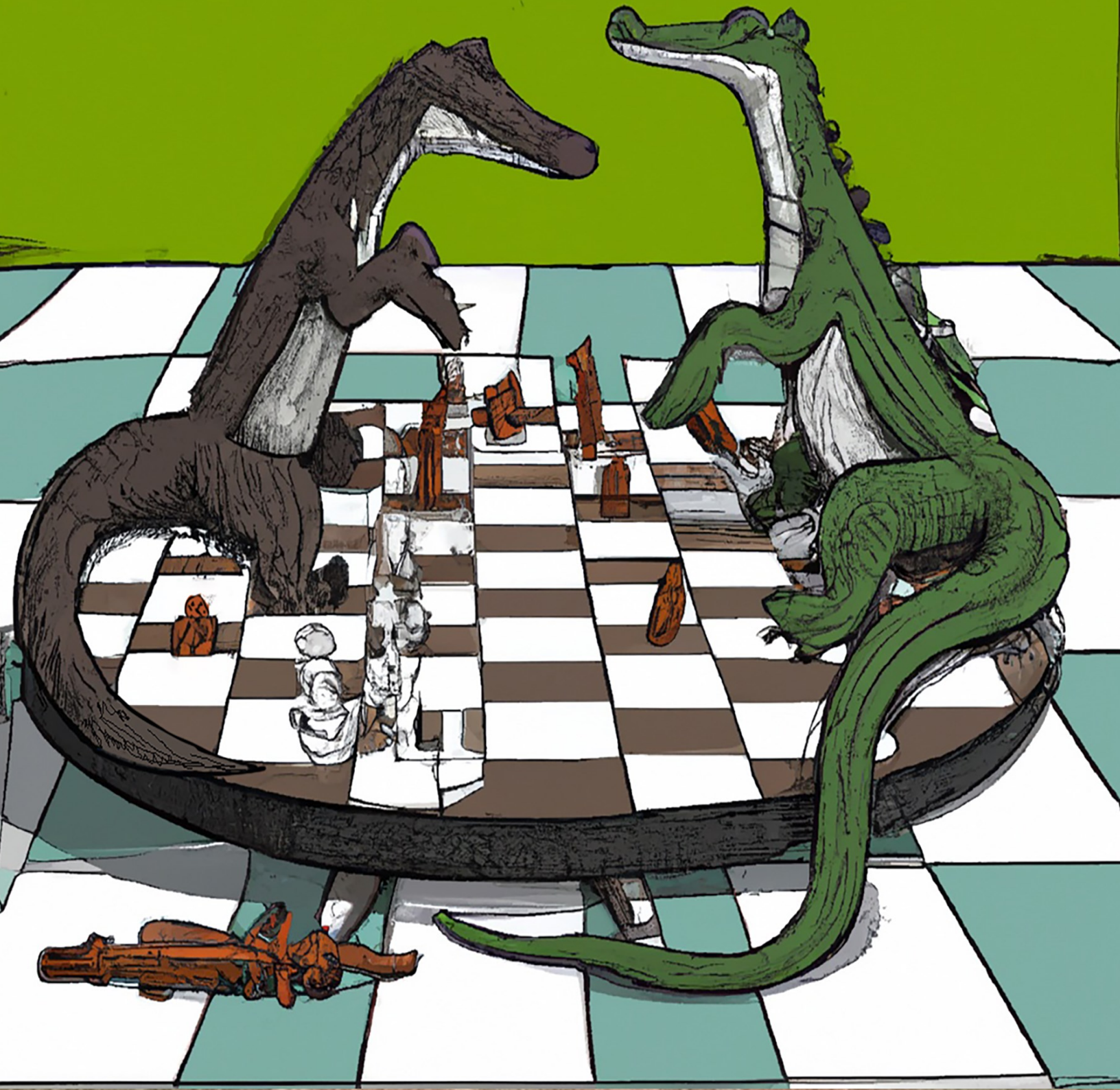


Florida **CHESS**

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FCA Membership Dues

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

Regular	— \$20 (for two years)
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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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Editor Speaks

My Sojourn at the US Open of Chess in Grand Rapids, Michigan

In the heart of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the world of chess converged for the prestigious US Open of Chess, an event that would etch unforgettable memories in the minds of players and enthusiasts alike. For me, this was not just a chess tournament; it was an extraordinary journey where strategic minds and camaraderie intertwined against the backdrop of intense battles on the chessboard.

Representing Florida as a delegate in the Annual Meeting, I found myself immersed in a whirlwind of intellectual fervor and community spirit (and if I'm honest in my reporting, a good deal of parliamentary jousting). Guiding me through the intricacies of the event was NM Bryan Tillis, President of the Florida Chess Association (FCA).

As the games unfolded, I enjoyed encounters with some of the luminaries of the chess world. Tim Just, the Chief Editor of the Rules of Chess, shared his humble insights with me.. An encounter with James Eade, the author of "Chess for Dummies," happened by chance as I was crossing the road heading to lunch. I also spent time with and gained insight from Dewan Barber. Fun Fong, former Executive Board member and leader in the Georgia Chess Community, introduced me to his delegation and discussed how our two states might help each other in chess dealings (I may have uttered a hardy Go Gators!)



Your Editor with
Rules of Chess Chief Editor, Tim Just

The experience was not confined to the chess arena alone. Grand Rapids opened its arms with delectable local cuisine that tantalized the taste buds and offered a glimpse into the city's vibrant culture. And amidst the intensity of matches & meetings, time was carved out to explore the treasures of the Ford Presidential Museum – a reminder of the legacy and impact of leadership, resonating even within the world of chess.

As the final moves were made and champions emerged, the US Open of Chess in Grand Rapids drew to a close. Yet, its resonance lingers on in the friendships kindled, the strategies exchanged, and the profound realization that chess is not just a game; it's a conduit for connecting diverse minds.

George Foote
Editor, floridaCHESS Magazine

from the President's desk

Dear Florida Chess Players,

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to take a moment to celebrate the success of our Florida Champions, provide a friendly reminder of the ongoing election, and to offer the opportunity for members to get more involved in the Florida Chess Community.



How our champions

finished: Denker

Tournament of High School
Champions - Nicolas A De La Colina 9th place

Barber Tournament of Middle School Champions -
Advait Nair 15th place

Haring Tournament of Girls Champions -
Zoe Zelner 11th place

Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary Champions -
Riyaan Datta 14th place

Irwin Tournament of Senior Champions -
FM Javier Antonio Torres 8th place

Overall, we won the U2100 prize for the tournament of champions combined score, and we were a few points shy of taking top honors overall. Thank you to all who made the trip and represented our state well!

Upcoming Election: Your Voice Matters! We encourage all eligible members to participate in the election. By casting your vote, you contribute to the collective decision-making process and help elect individuals who are passionate about advancing Florida chess. The electronic ballot was sent out on August 15th to all eligible voters of the FCA by email and the voting window will close on August 21st. We will present the election results at the 2023 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship in Jacksonville Labor Day weekend. If you have any questions about the election process please email elections@floridachess.org

Your Ideas and Input Matter! We value your input and ideas. If you have suggestions, feedback, or proposals that you believe can contribute to the growth and betterment of our chess community, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we can make a difference and further elevate the status of chess in Florida.

Thank you for being a valued member of the Florida Chess community.

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

The Battle of Minds: A Recap of the MCC Summer Rapid '23

By Roberto M.



Chess tournaments are thrilling events that bring together some of the most talented minds in the game. In this post, we delve into the recent **MCC Summer Rapid '23 Chess Tournament**, a highly anticipated tournament. Join us as we explore the tournament's highlights, key moments, and impressive performances that unfolded on the chessboard.

The MCC Summer Rapid '23 was hosted by the city of Miramar and Mayor Messam. It was a Swiss-style 5-round tournament. The time control was 20 minutes with a 5-second delay (G/20;d5) for each player. The tournament was held in the Sunset Lake Community Center in Miramar, Florida. This tournament was a great opportunity for all players to showcase their skills in the Miramar Chess Community.

The tournament also provided an opportunity for new players to attend their 1st tournament. Some traveled from Florida's west coast to attend, however, most were from the South Florida area. A total of fifty players attended. This was a family friendly event with players between the ages of 10 to 60+ years old. The event was also open to the community to spectate. Many visitors showed up to see what a chess tournament looked like, learn about the club and obtain information about the next tournament.

The sold-out event was buzzing from the start. The tournament began with the opening ceremony which covered the majority of the key topics such as reminders of the rules and facility logistics. The cash prizes were announced for each section. The Miramar Chess Club and with the generosity of Chessable.com raffled five \$50 vouchers towards a chess course. MCC-branded merchandise was also raffled.

In board #1 was **Johnathan Miniello (1877)** playing White versus **Stephen Herreros (1395)**. In Board #2, **Manuel Franco (1678)** played as White versus **Richard Sztainbaum (1817)**. The affair in board #1 was settled with Johnathan Miniello claiming victory by resignation, earning him his fourth point.

Now, everything was down to board #2. The question was, will a winner in board #2 produce a tie for first place? As the game went on, the crowd gathered to witness both players in a battle of the minds. Each move was as decisive as the outcome of the tournament. Ultimately, both players ended in a position that would yield no winner. Therefore, they agreed to a draw. Each earned half a point, granting Johnathan the 1st place win.

By delving into the tournament's details, analyzing key games, and gaining insights from top players, chess enthusiasts can deepen their understanding and appreciation for the intricacies of the game. The MCC Summer Rapid '23 Chess Tournament serves as a reminder that chess is not just a battle on the board but also a journey of self-improvement and intellectual growth.

