



BAY AREA CHESS

WEBZINE NO. 4 • SPRING 2009



53 Events Conducted in '08, 5,859 Games Rated, and Still Growing!

BAYAREACHESS WAS THE MOST active U.S. Chess Federation affiliate in Northern California in 2008, and the 9th-busiest affiliate overall, handling more than 5,800 rated games during the year, said the USCF.

Since the summer of 2008, BayAreaChess has opened two new venues for open and scholastic tournaments in Milpitas (picture above) and San Jose, and restarted after-

school programs in a dozen Bay Area elementary schools.

Daniel Zheng Wins Two Straight BAC Tournaments

Daniel Zheng won two BayAreaChess tournaments in a row in October, the BAC Championship #50 in Santa Clara on Oct. 4, then the BAC Championship #52 on Oct. 25 at the new Milpitas venue.

Zheng scored a perfect 8-0 in those events, for a performance rating of 2156, while his USCF rating rose from 1872 to 1947. He is #16 on the USCF's list of the top 11-year-olds in the country.

Zheng won the Class B prize at the Kolty Chess Club in Campbell, while finishing ahead of two ex-club champions.

Continued on Page 4

From Salman Azhar

Open with a Center Pawn

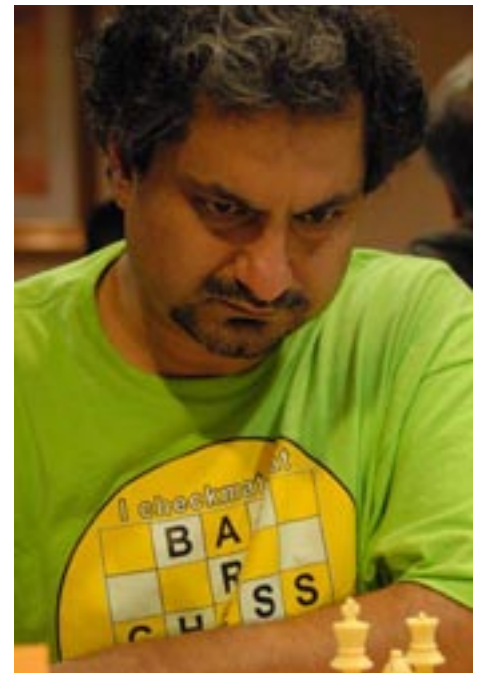
MY JOB AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of BayAreaChess is to make chess affordable for those who have money, and possible for those who don't. This job is tougher than it appears and it gets tougher. I find myself having difficult conversations with myself. Despite a very supportive board of directors — we are all busy, especially me — I do not get to turn my attention to BayAreaChess until after my children have gone to sleep and the other directors are winding down the day.

I have already raised my tournament entry fees by \$4 after two years to \$29 to meet higher costs of awards and facilities, and raised the afterschool enrichment program fee slightly. This comes at the expense of the “working class” and I will not raise the fees anymore.

Yesterday I visited a school to start a chess program where 42% of the children are on the school lunch program. The only way BayAreaChess can afford financial aid commitment is to cut the instructors' compensation. That sounds easy because BayAreaChess pays its coaches more than other programs — sometimes twice as much as some of the factory-oriented programs.

I was prepared to have the difficult conversation with these instructors but then I met a coach who shaved her head because she could not afford shampoo and hairdresser. The instructors rely on teaching chess as their livelihood. Some of them are teachers working on their credentials and others are retirees.

I leverage chess for its inherent educational impact and I am a product of the education from schools like St. Anthony's High School, Wake Forest University, and Duke University. I was able to benefit from the last two schools especially due to the generosity of the Carswell and Duke families. The generosity of the Duke family was overwhelming:



my expression of gratitude to James B. Duke's grandson was rewarded by additional support.

I am also a product of my professional life and the '90s were good to me. I completed my doctorate, taught for three years at

I was so attached to money and part of a social circle where people asked each other about their net worth before their families.

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University (NC A&T), moved to industry, and founded my own company. Let me slow down. I taught at NC A&T to fulfill a debt I felt to the academic and social obligation due to my doctoral degree and seven years at schools like Wake Forest and Duke. I accepted a job that doubled my salary after three years in academia. My hunger and ambition motivated me to quit my job, move to California with my young family, and start a company that allowed me to measure my net worth in millions.

Things were good until the dotcom bubble burst in early 2000s and I saw my net worth drop to a fraction of what it was. I was so attached to money and part of a social circle where people asked each other about their net worth before they would ask about each other about their families. I exaggerate to make the point, but it is no exaggeration that I had a spreadsheet calculate my net worth every few days.

The sharp and unexpected losses sent me into deep reflection and I withdrew from the business crowd and found

Continued on Page 17

BAYAREACHES

WEBZINE NO. 2 • WINTER/SPRING 2009

The BayAreaChess webzine is published when possible. BayAreaChess is a non-profit organization (501c3 approval pending) dedicated to making chess a fun and affordable pastime for children and adults.

Executive Director Salman Azhar founded BayAreaChess three years ago. He is a chess dad of three and a executive consultant. The most active tournament organizer in the Bay Area, Dr. Azhar conducted the 2008 CalChess State Scholastic Championships and will continue through 2012.

Frisco Del Rosario has published magazines for CalChess, Success Chess School, and the Chess Journalists of America, and written weekly reports for two chess clubs and two newspaper chains.

Contents

From the Executive Director	2
Tactics	3
Novel Backwards Move in Two Knights Defense	4
The Berkeley Immortal.....	8
A Family Affair	9
A Method for Dealing with 2. Qh5	14
Elementary Schoolmate Rediscovered Chess After 35 Years	15
Recent Prizewinners.....	16

BayAreaChess Summer Camps

Summer camps come with options for 1/2 day or full day with early drop and late pick options for one or more weeks. For information on BAC summer camps and tournaments for players of all ages, go to bayareachess.com.

Peninsula

Dates: Weeks of June 29 and July 7, 13, 20

Location: United Methodist Church on the corner of Woodside & Alameda Las Pulgas

Lower Peninsula Area

Dates: Weeks of June 22, July 20, 27, August 3, 10.

Location: Fairmeadow Elementary School, Palo Alto

South Bay

Dates: Weeks of June 15, 22, July 6, 13, 20, 27.

Location: Fairmeadow Elementary School, Palo Alto

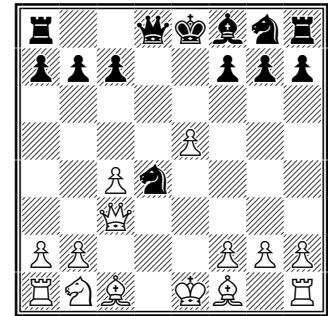
Videos by BayAreaChess Coach

Frisco Del Rosario wrote and narrated a series of instructive chess videos at youtube.com/skobarchess, mostly pertaining to tactical themes and pattern recognition.

To Solve

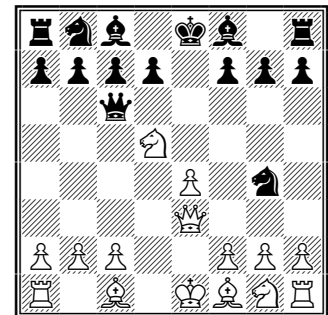
GARFIELD-MORRIS

Black to move



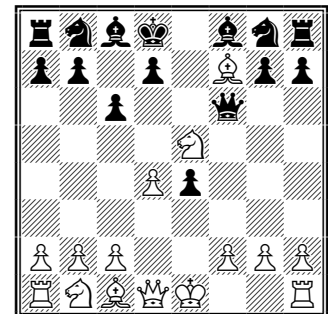
BARNETT-EASTWOOD

White to move



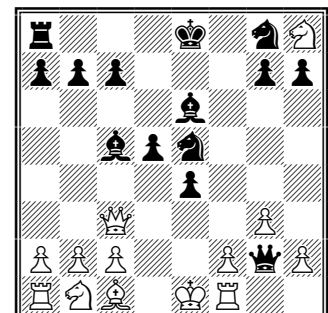
CHILDRESS-REYES

White to move



SNERD-McCARTHY

Black to move



Two Straight Wins for Zheng

Continued from Page 1

Kolty Chess Club Championship

White: Daniel Zheng (1686)

Black: Carl Lumma (1191)

Alapin Sicilian

1. e4 c5 2. c3

Good move. White wants to play d4 when he can recapture with a pawn.

2. ... Nc6

Not such a good move. Better to attack by 2...Nf6 or 2...d5 exd5 3. Qxd5, when White can't play 4. Nc3.

