

Florida CHESS

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2022
Scholastic
State Champions!

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FCA Membership Dues

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Regular	— \$20 (for two years)
Scholastic (under 20)	— \$15 (for two years)
Club Affiliate	— \$30 (for two years)
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Florida Chess Association (FCA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Florida. FCA is the official USCF affiliate for the state of Florida. FCA web site — <http://www.floridachess.org>

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Editor Speaks



Our second issue of the year focuses on the February 2022 Scholastic State Championship. 405 students from around the state converged on Orlando for an exciting and competitive three days of competition. The coverage includes our "Cover of Champions" (see inset below— with names for photos), a results overview starting on page 4, competitor photos on page 6, several notated games starting on page 11, and a sampling of awards photos on pages 26 & 27.

Bach Ngo
K-8 Champion
(top left)

Oscar Williams
K-5 Blitz Champion
(top right)

Aakash Jani
K-1 Champion
(middle left)

Raghav Venkat
K-12 & K-12 Blitz
Champion
(middle center)

Ryan Ratliff
K-3 Champion
(middle right)

Maxwell Yang
K-5 Champion
(bottom right)



Also in this issue, an update of activities from FCA Affiliate, Chess Club Bobby Fischer. JA Torres covers the Fischer Chess League series of tournaments and even shares a couple of notated games from the events. Events, activities, and subsequent growth are valuable components of a healthy and diverse chess community. If you are an FCA affiliate, I would love to hear about and share news of your efforts in chess.

Other interesting highlights from this month include Bach Ngo's annotation of his game that lead to Norm #2 in his quest for the title of International Master, a helpful book review from Miquel Ararat, and some insight from NM Bryan Tillis regarding opening mistakes. I hope you enjoy every page.!

Next quarter we will take an in-depth look at one of the state's foremost tournaments, the Space Coast Open Chess Festival, held in Melbourne. We'll also cover the annual, Women's only, Queen's Cup event held in Jacksonville. Likewise, It will be time to revisit the Collector's Corner and learn a few things about Chess in the pop-culture medium, Comic Books, and, of course, there will be annotated games, book reviews, Regional reports and more.

Yours in Chess,

George Foote
Editor, floridaCHESS

from the President's desk

Dear FCA members and friends,



I'm excited as this year we will host our entire slate of five state championship events OTB (over the board). In the rearview is the Scholastic Championship that was one of the best attended in years at 405 players. My role was to organize it and support the registration process, but I was not able to attend due to a conflict with a US Chess appearance. However, a big thanks to Bryan Tillis who filled in for me onsite, Jon Haskell, Chief TD and several FCA board members for staffing the event. We will return to the same location in 2023 on March 10th to 12th. The return of school chess programs will help drive increased attendance next year.

This year we've seen an uptick in new OTB chess clubs around the state. Most are casual meet-up groups at local coffee shops and on a college campus using a discord server to play and chat at the same time. Even I have started a meet-up for veterans in Gainesville, most of whom have some level of disability, yet come out to either learn or play the game. In addition, there has been a surge in clubs offering rated play all around the state too. At present, Florida has 58 US Chess Affiliate clubs making it 4th in the country behind TX(101), CA(85) and NY(68), but chess is growing everywhere.

Here in Florida the F.C.A. will continue to deliver more OTB Championships than ever before in our 83 year history. The Florida Senior Championship (The Villages), Lerman State Championship (Palm Beach) and the first Florida Women's Championship near the 4th quarter. We are also hosting a Florida K-12 Girls Closed Championship on May 28th to determine our state representative for the National Tournament of Champions in St. Petersburg. Several other positions have been filled from the Champion sections at the State Scholastic. They are on the cover of this edition.

With regard to the state magazine, I am very pleased with the transition from Harvey Lerman's +25 years of editorship to George Foote. He has brought a fresh new look to the cover while keeping what our readers want to see while adding some of his own flavor to the publication.

I'll happily close this address by stating the obvious, **Chess. Is. Back!** I hope you all put down the phone or tablet and get out there and play some OTB. It is the richest chess experience available and is available almost everywhere around our wonderful state.

See you over the board soon,

Kevin Pryor

405!!!

2022 Florida Scholastic Championship

The 400 player threshold was broken as Florida's best scholastic players traveled to Orlando for the 2022 edition of the Florida Scholastic Championship. The Tournament was held at the Wyndham Resort International Drive in Orlando. National Tournament Director, Jon Haskel, and his staff of FCA TDs guided 10 sections for the main tournament with additional events including 3 sections of Blitz, and 1 Bughouse event. While the pandemic was still on the radar of many, clearly, players, parents, teams, and coaches are adapting to the "new normal" and returning to "Over The Board Chess." Thank you to all the participants & staff that made the success of this year's event possible! We got great feedback from parents, coaches, and players, and look forward to an even larger turn out at next year's event.



Directors: (L to R) TD Matthew Kolcz, Chief TD Jon Haskel, TD/ NM Bryan Tillis, TD Timotey Gospodinov, TD Krista Alton.



Jon Haskel giving instructions to the players.



405 Competitors!

Results Highlights
(Full results & scores are available at FloridaChess.org)

K-1 Championship

1. Aakash Jani
2. Yi Sha
3. Chris Cui
4. Addison Baumstark
5. Tanisha Saha
6. Henry Tang
7. Ishaan Jain
8. Celine Chen
9. James McDonald
10. Aaryan Bhandari

K-5 Under 700

1. Marcus Qureshi
2. Aidan McGraw
3. Jacob Rose
4. Vivian West
5. Andrew Wiest
6. Nicholas James Vu
7. Michael Rodriguez
8. Carter Hiatt
9. Ming Tang
10. Aashish Jagan

K-12 under 1100

1. Alex Rodriguez
2. Christian Farese
3. Sphie Tan
4. Javier Silva
5. Avery Villasuso
6. Jake Usallan
7. Andrew Borgen
8. Sebastian Herrera
9. Lyle Alvarez
10. Ali Dominguez

K-3 Championship

1. Ryan Ratliff
2. Akeras Overlingas
3. Grace Yang
4. Winston Wu
5. Ishaan Bhowmick
6. Damian Alexander
7. Sophie Li
8. Ishir Kumar
9. Yuezhu Huang
10. Miguel Rodriguez

K-8 Championship

1. FM Bach Ngo
2. Aniket Shukla
3. Marvin Gao
4. Nate Ziegler
5. Rion Okuno
6. Advait Nair
7. Neel Sahai
8. Tristan Elvers
9. William Wu
10. Aaron Marian

K-5 Blitz

1. Oscar Williams
2. Riyaan Datta
3. Akeras Overlingas
4. Winston Wu
5. Stephen Cheng
6. Arthur Peraud
7. Platon Kaidash
8. Aashish Jagaon
9. Yi Sha
10. Chris Cui

K-3 Under 600

1. Sebastian Arriaga Reyes
2. Ruthick Prathipati
3. Ashwinth Gopinath
4. Francesco Pagano
5. Aadarsh Sundarapandian
6. Jack Eisenmenger
7. Curtis Hood
8. Nicholas Pagano
9. Meera Jani
10. Cameron Greene

K-8 Under 1000

1. Tiana Semenov
2. Taarak Mohan
3. Patrick Brown
4. Sabrina Chile
5. Javier Palmer
6. Paul Stoici
7. Connor Brown
8. Matheson McCumber
9. Igor Galchun
10. Veronica Donepudi

K-12 Blitz

1. Raghav Venkat
2. Aniket Shukla
3. Marvin Gao
4. Antony Gospodinov
5. Neel Sahai
6. Rion Okuno
7. Aaron Marian
8. Connor Sastre
9. Vincent Stone III
10. Vasanth M Parthasarathy

K-5 Championship

1. Maxwell Yang
2. Oscar Williams
3. Om Mishra
4. Bavithran Whale
5. Anay Gupta
6. Riyaan Datta
7. Stephen Cheng
8. Platon Kaidash
9. Coco Yao
10. Michael Livson

K-12 Championship

1. Raghav Venkat
2. Connor Sastre
3. Haohan Shen
4. Antony Gospodinov
5. Nicolas De La Colina
6. Vincent Stone
7. John Ligotti
8. Vikram Rajmohan
9. Aron Cheng
10. Rohit Ramaswamy

Family & Friends Blitz

1. Ronald W Henley
2. Bryan Tillis
3. Marco-Gabriel Casares
4. Marcos Casares
5. Kiani Walker
6. Felipe Lemos
7. Oliver Peraud
8. Ernesto Pagano
9. Timotey Dimitrov Gospodinov
10. Daniel Hood

Scholastic State Championship—Teams

K-1 Championship

1. Oak Hall School
2. The Green School



K-3 Championship

1. Oak Hall School
2. Joseph Williams Elementary

K-3 Under 600

1. Oak Hall School
2. Miami Country Day School
3. Divine Savior Academy
4. The Greene School
5. Innovation Montessori
6. Carrollwood Day School
7. Lake Highland Preparatory School

K-5 Championship

1. Joseph Williams Elementary
2. Oak Hall School
3. Deer Park Elementary

K-5 Under 700

1. Oak Hall School
2. The Greene School
3. St Michael's Academy
4. Franklin Academy Sunrise
5. Pride Elementary
6. Winthrop Charter School

