



# The 1982 Midwest Masters Invitational—Part 3

By Robert Irons

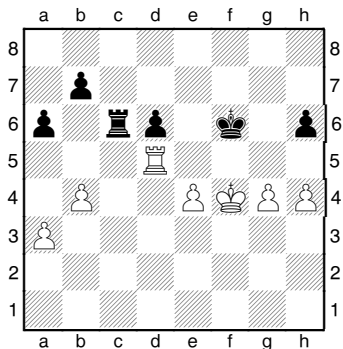


## Round 4

Once again, this round had more decisive games (10) than draws (8), and the shortest game was a 25 move draw between Kaushansky and Bass. Brooks' win over Rose was enough to push him into a tie for the top spot on the leader board. Bachler's defeat of Dandridge might be called an upset (134 point difference), as might Redman's win over Kornfeld (154 points), since in both cases an untitled player defeated a Master.

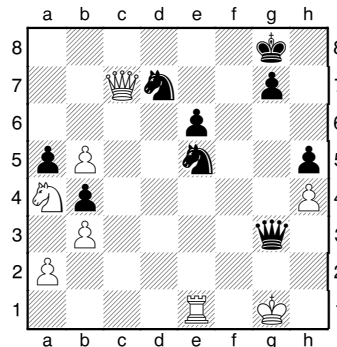
Leonid Bass played the Kan variation against Kaushansky's Maroczy Bind formation. Both players made attempts to gain an advantage, but neither made much headway. The players called it a draw on move 25.

Michael Brooks and John Rose also discussed the Kan variation, but Brooks chose to leave his c-pawn at home and instead played for center control with f4. On his 30th move, Rose defended his attacked f5-pawn rather than sacrifice it on f4 to force Brooks to capture it with a pawn, closing the f-file. Brooks then captured with a knight, and the game quickly traded down to a ♖+♗ ending with Brooks up a pawn and a centralized king. The game ended with a shot:

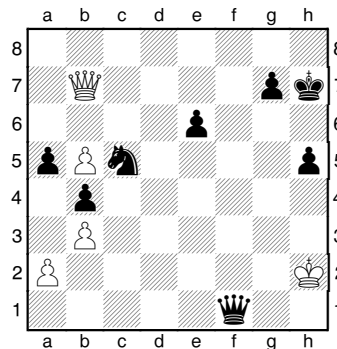


52. ♖xd6!! 1-0 After 52...♙xd6 53.e5+ ♖e6 54.exd6 ♖xd6 55.♖f5 White forces a pawn through to queen.

The game between David Rubin and Morris Giles was a Najdorf Sicilian in which both players made small errors without the other being able to take advantage of them. The most interesting thing about the game was the final position, in which Giles offered a draw.



According to Stockfish 15.1 Giles now has a win, in which the main line goes as follows: 35.♗f1 ♖f3+ 36.♗g1 ♜d3 37.♙f1 ♖g4+ 38.♗h2 ♖e2+ 39.♗g1 ♜7e5 40.♖e7 ♗h7 41.♖b7 ♖e3+ 42.♗h1 ♜e1 43.♙xe1 ♖xe1+ 44.♗g2 ♖e2+ 45.♗g3 ♖e3+ 46.♗g2 ♜d3 47.♜c5 ♖f2+ 48.♗h1 ♖xh4+ 49.♗g1 ♖f2+ 50.♗h1 ♖f1+ 51.♗h2 ♜xc5 (see diagram).



While I would agree this position is won for Black, there is no way I would ever be able to calculate that line accurately or see the final position clearly at the board. Taking the draw seemed reasonable to me.

Eric Schiller chose a Catalan setup for his game against Steve Szpisjak, and Szpisjak responded with a Semi-Slav structure with his light-squared bishop outside the pawn triangle, similar to the way Emanuel Lasker played against Reti at New York 1924. What started as a quiet opening turned into a more heated middlegame. Both sides struggled, and both players made positional mistakes, but in the end the mistakes washed out, and the players called it a draw on move 47.

The game Gogel–Savage had the Fianchetto variation of the King’s Indian on the board. Neither side was willing to risk much—both players were in the middle of the pack—and so nothing much happened. The players agreed to a draw on move 43.



From left, Dennis Gogel, Leonid Kaushansky, and Miomir Stevanovic.”

The game Stevanovic–Sprenkle saw the Classical variation in the Sicilian Defense, and Stevanovic chose the Sozin Attack. The players castled on opposite sides and began opposing pawn attacks. Stevanovic got a slight advantage when Sprenkle weakened his f6 square, but nothing much came of it. The players chose to call it a draw after 28 moves.

Lawton–Kramer was a Closed Sicilian that remained even well into the middlegame. On move 20 Kramer chose to post his rook aggressively on the e-file rather than defensively on the f-file, and three moves later Lawton sacrificed his g-pawn in order to open the f-file and go after the black king. After that it only took Lawton three more moves to force resignation.

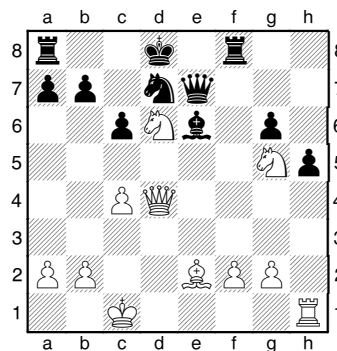
Steven Tennant chose the Knoch variation (4.f3) against Fred Rhine’s Nimzo-Indian Defense. Both players chose aggression over defense; Tennant advanced in the center while Rhine expanded on the queenside. Both players took risks, but not big ones, and while neither player gave up much, neither one got much either. They called it a draw after move 37.

Stephan Popel opened with the London System, which Kenneth Jones responded to with a King’s Indian setup, and then quickly forced the exchange of White’s dark-squared bishop for a knight. The position was roughly equal by move seven, and it rarely strayed from that before the players shook hands and split the point on move 66.

The game between Albert Chow and Ken Mohr started off as a Delayed Benoni but quickly morphed into a King’s Indian Averbach structure with an open e-file. Mohr sacrificed his b-pawn, a la the Benko Gambit. He quickly regained the pawn as the players traded down to a ♖+♗ ending with even material, but with pawn majorities on opposite wings. When Chow moved to invade the queenside with his king, Mohr chose to advance his own king rather than obstruct the White king. Once Chow’s king penetrated, it was able to clear the way for his passed a-pawn. Mohr resigned on move 42, after the White a-pawn’s first move.

Allen Kornfeld’s 1.g3 was answered classically by Tim Redman with 1...d5. Kornfeld chose a Double Fianchetto opening, while Redman used the same Semi-Slav setup that Szpisjak used against Schiller. Kornfeld gained an edge after forcing through e2-e4, then continuing with f2-f4 and e4-e5. Redman maintained until Kornfeld overreached, then quickly equalized, and fiercely counterattacked on the kingside. Kornfeld resigned on his 29th move.

Ken Larsen played a very modern attacking line against Edward Friedman’s Dutch Leningrad opening (1.c4 f5 2.♘c3 g6 3.d4 ♗g7 4.h4!), but then switched to more positional play a few moves later, which cost Larsen most of his advantage. A few moves later Larsen missed his last opportunity to sharpen the position, and Friedman never looked back (diagram):



25.♗ge4? With 25.♖e3! ♜f6 26.♗ge4 White keeps the pressure up. After this he doesn’t get another chance. 25...♞c7 26.♗f3 ♗f5 27.♞e1 ♗xe4 28.♞xe4 ♖e5 29.♖d1 ♜ad8 30.♖a4 ♜b8+ Larsen hung on until the pawn ending before resigning on move 66.

The game between Erik Karklins and Angelo Sandrin was a Classical Dragon variation in the Sicilian Defense. Both players fought hard in the middlegame for an advantage, taking risks and playing aggressively, with Karklins getting the better of it. On move 23 Karklins chose a check that forced the exchange of queens, giving back most of his advantage. Sandrin regrouped and attacked Karklins’ king on f1, forcing the win of a piece. Karklins resigned on move 44.

Against Al Sandrin’s Sicilian Defense, Timothy Sage chose the Moscow variation (1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.♗b5+), later made popular when in 1999 Garry Kasparov used it to defeat “the rest of the world.” The middlegame quickly changed after an exchange of queens that left Sandrin with an isolated d-pawn, with three sets of minor pieces, and with all of the rooks still on the board. The players agreed to a draw on move 42.

