

ICB

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

"Prelude to War" From Woodpusher to Master By Len Weber
Game Analysis with IM Angelo Young

"Chess Potzer" By Larry Cohen



a bright new year



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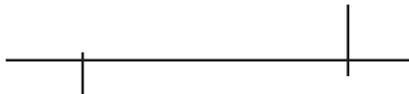
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ALL SUBMISSIONS including advertisements should have the subject "ICB Submission" in the e-mail.

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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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

e-ICB

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

by **Pete Karagianis**



Five years ago I got this crazy idea that I needed a FIDE rating. I don't know why, but

I suspect it had something to do with my ascension in USCF ratings and my discovery of the magazine "new in Chess". That same year, I devised and helped to organize what would later become known as the "Billy Colias Master Invitational". This would be the first round-robin invitational (and FIDE-rated!) event held in Illinois for many years. It started off small- in an off-the-beaten path office building in the Southwest 'burbs, with only 8 total players. The close-knit environment featured not only great camaraderie and sportsmanship, but also created a great environment to learn and improve, for those of us (I was only a young college student 2100 at the time) who needed it.

Fast forward to 2008. This year, the North American Chess Association has created a monthly series of FIDE round-robin events, which even offer GM and IM Norms. The Colias event will be in its fourth year, and rumors have it that it will be expanded to at least 3 sections, with a qualifying process for the top group. In other words, anyone who wants to test themselves against strong players now has a clear path to do so.

What has been most impressive,

however, is the number of similar tournaments that have sprung up throughout Illinois and the Midwest.

Aside from the NACA events, Chris Baumgartner is also organizing two FIDE tournaments- one in Milwaukee and one in Lasalle-Peru, IL in May. In Iowa, Tim McEntee, president of the Iowa Chess Association, has created a FIDE Futurity (events geared towards getting players international ratings) with a well-funded prize pool that is now in it's 4th year of operation. In the past, many Iowans have achieved their FIDE rating and this year, one Illinoisan just completed his own as well.

What does all this mean to you? To the chess world in general? What benefit can the average ICA member reap from this vast harvest of, erm, what is FIDE again?

Well, let's take a look just at this magazine. First, you will find games from the latest NACA event, submitted by organizer Sevan Muradian, on page 22. I am of the opinion that replay of master-level games is one of the best ways to improve your chess. Second, my own game from a FIDE event, with FM Aleks Stannov, is also fully annotated herein. I would have never had the opportunity to challenge Aleks if a structure of top-level events did not exist, and you would not have a chance to play through the game.

Most importantly, however, the benefit of these events is that they give the everyday chess player a

goal to set his sights on- a reason to continue. I recall two years ago when I saw Garry Kasparov speak at a luncheon in downtown Chicago. I even wrote about the experience for this very bulletin. He made some excellent point and had wonderful, progressive ideas regarding scholastic chess and instilling chess in education universally. However, he neglected to discuss or assess the situation of chess in the realm of adults, particularly within the United States. To what end do we play? To get better? To win tournaments? Fame and glory? Personally, I play for the challenge- to see if I can improve. To study and see the rewards of my studies. To give my love for reading about chess an outlet. I play for the competition and the joy of applying knowledge practically on the board.

But now, I can use that knowledge outside of my local club or local club tournament. Now I can stack up my studies and practice and effort against others who have completed the same process. I have a goal in sight, something to shoot for- I can get better!

And now, thanks to these events and organizers, so does everyone else.

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are available
for download:

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President's Podium



ICA PRESIDENT
CHRIS MERLI

Another year has come and gone and there is no doubt that 2007 has

been a tough one for the ICA. However we can look towards the future with some optimism. First, Chicago is now home of the newest member of the United States Chess League, the Chicago Blaze. Glenn Panner and Sevan Muridian are the managers for Illinois own entry into this online chess league. The team will include GM Dmitry Gurevich, IM Angelo Young, FM Mehmed Pasalic, and Adam Strunk. Matches will be played at the Touch Move Chess Center in Chicago. The public will be invited to watch online or even to drop by the Chess Center and take advantage of Angelo Young's gracious offer as host. We are also in the process of trying to raise money to put the ICB back in your mailboxes. Some were disappointed when we were forced to go towards an online format for the ICB for financial reasons. For those of you who miss having a print version that you can dog ear or thumb through on the bus we would like to raise enough money to guarantee a year of the magazine before starting the print version. This would avoid having to stop production again. If you are interested in seeing the print version back Carl Dolson will be gladly accepting donations. I wish you all the best in 2008. Good Luck and good chess.

Chris Merli,
ICA President

Springfield Club News by David Long

On December 8, the Springfield Chess Club organized what is almost certainly the last tournament to be held at the Signature Inn. 30 chess players plus one houseman participated, continuing the very encouraging upward trend in participation! Ricardo Szmecan, of Champaign, won all four of his games and took first place in the tournament. Two players tied for second place and first in Class A-B. They were Matt Cremeens, of Springfield, and Kevin Cao, of Chesterfield, Mo., each with 3 points.

Turnout in the A-B class was so exceptional that we had enough revenue to create a second place prize in that division, the first time since 2001 that that has happened here. This prize ended up being split eight ways, between Brian Thomas, of Decatur; Derek Sparks, of Middletown; Bruce Michel, of Stonington; Troy Krimmiger, of Collinsville; Dennis Bourgerie, of Normal; William Tong, of St. Louis; and Tobias Simpson and Robert Naiman, both of Champaign. Each scored 2½ points.

2½ points was enough for half of the Class C-D prize. William Kerns, of Franklin, and Cameron Heino, of Champaign, divided it between them. Shelly Rode, of St. Louis, took the Class E prize with 2 points, and Michael Hines, of Champaign, scored 1½ points and won the unrated prize.

For the second straight tournament, the prize fund was raised from 75% of advertised (the minimum required by turnout) to 90%, and after including the second A-B prize and rounding up the ones that were shared, the total payout was actually above the \$300 advertised, the first time in over six years that we have been able to do that!

Special thanks to Tobias Simpson, who brought a contingent of eight (including himself) from the Champaign-Urbana area. We hope they, and everyone else who came in from out of town, made it home safely in the ice and sleet that night!

A PRELUDE TO WAR

PART I: FROM GROUND ZERO TO MASTER

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

By NM Len J. Weber

So's I was chatting with NM Pete Karagianis a few months ago and I had mentioned that I still had almost every tournament score sheet I had ever played, from day one until this year. Pete, who some of you may recall, had in recent years completed his own journey from ground zero to master, suggested I use the score sheets as a basis for an instructional series, articles that could possibly be valuable to those who may, themselves, be on that same journey.

What a great idea! To many players, a "master" is this insurmountable opponent, a fire breathing monster, who always will be, and always was, a menace at the chessboard. The master seems to occupy some unattainable lofty position in the chess world. At least that's how it looks when you are looking up from the position of a beginner. And that is exactly how it looked to me in 1982.

But we strive and struggle, and eventually, many of us reach higher and higher, and start to see that the "master" is not so unbeatable. We start to realize that there are masters above masters. We start to realize we can play this game too. Even if we never make master ourselves, we can at least still beat one here and there. But if we do make it, or even come close, we rarely look

back and realize what that look is in the eyes of the beginner we face across the board. It's the same look we had once. To paraphrase the rock group Foreigner, we are looking at our own shadows, at the backstage door!

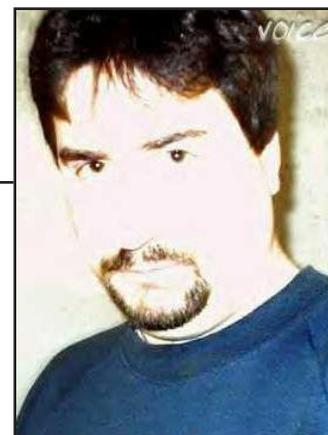
And that shadow, in 1982, was me. And I had the game scores to prove it.

At least I thought I did. That is, until my son asked me if these "old yellow chess papers" were important, he said his mother had found them filed with old tax returns, and she (very wisely!) thought to ask before she threw them out.



:::Grabs chest::: ELIZABETH, I'M COMIN TO JOIN YOU!!!! (Some of you are too young to remember the "Sanford and Son" reference...)

What they had found, I didn't even until that moment realize I was missing! A notebook with all my chess games, from Spring of 1982 until July of 1983! There were also about a dozen critical individual score sheets from the year or two after that including my first win over an expert, first draw with a master, etc, you get the idea. Without these, this article and the ensuing series



LM Len J. Weber

Pete and I had been discussing would have been impossible.