U-1900 Winners



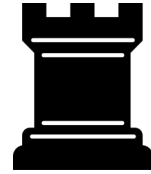
Standings U1900

- 1 Miniello, Jonathan
- 2-5 Szteinbaum, Richard
Franco, Manuel
Castillo, Frank
Tucen, Luis
- 6 Herreros, Stephen
- 7 Chediak, Gilbert
- 8-12 Hernandez, Marcos
Risco, Yosmel Montero
Salas, Pedro Jose
Harris, Charles
Eymann, Eduardo
- 13 Martinez, Tomas
- 14 Parker, Jame

U1400

- 1 Mangos, Deimitrius
- 2 Epstein, Maxwell
- 3-5 Tang, Ming
Dennis, Keijon
Dunkley, Horace
- 6 Rivera, Wilson Sabdiel
- 7-16 Ayala, Eduardo
Campana, Charlie
Vega, Cleiver
Medina, Julio
Jackson, Julius V
Oliveira, Wilson LV
Kostyo, Christian
Jorba, Juan
Blacher, Noah
Sarkar, Souren S
- 17-19 Carter, Derrick Antonio
Frioni, Nelson Angel
Febres, Miguel
- 20-27 Agosto, Victor Manuel
Langstaff, Zachary
Montoya, Carlos
Borzillo, Anthony D
Bret-Harte, Chris James
Bentes, Andre
Minaya-Kornegay, Ethan
Reece, Jayden
- 28 Ganguly, Kanav
- 29-33 Saunders, John
Peguero, Khalil Jose
Sarkar, Evan
Cuadros, Jonathan
Sanchez, Adrian Enrique
- 34-36 Bittar, Matteo
Alvarado, Guillermo I
Ferreira, Pietro

U-1400 Winners



The 2023 US Open & Delegates Meeting Photo Gallery.



T.O.C. players with USCF EB VP Kevin Pryor.(LtoR) Riyaan Datta, Advait Nair, K.P., Zoe Zelner, Javier Antonio Torres and Nicolas A De La Colina (inset).



Florida Delegates: (L to R) Garrett Foote, George Foote, Bryan Tillis, Andrew Rea, Kevin Pryor.(Not Pictured—John Haskel & Charles Hatherill)



Tournament Hall

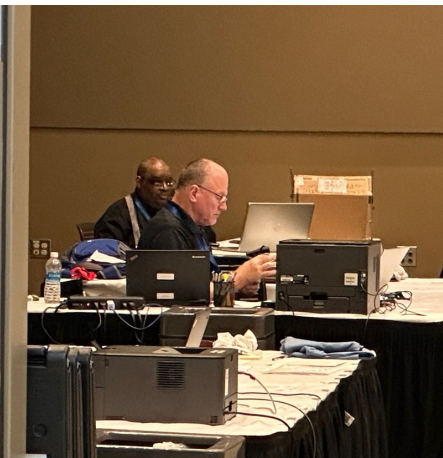
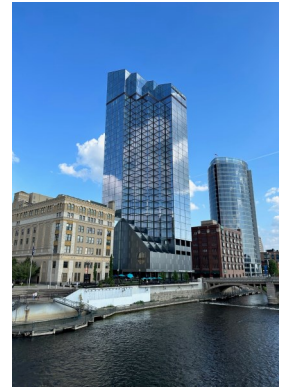


Delegates meeting



USCF Executive Board & Presiding Officers: (L to R): Charles Unruh, John Fernandez, Mike Hoffpauir, Kevin Pryor, Randy Bauer, David Hater, Fun Fong, & David Day.

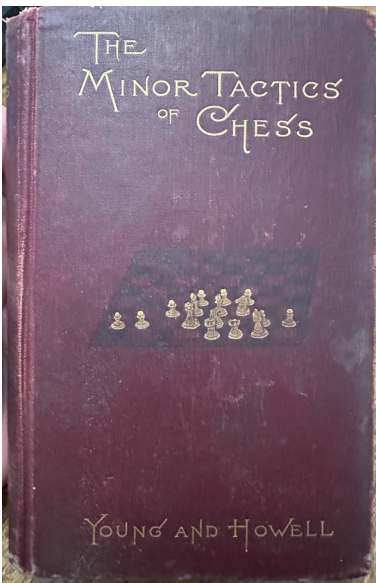
Gallery—Continued.



Collector's Corner

Exploring the Allure of Chess Collectibles: Beyond the Board Chess, often dubbed the "Game of Kings," has enthralled minds for centuries with its intricate strategies and timeless elegance. Beyond the intense battles on the checkered board, a world of captivating chess collectibles awaits enthusiasts and collectors. From exquisitely crafted chess sets to rare books, comic books, and historic artifacts, the realm of chess collectibles offers a diverse tapestry of treasures that reflect the game's enduring appeal.

Chess Sets: Where Artistry and Strategy Converge Chess sets are not just functional game pieces; they are miniature works of art that mirror different cultures and eras. From intricate ivory sets of the 18th century to modern sets made from unconventional materials like glass, metal, and even LEGO bricks, the variety is astounding. Some sets portray historical battles, while others celebrate literary classics. The famous Lewis Chessmen, carved in the 12th century, are a testament to the enduring beauty of chess craftsmanship.



Books: From Tutorials to Literary Gems The world of chess literature is vast, catering to beginners and grandmasters alike. Classic works like "My System" by Aron Nimzowitsch and "The Immortal Game" by David Shenk delve into the psychology and history of chess. For collectors, first editions of these seminal texts are cherished gems. Contemporary authors continue to explore the nuances of chess through fiction and non-fiction, contributing to the rich tapestry of chess-related literature.

Comic Books: Marrying Fantasy and Strategy The allure of chess is not confined to the physical board alone. Comic books have woven the game into stories that bridge fantasy and strategy. Iconic characters like Batman and the X-Men have engaged in chess battles that mirror their battles in the fictional world. These comics add a layer of imagination to the intellectual depth of the game, captivating both chess enthusiasts and comic aficionados. Comic book covers are a category unto themselves with hundreds of examples dating back to the 1930s.



Historical Artifacts: Tokens of the Chess World Chess collectibles extend beyond the realm of the game itself. Artifacts like pins from Russian championships, autographed photographs of legendary players, and even chess-themed postage stamps offer a tangible connection to the game's history. These artifacts are like portals, transporting collectors to pivotal moments in chess history and celebrating the achievements of the game's luminaries.

Chess collectibles hold a dual appeal. For some, it's a passionate journey, a way to connect with the game's legacy and immerse themselves in its cultural and artistic dimensions. For

others, it's a shrewd investment opportunity, as rare and historically significant items appreciate in value over time. This blend of sentiment and financial promise has given rise to a vibrant marketplace for chess memorabilia.

The world of chess collectibles is a rich tapestry that extends far beyond the board. From exquisitely designed chess sets that pay homage to history and culture, to comic books that fuse fantasy with strategy, and from timeless books that enrich our understanding of the game, to cherished artifacts that symbolize chess's legacy, collectors find themselves in a realm of intellectual and artistic richness. Whether driven by passion or investment, these chess collectibles remind us that the game's allure goes far beyond the sixty-four squares.



*Items pictured are from the personal collection of FloridaChess Editor, George Foote

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

Players from National Top 100 lists	age	rating
Ngo, Bach	15	2426
Singh, Hersh	18	2347
Chakrabarti, Brijesh	13	2328
Penagalapati, Abhinav	18	2316
Gao, Marvin	15	2263
Kumar, Naman	16	2205
Hernandez, Ronald	16	2101
Shukla, Aniket	15	2193
Ligotti, John Joseph	17	2181
Gospodinov, Antony	17	2169
Stone, Vincent William	17	2169
Wu, William	15	2150
Sattaru, Sritej Sai	14	2143
Guan, Michael Xukun	15	2138
Shen, Jason(Haohan)	16	2079
Pothuri, Abhiram Sai	13	2091
Bynum, Jacorey	13	2091
Patel, Arav	14	2060
Marian, Aaron	13	2060
Ratner, Jeremy	14	2058
Overlingas, Akeras	10	2055
Lang, Jayden	15	1993
Kurbanov, Abror	17	1987
Liu, Eric Chang	17	1987
Yao, Jerry	14	1975
Yang, Maxwell Z	11	1972
Farragut, Cannon	13	1966
Ziegler, Nate	13	1965
Bershanskiy, Vladimir	17	1948
Mishra, Om	12	1884
Huang, Jolie	13	1853
Elders, Tristan	12	1818
Wu, Winston	9	1779
Datta, Riyaan	11	1770
Jagan, Aashish	10	1768
Patel, Soham	12	1760
Roy, Ayush	11	1756
Li, Sophie	9	1723
Muneepeerakul, Analaya	11	1627
Ratliff, Ryan	9	1616
Sha, Rui	10	1578
Alexander, Damian	9	1561
Luini, Lucio	9	1419
Chen, Celine	7	1363
Holcomb, Mihai	6	956



GIRLS		
Alice Wu	15	1914
Sisira Yerrajennu	15	1875
Jolie Huang	13	1853
Sophie Li	9	1723
Aarna Nitin Warekar	13	1700
Chloe Min	16	1570
Grace Siqi Yang	10	1546
Maya Behur	16	1523
Elana Anastasia Ungureanu State	13	1502
Scarlett Asselta	11	1407
Sabrina Chile Paz	15	1382
Celine Chen	7	1363
Varshini Venkat	15	1353
Veronica Donepudi	13	1303
Annie Ulmer	12	1296
Tanisha Saha	8	1283
Tiana Semenov	15	1279
Srikuthi Neralla	15	1253
Coco Yao	12	1232
Sonam Jani	11	1129
Moitri Santra	14	1086
Aanya Kumar	11	1008
Podieiapolskaia, Violetta	11	970
Jani, Meera	10	911

SENIORS (65+)		
DOUG R MCCLINTOCK	69	2288
PAUL H FIELDS	66	2264
JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES	70	2229
CONSTANTINE XANTHOS	76	2200
A.J. GOLDSBY	65	2200

WOMEN (CURRENT MEMBERS ACTIVE)		
WGM IM Carissa Shiwen Yip		2470
WGM Yanira Vigoa Apecheche		2297
JESSICA SHOR REGAM		2076
WFM VLADLENA CIUBARA		2035
SHAMA YISRAEL		2022
ALICE WU		1914
SISIRA S YERRAJENNU		1875
JOLIE HUANG		1853

TOP BLITZ		
GM Fabiano Caruana		2912
GM Julio Becerra		2618
GM Nikola Mitkov		2609

TOP QC		
GM Fabiano Caruana		2665
GM Julio Becerra		2544
IM William Hernandez Gonzalez		2536

