



MISSOURI CHESS ASSOCIATION

MISSOURI CHESS BULLETIN

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Rex Sinuefield
Kostanowski Recipient



Tony Rich
Organizer of the Year

Saint Louis, Missouri
Chess City of the Year

International Master Michael Brooks Wins Twelfth State Title!



Volume 36 Number Four—Fall 2009 Issue
Serving Missouri Chess Since 1973



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Missouri Chess Bulletin

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- Missouri Chess Bulletin Layout and Design by Thomas R. Rehmeier -

The City of Saint Louis, Rex Sinquefield, and Tony Rich win prestigious honors from the USCF.



Missouri faces and places appeared prominently at the annual awards luncheon given by the United States Chess Federation this year. The luncheon on August 8th, was held in Indianapolis Indiana during the 110th annual United States Open. Each year the USCF takes this time to acknowledge and applaud those whose contributions to chess have stood out. This year three awards came home to Missouri.

Saint Louis formally received the honor as Chess City of the Year. This honor is typically given to more than one city each year, but Saint Louis was the sole honoree in 2009. That has happened only nine other times since the first Chess City of the Year was named in 1983. Reasons for the selection of Saint Louis included its great success as the site of the United States Chess Championship, as well as because the city has worked hard to create, sponsor and promote chess in the community.

Tony Rich, executive director of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center, and MCA Board Member, was honored by the USCF as the organizer of the year. Tony and the Saint Louis Chess Club organized the US Championship and the Women's Championship in 2009, and have taken on that task for 2010 as well.



Rex Sinquefield (left) and Tony Rich (right) shown here during the opening days of the CCSCSL.

Finally, Rex Sinquefield, founder of the Chess Club and a current member of the board of directors, received a Gold Koltanowski Award from the federation. The Koltanowski Awards were established in 1979 to recognize outstanding contributions to or supporting chess, from patrons at the national level (Gold) and/or local level (silver). Mr. Sinquefield received the highest level, the Gold award, for his invaluable contribution to the chess over the last few years.

Overall it was an exciting and prestigious luncheon for the Missourians. Congratulations to those who received these awards, and to all those who help contribute to the great state of chess in Missouri.

President's Podium...

Hello Fellow Chess Players,
 It was my distinct pleasure to be the director of the 2009 Missouri Open and Chess Festival this past September. From a tournament directing standpoint, the event went more smoothly than I possibly could have imagined. In fact, there was not a single dispute during any of the six events that were held that weekend! I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make it the most successful MCA event of the year. IM Michael Brooks won the invitational playing some very impressive games of chess (that can be viewed later in this bulletin), this is Brooks' TWELFTH state title. Another result that I am absolutely thrilled to report, Selden Trimble won the Missouri Open scoring a perfect 5/5 score. This is the first time a perfect 5-0 has been accomplished in over a decade. At 68, Selden has done many great things for chess in Missouri, including serving as MCA President, organizing the Missouri Open in Rolla, contributing to the MCB, advising the UMR Chess Club, and the list goes on. So please join me in a big congratulations to Selden Trimble on this fantastic accomplishment. I hope that everyone is able to attend the next installment of the Missouri Open and Chess Festival that will be held at the same place in 2010. Next I would like to congratulate the winners of our new awards for the year 2009. Players of the Year Award recipients were Kevin Johnson (Gold), Joshua Frank (Silver), and William Tong (Bronze). Scholastic players receiving top honors as Scholastic Players of the Year were Kevin Cao (Gold), Isaiah Gadson (Silver), and Josiah Moore (Bronze). Missouri chess players are quickly establishing themselves strong forces in the country, here's hoping it continues.



Thank you for your continued support of the MCA,

Thomas R. Rehmeier

Thomas R. Rehmeier
 President
 Missouri Chess Association



Top Winners of the Missouri State Title

Michael A. Brooks	12	1981, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2003, 2009
John V. Ragan	12	1948, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977
Ronald G. Luther	9	1993, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008
Kenneth E. Jones	8	1976, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1993, 2003
Robert H. Steinmeyer	5	1942, 1947, 1950, 1954, 1958
Elliot Winslow	5	1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975
Doug Eckert	5	1983, 1985, 1986, 1990, 2003
Robert M. Jacobs	5	1974, 1993, 1995, 1996, 2004
Bob Holliman	4	1998, 2003, 2004, 2005
James R. Voelker	4	1994, 1998, 2004, 2005



Certain years numerous players tied for the state title in which case the winner on tie breaks was awarded the plaque; however, all players tied for 1st place were considered to be State Co-Champions.

For the complete history of Missouri State Champions, please visit <http://www.jimvoelker.com/statech.html>

Congratulations to these recent Missouri Tournament Winners:

Springfield July: Nathan Swinger

Saint Louis Amateur & Premiere:

Premier Division: Ron Luther

Amateur Division: Jarod Silsby



Dog Days Open: Joshua Frank

Columbia Open: Ron Luther

St. Peters Quick: Open: King Christian U/1000 – Sachin Milli

Joplin Summer Open: Daniel Todd & Joel Stebbins

Alekhine Open: Nathan Swinger, Kevin Johnson, & Ron Luther

St. Louis Districts: Erik Patchell

Missouri Invitational Championship: IM Michael Brooks

The Missouri Open: Selden Trimble

Missouri Quick Championship: Kevin Cao (2nd in a row!)

Missouri Blitz Championship: Kevin Cao



Joplin Autumn Open — November 21st, 2009

♙ 5SS,G/60 Location: Dalton Killinger Construction 1301 W. 4th St. Joplin, MO 64801

♙ Entry Fee: \$10 pre-registered, \$15 on site

♙ Rounds: 9:00, 11:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 , lunch break @ 1pm

USCF membership required

Entries: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org

or mail entry to: Joplin Chess Club 2609 New Hampshire, Joplin, MO 64804

Call: (417) 781-9091, or day of the tournament: (417) 483-1554

From The Editor



Greetings Missouri Chess Players. The chess scene in Missouri continues to fire on all cylinders, resulting in another full edition of the Missouri Chess Bulletin. This edition features some great articles, including a variety of lessons, annotated games, news, and reports. Steve Goldberg's writing returns to the pages of the MCB with a summary of lessons by Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov. GM Kaidanov was the lead instructor at the latest version of Greg Shahade's Chess School, held at the Saint Louis Chess Club. The event was an all girls edition of the school, involving some of the strongest young ladies in the country, including Abby Marshall, recent winner of the Denker High School Tournament of Champions. In addition, Bob Holliman has put together a wonderful collection of annotated games from this Spring's US Championship. Life Master Holliman treats us to games by tournament winner Hikaru Nakamura, and local players Michael Brooks, Doug Eckert, and Charles Lawton. Popular scholastic coach Joseph Garnier returns to writing articles as well, this time featuring the amazing young talent Jialin Ding. Ding, who shined at the Missouri Chess Festival Invitational, has shot up to and past the 2000 barrier, and deservedly gets a feature story in the MCB. You'll also find tournament reports from Tony Rich and Ray Kurczinski, and a great annotated game by Missouri Open Champion Selden Trimble. As always, we have included all the important information you need about upcoming tournaments and activities. I'm confident this volume includes something everyone can get enjoy and learn from.

The US Women's Championship, held in St. Louis, wrapped up recently. While there wasn't time to include a deserved report on the event. I will share that the tournament went off smoothly, and was another feather in the cap of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center. Anna Zatonskih blew away the field in impressive fashion, winning 8 out of 9 games! Anna lost out on playing most of the US Championships in April due to illness, but she more than made up for it on this opportunity! I'm sure more details and some of the great games from the event will make their way to these pages in future editions.

It was certainly gratifying to see the efforts put in to bringing us events like the Woman's Championship was recognized by the USCF. I'd like to give my personal thanks, and congratulations to the Chess Club and Scholastic Center, and its leaders on the USCF awards received this year.

The Missouri Open and Chess Festival was a pleasure to help direct in September. I again assisted the ever busy Thomas Rehmeier as the weekend was packed with multiple events for everyone. The Invitational portion had a new format this year. Instead of the six player round robin that has been used for the past several years, the event was opened up to masters, former state champions, and anyone who could win a qualifying event. This resulted in a field of 20 players battling for the state title. (along with 40 others playing in the traditional Missouri Open) The format clearly had its strengths and weaknesses compared to other options, but the result this year can't be disputed. It was great to see a collection of strong players, including IM Michael Brooks, NM Ken Jones, FM Robert Sulman, and many other strong players we rarely get to see come out and battle for the state title.

I had the honor of giving the induction speech for the Missouri Chess Hall of Fame at the Missouri Open. The inductee this year, Bill Wright is a man I've known and respected for many years. You have to search far and wide to find a more deserving guy to receive this honor. Preparing to present this honor got me thinking about the times I've played Bill, so I broke out my database and thought I'd share a few games where Bill and I faced off in rated games.

English Opening

2002 Missouri Open

W: Bob Howe (809)

B: William Wright (1400)

I first played Bill at the Missouri Open in 2002, just a few months after I started playing competitive chess. I was appropriately rated around 800 at the time, and Bill took it too me that day. **1.c4** I've tinkered on and off with the English for years, but never stuck with it. **1...g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.g3 Nf6**

4.Bg2 Nc6 5.e3 0-0 6.Nge2 Re8 7.0-0 d6 Honest confession, There was a player in my club named Troy Wolz who was an avid English player. Here I'm just copying the opening setup he used religiously, and with good results, although I had no clue about the ideas behind it. **8.a3 e5** Bill plays solid chess, grabbing control of the center. **9.b4 Ne7 10.Bb2 d5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.e4** Grabbing some center space and kicking the knight, but leaving the d pawn weak and backwards. **13...Nb6 14.d4 Bg4 15.f3 Bd7 16.Nc3** I have no clue what I was thinking with that move. There is no good reason not to trade off the troublesome d pawn with dxe5 here instead. **16...Nc4** Bill finds a strong continuation, although the straightforward exd4 is probably best. **17.Qe2 Nxb2 18.Qxb2 exd4 19.Nd5 c6** Black has his choice of good plans now, along with Bill's move, Bb5, hitting the Rook and adding an attacker to the Knight was also strong. **20.Qb3** fearing the discovery on the Queen. **20...Be6** Now the other bishop aims for the poor lady. **21.Rae1 cxd5 22.exd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5** I knew trading down was trouble when down material, but Bill's central Queen and Bishop pair were too scary. Wiser would have been to keep the Queen on for the hope of a swindle later on. **23...Bxd5 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Rc1 Bc6 26.Kf2 d3 27.Rd1 Bb5 28.a4 Bf1** here was the last chance to avoid immediate disaster. **28...Bd4+** With all his pieces firing on full cylinders and the d pawn causing havoc, the end comes quickly. **29.Kf1 Bc4 30.Re1 d2+ 31.Re2 Bxe2# 0-1**

The thing I remember most about that game, is Bill took time afterward to analyze. Guys like Bill Wright, who in my first few events, took time to review our game and offer advice and encouragement really made a world of difference to me. In those first few events, a new player is often trying to feel his way through the chess tournament environment, and figure out if its right for them. When a few people go out of there way to spend that little extra time, it certainly makes them feel welcome and can mean the difference if they return.

It would be five years later before I was paired again with Bill. In this encounter, again at the Missouri Open, we had both won our round one games and squared off in round two. I was the favorite now, but one hundred points means little in class play, and I expected a competitive game from Bill.

Colle System

2007 Missouri Open: Reserve

W: Bill Wright (1400)

B: Bob Howe (1520)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 Bd6 5.Nbd2 The supposedly harmless Colle system has always given me fits. **5...Nc6 6.c3 Qe7 7.0-0 e5 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Be2 Bg4 10.Re1 0-0 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nd4 Bg6 13.N2f3 Nxf3+ 14.Nxf3 c6** The opening has transferred into an even middlegame. **15.b4 Be4 16.Bd3 Bxf3** setting up some simple threats, and a sneaky trick against the dark bishop that Bill fell into. **17.Qxf3 Qe5 18.Bb2 Bxb4** picking up a pawn. **19.Rac1 Ba5 20.Re2 Bc7 21.g3 Ne4 22.c4 Qe7 23.Qg4 f5 24.Qf3 Be5 25.cxd5 cxd5 26.Rec2 Bxb2 27.Rxb2** the trades help head me towards a pawn up endgame, and eliminate his threats. White's pieces are all active and black's pawns are targets. **27...Qa3 28.Qe2 Rac8 29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Rb3 Qc1+ 31.Kg2 Rc7 32.f3 Nd6 33.Rb1 Qc6 34.Qb2 Nc4 35.Qe2 Qe6 36.Kf2 Ne5 37.Bc2 g6** solidifying the f pawn at the cost of weakening the king. **38.Bb3 Nc4 39.Rd1 b5 40.Rd3 a5 41.Qd1 a4 42.Bxc4 dxc4** at this point I feel like I've survived his best punches and should win the endgame with the passed C pawn. **43.Rd6 Qe5 44.Rd5 Qb2+ 45.Kf1 Rc8** My danger signals are going off. I don't want to get repetitioned or mated, so I leave the a pawn alone. **46.Rd7 Qxa2???** Didn't I just say I'd leave the a-pawn alone???

I make the move that should lose the game. My instincts said defend, but its late in the game, and I foolishly convinced myself I could grab the pawn. **47.Qd5+ Kh8 48.Qb7** Bill lets me off the hook. [48.Qd4+ Kg8 49.Qg7#] **48...Qa1+** beginning a plan to give a series of checks, to either draw by repetition or get my queen back to the defense **49.Rd1** Bill picked up the rook, then instantly realized he had overlooked the check. He quickly recognized he must drop his rook and resigned with a grin. 0-1

Of course Bill was gracious as he took the loss, even as it came at the cusp of victory. I know everyone reading this has seen a few winning games vanish in an instance with one ill move, but I wonder how many can say they maintained the grace and class Bill did. To simply smile, offer a handshake, and pleasantly head to the skittles area to look over the game. I must admit I'm prone to storming around the room for a minute or two at least to clear my head after my frequent blunders! It is just a small example of the many that could be given about Bill Wright, and as good as any as to why he will make a fine comrade to the current crop of MCA Hall of Fame members. *Bob Howe* - Editor

A Look Back at the U.S. Championship

~ Life Master Bob Holliman ~

The US Championship has a long and storied history starting with Charles Stanley, who defeated Eugene Rousseau in a match. The match idea appeared to be popular, and it was better than pistols at 20 paces, so it continued until Frank Marshall held the title from 1909-1935. Perhaps with some bickering, I mean what's a chess championship without some whining and politics(?), the format turned into a tournament starting in 1936 with Samuel Reshevsky winning the first such event. Sammy apparently liked it so much that he won the next two championships (38,40) and then a match in 41 over I.A. Horowitz, author of Chess Openings Theory and Practice. Arnold Denker, who would later have his name attached to the high school championship, won his first championship in 1944. Larry Evans and Arthur Bisguier added the title of US Champion to their resumes and then along came this kid named Bobby Fischer who won 8 out of 8 from 1957-58 thru 1966/67, including that 11-0 win wherein the TD congratulated Fischer for winning the "exhibition" and Evans for winning the tournament. Fischer did not compete in the 61/62 championship. The names of Walter Brown, Yasser Seirawan, Michael Wilder and Patrick Wolff are on the list as will. If you know much about the history of our champions you know that there are some characters behind those names.



