



3RD COLONIAL OPEN - REMARKABLE RESULTS AND GAMES



A DOUBLE CLEAN SWEEP!

By Paul Swaney

When passionate chess organizers are joined by inspired players, the result can only be a true chess feast where everyone enjoys the event and gives their best both on and off the board. The 3rd Colonial Open was just such a tournament. The following article, with contributions by a number of contestants who played some great chess and achieved excellent results, bears full testimony to that.

The 3rd Colonial Open flew into Sterling, Virginia, and landed at the Dulles Marriott – located only ten minutes away from Dulles International Airport. The 9-round open section began on April 13th, with the U2200, U1900, U1600, and U1300 sections joining on Friday evening April 15th. For participants who wanted even more chess there was a blitz event on April 16th during the late evening hours.

The 29-player Open section featured grandmasters Illia Nyzhnyk, Titas Stremavicius, Denes Boros, IM Oladapo Adu, and FM Andrew Samuelson. Tournament favorite and world number 45, GM Illia Nyzhnyk, displayed good



▲ Illia Nyzhnyk - Denes Boros. Photo by Paul Swaney

7½ and only one loss to the tournament winner. On Saturday evening Titas played in the blitz event and finished first with a score of 5½ out of 6.

Let's take a look at Titas's 8th round game against Ankush Moolky where he uses his favorite f-pawn to secure clear second place.

A92

Ankush Moolky	1939
Titas Stremavicius	2510

3rd Colonial Open, Sterling 2022
Notes by Titas Stremavicius

Before the final day the tournament standings were rather top heavy, with GM Nyzhnyk sitting on a perfect 7/7 and myself in second place a point behind. There were two players tied for third on 4½/7, and I was paired against one of them – Ankush Moolky. I could not find many of his games online, so I decided to follow my usual opening strategy. I knew a win would clinch second place for me with a round to spare.

1.d4 f5 We start the game with an advance of my beloved f-pawn. This is the Dutch Defense.

2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 e6 Another direction is 3...g6 4.♘g2 ♘g7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.♘c3, which leads to the more popular and positionally sound approach known as the Leningrad Variation.

form by winning the event with the rare score of 9-0! No doubt you will enjoy reading Illia's excellent article in which he offers his insight and personal perspective on the tournament, so here we will present more highlights from the rest of the action.

STERLING, VA

April 13-16, 2022

3rd Colonial Open (9 rounds)

1. Illia NYZHNYK	9
2. Titas STREMAVICIUS	7½
3. Andrew SAMUELSON	6
4-6. Sungho YIM, Sudarshan SRINIAIYER, Bijan TAHMASSEBI	5½
7-12. Daniel LOWINGER, Harshid KUNKA, Pranav PREM, Tyson BRADY, Kevin SU, Sounak BAGCHI	5

Second-placed GM Titas Stremavicius made a strong showing, ending with



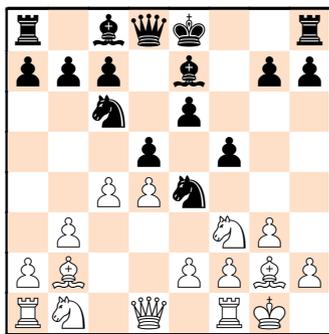
Paul Swaney currently works as part of the curriculum/content team at Chess.com. Previously, he worked for 20 years in teaching scholastic chess and running after-school chess programs in Ohio, Virginia, and DC coaching teams on a local and national level.

4.♗g2 ♗e7 5.0-0 d5 6.c4 ♘e4 I have recently been trying to incorporate the aggressive Stonewall in my opening repertoire, but it has been a bumpy ride. I lost two games with it last month in the Saint Louis Spring Invitational.



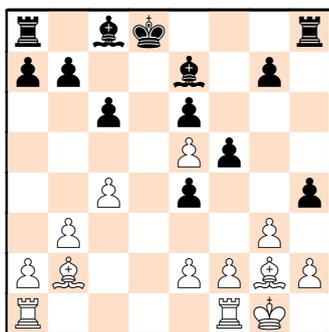
However, to lose one of those games, I had to blunder a full piece, and I had already won a game in this tournament against Sriniaiyer Surdashan in the same line. So confidence in my preparation was not wavering.

7.b3 ♖c6 8.♗b2



8...h5 9.♗e5 9.♖bd2 h4 10.♗xe4 dxe4 11.♗e5 ♖xe5 12.dxe5 h3 13.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 14.♗h1 b6♠ was the continuation of my game against Sriniaiyer. Black is already much better due to the bishop on h1 being trapped. In fact the bishop never did get out and I won in 47 moves.

9...♗xe5 10.dxe5 h4 11.♗c3 c6 12.♗xe4 dxe4 13.♗xd8+ ♗xd8



After the game my opponent told me that he thought White was better in all lines against the Dutch. While there is some truth in that statement, White still needs to be precise and here his lack of a sense of danger leads him to a worse endgame. Black's position is more compact and he possesses all the play, whereas White's space advantage is a non-factor.

14.♗fd1+ ♗c7 15.f3 exf3 16.exf3 a5 I am doing my best by pushing both my corner pawns Alpha Zero style.



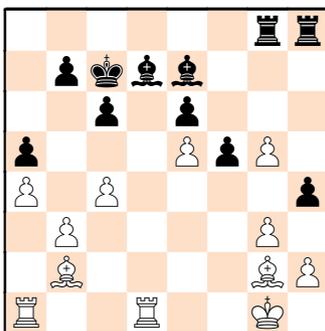
▲ Titas Stremavicius Photo by Paul Swaney

17.a4 But my opponent stops me in my tracks. However, now he has locked his queenside and left his dark squares vulnerable to a potential enemy king march in the endgame.