CORRESPONDENCE	
KEITH RODRIQUEZ	2365
BORIS RATNER	2282
PAUL B OTT	2191
ALLEN WOOLLEN	2058
LINDA DECHAIINE	1706

OVERALL ACTIVE (8/2023)	
GM FABIANO CARUANA	2857
IM WILLIAM HERNANDEZ GONZALES	2595
IM ARNALDO FERNANDEZ DE LA VARA	2508
GM DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2500
GM JULIO J BECERRA	2498
GM NIKOLA MITKOV	2481
FM JORGE LEON OQUENDO	2481
GM RENIER GONZALEZ	2472
WGM IM CARISSA SHIWEN YIP	2470
NM ROBERT M PEREZ	2441
FM BACH NGO	2426
IM SAUDIN ROBOVIC	2412
IM YUNIER LEYVA RIVERA	2386
FM FERNANDO LARRUA	2367
FM NOEL HERNANDEZ MARQUAS	2361
IM AUGUSTO CESAR CAMPOS	2353
FM ALEXANDER ZELNER	2344
NM RAGHAV VENKAT	2342
FM EIGEN WANG	2335
FM MAXIMO CABRERA	2329
FM BREJESH CHAKRABARTI	2328
FM COREY BRYAN ACOR	2327
FM DALTON PERRINE	2316
NM SCOTT RAMER	2299
WGM YANIRA VIGO APECHECHE	2297
NM NICOLAS DE LA COLINA	2291
NM LEE J PHELPS	2286
FM JEAN MARCO CRUZ	2284
FM ARNALDO FERRAGUT	2273
NM MARVIN GAO	2263
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NM PEDRO HERNANDEZ-PEREZ	2249
NM JACOB CHEN	2245
NM BRITT RYERSON	2241
NM NICKOLAS ARTHUR MOORE	2239
FM JONATHAN DAVID SARFATI	2237
NM TODD CHARLES BRYANT	2235
FM JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES	2229
NM RYAN EDWARD HAMLEY	2222
NM OSVALDO PENA CABRERA	2221
MEL GOSS	2221
NM ANTONIO ARENCIBIA	2220
NM CARLOS GASTON ANDRETTA	2217
FM ROBERTO ALVAREZ FERREIRO	2215
FM WALDO SERRANO	2204

Games From Recent Events by Miguel Ararat



(211) Julio Becerra - Jorge Martinez [B31]

Space Coast 2023 lichess.org (3), 20.05.2023

[Ararat,Miguel]

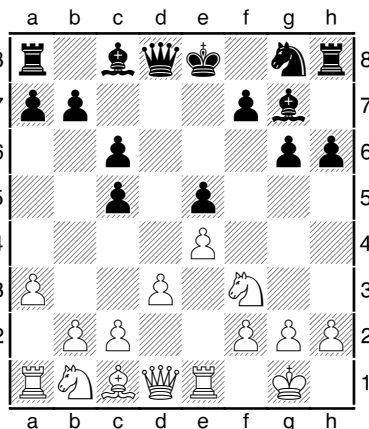
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 [The main path against the Nc6 Sicilian today. White refrains from enter the open Sicilian that give Black good chances to win. However, Black has a lot of resources against Rossolimo's 3.Bb5, as demonstrated by Boris Gelfand's games in the last twelve years.]

3...g6 [3...e6 4.0-0 Nge7]

4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 [5.Bxc6 bxc6 6.Re1 e5 this move scores poorly for white since the returning match between Fischer and Spassky in 1992. Black can choose between two plans. To use a pawn to conquer the e5 square. A second option for Black is to delay the pawn push e5 and to control the e5 square with the following set up 6...Qc7 and Nh6 as in the latest games by Nakamura cited below. (6...Qc7 7.Na3 (7.d3 e5 8.c3 Nf6 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 exd4 11.Qxd4 0-0 12.Nc3 Qb6 13.Qxb6 axb6 14.e5 Ne8 15.Be3 Ra6 16.Rad1 f6 17.Bd4 fxe5= 1/2-1/2 (40) Giri,A (2768)-Nakamura,H (2775) Stavanger 2023) 7...Nh6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 f6 1/2-1/2 (38) Firouzja,A (2785)-Nakamura,H (2775) Stavanger 2023)]

5...e5 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.d3 [A positional plan that put pressure on Black's pawn structure. A good model game is the game Adams - Leko, 2004 cited below. This games shows that despite white sucess in breaking black's pawn structure the game is not over.]

7...h6 [7...Qe7 8.Nbd2 Nf6 9.Nc4 Nd7 10.Bd2 b6 11.a4 0-0 12.Qc1 Re8 13.Rb1 Nf8 14.Bc3 f6 15.b4 Be6 16.Ne3 Bf7 17.bxc5 bxc5 18.Bb2 Ne6 19.Ba3 Rab8 20.Qd2 h5 21.h3 Bf8 22.Qa5 Qd8 23.Qxa7 1/2-1/2 (23) Adams,M (2745)-Leko,P (2743) Bled 2002]



8.a3 [[#] An instructive moment in the game. Amateur players have difficulty judging close positions and finding the right plan. In the diagram, moves like 8.Nc3.8.Be3 and 8.h3 appear to be good candidates moves for white. The keys to find the right candidate(s) move are the previous experience in similar positions and a sharp eye for static targets. Becerra uses a similar plan than in his game agaonst Ronald Hernandez, Florida State Chamionship 2019 annotated in FloridaCHESS Autum 2019 issue.The pawns on e5 and c5 appear as static targets, yet Becerra is going to create a new target on a7.]

8...Ne7 9.b4 cxb4 10.axb4 0-0 11.Bb2 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Be6 [To stop Nc4]

13.Ra3 Rfd8 14.Qa1 [Double attack against the pawns on e5 and a7.]

14...a6? [14...c5 15.bxc5 Nc6 Black is just on time to defend the a7 pawn. White is better anyway, thanks to his extra pawn, pressure against a7 and control of the c4 square.]

15.Nxe5 [A positional miniature. White wins by creating targets out of the opening and capture them by pilling up superior force. This game illustrates that positional play can be as devastating as tactical play.]

1-0

(212) Brooks,Chandler - Oliver,Rana [B26]

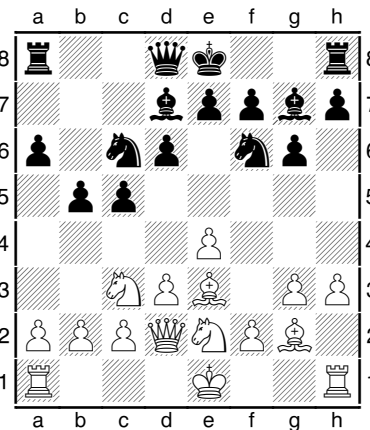
Castle Challenge _ Fed's group lichess.org (3), 20.05.2023

[Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.h3 [[#]

7...Bd7 [Black usually castle at this point. Nevertheless,both players can take a chance and leave their kings in the middle while pursuing active operations as in the game Kuritsin - Chasin, Ozery 1997.]

8.Qd2 a6 [8...Nd4 9.Nd1 Bc6 10.c3 Nf5 11.Bf4 e5 12.Bg5 h6 13.Be3 Nxe3 14.Nxe3 d5 15.Qc2 0-0 16.Ne2 d4 17.cxd4 cxd4 18.Nc4 Rc8 19.Qb3 Nd7 20.0-0 b5-+ 0-1 (53) Kuritsin,V (2200)-Khasin,A (2420) Ozery 1997]



9.Nge2 b5 [[#]

10.0-0 [White deviates from the game Carlsen - Vallejo in which the Norwegian player built an unstoppable kingside attack against a 2700 player in less than thirty moves.]

[10.Bh6 Bxh6 11.Qxh6 Nd4 12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.Ne2 e5 14.0-0 Ng8 15.Qd2 Ne7 16.f4 0-0 17.g4 f6 18.Rf2 Nc6 19.Raf1 Qa5 20.c3 Qxa2 21.g5 fxg5 22.f5 Qf7 23.cxd4 Rae8 24.d5 Nd4 25.Nxd4 exd4 26.f6 g4 27.hxg4 Bxg4 28.Qf4 h5 29.Qxd6 1-0 (29) Carlsen,M (2826)-Vallejo Pons,F (2697) Khanty-Mansiysk 2010 CBM 139 [ChessBase]]

10...Qc8 11.Kh2 [11.Bh6 0-0 (11...Bxh6 Black can not take on h3 because the white queen is on h6. 12.Qxh6 Bxh3 13.Bxh3) 12.g4 Nd4 13.Ng3² White retains the

opening advantage and builds the thematic kingside attack with the g4–Ng3 set up favored by Kamsky in similar positions.]

11...Nd4 12.f4 [12.Nxd4 cxd4 13.Bxd4 Ng4+ 14.hxg4 Bxd4 15.Qh6 [#] White keeps the black king in the middle and stands better. The chess engine suggest 15.Nd5 with convoluted play and a larger advantage for white. At human level, Qh6 does not require too much calculation and poses serious problems to Black.]

12...Nc6 [12...Ne6 13.Rad1]

13.Rae1 e5? [Opening lines with your king in the middle is 90% of the time problematic.]

[13...0–0 14.e5 dxe5 15.Bxc5 b4 Black gets his thematic queenside play to create practical changes, but white has the advantage.]

14.fxe5 Nxe5 15.Bg5 Ng8 [15...Nh5 16.Nd5 White gets a dominant position. Black can sacrifice the exchange to get ride of the dominant knight on d5, yet his problems are not over. 16...Bc6 17.Nb6 Qb8 18.Nxa8 Qxa8 19.Nf4 Nxf4 20.gxf4+–]

16.Nd5 Rb8 [16...h6 17.Be3 Bc6 18.Nb6 Qc7 19.Nxa8 Bxa8]

17.d4 cxd4 18.Nxd4 h6 19.Be3 Ne7 20.Nxe7 [20.Nf6+ Bxf6 21.Rxf6 Qc7 White is winning, but black has a last trick under the sleeve. 22.Bxh6? (22.Qb4+–) 22...Ng8–+ [#]]

20...Kxe7 21.b3± b4 22.Rd1 Be6 [22...Qc7 and Nf5 does not work because d6 is defended.]

23.Nf5+! gxf5 24.Qxd6+ Ke8 25.exf5 Bd7 26.f6 Bf8 27.Qxe5+ Be6 28.Bc6+ Qxc6 29.Qxb8+ Bc8 30.Rfe1 [mate is unstoppable.]

1-0

(213) **Kaidanov, Gregory (2563) - Akopian, Vladimir (2612)** [B12] USA-ch Seniors 2023 Saint Louis (3.1), 17.07.2023 [Ararat, Miguel]

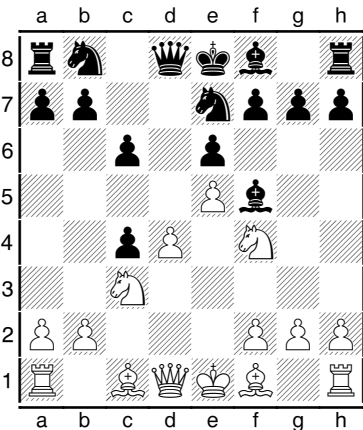
1.e4 c6 [A battle that provides insight

into opening preparation, middlegame planning, and converting advantage in the endgame.]

