## Round 3

The fighting spirit among the competitors continued into round 3; 11 of the 18 games were decisive. Szpisjak's win over Chachere qualified as an upset (their ratings were 149 points apart), and three of the five draws were between players with more than 140 points difference in their ratings.

John Rose and Leonid Bass debated the Sicilian Kan evenly until move 10, when Bass played the pawn break d5 too early. Rose advanced e5, castled and consolidated his position before taking over with the Greek Gift sacrifice ♗xh7+. White enjoyed a winning attack for five more moves before he let up on the pressure (perhaps in time trouble). A series of questionable moves gave away all of Rose's advantage, and the players agreed to a draw on move 28.

Leonid Kaushansky chose the Pelikan variation of the Sicilian Defense against Morris Giles, and his middlegame play was aggressive, but also loosened the pawn cover around his castled king. Giles built up a solid positional advantage, first gaining space on the queenside, then attacking the loosened kingside pawn structure. Unfortunately he released the queenside tension too soon, and Kaushansky took the opportunity to build up counterpressure on the queenside. The final four moves by each player shifted the advantage between sides twice.
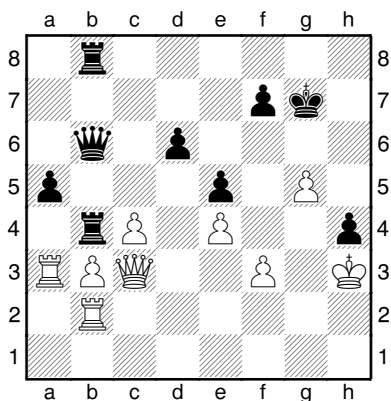
Kaushansky has a win here by simply increasing the queenside pressure.

47...♕g1?

This gives away all of Black's advantage. Instead   47...a4!   48.♕d2 ♖xb3   49.♖axb3   axb3   when Black threatens   ♕d4!   with an easy win. Now, he just has a check or two before the queen has to retreat.

48.♖g2 ♕h1+ 49.♖h2 ♕f1+ 50.♔xh4??–+

But now it's all over. After 50...♕g1   Black gives checkmate in three moves or less.

Michael Brooks and Allen Kornfeld chose the Sicilian Dragon as the basis for their discussion this round. Opposite-side castling was quickly followed by an exchange of knights, and then five moves later the queens came off the board. When the dark-squared bishops were exchanged, the game appeared to be headed towards a draw. Unfortunately, Kornfeld left a rook by itself for too long off on the queenside. Brooks was able to isolate the rook, making it ineffective. Then Brooks shifted the assault from the kingside to the center and back again, finally finishing by picking off Kornfeld's e-pawn for free.

David Sprenkle played the Tarrasch variation against David Rubin's French Defense, and the play remained fairly even until White's 24th move, when Sprenkle chose to defend his rook on c7 rather than move it. Rubin responded with ♘c6, cutting off both the rook's protection and its only safe retreat. Sprenkle had to settle for getting ♘+♙ for ♖. He was unable to constrain Rubin's rook, and so Sprenkle finally tipped over his king on move 48.

The Martinovsky – Schiller game started out as a Tarrasch Defense to the Queen's Gambit Declined, but quickly transposed into a position from the Panov Attack against the Caro Kann. After the queens and minor pieces came off the board, Schiller was able to get somewhat the better of the double rook and pawn endgame. However, Schiller made one minor mistake, and that was enough for the Doctor to make sufficient threats that Schiller offered a draw on move 48.

Dr. Eugene Martinovsky.

Charles Lawton chose the Pirc defense against Miomir Stevanovic's 1.e4, and Stevanovic in turn chose to fianchetto his light-squared bishop and develop his kingside knight to e2, a solid positional setup (as opposed to the Austrian Attack). Queens came off the board on move eight, and the play remained fairly even through move 51. In a ♘+♗ ending, Lawton let Stevanovic's king penetrate and capture an extra pawn, giving him the advantage. The players continued to struggle for another 20 moves, until Stevanovic gave up all of his advantage in one move:
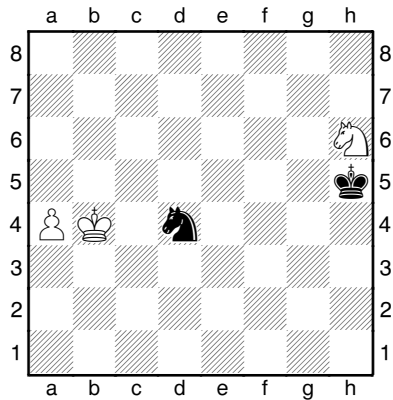
73.♘f7?

White can win with 73.♔c4! For example, 73...♘e6 74.a5! ♘c7 75.♘f5 ♔g4 76.♘e7 ♔f3 77.♔c5 ♘a6+ 78.♔b5 ♘b8 79.♘c6 ♔d7 80.a6 and the pawn will queen. There are many lines, but Stockfish gives them all as winning for White.

73...♔g6=

The position is even. The players gave it up as a draw five moves later.

