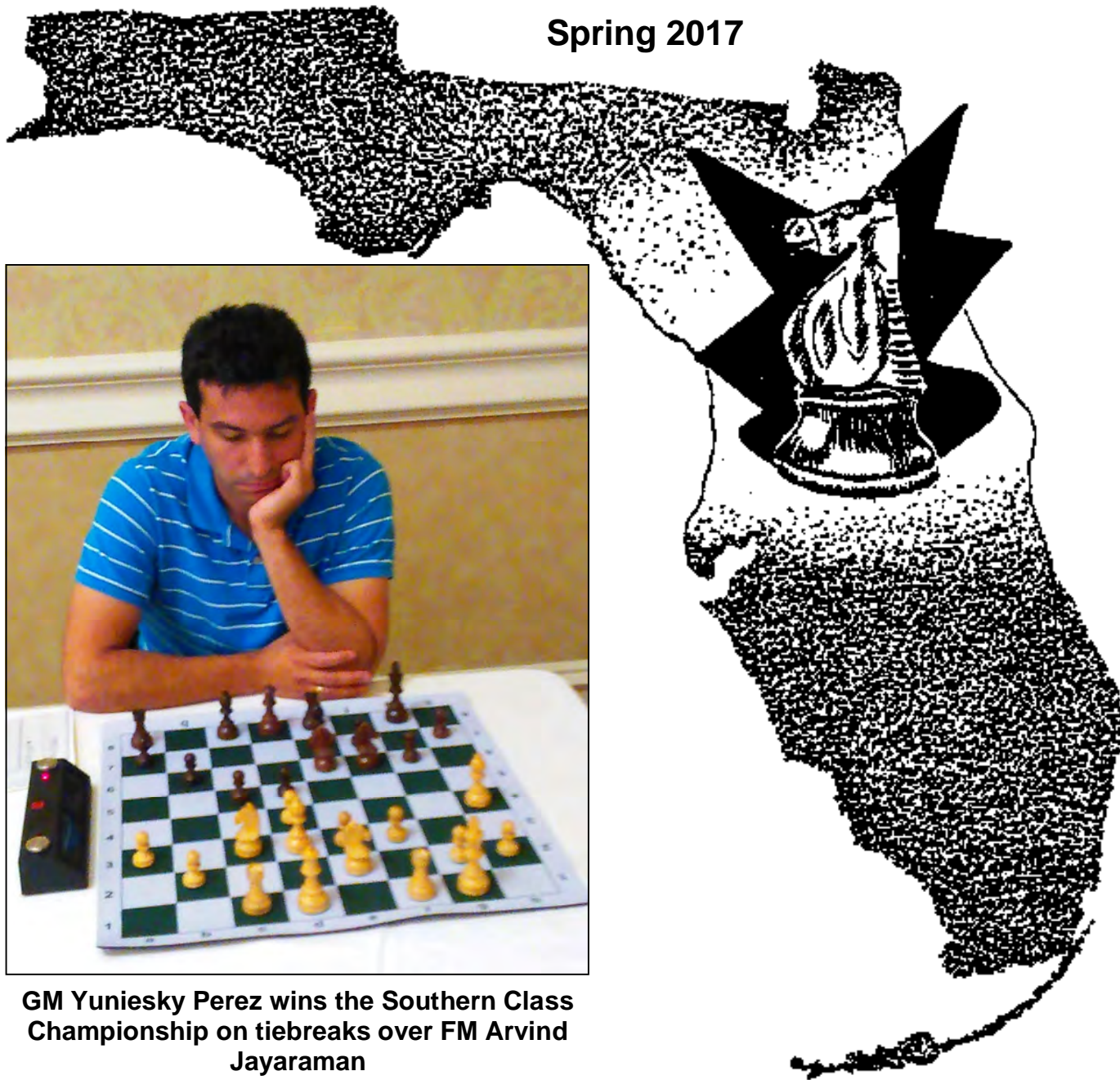


# *Florida* **CHESS**

FLORIDA CHESS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Spring 2017



**GM Yuniesky Perez wins the Southern Class  
Championship on tiebreaks over FM Arvind  
Jayaraman**

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**Florida Champions**

<b>State</b>	Julio Becerra	<b>Scholastic</b>	Laura Zayas
<b>Top K-8</b>	Nikhil Kumar	<b>Top Girl</b>	Laura Zayas
<b>Speed</b>	Corey Acor	<b>Quick</b>	Corey Acor
<b>Senior</b>	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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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.

**Contributing Editors**

Julio Becerra, William Bowman, Tony Burros, David Hater, Steven Lampkin, Beatriz Marinello, Anony Mous, Kevin Pryer, Alexander Shah, Kevin Sibbitt, Ben Silva, Theo Slade, Tim Staley

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**Games Editor** - Larry Storch

**Book Reviewer** - Miguel Ararat

**Cover Artwork** - Roberta Lerman

**Cover Masthead** - Mike Halloran

**Software** - Microsoft Publisher, ChessBase

## Editor Speaks

Well, your editor has just moved; after 50 years my wife and I have retired to a nearby house on a lake. We may take a while in giving up our Maitland home, but our new address is shown on page 2. We are only 15 minutes apart and our phone number and e-mail address remain the same. And though we are a little late in getting this issue out, it is packed!

Too many organizers send me their reports late and it becomes harder and harder to squeeze them in. And some I have to shorten or reduce the font-size to get them in. But in this issue I made only a slight font-size reduction to include Theo Slade's report on his historic (for him) game from the Central FL Class Championships, as he reports on his thinking, his nervousness, his frustrations... all the things a chess player goes thru; and how his confidence builds and collapses, all without any outward expression. Yes... I know he is an experienced writer for the British Chess Magazine, but have a read of this one.

We are watching and working with the new ChessStars program, and how it will fit in with one of CFCC's major events this Summer; so look at the Orlando Sunshine Open (June 9-11 at the Rosen Plaza off the Orlando Convention Center).

---

**Please look at your mailing label.** 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](http://floridaCHESS.org) under "Membership" or just mail your check to the FCA, c/o FCA Treasurer, at the address shown on the inside front cover (page 2).

*Harvey Lerman*

**PS.** I'll still be using my Maitland address for the return address of [floridaCHESS](http://floridaCHESS.org) until I find out the best way to make this change as a non-profit thru the Post Office.

---

### **Floridians with USCF jobs:**

#### **Committees:**

- Audit: Tony Cottell & Jon Haskel, Members
- Barber K-8: Jon Haskel, Co-chair
- Bylaws: Robert Persante, Member
- College Chess, Renier Gonzalez, Jon Haskel & Ana DeMahy, Members
- Correspondence Chess: Max Zavanelli, Member
- Denker: Jon Haskel, Co-chair
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- Publications: Harvey Lerman, Member
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- States: Harvey Lerman, Member

### **Floridians with US Chess Trust jobs:**

Joel Channing - Trustee

from the President's desk

Hello FCA Members,

I'd like to take some time to highlight some amazing and exciting things that have happened (or are planned to happen) in our state this past (coming) year.

First, I'd like to congratulate two of our board members, Daaim Shabazz and Steve Abrahams, on the publication of their respective books, "Triple Exclam" and "Become a Chess Champion", the latter co-written with NM Bryan Tillis.

"Triple Exclam" is already getting national attention in the world of chess and was recently mentioned during the commentary of the US Chess Championship. The book is about the life and chess of IM Emory Tate, most well known for his highly tactic and uncompromising style of chess.

I consider myself fortunate to have met (and played) this great player in a tournament in North Florida a number of years ago. If you knew Tate, knew of Tate, or just enjoy high level exciting chess, the book is a "must have".

I'm putting "Becoming a Chess Champion" on my reading list as well, as I am sure the two authors have put together something special. As you may know, Abrahams and Tillis are the co-managers of the Miami Champions, a Pro Chess League team. They are also business partners and friends who run a successful chess program in South Florida. Congratulations guys!

Secondly, I'd like to mention some new and exciting tournaments that will be taking place in (and around) Florida. The first being the FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled taking place in Orlando June 22nd - 29th. It is a true honor to have this event in our state. Having an international event take place in Florida is a definite plus and should go far in helping promote chess in our state, bringing chess to an even wider audience. Big thanks to board member Steve Lampkin for helping bring this event to our backyard.

Steve Lampkin has also been collaborating with the Georgia Chess Association to bring

*(President's desk continued on page4)*



# Letters

Women/Girls,

Join us in JAX for our 2nd Annual Queen's Cup Tournament for Women/Girls. This year's event will be May 6th at the swanky Hotel Indigo in Jacksonville. Entry includes lunch and an event shirt. Register at chess register. See [jaxcc.org](http://jaxcc.org) for details.

Kevin Pryor

Hi everybody,

From June 23-29, the Sunshine State will be the host of the First **FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled**. Chess is an inclusive sport and the purpose of this event is to bridge players with special needs to chess competitions.

This event is only for disabled chess players aged 20 and under. Each relevant chess association (IBCA, IPCA, ICCD) regulates the conditions of their participation. Players can register directly at the event website. The organizers will contact their National Federations to get the appropriate endorsement for each player.

The top three scores of team members in a section will count as the team score for that section. All players on a team must come from the same country and be registered in FIDE under the country flag.

Players from outside Florida State are required to stay in the official hotel, which is the Park Inn by Radisson Resort & Conference Center at 3011 Maingate Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34747

For more information contact:

Beatriz Marinello  
International Organizer  
[beatriz@chesseducators.com](mailto:beatriz@chesseducators.com)  
+1 917 553 4522

(President's desk continued from page 3)

another exciting event (close to) Florida. Lampkin has helped organize a Tri-State Championship in Valdosta, Georgia which hopes to promote chess in the three states (Florida, Georgia, and Alabama) by playing off the natural and intense rivalry the 3 states have in all sports. I am a big fan of such events as I like the additional element of representing your state and having state pride on the line. Which state will reign supreme? Play and help show the other states that we're the best.

Lastly, I would like to give a nod to ChessStars for all the work they've done to support and promote chess in our state. For those who don't know, ChessStars is an organization and online chess platform with an innovative approach to online chess. Not wanting to do them any injustice in explaining what they do incorrectly, I will simply say, check out their website at [www.chessstars.com](http://www.chessstars.com).

Sasha Starr, who is with the organization, has been very supportive of Florida events, making donations, promoting Florida events to a wider audience and influential in bringing strong, high level, international competition to Florida players. I am hopeful that other organizations with a passion to support and promote chess will flock to Florida and continue to grow chess here.

Hope to see you at the next tournament,

William Bowman

## FCA ELECTIONS

The following positions on the FCA Board come up for election this year.

Office	Current
Vice-President	Stephen Lampkin
Treasurer	Stephen Cernobyl
Regional VP NE	Kevin Pryor
Regional VP W	Sam Sokhanvari
Dir. At Large	Steve Abrahams
Dir. At Large	Michael Hoffer

If you are interested in being a candidate for any of these positions, please contact the President and/or Editor, and in the next issue of floridaCHESS we'll have the complete list of those running and something about the qualifications of each candidate. Candidates must be "voting members" of the FCA. \*\*

So please send to the Editor a "Candidates Statement", if you wish to run for any of the offices listed above. Those names listed above who are running for reelection, should submit a statement, as well. These statements would be published in the Summer issue of floridaCHESS. Statements should be sent to the Editor by July 4th.

A Board position takes a minimal amount of your time, but often requires weekly e-mail business activities.

We will also include a ballot and procedures for voting by either Election Buddy (EB), mail or e-mail, and use an independent Election Master to handle these ballots and e-mails. This would be the voter's official ballot and can not be changed (I.e. Voters can not add their own write-in candidates.), can only be used by the voter indicated (I.e. Ballot contains an election unique voter #), and if using mail, the envelope must be signed by the voter. All voters must have current FCA and USCF memberships as of July 1st, and be at least 16 years of age. \*\*

\*\* These and other requirements for being an FCA voting member, or an FCA Board Candidate, can be found in the FCA BY-Laws, listed on the FCA website, [floridaCHESS.org](http://floridaCHESS.org)

# GM Perez and FM Jayaraman win Southern Class Championship

by David A. Hater & Harvey Lerman

The 15th Southern Class Championship was held March 24th to 26th at the Wyndham Resort in Orlando. There were 218 players in seven sections. The master section was small at only 14 players, but featured two GMs, two FM's and a total of seven over 2200. The surprises started in round one. In the three day schedule, there were almost not enough players to have round one. There were three advance entries, but one requested a bye for round one. Also, prior to registration closing, another player notified us that he was stuck in traffic and would change to the 2 day schedule. This left one player – FM Jayaraman who was the top seed in the three day schedule. Fortunately another player registered and we had one game!

But that player who registered presented us with an interesting case. The rules of the tournament provide that a player can play up one section. Victor Rodriguez claimed to have been an expert in the Puerto Rican Chess Federation rating system, but that rating system no longer exists. He has played a very small number of games both in USCF and FIDE events against somewhat strong players, but losing them all. We accepted his claim of being an expert 20 years ago and allowed him to play in the top section. While he lost all his games, he played competitively in all of them. It looks like he really is just a somewhat out of practice former expert.

In the two day schedule, the top seeded GM Yuniesky Quesada Perez gave up a draw to Corey Acor while the second seeded GM Ayram Abreu lost to Carlos Andretta an expert who was playing up. Fourth seeded John Ludwig surrendered a draw to Carter Peatman, while fifth seeded Deepak Aaron lost to Goran Markovic.

The second round pairing in the three day schedule was forced – Jayaraman had to play Ravindra Wijesundera who took the bye in round one and Rodriguez had the bye. The pairings for round two in the two day schedule were unusual. There were four players who won and three of them were experts who chose to play up a section! FM Yans Barrios (who won this event in 2016 and is rated over 2500) drew with Goran Markovic in round two. They played to K and R versus K and R and played several more moves before agreeing to a draw! Andretta got paired down even though he was playing up a section and beat a GM in round one. Andretta played expert Jackie Liu who had the bye in round one. Andretta won and emerged as the only perfect score in the two day schedule!

In round three Jayaraman and Andretta drew, while Perez beat Barrios to join the leaders. Andretta now was leading the tournament with a 2700+ GM and an FM all with 2½ out of 3! On Sunday morning, Andretta was on board one against Perez – over 500 point rating difference that you hardly ever see in a class tournament. Perez won to maintain the tournament lead. Amazingly, Andretta then withdrew even though he was still in contention for a prize! He indicated that he wanted to “protect his win” over the GM earning him a master rating, even if it might cost him a prize. Jayaraman also won defeating John Ludwig.

Perez and Jayaraman faced off in round five. Both were due black, but Perez got his due color. Perez outrated Jayaraman by 400 points, but a draw secured a tie for first and a quick draw occurred. Corey Accor had a chance to join the first place tie but he would have to beat Abreu with the black pieces. That didn't happen so Acor, Abreu, Ludwig and Barrios all tied for third with 3 points.

The expert section also ended in a two way tie for first at four points. Theodore Slade and Martin Hansen have identical ratings 2150 and finished with identical records three wins, two draws (though one of Hansen's was a half point bye). The two players drew each other in round four. Slade has been racking up wins in CCA tournaments in Orlando. He won the Under 2100 section of the Southern Open last year and also tied for 2nd in the Southern Class that year. His rating has been steadily climbing and is approaching master. In round 3, he defeats Vedic Panda. Slade offered a draw on move 19 which was declined. Panda offered on move 28 and this time Slade declined and went on to win.

Class B had an unrated player tie for first. Qinggu Zhu finished with 4½ points and tied for first with Thomas Suh. Zhu was limited to a prize of \$500, so Suh was able to take the entire first prize of \$1000 and Zhu got the entire second prize of \$500. Suh played the Swiss gambit as he drew in round one and then went 4-0. He almost played the USCF membership gambit as he somehow slipped through our automated registration process with an expired USCF membership! However, this was discovered and he dutifully renewed, so his rating points are safe!

