

INCLUDED WITH THIS ISSUE: 2021 ANNUAL BUYING GUIDE

# CHESS LIFE



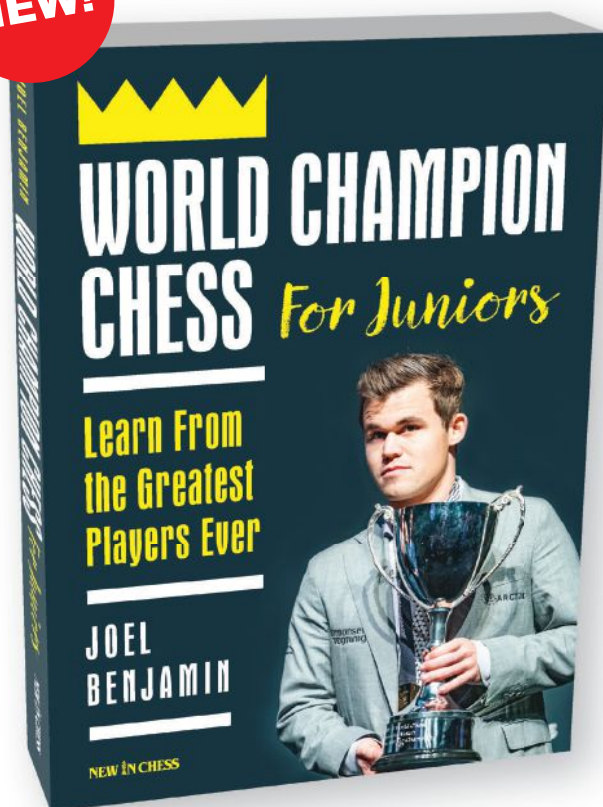
John D. Rockefeller V  
Embraces Family Legacy with  
\$3 Million Gift to US Chess





## So you want to improve your chess?

**NEW!**



If you want to improve your chess the best place to start is looking how the great champs did it.

Three-time U.S. Champion and well-known chess educator Joel Benjamin introduces all World Champions and shows what is important about their play and what you can learn from them.

Benjamin presents the most instructive games of each champion. Magic names such as Capablanca, Alekhine, Tal, Karpov and Kasparov, they're all there, up to current World Champion Magnus Carlsen.

Of course the crystal-clear style of Bobby Fischer, the 11th World Champion, makes for a very memorable chapter.

Studying this book will prove an extremely rewarding experience for ambitious youngsters. A lot of trainers and coaches will find it worthwhile to include the book in their curriculum.

paperback | 256 pages | \$22.95  
from the publishers of **NEW IN CHESS** Magazine

**Free Ground Shipping On All Books, Software and DVDS at US Chess Sales**  
**\$25.00 Minimum – Excludes Clearance, Shopworn and Items Otherwise Marked**



## { EDITORIAL }

CHESS LIFE/CLO EDITOR **John Hartmann** ([john.hartmann@uschess.org](mailto:john.hartmann@uschess.org))

CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Frankie Butler**

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR **Melinda Matthews**

CREATIVE CONTENT COORDINATOR **Natasha Roberts**

TECHNICAL EDITOR **IM Ron Burnett**

TLA **Joan DuBois** ([tla@uschess.org](mailto:tla@uschess.org))

## { US CHESS STAFF }

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Carol Meyer**

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION **Daniel Lucas**

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS **Boyd Reed**

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT **Geoffrey S. Isaak**

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION **Judy Misner**

WOMEN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR **Jennifer Shahade**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EVENTS **Pete Karagianis**

FIDE EVENTS MANAGER **Christopher Bird**

AFFILIATE RELATIONS ASSOCIATE **Joan DuBois**

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT **Debra Robison**

GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR **Jennifer Pearson**

MAILING LISTS/MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE **Traci Lee**

MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE **Christine Green**

DIGITAL ASSISTANT **Brian Jerould**

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS **Alex Dunne**

## { EXECUTIVE BOARD }

PRESIDENT **Mike Hoffpauir** ([president@uschess.org](mailto:president@uschess.org))

VICE PRESIDENT **Randy Bauer** ([vp@uschess.org](mailto:vp@uschess.org))

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE **Chuck Unruh** ([vpfinance@uschess.org](mailto:vpfinance@uschess.org))

SECRETARY **Ryan Velez** ([secretary@uschess.org](mailto:secretary@uschess.org))

MEMBER AT LARGE **David Day** ([DavidChessDay@gmail.com](mailto:DavidChessDay@gmail.com))

MEMBER AT LARGE **Fun Fong** ([fun.fong.jr@gmail.com](mailto:fun.fong.jr@gmail.com))

MEMBER AT LARGE **David Hater** ([dhater1@aol.com](mailto:dhater1@aol.com))

## { INQUIRIES }

For communications and press inquiries, please contact  
Dan Lucas at [dlucas@uschess.org](mailto:dlucas@uschess.org) (931) 200-5509

For advertising inquiries, please contact Melinda Matthews [mmatthews@uschess.org](mailto:mmatthews@uschess.org)

For TLA display ads, please contact Joan DuBois [tla@uschess.org](mailto:tla@uschess.org) (931) 787-1234, ext. 123

To submit letters to the editor, please email [letters@uschess.org](mailto:letters@uschess.org)

To submit Tournament Life Announcements (TLAs) please email  
[tla@uschess.org](mailto:tla@uschess.org) or mail to P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967

To join US Chess, or enter a tournament directed by US Chess,  
go to [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) or call 1-800-903-USCF (8723)

If you wish to notify us of a change of address, please send to [addresschange@uschess.org](mailto:addresschange@uschess.org)

Please submit all other inquiries to [feedback@uschess.org](mailto:feedback@uschess.org), (931) 787-1234, fax (931) 787-1200

For Tournament Director Certification information, please email [tdcert-group@uschess.org](mailto:tdcert-group@uschess.org)

For all staff contact information, please see [new.uschess.org/about](http://new.uschess.org/about)

**Chess Life is the official publication of the US Chess Federation**

## CONTRIBUTORS

DECEMBER



### Dan Lucas

(Cover Story) Dan Lucas is the Senior Director of Strategic Communication for US Chess. He served as the Editor for *Chess Life* from 2006 through 2018, making him one of the longest serving editors in US Chess history. This is his first cover story for *Chess Life*.

### FM Paul Whitehead

(Cadet) A master at the tender age of 15, Paul Whitehead won the 1977 U.S. Junior Championship. After a varied career, one including his authoring the cult classic *Paul Whitehead Teaches Chess* computer program for the Commodore 64 in 1986, Whitehead currently serves as the Chess Coordinator for the Chess Club at the Mechanics' Institute.



### Al Lawrence

(Bonin) Al Lawrence is a three-time winner of the Chess Journalist of the Year award from the Chess Journalists of America. He is the former executive director of both US Chess and the World Chess Hall of Fame and the former director of the championship Texas Tech University chess program. Al is currently the managing director for the US Chess Trust. His latest book, with GM Lev Alburt, is *Chess for the Gifted & Busy*.



### IM Yuri Lapshun & FM Jon Jacobs

(Gravesites) IM Yuri Lapshun is a chess teacher and tournament player in New York. FM Jon Jacobs is the author of the upcoming book about upsets, *The Fish That Roared*, a collection of high-quality games in which club-level players outplayed FIDE-titled or other highly rated opponents. An anti-cheating activist, Jon has authored several award-winning articles for *Chess Life*.



## ON THE COVER

When John D. Rockefeller V decided to make his gift to US Chess (see pages 26-31 for the full story), he wanted to honor family, colleagues, and two greats of American chess in the process. They are all pictured on this cover.

### TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

John D. Rockefeller III (grandfather), John D. Rockefeller V (self), John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV (father), Sharon Percy Rockefeller (mother).

### BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Paul Morphy, John T. Irwin, GM Maurice Ashley, FM Sunil Weeramantry

### PHOTOS:

Rockefeller III: Courtesy of Rockefeller Archive Center; Rockefeller V: US Chess Archival; Rockefeller IV: Sharon Rockefeller: Courtesy of Rockefeller V; Morphy: Public Domain; Irwin: Courtesy of John Hopkins University; Ashley: Photo by Lennart Ootes, courtesy of Saint Louis Chess Club; Weeramantry: Courtesy of Saint Louis Chess Club



COVER ILLUSTRATION BY NEIL JAMIESON; ART DIRECTION BY FRANKIE BUTLER

# Chess Life

## DECEMBER

ILLUSTRATION BY NEIL JAMIESON

# 26

## COVER STORY: ROCKEFELLER LEGACY

John D. Rockefeller V  
DONATES  
\$3 MILLION  
to US Chess

BY DAN LUCAS

Transformative gift  
creates four events  
and enhances  
existing ones.



### COLUMNS

- 10 **CHESS TO ENJOY / ENTERTAINMENT**  
*The Annual Year-End Trivia Quiz*  
BY GM ANDY SOLTIS
- 12 **BACK TO BASICS / TRAIN**  
YOUR GAME  
*Deflection Detection*  
BY GM LEV ALBURT &  
AL LAWRENCE
- 23 **PUZZLES / MAKE YOUR MOVE!**  
BY FM CARSTEN HANSEN
- 38 **BOOKS AND BEYOND /**  
SHOULD I BUY IT?  
*Giri on the French Defense*  
BY IM JOHN WATSON
- 42 **SOLITAIRE CHESS / INSTRUCTION**  
*The Vincible Capablanca*  
BY BRUCE PANDOLFINI

### DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **DECEMBER PREVIEW / THE MONTH**  
AHEAD AT CLO
- 5 **COUNTERPLAY / READERS RESPOND**
- 6 **FIRST MOVES / CHESS NEWS FROM**  
AROUND THE U.S.
- 7 **FACES ACROSS THE BOARD /**  
BY AL LAWRENCE
- 8 **US CHESS AFFAIRS / NEWS FOR OUR**  
MEMBERS
- 9 **ACROSS THE BOARD / PRESIDENT'S**  
COLUMN
- 44 **TOURNAMENT LIFE / DECEMBER**
- 48 **CLASSIFIEDS / DECEMBER**
- 49 **SOLUTIONS / DECEMBER**
- 50 **INDEX / JANUARY-DECEMBER**
- 52 **MY BEST MOVE / PERSONALITIES**  
THIS MONTH: GRIFFIN MC CONNELL

## 16 EVENTS / 2020 CADET CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2020 Cadet Championship:  
A Drama in Seven Parts

BY FM PAUL WHITEHEAD

ANNOTATIONS BY GM NICK DE FIRMIAN AND IM CHRISTOPHER YOO

IM Christopher Yoo romps to the title.

## 24 PROFILES / JAY BONIN

The Iron Man of Chess in the Time of COVID-19

BY AL LAWRENCE

IM Jay Bonin navigates the pandemic.

## 32 HISTORY / GRAVESITES

Pugilists at Rest

BY IM YURY LAPSHUN AND FM JON JACOBS

Visiting Lasker and Steinitz at their final resting places.

Want a **2021 Annual Buying Guide** but it wasn't included with your magazine?

Contact us at [uscsales.com/catalog-request](http://uscsales.com/catalog-request) and you will be able to receive either a print copy or PDF download.





## US Chess Membership Rates: Premium (P) and Regular (R)

(U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

Type	1 yr	2 yr
Adult P	\$49	\$95
Adult R	\$40	\$75
Senior (65+)	\$40	\$75
Young Adult P (25 & UND)*	\$35	\$65
Young Adult R (25 & UND)*	\$26	\$48
Youth P (16 & UND)*	\$30	\$55
Youth R (16 & UND)*	\$22	\$40
Scholastic P (13 & UND)*	\$25	\$45
Scholastic R (13 & UND)*	\$17	\$30

*Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online-only access to Chess Life and Chess Life Kids. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org) for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice.*

*\*Ages at expiration date of membership being purchased*

## U.S. CHESS TRUST

SUPPLIES SETS AND BOARDS TO AT-RISK  
SCHOOLKIDS ACROSS THE USA!

### USCT also supports:

Denker Tournament of High School Champions  
National Girls Tournament of Champions  
Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions  
Scholar-Chessplayer Awards  
Final Four of College Chess  
World Disabled Youth Championship  
Chess Sets for Vets  
Chess for Older Americans  
World Chess Hall of Fame  
Tournament of Senior Champions  
Oral Chess History of USA Project

Rochelle Wu, 2017  
National Girls Tournament of  
Champions winner

For more information on the good work  
of the U.S. Chess Trust, please go to:

[www.uschesstrust.org](http://www.uschesstrust.org)

The Trust is a separate 501(c)(3) organization  
operating independent of US Chess.



# SUPERNATIONALS VII

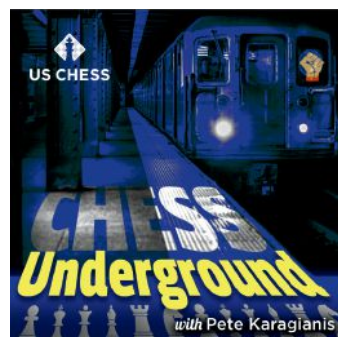
MAY 7-9, 2021 | NASHVILLE

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT [USCHESS.ORG](http://USCHESS.ORG)

# CHESS LIFE ONLINE

## DECEMBER PREVIEW



Tune in and listen to our podcasts at [uschess.org](https://uschess.org)

### COVER STORIES WITH CHESS LIFE

For the December edition of Cover Stories, available on the first Tuesday of the month, *Chess Life* editor John Hartmann will talk with a surprise guest. Why? His chat with Neil Jamieson won't translate well to simple audio format! Check it out on our YouTube channel on the first Tuesday as well.

### ONE MOVE AT A TIME

In December, our podcast that highlights people around the country who are advancing our mission to “empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess” will feature John D. Rockefeller V talking about his unprecedented legacy gift to US Chess. Hosted by Senior Director of Strategic Communication Dan Lucas, One Move is available on the second Tuesday of each month.

### LADIES KNIGHT

Ladies Knight is hosted by Women's Program Director Jennifer Shahade and features conversations with members of our community who are advancing women's and girls' chess. Ladies Knight was awarded best overall podcast by the Chess Journalists of America for the second year in a row, and also won best individual podcast for the episode with the artist Juga. Ladies Knight drops on the third Tuesday of the month.

### THE CHESS UNDERGROUND

Hosted by Assistant Director of Events Pete Karagianis, The Chess Underground explores the subculture (and occasionally, subversive culture) that is chess—all of its eccentricities, peculiarities, and theoretical novelties. The Chess Underground is available the fourth Tuesday of the month.

## USCHESS *Streaming*

NEW VIDEO PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS

### LEVELLING UP

*Chess Life / Chess Life Online*  
Editor **John Hartmann** takes a look at games between players rated under 1400. By understanding typical mistakes at that level, newer players young and old can “level up” more quickly.

### THE TD SHOW

FIDE Events Manager and National Tournament Director **Chris Bird** and guests help explain everything you could ever want to know about US Chess rules and tournament direction.

### CLASS IN SESSION

US Chess Women's online programming, created by **Jennifer Shahade**, is growing: in addition to our weekly “Girls Club Zooms” with the top players in the country, we are expanding our offerings to adult Ladies Knights, teenager college prep discussions, and beginner classes.

**Sign up to these playlists on YouTube!**



**SOCIALIZE** Join us on **Instagram** @US\_Chess and **Twitter** @USChess as well as on our accounts @USChessWomen. And be sure to bookmark and visit [uschess.org/clo](https://uschess.org/clo) to ensure you catch the latest news on our digital presence.



# Letters: *From the Editor*



JOHN HARTMANN

AS WE STRUGGLE THROUGH A LONG MIDDLE GAME in the battle against COVID-19, the endgame is in sight, and while we may not have a win on the board, surely a hard-fought draw is within our reach. It is my sincere hope that all of you stay safe this holiday season, and that we may all meet over-the-board once again very soon.

My first months as editor have not been what I envisioned when I was asked to succeed Melinda Matthews early in 2020. (A global pandemic will do that to you.) I have learned how tricky it can be to plan print coverage when events pop up and disappear, almost without warning.

Still, there has been much to be proud of in these pages. From our June cover story on chess and coronavirus, to our August viral sensation on “the new chess boom,” to our November cover on the “certified fresh” (according to *rottentomatoes.com*) Netflix limited series “The Queen’s Gambit,” *Chess Life* has consistently brought you new and vital stories about the game we love. My sincere thanks to my team here in the Communications department for making it all possible.

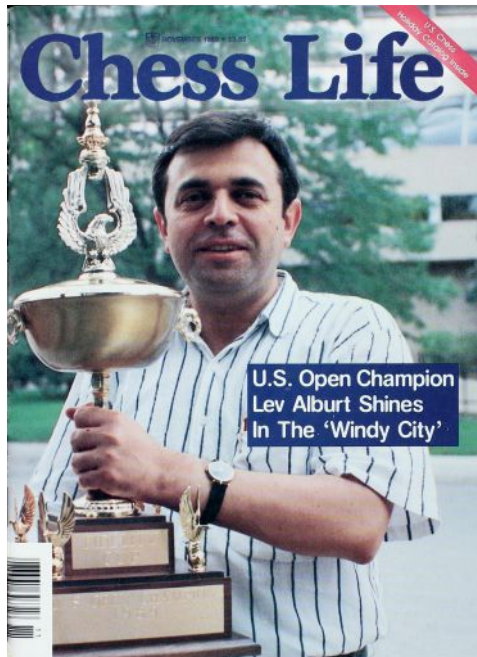
Our December cover story is, for me, one of the most exciting in recent memory. This once-in-a-generational gift to US Chess is not only a show of faith in US Chess, but in the possibilities of our game itself. Best of all, it comes from one of us.

John D. Rockefeller V is a fellow devotee of Caïssa and a real *chess guy* — a tournament player, organizer, and director. Rockefeller knows our world, and he’s investing in its future. His gift is a very bright light at the end of a rather dark year.

One last word: this issue marks the end of GM Lev Albur’s run as a regular columnist for *Chess Life*. I have been reading Albur’s columns for decades, and I have always found them both instructive and insightful. Someday we may find someone to write a “beginners” column once more, but they will never truly replace Lev Albur. My congratulations to him on his retirement, and I extend my earnest thanks to Lev for all of his outstanding writing over the years.

Here’s to better times to come. My best wishes to you all this holiday season.

— John Hartmann, Editor, *Chess Life*



Send your letters to [letters@uschess.org](mailto:letters@uschess.org). Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.

## ERRATA OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE

Kevin Rohracker notes that the first move in Janowski-Chajes (Solitaire Chess) is 1. d4 and not 1. e4. Thanks for pointing it out, Kevin!

**AT 6,  
HE FLED  
NIGERIA.**

**AT 7,  
HE WAS  
HOMELESS.**

**AT 8,  
HE WAS A  
CHESS  
CHAMPION!**

Give the  
inspiring story of  
Tani to your child.



Available wherever  
you buy books.



# 1ST ANNUAL *Susan E. Kantor* MEMORIAL ONLINE CHESS TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 18, 2020

*Organized by The Internet Chess Club*



## The First Annual Susan Kantor Memorial

Nearly \$5,000 raised for At-Risk-Youth Fund

By **MARTY GRUND, DAVID HATER, and STEVE IMMITT**

On Sunday, October 18, players from around the world flocked to the Internet Chess Club ([chessclub.com](http://chessclub.com); informally, ICC) to take part in a very special event. The occasion was the inaugural tournament honoring the memory of Susan Kantor, a longtime employee of US Chess who passed away this past August. Susan's interest in chess began when her sons, Cecil and Charlie Houston, took up the game. They played at a local club founded by the late Harry Sabine in Crossville, Tennessee. It was Sabine who encouraged Susan to apply for a job at US Chess. She worked there for 15 years, starting out in the accounting department and later becoming a scholastic associate.

A fixture at national events, Susan was loved by everyone who met her. She treated US Chess members like family and would do everything

in her power to help them. Ever modest, she would shrug off compliments, telling people that she was "just doing [her] job."

After Susan's passing on August 5, ICC President Marty Grund reached out to Susan's husband, Alan Kantor, to offer his condolences. Alan's relationship with ICC goes back nearly 25 years. He has been an administrator on the site, a volunteer, a tournament director, and a friend to everyone at the playing platform.

Alan asked if ICC might run an event in Susan's name, and immediately the planning began. Because Susan had a soft spot for at-risk youth, it was decided that the tournament would benefit the US Chess At-Risk-Youth Fund.

What a success it was.

More than 150 players from around the country and the globe registered to play in this

seven-round event, with \$1,500 in guaranteed prizes donated by ICC. Players were asked to make a donation to the US Chess At-Risk Youth Fund to participate — you can still do so at [store.chessclub.com/susan-kantor](http://store.chessclub.com/susan-kantor) — and at the time of writing, total funds raised are approaching \$5,000. Susan would have been very pleased.

Six masters played in this open event, including two GMs (Gadir Guseinov and Jakhongir Vahdikov), one IM (Ron Burnett), and one FM (Dan Shapiro). Fourteen US Chess rated experts also participated, including Susan's husband, Alan.

Because the tournament was run in one section, there were many mismatches, and more than a few of the games were not particularly competitive. The upside is that some lower-rated players had the rare



opportunity to test themselves against much stronger players.

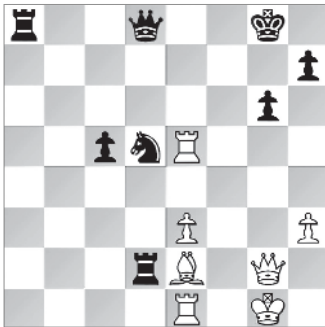
The two GMs mowed down the competition, each going a perfect 6-0 through the first six rounds before playing a quick draw in round seven to split first place at 6½-½. Their paths weren't completely clear, however. Both Guseinov and Vakhidov had to earn their \$195 prizes with some timely tactics.

### TACTICS...

GM Gadir Guseinov (2720)

IM Ron Burnett (2257)

Susan Kantor Memorial, ICC (6),  
10.18.2020



WHITE TO MOVE

### 36. Rxd5! Qe7

If 36. ... Rxd5 37. Bc4 wins, and after 36. ... Qxd5 37. Qxd5+ Rxd5 38. Bc4 material loss is still unavoidable.

### 37. Rxd2, Black resigned.

It's mate in seven after 37. Rxd2 Qxe3+ 38. Kh1 Qxd2 39. Bc4+.

### ... AND MORE TACTICS

GM Jakhongir Vakhidov (2609)

FM Dan Shapiro (2297)

Susan Kantor Memorial, ICC (5),  
10.18.2020



WHITE TO MOVE

### 24. d4!

Now Black has to lose a piece. Of course, 24. c5, with d3-d4 to follow, should also win.

### 24. ... Nxc4

After 24. ... Nc6 25. Bxg5 hxg5 (25. ... Qxg5? 26. Rxf7+ Kg8 27. Rf8+ Kg7 28. R1f7 mate) 26. Rxf7+ Qxf7 27. Rxf7+ Kxf7 28. Qxg5 the threat of Qg5-d5+ is looming and Black can't guard all his weaknesses.

**25. Bxg5 hxg5 26. Rxf7+ Qxf7 27. Rxf7+ Kxf7 28. Qa2**

The pin on the c4-knight and the loose c7-pawn spell doom for Shapiro.

### 28. ... d5 29. Nxc7

Also sufficient to win is 29. exd5 Nd6 30. Nxc7.

**29. ... Bxh3 30. Nxa8 Ne3 31. Bxh3 g4 32. Qf2+, Black resigned.**

With Guseinov and Vakidov sharing first place, there was a three-way tie for third a half-point behind the leaders at 6-1. IM Ron Burnett, NM William Marcelino, and Goran Markovic shared the honors. Burnett and Marcelino each won \$50, while Markovic took the U2200 prize of \$160.

Other class winners included: Anish Marriappan (U2000); William Flynn (U1800); Saathvik Dasari (U1600); Steven Salas (U1400); Lang Pen, Daksh Dudipala, and Maksym Zadavysvichko (U1200); and Om Mishra (unrated).

US Chess reached out to Alan Kantor for his thoughts on this tournament. "The family of Susan Kantor," he wrote, "thanks everyone for participating. This was an awesome tribute to an awesome lady." He further asked anyone who would like a free tournament bulletin for the event to contact him at [carokantor05@yahoo.com](mailto:carokantor05@yahoo.com). A bulletin featuring the top games will be sent out to interested parties in a few weeks.

The First Susan Kantor Memorial Tournament was directed by Bill Scott. Marvin Martzall, Terry Winchester, Steve Immitt, Bull Buklis, Martha Underwood, and Korey Kormick assisted. Marty Grund, Charles Darnall, Sandro Leonori, and Ruy Mura helped administered the event for ICC.

A crosstable and set of downloadable games are available at [www.chessclub.com/grid/susankantor](http://www.chessclub.com/grid/susankantor). ♠



ALAN & SUSAN KANTOR  
COURTESY OF TRACI LEE

# FACES ACROSS THE BOARD

By AL LAWRENCE



**AKIRA WOOD  
NAKADA**

**NEW YORK CITY**

*Balancing  
academics and  
chess*

Akira's parents decided that their energetic seven-year-old should enroll in one of two afterschool programs. "One was a painting class, and the other one was chess," Akira remembered. "I think they saw my paintings and decided that chess was the best option."

Now NM Akira Wood Nakada is an honor student at Dalton High School, where he's on the math team and the swim team. He's also one of the top 16-year-old chessplayers in America. Like most students in New York City, he's currently attending school "remotely." And like many of our top young players who aspire to that next step—an international title—he's stymied, at least for now, because his chess must also be remote.

"There were norm events I really wanted to play," Akira said. But then his Aunt Raegan fell ill with COVID-19. "We decided it was not safe enough. She's better now. But she was really, really sick."

Akira is passionate about helping others. At Dalton, he's a "Peer Chess Mentor," sharing the benefits of chess, and a volunteer in the school's "Checkmating Dementia" program. Akira assisted the competitors at the 2019 World Junior Chess Championship for Players with Disabilities in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, organized by WIM Beatriz Marinello, now director of Dalton's chess program. He positioned wheelchairs, kept score, and moved pieces for those who needed the help. He also gave a training session. "It was fun to see how enthusiastic all the kids were!"

This year, Akira was recognized by US Chess and the US Chess Trust as one of five high school juniors and seniors who most excel in academics, chess, and leadership. In recognition of the difficulties of navigating both school and chess in the time of COVID-19, the scholarship was doubled to \$3,000 for each recipient. Akira appreciates that others understand how difficult it is to be an aspiring student and a chessplayer at the same time. "Usually you have to choose between one or the other. I've tried to balance that my whole life."



US Chess is pleased to announce the following recipients have been awarded online program grants for events that promote women and girls in chess:

- ◆ The Kentucky Chess Ambassadors
- ◆ The Indermaur Chess Foundation
- ◆ Mechanics' Institute
- ◆ Chess in the Schools, Inc. (CIS)
- ◆ American Chess Academy
- ◆ The Unruly Queens (via NY State Chess Association)
- ◆ Berkeley Chess School
- ◆ Whittier High School Chess Club
- ◆ Girls Code Chess
- ◆ US Chess School

These funds were generously provided in partnership with the Saint Louis Chess Club. Check [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) for updates on these programs and follow highlights from our own girls' and women's programming on our YouTube playlist.



## 2021 Scholar Chessplayer award

Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Scholar Chessplayer award. Eligible high school juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply for one of five available scholarships.

Application deadline is March 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. PST. Please send inquiries to [info@uschess.org](mailto:info@uschess.org). Full details can be found at <https://new.uschess.org/news/2021-scholar-chess-player-award-deadline-march-1-2021>. Final selection of the winners will be made by US Chess. The Scholar Chessplayer Awards are funded by the US Chess Trust and its donors.



## In Memoriam:

### CHARU ROBINSON (1977-2020)

By GM MAURICE ASHLEY



My friendship with Charu Robinson began when I was a young chess coach and he was a teenager attending Adam Clayton Powell Junior High School. Charu was one of the top players on the school's chess team, known as the Raging Rooks, and his powerful performance was instrumental in our tying for first place at the 1991 Junior High School Championships. I remained a mentor to Charu after he had graduated and moved on to attend the Dalton School, the University of Maryland Baltimore County and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and our relationship later transitioned into a lifelong friendship that persisted to the day he passed away.

Charu's passion for chess was evident early on, and it continued to be an essential piece of his life as he pursued a career as a sought-after chess coach working at many organizations, the last being Success Academy in NYC. Charu believed people should set high standards for themselves, and though he would become a rated expert, he hesitated to view himself as a "good player." He saw that description as high praise reserved for the very best performers in any craft, not just chess.

Charu would often remind me of the day I once described one of his games with the words "good chess," and he would joyfully shout the word "Talent!" whenever he saw someone showcasing exceptional skills, no matter their age or situation.

Sports was his second love, and he bled alongside all his New York sports teams, including our long-suffering Knicks, who he wanted more than anything to field a good squad. Charu played basketball for his high school team, and was a gym rat for many years with arms the size of logs. He had an infectious laugh that seemed to shake his entire upper body, but he also had a serious, principled side that would come out whenever he saw injustice, unfairness, or acceptance of mediocrity.

Charu was easy going, loved a good party, and had friends in many walks of life. He was the type of person who would get excited whenever he spoke about the people who were close to him, and he would gleefully list all their good points in appreciation of their presence in his life and as wonderful human beings. He was overly critical of himself, and, if anything, I am saddened that he didn't realize how great a person he was and how much he was loved by those who knew him.

*Time took Charu too soon, but he will always be remembered.*

**REMINDER:** Executive Board nominating petitions and filing fees must be postmarked by **December 31 2020**. See the October/November issues for further details.



# ACROSS THE BOARD

By **MIKE HOFFPAUR**

PRESIDENT, US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD

## Dear friends,

By the time you read this note the holiday season will be almost upon us. You should soon receive US Chess's annual solicitation for your support to various initiatives — At-Risk-Youth, College Scholarship Fund, International Youth Events, our Olympiad teams, Online Programs and Education, Seniors, and Women in Chess. You also can designate your own "write-in" category. Please consider giving to one or more of these vital programs.

As our scholastic players, coaches, and parents are aware, in mid-October we decided to cancel the 2020 National K-12 Grade Championships that were scheduled for Orlando in mid-December. Orlando is beautiful (and comfortably warm) at that time of the year, and the management of the Rosen properties always decorate their facilities to the hilt, so few cancellations pain us more than canceling that tournament. However, as an organization with nationwide membership, we have a responsibility to hold events that maximize the opportunities for everyone to attend while also being safe. We also are aware that several school districts across the country simply will not support, or provide funding to support, school teams traveling because of liability and other issues. To address the chess bug biting all of us to play, we have instead scheduled an online tournament with a similar play-in-your-grade format. Talk to your schoolmates and friends — and get registered to play!

In other happenings of note, at our Special Delegates Meeting in September, the delegates voted for six members to fill positions on the new Nominating Committee. The following week, the Executive Board (EB) appointed two members, filling the committee's authorization of eight seats. The committee members elected David Grimaud (SC) as chair and has wasted no time getting on with the business of identifying individuals from across our membership who have the experience to run and serve as EB members. I think the Nominating Committee will help ensure we have a strong slate of well-qualified candidates from which to select in our 2021 EB election! So, if you are a US Chess member of voting age, get registered to vote in the coming year's election!