A similar fate befell Ken Mohr in this round when he chose the Auerbach variation against Steve Tennant's King's Indian Defense. The play was fairly even for the first 20 moves, but then a series of small mistakes by Tennant left Mohr with a significant advantage. Unfortunately for Ken (perhaps due to time trouble), he missed his opportunity to cash in just a few moves later:
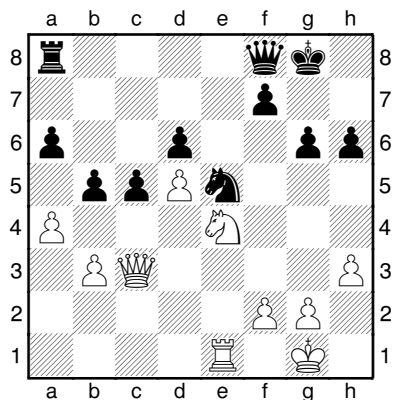
28.f4?

White wins here by forcing the Black king onto the long dark-squared diagonal, where White's queen will give a discovered check when White's knight moves to attack and win Black's queen: 28.♘f6+! ♔g7 *(28...♔h8 29.f4 b4 30.♕d2 and the ♘e5 is lost.)* 29.f4 b4 30.♕a1 and again the ♘e5 is lost.

28...♘d7=

The players continued for six more moves before declaring peace.

Ken Jones' 1.e4 was answered by Fred Rhine's Scheveningen Sicilian, with Rhine first exchanging a knight for Jones' dark-squared bishop, then opening the center while his king remained there. Jones missed his one chance to begin an attack on the exposed Black king on move 13, then offered a draw two moves

later.

Charles Kramer and Albert Chow discussed the Chigorin variation of the Closed Ruy Lopez where White closes the center with d4-d5. Rather than building pressure on the kingside, Kramer chose to defuse Chow's queenside space advantage. The resulting simplification brought about a draw by move 27.

Marvin Dandridge chose the Nimzovich – Larsen Attack against Erik Karklins, who responded by advancing in the center and castling queenside. When Black's center pawns breached the fourth rank, Dandridge chose the wrong continuation. Fortunately for him, Karklins immediately returned the favor:

15.d×e4?!∓
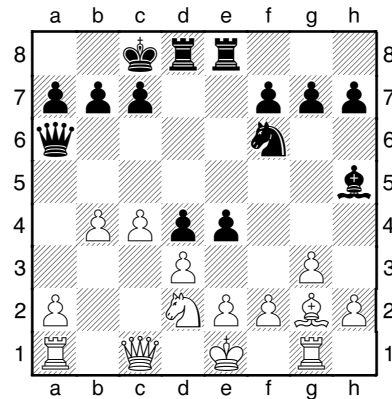
15.♘×e4 ♔b8= *(or 15...♘×e4 16.♗×e4 ♗×e2 17.♔×e2 f5 18.f3 f×e4 19.f×e4 ♕g6=)* leaves Black in good shape.

15...♘×e4?+−

And here Black can turn things around with 15...♘d7 16.♗h3 ♔b8 17.♗×d7 ♖×d7∓.

16.♗×e4 ♗×e2 17.♔×e2 f5 18.f3+−

Karklins resigned on move 30.

Stephan Popel played the Center Counter Defense against Allan Savage, setting up what John Watson refers to as a "white-square restraint" strategy, a strategy that I enjoy playing myself. However, on move 11, Popel neglected to defend his Bd6 with Qc7 and instead chose development with Nd7. Fortunately for him, Savage's tactical eye failed him that day:
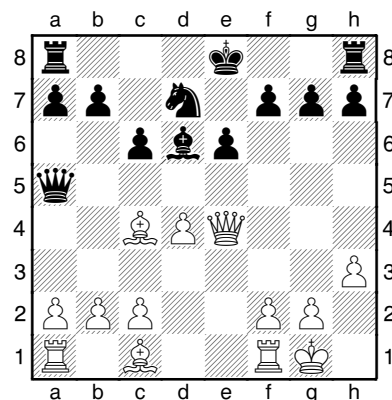
Savage continued **12.♕g4? ♔f8 13.c3** and offered a draw, which was

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quickly accepted. Instead he could have given Popel a reason to consider resigning with 12.♗×e6! f×e6 13.♕×e6+ ♗e7 14.♖e1 ♕d8 15.♗g5 ♘f6 16.♗×f6 g×f6 17.♖e4 f5 18.♖e3 ♕d7 19.♖ae1 ♕×e6 20.♖×e6+–.

Dennis Gogel opened with the English Opening, but Al Sandrin transposed the game into the Old Indian Defense for Black, against a kingside fianchetto for White. Gogel got a slight edge when Sandrin opened the center prematurely, but then gave it away by playing safely. The game ended with a triple blunder:
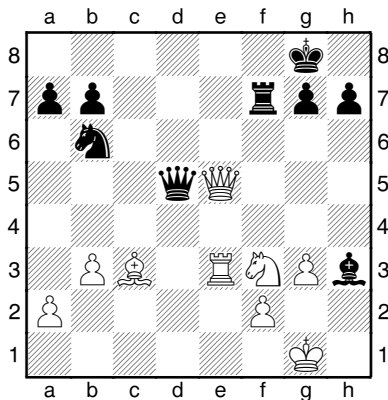
The position is even, and Sandrin can split the point by exchanging queens. By trying for more, he got far less.