In Class E, there were two 5-0 scores. There was a chance that there would be two 5-0 scores that would be brothers. Joshua and James Alton both started 4-0. They were joined by Jacob Parker. Fortunately in the last round the brothers would not play. Parker played Joshua Alton, while James was paired with Kevin Liu who was the only player at 3½. James won, but Parker beat Joshua preventing the Alton sweep.

There were two prizewinners who I will not mention by name, but who almost didn't make it to the winner's circle. One friend typed the words “Illegal Move” on his cellphone and then showed it to his friend who was on move! Obviously the opponent didn't think highly of this and complained to the TD! After some investigation, it was determined that there

*(Southern Class continued on page 6)*



(Southern Class continued from page 5)

was no illegal move. The player transmitting the information didn't know any better! Both players got a dressing down from the TD who explained the rules and the potential consequences. It was an honest, innocent mistake, but it could have cost both players dearly! They both were remorseful, learned a valuable lesson, and everybody had a good laugh when they picked up the check. The player receiving the unhelpful advice wound up losing that particular game anyway. I pointed out to both players that they were very lucky that their violation of the rules didn't cost them anything, and that relying on luck is not a good plan!

NTD David Hater directed for CCA assisted by NTD Harvey Lerman & Krista Alton.

The section top winners were:

**Master: GM Yuniesky Quesada Perez \$1150 & Arvind Jayaraman \$1000, both 4-1**

**Expert: Theodore Slade & Martin Hansen, 4-1, \$750**

**Class A: Dylan Todfield, 4½ - ½, \$1000**

**Class B: Thomas Suh \$1000 & Qingyu Zhu \$500, both 4½ - ½**

**Class C: Teodor Malendevych & John-Gabriel Diego Bermudez, 4-1, \$750**

**Class D: Brian Serve, 5-0, \$800**

**Class E: James Alton & Jacob Parker, 5-0, \$375**

**Mixed Doubles: GM Yun Quesada Perez & Violeta Atseva, 7½ - 2½, \$200 each**

**Blitz Tournament: Corey Acor & Joshua Harrison, 7-1, \$91.88 each**

Full tournament details can be found at [www.southernclass.net](http://www.southernclass.net)



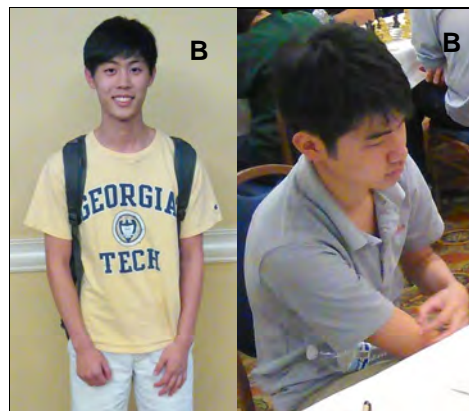
Corey Acor & Joshua Harrison tie at 7-1 as Blitz Co-Champions



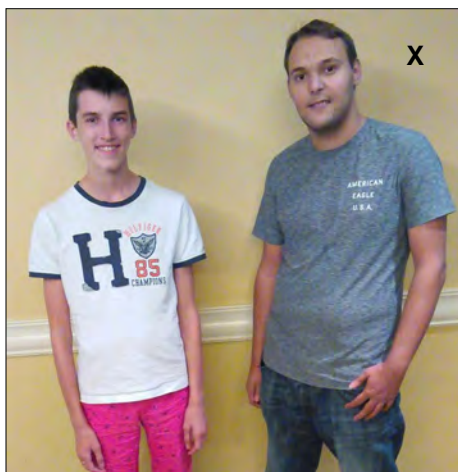
Arvind Jayaraman (L) beats Daniel Ludwig in round 4 of the Master section



Dylan Todfield wins \$1000 in "A"



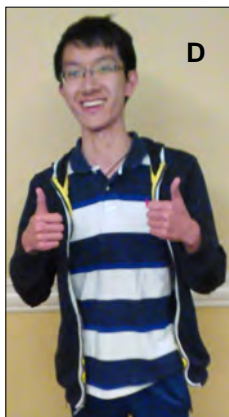
Thomas Suh (L), from GA, tied for 1st in "B" but received top prize (\$1000) as Qingyu Zhu (R) was unrated and limited to \$500



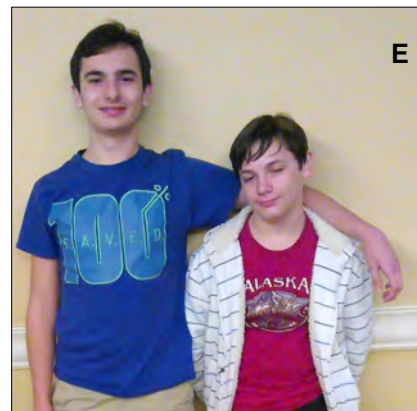
Theo Slade (L) & Martin Hansen tie for 1st in Expert Section



Teodor Malendevych ties for 1st in "C"



Jason Wu (from GA) tied for 2nd in "D"



James Alton (L) 5-0 ties 1st with Jacob Parker (not shown). Brother Joshua Alton finished 3rd losing to Parker in last round

## FLORIDA'S TOP PLAYERS

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

### UNDER AGE 18

Ludwig, John Gabriel	16	2491
Kumar, Nikhil	12	2390
Hoang, Truman	16	2186
Banerjee, Abhimanyu	15	2182
Slade, Theodore	16	2150
Jayaraman, Roshan	16	2119
Hoyos, Carlos D	16	2111
Venkat, Raghav	12	2097
Marquez Pereira, Juan E	17	2091
Gonzalez, Marc	16	2063
Rivero, Danilo	17	2052
Lee, Gabriel Emilio, Jr	16	2044
Genger, Eitan	15	2027
Liu, Jackie	16	2008
Burrus, Tony	16	2001
Kumar, Naman	10	2001
Jie, Tianhui (Cindy)	16	1999
Lau, Jonathan C	17	1996
Sunjic, Dylan	15	1995
Martin, Dario	12	1984
Hamley, Ryan Edward	14	1975
Garcia, Ernesto Miguel Perez	13	1975
Gao, Marvin	8	1958
Zheng, Lixin	14	1928
Bregar, Michael	14	1916
Gospodinov, Antony	10	1891
Reddy, Satvik	12	1882
Kleidermacher, Justin	13	1880
Zelner, Zoe	12	1846
Ramaswamy, Rohit	12	1846
Starkman, Elliot	13	1842
Alvarez, Xavier	13	1837
Maheshwari, Jayant	11	1811
Yang, Andy	11	1793
Zhao, Erick	8	1747
Stone, Vincent William Iii	11	1741
Singh, Keshav	11	1724
Ngo, Bach	8	1682
Maddikonda, Ayush	11	1656
Cooke, Grayson	8	1623
Behura, Maya	9	1533
Shukla, Aniket	8	1476
Marian, Aaron	7	1417
Wu, William	8	1350
Yonal, Timur	6	1332
Patil, Dhruva Dinesh	6	1285
Pothuri, Abhiram	7	1105
Hughes, Daniel	7	1027

# 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

Laura Zayas	18	2242
Rachel Gologorsky	18	2114
Tianhui (Cindy) Jie	15	2003
Lauren Kleidermacher	17	1899

### SENIORS

Victor Adler	69	2407
Stephen Stoyko	69	2271
Constantine Xanthos	70	2200
Larry Storch	66	2200
Max Zavanelli	70	2134

### WOMEN

Alexandra Kosteniuk	2602 #
Ghaderpour Taleghani	2297
Laura Zayas	2247
Rachel Gologorsky	2110
Vladlena Ciubara	2104
Tianhui (Cindy) Jie	1999

### TOP BLITZ

Julio Becerra	2633
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### TOP QC

Julio Becerra	2557
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Ervin Sedlock

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Ralph Whitford

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Steven Vigil

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#### International Coordinator

Elizabeth Tejada

#### National Arbiter

Harvey Lerman

#### National Instructor

Miguel Ararat

\* Active and USCF certified

### OVERALL \*

GM FABIANO CARUANA	2895 #
GM JULIO J BECERRA	2634
GM LARS BO HANSEN	2627
GM ALEXANDRA KOSTENIUK	2625
IM DANIEL FERNANDEZ	2543
FM YANS GIRONES BARRIOS	2525
GM RENIER GONZALEZ	2482
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IM BLAS LUGO	2390
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ROBERT PERSANTE	2212
OSCAR MALDONADO	2207
WALDO SERRANO	2204
CONSTANTINE XANTHOS	2200
LAWRENCE ALAN STORCH	2200
AJ GOLDSBY	2200
MIGUEL FONSECA	2200
TRUMAN HOANG	2200

\* Active with Current Ratings

### CORRESPONDENCE

Keith Rodriguez	2333
Humberto Cruz	2284
James Van Dooren	2193
Paul Ott	2093
Dwayne Hoffman	2055
David Spencer	2045
Michael Horvarh	1984



# Florida State Scholastic Championship

March 10-12 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort



Cindy Jie won the K-12 Championship (5-0) and became both the Florida State Scholastic Champion and Florida's "Top Girl". She won one game by forfeit which hurt her tie-breaks, so she "sweated out" the game on Board 2.



Board 2: a win by Jonathan Clau (R) would give him a 5-0 score and the Championship on tiebreaks. But Carlos D Hoyos drew the game to save the title for Cindy.



K-8: Raghav Venkat drew his last round game to tie for 1st, winning the Barber rep title on tiebreaks.



K-1: Dhruva Patil, Champion, over shadowed by trophy and Chief TD Jon Haskel.



K-5: Vincent Stone (R) won this championship 5-0 as his higher rated opponent, Jayant Maheshwari fell to 3rd with a 4-1 score.

Number of players			
K-1	47	BugHouse	30
K-3	36	K-5 Blitz	26
K-3u600	31	K-12 Blitz	46
K-5	50	F&F Blitz	11
K-5u700	47		
K-8	76		
K-8u1000	56		
K-12	55		
K-12u1000	16		
Total	414		

Other TDs: Michael Hutsko, Harvey Lerman, Jeffrey Haskel, Otis Wilson & Laura Suarez

## Section Winners

### INDIVIDUAL

K-1	Dhruva Patil (EWF)	4½-½
K-3	Aniket Shukla (RIVERG)	5-0
K-3u600	Daniel Zhang (OAKH)	5-0
K-5	Vincent Stone (INDIALA)	5-0
K-5u700	Niharika Manda (OAKH)	5-0
K-8	Raghav Venkat (WELL)	4½-½
K-8u1000	Aaron Norris (MOTHER)	5-0
K-12	Cindy Jie (FWBUCH)	5-0
K-12u1000	Santiago Martinez (DEVINE)	4-1

### TEAM

K-1	Oak Hall
K-3	Joseph Williams
K-3u600	Oak Hall
K-5	Franklin Academy-PBG
K-5u700	Oak Hall
K-8	BAK Middle School of the Arts
K-8u1000	Devine Savior Academy
K-12	F W Buchholz High
K-12u1000	Devine Savior Academy

### BUGHOUSE

J Hoyos & C Hoyos	9-1
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### K-5 Blitz

Vincent Stone (INDIALA)	9-1
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### K-12 Blitz

Raghav Venkat (WELL)	8½-1½
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### Friends & Family Blitz

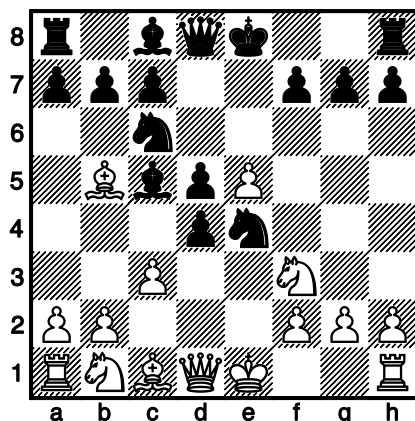
Kai Tabor	7-3
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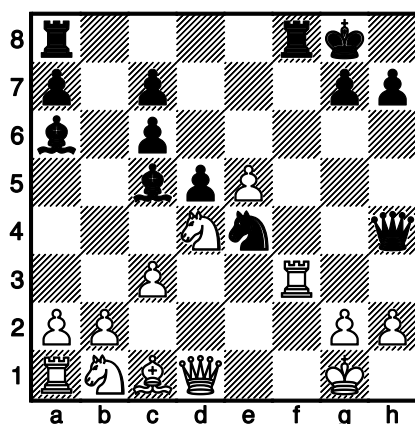
# Some games from the Florida Scholastic Championship

**Sunjic, Dylan (1995) [C54]**  
**Jayaraman, Roshan (2119)**  
 2017 Florida Scholastic Championship  
 (K-12) Orlando, (3.1), 11.03.2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4  
 Bc5 5.c3 Nf6 6.e5 d5 7.Bb5 Ne4

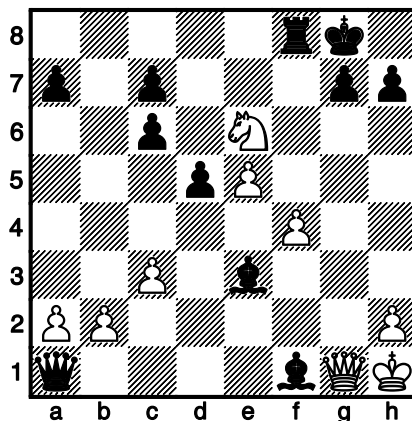


8.Nxd4+  
 [8.cxd4=]  
 8...0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.0-0 f6 11.f4+  
 [11.Be3+]  
 11...Ba6 12.Rf3 fxe5 13.fxe5 Qh4



14.Nd2+  
 [14.Be3+]  
 14...Nxd2  
 [Even better is 14...Rxf3 15.N2xf3  
 Qf2+ 16.Kh1 Bf1 17.Nh4 Rf8]  
 15.Qxd2 Rxf3 16.gxf3 Rf8 17.Qf2  
 Qh3  
 [17...Qh5!]

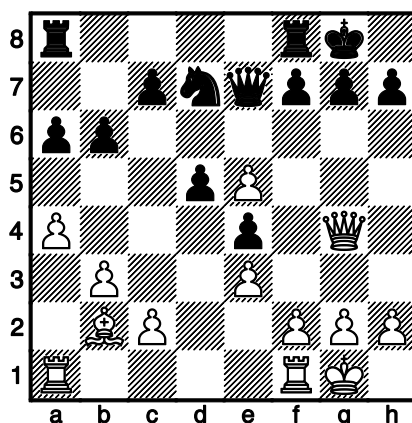
18.f4 Qg4+ 19.Kh1 Qd1+  
 [19...Bd3!]  
 20.Qg1  
 [20.Kg2]  
 20...Bf1 21.Be3 Qxa1 22.Ne6 Bxe3??



