

Florida **CHESS**

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Fall Nov 25, 2023



**2023 State Champion
FM Bach Ngo**

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Jon Haskel, Kevin Pryor, Bryan Tillis, George Foote, Garrett Foote, Charles Hatherill, and Andrew Rea.



Contents

Foote Notes & President's Message	3
2023 Harvey Lerman State Championship	4
Chess in Community College: A Growing Trend	7
National Chess Day	8
Florida's Top Players	9
Games from Recent Events	10
U.S. National Team South Championship.....	14
Regional Reports	15
Book Review by Miguel Ararat	20
USCF Roles, TDs, & more.....	22
Calendar of Events & FCA 2023 Affiliates	23

FCA Membership Dues

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

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)

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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The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Florida Chess Association, its Board, or anyone else.

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"Foote Notes"



Greetings, chess aficionados!

Credit where it's due: Charles Stevens, a long time friend of mine, gave me the humorous suggestion of renaming my column "Foote Notes." It is a bit silly (as intended) but it's also an accurate description of this column and, as such, consider it duly adopted.

Apologies: As a measure to ensure broader regional coverage, Jon Haskel, invited our FCA Treasurer and fellow

So. FL organizer, Matthew Kolcz, to add in some additional content to his report. Matthew graciously obliged and provided me with several analyzed games. Kudos to them both. Unfortunately, I misunderstood what was coming and only left space for a few of the photos and brief commentary. That said, I want to thank them both for the effort and apologize that I wasn't able to publish the full extent of their work this time around.

In this issue: We do have a full slate of coverage this month and hope you enjoy the photos and commentary from our contributors. We touch on everything from the State Championship, college trends, regional reports, game analysis, an excellent book review and few things in between.



The Joy of Chess: At this year's State Championship, High Schooler Jonathan Cagle was the top Florida finisher in the under 1600 section. Upon the realization of this milestone, his parents, who were in attendance, where understandably proud and it was a joyous occasion. The ensuing and spontaneous celebration is one not often observed in chess., but worthy none the less. Congratulations to Jonathan and his family on the fine accomplishment (and fun photo). It's my hope that we all have as much fun as the Cagles with our chess exploits.

Until next time, may all your moves be brilliant and well planned.

George Foote

Editor, floridaCHESS Magazine

from the President's desk

Dear Members and Friends,



We have some updates from US Chess that need to be recognized. First and foremost, check your rating! There has been an update to the US Chess rating system adjusting bonus points earned since January of 2023. You may be the fortunate recipient of extra points. Secondly, US Chess has entered into a partnership with the U.S.

Center for SafeSport. This organization provides training for Tournament Directors. This training is mandatory as part of Tournament Director Certification. If you are currently a TD, please take care of this training ASAP so we can continue to serve our community by providing events. Our core goal as an organization is the growth of chess in our state and we sincerely appreciate your efforts in assisting with this endeavor.

Because of our combined efforts, Florida chess is growing. According to US Chess MAP statistics, we increased our membership last year 34% from 3682 to 4862 and it continues to rise. We are seeing more affiliates and clubs pop up around the state and the board is here to support you. If you ever have any questions or concerns please come to us, we have an open door policy.

I have been serving on the Chess in Education committee for the past year and became aware of multiple grants provided by US Chess. I would strongly encourage all program directors and educators, especially those working with Title 1 Schools, to take a look on the US Chess homepage under the EDUCATION tab. Many schools around the country were able to take students to nationals due to financial assistance from US Chess, we hope that this information is useful and can provide your students with more opportunities.

By May 1st of each year, the state chapter president is to provide a list of Delegates to US Chess to represent our state at the US Open. This year, the tournament will take place in Norfolk, VA. If you plan to attend this tournament or have interest in becoming a delegate please reach out to me. With a growing number of players we have more delegate spots to fill, please contact me if you are interested in getting involved.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me. I am here to help and serve.

Warm regards,
Bryan Tillis - bryan@floridachess.org
President, Florida Chess Association

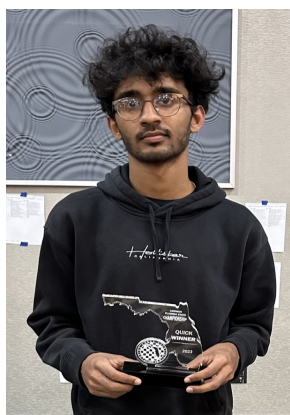
2023 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship



Ceremonial first move by Jacksonville City Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr.

The 2023 Harvey Lerman Florida State Chess Championship, hosted from September 2nd to 4th in the Northeast Region, showcased the intellectual prowess and strategic acumen of 220 players hailing from diverse corners of the Sunshine State. The Jacksonville Chess Club, serving as the sponsoring affiliate, orchestrated the event at the Double Tree by Hilton Jax Airport in Jacksonville, Florida. The championship featured a trifecta of chess formats, including the Quick Championship, the Blitz Championship, and the Classical Championship, adding layers of complexity and excitement to the competition. Among the myriad talents, FM Bach Ngo emerged as the undisputed champion, successfully defending his title in the face of a formidable and competitive field.

Our Games Editor, Miguel Ararat, delves into the intricacies of the championship by reviewing four interesting games in his comprehensive analysis featured on page 10. The chess enthusiasts and connoisseurs can gain valuable insights into the strategies and tactics employed by the participants, providing a deeper appreciation for the intellectual rigor inherent in the game. The gallery that follows highlights the triumphant section winners, immortalizing the achievements of these skilled chess contenders in the annals of Florida chess history. A hearty congratulations to all who participated and a big thank you to Tournament Directors Nils Pearson, George Foote, Assistant Chief TD Charles Hatherill and Chief TD Kevin Pryor.



