

The Chess Journalist

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CHESS JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA

Dan Lucas, Former CJA President, Inducted into Georgia Chess Hall of Fame



Dan Lucas is with Mike Klein and Bruce Pandolfini.

November 14, 2016 · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻



Perhaps my final trip to Carnegie Deli, which is closing at the end of the year. From left: [Mike Klein](#), Director of Content for [Chess.com](#) and frequent Chess Life writer (Whitefish Salad). Me (Pastrami). [Bruce Pandolfini](#) Chess Life columnist for 35 years and chess teacher extraordinaire, who has met me at Carnegie many times over the years. For my non-chess friends, if you ever saw the popular movie Searching For Bobby Fischer, Bruce was portrayed by Ben Kingsley (Corned Beef). [John Hartmann](#), Chess Life's Book Review columnist and President of Nebraska Chess Association, making his first, and probably only, Carnegie trip (Brisket). Bye Bye, Carnegie, my life will be a little poorer without you.

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The Chess Journalists of America:

President: Joshua M. Anderson (joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com)

Vice-President: Jon Edwards (jedwards.chess@gmail.com)

Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Capron (mcapron243@mchsi.com)

Webmaster: Caleb Brown (csbrown.entrepreneur@gmail.com)

Editor: Mark Capron (mcapron243@mchsi.com)

Assistant Editor: Rachel Schechter (rachelaschechter@gmail.com)

Proofreaders: Diane Dahl, Rex Gray, Gio Espinosa, Melinda Matthews, Joshua Anderson

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Hello From the Editor

What an exciting issue! We had so much astounding stuff submitted, I ended up having to postpone at least five articles. What a great problem to have! I also went over on the normal amount of pages, so sorry to those who print it off in booklet form, it won't fold well!

It's awards season and you will find the announcement on page four.

Our previous president, Dan Lucas, was elected into the inaugural Georgia Chess Hall of Fame. There is a short interview with Dan inside.

You will find part three (the completion) of the 1982 Midwest Masters feature by Robert Irons.

The Queens' Corner interviewed the amazing WIM Dolly Teasley and you will note the new logo illustrated by Tony Sullivan.

We would also like to welcome Tony Sullivan on board as he has agreed to allow reprints of some of his cartoons. Follow Tony on Facebook at [Chess Peace Cartoons by Tony Sullivan | Facebook](#) and check out his book [Chess Peace: Cartoons](#).

CHESS PEACE



Cartoons by Tony Sullivan

Rachael is also back with another outstanding Chess Keys.

Kenneth Calitri and his chess library are featured. Note that the Library Focus is ongoing. Consider volunteering to share information about your library with the TCJ.

Remember “Book collecting is an obsession, an occupation, a disease, an addiction, a fascination, an absurdity, a fate. It is not a hobby. Those who do it must do it.” — **Jeanette Winterson**

The Lerner Awards were granted. Congratulations to those amazing people who work so hard for the chess youth of America.

Maurice Carter and I have been discussing an article written by him for quite a while. Well it has finally come to fruition. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have. It's always interesting to hear about treasures you didn't know existed.

There is an interesting knight's tour that celebrates Bobby Fischer's birthday by Awani Kumar.

Bob Basalla graces us with his humor in the article about Chesstrology, a parody of Astrology.

We also celebrate the lives of Lisa Lane, Richard Shorman, and George Kramer.

Jim Hollingsworth submitted two cartoons, including another Hector cartoon.



Thanks to Diane Dahl, Rex Gray, and Rachel Schechter for their excellent proofreading and suggestions.

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Please consider sending in an article or idea for next issue. If you are a junior we want to see your name in print in TCJ.

Please send your comments, suggestions, or even better, send me a story or idea for the next issue:

mcapron243@mchsi.com.

—Mark Capron

Annual Meeting at the U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia, 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 1st.

I just discovered the term “book dragon” and I have never felt more seen in my life. Unlike a bookworm, who reads like their little life depends on it, a book dragon hoards books like treasure. I used to think I was a bookworm, but now I know that I was very, very wrong. Mind blowing. —**Manthravadi Siva Harsha Vardhan**

2024 Annual Chess Journalists of America Awards

Call for Nominations

The Chess Journalists of America (CJA) calls for nominations for the annual Chess Journalists of America awards. The CJA Awards recognize the best in all facets of chess journalism, both print and online. The best chess articles, columns, photojournalism, layout, and online writing are honored within their respective categories. Recognized annually by their peers, the public, and members of CJA, the prestigious awards showcase American works published in English between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024.

CJA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the study and knowledge of chess as a journalistic and scholarly endeavor. Membership is open to everyone at an annual membership fee of \$10. Award winners receive online certificates that can be printed and acknowledged in CJA's magazine, *The Chess Journalist*, as well as on the CJA website and social media. CJA's annual awards are open to anyone. There is an entry fee of \$15 for the first entry, which includes membership or renewal to CJA, and an \$8 fee for each subsequent entry (unless otherwise noted). State organizations may enter three entries in the Cramer Awards for free. Additional award details can be found online at chessjournalism.org. Interested parties can also contact CJA Chief Judge Joshua Anderson at joshuamiltonanderson@gmail.com. Please use the QR code to go directly to our entry page. Award winners will be announced first at the annual CJA meeting during the U.S. Open, followed by a complete listing on the CJA website.

2024 AWARDS
TOP THREE CATEGORIES
 (Open to print or online)
 Chess Journalist of the Year
 Best Story of the Year
 Best Column

BEST CHESS BOOK
 Best Book – Instruction
 Best Book – Other
 Best Self—Published Book
BEST VISUAL ARTS
 Best Photojournalism Article
 Best Single Chess Photo
 Best Art
 Best Single Chess Magazine Cover
 Best Cartoon

BEST PRINT ARTICLES
 (Open only to publications)
 Best Regular Newspaper Column
 Best Overall Magazine
 Best Single Article of Local Interest
 Best Feature Article
 Best Interview
 Best Tournament Report – National/International
 Best Tournament Report – State/Local
 Best Club Newsletter
 Best Instructive Lesson
 Best Review
 Best Analysis
 Best Historical Article
 Best Humorous Contribution
 Best Personal Narrative

BEST ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS AND FEATURES
 Best Interview

Best Feature Article
 Best Podcast
 Best Single Podcast Episode
 Best Tournament Report – National/International
 Best Tournament Report – State/Local
 Best Club Newsletter
 Best Instruction Lesson
 Best Analysis
 Best Humorous Contribution
 Best Historical Article
 Best Personal Narrative
 Best Overall Chess Website
 Best Overall Website Small Organization (group of less than 500)
 Best Online Blog
 Best Paid Bog (Substack)
 Best Educational Lesson
 Best Online Review
 Best Non—Instructive Chess Video
 Best Twitter Feed
 Best Weekly Video Program
 Best Documentary
 Best Tournament/Match Coverage (This may be a series of videos)

JUNIOR
 (Under 21 at the time of writing)
 Best Print Article by a Junior
 Best Online Article by a Junior
 Best Personal Narrative by a Junior
 Best Photo by a Junior

CRAMER AWARDS
 Best State Championship Report
 Best State Tournament Coverage
 Best Scholastic Coverage in State (may be multiple articles)
 Best Overall State Website
 Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Print
 Best State Magazine/Newsletter – Online
 Best Personal Narrative
 Best Photograph
 Best State Magazine Photo
 Best State Facebook Page



Dan Lucas, Former CJA President, Inducted into Georgia Chess Hall of Fame
Interviewed By Joshua Anderson

Dan Lucas was inducted into the inaugural Georgia Chess Hall of Fame 2024 class. Lucas is one of my predecessors in office (my predecessors are a tremendously talented group of people) and was kind enough to answer a few questions leading up to the big day. Since Melinda Matthews was doing a broader interview for US Chess (Link below), we stuck to CJA—related topics (well, mostly).

1. How did you become involved with the CJA?

While serving as editor of *Georgia Chess*, I saw the announcement in *Chess Life* of the CJA awards. The fact that there was a category for Best State Magazine with a circulation of under 1,000 caught my eye. So many GCA members told me how much they liked the magazine and the improvements that I thought we had a chance. We did win that category, so the next year I decided to submit it for the overall Best State Magazine, which we also won. This put me on the radar of people such as the then-CJA President Pete Tamburro, who was very encouraging and started bringing me in on CJA matters.

2. How did you become President of the CJA?

I don't remember precisely, but I do remember that Pete Tamburro suggested my name when he was ready to step down. I was a complete outsider regarding U.S. Chess matters, so I was unaware that meetings took place at the U.S. Open. I never attended any of the meetings when I was president—partly because I was a stay-at-home dad with two young children at the time. I must have been voted absentia, and I don't think it was a contested election.

3. What did you like most about the job?

95% of my work was to serve as Chief Judge of the awards program. It was still a physical job at the time—print entries were mailed to my home, and I had chess publications spread all over my living room as I packaged everything to mail to the judges. I think we were just beginning to experiment with electronic submissions. It was a lot of work, but I was good at organizing and enjoying the project.

4. What did you like least about the job?

I don't remember not liking anything I did. Things I would have hated, such as managing the books and dealing with website issues, were taken care of by other dedicated volunteers such as Randy Hough and J. Franklin Campbell. John Hillery consistently put out *The Chess Journalist* as well.

5. What were some of the largest changes you made to the organization?

I view myself as the Calvin Coolidge of CJA Presidents—I think I was just a caretaker president (Coolidge was actually the “Do-Nothing” President). The only significant accomplishment I can remember is selecting the URL chessjournalism.org, although webmaster J. Franklin Campbell made that a reality.

6. How did your involvement with the CJA lead to your working with US Chess?

What was important to US Chess when I was being considered for the Director of Publications position was my work on and experience with *Georgia Chess*. However, my job management experience before my stay-at-home dad stint factored in, too. The fact that CJA had recognized the magazine with multiple awards was impressive to the Executive Board, especially Don Schultz, who was US Chess Vice President at the time, a state editor himself (for Florida), instrumental in the Cramer Awards, and the one who brought my name to the board. I was hired as Director of Publications at the end of 2005, and in 2018, I was promoted to the new position of Senior Director of Strategic Communication.

7. You ran the *Georgia Chess* magazine for several years. What is the secret to making a good state magazine?

I wouldn't call it a secret. It is keeping the publication squarely focused on the players and events within the state. And if it is a state like Georgia where the bulk of the activity takes place in a single metro area like Atlanta, it is important to make the effort to cover players and events in other parts of the state too.

8. What are a couple of things you learned while in the CJA that you still use today?

The awards program showed me the importance of getting the recognition and respect of your colleagues. I always enjoyed working within my little bubble, so I was surprised to find how meaningful it was to me to get that recognition. Ever since, I have made it a point to give deserved recognition whenever possible to my colleagues.

9. Mark likes to ask people about their favorite meals in his interviews. That would just make me hungry.

I will answer this anyway! New York City pastrami on rye is the food I could eat for the rest of my life, and it played into my chess journalism, too—I met Bruce Pandolfini for lunch several times at the now-defunct Carnegie Deli. Getting to know Bruce personally as a friend and not just as a columnist for *Chess Life* has been one of the best things that has happened to me in my chess life.

10 - 11. James Lipton was the interviewer of a show called “Inside the Actor's Studio”. He had a series of ten questions he always used to ask. I will steal two.

10. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?

I'm always tempted to answer this question using George Costanza's fake career as an architect. For me, it is a comedy writer, but I'm well aware of my limitations. While people often find my jokes and bon mots funny, I wouldn't have been able to reach the level of output needed to be a professional comedy writer. For example, I remember reading that for the David Letterman Top-10 Lists, each writer would submit 50 jokes for that night's topic. I could probably come up with a few jokes, but I wouldn't even be able to think of 47 more bad jokes, let alone ones that would have had a chance of making it into the show.

11. What profession would you not like to do?

Highway construction always seemed like a particular circle of hell to me, especially during the summer.

The Georgia Chess Association Hall of Fame Committee consisted of Jeff Kidd, Justin Morrison, L. Thad Rogers, Stephen A. Schneider, Professor Mark Taylor, Ph.D. (English), and Chair Kent Meadows. Besides Dan, they inducted WIM Carolina Blanco, D.D.S., Paul Donehoo, IM Boris Markovich Kogan, Isaac Orchard, Scott Parker, L. Thad Rogers, NM Guillermo A. Ruiz, Steve Schneider, William A. Scott III, Adolph Wurm, and GM Alonso Zapata. Donehoo, Kogan, Orchard, Scott, and Wurm were posthumous inductees. More information about all of these players can be seen at [Dan Lucas Inducted into Georgia Hall of Fame | US Chess.org](#). David Spinks also Posthously received the 2024 Inaugural Georgia Chess Association Recognition Award.

Congratulations to them all!

Thanks to Kent Meadows for the additional information and Dan Lucas for the interview.



The 1982 Midwest Masters Invitational—Part 3

By Robert Irons

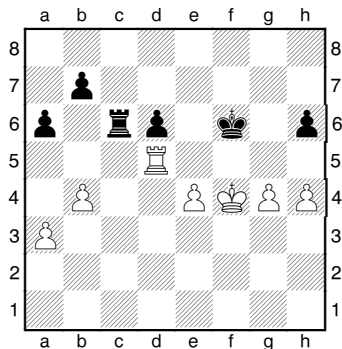


Round 4

Once again, this round had more decisive games (10) than draws (8), and the shortest game was a 25 move draw between Kaushansky and Bass. Brooks' win over Rose was enough to push him into a tie for the top spot on the leader board. Bachler's defeat of Dandridge might be called an upset (134 point difference), as might Redman's win over Kornfeld (154 points), since in both cases an untitled player defeated a Master.

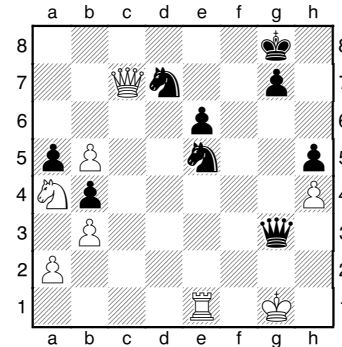
Leonid Bass played the Kan variation against Kaushansky's Maroczy Bind formation. Both players made attempts to gain an advantage, but neither made much headway. The players called it a draw on move 25.

Michael Brooks and John Rose also discussed the Kan variation, but Brooks chose to leave his c-pawn at home and instead played for center control with f4. On his 30th move, Rose defended his attacked f5-pawn rather than sacrifice it on f4 to force Brooks to capture it with a pawn, closing the f-file. Brooks then captured with a knight, and the game quickly traded down to a ♖+♗ ending with Brooks up a pawn and a centralized king. The game ended with a shot:

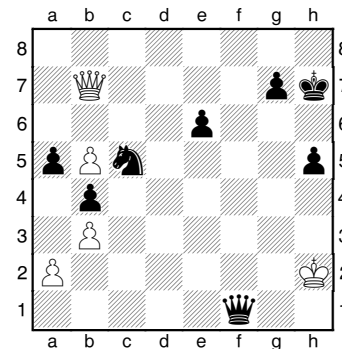


52. ♖xd6!! 1-0 After 52...♗xd6 53.e5+ ♖e6 54.exd6 ♗xd6 55.♖f5 White forces a pawn through to queen.

The game between David Rubin and Morris Giles was a Najdorf Sicilian in which both players made small errors without the other being able to take advantage of them. The most interesting thing about the game was the final position, in which Giles offered a draw.



According to Stockfish 15.1 Giles now has a win, in which the main line goes as follows: 35.♖f1 ♖f3+ 36.♔g1 ♜d3 37.♗f1 ♖g4+ 38.♔h2 ♖e2+ 39.♔g1 ♜7e5 40.♖e7 ♔h7 41.♖b7 ♖e3+ 42.♔h1 ♜e1 43.♗xe1 ♖xe1+ 44.♔g2 ♖e2+ 45.♔g3 ♖e3+ 46.♔g2 ♜d3 47.♜c5 ♖f2+ 48.♔h1 ♖xh4+ 49.♔g1 ♖f2+ 50.♔h1 ♖f1+ 51.♔h2 ♜xc5 (see diagram).



While I would agree this position is won for Black, there is no way I would ever be able to calculate that line accurately or see the final position clearly at the board. Taking the draw seemed reasonable to me.

Eric Schiller chose a Catalan setup for his game against Steve Szpisjak, and Szpisjak responded with a Semi-Slav structure with his light-squared bishop outside the pawn triangle, similar to the way Emanuel Lasker played against Reti at New York 1924. What started as a quiet opening turned into a more heated middlegame. Both sides struggled, and both players made positional mistakes, but in the end the mistakes washed out, and the players called it a draw on move 47.

The game Gogel–Savage had the Fianchetto variation of the King’s Indian on the board. Neither side was willing to risk much—both players were in the middle of the pack—and so nothing much happened. The players agreed to a draw on move 43.



From left, Dennis Gogel, Leonid Kaushansky, and Miomir Stevanovic.”

The game Stevanovic–Sprenkle saw the Classical variation in the Sicilian Defense, and Stevanovic chose the Sozin Attack. The players castled on opposite sides and began opposing pawn attacks. Stevanovic got a slight advantage when Sprenkle weakened his f6 square, but nothing much came of it. The players chose to call it a draw after 28 moves.

Lawton–Kramer was a Closed Sicilian that remained even well into the middlegame. On move 20 Kramer chose to post his rook aggressively on the e-file rather than defensively on the f-file, and three moves later Lawton sacrificed his g-pawn in order to open the f-file and go after the black king. After that it only took Lawton three more moves to force resignation.

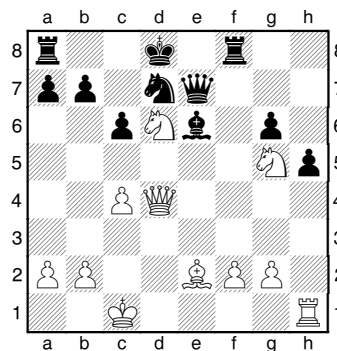
Steven Tennant chose the Kmoch variation (4.f3) against Fred Rhine’s Nimzo-Indian Defense. Both players chose aggression over defense; Tennant advanced in the center while Rhine expanded on the queenside. Both players took risks, but not big ones, and while neither player gave up much, neither one got much either. They called it a draw after move 37.

Stephan Popel opened with the London System, which Kenneth Jones responded to with a King’s Indian setup, and then quickly forced the exchange of White’s dark-squared bishop for a knight. The position was roughly equal by move seven, and it rarely strayed from that before the players shook hands and split the point on move 66.

The game between Albert Chow and Ken Mohr started off as a Delayed Benoni but quickly morphed into a King’s Indian Averbach structure with an open e-file. Mohr sacrificed his b-pawn, a la the Benko Gambit. He quickly regained the pawn as the players traded down to a ♖+♗ ending with even material, but with pawn majorities on opposite wings. When Chow moved to invade the queenside with his king, Mohr chose to advance his own king rather than obstruct the White king. Once Chow’s king penetrated, it was able to clear the way for his passed a-pawn. Mohr resigned on move 42, after the White a-pawn’s first move.

Allen Kornfeld’s 1.g3 was answered classically by Tim Redman with 1...d5. Kornfeld chose a Double Fianchetto opening, while Redman used the same Semi-Slav setup that Szpisjak used against Schiller. Kornfeld gained an edge after forcing through e2–e4, then continuing with f2–f4 and e4–e5. Redman maintained until Kornfeld overreached, then quickly equalized, and fiercely counterattacked on the kingside. Kornfeld resigned on his 29th move.

Ken Larsen played a very modern attacking line against Edward Friedman’s Dutch Leningrad opening (1.c4 f5 2.♘c3 g6 3.d4 ♗g7 4.h4!), but then switched to more positional play a few moves later, which cost Larsen most of his advantage. A few moves later Larsen missed his last opportunity to sharpen the position, and Friedman never looked back (diagram):



25.♗ge4? With 25.♖e3! ♖f6 26.♗ge4 White keeps the pressure up. After this he doesn’t get another chance. 25...♗c7 26.♗f3 ♗f5 27.♖e1 ♗xe4 28.♖xe4 ♖e5 29.♖d1 ♖ad8 30.♖a4 ♗b8+ Larsen hung on until the pawn ending before resigning on move 66.

The game between Erik Karklins and Angelo Sandrin was a Classical Dragon variation in the Sicilian Defense. Both players fought hard in the middlegame for an advantage, taking risks and playing aggressively, with Karklins getting the better of it. On move 23 Karklins chose a check that forced the exchange of queens, giving back most of his advantage. Sandrin regrouped and attacked Karklins’ king on f1, forcing the win of a piece. Karklins resigned on move 44.

Against Al Sandrin’s Sicilian Defense, Timothy Sage chose the Moscow variation (1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.♗b5+), later made popular when in 1999 Garry Kasparov used it to defeat “the rest of the world.” The middlegame quickly changed after an exchange of queens that left Sandrin with an isolated d-pawn, with three sets of minor pieces, and with all of the rooks still on the board. The players agreed to a draw on move 42.

Ken Wallach’s 1.d4 was greeted by Glen Gratz’ 1...b5, which the ECO Code list gives as the Polish Defense. Wallach quickly occupied the center with pawns and chose to develop his king to f2 rather than castle. A kingside pawn storm immediately followed. Wallach then sacrificed his g-pawn to get the ball rolling, and after a flurry of tactics during moves 17–22 Wallach had bagged a knight for two pawns. Over the next several moves Wallach managed to

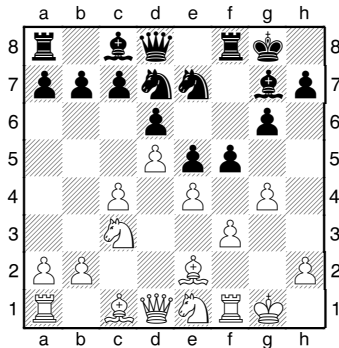
trade off a set of rooks and to eat two more pawns, increasing his material advantage. Gratz gave up the ghost on move 39.

For round 4 Lawrence Chachere was kind enough to annotate his win against Christopher Kus. Both players were far out-of-the-money at this point (1/3), but you wouldn't know that by their play; both players came out swinging.

Chachere - Kus

King's Indian Defense, Mar Del Plata [E98]
[Notes by Lawrence Chachere]

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟f3 ♟g7 4.♟c3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.♟e2 ♟c6 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 ♟e7 9.♟e1 ♟d7 10.f3 f5 11.g4



Apart from this sideline, I have played the main line ♟e3 a handful of times and had a few very disappointing losses. Although I would not claim that 11.g4 is better than the main line, for many years I had very successful results playing it. King's Indian players do not see this very often. Challenging black for space on the kingside forces them to play a position that they are less familiar with. (I had pretty good results with it in correspondence play back in the '80s. - RI)

11...♟f6

This move and ♟h8 have been black's two main responses. It was believed that 11...f4 was a mistake because white would then play 12.h4 with the idea of closing up the kingside. e.g., if black pushes the pawn to h5, white responds with 13.g5. With no worries of kingside counterplay, white could then play for the win by exploiting his space advantage on the queenside. However, black can play ♟f6, followed by 13.♟g2 ♟h8, with the idea of playing ♟g8, forcing white to push the g-pawn to g5. Black could then open up a line on the kingside with h6. It is ironic that the move that white hopes black will play is probably black's strongest option.

12.♟d3 ♟h8 13.♟e3 h6 14.h4

This is the standard reply. If black advances either the g-pawn or h-pawn, white is prepared to push past, closing up the kingside.

14...♟h7 15.♟f2?

This move tosses away white's advantage. ♟g2 is better.

15...♟g8 16.♟e1 ♟d7 17.♟g2 ♟f7?

This peculiar move is a big error. On the next and subsequent moves, white could have achieved a winning ad-

vantage with the disruptive h5! That practically forces black to capture the h-pawn, giving white a protected past pawn with gxf5.

18.♟c1?

Playing on the queenside is thematic for white, but it allows black to get off the hook with f×g4.

18...a6 19.c5 ♟gf6 20.a4 ♟f8 21.c×d6 c×d6 22.a5 ♟c8 23.♟e3
Both sides have missed white's h5 shot for several moves.

23...f×g4 24.f×g4 ♟e8?

Another mistake. Many other choices would have maintained a balanced game for black.

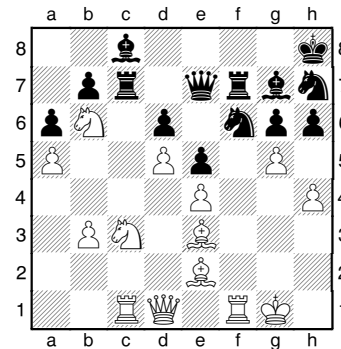
25.b3?!

Completely unnecessary. White should play ♟c4 immediately.

25...♟ef6 26.♟c4 ♟c7 27.♟b6 ♟c8 28.♟e3 ♟e7?!

White has built a substantial advantage, but this move makes things worse for black.

29.g5!



29...♟g8 30.♟xf7 ♟xf7 31.♟xc8 ♟xc8 32.♟g4 ♟c7 33.♟b6 ♟e7
34.♟e3 ♟c7

Offering to repeat the position, black indicates he would be happy with a draw.

35.♟d2 ♟e8 36.♟e6 ♟d8 37.♟f1

Of course, ♟b6 is a more straightforward way to win material. With an open king and queens on the board, I opted to not allow any possible counter-play with h×g5, but white really has nothing to worry about. A good part of my cautiousness during the entire game was psychological. I had never played Chris Kus before, and for many years he had been rated hundreds of points higher than me.

37...♟e8 38.♟b6 ♟e7 39.♟d1 ♟xe6

I was surprised to see this, but there is really nothing constructive that black can play to try to avoid the loss.

40.d×e6 ♟×e6 41.♟g2 ♟e7 42.b4 ♟c6 43.♟e3 ♟xb4 44.♟d5
♟×d5 45.e×d5 ♟e7 46.g×h6 ♟×h6 47.♟×g6 ♟f4 48.♟xf4 1-0

Lester Van Meter graciously annotated his round 4 loss to Eugene Martinovsky. At this point in the tournament, both players were in the middle of the pack (1.5/3), and both needed a win to have any chance at prize money.

Van Meter—Martinovsky

Caro Kann [D42]

[Notes by FM Lester Van Meter]

An encounter with the good Doctor was always something I looked forward to with great interest. We had many interesting games and post-mortems. I always enjoyed analyzing with him as there was much to learn from his vast experience and outlook about chess.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♟f6 5.♟c3

In 1978 I was living in Mexico City for several months and I was studying chess non-stop. I had taken with me my bound volumes of *Shakmatny Bulletin* (1972–77), *Basic Chess Endings*, *Ideas Behind the Chess Openings*, *Pawn Structure Chess*, and *Aron Nimzowitsch: A Reappraisal*. When we returned to the US we flew to Texas, and I played in and won the US Amateur that year to get my Master Title.

In late 1979 we flew to Cali, Colombia and for that sojourn I took the latest two Informants, *Pawn Structure Chess*, *Aron Nimzowitsch: A Reappraisal*, *Basic Chess Endings*, RHM's *How to play the Caro-Kann*, and a German published (Soviet) book on the Caro-Kann. The Caro-Kann was the first "respectable" opening that I learned after becoming a Master and it served me well for many, many years.