25...♕c6?+–

Blunder #1:   ♕×e5 heading towards a draw makes more sense than the text.

26.♗b4?=

Blunder #2:   26.♕h5+– keeps up the pressure. The text lets Black off the hook.

26...♘d7?+–

Blunder #3:   26...h6!= leaves the position even. Instead Sandrin digs himself back into the hole Gogel helped him out of.

27.♕e8+ ♘f8 1-0

Sandrin resigned before Gogel could play 28.♕×f7+! ♔×f7 29.♘e5+ ♔g8 30.♘×c6 b×c6 31.♖e8 winning the knight.

Lester Van Meter fianchettoed both bishops against Ken Wallach, who fianchettoed his kingside bishop before castling and playing c7-c5 in classic King's Indian style. White advanced d4-d5, quickly followed by c2-c4, cementing his light-squared pawn chain. Black responded by building pressure against the pawn chain by Na5, Bd7, Rb8 and b7-b5, while also advancing in the center with e7-e5. The first exchange of pawns led to the exchange of dark-squared bishops, leaving things pretty much even. Wallach tried to make use of his queenside pressure, but it went nowhere. When Van Meter countered on the kingside, Wallach allowed his kingside pawns to be compromised. Black resigned on move 41, one move before checkmate.

Ken Larsen essayed the Sicilian Dragon against Tim Sage's 1.e4, and Sage countered by fianchettoing his kingside bishop as well. In the middlegame Larsen sought counterplay on the queenside, and after a short tussle the players entered a R+B ending with pawns on both sides of the board. On move 35, Sage made a threat with his rook rather than advancing his king. It took only five more moves for White to resign.
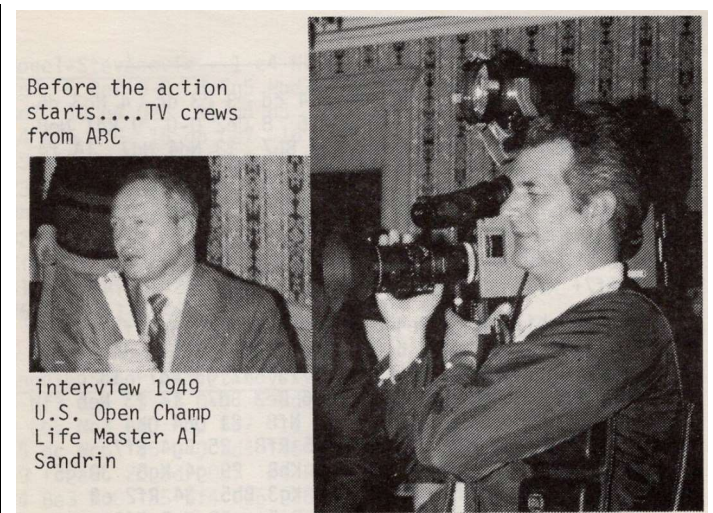
Before the action starts....TV crews from ABC

interview 1949 U.S. Open Champ Life Master Al Sandrin

For this round I am analyzing the game between Tim Redman and Angelo Sandrin, a short but sharp game that is worthy of study, because Black's mistakes appear to be natural moves, while White's counterplay is brutal.

Redman - Sandrin
English Opening A34
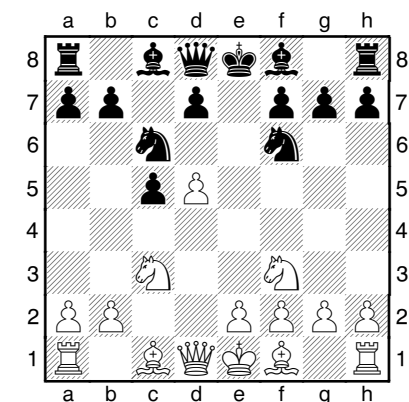
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.♘c3 ♘c6?!

Either 4...c×d4 or 4...d5 are better than the text.

5.d5 e×d5?!

5...♘a5 6.e4 d6 avoids giving up more ground.

6.c×d5

Black's simplest continuation here is 6...♘d4 7.♘×d4 c×d4 8.♕×d4 and Black must choose between following up with ♗d6 or d7–d6. Instead he chooses a move that is intended as a regrouping maneuver, but ends up sealing his fate.

6...♘e7? 7.d6 ♘c6 8.e4 ♕a5 9.♗d2+– 1–0

Black is going to lose more material after either ♘b5 or e4–e5.