This year the championship arrived in our back yard at the Chess Club & Scholastic Center, which is destined to become a chess Mecca if ever there was one! The final crosstable shows 25 players. Anna Zatonskih became ill and withdrew, being replaced by Doug Eckert, who was one of three local payers who competed in the event. The other two were IM Michael Brooks and NM Charles Lawton.

Winning the title this year was Hikaru Nakamura. Nakamura is one of those "chess prodigy" types: he became the youngest player to earn the title of National Master at the age of 10 years and 79 days and that record held till Nicholas Nip reached the summit at 9 years 11 months. Nakamura's next accomplishment was earning the title of grandmaster at the age of 15 years and 79 days, breaking Fischer's record by 3 months. Nakamura received the Samford Fellowship in 2005, which is a \$32,000 grant to further one's chess education and competition. While it is not a lot of money, it is sufficient to live a Spartan life if one wishes to pursue chess. Have no pity on Nakamura, from some source which I can't remember, he trades options in the stock market and the \$40,000 prize from winning the championship, for a few days "work," will pay the rent. Currently he lives in Vancouver and enjoys life in the Pacific Northwest.

Two Knights Defense

2009 US Championship

W: GM Hikaru Nakamura (2757)

B: GM Josh Friedel (2568)

1.e4 This is Nakamura's last round win and its just wild and crazy!!! **1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.Nc3**

Theoretical novelty - we see a lot of those in these games. We are out of theory, the last reference in my database is from 1964 - 35 years ago and long before Nakamura was born! White seeks to exploit his development, blacks "c" pawn will need

*a move to open the a8-h1 diagonal so anything can happen here. [9.0-0 0-0 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 f5 12.Bf3 e4 13.Be2 c5 14.d3 Rf6 15.Bf4 Ba6 16.Nc3 Re6 17.dxe4 Qxd1 18.Raxd1 Bxe2 19.Nxe2 Rxe4 20.Rfe1 Bf6 21.b3 Nc6 22.f3 Ree8 23.Kf1 Nb4 24.Ng3 g6 25.a3 Nxc2 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Rc1 Nd4 28.Rxc5 Nxb3 29.Rb5 Nd4 30.Rc5 h5 31.Nh1 Ne6 32.Rc4 Bb2 33.Bc1 Bd4 34.Nf2 Rb8 35.Nd3 Rb1 36.Ke2 Bb6 37.Be3 Bxe3 38.Kxe3 Rb3 39.a4 Ra3 40.h4 Kf7 41.g3 Ke7 42.Ke2 Kd6 43.Rb4 Kd5 44.Nf4+ Nxf4+ 45.Rxf4 Rc3 46.Rb4 Rc4 47.Rb5+ Kd4 48.Ra5 Rc2+ 49.Kd1 Rg2 50.Rxa7 Rxg3 51.Rd7+ Ke5 52.Ke2 Rg2+ 53.Ke3 f4+ 54.Kd3 Rf2 55.Kc4 Rxf3 56.Rd5+ Kf6 57.Rd3 Rf1 58.Ra3 Rc1+ 59.Kd5 Kf5 60.a5 Rc8 61.a6 Rd8+ 62.Kc4 Kg4 63.a7 Ra8 64.Kd3 Kxh4 65.Ke2 g5 66.Kf2 g4 67.Ra1 Kg5 68.Ra5+ Kg6 69.Ra4 Kf5 70.Ra5+ Ke4 71.Ra4+ Ke5 72.Ra5+ Kd4 73.Ra4+ Kc3 74.Kg2 Kb3 75.Ra6 Kb4 76.Rb6+ Ka5 77.Rh6 Rxa7 78.Rxh5+ Kb6 79.Rg5 Ra2+ 80.Kg1 g3 81.Rf5 Rf2 82.Rg5 Kc6 83.Kh1 Kd6 84.Kg1 Ke6 85.Rg8 Kf5 86.Rg7 Ra2 87.Rg8 Ke4 88.Re8+ Kf3 89.Re1 Kg4 90.Re4 Kh3 0-1 Delon, J-Boutteville, C/Tel Aviv 1964/MCD] **9...0-0 10.0-0 Rb8 11.h3** White wants to keep a black knight/bishop off g4 and give his king an escape square should it be needed. **11...c5 12.b3 Rb4 13.Re1 Bb7 14.Ba3 Rf4 15.g3 Rd4 16.Nf3 Rxd3 17.cxd3 Qxd3 18.Nxe5 Qf5 [18...Qd8 19.d4 Re8 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.dxc5 Qc8 22.g4 Qxc5 23.Rc1 Rxe5 24.Qd8+ Ne8 25.Qxe8+] 19.g4** Just going for the throat. The white king is not in any particular danger **19...Qf4 20.d4 Rd8 21.Qe2 Rxd4 [21...Qxd4 22.Nxf7 Kxf7 23.Qxe7+ Kg8***

24.Qe6+ Kh8 25.Rad1] **22.Bc1** *The queen has no moves - trapped in the middle of the board. 1-0*

Finishing in a tie for 2nd-3rd was 17 year old “IM at the time” Robert Hess from New York. Hess was my underdog pick to win the event and he almost pulled it off but for that aforementioned round 2 game with Nakamura shown below. Hess is a Senior at Stuyvesant High School in NY. Commonly referred to as “Stuy”, it is a public high school that one must apply to and be an outstanding candidate in order to enter. The school’s focus is on mathematics and science. Hess is a co-captain of the JV football team where he is a starting line-backer. I think it safe to infer that he is an excellent student and he even finds time for a girlfriend. In other words a GM who is also a normal teenager. His trek to the GM title started at the Foxwoods in 2008. In the Spring of 09 Hess won the Spice Spring GM Invitational and back at Foxwoods in 09 for his final GM norm.

Nimzo-Indian Defense
 2009 US Championship
 W: GM Hikaru Nakamura (2757)
 B: IM Robert Hess (2545)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.g3 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Ne4 7.Qd3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nc5 9.Qf3 0-0 10.Bg2 d6 11.0-0 Bd7 *I don't get this idea and believe this to be the beginning of the end for black. True, he does gets a (doubled) pawn down opposite color bishop ending, and that may be the idea. But it just does not feel right. However not much else feels good in this position: black has weaknesses at d6 and b7 and white is just waiting to pile on the pressure with moves like Rb1 and Ba3. [11...Nbd7 12.Rd1 (12.Nb3 Qc7 13.Rd1 Ne5 Compare this to the other game in the note and you can see that black goes astray chasing the white c pawns 14.Qf4 Na4 15.c5 Nxc3 16.Rd2 Ng6 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.cxd6 Rd8 19.Bb2 Nd5 20.Rc1 Bd7 21.e4 Nf6 22.e5 Nd5 23.Bxd5 exd5 24.Rc7 b6 25.Rxd5 Nf8 26.f4 Ne6 27.f5 Nc5 28.Nxc5 bxc5 29.Rxd7 Rxd7 30.e6 Rdd8 31.Ba3 g6 32.d7 fxe6 33.fxe6 c4 34.e7 c3 35.exd8Q+ Rxd8 36.Kf2 Kf7 37.Ke2 Ke6 38.Rd6+ Ke5 39.Kd3 1-0 Grigore,G-Kosashvili,Y/Rishon Le Ziyon 1990/EXT 99) 12...a6 13.Nb3 Qc7 14.Qf4 e5 15.Qd2 Thats an ugly weakness on d5 that black has inflicted upon himself and yet it does not become fatal. 15...Nxb3 16.axb3 Nc5 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 Nxb3 19.Rb1 Nxc1 20.Rxc1 a5 21.Ra1 a4 22.Ra3 g6 23.Bd5 Ra7 24.Rb6 Bd7 25.Rb4 Rb8 26.e4 Kf8 27.f4 f6 28.Kf2 Ke7 29.Rb6 Rc8 30.Ke3 Rc7 31.Kd3 Ra6 32.c5 Ra5 33.Bxb7 Raxc5 34.Bd5 exf4 35.gxf4 f5 36.c4 fxe4+ 37.Kxe4 Ra5 ½-½ Staniszewski,P-Inkirov,V/Warsaw 1987/CBM 03] **12.Rd1 Ba4 13.Nb3 Qc7 14.Nxc5 Bxd1 15.Qxb7 Qxb7 [15...Qxc5 16.Be3 Qxc4 17.Rxd1 Na6 18.Rxd6 Nc7 19.Rc6 Qxa2 20.Rxc7+]** **16.Nxb7 Bxe2 17.Nxd6 Nd7 18.Bxa8 Rxa8 19.f4 Bf3 20.Be3 a6 21.Rb1 Bc6 22.Bd4 Kf8 23.c5 Rb8 24.Rb3 Bd5 25.c4 Bc6 26.Ra3 Ra8 27.g4 h6 28.h4 f6 29.Re3 Ke7 30.Kf2 Rb8 31.Kg3 Rb4 32.Bc3 Ra4 33.Nf5+ Kf7 34.Nd6+ Kg8 35.Nc8 Kf7 36.Bd4 e5 37.Nd6+ Ke6 38.a3** Now look at the patience Nakamura demonstrates here before taking pawns **38...g5 39.fxe5 fxe5 40.h5 Kf6 41.Bb2 Ke6 42.Nf5 Rxc4 43.Rd3 Rxc5 44.Rd6+ Kf7 45.Nxh6+ Ke7 46.Nf5+ Kf7 47.h6 Nf8 48.Rd8 Nh7 49.Rc8 1-0***

The top finishing Missouri player was Michael Brooks. Mike received the IM title back in 1989 at the age of 27-28. His peak USCF rating was 2602 if my memory is correct. Mike’s road up the chess file is more the opposite of the 1st and 2nd place winners. I remember when Mike starting to play in the Kansas City area. His success was not immediate nor did he shoot to the top like many others. In fact the chess community was a bit stunned to learn that Mike had dropped out of High School to pursue chess. Obviously something in this game we all enjoy “clicked”, and without the distraction of school, PE, lunch periods and other things he was able to pursue chess and did so with a vengeance. I don’t know how many tournaments he’s won or tied for, but soon after giving up school he started winning chess events and the rest, as they say, is history.

Sicilian Najdorf
 2009 US Championship
 W: GM Alex Shabalov (2620)
 B: IM Michael Brooks (2419)

Brooks had a run of great results through the middle of the tournament, which started with this victory over GM Shabalov. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 Be6 8.g4 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Bg2 Bb4!** *Novelty. And an improvement on the following 3 examples of how white wins if black trades the knight off on c3 [10...Nxc3 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Nxc3 Nc6 (12...Kc8 13.0-0 Bc5 14.Ne4 Be7 15.Be3 Nd7 16.c4 f6 17.Rfd1 Kc7 18.Nc3 Nb6 19.Rac1 Nc8 20.Nd5+ Bxd5 21.cxd5+ Kb8 22.d6 Nxd6 23.Bc5 Rd8 24.b4 g6 25.a4 e4 26.a5 f5 27.gxf5 gxf5 28.Rd5 f4 29.Re5 Bf8 30.Bb6 Rc8 31.Rxc8+ Kxc8 32.Bxe4 Kd7 33.Bxh7 Nc4 34.Bf5+ Kd6 35.Rc5 Nxb6 36.axb6 Be7 37.Rc7 Bd8 38.Rxb7 Ke5 39.Bg4 a5 40.Ra7 Rb8 41.bxa5 Bxb6 42.axb6 Rxb6 43.Re7+ Kd4 44.Kg2 Rg6 45.Kf3 1-0 Karaklajic,N-Balinas,R/Manila 1975/EXT 99) 13.Be3 Bb4 (13...Kc7 14.0-0-0 Be7 15.Bd5 Rad8 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Ne4 Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rf8 19.c3 b6 20.b4 Rf3 21.Rh1 Bh4 22.Kd2 h6 23.Ke2 Rf8 24.a4 Be7 25.Rb1 Nb8 26.b5 a5 27.Rd1 Nd7 28.Rxd7+ Kxd7 29.Bxb6 Rb8 30.Be3 Rc8 31.Kd3 Kc7 32.c4 Rd8+ 33.Ke2 Bb4 34.g5 hxg5 35.Nxg5 Kd7 36.Nf7 Rc8 37.Nxe5+ Kd6 38.f4 Bc3 39.c5+ Kd5 40.Nd7 Rc7 41.c6 Bb4 42.Kd3 Kd6 43.Bd4 Ke7 44.Bxg7 1-0 Damjanovic,M-Ong Yok Hwa/Sarajevo 1966/EXT 98) 14.0-0-0+ Ke7 15.Ne4 Rhd8 16.a3 Ba5 17.Bc5+ Ke8 18.Nd6+ Rxd6 19.Rxd6 Bc7 20.Rxc6 1-0 Fischer,R-Sillars,K/Manter,L/Cicero 1964/EXT 2001] **11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3?!** *A dubious choice as it leaves white with 3 pawn islands: the a pawn, the doubled c pawns and the kingside. 12...Nc6 13.Rb1 0-0! Sacrificing a pawn for the initiative. Now watch how this develops**

