

iCB

ILLINOIS CHESS BULLETIN

JULY + AUGUST

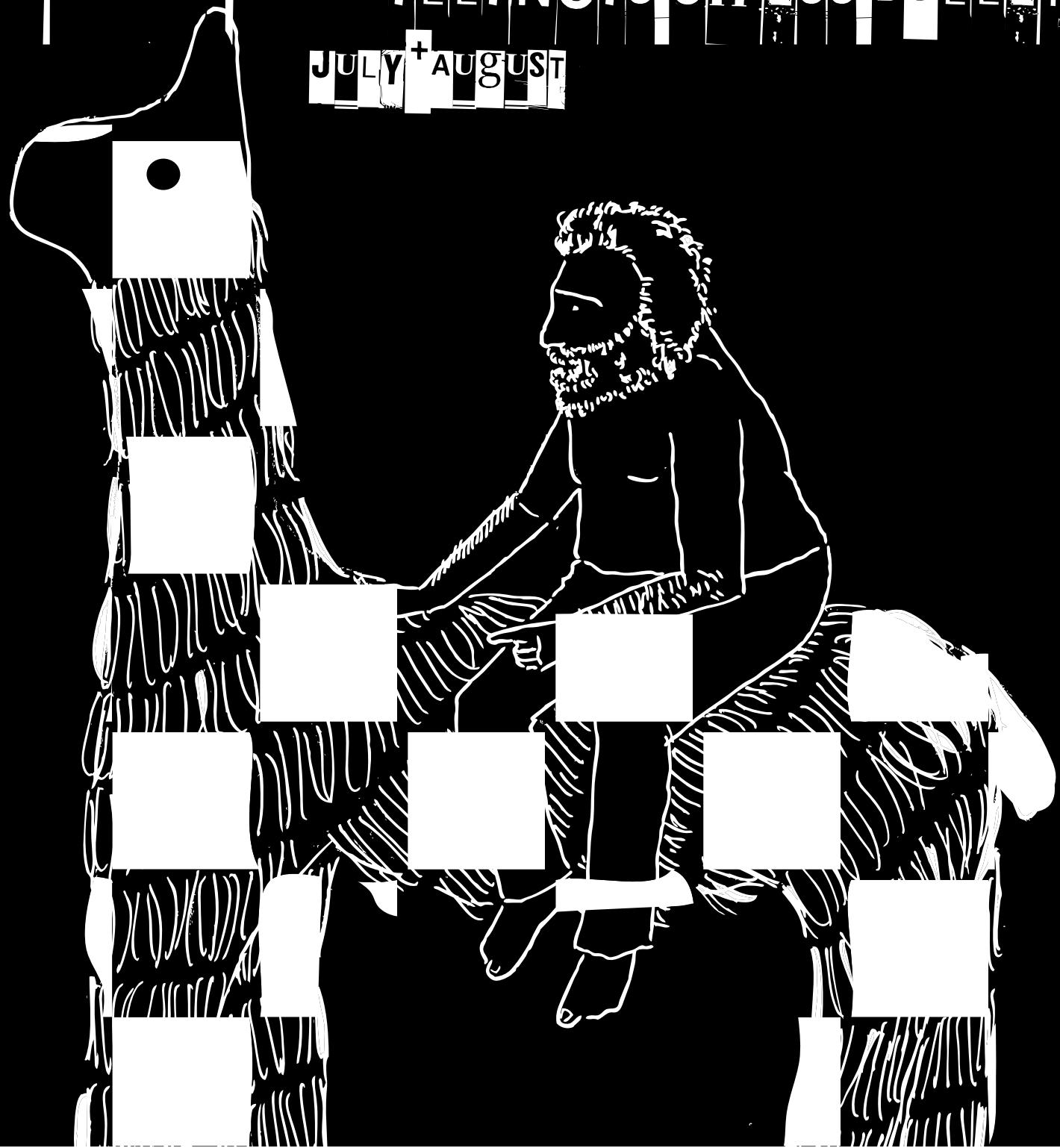


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ABOUT THE ICA AND ICB

e-ICB

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Illinois Chess Bulletin e-ICB

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Submission Guidelines

Send all ICB submissions to:
Pete Karagianis
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Only electronic submissions will be accepted. The preferred format is .cbh or .pgn file for games, .doc file for articles.

ALL SUBMISSIONS
including advertisements should have the subject "ICB Submission" in the e-mail.

Pictures Wanted!

Have a digital camera? Take it to your next tournament and send the photos to the ICB! A picture says a thousand words. Preferred format for all digital images is .jpg, but others are accepted.

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Membership Information

The Illinois Chess Bulletin (ICB) is published by the Illinois Chess Association (ICA). ICA membership includes a subscription to the ICB. Memberships marked 1st receive their magazines first class. Memberships marked "P" also received a plaque. Affiliates receive discounted advertising rates, event advertising on the ICA website, and the right to run tour events.

Further information on membership rates and benefits can be found at:

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

e-ICB

<http://ilchess.org/e.htm>

by Pete Karagianis

Dear Readers,

In the very near future, the Illinois Chess Bulletin will be undergoing some significant changes. A large part of the reason for the delay of publication in this issue is the discussion among board members regarding what will become of the bulletin in general. From what I have garnered, the July/August 2008 edition of the e-ICB will be the last "fully electronic" installment for the foreseeable future.

I, for one, enjoyed the electronic format and some of the challenges and possibilities it opened up. However, as both an avid reader and writer, I hope the day never comes when we see the so-called "death of print".

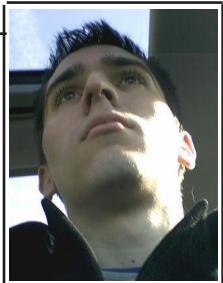
Thus, it is with great excitement that I can announce to you all the return of the print ICB. Despite some discussion and uncertainty, here are some changes you can expect:

-The ICB will now be published quarterly.

-All ICB's will be moved to print issues.

-The e-ICB homepage WILL be kept up and active.

-There are plans for a "mini-ICB"



to be sent out at the 2008 Illinois Open.

So, what does this mean? I have pulled out two important issues to draw your attention to:

First, the e-ICB homepage will have each new issue posted for perusal, in full color (the print issues will now be appearing in black and white) for all to see. I also hope to keep the electronic game replay function active and available, though that may be ambitious of me at this point. I hope you will take advantage of this, so you can all see what I see when I am making the issue, and what it looks like before it is sent to the publisher. I think this will be a great supplement to the "official" published ICB and also will add content to the ilchess.org home page.

Second, the movement of the issues to quarterly will allow for more content-per-issue, and also give me more time to arrange the content in a (hopefully) more sophisticated manner. In other words, with more time, I aim to produce a higher-quality bulletin for our membership to enjoy.

Of course, it is also time again for me to do my monthly pitch regarding content: please send me some! With a larger gap between issues I hope that organizers will take the time to hit the deadlines for submission of material- remember, publicizing your event helps you improve attendance at future events! Sending me material is not only good for our readership, but also for your local club, tournament, or league. I do hope more members will take the initiative and e-mail their submissions to icbeditor@gmail.com.

And finally... to this month's issue.

I am very pleased to include in this issue the first in a hopefully long installment of articles from John Thomas chronicling the chess of Richard Verber.

Instead of trying to introduce the series myself, I'll give you John's own words:

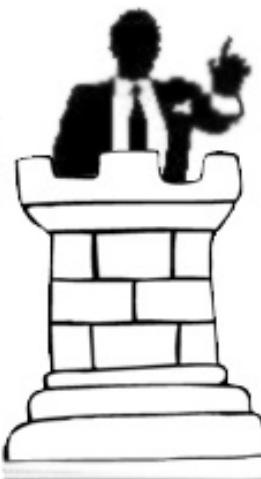
"Before he died, Richard asked me to do an article on his chess after his death. I always considered that one of the nicest compliments I ever received, at least equal to my multiple CJA awards.

... Nobody has done a decent job of representing how strong a chess player he really was."

I do hope you will all take the time to read and enjoy this article, as I did whilst inputting it into this, the final e-ICB for the time being. Thank you, John, for helping to make this issue a memorable one.

Of course, we also have the continuation of NM Len Weber's Master Quest series, more games by IM Young, a report from the inaugural tournament at Colley's Chess Cafe, and one of the longest game annotations I have completed in some time. I hope you'll find the play as interesting as I did. -PDK

President's Podium



ICA PRESIDENT
CHRIS MERLI

The biggest news of late in the ICA is that we are planning to

return to a hard copy version of the ICB. Recently our financials have begun to improve and we are now planning to return to a printed publication of the ICB. I would like to thank the people who have been stepping up to donate to the ICA and to those individuals who have been working so hard to keep our costs down. We plan to publish a small version of the ICB to distribute at the Illinois Open in September and mail it to USCF members in the state. We will begin a quarterly schedule starting with the winter issue. This is good news for those members who have missed the old printed format and we hope it will encourage even more people to renew their membership or try the ICA. Also in the fall is the next round of elections for the ICA. I am hopeful that the good news on the financial front will renew interest in people volunteering their time to help with the ICA. Sadly I will be accepting a new position in the fall and will not be able to continue as the president of the ICA. However I will do whatever I can to help the next administration in their efforts to grow and improve the ICA.

-Chris Merli,
ICA President

Springfield Club News by David Long

SCC Wins Team Tournament!

On June 7, Al Darr and the Jacksonville Chess Club hosted a Western Illinois team chess tournament at Illinois College in Jacksonville. There were three teams, of four players each. Al himself also played as an odd man out, except in the last round when he was counted on a team to make up for a withdrawn player.

First place went to our very own Springfield Chess Club team, composed of David Long, Matt Cremeens, David Bononi, and James Ruth, all of Springfield, who scored a combined 8 points out of a possible 12.

The second place team was a combined Franklin-Illinois College team, comprised of Greg Moses, Will Kerns, James Marshall, and Tom Dineen. They scored 6 points.

The Jacksonville team took third place, with 4½ points. Team members were Jake Surratt, Jared Silsby, Levi Gent, and Gary Blickhan. Although he is from Quincy, Gary completed the Jacksonville team since the other Quincy players canceled. Al Darr took Gary's spot on the team for the last round, after he withdrew.

Organizers called the tournament a success, and hope for more participation by more teams if and when they hold another such tournament next year.

ON A TEAR

FROM GROUND ZERO TO MASTER

A story of a chess journey from absolute beginner at chess to National Master. Fourth in a series.

By NM Len J. Weber

When we left off last time (May/June 2008, Part 3, "Gaining Confidence"), I had finally won a tournament chess game, then went on to win 2 more, and then to defeat my main rival for 4th Board.

We pick it up again this time, again against Thornton High School, this time for an away game. Our 2nd Board, Paul Moore, was unable to make the match, so instead of playing 4th Board for the first time, I was actually going to play THIRD Board!

This was unexpected, however, in the short space of a few weeks, I was no longer the under confident beginner, and now I probably actually had some swagger going on. I was hungry for battle against the strongest opponents I could find, because I believed this was the way to get better. In retrospect, that was correct!

