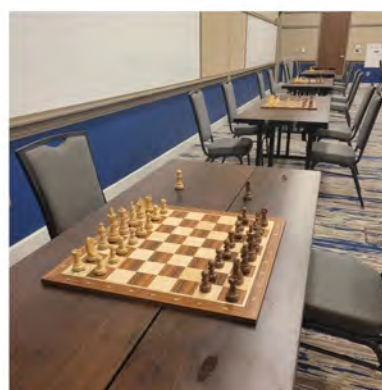
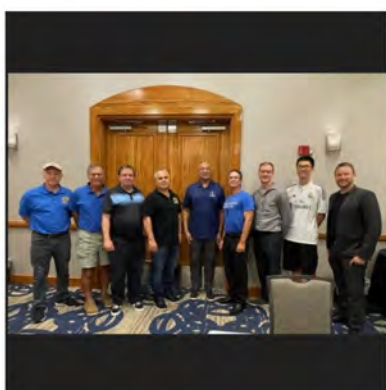


2022 Harvey Lerman Florida State Chess Championship

NM Bryan Tillis and Matthew Kolcz



The 2022 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship took place September 3-5, 2022 in Palm Beach Gardens at the Double Tree where the site was spacious and the cookies arrived upon request.

We had 21 players in the Quick Championship, 47 in the Blitz Championship, and 216 in the Overall Championship for a turnout that paid out 100% of the prizes. First, a special thank you goes to the hard working TD staff that ran a smooth event. Second, we at the FCA sincerely appreciate the support of the Florida Chess community in making this tournament a success and look forward to seeing everyone back in Jacksonville for the 2023 Harvey Lerman Florida State Chess Championship!

2022 Champions

2022 Quick Champions: **Vikram Rajmohan, Advait Nair, Ayush Maddikonda, Aakash Jani** 4/5

2022 Blitz Champions: **GM Julio Becerra** and **FM Corey Acor** 7/8

2022 Florida State Chess Champion: **FM Bach Ngo** 5/6

Note We had a few ties in the Quick and Blitz Championships and players are considered co-champions.

Accomplishment



Oscar Williams versus Marvin Gao in Round 1

It is a major milestone for a chess player to ascend to the next class in rating. We would like to issue a special congratulations to Marvin Gao for breaking the 2200 rating barrier and earning the title of National Master. Let us be the first in print to congratulate NM Marvin Gao!

Games

(1) Williams, Oscar (1893) - Harrison, Josh (2080) [C70]

22 FL State Championship lichess.org (5), 11.09.2022 [Matt Kolcz]

[This is a very exciting game between a Palm Beach local up-and-coming star and his veteran higher rated opponent.]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5 [This move avoids many of the theoretical lines and dashes straight to a playable position.]

5.c3 [Prepares the d2–d4 pawn break.]

5...b5 6.Bb3 d6 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 [White grabs a large center.]

8...Bb6 9.0–0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 [White has a big threat on f7.]

11...Qf6 [Best defense forcing matters as White's center is weak.]

[11...Nf6 12.Qg3 This would create interesting complications.]

12.Bd5 Nge7 13.Qxf6 gxf6 [This is a key moment for White. How should he best handle the issue in the center?]

14.Be3? [14.Bxc6+ Nxc6 15.d5 White needed to part with the bishop pair to maintain the pawn and better chances in the ending.]

14...Nxd5 15.exd5 Nxd4 [15...Ne7 Black could add pressure to White's d5–pawn, the stronger of the two knight moves.]

16.Nc3 Nc2 17.Bxb6 [This is a strong idea changing the character of the position which is now dynamically balanced.]

17...Nxa1 18.Bxc7 [It is difficult not to snatch this pawn but White could have trapped the a1–knight.]

[18.Ba5 Nc2 19.Ne2 d4 and b4 are now covered and the knight will be lost.]

18...Nc2 19.Bxd6 Nd4?? [A game losing mistake!]

[19...Kd7 20.Bc5 Rhe8 21.Rc1 Rac8 Black is much better with all pieces activated and ready to invade.]

20.Bc5 Nf5 [Black regroups but it is too little too late as White has a decisive advantage though it requires good technique to convert.]

21.Ne4 0–0–0 22.Nxf6? [This allows Black a little recoordination.]

[22.g4! White should maintain the attacking pressure and lock Black's Knight out.]

22...h5! [Only move! Black secures the kingside and stops the move that would kick the knight to oblivion.]



23.g4 [White finds the wrong timing and the

position is equalized.]

