

Florida **CHESS**

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Spring— May 22, 2024



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bryan@floridachess.org

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Gainesville, FL
kevin@floridachess.org

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Merritt Island, FL
Andrew@floridachess.org

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Jacksonville, FL
ray@floridachess.org

Northwest

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Gainesville, FL
kevin@floridachess.org

South

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Boca Raton, FL
jon@floridachess.org

West

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St. Petersburg, FL
gospodinov@floridachess.org

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Mike Moschos(C) [2024]
The Villages, FL
mikem@floridachess.org

George Foote (NE) [2024]
Jacksonville, FL
george@floridachess.org

Nicholas Lewis (C) [2024]
Bradenton, FL
Nicholas@floridachess.org

Anthony Cipollina (NE) [2025]
Port Orange, FL
tony@floridachess.org

USCF DELEGATES

Jon Haskel, Kevin Pryor, Bryan Tillis, George Foote, Garrett Foote, Charles Hatherill, and Andrew Rea.



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FCA Membership Dues

Send to the FCA (c/o Treasurer) or online (Memberships/Join FCA)

Regular	— \$20 (for two years)
Scholastic (under 20)	— \$15 (for two years)
Club Affiliate	— \$30 (for two years)
Family	— \$30 (for two years)
Life	— \$200 (10 times Regular Dues)

Florida Chess Association (FCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Florida. FCA is the official USCF affiliate for the state of Florida. FCA web site — <http://www.floridachess.org>

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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Florida Chess Association, its Board, or anyone else.

Contributors

Timotey Gospodinov, Roberto Pescador, Kevin Pryor, Ray Ratliff, NM Andrew Rea, NM Bryan Tillis, and Otis Wilson.

Chief Editor - George Foote

Games Editor - Miguel Ararat

Book Reviewer - Miguel Ararat

Top Player Lists: Jonathan Cagle and Brooks Chandler

Cover Masthead - Mike Halloran

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“Foote Notes”



Greetings, chess fans!

Our Scholastic State Championship continues to turn out large numbers with this year’s attendance going over 500! Just 2 years ago it was 405, so I’m thinking “we are going to need a bigger boat!” in 2025. Congratulations to all who participated and to Chief TD and this year’s organizer, Kevin Pryor and his team. Once again, Oak

Hall and Gainesville, provided a record number of the top results as the traditional power houses continue to have success. Our coverage starts on page 4.

We have expanded our annotated game coverage in this issue with five games analyzed by our games editor, Miguel Ararat. The coverage includes a game from the Amateur Team South, two from the National Elementary Championship, and two from our State Scholastic Championship. Sharpen your game by studying all five or just skim through and enjoy Miguel’s timely and insightful coverage.

Be sure to read the Regional Reports from our RVP’s. This is coverage at the most local level and a great way to see what’s going on around the state.

Calling all chess enthusiasts! I’m still looking for regular content in the following areas:

Light on the Right— a look at the humorous side of chess. Please send us your stories, cartoons, or even chess jokes in your repertoire.

Brush with Fame— The title says it all, send us your stories or photos of your encounters with players or instructors of note. Current, or from many moons ago.

Collector’s Corner— Have some historic books, chess sets, notation, or other chess ephemera? Share it with us and we will share it with our readers. They’ll love that you did.

And finally, Please send us your tournament and club coverage (photos, games, and stories). We are excited to hear what you and your group have been up to. :)

Until next time, may all your moves be brilliant and well planned!

George Foote
Editor, floridaCHESS Magazine

from the President’s desk

Dear Members and Friends,

I sincerely hope this message finds you and your family well, I have a few updates to share.

FCA Tournaments:

At this point, we as a board have found our rhythm with scheduling upcoming championship events.



The 2024 and 2025 Florida State Championships have been scheduled and will take place in Palm Beach Gardens 24’, and Orlando 25’. We have also found a new site for the 2025 Florida State Scholastic Championships in Kissimmee that will provide a larger space for our ever-growing scholastic community. Planning for the rest of the tournaments (Women & Girls, Senior, and Collegiate) is well in motion and we will have flyers for all of these events by the closing of the State Championship in September.

Florida Chess Hall of Fame:

Recently, our neighbors (Georgia and Alabama) have put in place a Hall of Fame for their states. As President, I strongly feel we should be following suit. If you fancy yourself a Florida Chess historian I strongly encourage you to contact us to offer up names and stories for our inaugural class. The FCA board is in the process of researching, setting criteria, and making selections!

Magazine Contributions:

I would like to take a moment to recognize our editor. George Foote consistently edits and delivers great content for floridaCHESS. He does need a bit of help though... We would love to get the word out about your club and local tournaments. Send us your tournament write-up, your annotated games, your musings, and your stories! We would love to showcase more of our members and clubs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me. I am here to help and serve.

Warm regards,
Bryan Tillis - bryan@floridachess.org
President, Florida Chess Association

2024 FCA Scholastic State Champions

By Roberto Pescador

The second weekend in March (9th-10th) saw over 500 scholastic chess players from around the state descending on the Wyndham Resort in Orlando to compete for the annual Florida Scholastic Chess Championships. This year was a mix of surprises and expected results. Organizer and Chief TD Kevin Pryor, along with Chief Assistant TD Charles Hatherill and the rest of the FCA team ran an exceptionally good tournament that only saw a few minor bumps along the way.



The **K12** Championship Section was hard fought having 13 players rated over 2000! Antony Gospodinov scored 4.5 points to defeat CM Marvin Gao (4.5) on tiebreakers and win the championship and the right to represent Florida in the Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions. Marvin Gao was the 2023 Denker Champion. IM Bach Ngo placed 3rd, Jacorey Bynum 4th place, and Vincent Stone finished 5th.



Three players tied for first place with 4.5 points each in the **K8** Championship Section. FM Brejesh Chakrabarti found himself at the top with 13.5 tiebreaker points to edge out Ubaldo Lopez-Naranjo (12.5 tiebreaker points) and Alvin Alimema (11.5 tiebreaker points). Oscar Williams (4.0 points) drew both Brejesh Chakrabarti and Lopez-Naranjo to place 4th and Santiago Casares

(4.0) placed 5th. FM Brejesh Chakrabarti

Will represent Florida in the 14th Annual Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions in Norfolk Virginia later this summer.

K5 Championship Section had the two highest rated players in the section tie for first place with 4.5 points each. Vivan Mulay and Maxwell Yang drew each other in the fourth round but Mulay managed an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ tiebreaker point to win the championship. Third place was captured by Sophie Li (4.0), Gabriel Johnson Patino Fatz (4.0) placed 4th and Damian Alexander (4.0) secured the 5th spot in the standings. Mulay will represent Florida in The John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions.



Celine Chen enjoyed being the only player in the **K3** Championship Section to win all 5 games and was thus declared the Champion! Celine handed second and third place finishers Yi Sha (4.0) and Zhihan Xu (4.0) their only losses in the tournament. Nicholas Tadros (4.0) placed 4th and Daniel Tal (4.0) earned 5th place.



Undeclared **K1** Champion Suraj Jani checkmated teammate Hayden Webb in the final round to secure his crown. Rajiv Honmurgi placed 2nd with 4.5 points. He had a second round draw vs. Myra Ratliff. Hayden Webb (4.0) placed 3rd overall followed by 4th place finisher Lauren Torres and teammate Gary Fernandes in 5th.

The under section winners were:

K12U1100 1st Grayson Chambers, 2nd Vivek Kolli, 3rd Aaron Starcher

K8U1000 1st Andrew Liu, 2nd Anekan Thyagarajan, 3rd Catherine Jiang

K5U700 1st Panos Kyriakou, 2nd M Trushin-Jimenez, 3rd Daniel Moguillansky

K3U600 1st Shyam Garg, 2nd Riyan Patel, 3rd Joseph Morozov

Gainesville schools again dominated the team aspect of the tournament by sweeping through the Championship Sections and winning 2 of the 4 under sections (losing k8u1000 on tiebreakers). Coach Britt Ryerson's hard work and influence has made a huge impact not only on the Gainesville and Florida chess scene but on the national level as well. Coach Tim Tusing has established a true dynasty at Oak Hall School with 25 National Championship Titles.

The K12 Champion school was Buchholz High School from Gainesville. They scored 14 points to defeat 2nd place team Lake Nona High School (Orlando). The Bobcat players were IM Bach Ngo (4.0) , Abhiram Pothuri and Jolie Huang who each scored 3.5 points, Jerry Yao and Andrew Xing each tallied 3 points. This is the fifth State Championship in the last seven years for Buchholz.

Gainesville’s Abraham Lincoln Middle School won **the K8 Championship** Section for the 3rd year in a row as the only school to field a complete team. Nate Ziegler led the charge with 3.5 points for the Terriers. Brian Bird scored 3 points followed by Coco Yao and Garrett Wu, each scoring 2 points.

Oak Hall School won a Team Championship for the 19th year in a row and 35th overall by sweeping through the elementary school divisions. The Eagles soared to first place scoring 15.5 points in the **K5 Championship Section**, They placed 5 players in the top 11: Sophie Li (3rd place), Damian Alexander (5th), Aakash Jani (6th), Ishir Kumar (10th) and Henry Thomas (11th). Finishing 2nd place was Williams Elementary (also from Gainesville) with 11 points. Leading the Wildcats were Grace Yang (3.5) and Shreyan Mola (3.0)

K3 Championship team Oak Hall Eagles had three top ten finishers with Celine Chen (1st), James McDonald (8th), and Addison Baumstark (10th). Second graders Emma Flores and Leighann Hood completed the team. The Greene School was 5 points out of first place and secured 2nd place with Teddy Soylemez (14th place) and Roman Slifer (16th) scoring 3 points each.

The Eagles **K1 Championship** team completed the trifecta sweep of elementary championship sections by scoring 16 points and placing 4 players in the top 10. Suraj Jani placed 1st with a perfect 5-0 score followed by 3rd place Hayden Webb (4.0), 5th place Gary Fernandes (4.0) and 9th place Milan Agarwal (3.0).