Our next game, Friedman – Gratz, was lightly annotated by the winner, Ed Friedman. Ed asked me to pass along a correction to his biographical data from the last issue: his position with the University of Chicago was a staff position, not a faculty position. In the game, Glen Gratz makes two mistakes, and Ed takes ad-
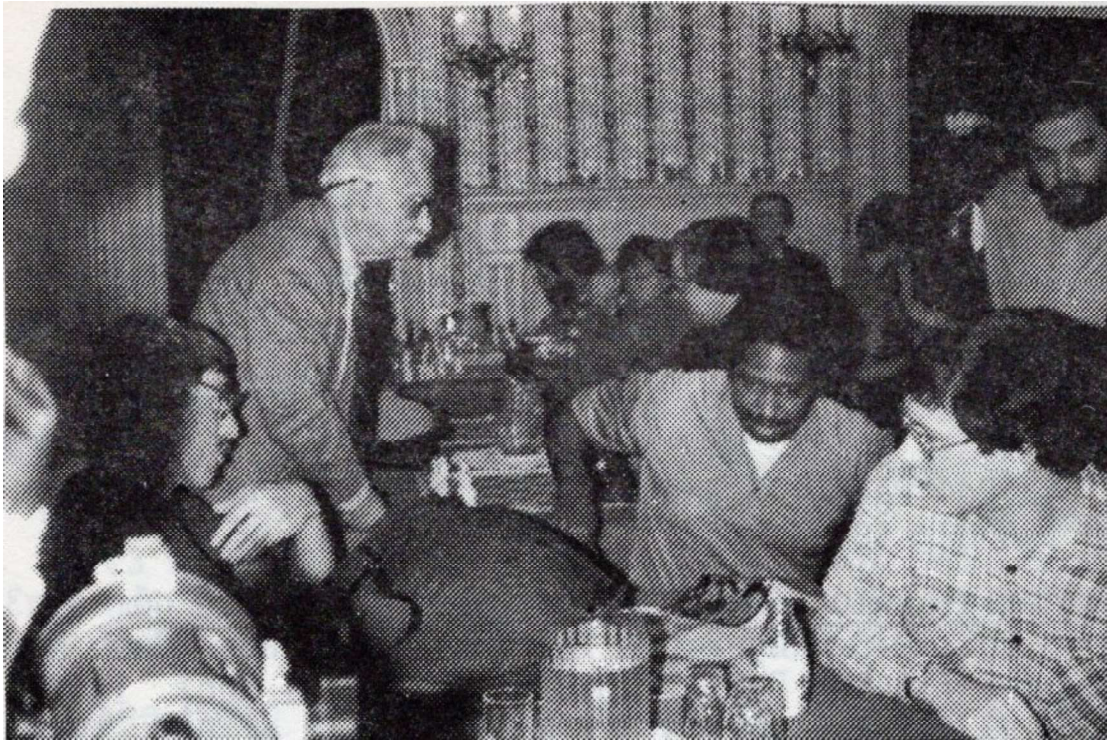
At left, Dave Sprenkle, standing Stephan Popel, Charles Lawton, Ken Mohr, and Eric Schiller, also standing.

vantage of both of them.

Friedman - Gratz
Sicilian Smith-Morra Gambit B21
[Notes by Ed Friedman]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 c×d4 3.c3 d×c3 4.♘×c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3 d6 6.♗c4 e6 7.0–0 ♗e7 8.♕e2 a6 9.♖d1 ♕c7 10.♗f4 ♘e5

Better is 10...♘f6. If 11.e5 then 11...♘h5 12.e×d6 ♘×f4∓.

11.♗×e5

Better is 11.♗b5+ . If 11...a×b5 12.♘×b5 ♘×f3+ *(12...♕b8 13.♘×d6+ ♗×d6 14.♗×e5 ♗×e5 15.♕b5+ ♔e7 16.♘×e5+–)* 13.g×f3 ♕b8 14.♘×d6+ ♔f8 15.♕d2 threatening ♘×f7.

11...d×e5 12.♖ac1 ♗d7?

12...♕a5 maintains equality.

13.♘b5 ♕b6 14.♖×d7 ♔×d7 15.♕d3+ ♗d6 16.♘×e5+ ♔e7 17.♕×d6+ ♕×d6 18.♘×d6 ♔×d6 19.♘×f7+ ♔e7 20.♘×h8 ♘f6 21.♗b3 ♖×h8 22.♖c7+ ♘d7 23.♖×b7 ♖c8 24.f3 ♔d6 25.e5+ ♔×e5 26.♖×g7 ♘d3 27.h4 ♖c1+ 28.♔h2 h5 29.♖g5 ♘×b2 30.♖×h5 ♘d3 31.♖a5 ♘c5 32.h5 ♔e7 33.g4 ♘c3 34.♔g2 ♔f6 35.♔f2

35.h6 ends the game more quickly.

