

Wilshire Chess Society Newsletter

OFFICERS

President & Editor-Michael Jeffreys
(310) 473-6291
MJeffrey@ix.netcom.com
www.geocities.com/mjshark1
Assistant T.D.- Elliot Landaw (310) 552-4538



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2003 U.S. Amateur Team West Report

This year's U.S. Amateur Team West Tournament was held at the LAX Radisson Hotel Feb 15-17. If you've never played in the amateur teams before, it is unlike any other tournament. That's because you play on a team consisting of four players, whose combined average rating cannot exceed 2200. There are various strategies for how to make up a winning team. Of course there's the "put the three strongest guys you can find on the top three boards" try, but even this doesn't guarantee success. In 1998 at the U.S. Amateur Team East tournament, the World Wide Web Chess Superstore had ex-world champion GM Karpov on board one (I'm not kidding!), GM Ron Henley on board two, Irina Krush on board three, a low rated guy on board four, and even they didn't win the event! (Some other team beat them out on tie breaks.) So what's the secret? In a word, balance. You need a team that plays together well, so that if one player is having an off day, another will step up to bring home the point.

This year I spent about 2 months trying to put a team together. After getting several "I'll get back to you"s, from some pretty strong players, I finally got solid commitments from three players who I felt would make up a competitive team. Here is the team (with me on board 4 for the first four games):

1. Mick Bighamian (2256)
2. Danny Berman (2111)
3. Bobby Hall (1872)
4. Michael Jeffreys (1726)

Our team rating was 1991, which put us in a good spot for the u-2000 prize. After getting off to a great start and winning both our matches on Saturday, we faced two tough teams on Sunday, including IM Katchyan's team, and lost both our matches. Thus on Monday, we had to win the last two rounds to have any chance of a prize. Since Bobby couldn't play the last two rounds, I moved up to board three, and a young man we had never met before, David Bennett, took over on board four. Honestly, we had no idea what to expect from him. All we knew is he was a student of Chris Lee's and had a rating of 1626. However, upon meeting him he told me that he had finished 3rd in the u-1800 section in the North American Open. When I asked him how long he had been playing chess, he said 1 1/2 years! Say what!?! Sure enough, he finished off his 5th round opponent with a beautiful combination (see game 1 on back), and we won the match. The last round was played on Monday evening, and was **(Con't on Back)**



Our Trophy for best Team U-2000!

👉 Free Chess Lecture Mar. 23!

We are pleased to announce that before our tournament on March 23, at 10:30 am in community room C, SM Mick Bighamian will be giving a lecture titled, "*Amazing moves in the Opening.*" The lecture is free to all WCS members (\$5.00 to nonmembers). Please get there by 10:25 am, as the lecture will start at 10:30 am sharp, and go to 11:15 am. Our tournament will start immediately following the lecture. Bonus: Free set of lecture notes to the first 10 to arrive!



SM Mick Bighamian

Next W.C.S. G/45 Tournament March 23, 2003 - Sunday

Westside Pavilion, Community Room "C"
10850 W. Pico Blvd., West Los Angeles
(3rd Flr., West of Barnes & Noble, next to the SPCA pet adoption center)
Registration/lecture: 10:30 am
Games from: 11:15 am - 4:45 pm, 3-rounds
Round robin quads (groups of 4) by rating
Time control: G/45 mins. Entry fee: \$20.00
Prizes: \$50.00 per quad (35.00 1st, 15.00 2nd)
WCS Membership required (\$15.00/year) as well as U.S.C.F. Membership (\$49.00/year).

(Con't from Front) against the tough Armenian team lead by Armen Arbartsoumian (2500+!!!). Although Mick had a promising attack, his higher rated opponent eventually pulled it out. However, Danny came through with a big win against Alan Melikadamian (2130), David won a wild game against an 1819 (see game 2), and I was able to hold the extremely tough Vanessa West (2002!) to a draw giving us the win! (4 pts. out of 6 for clear first place). Needless to say, we were all quite thrilled. On a personal note, this was my first time being on a winning team and it felt terrific! Below are David's two wins. Enjoy -Michael



David Bennett

Bennett, David (1626) – Kaziyev, Michael (1685)

Center-Counter Defence

2003 US Amateur Team West (5), 18.02.2003

[annotations by M. Jeffreys & Fritz8]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxd5 4.d4 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Be3 Qf6 8.c4 Nb6 9.Nc3 Qe7 10.d5 0-0-0 11.Bxb6 axb6 12.Qa4 Nb8 13.Nb5 Na6 (See Diagram Game 1)