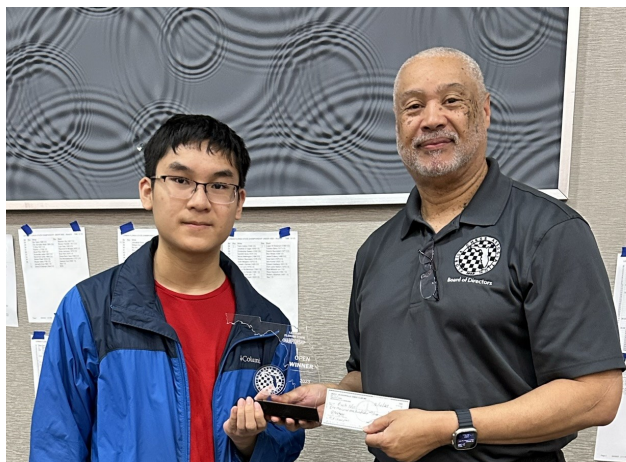
State Quick Champ —
Raghav Venkat



Under 1600 Winner—Logan Dickenson



State Blitz Champion—FM Corey Acor



Overall State Champion—FM Bach Ngo



Under 2000 Champion—Brandon Vila



Under 1800 Champion—Johnathan Smith



Under 1600 Champion—Jonathan Cagle



Under 1400 Champion—Joshua Ramesey



Under 1200 Champion—Gabri Patino Fatz

2023 Harvey Lerman Florida State Championship Championship Section—Final Standings

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-Med	T-Solko	T-Cumu	T-Op. cu
1	1	FM Bach Ngo	2444	W42	W10	W3	W5	W4	D2	5.5	22.5	25	20.5	88.5
2	2-3	NM Raghav Venkat	2344	W20	W28	D8	W15	W7	D1	5.0	20.5	23.5	18.5	87
3		CM Marvin Gao	2255	W18	W33	L1	W25	W13	W9	5.0	20	22.5	17	82.5
4	4	Truman Hoang	2156	W25	D7	W51	W8	L1	W15	4.5	20	22.5	16.5	85
5	5-14	IM Saudin Robovic	2412	W53	W21	W6	L1	D11	D8	4.0	21	23.5	16.5	77
6		Joshua A Harrison	2137	W24	W13	L5	W18	D12	D11	4.0	19.5	22.5	15.5	83.5
7		Oscar Iz Williams	2040	W39	D4	W9	W37	L2	D12	4.0	19.5	21.5	16	80
8		Theodore Lu Slade	2125	W50	W26	D2	L4	W24	D5	4.0	19.5	21.5	15.5	80
9		Gilner Santiesteban	2273	W30	D27	D7	W26	W14	L3	4.0	19	22	15.5	77.5
10		Abhiram S Pothuri	2079	W19	L1	W16	L13	W40	W25	4.0	19	21.5	13	79
11		Vincent Stone III	2170	D32	W31	W27	D14	D5	D6	4.0	18	20.5	15	75.5
12		FM Corey Bryan Acor	2347	D40	W43	D14	W17	D6	D7	4.0	18	19.5	14.5	76.5
13		Andrew B Rea	2000	W48	L6	W45	W10	L3	W24	4.0	17.5	19	14	68
14		CM Dhruv Khosla	2090	W37	W45	D12	D11	L9	W19	4.0	17	18.5	15.5	72.5
15	15-23	Jacorey Bynum	2098	W34	D16	W40	L2	W32	L4	3.5	18	20.5	14.5	75
16		Om Mishra	1872	W23	D15	L10	W33	D17	D20	3.5	18	20.5	13	68.5
17		Advait Nair	2065	D38	W32	W22	L12	D16	D18	3.5	17	19	13.5	68.5
18		Alex Haoning Chu	1973	L3	W49	W46	L6	W26	D17	3.5	17	18.5	11.5	66.5
19		Ryan Danie Putney	1872	L10	X53	D33	W51	W22	L14	3.5	16.5	16.5	11	57.5
20		Jerry Yao	1993	L2	L35	W49	W46	W28	D16	3.5	15.5	17	9.5	59
21		WFM Jessica Sho Regam	2076	W35	L5	L24	D34	W50	W32	3.5	14.5	16.5	10.5	58.5
22		Nate Ziegler	1965	H---	W36	L17	W27	L19	W33	3.5	14.5	14.5	11.5	51
23		Andy Catlin	2086	L16	H---	D31	H---	W37	W29	3.5	11.5	11.5	8	39.5
24	24-31	Vivan Praka Mulay	1921	L6	W39	W21	W28	L8	L13	3.0	14.5	20.5	12	72.5
25		Kevin Mat Sevilla	1949	L4	W52	W43	L3	W44	L10	3.0	12.5	18	11	62
26		Anthony Cipollina	2019	W46	L8	W35	L9	L18	W38	3.0	12	17.5	11	63.5
27		Akshat Suresh	2063	W47	D9	L11	L22	D38	W39	3.0	11.5	17	10.5	61
28		Phillip Durand	2064	W49	L2	W34	L24	L20	W37	3.0	11	17.5	11	60
29		Quan Tanksley*	1854	H---	L51	W30	D40	W42	L23	3.0	10.5	14	10	39.5
30		Aleks Fetlyaev	1989	L9	D47	L29	W48	D39	W41	3.0	8.5	14	7.5	46
31		Mark Giovannetti	1968	H---	L11	D23	H---	W45	H---	3.0	5	9	7.5	30.5
32	32-36	Neel Sahai	1970	D11	L17	W47	W38	L15	L21	2.5	14	18	10	66.5
33		Arav Patel	2060	W52	L3	D19	L16	W34	L22	2.5	13	18	10	61

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-Med	T-Solko	T-Cumu	T-Op. cu
34	32-36	Jolie Huang	1902	L15	W48	L28	D21	L33	W46	2.5	12	15.5	7.5	55
35		Agrim Kumar	1863	L21	W20	L26	L44	D46	W45	2.5	12	15.5	7	52.5
36		Leandro Blanco	2011	D41	L22	L38	L39	W48	W47	2.5	9	12.5	6	40
37	37-44	Nune Khachatryan	1873	L14	W42	W44	L7	L23	L28	2.0	15.5	19.5	9	65.5
38		Talha Ozsoy	1832	D17	L40	W36	L32	D27	L26	2.0	13.5	17	8	60.5
39		Gary L Cote	1800	L7	L24	D48	W36	D30	L27	2.0	13	17	6	55
40		Maxwell Z Yang	1994	D12	W38	L15	D29	L10	---	2.0	12.5	16.5	9.5	60
41		Aashish Jagan	1753	D36	L44	L42	D47	W49	L30	2.0	10.5	13.5	6.5	37
42		Jacob Sperber	2000	L1	L37	W41	W43	L29	---	2.0	8.5	14	7	52.5
43		Arsenio Bachurin	1597	B---	L12	L25	L42	D47	D49	2.0	8.5	12.5	6.5	41
44		Glenn Buyo	2005	L45	W41	L37	W35	L25	---	2.0	8	11	8	41
45	45-51	Aarna Nit Warekar	1700	W44	L14	L13	D50	L31	L35	1.5	14	18	7.5	57.5
46		Skyler Kelly	1788	L26	W50	L18	L20	D35	L34	1.5	13.5	17	6	52
47		Aakash Jani	1825	L27	D30	L32	D41	D43	L36	1.5	11.5	14.5	5	47
48		Ryan Ratliff	1671	L13	L34	D39	L30	L36	W52	1.5	10.5	14.5	3	42
49		Srijan Ganta	1830	L28	L18	L20	W52	L41	D43	1.5	10.5	14	3.5	46
50		Aaron Wang	1915	L8	L46	W52	D45	L21	---	1.5	7	11	5.5	40.5
51		James Walker Jr	2000	H---	W29	L4	L19	---	---	1.5	6	10.5	7.5	37.5
52	52	Peter J McQuillan	1807	L33	L25	L50	L49	B---	L48	1.0	7.5	10.5	1	33
53	53	Kai Tabor	1996	L5	F19	U---	---	---	---	0.0	0	4	0	16.5

Chess in Community College: A Growing Trend

Trey Slaten, FCA Secretary



At 7:00 AM I stumbled out of bed, still not quite sure why I agreed to bring sets to this tournament. Thirty minutes of attempting to justify to myself that I should get back to sleep failed, and at 7:30 I was off. The 15 minute walk to the classroom where I stored the boards was long and arduous, some, certainly myself, would call it harrowing, I faced crosswalks, fog, and the occasional questioning look of why I was still wearing my pajamas. No matter, the tournament was too important. I arrived at 8:00 to grab the boards and walk back to my car... only to realize there was a class there for the next two hours. I begrudgingly

walked back to my apartment, resigning myself to the terrible fate of an extra hour of sleep. Refreshed, I leaped into action to head back over, grab the boards, and deliver them to the tournament, admittedly *slightly* later than I had intended. Overall, though, a rousing success and story of sleep, (lack of) determination, and a reminder of the importance of checking the room schedule.

The tournament in question was the Santa Fe Chess Club's first official tournament, a fantastic event hosted at Santa Fe Community College. The tournament was a swiss-style 5 round G/10+3 that drew 24 participants. It featured an open and U1300 section, both of which drew members from the student body as well as the surrounding community, creating lasting bonds between the club and local players. Not only are they hoping to continue hosting tournaments by expanding to their first USCF rated tournament in the spring, they're also in the process of networking with their satellite location to expand chess to more students. They're not alone in this effort.



Over the past several years, chess has exploded on college campuses around the nation. Nowhere is that more evident than here in the state of Florida, a hotbed of chess activity. Large university clubs like USF, FSU, (shameless plug of) UF, and others often dominate the collegiate chess discussion and are the focus of major events like the yearly Pan-American tournament. Certainly, these clubs deserve some attention for bringing chess to their large student bodies. Chess, however, doesn't stop at the 4-year collegiate level.

Chess in community colleges has grown significantly in recent years, and no program is a better example than Santa Fe Chess Club at Santa Fe Community College. Starting in 2021, the club has ballooned in membership and their recent tournament serves as a shining example of what chess in community college settings can be. Community college has, thus far, been a largely untapped potential source of players. Schools like Santa Fe College instruct nearly 17,000 students annually, and others in Florida outnumber the largest 4-year universities in the state. Valencia college enrolls 71,000 students, while Miami Dade enrolls a whopping 92,000 students. Community colleges around Florida are full of potential players that have thus far not been organized at the same level chess clubs at larger universities have been. Santa Fe shows that all college students appreciate and admire the game of chess, and we may well see a second boom in collegiate chess. Chess in community college is a winning proposition for everyone involved. Except, of course, the guy bringing the sets.

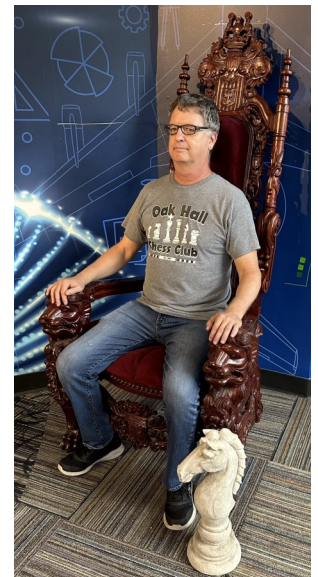
National Chess Day!

In 1976, by presidential proclamation, President Gerald Ford declared October 9th to be National Chess Day: a day to celebrate the royal game. National Chess Day takes place every second Saturday in October. How did you celebrating America's designated day for chess?"

The Street Chess Group in West Palm Beach hosted a blitz tournament for National Chess Day.



ScholasticChess.Org had their annual National Chess Day celebration at the Museum of Science and History in Northeast Florida. Free National Chess day shirts were given to all early registrants, there was a puzzle contest, a coloring contest and a large display of chess artifacts. International Master, Saudin Robovic, analyzed games for students in between rounds and everyone had a great time!