K- 8 Championship

1. Abraham Lincoln Middle School
2. Academy Prep Center of Tampa
3. Academy Prep Center of Lakeland
4. Olsen Middle School
5. Benito Middle School
6. Bak Middle School of the Arts

K-8 under 1000

1. Franklin Academy Sunrise
2. Devine Savior Academy
3. Belen Jesuit Preparatory School
4. Grace Family Home School Co-op
5. Academy Prep Center of Lakeland
6. The Greene School
7. Glenridge Middle
8. Abraham Lincoln Middle
9. Miami Country Day School
10. Oak Hall School

K-12 Championship

1. Hillsborough High School
2. Buchholz High School
3. Suncoast High School
4. Southwest Miami High School
5. Oak Hall School
6. Miami Country Day School
7. Jacksonville Home School
8. Melbourne High School
9. Seminole High School
10. St. Petersburg High School

K-12 Under 1100

1. Belen Jesuit Preparatory School
2. Devine Savior Academy
3. Academy Prep Center of Lakeland
4. Pacetti Bay Middle

Inside the Ranks & Files of the Florida Scholastic Championship



"Fischer Chess League 2022"

By JA Torres, FIDE Master
Chess Club Bobby Fischer

FISCHER CHESS LEAGUE 2022 / OPEN I

The Fischer Chess League 2022 consist of four preliminary Open Tournaments with an accumulating point system based in the performance in each of the open events and a Final tournament with the participation of the players with the best results in the four previous tournaments.

The Open I, was held on February 18-20, at the Bobby Fischer Chess Club in the City of Miami with the participation of 30 players, including a GM, 3 IM, 3FM and 5 NM , among all. There was also the presence of 4 flags in the event, Japan, Venezuela, Cuba and USA. The first place was obtained by GM Julio Becerra and IM Yunier Leyva, with 4.5 of 5, but the winner in the tiebreaker was in favor of Yunier.



NM Chakrabarti

In 3-4 position NM Brejesh Chakrabarti and FM Javier Torres with 4 of 5. Chakrabarti is only 11 years old already showing his strength and talent among the greats. Next in 5-6 place, with 3 of 5, IM Pedro Rodríguez and FM Roberto Álvarez (State Senior Champion, FI). In Category U/2100, prizes was shared between John



TD Ferragut (right) giving the trophy to the winner of the Open I, IM Yunier Leyva.



YUNIER RIVERA L Player 3 - JHON LIGOTTI J Player 10 1-0

A46 ROUND 2: YUNIER RIVERA L Player 3 - JHO lichess.org 20.02.2022

[https://lichess.org/@/matador1104]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 dxc4 7.Na3 Bxa3 8.bxa3 Bd7 9.Ne5 Bc6 10.Nxc6 Nxc6 11.Bb2 Nd5 12.Rc1 c3 13.Bxc3 Nxc3 14.Rxc3 Qxd4 15.Qc2 Rfd8 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Rxc6 Rab8 18.e3 Qb2 19.Rxc7 Qxa3 20.Rb1 Rxb1+ 21.Qxb1 Qa6 22.Kg2 g6 23.Qb7 Qxb7+ 24.Rxb7 a6 25.Rb6 Ra8 26.g4 h6 27.h4 Kf8 28.a4 Ke7 29.g5 hxg5 30.hxg5 a5 31.Rb7+ Ke8 32.Kg3 Ra6 33.f3 Ra8 34.e4 Rd8 35.Rb5 Ra8 36.Kf4 Ra7 37.Ke5 Ke7 38.f4 Rc7 39.Rxa5 Rc4 40.Ra7+ Ke8 41.a5 Ra4 42.a6 Ra5+ 43.Kf6 Ra4 44.Re7+ Kd8 45.a7 1-0

JULIO BECERRA Player 1 - CESAR VALIDO J Player 13 1-0

B12 Round 5: JULIO BECERRA Player 1 - CESAR lichess.org 20.02.2022

[https://lichess.org/@/matador1104]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Qb6 6.Be2 Bd7 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb5 9.Bxb5+ Qxb5 10.Nc3 Qa6 11.Be3 Ne7 12.Qb3 Nf5 13.Nb5 Qb6 14.Bd2 h5 15.a4 Qd8 16.a5 a6 17.Nc3 Nc6 18.Qxb7 Qc8 19.Qb3 Rb8 20.Qa4 Qd7 21.Ne2 Be7 22.Rfc1 Na7 23.Rc7 Qxa4 24.Rxa4 Nb5 25.Rc6 Ra8 26.Nc3 Kd7 27.Rb6 Nc7 28.Kf1 Ra7 29.Ke2 Rc8 30.Kd3 Na8 31.Rb3 Rcc7 32.Ra1 Rcb7 33.Rxb7+ Rxb7 34.Na4 Rb3+ 35.Bc3 Rb5 36.Ne1 f6 37.f4 Rb8 38.Nc2 Rb5 39.b4 Rb8 40.Rb1 fxe5 41.dxe5 Nc7 42.Be1 Kc6 43.Bf2 Nb5 44.Rc1 Kb7 45.Bc5 Bd8 46.g3 g5 47.fxg5 Bxg5 48.Rf1 Rg8 49.Ne3 Bxe3 50.Bxe3 d4 51.Bf4 Nc7 52.Rc1 h4 53.Nc5+ Kb8 54.Nd7+ Kb7 55.Nf6 Rh8 56.g4 Ne7 57.Rc4 Ned5 58.Rxd4 Nb5 59.Rxd5 exd5 60.e6 1-0

Joseph Ligotti, José Gabriel Casaré, José Antonio Aguilar and Marcos Antonio Sr. Caseres. with 3 of 5 possible The tournament staff, Chief TD A. Ferragut & Chief International Arbiter Gerardo Anaya with Armando Martínez, assistant. J.A.Torres & Jesus Suárez, tournament organizer and computer programmer Roger Rellana. Congratulations to all the winners and all the staff that made this tournament possible!

GM HOLDEN WINS THE FISCHER CHESS LEAGUE OPEN II

The Open II, was held on March 25th-27th, at the Bobby Fischer Chess Club in the City of Miami with the participation of 35 players!. This event was stronger than Open I. There were many unexpected surprises as IM Yunier Leyva was defeated by Senior Orlando Meilan in the 2nd round, and NM Andretta drew with GM Becerra.

In the 3rd round, the biggest surprise was the victory of FM Válido against GM Holden. It was a very intense game until Holden, playing under time pressure, made a serious mistake and Válido, through tactical resources, managed to place his opponent in a mating net! In the 4th round the leaders FM Torres and FM Valido maintained the leadership with a draw with 3.5, but GM Holden beat GM Becerra, placing himself only half a point behind the leaders. In the last round, GM Holden beat FM Torres,



The winner of Open II, GM Holden Hernandez.



Spectators and members of the Chess League watching the tie-break match.

while FM Válido drew with NM Andretta, causing a tie that was decided by a blitz match in which GM Holden Hernandez was the absolute winner of Open II.

Tournament Director Arnaldo Ferragut and International Arbitre Gerardo Anaya appreciated the FISCHER CHESS LEAGUE to all members, youth and adult players, Organizers and Computer Programmer assistants , who always providing they best effort.



FM Válido vs GM Holden playing a tie-break blitz match.

FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS
(“Top 100” Current Player Lists)

[illegible]

Games from recent events by Miguel Ararat



(113) Winston,Wu (1409) – Ryan,Ratliff (1297) [C53]

Florida State Scholastic Ch
followchess.com (3), 12.03.2022

[Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bc4 Bc5
4.c3 d6
5.d3 Nf6
6.a4 Bg4
7.b4 Bxf2+
8.Kxf2 h6 [Out of the opening white is winning, however the rest of the game shows that even a 1400 rated player may fail to convert an extra piece in a slow time control game. 55]

9.h3 Bh5
10.Re1 g5
11.Nbd2 g4
12.hxg4 Bxg4
13.Nf1 h5
14.N1h2 h4
15.Bg5

[15.Bxf7+ This move makes black's king as weak as his white counterpart and facilitates white's work. 15...Kxf7 16.Ng5+ Ke8 17.Nxg4]

15...Bh5
16.Bxh4 [This was white's idea behind Bg5, to grab more material. White still winning. Yet, in this situation white's king is weak and material may become irrelevant if white make a series of inaccurate moves. 1:49]

16...Bxf3
17.Nxf3 Ng4+

18.Kg1?!

[18.Kg3 Qd7 19.Ng5 White consolidates his position.]

