

# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

1998 - #3



# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

1998 - Issue #3

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## On the Road at the National Open

by David Long

This year I've been trying to play in some of the "fun" chess events. Following the Eastern Amateur Team Tournament — the one true standard for such things — next stop (thanks to some frequent flyer miles) was Las Vegas, to play in the National Open, March 27-29,

1998. It's a great tournament. Exceptionally well run and played in outstanding conditions in the Riviera Hotel's conference center, the tournament is very strong but has more of the feel of a small-town fair. It's a long, pleasant way from the seriousness of, say, a powerhouse event like the New York Open.

Julian Hodgson won with a score of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  out of 6, on tie-breaks over GMs Vladimir Epishin (fresh from an equal 3-4 in the New York Open), Pavel Blatney, Evgeny Pigusov and Jan Ehlvest. In the Open section, there were, I think, something like 25 grandmasters, 45 play-



ers over 2400, and 130 masters out of about 320 players. Overall, this year's edition set an attendance record with more than 1125 players of all ages and playing strengths. A door prize for oldest participant went to a player over 90 (!) years old, and the youngest players were about 10.

For more diversion, there were also an excellent bookstore, a chess memorabilia concession (you can indeed find Paul Keres on an Estonian banknote!), and Arthur Bisguier analyzing players' games each round. ("Why would you play that?! Why?!") Ron Henley also gave a series of entertaining and informative lectures. But the main event this year was a 30-board simul by Anatoly Karpov.

The simul was way oversubscribed months in advance, so the organizers had to resort to lotteries and special inducements (eg, most people brought to the tournament, etc) to narrow the list of opponents/victims to thirty.



At game time (conveniently between rounds of the NCAA finals) the contrast between Karpov and his challengers could not have been greater. The FIDE champion presents the appearance of a consummate professional; even his suits have improved lately. On the other hand, there we were: the usual rowdy, noisy, scruffy lot of unprepared patzers and fans. At Karpov's request, the players were arranged by rating (given the opposition, one questions whether Karpov really needs this information), starting with a couple masters and working quickly toward the lower reaches of the rating pool. About half the group was well below 1600. Although I couldn't see every board, it appeared that Karpov — White on all boards — just played solid lines from his standard repertoire that left little chance for tactical surprises: lots of English Openings, Exchange Variations in the Queen's Gambit, and even the Advance Variation



against the Caro Kann. Interestingly, he allowed and defeated a Benko Gambit by his top-rated foe (a junior player rated about 2300), so perhaps this opening is not really sound after all?! In general, though, he was as much a showman as one could hope, joking and analyzing with the players, smiling through multiple power failures in the room, tolerating opponents who didn't know when it was time to resign. He graciously saw to it that a couple newcomers to chess were not the first ones forced to resign. In the end he conceded draws to a couple of experts.

In the tournament, I was happy to finish with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  (out of 6) in the Open section despite (or due to) the utter ruin of an opening experiment with Black that yielded two quick losses without struggle. I was paired way up every round (courtesy of to my current rating slump) yet still stood "even" going into the last round, stayed out of time trouble throughout the tournament for a change, and picked up a bunch of rating points. Maybe Karpov is on to something about playing only White...

### Dave Long - Don Aldrich

#### Ruy Lopez

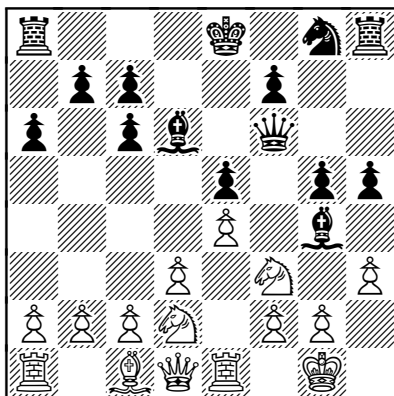
*Notes by Dave Long*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 0-0** (This fireproof system can produce some really interesting play, some of it very tactical. Black picks the line that, from my limited experience, seems to be the most popular among amateurs.) **5...Bg4 6 h3 h5 7 d3 Qf6 8 Nd2 g5** (Departing *ECO*. Soltis says it's an error and suggests now **9 Nc4 Bxf3 10 Qxf3 Qxf3 11 gxf3 f6 12 h4!** [I didn't find this move in the game] and either **12...gxh4 13 f4** or **12...g4 13 Kg2** as clearly advantageous for White.) **9 Re1 Bd6**

Black can try **9...Bc8!**  $\Delta$  **g4**. The line **10 d4 g4 11 Nxe5 gxh3** doesn't appeal... With the text, both players are trying to follow the main line development patterns, except Black has played **g5** in place of **Ne7**. Because of this, in some lines where White captures **hxg4** Black can't



clear the back rank fast enough for a fatal rook check from h8 as in the famous game Barendregt - Teschner, 1965, Black's model attack in this system: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 0-0 Bg4 6 h3 h5 7 d3 Qf6 8 Nbd2 Ne7 9 Re1 Ng6 10 d4 Bd6 11 hxg4 hxg4 12 Nh2 Rxh2 13 Kxh2 Qxf2 14 Re2 exd4+ 15 e5 Bxe5+ 16 Rxe5+ Nxe5 17 Kh1 0-0-0 0-1



## 10 d4

Having the d-pawn on d3 instead of d4 creates some additional chances for Black in the event of 10 hxg4 hxg4 11 Nh2 and now:

- i) 11...g3 (insufficient) 12 fxg3! (12 Nhf3 gxf2+ 13 Kxf2 g4+ recovers the piece and threatens Bc5) Rxh2 13 Nf3 Δ Bxg5± (but not 13 Kxh2?? Qh6+ 14 Kg1 Bc5+ 15 Kf1 Qh1+ 16 Ke2 Qxg2#);
- ii) 11...Qh6? 12 Ndf1 wins;
- iii) 11..Rxh2

Now 12. Kxh2? would be good if Black answered 12...Qxf2, eg 13 Nf1! (better than 13 Rf1 Qh4+ 14 Kg1 Bc5+ 15 Rf2 Qxf2+ 16 Kh1 Qh4#; or likewise 13 Qe2 Qh4+ 14 Kg1 Bc5+ 15 Kf1 Qh1#) Qh4+ 14 Kg1 Nf6 15 Qe2! 0-0-0 16 Qf2 wins, as Black lacks the time for Rh8. However 12...g3+! leads to 13 Kg1 (13 Kxg3 Qf4+ 14 Kh3 Qh4#; 13 fxg3 Qh6+ 14 Kg1 Bc5+ 15 Kf1 Qh1+ 16 Ke2 Qxg2#) gxf2+ 14 Kh2 Qh6+ 15 Kg3 Qh4+ 16 Kf3 fxe1Q and Black wins.



Therefore, 12 Qg4! Qh6 13 Kf1 Nf6 14 Qg3. In the game I settled on 10 d4 since I wasn't sure (after 30 minutes) I had found everything. Anyway, I decided 10 d4 would prepare hxg4 with less risk.