2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.c4 [As pointed out by Peter Nielsen this move takes the game away from theory and both players need to rely on their own resources.]

4...e6 5.Nc3 Ne7 [5...Nd7 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Ne7 9.Nf3 Nc6 10.0–0 Be7 11.g3 Qb6 12.h4 h6 13.Kg2 1–0 (39) Carlsen, M (2856) -Kobalia, M (2596) Warsaw 2021]

6.Nge2 [6.a3 Bg6 7.h3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nd5 9.Nf3 Nd7 10.0–0 Be7 11.Bd3 0–0 12.Bxg6 fvg6 13.Ne4 c5 14.Nfg5 Qb6 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5 17.Qe2 Rf5 18.Nf3 Raf8 19.b4 Bd4 20.Nxd4 Qxd4 21.Qb2 Qd3 22.f3 Nc3 23.Re1 Nd5 A pity. Yakov can get a decisive advantage with Rxf3. Despite losing the game black shows that 4.c4 creates chances for both players. (23...Rxf3 24.gxf3 Rxf3 and white has to return material to stop mate.) 24.Qf2 1–0 (48) Caruana, F (2766)-Norowitz, Y (2402) Chess.com INT 2023]



6...dxc4 7.Nf4 [#] The theory of the 4.c4 line is expanded by Kaidanov, who uncorks this novel idea as early as move seven. The readers can use this point to start their own analysis and map chess theory!]

7...c5 8.d5 Nxd5 9.Nfxd5 exd5 10.Nxd5 Bd3 11.Qf3 Nc6 12.Bxd3 cxd3 13.Qxd3 [Both players can press for the win in this asymmetric pawn structure. White can play to use his advance e pawn as a strong point in the center. In contrast, Black can play to win white's advance e pawn. The presence of only one open file may cause the exchange of all the rooks as both players try to control the file.]

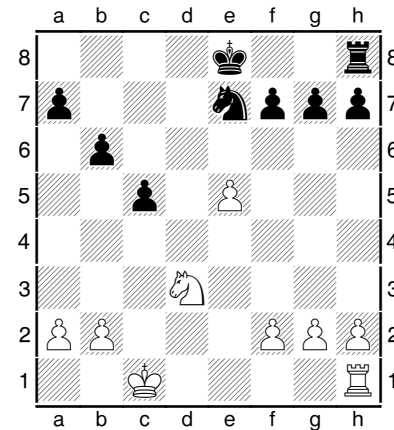
13...Qd7 [13...Nd4 An alternative plan to

use the d4 outpost, and prevent the exchanges of pieces along the d file. Black forces exchanges with Qd7 because white has to play Bg5 to play Rd1 before black dominates the d file. It is clear that Akopian wants to exchanges pieces and put all the weight of the game in the endgame. Akopian choice is very instructive because uses a plan that differs from the standard outpost on an open file. 14.Qe4 Qd7 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bh4 Qc6]

14.Bg5 Be7 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.0–0–0 [Kaidanov identifies the best flank for his king. After Rad1 and 0–0 black gets a small advantage because the white king is too far from black pawn majority. The key to understand Kaidanov's choice is to realize that the major pieces are coming off the board by force. White evaluated this position right despite the optical illusion that on the queenside the White king looks exposed.]

[16.Rd1 Rd8 17.Nf4 Qxd3 18.Rxd3 Nc6 19.0–0 Rxd3 20.Nxd3 b6³]

16...Rd8 17.Nf4 Qxd3 18.Rxd3 Rxd3 19.Nxd3 b6= [#]



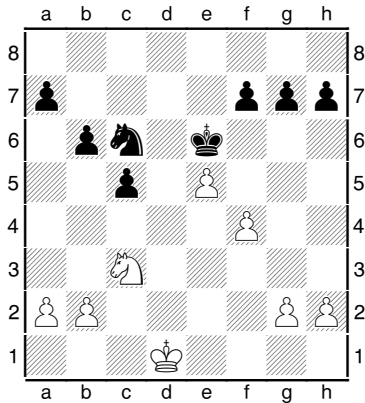
This is a great example of a game that skips the middlegame and goes straight to the endgame. In spite of the reduced material on the board, the position is strategically rich due to the presence of pawn majorities and the advanced white pawn on e5.]

20.Nf4 Nc6 21.Nd5 Kd7 22.Rd1 Ke6 [Akopian goes after the e5 pawn and missed Nxb6]

23.f4?! [Kaidanov defends the pawn and let the black king become active. This is the turning point in the game.] [23.Nxb6= Nxe5 24.Nd5 Rd8 25.Nf4+

Ke7 26.Rxd8 Kxd8 with a knight endgame as in the game, but white has the better pawn structure.]

23...Rd8 24.Nc3 Rxd1+ 25.Kxd1 [[#]]



25...Kf5 26.g3 g5 [Black's actions conflict with the endgame rule that encourage you to advance your pawn majority while stopping your opponent from doing the same.]

27.fxg5 Kxg5 [Black plays concrete chess. Akopian is willing to break up his pawn structure to win the white pawn on e5. This part of the game can help players who are too attached to chess rules and guidelines. In chess, you give up something to win something. The key is to maximize the benefit of the exchange.]

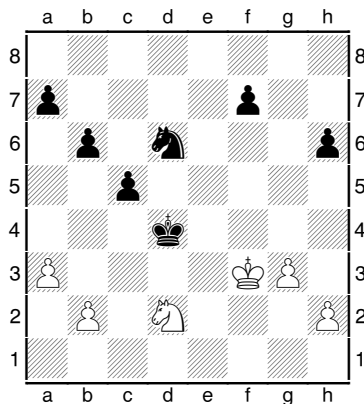
28.Ne4+ Kf5 29.Nd6+ Ke6 30.Ne4 h6 [Black takes his time to capture the piece on e5 and prevents the knight fork on g5 which wins the black pawn on h7. Patience is a virtue especially when it comes to endgames. You can spoil a good position by hurrying to capture a pawn who goes nowhere.]

31.Ke2 Kxe5 [Akopian initiates the process of turning an extra pawn into a win. Converting an extra pawn into a win in this type of endgames can be a valuable lesson for amateur players. Please pay attention that at a certain point in the game, Black must calculate with precision in order to win the game. White is actively seeking this critical moment to save the game and capitalize on any relaxation or miscalculation by Black.]

32.Ke3 Nb4 33.a3 [Black creates a weak square that his king can use to attack white's queenside pawns.]

33...Nc2+ [In the next moves Akopian will move his knight to d6 to remove the white knight from the dominant e4 square. White can not allow the exchange of knights because the pure pawn endgame is lost.]

34.Kf3 Ne1+ 35.Ke3 Ng2+ 36.Kf3 Ne1+ 37.Ke3 Nc2+ 38.Kf3 Nd4+ 39.Ke3 Nf5+ 40.Kf3 Nd6 [40...Kd4 41.Kf4 Ne7]



41.Nd2 Kd4 [[#]Akopian breaches Kaidanov strong hold in the center and the black king infiltrates the queenside.]

42.Kg4 Kd3 43.Nf3 [White is two moves down to save the game. The game is a draw with White to move and his king on h5.]

43...Kc2 44.Kh5 Kxb2 45.Kxh6 c4 [45...Kxa3 46.h4 c4 47.h5 c3 48.Nd4 Nf5+ 49.Nxf5 c2]

46.g4 c3 47.h4 c2

0-1



(214) Shabalov,Alexander (2453) - Kaidanov,Gregory (2563) [C55]
USA-ch Seniors 2023 Saint Louis (2.5), 16.07.2023
[Ararat,Miguel]

As in the previous game, Kaidanov gave us a master class in opening preparation. Importantly, both players displayed a great fighting spirit to prevent the game from ending in an early draw. In contrast to elite games that ended up early as the players protect their ELO rating and take less risk. In this games Kaidanov and Shabalov are her to fight.]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 [Carlsen defended this position 10 times in 2022 with two classical time controls games included and scored 8.5 points.]

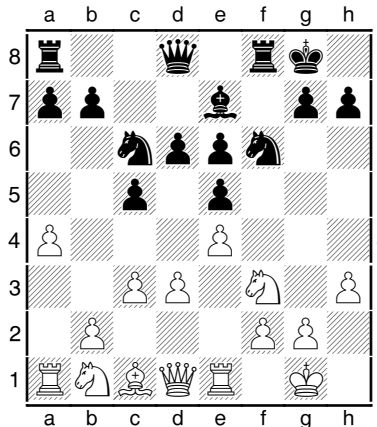
[4...Bc5 Carlsen defended this position 20 times in 2022 in no classical time controls and scored 7.5 points.]

5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 [6.h3 d6 7.a4 a5 8.Nbd2 Nd7 9.Re1 Nb6 10.Bb3 Kh8 11.c3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nf1 Bg6 14.Ng3 Bf6 15.Ne4 d5 16.Nxf6 Qxf6 17.Bg5 1/2-1/2 (41) Radjabov,T (2756) -Carlsen,M (2845) Shamkir 2019]

6...d6 7.a4 Na5 8.Ba2 c5 9.c3 [9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.c3 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.b4 cxb4 13.cxb4 Nxb4 14.Qb3 d5 15.Nxe5 Rc8 16.Rb1 Nc2 17.Rf1 Nd4 with a complex game ahead that remained balanced forty eight moves. World chess champions produced games worth of analysis and study event at blitz!: 0-1 (55) Kramnik,V (2812)-Carlsen,M (2855) Paris 2016]

9...Nc6 10.h3 Be6 [10...h6 Black can play this move to stop g5 and the chess engine gives white just a slight edge. However, in practice h6 is not very popular at GM level because white gets an active position without too much risk of losing. For example, Howell's game cited below. 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4 exd4 13.Nxd4 Nb4 14.Bb3 d5 15.exd5 Nfxd5 16.Nc3 Nc7 17.Bf4 Bf6 1-0 (75) Howell,D (2561)-Melkumyan,H (2507) Gaziantep 2008]

11.Bxe6 fxe6 [The position is unbalanced without too much theory and both players have chances in the resulting middlegame.]



12.d4 exd4 13.cxd4 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.dxc5 Bxc5 16.Nbd2 [Shabalov keeps the queens on the board and refuses the Greek gift on e6.]