I also played 1.e2–e4 and the Panov attack was invariably my choice, so I played both sides of this position! One time I deliberately played 1.e2–e4 against Master Charles Madigan [a devotee of the Caro-Kann] and I played a line I was unsure of against the Panov figuring Charles would show me the way...

Unfortunately, he did not, but I did get a nice 18 move win!!

Of course, my hope was to play that here again, but the good doctor is a classical player and he plays the "best" answer by heading for a Nimzo-Indian.

5...e6

5...g6 I liked to swim in the murky waters that this often produced.

5...♟c6 Another Indiana Master, James Mills, prefers to take on this super-sharp concrete line.

6.♟f3 ♟e7

6...♟b4 would go to the Nimzo.

7.cxd5 ♟xd5 8.♟d3 ♟c6 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3

10.♞e1 with standard IQP play is the main continuation. Karpov played this position 15 times in his career against the top players. He lost just twice. The first time was to Smyslov in 1971 at the USSR championship where he was very young and fell prey to a sterling d4–d5 advance by the wily veteran. He more than balanced the scorecard with five victories as black. His games in this type of structure are very instructive and well worth the effort to study closely.

10...♟f6 11.♟e4 ♟de7

This is a bit more dangerous for black than the more common continuation.

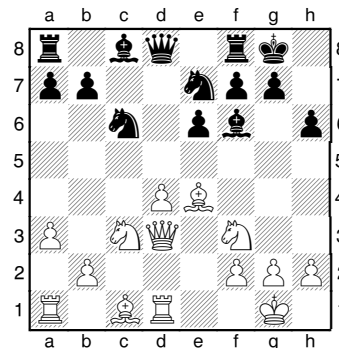
Here are two examples:

11...♟ce7 12.♞d3 h6 13.♟e5 ♟xc3 14.♞xc3 ♟f5 15.♟e3 ♟d6 16.♟f3 ♟d7 17.♞b4 ♟b5 18.♞fe1 a5 19.♞b3 ♟a6 20.♞ad1 ♟f5 21.♟e4 ♟xe3 22.♞xe3 ♞d6 23.♟c2 ♞fd8 24.♞e4 ♞ac8 25.♞h7+ ♟f8 26.h3 b6 27.♟b3 ♟b7 28.d5 ♞c7 29.dxe6 ♞xd1 30.♟g6+ 1–0 Karpov,A (2690)-Timman,J (2620) Moscow 1981 (8)

11...♟ce7 12.♟e5 ♟g6 13.♟g4 ♟g5 14.♟xd5 exd5 15.♟xg6 hxg6 16.♟xg5 ♞xg5 17.♟e3 ♟e6 18.♞e1 ♞fc8 19.♞d2 ♞c7 20.♞ac1 ♞ac8 21.♞xc7 ♞xc7 22.♞c1 ♞xc1+ 23.♞xc1 ♞f4 24.♞c3 g5 25.h3 b6 26.♟f1 g6 27.♞e3 ♟g7 28.♞c3 ♟h7 29.♟g3 ♟g7 30.♟f1 ♟h7 31.♟g3 ♟g7 32.♟f1

½–½ Artemiev,V (2700)-Giri,A (2772) Airthings Masters Prelim chess24.com INT rapid 2022 (14).

12.♞d3 h6 13.♞d1



Still all good theory to here.

13...b6N

A typical Martinovsky type of move. It is also a typical type of move black aims for in this structure. However, it is strategically suspect. In many queenside defenses the good doctor played "risky" ideas, but to prove that they were risky not only took a very strong player, but a player who continued to play strongly.

My chess understanding and skills were not up to such challenges at that time. What white needs to do to cast shade on black's position is to initiate a pawn storm against white's king starting with either g2–g4 or h2–h4! My play at that time and in this game was to look for replicating Smyslov's success against Karpov in 1971 with a timely d4–d5.

Predecessor: 13...♟d5 14.♟d2 b6 15.♞ac1 ♟b7 ½–½ Ujtelky,M-Rejfir,J Marianske Lazne 1960 (13).

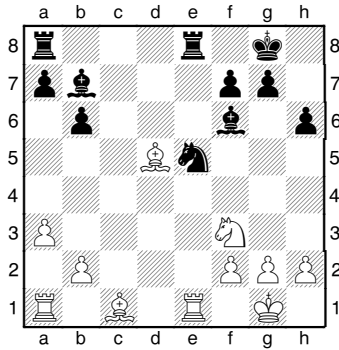
14.d5!?

This prematurely (easy to say in hindsight!) initiates concrete tactical play without having mobilized all the forces. It sets white on that slippery slope of being in the land of one mistake! A modern term thanks to today's Silicon Monsters [SM] where sure it is triple zero but one side has to make a series of difficult moves to maintain that balance, and just one mis-step...

14...exd5 15.♟xd5 ♟xd5 16.♟xd5 ♟b7 17.♞b5

Intending 17.♟xh6! A difficult move, and one I'm pretty sure wasn't on my radar, as I thought I was on a good path here with many threats.

17...♞e8 18.♞e1 ♟e5 19.♞xe8 ♞fxe8



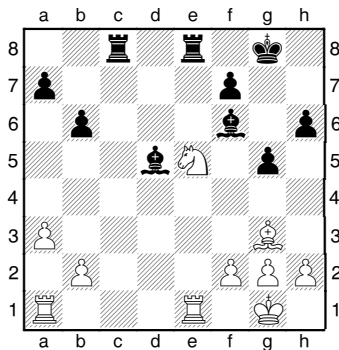
The critical position. And here I just didn't calculate it correctly...

20. ♖xe5?

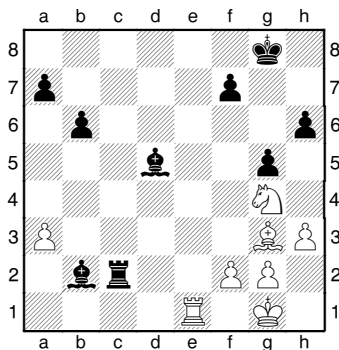
The only try was 20. ♖xe5! a move that was definitely analyzed by me, but in the ensuing complications I must have mis-evaluated the line where he gets the two outside passers.

I remember settling for ♖xe5, and aiming for the "equal material" instead of the imbalances. 20... ♖xe5 21. ♗xb7 ♜d8 22. ♗e3 ♜e7 23. ♗a6 ♗xb2 24. ♖b1 ♗xa3 and here 25. ♖a1 ♗b2 could be an immediate draw.

20... ♗xd5 21. ♗f4 g5 22. ♗g3 ♜ac8



23. h3 ♜c2 [23... a5] 24. ♗g4? [24. b4] 24... ♖xe1+ 25. ♖xe1 ♗xb2 ±

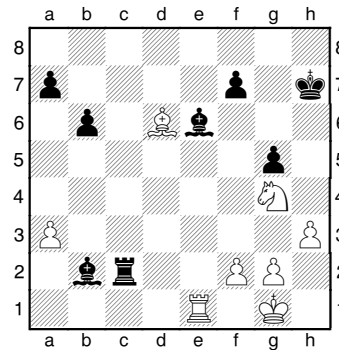


In my basic endgame summary survey I say: **MINOR PIECE:** This type of ending involves the various combinations of bishop and knight which are not pure endings. As in the above pure endings the KING is the dominant piece in any short-range battle. Thus, the idea of a king penetration is the major theme on the way to victory.

Knights need to have secure anchor spots in or near the vicinity of the struggle. With bishops (against knight) it is key to develop two separate distinct battle areas and force the knight to commit to one of them. Two pawn masses separated by two [but preferably three] open files almost always guarantees success.

Thus, this ending is most likely already winning for black, and I'm sure my opponent was thinking that.

26. ♖xh6+ ♗h7 27. ♗g4 ♗e6 28. ♗d6



28... ♜c3!?

Instead of clinging to the 2 ♗s, he could have cashed in with 28... ♗xg4 29. hxg4 ♗d4 and white is hopelessly placed.

29. ♗f6+

29. ♗e5 ♜b3 30. ♗xb2 ♜xb2 31. ♗e5 ♗g7 32. ♜e3 and white could still struggle on.

29... ♗g6 30. ♗e4 ♜b3 31. ♗e7?

Capitulation... At least play a rook move [♜e3 or ♜b1] if you wish to play on. The rest is just too easy.

31... ♗xa3 32. ♗xg5 a5 33. ♗d2 a4 34. f4 ♗d5 35. ♗c3 ♗c5+ 36. ♗h2 ♗c6 37. g4 ♜b2 38. ♜e2 ♗b4 39. f5+ ♗h7 40. ♗c1 ♗d6+ 41. ♗g1 ♜xe2 42. ♗xe2 b5 43. g5 b4 44. ♗f1 ♗e5 45. ♗a3 0-1

I chose to analyze the game Bachler–Dandridge for this round. After drawing against Masters in rounds one and two, Kevin Bachler defeated a Master in round three, and now faced his fourth Master in a row, Marvin Dandridge.

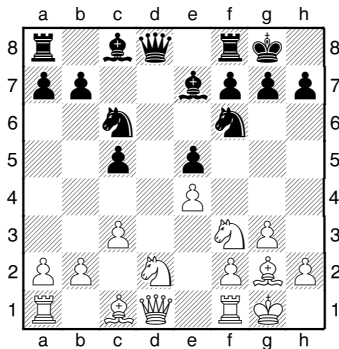
Bachler–Dandridge

King's Indian Attack [A08]

1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. ♗d2 c5 4. ♗gf3 ♗c6 5. g3 ♗f6 6. ♗g2

Bachler's choice of a more strategic line of the French than the main lines following 2. d4 makes sense against Dandridge, whose play was highly tactical. Dandridge chose a positional response, exchanging before White gets the chance to play e4–e5.

6... dxe4 7. dxe4 e5 8. 0–0 ♗e7 9. c3 0–0



While Black's position looks fine, I prefer White. Black's weakness on d5 is permanent, while White's corresponding weakness at d3 is easier to defend.

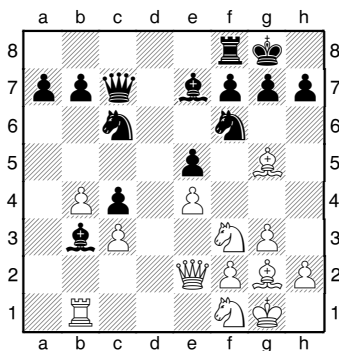
10. ♖e2 ♙e6 11. ♞d1 ♞c7 12. ♜f1 ♞ad8 13. ♙g5?

This drops a pawn but also connects the rooks and adds more pressure to the d5 square.

13... ♞xd1 14. ♞xd1 ♙xa2 15. b4?!

15. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 16. ♜e3 is more direct, but the text adds tension to the queenside.

15... ♙b3 16. ♞b1 c4?!



16... ♙e6 is better.

17. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 18. ♜e3 ♜e7 19. ♜d2 ♞d8 20. ♜xb3 cxb3 21. ♞xb3 ♙g5 22. ♜d5 ♞d6 23. ♞a3 a6 24. ♞a5 ♜c6 25. ♞a1 ♜b8?!

25... ♜e7 makes more sense.

26. ♞d1 b6?!

26... ♜c6 or 26... ♙e7 are better.

27. ♞g4

27. h4! is more to the point.

27... ♙f6 28. ♞f3 a5 29. ♙f1!

Redeveloping the least productive piece!

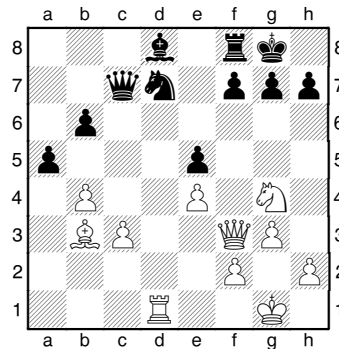
29... ♙e7 30. ♙c4

30. ♙b5 to corral the knight looks better.

30... ♞f8 31. ♙b3

Here again I prefer 31. ♙b5.

31... ♙d8 32. ♜e3 ♞c7 33. ♜g4 ♜d7?



This move falls victim to a tactic; better is 33... ♙e7. It does, however, make for a nice finish.

34. ♜h6+! g×h6 35. ♞g4+ ♙g5 36. ♞xd7 ♞xc3 37. ♙d5 a×b4 38. h4 b3 39. h×g5 h5 40. ♞f5! 1–0

White has mate in five moves.

Brooks' win over Rose put him at the top of the leader board alongside Kaushansky. Bachler's victory against Dandridge moved him up into a tie for third place (and also gave him the rating points necessary to earn the Master title! More about that to come), while Chow's win over Ken Mohr put him within sight of prize money. The fifth and final round saw one more player squeeze his way into the tie for first place.

The scores at the end of round 4:

- 3.5: Brooks, Kaushansky
- 3.0: Bachler, Bass, Rubin
- 2.5: Chow, Giles, Lawton, Martinovsky, Redman, Rose, Schiller, Szpisjak
- 2.0: Chachere, Dandridge, Friedman, Gogel, Jones, Popel, Rhine, Savage, Sprenkle, Tennant, Stevanovic
- 1.5: Kornfeld, Kramer, Mohr, Angelo Sandrin, Van Meter, Wallach
- 1.0: Karklins, Kus, Larsen, Sage, Al Sandrin
- 0.0: Gratz

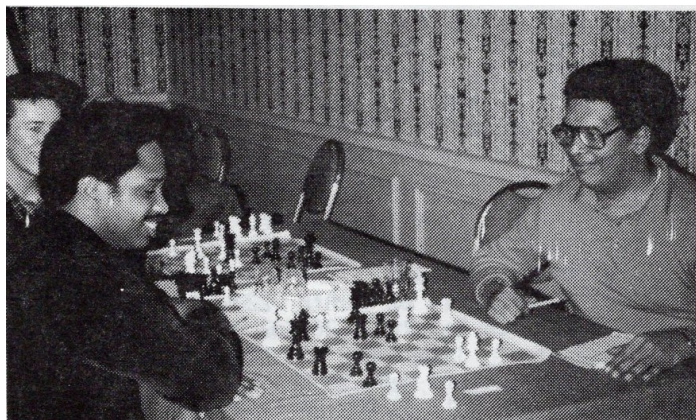
Round 5 (the final round)

Entering the final round, Brooks and Kaushansky enjoyed a half-point lead over Bachler, Bass and Rubin, and therefore had to choose between going for the gold or playing it safe. Given that they were set to play each other, and that this was to be the fifth game over a three-day period, I would have made the same choice. Likewise, Bachler, Bass and Rubin were tied for 3rd–5th place, and all had a shot at expanding the tie for 1st place. At the same time, the players who entered this round with 2.5 points—Chow, Giles, Lawton, Martinovsky, Redman, Rose, Schiller, and Szpisjak—all had an outside chance at 5th place. For all of these players there was motivation to fight.

Neither Leonid Kaushansky nor Michael Brooks were willing to risk their share of the prize money, and so in this final round they played the second shortest game of the tournament (after Redman–Angelo Sandrin from round three and Rhine–Van Meter from round five). The game was a Sicilian Najdorf that they called a draw on move ten.

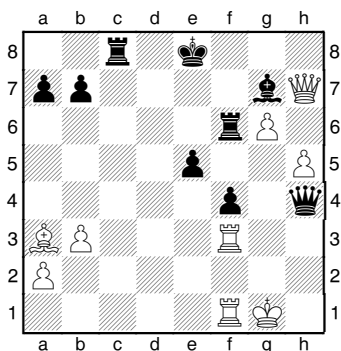
This left them tied for first place with four points each.

John Rose and Eric Schiller played into a main line of the Tarrasch Defense to the Queen's Gambit; one for which Schiller quite literally wrote the book. Neither player had any illusions of prize money, and so they agreed to a draw on move 12.



Far left, barely in sight, Michael Brooks; at left, Charles Lawton, and at right, Morris Giles.

Morris Giles played a form of the Austrian Attack against Charles Lawton's Pirc Defense. Giles fully occupied the center, while Lawton chose to snipe at Giles' pawn center with his minor pieces. Lawton finally chose to occupy the center with a pawn on move 11, which Giles used as a cue to advance on the kingside. Lawton played for a series of exchanges that cleared away Giles' pawn center and left both kings exposed. Giles chose a plan that was too slow, permitting Lawton enough time to build a strong attack with his heavy pieces and his remaining center pawns. Just when Lawton had all of his ducks in a row for the attack, he chose to give a perpetual check and settle for half a point when a full point would have put him in a tie for 4th—6th place (see diagram).

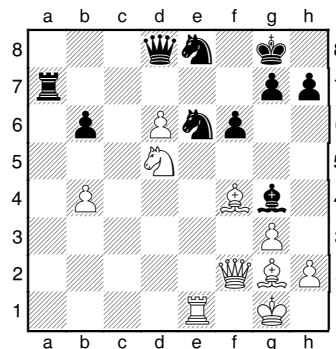


Black can force matters here with 33...e4!, threatening a pawn roller heading towards Giles' king. It's a shame Lawton missed this opportunity and settled for a draw, but otherwise he played a fine game.

Ed Friedman launched the Smith—Morra Gambit against Dennis Gogel, and Gogel responded by accepting the pawn and then focusing on developing his queenside pieces before castling, as if daring Friedman to attack. Friedman tried to make a heavy piece attack work, but Gogel kept forcing exchanges and finding tactics that kept the

white pieces from coordinating. After every last threat from White was spent, Friedman chose to resign due to a significant material deficiency.

David Sprenkle and Lawrence Chachere discussed an interesting form of the Closed Sicilian where Black developed his dark-squared bishop to e7 rather than g7. With both players focused on the center, Sprenkle got the better of the fight for squares, and when the central tension was eventually resolved, Sprenkle came out of it with a passed d-pawn and the bishop pair. The passed pawn made it to the d6—square, disrupting Chachere's ability to coordinate, but just when White had the *coup de gras* in front of him, he missed it (a feeling I am all too familiar with):



Here Sprenkle chose 30.♖xb6, which gave up much of his advantage and led the game to a draw on move 45. Instead he could have increased his advantage with 30.♗e7+ ♜xe7 31.dxe7 ♝xe7 32.♖xb6 with a winning position (33.♗d5 is one of the threats).

Steven Tennant chose the Knoch variation against Stephan Popel's Nimzo—Indian Defense, and quickly got in e2-e4 to take over the center. Popel fought back with e6-e5 when c7-c5 would have been more effective. Tennant responded by forcing off one of Popel's bishops for a knight, and then closing the center with d4-d5. Popel countered with f7-f5-f4, and then both sides pursued opposing pawn attacks. Once the pawn tension dissolved, White was left with a protected passed d-pawn while Black had connected passed pawns on the queenside. The players fought all the way to an even ♜+♠ endgame, but on move 45 Popel blundered by capturing a poisoned pawn that left his king outside of the square of Tennant's passed d-pawn. Popel resigned on move 46.

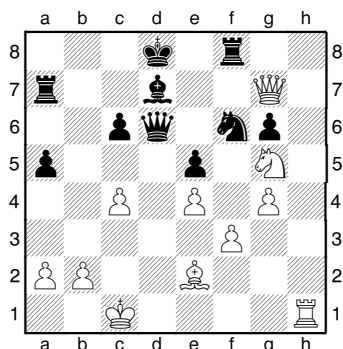
Ken Jones played a solid Torre opening against Allan Savage, who responded with unambitious development that indicated he was interested in an early peace. The players went home after agreeing to a draw on move 15.

Marvin Dandridge and Mimir Stevanovic chose the "Zurich 1953" line of the Fianchetto variation against the King's Indian Defense for their discussion. Stevanovic chose to attack with f7-f5 before the tension between the d4- & e5-pawns was resolved. Dandridge immediately opened the center, getting good play for his minor pieces. There followed considerable maneuvering, including Stevanovic's attempts to exchange queens and Dandridge's maneuvers to avoid the queen exchange. On his 28th

move Stevanovic captured a pawn that was fully defended with his bishop for no obvious reason, and immediately resigned once the bishop was captured on the next move. Perhaps a case of chess blindness.

The game between Angelo Sandrin and Charles Kramer began as a Queen's Indian Defense but quickly became a typical isolated d-pawn position as seen in the Panov variation of the Caro Kann Defense. Sandrin played solidly, while Kramer pursued minor piece exchanges as theory indicates. Then Kramer chose to weaken the pawn protection around his king for no good reason. After some exchanges Sandrin was able to push his e-pawn to e7, creating back rank threats against Kramer's king. Kramer made one last attempt to pressure Sandrin's king, but a quick repositioning of his dark-squared bishop served to defend Sandrin's king and line up a ♕+♖ battery against Black's kingside. Kramer was forced to resign on move 39 in the face of checkmate.

Ken Mohr played the Averbach variation against Ken Wallach's King's Indian Defense, and began a pawn storm against the castled Black king with his 11th move. Wallach's attempts to change the conversation to the queenside were in vain, as Mohr kept the pressure up on the kingside. Wallach chose to evacuate his king to the queenside, but just when his king escaped, Mohr found another way in:



27. ♖h8!+– ♕e8

But not 27... ♖xh8? 28. ♖f7+ ♖c7 29. ♖xd6 ♖h1+ 30. ♖d2 ♖xd6 31. ♖xf6+ ♖c7 32. ♖xe5+ ♖c8 33. ♖g7+–.

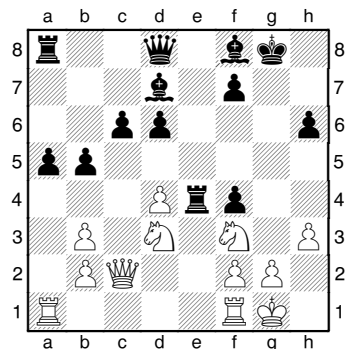
28. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 29. ♖xf8 ♖e7 30. ♖h8 c5 31. ♖h3 ♖f7 32. ♖f2 ♖g7 33. ♖h1 g5 34. ♖d3 ♖d7 35. ♖c2 ♖b7 36. ♖c3 ♖b6

Somewhat better is 36... a4 37. ♕d1 ♖a7.

37. ♕d1 ♖f6 38. ♖f1 ♕g6 39. ♖f2 ♖f7 40. ♕a4 ♖b6 41. ♕b5 ♖e7 42. ♖xc5 ♖d6 43. ♖d3 ♖c8 44. c5+ ♖c7 45. a3 ♖a7 46. ♕c4 ♖c6 47. b4 axb4+ 48. axb4 ♖d4 49. ♖xe5 1-0

Chris Kus and Tim Sage were both far out of the money at this point. They played a line in the Nimzovich Defense (1.e4 ♖c6) through to a dead—even position on move 14, whereupon they called it a draw.

Al Sandrin and Erik Karklins slugged it out in the Worrall Attack of the Closed Ruy Lopez (6. ♖e2), with the play remaining level for the first 24 moves. Then the players decided to mix it up, and decision that cost Sandrin the game:



25. ♖de5!?

25. ♖c5 to trade knight for bishop is safe and solid; apparently Sandrin wanted more.

25... f5?!

25... ♕f5= is also a safe and sound reply, while the text permits 26. ♖xc6.

26. ♖d2?

Again, apparently trying for more than equality, but this time Karklins takes control.

26... dxe5 27. ♖xe4 fxe4 28. ♖xe4 exd4 29. ♖xd4 ♕e6 30. ♖e4 ♖d5 31. ♖g6+ ♕g7 32. ♖fd1 ♖f5 33. ♖xf5 ♕xf5 34. ♖d6 ♕e4 0–1
Karklins apparently believed the two bishops would rule in this position, and Sandrin wasn't willing to put him to the test.

Lester Van Meter was kind enough to annotate his round 5 game against Fred Rhine, a game that was tied for the shortest game of the tournament. His notes offer much more than just comments on the game!

Rhine—Van Meter

Bogo Indian Defense [E16]

[Notes by FM Lester Van Meter]

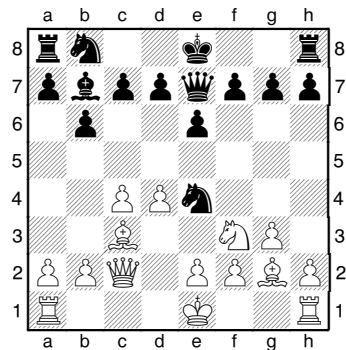
1. ♖f3

How can one possibly annotate a game like this?

1... ♖f6

Actually it is very easy, especially if one can hear the story of not only this game, but of the tournament in general.

2. c4 e6 3. d4 ♖b4+ 4. ♖d2 ♖e7 5. ♖c3 b6 6. g3 ♖b7 7. ♖g2 ♖xc3 8. ♖xc3 ♖e4 9. ♖c2 ½ - ½



Here the players agreed to a draw.

Why such a short and uninspiring game? Fred had drawn his previous four games (some quite short) and this result almost got him to Master for the first time as he ended the event at 2197. Soon the title was his.

As for me: I, in the first place, was extremely glad that I could even play in such an event! I had always tried to play against the strongest possible competition, and playing game after game vs Masters was well—nigh impossible back in the Midwest in those days.

(In these days I still organize six player RR invitationals (g90+30, \$600 prize fund) on a regular basis [15 since June 2022] for Masters, players who have been Masters, strong juniors chasing Master, or just good guys who convince me they're worth inviting[!] to enjoy five good games in a great playing atmosphere that includes snacks throughout (some actually healthy), homemade muffins, and a player dinner featuring good eats. We publish game bulletins and try to make it a great experience featuring Hoosier Hospitality in Indianapolis, Indiana.)

When Helen first asked me about playing in an event organized like this Midwest Masters I immediately said yes, of course. The complicating factor was due to a certain virus. One that had no official name, but I had caught while living and working in Cali, Colombia in 1980. It had symptoms of many common viruses with names, but in the end, it was just a virus that cost me 85 lbs., and various other things along the way.

I had always kept score by writing out my moves in long algebraic notation (after leaving behind descriptive! [and Kt, even]) while noting the time on the clock after each and every move. When I finally returned to playing chess after my return to the states I added a third piece of information to my scoresheets: my temperature after every move!

I could start out at 98, but by move ten being at 101 was not uncommon. Needless to say, I started many events with 2–0, or 3–0, but would be forced to withdraw because I just couldn't play any longer.

My first—round game here with Chachere saw me blunder (completely exhausted) late in that game. However, I was determined to finish this event as it was an invitational, and one needs to honor the organizers for being generous. I was okay, though, to accept his early offer and go home. I was satisfied and looking forward to future events in this series. In fact, I was the book editor for the next two editions of the Midwest Masters and I played in every one for quite a while.

As far as that virus: it was a tough battle, but towards the end of 1983 I finally could dispense with the temp column and work my way back to improving my game to new levels.

Just to clear up some info regarding the Indiana Chess Hall of Fame (mentioned in part 1): It was founded in 2002 because of the then ISCA President Gary Fox. I was included in the inaugural class of inductees because of my play—many times Champion of Indiana. That first class included organizers for service to Indiana Chess: Glen

Donley and Robert Fischer.

The outstanding players inducted were Dennis Gogel, John van Benten, Donald Brooks, Ed Vano, and myself. [The years on the nameplates signify when the final playing entry requirement was met.] From the inaugural class only Robert Fischer and myself are still alive.