Ken Wallach’s 1.d4 was greeted by Glen Gratz’ 1...b5, which the ECO Code list gives as the Polish Defense. Wallach quickly occupied the center with pawns and chose to develop his king to f2 rather than castle. A kingside pawn storm immediately followed. Wallach then sacrificed his g-pawn to get the ball rolling, and after a flurry of tactics during moves 17–22 Wallach had bagged a knight for two pawns. Over the next several moves Wallach managed to

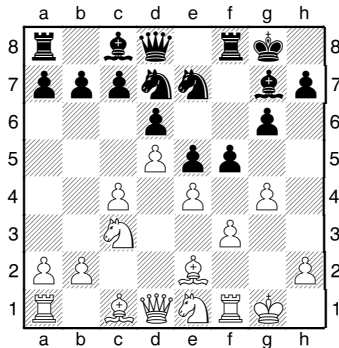
trade off a set of rooks and to eat two more pawns, increasing his material advantage. Gratz gave up the ghost on move 39.

For round 4 Lawrence Chachere was kind enough to annotate his win against Christopher Kus. Both players were far out-of-the-money at this point (1/3), but you wouldn't know that by their play; both players came out swinging.

### Chachere - Kus

King's Indian Defense, Mar Del Plata [E98]  
[Notes by Lawrence Chachere]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♙g7 4.♗c3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.♙e2 ♗c6 7.0-0 e5 8.d5 ♗e7 9.♗e1 ♗d7 10.f3 f5 11.g4



Apart from this sideline, I have played the main line ♙e3 a handful of times and had a few very disappointing losses. Although I would not claim that 11.g4 is better than the main line, for many years I had very successful results playing it. King's Indian players do not see this very often. Challenging black for space on the kingside forces them to play a position that they are less familiar with. (I had pretty good results with it in correspondence play back in the '80s. - R1)

11...♗f6

This move and ♖h8 have been black's two main responses. It was believed that 11...f4 was a mistake because white would then play 12.h4 with the idea of closing up the kingside. e.g., if black pushes the pawn to h5, white responds with 13.g5. With no worries of kingside counterplay, white could then play for the win by exploiting his space advantage on the queenside. However, black can play ♗f6, followed by 13.♗g2 ♖h8, with the idea of playing ♗g8, forcing white to push the g-pawn to g5. Black could then open up a line on the kingside with h6. It is ironic that the move that white hopes black will play is probably black's strongest option.

12.♗d3 ♖h8 13.♙e3 h6 14.h4

This is the standard reply. If black advances either the g-pawn or h-pawn, white is prepared to push past, closing up the kingside.

14...♗h7 15.♙f2?

This move tosses away white's advantage. ♖g2 is better.

15...♗g8 16.♗e1 ♙d7 17.♗g2 ♖f7?

This peculiar move is a big error. On the next and subsequent moves, white could have achieved a winning ad-

vantage with the disruptive h5! That practically forces black to capture the h-pawn, giving white a protected past pawn with gxf5.

18.♖c1?

Playing on the queenside is thematic for white, but it allows black to get off the hook with f×g4.

18...a6 19.c5 ♗g6 20.a4 ♖f8 21.c×d6 c×d6 22.a5 ♖c8 23.♗e3  
Both sides have missed white's h5 shot for several moves.

23...f×g4 24.f×g4 ♗e8?

Another mistake. Many other choices would have maintained a balanced game for black.

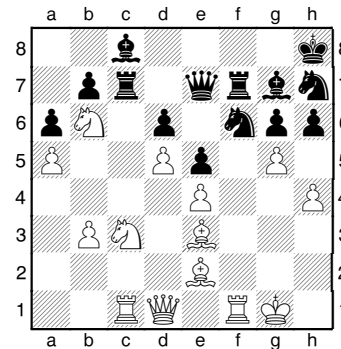
25.b3?!

Completely unnecessary. White should play ♗c4 immediately.

25...♗ef6 26.♗c4 ♖c7 27.♗b6 ♙c8 28.♙e3 ♖e7?!

White has built a substantial advantage, but this move makes things worse for black.

29.g5!



29...♗g8 30.♖xf7 ♖xf7 31.♗xc8 ♖xc8 32.♙g4 ♖c7 33.♙b6 ♖e7  
34.♙e3 ♖c7

Offering to repeat the position, black indicates he would be happy with a draw.

35.♖d2 ♖e8 36.♙e6 ♖d8 37.♖f1

Of course, ♙b6 is a more straightforward way to win material. With an open king and queens on the board, I opted to not allow any possible counter-play with h×g5, but white really has nothing to worry about. A good part of my cautiousness during the entire game was psychological. I had never played Chris Kus before, and for many years he had been rated hundreds of points higher than me.

37...♖e8 38.♙b6 ♖e7 39.♗d1 ♖xe6

I was surprised to see this, but there is really nothing constructive that black can play to try to avoid the loss.

40.d×e6 ♖×e6 41.♖g2 ♗e7 42.b4 ♗c6 43.♗e3 ♗×b4 44.♗d5  
♗×d5 45.e×d5 ♖e7 46.g×h6 ♙×h6 47.♖×g6 ♙f4 48.♖xf4 1-0

Lester Van Meter graciously annotated his round 4 loss to Eugene Martinovsky. At this point in the tournament, both players were in the middle of the pack (1.5/3), and both needed a win to have any chance at prize money.

## Van Meter—Martinovsky

Caro Kann [D42]

[Notes by FM Lester Van Meter]

An encounter with the good Doctor was always something I looked forward to with great interest. We had many interesting games and post-mortems. I always enjoyed analyzing with him as there was much to learn from his vast experience and outlook about chess.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♟f6 5.♟c3

In 1978 I was living in Mexico City for several months and I was studying chess non-stop. I had taken with me my bound volumes of *Shakmatny Bulletin* (1972–77), *Basic Chess Endings*, *Ideas Behind the Chess Openings*, *Pawn Structure Chess*, and *Aron Nimzowitsch: A Reappraisal*. When we returned to the US we flew to Texas, and I played in and won the US Amateur that year to get my Master Title.

In late 1979 we flew to Cali, Colombia and for that sojourn I took the latest two Informants, *Pawn Structure Chess*, *Aron Nimzowitsch: A Reappraisal*, *Basic Chess Endings*, RHM's *How to play the Caro-Kann*, and a German published (Soviet) book on the Caro-Kann. The Caro-Kann was the first "respectable" opening that I learned after becoming a Master and it served me well for many, many years.

I also played 1.e2–e4 and the Panov attack was invariably my choice, so I played both sides of this position! One time I deliberately played 1.e2–e4 against Master Charles Madigan [a devotee of the Caro-Kann] and I played a line I was unsure of against the Panov figuring Charles would show me the way...

Unfortunately, he did not, but I did get a nice 18 move win!!

Of course, my hope was to play that here again, but the good doctor is a classical player and he plays the "best" answer by heading for a Nimzo-Indian.

5...e6

5...g6 I liked to swim in the murky waters that this often produced.

5...♟c6 Another Indiana Master, James Mills, prefers to take on this super-sharp concrete line.

6.♟f3 ♟e7

6...♟b4 would go to the Nimzo.

7.cxd5 ♟xd5 8.♟d3 ♟c6 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3

10.♞e1 with standard IQP play is the main continuation. Karpov played this position 15 times in his career against the top players. He lost just twice. The first time was to Smyslov in 1971 at the USSR championship where he was very young and fell prey to a sterling d4–d5 advance by the wily veteran. He more than balanced the scorecard with five victories as black. His games in this type of structure are very instructive and well worth the effort to study closely.

10...♟f6 11.♟e4 ♟de7

This is a bit more dangerous for black than the more common continuation.

