

# California Chess Journal

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## Special Kids Issue



Photo by Steve Cohen

## A New Record at the CalChess Scholastic Championship

**32nd LERA Memorial Day  
Hot Days in Sacramento  
Berkeley Chess School  
Mechanics Senior  
Monterey Open  
San Joaquin  
Arcata  
and  
Chess for Kids!**

# California Chess Journal



Editor: Allan Fifield  
Assistant Editor: Darren Russell  
Membership Secretary: Tom Dorsch  
Design & typesetting: Tawny Fulleros

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### Contributors to this Issue:

Joan Arbil	Alan Kirshner	David Preuss
James Bauman	Micah Fisher-Kirshner	Richard Shorman
Mark Brown	Richard Koepecke	Phil Swany
Steve Cohen	Isaac Laws	Dennis Wajckus
Lanette Chan-Gordon	John McCumiskey	Bonnie Yost
Alan Glasscoe	Duncan Oxley	Val Zemitis
	Ken Pascal	

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## THE EDITOR'S REPORT

Kids! Kids are everywhere playing tournament chess these days. We are pleased to highlight the best in kids chess from Tulare County in the far south to Arcata in the far north. Our lead article by Alan Kirshner reports on the record 720 (plus) player turnout at the March 28-29 CalChess State School Championship. Be sure to read Bonnie Yost's piece 'Hey teacher, is this checkmate?' for a sense of the special joys of working in the Kindergarten section. Your editor was the rookie head TD at this event and I would like to thank Alan Kirshner and our volunteer staff for a great job.

Northern California chessplayers should all take great pride in our current crop of talented scholastic players. In the March issue of *School Mates*, five CalChess juniors were selected for the Pressman All American Chess Team! Vinay Bhat (13 of San Jose), Jordy Mont-Reynaud (13 of Palo Alto), David Pruess (15 of Berkeley), Gabe Kahane (15 of Santa Rosa) and Dmitry Zilberstein (18 of San Francisco) are all proud representatives of the best in Northern California chess. And I don't think that anyone will object if I stretch the state border just a little bit to also honor All-American Phillip Wang (14) of Reno, Nevada.

Our little community suffered two painful losses this spring. John Easterling of Richmond passed away on March 2nd at the age of 61. John loved chess and devoted his life to teaching others the joys of our game. He was exceptionally good with children and taught chess in the Richmond schools for many years. John is survived by his wife Delores and two sons. He is deeply missed by the East Bay chess community. On March 31st, Dwight Williams (aged 35) passed away in Fresno. Chess never had a more dedicated warrior! Dwight played everywhere and everyone. Dwight was very excitable under tournament conditions and he could drive a TD nuts. But you could never stay mad at Dwight for very long as he loved chess and chessplayers and he had a kind soul. Fresno tournaments will seem a little empty without Dwight's energy to fill the room. We extend our sympathy to his parents, family and many friends. This issue is dedicated to the memory of John Easterling and Dwight Williams.

I have received several letters with corrections, deletions and additions to our club directory listing on the back cover. Northern California is a big state and the only way we can keep our club list accurate is with your help. Please keep those cards and letters coming! The deadline for submissions for the next issue of CCJ is September 15th.

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# CalChess State Scholastic Championships

March 27-28, 1998

By Alan M. Kirshner

What if you threw a chess tournament and too many players showed? This is every organizers dream and nightmare. This is what occurred on the weekend of March 28 and 29 for the California Chess State Scholastic Championships held at the Santa Clara Convention Center. As the organizer I had planned on 600 players. I figured that would be the growth from the 554 players that participated the year before.

As the entries started arriving, my comparisons with previous years at the same time indicated we would break 700 and could reach 800. I rationalized that my team discount and early entry deadlines explained the apparent unexplained the disproportionate numbers. But, I panicked anyway—that is my nature. I had only booked enough space for 600 players. What would I do with the remainder? I could place Jay Blem and his National Chess sales out in a hallway again as I did last year. Yet, that would make room for only 50 more players. Besides I had promised Jay a secure room this year.

I called the Convention Center Staff. They eased my apprehension by informing me that they had a few small rooms not booked on the other side of the Convention Center. I first acted conservatively and book one room for about 75 players, just in case my rationalization about the early entry fee for teams proved correct. The entries kept pouring in and I decided to book two more rooms to handle an overflow of 200 players. I am glad I did. Pre-registration hit over 730 juniors and 709 players showed for the competition. A few players arrived from Texas, Idaho and the Southern California state. Our tournament has always been open to any scholastic player, but only players and teams from Northern California can claim the championship titles.



Photo by Allan Fifield

**8th grader Vinay Bhat is state K-12 champion and is on his way to Hawaii.**

I sent the High School players and a small group of Junior High School players to the other rooms. By having the older participants on the other side of the Convention Center, I reduced the danger and annoyance of younger children becoming lost or using the escalators and elevators on that side of the building as toys.

Oh, they found enough "toys" to cause my already elevated blood pressure to jump. I had obtained extra help to guard the escalators in the main tournament area. However, a few times, the kids still were able to pull the switches and stop them from working. This turned out to be the least of my problems. Security informed us that children had been making false 911 calls from one of the Convention Center telephone banks. I immediately posted volunteers at that site. Despite my efforts and announcements to remove anyone caught playing with the telephones, the calls continued from other telephone banks in the Convention Center—20 during the weekend. This problem alone might prevent us from using this excellent site in forthcoming years. The Center staff was also unhappy about

people bring food into the site. They had, however, promised to set up a food vendor at our area. They did not. They provided one on the opposite side of the Center for another convention. The prices they charged were, to be polite, outrageous.

On Sunday, an event occurred that had me vowing never to run another scholastic tournament. Security informed me that four teens had enter a closed convention site. They had used the large electric flat beds in the room as bumper cars. When security entered they jumped off the cars, let them hit the walls, and scooted out the back doors. One wall was a mess and I figured we would be billed a few thousand dollars for repairs. A couple of parents saw two of the boys who darted out of the room and followed them to the hotel. When security interrogated the boys they learned that they were not with our group. They had drifted over from Great America. Phew! I still fail to understand why security let them leave without taking their names and addresses. In any case, our chess players were vindicated and I intend to continue running the State Championships—if I can find a location large enough and willing

to tolerate the youthful exuberance. I will, of course, be better prepared next year to prevent the problems I encountered this year.

Now on to the rest of the story—the tournament: As a warm-up, we held an eight round blitz tournament on Friday night. Only 48 players entered. The competition was still fierce. Anthony Rozenvasser (2070) took first with Micah Fisher-Kirshner (2045) tying with Adam Lischinsky (1787), Keith Yost (1730), Andrew Ianaccone (1420) and Julius Mercado (unr.) for second. We provided three trophies for the first three places and one for each grade level.

We hold the three primary school divisions on Saturday only with five rounds of game in thirty. As with all the sections, we award a minimum of fifteen trophies (we gave trophies after 15th place if individuals had the same score as the 15th place winner.) We also awarded rating group medals. Five trophies were presented to the top teams and one to the best United States Chess Federation Club in all but the Kindergarten Section.

Twenty-six four and five year olds had fun trying to win the Kindergarten Section. Jasmine DiLucci from Texas tied for second with Eli Baldwin and Jesse Alexander (4-1). Cory Plante had a perfect 5-0 to take home the first place trophy. We did make sure that all the kindergarten players received awards.

**Senior TD Allan Fifield (L) and organizer Alan Kirshner at the coaches meeting.**



In the Primary School Junior Varsity Section (K-3 Under 650), 107 children competed. We had a tie for first: Sharon Tseung (644), Byron Becker (618) and Kevin Walters (610). All had perfect 5-0. Weibel Elementary School of Fremont won its first of three team championships

in this division. The Berkeley Chess School took home the club trophy.

In the Primary School Championship Section we had 40 players. Daniel Schwarz (1050), not losing a game, won first. A five way tie ensued for second place with 4-1 scores: Gabe Gordon (1057), Drak Wang (1054), Richard Rico (907), Edward Schloss (1168) and Mihir Pendse (987). While St. Paul the Apostle of Los Angeles won the first place team trophy, Forest Park Elementary School of Fremont, in second place, becomes the CalChess Team Champion for this section. Chess For Juniors from Huntington Beach won the best Club award.

Competitors in all the other divisions had to play six games, three Saturday and three Sunday. The Elementary School Division played game in 60 and the Junior High School and High School Divisions had a time control of game in 75. The Elementary School Junior Varsity Section (K-6 Under 800) was one of the larger divisions with 163 players. Christopher Vuong (unr.) tied with Wesley Kwang (775) to be declared co-champions in this division each winning all their games. Noah Youngs an unrated player received 5.5 points to take third place. Heber Elementary School from Heber, near the Mexican Border, came ready to challenge the northern teams. Tony Lambert, who used to coach Ruus Elementary School in Hayward, had moved there and prepared his chil-

dren as he always did with Ruus. They received 18 points for first followed by St. Marks School of Marin and Weibel Elementary School of Fremont with 17.5. The latter two schools are the 1998 CalChess Elementary School Championship Teams. The Berkeley Chess School



**Micah Fisher-Kirshner hung tough to score a big win.**

won the top Club Team award.

Seventy-six players fought for the championship of the Elementary School Open Section (K-6). Keith Yost (1730) from Fresno, which is a part of CalChess, was the winner with a perfect 6-0. A six way tie ensued for second place: Hlynur Hafliadason (1447), Michael Pearson (1125), Alen Melikadamyian (1603), Wesley Chen (1146), Ankit Gupta (1102) and Harout Keshishian (1152). The All American Association from Los Angeles, an Armenian Chess Club, won the Club Team award with 17 points and Weibel Elementary School became the CalChess School Champion with 16.5 points.

Next year we will need to divide the Junior High School Division into two sections as 183 players competed in this section. Four individuals tied for first place with 5.5 points. Minas Nordanyan (1723) is from Los Angeles and so we only had three champions: Elliot Temple (1660), Robert Chan (1461) and Michael Kai Lum (1438). Piedmont Middle School defeated three time champion Hopkins Junior High School, from Fremont, for the school championship. The Fremont Chess Club won the Club award with an amazing 21 points.

Carolyn Withgitt and Hans Poschmann continue to return to

Photo by Richard Shorman

smoothly direct the High School Division that this year saw 116 players contend for the championship title and a chance to go to Hawaii for the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. Vinay Bhat (2339), in 8th grade, defeated Jordy Mont-Reynaud (2256) in the last round to win the tournament, the title and the trip to Hawaii as he will be officially in High School in August when the tournament occurs. The College Preparatory School of Oakland received 18.5 points to win its first High School Championship. Chess For Juniors from Huntington Beach took the top Club trophy with 16.5 points.

You can see the complete results of the tournament on the Internet at <http://www.hooked.net/~hegemon/Results.html>. If you are interested in learning the new ratings of the players, the United States Chess Federation's Internet site provides a rapid rating search engine: <http://www.uschess.org>. I would like to thank all our tournament staff headed by Allan Fifield from Visalia. The Championships would not be held without our sponsor, Tom Dorsch. He gave up going to the National Open in Las Vegas, being held the same weekend, to have fun playing chess, roulette and politics. He felt helping at this the largest CalChess tournament ever was more important. My thanks also to the Weibel Elementary School parents and other parents who offered their services to make this year's event not only the largest ever, but one of the most efficient and enjoyable. I wish I had the space to thank you all by name. Of course, if I avoid trying to name everyone, I avoid the risk of forgetting someone. I do need to give special kudos to Pheobe Chen who handled publicity. A number of radio stations provided information about the tournament and my comments about children in chess I could be heard on KCBS news all day Saturday. KPIX-TV, our CBS affiliate, film the event and ran two segments on their news. Thanks to the players, the coaches and the parents for a job well done. I hope to see you all next year wherever I can hold the CalChess State Scholastic Championships.

### Micah Fisher-Kirshner (1967)

David Preuss (2221)

#### K-12 Section

#### Round 4

Annotated by Micah and David

#### 1.Nf3

**Micah:** I decided to play Nf3 after much thought having played against David before.

#### 1... e6

**David:** I was debating to play c5, then it would be a symmetrical English, that or play the Dutch. I decided that I would have a better winning chance, but Micah would play the Lichtiechen's, so I decided to play e6, with the intent of playing b6 or f5.

#### 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.c4 f5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Oñ0 Be7 7.Nc3 Oñ0 8.Re1

**David:** I think that Qc2 would have been better. If the knight goes to e4, then Micah could have played a better move than Re1.

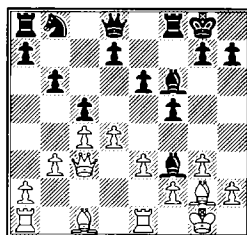
#### 8...Ne4 9.Qc2 Bf6

**David:** I had to play this to prove that his d4 pawn is weak.

#### 10.e3

**Micah:** I played e3 with the intent of Nd2.

#### 10...Nxc3 11.Qxc3 c5 12.b3 Bxf3



**Micah:** I think Bf3 was interesting and made me wonder why David would allow me to give him double pawns or a queenside majority.

**David:** I figured this is the best way to get out my knight and develop the queenside. My thought was that Bf3 was really good, but at the same time I feared that the same lines were drawish. Being black, you are happy to equalize, but on the other hand, you are trying to win a championship.

#### 13.Bxf3 Nc6 14.Bxc6

**David:** If Rd1 cd 15. ed e5 winning the pawn.

#### 14...dxc6 15.Bb2 cxd4 16.exd4 c5

**David:** The alternative being Qd7.

#### 17.Rxe6 Qd7 18.Rae1 Rae8

**David:** cd4 Qd3 19. Rae8 Re8 20. Re8 Re8 21. Re8 Qe8 22. Qf5 d3 23. Bf6 gf6 24. Qd5+

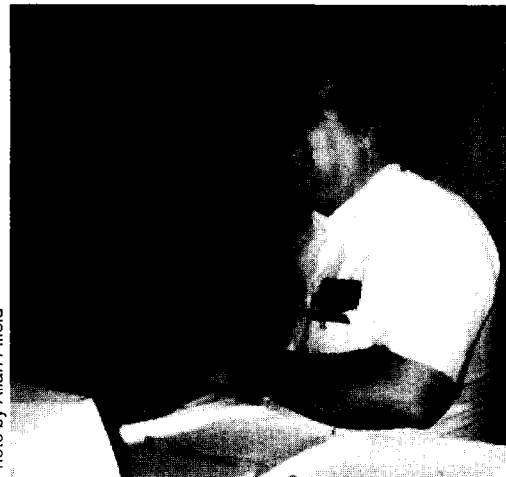


Photo by Allan Fifield

**TD David Gross is the Wizard of SysSwiss behind the curtain.**

#### 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Qe3

**Micah:** I looked at the position realizing that I had no hope in saving my d-pawn, and looked hard and found that Qe3 was my best plan.

#### 21...Qd7

**David:** I thought "Okay, I can play Qd7 and win the pawn."

#### 22.dxc5!!

**David:** Darn Micah—from a psychological point of view his move gets an exclaim.

#### 22...Bxb2 23.cxb6 Bd4

**Micah:** When David played this move, I thought that okay, time for a bishop and three pawn endgame which I would probably lose. But after a bit of thinking, I was going to first take ba7, but as I looked ba7 I saw that b7 would give me a very good passed c-pawn with a winning endgame. **David:** I thought, "He can't have missed Bd4, with ba7 with a8=Q+. So he still has three pawns." I realized that Bc5 would be the place where I would win the game, so Bd4 would be the quickest way to win the game. 24. ba7 Ba7

**David:** The way I looked at it was that Micah couldn't prevent my bishop from getting to c5 25. c5 Qd1+ 26. Kg2 Qd5+ Winning the pawn. Then Micah had to move his Queen and thus the bishop goes to



**A fraction of the record 720 players at the state scholastic championships.**

c5. ab6 24. Qb6 Bd4 Now I wasn't sure about c5 for Micah. What I didn't see during the game was that after Micah plays 25. c5 Qe7! Winning the pawn. ab6 24. Qb6 Bd4 25. Qb8+ Kf7 26. Qf4 BC5 =/+ **24.b7 Bxe3 25.b8Q+ Kf7 26.fxe3 Qd1+ 27.Kf2 Qd2+**

**David:** Here I decided to go for a win since a draw would be the same as a loss for the championship and the trip to Hawaii to be Northern California's representative at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions.