So as to make it appear to be a seriously annotated game, here is some technical chess info on the final position:

Relevant: 9.♖c1 0-0 10.0-0 d6 11.d5 ♘xc3 12.♖xc3 e5 13.e4 c5 14.dxc6 ♘xc6 15.♖h4 g6 16.♖d2 ♖a6 17.♖d1 ♘c5 18.♖xd6 ♖xd6 19.♖xd6 ♘xe4 ½-½ Schmidt,W (2505)-Niklasson,C (2385) Malmo Schacknytt 1979 (4).

Predecessor:

9...♘xc3N 10.♖xc3 0-0 11.0-0 d6 12.♖ad1 ♖d7 13.d5 e5 14.e4 a5 15.b3

Relevant: 15.♖d2 c6 16.♖e3 ♘c5 17.♖fe1 ♖fe8 18.b3 ♖d7 19.♖h3 c5 20.a4 ♖c8 21.f4 exf4 22.gxf4 ♖f8 23.♖xc8 ♖axc8 24.e5 ♖d7 25.♖g3 ♖g6 26.exd6 ♖xd6 27.f5 ♖xg3+ 28.hxg3 ♖e5 29.♖g2 ♖g4 30.♖e4 ♖cd8 31.♖f3 ♖e5+ 32.♖f4 f6 33.g4 ♖d7 34.♖e3 h6 35.♖de1 ♖de7 36.♖g3 ♖f8 37.♖f2 ♖f7 38.♖e4 ♖f8 39.♖d2 ♖g8 40.♖f3 ♖f7 41.♖xe5+ fxe5 42.♖h1 ♖f6 43.♖h5 ♖g8 44.♖f3 e4+ 1-0 Andreikin,D (2636)-Nyback,T (2628) FIDE World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk 2009 (1.3)]

15...g6 16.a3 ♖f6 17.♖d2 ♖c8 18.b4 ♖d7 19.♖c1 ♖fc8 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 ♖h5 22.e5 ♖f5 23.♖ce1 axb4 24.axb4 ♖a2 25.♖h3 ♖c2 26.♖e3 ♖xh3 27.♖xh3 ♖a8 28.♖e3 ♖aa2 29.♖f2 ♖g7 30.♖e4 ♖xf2 31.♖xf2 dxe5 32.c5 ♖h4 33.♖g3 ♖xf4 34.♖xf4 exf4 35.d6 cxd6 36.cxd6 ♖d2 37.♖e4 ♖d4 38.♖f6+ ♖f8 39.d7 ♖e6 40.♖xh7+ ♖e7 0-1 Neat,K (2310)-Cafferty,B (2290) British CF-64 Championship Brighton/ East Sussex 1977 (4).

Our next game is annotated by Steve Szpisjak, who graciously analyzed this game (despite losing) that won half of the Best Game prize for his opponent (it was split with Szpisjak's win over Chris Kus from round 1), and gave his opponent a share of the prize money as well. Steve asked me to print that his high school chess team did not win the state championship while he attended Marmion High School (they won in 1985), but that he did win the individual Class A titles from 1982 to 1984. He also points out that Ken Wallach won the AA title twice at roughly that same time. Steve was also kind enough to share a couple of stories from the event:

"I have two stories I remember about the event: I noticed, annoyingly, that one of the participants wasn't centralizing his pieces on the squares when moving. His opponents didn't seem to mind, though. Then I noticed that the player, Albert Sandrin, was blind. So then I thought, wow! That blind man is doing a great job of coming close to centralizing his pieces!

"Helen Warren confided in me after the event that many of the players didn't want me to play because they thought I would lower the quality of the event. She was proud of my accomplishment—a creditable 2.5/5. I am thankful for the opportunity she gave me though, unfortunately for my chess

development, I later joined the military and was away from the game.”

Steve was the lowest rated player in the tournament at the start, but he finished 23rd out of 36 players. A creditable performance indeed!

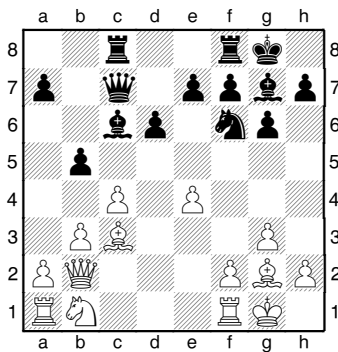
Szpisjak—Chow

Nimzovitch-Larsen Attack [A01]
[Notes by Steven Szpisjak]

1.b3 2.f6 2...b2 g6 3.e4
The position is already even.

3...d6 4.g3 5.g7 5...g2 0-0 6.f2 e2 c5!
Al aims for a dragon formation and must have been quite happy, as he often played the Dragon Sicilian in high school.

7.0-0 8.c6 8...d4 9.cxd4 9...xd4 10.c4 10...c4 11.c2 11...ac8 12. dxc6 12...xc6 13.c3 13...c7 14.b2 b5!



Chiseling away on the queenside.

15.f2 d2?!
15.cxb5 15...xb5 16.f3 d1 was better, trying to fight for equality.

15...bxc4
15...b4 16.f3 d4 e5 17.f3 e3 17...g4 was very strong.

16.bxc4?!
Compromising White's structure. 16.f2xc4 16...b5 17.f3fc1! keeps White in the game.

16...f3b8 17.f3c2 f2d7
The Black knight will have a nice outpost on c5.

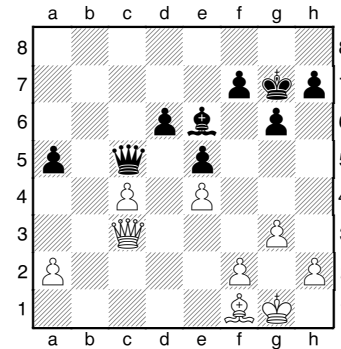
18.f3xg7 18...xg7 19.f3fc1 19...fc8 20.f3ab1 20...c5 21.f3xb8?
21.f2b3 21...a4 22.f3c3+ 22...g8 23.f2xc5 23...xc5 24.f3xb8 24...xb8 25.e5 is of course inferior for White, but may have offered better practical chances.

21...f3xb8 22.f3b1 f3d7
22...f3xb1+ 23.f3xb1 23...a5.

23.f3xb8 23...xb8 24.f2b3 24...b4
Black has the better pawn structure, better bishop, and better queen.

25.f2xc5 25...xc5 26.f3b2+ e5 27.f3f1
White has no active play and must await developments.

27...f3e6 28.f3c3 a5!?



Black could have tried bringing his king towards the queenside, improving his position.

29.f3b3?
Giving up the d4-square and soon getting dominated.

29...f3d4 30.f3c2?
30.f3d3 f5 31.f3xd4 exd4 32.exf5 32...xf5 33.f3g2 33...c2 34.a3 d3 35.f3e4 35...b1 36.f3f3 36...f6 is a very inferior if not lost bishop ending.

30...f3a1 31.f3g2?
Given a question mark only because it allows Black to end the game quickly. 31.f3d3 a4 is a slower win.

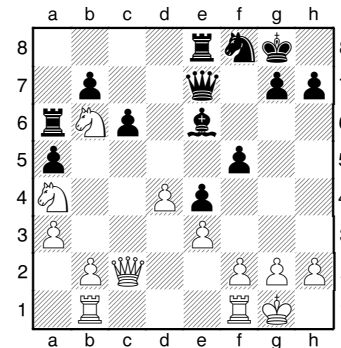
31...f3h3+ 32.f3xh3 32...xf1+ and either king move Black plays f3g2 and mate soon follows. A fine achievement by Albert Chow, who tied for the best game prize with this effort. May he rest in peace! 0-1

The game I chose to annotate for this final round was the game that created a three-way tie for first place. Leonid Bass, an IM from Milwaukee, chose to open with his d-pawn, and David Rubin, a Master from Chicago, chose one of my favorite defenses, the solid Queen's Gambit Declined. Bass then chose another of my favorite lines (from both sides), the Carlsbad (exchange) variation.

Bass—Rubin

Queen's Gambit Declined [D36]

1.d4 e6 2.f2f3 2...f6 3.c4 d5 4.f2c3 4...e7 5.f2g5 0-0 6.e3 6...bd7 7.cxd5 7...exd5 8.f2d3 8...e8 9.f2c2 c6 10.0-0 10...f8 11.f2ab1 a5 12.a3 12...e4 13.f2xe7 13...xe7 14.f2xe4 14...xe4 15.f2d2 f5 16.f2c4 16...e6 17.f2b6 17...a6 18.f2ca4

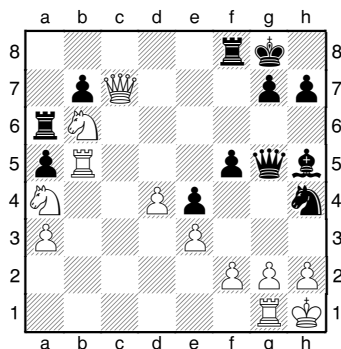


Those knights may look awkwardly placed, but they control the queenside and limit Black's play there for the rest of the game. Still, the position is roughly even.

18...♘g6 19.b4 ♘h4 20.b5 c×b5 21.♙×b5 ♙f7!
21...♙f7 22.♙h1 f4 is better. After this the mistakes start to pile up.

22.♙h1 ♙g5 23.♙g1 ♙h5?
23...♙g6 24.♙c7 ♙c6 25.♙c5 ♙×c7 26.♙×c7 ♙b3 27.♙×b7 ♙×a4 28.♙×a4 f4 leaves Black better off than the text.

24.♙c7 ♙f8?
24...♙×g2 25.h3 ♙f3 26.♙h2 ♙f6 27.♙×g2 ♙×g2 28.♙×g2 ♙g6+ 29.♙g3 ♙f6 is a bit better than the text, but it is already becoming difficult to find good moves for Black.



25.♙g3?!
While the text would have been my choice in this position, Stockfish prefers 25.♙c4 ♙c6 26.♙g3 ♙×g3 27.f×g3 ♙×c4 28.♙b6 ♙e8 29.♙bb1 ♙c3 30.♙d5 ♙×a3 31.g×h4 b5 32.♙gc1 and even though White is better it appears that there is still fight left in Black's game.

25...♙d8
25...♙×g3 26.h×g3 ♙e8 27.♙b2 ♙×a4 28.g×h4 ♙c6 holds on a bit longer. After the text Bass finishes things off quickly, winning a piece and then bringing the stranded knights back into the fight.

26.♙d5 ♙f6 27.♙d6 ♙e7 28.♙d7 ♙f6 29.♙d5 ♙h6 30.♙×h4 ♙e8 31.♙e7+ 1-0
With this win Leonid Bass stepped up into a last-minute three-way tie for first place with Leonid Kaushansky and Michael Brooks.



Post-game analysis by Leonid Bass and Dave Rubin from round 5.

Our final game is, in my opinion, the best story to come out of the First Midwest Masters Invitational. In the tournament book, organizer Helen Warren shared her heartfelt appreciation for Master chess:

"Finally, my thanks to the Midwest Masters who played in this event. They give meaning to the phrase *grass roots chess*. May the opportunities for their play increase, their talents grow, their numbers multiply."

Thanks to Helen Warren and Fred Gruenberg, the ranks of the Midwest Masters increased by one with this tournament. Kevin Bachler, rated 2170 at the start of the tournament (27th out of 36 at the start), finished with 3.5/5 for the tournament (two wins and three draws, all against Masters) and a rating of 2215. Today Kevin is the President and Manager of Caveman Chess, an organization dedicated to training players of all ages and organizing opportunities to play. The following story, which explains the origin of his nickname "Caveman," is taken from Kevin's web page, with his permission (www.cavemanchess.com):

The nickname Caveman and the concept of caveman chess was thrust upon Kevin in 1981. At the time he was an Expert, working to become a National Master. Kevin had just finished playing fellow Expert Jack Young at a tournament at the College of Lake County—a college that held a number of chess tournaments in the 1970's through 1990's.

Jack and Kevin were doing a post-mortem analysis, and FIDE Master Albert Chow walked up and was watching. The game was fairly tactical in nature, and Jack and Kevin were both willing to explore ideas that were "off—the beaten path".

After a few minutes of watching, FM Chow shook his head and said to Kevin "You play stone age chess. You play like a caveman!" Of course, Kevin's friends immediately ran with this and the nickname "Caveman" was born.

The nickname was reaffirmed the next year, during the first Midwest Masters tournament. Although not a Master, Kevin was invited to the tournament by organizer Helen Warren to have a chance to learn and improve. Ranked 29 out of 30, after four rounds, Kevin had a score of 3-1 with no losses. At *that moment* he was rated over 2200, and while he knew he would play the last game, he had to momentarily consider whether to play the last game.

National Master Chuck Kramer commented "You have to play. YOU'RE the Caveman." Chuck was correct, of course.

Given that his last round game was against Dr. Eugene Martinovsky, one of Chicago's strongest Masters at the time, his decision to play was truly good sportsmanship; it came with the risk of immediately losing the title for which he had just qualified.

Martinovsky—Bachler

King's Indian Defense [E70]

[Notes by FM Kevin Bachler]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 e5
7.d5 0-0 8.♗ge2 a5 9.♗e3

No big surprises. Eugene and I had played a total of 6 tournament games, and he finished up 3.5–2.5.

9...♗c5 10.♗c2 ♗e8

The best way. Black wants to play f5 and rip things open before White can build a Kingside attack. If White plays ♗xc5 the Black knight will be able to go to d6.

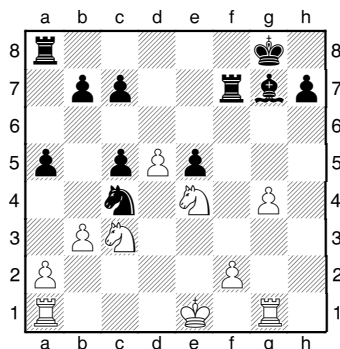
11.g4 f5 12.gxf5 gxf5 13.exf5 ♗xf5 14.♗xf5 ♗xf5 15.♗g3 ♗f7
16.♗g1 ♗h4

I was exhausted. Here I offered a draw because I was tired. Eugene pressed on.

17.♗xc5??

My draw offer must have thrown him off. 17.♗h5 provides an edge, not its equal.

17...dxc5 18.♗g4 ♗xg4 19.hxg4 ♗d6 20.♗ge4 ♗xc4 21.b3



Here Eugene offered a draw. Because of the nice potential Knight move to d6, and the diagonal for the ♗g7, I thought I was a hair better—but after 20 minutes had literally thought of zero plans, so I accepted. Engines evaluate the position as equal after 21...♗d6.

½–½

The scores at the end of round 5:

- 4.0: Bass, Brooks, Kaushansky (**Tied for 1st–3rd place**)
- 3.5: Bachler, Chow (**Tied for 4th–5th place**)
- 3.0: Dandridge, Giles, Gogel, Lawton, Martinovsky, Rose, Rubin, Schiller, Tennant
- 2.5: Chachere, Jones, Mohr, Redman, Rhine, Angelo Sandrin, Savage, Szpisjak, Sprenkle
- 2.0: Friedman, Karklins, Popel, Stevanovic, Van Meter
- 1.5: Kornfeld, Kramer, Kus, Larsen, Sage, Al Sandrin, Wallach
- 0.0: Gratz

The Players: 12th–1st

Charles Lawton grew up and learned to play in the St. Louis area, and developed his game while serving in the US Navy. After his service he returned to St. Louis and worked as an electrical engineer for BioMerieux, and he also managed to win the St. Louis District Chess Champi-

onship twice and the Missouri State Championship twice. His last serious tournament seems to have been the 2009 US Championship, which was played in St. Louis. While his score there was not competitive (he lost to players like GMs Shabalov and Gulko), he managed to draw against IMs Irina Krush and Sam Shankland. Charles is a USCF Life Master, and his Regular rating is 2327.

David Rubin achieved the National Master title before leaving competitive chess. His last tournament was played at the Tuley Park Chess Club of Chicago, in June of 2005, where he tied for 2nd–8th place with, among others, Al Chow. It appears that David has moved on to backgammon; there is a player from Skokie with that same name who coaches his son, Lyle, in competitive backgammon. Lyle Rubin won the Midwest Children's Backgammon Tournament in 2006 and 2007.

Marvin Dandridge began competing at chess while a student at Chicago Vocational High School (CVS), and cut his teeth at the Saturday tournaments held at the Tuley Park Field House. He remains an active chess player, playing last in the South Suburban Chess Club's 15-Minute Madness tournament in February of 2024. For a fuller account of Marvin's remarkable impact on Chicagoland chess I refer you to his story on The Chess Drum, an exceptional website run by Marvin's classmate at CVS, Daaim Shabazz (to be found at <https://www.thechessdrum.net/blog/2019/02/09/chicagos-uncle-marv-dandridge-the-story-of-a-chess-mentor/>). I once met Marvin about 40 years ago, of all places on a bus. I was reading Nimzovich's *My System*, and Marvin introduced himself so that we could talk chess. He was friendly and had a natural smile, and I enjoyed that moment with him.

John Rose was co-winner (with Dan Harger) of the Iowa State Chess Championship in 1976 and '78. John competed in the next three Midwest Masters Invitationals as well (1984, '85 and '86) with respectable showings. His last tournament appears to have been the 1986 Philadelphia Open.

Dr. Steven Tennant (1948–2017) was a dentist in the south suburbs of Chicago for over 35 years. Steve achieved the titles of National Master, Original Life Master, USCF Correspondence Master and International Correspondence Chess Master. In the 1980's and '90's he was recognized as the blitz champion of Orland Park, and won the South Suburban Chess Club blindfold champion in 2012. Dr. Tennant won the Illinois State Championship in 1977.



Analysis anxiety .. Leonid Bass and Steve Tennant.

Dr. Eugene Martinovsky (1932–2000) was born in Yugoslavia, where he won his country's championship twice. He emigrated to England in 1960, and then came to America in 1962. Dr. Martinovsky established a practice as a physician and psychiatrist, and in 1965 entered into tournament play, quickly becoming one of the strongest players in Chicago. He was co-winner of the Illinois championship in 1975, shared with Ed Formanek, and then outright winner in 1983. Dr. Martinovsky was twice the winner of the Michigan championship, as well as twice winner of the US Senior championship. Turning to correspondence chess, he won the 2nd Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA) championship (1978) and shared first with Marc Lonoff at the 8th CCLA (1993). Dr. Martinovsky and Andrew Karklins share credit for the Karklins-Martinovsky variation of the Russian Defense (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nd3).

Dennis Gogel (1954–2021) won the Indiana State Chess Championship in 1978, '79, '80, '83, and '84, and shared first place with Charles Maddigan in '81. He was inducted into the Kentucky Chess Hall of Fame in 2018 for his dominant performances in Kentucky Open tournaments in the 1970's, '80's and '90's.

Kevin Bachler is a FIDE Master and a FIDE trainer, a USCF Original Life Master, a Senior Tournament Director and a USCF professional chess coach (level V—one of only five in the country). He runs the annual Caveman Chess Camp in the summer for students of all ages and levels of play, often in conjunction with one or more local tournaments. This year it is being held alongside the US Junior Open, the US Senior Open, and the US Blind Championship.



Kevin Bachler holding his prize check for tying for 4th-5th place.

Leonid Kaushansky is a National Master and a Life Master with a USCF Regular rating of 2412 and a FIDE rating of 2310. He co-won the Illinois State Championship in 1980 and won it outright in 1981. Kaushansky appears to have retired from competitive chess; his last tournament was the Chicago Open Blitz in May of 2016.

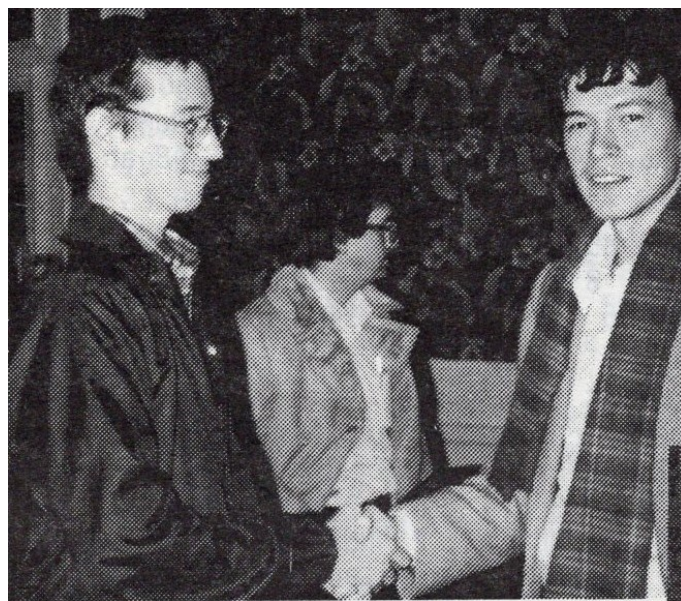
Albert Chow (1964–2021) played top board for Lane Tech High School in the late 1970's, and was among the strongest Masters in Illinois in the 1980's, winning the state championship outright in 1982, '84 and '95, and sharing it in 1985, '96, 2002 and '08. In 1994 Chow tied for

first place in the US Open Championship with GM Georgi Orlov, GM Dmitry Gurevich, GM John Fedorowicz, GM Gabriel Schwartzman, and GM Robert Byrne.



TD Brown awarding Al Chow the prize check for tying for 4th-5th place.

Michael A. Brooks has won the Missouri State Championship six times, leading to his induction in the Missouri Chess Hall of Fame in 2004. He received his International master title in 1989. In 2013 he won the Iowa Open with a 5-0 score, but perhaps his most impressive result is tied for 16th – 19th at the 2009 US Championship, losing to the winner GM Hikaru Nakamura, but drawing with IM Enrico Sevillano and GM Joel Benjamin, while defeating IM Ray Robson, GM Julio Becerra and GM Aleander Shabalov. His most recent tournament was the August Elite tournament at the Kansas City Chess Club in August of 2023. IM Brooks' current USCF Regular rating is 2342.



Michael Brooks and Leonid Bass congratulating each other on tying for 1st-3rd place

Leonid Bass started his US chess journey in Wisconsin. In a 1982 interview with the Chess Badger, Arpad Elo rates Leonid Bass in the same category as William Martz, to whom Helen Warren dedicated the first Midwest Mas-

ters Invitational (MMI). He was co—winner of the Wisconsin State Championship (with William Williams) in 1983. Sometime after that Leonid moved to New York, and while he missed the 2nd MMI in 1984, he tied for 11th–19th places at the 3rd MMI in 1985, alongside Al Chow, Morris Giles, Marvin Dandridge, Kevin Bachler, Angelo Sandrin, and GM Arthur Bisguier. He tied for 6th–18th places at the 1985 World Open, splitting prize money with such players as GM Lev Alburt, GM John Fedorowicz, IM Boris Kogan, IM Igor Ivanov, GM Anatoly Lein, IM Vince McCambridge, GM Samuel Reshevsky, and IM Michael Rohde, among others. In 2016 the Columbus (Ohio) Chess League hired Bass to coach players in Dayton and Northern Kentucky. Bass played his last rated event in May of 2012, the Ma-

drig Team Championship, and his USCF rating post indicates he is residing in Spain.

The author would like to thank Mark Capron and Rex Gray for their help in getting the manuscript into shape. Special thanks go out to Ed Friedman, Lawrence Chachere, Steven Szpisjak, Lester Van Meter and Kevin Bachler, true Midwest Masters all, for their notes and analysis on the games and for the stories they shared. Last but foremost, the author wishes to thank Helen Warren for her permission to use the materials from the tournament book, as well as for her support of Midwest Chess for so many years. We couldn't have done it without you.

What Are We Reading

Mark Capron: *De la Bourdonnais versus McDonnell, 1834* by Cary Utterberg (McFarland & Company, Inc, 2005); *Chess History and Reminiscences* by H.E. Bird, originally published in 1893 (current Kindle edition); *The Ink War* by Willy Hendriks (New In Chess, 2022).

GM Jon Edwards: *Masterpieces and Dramas of the Soviet Championships (Vol 1)* by Sergei Veronkov (Elk and Ruby, 2007); *First Grandmaster of the Soviet Union (Verlinsky)* by Sergeir Tkachenko, (Elk and Ruby 2023), *Forgotten Talents* by Javier Fernandez (Russell Enterprises, 2004).

Joshua Anderson: *Chess for Educators* by Karel van Delft (New In Chess, 2021).

Caleb Brown: *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Rachel Schechter: *Chess Peace: Cartoons* by Tony Sullivan (2019); *Winning Chess Strategy for Kids* by Jeff Coakley (Chess'n Math, 2000); *Beginner Chess: Puzzles, Strategies, Tactics, Jokes, and Stories (Chess Is Elementary)* by Igor Rybakov & Benjamin Frisch (2022).

Annual Chess Journalists of America Awards



Hector is upset!
Organizers won't let
him enter the Contest.



Hector is an
amazing
chess-playing
Dog and Artist.

But there's no
Paw-Print Art
category!

You can't win Unless You Enter!

2024 Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education

By Marilyn Lucero

2024 Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education. This nationwide annual award recognizes exceptional work in chess education by teachers and chess program coordinators serving public schools or non—commercial chess clubs. This year the award was split into two categories, Chess Coordinators and Chess Educators. Both categories had a winner and two finalists.

Eliot Weiss, coach of the Murrow High School Chess Club, NY, was announced as the winner in the Best Chess Coordinator category of the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education. In addition to recognition of his outstanding impact in chess education, Eliot received a monetary prize of \$10,000.

Elizabeth Spiegel, a Chess Teacher at I.S. 318, NY, was announced as the winner in the Best Chess Educator category of the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education. In addition to recognition of her outstanding impact in Chess Education, Elizabeth received a monetary prize of \$10,000.

The finalists of the award were:

- ◆ **Abel Talamantez**, Chess Program Manager, Rise Hamilton Chess, Novato, California
- ◆ **Judy Viertel**, Teacher Librarian/ Chess Coordinator, Marshall Elementary School, San Francisco, California
- ◆ **Keyron Jarvis**, Chess Lead, Bold Charter School, Bronx, NY
- ◆ **Lauren Jahn**, English Teacher/ Chess Club Advisor, Sturgis Brown High School, Sturgis, South Dakota

In addition to selecting the winner and the finalists, the Award Committee decided to give a **Lifetime Achievement Award to Margaret Russo**, Principal at P.S. 160K, Brooklyn, NY, and a **Lifetime Achievement Award to David MacEnulty**, legendary chess coach and author.



Ronald Boocock (Chess in the Schools, Director of School Program) on the left, Eliot Weiss (winner of the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education), Jenny Ingber (Chess in the Schools, CEO), Mark E. Maher (Chess in the Schools, Chairman) on the right.



Andy Lerner (Chess in the Schools Board Member) on the left, Elizabeth Spiegel (winner of the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education) in the middle, Jenny Ingber (Chess in the Schools, CEO) on the right.

Best Chess Educator Winner: Elizabeth Spiegel:

Elizabeth is an accomplished chess teacher who began her career at Chess in the Schools. She later transitioned to I.S. 318 in 1999, where she became a full-time chess teacher. I.S. 318 is a public school in NYC that primarily serves low-income students from diverse backgrounds. Despite this, Elizabeth remains one of the few full-time public school educators in the city who teaches chess full-time as part of the curriculum. For more than 25 years, Elizabeth has helped to develop a generation of chess students, many of whom have gone on to become chess teachers themselves. She teaches over 140 students every week in her chess classes and has been featured in the award-winning documentary "Brooklyn Castle." Additionally, Elizabeth has won the Chess Educator of

the Year award from US Chess and has been featured in the book "How Children Succeed" by Paul Tough.

