

The Missouri Chess Bulletin

Spring 2004

Scholastic State Chess Championship



Features:

- Book Reviews
- Chess Politics
- Endgame Study
- Chess and the Internet
- Scholastic Chess

The Missouri Chess Bulletin is the official publication of the Missouri Chess Association, a United States Chess Federation affiliate and a not for profit organization.

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From the Editor



by Tony Rich

Hello again. Welcome to the spring edition of the Missouri Chess Bulletin. We have a great publication for you this time. Selden Trimble has sent in a great endgame study that we printed, starting on page nine. In addition, there is an interesting tale on page five that is reprinted from the July 1966 issue of *Chess Review*. Also, IM John Donaldson sent us an article uplifting the position of the USCF. The USCF has recently signed a book and equipment outsourcing deal with *ChessCafe.com* that should substantially help their position. I would encourage everyone to renew their USCF memberships early this year. You won't lose any of your time. If your membership expires in June and you renew today, your membership will be extended until June of next year. Every little bit of income for the USCF in their time of need will help. Do your part!

We have a couple of very nice book reviews in the edition to boot. I would really recommend the Bobby Fischer book that Loal reviewed on page three. It is a nice addition to anyone's library.

We also have a great scholastics section this time. Zeb Fortman and John Skelton sent in some wonderful articles and games that truly reflect the strength of scholastic players today. I have also added a few scholastic games in the "Games" section, starting on page 17.

Some are from the Missouri Denker Playoff and others are from the Missouri State Junior High Championship. There are a few missed opportunities throughout the games, but overall they are good quality games.

I have realized that it is harder to get people to submit material for the MCB than it is to get a jury to find Martha Stewart innocent. We all have information to share with each other and this is a great way to share it. Some ideas that I have had are: Missouri chess history, tournament reports, annotated games, book reviews, chess on the Internet, interesting stories about chess, scholastic reports (leagues and tournaments), chess in schools, chess politics, and anything else you can conjure up. It is often all I can do to fill a bulletin. As always, you can email or regular mail any material to me.

Please send submissions to:

Tony Rich - MCB
1335 Independence Rd., Apt. A
Rolla, MO 65401

Thank you to everyone who submitted material for the MCB. I really enjoyed compiling everything that was submitted. If I have made any factual errors, I'm sorry about that! Please let me know and I'll attempt to correct them in the next edition. I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming tournaments listed on page 13!

*Thanks,
Tony*

Letters to the Editor

I would like to thank all those who have taken the time to write about your thoughts and concerns with the MCB. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or the MCA. Please continue to send us your thoughts on the MCB, chess politics, or anything else chess related.

A friend recently passed on a copy of the Winter 2004 MCB. I really liked the piece on Michael Brooks. He is a very fine player and a good guy. It was a bit of a surprise to see the article by Bob Holliman - USCF-Better Off Dead? I take it an article I ran in my weekly Mechanics' Newsletter was excerpted in a previous issue of the MCB and Bob took exception to it. Has there been any response to his scree? My concern is that some readers might take the numerous inaccuracies in Bob's piece at face value and quit the USCF. American chess would not be well-served by this. Did you see the USCF signed a guaranteed \$350,000 a year book and equipment sale outsourcing deal with Chess Cafe. This will not only produce a steady revenue stream but also allow the USCF to reduce their number of employees. Contrary to Bob's pessimism, things are looking up in New Windsor.

IM John Donaldson
San Francisco, CA

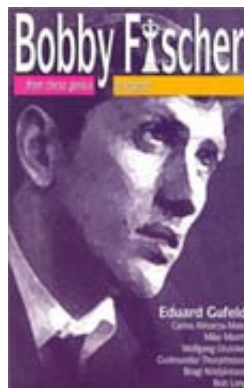
In the first round [of the Missouri State Junior High Championship], I had a player who, along with his opponent, agreed that the position was a stalemate. They shook hands on it and started to pick up the pieces. However, the opponent realized it wasn't a stalemate and asked that they play it out. The TD who was called over on this agreed that they should play it out, and my player lost. When he came out of the playing area and told me about it, I appealed. The other player honestly admitted they had shaken hands on the stalemate, and that was how it was settled, a half-point for each.

John Skelton



Bobby Fischer: From Chess Genius to Legend

By Loal Davis



Title: *Bobby Fischer: From Chess Genius to Legend*
Author : GM Eduard Gufeld
Carlos Almarza-Mato
Mike Morris
GM Wolfgang Unzicker
Bragi Kristjansson
Bob Long
Publisher: Thinker's Press
ISBN: 093865084X

Oh my goodness! – Another Bobby Fischer book. Yes another one, but there seems to be less glossing over questionable events and less polishing of the “Genius, Idol, God” statue on the mantle. I found this book an enjoyable read. Of particular interest to me was the section written by GM Eduard Gufeld. I had no idea he was such a friend (closer than I would have imagined) to Fischer. He takes you through the typical Fischer boyhood history, and trip up/through the 1972 World Championship. Gufeld laces this with many examples of personal insight, quotes, interviews, Soviet perception, etc. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, there are many views of Fischer by former Soviets that are now accessible, where before, they were kept under lock and key. The list includes, Kasparov, Karpov, Spassky, Korchnoi, Tal, Larsen, Botvinnik, Gligoric, Euwe, etc.

Of the many games contained in this book, a few are annotated by Fischer. These annotations, I have not seen before – definitely outside the realm of *My 60 Memorable Games*, *Profile Of A Prodigy*, etc. The notation and diagrams are clear and easy to read; however the book can be read very well without a chessboard at your side.

If you have but a little inkling of what Fischer is about, you can be brought up to speed nicely with this book. The ups and downs of his life, personality, interaction with people/players, including attempts at the diagnostics/analysis of his games and playing style are handled very well.

The Man That No One Could Defeat Twice

By R. H. Braunstein, reprinted from
Chess Review, July, 1966
submitted by Charlie Ward

It was a warm October day. Our caravan was slowly making its way back across the Turkish desert. Steve Blake and I had undertaken this expedition as a fact-finding mission for the book on which we were collaborating. After many weeks of this nomadic life, we were both impatient to return to our more accustomed "civilized" existence.

Our guide, Abdul, had informed us that we had two or three more days of travel ahead of us, so we were determined to push on in the hope of arriving on the second day. That's how it happened that even as darkness was rapidly approaching, we still hadn't made camp for the night.

Abdul had just recommended, in a half-pleading tone, that we stop for the night, when a group of men on horseback came racing up. One of the men spoke and Abdul translated: "The Sultan El Faizir, Son of Allah and Master of the Turkish Desert is pleased to bid you partake of the pleasures of his table." An enticing offer indeed! Steve and I were quick to assent. We followed El Faizir's men about a half mile back to their camp.

The meal was one of the story-book type, which seems to occur only in fiction. Meat, wine, fruit, and spices abounded in such quantities as to leave no doubt as to the affluence of the host. After dinner, we were entertained by acrobats, musicians, and dancing girls. Then, very unexpectedly, the Sultan asked if either of us would care to play chess. Steve was the stronger player and, to the best of my knowledge, never refused a game of chess. The board was set out, and Steve sat down to play against El Faizir.

Steve had White and, not knowing the strength of his opponent, played cautiously at first. It wasn't long, however, before the Sultan left a piece en prise *and Steve had gained an advantage. To press his advantage, Steve began trading off pieces.*

In apparent desperation, the Sultan launched a violent counterattack, which opened up Steve's Kingside and sent the White King scurrying into Black territory in search of shelter. But the attack fell short of its goal; and, in fact, left Black without a single piece left on the board. At this turn of events, El Faizir began pushing his Pawns. Steve, for his part, began meticulously picking off the Black Pawns until there was but one Pawn left. That one was blocked by the White King.

