

MARCH 2007 APRIL

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IM ANGELO YOUNG**

THE COACH'S CORNER WITH VINCE HART

**FM ALBERT CHOW WEIGHS IN ON
"TOILETGATE"**

THE ROAD WARRIOR

AND MUCH MORE!

ILLINOIS CHESS

BULLETIN



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SPECIAL WEB FEATURE

Replay the "Toilet Gate Notes" section!

Every game fully analyzed by FIDE Master Albert Chow

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<http://ilchess.org/e.htm>

Illinois Chess Bulletin e-ICB

Published online six times per year.
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Next Deadline: April 15, 2007.

Submission Guidelines

Send all e-ICB submissions to:
Pete Karagianis
ICBEditor@gmail.com

Only electronic submissions will be accepted. The preferred format is .cbh or .pgn file for games, .doc file for articles.

ALL SUBMISSIONS including advertisements should have the subject "ICB Submission" in the e-mail.

Pictures Wanted!

Have a digital camera? Take it to your next tournament and send the photos to the ICB! A picture says a thousand words. Preferred format for all digital images is .jpg, but others are accepted.

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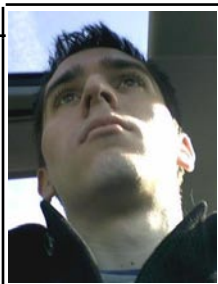
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

e-ICB

<http://ilchess.org/e.htm>

by **Pete Karagianis**

Hello once again, ICA members. The Spring season always brings with it some



of my favorite chess-related activities, including but not limited to: the Linares/Morelia chess festival, the US Amateur Team events stationed throughout the country, and, of course, continued discussion of Kramnik-Topalov, computer cheating in general, and the ultimate, now infamous "Toiletgate" scandal that marred the unification match.

Oh, wait... that doesn't usually happen. Unfortunately, the incidents surrounding the Championship match marred the beauty of the game of chess as a whole. Fortunately, however, our own Games Editor **FM Albert Chow** revisits the **play** of the match and reminds us how intriguing the games actually were.

Also on tap is the latest installment from High School Chess Coach **Vincent Hart**, chronicling his teaching experiences and offering valuable insights into the game and tournament play.

Recently, the ICCA Individual Championships took place, in which hearty high school competitors knocked it out against each other over the board to determine the ICCA Individual Champion. You can find some selected games from

this event on page eight, and even more can be found online for replay at the e-ICB home page.

IM Angelo Young has also sent us more of his always intriguing games, including a recent victory over NM Alex Betanelli.

Still, I would love to see even more contributions. I would like an e-

mail inbox full of articles, pictures, games, analysis, anecdotes, etc. I would like every ICA member to contribute a game or two, or a funny story- seriously! I'll fit it in! The miracle of the online format is that there are only space constraints as time and your willingness to submit allow.

Sigh.

OK, I won't repeat myself too much. The Editor's Desk is beginning to sound more and more like a broken record. Send! ICBEitor@gmail.com.

Send!

All Games
are available
for replay online:

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_PDK

And now my favorite picture from the US Amateur Team... the winners- AKA The Repeat Offenders:



courtesy Les Kistner

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Sometimes a Draw is a Good Thing

BY VINCENT HART

Volunteer High School Chess Coach

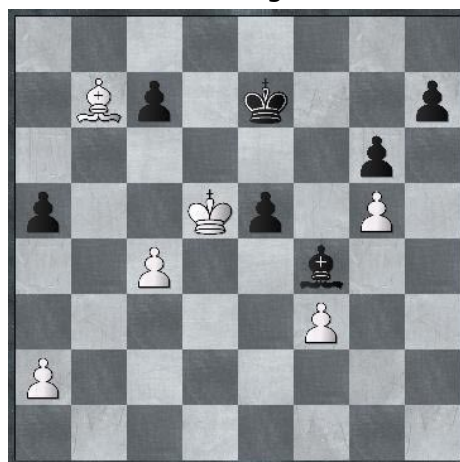
Newcomers to chess often have some difficulty wrapping their heads around the idea that a game can end in a tie. Even after they learn about stalemate, insufficient mating material, and threefold repetition, it may still take them some time to get comfortable with the idea of an agreed draw. Even if they understand that a draw is the best they can hope for in a particularly bad position, they do not expect their opponent to agree to one. By the same token, as long as they have a decent position, their goal is to win the game, and they cannot imagine why they should stop trying before they are forced to do so.

Nevertheless, a draw is sometimes a rational goal even when a position is reasonably balanced and there is still a fair amount of lumber on the board. I am not talking about a player (wimpily) deciding to play for a draw before the first move because he is intimidated by his opponent's rating. Rather, I am talking about situations where a position has arisen on the board that is balanced in such a way that the player cannot upset that balance without increasing his opponent's winning chances much more than his own. Sometimes a position offers no logical way forward that does not entail greater potential risk than reward.

Based on my limited experience

working with high school players, these situations are most likely to arise in the early endgame. I suspect that any coach who has worked with players in the 800-1200 range has spent a lot of time lecturing them about the importance of looking at what their opponent might do to them rather than looking simply at what they are going to do to their opponent. At this level, players can often improve their results dramatically just by thinking about their opponent's next move and guarding against simple forks, skewers and pins. In the ending, on the other hand, they need to think farther ahead. It may take a player several moves with his king to get at an opponent's weak pawn, and he must consider what his opponent is going to do with all those moves.

Prospect High School's Andrew Berowski learned that lesson playing second board at the Mid Suburban League tournament in January. In the second round, he reached the following position as White against Fremd's Adam Cheng.



White is down a pawn here and Black can obtain a passer by abandoning his e-pawn to capture White's g-pawn. With bishops of

opposite colors on the board, however, White should be able to hold the balance by keeping the Black king contained. 39.a4 looks like a logical way for White to proceed. After ♗xg5 40.♟xe5 h5 41.f4 ♗f6+ Kd5 42. ♗c3 ♗c8, Black should be unable to get his pawn past h3.

Despite his material deficit, Andrew was looking for a way to win the game and he decided to go after Black's isolated pawns on the queenside.

39.Kc5?! Bxg5 40.Be4?!

The h3-c8 diagonal still looks like the best one for the bishop.

...Bf4 41.Kb5 Kf6 42.Kc6 h5 43.Kxc7 h4?!

"Passed pawns must be pushed," but Black needed to slow down White's c-pawn just a little. 43... Be3! looks winning although even a much stronger player might have a hard time finding it at G45. 44.Kd6 (Black may have been concerned about White's bishop getting the opportunity to cover h1, but it will be unable to stop the king and three connected pawns after 44.f4 exf4) 44...h4 45.Bd3 h3 46.Bf1 h2 47.Bg2 g5 48.c5 Kf5 49.c6 Bb6 50.c7 Bxc7+ 51.Kxc7 Kf4 52.Kd6 Kg3 53.Bh1 Kf2-+

44.c5 h3

44...Be3 is too late to win now. 45.c6 Bc5 46.Bd3 h3 47.Bf1 h2 48.Bg2 g5 49.Kd7 Bb6 50.c7 Bxc7 51.Kxc7 Kf5 52.Kd6 Kf4 53.Bh1 Kg3 54.Kxe5 Kf2 55.Ke4 Kg1 56.Ke3 Kxh1 57.Kf2= The extra tempo Black was forced

to spend on 45...Bc5 gives White the tempo needed to get his king back.

45.c6 h2 46.Kb6?

The lure of the a-pawn leads White astray. 46.Kb7? also fails. 46...h1Q 47.c7 Qh7 Black gains a crucial tempo with the pin. 48.Kb8 Be3! and the threat of 49...Qa7# stops the pawn from queening.; On the other hand, White could survive with 46.Kb8! h1Q 47.c7 Qg2 48.c8Q Qxa2 49.Qa6+ Qe6 50.Qxa5 and Black should be unable to make any progress.

46...h1Q 47.c7 Be3+ 48.Kb7 Qh7 49.Kb8 Ba7+ 50.Kb7 Ke6 51.Bxg6 Qd7 52.Be8 Qe7 53.Bb5 Kd6 54.Kxa7 Qxc7+ 0-1

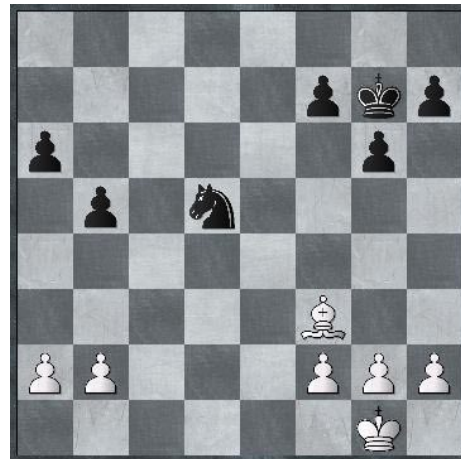
After a very brief look at the ending, Andrew spent the lunch break contemplating the perils of unseemly aggression. In the next round, he offered a draw as White in the following position against Amy Gill of Rolling Meadows.



