

Player Spotlight

Hi, my name is Aarush Vudathu. I live in Downingtown and I am a 7th grader in Lionville Middle School. I have been playing chess for one year and I learned the game from my mom. She played the game as a kid and wanted to teach it to me. When I was six I learned how the pieces move.



After a few years I started playing in tournaments. I started playing in tournaments in Tri-Bridges a year ago and ever since then I never stopped. There are so many friendly faces there that I can always count on. I really want to thank the person who runs this great chess club, Joshua Anderson. He is truly amazing and I want to thank him for running this club for all the kids who love chess just like me. I've gotten so much better at chess but another important thing is that I made so many friends in Tri-Bridges.

I love chess and I recently broke a 1000 in rating. If I could give any advice to players who want to break 1000, it is to never give up, have confidence, and learn from your games. At one point when I started I played many tournaments but I didn't win. I kept on pushing myself until I won my first tournament. That first tournament was so important to me and also gave me a big confidence booster. After that I went into every tournament with a whole new attitude. You always should learn from your games by taking notations so you can check your games afterwards. You should always think, "What mistakes did I make in this game, and what can I do so I don't make this mistake again?"

My most recent tournament helped me break the 1000 barrier. In this tournament I pushed myself to play in a higher open section instead of a U1000 section. Anyone could play in the correct section but you should always push yourself to higher limits. It truly helps and also feels good, especially when you win a game against a player who is maybe 200-300 points higher rated than you. Even if you lose it is fine because you will learn a lot from that game.

Short Book Recommendation

Written by: Riaan

After reading Silman's Complete Endgame Course by International Master Jeremy Silman, I came away with mixed thoughts. As an introductory endgame book, it is excellent, especially for beginners looking to build a solid foundation. Silman organizes the material by USCF rating classes, starting with simple positions such as basic king and pawn endgames, and gradually progressing to more advanced



ideas. The book concludes with a section featuring complete games from top players, which helps connect the concepts to real play. Silman also has an amazing writing style with touches of humor accompanying his 500 pages of chess knowledge.

However, the level-based structure is not always aligned with actual playing strength. I completed the book when I was around 1000 rating, and I found much of it less challenging than expected. Although the book is marketed as a guide to take a player from "beginner to master," it doesn't explore advanced endgames in enough depth to serve as a lifelong reference. Because of that, this wouldn't be my first choice as the only endgame book for someone serious about long-term improvement. For that reason, I would still pair it with another endgame resource as I continued to grow.

Still, for casual players or anyone just starting to study endgames, it is one of the best books available. Despite a few shortcomings, Silman's Complete Endgame Course stays an exceptionally well-written and highly approachable resource, one that every new chess player should begin with, even if they eventually outgrow it.



Level 1 puzzle - White to play and win

Can you solve these puzzles? -

Solutions at the last page



Level 2 puzzle - White to play and mate in 3!

Solution to last issue's puzzles:

Level 1: Be7 Kc8 Qf8 Be8 Qxe8#

Level 2: Bb7 Kc7 Ba6 Kxb8 Kd6 Ka8 Kc7 d6 (or d5) Bb7#

*From the German Book Schachkompositionen