17...♗d7 18.f4? Although White has played a pretty timid game so far, this is the first move I would call a big mistake. The pawn advance does not improve White's position, whereas it gives me free and easy play on the kingside by ...g7-g5 with a re-routing of my bishop to h5 via e8 if needed. Better was 18.♗d3 trying to maintain the status quo, in which case Black is only symbolically better.

18...g5 An equally good alternative was 18...♗ag8 bringing all the pieces to the kingside first.

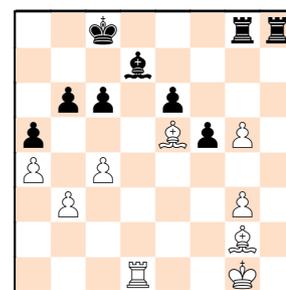
19.fxg5 ♗ag8



20.♗d6? Desperation in an unpleasant

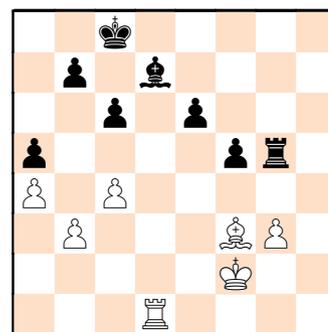
position and an attempt to create complications. However, Black is not forced to capture the rook and can choose when he wants to transform the position.

White's best try was 20.♗c3, creating further weaknesses on Black's queenside. A sample line could go 20...b6 21.♗d6! hxc3 22.hxc3 ♗xd6 (22...♗c8 23.♗ad1 ♗xd6 24.exd6 ♗h5 25.♗f6 ♗hxc3 26.♗xg5 ♗xg5 27.♗f2♠ Black is a pawn up, but White should hold with precise play.) 23.exd6+ ♗xd6 24.♗d1+ ♗c7 25.♗e5+ ♗c8



26.b4 axb4 27.♗b1 ♗h5 28.♗xb4 ♗hxg5 29.♗xb6∞ and White's bishop on e5 dominates the board. While the computer evaluates the position as equal, I prefer White's chances due to his easier play.

20...hxc3 21.hxc3 ♗xd6 22.exd6+ ♗xd6 23.♗d1+ ♗c7 24.♗e5+ ♗c8 25.♗f2 ♗h7 26.♗f6 ♗hg7 27.♗f3 ♗xg5 28.♗xg5 ♗xg5



Black has emerged a clean pawn up, but the game is far from over. The difficult task of converting lies still ahead.

29.♗e1 ♗c7 30.♗e5 ♗b6 31.c5+ Not a mistake in itself, but it does relieve the pressure on a5 and free up Black's king.

31...♗c7 32.♗e2 ♗d8 33.♗e3 ♗g8



DAVID vs. GOLIATH

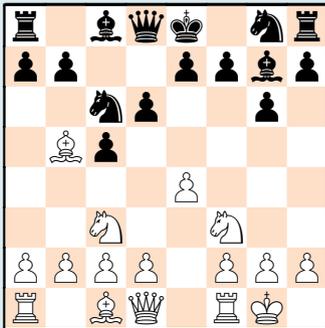
American Chess Magazine generously offered a year's subscription to reward a notable game chosen by the organizers. The editors of the magazine made it known that they are fond of the David vs. Goliath theme – or in other words the biggest upset. What is great about the prize is that here both players will receive the subscription! Tyson Brady won a nice game as Black against GM Denes Boros.

B31

Denes Boros	2430
Tyson Brady	1975

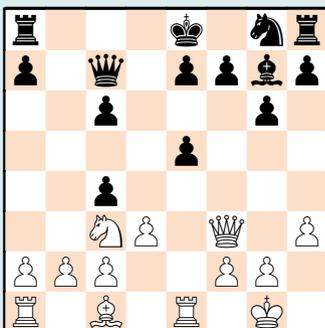
3rd Colonial Open, Sterling 2022
Notes by Tyson Brady

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♗b5
♗g7 5.0-0 d6

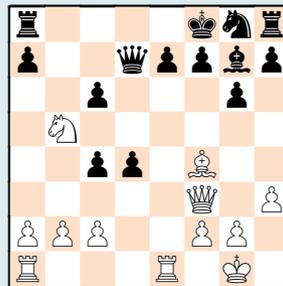


6.e5! dxе5 7.♗xc6+ bxc6 I felt as if the bishop pair and extra pawn would give me enough counterchances for my broken pawn structure.

8.d3 c4 9.♖e1 ♗g4 10.h3 ♗xf3
11.♗xf3 ♖c7



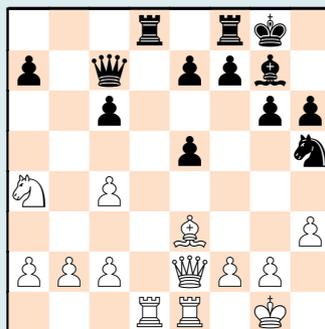
12.dxc4 12.d4! was what I missed during the game. 12...exd4 13.♘b5 ♖d7
14.♗f4! ♗f8.



15.♗ad1 White definitely has enough compensation for the lost material.

12...♗d8 13.♖e2 ♘f6 14.♗g5 h6
15.♗e3 15.♗h4!? runs into 15...♘h5!
when the bishop is denied the g3 square
and is trapped by the knight on the rim.

15...0-0 16.♗ad1 ♘h5 17.♘a4



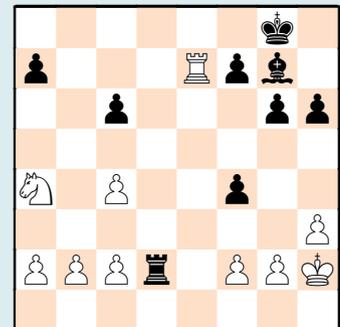
17...♘f4 This move prepares a pawn sacrifice. I felt the active black rook and soon-to-be-active bishop would give me enough compensation.