Who would truly appreciate the coming article, and series, without this gem, the first game in my notebook, in which I had white against my friend, let's just call him "Tim". Tim, I understood at the time, was a member of the 1981-82 Thornridge High School Chess Team. An actual member of a school's chess team! Wow! I had never had a chance to play such chess greatness before!

Up to that point my chess career, starting at age 5, consisted of occasional

games between the male relatives at family gatherings, a few times a year. Between chess and ping pong, the older cousins seemed like demigods, we knew my dad was good at chess, Uncle Bob was fair, but cousin Mike was thought to be VERY good, and cousin Greg, he was the undeclared family champion. It was said that he, too, was once on a high school chess team. My brother and I, and a younger cousin Chuck, we were the scrubs. Maybe some day, when we were older, we could make ourselves a reputation in this company.

So at age 14, my latent interest in chess was piqued by the discovery that my friend was on the high school chess team. Of course, I had to play him. Maybe I could have a chance to use one of my super special openings, such as "The Super Wedge". And so the game started, to wit:

For the record, this game was played on one of those stone type chess sets that look like they were used at Stonehenge back when that was the hip party spot...

L. Weber – "Tim"

Tim's house. March 1982.

1. P-KN4 P-K4 2. P-KB3??? Q-R5

Oh wait, sorry. I think we discussed this last month in the article "A Quarter Century of Chess"... This is called descriptive notation! It's the kind Bobby Fischer used! It's the kind just about all of America used until the mid to late 1980s, when it went out of vogue and what you now use, generally called "short algebraic", took over. Descriptive is now a largely dead language, but you'll find a lot of us "old guys" who grew up with it still remember it. Everyone else, please forgive me, and allow me a moment to translate the above...

L. Weber – "Tim"

Tim's house. March 1982.

1. g4 e5 2. f3???? Qh4

To which my friend announced "check!"

I looked at the board for a moment, and realized I had no escape! Tim just sat there waiting for me to move. I understood he didn't realize it was checkmate! So I said "I resign!" and swept the pieces

from the board!

A moment later he said, "wait a minute!"

"What?"

"Was that checkmate?"

"I dunno."

"Set that back up, I want to see that again!"

"I don't remember what we did."

Come on, it was only 2 moves, heh. It was only a matter of minutes before Tim had figured it out, and worse, went running off to tell his dad about this great checkmate!

My only chess education up to this point was what I read in Encyclopedia Britannica (1974 Edition), about how these Doctors in the late 1800s and early 1900s had played for some "World Championship", and that eventually, the Russians started beating everyone, and were still doing it today (today being 1982). Except for this American with a sporty race car driver kind of name, "Bobby Fischer", he beat them in the "Match of the Century", and he had 2,800 Elo points, which must have been some super genius mathematical way of calculating chess brilliance.

I had read in the Guinness Book of World Records that the shortest master game of all time was 4 moves long. The Guinness Book back then actually included the game score, but I didn't know how to read that stuff, it looked like some more super genius stuff.

And I had read in various stories over the years, when they mentioned chess, about how so and so was really a genius, and he was a "chess master". Oooh that sounded mysterious. (Remember, we had no

Internet back then. We just couldn't Google it, or go to Wikipedia, much less find a way to play chess with someone in MumboJumboStan in real time, or find interactive chess training tools.)

I had read that Bobby Fischer was the youngest "International Grand Master" ever. OOOH. I had read the fiction "Mila 51" was it? In which one of the young characters beat everyone else at chess, and they called him the "Chess Master".

My friend Tim said that he had an uncle that had died years ago, but that uncle was a "chess master", and had taught Tim's father (who had taught Tim...) It sounded so intriguing!

And now I got to experience this chess greatness, third hand, sort of, kind of. And Tim defeated me so quickly, and brilliantly, I didn't even realize you COULD checkmate someone that fast!

WOW!

And so I played Tim some more over that summer, intent on learning and I just wanted to be able to play on the same playing field as him. I wanted to be able to use these newfound skills to shake things up a little at the family gatherings. What is this Tim keeps doing? He plays the King Pawn, then plays his Queen out! Then he plays a Bishop out. Then, CHECKMATE! Brilliant! He did it again!

But by the 3rd or 4th time, that started to get annoying, and it didn't make sense that he should be able to win so easily as white or black! The encyclopedia said something about trying to "control the 4 squares in the center". But every time I did that I got checkmated. What was I doing wrong?

L. Weber – “Tim”

Tim's house. Summer 1982.

1. e4 e5
2. Qf3! Qh4
3. Bc4 Bc5
4. Qxf7+

And Tim looked shocked, and tipped his king over! I had won! We put the board away! He said “good game” and shook my hand. When I got home that day, I was flushed with victory. An actual victory over a Member Of The Chess Team! I set the little plastic Pressman board up at home to take another look at this fine masterpiece. I stumbled a little trying to recreate it. But I did. And realized that it's not mate!

ARGGGGGG!

I mentioned it the next day. Tim just laughed. Our series of games continued, and slowly, in the weeks and months after that, I gained the upper hand, winning maybe 60% of the games by the end of summer. I realized by then that my friend was “only 6th board” and that there were 5 players better than him on the team! But he encouraged me to try out for the team this year (1982-83 season).

I had learned quite a bit by then. I had learned that you had to castle early or you were going to get ripped apart in the center and either get mated or lose a lot of stuff. I had learned that opening with center pawns WAS better than starting with a rook pawn, and I had learned how to defend against that silly early queen mate. I had learned to take notation, from some old books in the library. I was ready to fight for my place on the team!

For this game, I was introduced to an interesting little thing called a “chess clock”. It was a wooden rectangle with two analog clock

faces (basically the only kind we had those days). The SICA (South Inter Conference Association) time control in those days was 35 moves in 70 minutes. My recollection is that they had the qualifying tournaments at the same time control to get us ready for match play, at least for those who qualified...

**12 October 1982
Thornridge High School Board
Tournament (not rated)
William Herman (unr) –
L. Weber (unr)**

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Nc3 Nf6
4. d3 d6

Wow, this guy is pretty good. He hasn't made any mistakes yet!

5. Bg5 Be7
6. d4? Be6??

d4 is not bad, but he could have done it immediately on the previous move. But MY move just allows a fork and should lose a piece!

7. dxe5? Nxe5

Apparently he was more anxious to start mixing it up with his opponent than to worry about the niceties and subtleties of winning material!

8. Bb5+ c6 (?)

Aha! He gets to check me! :::rolls eyes::: then in my notebook, dated 1982, I have a question mark after MY move ...c6! I'd be curious to know what, exactly, I thought at the time, I should have done!

9. Ba4 Nfg4
10. Bh4??? O-O??

What, (as NM Steve Tennant might say) is BxB too strong a move??!!

11. O-O??? g6???

This is so painful to watch!

12. Bg3 Bc4

He finally saves the piece.

13. Ne2 Bf6

Why didn't white play Re1?

14. b3 b5 Hmmm, the game is indecisive, I guess, and I wanted to mix things up and make something happen!

15. bxc4 bxa4
16. Ne2d4 c5

Apparently I was oblivious to the idea of backward pawns, among other things. I felt, “hey his knight is there attacking my pawn, so attack him back!”

17. Nb5 a6

Now, finally, one of us starts acting like a chessplayer, unfortunately it wasn't me!

18. Nxd6 Nxc4?

This plan... is not so good!

19. Nxc4 Bxa1

At the time I didn't realize two pieces would be better than that rook!

20. Qxa1 Qd7?

I'm... not really sure what that was supposed to do!

21. h3 Nf6??

But now I'm falling apart!

22.Qxf6 Qb5
23.Be5

and Black, mercifully, resigned. There is, of course, no way to prevent mate, and even the L. Weber (unr) of 1982 understood that.

As the year went on, Bill Herman would be my frequent nemesis, the guy I would have to go through to advance on the team.

What instructional value can be obtained from this game? Truthfully, not much. But every player was once at this point. Don't lie! YOU we're too, at some point. Right now there is someone reading this saying "I saw myself at some point in that game." That would be the person being honest with themselves.

Hey, if I can start out like that, and improve, than so can you!

The boy wonder on the team was a Freshman named Alan Pekny (I was a Junior). He had played in tournaments in junior high, and was said to have a chess rating. They had high hopes for him. But the scouting reports had it that Alan walked into forks. I would have to keep that in mind!

15 November 1982
Thornridge High School Board
Tournament (not rated)
L. Weber (unr) – Alan Pekny
(962!)

- 1. c4 e5**
2. e4 c6

ok.