35...e5 36.♗d5 ♖c2+ 37.♔g3 ♖c3 38.♔h4 ♖c1 39.g5+ ♔f5 40.h6 ♔f4 41.♔h3 ♔×g5 42.♖×c5 ♖×c5 43.h7 ♖c8 44.♗g8 ♖c6 45.h8♕ ♖h6+ 46.♕×h6+ ♔×h6 47.♔g4 ♔g6 48.♗c4 a5 49.a4 ♔f6 50.♗d5 ♔g6 51.♗e4+ ♔f6 52.♗f5 ♔f7 53.♔g5 ♔e7 54.♔g6 1–0

Our next game is again annotated by the winner, in this case Steve Szpisjak. There were mistakes by both players, but nonetheless Szpisjak grabbed the advantage in the middlegame and rode it through until the ending.

Chachere - Szpisjak
Queen's Gambnit Accepted D21
[Notes by Steve Szpisjak]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 d×c4 3.♘f3 a6 4.e4

4.e3 would lead to the main lines.

4...♗g4?

4...b5 5.a4 ♗b7 6.a×b5 a×b5 7.♖×a8 ♗×a8 8.♘c3 e6 leads to approximate equality.

5.♗×c4 e6 6.♗e2?!

6.♘c3 gives White the edge.

6...♘f6 7.♘c3 ♗b4 8.♕a4+?

8.♕b3

8...♘c6 9.0–0 ♗×c3 10.b×c3 ♘×e4 11.♕c2 ♘f6

11...♗f5 12.♗d3 ♘d6∓

12.♗a3 ♘e7 13.♕b2 b6 14.h3 ♗f5?!

14...♗h5 hinders the shot that White missed in the game due to the potentially doubled pawns.

15.♖ad1?!

15.♗×a6! gets the pawn back.

15...0–0 16.♖fe1 ♖e8 17.♘e5 ♗e4!

Rerouting to the queenside, where there is a strong diagonal.

18.f3 ♗b7 19.♗d3 b5 20.♗b1

20.♗c5!?

20...♖b8 21.♕c2 ♘ed5?!

21...♘g6 gives Black more scope for his pieces than in the game, e.g., 22.♗c1 ♘d5 23.a4 ♘b6 24.a×b5 a×b5 25.♔f2 ♕h4 26.♕f1 ♘a4 ∓.

22.♘g4 g6 23.♘e5 ♘b6 24.♖e2 ♗d5

A blockade of the isolated pawn couple creates problems for White.

25.♖de1 ♘c4 26.♘×c4 ♗×c4 27.♖e5 ♘d7! 28.♖5e4 ♗d5 29.♖g4 f5!?

Not the only good choice.

30.♖g3 ♕h4 31.♕f2 ♔f7 32.f4

Weakening the e4 square, but 32.♗c1 h6 is also advantageous for Black.

32...♘f6 33.♗c5 ♘h5 34.♖f3 ♕×f2+ 35.♖×f2 ♘f6

The two bishops are insufficient compensation in the ending -- the knight has too many good squares.

36.♖b2 ♗e4! 37.♗c2 ♗×c2 38.♖×c2

It is all a matter of technique now.

38...a5 39.♖b1 ♘e4 40.♗a3 ♖ed8 41.♗c1 ♔e7!

The king approaches the blockading squares.

42.♗e3 ♔d6 43.♔f1 ♖b7 44.♔e2

44.c4 b4-+

44...♖db8 45.♗d2 ♔d5 46.♔d3 ♘d6 47.a4 c6 48.♖a1 ♘c4 49.♗c1 b4

The decisive breakthrough.

50.c×b4 ♖×b4 51.♖c3 ♖b3 52.♗a3 ♘×a3 53.♖×a3 ♖×a3 54.♖×a3 ♖b4

The ending is completely winning, although Black did have quicker wins along the way; the rest of the score is given for completeness.

55.♔e3 ♖×d4 56.g4 c5 57.g×f5 e×f5 58.♖a1 ♖e4+ 59.♔f3 c4 60.♖d1+ ♖d4 61.♖b1 c3 62.♔e3 c2 63.♖c1 ♖c4 64.h4 ♖c3+ 65.♔d2 ♔d4 66.h5 ♖d3+ 67.♔e2 ♔c3 68.h×g6 h×g6 69.♖g1 ♖d6 70.♔e3 ♔b2 0-1

Our final game for the round is also annotated by the winner. Kevin Bachler started the tournament with a rating of 2170, just below the coveted 2200 that qualifies as master here in the US. After two draws against masters in the first two rounds, he finally drew blood against his third-round opponent, Master Chris Kus.

Kus - Bachler
French Winawer C17
[Notes by Kevin Bachler]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5

The French Defense. Black builds a solid center, but his white-squared Bishop is hard to develop well. White chooses an aggressive line where he sacrifices some material to gain some time for development for his pieces.
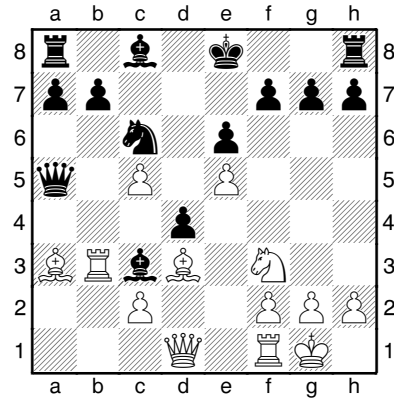
3.♘c3 ♗b4

The aggressive Winawer variation, pressuring White's e4 square - so that he locks up the center by advancing his e-pawn.

