

CHESSLIFE

Kids



The World Schools Team

TEAM USA



US CHESS
FEDERATION



OCTOBER 7 - 10

2025 
U.S. CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

2025 
U.S. WOMEN'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 11 - 25

CLUTCH CHESS
CHAMPIONS ♣ SHOWDOWN

OCTOBER 26 - 29



WATCH LIVE
SAINTLOUISCHESSCLUB.ORG | YOUTUBE | TWITCH

This October, the Saint Louis Chess Club will unveil an expanded to a 30,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility featuring a tournament hall, classrooms, and cutting-edge broadcast technology—cementing its role as the premier global hub for chess.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ranae Bartlett

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacques deMoss

EDITORIAL

CHESS LIFE/CHESS LIFE
KIDS EDITOR
John Hartmann
john.hartmann@uschess.org

ART DIRECTOR
Natasha Roberts

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Rick Massimo

TECHNICAL EDITOR
IM Ron Burnett

Teachers may photocopy instructional articles for classroom use, but republication or widespread copying without the written consent of US Chess is forbidden.

Chess Life Kids | Vol. 20, No. 5

Chess Life KIDS (USPS 023-567, ISSN: 1932-5894) is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December of every year by US Chess, 333 S. 18th Street, Suite 210, St. Louis, MO 63103. Periodical postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri, and additional mailing offices.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Be sure to notify us at once of any change of address. Please include your old address and your new address, along with your US Chess I.D. number.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to US Chess, PO Box 775308, St. Louis, MO 63177.

ON THE COVER

The World Schools Team Championship was a late addition to the tournament calendar, and it maybe flew under the radar just a bit. That's unfortunate. It looked like a lot of fun! Kids from all over the world came together to meet, compete, and build friendships. Chess is a game where two minds do battle, but seen from a wider view, it's a global community too.

PHOTO: COURTESY MICHAL WALUSZA / FIDE

OCTOBER 2025

CHESSLIFE Kids

4 INSTRUCTION **Patterns of Attack, Part 5**

BY TIM MCGREW

6 IN SESSION **Starting with the Scotch**

BY JOHN HARTMANN

11 TEST YOUR TACTICS **The Spicy Scotch**

BY JOHN HARTMANN

12 COVER STORY

THE WORLD SCHOOLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Teams from around the world compete in Virginia

BY ELLA GUO

16 PREVIEW **The K-12 Grade Championships**

BY RICK MASSIMO

18 PUZZLE ME THIS, PUZZLE ME THAT

BY JEFF COAKLEY

20 TOURNAMENT LIFE

22 IGOR'S DOUBLES

BY IM IGOR KHMELNITSKY

23 SOLUTIONS





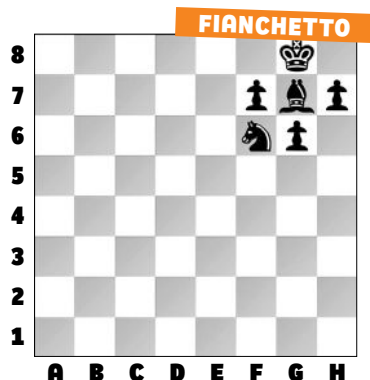
Patterns of Attack

Part 5

BY NM TIM MCGREW

OVER THE PAST few columns, we have been studying attacks against the castled kingside when the h-pawn has stepped forward to h6 — sacrificing a piece on h6, using the pawn thrust g4-g5 to open lines, even dropping something on f6.

Now it's time to move on to a structure so iconic that every experienced chess player knows it by heart: the kingside fianchetto.



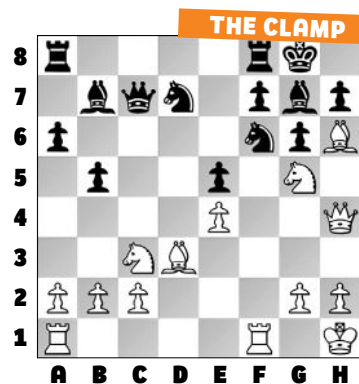
Even trying to name all the chess openings involving a kingside fianchetto is quite a task: King's Indian, Grunfeld, Schlechter Slav, Modern Benoni, Benko Gambit, Sicilian Dragon, Modern Defense,

Pirc Defense, Hippopotamus ... and those are just from Black's perspective.

The first thing we have to understand about this structure is that Black has surrounded their king with a lot of defenders. Think of it from the perspective of the assault ratio, a concept we have covered in this column before.

The aggressor needs more pieces in on the attack than there are defenders, and Black can count at least three of those: king on g8, bishop on g7, and knight on f6. We will need, one way or another, to bring at least four attackers to bear on this kingside in order to have a realistic chance of landing a decisive blow. In many cases, we simply won't have enough forces to mount a meaningful attack. (I know. It makes me sad, too.)

But we can choose our openings so as to raise the odds. Here is a dream position for White — their pieces have clawed their way into the black position and White actually has a favorable assault ratio (4 to 3):



Ever since I became aware of this pattern, I have mentally called it "The Clamp." Obviously, White should be very happy now. But how did Black fall into such trouble? White's queen got from d1 to h4 ... how, exactly? Let's watch things unfold and keep track of how each white piece gets into position.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, NAJDORF VARIATION (B93)

Edward Formanek

John Manetta

U.S. Open (2), Atlantic City, 1972

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6

A Najdorf Sicilian. White now chooses a line that isn't very much in favor today, though it is still completely playable.

6. f4 Qc7 7. Bd3 g6 8. 0-0 Bg7

Black has blended the Najdorf setup with a kingside fianchetto, leading to a sort of "Dragondorf" position. Now White begins the process of shifting his pieces over to the kingside for the Clamp.

9. Nf3

The knight begins its trip to g5, but it will be the last piece to arrive in place.

9. ... 0-0 10. Kh1

This move isn't forced, but it is a standard preparatory idea for

a kingside attack. White gets his king off the a7-g1 diagonal to ensure that Black never has any clever checks that might spoil White's maneuvering plans.

10. ... e5?!

Not a great idea, because Black is helping White to open the f-file with a capture or a push, and that will bring White's rook into the attack — which increases the assault ratio.

11. fxe5 dxe5 12. Qe1

The queen begins her journey to h4, taking advantage of the fact that there is no longer a pawn on f2.

12. ... b5 13. Qh4

Stage One accomplished. Now the queen controls h6, enabling White to bring the bishop into position.

13. ... Bb7 14. Bh6

Stage Two accomplished. Now the knight can come into g5 without blocking the bishop's path.

14. ... Nbd7 15. Ng5

Stage Three accomplished. We have arrived at the position in the second diagram.

White isn't ready to deliver mate yet, but obviously has a strong attack. One idea is 16. Rf3 and 17. Raf1. Black would love to cut the white queen off from the bishop with 15. ... Nh5, but that runs into a typical tactical idea: 16. Bxg7! Kxg7 17. Rxf7+! Rxf7 18. Ne6+ and White picks up Black's queen. Notice that this would also work if the queen were still on d8.

15. ... Rae8

Black sees the threat and covers the e6-square. Now he really does threaten ... Nf6-h5, and that threat provokes White's next move.

16. g4 b4

Matters are rapidly coming to a head. If Black can blow up the white center before White can cash in, the attack will dissolve.

17. Nd1? Qc5?

Both sides overlook the possibility of 17. ... Nxe4 followed by 18. ... Nc5, exploiting the pin on the long diagonal. Now White's pieces come in like a flood.

18. Rf3 Qd4 19. Nf2 Qxb2 20. Rf1 Qc3 21. Rh3 Qd2 22. Bxg7 Kxg7 23. Rd1, Black resigned.

Once you know The Clamp, you can aim for it. That is part of the appeal of certain marginal openings such as the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit. They may not be popular at the GM level, but here is an IM using the BDG and pattern recognition to take apart a strong opponent.

BLACKMAR-DIEMER GAMBIT (D00)

Monkey_King (2544)
BPDx (2489)
lichess.org, 2025

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f3

This doesn't just get the knight to f3 in a hurry: It also opens the f-file, so that the rook can join the attack when White castles. And it also opens a path for White's queen to h4.

4. ... exf3 5. Nxf3 g6 6. Bc4 Bg7 7. 0-0 c6

Not very challenging. Black leaves White completely free to pursue The Clamp.

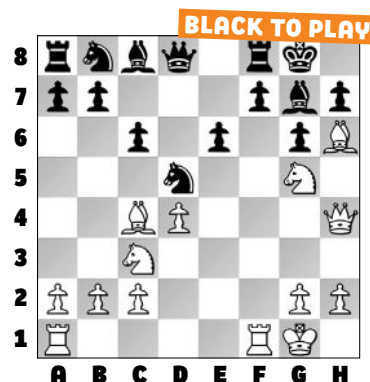
8. Qe1 0-0 9. Qh4 Nd5?

Now White's attack comes in like a hurricane.

10. Bh6 e6??

Black had to try the ugly 10. ... f6.

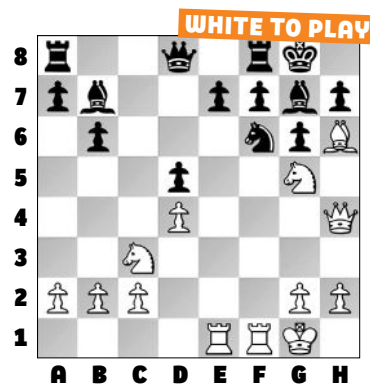
11. Ng5



Clamp! The rest is a slaughter.

11. ... Bf6 12. Bxd5 exd5 13. Rxf6 Qxf6 14. Bxf8 h5 15. Re1 Bg4 16. Re8 Qxd4+ 17. Qf2 Qxf2+ 18. Kxf2 Bd7 19. Rd8 f6 20. Bh6+ Be8 21. Rxe8 mate.

Now try one for yourself. White used a crazy gambit to help set up a Clamp against an FM. The assault ratio is off the charts; now how does White cash in? 📌



(or 18. Ng7 mate).
also work) 17. ... Kf5 18. Qg5 mate
Rxf6! Kxf6 17. Ne6+ (17. Rf1+ would
lichess.org, 2024; 15. Bxg7! Kxg7 16.
JoeAssaad - Satrionov_Andrey,



Starting with the Scotch

BY JOHN HARTMANN

WE CONTINUE OUR tour of 1. e4 e5 openings this month with a new third move to explore.

In past columns we have analyzed positions that begin with 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4, but this month we will look at what happens when White plays 3. d4 instead.

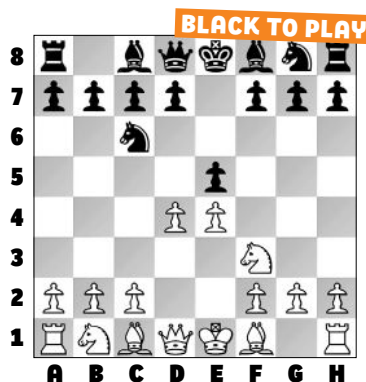
Here's the thing, though: in some ways we already have explored 3. d4.

One of the hardest parts of creating an opening repertoire is understanding transpositions. That's when different move orders can be used to reach the same position. In August we saw that the gambits 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. e5 and 5. 0-0 could also appear by the move order 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 Nf6.

Transpositions show up in lots of openings, but they are especially important to understand in double e-pawn positions. Let's take a look at what might happen after 3. d4.