▲ Tyson Brady

Photo by Paul Swaney

18.♗xf4 exf4 19.♗xd8 ♗xd8 20.♖xe7
♖xe7 21.♗xe7 ♗d1+ 22.♘h2 ♗d2



23.c3? This move is too slow. Now my bishop will join the action with decisive effect. Black could also push after 23.♗e8+ ♘h7 24.♗e7 ♗g8, but I would have taken the draw.

23...♗f6! This move prepares to take aim on the g3 square. Once my bishop goes to h4 White's weak king will become a decisive factor.

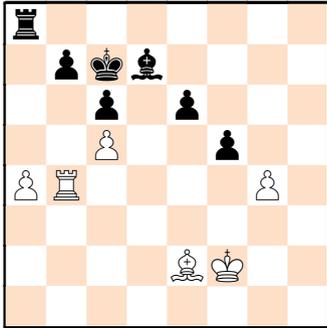
24.♗c7 Yet again too slow. I believe 24.♗e8+ is White's last try. Then 24...♗g7 25.♗g1 ♗h4 26.g3 fxg3 27.fxg3 ♗xg3 and Black still retains all the winning chances.

24...♗h4 Mission accomplished.

25.♘c5 ♗xf2 26.♘e4 ♗e2
White resigned

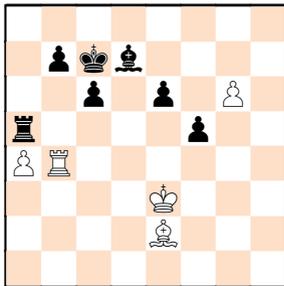


34.b4 axb4 35.♖b3 ♔c7 36.♗xb4
♗a8 37.g4 White's only and best
chance.



37...♗a5!? A very risky decision,
trying to win another pawn. White can
now generate a lot of counterplay with
his g-pawn. The alternative 37...fxg4!
38.♗xg4 ♗a5 39.♖c4 e5 40.♗d1 ♗e6
41.♖c3 ♔d7 endeavors to consolidate
Black's advantage, but it remains to be
seen whether this endgame is winning or
if White can set up a fortress.

38.g5! ♗xc5 39.g6 ♗a5 40.♖h4?
40.♔e3! was a must to activate the king
and threaten to support the advance of
the g-pawn.



A sample line could go 40...c5 41.♖b1
The best square for the rook. 41...♗a8
42.♔f4 ♗g8 43.♗g1 ♔d6 44.a5 ♗c6
45.♗c4 ♗d5 46.♗xd5 ♔xd5 47.g7 and
it looks like Black is completely tied up
despite being two pawns ahead.

40...♗a8 41.♖h7 ♗g8 42.♗h5 ♔d6
43.a5 ♗e8 44.♖xb7 ♗xg6 45.♗e2 f4
White resigned

While resignation was a little premature,
Black should be winning with best play.
A tough game to secure second place!

Local Northern Virginia FM Andrew



▲ Andrew Samuelson

Photo by Paul Swaney

Samuelson showed his resilience in
taking clear third place with 6 out of 9.
After a slow start, he rallied with three
consecutive wins in key rounds seven,
eight and nine! Here Andrew has
provided annotations to his game against
GM Denes Boros from round 9.

C27

Andrew Samuelson	2158
Denes Boros	2430

3rd Colonial Open, Sterling 2022
Notes by Andrew Samuelson

This game was played in the last round
when I had 5/8 after some ups and
downs. I was tied for first under 2300
with two other players and we were all
playing grandmasters on the top three
boards. A draw seemed like it would get
me a decent prize, while winning would
guarantee me, at a minimum, a share
of the class prize. There were also four
players with 4½ on boards 4 and 5 who
could catch up if I drew.

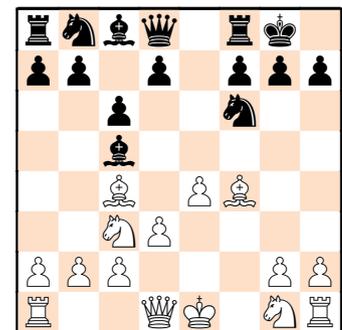
1.e4 e5 This was already something I
didn't expect for this game. Definitely
not my best preparation effort!

2.♗c4 ♖f6 3.d3 ♗c5 4.♖c3 Possibly
not best, but I've had a fair amount of
success in these types of positions.

4...0-0 5.f4 Now it's basically a King's

Gambit where Black didn't take on f4
before d2-d3 was played. This is maybe
not the right way to play when a draw is
an okay result! 5.♖f3 transposes to some
sort of Italian Game and is probably the
objectively best move.

5...exf4 6.♗xf4 c6 I had to start
thinking a while here and probably made
a bad decision. It seemed as though I had
run into some preparation, although the
position should still be okay.



7.♖f3? Objectively, I underestimated
the coming attack. Now the position
becomes very complicated and tactical.
I think this is a new move in over the
board play, but apparently it has occurred
online a few times. 7.d4 ♗b4 8.e5 d5
9.♗d3 ♖e4 10.♗xe4 ♗xc3+ 11.bxc3
dxe4 12.♖e2 seems more or less okay
for White.



7...d5! The logical follow up to Black's last move.

8.exd5 8...b3 9.g4 9...g3 dxe4 10.dxe4 e8 didn't look appealing at all.

8...g4 9.g3 b6 9...cxd5 is probably even better for Black than the game. Then, after 10.dxd5 dxd5 11.xg4 dxf4 12.xf4 b6, my king is too vulnerable in spite of the exchanges.

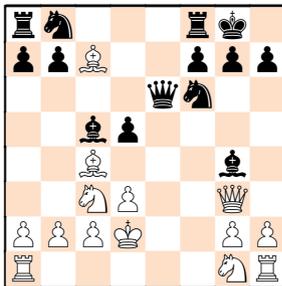
10.c2 10...b3 appears to have been played only once online, but it just loses the knight on g1!

10...cxd5 11.c7 I thought for a while here too. This is probably the best chance, though not sufficient. The sequence from 7...d5 up to here seems to have been pretty well played by both sides.