3. d4 cxd4 4. cxd4 e6

Not a good move, locking in the bishop. 4...d5 is still good.

5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Be3 Nf6 7. f3

Better is the development 7. Bd3, and then something like 7...d5 8. e5 Ne4 9. Ne2 Qa5 10. 0-0 Nxc3 11. bxc3 Bxc3 12. Nxc3 Qxc3 13. Rc1 Qa5 14. Qg4 is possible.

7. ... d5 8. e5 Nd7 9. Bb5

That bishop prefers to look toward the kingside from d3.

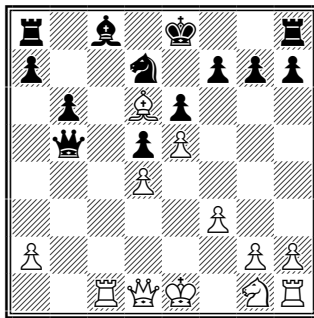
9. ... Qa5 10. Bxc6 Bxc3+ 11. bxc3 Qxc3+ 12. Bd2 Qxc6 13. Bb4

Suddenly Black's king is stuck, unable to castle kingside, while castling queenside looks most unpleasant. It's possible White saw all this at move 9.

13. ... b6

Maybe Black is better served by 13...Nb6 plus 14...Bd7 and 15...0-0-0, and when White plays Rc1, Black can answer ...Nc4.

14. Rc1 Qb5 15. Bd6



15...Ba6 16. Ne2 Qb2

White was going to play Rc2 in any case, but enabling it as an attacking move makes things worse for Black. 16...h5 17. Rc2 Rh6 18. 0-0 leaves White well ahead.

17. Rc2 Bxe2 18. Kxe2 Qb5+ 19. Kf2 f6 20. f4

Good move, the point of which is camouflaged by its apparent defensive nature.

20. ... fxe5 21. Qh5+ g6 22. Qg5 Kf7 23. Qe7+ Kg8 24. Rhc1

Excellent, bringing the last piece to the attack. Many players would play the less effective 24. Qxe6+.

24. ... Rf8 25. Rc8 Qb2+ 26. Kg3 exf4+ 27. Kh3 1-0

IM DeGuzman Wins BAC Thanksgiving Tournament

International master Ricardo DeGuzman swept the BayAreaChess Thanksgiving tournament at Granada with a 6-0 score. Sixty-three players participated.

White: Paul Richter (1816)

Black: Dana Mackenzie (2112)

Two Knights Defense

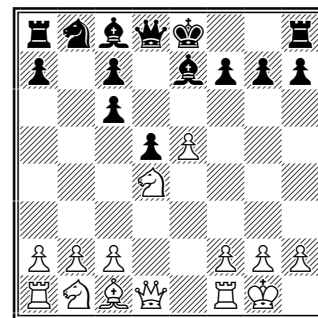
Notes by Dana Mackenzie

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4

exd4 4. Bc4 Nf6 5. e5 d5 6. Bb5

I suggest that this be called the Nimzo-Two Knights, because White plans a blockading strategy that is very much in keeping with Nimzovich's principles. White plans a blockading strategy — ideally, he will cripple Black's queenside pawn structure in such a way that Black's 4-on-3 majority is neutralized, and then White's 4-on-3 kingside majority will be decisive.

6. ... Nd7 7. 0-0 Be7 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. Nxd4 Nb8!



A startling idea. Black has taken two tempi to undevelop his king knight and put it on the queen knight's original square, but gains flexibility. In the normal lines, his queen bishop goes to d7 and is hemmed in by the pawns. Here Black has kept the option for developing either on the c8-h3 diagonal or on the c8-a6 diagonal.

10. f4?!

Already a slight mistake. Master Gjon Feinstein said White has better things that he can do with this move, such as 10. c4 or 10. Nc3. The idea of storming the kingside with f4, f5, and so on, is premature while White's queenside is undeveloped. It's also against the blockading spirit of this

Novelty in Two Knights Defense Aims for a Flexible Black Bishop



Dana Mackenzie writes about math and science, and teaches at chesslecture.com.

variation. Nimzovich would first paralyze his opponent with prophylactic and blocking moves, then launch his attack.

10. ... c5 11. Ne2 f5

I debated long and hard between this move and 11...Nc6. ... Nc6 is a developing move, but I wasn't sure whether I wanted to put a knight or a pawn on c6. Also, 11. ... f5 stops the pawn storm idea in its tracks.

12. exf6 Bxf6 13. Ng3 0-0 14. Nh5?

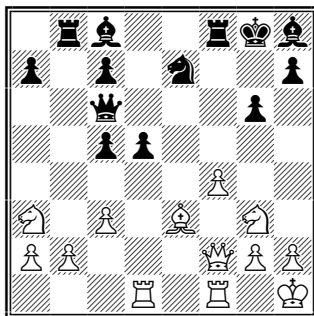
This definitely looks like a kid's move — he's wasting so much time with this knight while neglecting the rest of his pieces. I was sure that I stood better, but I relaxed a little bit

and didn't look for the most forceful way to take advantage of his mistake.

14. ... Bd4+ 15. Kh1 g6?!

I played this move almost automatically, happy to chase his knight away and simultaneously provide a flight square for my bishop. But 15. ... Qh4! is much better, threatening 16. ... Bg4 and putting White in critical danger. The first of two big missed opportunities for me.

16. c3 Bh8 17. Ng3 Nc6 18. Na3 Rb8 19. Qc2 Ne7 20. Be3 Qd6 21. Rad1 Qc6 22. Qf2



It looks as if White is winning a pawn, because c5 is indefensible and also pinned against a7. But I had great faith in the activity of my pieces—both rooks on open files, the bishops sitting on three (!) important diagonals, and the knight poised to jump to f5 or d5.

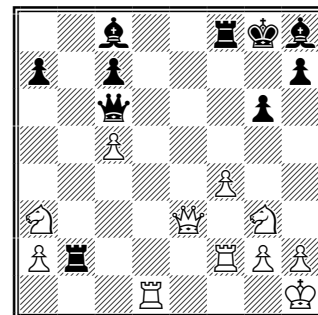
22. ... d4!

My second-favorite move of this game. It simultaneously bottles up White's bishop and sets Black's knight free. A pawn is a small price to pay for these advantages.

23. cxd4 Nd5! 24. dxc5

Nxe3 25. Qxe3 Rxb2 26. Rf2?

26. Rd2 would have been better, although Black then easily wins back the pawn with 26. ... Rxd2 27. Qxd2 Qxc5.



Black to play and win.

The trouble with tournament chess is that you don't have someone tap-

Continued on Page 6



Paul Richter started his USCF career with nine straight wins in BayAreaChess events.

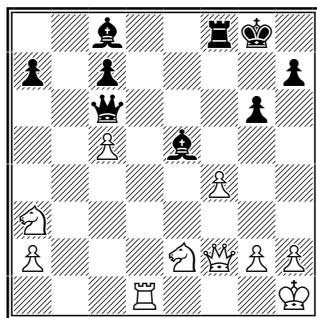
There Are No Automatic Moves in Chess

Continued from Page 5

ping you on the shoulder and saying “Black to play and win,” and I was feeling some time pressure. The first moral is: don’t get low on time. But the second, and more useful, moral is to beware of thinking of any move as “obvious.” **There are no automatic moves in chess.** Even if you have only a few seconds, use those few seconds to check for the move that comes out of left field, such as *zwischenzugs* (in-between moves) or moves played in the opposite order from what you would expect. I should know this; I’ve lectured on both of those topics for ChessLecture.

Have you found the correct move? It’s 26. ... Re8!, which basically ends the game on the spot. Black’s pieces control so many squares that the white queen has only one square to go where it will still protect the f2 rook: 27. Qf3. Then Black wins the exchange with a nice skewer: 27. ... Qxf3 28. Rxf3 Bg4!.

26. ... Rxf2 27. Qxf2 Be5 28. Ne2



Now I faced another decision, which used up most of my remaining time. I saw 28. ... Qa4, but couldn’t

work it out to a clear win. Then I remembered another old chess maxim: *The threat is stronger than the execution.* In many cases, if you have one threat, it is best to build up the pressure, and add more threats.

28. ... Bb7

Ramps up the pressure. Now White has to worry about checkmate on g2, and therefore ... Bxf4 is now a real threat as well. Meanwhile, the move ... Qa4 is kept in reserve.