4.e5 c5

Undermining White's center at the temporary cost of a pawn.

5.d×c5 ♘c6 6.♘f3 ♘ge7 7.♗d3 d4 8.a3 ♗a5 9.b4 ♘×b4 10.a×b4 ♗×b4
11.0-0 ♗×c3 12.♖b1 ♕a5 13.♖b3 ♘c6 14.♗a3

In this position, I debated between 14...00 and 14...h6. The latter prevents the Classic Bishop Sacrifice, but I became convinced that it was unsound since the Bishop wasn't on c1 to support the Knight on g5 and therefore White doesn't meet the standard conditions. There are two problems with this logic. First, since the Black Queen isn't helping to defend the Black King (i.e. g5) - I'm mistaken. Second, the primary conditions for the sacrifice include a ♗ on the ♗b1–h7 diagonal, a ♘ to g5, and ♕-h5 and/or d3, and the secondary conditions are any two of:
1. ♗e5
2. ♗h4 (preferably with a ♖h1)
3. ♗c1–h6 diagonal.
But there is a fourth that most books forget to mention - a shot elsewhere on the board. In addition to the Bishop potentially getting back to c1 fast enough - there is another shot here.

14...0-0? 15.♗×h7+ ♔×h7 16.♘g5+ ♔g6 17.♕g4 f5 18.e×f6?

18.♕h4! ♗d7 *(18...♘×e5 19.c6!* The first time a shot shows up elsewhere. This threatens both 20 ♗×f8 and 20 c×b7 forking the Bishop and Rook.*)* 19.♕h7+ ♔×g5 20.f4+ ♔g4 21.♕h3 ‡

18...♔×f6
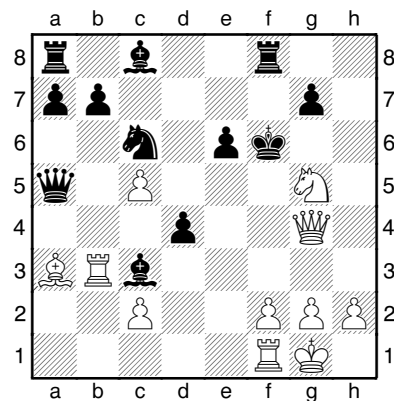
19.♘h7+

19.♖×b7!! - the second time a shot shows up elsewhere - is crushing. 19...♗×b7 *(19...♖b8 20.♘h7+ ♔e5 21.♗×f8 ♔d5 22.♕f3+ ♔c4 23.♕×c6* White is way ahead.*)* 20.♕×e6+ ♔×g5 21.f4+ ♖×f4 22.h4+ ♔h5 23.♖×f4 ♘e7 24.g4+ ♔×h4 25.♖×e7+ ♔g3 26.♖f5 ♗d2 27.♕d6+ ♔h4 28.♖h5+ ♔×g4 29.♕g6+ ♔f3 30.♖f5+ ♔e3 31.♕g3+ ♔e2 32.♕d3+ ♔d1 33.♖f1 ‡; 19.♘e4+ ♔f7 20.♕h5+ ♔e7 21.♖d1 Gives White a solid advantage.

19...♔e7 20.♕×g7+ ♖f7 21.♕g5+ ♔d7 22.♘f6+ ♔d8 23.♘d5+

White makes a series of checks to gain time on his chess clock.

23.Rxc3 dxc3 *(23...Qxc3 24.Nd5+)* 24.Rd1++−

23...Ke8 24.Qg8+ Rf8 25.Qg6+

White is still clearly winning.

25...Rf7 26.Qg8+

26.Rxb7+−; 26.Rxc3+−; 26.Nf6++−.

26...Rf8 27.Qg6+ Rf7 28.Nf6+ Ke7 29.Ng8+ Ke8 30.Nf6+ Ke7 31.Ng8+ Ke8 32.Nh6

This is a mistake, and now the game is even. After 32 Rd1 White is still better. 32.Rbb1 Qxa3 33.Nf6+ Kf8 34.Qg8+ Ke7 35.Ne4 Rb8=; 32.Rd1 Qc7 33.Rxc3 dxc3 34.Bc1 Qe5 35.Bg5 is very good for White.

32...Qc7 33.Qg8+ Rf8 34.Qg6+ Kd8 35.Rxc3?

Now Black is winning.

35...dxc3 36.Rd1+ Bd7 37.Nf7+ Kc8

The King has escaped. Once we develop the Rook on a8, Black wins.

38.Nd6+ Kb8 39.Rb1 Bc8 40.h4 a5 41.Qd3 Nb4 42.Qxc3 Ra6 43.g3 Rxd6 0–1

White resigns. Black is ahead a Knight and a Rook.
After three rounds there were 16 players scored at 50%, and only one player each at 100% and 0%. Round three saw several players make significant moves up the ladder. By the end of round four, two players will share the top score.