- 3. Nf3 f6?!**

I guess it's only weak if your opponent is strong enough to punish you for it, right?

4. d3? Ne7

Golly, 4. d4 sure would have been nice there.

5. Be3 (?) d5

The (?) after white's move was on the original scoresheet. It doesn't LOOK like a blunder, but maybe I felt I ought to have played d4... Black's response, ...d5, looks quite appropriate.

6. d4 (?) dxe4

Now the (?) is justified.

7. Nfd2 exd4
8. Bf4 Ng6

Wow. I'm getting smashed by the kid wonder from Cal City

9. Bg3 Bd6?

...e3 is asking to be played, or maybe ...f5.

10. Bxd6 Qxd6
11. Nxe4 Qe5
12. f3? d3?

Wow. White needed to play Qe2 and save a piece. Black needed to play ...f5 and win a piece!

13. Bxd3 Qxb2?

The ? because f5 would have been in order to win the piece.

14. Nbd2 Nf4

Very aggressive. Of course black is attacking with 2 pieces while everything else is undeveloped. But he's causing a lot of havoc.

15. Nd6+ Kd8?

The King already has to move, so why not move it to a place with purpose? Since black is already attacking a couple things, why not attack the invading knight too by playing ...Kd7.

16. Nf7+ Ke8

Maybe the King should go to c7 and prepare to castle queenside by hand.

17. Nxf8 Kf8?

Ok, now he obviously falling apart, maybe because he is upset he fell for a "fork". Of course, the d3 Bishop is loose, he should grab it. The Knight isn't going anywhere.

18. Bxh7 Nxf2+
19. Ke2 Nf4+
20. Kf1 Bh3+
21. Kf2 Qd4+

My thoughtless moves as white has given him a lot of ways to keep checking me and adding pieces to the attack.

22. Kg3 g5
23.Nb3 Qe5

I was trying to relieve the pressure, trade queens, get some play of my own.

24.Qd8+ Kg7
25.Rhe1 Qc3

It's done now. His useful checks are gone, and my guys are coming in. Maybe some of you guys with the inclination or the computers can see if the double check with Nh5++ or Ne2++ leads to anything good for black.

26.Re7+ Kh6

27. Qf8+ Kh5
28. Qf7+

and Black resigned. Mate follows in a few possible ways.

Wow this was great, I had beaten the Freshman "prodigy"! A couple more games were played in this qualification process, I won some, but lost badly against some of the guys above me. Unfortunately (or maybe it is fortunate!) I don't have those game scores.

I remember the first time I was beaten by the Second Board, Jack Simunic. He had a rating of about 1350! I remember thinking he was very good, way above the players I had faced so far, and that someday, I would like to be able to just play a good game against him!

When the qualification phase was over, I was informed I would be 6th board on the chess team! Wow! Wait until the Thanksgiving gathering when I could tell the cousins I was on the chess team! They would still whip me that year, but I was on my way up!

Who knows how far any of us could go! There was stories about great players from Thornridge's past. A master named Chuck Kramer once played here. And two strong brothers named Chromczak also played. Last year's 1st Board was a guy who graduated named Dave Kostanski, who was spoken of in respectful terms by the upper boards.

My friend Tim had qualified for 8th board this year. We were both happy we'd be playing on the team. The team was set and ready to go into battle. We had veteran Paul Moore on Board One. Paul was a somewhat mystical figure who played rarely and said little. But we

knew he was always studying these books from Russia or Yugoslavia or something. He was said to be over 1400. Matt Bolton was Third Board. He also had a USCF rating over 1460, higher than Jack, but they said Jack was better. My rival to be William "Bill" Herman was on 4th, Pekny was on 5th.

At some point, since our coach, Carl Lohmar, didn't know how to play chess (!), he hired a "master" to teach us! We were introduced to Bill Krause, rated 1976. In a short time we realized that he wasn't really a "master". But he was still very good, and we were happy to have such a strong player to help us out.

By this time I had been given a chess book (an actual book on chess?!), a novel written by a NY Times writer, covering the Fischer-Spassky match of 1972. I had read with intrigue all the back and forths off the chessboard, and I had started to study the openings the players used, from the book. Although I didn't understand much about the games in general at the time, I saw a repeating pattern of certain openings, which I was very anxious to try out myself.

One day, Bill Krause was going to give us a simul! I was thrilled to have my first crack at a player rated that high (1976!).

30 November 1982
Simultaneous Display (7 boards)
William Krause (1976) – L. Weber (unr)

1. e4 c5!

Ah ha! A chance to play the Sicilian Defense!

2. Nf3 e6

3. d4 cxd4
4. Nxd4 Nf6
5. Nc3 Nc6
6. Be3 Bb4

As Black, I wanted to win the pawn on e4 or double his pawns. I did not yet understand that my dark squares would be weak without that bishop.

7. Qd3 Qc7
8. Ndb5 Qe5

I'd prefer ...Qb8

9. a3 a6

That B belongs on e7 now, doesn't it? Instead I ugly it up again. I had a nasty habit, back then, of trying to get creative when just a simple move would have done just fine.

10. axb4 O-O???

Ok, now that's TOO creative. How about taking the Knight?

11. f4 Nxb4

Getting creative again, not paying attention to the fact that after he takes my queen, I take his queen, HE TAKES MY KNIGHT and is up yet another piece.

12. fxe5 Nxd3+

But I got a check, right? ::: rolls eyes:::

13. cxd3 Ng4
14. Bc5 d6?
15. Bxd6 Rd8
16. Nc7 Rb8
17. h3 Ne3
18. Kf2 f6
19. Kxe3 fxe5
20. Bxe5 b5
21. Nxb5 Rb7
22. Nd4 Rxb2

Ok Ok, why am I showing this? It went on until move 41, at which time I was mercifully checkmated. I am showing this because we'd all like to write articles showing our brilliant games, key victories, et cetera, et cetera, ad nauseam.

But that is not the purpose of this series. The purpose is to help the beginning player see that this is where he or she is now. This is how chess starts out! I don't care who you are, or what your rating is, or how fast you go up. YOU started like this too. THIS is what it looked like when a "master" started out. I was once YOU. The same situation, the same aspirations, the same hopes and fears. I had to overcome the same obstacles.

I can go back into my large stack of game scores, and you can watch how one player from Dolton, a relatively late starter, with no coach and few books, climbed from Ground Zero to Master.

I must offer a correction from the previous article "A Quarter Century of Chess", in the last ICB. I found the date of that "Put The Fun Back" tournament, it actually took place on the 29th of January of 1983. So my 25th Anniversary of my first rated game is still upon us! But we are at the 25th Anniversary of these very terrible games, which are frankly awful, but they are very important to me and I will keep these score sheets forever. Looking back I can say the journey was at least as rewarding as the destination.

In the few weeks after the last couple games, some of the team members jockeyed for position with internal challenge matches. I achieved 5th Board, but ran into Bill Herman on 4th in two matches and could not overcome him. This was

the pivotal game, the match score was tied 2-2 in a first to win three match. I NEEDED to win this game to finally capture 4th Board.

**Challenge Match
5th Board vs. 4th Board
10 December 1982**

L. Weber (unr) (5th Bd.) – W. Herman (unr) (4th Bd.)

- 1. c4 e5**
- 2. Nc3 Nf6**

I had started playing openings that I had read in the Fischer-Spassky book.

- 3. d3 Bb4**

More than an English, I am sure I was really meaning to play the Sicilian in reverse.

- 4. Qb3 Nc6**
- 5. Bd2 Nd4**
- 6. Qa4 Qe7**

Wow I am impressed that I saw that if I took the B on b4, he'd fork my K and Q with Nc2!

- 7. Nb5 Bxd2+**
- 8. Kxd2 O-O**
- 9. Nxd4 exd4**
- 10.Nf3 d6**
- 11.Nxd4?! Qe5**
- 12.e3 Bd7?**

He could cause damage with ... c5, forcing the N to move after which he plays Qxb2+ and picks up the Ra1.

- 13.Qb3 c5**

One move late.

- 14.Nf3 Qf5**
- 15.Qxb7?? Rab8**

This would be an early lesson

that "free" is sometimes not "free"!

- 16.Qxa7 Qxb2+**
- 17.Kc3 Rxf2**
- 18.d4?? Qc2**

mate.

With this demoralizing blow, I took a break from challenging up for 4th Board for a while. We went into the holiday break ready to start the conference season, the first match would be January 11th, against Oak Forest High School.