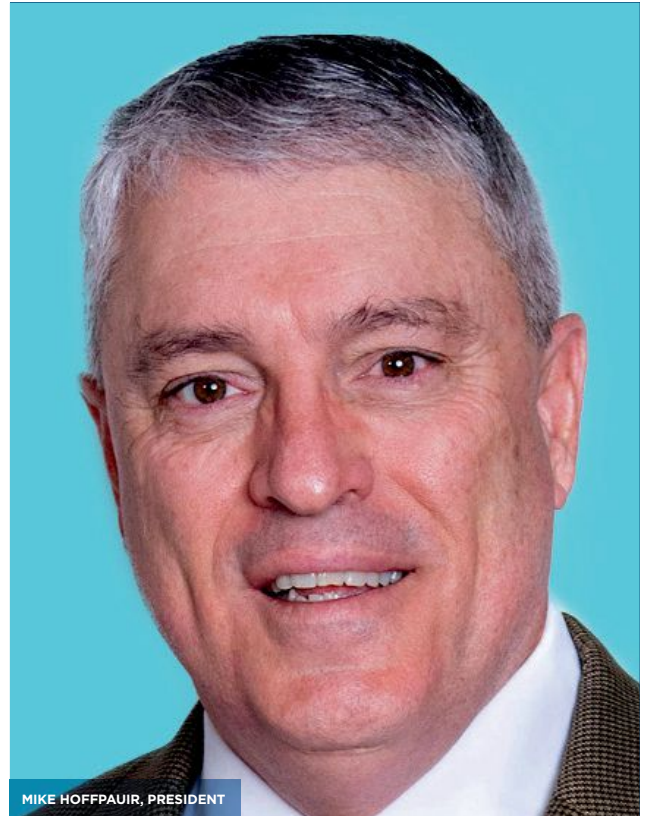
I am hearing that over-the-board play is beginning to return to some local venues. I myself ran several small over-the-board (OTB) events (fewer than 50 players) in my local area in October and November. While this is great news for players, we urge everyone to take proper precautions and not get careless. As I write this article, I am troubled by news reports citing increases in COVID-19 cases across much of the country. Quite simply put, we cannot let our desire to play over-the-board chess get in the way of our better judgment. Please heed the advice of your local authorities.

Hoping all of you have a safe and healthy end to 2020 and wishing you a great 2021.

**Mike Hoffpaur**

President, US Chess 

## THE 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD



MIKE HOFFPAUR, PRESIDENT



RANDY BAUER, VICE PRESIDENT



CHUCK UNRUH, VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE



RYAN VELEZ, SECRETARY



DAVID DAY, MEMBER AT LARGE



FUN FONG, MEMBER AT LARGE



DAVID HATER, MEMBER AT LARGE

# The Annual Year-End Trivia Quiz

Time to put all that useless knowledge to work!

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

THERE IS PLENTY WE'D ALL LIKE TO forget about this year. But before we say good riddance to 2020, it's time to challenge you in our annual chess trivia quiz.

You can consider yourself a TGM, a Trivial Grandmaster, if you get at least 10 correct when you check your answers on Page 49.

1. Fans posted thousands of new comments on *Chessgames.com* this year about their favorite players. GM Magnus Carlsen's main page now exceeds 180 pages of fan "kibitzing," compared with 110+ pages for GM Bobby Fischer and 80+ for GM Fabiano Caruana.

But another grandmaster, who appeared on TV several times in recent years, has attracted well over 5,000 pages. Who is he?

2. In August, Russia introduced a new combined sport, the "Intellectual Biathlon." It consists of chess and:

- (a) fencing
- (b) freestyle swimming
- (c) marksmanship
- (d) computer hacking

3. The 1962 Candidates Tournament, held in Curaçao and won by GM Tigran Petrosian, was paid for in part by:

- (a) sale of postal first-day covers
- (b) a public lottery
- (c) a government-imposed tax surcharge
- (d) an auction of the tournament's boards, autographed by the players

4. When 2020 ends, Magnus Carlsen will have held the world championship title for nearly 2,600 days.

If he keeps winning championship matches, when would his reign be longer than those of GMs Garry Kasparov, Alexander Alekhine, and Emanuel Lasker?

(a) 2024, 2026, and 2036

(b) 2026, 2028, and 2038

(c) 2028, 2030, and 2040

5. Which world champion won the title on another champion's 49th birthday?

6. Since this game was played in 2019 it has gotten a lot of internet attention. Who won it?

## PIRC DEFENSE, AUSTRIAN ATTACK (B07)

1. e4 g6 2. d4 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f4 Bg7 5. Nf3 O-O 6. e5 dxe5 7. fxe5 Nd5 8. h4 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Qd5 10. h5 Bg4 11. hxg6 fxg6 12. Be2 Nc6 13. Rb1 Qxa2 14. Rb3 Na5 15. Ng5 Bxe2 16. Qxe2



Now 16. ... h5 is safe, e.g. 17. Rxh5? Rf5!, but not 17. ... gxh5? 18. Qd3!.

16. ... Qa1? 17. Kd1! Nxb3 18. Qc4+ e6 19. Qxe6+ Rf7 20. Qxf7+ Kh8 21. Rxh7, mate

(a) Magnus Carlsen, in his rematch with Bill Gates.

(b) AlphaZero, in an exhibition game with Elon Musk.

(c) Fabiano Caruana, playing the chess engine in a Tesla Model 3 sedan.

(d) GM Alireza Firouzja, the first time he defeated an elite GM.

7. In an effort to discourage draws, a master tournament was held last January in India with a unique condition. Nearly 90 percent of the games were decisive. What was the condition?

(a) A fine of 10 minutes of clock time was imposed for each draw offer.

(b) Bishops began the game on the starting squares of the knights and vice versa.

(c) It was a Fischerrandom tournament with a record prize fund.

(d) Castling was not permitted.

8. The release of an X-Man movie titled "Gambit" was delayed earlier this year. Several Hollywood movies and TV programs have had similar titles. Match these films with their description:

(1) "Gambit" (2012 version); (2) "Closing Gambit"; (3) "Pawn's Gambit"; (4) "King's Gambit" (2020); (5) "The Queen's Gambit"; (6) "Knight's Gambit"; (7) "The Bishops' Gambit"

(a) A Netflix series based on a novel by the author of "The Hustler."

(b) A documentary about the 1978 Korchnoi-Karpov world championship match.

(c) A remake of a Michael Caine-Shirley MacLaine movie that has nothing to do with chess.

(d) A fantasy movie with some chess content.

(e) A 1964 TV detective episode.

(f) A 1962 episode of the TV series "Surfside 6."

(g) Episodes of both "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and "Yes, Minister."

9. Short clips of this 2018 movie were widely televised last September. But viewers didn't see a scene in which a chess clock was used to limit lawyers' arguments during a court trial.

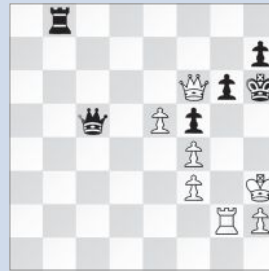


## QUIZ FOR DECEMBER

The first super-tournament of the COVID-19 era was a Magnus Carlsen Invitational won by ... guess who? It began as an eight-player round robin and finished with knockout matches of the top four finishers. The world champion continued his mastery of rapid chess, defeating GM Hikaru Nakamura to earn the \$70,000 first prize. In each of the six positions from the tournament, you are asked to find the fastest winning line of play. This will usually mean the forced win of a decisive amount of material, such as a rook or minor piece. But watch out for forced mates. Solutions on Page 49.

### PROBLEM I.

GM Anish Giri  
GM Fabiano Caruana



WHITE TO MOVE

### PROBLEM II.

GM Alireza Firouzja  
GM Magnus Carlsen



WHITE TO MOVE

### PROBLEM III.

GM Ding Liren  
GM Magnus Carlsen



WHITE TO MOVE

### PROBLEM IV.

GM Ding Liren  
GM Hikaru Nakamura



BLACK TO MOVE

### PROBLEM V.

GM Anish Giri  
GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave



BLACK TO MOVE

### PROBLEM VI.

GM Hikaru Nakamura  
GM Alireza Firouzja



WHITE TO MOVE

Which film was it?

- (a) "The Judge"
- (b) "The Trial of the Chicago 7"
- (c) "Dark Waters"
- (d) "On the Basis of Sex"

10. A recent academic study compared 1,700 International Grandmasters with the general population. It found that:

- (a) GMs live much longer, up to 14 years more, depending on age group.
- (b) They are more likely to be left-handed or overweight.
- (c) They learned to read earlier.
- (d) They can't solve Sudoku either.

11. Even before pro sports was halted this year, ESPN was devoting more attention to chess. In a profile of Fabiano Caruana the cable network quoted him as saying he becomes "mildly scared" when:

- (a) His opponent blitzes his first 20 moves of a game.
- (b) He finds he lost more than 15 pounds during his last tournament.
- (c) He can't remember the ECO code of the opening he just played.
- (d) He looks at Magnus' rating.

12. This game received a lot of recent Internet attention. Why is it historically significant?

### SICILIAN DEFENSE, TAIMANOV VARIATION (B46)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 e6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be2 Qc7 7. O-O Nf6 8. Be3 Bb4 9. Na4 O-O 10. Nxc6 dxc6 11. c4 Bd6 12. f4 Nxe4 13. c5 Be7 14. Qc2 Nf6 15. Nb6 Rb8 16. Bd4 Nd7 17. Nxd7 Bxd7 18. Qc3 f6 19. Bc4 Kh8 20. Rae1 Qc8 21. f5 e5 22. Qh3 Qd8 23. Re4 g5 24. b4 b6 25. Ba1 bxc5 26. Qh6! Bd6?



27. h4! gxh4 28. Bxe5! Bxe5 29. Rxe5! h3 30. Re3 Bc8 31. Rg3 Rb7 32. Rf4 Bxf5 33. Rxf5 hxg2 34. Kxg2 Rd7 35. Rxf6! Rd2+ 36. Kh3, Black resigned.

- (a) It was the decisive game in the first World Bullet Championship.
- (b) It was one of GM Mark Taimanov's secret training games before his 1971 Candidates match with Bobby Fischer.

(c) It was a long-lost game that Mikhail Tal played when he was 11.

(d) It was a 2020 online game that set a record for "pre-moves."

13. Close your eyes and see if you can answer this in 20 seconds:

On an otherwise empty board, a queen can move from one to seven squares away from where it stands. Which of the other pieces must make every move of the same length?

14. Last year, Moscow's Central Chess Club held a unique tournament. To enter you could not be:

- (a) Older than four.
- (b) Younger than 80.
- (c) Right-handed.
- (d) An atheist.

15. And finally, Magnus Carlsen and GM Anish Giri played a high-profile game in March 2019 under unusual conditions. Which?

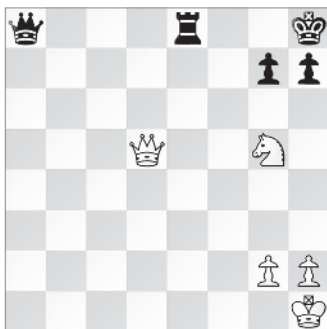
- (a) They accepted lower fees than women grandmasters to strike blow against pay inequality.
- (b) Black moved first to bring attention to racism.
- (c) They played on a melting glacier to demonstrate global warming.
- (d) Neither player had eaten in 24 hours, to raise consciousness about world hunger. ♠

# Deflection Detection

And when it's time for reflection...

By **GM LEV ALBURT** and **AL LAWRENCE**

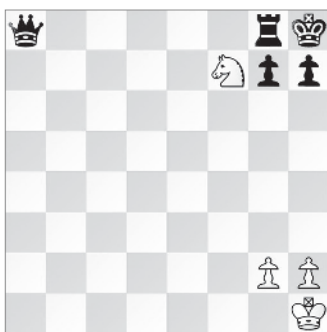
LAST MONTH WE SAW SOME OF THE magic in this position:



WHITE TO MOVE

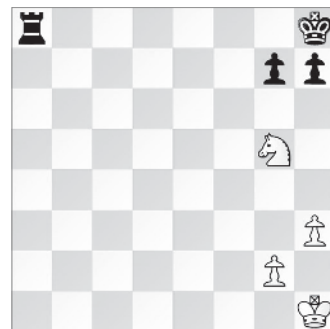
Despite the weakness of White's back rank, his available tactics allow one of the most beautiful checkmates in chess:

**1. Nf7+ Kg8 2. Nh6++! Kh8 3. Qg8+!! Rxcg8 4. Nf7 mate!**



Let's go back to the initial position. Good teaching positions offer much to digest, and this one has a lot of meat left on its bones. Let's suppose White had never seen the smothered mate theme and didn't find 1. Nf7+.

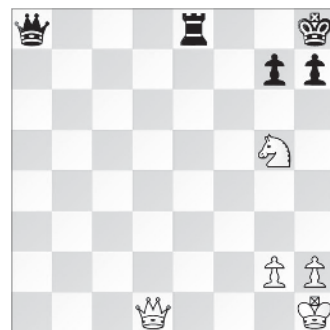
White could rely on what we termed *fallback position #1* to avoid immediate mate, but the reduction in forces resulting from the exchange of queens would highlight White's material inferiority:



AFTER 1. Qxa8 Rxa8 2. h3.  
BLACK TO MOVE — FALLBACK POSITION #1:  
NO MORE MATE, BUT AN UPHILL STRUGGLE  
AHEAD FOR WHITE

*General Rule: When you're behind in material, exchange pawns, not pieces.*

So let's look at what we termed *fallback position #2*. White retreats his queen to guard the back rank: **1. Qd1**. What should Black do?



AFTER 1. Qd1

In this position, if Black plays a "lazy" move, say 2. ... h6, Black would still be better but in for a long, long fight.

Seeing the above position as a puzzle, you'd know there must be a winning move for Black. But in a real game, how would you know? There's no clear answer about when to think a long time or where to look for tactics. But there are certain red flags to alert you. *The principle is that, if you have a tactical advantage on move, think long and hard and search for a winning tactic.*

In chess, we can say broadly that there are two types of advantages, strategic and tactical. For example, a backward pawn is usually a strategic disadvantage. The weak back rank White suffers is a tactical disadvantage — a disadvantage that would disappear on White's next move. Learn to spot tactical disadvantages and you'll have a key to knowing when to think hard and look for a "big" move!

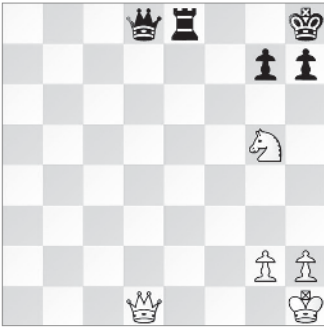
The best way to exploit a weakened back rank is usually to employ *deflection* — luring or forcing an important defender away from its duties. Sometimes deflection is "an offer you can't refuse." Other times, it's the gift-wrapped package left for Wile E. Coyote — open at your own risk.

Not all deflections are created equal. For example, **1. ... Qd8**, intending to deflect White's queen ...

(see diagram top of next column)

... fails miserably to the fork **2. Nf7+**. Don't rely entirely on general considerations. Be careful to visualize clearly the emerging position. There's an effective workout you can do anywhere, at home or standing in line, and we don't think it's recommended often enough.

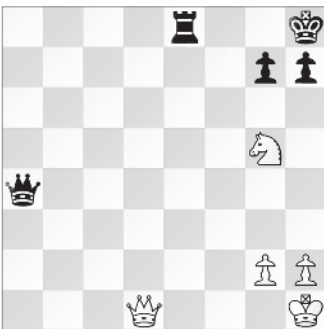




AFTER 1. ... Qd8

Practice seeing an empty board in your mind and randomly identifying the squares, calling them out to yourself — “a6,” “d5,” “h4,” etc. This will build up your visualization skills, critical to “seeing” your analysis correctly, or telling which combinations work and which ones don’t!

Study the diagram just above the previous diagram, after 1. Qd1, and recommend a queen-deflection. How about 1. ... Qa4 for the queen’s suicide mission?



AFTER 1. ... Qa4

If now 2. Qxa4, then 2. ... Re1 is mate. But it’s not checkers, so capturing isn’t compulsory. For example, White can hunker down with 2. Qg1. Then it’s another long grind, most likely resulting in that rook versus knight endgame.

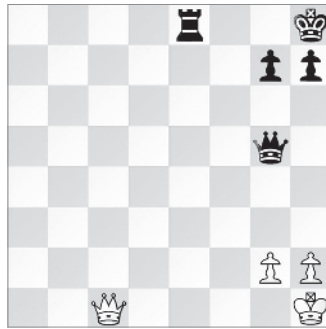
The best move turns out to be **1. ... Qd5!!**, double attacking White’s queen and knight. If 2. Qxd5, Black’s rook delivers mate with 2. ... Re1 mate.



AFTER 1. ... Qd5!

If White tries to protect his knight and back rank at the same time with **2. Qc1**, then Black

captures the knight with **2. ... Qxg5!**, winning a piece with another deflection.



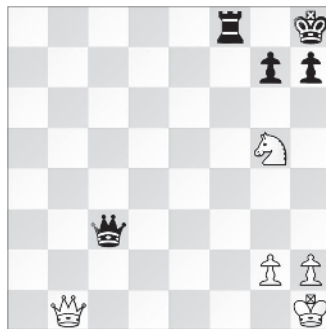
AFTER 2. ... Qxg5!

Black’s queen is immune from capture.

Being ahead a rook is an easy win here. One simple plan for Black is to double up on a file and force the exchange of queens.

*General Rule: When you’re ahead in material, exchange pieces, not pawns.*

Keep in mind that the details always determine the truth. To illustrate, let’s look at a very similar position.



AFTER 1. Qc1-b1

White threatens 2. Qxh7 mate. But it’s Black’s move. He enjoys the same material advantage we’ve seen above, and he has eyes on White’s weak back rank. Is it a time for deflection or more reflection?

If it’s going to be deflection, it has to be 1. ... Qc2, to block the threatened mate. (If 1. ... Qd3?!, 2. Qxd3 allows the white queen to guard the threatened mate on f1. Missing such a “detail” has thrown away many a win.)

### 1. ... Qc2

How would you annotate this move? The move seems to win a tempo while simultaneously protecting against checkmate on h7, and 2. Qxc2 allows 2. ... Rf1 checkmate.

But **2. Nf7+!** reverses roles. If Black allows his rook to be deflected with 2. ... Rxf7, White mates after two meaningless postponements on Black’s back rank: 3. Qb8+ Qc8 4. Qxc8+ Rf8 5. Qxf8 mate. And if 2. ... Kg8, White is free to capture Black’s queen without reprisal, because the f-file remains blocked.

The only correct move for Black in the above diagram turns out to be the modest **1. ... g6!**, preventing the mate and keeping a material advantage.

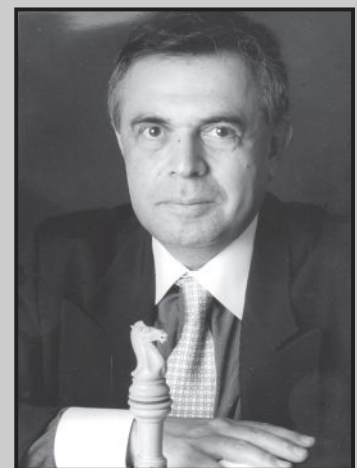
When the position is tactical, look for the “big” moves that make great chess reminiscences. But remember that winning chess requires not only taking advantage of your opponent’s bad moves — but planning on his best. ♠

With this edition of “Back to Basics,” GM Lev Alburtt is retiring his column.

As both a three-time Ukrainian and U.S. Champion, Alburtt’s reputation as a chess player is undisputed. But perhaps his true legacy will be found in his words and teachings. Over a span of more than three decades Alburtt’s writings, both here in *Chess Life* and in his twenty-plus books, have served to instruct thousands upon thousands of improving chess players.

Alburtt’s approach in “Back to Basics,” using submitted games of amateur players to impart key lessons, was well ahead of its time. *Chess Life* readers can scan the US Chess Digital Archives for hundreds of Alburtt’s columns, some of which are also found in his 2014 title *A Fresh Look at Chess*.

US Chess congratulates Lev Alburtt on his prodigious and popular career as a *Chess Life* columnist. Interested parties can inquire with Alburtt directly about books and lessons at [gmlvalburtt@aol.com](mailto:gmlvalburtt@aol.com).





Wishing you a

*happy & healthy*

holiday season from the  
Saint Louis Chess Campus!



WorldChessHOF.org  
@WorldChessHOF  
f @ y t ..



SaintLouisChessClub.org  
@STLChessClub  
f @ y t .. w

Artwork by Janet Muhm, [ayearinthecity.com](http://ayearinthecity.com)



Q BOUTIQUE

# Free Shipping

Enjoy Free Online Shipping  
the Entire Month of December!

Free shipping applies to any orders being delivered to addresses within the continental United States. Free shipping will be automatically applied at checkout. Offer valid December 1-December 31, 2020.

WCHOF souvenirs - chess sets - tournament gear - instructional books - unique gifts

Whiskey River Soap



\$10

Happy Alcoholidays  
Foil Napkin



\$10

Kate Mayes Layered  
Moon Drop Earrings



\$50

Wobble Chess Set





\$289

Water Wow!  
Activity Book



\$6

**Q BOUTIQUE**  
at the WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME

qboutiquestl.com | (314) 367-9243  
4652 Maryland Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63108  
@QBoutiqueSTL   

# The 2020 Cadet Championship: A Drama in Seven Parts

IM Christopher Yoo romps to the title.

Report by **FM PAUL WHITEHEAD** | Annotations by **GM NICK DEFIRMIAN** and **IM CHRISTOPHER YOO**

## OPENING CEREMONY

FRIDAY EVENING,  
SEPTEMBER 25.

About an hour before the first round of the 2020 U.S. Cadet Championship kicks off, Mechanics' Institute (M.I.) Chess Room Director Abel Talamantez and General Manager of Youth Outreach and Events Dr. Judit Sztaray are joined online by the financial heavyweights backing the tournament: the United States Chess Federation, represented by President Mike Hoffpauir and Executive Director Carol Meyer, and Dewain Barber, the "Dean of Scholastic Chess."

Also attending this Hollywood Squares-style meeting (as Abel describes it) is IM John Donaldson, the former M.I. Chess Room Director and a massive repository of chess knowledge unto himself. Topics range widely, from cheating online and sportsmanship, to recent and past chess history — the M.I. had hosted the Cadet Championship twenty years earlier!

Of course, back then there was no world-wide pandemic, and the players would fly into San Francisco from around the country to play at the oldest chess club in the United States. One of the participants back in 2000 was Expert (now GM) Josh Friedel, who will join us as a commentator on the third day. The chess world is both large and small, distant and near.

But now this event, originally scheduled for June 11-14 at the M.I., is being held online instead. Chess.com is providing the playing platform, while the commentating will be done on Zoom and streamed on the M.I.'s Twitch channel. The organizers and the TD will stay

in touch with each other through e-mail and instant-messaging as well. The players will be on two cameras (!) to ensure fair play. This has become the standard for events of this stature. Finally, should there be any shred of doubt, the games will be screened by Dr. Ken Regan. I've heard he's assisted by computers that can beat every World Champion from de La Bourdonnais to Carlsen... simultaneously.

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

FRIDAY EVENING,  
SEPTEMBER 25.

This tournament is very strong, and by rating would easily have been a U.S. Junior Championship (under-21) back in my day. Seven out of the top eight under-16 candidates have accepted the challenge:

**IM Christopher Yoo (2540)**  
**IM Justin Wang (2540)**  
**IM Andrew Hong (2533)**  
**FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (2459)**  
**IM Arthur Guo (2446)**  
**FM Maximillian Lu (2431)**  
**FM Christopher Shen (2424)**

They are joined by the organizer's wild-card pick:

**WCM Ruiyang Yan (2242)**

The time-control is G/70 +10, and the players (not to mention the organizers and commentators!) are in for a tough schedule: one game on Friday evening, three games on Saturday, and then three more games on Sunday.

## ROUND ONE

FRIDAY EVENING,  
SEPTEMBER 25.

**Yoo - Hong 1-0**  
**Shlyakhtenko - Wang ½ - ½**  
**Guo - Lu 1-0**  
**Shen - Yan 1-0**

Now it's time for the round to start, with Abel as lynchpin and host. Carol, Mike, Dewain, and John leave, and the regular commentators move in: the M.I.'s Grandmaster-in-Residence, three-time U.S. Champion Nick de Firmian, and me. Soon we are joined by another former U.S. Champion, GM Sam Shankland.

I am in fantastic company and following Nick's and Sam's minds around the chess board feels like a privilege.

The round is tough, and Yoo's victory over Hong (who got himself into time trouble) is a harbinger of things to come — Yoo dictating the play, the highly-ranked Hong out of form. Shlyakhtenko has the better side of a shaky draw against Wang, while time is again a decisive factor in Guo versus Lu, where Black falls apart in front of our eyes. Finally, Shen vs. Yan is a see-saw fight that ends with Shen victorious. This game follows a depressing pattern for Yan: falling a little behind in the opening, she would fight back for real chances... and then either give it away or be out-played at the end.

Despite the straight-up bias of the commentators for the home-town favorite, M.I. regular and stalwart Yan, this is not to be her break-out tournament.





IM CHRISTOPHER YOO

## ROUND TWO

SATURDAY MORNING,  
SEPTEMBER 26.

I sleep in, and the early-birds Nick and Abel run the whole broadcast. Again, it is a fighting round:

**Shlyakhtenko - Shen ½-½**

**Hong - Guo ½-½**

**Yan - Yoo 0-1**

**Lu - Wang 0-1**

Shlyakhtenko versus Shen is an all-out tactical and mind-bending slug-fest, rich in ideas and chess. Overall Shen misses a bit more, or underestimates his chances, but he secures a great draw nevertheless. Hong's and Guo's game, with the same result, is far more peaceful. Yoo's persistent initiative over 81 moves against Yan gains him the point, while Wang emerges the winner in a game where Lu had his chances.

Yoo is now at 2-0 and has the only perfect score. Guo, Shen, and Wang trail him at 1½ points.

## ROUND THREE

SATURDAY AFTERNOON,  
SEPTEMBER 26.

I guess I was still asleep, so FM Kyron Griffith is with Abel in the "broadcast booth." They are joined half-way through the round by GM Patrick Wolff. Kyron is an M.I. regular — one of the club's very strongest players. Patrick, a two-time U.S. Champion and author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Chess*, has (as you read these words) recently finished in the middle of the field at the 2020 U.S. Senior Championship, held about two weeks after the Cadet ended. This potent analytical team has some interesting games to look through:

**Lu - Shlyakhtenko 0-1**

**Wang - Hong ½-½**

**Guo - Yan 1-0**

**Yoo - Shen ½-½**

Lu is on a tailspin: he crashes out horribly in only 22 moves. However, he has company in his distress as Yan also loses her third game in a row — tragically, she misses a winning opportunity near the end. The two

Christophers meet in this round, and although Yoo pitches a pawn early and gets little in return, the result is a rather simple draw. Wang versus Hong is a nervous-looking draw, with Hong still looking out of form and Wang cautious at this point.

Yoo is joined at 2½-½ by Guo.

### LARSEN'S OPENING (A01)

FM Maximillian Lu (2431)

FM Robert Shlyakhtenko (2459)

US Cadet Championship (3), 09.26.2020

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

**1. b3 d5 2. Bb2 Bg4 3. g3 e6 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. Nf3 Nbd7 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Bxf3 Bd6 8. c4 c6**

White's double fianchetto opening has gained the two bishops, but Black has a slight lead in development and a solid central pawn structure. Chances are even.

**9. d4 Ne4!**

The threat of 10. ... Bb4+ compels White to make a decision. He decides to trade the bishop for the centralized knight on e4.

**10. Bxe4 dxe4 11. e3?!**



FM CHRISTOPHER SHEN AND BOB BODOR, SENIOR MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER, USA FENCING. SHEN WAS A GUEST AT AN USA FENCING EVENT IN COLUMBUS, OHIO THIS YEAR.

More flexible is 11. Qd2 f5 12. Nc3. Keeping the white pawn on e2 would help to cover the light squares.

**11. ... 0-0 12. Qc2 f5 13. Nd2 b5!? 14. cxb5 cxb5 15. Qc6 Bb4**

Black gives a pawn to trouble the white king still stuck in the center.

**16. Qxb5?!**

16. Qxe6+ Kh8 17. Rd1 is close to equal.

**16. ... Rb8 17. Qc6?**



**17. ... Nc5!**

Seizing the opportunity after the white queen moved to the wrong square (e2 or c4 was better). Now both 18. ... Nd3+ and 18. ... Rb6 (trapping the queen) are threatened.

**18. Rd1**

If 18. dxc5 Qxd2+ 19. Kf1 Qxb2, while 18. 0-0 Rb6 wins the queen.

**18. ... Nd3+ 19. Ke2 Nxb2 20. Qxe6+ Kh8 21. Rb1 Rb6! 22. Qe5 Nd3, White resigned.**

White resigned as he is a piece down and now also loses the queen.

## ROUND FOUR

SATURDAY EVENING,  
SEPTEMBER 26.

Abel takes a rare evening off “for cause.” it is his son’s 21st birthday. Dr. Judit Sztaray takes the helm, and joining her is yours truly and GM Patrick Wolff. Later, FM Kyron Griffith pokes his head in to give his two cents.

This is a truly bloody round, with no draws:

**Yan - Wang 0-1**

**Shen - Guo 0-1**

**Shlyakhtenko - Yoo 0-1**

**Hong - Lu 1-0**

Yan gets little with White, and although Wang seems a bit too careful at times, he steadily outplays his opponent and gets the point at the end. Yoo handily repulses his opponent’s aggressive play, finds a powerful tactical shot, and wins an important game. Guo also takes a crucial point, handing Shen his only defeat in a powerful positional crush. The unfortunate Lu loses a nice game to Hong; this is Hong’s only victory in the whole tournament.

It is turning into a three-horse race: Yoo and Guo have 3½ each, while Wang is still hanging in there with 3 points. Rounding out the field we have Shen and Shlyakhtenko with 2 points, Hong with 2, and the unlucky duo of Yan and Lu with zero.

Yoo and Guo are due to meet in round five, so the tournament is coming to a dramatic conclusion.

## INTERMISSION

As we enter the home stretch, I guess it’s time to reveal what the players are fighting for:

**Prize Fund: \$1,200**

**1st Place Champion: \$600**

**2nd Place: \$400**

**3rd Place: \$200**



A \$6,000 scholarship prize to the college of choice to the tournament winner: \$3,000 from the Dewain Barber Foundation, with a matching donation of \$3,000 from US Chess.

In the event of a tie, the scholarship winner is determined by the tiebreaks used for the event.

All players also receive a one-year extension of US Chess membership, as part of Mr. Barber's donation towards the event.

## ROUND FIVE

SUNDAY MORNING,  
SEPTEMBER 27.

It is the final day, and Abel hosts again while Judit goes back to working behind the scenes. Joining Abel for a while during the "breakfast shift" is NTD John McCumiskey, who offers some insight into working with kids and parents: he's also a high school teacher. GM Nick de Firmian provides the heavyweight chess analysis.

**Guo - Yoo 0-1**

**Lu - Yan 1-0**

**Wang - Shen ½-½**

**Hong - Shlyakhtenko ½-½**

The clash between the leaders sees Yoo victorious in a technical struggle after White comes up empty out of the opening. At the other end of the spectrum, the game Lu versus Yan has its own drama: who will get on the scoreboard? Unfortunately, Yan must wait: after getting the better opening, she makes a few careless moves and loses another heart-breaker. This round also sees the only "grandmaster draw" of the tournament, with Hong and Shlyakhtenko splitting the point after 19 moves. Shen puts up an incredible defensive effort against Wang. Nick admits to having had him "written off," but after 109 moves the players call it a draw.

Yoo now leads by a full point at 4½-½. Can he be stopped?

### CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B11)

IM Arthur Guo (2446)

IM Christopher Yoo (2540)

US Cadet Championship (5), 09.27.2020

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

**1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 Bg4 4. h3 Bh5**

The less travelled path, but leading to prickly positions. Balanced is 4. ... Bxf3 5. Qxf3 e6, with the pawns complementing the remaining bishop.

**5. g4 Bg6**

Now White can lean on various weak aspects of Black's position (the a4-e8 diagonal, a vulnerable bishop on g6) but Black alertly

stays out of danger.

**6. exd5 cxd5 7. Bb5+**

Computers recommend 7. d4 e6 8. h4.

**7. ... Nc6 8. Ne5 Rc8 9. d4 e6 10. h4**

A strong case could be made for 10. Qe2, gently pressuring e6 and preventing an ... f7-f6 response to h3-h4.

**10. ... f6 11. Nxc6**

Perhaps 11. Bxc6+ first makes sense, keeping the rook from getting into the game. True, it gives Black a stronger center, but that's a "maybe versus a definitely" (the pressure on c3). If White values the two bishops so much, then 7. Bb5+ wasn't the right move to begin with!