Andrew reasoned logically that it would be impossible to create any threats against Black's pawns on the queenside after the rooks came off the board and there would be not way to make progress on the kingside without advancing his pawns and exposing his own king. Intending to play 23...Qg7, Amy accepted

the draw. In fact, Black had reason to play on. After, 23.Qf6 !xe2 24.Rxe2 Rxe2 25.Bxe2 Qd2!, Black will pick up the a-pawn and White will have to defend quite accurately in order to secure the draw. The White queen looks scary on f6 but the Black king is actually quite secure.

Of course, convincing a player that he should be thinking draw is complicated when his unwarranted optimism is rewarded. In a November match against Barrington, Prospect's Peter Dimopoulos achieved the biggest upset of his career by imprudently playing for a win. After defending a cramped middle game well, Peter reached the following ending against one of the strongest players in the League, Rishi Sethi.



With the knight against bishop, White's unblemished pawn structure, and pawns on both sides of the board, Black should be thinking about maintaining the balance. 27...Nc7 followed by centralizing the king looks like a reasonable plan. Whether fortunately or unfortunately, that kind of thinking is contrary to Peter's nature.

27...Nb4 28.a3 Nd3 29.Bb7 a5 30.Ba6 Nxb2 31.Bxb5 f5?!

31...Kf6 Getting the king into the action looks like the more pressing concern.

32.Kf1 Nd1 33.Ke1 Nc3 34.Bd3 Kf6 35.Kd2 Nd5 36.g3 Kg5?!

36...Ke5 would be the move for a player looking to hold the balance.

37.Bf1 Nf6 38.Bg2 Ng4?!

This fork leads to a knight stuck on the edge of the board.

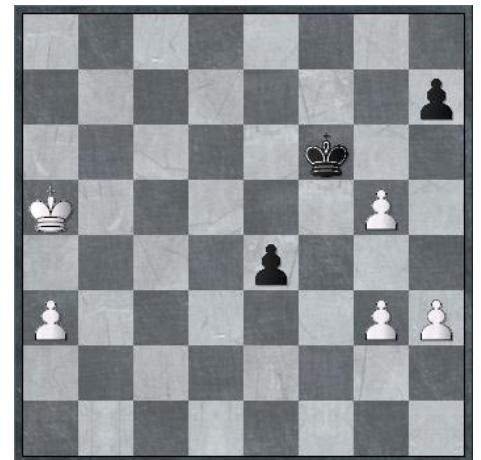
39.f4+ Kf6 40.h3 Nh6 41.Kc3?!

White misses the chance to dominate the knight: 41.Bd5! g5 42.fxg5+ Kxg5 43.Ke3+- The Black knight will find it almost impossible to escape from its prison.

41...g5 42.Kc4 Nf7 43.Kb5 Nd6+ 44.Kxa5 Ne4 45.Bxe4?!

45.fxg5+! Nxd5 46.Kb6 and Black will be hard pressed even to sack his knight for the a-pawn.

45...fxe4 46.fxg5+??



Proving that even a strong player can make the mistake of assuming that a recapture is automatic. 46.Kb4 looks like it still wins: 46...gxf4 47.gxf4 Kf5 48.Kc3 Kxf4 49.Kd2 Kf3 50.Ke1 Ke3 51.a4 Kd4 52.Ke2!+-

Black will be one move late getting back to the kingside.

46...Ke5!! 47.Kb4 Kd4 48.Kb3 Kd3 49.h4 e3 50.h5 e2 51.g6

hxg6 52.hxg6 e1Q**0-1.**

I suspect that this win will make it impossible for me to convince Peter that it is ever right to play for a draw.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should note that I may not be the best person to give advice on this topic. I often play several tournaments in a row without a single draw, which I think is pretty unusual for players at my level. I know that, like Peter, I let my optimism get the best of me, although I like to tell myself that I can learn something valuable by playing on that I might never know if I agreed to.

Games from the

ICCA INDIVIDUAL

Granata,M - Meerovich,I [B22]
ICCA Individual Championships 2007 (1)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6
7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 d5 9.Nc3 Bg4 10.Be3 e6 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3
a5 13.0-0 a4 14.Bd1 Be7 15.Be2 0-0 16.Qg4 Kh8 17.f4 g6
18.a3 Na5 19.Rae1 Nbc4 20.Bxc4 Nxc4 21.Bc1 Qb6 22.Qe2
Qxd4+ 23.Kh2 Nxa3 24.Rd1 Qc4 25.Rfe1 Qxe2 26.Rxe2 Nc4
27.g4 Rfe8 28.f5 Nxe5 29.fxg6 hxg6 30.Bf4 f6 31.g5 Nf3+
32.Kg2 Nxc5 33.Bxc5 fxg5 0-1

Velazquez,K - Liu,J [B23]
ICCA Individual Championships

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4
g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 e6 7.Nxd4 cxd4
8.Nb5 d6 9.c3 dxc3 10.dxc3 Bf8
11.Bf4 e5 12.Qd5 Qd7 13.Nxd6+
Bxd6 14.Bb5 exf4 15.Bxd7+ Bxd7
16.Qxd6 Ne7 17.Qe5 Rg8 18.Rfd1
Bc6 19.Rd6 Kf8 20.Rad1 Re8
21.Rd8 a6 22.Rxe8+ Bxe8 23.Rd8
f5 24.Qf6# 1-0

Meerovich,I - Chen,B [D91]
ICCA Individual Championships

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3
Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.cxd5 Nxc3 7.bxc3
Qxd5 8.e3 Bg4 9.Bf4 Bxf3 10.gxf3
c5 11.Bxb8 Rxb8 12.Qa4+ Kf8
13.Qxa7 Rd8 14.Qa5 b6 15.Qxb6
cxd4 16.exd4 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Rd6
18.Qb2 Qxf3 19.Rg1 Re6+ 20.Be2
Rxe2+ 21.Qxe2 Qc3+ 22.Kf1
Qxa1+ 23.Kg2 Qxd4 24.Rd1 Qf6
25.Rd8+ Kg7 26.Rxh8 Kxh8 27.Qb5
e5 28.a4 h5 29.a5 h4 30.a6 Qg5+
31.Kf3 e4+ 0-1

Velazquez,K - Chen,B [B23]
ICCA Individual Championships

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4
4.Bc4 a6 5.a4 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Nxd4
cxd4 8.Qf3 e6 9.Ne2 Ne7 10.0-0
0-0 11.c3 Qc7 12.Bb3 dxc3
13.dxc3 b6 14.Bf4 e5 15.Bg5 Nc6
16.Ng3 Nd8 17.Be7 Re8 18.Bxd8
Rxd8 19.Qxf7+ Kh8 20.Rad1 Bb7
21.Rd3 Bc6 22.Rfd1 Rf8 23.Qc4
Qa7 24.R1d2 b5 25.Qb4 Rac8
26.a5 Rf4 27.Nh1 Rxe4 28.Qxe4
Bxe4 29.Rxd7 Qc5 30.Rd8+ Rxd8
31.Rxd8+ Bf8 0-1

Strunk,A - Karottki,C [A11]
ICCA Individual Championships

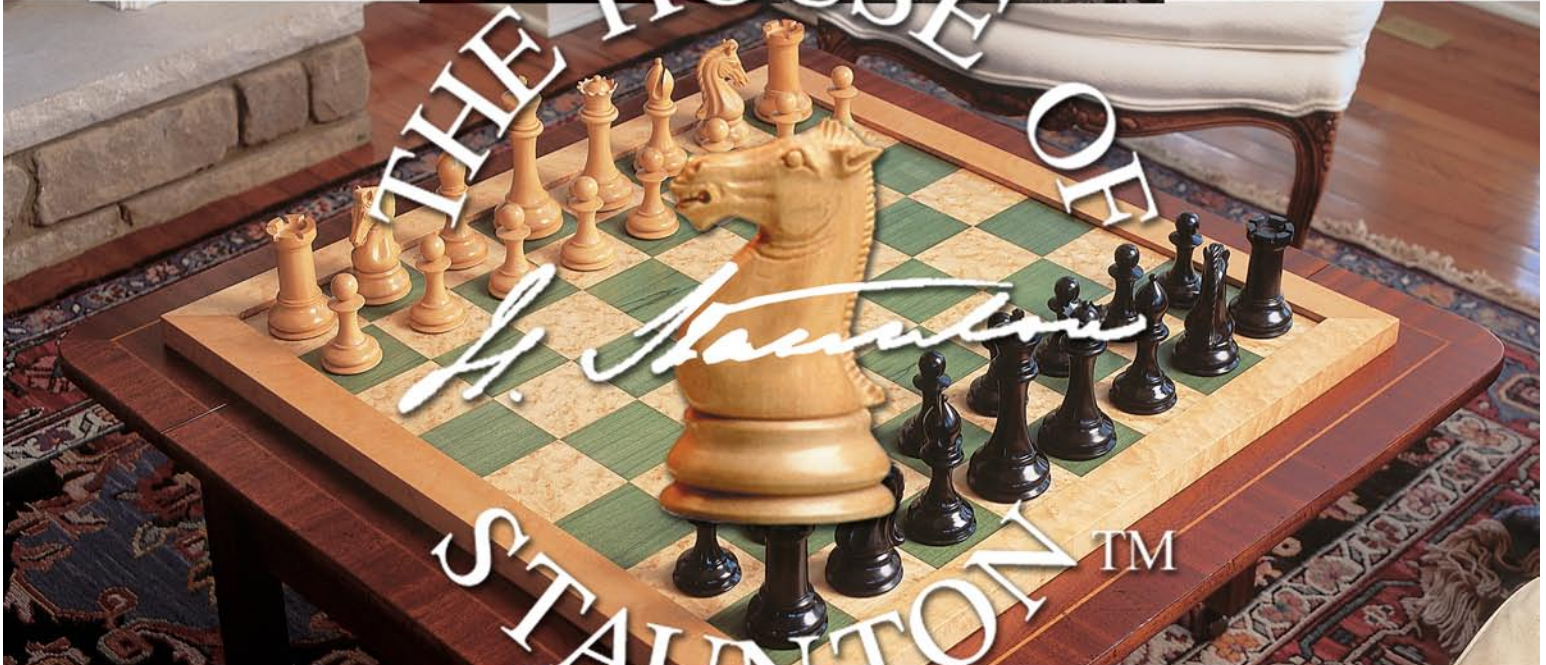
1.Nf3 c6 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.b3 Bg7
5.Bb2 0-0 6.Bg2 d5 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.d3
a6 9.Nbd2 dxc4 10.bxc4 b5 11.Nd4
bxc4 12.Nxc6 Qe8 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7
14.Bxa8 cxd3 15.exd3 Qd6 16.Nc4
Qb8 17.Bg2 Nb6 18.Qb3 Nfd7
19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Rab1 Bb7 21.Bxb7
Qxb7 22.Nxb6 Nc5 23.Qc3+ 1-0