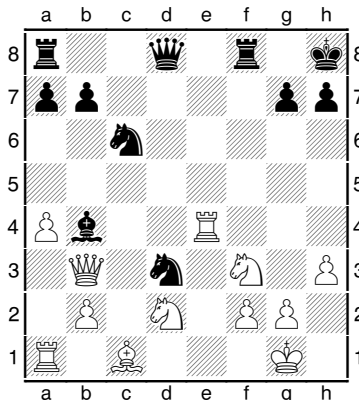
[16.Rxe6 Nf4 17.Qxd8 Nxd8 18.Re4 Nxf3+ 19.gxh3 Rxf3 [#] The game bypasses the middlegame and land in an endgame with good chances for black because of his better pawn structure.]

16...Bb4 [16...Rc8 17.Ne4 Bb4 18.Bd2 Bxd2 19.Nfxd2=]

17.Rxe6 Nf4 18.Re4 Kh8 [This position is new, however it was discovered by an user on the Online CB server the same day this game was played. It will be interesting to know Kaidanov's preparation for this game.]

19.Qb3 [A natural move and the reason why Kaidanov played Kh8.]

19...Nd3 [19...Qf6 with the idea of Nxf3 against any reply by white. It is worth pointing out that this position is similar to the variation after 16.Rxe6 (see above). From what I can see, both players are actively avoiding reaching a drawish position. Simplifications are avoided when both players want to fight. 20.Nf1 Nxf3+ 21.gxh3 Qxf3 22.Qxf3 Rxf3 [#]]

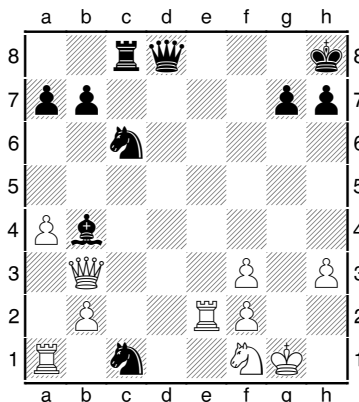


20.Re2 [20.Rg4 This move takes the sting out of black's pawn sacrifice and forces Kaidanov to play precisely. For example, 20...Nc5 is met with 21.Qc4 and white starts consolidating his extra pawn. 20...Na5 (20...Nc5 21.Qc4 a5 22.Rg5 Qe7 23.Nf1) 21.Qe6 Qe7 22.Qxe7 Bxe7° Black has compensation for the pawn, thanks to white's underdeveloped queenside.]

20...Nf4 21.Re4 Nd3 22.Re2 Rc8 [After repeating moves, Kaidanov finds a nice tactical idea to exploits white's lack of development.]

23.Nf1? [Shabalov opens the path for his dark square bishop and plans to respond to the exchange sacrifice on f3 with Ng3. Unfortunately for white, black uncorks a petit combination and wins material in two moves.]

[23.Qd1 Nf4 24.Re4 a6 25.Qb3 Nd3 26.Re2 Nxc1 27.Rxc1 Nd4]



23...Rxf3 24.gxf3 Nxc1 [[#] White loses material after Rxc1 is met with Qg5+ attacking the White king and the rook on c1]

0-1

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Florida State Senior's Championship (Gallery)



Javier Antonio
Torres

Results:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Javier Antonio Torres | 11) Antonio Angel |
| 2) Mikhail Zlotnikov | 12) Bruce Kutikoff |
| 3) Jorge Luis Diaz | 13) John A Lebon |
| 4) Andy Catlin | 14) Joel Neptune |
| 5) Eric Cooke | 15) Daniel Valdes |
| 6) Chris Pendell | 16) Steve Fales |
| 7) Michael L. Sheroff | 17) Richard A Kahn |
| 8) Gary L Cote | 18) Timothy Patrick Staley |
| 9) Preston Vandyke Williams | 19) Ron Easter |
| 10) Constantine Xanthos | |



Capital City Open IV (Tallahassee, Florida)

by Daaim Shabazz of TheChessDrum.net (photos by Claudia Sperber/Capital City Chess Club)

Tallahassee hosted its fourth Capital City Open rapid tournament within the past year with **Jacob Sperber** leading the initiative. With the temperatures soaring into the upper-90s, Florida got a welcome rain shower on the day of the tournament, but it may have deterred some from making the trip. The tournament did not feature any of its higher-rated players, but Sperber plans a classical tournament soon attracting experts, masters, and titled players from Florida and surrounding states.



Colin Meagher vs. Jonathan Walker



Viswa Janapati vs. Caleb Parker

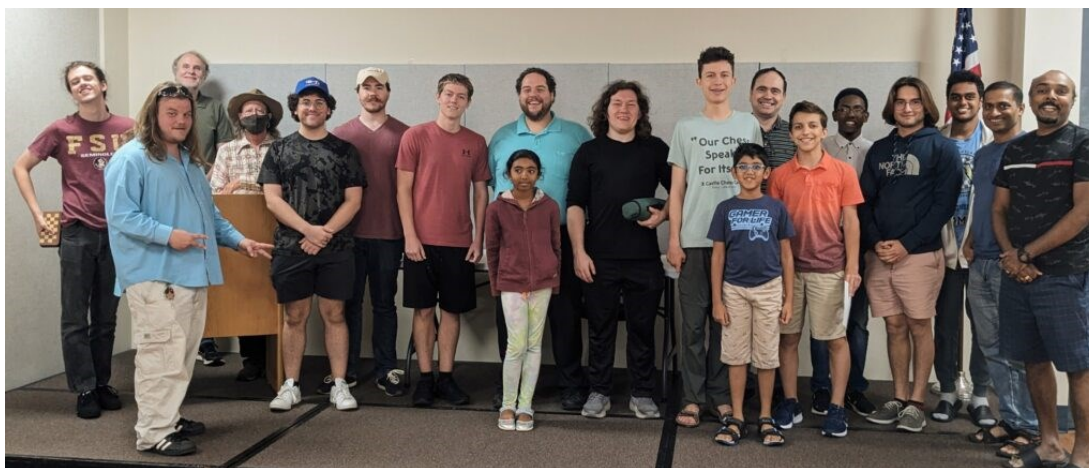


Colin Meagher (Photo on Left) won the open section with 3.5/4 followed by **Jonathan Walker** and **Caleb Parker** with 3/4. Sperber reports that Meagher is new to tournament chess, but studies regularly and has an 1800 rating on chess.com. He has only played in a few tournaments and like others, the COVID-effect results in players being underrated after having played a high amount of games online. Meagher had a 1600 performance rating. **Amiel Hernandez (photo on right)** won the U1000 section. This was his first Cap City Tournament. He mentioned he is he was to have rated chess in Tallahassee.

Coach Richard Kennedy, who tied for first in Capital City III came to support his students.



Tournament Director Jacob Sperber has done the difficult task of playing and directing the previous Capital City Opens, but did not play in this edition. He spent the summer competing at the World Open in Philadelphia, and an action tournament at the historic Marshall Chess Club in New York City. He also competed in the Southern Open in Orlando where he beat NM **Theo Slade** and an **IM Nelson Gamboa**.



The tournament proceeds went toward the Florida wildlife collection. See <https://www.centralfloridazoo.org/about-the-zoo/ocic-2/> link for details.

Central Region Report

By NM Andrew Rea, Central RVP

Maybe not shake rattle and roll, but the 28th annual Space Coast Open, held May 19-21 at the Radisson Hotel, Port Canaveral, landed with 208 players in various sections, with plenty of competition! The time control of g/90 with 30 second increment allowed time for analyses without the games turning into situations. While describing the events of our sections, let it be noted that our Editor has games as well! Lets start at the top, the Master/Experts. As with our other groups, the Sunday action tends to be more prominent. Not that points in the early rounds are easy to accumulate, but the resistance gets all the more challenging in those final two rounds! Round 4, a draw between GMs Jianchao Zhou and Nikolai Mitkov had them at 3.5/4, while GM Julio Becerra defeated IM Augusto Cesar Campos, thus 3 chaser at said 3.5/4, as FM Jorge Leon Oquendo scored his 4th consecutive win to lead a 4! He defeated Expert Aniket Shukla, who had scored a fine upset in Rd2, defeating Bach Ngo. Bach did not bail out afterward, scoring 2.5/3 in the last three rounds, but its a tough crowd...but, as the 5th round unfolded, it was not crowded at the top in the end, as GM Zhou defeated FM Oquend0, finishing alone at 4.5, while GMs Mitkov and Becerra drew. Well played by all, congratulations to GM Zhou! Joining the other 2 GMs, Mitkov and Becerra, at 4.0 was FM Cory Acor as he was able to win his last round game, unlike some others who also had the chance to make a big move from the 3.0 group in the final round.

In the Class A we again see the player at 3.5/4 defeat the player at 4.0 in the final round- here it is Jake Huang landing alone at 4.5/5, first place! Joining in at 4-1 are Lance Winters, Jerry Yao, Jan Carlos, and Benito Dominguez, well done! Class B also proved to be competitive; again it helps to win that final round! Kyle Knapp finished with 4.5/5, a score not achieved by any of the other players in Class B, kudos to Kyle! This section resembled a bucket of crabs, players defeating each other and not allowing many to escape- however, there were 2 who finished at 4.0, Charithra Arvind and Jack Rhoton, well played!

We move on to Class C, where Armandas Ledas started with four wins; what would happen in the final round? He faced Mason Derwitsch, who was on a 3 game heater after having drawn in the first round. Their grand finale ended as a draw, thus allowing Armandas to win Class C at 4.5! Mason finished alone at 4.0, while there was a crowd at 3.5- Sam Sharf, Jordan Graham, Alexander Dshalalow, William Hardison, and Jonathan Chapman. Plenty of competition as well in Class D! Several players in the hunt, but we have 3 finishing at 4.0/5, Tomas Martinez, Joseph Ziemecki, and Ishaan Jain- chased hard at 3.5 by three others, no one had an easy ride!

Finally we have players in Class E ready to move up the charts, with 2 players tied for first at 4.5/5, Charlotte Huynh and Hrehaan Weghmode. They both won their fifth round, good thing as there were 5 players at 4-1, Anthony Reed, Daniel Shi, Noam Rothman, Pharoah Pharel, and Klim Vasitiyeu. As with the other sections, so many players not willing to settle for draws- as with many other Swiss format tournaments, draws tend to not be helpful! Best wishes to all of our players for more interesting results in your next events!