**10...0-0-0?** (This lets White capture on g4 with check, which wins material.) **11 hxg4 hxg4 12 Nh2 Rxh2 13 Qxg4+ Kb8 14 Nf3** (I was playing for this position, thinking that the threats against e5, h2, and g5 were terrific. But Fritz condemns this and says it leaves White with only a minimal advantage. The machine prefers the immediate 14 Kxh2, eg 14...Qxf2 15 Nf3 exd4 16 e5) **14...Nh6 15 Qg3 Nf5?** (If Black had played 15...Rh5 it's still a game.) **16 Qxg5** (Not 16 dxe5? Nxc3 17 exf6 Rh1# I got lucky here. When I looked at this variation, I thought that either the knight or rook would have to be lost to the double attack and stopped "analyzing," thus overlooking the mate. Fortunately I decided that other lines were clearer and took the pawn on g5.) **16...Qh8 17 Nxc3 exd4 18 e5 Ne3** (18...Bxe5 18 Rxe5!) **19 Bxe3** (Imprecise to the end! 19 exd6 Nxc2 20 dxc7! is faster. Nevertheless...) **1-0**

**Dave Long - Clarence Lehman**

**Ruy Lopez**

*Notes by Dave Long*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nd4 4 Nxd4 exd4 5 0-0 c6 6 Ba4 Bc5 7 c3 d6 8 d3 b5 9 Bb3 Qf6 10 cxd4 Bxd4 11 Qc2 Bd7** (Fritz thinks

11...Ne7 would be equal but the text leaves

White with a small edge) **12 Nc3 a5 13**

**a4 h5?** (loses) **14 axb5 Qg6 15 Ne2**

**Be5 16 f4 Nf6 17 fxe5 dxe5 18**

**Qc5 1-0** The chess world is

very small; Lehman remem-

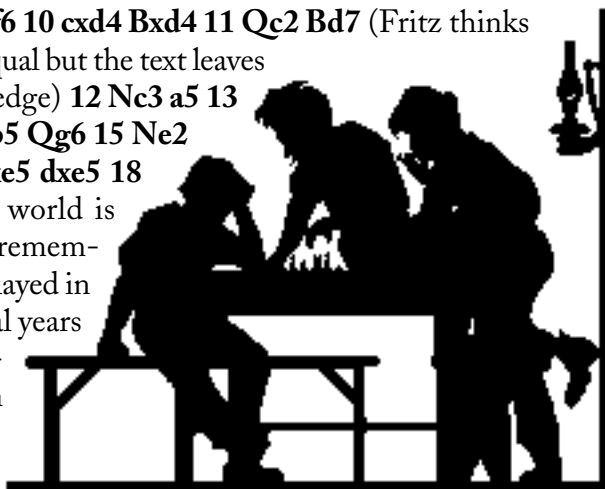
bered that he and I played in

West Virginia several years

ago when the Atlan-

tic Open was held in

Harper's Ferry.





## Dave Long - Mischa Machius

### French

*Notes by Dave Long*

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 b6 5 Nf3 Qd7 6 a3 Bf8 7 b4 c6 8 Rb1  
 b5 9 a4 a5 10 axb5 axb4 11 bxc6 Nxc6 12 Nb5 Rb8 13 Bd3 Na5 14  
 Nc3 Ra8 15 Bb5 Nc6 16 Na4 Ra5 17 Nb6 Qc7 18 Bxc6+ Qxc6 19  
 Nxc8 Qxc8 20 Bd2? (A horrible momentary lapse. Obviously, castling is the move, which I saw as soon as I picked up the bishop...) 20...Qc4! 21 Ra1 Ra3 (Still in shock, I'd not seen this obvious reply. Fortunately, I got myself back together enough to find the next move, which holds it all together.) 22 Qb1 Be7 23 Rxa3 bxa3 24 Qb8+ Kd7 25 Qa7+ Qc7 26 Qa4+ Qc6 27 Qa7+ Qc7 ½-½

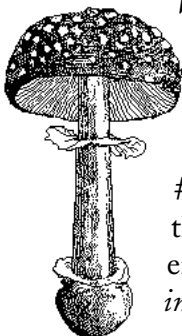


## Better Late Than Never

*by Macon Shibut*

Even before I cleared the parking lot for the drive home from Fredricksburg last January I knew that the games I *needed* to annotate from the 1998 Virginia Open were the pair I didn't win: a draw versus Tom Braunlich and a penultimate round loss on board 2 to eventual co-champion Emory Tate. Alas, the pressing deadline for

*Virginia Chess* issue 1998/#1 precluded my giving them the sort of attention I wanted, so I tossed off notes to a couple other games for the original Virginia Open report. Then laziness and distractions conspired to keep them out of *Virginia Chess* issue 1998/#2 as well. Finally, in April, I got around to analyzing these games. Better late than never! I just hope readers enjoy the results, at least as much as the book reviews I *intended* for this issue but didn't finish...







**Tom Braunlich - Macon Shibut**  
**1998 Virginia Open**  
**Trompovsky**

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 c5 3 Bxf6 gxf6 4 d5 d6 5 e3 Na6 6 c3 Qb6** (One tries to play with some kind of plan but in this case I just sort of wound up in this odd deployment. I hadn't anticipated 6 c3; now had to consider whether to allow Bxa6, whereas previously Black had Qa5+ in reply, avoiding doubled pawns. Without ever answering this question, I hit upon the idea of attacking b2 to provoke his pawn to b3 and then "somehow use my unopposed dark square bishop" on the a1-h8 diagonal. If this was not exactly the most concrete plan, I rationalize that now White made another totally unexpected move, so real analysis would have been wasted anyway.) **7 Qd2** (7 b3 probably was White's best after all,  $\Delta$  N-a3-c4. If 7 Qc2 Black should not play 7...Bf5? 8 Qxf5 Qxb2 9 a4! and wins thanks to the two threats 10 Bb5+ and 10 Ra3 saving the extra piece. However, 7...Nc7 8 e4 f5 9 exf5 Bxf5 looks good enough.) **7...e6 8 e4** (Yet another surprise, since I reckoned my reply to be strong. On 8 dxe6 I was leaning to-

*15th Annual*

## Fredericksburg Open

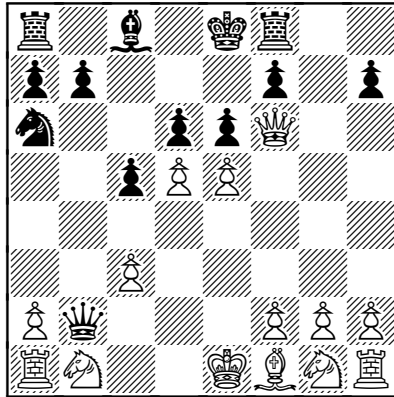
June 20-21, 1998

Sheraton Inn, 2801 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA. 22404  
 5-SS, G/2, \$\$1600G. Two sections: *Open*: \$300-200-150, Top X, A each 100; EF \$30 if rec'd by 6/17, \$40 at site. *Amateur (under 1800)*: \$200-150-125, Top C, D, E each 75, Top Unr 50; EF \$25 if rec'd by 6/17, \$35 at site. *Both*: Reg 9:00-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30, VCF memb req'd, OSA. One 1/2 pt bye available. Scholastic EF for 18 & under \$5, \$10 at site, play for non-cash prizes only. Hotel \$59/1-2 in room, (540) 786-8321. NS, NC, W. *Enter*: Mark Johnson, PO Box 241, Barbourville, VA. 22923. Info (540) 832-9042 day, (54) 832-9042 night.

*10 Grand Prix points*



wards 8...Bxe6!? Δ 0-0-0, although the original inspiration for 7...e6 had been that 8...fxe6 would be possible now that his queen was no longer positioned for Qh5+ Reconstructing my logic, I'm reminded of my hero Lasker's description of the amateur who "plays with plans as a puppy plays with a moth.") **8...Bh6 9 Qxh6 Qxb2 10 Qxf6 Rf8** (10...Rg8 would be worse because it impedes taking his rook, for instance 11 a4 Qxa1 12 Bb5+ Bd7 [12...Kf8 13 Qd8+ Kg7 14 Qg5+ draw] 13 Bxd7+ Kxd7 14 Qxf7+ After the text, on the other hand, I wasn't sure what he could do. If, say, 11 Nf3 Qxa1 [Black could also consider 11...Nb4!?] 12 Bb5+ Bd7 13 Bxd7+ Kxd7 14 dxe6+ fxe6 15 Qg7+ Kc6 looks safe enough. And 11 dxe6 fxe6 is worse than useless for White.) **11 e5!**

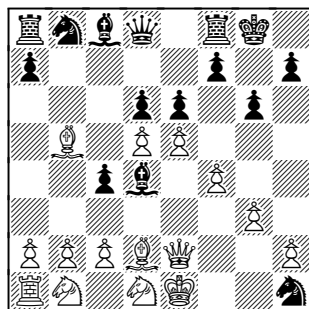


Far and away the best move, selected after *lengthy* consideration. Indeed, both players had been taking a fair amount of time orienting themselves in the unusual position, but 11 e5 in particular cost White the better part of an hour. I don't record clock readings move to move, but my recollection is that Braunlich left himself less than half an hour to reach time control at move 40. Now it was my turn to go into a deep think. Alas, I didn't achieve the same quality for the time invested! But let's not get ahead of the story...