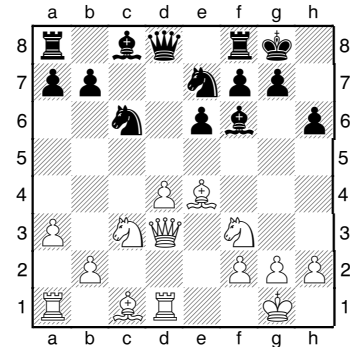
Here are two examples:

11...♟ce7 12.♞d3 h6 13.♟e5 ♟xc3 14.♞xc3 ♟f5 15.♟e3 ♟d6 16.♟f3 ♟d7 17.♞b4 ♟b5 18.♞fe1 a5 19.♞b3 ♟a6 20.♞ad1 ♟f5 21.♟e4 ♟xe3 22.♞xe3 ♞d6 23.♟c2 ♞fd8 24.♞e4 ♞ac8 25.♞h7+ ♟f8 26.h3 b6 27.♟b3 ♟b7 28.d5 ♞c7 29.dxe6 ♞xd1 30.♟g6+ 1–0 Karpov,A (2690)-Timman,J (2620) Moscow 1981 (8)

11...♟ce7 12.♟e5 ♟g6 13.♟g4 ♟g5 14.♟xd5 exd5 15.♟xg6 hxg6 16.♟xg5 ♞xg5 17.♟e3 ♟e6 18.♞e1 ♞fc8 19.♞d2 ♞c7 20.♞ac1 ♞ac8 21.♞xc7 ♞xc7 22.♞c1 ♞xc1+ 23.♞xc1 ♞f4 24.♞c3 g5 25.h3 b6 26.♟f1 g6 27.♞e3 ♟g7 28.♞c3 ♟h7 29.♟g3 ♟g7 30.♟f1 ♟h7 31.♟g3 ♟g7 32.♟f1

½–½ Artemiev,V (2700)-Giri,A (2772) Airthings Masters Prelim chess24.com INT rapid 2022 (14).

12.♞d3 h6 13.♞d1



Still all good theory to here.

13...b6N

A typical Martinovsky type of move. It is also a typical type of move black aims for in this structure. However, it is strategically suspect. In many queenside defenses the good doctor played "risky" ideas, but to prove that they were risky not only took a very strong player, but a player who continued to play strongly.

My chess understanding and skills were not up to such challenges at that time. What white needs to do to cast shade on black's position is to initiate a pawn storm against white's king starting with either g2–g4 or h2–h4! My play at that time and in this game was to look for replicating Smyslov's success against Karpov in 1971 with a timely d4–d5.

Predecessor: 13...♟d5 14.♟d2 b6 15.♞ac1 ♟b7 ½–½ Ujtelky,M-Rejfir,J Marianske Lazne 1960 (13).

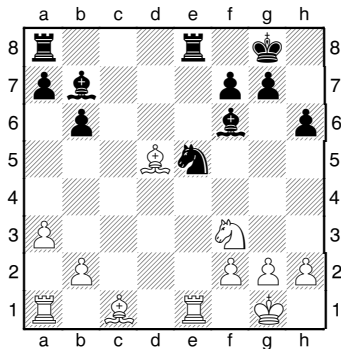
14.d5!?

This prematurely (easy to say in hindsight!) initiates concrete tactical play without having mobilized all the forces. It sets white on that slippery slope of being in the land of one mistake! A modern term thanks to today's Silicon Monsters [SM] where sure it is triple zero but one side has to make a series of difficult moves to maintain that balance, and just one mis-step...

14...exd5 15.♟xd5 ♟xd5 16.♟xd5 ♟b7 17.♞b5

Intending 17.♟xh6! A difficult move, and one I'm pretty sure wasn't on my radar, as I thought I was on a good path here with many threats.

17...♞e8 18.♞e1 ♟e5 19.♞xe8 ♞fxe8



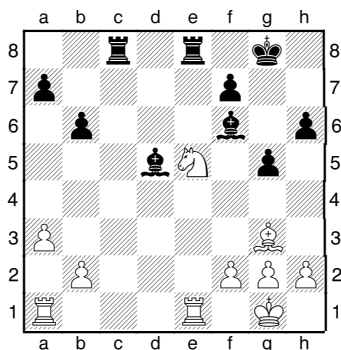
The critical position. And here I just didn't calculate it correctly...

20. ♖xe5?

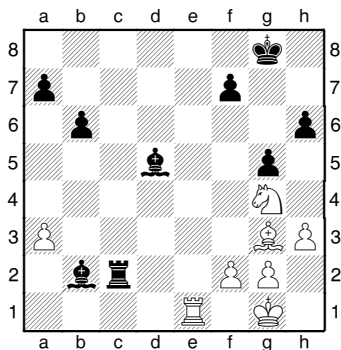
The only try was 20. ♖xe5! a move that was definitely analyzed by me, but in the ensuing complications I must have mis-evaluated the line where he gets the two outside passers.

I remember settling for ♖xe5, and aiming for the "equal material" instead of the imbalances. 20... ♖xe5 21. ♗xb7 ♖d8 22. ♗e3 ♖e7 23. ♗a6 ♗xb2 24. ♖b1 ♗xa3 and here 25. ♖a1 ♗b2 could be an immediate draw.

20... ♗xd5 21. ♗f4 g5 22. ♗g3 ♖ac8



23. h3 ♖c2 [23... a5] 24. ♗g4? [24. b4] 24... ♖xe1+ 25. ♖xe1 ♗xb2 ±

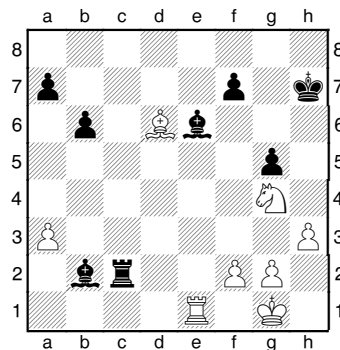


In my basic endgame summary survey I say: **MINOR PIECE:** This type of ending involves the various combinations of bishop and knight which are not pure endings. As in the above pure endings the KING is the dominant piece in any short-range battle. Thus, the idea of a king penetration is the major theme on the way to victory.

Knights need to have secure anchor spots in or near the vicinity of the struggle. With bishops (against knight) it is key to develop two separate distinct battle areas and force the knight to commit to one of them. Two pawn masses separated by two [but preferably three] open files almost always guarantees success.

Thus, this ending is most likely already winning for black, and I'm sure my opponent was thinking that.

26. ♗xh6+ ♖h7 27. ♗g4 ♗e6 28. ♗d6



28... ♖c3!?

Instead of clinging to the 2 ♗s, he could have cashed in with 28... ♗xg4 29. hxg4 ♗d4 and white is hopelessly placed.

29. ♗f6+

29. ♗e5 ♖b3 30. ♗xb2 ♖xb2 31. ♗e5 ♖g7 32. ♖e3 and white could still struggle on.

29... ♖g6 30. ♗e4 ♖b3 31. ♗e7?

Capitulation... At least play a rook move [♖e3 or ♖b1] if you wish to play on. The rest is just too easy.

31... ♗xa3 32. ♗xg5 a5 33. ♗d2 a4 34. f4 ♗d5 35. ♗c3 ♗c5+ 36. ♖h2 ♗c6 37. g4 ♖b2 38. ♖e2 ♗b4 39. f5+ ♖h7 40. ♗c1 ♗d6+ 41. ♖g1 ♖xe2 42. ♗xe2 b5 43. g5 b4 44. ♖f1 ♗e5 45. ♗a3 0-1

I chose to analyze the game Bachler–Dandridge for this round. After drawing against Masters in rounds one and two, Kevin Bachler defeated a Master in round three, and now faced his fourth Master in a row, Marvin Dandridge.

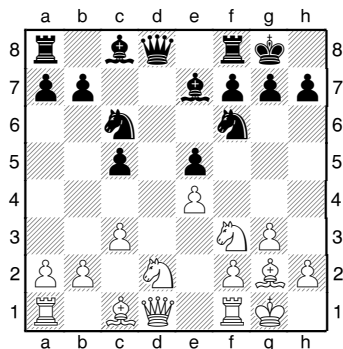
### Bachler–Dandridge

King's Indian Attack [A08]

1. e4 e6 2. d3 d5 3. ♗d2 c5 4. ♗gf3 ♗c6 5. g3 ♗f6 6. ♗g2

Bachler's choice of a more strategic line of the French than the main lines following 2. d4 makes sense against Dandridge, whose play was highly tactical. Dandridge chose a positional response, exchanging before White gets the chance to play e4–e5.