11...e3+?! This gives away some of Black's advantage as the bishop exchange makes my king safer.

A) 11...xb2 12.b1 xb1 (12...a3 13.b3 traps the queen, although 13...dxc4 14.xa3 xa3 is still fine for Black.) 13.dxb1 dxc4 14.d3 c6 is better for Black too, but I didn't think he would sacrifice his queen here.

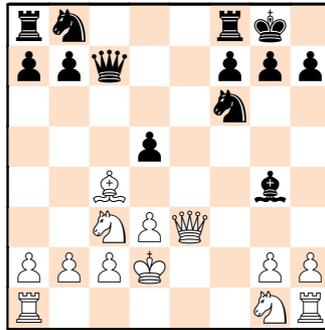
B) 11...e6



B1) 12.e1 This was my actual intention during the game, but apparently it fails for tactical reasons. 12...h5! 13.xe6 (13...h4 wh6+ and Black mates!) 13...dxc3 14.xg3 fxe6 15.dxd5 exd5 16.xd5+ f7 17.dh3 dxh3 18.gxh3 f7 19.xf7 xf7 and Black is up too much material.

B2) 12.dxd5 dxd5 13.xd5 xd5 14.xg4 a6 15.f4 d4 looks good for Black as my king is too vulnerable.

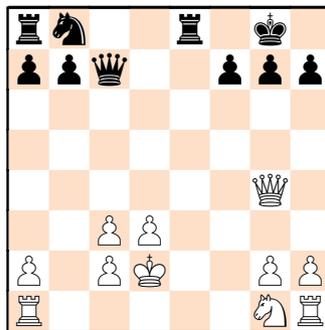
12.xe3 xc7



13.xd5 So at least I get an extra pawn for my troubles, which later proved useful. 13...dxd5?? doesn't work, because of 13...dxd5 14.xd5 xa5+, winning a piece with a fork.

13...e8 14.g3 dxd5 15.xg4 I originally intended 15.dxd5. It's a little better than 15.xg4, but I didn't see all the details. 15...xa5+ 16.c3 xd5 17.xg4 h5 18.f3 b5 19.c2 d6 and Black has a lot of attacking chances for the pawn.

15...dxc3 16.bxc3

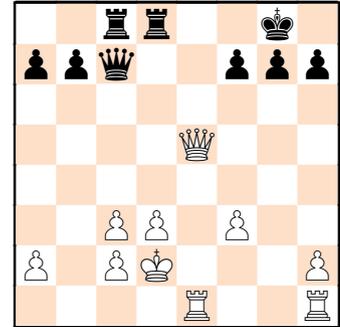


16...c6? This concedes most of Black's advantage. During the game I wasn't sure whether ...c6 or ...d7 was better, but apparently it makes a big difference. Both moves aim to play ...e5, but the latter leaves the c-file open and gives the knight more options. 16...d7 17.d2 d6 18.f3 ad8 19.ab1 d4+ 20.c1 dxc3 21.dxc3 xc3 22.xb7 a1+ 23.d2 xa2 and Black gets his pawn back while retaining some attacking chances.

17.d3 ac8 18.ae1 d5 19.d4 19...b4 may have been a little better

than d4. Either way I'm probably a little worse, but still in the game. After 19...dxf3+ 20.gxf3 xe1 21.xe1 xh2+ 22.e2 c7, White is close to equality.

19...dxf3+ 20.gxf3 ed8 21.e5

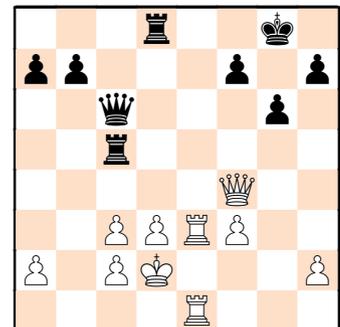


21...b6?! This really lets me off the hook, maybe for good. 21...c6 was the only move to keep an advantage. My king is still vulnerable and I have to be careful.

22.e3 After 22.e4 f2+ 23.c1 xf3 24.he1 h6 25.a4 White might even be a little better here. Black has got his pawn back, but my pieces are coordinated now.

22...g6 23.he1 c5 23...c6 24.a5 d5 25.a3 is about equal. Black has enough compensation for the pawn, but not more than that. My king is open, and it will be hard to do anything with all the heavy pieces on the board.

24.f4 c6 After 24...f5 25.b4 c6 26.e4 c7 27.h4 White is better due to the extra pawn, but maybe Black has enough counterplay.



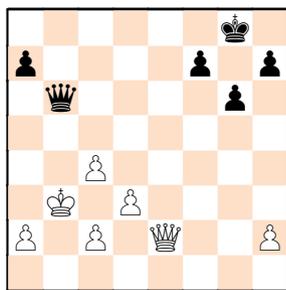
25.e7! Now White starts taking over.



My pieces are active and I have an extra pawn.

25...♟f5 26.♞e4?! Stronger was 26.♞c7!, but I didn't want to leave the f3 pawn hanging. 26...♞xc7 27.♞xc7 b5 28.♞xa7 ♟xf3 29.a4 bxa4 30.♞xa4 White's central pawn mass is probably just winning.

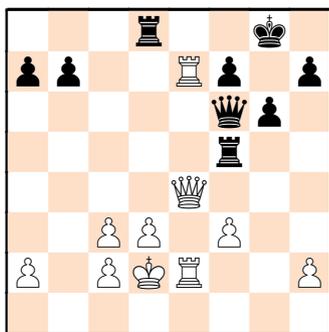
26...♞f6 27.♞e3 If 27.♞xb7 ♟xf3 28.c4 ♟f2+ 29.♞e2 ♞d6 30.♞xf2 ♞xf2+ 31.♞e2 ♞f4+ 32.♞c3 ♞f6+ 33.♞b3 ♞b6+ 34.♞xb6 ♞xb6+



35.♞c3 and the queen ending is better for White, but this would be hard to convert.