In preparing these notes, I thumbed through back issues of *Virginia Chess* to find what exactly had been the time control. I was amused to notice another of my annotations, a game versus George French



[*issue 1997/2, page 17*] where I played White in a position that had more than a few points of similarity with the present one... Perhaps I can trademark this formation with ♖s d5-e5 *vs* Black ♜s d6-e6 and one or more Black pieces burrowing into some distant corner of White's position?



*Shibut - French  
DC Chess League 1997*

Naturally I considered 11 e5 back when contemplating my eighth move but I can't claim to have properly *analyzed* it. White was going to have too many options to work out everything. It was one of situations where you just try to make sure there's no forced crush, and otherwise you wait and see how the guy plays. The threat that 11 e5 poses was easily grasped: exd6 and Qe7 mate. Also, ...dxe5 is no defense because then d6 and Qe7 mate. In my preliminary calculations I worked out a near-term solution, but I never imagined how *enduring* the menace would prove to be. Coming right over the head of Black's king, you'd think the d5-e5 *vs* d6-e6 tension must rapidly resolve itself in captures. However, we shall see it maintained for a remarkably long, in both game and analysis.

*"Okay, finally, 11 e5... What did I intend against that? Oh yeah, I remember. Of course I'd love to take the rook and knight, I'll look at that first. But there's a chance it might be just perpetual check in the face of his mate threat. So my fallback is 11...Nc7, intending Nxd5, which happily defends e7 and hits his queen... Yeah, that looks quite good, I'm tempted to just play it straight away. His rook isn't going anywhere. But that's a lot of material for the taking, and the variations will be all checks and forcing stuff. It's worth the effort to hash out 11...Qxa1*

After 11...Qxa1 12 exd6 Qxb1+ White can't go to e2 because of Qe4+ and Black either trades queen or takes d5 with check and then d6. But on 13 Kd2 Qxa2+? 14 Ke3 the checks are over and Black gets mated. Thus 13...Qb2+ is forced and already 14 Kd1 can leave Black with nothing except repeating. Therefore, during play I immediately



shifted my attention to 11...Nc7. As we'll see, I later ran into trouble there as well and had to come back and to investigate whether I truly had at least the draw in hand after 11...Qxa1, or whether White could try for more with 14 Ke3. Once again things turned out more complicated than they initially appeared. 14 Ke3 (but not 14 Kd3? Nb4+! thanks to the pin on the diagonal, followed by 15...Nxd5) Qc1+ 15 Kf3 Qd1+ White can't block on e2 because he loses both d-pawns. He also can't go 16 Kg3 because of the rook check. However, I saw a finesse for him, 16 Kf4 Qd2+ and only now 17 Kg3, whereupon Black's rook check isn't so good without a follow-up Qg4. After 17...Rg8+ 18 Kh4 I'd have to give back the whole rook to stop mate, 18...Qg5+ 19 Qxg5 Rxg5 20 Kxg5 exd5...

*"One, two, three... good grief, all of that and material is dead even! How's the ending? His d6 pawn is weak, but his king is the best piece on the board, ready to attack my pawns. My developments stink. Look at my knight!..."*

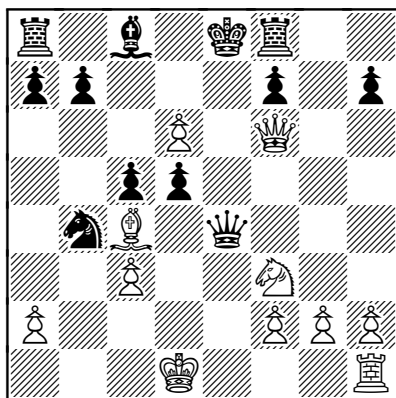
In fact, this doesn't work for White. At home I saw I'd overlooked 16...e5+! (instead of ...Qd2+). If then 17 Qxe5+ Be6 Black remains material ahead, eg 18 Bb5+ (or 18 dxe6 fxe6+) Kd8 19 Qf6+ Kc8 20 dxe6 Qxd6+ wins. Maintaining White's mate threat by 17 Kxe5! is a better try, but Black comes out ahead here too, eg 17...Qh5+ 18 Kf4 Qf5+! (but not 18...Qg4+ 19 Ke3 Qd7 20 Bb5!) 19 Qxf5 Bxf5 20 Kxf5 Kd7 or 0-0-0

In summary, 11...Qxa1 would have led to a safe draw. Attempts by White to extract more are suicidal, but I wasn't clear on this during the game. As I indicated, I turned to 11...Nc7  $\Delta$  Nxd5. If then 12 c4 I just take the rook and White can't even threaten mate thanks to — again — the diagonal pin against his queen. However, I soon discovered a problem, 12 Bc4! After this Black can't stop the principal threat anymore and must hope for a perpetual by taking the rook and knight after all. I figured my chances should be even worse than in the 11...Qxa1 branch — his bishop now out, his d-pawn defended, my knight further back, etc. — so I stepped back and cast a wider net. 11...Qc1+!? 12 Ke2 caught my eye.



*“At least I wouldn’t have to worry about Bc4 for a while! Unfortunately I also remain a knight down. I’m no longer attacking his rook or anything. For the sacrificed piece I’ve got what? His ridiculous king position and not much else. I’m not sure I like that. My own king isn’t exactly secure either. I’ve still got to deal with the mate, he’ll go Kf3 or something, and I’ve got only my queen in the attack. There must be something better...”*

Having previously noted the recurring theme of the pin on diagonal a1-h8, the rather elaborate “something better” I hit upon was 11...Nb4!? Again Black prepares to defend the mate by Nxd5. Naturally my first question concerned the nemesis reply 12 Bc4 — *“of course White could simply take the knight, but then he can’t threaten mate anymore, his queen would hang, so I just start chopping off the queenside pieces...”* — and I delved into 12 Bc4 Qxa1 13 exd6 Qxb1+ 14 Kd2 and found I’ve got new resources with my knight at b4: 14...Qc2+ 15 Ke1 (15 Ke3 Qd3+! Δ 16 Bxd3 Nxd5+; or 16 Kf4 Qxc4+ and Nxd5) 15...Qe4+ 16 Kd1 exd5 defends the mate. Still, 17 Nf3 Δ Re1 maintains the initiative.



17...Qc2+ (if 17...Nd3 18 Bxd3 Qxd3+ 19 Nd2 White will win) 18 Ke1 Nc6 19 Bxd5 (19 Bb5? Qb1+) Rg8! (19...Kd7 20 Ne5+ Nxe5 21 Qe7#) 20 Bxc6+ Kf8 All I can say for sure is that this is hard to analyze. White has a lot of dangerous looking possibilities and the

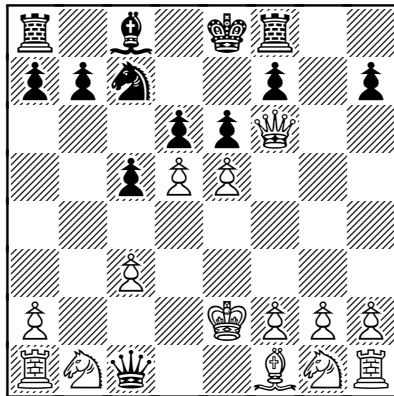


likelihood of making a mistake is great. On the other hand, there was at least a clear draw on hand with 18...Qc1+ (instead of Nc6), which seemed reassuring in light of my incorrect skepticism about the 11...Qxa1 complex. Combined with the anticipated psychological impact of 11...Nb4!? — *“He won’t be expecting this!”* — you can appreciate how I gradually talked myself into what is, in fact, the weakest of all my candidate moves!