Thornridge at Thornton

3rd Board

March 1st, 1983

Terry Franklin - L. Weber

1. e4 c5

Ah, another chance to play my now trademark Sicilian Defense, with which I was getting very comfortable! It turns out the Sicilian was a very good remedy to the kind of

double king pawn and two knights out thing that all the high school players played at that time in that area.

2. Nf3 d6
3. h3? ...

Even back then I knew this move was unnecessary and time wasting.

3. ... Nf6
4. Nc3 a6

Now, on the other hand, THIS move is not a time waste, it does prevent funny business with Bishop or Knight on b5, but it ALSO prepares a Queenside expansion, which is thematic in many Sicilians.

5. Bc4 e6
6. d4 cxd4
7. Qxd4?! ...

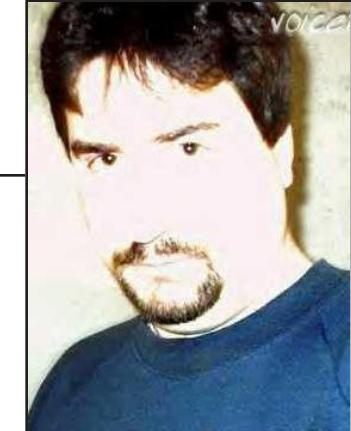
While not a outright blunder, this DOES allow me to attack the Queen, and develop a piece with tempo. However, in many Sicilians, Black wants to develop that Knight to d7. So if the player of White doesn't like those lines, I suppose he can tempt Black to develop it to c6 by putting a Queen on d4 to be attacked.

7. ... Be7?!

Strange, if Black was worried about a e5 push and developing Kingside, then ... Nc6 would have still been a better move...

8. e5 ...

Aggressive but premature. With more experience, players will find the Sicilian is better attacked after a buildup on the King side. Attacking early usually does nothing but



NM Len J. Weber

simplify, at best.

8. ... dxe5
9. Qxd8+ Bxd8
10. Nxe5 Nbd7

Perhaps White is one of those guys that just prefer endgames. That's cool. I remember thinking at the time, that at some point he would do something deep or brilliant, because he was after all a 3rd Board and I had yet to even win a game on 4th. I didn't take into consideration at that time the idea that not every school was playing at the same level. We had guys on the top 3 boards that were probably strong enough to play 1st Board at most schools. Some schools have one giant at the top and everyone else is way lower, other schools have pools of strength, and almost NO schools have people who are at intervals which are equal to their board positions.

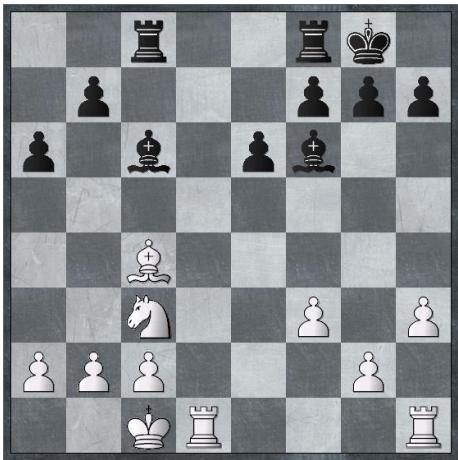
11. Nxd7 Bxd7
12. Bg5 O-O
13. Bxf6 Bxf6

Ok, now I knew he was a simplification guy.

14. O-O-O Bc6
15. f3 Rac8

I knew enough to play on the open

c-file where he has a lot of targets and I have more and more attackers.



16. Bd3 Rc7

17. h4 Rfc8

18. Rhf1?! ...

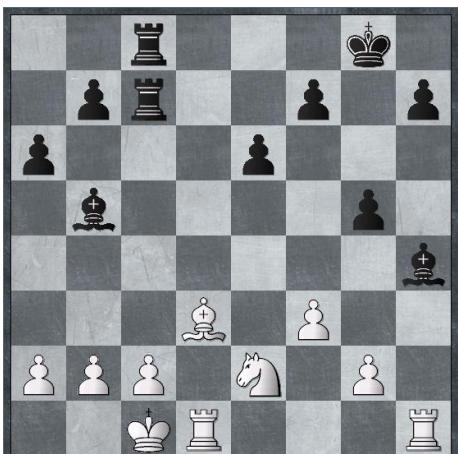
Is he suddenly getting aggressive??? Of course I saw if I take the h pawn, he comes back with the Rook and starts a Kingside attack!

18. ... Bxh4?!

All the way up on 3rd Board, and maybe acting cocky again!?

19. Rh1 g5

20. Ne2 Bb5!



Did I really work all this out when I took the h pawn? Of course he is trying to win the piece on h4 by playing g3. But I am threatening to play ...Bxd3, and if he takes first with 21. Bxb5 Rxc2+ 22. Kb1 axb5 and now he still can't play g3 be-

cause I am threatening the Knight. If he plays g3 immediately then Bxd3 followed by Rxc2+ wins the Knight. Let me tell you, if I had realized all or most of this when I took on h4, then we are clearly talking a very different player from just 2 months ago...

21. c3 Bxd3

22. Rxd3 Bf2

Of course, there's no more attack on h7.

23. Rh5 f6

24. Rh6 Kg7

25. Rh5 Bh4!

Really??!! If g3 to win the Bishop, then Kg6 traps the Rook!

26. f4? Kg6

That gets the Rook trapped too. g4 was necessary.

27. Ng3 Bxg3

28. Rh1 Bxf4+

29. Kc2 b5

30. R3h3 g4!

Solves everything.

31. Rh4 f5

32. g3 Bg5

33. R4h2 b4

34. Kd1 h6

35. Re2 Kf6

36. Rhei1 Rc6

37. a4?! b3

38. Rf1 Rc4

39. a5 Ra4

40. Ke1 Ra1+

41. Kf2 Rxf1+

42. Kxf1 Rc5

43. Re1 Rxa5

44. Kf2 h5

45. Rd1 Ra2

46. Rb1 a5

47. Kg2 e5

48. Kf2 h4

49. gxh4 Bxh4+

And White resigned on move 63.

Now I was 4-2 in SICA play, and our team was 5-1. The banter was in full swing at the H-F Chess Club between the principles of the SICA North contenders, TF North, Thornwood, and Thornridge. Now it was time for one of the epic matchups! Thornridge @ Thornwood!

Thornridge at Thornton

4th Board

March 8th, 1983

Bill Kemp Franklin - L. Weber

We had beaten them last time, and additionally, we had 2nd Board Paul Moore back in the lineup. We were pretty confident!

1. e4 c5!

Yet another opportunity to wheel out my Sicilian!

2. Nf3 d6

3. c3?! Nf6

White is playing a kind of Closed Sicilian. There is a couple ways to do this, with the purpose of most of them is to keep a pawn in the center instead of letting Black trade it for a c pawn.

4. d3 e6

5. Bg5 Be7

6. Bxf6 Bxf6

He develops, I develop. He exchanges a developed piece, I retake with a developed piece, that STAYS developed. Not critical yet, though, in a closed position, development advantages are not always as important as in an open game.

7. d4 cxd4

8. cxd4 a6

Ok, so he got what he wanted, a pawn center.

9. Nc3 Qb6



That's one of the problems with getting rid of your Queen Bishop so early, it leaves holes...

10. b3 Nc6

11. e5? ...

Ok, no justification for that one. I guess he was trying to hang on to the d4 pawn.

11. ... dxe5

12. dxe5 Qb4

Ok, Nxe5 would have been fine, but I must have felt he was way to open to settle for just a pawn.

13. exf6 Qxc3+

14. Nd2 Qxf6

So I got a pawn anyway?

15. Nf3 O-O

16. Be2 Rd8

17. Qb1? Qc3+



Qc1 was better for him. Now he can't castle.

18. Kf1 b5

19. Qc1 Qxc1+?!

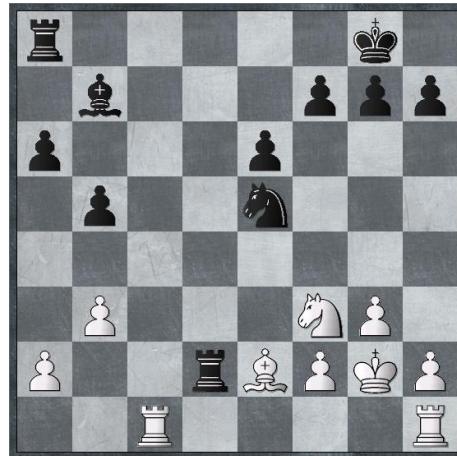
Ok, was I afraid I couldn't move the Q because of Qxc6? Playing my Q to f6 would have solved that, no?

20. Rxc1 Bb7

21. g3? Ne5

Of course, I understand he wanted some air for his King. But opening the pawn that leads from my Bishop to his Rook was to be avoided. He'd have to spend a move or two to do it the hard way, play h3, then walk the King over there.

22. Kg2 Rd2!



23. Bd1 Rxd1!

24. Rhxd1 Bxf3+

25. Kg1 Bxd1

26. Rxd1 h5

27. a4 bxa4

28. bxa4 Rc8

29. Rd6 Rc6

30. Rd8+ Kh7

31. Rd1 Rc2

32. Rd6 Ng4

33. Rxa6 Nxf2

Personally, now, I'd have tried to save MY a pawn and win HIS, first.

34. Rb6 Ra2

35. Ra6 Nd3

36. Ra7 Kg6

37. a5 e5

38. Rd7 Nc5

39. Rc7 Rxa5

40. Kg2 e4 0-1

And White resigned on move 52.

Unfortunately, our team lost the match! Thus, we split the season matches with Thornwood 1-1, and now the conference title was up in the air again! Jack lost his rematch with Joaquim on Board 1. Now our team was 5-2, and... so was I!

Gaining confidence, strength, and swagger, I had now challenged to play my friend Tim blindfolded! Well, not really, there was no actual blindfold. He got to look at the board, and I got to look at the back yard, and he called out his moves.

March 17th, 1983

Tim's house

Black was playing without the sight of his pieces...

"Tim" - L. Weber

1. e4 c5

2. Nf3 d6

3. d4 cxd4

4. Nxd4 Kf6

5. Bd3 a6

6. Nc3 Nc6

7. Nxc6 bxc6

8. Bg5 e6

9. O-O Be7

10. f4 Qc7

11. Bxf6 Bxf6

12. e5? dxe5

13. fxe5 Be7?

14. Qf3 Qb6+

15. Rf2 Bc5

16. Qxf7+ Kd8

17. Qxg7 Bxf2+

18. Kf1 Bg1

19. Qxh8+ Kd7

20. Qxh7+ Kd8

21. Nd1 Be3

22. Nxe3 Qxe3

23. Re1 Qf4+

24. Kg1 Bd7

- 25. Qh8+ Kc7?**
26. Qxa8 Qg5
27. Qa7+ Kd8
28. h3 1-0

And mercifully, Black resigned!

Godawful! But this represents the first blindfold game of a person who later became a "master"! Within a couple years, I would be giving multi board blindfold simuls.

Since Matt Bolton, our 3rd Board, had lost against Thornwood, and since I wanted to play the best players available, I had challenged Matt to a match for 3rd Board! I didn't feel I had any realistic chance of winning the match, but I thought it would be a great way to get some serious training games in. I knew Matt was a Queen Pawn player, which was pretty alien to me, but I dove in head first with homework and tried to make the best fight I could.

