



ICB

ILLINOIS

CHESS BULLITEN

JULY & AUGUST 2007



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The Chess Rope-a-Dope

BY VINCENT HART

Volunteer High School Chess Coach



In October 1974, Muhammed Ali beat the much younger and heavily favored George Foreman to recapture the heavyweight boxing championship that had been stripped from Ali in 1967 for refusing to obey the draft. Ali achieved this feat by leaning up against the ropes and allowing Foreman to exhaust himself for seven rounds with ineffective punches in the intense heat of Kinshasa, Zaire. In the eighth round of the "Rumble in the Jungle," Ali came off the ropes and sent Foreman to the canvas. Ali dubbed his strategy "rope-a-dope."

One thing I found disappointing as a coach this year was the way my players reacted to bad positions. After a blunder, they seemed ready to accept the inevitability of defeat. Rather than looking to frustrate their opponent by making the win as difficult as possible, they would usually go in for some cheap tactics that would bring the end on quickly. Sometimes a wild attack may be the only hope, but in many situations playing actively only creates more weaknesses.

More often than not, the best chance is offered by playing stubborn defense, dragging the game out as long as possible, and forcing an opponent to prove he can win a won position. Each move that prolongs the game frustrates the player with the advantage. Moreover, the

frustration is often proportional to the magnitude of the advantage, i.e., the bigger the advantage, the more frustrated the player becomes when he is not able to put the game away. Best of all for the defender, frustration often induces passivity as the opponent starts trying to preserve the advantage rather than exploiting it. Finally, if he starts to feel his advantage slipping away, he may make the mistakes that turn the game around.

Since my players have not shown much aptitude for defending lost positions, I thought I would share one of my own games to illustrate how a strong young player can become frustrated by a determined defense. (It also shows how poorly a high school coach can play an opening.) The tournament was the Rockford Invitational in December of 2005 and my opponent was Byron Chen whose recent exploits include a perfect score on first board for York High School at the 2007 State Championship. After blundering the exchange and a pawn in the opening, I did my best to play "rope-a-dope."

Hart, Vince - Chen, Byron

**1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6
4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Nge2 Nf6
7.0-0 0-0 8.f4?!**

This is not really a "dubious" move. In fact, GM Kosten and IM Watson think it is quite strong. However, I have never handled the resulting positions very well while I have done fine in the kind of positions that follow 8.d3. So I figure I deserve a "?!" for playing it.

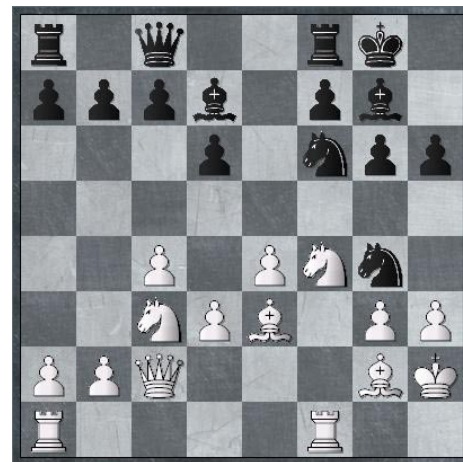
8...exf4 9.Nxf4 Ne5!?

I am not used to seeing a knight on this square. The logical thing would have been to take some time to figure out what the steed might have in mind. Instead, I just forged ahead playing "natural" moves.

**10.d3 Bg4 11.Qc2 h6 12.h3 Bd7
13.Be3 Qc8 14.Kh2??**

How pathetic. 14.Ncd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Re8 would have been fine for White.

14...Neg4+!



I actually thought that he might play this move after taking on h3, but for some reason it did not occur to me that he could play it immediately.

**15.hxg4 Nxg4+ 16.Kh1 Nxe3
17.Qd2 Nxf1 18.Rxf1 c6**

It is not unusual to get some unexpected compensation after a blunder but I do not see much here. Black was able to pick off the material without neglecting development, weakening his pawn structure, exposing his king, or misplacing

his pieces. White's knights have no potential outposts and I cannot afford to play actively for fear of opening diagonals for Byron's bishops. The only thing White has going is a space advantage by virtue of the central pawns. I made up my mind to maintain it as long as possible although I was really hoping that Byron would find a way to put me out of my misery quickly.

As painful as it was for me to look at this position, it was worse to think of the other players in the tournament looking at it. The rest of the field for the Rockford Invitational consisted of Al Chow, Glen Gratz, Joe Guth, Jordan McDonald, Ilan Meerovich, and Eric Rosen. I am not sure which of them came over to look at the game because I refused to take my eyes off the board lest I see the look of pity (or disgust) on someone's face, but I heard them coming up behind me from time to time. In the end, I think the concentration that was induced by my embarrassment may have helped me hold on.

19.d4 Qd8

Sometimes a player has a position that seems to play itself, but fortunately for me, Byron's didn't. Black needs to open up some files and diagonals for his bishops and rooks with something like 19...Kh7 20.b3 f5. However, Black's position is so solid that he is unwilling to create any weaknesses at all. By failing to activate his superior forces he lets White stay in the game. More importantly, having declined to play actively when he has a big advantage, Black seems reluctant to play actively later when his advantage had become smaller.

20.b3 Qg5 21.Nce2 Rad8 22.Qb4 Bc8 23.Qe1 Bg4 24.Kh2

I consider this a "rope-a-dope" move because my main concern is not to give Black any targets. I really wanted to play 24.Qf2 to cover the d-pawn so I could find a better spot for the knight, but I was afraid that it might encourage him to play ...f5. As long as Black has not found a way to break through yet, maintaining the status quo is not bad for White.

24...Rfe8

I found this move encouraging because it shows that Black has no intention of playing ...f5.

25.Qf2 Rd7 26.b4 More "rope-a-dope." I did not like loosening my pawn structure this way, but I wanted to maintain the status quo on the kingside and I thought it might frustrate Black if he thought that White was pursuing some sort of active plan on the other side of the board.

26...Bxe2 27.Nxe2 d5? 28.cxd5 cxd5 29.e5

Up until here, I had just been waiting for Byron to find a way to put me out of my misery, but now Black has an actual weakness in the d-pawn that White might hope to exploit.

29...Qh5+?

29...f6 is probably the best move, but I can see why he might not be eager to expose his king when he had not been able to get at mine yet, particularly since he declined to open the f-file earlier when his position was stronger. 29...Qd2 is the move that scared me the most. I had no idea how I would untangle my pieces, but having let part of his advantage slip away, Black finds it hard to play actively now.

30.Kg1 g5??

He wants to keep the knight out of f4, but now I can threaten to trap his queen.

31.Qf5!



Black is forced to return the exchange.

31...Qxe2 32.Qxd7 Rf8 33.Bxd5 Qe3+ 34.Kg2 Qe2+ 35.Rf2 Qh5 36.Qxb7 g4 37.Rf4 Qg6 38.Be4 Qe6 39.Qxa7 Qc4 40.Qb7 Qxa2+ 41.Rf2 Qc4 42.Bd5 Qxd4 43.Rxf7??

This gives Black the opportunity to get back in the game. 43.Bxf7+ Kh8 44.e6 would have maintained White's advantage.

43...Rxf7??

After 43...Kh8! it is very hard for White to exploit the extra pawn with his king so exposed.

44.Qxf7+ Kh7 45.Qg8+ Kg6 46.Bf7+ Kf5 47.Qh7+ Kxe5 48.Qxg7+ 1-0

After my performance in this tournament, Brad Rosen commented that "age and treachery will triumph over youth and skill." Also worth remembering are the words of one of the strongest players never to become world champion, Paul Keres: "However hopeless

the situation appears to be there yet always exists the possibility of putting up a stubborn resistance. And it is the player's task to find these opportunities and make the best of them. When the player with the upper hand is continually confronted by new problems, when, at every moment, one renders the win as difficult as possible, then it is likely that his powers will eventually weaken and he may make some mistake."

Faced with a bad position, it is always tempting to go in for a few cheap shots. If your opponent falls for one, then the game is turned around. If he doesn't, then the game is over quickly and you don't have to look at it anymore.

Nevertheless, I am hoping that I can convince my players next year that stubbornness is a very valuable quality in a chess player. When playing an inferior position, maintaining the status quo can be just as good as improving your position.

Every move that does not bring your opponent closer to victory has the potential to increase his frustration. Moreover, passivity breeds passivity. Your opponent may be tempted to wait until your position falls apart on its own. If you do not do anything that encourages him to play actively, he may not be able to pull the trigger when he needs to.

Vince Hart is a volunteer chess coach. His Coach's Corner series stems from his experience both coaching and playing chess.

Illinois CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

December 1, 2007. 2007 Illinois Class Championships.

4R-SS G/60 - \$3000 b/80 paid entries.

Oakton Community College, Business Institute. 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

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Entry Fee: \$50 Adult, \$40 Youth both postmarked by 11/24; \$65 Adult, \$55 Youth at door (Youth entries count as 2/3 entry). Mail payments (made payable to) and registration to: North American Chess Association, 2516 N. Waukegan Rd. Suite 342, Glenview, IL 60025. Byes: One 1/2pt bye allowed, Rd 4 bye must commit by start of Rd 2. November Rating Supplement used. Schedule: Reg: 8:30-9:30am, Rds: 10, 12:30, 3, 5:30. Re-entry: \$25 only 1/2pt in Rd 1 - no re-entries after Rd 2.

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illinois high school chess:

<http://www.ihsa.org/activity/ch/index.htm>



Game Analysis with IM ANGELO YOUNG

White should continue developing his kingside. A much better idea: [5.Bd3 Ngf6 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 cxd4 9.cxd4 e5 10.Nc4+-]

5...a6 6.Nc4

White is giving up too many tempos just to get the knight to e3, which is not even the usual place.