### 11...Nb4?

As indicated above, 11...Qxa1 is equal. But 11...Qc1+!, that move I noted but never properly analyzed, was best of all! The obvious fact, which I nonetheless failed to grasp during the game, is that after 12 Ke2 Nc7 Black is indeed still threatening the a1 rook [Qb2+] as well as Nxd5. Meanwhile, White’s development is fatally compromised.



Lunging for the king by 13 Nd2 Qxa1 14 Ne4 comes up empty after 14...Nxd5 15 Nxd6+ Kd7 16 Qg7 Nf4+ 17 Kf3 Ng6 and Black’s material plus is only a beginning. So I guess White tries 13 Kf3 [13 Nf3 Nxd5  $\Delta$  Qb2+] but then after 13...Qxf1 [13...Nxd5 is possible too] he can only pitch good material after bad, eg 14 Ne2 Qxh1 15 c4 [ $\Delta$  exd6] Qd1 16 exd6 [16 Nc3 Qd3+] Nxd5 17 cxd5 Qxd5+ wins.



**12 cxb4** (Turns out there's a mistake in my casual dismissal of this simple capture.) **Qxa1 13 Bd3** (An obvious enough refutation of my 11th move. White only had to avoid 13 Bb5+? Bd7 14 Bxd7+ Kxd7 15 dxe6+ fxe6 16 Qg7+ Kc6 17 Qxh7 Rf5 [  $\Delta$  Qxb1+ ] 18 b5+ Kb6; and also 13 dxe6? Bxe6 [but not 13...fxe6? 14 Bb5+ Bd7 15 Qxe6+ ] 14 exd6? Qxf6. I had not so much overlooked 13 Bd3 as neglected it in the thicket of possibilities. On the upside, my assessment of Nb4's psychological value had proved dead on: Braunlich burned more time over his last two turns, so that now, just 13[!] moves into the game, he had only a couple minutes left. This is what saved me in the end.) **13...Qd4?!** (Short of time myself and sensing my position going down, I rashly ignored the correct 13...exd5 14 bxc5 Qxe5+ 15 Qxe5+ dxe5 16 Bxh7 in favor of a confusing move.) **14 Bxh7 Qxb4+ 15 Nd2 c4** (15...Qb2? would have led to a fitting end: 16 Ngf3 Qc1+ 17 Ke2 Qxh1 18 exd6 and mate) **16 exd6 Qxd6** (Ironic; White finally uses his trump when I can answer in the simplest way imaginable, just taking the pawn. But this interrupts my harassment campaign long enough for him to complete development.) **17 Ngf3! Qxd5 18 0-0** (Now Black is surely lost.) **Bd7 19 Ne4** (Going straight for the goal, though 19 Be4 would have been even stronger.) **19...Bc6 20 Qh4!** (Setting up an irresistible Nf6+. Since 20...f5 21 Nf6+ Rxf6 22 Qxf6 was hopeless, I evacuated everything beyond the range of the ensuing discovered check.) **Qa5! 21 Nf6+** (With more time to think he would have gone 21 Rd1 Bxe4 22 Bxe4. The text invites my best move of the game.) **21...Kd8**, *accompanied by a draw offer*. I had "calculated" this a turn earlier and, modesty aside, I consider that it was perfect timing. Suddenly White must weigh a smorgasbord of checks and discovered checks, none of which win anything. I saw my opponent's eyes dart between board and clock and was not too surprised when he said, "I think I have to accept.")  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

My failing in this game was essentially tactical, a matter of specific moves that I either overlooked altogether or noticed too late. This is the way most chess games are won and lost. Even the so-called posi-



tional mistakes usually stem from some specific oversight that make an antipositional move look otherwise attractive. The next game is of a different sort, however. True, I again missed some key moves, but in this case I honestly think my oversights resulted from, rather than caused, a general misassessment of the position.

**Emory Tate - Macon Shibut**  
**1998 Virginia Open**  
**Sicilian**

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 e6 4 0-0 d5!?** (Frank Marshall's tricky French/Sicilian hybrid entered my repertoire a couple years ago after I read Soltis's biography/games collection of the long-time American champion. The usual introductions are 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 d5! and 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 c5!?, neither of which have I used much, but the variation has proved nonetheless useful because I can play it via transposition against several popular ways of avoiding the

*8th Annual*

# Charlottesville Open

## July 11-12, 1998

Best Western

Rt.29 and Rt. 250 Bypass interchange  
 (Behind Aunt Sarah's Pancake House)

Charlottesville Va, 22923

5-SS, G/2, \$\$1600G, two sections: *Open*: \$300-200-150, Top X, A each 100; EF \$30 if rec'd by 7/8, \$40 at site. *Amateur (under 1800)*: \$200-150-125, Top C, D, E each 75, Top Unr 50; EF \$25 if rec'd by 7/8, \$35 at site. *Both*: Reg 9:00-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30, VCF memb req'd, OSA. One 1/2 pt bye available. Scholastic EF for 18 & under \$5, \$10 at site, play for non-cash prizes only. Hotel \$49/1-2 in room, (540) 786-8321. NS, NC, W. *Enter*: Mark Johnson, PO Box 241, Barboursville, VA. 22923. Info (540) 832-9042 day, (54) 832-9042 night