29. Nc4 Bxf4 30. Na5?

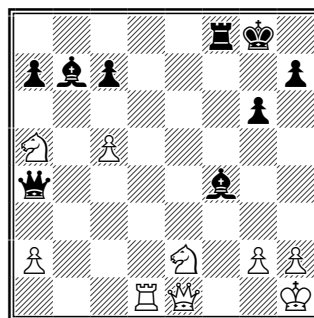
Better was 30. Nxf4 Rxf4 31. Rd8+ Kg7 32. Qb2+ Qf6 33. Rd7+ Kf8 34. Qxf6+ Rxf6 35. Kg1 Rf7, with a drawish endgame.

30. ... Qa4!

What a great move to have in reserve on the last move of the time control! I was really glad now that I hadn’t played it on move 28.

31. Qe1

This seemingly holds everything together, but ...



Black to play and win (again!).

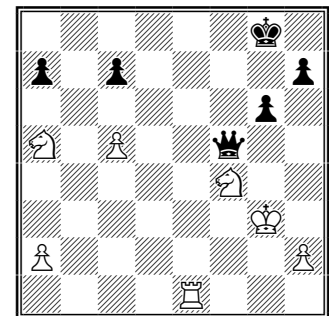
Now in the second time control, I had all the time that I wanted to decide on my next move. I mentioned earlier that the trouble with chess is

that you don’t have someone tapping you on the shoulder and saying, “Black to play and win,” but this position is an exception. It looks exactly like something that came out of a book: the two black bishops bearing down on the kingside, White’s pieces clustered in an ineffective lump, except for the wandering knight on a5. If ever a position was ripe for a sacrifice, this is it.

31. ... Bxg2+!

This is my favorite move of the game.

32. Kxg2 Qe4+ 33. Kh3 Re8 34. Nxf4 Qf5+ 35. Kg3 Rxe1 36. Rxe1



This is as far as I analyzed on move 31. White is still nominally ahead in material (R+2N versus Q+P) but White’s pieces are scattered and uncoordinated.

36. ... Qg5+ 37. Kf3 Qf6

Threatening both ... Qc3+, which forks everything, and ... g5, which wins the f4-knight due to the pin on the f-file. There’s nothing that White can do.

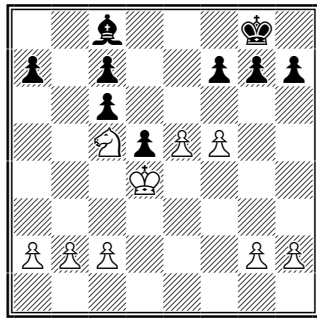
38. Kg4 h5+ 39. Kf3 g5 40. Re4 gxf4 41. Nc4 Qh4 42.

More About That Backward Knight Maneuver

Rxf4 Qxh2 43. a3 Qh1+ 44. Kg3 Qg1+ 45. Kh4 Qxc5 46. Kg3 Kg7 47. Kh3 Kg6 48. Rh4 Kg5 49. Re4 Qf5+ 0-1

Aside from the missed win on move 26, a very harmonious game where everything flowed from the great activity of Black's pieces.

Contributor Dana Mackenzie described a blockading scheme in a variation of the Two Knights Defense. This is a worst case for Black:



White's kingside pawn majority is healthy and mobile, while the black queenside majority is stuffed. White can make a passed pawn whenever he likes with e6. The white knight dominates the black bishop. The white king might penetrate on c5, or e5, or a6.

When a move has some logic to go along with its peculiarity, you can wager that it's been tried before. There are five examples from international play with 9...Nb8 and its notion of preserving the bishop's options in the University of Pitt archive. Maciejewski-Sydor is a reminder that 6...Nd7 and 9...Nb8 are backward moves (6...Ne4 is most common):

Polish Championship 1973
White: Andrzej Maciejewski
Black: Andrzej Sydor
Two Knights Defense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. e5 d5 6. Bb5 Nd7 7. 0-0 Be7 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. Nxd4 Nb8 10. Nc3

As recommended in the note to Richter-Mackenzie.

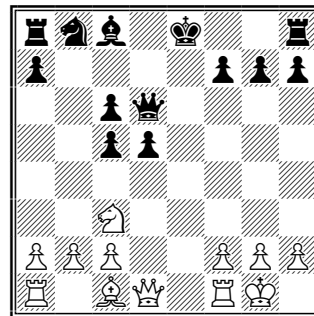
10. ... c5

While trailing in development, Black looks for trouble.

11. Ndb5 c6

Prodding White into a good pawn sacrifice.

12. Nd6+ Bxd6 13. exd6 Qxd6



From here, White's moves are forward-going with threats—always the right way to play.

14. Re1+ Be6 15. Ne4 Qe7 16. Bg5 f6 17. Nxc5 Qxc5 18. Rxe6+ Kd7 19. Qg4! fxf5 20. b4! Qb6 21. Re1

Developing the last piece with a picturesque threat: 22. Re8+ Kc7 23. Qc8+ Kd6 24. R1e6#.

21. ... Kd8 22. Rd6+ 1-0

Thessalonika Olympiad 1988
White: Maya Chiburdanidze
Black: Barbara Hund
Two Knights Defense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. e5 d5 6. Bb5 Nd7 7. 0-0 Be7 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. Nxd4 Nb8 10. Be3 0-0 11. Nb3 Nd7 12. f4 Nb6 13. f5 Nc4 14. Bd4 c5 15. Nxc5 Nxe5 16. Bxe5 Bxc5+ 17. Bd4 Qd6 18. Nc3 Ba6 19. Rf2 Rad8 20. f6 Rfe8

Black's pieces are lovely—the bishop on a6 is sorta the point, right?—but White was the women's world champion at the time.

21. Bxc5 Qxc5 22. fxg7 Rd7 23. h3 d4 24. Na4 Qb4 25. c3 Qc4 26. b3 Qd5 27. Qxd4 Qxd4 28. cxd4 Rxd4 29. Rc1

It's fitting that White broke through on the c-file.

29. ... Re7 30. Rfc2 Bb5 31. Nb2 Kxg7 32. a4 Bd7 33. Rxc7 Re2 34. R1c2 Rxc2 35. Rxc2 Rb4 36. Rc3 Be6 37. Nc4 Kf6 38. Na5 Rb6 39. Kf2 Rd6 40. Ke2 Rd5 41. Nc6 Rg5 42. g3 a6 43. h4 Rd5 44. Nb4 Re5+ 45. Kd2 a5 46. Nd3 Rd5 47. Ke3 Rd8 48. Nf4 Rb8 49. Nxe6 fxe6 50. Kd2 Ke5 51. Kc2 Kd5 52. Rc7 Rg8 53. Ra7 Rxf3 54. Rxa5+ Kd4 55. Rg5 Rc3+ 56. Kb2 Rc8 57. Rg7 h5 58. Rd7+ Ke4 59. a5 e5 60. a6 1-0

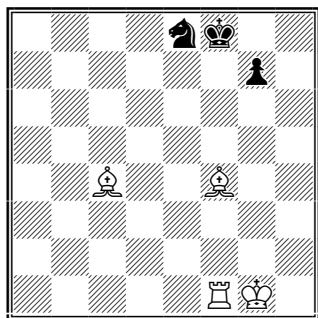
The Berkeley Immortal

THE GAME PRUESS-HAESSEL from the Berkeley International in December moved NM chess coach Michael Aigner to hail IM David Pruess as a modern Morphy.

Two checkmating patterns of literary and picturesque fame were made new in Pruess' short masterpiece.

The miniature Charousek-Wollner starred in Kester Svendsen's short story "Last Round" — the story is about the Charousek moves as played by the protagonist, The Old Master. Grandmaster Soltis said the game is "one of the prettiest ever" in "perhaps the finest chess short story".

The game ends with a double check:



1. Bd6#

Kaschau 1893
White: Rudolf Charousek
Black: Jakob Wollner
Danish Gambit

IT'S PRAISE FOR A CHESS GAME to be woven into fiction, like Bronstein-Spassky, 1960 USSR ch., in the Bond flick "From Russia with Love".

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Bc4 Nf6

More measured than 4...cxb2.

5. Nf3

Ignoring the threat of 5...Nxe4, after which 6. 0-0 foretells a strong initiative.

5...Bc5 6. Nxc3 d6 7. 0-0 0-0 8. Ng5

Not a very good move, but Black's reply is worse. White is aiming for 9. Nxf7 Rxf7 10. e5, when the d6-pawn is pinned. In the Svendsen short story, the Old Master played 8. Ng5 to tempt the younger opponent into moving rashly, which he (and Wollner) did.