Board Match
 4th Board vs. 3rd Board!
 March 20th, 1983

Matt Bolton (1460) - L. Weber

- 1. d4 d5**
2. c4 e6
3. Nc3 Nf6
4. Bg5 Nbd7

Setting up the so-called "Tarrasch Trap", where Black hopes White will try to win a pawn on d5 via 5. cxd5 cxd5 6. Nxd5.... But the pin is illusory, because after 6. ... Nxd5!, winning a piece for the pawn, 7. Bxd8 Bb4+ 8. Qd2 (forced) Bxd2 9. Kxd2 Kxd8 and Black is up. Some of us "stronger" players were well aware of things like this, and Marty Seitzinger, star 5th Board for TF North, beat a much higher rated player with it in a USCF event later that year.

- 5. e3 ...**



Now White really IS threatening to take on d5, since he wouldn't have to block a check from the Bishop on b4 with his Queen anymore!

- 5. ... Be7**
6. Nf3 O-O
7. Bd3 dxc4

I see I must have also understood that Black delays this capture until AFTER Bd3 is played in order to do so with a tempo.

- 8. Bxc4 Nb6**

Hmm, not exactly the main idea, which is to get in ...c5 to contest the center.

- 9. Bd3 Nbd5**

Ideally Black does want to blockade this square with a Knight, but only after, say, an exchange of a c5 Pawn for the d4 Pawn, making the remaining Pawn on d4 isolated, and thus there not being another Pawn to kick the Knight off d5 by playing, e4!

- 10. Qc2? ...**

I see the idea is to hit h7, and to prepare e4, which could also have been played immediately, however, it allows Black to fork the Q and B, removing the dangerous d3 Bishop from play.



- 10. ... h6?**

An immediate Nb4 was in order.

- 11. Bh4 ...**

Maybe Bxf6 followed by a3 was playable.

- 11. ... Nb4**

- 12. Qe2 Nfd5?!**

What? What happened to keeping it simple? Strange thing is, this appears to work for Black, who is trying to simplify in a less spacious position.

- 13. Bxe7 Qxe7**
14. e4?? ...



Now White is freaking out. This is just a terrible blunder. White can play Bb1 or Bc4 and he is fine. Of course the Knights support each other and are difficult to extricate, but winning one back would have to

cause positional damage to White.

- 14. ... Nf4**
- 15. Qd2 Nbxd3+**
- 16. Kf1 Qb4**
- 17. g3 Qc4**
- 18. gxf4+ Ne5+?**

Not sure why we just don't take on f4.

- 19. Qe2? Nxf3!**
- 20. Qxc4 Nd2+**
- 21. Ke2 Nxc4**
- 22. b3 Nd6**
- 23. Rhg1 b6**
- 24. Rg3 Bb7**
- 25. Rag1 g6**
- 26. f3 Rad8**
- 27. h4 Ba6+**
- 28. Ke3 Kh7**
- 29. h5 Rg8**
- 30. hxg6 Rxg6**
- 31. d5 Rxg3**
- 32. Rxg3 Nb5**
- 33. Nxb5 Bxb5**
- 34. dxe6 Rd3+**
- 35. Kf2 fxe6**
- 36. f5 exf5**
- 37. exf5 Rd2+**
- 38. Ke3 Rxa2**

Pretty bold to be pawn grabbing, when the opponent has a passer running through like Number 23 of the Bears...

- 39. f6 Re2+**
- 40. Kf4 Re8**
- 41. Rg7+ Kh8**
- 42. Rxc7 Rf8**
- 43. Kf5 Bd3+**
- 44. Ke6 h5**
- 45. Ke7 Kg8**
- 46. Ke6 Re8+**
- 47. Kd6 Rd8+**
- 48. Ke7 Rf8**
- 49. Ke6 Re8+**
- 50. Kd6 Kf8**
- 51. Rxa7 Bf5**
- 52. f7 Re6+**
- 53. Kd5 Bh3?**

Just Re7 looks strong.

- 54. Rb7 Re7**
- 55. Rxb6 Kxf7**
- 56. Rh6 Rd7+**
- 57. Ke5 Re7+**

This is all very sloppy. Perhaps we were getting fatigued, perhaps I was shell shocked that our powerful 3rd Board didn't just blow me off the board.

- 58. Kf4 Bg2**
- 59. Rxh5 Kf8**
- 60. Rh8+ Kg7**
- 61. Rh2 Rf7+**
- 62. Kg3 Bxf3**
- 63. Rf2 ½-½**

And a draw was agreed. Of course, if Rooks are traded, then all Black must do is sac his extra piece for that extra pawn. Even if Rooks are NOT traded, winning with R+B vs. R is extremely difficult to do even on a good day.

So I had drawn Matt, and this created some mild buzz around the club. But not too much, they figured he just played badly, which was true. But now it was time to get back to work, and face off in the first of our two matches with TF North!

As mentioned before, TF North was led by Jeff Olejnik, a high scoring 1st Board who had recently held IM Leonid Bass to a draw in an open tournament, and backed by Jeff Keith, Vic Moore, Kevin Solcich, Marty Seitzinger, and my opponent, John Wisowaty. Even though I was now 5-2, John had a similar if not better record, and had done it on slightly higher boards, and so he had more "SICA points". After the White Castles Food Fight, and all the bantering at the various clubs, it was now put up or shut up time!

Our team was actually 6-2 now, because the previous week a team

forfeited against us, so we didn't have a match.

TF North at Thornridge
4th Board
March 22nd, 1983
L. Weber - John Wisowaty

- 1. e4 e5**
- 2. Nf3 Nc6**
- 3. Bb5 Nf6**

I had actually started to become somewhat versed in the Ruy Lopez, I felt it was a much better chance to obtain an advantage in high school play than all that 4 Knights stuff everyone was doing.

4. O-O Bb4?

This does worse than nothing, it provides a way to give White a great center!

5. c3 Bc5?

What is he doing?

- 6. d4 exd4**
- 7. cxd4 Be7**
- 8. Re1 O-O**



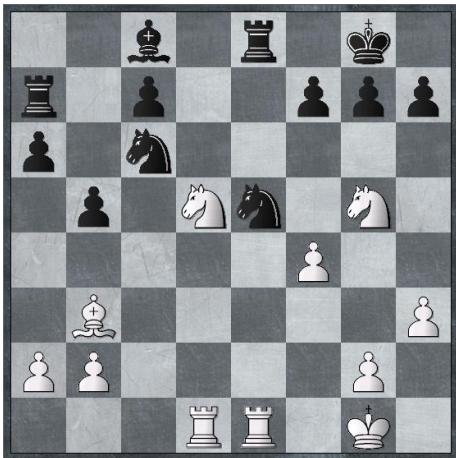
I was, needless to say, pretty comfortable right now.

- 9. Nc3 a6**
- 10. Ba4 b5**
- 11. Bb3 Re8**
- 12. Bg5 d6**

13. e5? ...

Premature? Maybe I was starting to worry he was going to tangle me up in the center and I'd drop a pawn. Today I'd consider Qd3 followed by Rd1, build up more before opening it since he's cramped for space and can't move pieces about easily.

- 13. ... dxe5**
- 14. dxe5 Qxd1**
- 15. Raxd1 Ng4**
- 16. Nd5 Ra7**
- 17. h3 Bxg5**
- 18. Nxg5 Ngxe5?**
- 19. f4 ...**



In retrospect, he may have been forced to play that Knight to h6. Yuck.

- 19. ... Ne7**
- 20. fxe5? ...**

I mean, taking it with the pawn is fine. But when you see a good move, look for a better one! What does he do if 20. Rxe5! More pieces are falling! if 20. ... f6 then 21. Nxe7+ forcing more material, because he HAS to take with the Rook or else allow a smother mate with the other Knight on either h7 or f7!

- 20. ... Nxd5**
- 21. Rxd5 c6**
- 22. Rc5 Be6**
- 23. Nxe6 fxe6**
- 24. Rxc6 R7e7**

- 25. Rxa6 Kh8**
- 26. Rd1 h6**
- 27. R1d6 g5**
- 28. Rxe6 Rxe6**
- 29. Rxe6 Rxe6**
- 30. Bxe6**

And Black was mated on move 45. 1-0.

Ok, so now I was 6-2 in SICA, but our team dropped to 6-3! TF North won the match, and set themselves up as the team to beat in the division. My recollection is that Jack lost to Olejnik on Board 1, that we did well on 2 and 3, but lost a lot of lower boards. Man, the ribbing our guys took from the other guys the next Friday at H-F, it was bad, with challenges of blitz matches, Slyder fights, you name it. Fortunately it was all in fun and no one came to blows! I at least was able to avoid humiliation because I had soundly beaten their highly regarded 4th Board.

Several days after this stinging team loss, it was time to resume serious play, and so we scheduled game 2 of our match for 3rd Board.

Board Match
4th Board vs. 3rd Board!
March 25th, 1983
L. Weber - Matt Bolton (1460)

1. e4 e6

Ah yes, that's right, Matt plays the French. Ok, let's do this thing.

2. h4?! ...

I had started studying the games of Alekhine and admired some of the things he played, and I figured that since Matt was mostly a positional player, a little craziness would be the right formula to deal with him. h4 was an attempt to force the game into an Alekhine-Chatard at-

tack, but earlier. I had done some homework on this and thought I would know how he responded to it. But there was more going on here than just that...

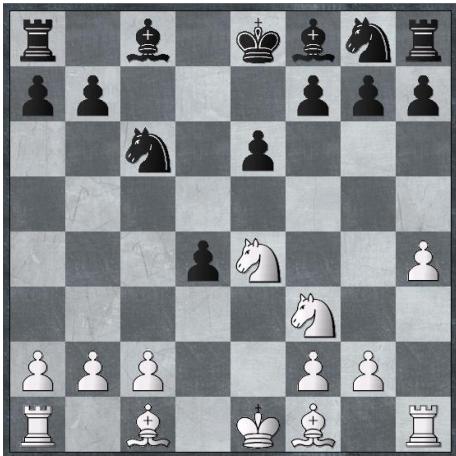
This was one of the earliest examples of a trait that became very characteristic of my tournament preparation for the rest of my life... a factor that was more Emanuel Lasker than Alexander Alekhine... the use of an opponents known tastes or likes and dislikes against him. Basically it meant to use psychology at the board, to play what openings, or even moves, you deemed to make your opponent more uncomfortable, take them out of their comfort zone, make them use more nervous and mental energy at the board, increase their chances to make a mistake.

I have known a lot of players who never made "master" who I sincerely believed to be more talented at chess than I was. But if I surpassed some of them, it was because I had learned the Laskeresque quality of playing the player, as much as playing the board. It is in this way that I was able to play against players who I felt were more talented at chess than I was. Make no mistake, learning about the game, learning how to play under pressure, working hard, preparing well, these are all very important. But it is an added tool to your toolbox if you can do all of that and also size up individual opponents on top of it and play in ways that is the least pleasant for them. This game represents the first time I did this in competition, according to my voluminous scoresheet collection, and it probably required me to be able to play at a decent level already, otherwise I wouldn't have known enough about chess and my opponent to be able to make this work. As it turned out, the actual direction

of the play in this game didn't go as planned, but the disorientation of a positional opponent who was undoubtedly a stronger chessplayer than I was... that part worked out.