(see diagram top next column)

If Black takes the pawn with 3. ... exd4, as I think they should, White can offer a gambit with 4. c3, transpose into the Scotch Gambit



with 4. Bc4, or enter the Scotch Game with 4. Nxd4. And after 4. Nxd4 Nf6 White can transpose to the Scotch Four Knights with 5. Nc3 (we'll investigate this in December) or continue in the Scotch with 5. Nxc6.

That seems like a lot to learn! The good news is that we've already covered the gambits with 4. Bc4, and the lines we study this month will help later down the road against the Danish Gambit (2. d4).

Against the Scotch we will play 4. ... Nf6, and after 5. Nxc6 bxc6 the goals for both sides are very clear: White wants to keep the e-pawn on the board, cramping Black's position, while Black wants to fight against it.

What's interesting is that in the main line, there are three different

ways that Black can end up with very nearly the same position, but with tiny differences between the three. Trying to decide which version is best, at least for me, is part of what makes chess so fascinating.

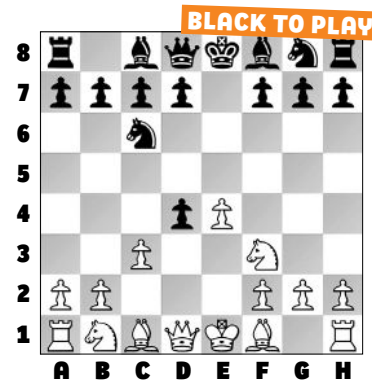
Let's dig in!

The Göring Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3

We'll cover move two gambits later, but for now, note that if White tries the Danish Gambit with 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 we can transpose into our anti-Göring line with 3. ... d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. cxd4 Nc6 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. Nc3 Bb4 8. Be2 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Qc4.

2. ... Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. c3

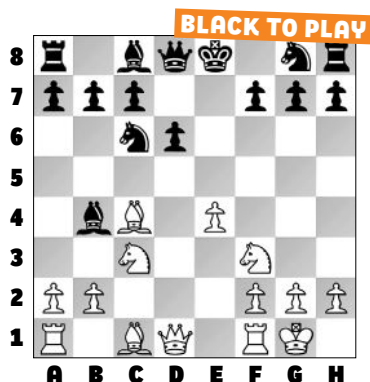


Offering a pawn for quick development. The easiest way to equality is to decline it.

4. ... d5

There's that move again! The ... d7(6)-d5 push is always an important theme in double e-pawn openings. Here it allows Black to equalize immediately.

If you need to play for a win, accepting the gambit with 4. ... dxc3 is possible, but White gets good play after 5. Nxc3 (5. Bc4 d6 6. Nxc3 transposes) 5. ... Bb4 6. Bc4 d6 7. 0-0.



Play here is sharp, and Black can easily get lost in tactics if they don't know what they are doing. The right way to get a good position is to exchange while up material: 7. ... Bxc3 8. bxc3 Nf6; if 9. e5 Nxe5 10. Nxe5 dxe5 11. Qb3 Qe7 12. Ba3 c5! and White's pressure is beginning to fade.

5. exd5 Qxd5 6. cxd4

White falls behind in development with 6. Nxd4?!, when Black should get more pieces out with 6. ... Nf6.

6. ... Bg4

Pinning the knight.

7. Be2

Breaking the pin.

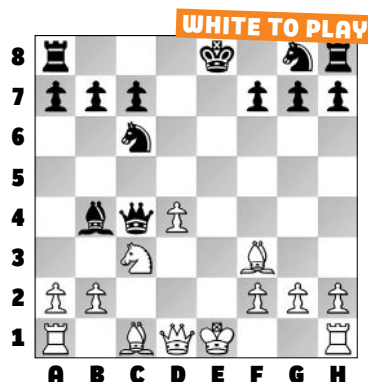
7. ... Bb4+

More development, hoping that White blocks with a piece on d2, which would weaken control of the d4-square.

Taking first with 7. ... Bxf3 is a move order trick with a purpose: if 8. Bxf3 Bb4+ 9. Bd2?! (9. Nc3 returns to our main line) 9. ... Bxd2+ 10. Nxd2 Qe6+ Black can at least say they are playing against White's isolated d-pawn.

If you want to keep pieces on the board to keep things more complicated, 7. ... 0-0-0 might be an idea: 8. Nc3 Qa5 9. Be3 and so forth.

8. Nc3 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Qc4!



Black lures the bishop away from control of the c4-square to play this move. The threat is to take on either d4 or c3. White has three main options to keep equality.

10. Bxc6+

(a) **10. Be3** was played in Marshall – Capablanca way back in 1926. The third world champion responded with **10. ... Bxc3+ 11. bxc3 Qxc3+ 12. Kf1 Qc4+ 13. Kg1 Nge7** with a very unbalanced position.

(b) **10. Qb3 Qxb3 11. axb3 Nge7 12. Be3 0-0-0** lets White's bishops compete against Black's better pawn structure.

10. ... bxc6 11. Qe2+ Qxe2+ 12. Kxe2 0-0-0

This is equal; both sides have weaknesses to worry about.

The Scotch

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6

Immediately asking White how they will defend the e-pawn. Black has other ways to play the position, including 4. ... Bc5 and the rare but tricky 4. ... Qh4.

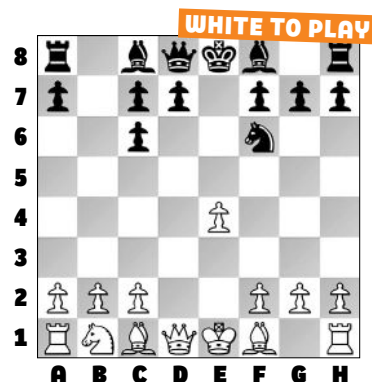
Whatever you do, DON'T TAKE THE KNIGHT! Here 4. ... Nxd4? 5. Qxd4 is a big mistake because the queen can't easily be removed from the center. White has space and better piece development.

5. Nxc6

5. Nc3 is the Scotch Four Knights and will be covered in December.

5. ... bxc6

5. ... dxc6 allows White to exchange queens and prevent Black from castling. Taking with the b-pawn keeps the game more interesting.



Now everything revolves around the problem of the e-pawn. How can White defend it?

6. e5

Defending the pawn by attacking the knight! But there are other options:

(a) **6. Bd3** is a bit passive. Black can break in the center with the thematic **6. ... d5! 7. exd5** (7. Qe2 has a funny idea: If 7. ... dxe4 8. Nd2 but Black can keep equality with 8. ... Bb4 9. 0-0 Bxd2 10. Bxd2 0-0) **7. ... cxd5 8. 0-0 Be7** with an equal position.

(b) **6. Nc3** transposes to the Scotch Four Knights. Come back in December for that!

(c) Pinning the knight with **6. Bg5** doesn't work: **6. ... h6! 7. Bh4?** (7. Bxf6 Qxf6 and Black pressures both the b2- and f2-pawns) **7. ... g5 8. Bg3 Nxe4** wins a pawn. If 9. Qd4 Nxg3!.

(d) **6. Qe2** is a little tricky. It looks like it blocks the f1-bishop, but there may be tactics based on opening the e-file. Black should

be careful — there are ways to get into a bad position — but there's a way through with the logical **6. ... Qe7**, blocking the e-file and attacking the e-pawn. Play continues **7. Nc3** (7. e5 Nd5 transposes to our main line) and now **7. ... g6** is a good, standard way to develop the bishop, as long as we're ready for **8. Bg5**, when we have to fight the pin right away: **8. ... h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3** and now perhaps **10. ... Rb8**.

If you are bold, instead of 6. ... Qe7 you could try **6. ... d5!? 7. exd5+ Be7 8. dxc6 0-0** when Black's development is worth the two pawns. Another advantage: It's easy to remember!

6. ... Qe7

Pinning the pawn!

7. Qe2

Defending the pawn and blocking up the e-file. Now White really threatens e5xf6, so we have to move the knight.

Here (a) **7. Bf4?!** is a poor defender for the pawn due to **7. ... Nd5 8. Bg3 Qb4+!** checking the king and attacking the undefended b2-pawn. If **9. Nd2 Qxb2 10. Rb1 Qd4!** with a good position for Black.

(b) **7. Qd4** protects the pawn but leaves the e-file vulnerable: **7. ... d6! 8. f4** (8. Bf4 Nd7!) **8. ... dxe5 9. fxe5** (9. Qxe5 Bf5! keeps developing) **9. ... Ng4** and if **10. Bf4 g5! 11. Bg3 Bg7** with big pressure on the e-pawn.

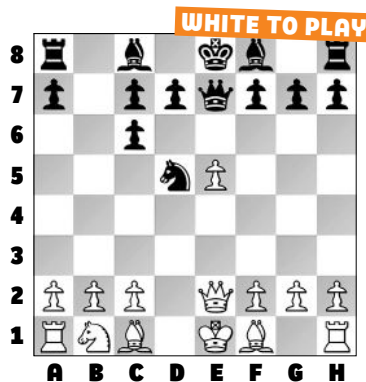
7. ... Nd5

(see diagram top next column)

8. c4

Again attacking the knight, which is beginning to run out of good landing squares.

(a) **8. h4** is another of those



mysterious rook-pawn moves. One key idea is Bc1-g5, attacking the queen. Another is a rook lift with Rh1-h3. Black can choose from a number of moves, but I like **8. ... Qe6** avoiding Bc1-g5 tricks and freeing the dark-squared bishop to develop. Black will continue with pressure on the e-pawn with ... d7-d6. You could also play **8. ... d6!** right away.

(b) **8. Nd2** tries to take advantage of Black's cluttered pieces by developing the knight to f3, c4, or e4. Black should now try to develop the f8-bishop with either **8. ... Qe6** or **8. ... g6** followed by our usual pressure on the e-pawn.

(c) **8. g3** is third-most common in the Lichess database, and it looks like a smart way to develop the f1-bishop. But after **8. ... g6 9. Bg2 Bg7** Black is pressuring the e5-pawn, and if **10. f4 f6!** opens the position to Black's advantage.

8. ... Ba6

Developing a piece and saving the knight by pinning the c4-pawn. But there is a potential problem — the c4-pawn takes away a lot of squares from the bishop.

8. ... Nb6 is another option, but it's important for Black not to allow a2-a4-a5 as this would currently trap the knight, so ... a7-a5 is a key idea to remember in that situation.

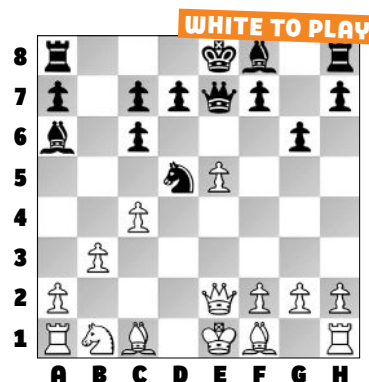
9. b3

Defending the c4-pawn and

looking to shift the bishop to b2 where it defends the e-pawn. Now Black has to decide how to finish development without much space to do so.

9. Nd2 lets us follow our plan: **9. ... g6 10. Nf3** (10. Qe4 Nb6) and now Black can try either (a) **10. ... Bg7 11. Bg5 f6 12. exf6 Qxe2+ 13. Bxe2 Nxf6 14. 0-0-0 0-0-0** with equality or (b) **10. ... Qb4+!? 11. Kd1** (11. Bd2? Qxb2) **11. ... Nb6** with a complicated position.

