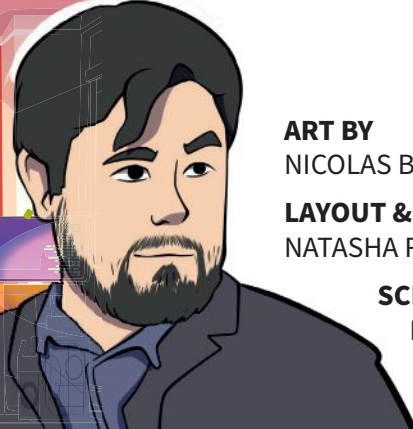


That Nakamura Life

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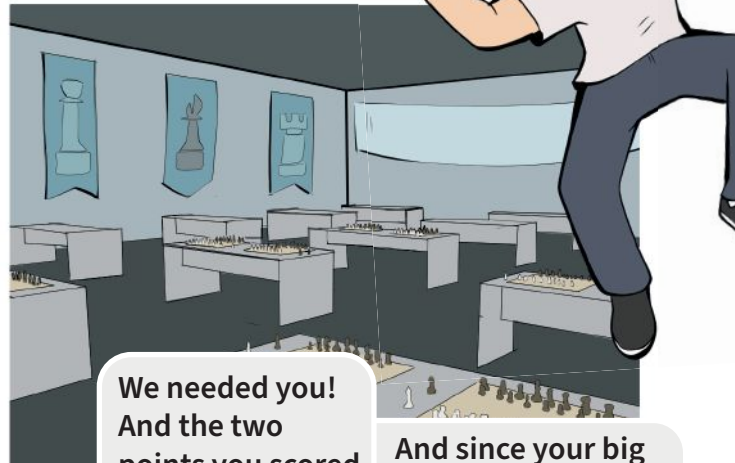


Wow, that football stream was fun! I love integrating other sports with chess.

It's hard to remember a time when you weren't streaming. You've done so much in your career.

At first, I wasn't sure chess was for me, but I loved doing things as a family when I was seven — including learning chess from you!

Then you asked me to fill in as a fourth team member at the Elementary Nationals in 1995, when I was only rated 700.



We needed you! And the two points you scored helped our team.

And since your big brother, Asuka, was so involved with chess you got dragged to all the tournaments! But I wasn't sure that chess was right for you, either, in the beginning.

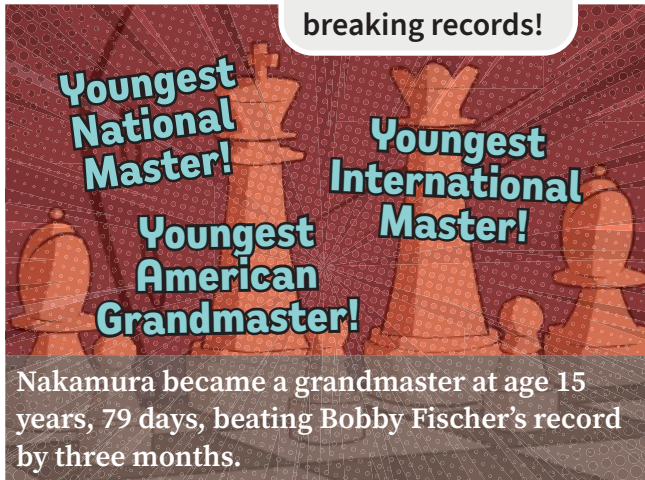


My real turning point was that tournament in Stamford, Connecticut, where I defeated a national master when I was eight. That woke up my competitive spirit.

I remember how you used that Novag computer to help you improve. You were so meticulous. You recorded every game!



Then I started breaking records!



Nakamura became a grandmaster at age 15 years, 79 days, beating Bobby Fischer's record by three months.