Under Elizabeth's tutelage, her teams have won 59 National Championships, including 8 Middle School Nationals, 3 Elementary Nationals, 1 High School Nationals, and 20 Grade Nationals. Many of her students have achieved high ratings, such as IM Justus Williams, who went from 1950 to 2400 at 318; James Black Jr., who went from 1600 to 2300; Isaac Barayev (2150), Alexis Parades (2000), and Rochelle Ballantyne (1150-->1900).

Elizabeth's goal is to make chess accessible to anyone who wants to play, and she takes pride in being able to build confident players both on and off the board.

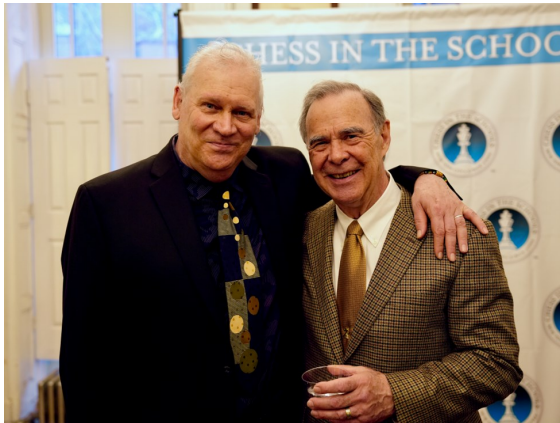
Best Chess Coordinator Winner: Eliot Weiss:

Eliot Weiss has been teaching Calculus at Edward R. Murrow High School for the past 42 years. He established the school's chess team in 1981 and has been coaching it since then. During his tenure as the chess coach, he has had the privilege of working with students from over 35 different countries, the majority of whom hail from low-to-middle-income backgrounds. Edward R. Murrow High School is known for its academic excellence and does not have any varsity sports. However, the chess team has emerged as a powerhouse in the school and has won numerous accolades over the years. To date, the team has won eight high school championships (1992, 1993, 1994, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2012), 20 New York State Championships, and 21 New York City High School Championships.

Eliot's contribution to education has been recognized and appreciated by many. In 1993, he won the NYC BOE Impact II Award for Excellence in Education, and in 1995, he was awarded the New York City Council

Teacher Award. In 2000, he was honored with the Superintendent's Award for outstanding professional service at Edward R. Murrow High School as Teacher of the Year. The Chess Team was personally invited to the White House in 2004, where they were congratulated by President George W. Bush in the Oval Office. The team's success was documented in Michael Wienreb's book *The Kings of New York*, which chronicled their achievements from 2004 to 2007. In 2016, Eliot was awarded the New York Daily News Hometown Hero Award.

Eliot is not only dedicated to his work at Edward R. Murrow High School but also to his hometown community. He has served as a tour coordinator for Sprout, an organization that creates opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to travel the world. Additionally, he has served as a telephone teacher for the United Federation of Teacher's Dial-a-Teacher program and as an SAT instructor in the NYC education system. In his free time, Eliot has worked as a downhill ski instructor in Vermont, a semi-professional ice hockey player, and a European tour guide for 15 summers.



LEFT: Ronald Boocock (Chess in the Schools, Director of School Program) on the left and David MacEnulty (recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award) on the right.

RIGHT: Ronald Boocock (Chess in the Schools, Director of School Program) on the left, Margaret Russo (recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award), Andy Lerner (Chess in the Schools Board Member), Jenny Ingber (Chess in the Schools, CEO) on the right.



Ronald Boocock (Chess in the Schools, Director of School Program) on the left and David MacEnulty (recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award), Andy Lerner (Chess in the Schools Board Member), Jenny Ingber (Chess in the Schools, CEO) on the right.



Andy Lerner (Chess in the Schools Board Member) on the left, Eliot Weiss (winner of the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education), Ronald Boocock (Chess in the Schools, Director of School Program) on the left, Jenny Ingber (Chess in the Schools, CEO) on the right.

Chess in the Schools (CIS) is a New York City-based non-profit organization that fosters the intellectual and social development of low-income youth through chess education. Since its inception in 1986, Chess in the Schools has taught chess to more than half a million students. All CIS programs are free of charge to all participants. Through classroom instruction in 40+ New York City public schools, after-school chess clubs, college access services, and weekly scholastic tournaments, CIS annually reaches 10,000+ students helping them develop analytic and social-emotional skills, confidence and self-esteem, enabling them to succeed in school and lead productive and fulfilling lives in the future.



Long Room at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, photo by Mark Capron.

Library Focus:

Kenneth Calitri

Interviewed by Mark Capron



What do you do for a living?

I am a human resources executive. I head up HR for Artech, the #1 women-owned IT staffing company in the United States. During my career I have been in retail management, IT recruiting, HR technology and executive HR management.

When did you begin playing chess?

I learned to play when I was 8 years old. One Christmas my older brother, Mike, received a Bohemia chess set from Richard, our brother-in-law. I opened the present by accident and was immediately enthralled. I played incessantly with toy soldiers and the wooden pieces struck my interest "What are these?" I asked. My brother-in-law responded, "They are chess pieces, but you opened the wrong present, it is for Michael.", who seemed unimpressed when looking inside the box and quickly put it aside. An hour later I traded my Christmas stocking stuffed full of candy, chocolates, and nuts for the chess set. The rest is history as they say!

When did you begin collecting Chess books?

I was 22 years old, living on my own, making good money, and spending good money on wine, women and weed, when I found my way one sunny Saturday afternoon to Fred Wilson's Bookstore in NYC for the very first time. At the time I had accumulated a small shelf of books and USCF pamphlets. At Fred's, I found myself standing in the middle of chess book heaven. I could not believe my eyes. The shelves were covered from floor to ceiling with vintage hardcovers (with dust jackets!) in various languages. My adrenalin began to pump. I felt the sweat beading up on the side of my temples. It was like going from college football to the pros, the room was spinning. I had to slow down and force myself to look at one title at a time. You all know the feeling – don't lie!

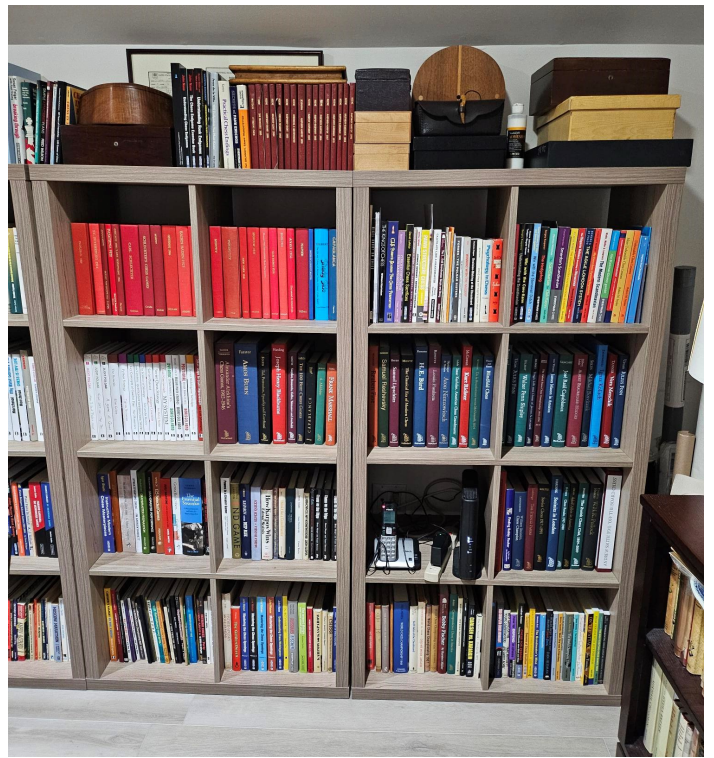
I picked out a pile of 10 books and after mulling them over picked four vintage Bell & Son hardcovers (to replace my paperback copies) and put the others aside. Fred queried me "Aren't you taking the other books?" I smiled, "Next time, I have a date tonight." Fred countered, "How much will you wind up spending tonight?" I quick calculated, "Probably a hundred or so." Fred was now in his element, "When you wake up tomorrow what will you have to show for it? You will have partied it away. If you buy these books, you will have something to show for it for tomorrow." In the face of iron clad logic, I purchased the other books, spent less partying, and on that fateful sunny Saturday at Fred's I became a chess book collector.

What logic! Fred sure was a salesperson!

To paraphrase Robert DeNiro, "Oh, he's good. He is very good!"

What draws you to a book? Cover? Title? Subject? Something else?

I like well-made hard covers. I don't like undersized or odd-shaped books. I don't like kitschy covers. My main interests are individual game collections, matches, significant tournaments, and meaningful instructional books. I focused exclusively on collecting only post-1900 books until recently.



Sounds like we are pretty similar in what we collect...for me, these days, its mostly biographical, tournaments, and matches. Early on I collected mostly opening books to supplement my correspondence play.

Do you recall what the first Chess book you ever had was?

My first chess book was *Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess*. I loved it. You didn't need a board and Fischer's comments to the more intriguing positions were a precursor to reading his annotations in *My 60 Memorable Games*. Bobby was adept at capturing the key moment when he sensed a tell emanating from his opponent. My second book was *Bobby Fischer's Chess Games* by Wade/O'Connell, a birthday present from my oldest brother Henri. My third book was a beat-up copy of *The Russians Play Chess* by Chernev (since replaced with a nice copy). Alekhine's trilogy of Best Games 1908-1945 and Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games* followed. Then I received a copy of C.H.O'D Alexander's book on the 1972 Fischer vs. Spassky Match, an unexpected present

from my father. I cherish the Fischer books I received as presents. I was 14 years old at the time and heading into high school.

Being able to see those tells, perhaps Fischer should have tried poker?! In chess, sometimes that can be a critical position. Have you read the book *Critical Moments in Chess* by Paata Gaprindashvili?

I have it in my library and have only skimmed it. He is a serious writer, and it isn't for the faint of heart. I played Susan Polgar in a simul at a US Open back in the early 2000's and at a critical moment in the middle-game she sensed me perking up as she reached to move a piece and then made another move. I still kick myself to this day for not keeping still 😊.

Do you collect other genres of books or just Chess?

Chess books are my collecting passion. I have a library of books, but these are not a collection per se. I like reading modern literature, biographies, I have some favorite poets, I like books on Bauhaus and mid-century architects, furniture design, and art books. My library is very eclectic.

Why do you think you decided to collect Chess books?

I found it fascinating, for example that a chess game played between Alekhine and Bogoljubow could come alive in your mind as if you were watching a video replay of it through the game annotations of one or both players. I fell in love with it. I especially liked the clash of 1-1 chess matches. I was also in awe of the chess master's from these bygone eras, who dedicated their lives to chess and made livings from it or tried to. Comparing how difficult it has been in my lifetime to make a living from chess, it was infinitely more difficult in those days. In some cases, they simply died trying with no social support systems available to fall back on. I started collecting partly to honor the players who came before us who gave much if not all their life to chess. I think this is why I focus more heavily on individual game collections.

What are some of your favorite books you have collected?

This is a tough one to answer. There are so many great books. First, I try to buy only quality books I want to keep for a lifetime. I know many collectors try to collect everything interesting across many chess genres, but this doesn't interest me. I am also constantly curating my collection, weeding out old and new books that either don't meet my quality standard of whether it is truly a must have book or if I consider it a classic for one reason or another.

Without going to my shelves and cherry-picking titles to impress the readers, extemporaneously, I love the following books: 1) *Chess for Budding Champions* by Jesper Hall 2) *Excelling at Chess* by Jacob Aagaard 3) *The Inner Game of Chess* by Andy Soltis 4) *Improve Your Chess* by Jonathan Tisdall 5) *Simple Chess* by Michael Stean. 6) *Positional Decision Making in Chess* by Boris Gelfand 7) *The Russians Play Chess* by Irving Chernev 8) *Fischer v Spassky 1972* by C.H.O'D Alexander 9) *Alekhine v Euwe 1937* by Alekhine & Euwe 10) *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal* by Tal.

If I was going to be castaway on a desert Island and could only bring ten chess books with me I would choose the following: 1) *New York 1924* by Alekhine 2) *Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953* by Bronstein 3) *Keres Best Games* by Keres (published in single volume by Arco) 4) *Alekhine's Best Games 1908-1945* by Alekhine & Alexander (published in single volume by Batsford) 5) *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal* by Tal 6) *Positional Decision Making in Chess* by Gelfand 7) *Tal v Botvinnik* by Tal 8) *My Best Games* by Karpov (Olms edition) 9) *Bobby Fischer's Career & Complete Games* by Mueller 10) *Encyclopedia of*

Chess Combinations by Chess Informant.

Nice list of books. The desert island is an interesting thought. It is so easy to go to our shelves and just pull off anything we are in the mood to read.

A funny story, I was visiting Fred Wilson's book stall one year at the NJ Amateur Team Championship in Parsippany and I was standing next to Jonathan Edwards and we both had books in our hands and were thumbing through them. Jonathan says to me with a huge smile on his face, "There is nothing like being surrounded by chess books!"

Do you have lots of your books autographed?

I would guesstimate I have around 100 or so signed books.

Any good stories about getting these autographs?

I have a few which are special to me. I wrote Frank Brady and asked him to sign and inscribe a first edition copy of *The Life and Games of Bobby Fischer* which he graciously did, and he also shared via email upon request his method for pulling together material for a new book and how he creates an outline, which was especially nice of him to do. I wrote Dr. Anthony Saily who had purchased books from my eBay store and asked him if he would sign and inscribe a first edition copy of his *The Battle of Chess Ideas*. His warm reply was, "It would be churlish of me not to!" I attended a chess lecture by GM Boris Gelfand at a Russian restaurant in NYC after he lost the WCC match v. Vishy Anand. During intermission Boris signed books and boards and spent time, five minutes or so, with each person. He signed and inscribed my copy of *Positional Decision Making in Chess*. Boris is such a nice person, intelligent, humorous, talkative, a real gentleman. I have signed copies of almost all the books Fred Wilson has edited and/or written and it is always special when the author is a friend. Fred also inscribes them to me with a funny note about how I need to improve which always gets me going 😊. When you know the author or have met them numerous times it is always special to have them sign them in person: Pete Tamburro, Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, and Jonathan Edwards are a few who come to mind.

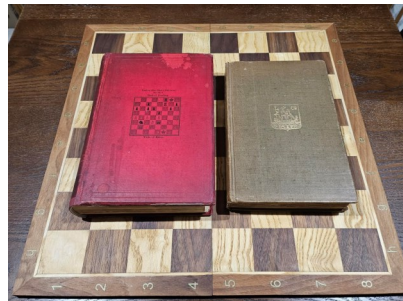
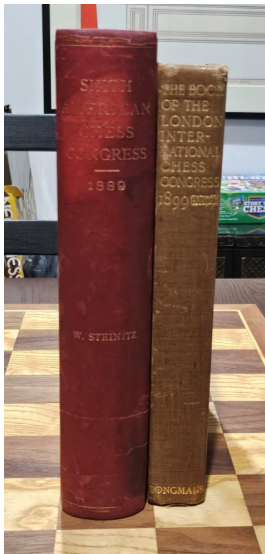
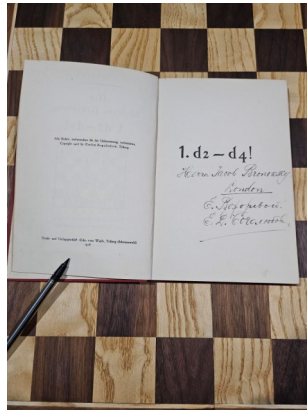
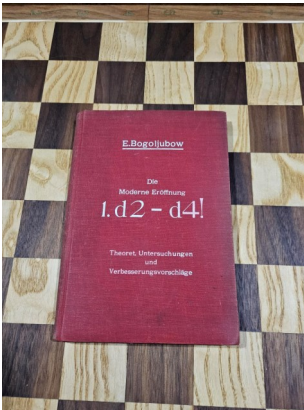
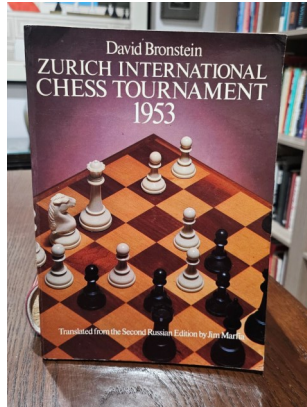
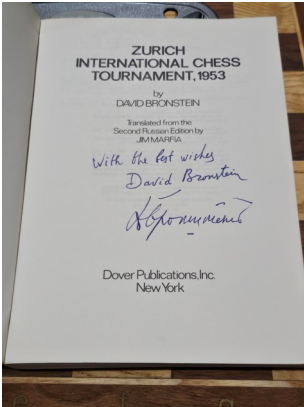
Did you plan your conversation with Boris Gelfand before the event or did you do more of a spur of the moment conversation? Any particular topic/question besides "how's the weather back home?"

I always have books inscribed to Bogo which is my nickname among my chess friends. Boris got a kick out of this, and we had a nice moment talking about Bogoljubow and Alekhine. Boris was pleased to hear I rooted for him against Anand, and we talked about the rapid playoff in which Boris was winning in two of the games. I have a picture of us together which is nice to have (see below).



What's your most prized possession?

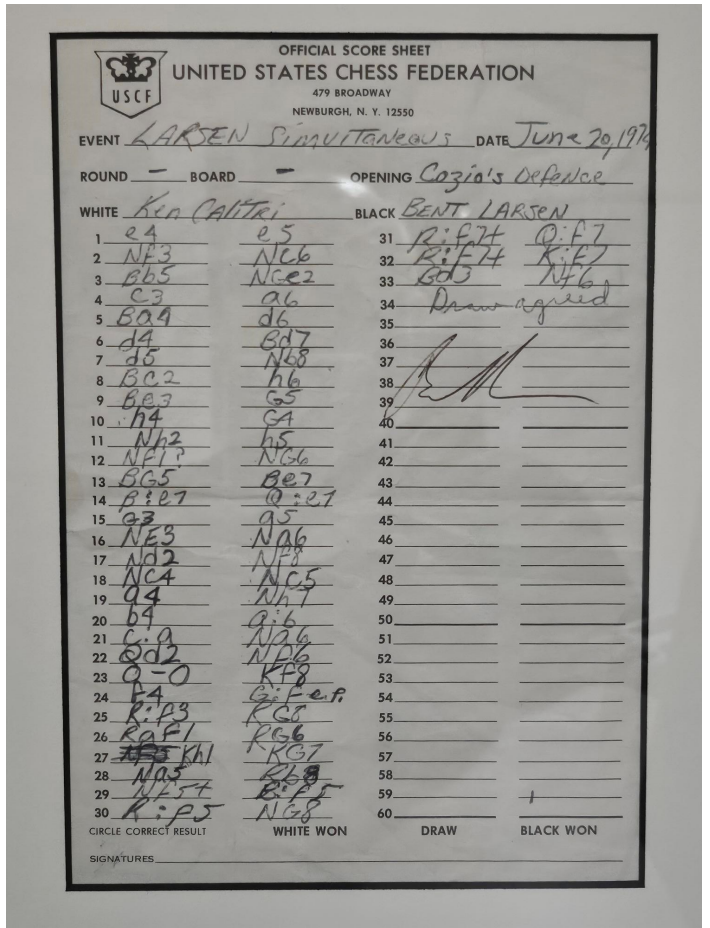
Zurich International Chess Tournament 1953 signed by David Bronstein, which is his magnum opus. *Bent Larsen's Selected Games* signed by Larsen. I also drew Larsen in a simul and have a signed scoresheet. He was a very impressive individual in person. I have signed copies of Spassky's and Euwe's red book and a signed copy of Bogoljubov's *Die Moderne Eröffnung 1.d2—d4!* Inscribed to a famous mathematician. I have numerous books signed by World Chess Champions and other chess greats. More recently I have purchased very nice 1st edition copies of *The Book of the London International Chess Congress 1899* and *The Sixth American Chess Congress 1889*.



Some of David Bronstein's games and problems are amazingly beautiful. Not sure if you saw it, but last January, we featured a game and some problems by Bronstein in our issue dedicated to Art in Chess.

Bronstein was a chess innovator besides being a colossal player. He was a promoter of rapid chess decades before it was introduced in the late 1980's. I am convinced Bronstein was pressured to let Botvinnik back into their 1951 match. Much

like Frankie Pentangeli was influenced by his brother's presence at a senate hearing to reverse his testimony against Michael Corleone. Bronstein's brother was in the audience during game 23. I believe Bronstein when he said it was up to him to decide to give in to those pressures.



What strategies have you used to obtain books?

No special strategy. I have been buying books from Fred Wilson for 40+ years now 😊. I have a few dealers in England who I am very fond of dealing with. I follow chesslund.com auctions. Online I purchase on EBAY and ABE mainly. Andy Ansel, who needs no introduction, is another person I am fond of dealing with. I have met nice people in the Chess Book Collectors group on Facebook and with several of them have bought, traded, and sold books.

What is your favorite bookstore to purchase from?

Amazon.com. Chess4Less.com. NewInChess.com. HouseofStaunton.com. Sometimes directly with QualityChessBooks.com.

Are there good used bookstores in your area?

Fred Wilson's Chess Book Store in NYC on East 17th by Union Square. Fred has a great store right across from the Union Square Market. It is easy to find parking and there are also lots of good places to eat in the area as well.

Do you have a favorite publisher?

Elk and Ruby, Quality Chess Books, New In Chess, Thinker's Publishing. I wish Everyman and Gambit would do more biography/game collections. All of them should publish books in both hardcover and paperback.



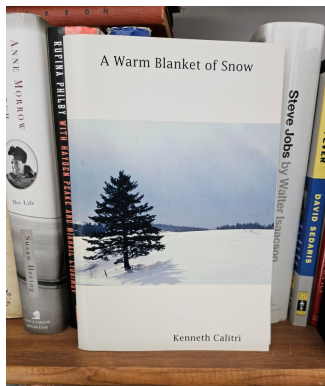
Fred Wilson's Book Store

I agree with the hardcover. It's always disappointing when you find a book you really want, and you can't get it in hardback. Unfortunately, I am hearing rumors that MacFarland may be moving to mostly paperback.

This would be hugely disappointing to collectors.

Have you written any books yourself?

A poetry book! I have several books in the planning stages. A hint: a fiction novel and two chess books. As Boris Spassky would say when asked to divulge what he was planning to write about, "It is Top secret!"



Do you read everything you have collected?

Yes. That is my story, and I am sticking to it. In truth, I do read many of them cover to cover, but I don't go over all the games move by move. Also, chess books are like magazines. You can pick them up, leaf through them at your leisure and learn different things each time. The purpose of collecting isn't necessarily to read them all. My wife Susan once said to me when I was questioning myself why I have them if I don't read them all. Her answer to my angst was 'Why can't it just be a collection?' When I retire this year, I will be able to plough more of them!

My plan exactly. I retire(d) in March (2024), and I am looking forward to reading at a much higher pace. It still may take until I turn 279 before I could finish all the books I have though 😊. I like your wife's comment, I will have to use it the next time my collection is brought up. LOL.

My son's name is Alexander Alekhine Calitri! I tricked my wife when we were naming him. She suggested Charles Alexander. Charles is her brother's name. I said I love him but wasn't sold. She said, "I like Alexander." I said, "Ok. If you get to choose the first name, I should get to pick the middle name." She said, "Ok."

😊

What a great story! I love it!

What draws you to want more books?

Obsession. Compulsion. Addiction. I am constantly culling my collection. Having downsized a few years ago, I have started to adopt the rule (and I am not following it religiously) for every new book I buy, one must go. I think it is important to cull and decide what is most important to you to have. For example, I remember one collector said this about games collections – "I only collect game collections by the World Champions. Why would I want any by players who were not good enough?" There is of course a certain logic to this viewpoint. I constantly battle my own demons and I am constantly rethinking what to collect and which books to cull. Of course, the perverse aspect of this is there are some books I have bought and sold five or more times in these culling exercises.

What inner fortitude and strength to cull your collection so much. Buying the same book more than once probably happens to many more of us than each of us is willing to admit. If a book looks that good though...

Who is your favorite player (let me guess...Alekhine?) Ha Ha

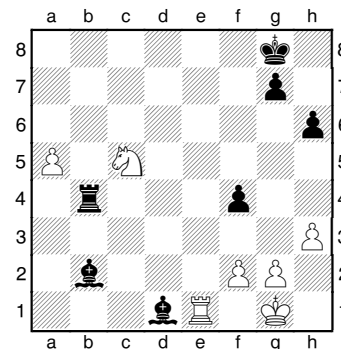
Yes Alekhine, but also Bogoljubow. They are my one and two. They are inseparably linked together for me. I was a huge Viktor Korchnoi fan during his runs at the world championship and then became a Karpov fan during his epic matches with Kasparov. He broke my heart when he didn't play 33.a6 in game 41 of their first match and when he lost game 24 of the Seville match. During the 1970's I was a diehard Benko, Kavalek, Larsen and Sailyd fan when they wrote their wonderful tournament travel stories for *Chess Life*. I have a soft spot for Morozevich and Gelfand. Of course, I root for Fabi and Hikaru, but I am pulling for Nepo to get another shot at the title and take it down. I was also a huge Kramnik fan when he was playing, and he broke my heart when he missed the perpetual against Ivanchuk in the Candidates Tournament which would have pipped Carlsen. Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention I have a huge KRUSH on GM Irina Krush. I am a big fan of hers. Besides following her as a player, her instructional videos are terrific. Her chess knowledge is amazingly deep, and her instructional delivery is world class. I encourage chess players to listen to her DVDs and YouTube videos.

Karpov, Anatoly (2705) - Kasparov, Garry (2715) [C42]

World-ch30-KK1 Karpov-Kasparov +5-3=40 Moscow (41), 14.01.1985

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖f6 3.♗xe5 d6 4.♗f3 ♗xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♗d3 ♗e7 7.0-0 ♗c6 8.c4 ♗b4 9.♗e2 dxc4 10.♗xc4 0-0 11.♗c3 ♗d6 12.♗b3 ♗f6 13.h3 ♗f5 14.♗e3 ♗e8 15.a3 ♗d3 16.♗b1 c5 17.dxc5 ♗e4 18.♗c2 ♗xb2 19.♗xd8 ♗axd8 20.♗xb2 ♗xc3 21.♗xb7 ♗xc5 22.♗xc5 ♗xc2 23.♗xa7 ♗d1 24.♗e7 ♗xe7 25.♗xe7 ♗d3 26.♗g5 ♗b2 27.♗b4 h6 28.♗e4 f5 29.♗c5 ♗d5 30.♗e1 f4 31.a4 ♗d4 32.a5 ♗xb4

in the following position 33.a6! is winning.



