

# California Chess Journal

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## Special Interview Issue!



Photo by Lanette C Chan-Gordon

**Jordy Mont-Reynaud, Elizabeth Shaughnessy  
and Vinay Bhat**

**In Depth Features**

**on**

**San Joaquin Championship**

**Elizabeth Shaughnessy**

**Schiller on Endgames**

**Phil Smith**

**USCF Open**

# California Chess Journal



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## THE EDITOR'S REPORT

Welcome to our special 'Interview Issue'. Elizabeth Shaughnessy is well-known all across the Bay area for her work at the Berkeley Chess School and Lanette Chan-Gordon has contributed a delightful interview that includes Elizabeth's adventures in Elista. Less well-known to the current generation of chess players is Phil Smith who was the dominate player in the San Joaquin Valley for several decades. Phil was a walking history book who seemed to have known and played everyone. Phil was interviewed by Fresno Chess Club president Dennis Wajckus in 1983 and this interview is presented as a memorial tribute to a tough competitor and a good friend.

Northern Californian chess kids continue to pile up honors faster than we can print the magazine. Since our last issue Vinay Bhat has earned an IM norm at the Dake International, Jordy Mont-Reynaud has become the US Cadet Champion, and Uri Andrews has won the Gold Medal for chess at the national Maccabi games for Jewish youth. Winners of 1999 Scholar Chessplayers Award include Phillip Wang (Reno NV), Jordy Mont-Reynaud (Palo Alto CA), David Pruess (Berkeley CA) and Anthony Rozenvasser (Cupertino CA). We are blessed with a truly amazing crop of talented juniors.

"To error is human" and your editor continues to make his fair share. The picture of Garry Kasparov in the last issue was taken by Gabe Sanchez. Most perplexing was the spelling of Vladimir Pafnutieff's name in the last issue. I consulted Vladimirs's book "How to Create Combinations" to confirm the spelling and I found it spelled Pafneutief on the cover of the Hypermodern Press edition. That is the spelling I used in the last issue even to the point of changing the correct spelling in the book review by Val Zemitis. I did not realize that the preferred spelling of 'Pafnutieff' was used consistently in the text of his book. Please accept my sincere apologies to his friends and family.

Please continue to send your submissions for the CCJ to: California Chess Journal, PO Box 27, Visalia CA 93279-0027. Northern California is a big state and the only way I can report on chess in your area is with your help. The deadline for submissions for the next issue of CCJ is November 20th.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of USCF delegate Ken Horne of Las Vegas who was killed in a tragic plane crash in Las Vegas while returning from the US Open in Reno. Ken was a true gentleman and best known outside of Nevada as a firm supporter of One Man One Vote. Please see Duncan Oxley's article on page 20 for additional details of this tragic accident.

# Olympian Discusses Elista Chess Olympics & Kids Chess



*Interview and photos by Lanette C. Chan-Gordon*

## **Elizabeth studies with her friend and mentor Richard Shorman.**

Elizabeth Shaughnessy, founder and president of The Berkeley Chess School, participated in the 1998 Chess Olympics in Elista, Russia, playing on Board 2 of the Irish Women's Chess Team. She now shares her experiences at the Olympics as well as her insights into scholastic chess.

**Int:** It's so nice that we could get together today. You participated in the Chess Olympics in Elista, Russia and I understand that you were the only person in the entire state of California and one of the very few people in the country to go. You represented the Irish Women's team. Please tell us about your experiences there.

**Elizabeth:** Well, it is interesting that before we went many chess journalists were calling upon the chess players of the world to boycott the Olympiad because of the perceived politics of the president of the country, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov (also president of FIDE) and the rumor that he was responsible for the murder of a journalist in Kalmykia. However, only a handful of players, mostly from Holland, boycotted the Olympiad. Most of us felt that if we were to boycott every Olympiad held in a country which did not share our democratic values, there would be very few Olympiads. On the question of the murder, we held the view that he is innocent until proven guilty and there seemed little more than the accusation connecting him to the crime.

On a more realistic level there were fears that the country was not safe; that there would not be

enough food – there were riots and long lines for food in Russia at the time which aired nightly on the news channels here – that the promised accommodations would not materialize and that we would be housed in tents, that the newly built airport was not safe and of course that medical supplies and services were nonexistent! My husband urged me not to go because he feared for my safety. The Irish Chess Union however, after much investigation decided that we would be safe if we did not travel through Moscow.

We flew to Paris and from there to Stavropol where we were joined by other European Teams. The terminal was cold and damp and staffed with unfriendly soldiers. Here nothing had changed since the days of the Soviet Union. The atmosphere was one of fear, deprivation and neglect. We were glad when we had all passed uneventfully through the many bureaucratic hurdles and were on the busses to Elista. We were too tired and cold to speak much, but safety was on everyone's mind as we traveled the six hours to Elista. We felt reassured at the sight of the police escort at the front, middle and end of our convoy of busses. The busses themselves were a horror. The fumes of diesel fuel were asphyxiating but opening the windows was out of the question because it was so cold. We tried to sleep, huddled together for warmth and sharing with strangers whatever coats or warm covering we had.

We arrived in Elista and things began to look up. We were greeted

warmly and taken to the Irish men's quarters in Chess City where construction workers were still building the tournament hall! However, the bungalow type living accommodations were lovely, spacious and comfortable with clean showers and comfortable beds. Warm coffee, the inevitable vodka and friendly smiles dispelled any fears we still held. We were disappointed to learn that the Irish Women's team would be housed outside Chess City in older apartments since all the bungalows were not yet built. We wanted to be close to our male counterparts, but soon got over our disappointment when we were shown our own accommodations. They were spacious and comfortable and included a well stocked kitchen, a bathroom with shower, a living room and a bedroom for each of us. We were introduced to our sponsors, who provided us with everything we wanted including room service and a car and driver at our disposal at all times. The multistory apartment building housed teams from India, Africa and Asia. We were told that since the tournament hall was not yet complete the games would start a day late and there would be 13 instead of 14 rounds. The weather was glorious and generally players were glad for the extra day to recover from the journey and the Kalmykians were most gracious in entertaining us, showing us their city, countryside and culture. The countryside was amazingly beautiful, a bit like the desert, you either love it or hate it. It was vast, it was flat and the skies were constantly changing with the winds and the clouds changing and changing. Spectacular. The opening ceremony was held in the city's football stadium. It opened with a blessing chanted by Buddhist monks, followed by a parade of the flags of the 110 countries represented. There



### **Elizabeth answers a question for one of her students**

were speeches followed by "Tulpan" the state song and dance ensemble, the folk dance theater "Oyraty" and by children's dance ensembles. It ended with a spectacular fireworks display.

To everyone's amazement the tournament hall in Chess City was completed in time for the start of the games with only one day delay. We were all eager to get started. This is why we came! We played India in the first round and lost on all three boards. This continued for awhile until we were paired against the Virgin Islands. Well. Everybody beats the Virgin Islands and so did we. However, that win seemed to turn us around and we continued to win again and again. I won 6 out of my 13 games on Board 2. Board 1 also won 6 and Board 3 won 6.5. We were very happy with the result. We did as well as any Irish Women's team had ever done.

It is hard to describe the atmosphere at a chess Olympiad. Time seems to stop and everyone goes all out and competes in a world outside the real world, a world that revolves around the many details of chess. Of course it is international, but somehow when you are there with all these people of different ethnicities, languages and cultures all sharing one common interest - your interest - it is awesome. In the basement of the tournament hall in Chess City there was a coffee bar where you could go and meet players from other countries. They held a disco there every evening and even the top countries, Russia, the U.S., China, Georgia, etc. would all show up for awhile. Security was very tight and everywhere visible, so everyone felt relaxed and safe.

I've traveled quite a lot in my life and Kalmykia is the most exotic place I have ever visited. Lo-

cated west of the Urals on the Caspian Sea the population is entirely of Asian descent. They are Buddhist and have their own language and culture of which they are rightfully proud. They are a unique, friendly and handsome people. The children are especially beautiful and well cared for. It was a very special time for me.

**Int:** That's wonderful. How did it feel to do nothing but play chess all day?

**Elizabeth:** Amazing! I took my laptop with me from Berkeley with my own program, things I wanted to study, Fritz, etc. I would get up in the morning, be transported to breakfast at a restaurant, return to find my room cleaned, bed made, clean towels and sheets, refrigerator restocked, etc. Then I would sit in my room and study in preparation for my game in the afternoon. Every morning a bulletin was distributed to all the players of the games played the previous day, so you could look up what your opponent had played. After several hours of study we would go to lunch, then back to the apartment for a short nap and then take a brisk walk to the tournament hall to play at 3:00pm. After the game it was usually dinnertime, then some quick analysis, some more study, some relaxation and back to the apartment. A quick look at some more chess and off to sleep. What a life! I was there for three weeks with nothing to do but play and study chess. It was wonderful. I suppose most men are used to having their basic needs like food, laundry and housecleaning done for them but I am not. To have to do nothing else but play chess was quite a vacation.

**Int:** I understand that this was not your first Chess Olympiad.

**Elizabeth:** In 1969 I played in

my first Olympiad in Lublin, Poland, also on the Irish Women's Team. In 1970 I became Irish Women's Champion. That was 30 years ago! Since then I have done other things like have a family, a career, and serve in elected public office. It was a great personal accomplishment for me to have qualified in 1998 to play again for the Irish team. However, I do not plan to retire from playing chess anytime in the near future. I enjoy it too much!

**Int:** Great! It must have been a bit of a culture shock for when you returned. Now you are running the Berkeley Chess School. Tell us about the school and it's history.

**Elizabeth:** I started the Berkeley Chess School, then known as Chess in the Schools, in 1981, volunteering in my own children's elementary school. There was a great interest in it as you can imagine in a university town such as Berkeley. 72 children showed up at the first class. From that beginning it spread by popular demand, first to all the schools in Berkeley and then throughout the Bay Area. It became a nonprofit corporation in 1994. George Koltanowski, who has been my guide and mentor since the beginning, is on the Board of Directors. Currently we teach 3,000 students from kindergarten through high school in 80 schools in the Bay Area and beyond. We teach in public, private and parochial schools. We have constant calls from schools wanting our chess program and to the extent we have good qualified instructors we go into those schools. We have been in existence long enough now to have followed students from kindergarten through high school. Berkeley High has won the State Championship three out of the last four years, and all those students started with The Berkeley Chess School in elementary school. We have produced masters, and some of our instructors were once our students. Most important, we have brought the love and pleasure of chess to thousands of children. There seems to be no limit to the interest out there. There is, however, a limit to the number of good instructors.

**Int:** You have a lot of experi-

**Students at The Berkeley Chess School Summer Camp gather to listen to Elizabeth**



mands imagination and creativity, yet depends upon established patterns. Players must operate in the immediate, while imagining the future. It's as challenging as the most rigorous of mathematic or scientific problems, yet it's fun. It appears to proceed at a meditative pace, but the excitement is electric. And perhaps because of its unique counterposing of these and many more such opposites, chess is perfect for kids.

Though chess has been around for more than a thousand years, new evidence suggests it is one of history's most valuable educational tools. In 1997 studies found that the hidden rewards for students of chess are surfacing on test results in reading, science and math, along with findings that indicate growth in critical cognitive abilities such as deducing, hypothesizing, strategic thinking, logic, future thinking and judgment. Beyond academia, chess also appears to influence social behavior, including self-esteem, respect for others, patience and old-fashioned notions of good manners.

Other research indicated the skills involved in playing chess are similar to those used in acquiring language. In short, a database of information is acquired (learning the pieces, their moves, and the openings, in addition to classifying them), which is then activated.

Through use, shaped by training and experiential feedback, the student automatically engages deeper, more complex thinking skills. Comparisons have also been made between the type of thinking required by mathematicians and scientists to those of the chess player, not the least among them originality, that quality of on-demand inventiveness.

Chess is one of ancient culture's most valuable gifts to contemporary learners. It is rare we encounter a phenomenon that comes to us already well tested by time, by generations of people from all classes, of all languages, nationalities, both male and female. It is rare that we find within a single activity an opportunity to learn, to teach, to

ence teaching chess and working with chess teachers and children. What does it take to be a good chess teacher for children?

**Elizabeth:** I am always looking for people who are good with children, have good classroom control and of course who know enough about chess and are enthusiastic enough about chess to teach children. Not your everyday combination. Chess masters are not always good teachers and master teachers are not always good chess players! I currently have a group of 28 wonderful people who work for us and enjoy doing it. I am always looking to increase that number.

**Int:** What other chess related activities do you offer to your kids?

**Elizabeth:** In addition to instruction in schools, we provide students the opportunity to play in UCSF rated chess tournaments which we run. During the school year, we have a Friday night tournament from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Berkeley City Club. It is a low key introduction to tournament play. We also offer extra mid-level and advanced classes to students who show a special interest in the game and are willing to do the work necessary to become better. Among the special classes we provide is a 10-week seminar on basic endgame play.

During the first quarter of the school year, we hold a tournament to establish the ladder for our prestigious Berkeley Bishops team, comprised of the best students in our program. The team competes with other chess teams from throughout the area. At the end of the school year, there is an inter-scholastic team competition among

all the schools in our program to encourage team play and school pride. We award trophies to every participant!

We offer a 4 week day camp in the summer which is our most popular activity for students beginner through advanced. Classes are broken down into different levels and the children are placed according to their skill. Some parents are reluctant because they think 4 hours a day of chess is too much but you would be amazed. We always require the children to go outside during their break and what you see is most of them taking the sets and boards out to play more chess! It's wonderful to see so much enthusiasm over the game! In addition to our permanent camp instructors, GM Danny King (Moderator for Kasparov vs. The World), GM Alexander Baburin, GM Walter Browne, former Junior World Champion GM Julio Kaplan and GM Roman Dzindzichashvili have instructed students at the camp.

Our primary goal is to enrich the lives of young people and give them the tools developed through the study of chess to do better in school and better in life. However, if a student and his/her family wish to go further and become a master, we provide the necessary instruction to do that. Students from The Berkeley Chess School win at the State Championships every year.

**Int:** How do you think children benefit from playing chess?

**Elizabeth:** The answer to that question is well stated by The Berkeley Chess School: "Chess is a mix of complexity and contradiction. It's entertainment, yet serious. It de-

*Continued on page 28*

# Yermolinsky Wins 1999 US Open Chess Championship

by Sam Sloan

After a blitz playoff, Alex Yermolinsky has won the 1999 US Open Chess Championship, which was held in Reno, Nevada from August 10-20, 1999. The tournament was organized and directed by Jerome V. Weikel and his family and was organized by Barbara Woodward and the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno. A total of \$63,300 in prizes were paid.

This was the strongest US Open ever, with 26 grandmasters playing, many of whom had been eliminated in the early rounds of the World Chess Championship being held concurrently in Las Vegas. The grandmasters in the tournament were Yermolinsky, Golden, Rozenthalis, Shabalov, Schwartzman, Ehlvest, Wojtkiewicz, Miles, Benjamin, Serper, Barua, Blatny, Macieja, Shulman, Arencibia, Gufeld, Lein, Aleksandrov, Adianto, Kudrin, Browne, Andres Rodriguez, Bisguier, Fedorowicz, Hoffman and Denker.

At the end of the 9 regular rounds of play, Grandmasters Yermolinsky, Golden, Rozenthalis, Shabalov, Schwartzman and Michael Mulyar were tied for first with 7.5 - 1.5. The playoff was held the next day but Schwartzman and Rozenthalis left before the playoff could be held. In the playoff, Yermolinsky defeated Mulyar by 1.5 - 0.5 and Golden tied with Shabalov with 1-1. Two more games were played between Golden and Shabalov, with Golden winning by 2-0. Yermolinsky then defeated Golden in the final playoff. All six winners split the top prize money, with each receiving \$3,733.33.

