

The CalChess Journal



Fall 2025

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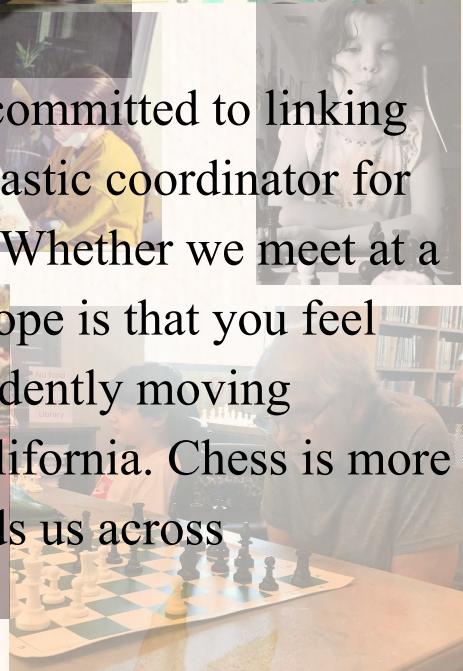
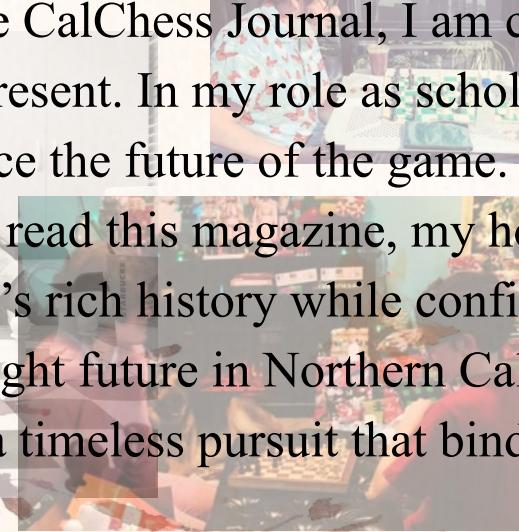
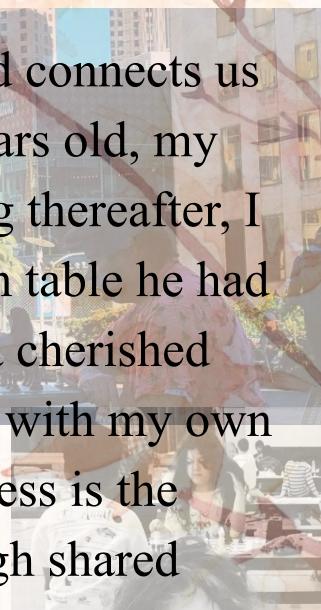
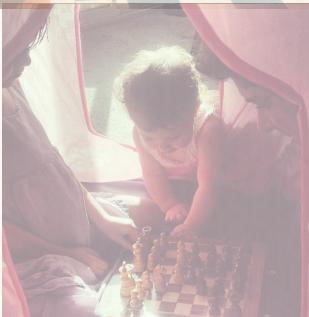
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**Editor: Chris Torres & Writer
Assistant Editor: Ikshit Gupta**

Letter From the Editor

Chess is a timeless game that bridges generations and connects us across ages. For example, when I was about eight years old, my father introduced me to the game. Each Thanksgiving thereafter, I played chess with my grandfather at the same kitchen table he had played chess with my great-grandfather, continuing a cherished family tradition. Today, I enjoy teaching and playing with my own children and nibblings, continuing the cycle. Truly, chess is the ultimate multigenerational game that unites us through shared strategy and memory.



As the editor of the CalChess Journal, I am committed to linking the past with the present. In my role as scholastic coordinator for CalChess, I embrace the future of the game. Whether we meet at a tournament or you read this magazine, my hope is that you feel connected to chess's rich history while confidently moving forward into its bright future in Northern California. Chess is more than a game—it's a timeless pursuit that binds us across generations.

In Memory of Daniel Naroditsky

By Aamir Azhar

The most formative event of my scholastic chess career occurred at the 33rd annual CalChess State Championships, and Daniel Naroditsky was a part of it. Both of us were in sixth grade at the time, May 2008. Six rounds were spread over two days with a time control of ninety minutes. I won my first four games, and in the fifth round, I beat my longtime rival Kevin Zhu to go into the last round as the only player with a perfect score. At the time, it felt like all eleven years I had lived on this earth had been leading up to this. I was one match away from being the uncontested fourth to sixth grade champion for the entirety of California state.

I know what you're thinking: I played Danya and lost. Well, half of that is correct. I did lose, but it was against my friend Yian Liou, and it was because I played so hard for a draw that I never attacked; instead, I dilly-dallied into a gradual loss. No, I never played Danya in that tournament, because he wasn't playing in my section, despite us being the same age. He was busy winning the ninth to twelfth grade section.



Danya Naroditsky with his co-champion Steven Zierk (PC

Michael Aigner)

This memory is significant to me because it was the beginning of the end of my chess career. It encapsulated the three reasons I'd informally quit a few years later, none of which I could articulate until recently. One, I was so desperate for the validation of state titles that I was willing to compromise the one thing all chess champions share: the desire to win every game they play. (In essence, my motivations were wrong.) Two, my chess career was concentrated to the glamour and conviviality of the scholastic scene in California, which I'd soon become too old for. Lastly, I felt constantly overshadowed by prodigies like Yian Liou (a year my junior, but better), Tanuj Vasudeva (five years younger than me, and quickly approaching my level), and Danya Naroditsky (my age, competing against adults already, and roughly thrice my strength). In fact, while I was fighting my way into an elementary school title, this was Danya's second time winning high school. He had won it the previous year as a

fifth grader. And once he entered junior high, he wouldn't bother with states at all; instead, Yian Liou would inherit the high school section's title the next year—in sixth grade.

But at the time, I was still in it. I was rated in the top 100 nationally of my age group until I entered high school. Danya and I shared a coach, Michael Aigner, who I like to describe as the Phil Jackson of California scholastic chess coaches. I was too far out of Danya's league to compete against him, but I saw him at state and national chess tournaments, where he served as a constant reminder of what a world class chess player was like. It was an honor to be in close proximity to people of that caliber. It was deflating too.



*Me and the other winners of the 4th-6th grade section.
(PC Michael Aigner)*

Because the scholastic chess world was stressful, filled with drama, and littered with competitive parents projecting onto their children. I couldn't handle it. Not many children could. We had the misfortune of being good enough to see chess from a birds' eye view, to be able to compare ourselves to the Danyas of the world who found—or forged—a path through all the disorder. Unsurprisingly, most of my peers chose to soft retire in high school instead of pursue a professional adult chess career, which was far more cutthroat and toxic, despite its marked absence of helicopter parents. Not Danya, though.

In 2010, as I left the chess world to focus on high school, he became the youngest published chess author with his first book, *Mastering Positional Chess*, then earned two IM norms. The next year, he secured the IM title and earned his first GM norm at the Benasque Open just six months later. 2012 saw the release of his second book—*Mastering Complex Endgames*—and 2013 saw



Danya Naroditsky defeats Fabiano Caruana at the 2021 U.S. Championship.

him win his final two GM norms. Danya was a chess grandmaster before he was a senior in high school.

The unbelievable part is this was only the beginning of his prestigious chess career. He coached the BayAreaChess Elite team while pursuing a degree in History at Stanford, then worked as Resident Grandmaster of the Charlotte Chess Center after graduation. He then began his formal streaming and coaching career, which was catapulted by the pandemic as well as his win against #2 ranked Fabiano Caruana at the 2021 U.S. Championship. By 2023, he had become the chess columnist for The New York Times and amassed more than 200,000 followers on YouTube and Twitch.