6... dxe4 7. dxe4 e5 8. 0–0 ♗e7 9. c3 0–0



While Black's position looks fine, I prefer White. Black's weakness on d5 is permanent, while White's corresponding weakness at d3 is easier to defend.

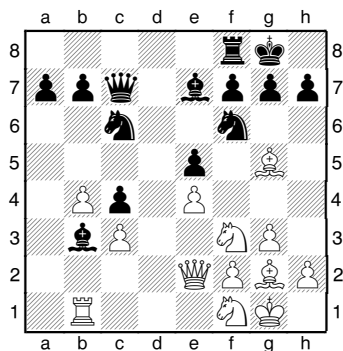
10. ♖e2 ♙e6 11. ♞d1 ♞c7 12. ♜f1 ♞ad8 13. ♙g5?

This drops a pawn but also connects the rooks and adds more pressure to the d5 square.

13... ♞xd1 14. ♞xd1 ♙xa2 15. b4?!

15. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 16. ♜e3 is more direct, but the text adds tension to the queenside.

15... ♙b3 16. ♞b1 c4?!



16... ♙e6 is better.

17. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 18. ♜e3 ♜e7 19. ♜d2 ♞d8 20. ♜xb3 cxb3 21. ♞xb3 ♙g5 22. ♜d5 ♞d6 23. ♞a3 a6 24. ♞a5 ♜c6 25. ♞a1 ♜b8?!

25... ♜e7 makes more sense.

26. ♞d1 b6?!

26... ♜c6 or 26... ♙e7 are better.

27. ♞g4

27. h4! is more to the point.

27... ♙f6 28. ♞f3 a5 29. ♙f1!

Redeveloping the least productive piece!

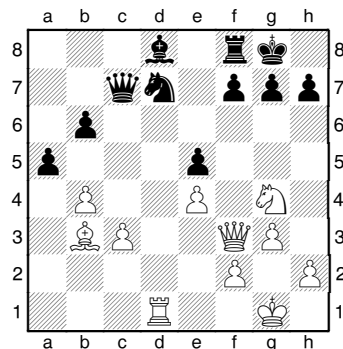
29... ♙e7 30. ♙c4

30. ♙b5 to corral the knight looks better.

30... ♞f8 31. ♙b3

Here again I prefer 31. ♙b5.

31... ♙d8 32. ♜e3 ♞c7 33. ♜g4 ♜d7?



This move falls victim to a tactic; better is 33... ♙e7. It does, however, make for a nice finish.

34. ♜h6+! g×h6 35. ♞g4+ ♙g5 36. ♞xd7 ♞xc3 37. ♙d5 a×b4 38. h4 b3 39. h×g5 h5 40. ♞f5! 1–0

White has mate in five moves.

Brooks' win over Rose put him at the top of the leader board alongside Kaushansky. Bachler's victory against Dandridge moved him up into a tie for third place (and also gave him the rating points necessary to earn the Master title! More about that to come), while Chow's win over Ken Mohr put him within sight of prize money. The fifth and final round saw one more player squeeze his way into the tie for first place.

The scores at the end of round 4:

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

### Round 5 (the final round)

Entering the final round, Brooks and Kaushansky enjoyed a half-point lead over Bachler, Bass and Rubin, and therefore had to choose between going for the gold or playing it safe. Given that they were set to play each other, and that this was to be the fifth game over a three-day period, I would have made the same choice. Likewise, Bachler, Bass and Rubin were tied for 3rd–5th place, and all had a shot at expanding the tie for 1st place. At the same time, the players who entered this round with 2.5 points—Chow, Giles, Lawton, Martinovsky, Redman, Rose, Schiller, and Szpisjak—all had an outside chance at 5th place. For all of these players there was motivation to fight.

Neither Leonid Kaushansky nor Michael Brooks were willing to risk their share of the prize money, and so in this final round they played the second shortest game of the tournament (after Redman–Angelo Sandrin from round three and Rhine–Van Meter from round five). The game was a Sicilian Najdorf that they called a draw on move ten.

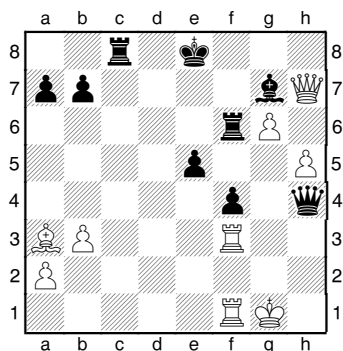
This left them tied for first place with four points each.

John Rose and Eric Schiller played into a main line of the Tarrasch Defense to the Queen's Gambit; one for which Schiller quite literally wrote the book. Neither player had any illusions of prize money, and so they agreed to a draw on move 12.



Far left, barely in sight, Michael Brooks; at left, Charles Lawton, and at right, Morris Giles.

Morris Giles played a form of the Austrian Attack against Charles Lawton's Pirc Defense. Giles fully occupied the center, while Lawton chose to snipe at Giles' pawn center with his minor pieces. Lawton finally chose to occupy the center with a pawn on move 11, which Giles used as a cue to advance on the kingside. Lawton played for a series of exchanges that cleared away Giles' pawn center and left both kings exposed. Giles chose a plan that was too slow, permitting Lawton enough time to build a strong attack with his heavy pieces and his remaining center pawns. Just when Lawton had all of his ducks in a row for the attack, he chose to give a perpetual check and settle for half a point when a full point would have put him in a tie for 4th—6th place (see diagram).

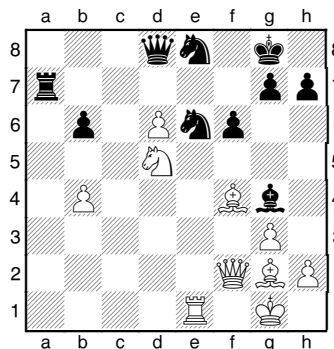


Black can force matters here with 33...e4!, threatening a pawn roller heading towards Giles' king. It's a shame Lawton missed this opportunity and settled for a draw, but otherwise he played a fine game.

Ed Friedman launched the Smith—Morra Gambit against Dennis Gogel, and Gogel responded by accepting the pawn and then focusing on developing his queenside pieces before castling, as if daring Friedman to attack. Friedman tried to make a heavy piece attack work, but Gogel kept forcing exchanges and finding tactics that kept the

white pieces from coordinating. After every last threat from White was spent, Friedman chose to resign due to a significant material deficiency.

David Sprenkle and Lawrence Chachere discussed an interesting form of the Closed Sicilian where Black developed his dark-squared bishop to e7 rather than g7. With both players focused on the center, Sprenkle got the better of the fight for squares, and when the central tension was eventually resolved, Sprenkle came out of it with a passed d-pawn and the bishop pair. The passed pawn made it to the d6—square, disrupting Chachere's ability to coordinate, but just when White had the *coup de gras* in front of him, he missed it (a feeling I am all too familiar with):



Here Sprenkle chose 30.♙xb6, which gave up much of his advantage and led the game to a draw on move 45. Instead he could have increased his advantage with 30.♘e7+ ♖xe7 31.dxe7 ♗xe7 32.♙xb6 with a winning position (33.♗d5 is one of the threats).

Steven Tennant chose the Knoch variation against Stephan Popel's Nimzo—Indian Defense, and quickly got in e2-e4 to take over the center. Popel fought back with e6-e5 when c7-c5 would have been more effective. Tennant responded by forcing off one of Popel's bishops for a knight, and then closing the center with d4-d5. Popel countered with f7-f5-f4, and then both sides pursued opposing pawn attacks. Once the pawn tension dissolved, White was left with a protected passed d-pawn while Black had connected passed pawns on the queenside. The players fought all the way to an even ♖+♗ endgame, but on move 45 Popel blundered by capturing a poisoned pawn that left his king outside of the square of Tennant's passed d-pawn. Popel resigned on move 46.

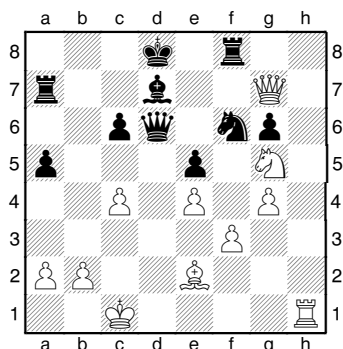
Ken Jones played a solid Torre opening against Allan Savage, who responded with unambitious development that indicated he was interested in an early peace. The players went home after agreeing to a draw on move 15.