14.Rxb7 Qc8 Guards the knight/ attacks the rook, prepares Rd8, sets up a battery with bishop and queen to target white's castled position and in some pedestrian variation will allow a discovered attack on the c pawns. How much more do you want in a move? **15.Rb1 Rd8 16.Qe1 h5** For the pawn black has the Q&B battery lined up on white's light squares, His Rd8 tempo-ed the queen off the defense of the g4 square and the light squares and now he offers the h pawn in exchange for entry into white's position **17.f3** This makes the dark squares around the king weak. And makes the Bg2 into a really BIG pawn. **17...Na5** Headed for c4. Notice how black has provoked weaknesses in white's position and now works to apply further pressure **18.Ng3 hxg4 19.fxg4 Qxc3 20.Bd2 Qd4+ 21.Kh1 Nc4 22.Bg5 Nce3 23.c3 Qa7 24.Bxd8 Rxd8 25.Nh5 Qc7** (diagram right) Moves like this sometimes dazzle people and they wonder "why" did he not take back the exchange. Here the weakness is white's king, black has sufficient compensation for the exchange. Should white exchange on "d5" then black takes back with check and can then "win" back the exchange on his next move. It is better to remove the light square defender than to regain material equality as this leaves black with a way to attack (or take away) light squares around the white king. You will see how black works this theme in the next few moves. **26.Rf3 Nxb2 27.Kxg2 e4 28.Rf2 [28.Qxe4 Nxc3 29.Rc1 Rd2+ 30.Kf1 Qh2] 28...e3 29.Rf3 Nxc3 30.Rb2 [30.Rc1 ...Rd2+ 31.Kf1 Qh2] 30...Bd5 31.Qxe3 Nd1 32.Qg5 Bxf3+ 33.Kg1 [33.Kxf3 Qc3+] 33...Qa7+ 34.Kh2 Qd4 35.Rc2 Ne3 36.Qxe3 Ba8 0-1**



After 25...Qc7

Sicilian Najdorf

2009 US Championship

W: IM Ray Robson (2542)

B: IM Michael Brooks (2419)

Brooks then defeated the 14yr old IM Ray Robson. Like Hess, Robson would pick up his GM title within a few months following this event. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.Qf3 Nbd7 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 Be7** [Just for grins I give you this old variation but "back in the day" 9...h6 10. Bh4 Be7 were omitted. It was just 9...b5 10. e5 Bb7 11. Qh3] 10...b5 11.e5 Bb7 12.Qh3

dxe5 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Qxe6+ Be7 15.Bxb5 axb5 16.Nxb5 Qc6 17.Nd6+ Kd8 18.fxe5 Kc7 19.Kb1 Nd5 20.Bxe7 Rxa2 21.c4 Qa4 22.Nb5+ Kc8 23.Ba3 Rxa3 24.bxa3 Nc3+ 25.Kc1 Nxd1 26.Rxd1 Rd8 27.Rxd7 Rxd7 28.Qe8+ 1-0 Winslow,E-Noel,R/Chicago 1973/EXT 99] **11.Bd3 g5 12.fxg5 Ne5 13.Qe2 Nfg4 14.Nf3 hxg5 15.Bg3 Bd7 16.h3 Nf6 17.Qd2** Pawn hunting and tempo losing at the same time. [17.Rhf1 Nh5 18.Bh2 Rh7 19.Kb1 0-0-0 20.Bxa6 bxa6 21.Qxa6+ Qb7 22.Qxb7+ Kxb7 23.Nxe5 dxe5 24.Bxe5 f6 25.Bh2 Bc6 26.Rd3 ½-½ Ghysels,C-Knudsen,O/Tjentiste 1975/EXT 2001; 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Nxg5 Nh5 19.Qg4 0-0-0 20.h4 Rdg8 21.Qf3 f6 22.Nh3 Ng3 23.Rhe1 Rxh4 24.Ne2 Rhg4 25.Rd2 f5 26.Nxg3 Rxg3 27.Qf1 Bc6 28.Bc4 Bxe4 29.Bxe6+ Kb8 30.Bxg8 Rxg8 31.Re3 Bb4 32.Rde2 Qc6 33.Rxe4 fxe4 34.Qf5 Qh6+ 35.Kb1 Ka8 36.a3 Qd6 37.Qxe4 Qd1+ 38.Ka2 Bd6 39.g4 Bc7 40.g5 Qf1 41.Rg2 Qf7+ 42.b3 Qh5 43.Qg4 Qg6 44.Qc4 Bb6 45.Rd2 Bd4 46.Qd3 Qc6 47.Qc4 Qg6 48.Rg2 Rh8 49.c3 Be3 50.Re2 Qf5 51.g6 Qxg6 52.Nf2 Bxf2 53.Rxf2 Qg3 54.Qc5 e4 55.Rf8+ Rxf8 ½-½ Canfell,G-Booth,S/Melbourne 1989/EXT 2002] **17...Nh5 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Nxg5 f6 20.Nf3 Ng3 21.Rhe1 Bc5** Guarding the f2 square and this keeps white from playing Ne2 as Bf2 then sits on the squares as Ng3 Bg3 looks to be in black's favor as white loses an exchange against the threat of Bf4 picking off the queen for the bishop or winning the e1 rook for the bishop. **22.Nh2 0-0-0 23.Ng4 Nh5 24.Rf1 Be7 25.Ne2 Kb8 26.Qc3 Be8 27.Qxc7+ Kxc7 28.a4 Bd7 29.b3 Bc6** Black is just waiting to open the position for his bishops. **30.Kb2 Rdf8 31.c3 Bd6 32.Bc2 Kd7 33.b4 Ke7 34.Rf2 b5 35.axb5 axb5 36.Rdf1 Bc7 37.Kb3 Nf4 38.Nxf4 exf4 39.Re2 e5** This clamps down on the Kingside of the board. White's knight on g4 does not look like a happy camper **40.Ra1 Ra8 41.Rxa8 Rxa8 42.Nh6 Ra1 43.Nf5+** The knight has be repositioned to a stronger square but the price is horrid, the black rook has breached the castle! **43...Ke8 44.c4 bxc4+ 45.Kxc4 Rc1 46.Kb3 Bb5** Ok that was fun. Black allowed white to free his 'b' pawn but it was only an illusion as the pawn will never really go anywhere. **47.Rd2 Re1 48.Bd1** Throwing in the towel? But what else was White to do he has no purposeful plan **48...Rxe4 49.Bh5+ Kf8 50.Rc2 Bd7 51.Rxc7 Bxf5 52.b5 Be6+ 53.Kc3 Re3+ 54.Kb4 Bd5** R&B endings tend to favor the attacking side and in this case that would be black **55.Bf3 e4 56.Bg4 f3 57.gxf3 exf3 58.Rc2 Be4 59.Rb2 f5 60.Bh5 Kg7 61.b6 Kh6 62.Bxf3 Rxf3 63.Kc4 Bb7 64.Ra2 Re3 65.Ra7 Re7 66.Kd4 f4 67.Ra5 Kg6 68.h4 f3 69.Rg5+ Kf6 70.Rg1 Kf5 71.h5 Re4+ 72.Kc3 Re6 73.Rb1 Kf4 74.Kd4 f2 75.Rf1 Kf3 76.Kc5 Kg2 0-1**

Charles Lawton scored draws against IMs Sam Shankland and Irina Krush. Charles has been a fixture at St Louis events for decades rarely playing but often showing up to read a book! While digging thru some stuff the other day I found a booklet on the 1982 Midwest Masters Invitational, where Charles finished 12th out of 36 with one win and four draws! Of note Michael Brooks tied for 1st – 3rd in that event. His game with IM Sevillano should have also been at least a draw but a misunderstanding of FIDE scorekeeping requirements cost him the game in time pressure. Charles is a 2 time Missouri Champion and engineer by

profession. He told me one time that once he “retires” he plans to get back to active tournament play.

Sicilian Najdorf

2009 US Championship

W: NM Charles Lawton (2350)

B: IM Sam Shankland (2464)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.fxg5 Ne5 13.Qe2 Nfg4 14.Nf3 hgx5 15.Bg3 Bd7 16.h3 Nf6 17.Nxe5 *Kind of makes the kingside look a bit clogged and its a bit hard to figure out an active plan for*

white due to the pawn grip. Obviously black will work on the kingside, we will see how this develops... [17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Nxg5 Nh5 19.Qg4 0-0-0 20.h4 Rdg8 21.Qf3 f6 22.Nh3 Ng3 23.Rhe1 Rxx4 24.Ne2 Rhg4 25.Rd2 f5 26.Nxg3 Rxx3 27.Qf1 Bc6 28.Bc4 Bxe4 29.Bxe6+ Kb8 30.Bxg8 Rxxg8 31.Re3 Bb4 32.Rde2 Qc6 33.Rxe4 fxe4 34.Qf5 Qh6+ 35.Kb1 Ka8 36.a3 Qd6 37.Qxe4 Qd1+ 38.Ka2 Bd6 39.g4 Bc7 40.g5 Qf1 41.Rg2 Qf7+ 42.b3 Qh5 43.Qg4 Qg6 44.Qc4 Bb6 45.Rd2 Bd4 46.Qd3 Qc6 47.Qc4 Qg6 48.Rg2 Rh8 49.c3 Be3 50.Re2 Qf5 51.g6 Qxxg6 52.Nf2 Bxf2 53.Rxf2 Qg3 54.Qc5 e4 55.Rf8+ Rxf8 ½-½ Canfell,G-Booth,S/Melbourne 1989/EXT 2002]

17...dxe5 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bxh4 0-0-0 20.Rdf1 Bc6 21.Qf3 Rh6 22.Bxf6 Rxf6 23.Qe2 Kb8 24.Rh7 Rxf1+ 25.Qxf1 Rd7 26.Kb1 Bc5 *If the position were a bit more open black's bishops would be a force but with the current pawn structure white appears to be ok. I prefer black 27.g4 preventing f6/f5 for now and this cramps blacks play* 27...Ka7 28.Ne2 Ba4 29.Nc3 Bc6 30.Ne2 b5 31.a3 f5 32.Rxd7 Qxd7 33.gxf5 exf5 34.Nc3 [34.exf5 e4-+] 34...f4 35.Qf3 *The start of a tedious defense* 35...Qh7 36.Nd5

Qh4 37.Be2 Qe1+ 38.Ka2 Qd2 39.Bd3 Bd4 40.Qh5 Qg2 41.Qf7+ Bb7 42.Qc7 Qg6 43.c3 Bg1 44.Qxe5 f3 45.c4 bxc4 46.Bxc4 Bc5 47.Nc3 Bb6 48.Nd5 f2 49.Qf4 Bc5 50.e5 a5 [50...Qg1] 51.Nc7 Qe4 52.Qxe4 Bxe4 53.b4 axb4 54.axb4 Bxb4 55.Bf1 Kb6 56.Ne8 Kc5 57.Nf6 Bf5 58.Nh5 Kd4 59.Ng3 Be6+ 60.Kb2 Kxe5 61.Nh1 Bc5 62.Nxf2 *Really folks the point could have been split right here All white needs to do is put his king on a light square such as c2 and then his bishop on d3 or c4 and move on a light square, there is no mate.* 62...Bxf2 63.Bd3 Kd4 64.Bh7 Be1 65.Bg6 Kc4 66.Kc2 Ba5 67.Bd3+ Kd4 68.Bg6 Bd7 69.Kb3 Be1 70.Bf7 Kd3 71.Bg6+ Kd4 72.Bf7 Bg4 73.Kc2 Bf5+ 74.Kb3 Bc3 75.Bg8 Kd3 76.Bc4+ Kd2 77.Bf7 Bd3 78.Be6 ½-½



The Sicilian Najdorf was popular in this event.

Doug Eckert is a St Louis native, FM and accountant who replaced Anna Zatonskih after 3 rounds. Doug had 2 wins in the Championship, one of them over fellow “local” master Charles Lawton and the other over GM Melikset Khachiyani. Doug currently lives in Quincy, Illinois where he keeps the debits and credits in line. He earned the FIDE Master title in 1986 and is a past US Junior Open Champion from 1983 and 1984 and he also holds the IM title from the International Correspondence Chess Federation. In addition Doug authored a book back around 85-86 on the Keres Attack in the Sicilian.

Closed Sicilian

2009 US Championship

W: GM Melikset Khachivan(2632)

B: FM Doug Eckert (2278)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3 Nxb5 5.Nxb5 a6 6.Nc3 d6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 e5 9.Qd3 Be6 [9...h6 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Be3 Be6 12.a4 Qc7 13.Rfe1 Rc8 14.a5 Be7 15.Bb6 Qc6 16.Rad1 1/2-1/2 Sarapu,O-Guevara Cano,M/Dubai 1986/TD] 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.0-0-0 Rd8 13.Rd2 Nf6 14.Rhd1 0-0 15.Qe3 Qc7 *This all looks normal. Black has moved to the "C" file for play and White prepares action on the kingside.* 16.h3 b5 *The start of black's thematic play - expansion on the queenside* 17.a3 Rd7 18.Nh4 Rfd8 19.f4 exf4 20.Qxf4 Qc5 21.Nf5 Qe5



White hangs a knight with Nxd6, but plans to get back his piece with the fork on e5. What goes wrong?

22.Rf2 Qxf4+ 23.Rxf4 Kf8 24.Nxd6? (diagram left) *If it were tennis I'd say unforced error but since its chess...blunder. Never fear, I give away pieces as well. There is a lesson here and I want to make this clear: the kinds of errors that a GM makes are the gross, horrid and amazingly obvious oversights that any other chess player makes. The fact is that players of all strengths make these kinds of horrid mistakes and there is room at the top for you if you are willing to put in the effort. If there were a pill for these kind of oversights, I'd take double portions.* 24...Rxd6 25.Rxd6 Rxd6 26.e5 Nd5 *Knight forks are the hardest things to see at times even if you are a GM* 27.Rf2 Rc6 28.Ne4 Ke7 29.Kd2 h6 30.g4 f6 31.exf6+ Nxf6 32.Nxf6 gxf6 33.b3 Kf7 34.Rf4 Kg6 35.a4 f5 36.axb5 axb5 37.Rb4 Rc5 38.Kd3 fxg4 39.hxg4 Rg5 40.c4 bxc4+ 41.bxc4 Rxxg4 42.Rb6 Kf5 43.c5 Ke5 44.c6 Rd4+ 45.Ke3 Rc4 46.Rb5+ Bd5 *The pawn drops, not that it would hold, and then black has the "h" pawn and note that Eckert has kept the light square bishop to control the queening square.* 0-1

“Historical information came from Wikipedia and other bits and pieces from my recollections”

Jialin Ding Rockets to Expert

~ Joseph Garnier ~



Jialin Ding is a name that needs no introduction in Missouri chess. In his short career, lasting about two and a half years, this young player has added 1339 points to a rating that currently stands at 2098! This rate of improvement eclipses even that of a young Hikaru Nakamura and serves as testament to Jialin's large intellect and perhaps even larger amount of determination!

Jialin's first major chess accomplishment came in August 3, 2008 when, as a C class player, he defeated St. Louis master Richard Benjamin in the first round of "Saint Louis Swiss 2". Three months later Jialin would add another notch to his belt with a very impressive draw with International Master Emory Tate! Since then his rating has flown past 2000 and he recently finished second in the very strong field at the 2009 Missouri Championship! At the rate he's improving I wouldn't be surprised if he were playing blindfold simulms against Rybka and Fritz in a few years.