Danya's full resume would fill much more than two paragraphs, but his legacy encompasses much more than his competitive record, and even his streaming career. He understood, unlike most of us, that chess, more than its games and books and streaming, is made up of the people playing it. It's the way you shake your opponent's hand after an intense game. It's the vulnerability in watching someone react to their own blunder, in losing a winning endgame on time, in the eye contact you make when offering a draw. Chess is how players share their love—and hate—of the game through memes, analysis, and strongly worded tweets. Chess is universal. It is territory that is as firmly neutral as it is contested. And in an age where everyone is trying to stake the game as their own, Danya never did. His play was one of craft, not ego. He elevated not just the game with his presence, but the culture around it too. That's why people liked to watch him, because he made the game fun and accessible, and

taught with the same diligence that he played with. For the stunted chess kids like me, he was a beacon of what we all could be, as players, and as people too.

Chess, sometimes, can convince us that life is quantifiable. Each move is subject to analysis, each game condensed into one of three results; its certainty is part of its appeal. But we lost something immeasurable with Danya's passing. What's left is the example that he set.

Rest in peace, Danya. The chess world is better because of you.

The Naroditsky Memorial & Fellowship Endowment

givebutter.com/naroditsky

The "Daniel Naroditsky Foundation" is a memorial fund launched by the Charlotte Chess Center and the Naroditsky family to honor Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky, who passed away in October 2025. The fund is working to create a \$4 million endowment to support two initiatives: an annual blitz and rapid chess tournament in Charlotte and a fellowship program for promising young chess players.

2025 US Amateur West Individual Championship

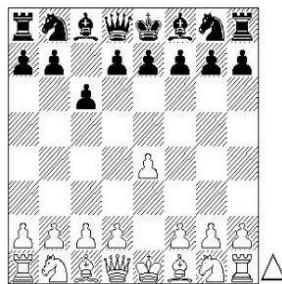
The annual U.S. Amateur West Individual Championship took place in mid September at the spacious Sonesta Silicon Valley Event Center In Milpitas. The tournament attracted 80 players and they were in turn broken up into three rating based sections: 1800+, 1400-1799, and under 1399. Chief TD Jordan Langland got every round started on time and did a masterful job of making sure that all the player's inquiries were answered promptly. After six rounds, it was Easwar Gnana Hari Sekar who won the Championship Section with 5 total points. In the 1400-1799 Section, Kaihan Liu secured first place with 5/6. Finally, in the under 1400 Section, Medhansh Rai won first prize with an impressive 5.5/6.



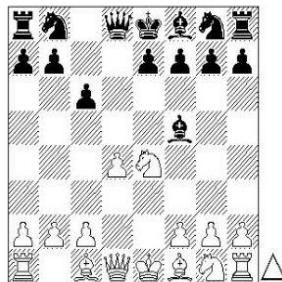
See more photos at
dailychessmusings.com

CARO-KANN
Singh, Samar - Cheng, Aaron
1:0, 9/21/ 25.

1. **e4 c6** Black chooses the Caro-Kann Defense. The opening named after Horatio Caro and Marcus Kann is a popular defense against 1. e4 in which black plans on contesting the center with 2... d5.



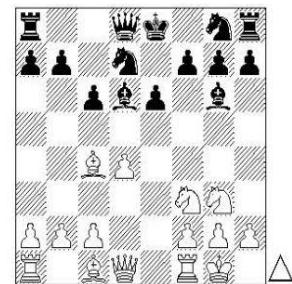
2. **d4 d5 3. ♜c3 dxe4 4. ♜xe4 ♜f5** This is the Classical Variation of the Caro-Kann Defense. Sometimes called the Capablanca Variation, it is a solid defense for black.



5. **♝g3 ♜g6 6. ♜f3 ♜d7 7. ♜c4 e6 8. O-O** As is often the case with the Caro-Kann, White has an advantage in space and time. 8... ♜d6 8... Ngf6 is the most popular move here.

[8... ♜gf6 9. ♜e1 ♜e7 10. ♜h4 ♜d5

11. ♜xg6 hxg6 12. c3 ♜c7 13. ♜f3 ♜f6 14. h3 O-O-O 15. ♜e4 ♜xe4 16. ♜xe4 ♜d6 17. ♜d2 ♜h5 18. ♜ae1 ♜dh8 19. a3 ♜b8 20. ♜e2 ♜f4 21. ♜xf4 ♜xf4 22. b4 g5 23. a4 ♜h4 24. ♜e4 ♜4h6 25. ♜f1 ♜h2 26. ♜h1 ♜d6 27. ♜g1 ♜f6 28. ♜e2 ♜h2 29. ♜h1 ♜d6 30. ♜g1 ♜g6 31. g3 ♜gh6 32. ♜g2 ♜c8 33. a5 a6 34. ♜e3 ♜g6 35. ♜e2 ♜d7 36. ♜e3 ♜h8 37. ♜e2 ♜gh6 38. ♜e3 ♜g6 39. ♜e2 ♜d8 40. ♜e3 ♜f6 41. ♜e2 ♜gh6 42. ♜e3 ♜f5 43. ♜e2 ♜f6 44. ♜e3 ♜f5 45. ♜e2 ♜f6 46. ♜e3 ♜h5 47. ♜e2 ♜d8 48. ♜e3 ...0-1, Vokarev Sergey (RUS) 2443 - Riazantsev Alexander (RUS) 2666, Sochi 10/ 5/2017 Ch Russia (blitz) (team)]



9. **♜e2** Rather than moving the same piece twice in the opening, white should consider playing Qe2 here. 9... ♜c7 This does activate the Queen, however, playing Ngf6 seems like the most natural developing move. 10. **g3** White hardens up his defenses against Black's Queen and Bishop battery. 10... **h5?!** Launching the





pawn is a very aggressive choice but Black's Knights are in no position to help with this attack. Better here would still be Ngf6.

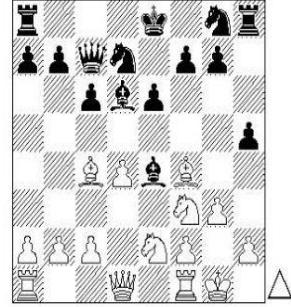
[10... $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ O-O-O 12. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ e5 13. $dxe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 15. $\mathbb{W}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}he8$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d2$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xg6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 20. $\mathbb{W}xe1$ $\mathbb{Q}f3$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}e7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xe1$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 0-1, Stromboli Ettore (ITA) 2308 - Panarin Michail (RUS) 2562, Internet 6/9/2020 It "Titled Tuesday";
10... b5!? Is an interesting alternative.
11. $\mathbb{Q}b3$ c5 12. $dxc5$ $\mathbb{Q}xc5$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}xf4$ $\mathbb{W}b7$ 15. $\mathbb{W}e2$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}d4$ a6 17. $\mathbb{Q}d6$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $\mathbb{W}xe7$ 19. c3 O-O 20. $\mathbb{Q}c2$ Is a roughly equal position.]

11. $\mathbb{Q}f4$?! It's White's Knight that really wants to advance here.

[11. $\mathbb{Q}f4$?! $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}df6$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xf5$]

11... $\mathbb{Q}e4$?! Black still really needs to activate his Knight with Ngf6.

[11... $\mathbb{Q}gf6$?! 12. c3 $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 14. $\mathbb{W}d3$ b5 15. $\mathbb{Q}b3$ a5 16. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ a4 18. $\mathbb{Q}d1$ O-O 19. $\mathbb{W}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ cxd5 21. a3 +0.15 Stockfish]

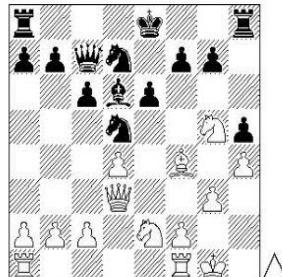


12. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ White's Knight advances to the quadrant of the opposition's King with a threat 12... $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 13. $h4$ Halts Black's attack while supporting the Knight on g5.
13. $Bxd6$ is a strong alternative that would clear the way for the Knight on e2 to advance.

[13. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$?! $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ +0.89 Stockfish]

13... $\mathbb{Q}gf6$ Black's King's Knight finally enters the game. 14. $\mathbb{Q}d3$ White moves his light Bishop to where it can battle for a longer diagonal. 14... $\mathbb{Q}xd3$ 15. $\mathbb{W}xd3$ With this recapture, White has completed the Three Opening Goals: 1) Pawn in the center, 2) Castle, 3) Unify Rooks. 15... $\mathbb{Q}d5$? This is a costly mistake. 15... e5 would have kept things close to balanced.