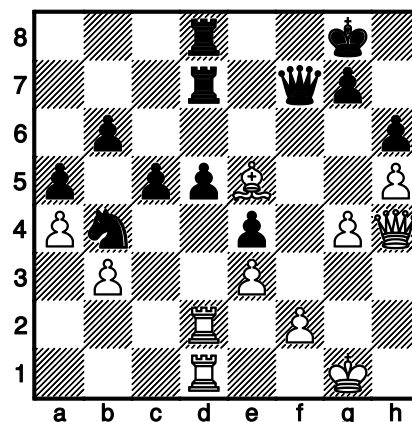
23.Qxg7#  
 Yes, it was played at G/60;d5, but  
 Black still had 25 min on his clock!  
 1-0

**Ngo, Bach (1682) [D05]**  
**Venkat, Raghav (2097)**  
 2017 Florida Scholastic Championship  
 (K-8), Orlando, (3.2), 11.03.2017

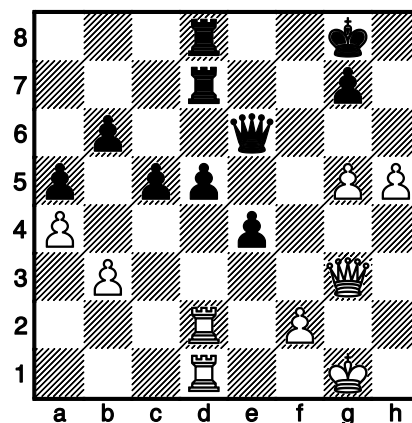
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3  
 Nbd7 5.0-0 b6 6.b3 Bb7 7.Bb2 Bd6  
 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.Nxe4 dxe4  
 11.Bc4 Bxe5 12.dxe5 Qe7 13.Qg4 a6  
 14.a4 Bd5 15.Bxd5 exd5



16.e6 fxe6 17.c4 Nf6 18.Qg3 a5  
 19.Be5 Rac8 20.cxd5 exd5 21.Bb2 c5  
 22.Rad1 Qe6 23.Rd2 Rcd8 24.Rfd1  
 Rd7 25.h3 Rfd8 26.Qg5 Ne8 27.h4  
 Qf7 28.h5 h6 29.Qh4 Nc7 30.Be5 Na6  
 31.g4 Nb4



32.g5  
 [Another try is 32.Bc7 Rc8 33.Bxb6  
 Nd3 34.Bxa5]  
 32...Qe7 33.Bf4 Nd3 34.Qg3 Nxf4  
 35.exf4 hxg5 36.fxg5 Qe6



37.f3?  
 Allows Black's pawns to roll in.  
 37...e3 38.Rh2 d4 39.h6 g6 40.h7+  
 No way for White to get in... but  
 Black shows how it's done.  
 40...Kh8 41.Qe1 Qe5 42.Rg2 Rxh7  
 43.Qf1 Kg8 44.Qc4+ Kf8 45.f4 Qh8  
 46.Kf1 Rh1+ 47.Rg1 Qh2  
 Mate in 2.  
 0-1

## Mode Beast won the US Amateur Team South

by Ben Silva (for USCHESS)  
held February 17-19 in Kissimmee



### US Amateur Team South Champions

Miguel Fonseca, Yan Miellier, Dario Teodori & Vlad Yanovsky

I am 99.99% sure that chess was brought to planet Earth by aliens. I know historians have proposed India or China but I think they have the birthplace mixed up with the spaceship-landing site. How else can I possibly explain what I witnessed over this weekend? What else, besides an alien encounter, would draw men, women and children of all ages and all cultures from all corners to converge at four calculated points on one weekend? There was no prize money; the reward was the shared experience and there will be no better word I write from here on out that better exemplifies the spirit of the Amateur Team tournaments than that. Shared.

There is a universal camaraderie among chess enthusiasts, team events are a celebration of this single pure truth, and the USATS (US Amateur Team South) was no exception. I competed with one team, ate with another, and shared a hotel room with another I was slated to compete against the next morning. Sure, I whispered hypnotic mantras of discouragement to them in their sleep but I was only kidding around...

This year's Team South went down in Orlando with 42 teams roughly split down the middle with the slightly bigger half in the Open section and the remainder in the under 1500. Even the open section has an average team rating cut-off of 2200, hence the term Amateur in the namesake. Still, A GM, a few FM's and a WIM came out to play. This top heavy strategy failed to a more balanced team, which prevailed for clear first. The second place team on tiebreak also favored a more bottom heavy line-up.

Team **Mode Beast** comprised of members Vlad Yanovsky (2233), Yan Miellier (2202), Miguel Fonseca (2176), and Dario Teodori (2146). They combined like the Mighty Morphing Power Rangers for a 4.5/5 score, only being held to a draw in the final round by 2nd place finishers Team **Tesla**. Mode Beast acquired individual scores on boards 1-4 of 1.5, 3.5, 4.5 and 4.5 respectively. Still, much credit given to big Vlad. Yanovsky absorbed some beatings on first board in order to serve the higher purpose and protect his relatively high rated lower boards. His teammates in return were free to go to work and handle their business and it paid off for the Dubya, aka the 'W' aka the win and not the 43rd Prez. Vlad's games were usually among the last to finish and if nothing else, his display of endurance was impressive.

Tesla came close to an upset in the final round. On board four, Tesla's Lester Machado was down to three seconds but agreed to a draw in a winning position. However, it was not meant to be and Mode Beast came through as king of the mountain. Teams Tesla and **Pawn Lives Matter** (please direct any mail in protest of the name to the team's fourth board William Bowman; sorry pal, better you than me) both scored 4/5 with Tesla edging out PLM on tiebreaks. Top first board went to FM Corey Acor from PLM who held off **Zoe Brought her Coaches'** GM Alexander Goldin on tiebreaks, both with 4.5/5

*The ICC USAT playoffs are currently scheduled for April 22nd. ~Ed*



### USATS - Wayne's World --Top Senior

Larry Storch (3), Robert Persante (2), Wayne Strickland (4)  
& John Nardandrea (BD1)



### USATS - Castle-Mate --Top U1500

Kevin Aguirre, Sadik Bizanti, Carlos Gimon &  
Max Cufari

# John Gabriel Ludwig Wins 3<sup>rd</sup> Gulf Coast New Years Open

by Tony Burrus



The sunniest city in the Sunshine State was home to the Third Annual Gulf Coast New Years Open. This unpredictable tourney, set in the perpetually beachy town of Fort Myers, Florida, has become quite the event— attracting the likes of current World Blindfolded Chess Champion GM Timur Gareev, Texas Tech's talented GM Yaroslav Zherubuk, and many other top seated players in previous years. This time around was no different. As per usual, the three day tournament (January 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) started out with unique openings; surprising upsets, and many more thrills and spills! Modern greats, Grandmasters Ayram Abreu and Sandro Pozo Vera contented with rising stars like NM Nat Kelleher for the Championship. However, it was sixteen year old John Gabriel Ludwig who came out on top of this year's Open, overcoming the two aforementioned grandmasters in the process.

Simultaneously, this victory helped to ensure Ludwig's standing as the third highest ranked sixteen year old in the U.S. Chess Federation. Furthermore, this win has put Ludwig one step closer to a GM title of his own. We expect to see many more origin stories emerge from this tournament in the years to come.

**Valido, Cesar J (2357) [A01]**

**Gologorsky, Rachel (2114)**

2017 Gulf Coast New Year's Open  
Fort Myers, (1.1), 06.01.2017

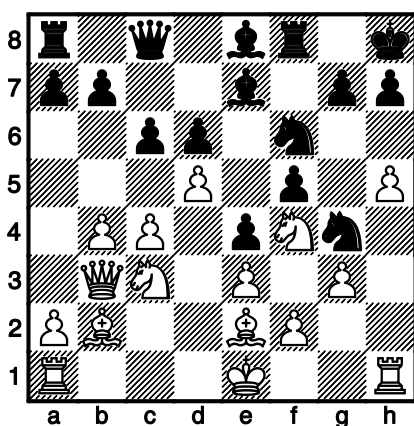
**1.b3!?**

I decided to include this game because it's not everyday you see a Master play Larsen's Opening in a tournament.

**1...e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e3 f5**

Rachel goes for an interesting Dutch-like setup.

**4.d4 e4 5.c4 Nf6 6.h4!? Be7 7.Nh3 Ng4 8.g3 Nd7 9.Nc3 c6 10.Be2 Ndf6 11.Nf4 0-0 12.b4 Bd7 13.Qb3 Kh8 14.h5 Qc8 15.d5 Be8**



**16.Kf1!?**

Interesting! White wants to castle, but not without leaving his rook on h1 for the attack.

**16...Bf7 17.Kg2**

**17.Ng6+! hxc6 18.hxc6+ Kg8**

**19.gxf7+ Rxf7 20.Kg2** Leaves White with a very nice position!

**17...Qe8 18.Bxg4**

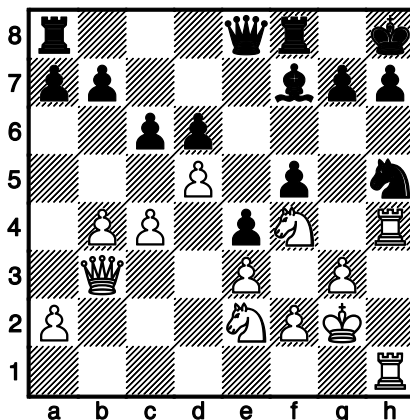
The Bishop was useless on e2 and in general.

**18...Nxc4**

**18...fxg4** Runs into... **19.h6! g5**

**20.Nxe4+-**

**19.Nce2 Bf6 20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.Rh4 Nxe5 22.Rah1**



**22...g5??**

Thinking that White blundered a piece, but forgetting about her own problems, Black makes a terrible mistake. [22...Nxf4+ 23.exf4 (23.Nxf4 h6?) 23...Bg8? (23...h6=) ]

**23.Rxh5 Bxh5 24.Nxh5**

Now it's just a matter of time before Black crumbles.

**24...Qe5 25.Qc3 cxd5 26.cxd5 Rac8 27.Qd2 Rc4 28.a3 Rfc8 29.Nd4 Rc3 30.Ne6 Rd3 31.Rc1 Rg8 32.Qc2 Rxd5 33.Qc8 Rd1 34.Nxc5 Rxc1 35.Nf7#**

**1-0**

**Cooke, Eric (2251)**

**Ludwig, John (2483) [B78]**

2017 Gulf Coast New Year's Open  
Fort Myers, (4.1), 08.01.2017

[Tony Burrus]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6**

The Dragon Lives! [5...a6 The Najdorf is what the top players prefer.]

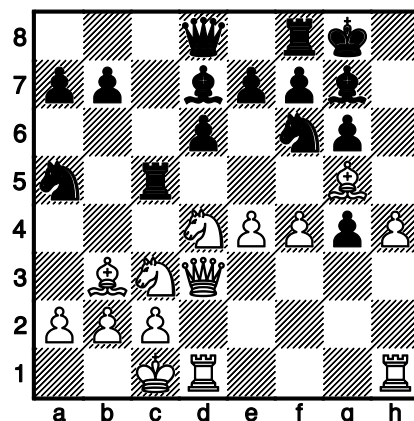
**6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Bc4 Nc6 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h4 h5**

[12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.g4 Is another popular line.]

**13.Bg5**

Surprisingly this is the main line of this variation.

**13...Rc5 14.g4= hxc4 15.f4 Nc4 16.Qd3 Na5??**



**1 6...b5** Supporting the Knight on c4,

(Ludwig Gulf Coast game continued on page 15)



# Games from recent events

by LM Larry Storch



## Andretta, Carlos (2173) Abreu, Ayram (2513) [A37]

Southern Class Championship  
Orlando (1), 26.03.2017  
[Storch, Lawrence]

Carlos starts his tournament off with a bang, upsetting one of the top players in the event.

And later in round 3 he drew against FM Arvind Jayaraman who went on to tie for 1st place in this event. But later in the 4th round he had to play GM Yuniesky Perez, when his luck ran out and he lost the game. Having played 3 of the top players in the event, he decided to withdraw and keep his memory of beating a GM and increasing his rating to Master, even though he had a high chance of finishing in-the-money if he played one more round. ~Ed.

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7  
5.Bg2 d6 6.d3 e6

[6...e5]

7.Rb1

[7.0-0 Nge7 8.Bd2 0-0 9.a3]

7...Nge7 8.a3 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Bd2  
Qd7 11.b4 Nf5!?

An original move

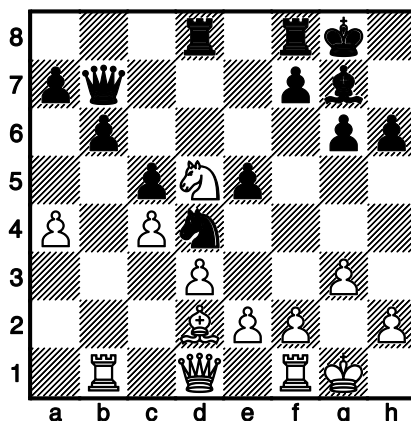
[11...0-0 12.Qc1 Nd4]

12.Nb5 0-0 13.Bc3 e5

Defeating the Bishop on c3

14.Bd2 Rad8 15.Nc3 Nfe7 16.Ne1  
Nd4 17.Bxb7 Qxb7 18.Nc2 Nxc2  
19.Qxc2

The position is equal.  
19...h6 20.bxc5 dxc5 21.a4!  
An attempt to weaken b6  
21...Nc6 22.Nd5 Nd4 23.Qd1



23...Rxd5!?

Without white squared bishops, this exchange sacrifice makes sense.

24.cxd5 Qxd5 25.Bc3 e4

25...Ne6 keeps black's only minor piece that can influence the white squares.]

26.Bxd4 Bxd4 27.dxe4 Qxe4 28.e3±

Now, white's king is safe.

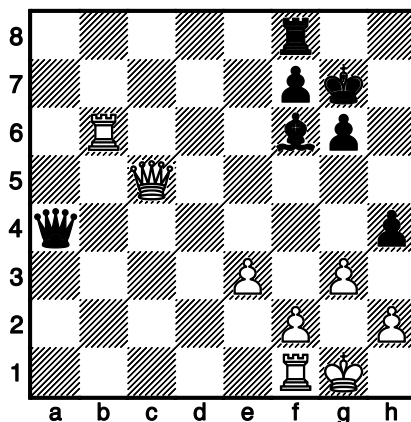
28...Be5 29.Qd7 h5

Desperation.

30.Qxa7 h4 31.Rxb6 Kg7

[31...h3 32.Qb7!+-]

32.Qb7 Qxa4 33.Qd5 Bf6 34.Qxc5



34...Qg4?

A blunder in a lost position.

35.Rxf6!

1-0

## Ludwig, John (2491) Liu, Jackie (2008) [C54]

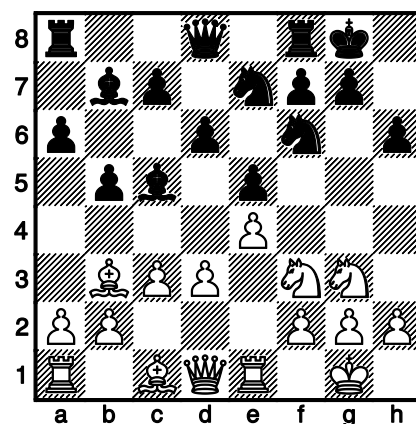
Southern Class (3.4), 25.03.2017  
[Storch, Lawrence]

John came in 3rd-6th in the event after recovering from a draw in the 1st round against a much lower rated opponent. His 3-2 score was enough to win money, as though there were 14 players in the section, only 4 games were paired for the last round.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0  
d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.d3 h6 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Bb3  
a6 9.Re1 b5

[9...Be6 10.Nf1 Bxb3 11.Qxb3 Re8  
12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 1/2-1/2 (47)  
Yudasin,L (2517)-Nakamura,H (2785)  
chess.com INT 2017]

10.Nf1 Bb7 11.Ng3 Ne7



In this game, like the following Perez game, black tries to control invasion on f5.

12.Nh4 Kh7 13.Qf3 Ng6 14.Nhf5± a5

Black proceeds with his own plan, but those white knights have to be dealt with.

15.h4 a4 16.Bc2 Rg8 17.Bg5!?