**11. ... hxg6 12. Be3**

The move 12. Qd3 first keeps Black from developing the bishop and knight right away. If 12. ... Kf7 13. Bxc6 Rxc6 14. Ne2!?

**12. ... Bb4**

White was doing quite well (before going off the rails) in a game featuring GM Sam Sevian: 12. ... Kf7 13. Qf3 Qb6 14. 0-0-0 Bb4 15. Bxc6 Rxc6 16. Ne2. (Arjun - Sevian, *chess.com* 2020.)

**13. Qd3 Nge7 14. 0-0-0 Qa5!?**

A novelty. Previously there had been 14. ... Kf7 15. Ne2 Na5 16. c3 in Garcia - Gonzalez, Tunja 1991.

**15. Na4 a6 16. Bxc6+ Nxc6 17. Qb3 b5 18. Nc5 Bxc5 19. dxc5 Qb4! 20. Qxb4 Nxb4 21. a3 Nc6**



This is a textbook situation with the bad bishop and mobile central pawns. Christopher just grinds his opponent down.

**22. f4 Kf7 23. Bf2 Rcd8 24. Bg3 d4 25. c3 dxc3**

A case can be made for 25. ... Rd5.

**26. bxc3 e5**

White has more chances after 26. ... Rxd1+ 27. Rxd1 Rd8 28. Rxd8 Nxd8 29. c4.

**27. fxe5 fxe5 28. Kc2 Ke6**

The centralized black king and passed

e-pawn give Black a clear edge.

**29. Rxd8 Rxd8 30. h5 gxh5 31. gxh5 Rd7 32. Bf2 Rf7 33. Be3 Na5 34. h6 gxh6 35. Rxh6+ Rf6 36. Rxf6+ Kxf6**

Perhaps White can hold, but it's difficult.

**37. Kd3 Ke6 38. Ke4?**

The best chance to hold was 38. c6! Nxc6 39. c4. Now Black takes control.

**38. ... Nc4 39. Bc1 a5 40. Bh6 Nxa3 41. c6 Nc4 42. Bf8 a4 43. c7 Kd7 44. Kd5 a3 45. Bxa3 Nxa3 46. Kxe5 Kxc7 47. Kd5 Kb6 48. Kd4 Ka5 49. Kc5 Ka4 50. Kd4 Kb3 51. Kd3 Nb1 52. c4 bxc4+, White resigned.**

## ROUND SIX

SUNDAY AFTERNOON,  
SEPTEMBER 27.

Abel, Nick, and I are joined on Zoom and Twitch by GM Melikset Khachiyan, and my head spins as the grandmasters throw out theory and on the spot analysis — these fellas know their chess! Melikset also knows some of these players quite well as a coach and trainer, and his comments are peppered with psychological insights as well as deep practical advice.

**Yoo - Wang 1-0**

**Shlyakhtenko - Guo ½-½**

**Shen - Lu 1-0**

**Yan - Hong ½-½**

IM Christopher Yoo wins the tournament with a round to spare, handing IM Justin Wang his only loss of the tournament with another virtuoso technical performance. In other monumental news, Yan finally gets on the scoreboard with yet another dramatic fight-back that ends in perpetual check. Shen keeps control the entire game to defeat Lu, who could not add to his score. The round also sees a wild game between Shlyakhtenko and Guo, ending in a spectacular queen sacrifice and another perpetual check.

### RUY LOPEZ, CENTER ATTACK (C84)

IM Christopher Yoo (2540)

IM Justin Wang (2540)

US Cadet Championship (6), 09.27.2020

Annotations by IM Christopher Yoo

**1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. d4**

Even though White does not have an advantage in this line, it is very much my style due to its dynamic nature.

**5. ... exd4 6. 0-0 Be7 7. e5 Ne4 8. Nxd4 0-0 9. Re1 Nxd4 10. Qxd4 Nc5 11. Nc3 d6 12. Bb3**

This move prevents ... Nxa4 ideas from

This move prevents ... Nxa4 ideas from Black, thus keeping the coordination of my pieces.

**12. ... dxe5 13. Qxe5 Bd6 14. Qh5 Nxb3 15. axb3 f6?!**

Black should try to take measures against my possible attacking ideas instead. 15. ... Qf6! is a difficult move to find since the Queen can be attacked in many different ways, but none are sufficient for an advantage. After 16. Ne4 (16. Nd5 Qf5! 17. Qxf5 Bxf5 with a slight edge for Black) 16. ... Qe5 17. Bg5 Qxb2 18. Rad1 White has just enough compensation for the pawn, but there is no mate.

**16. Ra4**

Along with Ra4-h4 ideas, I can also play Bc1-f4 in some cases, which gets rid of his important d6-bishop.

**16. ... g6 17. Qd5+ Kg7 18. Bf4 Bxf4 19. Rxf4 Bf5**

Black is desperately seeking active counterplay here, due to his lack of development and weak king. After 19. ... Qxd5 20. Nxd5 Rf7 21. Rc4! Black cannot defend c7 without worsening his position, i.e. 21. ... c6 22. Nb6 Rb8 23. Re8 Rf8 24. Re2 and Black's pieces can barely move due to White's knight on b6.

**20. Qxb7 Rb8 21. Qa7 Rb6**

My queen is lacking squares, but I have a nice tactical resource that refutes my opponent's idea.



**22. Nd5! Rf7**

After 22. ... Qxd5 23. Qxc7+ Rf7 24. Qxb6 White is winning.

**23. Rxf5!**

I was tempted to play 23. Nxb6? but he has a nice intermezzo with 23. ... Qd2! 24. Ra1 Qxf4 25. Nd5 Qd2 26. Ne3 Bxc2 27. Qxa6 Bxb3 28. Qa3 and while White's position is a bit more pleasant, the advantage is microscopic compared to the game.

**23. ... gxh5 24. Nxb6 Qd2 25. Rf1 cxb6 26. Qxa6 Qxc2 27. Qxb6 Qxb2 28. b4?!**

The b4-pawn cannot be defended now. I should have kept my pawn on b3, as it is much

harder to attack there. With 28. Re1 it is hard to move the f7-rook off the 7th rank for Black as Re1-e7+ is always a resource for me. After 28. ... Rd7 29. h3 White is winning.

**28. ... Re7**

There is no sufficient way to prevent ... Re7-e4, followed by winning the b-pawn. However, I can try to create a mating attack while he wastes a few tempi winning that pawn.



IM JUSTIN WANG

**29. b5?**

With 29. h3! Re4 30. b5 Re5 31. Qc7+ Kg6 32. b6 Rb5 33. Re1! I have a huge advantage and I will never get back-rank mated.

**29. ... Re5**

Now the b5-pawn falls.

**30. Qc7+ Kg6 31. b6 Rb5 32. h4 Rxb6 33. h5+ Kh6 34. Qf4+ Kxh5 35. Qxf5+?**

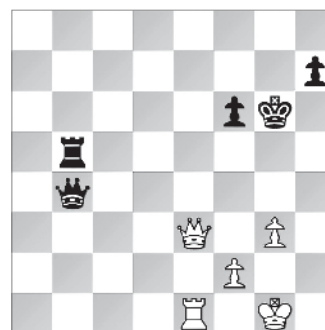
I am no longer winning, but I can still put pressure on my opponent. After 35. Re1! It is not possible to defend against Qf4xf5+ and Re1-e7 at the same time for Black, as 35. ... Kg6 36. Qg3+ Kf7 37. Qc7+ Kg6 38. Re7 shows.

**35. ... Kh6 36. Qh3+ Kg6 37. Qg4+ Kh6 38. Re1 Rb5 39. Qf4+**

I was doing nothing for the next 20 moves because I wanted to tire him out. It can be quite an effective strategy when your opponent has no plan!

**39. ... Kg6 40. Qe4+ Kh6 41. Qh4+ Kg6**

**42. Qg3+ Kh6 43. Qe3+ Kg6 44. Qd3+ Kh6 45. Qe3+ Kg6 46. Rd1 Qb3 47. Qe4+ Kh6 48. Rc1 Qb2 49. Qe3+ Kg6 50. Rd1 Qb3 51. Qe4+ Kh6 52. Qf4+ Kg6 53. Re1 Qb4 54. Qg3+ Kh6 55. Qe3+ Kg6 56. Qd3+ Kh6 57. Qh3+ Kg6 58. Qg3+ Kh6 59. Qe3+ Kg6 60. g3**



I thought it would be a good time to do something, due to his time pressure.

**60. ... Rb7?!**

This move lets me bring my queen and rook into the attack with tempo. Better is 60. ... Re5 61. Qd3+ Kh6 62. Rxe5 fxe5 63. Qe3+ Kg6 64. Qxe5 and while he was probably not happy to be down a pawn here, the position is too simplified for me to be winning.

**61. Qe8+ Kg7 62. Re4 Qb1+ 63. Kg2 Qd1?!**

Black is fine after 63. ... h5! 64. Qc6, but it is a bit more difficult to defend than before due to some provoked weaknesses in Black's position.

**64. Qe6 h5 65. Rf4 Rf7?**

Now I have a nice resource that ties down his f7-rook and wins the h5-pawn by force. There's no clear way for me to make progress after 65. ... Qa1! 66. Qd5 Rb1 67. Kh2 Re1 68. Rb4 Qd1.

**66. Qf5 Qe2 67. Re4!**

There is no way to make counterplay for Black. He is simply lost. Note that I had to avoid 67. Rh4 Re7! 68. Rxh5 Qe4+ 69. Qxe4 Rxe4 with equality.

**67. ... Qd1 68. Rh4 Rc7 69. Rxh5 Qc2 70. Qg4+ Qg6 71. Qe2 Qc2 72. Qe3 Qg6 73. Rh4 Kf7 74. Qb3+ Kg7 75. Qe6 Qf7 76. Qf5 Kg8 77. Qg4+ Qg7 78. Qh5 Kf8 79. Rg4 Qh7 80. Qd5 Rd7 81. Qa8+ Kf7 82. Qa2+ Kf8 83. Rh4 Qg8 84. Qa3+**

The following few moves shows a nice 'staircase' tactic to finish off the game.

**84. ... Kf7 85. Qb3+ Kf8 86. Qb4+ Kf7**

There is no way for Black to hold the pawn ending with 86. ... Re7 87. Re4 Qf7 88. Rxe7 Qxe7 89. Qxe7+ Kxe7 90. Kf3.

**87. Qc4+ Kf8 88. Qc8+, Black resigned.**



## ROUND SEVEN

SUNDAY EVENING,  
SEPTEMBER 27.

The Sunday wrap-up on Zoom and Twitch sees Abel, Nick, and me joined by IM John Donaldson and GM Josh Friedel. Stories are told, positions analyzed, and the tournament draws steadily to a close. The final round seems as dramatic as any other, despite the name of the winner already being known.

Hong - Shen 0-1

Yan - Shlyakhtenko 0-1

Lu - Yoo ½-½

Wang - Guo 1-0

Yoo tries a ridiculously early draw offer, but has to fight it out to the end as Lu seeks his first win — which he almost achieves. Hong has a meltdown in time trouble and loses a tense game against Shen, while the Wang versus Guo struggle is a heart-breaker for Guo: a win would give him clear second, while a draw would give him a tie for second-third. But it is not to be, and after a complicated fight lasting 107 moves, Wang prevails. Finally, another tragic game for Yan: she blunders into mate in one against Shlyakhtenko in a drawn position. This is an event she is probably glad to see end, but what an experience!

### ENGLISH OPENING (A16)

FM Maximillian Lu (2431)

IM Christopher Yoo (2540)

US Cadet Championship (7), 09.27.2020

Annotations by GM Nick de Firmian

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. g3 c6 4. e4!? d5 5. cxd5 cxd5 6. e5 d4 7. exf6 dxc3 8. dxc3

White gets a small edge after 8. bxc3 exf6 9. d4.

8. ... Qxd1+ 9. Kxd1 exf6 10. Bg2 Nc6

The endgame is equal. White has a three to two pawn majority on the queenside and hence an optical edge, yet Black has enough counterplay.

11. Be3 Bf5 12. Ke2 O-O-O 13. Bh3!

It's good to exchange the light-squared bishops, otherwise the white king could come under fire.

13. ... Bxh3 14. Nxh3 Bd6 15. Rhe1 b6 16. f4 Rhe8 17. Kf3 Re6 18. Nf2 Rde8 19. Bd2 f5

Everything is still very even.

20. Nd3 Kd7 21. Rad1 Re4 22. b3 h5 23. Nf2 R4e6 24. Nh3 Rxe1 25. Rxe1 Rc8 26. Re3 Nd8 27. Ng5 f6! 28. Nh3 Ne6 29. Nf2 h4 30. Rd3 hxc3 31. hxc3 Ke7

White is still hoping to gain something from the queenside majority. Black should seek kingside play with ... g6-g5 at a good moment.

32. Be3 Rh8 33. Rd1 Bc5 34. Rh1 Rxh1 35. Nxb1 Nc7

Black should be able to hold with 35. ... b5 36. Nf2 Kd6 37. Nd3 Bxe3 38. Kxe3 g5 fairly easily.

36. Bxc5+ bxc5 37. Nf2 Nd5 38. Nd1 c4?!

This gives White a pawn, doubled and isolated as it is. That gives White real chances in a knight ending.

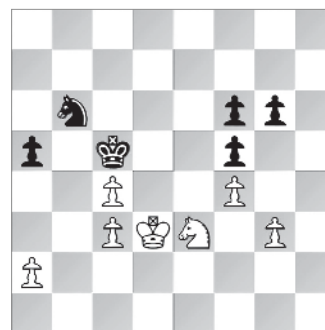
39. bxc4 Nb6 40. Ne3 Kd6 41. Ke2 Kc5 42. Kd3 a5

(See diagram top of next column)

43. Nd5! Nxc4

The pawn ending would be lost for Black after 43. ... Nxd5? 44. cxd5 Kxd5 45. c4+ Kc5 46. Kc3.

44. Nxf6 Nb2+ 45. Kc2 Nc4 46. Kd3 Nb2+



47. Kd2 Nc4+ 48. Ke2 a4 49. Nd7+ Kd5 50. Nf8 Nd6!

This is the move that holds the draw. White will win the g6 pawn but after ... Nd6-e4 Black will get the g3 pawn in return.

51. Kd3 Ne4 52. Nxg6 Nxg3 53. Nh4 Kc5

White is a full pawn ahead now, but there is no way to win with just a few vulnerable pawns on the board.

54. Kc2 Kd5 55. Kb2 Kc4 56. Ka3 Ne2! 57. Nxf5 Nxf4 58. Kxa4 Nd5 59. Nd6+ Kxc3 60. Kb5 Kb2 61. a4 Nc3+ 62. Kb4 Nxa4, draw agreed.

The prize winners are announced:

#### FIRST PLACE:

IM Christopher Yoo — \$600 and the \$6,000 scholarship.

#### SECOND-THIRD PLACES (TIED):

FM Christopher Shen and IM Justin Wang — \$300 each.

Wishing everyone a good evening, with a shout-out to the sponsors and the players, Abel signs off on the 2020 U.S. Cadet Championship with the heartfelt wish that we will all meet again: soon and in person, at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. 📍

## 2020 U.S. CADET CHAMPIONSHIP

	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score
1	Christopher Yoo	2540	*	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	6.0/7
2	Christopher Shen	2424	½	*	½	½	0	1	1	1	4.5/7
3	Justin Wang	2540	0	½	*	½	1	½	1	1	4.5/7
4	Robert Shlyakhtenko	2459	0	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	4.0/7
5	Arthur Guo	2446	0	1	0	½	*	½	1	1	4.0/7
6	Andrew Z Hong	2533	0	0	½	½	½	*	1	½	3.0/7
7	Maximillian Lu	2431	½	0	0	0	0	0	*	1	1.5/7
8	Ruiyang Yan	2242	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	*	0.5/7



# 2021

World Amateur Team

U.S. Amateur Team  
Championship East

**Online experience on ICC**

**February 13-14, 2021**

Keeping chess alive and thriving on the battle tested ICC network. No better place for the granddaddy of team chess than online!



For help forming teams contact:  
[noreenchess@gmail.com](mailto:noreenchess@gmail.com)  
or [esdoyle@aol.com](mailto:esdoyle@aol.com)

See TLA section of this issue  
for complete details.





# MAKE YOUR MOVE!

DECEMBER 2020 | FM CARSTEN HANSEN

This month's puzzles are a mixture of online events and some over-the-board events in Europe.

The puzzles start from easy and gradually move toward being difficult. Try first to solve the puzzle before reading the text at the bottom of the page. If unsuccessful, play through the solution, but return to the puzzle in 1-2 weeks to see if you can now solve it. That way you gradually expand your tactical vision, and it will be more likely that you will spot tactics as they occur in your own games. Whatever you do, do not use an engine to solve the puzzles, as you will only cheat yourself out of improving your game. Check your answers on page 49.

**TACTIC I.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC II.**



BLACK TO MOVE

**TACTIC III.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC IV.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC V.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC VI.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC VII.**



BLACK TO MOVE

**TACTIC VIII.**



WHITE TO MOVE

**TACTIC IX.**



BLACK TO MOVE

POSITION 1: Loose pieces  
POSITION 2: Combining threats  
POSITION 3: The right diversion

POSITION 4: Poor defenders  
POSITION 5: Small steps, great success  
POSITION 6: Temporary discoordination

POSITION 7: The right attack at the right time  
POSITION 8: Better attackers than defenders  
POSITION 9: Distract the defenders





# The Iron Man of Chess in the Time of COVID-19

IM Jay Bonin navigates the pandemic.

By AL LAWRENCE

**T**ry putting yourself in the once-traveling shoes of the most active over-the-board tournament player in U.S. chess history. Since the 1980s, you've played rated chess three or four times a week, playing weekends and weekdays, something that is only

possible because you live in New York City. You've structured your whole life around being able to play tournament chess.

Then the coronavirus suddenly claps a lethal grip on the City, shuttering public places and twisting shut the faucet of in-person chess, allowing only an occasional drip. And even that drip could be dangerous! If you can imagine all that, you've got a good feel for the dilemma facing IM Jay Bonin, who, with as many as 35,000 official tournament games, deserves his nom de guerre "The Iron Man of Chess."

*Chess Life* wondered how the most active player of all time is coping during the shutdown. I managed to catch up to Jay over several days — online of course — to hear firsthand.

"I'm not above COVID-19," the Iron Man admitted when I asked if he tried to keep safe. "I wear a mask," he told me. Some years ago, he dieted, changing his profile from stout to slim, but he's recently turned 65 and so is COVID-19 vulnerable. "I don't travel as much."

The downtime from chess allows Brooklyn-born Jay more time for his beloved Mets. "I tried to construct a mask out of a Mets towel." That didn't work out well.

Although he uses a computer for Facebook ("It's a great way to keep in touch"), he has never Zoomed or Skyped, so he's even more isolated than some. Like a lot of titled players, he gives lessons—in the past teaching some of the top youngsters, like Brewington Hardaway, who become a national master at only 10 and Liam Putnam, already a FIDE master at 12. "I'm old-fashioned; face-to-face is best." Since COVID, "I've done a couple of email-lessons." He's secure enough with the basics of food and rent on his Franklin Square apartment, but "financially, COVID's hurt me a lot."

Hall of Famer GM Joel Benjamin jousted with Jay for five decades. "Most masters have their hand in teaching, writing, making videos and other chess related ventures," Joel said. "Jay has always been all about playing. It sustains him financially and spiritually. I would think the shutdown of over-the-board tournaments has been harder on him than any player in the country."

## MISSING HIS FRIENDS

Jay is an approachable, sociable guy who lives alone and misses more than chess. Conversations at his favorite pubs used to be a mainstay. "I miss my friends," he said. When New York City was locked down tight in the horror of the early spring infections, "I hardly talked to anyone. My voice became raspy."

Once the City reopened gingerly, Jay began venturing out. Chess was the priority. "I hardly go to bars. I've had seven or eight beers in seven months." He'll go to the bank and the laundromat, and he recently had a haircut, his first in months. He makes a point to chat with neighbors. "There's



THE BEST PROMOTIONAL IDEA AWARD WINNERS AT THE 1983 U.S. AMATEUR TEAM:  
L TO R: IM JAY BONIN, DAVID SPEIGEL, ERIC LANGAHR, ED FRUMKIN.

a lot of nice people in Franklin Square.” One afternoon, I corresponded with Jay after he’d just returned from brunch. “I spend over two hours in the diner reading the newspaper and chatting with other customers,” he told me.

Does he worry about catching COVID-19? “Sometimes,” he said. “But I feel I got to go on. I’ve spent the last 40 years up and about, not at home.”

Four times, Jay took the long train rides to and from the one-day, in-person events being held at the Fairfield Chess Club in Connecticut. There they play behind plexiglass, supply hand sanitizer and require masks. But Jay’s nose kept pushing out of his like a passed pawn, unnoticed by him but not the club’s managers. Even with Fairfield CC off-limits and the Marshall CC still closed, Jay manages to play rated OTB chess three days a week (barring rain) by traveling to NYC’s outdoor chess venues—Washington Square Park in Manhattan and Cunningham Park in Queens, where participants wear masks.

## TOO MANY GM SCALPS TO MENTION

The park tourneys are hardly the GM-gilded events of old. Jay’s won the New York State Championship, the Manhattan Club Championship and the Marshall Chess Club Championship each three times. In 1997, he won all three, the “Triple Crown” of New York chess. World candidate GM Sammy Reshevsky was Jay’s first GM scalp (although Sammy had by that time relinquished his toupee for a cap). The victory was Jay’s 27th birthday present to himself.

Jay is humble, but I pressed him for his most notable victories: “Aside from Sammy, I beat Gata Kamsky four times, GMs Tony Miles, Lev Alburt when he was U.S. Champ, Dzindzi

[Roman Dzindzichashvili] six times, and Robert Byrne. I’ve had multiple wins against GMs [Michael] Rohde, Dmitry Gurevich, and [Arthur] Bisguier. Too many scalps to mention. I played four times with four draws against six-time U.S. champ GM Walter Browne.” You can learn a lot from Jay’s well-explained games in his five-star-Amazon-reviewed book, *Active Pieces: Practical Advice from America’s Most Relentless Tournament Player* (Mongoose Press), also available from US Chess Sales.

“Jay was tough!” Hall of Famer GM John Fedorowicz said, noting their hundreds of games. “With today’s rules, Jay would be a GM. And chess players loved that guy. We’d drink a beer together and talk sports.” Often the friendly jibes were Yankees versus Mets.

Jay mused darkly about new outbreaks and shutdowns, some near to his home, as the weather gets colder and people congregate inside. In the past, he’s reacted badly to the standard flu shot. “I got a bad cough that would surely get me barred today.” Would he get a future COVID-19 vaccine? “I might.”

What would it be like for Jay when the coronavirus no longer dictates how we live and play chess?

“Like being freed from a prison!”

## CATALAN OPENING (E05)

IM Jay Bonin (2298)  
Pedro Espinoza (2129)  
Washington Square Swiss (3), 10.03.2020  
Annotations by Jay Bonin

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. c4 e6 4. g3 Be7 5. Bg2 0-0 6. 0-0 dxc4 7. Na3

I needed to win this game, having lost earlier to Anthony Kozikowski who organizes these wonderful events. My opponent plays

the conservative...

7. ... c5 8. Nxc4 Nc6 9. dxc5 Bxc5 10. a3 a5 11. b3 Qe7

I would have welcomed a queen trade. I like queenless middlegames against young players.

12. Bb2 Rd8 13. Qc2 Bd7 14. Rfc1 Rac8 15. e3 h6 16. Qe2 b5

Weakening, but what can Black do? My c4-knight is annoying.

17. Nce5 Nxe5 18. Nxe5 Be8 19. Rc2 Bb6



Black is running out of constructive moves already. Now I take over the light squares.

20. Nc6 Bxc6 21. Bxc6 b4 22. a4 h5 23. Rac1

Completing my development. Black’s next move makes my task easier.

23. ... e5 24. Qb5, and White soon won.

I win a pawn by force as 24. Qb5 Bc7 is met by 25. Bb7 winning lots of material. I won the game in a few more moves, and went 3/4 for the tournament to finish in second place.

## AN ALCHEMIST’S DREAM

Alan Stolyarov (1926)  
IM Jay Bonin (2302)  
Washington Square Swiss (2), 10.14.2020



BLACK TO MOVE

It’s amazing how I conjure something out of nothing in this position.

1. ... Ng4 2. Bg3 f5 3. Nc3 f4 4. h3 fxg3 5. hxc4 gxf2+ 6. Rxf2 Rxf2 7. Kxf2 e5 8. d5 Qxg4 9. Ne4 cxd5 10. cxd5 Rf8+ 11. Kg1 Rf4 12. d6 Bd8 13. Qd5+ Kh7 14. Nf2 Bb6 15. Rf1 e4 16. Qxb7 Bxf2+ 17. Rxf2 Qd1+ 18. Kh2 Rh4+ 19. Kg3 Qg4, mate. ♖



A photograph of four individuals—three men and one woman—posed in front of a backdrop of large, golden chess pieces. The man in the center foreground is wearing a blue polo shirt and a lanyard with a badge that reads "John Rockefeller" and "Chair, Government Committee". The other three individuals are dressed in business attire. The background is dark with a blue gradient, and the chess pieces are illuminated from behind, creating a dramatic effect.

# JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER V Donates \$3 Million TO US CHESS

*Transformative gift creates four events  
and enhances existing ones* By DAN LUCAS



Many dates stand out in US Chess history:

- **In 1939 the US Chess Federation was formed by the merger of the American Chess Federation and the National Chess Federation.**
- **In 1972 Bobby Fischer won the World Chess Championship.**
- **In 2008 the Saint Louis Chess Club opened, changing the landscape of American chess.**
- **In 2014 US Chess became a 501(c)(3).**

These were all transformative events in the history of our organization; to this list we can now add:

- **In 2020 John D. Rockefeller V donates three million dollars to US Chess to create new invitational events and enhance existing ones, making this the largest single gift ever made to US Chess.**

It is impossible to overstate the importance to US Chess of Rockefeller's unprecedented generosity and his vote of confidence in the future of our organization. The donation creates four events, enhances three existing events, renames one, adds to the scholarship funds for the scholastic events, and creates a book fund to further strengthen the invitationals. The endowments ensure the tournaments will be run and the funds will be awarded in perpetuity. This all directly speaks to our educational mission to "empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess."

US Chess Development Director Geoff Isaak says, "Occasionally a gift comes along that can potentially transform an organization, taking it from where it's been, to where it needs to be in the future. The endowments that John has created, as well as his pledge to invest in future events, are such gifts. John's extraordinary generosity provides an enduring foundation on which to further build our scholastic program.

The impact of this gift will, quite literally, be felt for generations to come." The lineup is:

- **John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions (started 2020)**
- **GM Maurice Ashley National Tournament of K-3 State Champions (to begin by 2030)**
- **Paul Morphy National Tournament of K-1 State Champions (to begin by 2030)**
- **John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions (renames the existing event in 2021)**
- **FM Sunil Weeramantry National Blitz Tournament of State Champions (started 2020)**
- **John D. Rockefeller IV State Invitationals Scholarship Fund (to begin by 2030)**
- **Sharon Percy Rockefeller State Invitationals Books Fund (to begin in 2021)**

The gifts for the invitationals are not closed funds; they are open funds to which anyone can contribute, potentially enhancing these important events even further. Rockefeller has already donated \$624,000 to US Chess, with the rest pledged in a structured manner over the next 25 years. Should this all come due tomorrow due to an unforeseen circumstance, the value of the gift is three million dollars; should the funds continue to funnel to US Chess through 2045, the ultimate gift value will be \$4.1 million. The other prominent state championship invitational events — the GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions, the Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions, and the WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions — continue and will benefit from the enhanced scholarship prizes and book funds.

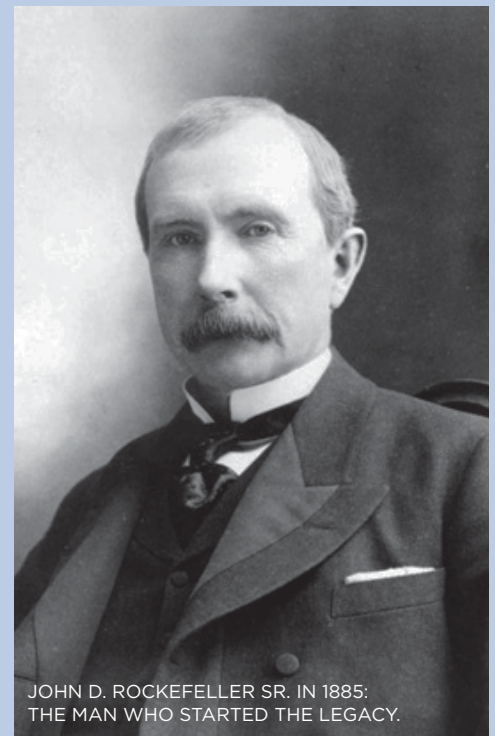
## Who is John D. Rockefeller V?

"The Rockefeller family is an American industrial, political, and banking family that owns one of the world's largest fortunes." (*Wikipedia.com*) But this prominent, historic American family happens to include a chess guy — John Davison Rockefeller V of Maryland. He is a chess dad, Scholastic Director of the Maryland Chess Association, and active volunteer helping US Chess, especially as chair of the Development Committee and vice-chair of the Scholastic Council. He has lived in Baltimore, Maryland since 1995.

Rockefeller (all future references to John D. Rockefeller V will simply state "Rockefeller"; other family members will be specifically named) was born in West Virginia in 1969, one of four siblings. He is the son of John Davison "Jay" Rockefeller IV and Sharon Percy Rockefeller; his father was governor of and U.S. senator from West Virginia, and his mother is the Chief Executive Officer of the Washington, D.C. public TV and radio station WETA.

Rockefeller picks up the story himself: "After graduating from college in 1992, I was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany and lived there until 1995. By then I spoke German more fluently than English. In 1995 I declined acceptance into the doctoral program of the German department at Johns Hopkins University because I knew I wanted to teach American literature. So, I entered Hopkins's Writing Seminars department and later transitioned to the English department. In 2009 I earned a Ph.D. in American Literature from Johns Hopkins. I continued teaching until 2015 — several years as a Lecturer for the Writing Seminars department and several years as an Assistant Professor of American Literature and American History at Johns Hopkins's Peabody Institute."

Like so many adults who played as a child — a treasured family photo from 1977 shows him playing with his grandfather — eventually Rockefeller found his way back to chess as an adult, in his case influenced by his children: "In the summer of 2008, just



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER SR. IN 1885:  
THE MAN WHO STARTED THE LEGACY.

THE ROCKEFELLER FAMILY (OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT): JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III (GRANDFATHER), JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER V, SENATOR JOHN D. "JAY" ROCKEFELLER IV (FATHER), SHARON PERCY ROCKEFELLER (MOTHER).

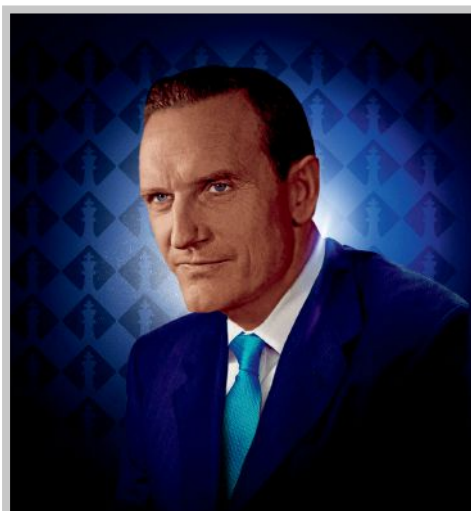
before I sat down at a chess board with my daughters (who were six and eight) for the first time, I distinctly remember not being sure whether I could recall how all the pieces move. I was 38, hadn't touched a chess set in 26 years, had never played in a tournament, and didn't remember whether queenside castling was legal. A few weeks later I co-founded and started coaching the chess club at my daughters' all-girls school. I first heard of *en passant* only after I had started coaching, and it was not until my second year as a coach that I could explain it reliably."

Rockefeller coached at his children's schools for a decade. He found himself to be an enthusiastic coach but soon learned that his true talent lay in organizing tournaments. In 2010 he became the scholastic director for Maryland Chess, giving him responsibility for organizing 21 annual scholastic tournaments, eventually overseeing

some 200 events during his tenure. He is a senior tournament director with 125 events directed as of September, 2020.

