



The 1982 Midwest Masters Invitational—Part 1

By Robert Irons

The first Midwest Masters Invitational chess tournament took place in Chicago during the first week of December in 1982. The event was held at the Palmer House Hotel—one of Chicago's most storied establishments. Potter Palmer, an American businessman who was behind much of the development of downtown Chicago during the 19th century, built the hotel as a wedding gift to his wife. Less than two weeks after its grand opening, the Palmer House, and much of Chicago, fell victim to the great fire of 1871. Palmer rebuilt the hotel and reopened it two years later, and it has been a landmark of the downtown area ever since. The Palmer House has held many chess tournaments during my life; its old-world charm and rugged Chicago history make it a good site to host a struggle for chessboard supremacy.

The tournament was organized by Helen Warren, a long-time supporter of chess in Illinois (I believe Helen organized all ten of the Midwest Masters tournaments). The tournament was directed by Walter Brown. Fred Gruenberg assisted with the organization and sponsored two \$100 game prizes that ended up being divided over three games. Master Richard Verber was the judge for the prizes,

and he chose to give one prize to Erik Karklins for his first-round win over Master Albert Chow, while the second \$100 prize was split between Steve Szpisjak for his first-round win over Master Chris Kus, and Master Albert Chow for his fifth-round win over Steve Szpisjak.



Fred Gruenberg, owner of RAE Chemicals, sponsor of the tournament and donor of the two Best Game prizes. He is also the source for the photos, which he no longer has.



The game Karklins-Chow from round 1, with John Rose far left and Charles Lawton center.

The lineup consisted almost entirely of local, Midwestern players—only one player was from a state outside of the Midwest (Stephen Popel of North Dakota). There were no grandmasters at this first event; an International Master was the highest rated player in this contest. Both of those circumstances would change in the coming years as the event became better known and more popular.

The first MMI hosted the following 36 players (in descending order of rating before the event):

- IM Leonid Bass (WI) – 2538
- FM Michael Brooks (MO) – 2436
- SM Leonid Kaushansky (IL) – 2426
- M Dennis Gogel (IN) – 2363
- M Dr. Eugene Martinovsky (IL) – 2362
- M David Sprengle (IL) – 2350
- M Steve Tennant (IL) – 2343
- M Kenneth Jones (MO) – 2321
- M John Rose (IA) – 2306
- FM Allan Savage (IA) – 2304
- M Marvin Dandridge (IL) – 2304
- M Albert Chow (IL) – 2292
- M David Rubin (IL) – 2286
- M Charles Lawton (MO) – 2283
- M Allen Kornfeld (IL) – 2257
- M Kenneth Larsen (IL) – 2248
- M Chris Kus (IL) – 2239
- M Miodir Stevanovic (IL) – 2235
- M Larry Chachere (IL) – 2230
- M Lester Van Meter (MI) – 2220
- M Eric Schiller (IL) – 2219
- M Kenneth Mohr (IL) – 2211
- M Morris Giles (IL) – 2203
- Ed Friedman (IL) – 2192
- Albert Sandrin (IL) – 2182
- Fred Rhine (IL) – 2176
- Kevin Bachler (IL) – 2170
- Kenneth Wallach (IL) – 2169
- Angelo Sandrin (IL) – 2162
- Erik Karklins (IL) – 2159
- Stephan Popel (ND) – 2152
- Charles Kramer (IL) – 2146
- Glen Gratz (IL) – 2138
- J Timothy Sage (IL) – 2135
- Timothy Redman (IL) – 2103
- Steven Szpisjak (IL) – 2081

The action took place over five rounds, with the first round being held on Friday December 3rd, rounds two and three on Saturday the 4th, and the final two rounds on Sunday the 5th.

Round 1

The first round of this contest brought very mixed results; half of the 18 games ended in draws and two of them ended in less than 20 moves. But the overall results in no way indicate the fighting nature of the games in this round which saw seven Sicilian Defenses, including two Smith—

Morra Gambits. Of the three game prizes awarded in this tournament, two came from the first round. Further, three of the decisive games were won by untitled players beating masters, and of the nine draws, six were the result of untitled players holding masters to a draw. This was a fighting round!