The sensation of the tournament was Hikaru Nakamura, who won the \$2000 prize for best player rated 2200-2299. Nakamura won with a brilliant sacrificial attack against Grandmaster Alejandro Hoffman in the last round. Nakamura drew grandmaster Aleksandrov in an earlier round. Nakamura's only losses were to

grandmasters Wojtkiewicz and Rodriguez.

As a final touch, all \$63,300 of the prize fund was paid in cash green dollars by the casino sponsor at the cashier's window. No checks here! Has this ever happened at a chess tournament before?

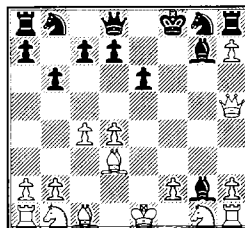
The games were of exceptionally high quality and many will no doubt wind up in Chess Informant and other leading chess publications. Here are a few of the many outstanding games from this event:

## Macieja, Bartlomiej Rozenalis, Eduard Round 8 [ECO C43]

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. d4 Nxe4 4. Bd3 d5 5. Nxe5 Nd7 6. Nxd7 Bxd7 7. O-O Bd6 8. c4 c6 9. cxd5 cxd5 10. Qh5 O-O 11. Qxd5 Bc6 12. Qh5 g6 13. Qh3 Ng5 14. Bxg5 Qxg5 15. Nc3 Rae8 16. Rad1 Re7 17. d5 Bd7 18. Ne4 Rxe4 19. Qxd7 Rd8 20. Qxb7 Bxh2+ 21. Kxh2 Rh4+ 22. Kg1 Qh6 23. g3 Rh1+ 24. Kg2 Rh2+ 25. Kf3 Re8 26. Qd7 Qh5+ 27. Qg4 Rxf2+ 28. Rxf2 Qxd5+ 29. Kf4 Qd4+ 30. Kg5 Qxf2 31. Qf4 Qc5+ 32. Bf5 Qe7+ 33. Kh6 f6 34. Bxg6 Qg7+ {White resigns} 0-1

## GM Walter Browne 2567 GM Anthony Miles 2669 Round 7 [ECO A40]

1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6 3. e4 Bb7 4. Bd3 f5 5. exf5 Bxg2 6. Qh5+ g6 7. fxe6 Bg7 8. gxh7+ Kf8



9. Bg5 Nf6 10. Qh4 Bxh1 11. Ne2 Qe7 12. Nf4 Qf7 13. Ng6+ Ke8 14. Ne5 Qf8 15. Nc3 d6 16. O-O-O dxe5

17. dxe5 Ke7 18. Rxh1 Nbd7 19. Re1 Nxe5 20. Rxe5 Kd7 21. Qh3 Re8 22. Bg6 Re7 23. Kb1 Kc8 24. Rxe6 Kb8 25. Bxf6 Bxf6 26. Nd5 Rxe6 27. Qxe6 Bg7 28. f4 Qc5 29. Qg8+ Qf8 30. Ne7 c6 31. Qe6 Qxf4 32. Nxc6+ Kb7 33. Qe7+ Qc7 34. Be4 Qxe7 35. Nxe7+ Kc7 36. Ng8 Kd7 37. Kc2 a5 38. a3 Ke8 39. Bg6+ Kf8 40. b4 axb4 41. axb4 Rxg8 42. hxg8=Q+ Kxg8 1/2-1/2

## Hoffman, Alejandro Nakamura, Hikaru Round 9 [ECO E61]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. Nf3 O-O 5. Bf4 d6 6. h3 c5 7. d5 a6 8. a4 Nh5 9. Bd2 f5 10. e3 e5 11. dxe6 Bxe6 12. Be2 Nc6 13. O-O f4 14. Nd5 Bh6 15. Ra3 Bxd5 16. cxd5 Ne7 17. e4 Nf6 18. Qb1 g5 19. a5 Ng6 20. b4 cxb4 21. Bxb4 Qe7 22. Bd3 g4 23. Nd4 Nh4 24. hxg4 Nxc4 25. Ne6 Nf3+ 26. gxf3 Qh4 27. fxe4 Qxe4+ 28. Kh2 Qh4+ 29. Kg1 Qg4+ 30. Kh2 Qh4+ 31. Kg1 Kf7 32. Bc3 b5 33. Bg7 Qg4+ 34. Kh2 f3 35. Rg1 Qh4# 0-1

## GM Eduard Gufeld 2530 GM John Fedorowicz 2634 Round 7 [ECO B06]

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nf3 d6 4. Bc4 c6 5. Bb3 Nf6 6. Qe2 e5 7. dxe5 dxe5 8. Nbd2 Qe7 9. Nc4 Nbd7 10. O-O O-O 11. Bg5 h6 12. Bh4 b5 13. Na5 Qc5 14. Qe3 Qxe3 15. fxe3 g5 16. Be1 c5 17. a4 c4 18. Ba2 a6 19. b3 cxb3 20. cxb3 Nxe4 21. Rc1 Ndf6 22. b4 Be6 23. Bxe6 fxe6 24. axb5 axb5 25. Nd2 Nxd2 26. Bxd2 Ne4 27. Rxf8+ Rxf8 28. Be1 Nd6 29. Rc6 Nf5 30. Bf2 Rd8 31. g4 Rd1+ 32. Kg2 Nd6 33. Bg3 Rd2+ 34. Kf1 Rd5 35. Ke2 Bf8 36. Nb3 Kf7 37. Nc5 Nc4 38. Be1 Be7 39. Rc7 Rd8 40. Rb7 Ra8 41. Rxb5 Ra3 42. e4 Re3+ 43. Kf2 Rh3 44. Kg2 Ra3 45. Bf2 Ra2 46. h3 Rb2 47. Rb7 Kf6 48. Nd7+ Kg6 49. Rc7 Nd6 50. Nxe5+ Kg7 51. Nd3 Rd2 52. Rxe7+ Kf6 53. Rd7 Nxe4 54. Kf3 Nxf2 55. Ke3 1-0

## ELEVENTH ANNUAL-1999

# WILFRED GOODWIN MEMORIAL

San Mateo-Burlingame Chess Club Championship

**Dates: Consecutive THURSDAYS--- starting----- OCTOBER 7, 1999 at 7:30p Schedule:  
Rds-10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18. Tiebreaking playoff games  
(Game/20) determine winners, if needed, on Dec 2.**

**Place: Burlingame Chess Club (Lions Hall), 990 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame.**

**Web: www.BurlingameChessClub.com**

**Time: Register 6:30- 7:30p at site...Pre-registration highly recommended**

**Format: USCF Rated, 7 Round OPEN Swiss & Reserve Section U1200, Game/2hrs, S.D.**

**Oct 98 Supplement Ratings or Latest BCC Crosstable will be used. Any player may compete in Open Division.**

**Prizes: First Place: Club Champion Trophy & \$200**

DIVISIONAL WINNERS, Expert,A,B,C,D,E,Unr.---Divisional Placers receive trophy or gift.

**Directions:From S.F.>** take 101-South to Broadway Exit (Burlingame), past one stoplight, left on Carolan, one mile, see tennis courts on left, take left on Burlingame Ave, go ½ block to parking lot and Lions Hall Bldg on left.  
**From San Jose>** take 101-North to Peninsula Ave Exit (Burlingame), go ~ ½ mile West, passing 2 stoplights, see Putnam Buick on right, take right on Anita Rd, go 3 blocks to Burlingame Ave, turn left, ½ block to Lions parking lot on right.

**Tournament Director & Information: Scott Wilson 650-355-9402 Asst TD: Gerry Manis**

**Entry Fees : Adult BCC members - \$20 ... Non-members - \$65 ... (adult USCF \$40/yr) Required  
Junior BCC members - \$ 15 ... Non-member Jrs - \$40 ... (Jr USCF-\$12or17/yr)**

**\*\*USCF & CLUB MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED.** Non-member Fee includes 1 yr BCC Membership. USCF Membership costs shown are for 1 yr.

### Wilfred Goodwin Memorial Club Championship OPEN-Entry Form

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rating \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ USCF# \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (If under 18 JUNIOR) Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_  
Circle your Fee: \$20-adultMemEntry \$15-jrMemEntry \$45-adultClubDues \$25-jrClubDues  
\$40-adult USCF (Chess Life) \$17-jr USCF (Chess Life) \$12-jr USCF( School Mates)  
Total Fees Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks payable to Burlingame Chess Club) Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: S. Scott Wilson, 380 Esplanade Ave #109, Pacifica, CA 94044



## Endgame Essentials:

# Long Nights and Strong Knights

by Eric Schiller

Why should anyone devote time and energy to positions with so few pieces on the board? The answer is simple: the endgame is normally the final stage of the game. A mistake here can undo all great opening and middlegame accomplishments. In so many cases, a small advantage can be converted into a win only by applying considerable endgame technique.

The proliferation of "sudden death" time controls makes endgame knowledge more valuable than ever. Often, you just don't have time to work things out, counting and then recounting and checking all lines. Sometimes, you just need to let your instincts guide your hand. In these cases, your experience and knowledge of endgame theory will have a great impact on the result of the game.

The variety of endgames can be intimidating. There is so much to learn, that even a book on basic chess endgames runs hundreds of pages. Studying endgames is difficult work. It can be fun, however, and I hope you find the analysis below interesting so that your learning experience can be a pleasant one.

Only a small percentage of chess endgames have been definitively solved by chess computer programs. All endgames with a total of five pieces (including the two kings) were solved by Ken Thompson and have been available for a few years. Six piece endgames are not yet available, however, and endgames with a dozen or more pieces, very common in tournament play, will not be solved in the near future.

If computers have so much difficulty in the endgame, how can humans be expected to master the

art? Fortunately, we humans have an advantage. Our thought process provides a lot more flexibility in pattern matching than computers are presently capable of. We immediately reject many candidate moves and never give them a second thought.

In the endgame, as countless composers have reminded us, this efficient search mechanism has one big flaw. Because relatively fewer candidate moves leave pieces in a position to be captured, a higher percentage of our candidate moves deserve consideration. Few humans will expand the range beyond six or seven moves, after looking over the position for a while. We choose moves that will advance our goals, but can miss some indirect paths.

You can't learn all of endgame theory from a reference book. In fact, it is probably impossible to learn all of what we collectively know about the endgame. Databases of hundreds of thousands of positions with minimal material are fine for computers, but a human being must rely on a combination of three factors:

- specific endgame knowledge derived from experience.
- specific target positions acquired through study.
- general principles (and their exceptions!).

Each time you play an endgame you gain valuable experience. The analysis that you do at the board can be very instructive, and if you analyze each game afterward you can further enrich your understanding. But experience alone is not enough.

You need to know certain positions to use as targets for your analysis. How many positions do you really need to know to play ef-

fectively in tournaments? Oh, perhaps a few thousand, maybe a bit more. Clearly going through encyclopedic references and databases isn't going to get the job done quickly. Which positions do you need to know, and which can you leave for later study? The learning process can be quite complex.

The task is made much easier by applying general principles, such as healthy pawn structure, active pieces, safe king, etc. These considerations must be combined with accurate tactical analysis and knowledge of a few dozen basic positions, for the casual player, to perhaps a few hundred for the tournament competitor.

There are several different approaches to presenting endgames. Some books confine themselves to positions in isolation, mostly with very few pieces on the board. This eliminates clutter, but many students find it hard to integrate this material into the decision making process of the early endgame, when choice of piece captures and pawn advances are critical.

In our examination, the positions are drawn from real tournament games, mostly quite recent ones so that the positions will be relatively unexplored in the existing literature. There are some composed studies, especially of positions with minimal material, which are used to illustrate fundamental ideas. However, I've generally avoided using compositions unless necessary.

Practical examples are generally considered inferior to composed studies because they are often flawed. From an artistic standpoint, there is no doubt that



the endgame study is the highest form of chess purity. There are no spurious elements, single solutions to each problem, and usually an underlying tactical trick. To appreciate the chess endgame fully, study of compositions is needed. Our concerns, however, are more immediate.

While each piece in a composed study is essential, in real games there are all sorts of extra pieces which may or may not have an influence on the overall strategy. Your task is to evaluate the position, taking into consideration the possibility that some features may be irrelevant. In a study, you know there is a solution. In the game, you have no idea whether the position can be solved or not. Seeing how real players cope with real situations is closer to the experience of most amateur, and even professional players.

So, what makes an endgame "essential" for the student? The most important practical considerations are endgames with elements that display general rules, both in pure form and as a combination of conflicting situations. When general principles come into conflict, it provides an opportunity to observe the true dynamics of the endgame. A strong tactician will solve many positions by brute force, and a weak tactician will have poorer results.

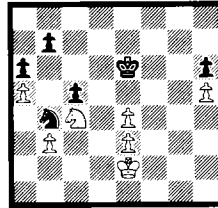
Someone whose tactical skills aren't quite up to the task of calculating complicated endgame combinations may think that studying compositions will help, but the real problem lies in improving tactical ability in general. Learning specific tactical tricks in the endgame is not very efficient, because the situations you encounter will only rarely involve those individual tactics.

Let's look at three few recent endgames involving knights. These require good overall tactical skills, as well as an understanding of some tricky situations that involve positional understanding.

The more pawns you have, the

easier it is to give one away and live, perhaps prosper as well. In the example here, Larsen shows us a nice positional sacrifice.

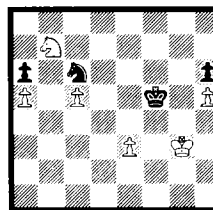
**Larsen vs. Fries Nielsen  
Danish Championship, Aarhus,  
1999**



[1] White to move

White has an extra pawn, but the double isolated pawns and overall weak pawn structure doesn't inspire a lot of confidence in his winning chances. Black may be content just to shuttle the knight back and forth between c6 and b4. If the White knight moves, not only is the a-pawn vulnerable, but the enemy king can then come to e5. The position requires inspired play!

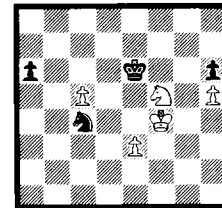
**44.e5!?** White sacrifices the extra pawn but before it goes it will anchor the knight at d6, so that it can attack b7. **44...Nc6 45.Kf3 Kf5 45...Kd5 46.Kf4 Ke6 47.Ke4** followed by Nd6. **46.Nd6+ Kxe5 47.Nxb7 c4.** 47...Kd5 allows 48.Kf4 threatening Kf5-g6xh6. 48...Ne7 49.Nd8! and Nf7 lets the king and knight team up to win the pawn at h6. **48.bxc4** The passed pawn is at least blockaded, freeing the king to deal with the kingside problems. **48...Kf5 49.c5 Ne5+ 50.Kg3 Nc6.** White has two extra pawns, but all the pawns are weak.



[2] White to move

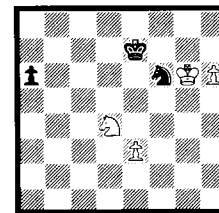
Things don't look too bad for Black, as the White knight is rooted to b7 to defend the a-pawn

and the pawn at h5 is a target. White correctly chooses to abandon the a-pawn in favor of a more active knight. **51.Nd6+! Ke6 52.Kf4 Nxa5 53.Nf5 Nc4.**



[3] White to move

White can grab the h-pawn, but must play accurately. **54.Nxh6! Ne5 55.Nf5 Nd3+ 56.Kg5 Nxc5 57.h6** Black must bring the knight back to defend, since otherwise White promotes. **57...Ne4+ [57...Kf7 58.h7 and a new queen cannot be prevented.] 58.Kg6 Nf6 59.Nd4+ Ke7.**

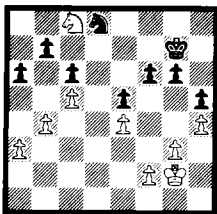


[4] White to move

One final finesse and the point is earned. **60.Nc6+!** [60.h7? Nxh7 61.Kxh7 Kd6 62.Nc2 Ke5 draws, because of 63.Kg6 Ke4 64.Kg5 Kd3 65.Kf4 Kxc2 66.e4 a5 67.e5 a4 68.e6 a3 69.e7 a2 70.e8Q a1Q etc.] **60...Ke6 61.e4** Black **resigned.** The threat is e5, and then the knight must move and allow the h-pawn to proceed.