[15... e5 16. $dxe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 17. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ O-O 18. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}xb2$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}ab1$ $\mathbb{Q}e5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}xh5$ c5 21. $\mathbb{Q}fd1$ $\mathbb{Q}ae8$ 22. $\mathbb{W}f5$ g6 23. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 24. $\mathbb{W}f3$ b6 25. a4]



20. $\mathbb{Q}fxe6!!$ Extra barrier or not, this sacrifice destroys Black's chances. 20... $f6$ It is usually a bad sign when you feel the need to defend by playing $f6$. 21. $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$

[21... $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ $fxg5$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ Is also hopeless for Black.]

22. $\mathbb{Q}f7$ Fork!



22... $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}f5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$

25. $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 26. $c5$ Black resigned a few moves later. [1:0]

12/6, Sat 9am

CalChess Super States: K-1 & K-6 Champ and other K-12 Sections (Day 1/2)

12/7, Sun Until 5:10pm

CalChess Super States: K-1 & K-6 Champ and other K-12 Sections (Day 2/2)

12/13, Sat 9 – 11:30am

Kids' Signature Quads 3RR G/25 d5 (BAC @ Cupertino)

12/14, Sun 9 – 11:30am

Kids' Signature Quads 3RR G/25 d5 (BAC @ San Jose)

Upcoming Tournaments

Richard Shorman Memorial 2025

Organized by The Berkeley Chess School on 8/28-10/3

Who Was Richard Shorman?

Richard Shorman (1938–2023) was a dedicated teacher and mentor to thousands of adults and children in the San Francisco East Bay for over 60 years. Many of his chess students went on to become state champions, experts and masters. In addition to being a legendary chess teacher, Mr. Shorman was a columnist, writer and the official photographer for CalChess. For more information about Richard Shorman, please read the CalChess Journal special edition release dedicated to his life and impact on the Northern California chess community.



Richard Shorman Memorial 2025 Open Section Top Five

Place	Player Name	Total Points
1	Theodore	5.5
	James	
	Coyne	
2	Alexander	4.5
	Paul Chin	
3	Elliott	4.0
	Winslow	
4	Max	4.0
	Virgil	
5	Jonah	4.0
	Busch	

2025 CalChess Denker/Barber /Rockefeller Qualifier

At the Denker, Barber and Rockefeller qualifiers, the best scholastic chess players from Northern California compete for the honor of representing CalChess at a special Closed National Championship against representatives from all the other states. The Denker Qualifier for high school aged chess players had sixteen competitors with Eric Yuhan Li placing first with an impressive score of 4 points in 5 rounds. Neil Bhaduri placed first out of thirteen with a perfect 5/5 in the Barber Qualifier for middle school aged players. The Rockefeller Qualifier for elementary students featured thirty-seven competitors but when all the dust settled, it was Liam Liu who came out in front with a score of 4.5/5. Congratulations to all the participants on a participating in our State's most prestigious closed scholastic chess competition.

What is the Denker/Barber /Rockefeller Chess Tournament?

The Denker, Barber, and Rockefeller tournaments are prestigious national scholastic chess championships held each year alongside the U.S. Open, bringing together the top K–12 players from every state. The Denker features high-school champions, the Barber hosts middle-school champions, and the Rockefeller showcases the strongest elementary players. These invitation-only events highlight the best young talent in the country, offering a competitive arena, national recognition, and opportunities for scholarships and future chess advancement.



Walter Browne Memorial 2025

Organized by The Berkeley Chess School on 7/18-8/22

Who Was Walter Browne?

Walter Browne was born in Sydney Australia on January 10, 1949. When he was just 3 years old, his family moved to the United States close to New York City. The New York chess scene was a good starting place for Walter and he went on to win the U.S. Junior Championship in 1966. By 1970, Browne was awarded Grandmaster title and in 1973 he moved to California. The longtime Berkeley resident would win the U.S. Championship a total of 6 times (1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1981 and 1983). In addition to his US Championship triumphs, GM Walter Browne represented the United States in the Chess Olympiads 6 times, won the National Open 11 times, the American Open 7 times, the World Open 3 times, and the U.S. Open Chess Championship twice. In 2003, GM Walter Browne was admitted to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame and in 2012 he wrote a book on his chess career titled “*The Stress of*

Chess ... and its Infinite Finesse”. Walter Browne participated in the 50th Anniversary National Open Chess Championship in Las Vegas in June 2015 before passing away a short time later. A Californian who dedicated his life to chess, GM Walter Browne is arguably the most successful chess player to call the Golden State home.

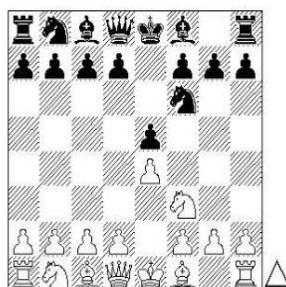
Walter Browne Memorial 2025 Open Section Top 5

Place	Player Name	Points
1	Dmytro Dzhanhirov	5.5
2	Austin Edward Cambon	4.5
3	Elliott Winslow	4.0
4	Alexander Paul Chin	4.0
5	Zeno Kalonaris	4.0

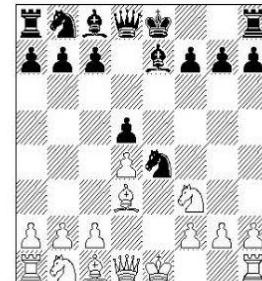
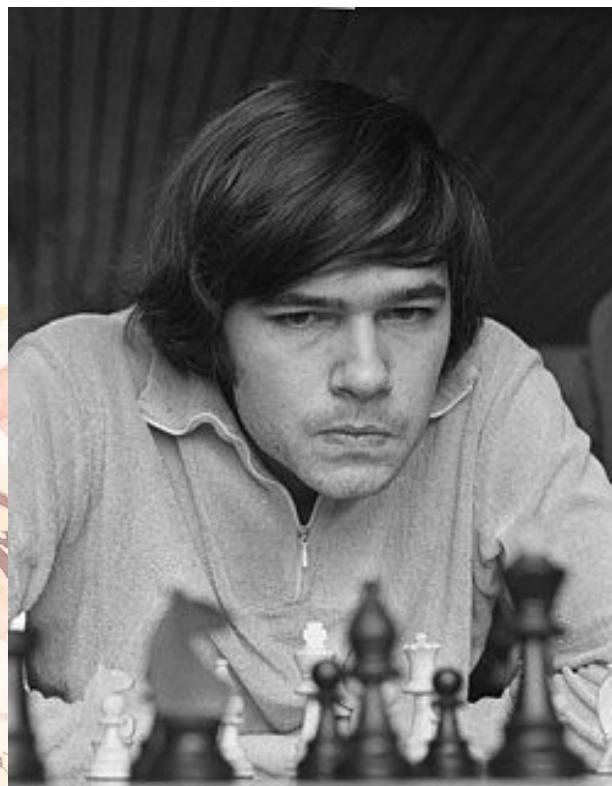
PETROFF'S def.

Browne, Walter - Murray, Peter
8/30/1971.

1. e4 e5 2. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ The Petroff Defence, first described by Lucena in 1479, remains a very reliable, if not fashionable, way for Black to meet White's King Pawn Opening.



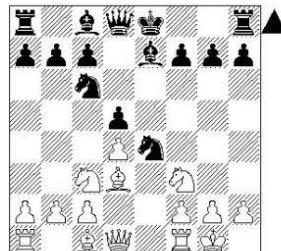
3. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $d6$ 3.. $d6$ as a response to $Nxe5$ was popularized by Alexander Petroff in the early 19th Century. For his innovative work on the subject, the Opening is now named after him. Alternatively, many writers refer to this as the Russian Game to honor the other Russian contributors to the modern treatment of 3.. $d6$. 4. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 5. $d4$ By letting the black knight stay on e4 for a while, White intends to win tempi for the development attacking him later with his pieces. 5... $d5$ The most logical and active continuation. Black tries to hold his center. 6. $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ The more symmetrical 6... $Bd6$ is also quite popular.