18...Rxb4

19.Nxb4 Qxb4 [From being a piece down black has knight a pawn for a rook. 16]

20.Qf3 Nd8

21.d4?! [This is the most instructive moment in this game, because white must move his king to safe location to be able to maintain his advantage. As stated earlier in my note, material is irrelevant if your king is in danger. The king walk from side to side of the board is thematic in many variations of the Sicilian Dragon. The curious reader can check the following games to have a better idea of when and how the king must "walk" Euwe – Geller, Zurich, 1953 is a classic example and Arencibia – Gashimov, Cuba, 2007 is a modern example (that i can think as of my annotating this game) 5:48]

[21.g3 Qh2+ 22.Kf1 Qh5 23.Ke2 Qh2+ 24.Kd1+-; 21.a5 Ne6 22.g3±]

21...Ne6=

22.Bxe6 fxe6

23.dxe5

[23.Qh3 Qf2+ 24.Kh1 0-0-0 The game is dynamically equal, yet the black pieces are active. For example, Qxg4 walks into Rh8. 25.Qxg4 Rh8+ 26.Qh3 Rxb4 27.gxh3]

23...dxe5?! [14]

[23...0-0-0 Black secures his king with tempo, because of the threat Rh8 with a matting attack. 24.exd6 Rh8]

24.Red1 Ke7

25.Ra2 [[#] White has the right idea, to use the open d file to attack the black king. Unfortunately, here white has to use the d file tactically(fast) instead of strategically (slow). This position is a great example of the difference between tactics and strategy. Ra2 is an strategically sound move, yet Rd7 is the tactically correct move to win the game. 1:37]

[25.Rd7+ Kxd7 26.Qf7+ Kc8 27.Qxe6+ Kb8 28.Qg8+]

25...Qh2+

26.Kf1 Rf8

27.Rd7+ [White finds Rd7 as the only

way to save his queen. 3:18]

27...Kxd7

28.Qxf8 Qh1+

29.Ke2 Qxg2+

30.Kd3 Qg3+

31.Kc4 Ne3+

32.Kb3 Qe1

33.Qf7+ Kd8

34.Qf8+ Kd7

35.Qf7+ Kd8

36.Qf8+

1/2-1/2

(115) Venkat,Raghav (2328) – Shen,Haohan (1964) [A05]

Florida State Scholastic Ch
followchess.com (3), 12.03.2022

[Ararat,Miguel]

1.Nf3 [The winner of the K-12 section of the Florida Scholastic Chess Championship 2022, Raghav Venkat shows how to transform an exchange advantage. 12]

1...Nf6 [14]

2.g3 g6

3.Bg2 Bg7

4.0-0 0-0

5.c4 d6

6.Nc3 e5

7.d3 h6

8.Bd2

[8.Rb1 Be6 9.b4 Nbd7 10.Nd2 c6 11.b5 Qc7 12.bxc6 bxc6 13.Ba3 Rfc8 14.Qa4 Nb6 15.Qa6 d5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Rfc1 Qd7 18.Nb3 Bh3 19.Nb5 Bxg2 0-1 (51) Chigladze,I (2390)–Jobava,B (2721) Tbilisi 2012]

8...Nc6 [27]

9.Rb1 a5

10.a3 Be6

11.b4 axb4

12.axb4 Nd7

[12...Qd7 13.b5 Ne7 14.Qb3 Bh3 15.c5 Bxg2 1/2-1/2 (15) Andersson,U (2640) –Gelfand,B (2665) Yerevan 1996]

13.Ne1 Rb8

14.Nc2 f5 [A Dutch versus English. Black plays to win the game and takes the fight to his opponent. 57]

15.b5 Ne7

16.Nb4 Nf6 [The position is double edge. White has more space on the queenside and black has active pieces on the kingside. 2:38]

17.Ncd5 Kh7
 18.Qc2 Qd7 [The right idea, but Black needs f5-f4 first. 1:07]
 [18...f4 A thematic pawn push in the Dutch to activate the light square bishop and attack the white king. 19.Nxe7 Qxe7 20.Ra1 Qd7 21.Ra7 Bh3]
 19.Nxe7 Qxe7
 20.Ra1 Nd7
 [20...f4 [#] Poses more practical problems to white. For instance, Black can hunt down the white king in a blink of an eye. 21.Ra7 Ng4 22.h3? fxg3 23.hxg4 Qh4 24.fxg3 Rxf1+ 25.Kxf1 Rf8+--+]
 21.Ra7 Nc5
 22.b6 Qd8?
 [22...Rbc8 This method of defense allows black to create counterplay with f5-f4 regardless of white's answer. White will stand better, however black sets in motion his kingside attack. 23.Be3 For example, (23.Bxb7 cxb6=) 23...f4 24.Bxc5 dxc5 25.Nd5±]
 23.Nc6 [Probably, black was expecting 23.bxc7 Qxc7 24.Nd5 Qc8±]
 23...bxc6
 24.bxc7 Qc8 25.cxb8Q Qxb8
 26.Qa2 Qc8
 27.Bb4 f4 [Black get f4 and hopes to create play against the white king.
 28.Bxc5 dxc5
 29.Qa6 Qb8
 30.Qb7 [White exchange queens and transition to won endgame an exchange up. 50]
 30...Qxb7
 31.Rxb7 Rc8
 32.Ra1 Kg8
 33.Raa7 [#] The bishop pair may compensate the missing exchange, unfortunately the pawn structure restricts both black bishops and the pair of rooks already penetrated black position. The rest of the game is very instructive in how white converts his advantage. 6]
 33...Bf8
 34.Be4 g5 35.Kg2 Bg4
 36.Bf3 Bf5 37.Rc7 g4
 38.Bxc6 Rb8 39.Bd5+ Kh8
 40.Ra8 [White forces more exchanges and restricts the black king with Rc7 and Bd5. 28]
 40...Rxa8
 41.Bxa8 f3+
 42.exf3 Bxd3 [One of the black

bishops break free. 1:15]
 43.Bd5 h5
 44.Rf7 Bg7
 [44...gxf3+ 45.Kxf3 Bh6 46.Be4 Kg8 47.Rc7 Bxc4 48.Rxc5 Bf1 49.Rxe5]
 45.Rd7 Bg6
 46.Rd8+ Kh7
 47.Be4 [White exchanges black active bishop and ends black resistance. 5]
 47...Bxe4
 48.fxe4 Bf6
 49.Rd5
 1-0

(116) Yang, Maxwell (1803) – Riyaan Datta (1369) [A04]

Florida State Scholastic Chp.
 followchess.com (3), 12.03.2022
[Ararat, Miguel]

1.Nf3 c5 [10]
 2.c4
 [2.e4 Black needs to be ready to play a Sicilian after 2.Nf3]
 2...e6
 3.Nc3 a6 [An interesting idea that can adapt to white's choices such as 4.g3, 4.d4 and of course 4.e3. 7]
 [3...Nf6 4.e3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 is a fashionable continuation at both rapid and classical time controls.]
 4.e3
 [4.e4 Qc7 5.g3 d6 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.b3 b6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bb7 11.Bb2 Nc6 12.Rc1 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Rb8 14.Rfd1 0-0 1-0 (42) Vaganian, R (2585)–Portisch, L (2590) Reggio Emilia 1991]
 4...b6
 5.d4 Bb7 [12]
 6.Be2 [6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 b5 8.e4 d6 Black's queenside pawn majority is opposed for white's central pawn majority. Black can develop his dark square bishop on g7 an create a dynamic middle game. 9.Be2 g6 10.0-0 Bg7]
 6...Nf6 [11]
 7.0-0 d5
 [7...Be7?! May be Yang was waiting for black to develop his dark square bishop to e7 to push d4-d5 with an spatial advantage. 8.d5 d6 9.e4 0-0]
 8.cxd5 Nxd5
 9.Nxd5 Bxd5
 [9...Qxd5 10.b3 cxd4=]
 10.b3 Be7

11.Bb2 Bf6 12.Bd3 0-0
 13.Qe2 Nd7 14.e4 Bb7
 15.e5 Be7
 16.Rfd1 The position is balanced but in the next moves black loses the tread of the game. Particularly, Black lacks sense of danger and loses material.
 16...Bd5?!
 17.Be4?!
 [17.Bxa6 wins a pawn.]
 17...Qc7?!
 18.Bxd5 exd5
 19.dxc5 [This discover attack looks attractive, however 19.e6 wins material and centralizes the white queen. 35]
 [Better is 19.e6 fxe6 20.Qxe6+ Rf7 21.Qxd5+--]
 19...Nxc5
 20.Rxd5 Qb7
 21.Rad1 Rad8
 22.R5d2 b5
 23.Qe3 [#] 2:02]
 [23.Nd4 Looks stronger than Qe3, however the white queen attacks the knight on c5 and test black's tactical alertness.]
 23...Qe4?? [Black is eager to trade queens off to fight for a draw. Unfortunately, Black loses material with a series of exchanges that remove the defender of the knight on c5. Yang plays the man and his game strategy pays off. 1:22]
 [23...Ne6 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8 26.h3 [#] Black is close to equality, but needs to work hard and avoid unfavorable exchanges. Particularly, Black needs to keep queens on the board. Importantly, Black needs to avoid a same color bishop endgame with the current pawn structure. The reader can try this exercise and remove queens and knights to check how white's material advantage is easier to convert than with queens and knight on the board.]
 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8
 26.Qxc5 Qb1+ 27.Bc1 Qxa2
 28.Nd2 h6 29.g3 Qa5
 30.b4 Qa1 31.Kg2 Kh7
 32.Nf3 f6 33.Qc2+ Kg8
 34.Qc8 Kh7 35.e6 Be7
 36.Bd2 f5 37.Bc3 Qd1
 38.Qxa6 Qd3 39.Qc6 g5
 40.Qe8 Qd6
 41.Qf7#
 1-0

Light on the Right!

CHESS PEACE

by Tony
Sullivan



"We've called this emergency War Council meeting in light of the enemy seemingly knowing our every move. People...we have a spy in our midst".

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West Regional Report

by Timotey Gospodinov W RVP

Chess has never been so popular in West Florida.