During the holiday break, I was finally able to play my first creditable games against cousins Mike and Greg. My recollection is they still got the better of me, but I was playing with the Big Boys now. I was beating my friend Tim around 90% by now. My father, brother, and cousin Chuck could not get a game from me.

For those that question the value of chess and education? I'll just say that 25 years later, these are some of my most enjoyable memories of high school. The chess thought process made everything make more sense to me. That is my recollection. Chess probably kept me in school.

So ends the first part of the journey, the "Prelude to War". Next time we pick it up with the start of my tournament "career".

Thanks, Pete, and BACK TO YOU!

LM Len Weber's series will appear in the upcoming 2008 installments of the Illinois Chess Bulletin. He will chronicle his journey from a complete chess novice to chess master.

1. P-Q4. FOR THE NON-BORING PLAYER

Some Off-Beat Ideas and Games

by Henry Getz

This opening goes in conjunction with the submitted cowplay.com game to follow. I hope to damper many a club player's complaints that the queens pawn openings are boring. There are vast possibilities contained in each line, even for the most experienced players. Compare this actual game to an openings book and you'll find small differences, but to play aggressively you must remember: small cracks can break the dam.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3

This line is preferable to the Nf3 line just based on the dc lines! Here dxc4 leads to variations with far fewer drawing lines.

3...Nf6 4.Nf3

Most comfortable

4...dxc4 5.Bg5 Bb4

[Just to illustrate what would happen if other moves:

5...c5 6.e4 cxd4 7.Nxd4² Bc5; 5...Be7 6.e4 c5 7.dxc5 Qa5 8.e5!! Nd5 a) 8...Ne4 9.Bxe7 Nxc3 (9...Kxe7 10.Be2 Nxc3 11.Qd6+ Ke8 12.Qd2 Ke7 13.bxc3 Rd8± 1.34/16) 10.Qd2 Kxe7 11.Rc1 Rd8 12.Qg5+ Kf8 13.Rxc3 h6² 0.64/16 ; b) 8...Ng8 9.Bxc4 (9.Qd2 Bxc5 (9...Qxc5 10.Be3 Qc6 11.Nd4 Qc7 12.Ndb5 Qa5 13.Bxc4 Nd7+- 1.67/14) 10.Bxc4 h6 11.Bh4 Nc6 12.a3 Be7 13.Bg3 Bb4± 1.34/15)

9...Qxc5 (9...Bxg5 10.Nxg5 Nh6 11.Qd3 Qxc5 12.0-0-0 Nc6 13.Bb5 Qb6+- 3.69/15) 10.Qd3 Bxg5

11.Nxg5 Qxe5+ 12.Nce4 Nh6 13.0-0 Nc6+- 2.07/13 ; 9.Bxe7 Nxe7 (9...Nxc3 10.Qd2 Kxe7 11.Rc1 Rd8 12.Qg5+ Kf8 13.Rxc3 h6± 0.77/16) 10.Bxc4 Qxc5 11.Qe2 0-0 12.0-0 Ng6 13.Ne4 Qe7 0.60/15]

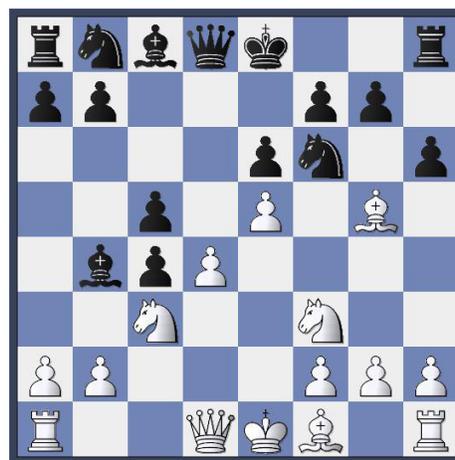
6.e4

Many complications can arise here. The game can become extremely complex.

6...h6

[6...c5 7.e5!! this is the key move in this opening. this will initiate many traps and really get black on his heels. 7...cxd4

(7...h6? Diagram



A trap that black has fallen into.

8.exf6 hxg5 9.fxg7 Rg8 10.Qc2!!± cxd4 (10...Rxg7 11.0-0-0±) 11.Qh7 Ke7 12.Rd1 d3

Diagram



13.Bxd3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 cxd3 15.Rxd3 Qe8 16.Nxg5

Black is absolutely busted

16...f6 (16...f5?? 17.Qh4!! Qg6 18.Ne4+ Kf7 19.Nd6+ Kxg7 20.Qe7+ Kh6 21.Rh3+ Qh5 22.Qf6+ Rg6 23.Nf7+ Kh7 24.Qh8#; 16...Nd7 17.Ne4 b6?? 18.Rxd7+ Qxd7 19.Qh4+-) 17.Ne4 Qf7 (17...Nd7??

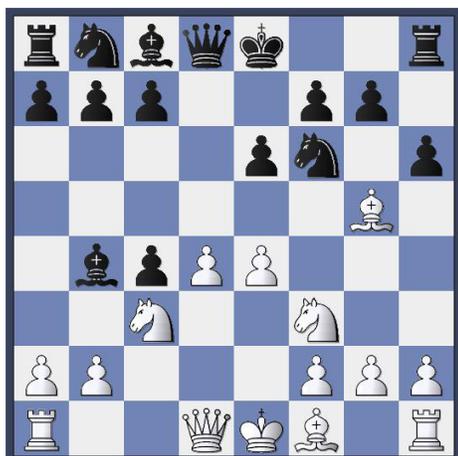
Diagram



Just to illustrate how toast black is here:

18.Nd6 Qd8 19.0-0 b6 20.Nf5+ exf5 21.Re1+ Kf7) 18.Nd6 Qxg7 19.Nxc8+) 8.Nxd4 Qa5 9.exf6 9...Bxc3+ (9...Qxg5 10.Qa4+ Nc6 11.Nxc6 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Bd7 13.Qb4 Qxf6 14.Nd4+-) 10.bxc3 Qxg5 (10...Qxc3+?? 11.Ke2) 11.fxg7 Qxg7)

this is an unclear position but I believe white has the advantage still.]

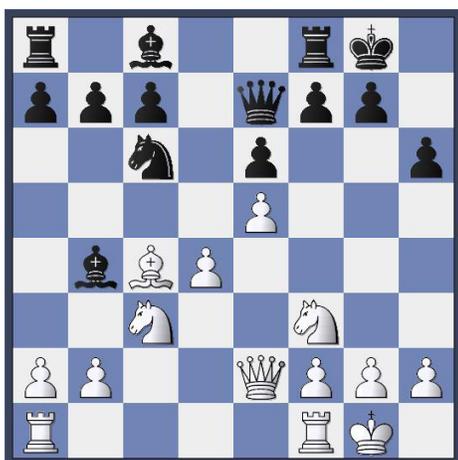


7.Bxf6!!

[7.Bh4?? g5 8.Nxg5 hxg5 9.Bxg5 Be7]

7...Qxf6 8.Bxc4 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.e5 Qe7 11.Qe2

Diagram



This is exactly as the submitted game was played. Now notice here how theory dictates play should progress.

11...Rd8 12.Rad1 Bd7 13.Ne4 Ba5 14.a3 Bb6 15.Ba2

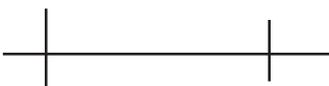
Here the opening ends. The remaining moves are merely a demonstration of possibilities that I've researched.

15...Be8 16.Qe3 Qf8 17.Bb1

Ne7 18.Qd3 Kh8 19.Nf6 Ng6

[19...gxf6 20.Qh7#]

20.Nxe8 Qxe8 21.Qe4 1-0



61) hgetz2 (Henry Getz) - spottdressel [B50] 10.12.2007

Apparently I love things that hate me (the Cubs, the Bears, chess, etc, etc.), and I've come to accept it. Chess fits into this perfectly. It's intriguing, despite true success or cashouts. And therein lies the problem. It is both addicting and gratifying only in personal victories and moments in between frustration and throwing shoes. I've always found it absorbing to a level nothing else has- a true addiction. I'm in medical school and like most people don't have time for bad relationships. So before you read this I'd like to plug a new discovery, a good dating service, "cowplay.com", which is where this game comes from. Online correspondence chess is amazing for many reasons but I especially find it allows me to focus on openings, and study those positions in depth that I should be studying but have probably just blitzed through without a thought previously. It's free, and even with my hectic 100 hour work week and call schedule at OSF hospital I've found no problems completing my games. This one was fun and a little complicated in the middlegame so I hope you enjoy it and it makes sense as annotated. (join cowplay.com, and challenge hgetz2)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e6

This is not challenging at all, but often played at a club level I find.