7. O-O White continues along the Main Line. 7... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ \pm This is a typical opening strategy when Black saves tempi by abstaining from castling and develops his minor pieces instead in order to influence the center. 8. $\mathbb{Q}c3$ Black must also be prepared to meet 8. $h3$, $c4$, $Re1$ and $c3$.

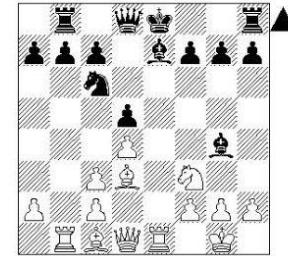
[8. $h3$ O-O 9. $a3$ $\mathbb{Q}f5$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 11. $c3$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 13. $c4$ $c6$ 14. $c5$ $\mathbb{Q}c7$ 15. $g4$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 16. $g5$ $\mathbb{Q}xh3$ 17. $gxf6$ $gxf6$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $dxe4$ 19. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ $\mathbb{Q}d5$ 20. $\mathbb{Q}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}g8$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}h2$ $\mathbb{Q}g2$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}h1$ $cx d5$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}g2$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}g1$ $\mathbb{Q}ag8$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}e4$ 29. $\mathbb{Q}e3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ $\mathbb{Q}xg7$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}xe4$ 1-0, Baramidze David (GER) 2543 - Kolthoff Siegmund (GER) 2186, Bad Zwischenahn 2003 Cup Nord-West; 8. $c4$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 9. $cxd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}c3$ $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ 11. $bx c3$ O-O 12. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $f5$ 15. $c4$ $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ 16. $\mathbb{Q}xg2$ $\mathbb{Q}g6$ 17. $f4$ $h6$ 18. $d5$ $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 19. $h4$ $hxg5$ 20. $hxg5$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{Q}h6$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 23. $c5$ $\mathbb{Q}ad8$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}c4$ $b5$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $a5$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}ae1$ $\mathbb{Q}fe8$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}xe6$ 28. $dxe6$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ 29. $exf7$ $a4$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}d1$

$\mathbb{H}xd1$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}xd1$ $\mathbb{W}c6$ 32. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ $\mathbb{W}xc5$ 33. $g6$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 34. $\mathbb{W}g5$ $\mathbb{W}d2$ 35. $\mathbb{Q}h3$ $\mathbb{W}d3$ 36. $\mathbb{W}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 37. $\mathbb{W}h4$ $\mathbb{Q}d7$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 39. $\mathbb{W}h8$ $\mathbb{W}xg6$ 40. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ $\mathbb{W}xf7$ 41. $a3$ $\mathbb{W}e7$ 42. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}e1$ 43. $\mathbb{Q}g2$ $\mathbb{W}d2$ 44. $\mathbb{Q}g3$ $\mathbb{W}e1$ 1/2-1/2, Loewenthal Johann J (HUN) - Morphy Paul 2680, London 1858 ;
8. $\mathbb{H}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 9. $c3$ $f5$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ O-O 11. $\mathbb{W}b3$ $\mathbb{Q}a5$ 12. $\mathbb{W}b5$ $c6$ 13. $\mathbb{W}a4$ $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}e2$ $\mathbb{W}c7$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}e5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe2$ 16. $\mathbb{H}xe2$ $b5$ 17. $\mathbb{W}c2$ $c5$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}f1$ $cxsd4$ 19. $cxsd4$ $\mathbb{W}xc2$ 20. $\mathbb{H}xc2$ $\mathbb{Q}c4$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}d3$ $\mathbb{H}ac8$ 22. $f3$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $h6$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{H}xf6$ 25. $\mathbb{H}ac1$ $\mathbb{H}e8$ 26. $b3$ $\mathbb{Q}b6$ 27. $\mathbb{Q}f2$ 1/2-1/2, Svidler Peter (RUS) 2684 - Kramnik Vladimir (RUS) 2760, Linares 1999 It (cat.20) ;
8. $c3$ $\mathbb{Q}g4$ 9. $\mathbb{W}b3$ $\mathbb{W}d6$ 10. $\mathbb{Q}bd2$ $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}xd2$ O-O-O 12. $\mathbb{W}c2$ $\mathbb{Q}b8$ 13. $b4$ $\mathbb{H}de8$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}b3$ $\mathbb{W}f6$ 15. $\mathbb{H}e1$ 1/2-1/2, Liang Jinrong (CHN) 2425 - Xie Jianjun (CHN) 2415, Beijing 1996 Cup Lee]



8... $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ Forcing White to accept a weak pawn structure. 9. $bxsd3$ Even doubled

pawns offer some advantages. Here, the advantage to having a pawn on c3 means that d4 is supported and b4 is off limits to Black's pieces. 9... $\mathbb{Q}g4$ Black activates a Bishop with a pin. 10. $\mathbb{H}b1$ Another advantage to the doubled pawns is having a semi-open file to place the Rook into. 10... $\mathbb{H}b8$ The best move even though Black's Rook is now on a pawn defending duty. 11. $\mathbb{H}e1$ Now White moves his other Rook into an open file where it pins Black's Bishop.



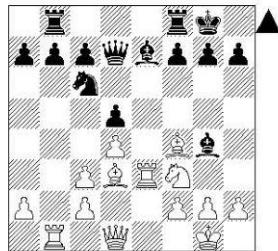
11... O-O This unpins the Bishop and now both Kings are castled. 12. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ White Bishop develops to where it strengthens White's control of the e5 center square. 12... $\mathbb{W}d7?$! Black's first inaccuracy. Better was Bd6 which offers a trade of Bishops.

[12... $\mathbb{Q}d6?$! 13. $\mathbb{Q}xd6$ $\mathbb{W}xd6$ 14. $\mathbb{H}e3$ Here White only has a small edge from his superiorly placed Rooks.]

13. $\mathbb{H}e3$ White advances a Rook so a battery can be formed in the open file.

Have a Story to Share?

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.



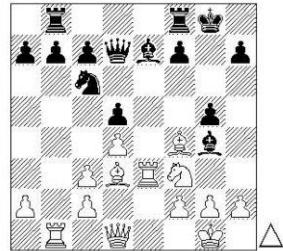
13... g5?! Black's play is too bold here. Better is 13... Rfe8 as seen in Anand - Leko or the relatively unexplored 13... d6.

[13... Rfe8 14. Qe2 Qf8 15. Re1 Rxe3 16. Qxe3 Qf5 17. Qxc7 Qxc7 18. Qxf5 g6 19. Qd3 Qa5 20. We5 Wd8 21. Wf4 Qd6 22. Wd2 Rc8 23. h4 Wc7 24. Wg5 Wd8 25. Wh6 Qf8 26. Wd2 Wc7 27. Re5 Rd8 28. We1 Qc6 29. Re8 Rxe8 30. Rxe8 We7 31. Rc8 Qg7 32. g3 Qd8 33. Qg2 Qe6 34. Qe5 Wc7 35. We8 We7 36. Wb5 f6 37. Qg4 f5 38. Qe3 f4 39. Qxd5 Wf7 40. Qe4 fxe3 41. fxe3 Qd6 42. Wd3 b6 43. a4 Wd7 44. Wb5 Wf7 45. Qf3 g5 46. Wc6 Qb8 47. Qg4 Qd8 48. Wd7 Wxd7 49. Qxd7 gxh4 50. gxh4 Qd6 51. Qb5 Qf7 52. Qf3 Qh6 53. Qd7 ...1/2-1/2, Anand Viswanathan (IND) 2770 - Leko Peter (HUN) 2739, Leon 2001 It "Advanced Chess";

13... Qa5 14. Qe5 Qxd1 15. Qxd7 1-0, Mekhitarian Krikor Sevag (BRA) 2550 - Ribeiro Orlando Alves, Fortaleza 6/3/2010 It (open);

13... Qd6?!? 14. Qxd6 cxd6 15. h3 Qh5 16. g4 Qg6 17. Qh4 Rfe8 18. Rxe8

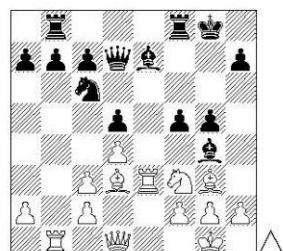
Wxe8 19. Qxg6 fxg6 20. Rb5 Wf7
Where White has a small advantage but Black has a defendable position.]