**28.Kf3 Qd1+ 29.Kf4 Qg4+ 30.Ke5 Qe4+ 31.Kd6 Qxe3?**

**David:** This throws away a draw. **32.Qc7+ Kf6 33.Qd8+ Kf7 34.Qd7+**

**Kf6 35.c5 Qd2+**

**David:** Here is where I realized I should have taken a perpetual check earlier and I should try again. My thinking about winning changed.

**36.Kc7 Qa5+ 37.Kd6 Qd2+ 38.Kc6 Qxa2 39.Qd6+ Kg5 40.h4+**

**David:** My intention was that I could get rid of all of Micah's kingside pawns.

**40... Kg4 41.Qf4+ Kh3 42.Qxf5+**

**Micah:** I was happy to get rid of David's most advanced pawn.

**42...Kxg3**

**David:** I felt the more pawns of Micah's gone the better.

**43.Qd3+ Kg4 44.Qc4+ Kh5 45.Kb7 Qa5 46.c6 Qb6+ 47.Ka8 Qc7**

**48.Qd5+ Kxh4 49.Qd7 Qe5 50.c7 Qe4+ 51.Kxa7 Qe3+ 52.Ka6 Qe2+ 53.Qb5 Qe6+ 54.Kb7 Qe7 55.Qc4+ Kh3 56.b4!**

**Micah:** Wins. I blocked the possible check on the a-file as I needed to move my King in order to promote the pawn. **David:** An exclaim move to find as we were now in blitz.

56...g5 57.Ka8 g4 58.c8Q h5 59.Qd3+ Kh4 60.Qcd8 Qxd8+ 61.Qxd8+ Kh3 62.Qg5 h4 63.b5 g3 64.b6 g2 65.Qf5+ Kh2 66.Qf2 h3 67.b7 Kh1 68.b8Q

**David:** That was the simple move I failed to see.

**68... g1Q 69.Qxg1+ Kxg1 70.Qg3+ 1-0**



## ***Hey teacher. Is this checkmate? .....***

I turn to see two small hands waving at me. As I approach table number 10 I wonder what will I find? Two Kings in check? Checkmate? Stalemate? Only two Kings left on the board? It's Round 2 of the Cal Chess Scholastic Championships and I am the floor TD for the Kindergarten section. Thirty-six eager young minds have come to conquer the board. For me this will be the most delightful and educational chess experience so far. My goal is for every participant to feel the same at the end of the day. Quickly I learn to identify every player by name, giving them high-fives and way-to-goes after each round. The emphasis is on concentration, sitting still, playing one's own game and not your neighbors. Clocks and score sheets are for most players just a distraction. The focus is fun. The challenge is teaching every player something new about competitive chess. For most it was the definition of a draw. For many it was not to make their opponents move. Players will get at least a medal for their efforts, a meaningful acknowledgment to a Kindergartner. Hopefully they take home much more than that because what they give is just short of miraculous.

Bonnie Yost

# Young CalChess member places 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 98 National Junior High Championships

by  
Phil Swany

Kyle Swany, 12 year old 7<sup>th</sup> grader from Centerville Junior High in Fremont, competing in only his fourth tournament, placed third in the recent 1998 National Junior High Chess Championships in Phoenix. Kyle scored 6½ points out of 7 with more than 350 competitors in the Novice division.

Kyle started playing chess for fun last year with his friends in elementary school. He has since improved his skills by reading many chess books, playing games against internet opponents, playing lunch-time games against his friends at Centerville Jr. High and even playing against his friends parents. Unfortunately his school does not have an active chess programs (unlike some other Fremont schools) so Kyle has had to pick up all of his skills on his own.

In March, while trying to find a chess coach, Kyle found out about the CalChess State Scholastic Championships in Santa Clara. He entered the K-8 class against approximately 180 players and earned a respectable 3½ points out of 6 in his first tournament. Two weeks later Kyle competed in the California Grade Level Championships in Southern California. He won three of five games and tied for fourth

place. The two games that he lost were on time. There were only 30 minutes allowed per player which was his tightest time constraint so far. The day before the Grade Level Championships Kyle entered a one-day, four-game tournament sponsored by Chess for Juniors. They had a division for beginning and unrated players. Kyle won all four of his games and first place.

With his confidence building, and a couple of new trophies on his shelf, Kyle went to Phoenix for the National Championships. Since he still didn't have a rating, Kyle was eligible for the Novice division. Not knowing what his provisional rating was it seemed like an appropriate place to start, particularly since it was only his fourth tournament. Over the three-day tournament, Kyle was the only player to earn 6½ points for sole possession of 3<sup>rd</sup> place! He was nervous those last two games on Sunday but made it through undefeated. His lone draw was against a player who ended up in the top 20 so it was not against an easy opponent.

Kyle is still looking for an in-



**Kyle Swany from Fremont with his third place trophy at the National JHS Championships**

structor to prepare him for the tougher competition ahead and maybe even get a chess team together from Centerville Junior High. Here's a name to watch for in the future - Kyle Swany. ■

## The Best of Berkeley

by  
Alan Glasscoe

The following games played at the Berkeley Chess Club were selected by Alan Glasscoe and Kurt Jacobs, our indefatigable but somewhat obsessive-compulsive bulletin editor. Blame any bad analysis on us and my little tin friend Ruby. Our four main criteria for selecting games were crash, flash, slash and trash.

**Tom Stevens (2049)**  
**Ray Musselman (2076)**  
**Blackmar-Stevens Gambit**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 dxe4**

### 4.Nge2

A Stevens specialty apparently never considered by the Blackmar Gemeinde; Diemer must be smiling in his grave.

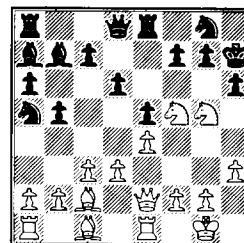
**4.e6 5.Ng3 Be7 6.Ncxe4 0-0 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.c3 Nxe4 9.Bxe4 f5 10.Bc2 Qe8 11.Qe2 Bd6 12.Bd2 e5 13.Bb3+ Kh8 14.d5 Ne7 15.0-0-0 c6 16.dxc6 Qxc6 17.Bg5 Ng6 18.Rd2 e4 19.Nh5 Ne5 20.Nf4 Nf7 21.Bxf7 Rxf7 22.Rxd6 Qxd6 23.Rd1 Qc5 24.Rd5 Qxd5 25.Nxd5 Be6 26.c4 b5 27.Qh5 bxc4 28.Nf4 1-0**

**David Taylor (1722)**

**Uwe Jacobs (1664)**

**Italian with a Spanish flavor**

**1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 (5...d5) 6.0-0 a6 7.Re1 d6 8.h3 h6 9.Nbd2 Re8 10.Bb3 b5 11.Nf1 Bb7 12.Ng3 Na5 13.Bc2 Ba7 14.Nf5 Kh7 15.Qe2 Ng8 16.Ng5+**



Continued on page 16



**Participants  
in the  
Emery  
Unified  
School  
Districts  
2nd annual  
chess  
tournament**

## **Chess at Emery School District**

*Text and pictures by Lanette Chan-Gordon*

At a time when our youth are bombarded with video games, sports activities and television, one educator saw the teaching of chess as a vehicle for his students to be competitive in an academic field while developing and sharpening their intellectual and logical thinking skills.

In the summer of 1996, Dr. J.L. Handy, Principal and Superintendent of the Emery Unified School District in Emeryville, decided that chess was valuable enough that he wanted to make it a required subject. He had heard about the successful program offered by Elizabeth Shaughnessy of The Berkeley Chess School, which currently has instructors placed in 72 schools throughout the Bay Area. He contacted Mrs. Shaughnessy and together they developed a comprehensive chess instruction program for the district.

The philosophy of The Berkeley Chess School has been adopted by the district. "Through the medium of chess, we teach critical thinking, problem solving, mental discipline, how to deal with winning and losing and other skills which impact the learning experience in the classroom. Chess is fun

whether played competitively or for recreation. It can be learned quickly and easily, especially by children."

All students in fourth through eighth grades are required to attend a chess class once a week taught by National Master Roger Poehlman and Michael Lyles of The Berkeley Chess School. Emery High School students receive instruction from their resident instructor, David Mohr, during the lunch break.

Thousands of books have been written about chess. Have you ever asked yourself which ones are the best? Chess masters with years of experience have come together with Mrs. Shaughnessy and pulled out the best and most appropriate information to teach children. This has been compiled into lessons by The Berkeley Chess School. Mr. Poehlman and Mr. Lyles take the lessons and add their own special insights to the mix. The result — a successful program in the Emery Unified School District.

According to Mrs. LaTecia Trotter Brock, Districtwide Chess Coordinator, chess helps to "develop intellectual, logical thinking

skills. It is required so all kids can have an exposure to chess and they can determine later in life if they want to continue with it."

"The chess fever is really catching on in our district," says Dr. Handy. "I have seen incredible growth and heightened interest in the game over the past two years."

Each academic year culminates in a districtwide competition. On April 25, 1998, twenty-eight of the best students participated in the District's 2nd annual chess tournament. Mrs. Elizabeth Shebesta, vice-principal at Emery Middle School Academy described the event as "impressive and uplifting."

As an added bonus, a "celebrity guest" appeared to speak with the kids about his own experiences as a young player. Vinay Bhat, until recently the youngest master in the history of U.S. chess, spoke about his style of play, the tournaments he has won and the different places he has traveled to play. But he also spoke of his losses, how it is important to not let a loss interfere with future games and how he prepares mentally. For as much as Mr. Bhat has



to be proud of, he was a down-to-earth person whom the kids could relate to. After his presentation, he observed several games and played with students wanting to test their own skills against his.

After six rounds of tournament play, Binh Nguyen, a sixth grader at Emery Middle School Academy came away as the grand champion with a perfect score of 6-0. The results from each of the three schools were as follows:



**Binh Nguyen (right) was the grand champion with a perfect score of 6-0**

**Emery High School:**

- 1st place: Tyjun Mack
- 2nd place: Donald Robinson
- 3rd place: Anthony Butler

**Emery Middle School Academy:**

- 1st place: Nelson Perez
- 2nd place: Imani Hanlf
- 3rd place: Vien Nguyen

**Anna Yates Elementary School:**

- 1st place: Major Castelberry
- 2nd place: Orillous Blacksher
- 3rd place: Ravi Kerma



**With his father looking on, Vinay Bhat plays all challengers during his appearance at the Emery Unified School District tournament.**

The other participants were: Chasin Taylor, Tai Phan, Toan Phan, Chaz Wiseman, Bryant Singletary, Logan Clark, Munish Aggarwal, Andy Ma, Tong Nguyen, Hilton Rachal, Mario Malave, Richard Styner, William Sweatt, Larry Johnson, Sunish Aggarwal, Shamarr Owens, Mackie McDuffy and William Brown. All players took home a trophy they could be proud of.

If you would like more information about the Emery Unified School District's chess program or The Berkeley Chess School, please contact Elizabeth Shaughnessy at (510) 843-0150.



# THE 32nd ANNUAL 1998 LERA MEMORIAL DAY CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 23, 24 & 25th

139 players

**Directors: Jim Hurt assisted by Ted Yudacufski**  
**Computer Programmer: "PairingPro"**

Class	Place	Player	Prize	Score
MASTER	1 - 3	JOHN GREFE 2503 Berkeley, CA	\$333	4.5 - 1.5
	1 - 3	MLADEN VUCIC 2451 Berkeley, CA	\$333	4.5 - 1.5
	1 - 3	WALTER SHIPMAN 2369 San Francisco, CA	\$333	4.5 - 1.5
EXPERT	1st	JAMES WAIDE 2044 San Francisco, CA	\$400	5.0 - 1.0
	2 - 3	MICHAEL AIGNER 2094 Stanford, CA	\$200	4.5 - 1.5
	2 - 3	LARRY SNYDER 2024 Berkeley, CA	\$200	4.5 - 1.5
A	1 - 2	STUART WITTENSTEIN 1941 Fremont, CA	\$280	5.0 - 1.0
	1 - 2	STEVEN KRASNOV 1895 San Francisco, CA	\$280	5.0 - 1.0
	3rd	NEIL REGAN 1989	\$140	4.5 - 1.5
B	1st	ALBERTO CISNEROS 1547 Cupertino, CA	\$300	5.0 - 1.0
	2 - 3	RON BEN-ZUR 1791	\$150	4.5 - 1.5
	2 - 3	LATRAEL EAGLES 1666 Oakland, CA	\$150	4.5 - 1.5
C	1st	CONSTANCIO CUSI, JR. 1356 South San Francisco, CA	\$200	5.5 - 0.5
	2 - 4	PATRICK NICHOLS 1480 San Jose, CA	\$67	4.5 - 1.5
	2 - 4	SHAWN HOLLINS 1343 Oakland, CA	\$67	4.5 - 1.5
	2 - 4	INN HO SOHN 1268 Mountain View, CA	\$67	4.5 - 1.5
D	1st	DAVE BROWN 1374 San Jose, CA	\$100	5.0 - 1.0
E	1st	MARIJO MONT-REYNAUD 1085 Palo Alto, CA	\$100	4.0 - 2.0
F	1 - 2	ALEXANDER TSEUNG 989 Fremont, CA	\$50	4.0 - 2.0
	1 - 2	ANDRES CIBRIAN 877 Modesto, CA	\$50	4.0 - 2.0
UNR	1st	MAXIMO FAJARDO UNR Vallejo, CA	\$100	5.5 - 0.5

## BRILLIANCY GAME WINNERS:

OPEN, ROMULO FUENTES, 2229, South San Francisco, \$25  
 EXPERT, MICHAEL AIGNER, 2094, Stanford, \$25  
 A, STEVEN KRASNOV, 1895, San Francisco, \$25  
 B, MATTHEW HO, 1585, San Jose, \$25  
 C, CARL ODEGAARD, 1544, San Jose, \$25  
 UNR, ORIN HARRIS, Unrated, Santa Rosa, \$25

# The Best of 1998 LERA Memorial Day

by

NM Richard Koepcke

Photos by Richard Shorman

In the following game, black plays an extremely sharp variation of the Sicilian. It soon becomes apparent that he is trying to work out the tactics at the board, a daunting task for a Grandmaster. A mistake and a second best move soon follow. The result is a one sided affair in which white's ideas dominate.

**Romulo Fuentes [2229]**

**Minh Bui [1840]**

**Sicilian - Najdorf [B96]**

**Round 3**

**Open section brilliancy prize**

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qc7!? 8 Qf3 Nbd7 9 0-0-0 b5**

Believe it or not, this set up is completely playable, in that there is no known refutation. If this is the kind of position you like to play be prepared to memorize everything, because the tactics will be impossible to work out over the board.

**10 Bxf6 gf !?**

There is nothing wrong with recapturing with the knight. A typical line might be 10 .. Nxf6 11 e5 Bb7 12 Qh3 de 13 Nxe6 fe 14 Qxe6+ Be7 15 fe with complex play.

**11 e5 Nb6?**

On the other hand blacks last move is a lemon. 11 ... Bb7, booting the queen away from the h1 to a8 is a better choice. The knight will be needed to defend the Kingside.

**12 Bxb5+ !?**

A standard tactic in the Najdorf, but not necessarily best. It is not clear that the materialistic 12 ef doesn't lead to an advantage for white. A typical line might be 12 ... Bb7 13 Qh5 [threatening Nxe6] 0-0-0 14 Ndx5 ab 15 Nxb5 Qd7 [or Qc5 16 Qxf7 doesn't help matters] 16 Na7+ Kb8 17 Qa5 with a dangerous initiative for the piece.