"The major asset I bring to tournament organizing," Rockefeller explains, "is that I remember the helpless feeling of being a first-time, clueless chess parent at a K-12 tournament, staring bewilderedly with barely any comprehension at wallcharts and yet responsible for getting several kids to their boards multiple times a day. When I design Maryland Chess's online tournament announcement pages and post hard-copy section details by the wallcharts and standings, I try to anticipate and answer all the questions first-time parents might have. I write Maryland Chess's K-12 web pages, administer K-12 online registrations, and handle K-12 correspondence. In 2011 I introduced increment time controls to nearly all of our K-12 tournaments. As far as I know, Maryland was the first state affiliate

## Events and initiatives created by the Rocke



### JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III

#### NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

**WHO:** John D. Rockefeller III (1906-1978) was Rockefeller's paternal grandfather. A philanthropist, he founded the Population Council in 1952, led the reconstituted Japan Society from 1952-1978, established the Asia Society in 1956, and spearheaded the development of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in the 1950s and 1960s.

**WHY:** Rockefeller says, "One day my daughters and I played what might have been our 500th game of Connect 4. Clearly, it was time for us to find a new game. I thought of a picture of my grandfather and me playing chess and decided to give chess a try. But by 2008 I hadn't played chess in 25 years and wasn't sure I could remember how all the pieces move. I soon fell back in love with chess all over again. Within days a friend and I started planning a chess club at our daughters' all-girls school, and within two months I competed in my first tournament."

**DETAILS:** This event for K-5 state champions from throughout the U.S. began in 2020.



### GM MAURICE ASHLEY

#### NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF K-3 STATE CHAMPIONS

**WHO:** Maurice Ashley (b. 1966) is the first Black grandmaster, achieving this status in 1999. He is in the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, inducted in 2016. Born in Jamaica, his family moved to the U.S. when he was 12. Ashley has received multiple community service awards from city governments, universities, and community groups for his work.

**WHY:** Rockefeller admires Ashley's charisma and swagger when commenting on chess events, and how it is balanced by his humble, self-effacing nature. In his Hall of Fame acceptance speech, he called himself the least accomplished of his siblings; his sister was a boxing world champion, and his brother was a kickboxing world champion. He has devoted time, energy, and resources to promoting chess on the African continent. Further, Rockefeller says, "It is my honor to endow the Ashley tournament during the Trump era."

**DETAILS:** Already fully funded, the event will begin by 2030.

in the country to make 30-second increment time controls the standard for top sections at all boilerplate K-12 tournaments, as well as at state championships.

“As the strength of our players steadily improved during my first eight years with Maryland chess, we introduced new sections with dramatically higher floors and ceilings for our top sections. The Varsity section of our standard one-day tournaments draws players from several neighboring states because it has a floor of 1600 (which we enforce strictly) and features only two rounds of G90 +30 games. I’m proud to have helped cultivate a greater appreciation for slow chess in the Mid-Atlantic. Since 2012 Maryland Chess has run the Greater Mid-Atlantic Chess Championship, one of the five major scholastic tournaments sponsored by the Kasparov Chess Foundation.”

With such a background, it is no surprise that Rockefeller looked

for a way to marry his philanthropic heritage with his love of championship chess. This created the germ of an idea over a series of lengthy discussions with our Executive Director, Carol Meyer. (This should be noted by anyone interested in creating a new national event via a donation: Bring your proposal to the Executive Director first.) Meyer was increasingly impressed during these discussions, saying, “John’s enthusiasm for scholastic chess is virtually unmatched. He is an unwavering optimist, believing in the transformative power of the game to improve the lives of young players through competition, study, and friendships. US Chess and our community are grateful for his leadership giving and vision, which will extend invitational chess tournaments to more players across the various ages of membership.”

The idea crystallized into the following events and initiatives, detailed over these pages.

## *feller three million dollar donation*



### **PAUL MORPHY**

#### **NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF K-1 STATE CHAMPIONS**

**WHO:** Paul Morphy (1837-1884) was born and died in New Orleans. Popularly known as the “Pride and the Sorrow of Chess” (called such because of his brilliant but short career), Morphy became America’s first (though unofficial) world chess champion, after defeating Adolf Anderssen in an 1858 match.

**WHY:** Rockefeller has a charming personal connection to Paul Morphy as a historical reference. As he used to walk his daughters to school and home from their weekly chess club, they would take turns calling out moves from various famous games, including Morphy’s “Opera House” game from 1858. Further, Rockefeller sees the Morphy and Ashley events almost as a pair due to the honorees both being “American world firsts.”

**DETAILS:** The event will begin by 2030, with full funding pledged by 2024.



### **FM SUNIL WEERAMANTRY**

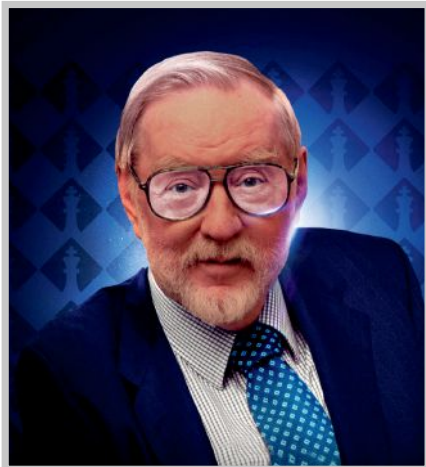
#### **NATIONAL BLITZ TOURNAMENT OF STATE CHAMPIONS**

**WHO:** Sunil Weeramantry (b.1951) has an extensive history as a volunteer with US Chess. Originally from Sri Lanka, he has become well known as the stepfather of GM Hikaru Nakamura, but he has his own stellar career as a coach, notably having started the Hunter College Campus School chess program in New York in 1979 and having founded the National Scholastic Chess Foundation in 1990.

**WHY:** Rockefeller and Weeramantry have been friends since meeting at the 2010 All-Girls National Championship. Rockefeller has been profoundly influenced by Weeramantry’s books *Best Lessons of a Chess Coach* and *Great Moves: Learning Chess Through History*.

**DETAILS:** This event began in 2020. All participants from the state championship events are invited to take part in this fun event that will kick off the festivities each year.



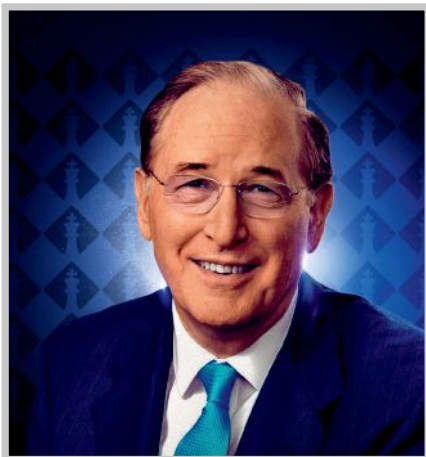


## JOHN T. IRWIN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

**WHO:** Irwin (1940-2019) was an American poet and literary historian and poet. He was the Decker Professor in the Humanities and professor in The Writing Seminars and the English department at Johns Hopkins University. (~Wikipedia)

**WHY:** After taking a “Poe & Baudelaire” course in college, Rockefeller read Irwin’s *American Hieroglyphics: The Symbol of the Egyptian Hieroglyphics in the American Renaissance*, and it “blew me away,” Rockefeller says. He went on to write his senior thesis on Poe’s “The Gold-Bug” and referenced Irwin’s work extensively. This led to a meeting between the two at Johns Hopkins. Rockefeller fleshes out the story, adding, “While at Hopkins I read at least 10 times Irwin’s *The Mystery to a Solution: Poe, Borges, and the Analytical Detective Story*, which traces the influence of chess in their fiction. Irwin estimated himself to be an 1800-level player. In 1965 while he was an ensign in the Navy stationed in Hawaii and working in cryptography, Irwin finished second at the Oahu Championship after a particularly strong Smith-Morra Gambit in the Sicilian Defense. He included the notation as a footnote in his book.”

**DETAILS:** This event began in 2018 and will continue under the same format but with this new name, with full funding pledged by 2024.



## JOHN D. “JAY” ROCKEFELLER IV STATE INVATIONALS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**WHO:** John D. “Jay” Rockefeller IV is Rockefeller’s father. Born in 1937, he served as a United States Senator from West Virginia from 1985–2015. He was first elected to the Senate in 1984 while in office as Governor of West Virginia, where he served from 1977–85.

**WHY:** Rockefeller has fond memories of tossing the frisbee with his father in the 1970s, which he thinks of while throwing the Aerobie (a ring-style frisbee) with his son John, also a chess player. He would also roughhouse with his dad outside and play math games with him at the dinner table. Jay would eventually help steer National Chess Day to passage in the Senate in 2010. He was our “My Best Move” subject in the October, 2017 issue.

**DETAILS:** This fund expands invitationals college scholarship prizes for all the scholastic events (not the seniors) for first through fifth places. Rockefeller is expanding the prizes so that first place is \$5,000, second place is \$4,000, third place is \$3,000, fourth place is \$2,000 and fifth place is \$1,000. With this gift second and third place are increased, and fourth and fifth place are added.



## SHARON PERCY ROCKEFELLER STATE INVATIONALS BOOKS FUND







**WHO:** Sharon Percy Rockefeller (b. 1944) is Rockefeller’s mother. She is the chief executive officer of the Washington, D.C. public TV and radio station WETA and was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2019, as “a renowned champion of the arts, a generous supporter of charity, and a pioneer of new ideas and approaches in the field of public policy.”

**WHY:** During the current pandemic, Rockefeller decided to read Sunil Weeramantry’s *Great Moves: Learning Chess Through History*, and doing so during a time of such suffering in the U.S. and the world reminded him of life’s fragility, a lesson he had previously experienced following his own health scare in 2017 (from which he fully recovered). Creating a gift agreement such as this one could be done more speedily than revising his will. His mother is an avid reader.

**DETAILS:** This will be a recurring six-year cycle of books for 371 players in the seven invitationals events that take place at the U.S. Open. A different group of books will be given to the participants each year; the year one list is made up of books focusing on Morphy and the early history of chess.

## Other Notable Gifts to US Chess in 2019-2020

In addition to Rockefeller's gift, US Chess has been the grateful recipient of several other notable donations this past year. The scope and impact of these generous contributions are significant. Some address the immediate needs of US Chess programs, while other gifts anticipate future needs of the organization. This level of commitment to US Chess is a humbling testament to the confidence and trust our donors place in us to carry out our important mission, for which we are truly honored.

-  **ANONYMOUS:** An anonymous gift was made this year in the amount of \$104,445 to ensure that US Chess is represented at FIDE governance meetings. Our gratitude for this gift and its importance cannot be overstated. We are always thankful for donors who understand that sometimes there are obscure but essential and worthy costs.
-  **SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB:** Our abiding partnership and shared interests with the Saint Louis Chess Club make it a vital relationship in the United States chess community. Their steadfast support over the years has been instrumental in the success of important US Chess programs and tournaments. Their financial contribution over the years to US Chess is inestimable. This year alone, they made combined gifts of \$125,000, benefiting Women and Girls in Chess, and \$31,500 for the online Olympiad sponsorship.
-  **THE HERBERT B. JACLYN TRUST:** Dr. Herbert B. Jacklyn was a US Chess member and life-long chess player who felt that young, promising chess players should continue to develop their skills as they transition into adulthood. Dr. Jacklyn passed away in March of 2020 at the age of 95, but not before he gifted \$150,000 to US Chess through his estate plan by creating an endowment to help develop worthy chess players between the ages of 18 and 21.
-  **THE DANE E. HINRICHSSEN TRUST:** Dane Hinrichsen included US Chess in his estate plan by making an unrestricted gift of \$50,000. This allowed US Chess to use it where it is most needed. In this case, it was added to the US Chess Endowment.
-  **AMERICAN INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION (AIE):** Sending our World Cadet, World Youth, and U-16 Olympiad delegations abroad to compete is a pricey proposition. AIE recognized this and generously stepped up by donating \$23,000 for team uniforms. Team uniforms play an important role in the morale and confidence of young players.
-  **RICHARD AND BARBARA SCHIFFRIN:** Women and Girls in Chess is a US Chess program that continues to garner considerable attention and support. The Schifffrins have been dedicated partners in a mutual quest to realize gender equity in the game of chess. They recently made a combined gift of \$50,000 to help fund the U.S. Women's Rapid Chess Championship, as well as the WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions.


If you have questions about making a tax-deductible gift to US Chess or have considered including US Chess in a planned gift or estate plan, please email us at [development@uschess.org](mailto:development@uschess.org), or call the Development Office at (931) 787-3429. Remember, for those interested in donating to US Chess, gifts made specifically to US Chess are the only funds guaranteed to be used for US Chess programs.

## THERE IS A PATH FOR ALL

Rockefeller's journey from playing chess with his grandfather to major donor to US Chess illustrates a key fact about our organization: No matter what your interest area in chess, there is a path to participation for you. Rated play is only the most visible aspect of US Chess. Be it playing, reading, organizing, volunteering, or philanthropy, there is an entryway into US Chess where you can make your mark and help the organization grow.

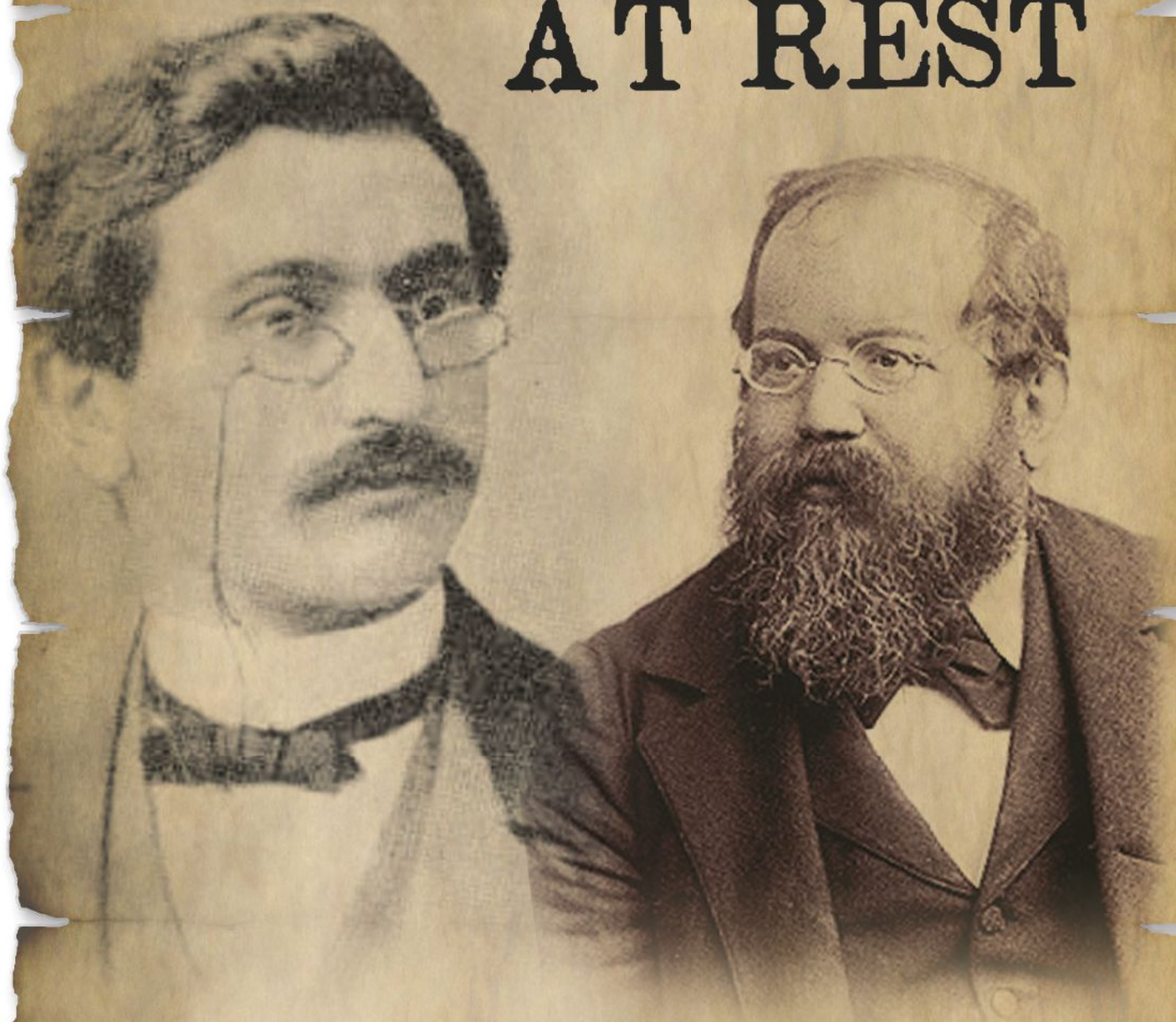
But this article, published in this giving season, especially celebrates the donation route. The Rockefeller family's philanthropic legacy dates back over a hundred years, to when John D. Rockefeller Sr. established the Rockefeller Foundation in 1913. In its Winter 2013 edition, *Philanthropy Magazine* wrote of [Rockefeller Sr.], "His charitable giving has continued for generations after his death, and his resources still work to promote the well-being of mankind." This is potentially a difficult burden to bear when you are the fifth namesake of the foundation's architect!

Rockefeller V says, "Because of my name, I'm very aware of my family legacy. However, I have always felt a bit disconnected from the older generation. Because I lost my grandfather [when I was eight years old] it made me think, not what do I want my legacy to be, but how can I help ensure that other kids and parents will have these great relationships, great opportunities. It's such an amazing thing to see so many parents and grandparents walking their adorable, young munchkins to the board at the start of a round. I had that experience with my three kids, but my grandfather never had that opportunity with me. I wish he had lived long enough to take me to my first tournament as a kid.

"Using wealth to shape the future is something Rockefellers have done for a long time. Starting in August of 2019, but especially during the first two months of COVID-19 in America, I decided it was time for me to do my part to continue the family legacy. I've never done anything approaching this scale of giving." 



# PUGILISTS AT REST



Visiting LASKER and STEINITZ  
at their final resting places

By IM YURY LAPSHUN and FM JON JACOBS



When people entertain “American” and “World Chess Champion” in the same breath, the first name that springs to mind is GM Bobby Fischer. Those whose chess knowledge extends to further back in time will also think of Paul Morphy. Others, attuned to the immediate past and America’s hopes for the future, may think of GM Fabiano Caruana or perhaps GMs Hikaru Nakamura or Jeffrey Xiong.

It may come as a surprise, then, that the very first two recognized World Chess Champions lived out their final years in the United States and are buried in New York City, within a mere mile of each other. In fact, the first champion, William Steinitz, was a U.S. citizen not only upon his death in 1900, but while contesting five of his six official world title matches.

Steinitz made a permanent move to New York from London in 1883 and became a naturalized citizen five years later. His successor as champion, Emanuel Lasker, resided in New York from 1892-94 (during which time he wrested the title from Steinitz), again from 1902-1911, and again for the final years of his life, from 1937-1941, after fleeing from Nazi Germany and later leaving the Soviet Union.

These champions’ final resting places are situated in separate but adjacent cemeteries that straddle the dividing line between the New York boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Although the cemeteries are easy to locate, it is a challenge to find one’s way to the graves themselves as the cemetery maps do not display individual grave locations. We have prepared this article to assist *Chess Life* readers who may wish to pay respects to the two giants of chess history when visiting New York.

## STEINITZ’S GRAVE

Steinitz’s grave is marked by a box-shaped headstone whose flat summit is decorated by an etched-in chessboard, as if in death he hoped to test his famous aphorism that even God couldn’t defeat him.

The Evergreens Cemetery, where Steinitz lies, sprawls across 225 acres and houses the remains of a half-million people. Opened in 1850, it is non-denominational and is divided into sections for various religions and ethnic groups. Steinitz’s grave is in a section called Bethel Slope.

The main entrance gate is situated at 1629 Bushwick Avenue at Conway Street, Brooklyn, near the northern terminus of Eastern Parkway and the southern terminus of the Jackie Robinson Parkway. The grounds are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. The cemetery office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and is closed Sundays. (*visit theevergreencemetery.org before visiting as operating hours may have changed during the pandemic. ~ed.*)

The nearest major subway station is Broadway Junction, served by the A, C, J, and L lines. Leave the station via the Van Sinderen Avenue exit, walk left a short distance to Broadway and bear left, then take the first right onto Conway Street. After ascending one long block to Bushwick Avenue, you will see the entrance gate.

Inside, continue up the main road until you see a gray stone chapel that houses the cemetery office in front and rest rooms around the back. Bear left, passing the chapel/office on your right, and a gazebo-like structure and Chinese headstones on your left. Upon reaching a circle marked by a Memory Gardens sign, turn right into the circle and bear left at the first fork (near Foale mausoleum), continuing along the circle. Turn left at the Bethany street sign, just beyond a tall monument at left whose base reads, “Homberger.” Proceeding along Bethany street, you will see a sign on the left reading, “Grave of William Steinitz / First World Chess Champion.” It was placed

there by Kurt Landsberger, a Steinitz descendant who wrote or edited two important books about the champion.

Head left at the sign and walk across the lawn among the headstones. After approximately 200 feet you will see Steinitz’s headstone. It is an unusual, rectangular shape, and its square flat summit bears an engraved chessboard angled toward the approaching visitor. Engraved beneath the chessboard are the German words depicted in the photo, which translate to, “Here rests in peace William Steinitz, Born 14 March 1837, Died 12 August 1900.” On the day we visited, the board held a small stone left by a well-wisher — an ancient Jewish mourning tradition with many possible interpretations.

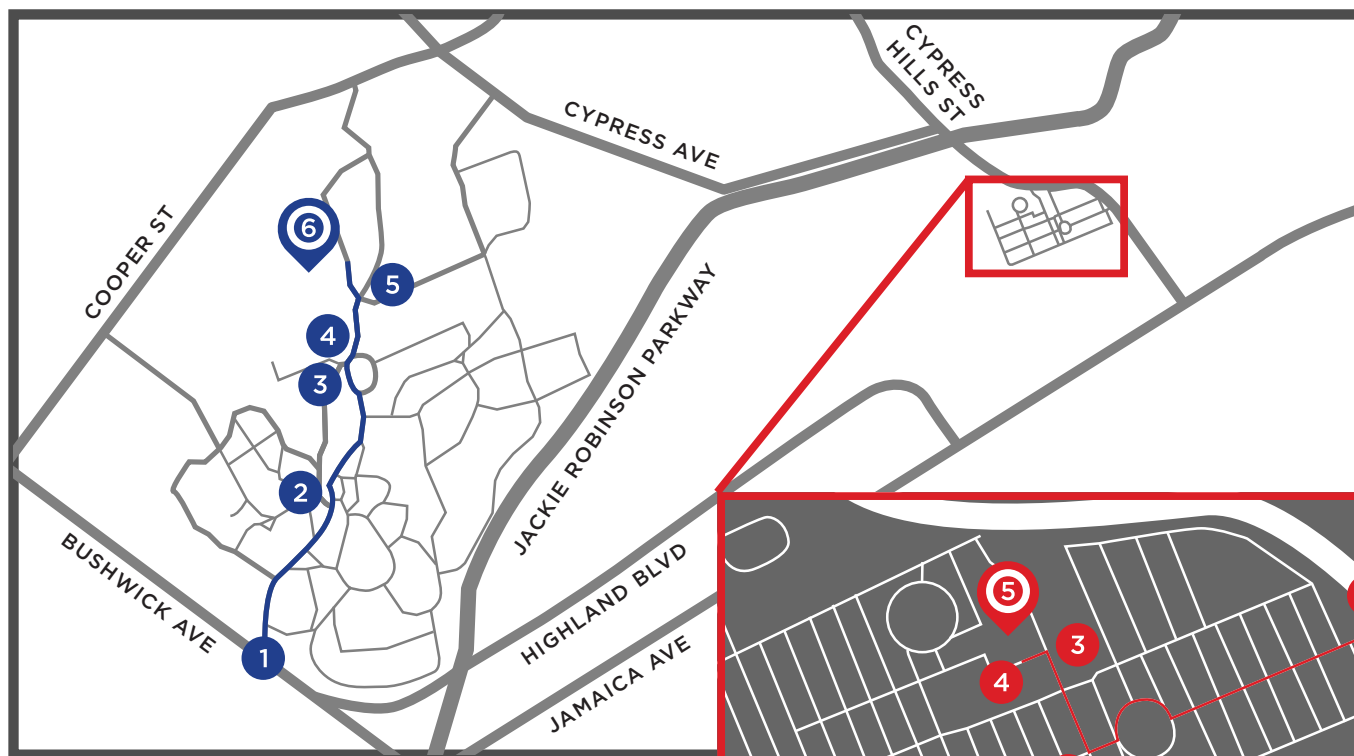
The birth year displayed on the headstone is inaccurate; published sources agree that Steinitz was born in 1836. (At birth Steinitz bore the name Wolf, which he later changed to Wilhelm and eventually to the anglicized William.) His exact date of birth is also subject to some controversy since Steinitz himself once wrote that he was born on May 17th. However, a birth registry on a Czech government website and Steinitz’s U.S. passport application both give the date as May 14th.

A series of grave numbers etched into curb stones along the left-hand side of Bethany Street provide another pointer about where to turn off the street to find Steinitz’s grave. However, the sign

directing visitors to the grave displays an incorrect number, 5893; the actual grave number is 5896.

The chessboard that crowns Steinitz’s headstone displays chessmen etched onto four of its squares: a king on e4, queen on a8, rook on d5, and knight on a5, along with a plus (+) sign on e5. Although the pieces’ colors are not evident and they do not comprise a legal chess position, the display might nevertheless signify that in death Steinitz finally got the opportunity to test his famous boast.





## WILLIAM STEINITZ'S GRAVE



### 1. EVERGREEN CEMETERY GATE

Bushwick Avenue and Conway Street, Brooklyn, New York



### 2. CEMETERY OFFICE

Bear left and continue past the office on your right and the Chinese headstones on your left



### 3. "MEMORY GARDENS"

Turn right at two-stage sign whose lower panel reads "Memory Gardens"



### 4. FOALE MAUSOLEUM

Bear left at the mausoleum marked "Foale"



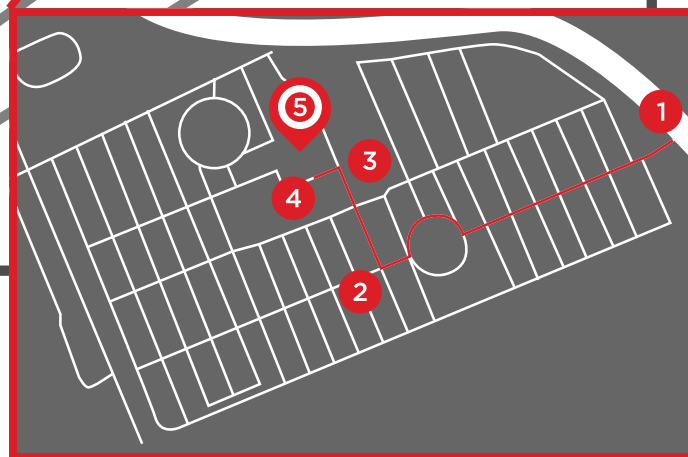
### 5. BETHANY STREET

Go left at Bethany Street



### 6. STEINITZ'S GRAVE

Follow the sign on the left side of the road to arrive at Steinitz's grave



## EMANUEL LASKER'S GRAVE



### 1. BETH OLAM CEMETERY

Enter via south entrance on Cypress Hills Street, Brooklyn, New York



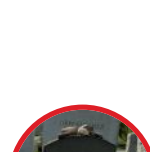
### 2. BERNSTEIN MAUSOLEUM

Upon leaving the circle, turn right onto the street just past the mausoleum marked "Zion D. Bernstein"



### 3. HEDGES

Turn left onto the narrow path a short distance beyond hedges and tree



### 4. FOURTH ROW

Turn right onto grass ahead of the fourth row of parallel headstones to the right of the concrete path



### 5. LASKER'S HEADSTONE

Lasker's headstone stands about 60 feet from the concrete path

## LASKER'S GRAVE

A simpler, more traditional headstone marks the grave of Emanuel Lasker. The multiple stones resting on its crest when we visited suggest that admirers from the chess world still come by to pay their respects to the man who held the chess crown for almost 27 years after dethroning Steinitz in 1894.

Lasker is buried in Beth Olam Cemetery, one of a dozen or more memorial parks placed side-by-side in a three-mile stretch of northeastern Brooklyn and southwestern Queens. The three Manhattan synagogues that established Beth Olam in the 1850s continue to jointly manage it as well as host active congregations. A fraction of Evergreens' size, Beth Olam occupies a little over 12 acres and holds almost 8,000 graves. Lasker lies in the section administered by Congregation Shearith Israel, in Row 24, Grave 81. Other eminent people buried in Beth Olam include Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo and Emma Lazarus, the author of the poem affixed to the base of the Statue of Liberty.

The following directions lead to Lasker's grave site from the "lower" or southeastern entrance, one of two entrance gates situated on different portions of Cypress Hills Street between the Jackie Robinson Parkway and Jamaica Avenue. That entrance is not marked with the Beth Olam name, but displays only a weathered, obsolete metal plaque on its right-hand stone pillar and the number "13" spray-painted in black on its left-hand pillar.

If driving, take the Cypress Hills Street exit (Exit 3) from the Jackie Robinson Parkway and go right, heading southeast along Cypress Hills Street. The entrance will be the second gate on your right. Note that the published address for Beth Olam Cemetery, 2 Cypress Hills Street, does not correspond with any existing building and might not work properly in a vehicle's GPS. Driving is not permitted within the cemetery, but visitors can park in the traffic circle near either entrance.

By public transportation, Beth Olam can be reached via the B13 bus line along Cypress Hills Street (get off either at Cypress Avenue and

walk south, or at Jamaica Avenue and walk north), or by taking the J train to Cypress Hills station. From the subway station, walk southwest on Jamaica Avenue to Cypress Hills Street, turn right, continue a few blocks, and look for the unmarked cemetery entrance on your left.

As of this writing, due to the pandemic, visits to Beth Olam are available by appointment only until further notice. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting Rev. Zachary Edinger at [zedinger@shearithisrael.org](mailto:zedinger@shearithisrael.org) or by calling (212) 873-0300 ext. 216 and leaving a message.

Upon entering the gate, mausoleums marked "Aaron Buchsbaum" and "Sylvester" will be visible to the left of the road, and one marked "Leipzig" will be visible at right. At the end of the uphill road is a circle with two tall vertical monuments standing at its far end. Proceed beyond the far end of the circle and make a quick right onto the pathway just beyond the first mausoleum, marked "Zion D. Bernstein." Continue on that pathway, passing a row of hedges at right followed by a sturdy tree. Roughly 20 feet beyond the tree, turn left onto a narrow concrete walking path. Upon reaching the fourth row of parallel headstones to the right of the concrete path, turn right, leaving the concrete path.

After walking approximately 60 feet along the grass between the third and fourth rows, you will see Emanuel Lasker's headstone. It is dark and glossy, contrasting with the mostly light gray

limestone headstones in its vicinity. The relatively small grave marker displays no text but Lasker's name, beneath two Hebrew letter that signify "Here lies." A much larger stone immediately behind Lasker's, marked "Oppenheimer," may be useful as a landmark to find Lasker's headstone. (The individual beneath the large headstone, Heinz Ernst Oppenheimer, most likely bears no relation to Ludwig Leon Oppenheimer, Lasker's brother-in-law who was murdered by Nazis in Auschwitz in 1944. The surname match is coincidental.)



## STEINITZ'S LIFE AND CHESS CAREER

Best known as chess's first official world champion, Wilhelm (William) Steinitz was far more than that. He can lay claim to being the founder of chess as we know it: a contest whose outcome in every case reflects actions taken by both sides, never by the winner alone. Steinitz taught that successful attacks grew out of advantages nurtured through positional play, looking beyond the older Romantic approach that had envisioned combinations as independent creations of a player's brilliant mind. He made the first systematic attempts to develop a theory of structural and dynamic factors and how they should dictate both sides' subsequent conduct of the game.

