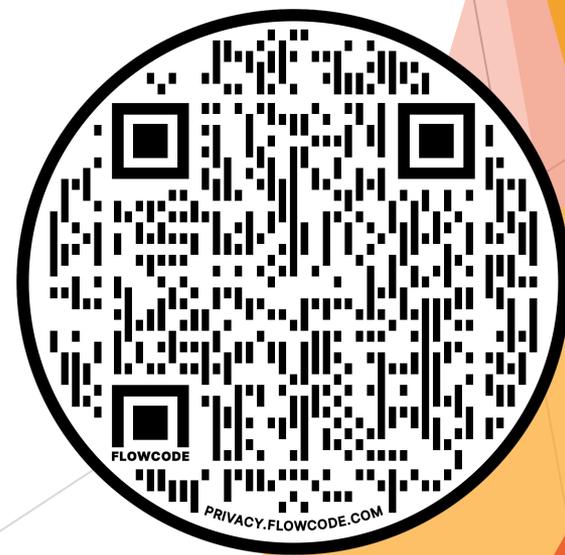
The
Eade
Foundation



Scan or Click to watch the
Tournament on YouTube



The complete standings and more featured games are available by
scanning or clicking the QR Code below



On May 22, The Eade Foundation Spring Scholastic Chess Classic took place online. This prestigious event attracted many of the top youth chess players from around the United States and Canada. The tournament which was organized by Chris Torres of Daily Chess Musings and directed by Jay Stallings of Chessshootz.com was a well-run 5 round rapid play event where children were broken up into 4 different grade level sections. All the rounds started on time and as soon as games finished, Chris and Jay were analyzing them during the live YouTube broadcast. In addition, all the games were analyzed using sophisticated FairPlay methods to ensure the integrity of the results.

The Eade Foundation's Spring Scholastic Chess Classic kicked off with a message on the importance of building a chess community from Norther California based FIDE Master James Eade. The Eade Foundation's ideals were epitomized by the scholastic chess players who spent their day demonstrating chess literacy and chess excellence. Of course, certain competitors earned the distinction of being crowned the champions of this first of its kind chess tournament and they are: Ariv Debmisra (K-1), Aaron Reeve Mendes (2-5), Ankita Jain (6-8), & Arnav Kapadia (9-12). In addition to the section champions, (list runners up) also deserve recognition for their performance in this prestigious online youth chess tournament.

Included on the next page is a featured game from the inaugural Eade Foundation Spring Scholastic Chess Classic.

1. e4 c6 This is the beginning of the Carro-Kann, a solid defense against 1. e4 named after Horatio Caro and Marcus Kann who analyzed the opening heavily in the late 19th century. 2. d4 d5 Despite not opening with a center pawn, fighting for the center as black is a key concept in the Carro-Kann. The c6 pawn prepares and supports a d5 push which is similar to the strategy in the French Defense without the early drawback of blocking in a bishop. 3. e5 Of course white has many other good options here but when they chose to advance the e-pawn to e5 on move three, then they have chosen to enter the Advance Variation. 3... e6?! The player

The Eade Spring Classic

with the black pieces should strongly consider playing 3... Bf5 or 3... c5 instead of 3... e6. 3... Bf5 allows the bishop to be deployed rather than locked in and 3... c5 is a popular way to fight for the center while avoiding all the theory regarding 3... Bf5.

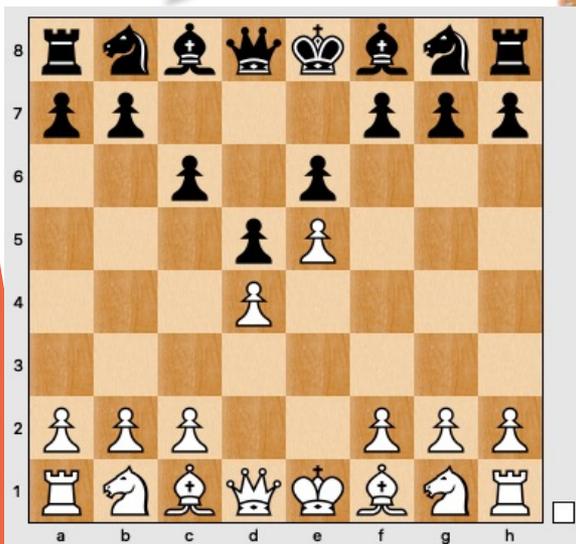
4. Qf3 c5 Moving the c-pawn a second time to c5 is a customary way for black to fight for the center in the Advance Variation. 5. c3 Devin chose to support his d4 pawn rather than capturing on c5 which allows black to develop his f8 bishop with a recapture. 5... Qc6 Another advantage of already having played c5 is that black can develop their queen's knight to c6. 6. Qbd2 This seems ultra conservative. Instead, White has several other options worthy of consideration and I have listed some of the most interesting alternatives below.

[6. Qe3 Bb6 7. b3 (7. Qc1 Qd7 8. Qe2 Bc8 9. O-O Qxe5 10. dxe5 Qe7 11. Qd2 0-1, Guaqueta Santiago 1600 - Alvarez Amaury (COL) 2098 , Bogota 11/ 9/2018 Ch Colombia) 7... Qd7 8. Qe2 Bc8 9. Qbd2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qb4 11. a3 Qxd2 12. Qxd2 Qge7 13. b4 O-O 14. O-O Qf5 15. Bfd1 h6 16. h3 Bc7 17. Bb1 a6 18. a4 Qxe3 19. Qxe3 Qxb4 20. Bd3 a5 21. Ba3 Qa7 22. Qe1 Bfc8 23. Qd3 b6 24. Qd2 Qb7 25. Qh1 Qxd3 26. Qxd3 Qb8 27. Ba2 Bc4 28. Qb2 Bc2 29. Qf4 Qc7

30. Qh2 Bc1 31. Bxc1 Qxc1 32. Qxc1 Bxc1 33. Qg3 Bc2 34. Qf4 Qxa4 35. Bxa4 Bxb2 36. Qe3 Bc2 37. g4 Qf8 38. h4 Qe7 39. f4 Bc3 40. Qf2 Bc4 41. Bxc4 dxc4 42. Qe3 a4 43. Qd2 g6 44. Qc3 b5 45. Qb4 h5 ...0-1, Zelbel Patrick (GER) 2448 - Tihonenkov Nikolaj, Muelheim 2002 Ch Ruhrgebiet (juniors) (under 16);

6. Qb3 Qc7 7. Qb5 a6 8. Qxc6 bxc6 9. O-O Qe7 10. Qe3 c4 11. Qd1 Qg6 12. Qbd2 Qd7 13. Bb1 Qa5 14. a3 Qe7 15. Qg5 h6 16. Qh3 c5 17. dxc5 Qxe5 18. Qd4 Qf6 19. f4 Qd3 20. Qxf6 gxf6 21. Qe2 Qxc5 22. Qh1 Qb5 23. f5 e5 24. Qg4 Qe7 25. b4 Qe3 26. Qf3 h5 27. Qh4 Bg8 28. Bbe1 Qxe1 29. Bxe1 Qxc3 30. Bxe5 Qf8 31. Qxf6 Qc1 32. Qhg1 Bb6 33. Qd8 Qg7 34. Qc7 Bc6 35. Qb7 Qd1 36. Qg5 Bf6 37. Bg7 Qe8 38. Qc7 h4 39. Qe5 Qh5 40. Qe6 Qh7 41. Qxf6 Qg4 42. Qb2 Qxf5 43. Qc7 Qc6 44. Qe5 Qxe5 45. Bxe5 d4 ...0-1, Parr Daniel 1277 - Krischak Werner 1721 , Marburg 4/13/2006 Ch Hessen (b);

6. g3 b6 7. Qa4 Qb7 8. Qb5 Qc7 9. dxc5 Qxc5 10. O-O Qge7 11. Qd3 Qg6 12. b4 Qe7 13. Qxg6 hxg6 14. Qa3 O-O-O 15. b5 Qa5 16. Qbd2 Qb8 17. Bfe1 Bb5 18. Bc1 Bdh8 19. Qxe7 Qxe7 20. Qd4 Qc4 21. h4 Bc8 22. Qg5 Qxd2 23. Qxd2 Bc4 24. Qd3 Bb8 25. Qf3 Bf8 26. Qh2 Qc5 27. Bcd1 d4 28. Qd3 dxc3 29. Qd6 Qxd6



30. exd6 e5 31. e3 f6 32. h3 c2
 33. f4 e5 34. e2 xa2 35. xg6
 e8 36. e7 e7 37. c6 a8 38.
 b4 e4 39. a6 e5 40. e8xc2
 e5xd6 41. e4 e2 42. e8 c6
 43. e8c7 e7 44. e7 c6 45.
 g2 e2 ...1-0, Strehlow Chris -
 Kwiatek Jordan, Winnipeg 2002 Ch
 Canada (juniors) (under 20);
 6. dxc5 e5 7. e3 e7 8. f4 e6
 9. e2 g6 10. O-O e7 11. b4 e4
 12. e4 b4 13. e2 e6 14. c3
 d4 15. d4 e4 16. e5 c6 17.
 e3 O-O 18. e1 e5 19. e6
 e6 20. e6 1-0, Magrabi F -
 Barnetche P, Urcuit 1989 It (open);
 6. e3!? e6 (6... e7 7. O-O e6
 8. g3 e7 9. h4 O-O 10. h5 e8
 11. dxc5 e5 12. e2 g6 13. e6 e8
 14. e2 b2 15. e3 e8 16. f4 f5
 17. e6 e6 18. e5 e7 19. e6
 e6 20. e4 e7 21. e5 e7 22.
 e6 g5 23. e8 e8 24. e6
 e7 25. e1 e6 26. e6 e8
 27. e5 e7 28. e5 e4 29. b3
 e6 30. e6 1-0, Karthikeyan P
 (IND) 2416 - Redzisz Michal (POL)
 2104, Graz 2/14/2020 It (open); 6...
 e7 7. O-O e4 8. e4 +0.72
 Stockfish) 7. O-O e7 8. e2 e8 9.
 a3 e4 10. e4 e7 11. c3 e5
 12. e1 c4 13. e4 e7 14. c5
 e6 15. b3 e6 16. e2 d7 17.
 d3 e5 18. e4 e4 19. e4 a5
 20. e1 e5 21. e3 e3 22. e3

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O-O 23. e2 e6 24. e1 e8 25.
 e3 e6 26. e1 e8 27. g4 e7
 28. e5 f5 29. e6 e6 30. e6
 e6 31. e3 e8 32. e6 e6 33.
 g5 e5 34. e6 h6 35. e7 e7 36.
 e3 c6 37. e3 e6 38. e1 e7
 39. e2 g5 40. e3 e4 0-1, Da Silva
 Hildebran Bergman - Paz Leonardo
 Gadelha da 2027, Boa Vista 5/ 1/2012
 Memorial Macedo Malaquias (open);
 6. e2 e4 7. e4 e7 8. O-O e5
 9. b3 e7 10. e3 O-O 11. c2 e7
 12. e3 e3 13. e3 e8 14. e1
 e3 15. e2 e4 16. e8 e8 17.
 e3 d3 18. e3 h6 19. e1 a5
 20. e2 e7 21. b4 e4 22. e4
 e4 23. e4 e1 24. e1 e1 25.
 e1 e6 26. e2 e8 27. e2 e7
 28. d2 e6 29. e3 e5 30. e2
 e1 31. g3 e4 32. c5 b5 33. e7
 e2 34. e2 e2 35. e3 e4 36.
 d8 e2 37. h3 e1 38. e4 e3
 39. e5 f6 40. e6 e6 41. c6
 e5 42. e5 h5 43. e5 g5 44. f3 e6
 45. e6 e2 ...0-1, Heng Cho Yaw
 (SGP) 1479 - Frost Peter (AUS) 1717,
 Penang 12/14/2019 It (open);
 6. e5 a6 7. e4 b5 8. e2 g6 9. e3
 e4 10. e4 e7 11. c3 f6 12. f4
 e5 13. e5 e7 14. O-O O-O 15.
 e3 e6 16. e2 e5 17. e5 c6
 18. e1 e5 19. e1 e4 20. e4
 e4 21. e4 e2 22. e2 e2 23.

e3 e4 24. e3 e7 25. e2 e8
 26. e3 e8 27. e1 e4 28. e1
 e5 29. e4 e2 30. h4 e6 31.
 e1 e1 32. e2 e5 33. e3 e3
 34. e3 e1 35. e5 e8 36. g4
 e2 37. e3 e3 38. e2 e4 39.
 e7 d4 0-1, Alacan Mehmet (TUR)
 1630 - Acar Ozgur (TUR) 1742, Antalya
 1/28/2020 Cup Turkey (open);
 6. e5 e6 7. e2 e4 8. e4
 e7 9. g4 e6 10. h4 e7 11. c3
 e7 12. e7 e7 13. e5 c8
 14. O-O-O e5 15. e5 e5 16.
 e5 e5 17. e3 O-O 18. e1
 d6 19. e3 e8 20. h5 c4 21.
 e4 e4 22. e7 e6 23. e4 a5
 24. e7 e8 25. e7 e4 26. e1
 e2 27. e2 e1 28. e2 e2 29.
 e2 e2 30. e1 e3 31. e1
 e4 32. h6 e3 33. e1 e4 34.
 e2 e4 35. e7 e7 36. e4
 e6 37. e3 e5 38. e5 e2 39.
 e5 e8 40. e7 e1 41. e3 e1
 42. e4 e2 43. e4 e2 44. e3
 e1 45. e3 1/2-1/2, Johnston
 Robert - Fritze Skip, Stillwater 11/
 5/2006 It (open);
 6. f4 e7 7. g3 e6 8. e2 e7 9.
 e2 O-O 10. O-O b6 11. e1 e4 12.
 e4 e6 13. e2 e8 14. e3
 e3 15. e1 e2 16. e2 e4 17.
 e2 h6 18. e2 e7 19. e1 e7
 20. e3 e4 21. e4 e4 22. e4
 e1 23. e1 e8 24. e1 e1
 25. e1 e4 26. e3 e5 0-1, Silva

Joao Emanuel Torres - Santos Jose Miguel Sereno (POR) 1503 , Vila Nova de Famalicao 7/30/2016 It (open);

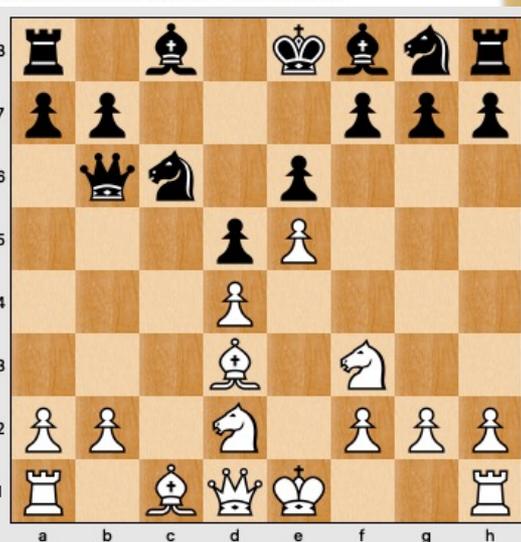
6. $\text{e}2$ $\text{d}7$ 7. $\text{e}5$ $\text{c}7$ 8. $\text{d}b2$ $\text{d}g6$ 9. $\text{e}3$ $\text{c}d4$ 10. $\text{c}d4$ $\text{b}6$ 11. $\text{e}xg6$ $\text{f}xg6$ 12. $\text{d}b3$ $\text{e}b4$ 13. $\text{e}d2$ O-O 14. O-O $\text{a}5$ 15. $\text{a}3$ $\text{e}x\text{d}2$ 16. $\text{b}x\text{d}2$ $\text{b}x\text{b}3$ 17. $\text{a}c1$ $\text{d}e7$ 18. $\text{a}c3$ $\text{b}6$ 19. $\text{h}4$ $\text{d}f5$ 20. $\text{g}4$ $\text{d}h6$ 21. $\text{d}h2$ $\text{b}d8$ 22. $\text{a}h3$ $\text{b}6$ 23. $\text{c}g2$ $\text{e}a6$ 24. $\text{a}h1$ $\text{a}f7$ 25. $\text{g}5$ $\text{d}f5$ 26. $\text{d}g4$ $\text{b}d7$ 27. $\text{h}5$ $\text{g}x\text{h}5$ 28. $\text{a}x\text{h}5$ $\text{b}a4$ 29. $\text{a}x\text{h}7$ $\text{a}f\text{f}8$ 30. $\text{g}6$ $\text{d}h6$ 31. $\text{a}7\text{xh}6$ $\text{g}x\text{h}6$ 32. $\text{d}x\text{h}6$ 1-0, Piyamit Sophia - Graf Lennard 979 , Oberhof 5/24/2013 Ch Germany (open) (under 25) (b);