6...b5! 7.Ne3 cxd4 8.Nxd4!? Ngf6 9.a4 b4



10.Nc6

[10.cxb4 Nxe4 11.Be2 d5 12.0-0 Bxb4 13.f3 Nef6 14.Nc6 Qb6 15.Nxb4 Qxb4]

10...Qc7 11.Nxb4 Nxe4 12.Qd4

[12.Bd3 d5 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Qd4 Bb7 15.0-0 Bd6 black is still preferable.]

12...Nec5 13.Bc4 Bb7

Keeping my options open. I may castle to either side.

14.0-0 Ne5 15.Re1 Be7 16.Ng4 Nxc4

Black is better. He has a pair of bishops, a flexible center, and better

placement for his pieces.

17.Qxc4 0-0 18.a5 f5 19.Ne3 Rac8 20.Nec2 d5 21.Qe2 Bd6 22.h3 Rce8 23.Be3 Qc8 24.Rad1 Ne4 25.Bd4 Bb8 26.Bb6 h6

...a very good waiting move.

27.Ne3?

Now comes the breakthrough.

27...f4! 28.Nf1 f3 29.gxf3 Ng5 30.Nd2 Nxf3+ 31.Kh1 Nf4 32.Qf1 Rf5 33.Be3 Rh5+ 34.Kg1 Qc7 35.Bb6 Ne2+



Mate is inevitable. **0-1**

Auger,M - IM Young,A [B22] 5th North American FIDE Invitational, 2007

1.e4 c5 2.c3 The Alapin c3 is the most positional Anti-Sicilian . White tries to build up the center with d4 & e4 and develop both knights normally Nc3 and Nf3 . GM's J. polgar ,J.Nunn,N. Short, Kramnik, To name a few who used this system in tournament play.

2...d6

[2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Qa4+ Bd7 7.Qb3 cxd4 8.Bc4 Qe4+ 9.Kf1 e6 10.Nxd4 Nc6 11.Nd2 Qg6 12.Qxb7 Rb8 13.Qc7 Rc8 14.Qg3 Nxd4 15.Qxg6 hxg6 16.cxd4 Bb4 17.b3 Black went on to win in 49 moves . GM J. De la Villa - GM V. Topalov

Other Tries ;;

2...Nf6;

2...g6;

2...e6]

3.d4 Nd7

Nd7 is to side step from the main variations.

4.Nf3 e6 5.Na3?

Nienart,C - IM Young,A [B07]
Touch Move Game 29, 02.2007

1.e4

This game was played at the Touch Move Chess Center back in February.

1...d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6

One of my favorites: the Pribyl defense. One of its characteristics is a solid position with some possibility of attacking the queenside with b5

and a5.

4.Be2 Qc7 5.d4 e5 Black must stop e5 otherwise his position gets cramped.

6.0-0

Normally i would play a more solid approach Be7 and then castle but this game was played in the last round so we both need to win to claim the top prize.

6...b5 7.a3

No1. choice by Shredder. Other moves to consider: [7.Be3 b4 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Na4 Nxe4 10.c3 bxc3 11.bxc3 Nf6 with an unclear game]

7...a6

I'm thinking of playing c5 at some point.

8.Nh4 Be7 9.f4 exd4 10.Qxd4 0-0 11.Nf5!?



This is interesting i didnt even consider this move in my analysis. I was looking at...

[11.Be3 Re8 12.Rad1 Ng4 13.Bxg4 Bxg4 14.Nf5 Bxf5 15.exf5 Bf6 with a better game for black.]

11...Bxf5

I can't let the knight stand on f5

12.exf5 Nbd7

I consider this position back to even

but now comes...

13.g4!!

This move almost threw me off my game completely. First, I have to deal with the initial threats of g5 and f6 destroying my kingside pawn structure.

13...d5 14.b4

This stops Bc5 exclam!! winning the queen right away.

14...c5 15.Nxd5 cxd4 16.Nxc7



Ra7 17.Nxa6

Only move and the best. With only a game/29 time control this is a sound sacrifice.

17...Rxa6 18.Bxb5 Ra7 19.g5

Chris and I looked at Bb2 after the game: [19.Bb2 Nxg4 20.Bxd4 Rc7 21.c4 Nh6 22.Be5 Nxe5 23.fxe5 Ng4 24.Rae1 we concluded that this is very dangerous for black .]

19...Ne4 20.Bb2 Nc3 21.Bxc3 dxc3

White now commits a serious mistake.

22.Rf3? Bxb4 23.Bxd7

White missed the check.

23...Bc5+ 24.Kg2 Rxd7 25.Rxc3?? Rd2+ 26.Kf3 Bd4 0-1

JULY 28, 2007. IT'S BACK! EVANSTON ECONOMY OPEN

IT'S BACK! THE SECOND EVANSTON CHESS CLUB ECONOMY OPEN.

Where: Levy Activity Center, 300 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, IL.

4 round SS, G/29.

Registration: 9:00 a.m.

Rounds: 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. (estimate.), 12:30 p.m. (est.), 2:00 p.m. (est.).

Entry Fee: \$5.00.

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Other: All on-site payments for entries or USCF memberships are cash only. We cannot guarantee space for on-site entrants. Please bring clocks and sets. Skittles area will be available. Players under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent.

More information:
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Touch and Go Chess Party- ONE MAN'S DAILY GRIND

A PICTORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY
STREETS BY DAPHNE KARAGIANIS

Cecil Locke:
Touch and Go Chess Party

I knew they'd be out this year-someone, anyway.

All I had to do was ride down Michigan Avenue on my bike and it wouldn't be long before I would spot the chess players at the long tables. Last summer, they were the one staple of my ride to Columbia.

Usually the chess setup drew a big crowd, but today was a different story.

City of Chicago Authorities forced Cecil Locke and his "Touch and Go Chess Party" to move out of the highly crowded tourist attraction now called Millennium Park.

Cecil had been stationed there for as long as I can remember, but since the installment of "The Bean" and "The Pavilion", there just isn't room anymore.

Cecil was a little saddened the day I met up with him, and his table wasn't quite filled to it's usual maximum occupancy, but I told him it was probably better that he had re-located to his new, more visible perch on Michigan Avenue and expressed hope that people would soon come.

His tables are decorated with bright colors, streamers with chess pieces, pinwheels, and speakers that never actually announce or play anything, but serve to decorate and entertain nonetheless.

At noon the touch and go chess party is in high action. Men on lunch

break in collared shirts and others from the street with no shirts at all duke it out for love of the game. Chess, here, at least, appears to have no boundaries.

Cecil accepts donations, but never demands- he's out there to see his usual friends, he says, and play a few games of chess along the way.

If you should ever find yourself in Chicago this summer, walk down Michigan Avenue (as if you wouldn't), and soon enough you'll spot the black and white boards, old school clocks, and Cecil out running the show.

Tell him Daphne sent you. (And ask him what the speakers are for.)





...IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT CHICAGO'S OWN LIFE MASTER LEN WEBER STUMBLED ACCROSS THE SAME PARTY! HERE IS HIS TAKE.

"A beautiful day downtown, sun shining, people bustling, maybe a bit on the cool side. And what is this? In the heart of the city? Chess being played on Michigan Avenue. Some of the boards are marked one dollar, some two dollars. Pay the man, and play as long as you like on the set. Plenty of people around, no one seemed to have to wait more than a minute or two for an opponent.

At the insistence of my companion, I am forced into a game when she shoves 2 dollars at the proprietor! An opponent soon materializes."

Here is the game I played:

Unknown - L. Weber
6 May 2007
Michigan & Monroe
Chicago "Touch play"

1. d4 d5
2. c4 dc4
3. e4 e5
4. d5 c6
5. Bc4 Nf6
6. Bg5 Qa5
7. Bd2 Qc5
8. Qe2 Be7
9. Nc3 b5
10. Bb3 b4
11. Na4 Qd4
12. f3 Ba6
13. Qe3 cd5
14. ed5 Bb7
15. Rc1 Na6
16. Qd4 ed4
17. Ne2 Nd5
18. Nd4 O-O
19. Nf5 Rfe8
20. Ne7 Re7
21. Kf2 Rae8
22. Rhe1 Re1
23. Re1 Re1
24. Ke1 Kf8
25. Ke2 Ke7
26. Bc4 Kd6
27. Kd3 f6
28. b3 Nc5
29. Nc5 Kc5
30. Be1 a5
31. Bf2 Kd6
32. Bg3 Kc5
33. Bf2 Kd6
34. Bg3 1/2-1/2

The game was played without clock. Neither of us asked names or rating. Good old fashioned street chess. If anyone can identify my opponent, feel free to let us know! The game is flawed, gritty, like Chicago itself. I believe both my opponent and I delivered a good effort and so the result reflects justice.