Kashyap,A - Tian,J [D79]
ICCA Individual Championships

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3
0-0 5.Bg2 c6 6.Nf3 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5
8.0-0 Nc6 9.Bf4 e6 10.Nb5 Qb6
11.Nc7 Rb8 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxb8
Nxb8 14.Rb1 Nc6 15.e3 Rd8 16.Qe2
e5 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Bxe5
19.Rfd1 Be6 20.e4 Ne7 21.b3 Nc6
22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.Qb5 Qc7 24.Rc1
Qb6 25.Qxb6 axb6 26.f4 Bd4+
27.Kf1 Nb4 28.e5 Nxa2 29.Rd1 Bc3
30.Rd8+ Kg7 31.Rb8 Bxb3 32.Rxb7
Nb4 33.Bf3 Bd4 34.Kg2 Bc5 35.g4
Nd5 36.Kg3 Be3 37.e6 Bxf4+
38.Kh3 Nc7 39.e7 Ba4 40.Rxb6 Be5
41.Rb8 f6 42.Rb1 Kf7 43.Re1 g5
44.Bd1 Be8 45.Bc2 h6 46.Bf5 Kxe7
47.Kg2 Ne6 48.Rb1 Nf4+ 49.Kf3 h5
50.Rb7+ Kd6 51.Rh7 Bc6+ 52.Kf2
hxg4 53.Bxg4 Be4 54.Rh6 Kd5
55.h4 Nd3+ 56.Ke3 f5 57.Bd1 Bf4+
58.Ke2 g4 59.Rh8 Bf3+ 60.Kxd3
Bxd1 61.h5 g3 62.h6 Bxh6 63.Rxh6
f4 64.Kd2 g2 65.Rg6 Bf3 0-1

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Game Analysis with IM ANGELO YOUNG

**(4) Markovic ,A. - IM Young,A.
[B66]
CHICAGO, 2006**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6
7.Qd2 a6**

More popular is the move 7. ...Be7 .
The idea of the text line is to prevent
any intrusion on b5 and later black
can advanced b7-b5 for queenside
play.

8.Be2 h6 9.Be3

A natural move.

9...Bd7

This is one of the most direct
attacking schemes, in which
black will be able to advance the
queenside pawns forcefully.

10.f3 Qc7

Still, a waiting move which readies
for queenside play. This is played in
cooperation with the moves 7. ...a6
and 9. ...Bd7.

11.Nd1

I don't understand this move.
Instead, castling on either side
would be highly recommended.

**11...d5 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.e5!?
Nd7**

Its too dangerous to take the pawn.
[13...Qxe5 14.Bf4 Qh5 15.Nf2 Bc5
16.g4 Bxf2+ 17.Kxf2 Qh3 18.Bf1
Qh4+ 19.Bg3 Qg5 is one sample
line.]

14.f4 g5!

Diagram



15.Bd4 0-0-0 16.Bh5 f5! 17.Bf7
[17.exf6 gxf4 18.Bg4 e5 19.Bf2 h5
20.Bh3 Kb8]

**17...Nc5 18.Bxc5 Bxc5
19.Bxe6+ Kb8**

Black gives up a pawn for initiative.
With the king in the center, this can
be especially dangerous.

20.Bxf5 gxf4 21.Qxf4 Rde8

No castling! The e-file is the highway
to white's king.

**22.Rf1 Rxe5+ 23.Kd2 Rf8
24.g4 Bb5 25.Rf3 Bd6 26.Ne3
d4 27.Qxd4 Bc5 28.Qc3 Qd6+
29.Kc1 Bb4**

And Qd2+ is coming.

0-1

**(2) Betanelli,A - IM Young,A
[A40]
Midwest Class, 2006**

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6

English Attack

3.a3

This is popular among GM's. Mainly,
it prevents Bb4.

3...g6 4.Nf3 Bg7

This is a less frequently played
variation.

5.e4 Ne7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.h4!?

Diagram



This move deserves attention. It
aims to launch a direct attack on
the black castled king.

7...d5

Best reaction. When attacked on the
sides, try to open up the center.

8.Bd3

[8.e5 c5 9.h5 Nbc6 10.dxc5 bxc5
11.Bf4 Rb8 12.Rb1 Qa5 13.Bd2 Qd8
14.Bf4 Qa5 15.Bd2 Qc7 16.Nb5 Qd8
17.Bf4 Nf5 18.g4 Nfd4 19.Nfxd4

cx d4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Qxd4 dxc4
22.Qxc4 GM Kaidanov- IM Young
2006 US Open]

**8...c5 9.dxc5 bxc5 10.exd5
exd5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5
Qxd5 13.0-0 Nc6=/+**



I prefer Black here.

Black's bishop pair is far superior to its counter part. One white bishop has not yet been developed, and the other doesn't have an obvious purpose.

**14.Qc2 Rb8 15.Be4 Qd6 16.Rd1
Nd4 17.Nxd4 cxd4**

Now my passed pawn decide the game.

18.Rb1 Bg4 19.f3?

This move creates weakness.

**19...Be6 20.b4 Rfd8 21.Bd3
Be5 22.Qd2 Rbc8 23.h5 Bd5
24.hxg6 hxg6 25.Qg5 Rxc1!**

An exchange sac! For my attack. This move kills the dark squares.

**26.Rbxc1 Bf4 27.Qh4 Be3+
28.Kf1 Kg7 29.Rc5**

White is busted! it will be hard to stop Rh8.

(See diagram next column)



29. Rc5 Rh8 30.Qg4 Qh2

with Qg1+ - Qf2++

**31.Ke2 Rh4 32.Qxh4 Qxh4
33.Rf1 Qg3**

0-1

Payments:

Check payable to BNA Scholastic Chess. Mail to Bill Barton, 214 Mecherle Drive, Bloomington IL 61701; (309) 825-4852; billbarton@Juno.com.

Side events:

Friday 3/9 Speed Chess Tournament 7:00-8:00 P.M. Bughouse Tournament 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Other information:

Players must come from the state of Illinois. Top four players count toward team score. No club teams. No byes last round. Byes for any single round must be requested before the end of the first round.

Only one bye allowed

for tournament. All other rules/regulations shall be in accordance to CoChess By-laws and the USCF Rulebook. For information see BNASC.org. Please make hotel reservations early!

**MARCH 10-11, 2007.
ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLASTIC
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Illinois State University Bone Student Center, Normal, IL
100 N. University St, Normal, IL.

Start time:

Check in Friday, 3/9 - 7:00-9:00 P.M, Saturday - 3/10 - 8:00-9:30 A.M.

4 sections:

K-1 G/30, K-3 G/45, K-5 G/60, K-8 G/60.

Rounds:

Saturday 3/10 K-1: 10:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30; K-3: 10:00, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30; K-5 & K-8: 10:00, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45; Sunday 3/11 K-1: 9:00, 10:30, 12:30 Trophies ASAP; K-3: 9:00, 11:00, 1:00 Trophies ASAP; K-5 & K-8: 9:00, 11:30, 2:00 Trophies ASAP.

Awards:

Each participant will receive a commemorative ribbon. Each division: trophies to top 25 individuals and top ten teams. Class trophies for top two in several classes in each division. Entry fee: \$30 by March 6.