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

Name	Age	Rating
Ngo, Bach	15	2440
Chakrabarti, Brejesh	13	2323
De La Colina, Nicolas Alejandro	18	2302
Gao, Marvin	15	2288
Ligotti, John Joseph	17	2206
Hernandez, Ronald	16	2201
Shukla, Aniket	15	2200
Stone, Vincent William	17	2175
Wu, William	15	2143
Bynum, Jacorey	15	2141
Sattaru, Sritej Sai	14	2132
Gospodinov, Antony	17	2105
Guan, Michael Xukun	15	2098
Marian, Aaron	13	2094
Pothuri, Abhiram Sai	14	2080
Shen, Jason(Haohan)	17	2079
Overlingas, Akeras	11	2076
Nair, Advait	14	2068
Patel, Arav	14	2062
Fetlyayev, Aleks	16	2029
Suresh, Akshat	15	2019
Ziegler, Nate	14	2016
Amaya, Brayan Angel	18	2012
Jiang, Rui	15	2007
Yang, Maxwell Z	11	2002
Yao, Jerry	14	1998
Lang, Jayden	15	1993
Mishra, Om	13	1992
Reddy, Satvik	18	1991
Kurbanov, Abror	18	1987
Farragut, Cannon	13	1961
Mulay, Vivan Prakash	8	1950
Kumar, Agrim	14	1942
Sha, Yi	8	1898
Elvers, Tristan	12	1849
Roy, Ayush	12	1840
Jani, Aakash	8	1840
Jagan, Aashish	11	1826
Li, Sophie	10	1773
Datta, Riyaan	11	1772
Ratliff, Ryan	10	1750
Muneepeerakul, Analaya	11	1740
Sha, Rui	10	1696
Wu, Winston	9	1664
Saha, Tanisha	9	1663
Brovman, Daniel	10	1568
Alexander, Damian	9	1520
Chen, Celine	8	1512
Baumstark, Addison	9	1436
Tal, Daniel	8	1353
Bhandari, Aaryan	8	1158
Holcomb, Mihai	7	940

GIRLS

Huang, Jolie	14	1902
Yerrajennu, Sisira S	16	1875
Wu, Alice	15	1859
Li, Sophie	10	1773
Warekar, Aarna Nitin	13	1679
Saha, Tanisha	9	1663
Yang, Grace Siqi	10	1537
Ungureanu, Elena Anastasia	13	1533
Behura, Maya	16	1523
Chen, Celine	8	1512
Ciupe, Hannah	18	1442
Yisrael, Shalam	18	1436
Semenov, Tiana	15	1419
Chile Paz, Sabrina	15	1382
Solik, Alison Frances	18	1372
Venkat, Varshini	15	1353
Neralla, Srikruthi	15	1352
Donepudi, Veronica	13	1303

SENIORS (65+)

DOUG R MCCLINTOCK	69	2288
PAUL H FIELDS	66	2264
JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES	70	2223
CONSTANTINE XANTHOS	76	2200
A.J. GOLDSBY	65	2200

WOMEN (CURRENT MEMBERS ACTIVE)

WGM IM CARISSA SHIWEN YIP	2491
WGM YANIRA VIGOA APECHECHE	2297
WFM BAHAR HALLAYEVA	2294
TIANHAO XUE	2204
LIKA KOBESHAVIDZE	2165
SHAMA YISRAEL	2074
WFM JESSICA SHOR REGAM	2073
WFM AMELIA HERNANDEZ	2073
WFM VLADLENA CIUBARA	2035

TOP BLITZ

GM Fabiano Caruana	2912
GM Julio Becerra	2618
GM Nikola Mitkov	2609

TOP QC

GM Fabiano Caruana	2665
GM Julio Becerra	2544
IM William Hernandez Gonzalez	2536

CORRESPONDENCE

KEITH RODRIQUEZ	2365
BORIS RATNER	2282
PAUL B OTT	2203
ALLEN WOOLLEN	2104
LINDA DECHAIINE	1564

OVERALL ACTIVE (8/2023)

GM FABIANO CARUANA	2872
IM ARNALDO JESUS FERNANDEZ DE LA VARA MULET	2508
GM JULIO J BECERRA	2503
GM MR. DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2500
WGM IM CARISSA SHIWEN YIP	2491
FM JORGE LEON OQUENDO	2481
GM NIKOLA MITKOV	2471
ROBERT M PEREZ	2441
FM BACH NGO	2440
IM SAUDIN ROBOVIC	2403
FM FERNANDO LARRUA	2367
FM EIGEN WANG	2340
RAGHAV VENKAT	2340
FM COREY BRYAN ACOR	2336
IM AUGUSTO CESAR CAMPOS	2328
FM ALEXANDER ZELNER	2323
FM BREJESH CHAKRABARTI	2323
FM DALTON PERRINE	2316
NICOLAS ALEJANDRO DE LA COLINA	2302
FM JEAN MARCO CRUZ	2299
GILNER SANTIESTEBAN	2298
WGM YANIRA VIGOA APECHECHE	2297
WFM BAHAR HALLAYEVA	2294
SCOTT RAMER	2293
FM MR. NOEL HERNANDEZ MARQUIS	2290
CM MARVIN GAO	2288
LEE J PHELPS	2286
FM ARNALDO FERRAGUT	2273
NICKOLAS ARTHUR MOORE	2264
FM CESAR VALIDO BOUZA	2264
TODD BRYANT	2250
BRYAN TILLIS	2250
PEDRO HERNANDEZ-PEREZ	2249
FM JONATHAN DAVID SARFATI	2237
OSVALDO PENA CABRERA	2235
FM ROBERTO SALGADO	2233
RYAN EDWARD HAMLEY	2232
MEL GOSS	2226
FM JAVIER ANTONIO TORRES	2223



(1) Tabor,Kai (1988) - Vila,Brandon A (1883) [B22]

Florida State Championship 2023
<https://www.chess.com> (6.5),
 [Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Nf6 [A solid alternative if Black does not want to engage White early in the game by accepting the gambit pawn. 3...Nf6 was the choice of Anand in his game against Smith Morra Gambit expert Marc Esserman in 2016. After move 5, the entire game is presented. 5]

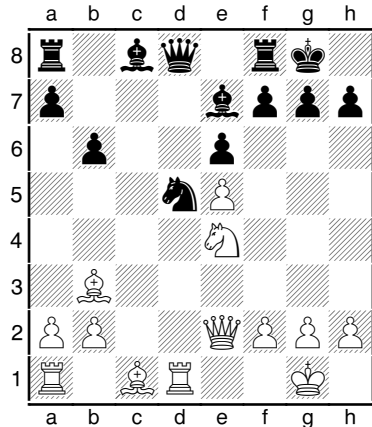
[3...dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 a6 7.0-0 d6 (7...Nge7 8.Bg5 f6 9.Be3 b5 10.Bb3 Na5 11.Bc2 Ng6 12.h4 Be7 13.h5 Ne5 0-1 (45) Cuartas,J (2492)-Bachmann,A (2653) Medellin 2017) 8.Re1 Qc7 9.Bf4 Ne5 10.Bb3 1-0 (20) Jobava,B (2603)-Jakubowski,K (2497) Chess.com INT 2020]

4.e5 Nd5 5.Nf3 e6 [5...Nc6 This game is a good example of how White needs to play this position. Esserman plays actively and makes the most out of his pieces. 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Na3 Bxb3 11.Qxb3 e6 12.Rd1 Qd5 13.Nb5 Rc8 14.Nfxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bc5 16.Qb5+ Qd7 17.Qf1 Qe7 18.Nf5 Qf6 19.Qb5+ Rc6 20.Nd6+ Bxd6 21.Bg5 Qg6 22.Rxd6 0-0 23.Be7 Rfc8 24.Rxc6 Rxc6 25.Rd1 h6 26.h3 Kh7= 1/2- (58) 1/2 (58) Esserman,M (2467)-Timofeev,A (2564) Budapest 2017]

6.Bc4 [6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Nc3 dxe5 11.dxe5 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qc7 13.Qe4 Rd8 14.Re1 g6

15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 h6 17.Nf3 Qe7 18.h4 Na5 19.Bd3 Bd7 20.Nd4 Nc6 21.Nf3 Na5 22.Nd4 Nc6 23.Nf3 1/2-1/2 (23) Esserman,M (2419)-Anand,V (2784) Caleta 2016]

6...Nb6 7.Bb3 Nc6 8.0-0 d6 9.exd6 Bxd6 10.cxd4 0-0 11.Nc3 Nb4 12.Ne4 Be7 13.Ne5 N4d5 14.Qe2 Nd7 15.Rd1 Nxe5 16.dxe5 b6

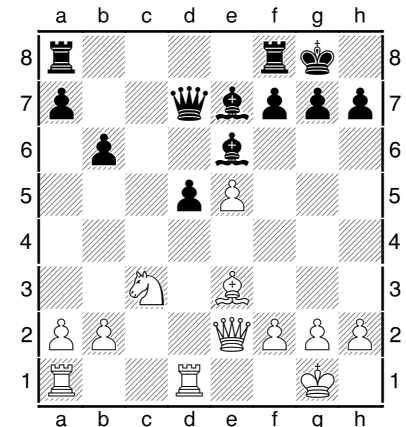


[16...Qc7 Forces White to sacrifice a pawn if he wants to play for a win. 17.Qg4 Qxe5 18.Ng5 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 Qxb2 White's compensation for the pawn is due to the bishop pair and a slight lead in development. I evaluate this pawn sacrifice as with chances for both sides because the game can take two paths. White can transform his initiative into an attack or Black can consolidate its extra pawn.]