Larsen–Bass was a Sicilian Smith–Morra Gambit in which Larsen was unable to obtain enough pressure for his donated pawn. This led him to throw more pawns on the fire in an attempt to generate enough heat for an attack. Bass continued to consume the offered material, and by the 26th move White ran out of threats. Larsen resigned on move 37.



The game Larsen-Bass from round 1.

Eric Schiller, the late prolific chess author, coach, and international arbiter, was rated 2219 at the time, and was paired up with Michael Brooks, a FIDE master rated 2436. Schiller held a clinic on the playability of the Schliemann Defense to the Spanish Opening, holding his own into an easily held opposite-colored bishop and pawn ending. The draw was agreed on move 51.

Friedman–Kaushansky was another Smith–Morra Gambit with the untitled player again going for the gold. Friedman was able to maintain a fairly level game until move 52, when Kaushansky managed to get his rook behind one of his passed pawns in a rook–and–pawn ending. Friedman fought on until move 76 before packing it in.

Gogel–Stevanovic was an Averbach King’s Indian Defense in which Gogel’s attempts at aggression were dissipated by Stevanovic’s steady defensive maneuvers. Over repeated onslaughts, Gogel could make no headway, and peace was agreed upon after 42 moves.

Angelo Sandrin–Martinovsky showed the good doctor playing his favorite Gruenfeld Defense against Angelo’s solid, if unenterprising, play. Despite a 200–point difference in their rating, Sandrin was able to hold Martinovsky to a draw in a queen and pawn ending.

The game Sprenkle–Rhine seems to have been an attempt to test the untitled player’s knowledge of theory. Master David Sprenkle chose the Ponziani Opening (1.e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♒c6 3.c3) against Fred Rhine. Fred, now a National Master but untitled at the time, gave as well as he

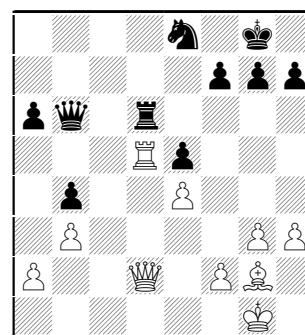
took and defused the position quickly, ending with a draw on move 13.

Albert Sandrin–Rose was a Sicilian Kan with a Maroczy Bind structure that stayed even until move 16, when Sandrin offered material in return for a kingside attack. Rose took the material, kept his cool, and got his pieces into play. White’s attack landed no real blows, and Sandrin resigned on move 29 rather than play an ending two pieces down.

The game Lawton–Moore started as a Closed Sicilian, but by move five transposed to a standard Scheveningen. The play followed theory for 14 moves, and the players agreed to a draw five moves later without any fanfare.

The Jones–Wallach game was a hard–fought battle in the French Defense, during which the advantage swung back and forth, first to White when Wallach loosened the pawn cover around his king, then to Black when Jones allowed a passed pawn to make it to the sixth rank. The game finally ended after 55 moves with a drawn rook and pawn ending.

The game Kornfeld–Sage was a positional struggle for the first 30 moves. Kornfeld’s English Opening became a Maroczy Bind structure on move 15. For the next 15 moves, both players followed standard plans, until Sage opted to try to force more exchanges with 30...♗d6:



The rook move (30... ♖c6–d6) appears logical on its face, but Black has two weaknesses—his e–pawn and his back rank—that can be exploited with one move: 31.♗xe5! Kornfeld held onto the pawn, but Sage was able to centralize his knight and penetrate with his queen to the second rank, preventing White from making the most of his prize. The players agreed to a draw on move 41.

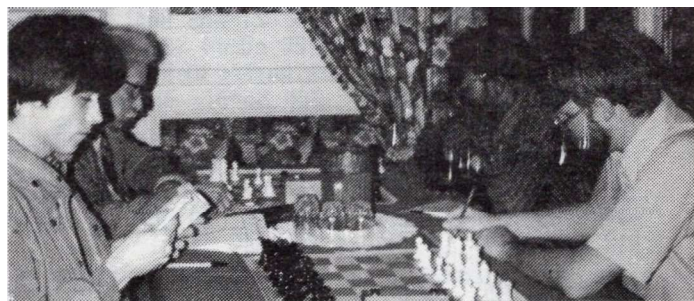
Bachler–Rubin was a sharp battle from the start. Rubin chose the Classical Variation in the Sicilian Defense, and Bachler responded with the Velimirovic Attack in the Sozin Variation. The players each built their own positions separately, only stopping to trade a pair of knights, until the 16th move, when Bachler played 16.e5 to clear the fourth rank for his rook to move from d4 to h4, joining his queen on h5. Rubin weakened the black squares around his king, playing g6 to prevent White’s rook and queen from coordinating effectively, then redeveloped his black–squared bishop to g7 to cover those weakened squares. After that, the center opened, more pieces were traded, and peace was declared.