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Please mail by March 3. If registration/payment not completed by March 6, then late registration fee is \$50.00 and must be received by Friday, March 9, 2007. On-site registration \$50.00 Friday, March 9, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. only. All registration and USCF membership fees must be completed before the day of the tournament. No new registrations will be accepted on Saturday morning!

A Master's Notes on "Toilet Gate"

A Topalov vs. Kramnik REPORT BY FM ALBERT CHOW



[ed:] Not everyone can weigh in on the World Championship match like our own games editor, Albert Chow. In this special installment, Albert analyzes every game of the entire match, giving commentary down to the final move! Enjoy!

[12...Na6 13.Qxc4 Nb4 14.Qc1±]

13.Qa4

[If 13.Qxa5 Bb7! 14.Qxd8 Rxa1! 15.Qxf8+! Kxf8 16.0-0 Ra2=]

13...Qb6! 14.0-0 Qxb2 15.Nbd2 Bb5 16.Nxc4! Bxa4 17.Nxb2 Bb5 18.Ne5 Ra7 19.Bf3 Nbd7=

GAME I

Kramnik,V (2743) - Topalov,V (2813) [E04]
FIDE World Championship Elista (1), 23.09.2006
 [F.M. Albert Chow]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5

A transposition to the Queen's gambit. Perhaps Topalov would choose the sharp Semi Slav after 4. Nc3 c6.

4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2

The Catalan gambit accepted.

5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 a5

It is confusing trying to classify the transpositions. Black adopts Bogó Indian variations.

7.Qc2 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2

[8.Nbxd2 b5! and black may keep the gambit pawn.]

8...c6 9.a4

[9.Ne5!? b5!? 10.Nxc6 Qc7! With equal counterchances.]

9...b5!? 10.axb5 cxb5 11.Qg5! 0-0 12.Qxb5 Ba6!



The active black pieces compensate the potential weakness of the isolated a pawn.

20.Nec4 Rb8 21.Rfb1 g5 22.e3 g4 23.Bd1 Bc6 24.Rc1 Be4 25.Na4 Rb4 26.Nd6 Bf3!? 27.Bxf3 gxf3

This f3 pawn is both strong and weak...

28.Nc8 Ra8 29.Ne7+ Kg7 30.Nc6 Rb3 31.Nc5 Rb5 32.h3 Nxc5 33.Rxc5 Rb2

[33...Rxc5 34.dxc5 Ne4 35.Rxa5 Rxa5 36.Nxa5 Nxc5 Equal exchanges are logical leading to a drawn knight ending.]

34.Rg5+ Kh6 35.Rgxa5 Rxa5

36.Nxa5 Ne4! 37.Rf1 Nd2 38.Rc1 Ne4 39.Rf1

Now with time control near at move 40, black could and probably should just repeat moves again with 39... Nd2 and force a draw.

39...f6!? 40.Nc6! Nd2 41.Rd1 Ne4 42.Rf1 Kg6!? 43.Nd8! Rb6 44.Rc1 h5 45.Ra1 h4!?

These aggressive ideas show why Topalov is rated 2813. He is always going for a win! Even when down material in an endgame. But that is in fact an over estimation of black's chances: he has enough compensation but not more.

46.gxh4! Kh5 47.Ra2! Kxh4 48.Kh2 Kh5

[48...Ng5! was good.]

49.Rc2 Kh6 50.Ra2 Kg6 51.Rc2 Kf5 52.Ra2 Rb5 53.Nc6! Rb7 54.Ra5+ Kg6 55.Ra2 Kh5 56.d5! e5

[56...exd5 57.Nd4! and Nxf3 white wins a pawn for ending advantage;]

56...Rg7 57.dxe6 Rg2+ 58.Kh1 Nxf2+ 59.Rxf2 Rxf2 60.e7 Rf1+ 61.Kh2 Rf2+ 62.Kg3 Rg2+ 63.Kxf3 Rg8 64.Ke4+- the passed e pawn

will win.]

57.Ra4!

The second time control is at move 60. But Kramnik counters actively. Was Topalov in time pressure? He now makes the fatal blunder.

57...f5??

[57...Nxf2! 58.Kg3 e4!! This saving sacrifice may be what Topalov missed; humans do not like to sac in the endgame, but Fritz is able to calculate the drawing lines quickly. 59.Kxf2 Rb2+ and white must allow perpetual check or else the f pawn queens, for example: 60.Ke1 (60.Kg3?? Rg2+ 61.Kf4 f2 62.Ra1 Rg1+) 60...Rb1+ 61.Kf2= draw.]

58.Nxe5+- Rb2 59.Nd3 Rb7 60.Rd4 Rb6 61.d6! Nxd6 62.Kg3! Ne4+ 63.Kxf3 Kg5 64.h4+ Kf6 65.Rd5 Nc3 66.Rd8 Rb1 67.Rf8+ Ke6 68.Nf4+ Ke5 69.Re8+ Kf6 70.Nh5+ Kg6 71.Ng3 Rb2 72.h5+ Kf7 73.Re5 Nd1 74.Ne2 Kf6 75.Rd5

With no more tricks left, black resigned the losing ending. Kramnik leads 1-0 and seems to be very strong in matches for the World title.

1-0

GAME II

Topalov,V (2813) - Kramnik,V (2743) [D19]

FIDE World Championship Elista (2), 24.09.2006

[FM Albert Chow]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 Nbd7

The Classical main line of the Slav Queen's Gambit.

9.Qe2 Bg6 10.e4 0-0!

[Not 10...Bxc3 11.bxc3 Nxe4 12.Ba3!+= White gains dangerous counterplay for a gambit pawn.]

11.Bd3 Bh5 12.e5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Qe3! Bg6 15.Ng5 Re8 16.f4 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 f5 18.Be3 Nf8 19.Kh1 Rc8 20.g4!? Qd7 21.Rg1 Be7 22.Nf3 Rc4

Dynamic opening preparation has given Topalov dangerous kingside attacking chances. Now again just as in game one, he sacrifices his a pawn for activity.



23.Rg2!?

[23.b3 is solid. It seems white might protect his queenside first and then go back to the attack. Maybe then Topalov might reach an endgame with at least even material.]

23...fxg4! 24.Rxg4 Rxa4 25.Rag1 g6 26.h4! Rb4! 27.h5 Qb5! 28.Qc2 Rxb2

See diagram next page.

Kramnik is winning on the queenside, and it looks like that is it. Topalov needed to have envisioned the following queen sacrifice in advance, otherwise white is just losing. Genius or foolish!? The first time control was move 40, and now the critical tactics may have been played nervously due to time pressure.



[Other options- 28...Rb3!?!; 28...Qc4]

29.hxg6!! h5!

[29...Rxc2 Taking the queen loses by force!: 30.gxh7+- Kxh7 31.Rg7+ Kh8 32.Rg8+ Kh7 33.R1g7+ Kh6 34.f5+! Bg5 35.Rxg5!+-;

29...Nxg6 30.Qxg6+!! (30.Rxg6+? Kh8!) 30...hxg6 31.Rxg6+ Kh7 32.R6g3!+-]

30.g7! hxg4

[30...Rxc2?? 31.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 32.Rg8+ Kf7 33.R1g7#]

31.gxf8Q+

The shock of such surprises is more than most humans can handle. Not to mention in a match for the world title. Both warriors now make fatal errors, and miss key opportunities.

31...Bxf8??

[31...Rxf8?? 32.Qg6+ Kh8 33.Qh5+ Kg7 34.Rxg4+ mates.; 31...Kxf8! 32.Qh7! Qe2! 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Qh5+ Kf8! 35.Qxg4! looks like black's king will be mated down the g file, but black has a resource that both humans may have missed but a cold blooded computer calculates: 35...Bg5!! 36.Re1! Qc2! 37.fxg5! Ke7]



32.Qg6+?

[32.Rxg4+! Bg7 33.Qc7! Qf1+ 34.Ng1 Topalov could and should have won game 2 as white.]

32...Bg7 33.f5!?

[33.Ng5!? Re7! 34.Rxg4 This is difficult and unclear. About equal counterchances.]

33...Re7!

[33...exf5 34.Ng5! Qc6 35.e6+- White enjoys a good attack.]

34.f6 Qe2! 35.Qxg4 Rf7 36.Rc1

[36.Qh5! Qxe3 37.Ng5! more brilliant attacking moves that win for white!]

36...Rc2! 37.Rxc2

[37.Re1! Qd3 38.Qh5! White would maintain attacking options.]

37...Qd1+! 38.Kg2 Qxc2+ 39.Kg3 Qe4 40.Bf4

[40.Qxe4! dxe4 41.Ng5 white gains an endgame advantage.]

40...Qf5-+

Topalov has had many chances to find winning combinations. But just as in game one, Kramnik has survived to 1st time control and is up

material!

41.Qxf5 exf5 42.Bg5

[42.fxg7 Rxg7+ 43.Bg5! a5!+- the extra advancing a-pawn is a strong advantage.]