- 2. ... d5**
- 3. d4?! c5?!**
- 4. Nc3 dxе4**
- 5. Nxe4 Qxd4**
- 6. Qxd4 cxд4**
- 7. Nf3 Nc6**

Ok, so what has happened here? When someone plays the French, they expect a cramped position which they gradually build up to a breakout, right? Here, the nature of the game has been altered. Black is up a pawn, but down a developing move and he must work to avoid losing his extra pawn. White has some play going on. I'm sure I didn't plan this exactly this way, but this was still early on for this type of strategizing for me. Let's see how this pans out, shall we?



- 8. Bb5 Bb4+**
- 9. Bd2 Bxd2+**
- 10. N4xd2 Nge7**
- 11. Nxd4 Bd7**

So now the pawn has come back, the game is largely balanced.

12. N2f3 e5?

What is he doing? Another premature pawn push?



- 13. Bxc6 exd4**
- 14. Bxd7+ Kxd7**
- 15. Nxd4 Rhe8**
- 16. O-O-O g6?**
- 17. Rhe1 Nc6??**
- 18. Nb5+!**



And Black resigns, 1-0! He just walked into a mid-board mate. I now led the match 1.5-.5. Truth be told, although I loved to win, I felt hollow, because I didn't feel I had faced him at his best. True, part of the psychological aspect is to play in a way that results in him NOT playing his best, but nevertheless, I understood he knew much more about chess than I did, and I wanted to improve, not just win.

During this period, I played numerous other blindfold games, and the quality of those began to rise. At this time, I suspect I was putting 3-5 hours a day into chess, playing, reading whatever limited books I could find. A relative had got-

ten me that old Horowitz opening book for a present, and I read it at length, discovering that I was actually learning more about middle-games from it than openings. I had obtained a copy of the match book by Raymond Keene on the 1978 Korchnoi-Karpov match. Paul, our #2, had a full set of ECO, hard cover copies, with its cryptic and figurine algebraic, from which he gleaned the latest and deepest opening theory. I could never get into those. Although, strangely, I now possess those. Years after Paul gave up competitive chess, somehow I wound up with them. Still largely unopened. Maybe some day he'll play again, and I will be happy to return them (although with so many online resources and CDs available, the old obsolete books are probably the equivalent of taking a Ford Model T into a NASCAR race...)

I would have to say that the regularly scheduled school matches, and the availability of rivals close to and above my own strength, was absolutely critical to my rapid chess development at this stage. I could study something, and then have a chance to use it in casual play, then in competition. My teammates were also getting stronger, and we all kind of improved in a fast moving flood of chess over a period from November to March. I remember it fondly because while winning was fun, we understood there was a greater goal of trying to become really strong at chess, and with that in mind, even the losses were part of the process.



Stay tuned for the next installment, "MOVING UP"!



photo by Betsy Dynako

IM Tate - IM Young [B07]
NA FIDE Invitational, 2008

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6

Pribyl defense!.

**4.f4 Qa5 5.e5 Ne4 6.Qf3 d5
7.Bd3 Na6 8.Nge2 Nb4 9.f5!?**



Normal is: [9.0-0 Nxd3 10.cxd3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 g6 12.h3 h5 13.a4 h4 14.Bd2 Bf5=]

9...Nxd3+

It took 45 mins. to decide on this , I should be contented with the text, looking for too many lines might have jeopardized the game.

10.cxd3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 e6

Not: [11...g6 12.e6 gxf5 (12...fxe6

Games and Analysis with IM ANGELO YOUNG

13.fxg6 hxg6 14.0-0 Bd7 15.Qf7+ Kd8 16.Bf4 so awkward !) 13.exf7+ Kxf7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.g4 Bd7 16.gxf5 Bg7 17.Rg1 Rf8 18.Bh6 Rf7 19.Qg5+-]

12.f6 g6 13.0-0 b6

I have to be careful to not open the game right away due to my problem in development.

14.Bd2

14. a4 would have been preferable, if only to stop my next move.

14...Qa4! 15.c4= Qc2 16.Rfd1 Ba3!

Stop Rac1 and a4 pawn advance.

17.Bh6 Bb7 18.Rd2 Qa4 19.Rb1 0-0-0

Around this time I began to feel like I was going to win, with due respect to my opponent who is one of the country's top attacking wizards.

20.Rb3 Bb4

[20...c5 21.Qf2 dxc4 22.dxc4 Bb4 23.Rdb2 Ba6 also playable.]

21.Rdb2 c5 22.Qh3

I expected this move- now the complication arises.

22...Qc6 23.Rc2!

Creating some tactical bogady! (just an expression.)

23...Kb8 24.a3 dxc4 25.dxc4

I spent my remaining time on this move! The thirty second increment helps a lot .



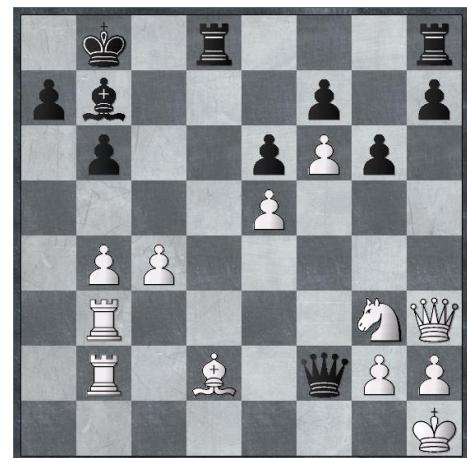
25...Qe4 26.Rcb2 cxd4

Now we are both into blitz mode for the next few moves.

27.axb4 d3 28.Ng3 Qd4+ 29.Kh1??

a big mistake due to time trouble. now comes the clincher!

29...d2!! 30.Bxd2 Qf2



Notice that all white pieces can barely move... if the queen moves, then mate on g2, if the Knight moves, then mate on f1, if the Bishop moves, then mate on d1 or e1.

31.Re3 Rxd2 32.Rxd2 Qxd2 33.Nf1 Qf2 34.Rf3 Bxf3 35.Qxf3 Qxf3 36.gxf3 a5

White can't stop the queening pawn . IM Tate and I always try to outwit each other, and it is always a friendly competition.

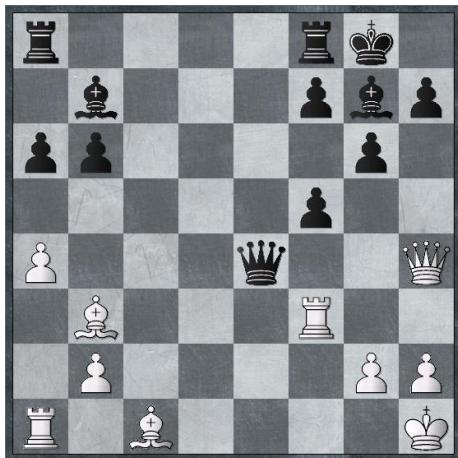
Strategist versus Tactician **0-1.**

with futher analysis i found the reputation.}

15... d3 16. Ng3

(16. cxd3 Qxd3 17. Qxe7 Qxe2 18. Qxb7 Bd4+ 19. Be3 Qxe3+ 20. Kh1 Qxb3) (16. Rd1 Bd4+ 17. Nxd4 Qxd4+ 18. Qf2 Qxf2+ 19. Kxf2 Bxe4 \$15) (16. Nf4 exf5 17. cxd3 fxe4)

16... Qd4+ 17. Kh1 Nxf5! 18. Nxf5 exf5 19. cxd3 Qxd3 20. Rf3 Qxe4



{White is down two pawns without compensation.}

21. Bf4 Rae8 22. Qg5 Qb4 23. Bd2 Qd6 24. Bf4 Qd4 25. Rg3 Qxb2 26. Rd1 Bxg2+ 0-1

IM Young,A (2360) - Tsyganov,I (2260) [A46] 8th North American FIDE Invitational Chicago USA (4), 19.02.2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.g3 b6

Queen's Indian defense.

4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0

In our next encounter I tried the famous Queen's Indian Sac!. Check the game on next issue.

[5.c4 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d5!? exd5 8.Nh4 c6 9.cxd5 Nxd5]

5...c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.c4 0-0 8.Nc3 Ne4 9.Qc2 Nxc3 10.Qxc3 d5 11.Qc2!



Which stops both dxc4 and d4.

11...h6

[11...d4 12.Ng5 g6 13.Bxb7; 11...dxc4 12.Ng5 g6 13.Bxb7]

12.Rd1 Qc8

Creating a nice trick .

13.b3

if... [13.cxd5 Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Qxc2]

13...Be7 14.Ne5 Bf6 15.Bb2 dxc4 16.Bxb7 Qxb7 17.Nxc4 Bxb2 18.Qxb2±



White has little lead in development, and it is just enough to cause lasting pressure.

18...Nc6 19.Nd6 Qe7 20.Rac1 Na5

As we learned when we are young "Knight on the rim is dim".

[20...Nb4 21.e4 Rad8 22.Qd4 Na6 23.f4]

21.Qe5 Rad8 22.h4

with the idea of Nf5 which can easily met by Qg5.

22...Rd7 23.Rd3 f6 24.Qf4 Rfd8 25.Nc8!



A bolt from the blue ! Black can't stop the invasion on c7.

25...Qf7 26.Rxd7 Qxd7 27.Qc7 Qxc7 28.Rxc7 Rd1+ 29.Kg2 Rb1

Not.. [29...Rd2 30.b4 Trapped the knight.]

30.Ne7+ Kf8 31.Rxa7 Rb2 32.e3 Rc2 33.h5 e5 34.Kf3 Nc6 35.Nxc6 Rxc6 36.Ke4 Kg8 37.Rb7 Kh7 38.a4

Black is paralyzed and stops the clock . **1-0**

THE CHESS OF RICHARD VERBER

Part I of a Series

By John Tomas

All of the many appreciations of Richard Verber that appeared upon his death seven years ago have done ample justice to his qualities as an organizer and human being. But, I'd like to focus on an area that has been unfortunately neglected in accounts of his life: his actual play.

Anyone attempting to do justice to Richard's chess immediately runs into a major obstacle: Richard did not save his score sheets. This is the major reason why this article (promised to Richard before his death), has taken so long to germinate. It is only recently that I have managed to get access to some of the games that Richard considered his best. In this regard, if you are at all interested in chess in the United States, I recommend to you the pdf files of the complete run of Chess Review, Chess Life and Review, and a complete run of Chess Life through 1979. These articles would have been much weaker without them.

A number of the comments that I will include in this article are based upon conversations that I had with Richard himself. As he realized that he was dying, he had pressed me to promise that I would do an article on his chess. Indeed, only days before he was to enter the hospital for the final time, we sat down and looked at all of his games I could gather.