17.Bxd5 [White will need this bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal to attack the white king. The black knight is centralized, but is unable to defend the black king. This exchange favors black and the position is equal. 6:25]

[17.Qg4 Qc7 18.Qg3 White transfers his queen to the g file without a pawn sacrifice and stands better. 18...Kh8 19.Bg5 Bxg5 20.Nxg5±]

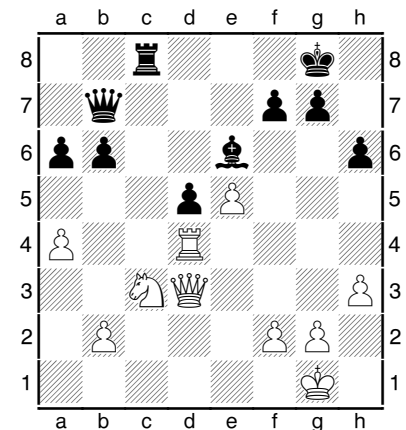
17...exd5 18.Nc3 Be6 19.Be3 Qd7 [The game reaches an instructive point. White can improve his position and black can not do the same. White needs to control the e5 square and prevent major piece exchanges on the c file. 4:19]



20.Nb5 [20.a3 Rac8 21.Rd2 Bc5 22.Rad1 Rfd8 23.Bd4 Qb7±]

20...Rac8 21.a4 Bc5 22.Bd4 a6 23.Nc3 Qb7 24.Rd2= [White reached a position similar than in annotations to move 20. However, the black pieces have access to the b4 and c4 squares to equalize the game. 6:48]

24...Bxd4 25.Rxd4 Rc4 26.Rad1 Rxd4 27.Rxd4 Rc8 28.h3 h6 29.Qd3



[29.Rd3 [#] 29...Rc4 30.b3 Rb4 31.Qd1 White has pressure on black IQP. 31...a5]

29...Rc4 30.Rxc4 dxc4 31.Qd8+ Kh7 32.Qd6 Kg8 [32...b5 33.axb5 axb5 34.Qb4 Kg6 Black has one trick under the sleeve to activate his king. 35.Qxb5 Qxb5 36.Nxb5 Kf5 37.Kf1 Kxe5=] **33.f3 b5 34.axb5 axb5 35.Qb4 Qb6+ 36.Kh2 Qe3 37.Nxb5**

1/2-1/2

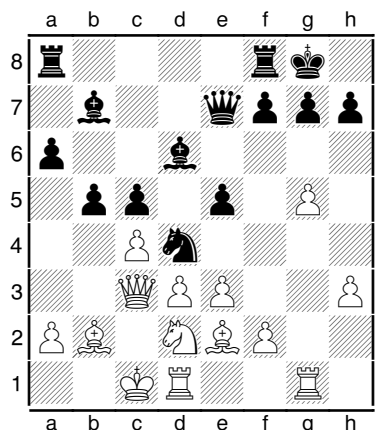
(2) Saudin,Robovic (2412) - Bach,Ngo (2367) [A13]

Florida State Championship 2023
<https://www.chess.com> (4.6),
[Ararat,Miguel]

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 [White's early e3 is a trendy move in the hands of elite players such as Carlsen, Nakamura,MLV and others.]

3...Nf6 4.Be2 [4.Nc3 c5 5.d4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 a6 7.e4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.Bg5 Bd7 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.Bb3 Ng4 13.Rd1 Nge5 14.Bh4 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 1-0 (44) Carlsen,M (2852)-Hammer,J (2625) Norway 2023; 4.b3 Be7 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Nc3 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qc2 Nb4 9.Qe4 f5 10.Qb1 N8c6 11.a3 Nd5 12.Qc2 b6 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.d4 Be6 15.Bb5 ½-½ (46) So,W (2786)-Lenderman,A (2599) Saint Louis 2018]

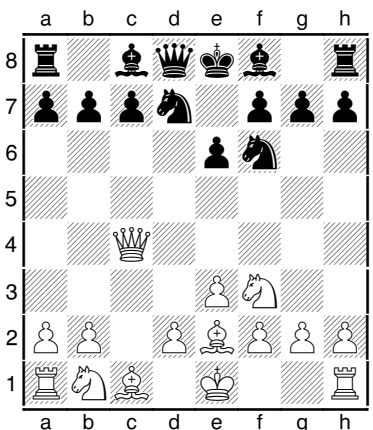
4...dxc4 [4...b6 Black can delay the capture on c4 too. 5.b3 Bb7 6.Bb2 dxc4 7.bxc4 c5 8.d3 Nc6 9.Nbd2 Bd6 10.Qb3 0-0 11.Rg1 Ng4 12.h3 Nge5 13.0-0-0 White decided to sharpen the position with castling on opposite sides. Perhaps a good practical decision to play for a win against a player rated 600 points above Corte's rating. 13...Qe7 14.g4 Nxf3 15.Nxf3 a6 16.g5 b5 17.Qc3 e5 18.Nd2 Nd4 [#]



A textbook move to transform the initiative into a powerful attack. I like this game because it shows that opposite side middlegames do not need to be played with pawn storms as a default to win. . 19.exd4 (19.Bf1 b4 Traps White's queen.) 19...exd4 20.Qc2 Qxe2 21.Ne4 Qxc2+ 22.Kxc2 Bxe4 23.dxe4 bxc4 24.Ba3

Rfb8 25.Rge1 Be5 26.Rb1 Rb5 27.h4 Ra5 28.Kc1 0-1 (28) Cortes Rodriguez,M (2001)-Santos Ruiz,M (2596) Mexico City 2022]

5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Qxc4



White creates a central pawn majority and define the strategic layout early in the game.]

6...a6 7.0-0 c5 [Black stops White from mobilizing his central pawn majority at the same time that begins to mobilizing his own pawn majority (Prophylaxis)]

8.d3 [White decides to use a small center with pawns on e3 and d3, similar to a Sicilian Scheveningen center with the color reversed.]

8...Be7 9.e4 [White refrains from building a Hedgehog pawn structure with b5. The structure with e4 allows the white queen to use the b3 square.]

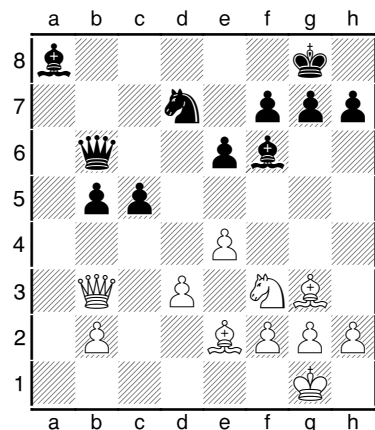
[9.b3 0-0 10.Bb2 b5 11.Qc2]

9...0-0 10.Bf4 b5 11.Qb3 [Black mobilizes his queenside pawn majority and white try to undermine with a2-a4]

11...Bb7 12.a4 Qb6 13.Nbd2 [13.axb5 axb5 14.Nbd2 Ra6 15.Rxa6 Qxa6 16.h3 Ra8 17.Rc1 Rc8 Black cannot control the a file, and the game becomes strategically complex. Black mobilized his queenside pawn majority, but his c pawn is under pressure. White has a backward d pawn that hinders the scope of his light square bishop.]

13...Bc6 14.axb5 axb5 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Nd7 17.Bf4 Bf6 [17...h6 18.Rfc1 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Qb7*]

18.Rfc1 Bd4 19.Bg3 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Ra8 21.Rxa8+ Bxa8 22.Nf3 Bf6



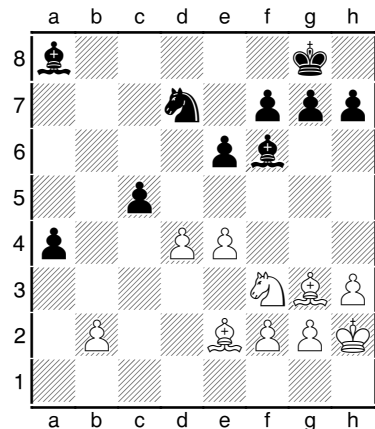
[The next part of the game shows how to exploit a space advantage with only minor pieces on the board.]

23.h3 Qa5 24.Kh2 [White needs to prevent the check in the back rank. I used 24.Bd6? to illustrate this point.]

[24.Bd6? Qa1+ 25.Kh2 Qxb2-+]

24...Qa4 [Black can choose to exchange or keep queens on the board. The chess engine indicates that Black is better than White with or without queens on the board. Endgames are a popular choice for high-rated chess players because they possess the skill and knowledge to convert small positional advantages in this phase of the game.]

25.Qxa4 bxa4 26.Bd1 [26.d4



This move complicates black's path to

victory and creates practical chances for white. 26...Bxe4 27.Bb5 c4™ 28.Nd2= (28.Bxd7 c3 29.Bxa4 cxb2 30.Nd2 Bxd4)]

26...Bc6 27.e5 Bxf3 28.Bxa4 [This intermediate move helps White to eliminate one pawn and apparently get closer to a draw.]