Positions with this many pawns tend to involved blockaded and balanced pawn structure. In many cases defense is possible simply by moving the king back and forth. There has to be a real weakness, which also must be accessible to attack by king or knight, in order to make progress. Still, there are times when one side is simply too passive, and this can lead to defeat, as we see in the next example.

**Wiley vs. Mazi**  
**Bled Open, Slovakia, 1999**

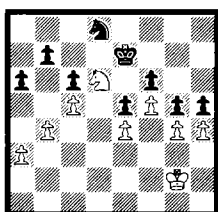


[5] White to move

With even pawns in a balanced configuration, you might think that White has no real chances. In fact, White has two major advantages. The White knight will take up a powerful position at d6, after which the Black knight is immobilized by the need to defend the pawn at b7. The king can infiltrate the queenside via a4–15–b6. Black cannot create any openings for his own king to get across the meridian Pawns at e4 and h4 can be maintained, allowing no entrance on the kingside.

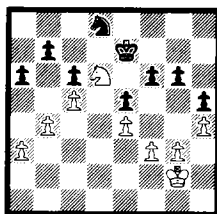
**40.Nd6! Kf8 41.f3.** This is not needed, and only weakens the kingside pawns. If White sends the knight on other duties, Black can play ...Ne6-d4 and attack the f-pawn while threatening ...Nc2. Nevertheless, it does not eliminate winning chances.

41.f4 can, and should be played immediately. White does get to it in a few moves. It is more effective right away, for example 41...Ke7 42.f5 where 42...gxf5 43.Nxf5+ Kf7 24.Nd6+ followed by Kh3 and g4, establishing a passed pawn. Black makes White work a bit more after 42...g5, where 43.g4! must be found.



[6] Black to move

This surprising move forces a winning endgame. 43...hgx4 (43...gxh4 44.gxh5 Kf8 45.Kh3 Kg7 46.Kxh4 Kh6 47.Ne8! wins the f-pawn.) 44.hxg5 fxxg5 45.Kg3 Kf6 46.Kxg4 puts Black in zugzwang. 41...Ke7.

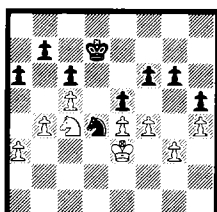


[7] White to move

**42.Nc4.** The knight retreats to guard the a-pawn, which will be relevant if the Black knight gets to d4 and threatens ...Nc2xa3.

**42...Kd7.** The king relieve the knight of its defensive obligations.

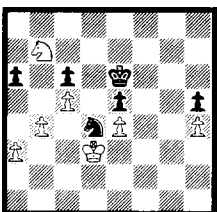
**43.Kf2 Ne6 44.Ke3 Nd4 45.f4!**



[8] Black to move

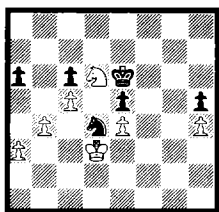
**45...Ke6 46.fxe5! fxe5**

**47.Kd3.** With c2 covered, the White knight is free to go after the pawn at b7. **47...Kf6?** 47...Nb3 is correct. What can White accomplish if Black just shuttles the knight between d4 and b3? 48.Nd6 b6! 49.Nb7 b5 and the knight cannot maneuver to attack the a-pawn. **48.Nd6.** Black cannot defend the pawn at b7. **48...g5 49.Nxb7! gxh4 50.gxh4 Ke6.**



[9] White to move

Perhaps Black counted on the dual threat of ...Nf3 and ...Nc2 to get the pawn back. Establishing material equality is not sufficient, however. **51.Nd6.**



[10] Black to move

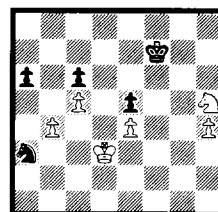
Black can chase the h-pawn or the a-pawn. The decision is crucial, since one draws and one loses! **51...Nb5?** Black goes after the wrong pawn.

After 51...Nf3 52.Ne8 there are two options.

52...Kd7 53.Nf6+ Ke6 54.Nxh5 Nxh4 55.Ng7+ Kd7 (55...Kf6 56.Ne8+ Ke7 57.Nc7 and the a-pawn goes.) 56.a4 Nf3 57.Nf5 Ng5 58.Nd6 keeps everything defended and White can operate with the king on either flank.

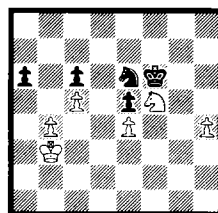
However, 52...Nxh4 53.Nc7+ Kd7 54.Nxa6 Kc8 55.a4 Kb7 56.b5 Nf3 57.Nb4 Nd4 58.Kc4! h4 59.Nd3 h3 60.Nf2 h2 is only a draw, because the knight is tied down by the h-pawn.

**52.Nf5 Nxa3 53.Ng7+ Kf7 54.Nxh5.**



[11] Black to move

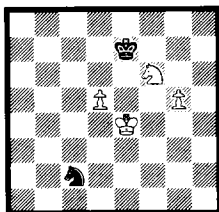
Black has three weak pawns and either the king or knight will be occupied on the kingside. **54...Nb5 55.Ng3 Nd4 56.Nf5 Ne6 57.Kc4 Kf6 58.Kb3!**



[12] Black to move

The idea is simply Ka4-a5xa6. **58...a5.** Exchanging a pair of pawns is not enough. **59.bxa5 Nxc5+ 60.Kc4 Na6.** [60...Nxe4 61.a6 Kxf5 62.a7 and the knight can't get back in time.] **61.Ne3.** Black **resigned.** Because the Black king must deal with the h-pawn, White can use the knight to win both remaining Black pawns with a trivial win afterwards.

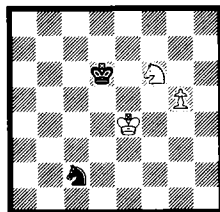
**Andersson vs. Hector  
Sigeman International, Malmö,  
1998**



[13] White to move

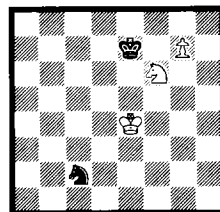
White must play carefully to get the full point, because the pawns are weak. **60.d6+**! This sacrifice deflects the king, which is the only defender because the knight cannot get to any useful square. At best, it takes 4 moves: ...Nb4, ...Nc6, ...Nd8 and ...Ne6. Black, in check, has no time for the knight. 60.Kd3 Nb4+ 61.Kc4 Nc2 (61...Nxd5 62.Kxd5 Kf7 63.Ke5 Kg6 64.Kf4) 62.Kc5 Ne3 63.d6+ Kd8 64.g6 Nf5 65.Kd5 Ng7 66.Ke5 will get the job done, but it takes a lot longer. **60...Kxd6**. We have reached a knight endgame which is a simple win. Notice that

the White king keeps the enemy horse at bay by controlling e3 and d4, and in fact even indirect routes are awkward.



[14] White to move

White needs to hasten with the pawn, as the Black king is close. **61.g6 Ke7 62.g7**.



[15] Black to move

This is the target position for knight and pawn vs. king. The

knight guards the promotion square, and does not worry about the enemy king because the pawn will promote in any case. If you know this position, you need only try to achieve it. In this case the calculation only involved a few moves, and would likely elude only beginners. Even strong players, however, can stumble when the target is buried deep into a variation.

Store this pattern in your brain and it will be accessible during your analysis, and may preserve the full point if you have to work out the position while in deep time trouble. Learn as many target positions as you can, so that playing the endgame will become easier and a lot more fun. You'll raise your rating too!

National Master Eric Schiller has just completed a book of essential endgames, to be published by Cardoza this summer. He is editor of the online Chess City Magazine ([www.chesscity.com](http://www.chesscity.com)) and hosts another chess site at Chessworks Unlimited ([www.chessworks.com](http://www.chessworks.com)).

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4" King shown

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# 19th Annual San Joaquin

by Dennis M. Wajckus  
Photos By Allan Fifeild

54 players took part in this annual event on the 22nd and 23rd of May. For the 2nd year, the tourney was held in two sections: Open and Reserve (under 1600.) The Fresno Chess Club which sponsored the event gave out over \$2,500 in prize money! The first

place winner in the Open section was IM Rashid Ziatdinov, 1st with 4 ½. Artak Akopian and Chethan Narayan tied for 2nd & 3rd with 4 pts each. Winner of the A section was Darren Russell with 3 pts. 1st in the under 1800 section was Keith Yost with 3 pts. The Open Upset prize was won by Edward Shamilov with a stunning 687 point upset. Rashid, who recently won the title of Grand Master, gave up only a draw to local tourney supporter Walter Stellmacher

The Reserve section was won by Hakop Tataryan with a perfect 5-0 score. Young J. Lee was 2nd with 4 pts. First in the D class was William Soto with 4pts. 1st E was Tony Chontong with 3 1/2pts.

Tony also took home the upset prize in the reserve with a 368 upset win. Winners of the Under1000 prize were David Tataryan (plaque) and Scott Trapp who each scored 2 pts. First place winners in all sections will receive a custom-made personal-



Hakop Tataryan was undefeated in the Reserve Section.



Chethan Narayan: How good is he?



Willy Soto is happy to be back playing chess!



GM-Elect Rashid Ziatdinov on his way to First Place in the Open.



Dennis Langley fought hard in the Reserve Section

# Championship

ized plaque tailor made by Fresno Chess club president Andy Swanson.

The main director of this event was Senior TD Allan Fifield who did his usual professional job in making sure this event ran in the proper manner. Fresno's Bonnie Yost helped direct the Reserve section. The directing team of Fifield/Yost as usual worked very well together in putting out a smooth tourney in which all rounds began within 5 minutes of the announced starting times!

A small WBCA (Blitz) double round robin event was held on Friday evening May 21st and was won by Chris Pascal. Dr. Tim Roth placed 2nd. Bonnie Yost directed

this WBCA event.

The Fresno Chess club wishes to again thank the St. Agnes Medical Center for the use of their fine facility in the west wing of the hospital. We also thank Dr. Tim Roth for reserving the facility for us. Playing conditions were as usual

close to ideal. Goodies in the free coffee area were provided by the Fresno Chess Club, Yost, Wajckus and Swanson families and George Paxton. Missing from the tourney was the lovely Marian Wajckus. She was involved in an automobile accident with her husband Dennis the previous weekend and spent the tournament weekend recovering at home. Her work in helping organizing the pre-entries saved the Tourney Directors many hours of work. Thanks to all who played and we wish you will all return November 20th & 21st for the 7th Annual Fresno County Championship which will be a 5 round Swiss similar this San Joaquin tourney.



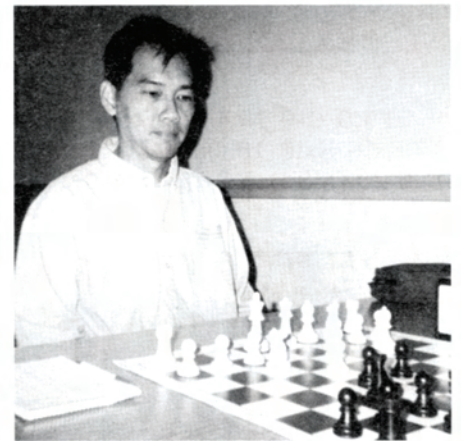
**Expert Steve Moca played tough on the top boards,**



**Tournament organizer Dennis Wajckus also doubled as houseman.**



**The troops in the trenches in the Reserve Section**



**Harry Daud sacrificed his queen in the last round.**

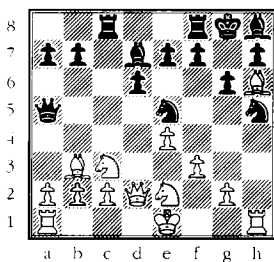
# Classic Combat In Fresno San Joaquin Championship May 22-23, 1999

*Selections and Annotations by Allan Fiffeld*

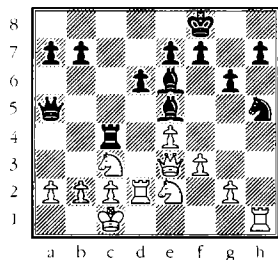
**Ziatdinov,R (2498)**  
**Russell,D (1839)**  
**[B77] Open Round 1**

Board 1 Round 1 is a repeat of Board 1 Round 1 from last November in Fresno. Darren believes that rooks are vastly overrated and offers the exchange at every opportunity. After a while Rashid has just got to take some....

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Bc4 0-0 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.h4 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h5 Nxh5 13.Nde2 Qa5 14.Bh6 Bh8?!



15.0-0-0 Nc4 16.Bxc4 Rxc4 17.Bxf8 Kxf8 18.Qd5 Qc7 19.Rd2 Be6 20.Qd3 Be5 21.Qe3 Qa5

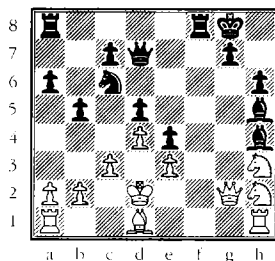


22.a3 b5 23.f4 Rxc3 24.Nxc3 Bxf4 25.Qd4 f6 26.Kb1 Bxd2 27.Qxd2 b4 28.Nd5 Bf7 29.axb4 Qb5 30.Qh6+ Ng7 31.Qxh7 Qc4 32.Qh8+ Bg8 33.Rh7 Nf5 34.exf5 Qxd5 35.Qg7+ 1-0

**Grant,R (1199)**  
**Bakken,G (1492)**  
**[D00] Reserve Round 1**

Robert Grant lands a 293 point upset knock-out punch after some pretty tactics.

1.d4 d5 2.c3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Nc6?!  
This knight belongs either at d7 or behind the c pawn after c7-c5  
4.e3 a6 5.Nd2 e5 6.Bd3 e4 7.Bc2 h6 8.Bh4 b5 9.f3 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.fxe4 0-0 12.e5 Be7 13.Qf3 Be6 14.g4 Qd7 15.h3 Bh4+ 16.Ke2 f6 17.Qg2 fxe5 18.Ndf3 Bf6 19.h4 Bxg4 20.Kd2 e4 21.Nh2 Bh5 22.Bd1 Bxh4 23.Nh3

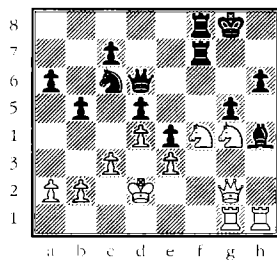


Picasso Chess on the Rook File!

23....Bxd1 24.Raxd1 Rf7 25.Ng4!

Threatens to exploit the pin at g7 with 26.Nxh6+

25....Qd6 26.Rdg1 Raf8 27.Nf4 Bg5 28.Nh3 Bh4 29.Nf4 g5?



This is suicidal. Gary might

as well repeat with 29...Bg5 to see if his lower rated opponent would be satisfied with a draw.

30.Rxh4! Rh7

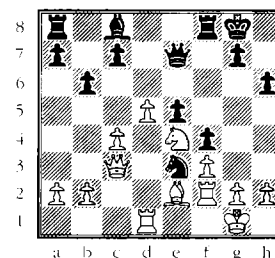
The prettiest line is 30...gxh4 31.Nf6+ Kh8 32.Qg8+ Rxc8 33.Rxc8mate.

31.Nxh6+ Rxh6 32.Qxg5+ Kf7 33.Qg7+ Ke8 34.Rxh6 Rf6 35.Rxf6 1-0

**Nunez,T (1600)**  
**Fitzgerald,M (1913)**  
**[B02] Open Round 1**

In the first big upset of the Open Section, Terry Nunez upends a rusty Mike Fitzgerald. Returning to tournament play after a long absence, Mike gets a strong looking position in his first game only to see it erode in time pressure.