The under section team winners were:

K12U1100: 1st Divine Savior, 2nd Lake Nona, 3rd Belen

K8U100: 1st Miami Country Day, 2nd Oak Hall School, 3rd Divine Savior

K5U700: 1st Oak Hall School, 2nd Lake Highland Prep, 3rd ACAPRLAK

K3U600: 1st Oak Hall School, 2nd Audubon Park School, 3rd ORSCEL





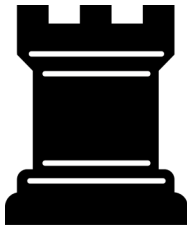
K-1 Championship Section



K-3 Championship Section



K-5 Championship Section



K-8 Championship Section



K-12 Championship Section

K-1 Championship

1. Suraj Jani
2. Rajiv Honmurgi
3. Hayden Webb
4. Lauren Torres
5. Gary Fernandes
6. Myra Ratliff
7. Augusto Tortolero
8. Danny Anjarwalla
9. Milan Agarwal
10. Anton Vassiliev

K-3 Championship

1. Celine Chen
2. Yi Sha
3. Zhihan xu
4. Nicholas Tadros
5. Daniel Tal
6. Yash Ravishankar
7. Jacob Vassiliev
8. James McDonald
9. Tanisha Saha
10. Addison Baumstark

K-3 Under 600

1. Shyam Garg
2. Riyan Patel
3. Joseph Morozov
4. Nikita Mylotsky
5. Aarna Busa
6. Aiden Kropp
7. Stella King
8. Carlo Marquez
9. Sawyer Anderson
10. Ziv Tsai

K-5 Championship

1. Vivan Mulay
2. Maxwell Yang
3. Sophie Li
4. Gabriel Johnson Patino
Fatz
5. Damian Alexander
6. Akash Jani
7. Ryan Ratliff
8. Grace Yang
9. Rui Sha
10. Ishir Kumar

K-5 Under 700

1. Panos Kyriakou
2. M Trushin-Jimenez
3. Daniel Moguillansky
4. Julian Moguillanshy
5. Gracie Tan
6. Sanjoli Ghosh
7. Aadya Laksh
8. Vishaken Thyagarajan
9. Maisie Bleakley
10. David Green

K-8 Championship

1. FM Brejesh Chakrabarti
2. Ubaldo Lopez-Naranjo
3. Alvin Alimema
4. Oscar Williams
5. Santiago Casares
6. Aashish Jagan
7. Aarna Warekar
8. Analaya Muneeppeerakul
9. Om Mishra
10. Aaron Marian

K-8 Under 1000

1. Andrew Liu
2. Anekan Thyagarajan
3. Catherine Jiang
4. Matias Cohen
5. Michael Khasis
6. Lucas Wu
7. Anson Pileggi
8. Kaushik Katta
9. Bentlee Brunelle
10. Ethan Hsu

K-12 Championship

1. Antony Gospodinov
2. CM Marvin Gao
3. IM Bach Ngo
4. Jacorey Bynum
5. Vincent Stone
6. Nicolas Wethington
7. Advait Nair
8. Jacob Sperber
9. Abhiram Pothuri
10. Jolie Huang

K-12 under 1100

1. Grayson Chambers
2. Vivek Kolli
3. Aaron Starcher
4. Nicolas Yap
5. Viraj Honmurgi
6. Bhagyesh Jethwani
7. Caroline Jiang
8. Adam del Busto
9. Jimmy Joseph
10. Taarak Mohan

K-5 Blitz

1. Ryan Ratliff
2. Joseph Toth
3. Jackson Blouet
4. Tanisha Saha
5. Samuel Tardif
6. Arthur Peraud
7. Hrehaan Waghmode
8. Legend Smith
9. Teddy Soylemez
10. Mikh Trushin-Jimenez

K-12 Blitz

1. Vincent Stone
2. Oscar Williams
3. Jose Casares
4. Brejesh Chakrabarti
5. Marvin Gao
6. Sritej Sattaru
7. Antony Gospodinov
8. Arav Patel
9. Diego Jimenez
10. Sebastian Meriad Ceballos

Bughouse

1. Advait Nair—Alejandro Marian
2. Akshat Suresh—Sritej Sattaru
3. Jack Eaton—Luke Wong
4. Diego Jimenez – Jose Casaves
5. Aakash Jani—Sonam Jani
6. Adam Kasymov—Samuel Tardif
7. Aashish Jagan—Hrehaan
Waghmode
8. Grayson Chamber—Bryce Myers
9. Alan Khamzim—Tair Khamzim
10. David Graham—Bryce Myers

2024 Florida Scholastic Championship—Teams



K-1 Championship Teams

1. Oak Hall School
2. Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor
3. Coconut Grove
4. Baldwin Park Elementary



K-3 Championship Teams

1. Oak Hall School
2. The Green School
3. Doral Academy
4. Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor
5. Goldsboro Elementary
6. Sun Lake



K-3 Under 600 Teams

1. Oak Hall School
2. Audubon Park
3. Orlando Science

4. Baldwin Park Elementary
5. The Greene School
6. Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor
7. Baymeadows



K-5 Championship Teams

1. Oak Hall School
2. Williams Elementary
3. Everglades Elementary
4. Pride Elementary
5. Carrollwood Day School
6. Divine Savior School

K-5 Under 700 Teams

1. Oak Hall School
2. Lake Highlands
3. Academy Prep Lakeland
4. Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor
5. Summer Lake
6. One School of the Arts
7. Baldwin Park Elementary



K-8 Championship Teams

1. Abraham Lincoln Middle School
2. The Green School
3. Fruit Cove Middle School
4. BAK Middle School of the Arts
5. Franklin Academy Coop
6. Orlando Science
7. Falcon Cove Middle
8. Oak Hall School
9. Landon College Prep
10. South Creek

K-8 under 1000 Teams

1. Miami Country Day School
2. Oak Hall School
3. Divine Savior Academy
4. Academy Prep Lakeland
5. Ruth K. Broad bay Harbor
6. Audubon Park
7. Franklin Academy Coop.
8. Academy Prep Tampa
9. One School of the Arts
10. Lake Highlands



K-12 Championship Teams

1. Buchholz High School
2. Lake Nona High School
3. Seminole High School
4. Winter Park High School
5. Belen Jesuit Prep
6. A. D. Henderson
7. Miami Country Day School
8. Eastside
9. South Broward
10. Sickles High School

K-12 Under 1100 Teams

1. Divine Savior Academy
2. Lake Nona High School
3. Balen Jesuit Prep
4. Crestview High School
5. MAST @ FIU
6. One School of the Arts
7. A. D. Henderson
8. Winter Park High School
9. Grace Family Home School
10. Niceville

FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS
("Top 100" Current Player Lists)

Ngo, Bach	16	2423
Chakrabarti, Brijesh	14	2344
Gao, Marvin	16	2340
Bynum, Jacorey	16	2246
Hernandez, Ronald	16	2242
Stone, Vincent William	18	2216
Shukla, Aniket	16	2213
Kumar, Naman	17	2205
Ligotti, John Joseph	18	2192
Wu, William	15	2162
Overlingas, Akeras	11	2131
Nair, Advait	15	2121
Fetlyayev, Aleks	17	2119
Gospodinov, Antony	17	2115
Amaya, Brayan Angel	18	2110
Farragut, Cannon	14	2097
Sattaru, Sritej Sai	14	2093
Patel, Arav	15	2082
Marian, Aaron	14	2081
Shen, Jason(Haohan)	17	2070
Mishra, Om	13	2070
Pothuri, Abhiram Sai	14	2068
Guan, Michael Xukun	16	2064
Jiang, Rui	16	2052
Suresh, Akshat	16	2035
Zhou, Jack	16	2026
Yao, Jerry	15	2015
Ziegler, Nate	14	2015
Sperber, Jacob	17	1993
Kurbanov, Abror	18	1987
Kumar, Agrim	15	1983
Mulay, Vivan Prakash	9	1976
Jani, Aakash	9	1968
Sha, Yi	9	1924
Li, Sophie	10	1906
Elvers, Tristan	13	1885
Jagan, Aashish	11	1774
Sha, Rui	10	1767
Ratliff, Ryan	10	1744
Wu, Winston	10	1695
Yang, Grace Siqi	10	1686
Brovman, Daniel	11	1685
Chen, Celine	8	1682
Alexander, Damian	10	1678
Tal, Daniel	9	1554
Saha, Tanisha	9	1518
Tadros, Nicholas	7	1368
Honmurgi, Rajiv Rajkumar	7	1037
Fu, Andy	7	985

GIRLS

Huang, Jolie	14	1932
Wu, Alice	16	1921
Li, Sophie	10	1906
Yerrajennu, Sisira S	16	1844
Chile Paz, Sabrina	16	1701
Yang, Grace Siqi	10	1686
Warekar, Aama Nitin	14	1685
Chen, Celine	8	1682
State Ungureanu, Elena Anastasia	13	1542
Behura, Maya	17	1523
Saha, Tanisha	9	1518
Yisrael, Shalam	18	1511
Semenov, Tiana	16	1503
Neralla, Srikruthi	15	1381
Venkat, Varshini	16	1367
Solik, Alison Frances	18	1336
Ulmer, Annie	13	1296
Donepudi, Veronica	13	1250
Yao, Coco	12	1186
Podiejapolskaia, Violetta	11	1162
Burke, Gia	17	1132
Chakrabarti, Parvati	14	1102
Jani, Meera	11	1085
Atara, Anaya	8	1075
Gibbons, Lyric	9	1050
Jani, Sonam	12	1049
Kumar, Aanya	12	1042
Jiang, Caroline	18	1030
Gruber, Alessandra Delphine	8	950
Lewis, Josephine	8	936
Chittibomma, Hamsini	10	934
Solberg, Myka	8	830
Hood, Leighann	8	803
Flores, Emma Leah	8	781
Ratliff, Myra	7	749
Phillips, Ayuna	7	690
Warekar, Aanvi Nitin	8	690
Kumar, Myra	8	678
Price, Laura Ashley	18	634
Shankar, Nynisha	7	562
Zenn, Alora Bella Nguyen	5	542

More Top Players on Page 10!

OVERALL ACTIVE

GM FABIANO CARUANA	2877
IM ARNALDO JESUS FERNANDEZ DE LA VARA MULET	2531
GM MR. DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2500
WGM IM CARISSA SHIWEN YIP	2498
GM JULIO J BECERRA	2495
FM JORGE LEON OQUENDO	2484
GM CZEBER ATTILA	2484
GM NIKOLA MITKOV	2463
IM MATTHEW J HERMAN	2442
IM NIKHIL KUMAR	2442
ROBERT M PEREZ	2430
IM BACH NGO	2423
IM SAUDIN ROBOVIC	2398
RAGHAV VENKAT	2383
IM AUGUSTO CESAR CAMPOS	2376
IM YUNIER LEYVA RIVERA	2363
IM MLADEN VUCIC	2346
FM BREJESH CHAKRABARTI	2344
LIOR LAPID	2340
CM MARVIN GAO	2340
FM COREY BRYAN ACOR	2313
IM ALEJANDRO MORENO ROMAN	2303
NICOLAS ALEJANDRO DE LA COLINA	2300
GILNER SANTIESTEBAN	2299
WGM YANIRA VIGOA APECHECHE	2297
WFM BAHAR HALLAYEVA	2292
NICKOLAS ARTHUR MOORE	2287
FM DOUG R MCCLINTOCK	2277
TROY E DALY	2276
FM JEAN MARCO CRUZ	2274
THEODORE LUKE SLADE	2265
YAN MIELLIER	2261
FM ARNALDO FERRAGUT	2254
NM BRYAN TILLIS	2250
PEDRO HERNANDEZ-PEREZ	2250
JACOREY BYNUM	2246
FM CESAR VALIDO BOUZA	2245
ROBERT YORISAN RAMIREZ	2243
RONALD HERNANDEZ	2242
FM JONATHAN DAVID SARFATI	2237

Oak Hall Chess Club Strikes Again!

The Oak Hall Chess Club's K-3 team consisting of Aakash Jani, Celine Chen, Addison Baumstark, James McDonald, and Andy Fu dominated the USCF Spring Elementary Chess Championships in Columbus Ohio the weekend of April 26th-28th. The team won the club's 4th national event this school year and 25th overall.

Over the three day event the students played games that had three hour time limits, testing not only their intellectual abilities to solve complicated chess positions but their physical stamina as well. Over 1600 students from across the United States competed in this event.

The Eagles were able to amass 20 total team points with top ten individual finisher Aakash Jani earning 6 points and Celine Chen (10th place) earning 5 points. Addison Baumstark and James McDonald each had 4 1/2 points. Andy Fu joined the team and did well with 2.5.

1. Oak Hall Hall School Gainesville Fl 20.0
2. PS77-Lower Lab, New York, NY 18.5
3. Baker Elementary, Great Neck, NY 17.0
4. Hunter College Campus, New York, NY 17.0
5. PS130 The Parkside School, Brooklyn, NY

Suraj Jani (Kindergarten) placed Top Ten in K-1 by scoring 6 wins in the seven games to finish in 7th place overall!