Steinitz was born in 1836 into a Jewish family in Prague, then part of the Austrian Empire. He developed into one of the world's best while in his twenties, after moving to Vienna and then London. Many chess authorities today unofficially date the start of his reign

to an 1866 match victory over Adolf Anderssen, who was widely regarded as the world number one after Paul Morphy withdrew from competition.

Steinitz first claimed the title of world champion 20 years later after defeating Johannes Zukertort in a 20-game match divided among New York, Saint Louis, and New Orleans. That first official world title match took place in 1886, three years after Steinitz had left London to take up permanent residence in New York. He went on to become a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1888.

After successfully defending his title in two matches with Mikhail Chigorin and one with Isidore Gunsberg, Steinitz at age 58 was dethroned by Emanuel Lasker in an 1894 match. Soon after losing a rematch against Lasker in Moscow in 1896-97, Steinitz reportedly suffered a mental breakdown and was involuntarily confined to a



Moscow mental hospital for more than a month. His mental state fell under a cloud again two years later when he reportedly experienced delusions while returning by ship from the London 1899 international tournament and at home in New York early the next year. Commitment to a series of mental hospitals followed beginning in February

1900. Steinitz died in the state mental hospital on Ward's Island on August 12, 1900, from "chronic endocardia (mitral stenosis)" and "acute melancholia" according to the death certificate. He was then nearly penniless; the German Press Club paid for his funeral and the German-inscribed headstone that marks his grave.

### LASKER'S LIFE AND CHESS CAREER

Emanuel Lasker was born in 1868 to a Jewish family in what was then the Prussian province of Brandenburg but is now part of Poland. His father worked as a carpenter but also served as a synagogue cantor, and his grandfather had been a rabbi. A childhood gift for mathematics led his parents to send the 11-year old boy to a top-quality high school some 140 miles away in Berlin, where Lasker's older brother Berthold was a medical student.

In his first foreign event, Amsterdam 1889, the 20-year old Lasker came in second behind Amos Burn. After a string of tournament and match victories in England, Austria, and Germany, he made his first of several extended visits to America. During that eventful two-year sojourn the fast-rising star secured and won a world championship match against Steinitz.

The 1894 Lasker-Steinitz match, like Steinitz-Zukertort some eight years earlier, was divided among three North American cities, starting with New York. When it wrapped in Montreal, the 25-year old challenger had bested the 58-year old incumbent by a decisive margin: 10 wins, four draws, and five losses.

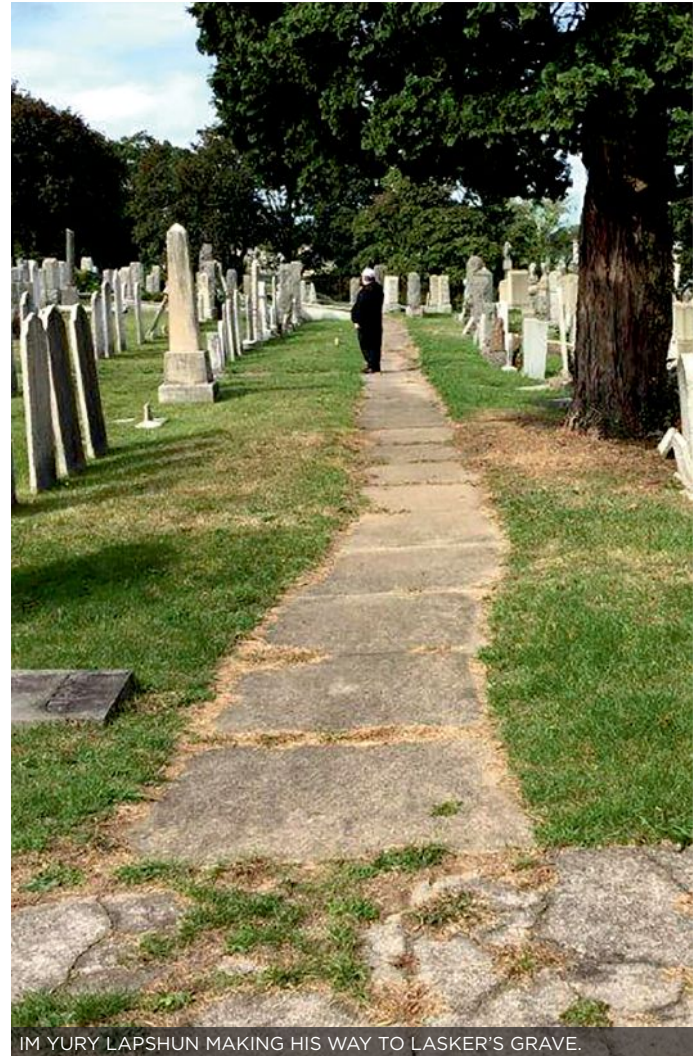
Lasker successfully defended his title against Steinitz in a 1896-97 rematch and in later matches with Frank Marshall (1907), Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch (1908), Carl Schlechter (1910), and David Janowski (1910). During that period, he negotiated match terms with at least three other challengers (Géza Maróczy, José Raúl Capablanca, and Akiba Rubinstein) that didn't bear fruit. While still residing in America, Lasker married Martha Bamberger Cohn in Berlin in July 1911. The couple then moved back to Germany and purchased land outside Berlin.

Lasker retained the world championship title for almost 27 years, until a 1921 title match with Capablanca that he resigned due to ill health while trailing with four losses and 10 draws out of 14 games. In 1933 the Nazis seized Lasker's property in and around Berlin and he fled to England. His older sister Theophila Hedwig Lasker later died in a gas chamber in the Sobibor Nazi death camp.

Lasker and his wife Martha relocated to Moscow in 1935 with support from Nikolai Krylenko, the Soviet Minister of Justice and a principal architect of Stalin's purges. This coincided with the aged ex-champion's participation in two top-level international tournaments in Moscow in 1935 and 1936. He was given a Moscow apartment, a university appointment in mathematics and honorary membership in the USSR Academy of Sciences, and a paid position training the national chess team.

In late 1937, the Laskers traveled to the U.S. to spend time with Martha's daughter from her first marriage and her grandchildren. According to a detailed account presented in Martha's unpublished memoirs, the visit became a permanent move after Martha, age 70, fell ill and her doctors warned that she could not survive a return voyage to Europe. Emanuel himself fell sick in late 1940 and died on January 11, 1941, reportedly from a kidney infection while a charity patient in New York's Mount Sinai Hospital.

Lengthy intervals between some of Lasker's title matches have bred criticism that he dodged opponents by taking a hard line in match negotiations. But his insistence on high fees and other conditions helped pave the way for chess as a professional activity after many of his predecessors had died penniless. Moreover, Lasker was one of the first elite players to make conscious efforts to expand the audience for chess



IM YURY LAPSHUN MAKING HIS WAY TO LASKER'S GRAVE.

by opening his lectures and exhibitions to the general public for a fee.

It was long said that Lasker did not found a well-defined, recognized "school" of chess thought, as did Steinitz, Tarrasch, and Richard Réti. Today, however, Lasker has come to be recognized as a forerunner of the "universal" style: an approach that seamlessly blends strategy with tactics and defense with counterattack. Lasker's focus on pragmatic considerations and active defense, and his use of positional sacrifices also anticipated the Soviet school and held obvious appeal for players such as GMs Viktor Korchnoi and Mikhail Tal, both of whom named him as the greatest player ever.

Besides being a giant of chess history, Lasker also made notable contributions to mathematics. Late in life he competed in international bridge events and wrote books on bridge and other games. He even invented a checkers-like game he named "Lasca." He developed a friendship with Albert Einstein that survived Lasker's publicly disputing the validity of Einstein's theory of relativity.

## ILLUSTRATIVE GAMES

We conclude by showing a game played by Steinitz and one by Lasker during their years as former world champions. The games demonstrate what a powerful punch both men could still deliver at

the board, even at an advanced age and within a year or two of the ends of their lives.

*The notes are by IM Yuri Lapshun.*

## LONDON SYSTEM (D02)

Joseph Henry Blackburne

William Steinitz

London International 1899

In this game from Steinitz's final tournament, a mere 13 months before his death, he throws caution to the wind to annihilate the Englishman Joseph Blackburne, a world-class master and perennial rival who Steinitz had first locked horns with close to 40 years earlier.

**1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bf4 c5 4. e3 Nc6 5. c3**

No, this is not a Magnus Carlsen game from 2020. The London System, it seems, was as fashionable 120 years ago as it is today!

**5. ... Qb6 6. Qc1**

Today it is widely understood that 6. Qb3 is the best response, and that whichever side ends up initiating a queen trade will get the worse of the deal since the rook's activity on a half-open a-file will outweigh the disadvantage of doubled pawns. Consequently, in the modern main line, the white queen retreats after provoking ... c5-c4: 6. ... c4 7. Qc2! Bf5 8. Qc1 e6 9. Nbd2 with equality.

**6. ... Bf5 7. dxc5**

Surrendering the center works out badly for White.

**7. ... Qxc5 8. Nbd2 Rc8 9. Nb3 Qb6 10. Nbd4 Be4**

An aggressive, computer-like reply.

**11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. Nd2?**

A needless retreat that further reduces White's central influence.

**12. ... Bf5 13. Be2 Nd7**

The start of an ambitious plan to target White's Bf4 via pawn advances. 13. ... e6 was the more natural move.

**14. O-O e5 15. Bg3 h5!?**

The simple 15. ... Be7 is a good move for humans and computers, but Steinitz is searching for a mating attack.

**16. h3 g5!?** **17. e4**

The best way to challenge Steinitz's wild attack was 17. c4. But Blackburne found another good central thrust.

**17. ... Be6 18. b4**

18. Re1 could support White's counterplay in the center.

**18. ... g4 19. h4 Bh6 20. a4?!**

Until this time-wasting idea, the chances still were closely balanced.

Preferable is either the solid 20. Qc2 followed by Rad1, or the ambitious 20. Re1 dxe4 21. Qc2 f5 22. Nxe4!? fxe4 23. Qxe4 Ke7 (White is winning after 23. ... Kf7? 24. Bc4) 24. Bc4 Bd5! (24. ... Bxc4?? 25. Bxe5! wins for White) 25. Bxd5 cxd5 26. Qxd5, reaching a wild position with roughly equal chances according to Stockfish.

**20. ... dxe4 21. a5 Qc7 22. Qc2 f5**

Black has attained an advantage that is growing into a winning position.

**23. Nc4 Bd5 24. Rfd1 f4**

Now the dark-squared white bishop is reduced to just a big pawn.

**25. Bh2 Nf6 26. g3 O-O**

The natural 26. ... f3 would finish entombing the h2-bishop. But the text is even stronger; it's the king that Steinitz aims to entomb.

**27. gxf4 exf4 28. Bf1 Qg7 29. Kh1 e3+**

Among the many winning alternatives here was 29. ... g3.

**30. Rxd5 cxd5 31. Nd6 Ne4 32. Nxe4 dxe4 33. fxe3 g3 34. Bh3 Rxc3 35. Qa2+ Kh8 36. Rg1 Qf6 37. Rd1 gxh2 38. b5 Rxe3 39. b6 axb6 40. a6 f3 41. a7 f2 42. Rf1 Re1 43. Qc4 e3 44. Qe4**

Neither could 44. Bg2 e2 stop three Black pawns on the second rank.

**44. ... e2 45. a8=Q Rxf1+ 46. Kxh2 Qd6+, White resigned.**

Black will meet 47. Kg2 with 47. ... Rg1 mate.

## FRENCH DEFENSE, WINAWER VARIATION (C16)

Emanuel Lasker

Max Demby

Simultaneous exhibition, USA 1939

Emanuel Lasker demonstrates computer-like precision in the following game, played when he was 70 (!) years old and had less than two years left to live. Although the setting was a simultaneous exhibition, Lasker's opponent, Max Demby, was not a typical clueless "N.N." victim. Some 20 years earlier Demby won a tournament in Panama, and close in time to this game he was one of four opponents to draw against George Koltanowski in a 10-board blindfold exhibition

at the Manhattan Chess Club.

**1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 Ne7**

Another main variation is 4. ... c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Ne7.

**5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 O-O 7. Bd3 c5 8. Qh5 g6**

It might seem safer to play 8. ... Nf5 9. Nf3 (if 9. g4 Qh4 forces a queen trade) 9. ... c4 10. Bxf5 exf5. However, White has a much stronger option with 10. g4! g6 (or 10. ... cxd3 11. gxf5 exf5 12. Rg1 g6 13. Qh6 f6 14. Rxc6+ hxc6 15. Qxc6+ with a winning attack) 11. Qh3 cxd3 12. gxf5 exf5 13. Bg5 when Black's kingside is fatally weakened.

**9. Qh6 f6 10. Nf3**

Another good attacking move was 10. h4, but Lasker calmly develops his pieces.

**10. ... Nd7 11. h4 Rf7**

White's attack would continue after 11. ... Nf5 12. Bxf5 exf5 13. Kf1 Re8 14. Rh3 Qe7 15. h5.



**12. exf6 Nxf6 13. Ne5 Rg7 14. Bg5 Nf5**

Similar is 14. ... Qf8 15. Bxf6 Qxf6 16. h5 Nf5 17. Bxf5 cxd4 18. cxd4 exf5 19. hxc6.

**15. Bxf5 exf5 16. h5 Qe7**

There's no hope for Black after 16. ... Qf8 17. hxc6.

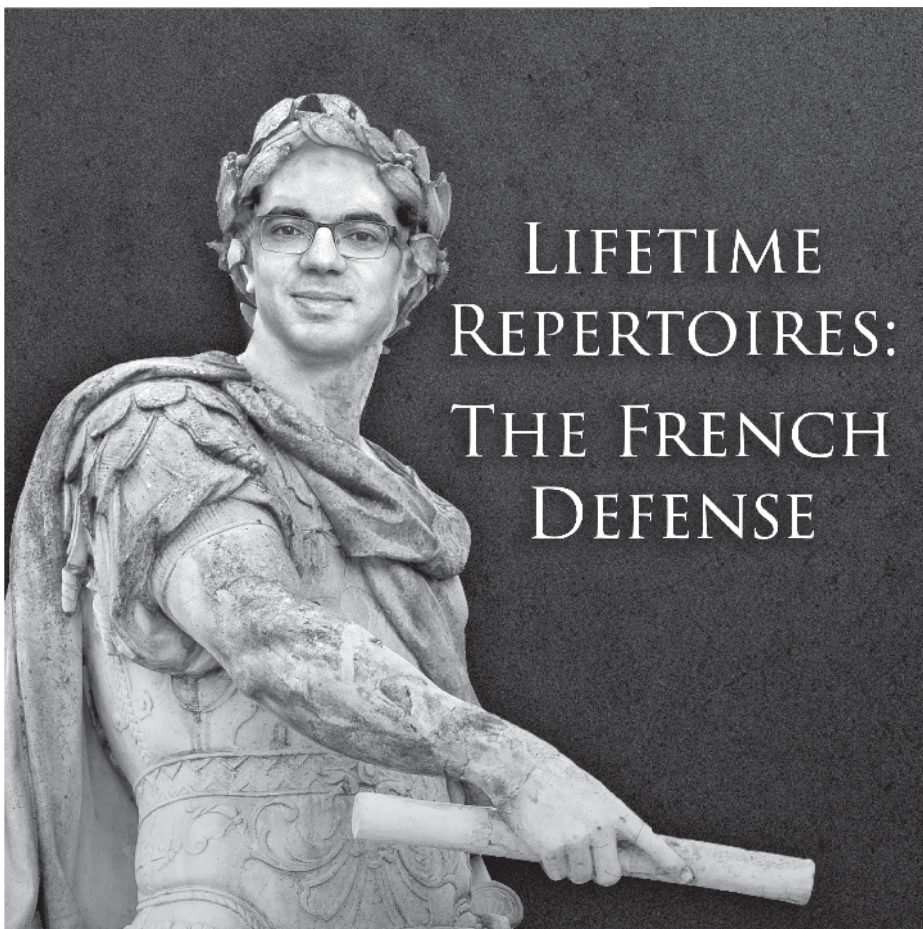
**17. Bxf6 Qxf6 18. hxc6 Qe7 19. Kd2**

It's amazing to see Lasker's moves throughout this game coincide with the computer's first choices, although 19. Kf1 wins too.

**19. ... Be6 20. Rh5 Rc8 21. gxh7+, Black resigned.**

Now on 21. ... Rxh7 22. Rg5+ Black has no decent reply, while 21. ... Kh8 22. Ng6+ secures an overwhelming advantage in material and position. ♠





# Giri on the French Defense

GM Anish Giri's Chessable course is a big success.

By **IM JOHN WATSON**

I'm a little old-fashioned, and I still enjoy reading a chess book more than working with the same material on a computer screen. But it must be granted that in recent years, electronic and online products have become as important as printed ones, particularly for those active players who are training and trying to keep up with theory.

Chessable.com is a rapidly-growing site that features video courses with online training. The site's "MoveTrainer" tool is an interactive way to drill with positions from each course, and is particularly useful in memorizing concrete variations from opening and endgame theory. Most courses are offered in video form, with an extensive exposition and explanation of variations

by the author. You can also purchase a less expensive version that includes all the variations as well as MoveTrainer exercises for them, but without a video presentation. Most players will probably enjoy learning from the videos more, simply because it's enlightening to have accomplished players explain what the key ideas and variations are; however, the disciplined learner can get access to the same basic material without the video and learn by investigating the ideas on his or her own.

Chessable has produced many excellent courses, including electronic versions of well-known chess books. Noted players and theoreticians such as GMs Erwin L'Ami, Simon Williams, Sam Shankland, Boris Avrukh, Jan Gustafsson, and even Magnus Carlsen himself have authored videos. In this column, I have chosen to discuss GM Anish Giri's recent French Defense offering, which is truly remarkable for its originality and depth of analysis.

Giri's course is part of the "Lifetime Repertoire" series, meaning that the variations the author has chosen should serve you as long as you play 1. ... e6, rather than requiring you to shift from variation to variation as players become aware of the lines you play and are able to neutralize them fairly easily with good preparation.

Here I should note that Chessable also offers a White repertoire against the French by 2700+ GM Pentala Harikrishna featuring the move 3. Nc3. This is very well presented, and the repertoire is a handy weapon to have at your disposal when facing the French. On the other hand, it's not too difficult for the well-prepared French player to equalize in Harikrishna's anti-Winawer line 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. exd5 exd5 5. Bd3, for example, and Giri shows one convincing way to do so in his repertoire for Black.

Recent games have shown that the same can be said of Harikrishna's suggestion 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Nce2 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Nf3 — see my monthly French Defense column at [www.chesspublishing.com](http://www.chesspublishing.com), for example. A tournament player would probably do best to alternate Harikrishna's recommendations with other 3. Nc3 systems and/or another third move. To be fair, lifetime Black repertoires are easier to construct than those for White, because dull equality or even the occasional forced draw is at least hypothetically acceptable for Black.

Anish Giri has been one of the top ten players in the world nearly continuously for over six years now. He is considered one of the best-prepared players in the world, but is not known as a French Defense player, and although he has dabbled with the opening in the past few years, his games in the databases come primarily from his teenage years. The most remarkable feature of his work is how thoroughly and carefully he put together his



recommendations. Giri explicitly states that he stands by his repertoire, and concludes that, played correctly, the French Defense is “correct, sound, and compact.”

I’ve spent a great deal of time reviewing key parts of his repertoire and subjecting it to engine analysis (primarily Stockfish and Leela). The core of the repertoire is the Winawer Variation, or 3. Nc3 Bb4. Engines are notoriously prejudiced for the White side of the main Winawer variations because they value the combination of more space and the bishop pair highly. After many hours of feeding the engines the lines from Giri’s repertoire, I consistently found that positions the engine initially assessed as +1.0 (or sometimes even higher) turn out perfectly well for Black with best play by both sides. (This engine bias is true of a fair number of openings, by the way, but especially so for closed and semi-closed ones like the French).

Let’s look at a couple of examples of the lines Giri suggests. He devotes 41 minutes of video to the current main line Winawer Poisoned Pawn line that follows 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Ne7 7. Qg4 Qc7 8. Qxg7 Rg8 9. Qxh7 cxd4 10. Ne2 Nbc6 11. f4 dxc3 12. Qd3 d4, and recommends it as a complete solution. I can confirm that this variation is in good shape for Black.

It would have been easy for Giri to stop there. With the masses of published analysis and correspondence games in that line, he would hardly have had to do any independent research. But since a few important variations after 12. ... d4 are both forced and drawish, he goes back and offers the old 12. ... Bd7 lines as an alternative for those seeking more winning chances. (Note that 11. ... Bd7 tends to lead to the same position.)



AFTER 12. ... Bd7

In this case, Black has to be prepared for a number of critical moves (for example, 13. Nxc3, 13. Qxc3, 13. Be3, and 13. Rb1), all leading to dangerous positions where a single inaccuracy can be fatal. That requires a good deal of work and some memorization, for which Chessable’s MoveTrainer exercises are specifically designed. The reward is that White lacks a way to simplify the play, and you are much more likely to get a game in which the

player who makes the best decisions wins.

The 12. ... Bd7 variation has long been out of favor, but I’ve always thought that, properly handled, it should be fully playable. Because so many complex middlegames here have never been resolved, Giri had to put a lot of effort into this section. After 13. Nxc3, 13. ... a6 is his main line, but he also analyzes 13. ... Nf5 to equality, a move that depends upon the tactic 14. Nb5 Qb8 15. g4!? Nxe5! 16. fxe5 Qxe5+ with full compensation. All this opens up new avenues in a variation that has become stale.

Similarly, Giri provides lengthy analysis on the critical sequence 13. Qxc3 Nf5 14. Rb1 d4, when one intriguing snippet comes from a game from 1988! Play picks up in the position shown in the previous diagram.

### WHAT’S OLD IS NEW

GM Johann Hjartarson

GM Jesus Nogueiras Santiago  
Belfort, 1988

**13. Qxc3 Nf5 14. Rb1 d4 15. Qd3**

Black has typical attacking counterplay after 15. Qc4 Qa5+ 16. Kf2 Nce7! 17. Rxb7 Rc8 18. Qd3 Bc6 19. Rb2 Nd5,

**15. ... 0-0-0 16. Rg1 Na5 17. g4 Ba4! 18. c3**

Note that 18. gxf5 Bxc2 19. Qb5 Rh8! 20. fxe6 Bxb1 21. Qxb1 d3 22. Ng3 Rxh2 leaves Black with full compensation.



**18. ... Bc2!**

The prettiest move, although 18. ... Nb3 19. gxf5 (19. cxd4? Nfxd4) 19. ... Rxg1 20. Nxg1 dxc3 (or 20. ... Nc5 with equality) 21. Qe3 Rd1+! 22. Kf2 c2 also gives Black plenty of play.

**19. Qxc2**

Worse is 19. Qb5?? which loses to 19. ... Bxb1 20. gxf5 Rxg1 21. Nxg1 Bxf5.

**19. ... d3 20. Qa2 Qc5 21. Rg2 Ne3 22. Bxe3**

If 22. Ng3 Rxg4 23. Rf2 Nac4 with equality.

**22. ... Qxe3 23. Rg3?**

If 23. Qd2 Qxd2+ 24. Kxd2 Nc4+ 25. Ke1 d2+ 26. Kf2 d1=Q 27. Rxd1 Rxd1.

**23. ... d2+ 24. Kd1 Qf2 25. Kc2 d1=Q+ 26.**

**Rxd1 Rxd1 27. Kxd1 Qxf1+ 28. Kd2 b5 29. Ke3 Nc4+ 30. Ke4 Qf2, White resigned.**

Not all of Giri’s repertoire is by any means as complicated as this, but you can see that some lines will require intense preparation if you want to have over-the-board success.

Giri’s coverage of the Tarrasch (3. Nd2) is not as extensive, but his solution is a more practical one that requires less work from the defender. After 3. ... c5 (“the best move,” he says), he provides considerable detail about 4. dxc5 and a very original solution to the popular line 4. Ngf3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nc6 6. Bb5, notably the sequence 6. ... Bd7 7. Nxc6 bxc6 8. Bd3 Bd6 9. Qe2 e5! with a fine game. In the main line with 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. Ngf3 cxd4 6. Bc4 Qd6 7. 0-0 Nf6 8. Nb3 Nc6 9. Nbx4 Nxd4 10. Nxd4, the starting point for thousands of master games, Giri recommends 10. ... Be7, a rare move that has very few high-level advocates (Andreikin being a notable exception).



This is not only a sound recommendation, but a practical one, avoiding many years of detailed analysis of lines that contain treacherous attacking ideas for White. Giri shows that 10. ... Be7 is solid, and he provides some instructive middlegame lessons. For example, after 11. c3 (11. b3 0-0 12. Bb2 Qf4! provokes 13. g3 Qc7, when the long diagonal light squares give Black good counterplay) 11. ... 0-0 12. Qf3 Qc7 13. Bb3, Giri explains why the insertion of the moves 13. ... a5! 14. a4 is critical for Black following 14. ... Bd7.



Now 15. Bf4 Bd6 16. Bxd6 Qxd6 17. Qxb7 Rab8 followed by ... e6-e5 is fine for Black, since the b3-bishop is loose. And 15. Re1 Qb6 16. Bf4 Bc6! 17. Nxc6 bxc6 18. Bc4 Nd5 reveals another advantage of playing 13. ...

a5: White can't chase the knight away with c3-c4 without allowing the knight a valuable post on b4. Thus, the strong knight on d5 in conjunction with White's weaknesses exerts enough influence to compensate for the power of White's two bishops.

Giri explains numerous thematic ideas like this, and the Model Games section contains material that solidifies these ideas. For example, you can see how the 3-2 versus 4-3 pawn structure that arises after 10. Nxd4 in the Tarrasch line just mentioned plays out in endgames, often to Black's advantage. Since this Chessable video appeared, 10. ... Be7 has already become a popular alternative, with excellent results thus far.

Against less mainstream variations, Giri doesn't just repeat the standard solution, but takes the time to find unusual and efficient answers, e.g., versus 1. e4 e6 2. b3 d5 3. Bb2 (sometimes called the Reti Gambit), he suggests the simple 3. ... Nc6, a move played only 40 times in the more than 3300 games with this line in my database.



Black's play is remarkably easy, e.g., he arguably already stands better after 4. e5 d4, 4. Qe2 dxe4, 4. Bb5 Nge7, and 4. Nc3 d4 5. Nce2 e5. After 4. exd5 exd5 the play may be equal but I'd rather play the Black side, since he can develop so quickly, whereas White has to avoid playing d2-d4 blocking his own bishop.

The Exchange Variation isn't dangerous, but sometimes it's hard for Black to avoid simplification if White is so inclined. Currently the most popular move after 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 is 4. Nf3 (after 4. Bd3, Giri recommends 4. ... c5, when 5. dxc5 Bxc5 6. Nf3 Nf6 transposes to 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bd3 c5 6. dxc5 Bxc5). Giri's solution is 4. ... Nf6, when 5. c4 Bb4+ is unbalanced and double-edged, as shown by numerous contests over the years. But if White is intent upon playing as safely as possible he often chooses 5. Bd3.

At this point, Black plays 5. ... Bd6 in the majority of games, and either 5. ... Be7 or 5. ... Bg4 in most others. With the symmetrical

pawn structure that results, these moves do not always lead to very interesting play. So Giri suggests the more dynamic unbalancing move 5. ... c5, which is surprisingly rare, especially since it was Carlsen's choice in this position and Caruana has played it as well.



Here it won't be easy for White to simplify, for example:

**6. 0-0** (6. dxc5 Bxc5 7. 0-0 0-0 gives Black active piece play in return for the isolated pawn, i.e., 8. Bg5 (8. Nc3 h6 9. h3 Nc6 with the idea ... Rf8-e8 has scored well for Black) 8. ... h6 9. Bh4 g5! 10. Bg3 Ne4, when one game went 11. Nbd2 f5 12. Bxb8 Rxb8 13. Nb3 Bb6 14. Nfd4 Qf6 and the bishop pair proved strong in GM Valentina Gunina – GM Abhijeet Gupta, Caleta 2018) **6. ... c4 7. Re1+ Be7 8. Bf1** (the Carlsen game went 8. Be2 0-0 9. b3 cxb3 (9. ... Be6 is also fine) 10. axb3 Nc6 11. c3 Re8 12. Nbd2 Bd6 with equality; see GM Robert Fontaine – GM Magnus Carlsen, chess.com 2018) **8. ... 0-0 9. b3 cxb3 10. axb3 Nc6** with an unbalanced structure and chances for both sides.

The effort to find variations that pose problems, rather than ones which merely equalize, is a strength of Giri's work. In a couple of instances, he falls a little short on this account. To be sure, I found no case where Black's choices were objectively inferior, but occasionally he suggests "correct" solutions that, although they result in equal positions, make it extremely difficult for Black to play for a win. That's fine when, like Giri, your opponents tend to be rated 2700 or higher, but the average player may wish to supplement those lines with ones that give Black better prospects versus lower-rated players. A good example is the Advance Variation, in which one important recommendation goes 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Be2 cxd4 7. cxd4 Nh6 8. Bxh6 (currently popular; the traditional line is 8. Nc3 Nf5 9. Na4 Qa5+, when 10. Nc3 leaves Black the choice of repetition by 10. ... Qb6 or a somewhat

inferior position. Notice that this is also not ideal for the weekend warrior who needs to win as Black) 8. ... Qxb2 9. 0-0 gxf6 (9. ... Qxa1 10. Qb3!) 10. Nbd2



... and whether Black risks 10. ... Nxd4 11. Rb1 Nxe2+ 12. Qxe2 or Giri's safer 10. ... Bd7, White has several forcing lines that lead to very drawish positions at best. Since there are many ways for Black to equalize against the Advance Variation, it would have been useful to offer a second, less forcing, system as an option. Variations with an early ... Nge7 and/or ... Bd7 might be appropriate for that purpose.

What to conclude? I'm obviously very happy with this product, but before you rush off to purchase it, be aware that making good use of this repertoire requires some serious dedication. Unless you're a seasoned French Defense player, you cannot simply take up such variations without many hours of careful study and a good deal of memorization. In fact, you may very well have to lose some games in the process of mastering its complexities. So be aware that this is not a "keep it simple" repertoire, but one designed for the serious student.

On the *chessable.com* site, it says that Giri "spent months analyzing and rediscovering the favorite opening of his youth to find new ideas and novelties." Normally I'd be skeptical of such a claim, but when you consider the unlikely solutions that he has found, several obscure and virtually untested, I can easily believe it. In the end, this course not only makes an important contribution to theory, but also provides a terrific resource to any player who is willing to devote sufficient time and energy to master the nuances. In the process of absorbing this material, you can learn a lot about high-level positional ideas from an elite grandmaster. Congratulations to Anish Giri for this first-rate effort. ♠

*Did you know you could read archival copies of "Books and Beyond" (and all of our other columns)? Go to [uschess.org](http://uschess.org), click on "Chess Life Magazine," and then "Archives."*

*Giri, Anish. Lifetime Repertoires: French Defense. Available at [www.chessable.com](http://www.chessable.com). Instruction: 56,017 words. Video: 11 hours and 41 minutes. \$39.99 for just the analysis and MoveTrainer; \$149.99 for the complete package with the video course.*





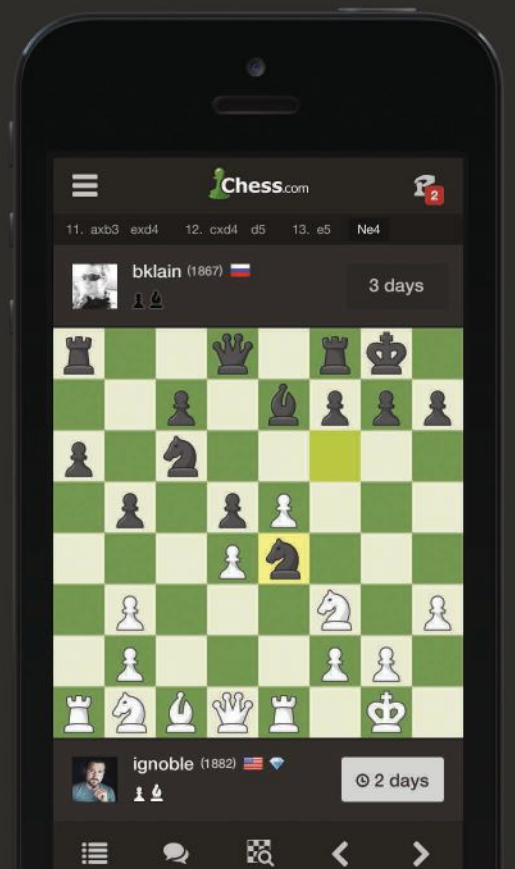
The world's largest chess community  
Play with millions from around the world!