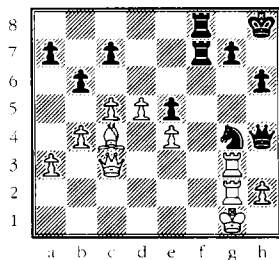
1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.exd5 Nxd5 4.Nxd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Be3 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Bf6 10.Qd2 e5 11.c4 Qd8 12.d5 Ne7 13.Rad1 Nf5 14.Bg5 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 h6 16.Ne4 Nd6 17.Ng3 b6 18.Qc2 f5 19.f3 f4 20.Ne4 Nf5 21.Qc3 Qe7 22.Rf2 Ne3



Black looks good with the choking knight on e3 but now white starts to fight back.

23.Rd2 Bf5 24.Bd3 Rad8 25.b4 Kh8 26.a3 Rd7 27.Bb1 Rfd8 28.Ba2 Bxe4 29.fxe4 Qg5 30.c5 Ng4 31.Rf3

Qh4 32.g3 fxg3 33.Rxg3 Rf8  
34.Rdg2 Rdf7 35.Bc4



It's a dog fight now until . . .  
35...Nf2? 36.Qxe5  
Nxe4 37.d6 Nxc3 38.Bxf7 Nh5?  
...disaster strikes!  
39.Bxh5 cxd6 40.Qxg7# 1-0

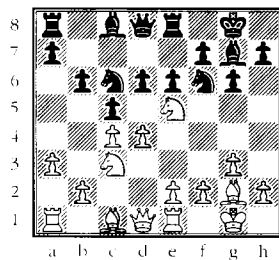
**Wolf, A (1330)**  
**Lee, Z (1069)**  
**(A16) Reserve Round 1**

After Zachary Lee weakens the long white squared diagonal, the white knights go a-dancing in the center.

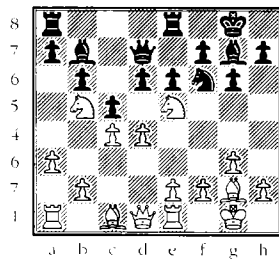
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.Re1 Nc6 8.d3 Re8 9.a3 b6?

Weakens the long white diagonal and leaves the knight on c6 unprotected. Any move that leaves a piece unprotected is suspect.

10.d4 e6 11.Ne5!



11... Bb7 12.Nxc6 Qc7?  
A second and fatal mistake with the queen.  
13.Nb5 Qd7 14.Ne5!



Back Again!  
14.dxe5 15.Bxb7 Rab8  
If 15...Qxb7 then 16.Nd6 is a mighty fork.  
16.Bg2 a6 17.dxe5 Qxd1  
18.Rxd1 axb5 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Bf4 Bxb2 21.Bxb8 Bxa1 22.Rxa1 Rxb8 23.cxb5 Rd8 24.a4 c4 25.Rc1 Rc8 26.Bc6 Kf8 27.Rxc4 Ke7 and black resigns (1-0)

**Stellmacher, W (1882) -**  
**Ziatdinov, R (2498)**  
**[D05] Open Round 2**

The Fresno tradition of great upsets continued on the first board in round 2 when GM-elect Ziatdinov was ambushed by local 'A' hero Walter Stellmacher. Walter is a steady player who is hard to beat.

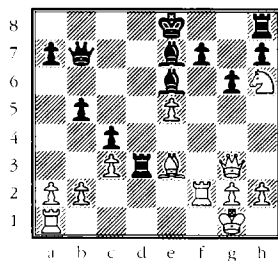
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2

Walter loves the Colle System as it gives the non-professional player a reasonable game with little risk. But to advance to the next level, more sophisticated openings with white are necessary.

6...b6 7.Ne5 Nxe5 8.dxe5 Nd7 9.f4 Bb7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.e4 c4 12.Bc2 Nc5 13.Qe2 b5 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Nf3 Rd8 16.Nd4 Qb7 17.f5!

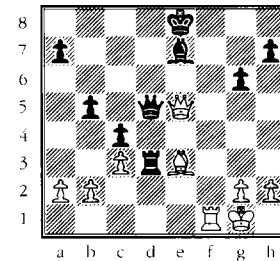
Correctly refusing to go into a defensive crouch against his high rated opponent

17... exf5 18.Nxf5 Ne6 19.Be3 Be7 20.Qg4 g6 21.Nh6 Nc5 22.Rf2 Be6 23.Qg3 Nd3 24.Bxd3 Rxd3



The spectators were expecting cxd3 but white can pile up on the pawn quickly and black does have a little problem brewing on f7

25.Nxf7! Bxf7 26.e6 0-0 27.exf7+ Rxf7 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Rf1+ Ke8 30.Qe5 Qd5



31.Qxd5?!

With the queen check on b8 available, one wonders if white should keep the queens on the board to press for a win. Some possible lines are: 31.Qb8+ Qd8 32.Qxb5+ or 31.Qb8+ Bd8 32.Re1 with nasty looking threats. Of course, Rashid would find the best defenses. Apparently deciding that a draw will not fatally wound his chances for serious money, Rashid now quickly forces a repetition.

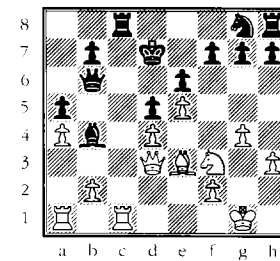
31... Rxd5 32.Bxa7 Rd2 33.Rf2 Rd1+ 34.Rf1 Rd2 35.Rf2 Rd1+ 36.Rf1 1/2-1/2

Strange to see a GM strength player force the draw against an 'A' player in the final position.

**Narayan, C (2215)**  
**Bhat, V (2423)**  
**[C03] Open Round 3**

'New Kid On The Block' Chethan Narayan really opened the top section up for anyone to win when he up-ended second seed Vinay Bhat on the top board. Chethan is rated 2215 FIDE.

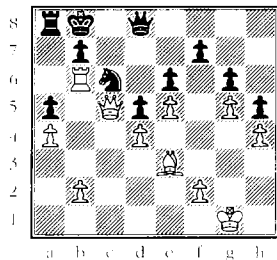
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.e5 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Ngf3 Nh6 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Nb3 Qb6 10.g4 Nh6 11.h3 a5 12.a4 Nb4 13.Bb5+ Bd7 14.Bxd7+ Kxd7 15.0-0 Rac8 16.Be3 Nc2 17.Nc5+ Bxc5 18.Qxc2 Be7 19.Qd2 Ng8 20.Rfc1 Bb4 21.Qd3



21...Rxc1

Apparently best as 21...Ne7 allows 22.Rxc8 when the natural 22...Rxc8 drops the h pawn to 23.Qxh7. Black must 'lose' a tempo by playing h6 before his rook on h8 can join the party. Black's game remains tangled and passive. In such situations mistakes usually happen.

22.Rxc1 h6 23.Nd2 Bxd2 24.Qxd2 Ne7 25.Rc5 Nc6 26.Rb5 Qc7 27.Qc2 h5 28.g5 g6 29.Qc5 Rb8 30.Rb6 Qd8 31.Qb5 Kc8 32.Qc5 Ra8 33.h4 Kb8??



34.Qxc6 (Chomp!) Qc7 35.Qb5 Qe7 36.Rd6 Kc8 37.Qc5+ Qc7 38.Rb6 Kb8 and the score ends. With an extra piece and smooth nerves white won the time scramble (1-0).

**Bakken,G (1492) - Soto,W (1282)**

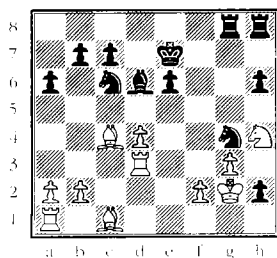
**[B01] Reserve Round 3**

Willy Soto returns to serious tournament chess with a 210 point upset in the Reserve Section.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Qf3 Nf6 5.h3 Nc6 6.Be2 Qf5 7.Nb5 Qxf3 8.Nxf3 Kd8 9.Ng5 Be6 10.Nxe6+ fxe6 11.0-0 a6

White is definitely much better but Willy fights back.

12.Na3 e5 13.c3 e6 14.Nc2 Bd6 15.d4 h6 16.Rd1 Ke7 17.Ne1 g5 18.Nf3 exd4 19.cxd4 Rag8 20.Bc4 g4 21.Nh4 gxh3 22.g3 Ng4 23.Rd3 h2+ 24.Kg2



Black to play and win! (Hint: Sacrifice and fork)

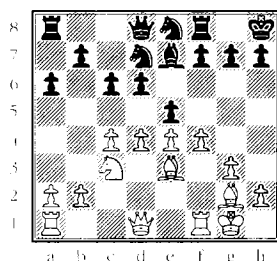
24... h1Q+! 25.Kxh1 Nxf2+ 26.Kg2 Nxd3 27.Nf5+ Kd7 28.Nxd6 Ne1+ 29.Kf2 cxd6 30.Kxe1 Nxd4 31.Bf4 Nc2+ 0-1

**O'Dell,C (1274)**

**Wolf,A (1335)**

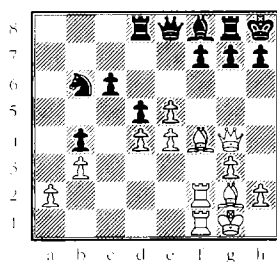
**[B10] Reserve Round 4**

1.e4 c6 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3 d6 4.g3 Bg4 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.d3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 a6 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.d4 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Ne8 12.Bg2 Kh8 13.f4



Yes, it's a BIG pawn center for white but black know over-reacts with a series of excessive and unforced retreats.

Nc7 14.Qg4 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16.fxe5 b4 17.Ne2 d5 18.Nf4 Rg8 19.Nh3 Qe8 20.Nf4 Nb6 21.b3 Bf8 22.Rf2 Ne6 23.Raf1 Nxf4 24.Bxf4 Rd8



Black has been much too conservative with his pieces. If you want to play, you must fight for your fair share of space. Casey now opens the board up and Alan can't defend everything.

25.e6 f6 26.Bc7 Rb8 27.Bxb8 Qxb8 28.Rc1 Qb7 29.Rfc2 Be7 30.Rxc6 Rc8 31.Rxc8+ Nxc8 32.exd5 Nd6 33.Qe2 g6 34.Qc2 Qa7 35.Qd2 Qb7 36.Rc2 Kg7 37.Qc1 Bd8 38.Rc6 Nf5 39.d6 1-0

**Daud,H (2125)**

**Lu,H (2038)**

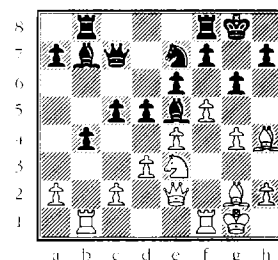
**[B23] Open Round 5**

Local fav 'Harry' Daud uncorks the sacrifice of the tournament in round 5.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nge2 Nc6 6.d3 Nge7 7.Be3 Nd4 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qd2 Rb8 10.f4 b5 11.Bf2 b4 12.Nd1 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 Qc7 14.Ne3? Bxb2

Harry admits to having just blundered the b pawn which probably inspired him to the following brilliancy rather than play a lost endgame.

15.Rab1 Bg7 16.g4 Bb7 17.Bh4 d5 18.f5 Be5?

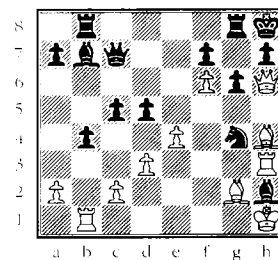


This may be the fatal mistake as after 19.f6 the black king has no available defenders for the black squares. The ultra passive 18...Bh8 keeps one defender in place for the weak g7 square.

19.f6 Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Nc6 21.Nxd5!!

Clears the way for the white queen to invade the h6 square

21...exd5 22.Qd2 Kh8 23.Qh6 Rg8 24.Rf3 Ne5 25.Rh3 Nxe4



26.Qxh7+! Kxh7 27.Bg5+ is mate is one (1-0)



# Central Coast Chess Notes

By  
Duncan Oxley

Since the last issue, there were three tournaments held at the Monterey Chess Center. On April 25, twenty-three players showed up. The open section was a three-way tie between Gjon Feinstein (2250), Robert Sferra (2214) and Abe Duncan Oxley Mina (1985) with 2.5 points each. Gjon is an inactive master from Santa Cruz who seems to have finally succumbed to Cassia's siren song once again. Robert Grant took first in the reserve. Will Ruddick and Max Seltzer were second and third respectively.

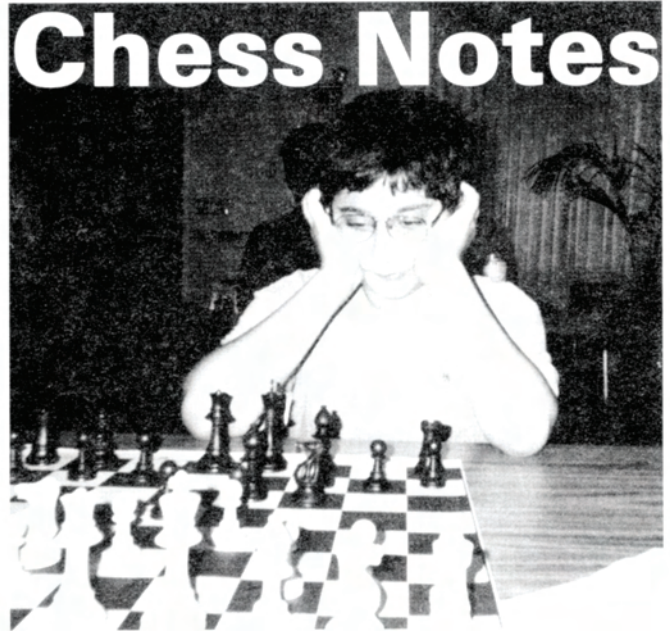
On June 27, twenty players entered the rolls. Paul Cripe (2228) and Robert Sferra tied for top honors, while the third place logjam was shared by Gustavo Martins (2074), Miroslav Komar (2000) and George Wilson (1706). David Soto (1392) took clear first in the reserve with three points. Second and third were shared by Huseyin Yeten (1400) and Robert Chang (1136) respectively.

On July 18, we had great weather and almost no players. Maybe we should have held the tournament at the beach, because I think that's where everybody must have been. Eleven players decided to forgo the suntan lotion, so we had one open section this time. Abe Mina and yours truly shared first and second with a perfect three points each. Ramesh Mantri (1500) and Chris Waroff (1401) split third place.

Meanwhile in Salinas, on May 23, I directed the Salinas City Championship. My biggest frustration was a lack of interest in joining or renewing USCF (or CalChess) memberships. So although 18 players showed up, only the top group was USCF rated. It

## Eduard Shamilov has been mowing down experts at the Kolty Chess Club.

Photo by Allan Fifield



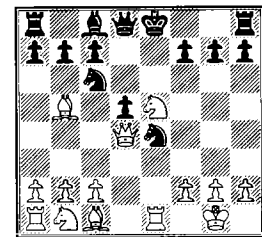
was no surprise that Abe Mina won the top group. The reserve section winner was Gary Jones and Fernando Gonzales won the scholastic section. The winners received cash prizes and some very nice wood trophies (not the plastic kind). Abe Mina was the organizer, and also generously donated the trophies and guaranteed the prize fund (yes, he lost money). Cherry Bean Coffee was kind enough to give us free run of the coffee shop for the tournament.

I am now giving some games played by scholastic players from the Monterey Open. (I am starting an after school chess program here in Marina, so maybe this accounts for my selections). All of the opponents are adults.

Jeremy Riddell-Kaufman is an 11 year-old boy who has just started his chess career. He is completely busted when his opponent gets greedy, makes a blunder, and Jeremy lands the knockout punch to mate.