6. $\text{b}3$ $\text{b}6$ 7. $\text{e}e3$ $\text{c}d4$ 8. $\text{c}d4$ $\text{e}b4$ 9. $\text{d}b2$ $\text{d}7$ 10. $\text{e}e2$ $\text{d}f5$ 11. O-O $\text{e}c3$ 12. $\text{a}c1$ $\text{e}x\text{d}4$ 13. $\text{d}x\text{d}4$ $\text{d}c\text{x}d4$ 14. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}x\text{f}3$ 15. $\text{e}x\text{f}3$ $\text{d}x\text{e}3$ 16. $\text{f}x\text{e}3$ $\text{b}x\text{e}3$ 17. $\text{c}h1$ O-O 18. $\text{a}e1$ $\text{b}6$ 19. $\text{b}d3$ $\text{e}d7$ 20. $\text{e}e2$ $\text{a}c8$ 21. $\text{b}g3$ $\text{e}b5$ 22. $\text{e}f3$ $\text{a}x\text{c}1$ 23. $\text{a}x\text{c}1$ $\text{b}e3$ 24. $\text{a}e1$ $\text{b}h6$ 25. $\text{h}3$ $\text{a}c8$ 26. $\text{b}f2$ $\text{b}6$ 27. $\text{b}b2$ $\text{b}h4$ 28. $\text{a}c1$ $\text{b}d8$ 29. $\text{a}4$ $\text{e}a6$ 30. $\text{b}d2$ $\text{h}6$ 31. $\text{a}c3$ $\text{a}x\text{c}3$ 32. $\text{b}x\text{c}3$ $\text{b}c8$ 33. $\text{b}e3$ $\text{b}c2$ 34. $\text{c}h2$ $\text{b}d3$ 35. $\text{b}c1$ $\text{b}x\text{b}3$ 36. $\text{b}c7$ $\text{b}a4$ 37. $\text{b}a7$ $\text{b}f4$ 38. $\text{c}g1$ $\text{e}d3$ 39. $\text{b}x\text{b}6$ $\text{b}x\text{e}5$ 40. $\text{b}d8$ $\text{c}h7$ 41. $\text{b}e8$ $\text{e}g6$ 42. $\text{b}b5$ $\text{b}e1$ 43. $\text{c}h2$ $\text{d}4$ 44. $\text{e}e2$ $\text{b}c3$ 45. $\text{b}e5$ $\text{b}c2$...0-1, Lopicillo Nelissa 1803 - Lozano Arvie 1984 , Manila 4/ 1/2014 Ch Philippines (qual) (w);

6. $\text{a}3$ $\text{c}4$ 7. $\text{e}e2$ $\text{e}d7$ 8. O-O $\text{d}a5$ 9.

$\text{d}b2$ $\text{e}c6$ 10. $\text{b}4$ $\text{c}x\text{b}3$ 11. $\text{d}x\text{b}3$ $\text{e}a4$ 12. $\text{a}b1$ $\text{d}x\text{b}3$ 13. $\text{a}x\text{b}3$ $\text{e}x\text{b}3$ 14. $\text{b}x\text{b}3$ $\text{b}6$ 15. $\text{e}b5$ $\text{c}d8$ 16. $\text{d}g5$ $\text{d}h6$ 17. $\text{b}a4$ $\text{e}e7$ 18. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{a}c8$ 19. $\text{c}4$ $\text{d}x\text{c}4$ 20. $\text{e}d2$ $\text{c}3$ 21. $\text{e}e3$ $\text{d}f5$ 22. $\text{e}c1$ $\text{a}6$ 23. $\text{e}d3$ $\text{g}6$ 24. $\text{d}5$ $\text{e}x\text{d}5$ 25. $\text{d}g5$ $\text{e}x\text{g}5$ 26. $\text{e}x\text{g}5$ $\text{c}c7$ 27. $\text{e}6$ $\text{f}x\text{e}6$ 28. $\text{e}x\text{f}5$ $\text{c}b8$ 29. $\text{e}f4$ $\text{c}a8$ 30. $\text{e}d3$ $\text{a}h\text{d}8$ 31. $\text{a}b1$ $\text{b}a7$ 32. $\text{e}e3$ $\text{d}4$ 33. $\text{e}g5$ $\text{a}d6$ 34. $\text{b}b4$ $\text{c}2$ 35. $\text{e}x\text{c}2$ $\text{a}x\text{c}2$ 36. $\text{b}x\text{d}6$ $\text{d}3$ 37. $\text{b}d8$ $\text{b}b8$ 38. $\text{b}x\text{d}3$ $\text{a}c7$ 39. $\text{e}f4$ 1-0, Cassam-Chenai Antoine (FRA) 1747 - Lavanant Alexandre (FRA) 1971 , Internet 5/16/2020 Ch France (blitz) (online) (qual)]

6... $\text{b}6$ Ankita responds to her opponent's most conservative choice by employing her queen early to a square where it further supports $\text{c}d4$ and also is eyeing $\text{b}2$. 7. $\text{e}d3$ $\text{c}d4$ 8. $\text{c}d4$ White has more space but also a weak pawn on $\text{d}4$. I rate this position as being equal.



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8... $\text{d}x\text{d}4$ Playing $\text{Bd}7$ to prevent a check on the $\text{a}4$ - $\text{e}8$ diagonal and then attacking with $\text{Nb}4$ is another interesting plan.

[8... $\text{e}d7$ 9. O-O $\text{d}b4$ 10. $\text{e}b1$ $\text{e}b5$ 11. $\text{a}e1$ $\text{d}d3$ Is some food for thought.]

9. $\text{d}x\text{d}4$ $\text{b}x\text{d}4$ By capturing on $\text{d}4$, Ankita has created a passed pawn for herself on $\text{d}5$ but her queen will now be vulnerable to attack. 10. $\text{d}f3$ And right on cue, Devin improves his knight with a threat against the black queen. 10... $\text{b}6$?! Before retreating from a threat, it is always a good idea to analyze all of the checks, captures and threats. Here, despite her queen being under the threat of capture, Ankita had a useful check at her disposal.

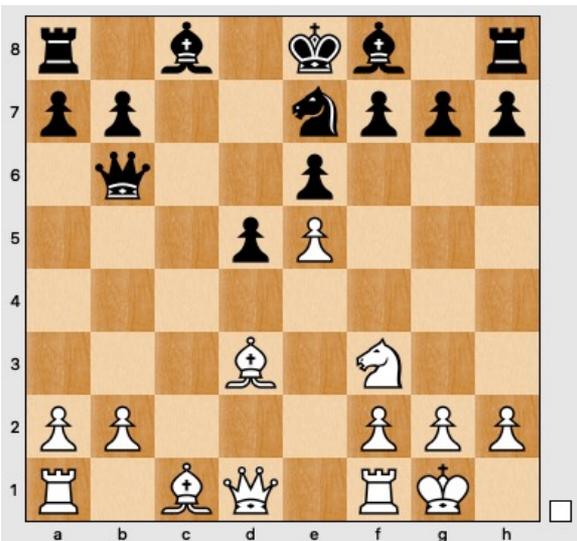
[10... $\text{e}b4$ 11. $\text{c}f1$ White, unable to block the check without blocking the queens line of defense on her light bishop, must instead step aside with the king. 11... $\text{b}6$ 12. $\text{a}3$ $\text{e}e7$ And black has forced white to have an awkward king in exchange for a couple tempi.]

11. O-O White dodged a bullet and has castled safely. 11... $\text{d}e7$?! With white already leading in development, it is dangerous for black to attempt to move the knight twice before castling. a much for efficient plan for black would be.

[11... $\text{e}d7$?! 12. $\text{e}e3$ $\text{e}c5$ 13. $\text{e}x\text{c}5$ $\text{b}x\text{c}5$ But even this improvement is far from ideal as white can push their

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initiative. 14. ♖c1 ♖e7 15. ♖c7 And black's lack of development is causing obvious problems.]



12. ♗e3 ♖d8 12... Qxb2 would give white a strong attack,

[12... ♖xb2? 13. ♖b1 ♖c3 14. ♗b5 ♘c6 15. ♘d4 ♗d7 16. ♗a4 ♘d4 17. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 18. ♖xb7 ♗d8 19. ♗xd4]

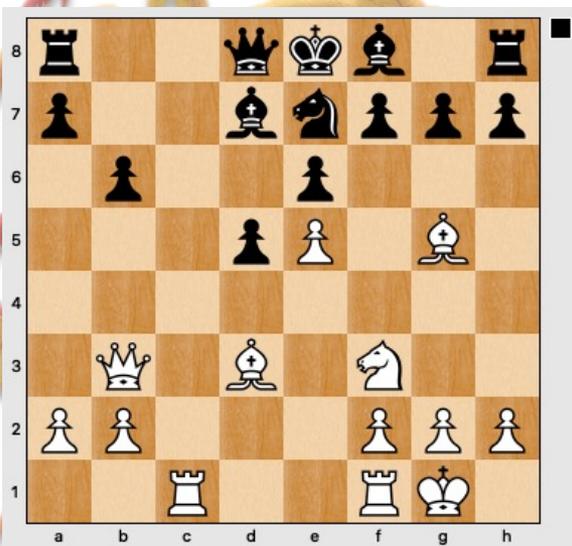
13. ♖c1 Devin extends his lead in development. 13... ♗d7 14. ♖b3?! White has completed the three opening goals of maintaining a center pawn, castling and unifying rooks. 14... b6 If Ankita can get her remaining pieces in the game and get castled, she stands to win being a pawn up and having a passed pawn.

[14... ♘c6!? 15. a3 ♖b8 16. ♖fe1 ♗e7 17. h4 h6 18. ♖c3 a5 19. ♗b6 ♗d8 20. ♗c5 ♗e7 21. ♖d2 a4 22. ♗b6 ♗d8

23. ♗c5 ends up being drawish.]

15. ♗g5?! This pin would be hard to maintain after black plays h6. Better is maneuvering the knight closer to the action.

[15. ♘d4!? a6 16. f4 g6 17. ♖c2 ♘g8 18. ♖fc1 ♗c5 19. ♖c3 ♘h6 20. f5 ♘xf5 21. ♗xf5 gxf5 22. b4 ♗xd4 23. ♖xd4 ♖g8 24. h3 ♖g6 and white still maintains an advantage.]



15... h6 Correct. 16. ♗e3 I am a little surprised that Devin returns the bishop to h3 rather than trying to hang onto the pin with Bh4.

[16. ♗h4 g5 17. ♗g3 ♘c6 But I wouldn't consider this to be an improvement over what was played in

the game.]

16... ♗g6?! This knight is much better placed on c6.

[16... ♘c6!? 17. ♖fd1 ♘b4 And white will have to play very accurately to avoid black completing their development and preparing to advance a passed pawn.]

17. ♖c2?! Obviously threatening Bxg6 and if black recaptures then Qxg6+. A more subtle approach would be:

[17. g3!? ♗e7 18. h4 planning for the pawn to move ahead to h5 to harass black's poorly placed knight.]

17... ♗e7?! Incorrect. When under attack always remember to analyze all of the checks, captures and threats. Here, black could improve her rook before worrying about the capture on g6.

[17... ♖c8!? 18. ♖b1 ♗e7 19. ♘d4 a5 20. f4 ♘f5 21. ♗xf5 exf5 22. ♘xf5 ♗xf5 23. ♖xf5 ♗c5 24. ♗xc5 ♖xc5 25. ♖xc5 bxc5 26. e6 O-O 27. ♖d1 Where the better endgame player would win regardless of their color.]

[0:1]



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Nov 20, 2021

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GHESSHQVZ

The Chess files

The Answers are Out There

By James Eade

Is chess better off or worse off in the age of the Internet and Chess Engines? The answer is that it depends. We cannot make a blanket statement one way or the other unless we agree on a value system. Do we weigh technical accuracy over the spirit of competition? Or is it the other way around?



How would these questions be answered by a person who grew up before the Internet age? How would they be answered by someone who grew up only knowing chess in the age of the Internet and chess engines? We may never agree depending upon a wide variety of factors. Does that mean we shouldn't try and answer the question? Heck, no!

Let's look at the good qualities in this article and address the negative impacts in the next issue. This is a difficult topic to take on in just a single column! Once we have looked at the questions from both sides, we can try to draw conclusions. I predict that our conclusion will be "It depends.", but I shouldn't get ahead of myself.

Let's begin by considering the Chess Teacher. The teacher of the past would often have to travel to their student's location. Often, it would be one on one instruction limiting the amount they could charge for their services. Even if they had many students at once, increasing their income, they would be teaching them by using demo boards! I kid you not. I used to do it myself.

Today's teacher can have any number of guests join a video broadcast, greatly expanding their reach from the comfort of their own home! This increases the access to chess instruction for the students and

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increases the income potential for the teacher and reduces the level of effort they must expend to physically be present in various locations.

Beyond that, the ability to use computer displays greatly increases their ability to show multiple positions without wasting time physically setting up the board. It makes it much easier for them to cover more material much more quickly than they could in the past. The Information age has been a great boon for the Chess Teacher.

What about the Chess Student? The student has many more options in the Internet age. Not only do they have a much better chance of finding individual instruction, but there are also many videos, and other free online instructional materials for them. They can also access huge databases of games and play them over in a fraction of the time it would take students in the past to do so from reading magazines or books. This age represents a huge advance for players trying to learn or improve.

What about the Chess Player? This as both upsides and down. The coffee house player is largely unaffected. The club player is only slightly affected. The serious player is seriously affected by the Internet age and the rise of chess engines. We will only look at the upside in this issue. The ability to prepare for a particular player in advance has been greatly enhanced. The ability to learn an opening repertoire is also greatly enhanced. It can be done so much more easily and so much faster than before. The use of Chess Engines to check your work was never previously available. This represents a skill all by itself, but if used properly, it is an invaluable asset. Moreover, the chess player of today can play chess anytime, with just about anyone, anywhere in the world! It doesn't matter what country you are from, or what language you speak!

How does the Internet age and the rise of the engines effect the chess player? The answer is it depends.

The Chess Files, Continued

In the next issue we will take a serious look at some of the downsides of this technological advance. Until then, please send any questions or comments to: eadefoundation@gmail.com.



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A Great Comeback Story

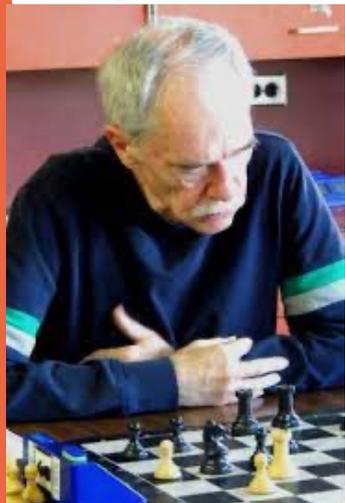
By Chris Torres



Chess players like our fully human counterparts, love a great comeback story. Fortunately, our game's rich history is filled with amazing comebacks such as in the Max Euwe's great comeback against Alexander Alekhine in their 1935 World Championship Match, Magnus Carlsen blundering a piece and then going on to win against Gawain Jones in 2018. The Berkeley Chess School is roaring back to life after the forced shutdown of over the board chess in 2020.

