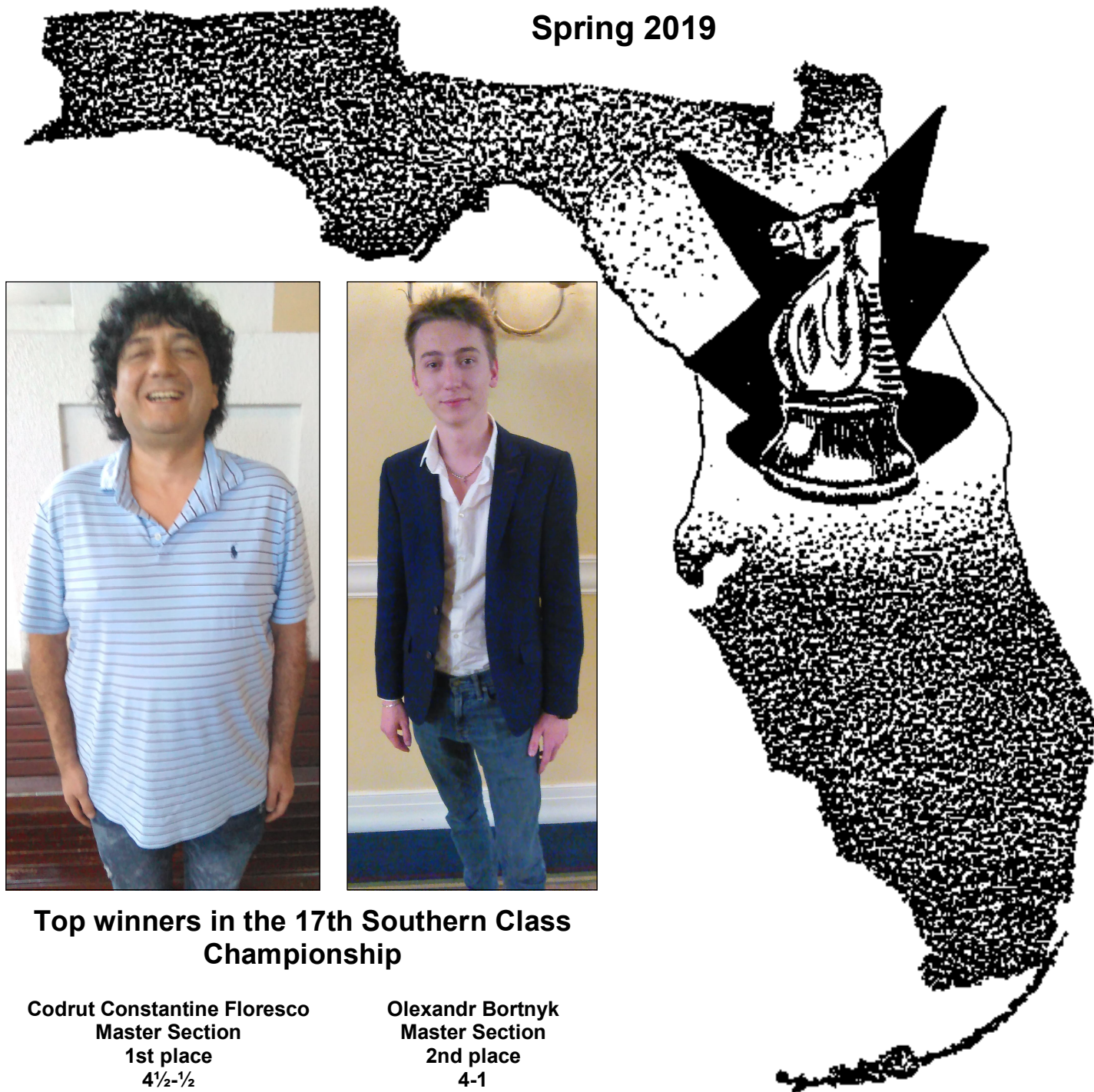


Florida **CHESS**

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Spring 2019



Top winners in the 17th Southern Class Championship

Codrut Constantine Floresco
Master Section
1st place
4½-½

Olexandr Bortnyk
Master Section
2nd place
4-1
Blitz Champion 8-0

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Contents

Editor Speaks & President's Message	3
Chess in the North-East Region of FL by George Foote	4
Upset wins at the US Amateur Team South Champ by Ben Chen	4
FCA's Membership Growth	4
"New" players rise to the top of Southern Class by David Hater	5
Chess in the Central Region of FL by Paul Leggett	6
Chess in the South Region of FL by Bryan Tillis	6
Theo Slade presents his best game from the Southern Class	8
Game from the Southern Class where the GM lost	9
Move by Move: Caruana by Lakdawala Book Review by Theo Slade	10
Chess Lessons by Theo Slade	11
Chess in the West Region of FL by Krista Alton	11
Some games from recent events by Miguel Ararat	12
1st Capitol City Open by Daa'im Shabazz	15
The Pro Chess League by Brian Tillis	17
2019 Georgia Open & Tri-State Championship by Tim Staley	21
Reviews by Miguel Ararat	22
2019 CFCC Winter Open by Steven Vigil	24
Florida School for the Deaf & Blind Chess Team by Kevin Pryor	25
All Girls National Chess Championship by Tim Tusing	26
Calendar of Events	27

Florida Champions

State	Jorge Leon Oquendo	Scholastic	Dylan Sunjic
Top K-8	Raghav Venkat	Top Girl	Cindy Jie
Blitz	Bryan Tillis	Quick	Corey Acor
Senior	George Grasser		

FCA Membership Dues

Send to the FCA (c/o Treasurer) or online

Regular	—	\$20 (for two years)
Scholastic (under 20)	—	\$15 (for two years)
Club Affiliate	—	\$30 (for two years)
Family	—	\$30 (for two years)
Life	—	\$200 (10 times Regular Dues)

Check your mailing label for membership expiration date.

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

As you can tell from the President's report, there are major changes taking place in chess activities in Florida. He wants ALL of Florida to be well represented and holding chess events. He expects all FCA Board members to work hard to make this possible and send a report into floridaCHESS, especially each Regional VP.

You will see that this issue of the magazine is jam-packed with all kinds of chess reports. There are major stories from all over the state. Some features we usually carry will be missing such as my TD report and a report from Anony Mous.

But you will see a report or two from a new person in this issue, as Theodore Slade has volunteered to write a Book Report and analysis of some games. Theo is well known, playing in every large event he can in Florida. He and his family moved here a couple of years ago from England where he was a major contributor to the British Chess Magazine since he was 12 years old. He says that he is the youngest ever writer for the world's oldest chess journal!

Well I hope you enjoy this issue, and I apologize for sometimes having to use a smaller font to fit all these reports into this issue as the President insisted that I couldn't leave any out!

Please check the FCA website floridaCHESS.org

If your membership is expiring, we ask that you take this special opportunity to renew and help us continue to promote chess in Florida. Please renew online at floridaCHESS.org under "Membership".

Harvey Lerman

Floridians with USCF jobs:

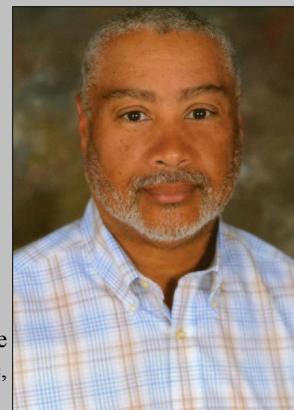
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from the President's desk



Dear FCA Members and the Florida Chess Community at large,

We have just concluded one of the most exciting times of the year - the State Scholastic Championship weekend. Our event was held in Orlando as it has been for several years consecutively and our participation rate was just inside of 400 players. In speaking with the board, I had hoped to break 400 this year. We have not done that in several years. However, the event featured so many excellent players and should be a must-do event for all in grades Kindergarten to 12th in our state. We will seek to reach more next year. A state this large should have about a 600 to 800-player state scholastic championships.

At this year's championship, I had the opportunity to introduce myself as the F.C.A. President to players in the tournament hall and later to the parents during an impromptu Town Hall meeting. During the meeting, I presented some of the challenges and changes that I am hoping to address during my time in office. For example, developing our current leaders and identifying new ones to meet the needs of our chess community is a major opportunity for this organization. It may not be possible to fully engage all, but we will not have a great organization without more people involvement. Of great importance has been better financial accountability and sharing our legislative decisions with our membership. We are working on that. Another opportunity is a better use of our current membership management system to deepen the connection with our members. These are worthy short and longer-term goals for my limited time in this role.

As it stands today, I have been in office for six months and the amount of work our board has completed is chronicled in my chess journal. I've been amazed at what we have done, but it is not enough. We've only scratched the surface of the work to do. I freely admit more effort is needed from me to involve our 13-member board to best address the needs of the F.C.A. However, some of our accomplishments have been creating a financial budget, addressing financial issues, filling open board positions, group collaboration tools, timely responses to request/queries from members and US Chess. We still have many outstanding opportunities like the issue of addressing the membership value proposition to make joining the F.C.A. more attractive. We have yet to get started on that and also improved communication with our membership. We are just too quiet and need to do more to promote chess activity in our state with special emphasis on what are F.C.A. Affiliates are doing.

(President's desk continued on page6)

Letters

Chess in the North East Region of FL

ScholasticChess.org events:

The Winter Scholastic Open – 53 players

Eyal Farber(1115) was the top winner

The 22nd Annual Scholastic Champ – 116 players

Aron Cheng (1547) was the top winner

The North Regional Championship – 76 players

Evan Shan Waters (1664) was the top winner

The Spring Scholastic Open – 56 Players

NM Theo Slade (2216) was the top winner

Another factor in the increased numbers is the recent and continuing support of Gainesville's Oak Hall School. Coach Tim Tusing's team has dominated the team categories. It's a good proving ground for his up and coming players and the chess communities benefit from the opportunity play and learn from his well prepared and well-disciplined students.

A Scholastic highlight, was the entry of NM Theo Slade, in the Spring Scholastic Open. Theo made quick work of the field and was kind enough to sign autographs, analyze games, and to encourage and teach the other participants

ScholasticChess.org will be looking to bring Theo back to Northeast Florida for a simultaneous exhibition this fall.

Jacksonville Chess Club Events

Tuesday Night Quick 12 events – 286 players total)

Jax Senior Open – 16 players

1st Place - Donny Grey (2000)

Other NEFL News

Florida School for the Deaf and Blind is one of the feel good stories so far this year. Chess Coach, Lucio Garay brought 3 members of his team to the Jacksonville Scholastic Championship in February.

Additional boards and assistants are used in a match between a blind player and a sighted player and I will be providing a more detailed review of this process and the FSDB program in a future article.

The idea of providing financial support to this program was suggested by one of the JAXCC parents at the event and then President Kevin Pryor caught wind of the idea... he and several others in the club took it and ran with it. All total, \$2000 was raised from several sources around the state to provide official Braille boards, audio clocks, team shirts, and funds for future tournament fees.

The FCA is excited to assist with this program and we are always on the lookout for ways to grow the game.

Notable upcoming event

The 4th annual Queen's Cup, Florida's premier all women/girls event. Over 44 played in last year's event, including highly rated scholastic players and a fun "unrated" mom's section. We'll have a full report on this growing event in next quarter's magazine.

Yours in Chess,

George Foote

NE Regional VP FCA

See more Region Reports on pages 6 & 11. ~Ed.

FCA's Membership Growth

Member list (Summary | [Keyword search](#) | [Advanced search](#) | [Saved searches](#))

Level	Total (Bundles)	Active	Renewal overdue	Lapsed	Pending			New in last	
					New	Renewal	Level change	7 days	30 days
Affiliate Member	19	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Family Membership	22 (6)	22	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Life Member	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regular Member	153	108	42	41	4	-	-	-	1
Scholastic Member	83	59	-	-	-	24	-	-	-
Total	291 (6)	222	52	41	4	24	-	-	1

Upset wins at the 2019 US Amateur team South Championship

here is the story presented by Benjamin Chen of the B & B Chess Club

The amateur team south in Orlando was held from February 8-10th in Kissimmee. Going into it, our team, Youngstars, consisted of Raghav Venkat (2248) Benjamin Chen (2084), Dmitri Sergatskov (2047), and Tony Burrus (2015), placing us as fifth seed with an average rating of 2099.

In the first round, we played Chess and Chill (1684) and won 4-0, despite some shaky games. Top seeded Four Nations (2198) defeated Slapdash (1931) 3.5-0.5 and runner-up Orange and Blue (1956) defeated Savannah Chess (1765) 3.5-0.5.

Next, we faced Orange and Blue. Venkat was blown off the board by Britt Ryerson (2213) and Jerry Yao (1682) managed to hold against Burrus. Chen drew Erick Zhao (2101) and Sergatskov clutched a victory against Grayson Cooke and secured a draw. Four Nations (1831) played My 60 Memorable Tweets (1982) and won 3.5-0.5.

Four Nations then played third seed Y's Beyond our Years (2176), only losing on board one where FM Eugene Yanayt (2293) beat Yan Miellier (2318). Youngstars defeated Shah Regina (2108) 2.5-1.5, with WFM Vladlena Ciubara crushing Benjamin Chen after some dubious play from the latter. Orange and Blue drew Mate or Be Mated (2027).

In round four, we were paired with Y's Beyond our Years and Four Nations played second seed Kavonahhh (2177). We drew after Venkat and Chen agreed to draws in winning positions against Yanayt and Vlad Yanovsky (2276). Four Nations followed suit, putting them and Kavonahhh at 3.5/4.

In the last round we were paired with Four Nations, and Orange and Blue with Kavonahhh. Millier tried to go for the gusto against Venkat but fell short as Sergatskov ground down Theodore Slade (2153) in a rook endgame. As Chen and Burrus held Carlos Andretta (2236) and Dereck Laureano (2083) to draws, Four Nations was forced to concede defeat. Ryerson quickly beat FM Alex Barnett (2342) and Zhao drew with Troy Daly (2253). However, Todd Bryant (2206) was too strong for Cooke and the score became tied. Yao and Anthony Norris (1908) were the last game of the round. A win by Yao would guarantee victory, as we knew our tie breaks were higher. Conversely, a loss would mean defeat while a draw would yield an unclear result. After missing a free exchange, Yao eventually exploited his opponent's time trouble and Youngstars was crowned 2019 Amateur Team South Champions!

The Champion Cup has been carried to Tallahassee by Ben and will stay in Tallahassee for one year! Though team "Youngstar" was rated (2099.5), they managed to finish 1st on tiebreaks over team "Orange and Blue", both with 4-1 scores... and though rated under 2100, they also finished ahead of 3 other teams rated close to 2200 that finished with 3½-1½ scores.

See photos of Championship winners below, and photos of other winners from this event, on page 6~Ed.



Top Team (L-R) Tony Burrus, Raghav Venkat, Benjamin Chen and Dmitri Sergatskov

“New” players rise to the top of Southern Class

by David A. Hater

The 17th Annual Southern Class Championship was held at the Wyndham resort in Orlando, Florida from March 15-17. It drew 214 players in seven sections. While the Master section was small at only 15 players, these included one GM, three IMs, and two FMs as well as nine of the fifteen players being over 2200.

The first place winner was playing in his first US Chess rated event and the second place winner was playing in his second US Chess rated event. These players may have been new to US Chess, but they are not inexperienced, unrated, or new. The first place winner was IM Cordut Constantin Florescu from Romania. He scored an undefeated 4 ½ - ½ to take clear first and \$1700. Florescu won his first four games before playing a quick draw with NM Theo Slade to secure first place. Clear second place was won by GM Olexandr Bortnyk with a score of 4-1. His only loss was to Florescu in round two. He received \$800 for his efforts. Bortnyk also went 8-0 in the blitz and received \$145 for that victory.