Jolie Huang



Aniket Shukla



Armandas Ledas



GM Jianchao Zhou



Corey Acor



Ishaan Jain & Joseph Ziemicki

More photos at www.spacecoastchessfoundation.org

CFCC 2023 SUNSHINE OPEN CONCLUDES WITH FM JORGE OQUENDO WINNING CLEAR 1ST PLACE!



Final Round, Board 1, **FM Jorge Oquendo (2461) (L)** vs **IM Augusto Campos (2384) (R)**, where Jorge won the final round for

CFCC wishes to congratulate **FM Jorge Oquendo (2461)** for his clear 1st Place finish with a perfect score of 5/5 points in our Sunshine Open & Scholastic tournament held this past weekend! We'd also like to thank all the players who participated and won their respective sections! Full Details at : www.CentralFLChess.org



Northeast Florida Shines

By Ray Ratliff Northeast RVP

As summer seems to fly by, let's take a moment to recognize some of the players in our region and their amazing chess accomplishments.

**NE Florida has National Impact:
Myra and Ryan Ratliff**
K-6 Elementary Nationals
Baltimore, Maryland



Competing for the first time as a team, Ryan (3rd grade) and Myra (Kindergarten) won 3rd place in a very competitive National K-3 Blitz tournament representing NE Florida and Florida Unschoolers. This was Myra's first time playing in a rated blitz event and the furthest they have ever traveled from Florida for a chess event. Watch out, this NE Florida brother and sister team are bringing the heat from the sunshine state!

**NE Florida Chess Dads:
Nitin Warekar**
2023 Carolina Classic
Charlotte, NC



As a chess dad, Nitin tries to provide every opportunity for his two chess playing daughters Aarna and Aanvi to compete in the game they love. That includes driving 6 hours north of Jacksonville to Charlotte, NC and participating in the Carolina Classic held by the Charlotte Chess Center. This time Nitin played and he won 1st place in the U1100 section! Way to go chess dad!!!

**NE Florida Dynamic Duo:
Agrim and Aanya Kumar**
2023 CHARLOTTE
SUMMER OPEN
Charlotte, NC



Two rising chess stars in the NE Florida region, Agrim and Aanya competed in the Charlotte Summer Open and put on display their Florida chess skills. Agrim won 2nd place in an extremely competitive U2000 section reminding all of us that he won't be under 2000 for much longer. Aanya put her skills to the test and won top U1000 in the U1200 section and top U1000 in the blitz tournament. Well done!

**Age, like rating, is just a number:
Scott Pfeiffer**
2023 CFC Club SUMMER OPEN



Scott Pfeiffer is a treasure trove of chess insight, history, and one of the most enjoyable personalities to have in your company. His impact on chess in NE Florida is immeasurable just as his love for the game. Scott had not played a rated chess game in nearly 18 years. That was until he said "I think I'll play" and he jumped right back in during a Chess for Charity Club classical event in Jacksonville, FL. Just like the NE Florida chess community you helped build, chess will always be here for you and you always have a seat.

**Making an impact
Alex Anderson**
Creekside Middle School



As the summer started, the last school year ended for Alex Anderson at Creekside Middle school in Port Orange, FL but his impact on chess will continue for a very long time. Alex (left) created and ran the chess club at Creekside until graduating and handing the reins to Raymond Chen (right). What an amazing way to leave a lasting mark on chess in your community. Way to go Alex!

I know there are many chess success stories out there for players in our region. Please send your accomplishments/stories to me at ray@floridachess.org. Have a great rest of the year.

South Region

By Matthew Kolcz, South RVP

"Victories Against the Odds: Florida Chess Players Make Their Mark at the 31st Annual Southern Open Chess Tournament"

The weekend of July 28th 2023 marked triumphant victories for some of Florida's very own chess competitors at the 31st Annual Southern Open chess tournament. It was an event with dramatic upsets, proving that prowess on the chessboard doesn't always relate to the number ratings would suggest. The tournament board lit up with local heroes, who, against all challenging odds, turned the tables on highly seasoned masters.

In the Open Section, we start this momentous occasion with Round 1 as Florida's own National Master Otis Wilson took on Grandmaster Nikola Mitkov in a fierce fight, who marks an impressive 2482 in the rating chart. Wilson, clocking in at a rating of 2087, overcame a huge 395 points difference to claim the victory. The managed to seize the opportunity at the right moment.

We have a couple honorable mentions before concluding with our #1 upset. Shama Yisrael (2008), a strong woman Floridian player, overcame the rating difference of 161 points to beat Vincent William Stone III (2169). Taking the same stride was another Floridian, Akshat Suresh (1948), who made an impressive upset of a 187 point disparity in rating versus National Master Theodore Luke Slade (2135).

Finally, for the absolute greatest upset of the Open section --- The audience witnessed an exceptional show by Jacob Sperber from Tallahassee, Florida who, rated at 1927, claimed a memorable victory against International Master Nelson Gamboa, sitting far across on the rating scale at 2474, with a rating difference of 547 points. Whether or not you are a chess player, you should know how exponentially difficult it becomes to beat players at these rating ranges.

While the tournament was fraught with many stunning upsets, Grandmaster Petar Arnaudov's performance embodied the qualities of a champion. Standing head and shoulders above his competition, Arnaudov emerged victorious, earning a remarkable 4.5 points. Displaying strategic brilliance and a deep understanding of the complexities of the game, he wasn't easily intimidated by his competition, regardless of their ranking. Arnaudov's dominance throughout the Southern Open underlined his status as a chess professional. The excitement he brought to the chessboard this past weekend is a testament to his formidable game play, securing him the well-deserved first-place standing.

The echoes of these stunning victories serve as inspiration and a source of pride for the Florida chess community. It's not always the champions who hold the higher numbers that push the boundaries in chess - it's the relentless local heroes who, armed with tenacity and guts, turn the impossible into reality.

With so much going on in just the Open section alone, this needed its own spot in the magazine.

(203) [C00]

Jacob's Tournament Games 2: Southern Op <https://lichess.org/study/HJe>

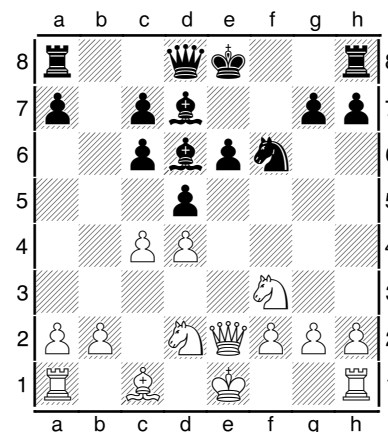
1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.e5 Nd7 6.d4 f6 7.exf6 Nxf6 [7...Qxf6 Theory dictates Qf6 is best here, perhaps due to Black having control of e5 to push the pawn and open up the LSB. 8.Nb3 e5 9.dxe5 Ndx5]

8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Qe2 Bd6 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.c4 [This in combination with trading off the Bishop pair will only work if White can create pawn structural weaknesses for their Knights to watch over.] X

11...c5! [This stops White from grabbing too much space with c4-c5. It also targets White's center pawn, of which will soon lead to a pawn majority.]

12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Nc4? [13.dxc5 This variation keeps Black's pawn majority down to an isolated e-pawn instead of connected e- and d-pawns, where Knights thrive to outpost in front of. 13...Bxc5]

13...cxd4 14.Nxd6+ [14.Nxd4? This would be a mistake as Black now gets strong initiative. 14...Bb4+ 15.Bd2 Nf4 16.Qe4 Bxd2+ 17.Nxd2 0-0 18.0-0 Qg5; 14.0-0= 0-0 15.Nxd4 White avoids the Bb4+ and is able to properly grab Black's pawn, isolating the e- and c-pawns.]



14...cxd6 15.Nxd4 Qe7 16.Qh5+ Qf7 17.Qxf7+ [IM Gamboa opts for an endgame of opposite colored Bishops which tend to be drawish.]

17...Kxf7 18.0-0 Rhc8 19.Be3? [White should play f4 to control the e5-square and maintain their strong Knight placement.]

[19.f4 Rab8 20.b3 a5 21.Bb2]

19...e5 20.Nf3 Rc2 21.Rfd1 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Ke7 [Avoiding Ng5+]

[22...Ke6? 23.Ng5+ Ke7 24.Nxh7?? But not for the pawn as the Knight gets tactically trapped. (24.Rf1!) 24...Bc6 25.Rac1 Be4 Ng5 is not possible because of Rxc2+ winning the Knight.]

23.Rd2 Rxd2 24.Nxd2 [From this moment to the opponent's resignation, Jacob demonstrates a very clinical Endgame, leading to a winning good Bishop vs bad Knight.]

24...Rc8 25.Kf2 Rc2 26.Ke2 Bb5+ 27.Kd1 Rxb2 28.Kc1 Rb4 29.Rb1 Rxb1+ 30.Nxb1 Bc6 31.g3 d5 32.Kd2 Kd6 33.Nc3 Kc5 34.Nd1 Bd7 35.Nf2 Bf5 36.g4 Bg6 37.h4 h6 38.g5 hxg5 39.hxg5 Kd6 40.Nd1 Ke6 41.Nc3 Be8 42.e4 d4 43.Nd1 Kf7 44.Nf2 Kg6 45.Nd3 Kxg5 46.Nxe5 Kf4 47.Nc4 Bf7 [White loses another pawn and Black can simply queen theirs. A very calm Endgame, and Jacob claims the biggest upset of the Open section.]

0-1

(204) Nikola Mitkov - Otis Wilson [C24]

Import <https://lichess.org/N6lxy6a9>, 31.07.2023

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 [We transpose into the 3-Knights Vienna.]

4.d3 Bc5 5.f4 [White breaks symmetry, threatening Black's center.]

5...d6 6.Nf3 Bg4 [Some may be familiar with a similar setup in the KGD, but a key difference is that Black's Bishop is outside the pawn chain on c5. (1. e4 e5, 2. f4 d6, 3. Nf3 Nf6, 4. Nc3 Nc6, 5. Bc4 Bg4, 6. d3)]

7.Na4 [With this difference, White aims to hunt down Black's B-pair.]

7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nd4 [Gaining tempi, forces an only move.]