The game Giles–Gratz started sharply and quickly became

tense. Gratz' choice of the Najdorf Sicilian was countered with Fischer's favorite 6...♘c4. Giles offered a pawn which Gratz refused, whereupon Giles advanced the pawn, driving Gratz's knight into a precarious position, unsupported in the center. White's moves became more aggressive, and his lead in development began to seriously threaten Black's king. Gratz found a continuation that won a pawn and forced the trade of queens, but Giles saw one move further, winning a rook for a knight. Black offered more material in an attempt to build a counterattack, but White returned the material to trade down to an easily won ending.

Popel–Dandridge began as a quiet d–pawn opening (White's first four moves were ♖f3, d4, c3, and e3), and Black had no trouble equalizing by move ten. Both players maneuvered uneventfully until Dandridge advanced his kingside starting on move 20, which Popel immediately countered with a queenside assault. Further maneuvering enabled Black to win rook for knight on move 39 while still maintaining the kingside pressure. Popel resigned on move 44.

The game Van Meter–Chachere was a Nimzowitsch–Larsen Opening. By move 13, both sides were castled and had initiated opposing pawn storms, – White's on the kingside, Black's on the queenside. The game stayed fairly even until move 35, when Van Meter unfortunately hung a knight, allowing Chachere to collect the full point.



"Larry Chachere meets Lester Van Meter, front, as Stephan Popel plays Marvin Dandridge."

Redman–Savage was a King's Indian Defense where White advanced d4–d5, leading to the classic blocked center with opposing pawn storms (a2–a3, b2–b4, c2–c4–c5 for White, f7–f5–f4, h7–h5, g6–g5–g4 for Black). Both sides pressed their own attack while maneuvering around their opponent's attack and neither player was able to gain an advantage. The players called it quits after 26 moves.

The game Kus–Szpisjak was a Sveshnikov Sicilian that quickly became a fight around the d5 square. That struggle led to more exchanges, and the players reached a fairly even ending with rooks, opposite color bishops, and four pawns on each side by the 27th move. Black centralized his king and liquidated his doubled e–pawns, continuing to make slight improvements in his position, then White made a misstep on move 35 by bringing his king out into the open. From there, it took Szpisjak just three moves to force a mating position. This game split one of the two Best Game prizes with the game Szpisjak–Chow from round five .



"Asst. TD Tim Just keeps an eye on his left flank as FM Allan Savage and Chris Kus, facing camera, prepare to square off vs Tim Redman and Steve Szpisjak."

The game between the late Erik Karklins and the late Albert Chow won one of the Best Game prizes outright, due to its theoretical contribution. The opening was the Marshall gambit in the Spanish game, one of my favorite lines. The players followed theory until Chow overlooked a tactic when making his 25th (!) move. It took only five more moves for Karklins to force resignation. The game is cited in David Vigorito's splendid book *Understanding the Marshall Attack*. At the time of this game, Chow was a master and Karklins was untitled, making this result even more impressive.

For this first round, I chose to analyze the game between the late Charles Kramer of Dolton, Illinois, and the late FIDE Master Steve Tennant of Palos Hills, Illinois. At the time of the game, Tennant was rated 2343, while Kramer was rated a mere 2146—the 32nd–highest rated player taking on the seventh–highest. Bill Murray would call it a Cinderella story—an untitled player beats a master under tournament conditions.

Kramer's approach to the game is sound, and one that I would use: a positional opening (the English) with a fixed pawn center (Botvinnik's variation), choosing positional play over sharpness. And for those of you who think endings aren't worth the study time, it is in the ending where Kramer won this game.