8...h6?

The developing move 8. ... Nc6 is in order, and then if 7. Nxf7 Rxf7, Black's queen is guarded in case of 8. e5 dxe5 9. Qxd8.

9. Nxf7 Rxf7 10. e5 Ng4 11. e6!

Breaks the connection between c8-bishop and g4-knight, so 12. Qxg4 is threatened. If the f7-rook moves, 12. e7+ would be a winning discovery.

11...Qh4 12. exf7+ Kf8 13. Bf4

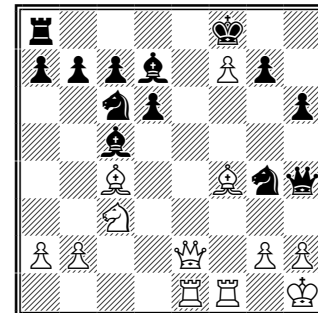
Whether making a threat of one's own or meeting the enemy threat (13...Qxh2#), do it with the most new force. 13. Bf4 is much better than 13. h3.

13...Nxf2 14. Qe2

Developing with two threats, 15. Rxf2 and mate by 15. Qe8#. Black's double check 15...Nh3+ leads nowhere: 16. Kh1 and then the knight hangs on h3.

14...Ng4+ 15. Kh1 Bd7 16.

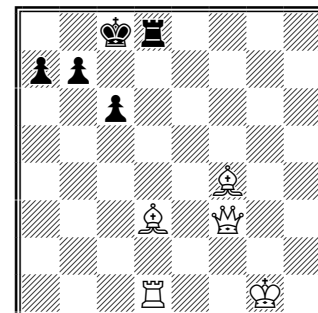
Rae1 Nc6



Before the double check theme can work, White clears the f-file with the second of two! queen sacrifices.

17. Qe8+! Rxe8 18. fxe8=Q+ Bxe8 19. Bxd6# 1-0

BODEN'S MATE is a checkmate that everyone should know:



1. Qxc6+ bxc6 2. Ba6# 1-0

"The Peruvian Immortal" — a most well-known example of Boden's Mate — was played in a simultaneous exhibition by the Peruvian master Estaban Canal:

Budapest 1934

White: Canal

Black: NN

Center Counter Defense

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3.

Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 c6

Black's pawn structure arises in common defenses like the Center Counter, Caro-Kann, and Slav.

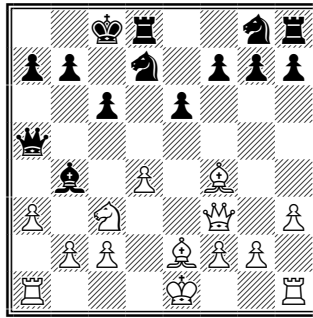
5. Nf3 Bg4

The basis for these defenses is that the c8-bishop can develop freely before Black plays ...e6. Then Black's desired c6/e6 pawn formation shores up the white squares, so he feels OK swapping that bishop for a knight.

6. Bf4 e6 7. h3 Bxf3 8. Qxf3 Bb4 9. Be2 Nd7 10. a3

10. a3 isn't a good move. The a3-pawn is pinned, so axb4 is a threat Black can ignore. But it's quite possible—maybe even likely—that the exhibitor was laying the kind of trap that sets up immortal chess games.

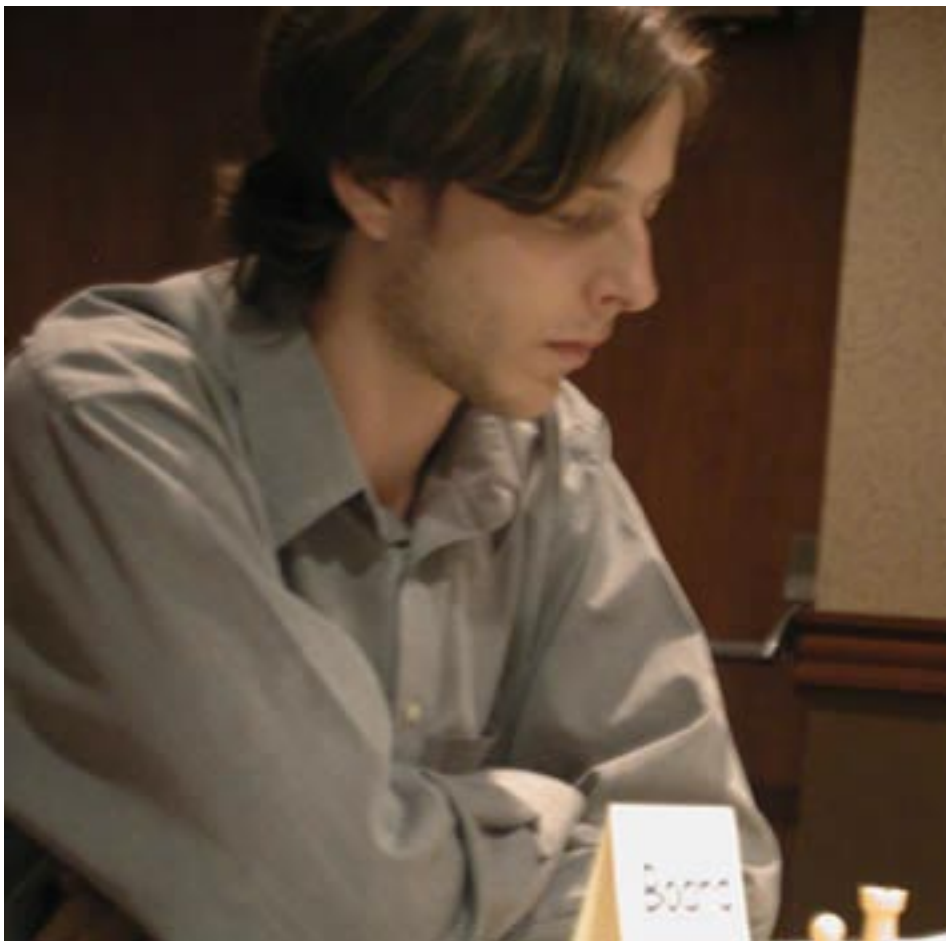
10...0-0-0?



When White recognizes the Boden's Mate pattern, he applies this positional logic: If the black queen's attention can be deflected from a6, I can checkmate.

11. axb4! Qxa1+ 12. Kd2!

Black finds the queen has no safe retreat along the a-file. The end result is White's sacrifice of a queen plus two rooks to bring about the pretty checkmate by the bishops.



David Pruess has pledged to fight the draw death of chess.

12...Qxh1 13. Qxc6+! bxc6 14. Ba6# 1-0

Pruess's game contains both patterns, Boden's Mate and the queen-ing combination-plus-double check found in the Charousek game.

Berkeley 2008

White: David Pruess

Black: Dale Haessel

Petroff Defense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nxf7

In 200 *Open Games*, the grandmaster Bronstein awarded Cochrane's piece sacrifice "!"

4. ... Kxf7 5. Nc3 Be7 6. d4 c5

Part of White's long-term chances stem from his mobile pawn center. When Black plays ...c5, the d6-pawn is left behind as the only defensive pawn, while it is weakened for becoming backward. The usual move is 6...Re8 so that after 7. Bc4+ Kf8, the rook isn't blocked behind the king.

7. Bc4+ Kf8 8. d5

After blocking his c4-bishop, White's planning must include freeing the bishop! To get the d5-pawn out of the way, the d6-pawn has to go, so the center charge f4 plus e5 is further indicated.

8...a6 9. a4

Otherwise ...b5 will push the bishop backward.

9...Nbd7 10. f4 Ne8

Black is angling to swap a few pieces to ease his cramped position.

11. 0-0 Bf6 12. Be3 Qe7 13. Qd3 Bxc3 14. bxc3 Nef6 15. e5! dxex5 16. d6 Qe8

16...Qd8 was better.

Continued on Page 13

A Family Affair

GRANDMASTER Peter Biyiasas is one of two players to compete in national championship tournaments in both the United States (1980) and Canada (1969).

Biyiasas represented Canada in four chess olympiads during the 1970s, winning three medals. After moving to the Bay Area in 1979, he won the Carroll Capps and Arthur Stamer memorial tournaments in San Francisco eight times.

International woman master Ruth Haring was the first American woman to win a foreign international tournament. She played for the U.S. in five chess olympiads, and finished second in the U.S. women's championship two times, in 1974 and 1979.