CalChess Senior State Championship

Running an event for seniors during the pandemic is no small task. The Berkeley Chess School pulled it off on July 10 - 11 by making safety a priority and hiring the very experienced IM John Donaldson as the Chief TD. In order to participate players had to present proof of vaccination, wear masks and adhere to social distancing. By all accounts, the players appreciated the safety measures in place at the Berkeley Chess School's Chess Center and the smooth professionalism of IM John Donaldson tournament management.



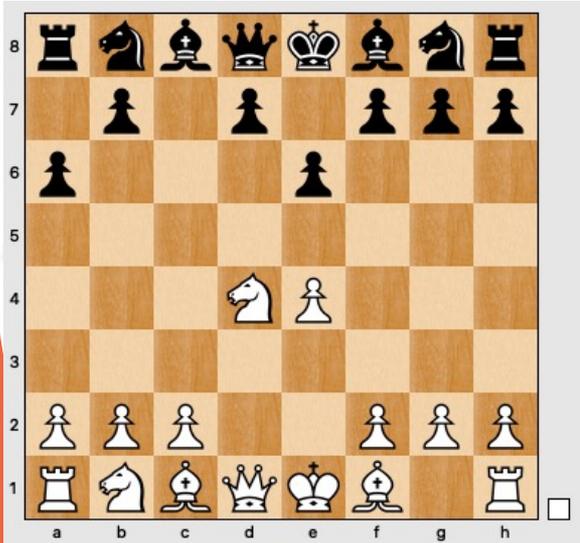
As usual, the competition was fierce at the CalChess Senior State Championship. The fully guaranteed prize fund of \$1,200, the title of Senior State Champion and the chance to represent Northern California Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions attracted an impressive field of highly accomplished chess players. Those in attendance were treated to a climactic final round matchup between IM Elliott Winslow with four points and NM Mike Walder with three. If Mike Walder won that game, he would be the 2021 State Champion whilst Elliott Winslow needed at least a draw. Elliott got the draw, the title and then helped Northern California win top "state" at the Nationals!



CalChess Senior State Championship, Continued

1 **SICILIAN def. PAULSEN var. Michael W. - Elliott W.**
½:½, 7/11/ 21.

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 a6
 The Paulsen Variation. This opening system, unleashed onto the chess world by the famous 19th century German Louis Paulsen, is characterized by the black pawn moves e7-e6 and a7-a6, with the d-pawn being delayed at d7. Quite a few players use the Paulsen system as a roundabout path to the Scheveningen in order to avoid the dangerous lines in the Keres and Velimirovic attacks. True fans of Paulsen's system, however, keep the pawn at d7 as long as possible while making use of the dark-squared bishop development to d6, c5, or b4.



5. ♕d3 The most aggressive choice for white. Black's influence on the center is lacking, so White is allowed to place his bishop on the diagonal with the most potential tactics. 5... ♗c5 6. ♖b3 ♗e7
 Characteristic of the Paulsen, Elliott makes use of dark-squared bishop's freedom to push aside the white d4-knight and then returns it to e7 where it will fit nicely into the hedgehog formation. 7.



2021 CalChess Senior Championship winner Elliot Winslow

O-O d6 8. ♘c3
 [8. ♖g4 g6 9. ♖g3 ♘d7 10. c4 h5 11. h3 h4 12. ♖e3 ♘gf6 13. ♘c3 ♘h5 14. ♗e2 g5 15. ♗xh5 ♗xh5 16. ♖e2 ♗h7 17. ♗e3 ♘e5 18. c5 dxc5 19. ♘xc5 b5 20. ♗ac1 ♘c4 21. b3 ♘xe3 22. ♖xe3 ♖b6 23. b4 ♗b7 24. e5 ♗g7 25. ♘3e4 ♗d5 26. ♘f6 ♗xf6 27. ♘d7 ♖xe3 28. ♘xf6 ♗f8 29. fxe3 ♗c4 30. ♗fd1 ♗g6 31. ♗d7 ♗g7 32. ♗c2 a5 33. bxa5 ♗xa5 34. ♘e8 ♗f8 35. ♘d6 ♗xa2 36. ♗xa2 ♗xa2 37. ♗xf7 ♗g8 38. ♗a7 ♗c4 39. ♘e4 ♗g7 40. ♗a8 ♗h7 41. ♗f2 ♗g6 42. ♘d6 g4 43. hxg4 ♗g5 44. ♗f8 ♗xg4 45. ♗f4 ♗h5 46. ♘xc4 bxc4 47. ♗xc4 ♗g5 ...1/2-1/2, Caruana Fabiano (ITA) 2801 - Gajewski Grzegorz (POL) 2653 , Condino 5/3/2014 Ch Italy (team)]

8... ♘d7 9. ♖g4
 [9. ♗h1 ♘gf6 10. f4 ♖c7 11. ♖e2 O-O 12. ♗d2 b6 13. ♗ae1 g6 14. e5 ♘h5 15. ♗f3 ♗b7 16. ♗h3 ♘g7 17. ♖e3 ♗fe8 18. f5 exf5 19. ♖h6 ♘f8 20. ♗f4 dxe5 21. ♗xe5 ♗f6 22. ♗g3 f4 23. ♗f2 ♗xe1 24. ♗xe1 ♗e8 25. ♗d2 ♘ge6 26. ♗f3 ♗g7 27. ♖h3 ♘g5 28. ♖g4 ♘xf3 29. gxf3 ♘e6 30. ♘e2 f5 31. ♖g2 ♖c6 32. ♘f4 ♘xf4 33. ♗xf4 ♗e1 34. ♗f1 ♖xf3 35. ♖xf3 ♗xf3 36. ♗g1 ♗e2 37. ♘d2 ♗d4 38. ♗g2 ♗xf1 39. ♘xf1 ♗e2 40. ♗g3 ♗xc2 41. b4 ♗xa2 42. ♘e3 ♗a3 43. ♗f2 a5 44. bxa5 bxa5 45. ♗e2 ♗xe3 46. ♗xe3 ♗a2 47. ♗d3 ♗xh2 0-1, Nadernia Nikta (IRI) 1725 -



Pourkashiyan Atousa (IRI) 2335 , Khoramabad 10/20/2016 Ch Iran (team) (Super League);

9. f4 ♖g6 10. ♖e2 ♖c7 11. ♔d2 h5 12. ♖ae1 b5 13. e5 dxe5 14. fxe5 ♖g4 15. ♖f3 ♖a7 16. ♔e3 ♖xe3 17. ♖xe3 1/2-1/2, Karacsonyi Gellert (HUN) 2126 - Szabo Marton Mihaly (HUN) 2217 , Zalakaros 5/21/2017 It (open);

9. ♔f4 ♖g6 10. a4 b6 11. ♖d2 O-O 12. ♖fd1 ♖c7 13. ♔e2 ♖e5 14. ♖d4 ♔b7 15. f3 ♖fd8 16. ♖d2 ♖ac8 17. ♖ad1 ♖g6 18. ♔g3 h5 19. ♖e3 e5 20. ♔f2 ♖d7 21. ♖d5 ♔xd5 22. ♖xd5 ♖f4 23. ♖5d2 ♔g5 24. ♖c3 ♖xc3 25. bxc3 ♖xe2 26. ♖xe2 ♔e7 27. ♖d3 ♖c4 28. a5 b5 29. ♔e1 ♖c5 30. ♖d5 ♖a4 31. ♖e3 ♖dc8 32. ♖dd3 ♔g5 33. ♖e2 ♖8c6 34. h4 ♔h6 35. ♔d2 ♖xc3 36. ♖f2 ♖d1 37. ♖e2 ♖b2 38. ♖d5 ♖xc2 39. ♖f2 ♔xd2 40. ♖xd2 ♖d1 41. ♖e1 ♖c3 0-1, Mazalevskiy Viktor (RUS) 2008 - Ajrapetian Gevorg (RUS) 2246 , Novokuznetsk 10/22/2007 Ch Russia (students) (open);

9. ♔e3 ♖g6 10. f4 b5 11. a4 b4 12. ♖e2 ♔b7 13. ♖g3 h5 14. ♖d2 ♖g4 15. ♔f2 ♖xf2 16. ♖xf2 h4 17. ♖g1 h3 18. gxf3 d5 19. ♖g2 dxe4 20. ♔xe4 ♖xh3 21. ♔xb7 ♖b6 22. ♖h1 ♖xb7 23. ♖c4 ♖c8 24. ♖ce3 ♖f6 25. ♖e2 ♔c5 26. ♖f5 ♖e4 27. ♖5e3 ♔xe3 28. ♖xe3 ♖g3 29. ♖g1 ♖xe2 0-1, Zverev Lev (RUS) 1914 - Shlyakhtenko Robert (USA) 2309 , Internet 6/30/2020 It "Titled Tuesday";

9. a4 b6 10. f4 ♖g6 11. ♖e2 ♖c7 12. ♔d2 ♔b7 13. ♖ae1 e5 14. ♖h1 O-O 15. fxe5 dxe5 16. ♔g5 ♔b4 17. ♖d2 ♔xc3 18. bxc3 ♖ac8 19. ♔xa6 ♔xa6 20. ♖xa6 ♖xc3 21. ♖f3 ♖a8 22. ♖b5 ♖fc8 23. ♔xf6 ♖xf6 24. ♖xb6 ♖xa4 25. ♖d1 ♖aa8 26. ♖d6 ♖xe4 27. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 28. ♖xe5 ♖xc2 29. ♖g1 ♖c3 30. ♖a1 ♖e8 31. ♖f2 ♖xf2 32. ♖xf2 g5 33. ♖d3 ♖e2 34. ♖f3 h5 35. h3 ♖e6 36. ♖a5 f6 37. ♖a7 ♖d1 0-1, Moingt Anne (FRA) 2045 - Sulava Nenad (CRO) 2466 , Espalion 7/13/2016 It (open)]

9... g6 10. ♖e2 White has several reasonable options here but relocating the queen into the same file as his opponent's king is useful on many levels. 10... ♖c7 11. ♔e3 Michael has completed the three goals I set forth for my students in the opening which are: 1. Pawn in the Center, 2. Castle, and 3. Unify rooks. 11... h5 Elliott is still behind in development but his position is very solid. With g6 and h5 added into the hedgehog pawn formation, black's pawns seems to have morphed into big "W" as in Winslow.



12. ♖ae1 b5 13. ♙d4 Michael switches lanes with his bishop to better target the weaknesses in Elliott's formation which obviously includes the rook on h8. 13... ♙f6 Elliott chooses to interpose with the bishop rather than play Ngf6. If white exchanges bishops here it will help black develop with the knight recapture. So, Elliott was probably expecting a pawn push to a4 or f4 from white. White pieces seems poised to support the a4 pawn move but starting a kingside attack with f4 is a standard strategy for white in such positions. 14. f4 Michael chooses to play f4. His e4 and f4 pawn structure is flexible and dangerous with either pawn just one step away from confronting black's defenses. 14... ♙xd4 Exchanging bishops here subtracts from white's attacking force plus creates the possibility for Elliott to relocate his queen to the a7-g1 diagonal. 15. ♖xd4 ♖a7 Elliott's queen moves to a happy square where it pins white's exposed knight to the king. 16. ♖f2 ♖gf6 17. h3 An important move to stop black's threat of Ng4. 17... O-O 18. e5 With all of his pieces in place, the time has come for Michael to push forward. White's attack looks formidable with the one caveat being that his knight on d4 is pinned to a queen trade. 18... ♖e8 18... b4 and 18... dxe5 are alternatives worthy of consideration.



fxg6 But, if white plays accurately then black will be in serious trouble.;
 18... dxe5 19. fxe5 ♖h7 20. a4 b4 21. ♖a2 a5 22. c3 ♖c5 Lots of interesting possibilities here but white maintains the upper hand.]
 19. ♙e4 ♙b7 20. ♖h1± 20. Kh1 was played and the players agreed to a draw. Play would have continued with something like 20... Bxe4 21. Nxe4 dxe5 22. fxe5 Nxe5 23. c3 Rd8. Alternatively, 20. Bxb7 is worthy of consideration.

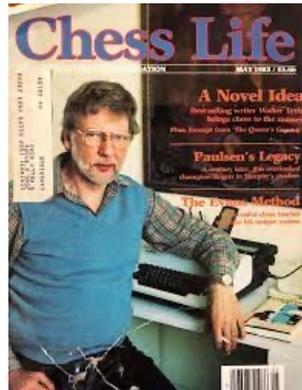
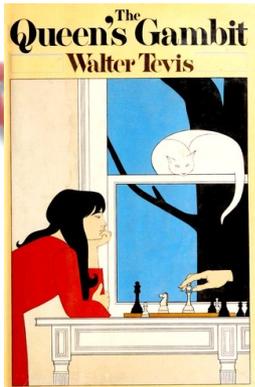
[18... b4 is complex. 19. exf6 bxc3 20. f5 e5 21. ♖h1 ♖xd4 22. ♖g3 ♖xf6 23.



CalChess Women's State Championship

On the last weekend of September, a talented group of women of all ages, gathered at the Berkeley Chess School's Chess Center to participate in the prestigious CalChess Women's State Championship. For those interested in seeing more women play chess like Elizabeth Shaughnessy, it was heartening to know that six women competed with ratings below 1000 and some who had never played in a tournament before. The tournament must have been particularly eye opening for some of the *The Queen's Gambit* inspired newcomers as a real-life icon of women's chess was present and participating.

For the few that don't already know, *The Queen's Gambit* was released on Netflix in October of 2020. The miniseries based on the Walter Tevis novel of the same name focuses on the life of Beth Harmon, a fictional chess prodigy and her struggles reaching the top of the mid-twentieth century chess world. Shortly after its release, miniseries became No. 1 most watched show on Netflix and by November 23 of that year *The Queen's Gambit* became Netflix's biggest scripted limited series to date. *The Queen's Gambit* has since become a cultural phenomenon, inspiring millions of young females to play chess.



Decades before Netflix released the *Queen's Gambit*, Elizabeth Shaughnessy founded the Berkeley Chess School and subsequently became the most important promoter of women's chess in Northern California. So, it is unbelievably fitting that the Berkeley Chess School hosted the first women's chess championship in our region since the onset of the pandemic and subsequent *Queen's Gambit* chess boom. Furthering her inspiration through her actions, Shaughnessy didn't just organize the event, she competed as well.

Elizabeth called on NM Bryon Doyle to be the tournament director of the 2021 CalChess Women's State Championship. In a safe environment with proof of vaccination, appropriate distancing and masks required, Elizabeth (a former Irish Women's Chess Champion) and the other participants competed for two days for the title of 2021 Woman State Champion and a fully guaranteed prize fund of \$1,500. The tournament was a huge success for the promotion of women's chess and when it concluded, Ashley Pang joined an ultra prestigious group of female chess players who lay claim to having been crowned the Women's State Chess Champion of Northern California.

KING'S INDIAN def.