Meera Jani (5th grade) tied for 15th with 5 wins in the k5 U1200 division.

Kas Baumstark (6th grade) played in the K6 Champion-ship division and won 3 games.



National Elementary Championship— Aakash Jani, Celine Chen, Addison Baumstark, James McDonald, and Andy Fu

Top Players Continued...

SENIORS (65+)

MLADEN VUCIC	68	2346
DOUG R MCCLINTOCK	69	2277
PAUL H FIELDS	66	2264
MIKHAIL ZLOTNIKOV	74	2207
JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES	71	2202
CONSTANTINE XANTHOS	77	2201
A.J. GOLDSBY	66	2201
RASHID ZIATDINOV	65	2200
SUE SAMUELS	65	517
EDNA BOWMAN	73	144

TOP BLITZ

GM Fabiano Caruana	2894
GM Julio Becerra	2569
Alex Barnett	2510
Daniel Fernandez	2500
Corey Acor	2396
Carissa Shiwen Yip	2240
Shama Yisrael	1765

TOP QC

GM Fabiano Caruana	2682
GM Julio Becerra	2520
Renier Gonzalez	2513
Robert M Perez	2349
Alex Barnett	2323
Matthew J Herman	2306
Corey Acor	2286
Shama Yisrael	2041
Sisira S Yerrajennu	1791

WOMEN (CURRENT MEMBERS ACTIVE)

WGM CARISSA SHIWEN YIP	2498
WGM YANIRA VIGOA	
APECHECHE	2297
WFM BAHAR HALLAYEVA	2292
SHAMA YISRAEL	2167
LIKA KOBESHAVIDZE	2166
TIANHAO XUE	2129
WIM KKLARA KOVACS	2119
WFM JESSICA REGAM	2070
MARIA BELEN RIVADENEIRA AYALA	1065

CORRESPONDENCE

KEITH RODRIQUEZ	2365
BORIS RATNER	2282
PAUL B OTT	2205
HUGH WHELAN	2095
MARC SIEGEL	2095
ALLEN WOOLLEN	2054
LINDA DECHAINE	1619

Online Regular

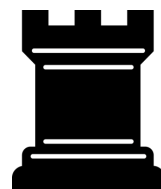
Carissa Shiwen Yip	2460
Satvik Reddy	2365
Naman Kumar	2317
Raghav Venkat	2246
Bach Ngo	2189
Nicolas Alejandro De La Colina	2164

Online Quick

Corey Acor	2305
Dalton Perrine	2223

Online Blitz

Corey Acor	2426
Mark Ritter	2384
Dalton Berrine	2250
Vincent William Stone	2160



U.S. National Team Amateur Championship –South



On February 23 - 25, 2024, The Villages Chess Club hosted the U.S. National Team Amateur Championship - South in The Villages, Florida. A record setting 46 teams participated in the event. The event consisted of 5 rounds over a 2 or 3 day schedule.

The top 10 rated players were: Sharvesh Deviprasath, Jorge Leon Oquendo, Bach Ngo, Saudin Robovic, Raghav Venkat, Andrew Titus, Marvin Gao, Peter Bereolos, Doug McClintock and Theo Slade. There were 11 teams with ratings greater than 2000 with the highest being the Deviprasath Disciples averaging 2186. The team included Sharvesh Deviprasath, Raghav Venkat, Jackie Liu and Aakash Jani. In total 191 players participated in the championship with 48 (25% of the field) of them being rated > 2000, 13 >1900, 19 >1800, 16 >1700, 18 >1600, 12 >1500, 9>1400, 11 >1300, 11>1200, 5 >1100 and the balance of 23 players averaging 957. The field had players from 11 different states. The Villages Chess Club participated with 5 partially/full roster teams and enjoyed sleeping and eating at their own homes. From a collegiate representation, there were teams from Georgia Tech, University of Florida (2 teams) and University of South Florida (2 teams).

The team portion of the tournament ended in a 2-way tie for first place between the Deviprasath's Doomsayers and The Villages A-Team. The tie breaker went to the Deviprasath Doomsayers by a very minimal margin. The winning team included Marvin Gao, Ngo Bach, Aniket Shulka and Quintin Tanksley. What makes this result particularly noteworthy is that high level chess players reach their peak performance in their mid-twenties and begin to experience a decline in their early 40's. The Deviprasath's Doomsayers team was comprised of 4 players under the age of 22 three of which were high level masters. The Villages A-Team consisting of Doug McClintock, Oscar Williams, Alan Schalk, Mike Kind and Heriberto (Eddie) Menendez had an average team age of over 60! This average included 12 year old Oscar Williams from Jupiter, Florida.



From an individual performance, Boards 1, 2, 3 and 4 1st place finishers included Sharvesh Deviprasath, Marvin Gao, Alan Schalk and Aniket Shulka respectively. Second place finishers included Kevin Sevilla, Vincent Stone, Akshat Suresh and Gavin Song. There were 6 players that finished with a perfect 5-0 record including Marvin Gao, Vincent Stone, Oscar Williams, Alan Schalk, Akshat Suresh and Joseph Aming.

Special awards went to Georgia Tech (Best Collegiate Team), The Village Knights, from Tennessee, (Best Senior Team) , Manasota Chess Center (Best Club Team) and the Queens Reign (Best Ladies Team). Teams finishing first in the rating range (1600 - 1899), (1300 - 1599), and U1300 included JAX Chess Academy, University of Florida "B" and the Tactical Team respectively. Individual awards were presented to players who served as alternates during their team's need. The top 3 scoring alternates were Anya Kumar, Ellen Wanek and Eddie Menendez.

This event included the use of 5 DGT Boards, broadcasting and recording the top 5 boards. On Friday evening, a complimentary training session was conducted by Life Master Theo Slade on the subject of calculations. On Saturday, a Scholastic Team event was held in parallel in a separate event room within the same Laurel Manor Facility. Thank you to Coach Kiania Walker for bringing six teams to this event, which had a total of 12 teams in the competition.

For the main event, awards included custom designed chess mats with tournament pieces, customized North American DGT Clocks, and various trophies and plaques. All chess players received an Event Program, along with a USCF chess pin.

Thank you to Charles Hatherill (Chief TD), Kevin Pryor (Chief Assistant TD) and Eddie Menendez (Assistant TD) for their efforts officiating the the U.S. National Team Amateur Championship - South event and keeping the tournament running smoothly.

At the end of the day, this event provided a \$350 gift to the USCF's At-Risk-Youth and Title I schools Program, which can provide young players to compete in local and national chess tournaments. It can include covering the costs of US Chess membership fees, chess equipment, tournament registration fees, chess instruction, as well as the costs to travel to national tournaments. But even more importantly, it can provide an experience that can change lives!



Games From Recent Events by Miguel Ararat



(1) Vivan Prakash, Mulay (1976) - Guo, Ethan (2211) [B55]

U.S. National Elementary School Championship, Columbus, Ohio, US (5.12), 27.04.2024
[Ararat, Miguel]

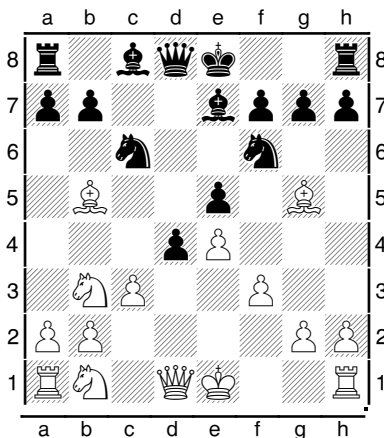
A Key game from round 5 at the US Nationals Elementary last week in OH. Mulay, was the highest Florida player at the K-5 section with 6/7 points and tied for second place. This game illustrates a fine sample of Mulay's play at Nationals, particularly going for the Open Sicilian against master level opposition.]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 e5 [This move prevents white from setting up a Maroczy bind which may lead to long positional games. However, a skilled player can break the Maroczy in less than 35 moves as in the Anand's game below. I think e5 determines the pawn structure early and black choses the type of play.]

[5...Nc6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Be2 d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.0-0 Bf6 15.Bd4 Rb8 16.b3 Be6 17.Qd2 Bxd4+ 18.Qxd4 a5 19.Rfd1 Rb4 20.Qc5 Qb6 21.Qxb6 Rxb6 22.Rac1 Ra8 23.Rd4 Rb4 24.Rcd1 Kf8 25.Kf2 Rxd4 26.Rxd4 Ke7 27.Ra4 Bd7 28.Rd4 Kd6 29.Ke3 Kc5 30.a3 Re8+ 0-1 (30) Rublevsky,S (2676)-Anand,V (2801) Moscow 2007]

6.Nb3 d5 [As usual in the Sicilian, black equalizes as soon as d5 is achieve.]

7.Bg5 d4 8.c3 Nc6 9.Bb5 Be7?! [[#]]



[9...Qb6 This move is more active than Be7 because the pressure on the light square e4. 10.Bxf6 Qxb5 Black dominates the weak light squares and has a significant advantage.]

10.cxd4 exd4 11.Qxd4± [White is a pawn up and Black has a tough road ahead to draw this game.]

11...0-0 [11...Qc7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qe3 Be6± White has an advantage, but it is not large enough to be decisive. It seems that Black's best chances to equalize lie in having the queens on the board.]

12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Nc3 [13.Bxc6 This counter intuitive exchange is the engine recommendation. A human player will be hesitant to surrender the bishop pair to convert a pawn advantage. 13...bxc6]

13...Be6 [13...Nb4 14.0-0 a6 15.Be2 Be6]

14.0-0 h6 15.Be3 Bxb3 Black made an intriguing choice. White evaluates that surrender the bishop pair to break his opponent's queen side pawns is the way to save the game.]

16.axb3 Nd4 17.Bxd4 Rxd4 [This is black idea behind 15...Bxb3 to transition to an endgame with opposite color bishops. An instructive defensive resource to incorporate in our own games.]

18.e5?! [A natural move that allows the black knight to jump to a central square and equalize the game.]

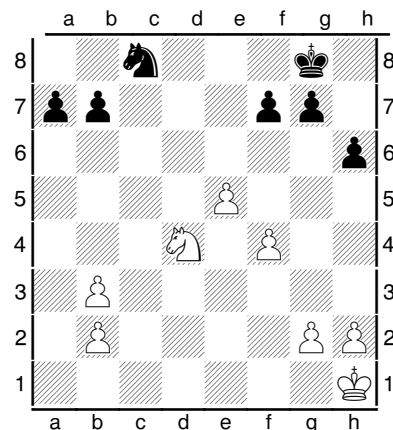
[18.Bc4 Bc5 19.Kh1 a6]

18...Nd5= 19.Rfd1 Bc5 20.Kh1 Ne3 21.Rxd4 Bxd4 22.f4 Rc8 23.Rc1 Nd5 24.Bc4 Ne3 [Black failed to capitalize on the opportunity to reestablish material equality and secure the draw.]

[24...Nxc3 25.bxc3 Be3 26.Rd1 Bxf4 =]

25.Nb5 Nxc4? [Black made a disastrous mistake after missing the chance to equalize.]

26.Nxd4+- Nb6 27.Rxc8+ Nxc8 [[#]] This transition to a pure knight and pawns endgame makes White's extra pawn a decisive advantage.]



28.Kg1 g6 29.Kf2 f6 [Generally speaking, endgames require both players to activate their king as soon as possible. If a king is active, he has the ability to prevent his opponent from advancing through his camp, protect and attack pieces and pawns. Creating a pass pawn to make a new queen is what endgames are all about at a fundamental level. The creation of pass pawns in any endgame requires the mobilization of pawn majorities. In this position the natural move is g4.]