RICHARD'S STYLE

If you know Richard Verber only by his games after 1973, you may not recognize the young Verber. For one

thing, he played highly theoretical (in terms of the theory of the late '60s) and often risky lines. Tim Redman is quite correct when he notes that Richard specialized that he offbeat and highly positional lines (the Gurgendize System and the O'Kelly with Black and an early Bb5 or c3 against the Sicilian with White), but that was only late in his career — after he had completely retooled his opening repertoire in 1972-73 to meet the new demands he was putting on his chess.

He realized that he was no longer, and probably never again would be, a professional player. Then, his primary goal in the opening changed from getting an advantage to getting positions that his opponent knew less well than he did. He largely chose the openings that he did during this period because theory changed little on them, and he was extremely unlikely to be surprised by innovations. I once observed to him that the whole of his opening repertoire near the end of his life amounted to little more than a series of sophisticated traps: an evaluation that he found humorous but one he did not gainsay.

AMUSE BOUCHE

Several early Verber wins to wet your appetite for the heavyweight struggles to follow.

Richard Verber - Mark Surgies [C16] French Defense

Illinois Open 1963

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4
4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 bxc3+ 6.bxc3 b6
7.Qg4 Nf5**

A variation popular in the '50s and early '60s (Boris Ivkov and Robert Byrne both played it) that has gone of favor.

8.Bd3 h5 9.Qf4

9.Qh3! is the move that drove this variation from grandmaster use. Obviously, Black cannot now play for the exchange of queens, nor long maintain his knight on f5. 9...Qh4?? 10.Bxf5+-

9...Qh4 10.Ne2 Qxf4 11.Nxf4

White has a slight advantage in this position. Surgies, former Wisconsin champion, presumably hoped that his young opponent would not be up to winning the endgame.



11...Ne7?!

I prefer not to lose a tempo and instead play [11...c6!?]

**12.Be2 g6 13.Nh3 Ba6 14.Bg5
Bxe2 15.Kxe2 Nd7 16.f3 Nf5
17.Nf4 nf8 18.bf6 Rg8**

Black has achieved his positional aim of ridding himself of his bad bishop and White's good bishop, but his pieces have no scope. He is very close to being lost.

**19.g4 hxg4 20.fxg4 Ng7 21.h4
Nh7 22.h5 g5 23.h6! Nxh6
24.exf6 Nf5 25.gxf5 gxf4
26.h7 Rh8 27.Kf3 Kd7 28.Kxf4**

Rae8 29.Rae1 c5 30.fxe6+ 1–0

Richard Verber, - Edward Vano
[B88] Sicilian Defense
1988 Greater Chicago Open

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bc4 Nc6
 7.Be3 Be7 8.Bb3 0–0 9.0–0 Na5
 10.f4 e5 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.exf5
 Nxb3 13.axb3 a6 14.Qf3 exf4
 15.Bd4 Qd7 16.Qxf4 Rfe8
 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Rd3 Qc6
 19.Rg3 Kh8 20.Qg5 Rg8 21.Re1
 Rde8 22.Rxe7 Rxe7 23.Qxf6
 Re1+ 24.Kf2 Qc5+ 25.Kxe1
 Re8+ 26.Kf1 1–0**

In Richard's early games, we see a very different player from the one after 1971. He is theoretically well-prepared and willing to take chances to win with Black as in this game with the Welsh international master, George Botterill.

In Richard's early games, we see a very different player from the one after 1971. He is theoretically well-prepared and willing to take chances to win with Black as in this game with the Welsh international master, George Botterill.

**George Botterill –
 Verber, Richard William [B98]
 Sicilian Defense**

World Student Team Championship
 -A 16th Dresden 1969

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6
 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 h6**

In his book on the Bg5 Najdorf Sicilian, John Nunn titles lines with ...h6 the "Browne" variation. But they might better be known as the "Chicago" variation because Dick, Greg (and Gary) DeFotis, and Craig Chellstorp championed them against all opposition and analyzed them in

considerable depth. Indeed, Richard told me that when Bobby Fischer visited Chicago for exhibitions in 1964, they analyzed these very lines together. Unfortunately, at this point, Richard's move order is suspect.. Better is 8...Qc7! 9.0–0–0 Nbd7 10.Bd3 and, only now, 10...h6

9.Bh4 Nbd7 10.f5?!

One of several tries that give Black few problems. Norman Weinstein showed the right way to play this position in his 1973 game against Greg DeFotis. 10.0–0–0 Qc7 11.Be2! Bg8 and White won a spectacular game.

10...e5 11.Nb3 b5 12.a3 Bb7

Nunn gives ...Rb8 here leading to equality, but Richard's move looks equally good.

**13.Bd3 Rc8 14.0–0–0 0–0
 15.Rhg1**



This is the position Scottish International Master David Levy chose for his book *Sacrifices in the Sicilian*. 15.g4 Rxc3! 16.bxc3 d5!

15...Rxc3!

The game was played in a spa in Dresden, and Richard told me that before he made this move, he went to the bar and gulped down a glass

of beer to settle his nerves. Today, even candidate masters make such moves as a matter of course.

16.bxc3 d5!

This is the move that convinced Richard to play the sacrifice. After the bishop joins the attack, White is not long for this world.

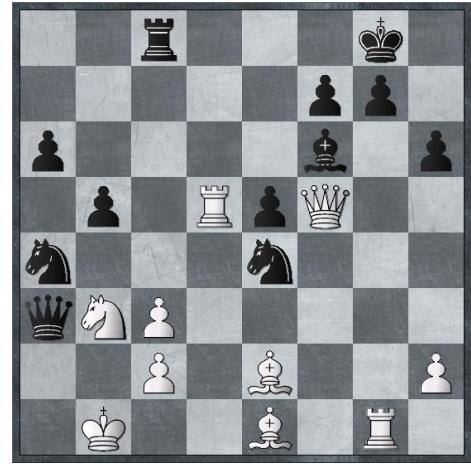
**17.exd5 Bxa3+ 18.Kb1 Bxd5 19.Qh3
 Qc7 20.Qe2 Rc8 21.g4 Ne4 22.Be1
 Nb6**

Naturally, Richard has no interest in exchanging queens with ...Nxc3.

23.Ka1 Be7

The bishop makes way for the queen.

**24.g5 Bxg5 25.f6 Bxf6 26.Qf5
 Qe7 27.Rxd5 Qa3+ 28.Kb1
 Na4!**



**29.Qxc8+ Kh7 30.Rxg7+ Kxg7
 31.Qg4+ Bg5 0–1**

And here is Richard playing another highly theoretical line against the Brazilian International Master, Antonio Segal (who visited Chicago in 1975).

**Richard Verber – Antonio Segal
 [B03]
 World Student Championship,
 1967**

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4

Later in life, Richard would play the anti-theoretical Nc3 or Bc4 here, hoping to catch Black in traps. But, in his early incarnation, he was not afraid of main lines, and he quickly steers the game into the waters of the Four Pawns attack.

3...d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 c5

This is a rather dubious sideline.

7.d5 e6 8.Nc3 exd5 9.cxd5 Qh4+

An even more dubious sideline.

10.g3 Qd4 11.Bf4?!



The latest word on this variation is that 11.Bb5+ virtually wins: Bd7 12.Qe2 Nxd5 13.e6 fxe6 14.Qxe6+ Ne7 15.Nf3 Qb4 16.Ne5 Bxb5 17.Bg5 Qxb2 18.Nxb5 Qxa1+ 19.Kf2 Qxh1 20.Qc8+ Nxc8 21.Nc7#. These moves are not all forced, of course, but most of the sidelines end just as badly for Black. Richard's move is supposed to lead to equality, but Robert Byrne gave it an exclamation point when he annotated the game in 1967, and this game gives no evidence that Black missed equalizing moves.

11...g5 12.Bxg5 Qxe5+ 13.Qe2 bg7 14.0–0–0 Qxe2 15.Ngxe2

Bg4 16.Bg2 0–0

Of course, 16...Bxc3?! does not win a piece 17.bxc3 Bxe2? 18.Rhe1

17.h3 Bxe2 18.Nxe2 Nc4 19.b3 Ne5 20.Nf4 c4?!

Very trappy, but perhaps Black does better with 20...Nbd7 21.Be7 Rfe8 22.d6 Rab8

21.Kb1

21.bxc4? Rc8 22.Kb1 Nxc4 23.d6 Nd7

21...Nbd7 22.d6 a5 23.Nd5 cxb3 24.axb3 a4 25.b4 a3 26.Ka2 Kh8



This move makes a very strange impression.

27.Rc1 Nd3 28.Rc7 Rfe8! 29.Be7!

29.Rxd7?? leads to a very amusing mate: Re2+ 30.Kb1 a2#.

29...Rec8 30.Rd1! N7e5 31.Bf1 Nb2 32.Rdc1 Rg8 33.Nb6 Nbd3 34.Bxd3 Nxd3 35.Nxa8 Bb2

35...Nxc1+ 36.Rxc1 Rxa8 37.d7+-

36.R1c4 Rxa8 37.d7 b5 38.Rc8+ 1–0

Although less common after 1971, play like this did not entirely disappear. Here, Richard treats Wiscon-

sin champion Peter Webster rather rudely in a game from the 1992 Illinois – Wisconsin match.

Richard Verber (2410) – Bruce Webster (2330) [B07] Pirc Defense

Illinois-Wisconsin m USA, 1992 (1)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5

I guess this qualifies as anti-theoretical. It was a favorite of Grandmaster Robert Byrne (who was a long-time friend of Richard) in the '60s and '70s.

4...Bg7 5.f4

5.Qd2?! Is the most usual move here by a wide margin. Still, some redoubtable players (including Shirov) have played the text.

5...0–0

I prefer to delay castling in such positions until I see where the White King intends to live. 5...h6 6.Bh4 Nh5 7.Qd2 Nxf4 8.Qxf4 g5; 5...c6

6.Nf3 Bg4?!

Webster's plan is to put pressure on the d4 square and along the long diagonal, and so he eliminates the knight. The problem with the plan is that it is much too slow as Richard demonstrates. I've found only one other game with this order of moves and White won that quickly too.

7.h3 Bxf3 8.Exf3 Nc6 9.0–0–0 Nd7?!

The same position arose in Papp-Szabo, Budapest, '04.

10.e5 f6

Here the two games diverge. On balance, I prefer Richard's approach.

11.exf6

11.Bc4+ Kh8 12.h4!? h6 13.Qg3 Nb6 14.Be6 Qe8, and Black ended up with counterplay.

11...exf6 12.Bh4±



Black's problem is that his pieces have no scope at all, and White can build up an attack on the K-side with virtually no opposition.

12...Nb6

Either here or on the next move, Black should have tried ...Bh6+. At least, the bishop gets something to do.

13.f5!

Black wanted to play ...Qd7 followed by ...f5 when his bishop would have some scope. Richard naturally acts to prevent this.

13...Qd7 14.g4 Rae8 15.Kb1

Otherwise, Black might engineer some counterplay with something like 15.Bg2 Bh6+ 16.Kb1 Re3 17.Qf2 Rxc3 18.bxc3 Na4

15...Kh8?!

I do not understand the point of

this move. The king is hardly any better placed on h8 than it was on g8. Fritz suggests ...Qf7 trying to get the knight to c4.

16.Bf2 Ne7?!