9. ... g6



Getting ready to fianchetto the f8-bishop. Both sides are trying to develop and activate their pieces.

9. ... 0-0-0! right away is also possible. It's not clear that the queenside is the safest place for the king, but on the other hand, Black can start kingside activity almost immediately.

10. Bb2

The most popular move at the club level according to the Lichess database, but as always, White can try other moves:

(a) **10. g3 Bg7 11. Bb2** transposes to our main line.

(b) **10. f4** tries to maintain the e5-pawn directly, but Black can still crack the center open with **10. ... d6!**. After **11. Bb2 Bg7 12. Qf2** White frees the bishop and prepares to finish development, but this clears the e-file, allowing

12. ... Nf6! (due to the pin) **13. Be2 dxe5 14. fxe5 Ne4** with a good position for Black.

(c) **10. Ba3** attacks the queen. Black can try (c1) **10. ... Nb4 11. Bb2 Bg7 12. a3 Nd5 13. Nd2 0-0** or trade some pieces with (c2) **10. ... Qxa3! 11. Nxa3 Bb4+ 12. Qd2!** (12. Kd1 Nc3+) **12. ... Bxd2+ 13. Kxd2 Nf4** (or **13. ... Nb4 14. g3 Ne6 15. f4 c5** when White is better with more space but Black isn't as cramped as before.

10. ... Bg7

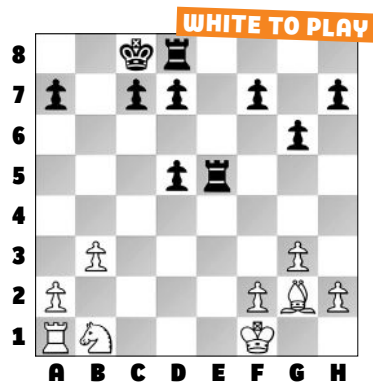
We've reached a very tense position where White has more space, but Black is better developed and uses active pieces to tie White up.

11. g3

Now Black has to decide where to stash the king.

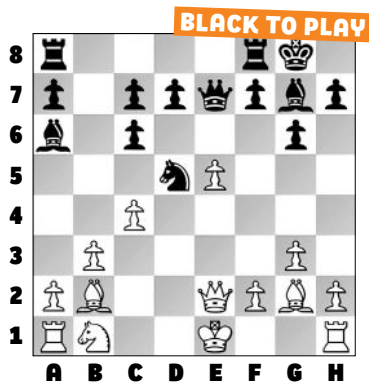
11. ... 0-0

Perhaps safer, but castling queenside is also a good option. What's interesting is that **11. ... 0-0-0 12. Bg2 Rhe8** leads towards a similar position to our main line: **13. 0-0 Bxe5 14. Bxe5 Qxe5 15. Qxe5 Rxe5 16. cxd5 Bxf1 17. Kxf1 cxd5**.



We'll see this position, or something very like it, again. And again!

12. Bg2



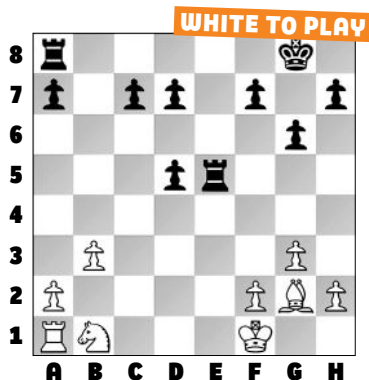
Once again: Black has less space and a damaged pawn structure, but a lead in development. Active play is needed to keep White on their heels:

(a) **12. Nd2 d6** (chipping away at the center) **13. 0-0-0?! dxe5 14. Qf3 Nb6** looks good for Black.

(b) **12. f4?** is met by the typical **12. ... f6** with advantage to Black.

12. ... Rae8

Following a well-known path to equality, but shifting the other rook with **12. ... Rfe8** leads to very similar positions: **13. 0-0 Bxe5 14. Bxe5 Qxe5 15. Qxe5 Rxe5 16. cxd5 Bxf1 17. Kxf1 cxd5** is equal and imbalanced.

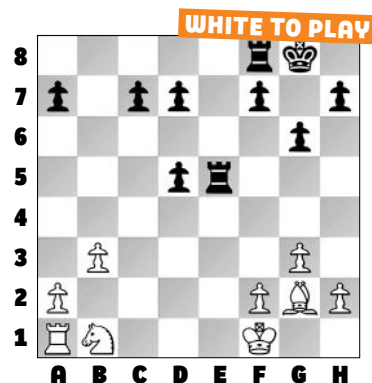


See how similar this is to the note to Black's 11th move, and to the next diagram? It's not clear which is better, but top players seem to prefer moving the a8-rook first.

13. 0-0

Note once again **13. f4? f6!** is great for Black.

13. ... Bxe5 14. Qxe5 Qxe5 15. Bxe5 Rxe5 16. cxd5 Bxf1 17. Kxf1 cxd5



Here we are again! The main difference with the analysis diagram after Black's 11th move is that the black king is on g8 instead of c8. The difference with the note after Black's 12th is the position of Black rooks.

The position is complicated: Black has a rook and two central (if doubled) pawns for two minor pieces. At the top level it's pretty drawn, but for club players, the imbalances ensure a lively game. Which version do you prefer?

Illustrative games

GÖRING GAMBIT (C44)

Pawel Kowalczyk (2334)
FM Marek Pniaczek (2329)
Tatra Limba Open (4), Poronin,
01.08.2022

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. cxd4 Nc6 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. Be2 Bb4+ 8. Nc3 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Qc4 10. Bxc6+ bxc6 11. Qe2+ Qxe2+ 12. Kxe2

For masters this is pretty equal, but Pniaczek does a good job of trying to play for a win in this game. It's worth studying how he kept posing White problems.

12. ... Nf6 13. Be3 Kd7 14. Na4 Nd5 15. Rac1 Rhe8 16. a3 Bf8 17. Kd3

Rab8 18. Rhe1 Rb5 19. Bd2 Rxe1 20. Rxe1 Nb6 21. Nxb6+ cxb6 22. Bc3 Bd6 23. g3 Rh5 24. h4 Rf5 25. Re2 h5 26. Ke4 g6 27. a4 Rd5 28. Kd3 a6 29. b4 Be7 30. Kc4 Bf6 31. Bb2 Rf5 32. Bc1 Be7 33. Be3 f6 34. Re1 g5 35. Rh1 g4 36. Rb1 b5+ 37. axb5 axb5+ 38. Kd3 Bd6 39. Ke4 Rf3 40. Ra1 f5+ 41. Kd3 f4 42. gxf4 Bxf4 43. Ra7+ Ke6 44. Rh7 g3 44. ... Rh3! would have won the game; if 45. Rxh5 g3 winning material or promoting the g-pawn.

45. Ke2 gxf2 46. Bxf2 Rb3 47. Rxh5 Rxb4 48. Kf3 Bc1 49. Rc5 Rc4 50. Rxc4 bxc4 51. Be3 Ba3 52. Ke4 Be7 53. h5 Bf6 54. Bf4 c3 55. Kd3 Kf5 56. Bc1 c2 57. Bd2 Bh8 58. Be3 Kg4 59. h6 Kh5 60. Kxc2, draw.

GÖRING GAMBIT (C44)

FM Adolf Herzog (2455)

IM Glenn Flear (2385)

Graz, 1984

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. cxd4 Nc6 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. Be2 Bb4+ 8. Nc3 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Qc4 10. Be3 Bxc3+ 11. bxc3 Qxc3+ 12. Kf1 Qc4+ 13. Kg1 Nge7 14. Rc1 Qxa2 15. d5 Ne5 16. Be4 f5 17. Rc2? Qb3! 18. d6 Rd8 19. Qh5+ g6 20. dxe7 gxh5 21. exd8=Q+ Kxd8 22. Rd2+ Kc8 23. Bxf5+ Kb8 24. Bc2 Qb5 25. h3 Rg8 26. Kh2 Nc4 27. Re2 Qe5+ 28. f4 Qg7 29. Bc1 Qg3+ 30. Kg1 a5 31. Bxh7 Rd8 32. Bc2 h4 33. Re4 Nd2 34. Re7 Qc3 35. Bxd2 Qxd2, White resigned.

SCOTCH GAME (C45)

GM Valentina Gunina (2510)

WGM Natalia Pogonina (2469)

Russian Women's Ch (9), St.

Petersburg, 12.12.2017

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. Qe2 d5 7. exd5+ Be7 8. dxc6 0-0

Pogonina does an excellent job of keeping the initiative in this quick win.

9. Qd3 Re8 10. Be2 Bb4+ 11. Bd2?! Bxd2+ 12. Nxd2 Qe7 13. Qe3 Ba6! 14. c4 Qd6 15. Qf3 Qe5 16. Rc1 Rad8 17. b3 Bc8 18. Qe3 Qd6 19. Qc3 Bf5 20. Nf1 Ne4! 21. Qb2 Qb4+, White resigned.

SCOTCH GAME (C45)

GM Peter Svidler (2660)

GM Michael Adams (2680)

Tilburg (8), 10.05.1997

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. e5 Qe7 7. Qe2 Nd5 8. Nd2 g6 9. c4 Ba6 10. b3 Bg7 11. Bb2 Nb4 12. Nf3 c5 13. g3 0-0 14. Bg2 d5 15. 0-0 Rad8 16. Rfd1 Rfe8 17. a3 Nc6 18. Qc2 d4 Black is better here, having cut off some of the defenses for the e5-pawn, but White creates counterplay to stay in the game.

19. Re1 Qd7 20. b4! Nxe5 21. b5 Bc8 22. Nxe5 Rxe5 23. Rxe5 Bxe5 24. Qd2 Qd6 25. Re1 Be6 26. Qd3 Re8 27. Bc1 Bf5 28. Qf3 Kg7 29. Bd2 Re6 30. Qd1 Bf6 31. Rxe6 Bxe6 32. Qb3 h5 33. Be4 Qe5 34. Bd3 Bg4 35. Qa4 Be2 36. Qc2 Bf3 37. Bf1 Bg5? 38. Qb3! Bxd2 39. Qxf3 Qf5, draw. After 40. Qxf5 gxf5 the opposite-colored bishops make the position very drawish.

SCOTCH GAME (C45)

FM Sascha Wiegmann (2230)

GM Rene Stern (2490)

Germany, 2009

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. e5 Qe7 7. Qe2 Nd5 8. c4 Ba6 9. g3 g6 10. b3 Bg7 11. Bb2 0-0 12. Bg2 Rae8 13. 0-0 Bxe5 14. Qxe5 Qxe5 15. Bxe5

Rxe5 16. cxd5 Bxf1 17. Kxf1 cxd5

Here's our main line in action. Black's play is a great model for how to treat this position.

18. Nc3 c6 19. Rd1 Rb8 20. Rd4?! Rbe8! 21. Bf3 Re1+ 22. Kg2 Rc1 23. Nd1 Re1! 24. Ne3 Rg1+ 25. Kh3 h5 26. Ra4 a5 27. Kh4 Rc5 28. g4 hxg4 29. Bxg4 Kg7 30. Bf3

If 30. Bxd7 d4! threatens the knight; the only safe square is 31. Ng4 but there's the small problem of 31. ... Rh5 mate!

30. ... Rb5 31. Kh3 f5 32. Bg2 Kf6 33. Rh4 Rb8 34. Rh7 g5! 35. Rh6+ Ke5 36. Rh5 Rg8 37. Bf3 d4! 38. Nc4+ Kf4 39. Be2 g4+, White resigned.