Despite his current skill, this young man has very humble beginnings. I met Jialin and his "cute as a button" little brother Jason two half years ago while doing a small chess class with local player Tim Nesham. I estimated Jialin's skill level to be that of a 600/700 player and over the following three months I gave him around ten lessons until conflicts in my schedule forced me to postpone them. Jialin was an exceptionally gifted student who absorbed information like one of those Sham Wow towels you see in those infomercials! By the time I would have been able to fit him into my schedule again he was already an under rated 1400 who, quite honestly, needed a better coach. Since then his hard work and dedication have made me, his family and the rest of the chess community very proud! I've had the pleasure/curse of playing Jialin a few tournament



Jialin, shown here playing beside NM Kenneth Jones, stunned the field at the Missouri Invitational Championship, placing clear 2nd with 4.0/5.

Photo by Tony Rich

games during the last six months. In my opinion this is our best game, which ended in a draw.



Jialin receives his plaque from TD Thomas Rehmeier after winning the 2008 Missouri Open Reserve Section with a perfect 5-0 score.

Nimzowitch Defense

Friday Action Quads 9/11/09
 W: Jialin Ding (1863)
 B: Joseph Garnier (2008)

1.e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. f4 This is known as the Levenfish variation. Al-

though not nearly as testing as the Yugoslav Attack, this lesser known line has some good surprise value. 6...Nc6 7. Be2 Jialin choose to transpose back into the Classical lines. Also possible is 7. Nxc6 bxc6 8. e5 Nd7 9. exd6 exd6 and black should be fine. 7...Bg7 8. Be3 O-O 9. Nb3 Be6 10. O-O Rc8 More common and perhaps slightly better are 10... Qc8 and 10... Na5. However since black's plan is the same in either variation it should hardly make a difference. (diagram top pg 13) 11. Bf3 This prevents the idea of Rxc3 followed by Nxe4. 11... Na5 12. Nxa5 Qxa5 13. Bd4 Nd7 14. Bxg7 Kxg7 15. Qd4+ Kg8 16. Be2 Qc5



Position after 10...Rc8

16...Qb6 is slightly better since it forces the issue with an attack on b2. The text allows white to play two useful Rook moves and deny



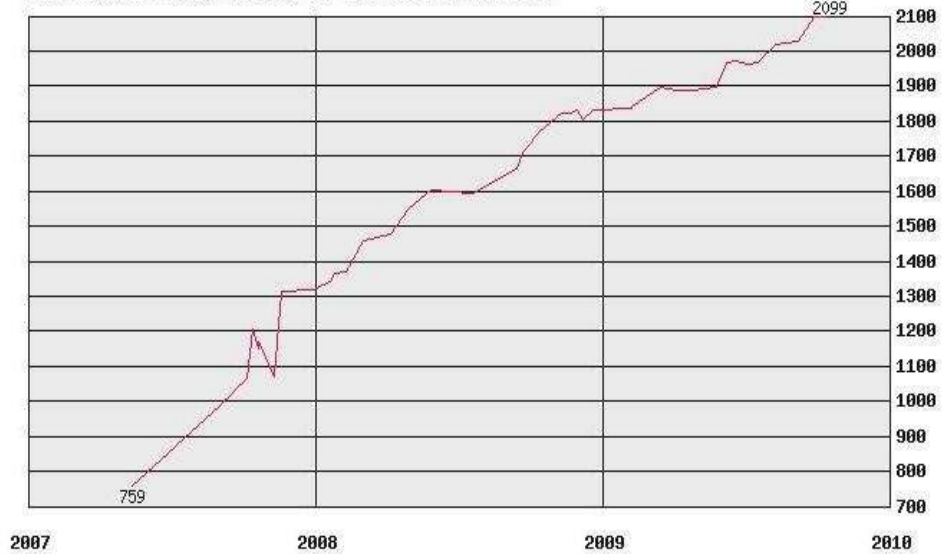
Position after 21...Nxc4

black of any possible endgame edge. 17. **Rad1 Qxd4+** 18. **Rxd4 Nb6** 19. **f5 Bc4** 20. **Bxc4 Rxc4** 21. **Rxc4 Nxc4** (Diagram left) I have the type of endgame I was playing for, but white's activity prevents black from starting queenside action too quickly. Perhaps this is a drawback of the inaccurate move 16...Qc5. 22. **Nd5 Re8** 23. **Rd1 Kf8** 24. **Rd4 Rc8** 25. **c3 b6** By now both of us had about ten minutes left so there are bound to be some inaccuracies. 26. **b3 Ne5** 27. **c4 e6** 28. **Ne3 Ke7** 29. **Kf2 a5** 30. **Ke2 Rc5** 31. **a3 b5** 32. **cxb5 Rxb5** 33. **b4 axb4** 34. **Rxb4 Rxb4** 35. **axb4 gxf5** I played this move to obtain a passed d pawn. Unfortunately it proved to be irrelevant and the game quickly drifted to a draw. 36. **exf5 Kd7** 37. **Kd2 Kc6** 38. **Kc3 Kb5** 39. **fxe6 fxe6** 40. **Nc2 Nc6** 41. **Na3+ Ka4** 42. **b5 Nb4** 43. **Nc4 Kxb5** 44. **Nxd6+** 1/2 1/2 (Diagram Right)



Final position (1/2 - 1/2)

USCF Regular Rating History for 13717165 JIALIN DING



Up Up Up Up UP !!

Christmas Open — December 26th, 2009

4SS,G/75. Location: Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave. Saint Louis MO 63108,

♙ Prizes: b/45 \$900, 1st, \$150 Each M/X, A, B, C, D, U1200

♙ Entry Fee: \$30, \$20 for annual members of the club

♙ Registration: 9-9:50am. Rounds: 10am, 12:45, 3:30, 6

MCA membership required for MO residents from \$5,

Advance entries/info: 314-361-CHESS

4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108

info@saintlouischessclub.org, www.saintlouischessclub.org



The Missouri Chess Festival

~ Tony Rich ~

The alarm blared much too early on a cool Fall Saturday morning. As I loaded up and headed west on Interstate 70, variations danced through my mind, gambits tickled the corners of my imagination, and inexorably I receded from the morning sun. Despite the rain and the early morning commute, I had one thing on my mind and nothing more. “Cassia is a cruel temptress”, I thought, as cobwebs cleared and my psyche prepared for competition. The 2009 Missouri Open and Chess Festival was about to begin.

Upon arrival at the Best Western, I was greeted with familiar faces and the customary sights and sounds of a pre-tournament coliseum. As I walked in from the car, Dan Roberts pointed out that it’s easier to make money at poker than chess, yet he was drawn, as we all were, to Columbia, Missouri to take part in a bizarre of chess activities.

After a brief glance around, I was struck at how well organized everything was; Thomas Rehmeier and Bob Howe had addressed every detail, from linens on the tables to round times posted throughout. They proudly displayed the trophies, medals and plaques that would be soon awarded to only the most deserving of us. As a final attention to detail, a DGT board and projector sat patiently at board one, awaiting the fierce struggle to come. It was evident that any need a player may have was addressed: a beverage station in the playing hall, equipment vendor in the skittles room, and hotel rates so affordable that all could enjoy this 3-three day marvel.



First round match up. White—IM Michael Brooks vs. Black—James Davies. The two chess legends battled it out on a projected DGT board for the room to follow. Thanks to John Weidner and the CCSCSL for the equipment!



The many awards were displayed until someone claimed each.

It was with dismay that I missed the Friday night Quick Championship, but by all accounts, it was impossible to stop Kevin Cao, as he went undefeated against a field of quick chess veterans, including Ron Luther, Bob Holliman, Joe Garnier and Jim Voelker. Kevin’s impressive score earned him the title of Missouri Quick Champion, the plaque to prove it, and 38 rating points! The duo of Tony Dutiell and Elizabeth Oliver responded by clinching the Bughouse Team Championship and the bragging rights as well. Finally, collectively accumulating over 96 rating points, Nathaniel Johnson (high school) and Jason Zhou (K-6) proved their might in the MCA Scholastic event.

As the first round neared, more players congregated and awaited their fate from the pairing chart. Some groaned with disappointment while others smiled confidently and ultimately 60 pioneers began their expedition with a handshake. From all outward appearances, these warriors were silent monks, but their calm exteriors belied a burning desire to win. With but four draws between the Invitational and the Open, it was clear that peaceful encounters were not on the mind. In fact, despite these neutral scores, even these four encounters were hard fought. IM Michael Brooks began a series of apparently unstoppable victories by defeating Expert and Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis board member Jim Davies.

Here's one of the hard fought early round games.

Sicilian Defense - Sveshnikov
 Missouri Invitational
 W: James Voelker (2132)
 B: Dan Roberts (1943)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6
 8.Na3 Be7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nc4 f5 11.Nd5 b5 12.Ncb6 Rb8 13.Nxc8 Qxc8
 14.Bd3 fxe4 15.Bxe4 h5 16.Qd3 Nd4 17.c3 Ne6 18.Bf5 Nc5 19.Qf3 Qb7
 20.0-0 Rg8 21.Rfd1 h4 22.Bh3 Rg6 23.Qh5 Ne6 24.Bxe6 Rxe6 25.Nxe7
 Qxe7 26.Qh8+ Qf8 27.Qxh4 Rh6 28.Qe4 f5 29.Qc6+ Kf7 30.Rd3 Qe7 31.Rad1 Rbh8 32.h3 Rd8 33.Qxa6
 e4 34.Rd5 e3 35.Rxf5+ Kg6 36.Qxb5 e2 37.Re1 d5 38.Rxd5 1-0



Michael Brooks looked pleased to be holding his spot on board one as the tournament progressed.

Just before round two, a very special event took place; Bill Wright, who by all measure is a true ambassador for chess, not to mention consummate gentleman, was officially inducted into the Missouri Chess Hall of Fame. I can think of a no more deserving individual, and I'm proud to see the MCA honor a man who has for so long honored this game we all love. As many of you are probably aware, Mr. Wright suffered a stroke that has left him unable to join us in person at these events, but his presence was felt nonetheless. We are all better for knowing him.

Round two saw the same determination, with just five drawn games. Perhaps most impressive was Brad Schlosser's 264-point upset over Kevin Cao in the Invitational. Brooks continued his tear by defeating Expert Nathaniel Fast; with only two other players at 2-0, Brooks seemed poised confidently at the top of the heap.

Starting just after 8pm, round three finally unveiled the cracks in stamina the competitors displayed thus far. Expert Kenneth Thomas gave up half a point against B-player Steven Rand (see game below), while Davies was able to redeem himself with a hard-fought draw against chess Master Richard Benjamin.

English Opening
 Missouri Open
 W: Steven Rand (1734)
 B: Kenneth Thomas (2076)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6
 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0
 Nge7 7.Rb1 Be6 8.d3 h6 9.b4 Qd7 10.Re1 f5 11.Qc2 0-0
 12.b5 Nd8 13.a4 c6 14.bxc6 bxc6 15.Ba3 g5 16.Nd2 a6
 17.Rb6 Nc8 18.Rbb1 Rf7 19.Bb4 Bf6 20.a5 h5 21.Na4 Rb8
 22.Bc3 Rxb1 23.Rxb1 h4 24.Nb6 Qc7 25.Qb2 hgx3 26.hgx3
 Ne7 27.Na8 Qa7 28.Qb8 Nc8 29.Qxa7 Rxa7 30.Nb6 Rb7
 31.Rb3 Na7 32.Na8 Rxb3 33.Nxb3 Kf7 ½-½

Reti Opening
 MO Invitational Championship
 W: Michael Brooks (2465)
 B: James McLaughlin (2128)

Brooks third round opponent faired no better than the first two. Games like this showed the International Master remained in top form. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7



Tim Campbell presents the scholastic Player of the Year awards to Kevin Cao, Isaiah Gadson, and Josiah Smith for their accomplishments in 2009.

6.Be3 a6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 Bb4 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bd3 d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.Bd4 Bd6 13.Re1 Bb7 14.Qf3 Qe7 15.Qh3 h5 16.Bf5 Kd7 17.Na4 Rae8 18.Qc3 Bb4 19.Qb3 Bc6 20.a3 Bd6 21.Nb6+ Kd8 22.Bd3 Qb7 23.Qc3 Ng4 24.Bxa6 Bxh2+ 25.Kh1 Qc7 26.Rad1 Bd6 27.Kg1 h4 28.a4 e5 29.Bc5 d4 30.Bxd6 Qxd6 31.Nc4 dxc3 32.Rxd6+ Kc7 33.Bb5 Bxb5 34.axb5 Rd8 35.Rc6+ Kd7 36.Nxe5+ 1-0

Refreshed after a night's sleep the players displayed a renewed sense of competitiveness. With a few exceptions, most encounters ended as the rating differences would predict, and Brooks was one step closer to clinching the Championship for the twelfth time. Perhaps the dark horse of the event was Selden Trimble; competing in the Open section of the tournament, Trimble stood solidly at 4-0 and showed no signs of fatigue as he cut through the field. Would he have the stamina to defeat Tim Steiner in the final round and claim clear first?

The final round approached, and the competitors prepared for the final battle. As the round commenced, the chess community across Missouri was alight with predictions and hopes. Thanks to the promptness of the organizers, we weren't left waiting for the results: IM Michael Brooks was able to claim clear first in the Invitational with a final-round draw with LM Ron Luther. The Open section saw a stroke of brilliance from Trimble, who was able to defeat Steiner with the black pieces, going undefeated and earning the title of Missouri Open Champion. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate our newest titleholders Missouri Champion Michael Brooks and Missouri Open Champion Selden Trimble!

Finally, there were quite a few notable mentions in this festival. Eight Masters and ten Experts came to match wits between the two sections. Young Jialin Ding earned four points in the event, second only to Brooks in the most competitive Invitational in recent history. Ron Luther turned in a solid performance, with his only loss to Ding and Josh Frank saw his rating catapult back over 2000 with a performance rating of 2427!

With 20 state titles between them, the last round pairing couldn't have been more exciting. With the white pieces, and needing only a draw to secure the tournament, IM Brooks held most of the cards.