9.Qd1 b5!? [A very interesting find! Incredibly, we are still within some theory. Ponomariov, R. - Tomashevsky, E., 0-1, IMSA Blitz 2016, <https://lichess.org/kLVGFtJD>]

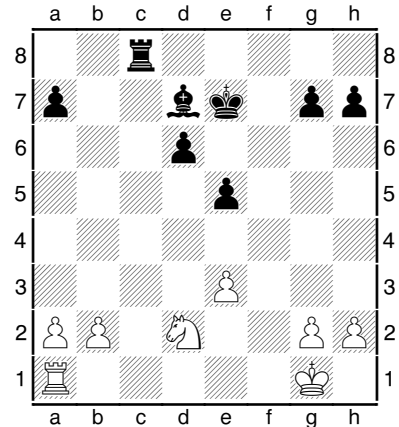
10.Nxc5 [10.Bxf7+! A very sharp continuation that is an only move for White to maintain their slight edge due. But there is nothing inherently wrong with White's second choice. 10...Kxf7 11.Nxc5 dxc5 Note Bxf7 isn't possible in the game text as Black plays bxc4. 12.fxe5 Opening up the f-file with tempo on the Knight. 12...Nd7 13.c3 Ne6 14.0-0+ Kg8 15.d4 cxd4 16.cxd4 White will attempt to prove compensation with a large pawn center that can potentially create passed pawns, and keeps Black's Rook on h8 out of the game. Blomqvist, E. - Mitusov, Semen, 1-0, Riga Tech Open A 2022, <https://lichess.org/yGty29Rw>]

10...bxc4 11.fxe5 dxc5 12.exf6 Qxf6 13.c3 [13.Rf1 Qh4+ 14.Rf2 cxd3 15.Qxd3 Qxh2 16.c3 Ne6 17.Qb5+ Ke7 18.Be3 A computer line that demonstrates a way for White to get some coordination and development in without too much worry for King safety.]

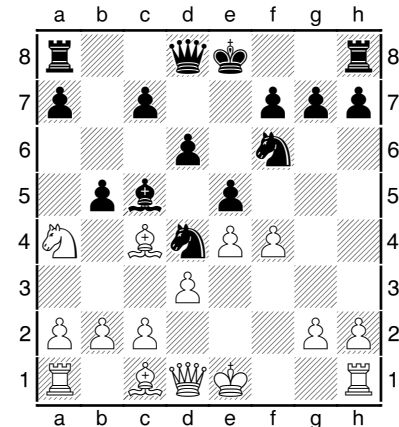
13...Nc6 [White's plan is most likely to play against the tripled (quickly doubled) c-pawns.]

14.dxc4 [14.Qf3 Computer recommends Qf3, but Black maintains an edge the resulting endgame with a protected passed d-pawn. 14...Qxf3 (14...Ne5 15.Qxf6 Nxd3+ 16.Ke2 gxf6 Or alternatively, a strong Knight on d3 that cannot be captured by Black's DS

24



9



Bishop, but with the greatest number of isolated pawns we have ever seen, 7!))
15.gxf3 cxd3]

14...Ne5 15.Be3 Rd8 [This move marks the end of the initial referenced game, but the start of another game from 1995! Black keeps the pressure on, Rooks to the open file, a well placed Knight in front of the isolated King's pawn. Tischbierek, Raj - Mikhalevski, Victor, 0-1, Bad Endbach, 1995, <https://lichess.org/hQ3KoPzU>]

[15...0-0]

16.Qh5 0-0 17.Qf5 [Attempting to get the Queens off for an Endgame with nice drawing chances and potential to push.]

17...Nd3+ [17...Qxf5 18.exf5 Nxc4 19.Bxc5 Rfe8+ 20.Kf2 Nxb2]

18.Kf1 [Ke2 continues to follow the 1995 game.]

18...Qa6 [Black correctly maintains Queens on the board as White's King is less safe than theirs.]

19.b3? Rfe8? [The calm Qa5 takes immediate advantage of White's latest weakness on c3.]

[19...Qa5 20.b4 Qa3 21.Rd1 Qxc3 Black has a commanding position.]

20.h4 Qc6 [Eyeing down White's e-pawn.]

21.Rh3 Re5 [Great patience. Challenges White's aggressive Queen position before grabbing the pawn.]

22.Qf3 Rxe4 [22...Qxe4?? Black is still not trading Queens for the same purpose as before. 23.Qxe4 Rxe4 24.Rd1]

23.Kg1 Ne5 24.Qf5 g6 25.Qf1 Ng4 26.Bg5 f6 27.Bf4 [Finding a clear plan forward here is integral for Black as natural moves can quickly allow White coordination.]

27...Rde8 [27...Qe8 28.Rf3 Re2 This positional idea continues to squeeze White's King and pieces, operating and attacking the light-squares, namely g2. 29.Bg3 Rdd2 30.Re1 Rxc2+ 31.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 32.Kxc2 Qd7]

28.Rf3 h6 29.Qd3 g5 [Black's last handful of moves gave away the strong advantage as the Black King is now less safe.]

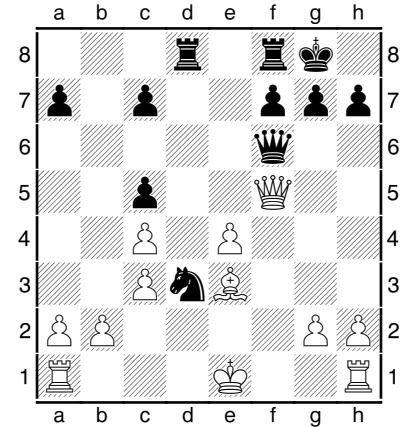
30.hxg5 hxg5 31.Bg3 Kg7 32.Qd5 Qxd5 33.cxd5 Ne3? [The position is now equalized, but I recently learned that the players were in time trouble.]

34.Bf2 Nxd5 35.Bxc5 a6 36.a4 Nf4 37.b4 g4 38.Rf2 g3 39.Rxf4 [39.Rf3?? White has to give up the Rook for the Knight due to this beautiful mate. 39...Re1+ 40.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 41.Rf1 Ne2+ 42.Kh1 Rxf1+ 43.Bg1 Rxc1#]

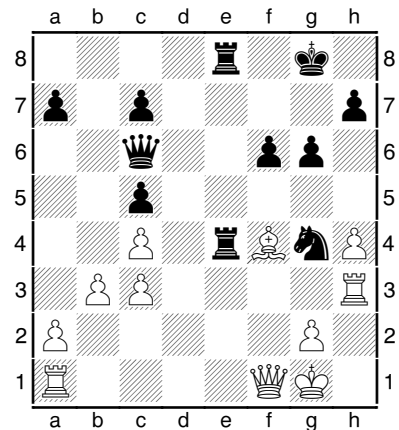
39...Rxf4 [Unknown]

0-1

17



27



West Regional Report

Timotey Gospodinov, West RVP

My 1st chess tournament-by Lyubomir Gospodinov

On March fourth of 2006, around 8:00 A.M., a sleepy seven-year-old version of myself stumbled through the door and into the hall of the location where I would play my first chess tournament. I had not been awake that early for months, and never before had I possessed so many mixed feelings running loose within me.

For the past three months, my father had taught me the basics of chess, just as how they had been imparted to him. During one of our intense "chess lessons" my mother had decided to do some Internet searching for my new-found hobby, and as odds would have it, she came across a monthly scholastic chess tournament in downtown Saint Petersburg, only fifteen minutes away. A scholastic tournament is one that only those under the age of eighteen can participate in, as my repeated defeating of men six times my age wouldn't come for about two more years. However, the tournament was also divided into sub-sections, so I only had to play against children up to the second grade.

My family comes from Bulgaria, we moved to America when I was three and a half, and therefore there was a lot of "first-timers" for us, this particular chess tournament certainly being one of them. Not one of us had a clue as in to what to expect, and even though I would be the only one playing it, I'm pretty sure my parents yielded an expression more confused than mine. The butterflies running amuck in my stomach were also perfectly justifiable, and as I got my first glimpse of the competition, I would be facing that day, so was my aggressive hand squeeze of my mother's hand. As I looked around, I saw players with professional coaches, chess sets with boards and pieces, game clocks, notation pads, computers with chess engines to analyze different positions before and after the tournament (which particularly fascinated me), and hats to match their attire which flaunted their respective chess clubs. I, on the other hand, yielded a half- empty water bottle and an off-brand polo jacket. I am now seventeen years old and to this day, I have never felt that intimidated.



This was certainly the greatest challenge I ever faced, not only because of the intimidation I felt, but the fact that the outcome of this challenge had the greatest influence on my life that any other single event ever has. I remember wanting to go home but my mom delivered her methodical reasoning to me, telling me I have nothing to lose and that there's no reason to not give it a try. I was in first grade, and I played in the kindergarten through second grade section that day. I ended up winning that tournament (earning a trophy taller than seven-year-old me) and went on to become national champion in eighth grade, as well as two time Florida state champion in the eighth and eleventh grades, winning numerous other tournaments on the way, such as the Southern Florida State Championship Under 2000 section during the Summer after eighth grade.

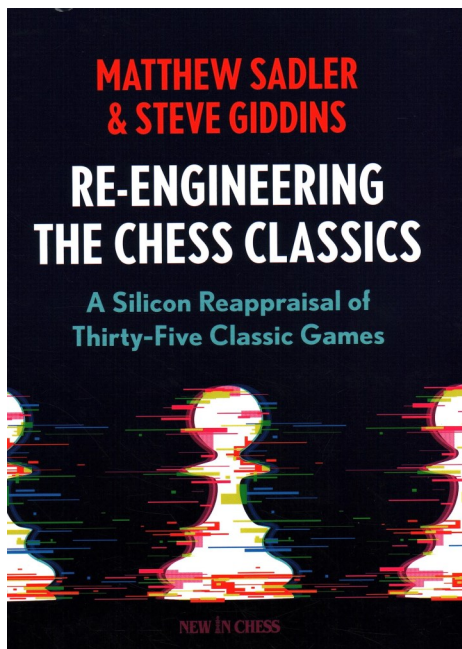
Every person has good and bad character traits, but on that day, winning my first tournament greatly helped shape the character I demonstrate today. Although I was only seven and felt like I was on top of the world after my victory, I let that event spur my drive to work harder and harder on mastering and attempting to perfect the art of chess. I remember starting to dedicate more of my time to chess throughout my elementary school years, as I went on to practice with an actual chess coach, obtained a membership on Chess.com that allowed me to view thousands of potential videos on every chess concept, tactic, and strategy known to man, and began my streak of official tournaments almost every week. On that March fourth of 2006, I faced the greatest challenge that I have ever faced and learned that hard work can help me pave a better future for myself. I found my life- long passion, developed the confidence I needed in order to radiate happiness, and unpleasantly shocked a lot of seven-year old's' parents.