42...a5 43.Kf4 a4 44.Kxf5 a3! 45.Bc1??

[45.Nd2! a2 46.Nb3 Rc7! 47.fxg7 Kxg7 is better, but black would have the edge.]

45...Bf8! 46.e6 Rc7 47.Bxa3

[47.e7 Bxe7 48.fxe7 Rxe7 49.Bxa3 Re3! wins a piece.]

47...Bxa3 48.Ke5 Rc1 49.Ng5 Rf1 50.e7 Re1+ 51.Kxd5 Bxe7! 52.fxe7 Rxe7+- 53.Kd6 Re1

[53...Re3!]

54.d5 Kf8 55.Ne6+??

[55.Kd7!]

55...Ke8 56.Nc7+ Kd8 57.Ne6+ Kc8 58.Ke7 Rh1 59.Ng5 b5 60.d6 Rd1 61.Ne6 b4 62.Nc5 Re1+ 63.Kf6 Re3

White resigned. **0-1**

GAME III

Kramnik,V (2743) - Topalov,V (2813) [E02]
FIDE World Championship Elista (3), 26.09.2006
 [F.M. Albert Chow]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Qa4 Bd7

Perhaps due to the previous games adventures, Topalov declines the more complex variation 6...Bb4+

7.Bd2 Nd5 that creates unclear complications.

7.Qxc4 Na5 8.Qd3 c5! 9.0-0 Bc6! 10.Nc3 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Bc5 12.Rd1 Bxg2 13.Qb5+! Nd7 14.Kxg2 a6 15.Qd3 Rc8

Diagram



16.Bg5! Be7

[16...Qxg5? 17.Nxe6! Qe7 18.Nxg7+ Kf8 (18...Kd8 19.Nd5) 19.Nf5 Qe6 20.Qxd7+-]

17.Bxe7

[17.Ne4!? Nc4! is also equal.]

17...Qxe7 18.Rac1 Nc4 19.Na4 b5 20.b3 0-0

[20...Nde5!? was playable.]

21.bxc4 bxa4 22.Nc6! Rxc6 23.Qxd7 Qc5!

[In view of the match score, Topalov avoids the passive 23...Qxd7 24.Rxd7 a better pawn structure favors white in the endgame.]

24.Rc3 g6 25.Rb1 h5 26.Rb7 e5 27.e4 Rf6 28.Rc2 Qa3!

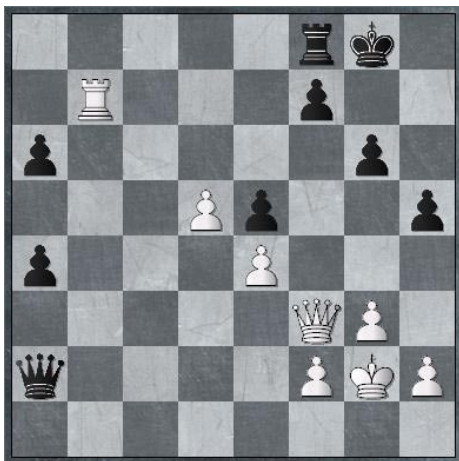
Once again Topalov has weak a pawns, but he does a better job of defending, as he should have in games one and two.

**29.Qd1! Rd6! 30.Rd2 Rfd8
31.Rd5 Rxd5 32.cxd5!**

[32.exd5 Qxa2 is less clear.]

32...Qxa2 33.Qf3 Rf8

Diagram



34.Qd3

[34.Qc3! threatening the e5 pawn, looks promising.]

34...a3 35.Rb3 f5! 36.Qxa6

[36.Rxa3? fx4! these tactics favor black.]

**36...Qxb3 37.Qxg6+ Kh8
38.Qh6+**

Draw agreed due to perpetual check. 1/2-1/2

GAME IV

Topalov,V (2813) - Kramnik,V (2748) [D47]

FIDE World Championship Elista (4), 27.09.2006

[FM Albert Chow]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5

The Meran variation of the Semi-Slav Queen's gambit.

8.Bd3 Bb7 9.a3 b4 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 bxa3 12.0-0 Bd6 13.b3

13. ...Nf6 14.Nd2

Diagram

14...Qc7

[14...Nxe4 15.Nxe4 Bxh2+ 16.Kxh2 Qh4+ 17.Kg1 Qxe4 18.f3! Qd5 19.Bxa3+= Is dangerous for black's king.]

15.Bf3!?

[15.h3! seems better to the computer, and we may admit that is how some lower rated master such as myself would play, afraid to give away free pawns with check!]

15...Bxh2+ 16.Kh1 Bd6 17.Nc4! Be7 18.Bxa3 0-0 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Ra5! Rfd8

If white had an h-pawn he would be clearly better as black's weak c pawn blocks a bad bishop.

Diagram



21.Kg1 c5!?

It is becoming clear in this match that these super GM's prefer to sac gambit pawns for active piece play over passive defence. We should note that our computers do not agree, they give us greedy variations that do not feel the human suffering that comes from being slowly tortured!

22.Rxc5 Ne4 23.Bxe4! Bxe4

24.Qg4 Bd3 25.Ra1 Rac8 26.Raa5 Rb8 27.Qd1 Be4 28.Qa1 Rb7 29.Nd2 Bg6 30.Qc3 h6 31.Ra6 Kh7 32.Nc4 Be4 33.f3 Bd5

Diagram



34.Nd2

[34.Na5! Rbd7! 35.b4 planning b5 and an eventual Nc6, looks better for white.]

34...Rdb8 35.Qd3+ f5!

[35...g6? 36.e4! Bxb3 37.Rc3! When Topalov sacs a pawn we must calculate clearly or fall into a deadly trap, in this case the bishop is the victim.]

36.Rc3 Qh4! 37.Ra1 Qg3 38.Qc2 Rf7 39.Rf1 Qg6 40.Qd3 Qg3 41.Rfc1 Rfb7 42.Qc2 Qg5! 43.Ra1 Qf6 44.Qd3 Rd7! 45.Ra4 Rbd8 46.Rc5 Kg8

Diagram



47.Nc4 Bxc4! 48.Raxc4 f4!

Once again Kramnik has withstood forty plus moves of pressure, and his defence is rewarded with objective equality.

49.Rc6 fxe3 50.Qxe3 Rxd4 51.Rxe6 Qh4 52.Rxd4 Qxd4 53.Re8+ Kh7 54.Qxd4 Rxd4

A dead drawn rook ending was agreed tie. Kramnik is looking like a very hard man to defeat in a match, as G.Kasparov and P.Leko discovered.

At this rate Kramnik is gaining rating points from Topalov as well. The odds are now in heavy favor of Vladimir becoming the UNDISPUTED World Champion!

1/2-1/2

GAME V

Kramnik,V - Topalov,V
FIDE World Championship
Elista (5), 27.09.2006
 [FM Albert Chow]

At the scheduled playing time, Kramnik refused to show up at the board and did not make a single move despite having white. Kramnik lost by time forfeit. This result was protested against by team Kramnik, and it was not clear what the outcome would be.

But for now the loss is official, and Kramnik has only a one point lead.

0-1

Score after round 5:

3.0 - GM Vladimir Kramnik
2.0 - GM Vesselin Topalov

[ed:] After two draws in games 6 and 7, and a good deal of dispute both at the tournament site and throughout the world, Topalov finally got on the board with his first non-forfeit win in round 8, playing the black pieces.

PLEASE NOTE: all of FM Albert Chow's analysis of rounds 6 and 7 are viewable via the e-ICB home page, and we skip ahead here only in the interest of space! Please replay his games at: www.ilchess.org/e.htm

Now back to the match!

GAME VIII

Kramnik,V (2743) - Topalov,V (2813) [D47]
FIDE World Championship
Elista (8), 05.10.2006
 [FM Albert Chow]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 b4!? 10.Na4 c5 11.dxc5 Nxc5 12.Bb5+ Ncd7 13.Ne5 Qc7! 14.Qd4 Rd8! 15.Bd2 [15.Nxd7 Nxd7 16.Qxa7 Bd6

Black has more than enough compensation for the gambit a-pawn.; 15.Qxa7 Bd6 is similar.]

15...Qa5! 16.Bc6! Be7

Diagram



[16...Bxc6 17.Nxc6 Qxa4 18.Nxd8 Kxd8 was possible trading a bishop and knight for a rook and looks good for black despite the uncastled Kd8.]

17.Rfc1?

[17.b3! 0-0! 18.Bxd7 Nxd7 19.Nxd7 Bc6 20.Qe5! Qxe5 21.Nxe5 Bxa4 22.Bxb4! Bxb4 23.bxa4 Bc3 24.Nc6! Bxa1 25.Nxd8 Rxd8 26.Rxa1 Rd3!= this forced variation leads to a drawn rook ending.]

17...Bxc6 18.Nxc6 Qxa4 19.Nxd8 Bxd8!

[19...Kxd8 20.a3! favors white.]

20.Qxb4 Qxb4 21.Bxb4 Nd5 22.Bd6 f5!