Reti Opening

MO Invitational Championship

W: IM Michael Brooks (2465)

B: LM Ron Luther (2240)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6
 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 Nd7 6.Nf3 e6
 7.a4 b6 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 h6
 10.Rfe1 Ne7 11.Rad1 g5
 12.Qe2 Ng6 13.h3 Qf6 14.Bc4 Nf4 15.Bxf4 gxf4 16.e5 dxe5
 17.d5 Qe7 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.Qd3 Qf7 20.Ne4 Qe7 21.Rd2 0-0-0
 22.Bxa6 Nc5 23.Bxb7+ Kxb7 24.Nxc5+ Qxc5 25.Qg6 ½-½



Josh Frank, left, shown here facing Richard Benjamin, was the talk of the tournament on day one as he upset three experts and masters in the first three rounds. He would draw another master and lose only to IM Brooks to complete an impressive event.



William and Tim Nesham were among many out of town players that made the trip to enjoy the Chess Festival. The rapidly improving William used the event to continue his race to catch his father's rating.

If you can only travel occasionally for chess, plan to attend the 2010 Missouri Open and Chess Festival, where intrigue will meet ambition in an epic confrontation. Many thanks are due to the organizer, Thomas Rehmeier, and to everyone who made this event possible; make sure to show your appreciation with a quick 'thanks' at their next tournament!



MISSOURIANS ON THE USCF TOP 100 LISTS — October 2009

Overall	IM Michael Brooks (2465)	65th	Age 11	Margaret M.Hua (1688)	51st
Age 18	Frank H. Smith (1897)	61st		Stephen Zhang (1625)	64th
Age 17	Brad Schlosser (1857)	74th	Age 8	Jason Zhou (1157)	73rd
Age 16	Henry Cao (1852)	80th	Girls Under 13	Margaret M. Hua (1688)	16th
Age 14	Isaiah Gadson (1952)	36th	Girls Under 16	Joanna Gossell (1551)	66th
Age 12	Kevin Y. Cao (2130)	5th		Jonht Bechthold (1482)	78th
	Jialin Ding (2018)	19th	Correspondence	Laurence Anderson (2315)	32nd
	William Tong (1798)	41st		Harry Ingersol (2278)	45th
				Barry Walker (2225)	69th

MISSOURI'S TOP 100 PLAYERS

1	IM Michael A Brooks	2465
2	Charles Lawton	2327
3	Ronald G Luther	2243
4	Bart Gibbons	2230
5	Loal Davis	2224
6	Richard Benjamin	2213
7	Thomas Gossell	2213
8	Robert Sulman	2206
9	Bob Holliman	2200
10	Andrew Witte	2149
11	James R Voelker	2145
12	Tomislav Juricic	2145
13	Kevin Y Cao	2130
14	James F Mclaughlin	2122
15	Robert Merton Jacobs	2100
16	Craig A La Salle	2082
17	Kenneth P Thomas	2076
18	Nathaniel S Fast	2064
19	Waldo Odak	2047
20	King Christian	2045
21	Rich Jackson	2087
22	Zebedee Fortman III	2036
23	Jialin Ding	2018
24	James Davies	2015
25	Kevin Dale Johnson	2000
26	Nick W Karlow	2000
27	Paul Cornelison	2000
28	Pranav Akolkar	1995
29	Daniel R Huff	1994
30	Nathan Swinger	1983
31	Joshua Frank	1966
32	Jeffrey Van Order	1956
33	Isaiah Gadson	1952
34	Daniel O Roberts	1943
35	Dwight Beasley	1916
36	John Boyer	1910
37	Amendra Perera	1906
38	Kenneth E Fee Jr	1903
39	Adil Skuka	1900
40	Albert D Howlett	1899
41	Frank H. Smith	1897
42	Darius Masuhud	1896
43	Daniel A Juengel	1893
44	Steven D Bange	1891
45	Robert Taras	1887
46	Tim Blaco	1883
47	Selden Trimble	1880
48	Joseph Garnier	1876
49	Robert W Cima	1876
50	Renzo Herrera	1866

USCF October Supplement -Active in Past 12 Months

51	Brad Schlosser	1857
52	Tony Rich	1856
53	Henry Cao	1852
54	Tony Dutiel	1840
55	Daniel J Coryea	1835
56	Alex J Marler	1823
57	Paul Goddard	1820
58	Shan Siddiqi	1809
59	Tom Eppin-Zapf	1808
60	Timothy Nesham	1800
61	Stephen Landrum	1800
62	Randy Giminez	1800
63	William Tong	1798
64	Jeff D Eskew	1798
65	Matthew Barrett	1788
66	Larry Darst	1785
67	Deil Karabiev	1784
68	Mike Clark	1773
69	Warren D Graham	1773
70	Joe Piotrowski	1771
71	Behrooz Vakil	1765
72	Thomas Rehmeier	1760
73	Bradley Herbst	1760
74	Daniel Rethemeyer	1744
75	Daniel L Todd	1740
76	Bob Howe	1738
77	Steven Rand	1734
78	Allen C Bishop	1733
79	Greg Clark	1728
80	Jonathan Shure	1725
81	Edward L Dromgoole	1720
82	William Starnes	1712
83	Spencer Conklin	1711
84	William D Collin	1705
85	Jacob Wilkins	1701
86	Gunter A Kellotat	1700
87	Carl D Priesendorf	1696
88	Max W Benecke	1694
89	Margaret Hua	1688
90	Wiliam Nesham	1683
91	Namit Gaur	1682
92	Ryan D McCulla	1681
93	Linu John Alex	1675
94	Elie Solomon	1674
95	Matt Schoen	1672
96	Christopher Castellanos	1671
97	Roger Pagel	1666
98	Joseph Conklin	1665
99	Aleksey Kazakevich	1659
100	Shawn Murray	1658

Chess School comes to St. Louis

~ Steve Goldberg ~



Steve Goldberg blogged on his popular site, "The Chess Examiner" about the U.S. Chess School recently held at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center. Below are some excerpts from his reports, with a focus on the lessons given by GM Gregory Kaidanov.

The 10th session of the U.S. Chess School, founded by international master Greg Shahade, begin in an interesting manner. Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov is the primary instructor, with Jennifer Shahade and WFM Elizabeth Vicary assisting, and Vicary took the floor first. Eight players, all girls (ages 12-19), were encouraged to relate three "facts" about themselves, two true and one false. The other girls were to try to guess in each case which statements were true and which were not.

Some interesting "facts" came out - "I'm a second-degree black belt," "I was bit on the foot by another person," "I'm half-Russian." But it wasn't always easy to identify truth from fiction - the kids told good stories.

Even Gregory Kaidanov got in the act. His three statements:

- 1) "I was once thrown in jail for a day for protesting the Communist government in Russia."
- 2) "I once played a chess game in which I sacrificed, in order, a pawn, a minor piece, a rook and a queen."
- 3) "I once flew to England just to attend a rock concert, then flew back home."

Which of these do you think are true, and which is a fabrication?



Primary Instructor GM Gregory Kaidanov addresses the participants at the U.S. Chess School this July.



The ladies prepare for another lecture session.

Next, Kaidanov got up to speak, and kept the players at rapt attention. He utilized a variety of both true and fictitious stories to get across his message and was quite effective. You need to listen carefully or you might miss his story about floating aliens learning to walk.

He stressed that a player can play chess without any serious study, but will eventually reach a ceiling, at which time his improvement stops. To move forward, hard effort is required. Even memorization of reams of opening material or endgame positions will not likely yield a significant rating increase, he said. Instead, he stressed, what is required is to identify your weaknesses, and go to work on those specific areas. That is why some players might spend a large amount

of time working on chess, but have little to show for it. "They're not working on what they're supposed to be working on," Kaidanov explained.

So analyzing one's own games, and focusing on your own weaknesses, is the path to improvement. And he commented that it is important to write down your thoughts about the game afterwards. He also stressed the importance of "talking to yourself" during a game, for example, "She just moved there to avoid the threat I had created," etc.

Sometimes, psychological factors may play as big a part as perpetual time trouble or calculation errors. Kaidanov presented a case of a young player who was advancing rapidly, but started playing poorly when his rating reached 2180. His problem? He was so fixated on breaking the 2200 level, as several of his friends had done, that he lost the concentration and focus that had brought him to the brink of being a master. Kaidanov told him that he will not be much different as a 2200 player than he is as a 2180 player, but to the young man, it was a massive, almost insurmountable, difference.

Oh, and those "facts" from Kaidanov? Some in the audience guessed he had not actually ever sacrificed pawn, minor piece, rook and queen, in that order. Others guessed that he would not have actually flown to England just for a concert. But all agreed that it sounded "too normal" that he might have spent a day in a Russian prison for protesting the communist government. In fact, that was his false statement!

For the initial part of the camp, all students were scheduled to play a rated game with another student. Kaidanov asked that for this game, each player have in mind one specific aspect to concentrate on, and that this be written down, but kept private. It will be shared with Greg Shahade, but not other students. This one aspect can be anything of the student's choosing, or can be one of several that Kaidanov offered:

- 1) Ask every move, "what is my opponent's next move?"
- 2) Calculate as many candidate moves as possible.
- 3) Calculate as deep as possible.
- 4) Don't fall behind my opponent on time, too much.
- 5) Fight hard and maintain concentration regardless of the position on the board, whether winning or lost.
- 6) Constantly keep track of my and my opponent's good and bad pieces; make sure that I have every piece "in the game"; be aware of which pieces to keep and which to trade.
- 7) Be careful about every trade and make sure that every trade is either forced or is good for me.

Elizabeth Vicary asked if more than one such goal could be written down and stressed for this game. "The answer is no," Kaidanov said, "and I'll tell you the reason. It is very difficult to really concentrate on more than one of these at a time."

The key, though, is not to pick a subject area that you are good at! "Pick something that you are not so good at," Kaidanov stressed.

He also mentioned the importance of maintaining a chess journal of some sort - a notebook or Word file. Not just a record of games, but a record of all chess activity, including your thoughts during games. He advises writing down the date and even the time, noting what you did. For example, you might say, "I worked on solving puzzles, and I solved this one but not that one". Or "I went over this Anand game, and I especially liked this move." Or, "I have no clue why this move was played." Or "Spent three hours on chess, but concentration was very bad."

The result, Kaidanov explained, is that "If you keep this diary, you will know how hard you study, exactly what you know. Your parents will know, your coach will know; it's a wonderful tool. Using something like ChessBase, diagrams can be put into a Word file to help you remember a specific game."

He then brought up a sometimes-difficult-to-understand concept. "Many people have this false impression that chess improvement comes after learning a lot of stuff, that improvement will come in the knowledge



area. This is a misconception."

Kaidanov compares the situation to a doctor or lawyer, who must accumulate a huge knowledge base. For example, a doctor needs to know that with a given set of symptoms, the illness is such and such. And for a different set of symptoms, the illness is something else. "With chess, this is completely different," he stressed. "Knowledge doesn't hurt. But even if you memorize every opening book, you will not become much stronger. The same with endgames. I'm not sure your rating will go up big time."

"Improvement will come in different areas. The biggest improvement will come if you will study your own games and know your own weaknesses. Combine some kind of study at home, with focus on certain things during your tournament games. This will take pressure off the result." He doesn't want the player to be focusing on winning a specific game, winning a title, winning money, etc. "Most of us do not handle pressure well, when there is a lot at stake." So to take pressure off, he stresses thinking about other things, such as one of the seven focus points mentioned above. Again, this might be concentrating on asking yourself what your opponent's next move is likely to be, or one of the other points Kaidanov suggested.

"The same mistake could be made for different reasons," he said. "Unless you find out the reason why you made this mistake, you won't be able to improve on it. You're going to make the same mistakes again and again." The whole idea of getting better is to eliminate the mistakes you make. By maintaining a well-written chess journal containing your thoughts during a game, monitoring time use (Kaidanov also advises recording the clock time for each of your moves), and focusing on just one specific area at a time, a player can not only identify his or her weak spots, but work to eliminate them.

On day 3 of the U.S. Chess School, GM Gregory Kaidanov began speaking about avoiding time trouble. To avoid chronic time trouble, Kaidanov advises, "For the next few months, start focusing on this, like it is the only problem in your chess. So it means that when you enter your next tournament, your result will be irrelevant. Whether you lose all of your games, or win your games, is completely irrelevant. Your main focus is not getting into time trouble."

"If you lose all your games, but in none of the games you are in time trouble, you won the tournament. That's how you should think about it, because this is the only way to fight this problem."

He mentions that if you say to yourself, "I will try to watch my time, and do something else," it's not going to work. "You have to give this full attention," he emphasizes.

In keeping with his previous advice to maintain a chess notebook, he stresses that if you do get in time trouble, you should write it down.

"I know how your mind works. The reason you're ending up in time trouble almost in every game is because you're trying to use every excuse to spend more time on every move. You have to switch this mode to a completely different mode. You have to use every excuse to spend less time on every move."

"The first guideline, which most of you probably already know, is to try to spend no more than half of your time on the first half of the game. For example, if the time control is 40/2, you want to have no more than one hour spent on your first 20 moves."

"Let's say you have 40/2 time control. Second guideline: use no more than 12 minutes for one move. You should be very strict about this. For example, let's say you've taken 7 minutes for a move; give yourself 3 more minutes to make a decision. If you spend 7 minutes, you more or less know a lot about the position. You have the moves which you've looked at, and you see some positions which you've calculated. Give yourself three more minutes to compare them and make a decision."



Abby Marshall, (far left), was the strongest player at the camp. She would leave the Chess School and head to Indianapolis, where she won the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. (the first time a girl has won the event!)

"What I do in those cases, when I spend too much time on one move, once I have taken seven minutes, I take my eyes off the board. Try to think, "What did I calculate so far? I looked at this move, and this is the position that is happening; I looked at that move, and that is the position that is happening. Here I'm down a pawn, but I have some initiative. Here [in this other position], material is equal, but my position is somewhat passive." As an aside, here, Kaidanov mentioned that if a player has a tendency to play passively and often thereby loses, he or she may need to consciously be aware of the need to possibly sac a pawn for greater activity.

"If you can't decide, close your eyes and make one of the moves. Otherwise, you will spend another half an hour debating between two of those, and you still will not decide. There is a very good chance you will play a third move which is much worse than those."

Kaidanov then looked directly at the students and asked them, "Which is better, 1.e4 or 1.d4?" The students were all silent, somewhat dumbfounded.

"That's an easy question!" Kaidanov said. "Ok, I'll ask another question. After 1.e4, which is better, 1...c5 or 1...e5?" Again, the girls were stumped, but one finally said, "...e5," and another called out, "...c5." Kaidanov then smiled and admitted, "Of course, it's impossible to say. Both are fine; it's a matter of taste."