Steve began bringing up his heavy pieces to close in for the mate. With the position as shown below, it was Steve's move.



At this moment, El Faizir's right-hand man spoke. Abdul translated: "It is only fair to warn you. It is written, that anyone who fails to lose to the Sultan, at chess, shall be put to death before the next rising of the sun."

With that "fair" warning still ringing in our ears, Steve and I exchanged frightened glances. A quick look around revealed that El Faizir's men were well stationed and escape was impossible. Under the circumstances, resignation was out of the question. A gleam had crept into the Sultan's eyes, and a suggestion of a smile showed on his lips. While I contemplated whether or not the Sultan had intentionally brought such a tragedy to bear upon my friend, Steve began to regain his composure and study his predicament.

What a grotesque joke for the puzzle makers! Imagine a position such as that, with the caption: "White to play and lose." Yet Steve had no choice but to attempt it. I have no idea how many moves were made in arriving at that position, but those that followed I shall never forget.

Steve played carefully.

1. Rbc6

Freeing e8 for the Black King.

1... Ke8 2. Rd4 Kf8 3. Re6 Kg8 4. Rf4 Kh8

5. Qa8+ Kg7

Now Steve had the Sultan's King restricted to two squares as he continued to set up his own spectacular demise (on the chessboard, that is.)

6. Ne2 Kh7 7. Ng3 Kg7 8. Bd3 Kh7

Steve, who was needless to say, suspicious of El Faizir's intentions, could not afford to take any chances. With his life at stake, who could!



9. Kh4 Kg7

The point of Steve's 8. Bd3 was now clear.

10. Re7+ Kh6 11. a3 g5++

El Faizir stood up, bid us a pleasant night's rest and retired to his chambers, strutting as if to say, "I knew I had the victory in hand all along."

Afterwards, Steve was blase about the entire affair. He told me, in confidence, that it was no shame to lose to "the man that no one could defeat twice."



"Basically, if it keeps working you keep using it. If it stops working, you stop using it." - Vishy Anand

Missouri Chess Hall of Fame Nominations

All nominations for Missouri Chess Hall of Fame potentials should be sent to:

Please send nominations to:

CJ Aremnta

12734 Richmond

Grandview, MO 64030

The requirements for nomination are as follows:

I The Board of Directors of the Missouri Chess Association may elect one person each year to the Missouri Chess Hall of Fame. The name of such person shall be published in the next *Missouri Chess Bulletin* and announced at the next Missouri Open Championship. But, in any year, the Board may decide to elect no one.

II The qualifications for a person for election are that the person has made a substantial contribution to the furtherance of chess in Missouri and that the person is not a current member of the Board.

III Anybody may suggest such a person to the Board. But to be considered, this suggestion must be accompanied by a biography listing the accomplishments that would qualify the person. The biography should be in a form suitable for publication in the *Missouri Chess Bulletin* if the Board votes to elect the person.

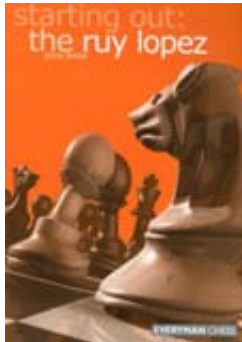
Puzzle 1



White to move and mate in two
Solution on back cover

Starting Out: The Ruy Lopez

By NM Loal Davis



Title: *Starting Out: The Ruy Lopez*
Author : IM John Shaw
Publisher: Everyman Chess
ISBN: 1857443217

Starting Out: The Ruy Lopez is a very good book written by International Master John Shaw – a three-time Scottish champion. The book format is well laid out, clear, filled with diagrams, and easy to read. I was however thoroughly misled by the title. I don't believe this is a book for a chess player who is starting out, but a very good one for the chess player starting out to learn the Ruy Lopez. Shaw gives excellent hints, labels, and tips throughout this book that should steer the new player towards or away from particular variations depending on stylistic preferences and/or playing strength.

Chapter title and subdivision are as follows:

1. Third Move Options for Black
 - Introduction
 - The Berlin Defense
 - The Schliemann Defense
 - Rare Defenses
2. Fourth Move Options
 - Introduction
 - The Exchange Variation
 - 4. Ba4 Sidelines
3. Fifth and Sixth Move Options
 - Introduction
 - The Open Lopez
 - Archangel and Moller Defences
 - Sidelines after 4. Ba4 Nf6

4. The Marshall Attack and Rare Closed Lines
 - Introduction
 - The Marshall Attack
 - The Anti-Marshall
 - Rare Closed Lines

5. Main Line Closed Ruy Lopez
 - Introduction
 - The Zaitsev Variation
 - The Smyslov Variation
 - The Breyer Variation
 - The Chigorin Variation

Of the 80 complete games (many partials), one is from 1997, and another from 1998. All others are from 2000 to 2003. Personally, I think it is a shame not to get a good feel for the development of the Lopez – in other words - to step through some of the model and/or important games in our history. This progression helps one realize why the main lines today are the main lines. So instead of presenting the reader with the many beautiful model games of Pillsbury and Tarrasch in the Berlin Defense, what we get are the most recent games of Vladimir Kramnik. The Kramnik games are however, instructional and well annotated. As there are already slight rumbles about the “Kramnik variation”, I would hate to see the spawning of ignorance in the face of an abundantly rich chess heritage. I'm absolutely sure this was not the author's intent, just my personal nit-picking. The complete games do encompass the elite of today's world-class players.

I must stress again that this book is not for someone starting out in chess. It is a very good book for starting out in the Ruy Lopez.

Puzzle 2

McInerney - Blas, Cincinnati 1974



White to move and win
Solution on back cover

USCF - Better off Alive!

By IM John Donaldson

I recently received a copy of the winter 2004 issue of *The Missouri Chess Bulletin* and was very pleased to see Michael Brooks on the cover. Michael and I go back 25 years and I've always been impressed with his play and good sportsmanship. There's no question in my mind that he deserves to have the Grandmaster title. His FIDE rating, which has been over 2500 for many years, reflects his strength.

I've also known Bob Holliman for many years and was surprised and puzzled when I read his article in the same issue. Bob issues a disclaimer at the end of his piece in which he mentions that the views he expresses may or may not be correct and that the quotes are subject to aging memory. He finishes by suggesting that reader discernment is advised. I would say that's good advice.

The reader might get the impression from Bob's article that the USCF is going down and that's for the best. I couldn't disagree more strongly. One thing Bob couldn't have anticipated is that the USCF and Chess Cafe recently entered into an agreement in which the latter is now in charge of book and equipment sales. The USCF is guaranteed a profit of \$30,000 each month in this outsourcing arrangement. Additionally, the USCF will benefit from the fact that they will be able to reduce their staff, as they will no longer be directly in the book and equipment sales business. They are also likely to soon sell their building, and will require less space in the future with no need for a warehouse and shipping department. The person who negotiated this arrangement is the current Executive Director, Bill Goichberg, one of several people that Bob hold responsible for the Federation's current state. Incidentally, Mr. Goichberg took the position of ED without a salary.

Mike Cavallo, another Executive Director, also serves as a target for Bob, who holds him responsible for \$700,000 in USCF losses. Cavallo was Executive Director from January 1997 to October 1999. During this period, USCF lost about \$300,000. Over \$150,000 of this was severance for former Executive Directors Al Lawrence and George Filippone.

Revised accounting practices and the need to mark down obsolete inventory unwisely over-ordered under a previous ED caused another \$100,000 or so of apparent loss to appear on the books. Cavallo was probably the most successful ED ever in the area of book and equipment sales. He did, however, preside over a \$150,000 failed software upgrade project. Overall, I think he was one of our better Executive Directors.