30.Ne6 [Three elements are crucial in endgames. At the top of the priority list, we have the activity of the pieces, followed by the activity of your king,

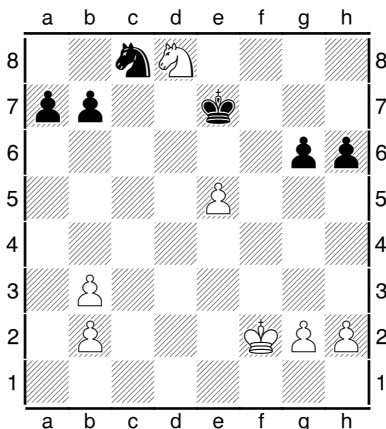
and finally, the pawn structure. The lower-rated player followed this list of endgame priorities in the upcoming steps, while the high-rated player did not.]

[30.g4 fxe5™ 31.fxe5 Kf7 32.Kf3 Ne7 33.Ke4 White has all his forces centralized and ready to escort the pass pawn to the promoting square e8.]

30...fxe5 31.fxe5 Kf7 32.Nd8+?! [An instructive mistake. In endgames, the number of pass pawns is more important than the numbers of total pawns. In other words, play to promote your passed pawns instead of going pawn hunting.]

[32.Nd4 Nb6 33.Kf3 a5 34.Ke4 with a position similar to the alternative variation suggested in move 30.]

32...Ke7³ [#]



33.Nxb7 Ke6 34.Nd8+ Kxe5 35.Ke3 h5? [Black removes the h pawn from the range of the white knight(Nf7–Nxb6). Yet, centralizing his king to go after White's queenside pawns is the way to secure the draw.]

[35...Kd5 36.Nf7 Kc5 37.Nxb6 Kb4=]

36.Nc6+ Kd6 [Black's position is lost according to the engine, but White needs to play accurately to win.]

37.Nb4 g5 38.Kd4 Ne7 39.Nd3 h4 40.Ne5 Ke6 41.Ke4 a6 42.b4 Nd5 [#] White has to make a decision. To play Nd3 and support his pawn or to allow the exchange of a pair of pawns. In many endgames, the

weaker side is eager to exchange as many pawns as possible or activate their pieces and create counterplay to seek salvation. The challenge for the defender is to decide which approach works best, simplification or counterplay. Black should be careful when using the correct method to save the game.]

43.Nf3 [43.Nd3 g4?? This natural advance fails to a well know resource in pawn endgames. The strong side forces the exchange of knights to transition a won pure pawn endgame. (43...Nf6+ 44.Kf3 Kf5 45.Nc5 Ng4 46.h3 Again, white needs to avoid the exchange of pawns. 46...Ne5+) 44.Nf4+ Nxf4 45.Kxf4]

43...g4 [43...Nf6+ 44.Ke3 Kf5 The black king penetrates white position and equalizes. This is a recurring theme in this game, the activation of the knight and the centralization of the king as a maneuver to win or equalize.]

44.Nxb4 Nxb4 45.Nf5 a5 46.Ne3 [46.g3 Nd5 47.Ne3 Nb6 Black sets up a last trap. 48.Kd4 (48.Nxb4? Nc4= Black wins the white pawn on b2 and saves the game.)]

46...g3 47.hxg3 Nc6 48.Nc4 [48.g4 also wins. 48...Kf6 49.Kf4 Nb4 50.g5+]

48...Kf6 49.g4 Kg5 50.b3 Nb4 51.Nxa5 Kxg4 52.Nc4 Kg3 53.Ne3 Na6 54.Kd4 Nb4 55.Kc4 [This game illustrates the practical difficulties in converting an extra pawn in some endgames. The study of the critical positions where both players made mistakes is a good way to improve our endgame technique.]

1-0

(2) Yang,Maxwell (2055) - Rodrigues,Michael (1024) [D32]
Florida Scholastic Championship
Orlando, FL (1), 09.03.2024
[Ararat,Miguel]

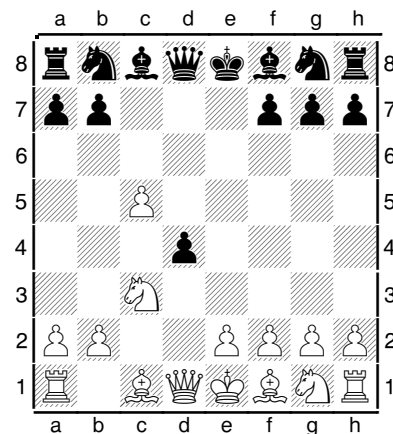
1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 c5 [This game illustrates some key points to players

below 1500 USCF rating. For example, opening preparation and how to react after blundering a pawn in the opening. This game also shows how to convert a minimal advantage with out taking risk.]

4.cxd5 exd5 [4...Nf6 5.dxe6 Bxe6 6.Nf3 This gambit line is actually a transposition from a 1.d4 opening. 6...Nc6 7.e3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 0-1 (80) Pianzola,G (2100)-Peralta,J (2100) Argentina 2003]

5.dxc5 [5.Nf3 Nc6 6.dxc5 d4 7.Na4 Bxc5 8.Nxc5 Qa5+ 9.Bd2 Qxc5 10.b4 1-0 (36) Ding,L (2799)-Bai,J (2593) Hangzhou 2022]

5...Bxc5 [This move blunders a pawn and gives White a comfortable advantage. In the early stages of the game, the Tarrasch defense creates imbalance in the position and allows black players to play with active pieces. However, black players need to know and understand quite a lot of chess, particularly how to play with an isolated queen pawn (IQP). Knowing a few model games and being able to follow the main line are basic requirements for Black in the Tarrasch.]



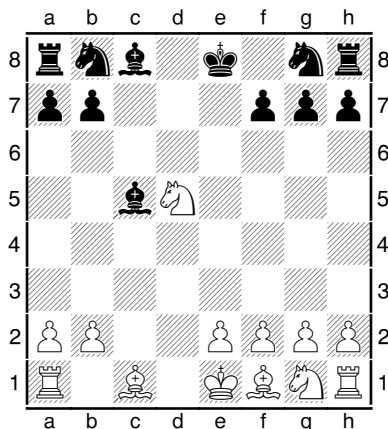
[5...d4 [#] 6.Ne4 Nc6 7.Nf3 Bf5 8.Ng3 Bg4 9.Qc2 Nf6 10.h3 d3 11.Qxd3 Qxd3 12.exd3 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Bxc5= 1-0 (40) Bareev,E (2650)-Lobron,E (2595) Dortmund 1995]

6.Qxd5 Qxd5 [White's material advantage is stabilized by the exchange of queens. To have a chance to fight back, Black must keep

queens on the board. For instance, the variation below highlights the dangers the black queen poses to the white king in this position, especially if White plays natural moves.]

[6...Nd7 7.Qe4+ Ne7 8.Bf4? Qb6=]

7.Nxd5 [[#] White is making threats against Nc7, which appears to be a one-step threat for inexperienced players. Despite this, the knight will be secured by a future e4. Moving the knight twice is not a waste of time and actually fuels white's initiative.]



7...Bd6 8.Bf4 [White's strategy of exchanging pieces to transform his extra pawn continues. In this position, there are other possibilities, such as 8.Nf3. Yang's strategy to convert his material advantage is worth taking note of.]

8...Bxf4 9.Nxf4 Nf6 10.Rc1 [The point behind the exchange of his dark square bishop. The rook can use the square c1 with an attack against the bishop on c8.]

10...Nc6 11.e3 0-0 12.Nf3 Bd7 13.Be2 [13.Bb5 Bg4 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Ne5+]

13...Bg4 14.0-0 Bxf3 [14...Rac8 15.Rfd1 h6 16.h3 Bf5+/- Black still losing but keeping the light square bishop on the board makes Yang's work harder for the point.]

15.Bxf3 Rab8 16.Rfd1 h6 17.b3 Rfd8 18.h3 [White's waits for his opponent to self destruct. White opens a luft for his king to avoid any back rank tactics and ask black to

find an useful move.]

18...Nb4 19.a3 Na2? [Black executes an aggressive move that traps his knight on the board's edge. White's strategy works perfectly.]

20.Rc2 Rbc8 21.Rdd2 Rxc2 22.Rxc2 g5 23.Rxa2 Rd1+ [Finally, Black blunders his rook to Bxd1.]

[23...gxf4 24.exf4 Does not improve Black's chances.]

1-0

(270) Cannon, Farragut (2033) - Shama, Yisrael (2152) [D31]
2024 AMATEUR TEAM SOUTH
Orlando, FL (1), 23.02.2024
[Ararat, Miguel]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 a6 [Black plays the Queen's Gambit Decline, Janowski Variation. This variation becomes very popular at both professionals and amateur ranks thanks to Magnus Carlsen and Bryan Tillis, Chessable course: The Aggressive Queen's Gambit Declined. The move 3...a6 has multiples ideas such as taking on c4 and keeping the pawn and also to encourage White to play the Carlsbad pawn structure after cxd5.]

4.e3 [4.Nf3?! dxc4= Black transposes to a favorable variation of the Queens Gambit Accepted and equalizes. White can not longer play for the typical Queen's Gambit grind and black has satisfactory reply to White's main moves. 5.a4 Nc6 6.e3 Na5 7.Ne5 Nf6 Black gets away with blocking the c pawn in the Queen's Gambit because it defends the pawn on c4 and prepares c7-c5. Chess is a concrete game and the old rules such as " a knight in the rim is grim" have to be use with a critical mind. 8.Bxc4 c5; 4.cxd5 exd5 As pointed out by by Bryan Tillis in his Chessable course The Aggressive Queens Gambit Declined this exchange is the best option for white. 5.Bf4 This position seems solid for white, however, "Black's light square bishop is active, in contrast to other variations of the QGD" this model game, Black's light square bishop helps Inarkiev to trap his opponent's queen. 5...Nf6 6.e3 Bd6 7.Qf3 Be6 8.Bd3 c5 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.dxc5 Qxc5

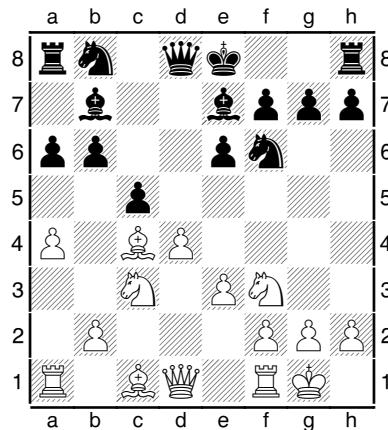
11.Qf4 Nc6 12.Nge2 Rd8 13.Rd1 0-0 14.0-0 Bg4 0-1 (26) Shomoev,A (2571)-Inarkiev,E (2683) Vladivostok 2012]

4...Nf6 5.Nf3 Be7 [5...dxc4 6.a4 Be7 7.Bxc4]

6.Be2 dxc4 7.a4 b6 [7...c5 8.Bxc4 Nc6 9.0-0 cxd4 10.exd4 0-0 with a position similar than in the game, but Black retains the option of developing his light square bishop to d7.]

8.0-0 Bb7 9.Bxc4 [White gets his pawn black, but he is unable to stop Yisrael freeing move c5 and Black get's a comfortable position.]

9...c5 [[#]



10.Qe2 Qc7 11.Rd1 cxd4 [Black transforms the pawn structure into an IQP. Giving Farragut the chance to play with a dynamic position is not a good practical choice because of his tactical skills.]