Improve with Lessons, Videos, & Tactics  
**FREE** Unlimited Play on Web & Mobile!



Titled Players get Free Diamond Memberships and  
**\$1000 Titled Tuesday Tournaments!**



Kings Island Open  
 North American Open  
 National Chess Congress

## The Internet Chess Club and Continental Chess Association presents:

### Your best choice for online fun!

- Over \$100,000 in prize money paid out
- Class prizes so you can win too!
- Longer controls for an OTB experience
- Weekly US Chess rated events
- US Chess approved fair play oversight



More information:

[chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us)



# The Vincible Capablanca

## Andre Lilienthal's unforgettable brilliancy

By **BRUCE PANDOLFINI**

JOSÉ RAÚL CAPABLANCA (1889-1942) lost very few serious chess games in his life, which is one reason he was referred to as “the invincible Capablanca.” Even after playing an opening too quickly or inaccurately, he was so resilient, it was still hard to take a full point from him. Enter Andre Lilienthal (1911-2010). At the 1934-35 Hastings Tournament, the young Lilienthal (White) did take it to the Cuban great, capping his play with a brilliant queen sacrifice. In a few moves, even the resourceful Capablanca had to throw in the towel.

### NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E24)

Andre Lilienthal  
José Raúl Capablanca  
Hastings, 1935

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3 Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 b6 6. f3 d5 7. Bg5 h6



Now ensure that the position above is set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess

it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may even be bonus points—or deductions—for other moves and variations. Note that \*\* means that White's move is on the next line.\*\*

8. Bh4 **Par Score 5**

White keeps the pin. Accept *full credit* for 8. Bxf6.

8. ... **Ba6**

9. e4 **Par Score 5**

This pawn sacrifice had previously been played by Alekhine. It's probably not quite right. Accept *full credit* for 9. cxd5.

9. ... **Bxc4**

Not Black's best move. Better were either 9. ... g5 or 9. ... dxe4.

10. Bxc4 **Par Score 5**

White develops and insures getting back his pawn.

10. ... **dxc4**

11. Qa4+ **Par Score 5**

11. ... **Qd7**

12. Qxc4 **Par Score 5**

White has retrieved his pawn. He has a slight advantage, generally, not enough to beat Capablanca.

12. ... **Qc6**

Black offers a trade of queens, while clearing d7 for his queen-knight.

13. Qd3 **Par Score 5**

Lilienthal doesn't want to rush headlong to an endgame against Capablanca. Since White has certain advantages, such as a pawn center and the only bishop, maybe he can build attacking opportunities in the middlegame.

13. ... **Nbd7**

Black secures his f6-knight, avoiding doubled pawns.

14. Ne2 **Par Score 5**

White prepares kingside castling. You may accept *full credit* for 14. a4, with the idea of playing a4-a5.

14. ... **Rd8**

In some variations, Black has options based on a d-file pin.

15. O-O **Par Score 5**

Add *1 bonus point* for realizing that 15. e5? is refuted by 15. ... Nxe5.

15. ... **a5**

16. Qc2 **Par Score 5**

Playing it safe, Lilienthal gets his queen off the d-file.

16. ... **Qc4**

Capablanca seizes the light squares White abandoned. Lilienthal's center pawns still give him a slight pull.

17. f4 **Par Score 5**

White starts his attack. The advancing pawns have potential, but they also engender possible weaknesses.

17. ... **Rc8**

## ABCs of Chess

These problems are all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, **Black is to move**. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 49.

**December Exercise:** Envision an empty chessboard. Starting on a1, travel around the board, trying to associate each square with a particular position. For example, thinking about b8, possibly visualize Morphy's Qb3-b8+ from the Paris Opera game. Or possibly you picture g7, and then recollect Kasparov's Bb2xg7 against Portisch (Niksic, 1983). Or perhaps you bring to mind the square e6, reimagining Fischer's ... Bg4-e6 against Donald Byrne in the Game of the Century. Or any square and any thought. Your thinking could be tactical or strategic, exciting or mundane. From week to week, you'll get better at it. Practice this exercise regularly and watch your ideas evolve over time.

**PROBLEM I.**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM II.**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM III.**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM IV.**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM V.**  
Mating net



**PROBLEM VI.**  
Mating net



Black gets out of the pin along the d8-h4 diagonal. He also envisions playing ... c7-c5, with a queenside counterattack.

**18. f5 Par Score 6**

Lilienthal pushes ahead. He would like to open the f-file.

**18. ... e5**

This keeps the f-file closed, but there could be consequences.

**19. dxe5 Par Score 5**

The position is opening. *Deduct 2 points* for 19. d5?, hanging the e-pawn.

**19. ... Qxe4**

Possibly better is 19. ... Qc5+. After 19. ... Qxe4, Black's knight at f6 is threatened, but so is White's queen.



WHITE TO MOVE

**20. exf6!! Par Score 8**

This is the moment that makes the present game very special. Lilienthal is offering his queen to a super-duper defender.

**20. ... Qxc2**

Did Capablanca have much of a choice? Both 20. ... Nxf6 and 20. ... Qxh4 look horrible.

**21. fxg7 Par Score 5**

Black's rook is now hanging with check.

**21. ... Rg8**

Naturally, Capa saves his rook.

**22. Nd4 Par Score 5**

Black is in trouble. His queen is attacked and a rook check along the e-file is looming.

**22. ... Qe4**

Obstructing the e-file temporarily, but it's not going to save the day.

**23. Rae1 Par Score 6**

Black's queen is lost, and his game is lost as well.

**23. ... Nc5**

**24. Rxe4+ Par Score 5**

**24. ... Nxe4**

**25. Re1 Par Score 5**

This pin will put White permanently ahead.

**25. ... Rxg7**

**26. Rxe4+ Par Score 5**

Capablanca's position is hopeless. He actually played ...

**26. ... Kd7**

... but then, perhaps shellshocked, he resigned. ♠

*Did you know you could read archival copies of "Solitaire Chess" (and all columns and features)? Go to [uschess.org](http://uschess.org), click on "Chess Life Magazine," and then "Archives."*

### TOTAL YOUR SCORE TO DETERMINE YOUR APPROXIMATE RATING BELOW:

Total Score	Approx. Rating
95+	2400+
81-94	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

# TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board authorizes a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through December 31, 2020 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "XXXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "XXXX in Projected prizes based on ### players", where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest five players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a "based on" number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in Chess Life. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary.

**NATIONAL EVENTS & BIDS NOW ON USCHESSE.ORG** Effective with the November 2020 Chess Life, we have removed the National Events and Bids page that has traditionally been part of our TLA section. This information continues to be available here: <https://new.uschess.org/national-events-calendar>

## Nationals

**HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

**2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - West (Online Event)**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

Scholastic side event on Jan 31, 2021 via [chesskid.com](http://chesskid.com). US Chess online rated event affecting player's US Chess online regular rating. Players must have current US Chess membership. Teams: Four-player teams, average rating of four highest must be under 2200, difference between ratings of board 3 & 4 must be less than 1000. January 2021 Supplement OTB or ONL rating, whichever is the higher; CCA min, & TD discretion used to place players accurately. Player's account on [chess.com](http://chess.com) must be current and in good standing. Two sections (1800+, u1800) based on team average rating. Time Control: 6SS, G/60+10. Schedule: 1800+: Sat/Sun: 9a, 1p, 4p; u1800: Sat/Sun: 9:15a, 1:15p, 4:15p. Prizes: Commemorative plaques and clocks for Top 3 teams in each section. Commemorative medals to Top scorer of each board (1-4 & reserve), all players of the top "Female" team, top "College" team, top "High School" team, top "Elementary School" team, top "Club" team, and top "Family" team. Free online tournament entry to the Top 3 best team names. Scholastic side event on Sunday, Jan 31, 2021 via [chesskid.com](http://chesskid.com). Player's account on [chesskid.com](http://chesskid.com) must be current and in good standing. Time Control: 5SS, G/20+10; Teams: average rating must be under 1400. Schedule: Sun 9:30a, 11a, 12:30p, 2p, 3:30p. Prizes: Commemorative trophies to Top 5 teams. Registration: online via [mlib.org/usatw](http://mlib.org/usatw), registration closes Friday, 1/29 @ 6PM. Absolutely no same day registration accepted. Main Event EF: \$160/team or \$40/player by 1/23. 1/24-29: \$20 extra per player or \$40 per team. A change fee equal to the late fee will apply for any changes, other than by request. Scholastic EF: \$30/player, \$120/team by 1/25. Contact: Organized by Abel Talamantez and Judit Szatary. Chief TD: John McCumiskey. For questions or help in forming teams email [chessroom@mlib.org](mailto:chessroom@mlib.org).

**HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

**World Amateur Team & 2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - East (Online Event)**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

50TH Anniversary, since 1971! 6SS, game 60 delay 10 seconds. Open to 4- player teams-no alternate. Team average (4 highest ratings—2021 January Rating list) must be under 2200. Teams rated over 2000 average no more than 1000 points between board 3 and 4. The higher of online or USCF will be used as of January 2021. Touchdown page at ICC for rules and info on allowed advance practice: <https://play.chessclub.com/usate>. EF: \$160 postmarked by 1/25/2021 After ALL-\$200 all teams, No Entries after 2/10/21.

Check out official website [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org). Prizes: 1-5th Place teams, Engraved wooden anniversary chess set leather box; Top Team (Dennis Barry Award) U2100, 2000, 1900, 1800, 1700, 1600, 1500, 1400, 1000 each 4 Engraved Wooden anniversary sets leather box; Top college team (same school) 4 Digital Clocks & 4 heavy weighted plastic Hastings chess sets in engraved leather bags. Top HS team (grades 9-12 same school), Top Middle School (grades 5-9 same school), Top Elementary School (grades K-6 same school), Top Scholastic team (Collins Award), Mixed Doubles (2 males, 2 females), Seniors (all players over age 50), each 4 Digital Clocks to top team; Company Team (same employer-non educational), Top Coaches (educational), Top team all female, Family (4 family members), each 4 heavy weighted plastic sets in engraved bags. State teams—CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY (Benjamin Award), PA, VA, each plaque top team; Special Plaques: Top Future team, (all players under age 10), Top Military College, Top Parent/Child (2 pairs, one parent, one child), Best Player 1-4. All 6-0 scores each Digital clock. Entry fee refunded to team with Best "Chess related" name, --Best "Chess Related costumes or gimmick"—entry refunded. Sat 2/13 Rds. 10-2-7, Sun 9-1-6. Surprises and special give-aways!! Two days only! Grandmaster commentary. Same hysterical event with great chess!! Best pajama prize, Best masks award, team with best slippers. For help forming teams and more information contact: [noreenchess@gmail.com](mailto:noreenchess@gmail.com) or [esdoyl@aol.com](mailto:esdoyl@aol.com). Chks payable to NUSCF, mail by 1/25/21 to: NUSCF, 17 Stonehenge Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. (Include team name, Captain, players full names, USCF Expiration, ID numbers and ratings in board order). No team can include more than two GMs. Include SASE for confirmation if wanted. No registered or certified mail accepted.

**JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

**2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - North (Online Event)**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Online provider TBA. Open: 6SS, G/60+inc. 10. Open to 4 player teams, no alternates. Team average (Higher of regular rating and online regular rating from Jan 2021 Rating List used) must be under 2200. EF: \$160 per team if received USPS or online by 6pm Feb. 5, \$180 if received USPS or online by 6pm Feb. 12, \$200 online until 6pm Feb. 19. Individuals wishing to play send \$50 received by USPS or on-line by 6pm Feb. 15, \$60 by 6pm Feb. 18, and request to be put on a team. (Note: we guarantee you will play but can't guarantee which board you will play or the ratings of your team). See [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com) for more info, team rules and categories, complete prize list, and online fair play rules. Prizes: Winning team qualifies for national play-offs. Awards to top 3 teams, top teams u2000, u1800, u1600, u1300, u1000, top college team, top HS team, top junior team (HS and under), top K-8 team, top mixed doubles team (2 men and 2 women), top female team, top senior team (all 50 & over), best team name, best costume or theme, best streamer, and top individual score each board. Prizes: are online bookstore credit or Amazon gift cards. Rounds: Saturday 10:00am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm; Sunday 10:00am, 1:15pm, 4:30pm. Register after 12/15/20 at:

[www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com). Checks made payable and sent to: Chess Weekend, 21694 Doud Ct., Frankfort, IL 60423; include team's name and roster (plus ID#), captain's email and phone number. Info: [www.chessweekend.com](http://www.chessweekend.com), [glenn@chessweekend.com](mailto:glenn@chessweekend.com).

**JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

**2021 U.S. Amateur Team Championship - South (Online Event)**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

One Section, 6SS, G/60+inc. 10. Open to 4-player teams, No Alternates. Team average (All 4 Team Members – Jan 2021 Rating List) must be under 2200. US Chess rated. Higher of Regular US Chess rating or Online Regular US Chess rating used. EF: \$160 per team if received online by Feb. 12, \$180 if received online by Feb. 19, \$200 online after Feb. 19. No entries accepted after 12 noon (Central Time) Feb. 26. See <https://www.kingregistration.com/tournaments> for more info, team rules, complete prize list, and online fair play rules. PRIZES: Winning team qualifies for national play-offs. Awards to Top 3 teams, Top teams U2000, U1800, U1600, U1300, U1000, Top College Team, Top K-12 Team, Top Mixed Doubles Team (2 male and 2 female), Top Senior Team (all 50 & over), Top All-Female Team, Top Military Team (active or retired Armed Forces members), and Top Individual Score each Board, 1 – 4. All members of team finishing in First Place overall get Champion's Plaque. Each member of top three teams gets commemorative clock. All members of winning teams of other categories get US Chess Sales Gift Certificate and commemorative medal. See tournament website for additional details. ROUNDS (Central Time): Saturday 10:00am, 1:15pm and 4:30pm; Sunday 10:00am, 1:15pm and 4:30pm. Register at <https://www.kingregistration.com/tournaments> (Texas Chess Association). Mailed Entries: Entry fee determined by postmark and must be mailed (postmarked) NLT Feb. 20. Checks payable to Texas Chess Association. Include Team's name, team members and US Chess IDs, and Team Captain's name, email address and phone number. Mail to: Franc Guadalupe (TCA President), 305 Willow Pointe Drive, League City, TX 77573. For more information, please email [fguadalupe@aol.com](mailto:fguadalupe@aol.com) or [renategarcia1@gmail.com](mailto:renategarcia1@gmail.com).

U1600 (no Unr) \$180-90, U1400 (no Unr) \$120-60. Entry fee \$68 at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 12/9: \$90 by 11:30 am EST 12/12, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm EST 12/11. Regional EF discount: \$20 less to residents of PA, NJ or DE. GMS \$50 from prize. Log into [playcca.com](http://playcca.com) 30 minutes before game. Rounds begin EST 11 am, 1:30 pm, 4 pm, 6:30 pm, 9 pm. Half point byes: Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular ratings used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

**CCA December Open**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

5-SS, G/30+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$1700 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 2 sections. Open Section: Open to all, \$400-200-100, top U2300 \$160, U2100 \$140. Under 1900/Unr Section: \$250-140-80, top U1700 (no Unr) \$130, top U1500 (no Unr) \$100. Entry fee at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com): \$47 by 12/10, \$65 by 11:30 am EST 12/13, entry after 9 pm EST 12/12 must take half point bye in rd 1. GMS \$40 from prize. Log into [playcca.com](http://playcca.com) 30 minutes before game, rounds begin EST 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm. Half point byes: Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. Online Regular rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular ratings used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

**7th annual Atlantic Open Blitz**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

11-SS, G/3+2, at Internet Chess Club. \$600 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). One section, open to all. Prizes \$200-100-60, top U2100 \$90, U1800/Unr \$80, U1500 \$70. Entry fee at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com): \$27 by 12/17, \$40 by 6 pm EST 12/18, both \$10 less if playing in Atlantic Open 12/19, no entry after 6 pm EST 12/18. GMS \$25 from prize. Log into [playcca.com](http://playcca.com) 30 minutes before game. Round 1 begins: EST 8 pm, CST 7 pm, MST 6 pm, PST 5 pm. Other rounds ASAP; 15 minute break after round 6. Should finish by 10 pm PST. Half point byes: Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. Online Blitz rated (will not affect OTB ratings), Online Regular ratings used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

**HERITAGE EVENT**

**52nd annual Atlantic Open**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

5-SS, G/45+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$5000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle).

## Online

**AMERICAN CLASSIC**

**Philadelphia Open**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

5-SS, G/45+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$3000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 2 sections. Open Section: Open to all. \$500-300-200-100, top 2000-2199 \$200-100, top U2000 \$200-100, top Pennsylvania resident \$100 bonus. Under 1800/Unr Section: \$300-200-150-100,

**52nd annual  
ATLANTIC OPEN**

**December 19 on Internet Chess Club**

**5 ROUNDS, G/45+10**

**\$5,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES**

For details see Online Events or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**9th annual  
BOSTON CHESS CONGRESS**  
January 2-3, 2021 on Internet Chess Club

**6 ROUNDS, G/75+10**

**\$5,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES**

For details see Online Events or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).



camera angle). In 4 sections. **Major Section:** Open to 1900/over. \$600-400-200-150, top U2200 \$300-150, top Virginia resident \$100 bonus. **Under 2000/Unr Section:** \$400-280-150-100, U1800 (no Unr) \$240-120. **Under 1700/Unr Section:** \$340-200-120-80, top U1500 (no Unr) \$180-90, unrated limit \$150. **Under 1400/Unr Section:** \$280-150-100-60, U1200 (no Unr) \$140-70; unrated limit \$80. **Entry fee** at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 12/16: \$100 by 11:30 am EST 12/19, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm EST 12/18. **Regional EF discount:** \$20 less to residents of Virginia, Maryland or DC. GMs \$50 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game. **Rounds begin** EST 10 am, 12:30 pm, 3 pm, 5:30 pm, 8 pm. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

### 13th Annual Chicago Class

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020**

5-SS, G/30-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$5000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 6 sections. **Master (2100+):** \$500-250-150-100, top Illinois resident \$100 bonus. **Expert (1900-2199):** \$400-200-120-80. **Class A (1700-1999):** \$400-200-120-80. **Class B (1500-1799/Unr):** \$400-200-120-80. **Class C (1300-1599/Unr):** \$400-200-120-80. **Class D/E (Under 1400/Unr):** \$300-200-120-80. **Unrated prize limits:** Class D/E \$80, Class C \$160, Class B \$240. **Entry fee** at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com): \$83 by 12/17, \$100 by 11:30 am CST 12/6, entry after 9 pm CST 12/19 must take half point bye in rd 1. GMs \$40 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game, rounds begin CST 10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 4 pm & 6 pm. **Regional EF discount:** \$20 less to residents of Illinois, Indiana or Wisconsin. **Half point byes:** available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

### HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC

#### 30th annual North American Open

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020-TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020**

8-SS, G/120-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$25,000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 5 sections. **Open Section:** Open to all; entry fee \$80 more if not rated USCF 2100/over or FIDE 2000/over. \$3000-1500-1000-700-500, top U2400/Unr \$800-600-

400, clear or tiebreak 1st \$200 bonus. **Under 2200/Unr Section:** \$1200-800-600-400-300, top U2000/Unr \$600-500-400. **Under 1900/Unr Section:** \$1200-800-600-400-300, top U1700 (no Unr) \$500-400-300. **Under 1600/Unr Section:** \$1000-700-500-400-300, top U1400 (no Unr) \$400-300-200. **Under 1300/Unr Section:** \$800-600-500-400-300, top U1100 (no Unr) \$300-200-100. **Unrated prize limits:** U1300 section \$150, U1600 Section \$300, U1900 Section \$500. **Entry fee** at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com): \$118 by 12/12, \$138 by 12/23, \$160 by 12 noon PST 12/26; must take rd 1 bye after 6 pm PST 12/25. GMs \$100 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game. **Rounds begin each day:** PST 9 am & 2:15 pm, MST 10 am & 3:15 pm, CST 11 am & 4:15 pm, EST 12 noon & 5:15 pm. **Half point byes** available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

### AMERICAN CLASSIC

#### 19th annual Manhattan Open

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020**

5-SS, G/45-10, at Internet Chess Club. \$7000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 4 sections. **Major Section:** Open to 1900/over. \$1000-500-300-200, top U2200 \$400-200, top New York State resident \$100 bonus. **Under 2000/Unr Section:** \$600-400-250-150, U1800 (no Unr) \$300-150. **Under 1700/Unr Section:** \$500-300-150-100, top U1500 \$240-120, unrated limit \$200. **Under 1400/Unr Section:** \$400-200-120-80, U1200 \$160-80; unrated limit \$100. **Entry fee** \$93 at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 12/27, \$110 by 10:30 am EST 12/30, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm EST 12/29. **EF discounts:** \$20 less to residents of New York, New Jersey or Connecticut. \$5 less to NYSCA members. GMs free; \$80 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game. **Rounds begin** EST 11 am, 1:30 pm, 4 pm, 6:30 pm, 9 pm. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

### HERITAGE EVENT

#### 29th annual North American Blitz

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020**

11-SS, G/3+2, Internet Chess Club. \$2000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 2 sections. **Open Section:** Open to all,

\$400-240-120, top U2200/Unr \$200-100. **Under 2000/Unr Section:** \$250-125-75, top 1600-1799/Unr \$140-70, U1600 (no Unr) \$120-60, U1400 (no Unr) \$100. **Entry fee** at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com): \$42 by 12/29, \$60 by 7 am PST 12/31, no entry after 7 am PST 12/31. GMs \$40 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game. **Round 1 begins** 9 am PST, 10 am MST, 11 am CST, 12 noon EST. **Other rounds ASAP**, 15 minute break after round 6. Should finish by 12 noon PST. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. **Online Blitz rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular rating** used for section eligibility, pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

### 9th annual Boston Chess Congress

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021**

6-SS, G/75+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$5000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 4 sections. **Major Section:** Open to 1900/over. \$600-400-200-150, top U2200 \$300-150, top Massachusetts resident \$100 bonus. **Under 2000/Unr Section:** \$400-280-150-100, U1800 (no Unr) \$240-120. **Under 1700/Unr Section:** \$340-200-120-80, top U1500 (no Unr) \$180-90, unrated limit \$150. **Under 1400/Unr Section:** \$280-150-100-60, U1200 (no Unr) \$140-70; unrated limit \$80. **Entry fee** \$83 at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 12/30: \$100 by 11:30 am EST 1/2, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm EST 1/1. **Regional EF discount:** \$20 less to New England residents. GMs \$60 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game. **Rounds begin** EST 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm each day. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

### NY State Girls Championship Friday Night Blitz — On Internet Chess Club!

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021**

8-SS, G/3+2. Online entries at [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win): \$30 thru 1/7, \$40 until 4 pm EST 1/8, \$10 less to parents, alumni and those with NY State Girls Championship, Jan. 9-10. Active ICC account required (no additional charge) to play (includes 2-month ICC membership). **Plaques:** top 3, Top U1800, U1500/Unr. **Round 1 begins:** 7 pm EST, other rounds ASAP (should finish by 10 pm EST). Must be on Zoom to be eligible for prizes. **Prizes not official until**

after fair-play review of games is completed (may take about 3 weeks before prizes are then mailed out). **Online Blitz rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), but Jan. 2021 official online regular ratings used for pairings and prize eligibility (OTB regular ratings used if no online regular rating), except unofficial ratings at uscfess.org usually used if otherwise unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings. Limit 1 bye, commit before Rd. 2. **Players must stay logged into ICC when round starts in order to be paired:** Info on logging into ICC, setting up free ICC accounts, using Zoom, etc. [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win) (see TLA for NYS Girls Championship, 1/9-10, for other info).

### Mountains Open

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021**

5-SS, G/45+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$4000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 4 sections. **Major Section:** Open to 1900/over. \$500-300-200-100, top U2200 \$240-120. **Under 2000/Unr Section:** \$350-200-120-80, U1800 (no Unr) \$180-90. **Under 1700/Unr Section:** \$300-180-120-60, top U1500 (no Unr) \$140-70, unrated limit \$150. **Under 1400/Unr Section:** \$200-150-100-50, U1200 (no Unr) \$100-50; unrated limit \$80. **Entry fee** \$68 at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 1/6: \$90 by 10:30 am MST 1/9, must take round 1 bye after 9 pm MST 1/8. **Regional EF discount:** \$30 less to residents of Mountain time zone. GMs \$50 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game. **Rounds begin** MST 10 am, 12:30 pm, 3 pm, 5:30 pm, 8 pm. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds; limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. USCF membership required; may join with registration. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

### JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

#### 5th Annual NY State Girls Championship at Internet Chess Club!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021**

Presented to you by Little House of Chess and Chess Center of New York, open to all girls born after 1/10/01 in US and Canada, out of state welcome, **Online entries** at [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win) (2-Day Championship sections): \$68 thru 12/31/20, \$85 by 6 pm EST 1/7; (1-Day sections): \$63 thru 12/31/20, \$80 by 6 pm EST 1/7. **All sections:** \$100 after 6 pm EST 1/7/21. Entries after 3 pm EST 1/8 may be required to take bye(s) and must already have activated their ICC account. Entries may not be accepted less than 8 hours before game. Entries may be subject to waiting list. Active

# 30th annual NORTH AMERICAN OPEN

## Dec 26-29, 8 rounds, G/120+10, playcca.com, Internet Chess Club

### \$25,000 PRIZE FUND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED!

**8 rounds, G/120+10,** at Internet Chess Club.

Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle).

**In 5 sections.** USCF Online Regular ratings used; OTB Regular used if no Online Regular. Unofficial ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Online Regular rated;** will not affect OTB ratings.

**Open Section:** \$3000-1500-1000-700-500, top U2400/Unr \$800-600-400, clear/tiebreak 1st \$200 bonus.

**U2200/Unr Section:** \$1200-800-600-400-300, top U2000/Unr \$600-500-400.

**U1900/Unr Section:** \$1200-800-600-400-300, top U1700 (no Unr) \$500-400-300.

**U1600/Unr section:** \$1000-700-500-400-300, top U1400 (no Unr) \$400-300-200.

**U1300/Unr section:** \$800-600-500-400-300, top U1100 (no Unr) \$300-200-100.

**Unrated Prize limits:** U1300 section \$150, U1600 \$300, U1900 \$500.

**Entry fee:** \$118 at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 12/12, \$138 by 12/23, \$160 by 12 noon PST 12/26, must take rd 1 bye after 6 pm PST 12/25. GMs \$100 from prize.

**Open Section entry fee** \$80 more if not rated USCF 2100/over or FIDE 2000/over.

**Special USCF dues** if paid with entry: see [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us) or TLA. USCF membership required.

**Schedule:** Rounds each day PST 9 am & 2:15 pm, MST 10 am & 3:15 pm, CST 11 am & 4:15 pm, EST 12 noon & 5:15 pm.

**1/2-pt byes** OK all, limit 2; must be claimed with registration and cannot be changed.

**Entry: [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com).** \$15 service charge for refunds.

**Entries posted** at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) (click "entry list" after entering).

**Rules** at [chesstour.com/iccrules.htm](http://chesstour.com/iccrules.htm). On Dec 26, log into [playcca.com](http://playcca.com) and [ccazoom.com](http://ccazoom.com) about a half hour before your first game.

**WARNING:** YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.

ICC account required (no additional charge) to play (includes 2-month ICC membership). In 8 sections. Each section has its own age, (grade) and rating requirements (Championship sections open to all who are under age (and grade) limits; unrated allowed all sections). **Playing both days are: Open Championship**, open to all girls born after 1/10/01 (top NYS K-12 girl qualifies for 2021 National Girls Tournament of Champions), **K-6 Championship** and **K-3 Championship**: each is a 6-SS, G/60, + 10, Rounds begin 10 am-1:4 pm EST each day. The 5 non-Championship sections and the K-1 section are each 1-day, 5-SS, G/30, + 5. **Playing on Saturday** are K-9 Under 1000, K-3 Under 600; **Rounds begin Sat. 10 am-12:24-4-6 pm EST. Playing on Sunday with earlier starting times** are K-12 Under 1200, K-6 Under 800, K-1 Championship: **Rounds begin Sun. 9-11 am-1:3-5 pm EST.** K-1 is open to grades 1/below born after 1/10/13. **Both K-3 sections** open to grades 3/below born after 1/10/11. **Both K-6 sections** open to grades 6/below born after 1/10/08. **K-12 Under 1200 section** open to grades 12/below born after 1/10/01. **K-9 Under 1000 section** open to grades 9/below born after 1/10/05. **Plaques** to top 8 each section and top 2 Unr. in each 1-Day section. **Grade medals:** top 3 scorers K/below in K-1 section, top 3 below 9th Grade in K-12 U1200, top 3 below 7th Grade in K-9 U1000, top 3 below 4th grade in K-6 U800, and top 3 below 2nd grade in K-3 U600 (you can win both plaque + medal). All players scoring 4 or more (5 or more in 2-Day sections) who don't win a plaque receive a medal! Playoff for 5-0 and 6-0 (after fair-play review is completed), may be fast game. **Plaques** also to top 4 teams each section (top 3 scorers from same school = team, all on team must attend same school: no combined teams, even if one school "feeds" another). **Individual free entry prizes** (in each 2-Day Championship section): **Free entry** to 3 specified Continental Chess tournaments thru 12/31/21 to 1st, 2 free entries to 2nd, 1 free to 3rd & 4th! **One free entry** to 1st & 2nd in each 1-Day section! Free entries courtesy of Continental Chess and are valid for CCA non-scholastic tournaments. See [www.chessout.com](http://www.chessout.com) for complete details and restrictions. All: Out-of-state eligible for free entry prizes in Championship Sections; players only in NY, CT, NJ, MA, PA, VT, ON or QC eligible for free entry prizes in non-Championship sections; top NYS player and team each section are NY Champions. **All players in Championship Sections must be visible on Zoom with side/rear camera angle;** Zoom also required for prize eligibility in non-Championship sections. **Prizes not official until after fair-play review of games is completed** (may take about 3 weeks before prizes are then mailed out). **On-line Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings), Jan. 2021 official online regular ratings used for pairings, section & prize eligibility (OTB regular ratings used if no online regular ratings), except unofficial ratings at [uscf.org](http://uscf.org) usually used if otherwise unrated. TD reserves right to assign estimated ratings to players with non-USCF ratings. Substitutions from advance entry list charged late fee. Section switches subject to \$20 extra charge per player after 1/7 (no switches on game day). \$15 service charge for each player refund. TD reserves right to reassign sections for advance entries with incorrect or unclear registrations. Limit 2 byes, commit before rd. 3. **Players must stay logged into ICC when round starts in order to be paired!** Info on logging into ICC, setting up free ICC accounts, using Zoom, etc. [www.chessgirls.win](http://www.chessgirls.win). Questions: [director@chessgirls.win](mailto:director@chessgirls.win) (or 347-201-2269: leave message, email is much better). School purchase orders payable to: Chess Center of NY, PO Box 4615, New Windsor, NY 12553.