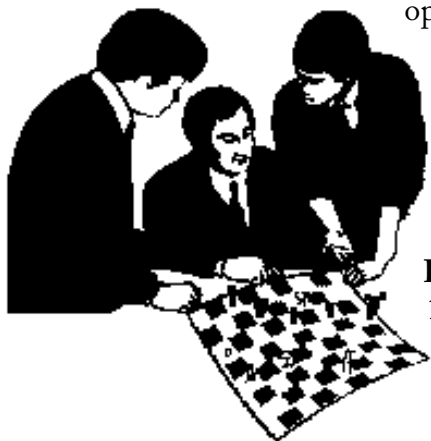
*10 Grand Prix points*

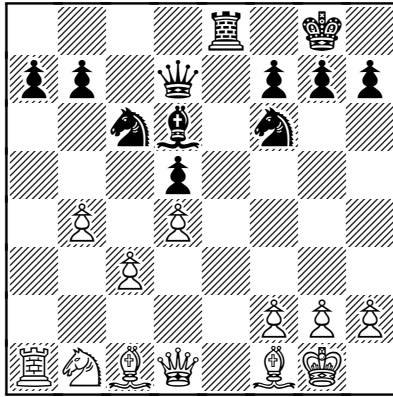




main line Sicilian, including this Rossolimo variation.) **5 exd5 exd5**  
**6 Re1+ Be7** (Now 7 d4 Nf6 would reach the proper Marshall line. A  
 brilliancy prize game once continued 8 dxc5 0-0 9 Be3 Bg4 10 c3  
 Ne4 11 Bxc6 bxc6 12 b4 Bf6 13 Bd4 Re8 14 a4 Bxd4 15 cxd4 Bxf3  
 16 gxf3? Qg5+ 17 Kf1 Nf6 18 Re3 Rxe3! 19 fe3 Qxe3 20 Ra3 Qf4  
 21 Qd2 Qf5 22 Rb3 Re8 23 Kg2 Re6! 24 Na3 Nh5 25 Re3 Rg6+ 26  
 Kf2 h6 27 Re5 Qh3 28 Ke3 Nf6 29 Qe2 Rg2 30 Qe1 Ng4+ 31 Kd3  
 Qxf3+ 32 Re3 Nxe3 33 Qxe3 Qd1+ 34 Qd2 Qxd2# Maroczy -  
 Tarrasch, Ostende 1905. This was also the opening of the famous  
 Lewitsky-Marshall 23...Qg3!!! game at Breslau 1912, with its apoc-  
 ryphal tale spectators “showering the board with gold coins.”) **7 b4!**  
 (Typical of my opponent’s style, redirecting the game by force and  
 creating tension. Such moves merit respect but not fear.) **cxb4 8 a3**  
 (I expected 8 Bb2  $\Delta$  8...Nf6 9 Bxf6 gxf6) **8...Nf6** (Taking again is  
 not out of the question, followed by Be6. But I saw that if I gave the  
 pawn back on b4 White would soon run out of sensible things to do  
 besides defending it with the ugly move c3, which I knew would irri-  
 tate restless Emory.) **9 Ne5 Bd7 10 Nxd7 Qxd7 11 axb4** (The at-  
 tempt to prevent Black’s castling by 11 Qe2 fails due to 11...0-0! 12  
 Bxc6 bxc6 13 Qxe7? Rae8) **11...0-0 12 c3 Rfe8** (12...d4!? was a seri-  
 ous alternative. It looks “thematic,” to use popular annotator jargon,  
 but I’m not sure what that means in this case. Precisely what *theme*  
 are we elaborating by this pawn move? The b4-c3-d2 pawn chain is  
 an inconvenience for White’s own pieces, so dissolving the queenside,

opening the game for his bishops,  
 seemed illogical. I recalled  
 Teichmann’s advice [see Edward  
 Lasker’s *Chess Secrets I Learned  
 from the Masters*] and chose in-  
 stead a move that increased the  
 general activity of my pieces.) **13**  
**Bf1 Bd6** (Now there’s no question  
 13...d4 would be weak owing to 14  
 b5) **14 Rxe8+ Rxe8 15 d4**





Here we are, the critical moment. I admit, I felt rather proud of myself. My position seemed ideal from the standpoint of every rule Fred Reinfeld ever preached. Without sacrificing anything, I had all my pieces in play, all my opponent's on the back rank — and this as Black no less! I recalled Steinitz's dictum, that the side with an upper hand must attack or risk losing the advantage. *"Then attack it shall be!"* Naturally the first move I examined was 15...Bxh2+, which stands no chance as yet, eg 16 Kxh2 Ng4+ 17 Kg1 Qf5 18 Qf3.

*"Okay then, what about 15...Ng4 instead? 16 g3 Qf5 17 f3. Hmmmm... He's got a defensive resource in Ra2, I'll have to keep an eye on that. My threats are not panning out the way I'd hoped. My knight will have to retreat. So what else? Maybe 15...Qf5 is good? Then I really am threatening the Bxh2 sacrifice. He'll have to play something like 16 f3, still not developing. I like that..."*

But upon looking further, I no longer cared for it so much. Even without developing his pieces, White was not only fending off the attack in all variations, he seemed somehow to be taking over the initiative.

*"Boy, it would be the pits to have to settle for some insipid move like 15...a6. No! Don't even think about it! My position is great, there simply must be something good here..."*



Here we see the essential problem. All my analysis was predicated on the judgment that my position was preferable, indeed, on the cusp of victory. I only hope that some day I'll look back on this game as a seminal lesson, proof that you learn most from your defeats. For now I'll merely point out that, even from their back rank stations, White's pieces are about as mobile as mine; that his lamest unit, the queen knight, is no worse than mine; that White's rook is not only on an open file like mine, but has a material target. Indeed, my a- and d-pawns are both potential concerns, whereas White's position has no outstanding weaknesses at all. Oh, and White also has the bishop pair.

In short, it's not Black but White who holds the preferable game! But let us return to my cogitations. Confident of my purpose, I continued searching for the elusive exploitation of my "advantage." And at last, a happy thought. Naturally it took some time before the possibility of trading queens entered my thinking — after all, I was attacking — but 15...Qg4!! seduced me the instant I considered it. Again Black threatens Bxh2, to say nothing of the fact that White's queen is undefended. So White pretty much has to swap. Black's recapture gains a tempo by attacking h2, and with that tempo...

*"Why look! The eighth rank is wide open. My rook can run down and skewer literally his entire army. How elegant! Let's see, I'd be threatening Rxc1 off the bat. And also Nxb2, since his king has to defend the other bishop. It makes sense once you think about it... White has no development, his queen is his best piece, so we trade her off and everything falls into place."*

And without further thought — no, *incapable* of further thought, blinded as I was by my sense of having uncovered The Essence of the Position — I moved...

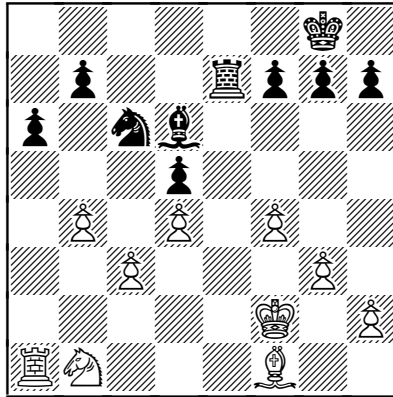
**15...Qg4? 16 Qxg4 Nxg4 17 g3**

...and began a long, cold awakening. I thought for maybe 20 minutes in this position, gradually accepting that something had gone horribly wrong. The variations are not particularly difficult. I'll merely



point out the most germane: 17...Re1? 18 Bd2 Rd1 19 Kg2! and Black's rook is trapped with Be2 to follow.)

17...a6 (Completely dispirited, I addressed the threat b5 and Rxa7)  
18 f3 Ne3 19 Bxe3 Rxe3 20 Kf2 Re7 21 f4!



Whereas I had misvaluated everything, Tate's judgment is dead on. Actually I was more worried about my back rank, something like 21 b5 axb5 22 Ra8+ Nb8, but the text is much better. The overall structure favors White and he should be in no hurry to change it.

Here's how chess works sometime: Earlier Black held an overwhelming looking position and in truth he had nothing. Now White's game doesn't look too special at first glance but it's actually darn close to a forced win! Again the critical issue is weaknesses. White still has none, at least none that I can worry him over. On the other hand my d5 pawn, though not even attacked as yet, is *undefensible* in the long run because White can array all his pieces against it, while I simply won't have sufficient defenders. Once d5 goes, White's pawns will advance *en masse* and route the anchorless Black position.

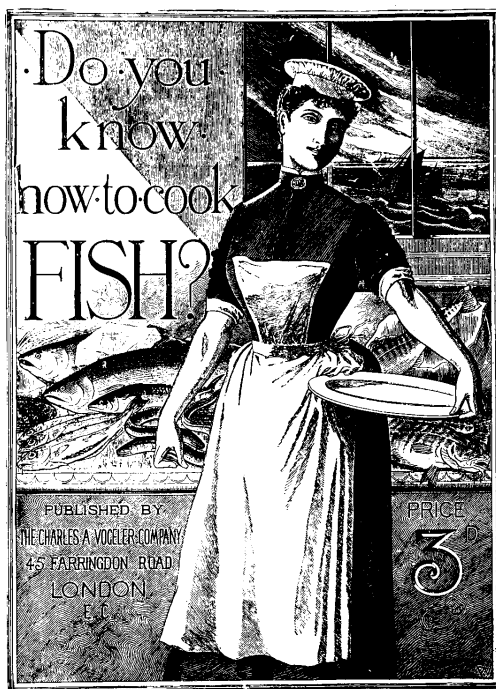
21...Rc7 22 Bg2 Ne7 (I spent a lot of time desperately trying to stir up something like 22...Na7 and if 23 Bxd5 Nb5 with counterplay; but simply 23 Ke2 Nb5 24 Kd3 reveals the futility of that plan. Now