Biyiasas and Haring were married, and lived in Silicon Valley while working in the tech industry. They had three children. Their son Theo, 19, has been active in tournament chess since August 2008, playing in big Swiss System events like the U.S. Open and the North American Open.

According to Theo, chess was not such a huge part of the Biyiasas household, but he told a story about the time his parents were reluctant to let him travel to Lake Tahoe, saying he could go if he beat his mom in a blitz game.

Theo said that his grandmaster father advised him that every chess-player must study Morphy until they understand it, then Capablanca and Fischer.

Wijk aan Zee 1980
White: Peter Biyiasas
Black: Jan Timman
King's Indian Attack

1. e4

If it weren't for his terrible eyesight, Biyiasas said, he might've been a world championship candidate. Tournament halls couldn't muster enough light for him to see the board. Wijk aan Zee 1980 was one of Biyiasas' most successful tournaments. He finished tied for 4th place, behind Seirawan and Browne, who won 10 U.S. championships between them, and Korchnoi, who played a world championship match.

1. ... c5

Timman is a favorite player of mine for his adherence to Botvinnik's saying that very strong players must challenge themselves by publishing their analysis. Timman has been the editor of *New in Chess* magazine for many years.

2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3

3. d4 gives up a more valuable center pawn for Black's wing pawn, but after 3...cxd4 4. Nxd4, White gains a little time and space. Biyiasas liked King's Indian Attack setups against the Sicilians, where he could maneuver in the middlegames rather than discuss opening theory.

3. ... a6

Giving White another chance to transpose to a Najdorf by 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6. Black might later grab queenside space with ...b5.

4. g3

The most convenient square for the bishop is g2. On c4 it is a target. On d3 or e2, it can get in the way.

4. ... Nc6 5. Bg2 Bg4 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Qxf3

At the cost of bishop for knight, Black's hold on the central black squares is increased, and he'll continue with ...g6 plus ...Bg7.

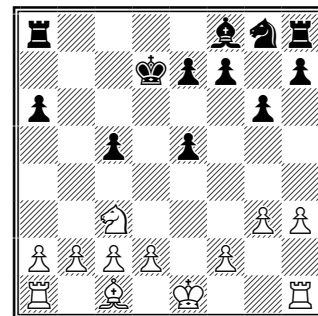
7. ... g6 8. e5

Opening the position for White's better-developed pieces.

8. ... dxe5

If 8. ... Nxe5, then 9. Qxb7 wins the a6-pawn. The developing move 8. ... Bg7 seems soundest.

9. Qxc6+! bxc6 10. Bxc6+ Qd7 11. Bxd7+ Kxd7



The result of White's temporary queen sacrifice is the weakening of Black's pawn structure. The rest of this positional masterwork revolves around White's pressure against the isolated queenside pawns and the backward and doubled pawns on the e-line.

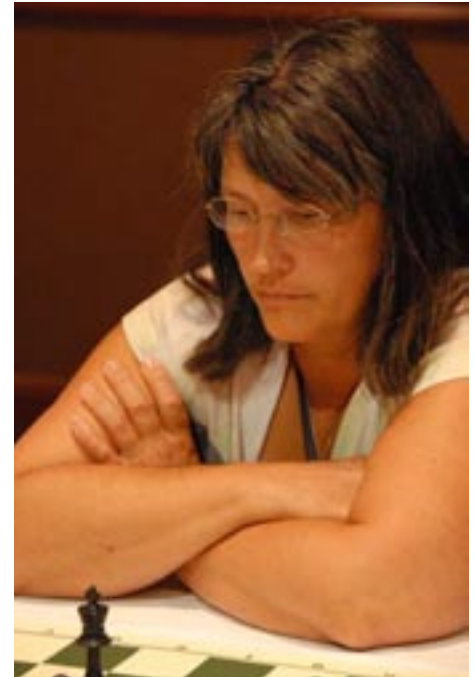
12. Na4 Kc6 13. b3



Grandmaster Peter Biyiasas, early 1980s.



Theo Biyiasas at the 2008 U.S. Open, his first tournament.



International woman master Ruth Haring, last year.

More flexible than 13. e3. 13. b3 enables the bishop to attack e5 and c5.

13. ... e6 14. Bb2

14. Ba3 was no longer a threatening move.

14. ... f6

Making the e6-pawn backward and defenseless. Black didn't want to play 14...Bg7 because it self-pins, and then 15. f4 f6 16. fxe5 fxe5 makes the e-pawns a fright.

15. 0-0-0 Bd6

Black's opening strategy to lock down the dark squares -- ...Bg4 and ...Bxf3 plus ...Bg7 -- didn't go the way he hoped. His bishop is very passive, blocked by pawns.

16. Rde1

White can't hope to open the d-file for his queen rook, so it goes to e1 before the other, which might join the game with f4 plus Rhf1.

16. ... Ne7 17. Re4 Nf5 18. Rc4

Threatens to win a pawn by 19. Nxc5 (19. b4 immediately could run into the unusual king fork 19...Kb5) Bxc5 20. b4.

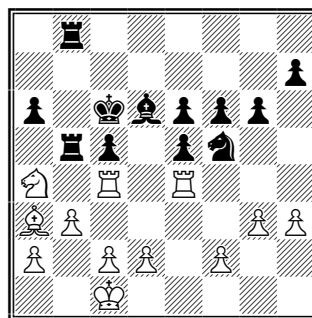
18. ... Rab8 19. Re1

Grandmasters and promising students keep getting their pieces out.

19. ... Rb4 20. Ree4 Rhb8 21. Ba3

Now the bishop cooperates.

21. ... R4b5



22. c3

A very useful move. Many of White's tactical ideas involve advancing b4 to attack c5, or d4 to hit e5,

and c3 supports either. White threatens 23. g4 Ne7 24. Nxc5 Bxc5 25. b4. Also, 22. c3 prevents ...Nd4, which would interfere with the white rooks.

22. ... Bf8

Black in turn threatens 23...Nd6.

23. Re2 Kd5

There are two pins working in this position. The c5-pawn is pinned absolutely. The e5-pawn is pinned in a different fashion: if White is allowed to crash through with Rxe6, the rook becomes a monster. So the black king unpins c5, while going to aid e6.

24. g4 Nd6

White wins a pawn now, and Black has to be careful about where he puts the knight. If 24. ... Ng7, then 25. f4 exf4 26. Rxf4, and there are weak black pawns on the e- and f-files.

25. Rxc5+ Rxc5 26. Bxc5

White has an idea of 27. c4+ Kc6 to drive the king back, then 28. d4 to

Continued on Page 12

Imagine the "Sky High" Parents as Chess Masters

Continued from Page 11

crack the e-file. Black pins the d2-pawn.

26. ... Bh6 27. Kc2

Breaking the pin, so Black tries to hold the black squares from the front.

27. ... Bf4 28. Be3

By effecting exchanges while material ahead, White is removing Black's defenders *and* potential counterattacker.

28. ... g5 29. d4 exd4 30. Bxf4 gxf4 31. c4+ Nxc4

If 31. ... Kc6, 32. Rxe6 and White shreds the sixth rank.

32. bxc4+ Kxc4

Black threatens a fork on d3, and if the white king loses touch with b2, then the a4-knight is corraled. But White is ahead of the game tactically, too. First he gets his rook out of danger.

33. Rxe6 d3+ 34. Kd2 Rb4

Then the skewer gets the menacing black rook off the board, which rescues the knight.

35. Re4+ 1-0

Biyasas said this game against grandmaster Vasiukov was also one of his best:

Hastings 1978

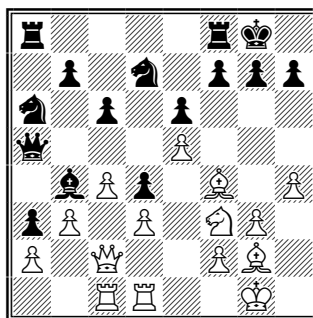
White: Peter Biyasas

Black: Evgeni Vasiukov

King's Indian Attack

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 c6 4. O-O Bg4 5. d3 e6 6. Nbd2 Nbd7 7. e4 Be7 8. Re1

0-0 9. h3 Bh5 10. e5 Ne8 11. Nf1 Nc7 12. N1h2 a5 13. Bf4 a4 14. Qd2 a3 15. b3 Nb5 16. c4 Nc7 17. h4 Bxf3 18. Nxf3 Na6 19. Red1 Bb4 20. Qc2 Qa5 21. Rac1 d4



22. Qe2 Bc3 23. Ng5 g6 24. h5 Nac5 25. Qg4 Rfe8 26. Qh4 Nf8 27. Ne4 Nxe4 28. Bxe4 Bb4 29. Kg2 Qd8 30. Qg4 Ra5 31. hxg6 fxg6 32. Rh1 Qd7 33. Rh6 Re7 34. Rch1 Rg7 35. Bg5 Rxe5 36. Bf6 Ra5 37. Bxg7 Qxg7 38. Rxh7 Nxh7 39. Qxe6+ Kf8 40. Bxg6 Qe7 41. Qc8+ 1-0

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN MASTER Ruth Haring wrote: "My last tournament game of 2008 and marking the six-month point in my quest to come back after a 20+ year hiatus from tournament chess. I achieved this upset in the last round after a tough tournament with many fighting games against strong opponents."