It's Theory 101 of queens gambit to gambit his c pawn for central dominance and a good bishop square. Nf6, Nc6, e5, or c5 pose much bigger fundamental difficulties.

4.Bxc4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bg5

This is a new line i've been playing with.

6...Nc6 7.Nf3 h6 8.Bxf6!

Diagram



This is a key move in this opening, which might sound like garbage, but it is. This sets up a Queens gambit attack pattern where white can get a nasty king side attack, placing a queen on an awkward square, weakening h7, and eliminating a piece influencing space and central control. White now owns the center more than ever. My database shows white wins 62% of the time here and only draws 14%!

8...Qxf6 9.e5 Qe7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qe2 b6?

See Diagram Next Page

Now we see how space restricted black is. His bishop must develop, but he's sacrificing more space on his queenside, limiting



his black squared bishop, doomed to trade on c3. but white can take advantage of this.

12.Nd1!! Bb7 13.a3 Ba5 14.Bd3!±

White is going out for an all out attack. Fritz agrees this is best. [14.b4 b5 15.Bxb5 Bb6 Here black is at a disadvantage, but he has some (but not much) counterplay. There is a much stronger plan.]

14...g6 15.Be4 Qd7 16.Rc1

Now there are multiple threats.

16...Rad8 17.Qe3

this initiates king side attack.

17...b5 Diagram



[17...Ba8 18.b4 Nxd4 (18...Bxb4 19.axb4 Nxb4 20.Qxh6 Bxe4 21.Ng5 f6 22.Nxe4± total domination) 19.Bxa8±]

18.Bxc6

Best: [18.b4 Bb6 19.Qxh6 Nxd4 20.Bxb7 Ne2+ 21.Kh1 Nxc1 22.Ng5; 18.Qxh6 Nxd4 19.Bxb7 Ne2+ 20.Kh1 Nxc1 21.Ng5 f6 22.Qxg6+ Qg7 23.Qxg7+ Kxg7 24.Nxe6+ Kf7 25.Nxf8 Rxf8 26.Bd5+ Kg7]

18...Bxc6 19.Rxc6!! Qxc6 20.Qxh6! Rd7

[20...Qd7 21.Ng5 f6 22.Qxg6+ Qg7 23.Qxg7+ Kxg7 24.Nxe6+ Kf7 25.Nxf8 Kxf8 26.Nc3]

21.Ne3!

Diagram



21...f5

[21...Bb6 22.Ng4!! (22.Ng5 f6 23.exf6 Rxf6 24.Ng4 Rf8) 22...f6 23.exf6!! Qe4 (23...Qc2 24.Ng5 Bxd4 25.Qh3 Bxf6 26.Nh6+ Kg7 27.Nxe6+ Kh8) 24.Qh4!! Qc2 (24...Rh7 25.Nh6+ Rxh6 26.Qxe4) 25.Ng5 Rfd8 26.Nh6+ Kf8 27.Nxe6+ Ke8 28.f7+ Rxf7 29.Qxd8#]

22.exf6 Rxf6 23.Ne5

My opponent resigned here, but it's not hard to see why. White has all the cards, is already a pawn up, and

will not relent. his king is perfectly safe and black can still get mated. This is over.

An example finish might be:

23...Qd6 24.N3g4 Rf8
Analysis Diagram



Here, it is not even necessary to take the exchange.

25.Qxg6+ Rg7 26.Nh6+ Kh8 27.Nef7+ Rxf7 28.Nxf7+
Because white gets two exchanges later!



28. ...Rxf7 29. Qxf7 1-0

or: 28. ...Kg8 29.Nh6+ Kh8 30.Qe8+ Kh7 31.Qh5 Qd5 32.Nf5+ Kg8 33.Qe8+ Kh7 34.Nxg7

Either way, white's lasting initiative won the day, and the a5 bishop never re-entered the game. 1-0

LARRY POTZER and the Sorcerer's

by Lawrence Cohen

Start

Larry Potzer had just suffered a defeat by his nemesis Dred Malfeasance at a game of Witless Chess. So as he is walking along he passes Professor Snipe's office. He decides to go on in and ask the Professor for help with his game.

"So, Potzer I don't see you in my office often. What do you want?" asked Professor Snipe.

"Well, Professor I need some help with my game of chess." replied Larry Potzer.

"Some, help; I think you mean a lot of help Potzer." Answered Professor Snipe.

"Lets play a game, so I can see how badly off you really are Potzer. So they proceeded to play the following game:

White: Larry Potzer
Black: Professor Snipe
ECO: [Unknown]

**1. e4 Nc6 2. d4 e5 3. c3 Nf6
4. f3 d5 5. dxe5 Nxe5 6. f4
Neg4 7. h3 Nh6 8. e5 Ne4
9. Nf3 Bc5 10. Qc2 Bf2+
11. Ke2 Nf5 12. Ng5 Nfg3+
13. Kf3 Bf5 14. Bd3 h6 15.
Nxf7 Qh4 16. Nxf8 Qh5#**

Resigns 0-1

"Well Potzer that was some truly witless chess" said Professor Snipe. "Thank you professor" replied Potzer.

"That wasn't a compliment Potzer. You just violated every principal of the Sorcerer's Start." stated Snipe.



(The Unfortunate Final Position of Larry Potzer's Attempt)

"The Sorcerer's Start?" inquired Potzer "You mean you never heard of the Sorcerer's Start!? I guess after that game I should not be suprised." said Snipe "Listen up Potzer and maybe even you will learn something for a change.

"There are 3 basic elements to the Sorcerer's Start. Control of the center, development, and King safety. The way you play Potzer these are probably listed in reverse order of importance."

"Even you Potzer should know and understand the importance of King safety. What do they say?"

Potzer replies, "Lose the King and you lose the game."

Then Professor Snipe says "Well Potzer you may not be totally hopeless, maybe we can make a half-wit of you yet. You probably should play more like your friend Ronald Wimply. You have seen how he starts a game haven't you?" Potzer replies "Yes, he almost always starts with Nf3, then g3, then Bg2, and castles. And as Black he will

play e5, Nf6, Be7, and castles quite often as well."

Professor Snipe then says, "That's right Potzer. He doesn't win many games quickly, but he loses none quickly. He develops out his pieces, but he doesn't take control of the center. Based on that last game for you trading off control of the center for King safety would look to be a good idea. Also, you should note that his play as Black prevents the 'Suckers Mate' from succeeding.

Surely even you see that:
1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 prevents White from continuing with a Queen move to attack the f7 square?"

"As for controlling the center, well that's why most games start with either e4 or d4." states Professor Snipe.

"Whyis that?" asks Potzer "Because it works towards controlling the center squares you witless wonder." replies Snipe. "Look Potzer it shouldn't be too hard for even you to understand. To begin the game the King is in the middle of the back row, so to attack the King you must attack the center. Also, there is more room in the center of the board which can and will be important for moving of your pieces."

Potzer says "I think I begin to understand Professor."

Snipe replies "Somehow I doubt that Potzer. You should have class soon. You should study up with your Wimply friend. Frankly, just thinking about how you played that last game is giving me a headache. Leave Potzer."

Pictures from the Midwest Class Larry Cohen



Above Left:

Kayin Barclay studies his position, hunched over the board in deep thought

Above Right:

IM Emory Tate confounds his opponent



Bottom:

FM Aleks Stannov in action in the Master section



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THE ROAD WARRIOR

with NM PETE KARAGIANIS



Stamnov,A - Karagianis,P [C45]

Iowa FIDE Swiss Ankeny (6), [Karagianis, Pete]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4

In this game, I was surprised to see Aleks choose a normal Scotch. In the past, we have played a Belgrade Gambit, a Four-Knights, and even a Giuco Piano. I would be shocked to see him repeat the same variation in which he suffered a terrible kingside attack the last time, and at this early stage was merely waiting to see what improvement he had found.

4...Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 7.Bc4

This move is by no means forced. He could have deviated in a number of ways- 7. g3, 7. Be2, to name a couple. At this juncture I began to realize he may in fact play the same exact line we had just discussed two months previously.

7...d6 8.0-0 Ne5 9.Be2 Qg6



This is a theoretical move but very important to know and understand. The queen serves three purposes on g6- it hits the pawn on e4, pins the pawn on g2, and controls the g4 square. the third role is especially important in case white decides to get frisky and try an eventual f4.

10.f3 0-0 11.Nc2

And so Aleks is stubborn. We will now play the same game as before.