### Seltzer, Max (1179) Riddell-Kaufman, Jeremy (890) Round 1 [C67]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6  
4.O-O Nxe4 5.Re1 d5 6.Nxe5 Bc5  
7.d4 Bxd4 8.Qxd4



8...a6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bxc6+  
Bd7 11.Qxd5 Bxc6 12.Rxe4+ Kf8  
13.Qxc6 Qd1+ 0-1

Eduard Shamilov was rated only 900 a few months ago and is now 1474. Word has it that he has been mowing down experts at the Kolty Chess Club. Here he outplays his opponent and then makes a nice combo to mate.

### Diaz, Ismael (1536) Shamilov, Eduard (1359) Round 2 [A00]

1.b4 d5 2.Bb2 Bf5 3.Nf3 e6 4.a4  
Nf6 5.b5 Nbd7 6.g3 Bd6 7.Bg2 O-O  
8.O-O h6 9.d3 Re8 10.Nbd2 e5  
11.c4 c6 12.Nh4 Bh7 13.e4 dxe4  
14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Nf6 16.Nf5  
Bxf5 17.exf5 Qc7 18.Rc1 Rad8  
19.Qb3 Bc5 20.Rc2 Qb6 21.Ba3  
Bxa3 22.Qxa3 e4 23.c5 Qc7 24.Rc3  
Rd7 25.Re1 Qe5 26.Rce3 Qxf5  
27.bxc6 bxc6 28.Qb2 Rd5 29.f3  
Rxc5 30.fxe4 Qe5 31.Qb4 Rb8  
32.Qd2 Kh7 33.Rf1 Rb2 34.Qd1

Continued on page 30

# Readers Showcase Readers Showcase

**Walter Browne (2551) -  
Matthew Gross (2116)  
Universe Open, July 4, 1999**

## Annotations by Matthew Gross

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6

The evening before Browne had won a nice game against Ryan Porter with the relatively uncommon 5.Bd3, which is what I prepared for when the pairings were posted. This time Browne went down well-trodden paths.

5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 a5 10.Ba3 b6 11.bxa5 Rxa5 12.Bb4 Ra8 13.a4 Ne8 14.Nb5 f5

Thus far we are still in theory. Burgess and Nunn's new book on the classical gives 15.Nd2 c6 =.

15.exf5 gxf5 16.Ra3?!

I was a little confused by this move. Usually white aims for an early a5 to further his queenside attack, and there seems to be little reason to delay it here. Browne's move contemplates a rook lift or doubling major pieces, but these plans seem a little slow. As played in the game, the move was a clear loss of tempo.

16.Kh8

Black uses the time to start untangling the kingside.

17.a5

White goes through with the attack on black's queenside pawns.

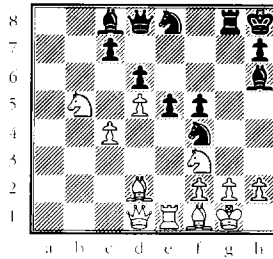
17.bxa5 18.Rxa5

This move admits that 16.Ra3 was a waste of tempo, but 18.Ba5? is met by 18..Ra5 19.Ra5 c6!

18..Rxa5 19.Bxa5 Ng6 20.Re1 Rg8 21.Bf1 Nf4

Black is developing some activity, while white is battering down the hatches on the kingside.

22.Bd2 Bh6



White has forced black to self-pin the knight, but there doesn't seem to be an easy way for white to take advantage.

23.g3 Nf6!

Nullifying the threat of 24.Kh1 (24.Ng4), and activating another minor piece.

24.Bg2

Since white cannot threaten the knight with 24.Kh1, he finds another forcing move, but this simply trades off to an equal ending.

24.Nxg2 25.Bxh6?

Simply a blunder, the only explanation for which is time trouble. 25.Kg2 Bd2 26. Qd2 f4 is about equal.

25.Nxe1 26.Qxe1 Ne4 27.Qa5?! f4

Since white cannot really afford to capture the c-pawn, the queen must return.

28.Qe1 Bf5 29.Nc3!

A clever sequence by white, which surprisingly leaves black without a good reply. 29.Nc3 30.Qc3 Qf6 31.Bf4! finds black in some trouble. Black is practically forced to sacrifice a pawn.

29.Qf6 30.Nxe4?

Instead 30.Bxf4 exf 31.Ne4 reaches a position similar to the game, but where black is missing his e5 pawn

30.Qxh6

After we reach time control, white is totally lost. However, during this game the game that Larry Christiansen won against an ex-

pert after hanging his queen kept flaring up in my mind.

31.Nfd2 Bxe4

Trading off black's relatively good minor piece, but trading in general is bad for white

32.Nxe4 Qh3 33.Qc3 Qf5 34.f3 fxg3 35.hxg3 Rf8 36.Kg2 Ra8 37.Qb2 Qc8

Black has not been making any stunning moves, but all one needs to win a won game is good moves. It is difficult for black to break in directly, so he makes gestures at threatening moves without giving anything away. Qa6-a2 is threatened.

38.Qd2 Ra3 39.Ng5 Qf5?!

Responding to the threat of 40.Nf7 Kg7 41.Qg5 with perpetual check, but 39..Qf8 would have limited the efficacy of white's next move.

40.Qb2 Ra8

Black refuses to give white counterplay. If black had played 39.Qf8, then 40.Qa8 would be a good response here.

41.Ne6

There is no point in repeating the position, as black is not forced to follow the sequence a third time.

41.c5

Taking advantage of the opportunity to immobilize the c-pawn.

42.Qb7?

White finally sees an opportunity to play actively, but this loses rather quickly. Better was 42.g4, although white, approaching the sudden death time control, was obviously getting tired of passive defense. The move played gave black a mate in six, accompanied by an overwhelming sense of relief.

42.Ra2+ 43.Kg1 Ra1+ 44.Kg2 Qc2+ 45.Kh3 Rh1+ 46.Kg4 Qg6+ 0-1

Report by James Bauman  
Photos by Jerry Jackson



**The first place Redway Elementary team with coach Burt Nieman**

Arcata Chess Club junior members swept the individual awards at the Second Annual Humboldt County school championships conducted at the Eureka Teen Center on Saturday, May 8.

### High School Championship

Fifteen year old freshman Terry Wolf lead Arcata High School to the team title with his undefeated record. Eureka High School finished second. Second place went to Benjamin Hood of Eureka who lost his only game to Terry. Alex Hockensen, last years Jr. High champion, from Arcata, took third place and last years third place winner, Matt Frenz, placed fourth.

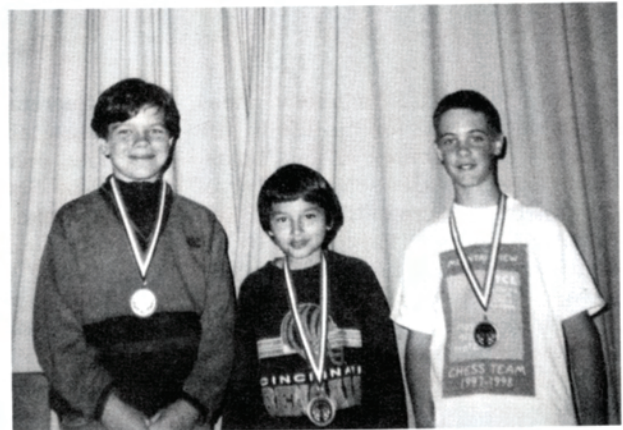
### Junior High Championship

Jacoby Creek's Joe Severdia improved on his second place performance of a year ago by going undefeated in 1999 for first place. Joe's performance lead Jacoby Creek to the championship. Second place went to Julia Hayes of Worthington who finished one point ahead of Rose Goodwin, from Sunny Brae, who finished in third place.

### Elementary School Championship

The elementary school division was exciting with the results unclear until the end. Going into the final round, defending champion, Bloomfield School of Arcata trailed Redway School by 1 1/2 points. Fred Hope of Bloomfield

**Individual Elementary awards (L to R):  
3<sup>rd</sup> Michael Kubik, 1<sup>st</sup> Fred Hope and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cody Vella**

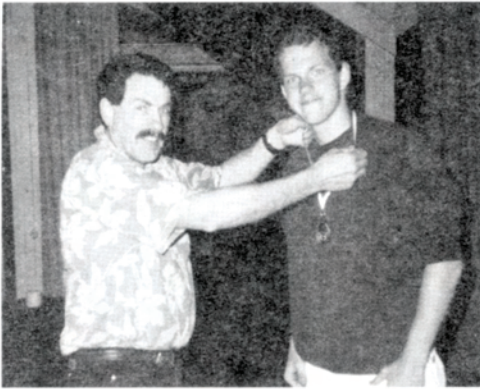


defeated Michael Kubik of Redway to win the individual championship for the second year in a row. Fred was undefeated. Cody Vella of Redway defeated Shane Demello of Toddy Thomas school, while Ian Henry of Bloomfield lost his game to Evan Markegard of

Toddy Thomas, last years second place finisher. This left it up to the final two games, which matched Jeff Stahl and Joe Saban of Redway against Michael Lindemann and Alexi Greenspan of Bloomfield. Both games went into the end game with Joe and Jeff both holding their winning positions. This clinched the victory for Redway by 3 1/2 points over Bloomfield, with Toddy Thomas of Fortuna, finishing third. Individually Cody Vella defeated Michael Kubik in a playoff game to take the second place trophy, while Michael took third. Evan and Shane tied with Jeff Stahl of Redway for fifth place. Redway was coached by Burt Nieman, who can be congratulated for the fine play and sportsmanship of his team. Burt's scholastic chess program is considered the best school chess program in Humboldt County.

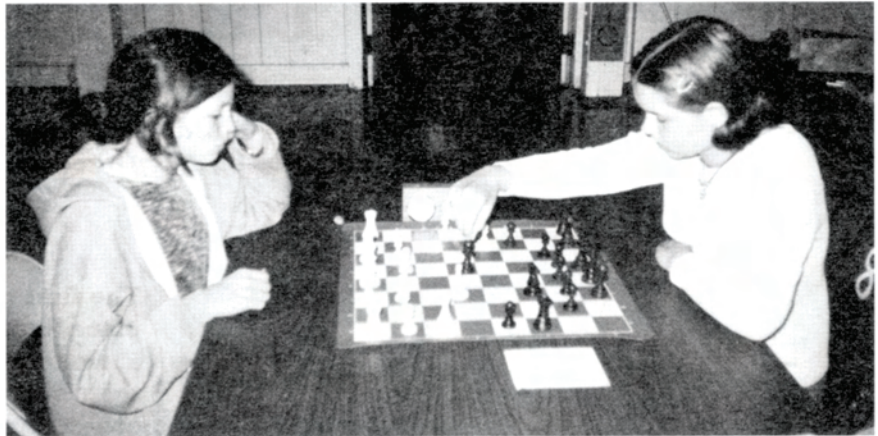
A special tribute is given to 11 year old Fred Hope who has been

with the Arcata Chess Club from its beginning three years ago. With his recent move to Colorado Springs, he will be truly missed. Besides winning the elementary championships both years he competed, he finished 4th in the 1998 county junior championship, 2nd



**Jerry Jackson awards 2<sup>nd</sup> place medal to Eureka's Benjamin Hood**

**Julia Hayes and Rose Goodwin in the Junior High section**



in the 1998 Arcata Club Junior championship and 1st in the junior ladder 1998 championship. He also finished in the top half of the club Swiss tournaments both 1998 and 1999. Fred has a wonderful sense of humor and commitment. He always arrived at the club even before myself. He was given the task of obtaining the key and opening the room. Fred has been given an honorary life time membership to the Arcata Chess Club. Best of luck to Fred and his future chess endeavors.

**Humboldt June-July Open**

Expert Tommy Groombridge took first place with Terry Wolf and Ed Morton tying for second. Terry has been working with Sylver Good and has shown a large

improvement in his game. He showed his improvement by defeating 1999 club champion James Bauman and his trainer, Sylver Good in the Aug-Sep open which is currently being conducted. Ten players competed in a double round robin blitz tournament on 19 July. Gary D. Berry, Humboldt County's top rated player (2084) swept through his opposition winning 17 of 18 games. His only loss was to Sylver Good who took second place, while 17 year old Arlen Vanek, from

Trinidad, took third and Tommy Groombridge, from Eureka, took fourth. Fifth place went to Bob Snyder, a philosophy professor at Humboldt State University, who is currently leading the Aug-Sep open.

Thanks to Dr Jerry Jackson for his help in organizing and directing the Scholastic Championship, to Bill Herman for help in editing and to Bob Clayton for assisting in the Swiss tournaments and doing the final editing of this report.



# Checkmate? NOT!

*By Duncan Oxley*

As I write this, a fellow chess player is fighting for his life in the UMB Medical Center in Las Vegas. John Trivett is the sole survivor of the tragic plane crash that killed Ken Horne and his wife. Critically burned, John has good chances but the road ahead will be a hard one indeed.

Nicknamed "The Mad Sacker" for his swashbuckling attacking playing style, John never hesitates to sacrifice a piece. In fact, in almost all his games John gives up material! This tends to lose a lot of games, but John never plays to the wall chart.

His chess hero is Rashid Nezhmetdinov, and John has long been working on a book of his games, consulting with Nezhmetdinov's son in the former Soviet Union. John is also a voting member of the USCF

and Secretary of Nevada Chess Inc., the state affiliate to the USCF. Also of note, John was the first one to be sued by Stan Vaughan in his failed bid to take over organized chess in Nevada.

Going through a huge pile of John's games I selected this one because of his opponent, Karen Birkedahl, who created a sensation at the 1999 US Open. And, oh yes, he sack's a piece!

**US Open Las Vegas 1999**

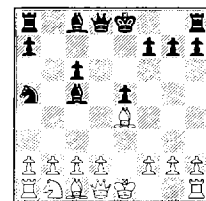
**Karen Birkedahl**

**John Trivett**

**Round 6**

**ECO C58**

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Be4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Na5 6. Bb5+ c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8. Bd3 Bc5 9. Ne4 Nxe4 10. Bxe4

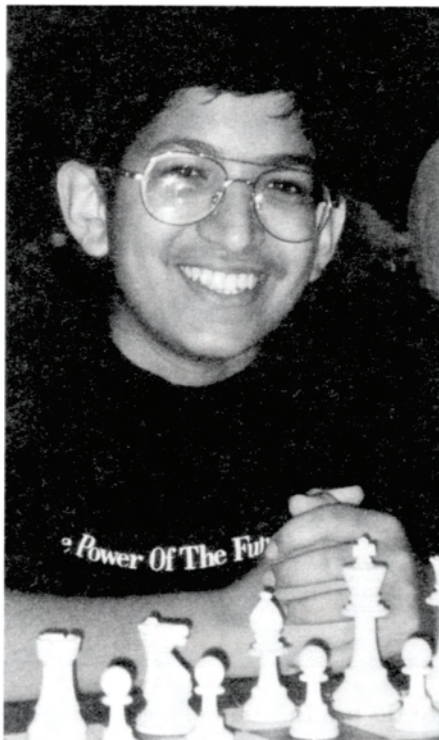


10...Bxf2+ 11. Kf1 Bb6 12. b4 Qd4 13. Qf3 Qxa1 14. c3 O-O 15. bxa5 Bxa5 16. Qd3 Qxa2 17. g4 Rd8 18. Bxh7+ Kf8 19. Qe4 Ba6+ 20. Ke1 Bd3 21. Ba3+ Qxa3 22. Nxa3 Bxe4 23. Bxe4 Rac8 24. Ke2 Bb6 25. Nc4 f6 26. Rb1 Rc7 27. Nxb6 axb6 28. Rxb6 Ke7 29. Rxc6 Rxc6 30. Bxc6 Rh8 31. Bf3 Rxb2+ 32. Ke3 Kd6 33. d3 Rc2 34. c4 Kc5 35. Be4 Rh2 36. Bg6 Rh3+ 37. Ke4 Rg3 38. Bf5 Rg1 39. Bh7 Rxb6+ 40. Kf5 Rf4+ 41. Kg6 Rg4+ 42. Kf7 Kd4 43. Bg6 Rg1 44. Kxg7 f5 45. Kf6 f4 46. Be4 f3 0-1



# BAY AREA SUMMER SCHOLASTICS

by  
Alan Kirshner



Vinay Bhat earned an IM norm by winning Arthur Dake Internationals. Four other players also earned qualifying norms for the title of International Master at the Arthur Dake Internationals in San Francisco. Vinay Bhat took first with 6.5 out of 9. Six points was good enough for IM norms for Jesse Kraai (USA), Mark Paragua (PHI) and Omar Cartagena (PHI). Report courtesy of the Mechanics Institute.