I had an all-too-clear understanding of the problem — *Judgment!*, *where were you when I needed you?* — so I even considered desperate stuff like 22...Nxb4 hoping to keep White tangled up after 23 cxb4 Rc2+ 24 Kf3 Rc1. No surprise, it doesn't work, eg 25 Ke2 Bxb4 26 Bxd5  $\Delta$  Be4. So I made the unpretentious text move and awaited my fate.) **23 Ke2!** (Again White is not distracted by 23 b5 [and definitely not 23 Ra5 Kf8 24 Bxd5? b6] 23...axb5 24 Ra8+ Rc8 (24...Nc8? 25 Bh3) 25 Rxc8+ Nxc8 26 Bxd5. Sure that looks good for him, but why trade for d5 when he can eventually win it outright? First the king defends c3, then the knight and rook will complete the attack.) **23...Kf8 24 Kd3 Ke8 25 Nd2 Kd7 26 Nf1!** (The knight heads for e3. Throw Ra5 into the plan and we'll have three attackers trained on d5. Black's dark-square bishop can't help with its defense, so either the pawn drops by the sheer weight of the threat or I must add my king to the mix.) **26...Kc6 27 Ne3 Rd7 28 Ra5 Bb8 29 Rc5+ Kd6 30 Bxd5** (Now 30...Nxd5 31 Rxd5+ Kc6 32 Rxd7 Kxd7 was too depressing, eg, 33 Kc4 Kc6 34 d5+ Kd6 35 Nf5+ It didn't help that I was still mourning the "great position" I thought I'd squandered. So I bit the cyanide capsule.) **30...b6**

This would herald a fantastic turnaround except for White's only move...

**31 Nc4 mate**





## HAMPTON ROADS CHAMPIONSHIP

reprinted from *Tidewater Chess News*

Expert Rodney Flores emerged from a pack of 30 players (which included 4 experts and 2 A-players) to become this year's Hampton Roads champion with a  $4^{1/2}-1^{1/2}$  score and clear first. It was an unusual tournament for Rodney in that the games he won were won quickly, usually due to his opponent killing himself.

Brett Hudson and Larry Riddick tied for the title of Chesapeake City Champion, with Brett taking the trophy on tiebreaks. Brett drew the tough Paul Leggett in the final round to score  $3^{1/2}-1^{1/2}$ .

Martin Roper and Lucas Revellon tied for Virginia Beach City Champion with undefeated 4-1 scores. Martin defeated an expert, and Lucas easily drew the tournament winner in the final round. Martin got the trophy.

Newcomer Jerry Cano was surprise winner of the Norfolk City Champion trophy with a  $3^{1/2}-1^{1/2}$  score — “surprise,” because Expert Nate Lynch lived in Norfolk. But even the good ones have bad times....

Bryan Flores “powered” to the Suffolk City Champion title... Actually he was the only player from Suffolk!

Expert Jack Suggs took the Portsmouth City Champion title with a solid 4-1 performance.

Expert Tom Burgess and newcomer Tim Schmal tied for Peninsula honors, with Tom taking the trophy. Tim actually gave the overall winner one of his tougher games the tournament.

Top At-Large Player was former area teacher Ernest Lee with a 3-2 score. Last but not least, the 1998 Hampton Roads Scholastic Champion is Cameron Hudson, with a strong 3-2 score. He convincingly defeated one Expert and held his own against another, plus a strong A-player. It is only a matter of time when he will be an Expert or Master, and overall Hampton Roads Champion



## TCN #6

Reprinted from *Tidewater Chess News*

Last time it was the expert and A-player beating the masters. This time, the rating system held it's own, as Mario Murillo (2185) cruised to a convincing 4-0 victory. Errol Liebowitz (2226) was clear second with 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

The Top A prize was split by Lucas Revellon, Ernest Nix & Martin Roper, all with 3-1 scores. Larry Riddick was Top B with a 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> scores. Top C player was claimed by Eastern Shore native Brian Patterson with a 3-1 score. Top D/E/Scholastic was shared by Rob DeBois, Daniel Newman & 9-year-old Nelson Lopez. Daniel beat a 1600, and Nelson beat a 1500!



## RICHMOND OPEN

Forty eight players turned out for the Richmond Open, March 21-22. James Hare outrated the field by 200 points in the Open section and showed them why, conceding only a last-round draw that clinched 1st place. Ben Dorsey, Khaled El-Gohary & Jamarl Thomas were equal 2nd with 4-1. The Under-1600 group likewise saw a clear winner as Lloyd Arnold swept 5-0. Vince LoTempio was a point behind. Thomas Hoffman, Kenneth Pinkney and Douglas Hadley won the D, E and Unrated prizes respectively. Peter Hopkins ran the event.





## UPCOMING TIDEWATER TOURNAMENTS

at Tidewater Community College  
Princess Anne Road (I-64 to SR-44)  
Virginia Beach  
in the Cafeteria ("Kempsville" Bldg. "D")



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT QUICK CHESS!

The first Wednesday of every month - July 1st, etc. USCF Quick rated! Game in twenty minutes - notation not required. Registration: 7:00-7:20 pm. 1st round: 7:30. EF: Only one buck!

### SUMMER'S EVE TOURNAMENT

June 20-21

5-SS, Rds 1-2 G/2, Rds 3-5 35/90, SD/1. \$700 b/25 overall adult entries, more cash if > 25 adult entries. Two sections: *Open* - Open to over 1700 and any Scholastic players — no unrated; under 1700 adults may "play up" for \$5 additional. \$150-90, top B (b/3) 50, top scholastic (grade School, under 19) 50. *Booster* - Open to 1699 and below/unrated. \$150, top D (b/5) 70, top E/below (b/5) 70, top scholastic (grade school, under 19) 50. *Both* Rds 10-2:30-7; 9-2:30. One 1/2 point bye avail rds 1-4. Reg 9-9:40am 6/20. EF \$30 by 6/13, \$35 at site. Over 2400 \$20 by 6/13, 25 at site; over 2200 \$25 by 6/13, 30 at site (discount deducted from any prize); Scholastic (under 19, grade school) \$10 by 6/13, \$15 at site. Hotel \$45, Fairfield Inn By Marriott, 4760 Euclid Road, (757) 499-1935. NS, NC, W. *Enter* Rodney Flores, 4 Witch-Hazel Court, Portsmouth, VA 23703, (757)686-0822.

### 8TH TIDEWATER CHESS NEWS OPEN:

Saturday, July 25th

4-SS. Registration Saturday 9-9:45 am *sharp!* — \$5 late fee for 9:46 or later. Play begins at 10am!! Rounds: Rd 1 is G/30 (10 am start), Rd 2 is G/45 (11:15 start), Rd 3 is G/60 (2:30 start), & Rd 4 is G/80 (4:45 start). 1/2 pt byes avail rds 1-3. \$575 (b/25 adult entries, more cash if > 25 adult entries): \$125 to top overall, 75 each to top A, B, C, D, E/below and top scholastic (grade school, under 19), all class prizes b/5 per class, else proportional). Book prize to 2nd, 3rd scholastic. EF \$20 by 7/18, \$25 at site; grade school students under 19 \$10; over 2100 \$10 (discount deducted from prize).





Recently I have developed an interest in Blindfold Chess. In keeping with the theme of this column, we'll look at blindfold gambit games this time. How many of you have heard of János Flesch, or the Rosentreter Gambit? In Budapest, 1960, Flesch played 52 blindfold games simultaneously. His score: 31 wins, 18 draws, 3 losses. Here is one of those games.

### Flesch - Hrumo King's Gambit

**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 d4 g4 5 Bxf4!** (The usual move here is 5 Ne5 but the text, Rosentreter's Gambit, is playable, and Flesch provides a fascinating continuation.) **5... gxf3 6 Qxf3 Qf6 7 Nc3 Ne7 8 Nb5 Na6 9 Bxc7! Bg7** (If 9... Qxf3? 10 Nd6 is mate. He must protect his queen but 9... Ng8 was a wiser choice.) **10 Nd6+ Kf8 11 Qxf6 Bxf6 12 Bxa6 bxa6 13 Rf1 Ng8 14 e5 1-0**

*continued*



*Paul Morphy "blindfold" simul at Café de la Régence, Paris, 1858.*



*The Oxford Companion to Chess* informs us that the Rosentreter Gambit was advocated in 1882 by the German army captain Adolf Rosentreter (1844-1920).