Marvin Dandridge and Miomir Stevanovic chose the "Zurich 1953" line of the Fianchetto variation against the King's Indian Defense for their discussion. Stevanovic chose to attack with f7-f5 before the tension between the d4- & e5-pawns was resolved. Dandridge immediately opened the center, getting good play for his minor pieces. There followed considerable maneuvering, including Stevanovic's attempts to exchange queens and Dandridge's maneuvers to avoid the queen exchange. On his 28th

move Stevanovic captured a pawn that was fully defended with his bishop for no obvious reason, and immediately resigned once the bishop was captured on the next move. Perhaps a case of chess blindness.

The game between Angelo Sandrin and Charles Kramer began as a Queen's Indian Defense but quickly became a typical isolated d-pawn position as seen in the Panov variation of the Caro Kann Defense. Sandrin played solidly, while Kramer pursued minor piece exchanges as theory indicates. Then Kramer chose to weaken the pawn protection around his king for no good reason. After some exchanges Sandrin was able to push his e-pawn to e7, creating back rank threats against Kramer's king. Kramer made one last attempt to pressure Sandrin's king, but a quick repositioning of his dark-squared bishop served to defend Sandrin's king and line up a ♕+♖ battery against Black's kingside. Kramer was forced to resign on move 39 in the face of checkmate.

Ken Mohr played the Averbach variation against Ken Wallach's King's Indian Defense, and began a pawn storm against the castled Black king with his 11th move. Wallach's attempts to change the conversation to the queenside were in vain, as Mohr kept the pressure up on the kingside. Wallach chose to evacuate his king to the queenside, but just when his king escaped, Mohr found another way in:



27. ♖h8!+- ♕e8

But not 27... ♖xh8? 28. ♗f7+ ♕c7 29. ♗xd6 ♖h1+ 30. ♕d2 ♕xd6 31. ♗xf6+ ♕c7 32. ♗xe5+ ♕c8 33. ♗g7+-.

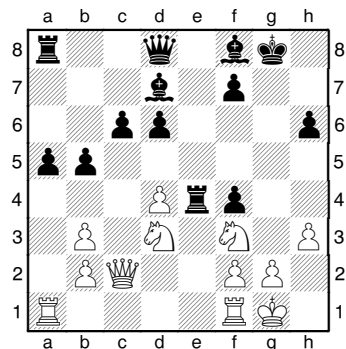
28. ♗xf8 ♗xf8 29. ♖xf8 ♕e7 30. ♖h8 c5 31. ♗h3 ♕f7 32. ♗f2 ♕g7 33. ♖h1 g5 34. ♗d3 ♗d7 35. ♕c2 ♖b7 36. ♕c3 ♖b6

Somewhat better is 36...a4 37. ♕d1 ♖a7.

37. ♕d1 ♖f6 38. ♖f1 ♕g6 39. ♖f2 ♕f7 40. ♕a4 ♗b6 41. ♕b5 ♕e7 42. ♗xc5 ♕d6 43. ♗d3 ♗c8 44. c5+ ♕c7 45. a3 ♗a7 46. ♕c4 ♗c6 47. b4 axb4+ 48. axb4 ♗d4 49. ♗xe5 1-0

Chris Kus and Tim Sage were both far out of the money at this point. They played a line in the Nimzovich Defense (1.e4 ♗c6) through to a dead—even position on move 14, whereupon they called it a draw.

Al Sandrin and Erik Karklins slugged it out in the Worrall Attack of the Closed Ruy Lopez (6. ♖e2), with the play remaining level for the first 24 moves. Then the players decided to mix it up, and decision that cost Sandrin the game:



25. ♗de5!?

25. ♗c5 to trade knight for bishop is safe and solid; apparently Sandrin wanted more.

25... f5?!

25... ♕f5= is also a safe and sound reply, while the text permits 26. ♗xc6.

26. ♗d2?

Again, apparently trying for more than equality, but this time Karklins takes control.

26... dxe5 27. ♗xe4 fxe4 28. ♗xe4 exd4 29. ♗xd4 ♕e6 30. ♗e4 ♗d5 31. ♗g6+ ♕g7 32. ♖fd1 ♗f5 33. ♗xf5 ♕xf5 34. ♖d6 ♕e4 0-1

Karklins apparently believed the two bishops would rule in this position, and Sandrin wasn't willing to put him to the test.

Lester Van Meter was kind enough to annotate his round 5 game against Fred Rhine, a game that was tied for the shortest game of the tournament. His notes offer much more than just comments on the game!

### Rhine—Van Meter

Bogo Indian Defense [E16]

[Notes by FM Lester Van Meter]

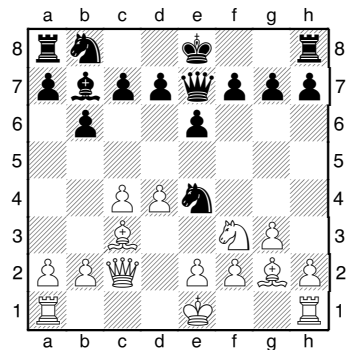
1. ♗f3

How can one possibly annotate a game like this?

1... ♗f6

Actually it is very easy, especially if one can hear the story of not only this game, but of the tournament in general.

2. c4 e6 3. d4 ♗b4+ 4. ♗d2 ♖e7 5. ♗c3 b6 6. g3 ♗b7 7. ♗g2 ♗xc3 8. ♗xc3 ♗e4 9. ♖c2 ½ - ½





Here the players agreed to a draw.

Why such a short and uninspiring game? Fred had drawn his previous four games (some quite short) and this result almost got him to Master for the first time as he ended the event at 2197. Soon the title was his.

As for me: I, in the first place, was extremely glad that I could even play in such an event! I had always tried to play against the strongest possible competition, and playing game after game vs Masters was well—nigh impossible back in the Midwest in those days.

*(In these days I still organize six player RR invitationals (g90+30, \$600 prize fund) on a regular basis [15 since June 2022] for Masters, players who have been Masters, strong juniors chasing Master, or just good guys who convince me they're worth inviting[!] to enjoy five good games in a great playing atmosphere that includes snacks throughout (some actually healthy), homemade muffins, and a player dinner featuring good eats. We publish game bulletins and try to make it a great experience featuring Hoosier Hospitality in Indianapolis, Indiana.)*

When Helen first asked me about playing in an event organized like this Midwest Masters I immediately said yes, of course. The complicating factor was due to a certain virus. One that had no official name, but I had caught while living and working in Cali, Colombia in 1980. It had symptoms of many common viruses with names, but in the end, it was just a virus that cost me 85 lbs., and various other things along the way.

I had always kept score by writing out my moves in long algebraic notation (after leaving behind descriptive! [and Kt, even]) while noting the time on the clock after each and every move. When I finally returned to playing chess after my return to the states I added a third piece of information to my scoresheets: my temperature after every move!

I could start out at 98, but by move ten being at 101 was not uncommon. Needless to say, I started many events with 2–0, or 3–0, but would be forced to withdraw because I just couldn't play any longer.

My first—round game here with Chachere saw me blunder (completely exhausted) late in that game. However, I was determined to finish this event as it was an invitational, and one needs to honor the organizers for being generous. I was okay, though, to accept his early offer and go home. I was satisfied and looking forward to future events in this series. In fact, I was the book editor for the next two editions of the Midwest Masters and I played in every one for quite a while.

As far as that virus: it was a tough battle, but towards the end of 1983 I finally could dispense with the temp column and work my way back to improving my game to new levels.

Just to clear up some info regarding the Indiana Chess Hall of Fame (mentioned in part 1): It was founded in 2002 because of the then ISCA President Gary Fox. I was included in the inaugural class of inductees because of my play—many times Champion of Indiana. That first class included organizers for service to Indiana Chess: Glen

Donley and Robert Fischer.

The outstanding players inducted were Dennis Gogel, John van Benten, Donald Brooks, Ed Vano, and myself. [The years on the nameplates signify when the final playing entry requirement was met.] From the inaugural class only Robert Fischer and myself are still alive.