Due to the small number of players and the fact that it was split into a 3 and 2 day schedule, the titled players played each other early in the event and there were titled player matchups every single round after round one.

The 3 day Master schedule started with eight players. There were no upsets in round one, but there were two draws. This meant that only Bortnyk and Florescu stood at 1-0 and they would play in round two.

This was the game that ultimately decided first place.

****Florescu – Bortnyk**

(See page 9 for some comments about this game. ~Ed.)

In the two day side, there were similar results. There were seven players and there were three board with one being drawn. This meant that IM Rafael Prasca and IM Sanjay Gharti would play each other in round two. Due to the odd number, there was a bye so three players entered the second round at 1-0. Prasca and Gharti drew, but Benjamin Chen who got the bye in round one beat FM Corey Acor in round two to emerge as the only 2-0 from the two day schedule.

Florescu and Chen faced each other on board one as the only players at 2-0. Florescu won to emerge as the only player at 3-0 headed into Sunday's money games. IMs Prasca and Gharti both won in round three, so they were only ½ point back and GM Bortnyk led the players at 2-1.

Round four saw the GM and IMs all paired with each other. IM Florescu had white versus IM Prasca and GM Bortnyk had white versus IM Gharti. White won on both boards. This gave Florescu a very comfortable lead as he had now secured at least a tie for first. He was the only player at 4-0. Bortnyk was the only player at 3-1 and the only player who could catch Florescu, but they had already played. Florescu would not be caught as he played a quick draw with NM Theo Slade. Bortnyk defeated IM Rafael Prasca to get to 4-1 and clear second. Bortnyk faced all three IMs in the event!

In any strong tournament like this, there are always a number of exciting or interesting games that produce nice tactics. In round three NM Theo Slade had a nice combination to defeat FM Corey Acor. Can you spot the tactic?

(See page 8 for the full game presented by Theo Slade. ~Ed.)

****Slade – Acor after 27. ... Qd6**

Solution: 28. Rxc7! The rook is immune: 28. ... Kxc7 29. Qxc7 Kg8 29. Qg5+ followed by Qxf6 and checkmate shortly after. Black's best resistance is 28. ... Qxd4 29. Qxd4 Rxd4 30. Rxf7+ Kxf7 31. Rxd4, but this is still lost. The game continuation has multiple tactical opportunities and variations, but they all win for white.

There were six other classes and the winners of those were:

Expert Goran Markovic, 4½ - ½, \$1200

Class A Alan Bui, Luis Ares, Brandon Sibbitt, Vincent Stone, & Carlos Rivas, 4-1, \$500

Class B Samuel Wohl, 4½ -½, \$1200

Class C David Jin, 4½ -½, \$1000

Class D Robert Cafaro, 5-0, \$1000

Class E Yaseen Makhazn, 5-0, \$600

Mixed Doubles Camille Sibbitt & Brandon Sibbitt and Priya Gutta & James Alton, 7-3, \$200 to each player

Blitz Tournament GM Olexandr Bortnyk, 8-0, \$145

NTD David Hater directed for Continental Chess Association assisted by Charles Hatherill, Harvey Lerman, Krista Alton, and Arthur Alton. Full tournament details can be found at www.southernclass.com. Previous Continental Chess tournaments can be found at the Continental Chess website at <http://www.chesstour.com/cross.html>.

****Games are published in current issue of CHESSLIFE**

President's desk continued from page 3)

As promised earlier, we have spent time in the underserved Northwest section of our state and provided some support, but more is needed to build upon a great start. That being said, "Hats off" to Banghao Chen and son William for being the keepers of the flame in Tallahassee as they just concluded a very successful tournament there. Kudos also to the Northwest Regional V.P. Daaim Shabazz for providing close support to the work in the Capital City. I, too, played in one of Professor Chen's tournaments since becoming President and completely enjoyed the event and hospitality.

In these six months, I have met so many wonderful people who care about chess and people too. I recently had the pleasure of meeting four chess-playing children from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine and was amazed at the outpouring from the Florida Chess community to help their chess team by raising \$2000.

See story on page 25. ~Ed.

I've seen the time and efforts of people like Harvey Lerman who painstakingly puts together one of the last full-fledged chess magazines in the country and Jon Haskel who invests several days a month to bring chess to significant numbers of players in our state and around the country. I am aware of players who travel from panhandle to the tip of the peninsula (an 8 hour trip within our state) to play chess and parents who do the same and sit for hours in folding chairs while their kids pursue their passion.

Conversely, I've also learned about missteps and the disappointments that some have experienced with our organization over the decades too. I hope to heal those hurts if possible. After all it is a big state and this is a big job.

Trust me when I say I'm taking it all in and feel a great responsibility to do more and better in the next six months. After all, our focus is on chess, but in the end, we are really delivering an experience that affects people in very personal ways. I completely get it and now more than before.

Yours in chess,

Kevin Pryor
President F.C.A.

Chess in the Central Region of FL

by Paul Leggett

The first three months of the year were extremely busy for Central Florida Chess.

The list of events included:

1. The CFCC Championship
2. The Winter Open
3. The US Amateur Team Championship South
4. The Villages Open, and
5. The Southern Class Championship

A strong list of events, and it does not even include the host of one-day events sponsored by NM Alex Zelner's Orlando Chess and Games, The Villages one day Swiss tournaments, and small one-day tournaments sponsored by the Lake County Library System.

There is also a groundswell of chess growth from the UCF chess club, and especially Terrance Washington's Orlando Chess Club. This is one to watch, which you can start doing by visiting their website:

<https://www.orlandochessclub.net/>

If I had to pick one signature event, it would have to be the Villages Open, held for the second year and doubling its attendance to 60. It was directed by Mike Moschos and Eddie Menendez, with support from Monroe Steindorf. A great venue and a well-run event!

I have also been informed that the Villages Chess club has been holding matches with other clubs, including clubs in Kissimmee, and an upcoming match vs the Orlando Chess Club. I don't know much about these, but I hope to learn more and report on it, as it could turn into something really big if other clubs get in on it.

Chess in the South Region of FL

by Bryan Tillis

In the southern part of the state we have had many great tournaments, events, and happenings of note.

In the Pro-Chess League, the Miami Champions after an 0-6 start to the season closed out the final 4 weeks with many victories including a win over St Louis (Caruana and So) meaning...we will return next season!

Jon Haskel (Bocachess) has had multiple events in the area (The Friday night Boca Chess tournaments) The Franklin Academy GP and South Florida GP.

Bryan Tillis (Palm Beach Chess) has picked up where John Dockery left off in North Palm Beach running monthly quads. These quads were designed with three principles in mind:

- 1) One day event with no hotel fees,
- 2) Play players with similar ratings in each game,
- 3) Time controls long enough to think and enjoy the game.

Anyone USCF 1000 and up are welcome to participate in these new events.

Information on upcoming tournaments in the South can be found on the Bocachess and Palm Beach Chess calendars of events.

This is the year the state championship will be in the South (Palm Beach Gardens) over Labor Day weekend. Expect to see a flyer and advertisements soon!

More photos from the USATS event



Top Female Team



Ben Chen, custodian of famous trophy



Top U1500 Team

FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS

(Using latest USCF Rating Supplement's "Top 100" Lists, except for "OVERALL")

UNDER AGE 18

Kumar, Nikhil	14	2370
Venkat, Raghav	14	2265
Banerjee, Abhimanyu	17	2208
Hernandez, Ronald	11	2138
Hamley, Ryan Edward	16	2097
Zhao, Erick	10	2096
Sunjic, Dylan	17	2090
Chen, Benjamin Lj	14	2089
Ngo, Bach	10	2084
Kumar, Naman	12	2078
De La Colina, Nicolas	14	2060
Yang, Andy	13	2038
Ben Jemaa, Munir	17	2035
Todfield, Dylan	17	2020
Singh, Keshav	13	2009
Gao, Marvin	10	1974
Chin, Taban	14	1973
Mayes, Timothy	15	1971
Starkman, Elliot	15	1960
Martin, Dario	14	1949
Eickelman, Connor	16	1942
Gospodinov, Antony	12	1940
Stone, Vincent William, Iii	13	1922
Lang, Jayden	11	1917
Yisrael, Shama	15	1907
Shukla, Aniket	10	1883
Shen, Jason (Haohan)	12	1871
Yao, Jerry	10	1854
Pothuri, Abhiram	9	1850
Cheng, Leon	12	1836
Wu, William	10	1822
Chakrabarti, Brejesh	9	1801
Cooke, Grayson	10	1795
Guan, Michael X	11	1794
Patil, Dhruva Dinesh	8	1762
Farragut, Cannon	8	1738
Wu, Alice Jin	10	1673
Marian, Aaron	9	1650
Ziegler, Nate Ryan	9	1624
Yu, Dylan	9	1503
Yang, Maxwell	6	1292
Guan, Tovy	7	1094
Judy, Jack	7	1058
Gupta, Anay	6	1004

#1 top in nation by age/category

CHESS COACHES

Professional - Level V

Mark Ritter

National - Level IV

Tania Kranich-Ritter

Tim Tusing

Advanced - Level III

Miguel Ararat

GIRLS U<21

Tianhui (Cindy) Jie	18	2039
Adara Ramos	16	1935
Shama Yisrael	15	1907

SENIORS (65+)

Constantine Xanthos	72	2203
Jose Hernandez Padron	65	2164
Jorge Diaz Castanet	70	2117

WOMEN

Tianhui (Cindy) Jie	2039
Vladlena Ciubara	2133

TOP BLITZ

Leinier Dominguez Perez	2778
Julio Beverra	2659
Robert M Perez	2481
Corey Acor	2446

TOP QC

Leinier Dominguez Perez	2782
Robert M Perez	2429
Corey Acor	2314

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OVERALL *

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GM JULIO J BECERRA	2592
IM DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2558
ROBERT M PEREZ	2497
GM RENIER GONZALEZ	2481
IM YUNIER LEYVA RIVERA	2481
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FM ALEXANDER ZELNER	2344
FM MARK RITTER	2341
FM COREY ACOR	2334
FM CESAR JOSE VALIDO	2332
FM ALEX BARNETT	2329
GM RASHID ZIATDINOV	2308
YAN MIELLIER	2304
FM CHARLES A GALOFRE	2299
NAT KELLEHER	2285
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TODD CHARLES BRYANT	2216
THEODORE LUKE SLADE	2216
ABHIMANYU BANERJEE	2208
HLEB ZHARKOV	2205
OSCAR LEONEL MALDONADO	2204
CONSTANTINE XANTHOS	2203
MAKAI KRIENKE	2203

* Active FL Masters with Current Ratings

CORRESPONDENCE

Keith Rodriguez	2361
Dana Sylvander	2193
Paul Ott	2093
David Spencer	2018

* Active FL Masters with Current Ratings

Theo Slade presents his best game from the 2019 Southern Class

Slade, Theo (2204)

Acor, Corey (2360) [D45]

Southern Class Championships (3),
16.03.2019

[Theo Slade]

Prior to this game, I drew Nicolas De La Colina (2044) as Black and lost to FM Doug Eckert (2234) with White, and I was disappointed with both results.

When the pairings went up for round 3, I was excited as it gave me a good chance to get back on track.

1.d4 d5

I have played Corey twice before with White and both times he played 1...d6 in response to 1.d4 and both times he won. Therefore, I was very surprised when he played 1...d5 and I spent a couple of minutes trying to figure out why he deviated and I considered playing something other than my normal repertoire. However, I decided to play my usual Queen's Gambit.

2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 a6 7.b3 Bd6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Qe7 10.Bb2 b6 11.e4

Is a very typical idea for White in this structure and this felt a good time for it because after...

11...Nxe4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Qxe4

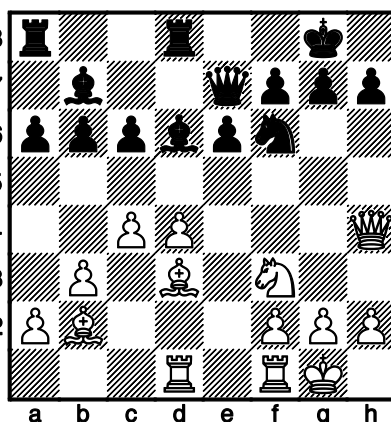
...the c6-pawn is hanging and after

13...Bb7

...it is pinned to the b7-Bishop so Black cannot play his desired ...c5-break, at least for the moment.

14.Rad1 Rfd8 15.Bd3 Nf6 16.Qh4

The White Queen is well placed on h4 as it combines well with its Bishops: the d3-Bishop in pressurizing h7 and the b2-Bishop in attacking the f6-Knight, a defender of h7.



16...h6

16...c5 still cannot be played due to 17.d5 and if exd5 then 18.cxd5 Bxd5 19.Rfe1 Be6 20.Ng5 h6 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bc4 is all fairly forcing and completely winning for White.

17.Rfe1

All my pieces are fully mobilized now, but Black's are not: his light-squared Bishop and a8-Rook are still passive. That concludes a perfect opening phase by me, but now my play is not so certain over the next phase.

17...Ne8

I think Corey was playing for a win throughout this game, so I doubt he was interested in a move like 17...Ba3, as it tries to simplify the position, limiting the damage. Nevertheless, it was best as if 18.Ba1, it is impossible for me to transfer the dark-squared Bishop to the c1-h6 diagonal since there is no b0 square.

We will see in the game how dangerous the White dark-squared Bishop is once it gets to that diagonal. (18.Bc3 runs into Bb4, trading pieces, which helps Black as he has a space disadvantage.)

18...a5± Pushing your Rook pawn is generally a low-risk high reward proposition since the pawn could be promoted in the future, but a Rook pawn is the least valuable piece on the board so it is not devastating if it drops off.

18.Qe4

I considered 18.Qh3!+-, but only in connection with g4-g5, opening up the Black Kingside. However, I decided against it because it is far too weakening, opening up the a8-h1 diagonal for the b7-Bishop. I thought Black's best was Nf6, but I did not really think about 19.Ne5, when Stockfish 10 already thinks White is winning, and why not?!

A) 19...c5 as usual walks into 20.d5+-, and that pawn is immune: exd5 21.Ng4 Now it is clear that Black is totally lost. White's pieces are working at full capacity: they are extremely active and well coordinated, focusing on the Black King which does not have many defenders at all. Black's pieces are mainly inactive and poorly coordinated in comparison.

If not 20...exd5, then White can build up the Kingside attack with f4 and Ng4. If, after Ng4, ...Bxf4, then Bxf6 gxf6 Nxh6+ wins for White. The point behind f4 is that if Ng4 immediately then ...Nxg4 Qxg4 and Black has the defensive ...Qg5: f4 covers g5. (21.Nc6 just about wins, but 21.Ng4 is much stronger and simpler.);

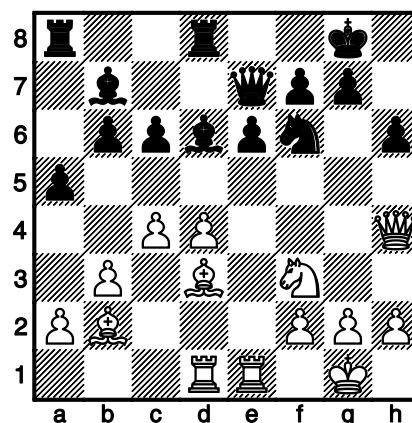
B) 19...Bxe5 20.Rxe5+-

18...Nf6 19.Qh4

Especially after my lackluster start to the tournament, I was happy with a draw in this game.