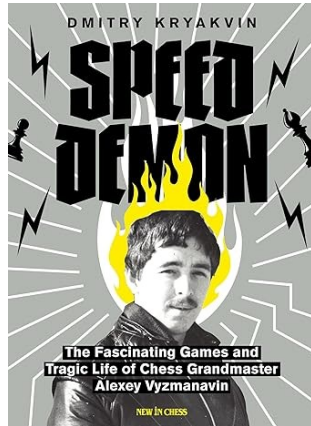
33.♗xd1 ♗d4 34.♗e6 ♗a7 35.♗d7 ♗b1+ 36.♗h2 ♗xf2 37.♗xf4 ♗a1 38.♗e6 ♗xa5 39.♗xg7+ ♗h8 40.♗f7 ♗e3 41.♗g3 ♗d2 42.♗d7 ♗c3 43.♗f3 ♗g8 44.♗f4 ♗f5 45.♗e4 ♗f7 46.♗d8+ ♗h7 47.♗d3 ♗e7+ 48.♗f3 ♗b2 49.♗b3 ♗c1 50.♗d5 ♗e5 51.♗f6+ ♗g6 52.♗e4 ♗f5+

53.♖e2 ♖e5 54.♟b4 ♖e7 55.♟c4 ♖e8 56.g3 ♟b2 57.♜f3 ♖e6 58.♟c5 ♟d4 59.♟d5 ♟e5 60.♟b5 ♟c7 61.♟c5 ♟b6 62.♟c8 ♟d4 63.♟g8+ ♟g7 64.h4 ♟a6 65.♜f4 ♟a5 66.♟e8 ♟f5+ 67.♜e3 ♖e5 68.♟g8 ♖e7 69.♜f4 ♟f7+ 70.♜g4 h5+ 71.♜h3
1/2-1/2

Kasparov, Garry (2740)–Karpov, Anatoly (2700) [A14] World-ch33–KK4 Kasparov–Karpov +4–4=16 Seville (24), 18.12.1987
1.c4 e6 2.♟f3 ♟f6 3.g3 d5 4.b3 ♟e7 5.♟g2 0–0 6.0–0 b6 7.♟b2 ♟b7 8.e3 ♟bd7 9.♟c3 ♟e4 10.♟e2 a5 11.d3 ♟f6 12.♟c2 ♟xb2 13.♟xb2 ♟d6 14.cxd5 ♟xd5 15.d4 c5 16.♟fd1 ♟c8 17.♟f4 ♟xf3 18.♟xf3 ♟e7 19.♟ac1 ♟fd8 20.dxc5 ♟xc5 21.b4 axb4 22.♟xb4 ♟a7 23.a3 ♟f5 24.♟b1 ♟xd1+ 25.♟xd1 ♟c7 26.♟d3 h6 27.♟c1 ♟e7 28.♟b5 ♟f5 29.a4 ♟d6 30.♟b1 ♟a7 31.♟e5 ♟xa4 32.♟xc8+ ♟xc8 33.♟d1 ♟e7 34.♟d8+ ♜h7 35.♟xf7 ♟g6 36.♟e8 ♟e7 37.♟xa4 ♟xf7 38.♟e4 ♜g8 39.♟b5 ♟f8 40.♟xb6 ♟f6 41.♟b5 ♟e7 42.♜g2 g6 43.♟a5 ♜g7 44.♟c5 ♟f7 45.h4 h5 46.♟c6 ♟e7 47.♟d3 ♟f7 48.♟d6 ♜g7 49.e4 ♜g8 50.♟c4 ♜g7 51.♟e5+ ♜g8 52.♟d6 ♜g7 53.♟b5 ♜g8 54.♟c6 ♟a7 55.♟b4 ♟c7 56.♟b7 ♟d8 57.e5 ♟a5 58.♟e8 ♟c5 59.♟f7+ ♜h8 60.♟a4 ♟d5+ 61.♜h2 ♟c5 62.♟b3 ♟c8 63.♟d1 ♟c5 64.♜g2
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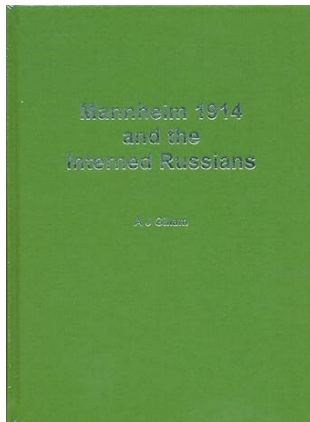
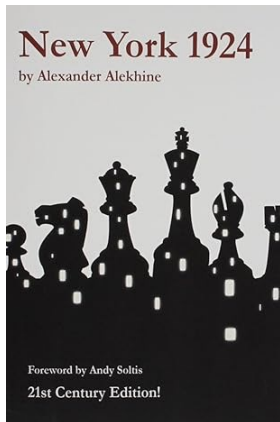
What is your favorite biography book?

Life and Times of Mikhail Tal by Tal. *Max Euwe* by Munninghoff. *Paul Morphy – The Pride and Sorrow of Chess* by Lawson. *William Steinitz, Chess Champion: Biography of the Bohemian Caesar* by Landsberger. *A. Alekhine – The Agony of a Genius* by Moran is a favorite too. Also, I would like to mention *Speed Demon: The Fascinating Games and Tragic Life of Alexey Vyzhmanavin* by Kryakvin. A more recent book which is a sad cautionary story of a talented player.



What is your favorite tournament book?

New York 1924 by Alekhine. Also, *Mannheim 1914 and the Interned Russians* by Gilliam is an amazing book.



What's your favorite opening book?

Tango! by Palliser. *Understanding the Scandinavian* by Kasparov. *The Jobava London System* by Simon Williams. *The Makogonov Variation* by Lakdawala/Hansen. *Play The Barry Attack* by Martin. Anything by Sverre Johnsen, especially *The London System. A Strategic Opening Repertoire* by Watson. *A Cunning Opening Repertoire* by Burgess.

Simon Williams is a very interesting author. Do you have many books by him?

Only one at the moment – his book on *The Jobava London System* is very good.

Do you have a favorite endings book?

Chess Endings by Balashov & Prandstetter. *Secrets of Pawn Endings* by Mueller and Lamprecht. Silman's *Complete Endgame Course*. *Practical Chess Endings* by Keres. *One Hundred Endgames You Must Know* by De La Villa. Nunn's endgame books are excellent. Averbakh's *Comprehensive Chess Endings* volumes 1–5. I used to say you only need one endgame book, but you can't go wrong with a core of solid ending books. I have been getting attached to collecting these volumes. I am getting around to the point of view, if you have all of Nunn's endgame books you don't need any others.

What is your favorite tactics book?

Blunders and Brilliances by Mullen and Moss. The Complete Chess Workout books by Palliser. There are several others by Gambit which were good, but these volumes come to mind.

Do you have a favorite book overall?

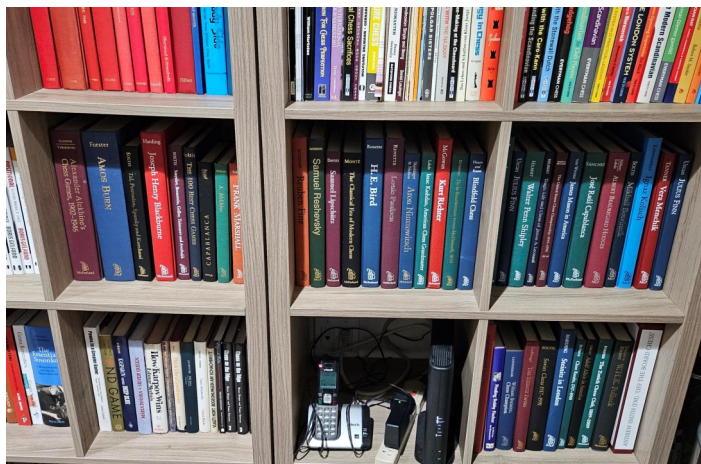
Hands down – *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal*. Great player, great character, great writer.

For pleasurable reading – honorable mention goes to – *The King* by Jan Hein Donner and *The Essential Sosonko*, which are colossal prose books.

Do you have a favorite book series?

McFarland's Chess series in hardcover. Caissa Editions in red cloth hardcovers. Pergamon Russian Chess Series in hardcover. Quality Chess Books hardcovers (bios, matches, soviet instructional), New In Chess hardcovers (signed). Elk and Ruby are setting a new standard as well. Let us not forget Chess Informant has an amazing run going on!





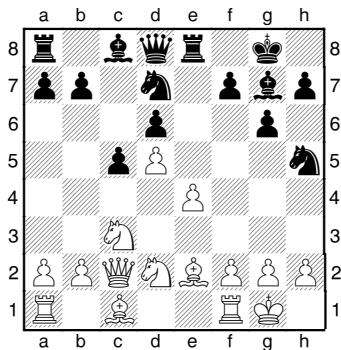
Do you have a favorite game somebody's played?

As a fourteen-year-old, falling in love with chess, watching Game 3 Spassky v. Fischer where Fischer uncorks Velimorovic's ♖h5 novelty in the Benoni on PBS, live with Shelby Lyman and crew annotating as the moves came in all day long. If Fischer doesn't win this game the course of chess history would likely have been changed.

Spassky, Boris Vasilievich - Fischer, Robert James (2785)

[A77] World-ch27 Fischer-Spassky +7-3=11 Reykjavik (3), 16.07.1972

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.♖c3 g6 7.♗d2 ♖bd7 8.e4 ♗g7 9.♗e2 0-0 10.0-0 ♖e8 11.♙c2 ♖h5



12.♗xh5 gxh5 13.♖c4 ♖e5 14.♖e3 ♙h4 15.♗d2 ♗g4 16.♖xg4 hxg4 17.♗f4 ♙f6 18.g3 ♗d7 19.a4 b6 20.♖fe1 a6 21.♖e2 b5 22.♖ae1 ♙g6 23.b3 ♖e7 24.♙d3 ♖b8 25.axb5 axb5 26.b4 c4 27.♙d2 ♖be8 28.♖e3 h5 29.♖3e2 ♙h7 30.♖e3 ♙g8 31.♖3e2 ♗xc3 32.♙xc3 ♖xe4 33.♖xe4 ♖xe4 34.♖xe4 ♙xe4 35.♗h6 ♙g6 36.♗c1 ♙b1 37.♙f1 ♗f5 38.♙e2 ♙e4+ 39.♙e3 ♙c2+ 40.♙d2 ♙b3 41.♙d4 ♗d3+ 0-1

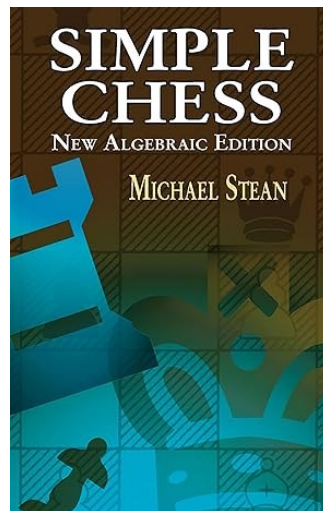
Do you care if your books are in descriptive or algebraic notation?

No – I happily collect both.

Anything else you would like to tell us?

My favorite book story is not about collecting a book, it is about saving a book! Many years ago, I stopped by Fred Wilson's one Saturday and Fred mentioned he was working on a project to recommend out-of-print chess books to Dover Publishing who were looking for chess titles to buy the rights too and republished them. He asked me if I had any recommendations. I emphatically said, "Fred, *Simple Chess* by Michael Stean is an unsung classic and it is out-of-print. It is a great book." I gave Fred a paperback copy, he read it, and made it so. The rest is history. I think saving

Stean's book is my biggest contribution to chess so far, but I feel my greatest contributions are yet to come!



I hope your readers enjoy getting a glimpse into my modest chess collection. I am certainly a minor collector compared to many others who have much bigger libraries. At the same time sometimes less is more! Hopefully, for those starting to collect, the books in my collection will further spur their interest!

Thank you, this has been fun learning more about you and your book collection.







CONFESSIONS OF A CHESS BOOK COLLECTOR

by
Maurice Carter

Reflections on my start

Sitting at my desk in my converted bedroom study, the walls lined with bookcases overflowing of chess books and magazines, I reflected how my chess library got to its' present state. It helps if you start early.

70 years ago, at age seven, I discovered chess. My mother bought for me a cheap hollow plastic chess set I had spotted in a store. I got a friend to try playing, but we soon lost interest.

At ten, walking home a brand new way, I approached a park picnic table that had a cluster of men around it. Closer, I saw three chess and one checkers game being played. I took notice of the beautiful wooden chess sets, and the adults having fun playing. I started going often after school to the park to watch the games.

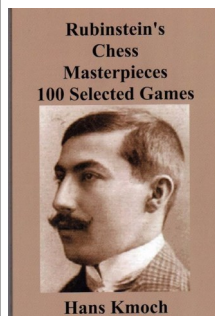
Gifted, borrowed, bought

My uncle Alex heard about my new interest in chess and gave me a copy of *Chess Review*. It was the March 1956 issue and they had a picture of a simultaneous display by a young Bobby Fischer. The magazine was filled with lots of pictures of players and coverage of tournaments.

I was able to find a chess book at a branch of the Chicago library that explained notation and more detailed instruction of the game. The adult section of the library had ~30 books that provided me more advanced books, which I started to study. My study was hit and miss -- often you don't know what to study and you need guidance.

At the park I was too shy to challenge someone, I just would watch. An elderly man asked me if I wanted to play a game. I played OK, but easily lost. Otto became my friend and first chess teacher. We started to play a lot and he helped me work on my openings, and I had access to his small library. My part time job allowed me to start getting a few books for my own library.

My first four chess books were:
Modern Ideas in Chess—Reti,
Hypermodern Chess—Reinfeld,
Rubinstein's Chess Masterpieces—Knoch,
Reti's Best Games of Chess—Golombek.



I still have the books by Reti and Golombek, the others I replaced with hardbound copies.

My lifelong chess collecting had begun.

My mother once found two boxes next to the trash — 50 chess & magazine items and appeared that the former owner was an active tournament player. There were a few I didn't have; the rest I gave away or used in trades. It was kind of sad to have these

books put out with the trash.

Collection Scope: There are a number of factors that play a part in what is collected.

1. Goals: Are you using your library to improve your skills or

just enjoying fine literature.

2. Active player or not: Playing over the board (OTB) and/or Correspondence Chess (CC).

3. Size and space: Books take up lots of space. At my peak collecting I probably had 2500+ books and complete years of magazines. Recently, I have been slowly downsizing. When my last child moved out, at last I got a spare bedroom that I could turn into my study and library.

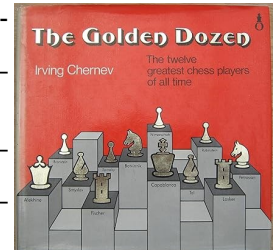
It's funny, when a person who is not a chess player sees my library, they ask if I have read every book! Over my many years I have read many cover to cover, others partially, skimmed, or spot referenced. Some I will get to 'someday'. I may only study a section on an opening variation, certain games, or a type of endgame.

4. Costs: Chess literature can be costly. Today, the cost on average is around \$35-60 for a paperback and hardbacks \$100 or more. In my early days of collecting (1950's to 60's) most paperbacks were only a few dollars and hardbacks under \$10.

5. Old authors vs authors today: The old authors had a harder time, they didn't have access to the internet, databases and powerful chess engines. It took time to produce a book. They didn't have Chessbase and couldn't quickly mouse the moves of a game in a few minutes. It was all hand written or typed, so more error prone.

6. Chess notation: English Descriptive (ED) or Algebraic (AL) -- some people today won't bother with literature in ED. There are many great works that they are missing out on. Books worth reading even if in ED notation:

Lacking the Master Touch—Heidenfeld,
King Power in Chess—Mednis,
Tarrasch's Best Games of Chess—Reinfeld,
The Art of Chess Combinations—Znosko-Borovsky,
The Golden Dozen—Chernev.



7. Language: English or foreign. There are many great works in foreign languages (German, Russian). One can build a list of the common terms and with patience can understand what the author wrote. I just wish I had taken German in high school, but English was hard enough.

Types of Collectors

1. Hybrid Collector: Most collectors have several major areas of collecting as well as secondary ones. Over time, a collector discovers other subject areas. I think a majority of collectors fit into this group.

2. Casual Collector: In a way this is collector—lite. This person knows how to play chess, but to them it's just a game. They might buy a book with the motive just to improve enough to beat their Dad or friend. Many of us collectors and chess fanatics started this way!

3. **Serious Player Collector:** This person plays competition chess, their library is geared towards improving their playing skills and knowledge of the game. If you look at their library probably over 75% will be devoted to the openings. When I started playing back in 1956 there were very limited opening material.

My first opening titles:

The Ideas Behind the Chess Openings and *Practical Chess Openings* both by Fine, later, *Chess Openings Theory and Practice*—Horowitz, *Modern Chess Openings 10th Edition*—Evans, and *Chess Review* which had a different opening featured each issue.

It wasn't only until the late 1960's that many small opening booklets by various authors were published by "Chess Digest". Today the majority of books being published are on openings. The trouble with opening books is that they are quickly outdated. If some new move is played in a tournament in Timbuktu, in a short time the rest of the chess world knows about it. Once you have an opening book that covers all the principles, objectives and goals for both sides, perhaps we don't need to keep buying every time another book comes out on that opening.

Databases and magazines can help you keep current. Of course, you should have some coverage on all the openings and if you want to learn a new opening, go get that book. Some devote a lot of their money to opening books that might be better spent on other subjects. If Carlsen started to play 1.f3 and followed with 2.♖f2, someone would write a book on that opening and all the Lemmings (buyers) would rush to the cliff and jump off into the sea to buy it! There are very few opening books that will become classics.

A few opening books you might like:

How to Open a Chess Game—7 GMs, *Openings for Amateurs* and *Openings for Amateurs — Next Steps* both by Tamburro, *The Modern Openings in Theory and Practice*—Sokolsky (the first 77 pages on opening and middle game principles)

more currently :

Mastering the Chess Openings—Watson (four volumes). Watson is noted for his series on the French Defense and English Opening.

Older opening series that are worth consideration:

Moderne Theorie der Schacheroffnungen Bis 8 volumes 1970's , *Moderne Eoffnungstheorie* 24 volumes 1980's, *Handbuch der Schach—Eroffnungen*—Schwarz, over 25 volumes. *Theorie der Schacheroffnungen*—Euwe. 12 volumes.

4. **Historian Collector:** For many authors and researchers this is their main area of interest. There are many resources to draw upon.

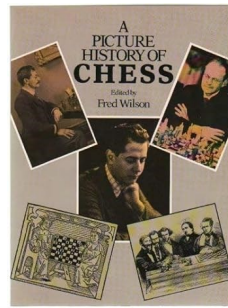
For *Tournament and Matches*, the four volumes by Gaige, Feenstra Kuiper Pieter has two volumes and Di Felice has quite a number.

Bachmann's *SchachjahrBuch* is a long running series that has lots of games and chess news.

Quarterly for Chess History—Fiala is a goldmine of material on events, players etc.

The Yearbook of Chess nine books were from the United Kingdom (1906-1916).

Fred Wilson, the bookseller and author, came out with *Lesser-Known Chess Masterpieces 1906—1915* and *Classical*



Chess Matches 1907-1913 with many games from the Yearbooks from the United Kingdom. His *A Picture History of Chess* has many photos of famous players.

The series *Rare and Unpublished Tournament and Matches*—Gillam is a great source for little known games, he also had a number of booklets on lesser known masters. *De La Bourdonnais vs McDonnell 1834*—Utterberg has full coverage of this landmark match.

There are three publishers ("Moravian Chess", "McFarland", and "Edition Olms") that have been coming out with reprints of older magazines, game collections, other general works, as well as new publications.

There are many game collections—a few I found covered a number of masters detailing their events and opponents. The notes are light and I'm sure the Chess Engine Gods will shoot holes in some analysis, but I enjoyed them for the human interest stories.

The Bobby Fischer I knew and Other Stories—Denker, *With the Chess Masters*—Koltanowski, *Paul Morphy and the Golden Age of Chess*—Napier, *The World's Great Chess Games*—Fine, *500 Master Games of Chess*—Tartakower & du Mont, *Lessons From My Games*—Fine, *Modern Master Play*—Yates & Winter.

5. **Chess Variety Collector:** In my early days, there were books with a mixture of games, positions, problems, stories and more.

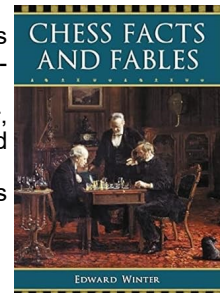
The Fireside Book of Chess—Chernev & Reinfeld, *The Best in Chess*—Horowitz & Battell, *The Chess Companion*—Chernev.

And later, *Cabbage Heads and Chess Kings*—Hayden, *Adventures in Chess* and *The Delights of Chess*—both by Assiac.

More currently, Edward Winter has produced four books that have a massive amount of interesting material.

Chess Explorations, *A Chess Omnibus*, *King's, Commoners and Knaves*, and *Chess Facts and Fables*.

He also conducts the web site "Chess Notes".



The Specialist Collectors

6. **Chess Problems:** These are fun for all skill levels. I remember when a Chicago newspaper started a chess column. It featured a chess problem with mate in two, plus a game and news. At that time anything with chess got my attention. Many chess magazines and newspapers also printed chess problems.

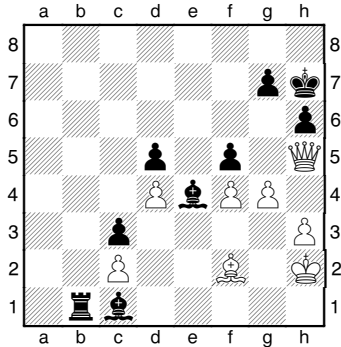
I lost interest in that subject as there were more important areas of chess for me to devote my time and study. I respect those who enjoy this area, but my main issue with problems is these positions will probably never come up in play. There is a challenge to find the solution in X number of moves, but in a game the player just goes for the win.

There are themes contained in problems that could be of value in a game. I know of two games by Tarrasch who used themes to win his games. Against Spielmann in his game as black at San Sebastian—1912, on his 41 move played ♗c1 which used the Indian Theme. As white in his game against

Allies at Naples—1914, he employed the Plachutta Theme with 31. ♖c7.

Spielmann, Rudolf—Tarrasch, Siegbert [C80] San Sebastian International Masters—02 San Sebastian (17), 12.03.1912

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♗f6 5.0-0 ♗xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♗b3 d5 8.a4 ♗xd4 9.♗xd4 exd4 10.♗c3 ♗xc3 11.bxc3 c5 12.axb5 ♗e7 13.♗f3 ♗e6 14.♗xa6 0-0 15.cxd4 c4 16.♗a2 ♗xa6 17.bxa6 ♗a5 18.♗b1 c3 19.♗g3 ♗c8 20.f4 ♗f5 21.♗e1 ♗f6 22.♗h1 h6 23.h3 ♗b8 24.♗e3 ♗xa6 25.♗d1 ♗a1 26.♗e1 ♗e4 27.♗h2 ♗e7 28.♗f1 f5 29.♗e1 ♗h4 30.g3 ♗e7 31.♗f2 ♗d6 32.♗c1 ♗h7 33.♗e1 ♗b6 34.♗c1 ♗a3 35.♗e1 ♗b2 36.♗e2 ♗b4 37.♗g1 ♗b6 38.♗e1 ♗b5 39.♗h5 ♗xb1 40.♗xb1 ♗xb1 41.g4 ♗c1

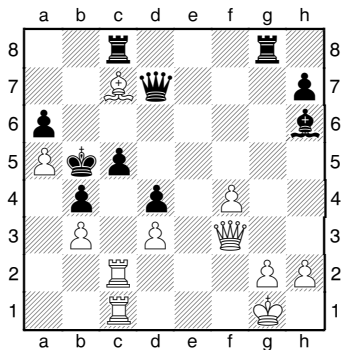


0-1

Tarrasch—Allies [A03]

Napels, 1914

1.f4 d5 2.♗f3 c5 3.e3 ♗c6 4.♗b5 ♗d7 5.0-0 e6 6.b3 ♗c7 7.♗b2 f6 8.c4 ♗ce7 9.♗c3 ♗h6 10.♗c1 ♗xb5 11.♗xb5 ♗d7 12.♗e2 ♗c6 13.cxd5 exd5 14.e4 0-0-0 15.e5 a6 16.♗c3 b5 17.a4 b4 18.♗d1 ♗b7 19.exf6 gxf6 20.♗xf6 ♗e8 21.♗e3 ♗g8 22.♗d3 ♗g4 23.♗xg4 ♗xg4 24.♗f2 ♗d7 25.♗e5 ♗xe5 26.♗xe5 ♗c8 27.♗f3 ♗b6 28.d3 ♗h6 29.♗fc2 d4 30.a5+ ♗b5 31.♗c7



1-0

Two books on problems seeing the thought process involved:

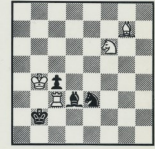
An ABC of Chess Problems—Rice, which covers the full range about chess problems.

The other is *Adventures in Composition*—Mansfield, it covers the composition of a chess problem.

- 7. Endgame Study: They teach ideas. Every piece and pawn has a function on the board. Endgame studies are invaluable to the player as often the position or something similar will come up in play. The best overview book in my opinion is *Test Tube Chess*—Roycroft.

A.J. Roycroft

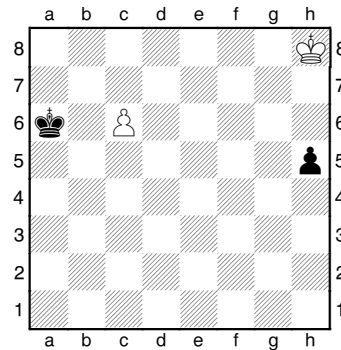
Test Tube Chess



A Comprehensive Introduction to the Chess Endgame Study

There are many books devoted to composers, a few are: Whitworth has two books on Mattison and Kubbel, *Chess Studies*—Troitzky, *Richard Reti Samtliche Studien*—Mandler.

Here is a very famous study by Reti—perhaps it will get you interested in endgame studies. White: K on h8 P on c6 Black: K on a6 P on h5 White to move and draw.



- 8. Art Collector: Chess materials can be damaged, worn from use; some value preserving in a new—like condition. Here's a unique approach: I visited a friend and got to see his library. He had about 300 books, mostly what an active player has. I noticed all his hard—bound books lacked dust covers. He told me he had them and showed me a file cabinet with them in folders. He said he liked the art work and wanted to keep them pristine!

I must admit that many dust covers have nice art work and interesting subjects. Many paperbacks also have nice covers. Copyright issues aside, I'd buy a coffee table book of these covers. One trader I knew was only interested in pristine condition items, which are rare in older works, because of the deterioration of the printing, paper, and from years of being handled.

- 9. Ultimate Collector:

Lothar Schmid is said to have had the largest private collection in the World, around 30,000. Some attempt to collect as much literature as possible. Limited money and space usually unavail this approach.

A collector told me he had over 10,000 items. He sent me a list of his holdings, his range of collecting covered all areas of literature. If a book had many editions, in many languages, he had all of them!

Building your Chess Library

Thoughts on buying: "Caveat Emptor" the Latin phrase "Let the buyer beware".

Physical examination: Today many purchases are by mail, preventing inspection. In person, we can see the condition and sample contents (sometimes content samples are online as well).

Check bookstores: New and used. If you're lucky they're a chess book dealer. Over the years I have bought from chess book deal-

ers, but many no longer are in business. One that is still in business is Fred Wilson in New York. I've bought from him since the mid 1970's. He maintains a store and also a web site: [Fred Wilson Books](#). He has always been willing to answer my inquiries.