I'm surprised that Bob attacks Cavallo but says nothing about his successor George DeFeis, probably the worst ED ever. Perhaps this is because DeFeis was supported by the same people who backed Bob for the Board when he ran. DeFeis was not a chessplayer, and rather than working with USCF's clubs and other affiliates to promote chess, he thought that USCF could make money by taxing them. Under DeFeis, Tournament Life Announcement fees skyrocketed. A 3-line TLA which cost \$6 under Cavallo was suddenly raised to \$50 in the October 2000 issue of Chess Life! A lot of affiliates screamed, and the price was soon lowered to \$35, but this was still far too high. Many people were offended, and more than 50% of our TLAs were driven from Chess Life. It has taken many years to repair the damage, but the TLA fees were lowered by the new Board elected in 2001, and the TLA section has only recently been built back to its old size.

Under DeFeis, a profitable arrangement with the leading online play service ICC was canceled, and a series of contracts signed with Games Parlor to operate a USCF online chess service. The results were financially catastrophic- six figure expenses with no apparent membership increase resulting, and the Federation being prohibited by contract from accepting sponsorship from competing services.

DeFeis didn't understand the book and equipment business, so he tried to destroy it. Instead of negotiating a profitable outsourcing agreement as USCF has now done, he and his Board backed a policy they called "reduction to basic items." By eliminating most products and selling only the most popular, he lost many customers who like one-stop shopping. Sales under DeFeis plummeted to less than half of what they had been under Cavallo, and USCF gave up the valuable exclusive Informant distributorship it had ever since the 1970s, which had probably earned it millions of dollars.

continued on page 20

Endgame Study

By Selden Trimble

This endgame with bishops of opposite colors shows the drawing potential of the weaker side even when it is two pawns down. The rule is that the stronger side ought to have its two pawns separated from each other by at least two files, contradicting the general principle that it is better to have two pawns connected than separated. Reuben Fine has an excellent treatment of this in *Basic Chess Endings*, Chapter IV. The following shows what can happen if the pawns are not separated by two files.



This is the position reached after White's 55th move in a game between Steve Wagner, as White, and Selden Trimble in the St. Louis Chess Congress on January 23, 2004. The actual game was won by Wagner after Trimble blundered. Black is not yet down two pawns,

but in the crucial variations, he will be. In this analysis the moves are numbered starting with 1.

1... Ke7!

Trimble played 1. ... Ke8?, resigning after 2. f6 because Black cannot stop the f-pawn from queening. If 1. ... Kd6?, then 2. Bc5+ and the e-pawn will queen.

2. Bc5+

If 2. Bd8+?, then 2. ... Kxd8 3. fxg6 d4+! 4. Kxd4 Bc4 5. Ke5 Ke7 and Black is winning. The Black pawn move, d4, is key in several variations below. It clears the a2-g8 diagonal for Black's bishop. This is what Trimble didn't see. If 2. fxg6, then 2. ... Kxe6 3. Bd8 Kd7 4. g7 d4+ 5. Kxd4 Bc4 6. B- moves Ke8, and the game is equal.

2... Kf6

Again, if 2. ... Ke8?, then 3. f6 and White's f-pawn queens.

3. e7

If 3. Bd4+, then 3... Ke7. To avoid losing a pawn for nothing, White has to play 4. Bc5+, allowing the position to repeat itself. It is unfortunate that White has to move the e-pawn because it allows Black to set up a blockade on the white squares. Reuben Fine talks about this in his book. But Black was threatening to win a pawn, so White has no choice.

3... Kf7 (diagram)



There are two ways for White to proceed. The first shows how easy it can be for the weaker side to draw when the stronger side's pawns are connected but blockaded.

Variation 1:

4. f6

This does not present Black with much of a challenge. Black will be able to get two passed pawns of his own, and White will have to be careful lest one of Black's pawns queens!

4... g5 5. Bf2

If 5. Kd4, then 5. ... Bc4 followed by g4. For White to attack the g-pawn, he'd have to abandon his attack on the d-pawn. This would allow Black to use his bishop to defend the g-pawn.

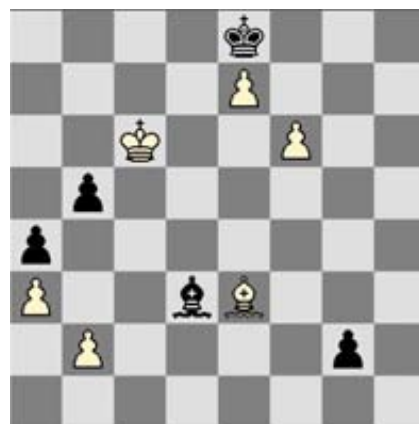
5... g4 6. Kd4 Bc4 7. Ke5 Ke8 8. Kd6

If 8. Ke6, the 8. ...d4+, and it is Black who queens!

8... d4!

This is a key move. Black needs to guard the f7-square with his bishop. The sacrifice of the d-pawn allows this and also allows the g-pawn to advance to the g2-square, restricting White's bishop to the g1-a7 diagonal.

9. Bxd4 g3 10. Kc6 g2 11. Be3 Bd3 (diagram)



But not 11. ... Kf7?, allowing 12. Kd7!, winning for White. After the text, White can do nothing that will further his cause. Black's king and bishop both can guard the f7 square anytime that White threatens to play his f-pawn to f7. This is a draw.

Variation 2:

4. fxg6+ Ke8 (diagram)



There are two very different lines from this point.

Variation 2a:

5. g7 d4+!

This is the only move that stops White from queening. Despite being two pawns down, Black can still draw because White's passed pawns are not more than one file apart and because Black's bishop can protect its own queenside pawns.

6. Kxd4 Bc4

White cannot now force the queening of his g-pawn because Black can position his bishop on g8 and deny White's king access to the queening square. The only way White can make progress is to sacrifice his g-pawn on g8, drawing Black's bishop away from guarding Black's b-pawn.

7. Bd6 Kd7

If Black actually captures White's bishop, either the e-pawn or the g-pawn will queen. But d7 is a safe square for Black's king, so Black moves to it. He has nothing else to do.

8. Kc5 Ke8 9. g8=Q+ Bxg8 10. Kxb5 Bb3 (diagram)



At first glance, this might appear good for White because his e-pawn is two files away from his b-pawn. But how can White make progress? He must force Black's bishop to move.

11. Kc6 Bc4

If 11. ... Kf7, then 12. Kd7 wins for White.

12. Bc5 Bb3 13. Kd6

White's king is going to have to guard the e-pawn while his bishop is doing other things, namely, stopping Black's pawn from queening.

13... Bc4 14. Bd4 Bb3 15. Be5 Bc4 16. b4

The only chance White has of making progress.

16... axb3 17. a4

Now the White bishop prevents Black from playing b2. White has two passed pawns separated by three files. The trouble is that White can't guard his e-pawn with only his bishop because Black could play his own pawn to b2 and force the White bishop to take it. Then Black could take White's e-pawn. So White's king has to stay on d6, e6, or f6. This means that White can't advance his a-pawn past a5.

17... Ba6 18. a5 Bf1

The game is a draw.

Variation 2b:

5. Kd4!

With this move, White keeps Black's d-pawn on a white square, interfering with the movement of Black's bishop and forcing Black's next move.

5... Bh5 6. g7 Bf7

Not 6. ... Kf7? 7. e8(Q)+ Kxe8 8. g8(Q)+. With the text, White has a problem. He cannot force the queening of his g-pawn, because Black can play Bg8, preventing the penetration of the White king at h7. Similarly, Black's king prevents the queening of White's e-pawn. So, White must attack Black's queenside pawns.