Almost every weekend we have chess tournaments. There are two Sunday tournaments every month in Sarasota. The tournaments in Sarasota are quad 40 minute, 5 second delay) and Swiss (25 minute, 5 second delay). The address for the tournament is 3501 S Tamiami Trail Suite 306, Sarasota, FL 34239 . For more

information you can visit the Manasota Chess Center website - www.manasotachess.org/

In Tampa Krista Alton continues to do monthly chess tournaments for children. For more information visit the Alton Chess Academy 4 Chess website- www.alton4chess.com/



I will finish this article with chess at Saint Petersburg. Right now, the Saint Petersburg Chess Club is Open 3 days per week, but from August we are planning for the club to be open up to 5 days per week (more information will come soon). We continue to do Swiss Chess Tournaments every 1st Saturday of the month and Quad and Blitz tournaments during a different Saturday of that month. We meet every Friday from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm and we have group chess lessons every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. For more information about chess at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club you can visit our website- chessclubjoy.webs.com, or call (727)776-5583.

I want to share with you very exciting news about GM Vladimir Georgiev, who moved to live in West Florida and will help chess in Saint Petersburg prosper. Very soon he will be a special guest at one of my tournaments, and by end of May he will do a simul at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club.

As a chess coach with over 20 years of chess

coaching experience, GM Vladimir Georgiev has trained and helped many world class chess players:

-His most prominent student is GM Jeffery Xiong - World Champion U20 (2016) and winner of World Open (2019).

-Coach of Carissa Yup during the Cairns cup 2020
Coach of the US Youth Team at the World Youth Championship in Uruguay 2017

-Coach of GM Antoaneta Stefanova · 2004 Women's World Chess Champion in Elista Russia · Runner-up in the 2012 Women's World Chess Championship

-Present Qualifications · FIDE Trainer in 2004 · Grandmaster in 2000.

-WGM Nurgul Salimova – U12 World Champion in 2015,

Among Vladimir's students are many US chess prodigies as:

-Dimitar Mardov, who won the K3 Championship & K3 Blitz Championship in SuperNationals VI 2017.

-Artur Xu - silver medalist from World Chess Cadets U10 2017 in Poços de Caldas.

-FM Maggie Feng – she tied 4 - 7 th place in Women US Championship 2017.

-Emily Nguyen -3 times played US Women Championship.

He participated in 8 Olympics games as a player and 1 as a coach.

Played vs Carlsen and Caruana and other Top players before moving to USA in 2014. I am so excited to work and learn many things from him.

Lastly, I want to share how greatly the participants of the Saint Petersburg Chess Club did at Florida State. 13 players from the Saint Petersburg Chess Club participated at the Florida State Scholastic Championship in Orlando and all of them did very good. Some top finishers include- Vikram (tied for 2nd place), Taarak (2nd place), Antony (tied for 2nd place), Ishan (tied for 4th place), Tanisha (5th place), and Paul (5th place). It was an amazing tournament with over 400 players overall!

5 players from SPCC participated in the Dr. John G. Harris Chess Championship in Gainesville. Two brothers from the Saint Petersburg Chess Club tied for 1st place. The names of Antony Gospodinov and Lyubomir Gospodinov will forever stay on the plaque at the University of Florida! (photo: top of next page)



North West Regional Report

By Daa'im Shabazz NW RVP



As society moves to social normalcy, chess activities in the Florida panhandle seem to be picking up. In the capital city of Tallahassee, regular meetings have drawn 10-20 players on Saturdays from 2-5 at Black Dog Cafe. There are plans to begin tournaments with separate spring and summer events.



Black Dog Café @ Lake Ella



Pensacola also meets at BAM on 9 Mile Road.



There is also a thriving Homeschool Chess Club. It is associated with the First Baptist Church (located 500 N. Palafox St) and the meetings are held in the library. They meet on Tuesdays at 11:30am.

Central Region Report

The FCA Board of Directors would like to thank Paul Leggett for his service as Central Florida Regional V.P. Paul has resigned his Board position, in good standing, to focus on family and personal matters. We wish him well in his endeavors.



Northeast Regional Report

By Ray Ratliff NE RVP

In this edition of Spotlight on the NE Region, we are highlighting “casual chess”. Casual chess is not rated but can be played in many different ways. You can choose to use a clock or not, talk as much or as little as you want and in my experience, be offered “take-backs” when I blunder my queen on move 8! I love playing chess and thoroughly enjoy both rated and unrated chess for their similarities and differences. So if you’re interested, here are three great people and places to check out in our area.



Estelle Thibodeau of the Cheesy Chess Club in St Augustine, Florida. Estelle has a casual chess meet up at The Cheba Hut every Wednesday. I spoke to Estelle about what drives her to play and organize chess in her area and overwhelming, she speaks to the social aspect of the game. A casual setting lends itself to sharing ideas during the game and she believes that one of the most amazing things about chess is the feeling of empowerment that comes from making choices throughout the game. Go to St. Augustine and enjoy the treasure that is the Cheesy Chess Club. “Chess can be intense and ignites your brain”- Estelle Thibodeau.

Joseph Libretto of the Jacksonville Chess Meet Up in Jacksonville, FL. Joe has a casual chess meet up every Sunday at the Aardwolf Brewing Company. Based on his passion for the game, it was no surprise to me when he recently started his Sunday meet up. For this article, I asked him what got him into chess and what he enjoys the most about chess. Like the others in this article, Joe spoke to the love of the chess community. The people make it worth it he says. The characters that you meet and share this similar interest with makes for great connections and friendships. Being a competitive player, Joe also spoke to the importance of playing chess casually because of the unique learning opportunities that come from taking through the game while you play. If you’re in Jax on a Sunday, come get a game in with Joe. “I was interested in a game that didn’t rely on luck” – Joe Libretto



Tony Cipollina of the Volusia County Chess Club in Daytona Beach. Tony has casual chess on Saturdays at their local Barnes and Nobles. Tony is very passionate about bringing people together and he believes chess is a great way to do that. Chess is a game that anyone can play and everyone is welcome at the Volusia County Chess club. Tony has been playing chess since his father taught him at the age of four. Now, Tony says that chess can be a bridge for those learning the game and can prepare them to enter a tournament one day. He believes that casual chess is a great way to meet new people and just get out of the house and play! Come to Daytona Beach and play some chess with Tony and his friends on Saturdays. “Chess brings people together”- Anthony “Tony” Cipollina

Whatever your reason is to play chess, get out and play! I echo everything said by Estelle, Joe and Tony. Chess is an awesome community and you are all very welcome to come out and join in!

South Regional Report

By Jon Haskel S RVP

For possibly the first time ever, a Palm Beach County championship was held for all levels on April 9. There have been many scholastic Palm Beach County championships, but as far as I know, not one with an Open (non-scholastic) section. This tournament took place at the Hellenic Cultural Center of the St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in West Palm Beach and it was organized by Antonios Loudaros. Finishing as the Palm Beach County Champion was Samuel Wohl. The scholastic County champions were as follows: Teddy Soylemez (K-1), Cameron Greene (K-3), Emily Yu (K-5), Marvin Gao (K-8) and Christian Farese (K-12).

The South Florida Grand Prix concluded its twelfth year on May 7, this past year at the Franklin Academy in Cooper City. The Grand Prix first place winners for the year were: Olivia Asselta (K-1), Brooke Kelly (K-3), Oscar Williams (K-5), Andras Breznayan (K-8) and John Ligotti (K-12). This grand prix will be returning to the Franklin Academy in Cooper City for 2022-2023. There will also be a grand prix in Palm Beach County in the upcoming year. Both of these grand prix's are being run by the Boca Raton Chess Club, www.bocachess.com.

Palm Beach Chess is continuing to run a quad tournament and a blitz tournament each month in northern Palm Beach County. The email address for more information is nmbtillis@gmail.com.

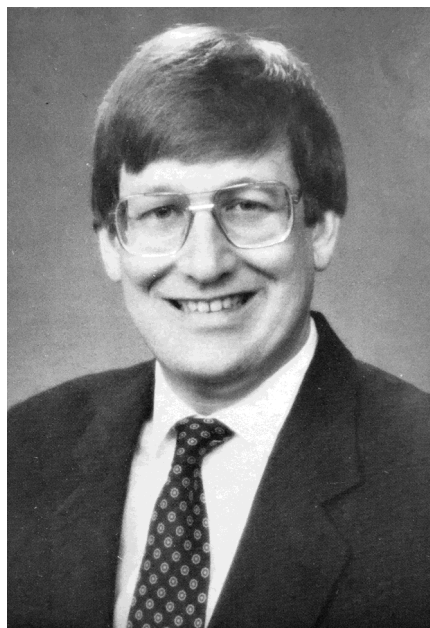
In Fort Lauderdale, the Fireman's Cove Chess Club is currently meeting on Wednesdays and Sundays at the Panera Bread on Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. The club's email address is FortLauderdaleChess@gmail.com.

The South Miami Chess Club is continuing to run monthly tournaments at Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124th Street, Pinecrest, FL 33156. For more information send an email to southmiamicc@gmail.com.

Chess Club "Bobby Fischer" has been running a chess league in Miami. For more information send an email to chessclubbobbyfischer@gmail.com.