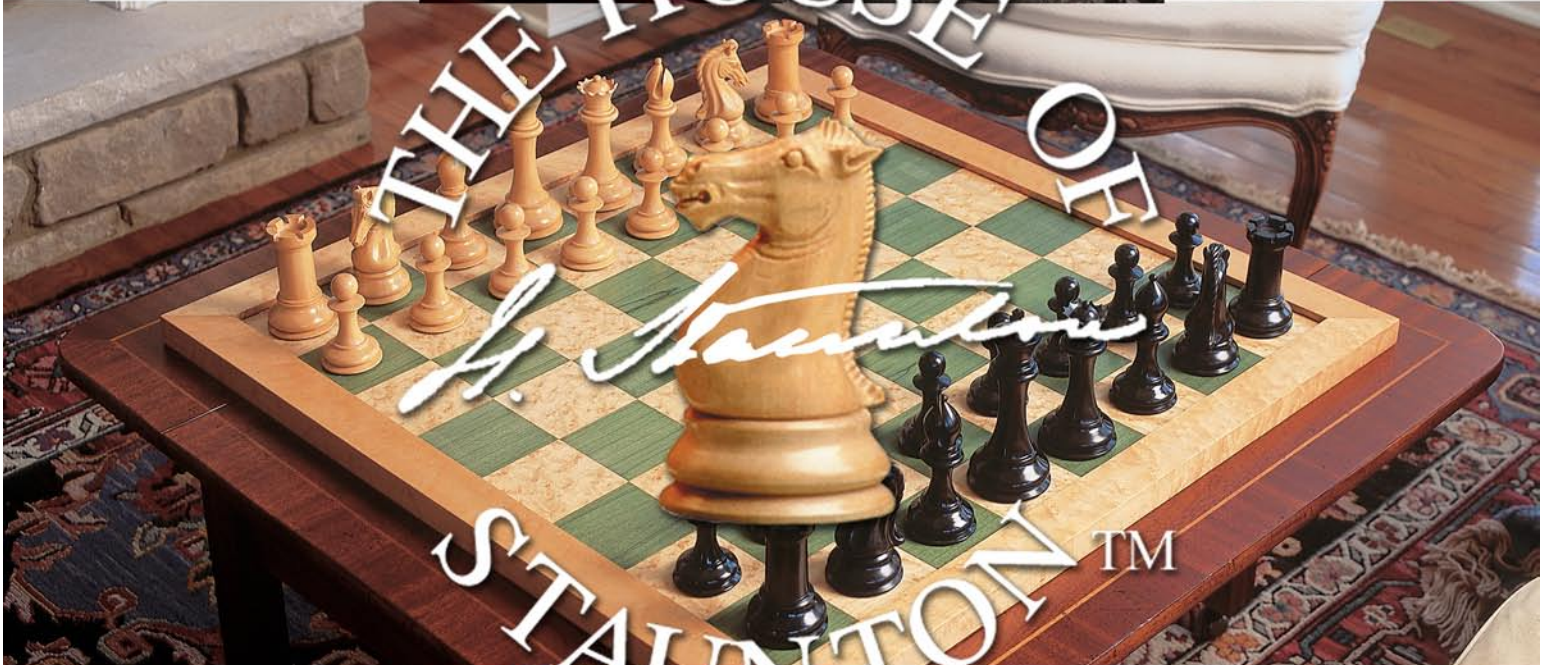
About a half hour of tough chess, and then just as quickly I am whisked away and then on to get a Maxwell Polish!



Photo by Kathy Zack

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Agony and Learning

AT THE CHICAGO OPEN

GAMES AND ANALYSIS

FROM BILL BROCK

After almost a year away from tournament play, I found myself in the awkward position of having given up on USCF but very far from kicking my addiction to chess, my pazerhood notwithstanding.

Fortunately, there's this loophole called "Tournament Membership" that allows one to play in an event without becoming a USCF member. And so (after a fun warmup at an Evanston Action event directed by Maret Thorpe), I found myself once again doing what I usually do at the Chicago Open: making embarrassing blunders in the opening (two this year!), winning ugly, and playing one or two decent games.... But this year was different in one respect: I played two fascinating endgames, both of which reached six-piece tablebase draws.

However, my opponents, Chris Nienart in Round 2 and Jim Dean in Round 5, applied tremendous pressure and I lost both games after both players had used virtually all our allotted time. While I was pleased with my play in portions of these two games, Messrs. Nienart and Dean have even more reason to be proud.

Chess computer nerds (and non-nerdy users such as you, gentle reader) are almost certainly familiar with the Thompson and Nalimov databases that solve all five-piece endings. But the fact that all non-trivial SIX-piece endings have been solved, and are readily available online, is less well known. (Five pieces against the bare king is deemed "trivial.") You can follow along with, and perhaps correct, my analysis by consulting the following website:

<http://www.shredderchess.com/online-chess/online-databases/endgame-database.html> Or simply Google "Shredder endgame database"! Finally, thanks to Chris Nienart for reconstructing the game score and his analysis of crucial variations.

**Brock,B (2018) - Nienart,C (2227) [D94]
Chicago Open (2), 26.05.2007
[Bill Brock]**

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.e3

At least Kramnik and Topalov agree on something: both used this move against their most hated opponent. Worried about Chebanenko, Botvinnik/Anti-Botvinnik, Meran/Anti-Meran lines? Worry no more: wimp out with 4.e3!

4...g6

A sensible choice. [In round 6, Tony Cao played 4...Bf5 after which I bored him with 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nh4 and an eventual draw.]

5.Nc3 Bg7 6.b3 0-0

[Black could try to blow open the long diagonal with 6...c5, but it doesn't look scary to me.]

7.Bb2

"You are getting sleepy, sleeeepy..."

**7...Bf5 8.Be2 Ne4 9.0-0 Nd7
10.cxd5 Nxc3 11.Bxc3 cxd5
12.Qd2 Bf6 13.Rfc1 Rc8 14.Ba5
b6 15.Rxc8 Qxc8 16.Rc1 Qb7
17.Bb4 Rc8 18.h3 h5 19.Rc3
Nb8 20.Ne5 Be6 21.Nd3**

So White got a normal opening ad-

vantage after all: now Nf4 could be annoying.

21...Bd7

I was about 40 minutes ahead on the clock, a situation I'm not accustomed to, especially when playing young whipper-snappers.

22.Qc1 Rxc3 23.Qxc3 Bb5

Trading his worst minor piece.

24.a4 Bxd3 25.Bxd3

I felt I had a nice position: the open file (but what if Queens come off?) and the two bishops (but with a symmetrical pawn structure, are the bishops that much better?).

25...Qc6



26.Bb5?!

Chris felt that this was my first mistake: better to keep the queens on the board. [26.Qd2]

**26...Qxc3 27.Bxc3 Kf8 28.f3 a6
29.Be2 Ke8**

The Black king wants to walk over to the queenside to help Mr. Knight protect the weak a- and b- pawns.

So I had the bright idea of attacking on the side being vacated.

30.g4 hxg4 31.fxg4

[If I'd understood that I wasn't getting the outside passed pawn of my dreams, I might have preferred 31.hxg4 .]

31...Kd7 32.Kg2 Kc6 33.Kg3 g5!

Oops!

34.e4?!

A cute but misguided idea: I'm trying to make the position more "bishopy" by opening diagonals.

34...e6!

[34...dxe4 35.Kf2 b5 36.axb5+ axb5 37.Ke3]

35.Kf3 b5 36.Ke3 Nd7 37.e5

[In the last dozen moves, I had relaxed, thinking that my small plusses would play themselves. Now that it's clear that I've lost the thread of the game, maybe I should be groveling for a draw with 37.axb5+ axb5 38.exd5+ exd5 39.Bb4 . In the post mortem, Chris criticized my allowing the space-gaining march of the b-pawn that now follows.]

37...Be7 38.axb5+ axb5

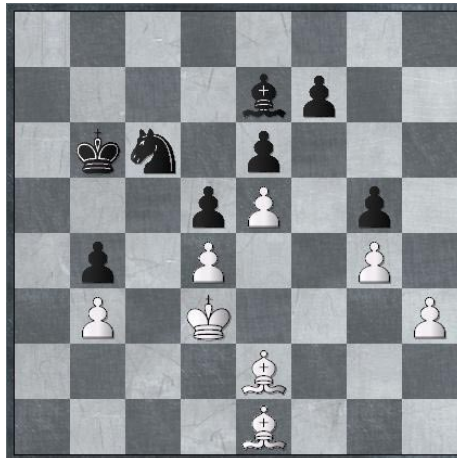
No more pawns on the a-file, the center is blocked: it's getting "knighty"!

39.Bf1 Kb6 40.Be1 Nb8 41.Kd3 Nc6 42.Be2 b4

Diagram Next Column

Very knighty. The position is beginning to look like a French Defense gone horribly wrong for White. Sometimes a bad bishop (the fellow on e7) can be very useful.) And

given the central pawn structure, isn't the "bad" bishop really a very good bishop?



43.Bd1 Kc7 44.Bc2 f6 45.exf6

[I did see that the apparently attractive opposite-color bishop ending after 45.Bg3? fxe5 46.Bxe5+ Nxe5+ 47.dxe5 Bc5! was not very good for White, but Chris showed me that it was absolutely winning for Black because of the maneuver Bc5-Bf2-Be1-Bc3-Be5!]

45...Bxf6 46.Bf2 Kd6 47.Bd1 e5 48.dxe5+ Nxe5+ 49.Ke3 Nc6 50.Bg3+ Be5 51.Kf2

"Aha!" I naively said to myself. "I get the outside passed pawn after all! And I have the bishop!"

51...Bxg3+ 52.Kxg3 Ke5 53.h4 gxh4+ 54.Kxh4 d4

Not Black's only possibility.

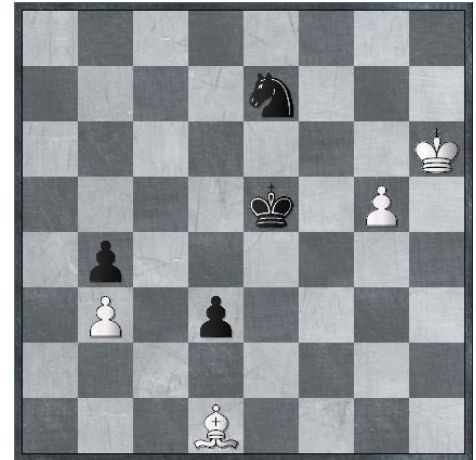
55.Kg5

[55.Bc2!?]

55...Ne7 56.Kh6 d3

Duh. Now I began to understand just how pathetic my bishop is. It was not put on this earth to babysit the b3 pawn. But that's the job I gave it....

57.g5



57...d2?!