23...hxg4 24.hxg4 Rh6 [Excellent move eyeing the potential of utilizing the h-file for both rooks.]

25.Ne4 Rg6 26.f3 Rxd5 27.Kf2 Ng7 28.Be3 Ne6 [28...Rc6 Best! Looking to invade on the second rank.]



29.f4 [29.Rc1+ The game is roughly balanced.]

29...Nc7 [Both players are near time-pressure, playing sensible moves. There will be missed wins which I'll give a quick variation on, but we cannot fault either player for missing them.]

[29...Rxc4 30.Nf6 Rxf4+ 31.Bxf4 Rf5 Josh, "I saw it in game but decided not to."]

30.Rc1 Rh6 31.Kg2 [31.f5 Would have turned the tables again! 31...Rh2+ 32.Kg3 Rxb2 33.Bb6 Rd7 34.Nf6 Black can't maintain all of his material.]

31...Rd3 32.Bf2 Kb8 33.Bg3 Re6 34.Nf2 Re2 35.f5 Rd7 36.g5 Kb7 37.Kf3 Rxb2 38.Ne4 Rd3+ 39.Kg4 Rxc3+ [Black gives back the Exchange to simplify the position as he is in time pressure.]

40.Nxc3? [40.Kxc3! Last winning idea, keeping the Knight centralized.]

40...Nd5 41.g6 fxc6 42.fxc6 Rxa2 43.g7 Ra4+ 44.Kg5 [44.Kh5! Allows for Rg1 and no need to waste a turn moving the King out of the way.]

44...Ne3 45.Kf6 [45.Rc5 A beautiful idea to win. 45...Rg4+ 46.Kf6 Rxc7 47.Kxc7 Kb6 48.Ne4 The engine gives White the win but in a practical game it does not look easy.]

45...Rf4+ 46.Ke6 Rg4 47.Nh5 b4 48.Re1 Nc2 49.Rc1 Ne3 50.Re1 Nc2 51.Rc1 b3 52.Kf5 Rg2 53.Rb1 Nd4+ 54.Ke5 [Sadly the game is incomplete but Black won with a fork roughly 10 moves later. A very interesting game that we appreciate Josh submitting.]

0-1

(2) Nair, Advait (2005) -

Robovic, Saudin (2449) [B43]

22 FL State Championship, 09.09.2022

[Tillis Kolcz]

[This was one of the biggest upsets in the Open section, we have the humble IM Robovic sharing this game with us.]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 [The solid Sicilian Kan a favorite of GM Gregory Serper.]

3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 [Typical Sicilian idea to keep out White's pieces from the b5-square, looking to play b7-b5 and Bb7.]

5.Nc3 Qc7 [A flexible move with a close eye on the e5-square for the eventual development of Black's Knight.]

6.a3 [6.Bd3 White usually plays for a quick O-O, f4, and Kh1 for a Kingside attack.]

6...b5 7.Bd3 Bb7 [The bishop maintains pressure on the a8-h1 diagonal.]



8.0-0 Nf6 9.h3? [This is a bit passive, White definitely should use the time better.]

[9.Kh1 This move is much stronger as it removes the king from the a7-g1 diagonal and prepares f4, the natural plan in the position.]

9...d6 [Black has a solid position, focused on the completion of development and control of the d5-square.]

10.Nf3? [This is another move that White should get back, it is a bit too passive.]

10...Nbd7 11.Bf4 Be7 12.Re1 [White shows a willingness to play e5. The important question to ask here: is it good?]

12...e5? [This is the first mistake by Black in the game but a costly one as it favorably alters the pawn structure for White.]

[12...0-0 13.e5! Bxf3 Black is much better.]

13.Be3 0-0 14.Nh4 g6! [An excellent defensive move keeping the knight on h4 out of the action.]

15.Nf3 Rfe8 16.Nh2 d5 [A natural Sicilian break which is hard to ignore.]

[16...h5 Keeps with the theme seen so far in the game to stifle counterplay.]

17.exd5 e4 18.Be2 [White correctly identifies the threat and avoids capturing the center pawn.]

18...Nb6 19.Ng4 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 f5 [Black now has a strong space advantage.]

21.Be2 Rad8 [21...Bc5 It is a good moment to

weaken the dark squares.]

22.Qb1?? [This was due to not finding a constructive plan.]

[22.a4 The best move forcing a concession. 22...b4 23.Qd4 Not the easiest idea to spot.]

22...Nxd5 23.Qa2 Bf6? [23...Kg7 Gets out of the pins and leaves Black with a clearly better position.]