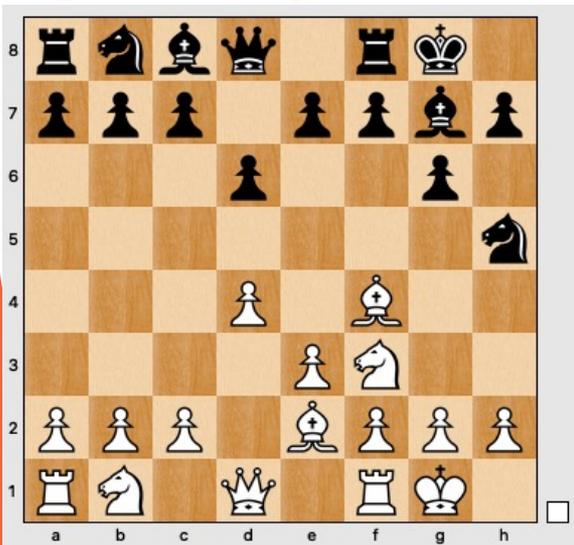
Sadhana A. - Ashley P.

0:1, 9/26/ 21.

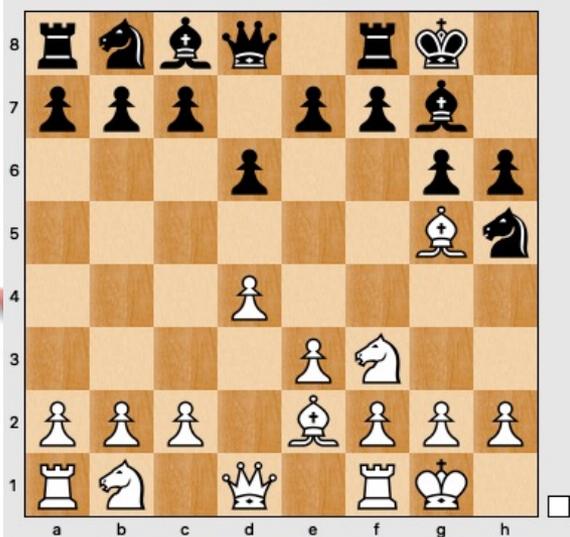
1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♙f4 g6 3. ♘f3 ♙g7 A London System vs the King's Indian Defense.



4. e3 d6 5. ♙e2 O-O 6. O-O ♘h5 King's Indian Defense players tend to favor complications as Ashley does here.



7. ♙g5 h6 I like this nice little pawn move that may even give black a slight advantage.



8. ♙h4 g5 9. ♘e1 Sadhana offers to trade her bishop on h4 for the knight on h5. Of course, such a trade would also weaken black's kingside pawn structure leaving the black king exposed.



CalChess Women's State Championship, Continued

[9. ♙g3 f5 is one possible continuation.;

9. ♘xg5 A coffehouse sacrifice that leaves black's king exposed for the cost of a little material. 9... hxg5 10. ♙xg5 ♘f6 but with careful play black should go on to win.;

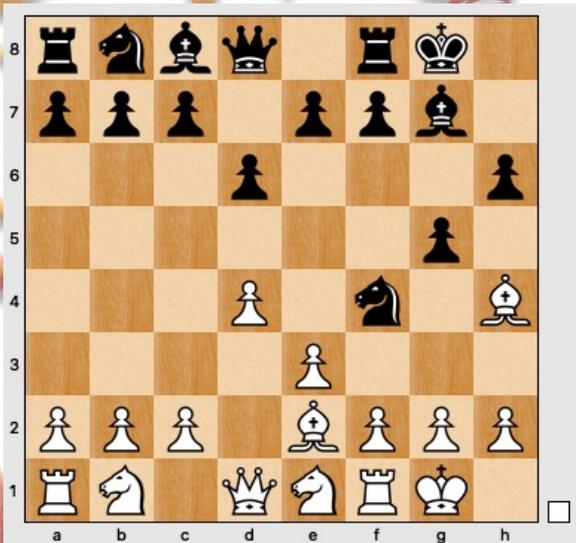
9. ♙xg5 Occasionally sacrificing the bishop instead of the knight creates interesting possibilities. 9... hxg5 10. ♘xg5 e5 11. ♘xf7 and in this case, white can remove all three of the pawns shielding the black king. 11... ♖xf7 12. ♙xh5 Certainly not sound but fun food for thought.]

9... ♘f4! Entertaining and accurate.



2020 CalChess Women's State Champion WCM Omya Vidyarthi

CalChess Women's State Championship, Continued

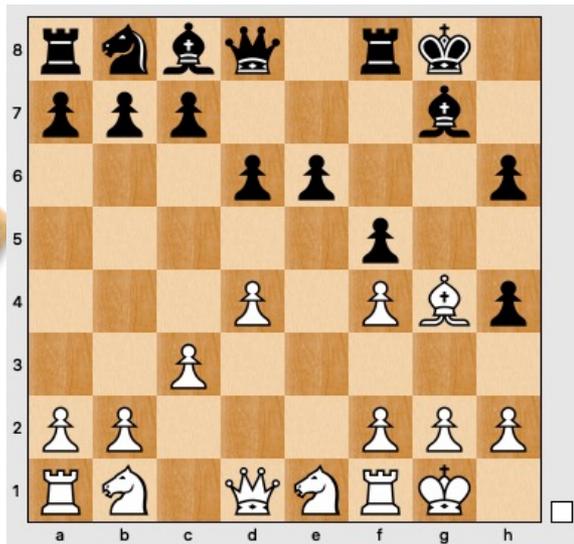


10. exf4 gxh4 11. c3 e6 11... c5 has also been tried here.

[11... c5 12. d5 e6 13. ♖a3 exd5 14. ♙xd5 ♗e7 15. ♕f3 ♘c6 16. ♖d1 ♖d8 17. ♗h5 ♗f6 18. ♘d3 ♕f5 19. ♕g4 ♕g6 20. ♗d5 ♖ab8 21. ♗f3 ♘e7 22. ♘c4 b5 23. ♘e3 ♕xd3 24. ♖xd3 d5 25. f5 d4 26. cxd4 cxd4 27. ♖fd1 ♘c6 28. ♘d5 ♗d6 29. f6 ♗xd5 30. fxg7 ♗xf3 31. ♕xf3 ♘e5 32. ♖xd4 ♘xf3 33. gxh4 ♖xd4 34. ♖xd4 ♔xg7 35. ♖g4 ♔h7 36. ♖xh4 ♖b6 37. ♖b4 a5 38. ♖d4 ♔g6 39. ♔f1 f5 40. ♔e2 ♔g5 41. ♔d3 ♔f6 42. ♖d5 a4 43. ♔d4 ♔g5 44. ♔e5 b4 45. ♖a5 a3 46. bxa3 bxa3 47. f4 ♔g4 48. f3 ♔h3 49. ♔xf5 ♔xh2 50. ♔g4 ♖g6 51. ♔h5 ...1-0, Toshali V (IND) 1928 - Nitish Bhat (IND) 1633 , Mumbai 1/ 4/2018 It "IIFL Wealth Mumbai Open"]

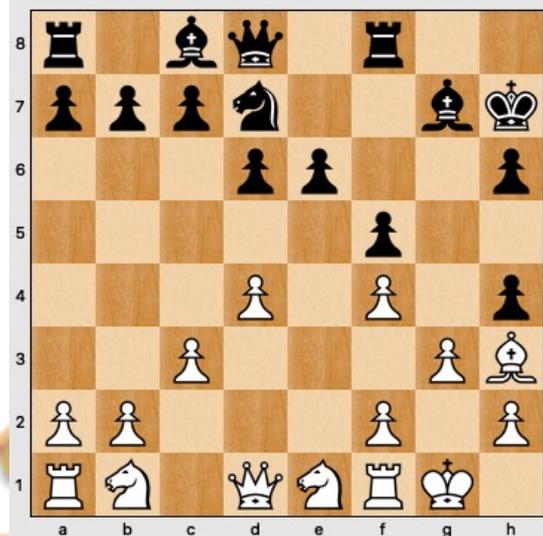
12. ♕g4 f5 A provocative choice at a key juncture. The lesser aggressive 12... Nd7 should also be strongly considered.

[12... ♘d7 13. ♘d2 a5 14. ♘c2 b5 Roughly equal with plenty of imbalances.]



13. ♕h3 ♘d7 14. g3 ♔h7 Moving the king out of the g-file to make way for the rook is clever but 14... Nf6 is also worth considering.

[14... ♘f6 15. ♘d2 ♗e8 16. ♕g2 ♗h5 17. ♗xh5 ♘xh5 18. a4 ♖b8 19. ♘d3 ♕d7 20. ♖fe1 ♔f7 21. ♘c4 ♘f6 22. ♘a5 c6 23. ♘c4 ♔e7 24. ♕h3 White has a small advantage while black has plenty of options for ambitious play.]



15. ♕g2? The bishop has much more activity on the h1-a8 diagonal but developing a knight seems more accurate than redeploying the bishop at this point in the game.

[15. ♘d2 ♘f6 16. ♘ef3 hxg3 17. hxg3 ♕d7 18. ♖c1 ♗e8 19. ♖e1 ♘g4 20. ♘f1 ♔h8 21. ♕xg4 fxg4 22. ♘h4 ♗h5 23. ♗d3 ♖f7 24. ♗c4 ♕f6 White seems well on the road to victory.]

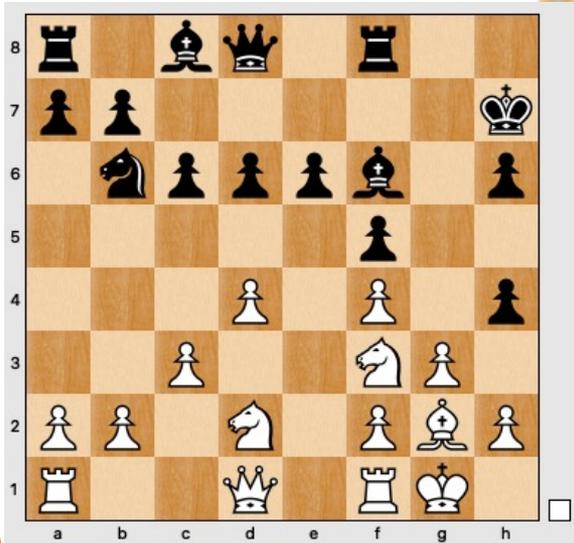
15... c6?! Ashley is obviously concerned about Sadhana's light square bishop and the pin on b7 so she responds with c6. However, rather than defending, the opportunity existed for a counter strike with 15... e5.

[15... e5 16. fxe5 dxe5 17. ♘f3 hxg3 18. fxg3 e4 19. ♘h4 ♗g5 20. ♘d2 ♔h8 21. ♗e2 ♘b6 22. ♘xe4 fxe4 23. ♗xe4 ♔g8 24. ♘g6 ♖xf1 25. ♖xf1 ♕d7 26. ♘e7 ♔h8 27. ♘g6 Should be a draw by repetition.]

CalChess Women's State Championship, Continued

16. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{e}f6$ 17. $\text{d}bd2$ $\text{d}b6$?! Now would have been the perfect time for Ashley to finish the plan she started on move 14 and place her rook into the g-file.

[17... $\text{f}g8$ 18. $\text{a}4$ $\text{d}f8$ 19. $\text{a}5$ $\text{d}g6$ 20. $\text{c}h1$ $\text{c}c7$ 21. $\text{d}c4$ $\text{e}d7$ 22. $\text{b}4$ $\text{f}g7$ 23. $\text{d}e3$ $\text{c}h8$ 24. $\text{c}4$ $\text{e}5$ 25. $\text{e}h3$ $\text{e}4$ 26. $\text{d}e1$ $\text{d}e7$ 27. $\text{d}1c2$ $\text{h}5$ Black seems poised to start pushing her advantage.]



18. $\text{c}b3$ $\text{a}5$ 19. $\text{d}c4$?! 19. $\text{c}4$ should be strongly considered.

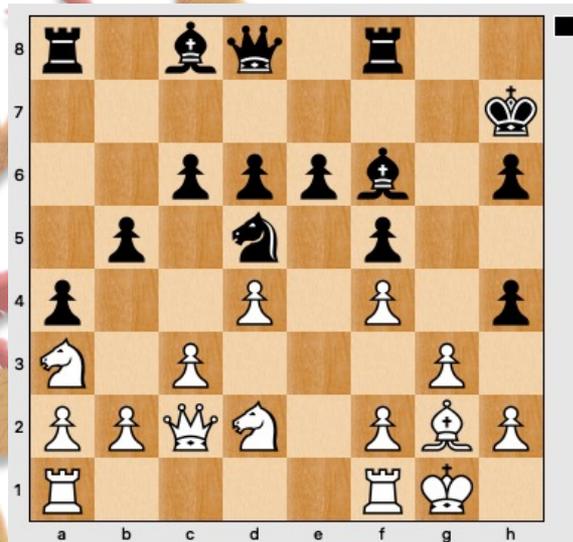
[19. $\text{c}4$ $\text{a}4$ 20. $\text{c}e3$ Looks better for white than what occurred in the actual game.]

19... $\text{d}d5$ 20. $\text{d}fd2$?! Another option for white would be activating a rook into the semi-open e-file.

[20. $\text{f}fe1$ $\text{f}g8$ 21. $\text{c}h1$ Is fine for white.]

20... $\text{a}4$ 21. $\text{c}c2$ $\text{b}5$ 22. $\text{d}a3$? Knights on the rim are usually grim and here in fact 22. Bxd5 was a better choice.

[22. $\text{e}xd5$ $\text{c}xd5$ 23. $\text{d}e3$ $\text{b}4$ 24. $\text{d}f3$ bxc3 25. bxc3 $\text{e}d7$ 26. $\text{f}ab1$ $\text{f}a7$ 27. $\text{f}b4$ $\text{e}e8$ 28. $\text{f}fb1$ $\text{c}d7$ 29. $\text{f}b8$ $\text{f}g8$ 30. $\text{c}g2$ $\text{e}h5$ 31. $\text{f}xg8$ $\text{c}xg8$ With white having slightly better chances.]

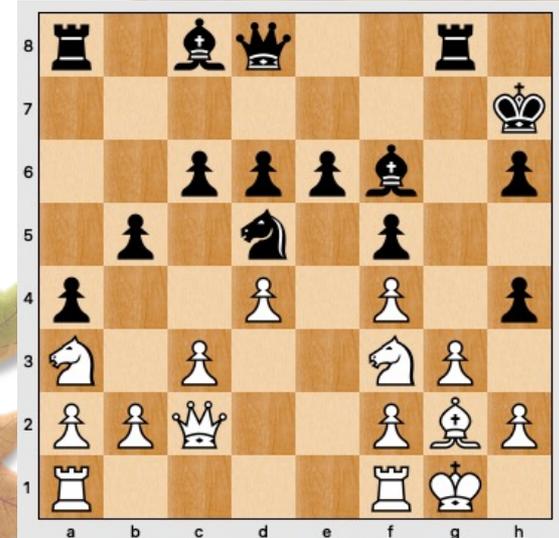


22... $\text{f}g8$ The rook on g8 is ideally placed but pushing $\text{b}5$ - $\text{b}4$ should also be considered.

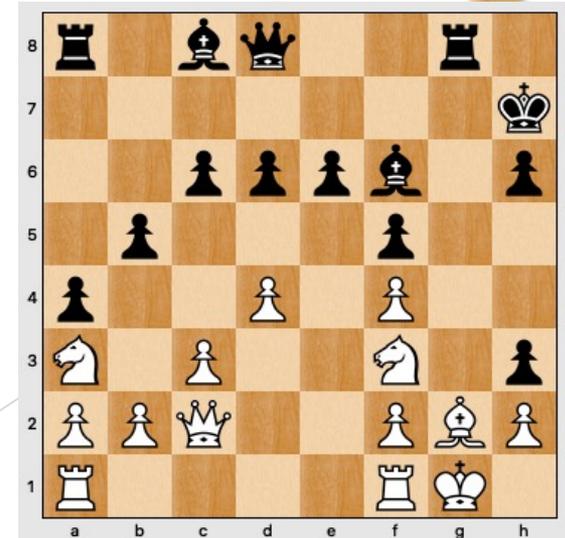
[22... $\text{b}4$ 23. $\text{e}xd5$ $\text{c}xd5$ 24. $\text{c}xb4$ $\text{e}xd4$ 25. $\text{d}f3$ $\text{e}f6$ 26. $\text{f}ac1$ $\text{e}d7$ 27. $\text{f}fd1$ $\text{f}c8$ 28. $\text{c}d2$ $\text{f}xc1$ 29. $\text{f}xc1$ $\text{c}b6$ 30. $\text{d}c2$ $\text{f}g8$ 31. $\text{c}e3$ $\text{c}xe3$ 32. $\text{d}xe3$ Leads to a difficult endgame slightly favoring black.]