[Chris was a little self-critical here, as the d3 pawn was taking two squares away from the Lame One on d1. Pushing the pawn to d2 ironically gives a couple squares back to Mr. Bishop. In the post-mortem showed me some amazing studylike variations after 57... Nf5+ 58.Kh7 Ne3 59.Bh5 In some lines, Black could only win by bringing the knight to a2 to hold the b4 pawn.(But instead of 59.Bh5, the simple 59.g6 appears to draw!) ; Chris also suggested 57...Kf4 58.g6 Ke3 59.g7 Kd2 60.Bh5 Kc1 61.Kh7 (But can White still hold here with something like 61.Kg5! d2 62.Kf6 Ng8+ 63.Kf7 Nh6+ 64.Kg6!?) 61... d2 62.g8Q Nxc8 63.Kxc8 d1Q 64.Bxd1 Kxd1]

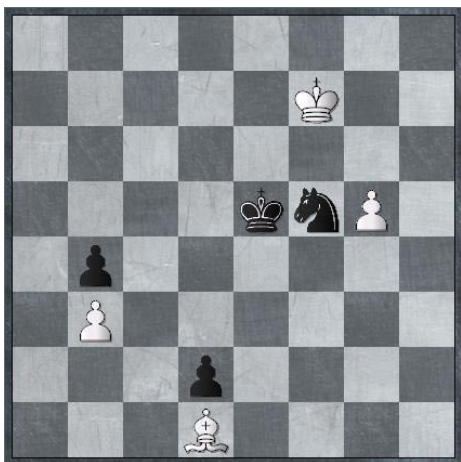
58.Kg7

Back in the game: destination, b4.

58...Nf5+

[But Black still seems to be winning: 58...Kf5!! Chris rattled off the following variation blindfold in an email to me 59.Kf7 Ng6 60.Ke8 Nf4 61.Kd7 Nd3 62.Bc2 Kxc5 63.Kd6 (63.Kc6 Kf4 64.Kb5 Ke3) 63...Kf4 64.Kd5 Nb2 65.Kd4 Kf3 66.Kc5 Nd3+ 67.Kd4 Nc1 (67...Nf2 68.Kc4 Ke2 69.Kxb4 Ng4 70.Kc5 Ne3) 68.Kc4 Ke2! 69.Kxb4 Nd3+ 70.Kc3 Ne1]

59.Kf7



Take a few minutes to analyze this position: how many moves ahead can you see?

59...Ne3 60.Be2

[During the game, we both saw that 60.g6 Nxd1 61.g7 Nc3 62.g8Q d1Q 63.Qb8+ Qd6 (Nienart) was hopeless for White.]

60...d1Q 61.Bxd1 Nxd1 62.g6 Ne3 63.g7 Nf5 64.g8N!

Box-tastic! One doesn't often see a defensive underpromotion in practical play. This position is a tablebase draw (if only we could access the tablebase during play...)

64...Nd4 65.Ne7!

(The exclams for White are Nunn Convention--the exclams for Black are compliments to Chris's end-game mastery...)

65...Kd6 66.Kf6

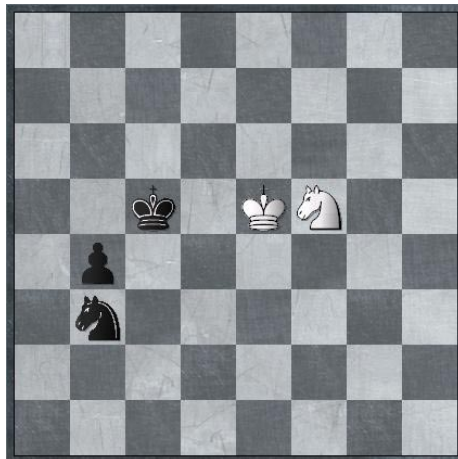
[Strangely, 66.Ke8 draws, too.]

66...Nxb3 67.Nf5+! Kc5!

When the king is three squares away from the enemy knight on rank or file, it's a little domination. (The Big Domination is two squares away on a diagonal.) And because knight pawns are near the edge of the board, knights have difficulty

defending against knight pawns.

68.Ke5!



68...Na5 69.Ke4 b3 70.Kd3 Kb4 71.Ne3 Ka3 72.Nd1 Nb7!

In his best patriarchal voice, Dvoretsky writes, "The deflecting knight sacrifice is the almost universally employed technique in [knight] endings." Chris knows this, and quickly repositions his knight to a square in which more deflections may be possible. I began to worry about an eventual ...Nf2!

73.Kc3 Nc5



From a practical perspective, this is the critical moment of the game. My move was theoretically good enough to draw, but forced me to find a string of "only" moves that I was unlikely to find over-the-board. Al Chow and Angelo Young button-holed me after the game, asking why I didn't simply play 74.Kd2!? I was worried about a deflection sacrifice aimed against the Nd1 (the

eventual ...Nf2), but I should have been even more worried about allowing the b3 pawn to reach b2.

74.Ne3?!

[74.Kd2 Ne4+ 75.Kc1 Ka2 76.Nb2! is a reciprocal zugzwang position: White to play would lose by force, but Black to play can only draw.]

74...Na4+ 75.Kd2 Nb6!

Again, Chris repositions the knight to set up a possible future deflection sacrifice.

76.Nc2+ Ka2 77.Nb4+ Ka1



78.Kc3?

The losing move. [78.Nc2+! Kb1 79.Nb4 Na4!? 80.Nd3! Ka1 Diagram # 81.Ke2!! (81.Kc1? Nc3! 82.Kd2 Nd5! 83.Kd1 Nf4 84.Nc5 b2 85.Nb3+ Ka2 (85...Kb1 is actually one move faster per the database, but not a very human move)) 86.Nc1+ Kb1 87.Nb3 Ne6 88.Nd2+ Ka1 89.Nb3+ Ka2 90.Nc1+ Ka3! 91.Kc2 Nc5! 92.Kb1 Ne4! 93.Kc2 Nc3 wins elegantly; 81...Kb1 (81...Nc3+ 82.Ke1! (82.Ke3) ; 82.Kd2!? (The bizarre-looking 82.Ke3 also draws)) 82...Ka1 (82...Nb2 83.Nc5 Nc4+ 84.Kc3 b2 85.Nd3) 83.Ke2!!]

78...b2 79.Nc2+ Ka2 80.Nb4+ Ka1 81.Nc2+ Kb1 82.Na3+ Kc1 83.Kb3 Nd7 84.Ka2 Nc5 85.Nb1 Ne4 86.Na3 Nd2

And I flagged in this hopeless position. **0-1**

Dean,J (2250) - Brock,B (2018) [D37]
Chicago Chicago (5),
27.05.2007
[Bill Brock]

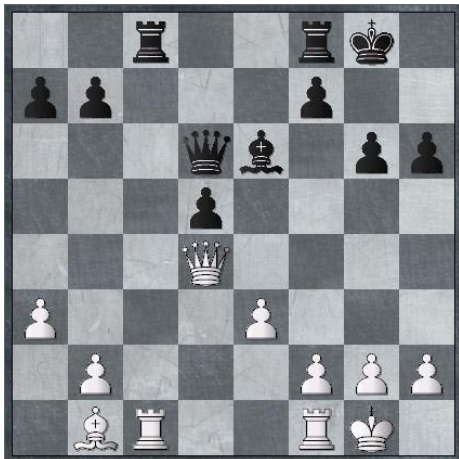
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Be7 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5
Bxc5 8.a3 Nc6 9.cxd5 Nxd5

[9...exd5]

10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 h6

[11...Bb6 12.0-0 d4 13.e4 Bg4
 14.h3 Bh5 15.g4 Bg6]

12.0-0 Be6 13.Rc1 Bd6 14.Bxd6
Qxd6 15.Bb1 Rac8 16.Qd3 g6
17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4



I've been outplayed in the opening: the Be6 is pathetic and White has better pawn structure. So I start looking for counterplay....

18...Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Rc8!?
20.Rxc8+ Bxc8 21.h4

[The point is that after 21.Qxa7 Black can exploit White's temporary first-rank weakness with 21...Qc6 22.Bd3 Qc1+ 23.Bf1 Qxb2 24.Qb8 Qc1 and Black is almost equal.]

21...Be6 22.Ba2

[And now 22.Qxa7 Qc7 23.Bd3 Qc1+ 24.Bf1 Qxb2]

22...b6 23.Qf6 Qc7 24.g3

Having achieved equality, how can I screw it up?

24...a5?

Jim doesn't miss the shot.

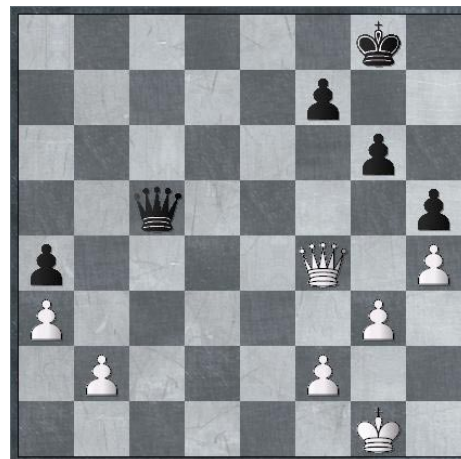
25.e4! Qc1+

[Duh. The b-pawn hangs after 25... Qd7 26.exd5 Bxd5 27.Bxd5 Qxd5 28.Qxb6 The game continuation reaches a similar position.]

26.Kh2 Qd2 27.Bxd5 Bxd5
28.exd5 Qxd5 29.Qxb6 a4

Forced: if White gets a passed pawn on the queenside, it will run very quickly.

30.Qf6 h5 31.Qf4 Qc5 32.Kg1



32...Qc6?