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Re-Engineering the Chess Classics

Book Review
by Miguel Ararat



Chess classics are games characterized by their beauty, historical importance and unrivalled value for understanding and teaching the game. The study of chess classics is considered a cornerstone of chess education at every level of chess skill. Chess trainers, as Alexander Kallini suggests the study of the classical chess heritage as a key factor in the growth of young chess players (1). Croatian GM Davorin Kuljasevic cites the study of the contributions of the great players of the past as valuable skill to players planning to teach chess (2). Finally, Mikhail Shereshevsky, looks at the study of the chess classics as a tool to improve the practical results of his trainees, starting with the games of Steinitz and ignoring all pre – Steinitz games (3)

The study of chess classics as static resources to improve at chess is relevant to both players and trainers. Can we bring a fresh dimension to the chess classics? Chess classics can be significantly improved by using modern chess engines wisely. As a result of this, the gems of chess praxis become more dynamic. In other words, games which have taught chess to generations of chess players are improved by the use of computer analysis. To undertake the massive work of reevaluating the chess classics an especial breed of author is needed. Authors seeking to add value to the legacy of chess need both phenomenal knowledge of chess and expertise in the application of computers to study and analysis of chess games.

In this edition of **FloridaCHESS**. It is a great pleasure to review the book, **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics** by Matthew Sadler and Steve Giddins. **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics**, completes Sadler's trilogy on the impact of chess engines in chess. The other two titles in this trilogy are **Game Changer** and **The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement**. **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics** is an attempt to use computers to enhance and rediscover thirty five chess classic games. **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics** touches on a crucial

aspect of investigating the chess heritage with the use of modern chess engines and novel methods of research. I guess that previous authors didn't consider exploring the chess classics in this light, may be due to lack of interest or expertise. In **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics**, the authors use their expertise on the applications of computer to chess analysis blended with their extensive experience as chess players, authors and magazine editors. One of the key values of this book is how the authors chose the variations generated by chess engines that are more relevant to humans. The selection of the computer generated variations and their insertion in the right part of the games elevates **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics** to a different level. The authors' ability to make their findings understandable to the masses of chess players, despite the technical nature of their work, is impressive. I believe that regardless of their computer proficiency or skill level the readers will understand and apply the author's findings to their games.

How the work of Giddis and Sadler in **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics** enhance a classic game of chess? Let's take the game Lasker, Emmanuel vs Lasker Ed, New York, 1924 to examine more closely the author's work on an ever green chess classic. After the move sequence, 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Ndd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 the move 13...Bd7 is presented in the historical context of his practitioners such as Chigorin and Short then, the list of the of the chess engines top choices are listed as follows. 13...Bd7 is the top choice of Stockfish while Leela prefers 13...Nc6. Next the authors explain the pros and cons of both moves as well as their middlegame implications.

I compared Sadler and Giddins' annotations to Alekhines' commentaries on the same game (4). The benefits and drawbacks of 13...Bd7 and 13...Nc6 were more elaborately described by Sadler and Giddins than Alekhine. Alekhine just considered 13...Nc6. Later, Alekhine pointed out the surprise nature of 15 Re2. Alexander Alekhine suggested 15.Bd3 as a counter to Black's plan, which began with 12...cxd4, based on the game Maroczy – Reti (round eighteen of the same tournament. While the chess engines suggest 13.Ne3 as the best move in the position, Dragon has proposed a nine move variation that makes the black position tenable. The authors explain Dragon's suggestion by pointing out the bishop pair and white's weak knight as compensation for white's extra pawn.



The next interesting move in this game is 15...Nh5 that Sadler, Giddins, and Alekhine evaluated as dubious and the moves 15...b4 and 15...Nc6 are suggested instead. I run the same position on Dragon 2 (in aggressive mode) and obtain the same results as Sadler and Giddins. The disparity between 15...Nc6 (0.43) and 15...Nh5 (0.55) (deep 34 on a quad core i7 desktop) is minimal. However, the methodology used by Giddins and Sadler to assess in depth the value of 15...Nc6 with a match between engines uncovers the true evaluation of the position. Even when Dragon defends the slightly higher rated 15...Nc6, Stockfish prevails, as per the author's results. Alekhine did not annotate the move 19...Bc4, but the authors used Edward Lasker's comments on the alternative 19...Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Qe5, which was the engine choice! After an engine match, all games ended in a draw. Together, the findings put into perspective the strengths of the old chess masters and the value of studying the classics of chess with modern tools.

I can go on and on about Re-Engineering the Chess Classics, but it's time to share what I learned from working on this book. First and foremost, **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics** is a source of inspiration to grow my personal collection of chess classics. Second, I gained new insights in the analysis of closed classical games using modern chess engines. Finally, it becomes clear to me that access to top-quality hardware and software helps to take advantage of the differences between similar moves. This differential use of the chess engine by chess professionals creates a gap with the amateur chess players. Amateur players have limited hardware resources and lack of a good methodology to use their computers. In consequence, chess amateurs need to be cautious when try to imitate the opening choices of professionals or buy their opening repertoire. I prefer opening repertoires that can be explained in the light of chess principles and minimal forced sequences. It is important for non-chess professionals to balance the time they spend mastering a cutting-edge opening repertoire with the marginal gains they provide.

Inspiring the reader to grow is one of the hallmarks of a good chess book. **Re-Engineering chess classics** inspired me to continue collecting games that fit the criteria of classic. Two examples in my list are the games, Khurtsidze- Donaldson Akhmilovskaya and So- Karjakin. The 35th Women's Olympiad, 2002's first game, between Nino Khurtsidze and Elena Donaldson Akhmilovskaya in round 3, is unique because the player with black plays against her former team-mates! The way Akhmilovskaya won this game under such tremendous pressure was impressive, as it requires remarkable chess toughness. The second game, So – Karjakin, FIDE GP Riga, 2019 in this clash between heavy weights. So sacrificed his queen for two minor pieces out of the opening with no concrete path to justify his choice. Quoting Sokolov (5) "On the subject of the true sacrifice, where the sacrificing side takes off on a journey with no guarantees" In my view, this game is an illustration of fighting spirit and beautiful piece coordination build over a whole game against a world class opponent.

Old chess engines were of no use in analyzing closed games. In Re-Engineering the Chess Classics, the authors reveal their discoveries and new dynamic possibilities that were hidden from previous computer assisted analysis. For instance, the game Reshevsky – Petrossian, Zurich 1953 is one of Petrossian's best known games and included in the work of authors such as Gelfer (6), Naroditsky (7), Mihail Marin (8), Najdorf (9) and Bezgodov (10) and Nestorovic & Nestorovic (11). In Re-Engineering the Chess Classics, the game Petrossian – Reshevsky, Zurich 1953 has the original annotations of Bronstein enriched and hidden resources have been discovered by modern chess engines. For instance the move 13Bxf3 was extensively annotated by Bronstein. Bronstein suggested 14.gxf3 and then Nh5 with a kingside attack as a response to white thematic central expansion with f4-Qf2-Rae1_Kh1 and e4.

It is difficult to find a move that makes Black's position worse, as revealed by computer testing (games). Sadler & Giddins. In addition to the variation, 13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 –Qd7 15.a4 Qh3 16.Qd1 Nh5 17.Ba3, the authors provide a clear description of black's plan and timing to set up a blockade. In other words, engines, despite their "tactical magic", prefer to use restraint. Was Bronstein wrong? No really, Bronstein used schematic thinking to support a very humane way of playing, counterattacking the white king. The authors provide a string of novel plans in their computer assisted analysis. There you have it, besides attack and counter attack, Petrossian let slip the chance to set up a blockade! To be honest, Petrossian ended using the blockade later in the game with a beautiful exchange sacrifice.

In Re-Engineering the Chess Classics, the authors show how access to superior hardware and software helps chess professionals profit from the **small** differences among similar moves. By using the analytical methods used by Sadler and Giddins in this book, amateurs can bridge the computer assisted analysis gap with professionals. This is one of many values of Re-Engineering the Chess Classics: it shows amateurs how to professionalize their analysis by using the analytical methods proposed and used by the authors in this book.

Re-Engineering the Chess Classics, like **Game Changer** and **The Silicon Road to Chess Improvement**, is a book that is hard to put down. Re-Engineering the Chess Classics is a resource that is both analytical and rigorous, yet accessible to amateurs who want to explore the chess heritage using modern tools. **Re-Engineering the chess classics** is a must read and a serious candidate for the book of the year 2023. I hope that Sadler and Giddins will take the time to reengineer fifty or one hundred classic chess games and publish a follow-up to **Re-Engineering the Chess Classics**. I am positive that the chess world would greatly benefit from a sequel to the present work.

References and Suggested Read

Chess Training for Candidate Masters, page 12, New in Chess 2017.
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Big congratulations to Floridian **Yi Sha** who won the Bronze medal at the U8 section of XXXIII Pan-American Youth Chess Festival!!!

CHESS CALENDAR

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Date	Event	Location	Contact
Sept. 2-4	2023 Florida State Championship	Jacksonville, Florida	JaxCC
Sept. 29- Oct. 1	CFCC 2023 Autumn Open	Orlando, Florida	CFCC
Oct 13-15	Gulf Coast Open	Fort Myers/Estero, Florida	BRCC
Nov 10-12	21st Annual Turkey Bowl	Fort Lauderdale	BRCC

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

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Registration ends Saturday at 12:00 pm, September 2nd

Registrations after 12:15 will receive a ½ point bye for round 1

USCF and FCA membership required for main tournament, blitz, and quick.

Out of state players welcome! Trophy and titles to top Florida player in each section.

ROUNDS: Sat. 1 & 6, Sun 1 & 6, Mon 9 & 2

QUICK CHAMPIONSHIP G/15;d3 5-SS 9am Saturday 9/2/2022, Prizes b/o entries EF \$25

BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP G/5;d0 4-Double-SS 9am Sunday 9/3/2022. Prizes b/o entries EF \$25

FCA: Annual meeting Sunday 5:30pm, Board of directors meeting Sunday 10:30am

Entry: On chessregister.com for all events (Blitz, Quick, Main Tournament)

Hotel Booking Link: <https://bit.ly/FloridaChessAssociation> Rates for your rooms are confirmed as follows: **\$124.00** for a standard room & **\$144.00** for a suite. Call 904-741-1997 mention FCA ChessChampionship.