At large tournaments: There may be dealers there. Often on the last day, they may offer discounts to move stock.

Book reviews: Chess magazines and web sites will have book reviews. One or two in depth, and some mini ones. In most cases you can trust the reviewer. Two reviewers I trust are Edward Winter and John Watson, who are very thorough.

Reference books on chess literature: book & magazine summary descriptions.

Chess Reader—Whyld six volumes 1955-1966, and *The Literature of Chess*—Graham.

The grapevine: Ask your friends, those who like books have opinions and recommendations. I discuss collecting with some opponents. Those from other countries are good for learning about books there. A fellow chess player may trade or sell.

The internet: Search when you have some idea of the title or author. A warning, prices can vary wildly, seeing what the market will bear. "[John's chessbooks reviews](#)" each month has some in-depth reviews on new books etc. Tim Harding's web site: "[Chessmail.com](#)" has links to dealers and other interesting sites. Tim is the author of many chess books and was Editor of *Chess Mail*.

"[Chess history and literature society](#)" (formerly Ken Whyld Association) has many authors, players and historians as members. They profile new literature and their Archive has pictures of graves of well known chess masters and chess personalities.

On Facebook: in group "Chess Book Collectors" you can ask questions and there are postings on new and older books. Some members sell books.

Ebay: A great place to find books, many sellers large and small. Perhaps set a maximum price you will bid. Competitive bidding can result in spiraling prices as a test of wills ensues. Some sellers will have the option to pay a set 'buy it now' price instead of bids, or consider a 'Make me an offer'. Beyond single items, there are batch lots. At times I will bid just to get one book in the lot.

Over the years I have scored some very nice items. One seller had ~70 loose issues of *Chess* magazine (B.H. Wood editor) from the 1940's and 50's. I got them for about \$35 (1/3 typical price). I saw the book *Glorias del Tablero Capablanca*—Gelabert published in 1924 up for bid. It is rare and hard to find, seeing only one, once listed and over \$100. Hard—bound, 100 games up to 1923, and many pictures I had never seen. My max bid of \$35 succeeded; won at \$27.

The last item was: *Euwe Slaagt*—Knoch. Hardbound and 144 games of Max Euwe. I gave a maximum bid but no one else bid on it and got it for \$20. Once received, I discovered, five pages in from the title page, Euwe had autographed it!! Normally autographs are on the title page. Known autographed items will have more and higher bids.

My Library

During my early years, there was a chess book desert—mostly very basic books. The late 1960's saw a large influx of books. Once I had a job my collecting took off. I was off and running, hitting the bookstores, buying from booksellers by mail (later Ebay & trading).

Just about every few weeks I was able to buy books in downtown Chicago. I found a used bookstore that had lots of books out of print and older *Chess Review* issues. Before I knew it my library outgrew my small book case. At that time every book was magical and I had to have them.

As I got better at chess, I slowly started to cull from my library some early purchases and add higher quality ones. Not every great player is a great author and a great author need not be a great player. Otto my chess teacher told me, "Any book is good if you learned something from it".

I tried to make my library have good coverage of many chess subjects. My main interests are from the Lasker to Alekhine era. I like literature and players from before and after this era too, of course.

Areas I collect: Game collections, tournament and matches, endgames and studies, correspondence chess.

I have no interest in the very early works on chess by Philidor, Greco, Salvio etc. All are very rare and hard to find. I do have two books by Staunton from the 1870's *The Chess Players Handbook* and *The Chess Players Companion*. My library is mostly built with literature that will help me improve and research, as I am an active CC tournament player.

I do joke that I have the largest chess library in the world... nearby. I live about 200 miles (322 km) from the John G. White Collection at the Cleveland Library in Cleveland, Ohio (35,000 items and growing). I've been there dozens of times. The large collection and many visits has allowed me to help some authors with their books, locating missing games, fact checking, photos, and other data. I've sent things to Harding, Donaldson, McGowan and Skjoldager. Feels good to be able to contribute.

Favorite books and magazines

Today there are so many new books coming out, it is hard to keep up. Many old books and magazines hold up well or played an important part in my chess, and are favorites. It is hard to come up with a reasonably sized list; I like so many. Even a list of 100 presents a challenge.

General works, Strategy, Middle Game:

My System—Nimzowitsch, This book had a huge impact on my development. Over time some of his ideas have been proven questionable, but play on weak color squares, blockade, outposts etc. are valid.

Winning with Chess Psychology—Benko & Hochberg,

The Middle Game In Chess—Fine. A much underrated book, Fine's writing is logically laid out.

Technique in Chess—Abrahams,

The Art of the Middle Game—Keres & Kotov,

Modern Chess Strategy—Pachman,

Dynamic Chess—Coles,

Judgment and Planning in Chess—Euwe,

The Hypermodern Game of Chess—Tartakower.

Endgames and Studies:

The Tactics of Endgames—Ban. A great book to explain endgame studies,

Basic Chess Endings—Fine & Benko,

A Guide to Chess Endings—Euwe & Hooper,

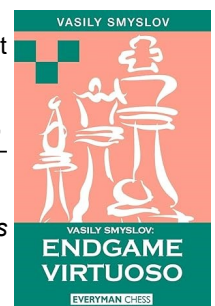
Vasily Smyslov Endgame Virtuoso—Smyslov,

Practical Endgame Lessons—Mednis,

Modern End Game Studies for the Chess Player—Bouwmeeter,

Six Hundred Endings—Portisch & Sarkozy,

Capablanca's Best Chess Endings—Chernev.



Correspondence Chess:

How Purdy Won—Purdy, Hutchings & Harrison,
Who is the Champion of the Champions—Baumbach, Smith & Knobel,
World Champion at the Third Attempt—Sanakoev,
64 Great Chess Games & 50 Golden Chess Games both by Harding, and his (Ultra Corr database),
My 120 Selected Correspondence Games and *Triumph and Disaster* both by Read.

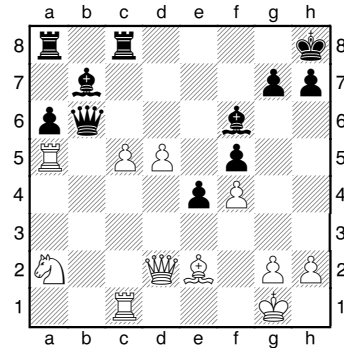


Speaking of correspondence chess here is a game I played some time ago that was published in the *APCT News Bulletin* March—April 1992 issue. GM Bisguier was the judge for the game of the year award for 1991. My game tied for 2nd with Jon Edwards game !!

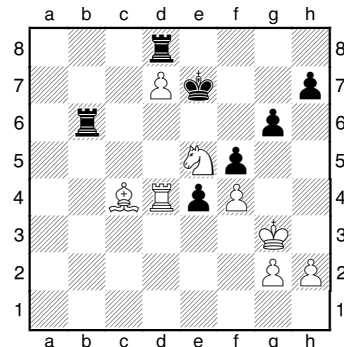
Carter, Maurice H (USA) - Quirk, Michael [B33]
 corr, 1991 Annotations by GM Bisguier and Carter.

1.e4 c5 2.♁f3 ♁c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4 ♁f6 5.♁c3 e5 [Bisguier: The Sveshnikov currently enjoys great popularity as it usually leads to fierce encounters and complicated play with chances for both sides. Carter: Jon Edwards covers this variation in the Jan/Feb issue of the APCT News Bulletin. As a student of Nimzowitsch, I agree with Jon on his assessment of this variation. With Black's fixed pawn structure, weak d5, d6, c6 and e6 square complex, and limited range of his king bishop I find it difficult to believe this is active play for Black!] 6.♁db5 [The only attempt at a white advantage; all other knight moves yield Black at least equality. ABB] 6...d6 7.♁d5 [Once quite popular this move has been almost completely superseded by 7.♁g5 which has the advantage of maintaining the hole at d5 and the semi-open d-file. The text has its points; the knight at b5 has a convenient retreat to c3 rather than a3, and it initiates a clear, easy to understand strategy. White immediately obtains a queenside pawn majority and if he can force c5 he will obtain a mighty passed pawn. Black usually banks on kingside counterplay based mainly on his pawn majority in that sector. Incidentally the white strategy was commonly seen in the 1950's and 1960's in the Najdorf Sicilian (I have fond memories of two of my white wins against Barcza and Gligoric). Perhaps the best known game was Geller-Fischer, Curacao 1962 which went: 1.e4 c5 2.♁f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4 ♁f6 5.♁c3 a6 6.♁e2 e5 7.♁b3 ♁e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♁e3 ♁c7 10.a4 ♁e6 11.a5 ♁bd7 12.♁d5! ♁xd5 13.exd5 ♁f5 14.c4 ♁g6 15.♁c1 ♁c5 16.♁xc5 dxc5 17.b4 and White went on to win (ECOB92). ABB] 7...♁xd5 8.exd5 ♁b8 [The retreat to e7 aiming for the kingside has also been tried but it is more dangerous and less reliable as there are tactical tricks for White based on 9.c4 or 9.c3 and 10.♁a4 and sometimes 11.♁b4 when Black often has difficulties castling. A complete analysis is beyond the scope of this article, but for those who are interested we recommend Sveshnikov's excellent text, *The Sicilian Pelikan*. The knight retreat to b8 aiming for d7 where it observes both e5 and c5 seems to be the logical emplacement for this piece. ABB] 9.c4 ♁e7 10.♁e2 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.♁e3 a6 13.♁c3 ♁g5! [Trading bishops seems to be a good idea as White's bishop tends to be more active where it eyes c5 and b6 while holding the kingside. ABB] 14.f4 ♁f6 [Bisguier: Black fails to appreciate the reason for his last move. He would have had a very decent game after capturing on f4, e.g. 14. ... ♁xf4 (14. ... exf4 is also reasonable)

15.♁xf4 exf4 16.♁xf4 ♁b6+ (16. ... ♁d7 heading for e5 is fine as well) and White will have insufficient compensation for the loss of his b-pawn. After the text, Black simply loses a critical tempo and the white strategy is soon completely successful. Carter: On 14. ... exf4 15.♁c1 ♁b6+ 16.♁h1 I intended 17.♁a4. Black has no scope for his queen bishop and his pawn on f4 won't run.] 15.♁d2 e4 [Black has not solved the problem of his queenside development. MHC] 16.b4 ♁d7 17.a4! [This move, which aims for a judicious a5 and an eventual c5 is very strong and timely since Black cannot respond 17. ... a5; 18.♁b5! ♁e7 (or 18. ... ♁e7) 19.c5! ABB] 17...b6 18.♁fb1 ♁c7 19.♁a3! [To release the pin on my knight and leave Black wondering which file I will double my rooks. In addition, the white queen is free to go to the queen rook file. MHC] 19...♁b7 [A bishop on d7 would keep watch on both flanks, but Black is limited in his alternatives. MHC] 20.♁c1 ♁fc8 21.a5! bxa5 [Best, as on 21...b5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.♁xb5 ♁b8 Black will find all sorts of problems. MHC] 22.♁xa5 ♁b6 23.♁a2 [23.♁a2? ♁xc3 24.♁xc3 ♁xd5! The text protects the rook on c1 and discourages counterplay MHC] 23...♁h8 24.♁xb6 [At first blush this surprises, but it is very well thought out. ABB] 24...♁xb6+ 25.c5 dxc5 26.bxc5



26...♁d4+?! [Bisguier: Apparently Black had relied on this riposte to save the game. It wins the exchange, but the pawn duo proves too mighty and will eventually cost a rook. Carter: 26. ... ♁d8 appears better but who can blame Black for jumping at the exchange and an outside passed pawn?] 27.♁xd4 ♁xa5 28.♁b4 ♁d8 29.c6 ♁xc6 [Probably best since 29. ... ♁c8 30.d6 ♁e6 31.c7 precipitates his demise. From here on Black's resistance is strong but unavailing against White's relentless, careful play. Eventually the d-pawn will force the win of the exchange and White will emerge with a piece for a pawn and an easy win. ABB] 30.♁xc6 ♁ab8 31.♁c4 ♁b6 32.♁c6 ♁xd4+ 33.♁xd4 ♁b1+ 34.♁f2 ♁d6 35.♁xa6 ♁b2+ 36.♁e2 g6 37.♁e5 ♁b7 38.♁c4 ♁d8 39.d6 ♁g7 40.♁e5 ♁f6 41.d7 ♁b6 42.♁c4 ♁e7 43.♁b5 ♁e6 44.♁c4+ ♁e7 45.♁g3



Up to this point everything has been more or less forced. My idea is now to force him into zugzwang, His rook at b6 is tied down to defend both ♁b5 and ♁c6+. I even thought that since there was very little threat from his e-pawn, perhaps my king could wreak havoc on his kingside. MHC] 45...h6 46.♁f7 g5 47.♁c4 [47.♁e8! ♁xe8! and my key strength is gone. Now the threat of 48.♁b5 ad 49.♁c6 are very real. MHC] 47...♁a8 48.♁f7 ♁a3+ 49.♁f2 ♁b2+ 50.♁e2 ♁a8 51.d8♁+ ♁xd8 52.♁xd8 gxh4 53.♁c6+ ♁e6 54.♁b4 ♁a2 55.♁b6 1-0



left - right GM Fritz Baumbach 11th World Champion, GM Grigory Sanakoev 12th World Champion, IA Maurice Carter, GM Hans Berliner 5th World Champion, GM Vytas Palciauskas 10th World Champion. Photo by Lucille Carter.

Magazines:

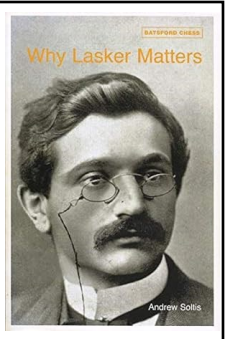
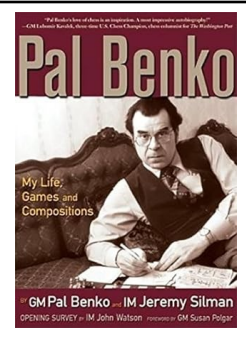
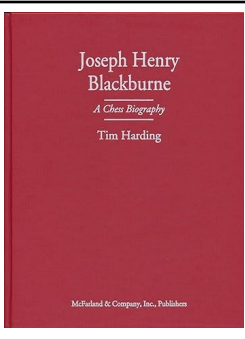
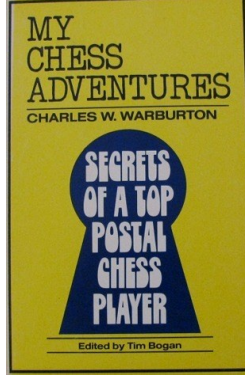
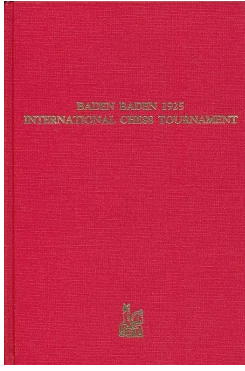
- Australasian Chess Review,*
- Check,*
- Chess World,*
- Chess Mail,*
- Chess Review,*
- Deutsche Schachzeitung,*
- Correspondence Chess BCCA,*
- British Chess Magazine,*
- Wiener Schachzeitung,*
- Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichten.*

Tournaments:

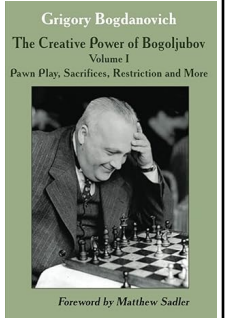
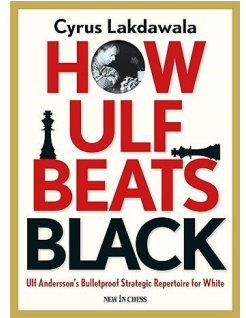
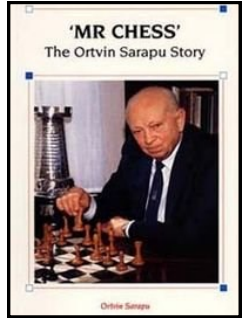
There are so many, but based upon the field of players, good annotations, interesting games, I will offer a few. *Hastings—1895, St Petersburg—1914, New York—1924, Baden Baden—1925, San Remo—1930, Bled—1931, Nottingham—1936, AVRO—1938, Haag/Moscow—1948, Zurich—1953.*

Game collections:

- Chess Praxis" - Nimzowitsch,*
- Masters of the Chess Board—Reti,*
- Chess Secrets—Edward Lasker,*
- My Chess Adventures—Warburton,*
- How Karpov Wins—Mednis,*
- My Best Games of Chess 1905-1930 & 1931-1954 both by Tartakower,*
- The Life and Games of Akiva Rubinstein—Donaldson & Minev (two volumes),*
- Aron Nimzowitsch: A Reappraisal—Keene,*
- Aron Nimzowitsch On the Road to Chess Mastery 1886-1924—Skjoldager & Nielsen,*
- Edgard Colle Caissa's Wounded Warrior—Kingston,*
- Reti's Best Games of Chess—Golombek,*
- Richard Reti Sachovy Myslitel—Kalendovsky,*
- Joseph Henry Blackburne—Harding,*
- Pal Benko My Life, Games and Compositions—Benko, Silman & Watson,*
- My Best Games of Chess 1908-1923 & 1924-1937—both by Alekhine,*
- Capablanca's 100 Best Games of Chess—Golombek",*
- Why Lasker Matters—Soltis,*



Siegbert Tarrasch Leben und Werk—Kamm,
Gyula Breyer The Chess Revolutionary—Adams,
Kurt Richter—McGowan,
Carl Schlechter—Goldman,
My Best Games of Chess—Szabo,
Chess and Chessmasters—Stahlberg,
Petrosian's Best Games of Chess—Clarke,
Larsen's Selected Games of Chess 1948—69—Larsen,
Mr Chess The Ortvin Sarapu Story—Sarapu,
Grandmaster Chess Strategy—Kaufeld & Kern,
How Ulf Beats Black—Lakdawala,
The Creative power of Bogoljubov—Bogdanovich (two volumes),
 There is a series of seven books by Everyman Chess that has various authors and masters, grouped by style i.e. *The Giants of Power Play, Great Chess Romantics,* etc.

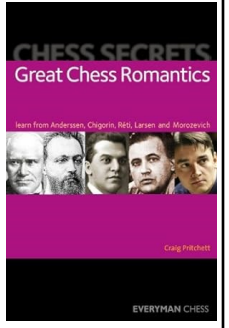
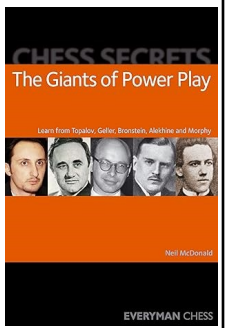


Final thoughts

I wonder if I would have become deeply involved in chess, if random chance had not made me take that new way home. I will always be grateful to my friend Otto, who took the time to befriend that young boy I was then. I would like to think that Caissa the Goddess of Chess was smiling down at me!

I hope my article was interesting and useful for chess collecting. If anyone has a question or wishes to interact, you can contact me at: mcarter64@roadrunner.com

I will be glad to talk chess book & literature collecting.



ChessKeys

Action and Consequence

By Rachel Schechter

Sharon Lee burst into my after-school chess class. She was livid:

“Zeke Eller is cheating in chess class. I saw him. Three times.”

I sighed, looked out the window through a New Jersey rainstorm, scratched my head, and sorted through a sheaf of chess puzzles.

“You saw him? You saw Zeke cheat?”

Sharon nodded vigorously:

“Yes—*three times*. The first time, against me. I thought I imagined it. But then I started watching him, secretly. He’s cheating! What are you going *to do* about it?”

I tabled the puzzles; opened my hands, surprised, sadly surprised. Zeke Eller was one of the best players in the class:

“Well, I don’t know, Sharon—I—”

She glared at me...dead serious:

“If you don’t act on this, Miss Rachel, I’ll be forced to take it to the council for a vote. This undermines our school honor code.”

Eleven-year-old Sharon Lee had recently been elected Student Council President at the very prestigious Ridgedale Academy in Washington Township New Jersey. Zeke Eller’s mother, Nancy, had recommended me for the chess teaching position. Prior to this I’d taught chess at two other schools, had done well, and was pleased to accept the job offer. Zeke used to play downtown with a nice mixed group called Tuesday Twilighters. Without his mother’s support, my chess job wouldn’t have happened.

I slowly began distributing the chess puzzle packets.

“Why would Zeke cheat?” I wondered aloud. “He’s one of the best players in the class—if not **the** best.”

Sharon shook her head:

“I don’t know,” said Sharon, “that’s what I don’t understand. Why would he cheat? He doesn’t have to.” She reddened. “I mean, **nobody should cheat**, but he, well—”

I smiled and patted her arm:

“I understand, Sharon, I do.”

I gestured to a table; we sit; she’s uncomfortable but unshakable. I’m depressed and uncomfortable. I thought of the Hans Niemann nightmare, Vladimir Kramnik’s subsequent accusations, all the negative cheating drama. Cheating. My rich uncle Ed cheats on his taxes, my friend Maryann cheats on her husband, my cousin Selene cheats on her diet. Now this? Honor student Zeke Eller, top chess player in the Ridgedale Royal Rooks class—cheating? I was going to recommend him for sanctioned rated play, even states. I rubbed my forehead. **‘Ethos, thou art sore depraved. How doth we degenerate?’** It seemed nothing was sacred. Not even the royal game.

“Uh, how does he cheat,” I asked, “I mean, are you sure? What did you see?”

Students milled about. Sharon lowered her voice:

“He catches his opponent off guard; moves a piece when he isn’t looking— And yes, I’m sure, very sure. Do you think I like reporting this? I *like* Zeke Eller.”

“You mean he just—”

“Kind of like a magician. What do they call it? Slight, sleigh—?”

“Sleight of hand?”

“That’s it. His opponent is talking or joking with another student, or goes to the bathroom, whatever. Zeke is smiling, laughing. Then, wham! He moves a piece quicker than lightning. A few moves later his opponent is mated.”

I lean back, perplexed:

“Does he move a *major* piece?”

Sharon shrugged:

“I don’t think so; pawns, I think, I really can’t explain it. He just leans forward, moves a piece, maybe two, then sits back like nothing happened. Then he wins.”

“And the other player *doesn’t notice it*? We have some decent players, I mean—”

“Sharif Ajit challenged him once, but Zeke convinced him the position was correct. And since nobody notates...”

I closed my eyes, shook my head. Really must rethink this notation issue. The students moan and groan; they hate it. Though it’s an underlying goal, technically we’re not playing or prepping students for rated competitive chess. I needed another kind of notation incentive. There were no killer rivalries, no trophies to die for. It was a logical, critical thinking, mentoring, analytical action/consequence class. But perhaps this was the incentive I needed. I cleared my throat and walked to a window. “It’s an honor,” I whispered, “...an honor to play and study the royal game. To serve it.”

“Honestly, Miss Rachel, it’s been keeping me up nights. I mean, Zeke Eller lives two blocks over; we have family barbecues and swim parties over the summer.” She blinked back tears. “But this is **wrong**. And I was just elected Student Council President. I *must* report these things.”

I turned from the window, nodded, smiled encouragingly:

“Yes,” I agree, “It’s *very* wrong. You were right to tell me, Sharon. Thank you.”

Sharon flexed her shoulders, breathed easily, evenly. Then she put her hands to her hips:

“But something has to be done, Miss Rachel, *something*—”

“I—I’ll have to watch him closely, I—”

Sharon shook her head:

"No. You're always moving around, going from game to game, analyzing, helping us, how can you *watch* him?"

I turned back to the window, studying the rain. She was right. The nature of my position plus my teaching style simply didn't afford me the time to study every student's every move that closely. I squinted into the rain—it was beginning to clear—an idea was trying to form. There had to be a key to this chess cheating problem.

"Sharon, honey, class lasts an hour—is there a, uh, a specific time when Zeke cheats? Early on, middle of the class, towards the end when students are leaving."

Sharon thought for a minute, then nodded:

"Yeah, it's always towards the end of the game. The endgame. Everybody's readying to go. Water bottles, back packs, last game, last moves... Why? Do you have a plan?"

I set up the demo board, forced mate-in-two.

"Even a *bad* plan is better than *no* plan," I smiled, "And yes, I do. Keep watching him, take notes if you need to but tell no one, be inconspicuous. And we'll work this out together. Can you do that?"

Sharon jumped up, excited; she's part of a covert plan:

"Yes! Yes, of course! It'll be our secret and you—you'll handle it."

"The endgame, yes, I'll handle it, no worries."

.....

That night I sweetened my green tea with a lemon brandy and made a couple of calls. First, my attorney daughter:

"Do you have a contract with the school?" she asked immediately.

"Well, no, it's the first time Ridgedale's offering a chess class, Nancy Eller is the PTA president, so she and I shook hands on it—next semester I'll—"

"Big mistake, mom. No contract, no contingency. I know you trust the handshake thing. But how could you—a chess player—work without contingency? What were you thinking?"

I nursed the tea.

"I wasn't," I said glumly. "And Nancy's my go to, my advisor—"

"So, what? You're going to tell the woman who gave you the job, that her 11-year-old honors son is cheating? Adios, job."

I poured another tea, called my friend Ann on the NJ Chess Executive Board who immediately launched into the Niemann nightmare.

"Ann, this is hardly a state or national issue, I'm just, well, what's your advice?"

"Well, you *do* head our Scholastic Committee. Any witnesses?"

"Just the little girl I mentioned..."

"You could call him out on it—in front of the class—use the girl as witness—see what happens—"

I winced; embarrassing kids wasn't my style:

"Too much trauma and drama. She said, he said."

"Hmm... camera in the classroom?"

"No, there's no camera in the classroom, against school policy. Code of honor." Then suddenly the Zugzwang cloud lifted. "But thanks, Ann, you've given me a move I can make—"

Ann assumed her Executive Board demeanor.

"Ahem, well, that's what we're here for, Rachel. Glad I could assist. We're all on the same board, you know. Be sure to let me know how it goes."

.....

The week passed. *How would* it go? First, I decided to give Zeke a chance to come forward, tell me about it privately.

I assigned pairings. The students set up their boards.

"Before you begin..." I said, "I want to share a problem with you—perhaps you can help." All eyes on me. "I teach chess in another school in another township as some of you know. Anyway, I caught one of the kids cheating. I talked with her about it; but she denied it. Said I must've made a mistake. Caught her again. She denied it again. So, what should I do? Talk to her parents? The principal?"

"No, no way, bad move "was the resounding response, followed by questions:

"Did anybody else see her?"

"Does her school have an honor code?"

"How do you cheat at chess?"

"It's not easy," I said, "Of course, if everyone took notation—"

Everyone moaned, groaned, 'no not that again'.

I looked at Zeke; searched his face, his eyes, for any kind of clue as to his unethical behavior. Nothing."

"Maybe you should ask her to leave the class?"

"Yeah, leave the class."

"I thought about that," I said slowly, walking through the aisles, "but she'd still need to provide a reason. She's a good player, likes the class; it would seem rather unusual if she just up and quit. In fact, she's considering entering a formal competition..."

"Doesn't there have to be a 'consequence'?" said Sharon Lee.

I turned to her, relieved:

"Right. Of course. Would you please explain to the class?"