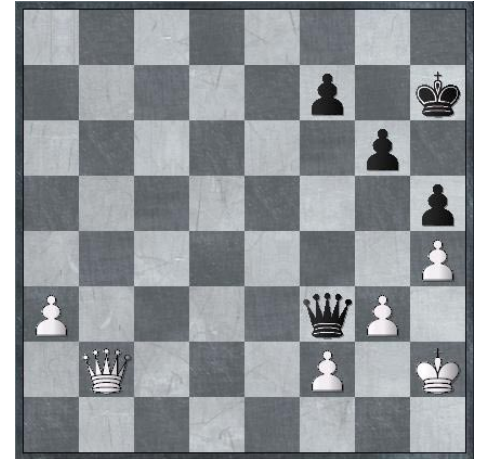
[During the game, I thought that 32...Qc2 33.Qd4 was too passive, but it's harder for White to make progress than I thought: 33...Qb3 34.Kg2 Qc2 35.Kf3 Qb3+ 36.Ke4 Qc2+ 37.Kd5 Qb3+ 38.Kc5 Kh7 39.Qc3 Qb8 might be messy for White (though it should still win).]

33.b3!

Dean's second shot is fatal: now I'm completely busted. [Fritz says 33.b4?! Qd5 is also fine for White, but it's silly for a non-silicon brain to

allow Black to dream of counterplay against a3.]

33...axb3 34.Qb8+ Kg7 35.Qxb3
Qc1+ 36.Kg2 Qc6+ 37.Qf3 Qa4
38.Qc3+ Kh7 39.Qb4 Qc6+
40.Kh2 Qf3 41.Qb2



And now I went into a twenty-minute huddle.

41...g5!?

[Passive resistance is hopeless. 41...Qa8 42.Qa2 Kg7 43.a4 Qa5 44.Qb2+ Kf8 45.Qb5 Qa7 46.Kg2 Qa8+ 47.Kg1 Ke7 48.a5 Qa7 49.a6 So I start playing for cheapos.]

42.Qc2+

[I believe that White missed a clear win here with 42.hxg5! h4 43.Qf6! for example: 43...hxg3+ 44.Kh3! (A Fritz-move: the human 44.fxg3 wins too) 44...Qh1+ (44...Qxf6 45.gxf6 gxf2 46.Kg2 Kg6 47.a4 wins) 45.Kxg3 Qg1+ 46.Kf3 Qd1+ 47.Kf4 Qc1+ 48.Kf5 Qc8+ 49.Ke4]

42...Kg7 43.hxg5 Qxa3

Now all the pawns are on one side: good for the defense.

44.Qf5 Qa1 45.Kg2 Qa8+?

[Another careless move: Black has good drawing chances after the more accurate 45...Qd4!]

46.Qf3! Qd8 47.Qxh5

White is clearly winning again. But because the queen had to be decentralized to eat the pawn, Blacks gets some counterplay.

47...Qd5+ 48.Kh2 Qf5 49.Qh6+ Kg8 50.Qf6! Qh7+! 51.Kg2 Qe4+ 52.Qf3 Qe5

How does White stop the checks on the white squares and guard the g5 pawn?

53.Kh3!

That's how!

53...Qa1

[53...Qxg5? 54.Qg4 Qg7 55.Qxg7+ Kxg7 56.Kg4 is a won pawn ending.]

54.Kg4 Qb1 55.Qf5 Qd1+ 56.Qf3 Qd4+ 57.Kh3 Qh8+! 58.Kg2 Qe5 59.Qa8+ Kg7



60.g6!?

Perhaps not the best move, but an excellent practical choice.

60...fxg6

[60...Kxg6?? 61.Qg8+! Kf6 62.Qh8+ with a won pawn ending.]

61.Qa7+ Kg8 62.Qd7 Qe4+ 63.Kh3 Qe2 64.Qd5+ Kg7 65.Kg2 Qe1 66.Qd4+ Kg8 67.Kf3 Qh1+ 68.Kf4 Qh6+ 69.Ke4 Qh1+

Persistence is a virtue.

70.f3 Qe1+ 71.Kf4 Qc1+ 72.Qe3



At this point, I had a minute left, and my hand was itching to play 72...g5. But it was safe to assume that Dean had not overlooked this shot.

72...g5+!?

Cute, but is it best? Was it worth forty seconds? You tell me.

73.Ke4

Forced.

73...Qc6+ 74.Kf5!

Forced.

[74.Ke5? Qe8+ 75.Kd4 Qd7+ 76.Ke4 Qe6+ is a position that Black should be able to draw even with the flag hanging.]

74...Qd5+ 75.Kg4 Qd7+ 76.Kxg5

(See diagram next collumn)

And once again, we're in Nunn Convention land.....



76...Qg7+ 77.Kf5 Qf7+

[77...Qh7+=]

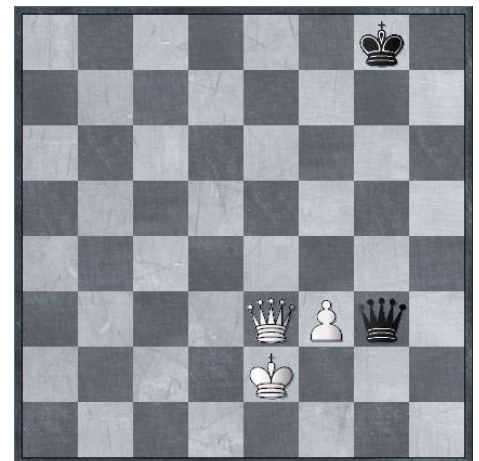
78.Kg4 Qd7+!

The key move: Black cannot allow White to sneak back into his shelter via h3.

79.Kh4 Qh7+! 80.Kg4 Qd7+! 81.Kf4 Qf7+ 82.Ke4 Qe7+ 83.Kd3!

The only practical try, and a very good one.

83...Qd6+ 84.Ke2 Qxg3



...and this position is a tablebase draw! But as a practical matter, it's far from easy for Black to hold this position with four seconds left on the clock, even with the delay. White cuts off the Black king on the back rank and creates two con-

create threats: either mate on g7, or an exchange of queens on one of the many squares in front of the f3 pawn. [I'm frankly not sure what the final moves of the game were, but the following is a reasonably close approximation:

84...Qxg3 85.Qe7 Qg2+

(Maybe 85...Kh8 was a better practical try, as it sets up the counter-threat of a kamikaze stalemate on g6 or f7.)

86.Ke3 Qg1+ 87.Kf4 Qc1+ 88.Kf5

I finally realize that I've done nothing but improve White's position, and hide the queen from potential exchanges on the f1 square.

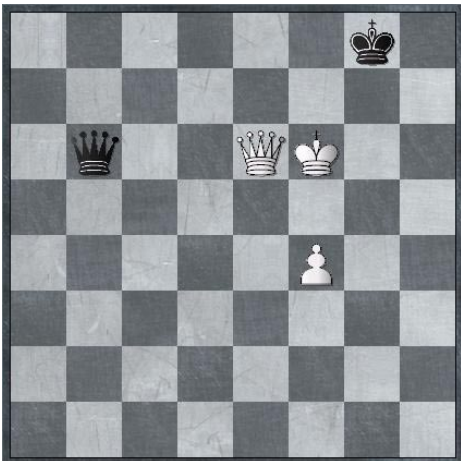
88...Qf1 89.f4 Qb1+?

Now it's a tablebase loss. Why? Don't ask me--queen and pawn endings are too hard. (89...Qg1; 89...Qd1)

90.Kf6 Qb6+?

A blunder in an already lost position...

91.Qe6+



And I didn't need to use my remaining four seconds plus delay to realize that the king and pawn ending was lost.] **1-0**

ILLINOIS OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

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THE ROAD WARRIOR

with NM PETE

KARAGIANIS

So here's the situation: I'm on my quest for USCF Life Master. To obtain such a title one needs to play 300 games above the rating of 2200.

What's the great reward? Fame? Glory? Money? Free Donut Tuesday?

Well, you do get a floored rating of 2200.

I've been questing for this title since becoming a National Master in 2005. Why? What's the big deal? Well, to be totally honest, once I hit my 300 games I plan to start really having fun. That's right, this will now serve as your official warning, Illinois chess players: as soon as I see the "Congratulations! Yada yada..." on the white and black and blue certificate from the USCF administrative office I'm going to start playing the Grob, the Orangutang, The Full Metal Jacket (That's one invented by a Master in Denver), the Star Wars Defense (shown to me by a 723 rated genius in Bloomington), The Chinese Bowl, the Fishing Pole, 1.Nh3, and anything and everything else I can possibly think of or invent.

Seriously.

You'll know when I sit down across from you content and smirking at some ICA tournament in late 2008 (that's my current estimate on how long it will take me to hit 300 based on my average games/month pace since May, 2006, assuming I don't dip back under Master rating between now and then), shake your hand, let you start my clock, and

calmly reach for my f-pawn before moving it up only one square.

Just watch. I will.

Why? What's the beef? Well, first of all, I love Fischer Random. Playing "real chess" has always excited me- as I'm sure loyal followers of my column know, I abhor opening theory (though I grudgingly know too much of it). Plus, wouldn't it be nice to name your own openings? Or have them named after you? Or have your opponent wondering what you're going to uncork this time?

Sounds like a dumb plan, you say.

Probably, but that's never stopped me before. Besides, would it be any worse than the game I am about to show you?

Though I have been legitimately planning to enact my "floored master playing fish openings" agenda for a long time, the following game serves example as to precisely why.

NM Karagianis, Pete (2221) - Madison, Jeremy (1824)
[Karagianis,Pete]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4

Here I am, viewers, somewhere around game 164 on my quest to 300, playing in my first actual tournament in 2007 (aside from G/30 non-thinker slop), on June 9th, my birthday, against a player who I helped become as strong as he currently is. His openings are adopted from my own repertoire



as well as the only other Iowa master's and close friend of mine, Tim Mc Entee. Though Jeremy and I are good friends, he is rated much lower than I am and, naturally, I have no desire to lose or draw.

Unfortunately, he plays extremely defensively, enjoys trading, and as previously mentioned, enters into openings that we have studied extensively. I would actually give the move 2. c4?? a blunder designation. Same with 3. Nc3?? and so on and so forth until my first non-book move, Qb2.