Jordy Mont-Reynaud (2327) is our new Cadet Tournament Champion. The Cadet Championship is an invitational event for young chess players under 16—the best in the United States. Jordy received his Master's title at the age of 10 ½. This shattered the former record held by Bobby Fischer who obtained his Master's rating at 14. A year later Northern California's Vinay Bhat out did Jordy by one month. The record has returned to the east coast with a transplanted former West Coast resident, Hikaru Nakamura, who last year at the age of 10 obtained his Master's rating.

Jordy has also consented to be the first scholastic representative to the CalChess Board. CalChess, the Northern California, affiliate to the US Chess Federation, may be the first state organization to reserve a seat on it's governing board for a scholastic player. This position is an advisory one. If you are a scholastic player and you would like Jordy as your representative to introduce something or discuss some issue of concern to scholastic chess at the next CalChess Board meeting, please contact him at: jordymr@aol.com.

All of the Weible Summer Quads were booming successes. The first quad on June 26th drew 201 players. The second match on July 10th had 176 players. The



**US Cadet champion Jordy Mont-Reynaud (l) with master Irina Krush. 15 year-old Jordy Mont-Reynaud won the 1999 US Cadet Championship in Nashville, TN. This invitational tournament for players under-16 was hotly contested. Going into the last round three players were tied at 4-2, but only Jordy managed to win (although he had Black). A fine exchange sacrifice paved the way to Jordy's victory. Report courtesy of the Mechanics Institute.**

last Weibel Summer Scholastic Quad (August 14) drew the largest number of players yet—218. We had 10 players from Biggs (near Chico) and one from Brooklyn, New York. Our reputation is really spreading. Actually many of the players were here to attend Larry Evan's chess camp and heard about the tournament. I had purchased 65 new trophies as I gave all my trophies at the other two quads and still ran 11 short. My biggest problem was that half my staff was at the US Open in Reno. Thankfully, Lynette and Jeff Gordon of the Berkeley Chess School and Steve Wu of Palo Alto volunteered to fill in. Yet, without the dynamite never ending energy of Kim Ma, player Tim Ma's mom, I could never have survived. As a special bonus at the last quad on August 14<sup>th</sup> all participants received a ten dollar off coupon for a purchase at The Athlete's Foot store. I do not know if they sell a special chess shoe.

The Hayward Library Tournament on July 24<sup>th</sup> also had a record number of participants. The Hayward Library Tournament is a free non-US Chess Federa-



**Uri Andrews (left) winner of the gold medal for chess at the JCC Maccabi Games. Photo by Jason Black.**

*Continued on page 30*

# Phil Smith: The King of Central California

Interviewed by Dennis Wajckus

Phil Smith was the King of Central California for many years both as the strongest player in the area and an imposing personality. At one time, Phil had the distinction of being the oldest player to ever be awarded a masters title by the USCF. Phil's active chess life began in the early thirties. In the mid-eighties Phil retired from tournaments due to failing eyesight. In truth, Phil's eyes never were very good and their weakness probably held him back from the next highest level of chess accomplishment. Although officially "retired", Phil would bring his bad eyes to the dim lights of the pizza parlor that was home to the Fresno Chess Club and there he would entertain the rest of us with stories of his encounters with the legends of chess. Spassky, Lasker, Reshevsky, Keres, and Fine might be mythological creatures to the rest of us but Phil had actually played each one of them. Of other chess legends that he had met such as Fischer, Edmondson, Koltanowski, and Steiner, Phil had strong and controversial opinions. The truth be told, Phil had strong opinions on everything and everyone chess related.

We lost Phil in March of 1994 and the Fresno Chess Club has been a little too quiet ever since. We look around in vain for the thick eye glasses and the intense smile of our lost storyteller. It is with pleasure that we share Phil Smith's memories and opinions with a wider audience one last time.

— Allan Fifield



Phil Smith (standing left) in simultaneous action against Dennis Wajckus on 11/18/80

**Dennis:** The following interview took place in Fresno, California. Today is the 20th of January 1983. I'm Dennis Wajckus and I'm with Phil Smith. Phil Smith is the highest rated chess player in Fresno. Can you remember anything about your first tournament and when it was?

**Phil:** Well, it was in the summer of 1933 when I was living in Manhattan, Kansas. I finished high school that year. There was a Kansas State Championship Tournament at the Kansas State Fair in Topeka. And there was a professor in the local college in Manhattan who took me down to the tournament and I stayed with my aunt and uncle. There were about 12 players from all over the state. We played a double round robin. I won one of my two games to the man who won the tournament called Webber Solano. I even remember the opening, a Giuoco Piano. Then later we moved down to Arkansas when I was about 16 and I played in a

chess club that was run by the mother of Senator Fulbright. I remember being in an exhibition in her backyard and then going down to Port Smith to another simultaneous. But then later we moved back to Colorado. I didn't do much chess until I was about 20. When I was about 20 I got job in Washington, D.C., as messenger for the Interstate Commerce Commission. I really discovered when I went to the leading chess club in Washington how good chess players were. I was playing with masters and experts.

**Dennis:** That's interesting. I was wondering if you could tell me about some of the chess clubs you belonged to across the country and any special remembrances of any of those clubs.

**Phil:** Well, we had many strong players in Washington at the Capital City Chess Club. Unfortunately, we played our tournament games on Saturday night and there was also a poker group there so sometimes I would hurry

to do my tournament game in order to lose my money in a poker game. But I remember one...Doctor Emanuel Lasker, who is probably one of the most famous of all players, the best of all players. He came to Washington when he was 70 years old, in 1938, and I got to play a simultaneous against him. And he played about 26 players but he was very slow. After 4 hours at midnight, about half the games, including my own, were unfinished. Well, I had sacrificed a pawn. I played the French defense and he played an old 19th century variations, it's still in the books. I sacrificed a pawn initially and I thought I had a fine game but something happened in that simultaneous that I've never seen happen at any simultaneous after that. The unfinished games were adjudicated by local masters. They decided at midnight the doctor was too old and feeble to finish the games. So if the doctor had a slight disadvantage, they called it

a draw and if he had a slight advantage a win. In my case I was a pawn down so they called a win. Here about 10 years ago I was attending one of Bill Myers's tournaments in Fresno and one of the younger players, about 14 years old, came up to me and he says, quite seriously...he says, "Mr. Smith, who is the strongest chess player you ever played in your life?" So I thought for a minute and I said, "Dr Emanuel Lasker". And the next question was, "Who's he?" I said, "You've just destroyed my faith in the younger generation. Emanuel Lasker was only the greatest chess player who ever lived." "Oh," he said, "I thought it was Bobby Fischer." Which shows you how far back the younger players go. The first tournament I played in Washington (DC) was for the District championship, a very strong tournament. I had gone down to the club on a Saturday afternoon and A.W. Fox, who was one of the leading players in the early years of this century, played me a game one afternoon. I got a draw with him and he says, "Young man, you play so well that you should win the District championship." Well, I played in the District championship and there were 11 rounds and I lost every game. Before I left Washington in 1939, I won a tournament there. Then I went to Los Angeles in 1939 and I was there till 1941. For two years I played in Los Angeles. The old Los Angeles chess club was downtown. It was run by a man named E. P. Elliott. E. P. Elliott had won the Western Chess Association Championship in the 1903 which was the forerunner of the U.S. Open. He was little a man about 5'2" and he ran some very good tournaments. There were four qualifying sections for the Los Angeles championship and two of us from each section played for the championship. I tied for 3rd and I won the play off. Later in 1941 I went to Denver and I played a number of tournaments in Denver. I won a big tournament in Denver. I was then drafted in the service and I played little chess. After I got out

of the service, I was in Los Angeles for a long time where I played in more tournaments. Then I went back to Minnesota and got a masters degree. I remember in 1946-47 I played in the Minneapolis City Championship and I came in second. I lost my first game and I won the next six. But the person who won the tournament gave up only one draw. Then in 1947 I was in Bakersfield and in 1949 the first California Open was held over in Atascadero. I was one of twelve players. And I won first place 6-1, so I qualified for the state championship the next year in San Francisco. I had an even score and I came in fourth out of 8 players. I played a second time in San Francisco in 1952. But I played in many California Opens. We used to have a California State Federation before it split up into north and south. We've had a California Open which many times was held in Fresno or San Luis Obispo. That was held on Labor Day Weekend. Then on Memorial Day weekend, we would have a North-South match. Sometimes we'd have 50 or 60 on a side. And then we had the State Rapid Transit Tournament. When I lived in Los Angeles I played the south and then in Fresno I played for the north. I played as high as second board for the north. Then I played in the Rapid Transit. The best I ever did in the Rapid Transit was to tie for first with John Blackstone. At about the same time I won the Southern California five minute tournament. That's about the best I ever did. About 1946, I was editing a newspaper in Los Angeles there Hermann Steiner there who at the time was one of the biggest names in California chess. Hermann Steiner ran a fine tournament and we had many top American players: Rueben Fine, Sammy Reshevsky Isaac Kashdan, and Weaver Adams. I got to cover it for the United Press for two weeks. And then after it was over, there was a five minute tournament and it had about 10 of the local Los Angeles players and then the top players such as

Rueben Fine and Reshevsky. I remember that I was thrilled that I got a plus four in that playing with the grandmasters and the international masters. I played in a number of simultaneous exhibitions. Of course, many years ago in Washington I played with people like Israel Horowitz, who was one of the strongest players in the country. He ran the old *Chess Review* which became part of *Chess Life*. I remember when I lived in Los Angeles in 1946, I was a member of the Los Feliz Chess Club in Hollywood and Rueben Fine came one Saturday night to gave a simultaneous. He was to play 26 of us at 8:00. Now Rueben, unlike Dr. Lasker, was a very fast simultaneous player. He showed up at 9:00. He beat every one of us in one hour flat. It was like he was on roller skates. It was just fantastic how fast...he just seemed like I no sooner made my move and he was back. And one old guy lost a rook very early and kept playing. Rueben stopped in front of his board and glared at him and said in a nasty voice, "You think you can spot me a rook!" Everybody just like laughed. Horowitz was always very genial when he gave a simultaneous. So was Sammy Reshevsky. Sammy gave one here in the valley in 1965 and I was one of the players. I made a threatening move in the middle game and I said draw; he said draw so I got a draw with Sammy. I got to play with Paul Keres one time. I was over in Europe at Palma de Mallorca on sabbatical in Europe. My wife and I went to the Interzonal in which Bobby Fischer played for five weeks and qualified for the matches that lead to the Spassky match. And we were there about three weeks and we watched Fischer play against the best in the world. And one night we had read in the local newspaper that there was a European bridge championship. My wife and I like bridge. We went to watch and Omar Shariff, the famous movie star, was playing in the bridge tournament and they had a rather odd situation. For every table, like this card table,

somebody had gone through the trouble to build like a little stadium that you could sit on. The spectators could sit above every table and look down and watch the players. So we could sit down and watch Omar Shariff play a hand. But unfortunately I was reading a little English language newspaper that is published there while we were watching. My wife was quite fascinated by it all, and I suddenly read in this little paper that there was no chess tournament that night that Paul Keres, who was second in all the Russian competitors, was going to give an exhibition that night. I hadn't known about it and so I said to my wife, "Well, I'm sorry but we have to leave the bridge tournament. We've got to go over to the chess tournament because I've got to play against Keres." He only played six boards because it wasn't well publicized. There were a lot of experts and minor masters who were there from all over Europe. Some of them second string players. I think Keres lost one game and he drew with me. I had a Gruenfeld against him and it was a dead draw for a long time but he made me play and work until only kings left. Very grim. Very handsome man but very grim. I got play Spassky as you know about 1980 at the Paul Mason tournament and I was able to get a draw, a book draw that Larry Evans published in his column.

**Dennis:** Do you remember anything specific about that draw or about Spassky?

**Phil:** Oh yes, Spassky was a very genial man. I had seen him the first time in 1966. I went down to watch one round in a Santa Monica tournament where he came in first ahead of Fischer. In this Paul Mason tournament, Dr Euwe was there, who at that time was 80 years old. And Dr. Euwe and Spassky gave back to back simultaneous exhibitions. Kind of an outdoor pavilion had been set up a tent. I understand that a computer beat Euwe in his exhibition. I had been watching Spassky played about 22 or 24 boards. One man beat him and I

drew. The thing I remember about Spassky is I played the accelerated fianchetto in the Sicilian for years. In that particular variation was in some famous draws that people like Spassky and Fischer and Petrosian had had. At the particular point where the draw might be effective (about 12-14 moves) Spassky moved the knight to Q<sub>R</sub>4 instead Q<sub>N</sub>5 which was the draw line. I had read that one of Spassky's countrymen (whose name I have trouble pronouncing) Polugayevsky had developed that line. So when Spassky played that move, I asked him how do you pronounce your countryman's name who originated that move. Well, he never answered my question. He just said, "Oh, I had really played that move first. He just got credit for it." Everybody laughed. I looked it up later on in Levy's book and Levy credited to Hort (the Czechoslovakian master). But I was very impressed with Spassky as a real gentleman. There have been a number of exhibitors who haven't always been gentlemen. I think the worst thing I ever saw occur was when I was at Hermann Steiner's chess club one night in about 1946. Hermann was playing members of his club and he made a move on one board and he was absolutely lost. And he turned and went to the next board and he noticed that he had made a mistake so he goes back to the board where he made the mistake. He changes the move by saying "I adjust" and he goes on. That was terrible sportsmanship. Well, as a matter of fact, there have been some people who have run exhibitions who have argued that the exhibitor shouldn't be bound by such touch-move rules, that he has a right to change his move. It's not chess unless it's touch-move. Speaking of five minute chess, you know, at the five minute tournament this weekend, Dave [Quarve] and I had quite a discussion about the rules for five minute chess. We went through the various editions of Morrison's [USCF] rule book. Also, I went through about 110 maga-

zines looking for interpretations and added rules. There have been a number of people in various parts of the country who have tried to say that you don't have to play touch-move or that an illegal rule doesn't lose. The United States Chess Federation and the international chess federation should clarify this. I was playing in a tournament down in South Carolina one time and one of the local players told me that they didn't play touch-move down there. I played in connection with the British championship in 1973 and 1976. I played in some fast Rapid Transit tournaments during the British championships and I remember they played touch move. They didn't exactly play five minute chess. In some of the Rapid Transit tournaments we played in the old state chess federation instead of playing five minute chess, somebody would call out "move". Every 10 seconds somebody would call "move". Maybe you've played in tournament's like that?

**Dennis:** I've heard of them, I've never played in one.

**Phil:** Well, when I stayed one time in England in 1973 for two weeks, I played in two five-day tournaments in connection with British championship. They had a ten second tournament one night and I came in second. And they had several players from the main British championship playing and that's how they did it. Somebody said "Move!" and everybody moved. In the old California State Chess Federation they used to have ten second tournaments. It's a bad way to have Rapid Transit chess because I've always seen arguments on whether when you moved on the bell or whether you moved after the bell. I've seen one of the best players in Los Angeles reach out and grab somebody's king one time because he said that he didn't move on the bell. So it's not a good substitute for five-minute chess.