Stirring the pot, but black should be alright here. [17.h5 Nf8 18.d4±]

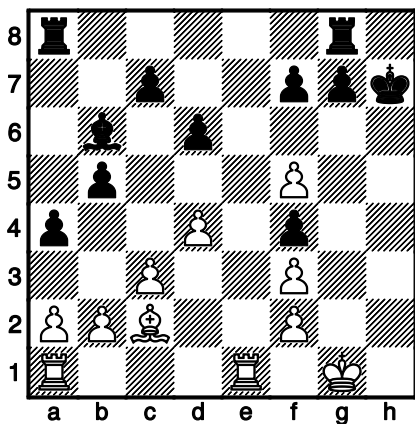
17...hxg5 18.hxg5 Nf4

Of course saving the piece allows a mate in one. 18...Ne8?? 19.Qh5#

19.gxf6 Qxf6 20.d4 Bb6 21.Nh5

Again, looks good but does not change the evaluation.

**21...Qxf5 22.exf5 Bxf3 23.Nxf4 exf4 24.gxf3**



Here we have a unique position; five pawns on a file (only six are allowed!).

**24...Rge8 25.Be4 Rad8 26.Bc6 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 b4 28.Bxa4 bxc3 29.bxc3 Ra8 30.Bb3 Ra5 31.Re7 f6 32.Kg2 Kh6 33.Be6 Ra3 34.Kh3**

**34.Bf7 Rxc3?? 35.Bg6** leads to mate.

**34...Rxc3 35.Kg4 g5??**

Yikes!, what has black done??? [35...Rc1=]

**36.fxc6**

Now he gets quickly mated. 1-0

**FM Barrios, Yans (2531) (E24)**

**GM Perez, Yuniesky (2706)**

Southern Class (3.2), 25.03.2017

[Storch, Lawrence]

*Because they were the only 2 players there to play (Ed.), the top two players in the tournament met in round three with GM Perez winning and sharing first place with IM Jayaraman.*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d6**

Interesting choice, not among the most popular responses.

**5.e4 c5 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3**

I always find it curious that in these Qc2 lines of the Nimzo, white allows his pawns to be doubled anyway.

**7...Nc6 [7...e5 8.d5]**

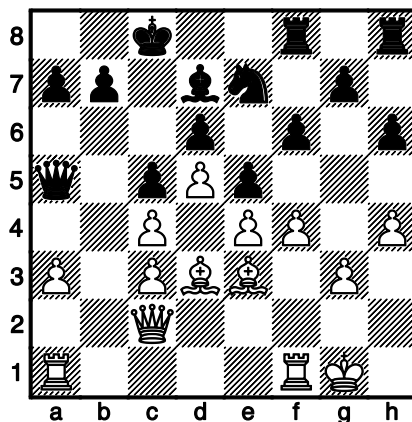
**8.Nf3 e5 9.d5 Ne7 10.Bd3 Ng6**

It seems here that both sides have the position they want. White controls

the center and possesses the two bishops while black in typical hypermodern theory can now use his knights to peck away at the static structure.

**11.g3 h6 [11...Bh3] 12.h4 Bd7 13.Nh2 Qa5 14.Nf1 0-0-0 15.Ne3 Ne7**

Trying to control f5 **16.Bd2 Ng4 17.0-0 Nxe3 18.Bxe3 f6 19.f3 Rdf8 20.f4**

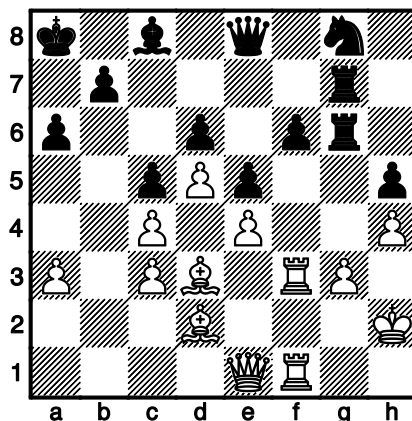


White needs to open the position for his bishops.

**20...Kb8 21.f5 h5! 22.Rf2 Ka8 23.Kh2 Rfg8 24.Be2 Ba4 25.Qd2 Nc8 26.Rb1 Nb6 27.Qb2 Rb8 28.Bd2 Nc8 29.Rg2 Ne7 30.Kg1 Qd8 31.Be3 Qe8 32.Rf1 Rg8 33.Bd3 g6**

Finally, after much maneuvering, black strikes a match to the kingside.

**34.fxc6 Qxc6 35.Qf2 Rbf8 36.Kh2 Rf7 37.Bd2 Bd7 38.Qe3 Qg4 39.Kg1 a6 40.Bc2 Qg6 41.Kh2 Bg4 42.Bd3 Rh7 43.Rgf2 Rf8 44.Bc2 Nc8 45.Bd3 Ne7 46.Bc2 Ng8 47.Qe1 Rg7 48.Rg2 Qe8 49.Qe3 Rff7 50.Bd3 Rg6 51.Qe1 Rfg7 52.Rgf2 Bc8 53.Rf3??**



Fatigue or time pressure? White makes a decisive mistake.

**53...Bg4??**

But black does not see his opportunity! [53...Qd7! 54.Kg1 Qh3 and the heavy pieces pour into the position. **54.R3f2 Ka7 55.Be3 Qa4 56.Bc1 Qa5 57.Rg1 Qd8 58.Be3 Qe8 59.Rgg2 Bc8 60.Rf3 Rg4 61.Bc2 Qg6 62.Qf2 Kb8 63.Bd2 Rxe4!? 64.Bxe4 Qxe4 0-1**

**Jie, Cindy (2025)**

**Sunjic, Dylan (2015) [E19]**

Florida State Scholastic K-12 (5)

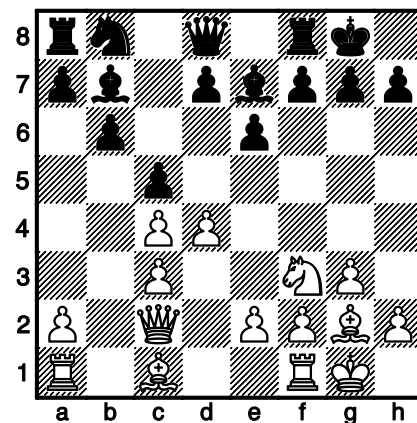
[Storch, Lawrence]

This was the last round game at the Florida State Scholastic k-12 event. Cindy's win gave her a 5-0 score and the title.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.bxc3**

I used to like this recapture in my own games, but eventually saw the wisdom in 9.Qc3

**9...c5?**



And this is why I liked the bc3 recapture, sometimes black falls into this trap! [9...f5 10.d5 Na6 leads to a dynamic but equal position.]

**10.Ng5! Bxg5 11.Bxb7 Bxc1**

[11...Bf6? compounding the mistake. 12.Bxa8 1-0 (12) Storch, L (2130)–Spedale, M (1995) OCC Quad 1983]

**12.Raxc1 Nc6 13.Bxa8 Qxa8 14.e3 Qb7 15.Rfd1 d6 16.Qe4**

(Storch games continue on page 14)

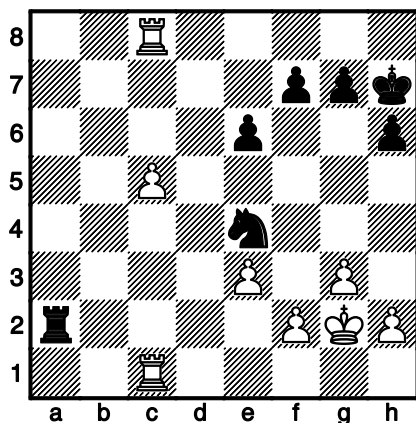
White is the exchange up and dominates the position.

**16...Re8 17.dxc5! dxc5 18.Rd6**

The beginning of the end for black.  
**18...Na5 19.Qxb7 Nxb7 20.Rd7 Na5  
21.Rxa7 Nxc4 22.Rd1 Ne5 23.Rb7  
Ra8 24.Rxb6 h6 25.Rb5 Rxa2  
26.Rxc5 Nf3+ 27.Kg2 Ng5?**

I hate to kick a player when he's down, but this is just bad. [27...Nd2]  
**28.Rc8+ Kh7 29.Rf1**

No need to flinch here [29.Rc7 f5  
30.Rdd7 Ne4 31.Rxg7+ Kh8 32.Rge7  
and after a few checks, its over.]  
**29...Ne4 30.c4 Nd2 31.Rc1 Ne4  
32.Rf1 Nd2 33.Rc1 Ne4 34.c5**



**34...Nxf2?**

The final mistake [34...Rxf2+!  
35.Kg1 Rd2 36.c6 Ng5 37.c7? Nf3+  
38.Kf1 Nxh2+ with a perpetual check.]  
**35.Kf1 Nd3 36.Rc3 Ne5 37.c6 Nf3  
38.c7 Nxh2+ 39.Ke1 Nf3+ 40.Kd1  
1-0**

### **Hariharan, Sivaji (1899) Wnek, James (1751) [D44]**

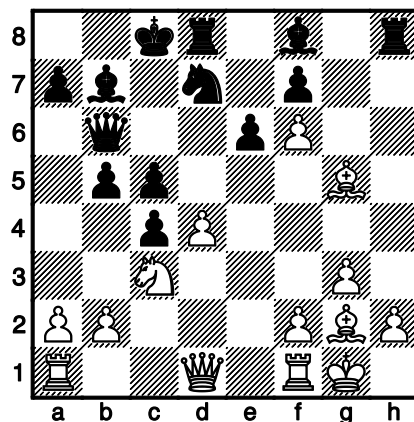
2017 Palatka Winter Open Gainesville  
(3), 14.01.2017  
[Storch, Lawrence]

Here's a game from the Palatka Open that features the once popular Botvinnik system in the Semi-Slav.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6  
5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5  
9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6  
Bb7**

So, white gets his piece back and enters a game where in the words of Danish GM Lars Schandorff, "normal chess logic ceases to apply"

**12.g3 Qb6 13.Bg2 0-0-0 14.0-0 c5**

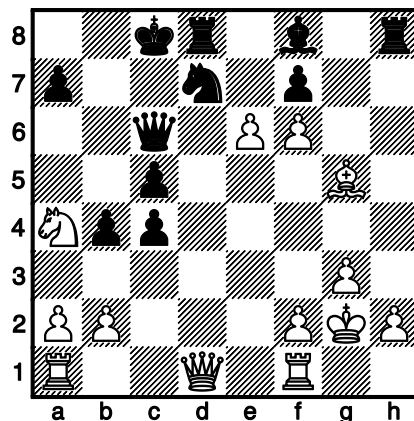


Black's pawn mass on the Q-side is very dangerous.

**15.d5 b4 16.Na4**

[16.Rb1 bxc3 17.bxc3 is an extremely sharp line that favors white.]

**16...Qb5 17.dxe6 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qc6+**



**19.Qf3??**

The trouble with memorizing lines is that sometimes they lead you astray. Black will win this game without making an original move. [19.f3 Qxe6 20.Qc2 Ne5 21.Rae1 Rd4± 0-1 (40) Bareev, E (2670)-Oll, L (2600) Moscow 1992]  
**19...Rxb2+!**

In the seven games I found on Chessbase's online database with this move, black won all of them.

**20.Kxh2 Qxf3 21.e7**

[no better was GM Aseev's try  
21.exd7+ Kxd7 22.Rad1+ Bd6 0-1 (22)  
Aseev, K (2550)-Bagirov, V (2500)  
Helsinki 1992]

**21...Bxe7 22.fxe7 Rh8+ 23.Bh4 Ne5  
24.Rad1 Rxh4+! 25.gxh4 Qf4+  
26.Kh3 Qf5+**

[26...Qg4+ 27.Kh2 Nf3+ 28.Kh1  
Qh3#] 0-1

### **Yanovsky, Vlad (2233) Slade, Theodore (2132) [C45]**

2017 U.S. Amateur Team South  
Kissimmee, (1.2), 17.02.2017  
[Storch, Lawrence]

Vlad played first board for the winning team at this year's USATS and as such, took on the top players in the event. This allowed his lower boards to score most of the points, but here is one of his wins.

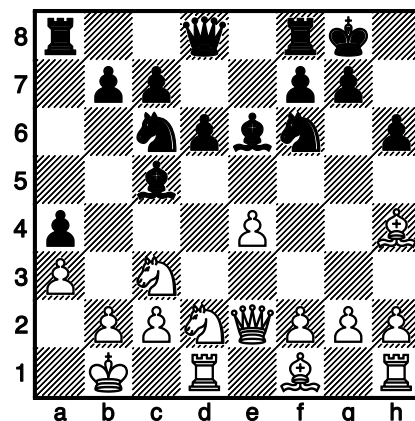
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4  
Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5 h6  
8.Bh4 d6 9.Qe2 0-0**

[9...g5 10.Bg3 Qe7]

**10.0-0-0 Be6 11.Kb1 a5**

[11...Re8 12.f3 a5 13.a4 Qe7 0-1  
(55) Aliaga Fernandez, I (2096)-  
Khotenashvili, B (2463) Baku 2016]

**12.Nd2 a4 13.a3 Bc5**



Young Theo clears the way for his b pawn to rush up the board.

**14.Nc4 Nd4 15.Qd3 b5 16.Ne3 c6  
17.f4 Qe7??**

This is the reason why black in this line usually plays ...g5 to chase the bishop off the h4-d8 diagonal. [17...b4



18.axb4 a3 19.bxc5 Qb8 20.b3 Nxb3!]  
**18.e5!+- dxe5 19.fxe5**  
 White wins a piece.  
**19...Bxa3**  
 too late.  
**20.Qxd4 Rfd8 21.exf6 Rxd4 22.fxe7 Rb4 23.Rd8+ [**  
 The remaining moves are easily found.  
**23...Kh7 24.Bd3+ g6 25.Rxa8 1-0**

(Ludwig Gulf Coast game continued from page 11)

and preparing a near-future Queenside attack with a7-a5 was better.]

### 17.Rhe1?

Too slow:

[17.Bxf6! Giving up the "minor exchange" for a brilliant tactical winning sweep.

17...Bxf6

(17...exf6 is just ugly and obviously dubious. 18.f5) 18.e5! Threatening not only the Black's Bishop on f6, but also the pawn on g6 thanks to White's Bishop pinning the f7 pawn.

18...Rxc3

a) 18...Nxb3+ 19.Nxb3 Bf5 20.Qe3 Rxc3 21.bxc3! Doesn't seem to help Black.(21.Qxc3? Bg7=) ;

b) 18...dxe5?? 19.Qxg6+ Bg7 (19...Kh8?? 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Nf5 Nxb3+ 22.axb3 Bxf5 23.Rxd8+-) 20.Bxf7+! Rxf7 21.Ne6 What a fork! 21...Rc6 22.Qxf7+! Kxf7 23.Nxd8+ Ke8 24.Nxc6 With an easily won endgame for White.;

c) 18...Bg7 19.h5 Nxb3+ 20.Nxb3±; 19.bxc3 Nxb3+ 20.cxb3 dxe5 21.Nc2 exf4 22.Qxd7 Qxd7 23.Rxd7 Bxc3 24.Rxb7 Rd8 25.Rxe7 f3 26.Rf1] 17...Nh7

[17...b5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.e5]

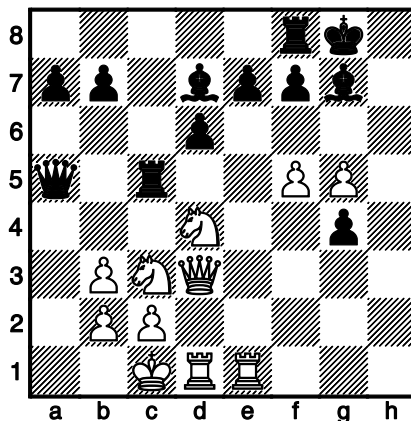
**18.f5 Nxg5 19.hxg5 gxf5?**

[19...e5 20.Nde2 Qxg5+±]

**20.exf5?**

[20.Nxf5 Bxf5 21.exf5±]

**20...Nxb3+ 21.axb3 Qa5?!**



### 22.f6?

White gets too ambitious. [22.Rxe7 Bxf5 (22...Qa1+?? This move is tempting, but now comes... 23.Kd2 (23.Nb1?? Not here though. 23...Bxd4 24.Qxd4 Bxf5+-) 23...Qxb2 24.f6 Rfc8 25.Nce2 A scary move to make but amazingly everything is defended! 25...Bb5 26.Nxb5! Rxc2+ 27.Ke1 Safe! With a piece up by the way!) 23.Nxf5 Rxf5 (23...Rxc3 24.bxc3 Bxc3) ]

**22...exf6 23.b4 Rxc3! 24.bxa5 Rxd3 25.Rxd3 fxg5 26.Nb3**

Now all Black has to do is march his pawns down the board and make the touchdown!