2...g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4

Naturally this move also deserves a ?? as I am playing myself into a stale, studied position. Maybe 5. Nh3! or 5. Bd2 or 5. Ne4, with the idea 6. Ng3 and 7. h4!

5...Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.f3 cxd4 12.cxd4 Bd7

Of course, black avoids the line which has now fallen into disrepute with 12. ...Be6 13. d5! Where Topalov showed, perhaps definitively, that the attack was more than sufficient compensation for the exchange against Shirov in Corus, 2007.

Now what? I believe the best is probably 13. Rb1, but I wanted to

try something a little bit original. I forgot that moving the rook to the c-file encourages trading.

Mc Entee once e-mailed Alex Chua, a master and 2300 player from Texas. Alex does well in master level round-robin events. Mc Entee said, "Hey, what's the secret here?" Chua replied, and I will paraphrase liberally, "Just maneuver a lot... take a chance when you feel like it... and hope it works?"

He was serious.



13.Rc1

[13.Rb1 Na5 I was a bit concerned about this knight move in the game, but...

A) 14.Bd3 Rc8 15.d5

B) 14.Bd5 This move may also be possible 14...e6 15.Bb3;

C) 14.Qd3 is another try- 14...Rc8 15.Rfc1 And white may have found a better way to deal with the c-file.

13...Rc8 14.Qd2

I winced as soon as I let go of this piece. Of course, I want to connect the rooks. In retrospect, perhaps I should have tried Qe1, because the text leads to an obvious reply by the defensive-minded trader playing black.

14...Qa5

Already black is probably equal. One

or two lazy moves to try to deviate from mainline and white looks silly. I suppose I could try Qxa5 followed by Bd3 and a later d5 and try to play off the knight on a5... but trying to prove an edge there is worse than hope-chess.

15.Qb2 !

So, hope-chess it is. Now I begin a long phase of what I will call "The Chua Principle," where I shuffle my pieces around and wait for black to get enough initiative that I have to do something active, or die.

15...Rfd8

Why not?

16.Qb3

Some sunshine. At least I get to attack something, if only for a half-move.

16...Be8 17.Rfd1 b5

A nice idea. I suppose black has the time to play actively, thanks to my passive queen maneuvering.

18.Bd5

18. Bxb5? would run into ...Nxd4 sooner or later.

18. ...e6 19.Bxc6 Bxc6

Already I've spent too much time on the clock (this was g/60) wallowing in self pity. My only solace was that Jeremy had fallen into the psychological trap that if a much higher rated player is thinking a lot, you should, too.

Don't!

20.Bg5 Re8 21.Bd2 Qb6 22.Be3

I was looking for ways to gain an

edge but, finding none, I resorted to the Chua Principle. There's nothing behind this move, really.

22...Qa5 23.Rd2



For some time I had realized that my only real plan was to push the d-pawn and try to win with a breakthrough. Still, this also risks losing, and quite definitely so. The black bishop on b7 will open up, I will have an isolani... it won't be pretty.

23. Rc5 was the best I could come up with, hoping for 23. ...Bb7 25. Rfd1 and somehow getting a passer on the c-file, but black always has Bf8! ruining my plans

23...Bb7 24.Rcd1 Rc4 25.Rb2 a6 26.Bd2 Qc7 27.Bf4 Qa5 28.Rbd2 Qb6 29.Kh1 Rec8

OK, the second rook on c4 can't come back. Time for the Chua Principle's second theorem to come into play- take a chance and hope it works.

30.d5 exd5 31.exd5 Qf2

This move looks very dangerous, but I don't see a follow up that is convincing. Perhaps black could have gone in for Rd8 right away, followed by Rd7, blocking the pawn. Then the other rook could get to d8 as well, via c8.

32.d6 Qh4

This maneuver took too much time, and in the meanwhile I have a powerful passer, not a weak isolated pawn. Perhaps I lulled him to sleep with all my bishop moves.

33.d7 Rd8 34.Qe3



And white is winning. The threats of Bg5 and Qe8 were too much to overcome, and the rest of the game was lost to time pressure and posterity.

Still, what can be said of this game? White played "shuffle-chess" until both sides got into mild time pressure, tried one active and probably slightly unsound idea (though using "Delroy", or the d-pawn, in the Gruenfeld is thematic, here black should have had sufficient resources) and was able to win thanks to one or two not wholly accurate moves by black.

132 games and counting to the Reverse Vulture Gambit. I can't wait!

Pete Karagianis is a columnist for En Passant, The Illinois Chess Bulletin, The Oklahoma Chess Quarterly, and The Chess Underground.

He can be reached for comments, questions, sympathies, or rants at: Karagianis@gmail.com

or through his website at: www.chessunderground.org

ICA TOUR STANDINGS

Below you will find the Final Standings for the 2006-2007 ICA and Ex-Urban Tours. Players who have competed in less than three events are indicated by parentheses. Standings include the following events: Peoria April Tornado, Springfield Springtime Open, Chicago Open, State Farm June Swiss, Peoria July Tornado, US Open, Illinois Open, Bloomington September Open, Bradley Summer Open, Peoria Fall Tornado, Midwest Class, David Mote Memorial, Illinois Class, Tim Just Winter Open, Peoria January Tornado and the Springfield Equinox Open.

Standings are based on Illinois residency. Tour Prizes are only awarded based on points earned in tournaments where the player was a current ICA member.

MASTER TOUR POINTS:

PASALIC,MEHMED	47.0
YOUNG,ANGELO	47.0
GUREVICH,DMITRY	43.0
SHULMAN,YURY(2)	34.0
KARKLINS,ANDREW	33.0
NIENART,CHRISTOPH	29.0
TSYGANOV,IGOR M	29.0
STAMNOV,ALEKSANDA	28.0
FELECAN,FLORIN (2)	27.0
ELEZAJ,ESAD (2)	24.0

EXPERT TOUR POINTS:

NIENART,CHRISTOPH	45.0
GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5
RUAN,GORDON J	30.5
LONG,DAVID	30.0
MEEROVICH,ILAN	30.0
MAGNESS,TREVOR S	29.0
KARKLINS,ERIK	28.0
CHIEN,JASON W	27.0
CAO,TONY (2)	25.0
KASIURAK,ZACH	23.0
MENON,GOPAL S	23.0

CLASS A TOUR POINTS:

MAGNESS,TREVOR S	54.5
KASIURAK,ZACH	38.0
ROTHSCHILD,BEN	37.0
GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5
RUAN,GORDON J	30.5
FORD,SAMUEL M	30.0

MC NALLY,DANIEL	29.0
CHIEN,JASON W	27.0
HAMILTON,MARK P	27.0
APPLEBAUM,ANDY F (2)	26.0

CLASS B TOUR POINTS:

LEONG,GEE Y	42.0
MEDURI,AAKAASH	39.0
DZANANOVIC,MUHAME	38.0
ENGELEN,MARK S	32.0
GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5
THARIATH,MIKE	29.0
LIN,DER-LONG	28.0
MC CLANAHAN,GAVIN	27.0
CREMEENS,MATTHEW	26.5
AILES,TIM S	26.0

CLASS C TOUR POINTS:

JOHNSEN,ALECK C	44.0
THARIATH,MIKE	33.0
LACKLAND,JOE (2)	27.0
DATLA,SIDDARTH	24.0
LIU,JOSEPH	23.0
MC CLANAHAN,GAVIN	23.0
DOLSON,CARL L	21.0
PATEL,RASESH R	19.0
VELA,JOHNNY	19.0
PADILLA,RUDY R	18.5

CLASS D TOUR POINTS:

DOLSON,CARL L	28.0
WANG,ROGER R (1)	23.0

ICA TOUR STANDINGS

GATTO,CHRISTOPHER		22.0
BOLTON,BRIAN MCAN	(2)	19.0
MATTHEWS,DENNIS E	(1)	19.0
DEMOS,JAMES C.		18.0
MC CLANAHAN,BRYCE		18.0
KHURELCHULUUN, T	(2)	17.0
VILLAFLOR,ELIZABE		17.0
LEWIS,OTIS		16.0

CLASS E TOUR POINTS:

DEMOS,JAMES C.		20.0
BERMAN,MARK E	(2)	17.0
KHURELCHULUUN, T	(2)	17.0
CEN,YUEQIN		15.0
FERNANDES,NINOSHK	(1)	15.0
SCHULD,ADAM J		15.0
NEWSOME JR,CLEO		12.0
PAUL,BARRY S	(2)	12.0
MIRANDA,OSCAR VIR	(2)	11.0

MASTER EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

BROCK,WILLIAM H	(2)	7.5
BURGESS,JON L(2)		7.5
COZZIE,ANTHONY E	(1)	7.5
BAUMGARTNER,CHRIS		4.0
BONWELL,JONATHAN	(2)	4.0
CHIEN,JASON W		4.0
DAVIS,JEFFREY E.	(1)	4.0
MARSHALL,JAMES A	(1)	4.0
RUAN,GORDON J		4.0
SIMPSON,TOBIAS GA	(1)	4.0

EXPERT EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

GETZ,HENRY BARNEY		30.5
CHIEN,JASON W		22.0
LONG,DAVID		22.0
RUAN,GORDON J		15.5
THOMAS,BRIAN (1)		14.0
MICHEL,BRUCE		9.5
CREMEENS,MATTHEW		9.0
DOLSON,CARL L		8.5
BONWELL,JONATHAN	(2)	8.0
MAGNESS,TREVOR S		8.0

CLASS A EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

GETZ,HENRY BARNEY		30.5
CHIEN,JASON W		22.0
MAGNESS,TREVOR S		15.5
RUAN,GORDON J		15.5
THOMAS,BRIAN (1)		14.0
LEALI,MICHAEL E		12.5
DOLSON,CARL L		10.0
VOSS,ANDY S		10.0
MICHEL,BRUCE		9.5
CREMEENS,MATTHEW		9.0

CLASS B EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

GETZ,HENRY BARNEY		30.5
MICHEL,BRUCE		17.0
CHIEN,JASON W		15.5
CREMEENS,MATTHEW		11.5
DOLSON,CARL L		10.0
VOSS,ANDY S		10.0
BOURGERIE,DENNIS		9.0
NASZODI,LASZLO		8.5
BONWELL,JONATHAN	(2)	8.0
ZIMMERLE,R WAYNE		8.0

CLASS C EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

DOLSON,CARL L		10.0
NASZODI,LASZLO		8.5
KERNS,WILLIAM		7.5
CRUM,RANDY M		6.5
COULTER,LARRY		6.0
MILLIGAN,JEREMY L	(2)	6.0
ZAITZEFF,ALEXANDE	(2)	6.0
KITSON,JASON E	(2)	5.5
PADILLA,RUDY R		4.5

For full
TOUR STANDINGS,
 consult the Illinois Chess As-
 sociation Discussion Forums
 at:
www.ilchess.org

McHenry Area Chess

MAY SWISS 2007

A SWISS TOURNEY REPORT

FROM NM JON BURGESS

On May 19th 2007 the good people of McHenry Area Chess- Bob and Jeff- organized a one day four round Swiss Game/60. Every other month they host a Swiss tournament, and this May they had 2 sections- the top one having 10 people in it and the 2nd section also having 10 players.