So as to make it appear to be a seriously annotated game, here is some technical chess info on the final position:

Relevant: 9.♖c1 0-0 10.0-0 d6 11.d5 ♠xc3 12.♖xc3 e5 13.e4 c5 14.dxc6 ♠xc6 15.♠h4 g6 16.♖d2 ♠a6 17.♖d1 ♠c5 18.♖xd6 ♖xd6 19.♖xd6 ♠xe4 ½-½ Schmidt,W (2505)-Niklasson,C (2385) Malmo Schacknytt 1979 (4).

Predecessor:

9...♠xc3N 10.♖xc3 0-0 11.0-0 d6 12.♖ad1 ♠d7 13.d5 e5 14.e4 a5 15.b3

Relevant: 15.♠d2 c6 16.♖e3 ♠c5 17.♖fe1 ♖fe8 18.b3 ♠d7 19.♠h3 c5 20.a4 ♠c8 21.f4 exf4 22.gxf4 ♠f8 23.♠xc8 ♖axc8 24.e5 ♖d7 25.♖g3 ♠g6 26.exd6 ♖xd6 27.f5 ♖xg3+ 28.hxg3 ♠e5 29.♠g2 ♠g4 30.♠e4 ♖cd8 31.♠f3 ♠e5+ 32.♠f4 f6 33.g4 ♖d7 34.♖e3 h6 35.♖de1 ♖de7 36.♠g3 ♠f8 37.♠f2 ♠f7 38.♠e4 ♠f8 39.♠d2 ♠g8 40.♠f3 ♠f7 41.♠xe5+ fxe5 42.♖h1 ♠f6 43.♖h5 ♖g8 44.♠f3 e4+ 1-0 Andreikin,D (2636)-Nyback,T (2628) FIDE World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk 2009 (1.3)]

15...g6 16.a3 ♠f6 17.♠d2 ♠c8 18.b4 ♠d7 19.♖c1 ♖fc8 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 ♠h5 22.e5 ♠f5 23.♖ce1 axb4 24.axb4 ♖a2 25.♠h3 ♖c2 26.♖e3 ♠xh3 27.♖xh3 ♖a8 28.♖e3 ♖aa2 29.♖f2 ♠g7 30.♠e4 ♖xf2 31.♠xf2 dxe5 32.c5 ♖h4 33.♖g3 ♖xf4 34.♖xf4 exf4 35.d6 cxd6 36.cxd6 ♖d2 37.♠e4 ♖d4 38.♠f6+ ♠f8 39.d7 ♠e6 40.♠xh7+ ♠e7 0-1 Neat,K (2310)-Cafferty,B (2290) British CF-64 Championship Brighton/ East Sussex 1977 (4).

Our next game is annotated by Steve Szpisjak, who graciously analyzed this game (despite losing) that won half of the Best Game prize for his opponent (it was split with Szpisjak's win over Chris Kus from round 1), and gave his opponent a share of the prize money as well. Steve asked me to print that his high school chess team did not win the state championship while he attended Marmion High School (they won in 1985), but that he did win the individual Class A titles from 1982 to 1984. He also points out that Ken Wallach won the AA title twice at roughly that same time. Steve was also kind enough to share a couple of stories from the event:

"I have two stories I remember about the event: I noticed, annoyingly, that one of the participants wasn't centralizing his pieces on the squares when moving. His opponents didn't seem to mind, though. Then I noticed that the player, Albert Sandrin, was blind. So then I thought, wow! That blind man is doing a great job of coming close to centralizing his pieces!

"Helen Warren confided in me after the event that many of the players didn't want me to play because they thought I would lower the quality of the event. She was proud of my accomplishment—a creditable 2.5/5. I am thankful for the opportunity she gave me though, unfortunately for my chess

development, I later joined the military and was away from the game.”

Steve was the lowest rated player in the tournament at the start, but he finished 23rd out of 36 players. A creditable performance indeed!

### Szpisjak—Chow

Nimzovitch-Larsen Attack [A01]

[Notes by Steven Szpisjak]

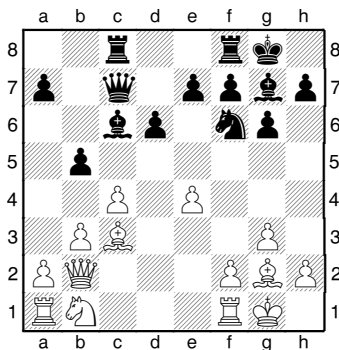
1.b3 2.f6 2...b2 g6 3.e4

The position is already even.

3...d6 4.g3 5.g7 5...g2 0-0 6.f2 e2 c5!

Al aims for a dragon formation and must have been quite happy, as he often played the Dragon Sicilian in high school.

7.0-0 8.c6 8...d4 9.cxd4 9...xd4 10.d7 10.c4 11.a5 11...c2 12.ac8 12...xc6 13.c6 13...c3 14.c7 14...b2 b5!



Chiseling away on the queenside.

15.f2 d2?!

15...cxb5 16.b5 16...d1 was better, trying to fight for equality.

15...bxc4

15...b4 16.d4 e5 17.e3 17...g4 was very strong.

16.bxc4?!

Compromising White's structure. 16.fxc4 17.b5 17...fc1! keeps White in the game.

16...Bb8 17.c2 d7

The Black knight will have a nice outpost on c5.

18.gxg7 18...xg7 19.fxc1 19...fc8 20.Bab1 21.c5 21...Bxb8?

21.f2 b3 22.a4 22...c3+ 23.g8 23...xc5 24.Bxb8 25.e5 is of course inferior for White, but may have offered better practical chances.

21...Bxb8 22.Bb1 d7

22...Bxb1+ 23.cxb1 23...a5

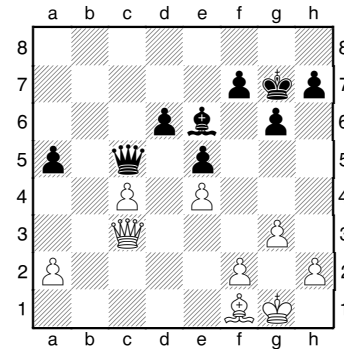
23.Bxb8 23...Bxb8 24.f2 b3 24...Bb4

Black has the better pawn structure, better bishop, and better queen.

25.fxc5 25...xc5 26.Bb2+ e5 27.f1

White has no active play and must await developments.

27...e6 28.c3 a5!?



Black could have tried bringing his king towards the queenside, improving his position.

29.Bb3?

Giving up the d4-square and soon getting dominated.

29...cxd4 30.c3?

30.c3 d3 f5 31.cxd4 exd4 32.exf5 32...xf5 33.g2 33...c2 34.a3 d3 35.e4 35...b1 36.f3 36...f6 is a very inferior if not lost bishop ending.

30...a1 31.g2?

Given a question mark only because it allows Black to end the game quickly. 31.c3 a4 is a slower win.

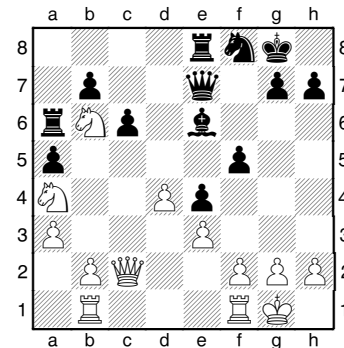
31...h3+ 32.h3 32...xf1+ and either king move Black plays 32.g2 and mate soon follows. A fine achievement by Albert Chow, who tied for the best game prize with this effort. May he rest in peace! 0-1

The game I chose to annotate for this final round was the game that created a three-way tie for first place. Leonid Bass, an IM from Milwaukee, chose to open with his d-pawn, and David Rubin, a Master from Chicago, chose one of my favorite defenses, the solid Queen's Gambit Declined. Bass then chose another of my favorite lines (from both sides), the Carlsbad (exchange) variation.

### Bass—Rubin

Queen's Gambit Declined [D36]

1.d4 e6 2.f3 2...f6 3.c4 d5 4.f3 4...c3 5.e7 5...g5 0-0 6.e3 6...bd7 7.cxd5 7...exd5 8.d3 8...e8 9.c2 9...c6 10.0-0 10...f8 11.Bab1 11...a5 12.a3 12...e4 13.fxe7 13...xe7 14.fxe4 14...xe4 15.f2 15...d2 f5 16.f4 16...c4 17.f6 17...b6 18.fca4

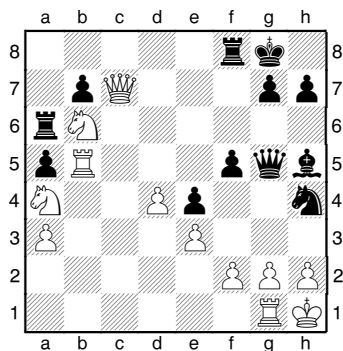


Those knights may look awkwardly placed, but they control the queenside and limit Black's play there for the rest of the game. Still, the position is roughly even.