Black has a difficult position, but this makes it even worse. For better or worse, he should have tried ...gxf5 when ...Kh8 makes some sense.

17.fxg6 Nxg6

Virtually forced. If ...hxg6, h4 followed by h5 leaves Black busted positionally.

18.Qxb7!

When Richard and I looked at this game, I exclaimed "Why!!!!" when Richard showed me this move. The game is not going to be won on the Q-side, and right now the pawn means less than the attack (or so I figured). But Richard simply said "It was a free duck," and, to give him credit, Black never gets any real counterplay, Fritzy likes the move too. You'd think 30 years of analyzing with Richard would have taught me something.

18...Rb8 19.Qf3 Na4 20.b3 f5 21.g5 Nxc3+ 22.Qxc3 c5

This is all a lot less than it appears. I wonder what Webster was thinking at this point. Did he believe that he had gotten counterplay?

23.h4 Qb7 24.Bc4 d5 25.h5 Nf4

(see diagram next column)

25...dxc4 26.hxg6 cxb3 27.Qxh7+ Kg8 28.Qxg7+ Rxg7 29.Qc4+ Qf7 30.Qxf7+ Rxf7 31.gxf7+ Qxf7+-



26.h6 dxc4

The best defense is 26...Bxd4 27.Bxd4+ cxd4 28.Qxd4+ Kg8 29.Qxd5+ but that is hopeless too.

27.hxg7+ Qxg7 28.Qxc4 Qg8 29.d5!

For all of Richard's reputation of avoiding complications at any cost, he was never averse to playing winning attacks!

29...Qxg5 30.Be3 Rb4 31.Qxc5 Rfb8 32.Bd4+ Kg8 33.Rdg1 Ng2 34.Rh2

1–0

Should you have any games by Richard, please feel free to send them to me. In the past seven years, I have managed to unearth 129 games, but there are still a number of excellent games that I have not found. Please contact me at

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Where Complexity Meets The Amazing

The following game is taken from the US Game/60 Championships held June 28th in Chicago. After the game, my opponent, Allan Becker, and I engaged in a rather extensive and enjoyable post-mortem which lasted nearly to the start of the next round. During the analysis, I tried to point out to him as many of the possibilities I saw during the match as I could, and was quite amazed at how many chances and paths appeared throughout the game for both sides.

Later, in the comfort of my home, I reviewed the game again and indeed came up with some mind-boggling ideas, combinations, and finishes. The depth and intrigue of the complications serves as perfect reason for why I enjoy this particular opening line.

Interestingly enough, during the post-mortem, Allan also mentioned that he enjoyed reading past issues of the Illinois Chess Bulletin, and in fact even some of my blog entries. I was a bit surprised and, in truth, frightened, as I had published an article very recently in my "Road Warrior" series that detailed this exact opening, with healthy analysis! Fortunately, my opponent had not seen this article prior to the game, and so I survived safely. I suppose now I'll have to come up with something new (or old) against the Ruy Lopez, though this certainly goes to show that you should always keep current with your reading of

the ICB! Anyhow, on to the game in question.

**W: Becker, Allan [2032]
B: Karagianis, Pete [2201]**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6
4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7
7.Re1 d6 8.h3 0-0 9.c3 Na5
10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2
Rd8 13.d5**

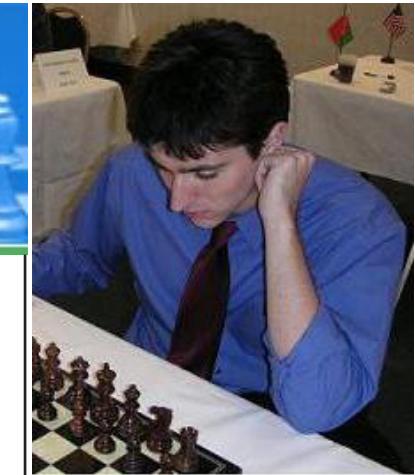
One of the two main continuations. White chooses to close the center. While this poses black no serious threat, it creates a very complex and challenging middle game. Strategically, white will push the action king side, while black tries to rip open the opposite flank. Such positions are rich with excitement and require both solid calculation and, at times, nerves of steel. The more theoretical continuation is 13. Nf1, but I will give no further comment there (do your own homework!).

13...c4

Absolutely necessary, else the a5 knight gets left with no home with 14. b3! Now on 14. b3 or 14. b4 black simply takes and begins to apply pressure. 13. ...c4 carves out a home on c5 for the black knight.

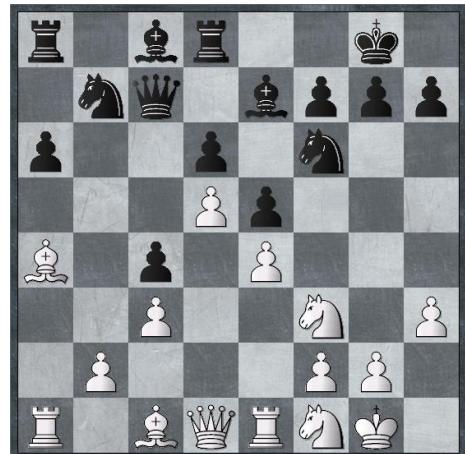
14.Nf1 Nb7 15.a4!

I will give this move an ! for the time being since I felt it was very challenging to meet. However it was also unusual. Typically, it is black who wants to open the queenside, and so playing 13. d5 coupled with 15. a4 does not seem consistent- it



seems strategically incorrect. Still, I remember when I first studied this opening I replayed games of Fischer where he would try to attack the opponent literally everywhere-queenside, kingside- the envelope would be pushed relentlessly. a4 is an active move- it must be answered. Already white is posing black questions, thus I award an !

15...bxa4



I played this move too quickly. My goal was to attack via the b-file and hammer down on the b2-pawn, preventing white from completing his development with ease. I also greedily went for the idea of playing ...Nc5 with tempo.

[Much better would have been: 15...Bd7 where black tries to use the a-file to infiltrate the queenside. after: 16.axb5 axb5 17.Be3 Nc5 The position is still balanced- nei

ther side can proceed with a direct attack, and both armies still coordinate harmoniously.]

16.Bxa4

After the game my opponent pointed out 16.Rxa4 with the point that 16...Nc5 is now met by 17.Ra2 Which later would have saved white a tempo, if the game had continued exactly as it did in the text. In this variation, slight improvements can be the difference in a win, loss, or draw.

16...Nc5 17.Bc2 Bd7 18.g4

18. g4 is a natural move, but premature in light of my response.

18...h5!



During the tournament post-mortem, I mentioned that I found this idea of counter-attacking the king-side expansion in a Grischuk game. At home, I discovered it was indeed not an idea of Grischuk's (someone who plays double king-pawn openings quite often), but in fact I was thinking of the game Bakre-Vladimirov, Calcutta 2001. In that game, a similar position occurred without the inclusion of the a4 bxa4, etc. sequence. I was unsure how the opening on the queenside would affect the remainder of the game, but knew that the purpose of h5 was to fix the white pawns on white

squares and start a dark square blockade (as you'll see, I should have been more forceful with this plan in the game). At any rate, I felt I had a small advantage here.

19.N3h2 hxg4 20.hxg4 g6

20. ...g6 is a multi-purpose move with many reasons behind it. First - the plan Kg7, Rh8. Second - disallows the white queen from getting to h5 in the event of a pawn push to g5. Third, in some variations I may want to play Nh5 in response to g5.

21.Ng3

21. Kg2, 21. Ne3 both were probably slight improvements. Perhaps white wanted to prevent ...Nh5 in response to g5.

21...Qc8

During the game I was not sure if this move was warranted. I wanted to fix all the white pawns on white squares (f3 is now forced) and also deprive the white knight and queen of the f3 square.

As it happens, white playing his pawn to g5 was never a concern, anyway.

22.f3

[22.g5 Nh7 23.Nf3 Bg4]

22...Nh7

In every chess game, time and accuracy is important. Here, even more so. 22. ...Kg7! was better, to transfer to the h-file immediately. Still, I was stuck on the idea of taking over the dark squares.

23.Kg2 Kg7 24.Rh1

How funny chess is. Now it would have been better to stick to my guns with ...Bg5. I forgot who

said it- but it is better to have and play a bad plan than no plan at all.

24...Rh8 25.Be3!

White plays well, with a forceful move. Qd2 is menaced, and I must play Bg5. Of course, it doesn't matter, Qd2 is coming now, anyway!

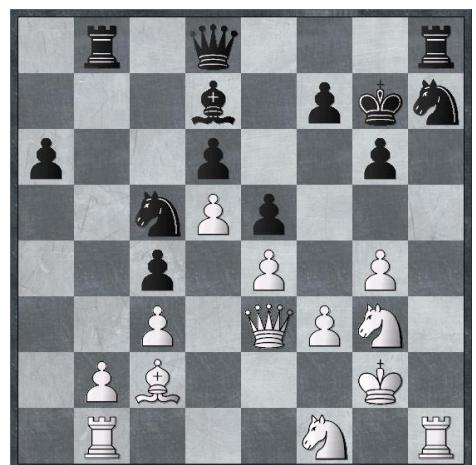
25...Bg5 26.Qd2 Bxe3 27.Qxe3 Rb8

And here, at long last, is where we see that 15. Rxa4 may have been superior to Bxa4. (see the notes to move 16)

28.Rab1 Qd8

Again, vying for control of the dark squares. the idea is ...Qg5! and a favorable ending, thanks to the semi-open b-file and control of the kingside dark squares.

29.Nhf1



Setting a tricky trap, and opening the h-file. Here, I had intended 29. ...Qg5?, and even went so far as to reach for my queen (thankfully without touching it, though had I touched it, 29. ...Qf6 wouldn't be too horrible).

This is without doubt the critical position of the game. Of course, 29. ...Qg5?? loses immediately to 30. Rxh7+. Oddly enough, the move I ended up playing in the game was

only second best, though at the time I felt it was very strong.

The fast time control of game in 60 minutes is interesting. What should you do when your intended plan, move, and strategy (29. ...Qg5) turns out to be a horrific blunder? Meanwhile, the clock is ticking down and you have mere minutes to revisit the position. Practically, take a deep breath, look for an improvement, try to determine your opponent's concrete threats, if you have any threats of your own, ways to improve or speed up your original plan...

29...Ba4!

A powerful answer to the position. This move was the idea behind ...Qg5 regardless, and the key to black's endgame strategy- pressure on b2. I give this move an ! not because it is the best move in the position but because it was unexpected. Psychologically, it can be difficult to watch your opponent nearly reach for and hang his queen, then re-evaluate and come up with a move that certainly "puts the press" on your position. I imagine it was that exact mental state which likely prompted my opponent to go in for a risky continuation a couple moves later. Still, the position before ...Ba4 is critical, and so let's look at the "best" line of play...

In fact, here are the wild and immensely complex ideas mentioned earlier which I found much later, at home, after many hours of study. I also gave this position to a student of mine, Venkat, an elementary-school player rated nearly 1600. Some of the variations are to his credit.