23. $\text{d}f3$?? The key mistake for white. Sadhana would have been right in the fight had she spotted 23. Bxd5 .

[23. $\text{e}xd5$ $\text{e}xd5$ 24. $\text{c}d3$ and white would have been fine.]

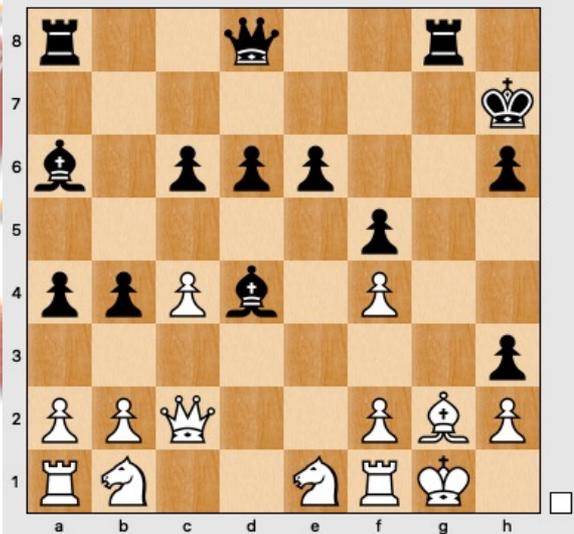


23... $\text{d}xf4$! Ashley punishes Sadhana's mistake. 24. $\text{g}xf4$ $\text{h}3$ The tactics stemming from the rook on g8 are impressive.

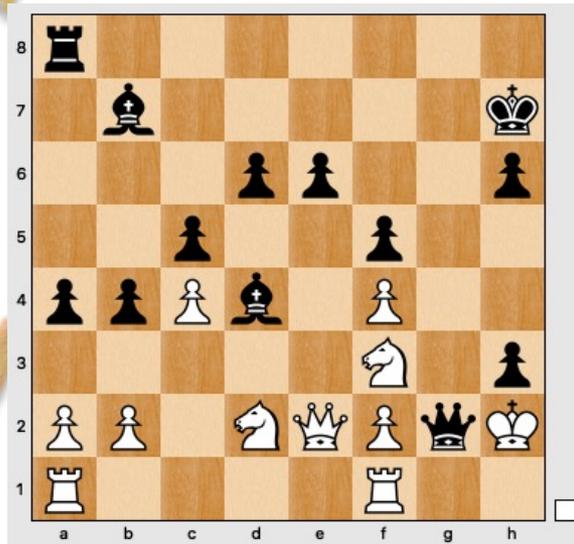


CalChess Women's State Championship, Continued

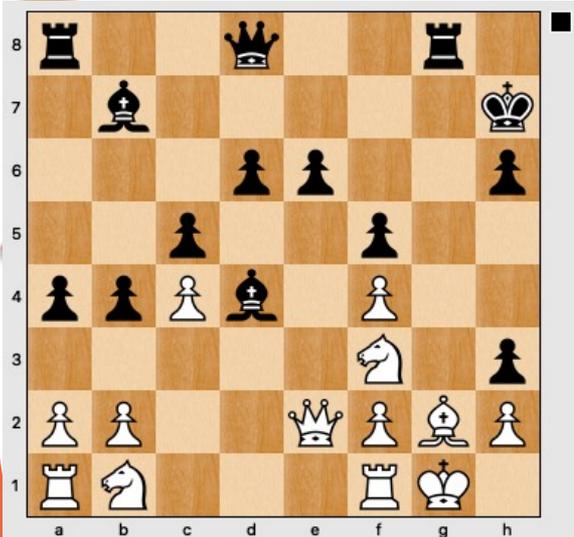
25. ♖e1 ♗a6 With white's bishop in an absolute pin, Ashley leaves it alone for the moment and sets up another tactic. 26. c4 b4 27. ♖b1 ♗xd4 Ashley just keeps adding more force into her well-structured attack.



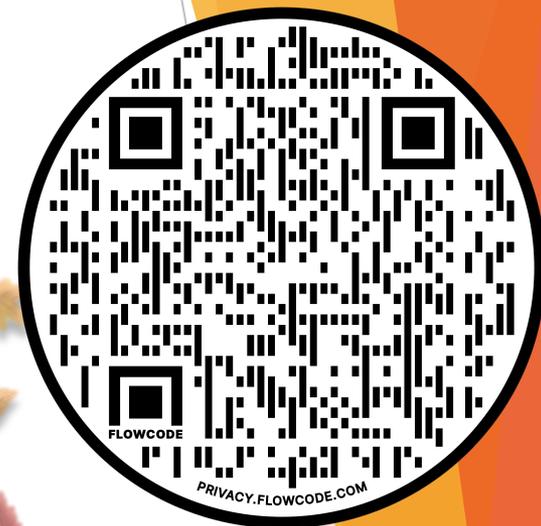
30... ♖xg2 and black cracks the shell. 31. ♖h1 ♜g8 32. ♖bd2 ♖xh2 33. ♖xh2 ♜g2# Ashley Pang concludes her clinic on checkmating the castled king.



28. ♜d2 c5 29. ♜e2 ♗b7 30. ♖f3 White is in full turtle mode.



If you would like to learn more about the Berkeley Chess School, click or scan the QR Code below.



Scholastic Classes

- * Mixed Level Online Classes every weekday
- * Evening Master Classes - Advanced, M - T
- * Friday Knight Chess, 5 levels
- * The Berkeley Bishop's Team, Sundays
- * All-Girls Team, Sundays
- * Wednesday Evening Chess in Piedmont

In person and online Scholastic Camps

Adult Online Classes

- * Thursdays
- * Queen Regnant Women's Club, Tuesdays

Adult (and teenager) in-person Tournaments

- * Six-week Friday evening marathons
- * Weekenders: the 2nd Weekend of every month
- * Quads: The third Saturday of every month

For all in person tournaments proof of vaccination and masks are required.

CalChess Best of Both Worlds

Online Qualifier
By Chris Torres



Resuming CalChess Scholastics was far more complex than simply rescheduling the State Championship. Once it became obvious a return to having 1000 kids play in a large ballrooms wasn't an option, Salman Azhar homed in on creating a format that would work in the age of Covid-19. This wasn't going to be an easy task for a chess organizer, but the former Duke Professor Azhar isn't your average chess organizer and is renowned for his problem-solving skills throughout Silicon Valley. Still, there were many strange, new challenges to meet on and off the board, and seemingly every question about how to approach resuming CalChess largest tournament presented a paradox.

After much thought and the highest priority given to the safety of the participants, Salman decided to establish a qualifying event online and then host a smaller group of players who successfully qualified in an in-person scholastic state championship. This multi-stage plan consisted of:

- Online Qualifiers on July 24 (for K-3), July 31 (for K-6), and August 7 (for K-12), 2021 played using lichess.org;
- Over-the-board (OTB) championship Sunday October 31 (for K-3 sections at Fremont Marriott) Saturday November 13 (for K-6 sections at Santa Clara Convention Center), and Sunday November 14 (for K-12 sections) at Santa Clara Convention Center).

Players with 3.5 points (out of 5) in the Qualifiers will be guaranteed a spot in the OTB Championship for that section although the plan is to lower this cutoff to 3 based on space availability, COVID-19 protocols, and other factors. Additional distancing between participants will be made possible by holding the K-3, K-6, and K-12 OTB events on three separate dates.

Based on the quality of games in the online qualifiers, the OTB portion of the 2020-21 CalChess Scholastic (Superly) State Championship will be awesome. Be sure to send me pictures and games and they may be features in the Winter edition of the next CalChess Journal.

1 SICILIAN def.
Andrew Z. - Avani S.
1:0, 7/24/2021.

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 e5
Though not often seen, 4... e5 is entirely playable in the Open Sicilian. The most challenging reply by white is Bb5+.



Best of Both Worlds, Continued

5. ♖f5?! As is often the case in practice, white doesn't play 5. Bb5+.

[5. ♖b5 ♜d7 6. ♜f5 a6 7. ♖a4 b5 8. ♖b3 ♜c5 9. ♜c3 ♜xb3 10. axb3 ♖e6 11. ♜d5 g6 12. ♜fe3 ♖g7 13. O-O ♜e7 14. ♜xe7 ♖xe7 15. ♜d5 ♖b7 16. c4 O-O 17. ♖d3 f5 18. ♜d1 h6 19. ♖d2 ♜f7 20. ♖c3 ♜af8 21. f3 g5 22. exf5 ♖xf5 23. ♖e3 ♖c2 24. ♜d2 ♖xb3 25. ♖xe5 ♖xc4 26. ♖xg7 ♜xg7 27. ♖e6 ♜h7 28. ♖xd6 ♖f7 29. ♜xa6 ♖xd5 30. ♜xd5 ♜g6 31. ♖xg6 ♖xg6 32. ♜xg6 ♜xg6 33. ♜xb5 ♜c8 34. b4 ♜c2 35. ♜b8 ♜b2 36. b5 h5 37. b6 ♜g7 38. b7 h4 39. g3 h3 40. f4 gxf4 41. gxf4 ♜g2 42. ♜f1 ♜b2 43. f5 ♜b6 44. ♜f2 ♜h7 ...1-0, Corrales Fidel (USA) 2532 - Aravindh Chithambaram Vr (IND) 2641 , Internet 12/ 2/2020 It "RBI Open" (Qualifier 3);

5. ♜f3!? 5. Nf3 is a curiosity of mine that needs further study. 5... ♜f6 6. ♖d3 g6 7. c4 But this seems good for white.]

5... ♖xf5 6. exf5 d5 Plenty of reasonable alternatives for black here.

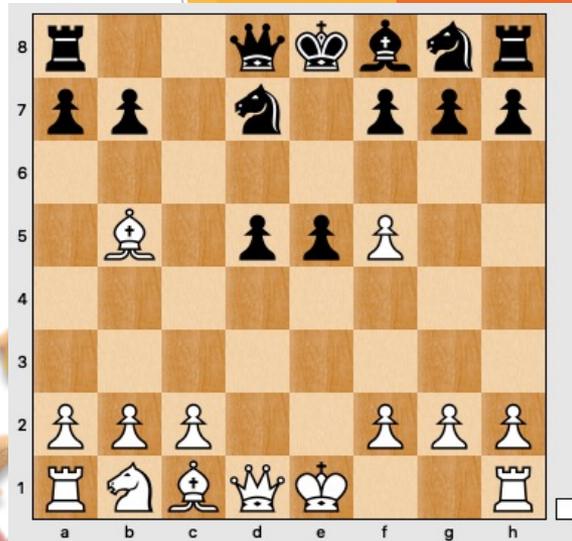
[6... a6 7. ♜c3 ♜f6 8. ♖d3 ♜bd7 9. O-O b5 10. ♖g5 ♖e7 11. ♖e3 h6 12. f4 ♜c8 13. fxe5 dxe5 14. ♖f3 ♖c5 15. ♖xc5 ♜xc5 16. ♜ad1 ♖b6 17. ♜f2 O-O 18. ♜d5 ♜xd5 19. ♖xd5 ♜fe8 20. f6 ♜cd8 21. ♖f3 e4 22. ♖g3 g6 23. ♖e2 ♜xd1 24. ♖xd1 e3 25. ♜f3 e2 26. ♖xe2 0-1, Burzio Enrico - Bortolotti

Francesco, Eporediese 2001 It (open);
6... ♜f6 7. ♜c3 ♜bd7 8. g4 h6 9. ♖g2 ♜b8 10. h4 ♖e7 11. ♖e3 ♜b6 12. ♖e2 a6 13. O-O-O ♖c7 14. g5 hxg5 15. hxg5 ♜xh1 16. ♜xh1 ♜g8 17. f6 gxf6 18. ♖xb6 ♖xb6 19. ♜d5 ♖d8 20. ♜h8 ♜f8 21. ♖h5 ♖a5 22. ♖h6 ♜e8 23. ♜xg8 ♜d7 24. ♖h3 ♜c6 25. ♜xe7 ♜b6 26. ♖e3 ♜c7 27. ♜d5 ♜d7 28. ♜xf6 ♜c7 29. ♖c3 1-0, Rodriguez Ferreiro Jose Camilo (ESP) 1789 - Curado Antonio (POR) 1822 , Figueira da Foz 11/24/2014 It (open);

6... ♖d7 7. ♜c3 ♖xf5 8. ♖d3 ♖d7 9. ♖f3 ♜c6 10. ♖e3 ♜ge7 11. g4 d5 12. ♖c5 e4 13. ♖xe4 dxe4 14. ♜xe4 ♜e5 15. ♖g3 ♜7c6 16. ♜d1 ♖e6 17. ♜d6 ♖xd6 18. ♜xd6 ♜f3 19. ♜f1 ♖c4 20. ♜g2 ♖xc5 21. ♜xf3 ♜e5 22. ♜g2 ♖xd6 23. ♜e1 O-O 24. ♜xe5 ♖c6 25. f3 ♖xc2 26. ♜h3 ♖xb2 27. ♜h5 g6 28. ♜h6 ♖g7 29. g5 ♜ae8 30. ♖c7 f6 31. ♖c4 ♜h8 32. ♜g3 ffg5 33. ♜h3 ♖e5 34. ♜g2 ♖e2 0-1, Paramzina Anastasya (RUS) 2254 - Song Yuxin (CHN) 2284 , Moscow 12/30/2019 Ch World (blitz) (w)

7. ♖b5 ♜d7? Avani makes the first mistake in the game. Much better was 7... Nc6.

[7... ♜c6 8. O-O ♜ge7 9. ♜e1 a6 and things are roughly equal.]



8. ♖xd5 Andrew capitalizes on his opponent's mistake. 8... ♜gf6 9. ♖xe5 ♖e7 10. O-O O-O 11. ♖xd7?! Andrew is demonstrating chess awareness far beyond his age. However, rather than trading the bishop for the knight to save the queen, better was placing the queen into the same file as his opponent's king with Qg3.

[11. ♖g3 a6 12. ♖e2 ♜e8 Still ahead material, white would have his bishop pair and some nice attacking chances.]

11... ♜xd7 Good but not the best. Rather than move the knight backwards, black should unify their rooks by recapturing with their queen.

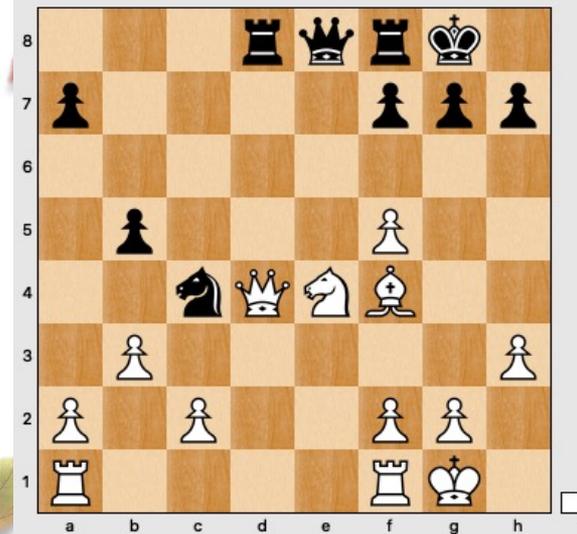
[11... ♖xd7!? 12. ♜c3 ♜fe8 13. ♖f4

♖c6 14. ♕d2 ♜ac8 15. a4 a6 16. ♜fe1 b5 17. axb5 axb5 18. ♜ac1 h6 19. ♘e4 ♜cd8 20. ♕c3 ♘d5 21. ♖g3 White may have more material but black's forces are slightly better placed. This is probably as good as black can hope for after their early mistake.]