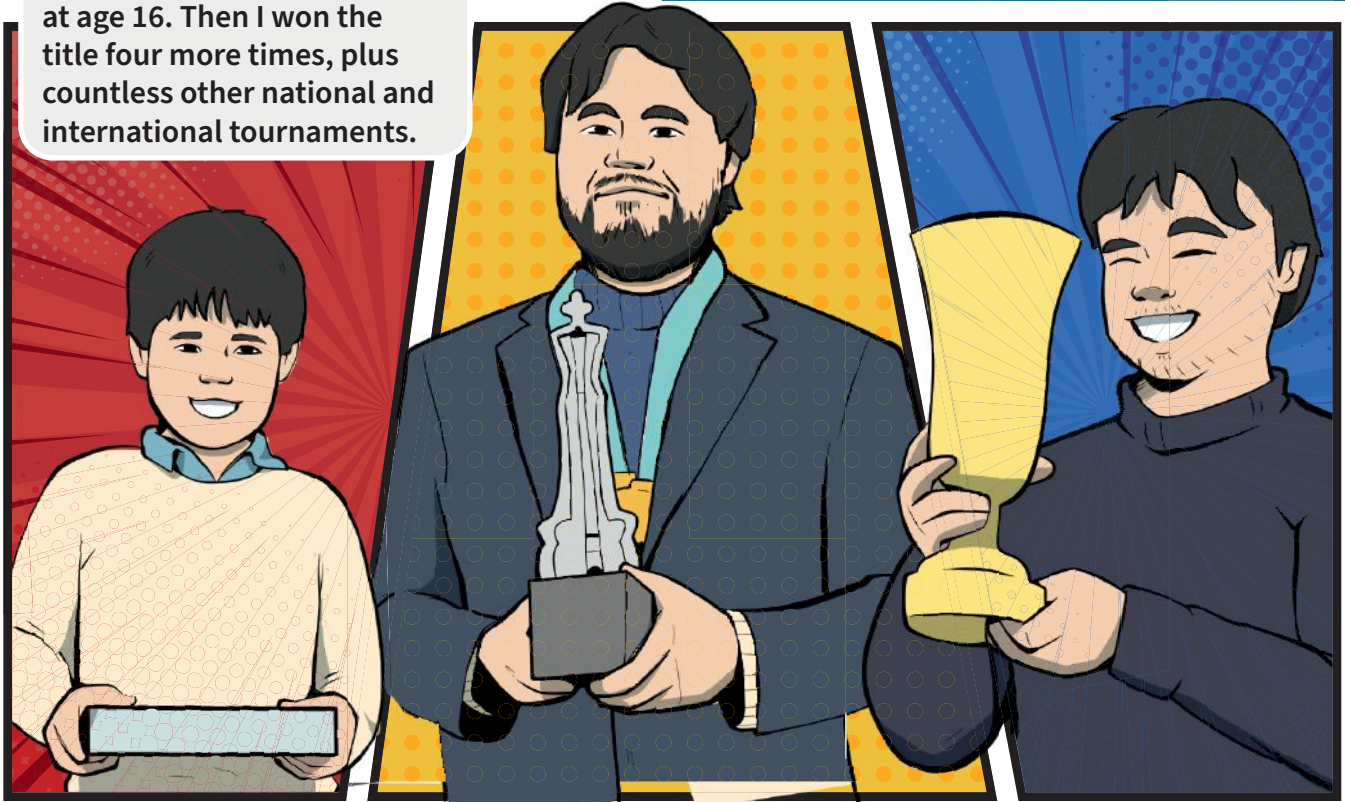
*all youngest records have since been broken

Each time I lost against the computer I learned something new. It helped me improve pretty rapidly.

Hmm.
Let me try alternating sides and copying the computer moves.



Not long after, I won my first U.S. Championship title at age 16. Then I won the title four more times, plus countless other national and international tournaments.



“The first championship in 2005 will always be the most special, but winning this fifth one was by far my best performance because of the strength of the field.”

Hikaru Nakamura on winning his 2019 title, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, May 2, 2019

As time passed, people began wondering if my passion for speed chess was going to ruin my game. But I loved it! I still do.

**Fastest hands
in the West!**

A reporter once said I had the fastest hands in the West!

2022 FIDE Fischer Rapid World Champion

World #1 in Blitz
(FIDE Blitz ranking
as of December 2022)

SEVEN BULLET CHESS TIPS FROM HIKARU

Here are suggestions for improvement from one of the world's best speed players.