SCOTCH GAME (C45)

Shahzeb Muhammad (1990)

IM Justin Sarkar (2314)

Titled Tuesday, Chess.com (6), 03.15.2022

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. e5 Qe7 7. Qe2 Nd5 8. c4 Ba6 9. b3 g6 10. Bb2 Bg7 11. g3 0-0-0 12. Bg2 Rhe8 13. 0-0 Bxe5 14. Qxe5 Qxe5 15. Bxe5 Rxe5 16. cxd5 Bxf1 17. Kxf1 cxd5 Here's that same position, but with Black having castled queenside.

18. Nc3 c6 19. Rc1 Kb8 20. h4 Rde8 21. b4? d4! 22. Na4 d3 23. Rd1 d2 24. Bf3 Avoiding 24. Rxd2 Re1 mate.

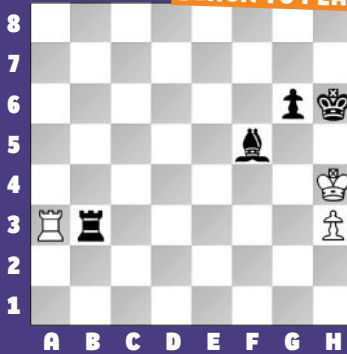
24. ... Re1+ 25. Kg2 Rxd1 26. Bxd1 Re1 27. Nc3 d5!

With the idea of ... d5-d4, trying to remove the bishop's defender.

28. Bf3 Kc7 29. b5 d4 30. Nd1 cxb5 31. Nb2 a5 32. Bd1 a4 33. a3 b4! 34. Bxa4 bxa3 35. Nc4 a2, White resigned. ♠

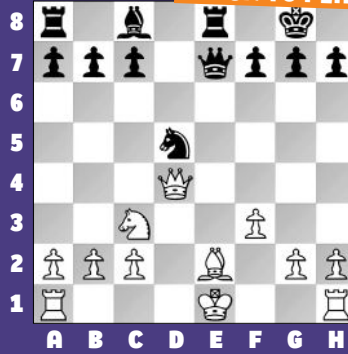
1.

BLACK TO PLAY



2.

BLACK TO PLAY



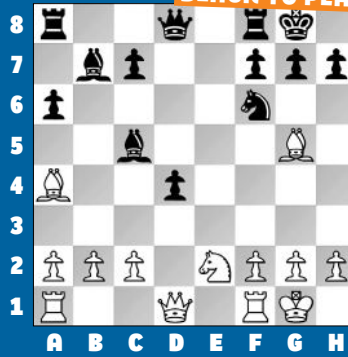
3.

BLACK TO PLAY



4.

BLACK TO PLAY



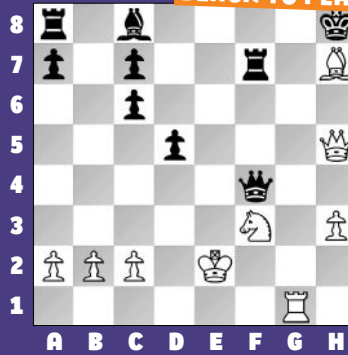
5.

WHITE TO PLAY



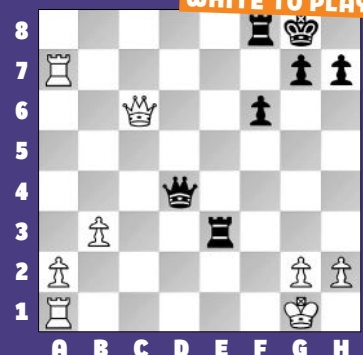
6.

BLACK TO PLAY



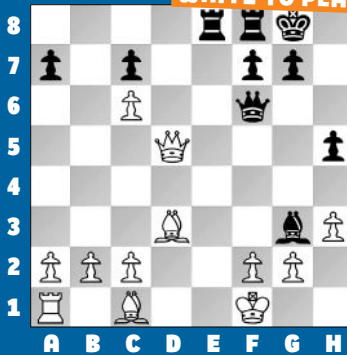
7.

WHITE TO PLAY



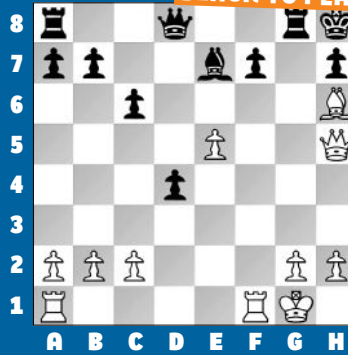
8.

WHITE TO PLAY



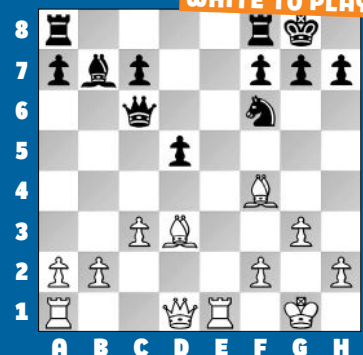
9.

BLACK TO PLAY



10.

WHITE TO PLAY



THE SPICY SCOTCH

The Scotch Game (1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4) is an ancient opening that was revived by GM Garry Kasparov in the 1990s. It's not as popular as it once was after the rise of the Italian, but it's still a potent weapon.

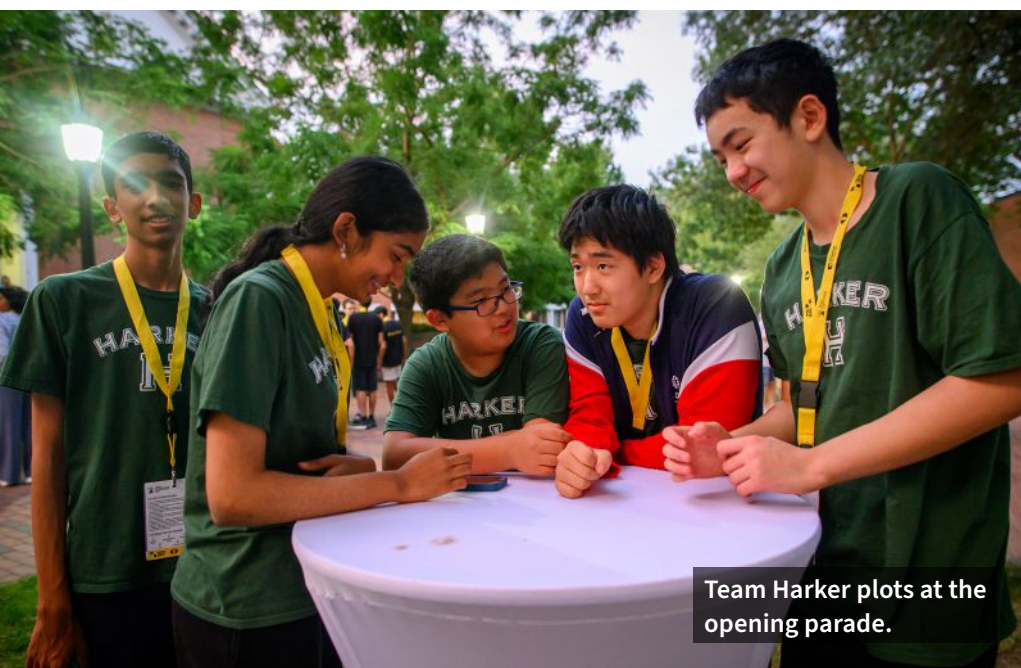
These 10 positions are drawn from internet blitz games in the openings analyzed in "In Session." They generally move from easier to tougher, but be warned: you have to find the best move, whatever it might be. It's Halloween this month, so there are a few tricks and treats to be found.

Keep your eyes open and check your answers on page 23.



The World Schools Team Chess Championship

BY ELLA GUO



Team Harker plots at the opening parade.

SCHOOL WAS IN session in Alexandria, Virginia, this August when the 2025 World Schools Team Chess Championship came to town.

With 55 teams representing 48 countries, including four American entries, the tournament boasted a diverse blend of players from around the world. Following its initial debut in Kazakhstan two years ago, this year's edition was the second such event organized by FIDE and sponsored by Freedom Holding Corporation.

The World Schools Team Championship was held at Episcopal High School in Alexandria from Aug. 2-7, and was

PHOTOS: COURTESY FIDE

structured as an eight-round swiss team format with two G/45+10 rounds each day. Teams consisted of four players and a reserve, along with a team captain. Everyone competed in one section, with all ages and genders playing against each other.

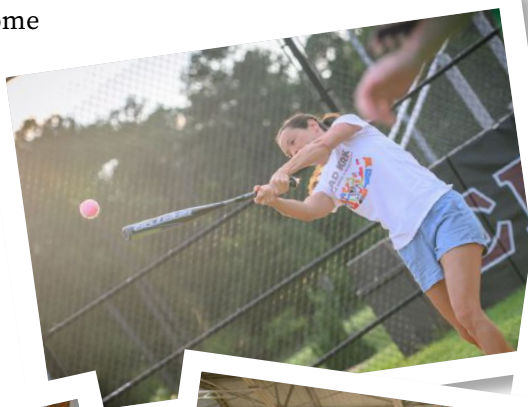
The opening ceremony kicked off with each team holding their respective countries' flags in a vibrant, global parade. The ceremony featured welcome addresses by FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich and International School Chess Federation (ISCF) President Timur Turloy, who then proclaimed the official start of the championships.

Between rounds, players enjoyed the tournament lounge, a lively and welcoming space with chess boards, ping pong, music, and snacks. The area offered a collaborative environment for rest, socialization, and new friendships across cultures.

Participants also had access to many activities organized by the ISCF, including excursions to the

U.S. Capitol and sport activities such as basketball and soccer.

India's Velammal MHS School took top honors in the Championship with an unblemished 16 match points. Three teams finished behind them with 12 match points: top seed National School of Physics and





David Hater (US Chess EB) makes a first move.



Mathematics (second on tiebreaks) and Astana 2 RSPM (fourth), both from Kazakhstan, and the Harker School (San Jose, California), which brought home the team bronze.

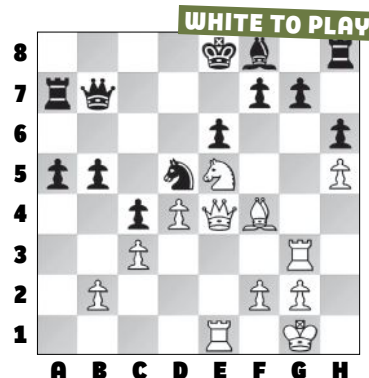
Led by captain CM Jeffery Wang, the Harker School featured CM Ethan Guo, CM Rohan Rajaram, FM Dylan Tang, WCM Anika Rajaram, and Ella Guo. Outraged by more than 200 points, they defeated Kazakhstan's National School of Physics and Mathematics in Round 6 by a score of $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. The winning point came from Anika Rajaram on Board 4, who overcame a 460-point rating difference to defeat CM Alikhan Daulet.