14. Qg3 Also possible was 14. Be5.

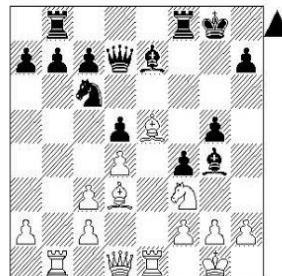
[14. Qe5 f6 15. Qg3 f5 Reaches the same position as in the game.]

14... f5 Black trades off King safety for the threat to win material.

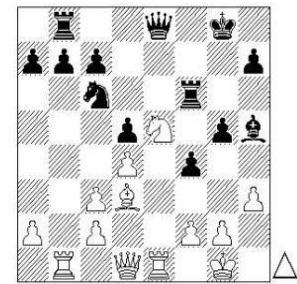


15. Qe5 Takes away Black's opportunity for a Fork and places the Bishop to where it now controls the newly created weak squares adjacent to Black's King. 15... f4 Even without a fork, this move grabs the initiative and forces White Rook to retreat.

16. Re1 Re2 doesn't work because it interferes with the Queen's defense of the f3 Knight.



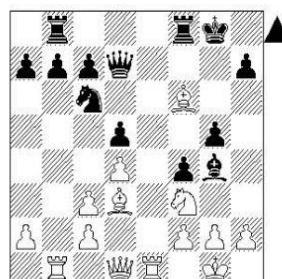
threatening to win a Rook immediately after trading Queens. 19... $\mathbb{Q}e8$



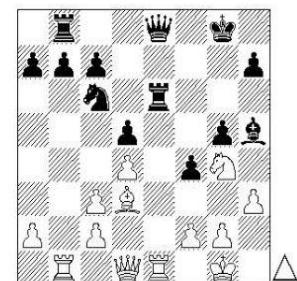
16... $\mathbb{Q}f6$?! Black attempts to muzzle White dangerous dark Bishop. However, this is an inaccuracy that will cost Black some material. Better was placing a Rook into the open file with 16... Rfe8.

[16... $\mathbb{Q}fe8$!? 17. h3 $\mathbb{Q}h5$ 18. c4 $\mathbb{Q}d6$ 19. cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 20. dxe5 $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ 21. $\mathbb{Q}xf3$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ $\mathbb{Q}xe5$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}e1$ $\mathbb{Q}g7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}g4$ $\mathbb{Q}h8$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}h5$ $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 26. $\mathbb{Q}e6$ $\mathbb{Q}f8$ Offers Black the best chance at survival.]
 16... $\mathbb{Q}f5$?! 17. $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ $\mathbb{Q}xf5$ 18. c4 b6 19. cxd5 $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 20. c4 $\mathbb{Q}xc4$ 21. d5 $\mathbb{Q}d8$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}c1$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ $\mathbb{Q}xd5$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xc6$ Leaves White with a winning endgame.]

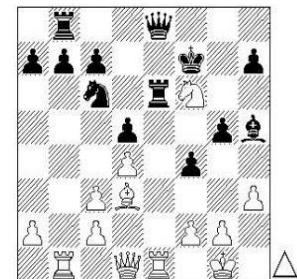
17. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ White begins a long combination to capitalize on Black's inaccuracy.



20. $\mathbb{Q}g4$! A beautiful discovered attack and White is now guaranteed to win material. 20... $\mathbb{Q}e6$ Black finds the best response.

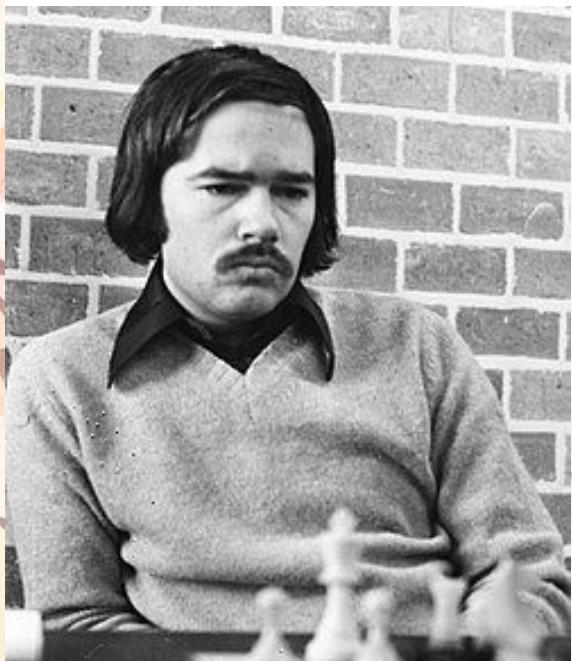
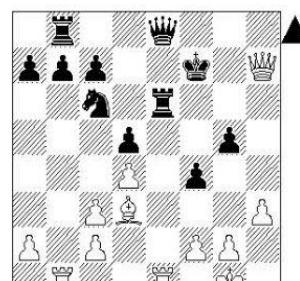


21. $\mathbb{Q}f6$! But its not good enough. 21... $\mathbb{Q}f7$



22. $\mathbb{Q}xh5$! Walter Browne's tactics here are uncanny. 22... $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ 23. $\mathbb{Q}h6$ $\mathbb{Q}f7$ 24. $\mathbb{Q}xh7$ Black has seen enough of Walter

Browne's tactical precision and resigns.



2025 CalChess State Championship

By Ikshit Gupta

The 2025 CalChess State Championship was held by the Bay Area Chess Club from August 29 to September 1. The location of this event was the Santa Clara Convention Center right besides California's Great America amusement park.



This tournament featured multiple events including the U1000 Championship and U1000 blitz for players below 1000 rating as well as the Open Championship and Open Blitz for players over the rating of 1000. This also had other events like the Kid Quads and Chess4Less.

Image of the Santa Clara Convention Center

The tournament featured over 400 participants with 231 participants in the Open Championship, 134 participants in U1000 Championship, 19 players in the Kid Chess4Less and 32 players in the Kid Quads.

U1000



The U1000 was divided into multiple sections - Section 1 (800 - 999), Section 2 (600 - 799), Section 3 (400 - 599) and Section 4 (U400). It was a 5 round event with the time control of G/25;d5. All the rounds occurred on one day: August 30.

Image of the U1000 Championship

The winners were (names placed from 1st to 5th (left to right):

- Section 1 - MICHAEL KVASOV (4.5/5), DIVIT KUMAR (4.5/5), ANANYA ACHARYA (4/5), NIVAAN DAMANIYA (4/5), NEVAAN VIKRAM JADHAV (3.5/5)
- Section 2 - VARENYA AADITYA KANAKATTE (4.5/5), ANDREA RAO (4.5/5), ETHAN BU (4.5/5), BRYAN YICHANG SUN (3.5/5), VARIN AGRAWAL (3.5/5)

- Section 3 - AURAN RAZAVI (4/5), ARNAV MISHRA (4/5), AADITHYA RAMANATHAN (4/5), CHRISTOPHER LARSEN (3.5/5), ARJUN SARAVANA KUMAR (3/5)
- Section 4 - LOGAN LIU (5/6), ASHRITH TATIPARTHI (4.5/6), SIVA S GOPARAJU (4/6), KRISHNA GOSAVI (4/6), BREANA LIANG (4/6)

The U1000 blitz was a 8 round tournament also played on August 30 with the time control of G/3;d2. The winners were:

- MICHAEL KVASOV (7/8), TIMURLANE ALEXANDER BUSYGIN (6/8), RAAGA GURUSWAMI (5/8), CAMBRIA GHILARDUCCI (5/8), SAINIKA BASU (5/8)

The prizes for all participants in the U1000 events were BAC (Bay Area Chess) coins. Each win was 12 coins, draw was 6 coins and loss was 0 coins (double of what they offer at their local tournaments). Players could either save up and accumulate more coins later on or use them to earn chess clocks or trophies. Top schools and clubs were also awarded with trophies.