North American Open 2008

White: Ruth Haring

Black: Precioso Saguisag (2286)

Modern Defence

Notes by IWM Ruth Haring and Frisco Del Rosario

1. f4

When my opponent started taking time in the opening, I assumed I had successfully deviated from known book lines. — Haring

1...d6 2. e4 g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. d4 c5 5. c3 Qb6

5. ... Nf6 6. e5 dxe5 7. fxe5 Nd5 8. Bb5+ Nc6 9. O-O cxd4 10. cxd4 O-O 11. Nc3 was drawn in Sveshnikov-Volzhin, Dubai 2001.

6. h3

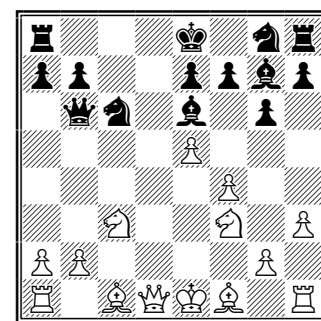
Otherwise, ...Bg4 would indirectly increase the pressure against d4.

White also has a slight edge after 6. Na3 Nf6 7. e5 Nd5.

6. ... cxd4 7. cxd4 Nc6 8. e5 dxe5

Fritz assessed this position as favorable to Black for the lead in development, but two moves later Fritz will note "White has a very active position," after White develops one piece.

9. dxe5 Be6 10. Nc3



10...h6

White's pieces are active after 10. ... Rd8 11. Bd2 Qxb2 12. Rb1 Qa3 13. Rxb7.

11. Qe2 a6

Black's passive pawn moves allowed white to get a slight advantage, according to Haring.

12. Be3

For catching up in development while maintaining better center control, White has the advantage.

12. ... Qa5 13. Qf2 f6?

Trying to break up the bind gives White a lasting advantage. Black's position crumbles, though he tried to give up material to escape from the bind and develop/activate his pieces (Haring). Fritz figured Black should grab a pawn to compensate for the positional minuses with 13. ... Rc8 14. Rd1 Bxa2.

14. Bd3 Bf5 15. Bxf5 gxf5 16. e6 h5 17. O-O-O Nd8

Fritz says 17. ... Rc8 18. a3 Qc7 is praying for a miracle, but doesn't explain what's wrong with Black's position. White's e6- and f4-pawns stifle Black's development.

18. Bb6 Qb4 19. Qd4

Fritz never misses things like 19. Rxd8+ Rxd8 20. Qg3 with multiple threats.

19. ... Qxd4 20. Nxd4 Bh6 21. g3

Fritz annotations also include things like "21. Nd5 and White can already relax," but no one should ever relax at the chessboard. I don't think chessplayers developed Fritz software.

21. ... h4 22. Nd5 Rc8+ 23. Kb1 hxg3 24. Rhg1 Nxe6??

An oversight, but Black was lost anyway after 24...Rh7 +-.

25. Nxe6 Rc4

25. ... Kf7 26. Rde1 +-

26. Nd4

26. Rxc3 makes it even easier for White, said Fritz.

26. ... Rc6 27. Nxc6 Bxf4

27. ... bxc6 doesn't help: 28. Nc7+ Kf7 29. Rd4 +-.

28. Nd4 Bd6 29. Bc7 Rxh3

30. Bxd6 exd6 31. Nxf5 1-0

THEO BIYIASAS said in his short chess career, this was his best game so far:

Sands Regency Open 2008

White: Theodore Biyiasas (1470)

Black: Charles F. Nelson (1510)

Caro-Kann Defense

Notes by Theo Biyiasas

1. e4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bb5+ Nc6 5. d4 Nf6 6. O-O e6 7. c3 Be7 8. Nbd2 O-O 9. Re1 Qc7 10. Nf1 h6 11. Ne3 Bd6 12. Ba4 Re8 13. Bc2 Nb8? 14. Qd3 Nbd7

Here I wanted to attack via h7 but was frustrated with the f6-knight and felt if I didn't sack and pounce on the chance for an attack, I might not get one at all, so I unsoundly sacrificed a piece to open h7.

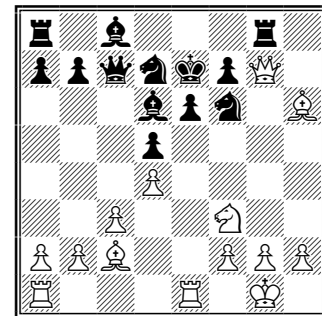
15. Ng4 Nxc3 16. Qh7+ Kf8 17. Qh8+ Ke7 18. Qxc3 Nxf6?

I figured it would be a double-edged, attacking game on both sides. After this move, getting ready to evict my queen from the black position, I saw the combination that won the game.

19. Bxh6!

Inviting black to "trap" my queen, and preparing my 21st move.

19. ... Rg8



20. Rxe6+!! Kxe6?

The sacrifice cannot be accepted.

21. Ng5+

I found it beautifully ironic that the queen was eclipsing the g-file, allowing this check.

21. ... Ke7 22. Qxf7+ Kd8 23. Ne6# 1-0

Berkeley Immortal

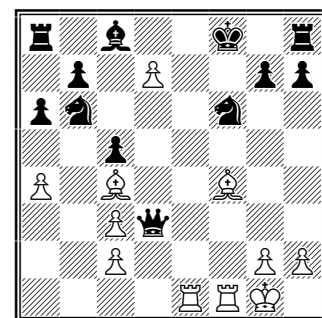
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17. fxe5 Qxe5

Black can't play 17...Nxe5 because of a kingsided Boden's Mate: 18. Rxf6+! gxf6 19. Bh6#.

18. Rae1 Nb6 19. Bf4 Qf5 20. d7! Qxd3

If 20...Bxd7 or 20...Qxd7, then 21. Bd6+. Black might've been pleased to meet that threat while swapping queens, but now the pattern from Charousek is recalled.



21. Re8+ Nxe8 22. Bd6# 1-0

A Method for Handling 2. Qh5

ONE IMPORTANT thing chessplayers forget, or don't know:

Ask an adult if s/he would rather be sipping cool drinks on a sandy beach than plugging away at the mortgage while being upside down on the second car. The adults will say they'd rather be on the beach, but they're just too tied up with the house, the car, the antique furniture, the canned goods.

Adults get too tied up in material. Watch adults when they're playing chess — they clutch and fondle the captured chessmen off the board, and on the board, they cling to the material to the death.

If you give up the material, you can live on the beach. At the chessboard, especially, let some material go. Be unencumbered.

Another important thing that chessplayers forget, or don't know:

The great, great chess teacher Cecil Purdy said: "In order to play this game passably well, not only must you see all the threatening moves, you must recognize the unreality of their unreal threats."

You must see all of your threats — because that's how you win — and you must see all of their threatening moves — because that's how they win. And you must also recognize what a great opportunity it is when your opponent's threat is unreal.

After your opponent moves, your thinking process ought to be:

"What are the the threats?"

"Those are the threats."

"What if I ignore them? What if I just pass my move, and let the other player carry out that threat?"

Ideally, you'll see that if your opponent carries out that threat, it works out OK for you. That means you don't have to waste your move making a defensive move, and you can instead make an attacking move that brings up unused force.

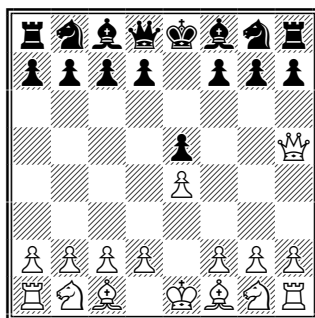
Those two invaluable things — be unencumbered by material, and ignore enemy threats if possible — are the basis for one method for dealing with the bane of the chess kid's existence: 1. e4 2. Qh5 4. Qxf7 mate.