11...Bxe3+ 12.Nxe3 f5 13.exf5

Stamnov-Karagianis from late November of 2007 went:

[13.Nd2 f4 ! an "imposer" as ex-(or current?) Chicago Blitz champion Sam Ford once put it. This pawn prevents the white pieces from reaching the kingside and imposes its will upon the entire game. 14.Nc2 Qh5 ! and the rook lift to f6 soon gave me a devastating kingside attack.]

13...Nxf5 14.Nxf5 Bxf5



Examine the position: black is out

of the opening (connected rooks) and all of his pieces have active squares. Moreover, after Rae8 black will enjoy excellent coordination. White, meanwhile, still has left some pieces at home and needs to find a plan.

15.Nd2

[15.Qb3+ Kh8 16.Qxb7 grabbing the pawn would be disastrous: 16... Rab8 17.Qxc7 Rxb2]

15...Bc2

If your plan is to win the game by taking advantage of the enemy's inactive pieces, a move like Qb3+, activating, is a threat.

16.Qe1 Nd3

[16...Rae8 is also perfectly playable, but I wanted to put white's rook on f1 in a tough spot. I also noticed that with the bishop controlling f1, and white's rook forced to the second rank, I would be able to have long term threats associated with white's weak back rank.]

17.Bxd3 Bxd3 18.Rf2 Rae8

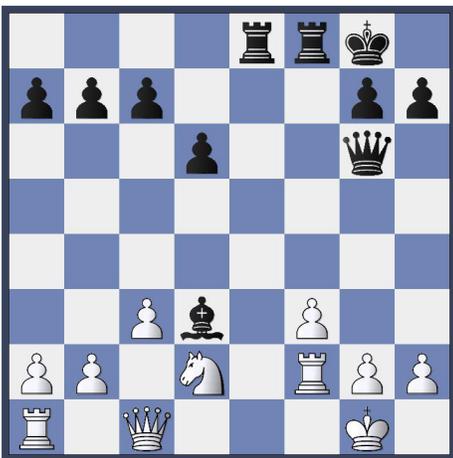
There is a thing in chess called "space", and white unfortunately has none of it.

19.Qd1 Bc2 20.Qf1 Bd3

This move was purely psychological. I wanted to see if my opponent would commit to a weak move in order to avoid the draw. If he had returned to d1, I would have chosen between ...d5! (opening up Qb6) and the simpler ...c6 or even ...Re7.

21.Qc1

The mind-trick worked. Unwilling to concede a half-point (which I wouldn't have taken) so easily, the white queen retreats to a very unfavorable square. Now I can continue my e-file buildup without fear of interruption.



21...Re7 22.Nf1 Rfe8 23.Qd1 d5!



A very nice move. Qb6 is a serious threat- the pin of the f2 rook will be difficult to answer. I now considered two main alternatives for white: Rd2 and Qb3.

24.Rd2

[24.Qb3 Bc4 ! with a nice trap... 25.Qxb7 c5 and the queen is caught like a fish out of water.]

24...Be2

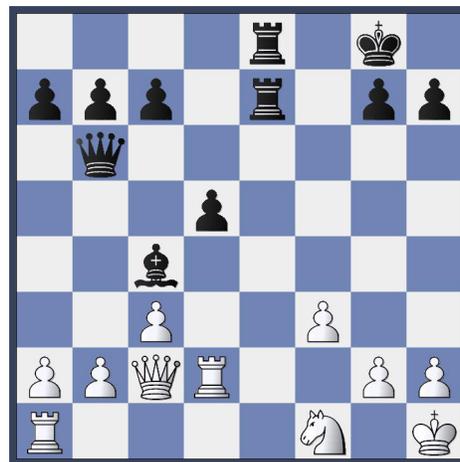
This may be inaccurate, but I wanted to give white the chance to stumble. The threat of course is Bxf3.

25.Qc2

One more piece leaves the back rank...

25...Qb6+ 26.Kh1 Bc4

I spent a lot of time on: [26...Bxf1 but it does not work in one variation. 27.Rxf1 Re1 Now, 28. Rd1 would be well met by 28. ...R8e2! and 28. Rf2 would be equally handled with 28. ...Qb5! but... 28.Qd3 saves white.]



27.b3

This move loses, but it is hard to suggest a better one. The idea of 26. ...Bc4 was to keep the f1 knight as a target, instead of exchanging it. The other problem white has is that if he retreats to cover his back rank, then his second rank is exposed (e2 and f2 are particularly weak). 27...Re1 Now black has a simple combination to win material.

28.Rdd1 R8e2 29.Qf5 Qf2

And to parry the many threats, white must give up his queen.

30.Qc8+ Re8 31.Rxe1!

Definitely the best way to give up the material. [31.Qxe8+ Rxe8 32.bxc4 Re2 And white resigns, probably.]

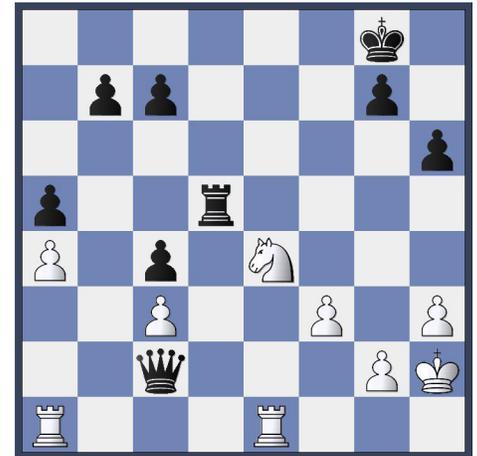
31...Rxc8 32.bxc4 dxc4

Black has too much, aside from the queen, and the weak white queenside pawns will tell.

33.Ng3 Rd8 34.Ne4 Qc2 35.h3 h6 36.a4 a5

Now the fixed a4 pawn is a significant problem.

37.Kh2 Rd5



38.Re3?

A mistake which allows black to simplify. Here is an example plan if white had simply "done the shuffle" and tried to create or keep a fortress: [38.Rf1 b5 39.axb5 Rxb5 and either ...Rb2 or the eventual march of the a-pawn will pull out the point.]

38...Rd1 39.Rxd1 Qxd1 40.Nc5 Qd6+

And I won this battle, though I suspect our war will not end here. **0-1**

Games from the NACE Fide Event

Sevan Muradian

Vishnuvardhan,A (2392) - Calton,B (2227)

7th North American FIDE Invitational Chicago USA (1), 20.01.2008

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.h3 Bh5 8.c4 Nb6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Nc3 d5 11.c5 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nc8 13.f4 Nc6 14.b4 a6 15.Qb3 Bh4 16.Kh2 N8e7 17.Bg4 g6 18.Rg1 Kh8 19.Ne2 Qd7 20.Ng3 f5 21.Be2 Rg8 22.Qc3 Nd8 23.a4 Nf7 24.b5 g5 25.Nh5 gxf4 26.Bxf4 axb5 27.Bg3 Bxg3+ 28.Rxg3 Rxg3 29.Qxg3 Ng6 30.Rg1 f4 31.Nxf4 Rg8 32.Nh5 Qe7 33.Nf6 Rg7 34.axb5 Nh6 35.Bd3 Nf8 36.Qxg7+ Qxg7 37.Rxg7 Kxg7 38.Ne8+ Kf7 39.Nxc7 Ke7 40.b6 Nf7 41.c6 bxc6 42.b7 Nd7 43.Na6 Nd8 44.b8Q Nxb8 45.Nxb8 1-0

Pasalic,M (2395) - Young,A (2360)

7th North American FIDE Invitational Chicago USA (1), 20.01.2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.f4 Bb7 10.Bf3 d6 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.Rd1 Qc8 13.Nd5 Re8 14.c3 Rb8 15.Be3 Ba6 16.Qf2 Nc5 17.Nd4 Bb7 18.Rac1 e6 19.Nb4 Rd8 20.Nbxc6 Bxc6 21.Nxc6 Qxc6 22.Qc2 Rbc8 23.e5 Qc7 24.b4 Nb7 25.Qe4 d5 26.Qd4 Qb8 27.Be2 Nd6 28.Bf2 Nc4 29.Bh4 Re8 30.Qf2 Qb7 31.Rd4 Qa6 32.Bd3 Rc7 33.Bf6 Qc8 34.Bxg7 Kxg7 35.Qe2 Rd8 36.Rd1 Na3 37.Ba6 Qd7 38.c4 Qa4 39.cxd5 Rc2 40.R1d2 Rxd2 41.Rxd2 b5 42.dxe6 Qxa6 43.Rxd8 Qb6+ 44.Qf2 Qxd8 45.Qxa7 Qd1+ 46.Kf2 Qd2+ 47.Kg3 Qd3+