**12 ... ab 13 Ndx5 Qb8?**

It is far from clear that white is winning if black plays 13 ... Qb7 instead of the text. If white grabs the exchange with 14 Qxb7? Bxb7 15 Nc7+ Kd7 16 Nxa8 Bxa8 17 de Bh6 blacks two bishops will eventually rule the day after both the f and d pawns fall. Relatively better is 14 Rxd6 Qxf3 15 Nc7+ Ke7 16 gf Ra7

17 Rxb6 Rxc7 18 ef+ Ke8 [if Kxf6 then Nd5+ is decisive] 19 Nb5 which looks really dangerous. Unfortunately 19 ... Rd7 saves black, since 20 Rb8 Kd8 is nothing special for white. Black should also be able to survive direct assaults like 14 Ne4 Nc4 15 b3 f5! [but not 15 ... Qxb5 16 Nxf6+ Kd8 17 Qxa8 +-] and now 16 Nf6+ Ke7 17 ed+ Kxf6 18 Qc3+ e5 19 bc [Qxc4 Be6 helps black] Rxa2 20 Qxe5+ Kg6 21 Rd3 Qxg2 22 Rg3+ Qxg3 24 hg Bg7 is surprisingly OK for black.

**14 ed h5?**

The LERA brain trust of Jim Hurt (L) and Ted Yudacufski confer between rounds



IM John Grefe enjoyed first place in both March and May at LERA



Offering the exchange to diffuse the attack. The problem is, white is just up material after he snaps up the offering. Black is better off trying to grimly hold on with 14 ... Kd8. White is still winning after 15 Qh5 Qb7 16 Nc7 Nc4 17 b3 Qb4 [otherwise, Qxf7 followed by Qxf6+ will be decisive] 18 Qxf7 Bxd6 19 Nc3-b4 Bd7 20 Qxf6+.

**15 Nc7+ Kd7 16 Nxa8 Nxa8**

Now white has a material advantage to go with the initiative.

**17 Ne4 Kd8 18 Qc3 Rh6 19 Nxf6?**

19 d7! probably would have ended the game immediately. After 19 ... Bxd7 20 Rxd7+ Kxd7 21 Rd1+ Bd6 [Ke7 22 Qc5+ will soon lead to mate] 22 Rxd6+ Qxd6 23 Nxd6 blacks forces will be scattered to put up any real resistance.

**19 ... Bg7 20 Qa5+ Qb6 21 Qxb6+ Nxb6 22 Ne4 Nc4 23 b3 Ne3 24 Rd3 Nd5 25 Rf1 Rg6 26 Rg3 Ba6 27 c4 Bh6 28 Rxg6 fg 29 Nc4 Bxf4+ 30 Rxf4 Nxf4 31 g3 Ne2+ 32 Kd2 Nxxg3 33 hg Bc8 34 Ke3**

The pawn ending that results from 34 d7?? Bxd7 35 Nxd7 Kxd7

36 Ke3 h4 is a draw. Since white didn't fall for it, black probably should have resigned somewhere around here.

**34 ... g5 35 Ne4 Kd7 36 c5 Kc6 37 b4 h4 38 Ng5 hg 39 Kf3 Kb5 40 Kg3 Bg7 41 a3 Ka4 42 Ne6 Ka3 43 Nf8 Resigns.**

The expert brilliancy game is a classic example of what happens when one side blithely goes after a pawn in the opening to the exclusion of all other considerations. Although he succeeds in obtaining the desired material plus, it soon becomes apparent that the subsequent position is not maintainable.

**Jason Childress [1962]**

**Michael Aigner [2094]**

**Giucco Piano - [C54]**

**Round 3**

**Expert Section Brilliancy Prize**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6 5 d3**

No one wants to play the Moller Gambit these days (5 d4) because of the famous game Barczay-Portisch, Hungry 1969. As a result the text has become the main line.

**5 ... 0-0 6 0-0 d5!?**

An aggressive, but risky decision. Black may have trouble hold-

ing onto his e-pawn.

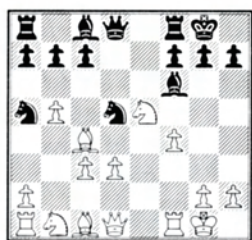
**7 ed Nxd5 8 b4!?**

The start of a mistaken sequence designed to win a pawn. Much better is 8 Re1, putting pressure on the e-pawn. A sample line might be 8 ... Bg4 9 Nbd2 Re8 10 Qc2 a6 and now 11 b4 Bb6 12 Bb2 threatens 13 a4 followed by b5 maintains whites slight imitative. Stopping the pin with 8 h3 is another possibility.

**8 ... Be7 9 b5?**

White should complete his development first before trying to snap off the e-pawn. The position is roughly equal after 9 Bb2 Bf6 10 Nbd2.

Na5 10 Nxe5 Bf6 11 f4



**11 ... Nxc3!**

A tactical shot that exploits whites under developed, and over-extended position.

**12 Nxc3 Qd4+ 13 Kh1 Bxe5**

The knight on c3 is not going anywhere, so black takes time to exchange off white's only active pieces, further weakening his opponents pawn structure along the way.

**14 fe Nxc4 15 dc Qxc3 16 Qf3?**

A desperation sacrifice. The more direct 16 Ba3 is marginally better. However given the state of things, mixing it up is not a bad idea.

**16 ... Qxa1 17 Ba3 Qxe5 18 Bxf8 B e6**

White has no compensation for his two pawns.

**19 Bb4 Bxc4 20 Qxb7 Bd5 Resigns**

There is no hope after 21 Qa6 Qe4 22 Rg1 Qxb4.



**The old pro Walter Shipman tricked . . .**

In the following game white is caught in one of the most uncomfortable feelings in chess. Being tricked by a move order into playing a position one knows little about. The result is some unsure handling of the defense and a nice positional win for one of the eventual victors of the tournament.

**IM Walter Shipman [2385]**

**NM Burt Izumikawa [2398]**

**Pirc Defense - [B08]**

**Round 6**

**1 d4 Nf6 2 g3 g6**

Izumikawa prefers to try for a transposition to the Kings Indian. I wonder what Shipman had in mind against 2 .. c5 3 d5 b5!?

**3 Bg2 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Nc3 0-0 6 Nge2 Nbd7**

Suddenly the game has transposed to a Pirc. I'll bet that Burt was not feeling all that confident right here. I have never seen him play the black side of this defense before. The pawn structure looks the same as a Kings Indian [one of Burt's main defenses with black ] but there are some subtle differences that change the stratagem for black. The text is a case in point. Usually black waits on this particular knight move, preferring c6, Qc7 and a5 first before committing the knight to a6 or d7. Another plan is 6 ... Nc6 followed by e5.

**7 0-0 c6 8 a4 Qc7 9 a5**

Walter told me after the game that black should not have allowed this cramping move. I'm not so sure, in that 8 .. a5 often leaves black with some holes to defend on the queenside.

**9 ... e5 10 h3 Re8 11 Re1 Nf8?!**

It is not clear that the knight will be any better posted on e6, than it is on d7. My preference is for Rb8 followed by b5, trying to undermine whites e-pawn.

**12 Be3 ed**

This exchange is not in blacks best interest. However it is hard to find another constructive move for him. 12 ... Ne6 13 d5! Nf8 14 Qd2 cd 15 ed Bd7 16 Na4 did not work out well for black in Nunn-Pfleger Plovdiv 1983. Perhaps 12 ... Bd7 13 Qd2 b6 is worth investigating.

**13 Nxd4**

13 Bxd4 is stronger here, since it gives white the option of playing e5 in certain variations.

**13 .. Nf8-d7 14 f4 Nc5 15 Bf2 Bd7**



**. . . the 'kid' Burt Izumikawa with a nasty transposition**

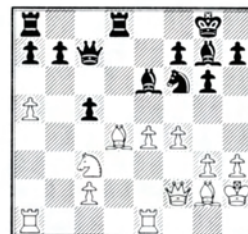
**16 b4!**

Taking advantage in the lull in play to grab space on the queenside. Plans like b4-b5 or a5-a6 loosening the long diagonal are in the air.

**16 ... Ne6 17 Qd2 Nxd4 18 Bxd4 Be6 19 Kh2 Red8 20 Qf2**

The start of a forcing sequence aimed at smashing blacks queenside. Black has little choice but to comply as 20 ... a6 21 Bb6 is certainly not good.

**20 ... c5 21 bc dc**



**22 Bxf6!**

The point behind the white's forcing sequence. Grabbing the c-pawn would certainly not be good on the account 22 ... Ng4 23 hg Bxc3 with a good initiative for the pawn investment (though taking an exchange on the next move is something black should avoid).

**Bxf6 23 e5 Be7 24 a6**

The point to white's play from move 20 on. Blacks position is no longer defensible.

**24 ... Bc8 (?)**

Black's best chance lay in sacrificing the exchange (24 ... b6) in the hopes that the two bishops might generate some counter play. The text is tantamount to resigning.

**25 Nd5 Qd7 26 Rad1 Resigns**

White will lose at least an exchange. A nice positional demonstration by Walter Shipman. ♚

# THE 34th ANNUAL 1998 LERA PENNINSULA CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 14-15, 1998

161 players

**Directors: Jim Hurt & Ted Yudacufski**

**Computer Programmer: "PairingPro" by Robert Massey**

Class	Place	Player	Prize	Score
OPEN	1 - 2	JOHN GREFE 2503 Berkeley, CA	\$400	3.5 - 0.5
	1 - 2	MIKE ARNE 2258 Palo Alto, CA	\$400	3.5 - 0.5
	3 - 6	CRAIG MAR 2479 Oakland, CA	\$50	3.0 - 1.0
	3 - 6	BURT IZUMIKAWA 213 San Carlos, CA	\$50	3.0 - 1.0
	3 - 6	WALTER SHIPMAN 2340- San Francisco, CA	\$50	3.0 - 1.0
	3 - 6	MARK LAIKHTMAN 1900 Newark, CA	\$50	3.0 - 1.0
EXPERT	1st	BELA EVANS 2147 San Francisco, CA	\$400	3.5 - 0.5
	2 - 4	H. EDWARD SYRETT 2176 Meno Park, CA	\$133	3.0 - 1.0
	2 - 4	PETER KAPPLER 2088 Mountain View, CA	\$133	3.0 - 1.0
	2 - 4	MARTIN MARSHALL 1967 San Francisco, CA	\$133	3.0 - 1.0
A	1 - 2	WILLIAM WHITNEY 1892 Berkeley, CA	\$280	3.5 - 0.5
	1 - 2	LATRAEL EAGLES 1655 Oakland, CA	\$280	3.5 - 0.5
	3 - 5	WILLIAM TATE 1894 San Mateo, CA	\$47	3.0 - 1.0
	3 - 5	ROD MCCALLEY 1880 Palo Alto, CA	\$47	3.0 - 1.0
	3 - 5	DAVID LISCHINSKY 1805 Palo Alto, CA	\$47	3.0 - 1.0
B	1st	ALFRED ABRAHAM 1778 Capitola, CA	\$300	4.0 - 0.0
	2nd	DEREK LAU 1386 San Jose, CA	\$180	3.5 - 0.5
	3 - 5	KEVIN STORMS 1705 Turlock, CA	\$40	3.0 - 1.0
	3 - 5	FRED MOULDEN 1663 Sunnyvale, CA	\$40	3.0 - 1.0
	3 - 5	ANDREW PERCEY 1644 San Jose, CA	\$40	3.0 - 1.0
C	1st	CARL ODEGAARD 1514 San Jose, CA	\$200	4.0 - 0.0
	2 - 3	EVAN SKOVVONSKI 1532 Tracy, CA	\$100	3.5 - 0.5
	2 - 3	ERIC TOLENTINO 1490 San Francisco, CA	\$100	3.5 - 0.5
D	1 - 5	ROBERT CHAN 1390 Fremont, CA	\$20	3.0 - 1.0
	1 - 5	ALBERTO CISNEROS 1299 Cupertino, CA	\$20	3.0 - 1.0
	1 - 5	MICHAEL LANE 1264 San Jose, CA	\$20	3.0 - 1.0
	1 - 5	CHRIS LOCKARD 1190 San Jose, CA	\$20	3.0 - 1.0
	1 - 5	KENNETH WU 1076 Cupertino, CA	\$20	3.0 - 1.0
E	1st	CHRIS WAROFF 1093 Santa Clara, CA	\$100	3.5 - 0.5
F	1st	HAN ZHANG 948 Palo Alto, CA	\$100	3.0 - 1.0
UNR	1 - 2	CHUNG NGUYEN UNR Milpitas, CA	\$50	4.0 - 0.0
	1 - 2	NARASIMHAY YADAVALLI UNR Sunnyvale, CA	\$50	4.0 - 0.0

## BRILLIANCY GAME WINNERS:

OPEN, MARK LAIKHTMAN, 1900, Newark, CA  
 EXPERT, ROBERT WHITAKER, 2000, Pleasant Hill, CA  
 A, STEVEN KRASNOV, 1923, San Francisco, CA  
 B, TREVOR BAUER, 1687, Campbell, CA

Report and photos by James Bauman

## History

The Arcata Chess Club was formed in January 1997 to fill the void left when the Northwest Chess Association dissolved in the fall of 1996. The Northwest Chess Association was run by Richard Heusler and Bob Phillips and we owe a thank you to both men as many of our initial players were members of this association. We run seven Swiss tournaments a year with the last tournament including a section for the club championships. For information on the Arcata Chess Club, contact James Bauman at 707-822-7619

## 1997-1998 Club Events

The 1997 club championship was held last November and December. First place was won by Michael Taylor with Bob Snyder and Sylver Blake Good tying for second. The 1998 January Open was won by Bob Clayton while 1998 March Open was won by James Bauman. Both Clayton and Bauman were undefeated in their respective tournaments.

## Scholastic Events

The April 4th Scholastic in Arcata consisted of two sections. In the advanced section, Fred Hope of Bloomfield Elementary in Arcata tied with Terry Wolf from McKinleyville JHS. Fred won the speed playoff to take home the top trophy. In the beginners section, Alex Hockenson, Jed Davis, and Andrew Martin all tied for first with Alex winning the playoff.