**26...f5 27.Rxd6 Bb5 28.Nd4 Bxd4 29.Rxd4 Bc6 30.Rd6 Rf7 31.Rg1 Bf3 32.Rg6+ Rg7 33.Rxg7+ Kxg7 34.Kd2 f4 35.Ra1 g3 36.Ke1 Be4 37.a6 bxa6 38.Rxa6 f3 39.Rxa7+ Kg6 40.Rc7 g2 41.Kf2 g4 42.Kg1 g3 0-1**

**Tony, Burrus (1992) [C67]**

**Johnathan C., Lau (2005)**

3rd Gulf Coast New Years Open (4), 08.01.2017

[Tony Burrus]

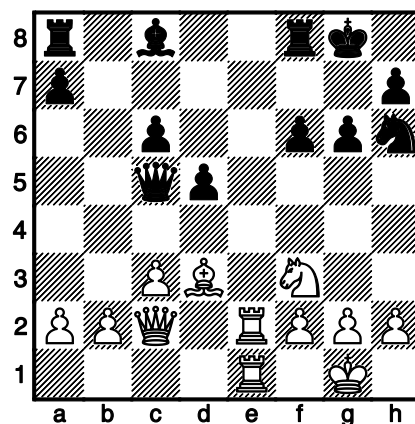
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6**

This is the first game anyone had ever played the Infamous Berlin variation against me

**4.0-0 [4.d3 Bc5] 4...Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 [6...Nxb5?? 7.Nxc6+ Picking up the Queen.] 7.Bf1 0-0 8.d4 Nf5 [8...Nxe5 9.Rxe5 (9.dxe5 Nf5) 9...Bf6 10.Re1 Nf5 11.c3 d5 Was the line that I was anticipating.] 9.c3 d5?! [9...Nxe5 10.Rxe5 d5 Is much better than the game.] 10.Nxc6± Crippling**

Black's pawn structure, thus resulting in a long-lasting positional advantage.

**10...bxc6 11.Nd2 c5 12.Nf3 Qd6 13.dxc5 Qxc5 14.Bf4 Bf6 15.Be5 Bxe5 16.Rxe5 c6 17.Bd3 Nh6 [17...Nd6 18.Bxh7+ Kxh7 19.Ng5+ Kg8 (19...Kg6) 20.Qh5; 17...g6 18.g4 Nd6 19.h3] 18.Qc2 g6 19.Rae1** White has complete control of the game. **19...f6 [19...Ng4] 20.R5e2**



[20.Re7 Was slightly better.]

**20...Bg4??** Now comes Black's demise. **21.Bxg6! f5** My heart nearly stopped after I saw this move! I had only calculated 21.Bxf3 [21...Bxf3 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Qg6 d4 24.Re5! fxe5 25.Qxh6+- With a winning attack.] **22.Qd2** Thankfully, I have this move! [22.Qc1] **22...Rf6** [22...Bxf3?? 23.Qxh6+-; 22...f4 23.Qc2; 22...Kg7?? 23.Re7+- Kxg6?? 24.Qg5#] **23.Qxh6 Rxg6 24.Re8+ Rxe8 25.Rxe8+ Kf7 26.Qxh7+ Rg7 27.Ne5+ Kxe8 28.Qxg7 Qd6 29.Qg6+?! [29.f3 Bh5 30.f4; 29.f4 Was better. However as I said before, I wasn't feeling the best, so I simply went for the easiest way to win.] 29...Qxg6 30.Nxg6 Bh5 31.Ne5 c5 32.Nd3 c4 33.Nf4 Bf7 34.f3 Ke7 35.Kf2 Kd6 36.Ke3 Ke5 37.Ne2 Bh5 38.g3 a5 39.Nd4 Be8 40.f4+ Kf6 41.Nf3 Ba4 42.Kd4 Bc2 43.Ng5 Be4?? 44.Nxe4+ fxe4 45.g4 a4 46.h3 Kg6 47.h4 Kg7 48.h5 Kh6 49.Ke3 Kg7 50.g5 Kf7 51.f5 Ke7 52.h6 Kf7 53.g6+ Kf6 54.Kf4 a3 55.bxa3 d4 One last try, but unfortunately for Black, he has just run out of gas. **56.Kxe4 [56.cxd4 c3 57.Ke3 c2 58.Kd2 e3+ 59.Kxc2 Taking the bait works as well.] 56...dxc3 57.Ke3 1-0****

# 2017 Palatka Winter Open

Organized by North Florida Chess Experience  
Chief TD was Steve Lampkin, Assistant Chief TD was Tim Staley  
Submitted by Tim Staley

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for the Palatka Winter Open. It was held at the Quality Inn Palatka, Florida on January 14 and 15. We had 50 entries, same as last year. We increased the prize fund from \$2100 to \$2500 for this year's event. Included in the 50 players were FM Jorge Oquendo and WFM Laura Zayas.

The following is a list of the place winners from the Open and Reserve Sections:

**Open Section:** FM Jorge Oquendo(2472) – 1<sup>st</sup> Place, WFM Laura Zayas(2238) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place,  
Andy Yang(1871) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Zoe Zelner(1697) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**Reserve Section:** William Wu(1178) – 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Luka Tristam(1259) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Yiming Wang(UNR) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

The greatest upset/surprise performance in the Open section would have to be Zoe Zelner(1697) sharing 2<sup>nd</sup> place with WFM Laura Zayas and Andy Yang (1871).

The only problem we had was with the lounge band on Saturday night playing very loud. The Fire Regulations prohibited the closing of the front doors to the lounge. We attempted to ask management to have the band tone it down, but the request was ignored. The band offered to take requests, but the chess players were understandably not in the mood.



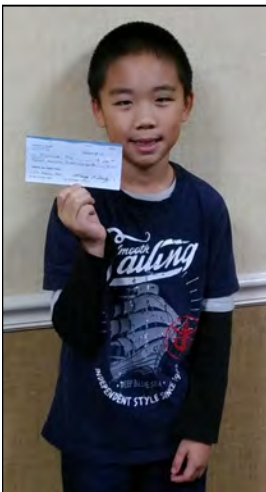
Jorge Oquendo (L) with Tim Staley



Laura Zayas



Zoe Zelner (L)  
with Steve Lampkin



William Wu



Yiming Wang

## *Late breaking news*

### Palatka April Open

April 8, 2017

Theo Slade and Kai Tabor drew their last round game together to both finish tied for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3½-½ scores.

24 players participated in the event run by Timothy Staley for North Florida Chess Experience.

## Women/Girls only event: The Queen's Cup Championship

The Jacksonville Chess Club, Inc. hosted the first of what is planned as an annual event, The Queen's Cup on December 10, 2016. JAXCC's President, Kevin Pryor, suggested putting on such an event as a result of a conversation with a teenage girl opponent at the 2015 state championship. She had mentioned that none of her friends were aware that she was a competitive chess player. She kept it a secret to keep from being labeled negatively. That became his inspiration for having a tournament for just girls and women in Jacksonville.

The event was sponsored by JAXCC and a local business pledged \$500 to the cause as well. The tournament treated all players to a catered lunch and an event T-shirt was given to all who signed up. Another local business donated the use of a giant chess set and the hotel also helped with the cost. The prize fund was set at \$250 and the hope was to draw 10 to 20 players and efforts were made to keep the entry fee low. Our special guest was the scholastic state champion, WFM Laura Amalia Zayas Gonzalez, who is a senior in high school here in Jacksonville. Laura is the former #1 player under 18 in Cuba and recently participated in Susan Polgar's Girls Invitational Tournament. There she finished with the same score as the winner, but lost the title on tiebreaks. Laura is also our first female Jacksonville City Champion.

On the tournament day, 11 ladies lined up for photos and later took part in a day of competition, fun, food and shared a unique experience – a chess event just for them. Most of the players were local and are part of the JAXCC's Chess Development program, but two of the players, Chloe Min and Hanna Ciupe are seasoned tournament veterans who are well recognized on the state tournament circuit. Both of these players are among the highest rated girls within their grade level on national listings of the USCF's Top Girls 100 list. One player of special note and playing in her first rated event was a Naval Officer and graduate of Annapolis.

When all these girls were told start their clocks...it was no different than any other tournament. Everyone was focused on their board and pressing for wins. However, between rounds the mood was light and girls truly enjoyed just hanging out without concern for being labeled. They were chess players and happy to be seen as such. FM Laura did not play in the rated section, but took on all challengers on the giant chess set. The girls loved that and Laura was a good sport. She has become a celebrity with girls attending our local tournaments. We also aired portions of the giant chess matches on Facebook Live and enjoyed seeing the "Likes" it produced.

The championship boiled down to long time chess BFF's and Gainesville residents Chloe and Hanna with Hanna winning the overall distinction of being our first Queen's Cup Champion. JAXCC is grateful to those who participated and supported the event. Special thanks to JAXCC board member, Carmen Rojas, who did so much to make this event come to life and created a lasting image with our event logo.

**The 2017 Queen's Cup offering is set for the Sunday before Mother's day, May 6<sup>th</sup> in Jacksonville. We hope to double our event and sponsorships. Make plans to join us. We promise to treat every player like a Queen.**



**Championship Match: Hanna Ciupe (L) vs  
Chloe Min which was won by Hanna**



**The Queen and her court  
with Kevin Pryor**



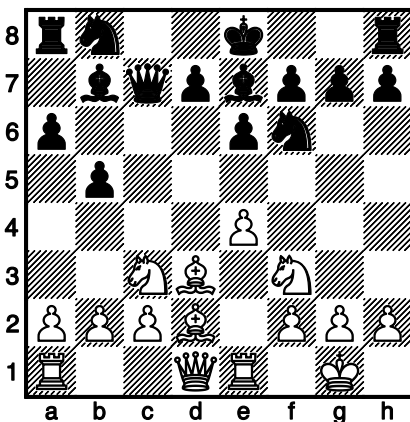
# Becerra annotates a game from the Jugando en Concrcteto Prima Fuerza 5th "Playing in Concrete" Chess Championship Oct 28-Nov 1 2016

**Becerra Rivero, Julio (2550)**  
**Fernandez Cardoso, Alexey**  
**(2445) [B43]**

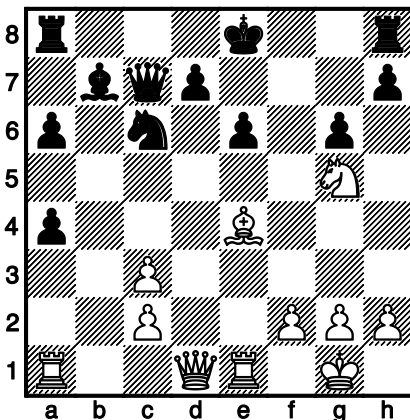
Jugando en Concrcteto Prima Fuerza,  
30.10.2016

[Becerra, Julio]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4  
5.Nxd4 b5 6.Bd3 Qb6 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.0-0  
Bb7 9.Re1 Be7 10.Bd2 Nf6



[10...d6 11.a4 b4 12.Na2 a5 13.c3  
bxc3 14.Nxc3]  
11.e5 Nd5 12.Be4 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Nc6  
14.a3 f5 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Ng5 Bxc3  
[16...Qf4 17.Nxe6 dxe6 18.Bxc6+  
Bxc6 19.Rxe6+ Kf7 20.Rxc6+-; 16...0-0  
17.Nf7; 16...Bxg5 17.Qh5+]  
17.bxc3 g6 [17...0-0-0 18.Nf7]  
18.a4 [18.Nxh7 0-0-0]  
18...bxa4



[18...0-0 19.Nxh7 Kxh7 20.Qh5+  
Kg7 21.Qxg6+ Kh8 22.Qh7#]

19.Qg4

[19.Rxa4]

19...Ne7 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Qf4 Rf8

[21...Nf5 22.g4 Nh4 23.Qg3]

22.Qxa4 Qc6 23.Nxh7

[23.Qh4 h5 24.Rad1 Nf5 25.Qf4]

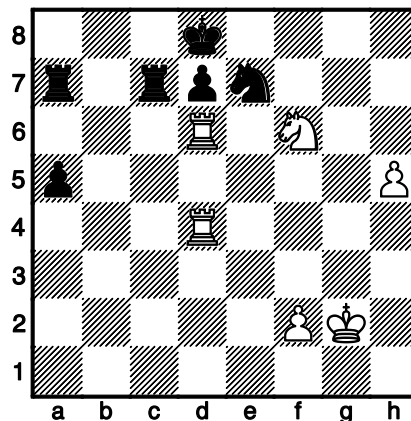
23...Qxa4 24.Rxa4 Rf5 25.g4 Rf3

26.Kg2 Rxc3 27.Nf6+ Kd8

[27...Kf7 28.Nxd7]

28.Rd4 Ra7 29.Rxe6 Rxc2 30.Red6

Rcc7 31.h4 a5 32.h5 gxh5 33.gxh5



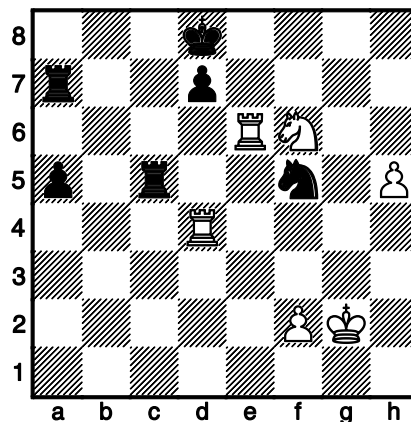
33...Nf5

[33...a4 34.h6 a3 35.h7 Ng6

36.Nd5 Nh8 37.Rg4 Kc8 38.Rg8+ Kb7

39.Rb6#]

34.Re6 Rc5??