In the top section there was one master, myself, and one expert, Tam Nguyen, which made for an exciting day of chess.

Being the top player I was expected to win all my games which is always a hard task in any tournament. Since it was a small section I played Tam in the third round, and lost my game. I have annotated my game against Tam Nguyen from round 3 below since it shows even a master can have a bad day.

In round 3 I had white against Tam who I had played in the March tournament at McHenry.

Jon Burgess (2253) - Tam Nguyen (2091) [B23]
McHenry Area Chess May 2007 Swiss (3), 19.05.2007

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.f4 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Qe1

This opening is known as the Grand Prix attack. Both sides are developing their pieces.

7...d6 8.d3 Nd4 9.Nxd4 Bxd4+

This seems bad. It would be better to play C5xD4 attacking the Knight on C3.

[9...cxd4 10.Ne2 d5]

10.Kh1 a6 11.a4 b6 12.f5



This seems premature White has not developed enough to attack yet. Qh4 would be better.

12...gxf5 13.Bg5 Rg8 14.Qh4 Qc7 15.Rae1 Bb7

Notice Black has a strong Bishop on B7 which eyes the pawn on G2. Black could now castle Queenside in a minute.

16.Re2 h6

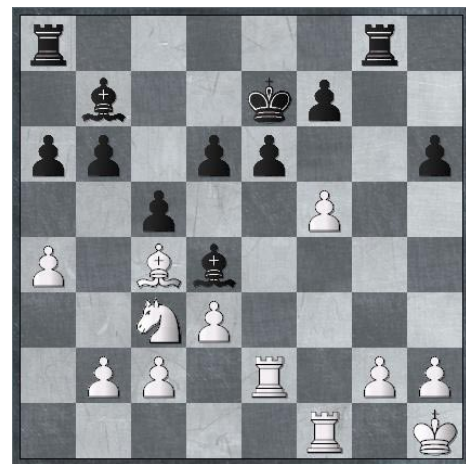
This is a strong move since it diverts the Queen to H6 or the bishop and if White doesn't take the H6 pawn then it opens up the G File for the Black Rook.

17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qxe7+ Kxe7 19.exf5

See diagram next column

White wins back his pawn but at what cost. Black is much better because of the two Bishops.

19...Be5 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Nd1 Bc6 22.c3 b5 23.Ba2 Rg4 24.Ne3 Rxa4



(Position after 19. exf5)

Instead of RxA4, Rh4 was much stronger- winning the H2 pawn and if H3 then RxH3 check and the G2 pawn is pinned to the White King.

[24...Rh4 25.h3 Rxh3+ 26.Kg1 Rg8 27.Bb3 Rxe3 28.Rxe3 Rxc2+ 29.Kh1 Re2+ 30.Kg1 Rxe3-+]

25.b4 Rf8 26.Rxf8 Kxf8 27.bxc5 Bxc3

Black doesn't care about the D6 pawn since his King is near to it in case White takes it. Now Black has past A and B Pawns.

28.cxd6 Rd4

Skewer !

29.Rf2+ Ke8 30.Bxe6 Rxd6 31.Bf5 b4 32.h4 b3 33.Nc4 Rd4 34.Bg6+ Kd8 35.Rf8+ Ke7 36.Rb8 Rxh4+ 37.Kg1 Rg4 38.Bf5 Rxc2+ 39.Kf1 b2 40.Rb6 Bb5

Excellent Block if KxG2 then B1 = Queen.

41.Na3 Rh2 42.Be4 h5 43.Rb7+

Kf6 44.Rc7 Rc2

Another excellent move the Knight can't take the Rook on C2 because of B1=Queen.



Black is now threatening Rc1+ and promotion, while also guarding the c3 bishop.

End of Game Black Wins.

0-1

An excellent game by Tam and a terrible game for me. After the last round Tam had won the 1st section with 4/4 and I had scored 2.5/4 which just goes to show even masters lose games sometimes.

Phil Jarrette came second with 3 points- well done Phil. I lost 9 rating points but hey it's only a rating and I can gain the points back next time.

In the 2nd section Matthew Wilber, Rudy Padilla, Cesaer Enverga and John Gallagher scored 3 points to tie for first place- well done all. John gained almost 100 rating points from the tournament.

As usual the Mchenry folks run a great tournament and I highly recommend playing in their events if you ever have the chance.

MIDSTATE OPEN TOURNAMENT

August 11, 2007.

Midstate Open Tournament, sponsored by Greater Peoria Chess Federation.

4 round SS, All rounds G/45, 5 sec. delay. USCF rated.

Peoria Academy, 2711 West Willow Knolls Drive, Peoria, IL.

EF: \$13, \$10 if a Midstate camp student. A limit of one half-point bye in any one of the first three rounds with two round prior notice.

Sections: Open Division (for all ages): Minimum Prizes Guaranteed 1st \$100 & 2nd \$75, Classes A, B, C, & D \$50 each, Unrated \$25.

Two Scholastic Divisions: Top and bottom half separated by rating. Trophies to top 10 and top 2 upsets in each division.

The organizers reserve the right to adjust the divisions to add more if more players than expected show up or condensing them if necessary.

Registration: 8:00-8:45 AM. Round times: 9:30, ASAP, 12:30, ASAP, Awards ASAP.

Entries: Mail to Mike Leali, 7319 Edgewild Drive, Peoria IL 61614 Payable to: GPCF. Information: leali0@insightbb.com or (309) 691-2823 or <http://www.gpcf.net/>



Brian Creasey Sweeps May Tournament

The Springfield Chess Club hosted it's a regular tournament on May 12. 28 chess players plus one houseman participated, another much-needed and welcome increase in participation! Brian Creasey, of Springfield, ran the table and scored a perfect 4-0. He took first place. Second place went to Justin Arnold, of Murray, Ky., who scored 3½ points.

There was a three-way tie for first in Class A-B. Dennis Bourgerie, of Normal; Bruce Michel, of Stonington; and Gary Blickhan, of Quincy, each scored 3 points. Three points was also good enough to share the Class C-D prize; David Bononi, of Springfield; Michal Goliszek, of Chicago; and Cameron Heino, of Champaign, attained that score.

The Class E prize was split two ways, with James Ruth, of Springfield; and Doug Coddling, of Bloomington, claiming a share with 1½ points. New SCC member William Wilson, of Decatur, scored 2 points and took the unrated prize.

NEWS FROM THE
SPRINGFIELD CC

WANT YOUR CLUB REPORT HERE?
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header: "Chess Club News"

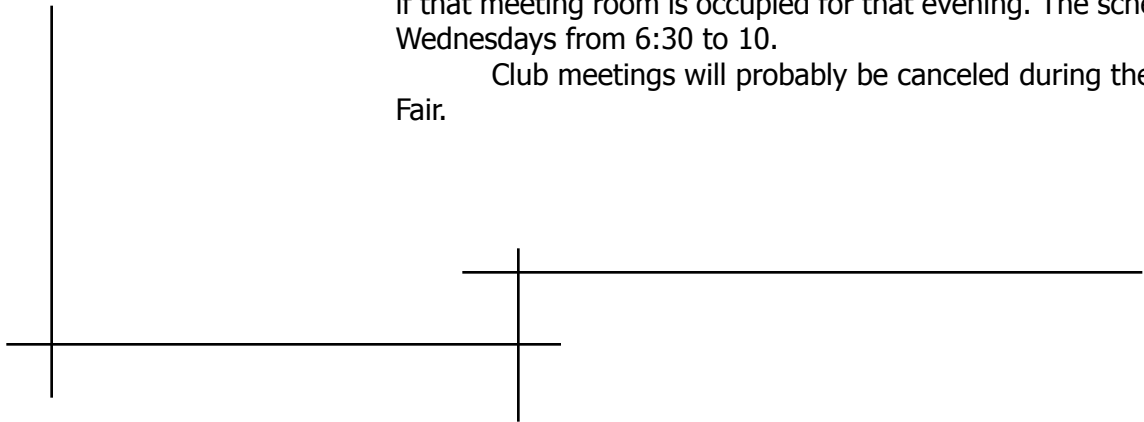
Happy Retirement, Tom!

The SCC congratulates SCC president Tom Knoedler on his retirement from University of Illinois at Springfield at the end of June. Now that he finds himself with some free time, we'll have to convince him to play a whole lot more chess!