LONDON SYSTEM (D02)

WCM Anika Rajaram (1713 FIDE)
CM Alikhan Daulet (2173 FIDE)
World Schools Team Ch (6),
Alexandria, 08.05.2025

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bf4 c5 4. e3 e6
5. Nbd2 Qb6 6. Rb1 Bd7 7. c3 Bb5
8. h4 Bxf1 9. Kxf1 Nc6 10. h5 h6 11.
Qc2 Qa6+ 12. Kg1 Qxa2 13. Ne5 Be7
14. Rh3 Qa6 15. Qd1 c4 16. Rg3 Bf8

17. Qe2 Ne7 18. e4 b5 19. Re1 Qb7
20. exd5 Nexd5 21. Qf3 a5 22. Ne4
Nxe4 23. Qxe4 Ra7



24. Nxf7 Qxf7 25. Qxd5 Be7 26.
Qxb5+ Rd7 27. Rf3 Qf5 28. Qxf5
exf5 29. Be5 0-0 30. Rg3 Bg5 31.
Ra1 Rb7 32. Rxa5 f4 33. Rf3 Rf5 34.
Ra8+ Kh7 35. Ra4 Rxb2 36. Rxc4
Rb1+ 37. Kh2 Bh4 38. Rc7 Rg5 39.
Rxf4 Bxf2 40. Rxf2 Rxh5+ 41. Kg3
Rg5+ 42. Kf3 Rf5+ 43. Ke3 Rg5 44.
Rxg7+ Rxg7 45. Bxg7 Kxg7 46. Ra2
Kf7 47. g4 Ke6 48. Ke4 Kd7 49. Kd5
Kc7 50. c4 Rg1 51. Ra6 Rxg4 52.
Rxh6 Rg5+ 53. Ke4 Rg4+ 54. Kd3
Rg3+ 55. Kc2 Rg4 56. Kc3 Rg3+ 57.
Kb4 Rg5 58. d5 Kb7 59. Kc5 Ka7 60.
Kc6 Rg8 61. d6 Rc8+ 62. Kd5 Rg8
63. c5 Rg5+ 64. Kc6 Rg1 65. Rh8
Rg6 66. Kc7 Rg5, Black resigned.



No worries — Rajaram (R) pulled out the win!

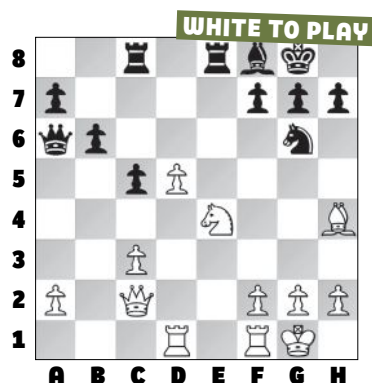


University High School (Irvine, California) finished in fifth place. The team was captained by Oren Porat, with FM Sihan Tao, Taiwei Wu, WCM Tori Porat, Brian Lantz, and Alan Yang rounding out the squad. Porat yielded just two draws on her way to the Board 3 silver and finished with 7/8, the most points scored by an American.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS VARIATION (D52)

Tori Porat (2006 FIDE)
Zhi Kai Aaron Chia (1742 FIDE)
World Schools Team Ch (3),
Alexandria, 08.04.2025

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 e6
5. Bg5 Nbd7 6. e3 Qa5 7. cxd5 Nxd5
8. Rc1 Bb4 9. Qb3 b6 10. Bc4 Nxc3
11. bxc3 Ba3 12. Rd1 Ba6 13. 0-0 0-0
14. Bh4 Rfe8 15. Nd2 Bf8 16. e4 Rac8
17. Qc2 c5 18. d5 exd5 19. exd5 Ne5
20. Bxa6 Qxa6 21. Ne4 Ng6



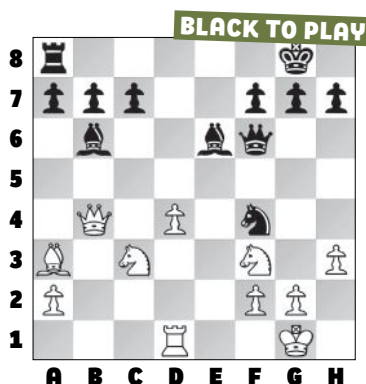
22. d6 Nxh4 23. d7 Rcd8 24. dxe8=R
Rxe8 25. Ng5 g6 26. Rd7 Re2 27.
Qb3 c4 28. Qd1 Qc8 29. Qd5 Qe8
30. Rxf7 Re5 31. Qxc4 Rc5 32. Qxh4
and White soon won.

Arnav Solan did Fallon Middle School (Dublin, California) proud with his bronze medal performance on Board 5. He finished with a score of 5/7 in his first international tournament.

EVANS GAMBIT (C52)

Barbora Ticha (1492 FIDE)
Arnav Solan (1274 US Chess)
World Schools Team Ch (7),
Alexandria, 08.06.2025

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4.
b4 Bxb4 5. c3 Ba5 6. d4 exd4 7. 0-0
Nge7 8. cxd4 d6 9. Qb3 0-0 10. h3
Bb6 11. Rd1 Na5 12. Qd3 Nxc4 13.
Qxc4 d5 14. exd5 Nxd5 15. Ba3 Re8
16. Nc3 Nf4 17. Re1 Rxe1+ 18. Rxe1
Be6 19. Qb4 Qf6 20. Rd1



20. ... Nxh3+ 21. gxh3 Qxf3 22. d5
Bxf2+ 23. Kf1 Bxh3 mate.

The 2025 Smart Moves Summit
(Aug. 4-5) was held in conjunction
with the World Schools Team
Championship, featuring



multiple event speakers and
diverse panelists in dialogue.
The conference focused on the
continued importance of chess
in education, drawing more
than 1300 in-person and remote
participants.

This tournament brought
together players from different
schools and countries, providing
an inclusive environment to foster
an international chess community.
It was great fun, and I'm glad I had
the chance to participate. 📌



HEADING WEST

The K - 12 championships head to Spokane.

BY **RICK MASSIMO**



THIS SCHEDULE IS
CURRENT AS OF
SEPTEMBER
2, 2025.
CHECK THE
UPDATED
VERSION AT
USCHESS.ORG

THE K - 12 GRADE Championships bring hundreds of young players under one roof for a weekend of high-level chess competition and fun, and for the first time in at least 20 years it's coming to the West Coast.

The championships will be held Dec. 11-14 at the convention center in Spokane, Wash. The main event is the national championship for each grade, a seven-round Swiss held Friday, Dec. 12, through Sunday, Dec. 14. The time control is G/90 with a 10-second delay.

That's not all, though: The fun begins Thursday, Dec. 11, with a bughouse tournament in the morning, the National Puzzle-Solving Championship in the afternoon, and a blitz tournament at night. And all through the three days of the grade championships, guest grandmasters (including GM Magesh Panchanathan) will hold lectures and all-comers blitz sessions. The Girls Room is back for the entire weekend, and there's even a tournament for friends and family of the competitors on the Saturday.

There are five hotels within a block of the convention center, some of which are offering deals on their rates for the tournament, and oodles of restaurants within easy walking distance. You can find all the information, including how to register, at new.uschess.org/k12-2025-championships.

THURSDAY

BUGHOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

All Sections
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

US CHESS NATIONAL PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIP, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHESSKID

Open to all participants
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to all participants
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY

GM SIMULTANEOUS

EXHIBITIONS (limit 40 players)
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM



MY FIRST TOURNAMENT SEMINAR

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

K - 12 GRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS OPENING CEREMONY

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

ROUND 1

Grades 2 - 12
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

ROUND 1

Grades K - 1
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

"ALL COMERS" GRANDMASTER BLITZ

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

GRANDMASTER LECTURE

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM



ROUND 2

Grades K - 1
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

ROUND 2

Grades 2 - 12
6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

SATURDAY

ROUND 3

Grades 2 - 12
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

ROUND 3

Grades K - 1
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

PREPARING FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EVENTS SEMINAR

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

FRIENDS AND FAMILY TOURNAMENT

Round 1 of 5
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

GRANDMASTER LECTURE

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

ROUND 4

Grades K - 1
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

ROUND 4

Grades 2 - 12
1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

SCHOLASTIC MEETING

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

"ALL COMERS" GRANDMASTER BLITZ

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

ROUND 5

Grades K - 1
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

ROUND 5

Grades 2 - 12
6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

SUNDAY

PRESENTATION OF ALL- AMERICAN TEAM

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

ROUND 6

Grades 2 - 12
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

ROUND 6

Grades K - 1
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

ROUND 7

Grades K - 1
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

ROUND 7

Grades 2 - 12
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM

The US Chess Twitch channel (twitch.tv/uschess) is back for K-12 Grade Championships, featuring WGM Sabina Foisor as host and commentator. Tune in for live top-board coverage, expert analysis, and interviews at the start of each round.



"ALL COMERS" GRANDMASTER BLITZ

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

AWARD CEREMONY

Grades K - 1
Approximately 5:30 PM



AWARD CEREMONY

Grades 2 - 3
Approximately 6:00 PM

AWARD CEREMONY

Grades 4 - 12
Approximately 6:00 PM

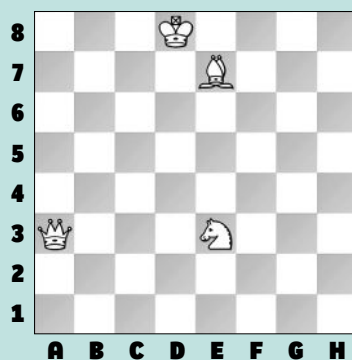
Puzzle Me THIS Puzzle Me THAT

BY JEFF COAKLEY



Hello, friends! Here's a riddle. *Why was the referee confused at the zebra chess match?* For more fun, we also have our usual selection of new puzzles. A little bit of this and a little bit of that. Some of the puzzles have special rules. Others are the standard kind of positions that might happen in your games. Good luck!

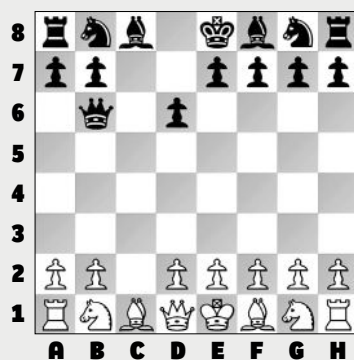
1. Triple Loyd



Place the black king on the board so that

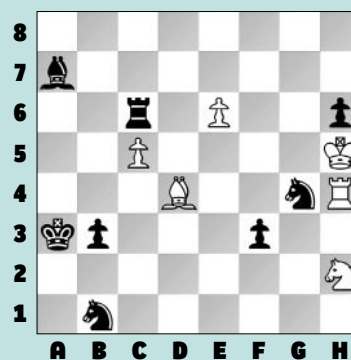
- Black is in checkmate.
- Black is in stalemate.
- White has mate in one.

2. Proof Game



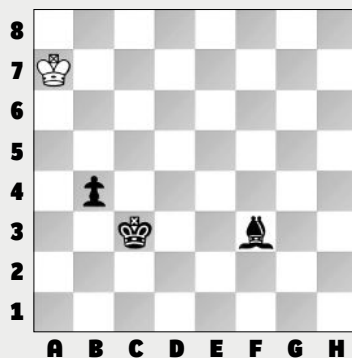
This position was reached after Black's fourth turn. What were the moves?

3. Maze Race



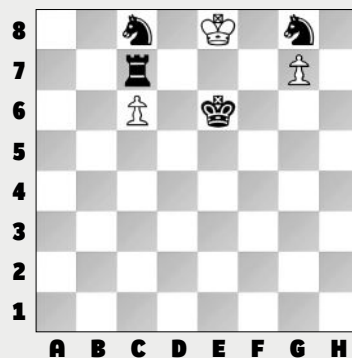
Only one white piece (rook, bishop, or knight) may move. Black does not get a turn. Capture the black king without taking any pieces or moving to a square guarded by Black. Which piece is fastest? Which is slowest?