"I can ask this question many more times - on move three, on move four, on move five, on move fifteen. What I'm trying to tell you is, in the first half of the game, the choice of move is often just a matter of taste. There is no best move. Don't waste your time in the first half of the game, because somewhere around move 10 or 12 or 15, you can play this and you can play that, and it doesn't matter. This move is okay, and this move is okay. They will lead to two different positions, but they are not going to lose a game for you. Unfortunately, this is exactly where most of you spend a lot of time. Then, of course, somewhere between move 25 and 40, you will have just one winning move, or one move that draws the game. The price of the move goes very high, and that's exactly where you don't have any time left, because you wasted your time on moves which were irrelevant. When it's time for the move which pretty much decides the game, you don't have any time left."

"Let's say you have a worse position, and you look at maybe three different moves. After each one of these moves, your position is still bad. It's understandable that you don't want to make a move, but the fact that you will take longer will not make your position better. What will help you is this idea about a relatively best move, not the move that will solve all your problems, because such a move doesn't exist. The position is already worse. So go with the relatively best move. Given that the position is bad, you just need to find the best of the worst. So again, make your calculations, take your eyes off the board, and decide on your move."



Chess School Founder IM Greg Shahade, (far back), also acts as an instructor for the popular program he has spearheaded.

Steve Goldberg is a contributor at www.chesscafe.com, as well as Examiner.com (www.examiner.com/x-16932-Chess-Examiner), and keeps a popular blog on scholastic chess at www.scholasticchess.blogspot.com.

Dog Days Open

~ Ray Kurczynski ~

Photos by Tony Rich

The Dog Days Open, a tournament conceived more than seven months before its actual event date, could not have been more appropriately named if the decision had been made the morning of the tournament. On a humid, August Saturday typical for Saint Louis, the heat hit a sweltering 97 degrees at its peak! Already playing catch up from such scorching weather, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL) also found itself facing another nemesis-the U.S. Open. This year's event was held in Indianapolis and attracted many local Saint Louis players who jumped at the opportunity to attend the prestigious event while it was being held in a location that was reasonably close. Despite the two strikes opposing the event, the Dog Days Open persevered and managed to attract 38 participants, just two players shy of the 40 necessary to guarantee a full prize payout.



Josh Frank enjoyed a perfect 4 out 4 score at the Dog Days Open.

Something strange happened on this steamy Saturday that will go down as one of the oddest situations to arise in CCSCSL tournament history. Despite the relatively successful turnout of 38 players, especially when facing such adverse conditions, not one player in the event was rated higher than 1982! That honor went to CCSCSL member and tournament patron Paul "Peaches" Mechem. From the beginning of the event, it seemed Mechem would live up to his top ranking as he easily cruised through the first two rounds, but third and fourth round draws prevented him from cashing in on any of the prizes. Nevertheless, a chess player should never be dissatisfied finishing a tournament with no losses, and Mechem took his results in good order. The absence of any Master or Expert players meant that no prize was necessary for that section and allowed the tournament staff to pay out the advertised prizes despite falling short of the necessary 40 players. Josh Frank, who entered as the second highest-rated player in the event, carved up the tournament field and finished his day with a 4/4 performance and the \$100 Class A first-place prize. Frank's most crucial game arose in the third

round, when his defeat of fellow Class A player James Pollitt assured him the opportunity to win his section outright with a last-round victory.

Saint Louis chess tournament stalwart Steve Bange snuck in under the radar and took full advantage of Mechem's fourth-round draw. Bange's last-round victory capped an impressive 3.5/4 performance for the wily veteran, and his performance allowed him to take the \$25 Class A second-place prize outright. He was surprised that such a performance could be overshadowed, but the lack of any Master or Expert players resulted in Bange being the fifth-highest player in the field and almost guaranteed that an undefeated performance would be necessary to win the top prize.



Steven Bange, of St. Louis, went Undefeated on the day, scoring 3.5/4 to finish clear overall second.

Class B was every bit as intriguing as class A. The talk of the tournament was the impressive performance of Bob Howe, editor of the Missouri Chess Bulletin. Howe ran through the first three rounds undefeated and succumbed only to Josh Frank, who simply could not be stopped. Despite his stellar performance, Howe was forced to split the first and second place prize money with youngster

William Tong who, despite not losing any games, relinquished two draws and matched the 3/4 performance of Howe. Both players walked away with \$62.50 and a share of the Class B title.

In Class C, things looked really shaky when the favorite, William Thompson, suffered a first-round defeat at the hands of Andrew Venable, a player rated more than 500 points below him. Thompson would not be deterred, however, and he ran the field the next three rounds as he turned his slow start into a respectable 3/4 result and a full \$100 Class C first-place prize. Thompson was no doubt helped by his unintentional "Swiss Gambit" (a technique whereby you would purposely lose or draw a first-round game for easier pairings the rest of the way), with his next three opponents being severely lower rated. Regardless, Thompson turned in the results necessary to garner the Class C prize. Nipping right at his heels the whole way through was Kenton Banyai who made the trek from Illinois to check out this new club and the Missouri competition. Banyai's respectable 2.5/4 performance (with his only loss coming at the hands of the Class A player Pollitt) was enough to win the Class C second-place prize all alone.



Bob Howe of Columbia started out 3/3 but was stopped in the last round by Mr. Josh Frank.



Two young talents go head to head. Michael Yin, left, shown here playing against Stephen Zhang. Michael went 3/4 at the Dog Days Open to easily win his class prize.

Class D also presented an impressive performance by up-and-comer Michael Yin, whose 3/4 result was enough to win his section outright. In fact, the nearest Class D players were Stanley Horton Jr. and Robert Luckey, both of whom split the \$25 Class D second-place prize. Their 1.5/4 result was strongly overshadowed by Yin's result, which included a victory over Class C player David Gilchrist. For his efforts, Yin gained 76 rating points and now finds himself on the cusp of jumping into Class C. Yin's teacher, CCSCSL blitz champion Joe Garnier speaks highly of his student and believes he will one day be a strong force to be reckoned with in Missouri chess. He is a shining star amongst the plethora of young talent emerging in the Saint Louis region at the CCSCSL!

While many players had very good finishes, none were more impressive than the performance by Class E player Don Harper. Harper, who has been attending tournaments regularly and has worked hard to improve his game, turned in a fantastic 3/4 finish. His results included strong victories over Class B player Matt Angeli, Class C player Calvin Terlizzi and two draws against Class B players William Tong and Mark Colvin. Harper's astounding undefeated performance, almost unheard of for a properly rated class E player, was more than enough to earn him the \$100 Under-1200, first-place prize. In fact, Harper's results were so strong, his rating jumped from 1144 to 1371, an increase of more than 220 rating points! Harper will definitely find the competition in Class D much tougher, but it seems like his diligence has paid off, and he appears ready for the challenge. To round out the Under-1200 section, a seven-way tie resulted in a silly \$3.57 payout for a 2/4 result. The club chose to increase these prizes to \$5 for each participant, and all recipients had a good chuckle at the turn of events and were happy to get part of their entry fee back.

Overall the event was a great success. Every player seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly, and the turnout was fabulous given all the factors the club had going against it. The future looks bright with the Thanksgiving Open on November 29th, the Christmas Open on December 26th, and a full calendar of activities planned for 2010, including the return of the US Championships and the Women's Championship at the CCSCSL!

Featured Game

Annotations by Selden Trimble

Grunfeld Defense

110th Annual United States Open
W: Selden Trimble (1917)
B: GM Sergey Kudrin (2601)

Sergey Kudrin is the first Grandmaster I'd ever played in a tournament. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5** He told me after the game that he likes the Grunfeld. **4.Nf3 Bg7 5.cxd5**



GM Kudrin plays 12...Qc8

Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Be2 b6 I was unfamiliar with this line, but I won't be ever again. **10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qc2?! Kudrin** thought that 11. Qd3 was better. Also, White can sacrifice a pawn with 11. d5 or with 11. Bd3. **11...cxd4 12.cxd4 Qc8!** (diagram right) This was so unexpected and so simple. White has to move his queen again. And Black has cleared the d-file for his rook. Of course, 12. ... Bxd4 13. Rd1, and Black is in a world of trouble. **13.Qxc8** Maybe it wasn't too late to play 13. ... Qd3. **13...Rxc8 14.Bd3** Maybe 14. ... d5 was better. The trouble with this move is that it fixes White's center pawns. But it's not clear how Black can take advantage of this. **14...e6**

15.Be3 Nc6 Black threatens 16. ... Rd8, when White cannot adequately defend his d-pawn. **16.Rbc1?** This



Position after 20...Nb4!

just loses a pawn, and in this position, the game. Kudrin thought that 16. Rbd1 had to be tried. After 16. ... Rd8 17. Bb1 Rac8, each side has some pluses, although Black's rooks certainly seem better placed than White's. After the text, I tried to give Black ways to go wrong, but I had little hope I'd succeed. And I didn't. **16...Rd8 17.Bg5 Rd6** 17. ... Rd7 allows 18. Bb5. **18.d5** 18. Bf4 allows 18. ... e5. **18...exd5 19.Bf4 Rdd8 20.exd5?! Black** has won his pawn. Maybe White ought to play 20. e5. Perhaps some sort of counterplay could have been generated on the kingside, and the pawn structure would have prevented an immediate use of Black's bishops. **20...Nb4!** (diagram left) This knight is going to be really well-placed on d5. Usually, a well-placed knight is supported by a pawn, but in this position, it doesn't need to be. **21.Bb1 Nxd5** This knight is so well-positioned in the middle of the board. Of course, I presume Black saw all this several moves ago and realized how strong the knight would be. It's in-

structive how a grandmaster finishes things. White's a-pawn is very weak. Black's two bishops just destroy it.

22.Bg5? In retrospect, 22. Bd2 would have been much better. From d2, the bishop would have kept a good eye on the same squares as the d5-knight. It would have been difficult for Black to attack this bishop because the Black knight would have been in the way. **22...Re8 23.Rfe1 Bb2 24.Rc2** 24. Rxe8+ Rxe8 25. Re1 seems natural. But after 25. ... Rxe1+ 26. Nxe1 Nc3, how does Black proceed? White was worried about a knight check at e2. **24...Rxe1+ 25.Nxe1 Re8 26.Nf3 Bg7 27.Bd2 Bf8** Black has maneuvered his bishop so as to support the advance of his queenside pawns. **28.h3 b5 29.Ne1 b4 30.Nd3 a5 31.Nc1 Bg7 32.Nb3 Nc3 33.Bxc3 Bxc3** Black is threatening 34. ... Re1+ 35. Kh2 Be5+ 36. g3 Rh1#. **34.Rc1 Re5 35.Bd3 a4 36.Na1 Bd5 37.a3 Bb2 0-1** White resigned (diagram right). After 38. Rd1 Bxa3, it does no good to play 39. Bb5 because of 39. ... Bxg7.



White resigns after 37.. Bb2

Kudrin went over the game with me afterwards. He was very gracious, and I appreciated that. He finished the tournament in a 6-way tie for first place with 7 1/2 out of 9, but he came in 2nd on a blitz tiebreaker. His performance at the US Open guarantees him a place in next May's U. S. Invitational Championship in St. Louis.



RECENT GAMES FROM MISSOURI PLAYERS

Queen's Gambit Declined

Columbia Open

W: Andrew Latham (1702)

B: Kevin Cao (2139)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3
Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.e3
c6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-
0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Rc1 b6

10.cxd5 exd5 11.a3 Bb7 12.b4 a5 13.Qb3 axb4
14.axb4 h6 15.Bf4 Nh5 16.Ne2 Nxf4 17.Nxf4 Bd6
18.Ne2 Nf6 19.Bf5 Qe7 20.Bd3 Ba6 21.Rb1 Bxd3
22.Qxd3 Bxb4 23.Rfc1 c5 24.Qb5 Ne4 25.Ne5 Ra2
26.Nf4 Rxf2 27.Nxd5 Rxx2+ 28.Kxx2 Qg5+ 29.Kf3
Nd2+ 30.Ke2 Rxe5 31.dxe5 Qg2+ 32.Kd1 Qxd5
33.Rxb4 Nc4+ 34.Ke2 Qg2+ 35.Kd3 Nxe5+ 36.Kc3
cxb4+ 37.Qxb4 Qc6+ 38.Kd4 Nf3+ 39.Kd3 Qxc1 0-1

Queen's Pawn—unusual lines

Columbia Open

W: Tim Campbell (1426)

B: Jason Zhou (1154)

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4
Nc6 4.Nf3 e6 5.a3 Bd6
6.e3 Bd7 7.Bd3 Qe7
8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne5 a6

10.Bd2 b5 11.Rf3 Rfd8 12.Rh3 b4 13.Bxx7+ Kf8
14.Ne2 bxa3 15.bxa3 Bxa3 16.Bg6 Nxe5 17.fxe5
Ng8 18.Nf4 Bb4 19.Bxb4 Qxb4 20.Bxf7 Kxf7 21.
Qh5+ Kf8 22.Ng6+ Kf7 23.Nh8+ Ke7 24.Qf7# 1-0

Closed Sicilian

Columbia Open

W: Charles Ward (1380)

B: Richard Fox (1589)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.f4
Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bb5+
Bd7 6.Bxd7+ Nxd7
7.0-0 e5 8.d3 Nfg6

9.Qe1 0-0 10.Qh4 Nh5 11.Qg4 f5 12.exf5 Rxf5
13.Nh4 Ndf6 14.Qf3 Qd7 15.Nxf5 Qxf5 16.Qxb7
Rf8 17.fxe5 Qxe5 18.Bd2 Qd4+ 19.Kh1 Kh8 20.Rf3
Ng4 21.Rxf8+ Bxf8 22.Ne4 Qe5 23.Bc3 1-0

Smith Morra Gambit

Columbia Open

W: Vairam Arunachalam (1585)

B: Lucas Johnson (960)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3
dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6
5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Nf3 g6
7.Bf4 d6 8.e5 Nd7

9.exd6 exd6 10.Bxd6 Bxd6 11.Qxd6 Qf6 12.Qd2 0-0
13.0-0 Nde5 14.Nd5 Nxf3+ 15.gxf3 Qxf3 16.Be2
Nd4 17.Qxd4 Qxe2 18.Nf6+ Kg7 19.Ne8+ Kh6
20.Qg7+ Kg5 21.f4+ Kg4 22.Qxf8 Be6 23.Nf6+ Kh3
24.Qh6+ Qh5 25.Nxx5 1-0

Two Knights Defense

Columbia Open

W: Fred Smith (860)