12. ♖g3 Retreating to attack.

Best of Both Worlds, Continued

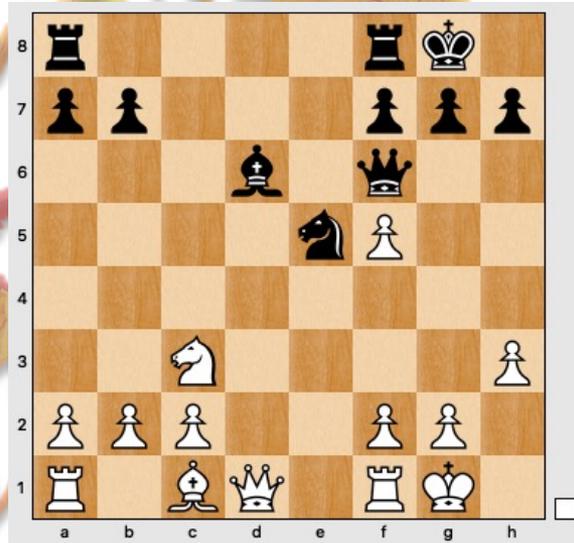
Think
BayAreaChess
First



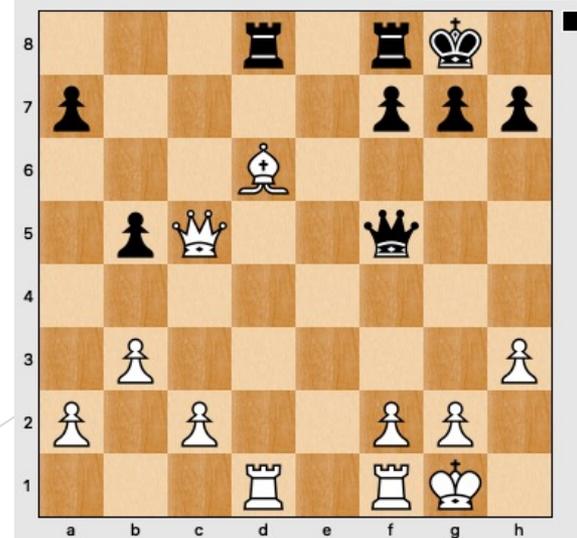
22. ♘d6 ♘xd6 23. ♕xd6 ♖d7 24. ♜ad1 ♖xf5 25. ♖c5 Andrew play is very impressive especially considering that he is in the kindergarten section! He has managed to avoid several pitfalls while setting up a forced exchange of pieces.



12... ♘f6 Actually, it was probably better to play Bf6 rather than move the knight back and forth. On f6, Black's bishop would control an important diagonal and pin the pawn on b2. 13. ♘c3 ♕d6 14. ♖d3 ♘g4 Avani is showing that she already has strong attacking prowess. 15. h3 ♘e5 The next most threatening move. 15... Qh4 was tempting but nothing would keep white from capturing the bishop by playing Qxd6. 16. ♖d1 ♖f6? Trying to force an attack, Avani makes another costly mistake.

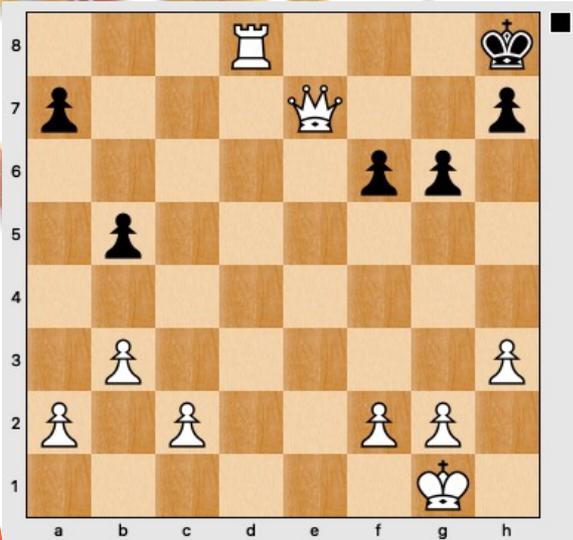


17. ♘e4 Andrew once again immediately capitalizes on his opponent's mistake by spotting and playing a powerful knight fork. 17... ♖e7 18. ♖xd6 ♖e8 Down in material, Avani wisely avoids trading queens. 19. ♕f4 Andrew develops with a threat. 19... ♘c4 20. ♖d4 b5 21. b3 ♜d8 Even down so much in material, Avani is creating a lot of nice threats.



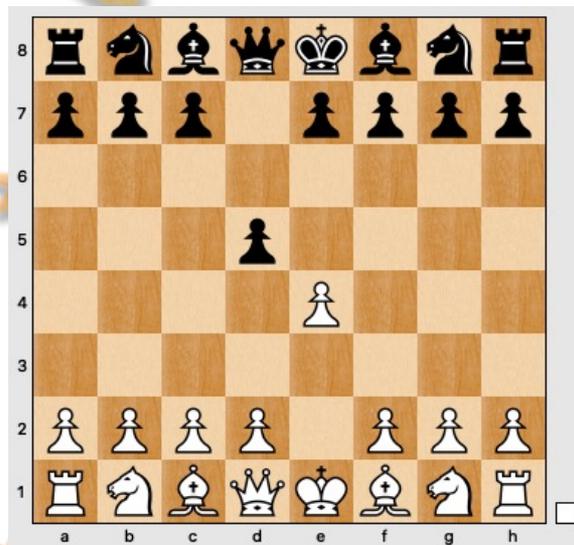
Best of Both Worlds, Continued

25... ♖d7 26. ♗xf8 ♜c8 27. ♝xd8 ♞xd8
 28. ♘d6 g6 29. ♞c7 ♞f6 30. ♞b8 ♔g7
 31. ♗e5 Very nice tactical showcase from
 the young player with the white pieces.
 31... ♞xe5 32. ♞xe5 f6 33. ♞e7 ♔g8 34.
 ♝d1 ♔h8 35. ♝d8# [1:0]



1 SCANDINAVIAN def.
Aashi G. - Jenny Q.
 1:0, 7/31/2021.

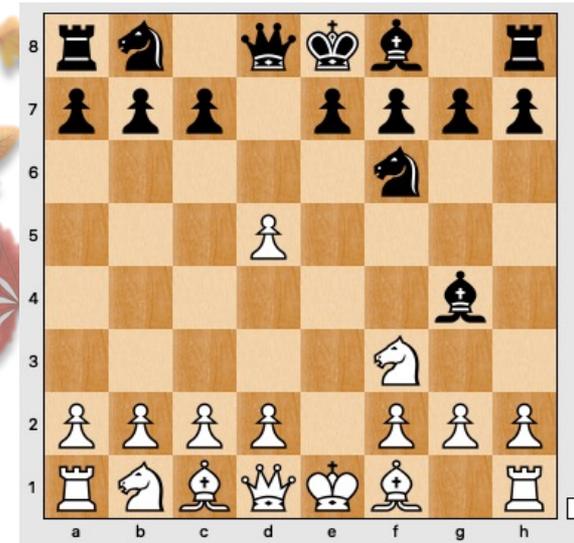
1. e4 d5 The Scandinavian Defense has long been a popular choice among those who prefer an open game. In fact, the first recorded instance 1. e4 d5 in the 1475 game between Francesc de Castellvi and Narcis Vinyoles in Valencia which may in fact be the oldest chess game in recorded chess history.



2. exd5 ♗f6 Known as the Modern Scandinavian, black delays capturing with Qxd5 until after playing Nf6 with hopes avoid a loss of time that occurs after 2... Qxd5 3. Nc3. 3. ♗f3 Aashi chooses to develop a knight. 3... ♗g4 And Jenny immediately pins it. 3... Qxd5 as see in a game between Girschuk and MVL should also be strongly considered.

[3... ♞xd5 4. d4 ♗g4 5. ♗e2 ♗c6 6. h3 ♗xf3 7. ♗xf3 ♞e6 8. ♗e3 ♗d5 9. ♞e2 ♗xe3 10. fxe3 ♞d7 11. ♗d2 e6 12. O-O ♗e7 13. c3 O-O 14. b4 ♝ae8 15. ♗c4 ♗h4 16. b5 ♗d8 17. a4 ♗g3 18. ♗e4 f5 19. ♞f3 fxe4 20. ♞xg3 ♗f7 21. ♗e5 ♗xe5 22. ♞xe5 c6 23. ♝xf8 ♝xf8 24. ♞xe4 ♞d5 25. ♞xd5 cxd5 26. ♝c1

♝c8 27. ♔f2 ♝c4 28. a5 ♝a4 29. a6 bxa6 30. bxa6 ♔f7 31. ♝b1 ♝xa6 32. ♝b7 ♔f6 33. ♔f3 ♝c6 34. ♝xa7 ♝xc3 35. g4 h6 36. h4 ♝c1 37. g5 hxg5 38. hxg5 ♔xg5 39. ♝xg7 ♔f6 40. ♝a7 ♝f1 41. ♔e2 ♝f5 42. ♝a8 ♔e7 43. ♝a7 ...1/2-1/2, Girschuk Alexander (RUS) 2785 - Vachier-Lagrave Maxime (FRA) 2794, Internet 10/23/2017 Tournament "chess.com" (blitz) (1/4 final) (1m+1s)]



4. ♗b5 Aashi takes advantage of the fact that her pawn is still on d5 while playing this bishop check. 4... ♗bd7 The most sensible response as it doesn't retreat a piece or allow white to play dxc6. 5. h3 Aashi puts the question to the bishop. 5... ♗h5 Again, Jenny chooses the most sensible response as Bxf3 would allow white to develop her queen with a recapture. 6. ♗c3 Aashi catches up on

development and still has her center pawn. 6... a6 Jenny takes the initiative and control of the b5 square. 7. ♖e2 This is an excellent retreat as now the knight on f3 is no longer pinned. 7... ♗b6 Jenny focuses her sights on the d5 pawn. 8. O-O The loss of the d5 pawn is a forgone conclusion so Aashi wisely takes care of her king safety by castling. 8... ♗bxd5 As expected, Jenny captures white's center pawn.

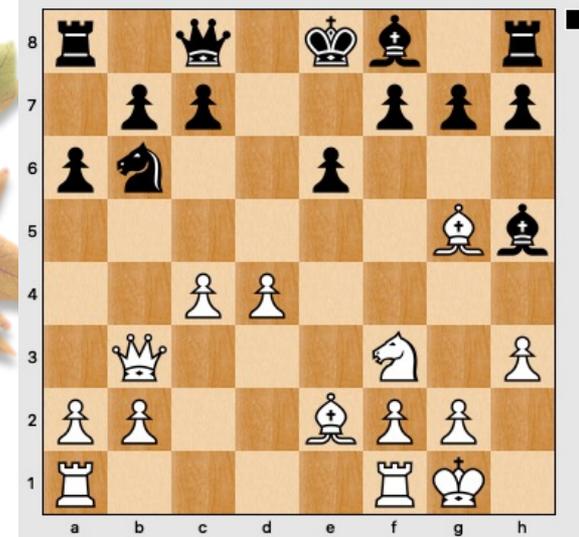


11... ♗b6?! Nf6 looks better than moving the knight in the wrong direction to b6.

[11... ♗f6 12. ♖f4 ♖d6 13. ♗e5 ♖xe2 14. ♗xe2 O-O 15. ♖ad1 ♗d7 16. c5 ♖xe5 17. dxe5 ♗e7 18. ♖g5 f6 19. exf6 ♗xf6 20. c6 bxc6 21. ♖fe1 ♖ab8 22. ♖c1 ♗d5 23. ♗xe6 ♗xe6 24. ♖xe6 ♖f6 25. ♖e4 ♖d6 26. a3 ♖b5 27. ♖de1 ♖c5 28. ♖f1 ♖f7 29. g3 ♖f6 30. ♖e3 ♖c2 31. ♖e2 ♗xe3 32. ♖4xe3 ♖xe2 33. ♖xe2 c5 34. ♖f3 ♖e6 35. ♖xf6 gxf6 36. ♖d3 ♖d5 37. b3 ♖e5 38. f3 h5 39. ♖c4 ♖d6 40. g4 h4 41. f4 ♖c6 42. a4 ♖d6 43. a5 ♖c6 44. g5 ffg5 45. ffg5 ♖d6 46. g6 ♖e6 47. ♖xc5 1-0, Demchenko Anton (RUS) 2641 - Samusenko Maksim (RUS) 2459 , Sochi 10/17/2020 Ch Russia (Higher League)]

12. ♗b3 White finds a very active square for the queen. 12... ♗c8?! Black does not. [12... ♖e7!? 13. c5 ♗d5 14. ♗xb7 O-O Is an improvement over black's play in the game.]

13. ♖g5 Aashi takes advantage of black's mistake by developing her bishop to where it exerts control on e7 and d8.



13... h6 Jenny tries to shoos white's bishop away. 14. ♖h4 But Aashi keeps it on the diagonal of interest. 14... ♗d7 14... g5 seems to make more sense.

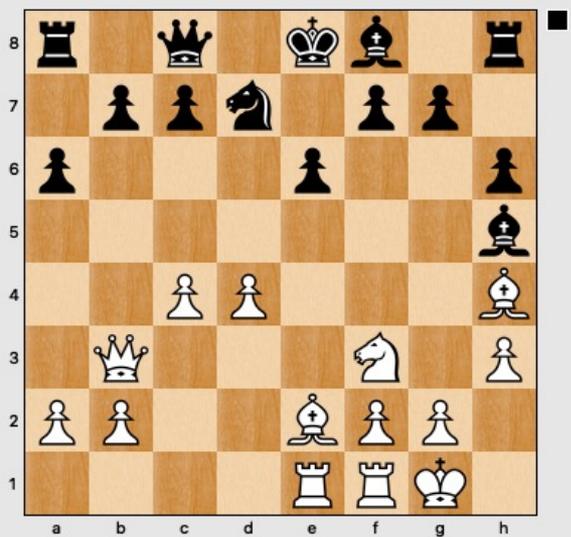
[14... g5 15. ♖g3 ♖g7 16. ♗a3 ♖f8 17. ♗e3 ♖g7 18. ♖ad1 O-O 19. h4 Burt white would still be winning.]

15. ♖ae1 Placing a rook into the e-file

9. ♗xd5 ♗xd5 10. d4 So, Aashi creates another center pawn. 10... e6 10... e6 controls d5 and creates a pathway for black's dark squared bishop to enter the game. 11. c4 Aashi grabs more space with a threat.

Best of Both Worlds, Continued

here is a power move.



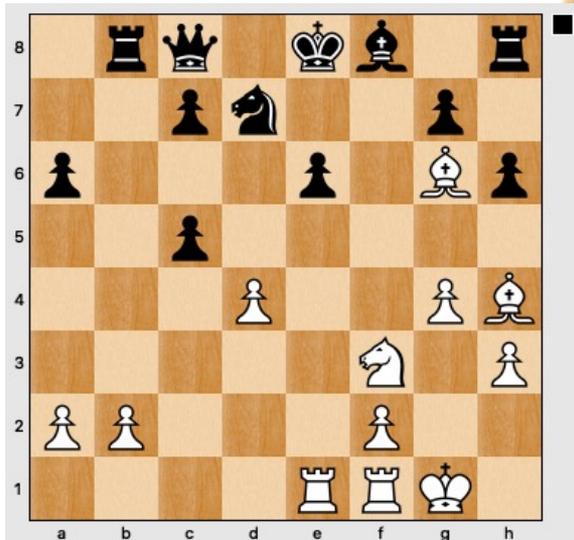
15... b6 16. g4 17. c5 Unleashes the queen.