4. Inverted Loyd



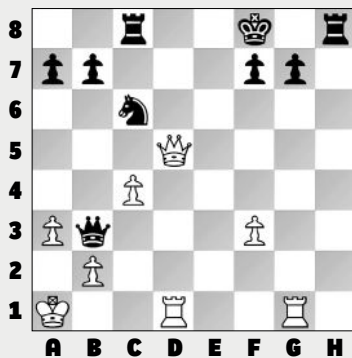
Add a white rook and two white knights so that White has mate in one.

5. Series-Mate in 11



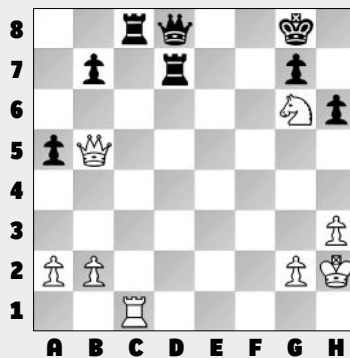
White plays 11 moves in a row to checkmate Black. Only the final move may give check. Captures are allowed. Black does not get a turn. White may not place their own king in check, even if they get out of check on the next move.

6. Mate in 4



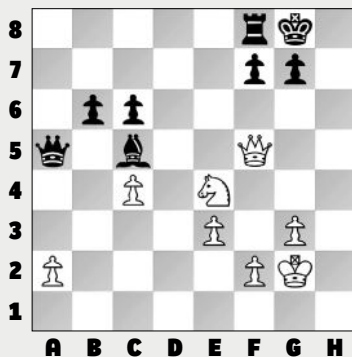
White to play. Mate in four.

7. Combo



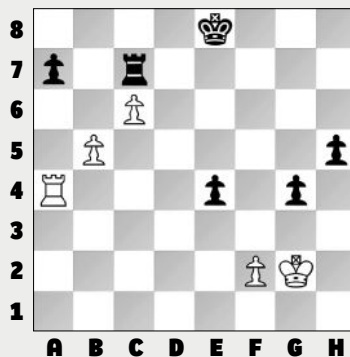
White to play and win material.

8. Defense



White to play and not lose.

9. Endgame



White to play and win.

10. Synthetic game

Make up a game where White wins with the non-capture 5. Qe7 mate.

Answers:

Riddle) Because both sides were white *and* black! **1)** A. Kb3 mate. B. Kb1 stalemate. C. Kc6, allowing 1. Qa6 mate. **2)** 1. c3 d5 2. c4 Qd6 3. cxd5 Qb6 4. d6 cxd6. Extra tempos by the white c-pawn and black queen. **3)** The bishop is fastest. The knight is slowest. Here are the lines: Bd4-g7-f8-e7-d8-a5-e1-g3-f4-clxa3 (10 moves), Rh4-h3-g3-g1-e1-e4-f4-f7-b7-b5-a5xa3 (11), Nh2-f1-g3-f5-e7-g6-h8-f7-d8-b7-a5-c4xa3 (12). **4)** Add Rd2 Na3 Na5 for 1. Nb1 mate. **5)** 1. Kf8 Freeing the c-pawn first with 1. Kd8? 2. Kxc7 takes one

move longer. **2.** Kxg8 **3.** Kh7 **4.** Kg6 Unpinning the g-pawn. **5.** g8=R Promoting to queen would give check. **6.** Rxc8 **7.** Rxc7 **8.** Rd7! **9.** c7 **10.** c8=Q **11.** Qe8 mate. **6)** 1. Qd6+ Black has three choices against this check. The end is quick after 1. ... Ne7 2. Qd8+ Rxd8 3. Rxd8 mate and 1. ... Ke8 2. Rde1+ Ne7 (2. ... Ne5 3. Rxe5 mate) 3. Qxe7 mate. But the third option is trickier. **1.** ... Kg8 **2.** Rxg7+ The rook is sacrificed to blast open the black king! **2.** ... Kxg7 **3.** Rg1+ Kh7 **4.** Qh2 mate. This mating pattern

along the side files is sometimes called a *sci-fi mate*. **7)** The idea of a knight check on e7, *forking* the black king and rook on c8, is not hard to find. But working out the winning *combination* of moves requires accuracy. **1.** Qxd7 The fun starts with a queen sacrifice. **1.** ... Qxd7 **2.** Rxc8 Qxc8 If the rook is not captured, the black queen is still lost to a knight *fork* by 2. ... Kh7 3. Nf8+ or 2. ... Kf7 3. Ne5+. **3.** Ne7+ Kf7 **4.** Nxc8. White has won a rook and is now up a knight. **8)** Black has an extra rook but the white queen and knight are well placed near the black king. There is no mating attack but White can force a *perpetual check* by sacrificing their knight. **1.** Nf6+ gxf6 Not 1. ... Kh8? 2. Qh7 mate. **2.** Qg4+ Kh7 **3.** Qh4+ Kg6 **4.** Qg4+ Kh6 **5.** Qh4+. Soon the position will be repeated three times for the draw. By the way, the tempting 1. Ng5? fails to 1. ... g6. White could try 2. Qh3 Kg7! 3. Qh7+ Kf6 4. Qh4 but Black is still winning after 4. ... Qxa2 5. Nh7+ Kg7 6. Nxf8 Bxf8. Also tricky is 1. Ng5? g6 2. Qf6!? hoping for 2. ... Qxa2? 3. Ne6! fxe6 4. Qxg6+ with another perpetual check. But Black can play 2. ... Qa7 or 2. ... Bb4 instead. **9)** Surprisingly, taking a free pawn with check is not best. After 1. Rxe4+? Kd8, the position is level. White wins by **1.** Rxa7, giving up their rook to create *connected passed pawns* on the 6th rank. **1.** ... Rxa7 If 1. ... Kd8, the simplest line is 2. b6 Rxc6 3. Ra8+ Rc8 4. b7. **2.** b6 Without its king's help, the black rook cannot stop one of the pawns from promoting. Black can try to hold on after **2.** ... Ra6 **3.** b7 Rxc6 (3. ... Rb6 4. c7!) **4.** b8=Q+ Kd7 **5.** Qe5 but the rook is no match for the queen. **10)** **1.** d4 e6 **2.** Qd2 Bb4 **3.** Qxb4 Qg5 **4.** Bxg5 Nh6 **5.** Qe7 mate. The game could also begin 1. d3 e5.

TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Effective April 30, 2024, the Executive Board moved to remove the temporary change to US Chess Grand Prix rules implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and to return to previous Grand Prix requirements. The Executive Board also moved to allow tournaments limited to seniors, juniors, women, or college students to be eligible for the US Chess Federation Grand Prix, provided they satisfy the other Grand Prix requirements, effective immediately. Please refer to the Tournament Life Announcement section in *Chess Life* for more information.

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX

2025 US Masters
NOVEMBER 27-30, 2025 — NC TLA# 52078
Site: Hilton Charlotte University Place Address: 8629 JM Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262 Overall Prize Fund: \$25,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Charlotte Chess Center • www.charlottechesscenter.org/events/

Grand Prix

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

33rd annual Midwest Class Championships
OCTOBER 10-12, 2025 — IL TLA# 50084
Site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel Address: 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 Overall Prize Fund: \$20,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th Annual Hartford Open
OCTOBER 10-12, 2025 — CT TLA# 50123
Site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel At Bradley International Airport Address: 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 60 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

29th Annual Eastern Chess Congress
OCTOBER 24-26, 2025 — NJ TLA# 50642
Site: Westin Princeton at Forrester Village Address: 201 Village Blvd, Princeton, NJ 08540 Overall Prize Fund: \$25,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2025 PA State Action Chess Championship - West
OCTOBER 25, 2025 — PA TLA# 50853
Site: William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh Address: 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 Overall Prize Fund: \$690 GP Pts: 6 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Tom M Martinak • martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com • 412-908-0286 • www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

90th Greater Boston Open
OCTOBER 26, 2025 — MA TLA# 51274
Site: Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center Address: 219 Littleton Rd., Westford MA 01886 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,000 GP Pts: 15 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Massachusetts Chess Association • info@masschess.org • 603-891-2484 • www.masschess.org

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Central States Master Challenge
OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — WI TLA# 51290
Site: Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel Address: 375 S. Moorland Road, Brookfield, WI 53005 Overall Prize Fund: \$11,000 GP Pts: 20 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: All Americas Chess • allamericaschess@gmail.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Chicago Fall Open
OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — IL TLA# 51313
Site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Address: 1800 E Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 50 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: King Registration • info@kingregistration.com • www.kingregistration.com/event/fallopen25

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

20th Annual Los Angeles Open
NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025 — CA-S TLA# 50643
Site: Hilton Orange County Airport Address: 18800 MacArthur Blvd, Irvine CA 92612 Overall Prize Fund: \$20,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: King Registration • info@kingregistration.com • www.kingregistration.com/event/fallopen25

cy: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2025 PA State G15 Championship - West
NOVEMBER 8, 2025 — PA TLA# 50854
Site: William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh Address: 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 Overall Prize Fund: \$690 GP Pts: 6 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Tom M Martinak • martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com • 412-908-0286 • www.pscfchess.org/clearinghouse/

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

23rd Annual Turkey Bowl
NOVEMBER 14-16, 2025 — FL TLA# 51293
Site: Fort Lauderdale Marriott North Address: 6650 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309 Overall Prize Fund: \$12,000 GP Pts: 50 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Jon Haskel • jon@bocachess.com • 561-302-4377 • www.bocachess.com

GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2025 Illinois Class State Championship
NOVEMBER 23, 2025 — IL TLA# 50284
Site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Address: 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 Overall Prize Fund: \$6,000 GP Pts: 30 FIDE: N Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Glenn Panner • glenn@chessweekend.com • www.chessweekend.com/

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX

60th American Open Chess Championship
NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025 — CA TLA# 51934
Site: Hyatt Regency Orange County Address: 11999 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, CA 92840 Overall Prize Fund: see online TLA GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: American Open Chess Championship • play@americanopen.org • 714-643-8828 • www.americanopen.org/

GRAND PRIX

2025 NC Open
NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — NC TLA# 52080
Site: Hilton Charlotte University Place Address: 8629 JM Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262 Overall Prize Fund: \$12,500 GP Pts: 50 FIDE: Y Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Charlotte Chess Center • www.charlottechesscenter.org/events/

GRAND PRIX

9th Annual Sevan Memorial
NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — IL TLA# 51968
Site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Address: 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 Overall Prize Fund: \$12,000 GP Pts: XX FIDE: N Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Glenn Panner • glennpan@aol.com • 8159554793 • www.chessweekend.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Motor City Open
NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — MI TLA# 51922
Site: Crowne Plaza - Auburn Hills Address: 1500 B. Opdyke Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 Overall Prize Fund: \$9,000 GP Pts: 40 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Edward Mandell • eman@aol.com • 2486352375

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

56th Annual National Chess Congress
NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — PA TLA# 50757
Site: Loews Hotel Address: 1200 Market St, Philadelphia PA 19107 Overall Prize Fund: \$45,000 GP Pts: 200 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

delphia PA 19107 Overall Prize Fund: \$45,000 GP Pts: 200 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

35th Annual North American Open
DECEMBER 26-30, 2025 — NV TLA# 50756
Site: Horseshoe Casino Resort (formerly Bally's) Address: 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S, Las Vegas, NV 89103 Overall Prize Fund: \$130,000 GP Pts: 300 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

50th Annual Eastern Open!
DECEMBER 26-29, 2025 — VA TLA# 50760
Site: Hyatt Regency Crystal City Address: 2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington VA 22202 Overall Prize Fund: \$30,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

14th annual Boston Chess Congress
JANUARY 2-4, 2026 — MA TLA# 51000
Site: Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor Address: 101 Harborside Dr, Boston MA 02128 Overall Prize Fund: \$12,000 GP Pts: 80 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

Tim Just Winter Open XLII
JANUARY 9-11, 2026 — IL TLA# 51956
Site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Address: 1800 E. Golf Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 50 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: King Registration • info@kingregistration.com • www.kingregistration.com/event/timjust26

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

17th annual Golden State Open
JANUARY 16-19, 2026 — CA TLA# 51868
Site: Hilton Concord Hotel Address: 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520 Overall Prize Fund: \$25,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

58th annual Liberty Bell Open
JANUARY 16-19, 2026 — PA TLA# 51826
Site: Sonesta Hotel Address: 1800 Market St, Philadelphia 19103 Overall Prize Fund: \$25,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • www.chesstour.com

Regional

ARIZONA

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025 — CA TLA# 51934
60th American Open Chess Championship
See Grand Prix.