B: David Murdock (1187)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5
3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nf3 Nc6
5.Ng5 0-0 6.d3 d6
7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.Bxd5

h6 9.h4 Ne7 10.Bxf7+ Rxf7 11.Nxf7 Kxf7 12.Qh5+
Ng6 13.Qf3+ Qf6 14.h5 Qxf3 15.hxx6+ Kxx6 16.

gxf3 Bd4 17.c3 Bb6 18.f4 Bg4 19.f5+ Kh7
20.f6 Rf8 21.Bg5 Kg6 22.fxx7 Rg8 23.Bxx6
Bh5 24.Be3 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Rxx7 26.Rg1+ Kh6
27.Kf2 Rf7+ 28.Kg2 Rf3 29.Raf1 Rxe3
30.Rf6+ Kg7 31.Rf5 Bg6 32.Rg5 Kh6 33.Kf2
Rxd3 34.Rxx6+ 1-0

Reti Opening

Columbia Open

W: Vishal Bharadwaj (1197)

B: Ashwath Kumar (1092)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3
g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0
-0 0-0 5.d4 d5
6.Bf4 Nc6 7.c3

b6 8.Qc1 Bb7 9.Bh6 Re8 10.Bxx7 Kxx7
11.Qd1 e5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Rxe5 14.Nd2
Qe8 15.e3 Rd8 16.Qc2 Bc8 17.Nf3 Re7 18.Nh4
Ne4 19.Nf3 c5 20.Rfe1 Kg8 21.Rad1 Bg4 22.h3
Bf5 23.Qe2 Qa4 24.a3 Bc8 25.Nd2 Ba6 26.Qf3
Rde8 27.Bf1 Bxf1 28.Kxf1 Qb5+ 29.Re2 Rd7
30.Ke1 Red8 31.Nxe4 1-0

Nimzo Indian Defense

Columbia Open

W: Doug Howe (1466)

B: Namit Gaur (1670)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4
4.Qb3 Nc6 5.Nf3
0-0 6.Bd2 Bxc3

7.Bxc3 d5 8.e3 b6 9.a4 a5 10.Be2 Ne4 11.0-0
Ba6 12.Rfe1 Ne7 13.Rac1 Qd7 14.Nd2 Nd6
15.c5 bxc5 16.dxc5 Bxe2 17.Rxe2 Rfb8 18.Qa3
Ndf5 19.Nf3 Nc6 20.Ne5 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Rb4
22.b3 Rab8 23.Rb2 Qc6 24.Bc3 R4b7 25.Bxa5
d4 26.exd4 Nxd4 27.b4 Qe4 28.Qe3 Qxe3
29.fxe3 Nc6 30.Rd2 Nxb4 31.Rb1 Nc6 32.Rxb7
Rxb7 33.Rd7 h6 34.Be1 Kf8 35.Rd3 Ne5
36.Rd4 Ke7 37.Bg3 Nc6 38.Rd3 e5 39.Ra3 f6
40.Kf1 Ke6 41.e4 Nd4 42.Kf2 Kd7 43.a5 Kc6
44.a6 Ra7 45.Ra5 Nb3 46.Ra3 Nxc5 47.Kf3
Rxa6 48.Rc3 Kd6 49.Bf2 Ne6 50.Rd3+ Ke7
51.Be1 c5 52.Rc3 Rc6 53.Rc2 Nd4+ 0-1

Colle System

Columbia Open

W: Bob Holliman (2205)

B: Joseph Garnier (1888)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3
Nf6 3.e3 e6
4.Bd3 c5 5.c3
Nc6 6.0-0 Be7

7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 b6 9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7
11.f4 f6 12.e4 c4 13.Bc2 Bc5+ 14.Kh1 fxe5
15.exd5 exd5 16.fxe5 Bf2 17.e6 Bxe1 18.exd7
Bxd7 19.Qxe1 Qf6 20.Nf3 Rae8 21.Qg3 Re2
22.Bg5 Qf7 23.Rc1 Bf5 24.Nd4 Rxc2 25.Nxc2
Bxc2 26.h3 Be4 27.Be3 Qe8 28.Bd4 Rf7
29.Re1 Qf8 30.Kh2 Rf5 31.Re2 h6 32.Rf2 Rxf2
33.Bxf2 Qf6 34.Bd4 Qg6 ½-½

Colle System

Columbia Open

W: Frank Smith (1905)

B: Nathan Swinger (1943)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6
3.e3 Bf5 4.Nbd2 c6
5.c3 e6 6.Qb3 Qc7
7.Nh4 Bg4 8.Bd3

Bd6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nhf3 Bg6 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.0-0
e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.e4 0-0-0
16.exd5 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Nxd5 18.Nf3 Bd6 19.Nd4
h6 20.Qc2 g6 21.a4 Rde8 22.Rb1 f5 23.b4 Re4
24.Bb2 Rhe8 25.a5 a6 26.Rfd1 Qe7 27.Nf3 Re2
28.Qd3 Kc7 29.Kf1 Nf4 30.Qd4 g5 31.Qb6+ Kb8
32.Nd4 Rxf2+ 33.Kxf2 Qe3+ 34.Kf1 Kc8 35.Bc1
Qg3 36.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 37.Nf3 g4 38.Qd4 gxf3
39.Qxf4 Bxf4 40.gxf3 Re3 41.Kf2 Rxc3 42.Rb2
Kc7 43.Re2 Bd6 44.Red2 Bxb4 45.Rd7+ Kb8
46.Rd8+ Ka7 47.Rb1 Bxa5 48.Rd7 Bb6+

In time pressure, white picked up his D7 rook before noticing the defending bishop delivered check.
0-1

Giuoco Piano

Columbia Open

W: Ron Luther (2232)

B: Kevin Cao (2143)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 d6
5.a4 Bg4 6.c3 a5
7.d3 Nf6 8.Nbd2 0-

0 9.h3 Bh5 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nf1 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5
13.Ng3 Bg6 14.Ne4 Ba7 15.Bg5 Qd7 16.Nh4 Nf4
17.Bxf4 exf4 18.Nxg6 hxg6 19.d4 Re7 20.Qf3 Qf5
21.Bd3 Rae8 22.Kf1 g5 23.Re2 Qd7 24.Qh5 f5
25.Bc4+ Re6 26.Nxg5 1-0

French Defense

Columbia Open

W: Fred Smith (860)

B: William Hodel (1192)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5
c5 4.Nf3 cxd4
5.Nxd4 Bc5 6.Nc3
Bxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6

8.Qa4 Bd7 9.Bb5 Nxe5 10.f4 Bxb5 11.Qxb5+ Nc6
12.Qxb7 Rb8 13.Qxc6+ Qd7 14.Qxd7+ Kxd7
15.Be3 Rxb2 16.Kd1 a6 17.Bd4 Ne7 18.Bxg7 Rg8
19.Rb1 Rxb1+ 20.Nxb1 Rxg7 21.g3 Kd6 22.Nd2
Nc6 23.c4 Nb4 24.a4 Nd3 25.Kc2 Nc5 26.a5 Nb7
27.Rb1 Nxa5 28.Rb6+ Kc5 29.Rxa6 Nxc4
30.Nxc4 Kxc4 31.Ra4+ Kc5 32.Kd3 f5 33.Ra5+
Kb6 34.Ra8 Kb7 35.Re8 Rg6 36.Re7+ Kc6
37.Rxh7 Kc5 38.Rc7+ Kd6 39.Ra7 Rh6 40.Ra6+
Ke7 41.Ra7+ Kf6 42.Ra2 Rh7 43.Kd4 Rc7 44.Ra4
Rc2 45.h4 Rg2 46.Ra3 Re2 47.Re3 Ra2 48.h5??
Rh2 49.g4 fxg4 50.Rg3 Kf5 51.Kc5 Kxf4 52.Ra3
Rxh5 53.Ra4+ Kf5 54.Kd6 Rg5 55.Ra8 g3
56.Rf8+ Ke4 57.Kxe6 g2 58. Rf2 g1Q 59.Re2+
Kf3 0-1

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Caro Kann

Columbia Open

W: Lawrence Figg (1473)

B: Rohit Rao (1100)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5
cxd5 4.c4 e6 5.c5 Nc6
6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nf3 a6
8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.0-0 Nf6

10.Nc3 Be7 11.Ne5 0-0 12.b4 Nd7 13.Nxc6 bxc6
14.Be3 e5 15.a4 Rb8 16.Rb1 exd4 17.Bxd4 Re8
18.Qg4 Bf6 19.b5 Bxd4 20.Qxd4 axb5 21.axb5 Ne5
22.f4 Nc4 23.bxc6 Rxb1 24.Rxb1 Na3 25.Rd1 h6
26.Qxd5 Qa5 27.Ne4 Nc2 28.Qd2 Qxd2 29.Nxd2
Rd8 30.Kf2 Rc8 31.Ne4 Rxc6 32.Rd8+ Kh7 33.Rd6
Rc7 34.Ke2 Nb4 35.Nc3 Rxc5 ½-½

Queen's Gambit Declined

Missouri Open

W: Ansar Lemon (1232)

B: Michael Finkelstein (1430)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Bf4
Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3
Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4
7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6

9.Nf3 c5 10.0-0 c4 11.Bc2 Bb7 12.a3 Nh5 13.Bg3
Nxg3 14.fxg3 Nf6 15.Ne5 Bd6 16.Ng4 Be7 17.Rf2 0-
0 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Qe2 e5 20.dxe5 Bxe5 21.Qh5 f5
22.Bxf5 Rxf5 23.Qxf5 Bf6 24.Qe6+ Kh8 25.Rd1
Qg8 26.Qxg8+ Kxg8 27.Rfd2 Bg5 28.Re2 Re8 29.e4
Bc8 30.h3 Bd8 31.Rd6 Bc7 32.Rd5 Bxg3 33.Red2
Bc7 34.Kf1 Rf8+ 35.Ke2 Re8 36.Kd1 Ba5 37.Re2
Bb7 38.Rd4 Bc8 39.Kc2 h6 40.Nd5 Bb7 41.e5 Kf7
42.Nf4 g5 43.Rd7+ Re7 44.e6+ Ke8 45.Rxe7+ Kxe7
46.Ng6+ Ke8 47.e7 Bc8 48.Rf2 b4 49.Rf8+ Kd7
50.e8Q+ Kd6 51.Qxc8 b3+ 52.Kd1 c3 53.Rf6+ Kd5
54.Qf5+ Kd4 55.Qxa5 1-0

King's Indian Defense

Missouri Invitational

W: James McLaughlin (2122)

B: Jialin Ding (2029)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6
3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0
5.e4 d6 6.h3 e5 7.d5
a5 8.g4 Na6 9.Be3 c6

10.Be2 Qc7 11.Nd2 Re8 12.g5 Nd7 13.h4 Ndc5
14.h5 Nb4 15.Nb3 Nxb3 16.Qxb3 Bd7 17.Rh2 Rec8
18.a3 Na6 19.Bb6 Nc5 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.0-0-0 Rab8
22.Rg1 Qd8 23.Qd1 b5 24.f3 b4 25.Nb1 cxd5
26.Qxd5 Be6 27.Qxd8+ Rxd8 28.Rd1 Rd4 29.Rxd4
cxd4 30.Bd3 Bf8 31.axb4 Bxb4 32.Na3 Bxa3
33.bxa3 Rb3 34.Rb2 Rc3+ 35.Kd2 gxf5 notation
incomplete 1-0

Torre Attack

Missouri Open

W: Tim Boyd (1625)

B: Jacob Smith (1309)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6
3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.e3 e6
5.Bd3 Be7 6.Nbd2 c6
7.0-0 0-0 8.c3 b6 9.e4

dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bxe7 Nxf2 12.Bxd8 Nxd1
13.Raxd1 Rxd8 14.Rf2 Nf6 15.Rdf1 Ng4 16.Re2 f6
17.Bc4 Re8 18.Rfe1 Kf7 19.h3 Nh6 20.g4 b5 21.Bb3
Bd7 22.Rf2 Ke7 23.g5 Nf5 24.Bc2 Kd6 25.Rfe2 h6
26.g6 Re7 27.Bxf5 Rae8 28.Bc2 e5 29.dxe5+ fxe5

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30.Kh2 c5 31.Rd2+ Kc7 32.Red1 Bc6 33.Nh4 e4
34.Re1 e3 35.Rde2 Re5 36.Nf5 b4 37.Rxe3 Rxe3
38.Rxe3 Rxe3 39.Nxe3 bxc3 40.bxc3 Kd7 41.Nf5
Bd5 42.a3 Kc7 43.Nxg7 Kb6 44.Nf5 Kb5 45.Ne3
Be6 46.Kg3 Kc6 47.h4 Kd6 48.Kf4 a6 49.Nf5+
Kd7 50.Nxh6 c4 51.g7 1-0

Ruy Lopez

Missouri Open

W: Larry Miller

(1485)

B: Leroy Asher

(1141)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5
5.Bb3 Bc5 6.0-0 h6
7.c3 Ba7 8.d4 exd4

9.cxd4 d6 10.a3 Nf6 11.e5 Nh7 12.exd6 0-0
13.dxc7 Qxc7 14.d5 Rd8 15.Qc2 Bb7 16.dxc6
Qxc6 17.Qxc6 Bxc6 18.Ne5 Bd5 19.Bxd5 Rxd5
20.Nc6 Rd7 21.Nxa7 Raxa7 22.Be3 Ra8 23.Nc3
Nf6 24.Rad1 Rad8 25.Rxd7 Rxd7 26.Rd1 Rxd1+
27.Nxd1 Nd5 28.b4 f5 29.Bd4 Kf7 30.Nc3 Nc7
31.Ne2 Ne6 32.Be5 g6 33.Nc3 Nd8 34.f4 Nc6
35.Bc7 Ke6 36.Kf2 Ne7 37.Ke3 Nd5+ 38.Nxd5
Kxd5 39.Kd3 g5 40.h4 gxh4 41.Bd8 h5 42.Bxh4
Ke6 43.Kd4 Kd6 44.g3 Ke6 45.Kc5 Kd7 46.Kd5
Ke8 47.Ke5 1-0

Ruy Lopez

Missouri Invitational

W: Ken Jones

(2232)

B: Brad Schlosser

(1857)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5
7.Bb3 0-0 8.d4 d6

9.c3 Bg4 10.Be3 Qd7 11.Nbd2 Rfe8 12.h3 Bh5
13.Bc2 Bf8 14.Qb1 exd4 15.Nxd4 Ne5 16.Bg5 Bg6
17.f4 h6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.fxe5 Rxe5 20.N2f3 Rh5
21.Nf5 d5 22.N5h4 Bc5+ 23.Kh1 Bf2 24.Nxg6
Rhx3+ 25.gxh3 Qxh3+ 26.Nh2 Bg3 27.Re2 Bxh2
28.Qf1 1-0