48.Kf2 Qc2+ 49.Kg3 Qd3+ 50.Kf2 Nc4 51.e7 Qd2+ 52.Kg3 Qd3+ 53.Kh4 g5+ 54.Kxg5 h6+ 55.Kh4 Ne3 56.e8N+ Kf8 57.Nd6 Nxg2+ 58.Kg4 h5+ 0-1

Young,A (2360) - Gauri,S (2350)

7th North American FIDE Invitational Chicago USA (7), 25.01.2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.d4 e6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qa4 c5 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Ne4 10.Nxe4 Bxe4 11.Bf4 Nc6 12.a3 a5 13.Rad1 Qe7 14.Ne5 Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 d6 17.Bc3 Qb7+ 18.f3 Rfb8 19.Rd3 f5 20.Rfd1 b5 21.cxb5 Qxb5 22.Qh4 Qb7 23.b4 axb4 24.axb4 Ra4 25.Rb1 Qa7 26.Qf4 Ra2 27.Kf1 Bg1 28.e3 Rf2+ 29.Kxg1 Qa2



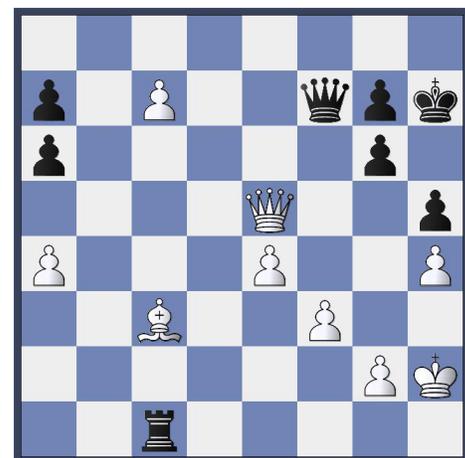
30.Rb2 Rxb2 31.Bxb2 Qb1+ 32.Kg2 Qxd3 33.Bxg7 Qe2+ 34.Kh3 Kxg7 35.Qxd6 Qf1+ 36.Kh4 Qc4+ 37.Kg5 h6+ 38.Kh5 Rf8 39.Qe5+ Rf6 40.b5 Qd5 41.Qc7+ Rf7 42.Qc3+ e5 43.Kh4 Qxb5 44.f4 Re7 45.Qa3 Qd7 46.Qa1 Qe6 47.Kh3 Qf6 48.Qa3 exf4 49.exf4 Kh7 50.Qc5 Rb7 51.Qd5 Rg7 52.Qb5 Qg6 53.Kg2 Qg4 54.Qe5 Rd7 55.Qa5

Qe2+ 56.Kh3 Qe4 57.Qc5 Rg7 58.Kh4 Qd3 59.Kh3 h5 60.Qe5 0-1

Calton,B (2227) - Bartell,T (2396)

7th North American FIDE Invitational Chicago USA (9), 26.01.2008

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.e4 Ne7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qb3 Nbc6 12.Nh3 e5 13.Nf2 Qc7 14.a4 Na5 15.Qa3 Be6 16.Be2 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Bxc4 18.Qb4 Ba6 19.c4 Nc6 20.Qc3 Na5 21.0-0 Nxc4 22.Rfd1 Rfd8 23.Rd5 Qc6 24.Rdd1 h5 25.Rdc1 Rd7 26.Nd3 Qe6 27.Bf2 Rc8 28.Nb4 Na5 29.Rd1 Rxd1+ 30.Rxd1 Nc6 31.Nxa6 bxa6 32.h4 Rb8 33.Rd5 Ne7 34.Rd6 Qa2 35.Qxe5 Ng6 36.Rxg6 Rb1+ 37.Kh2 fxg6 38.Bd4 Qf7 39.c6 Rc1 40.Bc3 Kh7 41.c7 1-0



For more games, results, and details of upcoming tournaments, you can visit www.nachess.org/fide.

Members of the NACA also receive a tournament bulletin, with annotated games.



February 2, 2008. Second Touch Move Scholastic Chess Championship (Tournament of Champions). Touch Move Chess Center, 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL. 60660. (773) 627-2759. 5 SS, Game 30 min. (USCF RATED) EF: \$30 Rd start: 10 am, 11 am. Lunch break 12:00 pm - 12:30 then Rd. 3 starts at 12:30 pm and each round thereafter. Bring your own chess clock, Board and sets are provided. Open to all: K-2 Through K-8 Scholastic players, with 500 minimum rating points. Limit to 28 Players. Mail your check to Angelo Young or Register before Feb. 1, 2008 <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/88498702>. No on-site registration. Prizes: 1st Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 2nd Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 3rd Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 4th Trophy + Chess Book, 5th Trophy + Chess Book and TMCC medals to the rest of participants. For more info email us: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com or www.tmchesscenter.com Monthly Winner will be seeded to December 2008 Final (Tournament of Champions).

February 2, 2008. This is a rescheduled event. If you pre-registered for the Jan. 19 tournament, you are still registered. Youth Chess Foundation of Chicago Scholastic Tournament. Luther Burbank Elementary School, 2035 N. Mobile (6300 West), Chicago. 4 or 5 round SS. Registration 9:00 - 9:30, Tournament 10:00 - 2:30, Trophy Presentation 2:45 (est.). Divisions: K-3, 4-6, 7-8. Awards: Trophies to top 3 teams and top 5 individuals in each division. Entries: By 1:00 P.M. 2/1, please send a player list (name, school, grade) of players who have not played in a YCFC tournament to accounting@aptpeople.com, or fax to 773-248-1007, attn: Michael Cardinale. Coaches: please provide a rough count of students who will be attending in advance. Students who have played in a YCFC event this year or last year may sign up on site. For more information: Michael Cardinale, accounting@aptpeople.com

February 3, 2008. Chess Education Partners Championship Cup Series # 8 (Scholastic), Hyde Park Neigh-

borhood Club, 5480 S. Kenwood, Chicago, IL 60615, phone 773-643-4062. On site entry 8:00 - 8:40 AM, check in for proper seeding in round 1 by 8:45 AM, 1st round at 9 AM, trophies for 1st individual and team and participation awards for everyone at approx 1:30 PM. Open to all players grades K-8. Four sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8; 4 rounds g/30, USCF rated (membership available on site). After the awards are over we are hosting a blitz tournament, USCF blitz rules to apply, five rounds g/5, ending around 3 PM. Entry fee is \$20 per player and includes both tournaments. Online entry & directions at www.ChessTeachers.org. Points earned in all CEP tournaments will count towards the Chess Education Partners Championship Cup. For more information call 847-987-3091, 312-927-4290 or visit www.ChessTeachers.org. Food will be available

February 8-9, 2008. IHSA Chess Team Championship. (Unrated High School) Peoria Convention Center: 8-bd teams: Scott Johnson 663-6377 sjohnson@ihsa.org

February 9, 2008. Midwest Scholastic Class Championship. Hadley Junior High School, 240 Hawthorne, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. USCF rated. Arrive before 8:30 A. M. to verify entries on posted list. FIRST ROUND IN ALL GROUPS BEGINS AT 9:00 A.M. Divisions: Grades 6-8 4-round Swiss G/50, Grades 4-5 5-round Swiss G/35, 3rd Grade and under 5-Round Swiss G/30. Within these divisions, each player will be placed in a small group of about 10 to 18 players, depending upon registration, so that every game he or she plays will be against a player with almost the same rating in the same age group (subject to slight modification based upon registrations). Awards: Every Player Has A Chance To Win One Of The 200 Individual Trophies! There will be 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place trophies awarded in each group. Any player who ties for 5th place will also receive a 5th place trophy. Team trophies will be awarded to the top 5 schools in each division (based on the top eight players' scores re-

ardless of group). Participation ribbons will be presented to everyone. Registration: ADVANCE ONLY, by email preferred: GlenEllynChess@aol.com. Include name, grade, school, USCF number/expiration, and latest rating for each player. Fee: \$20 per player if names received by 2/5, \$25 per player if name received after 2/5. Payment: Make checks (one per school preferred) payable to: Mike Miele. Mail to: Mike Miele, 736 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Information, questions, or messages: (630) 790-0271 (anytime). Please call Friday, February 8 before 9:00 p.m. with any changes.

February 16, 2008. Champaign Urbana Chessfest. (Rated Scholastic).