The 954 Chess held its Inaugural Maverick Open May 14-15. The champion was Raghav Venkat. 954 Chess is also running a tournament game every Friday night in Coral Springs. For more information send an email to 954chess@gmail.com.

The Chess Wizard's Wayback Machine



Nick Paleveda

1993

**Florida State
Champion...
Again!**

Brush with Fame

Interview of GM Ron W Henley by Miguel Ararat Part One

I have the privilege of sharing time with GM Ron Henley at two major chess tournaments every year. The 1st event is National Grade in Orlando and the 2nd event is the Florida Scholastic Chess Championship. GM Henley has a long career as a chess player, writer and coach (including twelve world chess champions Anatoly Karpov). GM Henley's charming personality, extensive theoretical and practical knowledge of chess make him a valued asset to the State of Florida, especially as a coach of young talents. In this series of three articles, I will offer the readers of floridaCHESS an overview of Henley's chess career, instructive games and his opinion on the key topic of chess improvement.

1. What year/accomplishments are the highlight of your chess career?

RH - As you know Miguel, a "chess career can have multiple facets – playing, publishing, teaching and promotion.

Playing – Let's start here since this is where most of us begin. I did not find organized chess until the very late age of 15 (!) - which is ancient by today's standards. Before that, I beat pretty much everyone I played – the science teacher at school, the scout master and his sons, the neighbor and even won a few chess and checkers trophies at the Variety Boys Club in Houston! January of 1972 I walked into the Houston Chess Club at 4714 Fannin owned by Lynne Babcock and played my first rated tournament that weekend to earn a rating of 1465. On November 11, 1974 the US Chess Federation mailed me the USCF Master's Certificate, which is probably about as quick as anyone has gone from Class C to Master!

A few years later, at the age of 17, I won the Texas State Champion Title, but did not win the tournament. Years later, history would repeat itself in the nineties where I became New Jersey State Champion, but again did not actually win the tournament!

One of the most famous stories about the Bill Goichberg, CCA World Open is that in 1975, 19 year old Alan Treffer, was rated only 2045, but tied for first place with Pal Benko first with a score of 8-1, defeating future GM Michael Rhode in the last round. Treffer then quit chess and by age 27, Treffer later founded Pegasys-systems – now a multinational software company – in 1983. A little known fact was I was undefeated with 5 wins and four draws (including GMs Rossolimo and Benko) which was quite a feat for me at the time, but little or no prize money! In 1977, I tied for first with future GM John Fedorowicz, but of course he played much tougher opposition and deservedly got first on tie-breaks. I employed the "Swiss Gambit", losing the second round to a 2100 player and then with softer pairing reeling off seven straight wins. However, the last round game with black versus future GM Garcia Palermo was nice as I remember a knight sacrifice on f2 or so!

In 1976/1977, I attended University of South Florida on one of the first ever US Chess Scholarships arranged by 3x Florida State Champion Nicholas Paleveda and his brother Karl. Along with GM Larry Christiansen we crushed the Pan American Collegiate Team Championships with an 8-0 team score. In the second half of the school year, I stayed on at USF and won the Association of College Unions International Individual Championship.

Internationally, in the late seventies and early eighties, I won tournaments in Tunja Colombia and the Biel Master Section as well as the Third Board Prize at a Student Olympiad in Mexico City where the revered Arnold Denker was our Team Captain. That trip has wonderful memories as Arnold and I would go for long walks. It was not a question of him conveying chess knowledge, but more importantly, he exerted a calming stabilizing influence on an inexperienced young player. This allowed me have a professional tournament routine and to perform at my best. Against the very powerful Soviet Team, I drew my individual game versus GM Kochiev and playing on board one, I won the last round with white in a King's Indian versus future GM Paul Motwani.

Without a doubt, my chess-playing career culminated in the two Madame Suharto Pertamina Cup Tournaments of the early 1980's. Recognizing that chess is a relatively inexpensive but valuable educational tool, the First Lady undertook to promote chess in Indonesia by holding a monster super strong 25 round FIDE tournament. The best two or three players from the major chess powers of the day – England, USA, Hungary, Yugoslavia etcetera, along with the best young Indonesian players were invited. The idea was to give the young local players the opportunity to earn the highly prized Grandmaster title in one event. Who could imagine that at the end of the grueling 6 week, 25 round event, that an unknown American IM and 6x US Champion Walter Browne would tie for first place with 17.5 out of 25? As it turned out, the pairing were quite favorable as I had managed to hold and eke out a modest plus with the Black pieces against the strongest and most famous GMs. During the tournament, the late Walter Browne and I worked and trained together, so with white pieces, my play was quite leading edge and sharp. This paid off nicely with 10 wins and 2 draws! I consider my best games was Henley – Maninang. <https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1616474>

However, the most important game of my career was the last round where I needed a win to secure a tie for first place and the lifetime goal of the Grandmaster Title – <https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1097453>

2. MA: Any recent tournament performance to share with our readers?

RH: Old Tigers can still bite!

Below is the cross table from the 2022 Florida State Scholastics Friends and Family Blitz Tournament where I was able to eke out a tough match win versus the perennial champion and noted Chessables author NM Bryan Tillis!

SwissSys Standings: 2022 Scholastic Blitz: Friends and Family

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	T-Med	T-Solk	T-Cum
1	1	Ronald W Henley	10393701	2456	WW6	WW4	WD2	WW5	7.5	15.5	19.5	19
2	2	Bryan Tillis	12893033	2255	WW3	WW8	DL1	WW7	6.5	17.5	21.5	17
3	3	Marco-Gabriel Casares		unr.	LL2	WW10	WW6	WW8	6.0	14.5	17.5	12
4	4	Marcos Casares		unr.	WW10	LL1	WL5	WW9	5.0	14.5	17.5	12
5	5-8	Kiani Walker	17100775	1417	WL7	WW9	WL4	LL1	4.0	16.5	19.5	12
6		Felipe Lemos		unr.	LL1	WW12	LL3	WW11	4.0	14.5	14.5	8
7		Oliver Peraud		unr.	WL5	WW11	WL9	LL2	4.0	13.5	14.5	12
8		Ernesto Pagano		unr.	WW11	LL2	WW12	LL3	4.0	13.5	13.5	12
9	9-10	Timotey Dimitrov Gospod	13797483	1842	WW12	LL5	WL7	LL4	3.0	13	13	10
10		Daniel Hood		unr.	LL4	LL3	WL11	WW12	3.0	12	12	4
11	11	Roman Liuson		700	LL8	LL7	WL10	LL6	1.0	11	15	2
12	12	Katherine Rosenthal		unr.	LL9	LL6	LL8	LL10	0.0	10	14	0

Brd	White	Black	#	Name	Total
155	Ronald W Henley	Kiani Walker	1	Ronald W Henley	7.5
156	Oliver Peraud	Bryan Tillis	2	Bryan Tillis	6.5
157	Ernesto Pagano	Marco-Gabriel Casares	3	Marco-Gabriel Casares	6.0
158	Timotey Dimitrov Gospod	Marcos Casares	4	Marcos Casares	5.0
159	Felipe Lemos	Roman Liuson	5	Kiani Walker	4.0
160	Katherine Rosenthal	Daniel Hood	6	Felipe Lemos	4.0
			7	Oliver Peraud	4.0
			8	Ernesto Pagano	4.0
			9	Timotey Dimitrov Gospod	3.0
			10	Daniel Hood	3.0
			11	Roman Liuson	1.0
			12	Katherine Rosenthal	0.0

In the next issue of floridaCHESS we will continue the interview with GM Henley answering the following questions. So stay tuned.

3. What moments/experiences do you remember from the time you coach Anatoly Karpov?
4. In your opinion who is/are the best chess players and why?
5. What are your thoughts about Magnus Carlsen dominance in chess?
6. Any advice for scholastic players looking to get better at chess?

The Most Common Opening Mistake!?

by NM Bryan Tillis

This article was inspired by my work doing game analysis for Chessable at all of the USCF National events in 2022. This is easily the top 'mistake' from players under the USCF rating of 1600 in the opening.



NM Bryan Tillis 2021 Grade Level Nationals

Let's first define mistake - an action or judgment that is misguided or wrong. Not on the level of a blunder which would likely lose the game. I feel the need to define this before I have coaches and students complaining due to semantics. This opening issue has been played many times even by top players but it is an error **if you aim to play for a win**.