7. Bd6!

If 7. Ke5, then 7. ... d4! 8. Kxd4 (else Black just pushes it) Kd7 and Black can now defend his queenside pawns with his bishop.

7... Kd7

The threat to capture White's bishop is illusory, for White would then be able to queen one of his kingside pawns.

8. Kc5 d4! (diagram)



Black needs breathing room for his bishop.

9. Kxb5

Not 9. Kxd4, for then Black can defend his b-pawn with his bishop. See the note to White's 5th move.

9... d3

Not 9. ... Kxe6? because of 10. g8(Q).

10. Bb4 Bb3

Black must make White give up his g-pawn for Black's a-pawn.

11. g8=Q

continued on page 21

Scholastics

Stephanie Klimczak: A Student of the Game

By Zeb Fortman II

When Aimee Klimczak contacted me about chess lessons for her daughter, Stephanie, she said something that got me excited. Stephanie had just competed in the 2002 National Scholastic Chess Championship. She lost her first five games, moving further and further away from board #1. Aimee was afraid that she would be playing in the parking lot after another loss. She won her last two games, finishing in 598th place. What got me excited were three things: she kept fighting in every game, she is a successful athlete, and we formed what we affectionately call "Team Stephanie".

She fought hard in all of her games, which told me about her effort. I never criticize a student's result. What I look for is effort; this is what's important. If she is willing to work, I can teach her the rest. She is a champion in ice dancing. This let me know that she understands competition and she knows how to work with a coach.

When the parents, the student, and the coach are all on the same page, a tremendous team is formed: "Team Stephanie". Through her ice dancing competition she learned how to work with a coach, handle disappointments, and that practice is a must. Many chess players are paralyzed by the fear of losing, and I am sure she has fear like all of us. However, she competes anyway. This is what makes the difference. She never made excuses for her losses and accepted responsibility, which helped accelerate her progress. She would not shy away from going over her games that she played poorly. She understood that I was not criticizing her but only seeking the truth.

The academic year was not all chess. Stephanie played basketball, took piano lessons, swam, participated in math competitions, ice dancing, and knitting. We were able to get in a weekly lesson and, most of the time, she completed her chess homework. Before major events, we doubled the lessons and she doubled her work. It is no surprise that this paid off big.

With Stephanie being a girl and with me being an African-American, I understood how she felt competing as a minority. This helped me with issues that must be discussed and handled in any competition. I also had many of the same issues when I coached Avery May to two Kansas State Chess Championships in 1997 and 1998.

After Stephanie's humble beginning this is her record after the lessons began:

Second Place - November 16, 2002 - 5th Grade State Championship

First Place - February 15, 2003 - Bonner Springs - K-5 Chess Championship

First Place - March 1, 2003 - Onaga - K-8 Section

Fifth Place - May 8-11, 2003 - National Elementary Chess Championship - 5th Grade Under 900 Section (last year she placed 598th out of 680)

Upset Prize Winner (USCF 314 beats USCF 1136 player) - MO-KAN Open - May 31-June 1 2003

Fourth Place and Upset Prize Winner - Scholastic Section - National Open - Las Vegas - June 13-15, 2003 (she entered the tournament ranked 44th out of 48 entries!)

First Place - Elementary Section - The Chess Club June Scholastic - June 28, 2003

No.69 in USCF August 2003 Top 100 Girls Under Age 13.

Stephanie is featured in September 2003 - Chess Life - Page 39

Below are two of her games, one before coaching and one after coaching:

Ruy Lopez

Nationals 2002

W: Stephanie Klimczak

B: Evan

Annotations by Zeb Fortman III

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.d3 a6 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nxe5?

She doesn't see that e5 is protected indirectly. 6.0-0

6...Qh4?

Black plays for Scholar's mate. 6...Qd4

7.Nf3??

Beginner chess: attack the queen and hope that you can take it next move. 7.0-0

7...Qxf2# 0 - 1

King Pawn Opening

May Scholastic 2003

W: Stephanie Klimczak

B: D. Nunez

Annotations by Zeb Fortman III

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Bc5 3.Nc3

She is more interested in development over taking the pawn. This is progress.

3...Qf6 4.Bc4 Ne7 5.0-0 d5?

Black gets nothing for the sacrificed pawn.

6.Nxd5 Nxd5 7.Bxd5 Qg6 8.Re1 Bh3 (diagram)



In the past, when under such an attack, she would panic and lose quickly. Not this time.

9.Nh4! Qg5 10.d4! Qxh4 11.Bxb7 Bxd4 12.Be3!

Developing and defending at the same time.
12...Bxe3 13.Rxe3 Be6 14.Bxa8 Qg5

15.Rd3 0-0 16.Qd2 Qxd2?

This trade helps White.

17.Rxd2 f5 18.Rad1

White has now completed her development.

18...fxe4 19.Bxe4 Nd7 20.Bd5

Trading in this position is a good idea for White but a better idea is getting two pieces for a rook. There is still more for her to learn. 20.Rxd7.

20...Bxd5 21.Rxd5 Nb6 22.Rd8!

Again she simplifies the position. It took me several lessons to get her to understand this concept and use it in a game.

22...Rxd8 23.Rxd8+ Kf7 24.Kf1 Nc4 25.b3 Nd2+??

It is so easy to blunder in a lost position and that is just what Black did.

26.Rxd2 Ke6 27.Ke2 g5 28.Ke3 Kf5 29.f3 g4

30.fxg4+ Kxg4 31.Ke4 h5 32.Rd7 c5 33.Rg7+ Kh4

34.Kxe5 a5 35.Kf5 a4 36.g3+ Kh3 37.Rh7 Kxh2

38.Rxh5+ Kxg3 39.bxa4 c4 40.Rh8 c3 41.Rc8 Kg2

42.Kf4 Kg1 43.Kf3 Kf1 44.Rxc3 Ke1 45.Rd3!

Here she chose mate over promoting a pawn. This is the progress I am looking for.

45...Kf1 46.Rd1# 1-0

Scholastic Chess in Kansas City

By John Skelton

It seems like every spring there are more and more scholastic chess activities available to players, and they all start showing up after the first of the year as schedules are made up. Running two chess clubs at the local middle schools, I typically pass out a calendar of tournaments at the beginning of the school year that runs up to January. Then at the beginning of the year I make another one for the rest of the year, as I know it at that time. This last calendar is usually updated in March, when even more tournaments start popping up on the radar.

Am I complaining? NO! It's good to see so many opportunities for students to challenge themselves, and all the coaches I talk to are very happy with how things are going. Things right now are going very good indeed.

I just came back from the annual Calvary Lutheran tournament where, if I heard him correctly, Mike Hicks said this was his last year of coaching. I didn't get a chance to talk to him for more details, but I hope this doesn't mean he's not going to be running this tournament any more. He's been a great asset to the scholastic chess community here and we would all miss him. I'll try to get more details for later.

Ken Fee of The Chess Club in NKC has decided to hold fundraising scholastic tournaments starting in September. Schools can sign up for one month to have \$5 of every entry fee paid back to them for the chess club. Ken requires that any school that signs up have at least five members of the club playing in their fundraising tournament. So far Richardson Elementary and my two clubs, Osage Trail and Fire Prairie Middle Schools have taken three of the nine months. This is a great idea and I'm hoping Ken's playing site is packed for every one.

continued on page 21

Ellis Wins Springfield Winter Thaw IV

By Selden Trimble

The Winter Thaw IV Tournament was held in Springfield on February 28-29 at the South Side Senior Center, the home of the Springfield Chess Club. Jim Ellis of Sedalia took first prize, winning his first four games and drawing his fifth to finish in clear first among the thirty-one players there.