[11...0-0 12.e4 cxd4 13.Nxd4=]

12.exd4 [In the next move White will position his minor pieces in harmony with his IQP to create a promising set up.]

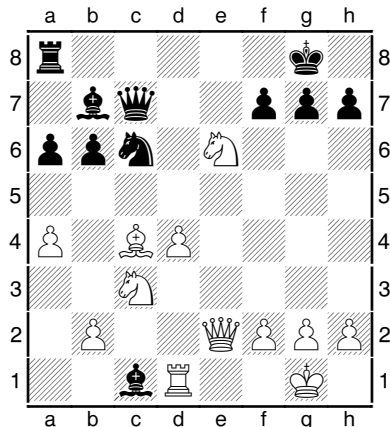
12...0-0 13.Ne5 Nc6 14.Bf4 [The chess engine suggest this move as =. In my experience Bg5 is a better square for the dark square bishop in the IQP structure.]

[14.Bg5 this move gives white better practical chances because stops Bd6 because Bxf6 at the same time that he can play d5 in the next moves and eliminate the IQP no matter what Black plays. 14...Bd6 15.Bxf6+/-]

14...Bd6 15.Rac1 Nd7 This initiates a tactical sequence that favor Farragut]

[15...h6 16.Bg3 Rfd8? This natural move to put pressure on the IQP is actually a blunder since the rook is required on the e file to stop White's thematic d5 pawn push (sub variation) (16...Rfe8 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.d5 exd5) 17.Nxc6 Bxc6 18.d5+--]

16.Nxd7 Bxf4 17.Nxf8 Bxc1 18.Nxe6+ - [[#]]



18...fxe6 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 [White is at a pivotal point. One path leads to a secure and stable advantage with an extra pawn, while the alternative path continues with forcing play.]

20.Nd5!? [20.Rxc1 Nxd4 21.Qf7 Qxf7 22.Bxf7+--]

20...Qd8 21.Rxc1 Nxd4 22.Qe5 Rc8 23.Rc3 [White's bold play has yielded a decisive advantage for him.]

23...b5 24.Rg3?? [A very instructive mistake by White. He leave his bishop in prise and creates a checkmate threat. In theory this is the way to play. Yet, chess is so rich that Black finds a way to defend the matting threat with a fantastic move. The passive 24...Ne6 is enough for equality.]

[24.axb5 Nxb5 25.Rg3+--]

24...Nf5!

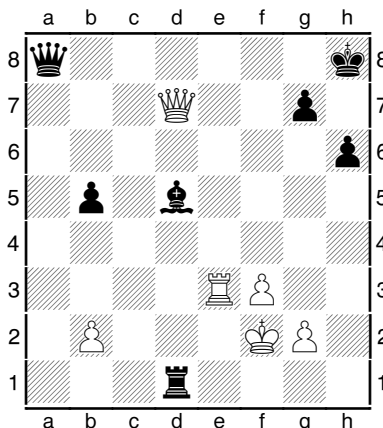
[24...Ne6 25.Qxe6 Rxc4=]

25.Qxf5 Rxc4 [White's back rank is weak and the only way to stop mate is to sacrifice the knight. Black turns the tables on White and now he is winning by a large margin.]

26.h3 [26.Nc3 Rxc3 27.bxc3 Qd1#] 26...Qxd5--+ 27.Qf8+ Qg8 28.Qe7 Bd5 29.axb5 axb5 30.h4 Re4 31.Qg5 [My view is that White plays towards an

endgame with rook versus rook and bishop or queen versus queen and bishop as a last resort to save the game.]

31...h6 32.Qf5 Rxh4 33.Re3 Qa8 34.f3 Rd4 35.Qd7 Rd1+ 36.Kf2 [[#]]



36...Qa1?? [36...Qf8 37.Re8 Bg8 A key discover attack on the white queen. 38.Qxb5 Qf4+--]

37.Re8+- Bg8 [37...Kh7 38.Qf5+ g6 39.Qd7+ Bf7 40.Qxf7#]

38.Qe6 [38.Rxg8+ Kxg8 39.Qe8+ Kh7 40.Qe4+= Perpetual check.]

38...Qa7+ 39.Ke2 Qa1 40.Qxg8#
For the curious reader. A recent 102 move game between NM Nick Moore and Darren Mc Kennis illustrates how to win this type of endgame suppressing counterplay and converting a technically demanding position.

1-0

(4) Jani,Aakash (1968) - Olsson,Jack (1655) [B96]

U.S. National Elementary School Championship, Columbus, Ohio, US (6.22), 28.04.2024 [Ararat,Miguel]

Aakash, From Gainesville tied for second place in the K-3 section along with fellow Florida player Yi Sha. Both Floridian scores 6/7 points.]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 [The Najdorf variation promotes a fierce battle from the start of the game. The Najdorf is a favorite of players with an active style who want a complex battle in highly theoretical grounds. Fischer and Kasparov are names that come to mind when referring to the Najdorf,

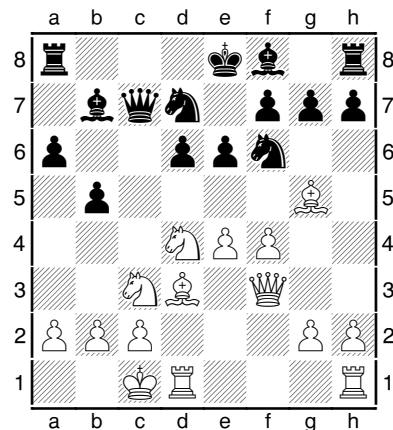
and both players are excellent role models to gain a grasp of the Najdorf with both colors.]

6.Bg5 Nbd7 [6...e6 7.f4 Qb6 The Poison Pawn Variation is also a viable option for black if he is well prepared. 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.f5 Be7 11.fxe6 Bxe6 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Rxb7 Nbd7 14.Bc4 Nc5 15.Rc7 Bd8 16.Bb5+ axb5 17.Nxb5 Ncxe4 0-1 (17) Hrbek,S (2426)-Mishra,A (2627) Prague 2024]

7.f4 [7.Bc4 e6 8.Qe2 b5 9.Bb3 Nc5 10.0-0-0 h6 11.Bh4 Bb7 12.e5 g5 13.Bg3 Nfe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.exd6 Bg7 16.d7+ Kf8 17.Rhe1 Qb6 18.Nxe6+ fxe6 19.Qf3+ Ke7 20.Rxe4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 1-0 (21) Nepomniachtchi,I (2776)-Ding,L (2811) Chess.com INT 2019]

7...Qc7 8.Qf3 e6 [8...b5 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.Bd3 g6 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bg7 13.Nc6 Nf6 14.Rhe1 Bxc6 15.dxc6 d5 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Qxd5 Qxf4+ 18.Kb1 1-0 (34) Jakubowski,K (2473)-Markowski,T (2518) Suwalki 2023]

9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bd3 Bb7 [[#]]



11.Bxf6 [11.Rhe1 This move is also possible here. The computer evaluates this position as equal, but a look at the board confirms it is dynamic equality. 11...Be7 12.Qg3 b4 13.Nd5 exd5 14.exd5 Kd8 15.Nc6+ Bxc6 16.dxc6 Nc5 17.Bc4 Nfe4 0-1 (29) Shirov,A (2699)-Van Wely,L (2674) Foros 2007]

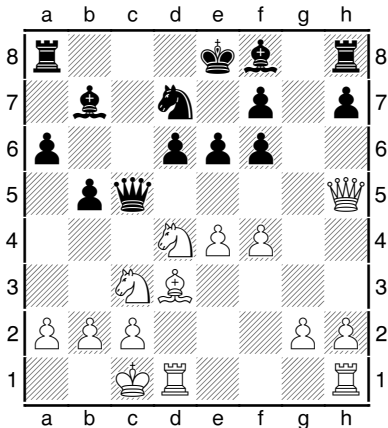
11...gxf6 [Black deviates.]

[11...Nxf6 12.g4 b4,, Black has counterplay.]

12.Qh5 [12.Rhe1 is the main move here, but as the game below illustrates, black has resources to stay

in the fight. 12...Nb6 13.Nd5 exd5 14.exd5+ Kd8 15.Nc6+ Bxc6 16.dxc6 Rc8 17.Be4 f5 0-1 (47) Vachier Lagrave,M (2763)-Aronian,L (2782) chess24.com INT 2021]

12...Qc5 [#] An important move in this position. Black forces White to make a decision to stabilize the position after the queen trade or to sacrifice material and take risk to play for a win.]



13.f5 [13.Be2 Qxh5 14.Bxh5 b4 The exchange of queens alleviates the pressure on the black king. Now the black king is safe in the middle of the board and the bishop pair and d=central control gives Black an edge.]

13...Qxd4 14.fxe6 Qe3+™ [The only move to stay in the game but not too difficult to find.]

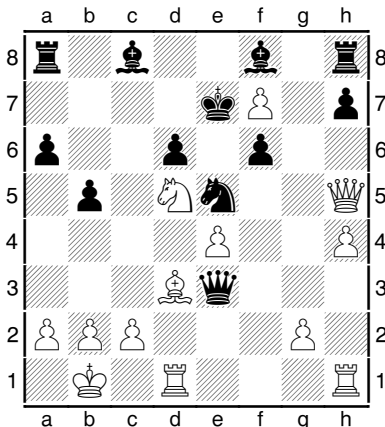
15.Kb1 Ne5 16.exf7+ Ke7 [16...Nxf7 17.Nxb5 axb5 18.Bxb5+]

17.h4 Bc8?? [Black blunders his queen in one move. It is difficult to justify this backward move in a sharp position. White is rewarded for his bold play.]

[17...Qf4 18.Be2 b4 19.Nd5+ Bxd5 20.exd5-+ Assessing the position remains a difficult task. White is a piece down, but the black king is exposed in the middle of the board. It's not easy for Black to stabilize his position while walking on a narrow path. Black has a decisive advantage, but he must find an only move to ensure his material advantage doesn't disappear.

20...a5 To illustrate how difficult this position is. Lets' suppose black launches the thematic pawn storm with 20...a5 and 21... a4 with 22.g3 white equalizes. 21.Rhe1 (21.g3? Qe4!) 21...a4 22.g3]

18.Nd5+ [#] The bishop was defending the d5 square. White forks black's king and queen.]



1-0

(5) Ngo,Bach (2376) - Stone,Vincent W (1982) [A49]

Florida Scholastic Chess Championship, Orlando, FL (6.1), 10.03.2024 [Ararat,Miguel]

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 [2.e4 may transpose to 1.e4 openings like Pirc or Philidor which may be not part of white's repertoire. 2...e5 3.Nf3 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Bf4 0-0 7.Qd2 c6 8.0-0-0 b5 0-1 (41) Dominguez Perez,L (2758)-Carlsen,M (2863) Lichess.org INT 2020]

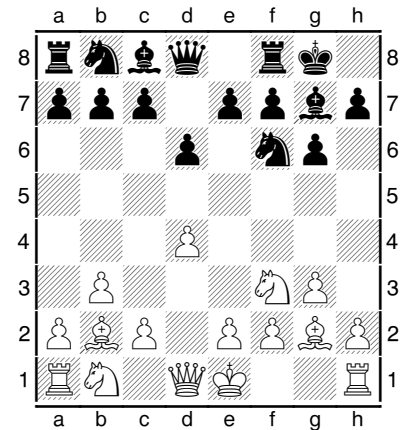
2...Nf6 3.b3 [3.c4 May transpose to a sideline of the Kings Indian defense giving 1...d6 independent value. 3...g6 4.Nc3 Bf5]

3...g6 [The most popular and flexible response. Black can adopt a double fianchetto as in game below or proceed as in the game.]