19...a5

[19...Ba3! 20.Ba1 a5±]



20.Bc2=

Stops 20...a4 due to 21.bxa4. [20.Bc1!± If 20...a4, then we already see how strong the White dark-squared Bishop is on the c1-h6 diagonal: 21.Bxh6 gxh6 22.Qxh6 with the idea Ng5 wins for White.]

20...Re8

20...Ba3! 21.Ba1 b5±

Black should try to create counterplay on the side of the board where he is stronger.

21.Nd2

A lapse:

[21.Bc1!±]

21...Nd5

21...c5!± was finally possible because 22.d5 walks into the common tactic Nxd5□.

It is strange that Corey missed this, even more so because of the move he played...

The only explanation is that we both got so used to ...c5 not being on the table that we stopped looking at it carefully.

22.Qe4 Nf6 23.Qd3

There is no guarantee that Corey would repeat after 23.Qh4 so I should play as well as I can.

Now we see the idea behind 21.Nd2 (even though it was a mistake): Ne4, undermining the defense of the Black King.

23...Bb4

Pins the d2-Knight to stop Ne4. However, the cure is worse than the disease.

[23...Rad8!±]

24.Re3

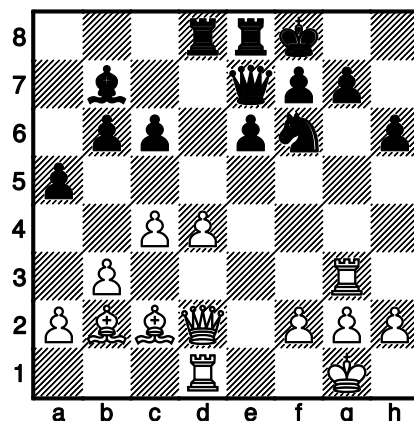
Unpinning and preparing to swing the Rook to the Kingside.

24...Bxd2

I had a feeling that the engine would not see much difference between either recapture so I did not spend much time on my next decision, but I wanted a major piece on the back rank to stop any back rank issues.

[24...Rad8!±]

25.Qxd2 Rad8 26.Rg3 Kf8



27.Bc1

Finally I get the right idea, threatening Qxh6 because if ...gxh6 there is the cute Bxh6#.

27...Qd6 28.Rxg7

After this brutal sacrifice, Corey started shaking his head.

28...Ke7

The point is that 28...Kxg7 runs into 29.Qxh6+ Kg8□ 30.Qg5+ Kf8 31.Qxf6 with mate in 5.

29.Qxh6 e5

I was pretty frustrated here as I thought there was a win on the spot, but eventually, I realized that I could not see it and that...

30.Bg5

was completely winning anyway, threatening Rxf7+.

30...Rh8

When I played 30.Bg5 I thought that worst-case scenario I can take twice on f6 and play Rg4 with a winning position but I really wanted something big before the time control because I had a lot more time than Corey.

31.Rxf7+ Kxf7 32.Qg6+ Kf8

[32...Ke7 33.Qg7+ Ke6 (33...Ke8 34.Bg6#) 34.Qxf6+ Kd7□ 35.Qxd6+ Kxd6 36.Bxd8 Rxd8 37.dxe5+ Ke7 38.Rxd8 Kxd8+-]

33.Qxf6+

Black resigned.

[33...Qxf6 34.Bxf6□ Kf7 35.Bxd8 Rxd8 36.dxe5 Rxd1+ 37.Bxd1□+- I had it all worked out! :)]

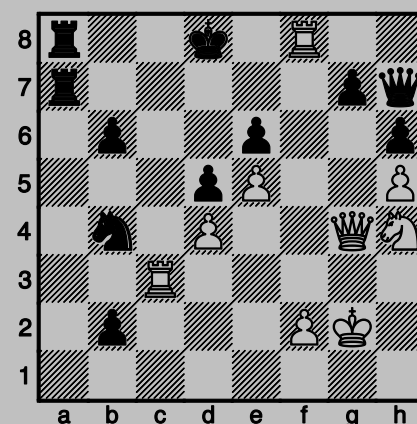
1-0

Game from the Southern Class where the GM lost

Florescu, Codrut (2348) [B00]
Bortnyk, Olexandr (2653)

Southern Class Championship (2.1),
16.03.2019

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 b6 3.e4 Bb7 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Nf6 6.Qe2 Be7 7.0-0 d5 8.e5 Nfd7 9.a3 a5 10.a4 Nc6 11.Na3 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nb4 13.Bb1 Nb8 14.Nb5 N8c6 15.Rd1 Ba6 16.Bd2 Qd7 17.Bxb4 Nxb4 18.Ra3 0-0 19.Rc3 Bxb5 20.axb5 a4 21.Rdc1 Ra7 22.h4 h6 23.h5 Re8 24.g4 Kf8 25.Kg2 Rea8 26.Qe3 Ke8 27.g5 Bf8 28.Qf4 Kd8 29.g6 Qxb5 30.gxf7 Qd7 31.Qg4 Qxf7 32.Nh4 a3 33.Rf3 axb2 34.Rcc3 Qg8 35.Bh7 Qxh7 36.Rxf8+



36...Kd7

I was watching this game and it looked like Black would win it and White was taking a long time to move.

37.Rf7+

He finally did so and it looked like that White would be checking back and forth for a draw.

37...Kd8 38.Rf8+ Kd7 39.Ng6!

But this move startled his opponent as he saw that he had blundered and then lost the game.

39...Qxg6 40.Qxg6 b1Q 41.Qxb1 Rxf8 42.Qxb4 Rfa8 43.Qd6+ Ke8 44.Rf3 Rf7 45.Qc6+ Ke7 46.Rxf7+ 1-0

The winner said to me, that when you have a bad position, you must come up with a complex plan to continue.. ~Ed.

Move by Move: Caruana by IM Cyrus Lakdawala Book Review

by Theodore Slade

For my first review for floridaCHESS, I thought I would review a book about my favorite player, world no. 2 and American no. 1, GM Fabiano Caruana. So, I decided to review **Move by Move: Caruana by IM Cyrus Lakdawala**. I had previously reviewed another of his books, **Move by Move: Carlsen**, which was less than a glowing endorsement, to be frank! Lakdawala is a very prolific author: in the About the Author section, it lists 26 books he has written, 22 of which are in the Move by Move series! Now that I have read a couple of Move by Move books by him, I will give a little review of Lakdawala as an author and how helpful the Move by Move format is for improvement.

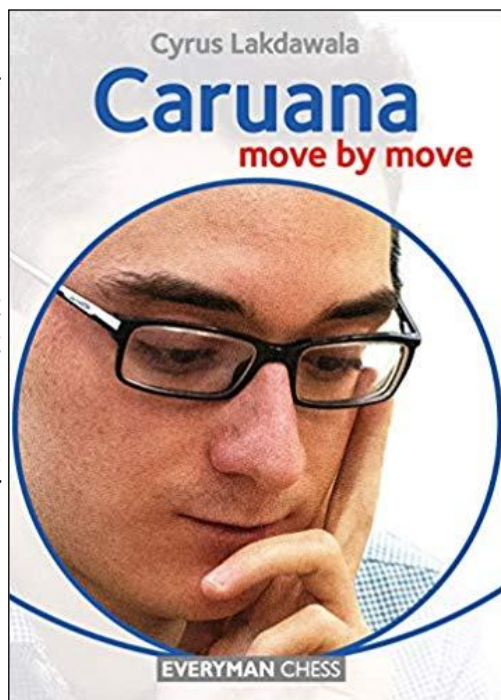
Move by Move: Caruana is a 368-page paperback book which was published 2 days before the Carlsen-Caruana World Championship Match. One would think that the intention was to give people a taste of Caruana's style and best games leading up to the match, but how could anyone finish the book before game 1?! Another problem with this is that Lakdawala goes out of his way to preview the Carlsen-Caruana match and include games between the two, but once the match is over, it feels a little dated.

The world's top players nowadays are some of the strongest players of all time because they can learn from their predecessors, so it is natural to try to learn from modern players. However, I do wonder about publishing books mainly featuring a player's best games when that player arguably has not even hit his prime yet. Caruana is still only 26 and there is a player in the top 100 that is more than double his age! Think of all the games that should be included in a book like this but can't be because it was published too soon...

One of the problems I had with the last Lakdawala book I reviewed was that he used too much superfluous language, and that got in the way of learning. Lakdawala seems to have tuned that down this time to much more tolerable levels! There was even one simile that I quite liked: "White's strategic issues compound like overdue interest on a bank loan." I think, in this book, Lakdawala strikes the perfect balance between explanation, so the reader understands what is going on, and variations to back up his assertions.

I think the Move by Move format is excellent for an ambitious player trying to improve, as it simulates a one-on-one lesson with Lakdawala, where he answers questions that the reader may have as well as asking the reader questions. My only gripe with this is that the vast majority of exercises help you find the answer. Most of them tell you it is a planning exercise or give you a combination alert, and this obviously never happens in games so I would rather Lakdawala just asked a simple question with no help.

Playing through Caruana's best games, you realize how strong a player he is, but you also get a sense for his style, which Lakdawala describes as "super-aggressive/strategic." I certainly got the feel of Caruana's Botvinnikian iron logic by reading this book. Lakdawala also goes very in-depth on Caruana's strengths and weaknesses in the introduction, which I found very informative, interesting, and inspiring: "When we admire a great player, like Botvinnik or Caruana, we (perhaps subconsciously) begin playing a bit like them!" Super-aggressive/strategic may sound like a contradiction, but Lakdawala hit the nail on the head when he wrote "Many of Caruana's attacks almost don't feel like attacks at all. Instead, he outplays his opponents strategically and the final attack becomes merely a logical consequence of his previous powerful strategic play." All in all, a great book! I highly recommend it to anyone wanting to improve and/or understand the American no. 1's games better. **Four stars!**



Chess Lessons

by

Theo Slade

National Master, Chess Coach, and British Chess Magazine Columnist



I am Theo Slade and I offer chess lessons in person at my home in Lake Nona, Orlando, Florida or on Skype.

I am a National Master, a title I achieved by reaching a USCF rating of 2200 in April 2018, at the age of 17.

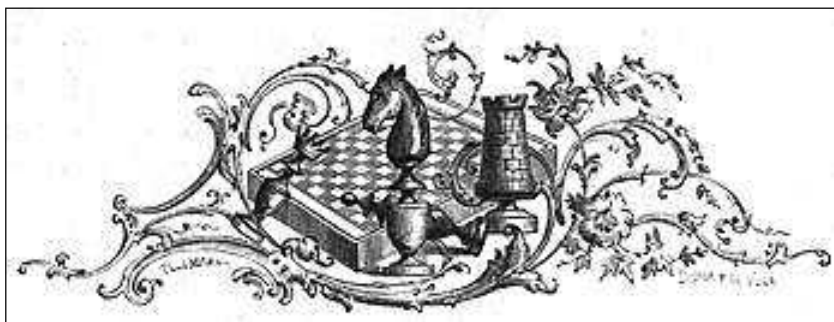
I have been writing a monthly column for the British Chess Magazine since I was 12; I am the youngest ever writer for the world's oldest chess journal!

He's an excellent coach, helps understand the tactics very well. My son loves his coaching. – Aruna Sirivolu

Great lessons! Theo demonstrates multiple strategies which help my son improve. Highly recommend him. – Julia Soulakova

Very nice coach, tells a lot of strategies and is very helpful in games. A very good coach to have. – Srijan Ganta

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Chess in the West Region of FL

by Krista Alton

My husband Arthur and I live in Tampa. We have been children's teachers for the past 25 years. Together we run *Alton Academy 4 Chess*.

We both have had a love for chess going back to high school. Krista was even president for the school's chess club.

When our two boys were introduced to an after-school chess program ran by Coach Willard Taylor in 2010, they began to excel. Krista was hired to work in his local chess tournaments.

Soon National Master Corey Acor came into our lives mentored our family for the next 6 years bringing us all to higher levels of chess.

Our passion is to bring chess to new families and schools. Now these many years later, our chess company runs 5 after-school chess programs, rated tournaments, and summer camps.

Chess is growing in the western area of Florida in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Polk counties. This area is in need of more chess coaches! More schools are wanting chess programs and are on a waiting list. Some of our upcoming events... In May, we will be running the Tampa Bay Rated Chess Championship.

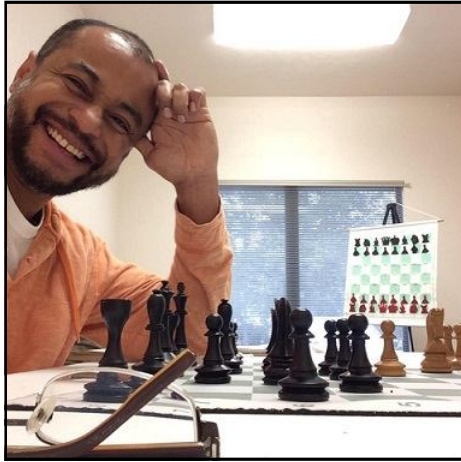
Then we will be flying to Nashville Tennessee to work the 2019 National Elementary K-6th Championship.

In June, we will host the 3rd annual "All Girls" Chess Tournament. During summer we will be running 5 chess camps and hosting master classes by Gabriel Custodio.

For more information about chess in this region go to www.alton4chess.com.

Some games from recent events

by Miguel Ararat



Venkat, Raghav (2258)
Miellier, Yan (2302) [B07]
 USATS 2019 (5), 09.02.2019
[Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 a6

Now White can play the position in several ways. The natural 5.a4 to stop b5, 5.Qd2 to create the "150 attack set up" or the positional 5.h3 with play against Black's light square bishop and preparing a quick e4-e5

5.f3

Venkat goes for an aggressive set up similar to the Saemisch with Nge2 delaying the development of his light square bishop.

5...b5 6.Qd2 Nbd7 7.Nge2

7.g4 Nb6 8.g5 Nh5 with a double edge position.; 7.0-0-0 Nb6 8.g4 Bb7 9.Nh3.

7...Nb6 8.b3 Bb7 9.g4 h5 10.g5 Nfd7 11.h4 Bg7 12.Bg2 c5 13.0-0

An interesting move by White that avoids his king becoming a target for the Black advanced queenside pawns.

A typical last round game on board 1 at a team competition.

13...Rc8 14.Rad1 c4

[14...b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Nb6 (16...Bxd5 17.dxc5 e6)]

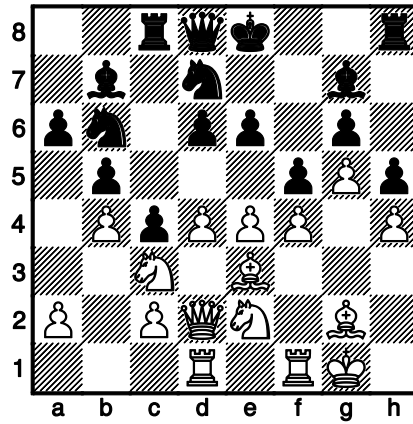
15.b4

White stalls Black queenside play and launches his own kingside attack.

15...e6

[15...e5; 15...0-0 16.f4]

16.f4 f5



17.exf5

17.d5 and Black's position falls apart. 17...exd5 (17...Nf8 18.dxe6)

18.exf5 gxf5 19.Ng3

17...Bxg2 18.Kxg2

The turning point in the game.

18...gxf5

The second turning point in the game, but this time Venkat plays d5.