[28.gxf3 This variation offers more resistance than the game continuation. 28...Bxe5 29.Bxa4 Bxg3+ 30.Kxg3 Ne5μ]

28...Nxe5 29.gxf3 [29.Bxe5 does not work because of 29...Bxe5+ 30.Kh1 Be2 White loses a piece.]

29...Nxf3+ 30.Kh1 [30.Kg2 Walks into a fork and White loses the pawn on d3. 30...Ne1+ 31.Kf1 Nxd3→]

30...Bxb2 31.Bb5 Be5 [A crafty way to simplify the position and secure the full point.]

32.Kg2 Nd4 33.Bxe5 Nxb5 34.Kf3 Kf8 35.h4 h5

0-1

(3) Isha Khosla (1167) - Mark Gao (859) [C50]

Florida State Championship 2023
<https://www.chess.com> (2.1),
[Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.0-0 [5.Nc3 is an alternative if, White wants to play a long game to outplay the opponent from an equal position. However, this plan does not always work even for Carlsen in classical time controls. 5...h6 6.0-0 (6.h3 a6 7.a4 d6 8.Be3 Bxe3 9.fxe3 Be6 10.b3 0-0 11.0-0 d5 ½-½ (51) Carlsen,M (2865)-Vidit,S (2727) Wijk aan Zee 2022) 6...d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.c3 0-0 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.Re1 Bg4 11.Bb3 Qd7 12.h3 1-0 (49) Eljanov,P (2694)-Tabatabaei,M (2689) Budapest 2023]

5...0-0 6.Bg5 d6 [6...h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.Bb3 d6 9.h3 Na5 10.Ba4 c5 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nh2 a6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Ng4 Bg5 15.Bb3 Nxb3 16.axb3 g6 17.Ne3 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Qf3 Qd7 20.Ned5 Rae8 21.Qh5 Qg7

22.f4 exf4 23.Rae1 Bf7 24.Qf3 Qd4+ 25.Kh1 Re5 26.Nb6 Rfe8 27.Rxe5 dxe5 28.Qxb7 e4 29.dxe4 fxe4 30.Rd1 Qe3 31.Nc4 Bxc4 32.bxc4 f3 33.Qd5+ Kh8 34.Rf1 fxe2+ 35.Kxg2 Bf4 0-1 (35) Torre,E (2520)-Timman,J (2635) Moscow 1994]

7.Nbd2 Be6 [This idea requires preparation as in the Torre - Timman, 1994 game quoted above.]

8.Re1 [8.c3 h6 9.Bh4 Qe7 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb3 Bxb3 12.axb3 g5 13.Bg3 Qe6 14.Nc4 Ne7 15.Re1 ½-½ (50) Duda,J (2658)-Tari,A (2532) Reykjavik 2015]

8...h6 9.Bh4 Nd4 10.c3 Nxf3+= 11.Qxf3 [[#] A critical moment in the game. Black needs to choose how to deal with the pin along the h4-d8 diagonal.]

11...g5 [The chess engine approves this move but this game illustrates how difficult is to play with an exposed king regardless of the engine evaluation.]

[11...a5 12.h3 a4 13.Rad1 c6]

12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Bg3 h5 [13...Qe8 14.d4 exd4 15.e5 Nh5]

14.d4 exd4 15.e5 dxe5 [15...dxc3 16.Qxc3 Nd5=]

16.Bxe5 [16.Qd3 Double threat, Qg6 and Rxe5. 16...e4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4±]

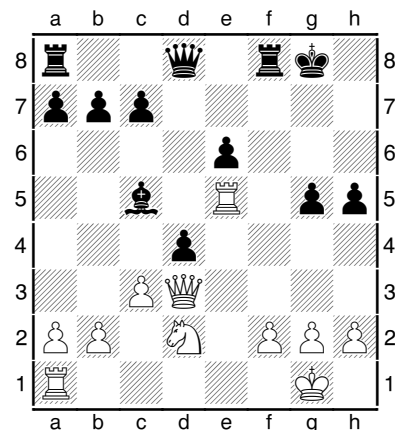
16...Ng4 17.Qd3= [The position is equal, but black has to find an only move to stay in the game.]

[17.Qe4 Nxe5 18.Qxe5=]

17...Nxe5? [Black loses the undefended bishop on c5,]

[17...Rf5 The only move to stay in the game. Black attacks the white bishop on e5 twice and after the exchange on d4 the position still tenable for black. Yet, black's exposed king requires the second player to accurately. 18.Bxd4 Bxd4 19.Qxd4=]

18.Rxe5



18...Qf6 [18...Bb6 19.Qg6+ Kh8 20.Qh6+ Kg8 21.Rxe6 with a decisive attack.]

19.Rxc5 Qxf2+ 20.Kh1 Qf6 21.Rxc7 dxc3 22.Qh7#

1-0

(4) Jesse,Deng (1609) - Giovannetti,Grant (1663) [B22]
Florida State Championship 2023
<https://www.chess.com> (5.4),
[Ararat,Miguel]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6

[2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf6 8.Nc3 Qd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qb3 Na6 11.Rd1 b6 12.Ne5 Nc7 13.Nc4 Qd8 14.Bf4 Ncd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Be5 Be6 17.Qa3 Bh6 18.Ne3 a5 19.Bf3 Ra7 20.Bxd5 Bxd5 21.Nf5 Bg5 22.Qg3= Bf6 23.Bxf6?! exf6μ 0-1 (66) Yeoh,L (2478)-Anand,V (2783) Tbilisi 2017]

3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 [The main move in this position but not the only viable alternative. 22]

[4.Bc4 e6 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 dxe5 10.dxe5 Bd7 11.Qe4 Bc6 12.Qg4 Kh8 13.Nbd2 Nb6 14.Bb3 N8d7 15.Bc2 Qc7= 16.Qh3 f5?! 17.exf6± 1-0 (50) Nepomniachtchi,I(2779)-Lupulescu,C (2584) Zagreb 2023; 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Na3 Be6 9.d4 Bxb3 10.Qxb3 cxd4 11.Nb5 Qb8 12.Nbxd4 e6 13.0-0 Be7 14.a4 Nd5 15.a5 Nxd4= 16.Nxd4 a6?! 17.Qa4± 1-0 (54) Nakamura,H

(2816)-Nepomniachtchi, I (2705) Baku 2015]

4...cxd4 5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Nc3

[7.Bc4 This move is more flexible because White forces the black knight to the side of the board and also prevents Nxc3. 7...Nb6 8.Bb3]

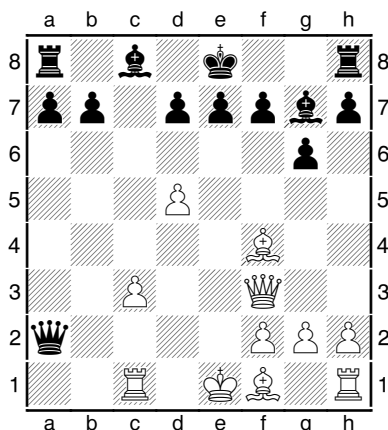
7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bg7 9.Bf4 Qa5 10.d5?

[10.Qd2 0-0 11.Be2 with a position similar to the Gruenfeld defense with Black exerting pressure on White's massive center.]

10...Nxe5 11.Rc1

[11.Nxe5 Qxc3+ 12.Ke2 Bxe5 Black is winning.]

11...Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Qxa2



[Black lacks sense of danger and goes pawn hunting with his king in the middle. A typical mistake. 35]

[12...0-0 13.Bc4 b6 14.0-0 Ba6]

13.Bd3 0-0 14.0-0 [White's position is bolstered and he maintains his light square bishop. Black is still superior, but they must work harder to turn their advantage into success. 14]

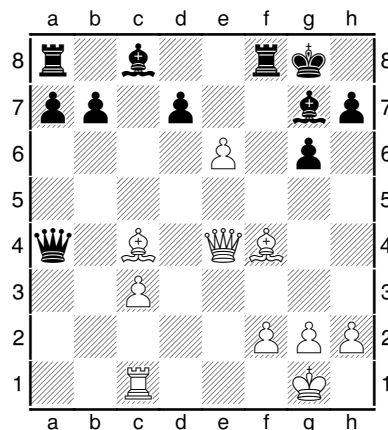
14...Qa5 15.Bc4 e6

16.Rfe1 [The rook belongs to d1 and White can play an intermediate move to transfer his bishop to the a3-f8 diagonal. 7:12] [16.Bd6 Re8 17.Rfd1]

16...Qa4 17.Re4? f5

18.dxe6 [18.Rd4 e5 forks the rook and the bishop and White loses material. 19.d6+ Kh8]

18...fxe4 19.Qxe4



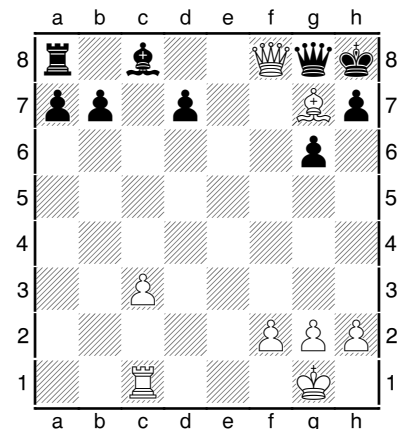
[Black is winning, but he needs to calculate a force sequence of moves before scoring the full point. 1:16]