[34...Rc6 35.Re8+ Kc7 36.Rxd7+  
Kb6 37.Nd5+ Ka6 38.Rxa7+ Kxa7  
39.Re5 Nd4 (39...Nh6 40.Ne7 Ra6  
41.Rxa5 Rxa5 42.Nc6+ Kb6 43.Nxa5

Kxa5 44.Kg3) 40.f4 a4 41.Re4 a3  
42.Rxd4 a2 43.Ra4+ Ra6 44.Rxa6+  
Kxa6 45.Nb4+; 34...Ng7 35.h6 Nxe6  
36.h7 Nxd4 37.h8Q+ Ke7 38.Nd5+]

35.Re8+ Kc7 36.Rxd7+ Kb6 37.Re6+  
1-0

**Becerra annotates his wins  
from Mexico**

**Otero Acosta, Diasmany**  
**(2438)**

**Becerra Rivero, Julio (2550)**

**[E90]**

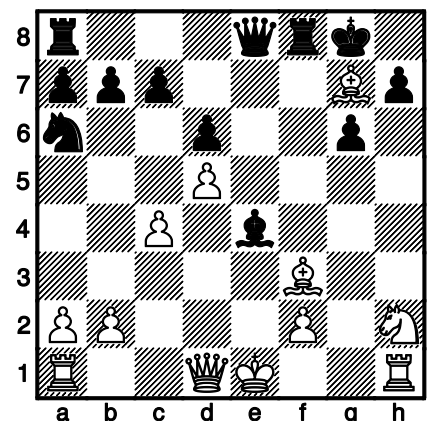
04.11.2016

[Becerra, Julio]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6  
5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Nh2  
Qe8 9.Be2 Nf4 10.Bf3 f5 11.g3 Nxh3  
12.Bg2 fxe4

[12...Qf7]

13.Be3 Na6 14.Nxe4 Nf4 15.gxf4 exf4  
16.Bd4 f3 17.Bxf3 Bf5 18.Bxg7 Bxe4



19.Kf1

[Not 19.Qd4 Bxf3+ 20.Kf1 Qe2+

21.Kg1 Bxh1 22.Ng4 h5+]

19...Bxf3 20.Nxf3 Kxg7 21.Qd4+ Kg8

22.Ng5

[22.Re1 Rxf3 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8±]

22...Qe5 23.Qxe5

[If 23.Qh4 h5+]

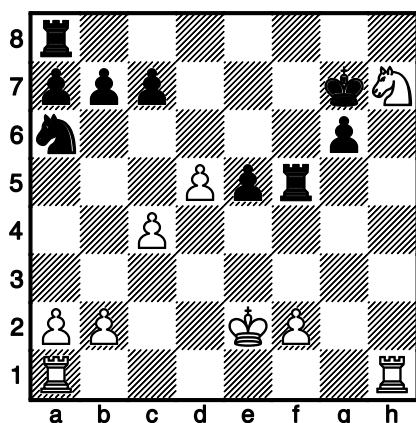
23...dxe5 24.Nxh7

[24.Ke2 Rf5 25.Rag1 h5]

(Becerra games continued on page 19)

(Becerra games continued from page 18)

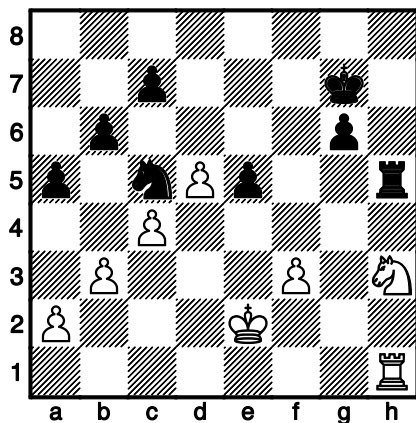
**24...Rf5 25.Ke2 Kg7**



**26.Rh3**

[If 26.Rag1 Rh8 27.Ng5 Rxc5-+]

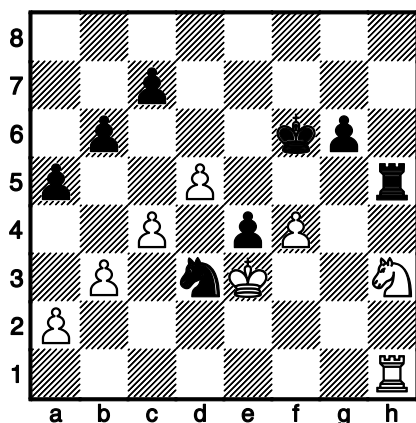
**26...Nc5 27.Rg1 Rh8 28.Rgh1 a5  
29.b3 b6 30.Ng5 Rxh3 31.Nxh3 Rh5  
32.f3**



**32...e4**

[32...Kf6 33.Nf2 Rxh1 34.Nxh1 Kf5 35.Ke3]

**33.f4?! Nd3 34.Ke3 Kf6**



**35.Kxe4**

[35.Nf2 Nxf2 36.Rxh5 gxh5  
37.Kxf2 h4-+]

**35...Rxh3 36.Rxh3 Nf2+ 37.Kf3 Nxh3  
38.Kg3 Ng1 39.Kf2 Kf5 40.Kxg1 Kxf4  
41.Kg2 Ke4 42.Kg3 Kd4 43.Kf4 a4  
44.bxa4 Kxc4 45.Ke5 Kc5 46.Ke6 g5  
47.Ke5 g4 48.Kf4 Kxd5 49.Kxg4 Ke4  
0-1**

**Diaz Hernandez, Heriberto**

**(2331)**

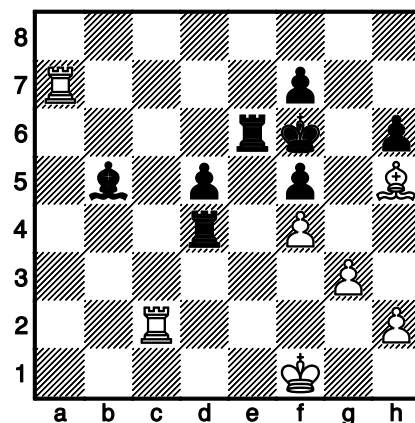
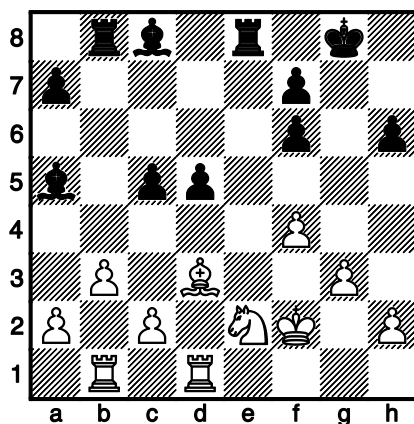
**Becerra Rivero, Julio (2550)**

**[C47]**

29.10.2016

[Becerra, Julio]

**1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4  
exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3  
d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bg5 c6  
11.Qf3 Bd6 12.Rfe1 Rb8 13.Rab1 h6  
14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Qxf6 gxf6 16.Ne2  
Be5 17.b3 c5 18.f4 Bc7 19.g3 Ba5  
20.Red1 Re8 21.Kf2**



**35.Kg2**

[Not 35.Kf2 Be8 36.Rcc7 Rd2+]

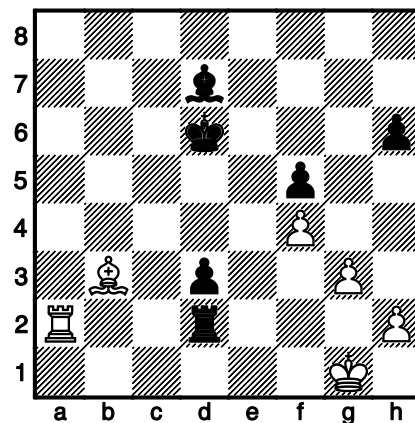
**35...Re7 36.Rxe7 Kxe7 37.Rc7+ Bd7  
38.Bxf7 Rd2+ 39.Kg1 d4 40.Bb3 Kd6  
41.Ra7**

[41.Rc2]

**41...d3**

[41...Bc6 42.Ra2]

**42.Ra2**



**21...f5**

[Better was 21...Bg4 22.h3 Bxh3  
23.Rh1 Bg4 24.Rxh6 c4 25.Rbh1 Bb6+  
26.Kf1 cxd3 27.Rh8+ Kg7 28.R1h7+  
Kg6 29.Rh6+ Kf5-+]

**22.c3 Kg7 23.Rbc1 Kf6 24.Rc2 Bb7  
25.Ng1 Bc6 26.Nf3 c4 27.Be2**

[27.bxc4 allows 27...Ba4]

**27...cxb3 28.axb3 Rxb3 29.Nd4 Bb6  
30.Kf1 Bxd4 31.cxd4 Re6 32.Ra1 Rb4  
33.Rxa7 Rxd4 34.Bh5 Bb5+**

[42.Ba4 Bxa4 43.Rxa4 Kd5]

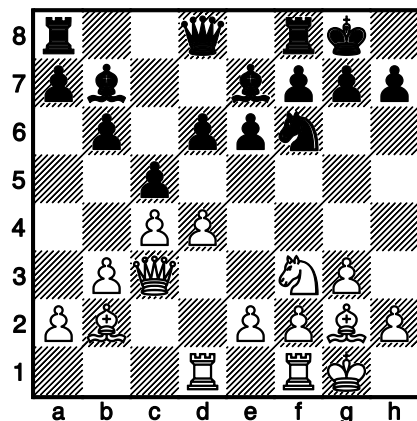
**42...Rxa2 43.Bxa2 Ba4 44.Bc4 d2  
45.Be2 d1Q+ 46.Bxd1 Bxd1 47.Kg2  
Bg4  
0-1**

## William Bowman shows his game against Super GM Leinier Dominguez

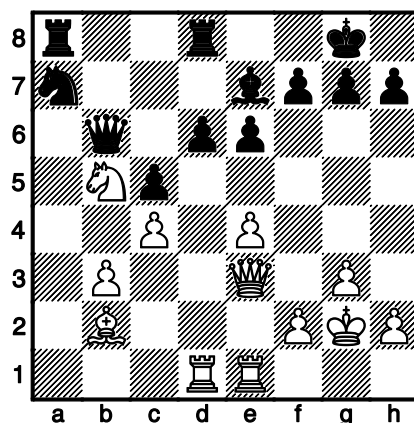
**William Bowman (1956) [E19]**  
**GM Leinier Dominguez (2793)**

Chess Stars Miami G/25 d/5  
 South Miami (1), 25.02.2017

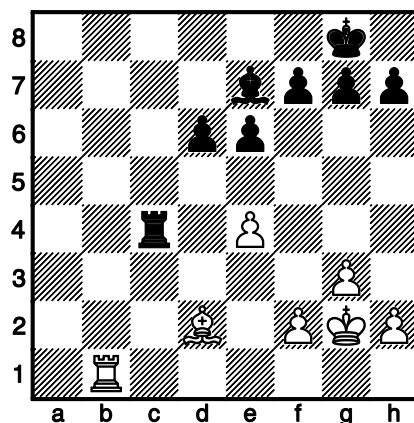
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7  
 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Qc2  
 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 c5 10.b3 d6 11.Bb2 Nd7  
 12.Rad1 Nf6



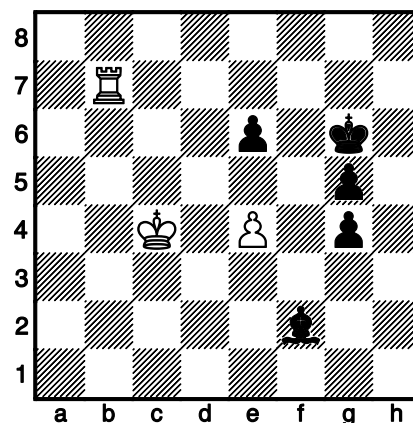
13.dxc5  
 [13.d5 exd5 14.cxd5]  
 13...bxc5 14.Nd2  
 [14.Ng5]  
 14...Bxg2 15.Kxg2 Qb6 16.e4 Rfd8  
 17.Rfe1  
 [17.f4]  
 17...a5 18.Qf3 Nd7 19.Nb1 a4 20.Na3  
 axb3 21.axb3 Ne5 22.Qe3 Nc6  
 23.Nb5 Na7



24.Na3 Nc6 25.Nb5 Ra2 26.Bc3 Na7  
 27.Nxa7 [27.Ra1] 27...Qxa7 28.b4  
 cxb4 29.Qxa7 Rxa7 30.Bxb4 Ra4  
 31.Rb1 Rb8 32.Bd2 Rc8 33.Rec1  
 Raxc4 34.Rxc4 Rxc4



35.Rb8+ Bf8 36.Bb4 Rd4 37.e5 Rxb4  
 38.Rxb4 dxe5 39.Rb8 g6 40.Kf3 Kg7  
 41.Rb7 Bc5 42.Ke2 h5 43.f3 g5 44.h3  
 Kg6 45.g4 hxg4 46.hxg4 f5 47.Kd3  
 e4+ 48.fxe4 fxg4 49.Kc4 Bf2



50.Rb2??  
 [50.Kd3=]  
 50...g3 51.Kd3  
 Too late!  
 51...g2 52.Rxf2 g1Q 53.Ke2 Qxf2+  
 54.Kxf2 Kf6  
 0-1

## Orange County Public School's Chess Initiative

by Steve Lampkin

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is the ninth largest district in the USA. OCPS started a chess initiative, under the direction of Dr. James Lawson, the Officer of the Minority Achievement Office (MAO). The 2014-2015 school year had twenty nine schools, growing to fifty-nine schools in year two and has grown to over 98 schools this year. Lucille (Beth) Gillam, M.Ed., is the resource teacher assigned to oversee the facilitation and communication of the program. She is a passionate advocate for the initiative, and dedicates many after school hours to help the program grow. Middle schools were included in the program for the first time, this school year with high schools to follow shortly. Because of its size, OCPS is divided into five learning communities with each learning community hosting a mini-tournament. Their mini tournaments have doubled in participants and averaged over 100 players attended each tournament. They will be holding a final tournament on May 27, 2017 at UCF in which they hope to have 500-700 participants.

In addition to the program this year, Steve Lampkin conducted teacher developments. Four professional developments were offered to train teachers how to play chess, as well as how to use chess as a tool to help with the cognitive development of students. The FCA contributed to the program by providing \$500 in matching funds to purchase chess sets for some of the Title I schools. The program is still growing with hopes of eventually including all 190 schools in the district with some participation in state and national tournaments.

# Central Florida Class Championships

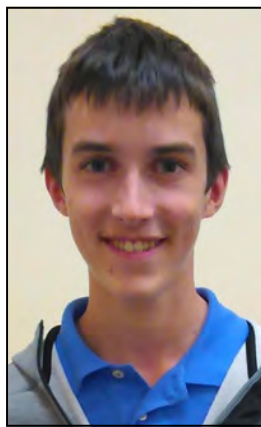
By Harvey Lerman & Theo Slade

The 2017 Central Florida Class Championships had to overcome several huge obstacles in becoming a success. The hotel announced that it was closing as it had been recently sold as was undergoing a complete refurbishment. Personal was downsized, water stations were often empty, toilet paper and towels were difficult to obtain, and some sleeping rooms at times refused to open. But even worse than that, the players had to endure a large noisy wedding during the complete Saturday night 3<sup>rd</sup> round. Also most of the attendees had to stay at other hotels, as because of the Pro Bowl being held on Sunday, when players called to reserve a room the hotel said that they were "sold out" hoping to be able to get higher revenue from those attending the sporting event. But in spite of all that, the event attracted 128 players, allowing the \$7500 prize fund (based on 150) to pay prizes of at 85.33 %.

The top section was highlighted by Yans Girones Barrios (2528), John Ludwig (2483) and Jorge Oquendo (2472). But in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round Ludwig was upset by Theo Slade (2132), who in the next round was himself upset by Goran Markovic (2086) who is known as the "Standing Blitzler" because of his habit of making every move using only seconds of time while standing and then walking around the room. Oquendo and Barrios played to a draw in their 3<sup>rd</sup> round game. Going into the last round Oquendo was paired with Slade and Barrios with Ludwig. These games were drawn leaving Oquendo receiving the Championship trophy on tiebreaks with Barrios (4-1) as each received \$597.31, while Ludwig, Slade, and Anthony Parker (2168) tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> and \$156.44 with Slade winning the Expert trophy. Photos and money winners are indicated in the Results tables on the [centralflchess.org](http://centralflchess.org) website, while trophy winners are listed here:

**Master-Jorge Oquendo, Expert-Theodore Slade, Class A-Andy Wu, Class B-Zoe Zelner, Class C-Terrance Washington, Class D-Krzysztof Zyzdryn, U1200-Renaud Lajoie, Class F-Kevin Yuan Liu, Class G-Nick Liu, Unrated-Ari Hader**

The event was sponsored by the Central Florida Chess Club, organized by Harvey Lerman (Event Chief Assistant TD), with Steven Vigil as Chief TD and Renaud Lajoi as Section Chief Assistant TD.