17... bxc5 18. d3 Rb8



19. Qxe6! Beautiful! 19... fxe6 20. dxc6#
The queen sacrifice finishes in a nice Double Bishop Mate. [1:0]

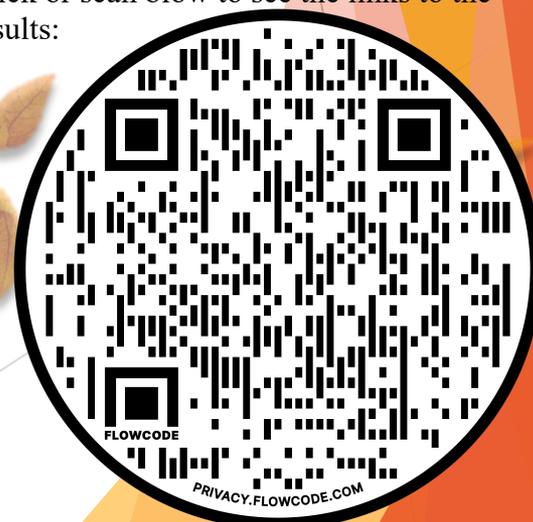


Team CalChess are Champions of Champions, Continued

Those over age 50 were eligible for the Irwin Senior Championship. This year we were again represented by stalwart IM Elliot Winslow. This was the strongest event, with two GMs and seven IMs vying for the national title. Elliot finished in a tie for 11th place among many other master level players, only losing to the top two finishers.

In the overall team championship, where the scores of each state representative is added up, Northern California with an average rating of 2206 came out on top with a total of 23.0 points, just ahead of the top seeded team from Texas (avg. rating of 2285!) with 22.0 points. The strength of the three 1st place finishes of Vyom, Ruiyang and Henry pooled with outstanding results from Milind and Elliott combined for a great performance for Team CalChess!

Click or scan blow to see the links to the results:



FIDE Hybrid Tournaments

By Kevin Pan



The unique aspect of chess is its disregard of whoever sits on either side of the board. Age, nationality, and race all don't matter..... Once we are in front of the sixty-four black and white squares, we've got this universal language to "talk" with one another. Of

the hundreds of tournaments I've played, the international tournaments have always been the most exciting. On top of having the opportunity to compete with different people, experiencing the culture and attractions of the city adds on to these trips.

Unfortunately, the pandemic hit last year, stripping away worldwide travel and in person tournaments. Purely online tournaments quickly filled the void, but the lack of any in person interaction creates an entirely different environment from traditional tournaments. However, as people like to say – every challenge comes with a new opportunity! While online tournaments are mostly lacking and OTB tournaments have become rare, Fide recently came up with a creative solution! In Jan 2021, Fide approved hybrid competition valid for rating. A hybrid tournament is one where the games are played online, but the participants are physically present in a public place like a club, federation headquarters, hotel, etc. In this format, all games are



played under the supervision of an arbiter present on site. With these conditions being met, such hybrid events are officially rated in equal terms with traditional tournaments. Pacific Northwest Chess Center, one of the most innovative chess clubs in the US picking up a lot of popularity over the pandemic, quickly caught on this opportunity. Since May 2021, they've organized eight Fide hybrid tournaments where US players team up and compete with strong players from Europe in a team setting. And with the help of chess advocates in San Francisco, the event was brought to the Bay Area!

Over the weekend of Sep. 18th and 19th, I participated in the Fide hybrid tournament with four other players in the bay area and one more from Minnesota. Our opponent team was



from Pirot, Serbia with an average rating of 2180. Our average rating is 2165. We expected a tight match!

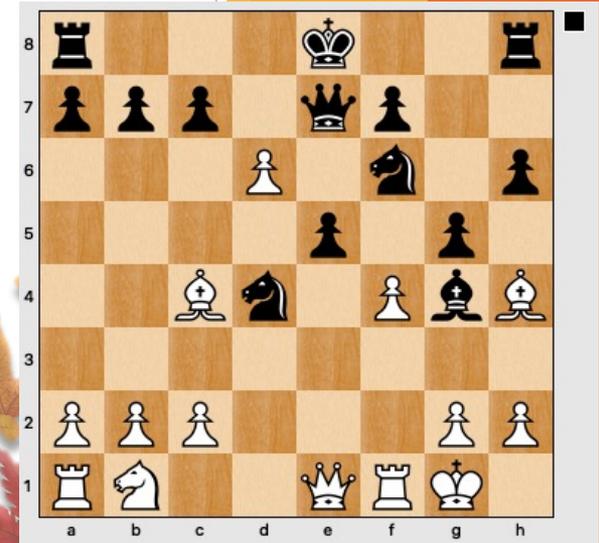
After four rounds over two days, the US team won the match with 17:7. Three of my teammates, Arun Dixit, Abhinav Penagalapati and Jayden Xu, would share the biggest upset prize as they all beat opponents rated almost 250 points higher! My favorite game is the one

I played in round 2 against Branimir Maksimovic [2301]. I was sure I was losing at move 11 yet I managed to scrape past and get the win.



FIDE Hybrid Tournaments, Continued

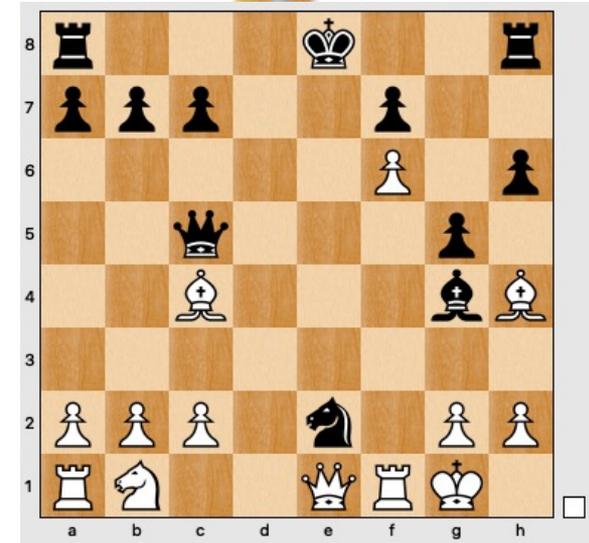
9...d5 (9...gxf4 10.Rxf4 exf4 11.Qxd4 { Bxf6 is coming and black is lost }) 10.exd5 Bg4 11.Qe1 Qe7



12.d6? { This move gives me the chance to get back into the game }

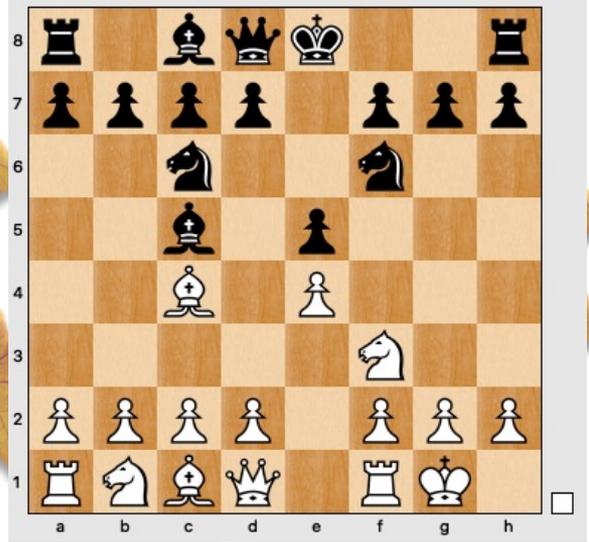
(12.fxg5 O-O-O 13.gxf6 Qc5 14.Qf2 Qxc4 15.Nc3 \$18) 12...Qxd6 13.fxe5 Qc5 14.exf6+

Ne2+! { Countering the check with a double check }

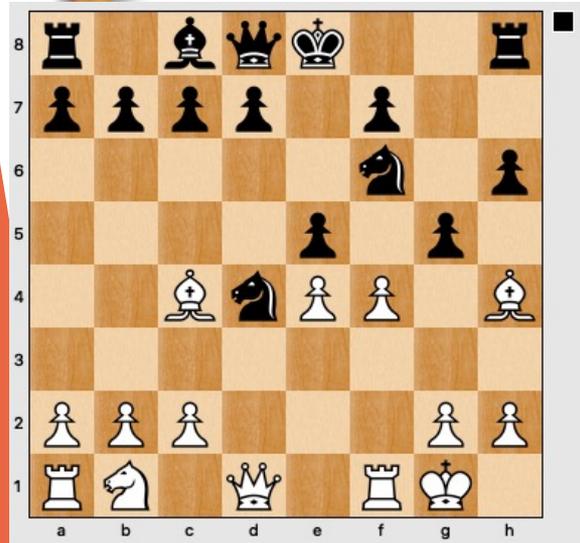


[Event "Fide Hybrid"]
 [Site "Chess.com"]
 [Date "2021.09.18"]
 [White "Branimir Maksimovic"]
 [Black "Kevin Pan"]
 [Result "0-1"]
 [ECO "C55"]

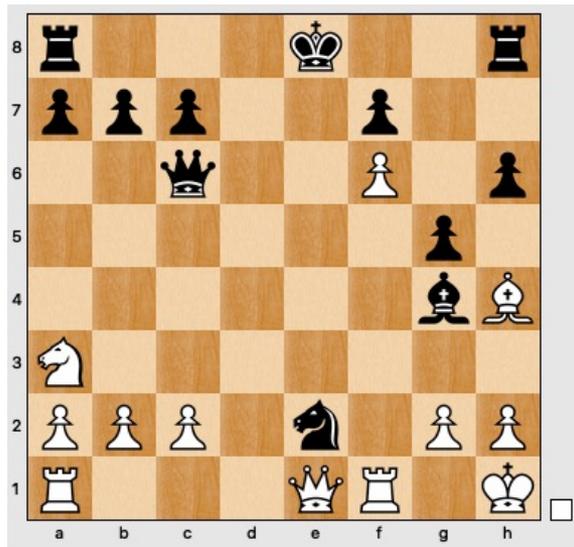
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.O-O Nf6



5.d4 Bxd4 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.f4! { Didn't see this coming at all... }

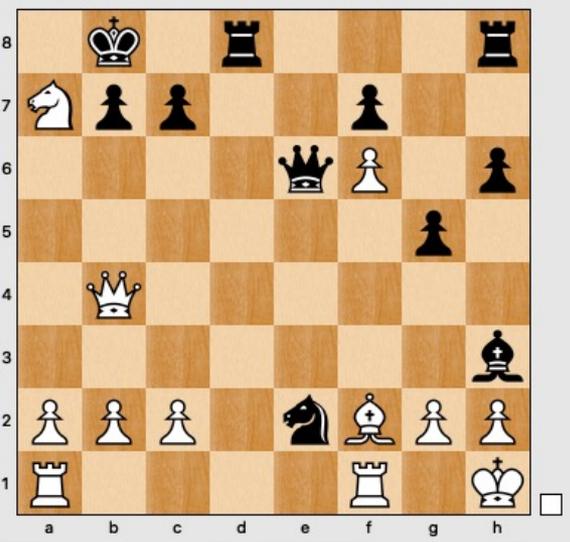


FIDE Hybrid Tournaments, Continued



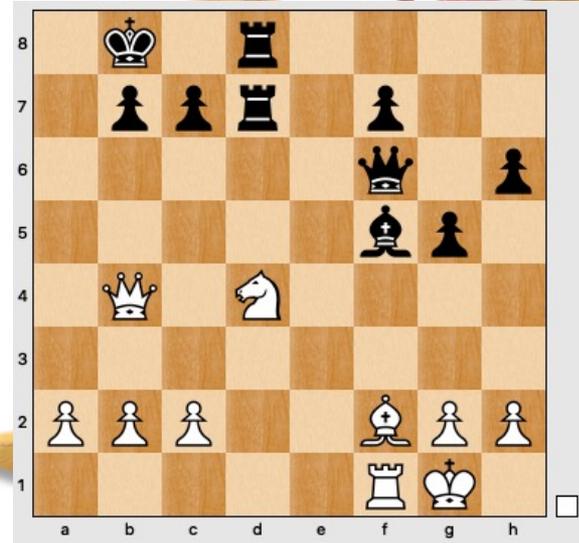
15.Kh1 Qxc4 16.Na3 Qc6

(16...Qe4 17.Bg3 O-O-O \$19 { Missed this threatening Qe7# })



17.Qb4 Qe6 18.Nb5
O-O-O 19.Nxa7+ Kb8
20.Bf2 Bh3!

21.Rg1 (21.Rad1 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Nf4 23.gxh3 Qe2 24.Nc6+ Kc8
25.Na7+ Kb8 \$11) 21...Nxc1 22.Kxc1 Bf5 23.Nb5 Rd7 24.Nd4 Qxf6

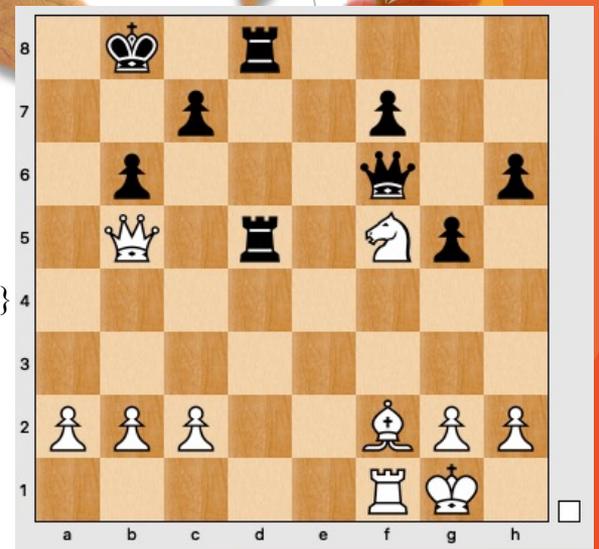


(25...Bg6 26.Nb5 Qa6) 26.Nxf5 Rd1 27.Qa5?? b6

28.Qb5 R1d5?
{Exchanging blunders...}

29.Qe2 Rxf5 30.Re1 Rfd5 31.Bg3 Rd2 32.Qe7 Qc6

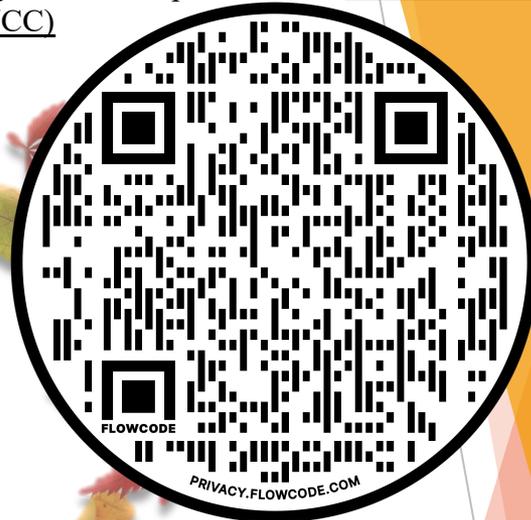
25.Rf1 {We both have less than 5 minutes now... }
25...Rhd8??