## Humboldt County Scholastic Championships - May 30

Section	Place	Name	School	Teams	Place	School	City
High School	1st	Benjie Limtetkia	Arcata HS	High School	1st	Arcata	Arcata
	2nd	Shantaram Jones	Arcata HS		2nd	Eureka	Eureka
	3rd	Matt Frenz	Eureka HS				
Jr High	1st	Alex Hockenson	Pacific Union	Jr High	1st	Pacific Union	Arcata
	2nd	Joe Seveidla	Jacoby Creek		2nd	Jacoby Creek	Arcata
	3rd	Chris Meekin	Zoe Barnhum		3rd	Zoe Barnhum	Eureka
Elementary	1st	Fred Hope	Bloomfield	Elementary	1st	Bloomfield	Arcata
	2nd	Evan Markegood	Todd Thomas		2nd	Todd Thomas	Fortuna
	3rd	Jed Davis	St Mary's		3rd	St Mary's	Arcata

(Right) Elementary Champion Bloomfield team ( L to R ) Cyrus Meyers, Fred Hope and Michael Lindemann



(above) Benjie Limtetkia with 1st place High School Trophy. Dr. Jerry Jackson ( r ) from the Eureka Teen Center helped organize the tournament



(Left) Scholastic action in Arcata with Evan Markegood on the left facing Fred Hope

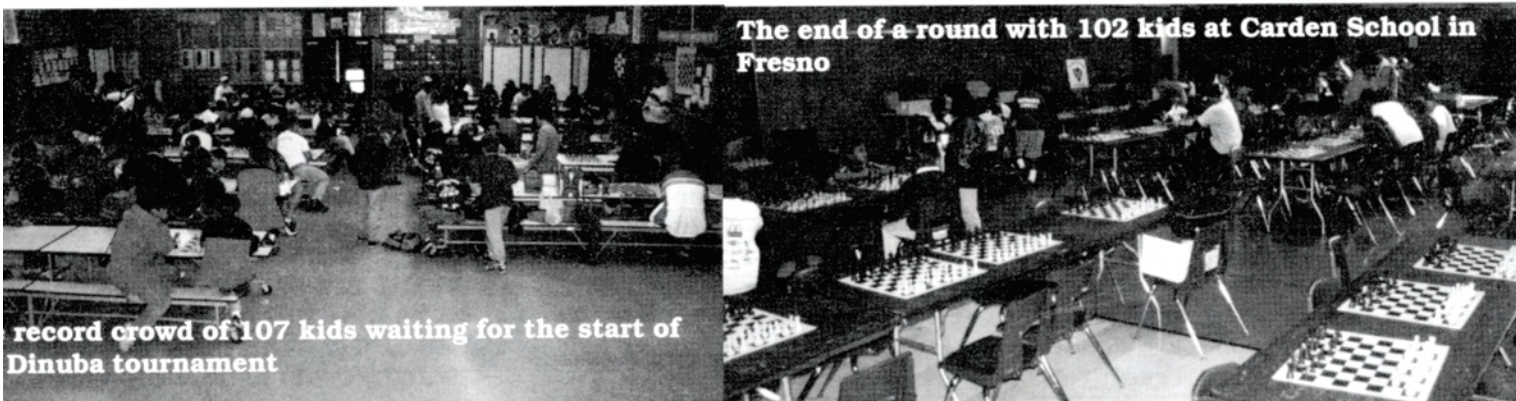


# Tulare-Kings-Fresno Chess for Kids 97-98 Season

## A Photo Essay

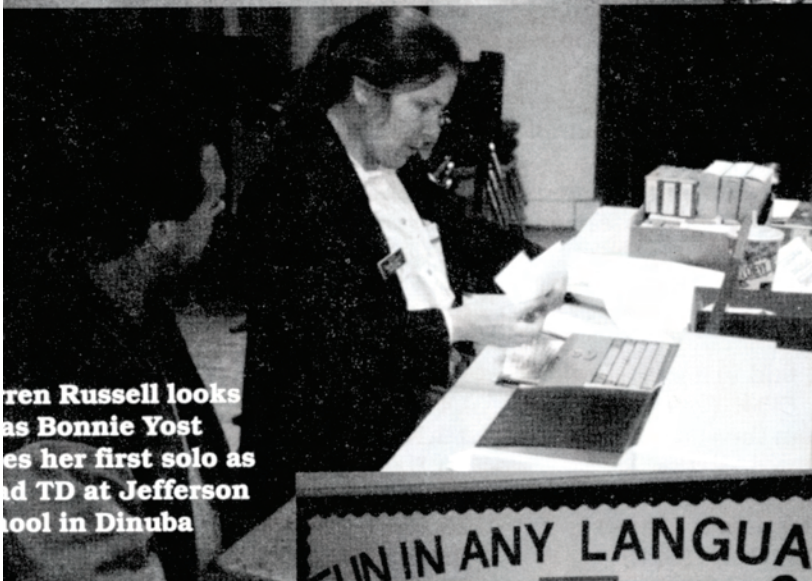
Photos by proud parents, coaches and teachers.

The 1997-1998 Tulare-Kings-Fresno Chess for Kids season featured six tournaments, 480 kids, 1200 games, a few tears and a lot of smiles. Tournament directors Allan Fifield, Bonnie Yost, Darren Russell, and Hans Borm wish to thank our school hosts and we hope that the following pictures illustrate some of the joy of our season:

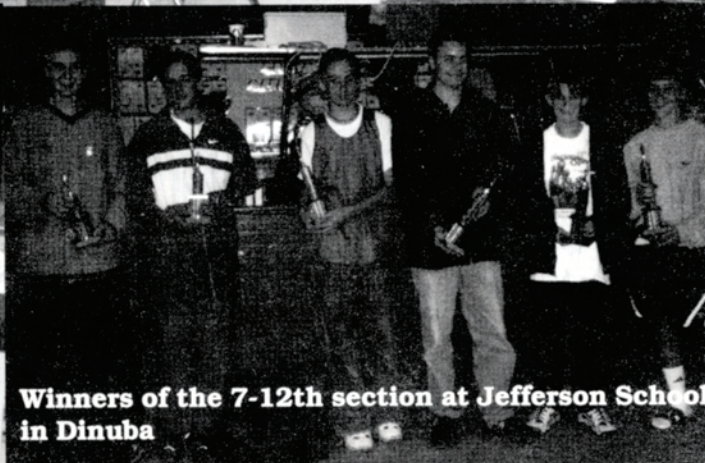


The end of a round with 102 kids at Carden School in Fresno

record crowd of 107 kids waiting for the start of Dinuba tournament



arren Russell looks as Bonnie Yost es her first solo as and TD at Jefferson school in Dinuba



Winners of the 7-12th section at Jefferson School in Dinuba



Chess is 'Fun In Any Language' at Golden West School

Concentration and smiles at Goshen School in March



Manny Akin enjoys the Thrill of Victory at Goshen school in March



Kindergarten through third grade competitors are recognized at Jefferson School in Dinuba

# Piedmont Middle School Wins State Championship; Ties for Third in U.S.

by Mark Brown

In their first appearance as a team, Piedmont Middle School emerged as 1998 CalChess state champions, finishing a half-point ahead of Hopkins Jr. High of Fremont. Piedmont was led by Elliot Temple, who scored 5.5 out of 6 to share individual co-championship for the second straight year. Alex Isenstadt and Monty Peckham added scores of 4.5/6 and sixth grader Ian Huey's win in the final round pulled him up to four points and provided the team with the needed margin of victory. Cameron Huey (3.5), David Pescetti (3.5), and Aaron Fung (3) rounded out the all-around excellent effort of these young players.

Hopkins had won the state title in four of the last five years, and had taken the national title in 1996, so the Piedmonters were bucking tradition in this strong field. Following Piedmont and Hopkins were Biggs Middle, and St. Mark's, the latter also being a traditional powerhouse.

Following this success, the team travelled to Phoenix in the first weekend in May to swap combinations with the best in the country at the 26th National Junior High School Championships. Piedmont took only five players, and with each team's top four scores counting, they needed good results from everyone. Many of the other teams consisted of fifteen to thirty mem-

bers.

Piedmont had a very rocky start, hovering near tenth-place by the midway point. In the penultimate round they pulled up to a tie for fifth, and in the final showdown they put it all together to tie for third, taking fourth place on tie-breaks.

Elliot Temple again played exemplary chess, taking six of seven games, to take sixth in the country; Peckham and Isenstadt again provided the two-three punch with five and four points, respectively. Aaron Fung also had four points, tallying a clutch last round victory.

In a side event, Temple and fellow Berkeley Chess School product Liam MacDermed streaked to a perfect 14-0 crush of the competition in the national bug-house championship.

I have to give enormous credit to Robert Tanner and his Arizona staff for the smooth running of this mammoth tournament. It was a model of efficiency and a perfect site for chess.

You will find two games below, one each by Elliot Temple and Alex Isenstadt from the state championship.

**Alex Isenstadt (1289)**

**Akash Deb (1552)**

**CalChess State Junior High  
School Championships (4)**

**Closed Sicilian[B23]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2**

**d6 5.d3 e5 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nge2 Bg4  
8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.f4 exf4  
11.Nxf4 Qd7 12.a4 Nxc4 13.Qxc4  
Qxc4 14.hxc4 Bxc5 15.Nfd5 0-0  
16.a5 Nd4 17.Kd1 h5 18.a6 b5  
19.Ne2 Nxe2 20.Kxe2 hxc4  
21.Rxh8 Rxh8 22.Nb6+! Kc7  
23.Nd5+ Kb8 24.Ra5 Kc8 25.Rxb5  
Rd8 26.Rb7 Rd7 27.Nb6+! axb6  
28.Rxd7 Kxd7 29.a7 Bf6 30.c3  
Be5 31.a8=Q g3 32.Qb7+ Ke6  
33.Qxb6 Bh5+ 34.Kd2 Bf4+  
35.Kc2 Be2 36.Qb3+ Kf6 37.Qd5  
g5 38.Qf5+ Ke7 39.d4 c4 40.Kb1  
Be3 41.Ka2 Bd3 42.Qf3 Bf4 43.d5  
f6 44.Qg4 Bd2 45.Kb2 Bf4 46.d6  
Be5 47.Qe6+ Kf8 48.Qc8+ Kg7  
49.bxc4 Be2 50.c5 dxc5 51.d6  
Kh6 52.d7 Bg4 53.Qh8+ 1-0**

**Elliot Temple (1660)**

**Monyrith Meas (959)**

**CalChess State Junior High  
School Championships (2)**

**London System [A48]**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 Be7 4.e3  
0-0 5.Nbd2 b6 6.Bd3 Bb7 7.c3 d6  
8.h3 Nbd7 9.a4 Nd5 10.Bh2 Re8  
11.Qe2 c5 12.Nc4 N7f6 130-0 Nc7  
14.Rfd1 Qd7 15.dxc5 bxc5  
16.Nxd6 Bxd6 17.Bxd6 Ncd5  
18.Bxc5 e5 19.Bb5 Bc6 20.c4  
Bxb5 21.axb5 Qc7 22.cxd5 Qxc5  
23.Rac1 Qb4 24.e4 Nxe4 25.Rc4  
Qxb5 26.Rxe4 Qb7 27.Rxe5 Red8  
28.d6 h6 29.Re7 Qc6 30.Ne5 Qc5  
31.Nxf7 Rf8 32.d7 Rxf7 33.d=Q+  
Rxd8 Rf8 35.Rxf8+ Kxf8 36.Re8+  
Kf7 37.Qe6# 1-0**

**Everett Holmes (1478)**

**Philip Freihofner (1689)**

**Spanish Open Variation**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4  
Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1?! ( d5 ) 6...  
Nc5 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 Be7 9.d4  
Ne6 10.Qh5 0-0 11.c3 f6 12.Ng4  
Re8 13.Nd2 Nf4 14.Qh4 Ng6  
15.Qg3 Bd6 16.Rxe8+ Qxe8  
17.Qf3 Bxc4  
17...Qe1+ 18.Nf1 Bxc4 19.Qxc4  
Bxc2+ 20.Kxh2 Qxf1  
18.Qxc4 Qe1+ 19.Nf1 Re8 20.b3  
f5 21.Qxf5 Rf8 22.Qc2 Rxf2  
23.Qd3 Rxf1+ 24.Qxf1 Bxc2+ 0-1**

*Continued from page 7*

16...Kg6

If 16...hxc5 17.Qh5+ Nh6 and it's still a game unless White can improve on 18.Nxc7 Qf6 19.Nxe8 Bxf2+ 20.Kf1 Rxe8 21.Bxc5 Qg6 22.Qxc6+ Kxc6 23.Kxf2 Kxc5

**17.Nh4+ Kf6 18.Qf3+ 1-0**

If you are scoring at home, all your pieces should still be on the board.

**Andrew Handler (1712)**

**Robert Fojt (2065)**

**Sicilian Grand Prix**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 Nf6 4.Nf3  
g6 5.Bc4 e6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.d3 0-0  
8.Qe1 d5 9.Bb3 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nc6  
11.Qh4 Nd4 12.Kh1 Nxb3 13.axb3  
b6 14.f5 exf5 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxc6  
Bxc6 17.Qxc6 Ng4 18.Qf4 Kg7  
19.Rad1 Qe7 20.h3 fxe4 21.Nxe4  
f5 22.Neg5 Nf6 23.Rfe1 Qb7  
24.Re5 Re8 25.Rxe8 Nxe8  
26.Qe5+ Kf8  
27.Qh8+ Ke7 28.Re1+ 1-0**



# Mar and Brown tie in 1998 Berkeley Chess Club Championship

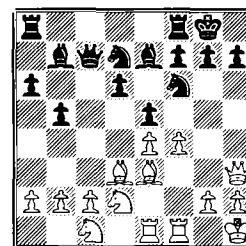
by Alan Glasscoe  
Annotated game by Mark Brown

Craig Mar (2479) and Mark Brown (2009) each scored 6.5 points in the 8-round Berkeley Chess Club championship held during March and April, splitting \$230 of the \$540 prize fund. Craig missed two rounds, but won the title by defeat-

ing Mark in the seventh round. 94 players competed in the tournament directed by Alan Glasscoe, David Goldfarb, and Kurt Jacobs. Kurt produced bulletins for each round. A complete list of prize winners follows.

16.f5 looking for a kingside pawn avalanche, perhaps. But I was prepared to take the initiative with a central counter 16...d5! 17.Bg5 Nc5 and White has problems holding the position together. Now that the white knight can't get to d4 immediately, my next move is fortunately timed.

<b>1st-2nd:</b>	Craig Mar	(2479)	6.5	\$115
	Mark Brown	(2009)	6.5	115
<b>3rd-5th:</b>	Wade Regensberg	(2112)	5.5	\$ 40
	David Goldfarb	(1771)	5.5	40
	Clark Carino	(1509)	5.5	40
<b>Under 2000:</b>	Phil Freihofner	(1871)	5.0	\$ 15
	Dwight Kearney	(1848)	5.0	15
<b>Under 1800:</b>	Santiago Lozano	(1717)	5.0	\$ 25
<b>Under 1600:</b>	Brendan MacIntyre	(1457)	5.0	\$ 15
	Andrew Fan	(1421)	5.0	15
<b>Under 1400:</b>	David Steel	(1364)	5.0	\$ 25
<b>Under 1200:</b>	Jonathan Fan	(1167)	4.5	\$ 25
<b>Unrated:</b>	James Tang		4.0	\$ 25
<b>Under 12:</b>	Simiön Kreimer	(1410)	3.5	\$ 20
<b>Upset:</b>	Ricky Grijalva	(1274)		\$ 10



**16...exf4! 17.Bxf4 Ne5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Ne2 Bc8!**

Intending to reposition the bishop to e6, where it can continue its watch on d5, but also influence the kingside if necessary.

**20.Qg3 Nh5 21.Qf3 g6 22.Nc3 Be6 23.Nd5 Bxd5 24.exd5 Nf4 25.c3 Nxd3 26.Qxd3 f5 27.Qe2 e4**

This is the one of the nice points of the Sicilian. Black attains a decisive central pawn majority with great momentum. Note that the b5 pawn clips off any reinforcements to the "lost brigade" at d5.

**28.c4 bxc4 29.Nxc4 Qc5 30.b3 Rad8 31.d6 Bxd6 32.Nxd6 Rxd6 33.Rc1 Qb5 34.Qe3 Rfd8 35.h3 Rd2 36.Qg5 Qe2 37.Rce1 Qb5**

Otherwise the f-pawn hangs. We have both been in "blitz" mode for several moves.

**38.a4 Qe5 39.b4 R8d7 40.b5 axb5 41.axb5 R8d3**

The transparent threat of 42...Rxb3+ 43.gxh3 Qh2 mate keeps White on his toes.

**42.Re3 Rd1 43.Reel 0-1**

Rather than liquidate and suffer further, Wade graciously resigned before I could find a quiet continuation.

## Musselman (2009) - Grijalva (1274) BCC Championship (1) Dutch defense

**1.c4 f5 2.d4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 8.Qc2 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.e4 f4 11.gxf4 Nh5 12.Nd5 Bg4 13.Nxc7 Qc8 14.Nxa8 Bh3 15.f5 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 gxf5 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.Nc7 Nf4+ 19.Bxf4 Rxf4 20.Nd5 Qg4+ 21.Kh1 Qxf3+ 0-1**

## Regensberg (2112) - Brown (2009)

### BCC Championship (6) Sicilian Paulsen [B42]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6**

The Paulsen, or Kan, is known for its flexibility. Black can transpose to Scheveningen set-ups, or

try for the shallower waters of the Taimanov with an eventual Nge7.