19.d5 exd5 20.Nxd5 c3

20...0-0 Black can put his king in the corner, but White can target the weak h5 pawn with Ng3 and Black lacks counterplay. 21.Ng3 Rf7 22.Nxh5

21.Qd3 0-0 22.Ng3 Nc4 23.Nxf5 Nb2

24.Nfe7+ Kh8 25.Qe2 Qe8 26.g6 Rf5

27.Nxf5 Qxg6+ 28.Ng3 Nxd1 29.Rxd1

Nf6 30.Nxf6 Bxf6 31.Qxh5+

White can simplify giving up some material. I am not playing best engine moves, just what I would do as white in that position "you take, I take". The key for White is to conserve his extra piece and one of two pawn.

[31.Rxd6 Rg8 32.Bf2 Re8 33.Rxf6 Qxg3+ 34.Kxg3 Rxe2 35.Rxa6 Rxc2 36.Rh6+ Kg7 37.Rxh5 Rxa2 38.Bd4+]

31...Qxh5 32.Nxh5 Bxh4 33.Rxd6

Be7 34.Bd4+ Kg8 35.Rxa6

White sets up a clever trap.

35...Kf7

[35...Bxb4 36.Ra7 Rc6 37.Bg7 Ba3 38.Nf6+ Black has to take on f6 to avoid mate. 38...Rxf6 39.Bxf6]

36.Ra7 Ke6 37.Ng7+ Kd5 38.Rxe7

Kxd4 39.Nf5+ Kc4

39...Kd5 and the following simplifying sequence wins (yes I know

the chess engine suggest a mate in 11 moves, but I consider more instructive to show the reader a human approach to the position. If 39... Kc4 we have the game continuation and if 39...Kd5 we trade the rook and the knight for the Black rook and win the pawn endgame. 40.Rb7 Kc6 41.Ne7+ Kxb7 42.Nxc8 Kxc8 43.Kf3

40.Nd6+ Kxb4 41.Nxc8 Ka3 42.Nd6 b4 43.Rb7

A model game in this modern Pirc (delaying o-o for Black). It will be easy to praise the winner and criticize the loser after the game. The key is to recognize the high tension on board one with the clock ticking in a team competitions and the risk to play for a win with black with your king in the middle. Venkat controlled the game avoided to castle long and give Black a target. Instead, White used a flexible strategy without being passive at the same time that nurtured a spatial advantage and exploited Black's exposed pawn structure. **1-0**

Daly, Troy (2160)

Givler, John (1903) [C11]

USATS 2019, 08.02.2019

[Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3

2.Nc3 c5 White may go for a closed Sicilian if Black decides to switch from a French to the Sicilian defense with 2...c5.

2...d5 3.Nc3

The two knights variation versus the French Defense is the weapon of choice of players that want to bypass all the theory of the French Defense and play either a sideline of the Steinitz variation (as in the game), a Rubinstein French after 3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 or play a non typical French position after 3...d4 4.Ne2.

3...Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Nc6 7.Bf4 Nxc5 8.h4

White initiates a thematic plan in this position with the trust h2-h4 to create a dent in Black's solid pawn formation and activate the rook on h1.

The engines evaluate this position as slightly better for Black, but looking at the database the more skilled player will use the unbalance pawn structure to win.

8...Be7

8...a6 9.a3 b5 10.h5 h6 11.Rh3 Bb7 with complex and exciting play.

9.Bd3

The game is still in charted territory. The move 9.Bd3 was used by former Florida state Champion Julio Becerra against Roberto Pantoja at the Carlos Torre Memorial in 2014.

9...Nxd3+ 10.cxd3 Bd7 11.h5 f6 12.d4 0-0 13.Qd2 fxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5

White establish a blockade on e5 and has some possibilities to attack Black's kingside if Givler does not react properly.

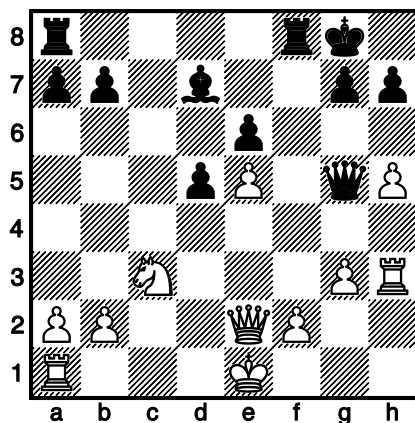
15...Bg5 16.Qe2 Bf4 17.Rh3 Qg5

Givler uses the dark squares and the semi-open f-file to get closer to the White king and seizes the initiative.

18.g3

18.Kf1 Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Qxe5 20.dxe5 Rf5 21.Re1 and Black has a dangerous passed pawn and pressure against White's position.

18...Bxe5 19.dxe5



19...Qf5

I was following this game live and expected 19...d4 with the idea of mobilizing the pass pawn and transferring the bishop to f3. Black decides to trade queens and White's king and e5 pawn feel relieved.

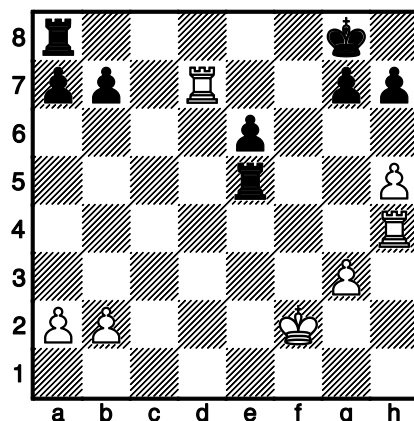
After 19...d4 Black is winning. The d-pawn is moving, the a8-h1 diagonal is available to the light squared bishop and white's king is stuck in the middle.

20.Nd1 (20.Ne4 Qxe5) 20...Qf5 21.Rh4 Rad8

20.Rh4 Qf3 21.Rd1 Rf5 22.Qxf3 Rxf3 23.Ne4

23.Ne2 Rc8 24.Nd4 Rf7 and White establishes a solid blockade on the d4 square, pushes back the active Black rook on f3 and prepares a favorable "French endgame" with the superior minor piece.

23...dxe4= 24.Rxd7 e3 25.fxe3 Rxe3+ 26.Kf2 Rxe5



Black has an extra pawn, but the active White rook on the seven rank makes the position =.

27.Rxb7 Rf8+ 28.Kg2 Re2+ 29.Kh3 a5 30.h6 Rf7 31.Rb8+ Rf8 32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.Rf4+ Kg8 34.Rg4 g6 35.Ra4 Re5 36.Kg4 Rh5 37.Kf4 Kf7 38.g4 Rb5 39.g5

39.b3 Rb4+? (39...Kf6 40.Rc4 e5+ The position is dynamically balanced.) 40.Rxb4 axb4 41.g5 Ke7 and White wins the pawn endgame.

39...Ke7 40.b4

Black kept the balance for 13 moves with accurate play, but now falters at the notorious fortieth move (although Black was not in time trouble)

40...Rxb4+

40...axb4 also lands Black in a difficult position. 41.Ra7+ Kf8? (41...Kd6 42.Rxh7 b3 43.axb3 Rb4+ 44.Kf3) 42.Rxh7 b3 43.axb3

41.Rxb4 axb4 42.Ke5?

42.Ke4 Kd7 43.Kd3 Kd6 44.Kd4 and White gets the opposition. (If 44.Kc4? White loses the advantage, the position is equal and accurate play is required in order to secure the draw! The paradox of pawn endgames in

chess, one move ago you have a decisive advantage and an inaccurate move later you are on the edge of defeat. 44...Ke5 45.Kxb4 Kd4 46.a4 e5 47.a5 e4 48.Kb3 (48.a6?? White loses on the spot in a study like fashion due to the bad position of his king. 48...e3 49.a7 e2 50.a8Q e1Q+ 51.Kb5 Qb1+ 52.Ka6 Qa1+ Black wins!))

42...Kd7= 43.Kd4 Kd6 44.Kc4 e5??

Black falters when the draw is on the horizon. [44...Ke5 45.Kxb4 Kd4 Here is the difference (see variation above to clarify the difference) White's king takes the pawn on b4 under the worse possible scenario, Black promotes with check and either wins the White Queen or after a queen trade Black's king wins the g5 and h6 pawns.

45.Kxb4 e4 46.Kc3 Kc5 47.Kd2 Kd4 48.a4 Kc4 49.Ke3 Kb4 50.Kxe4 Kxa4 51.Ke5 Kb5 52.Kf6 Kc6 53.Kg7 Kd5

A good fight and very instructive example.

1-0

Miellier, Yan (2302)

Cunanan, Andrew (2216) [D36]

USATS 2019 (2), 08.02.2019

[Ararat,Miguel]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5

The exchange Variation of the QGD. White avoids tons of theory, but the position still plenty of possibilities for both sides.

5.Bg5

White has other alternatives:

5.Bf4 c5 Black treats the position as a Tarrasch Defense.; 5.Nf3 White just wants to get a playable position. 5...c6 6.Bf4 Bd6 7.Bxd6 Qxd6

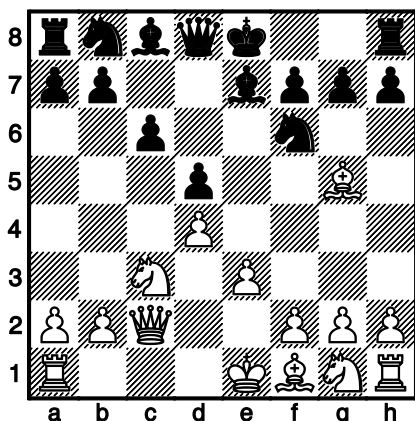
5...Be7 6.e3 c6

A Carlsbad structure is on the board and two plans are standard in this pawn configuration:

Minority attack with b2-b4 or central expansion with f2-f3 and e4.

7.Qc2

(Ararat games continued on page 14)



Stops Bf5.

7...Ne4

[7...Bg4; 7...g6 Z0 Bf5 8.Bd3]

8.Bxe7 Qxe7

8...Kxe7 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Qxe4+ Black is a pawn down, but the game is far from over. It is clear that White plays for two results and has all the game to increase his advantage.

9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Qxc8+ Qd8

White is winning, but the right plan needs to be implemented. Mieller can go Qxb7 and block the check after Qa5 with b4 or vacate the f1 square for his king with Bb5+ to respond to Qa5+ with Kf1 (as in the game).

White selects the right plan to face the early middle game. Things went south for White in the following game after the first player went for Qxb7 and b4. **11.Bb5+**

11.Qxb7 0-0 12.b4 Qd6 13.Nf3 Nc6 14.a3 a5 15.Rc1 White loses control of the position.

15...Nxb4 16.Qc7 Qxc7 (16...Qe6 is also winning for Black because the queen controls the c8 square supporting Rfc8. 17.axb4 Rfc8)

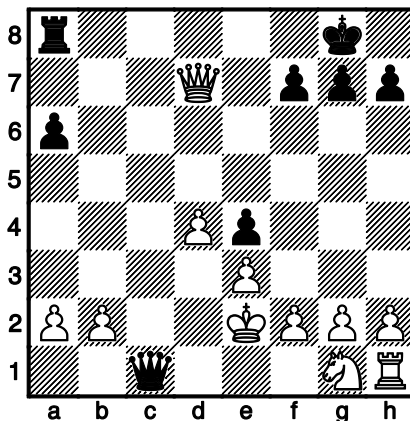
11...Nc6 12.Qxb7 Qa5+ 13.Kf1 0-0 14.Qxc6 a6 15.Bd3 Rfc8

White is winning and only needs to find the right continuation here.

16.Qd7

[16.Qb7 Rab8 17.Qxa6 Qd2 18.Bxe4 Rc1+ 19.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 20.Ke2 dxe4 21.b3]

16...Qd2 17.Bxe4 Rc1+ 18.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 19.Ke2 dxe4



20.f3

White consolidates his advantage vacating the f2 square for the king. In contrast, the greedy Qb7 backfires because of perpetual check: 20.Qb7 Qc2+ 21.Ke1 Qc1+ 22.Ke2 Qc2+ Draw.

20...Rc8 21.Kf2 Rb8 22.b3 g6 23.d5 exf3 24.gxf3 Rb5 25.Qc6 1-0

Sergatskov, Dmitri (2047)

Slade, Theodore (2223) [E39]

USATS 2019 (5), 09.02.2019

[Ararat,Miguel]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.Nf3

The main move here is 5.a3 with 5.Bg5 as an interesting alternative. 5.Nf3 is a relative new move that is gaining popularity lately because the rich play for both sides. [5.Bg5 c5 6.dxc5 Na6 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Qxc3 Nxc5 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Qxf6 gxf6 with a complex position, like in Shankland – Nakamura, PRO league 2019 (0-1, 49); 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d5 7.Bg5 dxc4 8.Qxc4 b6 9.Rd1 Ba6 10.Qa4 As in the previous game we arrive at a position that is equal with chances for both sides.

The best recent example is Mamedyrov – Caruana, 2018 (1-0,43) a heavy hitters battle that ended abruptly after Caruana blunder in a better position. Although Mamedyarov showed a sharp tactical alertness to exploit Caruana's mistake.

5...c5 6.dxc5 Na6 7.g3 Nxc5 8.Bg2 Nce4 9.0-0 Nxc3 10.bxc3

All theory so far. White accepts double pawns contrary to the main idea behind 4. Qc2 (to avoid damage to White's pawn structure after Bb4–Bxc3) and gets the semi Open b file, control of the d5 square and a slight lead in development.

10...Be7 11.e4 d6 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5

Now White's idea behind bxc3 is clear. White wants to put pressure on b7 to make it difficult for black to develop his light square bishop.

13...Qc7= 14.Qe2 Bd6 15.Re1 Nd7= 16.Bf4 Nxe5

[16...f6 17.Nxd7 Bxd7 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.Rad1]

17.Bxe5 Bxe5

[17...Rb8 18.Rab1 b6 19.c5]

18.Qxe5 Qxe5

Up to this point both players follow theory.

18...Qxc4 The questions is why Black exchanged queens? Black can take the pawn and deal with White's superior development. Probably keeping the queens on the board was not the best practical choice for Black in the last round game of a team competition, against a lower rated opponent and when your teammate on board one is under a heavy attack.

A good example of White's long lasting initiative after Qxc4 is the game Cernousek – Serarols, Gibraltar Masters 2018 (1-0,42). Perhaps, Black exchanged queens and hoped to control White's initiative as in the game Nakamura– Caruana, London Classic 2018 (1/2, 43) 19.Qa5 White's Queen dominates the board. Black can follow two plans to keep the balance. Black can give up the b7 pawn and develop the light square bishop or hang onto the b7 pawn with Rb8. 19...Bd7 (19...Rb8 20.Re4 Qc6 21.Rd4 Qb6 22.Qe5 White's pieces made progress and Black's only developed piece is the Queen.) 20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Rab1 h6 (21...Qa4 22.Qc7 a5 23.c4 e5 24.c5 and the white pawn on c4 rolls as in the game.)

19.Rxe5

1st Capitol City Open

by Daaim Shabazz

Tallahassee's Chen's B&B Chess Club hosted the 1st Capitol City Open on a beautiful spring weekend. The tournament was the first open tournament in Florida's capital since the 2014 Froemke Memorial. More than 50 players came from Tampa, Jacksonville and Gainesville.

The large majority of players were scholastic players with the highest-rated player being National Master Todd Bryant from Tampa. The 13 players in the Open section included four Experts and a cadre of promising scholastic players. In fact, two scholastic players would win the event!