**Dennis:** Can you recall from your boyhood and growing up and playing who some of your chess heroes were at that time?

**Phil:** Yes. When I first started



playing chess Alexander Alekhine, world champion, was one of them. He beat Jose Capablanca in Argentina in 1927. At the time of course I did know all the flaws of Alekhine, the drinking and the drugs. I certainly didn't know foresee the future than he would play in a lot of Nazi sponsored tournaments during World War II. Although I admired Capablanca, but his style was not inspiring. Capa always kept a draw in hand something like Karpov today. Alekhine had a style like Kasparov (the coming world champion.) with sacrifices.

**Dennis:** Who are you a chess fan of today ?

**Phil:** Emanuel Lasker.

**Dennis:** Still an Emanuel Lasker fan!

**Phil:** Well, I'll tell you one reason. I studied the games of Lasker and I've studied Capablanca and I've studied Alekhine, as well as Nimzovitch, Fischer, Kasparov, Karpov, Petrosian, and Spassky. The reason why I've always admired Lasker was he had a fighting style. His theory was that chess was not a art but it was a fight, a struggle and that victory often went to the person who fought hardest. He was a great psychologist and so forth. He has been accused of playing slightly inferior openings somewhat like Larsen and Korchnoi have done . He knew his opponents so he played his opponent and not just the board. It used to be said in the heyday of Capablanca that if Capablanca's opponent made no mistakes then the game would be a draw, but that wasn't necessarily true with Alekhine. You could play a rather flawless game against Alekhine and still lose.

**Dennis:** I recall you mentioning a problem with this one time and I wonder if it still happens to you. You used to tell me that people still come up to you and ask you what ever happened to Bobby Fischer and when will he return to chess. Does that still happen to you?

**Phil:** Oh yes. A lot of my friends that don't play chess ask about Bobby Fischer. I don't think that chess players who play a lot or who

read Larry Evans' column in the USCF magazine ask as much. Because certainly people ask about Fischer; people that knew nothing about chess knew about Fischer. I'm certain hat the US Chess Federation gained more members when tournament chess was more popular in the United States with Fischer. I personally didn't like Fischer. I thought he was a stinker.

**Dennis:** How old was he when you saw him? That was in 1968?

**Phil:** Well, I only saw him three times. Fischer was born in 1943. In 1957 he was 14, he came out to San Francisco to play on the U.S. Junior championship, which I think he won about 8-1/2, and Koltanowski was TD. I remember Fischer at that time before he started wearing suits and ties; Fischer was poor looking clothes and tennis shoes. He kept pestering Ronald Gross who was a well known master in Southern California . I remember hearing Fischer pester Koltanowski to give him Gross's address. That's the first time I saw Fischer play. Then in 1966 I saw him Palma de Mallorca and I got a poor opinion of him the 3 weeks I spent there. He made so many demands and he was such an unpleasant character the Americans was pulling for the Russians to beat him. That was the only time I every saw Americans pull for the Russians to win. For example, the players and the spectators were all staying in the same hotel. If you didn't get back to the hotel at a certain time you wouldn't get any evening meal or warm food. Originally the rounds were going to be run from 3:00 to 8:00 so the players and spectators could still get back to the hotel for the evening meal. But when Fischer arrived that wasn't good enough so he demanded the rounds be changed 4 to 9 which meant that it was too late to get a warm meal in the hotel. Then also he demanded because of his religion (he was affiliated with the Worldwide Church of God although he wasn't a member) that he wouldn't play from sundown on Friday to sun-

down on Saturday. And that meant that certain players would have to get up and play him in the morning. Incidentally, Sammy Reshevsky demanded the same thing. Then he also made a number of other complaints about lights and playing conditions. They played in a rather small auditorium. When they played off adjourned games there would be a few spectators there, Fischer was very, very worried about the noise and the lights. I also saw him come outside the ropes one time and there was a fan there watching the games on the demonstration board. Fischer was kind of awkward anyway, the way he walks, and Fischer ran right into the guy and kind of knocked him down. Anybody but Fischer would have said pardon me, but not Bobby Fischer. In fact, we were all using a little bathroom (there weren't many bathrooms around). There was just a small bathroom and I was standing in the bathroom and he came in and he accidentally knocked the door against my back really hard. Of course, Bobby Fischer didn't say I'm sorry. Anybody but Bobby Fischer would have said excuse me but it wasn't his way. Anyway, after some time I got pretty disgusted with him. I thought the other players were gentlemen. When Larsen beat Fisher (the only game Fischer lost), Larsen came outside the playing room and talked to the fans; he told us how the game went. I set at the table with a number of the Russian players like Geller. I didn't know that Geller spoke English until the night Fischer beat him and I heard Geller say in perfect English' "Well, I had a draw but I made a mistake." And Fisher turned to show Geller that he had a win anyway, but about six grand masters descended on the board at that point and so Fischer ran away. So we never did get to see what Fischer had in mind. It was a thrill to be there and to see all those strong players.

**To be continued in the Fall issue**

# A Double-Header

By  
Steve Cohen

When only 2 players participated in the first G/15 Challenge event, I admit I wondered how long would the intended series survive. On May, 8, 1999, the Challenge series began its third season of exciting chess action as 33 players came from all parts of the Bay Area to take part in this unique opportunity for practice against such high-quality opposition. Especially for the many children-participants who would be attending State and National Championships' competition the following week-end, the chance to gain practice among some of the top scholastic players of this country, not to mention G/5 practice with a 6-time U.S. Champion (**Walter Browne**, who enjoys attending these "Challenge" events), was an opportunity not to be lost – and for many of them, it was an opportunity to gain experience that certainly was not lost (as a number of them went to take top prizes the following week-end in the State Championships, and in the National Championships in Ari-



**A. Ibragimov vs W. Browne with A. Rozenvasser vs M. Krubnik in the background**

zona).

In the Open Division, Walter Browne bested the field of 10 to increase his Challenge-series champion streak to 4, and take home the 1<sup>st</sup>-place check for \$250! A point and a half behind Browne's perfect score in the 5-round Swiss-pairing event was **Arthur Ibragimov**, of San Francisco, who

earned the \$125 2<sup>nd</sup>-place prize. The third place prize of \$75 was



**New Stanford Chess Club president Michael Aigner takes on Walter Browne**

taken by **Michael Aigner** in his Challenge-series debut, who tied with yours truly, the winner of the 1<sup>st</sup>-place U2200 prize. **Mike Maloney** won the 2<sup>nd</sup>-place U2200 prize of \$50.

In the 15-player Senior Amateur Section, the largest, 9-year-old **Alexander Setzepfandt** from Oakland took a last-round draw against his 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade rival, **Daichi Siegrist** (who ended in 4<sup>th</sup>) to remain undefeated and earn the first-place check for \$100 (and a trophy). Meanwhile, a 3<sup>rd</sup>-round loss to new-comer **Steve Moca** of Walnut Creek kept **Al Rangole** a ½-point behind Setzepfandt, to finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> (and collect \$75), a ½-point ahead of Moca, who ended



**Action in the 15-player Senior Amateur Section**

in 3<sup>rd</sup> on tie-breaks over Siegrist (both received \$50, as Siegrist opted for the top U1600 prize).

There was a 3-way tie for the \$30 2<sup>nd</sup>-place U1600 prize between **Nazee Moghadam**, **John Meadows** and **Ewelina Krubnik**, with each collecting \$10 (Michael Pearson actually made it a 4-way tie, but his rating was too high to share the prize).

In the Junior Amateur Division, **Corey Chang** (who would go on the following week to become State 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade Champion!!) demonstrated why practice makes perfect, for though Chang has had his misfortunes in past "Challenges," on this day he powered past former Jr. Am. Div. winners on his way to a perfect score to earn the first-place trophy, a full 1½ points ahead of his nearest com-



**Serious faces in the Junior Amateur Section**

petitor, **Michael Konkol**, who finished in 2<sup>nd</sup>. A ½-point back, the 1998 Jr. Am. G/15 Champion (and '99 California K-8U co-champ), **Ahmad Moghadam** finished in sole 3<sup>rd</sup>; but, there was a 3-way tie for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, with tie-breaks giving the trophies to **Yuki Siegrist** (who went on to take top honors in Kindergarten at the State Championships), **Robert Hsu**, and **Emilia Krubnik**, respectively. **Sammy Roberts**, in his "Challenge" debut, won 7<sup>th</sup> on tie-breaks over **Mahnoosh Moghadam**, who earned the final J.A. trophy.

But the excitement did not stop there! After a 45 minute break, 15 players came together for a massive G/5 round robin,

# of Quick Action!



**Smiles all around at the awards ceremony**

WBCA-rated event. It was a chance for 14 to play against a 6-time U.S. Champion (a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some of the children!), and to try to keep



**Walter Browne checks his scoresheet while Michael Pearson thinks about his next move.**

him from repeating as champion of this event. But **Browne** was unstoppable, and Walter went undefeated to collect the \$100 prize for 1<sup>st</sup>, the only one to defeat **Anthony Rozenvasser**, who with a 13-1 score earned the \$50 for 2<sup>nd</sup>. A point back, **Arthur Ibragimov** won \$25 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Alan Plutzik** of Walnut Creek and **Felix Rudyak** of



**Ahmad Moghadam (l) reaches for his move while Michael Pearson reaches to hit the clock**

San Francisco split the \$25, 1<sup>st</sup> U2100 prize with 10-4 scores, **Michael Pearson** took home the




**Berkeley Chess School rivals Alexander Setzefandt (l) and Daichi Siegrist meet once again in the last round**

\$25 for 1<sup>st</sup> U1800 with an 8-6 score; and, **Daichi Siegrist** won the \$25 for 1<sup>st</sup> U1600 with 6-8.

But even more exciting should be the *triple-header of Championships*, starting with the 1999 Peninsula G/15 Challenge Championships (5R-SW) to be held on **Saturday, Nov. 6**, at the same location (Park School, San Mateo). Considering the competition at past events, it should prove to be quite a challenge to win the title of "Peninsula Champion," and a unique opportunity to gain experience against some of the top players in the Bay Area (for each level). **GUARANTEED** prizes on Nov. 6 include Open: \$\$250-150-100-75, U2300 \$100-75 [**and USCF Grand Prix Points will be available!!!**]; Sen Am.: \$\$100-75-60-35, U1600 \$50-30 (+trophies to top 6); Jr. Am: trophies to top 8. **ALSO**, after a break for late lunch, there will follow the 1999 Peninsula G/5 Challenge Championships, a 6-round Swiss-pairing event, with **GUARANTEED** prizes of \$100-50-25, and Top U2100/U1800/U1600 prizes of \$25. Mr. "Six-Time" **Walter Browne** will be competing in both. Also, if that's not enough, after a short break following the

conclusion of the Blitz Championships, the WOLC will host the **first-ever U.S. G/1minute Championships**, a 5-round Swiss-pairing (3 games/round) event for the title of 1999 U.S. G/1min. Champion (and WOLC grand prix points) and **GUARANTEED** prizes of \$150(+trophy)-75-50-25.

A lot of chess action packed into 1 day!!

Finally, I'd like to thank James Millet and Budd Setzefandt for their TDA help at the May 8 event; and a special thanks to Park School of San Mateo for their support. I hope to see you all Nov. 6, start time at 10:30am sharp for G/15 action. For a flier or more info. call the (650) 349-7746, or visit our WebSite at **Error! Bookmark not defined.** 

## CalChess Email Lists

CalChess maintains an email list of CalChess members. Most of the postings to this list are announcements of tournaments or other chess events. To join the list, include your email address on the form when you join or renew your CalChess membership. You can also join the list by sending email to: CalChessMembers-owner@lists.best.com

Your CalChess membership must be current to join the list. To send a message to all the members of the CalChess list, send your posting to

CalChessMembers@lists.best.com

— Doug Shaker —

## Olympian Discusses Elista Chess Olympics

*Continued from page 4*

share, to invent, to compete, to entertain, and happily, not to harm ourselves or others. The activity is chess. All it requires is curiosity."

**Int:** That is a great summation! What can parents do to help develop their children's interest in and ability to play chess?

**Elizabeth:** I would suggest that parents, after they have taught them the basics, stop playing with their children and instead find other children for them to play with, be it through a program like ours at their school or through the school's newsletter or going to local clubs.

As I see it, playing with a parent is a lose lose situation for the child. If he wins the child feels delighted and guilty for feeling delighted. If he loses he feels badly because he lost and seldom takes into account that he should lose because he is playing his teacher. I discourage the instructors in The Berkeley Chess School from playing their students.

What's to be gained? I think parents should ask themselves the same question. If you must play with your child, make it a lesson rather than a game. When you get a won position, turn the board around and let your child play the won position. Keep doing that until the game is over. There is no winner and loser and yet hopefully the child has learned something.

Don't put pressure on your child to win. Have faith that it will come and let him enjoy himself, win or lose. Help him when he loses. If it fits in with the family schedule, bring him to scholastic tournaments and be there for him when he is finished. Teach him to respect the feelings of the other player if he wins, and help him to understand if he loses that the result of one game or one hundred games does not define him as a person. Go over his game after-

wards if he wants to and let him tell you where the mistakes were made or where the triumphs happened. Have him bring his game to school for his chess instructor to go over if he has one. Ideally, in my opinion, young children should play lots and lots of games with other children and enjoy themselves while doing it. Having fun for the child is the most important aspect, if the child is to stick with it and get better.

**Int:** We all know that there are far more boys who play chess than girls. When you were a child how did you become interested in chess? What do you think we can do to motivate more girls to become interested in and stick with the game?

**Elizabeth:** I played chess as a child because we played chess at home. It was played as a friendly game. For example, you always warned your opponent if his queen was en pris! It was played as a game of skill when the best player won. There was no trickery! If you made an obvious blunder you could take your move back! Good sportsmanship was essential. And of course we never used clocks so games could go on for days! It was not until I was in college that I started to play competitively. I got on the college team and that was a lot of fun and very sociable. I was fairly good at it without any study at all. Just a natural ability as a lot of kids have. It was not until I had graduated from college that I opened my first chess book but the results of doing that were dramatic. Finally seeing what the game is about and the potential was very exciting. To this day I don't know whether to regret not having started studying earlier or whether to rejoice that I was left alone to enjoy the game as I knew it!

As for getting more girls to play chess, that is a difficult question to which I do not have the answer. Recently we held an all girls tournament for the girls who take chess through The Berkeley Chess School. We invited 200 girls

and 80 showed up to play. It was a terrific success and a real chess morale booster for most of the girls who came. I'm still hearing from the parents how great it was for their daughters. From this group we plan to form a girls team and challenge other chess programs to produce girls teams and play. In essence, a girls league. We will see what happens. It seems to me that girls are finally coming into their own in competitive sports and I don't see any reason why that should not include chess. And the Polgar sisters are there now as role models. It will take time however. A change like that does not happen overnight. I already reach great numbers of girls in the schools. I will continue to try to think of new ways to bring the pleasure of chess to them.

Unfortunately, I was out of the country for this years Sojourner Truth Tournament, but I hope next year The Berkeley Chess School will participate.

**Int:** You have your instructors place a strong emphasis on tactics and much less emphasis on opening and end game aspects of chess. Why is this?

**Elizabeth:** Because that is what beginners, children or adults, should be spending most of their energy on! We teach openings by showing games but tactics is the soul of chess. If you teach children to play tactics well, there won't be an endgame. If they know their tactics and look for tactics on every move they will become strong A players and enjoy every step of the way! Then they can study openings. It is a fact of life, however, that children (and sometimes their parents too!) will pick up the idea that they need to know openings (usually unsound ones with interesting names) to sound like a "real" chess player. It is sad, however, when that need to sound grown up translates into real time spent studying opening lines when they are still making huge tactical errors. 90% of games won at any tournament are won tactically. We show the games of the

great, who after all have opened somehow! We show openings which lead to open games which give lessons on tactics. We encourage students to play openings which lead to open games because then their superior knowledge of tactics will pay off. If they spend any time at all studying chess it should be to study tactics. Another fact of life, however, is that most children spend very little time studying chess. What little time they spend then should be spent on what makes the game interesting. Tactics.