[19.e7+ Qxc4 20.exf8Q+ Kxf8 21.Qg3-+]

19...Kh8? [Instead of calculating the complications Black decided to move away from the discover check e6-e7 and loses all his advantage. 6:11] [19...d5 20.Qxd5 Rxf4 21.e7+ Be6 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 23.Re1; 19...b5 20.e7+ Qxc4 21.exf8Q+ Bxf8]

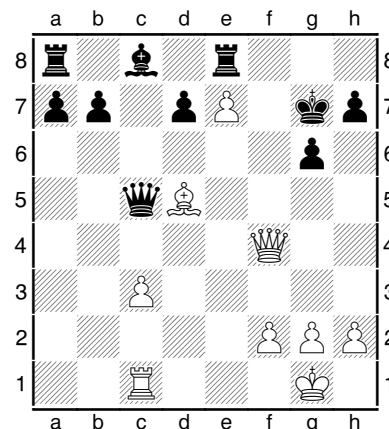
20.e7= Re8 21.Be5 Qc6?? [Black blunders a checkmate in 5 moves. 5:28]

22.Bd5 [22.Qf4 Qxc4 23.Qf8+ Rxf8 24.exf8Q+ Qg8 25.Bxg7#]



22...Qc5 23.Bxg7+ Kxg7 24.Qe5+ Kh6 25.Qf4+ Kg7 Here the game

ends in a draw.



26.Qf7+ Kh6 27.Qxe8 Qxd5 28.Qf8+ [White promotes the pawn and wins the game.]

1/2-1/2



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US National Amateur Team South Championship

Mike Moschos

Exciting news for The Villages Chess Club. The club has been selected to host the 2024 US NATIONAL Amateur Team South Championship on February 23rd through February 25th at the Laurel Manor Regional Recreation Center in The Villages.

The Laurel Manor Regional Recreation Center has hosted The Villages Open five times, Florida State Senior Championship/Open three times and other various tournaments. The venue consists of seven rooms with over 10,000 square feet and sliding room dividers to adjust the configuration to the requirements of the event being hosted. The site has an 18th and 19th century presidential motif with rooms named Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Grant and Lincoln.

From a logistics standpoint for hosting major events, "There are now more than 100 restaurants in The Villages, and hundreds more are within easy reach". The Villages has a range of hotels from budget to luxury. Examples include: Comfort Suites, Holiday Inn Express, Motel 6, Days Inn, Rodeway Inn, Hampton Inn & Suites, The Waterfront Inn and The Brownwood Hotel. Air travel is available to/from The Villages with Orlando Sanford (SFB) Airport, which is 45 miles away. Larger nearby airports include Orlando International (MCO) (52.9 miles), Tampa (TPA) (75.2 miles), Jacksonville (JAX) (109.5 miles) and Sarasota/Bradenton (SRQ) (113.5 miles). Ground transportation from some of these airports is available through Groome Transportation. In case of a medical emergency, there are numerous hospitals, clinics and emergency rooms within and nearby The Villages.

The chess tournament/event will include the Team Championship (5 rounds), Scholastic Team Championship (5 rounds) and a Blitz event. The Team Championship will include a schedule of a 2 or 3 day option for player convenience. The Scholastic Team Championship will be conducted in a single day (Saturday). There will be various/many prizes awarded within the Team Championship such as top scorer (boards 1-4), top team overall, top team U1900, U1600, U1300, top Senior Team, Industry Team, College Team, K-12 School Team, All-female Team, and Club Team. In addition there will be awards/prizes for 2nd Highest Scorer and Reserve player in various categories. The Scholastic Team Championship will have similar awards/prizes. The Blitz event will also be issuing prizes and awards. The USCF At-Risk-Youth and Title I Schools Initiative will receive a monetary donation from tournament proceeds, which helps to provide everything young players need to compete in local and national chess tournaments.

This event is currently listed in ChessRegister.com, a USCF TLA, USCF bulk emailing, Flyers and will be in upcoming Chess Life Magazines. The team is working diligently to obtain teams from the southeastern regions of the United States to make this a great championship. Please help us spread the word, and most important, form a team and register! BTW tell your friends in the southeastern states about the warmer weather and all the theme parks nearby.



North West Florida Regional Report

By Kevin Pryor, NW RVP

Endgame Chess Academy



The Endgame Chess Academy (ECA) offers unique programs and services to support the growth of chess in Gainesville, FL and the North Central Florida area. From camps, private/group lessons, and school enrichment programs to tournaments, we strive to make chess fun for early learners while nurturing their cognitive and personal growth. Headed by coaches Kevin Sevilla (Coach Kevin) and Luis Salazar-Ortiz (Coach Sal) the mission of the Academy is to provide high-quality chess education and training to bring out the best in each student. Our programs are designed for kids of all ages and levels from beginners who want to learn how to play, intermediate players looking to improve their skills, or advanced players who want to take their game to the next level.

In it's first year the ECA helped coach the Kindergarten and 2nd Grade National Championship teams, the Under-8 All-Girls National Championship team, the K-1, K-3, and K-5 State Championship teams, four individual state champions as part of the Oak Hall Chess program. Additionally, Coach Kevin kickstarted the Queen of Peace Catholic Academy curricular program and competition team that earned its first individual state champion, state team championship placing, and will compete in its first ever National Championship this December in Orlando.

Locally the ECA has established a Grand Prix circuit of monthly events that frequently feature up to 50 players across two sections that features live game streaming and direct to mobile device pairings for parents. In addition to normal trophies at each event, custom jerseys are being awarded for the Overall Champion, Rookie of the Year, Puzzle Master and Tournament Warrior at the end of seasons based on Grand Prix points earned across all events of the year.

The Endgame Chess Academy will begin Season 2 of the Grand Prix tournament circuit starting in January 2024. In addition, multiple venues across the Gainesville have been confirmed to offer chess to many new communities that do not yet have access to chess. Lastly, the ECA will be launching a chess exclusive clothing, named "Peon", and producing online content to continue to reach new chess learners and scaffold their success in this great game.

For further information concerning the Endgame Chess Academy and its offerings, please visit www.endgamechessacademy.com.



NE Regional Report

The Power of Giving Back By Ray Ratliff NE RVP

In chess, it is very important to take things. Take the piece, take the file, take the initiative, and even taking your time... not too much though or you could run out! Chess also gives us the opportunity to give back. We can do this in many different ways. I had the opportunity to interview three individuals that have found a way to give back to their community in their own personal ways. Here are their stories.



Deermeadows Baptist Church Food Pantry

I first met Evelyn in 2021 when searching for a food pantry to donate the food we collected through our Chess for Charity Club programs. Our first donation was the day before Thanksgiving and it could not have come at a better time. The pantry was preparing for another busy holiday season of trying to make sure that no one in the community went without a meal. Since 1993, Deermeadows Baptist Church has operated a small scale food pantry. In 2019, Evelyn volunteered to help and by the end of her first day, she had been asked to be the main coordinator of the entire pantry. She happily agreed and the pantry has been growing ever since. Volunteers at the pantry now give out food to 150-200 families on average every week and in the past 3 years, they have fed over 300,000 people. During our conversation, Evelyn spoke about the importance of her team of volunteers that help sort, bag, and distribute the food.

"We could not do any of this without our team of volunteers," said Evelyn.

Even when the world seemed to shut down during the pandemic, Evelyn and her team kept the pantry open to help those who needed it the most. For more information on how you can help this Jacksonville food pantry, please visit www.deermeadowsbaptistchurch.org.



Scott Pfeiffer, USCF Chess Expert and Chess Coach

Scott has been playing chess longer than many of us have been alive. His passion for the game is endless and within a few minutes of meeting Scott, you will be immersed in the world of chess through his eyes. Scott has been a hallmark of chess in Florida and throughout the years, he has used his chess knowledge and passion to give back time and time again. Scott recently volunteered to teach chess to our military Veterans by teaming up with Chess for Charity Club and the Wounded Warrior Project. Our first meet-up was a fantastic success and now we are meeting quarterly with future plans to go online as well. If you would like to get involved with teaching chess to vets, please email us at info@chessforcharityclub.org.

Arav Patel, USCF Chess Expert and Chess Coach

In 2021, Arav and his family moved from New Jersey to Florida. We are lucky that Jacksonville was their destination. Along with being one of the strongest chess players in Florida, Arav is also learning to direct tournaments and most recently, he has volunteered with Chess for Charity Club to teach a free advanced chess class. He enjoys helping the young chess players improve by sharing his knowledge. For them, it is an opportunity to see someone close to their age not only playing chess but taking a leadership position as a chess instructor. We thank you Arav and also congratulate you on your most recent accomplishment of becoming the 2023 Jacksonville City Champion. Way to go Arav!