### CCA January Action SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

5-SS, G/30+10, at Internet Chess Club. \$2000 guaranteed prizes. Must be on Zoom (use real name) to be eligible for prizes (side/rear camera angle). In 3 sections. **Open Section:** Open to all, \$400-200-100, top U2200 \$140, U2000 \$120, Under 1900/Unr Section: \$250-130-70, top U1700 (no Unr) \$120, Under 1500/Unr Section: \$200-100-50, U1300 (no Unr) \$120; unrated limit \$80. **Entry fee** at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com): \$47 by 1/8, \$65 by 11:30 am EST 1/10, entry after 9 pm EST 1/9 must take half point bye in rd 1. GMs \$40 from prize. **Log into playcca.com** 30 minutes before game, **rounds begin** EST 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm. **Half point byes:** Available all rounds, limit 2 byes, must be claimed with registration & cannot be changed. **Online Regular rated** (will not affect OTB ratings). **Online Regular ratings** used for pairings & prizes (OTB Regular used if no Online Regular). \$15 service charge for refunds. **WARNING: YOU MUST BE LOGGED IN WHEN PAIRINGS ARE ISSUED, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PAIRED.**

# Grand Prix Regionals

**JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • US CHESS GRAND PRIX  
POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)**

## Red River Open

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020-SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 20, 2020**

**Open:** This section is FIDE rated and uses FIDE rules. The tournament will use USCF ratings for pairings and prize purposes. Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play in Open section. \$\$ \$500-\$250-\$125. Class prizes if any, depend on entries. EF: \$90, by 12/14 else \$100. Senior/Birthday during tournament/Additional Family Member in Open section/Reentry from Amateur section \$55 by 12/14 else \$65. Reentry from Open section to Open section is not allowed. **Amateur:** Open to players rated Under 1800. EF: \$60, by 12/14 else \$70. Senior/Birthday during tournament/Additional Family Member in Amateur section/Reentry \$35 by 12/14 else \$45. Reentry is allowed from other sections if player is qualified to play in Amateur. Prizes are 25% of Amateur entry fees. TD's discretion in allotting the 25% among classes. Tournament reserves the right to use FIDE rules on electronic devices and on starting White's clock at start of a round. Clocks will be set to "halt at end". **Both Open and Amateur: 5SS, G/90, 30 second increment. Rds. Sat 12/19: 10:00 am, 2:45 pm, 7:16 pm, Sun: 9:30 am - 2:15 pm.** Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. One 1/2 point bye available if requested before end of rd. 2 and before receiving full point bye. Note that unless TD rules otherwise on a case by case basis, withdrawals and last round byes are not eligible for prizes. Registration should be done online at [www.dallaschess.com](http://www.dallaschess.com). **K-12 Under 1200 Scholastic Joiner** on Sat. 12/19 (one day event.). 5SS, G/30: d5. Open to players rated under 1200 by USChess or unrated. EF: \$30 by 11/19, \$40 thereafter; Registration must be done online at [www.dallaschess.com](http://www.dallaschess.com). Note: entry fee includes US Chess Federation membership for current USCF nonmembers. Entries do not count toward base in Open and Amateur. Rd. 1 at 9:20 am, rest ASAP with small lunch break. Prizes: Trophies to top 12 individuals, five teams and top three unrated. Medals to Players who do not win a trophy. **Location:** Embassy Suites Oklahoma City Downtown Medical Center, 741 North Phillips Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73101 **ALL Sections:** HR: \$99/99/109/119, 405-239-3900 reserve by 11/18 and ask for Dallas Chess Club rate. Parking for overnight registered hotel guests \$14 per day. Entries/questions: Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. Info: Barb Swafford, 214-632-9000, [info@dallaschess.com](mailto:info@dallaschess.com), [www.dallaschess.com](http://www.dallaschess.com). Add \$5 for CC phone entries; pre-reg. requires pre-payment. After 12/16 all registration and changes online only; all changes including withdrawals, \$10 after 12/16. Note that the number of players is limited and will be registered on a first come first serve basis. Register early. NS. NC. W. FIDE. JGP for Open and Amateur

**HERITAGE EVENT • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • US  
CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)**

## Land of the Sky XXXIV

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY  
31, 2021**

5SS, 40/120, SD/30 d5 (U12 is G/90 d5). Weekend before Super Bowl. If allowed, the tournament will be held. Confirm at [achievementtesting.info/chess](http://achievementtesting.info/chess) Prizes: \$11,000 b/200 fully paid **Open (FIDE-rated):** \$2375: \$1000-400. 2299-2200 \$400-250. U2200 \$200-125. (top 4 gtd 27%) **Asheville (FIDE-rated, Under 2200):** \$3750 **Buncombe (Under 1700):** \$3750 **U12 (Under 1200):** \$1100. Biggest Upset in Tmt: \$25. EF (Open, Asheville, Buncombe): \$96 by 1/23. EF (U12): \$48 by 1/23. "No-prize" EF for under age 18 in Asheville, Buncombe, U12: \$24 by 1/23. Unrated EF in Asheville, Buncombe, U12: \$24 by 1/23 (eligible for unrated prize only). ALL: On-site entries \$10 more. Add \$48 to play in a section more than 300 points above your rating. 1 section max. Rds: 1st rd. either Fri 7pm or Sat 9am (G/90 d5), then Sat 1pm - 7pm, Sun 9am - 3pm. **Byes:** One 1/2 pt bye avail any rd, declare by rd. 2. **Location:** Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville, One Resort Dr., Asheville, NC 28806. HR: Reserve early at 828-254-3211 or 800-733-3211 and mention tournament. Ent: WW, PO Box 3113, Weaverville, NC 28787 <http://achievementtesting.info/chess>

## ALABAMA

### Evangel 2021 Open

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021**

4SS, Game/45 + 10 second iASS, Game/45 + 10 second increment per move. Round times: 9:30, 11:30, 2:30, 4:30. (Half-point byes available, limit 1, request before round 1). Location: Evangel Church, 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL. Two sections: **OPEN** (prizes b/10, 70%GTD): 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, U1900/unrated \$100. **U1700** (prizes b/10, 70%GTD): 1st \$175, 2nd \$100, U1400/unrated \$100. EF: \$40 by January 9, \$45 thereafter. Registration: Send name, USCF ID, section, and EF (payable to "Evangel Church") to Doug Strout, 6000 Camelot Ct, Montgomery, AL 36117 (email: [dstrou@bellsouth.net](mailto:dstrou@bellsouth.net))

### Tom Nard Memorial VII

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021**

4SS, Game/45 + 10 second increment per move. Round times: 9:30, 11:30, 2:30, 4:30. (Half-point byes available, limit 1, request before round 1) Location: Evangel Church, 3975 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL. Three sections: **OPEN** (prizes b/20, 70%GTD): 1st \$250 + T, 2nd \$100, U2000/unrated \$100, **U1800** (prizes b/20, 70%GTD): 1st \$200 + T, 2nd \$100, U1500/unrated \$100, **U1200** (prizes b/20, 70%GTD): 1st \$150 + T, 2nd \$100, U1000/unrated \$100. EF: \$40 by February 20, \$45 thereafter. Registration: Send name, USCF ID, section, and EF (payable to "Evangel Church") to Doug Strout, 6000 Camelot Ct, Montgomery, AL 36117 (email: [dstrou@bellsouth.net](mailto:dstrou@bellsouth.net))

## ILLINOIS

### 2021 Midwest Senior Open

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021-SUNDAY, JANUARY  
3, 2021**

4-SS, T/L: 40/100, SD/30 + 30i. Comfort Inn O'Hare 2715 W. Touhy Avenue (at River Rd), Des Plaines, IL 60018. In 2 Sections. **U3000** Prizes: (\$280 b/16) \$115-65, U 1950 55, U1750 45. **U1600** Prizes (\$215 b/16) \$100-60, U1350/U 55. ALL: EF: \$45 by 12/12, \$52 by 12/24, \$60 after. Must be age 50 or older as of 12/31/21. Half point bye available any round; must request with entry. Round times 10-4, 9:30-3:30. Hotel rate of \$79 until 12/23. Best score by IL resident in each section receives free entry to 2021 IL Sr Open. Info & Registration at [www.kingregistration.com/midwestsenior](http://www.kingregistration.com/midwestsenior).

## MARYLAND

### MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (NORTH PENN CHESS CLUB)

Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See [www.MDChess.org](http://www.MDChess.org) for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, sign up for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the \$48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland. Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

## NEW YORK

### Marshall Masters

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020**

4-SS, G/25 d5. Open to players rated 2000+. FIDE Rapid rated. (\$750 b/25): \$250-150-100; U2400: \$125; U2300: \$100; Big-gest upset: \$25 EF: \$30; Non-MCC Mbr: Additional \$25 Mbr fee. (\$5 late fee: in-person reg hour before Rd. 1.) GMs Free. Rds:

7-8:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for Rd. 1 or 4 only; request at entry. Register Online: [www.marshallchessclub.org/register](http://www.marshallchessclub.org/register).

### JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 7th Long Island CC January Open

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021-THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

5SS, G/90:d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Avenue, East Meadow, NY 11554. Open to all. \$1b/20 pd. ent.): \$110-90. Top U-2000, U-1500/unr. \$60 ea. EF(cash only): \$35. Non-LICC members +\$10. UNRATED FREE! Reg: 6-45 - 7:15 PM, no adv. ent., Rds: 7:30 PM ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. Info: [www.licchessclub.com](http://www.licchessclub.com).

## NORTH CAROLINA

### JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

### 2020 North American Junior (U20) FIDE Championships (postponed from July 15-19) Note Hotel change

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020-WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 23, 2020**

An official FIDE Continental Championship offering IM, FM, WIM, WFM direct FIDE titles and GM, IM, WGM, WIM norms for winners! The 2019 North American Junior was held in Charlotte and had a record 77 players. Two sections: **Open U20 and Girls U20** (girls may enter either section). 9 rounds, G/90 inc/30, USCF and FIDE-rated, FIDE norms and titles available. Venue: **Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel**, 8629 JM Keynes Rd., Charlotte, NC 28262. Hotel: \$109/night (single/double), free breakfast, free 3-mile shuttle, free internet, free parking, fridge/microwave in every room. \$15 discount off tournament entry fee if staying at official hotel. Open to all players from USA, Canada, and Mexico who are under 20 (19 & younger) as of 1/1/2020 (born 2000 or after). This is a completely open event for those who meet the age and eligibility requirements. **Awards:** Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals to top 3 in each section (on tiebreaks if necessary). Gold medalists win Personal Rights status at 2021 North American Junior and Pan-Am Junior Championships. **Direct FIDE Titles:** Open section-Gold medal = IM title and GM norm; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive IM title, gold medalist also earns GM norm. Silver = FM title and IM norm. Bronze = FM title and IM norm. Girls section-Gold = WIM title and WGM norm; if tie for first, top 3 on tiebreaks receive WIM title, gold medalist also earns WGM norm. Silver = WFM title and WIM norm. Bronze = WFM title and WIM norm. **Schedule:** suggested arrival Friday 12/18. Players meeting 12/19 12:30pm. Rounds Sat 1pm, 7pm, Sun 12pm, 6pm, Mon 12pm, 6pm, Tues 12pm, 6pm, Wed 10am. **Registration:** Players should register directly with the organizers online, it is not necessary to go through the federation. **Entry Fee:** \$260 paid online at [www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior](http://www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior) until 11/20, \$280 until 12/10, \$300 until 12/18. No registration after 12/18. \$15 off EF if staying at official hotel. Refunds before 11/20 subject to 5% service fee. No refunds for withdrawals after 11/20. No half-point byes, only zero-point byes. All equipment provided! This event takes place at the same time as the U.S. G/10, G/30, G/60 Championships ([www.charlottchesscenter.org/usblitzrapid](http://www.charlottchesscenter.org/usblitzrapid)). FIDE Rules, December FIDE ratings used for pairings, USCF and FIDE-rated, all players must have US Chess membership. Organizer: CharlotteChess Center, contact: [grant@charlottchesscenter.org](mailto:grant@charlottchesscenter.org). Info, detailed regulations, registration: [www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior](http://www.charlottchesscenter.org/najunior).

**JANUARY 29-31, 2021, Land of the Sky XXXIV**  
See Grand Prix.

## OKLAHOMA

**DECEMBER 19-20, 2020, Red River Open**  
See Grand Prix.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### North Penn Chess Club

Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See [www.northpennchessclub.org](http://www.northpennchessclub.org) for schedules & info or 215-699-8418.

**13th annual  
CHICAGO CLASS  
December 20, 2020 on Internet Chess Club**

**5 ROUNDS, G/30+10  
\$5,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES**

For details see Online Events or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).

**19th annual  
MANHATTAN OPEN  
December 30 on Internet Chess Club**

**5 ROUNDS, G/45+10  
\$7,000 GUARANTEED PRIZES**

For details see Online Events or [chessevents.us](http://chessevents.us).





## THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS



Thank you for being the sustaining force behind all our initiatives, and for making all of our programs possible.

### US Chess Benefactor Members as of July 30, 2020:

Paul M. Albert Jr.	Carl Cohen	John McCrary
Mark Randall Bates	Jonathan Crumiller	Kenton McNall
Randy Bauer	Jeffrey Davidson	Robert D. Messenger
Jim Bedenbaugh	Martin Dean	David C. Miller
Michael Belovesick	Kenneth Duffy	Parker Montgomery
Jim Blackwood	Gregory Gliner	Ross Nickel
Robert J. Borel	Bill Goichberg	Bernard Novatt
Thomas E. Boyd	Calvin Halsey	Scott R. Parker
Joseph Boyle	Robert E. Hux	William E. Perry III
C. Martin Bradford	In Memory of	David H. Raymond
John J. Brendel	David Kaplan	Timothy P. Redman
Kate Canessa	David Kochman	Timothy M. Sawyier
David E. Carter	David Lazarus	Michael Schulte
Fabiano Caruana	Andrew Lerner	Daryl Skinner
	Christopher Lewis	Phillip Smith
	Jennie S. Liu	Christopher P. Snell



Adam Christopher Snow	Charles Unruh
Henry L. Terrie	John Walton
Henry J. Thompson	Bill Witmer
Harmon D. Throneberry Sr.	Edward Wycoff
Thomas N. Thrush	Brian Yang
Harold Torrance	



STAY AT HOME • IMPROVE YOUR CHESS



# US CHESS NEEDS YOU!

Sign up,  
renew your  
membership,  
or make  
a donation at  
**[uschess.org](https://uschess.org)**



Safeguard the services you enjoy • Help us fulfill our educational non-profit mission



# CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

## Check out these US Chess Rated Events!

### US CHESS 73rd ANNUAL 2020 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

**\$800 FIRST PRIZE** (plus title of US Chess Golden Knights Champion and plaque)  
**2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25**

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those US Chess members with an APO or FPO address. US Chess members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to US Chess Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: Class A: 1800-1999 (very strong); Class B: 1600-1799 (strong); Class C: 1400-1599 (intermediate); Class D: 1399 and below (beginner level). Note: Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

### US CHESS 17th ANNUAL 2020 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship\*

**\$800 FIRST PRIZE** (plus title of US Chess electronic Knights Champion and plaque)  
**2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25**

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members with e-mail access. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten. Note: Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

\*Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.

**Mail in this form to enter, or call us at 800-903-USCF option 4, or visit us online at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ US CHESS ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Est. Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Please call the number above to pay by credit card.

☐ Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated  
 (note that this may slow down your assignment).

**Make checks payable to US CHESS and mail to: Joan DuBois, US Chess, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557**

## Three ways to enter:

- Call 800-903-USCF (8723) option 4
- Visit us online at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org)
- Mail in the form below

### CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)

Two or six-game options. ENTRY FEE: \$5.

#### ☐ Win A Correspondence Chess Trophy

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings. 1st-place winner receives a trophy. Entry fee: \$10.

#### ☐ Victor Palciauskas Prize Tournaments

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. Entry fee: \$25.

#### ☐ John W. Collins Memorial Class Tournaments

Four-player, double round-robin with rating-level (0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+) pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate. Entry fee: \$7.

### EMAIL RATED EVENTS (NEED EMAIL ACCESS)

#### ☐ Lightning Match

Two players with two or six-game option. Entry fee: \$5.

#### ☐ Swift Quads

Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize US Chess CC entry credit of \$30. Rating-Levels 0000-1499; 1500-1799; 1800-2000+. Entry fee: \$10.

#### ☐ Walter Muir E-Quads (webserver chess)

Four-player, double round-robin webserver format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place receives a certificate. Entry fee: \$7.

### Please check event(s) selected.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads & Electronic Knights, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

## Classifieds

*Chess Life* accepts classified advertising in these categories: Activities, For Rent, For Sale, Games, Instruction, Miscellaneous, Services, Tournaments, Wanted. Only typed or e-mailed copy is accepted. Absolutely no telephone orders. Rates (per word, per insertion): 1-2 insertions \$1.50, 3-6 insertions \$1.25, 7+ insertions \$1.00. Affiliates pay \$1.00 per word regardless of insertion frequency. No other discounts available. Advertisements with less than 15 words will cost a minimum of \$15 per issue. Post office boxes count as two words, telephone numbers as one, ZIP code is free. Full payment must accompany all advertising. All advertising published in *Chess Life* is subject to the applicable rate card, available from the Advertising Department. *Chess Life* reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Only publication of an advertisement constitutes final acceptance. For a copy of these complete set of regulations & a schedule of deadlines, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *Chess Life* Classifieds, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Ads are due two months prior (by the 10th) of the issue cover date you want your ad to appear in. (For example: October CL ads MUST be submitted no later than August 10th). You can e-mail your classified ad to Joan DuBois, [tda@uschess.org](mailto:tda@uschess.org).

### For Sale

#### \*WORLD'S FINEST CHESS SETS\*

\*The House of Staunton produces unquestionably the finest Staunton Chess sets. \*Pay-Pal and all Major Credit Cards accepted. The House of Staunton, Inc.; 1021 Production Court; Suite 100; Madison, AL 35758. \*Website: [www.houseofstaunton.com](http://www.houseofstaunton.com); phone: (256)858-8070; email: [sales@houseofstaunton.com](mailto:sales@houseofstaunton.com)

### Instruction

#### TOP-QUALITY BARGAIN CHESS LESSONS BY PHONE

With more than 40 years of experience teaching chess, the Mid-Atlantic Chess Instruction Center is the best in the business. We specialize in adult students. We offer 35 different courses as well as individual game analysis. Center Director: Life Master Russell Potter. Tel.: (540) 344-4446. If we are out when you call, please leave your name & tel. #. Our Webpage is at: [chessinstructor.org](http://chessinstructor.org). NEW: FREE powerful analysis engines + FREE screen-sharing!

#### YOU'LL SEE REAL PROGRESS by Studying with 3-Time U.S. Champ GM Lev Alburt!

Private lessons (incl. by mail and phone) from \$80/hr. Autographed seven-volume, self-study Comprehensive Chess Course-only \$134 postpaid! P.O. Box 534, Gracie Station, NY, NY 10028. (212) 794-8706.

### Wanted

#### \*CHESS-PLAYER SCHOLARS\*

in top 10% of high school class with USCF > 2000 and SAT (math + critical reading + writing) > 2150 for possible college scholarships to UMBC. Prof. Alan Sherman, Dept. of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County, 21250. [sherman@umbc.edu](mailto:sherman@umbc.edu).

### CHESSMATE® POCKET & TRAVEL SETS

Perfect chess gifts for the chess lover in your life:  
 The finest magnetic chess sets available.  
**HANDMADE IN THE USA**  
**30-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!**  
**WWW.CHESSMATE.COM** Phone: 425.697.4513

# Solutions

## Pages 10-11 / TRIVIA QUIZ

**1.** No, not Garry Kasparov. It is Ken Rogoff, whose *chessgames.com* page has become a magnet for political debate. **2.** c. The players who scored more points in the chess tournament earned more bullets to fire in the small-arms stages in the "Army-2020" competition. More than 60 competitors took part. **3.** a and b. **4.** c. **5.** Garry Kasparov on Mikhail Tal's 1985 birthday. **6.** c. **7.** d, a suggestion of Vladimir Kramnik. **8.** 1c, 2b, 3f, 4d, 5a, 6e (also a William Faulkner story of the same name), 7g. **9.** d, about the early career of Ruth Bader Ginsberg. **10.** a. **11.** b. It said his base weight is 135 but he becomes concerned when it drops below 120. **12.** b. This and other training games were revealed by GM Yuri Balashov, who played as a team in beating Taimanov in this game. **13.** King and knight. **14.** d. Thirty-one players, who practiced a total of eight different religions, took part. **15.** b. "We cannot change the rules of chess permanently," Carlsen explained, "but we flipped the board for one game to use chess to bring a new perspective to the discussion about equality."

## Page 11 / CHESS TO ENJOY

**PROBLEM I.** 55. Rg5! and Black resigns in view of 56. Rh5+! Kxh5 57. Qg5 mate. **PROBLEM II.** 41. Qg4! mates with 42. Qg6+! Bxg6 43. hxb6 mate. Or 41. ... Bf4 42. Qxg7. **PROBLEM III.** 32. Rxf6! gxf6 33. Qe3 and Black resigns. **PROBLEM IV.** 28. ... b5! 29. Qd3 Qb7! and White resigns. **PROBLEM V.** White resigned after 26. ... Qf3! because of 27. Kg1 Bd4+ or 27. Rxd1 Qxd1+ 28. Rg1 Qf3+ 29. Rg2 Rd8! and ... Rd8-d1+. **PROBLEM VI.** Black resigned after 14. Nxf7! in view of 14. ... Bxf7 15. Nxe7+ Kh8 16. Rxd8 or 14. ... Rxf7 15. Nxe7+ Qxe7 16. Rxe6.

## Page 23 / MAKE YOUR MOVE!

**TACTIC I.** 25. Nxd5! Taking advantage of the unprotected pieces on c8 and e7. **25. ... Rxc2** 26. Nxe7+ Kf7 27. Kxc2 Kxe7 White has only won a pawn but the endgame is easily won for White. **28. Kd3 Rh3** 29. Bb4+ Kd7 30. Rf1 Rxb4 31. Rf7+ Kc8 32. Re7 Rh3 33. Bd6 Kd8 34. Rxe6 Kd7 35. Rxb6, Black resigned. Nakamura - Sevan, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC II.** 21. ... Rxd2! Also 21. ... Qg6 22. Bf1 Rxd2 wins. **22. Rxd2 Qg6** The point, the dual threats against g2 and b1. **23. Bf1 Qxb1** This wins, and so does 23. ... Bxg2 and 23. ... Nc4. **24. Rd7 Bxg2!** A final flurry that made White resign. After 25. Kxg2, 25. ... Qg6+ 26. Kh3 Qe6+ wins White's rook. Aleksandrov - Khanin, Chelyabinsk 2020. **TACTIC III.** 17. axb5 White has another effective possibility along the same theme: 17. Bd5 Qd7 18. Qf6 Kh7 19. axb5 axb5 20. Rxa8 Rxa8 21. Bxc6 Qxc6 22. Qxf7+ and White is winning. **17. ... axb5** 18. Rxa8 Qxa8 19. Qf6 and Black resigned as he has no sufficient answer to the threat against the g6-pawn, for instance, 19. Qf6 Kh7 20. Bxf7 and Black is finished. Vokhidov - Baskin, NWC lichess 2020. **TACTIC IV.** 28. Ne8! and Black resigned. Everything loses: 28. Ne8

Rxe8 (or 28. ... Bxe5 29. Rf8 mate; or 28. ... Kg8 29. Rxb7+ Kf8 30. Nc7) 29. Rxb7, deciding the game on account of the discovered checks on either g6 or a7. Artemiev - Kamsky, Titled Tuesday 2020. **TACTIC V.** 21. f4! In the game, White instead played 21. fxb4 Bxb4? (21. ... Qh4! would have been a better defensive chance) 22. Be2 Rxc3?? (22. ... Qh4! was relatively best, intending to meet 23. Rg1 with 23. ... Qf2; now, on the other hand, White is winning) 23. Bxc3 Bxe2 24. Rg1+ Bg4 25. Qxh5 Kg7 26. Rxb4+ Kf6 27. Be1 Rh8 28. Bh4+ Ke6 29. Qf5 mate. Gabrielian - Ponkratov, Titled Tuesday 2020. **21. ... Qh4** The pawn can't be captured because of Nd5 with mayhem on f6 and the long a1-h8 diagonal. **22. f5 f6** The white pawn can't be allowed to reach f6, but White also wins after the text move. **23. Qg6+ Kh8** 24. fxe6 Qg5 25. Qxg5 fxb5 26. Nb5 and White is winning. **TACTIC VI.** 18. Rf2! A nasty little move that threatens both Bd1 and Bf1, exploiting the pin of the bishop on c2. **18. ... Ba4** 19. Bd1 Qa3 20. Bxa4 Qxa4 Black appears to have save himself, but now follows the lethal strike 21. f4! and Black resigned as the kingside collapses in the hands of White's attacking forces and the total absence of defenders. Note that also 21. Nxb6! would win for White but it is a more complicated win, e.g., 21. ... fxb6 22. Qxg6+ Kh8 23. Re2 Rf6 24. Qh5+ Kg8 25. Qg5+ Kf8 26. Rce1. Kryvoruchko - J. van Foreest, German Schachbundesliga 2020. **TACTIC VII.** 29. ... Nf7! The move order is important, if 29. ... Rg8+ 30. Kh1 Nf7 31. Rxb7 or 30. ... Rf2 31. Rg1 are both better for White. **30. Rxf6 Rg8+ 31. Kh1 Rh5** With the threat against h2, White is forced to be on the defensive. **32. Rf2 Nh6** Now the knight is ready to join the attack against the white monarch. **33. Rg1 Ng4** 34. Rfg2 If 34. Re2 Bxh2 35. Rgg2 Bg3+ 36. Kg1 Nh2 and it is curtains for White. **34. ... Rf8** In the game, Black instead preferred to keep playing against h2 and soon won after 34. ... Rg6 35. Re2 Bxh2 36. Rgg2 Bg3+ 37. Kg1 Rgh6 38. Kf1 Nh2+ 39. Rxb2 Rxb2 40. Rxb2 Rxb2 41. Kg1 h5 42. b4 h4 43. bxc5 bxc5 44. Na5+ Ka8 and White resigned in Graf - Beikert, German Schachbundesliga 2020. **35. Be5** if anything else then ... Nf2+ would decide. **35. ... Bxe5** 36. Nxe5 Nxe5 and Black is easily winning. **TACTIC VIII.** 27. Rg3! Pinning the black king down and frequently threatening Rxb6+. In the game, White quickly won after 27. Rxb7 Rab8 28. Re7 Rxb2?? (Black should have played 28. ... Qxb2 29. Rc5 Rbd8 30. Rg5 Qb1+ 31. Kh2 Rd5 which is also unpleasant for Black but decidedly better than the game continuation) 29. Rxf7! and Black resigned. Mate follows in a few moves. Shevchenko - Sarana, Titled Tuesday 2020. **27. ... Qxb2** Alternatively, 27. ... Rac8 28. Re1 Qd5 (Or 28. ... Qxb2 29. Kh2 Qd2 30. Re3 Qc2 31. Re5 threatening Rh5, deciding the game) 29. Re5 Qxd4 30. Rxb6+ fxb6 31. Qxg6+ Kh8 32. Rh5 mate. **28. Rc5!** An important point behind the previous move: White threatens Rh5-h8 mate. **28. ... Qb1+** 29. Kh2 e5 This looks like desperation but it is an attempt to open some files and ranks to allow for a defense. That being said, it doesn't work. **30. Rc7 Rad8** 31. dxe5 Rde8 Or 31. ... Rd1 32. Rg4 with a breathing hole for the king and too many threats for Black to defend against. **32. Rxf7 Rxf7** 33.

**Rxb6+** Black's king is wide open and defending it will at minimum cost a rook, but because the king is so bare while facing a queen and rook, it will ultimately be a matter of time before he loses. One possible continuation could be 33. ... Kf8 34. Qh8+ Ke7 35. Qh4+ Kd7 36. e6+! Rxe6 37. Qd4+ Ke7 38. Qc5+ Kd7 39. Qd5+ Kc7 40. Qxe6 and Black will have to give up the queen to prevent mate. **TACTIC IX.** 26. ... Re1!! Black exploits that both of White's defenders of the d4-knight are overburdened. Note that Black could also play 26. ... Re4 27. Nc6 Bxc6 28. dxc6 Bd4 but the game move is strongest. **27. Rxe1 Bxd4** This was the point behind the previous move, but White can still fight. **28. Qb4 Qc7** 29. d6 Qc6 30. Qa5 Bxb2! The computer gives preference to 30. ... Rxb2+ but this line looks messier, for instance, 31. Kc1 Qxd6 32. c3 Rb5 33. Qd8+ Rb8 34. Qe7 Qb6 35. Qb4 Qc7 36. Qxb8+ Qxb8 37. cxd4 Qd6 and Black is winning. It is no surprise why the World Champion preferred something more straight-forward. **31. Ka2 Be5** 32. Rb1 Rxb1 33. Kxb1 Qxd6 34. Kc1 Qd4 Black's pieces dominate the board and he eventually won the game after 35. Qxa6+ Kb8 36. c3 Qg1+ 37. Kd2 Qxg2+ 38. Ke3 f4+ 39. Nxf4 Bxf4+ 40. Rxf4 Qg3+ 41. Rf3 Qe1+ 42. Kd4 Qe5+ 43. Kxc4 Qe4+ 44. Kc5 Qxf3 45. Kd6 Bc8 and White resigned. Tari - Carlsen, Stavanger 2020.

## Page 43 / ABCs OF CHESS

**PROBLEM I. Mating Net:** Black mates by 1. ... Re6+ 2. Ne4 Bc3 mate. **PROBLEM II. Mating Net:** Black mates in two: 1. ... Rxd3+ 2. cxd3 Ba4 mate. **PROBLEM III. Mating net:** It's mate in two: 1. ... Rd2+ 2. Ke1 Nf3 mate. **PROBLEM IV. Mating net:** It is mate next move after 1. ... Bh4+. **PROBLEM V. Mating net:** It is mate immediately by 1. ... Rg3 mate. **PROBLEM VI. Mating net:** Black mates after 1. ... Qh2+ 2. Kxh2 Rh8+ and mate next move.

CHESS LIFE USPS # 102-840 (ISSN 0197-260X). Volume 75 No. 12. PRINTED IN THE USA. Chess Life, formerly Chess Life & Review, is published monthly by the United States Chess Federation, 137 Obrien Dr., Crossville, TN 38557-3967. Chess Life & Review and Chess Life remain the property of USCF. Annual subscription (without membership): \$72. Periodical postage paid at Crossville, TN 38557-3967 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Chess Life (USCF), PO Box 3967, Crossville, Tennessee 38557-3967. Entire contents ©2020 by the United States Chess Federation. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise without the prior written permission of USCF. Note: Unsolicited materials are submitted at the sender's risk and Chess Life accepts no responsibility for them. Materials will not be returned unless accompanied by appropriate postage and packaging. Address all submissions to Chess Life, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967. The opinions expressed are strictly those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Chess Federation. Send all address changes to: U.S. Chess, Membership Services, PO Box 3967, Crossville, Tennessee 38557-3967. Include your USCF I.D. number and a recent mailing label if possible. This information may be e-mailed to [addresschange@uscf.org](mailto:addresschange@uscf.org). Please give us eight weeks advance notice. PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 41473530 RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO EXPRESS MESSENGER INTERNATIONAL P.O. BOX 25058 LONDON BRC, ONTARIO, CANADA N6C 6A8

## HOW TO USE THIS INDEX

Items are listed by month (1-12) and page; so 4:16 refers to April, page 16. There are three sections: Index of Games, Index of Openings, and Index of Features. In Index of Games, (f) refers to a game fragment.