I've made that the cornerstone of our program and am gratified when GMs like Roman Dzindzichashvili (who taught Garry Kasparov) and Julio Kaplan among others advise the students to forget studying openings and study tactics. It is a hard sell but we might someday make it as fashionable and grown up as studying openings now is!

I also have noticed that many teachers (non Berkeley Chess School instructors) can think of nothing but openings to teach! Many lifetimes could be spent studying openings and so their position as lifetime coach is assured! For that reason we have lesson plans.

**Int:** What do you feel is the most rewarding part of the work that you do?

**Elizabeth:** Watching the joy that the students get from "getting" a problem. Watching their eyes light up as they understand a concept. Watching as they put what they have learned into play. I enjoy the administrative aspects of the program too, the idea of doing a job well, of running an organization properly, but it is the contact with the students which makes it come alive.

**Int:** Are there any particular goals that you have for The Berkeley Chess School?

**Elizabeth:** Our goal is to continue what we are doing, do it better and reach more kids. Our instructors are the heart of the program and so, if we are to expand,

we need to recruit and train more good instructors. Alternatively, we can stay the size we are and do a better job reaching more kids in the schools we already serve. It all depends on whether or not we can recruit quality instructors. In the last year or so I have noticed other chess players start chess schools in surrounding areas following our example. I think this is a good trend.

There are enough students to go around and no one group can reach everybody. We will challenge every school and create healthy competition and raise the level of chess in the area. Alan Kirshner and I have come to realize the immense value to our students of such competition. One of The Berkeley Chess School's best teachers, Mark Brown, is moving to Modesto and plans to start a school there. We wish him well and look forward to challenging his kids. This will lead to a higher standard of chess in the area as a whole and someday we will challenge New York with its million dollars of Intel money and win!

The mention of Intel money going exclusively to New York students reminds me of the children in California's inner cities where there is no Intel money to reach them. I would hope that Intel, or other corporations, would give us equal money to go into schools in their own backyard and teach those students chess. Enough studies have been done to show the value of chess instruction toward reading and math skills. If not Intel then maybe some other company who cares about the fate of these kids. I'd like to see that happen.

**Int:** Well, perhaps somebody will read this article and be able to help The Berkeley Chess School out with some funding. It's been a pleasure talking with you. Thank you.

**Elizabeth Shaughnessy and The Berkeley Chess School can be reached at (510) 843-0150.**

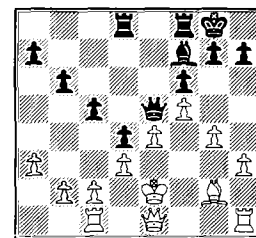


**FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and Elizabeth Shaughnessy at Elista.**

**Nisrine Koteich  
(Lebanon) Elizabeth  
Shaughnessy  
(Ireland)**

**1990 Chess Olympics  
(Elista, Russia) Vienna Game**

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 d5 4. d3 Bb4 5. Bg2 0-0 6. Bd2 Nc6 7. Nxd5 Bc5 8. Be3 Nxd5 9. Bxc5 Nde7 10. Qd2 b6 11. Be3 Be6 12. f4 f6 13. f5 Bf7 14. h3 Qd6 15. a3 Nd4 16. Ne2 Nec6 17. g4 Nxe2 18. Qxe2 Nd4 19. Qf2 Qc5 20. Bxd4 exd4 21. Rc1 Qa5+ 22. Ke2 Rad8 23. Qe1 Qb5 24. Qb4 Qe5 25. Qe1 c5



26. c4 dxc3 27. Rxc3 Rd4 28. Qd2 c4 29. Rhc1 Rfd8 30. Kf2 Rxd3 31. Rxd3 Rxd3 32. Qb4 Qf4+ 33. Bf3 Rxf3+ 34. Ke2 Qe3+ 35. Kd1 Rf1+ 36. Kc2 Qxc1# 0-1



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## C.C.J. Submission Policy

Our CCJ copy submission policy remains 'author friendly'. While our preference is for electronic submission, typewritten or neat handwritten copy is acceptable. Electronic submission allows you to include game scores, chess diagrams, and digitized photos. In general, tournaments submitted in an electronic format will be allotted more space. Our preference is for Microsoft Word files with diagrams created using the Linares font. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on how to submit material to *California Chess Journal*.

The next deadline for C.C.J. submissions is November 20.  
Allan Fifield, PO Box 27  
Visalia, CA 93279-0027

Days: (209)-651-3300 #371 \* Nights:  
(209)-734-2784 \* FAX: (209)-651-0739

CompuServe: 102033.3421  
AOL: jostensvis  
Internet: fifiela@jostens.com

## Central Coast Chess Notes

*Continued from page 16*

Rcc2 35.Bf3 Rxh2 36.Bh1 Nxe4  
37.Qd3 Rxh1+ 38.Kxh1 Qh5+ 0-1

I think every player in Northern California has heard of Uri Andrews by now. Here he has an expert in the bag, but then he goes to sleep and flubs a rook ending. Don't try this at home.

**Andrews, Uri (1687)**  
**Randall, Timothy (2060)**  
**Round 2 [D10]**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6  
4.Bg5 dxc4 5.e3 b5 6.a4 b4 7.Na2  
a5 8.Bxc4 e6 9.Nc1 Be7 10.Nf3  
Nbd7 11.O-O O-O 12.Nd3 Qb6  
13.Rc1 Bb7 14.Nfe5 Rfd8 15.Nxd7  
Rxd7 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Bb3 Rc8  
18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Rxc5 Qxc5 20.dxc5  
Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Rc7 22.Rd6 Kf8 23.e4  
Ke7 24.f4 e5 25.fxe5 fxe5 26.Rh6  
Ba6 27.Rxh7 Kf8 28.Rh5 Rd7  
29.Rxe5 Rd2 30.Rf5 Rxb2 31.Rxf7+  
Ke8 32.Ra7 Rxb3 33.Rxa6 Rb1+

34.Kf2 b3 35.Rxc6 b2 36.Rb6 Kd7  
37.e5 Kd8 38.Rb7 Kc8 39.c6 Kd8  
40.e6 Rc1 41.Rxb2 Rxc6 42.Re2  
Rc4 43.e7+ Ke8 44.g3 Rxa4 45.h4  
Rb4 46.h5 a4 47.h6 Rb6 48.g4 Rxh6  
49.Kg3 Rh7 50.Ra2 Rxe7 51.Rxa4  
Kf7 52.Kf4 Kg7 53.Kf5 Rf7+ 54.Kg5  
Rb7 55.Ra5 Rc7 56.Rf5 Ra7 57.Kh5  
Rb7 58.g5 Ra7 59.g6 Rb7 60.Re5  
Ra7 61.Kg5 Rb7 62.Rf5 Ra7 63.Rf7+  
1/2-1/2

## BAY AREA SUMMER SCHOLASTICS

*Continued from page 21*

ers participated in this quick chess match. A few years ago, Ray Orwig of St. Mark's in San Rafael, whose wife is a children's librarian at the Fremont Public Library, did a series of free library tournaments in Alameda County. A number of our successful young players started out in these competitions including Jordy Mont-Reynaud and my son Micah who did obtain an Expert rating. The Hayward Library Tournament is

the only one of these competitions remaining. It is a city library and not part of the Alameda Library system and so they have funding no longer available to the Alameda Library system.

Ray Orwig will run four scholastic quads this school year (two in the Fall and two in the Winter). I will have the exact dates and an application posted on our tournament site as soon as I receive them.

This fall may see a new club and team after school program emerging in Fremont at the Wisdom Chinese Cultural Center. Keep checking at <http://WisdomChess.usaweb.nu> for further information.

**Read All About it**  
Visit our sites on the  
World Wide Web  
<http://calchess.webjump.com>  
&  
<http://.webjump.com/scholastics.html>

# The CalChess Calendar of Events

(\* = CalChess discount) last update 5-2099

## 1999

Aug	28-29	(Sat-Sun)	Sacramento Class Club Weekend Swiss #3	(JM)*
Sept	4-6	(Sat-Mon)	Labor Day Chess Festival	(RK)*
Sept	18-19	(Sat-Sun)	LERA Sunnyvale Class Championship	(JH & Ty)
Sept	19	(Sun)	G/15 Championship (San Francisco)	(JA2)
Oct	2	(Sat)	Visalia Fall Picnic	(AF)
Oct	9-10	(Sat-Sun)	Berkeley Class Struggle	(AG & MG)
Oct	10	(Sun)	Berkeley Scholastic	(BY)
Oct	16	(Sat)	Fresno Fall Quads	(DW)
Oct	23	(Sat)	Porterville Chess for Kids	(AF)
Oct	29-31	(Fri-Sun)	Western States Open (Reno)	(JW)
Nov	12-14	(Fri-Sun)	Capp's Memorial (San Francisco)	(JA2)
Nov	20-21	(Sat-Sun)	Freno County Championship	(DW)*
Nov	26-28	(Fri-Sun)	LERA Thanksgiving (Sunnyvale)	(JH & TY)
Dec	18-19	(Sat-Sun)	Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #4	(JM)

### Annual Events

2nd weekend Jan (Sa-Su): Sojourner Truth Girls' Tourney (Palo Alto) (DS)	Memorial Day weekend (Sa-M): LERA Memorial Day (Sunnyvale) (JH)
Martin Luther King weekend (Sa-M): Martin Luther King (RK)	2nd weekend June (F-Su): Stamer Memorial (San Francisco) (JA2)
Presidents' Day weekend (Sa-M): People's (Berkeley) (MG & AG)	4th of July weekend (Sa-M): Universe Open (TD)
1st weekend March (F-Su): San Francisco Amateur (JA2)	Labor Day weekend (1st weekend Sept.) (Sa-M): Labor Day Festival (RK)
last weekend March (Sa-Su): State Scholastic Championship (Santa Clara) (AK)	last weekend Oct. (F-Su): Western States Open (Reno) (JW)
1st weekend May (Sa-Su): Livermore Spring Open (RH)	1st weekend Nov. (S-Su): Livermore Fall Open (RH)
Weekend prior to Memorial Day (Sa-Su): San Joaquin Championship (Fresno) (DW)	2nd weekend Nov. (F-Su): Capps (San Francisco) (JA2)

## Tournament Organizers

JA = Jeff Andersen, P.O. Box 10845, Napa 94581 (707) 251-8175 troon@aol.com	MG2 = Michael Ghormley, 5120 Alcott Dr., Sacramento 95820 (916)388-1601 mjg99@blacksand.com mjg99@yahoo.com	6700 50th St., Sacramento 95823-1306 (916)428-5532 jmc-lmc@pacbell.net	Reno NV 89523 (702) 747-1405
JA2= Joan Arbil, 57 Post St., Mechanics Rm408 94101 (415)421-2258 Chessroom@aol.com	DH = Dan Holbrook, 1220 Elliott #42, Paradise 95969 (916)877-3911	CP = Charles Pigg, 429 Vista Ct., Livermore 94550 (925)447-5067	SW = Scott Wilson 380 E Esplanade Ave #109 Pacifica 94044 Scott@Burlingame ChessClub.com
TD = Tom Dorsch, P.O. Box 7453, Menlo Park 94026 (650)322-0955 TomDorsch@aol.com	RH = Riley Hughes 4019 Rector Common Fremont 94539 (510)623-1889 KnowChess@aol.com	HP = Hans Poschmann, 4621 Seneca Park Ave., Fremont 94538 (510) 656-8505 hspwood2@home.net	CW = Carolyn Withgitt PO Box 6350, Hayward 94540-5305 (650)322-0955
JE = James Eade, 521 Fanita Way, Menlo Park 94025 (650)328-9785 jimeade@aol.com	JH = Jim Hurt, 31 Cactus Court Parachute CO 81635 (970)285-7041	JP = Jimmy Plumb, 1878 W. 11 St. #144, Tracy 95376 hereshope9@nreach.com	TY = Ted Yudacufski PO Box 1308 Monterey 93940 (831)646-8730
AF = Allan Fifield, PO Box 27, Visalia 93279 (559)734-2784 fifield@jostens.com jostensvis@aol.com	AK = Alan Kirshner, 66 Indian Hill Plaza, Fremont 94539 (510) 657-1586 hegemon@hooked.net	JS = Joe Salazar (408)259-4002 JWS345@aol.com	BY = Bonnie Yost 3701 West Floradora Fresno, CA 93722 (559)275-0905
AG = Alan Glasscoe PO Box 11613 Oakland 94611 (510)652-5324	RK = Richard Koepcke, 2047 Montecito Ave.#30, Mountain View 94043 (650)964-2640 richard.koepcke@ ebay.Sun.COM	DS = Doug Shaker, 2030 Mills Ave., Menlo Park 94025 (650)854-2545 doug@theshakers.org	<i>Tournament Clearinghouse</i> Riley Hughes 4019 Rector Common Fremont, CA 94538-2145 (510) 623-1889 KnowChess@aol.com
MG = Mike Goodall, 461 Peachstone Terr., San Rafael 94903 (415) 491-1269	TM = Tom Martell, 15308 Laverne Drive, San Leandro 94579 (510)895-5228 tommbod@aol.com	SS = Steve Smallwood, 1028 Cassia Way, Sunnyvale 94086 (408) 247-8510 stephen677@aol.com	<i>Send tournament reports and annotated games to CCI:</i> Allan Fifield PO Box 27 Visalia 93279-0027 (559) 734-2784 Fifield@Jostens.com jostensvis@aol.com
	JM = John McCumiskey,	DW = Dennis Wajckus, 5924 E. Illinois Ave., Fresno 93727-3566 (559) 252-4484	
		DW2=Dave Wait 84 Carlos Ct Walnut Creek 94596	
		JW = Jerome Welkel, 6578 Valley Wood Dr.,	

# 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  
www.BurlingameChessClub.com

## **Campbell**

Kolty Chess Club  
Thursdays 7-11:30 p.m.  
Campbell Comm Ctr  
Winchester/W. Campbell  
F. Leffingwell 408-732-5188  
work 408-526-7090  
fleffing@cisco.com

## **Carmel**

Call for current information  
Randall Swanson  
408-626-6113

## **Carmichael**

Monday 6-10 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Ctr.  
4701 Gibbons

## **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  
Newark Coffee Company  
39279 Cedar Blvd, Newark  
Hans Poschmann  
510-656-8505

## **Fresno**

Mondays 6-11 p.m.  
Carls Jr.  
3820 N. Cedar Ave.  
D. Wajckus 559-252-4484

## **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

## **Menlo Park**

Mondays, 6:30-9  
Onetta Harris Center  
100 Terminal Ave.  
Doug Shaker 650-854-9793  
doug@theshakers.org

## **Modesto Chess Club**

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Doctor's Hospital Cafeteria  
1441 Florida Ave  
John Barnard 209-785-7895

## **Monterey**

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

## **Mt Shasta**

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.  
George Washington Manor  
Mt. Shasta  
Dick Bolling 530-926-3608

## **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 559-784-3820

## **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

## **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.

## **Salinas**

Any weekend afternoon  
Carl's Jr.  
1061 N Davis Rd  
<http://members.xoom.com/oxley/SalinasCC.htm>

## **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  
John Donaldson  
415-421-2258

## **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 559-688-6386

## **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 559-734-2784

## **Woodland Chess Group**

Sundays, 3:30-9:00 p.m.  
Senior Citizens Center  
630 Lincoln Avenue  
Don Copeland 530-666-0868

## **Yuba-Sutter**

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