"Well, you always tell us chess is a game of consequence. Action and consequence. If you leave a pawn undefended, you lose it—If you hit your little sister, you lose TV privileges."

"That's right—yeah—" the class chimed in.

"I like the promotion one—crossing the street!" chuckled a few students.

I smiled:

"Which one is that?" I laughed.

"You know. Not using your king to protect your pawn while it's trying to promote, is like crossing a long busy street without a parent. You can really lose."

"I still don't understand about promotion," one of the students said quietly, shyly.

"Me either," said another.

"And what about '*En Passant*'?"

"Is that really a thing or a French joke?"

Everyone laughed. I smiled and set up an endgame board. The students gathered 'round.

"Watch closely. It's not easy to understand, not easy to explain, and it's not often used. **En Passant is French for 'in passing'. It only involves pawns and can only happen on the 2nd or 7th ranks.** In this case, white is advancing, so the black pawns are on the 7th rank, right?" The kids nod. "So, if a black pawn moves two squares forward and 'passes through' this capture square—now stay with me—on the next move, *and the next move only*, this white pawn can claim '*En passant*' and capture the black pawn like this and thus advance one square. The **key** is timing, knowing when to use it. And that takes practice."

A few of the kids scratched their heads.

"Geez, that's harder than promotion."

"I'll say..."

"Actually, if you force an *En Passant* it's easy to promote for a back rank checkmate," said Zeke casually, matter-of-factly.

I froze. That was it. Endgame. *En Passant*. Promotion. Checkmate. That's how he was cheating. I turned and looked him directly in the eyes. He held my glance—defiantly—for a moment, then looked away.

"Okay class," I said, "back to your boards. Shake hands. Good luck to all."

I kept a close eye on Zeke that afternoon but after thirty minutes was asked to clarify a draw position. In the few minutes my back was turned, Zeke had concluded a winning game. I glanced at his board. Yep. Back rank mate via pawn promotion to a queen, likely using an *En Passant*. Kids were packing up, Zeke among them.

"Say Zeke, you got a minute?"

"Sure, Miss Rachel," he said calmly.

I erased the whiteboard, waiting for the rest of the students to leave, then looked up at him and half-smiled, took a deep breath:

"Everything okay with you?"

"Or course," he said perfunctorily. "Why do you ask?"

"Oh, I don't know, you seem a bit distracted lately, just thought I'd ask."

He flashed his best smile:

"Couldn't be better Miss Rachel," he said, heading out the door, "Couldn't be better."

.....

Another week passed. Time for my next move. I caught Sharon Lee in the hallway and asked if she could stop by the chess classroom about 15 minutes early.

"What's up?" she said half an hour later, "What's the plan?"

"Um, do you have an iPhone, Sharon, or an Android, something—?"

She smiled and held up her wrist:

"I have an iWatch, iPhone, and an iPad. What do you need?"

I grinned, standard paraphernalia for children in a wealthy school district, and put a conspiratorial arm about her shoulder.

"Okay, we have three classes left, now I'll put you at Zeke's table for the next two weeks and..."

After ten minutes or so Sharon rolled her eyes:

"That's a great idea, Miss Rachel. I—I hope I don't screw it up somehow..."

I squared her shoulders:

"You won't," I said decisively. "You're a technical maven and you're about to save the honor of the royal game—*anonymously*. I have every confidence in you."

She drew a deep breath, proud, nodded:

"I'll do my best, Miss Rachel."

"I know you will, dear."

And so, she did. And the plan worked like the proverbial charm. Two of the three remaining classes were done. Spring had sprung and after the paired games were decided, I let the students out early to enjoy the playground.

"Say, Zeke, hang on, will you? There's something we need to discuss."

He dropped his backpack, looked at me quizzically. I walked through the boards, recording the results, and paused at his board—another back rank queen promo mate—suddenly nervous. Geez, he was just eleven years old. What was going on with this kid?

"Sure—what's up, Miss Rachel?"

I pulled down the shades, turned off the lights, closed the classroom door, and pulled down the large white computer screen. Sharon—well hidden—flashed an image of one of Zeke's games onto the screen.

Zeke paled a bit, then angered.

"Say—what's this about?! Are you *spying* on me? That's against school rules, that's—"

"Please sit down, son," I said quietly, guiding him to a chair. "There's something you need to see..."

"NO!" he yelled, breathing hard, "THERE'S NOTHING I NEED TO SEE, **NOTHING!**"

Tears welled inside my heart. The video played in slow motion. I tried to sound light, casual:

"Look, here's your game against Ricardo from last week. You had him in a smothered mate in 2 but went for the *En Passant*-promo-back rank mate." I walked to the screen gesturing to the pieces." And right here—here's where you do it. Looks like a legitimate *En Passant* capture but you move your pawn up two squares. Very quick, very slick. Very hard to do, in fact. Then before Ricardo knows what's happening, you slide in for the queen and the mate..."

Zeke cleared his throat:

"I—I must've made a mistake," he said slowly, evenly, "Misplayed it. Anyone can make a mistake."

"That's true," I said. "That's why pencils have erasers. So, let's look at today's game...your match against Debbie."

Sharon flashed the video on the screen; Zeke sat down slowly, wiped his brow, his upper lip.

"Now I haven't seen this one yet," I said in a friendly tone, "Okay—your opening, all good, middle game, oops a recalcitrant bishop, that happens, Debbie's trying hard but you're just a better player. We're moving into the endgame—you're up by at least 8 pawns, have a rook/rook battery and a Cajun queen. All you need to do is—but no, wait, you do the *En Passant* trick. Again. Did you misplay it? Again?" I swallowed my tears. "We can run the film *again* if you like..."

I saw the slump of his shoulders, heard his young heart break.

"So what?" he said, still trying to muster the 'tough guy', "So I cheated! You're Miss Perfect, I suppose, never cheated at anything in your life, you—"

"Actually, I did cheat—when I was around your age—on a science test. Teacher called me out in front of the whole class, told my parents—"

"You—you're going to call my *parents*?" he said fearfully. "Rat me out to the class?"

"Uh, no," I said firmly. "I am not going to 'rat you out' to anyone."

"Why—why not?" a few tears crept into his voice.

I sat beside him:

"Because I know how *horrible* you feel right now—how you wish the earth would just swallow you up—or that this was just a bad dream."

He hung his head:

"It's a nightmare," he whispered, "a terrible, terrible nightmare. All of it."

Finally, he was opening. I leaned in:

"But *why* did you do it—over and over—you're *already* the best player in the class—so *why*?"

"Why?" he half-laughed, half-cried. "Because my whole fucking life has turned into a nightmare—that's why!"

"Zeke, please stop swearing, your parents will think I—"

He jumped up, waving his arms, stamping his feet:

"My parents! Oh yes—my parents—Mr. & Mrs. Eller and their golden boy Zeke—how lucky they are—the perfect family—let's all emulate the Ellers—but wait, what's that you say? A divorce?"

The Ellers are getting a divorce? But they're the perfect family. Tch. Tch."

"I—I'm sorry, Zeke, divorce is rough, I know, I—"

He kicked over a desk.

"No, I don't think you know this move, Miss Rachel, I really don't!"

I tried to put an arm about him, but he pushed me away.

"Zeke, just, please—"

"A REGULAR DIVORCE I COULD HANDLE! BAD ENOUGH, BUT DOABLE. NOOOO, MOMMY IS MARRYING ANOTHER WOMAN AND DADDY IS MOVING TWO STATES AWAY. ZEKEY GETS A NEW PROMO QUEEN MOM AND—AND OH, GOD—"

I grabbed him, hugged him hard; he cried against me.

"—and my dad, I don't know when, if, when I'll see *my dad*. I—I miss him already. Oh God, what am I going to do, I want to die!"

He was sobbing, nearly convulsive. My heart wept with his. How long had this been bottled up inside?

I smoothed his hair and rubbed his back.

"There, there, it'll be alright, really, it'll be alright..."

"It won't *ever* be alright—ever. What am I going to do?"

"You're going to set up a board—right now."

"What—what did you say?" he sniffed.

I opened the blinds, flicked on the lights.

"You heard me. Set up a board. We're chess players. *We solve problems. We don't create them. That's the key—in life, in chess—that's the key.*"

We both stared at a blank board. I held up two white queens, forced a smile.

"Here's your mother, Nancy. Let's put her on a4. And what's your new mom promo queen's name?"

"Lydia..." Zeke said quietly, relieved. "Lydia Armstrong."

"a5? for Lydia?" I asked.

Zeke smiled through his tears.

"Yeah, she's pretty butch," he nodded. "Definitely a5."

We both laughed as I set down the queens. Then Zeke picked up the white king, held it against his heart as if it were dearer than gold.

"But what about my dad?" he whimpered. "I—we—we're such good buddies—he said he'd never leave me—"

I took him square by the shoulders:

"And he *won't*," I said firmly, "he *won't*. We'll just rearrange the pieces a bit more, find another route." I positioned Zeke's dad as a black king on e5. "Which state is he moving to?"

"Pennsylvania," said Zeke. "He got a job in Philadelphia."

"Philadelphia? Just a train ride away, dude. A train ride away. And a great city." I moved the black king to e3. "You'll have all kinds of *new adventures* with your dad—you will. It'll be sad not seeing him every day, and it won't be easy living with the two white queens—but it's manageable." I picked up a black knight. "Is this you in the new scenario?" Then I held up a black queen. "Or do you like boys? Not that it's any of my business—"

Zeke laughed, grabbed the black knight, put it on the board between the white king and the white queens.

"No, I like girls—at least I think I do. So that's me, jumping back and forth."

We both laughed, looked at the board.

"Do you think we'll always be adversarial?" asked Zeke. "I mean—we could all be the white pieces, working together."

I nodded:

"That's the goal—but with any divorce, there's some rough terrain to traverse. Tears, scenes, shouting matches. Difficult squares. Be prepared."

"I—I didn't tell you the worst part," Zeke said, lower lip trembling.

I sat down before him:

"There's more?" I said quietly.

"My—my cat—my cat Mr. Whiskers is...sick..."

"Sick? How sick?"

"Well, the vet said—I'm not really sure, but—"

"But he could be *okay*, right?" I said nodding, "Cats do have nine lives. You know that. They reincarnate. They just keep promoting, right?" I drew a large cat with huge happy whiskers on the back of a chess board. "Here, take this home for Mr. Whiskers."

"He might pee on it—he keeps peeing on everything," Zeke said.

I looked out the window then back to Zeke. How to respond?

"Well, we have a lot of boards. Put a nice pillow or cat bed on it. Maybe the squares will divert him."

Zeke rolled up the board and stuffed it into his backpack, donned a light jacket.

"Sorry about the cheating, Miss Rachel. I—I—it just happened during one class, by accident, really; I saw that it worked, and well, I just kept—I don't know why—I'm just sorry."

"I think it was stress," I said, "Life throwing you one bad curve after another—you couldn't even catch your breath. Very tough dilemmas to deal with. You kept it locked inside but ultimately it played out on the chess board. You *had* to talk with someone. I'm glad it was me."

"I'm *not* a *cheater*, Miss Rachel."

"I know, honey. I understand. I do. You're a fine young man."

"You still think so?" voice soft.

"I know so," I said, "I also know that to get through difficult situations, it's imperative to talk to someone."

"Are you—are you going to tell anyone?" voice small.

I shook my head.

"No, Zeke Eller. I think you've suffered enough." I tossed him the computer chip with the videos.

Impulsively, he hugged me.

"Thanks, Miss Rachel. You're the *best*." Then he stood back. "But what about chess?"

"What about it? There's one class left until the semester break. Or do you want to set up a board now?"

"No, I mean 'consequence'. Action and consequence. That's what you taught us, right?"

"Oh, right, right." I looked at the chess listings on the walls. Pairings Results, Knight's Tour Scores, Puzzles Solved, Nine Queens' Boards... Looked through the window, closed my eyes. I couldn't bear to issue an appropriate 'consequence' but... I pointed to the chess listings on the wall. "See those listings? Your name is at the top of each one. Next week, after one more pairing, I plan to announce the winners and award prizes accordingly. Since you *did* cheat—"

"You should remove my name from the listings," he said quietly.

My heart wrenched.

"You mean the *Pairings List*—the Wins, Losses & Draws?"

"No," Zeke said, "All of them. And I can't come to the last class. I just can't—I'll stay home from school that day. Can you tell the other kids I'm sick or something?"

I looked through the window, through my tears. Yes, a fine young man, indeed. What the royal game needs. It cannot be conquered, the game. It cannot be deceived. But it can be loved. And from the first time I watched him play, I knew Zeke Eller loved the royal game. I cleared my throat, shuffled through some papers.

"Well, let me think about it. And I'll tell the class you're not feeling well, no worries."

"I suppose I should quit chess completely," he said voice breaking, moving toward the door. "I don't deserve to play."

"Nonsense!" I said sternly. "We have a 3-week break and then we resume—start anew. I expect you to be there, Zeke Eller."

"You—you *still* want me to play?" he said incredulously.

I tossed him a notation pad and snorted:

"You need the royal game, and the game needs you. Understand? And not only do I expect you to *play* next semester, I *insist* that you try to teach the class the *En Passant*."

Non-plussed, he was.

"You—you want me to *teach* the *En Passant*?"

I threw my hands up into the air:

"Heck, yeah. You're the only student who understands it." I tossed him another board and bag of pieces. "Practice over the break."

"Miss Rachel, I just don't know what to—"

"Say you'll do it—and go, Zeke Eller."

"Yes ma'am."

And he was gone. And I was alone in the classroom. Or so I thought. Sharon Lee slipped out from behind a cabinet. Hand to my heart.

"Oh, geez, you scared me, Sharon, I almost forgot you were there—"

Her face was stained with tears; I couldn't handle any more emotion; set up a board and opened the Queen's Gambit.

"Miss Rachel, it was, you were, Zeke was—"

I smiled, gave her a tissue.

"Dry your eyes, Sharon, and thank you. *You* made it possible."

She daubed her eyes, cheeks, and pulled herself together. A strong young woman who would be a formidable player if she stayed with the game.

"You know," she mused, "my cat just had kittens. Do you think—?"

I tossed her a board and pieces and pointed to the door:

"I think you should make a *good* friend a *better* friend. Now go—please—catch up with Zeke before he moves an extra square ahead.

She turned back at the door:

"But, Miss Rachel, what should I—?"

"Go! I'll think on it. Just, move!"

.....

And think on it I did. Over a handful of brandied teas. Quiet, contained, played game after game. Over the course of a week. Finally, at 2:00 a.m., the night before the last class, resolution dawned. Conflict and Resolution. Several hours later I stood with Sharon Lee in Ridgedale Academy's final chess class of the semester:

Sharon studied the paper I'd given her:

"You—you want me to read this speech before the class? The whole class? Me?"

"That's right," I smiled, sitting behind my desk, "You're the President of the Student Council. And the students are starting to file in so..."

Sharon positioned herself before the class, waiting for them to take their seats.

"Quiet everyone," I said, sitting behind my desk, "Sharon Lee has a very special announcement to read. Go ahead, Sharon."

Sharon cleared her throat:

Miss Rachel has asked me to inform you as follows: 'Zeke Eller will not be attending or participating in our last class today because he is under the weather—'

"Under what weather?" a couple of students laughed.

"Sick, it means he's *sick*, be quiet..." said a few more.

"Yes, thank you," said Sharon.

'Furthermore, as he is a much more experienced chess player than any of us—having played Twilight Chess for the past two years, he relinquishes all First-Place titles—and awards—to the players next in line, claiming it would be unfair to the class and dishonor the Royal Game. He wishes everyone good luck and hopes to see you again next chess semester.'

Kids (being kids) talked about this for a few minutes then settled into their pairings and enjoyed their subsequent awards. We took a few group and individual photos and students left in high spirits.

Sharon lingered about my desk:

"Was I okay?" she asked, "I mean, the speech, did I—?"

"Fine," I assured her, "the **keynote** speech." You could have a future in politics. We both laughed. "Now, go home, stop worrying and enjoy the semester break."

She paused at the door:

"Do you think *I* should come back to chess class? I mean—*maybe I* should quit—maybe Zeke will be uncomfortable, I mean—"

I stood, shouted:

"You did the right thing, Sharon. Never forget that. And YES! I think you should come back to chess class. And YES! Zeke should come back to chess class." Now, vamoose!"

She threw me a smile and a salute. I sat at my desk, put my feet up and sighed. Conflict and resolution. Action and Consequence. How we love this game.

And yes, Zeke did return to chess class the following semester. Sharon returned. I returned. The class learned notation. And we were all the better for it. So too, the Royal Game.

.....



Celebrating 81st birth anniversary of GM Bobby Fischer
by Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

Robert James Fischer (born March 9, 1943), popularly known as Bobby Fischer, was the youngest grandmaster in history. He was the 11th World Chess Champion and won US championship eight times. His perfect score –11/11 – in 1963-64 American championship remains tall till date. 'Fischer clock' has become the standard chess clock now and 'Fischer random chess' has its own world championship. Over a dozen countries have honoured him on postal stamps. No wonder, this eccentric genius is believed by many, and with good reasons, to be the greatest chess player. Let us celebrate his 81st birth anniversary with interesting tours of knight on 9x9 (= 81) board. Knight is a curious piece whose weird looking move has attracted, enchanted, amused, bemused and confused innumerable people – both chess and non-chess players. Tour of a knight is a fascinating puzzle over a millennium old – the oldest record dates back to 840 AD. The incessant work of chess aficionados and mathematicians has created a vast literature spanning over several centuries in various languages. Jelliss [1] has meticulously compiled them. Here, the task is to move a knight on an empty board in such a way that it covers all the cells in successive moves, without visiting any cell twice. Figures below are 'Figured tour' of knight. The term was coined in 1940's by T. R. Dawson (1889-1951), a British author, columnist and 'father of Fairy Chess'. The name figured tour is appropriate for any numbered tour in which certain arithmetically-related numbers are arranged in a geometrical pattern. For example, Figure 1 has all the consecutive square numbers 1², 2², 3² ... 9², namely, 1, 4, 9... 81 arranged along the central row. Figure 2 has the square numbers in a compact square formation as well as the cube numbers 1³, 2³, 3³ and 4³, namely, 1, 8, 27, 64 arranged in square formation. Figure 3 to Figure 5 are monogram tours (knight moves delineating letters) with the line joining the square numbers depicting the letter 'R', 'J' and 'F', the first letters in his name. Readers may like to compose monogram tours delineating other letters of his name.

29	52	13	58	27	54	33	56	61
14	11	28	53	32	57	60	67	34
3	30	51	12	59	26	55	62	65
10	15	2	31	50	63	66	35	68
1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64	81
8	17	44	73	40	75	80	69	48
43	20	5	24	45	72	37	76	79
18	7	22	41	74	39	78	47	70
21	42	19	6	23	46	71	38	77

(1)

41	38	43	46	13	66	7	34	11
44	47	40	37	8	35	12	67	28
39	42	45	14	65	6	27	10	33
76	15	48	1	36	9	32	29	68
55	2	77	16	81	64	5	26	31
78	75	56	49	4	25	30	69	62
57	54	3	80	17	50	63	24	21
74	79	52	59	72	19	22	61	70
53	58	73	18	51	60	71	20	23

(2)

7	2	13	72	63	56	59	70	61
12	73	6	35	14	71	62	55	58
3	8	1	64	5	34	57	60	69
74	11	4	15	36	39	68	33	54
17	26	9	38	65	48	23	40	67
10	75	16	49	24	37	66	53	32
27	18	25	78	81	22	47	44	41
76	79	20	29	50	45	42	31	52
19	28	77	80	21	30	30	51	43

(3)

73	20	77	28	75	18	7	14	11
78	29	74	19	8	1	12	3	6
21	72	27	76	17	4	15	10	13
30	79	32	63	24	9	2	5	54
71	22	81	26	33	16	53	42	45
80	31	64	23	62	25	44	55	52
67	70	61	36	49	34	41	46	43
60	37	68	65	58	39	48	51	56
69	66	59	38	35	50	57	40	47

(4)

19	28	23	50	35	56	73	52	33
22	37	20	29	24	51	34	57	74
27	18	25	36	49	72	55	32	53
38	21	16	71	30	65	48	75	58
17	26	9	64	81	14	31	54	47
10	39	4	15	70	63	66	59	76
5	8	1	42	13	80	77	46	67
40	11	6	3	62	69	44	79	60
7	2	41	12	43	78	61	68	45

(5)

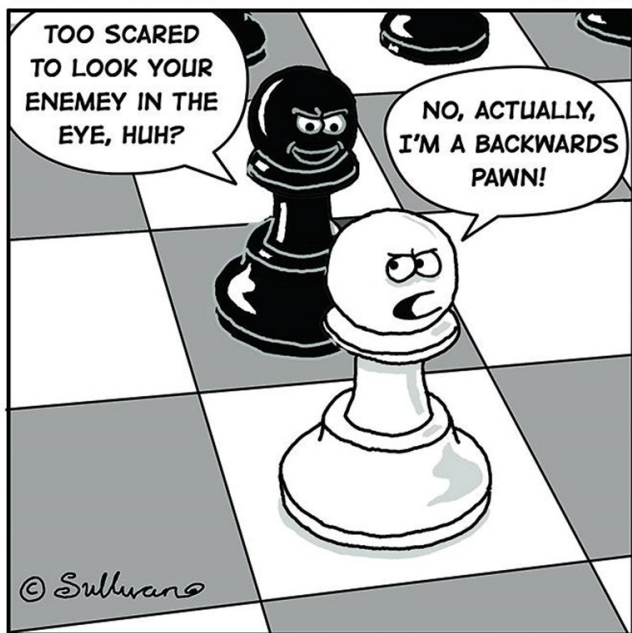


We love, admire and adore you, Bobby! Physically you may not be with us but you will always remain in our heart. The author wishes to celebrate centenary of Bobby's birth in 2043. Amen.

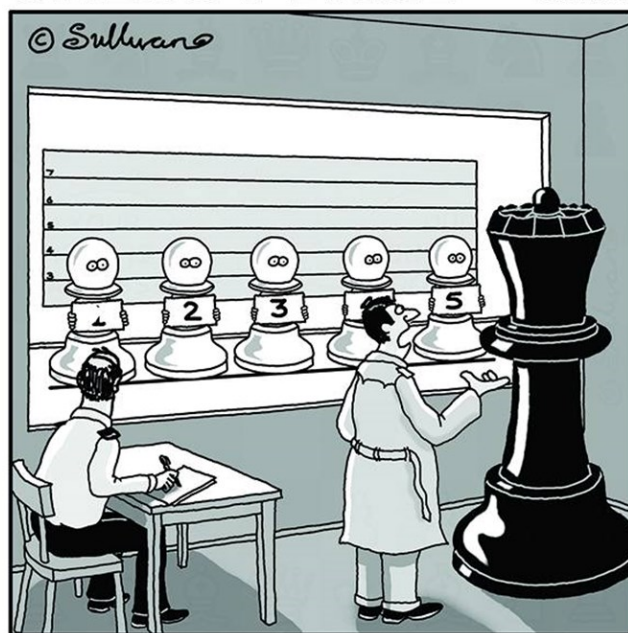
Reference:

G. P. Jelliss; *Knight Tour Notes* available at www.mayhematics.com

CHESS PEACE by Tony Sullivan



CHESS PEACE by Tony Sullivan



"Just take your time Ma'am, and if you make a positive I.D. - just call out the number niiiice and clearly!"

"Self-confidence is very important. If you don't think you can win, you will take cowardly decisions in the crucial moments, out of sheer respect for your opponent. You see the opportunity but also greater limitations than you should. I have always believed in what I do on the chessboard, even when I had no objective reason to. It is better to overestimate your prospects than underestimate them." – Magnus Carlsen

ELEMENTS OF CHESSTROLOGY

By Bob Basalla

Did you ever wonder why your chess never seems to get any better? Why you keep making the same mistakes over and over? It seems sometimes that the style of most amateurs can be defined by their ingrained bad habits. Well, if this is you (and if you're honest, you know it is), it may be that you are fighting against your true chess nature, something that was preset for you upon your birth. You are either not aware of or have not yet fully appreciated that you—we all—were born under a specific sign which largely controls our behavior on the 64. Yes, I am talking about the arcane science of chesstrology.

For those few of you unfamiliar with chesstrology, the Caissic offshoot of astrology, let me provide you with a primer to get you up to speed. Perhaps then the road to improvement will open wide for you the closer and closer you conform your game to chesstrological principles.

As in astrology proper, your chesstrological sign is imparted to you at birth. The influence of one of twelve signs will largely determine your fate as a chess player, whether you like it or believe it or not. Therefore, it behooves every player to know their sign so they may incorporate these universal and eternal truths into their manner and method of play instead of the usual futile battle against these predetermined qualities. Let us then list the twelve chesstrological signs with a brief synopsis of their individual properties. Of course, these are only thumbnail sketches; a fuller exposition can be had only by consultation with a professional chesstrologer.

**

SQUARIES, *the space grabber*

March 21—April 19

Symbol: the hashtag (#), representing a chessboard

It is fitting that the chesstrological year opens on March 21, the equinox, as all chess games begin in relative equality. Players under the influence of Squaries love expanding their chessboard domain. They are encroachers, spreaders, annexers, and infiltrators, always searching for a way to ram home their advantage in space. Indefatigable in this regard, those of the Squaries caste must always take care and pace themselves so as not to overextend.

**

TAUROOKS, *the aggressor*

April 20—May 20

Symbol: the rook

The direct, straightforward, one could say bullying, style of those under this sign perfectly accords with their rook symbol. Though laudably inerrant in pursuit of their goal, it does make opponents of Taurooks persuasion rather predictable, one of many reasons a player should ferret out the other side's sign before an important game. On the romance front, Taurooks do have a strange affinity for Capaborns, desirous of making a castle with them. Incidentally, the 19th letter of the Greek alphabet, formed from two perpendicular line segments ("T"), corresponds to the

favored move types of a Taurooks, which is likely how in ancient times it came to be incorporated into the sign's name.

**

TEMPI—EYE, *the two timer*

May 21—June 21

Symbol: a chess clock

Efficient to the end, the Tempi—Eye are the most accurate of players, able to see in—between moves at a far greater rate than their chesstrological brethren. Time pressure may be a problem though, as many Tempi—Eyes can be mesmerized by the hands of a running chess clock. For them, digital timer technology is a must. The Tempi—Eyed are also inexplicably fascinated by twin chess problems as well as doubled pawns or rooks.

**

CHANCER, *the gambler*

June 22—July 22

Symbol: dice

Those born under Chancer are the chessboard risk takers. Soundness is of only secondary importance, if that. Consequently, Chancers win many a brilliant victory while having more than their fair share of debacles. The regularity of such defeats in their shell games can make many a Chancer crabby.

**

CLEO, *the lioness*

July 23—August 22

Symbol: the queen

Tenacious and resourceful, aggressive Cleos, allegedly named after Cleopatra, Queen of the Nile, powerfully range the chessboard savannah in search of their prey. They take great pride in this. But pride is the deadly sin they must work to avoid. Cleos have a curious relationship with Score—Peons who seem strangely willing to promote the interests of this other sign.