As it happened the open section saw the top contenders taking points from each other. There were no upsets in the first round as all the rating favorites won. In the second round, Bryant (2216) and Steve Lenhart (2087) drew in a tactical slugfest in a Sicilian Dragon. Lenhart told The Chess Drum that both were under a minute in the end and he couldn't find a win, so they game ended in a three-fold repetition. Meanwhile Daaim Shabazz (2007) beat young upstart Erick Zhao (2113) with a prickly hedgehog.

While Benjamin Chen (2087) was held to a draw in the second round by David Liu (1677) of Gainesville, he beat the elder Liu brother, Jackie (1944). William Wu (1788) upset Erick Zhao (2113). Two professors battled it out as Florida State's Lenhart defeated FAMU's Shabazz in a very complicated game in the English. The game featured a pawn sacrifice resulting in tactical fireworks. The game was imbalanced and was the last to finish. Shabazz finally falling to time pressure mistakes.

Going into penultimate round, Lenhart, Bryant and Chen were at 2.5/3, so the pairings were Lenhart-Chen and Shabazz-Bryant. Chen, who has been teetering around 2100, went into his game with Lenhart with aggressive intent. The game went into a theoretical Najdorf variation. Lenhart told The Chess Drum that he played the same line against Chen in a blitz game, but forgot the analysis. Chen's two bishops and active play was able to win the day. "I was happy I survived as long as I did," said Lenhart.

Shabazz was the highest on 2/3 and paired against Bryant. The game was another Sicilian, but started out 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4!? The game went into a main line until black's 12...Qb6. The game continued on with 16...Nh6 and after 17.g4 Bf3! 18.Rd6 Qc7. At this point white was in danger of losing the thread and had to retreat with 19.Rd4. Now black can seize the initiative with 19...Qe5! but played 19...Bxg4?? instead (**diagram**). White responded with 20.Qxh6! since 20...gxh6 gets mated after 21.Rxg4+ Kh8 22.Bf6. After 20...Qxe7 21.Rxg4 white is up a piece and went on to win the game.

With Benjamin Chen winning he was atop the field with 3.5/4 and Jason Shen moved into a tie for second on 3/4 along with Daaim Shabazz. Steve Lenhart, Jackie Liu and David Liu had 2.5/4. The final round would be Chen (3.5/4) against Shabazz (3/4) and Shen (3/4) against David. Jackie Liu and brother David Liu of Gainesville have been regular participants of Tallahassee tournaments. There are now two more Liu brothers!

Chen quickly drew with Shabazz clinching a tie for first with 4/5. Shen ended up defeating Liu and also finished with 4 points. There was a three-way tie for 3rd-5th with Bryant, Lenhart and Shabazz finishing on 3.5/5. The Liu brothers scored 50% with 2.5/5 and five players ended with 2/5. It was a very balanced field as the lower half of the field essentially beat each other. In the under-1800 section, top-seed Jake McIntosh blitzed the field with 5-0. Dylan Yu and James Zhang tied for 2nd with 3/5. Zhang's only loss was to Yu. In the under-1400 section, Jolie Huang took top honors as she went undefeated with 4.5/5 and only gave up a draw to 3rd place finished Christopher Taylor (3.5/5). Paul Reynolds failed to catch Jolie Huang, but took clear second with 4/5 losing to Huang, but beating all other opponents. A podiatrist by training, Reynolds told The Chess Drum that he feels better about his work schedule because it allows more focus on chess. The results were apparent. In the under-400, Liang Zhou took clear first in his first tournament with a perfect score of 5/5! Keep an eye out of him!



NM Todd Bryant trotting out the Dragon against Steve Lenhart



Black has just played 19...Bxg4. How did white respond?

OPEN		U1800		U1400		U800
1. Benjamin Chen	4-1	1. Jakob McIntosh	5-0	1. Jolie Huang	4.5-5	1. Liang Zhou 5-0
2. Jason Shen	4-1					

See games on the next page. ~Ed.

Daa'im Shabazz annotates his game from the Capital City Open

Zhao, Erick (2113) [B42]
Shabazz, Daa'im (2007)

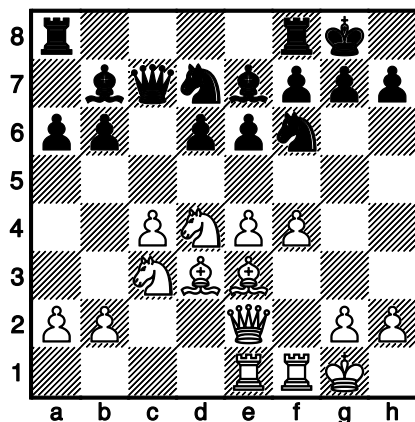
1st Capital City Tallahassee, (2),
 30.03.2019

[Daa'im Shabazz]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6
 5.Bd3 Qc7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Qe2 d6 8.c4
 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0

9...h5!? Probably a bit more
 principled in these systems to stop
 white's assault and to prepare meeting
 Be3 with Ng4.

10.Be3 b6 11.f4 Bb7 12.Rae1 Nbd7



The super-solid hedgehog setup.

13.Bf2

After Bf2, f4 becomes a target.

13...Nc5

[13...Rac8 14.e5 Ne8 15.exd6
 (15.Qe3 g6 16.Qh3 dxe5 17.fxe5 Ng7)
 15...Bxd6 16.Be3 Nc5 17.Bb1 Nf6=]

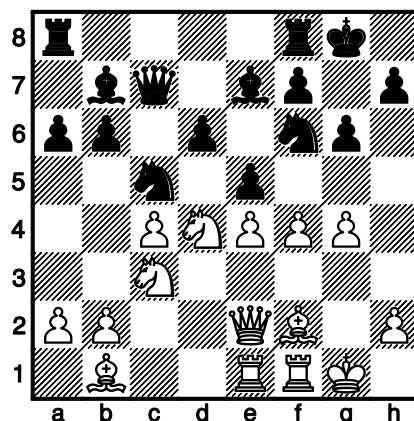
14.Bb1 g6

[14...Rac8 15.f5 e5 16.Nb3 Ncd7
 17.Nd2]

15.g4

[15.f5!? exf5 16.exf5 Rfe8 17.Bh4
 Bf8 18.Qc2 (18.Qf2 Nce4) 18...Ng4
 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Bh6=]

15...e5



16.Nb3

[16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Nxg4
 18.Qxg4 exd4 19.Bxd4 f5=]

16...Ne6?!

More accurate is 16...exf4 17.Nd5
 Nxd5 18.exd5 Bf6 19.Nxc5 dxc5
 20.Be3 Be5 21.Bc1 Rae8 22.Qf3=

17.fxe5 Nf4 18.Qf3 dxe5 19.Be3
 Qxc4 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Qxf4 Qe6

[21...h5 22.g5 Nd7=]

22.h3 Rad8 23.Bc2 b5

[23...h5]

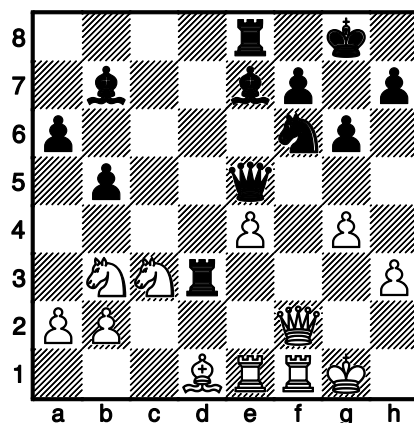
24.Qg3 Rfe8

[24...b4 25.e5 Nd7 26.Na4;
 24...Bd6]

25.Qf2 Qe5 26.Bd1

[26.Qf4 Bd6 27.Qxe5 Bxe5 28.Rf3]

26...Rd3



27.Bf3 Bb4

[27...Bd6 28.Re2 h5 29.Rd1
 Rxd1+ 30.Nxd1 hxg4 31.hxg4 a5-+]

28.Bg2 Re6?!

[28...Bd6 29.Qxf6 Qh2+ 30.Kf2
 Be7-+]

29.a3 Bd6 30.Qe2

[30.Bf3 Rxf3]

30...Qh2+ 0-1



Daa'im Shabazz (w) losing his
 round 3 game against Steve Lenhert.

Lenhert, Steve (2087)

Bryant, Todd (2216) [B76]

1st Capital City Open Tallahassee, (2),
 30.03.2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0
 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Kb1 Ne5
 11.Bh6 [#] 11...Rc8 12.Nd5 Nxd5
 13.exd5 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Qa5 15.Be2
 f6 16.h4 Qxd5 17.Qe3 Qf7 18.f4 Ng4
 19.Qg3 h5 20.Rhf1 f5 21.Qa3 a6
 22.Nf3 Kh8 23.Ng5 Qf6 24.Bf3 Bc6
 25.Rfe1 Be4 [#] 26.Bxe4 fxe4 27.g3
 e3 28.Qb3 b5 29.Rd5 Rc4 30.Qd3
 Rfc8 31.Re2 Qg7 32.f5 Rb4 33.b3
 Ne5 34.Rxe5 dxe5 35.fxg6 Rd4
 36.Qf5 Rd1+ 37.Kb2 e4+ [#] 38.Ka3
 b4+ 39.Ka4 e6 40.Nf7+ Kg8 41.Qxe6
 Rf8 42.Ng5+ Kh8 43.Nf7+ Kg8
 44.Ng5+ 1/2-1/2



GM Eduardo Iturrizaga



GM Pavel Eljanov



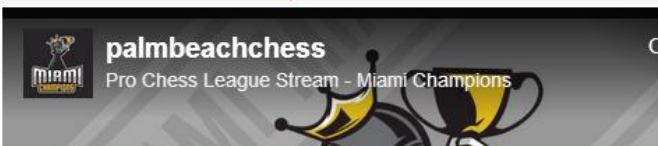
IM Alexander Katz



Manager: Bryan Tillis



Opponent		Date	Time (PST)	Result
Webster Windmills		1/8	2:40 PM PST	Loss 6.5-9.5
Montreal Chessbrahs		1/15	2:40 PM PST	Loss 5-11
New York Marshalls		1/22	1:50 PM PST	Loss 7.5-8.5
Battle Royale #1		1/29	1:30 PM PST	8th: 7.5 pts
Montclair Sopranos		2/6	1:50 PM PST	Loss 7.5-8.5
Pittsburgh Pawngrabbers		2/12	2:20 PM PST	Loss 6.5-9.5
Battle Royale #2		2/21	10:40 AM PST	1st: 17.5 pts
London Lions		2/26	1:30 PM PST	Draw 8-8
Saint Louis Arch Bishops		3/6	1:50 PM PST	Win 9-7
Battle Royale #3		3/12	1:30 PM PST	T-4th: 13 pts



Title	Name	Rating	Status	Pts	Games	Perf
GM	Pavel Eljanov	2703	Free Agent	16.5	26	2689
GM	S P Sethuraman	2673	Free Agent	1	4	2287
GM	Eduardo Iturrizaga	2636	Free Agent	33	44	2748
GM	Axel Bachmann	2621	Free Agent	2	7	2391
GM	Rui Gao	2548	Free Agent	2.5	8	2334
GM	Mohamed Haddouche	2489	Free Agent	1	4	2295
IM	Daniel Fernandez	2482	Local	2	4	2461
IM	Alexander Katz	2404	Local	5.5	16	2355
	Tianqi Wang	2312	Local	15	34	2439
FM	Kazim Gulamali	2308	Local	0.5	8	2134
	Richard Francisco	2227	Local	1.5	7	2049
	Bryan Tillis	2198	Local	3.5	15	2145
	Yan Miellier	2108	Local	1	4	2287
	Dominique Myers	2023	Local	1.5	7	2052

I am attaching a picture (above) with all information thus far in the league. I will send a number of annotated games for the magazine at the end of the season. The first few games begin on the next page.

The 1st match was against the New York Martials. The 2nd was against the Saint Louis Bishops. Eduardo Iturrizaga Bonelli, our top player's award winning game was against the San Francisco Mechanics.

Note that all information on the **Miami Champions** can be found at: <https://www.prochessleague.com/miami-champions.html>

Bryan Tillis



Proud sponsors of the Miami Champions

Jacobson, Aaron (2286)
Katz, Alexander (2433) [C41]
 PRO League Group Stage chess.com
 INT (3), 22.01.2019
 [Bryan Tillis]

1.e4 e5

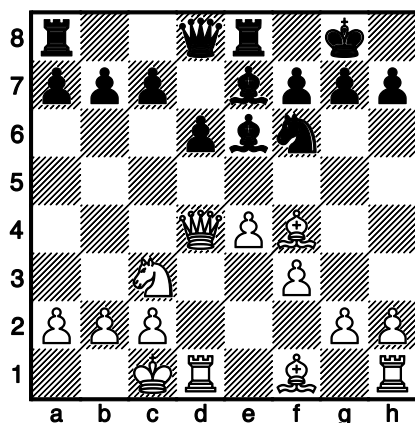
1...d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 the preferred move order for Phillidor players these days

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4

With the pure e5 move order it is important to release the tension as white has a strong continuation compared to the 1.d6 move order.

3...Nd7 4.Bc4 c6 5.0-0 Be7 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.Ng5 Bxg5 8.Qh5 Qe7 9.Qxg5 Qxg5 10.Bxg5 white does well in my database with a 70%+ score.

4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Bf4 0-0 7.Qd2 Re8 8.0-0-0 Nc6 9.f3 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Be6



10...a6 seems more in the spirit of the position to generate counterplay on the queenside 11.Qd2 b5 12.Kb1 Bb7 13.g4 b4 14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5

11.g4 Nd7 12.h4 a6

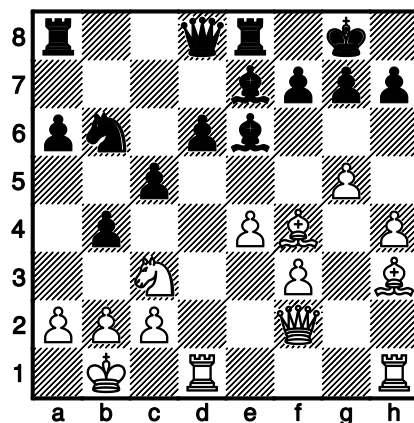
This move puts white comfortably in the drivers seat.

Better is 12...Bf6 trying to rid oneself of the bad Bishop 13.Qd2 Be5 14.g5 c6 15.h5 Qa5

13.g5 b5 14.Bh3 Nb6 15.Kb1 c5

All or nothing with the attack at this point!

16.Qf2 b4



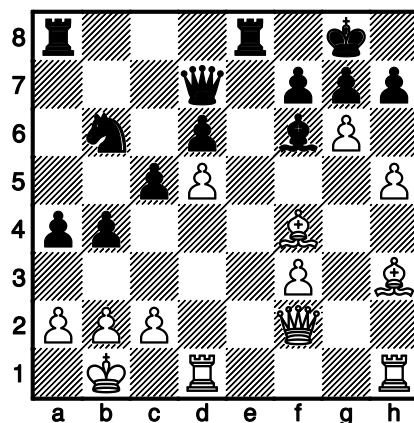
17.Nd5

17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Ne2 d5 19.Bc1 Qc7 20.g6 is strong for white.

17...Bxd5

17...Nxd5 18.exd5 Bxh3 19.Rxh3 a5 stronger than the game continuation as it kneecaps white's attack.