[29...Ng5 !! Would have been a very deep and strong reply. I was worried about pressure against c4, for

example: 30.Rxh8 Kxh8 31.Nd2 And now, all I could see at the board was the white pieces racing over to the kingside, a weak c4 pawn, and my pressure on the b-file dissipating after: 31...Bb5 32.Rh1+ Kg7 33.Qe2 But, here is where things get fun... not for white, but for black! 33...Qf6! I was able to see this far in the game, but had no reasonable answer to either 34.Ngf1 (idea then Ne3) or simply 34.Rf1.

If then 34.Rf1, however, all of white's moves are unsatisfactory. It is black who has the initiative- oddly enough again due to the open b-file and the dark square control. 34...Qf4 35.Nxc4 Bxc4 36.Qxc4 Rxb2 obviously doesn't work for white.]

30.Bxa4 Nxa4 31.Qh6+ Kg8 32.Ne3

[32.Qd2 Would have been much better, admitting that white needs to defend. Still, black has a promising continuation: 32...Ng5 ! 33.Rxh8+ Kxh8 34.Qc2 Qf6 ! 35.Nd2 Qf4 Odd that even here, the idea of invading via the dark squares still holds up. 36.Ngf1 Nc5 37.Qd1 Nd3 38.Nxc4 Ne1+ !!



(analysis diagram)

39.Qxe1 Qxf3+ 40.Kg1 Nh3+ 41.Kh2 Nf4 42.Qg3 Qe2+]

The text move, Ne3, was played with little time left, and is a very reasonable practical attempt to

complicate and create a dangerous position.

32...Rxb2+ 33.Rxb2 Nxb2 34.Nef5

This, of course, is the idea behind 32. Ne3, but it falls just short.

34...gxf5 35.Nh5

[35.Nxf5 Qf6 36.Qxf6 Nxf6 37.Ne7+ Kf8 38.Rxh8+ Kxe7 was another try, but seems to also lose, as all the pawns are fixed and the knights can have their way. I had to calculate this variation during the game, worried about a Ne7-f5 perpetual idea, but realize I could give up the rook for a knight since he had sacrificed initially to begin the entire ordeal.]

35...Qg5 36.Qxd6 fxg4 37.Qb8+ Nf8

Unveiling a nice discovery, though a forced move, it also seals the game.

38.f4 exf4 39.e5

A time pressure oversight.

39...Rhx5

White resigned, **0-1**.

Overall, a truly enjoyable game not only for the excitement over-the-board (which included nearly hanging my queen) but also for the post-mortem.

Pete Karagianis is a columnist for the Illinois Chess Bulletin, the Iowa En Passant, and the Oklahoma Chess Quarterly. He can be reached for comments, questions, or rants at:

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or his website:
www.chessunderground.org

COLLEY'S CHESS CLUB A BIG HIT IN BLOOMINGTON!

by David Long

Chess clubs are often perceived to require the level of support only found in major metropolitan areas if they are to have a building to call their home, otherwise they must bum meeting space off of community centers, churches, schools, or other hosts. But the level of support required exists in the Bloomington-Normal area, as the founding and success of Colley's Chess Club in downtown Bloomington demonstrates.

The driving force behind the club is Bloomington chess enthusiast, organizer, and teacher Colley Kitson, who opened the club earlier this year and moved it shortly thereafter to larger quarters at 320 N. Main St. The club's brick walls are lined with chess-related artworks, demonstration boards, trophies, and other items including an aquarium. The main room has plenty of tables filled with high-quality wooden chess boards and sets, and there are some comfortable chairs in the back. Behind the main room, there is a small kitchen, and stairs leading down into the cellar, where there are benches and a large screen for giving chess lessons. Bloomington has a strong tradition of scholastic chess, so there are plenty of kids studying chess. Giving lessons provides a large part of Colley's business, and makes running the chess club a full-time job.

Besides lessons, the club maintains contact with the larger community by holding informal chess nights. On weekends, there is often activity going on until 2 a.m. or later, with downtown bar patrons, college students, and residents drifting in off the streets to play with the chess nuts.

The club hosted its inaugural USCF-rated tournament on July 12. Forty seats were made available,

the most that could be comfortably accommodated and still have room for the tournament director. All forty seats were taken by the Thursday before the tournament! Play began shortly after 10 a.m., and director Dennis Bourgerie kept things running smoothly. Colley set up some tables on the sidewalk, under the awning in front of the building to keep the threat of rain away, so that the capacity crowd would have some space to play chess while killing time waiting for the next round. The Golden Dragon Chinese Restaurant, one block from the chess club, offered tournament participants a free eggroll. The owner, Kevin Chien, is a chess player himself! Later in the day, Colley cooked tacos. At the end of the day, Kirell Kuderinov and Mesgen Amanov, both masters, tied for first place with scores of 3½ out of a possible 4 points.

The chess club is a work in progress. Colley plans on doing more renovations, such as installing a coffee bar and some permanent seating in the main room. Also in the works are many more USCF tournaments. The next one is scheduled for October; Colley spoke of holding them monthly at a later time!

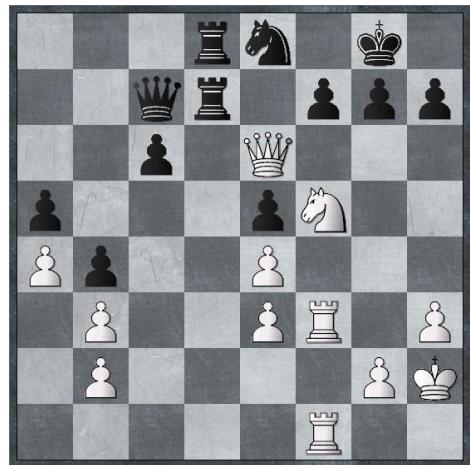
This chess club is a tremendous resource for the central Illinois chess community. Don't miss it!

(ed: Here are some games to the event, provided by Bloomington-Normal player Bob Parker)

**Kuderinov, Kirill (2426)
Amanov, Mesgen (2375)**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6
4.Bc4 Bc5 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 Bg4**

**7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nd4 9.Qd1
c6 10.0-0 b5 11.Bb3 a5 12.a4
b4 13.Ne2 Nxb3 14.cxb3 Bxe3
15.fxe3 Qb6 16.Rf3 d5 17.Ng3
0-0 18.Kh2 dxe4 19.dxe4 Rfd8
20.Qc2 Rd7 21.Raf1 Rad8
22.Qc4 Qc7 23.Nf5 Ne8 24.Qe6**



**24. ...Kh8 25.Nh4 Qd6 26.Qg4
f6 27.Rf5 Qe6 28.Ng6+ Kg8
29.Rxf6 gxf6 30.Nxe5+ Rg7
31.Qxe6+ Kf8 32.Nc4 Rd1
33.e5 Rxf1 34.Nd6 Re7 35.Qg4
fxe5 36.Nf5 Rf7 37.e4 Rf4
38.Qg5 Nf6 39.Kg1 c5 40.Nd6
Re7 41.g3 Rf3 42.Qh6+ Rg7
43.Nf5 Rfxg3+ 44.Nxg3 Nxe4
45.Qb6 Rxg3+ 1/2-1/2**

**Villareal, brian (1672)
Ruan, Gordon (2023)**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5
4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3
Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2
cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2
Qxa2 12.0-0 Bg4 13.Be3 Nc6
14.Rxb7 Rab8 15.Rxb8 Rxb8
16.h3 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Rd8 18.d5
Ne5 19.Be2 e6 20.d6 Qa3 21.Qc1
Qxd6 22.Bxa7 Nc6 23.Rd1
Nd4 24.Bxd4 Bxd4 25.Bf3 Qb6
26.Qc2 Rb8 27.Qd2 e5 28.Rf1
Kg7 29.Qd3 Qc5 30.Be2 Rb2
31.Qc4 Qb6 32.g3 Rd2 33.Kg2
Qb2 34.Re1 Rc2 35.Qd3 Bc3
(0-1)**

Pictures from Colley's Chess Cafe

David Long



Top: Exterior view of Colley's Chess Club, on a corner of Main Street in Bloomington, Illinois

Bottom Left: Players in deep thought during the inaugural tournament

Bottom Right: The owner, Colley Kitson





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Wednesday - 7pm - Chess Lecture (opening/middle/endgame rotation)

Thursday - Thursday Night Thematic @ 7pm (rated)

Friday - Friday Night Fischer Random @ 7pm (non-rated)

Saturday - Scholastic Only free time chess (9:30am-11:30am); Saturday G/5 blitz @ 7pm (rated)

- Lectures free to members, \$20 all others.
- Tournament EF - \$10 members, \$15 non-members
- Prizes for tournaments are private instruction from IM Young:
 - 3hrs (1st place), 2hrs (2nd place), 1hr (3rd place)

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- Family - 6 month membership - \$100 (up to 3 family members)
- Family - 12 month membership - \$175 (up to 3 family members)

ICA CALENDAR

e-ICB events

<http://ilchess.org/events.htm>

September 20, 2008. Fifth Annual David Mote Memorial Open. 4SS, G/75 (1st round G/60). Carpenters Local 16, 211 West Lawrence Ave., Springfield 62704. Reg: 9-9:45. Rds: 10, 12:30, 3:15, 6. Lunch break built into schedule. EF: \$15 by 9/12, \$20 at site, \$2 less for SCC members. Prizes: \$400 b/30 (higher prize fund this time!) 140-80, 1600-1999 60, 1200-1599 50, Under 1200 40, Unrated 30. Ent/Info: David Long, 401 S. Illinois St., Springfield 62704; 217-726-2584. Information and directions and maps on the internet at <http://springfieldchessclub.110mb.com>

September 20, 2008, St. Matthew Chess Tournament, 24500 Old McHenry Rd. Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047, sponsored by Yury Shulman International Chess School. 5/SS. G/30 Schedule: Round 1 begins at 10:00 am, other rounds ASAP, tournament ends approx. 3.00 pm. USCF rated sections: 1. Primary (Grades K-3), 2. Elementary (Grades 4-5), 3. Middle school (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12) and Adults. Unrated sections: All grades and adults. Awards: Top 6 Individual trophies for each section. Top 3 Individual trophies for each grade, Top 3 Team trophies in each section, Top 10 trophies in Unrated section. Entry Fee: \$25 if postmarked by September 1; \$30 if received after September 1. A portion of the proceeds will go towards a non-profit program. Registration: Advance registration only! (No on-site registration!) Make checks payable to: Yury Shulman International Chess School. Mail along with registration form to: Yury Shulman International Chess School, 428 Waverly Road, Barrington, IL 60010. For more information contact GM Yury Shulman at 312-375-7475 (yushulman@yahoo.com), Kiran Frey at 847-382-5410 (kiran47@hotmail.com), or visit www.shulmancehess.com

September 20, 2008. Evanston Economy Tournament, Evanston Chess Club, Levy Center, Evanston, IL.