The name of the game is imbalances, and we need to play for them if ambitious!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 In scholastic chess almost all coaches teach the pure old school perspective of "Best by Test" starting with an investigation of 1.e4. This is a common approach but often flexible plans are missed and the student attempt to play these first three moves with White versus everything! This overgeneralization causes issues when playing against any opening that is not 1... e5. **#Diagram 1**

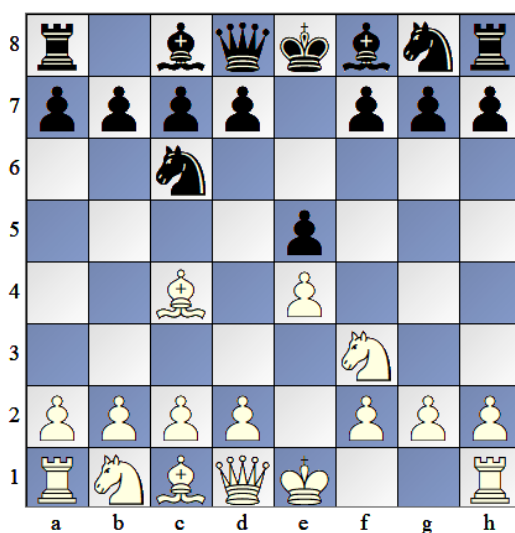


Diagram 1

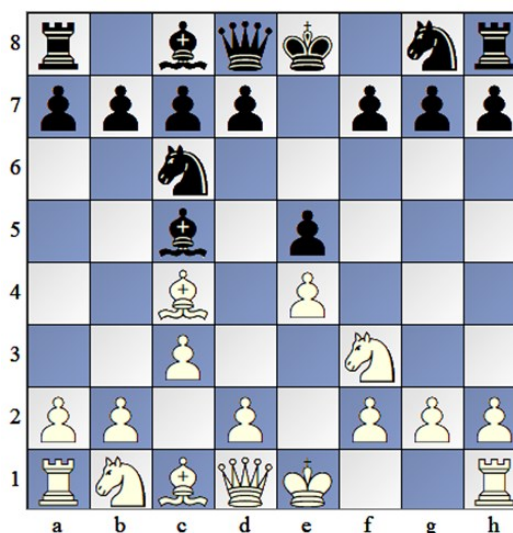


Diagram 2

3...Bc5 (3...Nf6 4.Nc3 Nxe4 A common tactical motif that both sides missed often. Black wins nearly 70% of the games in the database when this position is reached.)

4.Nc3 This position has been reached nearly 13,000 times in the Chessbase online database with many of the top players including Vladimir Kramnik playing it. I in no way claim to know something they do not but I do find that when top players are just wanting a game they will choose a variation which is quite equal to not worry about showing their preparation or running into the opponents preparation. So, why is this a mistake? It is completely inflexible compared to the mainline. The game is fully equal from this position and statistics show that Black wins more games than White. We will investigate and compare this line to the mainline.

4...Nf6 5.d3 d6 It is at this point that most Scholastic players throw in both h3 and h6 without any thought. A point of knowledge: there are many variations where a bishop traveling to g5 or g4 could be a mistake. I have always had a rule: "Never interrupt your opponent when they are making a mistake." I will not go into the details of when and when not to play h3 and h6 but any player using this position with either color needs to have mastery of this concept. Explore Chessable courses on 1.e4 e5 for more details.*

6.h3 Of course, there are many moves that can be tried but the overall structure and piece play is set. With no direct favorable imbalances it is very difficult to get blood from a stone and an advantage with White.

6...h6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Be3 Bb6 It is around this point that odd moves take place as both players are unsure what to do and what the plan may be in the position. It is not completely clear what should be done.

9.Bxb6 axb6 10.d4 It is hard to suggest another idea that could create an imbalance.

10...exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 d5= This tactical combination reaches full equality. **#Diagram 3**

Now, let's take a look at the mainline:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 By far the main move with nearly 66,000 games. Why is this so

much better than the previous natural developing move? Imbalance! It creates an imbalance that Black can't copy. Outplaying the opponent and winning simple chess games comes from the gradual collection of favorable imbalances until victory. **#Diagram 2**

4...Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bb3 The most flexible move as White may want to drop the bishop back into c2 to keep tension in some variations.

7...a6 The most popular option for Black.

(7...Bg4 One of those times allowing the bishop to g4 is favorable. A good reason to not automatically play h3. I will let the reader figure out why this wins nearly 80% of the games for White in practice.)

8.Nbd2 Ba7 9.h3 The move now has a purpose as we want to play Re1 to protect the e-pawn as well as clear a path for the d2-knight to f1. We can't play Re1 immediately due to the threat of Ng4.

9...h6 Black can't play Re8 without this move.

10.Re1 Re8 (Another popular line for Black: 10...Nh5 11.Nf1 Qf6 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 Nf4 14.Kh2 Ne7 15.d4 An interesting line following 1-0 (44) Quesada Perez,Y (2593)-Li,B (2361) Lichess.org INT 2021.)

11.Nf1 Be6 12.Ng3 White has two plans to choose from: **1)** Slam the center and change the character of the position at some point or **2)** Continue playing on the kingside with the flexible knights as seen in the following. **#Diagram 4**

12...d5 13.exd5 Bxd5 14.Bc2 Qd7 15.Nh4 Rad8 16.Nhf5 This position has been reached many times in practice one good example game being 1-0 (36) Sarana,A (2656)-Rapport,R (2763) Chess.com INT 2021.

Let's take a final look at both positions at move 12:

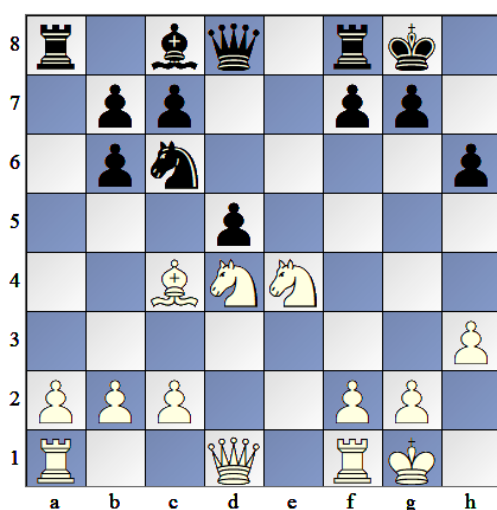


Diagram 3

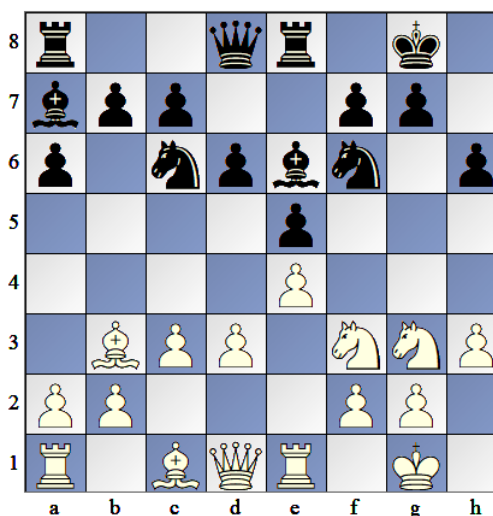


Diagram 4

Overall, I hope the reader enjoyed this article and appreciates the concept of creating imbalances a bit more. After writing a text on the French Defense and fighting against the Exchange Variation to win I began to appreciate the importance of favorable imbalances if seeking victory in simple positions.

Grace Family Home School Co-op All Girls Team Lutz, Florida

Christian based "Grace Family Home School Co-op" is located in Lutz, Florida. Coach McKnight teaches chess to anyone signing up from K through 12 grade. He has been the chess coach for the last 17 years but the All-Girls Team was just created last year. They began with 3 but within a few weeks they grew to 5 and with their latest addition this month they are now 6. The team consists of two 7th graders, three 8th graders and with the newest team member, Luna Barreneche, a third grader. Unfortunately, Luna was just a bit too new to play in this State Championship tournament but Coach McKnight says she is very anxious to get started. The team meets 2 days per week for practice and will continue through the summer.

The State Championship results were not exactly what they had hoped for but Coach McKnight thinks the future looks very bright for the team. Saturday was a learning experience for the team as they only won 3 points and 2 of those were bye's in the first 3 rounds. The team was in last place and things were not looking good. The girls may have been under-estimating just how good the competition was and it was hard to look at the disappointment in their eyes Saturday evening Coach reminded them that, no matter what, the game still must be played on the board. Dinner, a prayer and some tasty ice-cream put everybody, including the parents, in a good frame of mind for Sunday. They came back with a fighting spirit and almost pulled off the impossible. Coach McKnight said, "I can't ever remember any of my teams going from dead last to 4th place." Needless to say, they all learned a great deal from this experience and are looking forward to next year's Florida State Scholastic Championship.



(Left to Right) Rich McKnight (Coach), Bernice Orellana, Mary J. Harre, Mariah Cordani, and Sofia Barreneche, in front is Luna Barreneche and Aleah Harre.