4.Bb2 Bg7 5.g3 0-0 [5...b5 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.Nbd2 a5 8.c4 bxc4 9.Nxc4 0-0 10.0-0 0-1 (28) Bodi,T (2285)-Van Foreest,J (2693) Ajka 2023]

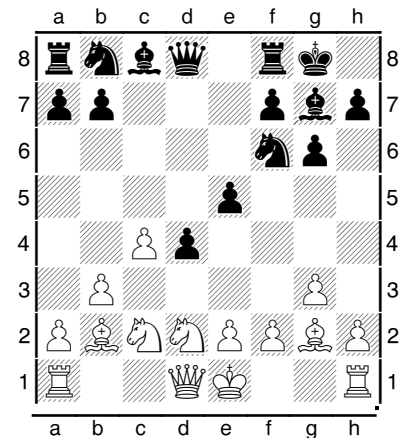
6.Bg2 [#] White gives black the choice to chose the type of pawn structure. This position allow black to

play with different pawn formations such as 6...c5, 6...d5, 6...c6 or the computer top choice 6...a5-a4 to open the a file and exchange rooks. Black's choice comes down to his repertoire or particular plan for this game.]



6...c5 [Black forces White to make a decision about the central pawn structure early in the game.]

7.0-0 [7.dxc5 Qa5+ 8.Qd2 Qxc5 9.0-0 is fine for Black.; 7.d5 b5 8.a4 b4 9.0-0 Black has enough space for his minor pieces and can play for the e6 pawn break with Na6-Nc7.; 7.c4 This is the move suggested by the computer, but under close examination it requires White to sacrifice a pawn to keep the balance with 9.0-0. Otherwise, Black mobilizes his central pawns into White's territory. In consequence, 7.0-0 is a good practical choice that avoid early complications and remains flexible. White wants to out play Black from an equal position. 7...d5 8.Nbd2 cxd4 9.0-0 (9.Nxd4 e5 10.Nc2 d4 [#])]



7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 [The asymmetric pawn structure ensures an engaging middle game for both players, despite the engine's assessment of this position as equal. White can exert pressure on

Black's position by utilizing the semi-open d file and the h1-a8 diagonal. To create active play, Black can utilize his central pawn majority and semi-open C file.]

8...d5 9.c4 dxc4 10.Na3 cxb3 11.Qxb3 [White ended up sacrificing a pawn to speed up his development and create pressure against the b7 pawn with the bishop on g2 and a rook on b1. The position is dynamically equal and in the next few move White will play to increase his dynamic advantage and Black to consolidate his extra pawn.]

11...Nbd7 12.Rfc1 [12.Rfd1 Qa5 13.Nc4 Qh5 14.Qa3 Qc5 15.Rac1± White's forces are fully mobilized and the exchange of queens does not decrease White's piece activity.]

12...Qa5 13.Nc4 Qh5 14.Qa3 Qc5 15.Na5 [15.Rab1 Qxa3 16.Bxa3 Re8 17.Nb5+]

15...Qxa3 16.Bxa3 Ne8 [Black defends the e7 pawn tactically with this discover attack on the knight and rook on the a1-h8 diagonal.]

17.e3 Nd6 18.Rab1 [18.Bxd6 Restores material equality and gives White the better pawn structure. 18...exd6 19.Nxb7 d5]

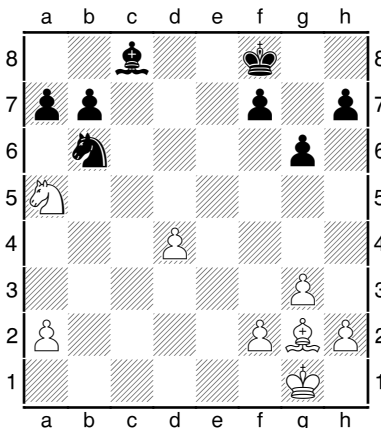
18...Bxd4 [To prevent White from establishing a grip on the position, Black makes a difficult decision and swaps his active bishop. Black has made a high-level positional move.]

19.exd4 Nb6 20.Rc7 Bf5= [Black develops the bishop with tempo on the rook and equalizes the position.]

21.Rbc1 [[#] White avoids the draw by repetition, but allows Black to reduce the material on the board with a series of forced exchanges.]

[21.Rb3 Be6 22.Rb1 Bf5=]

21...Nb5 22.Bxe7 Nxc7 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 24.Rxc7 Rc8 25.Rxc8+ Bxc8 [[#]



26.Nxb7 [An important decision. White retains his advantage with a bishop vs knight or if all minor pieces remain on the board. In contrast,

if the bishops are exchanged black advantage disappear. Why? To my understanding, the presence of the light square bishop helps the IQP to be strong for two reasons. The IQP and the bishop controls all the central squares giving white a superior mobility. The black king can not approach the IQP on the light squares because the bishop defends the weak squares around the central pawn. In consequence, the black king has nothing to attack while the white king can attack the pawn on a7 or penetrate the kingside using the dark squares.]

[26.Bxb7 Bxb7 27.Nxb7=]

26...Be6 27.a3 [White decision to avoid the draw with Rbc1 was justify and now can play to convert his extra pawn.]

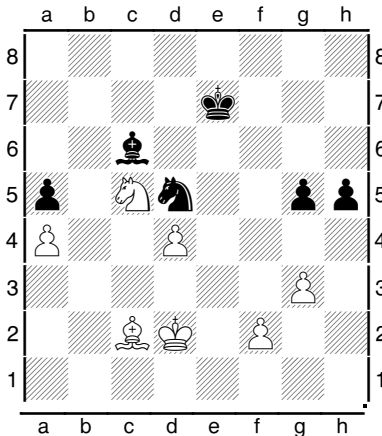
27...Ke7 28.Kf1 Bd7 [28...Nc4 This is suggested a better alternative by the engine but after 32.Ke2 only the computer can defend Black's position. 29.a4 Bd7 30.a5 Bc8 31.a6 Na3 32.Ke2]

29.Nc5 [29.Na5 takes away the c4 square from the black knight and places the knight away from the reach of the black bishop.]

29...Nc4 30.a4 a5 [30...Nb6 31.a5 Nc4 32.Nb7 Bc8 33.a6 Kd7 34.Ke2 Looks good for White as Black stretches his defenses to cover both flanks and stop White's pass pawn.]

31.Bd5 [31.Nxd7 Kxd7 32.Bd5 Nb6 33.Bb3 and White is winning in this bishop vs knight endgame with an extra pawn. Black can play to set up a blockade on d5 but I do not think is enough to save the game.]

31...Nb6 32.Bb3 f6 33.Ke2 Bc6 34.h4 h6 35.Ke3 g5 36.hxg5 fxg5 37.Bc2 Nd5+ 38.Kd2 h5= [[#]



[38...Nf6 39.Bb3 Kd6 40.Ke3 Black successfully set up a blockade on d5 and equalizes. It is worth learning this way of play by Black.]

39.Be4 h4 [Despite being a pawn down, Black plays actively and creates a pass pawn. Endgames are about creating pass pawns and Black plays by the book. Nice defensive play by Stone against a much higher rated opponent.]

40.gxh4 gxh4 41.Nb3 Kd6 42.Nxa5 Bxa4 43.Nc4+ Ke6 44.Bxd5+ Kxd5 45.Nb6+ [White wins a piece but let the h2 pawn promote. it seems that White miscalculated.]

45...Ke4 46.Nxa4 h3 47.Nc5+ Kf3 [47...Kxd4 48.Ne6+ Kc4 White has no more checks and the black pawn promotes. (48...Ke4?? 49.Ng5+) 49.Ke3 h2 50.Nd4 h1Q The tablebase evaluates this position as lost by White https://syzygy-tables.info/?fen=8/8/8/2kN4/4K3/5P2/7q_w_-_0_1]

48.d5 h2 49.d6 h1Q 50.d7 Qh6+ 51.Kc3 Qd6+ 52.Kc4 Kf4? [Black blunders and White saves the game. A very instructive game from beginning to end despite the mistakes from both sides.]

[52...Kxf2?? 53.Ne4+; 52...Qc7 53.Kb3 Kxf2 54.Kc4 Ke2 55.Kd5 Ke3 56.Kc4 Qd6 57.Kb5 Qd5 58.Kb4 Kd2 59.Nb3+ Kd1 60.Nc5 Kc2 61.Kb5 Kc3 62.Ka6 Qc6+ 63.Ka5 Qxc5+]

53.d8Q Qxd8 54.Ne6+ Kf3 55.Nxd8 Kxf2 56.Kd4 Kf3

½-½

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2024 Florida State Scholastic Championship Northeast Region Report

By: NE RVP Ray Ratliff

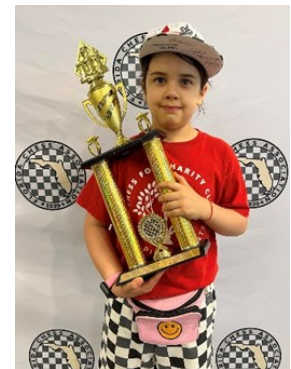
The 2024 FL Sate Scholastic Championship saw more than 500 players travel from all over Florida to Orlando this year to compete. Let's recognize the players that represented the Northeast Florida region. Big thanks to ScholasticChess.org for making a player room available for the third year in a row and sponsoring IM Robovic's attendance. Players were able to relax, hang out and go over games with Coach IM Saudin Robovic between rounds.



IM Saudin Robovic imparting wisdom between rounds



K-5 Blitz Champions



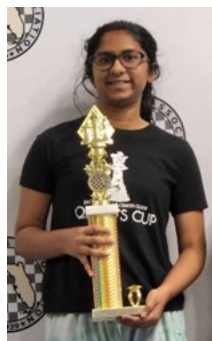
Myra Ratliff



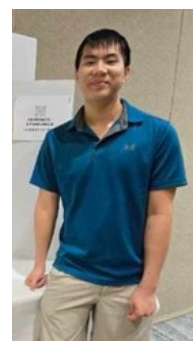
Advait Nair



Nico Wethington



Aarna Warekar



Kyle Kwong



Arav Patel



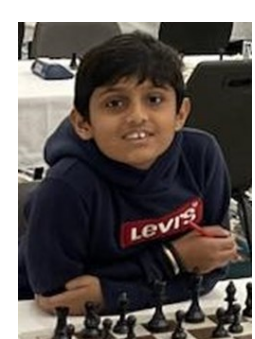
Soham Patel



Brooks Chandler



Anthony Rodriguez



Vivan Jaiswal



Grady Belk



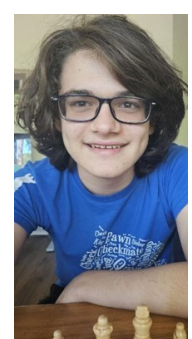
Aanvi Warekar



Michael Rodriguez



Vivek Kolli



Cole Carin

K-1 Championship Section

Myra Ratliff
Florida Unschoolors
T-4th Place

K-3 Championship Section

Artsiom Parkhats
Duval Charter School
T-3rd Place

Aanvi Warekar
Durbin Creel Elementary
T-4th Place

K-3 U600 Section

Joseph Morozov
Homeschool
T-3rd Place

Anthony Rodriguez
Wards Creek Elementary
T-5th Place

K-5 Championship

Ryan Ratliff
Florida Unschoolors
T-3rd Place Championship

Joseph Toth
Timberlin Creek Elementary
T-4th Place Championship

Vivan Jaiswal
Jax Beach Elementary
T-4th Place

Samuel Tardif
Ponte Vedra/Rawlings Elementary
T-5th Place Championship

Vikram Sermadevi
Homeschool
T-6th Place

Michael Rodriguez
Wards Creek Elementary
T-6th Place

Aadarsh Sundarapaddian
Jacksonville Country Day
T-5th Place

K-5 Blitz

1st Ryan Ratliff
2nd Joseph Toth
4th Samuel Tardif
(The Northeast TRIO!)