**

ERGO, *the strategist*

August 23—September 22

Symbol: Rodin's The Thinker

Ergos are the innovators in the chess world, hence The Thinker symbol. Their original (virginal?) ideas enliven our game and make chess the enjoyable pastime we love. Unfortunately, not all new concepts are sound and not all games can be won sans tactics. And are like their Tempi—Eye colleagues, but for different reasons, Ergos are prone to time trouble as they seek Kantian certitude for their every move.

**

LEAPRA, the vaulter

September 23—October 23

Symbol: the knight

Leapras can be clever players due to their indirect approach. The sign's very first letter, an "L," visually signifies their circuitous intent. On the downside, Leapras have a penchant for rashly jumping to conclusions, which explains the desire of many a Leapra to keep the positional scales balanced and level, hardly the way to make progress in a competitive tournament. Favorite vacations for Leapras? Why touring of course, visiting venues once and only once due to their curiosity and inherent wanderlust. Favorite foods: oats, apples and sugar cubes.

**

SCORE—PEON, the promoter

October 24—November 21

Symbol: the pawn

Score—Peons make up a disproportionate number of the rank and file "grunt" players in most events. They are the soul of tournaments, always striving to promote their rankings. Oddly, Score—Peons usually prefer to be chained to others of their persuasion rather than those of alternative signs (the exception being Cleos). And isolated Score—Peons are the most miserable of chess players. It should be noted in passing that those of Score—Peon parentage are commonly known for the sting at the end of their combinations.

**

SAC—INVARIOUS, the gambiteer

November 22—December 21

Symbol: doubled check marks

Swashbucklers at heart, Sac—Invarious folks go arrow straight for the gusto no matter what the material cost. Consequently, their checking accounts are perpetually being overdrawn. Their favorite color is Evergreen, their favorite metaphysics Immortal. No wonder 19th century great Adolf Anderssen (Dec. 6) is the quintessential Sac—Invarious. In our era of modern chess play though, some chesstrologers have suggested that the symbol for this sign be amended to double question marks for all too many of its tribe.

**

CAPABORN, the prodigy

December 22—January 20

Symbol: the king

Capaborns are the foreordained leaders of the chess world. Contrary to prevailing opinion, the "Capa" in the sign's name refers to "head" as in various languages (Spanish for instance), and not to Jose Raoul Capablanca who was actually born on November 19 under the sign of Score—Peon. Unfortunately, because of their noble status, many Capaborns have an arrogant streak, considering themselves as the most indispensable members of the chess community, and in their mind at least, the best players. Ironically, this leads them to be cowardly over the board, crouching in the corners of the tournament hall until it is safe to emerge. Capaborns are also notorious for being unreliable teammates, often making them the goat in a match loss.

**

VICARIOUS, the kibitzer

January 21—February 18

Symbol: the bishop

The "vicar" in Vicarious explains this sign's symbol of a bishop, someone who vicariously hears confessions concerning the bad life choices of others. And just as a cleric is employed to give his opinion, his slant, on a penitent's decisions, the Vicarious do the same on the chessboard, exploiting blunders religiously, or even off the board as annoying spectators. As the world is now entering the Age of Vicarious, be prepared for a great increase in unwanted advice about your chess games for, oh, the next thousand years or so.

**

PIECES, the materialist

February 19—March 20

Symbol: bag of chessmen

Consummate grubbers of pawn and piece alike, those from Pieces hold the chessmen point count as the game's ultimate good. By necessity this makes them the stodgiest of defenders as their loot must be protected and only given back under extreme duress. As the bag of chessmen symbol suggests Pieces players are not always the most coordinated with all their extra men constantly and clumsily getting in each other's way. As such, Pieces people are often said to play like fish.

**

Armed with your newfound knowledge of chesstrology you can immediately improve your game in several ways. Knowing yourself and your innate, wired in, tendencies will help you design an appropriate style of play and openings array to best fit the sign you are fated to occupy. Then prudent research on upcoming opponents will give you insider awareness of how they are very likely to conduct their game. (Consider steering into a closed game against a Squaries, an open one against a Pieces, a slow game against a Sac—Invarious, a fast one against an Ergo, and if possible, use an analog clock against a Tempi—Eye.)

Remember, chesstrology has *never* been proven false. No skeptics study exists to refute its claims. Never mind the dozens of exceptions to the rule of the signs you may find by generating actual examples (Bobby Fischer (Mar. 9) as a stodgy Pieces, Tal (Nov. 9) as a Score—Peon rather than a Chancer or a Sac—Invarious, Karpov (May 5) as a Taurooks instead of an Ergo, Kasparov (Apr. 13) as a Squaries, Carlsen (Nov. 30) a Sac—Invarious, and on and on). Don't let that deter your belief. After all, chesstrological signs *impel*, they do not *compel*. Exceptions can occur. Your mileage may vary. Focus on the hits rather than the misses, the fits rather than the disses. Only then will your play finally approach the very cusp of mastery!



Queens' Corner

Illustrated by Tony Sullivan

DOLLY TEASLEY—A QUEEN FOR ALL SEASONS

Interviewed By Rachel Schechter
Pictures from Dolly

In 1954 Queen Elizabeth II traveled the world on her first Commonwealth Tour. That same year Chess Queen Dorothy (Dolly) Teasley traveled into her grandmother's living room and discovered the royal game. It's a career that has spanned some 70+ years for this pleasant, good-natured, soft-spoken 82-year-old WIM. Please join us for her 'tour de force' across the board.



Please tell us how Dorothy became "Dolly"?

The Dorothy/Dolly transition pays tribute to my female ancestors. My mother's middle name was Dorothy but she wanted to pay tribute to her maternal grandmother, Dolly Odell. Ergo, the formality and the nickname.

Can you provide us with some background on your early years?

I was born on March 19, 1941, in Hartwell, GA. My mother, Nancy Massey, was a teacher; my father Harry Teasley, a doctor. They met in New Orleans while in college. My sole sibling, my brother Harry, died recently in October of 2023.

US Senior Women's Invitational Championship, Nov. 3rd - 5th, Berkeley (CA) Chess Center. I did poorly but had a great time. I guess we could call this my game face. I'm usually not this stern and serious of mien.

My dad died in 1942 before I was two. When my paternal grandparents passed on, Mother, Harry, and I moved to Orlando, Florida where Mother's parents had retired from northern Alabama.

Orlando is my 'hometown'. In fact, I'm still friends with Orlando classmates and pals. I attended Delaney Elementary, Cherokee Junior High School, and Boone High School. I never miss a High School reunion; and for the 50th, in 2009, I attended reunions in both Orlando and Hartwell since I was still friends with my Hartwell nursery school and first grade chums.

I loved school—especially math. When they asked to skip me, my mother declined, noting I was too small and had too many friends. I have those friends to this very day!

Share with us your Chess Journey?

I learned chess—accidentally—when I was 12. Everyone in my family loved table games, and I happened to walk into my grandmother's living room while my Aunt Jean was teaching my brother Harry how to play chess. I was quietly fascinated.

The next day I checked out every chess book the Albertson Public Library had: *The First Book of Chess: How to Play the White Pieces* (Fred Reinfeld); *The Second Book of Chess: How to Play the Black Pieces* (Reinfeld); *Chess for Fun and Chess for Blood* (Edward Lasker); and *The Fireside Book of Chess* (Irving Chernev & Reinfeld).

From these books I taught myself the pre-algebraic, descriptive chess notation. I played every game in every book, picking up rudimentary knowledge of standard openings as well as the objectives of the phases of a chess game. But, alas, I knew no chess players outside the family and no chess clubs.

At some point, when I was 13, I learned of the existence of the Orlando Chess Club. My Aunt Jean made a deal with me: if I attended Thursday night confirmation classes at our Episcopal Church at 6:00 pm, she would escort me to the chess club afterwards. I recall the thrill of first walking into a room full of chess players. I won 2 games and still remember the winning moves! These were my first games outside the family. One elderly man told my aunt I was a future champion.

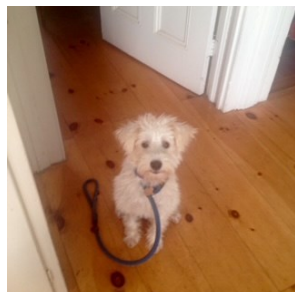
Shortly afterwards I learned about *Chess Life*, *Chess Review*, and joined USCF. In 1955, I won the Florida Women's Championship, then in 56 or 57 I also won the Florida Amateur Champion-

ship in St Petersburg, FL, under 1800 with a 6-0 score when I was 16.

Then—as you told me over the phone—there was an 11 year hiatus. No chess. Why?

Oh, school, social life, college, and career took precedence. I was a newspaper writer and reporter with the Jacksonville, FL Journal & the St Petersburg, FL Evening Independent. That was through 1967. Then IBM recruited me. They wanted a professional writer with a math aptitude. I moved to Poughkeepsie and worked for them for many years in several and various capacities: Programmer, Project Manager, Consultant, etc. As it happened, a group of IBM Engineers played chess, they invited me to join them, and I became the second best player.

From there I went to Friday night matches at a chess club in Woodstock, NY held in an Italian restaurant. There I met chess masters Eugene and John Meyer. They taught me a lot of openings and endgames. Also, Bill Goichberg was running a tourney in Woodstock in 1968. I was rated 1728 then and played at that level. After that I was invited to the 1969 Women's New York Invitational where I met a lot of young people—including Bobby Fischer—who later became grandmasters. In fact, I attended the Fischer/Spassky showdown in 1972 in Iceland.



My doggy, Ellie, a terrier mix rescue from Puerto Rico, when Hurricane Maria struck the island in 2017



My socks drawer, of which I'm inordinately proud. (It frightens the Oscar Madisons of the world but is usually viewed approvingly by the Felix Un-

Why chess, though? It wasn't 'en vogue' for women when you arrived on the scene, so..."

All I can say is that I took to it *immediately*. The first time I saw a knight fork, my heart moved, and I was hooked.

What about a personal trainer? Did you have one? Several?

Not until 1972. In 1970 I moved to Chicago for a couple of years as a programmer for Standard Oil of Indiana and met Susan Sterngold. She was an 1800 player; we were both in our early/late 20s. We played very well together. Then I returned to Manhattan in 1972, joined the Marshall Chess Club and began playing tournaments there. A young man—Bruce Pandolfini—was giving lessons and I studied with him. After 12 lessons I went to 1900 Expert level as a result. Let's see... I played in the US Women's 1976 Championship, placed second. Was an alternate in the 1978 Olympiad where I played third board and won the bronze.

In the '80s I became a WIM in Brigham City, UT, and then became a USCF National Master surpassing 2200.

How did/do you prepare for a tournament game?

I never really prepared. I prefer attending lectures and watching others play.



Nov. 12, 2023. Columbia Grammar School. Induction into the New York State Chess Hall of Fame. Also inducted were Bruce Pandolfini, chess author and teacher, and John Fedorowicz, New York GM and teacher.



Me outside Fraunces' Tavern in Lower Manhattan on May 6th, 2023, having walked 34 miles in 12.5 hours, successfully completing the annual Great Saunter, a (usually) 32-mile circumambulation of Manhattan Island sponsored by the Shorewalkers. This, at 82, was my fifth Great Saunter, my prior one having been at 72 in 2013. (My walking is holding up better than my chess!)

Can you tell us about your experience with the US Amateur Team East?

Excellent. Played several times. So many great players: Rachel Prado, Ginny D'Amico (Hoffman), Susan Sterngold; played on all of the women's teams named *The Vera Menchik Brigade*. We had tee shirts made, and played in Atlantic City, Asbury Park, and Somerset, NJ. Polly Wright (nee Peterson) organized *The Brigade*. This was in the 80s, 90s and 00s.

How about your longstanding relationship with The Marshall Chess Club?

Love it. It's a home base—and I still play there. I've played with many male chess friends as well. Some team names were: The Old Man and the C File, Looking for Luf in all the wrong places (so you don't suffer a back rank mate), and If Proof Benoni.

Love the team names! Speaking of playing male opponents, our President, Joshua Anderson, has results from approximately 50 years ago which indicate you were the *only* female player in events with nearly 100 men. Any problems? And recently, US Chess instituted the Safe Play Policy to mini-

mize sexual harassment. Has this ever been an issue for you?

Fortunately, in all my years, I haven't had a single problem per your question above. In fact, I've always received the red-carpet treatment and lots of respect. 'I've always gotten *too much* respect.' However, I realize this is has been an issue for some female chess players and am glad the SPP is in effect.

Glad to hear you have never had any problems in that unfortunate aspect. This year the Marshall Club held a Women's Championship with 22 females; you also participated in a National Championship with 12 women. How does it feel to have witnessed such a strong development of increased female and women only events over the years? And did you imagine, back in the 1970s, there would be such large female only events?

No, I didn't. But I'm delighted with the play of so many strong women; the influx of eastern European players in the 80s, later from Asia; and *now*, so many up-and-coming young women are outstanding players. I recently faced a 7-year-old rated 1500 and thought: "This is going to be a tough game."



Me watching one Bobby Ludlow play Sammy Reshevsky at the Orlando Chess Club after Reshevsky played a simul there on March 31, 1955.

Is the Queen's Pawn opening your favorite? Your strongest?

Yes, it is.

What were the greatest challenges you faced as a Women's International Master?

Matches against stronger players.

Which players do you most admire? Why?

Fabiana Caruana—I knew him when he was a little boy at the Marshall, played with him, he was on board 4, was cute, sweet, well-mannered. Also, Gazella Gresser and Mona Karff.

How has the royal game benefited you most?

The people I've met. I have such a large community of chess friends. On one level, everyone is smart, the intelligence level is high. And socialization. Outstanding. For 50 years, I've played in a monthly poker game with old chess players. We shuffle, deal,

and call at the Utopia Restaurant on the upper west side of Manhattan. Men and women. Strictly for social enjoyment. Nickel and dime. Never raised the stakes. So many invitations. It has yielded so many invitations. I NOW play in the 100-year-old Commercial Chess League in NY on the Stuyvesant Town Team.



Me watching Gary Kasparov play an early chess engine (possibly Deep Blue) at the World Trade Center in the mid-1990s. I worked (as a mainframe computer consultant) at the World Trade Center and was on lunch break.

What are your future chess plans?

To play more. I enjoyed the US Seniors Championship in Berkeley, CA in 2023 and would like to play in this event again. I'll continue to play at The Marshall, of course. And, I'm considering the Women's Regional in Akron, OH later this year.



US Senior Women's Invitational Championship, Nov. 3rd - 5th, Berkeley (CA) Chess Center. Laughing it up with Vesna Dimitrijevic, Shernaz Mistry-Kennedy, and Julie O'Neill.

I live in the city with my partner, enjoy weekly Opera, Shakespeare, two monthly book clubs, a math museum, walk 4-5 miles per day, and own two houses in the Hamptons. It's a great game. Chess. Life. Thanks for asking.

On the lighter side, what's your favorite tea?

(Dolly chuckles graciously) Actually, I prefer coffee.

Leaving the Stage – Quietly: Lisa Lane Remembrance

By Joshua Anderson

CHESS REVIEW *the picture chess magazine*

AUGUST
1961



60 CENTS
Writers of the "Western Open" at Milwaukee for the year as well as the "USCF Open" at St. Louis last summer. For further details, see the story of the "Western Open" and the new "Eastern Open," on page 226.
Subscription Rate
ONE YEAR \$1.00

Almost a month ago, Lisa Lane passed away on February 28th, 2024. The response has been quiet, nearly muted (the *New York Times* published a story on March 25th.) Of course, she had left chess quietly once before. In the mid to late 1960s, she had become disenchanted with a chess professional's life, so she married Neil Hickey, ran a health food store from 1971 – 2005, and then a jewelry store after that. It was appropriate that she so quietly left the stage, as she made a lot of noise while on it.

Around 1956, the 22-year-old Lane was introduced to the game of chess, seeing it played at *the Artist's Hut*, a coffeehouse in the Temple University area of Philadelphia. She started to study with Philadelphia master Attilio Di Camillo after meeting him at the Franklin-Mercantile Chess Club in Philadelphia. Lane's first major event was the 1958 U. S. Open. Her participation and 6 – 6 score went largely unnoticed in the excitement of a computer that could pair player's rounds, IM Donald Byrne winning the blitz event, and the shocking win of E. C. Cobo-Arteaga in the Open.

In 1959, she played in several tournaments in the Tri-State area, including the U. S. Amateur, where she finished 5-1 and was the top female. By the end of the year, she qualified to play in her first U. S. Women's Championship. She shocked previous winners, Giesela Gresser and Mona Karff when she went 7-1 (+6=2) and won first place. The prize fund was minimal, and as a single woman, she did not have the funding and life experiences of most other women players. Her financial situation forced her to be left off at least one Olympiad team, if not more, as the United States Chess Federation (then USCF, now US Chess) in the 1950s was often financially limited in who, if anyone, they could send.

Lane played throughout 1960 and 1961, with highlights in 1960 including winning the Top Lady Eastern Open and winning the U.S. Open Women's title as the top scorer among the women in the U.S. Open, 7-5, and the highest point total ever for a woman. By 1961, she had won the Top Lady Western title and appeared on "What's My Line," a game show where no one could guess she was a professional chess player. *Sports Illustrated* ran a cover story on August 7, 1961, and there were high hopes for her trip to the Interzonal. *Chess Review* went so far as to report, "Lisa is intent on winning the women's championship of the world, which Bobby Fischer, United States kingpin, thinks she may do next year by beating (Women's World Champion) Elizaveta Bykova of the Soviet Union."¹ Alas, with her and Gresser tying for 12 – 14th in the Interzonal, it was not to be. Lane scored +4=4-8, though she drew top finisher WIM Nona Gaprindashvili, who beat Bykova for the World Championship.

In 1962, she came second to Gresser in the Women's Champi-

onship. At the end of the year, she famously left the Hastings tournament because being in love with Neil Hickey was interfering with her concentration. It is unclear how much this hurt her chess, but the love affair went well, and she and Hickey went on to wed and share a long life (he passed on March 21, 2024.)

In 1963, she opened the *Queen's Pawn*, a Sheridan Square chess studio. She was routinely the only woman there, though the business did attract numerous people who played there for \$0.30 an hour.² U.S. Champion Fischer did include the studio in the places he visited. The business undoubtedly kept her busy, and aside from the 1964 Woman's Interzonal, where she finished 12th, she seemed to play in few tournaments. She brought protesters when she returned to the U.S. Women's Championship in 1966. The prize fund was a tenth of the U. S. Men's Championship, just \$600, but the protests were ignored or not treated seriously.³ She played second board for the US, the USCF, having found enough money to send a team of three to the Olympiad, but scored just +2=2-6. Her and Gresser's upset of Romania in the 9th round cost the Romanians the gold, but the Americans finished just 10th.

She would run the *Queen's Pawn* for at least another year before quietly exiting the US chess scene. Her first exit from the chess stage led to a long life with true love, and we sincerely hope she finds such peace upon her final exit.

"Unknown" Game: Not in ChessBase, 365chess.com or chessgames.com. Source: *Chess Life*, June 20, 1960, p. 6.

Lane, Lisa—Fasano, R., U. S. Amateur, Asbury Park, NJ, May 1959.

1.e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♗c6 3. ♘b5 a6 4. ♘a4 ♖f6 5. ♜e2 ♘c5 6. c3 O-O 7. O-O b5 8. ♘c2 d6 9. ♗d1 ♘g4 10. h3 ♘h5 11. d3 ♗d7 12. g4 ♘g6 13. ♗bd2 h5 14. ♗f1 ♜c8 15. ♗h4 h×g4 16. ♜×g4 ♗f6 17. ♜g2 ♗h5 18. ♗g3 ♗f4 19. ♘×f4 e×f4 20. ♗g5 ♜e8 21. ♘b3 ♜h7 22. ♜g5 f6 23. ♜×g6+ ♜×g6+ 24. ♗×g6 ♜×g6 25. ♘d5 ♗a7 26. ♘×a8 ♗×a8 27. d4 ♘b6 28. ♜h2 ♜f7 29. ♗g1 g5 30. ♗g4 ♗c6 31. ♜g2 ♗d8 32. h4 ♗e6 33. h×g5 f×g5 34. ♗h1 1-0

Note: Hornstein's annotations, not provided here, take up about 1.5 columns. Lisa Lane's result varies depending on source: 3-3 according to *Chess Life* (July 5, 1959, p. 1), 5-1 according to *Chess Review* (July, 1959, p. 197)

Relevant Links and Sources:

[Lisa Lane: US Women's Champion – introduction \(archive.org\)](#)

Alexey Root: [United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937 – 2020](#), McFarland & Company

[Lisa Lane, Chess Champion Whose Reign Was Meteoric, Dies at 90 – The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Endnotes

1. Chess Review, September, 1961, 259.
2. Hearst, in *Chess Life*, April 1963, p. 59 through Alexey Root, [United States Women's Chess Champions, 1937 – 2020](#), McFarland & Company, 2021, 54.
3. Root, 55.

Richard Shorman (1938-2023)

By Frisco Del Rosario

Richard Shorman (1938—2023) was a multimedia chess journalist before 'multimedia' was a word. At Cal State Hayward, he accompanied the Fischer-Spassky broadcasts with his notes. 50 years later, Shorman taught his last class in videochat.



In 1953, 15-year-old Shorman began playing at the Oakland Chess Club, directed by legendary chess ambassador George Koltanowski. Shorman assisted on Koltanowski's club bulletins, then the San Francisco Chronicle chess column, until Kolty encouraged Shorman to write his own.

Shorman maintained a weekly Daily Review (Hayward, Calif.) column for a dozen years, while ghosting Jude Acers' column in the Berkeley Barb (Berkeley, Calif.), and serving as games editor for the California Chess Reporter and the regional magazine Chess Voice.

Shorman's contributions to chess journalism and literature went mostly unsung, for his idiosyncratic avoidance of attention. The Shorman student who progressed furthest is grandmaster Vinay Bhat, whose new book includes pages about Shorman, plus a large picture. (I've said, half-joking, that this is what killed Shorman.)

One of Shorman's earliest projects in chess publishing was aiding Mary Lasher with her English translation of Averbakh's *Pawn Endings*, though the most credit he'd accept was half a sentence in the translator's acknowledgements. In 2004, chessdryad.com described *A First Book of Morphy* as the first book to share Shorman's teachings, and Shorman is only identified by his initials on the acknowledgements page.

The last email I sent to Shorman said: I've found 'the end' of the book to be published as "Play Like a Shorman Student". Then he died, after completing his missions with GM Bhat, and with me. I never became a strong player, but I caught the bug for chess journalism through Shorman — with Shorman's words of perseverance, I've managed four magazine editorships (not counting *The Chess Journalist* in 1990, which is better forgotten), a few books, and yards of newspaper copy.

Reuben Fine—George Kramer, Simul 42b, New York, 2-21-1944, A16, Chess Review, February 1944, p. 4.

1.c4 ♖f6 2.♗c3 d5 3.cxd5 ♜xd5 4.♖f3 ♗c6 5.e4 ♜xc3 6.bxc3 e5 7.♗c4 ♗d6 8.O-O O-O 9.h3 ♜e7 10.♜e2 ♗d7 11.d4 h6 12.♗d2 ♖h8 13.♖ab1 ♖ab8 14.♗d5 f5 15.exf5 ♖xf5 16.♜e4 ♖f6 17.♖h4 exd4 18.♗xc6 ♖e8 19.♜xd4 ♗xc6 20.♜xf5 ♜xf5 21.♖be1 ♖f8 22.c4 ♗xg2 23.♜xg2 ♖f3+ 24.♜g1 ♜xh3 25.♖e5 ♖f6 26.♗g5 ♖g6 27.f4 ♜g3+ 28.♖h1 ♗xe5 29.♜xe5 hxg5 0-1

Kupferstich, Moises A —Kramer, George Mortimer, Dubrovnik olm, Dubrovnik YUG (4), 8-24-1950, C14

1.d4 d5 2.♗c3 e6 3.e4 ♖f6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.e5 ♖fd7 6.♗e7 ♜xe7 7.♜d2 O-O 8. ♗d1 c5 9.c3 f6 10.f4 cxd4 11.cxd4 ♜xe5 12.fxe5 ♖h4+ 13.♖f2 ♗c6 14.♖f3 ♖xf3 15.gxf3 ♜xd4 16.♜xd4 ♜xd4 17.O-O O 18.♖d3 ♗dxe5 19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 20. ♗e2 ♗d7 21.♜d2 ♖f7 22.♖c1 ♜e7 23.♖hg1 g6 24.♖gf1 ♗c6 25.♖c3 e5 26.♖cf3 ♗f5 27.♖g3 ♖b8 28.♖a3 ♜d6 29.h3 e4 30.♖g3 ♜e5 31.h4 ♗d4 32.♗d1 ♗e6 33. ♖a3 a6 34.♖a5 ♖c8 35.b4 ♗d4 36.♖c5 ♖xc5 37.bxc5 ♗e6 38.c6 bxc6 39.♗e2 a5 40.♖c1 c5 41.♖c3 d4 42.♖a3 d3 0-1

Passing of George Kramer

By Joshua Anderson

It is with great sadness that I inform our members of the passing of SM George Kramer. His emails always made me chuckle as his address was gmramer, and he wasn't giving himself a promotion; his middle name was Mortimer. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing George well. I interviewed him for my Byrne book research and would have loved to have interviewed him more, but we never quite managed to hook up.

Kramer started playing primarily in Queen's Chess Club and then went to the Manhattan Chess Club around 1944 when he began playing for the Brooklyn Tech team. That team, led by Robert Byrne, also had Donald on it, and they did pretty well. The competition came from the Bronx Science team, led by Arthur Bisguier and Walter Shipman. While still in school, Kramer won the 1945 New York State Championship by a half point over Robert Byrne. The event was a 10-player round robin, and he beat in the last round. One day, he mentioned this to me over the phone, commenting, "I still remember that one!"

Kramer played in a few U.S. Championships but had such a tough time in 1962 that he didn't play after that. It wasn't the opponents; it was the schedule. He would work as a Ph.D. chemist for Exxon, get off work, rush to New York by train, play the round, run back home, and do it all again the next day!

In 1973, he won his second Manhattan Chess Club Championship (his first was in 1952 with a crushing +11-1=2 result, beating Donald Byrne in the critical game). This championship led to a four-game match with Marshall Champion Sal Matera. The games received much coverage, with at least one appearing in Robert Byrne's New York Times column. People could also follow the match on TV thanks to Shelby Lyman's analysis of the games for PBS.

George continued to play but slowly played less and less. His last event was the 101st US Open in 2000. He finished tied for 19th with the likes of Hikaru Nakamura and had a 6.5 – 2.5 score. Though he didn't play competitive chess in the last two decades, he was an avid painter and continued to play bridge for much of that time.

For two US Chess posts about George, please see George Kramer (1929 – 2024) | US Chess.org and Wednesday Workout: George Kramer (1929-2024) | US Chess.org . One can go to Home – George Kramer (georgekramerphd.com) through the former link for more information about him.

The first game is Kramer's win in a simul over Fine in 1944. It is his first significant victory. The second game is one of his many victories from his performance in the 1950 Dobrovnik Olympiad, where the United States finished fourth (+11=4, but board points determined the winner of the event, not match points, where, with 26, the US would have won gold). Kramer tied for third with a +5=5-2 result.

Submitted by Jim Hollingsworth with credit to George Kramer and US Chess.