Kramer – Tennant English Opening [A36]

1.c4 ♖f6 2.♗c3 g6 3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 0–0 5.e4 d6 6.♗ge2 c5 7.0–0 ♗c6

The Botvinnik system involving c4, e4 and g3 is very popular among untitled players, having been covered by a number of opening book authors. It is a solid system that lets White get through the first nine or ten moves without fear of hidden tactics.

8.d3 ♗e8

Since White has not started his queenside play yet, Black could consider it for himself with 8...a6 followed by ♗b8 and b5. Instead Black chooses central play.

9.a3 ♖d4 10.♖b1 b6

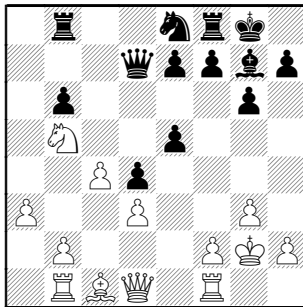
Kramer uses this weakening of the long diagonal to create an imbalance in the queenside pawn structure. It doesn't lead to a tangible advantage, but the resulting position is strategically clear and has plenty of room for both sides to play for a win.

11.♗xd4 cxd4 12.e5 ♖b8 13.♗b5 ♖b7 14.♗xa7 ♖xg2 15.♗xg2 ♖d7

But not 15...♖xe5? 16.♗c6+.

16.♗b5 dxe5

Now the two sides have clear opposing pawn majorities. White's best pawn break is b2–b4 and a3–a4–a5 with an outside passer, while Black will play f7–f5 and e5–e4 to create his own passed pawn. Black achieves his pawn break first, and the threat of e4–e3 looks fierce. Kramer calmly and methodically lets all the air out of Black's tires by trading off a pair of rooks and the queens. Black's remaining rook will have to both support the e3 pawn's advance and stop White's a–pawn from queening. White's play comes from two specific circumstances: his king is close to Black's passed pawn, and Black's king is nowhere near White's passer. Those two conditions are enough to hold the position.



7.a4 ♗d6 18.♗xd6 exd6 19.♖d2 f5 20.f3 d5 21.cxd5 ♖xd5 22.b4 e4 23.fxe4 fxe4 24.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 25.♖b3 ♖xb3 26.♖xb3 e3 27.♖e1 ♖b8 28.♖a3 ♗f7 29.a5 ♗e6 30.a6 b5

This artificially isolates the a–pawn, depriving it of protection by the b–pawn. Given this, White decides to trade off the a–pawn for Black's b–pawn, giving him a new passer in the b4 pawn.

31.♖a5 ♖a8 32.g4 ♗d6 33.♖xb5 ♖xa6 34.♖a5

This is the only move of Kramer's that I take issue with. I would prefer 34.♖g3+ ♗c6 35.♖c5+. While this lets Black's king closer to the passed pawn, it helps the White bishop and rook coordinate with the king.

34...♖c6

And here I prefer 34... ♖xa5 35. bxa5 ♖e5. The text allows Kramer to get his rook behind his passer—still not enough to win, but leaving him better off than he was.

35.♖g3+ ♗e6 36.b5 ♖c2+ 37.♗f3 ♖e5 38.♖xe5 ♗xe5 39.b6+

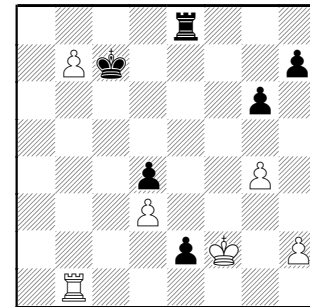
♗d6 40.♖b5 ♖f2+

But not 40...♖xh2? 41.b7 ♖f2+ 42.♗e4 ♖f8 43.b8 wins.

41.♗g3 ♖f8 42.b7 ♗c7 43.♖b4 e2 44.♖b1 ♖e8

44...g5 is possible here because White's king is too far from the e2 pawn, which leaves Black with an in-between move if White pushes his pawn: 45.b8/♖+ ♖xb8 46.♖xb8 e1/♖+ wins. Instead 45.♖e1 ♖e8 46.♗f2 holds.

45.♗f2



45...g5?+-

This is the losing move. Necessary is 45...♗b8, with one possible continuation being 46.♗e1 ♖e3 47.♖b3. Now queening the passed pawn results in White winning Black's d–pawn, and from there it's easy.