The scores at the end of round 3:
3:       Kaushansky
2½: Bass, Brooks, Rose, Rubin
2:       Bachler, Dandridge, Giles, Schiller, Szpisjak
1½: Chow, Gogel, Jones, Kornfeld, Kramer, Lawton,
         Martinovsky, Mohr, Popel, Redman, Rhine, Savage,
         Sprenkle, Stevanovic, Tennant, Van Meter
1:       Chachere, Friedman, Karklins, Kus, Larsen
½: Sage, Al Sandrin, Angelo Sandrin, Wallach
0:       Gratz

The Players: 24th – 13th

Miomir Stevanovic (1936-2018) remained an active player for many years, making USCF's June 2010 Top 100 list Age 65 and Over.

Steven Szpisjak achieved his Master title in 1989, and has been an active player and coach ever since. Steve began playing competitive chess in high school on a team that won three Illinois High School Class A Championships (1982-84). He tied for first (one of five) in the 1993 Illinois Open Championship, and he has won the Illinois State Senior Championship four times. Steven has also coached chess as part of the Warren Junior Scholars Program, and at Evanston Township High School. Steve currently tutors math and coaches chess at Glenbrook South High School.

Timothy Redman served as President of US Chess from 1981-84 and again from 2000-01. He was the founder of the chess program at the University of Texas at Dallas and served as its director until 2006. He retired from the UTD as Professor Emeritus of Literary Studies in 2020.

Angelo Sandrin (1922-2001) was a strong Expert who played for Argonne Labs in the Chicago Industrial Chess League. After retiring, Angelo became a regular at Jules Stein's Chicago Chess Center tournaments, where he earned his Master title.
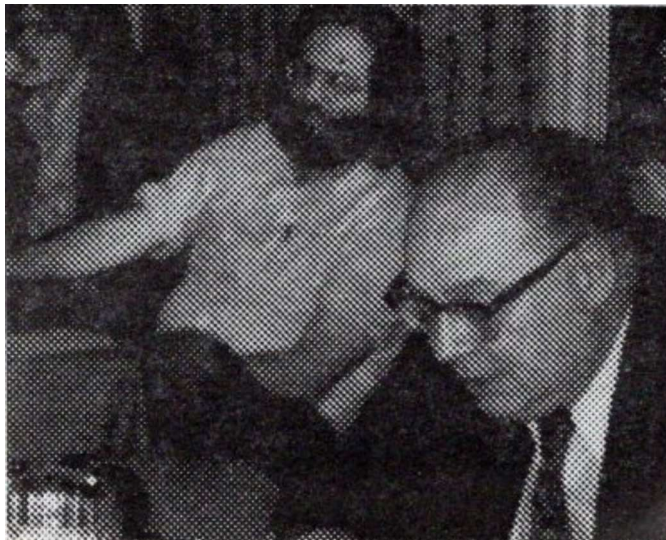
Allan Savage and Angelo Sandrin

Allan Savage (1951-2022) won the Maryland Junior Championship twice, and his high school team finished second in the 1st National High School Championship. He became a National Master at age 20, and worked as a chess professional for seven years, earning a FIDE Master title by competing in international chess tournaments. He won the Maryland State Championship twice, and in 2012 he won the Maryland Senior Championship. Allan was also able to earn an IM title in Correspondence Chess, winning the APCT title in 1991 and tying for first in the 7th North American Correspondence Invitational.

Frederick Rhine is now a National Master and Correspondence Senior Master, and started as a member of the Lane Tech chess team, along with Chris Kus and Ken Mohr, that won the State High School Championship in his junior and senior years. Two of his games have been published (with his notes) in *Chess Informant* and cited in *ECO*, and a move from one of his games was voted one of the most important theoretical novelties in *Informant 32*.

Ken Mohr played board 1 for the Lane Tech chess team that won the State High School Championship in 1976 and 1977. He returned for the 1984 Midwest Masters Invitational but withdrew early. He does not appear to have continued in competitive chess.

Lawrence Chachere is a USCF Life Master who moved to New York City in 1994 and stopped active play in 1995 to focus on work. In 2016 his kids showed an interest in the game, and so Lawrence returned to competition again, and shortly after began coaching. He earned the FIDE Master title while working in Switzerland. He now lives in New York and is a chess instructor for the Marshall Chess Club. His current FIDE rating is 2305.

Ken Jones won the Missouri State Championship in 2003. His current FIDE rating is 2170. He has also been an active correspondence chess player since 1990.

David Sprenkle is a FIDE Master with a current rating of 2280. He tied for first at the Illinois Open tournament in1979 and again in 1980. He won the city championship of Spokane, Washington in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2010. His last rated event was in 2019.