Open

The Open championship was divided into 3 sections - M/X (2000+), A/B (1600 - 1999), C/D/E (1000 - 1599). This championship offered 2 day, 3 day, 4 day. There were 7 rounds. All the rounds for the 3 day and 4 day had a time control of G/90;+30. However, in the 2 day section, the first 4 rounds were G/55;d5 and rounds 5 to 7 were the normal G/90;+30.



Image of the Open Championship

The winners were (names placed from 1st to 5th (left to right):

- M/X - PRANAV SATHISH (5/7), DMYTRO DZHANHIROV (5/7), PRANAV SAIRAM (5/7), LUKE WIDJAJA (5/7), JULIAN LIN (5/7)

- A/B - ALBERT ZIATDINOV (6/7), JATHIN SHETTIGAR NAGABHUSHAN (5.5/7), KRISTIAN CLEMENS (5.5/7), MR. RUDY GOCE TIA JR. (5.5/7), ANUJ PATEL (5.5/7)
- C/D/E - AVINESH NADAN (6/7), HARSHIT GHOSH (6/7), ASH BOWEN LIANG (6/7), PRANIT NITIN PANDHARE (5.5/7), BRUCE ZHONG (5.5/7)

The Open blitz was a 10 round tournament also played on September 1 with the time control of G/3;d2. There were 3 sections - 1800+, 1400 - 1799, 1000-1399. The winners were:

- 1800+ - DMYTRO DZHANHIROV (7.5/10), DIPRO CHAKRABORTY (7.5/10), VLADIMIR MEZENTSEV (6.5/10), ADVAY BANSAL (6.5/10), LIAM LIU (5.5/10)
- 1400 - 1799 - TIMOTHY ZHU (7/10), SARVAGNYA BRAHMANAPALLY (7/10), LIAM DOLAN (6.5/10), VINOD SHANBHAG (6.5/10), TOBY TRAN (6/10)
- 1000-1399 - LEO ZHANG (8/10), KAIYAN NAGESWARAN (7.5/10), GRANT JIA XU (7/10), RONAV MANDAL (7/10), JOHANN RAJ (6/10)

Section	Rated	Eligibility	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
MX 2000+	FIDE & USCF	All	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$200	\$200
		u2200	\$1,000	\$500	\$200	\$200	\$200
AB 1600-1999	FIDE & USCF	All	\$1,500	\$700	\$300	\$200	\$200
		u1800	\$1,000	\$500	\$200	\$200	\$200
CDEu 1000-1599	FIDE & USCF	All	\$1,200	\$600	\$300	\$200	\$200
		u1400	\$1,000	\$500	\$200	\$200	
		u1200	\$800	\$400	\$200	\$200	

This image shows all the prizes for the Open section. The total prizes of this tournament add up to the large sum of \$17,000.

Section	Rated	Eligibility	1st	2nd
MXA 1800+	USCF	All	\$150	\$50
		u2000	\$100	\$50
BC 1400-1799	USCF	All	\$150	\$50
		u1600	\$100	\$50
DE 1000-1399	USCF	All	\$100	\$50
		u1200	\$100	\$50

This image shows all the prizes for the Blitz section. The total prizes of this tournament added up to \$1000



Game Analysis.

The section is a one game analysis of NM Pranav Sairam who has a rating of 2228. He placed third place M/X Open section. This game was the 5th round against Zhuoyuan Wu where Pranav was playing with the black pieces.

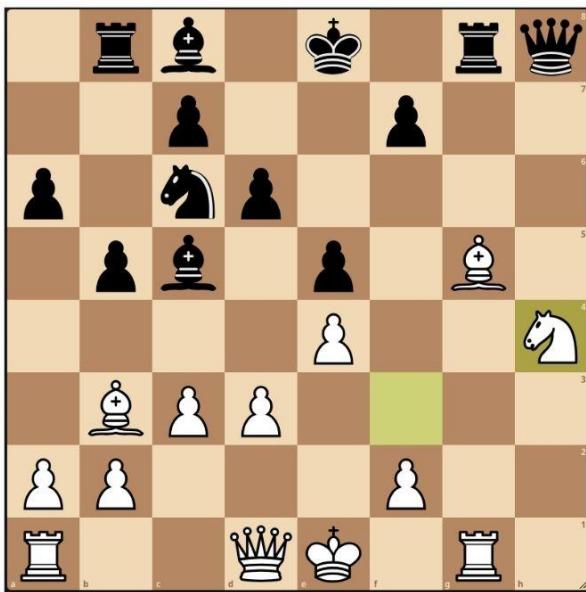
Game PGN - 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d3 b5 6. Bb3 Bc5 7. Nc3 h6 8. Nd5 Rb8 9. c3 d6 10. Nxf6+ Qxf6 11. Rg1 g5 12. g4 Rg8 13. h4 gxh4 14. g5 hxg5 15. Bxg5 Qh8 16. Nxh4 Qxh4 17. Bxf7+ Kf8 18. Qf3 Qxf2+ 19. Qxf2 Bxf2+ 20. Kxf2 Kxf7 21. Ke3 b4 22. Raf1+ Ke8 23. d4 Na5 24. d5 Nc4+ 25. Ke2 Nxb2 26. Rf6 bxc3 27. Rgf1 a5 28. Ke3 Nd3 29. Rf7 Nf4 30. Re7+ Kf8 31. Bf6 Rg3+ 32. Kf2 Rb2+ 33. Kxg3 Rg2+ 34. Kf3 Bg4+ 35. Ke3 Re2#



The game begins with the standard Ruy Lopez. However, at move 5, white decides to play the move d3 instead of main line move of O-O. d3 goes into the Anderssen variation which is a quieter, more flexible line, avoiding heavy theory. This move also renews white threat of Bxc6 dxc6 Nxe4, as Qd4 no longer forks White's knight and pawn. The plan for White is a fast, safe development and prepare d4. The plan for black is to expand on queenside and seek active piece play.

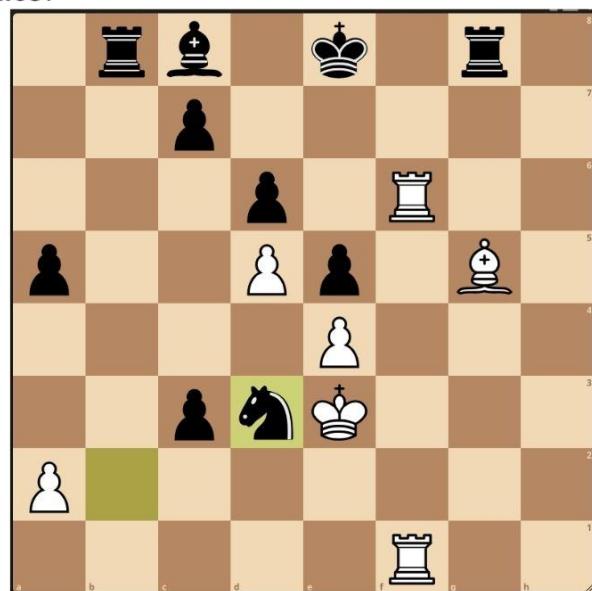
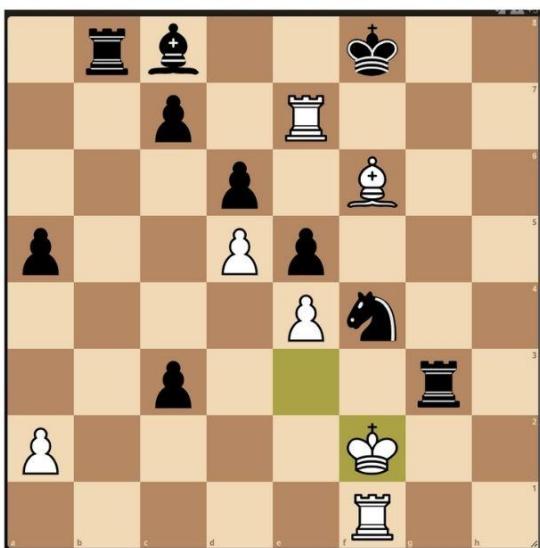
After 10...Qxf6, White played 11.Rg1, aiming to support g4–g5 and generate pressure on the kingside. The idea looks aggressive, but in this position it is strategically unsound. With both queens still on the board and the center capable of opening, leaving the king in the middle is dangerous. By choosing Rg1 over the natural 11.O-O, White delays castling, falls behind in development, and gives Black a clear plan: immediate counterplay with ...g5 and ...Rg8, seizing the g-file on better terms. Instead of creating lasting pressure, White's rook move invites Black to open lines that target the exposed king.