Diagram



Topalov is able to demonstrate the high level of technique needed to prove that two minor pieces can outplay a rook and pawn.

23.Rc8 N5b6 24.Rc6 Be7 25.Rd1 Kf7 26.Rc7 Ra8 27.Rb7 Ke8 28.Bxe7 Kxe7 29.Rc1 a5 30.Rc6 Nd5 31.h4?! h6 32.a4 g5 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Kf1 g4! 35.Ke2 N5f6 36.b3 Ne8! 37.f3 g3! 38.Rc1 Nef6 39.f4? Kd6 40.Kf3 Nd5 41.Kxg3 Nc5 42.Rg7 Rb8 43.Ra7 Rg8+ 44.Kf3 Ne4

Diagram

45.Ra6+ Ke7 46.Rxa5 Rg3+ 47.Ke2 Rxe3+ 48.Kf1 Rxb3 49.Ra7+ Kf6 50.Ra8 Nxf4 51.Ra1 Rb2 52.a5 Rf2+

White resigned before being checkmated.

0-1

[ed:] Topalov struck again with victory as white in the ninth game of the match (also replayable online, with FM Chow's notes), seizing the momentum. However, in round ten, it was Kramnik's turn to show his class.

GAME X

Kramnik,V (2743) - Topolov,V (2813) [E11]
FIDE World Championship Elista (10), 06.10.2006
 [FM Albert Chow]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6

White's Catalan queen's gambit is declined by a Bogo Indian-Semi Slav.

8.Bf4 Nbd7 9.Qc2 a5!?

[9...b6 could be flexible, with ideas of ...Ba6,...Bb7, and...c5.]

10.Rd1 Nh5!? 11.Bc1 b5!?

Diagram



[11...f5!? Transposes to the Dutch Stonewall.]

12.cxd5

The playable alternatives 12.b3 and 12.c5 are slow.

12...cxd5 13.e4! dxe4 14.Qxe4 Rb8 15.Qe2 Nhf6 16.Bf4 Rb6 17.Ne5!

Diagram



17...Nd5

[17...Nb8!? is playable, but Topalov would rather sac a pawn than retreat.]

18.Bxd5! exd5 19.Nc3 Nf6 20.Nxb5 Ba6! 21.a4 Ne4

[21...Re8 Unclear compensation for a gambit pawn.]

22.Rdc1! Qe8! 23.Rc7 Bd8! 24.Ra7

Diagram



A critical moment for this game, and the match. It seems obvious by now neither player is cheating using a computer. They are not playing perfect.

24...f6??

It seems Topalov likes to blitz his moves, and gets a lead on the clock. But here was a chance to play the obvious best moves, and not try to be so "brilliant." [24...Bxb5! 25.axb5 Qxb5! 26.Qxb5 Rxb5= Black had a clear equality, in favor of Topolov leading the match.]

25.Nd7!

[25.Qg4! also gives black big problems.]

25...Rf7 26.Nxb6 Rxa7 27.Nxd5+- Rd7 28.Ndc3 Rxd4 29.Re1 f5 30.Qc2

[30.f3 Bb6 31.Kg2! is also good for white, but Kramnik has decided not to give Topolov checks at his king.]

30...Rb4 31.Nd5

Also winning was 31.f3.

31...Rxb5 32.axb5 Qxb5 33.Nc7!

Trading off a bishop makes the technique easy.

33...Qc4 34.Qd1!

[34.Qxc4+ Bxc4 35.Ra1 was simple and good.]

34...Bxc7 35.Qd7!+-

The threat of mate on e8 forces a winning ending.

35...h6 36.Qxc7 Qb4 37.Qb8+! Qxb8 38.Bxb8 Nd2 39.Ra1 g5 40.f4 Nb3 41.Ra3 Bc4 42.Bc7 g4 43.Bxa5

Black resigned. **1-0**

THE ROAD WARRIOR

with NM PETE

KARAGIANIS

GM Alexander Morozevich (2741) - GM Peter Leko (2749) [E15]
Linares 03.03.2007
 [Karagianis,Pete]

Opening theory has its time and place, to be certain. Every aspiring chess player would find it wise to study and understand the majority, if not all, of the so-called "main line" openings, at least to some extent. In recent times, with the exponential growth of the technological age to thank, computers have become a driving influence in the chess world, most notably in the development and progression of chess opening theory.

I recall a recent edition of "New in Chess" that featured a brilliant victory by Georgian GM Baadur Jobava. The game itself was remarkable for the depth of ideas, yes, but even more remarkable was the context of the game. The entire game had been fully analysed- every move of every variation- by Jobava and his computer engine **before** the match even took place! His preparation for his opponent was so thorough that the contest was not, in fact, a game of chess or calculation, but instead only a semi-incredible feat of memory. The above example, and many others less outstanding, serve as reason for why I find the following game so remarkable.

This match, between GM Alexander Morozevich and GM Peter Leko, is instead the exact opposite of the spirit of recitation.

I have made a habit in recent times to try to observe the live relay of as many top-level tournaments as I can fit into my schedule. I enjoy

the viewer analysis, often spurred by grandmaster or engine suggestions, and I also enjoy cheering for my favorite players and seeing what ideas the top-level participants can come up with over the board. The player I always follow the closest is Morozevich. His style- called "wild" by many and criticized by even the likes of Kasparov- is nonetheless the most entertaining of the top tier masters. He does not concern himself with theoretical concerns or "standard" ideas, for the most part. In fact, in 2005, "Moro" won the Moscow blitz tournament playing the move 1. Nc3 as white because he didn't want to reveal his other (and equally off-beat) opening preparation he had readied for that year's world championship event in San Luis.

In this game, he crushes the robotic Leko, a Hungarian player who doesn't always choose the most inspiring openings. Leko is renowned for his love of the Petroff, the Najdorf, and a wide assortment of other well-played openings and well-trodden paths that, more often than not, lead to less-than-25-move draws. And we wonder why chess is not popular!

I grew up a Jordan fan when the Bulls were hot in the 1990s... Leko's play, to me, is equivalent to MJ and Karl Malone hanging up their Nike's at halftime, hugging, and calling it a tie. "Unsatisfactory" would be the understatement of the century.

With that said, let's watch as Morozevich- known sometimes as the "Lone Wolf"- dismantles the attempt at boring chessitudes by Peter Leko.



Morozevich-Leko, Linares 2007

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3

So far nothing totally off-beat, only a slightly different taste than the typical Queen's Gambit Declined. Morozevich decides to play the fianchetto system against the Queen's Indian, sometimes known as the "Old Main Line."

4...Ba6 5.Qb3

And how quickly Morozevich deviates from topical main line theory! It is true- Qb3 is not a "new" move- my database shows it played 151 times before- but current preference is to play either Qc2, with the e4 square in mind, or the simpler 5. b3

5...Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.e4

According to my database this position has been reached only once before, in Lautier-Sokolov, 2003. That game continued with 7. ...Bb7 and a later ...c6, but white built a large advantage in the center and went on to win. Perhaps for that reason, Leko chose a new move.

7...c5 8.d5 exd5 9.exd5 Re8 10.Bd3

In completely uncharted territory, Moro is unafraid to leave his king uncastled. A loose position with dangerous counterchances across

the entire board suits Alexander well, and Leko not so much.

Kasparov commented on Leko's hesitant nature in his notes to the game Leko-Topalov, San Luis 2005, published in New in Chess '05 vol. 8 very candidly. "...if you're ahead in development, it's not forever. You must attack, you must be ready to sacrifice, and Leko often isn't willing. Very often... he tries to be very precise, to slowly prepare the attack, and that doesn't always work. His record... when things go blow for blow is not very impressive."

10...Bf8+ 11.Kf1



No fear for the Wolf- there is nothing to be afraid of here, anyway.

11...d6 12.Kg2

"Castling by hand."

12...Nbd7 13.h4

Excellent! A "normal" move like 13. Bd2 would have more than sufficed here, but that is not Moro's plan. He sees the black pieces tripping over themselves, and guns the engine. It is too early for concrete variations, but let us just take scope of white's pieces- the rook is already on a fine attacking file, the bishop at d3 is aiming at the black king, and the entire defending army finds itself on passive squares.

13...g6 14.Qa4 Bb7 15.h5 Nxb5 ?!

This move is simply too inviting. All of white's pieces now flood into the position. I guess a more passive try may have been the way to go... and it would be certainly more "a la Leko".

[15...a6 trying to stir something up on the queenside, may have been an idea. 16.hxg6 fxg6 recapturing with the f-pawn gives a hole on e6, but opens the f-file for possible counter play and allows a piece to defend h7 via the 7th rank. 17.Qc2 Qc7 18.Ng5 White's attack is mounting.]



16.Rxh5! gxh5 17.Ne4

Morozevich conducts the next phase of the game with stunning accuracy. He seems to find wins in every line, all the while putting his pieces on just the right square at just the right time.

17...f5

The threat was 18. Qxd7! followed by Nf6+. At any rate, Leko didn't want the knight at e4 staring into his position any longer. He probably reasoned that if the knight could not go to g5 and then e6, then the usually weakening f5 move might not be all that bad.