K-8 Championship Section

Aarna Warekar
Fruit Cove Middle
T-2nd

Soham Patel
Fruit Cove Middle
T-4th Place

Arjun Singh
Julia Landon Middle
T-4th Place

Vincent Hubacheck
Pacetti Bay Middle School
T-4th Place

Bavi Whale
Julia Landon Middle
T-7th Place

K-8 U1000 Section

Thanisha Gopinath
Freedom Crossing Academy
T-4th Place

Nathaniel Munenzon
St. Johns Classical Academy
T-5th Place

Ryan Teng
James Weldon Johnson Middle
T-5th Place

Izy Malate
Gregory Drive Elementary
T-5th Place

K-12 Championship Section

Nicholas Wethington
Homeschool
T-2nd Place

Advait Nair
Nease High School
T-2nd Place

Arav Patel
Creekside High School
T-3rd Place

Anjana Sermadevi
Homeschool

Cole Carin
River City Science Academy
T-5th Place

Brooks Chandler
Wilson Hill Academy
T-5th Place

K-12 U1100 Section

Vivek Kolli
Fruit Cove Middle School
T-1st Place

Christian Catlin
Nease High School
T-3rd Place

Atharv Garg
Jacksonville, FL
T-4th Place

Grady Belk
Homeschool
T-3rd Place

K-12 Blitz

Arav Patel T-3rd



Northwest/Panhandle Regional Report –

By VP Kevin Pryor

The Gainesville Chess Experience (affiliate #A8623149) has only been in existence for about 7 months, but in that time it has had a significant impact on chess life in the area. Nicknamed, GNVChessX, it was started to address the open need for regular rated play with a central community focus. To start, we used the successful Jacksonville Chess Club model of hosting free weekly quick or rapid games and the response has been promising. After 33 straight weeks of events at Perkins Restaurant at I-75 & Newberry Road (next to the Oaks Mall), we are seeing an average of 10 or more players every week with peaks of 18 to 21 on recent nights. As Chief TD, I've been very happy with the quality of play. Of course, everyone knows the GNV has a strong compliment of players at the scholastic level with several nationally ranked chess teams in elementary, middle and high school, but the adults have been relatively "underserved." Most Wednesday Night Rapid G/20 events are 50% adults who now set aside that night of the week to enjoy three rounds of challenging play. Last month, we held our first Saturday tournament (Quad G/40) at Punk Out Games, a local game house and saw over 20 players. We expect to host more Saturday events, but are really excited about the buzz related to start this new work. If you are ever in town on a Wednesday night, come check us out.



Wednesday Night Rapid hits 21 players. Players rated from 600 to 2400 (R).



First Quad event at Punk Outer Games draws 20 players and media coverage.

Central Region Report

By NM Andrew Rea, Central RVP

Per usual, plenty of chess activity, large and small, the past few months in Central Florida! Starting in Orlando, host of 504 players at the 2024 Florida Scholastic Championship! As covered elsewhere- and the following week, March 15-17, also Orlando, the Southern Class Championship, well organized by Continental Chess Association, one of their two annual events in Florida (later in July, also Orlando, the Southern Open). 254 players in 7 sections, plenty of competition! The obvious starting line is the Master Section, which had 3 players tying for first at 4.0/5. Excellently played by visiting GM Sergei Matsenko, very consistent with W-D-W-D-W! Not alone as NM (?FM) Ethan Sheehan came south from Georgia to also score 4.0, to include a clutch win in the final round. His excellence was matched by our one FL player in this 3-way tie, NM (?FM) Brijesh Chakrabarti, also scoring 4.0/5! A very tough crowd- in Round 4, NM Lior Lapid scored an upset win vs GM V. Georgiev, winning a challenging Q+P ending... the reward was facing GM Matsenko, landing in a difficult Q+P ending and getting outplayed in said endgame, ouch!

Elsewhere in the other sections- EXPERT/ Aniket Shukla draws first round, then four wins- alone in 1st, and makes Master, congratulations! Om Mishra also played well, alone at 4.0. Class A featured 2 at 4.0/5, Sophie Li and Ayush Roy. Florida players are holding their own in this tough tournament! Class B had 3 players at 4.0- Benjamin Sisler (FL), Parker Bennett (OH), and Anushka Ayyappan (NJ). One element that seems clear from results and my own observation as one of the TDs at this event was there were not many quiet draws. (Not to be confused with zero..)

Class C saw a successful version of the Swiss Gambit by Ethan Boley (IL) as he drew Rd1, then won 4 in a row to finish alone at 4.5; chased hard at 4.0 by Joshua Ramsey (FL) and Philip Schiff (NE). Joshua gains 146 rating points! Not shabby by Philip either, gaining 92 points! Class D is also a solo effort for first- well played by Harold Gonzalez (FL) at 4.5, and a healthy gain of 96 points... Piker! OK, Ved Patel (FL) tied for 2nd with another FL player, Luis Salazar-Ortiz and Kyle Snyder (OH) at 4.0, but it was Ved with an enormous haul of 368 rating points! Finally, Class E, we see again Ohio also came to play, Benjamin Forbes the only player to score 5.0 in the tournament, well done!

There is a reason that Orlando continues to draw players- there continues to be a strong local chess core. The Central Florida Chess Club continues to host several events, with one large one coming up in mid June, the Summer Open! However, it is not just CFCC doing all the chess lifting- there is also the Orlando Chess Club, meeting Saturday afternoons; O-Town Chess meets late Monday afternoons. Tuesday has chess players at Deadwoods Brewery; Wednesday has the West Osceola Library hosting the Orlando Chess Association. To complete a week of chess in Orlando, for those inclined, Thursday at Valencia Chess Club/ Winter Park Campus, and Friday evenings, the University of Central Florida Chess Club at the UCF Student Union, As with many other chess endeavors, Google is great for further research and information!

Speaking of online research, not everyone has time for multi-day weekend tournaments, US Chess is very helpful- get to their website, get to the Tournaments/Play area, list a date, your location, and then a radius- say, 50 miles. You can find many smaller tournaments, to include several 1-day events. Not every organizer has time for a full weekend tournament, time is valuable for all! A recent 1-day tournament I played in was the Brevard County Championship, April in Rockledge. My score was better than my play, but I was glad to pull out a win in a time scramble in the last round and land first place. This event was hosted by the Space Coast Chess Foundation, well renowned for the annual Space Coast Open, but they have also held many one day events, open and scholastic! And, just as Orlando has had weekday events with various groups, this can also be observed in Melbourne, Cocoa Beach, West Melbourne. Volusia County is not dormant, especially Daytona each. And, as can be gleaned from my colleague Mike Moschos, the western part of Central Florida, whether The Villages, Orange County, there is plenty of chess for those looking. Many thanks to our players, directors, and organizers!



Southern Regional Report

By Otis Wilson

South Florida remains a hotspot for chess as it's home to a variety of tournaments, clubs and meetups. Boasting long running classic weekend events such as the Turkey Bowl held by the prestigious Boca Chess Club and Jon Haskel. I'm also excited to announce the return of the Summer Solstice this year, we've missed it! If you're looking to fuel your competitive side, South Florida should be on your chess tour.

The Boca Chess Club has long been the standard for chess in this area and still boasts the most attended and well run events. It's run by its founder Jon Haskel, one of the most accomplished chess organizers and TD in the United States. Along with the above mentioned major weekend tournaments, the Boca Chess Club hosts scholastic events of which the most notable is the South Florida Grand Prix where some 200 children participate. The Boca Chess Club is the Gold standard for chess in South Florida and is a must if you're ever in the area! You can find details about their events as well as information about other local chess events at www.bocachess.com.

I'll let Diego Milla speak for the South Miami Chess Club: Welcome to the South Miami Chess Club, where passion for chess meets community spirit! Located in the heart of Miami, we offer a vibrant space for chess enthusiasts of all levels. Join us for our monthly tournaments at Evelyn Greer Park, sharpen your skills at our weekly meetups at Shenandoah Library and Virrick Park Library, or take your game to the next level with private lessons from experienced instructors. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, the South Miami Chess Club is the perfect place to connect, compete, and grow. For more information, visit our website at [www.southmiamichessclub.com](<http://www.southmiamichessclub.com>). Come and be part of our chess family!

The Knights of South Florida located in Delray Beach, plays a USCF rated game every Wednesday except the second Wednesday of each month that starts at 6:30pm with a time control of G65;d5 and is four rounds long. This monthly tournament has two sections: Open and U1600. For more details please contact Preston Williams at 561-853-5713.

Palm Beach Chess is one of the most active clubs in the area and is bringing back the state championship to South Florida in September! Palm Beach Chess offers top-tier chess instruction for individuals and schools and has the most consistent chess club in the area that meets weekly on Tuesday evenings. More information and a full tournament calendar for South Florida can be found on palmbeachchess.com

The Miramar Chess Club is one of our newest clubs in the area, but already has grown to be among the largest and well attended clubs in all of South Florida! Whatever you fancy in chess, chances are the Miramar Chess Club has something for you. They have meetups on Wednesday and Thursday evenings as well as Saturdays. They have casual play, players willing to teach beginners, online tournaments, online classes, USCF rated events and more. They also have a great chess community and Whatsapp group chat where members are informed about all that the club is up to. Of all the places I've been to locally, they have the most welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Big shout out to the guys who run this club: Pedro Salas, Roberto Montanez, Rafael Rosado and Gilbert Chediak. Checkout their website for more info at www.miramarchessclub.org.

Most South Florida USCF rated events are listed on www.chessregister.com so please check it out for local events. You can also find more information about the clubs I've listed above as well as others I didn't get to mention at www.954chess.com.

Upcoming Tournaments:

5/18 - [SOUTH FLORIDA GRAND PRIX](#) - COOPER CITY

5/31-6/2 - [11TH SUMMER SOLSTICE OPEN](#) - BOCA RATON

7/15-7/20 - [PAN-AMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS XXXIV](#) - ORLANDO

8/31-9/2 - [FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP](#) - PALM BEACH GARDENS

10/4-10/6 - GULF COAST OCTOBER OPEN - FORT MYERS/ESTERO

11/15-11/17 - 22ND ANNUAL TURKEY BOWL - BOCA RATON

5/9-11/2025 - SUPERNATIONALS VIII - ORLANDO

West Regional Report

By Timotey Gospodinov, West RVP

Chess, Chess, Chess

In this article, I want to talk about two Florida State Championships and a new event that is being hosted at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club.

Seven members of the club participated in the Florida State Scholastic Championship in March, and five of them finished among the top 10 players in their section. The new Florida State K-12 Scholastic Champion is Antony Gospodinov. He will represent Florida at the National Tournament of State Champions at the upcoming U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia. The youngest member of the club, Lauren Torres, tied for 3rd place at K1. That was her second tournament, and she did fantastically. We also had two people tie for 9th place and one for 10th place. Here, I want one more time to congratulate all the players from the Saint Petersburg Chess Club.