At move 16, White played $Nxh4$, recapturing the pawn to equalize material. However, this move is a blunder because after $16\dots Qxh4$, White has no good continuation. If White tries $17.Bxh4 Rg1 18.Ke2 Rxd1 19.Rxd1$, Black simply wins an entire piece and emerges with a decisive advantage. In the game, White attempted the tricky line $17.Bxf7+$, hoping for $Kxf7 18.Qf3+$ to pick up the black queen, but Black calmly replies with $17\dots Kf8$, sidestepping the tactic and maintaining the extra material. After $17\dots Kf8$, if White captures the rook with $Bxg8$, Black delivers $Qxf2\#$, resulting in immediate checkmate.

28... $Nd3$ is a decisive tactical move. The knight controls key central squares and prevents $Kxd3$ because of $Ba6$, which would fork the king and rook. It also supports Black's rooks along g3 and b2, preparing the forced mating sequence. White's rooks are poorly coordinated, the bishop cannot block effectively, and the king has very limited mobility. Black now threatens ... $Rg3+$, ... $Rb2+$, and ... $Re2\#$, leaving White completely lost.



After 32. $Kf2$, White's king is fully exposed in the center, and Black's pieces are perfectly coordinated for a mating net. The rook on g3 cuts off the g-file, the rook on b2 threatens lateral checks, and the bishop on g4 controls key escape squares. White's rooks and bishop cannot defend effectively, and all checks are forced. Black's next moves (... $Rg2+$, ... $Bg4+$, ... $Re2\#$) lead to unavoidable mate.



Tom Dorsch Memorial 2025

Organized by The Berkeley Chess School on 5/30-7/11

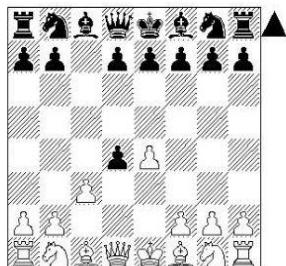
SICILIAN def.

Dorsch, Thomas - Vest, Elvis C.
1:0, 4/26/1996.

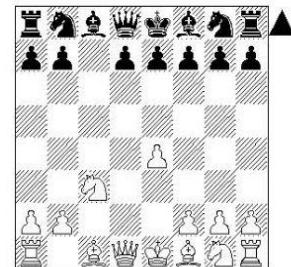
1. e4 c5 The Sicilian Defense received its name from an ancient Italian manuscript that referred to it as "il gioco Siciliano" which translates to the Sicilian Game.



2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 This is the Smith-Morra Gambit in which White sacrifices a pawn to develop quickly while creating attacking chances.

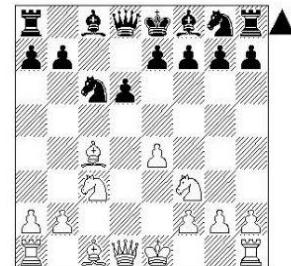


3... dxc3 Black accepts the gambit. 4. $\mathbb{Q}xc3$ For the toll of one pawn, White has an additional developed piece and a pawn in the center.



4... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 5. $\mathbb{Q}f3$ Comparing White's pawn in the center and two developed pieces to Black's lack of a center pawn and single developed piece, we see the advantages gained from the gambited pawn. 5... d6 6.

$\mathbb{Q}c4$ With this developing move, White takes an even greater advantage in time.



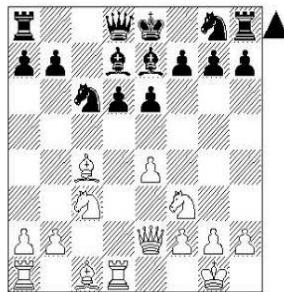
6... e6 7. O-O Thus far, play has followed the classical main line of the Smith-Morra Gambit Accepted. 7... $\mathbb{Q}e7$ 8. $\mathbb{W}e2$ White's Queen develops to the same file as her adversary's King. This, along with the coming Rd1, is known as the Scheveningen Setup. 8... $\mathbb{Q}d7$ This develops a piece and helps to solidify Black's position. 8... Nf6 is another good option.

[8... $\mathbb{Q}f6$ 9. $\mathbb{H}d1$ e5 10. h3 O-O 11. $\mathbb{Q}g5$ $\mathbb{Q}e6$ 12. $\mathbb{H}ac1$ a6 13. $\mathbb{Q}xf6$ $\mathbb{Q}xf6$



14. $\mathbb{Q}d5 \mathbb{Q}xd5$ 15. $\mathbb{Q}xd5 \mathbb{W}d7$ 16. $\mathbb{W}c4$ $\mathbb{H}ac8$ 17. $\mathbb{W}b3 \mathbb{H}c7$ 18. $\mathbb{H}c3 \mathbb{H}fc8$ 19. $\mathbb{H}cd3 \mathbb{W}e7$ 20. $\mathbb{W}a3 \mathbb{W}f8$ 21. $g4 \mathbb{Q}e7$ 22. $\mathbb{Q}g2 \mathbb{Q}d8$ 23. $\mathbb{W}b3 \mathbb{H}c5$ 24. $a4 \mathbb{W}e8$ 25. $\mathbb{Q}g1 \mathbb{H}a5$ 26. $\mathbb{H}f3 \mathbb{H}xa4$ 27. $\mathbb{H}dd3 \mathbb{H}a5$ 28. $\mathbb{Q}e2 \mathbb{H}b5$ 29. $\mathbb{W}d1 \mathbb{H}xb2$ 30. $\mathbb{Q}g3 \mathbb{Q}e6$ 31. $\mathbb{Q}h5 \mathbb{H}cc2$ 32. $\mathbb{H}f5 g6$ 33. $\mathbb{Q}xe6 gxf5$ 34. $\mathbb{H}f3 fxe6$ 35. $gxf5 \mathbb{Q}h8$ 36. $f6 \mathbb{W}g6$ 37. $\mathbb{H}g3 \mathbb{H}xf2$ 38. $\mathbb{Q}h1 \mathbb{W}xe4$ 39. $\mathbb{Q}g1 \mathbb{H}g2$ 0-1, Pogosian Georgy (RUS) 2091 - Vitiugov Nikita (RUS) 2747, Smolensk 1997 Cup Russia (open)]

9. $\mathbb{H}d1$ And now the Rook is moved to the same file as Black's Queen.

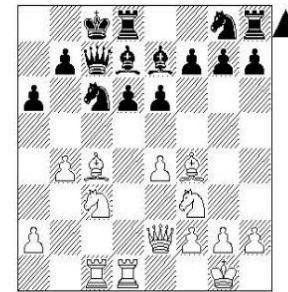


9... $\mathbb{W}c7?$ Here, it is very important for Black to control the b5 square by playing 9... a6.