PLEASE NOTE

DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

TLAs appearing in *Chess Life Kids* must be uploaded online on the 10th, two months prior to the issue cover date in which the ad is to appear. (For example, October TLAs must be uploaded no later than August 10th.) TLAs uploaded past this deadline cannot be published without special approval by US Chess.

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025 — CA TLA# 51934
60th American Open Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

CONNECTICUT

OCT. 8, 2025-APR. 26, 2026 — NY TLA# 51272
11th Annual New York State Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League (Out of state welcome)!
 See New York.

DELAWARE

NOVEMBER 22-23, 2025 TLA# 51843
Delaware Capital Open 2025
Site: Delaware Agricultural Museum **Address:** 866 North DuPont Hwy, Dover DE 19901 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$1,500 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Delaware Chess Association • aa.legolas@gmail.com • 4102193179 • https://delawarechessassociation.org/

ILLINOIS

OCTOBER 4, 2025 — IL TLA# 51910
Chicago Scholastic Chess Open
Site: University of Illinois Chicago Student Services Building **Address:** 11200 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60607 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity • chicagoscholasticopen1906@gmail.com • 4403396340 • ynotchess.org/chess-tournaments

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — WI TLA# 51290
Central States Master Challenge
 See Grand Prix.

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — IL TLA# 51313
Chicago Fall Open
 See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — MI TLA# 51922
Motor City Open
 See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 9-11, 2026 — IL TLA# 51956
Tim Just Winter Open XLII
 See Grand Prix.

INDIANA

OCTOBER 11, 2025 — KY TLA# 51232
The Butch Mosby National Chess Day Classic
 See Kentucky.

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — WI TLA# 51290
Central States Master Challenge
 See Grand Prix.

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — IL TLA# 51313
Chicago Fall Open
 See Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — MI TLA# 51922
Motor City Open
 See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 9-11, 2026 — IL TLA# 51956
Tim Just Winter Open XLII
 See Grand Prix.

IOWA

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — WI TLA# 51290
Central States Master Challenge
 See Grand Prix.

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — IL TLA# 51313
Chicago Fall Open
 See Grand Prix.

KENTUCKY

OCTOBER 11, 2025 — KY TLA# 51911
Louisville Scholastic Chess Open, National Chess Day
Site: GE Appliance Park, Monogram Hall **Address:**

4000 Buechel Bank Rd, Louisville, KY 40218 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity • louisvillescholasticopen@gmail.com • 4403396340 • ynotchess.org/chess-tournaments

OCTOBER 11, 2025 — KY TLA# 51232

The Butch Mosby National Chess Day Classic
Site: Roots101 Museum **Address:** 124 North 1st Street, Louisville, KY 40202 **Overall Prize Fund:** see online TLA **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Corbin Seavers • urbanlouisvillechess@yahoo.com • 5023656369

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.MD-Chess.org for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, signup 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.

MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 26, 2025 — MA TLA# 51274
90th Greater Boston Open
 See Grand Prix.

REGIONALS

NOVEMBER 22, 2025 — MA TLA# 48648
2nd Mayflower Open
Site: St. John's Lutheran Church **Address:** 60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA 01085 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$600 b/30 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Greater Baystate Chess • greaterbaystatechess@gmail.com • 4133560303 • www.greaterbaystatechess.com

MICHIGAN

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — WI TLA# 51290
Central States Master Challenge
 See Grand Prix.

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — IL TLA# 51313
Chicago Fall Open
 See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 22, 2025 — MI TLA# 51074
2025 Michigan Scholastic Club Championships
Site: Lansing Center **Address:** 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI, 48933 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Michigan Chess Association • jeffchess64@gmail.com • 810-955-7271 • www.michess.com

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — MI TLA# 51922
Motor City Open
 See Grand Prix.

JANUARY 9-11, 2026 — IL TLA# 51956
Tim Just Winter Open XLII
 See Grand Prix.

MINNESOTA

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — WI TLA# 51290
Central States Master Challenge
 See Grand Prix.

MISSISSIPPI

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT
OCTOBER 18-19, 2025 — MS TLA# 51247
2025 Mississippi State Championship
Site: Nissan Training Center **Address:** 300 Nissan

Drive, Gate 1, Canton, MS 39046 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Mississippi Chess Association • mark@mcachess.org • 615-631-3876 • www.mcachess.org

MONTANA

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2025 — MT TLA# 51961
2025 Missoula Turkey Open
Site: Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown **Address:** 200 S Pattee St, Missoula, MT 59802 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$3,000 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Missoula Chess Club • missoulachessclub@gmail.com • 4068309524 • www.missoulachess.com/

NEVADA

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025 — CA TLA# 51934
60th American Open Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

NEW JERSEY

OCT. 8, 2025-APR. 26, 2026 — NY TLA# 51272
11th Annual New York State Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League (Out of state welcome)!
 See New York.

OCTOBER 18, 2025 — NJ TLA# 47758

Hamilton Chess Club Quads
Site: Switlik Park Pavilion **Address:** Fisher Place/Joe Dimaggio Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08610 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Edward Sytnik • edmendou@aol.com • 6097582326 • https://hamiltonchessclub.com

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 — NJ TLA# 47759

Hamilton Chess Club Quads
Site: Switlik Park Pavilion **Address:** Fisher Place/Joe Dimaggio Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08610 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Edward Sytnik • edmendou@aol.com • 6097582326 • https://hamiltonchessclub.com

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 — NJ TLA# 51938
2025 New Jersey K-12 Championships
Site: Brookdale Community College **Address:** 765 Newman Springs Rd, Lincroft, NJ 07738 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Alessandro De Marchi-Blumstein • tournaments.njscf@gmail.com • www.njscf.org/2025-k-12-championships/

NEW YORK

OCT. 8, 2025-APR. 26, 2026 — NY TLA# 51272
11th Annual New York State Magnus High School and Junior High Chess League (Out of state welcome)!
Site: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School **Address:** 36 West 93rd Street, New York, NY 10025 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$7,050 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Chess Center Of New York • chesscenter@gmail.com, director@magnusleague.org • http://www.magnusleague.org/

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2025 — NY TLA# 50845
9th Annual New York State Girls Championship!
Site: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School **Address:** 36 West 93rd Street, New York, NY 10025 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$1,000 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Chess Center Of New York • director@chessgirls.win, chesscenter@gmail.com • www.chessgirls.win

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 — NJ TLA# 51938
2025 New Jersey K-12 Championships
 See New Jersey.

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025 — CA TLA# 51934
60th American Open Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

OHIO

OCTOBER 11, 2025 — OH TLA# 51909
Cleveland Scholastic Chess Open

Site: Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Alex B. Johnson Campus Center (MCC) Room 201 **Address:** 2900 Community College Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity • clevelandsscholasticopen1906@gmail.com • 4403396340 • ynotchess.org/chess-tournaments

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — MI TLA# 51922

Motor City 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 for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 — NJ TLA# 51938

2025 New Jersey K-12 Championships
 See New Jersey.

NOVEMBER 28-30, 2025 — MI TLA# 51922

Motor City Open
 See Grand Prix.

TEXAS

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

OCTOBER 17-19, 2025 — TX TLA# 51586
28th Annual Texas North/Central Grade Championships
Site: Houston Marriott Westchase **Address:** 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston Texas, 77042 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Barbara Swafford • barbrounds@gmail.com • 214-533-0061 • www.dallaschess.com

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025 — CA TLA# 51934

60th American Open Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

VERMONT

OCTOBER 4, 2025 — VT TLA# 51807
Bennington Fall Open
Site: Bennington Free Library **Address:** 101 Silver St., Bennington, VT 05201 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$700 **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Andrew Palmer • palmera62@hotmail.com • 8026815417

WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025 — CA TLA# 51934
60th American Open Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 11, 2025 — WI TLA# 51912

Milwaukee Scholastic Chess Open, National Chess Day
Site: Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) Walter Schroeder Library **Address:** 500 E Kilbourn Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity • milwaukeechessscholasticopen1906@gmail.com • 4403396340 • ynotchess.org/chess-tournaments

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — WI TLA# 51290
Central States Master Challenge
 See Grand Prix.

OCT. 31-NOV. 2, 2025 — IL TLA# 51313
Chicago Fall Open
 See Grand Prix.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

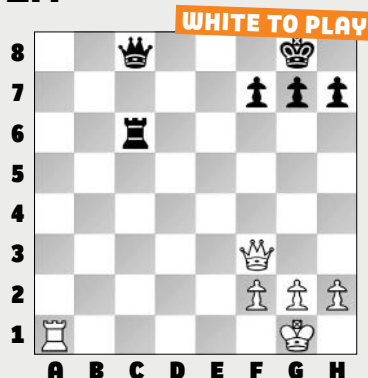
NOVEMBER 8-9, 2025 — MA TLA# 50051
2025-2026 Wisconsin Junior Open
Site: Holiday Inn Manitowoc **Address:** 4601 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220 **Overall Prize Fund:** n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** N **Residency:** N **Org:** Steve Erbach • terranchess@gmail.com • 920-279-5688 • www.wis chess.org

Igor's DOUBLES

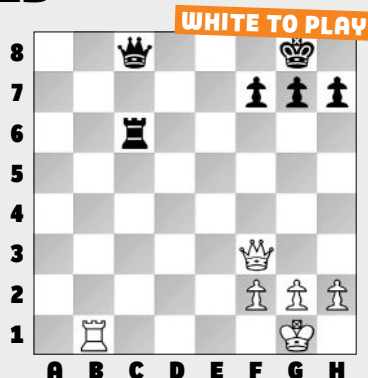
BY IM IGOR KHMELNITSKY

Below are three pairs of positions. Each pair has one key difference between them. Find that difference and figure out why it matters. Use the side of the page for notes, and find the solutions on page 23. Good luck!