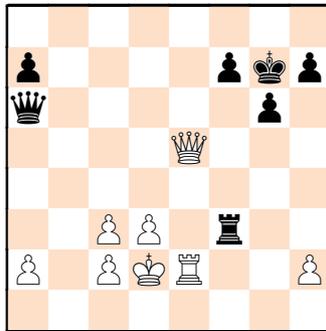
27...♞h5 27...b5 seems like an improvement, when it will be hard to make anything out of the extra pawn.

28.♞e2 ♟f5 I thought about repeating with ♟e3 due to the tournament situation, but decided to play on as the position had become favorable. After 28...♞c5 29.♞b4 ♞dd5 30.♞7e4 a5 31.♞a3 h5 White still has a lot of work to do to make any progress.



29.♞xb7! ♟xf3 30.♞e5 ♞a6 31.♞b8 ♞xb8 31...♟fxd3+ is not enough, as after 32.cxd3 ♞xd3+ 33.♞e1 ♞d1+ 34.♞f2 Black quickly runs out of useful checks.

32.♞xb8+ ♞g7 33.♞e5+ Now it is Black who has the more vulnerable king!



33...f6 33...♞h6 34.♞e4 ♞h3 35.♞f4+ ♞g7 36.a4 ♞b7 would have kept the game going, but the extra pawn and mass of passed pawns should make this winning for White.

34.♞c7+ Even stronger was 34.♞d5 ♟f5 35.♞e7+ ♞h6 36.♞g8 ♞g5 37.h4+ ♞g4 38.♞xh7.

34...♞h6 35.♞e7 ♞g5 Here **Black resigned** while I was thinking over my next move. White has various ways to win at this point, although my first thought was ♞xh7. Anyway, as a result I ended up clear third, even better than winning the class prize!

The Colonial Open brought out strong local players. Local master Daniel Lowinger played an exciting game in round six. The game featured great creativity with a fantastic queen sacrifice. Daniel provides detailed analysis of this key win.

C54

Daniel Lowinger	2064
Tejas Rama	2090

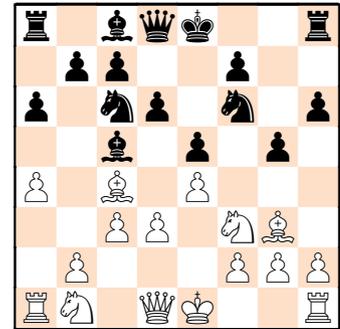
3rd Colonial Open, Sterling 2022
Notes by Daniel Lowinger

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.♞c4 ♞c5 4.c3 ♟f6 5.d3 d6 6.♞g5 After a survey of the theory, I concluded that the text move led to the sharpest positions, which is what I was looking for in this game.

6...h6 7.♞h4 g5 In order to punish the bishop move Black has to create this pawn prison. The obvious downside is that the kingside is greatly weakened.

8.♞g3 a6 In addition to securing a retreat for the bishop, Black threatens ...♟a5, nabbing my light-squared bishop which is obviously essential to any successful attack here.

Therefore I played 9.a4.



9...0-0 With b2-b4 available to me anytime, castling queenside is no safer.

10.♟bd2 ♞a7 11.0-0 I had seen this position in my preparation and looked at some interesting GM games. I noticed a key idea was for White to play d3-d4, blasting open the center and freeing the bishop, even at the cost of losing that pawn outright. Black has tried to quickly expand on the kingside, so I was expecting moves like ...♞g7, ...♟h7, ...f7-f5, ...h6-h5 – not necessarily in that order or all together, but along those lines.

11...♟e7? But I had never seen this move, and the reason struck me pretty quickly as obvious: if White is willing to play d3-d4 at the cost of losing his d-pawn, then surely it can only gain in strength from Black removing his control over it. Having said that, I understood Black's motivation: the knight maneuver is typical in many Italian positions, as the knight both fortifies the kingside and eyes juicy squares such as f4. Still, none of that makes up for what it gives away.

12.d4 exd4 With this move, Black closes the chapter on maneuvering in the opening and opens the chapter on attacking and combinative play.

13.♟xd4 This was my second choice, but ultimately the move I decided on. Sometimes it's harder to choose the less forcing move, but since e4-e5 wasn't as



▲ Daniel Lowinger

Photo by Paul Swaney

jaw-droppingly spectacular as I'd first hoped, I thought I might as well regain the material. Also, crucially, this paves the way for f2-f4, hacking away at his pawn's defenses and involving the rook which puts huge pressure on the f-file.

My main candidate move alternative was 13.e5 for a couple of reasons. The first obvious one is that it's a forcing move. Next, I was attracted to the idea that after 13...dxe5 I had what at first I thought was a pleasant choice: if I take with the knight, 14.♖xe5 (14.♗xe5 also looked nice until I noticed 14...♖c6 which is annoying since it also covers the d4 square, and I didn't see any move that made my position better here than it was before the bishop recapture.) I stop his intended maneuver 14...♖g6 due to 15.♗xg6.

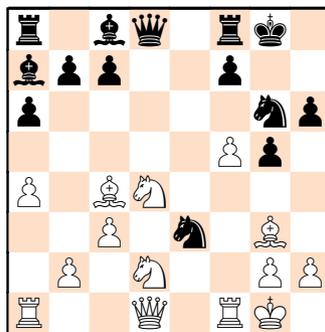
13...♖g6 14.f4 d5 Understandably, Black is attracted to this forcing move as after...

15.exd5 ♖xd5 ...he blunts my light-squared bishop and can cement the knight on that centralized, disruptive square with ...c7-c6. He also threatens ...♗e3 with a massive fork.

16.f5 I doubt if this is objectively the best move, but upon reflection it won me over. The hard part was letting go of opening the f-file and damaging his pawn wall. But, on the plus side, the f-pawn can be dangerous and his light-

squared bishop is shut out. Also I felt his knights weren't so stable and I could work to upset his coordination if he tried to connect them.