As we can see, everyone has the power to give back in their own way. Thank you Evelyn, Scott, and Arav for doing what you can to help better our community. If you want to get involved in helping others, please reach out to your local food pantry or chess club. It's your move.

Central Region Report

By NM Andrew Rea, Central RVP

Plenty of chess in Central Florida- enough to have two recaps, my thanks to Mike Moschos for his support! I am glad to report that we continue to have more events in Brevard County. Multiple blitz, quicks, and small tournaments in Melbourne, Viera, Cocoa Beach, and Merritt Island. Organizers such as Space Coast Chess Foundation, RSK Chess Academy, Orlando Chess And Games, Competition north from Volusia County, with tournaments in Daytona Beach and South Daytona, and lets view the winners lists from these tournaments-FM Theodore Slade, NM Alex Zelner, soon to be NM Vincent Stone, aspiring (not yet!- its not an easy climb..) master Anthony Cipollina, esteemed US Chess Trustee Peter Dyson among the winners, another likely master, Joshua Harrison- not for lack of competition!



The biggest tournament in central Florida was the Central Florida Chess Club Autumn Open, in Orlando, Sep30-October1. 5 sections, 128 players, plenty of tough chess throughout! Master/Expert section featured a tie for 1st at 4.5 (5 rounds) Cory Acor and Nickolas Moore. I managed, after getting outplayed early by Vincent Stone, to tie for 3rd at 3.5 with Marvin Gao, Joshua Harrison, and Vikram Rajmahan. Class A won by Aleks Fetlyaev at 4.5; Class B had a triangle tie Armandas Ledas, Michael Uhlig, and Kiani Walker. Class C, no tie as Nicolas Wethington won all 5! Same for Class D, as Mehmet Yilanli also went 5-0!

FM Corey Acor (2326) & NM Nick Moore (2245)

Of course there were several events on National Chess Day, October 14! I chose home field advantage in Merritt Island, the MI Quick and Scholastic. 8 players in the Quick. Early on I had an interesting experience against Yevgeniy Postrekhin- reaching a pawn down R+P ending, but fortunately theoretically drawn. And who comes by to spectate? None other than Grandmaster Alex Goldin! I held, and was glad to be part of the postmortem with Yevgeniy and the local GM!! Small tournaments can still be full of interesting surprises! Alas I was not able to keep pace with Yevgeniy, for the very good reason that I was not playing as well in the later rounds... while Yevgeniy was able to shake off the early disappointment and keep on trucking to win the top section. The Scholastic had ten players, and for one day the best player was Lyric Gibbons, she ignored the bit about girls not being able to play!

Finally, late October, another reminder that it pays to shake off early disappointment- at Rockledge, the Space Coast Brouhaha, 3 sections, 33 players. For starters, congratulations to Norbert Lou and Ceejay Jacobs, winning the top section! Quite interesting and unexpected, as Norbert is Unrated... he scored 4/5. In round1, he defeated Ceejay; Ceejay then won his final four games to land in that tie for first, well played! Central Florida remains strong, active, but room for others to join the fun!



Open Winners with TD Steve!

South Region Report

By Jon Haskel South RVP



The 21st Annual Turkey Bowl took place the weekend of November 10-12 at Sheraton Hotel on Cypress Creek Road in Fort Lauderdale. The winner of the Turkey Bowl was International Master Facundo Pierrot from Argentina. All the results can be found at www.bocachess.com.



The tournament was decorated with the usual Thanksgiving decorations. The prior inflatable turkeys had to be retired as they could no longer "hold their breath". One of the new replacements came with a hole in it and a chess mom, Sheeba Marian, in the medical field, was able to perform the surgery to tape up the gap.



IM Facundo Pierrot—Champ



Sabrina Chila U1400 winner



Brandon Vila—U2000 winner



Connor Hannah—U1100

1000GM, based out of California, has started running norm round robins in the Fort Lauderdale area. One of these took place at the beginning of November. Their website is 1000gm.org.

954Chess, and Otis Wilson, has the Matrix Open, a full weekend event, coming up January 13-15 in Delray Beach. Visit www.954chess.com for more informat

IM Facundo Pierrot, 2408p - Aldo Lopez, 2101 [C09]

Round 2: Facundo Pierrot - Aldo Lopez lichess.org, 11.11.2023

[<https://lichess.org/@/Lichess>]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nd2 c5
4.exd5 exd5 5.Ngf3 Nc6
6.Bb5 Bd6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0
Nge7 9.Nb3 Bd6 10.c3 0-0
11.Bd3 h6 12.h3 Be6 13.Re1
Qd7 14.Be3 b6 15.Nbd4
Nxd4 16.Bxd4

[16.Nxd4 A bit more positionally accurate, sit the Knight in front of Black's isolated d-pawn. Though, this could lead to many trades down the non-sharp lines. 16...Nf5 17.Bc2 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Bf5]

16...Nf5 17.Bc2 Rae8

18.Qd3 [It's nice to see simple

maneuvers like this at the high level, creating a devastating battery at the Black King, forcing concessions. 1.36/0]

18...g6 19.Ne5 Qc7??

[19...Qd8 Keeping a close eye on the f6-square to prevent what happens in-game.]

20.Ng4 Be7

21.Nf6+ [Computer offers Rxe6, busting open Black's King, though there is no direct win. 1.32/0]

21...Bxf6 22.Bxf6 Kh7 23.Qd2 Qc6

24.Qf4 Bd7 25.Be5 Re6
26.Bxf5 gxf5 27.Qxf5+ Rg6
28.Qf3 Be6 29.Rad1 Rfg8
30.Bg3 Qc8 31.Kh2 h5

32.Rd4 [White understands that there is no rush in this po-

sition to attack, instead makes sure they are fully covered from a counter-attack before going in]

32...Rh6 33.Rh4 Rg5 34.Re5 Bf5 35.Qxd5 f6 36.Re7+ Kh8 37.Qf7 [A very nice mating net.]

1-0



How a Chess Set Became an Art Show

By Jen Ring via Timotey Gospodinov, West RVP

About a year ago, I wrote an article for the Saint Petersburg Chess Club project when nine chess club members created a special chess set. Before returning to the club, this chess board and pieces were taken to a couple of museums in Saint Petersburg. Now the set is back at the Saint Petersburg Chess Club, and people are still talking about it. Last month, I read another article from Jen Ring in Florida's oldest independent weekly newspaper, *The Gabber*, about this chess set made by Jackie Kaufman, St. Petersburg Chess Club members, and St. Petersburg artist Alex Kaufman, which I want to share with you.

Did you know that St. Pete has a chess club? If not, you're not alone. It's been around, in the same building, since 1931.

Redington Shores artist Jackie Kaufman hadn't thought much about chess either. That was until one of her students at The Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach brought it up. Kaufman was teaching a workshop on mold making and pewter casting when one of her students mentioned that this would be a good process for creating individual chess pieces. Kaufman liked the idea, but she didn't want to create an entire chess set by herself, so she started looking for collaborators.



"Initially I wanted to find a school that had a chess club," Kaufman told *The Gabber*. That was until she found out about the Saint Petersburg Chess Club.

"I had never heard of them before," says Kaufman, "and it turns out, I was not the only one..."

Kaufman hatched a plan. She would teach the chess club members to create a chess set to promote their club. She set up a meeting with Saint Petersburg Chess Club President, Timotey Gospodinov, and told him her idea.

"This was my first time at the chess club," Kaufman told *The Gabber*, "and what I saw there made my idea, and this project, very special. It was late Friday afternoon, and people of all ages were flowing in to just play chess. Some seemed to know each other, but some were strangers... I was so intrigued that a place like this was here and so active."

Kaufman convinced nine chess club members to participate in her Chess Club project. They each completed a single chess piece during a two-day workshop in June. Then Kaufman enlisted another Kaufman – her son, St. Petersburg artist

Alex Kaufman — to make the board. Alex designed the 23-by-23-inch board, made from aluminum and glass, with a blue and white checkered pattern.

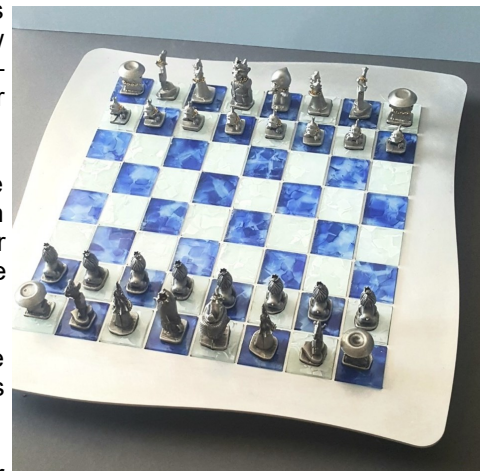
Then Jackie started looking for places to display the completed chess set.

"Jackie approached me about her Chess Club project a few months ago," the Morean Arts Center's Chief Curator, Amanda Cooper, told *The Gabber*. "I loved the concept, and the fact that it was bringing attention to this old establishment which happens to be a stone's throw from the Morean. I was also drawn to the connection between chess and art – neither of these things sees age or ability boundaries – they are there for everyone to learn and enjoy."