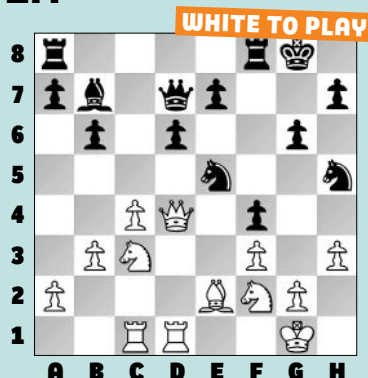
1A



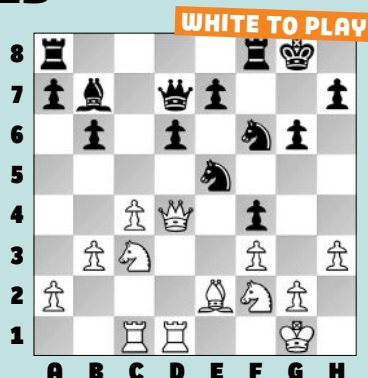
1B



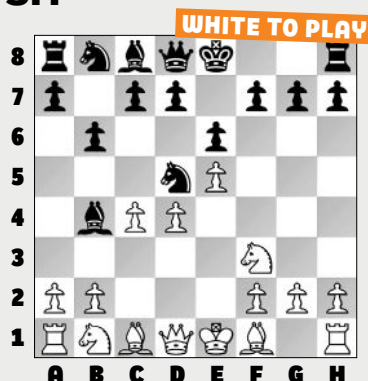
2A



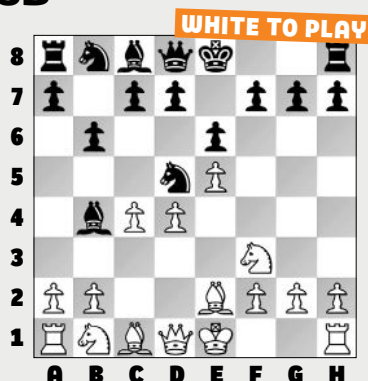
2B



3A



3B



Solutions

PAGE 11 TACTICS TUNE-UP

(1) Did you take the rook with 38. ... Rxa3?? Oops — it's stalemate! Much better is 38. ... **g5 mate!** hazkay – Zozzer, *lichess.org* (analysis), 2025. (2) There are a few paths to victory, but the cleanest is 12. ... **Nxc3!** removing the guard for the e2-bishop and winning at least a piece. White can't recapture due to ... 13. **Qxc3 Qxe2 mate.** PrPlut-onix – Bharathk6, *lichess.org*, 2025. (3) White threatens mate in one. How to respond? 12. ... **g6!** (or 12. ... Re8+ 13. Kd1 followed by 13. ... g6) attacks the queen and stops the mate threat. Now ... Rf8-e8+ is coming and Black will be able to use their better development to get a great game. meysamkavyani1371 – athanrod, *lichess.org* (analysis), 2025. (4) 13. ... **Qd5!** A double attack, threatening the g5-bishop and mate on g2. White can't defend both, so it's loss of material or loss of the game. vuralmuxtar – peaksandvalleys, *lichess.org* (analysis), 2025. (5) Here again White wants to remove the guard, but the details are a little deeper. 18. **Bxf6! gxf6** It's clear that 18. ... Qxf6 19. Nxd5 loses. But can't Black take with the g-pawn? 19. **Qg4+** Nope! The open kingside means mate is unstoppable. 19. ... **Kh8 20. Qf5, Black resigned.** BoySoedarmo – estiril1946, *lichess.org*, 2025. (6) Looks like White is getting ready to deliver mate, but Black can defend! 21. ... **Qxf3+!** Correct counting shows Black gets the material back. 21. ... Bg4 is a hard road to equality but no more: 22. Rxc4 Qxf3+ 23. Kd2 Qf2+ 24. Kd1! (not 24. Kd3?? Rf3 mate) 24. ... Qf1+ 25. Kd2 Qf2+ with a perpetual. 22. **Qxf3 Rxf3 23. Kxf3 Kxh7.** Lefik –

der-die-das-wieso-w, *lichess.org* (analysis), 2025. (7) Things look terrible for White with the double attack on the rooks and the risk of discovered check. But ... 23. **Qc4+** 23. Rd7? Re1 mate was the game. 23. ... **Qxc4 24. bxc4** and now Black should be able to draw this: 24. ... **Rc3 25. Rc7 Rd8** and the active rooks mean Black should be OK. abgurd – HukuToc2288, *lichess.org* (analysis), 2025. (8) Oof. If 19. f3 Re1 mate (as in the game); and blocking the e-file with 19. Be3? loses to 19. ... Rxe3 due to the pin. But White can defend! 19. **Qf5!** This stops the mate on f2 and threatens mate on h7. Black has to take. 19. ... **Qxf5 20. Bxf5** Now Black has to move the bishop, giving White a tempo. 20. ... **Bd6 21. Be3** With Ra1-d1 and possibly Rd1xd6 (to clear the path for the c6-pawn) to follow. White's bishop pair and pawns are better than Black's rook. bidon67 – abominationmouse6059, *lichess.org* (analysis), 2025. (9) Black's king is a bit open and the f7-pawn is tough to defend. What to do? 21. ... **Qd5!** combining offense (mate on g2) and defense (of f7). Now if 22. **Rf3** Not 22. Rxf7? Qxg2 mate; 22. Qf3 leads to equality after 22. ... Qxf3 23. Rxf3 Bg5! 24. Bxg5 Rxc5 25. Rxf7 Rxe5 22. ... **Rg6** and now White has to be careful not to lose with the a8-rook coming to the g-file. Starchie – EgorMerkushenkov2015, *lichess.org* (analysis), 2025. (10) It's always important to ask what an opponent would do if they had another move. Here Black would really love to play ... d5-d4 when it's hard to stop mate. Can we find a move to stop it? 16. **Qf3!** "Prophylaxis" against ... d5-d4. Now if 16. ... **d4?** Preferable is 16. ... Ne4 17. Be3 rerouting the bishop to d4 and White is slightly better. 17. **Qxc6 Bxc6 18. cxd4** and White is way ahead. ericz – SKYFRI, *lichess.org*, 2025.

PAGE 22 IGOR'S DOUBLES

#1 (Easy)

Difference: In position 1A the white rook is on a1, while in position 1B the rook is on b1.

Significance: Both sides have weak back ranks, since neither king has an escape square. Black is threatening 1. ... **Rc1+** winning material after 2. **Qd1 Rxd1+** — otherwise White is checkmated. However it is White to move, and White has the tactical idea 1. **Qxc6** aiming to deflect the black queen from protecting the back rank.

This promising idea fails in 1A. After 1. **Qxc6?? Qxc6** the black queen still controls the a8-square so that 2. **Ra8+** loses due to 2. ... **Qxa8**. So in 1A White should play the safe 1. **h3** or 1. **g3** with an equal position.

The story is different in 1B — after 1. **Qxc6** Black is down a rook, since 1. ... **Qxc6 2. Rb8+** leads to mate.

Conclusion: The position is equal in 1A. White is winning in 1B.

#2 (Easy)

Difference: In position 2A the black knight is on f6, while in position 2B this knight is on h5.

Significance: Kudos to you if you noticed that the d6-pawn that protects the e5-knight is pinned. White has the tactical idea Qd4xe5. In position 2A White simply wins a piece after 1. **Qxe5!**. But with the knight

on f6, the black queen is protected in 2B: 1. **Qxe5?? dxe5 2. Rxd7 Nxd7** and Black wins. White must look for other moves, and after 1. **Qxf4** White is slightly better.

Conclusion: White is winning in 2A. White is slightly better in 2B.

#3 (Intermediate)

Difference: In position 3A the white bishop is on f1, while in position 3B it is on e2.

Significance: The normal reaction to ... **Bf8-b4+** is to block the check with a piece on d2. This example reminds you that often there are exceptions.

Here, the black bishop on b4 and the knight on d5 both have limited options. In fact, the knight is currently under attack and has only one safe square — e7. If it is forced to go there, the knight will block the bishop's path. So White should try to avoid the temptation to block the check and allow Black to trade the bishop. Instead, White should look for a king move first.

In position 3A the e2-square is not ideal for the king. After 1. **Ke2! Ba6!** (pinning the c-pawn) Black can untangle the pieces and White's advantage is not overwhelming. For example: 2. **Qc2 Bf8 3. Ke1 Ne7.** In 3B White has the more natural 1. **Kf1!** and Black loses a piece: 1. ... **Ne7 2. a3 Ba5 3. b4.**

Conclusion: White is better in 3A. White is winning in 3B.

Do you **LOVE** getting a print copy of **CHESS LIFE KIDS** each month? Want to avoid any service disruptions?

Be sure to **renew** your US Chess membership **at least one month before your expiration date** to ensure continued delivery of your magazine. And don't forget to purchase the print add-on as part of your membership renewal!



US CHESS
FEDERATION SALES

The United States' Largest Chess Specialty Retailer

888.51.CHESS (512.4377)



www.USCFSales.com

Introducing the

TAP N SET™ PRO

DIGITAL CHESS
CLOCK



THE ULTIMATE CHESS CLOCK FOR SERIOUS CHESS PLAYERS!

- Are you tired of the frustration caused by your current chess clock? Is setting it a never-ending battle? Say goodbye to confusing presets and button combinations! The TAP N SET™ Pro is here to revolutionize your chess playing experience!
- The TAP N SET™ technology offers the world's FIRST chess clock settable from your smartphone! Download our Android® or iOS® app, input your desired time controls, and simply touch your phone to the clock. With our patent-pending NFC technology, your clock is instantly programmed. It supports one-, two-, and three-time control games, increment/delay, move counters, and even Freeze for FIDE-rated events. The app features an intuitive menu for setting delay, increment, hour-glass; It even offers Scrabble timing modes, all adjustable from 1 to 40 minutes (New Feature). Choose from three different delay modes!
- Crafted with precision in the USA, the TAP N SET™ Pro Digital Chess Clock is a game-changer that every chess player needs. Simple to use, you'll master its features within minutes. Ideal for players of all ages and skill levels, it boasts a sturdy metal case, a sleek low-profile design, and massive dual displays powered by touch-sensor technology. It's the pinnacle of chess clock perfection!
- DESIGNED AND ASSEMBLED IN THE USA! It is the first ever commercially available chess clock with dual displays, allowing spectators to follow the game. The clock comes with a magnetic cover

for tournament settings. Connect it to the HOS sensory board (coming soon, sold separately) with the included cable. Stainless steel touch-sensitive buttons make your moves precise.

- Embrace the tournament atmosphere with programmable modes, including move counters. Keep three preset settings/modes in memory for quick access. Our clock is incredibly accurate, thanks to a high-precision crystal oscillator. You can even mute the sound and LED indicators, making it suitable for various two-player board games like Scrabble, Shogi, and Go.
- Say goodbye to frequent battery changes – our clock is power-efficient, providing over 900 hours of continuous use under normal conditions.
- Unsure of the time control for your event? Choose from 70 presets for the most popular US Chess time controls or create your own preset for lightning-fast setup!

CLKDZMTAPPRO

\$124.95

Don't worry if you forget your smartphone – you can still manually program the TAP N SET™ Pro clock just like any other ZmartFun chess clock. Experience the easiest chess clock ever designed!

Upgrade your chess game with the TAP N SET™ Pro Digital Chess Clock – the future of chess timing is here! Don't wait – order yours now and elevate your chess experience to new heights!



Download on
iTunes



Get it on
Google play

Free Ground Shipping On All Orders Over \$100.00
Excludes Clearance, Shopworn and Items Otherwise Marked