Smith Morra Gambit

Missouri Open

W: William Nesham

(1727)

B: Earney Pattrick

(1500)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4
3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3
Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6
6.Bc4 e6 7.Bf4 a6

8.e5 Qc7 9.Qd2 Ng4 10.Qe2 d5 11.exd6 Bxd6
12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.Rd1 Qe7 14.Nd4 Nge5 15.Nxc6
Nxc6 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rd3 b5 18.Bb3 Bb7 19.Ne4
Rad8 20.Rg3 Nd4 21.Qg4 f5 22.Qg5 Ne2+ 23.Kh1
Nxg3+ 24.hxg3 Qxg5 25.Bxe6+ Kh8 26.Nxg5 Bd5
27.Re1 Rde8 28.Re3 Bxe6 29.Nxe6 Rf6 0-1

Grunfeld Defense

Missouri Open

W: Zoe Lemon

(770)

B: Steven Rand

(1734)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7
5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 c6

7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.0-0 Nf6
11.Qc2 Qd8 12.Rfe1 Nd5 13.Bg3 Nb4 14.Qb3
Nxd3 15.Qxd3 Qb6 16.b3 Rd8 17.Rac1 f6
18.Qc4+ Kf8 19.a4 a5 20.Qc5 Qxb3 21.Rc4 Rd5
22.Rc3 Qb4 23.Qc4 Be6 24.e4 Qxc4 25.Rxc4 Rb5
26.axb5 Bxc4 27.bxc6 bxc6 28.Rc1 Bb5 29.Rc5 a4
30.Rc1 a3 31.Ra1 c5 32.dxc5 Bd3 33.e5 Bc4
34.exf6 exf6 35.Nd4 Bd5 36.Nf3 a2 37.Kf1 Bxf3
38.gxf3 f5 39.Bd6+ Kg8 0-1

Sicilian Defense - Najdorf

Missouri Open

W: David Meliti

(1880)

B: James Ellis

(2200)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6
6.Be2 e6 7.Bg5 Be7

8.Qd2 a6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.f4 Qa5 11.0-0 Rb8
12.Rab1 h6 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Kh1 h5 15.Qe3 Qb6
16.Nd1 d5 17.Qxb6 Rxb6 18.Bf3 a5 19.Ne3 Ba6
20.Rfe1 d4 21.Nf1 c5 22.b3 h4 23.Nd2 Kd7
24.Be2 Bd6 25.Bxa6 Bxf4 26.Bc4 Bxd2 27.Rf1
Ke7 28.Rf3 Rh6 29.Rbf1 Bg5 30.e5 f5 31.c3 Be3
32.Bd3 f4 33.cxd4 cxd4 34.Rxf4 Bxf4 35.Rxf4
Rc6 36.Bc4 Rc5 37.Kg1 Rxe5 38.Rxd4 Rf6 39.h3
Rh6 40.a4 Rc5 41.Bb5 Rc7 42.b4 e5 43.Rg4 f5
44.Rg7+ Kd6 45.Rg5 Rc1+ 46.Kh2 axb4 47.Rxf5
b3 48.Rf2 Rc2 0-1

Colle System

Missouri Invitational

W: Isaiah Gadson

(1975)

B: Ken Jones

(2232)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6
3.e3 Bg7 4.Bd3 d6
5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2
Nc6 7.c3 e5 8.Qb3

Qe7 9.e4 Nh5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Nc4 Rd8 12.Qc2
Bg4 13.Be2 Nf4 14.Bxf4 exf4 15.h3 Be6 16.Rad1
a5 17.a4 h6 18.Na3 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Re8 20.Nb5
Be8 21.Bd3 Ne5 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.Nd4 Bxd4
24.cxd4 f3 25.Qd2 Qh4 26.Qe3 fxg2 27.Kxg2 c6
28.Qf3 Be6 29.Bc2 f5 30.d5 fxe4 31.Bxe4 Bxh3+
32.Qxh3 Qxe4+ 33.Qf3 cxd5 34.Rxd5 Qxa4
35.Rd6 Qe4 36.Rb6 Qxf3+ 37.Kxf3 Rf8+ 38.Kg3
Kg7 39.Rxb7+ Rf7 40.Rb6 h5 41.b4 Ra7 42.b5 a4
43.Ra6 Rb7 44.b6 Kh6 45.f3 a3 46.Ra7 Rxb6
47.Rxa3 Rb5 48.Ra4 Rg5+ 49.Kh3 Rf5 50.Kg3
Rb5 51.Rc4 Rb3 52.Rc5 g5 53.Rc6+ Kg7 54.Kg2
Rb5 55.Kg3 Rf5 56.Rb6 Rf6 57.Rb5 Kg6 58.Ra5
h4+ 59.Kg2 Kh5 60.Rb5 Rf4 61.Ra5 Rb4 62.Ra2
Kg6 63.Kh3 Kf5 64.Kh2 Kf4 65.Kg2 h3+
66.Kxh3 Kxf3 67.Ra3+ Kf4 68.Ra2 g4+ 69.Kg2
Kg5 70.Kg3 Rb3+ 71.Kg2 Kh4 72.Rc2 Rb4
73.Ra2 Kg5 74.Rf2 Rb3 75.Ra2 Rc3 1/2-1/2

Scholastic Schedule

November 21st, November Class Tournament

Parkade Center, Columbia, MO. Entry Fee: \$15
Registration: 9am-9:45am. 3RD G/30. Rounds:
10am, 11:15am, 12:30, Awards at 2pm. Players
will be grouped in rating classes for competition
and awards. Some classes may be merged. Addi-
tional Info: Tim Campbell, trjcamp@aol.com

December 5th, Gateway Board Tournament

Chaminade College Prep School, 425 South
Lindberg Blvd, St. Louis MO 63131.
Registration 8am-8:30am, advanced registration at
www.gatewaychess.org. Entry Fee \$10, late en-
trants \$20 High School division is 4Rd G/60,
Eighth and below is 6Rd G/30.
Additional Information: www.gatewaychess.org

January 9th, Gateway Team Tournament

Lindbergh High School, 4900 S. Lindbergh, St.
Louis MO 63126 Registration 8am-8:30am, ad-
vanced reg at www.gatewaychess.org.
Entry Fee \$10, late entrants \$20 4rd G/60,
Additional Information: www.gatewaychess.org

January 16th, January Class Tournament

Parkade Center, Columbia, MO. Entry Fee: \$15
Registration: 9am-9:45am. 3RD G/30. Rounds:
10am, 11:15am, 12:30, Awards at 2pm. Players
will be grouped in rating classes for competition
and awards. Some classes may be merged. Addi-
tional Info: Tim Campbell, trjcamp@aol.com

January 30th, Gateway Class Tournament

Lindbergh High School, 4900 S. Lindbergh, St.
Louis MO 63126 Registration 8am-8:30am,
advanced registration at www.gatewaychess.org.
Entry Fee \$10, late entrants \$20 4rd G/60, Players
will be divided into four sections based on rating.
1000 and above, 800-999, 600-799, and Under 600.
Additional Information: www.gatewaychess.org

Saturday Feb 6th, Gateway Action Tournament

Westminster Christian Academy, 10900 Ladue
Road, St. Louis, MO 63141 Registration 8am-
8:30am, advanced registration at
www.gatewaychess.org. Entry Fee \$10, late en-
trants \$20 6RD G/30. All players play in one sec-
tion. Prizes based on grade. Additional Informa-
tion: www.gatewaychess.org

Missouri State

Scholastic Chess Championships!

Saturday February 27th,

Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty St., Jefferson
City, MO 65101 Registration 8:30am- 9:30am ,
advanced registration at www.gatewaychess.org.
Entry Fee \$20, late entrants \$30, High School Divi-
sion plays 4RD G/60, 8th and below plays 6RD
G/30. This is the Official State Championship
Event and the largest Chess Tournament in Mis-
souri. Over 500 players expected! Additional Info:
www.gatewaychess.org

Upcoming National Events:

National Youth Action, November 20-22

Double Tree Hotel, Oakbrook Illinois (near Chi-
cago) This is a nine round G/30 tournament. Entry
Fee \$40. Check out www.nya2009.com for details

National K-12 Championship, December 11-13

Location: Hilton Anatole, Dallas, Texas.
Play only in your grade! 7RD G/120 Entry Fee
\$50, <http://main.uschess.org/tournaments/2009k12>

US Junior Chess Congress, February 19-21

Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. 6RD G/30.
Sections 12th & Under, 8th & Under, 6th & Under,
3rd & Under. Club Teams welcome. See
www.2010ChessCongress.com for details

National Junior High Championship

April 9th—11th

(Open to K-9), Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis,
Minnesota. See www.uschess.org for details soon

National High School Championship

April 16th—18th

(open to K-12), Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio
See www.uschess.org for details soon
The 2010 All Girls National Championship will be
running concurrently to this event!

National Elementary Championship

May 7th—9th

(Open to K-6), Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, Georgia
See www.uschess.org for details soon.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



November 7th - Springfield Tournament

3RR G/90 2215 South Fremont Ave. Springfield, Missouri. Registration: 9:15-9:30am
Round Times: 9:45, 12:30, 3:30. EF \$3. Prizes b/15. \$20 first, \$10 U1400/Unr, and \$10 best female.
Additional Information: Joe Brozovich: 417-882-3922

November 21st—Autumn Open — Joplin

5SS G/60 (2 sections based on rating) Dalton-Killinger Construction, 1301 W 4th St. Joplin, MO 64801.
Entry fee: \$10 if pre-registered, \$15 at site, Round Times: 9:00, 11:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00. lunch break at 1:00
Advance Registration requested. Entry fees may be paid in cash in person on 11/21, or checks (payable to Martin Stahl) can be mailed, to be received by 11/20. Entries/Info: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org, (417) 781-9091; (417) 483-1554 day of the tournament, Joplin Chess Club, 2609 New Hampshire, Joplin, Mo 64804

November 28th—Thanksgiving Open - St Louis

4SS, G/75. Chess Club & Scholastic Center, 4657 Maryland Ave. Saint Louis MO 63108. EF: \$35, \$30 for annual members of the club. MCA Membership Req'd from \$5. OSA. PF (b/50): \$1500: \$200 1st/ \$50 2nd in each M/X, A, B, C, D, U1200. Reg: 9 - 9:50. Rds: 10, 12:45, 3:30, 6. One 1/2 point bye if declared before round 1. Ent: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org

December 26th—Christmas Open - St. Louis

4SS, G/75. Chess Club & Scholastic Center, 4657 Maryland Ave. Saint Louis MO 63108. EF: \$30, \$20 for annual members of the club. MCA Membership Req'd from \$5. OSA. PF (b/45): \$900: \$150 1st each M/X, A, B, C, D, U1200. Registration: 9 - 9:50. Rds: 10, 12:45, 3:30, 6. One 1/2 point bye if declared before round 1. Entries: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org

January 23rd—Mikhail Botvinnik Open - Columbia

3SS, G/75. Memorial Union room N208, 518 Hitt St., Columbia, MO. Directions: From I-70 exit 126, south on Providence, east on Rollins, north on Hitt. Entry fee: \$1, NO PRIZES-Just the satisfaction of playing well. Two rating equivalent sections if 18+ players. Reg: 9:30-10:15. Rds: 10:30-1:15-4:00. Entries/Info: Charles Ward, 2400 Cimarron Drive, Columbia, MO 65203, 573-443-6685 <czar8196@tranquility.net>

March 19th-21st, 2010—Mid America Open - St. Louis

A Continental Chess Association Event. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Clayton, MO see—www.chesstour.com

Visit www.mochess.org/Tournaments.htm for an up-to-date calendar of Missouri chess events.

MCB Material Submissions:

The MCB is Missouri's Official Chess Publication, for and by the members of the Missouri Chess Association. Your help providing material for the MCB will be much appreciated. All submissions become the property of the MCA and the MCA reserves the right to edit any and all material received for publication.

Please send material for the MCB, including but not limited to:

- annotated games (PGN format is preferred, but others can be used)
- articles written by members
- articles from outside sources, with permission for republication
- pictures
- historical items
- scoresheets
- chess related quotes, sayings, and jokes
- anything else you would like to contribute that's appropriate

**Submission Deadline for
the next issue of the MCB:
January 5th, 2009**

All contributions that are true, fair, and builds goodwill and better friendships among the membership will be published. Thanks so much to all those who have contributed.



Membership & Subscriptions

A one-year membership in the Missouri Chess Association includes a subscription to the quarterly *Missouri Chess Bulletin* chess publication, available in electronic or hard-copy, as well as eligibility to play in MCA-sponsored tournaments, including State Championship titled events.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS	COST (1 YR)
Regular <i>Ages 25+; Includes hard-copy MCB.</i>	\$12.00
Scholastic <i>Under 25; Includes hard-copy MCB.</i>	\$8.00
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If you would like to join the MCA, please fill out a membership form (*available at mochess.org*) and mail it along with dues to the MCA Membership Coordinator:

Nathaniel Fast
630 Broadway
Jefferson City, MO 65101
<nathanielfast@yahoo.com>

Be sure to include your E-mail address to receive tournament announcements and notices when the new issue of the MCB is released.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mochess.org/> and click the Join Us' link.

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Missouri State Champions



Missouri State Champion
International Master Michael A. Brooks



Denker Champion
Brad Schlosser



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Selden Trimble



Polgar Champion
Margaret Hua



Quick Champion
Kevin Cao

Blitz Champion
Kevin Cao

2009 Class Champions

Master —	Ronald G. Luther & Kevin Y. Cao
Expert	
Class A	Henry Cao
Class B	Steven J. Rand
Class C	Richard Fox
Class D	Alex V. Esposito
Class E	David B. Reitz
Novice	Mark L. Johnson



Bughouse Champion Team
Tony Dutiel & Elizabeth Oliver

For a complete history of Missouri Champions, visit www.mochess.org & click the Champions Link.

Missouri Chess Hall of Fame



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Inducted: 2000



Mr. Donald Oswald
Inducted: 2001



Mr. Robert M. Jacobs
Inducted: 2002



Mr. Michael A. Brooks
Inducted: 2003

*Chess, like any creative activity,
can exist only through the combined
efforts of those who have creative
talent, and those who have the
ability to organize their creative
work.*

-Mikhail Botvinnik



Mr. Robert H. Steinmeyer
Inducted: 2006



Mr. John V. Ragan
Inducted: 2008



Mr. William H. Wright
Inducted: 2009

Missouri Chess Association
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