46.b8♖+ ♖xb8 47.♖xb8 ♗xb8 48.♗xe2 ♗c7 49.♗f3 ♗d6 50.♗e4 ♗c5 51.♗e5 1–0

White has won the d–pawn. The simplest plan after that is to use the opposition to force White's king into the kingside to win Black's other pawns, leaving the passed White d–pawn behind as a constant threat.

Charles Kramer played a solid game against a difficult opponent. He kept up with him through the middlegame, then took advantage of the one clear mistake Black made, and went on to win in the ending. A game any untitled player could be proud of!

Nine decisive results left nine players tied for first place at the end of round one, with a third of them being untitled. The second round would leave only four players sharing first place, after a number of the masters felt the need to bring the fight! The scores at the end of the first round:

- 1: Bass, Kaushansky, Rose, Kramer, Karklins, Giles, Dandridge, Chachere, Szpisjak
- ½: Schiller, Brooks, Stevanovic, Gogel, Martinovsky, Angelo Sandrin, Rhine, Sprenkle, Mohr, Lawton, Wallach, Jones, Sage, Kornfeld, Rubin, Bachler, Savage, Redman
- 0: Larsen, Friedman, Al Sandrin, Tennant, Chow, Gratz, Popel, Van Meter, Kus

Round 2

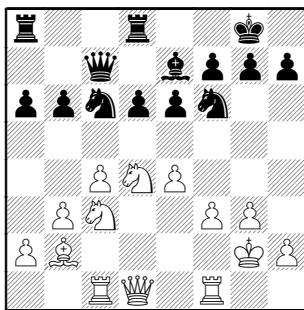
The heat got turned up in round two; 13 out of 18 games were decisive. This round saw two more Sicilian Najdorfs, four King's Indian Defenses, a Dutch Leningrad, and a Benko Gambit! While only one of the decisive games is

worthy of calling an upset (Popel–Larsen), four of the five draws were between players with more than 100–point differences in their ratings.

After solidly beating an untitled player in round one, Marvin Dandridge came out swinging with the black pieces against the top seed. Leonid Bass chose the Exchange variation against Dandridge’s Queen’s Gambit Declined, reaching a tabiya at move ten. Bass chose to exchange bishop for knight in order to pursue the minority attack on the queenside. Dandridge used a rook lift as the basis for a kingside assault, which Bass countered with an advance in the center. Dandridge sacrificed a knight for a pawn and some additional pressure, but Bass calmly accepted the material, then pushed a passed pawn through to a queen.

Kaushansky chose the theory–avoiding 6.g3 against Chachere’s Najdorf Sicilian, and on move ten Chachere initiated a skirmish on the queenside that dropped one of his pawns. Going after Kaushansky’s e–pawn in turn denied Chachere the chance to castle, and on his next move Chachere missed a pin that cost him a piece. It was over by move 20.

John Rose and Charles Kramer discussed the Hedgehog structure, and the game remained quite even until Black overlooked what is now known as a typical maneuver in Maroczy Bind positions (after 14...♞fd8?):



15.♘d5! exd5 16.cxd5 ♔d7 and while Rose’s 17.♞xc6 was good enough to win, even better is 17.dxc6! ♔c7 18.♘f5 followed by ♗e3–d5 with an overwhelming position.

The game Karklins–Giles showed Morris Giles creating what I once overheard another player refer to as “one of Giles’ tactical messes.” Karklins was well–prepared with a line against the Najdorf Sicilian that brought his queen out to the kingside early. Giles responded with a threat to undermine the protection of White’s e–pawn, which Karklins used to trade a bishop for three pawns in a standard maneuver. Unfortunately, Karklins chose to trade bishop for knight in the middle of the transaction, in a continuation that looked strong but led nowhere. After throwing another knight onto the fire, White was forced into further trades that led to an ending with Black up two bishops for four pawns. Karklins chose to throw in the towel.

Steve Szpisjak played the Nimzo–Larsen Attack against FM Michael Brooks, following b3 and ♗b2 with f4 to play on the long dark–squared diagonal. Brooks responded by sacrificing his e–pawn to create weaknesses on White’s kingside, which he then exploited with his queen and knight, eventually winning one of White’s knights for a

pawn. Szpisjak held on for as long as he could, but walked into a knight fork on move 40.