16...♗e3?? Of course, the other tremendous appeal of 16.f5 was that it provokes this move, which loses beautifully and on the spot. Basically, 16.f5 led to two possibilities: After 16...♖g4 17.♗f3 c6 the knight on f4 has no retreat squares. I get a solid position that I felt was low-risk and I could chip away while retaining the possibility of attack as long as those pawns on h6 and g5 were unable to move. Secondly I get a chance to win brilliantly if he goes for the text move...



17.fxg6 The point!

17...♗xd1 18.gxf7+ ♖g7 19.♗e5+ ♖g6 20.♗d3+ ♖h5 21.♗axd1 With a computer it's obvious that the game is

over at this point. But for a human, seeing it in the mind's eye from afar, that may not necessarily be so. At my level, this is the kind of combination I feel proud of, because it does not lead by force to mate, or even to recovering the material. It is a positional queen sacrifice.

21...c5 22.♗e4! This is not really a sacrifice. Since Black's king is in a state of paralysis on the edge of the board, one check can prove fatal. In this case, Black is forced to return the queen to stave off mate.

22...cxd4 23.♗f6+ ♗xf6 24.♗xf6 dxc3+ 25.♖h1 ♗b8 26.♗g6+ ♖h4 27.♗xc3 It felt good to play this move, just spending a tempo to win back a pawn and emphasize the complete helplessness of Black's position.

27...g4 28.g3+ ♖g5 29.♗d5+
Black resigned

ANOTHER PERFECT SCORE - IN THE U2200 SECTION!

The U2200 section provided some great games and also showcased a clean sweep for first place! Virginia player Larry Larkins took top honors with a 5-0 score.

U2200

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Larry LARKINS | 5 |
| 2. Krishnan SUDHARSAN | 4½ |
| 3-5. Anthony PARKER, Lang Leo XIONG,
Kent SLATE | 4 |
| etc. | |

B22

Larry Larkins	2061
Kent Slate	1950

3rd Colonial Open U2200, Sterling 2022
Notes by Larry Larkins

Going into the last round, my opponent Kent Slate and I were tied for first, a half point ahead of everyone else. Kent seemed to be playing above his rating and probably better chess than I was. The devastating queen sacrifice he made in an earlier round led to an interesting variation of Boden's mate, delivered



A GOOD SPORT?!

After the tournament, the TD asked "Was I expecting to win the section?" "Of course not, I was just trying to play the best I can." He then said "You are a good sport?" I replied "I am not sure about that; I will tear you heart out and eat it if you let me." We both chuckled.

I continued "I know who I am. I am just a guppy in a big body of water. It is just this guppy has some teeth." I would like to thank all the TD's, assistants, organizers, and sponsors for an enjoyable tournament. I always have fun as long as I get to eat. When I win I just have more fun.



▲ Larry Larkins

Photo by Paul Swaney

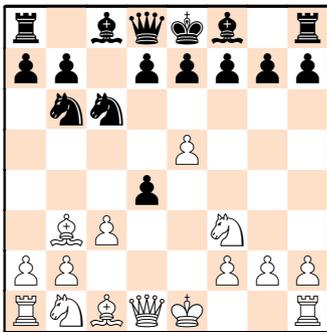
by a pawn instead of a bishop. I was thinking: "Please don't let me lose like that in the last round."

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3 The Alapin Variation against the Sicilian.

3...♗f6 One of two popular responses. 3...d5 is the other.

4.e5 ♗d5 5.d4 cxd4 6.♗c4 Introducing a gambit.

6...♗b6 7.♗b3 This line is not necessarily the greatest for obtaining an advantage, but it can be difficult to meet when playing against it for the first time.

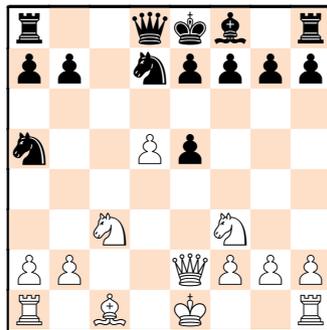


7...d6 A good move. 7...d5 could be also played, whereas 7...dxc3 8.♗xc3 can be risky for Black as White gets a significant advantage in development in return for the pawn.

8.cxd4 dxe5 9.d5 9.♗xe5 can also be played with equal chances.

9...♗a5 10.♗c3 Protecting the d-pawn is important.

10...♗g4 11.♗a4+ ♗d7 12.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 13.♗e2



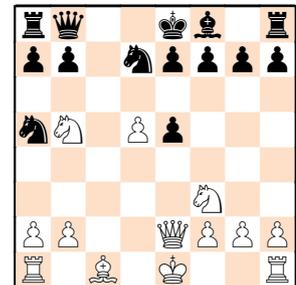
Black has some developmental issues and the knight on a5 is temporarily misplaced.

13...♗c7? In case of 13...♗b8 I would have chosen to go for the advantage in development with 14.♗d2. Then, after 14...b6 15.♗c1 a6, White has received two small but significant developing moves

in exchange for two forced pawn moves. However, Black still has an extra pawn.

14.♗b5 ♗c4?! Facing a bad situation, this move makes it somewhat worse. This is what happens to many lower level chess players like myself. After a bad move, it is important to try to regroup. 14...♗d8 could also be considered.

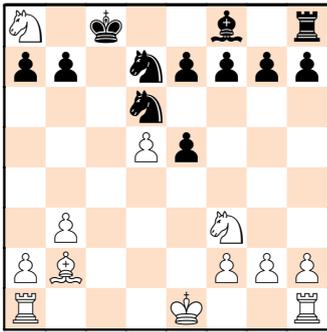
14...♗b8 would force White to find the proper sequence to gain a sizeable advantage. Can you find it?