Albert Goodman was second with four wins and a draw [four wins and a loss -ed]. He also won the Class C prize. Selden Trimble, Mike Clark, William Starnes, Chris Talbot, and Michael Shuey finished tied for third with three- and-a-half points. Trimble won the A prize, Clark and Starnes shared the B prize, and Talbot and Shuey tied for the U1200 first prize. David King took 3rd prize in the U1200 section. Larry Phelps and David Pyle tied for the Class D prize.

The tournament was nicely directed by Bob Holliman. He used an unusual pairing method described as follows. All players are seeded by rating order and then paired from the top down. In round 1, the #1 seed plays the #2 seed, #3 plays #4, etc. In each following round, the players are arranged by score-group and then paired from the top down. In the event of an odd number in a score-group, the bottom player in the group is paired with the top player in the next-highest score group. This method seemed to work as well as the standard method. No complaints were heard. A good time seemed to be had by all.

Reversed Slav Defense

Winter Thaw 4

W: Selden Trimble 1899
B: Jim Ellis 2200

Annotations by Tony Rich

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 c5 4. c3 Qb6 5. Bxf6

Another idea here is 5. Qb3 when you have a position similar to the Slav Defense, with colors reversed.

5... Qxb2 6. Bxg7 Bxg7 7. Nbd2 Nc6

7... Qxc3 While this move is about as equal as the text, objectively, Black follows the best plan. Against a weaker opponent, the best plan is usually to complicate the position, where the stronger player's experience and intuition will often tell. 8. Rc1 Qb2 9. Rxc5 Nc6 10. Rc2 Qa3 11. e3 seems about equal

8. e3 d5 (diagram)



8... Qxc3 9. Rc1 Qa5 10. Rxc5 10... Qxa2 This seems strong for Black. He has the two bishops and the two queenside pawns can be dangerous.

9. Qc1 Qxc1+

10. Rxc1 O-O

11. Bb5 Ne7

12. O-O f6 13. dxc5

White seems to lose ground with this move. He won't be able to keep the front c-pawn and Black builds a strong front in the center.

13... e5 14. e4 Be6 15. Rb1

15. exd5 Nxd5 16. Ne4 Nf4 17. Rfe1 a6 18. Bf1 Bxa2 19. c4 Ne6 20. Rc2 Bb3 21. Rb2 f5 22. Nfg5 Nd4 23. Nd2 Ba4 24. Rxb7 and maybe White has something for his trouble.

15... Rac8 16. Ba4 Rc7 17. Rb2 Kh8 18. Rfb1 Bc8 19. c6?

but this move just stinks. This connects Black's pawns and allows him to recapture on 'd5' with a pawn if the opportunity ever arises.

19... bxc6 20. h3 f5

This is good; it clears the way for the central rollers.

21. exf5 Nxf5 22. Rc1 c5 23. Bb3 Bb7 24. Nf1 c4 25. Bd1 d4 26. N3d2 Nd6 27. f3 Bh6 28. Rbc2 Rg8 29. Rb1 Rcg7 30. g4 Rc8 31. Rb4 Bd5

Black's position looks very impressive. Perhaps White would do best to bide his time with moves like Kg2.

32. Ng3 Be3+ 33. Kg2 Rb7 34. Rxb7 Bxb7

35. Nde4 Nxe4 36. Nxe4 Bd5 37. Rb2

37. Nd6 Rd8 38. Nf5 Be6 39. Nxe3 dxe3 40. Be2 And White may be able to hold this position.

37... Bxe4 38. fxe4 dxc3 39. Rc2 Bd2 40. Be2 Kg7

Notice here how all of White's pawns are on white squares. This hinders the functionality of his bishop. To boot, White's king is hampered by his own pawns and Black's bishop, while his counterpart is free to roam the board.

41. a4 Kf6 42. Bf1 a5 43. Kf3 Ke7 44. Ke2 Kd6

45. Kd1 Kc5 46. Ra2 Rb8 47. Kc2 Rf8 48. Ra1 Rf2 0-1

"I love all positions. Give me a difficult positional game, I will play it. Give me a bad position, I will defend it. Openings, endgames, complicated positions, dull draws, I love them and I will do my very best. But totally won positions, I cannot stand them."

Hein Donner, 'Clubblad DD', 1950

Games

French Defense

2004 Missouri Denker Playoff

W: Tom Epplin-Zapf 1604
B: David Lyons 1825

Annotations by NM Loal Davis

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. c4

Turning an Exchange French into a make-shift Queen's Gambit.

4... Nf6 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Bd3 Bg4 7. f3

In attacking this bishop and controlling the 'e4' square, White only appears to be pushing Black back. The 'd4' square is not so easy to support. The black squares are weak within the White camp - both because of the positioning of his pawns and because his knights are going to have a difficult time getting to the 'c5'/e5' outposts.

7... Be6 8. cxd5 Nxd5 9. Nge2

I like Black very much here. White has shuffled pieces and pawns in the name of development, but is riddled with weaknesses, not having any good way to expand, grow, or improve his position.

9... Qh4+

Prompting the further softening of White's position.

10. g3 Qf6 11. O-O Nd7

Good - the knight angles for 'd5' through 'f6' or 'b6'. The square in front of the Isolated Pawn is firmly in Black's hands. The advantages White should have in compensation are an advantage in space and well supported outposts for his knights. As White really has neither, he is simply in a passive position attempting to hold onto his loose pawns and squares.

12. Ne4 Qe7 13. Ng5 O-O-O 14. Nxe6 Qxe6

15. Nf4 Nxf4 16. Bxf4 Nf6 17. Qc2 Qb6 18. Bf5+

Kb8 19. Rfd1 Nd5

A mistake would be 19... Rxd4 because of the stinger 20. Bxc7+ and Black's queen is overloaded.

20. a3 Nxf4

Simple, though not necessarily better is 20... Bd6

21. axb4 Nd5

21... Rxd4 crashes through - there's an exposed check on the end of this rook.

22. Qc5 Ne3

This is over. 22... Nxb4 just wins a pawn - but is still good.

23. Re1 Rxd4

With 23... Qxc5 24. dxc5 24... Nxf5 Black wins a piece.

24. Ra5 Rxb4?

And here with 25. Re3 White nabs a piece as well. White resigns. It is not clear whether this was prompted by the clock or because he simply misunderstood what was going on - I suspect the later.

0-1

Sicilian Defense

2004 Missouri Denker Playoff

W: Dan Roberts 1645
B: Tom Epplin-Zaph 1604

Annotations by NM Loal Davis

1. e4 c5 2. f4 e6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. Be2 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. d4 cxd4 7. Nxd4 Be7 8. Be3 Bd7 9. Ndb5

White has to be careful before making this tempting move; the knight may well be pushed out with tempo, as the moves 'a6' and 'b5' are a normal expansion in Black's minority attacking plans.

9... Qb8 10. Qd2 (diagram)



After this, White appears to be getting rolled.

Despite the weakening of 'b4', maybe White should consider 10. a4 to slow down Black's queenside expansion.

10... a6 11. Nd4 b5 12. Bf3 Qc7 13. Rd1 Rc8 14. a3 Na5 15. Qf2 Nc4 16. Bc1 Nxa3 17. O-O Nc4 18. g4 e5 19. Nf5 Bxf5 20. exf5 d5

In most Sicilians, if Black can get this in with impunity, he is very much better.

21. Kh1 Bc5?

21... e4 is a squish.

22. Qe2 e4

Now this doesn't work.

23. Nxd5

and Black crumbles.