18.Neg5 h6 19.Nh3

The knight seems out of play here, but Moro has a good re-routing maneuver in mind.

[19.Ne6 would have run into a nasty trick: 19...Rxe6 ! 20.dxe6 Ne5 21.Be2 And suddenly black's pieces have things to do!]

19...Ne5

There was simply no way to guard the f5 pawn; a fact which, by itself, may already begin to highlight the desperate nature of black's position.

20.Nxe5 dxe5 21.Bxf5 Qf6 22.Be4 Re7 23.Qd1

Targeting the weak pawn created by the earlier exchange sacrifice, while also bringing the heavy pieces over to assault the king.

23...h4 24.Qh5 hxg3 25.fxg3

Perhaps Morozevich has a sense of humor as well- this tiny pawn on g3 will be his king's only immediate defense for some time to come.

25...Rg7



This move seems natural. Black takes control of the g-file- activates his exchange advantage, and takes aim for the black king. It may have also been bait- he might have been inviting the capture on h6, which indeed would be fine for white. But the move 26. Bxh6!? now would

allow a reduction in material, and Morozevich doesn't care about the end game, he wants to attack. His pieces are on lovely squares and poised to conduct a terrible onslaught. Oddly enough. 25. ...Rg7 may be the move that loses the game, as from here on out black just can't catch up to white's threats.

26.Bd2

[26.Bxh6 Qxh6 !? 27.Qxh6 Rxc3+ 28.Kxg3 Bxh6 And a weird ending has come up, where white's passed pawn may win the day, but black's two bishops and a passer of his own are intriguing trumps.]

26...Qf7 27.Qe2 Bc8 28.Nf2 Bf5

Leko's desire to trade is natural- he is the defender.

29.Bxf5 Qxf5 30.Ne4



And the knight has reached its dream square, at long last. An unfortunate side-effect of the Bc8-f5 trade is that black can now no longer compulse this knight to move.

30...Rf7

If not this move, Morozevich would have taken the f-file with Rf1 himself.

31.Rh1 Qg6 32.Rh4

Blunt threats are often the best.

32...Kh8 33.Ng5

More conducting from Morozevich. Watch how every move black makes allows one of white's pieces to attain a better square. In this case, the Rg4 threat was met by Kh8, which allows the e4 knight to improve to e6.

33...Rf5 34.Ne6 h5



And now, from e6, the knight threatens to trade for black's bishop and capture on h6. After the pawn moves to h5 to guard itself, white finds another hole for his pieces to use. It is now the bishop's turn to gain a better square.

35.Bg5! Kg8

[35...Rxc5 ?? 36.Nxc5 Qxc5 37.Rxh5+]

36.Rxh5

And now the material is nearly equal, anyway.

36...Re8 37.g4 Rf7 38.Bh4

White has too many threats... the e5 pawn, the Rg5 pin... Is Morozevich even bothered by the fact that his

king is naked on g2? I doubt it.

38...Bg7 39.Rg5 Qh6 40.Qxe5 Kh8

It has been over for some time now. Morozevich concludes a masterful attack with a rather blunt operation.



41.Rxg7!

Simplify, simplify.

41. ...Qd2+ 42.Kh3 Qd3+ 43.Bg3 Rxe6 44.dxe6 Rxg7 45.e7 Qh7+ 46.Kg2

Black resigns.

After 46. ...Qc2+ 47. Bf2, black would be out of checks and out of options. A very original attacking game by the Russian master.

1-0

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 standings for the 2006-2007 ICA and Ex-Urban Tours as of December 20, 2006. 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.

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:

YOUNG,ANGELO	47.0
PASALIC,MEHMED	47.0
GUREVICH,DMITRY	43.0
NIENART,CHRISTOPH	41.0
STAMNOV,ALEKSANDA	35.0
SHULMAN,YURY(2)	34.0
KARKLINS,ANDREW	33.0
ROTHSCHILD,BEN	30.0
TSYGANOV,IGOR M	29.0
FELECAN,FLORIN	(2) 27.0

EXPERT TOUR POINTS:

NIENART,CHRISTOPH	45.0
MAGNESS,TREVOR S	33.0
LONG,DAVID	32.0
GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5
RUAN,GORDON J	30.5
MEEROVICH,ILAN	30.0
ROTHSCHILD,BEN	30.0
MC NALLY,DANIEL	29.0
KARKLINS,ERIK	28.0
KASIURAK,ZACH	27.0
CHIEN,JASON W	27.0

CLASS A TOUR POINTS:

MAGNESS,TREVOR S	58.5
ROTHSCHILD,BEN	49.0
KASIURAK,ZACH	38.0
MC NALLY,DANIEL	36.0
GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5
RUAN,GORDON J	30.5
FORD,SAMUEL M	30.0
HAMILTON,MARK P	30.0
CHIEN,JASON W	27.0
AUGER,MICHAEL W	27.0

CLASS B TOUR POINTS:

LEONG,GEE Y	49.0
MEDURI,AKAASH	39.0
LUTZKE,RICK W	38.0
DZANANOVIC,MUHAME	38.0

THARIATH,MIKE	36.0
KHURELCHULUUN,TON	36.0
LIN,DER-LONG	35.0
ENGELEN,MARK S	32.0
MC CLANAHAN,GAVIN	32.0
GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5

CLASS C TOUR POINTS:

JOHNSEN,ALECK C	51.0
THARIATH,MIKE	40.0
MC CLANAHAN,GAVIN	28.0
LACKLAND,JOE (2)	27.0
PATEL,RASESH R	25.0
DATLA,SIDDARTH	24.0
LIU,JOSEPH	23.0
GASUNAS,ANTHONY C	22.0
PADILLA,RUDY R	21.5
DOLSON,CARL L	21.0

CLASS D TOUR POINTS:

DOLSON,CARL L	28.0
WANG,ROGER R (1)	23.0
GATTO,CHRISTOPHER	22.0
MC CLANAHAN,BRYCE	21.0
MATTHEWS,DENNIS (1)	19.0
BOLTON,BRIAN MCAN(2)	19.0
DEMOS,JAMES C.	18.0
VILLAFLO,ELIZABE	17.0
KHURELCHULUUN,TON	17.0
LEWIS,OTIS	16.0
PLAINES,THERON	16.0

CLASS E TOUR POINTS:

DEMOS,JAMES C.	20.0
BERMAN,MARK E (2)	17.0
KHURELCHULUUN,TON	17.0
CEN,YUEQIN	15.0
SCHULD,ADAM J	15.0
FERNANDES,NINOSHK(2)	15.0
PAUL,BARRY S (2)	12.0
NEWSOME JR,CLEO	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
MARSHALL,JAMES A(2)	4.0
BAUMGARTNER,CHRIS	4.0
DAVIS,JEFFREY E. (2)	4.0
CHIEN,JASON W	4.0
RUAN,GORDON J	4.0
SIMPSON,TOBIAS GA(2)	4.0
BONWELL,JONATHAN(2)	4.0

EXPERT EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5
LONG,DAVID	24.0
CHIEN,JASON W	22.0
RUAN,GORDON J	15.5
THOMAS,BRIAN (1)	14.0
MAGNESS,TREVOR S	12.0
ZIMMERLE,R WAYNE	9.5
MICHEL,BRUCE	9.5
CREMEENS,MATTHEW	9.0
NAFF,WILLIAM A	8.5
DOLSON,CARL L	8.5

CLASS A EX-URBAN TOUR POINTS:

GETZ,HENRY BARNEY	30.5
CHIEN,JASON W	22.0
MAGNESS,TREVOR S	19.5
RUAN,GORDON J	15.5
THOMAS,BRIAN (1)	14.0
LEALI,MICHAEL E	12.5
ZIMMERLE,R WAYNE	10.5
DOLSON,CARL L	10.0

For full
TOUR STANDINGS,
 consult the Illinois Chess As-
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BY LES KISTLER



Round 4 matchup between the 1st place team U1800 "Klimek" (Canterbury School, Fort Wayne, IN; seated at left) and the 2nd place team U1800 "Hoosier Hosers" (seated at right)

First place finishers, "Repeat Offenders" (L to R): Drew Hollinberger, Jim Dean, John Langreck, John Cole



"Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," a team from Indianapolis (L to R): Garrett Smith, Jerry Christner, Maxx Hollick and Sean Hollick

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March 10-11, 2007. Illinois State Scholastic Chess Championship Illinois State University Bone Student Center, Normal, IL, 100 N. University St, Normal, IL. Start time: Check in Friday, 3/9 - 7:00-9:00 P.M, Saturday - 3/10 - 8:00-9:30 A.M. 4 sections: K-1 G/30, K-3 G/45, K-5 G/60, K-8 G/60. Rounds: Saturday 3/10 K-1: 10:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30; K-3: 10:00, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30; K-5 & K-8: 10:00, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45; Sunday 3/11 K-1: 9:00, 10:30, 12:30 Trophies ASAP; K-3: 9:00, 11:00, 1:00 Trophies ASAP; K-5 & K-8: 9:00, 11:30, 2:00 Trophies ASAP. Awards: Each participant will receive a commemorative ribbon. Each division: trophies to top 25 individuals and top ten teams. Class trophies for top two in several classes in each division. Entry fee: \$30 by March 6. Registration: Please mail by March 3. If registration/payment not completed by March 6, then late registration fee is \$50.00 and must be received by Friday, March 9, 2007. On-site registration \$50.00 Friday, March 9, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M only. All registration and USCF membership fees must be completed before the day of the tournament. No new registrations will be accepted on Saturday morning! Payments: Check payable to BNA Scholastic Chess. Mail to Bill Barton, 214 Mecherle Drive, Bloomington IL 61701; (309) 825-4852; billbarton@Juno.com. Side events: Friday 3/9 Speed Chess Tournament 7:00-8:00 P.M. Bughouse Tournament 8:00-9:00 p.m. Other information: Players must come from the state of Illinois. Top four players count toward team score. No club teams. No byes last round. Byes for any single round must be requested before the end of the first round. Only one bye allowed for tournament. All other rules/regulations shall be in accordance to CoChess By-laws and the USCF Rulebook. For information see BNASC.org. Please make hotel reservations early!