**Slade, Theo (2132)**

**Ludwig, John (2483) [A70]**

Central FL Class Championships (2),  
Orlando, 8.01.2016, G/120;d5  
[Theo]

Before this game I quickly revised the theory which I had already worked hard on previously. On one hand, I did not feel very good having to frantically memorize all the variations just before the start of the round, but on the other, I felt good that I had already done the hard work – this was just about not letting that go to waste. Besides, I believe that there is too much to remember – Anish Giri once said that of all the variations he has in his repertoire, he only has "about five percent" of that in his memory at any one time.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5**

**5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bd3 Bg7 8.h3 0-0 9.Nf3 Nh5**

Having said that, I had not looked at this variation. Also, this was my first ever classical game in the Benoni, so I was nervous because I was not sure if I understood the general ideas well enough to get a result out of this game.

**10.0-0 Nd7 11.Be2 141**

[11.Bg5! is theory. The idea is to lure the g7-Bishop to f6, when White argues that it is worse on f6 than on g7. I knew this idea, but I was not one hundred percent certain that this was the position where it had to be applied. Therefore, I opted for a prophylactic retreat against ...Ne5.]

**11...a6 12.a4 139** This is played automatically against ...a6. **12...Re8**

The f3-Knight wants to go to d2, but if Nd2 immediately then ...Nf4, so White should go **13.Be3** 133 first, followed by Nd2, to keep the h5-Knight out of f4. [Stockfish 8 suggests 13.a5. However, I did not want to play this move at any point because Black can go ...b6 or ...b5, which more or less forces axb6, and then he can recapture with a heavy piece with pressure down the b-file. I instead preferred to keep the pawn at a4, preventing ...b5 (and with it Black's play on the Queenside).]

**13...Rb8**

[I got a bit concerned about 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Rxe4, when my original idea was either 15.Ng5 or However, if we got to this position, hopefully I would have avoided (Even after 15.Nd2 Rxe3 is still an option, even though White should be better after

**16.fxe3 Ng3 17.Rf3 Qg5 18.Qe1 Nxe2+ 19.Qxe2 Qxd5 20.Rf4;** It turns out that White can play calmly with 15.Qd2, with long-term compensation for the pawn based on the two Bishops, better pieces and Black's weak King.) **15...Rxe3 16.fxe3 Qxg5]**

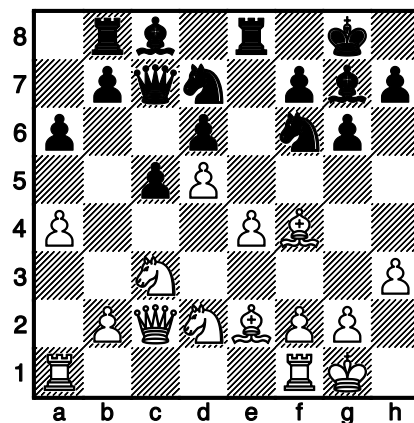
**14.Nd2 130 Nh5f6**

To be honest, I do not fully understand the point of ...Nh5 in Benoni structures because more often than not it ends up going back rather than starting play on the dark squares or on the Kingside with ...f5.

**15.Qc2 125**

Connecting the Rooks and overprotecting e4.

**15...Qc7 16.Bf4 119**



Another improving move. I have a big space advantage here so, like Gelfand  
(Slade game continued on page 22)



(Slade game continued from page 21)

says, you should ask your opponent to navigate his way out of the situation he is in. I must say I enjoyed walking around while John had a hard time coming up with a plan! He thought for over half an hour, and ended up sacrificing a pawn.

**16...Ne5 17.Bh2 117 c4**

This was John's idea. [The point behind my last move is that if 17...Bd7 then 18.f4] **18.Bxe5 113 Rxe5 19.Nxc4 111 Re8**

I was surprised by John's play, but after 16.Bf4 there really is little Black can do, and I presume he wanted to win even if it meant taking risks in a worse position, so from that point of view this sequence makes sense. I spent a lot of time in this phase of the game being careful. I have lost a lot of games to higher rated players in these types of tactical positions where I drift a bit, so I made sure that did not happen in this game.

**20.a5 100** Stopping ...b5. It is tempting to say that I am just a pawn up for nothing, but that is not completely true because my position is just a little bit overextended – not enough for a pawn, but it is slightly uncomfortable. **20...Bd7** [I expected 20...Nd7, but then 21.Rfe1 Nc5 22.Bf1 and Black has not achieved much.]

**21.Rfe1 42** I spent a very long time on this move, but I saw six moves ahead where the position changes drastically, so I think it was worth it. [21.Rac1 Bh6 and I do not really want to weaken myself with 22.f4] **21...Bb5** Again, there is little Black can do besides this. [21...Rbc8 runs into 22.Nb6]

**22.Nxb5 38** [22.Nb6! Rxe4 I stopped my calculations here, but after 23.Rec1! Black's position is NOT falling apart – it just is not very good.] **22...axb5 23.Na3 Qxc2** [23...Qe7 24.Bxb5] **24.Nxc2 Rxe4** [24...Nxe4 25.Bxb5]

**25.Bxb5 37 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1 36 Nxd5**

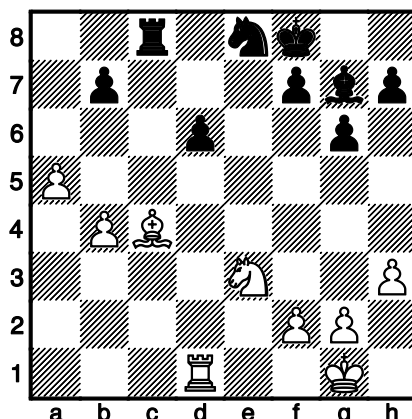
To be honest, at this point I was happy because there was little risk in my position and I was basically content to draw this game, even though I was much better earlier in the game. This is mainly because I struggle for confidence against higher rated players – my score against lower rated opponents is so high, I think mainly because I have high confidence and that translates into points. However, after this game my confidence was boosted tremendously, and in the last round I drew comfortably as Black against another 2400, although in that game I offered a draw when I had more time and was much better...

**27.Bc4 29 Nf6** [After 27...Nf4 28.g3 I

missed that 28...Nxh3+ is possible – I suffered from the "retained image" problem – I thought my g-pawn was still on g2. Nevertheless, I was intending to play (Originally I thought 28...Nh5 was forced, so I discarded 27...Nf4, which was the best move. I would be interested to know if John had the same hallucination as me when it came to dismissing 27...Nf4.) **29.Kg2 Ng5 30.f4** (30.b4 is better.) **30...Ne6 31.Bxe6 fxe6 32.Rxe6 Bxb2 33.Rxd6**, when only White can be better, but of course the game will end in a draw.]

**28.Rd1 26** [28.Ne3 would have been better I am told by the computer, and the point is to avoid 28...d5!] **28...Ne8** Very passive, but the construction with the Knight on f6 and the Bishop on g7 is plastic, as Jen Hansen would say. [28...d5! 29.Bxd5 b6! 30.a6 Nxd5 31.Rxd5 Ra8 32.Nb4 Bxb2 is a fabulous way of relieving the pressure that neither me nor John saw during the game, but I believe that was mainly because we were short on time.]

**29.b4 24 Rc8 30.Ne3** Squeezing hard on d5, as Gelfand would say. **30...Kf8**



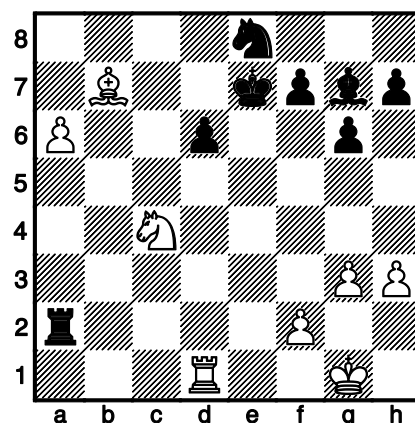
John offered a draw very quietly here – I had to ask him to repeat it because I did not hear what he said. Dad opined after that he did not want the "crowd" (at least fifteen people were watching the game at this point) to know that he had offered a draw. **31.Bd5 19 Rc7 32.b5 18 Rc5** I missed this when I played 32.b5, but it is not an issue. **33.Bxb7 9**

I spent a bit of time here, as it changes the direction of the game. [I was right that this decision changed the direction of the game, but my move was wrong! I considered 33.Rb1, but I thought I saw a win after 33.Bxb7, and I wanted to play a forcing move, which is quite ironic considering how many quiet moves I had played earlier on in this game.]

**33...Rxb5 34.a6 Ra5 35.Nc4** [35.Nd5 was better, stopping ...Nc7 with the idea Nb4–

c6 hitting the Rook. I think that we should admire the engine in this situation – it is very difficult to find such moves over the board in time pressure, especially when you have already anticipated this position in your previous calculations. Plus, it is more natural to hit the Rook first (and attack d6), rather than hit the Rook later.] **35...Ra2 36.g3 3**

The worst thing when you are in time trouble is when your opponent does nothing! This cuts out the tactics after Nxd6 ...Nxd6 Rxd6 ...Ra1+ Kh2 ...Be5+ forking the King and Rook. I stopped recording here because I had less than five minutes. [I wanted to go 36.Rd3 or; 36.Rd5, with the idea of swinging one of the pieces over to the a-file, followed by Queening the a-pawn. However, after I could not make either of them work, I went for a much subtler approach.] **36...Ke7**



This was what I wanted to encourage. It is a mistake but it is very human to be materialistic. **37.Nb6** Threatening a7 ...Rxa7 Nc8+ forking the King and Rook. **37...Kd8 38.Nc8 Bf8**

All of Black's pieces are as passive as they could be! **39.a7 Nc7 40.Nxd6 Bxd6 41.Rxd6+ Ke7 42.Rc6 Rxa7 43.Rxc7+**

I still had over two minutes left with a five second delay, but I was shaking because I was so nervous. As I explained to Dad, even if the game does not mean anything, the longer the game goes on the more nervous I become because you do not want to put so much effort in all for it to be undone. However, I had the chance to beat the highest rated player I have ever beaten, so I was extremely nervous, even though in my heart I knew that I was easily winning. I sacrificed my Bishop on f7 to transform my advantage into a winning pawn endgame, when John resigned shortly after. **1-0**

## Photos of some winners from the Central FL Class Championships



Jorge Oquendo wins the Master trophy on tiebreaks over Yans Girones Barrios (4-1) as they split the \$1200 top two prizes



Zoe Zelner scores  $4\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ , wins the Class B trophy, \$600, and 100 rating points as she breaks out of her slump and is congratulated by TD Lerman



Renaud Lajoie wins the U1200 section with a  $4\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$  score, gaining 100 points and trophy, while also working as chief section TD

## John Ludwig returns to take 4th Central Florida Chess Club Championship title

by Kevin Sibbitt

Congratulations to 2017 Club Champion John Ludwig (2479), who returned from a one year hiatus to win his fourth CFCC title with 4.5/5 points. The 2012, 2014 and 2015 champion had to overcome a higher level of competition this year. The field included FM Dalton Perrine (2272) and new master Truman Hoang (2200), who both tied for 2nd place with 3.5/5 points, along with experts Theo Slade (2161) and last year's champion Kai Tabor (2073).

Ludwig defeated second highest rated Perrine in round three and looked like he had cleared the way to the championship when he entered a pawn up ending against Hoang on Sunday morning. Truman, however, was able to hold the draw, making a win in the last round a must for the senior master. Ludwig won against Ryan Hamley (1964) in round five to secure his fourth championship title.

John now stands only behind Wilmer Chavira (six CFCC championships) and Larry Storch (five titles). Great job to this year's winners as well as all the players who participated in the 2017 Club Championship!

2016-17 Final Grand Prix Standings				
1st	12.5	John Ludwig	\$175.00	
2nd-3rd	10.5	John Givler	\$112.50	
		Ryan Hamley	\$112.50	
4th-5th	10	Cesar Gonell	\$100.00	
		Theo Slade	\$100.00	

## A new Chess Center opens in Crescent City

by Steve Lampkin

A new Art and Chess Center, The A. Phillip Randolph Gallery and Interactive Learning Center, opened in Crescent City, Putnam County. The center was established with the hard work and dedication of Angel Duke, who recently returned to her hometown. The grand opening on January 28, 2017 was attended by the Mayor, Police Chief, the Superintendent of Schools, and several school principals. Steve Lampkin gave a presentation on the educational benefits of chess and answered many questions posed by the attendees.



## In-Passing — Herbert Valdsaar

by Alexander Shah

It is with great regret that I announce the death of Herbert Valdsaar, a 91-year old Estonian immigrant and civil engineer in retirement, on February 3, 2017 from complications of his cardiovascular illness. He was a member in good standing of FCA, USCF and the **SouthWest Florida Chess Club**. Over the course of the last 15 years he was a great morale booster for our chess cause here. I and his friends and family were blessed by his optimistic, always cheerful attitude peppered with good humor.

We will miss him a lot, but we shall never forget this European-American scholar and gentleman of the old school. He was a 2011 Florida Under 1600 state champion and FCA ran a small article on him back then in floridaCHESS.



### Three books and a DVD

*In this issue of the FCA magazine I am going to review three books and one DVD, named **Rubinstein Move by Move, Triple Exclam!!! The Life and games of Emory Tate, Chess Warrior, The Big Book of Chess Tactics and the Chessbase DVD on Emmanuel Lasker.***

**Rubinstein Move by Move** by GM Zenon Franco brings chess amateur in close contact with one of the strongest chess player that never become world champion. The author organized the book around three main features of Akiba Rubinstein's chess style, positional play, linking between opening choice and desired middlegame and endgame, particularly, rook endgames such as **Spielmann - Rubinstein, St Petersburg 1909**.

Franco uses the move by move format to guide the reader through the high elaborate positional play of Rubinstein, characterized by prophylaxis, piece harmony and conversion of minimal edges in the endgame, similar to Karpov's play, but without the complexity in the opening (which benefit amateurs understanding).

The connection between Rubinstein opening choices (over the years) and the resulting middlegame positions is thoroughly explained by the author, especially the reason behind pieces exchanges (a difficult twist in chess that even strong chess engines misevaluated as proved by the author).

The part on Rubinstein endgames is just marvelous, Franco combines his chess erudition with an easy to follow explanation behind Rubinstein choices in the endgame, such as piece maneuvering and suppression of opponent's counter play.

The only omission I founded was in the bibliography, Franco mentioned only Houdini 4, but through the book he cited other engines (Rybka 4, page 191 and Stockfish 5 and Komodo 8, page 249). In summary, this book is a pleasure to read and highly instructive.

#### **The Triple Exclam!!! The Life and Games of Emory Tate, Chess Warrior**

Emory Tate was a well know and active International Chess Master in the American chess circuit. Tate's aggressive, creative and uncompromising chess style made him an icon among chess amateurs along the US. Unfortunately, Emory Tate passed away in October 2015,

before an autobiography or even a chess collections of his best games was publish. Fortunately, chess expert and author Daa'im Shabazz compiled information about Tate's career for several years and now that information is available to the public in his book **The Triple Exclam!!!**

Daa'im Shabazz writing style, longtime friendship with Tate and understanding of the game and its culture make him the right person to write about Emory Tate. The book is written with a clear structure and a good mix of prose with chess jargon. Importantly, the author describe Emory's life in more than just the chess dimension.