18...♘g6 19.b4 ♘h4 20.b5 cxb5 21.♙xb5 ♕f7?!  
21...♙f7 22.♖h1 f4 is better. After this the mistakes start to pile up.

22.♖h1 ♗g5 23.♙g1 ♕h5?  
23...♙g6 24.♙c7 ♗c6 25.♙c5 ♗xc7 26.♙xc7 ♕b3 27.♙xb7 ♕xa4 28.♘xa4 f4 leaves Black better off than the text.

24.♙c7 ♙f8?  
24...♘g2 25.h3 ♕f3 26.♖h2 ♗f6 27.♙xg2 ♕xg2 28.♖xg2 ♗g6+ 29.♙g3 ♗f6 is a bit better than the text, but it is already becoming difficult to find good moves for Black.



25.♙g3?!  
While the text would have been my choice in this position, Stockfish prefers 25.♘c4 ♙c6 26.♙g3 ♗xg3 27.fxg3 ♙xc4 28.♘b6 ♕e8 29.♙bb1 ♙c3 30.♘d5 ♙xa3 31.gxh4 b5 32.♙gc1 and even though White is better it appears that there is still fight left in Black's game.

25...♙d8  
25...♙xg3 26.hxg3 ♕e8 27.♙b2 ♕xa4 28.gxh4 ♕c6 holds on a bit longer. After the text Bass finishes things off quickly, winning a piece and then bringing the stranded knights back into the fight.

26.♙d5 ♗f6 27.♙d6 ♗e7 28.♙d7 ♗f6 29.♘d5 ♗h6 30.♙xh4 ♕e8 31.♘e7+ 1-0  
With this win Leonid Bass stepped up into a last-minute three-way tie for first place with Leonid Kaushansky and Michael Brooks.



Post-game analysis by Leonid Bass and Dave Rubin from round 5.

Our final game is, in my opinion, the best story to come out of the First Midwest Masters Invitational. In the tournament book, organizer Helen Warren shared her heartfelt appreciation for Master chess:

"Finally, my thanks to the Midwest Masters who played in this event. They give meaning to the phrase *grass roots chess*. May the opportunities for their play increase, their talents grow, their numbers multiply."

Thanks to Helen Warren and Fred Gruenberg, the ranks of the Midwest Masters increased by one with this tournament. Kevin Bachler, rated 2170 at the start of the tournament (27th out of 36 at the start), finished with 3.5/5 for the tournament (two wins and three draws, all against Masters) and a rating of 2215. Today Kevin is the President and Manager of Caveman Chess, an organization dedicated to training players of all ages and organizing opportunities to play. The following story, which explains the origin of his nickname "Caveman," is taken from Kevin's web page, with his permission ([www.cavemanchess.com](http://www.cavemanchess.com)):

The nickname Caveman and the concept of caveman chess was thrust upon Kevin in 1981. At the time he was an Expert, working to become a National Master. Kevin had just finished playing fellow Expert Jack Young at a tournament at the College of Lake County—a college that held a number of chess tournaments in the 1970's through 1990's.

Jack and Kevin were doing a post-mortem analysis, and FIDE Master Albert Chow walked up and was watching. The game was fairly tactical in nature, and Jack and Kevin were both willing to explore ideas that were "off—the beaten path".

After a few minutes of watching, FM Chow shook his head and said to Kevin "You play stone age chess. You play like a caveman!" Of course, Kevin's friends immediately ran with this and the nickname "Caveman" was born.

The nickname was reaffirmed the next year, during the first Midwest Masters tournament. Although not a Master, Kevin was invited to the tournament by organizer Helen Warren to have a chance to learn and improve. Ranked 29 out of 30, after four rounds, Kevin had a score of 3-1 with no losses. At *that moment* he was rated over 2200, and while he knew he would play the last game, he had to momentarily consider whether to play the last game.

National Master Chuck Kramer commented "You have to play. YOU'RE the Caveman." Chuck was correct, of course.

Given that his last round game was against Dr. Eugene Martinovsky, one of Chicago's strongest Masters at the time, his decision to play was truly good sportsmanship; it came with the risk of immediately losing the title for which he had just qualified.

## Martinovsky—Bachler

King's Indian Defense [E70]

[Notes by FM Kevin Bachler]

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 ♗bd7 6.♗d3 e5  
7.d5 0-0 8.♗ge2 a5 9.♗e3

No big surprises. Eugene and I had played a total of 6 tournament games, and he finished up 3.5–2.5.

9...♗c5 10.♗c2 ♗e8

The best way. Black wants to play f5 and rip things open before White can build a Kingside attack. If White plays ♗xc5 the Black knight will be able to go to d6.

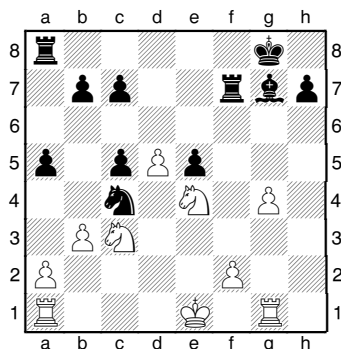
11.g4 f5 12.gxf5 gxf5 13.exf5 ♗xf5 14.♗xf5 ♗xf5 15.♗g3 ♗f7  
16.♗g1 ♗h4

I was exhausted. Here I offered a draw because I was tired. Eugene pressed on.

17.♗xc5??

My draw offer must have thrown him off. 17.♗h5 provides an edge, not its equal.

17...dxc5 18.♗g4 ♗xg4 19.hxg4 ♗d6 20.♗ge4 ♗xc4 21.b3



Here Eugene offered a draw. Because of the nice potential Knight move to d6, and the diagonal for the ♗g7, I thought I was a hair better—but after 20 minutes had literally thought of zero plans, so I accepted. Engines evaluate the position as equal after 21...♗d6.

½–½

The scores at the end of round 5:

4.0: Bass, Brooks, Kaushansky (**Tied for 1st–3rd place**)

3.5: Bachler, Chow (**Tied for 4th–5th place**)

3.0: Dandridge, Giles, Gogel, Lawton, Martinovsky, Rose, Rubin, Schiller, Tennant

2.5: Chachere, Jones, Mohr, Redman, Rhine, Angelo Sandrin, Savage, Szpisjak, Sprenkle

2.0: Friedman, Karklins, Popel, Stevanovic, Van Meter

1.5: Kornfeld, Kramer, Kus, Larsen, Sage, Al Sandrin, Wallach

0.0: Gratz

## The Players: 12th–1st

**Charles Lawton** grew up and learned to play in the St. Louis area, and developed his game while serving in the US Navy. After his service he returned to St. Louis and worked as an electrical engineer for BioMerieux, and he also managed to win the St. Louis District Chess Champi-

onship twice and the Missouri State Championship twice. His last serious tournament seems to have been the 2009 US Championship, which was played in St. Louis. While his score there was not competitive (he lost to players like GMs Shabalov and Gulko), he managed to draw against IMs Irina Krush and Sam Shankland. Charles is a USCF Life Master, and his Regular rating is 2327.

**David Rubin** achieved the National Master title before leaving competitive chess. His last tournament was played at the Tuley Park Chess Club of Chicago, in June of 2005, where he tied for 2nd–8th place with, among others, Al Chow. It appears that David has moved on to backgammon; there is a player from Skokie with that same name who coaches his son, Lyle, in competitive backgammon. Lyle Rubin won the Midwest Children's Backgammon Tournament in 2006 and 2007.