24.Rad1 Qf7 25.Nxd5 Bxd5 26.b3? [This heavily weakens the c3-square.]

26...Bc3 27.Bd2 Be5? [Black missed a big opportunity to win. Credit goes to his young opponent for struggling valiantly and not losing hope.]

[27...Bxd2 28.Rxd2 e3 A nice strategic shot which increases the edge.]

28.a4 f4 29.axb5 [29.Ba5 It is critical to seek counterplay to maintain the balance.]

29...e3 [Black is back with a winning advantage.]



30.fxe3 fxe3 [There it goes again, back to zeros...chess is a difficult game.]

[30...f3 This is the needed breakthrough. 31.Bxf3 Bxf3 32.gxf3 Qxf3 The machine gives mate in seven.]

31.Rf1 Qc7 32.Be1 Bh2+?? [32...axb5 Is the best way to go as the simple capture on b5 is met by e2!]

33.Kh1 Bxc2+ [Black must have missed something as the attack is not working.]

34.Kxc2 Rxd1 35.Bc4+?? [From +6 to -6 in a single move!]

[35.b4+! Kh8 36.b6! Deflection of the Queen from either the c3-square or the Bishop on h2.]

35...Kg7? [This jumps the evaluation back to 0.00 a crazy game!]

[35...Kh8 It was critical to place the king in the corner to remove checks. 36.Bc3+ Be5 Black is completely winning.]

36.Rf7+ Qxf7 37.Bxf7 Kxf7 [Black has two Rooks and passed pawn vs a Queen.]

38.b4+ Kg7 39.Qc4 Be5 [39...axb5 Will slow

the progress of the queen. 40.Qxb5 Rf8 41.Qe2 Rxe1 42.Qxe1 Rf2+ 43.Kh1 Bf4 The machine gives this 0.00 but a human would find extreme difficulty landing on this line especially in time trouble.]

40.Qe2 Ra1?? [The last blunder of the game.]

[40...Rxe1 Black needed to give back to maintain chances and keep the queen locked on a square. 41.Qxe1 Bd4 42.bxa6 e2 This is somehow 0.00 according to the engine.]

41.Qxe3 [Black loses their only advantage.]

41...axb5 42.Bc3 [The simple tactic finishes the back and forth interesting game.]

1-0

(3) Ngo,Bach (2398) - Zhang,Derek (2257) [A41]

22 FL State Championship (6), 09.09.2022
[Tillis Kolcz]

With everything on the line in the final game we see FM Bach Ngo taking on NM Derek Zhang for the title.]

1.d4 d6 [Respect needs to be given to Black who is playing for an early imbalance. As early as move one we see Black wanting to fight!]

2.Nc3 e5 3.dxe5 dxe5 4.Qxd8+ Kxd8 [We reach a queenless middlegame but this position does not lack ambition.]

5.f4 [Best by engine estimation, not allowing Black to get to the ideal structure.]

[5.e4 f6 6.Bc4 c6 This is the ideal pawn structure for Black.]

5...Nd7 6.fxe5 Nxe5 [Though White's pawn structure is compromised the activity will keep a stable edge.]

7.Nf3 Bd6 8.Nb5 [White takes the first opportunity to try to snatch off a bishop in the open position.]

8...Bd7 9.Nxd6 cxd6 [Both players have similar structural weaknesses, but the bishop pair will be telling.]



10.Bf4 f6 11.0-0-0 Kc7 12.e4 Ne7 13.Nd4 Rad8 [It is difficult to find an aggressive plan for Black.]

14.h3 [Preventing Bg4, not allowing trades. White is slowly squeezing his opponent.]

14...a6 15.Be2 N7c6 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 [The final imbalance in the game. Black is dreaming of a potential good knight versus bad bishop ending but it is just a dream.]

17...d5 18.g4 h6 19.Rd2 Rd7 20.Bf3 d4 21.Rhd1 [White has perfect harmony as the tension reaches the breaking point.]

21...Kc8 22.Bxc6 [22.Bg2 With this move Black struggles, better to keep tension.]

22...Nxc6 23.c3 Rhd8 24.cxd4 Nxd4? [24...Rxd4 25.Rxd4 Nxd4 This is a balanced ending, it was important to trade a set of rooks.]

25.Kb1 [25.Be3 This forcing move will liquidate to a won ending. 25...Nc6 26.Rxd7 Rxd7 27.Rxd7 Kxd7 28.Bc5 Due to the fixed king-side pawns White has a winning advantage.]