February 16, 2008. South Suburban Scholastic Chess Tournament. (Unrated scholastic.) 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. Registration: 8:30-9:00 a.m.; events usually finish around noon. Divisions: K-3, K-5, K-8, and K-12. Awards: Individual trophies to top 5 and medals to 6th-20th in each division. Team trophies to 1st and 2nd overall. Entry Fee: \$20 for on-line registrations (ends on Thursdays before the events day); \$25 on-site 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. To register: on-line at www.intecsus.org; by email to intecsus@yahoo.com; by mail to Glenn Panner, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423, checks payable to IntECS, Inc.; or on-site from 8:30-9:00 a.m. on event days. Information: (815) 955-4793 or (785) 906-0402. Food concession will be available on site.

February 16-17, 2008 U.S. Amateur Team Championships North 5SS, Best Western Hotel, 5105 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (414) 769-2100. Special chess rate of \$69, reserve early. Free hot breakfast. Two sections: OPEN (four players plus alternate: must play in rating order, top four average rating below 2200, December supplement used. Prizes: 4 digital clocks to top two teams, 4 digital clocks to top teams with average rating u1900, u1600, and u1300. Winning team qualifies for national play-offs on April 12th. Prizes to top score on each board. Prizes to best team name. EF: \$120 per team if received by Feb. 10th, \$190 thereafter. Cash only at site. TC: g/90 rds 1-3, 30/90 sd/60 rds 4-5. Late reg.: 8:30-9:30am on Saturday. Rds.: 10:30am-3pm-7pm; 10:00am-3:30pm. SCHOLASTIC (all players must be High School age or younger; average rating u2200). Prizes: 4 digital clocks to top team

overall, top two High School Teams, top two Middle School Teams, top two Elementary School teams. Prizes to top club team, top team composed of all girls, and to best name team. EF: \$116 per team if received by Feb. 10th, \$190 thereafter. Cash only at site. TC: G/90. Late reg.: 8:30-9:30am on Saturday. Rds.: 10:15am-3pm-7pm; 10:00am-2pm. SIDE EVENT: blitz tournament on Saturday night; details at site. INFO/ENTRIES: make checks payable and send to: Alex Betaneli, POB 260122, Madison WI 53726. abetaneli@hotmail.com 608-334-2574. Bring boards/sets/clocks.

February 17, 2008. Chess Education Partners Championship Cup Series # 9 (Scholastic), Michigan Shores Club, 911 Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091, 847-251-4100. On site entry 8:00 - 8:40 AM, check in for proper seeding in round 1 by 8:45 AM, 1st round at 9 AM, trophies for 1st individual & team, awards for 2nd- 5th individual and participation awards for everyone at approx 1:30 PM. Open to all players grades K-8. Four sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8; 4 rounds g/30, USCF rated (membership available on site). After the awards are over we are hosting a bughouse tournament. Five rounds g/5, ending around 3 PM. Entry fee is \$30 per player and includes both tournaments and a buffet lunch. This is a private club: food will be available, but you may not bring food or drink into the club. A note on parking: please do not park in member only parking! Park either on the street or follow Lake St. east of the club to free parking at the beach. Online entry and directions at www.ChessTeachers.org. Points earned in all CEP tournaments will count towards the Chess Education Partners Championship Cup. For more information call 847-987-3091, 312-927-4290 or visit www.ChessTeachers.org.

February 17, 2008. The First Evanston Bi-Level: Adult Open and "Over/Under" Sections. Levy Activity Center, 300 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, IL. 3 round SS, G/40. Two Sections: 1) Over/Under section for adult beginners: You must be over 14 years old, and both your quick and regular USCF ratings must be under 1200 in the February 2008 rating supplement; 2) Open section: Adults of all ratings, Juniors rated 900+. Registration: 9:00-9:30 a.m. Rounds: first round 9:40 a.m., rest ASAP. Entry Fee: \$5.00. Your Prize: Three games of quality rated chess in a congenial atmosphere! Entries: send your name, USCF number, rating and phone number to enter@evanstonchess.org by February 14, 2008, or mail to: Tom Sprandel, 2304 Park Place, #1, Evanston, IL 60201. All participants will pay entry fees in cash at the

tournament. On-site: go to www.EvanstonChess.org to see if space is available; register at the tournament by 9:15 a.m. Other: All on-site payments for entries or USCF memberships are cash only. We cannot guarantee space for on-site entrants. Please bring clocks and sets. Skittles area will be available. Handicapped accessible. Players under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent. More information: www.EvanstonChess.org

February 23, 2008. ICCA Division Championships. (Unrated High School) Lincoln-Central H.S.: Individual grouped by rating: Mike Zacate (H) 708-479-9380 mezacate@yahoo.com

February 23, 2008. Knights of the Forest Open Scholastic Chess Tournament. 767 E. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines, IL. 4 Sections: K-1, Primary (2-3), Elementary (4-5), Jr. High (6-8). 5/SS G/30 for K-1 and Primary, 5/SS G/35 for Elementary, 4/SS G/45 for Jr. High. Schedule: Opens at 8:00 am, round 1 begins promptly at 9:00 am. Awards: In each section, trophies to: top 10 individuals, top 5 by grade, top 10 teams (top 4 players), best unrated, and biggest upset. Entry Fee: Advance registration only, \$20 if postmarked by 2/18/08, \$25 for late registrations. Web Site: <http://home.comcast.net/~forestchess> for information and entry form. Contact ForestChess@comcast.net, or call Jack Vogel at 847-914-5727.

February 23, 2008. PJHS/PrairieLand Scholastic. Bloomington Normal Area Scholastic Chess. <http://www.bnasc.org/>

February 23-24, 2008. Greater Peoria Open. Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake Ave., Peoria, IL 61614. 5/SS regular rating system, G/120 with a 5 second time delay allowed, 1 section open to all, \$35 if rec'd by 2/18, \$45 at the site, \$20 if unrated, free if rated 2200 or higher, \$5 discount to ICA members, \$3 discount to GPCF members, 80% of entry fees returned, allocation to be determined, registration 8:30-9:30, rds. 9:45, 2:15, 6:30 Saturday, 9:30, 2:00 Sunday, no State membership required, other information: 1/2 point bye in Rds. 1-4, 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, 309-686-0192 night, wzim@sbcglobal.net, NS, NC.

February 24, 2008 -- 12th 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 10:30AM, Round 1 at 11:00AM, progressing ASAP. Sections: Rated Sections for K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, K-12/+1000; plus an unrated sec-

tion. Awards, each section: Top 5 individuals: top 3 teams (top 3 scores/2 player min. for teams); remembrances for all players. Entry Fee: \$25.00 post marked by Monday, Feb. 18, 2008, \$30.00 if received afterwards, FREE to players rated over 1400 (must mail in registration to qualify). No on-site registration. Register: On-line at www.eventbrite.com/org/23735997, Or mail in and if siblings play take \$5 off, and if team list sent in \$5 disc for each team member. Send check payable to Chess-Ed., c/o A. Holt, 729 Colby Ct., Gurnee, IL. 60031. Information/registration form: aholt729@earthlink.net.

February 24, 2008. Monthly Warren Scholar Adult/Youth Challenge. Open to adults (age 19 and over) rated over 1700 and youth (age 18 and younger) rated over 1600. Format: One game, G120, unrated. Pairings similar to a team tournament, where adults are considered one team and youth another team. Time and location: 1 p.m., Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. FREE ENTRY FEE and FREE SNACKS! Prizes: None, but after a few monthly events all participants will be invited to a free seminar with a local GM to go over the best instructional games from those played. Entries limited to 30 players (15 adults and 15 youth). All participants will be required to submit their notated games for possible use in the seminar. Pre-registration is required by Feb. 17. Interested participants or those with questions should send an email to warrenprogram@ilchess.org.

March 1, 2008. Lakeview Scholastic. Lakeview Museum, Peoria.

March 1, 2008. Third Touch Move Scholastic Chess Championship (Tournament of Champions). Touch Move Chess Center, 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL 60660. (773) 627-2759. 5 SS, Game 30 min. (USCF RATED) EF: \$30 Rd start: 10 am, 11 am. Lunch break 12:00 pm - 12:30 then Rd.3 start at 12:30 pm and each round thereafter. Bring your own chess clock, Board and sets are provided. Open to all: K-2 Through K-8 Scholastic players, with 500 minimum rating points. Limit to 28 Players. Mail your check to Angelo Young or Register before Feb. 28, 2008 <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/88499705>. No on-site registration. Prizes: 1st Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 2nd Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 3rd Trophy + Digital Chess Clock, 4th Trophy + Chess Book, 5th Trophy + Chess Book and TMCC medals to the rest of participants. For more info email us: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com