**Marvin Dandridge** began competing at chess while a student at Chicago Vocational High School (CVS), and cut his teeth at the Saturday tournaments held at the Tuley Park Field House. He remains an active chess player, playing last in the South Suburban Chess Club's 15-Minute Madness tournament in February of 2024. For a fuller account of Marvin's remarkable impact on Chicagoland chess I refer you to his story on The Chess Drum, an exceptional website run by Marvin's classmate at CVS, Daaim Shabazz (to be found at <https://www.thechessdrum.net/blog/2019/02/09/chicagos-uncle-marv-dandridge-the-story-of-a-chess-mentor/>). I once met Marvin about 40 years ago, of all places on a bus. I was reading Nimzovich's *My System*, and Marvin introduced himself so that we could talk chess. He was friendly and had a natural smile, and I enjoyed that moment with him.

**John Rose** was co-winner (with Dan Harger) of the Iowa State Chess Championship in 1976 and '78. John competed in the next three Midwest Masters Invitationals as well (1984, '85 and '86) with respectable showings. His last tournament appears to have been the 1986 Philadelphia Open.

**Dr. Steven Tennant** (1948–2017) was a dentist in the south suburbs of Chicago for over 35 years. Steve achieved the titles of National Master, Original Life Master, USCF Correspondence Master and International Correspondence Chess Master. In the 1980's and '90's he was recognized as the blitz champion of Orland Park, and won the South Suburban Chess Club blindfold champion in 2012. Dr. Tennant won the Illinois State Championship in 1977.



Analysis anxiety .. Leonid Bass and Steve Tennant.

**Dr. Eugene Martinovsky** (1932–2000) was born in Yugoslavia, where he won his country's championship twice. He emigrated to England in 1960, and then came to America in 1962. Dr. Martinovsky established a practice as a physician and psychiatrist, and in 1965 entered into tournament play, quickly becoming one of the strongest players in Chicago. He was co-winner of the Illinois championship in 1975, shared with Ed Formanek, and then outright winner in 1983. Dr. Martinovsky was twice the winner of the Michigan championship, as well as twice winner of the US Senior championship. Turning to correspondence chess, he won the 2nd Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA) championship (1978) and shared first with Marc Lonoff at the 8th CCLA (1993). Dr. Martinovsky and Andrew Karklins share credit for the Karklins-Martinovsky variation of the Russian Defense (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nd3).

**Dennis Gogel** (1954–2021) won the Indiana State Chess Championship in 1978, '79, '80, '83, and '84, and shared first place with Charles Maddigan in '81. He was inducted into the Kentucky Chess Hall of Fame in 2018 for his dominant performances in Kentucky Open tournaments in the 1970's, '80's and '90's.

**Kevin Bachler** is a FIDE Master and a FIDE trainer, a USCF Original Life Master, a Senior Tournament Director and a USCF professional chess coach (level V—one of only five in the country). He runs the annual Caveman Chess Camp in the summer for students of all ages and levels of play, often in conjunction with one or more local tournaments. This year it is being held alongside the US Junior Open, the US Senior Open, and the US Blind Championship.



Kevin Bachler holding his prize check for tying for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> place.

**Leonid Kaushansky** is a National Master and a Life Master with a USCF Regular rating of 2412 and a FIDE rating of 2310. He co-won the Illinois State Championship in 1980 and won it outright in 1981. Kaushansky appears to have retired from competitive chess; his last tournament was the Chicago Open Blitz in May of 2016.

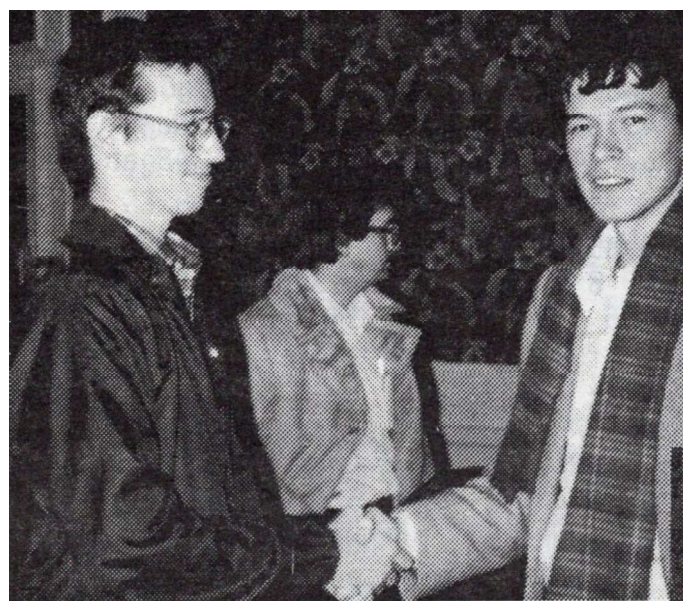
**Albert Chow** (1964–2021) played top board for Lane Tech High School in the late 1970's, and was among the strongest Masters in Illinois in the 1980's, winning the state championship outright in 1982, '84 and '95, and sharing it in 1985, '96, 2002 and '08. In 1994 Chow tied for

first place in the US Open Championship with GM Georgi Orlov, GM Dmitry Gurevich, GM John Fedorowicz, GM Gabriel Schwartzman, and GM Robert Byrne.



TD Brown awarding AI Chow the prize check for tying for 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> place.

**Michael A. Brooks** has won the Missouri State Championship six times, leading to his induction in the Missouri Chess Hall of Fame in 2004. He received his International master title in 1989. In 2013 he won the Iowa Open with a 5-0 score, but perhaps his most impressive result is tied for 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> at the 2009 US Championship, losing to the winner GM Hikaru Nakamura, but drawing with IM Enrico Sevillano and GM Joel Benjamin, while defeating IM Ray Robson, GM Julio Becerra and GM Aleander Shabalov. His most recent tournament was the August Elite tournament at the Kansas City Chess Club in August of 2023. IM Brooks' current USCF Regular rating is 2342.



Michael Brooks and Leonid Bass congratulating each other on tying for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Leonid Bass** started his US chess journey in Wisconsin. In a 1982 interview with the Chess Badger, Arpad Elo rates Leonid Bass in the same category as William Martz, to whom Helen Warren dedicated the first Midwest Mas-

ters Invitational (MMI). He was co—winner of the Wisconsin State Championship (with William Williams) in 1983. Sometime after that Leonid moved to New York, and while he missed the 2nd MMI in 1984, he tied for 11th–19th places at the 3rd MMI in 1985, alongside Al Chow, Morris Giles, Marvin Dandridge, Kevin Bachler, Angelo Sandrin, and GM Arthur Bisguier. He tied for 6th–18th places at the 1985 World Open, splitting prize money with such players as GM Lev Alburt, GM John Fedorowicz, IM Boris Kogan, IM Igor Ivanov, GM Anatoly Lein, IM Vince McCambridge, GM Samuel Reshevsky, and IM Michael Rohde, among others. In 2016 the Columbus (Ohio) Chess League hired Bass to coach players in Dayton and Northern Kentucky. Bass played his last rated event in May of 2012, the Ma-

drig Team Championship, and his USCF rating post indicates he is residing in Spain.

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### What Are We Reading

**Mark Capron:** *De la Bourdonnais versus McDonnell, 1834* by Cary Utterberg (McFarland & Company, Inc, 2005); *Chess History and Reminiscences* by H.E. Bird, originally published in 1893 (current Kindle edition); *The Ink War* by Willy Hendriks (New In Chess, 2022).

**GM Jon Edwards:** *Masterpieces and Dramas of the Soviet Championships (Vol 1)* by Sergei Veronkov (Elk and Ruby, 2007); *First Grandmaster of the Soviet Union (Verlinsky)* by Sergeir Tkachenko, (Elk and Ruby 2023), *Forgotten Talents* by Javier Fernandez (Russell Enterprises, 2004).

**Joshua Anderson:** *Chess for Educators* by Karel van Delft (New In Chess, 2021).

**Caleb Brown:** *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

**Rachel Schechter:** *Chess Peace: Cartoons* by Tony Sullivan (2019); *Winning Chess Strategy for Kids* by Jeff Coakley (Chess'n Math, 2000); *Beginner Chess: Puzzles, Strategies, Tactics, Jokes, and Stories (Chess Is Elementary)* by Igor Rybakov & Benjamin Frisch (2022).

## Annual Chess Journalists of America Awards



Hector is upset!  
Organizers won't let  
him enter the Contest.



Hector is an  
amazing  
chess-playing  
Dog and Artist.

But there's no  
Paw-Print Art  
category!

# You can't win Unless You Enter!