- Never resign (anything can happen).
- Never assume when pre-moving.
- Don't focus on time.
- Choose your thinking time wisely.
- Almost any opening works.
- Simplify when up material or down on time.
- Know when to quit (stop playing if your form is off).*

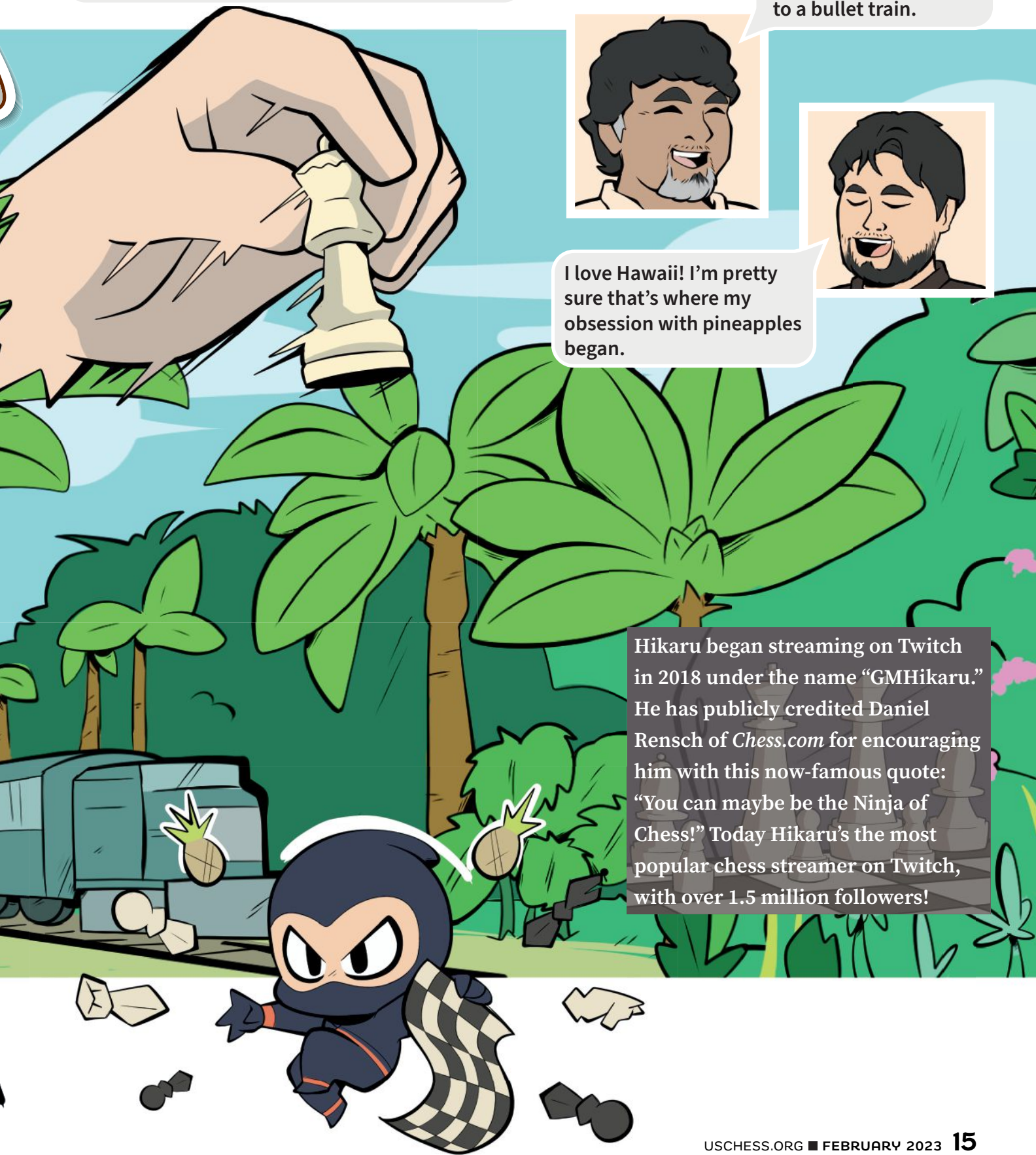
He actually recorded how long it took me to pick up a piece, make the move, and press the clock. It was something like a fraction of a second!