Kids develop the habit early of defending the e-pawn at move 2 with 2...Nc6. Making a habit of defending is the wrong way to get any good at chess.

Students should get into the habit of attacking. Students should get into the habit of ignoring enemy threats if possible. 1. e4 e5 2. Qh5 Nf6 accomplishes both tasks.

White: Weiss
Black: Schwarz
Prelude to Scholar's Mate

1. e4 e5 2. Qh5



Besides 2. Nf3, 2. Qh5 is the only developing move that makes a threat. U.S. champion Nakamura played it in a grandmaster tournament. Black mustn't answer 2...Ke7?, above all.

2. ... Nf6

The gambit 2...Nf6 can be recommended for three reasons:

- The defensive, passive 2...Nc6 3. Bc4 Qe7 or 3...Qf6 often results in blocked or unwieldy positions for Black;
- 2...Nf6 is a threatening move. While players are learning, they should be cultivating the habit of making threatening moves whenever possible;
- 2...Nf6 ignores White's threat. The best thing to do when your opponent makes a threat is ... nothing, if possible.

3. Qxe5+ Be7 4. Nc3 0-0

With the white royal pieces stacked on the e-file, Black is quick to ...Re8.

5. Bc4 Re8 6. Qg3 Nxe4

The old fork trick serves to gain a pawn majority in the center, and also opens the e-file for the black rook.

7. Nxe4 d5 8. Bb3 Bd6

Not 8...dxe4, which does not threaten, and even blocks the road to the white king. The in-between move threatens, while enabling Black to capture on e4 with check.

9. Qf3 Rxe4+ 10. Ne2 Bg4 0-1

I like this game because it's the first miniature I've seen which illustrates

the gambit value of 1. e4 e5 2. Qh5 Nf6.

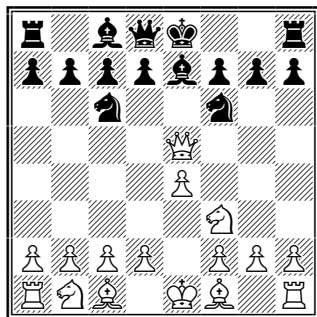
On a lark, I consulted the Calgames database at chessdryad.com, which gathers games that were played in California. I discovered two games with 1. e4 e5 2. Qh5; one of which is a historical curiosity. At separate times, both players broke the record as the youngest player to achieve the national master title. Bhat is now a grandmaster, but in Feb. 1991, he was a 1200 player.

Campbell 1991

White: Vinay Bhat (1200)

Black: Jordy Mont-Reynaud (1700)

1. e4 e5 2. Qh5 Nf6 3. Qxe5+ Be7 4. Nf3 Nc6



5. Qc3 Nxe4 6. Qe3 Nf6 7. Bb5 d5 8. Bxc6+ bxc6 9. 0-0 0-0 10. Nd4 Bc5 11. Qc3 Qd6 12. g3 Bg4 13. d3 g6 14. Bf4 Bxd4 15. Qd2 Qe7 16. Re1 Qd7 17. Qa5 Bxb2 18. Bxc7 Bxa1 19. Be5 Bxe5 20. Rxe5 Rab8 0-1

“What a blast from the past,” Mont-Reynaud wrote. “I definitely have no recollection whatsoever of those games. I was 7 years old! But I find it very amusing and cool that they are in the Calgames database.”

An Elementary School Chess Teammate Rediscovered Chess After 35 Years Away



By Frisco Del Rosario

SIX MONTHS AGO, someone tried to reach me through my old company. When I called, the voice said: “You have no idea who this is, do you?”

Patrick Nicassio played on the Glassbrook Elementary (Hayward) chess team with me... 35 years ago.

Pat rediscovered chess through a family member. “I’d forgotten how much I loved chess,” he said. “But I knew it was always inside me. It gets in your blood.”

His interest rekindled, Pat Googled the terms “bay area chess”. The first hit was BayAreaChess, where he found me. “I said, ‘whoa, that can’t be the same guy, can it?’”

We caught up at a bookstore. He remembered things that you’d think I’d remember, like being rushed off school grounds in an ambulance.

Pat recalled Glassbrook’s match with crosstown rival Bret Harte. “Mr.

Frye made that demonstration board out of paper, and showed us how to avoid that four-move checkmate, but I fell right into it. I was the first one done,” he said.

I remember that match. It was a topic in psychotherapy.

I was confident that I was going to win on Board One, but I was probably behaving like a confident jerk. Frye said: “You might think you’re a lock, but you’re not.”

I had a disaster on Board One. Twenty-five years later, my shrink said our teacher — who should’ve been leading cheers for us — did the opposite with “you’re not a lock”, which ruined me for the match.

Pat played in his first USCF tournament, the BayAreaChess Swiss 52. “I can’t believe how good these kids are!” he said.

Alan Kirshner would say “chess is forever”.

BayAreaChess Event Prizewinners

BayAreaChess 50 Swiss

Oct. 4
Superstar
1 Daniel Zheng
2 Kyle Shin
3-4 Alex Radu
3-4 Christopher Wu
Star
1-2 Daniel Steiner
1-2 Kyle Hui
3-4 Vignesh Panchanatham
3-4 Ritwik Chauhan
Elite
1 Julian Michael Lin
2 Justin Wang
3-4 Muhammed Mohideen
3-4 Rahul Ram Mohan
5 Roy Lo
6 Art Zhao
Champs
1-2 Kanstantiin Shchelik
1-2 Leland Yu
3-5 Anish Yakkala
3-5 Hun Klotz-Burwell
3-5 Arun G Khemani
6-9 Aleksander Kozminski
6-9 Armete Mobin
6-9 Alisha Chawla
6-9 Bryan L Huang
Premier
1 Jeffrey Chen Xu
2-4 Chris Xiong
2-4 Evan Teng
2-4 Michael Sandler
5-6 Vignesh Varadarajan
5-6 Jordan Langland
Booster
1 Duyminh Darr Tran
2 Jonathan Hsu
3-5 Sidharth Shanker
3-5 Akshay Aravindan
3-5 Akash Thiagarajan
6-8 Anish Kumar
6-8 Justin Hsu
6-8 Ron Khirman

BayAreaChess 51 Blitz

Oct. 4
1 Anish Yakkala
2 Aleksan Kozminski

BayAreaChess 52 Swiss

Oct. 25
Superstar
1 Daniel Zheng
2 Hemang Jangle
Star
1 Ken Hui
2 Kyle Hui
Elite
1 Kevin Hui

2 Vignesh Palaniappan
3-5 Prem Talwai
3-5 Rahul Ram Mohan
3-5 Aakaash Rao
Champs
1-2 Armete Mobin
1-2 Merak Jos Arriola
3-5 Hansel Teoh
3-5 Anish Yakkala
3-5 Abhinav Naikawadi
6-8 Audrey Jin Zhao
6-8 Arvind Sankar
6-8 M. Pruyv Goldstein
Premier
1 Shopnavo Biswas
2-3 Chris Xiong
2-3 Victor Lin
4-6 Rajesh Sakhamuru
4-6 Daniel Song
4-6 Harikara Subbaraj
Booster
1 Akash Thiagarajan
2-4 Alanna Song
2-4 Vinay Prasad
2-4 Sagar Arun
5-7 Shivansh Singla
5-7 Sidharth Shanker
5-7 Akshay Aravindan

BayAreaChess 53 Blitz

Oct. 25
1 Aleksan Kozminski
2 Steele Langland
3 David Rahmat

BayAreaChess 54 Quads

Oct. 26
Q1 Vikram Vasani
Q2 Bryan Huang
Q3 Rayan Taghizadeh
Q4 Sameer Vijay, Connor Kennedy
Q5 Preetham Gujjala, Sherran Wang, Peter Enger
Q6 Matthew Dai

BayAreaChess 55 Swiss

Nov. 1
Open
1-4 Qijie Jack Zhu
1-4 Harold Jim Parker
1-4 Nicolas Oca Homer
Under 1400
1-4 Justin Wang
1-4 John Canessa
1-4 Chester Elias Lo
1-4 Ashraf Ali
Under 1000
1 James Du
2 Zarek Massey
3-4 Steven Li

3-4 David Rahmat
Under 600
1 Sagar Arun
2-3 Sidharth Shanker
2-3 Desiree Ho
4-5 Michael Rich
4-5 Prave Ravishankar