September 27-28, 2008. MCA FIDE Futurity V. Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Rd, Building J, Joliet, IL 60431. 2 Sections: Open USCF+FIDE rated 5-SS G/90+30Sec; RESERVE U1800 USCF rated only, 5-SS, G/120. EF: \$35 pre-entry postmarked by 9/15, \$45 at site. If you have a FIDE rating published on FIDE website, July 2008, your entry is FREE!! Player who travels the furthest will receive a complimentary entry! Games will be transmitted live on: Monroi.com (Look for name of tournament). Registration: 9:00am-9:30am Rounds: Saturday 10am-3:00pm-7:30pm,

Sunday 11am-3:30pm. Prize fund: \$1500 b/60 paid entries. OPEN: 1st \$300 (Guaranteed) 2nd \$200, U2200 \$150 U2000 \$150 RESERVE: 1st \$250 2nd \$175 U1600 \$150-\$75 U1400 \$50. Send entries: Chris Baumgartner, 9985 Linda Ln Apt 2E, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Make checks payable to: Chris Baumgartner. Information: www.mcafidetournaments.blogspot.com or 847-609-2987.

September 27, 2008. 44th Bradley Summer Open, 4 Rds. Swiss, G/80 with 5 second delay, Robert Michel Student Center, 915 N. Elmwood Ave, Peoria IL 61625, \$14 if rec'd by 9-25-08, \$17 at site, \$2 disc't to ICA members, \$2 disc't to GPCF members, free to Masters. Prize fund: 75% of EF's, 1st: 25%, 2nd: 15%, A/B, C/D, under 1200: 10% each, Upset 5%, Registration, 8-8:45 AM, Rds. 9, 12, 2:45, 5:30, no State membership required, Other information: half-point bye in any 1 round, but a bye in Rd. 4 must be elected before the start of Rd. 3, www.gpcf.net, Heritage event, Advance entries: Wayne Zimmerle, 514 W. Loucks, #2, Peoria, IL 61604, 309-692-4480 day, 686-0192 night, wzim@sbcglobal.net

September 27, 2008. 16TH Kumbaya Scholastic Chess Tournament. National-Louis University, 5202 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL. 60077-4409. Presented by Chess-Ed. 4R-SS G/30. Schedule: Check in 9:30AM, Round #1 at 10:00AM, progressing as completed. Rated Sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, K-12/1000+ (For grades K-8, to play in 1000+, you must be rated a min. of 1000 or pay additional \$5.00 to play up in this section), and Unrated Sections: K-2 and 3-8. Awards - Rated Sections: Top 5 individuals, top 3 teams (top 3 scores/2 player min. for teams), Unrated Sections: Top 3 individuals, top 2 teams (top 3 scores/2 player min. for teams), remembrances for all players. Entry Fee: \$25.00 post marked by Monday, September 22, 2008, \$30.00 if received afterwards. For players rated 1400 and above on the Official Monthly USCF Supplement Rating Listing, mail in registration with \$10.00 deposit and receive fee back upon check-in -- event will be FREE. No on-site registration. Register: On-line at www.eventbrite.com/org/23735997. Other mail-in savings for siblings and teams: If sibling plays take \$5 disc. With a team list, include all required information on each member, take \$5 disc for each team member listed, and mail in with one check for all members. Send registration and check payable to Chess-Ed., c/o A. Holt, 729 Colby Ct., Gurnee, IL.60031. Information/registration form: aholt729@earthlink.net

October 4, 2008. Colley's Chess Cafe October Open. 4SS, G/70 with 5 sec. delay, Colley's Chess Café, 320 N. Main, Bloomington, IL 61701. EF: \$20, \$5 discount to ICA members. \$\$90% Rtd: 1st 25% (minimum guarantee of \$150 to 1st); 2nd 17%; A/B, C/D, Under 1200, 15%; upset 3%. Reg: 8:45-9:45 am. Rds: 10 am, 12:45 pm, 3:30 and 6:15 pm. ENTRIES: Dennis Bourgerie, Box 157, Normal, IL 61761, 309-454-3842, cellphone on the day of the tournament 1-309-531-1723, Schoolstreeter@msn.com INFO: Dennis Bourgerie, NS, NC.

October 10-12 or 11-12 17th Annual Midwest Class Championships GPP: 120 Enhanced Illinois. 5SS, 40/2, SD/1 (2-day option, rds 1-2 G/75). Under 1000 & Under 700 Sections: 6SS, G/75, 10/11-12 only. Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 North Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 (from Chicago, I-294 north to US-45 north; from Milwaukee, I-94 to Lake Cook Rd to US-45 south). Free parking. \$20,000 guaranteed prizes and trophies. In 9 sections; no unrated allowed in Master or Expert, unrated allowed in Under 700 only if age 12 or below. Master (2200/up): \$2000-1000-500-300, clear win or 1st on tiebreak \$100, top U2300 \$800-400. FIDE. Expert (2000-2199): \$1300-700-400-300. Class A (1800-1999/Unr): \$1300-700-400-300. Class B (1600-1799/Unr): \$1300-700-400-300. Class C (1400-1599/Unr): \$1200-600-400-200. Class D (1200-1399/Unr): \$1000-500-300-200. Class E (Under 1200/Unr): \$1000-500-300-200. Under 1000: \$200-100-60-40, trophies to top 7. Under 700: Trophies to top 7. Rated players may play up one section. Unrated prize limit \$70 U1000, \$110 E, \$150 D, \$250 C, \$350 B, \$500 A. Top 7 sections EF: 3-day \$93, 2-day \$92 mailed by 10/2, all \$95 online at chesstour.com by 10/7, \$100 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 10/7 (entry only, no questions), \$120 at site. No checks at site, credit cards OK. U1000 & U700 EF: \$27 mailed by 10/2, \$28 online at chesstour.com by 10/7, \$30 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 10/7 (entry only, no questions), \$40 at site. All: mailed EF \$5 less to ICA members. FREE ENTRY TO UNRATED. Special 1 year USCF dues with Chess Life if paid with entry- online at chesstour.com, unrated \$20, rated \$30. If mailed, phoned or paid at site, unrated \$30, rated \$40. Cost of reduced dues borne by CCA. Re-entry \$60; not available in Master Section. GMs \$80 from prize. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 10-5, Sun 9-3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds. Sat 10-1:30-5, Sun 9-3:30. U1000 & U700 schedule: Reg. ends 9:30 am, rds. Sat 10-1:30-5, Sun 9-12:30-3:30. Bye: all, must commit before rd 2 or not have plus score. HR: \$90-90-90-90, 800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserve by 9/26 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. Ent: Continental Chess, Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. \$10 service charge for refunds. Questions: chesstour.com, 845-496-9658. Advance entries posted at chesstour.com. WCL JGP.

October 18, 2008. 17TH Kumbaya Scholastic Chess Tour-

nament. National-Louis University, 5202 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL 60077-4409. Presented by Chess-Ed. 4R-SS G/30. Schedule: Check in 9:30AM, Round #1 at 10:00AM, progressing as completed. Rated Sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, K-12/1000+ (For grades K-8, to play in 1000+, you must be rated a min. of 1000 or pay additional \$5.00 to play up in this section), and Unrated Sections: K-2 and 3-8. Awards - Rated Sections: Top 5 individuals, top 3 teams (top 3 scores/2 player min. for teams), Unrated Sections: Top 3 individuals, top 2 teams (top 3 scores/2 player min. for teams), remembrances for all players. Entry Fee: \$25.00 post marked by Monday, October 13, 2008, \$30.00 if received afterwards. For players rated 1400 and above on the Official Monthly USCF Supplement Rating Listing, mail in registration with \$10.00 deposit and receive fee back upon check-in -- event will be FREE. No on-site registration. Register: On-line at www.eventbrite.com/org/23735997. Other mail-in savings for siblings and teams: If sibling plays take \$5 disc. With a team list, include all required information on each member, take \$5 disc for each team member listed, and mail in with one check for all members. Send registration and check payable to Chess-Ed., c/o A. Holt, 729 Colby Ct., Gurnee, IL 60031. Information/registration form: aholt729@earthlink.net

October 25, 2008. Orland Park Scholastic Tournament. Orland Park Cultural Center, 14760 Park Lane, Orland Park (former Orland Park Library), organized by Mikhail Korenman, International Chess Organizer and Glenn Panner, National TD. 5 Rounds, Game/30 min, Unrated. Registration: 8:30-9:15 a.m.; events usually finish around noon. Divisions: K-3, K-5, K-8, and K-12. Awards: Trophies to top 5 and medals to 6th-20th in each division, along with some team prizes. Entry Fee: \$20 for on-line registrations (ends on Thursdays before the events day); \$25 on-site before 9:15 a.m.. To register: on-line at www.intecssus.org; by email to intecssus@yahoo.com; by mail to Glenn Panner, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423, checks payable to Orland Park Recreation Department.; or on-site from 8:00-9:00 a.m. on event days. Information: (815) 955-4793 or (785) 906-0402. Food concession will be available on site.

November 15, 2008. Orland Park Scholastic Tournament. Orland Park Cultural Center, 14760 Park Lane, Orland Park (former Orland Park Library), organized by Mikhail Korenman, International Chess Organizer and Glenn Panner, National TD. 5 Rounds, Game/30 min, Unrated. Registration: 8:30-9:15 a.m.; events usually finish around noon. Divisions: K-3, K-5, K-8, and K-12. Awards: Trophies to top 5 and medals to 6th-20th in each division, along with some team prizes. Entry Fee: \$20 for on-line registrations (ends on Thursdays before the events day); \$25 on-site before 9:15 a.m.. To register: on-line at www.intecssus.org; by email to intecssus@yahoo.com; by mail to Glenn Panner, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423, checks payable to Orland Park Recreation Department.; or on-site from 8:00-9:00 a.m. on event days. Information: (815) 955-4793 or (785) 906-0402. Food concession will be available on site.



North American FIDE Invitational

GM and IM norm tournaments

<http://www.nachess.org/fide/>

***Do you want to gain your FIDE title?
Do you want to stay local within North America?
Do you have the norm hunt fever?***

Tentative Schedule for 2008

January 20-26 (IM Norm)	July 20-26 (IM Norm)
February 17-23 (IM Norm)	August 24-30 (IM Norm)
March 23-29 (IM Norm)	September 21-27 (IM Norm)
April 20-26 (IM Norm)	October 6-10 (GM Norm)
May 18-22 (GM Norm)	November 16-22 (IM Norm)
June 22-28 (IM Norm)	December 14-20 (IM Norm)

All events are 9R-RR with a time control of G/90 + 30/sec increment

Conditions offered for GM's and IM's. Contact organizer for details.

Why are Round Robins better than Swisses?

- Norm opportunity is guaranteed - no guessing
- Know your pairings in advance
- Prepare for your opponents
- Less distractions during the event
- Focus on the norm hunt!

Entry Fee Schedule

FIDE 2500+ - Free
FIDE U2500 - \$99 USD
FIDE U2400 - \$149 USD
FIDE U2300 - \$199 USD
FIDE U2200 - \$299 USD
FIDE U2100 - \$499 USD

Foreign Federation—50% off

Special EF - \$99 if you scored a norm in a previous NA FIDE Invitational.

Unrateds by special consideration only.

Where do the Entry Fee's go?

To pay appearance fees for GM's / IM's, site costs, and any prize funds. The organizer keeps nothing!

For more information on these events visit:

<http://www.nachess.org/fide>

Or call 888.80.CHESS

Or email info@nachess.org

These events are organized by
the 2007 USCF Organizer of the Year:
Sevan A. Muradian



Sponsorship Opportunities Available