25...b5 26.Be3 Nf3 27.Rc2+ [A good move, White can no longer trade everything as the knight's activity maintains the balance.]

27...Kb7 28.Rdc1 Ng5?? [The only blunder of the game, Black missed that the b6-square was critical.]

[28...Ne5 Keeping the Knight centralized and protecting the c6-square was necessary.]

29.Rc6! [White takes immediate advantage, the rest is a matter of technique.]

29...Rd3 30.Rb6+ Ka7 31.Rc7+ Ka8 32.Rxa6+ Kb8 33.Re7 Nxb3 34.Ba7+ [With this win FM Bach Ngo became the 2023 Florida State Chess Champion!]

1-0

(4) Becerra,Julio (2539) - Venkat,Raghav (2330) [C65]

22 FL State Championship (6), 05.09.2022
[Tillis Kolcz]

As with many final rounds in high-level play, we have a draw between 1st place contenders GM Julio Becerra versus NM Raghav Venkat.]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 [The dreaded Berlin Defense, since Kramnik's use of this opening in his 2000 match with Kasparov this has been a main stay in high level games. The line has a reputation for being extremely solid, a good choice when trying to force an opponent to prove something.]

4.d4 [The sixth choice move in practice looking to avoid the extremely solid mainline.]

[4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 This was seen in two games at the recent US Championship, both ending in peace: ½-½ (93) Dominguez Perez,L (2747)-Robson, R (2690) Saint Louis 2022, and ½-½

(36) Dominguez Perez,L (2747)-Niemann,H (2699) Saint Louis 2022.]

4...exd4 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 0-0 7.e5 Ne8 [Both sides have been following the database so far.]

8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Nc3 dxe5 [The only blemish so far.]

[10...c6 Maintains the balance and was seen in the high level encounter: ½-½ (58) Fressinet,L (2638) -Zhang,Z (2633) Playchess.com INT 2004]

11.Qxe5 Be6 12.Bd3 c6 13.Ne4 Qd5 14.Qxd5 [White is content with trading queens as it creates a concession in the pawn structure.]

14...cxd5 15.Ng5 Bxg5 16.Bxg5 [White gets the Bishop-pair advantage. The next 20 or so moves are both sides slowly improving their positions while White maintains a nagging edge. This is a position which can be played forever without risk by White.]

16...Nc7 17.Be3 Rfe8 18.c3 Bd7 19.Rad1 Bc6 20.Bc2 h6 21.f3 b6 22.Kf2 Rad8 23.a4 Ne6 24.Rd2 Re7 25.Ra1 Red7 26.Bd4 [White gives back the Bishop pair, this likely gave away the winning chances, it is better to keep the complications with the minor pieces on the board.]

26...Nxd4 27.Rxd4 Kf8 28.a5 b5 29.h4 a6 30.h5 Rd6 31.Re1 Re6 32.Bf5 [32.Rxe6! A strong move that weakens the pawn structure and gives White the ability to invade. Had Julio found this move he very well would have added another championship to his resume. 32...fxe6 33.Rf4+ Ke7 34.Rg4 Kf6 35.Rg6+ Kf7 36.Ke3 The White king will walk the path of the dark squares and there is nothing Black can do about it.]

32...Rxe1 33.Kxe1 Ke7 34.Kf2 Kf6 35.Bd3 Re8 [Though Raghav has the worse minor piece as long as he keeps White's King away from the base pawns he should draw. The rest is good technique.]

36.Rf4+ Ke6 37.Ke3 Kd6+ 38.Kd2 f6 39.Rd4 Re5 40.g4 Re7 41.b4 Kc7 42.Be2 Re6 43.Bd1 Re7 44.Rd3 Kd6 45.Bb3 Re5 46.Bd1 Ke6 47.Rd4 Kd6 48.Be2 Ke7 49.Rd3 Kd6 50.Ke1 Ke7 51.Kf2 Kd6 52.Rd4 Kc7 53.Bd3 Kd6 54.Bf5 [54.c4 One of the last attempt to make something. 54...bxc4 55.Bxc4 Bb7 56.Bf1 At least in this variation White has the potential of creating an outside passer though still probably equal.]

54...Re7 55.Rd2 Rc7 56.Rd3 Be8 57.Ke3 Ke5 58.f4+ Kd6 59.Kd2 Rc4 60.Rd4 Rxd4+ 61.cxd4 Bd7 62.Bxd7 Kxd7 [With nothing left to push in the equal endgame the players agree to peace.]

½-½