March 10, 2007. Chicago Public School Elementary School Chess Championship Tournament. King High School, 4445 South Drexel Ave. Doors will open at 9:00; first round will start at 10:00. Open to Chicago Public School students. For more information: Tom

Larson (773-553-3655; tlaron@cps.k12.il.us

March 16 - 18, 2007. Annual All-Girls National Scholastic Chess Championships presented by Kasparov Chess Foundation in association with Chess Wizards and the USCF. Palmer House Hilton Hotel, 17 East Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603. 6 rounds SS, G/60. Entry fee: \$45 until March 1, and \$65 thereafter or on-site on Fri., March 17. Register online at www.chesswizards.com, or via mail. Make checks payable to Chess Wizards and mail to: Chess Wizards, 3525 W. Peterson Ave., Suite 118, Chicago, IL 60659, Tel. 773-326-2311, or 866-WIZ-4-FUN. Sections: 8 years and younger, 10 years and younger, 12 years and younger, 14 years and younger, 16 years and younger, 18 years and younger. Awards: Trophies to top 15 individuals and top 3 teams in each section. Team scores calculated on top 3 individual scores of players from same school. Souvenir medal to all participants. Schedule: Saturday: opening ceremony 9 a.m., rounds at 9:30, 12:00, 3:00 and 5:30; Sunday: Rounds at 9:00 and 11:30, closing ceremony 2:30 p.m. Side events: Simultaneous exhibition by Irina Krush, 4-time member of the U.S. Women's Olympiad Team and Silver medalist of the 2004 U.S. Women's Olympiad Team, Fri., March 16th at 7:00 P.M. Blitz Tournament G/5, Fri., March 16 3:00 PM, entry fee: \$15 if p/m by March 1, \$25 on site. Bughouse Tournament, Friday March 16, 5:00 PM, entry fee: \$25 per team. Guaranteed Chess rate of \$139 at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel if reservations are made by Feb. 25, 2007; call 877-865-5321.

March 17, 2007 TP Quick Chess #4 Medium Tuley Park Chess Club For more information Tom Fineberg

March 17, 2007. St. Patrick's Day Scholastic Chess Tournament. Sponsored By Chess Utopia. Carmel Catholic High School, One Carmel Parkway, Mundelein, IL 60060. Registration 8:00am-8:30am, First Round 9:00am. Sections: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12. All sections 5 rounds. (four rounds G/30, last round

G/45.) All perfect scores will have a blitz playoff for championship. Awards: All participants will receive a pocket fold-up magnetic chess set. Trophies to top 3 individual in each division. Trophies to top 3 teams in each division (team is 2 or more players from the same school). Entry Fee: \$20 per player if received by March 16. \$25 on March 17 before 8:30am. Mail check payable to Chess Utopia and registration to Frank Swindell 18661 W. Brooke Ave Grayslake IL, 60030. This is a USCF rated tournament; all players must be USCF members; memberships can be purchased on-site. Information: Frank Swindell at 1-847-651-0860, email Swinchess@aol.com. Limited space, please register early.

March 18, 2007. Renaissance Knights Quest Tournament. 4 Round Swiss, Game 30. Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, 933 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, IL 60062. Three sections: Open (Adults and Juniors), U1200 (Juniors only) and U800 (Juniors only). EF: \$20 if postmarked by Mar. 08, \$25 after. Limited to: 60 first entries received. \$5 discount to Renaissance Knights & Junior Knights members. Awards: Trophies top 5 each section, all others participation medal. Check-in 12:00-12:30 PM, round 1 at 1:00 PM, rest ASAP. Entries: online at www.RKnights.org or mail to Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065-1074. Checks payable to Renaissance Knights. Questions (847) 867-5346 or rknightsccc@aol.com. More Information at www.RKnights.org.

March 24, 2007. Springfield Equinox Open. 4SS, G/80. Signature Inn, 3090 Stevenson Drive (immediately off I-55, Exit 94), Springfield. An ICA Mini-Tour and Ex-Urban Event, ICA membership required, OSA. EF: \$17 before 12/6, \$20 at site, \$2 less to SCC members. Prizes: \$300 b/40: 100-55, 1600-1999 50, 1200-1599 40, 0-1199 30, Unr 25. Reg: 8-8:45. Rounds: 9, 12, 3, 6. Entries: Thomas Knoedler, 1907 Plover, Springfield 62711, (217) 787-1048 after 6:30 except Weds. OR David Long, 2021½ South 4th St, Springfield 62703, (217) 522-0489. More Information: Thomas B Knoedler

March 25, 2007. 3rd Coast G/60 with 3 sections at the Radisson Hotel 2875 N. Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062. \$600 (b/40) 4 round Swiss, G/60. EF: \$30 by Mar. 15, \$35 after, \$40 onsite. Open Section \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25 U1800 \$50, U1800 Section \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25 U1400 \$50. \$10 to play up to Open Section from U1800. Registration: 8:30 - 9:15 am. Rounds: 10:00-12:15-2:30-4:45. U1400 4 round Swiss, G/45. Trophies to top 5; medals to rest. EF: \$20 by Mar. 15, \$25 after, \$30 on site. Registration: 8:30 - 9:15 am. Rounds at 10:00-11:45-1:30-3:15. Entries: online at www.RKnights.org or mail to

Renaissance Knights, PO Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065-1074. Checks payable to Renaissance Knights. Questions (847) 867-5346 or rknightsccc@aol.com. More Information at www.RKnights.org.

March 25, 2007. Academy of Intellectual Games Chess Challenge 2007. Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. 5-Round SS G25 (or G22 + 3 second delay). 3 Sections: Open (for adults and high-rated juniors), Scholastic Advanced and Scholastic Beginner. Awards: \$600 minimum Prize Pool in Open Section (1st: \$200; 2nd: \$150; 3rd: \$100; 4th: \$70; 5th: \$50; 6th: \$30). Trophies to top 10 in the two scholastic sections, as well as team prizes for schools and members of the same family (2 or more family members or kids from the same school are considered a team). Schedule: Check-in begins at 9 a.m. 1st Round begins at 10 a.m. sharp. Subsequent rounds ASAP. EF: \$20 by March 24 (Group discounts available to teams of 5 or more players); \$30 per player on-site. For more information or to register, go to www.aoigames.com/tournaments.htm, or call 847-778-5259, or 847-657-9686, or send an e-mail to chess@aoigames.com

Thursday, March 29. JJC March Madness Quad. 3RR, G/20. Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Ave., Joliet 60431, Bldg J, Room J0006 (exit 127 off I-80). \$10 entry by March 26, \$5 more at site. Cash only on day of event. Reg: 6:15-6:55pm, rounds 7pm-8pm-9pm. Mail entries to Dennis R. Doyle, 536 Springwood Drive, Joliet IL 60431. Make checks payable to Dennis R. Doyle. Prizes based on 30 entries, \$30 for the winner of each quad, winner take all.

March 31 - April 1, 2007. Greater Peoria Open. 5 rounds SS G/120 with a 5 second delay allowed. Regular rating system. Lakeview Museum, 1125 W. Lake Ave., Peoria, IL 61614. Section: 1 section open to all. Entry fees: \$35 if rec'd by 3/26, \$45 at the site, \$20 if unrated, free if rated 2200 or higher, \$5 discount to ICA members. No state membership required. Prizes: 80% of entries returned, allocation to be determined. Registration 8:30-9:30. Rounds: 9:45, 2:15, 6:30 Saturday; 9:30, 2:00 Sunday. Other information: 1/2 point bye in rounds 1-4, but a bye in round 4 must be elected by the end of round 2. No smoking. No computers. No Grand Prix Points. Advance Entries: Wayne Zimmerle, 514 W. Loucks, #2, Peoria, IL 61604. Information: 309-692-4480 day, 309-686-0192 night, wzim@sbcglobal.net. Heritage Event. Sponsored by Greater Peoria Chess Federation, www.gpcf.net.