SCC Follows Legion to New Northside Building

The Springfield Chess Club is moving! American Legion Post 32, site of SCC's meetings since 1993, has closed its building downtown and has reopened at a new north-side location at 1120 Sangamon Ave., Springfield 62702. The meetings will take place in a room at the back of the building, or in the corner of the bar area in the front of the building if that meeting room is occupied for that evening. The schedule remains Wednesdays from 6:30 to 10.

Club meetings will probably be canceled during the Illinois State Fair.



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July 6, 2007. Touch Move Blitz Tournament. G/5. RR. Unrated/open to all. Club ladder rating. 5639 N. Ashland Chicago IL. 60660. (773) 627-2759 EF: \$10 Non-Member; \$6 TMCC members and 18 years old and under. Round starts between 7:00 P.M - 7:15 PM every Friday. 1st,2nd,3rd prizes. Bring your clocks. Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

July 13, 2007. Touch Move Blitz Tournament. G/5. RR. Unrated/open to all. Club ladder rating. 5639 N. Ashland Chicago IL. 60660. (773) 627-2759 EF: \$10 Non-Member; \$6 TMCC members and 18 years old and under. Round starts between 7:00 P.M - 7:15 PM every Friday. 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes. Bring your clocks. Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

July 14, 2007 Touch Move Chess Center: Alpha. USCF Rated. Open to U2200 only. G/30 4SS. Limit to 26 Players EF: \$25, TMCC members, Ladies, junior \$20 (\$200 b/20 players) \$120 \$60 U1800 \$60 & U1400 \$60. Book prize for best junior and for best game. Reg. 12:30 P.M - 12:45 P.M. Round start at 1 pm. Bring your chess clock. Chronus & Books are available onsite. Free drink & snack. 773-627-2759 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

July 14, 2007 Touch Move Chess Center Saturday Night Special. USCF Rated Open to U2200 only G/20. 4SS. Limit to 26 Players EF: \$25, TMCC members, Ladies, junior \$20 (\$200 b/20 players) \$120 \$60 U1800 \$60 & U1400 \$60. Book prize for best game. Reg. 6 pm - 6:45 pm. Rounds: 7pm - 8pm - 9pm -10 pm. Byes available. Bring your chess clock .Chronus & Books are available onsite. Free drink & snack. 773-627-2759 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

July 20, 2007. Touch Move Blitz Tournament. G/5. RR. Unrated/open to all. Club ladder rating. 5639 N. Ashland Chicago IL. 60660. (773) 627-2759 EF: \$10 Non-Member; \$6 TMCC members and 18 years old

and under. Round starts between 7:00 P.M - 7:15 PM every Friday. 1st,2nd,3rd prizes. Bring your clocks. Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

July 21, 2007. TP Quick Chess #9. MEDIUM. G/18 (or G/16+3 sec.) 5SS if fewer than 24 players in Round 1, 6SS if 24 or more. Registration: 11:00-11:50. First round 12:00 noon. EF: Adults-\$14, under age 19-\$7. Prizes: \$330 prize fund based on 32 entries. Information: Tom Fineberg, 773-721-3979, E-mail: maxine57@earthlink.net, <http://home.earthlink.net/~maxine57>.

July 21, 2007. Touch Move Chess Center: Bravo. USCF Rated Open to U2000 only. G/45 4SS. Limit to 26 Players EF: \$25, TMCC members, Ladies, junior \$20 (\$200 b/20 players) \$120 \$60 U1800 \$60 & U1400 \$60. Book prize for best junior and for best game. Reg. 12:30 P.M - 12:45 P.M. Round start at 1 pm. Bring your chess clock Chronus & Books are available onsite. Free drink & snack. 773-627-2759 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

July 28, 2007 Touch Move Chess Center: Charlie. USCF Rated Open to U2200 only G/45 4SS. Limit to 26 Players EF: \$25, TMCC members, Ladies, junior \$20 (\$200 b/20 players) \$120 \$60 U1800 \$60 & U1400 \$60. Book prize for best junior and for best game. Reg. 12:30 P.M - 12:45 P.M. Round start at 1 pm. Bring your chess clock . Chronus & Books are available for sale. Free drink & snack 773-627-2759 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

August 11, 2007. Midstate Open Tournament, sponsored by Greater Peoria Chess Federation. 4 round SS, All rounds G/45, 5 sec. delay. USCF rated. Peoria Academy, 2711 West Willow Knolls Drive, Peoria, IL. EF: \$13, \$10 if a Midstate camp student. A limit of one half-point bye in any one of the first three rounds with two round prior notice. Sections: Open Division (for all ages): Minimum Prizes Guaranteed 1st \$100

& 2nd \$75, Classes A, B, C, & D \$50 each, Unrated \$25. Two Scholastic Divisions: Top and bottom half separated by rating. Trophies to top 10 and top 2 upsets in each division. The organizers reserve the right to adjust the divisions to add more if more players than expected show up or condensing them if necessary. Registration: 8:00-8:45 AM. Round times: 9:30, ASAP, 12:30, ASAP, Awards ASAP. Entries: Mail to Mike Leali, 7319 Edgewild Drive, Peoria IL 61614 Payable to: GPCF. Information: leali0@insightbb.com or (309) 691-2823 or <http://www.gpcf.net/>

August 11, 2007 Touch Move Chess Center: Happy Birthday Arnulfo Benesa. Not USCF Rated Open to U2200 only G/45 4SS. Limit to 26 Players EF: \$25, TMCC members, Ladies, junior \$20 (\$200 b/20 players) \$120 \$60 U1800 \$60 & U1400 \$60. Book prize for best junior and best game. Reg. 12:30 P.M - 12:45 P.M. Round start at 1 pm. Bring your chess clock . Chronus & Books are available onsite. Free drink & snack 773-627-2759 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

August 12, 2007 Touch Move Chess Center: Happy Birthday IM Angelo Young. Not USCF Rated Open to all.G/254SS. Limit to 26 Players EF: \$25, TMCC members, Ladies, junior \$20 (\$200 b/20 players) \$120 \$60 U1800 \$60 & U1400 \$60. Reg. 12:30 P.M - 12:45 P.M. Round start at 1 pm. Bring your chess clock . Chronus & Books are available onsite. Free drink & snack. 773-627-2759 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

August 17, 2007. Touch Move Blitz Tournament. G/5. RR. Unrated/open to all. Club ladder rating. 5639 N. Ashland Chicago IL. 60660. (773) 627-2759 EF: \$10 Non-Member; \$6 TMCC members and 18 years old and under. Round starts between 7:00 P.M - 7:15 PM every Friday. 1st,2nd,3rd prizes. Bring your clocks. Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

August 18, 2007 TP Quick Chess #10. BIGGER. G/18 (or G/16+3 sec.) 5SS if fewer than 24 players in Round 1, 6SS if 24 or more. Registration: 11:00-11:50. First round 12:00 noon. EF: Adults-\$18, under age 19-\$9. Prizes: \$450 prize fund based on 32 entries. Information: Tom Fineberg, 773-721-3979, E-mail: maxine57@earthlink.net, <http://home.earthlink.net/~maxine57>.

August 18, 2007 Touch Move Chess Center Delta. USCF Rated Open to all. G/60 4SS. Limit to 26 Players EF: \$25, TMCC members, Ladies, junior \$20 (\$200 b/20 players) \$120 \$60 U1800 \$60 & U1400 \$60. Book prize for best junior and for best game. Reg. 12:30 P.M - 12:45 P.M. Round start at 1 pm. Bring your chess clock . Chronus & Books are available onsite. Free drink & snack. 773-627-2759 5639 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago IL Email: Tmchesscenter@hotmail.com

August 25, 2007. Bradley Summer Open. Robert Michel Student Center, 915 N. Elmwood Ave., Peoria, IL 61625. 75% of entries returned. Prizes: A/B, C/D, under 1200: 10%, Upset: 5% Half-point bye in any 1 Rd., but a bye in Rds. 3 or 4 must be elected by the end of Rd. 2 Format: 4 Round Swiss, G/80 with 5 second delay. Affects Regular rating only. Round Times: 9 AM, 12 Noon, 2:45 PM, 5:30 PM Entry Fees: \$14 if received by 8-23-07. \$17 at the site. \$2 discount to ICA members. Free to Masters. On-site Reg: 8-25-07, 8 AM-8:45 AM. Entries to: Fred Malcome, 1000 Lilac Lane, Metamora, IL 61548 Telephone: Fred Malcome, 309-367-4833 Online entries to Fred Malcome, malcomef@mtco.com Information: Fred Malcome malcomef@mtco.com or <http://www.gpcf.net> No Smoking. No Computers.

September 1-3, 2007 (or September 2-3). 2007 Illinois Open Championships. 6SS, 2 Schedules, 2 Sections, Site: Fairfield Inn & Suites, 645 W. North Avenue, Lombard, IL 60148, (630) 629-1500 / (630) 629-2957, \$69 room rate by 7/18/07. \$8000 B/230 (\$4875 Guaranteed!). Sections: Open (open to all): 1st place overall guaranteed, \$1000-500-400, U2400: \$375-350-325, U2200: \$300-275-250, U2000: \$240-225-200, Unrated can win top 3 only. Reserve (U1800): 1st place overall guaranteed, \$750-500-400, U1600: \$375-350-270, U1400: \$260-230, U1200: \$225-200, Un can win top 3 only. Classic Schedule 30/90, G/1: Sat: 11:30-5:30, Sun:11:30-5:30, Mon: 10:00-3. Busy Person Schedule: Sun G/45: 11-1-3, Sun 30/90 G/1: 5:30, Mon. 30/90 G/1: 10-3. EF: Discounted \$75 to ICA members, \$80 for non-members (\$10 extra to play up from Reserve to Open section) if received by August 28 with e-mail/phone, USCF id #, current USCF & ICA, Section, Schedule. EF ALL: \$95 at door (\$10 to play up): 9/1or 9/2, 9:30-10:30 AM, \$100 af-