**5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Bc5 7.Nb3 Be7**

The Bishop retreat to a7 is being played with increasing frequency; in this case, White can neutralize the Ba7 with Qe2 and Be3, but then White's Kingside play is stalled.

**8.Be3 Nf6 9.Qe2 d6 10.N1d2?!**

This seems to be a misplacement of the knight. I don't see what its role might be in the coming battle. On d2, the knight has no say concerning the important d5 square.

**10...Nbd7 11.Rae1 0-0 12.Kh1 b6**

I was leary of over-extending too soon on the Q-side, so I wanted to avoid 12...b5 13.a4 b4 14.Nc4

**13.f4 Bb7 14.Qf3 e5 15.Qh3 b5 16.Nc1?**

White should have gone in for

# Hot Summer Days In The Capital City

by  
John McCumiskey

The first thing to note is that the days didn't live up to the billing "Hot Summer". The weekend of June 19, 20, and 21 saw temperatures no warmer than 88 degrees! The weekend started on Friday with the Hot Summer Days Game in 10 tournament. This five round Swiss paid \$275 to the 18 players. The tournament ended in a tie for 1st.-2nd Place by Mladen Vucic & Robby Adamson at 4.5-0.5 who each won \$85.

The main event was the Hot Summer Days Swiss on June 20/21 which was sponsored by Sacramento Chess Club. Tournament Organizer & TD was John McCumiskey. The Howard Johnson Hotel saw 54 players compete in a 4 round Swiss compete for \$1550 in total prizes.

## Open - Round 3

Mladen Vucic (2461)

James MacFarland (2267)

ECO D58

1. d4 e6 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 Be7 5. Bg5 O-O 6. e3 h6 7. Bh4 b6 8. Rc1 Bb7 9. Bxf6 Bxf6 10. cxd5 exd5 11. Qb3 c6 12. Be2 Nd7 13. O-O Re8 14. Rfd1 Nf8 15. Bf1 Rb8 16. a3 c5 17. dxc5 bxc5 18. Nxd5 Bxd5 19. Qxd5 Qxd5 20. Rxd5 Ne6 21. Ne5 Nc7 22. Rdxc5 Bxe5 23. Rxe5 Rxe5 24. Rxc7 Rxb2 25. g3 g5 26. g4 Re6 27. Bd3 Rd6 28. Rc3 a5 29. e4 Kg7 30. a4 Rd4 31. Ra3 Rd2 32. Bb5 Rxe4 33. Rf3 Rxf4+ 34. Kf1 Rf4 35. Rxf4 gxf4 36. Kg2 Kf6 37. Be8 Rd8 38. Bb5 Ke5 39. Kf3 f5 40. Ba6 Rd4 41. Bb5 Rb4 42. Bd7 Rb3+ 43. Kg2 Ra3 44. h4 Kd6 45. Be8 Kc5 46. h5 Kb4 47. Bd7 Kc5 48. Bb5 Kd6 49. Be8 Ke7 50. Bb5 Kf6 51. Bc6 Kg5 52. Be8 Kg4 0-1

## 1600-1999 Section - Round 3

Cesar Cuellar (1748)

Imada Todd (1759)

ECO A48

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. e3 d6 5. Bd3 O-O 6. Nbd2 Nbd7 7. c3 e5 8. h4 Qe8 9. Qc2 h5 10. O-O O-O Ng4 11. Rdf1 Nb6 12. Nh2

## Open Section (13 players):

1st Place: James MacFarland, 4.0-0.0, \$240 & trophy

2nd Place: James Burden, 3.0-1.0, \$140

1st Place U2200: Michael Aigner 2.5-1.5

2nd Place U2200: Gregg Richter & Julia Vizcaino, 2.0-2.0, \$37.50 each

## 1600-1900 Section (16 players):

1st Place: Cesar Cuellar, 3.5-0.5, \$190 & trophy

2nd Place & 1st U1800: Curtis Munson & Todd Imada, 3.0-1.0, \$112.50 each

2nd Place U1800: Calixto Magaoay & Alberto Cisneros, 2.5-1.5, \$40 each

## Under 1600 Section (25 players, 13 of which were Juniors!!!):

1st Place: Daniel Schwarz, 4.0-0.0, \$180 & trophy

2nd Place: John Goudy & Scott Fowler, 3.5-0.5, \$50 each

1st Place U1400: Earl March, 3.0-1.0, \$90

2nd Place U1400: Gerald Schwarz & Alan Tempkin, 2.5-1.5, \$35 each

1st Junior, David McDaniel, 3.0-1.0, \$50.00

Both James MacFarland and Cesar Cuellar both repeated their victories from the Sacramento Chess Championship held January 31 & February 1 of this year! Below are a game from each of them in this event:

*(This is where the second player lost a valuable opportunity in 12...f6 eventually winning a bishop for a couple of pawns and some uncomfortable king position. Chess is full of tough decisions; however, I cannot calculate anything favorable for white. Darren Russell.)*



12... f5 13. Nxf3 hxf3 14. f3 gxf3 15. gxf3 Qa4 16. Qxa4 Nxa4 17. Bc4+ Kh7 18. h5 gxh5 19. Be7 Kh6 20. Bxf8 Bxf8 21. Rfg1 Be7 22. f4 e4 23. Bf7 h4 24. Rg8 Nb6 25. Rhg1 Kh7 26. R1g7+ Kh6 27. Rg6+ Kh7 28. R8g7+ Kh8 29. Bg8 1-0

Finally, the California Scholastic 3rd Grade Champion, 8 year old Daniel Schwarz, ended up with the only perfect score in the Under 1600 section. In this game, he shows patient defense before his opponent

cracks under the pressure.

## Under 1600 Section - Round 3

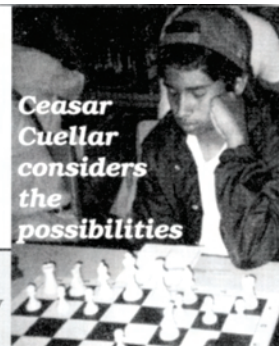
Bruce Stone (1400)

Daniel Schwarz (1160)

ECO A05

1. Nf3 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. d3 d6 5. O-O O-O 6. Nbd2 Nbd7 7. e4 c5 8. a4 Ne8 9. Rb1 Nc7 10. b3 a6 11. Bb2 Nf6 12. Nc4 Rb8 13. Nb6 Ne6 14. a5 Nd7 15. Bxg7 Kxg7 16. Nc4 b5 17. axb6 Nxb6 18. Nxb6 Qxb6 19. Qd2 Bd7 20. Qc3+ Kg8 21. Qd2 Kg7 22. c3 Bc6 23. h4 d5 24. Ne5 dxe4 25. Nxc6 Qxc6 26. Bxe4 Qd6 27. Bf3 Rb6 28. h5 Qe5 29. h6+ Kg8 30. Rfe1 Ng5 31. Bg2 Qf6 32. Qe3 Ne6 33. Bd5 Qxc3 34. Rbc1 Qd4 35. Qf3 Rd6 36. Bc4 a5 37. Kg2 Qb2 38. Ra1 Qc3 39. Rac1 Qb4 40. Ra1 Nd4 41. Qe3 Nc6 42. Qf4 Qb7 43. Kf1 Rf6 44. Qe4 Qd7 45. Bb5 Qd4 46. Qxd4 Nxd4 47. Rxa5 Nf3+ 48. Kf1 Nxe1 49. Kxe1 g5 50. Bc4 Rc8 51. Ra7 Kf8 52. Rb7 Rxh6 53. Ke2 Rd6 54. Ke3 f5 0-1

What is most impressive to note is Daniel's post mortem analysis where he quickly showed lines that appeared plausible for Black, but would have led to a losing game. ♚





# THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL 1998 LERA SUNNYVALE CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS



**DATE** Saturday and Sunday, August 15th & 16th.

**PLACE** LERA Auditorium B/160, corner of Mathilda Ave. & Java St., Sunnyvale (take Bayshore Freeway to the North Mathilda offramp; then go seven blocks north on Mathilda to Java St; B/160 is on the far left corner; 408/747-9167)

**DIRECTOR** Jim Hurt, assisted by Ted Yudacufski (National Tournament Director) of Monterey.

**TYPE** Four round Swiss with eight separate divisions, each division with its own prizes. In pairing an odd numbered group, we promote a high player from the next highest group to yield an even number in the odd numbered group.

**PRIZES**

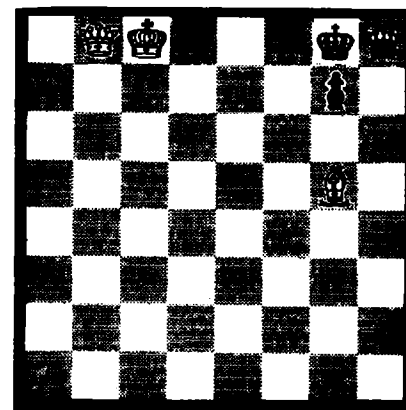
Division:	Open	Expert	A	B	C	D	E	F	Unrated
First Prize:	\$500	\$400	\$350	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Second Prize:	\$300	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$120				
Third Prize:	\$200	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$ 80				



The prize fund is based on 160 paid entries. If the paid entries exceed 160 players, then the prize fund will be increased and if the paid entries are less than 160 the prize fund will be decreased. A player can play up only one class; exception: an unrated player can play up only into the Open division. A total of eight brilliancy prizes may be awarded, one for each division. Junior prizes may be awarded.

**SCHEDULE**

ITEM	STARTING TIME	TIME CONTROL
Registration	8 to 9:30 am Saturday	30 moves in 90 minutes,
Round One	10:30 am Saturday	30 moves in 60 minutes,
Round Two	4:00 pm Saturday	10 moves in 10 minutes
Round Three	9:30 am Sunday	thereafter
Round Four	3:00 pm Sunday	



**White to Win in 5 Moves**

**ENTRY FEES** Mail: The entry fee for the Open or Expert division is \$40, for the A or B division is \$35, and for the C, D, E or Unrated division is \$30, if mailed by August 10th. If paid Saturday morning, all entry fees will be \$5 more. The entry fee for K through 6th Graders who have ratings below 1100 points is \$15, and they may play in a separate division.



**CONDITIONS** In order to start the first round on time, we are incorporating a new policy: You must be at the registration desk prior to 9:30 am in order to be paired in the first round. If you arrive after 9:30 am, you will either get a 1/2 point bye, or be paired against another late entry. 1/2 Point Byes are available. All players must be USCF members or become members at the tournament. CCA ratings may be used at the discretion of the tournament director.

For more information, call Jim Hurt (970) 285-7041 or after August 10th call Ken Stone (408) 629-5530.



**SNACK BAR** Food and refreshments available at the LERA snack bar.

**NEXT EVENT** The next LERA chess tournament will be held Thanksgiving weekend, 1998.

8/98

## ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Date of the last tournament you played in: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Age: \_\_\_\_\_

USCF Identity Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ USCF dues: \$35.00 - adult , \$15 - under 20

Entry Fee\*: The Open or Expert division is \$40.00, the A or B division is \$35.00, and the C, D, E, or Unrated Division is \$30.00 (Circle your division).  
\*If mailed by August 10th, otherwise entry fees are \$5 more. Make check payable to LERA Chess Club.

Mail to: Jim Hurt, LERA Chess Club, P.O. Box 60451, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 Amount of check \_\_\_\_\_

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have read a great deal lately about the concept of One Member One Vote (OMOV) in the USCF. I don't see OMOV as the real solution to the problems of growth for the USCF. USCF does not attract nearly as many adult members as it "should" because USCF tournaments are not seen by enough chess playing adults as a fun, worthwhile thing to do.

Everyone has their own opinions on how to encourage more adult participation. In my humble opinion, ordinary members want more tournaments available. In general, casual players are less interested in the "big prize" extravaganzas that appeal to the professionals and the organizers and more interested in an abundance of fun, club-level events. This calls for a return to grass-roots club promotion, and an effort to emphasize that chess tournaments should be fun and inclusive. I am sure that many of us have been to a tournament or club or two where the point seemed to be less about inclusive fun and more about a few folks playing one another to the exclusion of almost everyone else. I am sure many of us are tired of tournament alternatives which stretch across holiday weekends at entry fees as high as two hundred forty dollars; in my area, I note in the local chess column that attendance was way down for such a local memorial day affair.

As a side note, the sheer discourtesy which seems to flow from some chess players today would be amusing if it weren't discouraging attendance—who wants to play in tournaments in which boorishness is not only tolerated but even sometimes lauded? I don't see how either OMOV or not OMOV will impact the issues of how to make chess have broader appeal at the tournament level...a return to the fun, cordial tournaments that made USCF chess more fun as little as 20 years ago than it is today. Absent such an incentive to create the needed quarter million active adult USCF members, I don't see how professionals are going to have the fan base to really earn money off chess in a big way.

OMOV is interesting (and in my opinion, preferable), but OMOV is not a panacea for the what I think are the real problems.....one simply cannot grow a game without substantial grass-roots interest (which fuels media attention, corporate sponsorships, etc.), and everyone might be better suited worrying about how to put on more good weekend Swiss tourneys and quads than the labyrinths of USCF internal politics.

Sincerely,  
Robert Nunnally

*Editor: Thanks for your contribution. There is a definite need for more low cost 'fun' adult tournaments.*

To the Editor,

I think Mark Duckworth and myself may have been the only people in Southern California who owned Micromate clocks. The red LEDs were neat in-doors but were invisible in bright light. They could have been bigger too. It was a great blitz clock and would have been a good tournament clock but I didn't trust the batteries to stay charged that long. The switches on top were too small so I rigged a rocker-adaptor but they were also too fragile for blitz and I had to replace them with sturdier metal switches. Programming it was not a cinch which made it unpopular at work. I finally pitched mine when its internal Ni-Cads would no longer hold a charge. Too bad because today's digitals look kludgy and klutzy by comparison although obvious strides have been made in battery and LCD technology and price.

Regards,  
Al Pena

*Editor: Thanks for your informative reply to my request last issue for additional information on this first digital chess clock.*

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Dear Mr. Fifield,

Could you kindly tell me how you can produce such a wonderful chess magazine for only 12 dollars per year? Do you have a special printer or are your overhead expenses negligible? Is it a secret how much producing one issue costs and who does the printing for you? Anyway, congratulations on a great job you are doing!

Best regards,  
Val Zemitis

*Editor: Thanks for you kind comments. Here's our secret for producing four great issues for only \$12 per year: 1. Our staff is incredibly underpaid and 2. We lose money on each and every issue. On a more serious note, the CCJ is printed by Jostens Printing & Publishing of Visalia CA which also printed a series of fine chess books for Hypermodern Press.*

Dear Editor:

I read "An Interview with Tom and Carolyn" in the Spring issue of *California Chess Journal*, and I have a question:

Was CalChess *founded* by Dorsch and Withgitt, or *found* by them?

Old Copies of *Chess Voice* were apparently published by CalChess (Northern California Chess Association), "The USCF state chapter for Northern California." Years 1976-1979 were labeled volumes 9-12, so it seems to date back at least to 1968; and they name current CalChess VP Hans Poschmann on their officer list, so there is a link. If you don't know the answers to my Q's, perhaps you could consult Mr. Poschmann.

Of course, it's possible that CalChess went defunct, lay dormant for a while, and was revived. Although "revived" might then be more accurate, I wouldn't object to its revivers being considered founders.

But as the spring 1998 *CCJ* itself is Volume 12 Number 1, the "revived (?)" CalChess would seem to date back at least to 1987 — probably further, given their habit of playing "catch up" with the publication schedule. Tom Dorsch is quoted in *CCJ* as claiming to have co-founded CalChess in 1990; these can't both be true.