The second tournament I want to talk about is the Florida State Senior Championship. This was a historical tournament because it was the first two-day tournament held at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. Usually, we run one-day tournaments here almost every Saturday. At this tournament, all participants were over 50 years old, and we had players from all around Florida. We all had a great time. After the 5th round, 4 players tied for 1st place with 4 points. By tiebreak, the new Florida State Senior Champion for 2024 is IM Julio Morella. He will represent Florida in the Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions. Good luck to him!

And the last thing I want to mention is a fantastic new event that has been added to the Saint Petersburg Chess Club. The club has hosted Chess Jeopardy twice already—a jeopardy contest about the history of chess. It is a unique and fun event that is different from typical chess tournaments, and it has been gaining a lot of support in the club. I want to congratulate the two-time winner of Chess Jeopardy, Juan Leon.



Books Reviews— Summer Reading List

by Miguel Ararat



In this issue of FloridaChess, I will compile a list of the best chess resources to improve our chess this summer 2024. **Winning Chess Middlegames Vol 2: An Essential Guide to 1.e4 Pawn Structures** by FST Ivan Sokolov, **1001 Deadly Chess Puzzles** by James Rizzitano, **400 Strategic Puzzles** by GM Martyn Kravtsov, **Rock Solid Chess Volume 2** by Sergei Tiviakov and Yulia Gokbulut, **Dream Moves** by Ukrainian trainer Miron Sher, and **Life at Play a Chess Memoir** by Lubomir Kavalek.

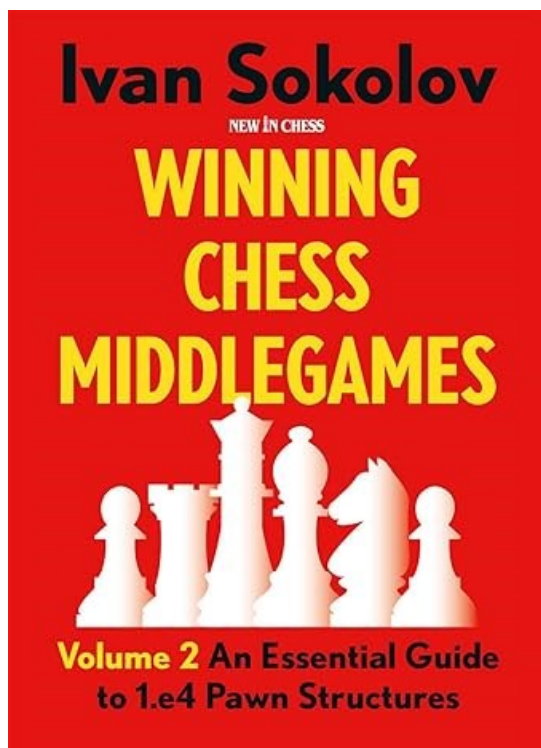
Winning Chess Middlegames Vol 2: An Essential Guide to 1.e4 Pawn Structures by FST Ivan Sokolov

As chess players move up in the rating ladder, they change their approach to studying openings. One set of players decide to play sidelines and avoid theory at all cost. In contrast, a group of players decided to play mainlines and follow the latest theory. Lastly, there is a group of players who construct their repertoires around a particular pawn structure, regardless of whether the opening that originates the preferred pawn structure is trendy or not.

If you are playing 1.e4 or want to improve your understanding of the pawn structures in the list below,

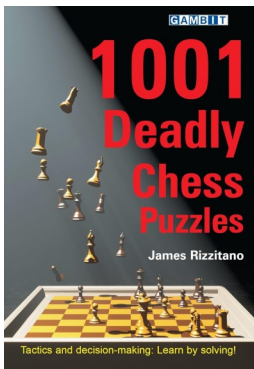
- Rauzer Sicilian with double f pawns.
- The Maroczy bind.
- The Hedgehog.
- The Sveshnikov.
- The French Winawer.
- The Italian.
- Petroff.
- The Ruy Lopez.

Then, **Winning Chess Middlegames Vol 2: An Essential Guide to 1.e4 Pawn Structures** by FST Ivan Sokolov is the book to read.



I won't refer to **Winning Chess Middlegames Vol 2** as the starting point for your learning process on the structures mentioned above. In my view, Sokolov's work focus on the most recent discoveries and approaches to successfully play a key number of pawn structures. For instance, the presentation of the Hedgehog. The author expands on the usual, Black will play with less space and wait for the chance to uncoil his position with a timely, b5 or d5. Although Sokolov presents in brief the basic plans to approach this structure, the author elaborates more on advanced material. For instance, the author explains how the Hedgehog originated from a Sicilian Taimanov is better for black compared to the same structure arising from the Sicilian Kan. Furthermore, the author directs the reader to conduct their own research. After 13.g4, on page 97, there is a good chance for the reader to really understand and expand opening theory.

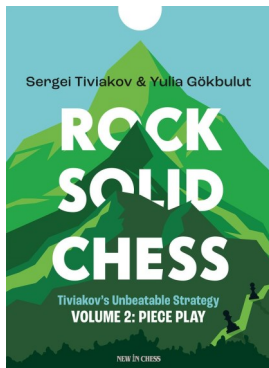
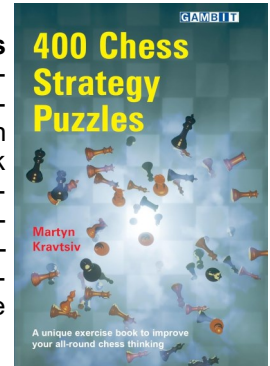
The book's content is important to me, but I appreciate Sokolov's way of adding value to his work by providing readers with positions to enhance their overall chess skills. In game 20, Hubner-Ligterink, 1984, the knight sacrifice on Nd5 to dominate the position is an uncommon major league sacrifice that is rarely explained or found in books on tactics. Furthermore, after pondering on Nd5, the reader have a good sense of how the understanding of a particular structure and the pieces opens doors to beautiful positional sacrifices. Hubner's game made an impact on me. I explored the game further with the assistance of chess engine, Stockfish 16. Stockfish suggests 29.Ng3 followed by a pawn sacrifice that activates the white pieces. This type of "food for thought" pepper all over **Winning Chess Middlegames Vol 2** add great value to the reader beside deep study of a selected group of pawn structures. Warmly recommended.



1001 Deadly Chess Puzzles by James Rizzitano is a book on tactics that will improve your positional evaluation as well. The goal of the author is to provide the reader with quality material to solve under tournament like conditions. To achieve this goal, the author intersperses sections without any hints with puzzles, where the main clue is the title of the section. As an example, there is a section called 'Forks and Loose Pieces'. By using this format, players' ability to solve challenging positions can be improved while also allowing advanced players to warm up before working on significantly challenging puzzles.

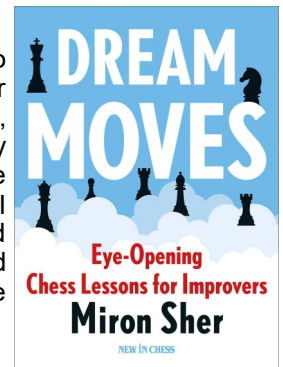
The literature on improving chess is enriched with **400 Strategic Puzzles** by GM Martyn Kravtsov and Graham Burgess . This book is geared towards club players and those who want to improve their positional evaluation. The dedicated student will complete **400 Strategic Puzzles** between 34 to 67 hours of focused work give and take.. The main value of this book

is how the material is put in context with the way skilled trainers understand strategy. For instance, the first chapter on Pawns and structure starts with “The evaluation of this position hinges critically on who is on the move, and whether they make full use of this privilege”. This statement connects time with structure, a factor that is usually overlook by previous authors. This critical connection between time and structure is further developed by Tiviakov and Gokbulut in the next review **Rock Solid Chess Volume 2**.

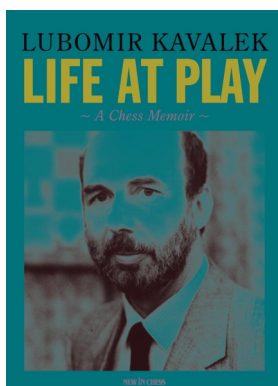


Rock Solid Chess Volume 2 by Sergei Tiviakov and Yulia Gokbulut is the follow up to their previous work on the same title on pawn structures. In the second volume the authors focus on piece play. The authors go to great lengths to link volume 1 with volume 2 with an exceptional discussion on chapter 1 and 2. Chapter one is on the effect of who is on the move on a particular structure while chapter 2 is on the relative value of tempi on a given position. Both topics are investigated to this level for the first time. This two chapters are a huge help for intermediate players to connect time with positional elements and move to higher levels of chess skill. The core of the book is composed of traditional topics such as bishop pair in the light of the authors examples and practical experience. The book ends with a novel chapter on practical play that prepares the stage for Volume 3 of this series on you guessed, practical play.

Dream Moves by Ukrainian trainer Miron Sher is a book that illustrates some of his methods to help chess players to improve quickly. Sher's work combines tactical and strategic elements. For example, in- between moves, unprotected pieces, pawn structure, the open file and of course, the dream move technique to find candidates moves. The discussion about open files as key elements of rapid chess improvement is a pleasant surprise for me. In 2022, I was invited by the Jacksonville Chess Club in Florida to train their advanced players for a period of eight sessions. I made open files the core of the course to maximize the return on investment for the players, and it has been a success. I consider **Dream Moves** to be a great book for coaches. The quality and tested positions offered by Sher can serve as a resource for the reader to build an effective chess training program to improve his tactics.



Lubomir Kavalek's life at play: A Chess Memoir is a wonderful piece of writing that shows his influence as a chess player, author, and coach. Kavalek's birthplace was Czechoslovakia and after immigrating to the US, he continued his evolution as a player, writer, and eventually as a trainer of World Chess Candidates such as Bobby Fischer in 1972 and Nigel Short in 1993. Kavalek's writing takes the reader to different dimensions of his life as both a regular human being and a chess player. Anyone can identify with Kavalek's struggle to support his family and make the difficult decision between pursuing chess and working, just like anybody else. In the chess dimension, the author portrays a passionate youngster who wanted to master the game, studied hard, and followed the latest theory. This portion of the book is quite energizing. Despite having limited chess resources, Kavalek opted to play for the poison pawn variation in the Sicilian Najdorf as Black and played some beautiful games. As he continues his evolution as a professional chess player, Kavalek has also become an influential figure in chess outside the chess board as a writer and trainer/second. Along with the wonderful story, the reader is given a sample of Kavalek's games. Although Kavalek did not win every game in this selection, like game 12 Velimirovic – Kavalek, Belgrade 1965, all of the games are stunning examples of chess art. This book is a must read.



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CHESS CALENDAR

Upcoming Florida Chess Tournaments

Date	Event	Location	Contact
5/31-6/2	11th Summer Solstice	Boca Raton, FL	BRCC
6/14-16	2024 Sunshine Open & Scholastic	Orlando, FL	CFCC
7/11-14	US National Jr. Chess Congress	Orlando FL	HCA
8/31-9/2	Harvey Lerman State Championship	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	PBC

*Additional Tournament info at FloridaChess.org and ChessRegister.com

FCA Florida 2024 Affiliates

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Magazine due dates: Spring April 30 - Summer - July 30, Fall - October 30, Winter - January 30

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2024 US National Junior Chess Congress

July 11-July 14, 2024

(An Official USCF National Championship!)

Location: Renaissance Orlando at Sea World Hotel

Tournaments for all skill levels are scheduled.

All Tournament Information, Details, & Registration @

www.hanleychessacademy.com/2024NJCC.html

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Details at ChessRegister.com