18.exd5 a5 19.Bf1 Qd7 20.h5 a4 21.g6 Bf6 22.Bh3



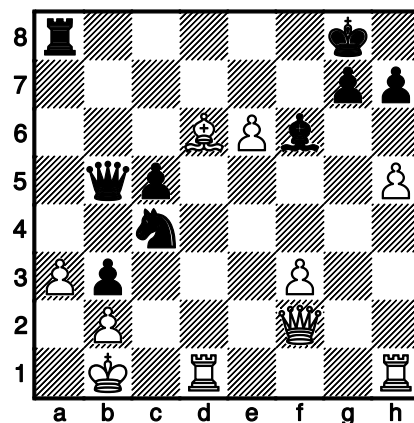
White is +2 and winning

22...Qb5 23.gxf7+ Kxf7 24.Be6+ Rxe6 25.dxe6+ Kg8 26.Bxd6

Now it is =

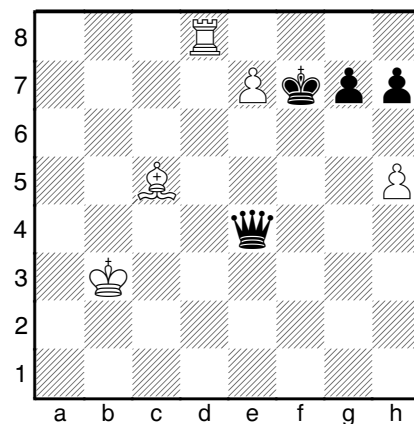
26.Qe3 watching the dangerous e6 pawn to glory and eyeing the defensive 3rd rank.

26...b3 27.cxb3 axb3 28.a3 Nc4



29.Qxc5 ??

29.e7 Nxa3+ 30.bxa3 Rxa3 31.Qb2 Bxb2 32.Bxc5 Ra1+ 33.Kxb2 Qe2+ 34.Kc3 Rxd1 35.Rxd1 Kf7 36.Rd8 Qxf3+ 37.Kc4 Qe4+ 38.Kxb3



with a perpetual--diagram of analysis.

29...Nxa3+ 30.Qxa3 Qf5+ 31.Ka1 Bxb2+ 32.Kxb2 Qc2+ 33.Ka1 Rxa3+

[33...b2+ 34.Ka2 b1Q# is also pleasing.

34.Bxa3 Qa2# 0-1

Eljanov, Pavel (2680)

Caruana, Fabiano (2828) [A07]

PRO League Group Stage chess.com
 INT (9), 06.03.2019

[Bryan Tillis]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Bg4 3.Bg2 Nd7 4.0-0 e6 5.h3

5.d3 Is an interesting alternate continuation with solid but stable play 5...c6 6.Nbd2 Ngf6 7.Qe1 Be7 8.e4 0-0

9.h3 Bh5 10.Nh2 dxe4 11.dxe4 e5
12.Nc4 Re8 13.Ne3

5...Bh5 6.d4 Ngf6 7.c4

A very equal position theoretically.

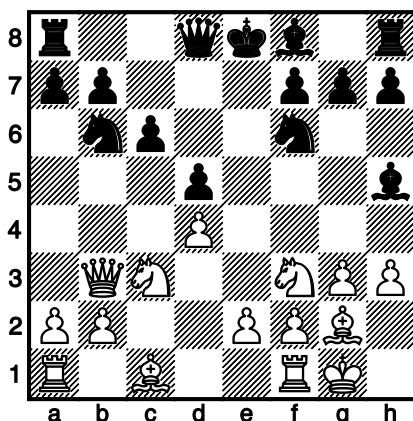
7...c6

7...dxc4 8.Nbd2 Nb6 9.Nxc4 Nxc4
10.Qa4+ c6 11.Qxc4 Qb6 12.b3 feels
easier for white.

8.cxd5 exd5 9.Qb3

The only deficit in the black
position at this moment is the weak b7
pawn due to the 'bad' bishop being
located on h5.

9...Nb6 10.Nc3



10...Be7

10...Bxf3 a key moment! 11.exf3
Be7 12.a4 Qd7 13.a5 Nc4 stronger
than the main game continuation.

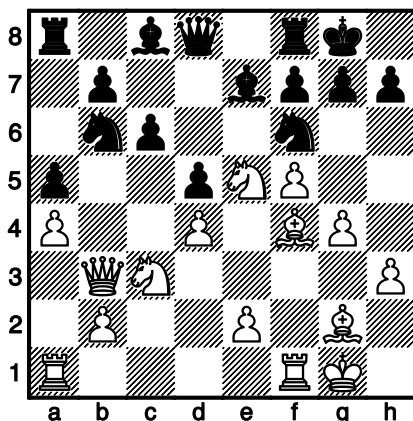
11.a4 a5 12.Ne5

Now the opportunity to capture the
knight is done...now begins white's all
out push on the kingside.

12...Bg6 13.f4 Bf5 14.g4

The pawns keep rolling!

14...Bc8 15.f5 0-0 16.Bf4



Compare this position to move 10,
white has made serious progress and
though the engine evaluates this
position as roughly equal white is
clearly more comfortable

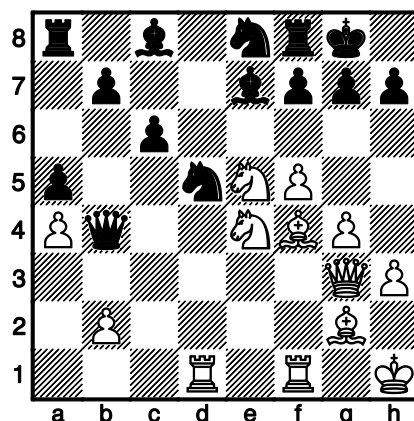
16...Ne8

16...Nbd7 17.Rad1 Qb6 attempting
to get rid of attackers seems wise.

**17.e4 dxe4 18.Nxe4 Qxd4+ 19.Kh1
Nd5 20.Rad1**

White has beautiful coordination
for the pawn.

20...Qb4 21.Qg3



21...Nef6

21...Qxb2, the bloodless machine
wants the material 22.Bc1 Qb4 23.Rd3
Nd6 24.Nxd6 Qxd6 25.Ba3 Qd8
26.Bxe7 Qxe7 27.Re1 where black is
better.

**22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Bxd5 cxd5 24.g5
Bd8**

24...Bxe5 25.Bxe5 Qxa4 26.Rd4
Qb5 27.Rf2 Ra6 black is better; it is
very difficult for even the best players
in the world when the clock runs low.

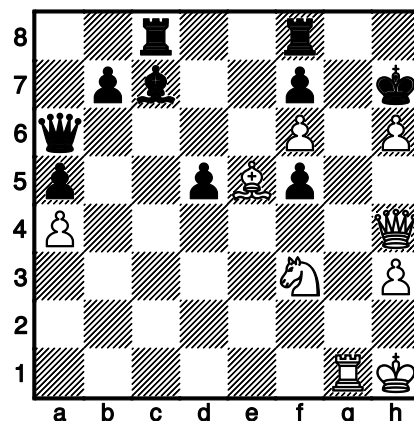
25.f6 g6 26.Qh4 h5 27.gxh6 Kh7

27...Bf5 28.h7+ Kh8 29.Ng4 Ra6
30.Qh6 Bxf6 31.Nxf6 Rxf6 32.Bg5
Be4+ 33.Kg1 Qc5+ 34.Be3 Rxf1+
35.Rxf1 Qd6 36.Bd4+ f6 is complicated
but equal according to the engine.

28.Nf3 Bf5 29.Rd4 Qxb2 30.Be5 Rc8

30...Qe2 31.Ng5+ Kh8 32.Re1
leads to a continuation similar to the
main game.

**31.Rf4 Qe2 32.Re1 Qa6 33.Rxf5 gxf5
34.Rg1 Bc7**



35.Rg7+

35.Qg5 Rg8 36.Qxf5+ Rg6
37.Ng5+ Kh8 38.Nxf7+ Kg8 39.Qxg6+
Kf8 40.Qg8#

**35...Kh8 36.Qg5 Qf1+ 37.Ng1 Rg8
38.h7 Rgf8 39.Rg8+ 1-0**

So, Wesley (2776)

Tillis, Bryan (2198) [D35]

Pro Chess League Chess.com (2),
06.03.2019

[Bryan Tillis]

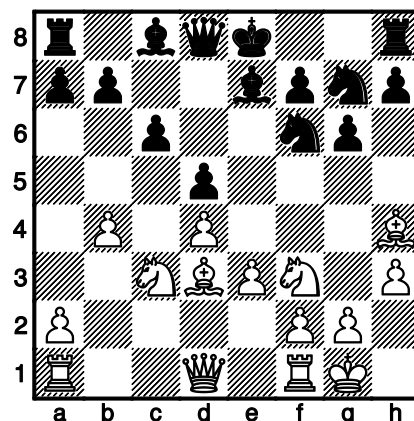
**1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5
exd5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3**

[6.Nxd5 Nxd5 7.Bxd8 Bb4+ 8.Qd2
Bxd2+ 9.Kxd2 Kxd8]

6...c6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.h3

So's pet line in the Exchange
Variation as it stops the Nh5 lines
which are in fashion.

**8...Nf8 9.Nf3 Ne6 10.Bh4 g6 11.0-0
Ng7 12.b4 Novelty**



(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

12...a6 [12...Bxb4 13.Nxd5 cxd5
14.Qa4+ Kf8 15.Qxb4+]

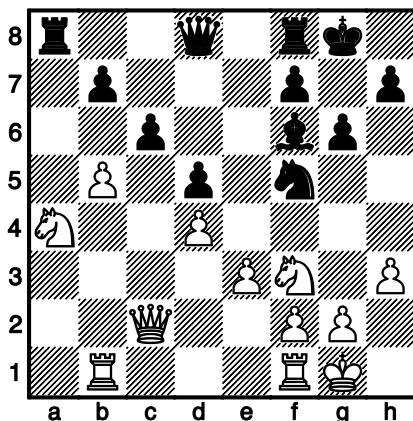
13.Rb1 Bf5 14.a4 Ne4

[14...0-0 15.b5 axb5 16.axb5 Ra3
17.Bxf6 Bxf6 18.Bxf5 Nxf5 19.Rb3
Qa5]

15.Bxe4 Bxh4

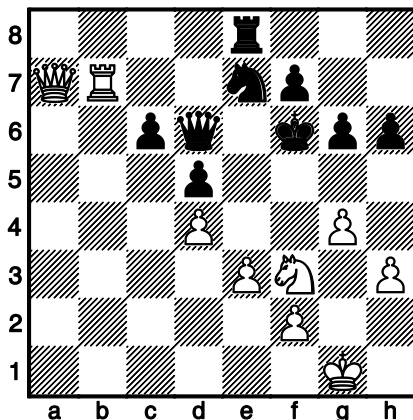
[15...Bxe4 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Nxe4
dxe4 18.Nd2 0-0 19.b5 cxb5 20.axb5
a5 21.Nc4]

16.Bxf5 Nxf5 17.b5 axb5 18.axb5 Bf6
19.Qc2 0-0 20.Na4



20...Rc8 [20...Qc7 21.Rfc1 Ra5
22.bxc6 bxc6 23.Nb2 (23.Qxc6 Qxc6
24.Rxc6 Bxd4) 23...Rc8 24.Nd3 Kg7]
21.bxc6 bxc6 22.Rfc1 Ne7

[22...Nd6 23.Nb6 Rc7 24.Nxd5;
22...Re8 much better defense, Ne7
was where things began to fall apart
23.Rb6 Re6 24.Ra6 Qe8 25.Nb6 Rb8
26.Na4 Rc8 27.Nc5 Re7 28.Nd3 Re6]
23.Nc5 Kg7 24.Rb7 Rc7 25.Rcb1
Rxb7 26.Rxb7 Qa8 27.g4 h6 28.Qb2
Qc8 29.Qb6 Re8 30.Nd7 Qd8 31.Nxf6
Kxf6 32.Qa7 Qd6



33.Ne5

[33.Rd7 Qe6 34.Ne5 Kg7 35.Qc5]
33...Qe6 34.Rd7 Kg7 35.Qc5 h5
36.Rd6 Qc8 37.Rd7 hxg4 38.Rxe7
Rxe7 39.Qxe7 Qf5 40.hxg4 Qb1+
41.Kh2

Complete analysis for this game
can be found on the **Palm Beach
Chess channel on YouTube! 1-0**

**Iturrizaga Bonelli, Eduardo
(2637) [D17]**

Shankland, Samuel (2725)

PRO League Group Stage chess.com
INT (4), 30.01.2019

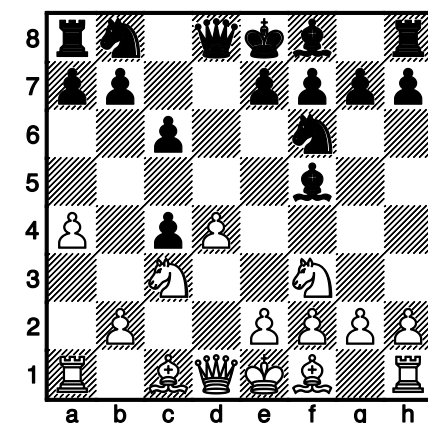
[Bryan Tillis]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4
The Dutch Variation of the Slav

5.a4

5.e4 here is an interesting
continuation for the all or nothing
aggressive players with white 5...b5
6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 e6 8.axb5 Nxc3 9.bxc3
cxb5 10.Ng5 Bb7 11.Qg4 Bd5 12.Be2
Nc6

5...Bf5



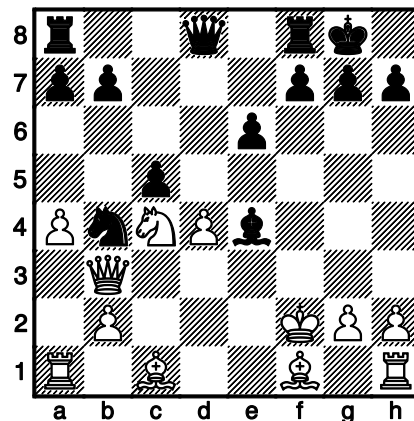
6.Ne5

The most popular and most solid
choice is 6...e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 0-0
9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.e4 Bg6 11.Bd3 Bh5
12.e5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Qe3 Bg6
15.Ng5 Re8 16.f4 Bxd3 17.Qxd3
following Topalov - Kramnik 2006,
World Championship, 0-1

6...e6 7.f3 Bb4 8.Nxc4 0-0 9.Kf2

Both players are ready to get into
the tactical mess that will arise after e4
and the piece sacrifice

9...c5 10.e4 Bg6 11.Na2 Nc6 12.Nxb4
Nxb4 13.Qb3 Nxe4+ 14.fxe4 Bxe4

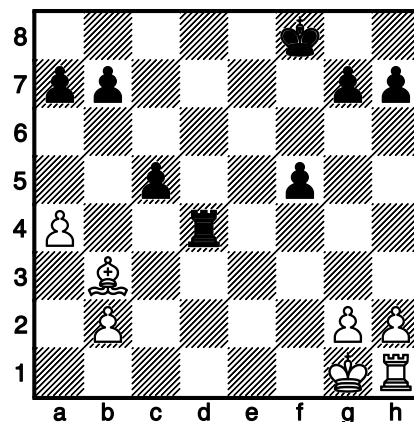


These positions are not for the ill
prepared!

15.Bf4 Qf6 16.Qe3 Rad8 17.Kg1 Nc2
18.Qxe4 Nxa1 19.Be5

19.Bd6 Qxd4+ 20.Qxd4 cxd4
21.Bxf8 Kxf8 22.Kf2 Nb3 gives more
chances than the main continuation.