There is also credit I've heard a longtime director give to Mr. Dorsch, saying he "doubled [CalChess] membership when he took it over." "Took it over" doesn't

sound like "founded" in this context; also, had he co-founded CalChess, then doubling the membership would have left it at — **zero!**

Far be it from me to question Mr. Dorsch's contributions; in fact I give him the utmost credit for being the only USCF officer to tell us all the grim financial truth back in 1996-97. And I agree with the 20-year Northern California expert who "never say[s] anything against Carolyn Withgitt because she's good for chess." I don't want to detract from their accomplishments; I'm just curious about these inconsistencies. Given all of their *true* contributions to Northern California chess, then mischaracterizing their roles actually would detract from those accomplishments. I hope that's not the case.

Cordially,  
Kurt Jacobs

*Editor: Tom's precise claim in the article (pg 18) is: "... I founded CalChess in 1990. I became the president of what was at that time the Northern California Chess Association. It had no magazine, no members, no activity." While everyone acknowledges that a state chess organization existed (at least on paper) before Tom and Carolyn took over, I believe it's fair to say that they founded the organization we now know as CalChess.*

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## THE APRIL '98 MONTEREY OPEN

by Duncan Oxley

With 15 entries in the premier division, including 3 Masters and 4 Experts, and 6 players in the reserve the turnout was very nice indeed. The last couple of times around we've literally had to beat the bushes to get enough players to hold this event! NTD Ted Yudacufski usually holds this 3 round Swiss on the last Sunday of every month (except the months when there is a conflict with the LERA tournament in Sunnyvale).

Alejandro Garamendi (2035) of Pebble Beach took top honors with a clean 3-0. This excellent performance included wins against Daniel Burkhard (2219) of Aptos, and Paul Cripe (2211) of Modesto!

Robert Sferra (2200) of San Jose had 2.5-.5 earning him sole second place, and third was split between Paul Cripe, Joe Kruml (2116) of Sea-

side, Mark Marron (2016) of Big Sur and Abe Mina (2004) of Salinas.

The under 1700 prize went to Ismael Diaz (1536) of Salinas and George Wilson (Unr.) of Monterey, with 1.5-1.5 each.

In the concurrent Reserve section Chris Waroff (1168) of Santa Clara took sole first, and second place was a tie between Robert Greenwood (1100) of Carmel, and Jenna Cripe (Unr.).

The chess club here is still smarting from the departures of FM Peter Yu and NM Tom Thrush both of whom re-located to other areas (Tom Thrush is now in the Las Vegas area, and Peter Yu is, I believe, in Southern California). It looks like Alejandro is ready to take the next step up to master and hopefully he can fill some of that void!

Here are his 3 wins-decide for yourself:

**Garamendi (2035)**

**Oxley (1578)**

**Round 1**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cd Nd5 4.e4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.e5 Nd5 11.Nd5 Bg5 12.Ng5 ed5 13.Qh5 h6 14.Nf7 Qe8 15.Bd5 1-0**

**Burkhard (2219)**

**Garamendi (2035)**

**Round 2**

**1.e4 c5 2.d3 Nc6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 d5 5.Nd2 Nf6 6.Ngf3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Qc7 9.c3 b6 10.Nh4 de 11.de e5 12.Nc4 Rd8 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Qc2 h6 15.Bd2 Ba6 16.Bf1 Bb7 17.f3 b5 18.Ne3 c4 19.Rad1 Bc5 20.Kh1 Ne7 21.Bc1 Qb6 22.Nhg2**

*Continued on page 30*

# 18th Annual San Joaquin Championship

by Dennis Wajckus

Sixty seven players competed in the 18th San Joaquin Championship which took place on May 16-17 at the St Agnes medical center in Fresno. This tournament was dedicated to the memory of Fresno chessplayer Dwight Williams who passed away March 31st of this year. For the second time, the event was in two sections of Open and Reserve (under 1600). Grandmaster Walter Browne won the Open section and the Championship plaque with 4.5 out of five points. Richard Lacy won the Open \$25 upset prize. Since there was no perfect scores you can deduce that the weekend was full of fighting chess. Other winners in the Open section were:

## 2nd-4th

Emmanuel Perez	4-1
Dr. Timothy Roth	4-1
Expert Plaque	

## Under 1800

Alfred Abraham	3-2
Under 1800 Plaque	
John Hopkins	3-2
Richard Somawang	3-2

The Reserve Section Championship plaque was won by Hakop Tataryan with 4.5 points. Tied with four points each were: Chris Pascal (D plaque), Terry Butler (C plaque), Martha Lopez (E plaque) and David George. The winner of the under 1000 plaque was Andres

C i b r i a n with 2.5 points and the unrated plaque was won by M a l l o r y A l p e r s with 2 points. C e l e n e C e l e d o n won the \$25 upset prize in this section.

Senior USCF director Allan Fifield directed the open section and Bonnie Yost directed the Reserve

Photo by Dennis Wajckus

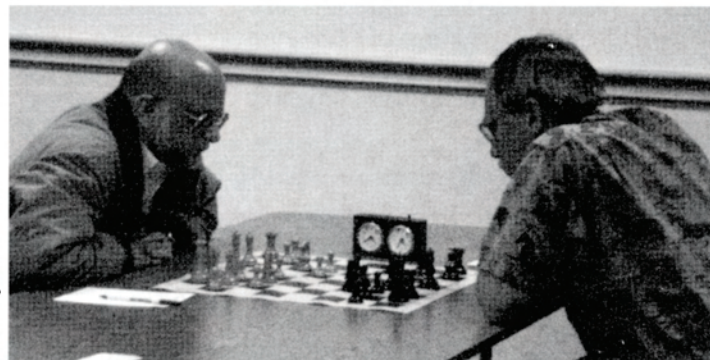


**Tension at the TD table with Allan Fifield and Bonnie Yost hard at work.**

happy customers took advantage of this offer. The St Agnes cafeteria (which is a short walk from the playing site) serves excellent food and was a popular eating and analysis spot.

On Friday evening May 15 Grandmaster Walter Browne performed a simultaneous exhibition against 13 broads.

Photo by Isaac Laws



**Owen Overton ( L ) faces off with GM Browne in the first round.**

section. Both did a fantastic job. It is amazing to see pairings done on a computer as it has changed the length of time it takes to pair a round by a drastic means. As always, the Fresno Chess Club had many types of chess equipment for sale at discount and a number of

Walter graciously allowed his opponents choice of color. He lost one game to Dr. Tim Roth who was awarded an official FIDE clock for defeating the veteran Grandmaster. GM Browne also gave a lecture based on a game he played with GM Bent Larsen in 1972.

Fresno will host another 30 point Grand Prix event when the 'Fresno County Championship' takes place at the same site on November 21-22. We hope that all who played in the San Joaquin Championship can return for another go at it. A final thanks must go to the St Agnes Medical Center for providing the fine education rooms in the west wing of the hospital for our tournament usage.



**Blood in the trenches at the San Joaquin Championship. Julie Vizcaino and George Paxton are identifiable on the right.**

Photo by Dennis Wajckus

# The Mechanic's Institute

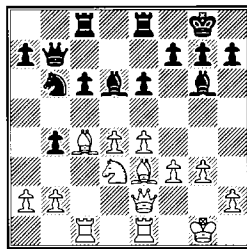
## SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

by Joan Arbil

This five round Swiss was held from April 17th to April 19th at the historic Mechanic's Institute in San Francisco. Walter Shipman is our first ever Senior Champion by scoring 4.5 out of five and he is a class act. By Sunday evening, still undefeated and fighting fatigue by dabbing his eyelids with water from two plastic drinking glasses, Walter convincingly showed his last contender, Victor Ossipov, the undeniable difference between an IM and a 2200 master.

**Shipman, W. (2369)**  
**Ossipov, V. (2228)**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bc4 e6 7.Nge2 Bg6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.e4 Nxc3 11.Nxc3 b5 12.Bb3 b4 13.Na4 Nd7 14.f3 Nb6 15.Be3 Rc8 16.Rc1 Bd6 17.Qe2 Re8 18.Nc5 Qc7 19.g3 Nd7 20.Nd3 Qb7 21.Bc4 Nb6

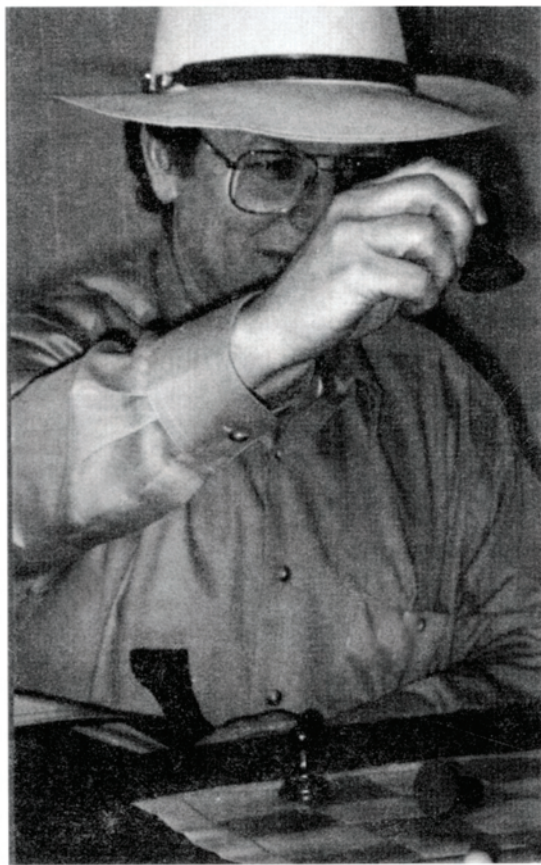


22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.Ba6 Qe7 24.dxc5 Nd7 25.Bxc8 Rxc8 26.Red1 f6 27.Rd6 Bf7 28.Rcd1 Nf8 29.Qa6 Qc7 30.e5 fxe5 31.Bg5 Be8 32.Bd8 Qb8 33.Ba5 e4 34.fxe4 Bh5 35.Rf1 Be8 36.Qc4 Qb7 37.Bxb4 Bf7 38.e5 a5 39.Bc3 Bg6 40.Qd4 Qa8 41.Rd1 Qa7 42.Qc4 Qa8 43.b3 a4 44.Qxa4 Qxa4 45.bxa4 Bc2 46.Rd8 Bxd1 47.Rxc8 Bxa4 48.Ra8 Bc2 49.a4 Kf7 50.a5 1-0

Ossipov shared second and third place with David Blohm, whose knight ending was instructive as well as interesting. Well calculating the danger inherent in the knight end game, the dark horse held the key square d5 while David's King, a true Viking, penetrated the king-side and ate his way to victory.

**Orlov, B. (2100)**  
**Blohm, D. (2228)**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Bd6 6.Nf3 Nge7 7.0-0 Bg4 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bh4 Qd7 10.Bg3 Bxg3



**David Blohm on the move to a second place finish at the Mechanics Senior! Note the black pawn on the square A8! Photo by Richard Shorman**

11.fxg3 Bf5 12.Bxf5 Nxf5 13.Qe2+ Nce7 14.Nbd2 0-0 15.Rae1 Rae8 16.Qe6+ Qxe6 17.Rxe6 Nd6 18.g4 g5 19.Rfe1 Kf7 20.R6e2 Ng6 21.g3 Rxe2 22.Rxe2 Re8 23.Rxe8 Kxe8 24.Kf2 Kd7 25.Ke3 Ne7 26.b3 b6 27.c4 dxc4 28.bxc4 b5 29.c5 Nd5+ 30.Kd3 Nb7 31.a3 Na5 32.Nb1 Nc4 33.Nfd2 Nxd2 34.Kxd2 Ke6 35.Kd3 a5 36.Ke4 c6 37.Kd3 b4 38.axb4 Nxb4+ 39.Ke4 a4 40.Na3 Nd5 41.Kd3 f5 42.gxf5+ Kxf5 43.Nc2 h5 44.Na3 Kg4 45.Nb1 Kh3 46.Nc3 a3 47.Kc2 Ne7 48.Ne4 Kxh2 49.Nxg5 Kxg3 50.Kb3 h4 51.Kxa3 h3 0-1

The time control 40 in two followed by sudden death in one hour and two rounds a day. By Sunday afternoon the chessroom was heavy with the feel of fatigue. Heavy breathing and an occasional squabble punctured the silence of the room. Paul Vayssie's errant bishop on e2 captured a pawn on h6. Then a heated dispute broke out on board two. Chests heaved, my threats to forfeit and reminders that this was after all "only a game" fell on battle-crazed ears.

A mother wandered in with a baby in her arms and a gruff voice shouted, "GET THAT BRAT OUTTA HERE!"...This was war. Not only were no byes requested during the grueling five rounds but no one dropped out. These were seasoned warriors and not cock-a-mannie kids.

My special thanks to Elizabeth Shaughnessy, the former Irish womans champion for her participation. She faired well against the likes of Ben Gross and Kurt Bendit, the former Mechanics chessroom director, who almost successfully swindled her. In spite of the modest twenty three entries, the first ever Mechanics' Institute Senior Championship was a success.

# THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL OFFERS SUMMER CAMP

by  
*Lanette Chan-Gordon*

The Berkeley Chess School, headed by Elizabeth Shaughnessy, former Irish women's chess champion, is offering its eighth summer program. The camp includes chess instruction at four levels; beginner, lower intermediate, upper intermediate and advanced. The emphasis is on the joy of the game, but with a serious eye to the student's progress.

Mrs. Shaughnessy has been able to pull together a team of instructors led by Senior Master Roger Pohlmann and National Master Mark Brown. Grand Master Alexander Eugenovich Baburin will also be supplementing the classroom instruction with a series of 12 lectures. Guest appearances will be made by a host of other chess "celebrities" including Walter Browne (five time U.S. Champion), Julio Kaplan (former Junior World Champion) and Richard Shorman (creator of masters).

Three young masters will also be

appearing together to play simultaneous exhibitions against the students. They are Vinay Bhat (until recently the youngest master in the history of U.S. chess), Jordy Mont Renaud (a silver medalist in the World Youth Championships) and Jenny Franklah (National Master).

Classes will be held in Berkeley Monday through Friday from June 22 through July 17, 1998 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for students in grades 1 through 9. The fee of \$300.00 includes daily instruction and play and first time membership to the United States Chess Federation. The fee will be prorated at \$18.00 per day for partial attendance (e.g. one week, three days a week or two of the four weeks).

The Berkeley Chess School, a non profit corporation, currently gives chess instruction in 72 schools throughout the Bay Area. Its students placed first at every

level of competition in the 1997 State Championships. For more information on The Berkeley Chess School and its summer camp, contact Elizabeth Shaughnessy at (510) 843-0150



Photo by Lanette Chan-Gordon

Gabe Gordon, 8 and a student at The Berkeley Chess School, ponders his next move.



## CHESS INSTRUCTORS WANTED FOR SEPTEMBER

For elementary school children in the East Bay Area. Must be good with kid, which especially includes being able to keep order in a classroom of up to 20 kids. Should have a USCF rating and be willing to teach from the lesson plans provided by the Berkeley Chess School.

Job is part time, minimum one hour per week, 2:00 pm or later, \$20.00 per hour lesson.

**Own transportation is essential**

**Contact Elizabeth Shaughnessy**

**"The Berkeley Chess School"**

**510-843-0150**



# FRESNO CHESS ACADEMY HAS A BANNER FIRST YEAR!

by  
**Ken Pascal**

The students of the newly established Fresno Chess Academy under the instruction of Senior Master Artak Akopian have had a remarkable showing at major scholastic events.

First, playing in team match format, Keith Yost (age 11), Chris Pascal (12), Hakop Tataryan (13) and David "the Lionhearted" Tataryan (7) journeyed south. They entered the Scholastic Amateur Team Championship against 20 teams in the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Los Angeles Airport. Sponsored by the Southern California Chess Federation this first ever Scholastic event was held in conjunction with the Amateur Team West Championship. Seated side by side, Fresnoans battled players drawn from Newport Beach, Pacific Palisades, Westwood, and the San Fernando Valley. Opponents included high school teams. Encountering 3 high school teams along the way, Fresno finished with a record of 4 team wins, no losses and two draws. Keith Yost was 6 and 0 on board one as the top

rated team member playing against the other teams' top players. The Fresno Chess Academy was awarded sole possession of first place with 5 out of 6 points. They received individual trophies, engraved time clocks and a towering team trophy.