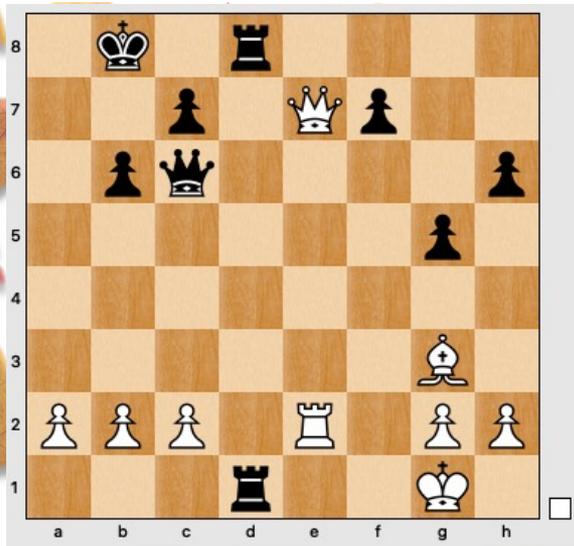
FIDE Hybrid Tournaments, Continued

challenged. And huge thanks to PNWCC, Bay Area Chess, Dr. Salman Azhar, Fide Arbiter Mr. Tom Langland, long time chess advocate and coach Chris Torres, and chess mom Lin Wang for their tireless efforts to promote chess and bring valuable events to us!

For upcoming such events please check [Pacific Northwest Chess Center \(PNWCC\)](#)

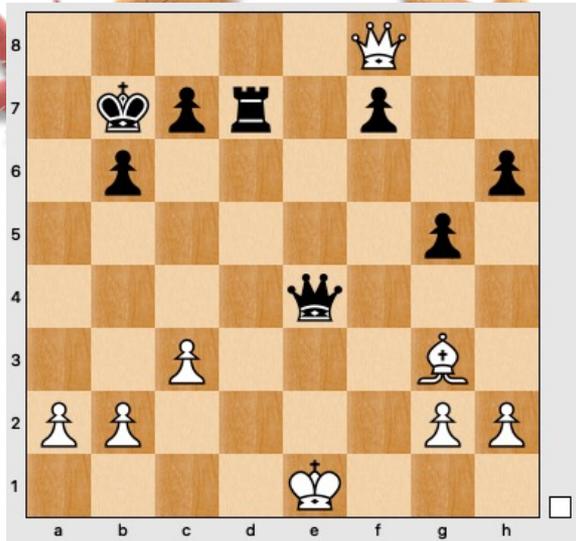


or contact Bay Area Chess.



33.Re2 Rd1+

34.Kf2 R8d2 35.c3 Rxe2+ 36.Kxe2 Rd7 37.Qf8+ Kb7 38.Kf1 Qc4+
39.Ke1 Qe4+ 0-1



Overall, it was a nice experience. I got to play chess with strong opponents from another continent without the need to worry about flights, hotels, and jet lag. I can 'talk' with my much more experienced opponents over our moves. I'd recommend this event to all who like to connect and play with fellow chess players from afar and be

The People's Tournament Returns

The 45th People's Tournament

By Chris Torres

The first weekend of September saw plenty of familiar faces sitting at the chessboards in Santa Clara, California to play in the the 45th People's Tournament, Young People's Championship and People's Blitz. The People's Tournament is a prestigious annual chess tournament with a storied 45-year history. This year's event was especially important as it reestablishes an important California chess tradition after the long absence of chess tournaments caused by the Covid-19 shutdown. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to Bay Area Chess for keeping a California chess tradition alive.

Section 1 – Master/Open

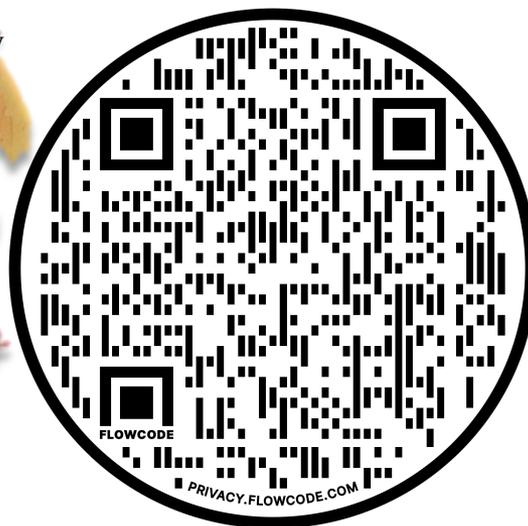
7 Rounds, 10 Players; Time Control: G/90;+30

- 1 | ALEXANDER KATZ
- 2 | AUSTIN R MEI
- 3 | PRANAV SAIRAM

Section 2 – Expert

7 Rounds, 29 Players; Time Control: G/90;+30

- 1 | MANAS MANU
- 2 | COLIN B ALBERT
- 3 | MR. RUDY GOCE TIA JR.
- 3 | XULI DAI



Click or scan for the complete list of
results

Section 3 – Class A

7 Rounds, 18 Players; Time Control: G/90;+30

- 1 | JEREMY DAVID CAWTHON
- 2 | SEAN KELLY
- 3 | MICHAEL S HO
- 3 | MR. UMESH GOPI

Section 4 – Class B

7 Rounds, 30 Players; Time Control: G/90;+30

- 1 | NEIL S BHADURI
- 2 | ETHAN R MEI
- 3 | ELLA GUO

Section 5 – Class C

7 Rounds, 4 Players; Time Control: G/90;+30

- 1 | MR. KINGSHUK DAS CHOWDHURY
- 2 | ANDREW ZOU
- 3 | COLIN YI
- 4 | JOSHUA XIA

Section 6 – Class D

7 Rounds, 14 Players; Time Control: G/90;+30

- 1 | KAELYN DASOVICH
- 2 | DANIEL L MA
- 2 | ETHAN SUN
- 3 | MANNANSH NAYYAR

Section 7 – Class E & Unrated

7 Rounds, 15 Players; Time Control: G/90;+30

- 1 | EASWAR GNANA HARI SEKAR
- 2 | SEAN CAGIN UZ
- 2 | MR. ADVAIT SURAJ VEDANT
- 2 | MURADHAN EMIR SABYROV
- 2 | ELI LEE

In Memory of Cesar Lopez

By Francisco Anchondo



CESAR LOPEZ

June 10 1977 - September 3 2021

Cesar was a young and respectful gentleman. He lived to an early age of 41. A person who was hard working and just a wonderful person altogether. I was fortunate to have met him. Kind, respectful, and always went out of his way to help anyone out. Was a manager at Safeway and took his job very seriously. Always striving to be successful. We met at a chess tournament. He grilled me on how to play against the Bishops opening. I simply said, "Oh just play the Two Knights Defense". Always asked on what to do against this variation or that. We would meet up at the Colonial Donut Shop which was open 24/7.

Cesar would go to Colonial Donut Shop in Oakland on Lakeshore Dr. I loved going their cause I had that wonderful steak shop called Philly Cheese Steak. My usual was Garlic King of Philly. I shared my huge sandwich with C. We took up a seat prior to meeting up at Colonial Donut Shop. We would meet up at Nick's Restaurant or Starbucks after my class at Weibel. We would order a coffee and I'd break out my analysis wooden chess board the small kind. Cesar took notes on certain schemes and traps I ad prepared for him. He'd say you go some talent Cisco.

["Spanish Berlin Def "]
 ["Fishing Pole car."]
 [White "NN"]
 [Black "Cesar Lopez"]
 [Result "0-1"]
 [ECO "C65"]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5
 Nf6 4.O-O Ng4 5.h3 h5
 6.Re1 ({ White dare not
 touch the knight. Just in
 case he did there would
 follow } 6.hxg4 hxg4
 7.Ne1 (7.Nh2) 7...Qh4
 {White cannot avoid
 mate.}) 6...Bc5 7.d4 Nxd4
 8.Nxd4 Qh4 9.Nf3 Qxf2+
 10.Kh1 Qg1+ \$3 11.Nxg1
 Nf2+ 0-1

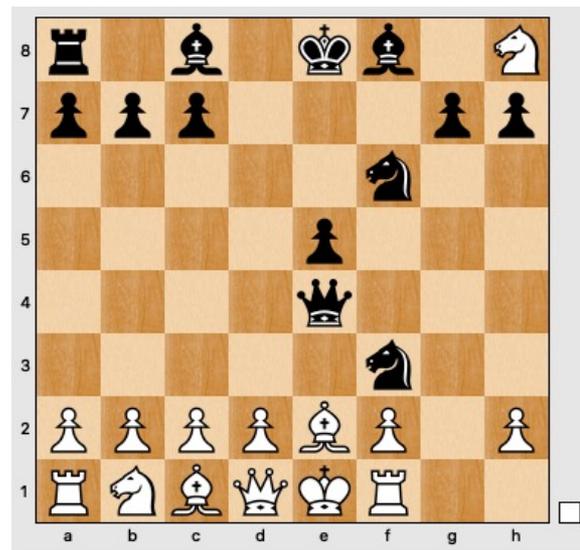


I clearly remember that Cesar's opponent didn't like losing. Opponent went stammering out hot under the collar running home with his tail tucked between his legs, all the way crying and complaining. Cesar in all the commotion forgot to ask for his coffee and pastry. It didn't bother C one bit. Kia wound up getting us a coffee and pastry. Another kind character who showed up to play. In fact, he bought all of us a coffee. Kia a kind soul. Bless his heart. In a future date the guy who ran out would show up begging for a game. I called him No Pay John. I avoided him like the plague. I had a guy knock over my coffee because he lost in terrible fashion. One very close person I knew had made fun of me and went round telling people how I was humiliated etc. etc. I eventually stopped going there and avoided the scene altogether. These people I avoided at all cost. I just showed my goodness and kindness and left it all that. Anyway, Cesar came down on some of these people. That's what I admired about him. He was deserving of learning from me. Good old C. C and I would meet at McDonald's in Castro Valley. He would just swallow up my lines, gambits, schemes, and snares. Writing the stuff down. Never missing a beat.

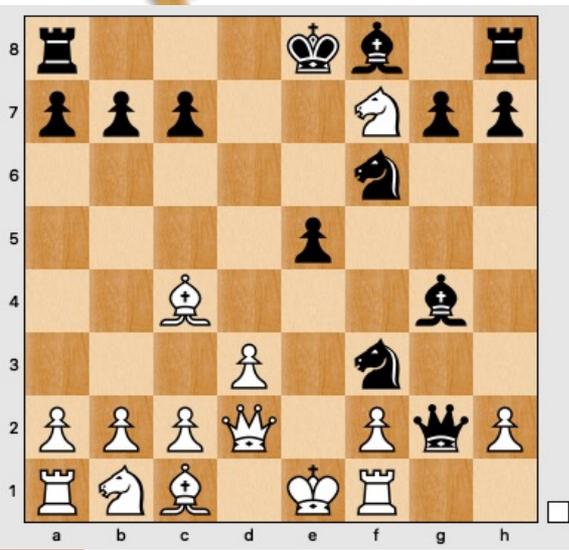
Have a Story to Share?

[Site " Colonial Donut Shop "]
 [Date " 2012.11 "]
 [White "NN"]
 [Black "Cesar Lopez"]
 [Result "0-1"]
 [ECO "C57"]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4 6.d6 Qxd6 7.Nxf7 Qc6 8.Nxh8 Qxg2 9.Rf1 Qe4+ 10.Be2 Nf3# *

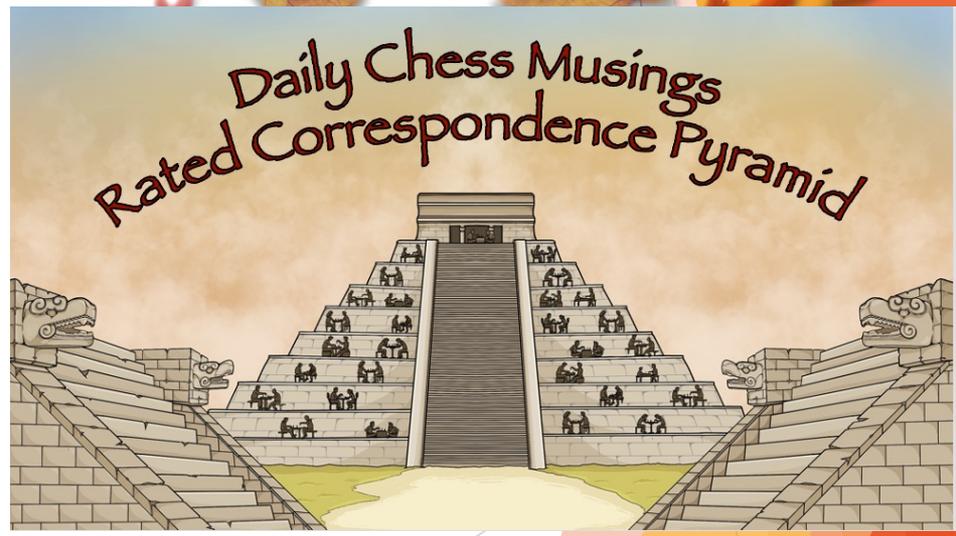


If you have a story or game that you would like to share in the next CalChess journal, please email it to DailyChessMusings@gmail.com and it may be selected as a feature.



[Site " Colonial Donut Shop "]
 [Date " 2012.11 "]
 [White "NN"]
 [Black "Cesar Lopez"]
 [Result "0-1"]
 [ECO "C57"]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4 6.d6 Qxd6 7.Nxf7 Qc6 8.d3 Qxg2 9.Rf1 Bg4 10.Qd2 (10.f3 Nxc2+ 11.Qxc2 Qxc2 { black winning the Queen. Yo man yooz getting lucky. }) 10...Nf3+ *



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CalChess Calendar

Sunday, November 7

10:00am 49th Carroll Capps Memorial Championship (G/45) - In-Person

Tuesday, November 9

6:30pm Tuesday Night Marathon - 2021 Nov - Dec - In-Person

Saturday, November 13

9:30am \$ \$ The Real Bay Area Championship (\$10,000 b/117)

10:00am Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss - IN PERSON

3:00pm Mechanics' Championship Quads - In-Person

Sunday, November 14

10:00am \$ \$ The Real Bay Area Championship (\$10,000 b/117)

7:00pm \$ The Real Bay Area Blitz

Tuesday, November 16

6:30pm Tuesday Night Marathon - 2021 Nov - Dec - In-Person

Saturday, November 20

9:00am The Eade Fall Classic - Online

10:00am 20th St. Amant Memorial Championship (G/45) - In-Person

Tuesday, November 23

6:30pm Tuesday Night Marathon - 2021 Nov - Dec - In-Person

Friday, November 26

9:30am California Class Warfare

10:00am Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open - In-Person FIDE (6R G/90+30)

Saturday, November 27

9:30am California Class Warfare

10:00am Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open - In-Person FIDE (6R G/90+30)

Sunday, November 28

9:30am California Class Warfare

10:00am Mechanics' Thanksgiving Gobbler Open - In-Person FIDE (6R G/90+30)

Tuesday, November 30

6:30pm Tuesday Night Marathon - 2021 Nov - Dec - In-Person

Thursday, December 2

6:30pm Thursday Night Marathon Online - Dec 2021

Saturday, December 4

10:00am 2021 Guthrie McClain Memorial Championship (G/45) - In-Person

Tuesday, December 7

6:30pm Tuesday Night Marathon - 2021 Nov - Dec - In-Person

Thursday, December 9

6:30pm Thursday Night Marathon Online - Dec 2021

Saturday, December 11

10:00am Mechanics' Institute Monthly Scholastic Swiss - IN PERSON

3:00pm Mechanics' Championship Quads - In-Person

Tuesday, December 14

6:30pm Tuesday Night Marathon - 2021 Nov - Dec - In-Person

Thursday, December 16

6:30pm Thursday Night Marathon Online - Dec 2021

Saturday, December 18

9:00am 3rd Annual Donaldson Championship - In-Person FIDE (G90+30)

Sunday, December 19

9:00am 3rd Annual Donaldson Championship - In-Person FIDE (G90+30)

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