The late Dr. Eugene Martinovsky played a solid, if unambitious, line against Miomir Stevanovic’s King’s Indian Defense, and Stevanovic even got the better of the position for a few moves. By move 39, however, the players agreed to a peace.

The game Angelo Sandrin–David Sprenkle was a Lenin–grad Dutch that saw both players attempting action on the kingside. Sandrin weakened the pawns around his king, which Sprenkle quickly exploited by stripping away the remaining pawns in a relentless assault. Sandrin, facing a mating attack, resigned on move 27.

Fred Rhine held Charles Lawton to a draw with solid play against Lawton’s King’s Indian Defense, maneuvering effectively in a Maroczy Bind while keeping Black’s pawn breaks at bay. Lawton traded off key minor pieces in order to enforce the d6–d5 break, which led to an exchange of rooks as well. The players agreed to a draw just three moves later.

The game between Ken Mohr and Kenneth Jones was a battle with several fronts. Jones’ King’s Indian Defense was met with the Averbach Variation, but the pawn structure ended up resembling the Saemisch Variation. Mohr got an early advantage and held it until move 26, when he overreacted to a threat against his king, creating a pawn weakness that Jones used as the basis for a counterattack. At move 50, however, just when he had the win within reach, Jones moved his king in the wrong direction, giving away his entire advantage. The draw was declared shortly thereafter.

The late Albert Sandrin, who had been blind since childhood, handled Lester Van Meter’s Caro–Kann Defense deftly, setting up a pawn sacrifice with his 20th move that he didn’t get back until move 32. The resulting ♞+♗ ending was declared drawn on move 54.

David Rubin put on a tactical display against Timothy Sage, who opened with the Queen’s Gambit Accepted, but then got overly aggressive with his queenside pawn advances. Sage thought he saw a double attack on move 12 when he made his 11th move. Instead, he overlooked Rubin’s 13th move, which created conditions for a flank attack against the black king. Sage resigned on move 20, facing mate in five moves.

After holding David Rubin to a draw in round one, Kevin Bachler held Allan Savage to a draw in round two. Savage played the Advance Variation against Bachler’s French Defense, and was able to maintain the better position until it reached a ♞+♗ ending, when one more check would have been enough to win. By missing the check, however, Savage gave away his advantage, and had to settle for a draw on move 44.

Tim Redman played the Benko Gambit against Steve Tennant, who declined the second pawn and played to maintain a space advantage in the center as well as on the queenside. Redman opened the center to obtain counterplay, but in the ensuing melee he lost a knight. He re-

signed on move 35.

Al Chow chose the same line of the Carlsbad Variation against Edward Friedman that Bass used in the first round to defeat Dandridge. While the play was even for the first 22 moves, on move 23 Friedman miscalculated a series of exchanges, giving up queen and knight for two rooks and some kingside pressure. Once Chow relieved the kingside pressure, the counterattack against Friedman's king was too much to handle, and he resigned on move 43.

Ken Wallach employed a fianchetto against Allen Kornfeld's Modern Benoni Defense, and the players kept things pretty equal until the 22nd move, when Wallach chose queenside maneuvering rather than central play. Without a concern for central counterplay, Kornfeld was free to storm the kingside, first with pawns and then with a rook. The final move, sacrificing a rook to open the h-file, forced mate in two more moves.

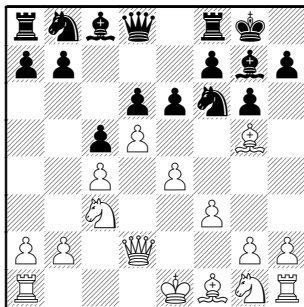
The game Gratz-Kus employed the sharp Poisoned Pawn line of the Winawer Variation of the French Defense, and White kept a grip on the position until he permitted an exchange of Black's knight and rook for queen and pawn. From that point on, the play was all Black's, and Gratz finally called it quits on move 40.

Stephan Popel played an English Opening structure against Ken Larsen's Queen's Indian Defense, with no clear advantage for the first 19 moves. On move 20, Popel pinned a knight against Larsen's queen, preparing to win it with a pawn push. When Larsen replied by increasing the pressure against White's king, Popel snagged the knight and weathered the pressure, winning more material and forcing submission on move 28.