On February 28, 1998 the Carden School of Fresno hosted the first ever USCF rated scholastic chess tournament in Fresno. Allan Fifield's Chess for Kids program sponsored this event. Fresno Chess Academy members participated on an individual basis in this special local event. There were 102 players registered for this five round one day Kindergarten through 12th grade tournament. Students came from Hanford, Corcoran, Visalia, Strathmore, Madera, Porterville and Fresno. For grades 7-12 Keith Yost placed first with 4 ½. Chris Pascal and Hakop Tataryan tied for second with 4 points each. Not to be left behind, David "the Lionheart" Tataryan placed first in the K-3 section with 4 points. All partici-

pants received a ribbon and 19 trophies were awarded.

The Fresno Chess Academy students also placed well in the California State Scholastic Championships held March 28-29. Keith Yost went undefeated to capture first place in the K-6 Open Division. Chris Pascal tied for fifth and Hakop Tataryan tied for fourteenth in the Junior High Open Division. At the Grade Level Championships held in Castaic on April 19th Hakop tied for first in the eighth-grade division, Chris tied for second in the seventh-grade division and Keith placed second in the 6th grade division. And Kerry Yost earned the top third-grader U600 trophy. Four members of the Fresno Chess Academy participated in the California Grade Level Championship and all four returned with trophies! Held on April 19th in Castaic, the statewide championship was sponsored by the California Youth Chess League. Against students in the same grade, they had to play 5 games with a time limit of 60 minutes.

Tieing for FIRST PLACE IN THE EIGHTH GRADE SECTION  
Hakop Tataryan from Ahwahnee Middle School in Fresno.

Tieing for SECOND PLACE IN THE SEVENTH GRADE SECTION  
Chris Pascal from Kastner Intermediate School, Fresno.

Finishing SECOND IN THE SIXTH GRADE SECTION  
Keith Yost from Carden School in Fresno.

BEST 3RD GRADER WITH UNDER 600 RATING  
Kerry Yost from Carden School in Fresno.

All these students competed in the San Joaquin County Championships held in Fresno May 16 and 17. Chris Pascal placed first in the D section and Hakop Tataryan was the Reserve (U1600) Champion. The Fresno Chess Academy hopes to bring high quality scholastic training to all interested students in the Central Valley and to help local schools promote chess clubs. The Fresno Chess Academy can be reached at 243-9221.

# Beginner's

by Steve Cohen

Sometimes, we could all be reminded of the importance of fundamentals, as from a game played by 2 of among the youngest regular UPSCL "members":

**Robert Hsu v. Adam Landers**  
(**"in class" game (G/15), 1998**)

**1. e4 e6** (a.k.a the French Defense), **2.d4 d5**, **3.Nc3! Bd6?!** (more popular here is 3...Bb4 (a.k.a, the Winawer Variation) and 3...Nf6 (leading to Classical lines); the problem with the text move is that it begs White to advance the e-pawn to e5 [to be sure, that would release the "tension" in the center, and the release would favor Black]; and, in so doing, Black would lose a valuable tempo in having to move the Bishop away from d6 (remember, in the opening, every tempo, or move, needs to help with development of pieces)), **4.Bb5+?** (given that the reply 4...Bd7 forces White either to lose a tempo or trade away his "good" bishop for Black's "bad" bishop, and 4... c6 forces White to waste a tempo in moving the Bishop more than once in the opening while Black gets a free tempo to strengthen his center, this move can't be good for White) **4... Bd7!** (the 5 year-old handles the check as masterly as any grandmaster could, by offering to trade away his worst piece for White's best one), **5.Nf3 Nf6?** (this allows White to play

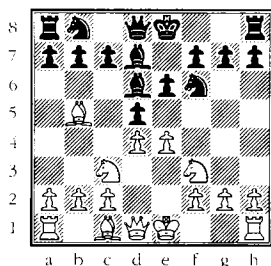


Diagram One

(after 5... Nf6)

**6.e5**, which would "fork" the Bd6 and Nf6 (i.e., White will win a piece for a pawn), thereby gaining a per-

manent advantage in material (you want to watch out for pawn forks!)), **6.O-O?** (since 6.e5 will win the exchange for White [i.e., a piece for a pawn], there was no better move this turn; here, castling could have waited an extra move or two, since it means a permanent advantage for White Ñ this is why it's important to look at all of your choices before making a move) **6... O-O?** (first, Black needs to deal with the threat of Pe4-e5, which would win a piece for a pawn; then, the King's safety can be taken care of; in fact, here, Black could relieve his cramp by with the continuation 6...de, **7.Bd7:+ Nd7:.**, **8.Ng5 O-O**, **9.gNe4: Ne4:.**, **10.Ne4: Nf6** (when Black would be much better off than after 6...O-O)), **7.Bg5?** (a common beginner mistake, I've found, is that when a beginner has the opportunity to win an exchange (or "free" piece), instead of doing so, the "beginner" attacks the piece again (instead of taking or trapping it); of course, 7.e5 is best) **7... Qe7?** (7...Be7 would end the forking threat as well as the pin of the Nf6 by the Bg5 against the Qd8, whereas placing the Queen at e7 seems to makes matters worse for Black, not better [and, still, does nothing to stop the forking threat]), **8. Bd7: Qd7:** (here, this is probably the best way to recapture, owing especially to the threatened advance of White's e-pawn to e5), **9.Re1?** (9.e5, still, leads to the easiest win) **9... Nc6?** (still not helping with the threatened loss of the exchange), **10. Nh4?**

Again, let's remember, both White and Black are not even in kindergarten, yet. So, if their play sometimes goes astray... well, that is just a fact of life for children of that age, for whom constant planning fights against physiological limitations of cognitive development. Still, for children who are playing this well at this age, certainly strong tactical planning skills

will be a part of their abilities after not too many years (and forking opportunities will never again be overlooked). This game continued: **10... aRc8?** (still, not helping with the e5 threat), **11.Nb5??** (now it is White who overlooks, not only the longstanding forking threat, but also that now, the e-pawn is insufficiently protected, and could be lost if Black sees 11.Ne4:), **11... cRd8?** (missing not only the opponent's choice which would leave Black with a permanent disadvantage, but also his own choice that would leave him with a material advantage, 11...Ne4:)), **12.Nd6:?** (allowing Black the choice to reply with ...cd, and White will not be able to do a fork with the Pe4 [which is still threatened with loss]) **12... Qd6:** (Since this allows White, once again, to win an exchange by moving the Pe4-e5, forking Black's Queen and Nf6, it would have been best to recapture with 12...cd, keeping a Black piece off of d6), **13.Nf3 Qe7?** (to be sure, now the fork-threat is no more; however, now the Nf6 is pinned, and can still be won by White's advancing the Pe4-e5 [the way you want, first (if possible) to win a pinned piece is to attack that piece (and then take it) with a pawn]; thus, better, here, would be 13...de, winning a pawn and ending the threat! [see Diag. 2] Ñ note how the

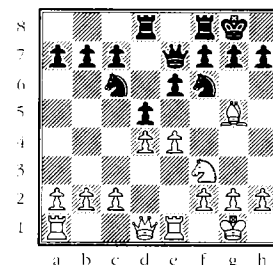


Diagram Two

(after 13. ... Qe7)

exchanges have lessened Blacks earlier, growing temporary disadvantage in space], **14.Re3?** (14.e5, attacking the pinned Nf6 with a

# Corner

pawn would win the piece; not even the "last-ditch counter-attack," ...h6, works here, since after 15.ef, Black can't afford to play 15...hg, on account of 16.fe, losing his Queen! **14... Rd7** (14...de, keeping White's pawn from reaching e5 is better), **15.Rc3? Nb4?, 16.Rb3? Nc6, 17.Qd2 fRe8, 18.Re1 Rd6?** (yes, again, Black sets up so that White may fork at e5), **18.Rb7:** (finally, White seeks material gain as a reward for having a superior position) **18... Rd7!, 19.Re3 Qd6?** (stops the pinning threats, but gets back into allowing Black to be able to do the fork at e5), **20.Rc3** [see Diag. 3]

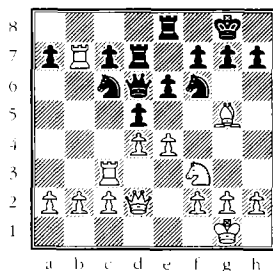


Diagram Three

(after 20. Rc3)

**20... Ng4?!** (of course, best would have been 20... Ne4:, winning a pawn, and doing a Knight fork against White's Qd2 and Rc3 (thus, winning more material for Black Ñ if you don't get something when you could in chess, it may come back to haunt you later (i.e., because White didn't win the Nf6 when he could have, now that Knight could have done serious damage to White); even 20... de would be better, as Black wins 2 pawns (Since the Pd4 will be falling as well) but this line would allow White to get both Rooks on the 7th rank and inflict permanent damage to Black's kingside pawns [by exchanging at f6, and after the exchanges at d4, bringing the Rc3 to c7]), **21.cRb3?** (still, 21.e5 would be best for White, especially as Black threatens to play ... de, and if White then moves the Nf3 away from the attack by Black's

new e-pawn, Black will win another pawn with Qh2:+ (being helped by the Ng4!)) **21...R7d8?** (Black seeks to strengthen his back rank; however, since White's Bg5 controls this square, first Black needs to close the diagonal, say by playing ... f6, then ...R7d8), **22.Bd8:** (this time, White sees the opportunity to win more material) Qd8:, **23.Rb8?** (forgetting that Black's Nc6 controls that square, in effect, White offers to return the material he just won Ñ with interest), **23...Ge7?** (with about 9 minutes left on his clock, spending less than 10 seconds to examine all of Black's possible choices probably won't help him very much to find the best choice (such as playing Nb8:, winning a free rook) Ñ more time should be spent when it is available, so that you have taken the time to look at all of the choices), **24.Re8:+ Ge8:, 25.Rb7 Ne7, 26.Qd3 (an immediate 26.Qb4 would have been stronger) 26... Ng6** (hmm, I wonder what Black is cooking up with his Knight...), **27.Qb3 Nf4.**

Black was threatened with losing the Queen to **28.Rb8** [see Diag. 4],

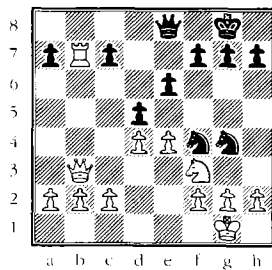


Diagram Four

(after 27. Qb3)

which cannot be stopped because Black is also threatened with a back rank mate, since the Black monarch presently has no way to get off the back rank (and White is threatening to invade and control that rank). Here, given the certain loss for Black if White plays properly, many much stronger players would resign, or make some silly move which has the

same effect (e.g., computer giving away all material to delay your delivering the mate); but, not this five year-old, who seeks every possible chance until the end (perhaps, inspired by his dire conditions). The game concluded: **28.Rb8! Ne2+!, 29.Kh1???**.

If White merely plays Kf1 (see Diag. 5), he will win easily, given the

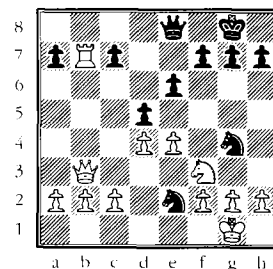


Diagram Five

(after 28... Ne2+)

threat of Rb8 and Re8:(+/#). Instead, perhaps over-confident in knowing he had trapped Black's Queen, here White took only several seconds to examine the position (he still had more than 5 minutes remaining), and he will pay the price of not spending the time to examine all of the choices when he had enough time to do so. Chess justice will reward Black's perseverance and punish White's lack of masterly attention to the changing circumstances in the position, and the choices available to each side. Here, happily, Black played 29... Nf2:#!! (this choice is not overlooked!).

These 5-year-olds have not only taught us about how to exploit pins, and about watching out for pawn-forks and Knight-forks, but also that by continuing to look for every choice/chance, even a side with a losing position can win the game before the opponent can (especially if the opponent isn't looking at all of the choices for each side before moving).

# THE LATVIAN GAMBIT IS PLAYABLE!

By  
Val Zemitis

Many masters nowadays are not willing to play the Latvian Gambit (1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5) because it has been termed "unsound." Attempts to refute it have continued for a long time but not withstanding many claims of refutation, the gambit appears to be quite playable, at least for those with ELO ratings under 2300. In the realm of such players the Latvian Gambit excels. Correspondence enthusiasts have used it successfully for a long time and even such well-known masters, on occasion, have played it; Morphy, Blackburne, Pollock, Tartakover, Mattison, Petrov, Keres, Mikenas, Apsenieks, Spassky, Kindermann, Mestel, Kosten, Hector and Vaiser.


Now Leo C. M. Diepstraten, a Dutch chess celebrity, has produced a three volume authoritative work on the Latvian Gambit that features 4883 games (mostly won by Black!). The books are appropriately called **Lettisch Gambiet-Theorie en**

**Praktijk met Historische Notties.** These books were published by Van Spijk, Venlo, The Netherlands. The first volume appeared in 1993, the second in 1996, and the third in 1997. The text is written in Dutch but the game scores are given and analyzed in algebraic notation. These three volumes are indispensable to any chess enthusiast who wishes to learn more about the intricacies of the Latvian Gambit.

There are several other books on the Latvian Gambit worth mentioning: (1) **The Latvian Gambit - A Grandmaster View** by GM Anatoly Lein and NM Sid Pickard, Hays Publishing, 1995 (155 pages, soft cover), (2) **The Latvian Gambit** by GM Tony Kosten, B.T. Batsford, Ltd, (142 pages, soft cover), (3) **The Latvian Gambit made easy** by GMC Kon Grivainis and IMC John Elburg, Chess Enterprises, 1991 (features 104 instructive games), and (4) **New Developments in the Latvian Gam-**

**bit** by Kon Grivainis and John Elburg, Chess Enterprises, 1998 (features 184 well selected games).

The gambit originally was called the Greco Counter Gambit and has been played successfully since the 15th century. Then at the turn of the century it fell into disrepute only to be revitalized by Karlis Bentins and theoreticians such as Keres, Gunderam, Diepstraten, Zemgalis, Ramon Crusi More, Prof. D.A. Pell and others. In 1937 the Greco Counter-Gambit was renamed to Latvian Gambit in honor of Karlis Betins.

The gambit is predicated on the principle that the best defense is an immediate counter attack. That such active play at the outset of the game cannot always succeed is self-understood but that does not mean playing it at the right time cannot be of advantage. My suggestion is to try this exciting gambit against players who shun complications, who spend lots of time analyzing intricate positions or who do not have time or inclination to study opening theory in general and the Latvian Gambit theory in particular. 

## Visalia Fall Picnic

OCTOBER 4, 1997  
BLAINE PARK, VISALIA



Tournament veteran Arturo Guzman

Class	Place	Name	Score
Quad	1st-2nd	Maric Milenko	2.0
	1st-2nd	Richard Somawang	
Swiss	1st	Bill Casteen	3.0
	1st-2nd	Emilo Lopez	4.0
Beginners	1st-2nd	Mike Marshall	4.0
	1st-2nd	Arturo Guzman	3.0
Best Goshen		Jesus Rodriquez	2.0
Best Fairview			

The new tournament site of Blaine Park continues to draw uniformly favorable reviews from the 34 players. TD's were Allan Fifield and Darren Russell.



Chess in the park with CalChess member Mike Marshall (L) on first board

# Elementary Nationals ♁

by Steve Cohen

Just a "hop, skip, and a jump (and shaky twin-prop plane ride)" from St. Louis, the 1998 USCF K-6 Nationals were held over the weekend of April 24-26, in Peoria, Illinois. More than 2,000 children from around the United States attended this prestigious event, including the first-ever participation by UPSCL "members." There was quite a contingent of teams Ñ from Indiana, Illinois, New York, Washington, Louisiana, Arizona. Many of them had been to this event before. But, none of that seemed to affect our 2 "rookies." Sadly, it did not appear that there were many players from California. Though I did

Photo by Steve Cohen.