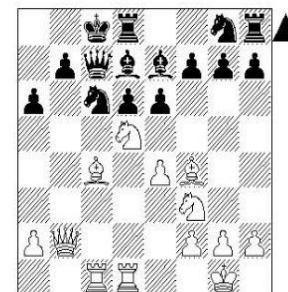
[9... a6 10. $\mathbb{Q}f4 e5$ 11. $\mathbb{Q}e3 \mathbb{Q}f6$ 12. $\mathbb{Q}d5 \mathbb{Q}xd5$ 13. $\mathbb{Q}xd5 O-O$ 14. $a3 \mathbb{H}c8$ 15. $\mathbb{H}ac1 \mathbb{W}e8$ 16. $\mathbb{W}d3 \mathbb{Q}e6$ 17. $b4 h6$ 18. $\mathbb{Q}d2 \mathbb{Q}xd5$ 19. $\mathbb{W}xd5$ -0.07 Stockfish]

10. $\mathbb{Q}f4$ White has completed the Three Opening Goals: 1. Pawn in the Center, 2. Castle, and 3. Unify Rooks. 10... O-O-O Black is behind in time and has only now

completed one of the Three Opening Goals. 11. $\mathbb{H}ac1$ White has now "touched all" of his pieces. 11... a6 Taking control of the b5 square is a good idea which came to Black's mind two moves too late. 12. $b4$ With the players castled on opposite sides, White launches his pawn storm before Black has even finished developing pieces.



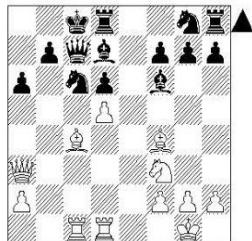
12... $\mathbb{Q}xb4$ Black takes the pawn before it reaches b5. 13. $\mathbb{W}b2$ But White improves his Queen while gaining a tempo against the Knight. 13... $\mathbb{Q}c6$ 14. $\mathbb{Q}d5!$ White's Knight now enters the Quadrant of Black's King.



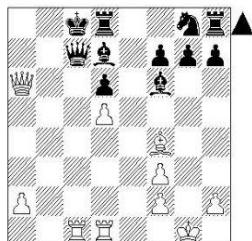
14... $\mathbb{exd}5$ Black, of course, is obligated to capture the dangerous Knight. 15. $\mathbb{exd}5$ But now the Knight on c6 is threatened on and if it moves there is a Rook, Queen to



King pin in the c-file. 15... ♜f6 Black finds a nice inter-mezzo which both defends a weak and pawn and threatens White's Queen. 16. ♕a3 White moves the Queen to safety and, is now, at least guaranteed to win a Knight.



16... ♜e5 Black tries to save the Knight. 17. ♜xa6 But now Black's Queen is pinned to the King. 17... ♜xf3 Capturing with check temporarily delays White's attack. 18. gxf3 White takes recaptures with a pawn to keep his Queen in the King hunt. 18... bxa6 19. ♕xa6 Now checkmate is inevitable.



19... ♔b8 20. ♔b1 Black resigns. [1:0]

Tom Dorsch Memorial 2025

Open Section Top Five		
Place	Player Name	Points
1	Dmytro Dzhanhirov	6.0
2	Max Virgil	4.0
3	Roger M. Poehlmann	3.5
4	Roger Christopher Smith	3.5
5	Hovik Manvelyan	3.5

Who Was Tom Dorsch?



Thomas Dorsch was born in Oakland on November 3, 1942. In the 1950s, he joined the Oakland Chess Club, run by George Koltanowski. George mentored Tom and they maintained a lifelong friendship. Besides earning the Life Master title, he was also a prominent chess organizer, national tournament director, scholastic chess coach, USCF Treasurer and CalChess President. Under his leadership, CalChess grew from a tiny affiliate to a major organization with over 800 members. Without Tom's management of CalChess in the early 2000s, you would not be reading this magazine today.

CalChess Rapid Championship

Twenty-one chess players who prefer faster time controls showed up on September 21 to test their skills at the 2025 CalChess Rapid Championship, run by Bay Area Chess. Faster time controls make managing the tournament more difficult but Organizer James Bethany and Chief Tournament Director Jordan Langland were definitely up for the challenge. In fact the only difficulties I witnessed were on the chessboards where fantastically complex games were played with less time on the clock. After five rounds, it was Dylan Tang who took first place in the Championship Section with a powerful 4.5 points. Vedant Verma and Michael Grigorev tied for first place in the 1400-1799 Section with 4/5. At the bottom boards, it was Mihir Chandra who took first place in the 1000-1399 Section by going undefeated with a final score of 4.5/5.



The Berkeley Chess School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that offers chess instruction, regional chess tournaments (including an all-girls tournament), winter, spring and summer chess camps, a Friday night chess program in Berkeley, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and Mountain House that includes a class and a USCF rated tournament, as well as advanced classes and master classes during the week. We also offer chess in the classroom in Title One schools, and have an international chess exchange program.



2025 CalChess State Open Blitz

The most thrilling State Championship of the year has to be the blitz event. The 2025 CalChess State Open Blitz Championship took place in Santa Clara on the first day of September. In the Under 1400 Section, Leo Zhang bested the field with an excellent score of 8/10. In the 1400-1799 Section Timothy Zhu and Sarvagnya Brahmanapally shared first place with a score of 7/10. The 2025 CalChess State Champions for blitz are Dmytro Dzhanhirov and Dirpo Chakraborty who tied for first place in the top section by scoring 7.5/10. Hats off to Salman Azhar, Jordan Langland and Tom Langland and the Bay Area Chess team for running such a thrilling chess event.

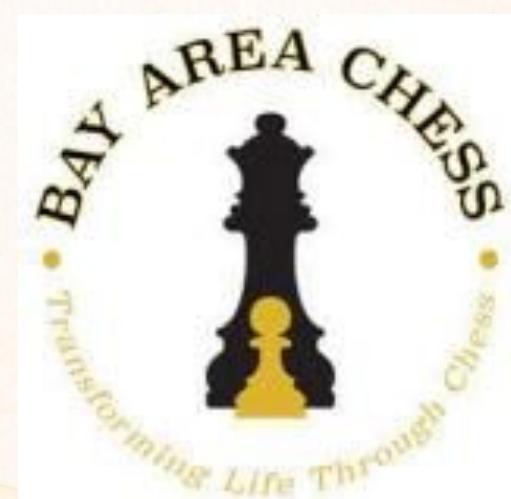


We welcome everyone into the BAC Family to come as they are. We **thank all of you for the love and support** through the years. It's because of you we constantly strive to get better, and renew our offerings to remain the best chess organization in the US. See how you can get involved; volunteering or supporting BAC has never been easier!

Sincerely,

Your Friends at Bay Area Chess

<https://www.bayareachess.com/>



Volunteer Spotlight

Lathrop Library Chess Club

By Rosaleia Torres

At first, volunteering at the library was just a good way to help my community. I didn't realize that it would end up helping me, too. Almost every first and third Saturday, I get to go and play chess with my family and a bunch of fellow chess players. It has given me a fun activity to do with my younger cousins and has allowed me to help many bright kids. I thought that we might not end up with a large crowd, since the chess club does not require members to sign up, but I was quickly proven wrong. Over the past year, we have had many familiar faces continuously drop in to play a fun practice game or to pick up where I left off in their last lesson. All the hours of talking to other chess players, whether they are better at chess than I am or came to learn the basics, has given me practice at lifelong skills. Not only has my chess improved, but so has my confidence and my ability to articulate complex explanations to people of varying chess levels. I hope that even after I go off to college next year that I will be able to stop by at the library to continue to have a good time while sharing my enjoyment of chess with the people in my community.





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Contact Us

SEND US A MESSAGE OR ASK US A QUESTION

Talk to us!

Please let us know any questions you have about chess in Northern California, or if you have any suggestions, feedback or news stories to share.

Become A Member

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND HOW TO JOIN CALCHESS

Benefits of Membership

Membership in the official USCF state affiliate for Northern California
Discounts at many Northern California chess tournaments. (Play in one or two tournaments and membership pays for itself.)
Help fund bringing chess sets and educational material into local schools
Sponsor Northern California youth representation at National Events
Sustain the continuation of the California Chess Journal (to be e-mailed to all members)

Thanks
for
reading...



See you again
for the next
edition