BayAreaChess 56 Quads

Nov. 16
Q1 John Canessa
Q2 Yousef Azhar
Q3 Muhammad Kaddoura
Q4 Greg Pinto
Q6 Tommy Liang
Q7 Ethan Dowsett
Q8 Anthony Waller, Nicky Medearis
Q9 Eric Lim

BayAreaChess 57 Swiss

Nov. 28
Star
1-2 Binjih Lin
1-2 Richard Yi
Elite
1 John Guiragossian
2-3 R. Kasiviswanathan
2-3 Kanstan Shchelik
4 Jeffrey Zhang
Champs
1-3 Anish Yakkala
1-3 Nathaniel Sauerberg
1-3 Udit Iyengar
4-6 Aleksan Kozminski
4-6 Hansel Teoh
4-6 Joseph Cheng Wan
7-10 David Vendrow
7-10 Jeffrey Chen Xu
7-10 Max Feng
7-10 Yousef Azhar
Premier

1-2 Steele Langland
1-2 Michael Sandler
3-4 Rayan Taghizadeh
3-4 Charles Lin
5-6 Aneesh Samineni
5-6 Jordan Langland
Booster
1 Akash Thiagarajan
2 Ethan Sauerberg
3-7 Alex Berlaga
3-7 Kevin Lin
3-7 Vinay Prasad
3-7 Joshua Vendrow
3-7 Swapnil Garg

BayAreaChess 58 Blitz

Nov. 30
1 John Canessa
2 Anish Yakkala

3-4 Aleksa Kozminski
3-4 Arvind Sankar

BayAreaChess 59 Quads

Nov. 29
Q1 John Guiragossian, Anish Yakkala
Q2 Rayan Taghizadeh
Q3 Nith Ramabathiran, Muhammad Kaddoura
Q4 Kevin Lin
Q5 Aditya Subramanian, Nikhil Prakash
Q6 Nicholas Chung

BayAreaChess 60 Swiss

Nov. 28-30
Master/Expert
1 Ricardo DeGuzman
2 Michael Aigner
3-7 Brian Wai
3-7 Dana Mackenzie
3-7 Samuel Sevia
3-7 Mike Splane
3-7 Evan Sandberg
A/B
1 Rahul Desirazu
2-3 Hemang Jangle
2-3 Alan Howe
4-6 Puneeth Gadangi
4-6 F. Hernandez-Campos
U1600
1 Julian Michael Lin
2 Kevin Hui
3 Daniel Chen
4-9 Michael Lico
4-9 Daniel Ho
4-9 Nathan Zhang
4-9 Vikram Ganesh
4-9 Colin Chow
4-9 Merak Jos Arriola

BayAreaChess 61 Swiss

Dec. 20
Superstar/Star
1 Arjoe Loanzon
2-3 Samuel Sevia
2-3 Arun Giridharan
Elite
1 Joshua Chan
2-4 Krzystof Kozminski
2-4 Alekhya Nandula
2-4 Aleksan Kozminski
5-6 Rahul Ram Mohan
5-6 Jeffrey Tao
Champs
1-3 Hunter Klotz-Burwell
1-3 Alex Yin
1-3 Sergey Gasparyan
4-7 Yosef Kazinik

Salman Opening

Continued from Page 2

an outlet in spirituality. I spent more time contemplating about life, society, and my priorities while people who did not know me well were worried that I was entering into a depression. If anything, I was going through a phase of relearning and rediscovery. I dealt with my financial losses by detaching myself from money and dealt with the cruel business world by cultivating more personal relationships and less business relationships.

That journey has led me to where I am now and where I am going in the coming years. BayAreaChess is a direct manifestation of my revised sense priority where people mean more than things. I can say that because I have someone who is willing to pay me for my professional skills and give me the flexibility and freedom so I can donate time and money to BayAreaChess.

“Open with a center pawn” is an important chess principle. The ideas are to create opportunities for the bishop and queen and to control the center, the most important part of the board. In life, these two parts translate into creating opportunities for others and focusing on your priorities. For some of us, figuring out our priorities is harder than focusing on priorities, while taking pleasure in creating opportunities for others is harder than actually creating those opportunities. I am happy to be a center pawn in the chess game of life because I am rewarded by seeing so many players become bishops and queens.

Many chess players and parents thank me for the services of BayAreaChess. I want them to know that I am also thankful to you for investing their time and entrusting their precious children to BayAreaChess. I have received a higher return on investment through BayAreaChess than from any for-profit company and I have received it in currency much more treasured than money. The smiles from my “customers” are dearer than any other rewards. For that I thank you. No amount of money could have bought those smiles or the Jamba Juices and the Starbucks you bring for me and my kids.

Tactics from Page 3

- A. 1...Bb4! 2. Qxb4 Nc2+ 0-1
B. 1. Qg3! (or 1. Qf4!) d6 2. Bb5! Qxb5 3. Nxc7+ 1-0
C. 1. Bxg8! Rxg8 2. Bg5 Qxg5 3. Nf7+ 1-0
4. 1...Nf3+ 2. Ke2 Nd4+ 3. Ke1 Bb4 D. Qxb4 Nxc2+ 0-1

4-7 David Vendrow
4-7 Bryan Ling Huang
4-7 Amrith Deepak
8-10 Lucas Nguyen
8-10 Navaneeth Kumaran
8-10 Yousef Azhar
Premier
1 Rohan Varma
2 Jordan Langland
3-5 Akash Thiagarajan
3-5 Daniel Song
3-5 Sagar Arun
Booster
1 Edward Vendrow
2-3 Alanna Song
2-3 Joshua Vendrow
4-5 Charles Meng
4-5 Jothi Ramesh

BayAreaChess 62 Blitz

Dec. 20
1 Arvind Sankar
2 Arun Khemani

BayAreaChess 63 Quads

Dec. 21
Q1 Arvind Sankar
Q2 Max Feng
Q3 Vandana Mediboyina,
Sameer Vijay
Q4 Nick Bugbee
Q5 Luke Bugbee
Q6 Patrick Li

BayAreaChess 64 Swiss

Open
1 Arjoe Loanzon
2 Samuel Sevia
3-4 Paul Richter
3-4 Karim Seada
Reserve
1 Thomas Gonda
2 Vinzent Davies
3-4 Todd Phillips
3-4 Arun Giridharan
Elite
1 Jacob Saldinger
2-7 Evan Baldonado
2-7 John Canessa
2-7 Krzysztof Kozminski
2-7 Rahul Ram Mohan
2-7 Hansel Teoh
2-7 Sergey Gasparyan
Champs
1 Jeffrey Chen Xu
2-3 Yosef Kazinik
2-3 Andrey Yamburg
4-10 Samuel Saldinger
4-10 Leyton Ho
4-10 Navaneeth Kumaran
4-10 Rahul Iyer
4-10 Rayan Taghizadeh
4-10 Julie Yeung
4-10 Audrey Jin Zhao
Premier

1 Jordan Langland
2 Allen Bazhenov
3-4 Kevin Lin
3-4 Sagar Arun
Booster
1-3 Sanya Sehgal
1-3 Chaitanya Gaddam
1-3 Edward Vendrow
4-6 Shivansh Singla
4-6 Vinay Prasad
4-6 Brunston Poon

BayAreaChess 65 Blitz

Jan. 3
1-3 Aleksan Kozminski
1-3 Sergey Gasparyan
1-3 John Canessa
4 Hansel Teoh
5-9 Kevin Moy
5-9 Jose Jacobo
5-9 Daniel Gutierrez
5-9 Armando Garcia
5-9 Jose Herrera

BayAreaChess 66 Swiss

Superstar
1 Francisco Anchondo
2-4 Karim Seada
2-4 Samuel Sevia
Star
1 Ganesh Krishnan
2 Todd Phillips
3 Pranav Nagarajan
Elite
1-2 Leland Yu
1-2 Udit Iyengar
3-5 Vikram Vasani
3-5 Hun Klotz-Burwell
3-5 Cole Erskine
Champs
1 Steven Yuan
2-5 Yousef Azhar
2-5 Max Feng
2-5 Leyton Ho
2-5 Chris Xiong
Premier
1 Akash Thiagarajan
2 Amit Sant
3 Sagar Arun
Booster
1-2 Siddharth Banik
1-2 Sanjay Gupta
3-6 Mark Zhao
3-6 Swapnil Garg
3-6 Ashritha Eswaran
3-6 Anirudh Nandella

BayAreaChess 67 Blitz

Jan. 24
1 Arvind Sankar
2-5 Aleksan Kozminski
2-5 Kevin Moy
2-5 John Canessa
2-5 Swaminatha Sankar