23... Nxd5 24. Rxd5 e3 25. b3 Nb6 26. Re5+ Kf8

27. Bxe3 Bxe3 28. Qxe3 Nd7 29. Re7 Qd8 30. Re1

g6 31. Bd5 Nf6 32. Rxf7+ Kg8 33. Rd7+ Nxd5

34. Rxd8+ Rxd8 35. Qe6+ Kf8 36. c4 Nxf4

37. Qe7+ Kg8 38. Qxd8+ Kg7 39. Qc7+ 1-0

"And the rigidity of the material with which we have to compose, is a more formidable opponent than Lasker or Capablanca. Because these lifeless opponents do not have any moments of human weakness!"

Henri Weenink, 'Het Schaakprobleem', 1921

Sicilian Defense

2004 Missouri Denker Playoff

W: Jeremy Volkmann 1882

B: Nathan Neilson 1212

Annotations by NM Loal Davis

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 d6 5. Nc3 Nf6 6. f3 g6 7. Be3 Bd7 8. Qd2 Nxd4?!

Black is starting to lose ground. The Dragon variation of the Sicilian is extremely sharp and cut/thrust moves are often mandatory just to keep the balance. Here, Black has got to keep developing with something like 8... Bg7

9. Bxd4 Bg7 10. Bc4 a6?! (diagram)



10... O-O would at least protect the fire breather on 'g7'.

11. Nd5 Nxd5

Yuck!

12. Bxg7

This Dragon is getting sliced.

12... Rg8 13. Qh6 Nf6 14. Bxf6 exf6 1

5. Qxh7 Rf8

16. O-O-O

Lights out - Black has weaknesses on the 'd' file, a mangled Kingside, and is down in material.

16... Qc7 17. Bd5 Bc6 18. Qh4 g5 19. Qg3 Ke7 20. Rd2 Rac8 21. c3 b5 22. f4

White always has this move. 22. Bxc6 Qxc6 23. Rhd1 Rfd8 24. Kb1 gives Black absolutely nothing. White can later play Rd4 and then his 'f4' move is cracking through.

22... b4 23. fxc5 bxc3 24. gxf6+ Kd8 25. Qxc3?

25. Rd3 or 25. bxc3 were much better.

25... Bxd5 26. Rxd5 Qxc3+?

With 26... Qb6 it's good bye queenie.

27. bxc3 Rxc3+ 28. Kd2 Rc6 29. e5 Kd7 30. Rxd6+ Rxd6+ 31. exd6 Kxd6 32. Rf1 Rg8 33. g3 Rh8 34. Rf2 Ke5 35. Kc3 Ke4 36. Rf4+ Ke3 37. Rh4 Rc8+ 38. Kb4 Rc2 39. a4 Rc6 40. Rf4 Rc2 41. h4 Rg2 42. h5 Rxc3 43. Rh4 Rg8 44. h6 Kf3 45. h7 Rh8 46. Ka5 Kg3 47. Rh1 Kg2 48. Rh5 Kg3 49. Kxa6 Kg4 50. Rh1 Kg5 51. Kb7 Kxf6 52. a5 Kg6 53. a6 f5 54. a7 f4 55. a8=Q 1-0

Phillidor's Defense

Mo. State Jr. High Championship

W: Barry Skelton

B: Nicholas Jewel

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 Qd7 7.O-O a6 8.Bxc6 Qxc6 9.d3 Nf6 10.Bh6 gxh6 11.Qxf6 Rg8 12.f4 Qc5+ 13.Kh1 Rg6 14.Qf5 f6 15.fxe5 Qxe5 16.Nd5 Kd8 17.Nxf6 Rxf6 18.Qxf6+ Qxf6 19.Rxf6 Ke8

19...Kc8 20.Raf1

20.Raf1 Ke7 21.Rf7+ Ke6 22.R1f6+ Ke5 23.Rf5+

23.Rf1 Re8 (23...c5 24.R7f5+ Kd4) 24.R1f5+ Kd4 25.Rxc7 a5 26.Rc4+ Ke3 27.Rf3+ Kd2 (27...Ke2 28.d4 d5 29.Rcc3 Rd8 30.Rf4) 28.d4 d5 29.Rcc3 Rd8 30.Rf2+ Kd1 31.Rd3+ Ke1 32.Rdd2

23...Kd4 24.Rxc7 a5 25.Rc4+ Ke3 26.Rf3+ Kd2 27.d4 d5 28.Rcc3 Re8 29.Rf2+ Kd1 30.Rd3+ Ke1 31.Rdd2 Rxe4 32.c3 Bd6 33.Rc2 Kd1 34.Rcd2+ Kc1 35.g3 Bxg3 36.Rc2+ Kd1 37.Rfd2+ Ke1 38.Rg2 Re3 39.Rc1# 1-0

Collie System

Winter Thaw 4

W: William Starnes 1630

B: Albert Goodman 1559

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. Bd3 c5 5. b3 Be7 6. Nbd2 O-O 7. O-O a6 8. Bb2 b5 9. c4 b4 10. Ne5 Bb7 11. Qf3 Nbd7 12. Qh3 Nxe5 13. dxe5 Ne4 14. Rad1 Qb6 15. f3 Ng5 16. Qh5 h6 17. h4 Nh7 18. f4 f5 19. Qg6 Rf7 20. cxd5 Nf8 21. Qg3 Bxd5 22. Nc4 Bxc4 23. Bxc4 Rd8 24. Rxd8 Qxd8 25. h5 Qd2 26. Qf2 Qxf2+ 27. Kxf2 Bd8 28. Rd1 Bc7 29. Bxa6 Rd7 30. Rxd7 Nxd7 31. Bc8 Nf8 32. Ke2 Kf7 33. Kd3 Bd8 34. Kc4 Be7 35. a3 Ke8 36. axb4 cxb4 37. Ba6 g6 38. Bb5+ Kd8 39. Bd4 gxh5 40. Bb6+ Kc8 41. Be8 Nd7 42. Bxd7+ Kxd7 43. Bc5 Bh4 44. Kxb4 Kc6 45. Kc4 Bd8 46. b4 Bh4 47. Bd4 Be7 48. b5+ Kb7 49. Bc5 Bh4 50. Kd3 Bd8 51. e4 fxe4+ 52. Kxe4 Bh4 53. f5 exf5+ 54. Kxf5 Kc7 55. Ke6 Bg3 56. b6+ Kc6 57. Be3 Bh4 58. Kf7 Bd8 59. e6 Bh4 60. e7 Bxe7 61. Kxe7 h4 62. Kf6 h5 63. Kg5 Kb7 64. Kxh5 Kc6 65. Kxh4 Kb7 66. g4 1-0

Pirc Defense

Mizzou Open Quads

W: Roger Smith 1717
B: Milton Garber 1628

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Be2 O-O
6. Be3 Nbd7 7. O-O c5 8. h3 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Nc5
10. f3 Nh5 11. Qe1 Ne6 12. Nxe6 Bxe6 13. f4 Nf6
14. f5 Bd7 15. g4 Bc6 16. Bf3 Nd7 17. Qh4 Ne5
18. Be2 d5 19. Rad1 Qc7 20. exd5 Bd7 21. d6 exd6
22. f6 Bh8 23. Nd5 1-0