15.b4 a6 16.♗a3 e6 17.dxe6 ♗xb4+ 18.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 19.♗xd2 fxe6 20.♗xa5.

15.♗xc4 ♗xc4 16.♗c7+ ♗d8 17.♗xa8 ♗c8 Heading to collect the knight.

18.b3 ♗d6 19.♗b2

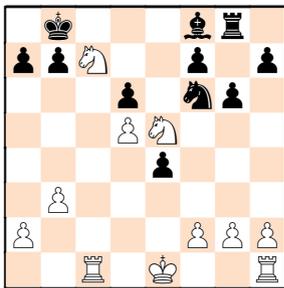


19...e4?! Black has no time for this and should give the pawn up for the knight. 19...♖b8 was necessary.

20.♗e5 ♗f6 Black cannot allow a trade now.

21.♙c1+ ♖b8 22.♗c7 The knight has almost escaped. If it eventually succeeds then the game will be all over.

22...g6? Black wants to get the rook to c8 quickly. However, he needed to play 22...♙g8 first. Then, after 23.♗a3 g6 24.♗xd6 exd6



25.♗e8! dxe5 (25...♗xe8 26.♗d7+ ♖a8 27.♙c8 mate.) 26.♗xf6 ♗b4+ 27.♖e2 ♗d8 28.♙hd1 ♗a3 29.♙c4.

23.♗d7+ ♗xd7 24.♗xh8 Winning a second exchange.

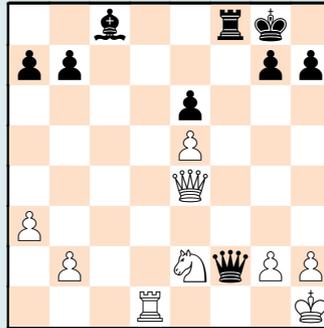
24...♗h6 25.♙c2 e3 26.♗d4 exf2+ 27.♗xf2 a6 28.♗g3 ♗e3 29.♗e8 **Black resigned** as my knight escapes to kill the other knight.

Larry provided a key position from his round 4 win which put him in contention for 1st place going into the last round. The game shows a nice sequence of moves to deal with his development issues, and ends the game with a direct attack on the white king.

Anish Mariappana 1958

Larry Larkins 2061

3rd Colonial Open U2200, Sterling, 2022
Notes by Larry Larkins



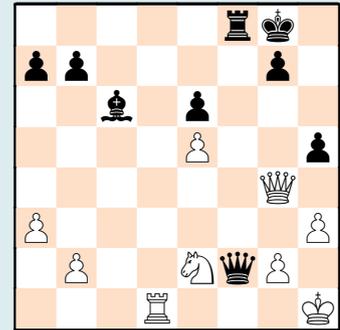
At first glance, both players have issues. Black's bishop needs to develop and the e-pawn needs protection. White has back rank liabilities but as of now the knight is covering these.

1...♗d7! The bishop is immune from capture, as after 2.♙xd7 ♗e1+ 3.♗g1 ♗xe4 wins the queen.

2.h3?! This natural move will cost the knight. Maybe White was in shock. However, after the better 2.♗g4 Black can play 2...h5! sacrificing a pawn for the initiative and the better game. 3.♗xh5 ♗b5! An important intermediary move. Then 4.♗g1, the best and almost forced reply, is met

by 4...♗xb2.

2...♗c6 3.♗g4 h5 There is that move again.



The white queen is overworked.

4.♗xe6+ ♖h8?! 4...♖h7 is better.

5.♗f4 The knight is lost anyway.

5...♗xf4 6.♗d6 ♗e8 I was not too interested in tactics anymore. I just wanted to collect the e-pawn and win the game.

7.♙e1? Unless one plays a move like this.

7...♗f2 Double attack.

8.♙g1 ♗g3 Now the queen has to be sacrificed to stop mate, so **White resigned**.

A SPECTACULAR QUEEN SACRIFICE FOR A PAWN MATE!

This last game comes from Kent Slate who also had a perfect score after four rounds, eventually finishing shared third after losing the last game to the U2200 winner Larry Larkins. Kent's third round game against Robert Fischer was played with energy and dynamism, leading to a queen sacrifice which resulted in a famous checkmate pattern. Coming up through the ranks, we all learn these patterns; however, they rarely happen as you compete at higher levels. It was nice to see one arise in classical chess.

BO1

Kent Slate 1950

Robert Fischer 2051

3rd Colonial Open U2200, Sterling 2022
Notes by Kent Slate

1.e4 d5 This marks the starting move of the Scandinavian Defense. Usually such a provocative first move is only seen online at faster time controls, so it caught me slightly off guard.

2.exd5 ♗xd5 3.♗c3 ♗e5+?! I knew this was incorrect. The queen habitually perches on a5 or d6 where it exerts pressure away from the line of fire of the white pieces, whereas the text move

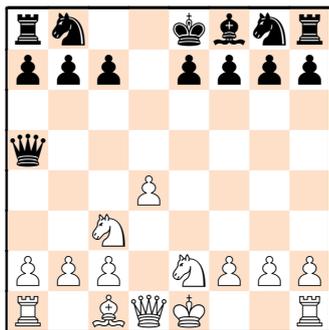


seems only to promote (or rather force) the opponent's development. The g2 pawn is temporarily weakened, but this can be resolved in the future by short castling. Perhaps Fischer was trying to take me out of my comfort zone with his move but, even if it does, Black receives very little compensation for White's quick development.

4. ♖e2 ♗g4 Here, Black's idea becomes apparent. In return for a couple of tempi, Black exchanges the c8 bishop for its counterpart on e2 – which often becomes extremely powerful in Scandinavian setups – at the same time as preparing long castling.

5.d4 ♗xe2 6. ♖gxe2 It is well-known that three tempi is roughly worth a pawn. It's obvious I have the better position, but it seems impossible to stop Black's very easy plan of playing ...♗f6, ...♗c6, then castling queenside.