The only thing left was for Cooper to find a context in which to display the board. Thus, the idea for a checker-themed art show was born. The exhibition takes place in the Morean's pop-up gallery, a small space Cooper reserves for last-minute ideas like this. Main gallery shows like the concurrent *Tes One Retrospective*, *Good Intentions*, are planned at least a year ahead of time.

Checkered includes checkerboard-inspired work from 23 artists, but the centerpiece of the exhibition is Kaufman and the St. Petersburg Chess Club's chess set.

"Jackie's vision and chess board turned out great, and I can't wait for our visitors to see it!" says Cooper.



Books Reviews on Self Improvement

by Miguel Ararat



Every chess player wants to improve his chess skill. Most players work on chess on their own without the help of a trainer and rely heavily on the internet, personal computers, DVD's and books. In this issue of FloridaCHESS, I want to suggest the readers a series of books on diverse topic that can help them to growth outside of their current comfort zone.

The dynamics of a chess game are dictated by the interaction of two elements: tactics and strategy. To make progress in chess, it is necessary to master both tactics and strategy. The development of chess strategy skills is often neglected by club level chess players who tend to focus on tactics. This shortcoming in strategy is preventing club players from reaching the next level. In the fight between a club player and an expert, the tactical skill of both players can be similar. However, the expert level chess player can devise and execute short and long-term strategies, as well as leverage small positional advantages to consistently beat class players.

Club players' preference for tactical training cannot be attributed solely to their lack of interest in developing chess strategy skills. My belief as a chess trainer is that the absence of quality and innovative resources for training strategic thinking is a hindrance to players' progress. Fortunately, in recent years we see a new stream of strategy training books geared toward club players. For instance in 2022, Croatian GM Davorin Kuljasevic wrote the book **How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook** (New in Chess, 2022). In this book chapter four was dedicated to training chess strategy.

This year, IM Thomas Willemze will release his book **World Chess Champion Strategy Training For Club Players**, which features seven chapters that revolve around games with the same number of World Chess Champions. To make chess strategy training more accessible to club players, the author has assembled a mixture of classic and novel material that is annotated in the appropriate format. The author's tailoring of the material to the audience's skill level is a key value of **World Chess Champion Strategy Training For Club Players**. The annotations in this book are mostly based on words, not intricate variations. This is not surprising since the author combines his long experience as a coach with a good selection of examples. The end result is that the annotations can concentrate on one or two positional characteristics that are the primary factor in a position without the complication of convoluted tactics. With a conclusion box at the end of each position and an overall summary of the chapter as flash card, Willemze reinforced the material's learning value.

The format of **World Chess Champion Strategy Training For Club Players** is one of the main features of this book that caught my attention. I like that the exercises use a single big diagram with space left for notes (see picture). After, I work on a position I write down my candidate moves, some variations and then chose the top move. Next, I can flip the page and compare my notes with the author's suggestions.

As you can see from the picture, the reader can work directly on the enlarged diagram (compare to regular size diagrams in the opposite page). Next, you can compare your answer, candidate moves and though process with the author's note. This is the easiest and best way to improve your strategic skills in chess for the amateur player.

The How to Study Chess On Your Own Workbook Volume 2 by GM Davorin Kuljasevic is the continuation of his book 2022 **The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook**. I first came into contact with GM Kuljasevic's work a couple of years ago and the clarity and organization of his opening work impressed me, particularly the connection between key positions and the plans to achieve them. **The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook Volume 2** is geared toward the club and improving amateur (1500-1800 ELO). With only five chapters and less than two hundred pages, the author has assembled a cohesive book that includes actionable advice and a metric for evaluating progress. The first chapter has examples of typical mistakes made by club players. The author follows up with four more topics: visualization, tactics training, middlegame training, and endgame training. The author uses a solitary chess-type format to reward and evaluate the reader's performance after solving a training position. When necessary, he gives clear explanations and summarizes the material. The examples, exercises, and solutions in this book are thoroughly explained and require a minimal amount of variation to support the answers. The author goes to great lengths to

articulate the key ideas in each chapter, making the book accessible to the target audience. Under two hundred pages **The How to Study Chess on Your Own Workbook Volume 2** is a valuable resource to the amateur chess player. **Perpetual Chess Improvement** by Ben Johnson

As a chess coach, one of the main problems I face coaching chess players is the ocean of questionable information available online. After watching a video online, a student who worked on an opening may change their game plan during a tournament. For instance, last night before writing this review, a student preferred to follow a YouTuber's variation rather than his own opening analysis. The dialogue goes along the lines", coach this line has snared players rated 2500 and up". I witnessed a game on this particular "trap" played between a high-rated player and a 2300-rated player. The top player won after fifty seven moves in a complex rook endgame that most players below master level will find difficult to convert. How do I distinguish high-quality information from questionable information on self-improvement in chess?

I am pleased to observe that New In Chess has selected Ben Johnson to transcribe the content of his podcast Perpetual Chess into the book **Perpetual Chess Improvement**. Finding high quality materials on chess improvement for amateur players is made much easier by Johnson's books. It is crucial that these books offer valuable resources for the reader to deepen their online research and avoid using bait-and-switch materials. Chess players who seek online self-improvement advice should be aware that many online "experts" are only interested in collecting money when you click on their video or website. In exchange for your click, you may receive low-quality or incorrect advice on how to improve at chess. **Perpetual Chess Improvement** is a gold mine of actionable advice, organized in a clear fashion and geared towards improving amateurs. **Perpetual Chess Improvement** is a well-crafted read that features a good mix of stories about self-improvement at the Royal game and actionable advice that is backed up by data. Players of all levels will find something valuable in Perpetual Chess Improvement, particularly novice adult chess players looking for direction on how to improve at chess. **Perpetual Chess Improvement** is a must-read this holiday season!

Chessboard Combat is a new book by GM Joel Benjamin that focuses on tactics. The author utilizes games from his weekly video recap that he hosts at the Internet Chess Club (ICC). There are nine chapters in **Chessboard Combat**, which is composed of a total of one hundred and twenty nine games. The reader is tested on their tactical skills by a set of puzzles that are presented to them before each chapter. At the conclusion of every tactical challenge, the reader is given access to a series of master games that showcase the header of every chapter.

One of the main advantages of **Chessboard Combat** is that the tactics are presented to the reader in the context of a whole game, not just the critical position. In my opinion, the reader gains a lot from learning not only the tactics, but the conditions that create them. The audience gains an insight into the mindset of Grandmasters when it comes to tactics, beyond the usual pattern recognition or tactical theme labels. Game 10 between Onischuk and Akobian at the US Championship 2018 was an example of this. Benjamin annotations after move 24 read as follows: 'To survive, White has to overcome an optical illusion in one line and avoid a faulty assumption in another.'

Benjamin's game selection and annotations deliver on the promise of helping the reader enjoy the study of tactics instead of 'drilling chess puzzles'. Despite being a book on tactics, Chessboard Combat has many games that make me feel like I am a part of them. The author presented the games in a manner that enabled the reader to understand the players' reasoning. Every major or critical tactical position is illustrated, beyond pointing out a missing alternative suggested by a chess engine. Sharpening your chess skills while also having fun is possible with **Chessboard Combat**. **The Open Sicilian** by Ivan Saric

Changing openings is a hallmark of growth in chess. Personally, playing the White side of the open Sicilian helped me improve from the 1700s to the 1900s. The open Sicilian taught me to study systematically, with purpose, and not be afraid to fight my opponent in his pet line. Yes, I fall for the thematic trick such as Nc4 followed by Nxb2, and my knight on C3 is captured by the black rook on C8. Upon the emptying of my opponent's bag of tricks, I engaged in numerous memorable dynamic games. Many amateur e4 players skip playing the main lines of the Sicilian Defense because of the workload it involves. The new book **The Open Sicilian** by Croatian Grandmaster Ivan Saric is a well research, organized, and presented repertoire against the Sicilian based on the Open Sicilian. The initial version of this book was released in the Chessable format, and as a result, this printed version is improved because it incorporates the feedback of many amateur users. The author explains his choices regarding each variation of the Sicilian at the beginning of each chapter. Through this introduction, the reader can comprehend both the White and Black objectives in each variation, as well as the reasoning behind Saric's recommendations.

In addition to the opening theory, Saric annotated the model games in an instructive manner. The author explains many middle and endgame concepts required to successfully transform an opening advantage or better position into a win. For example, game 26 between Swiercz and Naroditsky in Saint Louis ch-USA 2021 teaches the reader how to play the resulting position as soon as the theory is over (move 25). Numerous color diagrams are used by the author to complement the annotations. The diagrams aid the reader in remembering critical ideas and following sharp positions.

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Date	Event	Location	Contact
Dec. 2-3	Chessminds U1850 Classical Quad	Miami Gardens, FL	CMCC
Dec. 15-17	National K-12	Hyatt Regency Orlando, FL	USCF
Jan. 6-7	Central Florida CC Winter Open	Orlando, FL	CFCC
Jan. 13-15	The Matrix Open	Delray Beach, FL	954C

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

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