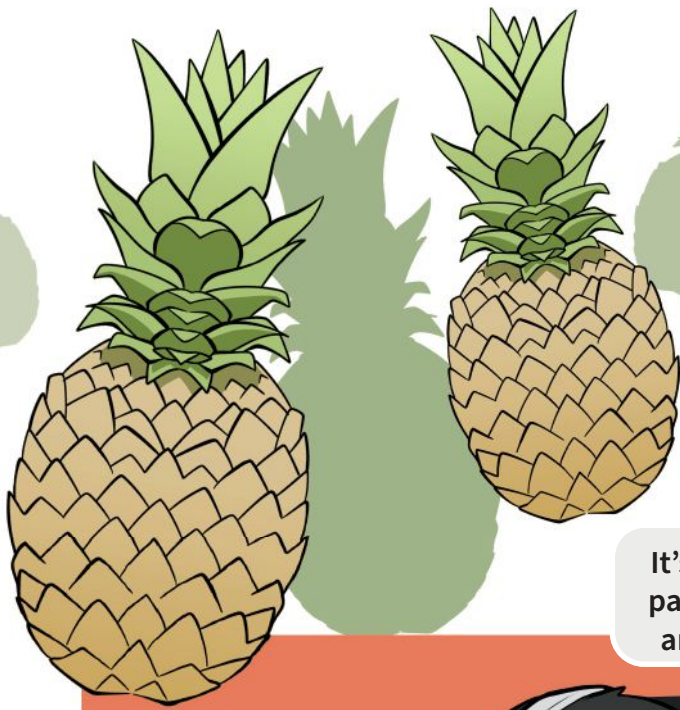
One time a news station in Hawaii even compared your speed to a bullet train.



I love Hawaii! I'm pretty sure that's where my obsession with pineapples began.

Hikaru began streaming on Twitch in 2018 under the name "GMHikaru." He has publicly credited Daniel Rensch of *Chess.com* for encouraging him with this now-famous quote: "You can maybe be the Ninja of Chess!" Today Hikaru's the most popular chess streamer on Twitch, with over 1.5 million followers!





And now you have pineapples all over your studio when you stream!

Yes, who would have guessed that chess would lead to an incredible streaming career?



It's been fun reliving the past with you! But what are your future plans?

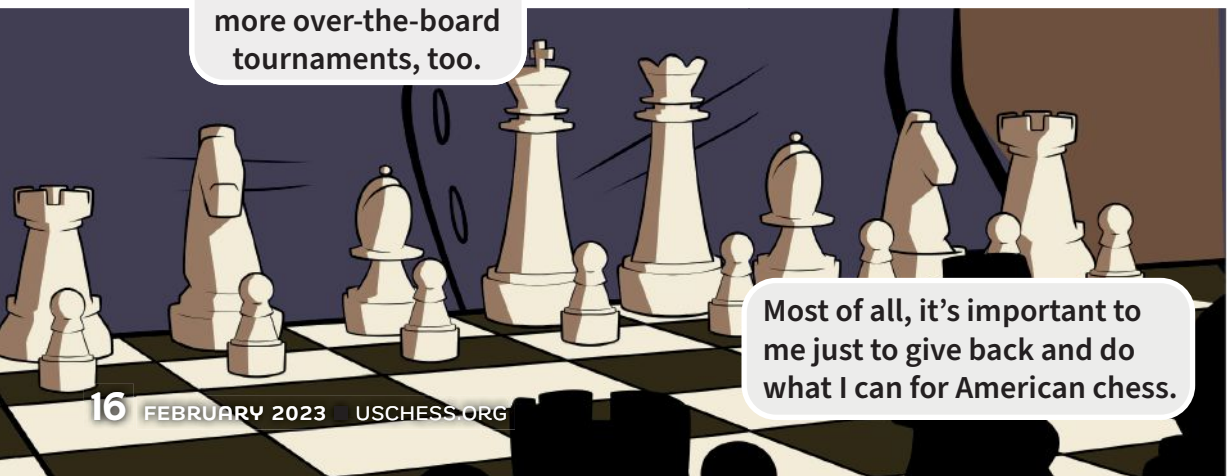
Believe in the journey of chess. Enjoy it because it's only going to be here once.
~ Hikaru, *Chess Life* interview, June 2022



First, I do feel a big responsibility when it comes to streaming.

I would like to see the community of people who enjoy chess but who aren't serious players grow.

And I intend to play more over-the-board tournaments, too.



Most of all, it's important to me just to give back and do what I can for American chess.

Many thanks to FM Sunil Weeramantry and GM Hikaru Nakamura for their participation!