For this second round, I chose to analyze the game Schiller-Gogel, the 21st seed against the 4th seed. Dennis Gogel missed the opportunity to change the pawn structure early, and Eric Schiller never gave him a second chance.

**Schiller – Gogel
King's Indian Defense [E81]**

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♟g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♟g5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♞d2



8...♞e8?!±

This is Black's chance to change the structure to his benefit. 8...exd5 9.cxd5 a6 10.a4 h6 11.♟e3 ♞e8= and the position is roughly even.

9.♞ge2 ♞b6?!±

The queen excursion offers nothing. 9...exd5 10.♞xd5 ♟e6 11.♞ec3 ♟xd5 12.♞xd5± and while White is better, Black is still in the game.

10.0-0-0 exd5 11.♟xf6 ♟xf6 12.♞xd5 ♞d8 13.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 14.♞xd6 ♟e6?!+-

14...♞xd6 15.♞xd6 ♞c6 16.♞c3 ♟e6± leaves Black a bit better off than the text.

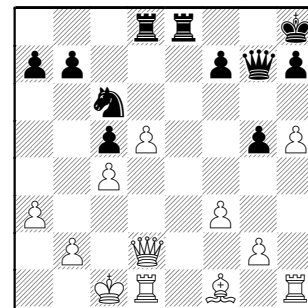
15.♞c3 ♞a6 16.♞d5 ♞g7 17.h4 ♟h8

17...♟xd5 18.cxd5 ♞ad8 19.♞f4 looks slightly better than the text.

18.h5 ♟xd5 19.exd5?!

Better is 19.cxd5 ♞ad8 20.♞f4 and the pressure against Black's king is increasing.

19...♞ad8 20.♞f4 g5 21.♞d2 ♞b4 22.a3 ♞c6!



Clever, but not enough to alter the inevitable. However, there is little to offer at this point.

23.♟b1 ♞d4 24.♟d3 f6 25.♞he1 ♞c7 26.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 27.♞e1 ♞xe1+ 28.♞xe1 ♞d7 29.♞e4 ♟g8 30.h6 ♞b3 31.♞e3 ♟f8 32.♟a2?!

Better is 32.♞e1 b6 33.♞g3 ♞e7 34.♟c2 ♞d2+ 35.♟a2 ♞xc4 36.♞b8+ ♞e8 37.♞xa7 ♞f7 38.♞b8+ ♞e8 39.♞xe8+ ♟xe8 40.♟xh7 and White is clearly winning. The text is only a slight setback.

32...♞d4 33.♟b1 b5 34.♞e4 bxc4 35.♞xh7 ♞xh7 36.♟xh7 ♞b5 37.♟f5 c3 38.g4 cxh2 39.♟xb2 ♟f7 40.h7 ♟g7 41.♟b3 ♞d6 42.♟a4 ♟h8 43.♟c2 ♞c4 44.♟b5 1-0

At the end of round two, the four players in first place were all titled players, but there were several untitled players still vying for prizes. The end of round three would find one of those four alone at the top of the leader board. The scores at this point in the tournament:

- 2: Bass, Kaushansky, Rose, Giles
- 1½: Brooks, Schiller, Sprenkle, Kornfeld, Rubin
- 1: Tennant, Redman, Dandridge, Kramer, Mohr, Szpisjak, Kus, Savage, Stevanovic, Martinovsky, Rhine, Lawton, Chachere, Bachler, Popel, Jones, Chow, Karklins
- ½: Al Sandrin, Wallach, Van Meter, Sage, Angelo Sandrin

0: Friedman, Larsen, Gratz

The Players

It will take three issues to cover all five rounds of the tournament, and I will use the last part of each issue to introduce the players, in reverse or based on final scores. In this issue I will start with the bottom third of the final scores, from 36th to 25th.

Glen Gratz is the former head chess coach at North Boone High School in Poplar Grove, Illinois. Glen continues to compete at chess, including winning the inaugural Rock River Chess Tournament in July 2017. He currently has a US Chess regular rating of 2026.