English Opening

Mizzou Open Quads

W: David Cole 2037
B: Darius Masuhud 1733

1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 e6 3. Bg2 Bb4 4. a3 Be7 5. Nc3 c6
6. Nf3 O-O 7. O-O d5 8. cxd5 cxd5 9. d4 Nc6
10. Bf4 a6 11. Rc1 Bd7 12. b4 b5 13. Ne5 Rc8
14. Qd3 Qb6 15. Rfd1 Rfd8 16. Rc2 Nxe5 17. dxe5
Ne8 18. Be3 Qb8 19. Bd4 Bc6 20. Rdc1 Ba8
21. Qe3 g6 22. Bb6 Rd7 23. Nxd5 Rxc2 24. Nxe7+
Rxe7 25. Rxc2 Bxg2 26. Kxg2 Ng7 27. Qc5 Re8
28. Bc7 Qa8+ 29. f3 Rc8 30. Qb6 Nf5 31. e4 Ng7
32. Rd2 Ne8 33. Bd6 Rc6 34. Qe3 Nxd6 35. exd6
Qd8 36. d7 e5 37. Qa7 Kf8 38. Qb7 Re6 39. Rc2
Rb6 40. Qa7 Rb8 41. Qxb8 1-0

Larsen's Opening

Mizzou Open Quads

W: David Cole 2037
B: Zeb Fortman III 1882

1. Nf3 d5 2. b3 Nf6 3. Bb2 e6 4. e3 Bd6 5. c4 Nbd7
6. cxd5 exd5 7. d3 O-O 8. Be2 Re8 9. O-O Nf8
10. Nbd2 h6 11. Rc1 c6 12. Re1 Bf5 13. Nf1 Bc7
14. Ng3 Bh7 15. Bc3 Ne6 16. Qd2 c5 17. Qb2 Ba5
18. Bxf6 Qxf6 19. Qxf6 gxf6 20. Red1 Bg6
21. Nh4 Rad8 22. Bg4 Bb4 23. Nh5 Kh7 24. h4
Ng7 25. d4 b6 26. Nxc7 Kxc7 27. Nh5+ Bxh5
28. Bxh5 Ba3 29. Rc2 Rd6 30. Bf3 Red8 31. dxc5
bxc5 32. Rcd2 d4 33. exd4 cxd4 34. Kf1 Bb4
35. Rd3 Bc3 36. Be4 Kf8 37. g3 Ke7 38. Ke2 Ra6
39. a4 Rb6 40. Rb1 Rdb8 41. Bd5 a5 42. Rc1 Rd6
43. Bc4 Rc8 44. Rf3 Rc5 45. Kd3 1/2-1/2

Queen's Gambit Accepted

Mizzou Open Quads

W: Larry Phelps 1392
B: Bill Thompson 1496

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 dxc4 4. Nf3 b5 5. Bg5 Nd7
6. a3 h6 7. Bh4 Ndf6 8. e3 Nd5 9. Rc1 Ngf6
10. Bxf6 Nxf6 11. Be2 Bf5 12. O-O Rb8 13. Ne5
Qd6 14. Bf3 Bd7 15. Nxd7 Nxd7 16. Ne4 Qc7
17. Qc2 e6 18. Rfd1 Be7 19. Nc3 O-O 20. a4 a6
21. Qe4 Rfc8 22. Qc2 Nf6 23. axb5 cxb5 24. Ra1
a5 25. Ne4 Nd5 26. Qd2 Nb4 27. Be2 Qb6 28. Qc3
Ra8 29. Bf3 Nd5 30. Qd2 Ra7 31. Nc3 Nf6 32. d5
Rd8 33. e4 exd5 34. Nxd5 Nxd5 35. exd5 Bb4
36. Qe3 Bc5 37. Qd2 a4 38. Qe2 Qd6 39. Rab1 Bb6
40. g3 Qc5 41. Kg2 Qd6 42. Qd2 Ba5 43. Qd4 Re7
44. Rbc1 Bb6 45. Qd2 Rde8 46. Kf1 Re5 47. Qf4
Qc5 48. Qd2 Rf5 49. Kg2 Rd8 50. Qe2 g5 51. Rc2
Qd6 52. Re1 Bc5 53. Qe4 Qf6 54. Ree2 Bd6
55. Qg4 Re5 56. Rxe5 Qxe5 57. Re2 Qf6 58. Qe4
a3 59. bxa3 Bxa3 60. Qe5 Qxe5 61. Rxe5 c3
62. Re2 b4 63. Be4 Kf8 64. Bc2 Kg7 65. Bb3 Kf6
0-1

French Defense

Missouri Denker Playoff

W: Joe Piotrowski 1746
B: Tony Song 1905

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 d6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4
Bd7 6. Nxc6 Bxc6 7. Bxc6+ bxc6 8. O-O d5 9. exd5
Qxd5 10. Nc3 Qxd1 11. Rxd1 Bd6 12. Ne4 O-O-O
13. Nxd6+ Rxd6 14. Be3 Rxd1+ 15. Rxd1 a6
16. Kf1 Ne7 17. c4 Re8 18. Re1 Nf5 19. Bf4 Rd8
20. g4 Rd4 21. gxf5 Rxf4 22. b3 Rxf5 23. Re8+
Kd7 24. Ra8 Rh5 25. Kg1 Rg5+ 26. Kf1 Rh5
27. Kg2 Rg5+ 28. Kf3 Rf5+ 29. Kg3 Rg5+ 30. Kf4
Rg2 31. Kf3 Rxh2 32. Rxa6 Rh1 33. Ra8 Ra1
34. a4 Rb1 35. Rb8 c5 36. Kg2 c6 37. Rb7+ Ke6
38. Rc7 Rxb3 39. Rxc6+ Ke5 40. Rxc5+ Kd4
41. Rc7 Rc3 42. Rxf7 g5 43. Rxh7 Rxc4 44. Rg7
Rc5 45. Ra7 Kc4 46. a5 Kb4 47. a6 Kb5 48. Ra8
Kb6 49. Kg3 Rc2 50. a7 g4 51. Rg8 Kxa7 52. Rxc4
Kb7 53. f4 Kc7 54. Kh4 Kd7 55. Kg5 Ke7 56. f5
Rc8 57. f6+ Kf7 58. Rf4 Rc5+ 59. Rf5 Rxf5+
60. Kxf5 Kf8 61. Ke4 Ke8 62. Ke5 Kf7 63. Kf5 Kf8
64. Kg6 Kg8 65. Kg5 Kf7 66. Kf5 Kf8 67. Ke6 Ke8
68. f7+ Kf8 69. Kf6 1/2-1/2

Scotch Opening

Missouri Denker Playoff

W: Jeremy Volkmann 1882
B: Dan Roberts 1645

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Be7 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4
Nxd4 6. Qxd4 Bf6 7. Qe3 d6 8. O-O Be6 9. Nd2
Ne7 10. f4 Bxc4 11. Nxc4 g6 12. c3 O-O 13. f5 b5
14. Nd2 Nc6 15. Nf3 Qd7 16. Qh6 Ne5 17. Ng5
Bxg5 18. Bxg5 f6 19. fxg6 fxg5 20. gxh7+ Qxh7
21. Qxg5+ Qg6 22. Qe3 Rae8 23. Rae1 Rxf1+
24. Rxf1 Nc4 25. Qf2 Kg7 26. Qxa7 Rxe4
27. Qxc7+ Kh6 28. Qd8 Re8 29. Qd7 Ne3 30. Qh3+
Kg7 31. Re1 Qe4 32. Qg3+ Kf7 33. Qf2+ Kg7
34. Qg3+ Kh7 35. Qh3+ Kg7 1/2-1/2