Month	Cover	#s
January (1)	Jennifer Yu	1-72
February (2)	Adjournments	1-72
March (3)	Chess Is For All	1-72
April (4)	Cayman Chess	1-72
May (5)	Humpy Koneru	1-72
June (6)	Isolated Pawns	1-60
July (7)	USAT East Winners	1-60
August (8)	The New Chess Boom	1-60
September (9)	Charlie Gabriel	1-60
October (10)	Abhimanyu Mishra	1-60
November (11)	The Queen's Gambit	1-60
December (12)	Rockefeller Legacy	1-52

### Index of Games

Abrón,M

-Caballero,R, 5:9  
-Manchin,AJ, 5:9  
-Winchester,B, 5:9

Adams,G

-Addis,E, 2:34  
-Buss,M, 8:18  
-Porter,D, 8:18

Addis,E-Adams,G, 2:34

Alejo,A,CAH-Yu,J, 1:37

Alekhhine,A-Bogoljubov,E, 4:44

Alekhhine,A/Koltanowski,G-de  
Mey,E/Janssens,J/Noirot/  
Stoffels, 4:17

AlphaZero-Stockfish, 7:13(f)

Alvarez,M-Chen,M, 11:7

Anand,P-Kolay,A, 2:38(f)

Anand,V

-Carlsen,M, 6:14  
-Kramnik,V, 2:20  
-Lautier,J, 2:21(f)  
-Nepomniachtchil,I, 8:10

Anonymous-Priore,AL, 1:72(f)

Arkell,K-Shabalov,A, 6:38, 6:42

Aronian,L

-Grischuk,A, 9:38,39  
-Nakamura,H, 7:39(f)  
-Navara,D, 6:21(f)

Avalla-Lasker,E, 10:16(f)

Averbakh,Y-Euwe,M, 7:12(f)

Baalla,N-Wu,R, 7:8

Baker,V-Niemann,H, 4:30(f)

Baligar,N-Kvakovszky,G, 5:72

Baryshpolets,A-Preotu,R, 3:26(f)

Beckman,T-Jay,N, 4:26

Belka,W-Sasikiran,K, 5:24

Benjamin,J

-Fatalibekova,E, 6:37(f)  
-Kaidanov,G, 10:24

Berger,B-Evans,L, 11:52

Bernadskiy,V-Shahade,G, 8:28

Blackburne,JH-Steinitz,W, 12:37

Bogoljubov,E-Alekhhine,A, 4:44

Bonin,J

-Espinoza,P, 12:25  
-Stolyarov,A, 12:25(f)  
Botvinnik,M  
-Bronstein,D, 2:15(f)

-Ragozin,V, 1:14

Bougher,J-Gilbert,M, 7:14

Brereton,J-Wei,T, 7:17

Brodsky,D-Yang,HL, 9:26

Bronstein,D

-Botvinnik,M, 2:15(f)

-Vedder,R, 6:44

Buck,G-Ohman,H, 5:33

Burchard,A-Relyea,A, 1:16

Burnett,R-Guseinov,G, 12:7(f)

Buss,M

-Adams,G, 8:18

-Cross,G, 8:17

-Miehm,R, 2:35

Caballero,R-Abrón,M, 5:9

Cantone,A-Harris,W, 3:14

Cao,E-Chen,B, 4:29(f)

Capablanca,JR-Lilienthal,A, 12:42

Carlsen,M

-Anand,V, 6:14

-Caruana,F, 1:32(f);

9:41,42,42(f)

-Dolmatov,S, 1:14

-Firouzja,A, 7:34,38(f)

-Jones,G, 7:13(f)

-Liren,D, 7:36(f)

-Nakamura,H, 8:10

-So,W, 1:18(f); 10:22

-Xiong,J, 9:38

Caruana,F

-Carlsen,M, 1:32(f);

9:41,42,42(f)

-Firouzja,A, 4:20

-Gujrathi,VS, 8:11(f)

-Hao,W, 7:37(f)

-Karen,B, 8:60(f)

-Liren,D, 7:29

-So,W, 9:40

Chajes,O-Janowski,D, 10:48

Checa,N-Hong,A, 10:37

Chen,B-Cao,E, 4:29(f)

Chen,M-Alvarez,M, 11:7

Chjmachenko,A-Kramnik,V,

10:14

Choksi,K-Liu,K, 9:28(f)

Cross,G-Buss,M, 8:17

deanofchess-Magician4MA, 8:21

Deep Junior-Kasparov,G, 6:14

Del Campo, RM-Francisco,R,

3:46(f)

Demby,M-Lasker,E, 12:37

Demchenko,S-Liu,K, 11:60

de Mey,E/Janssens,J/Noirot/

Stoffels-Alekhhine,A/

Koltanowski,G, 4:17

Denby,C-Rorrer,G, 10:60(f)

Diaz,L-Wang,J, 7:60

Dolmatov,S-Carlsen,M, 1:14

Dubov,D

-Nakamura,H, 1:20; 7:39

-Shankland,S, 11:22(f)

Duda,J-Nakamura,H, 10:22

Dzagnidze,N-Koneru,H, 5:39(f)

Erdos,V-Xiong,J, 2:18

Ernst,M-Levin,F, 6:43

Esipenko,A-Xiong,J, 11:22

Espinoza,P-Bonin,J, 12:25

Euwe,M-Averbakh,Y, 7:12(f)

Evans,L-Berger,B, 11:52

Fatalibekova,E-Benjamin,J,

6:37(f)

Fedorowicz,J-Kong,WM, 9:23

Filip,M-Tal,M, 1:15

Firouzja,A

-Carlsen,M, 7:34,38(f)

-Caruana,F, 4:20

Fischer,B/Evans,L-Gersch,C, 4:16

Fischer,B

-Petrosian,T, 11:10

-Reshevsky,S, 7:12(f)

-Spassky,B, 2:14(f)

-Tal,M, 2:14(f)

-Geller,E, 6:15

Fishbein,A-Zapata,A, 10:44

Foisor,S-Guseinov,G, 8:27(f)

Francisco,R-Del Campo,RM,

3:46(f)

Friedel,J-Safarli,E, 8:25(f)

Geller,E-Fischer,R, 6:15

Gersch,C-Fischer,B/Evans,L, 4:16

Gilbert,M-Bougher,J, 7:14

Gipslis,A-Kostro,J, 1:44

Glorigi,S-Kotov,A, 6:21(f)

Gomez,MC-Shen,Y, 6:20(f)

Grabinsky,J-Yip,C, 10:38

GregShahade-Magician4MA, 8:22

Grinberg,E-Sorokin,A, 3:23(f)

Grischuk,A

-Aronian,L, 9:38,39

-Nepomniachtchil,I, 10:20

-So,W, 11:23

Guijarro,DA-Xiangzhi,B, 8:11(f)

Gujrathi,VS-Caruana,F, 8:11(f)

Gunina,V

-Koneru,H, 5:42

-Yip,C, 5:41(f)

Guo,A-Yoo,C, 12:19

Guseinov,G

-Burnett,R, 12:7(f)

-Foisor,S, 8:27(f)

-Lugovskoy,M, 8:28(f)

Hao,W-Caruana,F, 7:37(f)

Hao,W-Liren,D, 7:28

Hardaway,B

-Lu,J, 11:26

-Xie,B, 10:42

-Zhao,E, 4:29(f)

"Harmon,B-Luchenko,D", 11:37(f)

Harris, W-Cantone,A, 3:14

Hazel,LY-Li,R, 9:27

Hernandez,R-Pak,W, 4:29(f)

Herrington,P-Thatcher,A, 6:16

Hilby,C-Wang,K, 10:28

Hill,R-Howe,A, 4:18

Hjartson,J-Santiago,JN, 12:39(f)

Hong,A

-Checa,N, 10:37

-Stremavicius,T, 10:28

Hort,V-Jansa,V, 9:11

Howe,A-Hill,R, 4:18

Hracek,Z-Kaidanov,G, 6:38

Irons,R-NN (Tennessee), 8:12

Jacobs,J-Tsodikova,N, 1:24

Janowski,D-Chajes,O, 10:48

Jansa,V-Hort,V, 9:11

Javakhadze,Z-Shylakhtenko,R,

10:26

Jay,N-Beckman,T, 4:26

Jensen,U-Schaffer,P, 3:16

Jingyao,T-Ostrovskiy,A, 9:22

Jirasek,L-Wu,D, 7:20

Jones,G-Carlsen,M, 7:13(f)

Ju,W

-Kosteniuk,A, 5:43(f)

-Lagno,K, 5:38(f)

-Muzychuk,M, 5:44

-Yip,C, 5:22

Kaidanov,G

-Benjamin,J, 10:24

-Hracek,Z, 6:38

Karen,B-Caruana,F, 8:60(f)

Kasparov,G

-Deep Junior, 6:14

-Nunn,J, 8:45

-Piket,J, 11:10

Kiewra,K-Robson,R, 9:60(f)

Kolay,A-Anand,P, 2:38(f)

Koneru,H

-Dzagnidze,N, 5:39(f)

-Gunina,V, 5:42

-Kosteniuk,A, 5:40(f)

-Muzychuk,M, 5:37(f), 5:45

-Yip,C, 5:37

Kong,CP-Lapan,D, 9:24(f)

Kong,WM-Fedorowicz,J, 9:23

Korba,N-Ramer,S, 7:21

Korobov,A-Shankland,S, 11:20

Kosteniuk,A

-Ju,W, 5:43(f)

-Koneru,H, 5:40(f)

-Yip,C, 5:38(f)

Kostro,J-Gipslis,A, 1:44

Kotov,A-Glorigi,S, 6:21(f)

Kottbauer,C-Szapiel,H, 2:5

Kovalev,A-Sher,M, 10:8

Kramnik,V

-Anand,V, 2:20

-Chjmachenko,A, 10:14

-Radjabov,T, 11:11(f)

Krush,J-Yip,C, 5:40(f)

Kvakovszky,G-Baligar,N, 5:72

Lagno,K

-Ju,W, 5:38(f)

-Muzychuk,M, 5:45

Lagrange,M-V-Liren,D, 2:44(f)

Lapan,D-Kong,CP, 9:24(f)

Lasker,E

-Avalla, 10:16(f)

-Demby,M, 12:37

Lautier,J-Anand,V, 2:21(f)

Lee,A

-Samadashvili,M, 10:40

-Zhou,Y, 2:37

Lee,B-Schwan,F, 9:12

Lenderman,A

-Molner,M, 2:72

-Ramirez,A, 8:29

Lerman,H-Strenzwilk,D, 6:60(f)

Levine,J-Wong,ZJ, 9:25(f)

Levin,F-Ernst,M, 6:43

Liang,J

-Tsai,V, 10:27

-Xiangyi,L, 9:24,27(f)

-Zheng,M, 10:41(f)

Liepnies,A-Ohman,H, 5:34

Lilienthal,A-Capablanca,JR, 12:42

Liren,D

-Carlsen,M, 7:36(f)

-Caruana,F, 7:29



-Liren,D, 9:45(f)  
 Neal,J-Saleem,A, 9:34  
 Nepomniachtchi,I  
 -Anand,V, 8:10  
 -Grischuk,A, 10:20  
 -Liren,D, 6:18  
 -So,W, 1:32(f)  
 -Vachier-Lagrave,M, 7:32  
 Newhart,D-North,J, 5:20  
 Nezhmetdinov,R-Romanov,B, 9:46  
 Ngo,B-Park,E, 10:41(f)  
 Niehm,R-Buss,M, 2:35  
 Niemann,H-Baker,V, 4:30(f)  
 NN (Tennessee)-Irons,R, 8:12  
 North,J-Newhart,D, 5:20  
 Novikov,I-Meister,J, 6:39; 8:39(f)  
 Nunn,J-Kasparov,G, 8:45  
 Ohman,H  
 -Buck,G, 5:33  
 -Lipieniks,A, 5:34  
 -Ludwig,AC, 5:33  
 -Magee,L, 5:34(f)  
 -Marchand,E, 5:33  
 -Saxton,D, 5:33  
 -Spence,J, 5:34(f)  
 Oparin,G-Ramirez,A, 8:27(f)  
 Ostrovskiy,A-Jingyao,T, 9:22  
 Oyundelger,O-Li,R, 2:39  
 Pak,W-Hernandez,R, 4:29(f)  
 Park,E-Ngo,B, 10:41(f)  
 Paul,J-Shibut,M, 4:24  
 Pavlidis,A-Shankland,S, 11:17  
 Paxson,A-Verbrugge,S, 2:16  
 Petrosian,T  
 -Fischer,B, 11:10  
 -Tal,M, 5:48  
 Piket,J-Kasparov,G, 11:10  
 Pillsbury,HN-Marco,G, 2:42  
 Plaskett,J-Yermolinsky,A, 6:37  
 Porter,D-Adams,G, 8:18  
 Portisch,L-Stein,L, 7:46  
 Preotu,R-Baryshpolets,A, 3:26(f)  
 Priore,AL-Anonymous, 1:72(f)  
 Qianyun,G-Yip,C, 9:22  
 Rachels,S-Miles,A, 9:45(f)  
 Radjabov,T-Kramnik,V, 11:11(f)  
 Ragozin,V-Botvinnik,M, 1:14  
 Ramer,S-Korba,N, 7:21  
 Ramirez,A  
 -Lenderman,A, 8:29  
 -Oparin,G, 8:27(f)  
 -Xiong,J, 8:26(f)  
 Relyea,A-Burchard,A, 1:16  
 Reshevsky,S-Fischer,B, 7:12(f)  
 Reshef,O-Vorontsov,P, 3:23  
 Robson,R-Kiewra,K, 9:60(f)  
 Rohde,M-Stearman,J, 1:24  
 Romanov,B-Nezhmetdinov,R, 9:46  
 Rorrer,G-Denby,C, 10:60(f)  
 Rubinstein,A-Spielmann,R, 8:42(f)  
 Safarli,E-Friedel,J, 8:25(f)  
 Saleem,A-Neal,J, 9:34  
 Samadashvili,M  
 -Lee,A, 10:40  
 -Wang,A, 10:40(f)  
 Sandrin,A-Sherwin,JT, 3:15,44  
 Santiago,JN-Hjartson,J, 12:39(f)  
 Sasikiran,K-Belka,W, 5:24

Sax,G-Matera,S, 4:72  
 Saxton,D-Ohman,H, 5:33  
 Schaffer,P-Jensen,U, 3:16  
 Scheffner,J-McConnell,G, 12:52(f)  
 Schlechter,C-Teichmann,R, 8:46  
 Schwan,F-Lee,B, 9:12  
 Shabalov,A-Arkell,K, 6:38,42  
 Shahade,G-Bernadskiy,V, 8:28  
 Shankland,S  
 -Dubov,D, 11:22(f)  
 -Korobov,A, 11:20  
 -Pavlidis,A, 11:17  
 Shapiro,D-Vakhidov,J, 12:7(f)  
 Shen,Y-Gomez,MC, 6:20(f)  
 Sher,M-Kovalev,A, 10:8  
 Sherwin,JT-Sandrin,A, 3:15,44  
 Shibut,M  
 -Lowinger,D, 4:25  
 -Paul,J, 4:24  
 Shirov,A-Topalov,V, 5:18(f)  
 Shiyakhtenko,R-Lu,M, 12:17  
 Shtembuliak,E-Stremavicius,T, 3:25  
 Shuman,N-Singh,H, 4:30  
 Shylakhtenko,R-Javakhadze,Z, 10:26  
 Singh,H-Shuman,N, 4:30  
 Sivakumar,A-Tsay,V, 9:25  
 Smyslov,V-Sokolov,A, 10:15  
 Sokolov,A-Smyslov,V, 10:15  
 Sorokin,A-Grinberg,E, 3:23(f)  
 So,W  
 -Carlsen,M, 1:18(f); 10:22  
 -Caruana,F, 9:40  
 -Grischuk,A, 11:23  
 -Nepomniachtchi,I, 1:32(f)  
 -Svidler,P, 1:31(f)  
 -Yangyi,Y, 7:36(f)  
 Spassky,B-Fischer,B, 2:14(f)  
 Spence,J-Ohman,H, 5:34(f)  
 Spielmann,R-Rubinstein,A, 8:42(f)  
 Stearman,J-Rohde,M, 1:24  
 Steinitz,W-Blackburne,JH, 12:37  
 Stein,L-Portisch,L, 7:46  
 Stockfish-AlphaZero, 7:13(f)  
 Stolyarov,A-Bonin,J, 12:25(f)  
 Stremavicius,T  
 -Hong,A, 10:28  
 -Shtembuliak,E, 3:25  
 Strenzwilk,D-Lerman,H, 6:60(f)  
 Svidler,P-So,W, 1:31(f)  
 Szapiel,H-Kottbauer,C, 2:5  
 Tal,M  
 -Filip,M, 1:15  
 -Fischer,B, 2:14(f)  
 -Petrosian,T, 5:48  
 Teichmann,R-Schlechter,C, 8:46  
 Thatcher,A-Herrington,P, 6:16  
 Topalov,V-Shirov,A, 5:18(f)  
 Tsay,V  
 -Liang,J, 10:27  
 -Sivakumar,A, 9:25  
 Tsodikova,N-Jacobs,J, 1:24  
 Vachier-Lagrave,M  
 -Liren,D, 2:44(f), 7:29  
 -Nakamura,H, 10:22  
 -Nepomniachtchi,I, 7:32  
 Vakhidov,J-Shapiro,D, 12:7(f)  
 Valdes,ITO-Yip,C, 11:18  
 Vedder,R-Bronstein,D, 6:44

Venkat,R-Yoo,E, 4:31  
 Verburgge,S-Paxson,A, 2:16  
 Vorontsov,P-Reshef,O, 3:23  
 Wang,A-Samadashvili,M, 10:40(f)  
 Wang,J  
 -Diaz,L, 7:60  
 -Martin,N, 2:38(f)  
 -Yoo,C, 12:19  
 Wang,K-Hilby,C, 10:28  
 Wei,T-Brereton,J, 7:17  
 Winchester,B-Abron,M, 5:9  
 Wong,ZJ-Levine,J, 9:25(f)  
 Wu,D-Jirasek,L, 7:20  
 Wu,R-Baalla,N, 7:8  
 Xiangyi,L-Liang,J, 9:24,27(f)  
 Xiangzhi,B-Guijarro,DA, 8:11(f)  
 Xie,B-Hardaway,B, 10:42  
 Xiong,J  
 -Carlsen,M, 9:38  
 -Erdos,V, 2:18  
 -Esipenko,A, 11:22  
 -Naroditsky,D, 1:46(f)  
 -Ramirez,A, 8:26(f)  
 -Zatonskih,A, 8:29  
 xQc-MoistCr1tikal, 8:36  
 Yang,HL-Brodsky,D, 9:26  
 Yangyi,Y-So,W, 7:36(f)  
 Yermolinsky,A-Plaskett,J, 6:37  
 Yip,C  
 -Grabinsky,J, 10:38  
 -Gunina,V, 5:41(f)  
 -Ju,W, 5:22  
 -Koneru,H, 5:37  
 -Kosteniuk,A, 5:38(f)  
 -Krush,I, 5:40(f)  
 -Qianyun,G, 9:22  
 -Valdes,ITO, 11:18  
 Yoo,C  
 -Guo,A, 12:19  
 -Lu,M, 12:21  
 -Wang,J, 12:19  
 Yoo,E-Venkat,R, 4:31  
 Yu,J-Alejano,CAH, 1:37  
 Zapata,A-Fishbein,A, 10:44  
 Zatonskih,A-Xiong,J, 8:29  
 Zhang,E-Zou,W, 7:9(f)  
 Zhao,E-Hardaway,B, 4:29(f)  
 Zheng,M-Liang,J, 10:41(f)  
 Zhrebukh,Y-Mishra,A, 10:35  
 Zhou,L-Li,Y, 2:38(f)  
 Zhou,Y-Lee,A, 2:37  
 Zou,W-Zhang,E, 7:9(f)

## Index of Openings

Benko Gambit, 8:18  
 Benoni Defense, 8:45; 9:27  
 Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, 5:72  
 Budapest Gambit, 10:17  
 Caro-Kann Defense, 6:43; 10:35; 11:52; 12:19  
 Catalan Opening, 12:25  
 Colle System, 5:9  
 Dutch Defense, 5:34; 6:38,42; 8:17  
 English Opening, 6:37,38; 7:28; 9:42; 10:37; 12:21  
 French Defense, 1:16; 2:16; 5:48; 7:21,32; 8:29; 9:22,24; 10:27,38; 11:7, 12:37  
 Giuoco Piano, 10:20,22,24; 11:18,23

Grob's Attack, 9:12  
 Grünfeld Defense, Exchange Variation, 8:10  
 King's Gambit Declined, 5:33  
 King's Indian Defense, 2:37; 4:20,26; 5:37  
 Larsen's Opening, 12:17  
 London System, 7:17; 9:41; 12:37  
 Marshall Gambit, 9:22  
 Modern Defense, 3:23; 7:8; 10:28  
 Neo-Grünfeld Defense, 9:11  
 Nimzo-Indian Defense, 1:24; 6:14; 9:38,40; 10:40; 11:22; 12:21,42  
 Old Indian, 5:9  
 Petroff Defense, 5:44,45; 8:21  
 Pirc Defense, 10:28; 12:10  
 Queen Pawn Opening, 4:30  
 Queen's Fianchetto Defense, 5:33  
 Queen's Gambit, 9:34  
 Cambridge Springs Defense, 9:25  
 Chebanenko Slav, 8:29  
 Queen's Gambit Accepted, 2:18  
 Queen's Gambit Declined, 2:5,25,32,42; 4:16; 8:12; 10:26,48  
 Semi-Slav Defense, 1:14; 2:20; 3:15,44; 5:42; 6:14; 11:20  
 Slav Defense, 7:14,29  
 Tarrasch Defense, 1:20  
 Queen's Indian Defense, 4:18; 6:39,44; 9:26  
 Queen's Pawn Game, 2:35  
 Réti Opening, 1:24,37  
 Ruy Lopez, 1:44; 3:14,18,72; 4:24; 5:22; 6:18; 7:29; 8:10,46; 10:15,41,44; 11:10; 12:19  
 Scandinavian Defense, 4:25; 5:9  
 Sicilian Defense, 2:72; 3:16; 4:31; 6:16; 7:34; 8:18,22; 9:39,46; 10:8,14,42  
 Accelerated Dragon Variation, 4:17  
 Alapin Variation, 11:60  
 Bb5 Sicilian, 9:42  
 c3 Sicilian, 9:38  
 Dragon Variation, 7:20  
 Kan Variation, 1:15; 7:46; 9:38  
 Najdorf Variation, 2:39; 8:28; 9:23  
 Richter-Rauzer Variation, 4:72  
 Rossolimo Variation, 7:60  
 Scheveningen Variation, 11:26  
 Sozin Attack, 6:15  
 Taimanov Variation, 11:10,17; 12:11  
 Stonewall Attack, 5:20  
 Torre Attack, 5:33  
 Two Knights Defense, 5:24  
 Vienna Game, 4:44; 7:39  
 Zukertort Opening, Dutch Variation, 1:14

## Index of Features

Amateur Teams, The, 7:16  
 An American Three-Peat at the 2020 World Senior Team, 6:36  
 Another Clutch Performance, 9:36  
 Back to the Future?, 7:34

Beyond Walls, 3:36  
 Blitzing COVID: A Fundraiser for US Chess, 8:24  
 Building a Culture of Chess, 4:36  
 2020 Cadet Championship: A Drama in Seven Parts, The, 12:16  
 Chess & Coronavirus, 6:30  
 Chess Journalists of America Awards, 2020, 5:35  
 Chess with Charlie, 9:16  
 Come Ye, 6:22  
 Did This Man Save the 1972 World Championship?, 1:40  
 Endgames from Prague, 6:42  
 Equal Access, 3:40  
 Getting Back to Business, 10:25  
 2012 Golden Knights Championship, The, 8:16  
 IM Not a GM Speed Chess Championships, The, 8:20  
 Improving Your Tactical Sensibilities, 11:40  
 Inhibition and Intuition, 3:32  
 Invisible Barriers, 3:28  
 Iron Man of Chess in the Time of COVID-19, The, 12:24  
 John D. Rockefeller V Donates \$3 Million to US Chess, 12:26  
 Koneru Captures Cairns Cup, 5:36  
 Life After Death, 8:38  
 In Limbo, 7:26  
 Locals Take the Lead, 4:24  
 Lost & Found, 5:30  
 Making the Grade, 6:28  
 Master Class: Analyzing Your Games with Engines, 11:24  
 May I Have the Envelope, Please, 2:22  
 Mechanics' Versus Marshall, 1:22  
 Military Chess, 3:27  
 Nerves of Steel, 4:46  
 New Chess Boom, The, 8:30  
 Our Heritage 2019 US Chess Yearbook, 4:40  
 Patterns of Movement, 5:26  
 Petroff Goes to St. Louis, 5:44  
 Pugilists at Rest, 12:32  
 Quest for Greatness: The Abhimanyu Mishra Story, The, 10:30  
 Saleem Wins 2020 Iowa Closed Championship, 9:33  
 Singapore Defeats New York in Online Charity Chess Challenge, 9:20  
 Some Real Puzzlers, 11:48  
 So Showcase, 1:30  
 Team USA Falls in FIDE Online Olympiad Semi-Finals, 11:16  
 Texas Tech wins Pan Am 6-0, 3:22  
 Third Time's the Charm, 2:34  
 2020 Tournaments of State Champions, The, 10:36  
 Value of Priceless, The, 1:26  
 View from the Booth, 4:28  
 We all Speak Italian Now, 10:20  
 Winner's Circle, The, 1:36  
 Worth the Wait, 11:30  
 Youth Team Shines Again in World Cadet, 2:36

## MY BEST MOVE

### Griffin McConnell

#### Scholastic and International Champ

I started playing chess when I was four years old and fell in love with the game. I began playing in tournaments around Colorado and started winning trophies, which made it fun to keep striving to get better.

Everything changed when I was diagnosed at age seven with two rare, incurable diseases of the brain. Soon I was having up to 50 seizures a day. When I was eight years old, I had a hemispherectomy, my third brain surgery, causing paralysis in my right arm and leg and right sided blindness. I had to learn how to speak and walk again.

Despite all this, chess was still on my agenda, and it was amazing. After a few years of intensive physical therapy and hours of chess study, my chess skills started to soar. Everything I have gone through has been worth it.

Today I am a Colorado state chess scholastic co-champion. I have competed in the FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled and took third place on two different occasions. I am super excited to represent the U.S. next month in the First FIDE Online Chess Olympiad for People with Disabilities. In 2019, I was invited to play in the First FIDE Confederation Cup for the Disabled People in Ankara, Turkey, and I was the only person to have a perfect score. I even won an award for the best player in the tournament! My best game was against Jarno Scheffner in the second round.

#### MY BEST MOVE

Griffin McConnell (1769 FIDE)  
Jarno Scheffner (1955 FIDE)  
1st FIDE Confederation Cup for the Disabled People (2), Ankara, Turkey, 12.10.2019



BLACK TO PLAY



*Everything I have gone through has been worth it.*

**28. ... Qf6??**

This move looks very good but is actually a huge mistake. The main difference between 28. ... Qf7 and 28. ... Qf6 is the key tempo I have. Can you discover what White should do here?

**29. Rdf1!**

MY BEST MOVE! This move forces a critical line. The threat of g4-g5 is devastating because of where the queen was placed, as my queen and knight can now get active very quickly.

**29. ... d5**

The best line is 29. ... Rh7, which loses the Exchange, but I have to give up my strong bishop to do so.

**30. g5 Qf7 31. g6**

White's attack is unstoppable. 31. ... Qe8 is the best try but after 32. Qh5+ Kg8 33. Nxd5 White will be a pawn up while the onslaught continues.

**31. ... Qxf4+ 32. Rxf4 Bd6 33. Qh5+ Kg8 34. Nxd5**

This knight cannot be taken unless Black wants to allow a checkmate in six moves.

**34. ... Bb7 35. Nf6+ Rxf6**

Forced. The poor king is boxed in!

**36. Qh7+ Rxh7 37. gxh7+ Kf7**

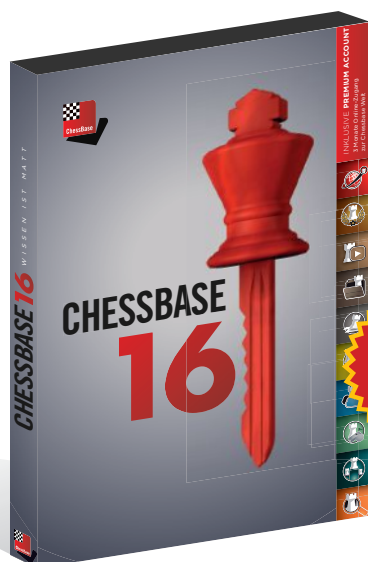
37. ... Kh8 is losing to 38. Rg8 mate.

**38. h8=Q Rxf4 39. Qg8+**

I missed a forced checkmate in three here, but it doesn't matter. I am still winning either way. The forcing line goes like this: 39. Rg7+ Kf6 40. Rh7+ Kg5 41. Qg7 mate.

**39. ... Ke7 40. Rg7+, Black resigned.**

There's no hope for Black after 40. ... Rf7+ because in the end I will trade rooks and have a winning endgame. ♠



## NEW: CHESSBASE 16



**YOUR KEY TO FRESH IDEAS, PRECISE ANALYSES AND TARGETED TRAINING!**

### New in ChessBase 16\*

- Repertoire recommendations for every move with a single click. With a choice of focus: Main Variations, Fashion, Side Lines, Attacking, Gambits, Endgame
- Better overview when playing through deeply analyzed games thanks to dynamic folding of the notation
- Urgent news about recently played innovations with direct access to the database
- Preparation for opponents with recognition of their weaknesses taking into account your own repertoire
- Innovations and trends as annotations in Tactical Analysis
- Update service for MegaDatabase with a single click
- After an update to Megadatabase, overview of important recent innovations and theoretical trends
- Search for characteristic tactical positions in an opening variation
- Slimmed down search booster: required hard disk space halved

## The new ChessBase 16 program packages 2021 edition

### STARTER PACKAGE

**US\$ 199.95**

**NEW:** ChessBase 16 program

**NEW:** Big Database 2021

Update Service through 31.12.2021

Access to ChessBase  
Online Database  
(over 9 million games)

Subscription to ChessBase  
Magazine for half a year (3 issues)

ChessBase Premium  
membership (6 months)

### MEGA PACKAGE

**US\$ 329.95**

**NEW:** ChessBase 16 program

+ **NEW:** Mega Database 2021

Update Service through 31.12.2021

Access to ChessBase  
Online Database  
(over 9 million games)

+ Subscription to ChessBase  
Magazine for a full year (6 issues)

+ ChessBase Premium  
membership (12 months)

**NEW:** 250 ChessBase Ducats

### PREMIUM PACKAGE

**US\$ 469.95**

**NEW:** ChessBase 16 program

+ **NEW:** Mega Database 2021

Update Service through 31.12.2021

+ **Corr Database 2020**

+ **Endgame Turbo 5  
USB Stick (128 GB)**

Access to ChessBase  
Online Database  
(over 9 million games)

+ Subscription to ChessBase  
Magazine for a full year (6 issues)

+ ChessBase Premium  
membership (12 months)

**NEW:** 500 ChessBase Ducats

**CHESSBASE 16 UPDATE FROM CHESSBASE 15 US\$ 129.95**

**Free Ground Shipping On All Books, Software and DVDS at US Chess Sales**  
**\$25.00 Minimum - Excludes Clearance, Shopworn and Items Otherwise Marked**



## The Perfect Christmas Gift!



### MILLENNIUM CHESSGENIUS EXCLUSIVE CHESS COMPUTER

The new Exclusive Chess Computer is the only Grandmaster strength Chess computer on the market! The "brains" of the computer are housed in a separate enclosure, which can also be used as a chess clock during your match against your friends or the computer itself. Estimated Performance Rating of 2600 USCF.



### THE KING PERFORMANCE CHESS COMPUTER

The King Performance Chess Computer is the perfect combination of aesthetic beauty, functionality, and affordability. This "classically beautiful" chess computer is powered by the legendary "The King" chess playing software and has an Estimated Performance Rating of up to 2400 USCF.



### SQUARE OFF GRAND KINGDOM CHESS SET

The only chess computer with automated piece movements, powered by advanced robotics. Play with anyone, anywhere, via the Internet or across the board. Includes 20 difficulty levels to provide the highest level of challenge. INCLUDES ON-BOARD LOCATION FOR CAPTURED PIECES



### SQUARE OFF KINGDOM CHESS SET

The only chess computer with automated piece movements, powered by advanced robotics. Play with anyone, anywhere, via the Internet or across the board. Includes 20 difficulty levels to provide the highest level of challenge.



### DGT CENTAUR CHESS COMPUTER

Simply turn it on and make your move! Centaur is always there to challenge you, to help develop your game and to keep you sharp! This adaptive intelligent Chess Computer automatically adjusts itself to your playing strength. It gives you a fair chance to win, to learn and, most importantly, to have fun!

**Free  
Worldwide  
Shipping to  
137 Different  
Countries!**