The final phase of this story relates to the August 2011 issue of *Chess Life*. You see, Mr. Viggiano was the inventor of the "Post—A—Log". Those of us familiar with postal chess know exactly what this is. A simple, yet effective way to safely store all of your postal games in one neat, zippered folder. THE PIECES WILL NOT MOVE UNTIL YOU MOVE THEM! Legend has it that when analyzing at night, Joe would fall asleep with a traditional slot—type recorder album for recording postal games. While Joe was dreaming of tricks on how to remember to punch his clock, the recorder album would fall to the floor, spilling pieces everywhere from numerous games in
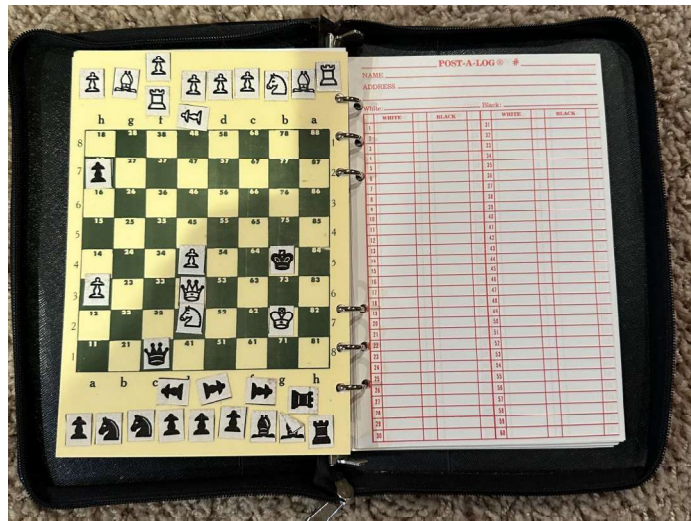
progress. Joe came up with a great solution! The "Post—A—Log!" The August 2011 issue cover story is about the evolution of Correspondence Chess. Postal chess, I have heard, has greatly diminished in popularity due to email and the Internet, etc. ..... Like the analog clock, postal chess may be a thing of the past in the not—too—distant future........and again, I hope not.

Many of Joe's friends and I fondly reminisce about him, and we always say, he is one of those unforgettable characters that will always remain with you.

On rare occasions, I have returned to that same town where I shared those great games and wonderful meals with Joe and his wife. I have slowly driven down the street and looked at that house and screened porch. If I concentrated, I could still smell the aroma of those meals, see Joe in his golf hat with his bowling bag at his side and hear him saying, "Well, there you go."

I hope this was a fitting tribute to two great people. Folks like this are what make our game such a great one. In closing, I hope my old friend is smiling down on me and I want to softly whisper to him .... "Well Joe, there you go".

7. Learn to Speak Chess

Effective annotations weave specific moves into the broader concepts of chess principles, tactical combinations, and strategic plans enhancing their instructiveness.

Learning the names and language used about chess concepts and relating them to your own games should also help connect dots in your mind for when a similar moment happens in future games. You can add to your vocabulary by reading master games collections or just chess books in general.

Example: "15. a4 is a classic overprotection strategy on the queenside, emphasizing the control of the b5-square before expanding."

8. Personalize

Personal anecdotes or reflections make annotations memorable. They reveal the human side of the game, relating specific moves to your chess journey.

It will also make it more fun to write and read your annotations if they are not only dry lines.

Annotating chess games is more than a simple review, it allows you to reflect, learn, and grow. Each game tells its own story and carries its own lessons. As you delve into your moves, emotions, and decisions, you will hopefully gain new insights. This concludes my 8 ideas for improving your annotations. Hopefully, you found something useful. I'm at least motivated to work on upping my annotations.

Morris Giles (1953-2012) was one of the strongest, and most feared, players in Chicago in the 1980s. His style was sharp and aggressive, and his record includes wins against GM Alexander Ivanov and GM Walter Browne at the 1988 US Open in Boston. While he was employed at Sears in their IT department, Giles played on top board for the company team in the Chicago Industrial Chess League. For a more complete understanding of the life and chess of Morris Giles, please see his obituary on The Chess Drum: https://www.thechessdrum.net/blog/2013/01/03/morris-giles-chicago-legend-1953-2012/

Dr. Eric Schiller (1955-2018) was a true renaissance man. A Doctor of Linguistics from the University of Chicago, he taught both there and at Wayne State University. He was co-founder of the Southeast Asian Linguistic Society, and an officer in the Chicago Linguistic Society. Prior to graduate school, Schiller founded a music group called the Long Island Sound Ensemble, and he studied conducting in Vienna and in Hancock, Maine. In 1974 he was the Illinois Junior Chess Champion, and he played for the University of Chicago team more than once at the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship. He has served as both an International Arbiter and an International Trainer, and was an arbiter for several games of the FIDE World Chess Championship in 2000. As a player he reached the rank of International Master. He also served as a chess journalist, reporting on Chess Olympiads and World Championship matches. One of the most prolific chess authors in American history, he has over 100 books to his credit, including some with such notable co-authors as GM Lev Alburt, IM John Watson, GM Raymond Keene, GM Leonid Shamkovich, GM Eduard Gufeld, and GM Joel Benjamin.