Beside chess, Tate was fluent in several languages. For example, when I met Emory Tate in a chess tournament in Palatka, the whole time we communicated in my native language, Spanish, and the topics were so interesting and diverse that I did not even asked for a Blitz game. I was just amazed to hear some details and stories from IM Tate himself.

At the end of the book the author offers a selection of Tate's games with annotations from different GM's. This book is a great read and can be enjoyed by non-chess players as well. Highly recommended.

**The Big Book of Chess Tactics** is the latest book by Istvan Pongo. The author is best known in the US by his book **Tactical Targets vol 1 and 2**, cited in the bibliography of the la Maza's book rapid Chess Improvement (2002). This time the author aims to deliver a comprehensive book on tactics in one volume.

The book is almost eight hundred pages long (but it does not feel heavy), hard cover, printed in high quality paper, has red and yellow built in page markers and the page binding is sturdy. In other words, this book is a pleasure to hold and work with.

Tactics are grouped around twenty three motifs and explained with almost two thousand examples with solutions. The theory pages have two diagrams per page and the exercise pages have six diagram per page.

The book has short remarks on the career of several chess masters and tactical tips which make the book more entertaining and less dry than the Encyclopedia of Chess Combinations. The combinations are instructive and pose a good challenge to the ambitious chess player. This is so far the best book on chess tactics I came across in many years.

The ChessBase DVD **Master Class Number 5: Lasker World Champion** is the result of a group effort by Mihail Marin (**strategic**), Niclas Huschenbeth (Lasker's **openings**), Oliver Reeh (**tactics**) and Karsten Müller (**endgames**).

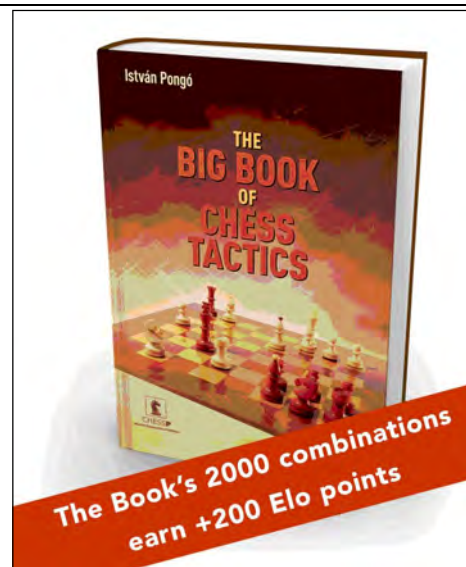
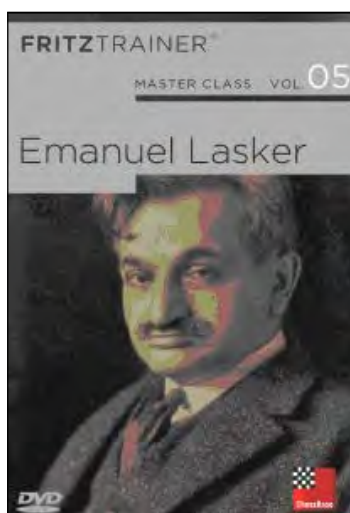
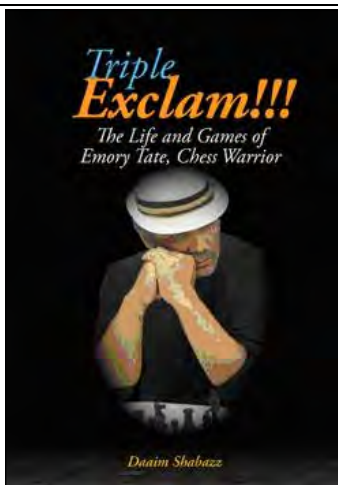
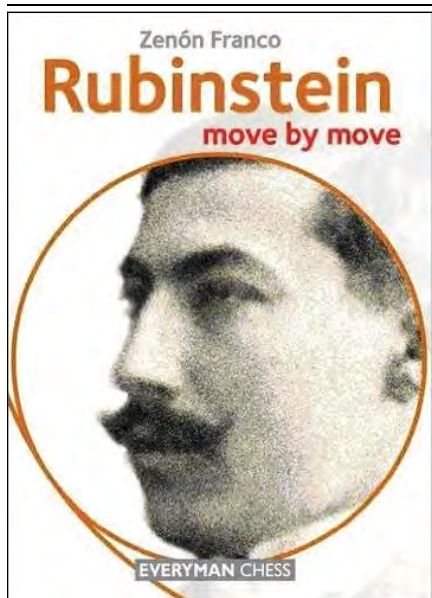
The final product shows the second Chess World Champion Emmanuel Lasker on a different light. For example, Marin demonstrates that Lasker's psychological play was in reality a controlled risk strategy; in other words Lasker was an original strategist.

Huschenbeth's work on the opening is especially interesting for players that respond with e5 to 1.e4 and d5



to 1.d4. Lasker's games were rarely decided in the opening, but as pointed out by special contributor R. Knaak, Lasker's opening repertoire was not inferior to the repertoires of top players of that time. Lasker's basic approach to the opening phase of the game was compensated by a super tactical skill as demonstrate by Reech in the chapter on Lasker's tactics and superior endgame play. In the endgame, Lasker's skill as a mathematician, such as attention to detail and calculating powers, made him a great endgame player.

This DVD is well researched and has numerous contributors in addition to the authors; the result is a product that reveals new features of the second world chess champion Emmanuel Lasker, instead of repeating the same old and dated opinions on Lasker that lack analytical support. Recommended!



## 2017 Arnold Denker Florida State Championship

9/1/2017 – 9/4/2017

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6 Sections: 6SS G/120;d5

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U/2000: \$800-400-200-125, U/1800 \$100

U/1800: \$800-400-200-125, U/1700 \$100

U/1600: \$800-400-200-125, U/1500 \$100

U/1400: \$600-300-200-125, U/1300 \$100

U/1200: \$400-200-125, U/1000 \$100, U/800 \$75

Woman with most points \$150 (all sections eligible)



# An almost upset from the Palatka Winter Open

by Anony Mous



**Ward, Mike (1719)**

**Bejo, Bledu (2151) [B01]**

2017 Palatka Winter Open, Palatka  
(3), 14.01.2017

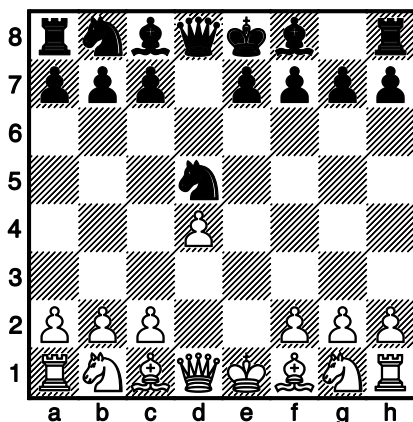
[Mous, Anony]

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5**

For decades this has been relegated to the dunghill of theory.

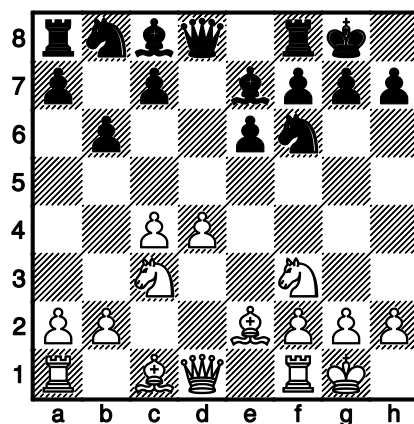
White may try to hold the pawn by 3.c4. If so, does Black get enough after 3...c6 or 3...e6?

**2...Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5**



The Portuguese! 3...Bg4 is refuted by 4.Qd3, leaving Black's Bishop looking silly, while White's Queen has near perfect mobility, threatening Qb5+ and having the entire 3rd rank to shuffle in.

**4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 b6**



8...c5 isn't bad either, and I would have certainly considered it as a way to unbalance the position against an opponent rated 400 points lower.

**9.Qc2**

As White, I'm looking to place my pieces at Rac1, Pb3, Bb2, Rfd1, Qc2, Ne5, Bf3. Calculation is great; but it's much more important, especially in the opening to have a plan for your pieces.

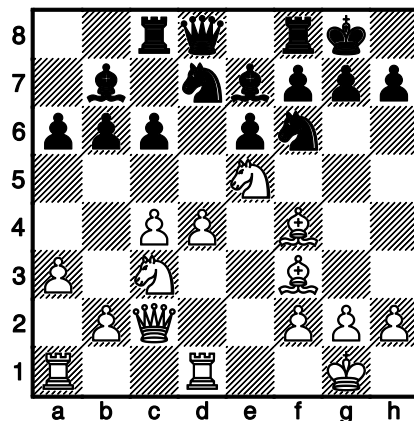
**9...Nbd7 10.Rd1 c6**

a very uncomfortable move.

**11.Ne5 Bb7 12.Bf3 Rc8 13.Bf4**

13.Bg5 is thematic, threatening to force the exchange for Black's good Bishop.

**13...a6 14.a3**



14.Rac1 was better and 14.Qe2 getting off the c-file seems more forceful.

**14...Ba8?? 15.Rd2**

What is wrong with 15.Qa4! Nb8 16.d5! with an overwhelming position?

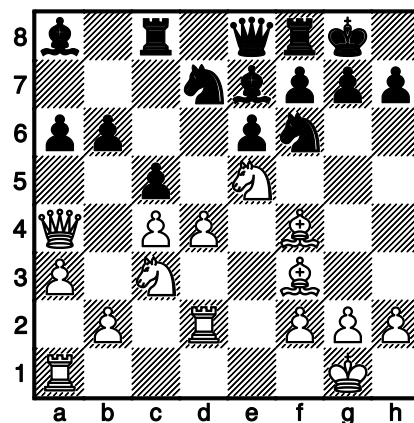
**15...Qe8**

Black seems oblivious to the danger he is in-- or is trying to bluff. For better or worse his B must go back to b7

**16.Qa4!**

Though not as strong as doing this on the previous move, White still seems to be learning.

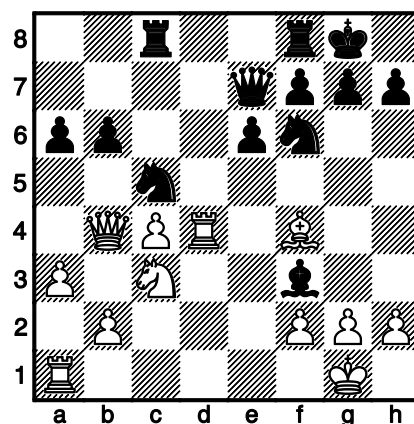
**16...c5**



**17.Nc6??**

A complicated way to an advantage is 17.Nxd7! Nxd7 18.Bxa8 Rxa8 19.b4! With space and a Queen-side majority. Suddenly it is Black who is winning.

**17...cxd4 18.Rxd4 Nc5 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Qb4 Bxf3**



White can resign with a clear conscience to want for opportunities missed.

**21.Bd6 Qd7 22.gxf3 Rfe8 23.Be5 Qe7 24.Qxb6 Nfd7 25.Qd6** [Must be time pressure!] **25...Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Nxe5 27.Rad1 Nxc4 28.R6d4 Nxb2 29.R1d2 Nb3 0-1**

# CHESS CALENDAR

Florida Chess Tournaments Clearing House

921 N. Thistle Lane, Maitland FL 32751

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

Date	Event	Location	Contact
Apr 28-30	24th Space Coast Open	International Palms Resort - Cocoa Beach	SCF
May 6	Queens Cup	Hotel Indigo, Tapestry Park Circle - Jacksonville	JAXCC
May 12-14	SuperNationals VI	Gaylord Opryland Resort - Nashville	USCF
Jun 9-11	Orlando Sunshine Open & Scholastic- FREE GM	Rosen Plaza Hotel (across from Pointe) - Orlando	CFCC
Jun 22-29	FIDE World Junior Youth for Disabled Players	The Park Inn, Hotel by Radison - Kissimmee	BM
Jun 23-25	Chess Educators International Open	The Park Inn, Hotel by Radison - Kissimmee	BM
Jul 15-16	North Florida Open	TBD - Jacksonville	JAXCC
Jul 21-23	Southern Open	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	CCA
Sep 1-4	Arnold Denker Florida State Championship	Marriott - Jacksonville	CHES
Sep 22-24	Orlando Autumn Open & Scholastic	Wyndham Orlando Resort - Orlando	CFCC
Sep 30-Oct 1	Tri-State Chess Championship	Hilton Garden Inn - Valdosta, GA	CHES
Dec 8-10	National Grades K-12 Championships	-Lake Buena Vista	USCF
<b>2018</b>			
Jan 5-7	4th Gulf Coast New Year's Open	- Ft Myers	BRCC
Jan 8-10	Orlando Sunshine Open & Scholastic	The Westin - Lake Mary, Orlando North	CFCC

## FCA Florida Affiliates

BRCC	: Boca Raton Chess Club	(561)479-0351
CFCC	: Central Florida Chess Club	(407)629-6946
CHES	: Chess In Schools	(386)682-9527
DBCC	: Daytona Beach Chess Club	(386)239-9485
FIU	: FIU Chess Club	(305)793-3846
JAXCC	: Jacksonville Chess Club	(904)607-9111
NFCE	: North Florida Chess Experience	(404)242-6728
SALLC	: Sunville Academy LLC	
SCF	: Spacecoast Chess Foundation	(321)452-9863
SWFCC	: SouthWest Florida Chess Club	(239)218-2116
YES2CH	: Yes2Chess Hoffer Chess Academy	(813)526-2257

## Other Contacts

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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
FSCL	: Florida Scholastic Chess League	(786)444-2467
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.  
921 N. Thistle Lane  
Maitland, FL 32751-3736

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### **24th Space Coast Open**

Apr 28-30 International Palms Resort - Cocoa Beach  
1300 North Atlantic Avenue. (Hwy A1A), Cocoa Beach, 32931  
800-206-2747 or 321-783-2271, \$97-\$137, reserve early  
\$15,000 based on 200 pd., \$10,000 Guaranteed GPP:50  
Top section FIDE rated . (USCF ratings used for pairings and prizes)  
(See [www.bocachess.com](http://www.bocachess.com) for details and online reservations.)

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### **ChessStars Orlando Sunshine Open & Scholastic - FREE GM EF & Rooms\*\***

June 9-11 or 10-11

Rosen Plaza Hotel (across from Pointe Orlando), 9700 International Dr., Orlando 32819  
\$10,500/b150 (Scholastic=1/2). 80% Guaranteed GPP 30  
FIDE Rated (USCF Ratings used). 5SS, G/120;d5  
Special Prizes for top women and top Seniors in each section  
Two "Guess Your Move & Win" \$600 side events  
(See [onlineregistration.cc](http://onlineregistration.cc) for online registration and details.)

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### **FIDE World Junior Youth for Disabled Players**

June 22-29

### **Chess Educators International Open**

Jun 23-25

The Park Inn, Hotel by Radison, 3011 Maingate Lane, Kissimmee 34747  
\$10,000/b160, 70% Guaranteed  
(See [www.ChessEducators.com](http://www.ChessEducators.com) for complete details.)

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## **2017 Arnold Denker Florida State Championship**

9/1/2017 – 9/4/2017

Jacksonville Marriott, 4670 Salisbury Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32256  
Reservations 800-962-9786 or 904-296-2222

**\$11,000/b160 70% Guaranteed**

6 Sections: 6SS G/120;d5

(See [floridachess.org](http://floridachess.org) for complete details.)

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See [floridachess.org](http://floridachess.org) for a complete list and details of Florida chess events.