Book Review

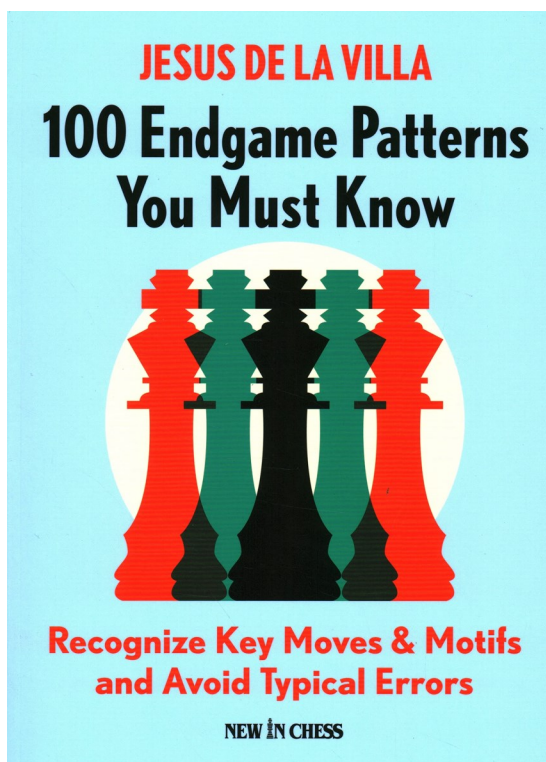
by Miguel Ararat



100 Endgame Patterns You Must Know: Recognize Key Moves & Motifs and Avoid Typical Errors

by Jesus De La Villa

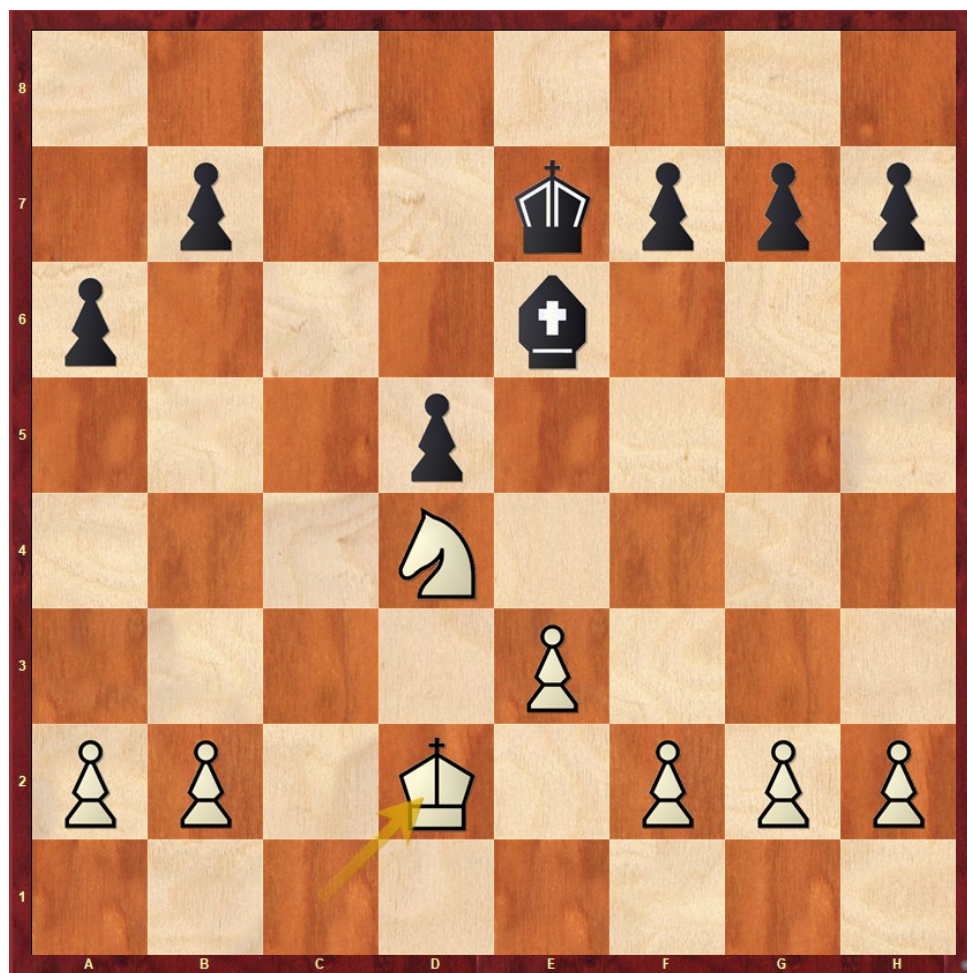
In this issue of floridaCHESS I will come back to the review of one book per issue as the readers have requested. Deciding on a single book to examine is a serious task. Here are the parameters to select 100 chess end patterns that you need to know by GM Jesus of the Villa to be at the center of this review. Firstly, the book covers a subject that is of interest to a wide range of players (rather than a niche, such as opening books). Second, the material in the book must be workable and provide enough exercises for the potential reader to become a better chess player. Finally, the author must have considerable experience in the field under consideration.



In the first part of the Villa book explains his reasoning behind the selection of models for study. Luckily, the author finds value in games played by amateurs as a source of material for study. This should encourage amateur players to be confident in producing endgames with a publishing value. De la Villa uses a clear language to explain one hundred endgames patterns to his audience. The author presents each pattern with a short paragraph. In this introduction, the author explains why the pattern is important, and in some cases point the audience to additional high quality content for self-study.

For example, in page 212, De la Villa explains the Isolated Queen Pawn (IQP) in the endgame. Firstly, De la Villa underlines the only situation in which a bishop defending the IQP is in trouble against a knight. Then, the author suggests the reader the 1974 world chess match between Karpov and Korchnoi as a source of high-level IQP positions. So, from the introductory paragraph to the pattern the reader knows what positions to avoid and where to find quality material to study!

The model game to learn the IQP pattern is the game Flohr vs Capablanca, Moscow 1935



I explore this game in depth in 2013 out of curiosity. It turned out years later that it was a study position in the FIDE seminar to become a FIDE instructor in 2018. De la Villa's explanations are amazing. In particular, how the writer uses the game Belavenets – Rauzer, Moscow, 1937 to illustrate when the bishop defending the IQP is not a match for a knight. In four pages the authors provide you with everything you need to know to master one of the classic chess endgames.

At the end of the book, the reader can resolve a hundred positions to test his newly acquired endgame skills. Significantly, the puzzles in Chapter 16 offer the audience an opportunity to learn more about each pattern. In my opinion, **100 Chess Endgame Patterns you Must Know** help the reader to identify relevant endgame patterns, improve his calculation and the process to select candidate moves. As the calculation and selection of candidate moves in the endgame become more efficient, this translates into better practical results over the board, even in short time controls. Who will benefit the most from the studying of **100 Chess Endgame Patterns you Must Know**? In a nutshell, the inquisitive player interested in the endgame and enhancing his decision-making process. Lately, many coaches and writers (like Azel Chua) point to the study of endgame as the battlefield to improve at chess. I'm going to cover this in the second part of my interview with GM Ron Henly (the first part of this interview is available in this issue of floridaCHESS). In **100 Chess Endgame Patterns you Must Know**, the author fulfills the promise to provide the chess player with a hundred endgame patterns to eliminate recurrent mistakes in his game.

PHOTO GALLERY

(Want to see your event here? Send a few photos from the event to George@floridachess.org)

Florida Scholastic Championship

(more awards photos!!! And find even more at [FloridaChess.org](https://www.FloridaChess.org)'s Facebook page)





Chess for Charity



Florida Scholastic Championship (Team rooms!)



Bach Ngo earns his second IM Norm at the Charlotte Spring Invitational.

The Charlotte Spring Invitational - IM (B) was a 10-player round-robin tournament taking place March 16-20, 2022, in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA.

(1) Plotkin, Mark (2400) – Ngo, Bach (2296) [D37]

Charlotte Spring IMB 2022 Charlotte USA (6.2), 19.03.2022

[Bach Ngo]

1.c4 [A small surprise, expected was either e4 or d4]

1...Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 [As my opponent seemed to be trying to avoid more conventional theory, I chose to play the most challenging reply]

[3...c5 Also a move, but rather symmetrical and drawish]

4.e3 [Avoiding mainlines after 4.d4]

4...Be7 5.d4 0-0 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 a6 [7...c5 Also playable 8.0-0 a6 9.a4 cxd4 10.exd4 (10.Nxd4 Bd7) 10...Nc6 And play against the isolated pawn]

8.a4 b6 [8...c5]

9.0-0 Bb7 10.Qe2 c5 [Hindering e4]

11.dxc5 [11.Rd1 I was more concerned about this rather than 11.dxc5, but it turns out there is not much to worry about after 11...Qc7 12.e4 (12.d5 exd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Rxd5 Bf6) 12...cxd4 13.Nxd4 Nc6 14.Nxc6 Qxc6= Slightly easier play for Black]

11...bxc5 [Trying to discourage e4 by threatening outposts on d4 and b4]

[11...Bxc5?! 12.e4 Nc6 13.e5 Nd5 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Rd1 Isolated pawn gives Black problems, slightly easier to play for White]

12.e4 Nc6 13.e5 Nd5 [13...Nd7 More accurate 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Bf4 Rfd8 16.Ne4 Na5 17.Bd3 Bd5 18.Nfg5 h6 19.Qh5 Bxg5 20.Nxg5 Nf8 White has no attack]

14.Rd1 [I calculated 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Rd1 Nb4 16.Bd2 (16.Bb3 a5) 16...a5 17.Bxb4 axb4 18.Rd2 d4 With no issues]

14...Na5 15.Bd3 [15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Ba2 c4]

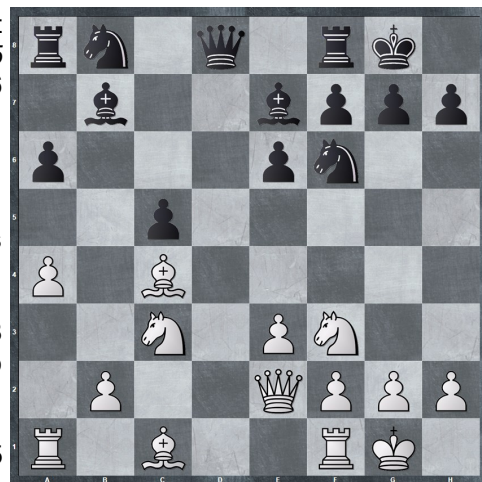
15...Nb3 [Black can neutralize White's play by eliminating one of the two bishops]

16.Rb1 [Calculated 16.Bxh7+ Kh8? (Better is 16...Kxh7 17.Qc2+ Kg8 18.Qxb3 Qc7 19.Bg5 c4 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Qc3 Rab8 With strong compensation for the pawn) 17.Nxd5 (Missed 17.Be4! Nxc3 (17...Nxa1 18.Nh4! Kg8 19.Qh5 f5 20.Bxd5! exd5 21.Ng6 Qd7 22.Ne2±) 18.bxc3 Bxe4 19.Rxd8 Raxd8 20.Nd2 Bc2 21.Nxb3 Rd1+ 22.Qxd1 Bxd1 23.Bg5 Bxb3 24.Bxe7 Rc8±) 17...Bxd5 18.Nd4 (18.Nd2 Nxc1 19.Qh5 Ne2+) 18...Nxc1 19.Qh5 Bg5 20.Be4+ Bh6 21.Nf5 Qg5]

16...Nxc1 17.Rbxc1 Qb6 18.Bb1 Rfd8 19.Ne4 Qb3?! [At this point I didn't know what to do. Black has the two bishops, but I couldn't find a good plan.]