Albert Sandrin Jr. (1923–2004) of Illinois won the 1949 US Open and took second in the 1951 US Open, despite being blind. He represented the US in the World Blind Championships of 1970 and 1982, and he played first board for the US team in the Blind Olympiads in 1968, 1972, and 1980, playing second board in 1976.

Kenneth Larsen attended college at the University of Chicago during the tournament, and now lives in Arizona, where he is the five-time state chess champion. He was the coach of the National Champion Orange Grove school team which once included now GM Tal Shaked. Ken's current US Chess rating is 2320.

Timothy Sage, now living in Massachusetts, is still an active chess player. Tim won the 2016 Chicago Class Championship in the Expert category, and scored 3/6 at the 2023 US Open Championship, including a win against FM Javier Antonio Torres. His current US Chess rating is 2136.

Charles Kramer of Dolton, Illinois passed away in September 2017. His last regular rating was 2274.

Ken Wallach of Illinois coached the Stevenson High School chess team to win the IHSA Chess State Championship in 2020 and 2022. Ken is an active player with a current FIDE rating of 2085.

Christopher Kus grew up in Chicago but has since moved to California. He was on the chess team at Lane Technical High School, along with Ken Mohr and Fred Rhine, when they won the Illinois State Championship in 1976. Christopher does not appear to have played competitively in the past 20 years.



Allen Kornfeld shared first place in the 1979 Illinois Open Chess Championship in Chicago prior to this tournament. He no longer plays competitive chess.

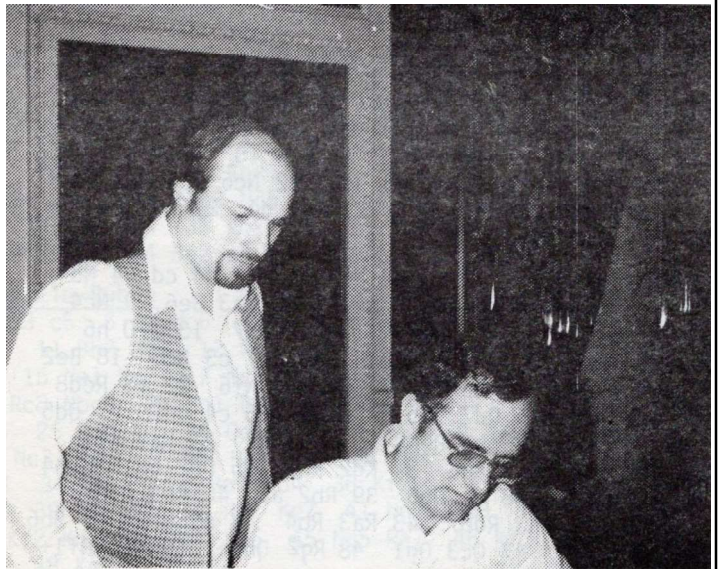
Stephan Popel (1909–1987) of Fargo, North Dakota, grew up in Ukraine, where he won the championship of Lviv in

1929. After WWII he moved to France, where he won the Paris City Chess Championship in 1951, 1953, and 1954. He emigrated to the US in 1956, where he won the Michigan State Championship in 1957, 1958, and 1959. After moving to North Dakota in 1960, Popel won the State Championship of North Dakota 11 times. In 1996, the city of Lviv hosted their first International Chess Tournament in memory of Stephan Popel.

Erik Karklins (1915–2017) of Chicago was born in Riga, Latvia, the birthplace of Mikhail Tal. Educated as an architect, he emigrated to the US in 1951. He tied for second place in the 1963 Illinois State Championship, and he was awarded the National Master title in 1984 at the age of 68. He is the father of FM Andrew Karklins, author of *Modern Grandmaster Chess: As Exemplified in the 1964 USSR Zonal Tournament*.

Edward Friedman shared first place in the 1976 Illinois Open Chess Championship. He is on the faculty of the University of Chicago in the Mathematics department. His current US Chess quick rating is 2238.

FM Lester Van Meter currently lives in Indiana and remains an active player, with a US Chess regular rating of 2200. He was inducted into the Indiana State Chess Association's Hall of Fame in 1993 for his service to chess in Indiana.



Asst. TD Tim Just standing, Chief TD Walter Brown sitting.

Stay tuned for part 2 coming next issue. It will feature some games newly annotated by a few of the players themselves.