6... ♖a5



7.b4! Castling, albeit natural, would allow Black to carry out his original plan. Although Black has wasted many moves with his queen, there are no obvious structural weaknesses that White can exploit. Given his passive development, White would head into a slightly worse middlegame in view of his passive and constricted knights. This is why b4! was played – to exploit the unfortunate position of Black's queen and his lack of development.

7... ♖h5 Refusing the pawn and pinning the e2 knight. Black cannot accept the pawn, as after 7... ♖xb4 there is 8. ♖d3! with the unstoppable threat of ♖b1. (8. ♖b1 immediately would have allowed 8... ♖c4, where



▲ Kent Slate (White) - Robert Fischer.

Photo by Paul Swaney

the queen has a good post and cannot be attacked.)

8. ♗f4 I was unsure of what to play here. Castling allows Black enough time to

finish his development, and I felt I had already committed to stepping on the gas. Modern engines find the ridiculous queen maneuver 8. ♖d3! e6 9. ♖g3! ♗a6 10.0-0 ♗d6 11. ♗f4 ♗xf4 12. ♗xf4, where Black is paralyzed and both the c7 and g7 pawns are weak.

CHESS EQUIPMENT STORE

Todd Hammer was on site throughout the event with a large collection of new and old chess books, as well as chess equipment including boards, pieces, and chess clocks. Be sure to look for him and his collection at local Virginia chess events.



▲ Todd Hammer

Photo by Paul Swaney

8...c6?! Perhaps 8...e6 was better, the point being that after 9. ♗xc7 there is 9... ♗xb4, with a good position for Black.

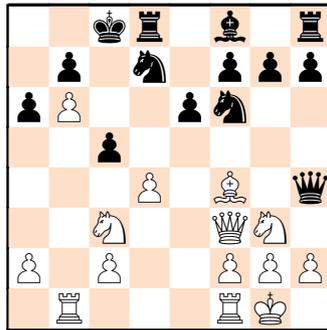
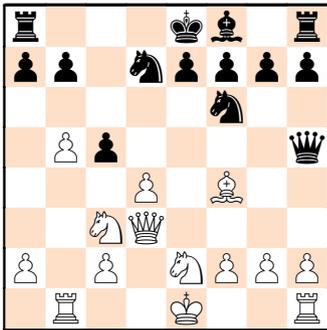
9.b5! The pawn is pushed, stopping the knight on b8 from developing! For example, if the knight on b8 tries to develop to a square such as d7, White can blow open Black's pawn structure with bxc6 followed by d4-d5!

9... ♗f6 10. ♖b1 c5 I knew that Black couldn't get away with moving his pawn a second time, especially with my overwhelming advantage in development. However, it is difficult to find a clear cut plan.

11. ♖d3?! My first instinct was to play 11.b6, but after 11...a6 it seems impossible to make progress. However what I missed was 12.d5!, stopping ...e7-e6, after which Black must waste extra tempi to fianchetto the bishop on g7 so as to castle.

I seriously considered 11.g4!?, but 11... ♖xg4 12.dxc5 ♖f3 looked too dangerous.

11... ♗bd7



▲ Anand Dommalapati, President of the Virginia Chess Federation. Photo by Paul Swaney

12.0-0? Again, it is difficult to find a clear-cut plan. 12.b6 looks like it fails to 12...a6, but only now 13.g4!! is working! 13...♖xg4 14.♖g1! Because Black cannot retreat to c8, d7, or e6! 14...♗h4 (or 14...♗h5 15.♖g5 ♗h4 16.♗f3! e6 17.♗xb7 ♘d8 18.♗c6+-) 15.♗f3! with the unstoppable threat of ♗xb7 and Black must give up the rook after 15...e6 16.♗xb7 ♘d8 17.♗c7+-.

The game ends in a beautiful display.

16.♗c6+!! Black resigned foreseeing the forced pawn checkmate after 16...bxc6 17.b7 mate.

ORGANIZING TEAM

FIDE International Organizer and Arbiter Anand Dommalapati, who is also President of the Virginia Chess Federation, first developed the Colonial Open back in 2019 and ran the same event in 2021, missing 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Mr. Dommalapati and his excellent staff of tournament directors, Grishmeshwar Prasad Sinha, Robert Getty, Sathish Nath, Gregory Vaserstein, Robert Jackson, and Aniket Sinkar, all made sure that the event ran smoothly. Grishmeshwar Prasad Sinha provided all the service for the DGT

broadcast which featured games from both the Open and U2200 sections. The event's location at the Dulles Marriott being only 10 minutes away from the Dulles International Airport provides easy travel for out-of-state participants.

Anand and his team of qualified staff provide excellent tournament conditions for all of the players. Please visit www.capitalareachess.com to see all events organized by Anand. We hope to see you all in Virginia in the future!

3rd Colonial Open and section winners:

- Open:** Illia Nyzhnyk
- U2200:** Larry Larkins
- U1900:** Arjun Srinivasan
- U1600:** Luke Zimmer
- U1300:** Sunmay Padiyar
- Blitz:** GM Titas Stremavicius

12...e6?! The d-pawn must be eliminated first, 12...cxd4 13.♗xd4 e6, and there is no longer the move d4-d5.

13.♗g3?! This was the last opportunity to play b5-b6 followed by d4-d5. Unfortunately, it was missed.

13...♗h4?? Black misses the only move, 13...♗g4, which prevents what happens in the game.

14.♗f3 Exploiting the weak b-pawn and cementing the black queen on an unfavorable square.

14...0-0-0?? It is far too late to castle long. In a time of urgency, castling to the other side was needed 14...♗e7 15.d5 0-0, when Black could hope to hold on.

15.b6! a6?

▼ Left to Right: Grishmeshwar Prasad Sinha, Sathish Nath, Robert Jackson, Aniket Sinkar, Anand Dommalapati and Robert Getty. Photo by Paul Swaney