[19...Rab8 20.Qc2 g6 21.h4 Ba8 22.Rd2 Qb4 White's pieces are very much tangled and uncoordinated.]

20.g3 h6 21.Bc2 Qb6 22.Nfd2 Nb4 23.Nc4 Qc7 24.Ncd6= [Black has lost all advantage, wasting several moves with the queen and allowing White to force off the two bishops]



24...Nxc2 25.Rxc2 Bxe4 26.Qxe4 Rab8 27.Qf4 Bxd6 28.exd6 Qc6 29.Rdd2 Rb6 30.b4? [Falling for the small trap 29...Rb6 sets]

30...Qb7 31.Qe5 Rxb4 32.Qxc5 Rb1+ [32...Rxa4 Gives more chances 33.Rc1 Rb4 34.h4 Rb5 35.Qc7 Rd7 36.Qxb7 Rbxb7 37.Rc6 a5 38.Ra6 Rb5 Black saved a few tempi]

33.Rc1 Qb4 34.Qxb4 Rxb4 35.Rc7 Rxa4 36.Rb2 Ra5 37.Rb6 Rd5 38.Rxa6 [38.Rbb7 Also close to a draw 38...Rf5 39.Rb6 a5 40.Ra7 g5 41.Kg2 Kg7 42.h3 h5 43.Rc6]

38...R8xd6 39.Ra8+ Rd8 40.Rxd8+ Rxd8 [Of course, at this point I thought that the game was more or less drawn, as a 4vs3 rook endgame is nothing much. However, as I needed at least 3/4 in the last 4 games, there was no harm in pushing]

41.h4 g5 [41...h5 And a complete draw]

42.hxg5 hxg5 43.Kg2 Kg7 44.Rc5 Rd5 45.Rc8 Kg6 46.g4 Rd3 47.Ra8 Kg7 48.Rb8 Kf6 49.Rg8 Rd5 50.Kg3 Ke7 51.Ra8 Rd3+ 52.Kg2 Rc3 53.Rg8 Rc5 54.Ra8 Kd6 55.Rf8 Rc7 56.Rg8 f6 57.Ra8 Rc5 58.Ra4 Kd5 59.f3 [Almost everything is a draw for White, and f3 is no exception. It did feel like a small achievement at the board though, as the second-rank is weakened along with the dark squares]

59...Rc6 60.Kg3 Rc4 61.Ra5+ Rc5 62.Ra4 f5 [Didn't see any other way to try and make progress]

63.gxf5 exf5 64.Ra8 Ke5 65.Re8+ Kf6 66.Rf8+ Kg7 67.Ra8 Rc3 68.Ra7+ Kg6 69.Kg2 Rc2+ 70.Kf1 [I was happy with this resulting position during the game compared to the previous 4vs3, as although it is obviously still very much a draw, White's king is forced to the bank-rank and Black has control over the second-rank, allowing ideas for a Black king rush]

70...Kf6 71.Ra5 Rb2 72.Rc5 Kg6 73.Ra5 Rc2 74.Rb5 Ra2 75.Rc5 f4 [Creating ideas of trying to go around on the left]

76.Rc8 Kf5 77.Rc5+ Kg6 78.Rc8 Kf6 79.Rc5 Rb2 80.Ra5 Kg6 81.Ra8 Rb5 82.Kg2 Kf5 83.Rg8 Rb2+ 84.Kf1 Rd2 85.Ke1 Rc2 86.Kf1 Rh2 [The only point of this move is to bait the king to g1, where it cannot get back to e1 in time to chase the rook away. White can of course ignore it, as it does nothing, and what my opponent did in the game is still a draw]

87.Kg1 Rd2 88.Kf1 Ke5 [The only way to try and win]

89.Rxg5+ Kd4 90.Ra5?! [This makes drawing much more difficult]

[90.Ke1! Rc2 91.Ra5 Rc3 92.Kf2 Rc2+ 93.Ke1 Ke3 94.Ra3+]

90...Ke3 91.Ra3+ Rd3 92.Ra8 Kxf3 93.Kg1 Rd1+ 94.Kh2 [White finds the correct idea of putting the king on the short side]

94...Ke2 [Imprecise as White can force a draw]

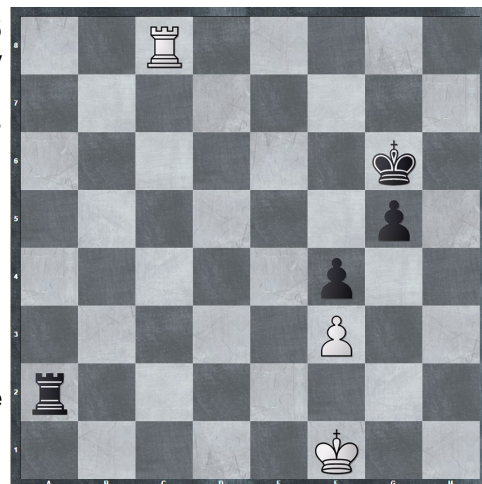
[94...Re1 95.Ra3+ Re3 96.Ra8 Kf2 Still a draw of course but tricky 97.Ra1 f3 98.Rb1 (But not 98.Ra2+?? Kf1 99.Ra1+ Re1 100.Ra3 f2 101.Kg3 Kg1) 98...Re2 99.Ra1 Re3 100.Rb1=]

95.Rf8?? [The losing move. White had to follow up with the idea of putting the king on the short side by putting the rook on the long side.]

[95.Kg2 f3+ 96.Kg3 Rg1+ 97.Kf4 f2 98.Ra2+ Ke1 99.Ra1+ Ke2=; 95.Ra4 Also a draw 95...f3 96.Kg3]

95...f3 96.Re8+ Kf1 97.Rf8 Rd2+ 98.Kh1 f2 99.Ra8 Ke1 100.Re8+ Re2 101.Rf8 Re5 [101...f1Q+?? 102.Rxf1+ Kxf1=]

102.Kg2 Rg5+ 0-1



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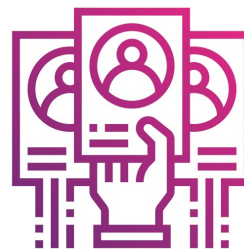
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Call For Nominations



Per our Bylaws, we are requesting FCA members nominate themselves or other current members to run for the upcoming elections for the FCA Board of Directors in July. We are always looking for leaders, not just chess players, who will make time to further chess in our state. Please email Elections@floridachess.org or go to www.floridachess.org Governance Tab to the Election Headquarter page for details.

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CHESS CALENDAR

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Date	Event	Location	Contact
2022			
May 21	Florida Senior Open Championship	The Villages Chess Club	FCA
May 28	Palm Beach Quads	303 Anchorage Dr, North Palm Beach	PBC
May 27-29	Bobby Fischer Chess League Open IV	300 SW 107 AVE Suite 205,Miami	BFCC
June 3-5	Sunshine Open	13351 State Road 535, Orlando	CFCC
June 12	Monthly Mega Quad	3501 South Tamiami Trail, #306, Sarasota	MCC
June 24	OCG Quick & Scholastic Open	865 N State Route 434 ,Altamonte Springs	OCGC
July 9&10	North Florida Class Tournament	Holliday Inn Baymeadows & I-295	JCC
July 12	July Action Chess	3333 Northlake Blvd #3, Palm Beach Gardens	PBC
July 16	Bughouse Summer Bash	1435 Atlantic Blvd, Jacksonville	SCO
July 24	Monthly Super Swiss	3501 South Tamiami Trail, #306, Sarasota	MCC

*Additional Tournament info at FloridaChess.org and ChessRegister.com

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Hanley Chess Academy	Michael Sheroff

2022 Magazine Publishing Schedule

1st Quarter (Winter) – Articles and Photos Due January 30, Publishing Date February 20
 2nd Quarter (Spring) – Articles and Photos Due April 30, Publishing Date May 20
 3rd Quarter (Summer) – Articles and Photos Due July 30, Publishing Date August 20
 4th Quarter (Fall) – Articles and Photos Due October 30, Publishing Date November 20

Organizers: Please contact the clearing house when scheduling a tournament.

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