19...Qe7 20.Bd3 f5 21.Qf4 Nb3
22.Bd6 Rxd6 23.Qxd6 Qxd6 24.Nxd6
Rd8 25.Nxf5 exf5 26.Bc4+ Kf8
27.Bxb3 Rxd4



White is clearly better but this
position requires excellent technique to
convert.

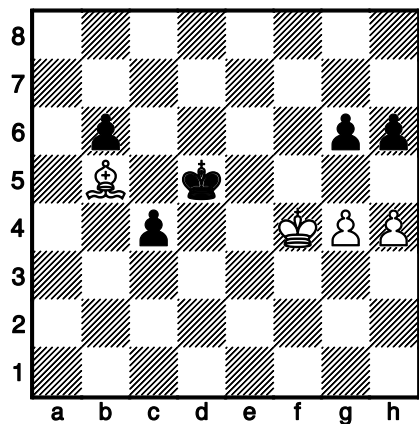
28.h4 Rd2 29.Be6 Rxb2 30.Bxf5 g6
31.Be4 Rb4 32.Bd5 Ke7

32...Rxa4, this position is not easy
to evaluate at all even for the engine at
shallow depth 33.Bxb7 Ra1+ 34.Kh2
Rxh1+ 35.Kxh1 a5 36.Bc6 Ke7 37.Kg1
Kd6 38.Be8 Ke5 39.Kf2 Kd4 40.Ke2
Ke4

33.Kf2 Kd6 34.Bg8 h6 35.a5 b5
36.axb6 axb6 37.Re1 Rf4+ 38.Kg3
Rf6 39.Bc4 Kc6 40.Rb1

Not allowing the duo to press forward.

40...Rd6 41.Bb5+ Kd5 42.Rd1+ Ke5
43.Rxd6 Kxd6 44.Kf4 Kd5 45.g4 c4



An instructive moment – which pawn should move and why?

46.g5

Correct, as 46.h5 gxh5 47.gxh5 is a dead draw since the Bishop is not the color of the corner square of the h-pawn, so 47...Ke6 48.Ke3 Kf7 49.Bxc4+ Kg7 50.Kd4 Kf6 51.Be2 Kg7 52.Kc4 Kf6 53.Kb5 Kg7 54.Kxb6 Kf6 55.Kc6 Kg7 56.Kd6 Kf6 57.Kd5 Kg7 58.Ke6 Kh8 59.Kf6 Kg8 60.Kg6 Kh8 61.Kxh6 Kg8 62.Kg6 Kh8 with the simple plan of Kg8–Kh8 and black draws.

46...hxcg5+ 47.hxcg5 Kd4 48.Be8 c3
49.Bxc6 b5 50.Bc2

No more progress!

50...b4 51.g6
1-0

2019 Georgia Open & Tri-State Championship

Feb 22-24, Valdosta, Georgia

by Tim Staley

This event, in addition to being an Open tournament, is a multi-state competition; Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Florida won again with a score of **Florida 26, Georgia 18.5 and Alabama 0**. Florida won the 1st competition back in October 2017.

The organizer this year was the Georgia Chess Association (GCA) with Tim Staley as the Chief TD. It was 6 rounds G/90 d5, held in Valdosta, Georgia, 2/22- 2/24. There were only 25 entries, and Thad Rogers, president of GCA, explained that the low attendance was due to poor advertising and scheduling conflicts. Anthony Coleman assisted Thad in running the event.

RESULTS: Out of the 25 players, 16 won cash prizes.

FM Jorge Oquendo took 1st place with a score 5.5 out of 6 rounds. \$450

Benjamin Chen took 2nd with a score of 4.5 out of 6 rounds. \$200

Three of the players had titles:

- 1) FM Jorge Leon Oquendo
- 2) Benjamin Chen (Candidate Master) and
- 3) Theodore Slade (National Master)

Florida retained the traveling Tri-State trophy.



Anthony Coleman (L) giving
FM Jorge Leon Oquendo the Tri-State trophy.



Since the last issue of the Florida Chess we have experienced a series of major news in chess. For example, Magnus Carlsen retained his World Chess title in his match versus Fabiano Caruana, the book **Game Changer** about the artificial intelligence chess playing platform AlphaZero was published as well as the ChessPub book of the year **Keep it Simple e4**

The reviews on **Game Changer** and **Keep it Simple e4** are long and the following links will give you access to them.

http://gainesvillechesstraining.com/?page_id=191

http://gainesvillechesstraining.com/?page_id=727

The World Championship match between Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana lead to the publication of several good books about each player, but **Carlsen vs. Caruana: Duel of Giants** by Niclas Huschenbeth caught my attention for two reasons. Huschenbeth's annotations are very instructive to the amateur player and the author encourages active learning from the reader by challenging him to solve key positions of the games he is about to read. This young author has an every engaging writing style and his book is backed by solid research of the subject at hand. ... **Highly recommended.**

If this Spring you are looking for a source of inspiration, good annotations and well researched chess biography, the book **Louis Paulsen a Chess Biography with 719 games** by Hans Renette and published by McFarland & company is the book to buy. Louis Paulsen's best known chess legacy is his blindfold games and the dynamic system in the Sicilian defense that bears his last name. Perhaps, the reader can make his own idea about Paulsen's strength by going over the second game of the match Paulsen-Kolisch, 1861 or the Blindfold exhibition game against G.H Mackenzie London 1861.

Renette delivers a chess biography on Paulsen that is both, instructive and entertaining without sacrificing deep research and objectivity. **Louis Paulsen a Chess Biography with 719 games** is a well written, gripping story that will motivate chess players of any age to experiment, work hard at the game and to be confident about their own interpretation of chess. **Louis Paulsen a Chess Biography with 719 games** as all the titles from McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers is a pleasure to read, high quality no glossy paper, strong binding, solid cover and nice page layout rich in pictures and portraits.

Fire Openings (Black)

In our quarterly "Fire" opening section I have the opportunity to recommend three Chessbase DVD's and one book, named The Chigorin, The Albin Counter Gambit, The Lion and the book, The Kings Indian Move by Move, respectively. All four openings are sound, played by strong GMs and usually leave Black playing for three results.

The Chigorin appears on the board after the moves 1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 and Black opening strategy rely on piece play against White's central pawns. This unusual strategy by Black is explaining in detail by GM Simon Williams (Ginger GM) in his DVD **The Tactical Chigorin**. The presenter is enthusiastic about the opening and explains the variations and main points behind the Chigorin in an easy to follow and understand fashion. The author points out key moves to play the Chigorin with success such as a timely e5 pawn break and provide the

audience with eleven test and sixty game to practice (the right amount for an amateur to study the material). If you are interested in adding the Chigorin as Black this DVD will have you ready to play the opening before your next tournament.

The Albin Counter Gambit (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5) is an old opening reinvigorated by the original GM Alexander Morozevich. IM Lawrence Trent brings to the public the current status of the Albin in his ChessBase DVD the **Amazing Albin – Counter Gambit**. Trent organized the DVD content in five chapters (last chapter is a quiz section) and covers all chapters in five hours of videos. In addition the author provides a supplemented database with a sixty two model games. I went over the content of this DVD in a week (45 minutes each night after work) and it did not feel difficult. Mr. Trent is a good presenter and knows his subject topic. **Recommended!**

The Philidor Defense, 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf3 3.Nc3 Nbd7 is considered a solid but passive opening. Ginger GM, Simon Williams will change that evaluation of the Philidor with his ChessBase DVD **The Black Lion an Aggressive Variation of the Philidor**. In this DVD the author will illustrate **how** to play for a win in the classical variation of the Philidor defense. The analyses are solid, concise and fit well with the five and half hours duration of this DVD. The annotations of the model games by Williams and the assistance of the **Chessbase features** such the arrows to illustrate piece paths and highlight of key squares make easy for the amateur to master the content. Williams's ability to explain to an amateur player the games of 2700+ player as Richard Rapport on black side of the Philidor against 2500+ opposition in a nine minute video clip is remarkable.

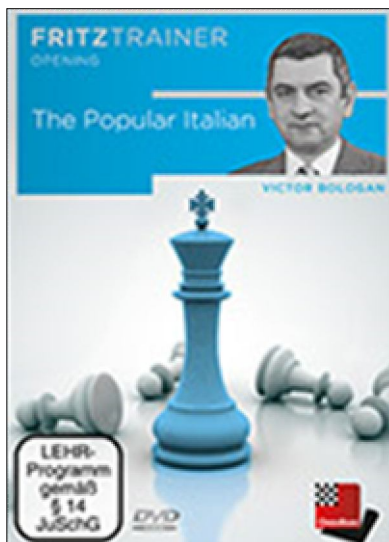
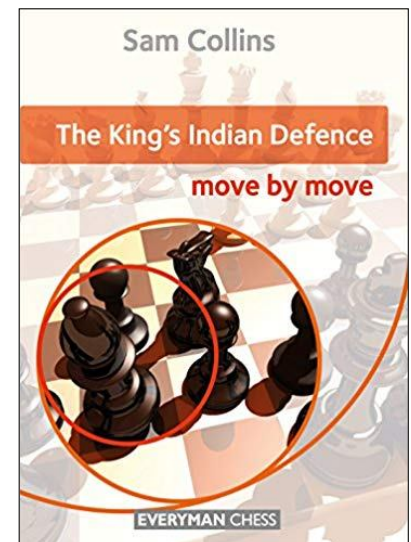
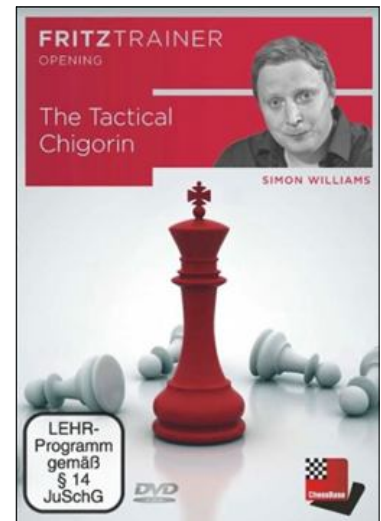
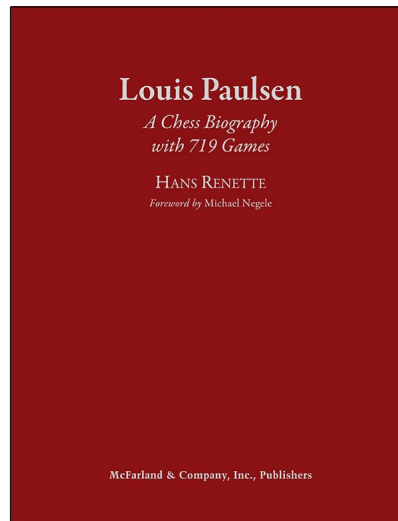
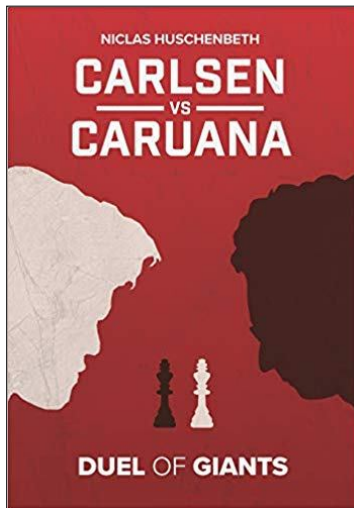
The Kings Indian Defense is a popular guess at amateur and professional levels. The key to play the KID is to understand the ideas behind each variation and the level of aggression required to respond to White's alternatives. The best resource available to class players on the KIUD at the moment is **The Kings Indian Move by Move** by IM Sam Collins. In less than two hundred and forty pages the author helps the reader to understand the KID, play the best moves in different variations according to current theory and inject new life in Black's play against the super solid Fianchetto Variation. As usual the annotations by Collins are great and the twenty nine games are enough for an amateur to start on the right foot his chess career as a KID devotee.

Ice Openings (Black and White)

The Italian is the new battleground in 1.e4 e5 games because White is tired of fighting against the solid Berlin wall or Black's lasting initiative in the Marshall gambit. Two ChessBase DVD's on the Italian by V. Bologan (**The Popular Italian**) and Wesley So (**My Black Secrets in the Modern Italian**) are available for amateur and advance players.

In **The Popular Italian** Bologan explains in detail the plans available to White and Black after the move sequence 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 Bc4 in a way suitable for below master level. Bologan used to play the Italian since the 90's and can trace back the development of the Italian since then until now.

In contrast, **My Black Secrets in the Modern Italian** by Wesley So is geared toward advanced players and the games feature several of his own games and other high rated players. If you have a 2800 player like So (broke this ELO mark in January 2017) against players of the caliber of Topalov the positions are going to be rich and complicated. Fortunately, Oliver Reeh asks questions to Wesley So as he explains his games or the ideas behind the games of other talented players such as Rapport. This question and answer format adds value to the DVD because we have the opportunity to see how a 2800 player thinks about the Italian and also his competitive approach to chess. **Both DVDs are highly recommended.**



2019 CFCC Winter Open

by Steven Vigil, Chief Tournament Director

The 2019 Winter Open was held on February 1-3. The tournament, formerly known as the CFCC Class Championship, was revamped to feature a Senior section (over 55) and side events like master lectures and a blitz tournament. Over 100 players competed in the inaugural 3-day event. The tournament was held at the newly renovated Avanti Palms Resort on International Drive. It was nice to return to a familiar venue (formerly the International Palms) which has hosted many great CFCC events after a 2 year hiatus to a nicer upgraded hotel with lots of great areas to sit and relax between rounds.

The tournament featured six sections: Premier, U2000, U1700, U1400, U1200/Scholastic, and the Senior section.

The Premier Section was dominated by top overall rated player GM Julio Becerra (2580) who had a clean sweep finishing with a perfect score of 5 points. Congratulations to GM Becerra, who deservedly took home the \$660 first place prize. Tying for second place, winning \$297 each, were FM Corey Acor (2351) and Enver Barisha (1989), who both finished with a score of 3.5, although they never played each other. FM Jorge Oquendo, Theodore Slade and Sureshkumar Rajmani all finished with 3 points in to tie for 4th place and received \$44 each.

In the U2000 section three players went undefeated to win first, second and third respectively. Congrats to Arnold Banner (1966) who finished with 4.5 points earning him clear first place and \$594. Brandon Sibbitt (1859) finished in second place with 4 points with 2 draws, earning him \$330. Warren Jones (1881) went unbeaten with 2 half point byes and a score of 3.5 points tying him for third place along with Todd Durham (1835) and William Wu (1737) winning all three players prize of \$132 each.

The U1700 section was won by Thomas Moy (1513) who scored 4.5 points and took home \$594. Daniel Hansen (1596) and Ralph Schreiber (1480) both went unbeaten with 4 points, including a draw against one another in round 2, with a score of 4 points and a \$264 payday for shared second place. Samuel Wohl (1679) and Darien Brown (1585) tied for 4th place winning them each \$99.

In the U1400 section Standings. Emanuel Eugene Nazon (1374) won first place and \$594 with 4.5 points. Sritej Sai Sattaru (1232) and Geoffrey Clark (1197) scored four points each to share second place and \$264 each. Stephen Herreros (1354) and Douglas Philip Bethoney(1265) tied for fourth place with 3.5 points each winning them \$99.

The Scholastic/U1200 section was won by Eyal Farber (1067). Congratulations to Eyal who won \$264 and was the only player in the entire event besides GM Julio Becerra to score 5 points. Simon Gong (862) scored 4 points to win second place and \$132. Ivan Goponenko (941) and Bailey Renae Foles (809) scored 3.5 points to tie for the U1000 prize and \$33 each. Soham Pavan Shirode (781) won the \$66 U800 prize with 3 points.