French Defense

Missouri Denker Playoff

W: Tony Song 1905
B: David Lyons 1825

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Nf3 Bd6 5. Bd3
Nc6 6. h3 Nge7 7. Nc3 Be6 8. Be3 Qd7 9. Qd2 Bb4
10. a3 Bd6 11. Nb5 Nf5 12. Nxd6+ Nxd6 13. O-O-O
O-O-O 14. Bf4 f6 15. Rhe1 Nc4 16. Qc3 g6 17. b3
Nd6 18. Qc5 Rhe8 19. Kb2 Kb8 20. Ka1 b6 21. Qc3
Kb7 22. Rb1 a6 23. Nd2 Nb5 24. Bxb5 axb5
25. Kb2 Ra8 26. Ra1 Bf5 27. g4 Be6 28. Nf1 Ra7
29. b4 Ra4 30. Ne3 Rea8 31. Qb3 Nxd4 32. Qc3
Nf3 33. Red1 d4 34. Qd3 dxe3 35. Qxd7 Bxd7
36. Rxd7 e2 37. Bd2 Nxd2 38. Rxd2 Re8 39. Re1
1-0

French Defense

Missouri Denker Playoff

W: Joe Piotrowski 1746
B: Tony Song 1905

1. e4 e6 2. Nf3 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. d4 Nf6 5. Bd3
Bd6 6. c3 O-O 7. O-O Bg4 8. h3 Bh5 9. Bg5 c6
10. Nbd2 Bc7 11. Qc2 Bg6 12. Rae1 Na6 13. Re2
c5 14. dxc5 Nxc5 15. Bxg6 hxg6 16. Rd1 Ne6
17. Bh4 Qd7 18. Bxf6 gxf6 19. Nf1 Bb6 20. Red2
Kg7 21. Rxd5 Qc6 22. Rd6 Qc4 23. b3 Qf4 24. Qd2
Qe4 25. Ng3 Qf4 26. Qxf4 Nxf4 27. Kf1 Rfe8
28. Nd2 Ne6 29. Ne2 Rac8 30. Nf3 Nc5 31. c4 Ne4
32. Rd7 Nxf2 33. R1d6 Ne4 0-1

Then in the summer of 2001, DeFeis had an opportunity to make a lot of money for the USCF and salvage the Federation's struggling book & equipment business. Yasser Seirawan went out of the B & E business and was forced to clear out his warehouse immediately. Being a supporter of USCF, Yasser called the Federation first and made DeFeis an incredible offer—a huge amount of merchandise on consignment at less than wholesale price. USCF would need to pay only \$4000 for shipping to receive books and supplies that Yasser estimated they could resell for \$300,000 to \$500,000 profit. The Federation would have to pay only for what they sold, and would be responsible only for returning unsold merchandise after two years. Incredibly, DeFeis refused this offer, which would have salvaged USCF's coming holiday sales season. Yasser then called Hanon Russell of ChessCafe, who immediately accepted the same offer and reaped the profits. I've already mentioned that the Federation has signed an excellent outsourcing agreement for book and equipment sales

There's more positive news. Mike Nolan is very close to completing a major revamping of the USCF computer system. Contrary to what Bob writes, this is a very useful thing for the Federation that will result in much more efficient service. One recent example of this that I can point to is the feature at the US Chess Federation website where you can look up all the tournaments you played in, complete with crosstables, going back to 1992 (look under MSA). Better technology translates into a more efficient organization. The USCF is now operating with fewer employees than at any time in past decade with no decline in service.

I sincerely hope that no one took to heart Bob's claim that the best thing would be for the USCF to go out of business and to start over again. Mistakes have been made in recent years, but the picture is now starting to look brighter.

'You know, comrade Pachman, I don't enjoy being a Minister, I would rather play chess like you, or make a revolution in Venezuela.'

Che Guevara, quoted in Ludek Pachman, 'Checkmate in Prague', 1975

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Black was threatening to move his pawn to d2, forcing White's bishop to take it. Black would then take White's e-pawn and move his king to f7. The position would then be a dead draw. Black would keep his bishop on the three squares b3, c2, and d1.

11... Bxg8 12. Kxa4 d2

Black cannot afford to use his king or bishop to guard the e8-square. All his forces will be needed on the queenside.

13. Bxd2 Kxe7 (diagram)



Now there is a race for the a8-corner. The problem is that White's pawns are not far enough advanced; he will have to use his king to help them. To compound White's problem, if Black can take White's b-pawn in such a way that White will have to recapture the bishop with his

king, then White will be left with a bishop and rook's pawn of the wrong color.

14. Ka5 Kd7 15. Kb6 Kc8 16. b4

If 16. Ka7 or Bf4 to keep Black's king away from the a8-square, then 16. ... Bb3. White's pawns would not be able to move unless his King retreated to the 5th rank, which would allow Black to play Kb7.

16... Bb3 17. Bf4 Bc2 18. Ka6 Ba4 19. Ka5

If 19. b5, then 19. ... Bxb5 followed by Kb7. White is stuck with a bishop and rook's pawn of the wrong color.

19... Bd7 20. a4 Kb7 21. b5 Be8

White is stuck. If he advances his a-pawn before he moves his b-pawn, Black will simply take the b-pawn, leaving White with a bishop and rook's pawn of the wrong color. If White advances his b-pawn first, Black will have time to maneuver his bishop to the f1-a6 diagonal and set up a blockade on a6. Without such advantages, Black could lose this kind of ending. See *Silye v Karakas (Spain, 1960)* on page 153 of *Pal Benko's "Chess Endgame Lessons."*

22. Kb4 Bd7 23. Be3 Be8 24. b6 Bh5 25. a5 Be2

White can make no further progress. The game is a draw.

THE BISHOP

The Bishop he is wittie braine,
That chooseth crossest pathes to pace,
And euermore he pries with paine,
To see who seekes him most disgrace:
Such straglers when he findes astaie,
He takes them up, and throws awaie.

— Nicholas BRETON (1542-1626), *The Chesse Play*.

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Zeb Fortman is doing two chess camps this year at Pembroke High School. He had a big response last year and no doubt will have another large turnout this year. Those going into grades 3-5 will have their camp run from July 26-30, and those going into grades 6-8 run from June 28 to July 2. Check out www.zebfortman.com for registration and more details.

For the second year this summer I will be teaching basic chess at the Blue River Community College's "College For Kids" program, a part of the community education programs. I'm finding it's easier being a teacher than a player, and I'm better at it! This summer I'm teaching two courses: beginning chess and strategy/tactics. This summer, expert Tim Steiner will also be doing a course there on opening themes, a more advanced course than what I would ever attempt to do. Courses typically cost about \$35 for six hours. Look for the Blue River Community College summer flyers which can be found in the Mid-Continent Libraries starting sometime in May.

Upcoming tournaments in the area include the 40th Annual Kansas City Cup, being held at Winnetonka High School on April 17th, and the Richardson Elementary Roadrunner tournament on May 1st. This is the first tournament Richardson Elementary, in Lee's Summit, has held, and it looks exciting. Besides having more than the usual number of trophies and medals, pre-registrants will be entered into drawings for Worlds of Fun passes. There will also be hourly prize drawings for gift certificates, and a lot of other goodies. Organizer Anna Huff has put together a tremendous tournament and I expect will draw a big crowd.

The very next weekend is the Allen-Village Charter School tournament, which also promises to be fun. Knowing how restless players can get, they are going to have organized activities between rounds. This school is located in mid-town Kansas City and the building reminds me of an old, small school building back in the fifties. It is small, but we didn't mind last year when it was nice weather and we parents and coaches enjoyed it at tables outside while watching the kids play.

Details of these tournaments can be found at www.chessmasterbob.com.

That's it for now!

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Puzzle 1: 1. Qg2 Kf5 (1... f5 2. Ne4#, 1... Kg7 2. Ne6#) 2. Qe4#

Puzzle 2: 1. Bxg6! fxg6 2. Qxg6+ Bg7 3. Qxe8+ Bf8 4. Ng5 Nb4 5. Qf7+ +-

Puzzle 3: 1. Rxh7 Kxh7 2. Qh5+ Kg8 3. Qf7+ Kh8 4. Qxg7#