14.Ne5! What a move! **14...Bxe2?** This leads to instant death. Considering his options, Black gets off cheapest by coughing up a piece for a pawn: [14...Qf6 15.Nxg4 Qxb2 16.Bf3] **15.Na7+ Kb8 16.Nac6+ bxc6??** [16...Kc8 17.Nxe7+ Bxe7 18.Rfe1 Bh5] **17.Qxa6!** Why win the queen with 17. Nxc6+ when you can win the game? Black resigned here rather than get mated: 1) 17...Qc5 18.Nxc6+ Qxc6 19.dxc6 Bxf1 20.Qb7# 2) 17...Qd7 18.Nxd7+ Rxd7 19.dxc6 Bxf1 20.Qb7# 3) 17...Qe8 18.dxc6 Qe7 19.Qb7# **1-0**

Vardanva, Gevork (1819) – Bennett, David (1626)

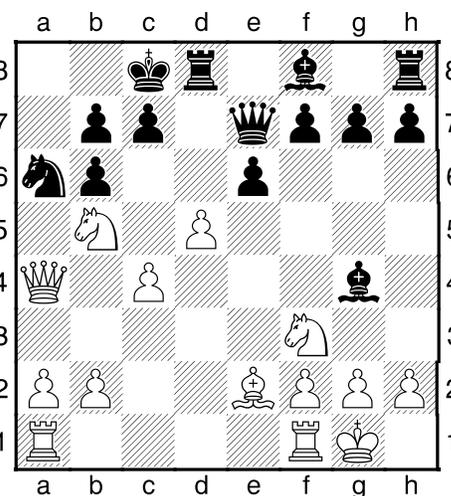
Sicilian Dragon (Yugoslav Attack)

2003 US Amateur Team West (6), 18.02.2003

[annotations by M. Jeffreys & Fritz8]

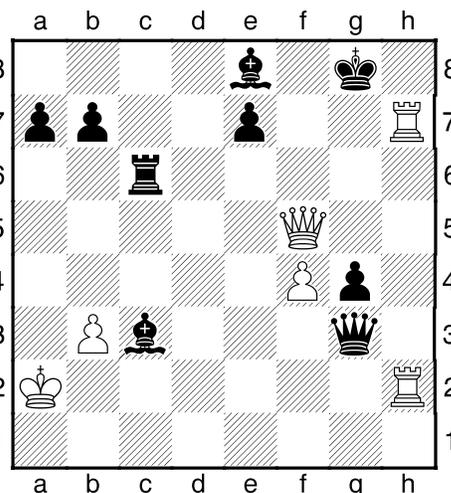
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h4 h5 13.Kb1 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.b3 Rc8 16.Nde2 Re8 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Bf5 19.Rc1 Rc5 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.g4 hxg4 22.Ng3 Bd7 23.h5 Qc7 24.f4 c4 25.hxg6 fxc6 26.Qh2 Qa5 27.c3 cxb3 28.axb3 Qxd5 29.Kb2 Rc8 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qxg6 Qg2+ 32.Rc2 Qxg3 33.Rh7 Bxc3+ 34.Ka2 Be8 35.Qf5+ Kg8 36.Rch2 Fritz 8 says White wins with 36.Rxe7! threatening 37. Qg5+ with mate to follow. Black has to play 36...Qh4, however after 37.Rce2 Qxe7 38.Rxe7 Rd8 39.Qh7+ Kf8 40. Rxb7 Black is still busted. **36...Rc6** (See Diagram **Game 2**)

37.Qd5+? White misses another win here: 37.Rh8+! Bxh8 38.Qh7+ Kf8 39.Qxh8+ Kf7 40.Rh7+ Kg6 (40...Ke6 41.Qe5+ Kd7 42.Qxe7+ Kc8 43.Qxe8#) 41.Qg7+ Kf5 42.Qe5+ Kg6 43.Rg7+ Kh6 44.Qg5# **Kf8 38.Rh8+ Bxh8 39.Rxh8+ Kg7 40.Qg8+ Kf6 41.Rh6+ Kf5 42.Qg5+ Ke4 43.Qxe7+ Kf3 44.Qxb7 Qg2+ 45.Ka3 Kf2 46.Qxa7+ Kf1 47.Rh8 Rc2 48.Qa6+ Qe2 49.Rh1+ Kg2 50.Qb7+ Bc6 51.Qh7 Qa6+ 52.Kb4 Qb5+ 0-1** (53. Ka3 Qa5#)



Game 1

*White
to move*



Game 2

*White
to move*