**Team UPSCL at the Nationals: L to R are Michael Pearson's Mom, Michael, Alex Wu's Mom, Alex and Alex's Dad.**

not do a copious search on the issue, all I could find was a team from Newport Beach and that Chess For Juniors had 4 children at the event (though, two of them were from Idaho). Certainly, with next year's event taking place much more closer to home (geographically speaking, as it will be held in Arizona), I'm sure this "problem" will be remedied. [In all fairness, considering the realities of these times, it is quite an undertaking to travel to a 4-5-day event.]

In the 408-player(!) K-3 U800 group, the peninsula's top 3rd-grader, Alex Wu, used the well-known bishop sacrifice (at h2, as he was Black) to win his 2nd-round match in 12 moves. After the 2-0 start, Alex went on to win his next three games. However, on the last day, Alex unfortunately played too quickly in both rounds (and, both times, was paired against prize-winners from Dixie Bee Elementary School in Terre Haute, Indiana, the school that won the 2nd-place team prize for the division, behind the well-known chess power-house, Hunter College of New York City,

New York). Still, a 5-2 score at one's first "Nationals" is a result of which Alex can rightly be proud. In fact, 2 of Alex's victories were the only loss suffered by two other boys (who went on to win prizes with 6-1 and 5-1-1). Alex's score put him in the group that was tied for 33rd - 74th (and, on tie-breaks, Alex finished in 46th, which, ironically, was his pairing number for the event).

In the 285-player K-5 Open division, which was won by the nation's highest-rated 10-year-old, Hikaru Nakamura, who last February broke Vinay Bhat's record for reaching the rank of "Master" in the U.S.C.F. at the youngest age (at 10 years, 79 days), Michael Pearson started well the first day, winning both his games. But, he ran into quite an obstacle on Day 2, drawing his first match and then dropping the next two. Perhaps the long flight and time difference finally caught up with him. However, after a good night's rest, Michael was back in form for Day 3, winning both his matches, thereby finishing with a 44 out of 7 Ñ a noble result for

one's first National's Ñ putting Pearson in a tie for 56th-73rd. In that Division, the top team prize was won by Phoenix City Day School, from Arizona, the home of next year's National's.

One point I'd like to note is how proud I was that the UPSCL players, win or lose, came out with a positive attitude about the experience unaffected by the result of the match, whereas the emotions of most of the others coming out of the door was quite evident from their expressions. It's nice to see such good sportsmanship. Both players enjoyed the experience very much (as did I). We are all looking forward to Arizona in '99. Hope to see you there!

The next deadline for  
California Chess Journal  
submission is  
September 15

  
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*Continued from page 21*

Nh7 23.Be2 Ng5 24.h4 Nh7  
25.Kh2 Qe6 26.g4 g6 27.Rh1 Nf6  
28.Nf1 h5 29.Be3 Be3 30.Nfe3 hg  
31.Ng4 Kg7 32.Nf6 Qf6 33.Qc1  
Qe6 34.Qg5 f6 35.Qe3 f5 36.ef Nf5  
37.Qg5 Qf6 38.Qf6 Kf6 39.Rd8  
Rd8 40.Rd1 Rd1 41.Bd1 e4 42.fe  
Be4 43.Ne1 Nh4 44.b3 Nf5 45.bc  
Ne3 46.Be2 bc 47.Kg3 Kf5

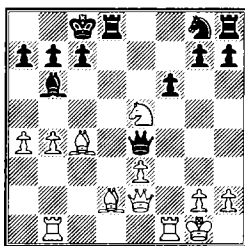
(The rest of the moves were lost to the time scramble) 0-1

**Garamendi (2035)**

**Cripe (2211)**

**Round.3**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5 3.dc Bb1 4.Rb1  
Qd5 5.b3 Nc6 6.Nf3 0-0-0 7.e3 e5  
8.Bc4 Qe4 9.Bd2 ed 10.0-0 de  
11.fe Bc5 12.Qe2 f6 13.b4 Bb6  
14.a4 Ne5 15.Ne5



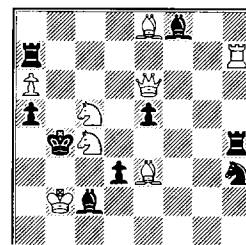
15... Rd2 16.Be6+ Kb8 17.Nd7+  
Rd7 18.Bd7 Ne7 19.Kh1 Nd5

20.Qf3 Qf3 21.Rf3 Ne3 22.a5  
Bd4 23.Re1 Nc4 24.Re4 Ne5  
25.Rd4 Nf3 26.gf Rd8 27.Rd3 b6  
28.ab ab 29.Bf5 Rd3 30.Bd3 g6  
(and white won in 15 more moves).  
1-0

Alejandro is a well mannered, polite young man. He is 18 years old and a high school senior. A native of Boliva he has been in the U.S.A. 2 1/2 years. Remember his name. I think we will be hearing more about him soon!

The Monterey tradition of the 2000+ players getting nicked by our low rated players continues! This time it was Daniel Burkhard who was held to a draw by David Maradei (1723) of Carmel.

**PROBLEM CORNER**



White mates in two (David Lynn)  
Solution below

Key: 1.Nb7! (threat 2.Bd2 mate)

**Read All About It**

Visit our site on the World Wide Web  
at its new address:

<http://www.hooked.net/~hegemon/norcal.html>

# The CalChess Calendar of Events

(\* = CalChess discount) last update 9-25-98

## 1998

Nov. 6-8	(Fri-Sun)	Capps (San Fran.)	(JA2)*
Nov. 14	(Sat)	Chess for Kids (Fresno)	(AF)
Nov. 14-15	(Sat-Sun)	LERA (Sunnyvale)	(JH)
Nov. 21	(Sat)	Stanford Sect.	(AK2)
Nov. 21-22	(Sat-Sun)	Fresno Championship (Fresno)	(DW)*
Dec. 5	(Sat)	Chess for Kids (Exeter)	(AF)
Dec. 11-13	(Fri-Sat)	Mechanics Masters	(JA2)
Dec. 19-20	(Sat-Sun)	Sac. CC Weekend	(JM)*

## 1999

Jan. 9-10	(Sat-Sun)	Sojourner Truth for Girls	(DS)
Jan. 9-10	(Sat-Sun)	Region XI Womens Open	(DS)
Jan. 16-18	(Sat-Mon)	MLK (Sacramento)	(JM)*
Jan. 30	(Sat)	Chess for Kids (Hanford)	(AF)
Jan. 30-31	(Sat-Sun)	Bay Area Ohlone	(HP)*
Mar. 5-7	(Fri-Sun)	Mechanics Amateur (San Francisco)	(JA2)
Mar. 20-21	(Sat-Sun)	Brainstorm	(BW)
Apr. 16-18	(Fri-Sun)	Mechanics Senior (San Fran.)	(JA2)
Aug. 10-19	(?)	U.S. Open, 9 rounds, Sands Hotel (Reno)	(JW)

## Annual Events

MLK weekend (mid Jan.) (RK)	2nd weekend June (Fri-Sun): Stamer (JA2)
Presidents' Day Weekend: People's (Berkeley) (DS)	Labor Day weekend (1st weekend Sept.) (TD)
1st weekend March (Fri-Sun): SF Amateur (JA2)	Last weekend Oct. (Fri-Sun): Western Open (Reno) (JW)
State Schol. Champ. (last weekend March)	2nd weekend Nov. (Fri-Sun): Capps (JA2)
LERA Memorial Day (JH)	LERA Thanksgiving (JH)

## Tournament Organizers

JA = Jeff Andersen,  
P.O. Box 10845,  
Napa 94581  
(707) 251-8175

JA2= Joan Arbil,  
57 Post St.,  
Mechanics Rm408  
94101  
(415) 421-2258  
Chessroom@aol.com

TD = Tom Dorsch,  
P.O. Box 7453,  
Menlo Park 94026  
(415)322-0955.

JE = James Eade,  
521 Fanita Way,  
Menlo Park 94025  
(415)328-9785

AF = Allan Fifield,  
PO Box 27,  
Visalia 93279  
(209) 734-2784

MG = Mike Goodall,  
461 Peachstone Terr.,  
San Rafael 94903  
(415) 491-1269

MG2 = Michael Ghormley,  
5120 Alcott Dr.,  
Sacramento 95820  
(916) 388-1601  
mjpg99@yahoo.com

DH = Dan Holbrook,  
1220 Elliott #42,  
Paradise 95969  
(916) 877-3911

JH = Jim Hurt,  
P.O. Box 461,  
Tahoma 96142  
(916) 525-7912  
(970) 285-7041(CO)

AK = Alan Kirshner,  
66 Indian Hill Plaza,  
Fremont 94539  
(510) 657-1586  
hegemon@hooked.net

AK2= Adrian Keatinge-Clay,  
P.O. Box 10649  
Stanford University  
94309  
(415)497-0589  
adriankc@leland.  
stanford.edu

RK = Richard Koepcke,  
2047 Montecito Ave.#30,  
Mountain View 94043  
(650)964-2640  
richardkoepcke@daySun.COM

JM = John McCumiskey,  
6700 50th St.,  
Sacramento 95823-1306  
(916)428-5532  
jmc-lmc@pacbell.net

CP = Charles Pigg,  
429 Vista Ct., Livermore  
94550  
(510) 447-5067

HP = Hans Poschmann,  
4621 Sneeca Park Ave.,  
Fremont 94538  
(510) 656-8505  
hspwood2@home.net

JP = Jimmy Plumb,  
1878 W. 11 St. #144,  
Tracy 95376  
(209)823-0511,  
hereshope9@nreach.com

DS = Doug Shaker,  
2030 Mills Ave.,  
Menlo Park 94025  
(415)854-2545  
doug@theshakers.org

SS = Steve Smallwood,  
1028 Cassia Way,

Sunnyvale 94086  
(408) 247-8510  
stephen677@aol.com

BW = Brad West,  
204 Four Lakes Dr.,  
Blanchard, OK 73010  
(405) 485-3477

DW = Dennis Wajckus,  
5924 E. Illinois Ave.,  
Fresno 93727-3566  
(209) 252-4484

JW = Jerome Weikel,  
6578 Valley Wood Dr.,  
Reno NV 89523  
(702) 747-1405

*Tournament Clearinghouse*  
Don Wolitzer  
2130 Mercury Rd.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
(510) 455-4119  
dwolitzer@aol.com

*Send tournament reports  
and annotated games to CCJ:*  
Allan Fifield  
PO Box 27  
Visalia 93279-0027  
(209) 734-2784  
102033,3421@compuserve.com  
jostensvis@aol.com

# Club Directory

Places to play chess in Northern California and Northern Nevada

## **Arcata**

Monday, 6-10 pm  
Arcata Chess Club  
Conference Room, Arcata Library  
James Bauman 707-822-7619

## **Berkeley**

Friday, 7:15 p.m.  
Berkeley City Club  
2315 Durant  
A. Glasscoe 510-652-5324

## **Burlingame**

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Burlingame Lions Hall  
990 Burlingame Ave  
Scott Wilson 650-355-9402

## **Campbell**

Kolty Chess Club  
Thursdays 7-11:30 p.m.  
Campbell Comm Ctr  
Winchester/W.Campbell  
F. Leffingwell 408-224-0743

## **Carmel**

Call for current information  
Randall Swanson 408-626-6113

## **Carmichael**

Monday 6-10 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Ctr.  
4701 Gibbons  
C. Coleman 707-678-9792

## **Chico**

Thursday 7-11 p.m.  
Mtn Mike's Pizza  
1722 Mangrove Ave  
Barry Nelson 916-873-3107

## **Davis**

Thursday 7 p.m.  
Hunt Hall UCD, Room 241  
Dave Johnson 916-756-2752

## **Fremont**

Fridays 7:00-on  
Sugu's Coffee  
3602 Thornton Ave, Fremont  
Hans Poschmann 510-656-8505

## **Fresno**

Mondays 6-11 p.m.  
Carls Jr.  
3820 N. Cedar Ave.  
D. Wajckus 209-252-4484

## **Hayward**

Monday 7-9 p.m.  
Hayward Library  
Mission at C St  
Kerry Lawless 510-785-9352

## **Humboldt County**

Call for current information  
Bob Phillips 707-839-4674

## **Livermore**

Fridays 7-12 p.m.  
South Cafeteria  
Lawrence Livermore Lab  
Charles Pigg 510-447-5067

## **Merced**

Merced Chess Club  
Friday 6:30 p.m.  
Merced Mall Food Court  
Dave Humpal 209-722-0764

## **Madera**

Thursdays 7:00 p.m.  
Carls Jr.  
Madera Ave. & Hwy 99  
Bill Hicks 209-675-3094

## **Modesto Chess Club**

Tuesday 6-10:30 p.m.  
Shakeys Pizza  
McHenry Avenue  
John Barnard 209-785-7895

## **Monterey**

Open daily except Mon.  
430 Alvarado St.  
Yudacufski 408-646-8730

## **Palo Alto**

Terman Community Center  
660 Arastradero #33  
Tom Dorsch 650-322-0955

## **Paradise**

Tuesday 7-10 p.m.  
Paradise Senior Center  
Barry Nelson 916-873-3107

## **Porterville**

Wednesday 7 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Corner of Henderson & Indiana  
Hans Borm 209-784-3820

## **Reno, NV**

Sun-Thurs 6:30 p.m.  
2850 Wrondel Way, Suite D  
Club: 702-827-3867  
Jerry Weikel 702-747-1405

## **Richmond**

Fridays 6 p.m.  
Richmond Library  
26th & MacDonald  
John Easterling 510-529-0910

## **Ross Valley (Marin County)**

For current info, write:  
P.O. Box 69  
Ross CA 94957

## **Sacramento**

Wednesday 6-10 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Ctr  
915-27th St.  
Stewart Katz 916-444-3133  
CSU Sacramento  
Student Union Bldg.

## **San Anselmo**

Tuesday 7 p.m.  
Round Table Pizza,  
Red Hill Shpping Ctr  
Sir Francis Drake Blvd  
Jim Mickle 415-457-2719

## **San Francisco**

Mechancis' Institute  
Open daily  
57 Post St, 4th Floor  
Jim Eade 650-328-9785

## **San Jose**

Tue & Fri, Noon-4 p.m.  
Willows Senior Center  
2175 Lincoln Avenue  
Jerry Marshall 408-267-1574

## **Santa Clara**

2d Sat. Each month  
2:15-6:15 p.m.  
Mary Gomez Park  
F. Sierra 408-241-1447

## **Santa Rosa**

Tuesdays 6-10:45 p.m.  
Sonoma Coffe Company  
521 4th Street  
Keith Halonen 707-578-6125

## **Santa Rosa**

1st & Last Saturdays of month  
Adult & Youth Chess Club of  
Sonoma County  
Rincon Valley Library Conference  
Room  
6959 Montecito Blvd, Santa Rosa  
Mike Haun 707-537-0162

## **Stanford**

Monday 7:30-10:30  
p.m.  
Student Union, Rm  
550-550d  
Andrian Keatinge-Clay  
415-497-0598

## **Sunnyvale**

LERA  
Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
Lockheed Rec Ctr, Bldg  
#160  
Ken Stone 408-629-  
5530

## **Tulare**

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.  
A&W Root Beer  
133 North 'J' Street  
Ward Forman 209-688-  
6386

## **Vallejo**

Fridays 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Ctr  
333 Amador St  
Frank Harris 707-644-  
3004

## **Visalia**

Wednesday 7 p.m.  
Carl's Jr-Von's Ctr  
Hwy 198 & Chinowth  
Allan Fifield 209-734-  
2784

## **Yuba-Sutter**

Mon & Wed 7-11 p.m.  
Carls Jr  
Bridge St & Hwy 99,  
Yuba City  
Tom Giertych 916-671-  
1715