The Winter Open featured, for the first time, a Senior (55 and older section). Nine players competed in the section. Congratulations to IM Pedro Rodriguez (2234) from Cuba who won the first place prize of \$264 with 4.5 points. Juan Dominguez (1899) and Clinton Young shared second place honors and \$66 each.

Saturday night featured a 4 round, double-round blitz tournament. 16 players competed in the blitz. No one was even able to get even a draw against GM Julio Becerra, who again swept the field with a perfect 8 points to win the tournament.

Mixed doubles prizes were also awarded to the top male/female team. Congratulations to the team of Zoe Zelner (1794) and Arnold Banner (1966) who took first place with a combined score of 7.5 points winning them \$66 each. The team of FM Corey Acor (2351) and Violetta Atseva (1417) scored 6 points to win second place mixed doubles and \$33 each.

NM Larry Storch and FM Alex Zelner gave insightful and entertaining free lectures on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Steven Vigil, Harvey Lerman and Terrance Washington served as Tournament Directors for this event. Alex Zelner and OCG provided the chess store. CFCC's next weekend tournament will be the Sunshine Open June 1-3. We hope to see you there!

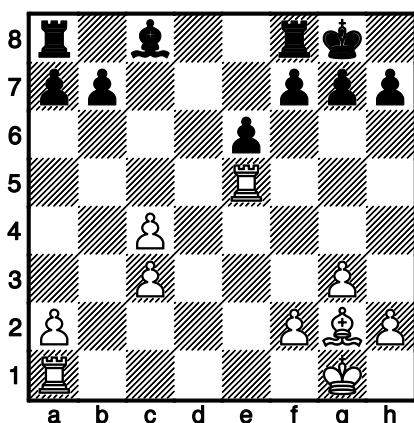


Enver Barisha tied for 2nd
with Corey Acor



Final Round, Board 1, GM Julio Bacerra (R) beats
FM Jorge Leon Oquendo to finish 5-0

(Ararat games continued from page 14)



19...Rb8 20.Rb1

This natural move gives Black the opportunity to equalize the game with 20...b6 [20.Ra5 a6 21.Rb1 b6 22.c5 as in the game.]

20...b6= 21.c5 Ba6 22.c6

White follows the same idea as in game Nakamura – Caruana, London Classic 2017 cited above. The position is equal, but White does not have to reinvent the wheel and just follow what 2700+ have discovered to work in this particular position.

22...Bc4 23.Rb4 Bxa2

This capture loses a move compared to the previous variation and White can play Ra4 without facing a7–a5 [23...f6 24.Re1 b5 25.a4 a5 and Black turns the tables.]

24.Ra4± f6

The turning point in the game. 24...Bd5 is worse, but Black is still in the game: 25.Bxd5 exd5 26.Rxa7

25.Re1

White converts the advantage without any problems.

25...Bd5 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Rxa7+- Ra8

[27...Rfc8 28.Ree7]

28.Rd7

[28.Ree7?! Rxa7 29.Rxa7 Rc8 30.c7=]

28...Rfd8 29.Ree7

29.Rxd8+ Also wins for White. 29...Rxd8 30.c7 Ra8 31.Re7 Kf8 32.Rd7

29...Rxd7 30.Rxd7 h6 31.c7 Kh7 32.Rd8 Ra1+ 33.Kg2 1-0

Florida School for the Deaf & Blind Chess Team

by Kevin Pryor

During the February Jacksonville Scholastic Championship, three players and their coach from FSDB attended a rated event for the 1st time in school history. Located in St. Augustine, Florida the school is well known around the world and particularly for their most accomplished graduate, Ray Charles.

I was notified by their coach, Lucio Garay, of their desire to register as a team. Mr. G., as he is known to his students, started an after school chess club consisting of 12 visually impaired and totally blind elementary students. Mr. G is a Math teacher at the school and runs the club once a week using adaptive chess equipment that was donated years ago.

Although there were over 110 players registered to compete, I kept a keen eye out for the FSDB players. Mr. G arrived first and we talked briefly about the need for a special assistant to work with his students to monitor play and move the pieces on their adaptive boards when sighted player move. His players arrived individually each with red/white cane in hand accompanied by a relative. Two boys and a girl. They all expressed nervousness, but came to compete as best they could and the hearts of a couple hundred people at the event immediately went out to them. Few had ever seen anything like it. “How was it possible?” some asked. Do they memorize entire games?

To the surprise of many, they did compete, but mostly beaten decisively in the first round when paired against stronger elementary players. I was concerned they’d be emotionally crushed, but they smiled and showed terrific sportsmanship. While they played I noticed surprised looks from their parents and discovered that most had never seen their child play chess before. This is due to most FSDB students live on campus during the week and chess club happens only while they are away and living in dorms. The parents were moved by their ability and so were all other the parents and players.

Then it happened. One of the totally blind players, fifth grader Khyree Lofton, scored a second round win by checkmate and then did it again before the event concluded. In speaking with Mr. G. about Khyree, he is their best player and although he has been blind for the last two of his nine years he had never played chess before they started the club this school year. Another player Nathaniel Figueroa, also had a won game, but lost his control of the game. The bottom line, these kids surprised everyone and won the hearts of all who witnessed their efforts.

A few weeks later, the FSDB team returned to Jacksonville for the Florida North Regional Scholastic Championship and this time with a new player and all of them wearing team shirts! The addition of the new player DJ made them team stronger, but they were playing in a stronger overall field for the Regional and ended with a team score of 1.0 (two draws). However, they continued to be the most inspiring team at this event too. People remembered them and more kids wanted to play with them between rounds and coaches from other teams give them pointers.

While at the Regionals, I told the parent of their equipment not meeting the International Braille Chess standard (board had reversed high/low squares and Black pieces not modified for touch identification). Many wanted to donate on the spot. I promised to set up a donation link on the F.C.A. website in the coming days for those who wished to give. The link was set up within a few days and after an email to parents, the donations rose to \$700 within two weeks. Then, upon speaking to parents at the state scholastic championship two weeks later another \$600 was raised within minutes.

However, the best story that came out of this started with an email from the mom of a player who attended the North Regional and was also touched by the FSDB team. 9-year old Daniel Fellerhoff had traveled from Tampa to the Regional event and told his mom he wanted to do a fundraiser for the FSDB team. According to his mom, Danielle, “He was intrigued by how the players used the adaptive equipment and enjoyed a friendly match with one of the players between rounds.” Daniel hoped to raise \$100 and approached his school, Lee Academy for Gifted Education and receive approval to host a “Chess Day” fundraiser on March 14th. Lee Academy students were encouraged to show their support by wearing black and white. They enjoyed chess activities that included stations for Blitz, Bughouse, Chess 960, beginner lessons and Daniel (934 usc) conducted a simul. The result: this little school of 65 students raised \$600 for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind’s chess program. In Daniel’s own words he said “I think EVERYONE should be able to play chess. I am lucky because I always have the equipment I need. I wanted to help the FSDB chess club so they could have the right equipment to play chess too. I am very happy that my family, friends and my school all helped to raise money for them. The Chess Day event was fun. My favorite part was that I got to hold a simul exhibition. When I heard how much money we raised, I couldn’t believe it because it was so much more than I thought it would be.

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

I hope I get to meet the players from FSDB again and see their new chess equipment."

When I asked his mom for her thoughts, Danielle said, *We are very proud of Daniel for his kindness and generosity and happy that his intense love for chess goes far beyond winning. Daniel truly enjoys the game, learning more, and sharing it with others. We are grateful for the positive role models- coaches, opponents, TDs etc- that he has learned from."*

We, the F.C.A. want to thank the Florida Chess community for their generosity to ensure the FSDB chess team has equipment and access to competitive chess by raising \$2000. Mr. G. and the FSDB school is also aware of what has been done and is very appreciate. The funds raised will go to purchase standard equipment to meet the needs for both blind and visually impaired players. We will support them with US Chess memberships for more team members to participate in tournaments. We also have been spending time on the campus to assist Mr. G. to improve his players and have made plans for the first on-campus chess tournament before the school year is over. For the full list of donors please go to our website's donation page.



FSDB Chess Team Khayree Lofton, Nathaniel Figueroa, Dino Juedy and Coach Lucio Garay



Daniel Fellerhoff playing Khayree Lofton in Skittles Room between rounds

All Girls National Chess Championship

by Tim Tusing

The Kasparov Chess Foundation & Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation in conjunction with the United States Chess Federation held the 2019 All Girls National Chess Championship in Chicago on the weekend of April 12-14th. The Oak Hall School Chess Club sent a team of six students to participate in the Under Eight Years Old section.

In an amazing come from behind finish the Eagle team recovered from what seemed to be an insurmountable score difference to win the championship! Entering the last day of the event Oak Hall found itself behind New York's prestigious Hunter College and PS77 school, and barely ahead of New York PS33 Chelsea Prep. Oak Hall's top three scorers Carly Vu (2nd grade), Maanya Rao (1st Grade) and Athma Reddy (Kindergarten) managed to each win both games on Sunday to earn the team 6 points and jump the team from third to the first place championship!

Final standings:

<http://rknight.org/registration/tournaments/all-girls-nationals/standings/>
Oak Hall 12.5, NY PS77 12.0, NY Chelsea Prep 10.5, NY Hunter 10.00

Also on the team earning valuable experience were kindergarten's Tesia Gurley, Svara Cherabuddi, and Reese Allen. Carly Vu won the 10th place trophy for individuals. The lone U10 player from Oak Hall was Adelyn Gurley (2nd Grade) who put in an exceptional effort.

The road to victory was not easy. After last years third place finish Coach Tusing vowed to return and win and with the aid of assistant Coaches Kai Tabor, Josh Harrison, Chris Story, and Cindy Jie the team put in lots of time and work to do so. The team this year was much younger having almost all kindergarteners on it and just one first grader and second grader. The New York schools were mostly second graders and they were higher rated players. But with determination, dedication, and discipline the Eagles earn the schools 17th National chess championship!



CHESS CALENDAR

Florida Chess Tournaments Clearing House

6 Perry Lane, FL 32701

harveylerman@brighthouse.com (407)629-6WIN (629-6946)

Date	Event	Location	Contact
2019			
Feb 1-3	Central Florida 2019 Winter Open	Avanti Palms Resort - Orlando	CFCC
Feb 2	FCA South Regional Scholastic	The Greene School - West Palm Beach	FCA
Feb 8-10	US Amateur Team Championship South	Ramada Gateway -- Kissimmee	BRCC
Feb 16	FCA North Regional Scholastic	Holiday Inn I-295/Baymeadows Road - Jacksonville	FCA
Mar 1-3	Florida State Scholastic Championship	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	FCA
Mar 15-17	Southern Class	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	CCA
Mar 15-17	2019 National High School (K-12) Championship	Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel - Schaumburg, IL	USCF
Apr 12-14	National All-Girls National Championships	Hyatt Regency McCormick Place - Chicago, IL	USCF
Apr 26-28	2019 National Junior High (K-9) Championship	Gaylord Texan Resort - Grapevine, TX	USCF
Apr 26-28	26th Space Coast Open	International Palms Resort - Cocoa Beach	SCF
May 10-12	2019 National Elementary (K-6) Championship	Gaylord Opryland Resort - Nashville, TN	USCF
May 31-Jun 2	CFCC 2019 Orlando Sunshine Open & Scholastic	Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North	CFCC
Jun 7-9	10th Summer Solstice Open	Hyatt - Boca Raton	BRCC
Jul 12-14	American Youth Chess Foundation Grand Champshp	Renaissance Hotel at Sea World - Orlando	HCA
Jul 13-14	North Florida Open	Holiday Inn I-295 Baymeadows - Jacksonville	JAXCC
Jul 19-21	Southern Open	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	CCA
Aug 3-11	120th U.S. Open	Rosen Center Hotel - Orlando	USCF
Aug30-Sep2	Arnold Denker Florida State Championship	Marriott - Palm Beach Garden	FCA
Oct 12	National Chess Day		USCF
Sep 13-15	CFCC 2019 Orlando Autumn Open	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	CFCC
Nov 15-17	Turkey Bowl	TBD	BRCC
Dec 13-15	National Grades K-12 Championships	Disney's Coronado Springs Hotel - Lake Buena Vista	USCF

FCA Florida 2019 Affiliates

Organization	Email	City
Alton Academy 4 Chess	kristaaltan@yahoo.com	Tampa
Archimedean Middle Conservatory Chess Club	AndrewLSmith84@gmail.com	Miami
B & B Chess Club	chenichess@gmail.com	Tallahassee
Boca Raton Chess Club	jon@floridachess.org	Boca Raton
Bortnik's school of chess, llc	bkchess.usa@gmail.com	Miami
Capablanca Chess Academy	info@capablancachessacademy.com	Miami
CHESS 4 US	monkbrown1@gmail.com	Hialeah
Chess with Cochez	chesswithcochez@gmail.com	Brandon
Daytona Beach Chess Club	pibit@cfl.rr.com	Daytona Beach
Florida College Chess Foundation	matthew.kolcz@gmail.com	Gainesville
Florida Scholastic Chess League	tejada@fscchess.org	Hialeah
Jacksonville Chess Club	jaxchessclub@gmail.com	Jacksonville
Palm Beach Chess	palmbeachchess@gmail.com	West Palm Beach
ScholasticChess LLC	george@scholasticchess.org	Jacksonville
Space Coast Chess Foundation, Inc.	peter100@modusoperandi.com	Merritt Island
Stormont Kings Chess Program	chris@stormontkingschess.com	Miami
SW Florida Chess Club	swflchess@yahoo.com	Naples

Other Contacts

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J.Haskel	(561)302-4377
M.Hutsko	(305)779-7341
G.Luna	(305)300-2055
C.Stormont	(305)552-1493
W.Taylor	(813)727-8852

Other Affiliates and Organizations

ACP	: American Chess Promotions	(478)973-9389
BM	: Beatriz Marinello	(917)553 4522
CACC	: Castle Chess Camp	(404)314-3142
CCA	: Continental Chess Association	(914)496-9658
CFCC	: Central Florida Chess Club	(407)629-6946
FSCL	: Florida Scholastic Chess League	(786)444-2467
HCA	: Hanley Chess Academy	(714)925-3195
KCF	: Kasparov Chess Foundation	(773)844-0701
MC	: Millionairechess.com	
OCG	: Orlando Chess & Game Center	(407)248-0818
SCSC	: Space Coast Scholastic Chess	
TCC	: Tallahassee Chess Club	(850)345-7838
USCF	: United States Chess Federation	(800)903-8723

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

Florida Chess Association, Inc.
6 Perry Lane
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-7948

**Central Florida 2019 Winter Open
February 1-3, 2019**

Avanti Palms Resort, 6515 International Drive, Orlando 32819

5SS, G/120 d5 (2-day: Rd.1 G/60 d5).

\$10,000/b150 (Scholastic = 1/2-entry), **60%** Guaranteed. GPP 20

Includes a separate Senior-55+ section only for 55+ of all ratings

Sat night Blitz, Mixed-pair prizes & Lectures

HR: \$95 (free parking for all) 407-996-0900 or 866-994-3157; Reserve by Jan 9

(Mention "Chess" or CFCC); or online <http://tinyurl.com/feb2019hotel>

(See centralflchess.org for details)

2019 US Amateur Team Championship South

Feb 8-10, 2019

Ramada Gateway, 7470 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Kissimmee 34747

HR: (800)327-9170 Mention "Chess Tournament"

(See www.ramadagateway.com and bocachess.com for details)

See floridachess.org for a complete list and details of Florida chess events.