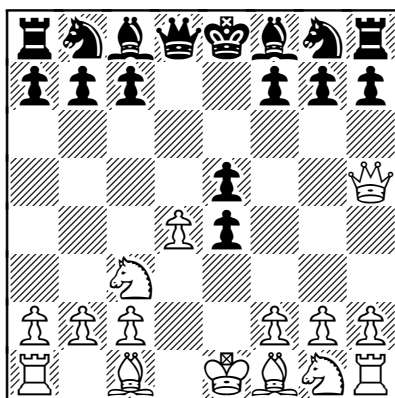
The Arlington Senior Chess Club recently held a gambit tournament. In the following game, the Black player avoids the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit proper by offering the Lemberger Countergambit.

### Ralph Belter - John Campbell Blackmar Diemer

*Notes by John Campbell*

**1 d4 d5 2 e4 dx4 3 Nc3 e5** (the Lemberger Countergambit, reputed to be the antidote to the BDG) **4 d5** (Playable, although 4 Nxe4 is the standard reply.) **4... Bf5 5 Bc4 Nf6 6 Nge2 Bc5 7 0-0 0-0** (Black is drifting into a bad game. 7... h6 was necessary to prevent the bishop pin on g5.) **8 Ng3 Bg6 9 Bg5 Nbd7** (Perhaps 9... Re8 with a view towards e4, but Black's game is loose to say the least.) **10 Ngxe4 h6 11 Bh4 Bxe4 12 Nxe4 g5 13 Nxc5 Nxc5 14 Bg3 Ncd7 15 h4** (leaving the bishop vulnerable to attack now or later) **g4 16 f3?! Qe7 17 Kh1 Nh5! 18 Be1?** (18 Qe1 was imperative and good, as after the exchange of knight for bishop the queen would be excellent at g3.) **18... g3** (This classical "hat trick" — mate in 3 — completely turns the tables with the devastating threat Qxh4+) **19 Bxg3 Nxc3+ 20 Kg1 Qc5+ 21 Kh2** and resigns, **0-1**

To address the Lemberger, Edgar Sneiders, a former Michigan state champion, first played 4 Qh5 and E J Diemer named the variation for him. A BDG enthusiast, Sneiders took part in the 1985-7 BDG Correspondence Tournament and finished 3rd in a 12-player field of players from Canada, Germany and Denmark in addition to the US. The Sneiders Attack leads to some interesting play; one can say that it may be a refutation of the Lemberger Countergambit. Black's replies include 4...exd4, 4... Qxd4, 4... Nf6 and 4... Nc6. Three illustrative games:



1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 e5 4 Qb5!?

### Sneiders - Kelly

#### Correspondence 1960

4... exd4 5 Bc4 Qe7 6 Bg5 Nf6 7 Bxf6 Qxf6 8 Nd5 Qd6 9 0-0-0 Nc6  
10 Ne2 g6 11 Qh4 Be6 12 Nf6+ Kd8 13 Bxe6 Qxe6 14 Nxd4 Nxd4  
15 Rxd4+ Kc8 16 Rxe4 Bh6+ 17 Kb1 Qc6 18 Qh3+ Kb8 19 Nd7+  
Kc8 20 Ne5+ Qe6 21 Nxf7 Qxh3 22 gxh3 Kd7 23 Rd1+ Kc6 24 Re6+  
Kc5 25 Nxb6 1-0

### Mondragon - Markwardt

#### BDG World Correspondence Tournament

4... exd4 5 Bc4 Qd7 6 Nxe4 Nc6 7 Bf4 g6 8 Qe2 Be7 9 Nf3 Kf8 10  
0-0-0 h6 11 Rhe1 Nf6 12 Be5 Nxe5 13 Nxe5 Qf5 14 Nxf6 Qxf6 15  
Bxf7 Rh7 16 Bxg6 Rg7 17 Rd3 Kg8 18 Bf7+ Kh7 19 Rf3 Qg5+ 20  
Kb1 Bf5 21 h4 1-0

### Mondragon - Frings

#### BDG World Correspondence Tournament

4... exd4 5 Bc4 Qd7 6 Nxe4 Nc6 7 Bf4 Bb4+ 8 c3 dxc3 9 bxc3 Qe7  
10 Ne2 Nf6 11 Nxf6+ Qxf6 12 Bg5 Qf5 13 cxb4 h6 14 g4 Qf3 15  
Rg1 Ne5 16 Rd1 Bf5 17 Bf4 Bd3 18 Qxe5+ 1-0



## Arlington Chess Club News

Wilder Simul *by Mike Atkins*

GM Michael Wilder took on 23 players in a simultaneous exhibition at the Arlington Chess Club, Friday, April 24. The 1989 US Champion scored 20-3, losing to experts David Slack and William Marcelino and conceding draws to juniors Peter Schadler and Yu Zhong Lu. He gave a lively and entertaining question and answer session prior to the simul. Club member Steve Mayer organized and sponsored the event.

### We've Moved!

The primary site for the regular Friday night meetings of the Arlington Chess Club is now the Central United Methodist Church, 4201 N Fairfax Dr (across from Ballston metro). Use the rear entrance. Some parking available behind the church, on street, in the bank lot across the street from the church (after 7pm!), and around & under the building next to the bank. *Towing likely if you park in the International House of Pancakes lot!*





## CHESS CLUBS

*Please send additions / corrections to the Editor.*

♔♔ Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Central United Methodist Church, 4201 N Fairfax Dr (across street from Ballston metro), Fridays 7pm, (Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm) ♠Cherrydale Senior Citizens Chess Club, Madison Community Center, Old Glebe Rd. Every Monday 10am-3pm ♔♔Blacksburg: Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♔♔ Burke: Pohick Chess Club, Pohick Regional Library Meeting Room, 6450 Sydenstricker Rd, Burke VA. Sundays 3:30-5:45pm. info (703) 455-8168 ♔♔Charlottesville: Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♔♔Chesapeake: Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♠Great Bridge United Methodist Church, corner of Battlefield Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♔♔Culpeper: Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper Middle School Library, 14300 Achievement Drive (off route 229 North Main St Extended), mobile trailer #5. Tuesdays 7-10pm, info Vince LoTempio 672-0189 or browse [www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Loge/6739](http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Loge/6739) ♔♔Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♔♔Fredricksburg: Spotsylvania Chess, Lutheran Church Rte West 4.7 miles from Exit 130 on I-95. Every Tuesday 6-9pm, info Mike Cornell 785-8614 ♔♔Glenns: Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♔♔Harrisonburg: Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Lutheran Church across from Burger King on Rt 33, Fridays 7pm ♔♔Norfolk: Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♠ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info [www.odu.edu/~chess](http://www.odu.edu/~chess) ♔♔Purcellville: Blue Ridge Cafe, Thursdays 5-7pm and Saturdays 1-4pm (& bi-wkly 4-7pm), info Douglas A Gripp, 540-668-7160 ♔♔Reston: The Reston Recreation Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, every Thursday 7:30-10:30pm, info 476-4500 ♔♔Richmond: Knights at Noon, 12noon at Dumbarton Library, 6800 Staples Mill Rd. Peter Hopkins 358-2842 ♠The Side Pocket, Cross Roads Shopping Center, Staples Mill Rd. A billiards parlor with chess tables set up any hour, every day ♠Huguenot Chess Knights, Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Dean Taylor, 794-0986 ♠Jewish Ctr CC, 5403 Monument Ave. 4-6pm every other Sunday beginning 1/8/95. (804) 288-0045 ♔♔Roanoke: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:30-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 772-1435 ♔♔Springfield: Fairfax County Chess Club, Chesapeake Bagel Bakery, Frontier Dr (adjacent to Best Buy & across street from Springfield Mall), Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm, info Jack Jeffery (703) 313-8811, email: [jeffery@clark.net](mailto:jeffery@clark.net). Club Web site at <http://www.clark.net/pub/jeffery/fccc/fccc.htm> ♔♔Virginia Beach: Tidewater Community College CC, Princess Anne Rd, Bldg D Kempsvill Cafeteria, Mondays & Wednesdays 7-10pm, <http://users.exis.net/~rybarcz/> ♔♔Williamsburg: Williamsburg Chess Club, Williamsburg Landing - Main Building, 2nd floor lounge, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Dr, Mondays 7-10pm, info Frank Preston (757) 565-3811 ♔♔Winchester: Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm



## RICHMOND VI

*by Peter Hopkins*

68 players turned out for the 6th in a series of 4-SS events at the Days Inn North, in Richmond, on April 25. With the site set up to accommodate 50 players, the first round had to be delayed for organizing two sections and setting up tables and chairs for the “extra” 18 contestants. More than half of the Under-1400 section played for Youth Class trophies and two from Richmond’s Governor’s School opted to “play up” in the 27 player Open section, giving evidence of a robust scholastic chess scene.

Jason Earley, from Langley AFB, was clear winner in the Open section, scoring 4-0. John Monickaraj and Colvin Watson, both from Richmond, joined Herbert Edwards, of Colonial Heights, & Jean-Loup Foucault, of Petersburg, in a four-way split of 2nd place and class B prizes. They scored 3 points each. David Washburn, of Chester, was top C with 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

In the Under 1400 section, Youth entries Thomas Raney and Phillip Marles, both from Roanoke, posted undefeated 4-0s. That left the prize money split 5 ways among “Bo” Wilson, Miklos Kiss, Kelly Ward, Rob Culbertson and Timothy Schmal, each 3-1.

The 3rd place trophy for the Youth Class was claimed by Hayes Bowling, from Colmar Manor, Maryland. 4th and 5th place trophies went to Governor’s School teammates Daniel Hicks and Jordan Rhea. Dan Brooking, rated under 1200 but playing in the Open section, was outstanding among the Youth entries. He picked up nearly 100 rating points on two wins and two draws.

The tournament was organized by Richmond Chess and directed by Peter Hopkins and Bruce George.

# k



## BRETT HUDSON

Reprinted from *Tidewater Chess News*, Rodney Flores editor

I must report some unfortunate news about 13 year old Brett Hudson, of Chesapeake. He has had a relapse with leukemia and is currently being treated at Duke University. Brett is one of the nicest, well-behaved teenagers you will meet, and a sharp chessplayer to boot. Please take a moment to include him in your prayers and send him some chess games, pictures, etc. His parents will get mail to him, so send it to:

**Brett Hudson, 121 Fairway Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320**



**T**HOSE OF US who know Paul Leggett, a regular at chess events around the state and contributor to *Virginia Chess*, will enjoy the following story. Paul recently moved to Florida, wherefrom he writes:

“I was playing in the Orlando Open this last weekend, and former Florida Chess Association Prez Gil Cantrell was selling books. Among his wares were old VCF newsletters! I found the first issue of 1995, which had my annotated game that won the annotations contest for 1994. I asked Gil what they were doing among his books for sale, and he said ‘They’re collectibles.’

“Alas, before I could bask in the glory of being a collectible annotator, and before I could think of what to say to Macon Shibut about his being an immortalized editor, Gil added, ‘They all have Arnold Denker’s mailing label on the back!’

“It seems that in Florida, Denker periodically gives up his chess mail, and collectors buy the stuff because it has his name on it!

“I had to buy the issue. It was only 50 cents...”



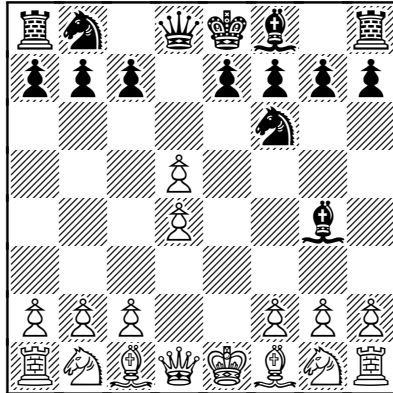
New Book...

## The Portuguese Variation

by John Roush, Mark Lance & Mike Cornell

Chess Enterprises, paperback, 112 pages. list \$7.95

Yet another book by local players (see also, for instance, Steve Mayer's *Bishop v Knight*, reviewed in *Virginia Chess* 1997/6) with the VCF's own Scholastic Chairman among the trio of authors; I have examined it but cannot claim to have read the monograph cover to cover. The topic here is a trendy subvariant of the Center Counter Defense: 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 d4 Bg4!?



Material is organized according to White's reaction. The most independent lines result from 4 f3. The equally important 4 Nf3 approaches known lines from Nimzowitsch's Defense (1 e4 Nc6), eg, 4...Qxd5 5 Be2 Nc6; or more sharply 4...Qxd5 5 Nc3 Bxf3 6 Nxd5 Bxd1 7 Nxc7+ (7 Nxf6+ — "!" according to the authors) 7...Kd7 8 Nxa8 Nc6 (8... e5!?). White's other try is 4 Be2.

A brief historical perspective seems in order. In the beginning there was the old style Center Counter, 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5. The early development of Black's queen permits White to gain time, 3 Nc3. Nonetheless, numerous strong players subscribe to Black's game after, eg, 3...Qa5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 Bg4. Note that Black almost always





SCANDINAVIAN DEFENSE	
<b>PORTUGUESE VARIATION</b>	
<b>1.e4</b>	<b>d5</b>
<b>2.exd5</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>3.d4</b>	<b>Bg4</b>
John Roush - Mark Lance - Mike Cornell	

plays ...c6 soon because the otherwise preferable ...Nc6 can leave the queen in trouble after d5 and Bd2  $\Delta$  Nb5.

Although the Center Counter is respectable enough in this classical form, various schemes for improving Black's counterplay have been suggested. Nimzowitsch's move order exploits the fact that after 1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 the d-pawn is hanging. Since 4 Nc3 is a dubious gambit, 4 Nf3 is played. Then 4...Bg4 5 Nc3 produces the lines noted above. Black has lots of counterchances here. I'll give just one

(obviously flawed) example: 5...Bxf3 6 Nxd5 Bxd1 7 Nxc7+ Kd7 8 Nxa8 Bxc2 9 Bf4 (to retrieve his knight) Nxd4 10 Nc7 e5 11 Bxe5 Bb4#. But this variation is seen but rarely in practice, the problem being White has popular diversions earlier on: 3 Nc3 or 3 e5, or even earlier 2 Nf3. Of course Black has resources there as well, but the point is that they are essentially different openings which need to be learned. Whatever its merits (and they are considerable), the Nimzowitsch Defense does not guarantee straight passage to an "improved" Center Counter.

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 is a different idea altogether. Black avoids the early exposure of his queen. This dates back at least as far as Morphy - Anderssen, 1858 but it's named for Frank Marshall, who played it three times at Carlsbad 1907 (even though he garnished a less-than-inspiring 1/2 point total for his enterprise). After 3 d4 Black "naturally" carried out his plan, 3...Nxd5, with the hope of striking back at White's center, for instance Tartakower - Marshall: 4 c4 Nb4 5 a3 N4c6 6 Be3 e5. Some time later 4...Nb6 emerged as an improvement, with positions akin to Alekhine's Defense. Overall the line too has a fair enough reputation, even if it never quite succeeded in the lofty goal of supplanting 2...Qxd5.



Enter 3...Bg4! (instead of Nxd5), which juices things up considerably. White, who hasn't committed anything, may justly hope to stuff the impertinent bishop, 4 f3, and use the tempo gained to cement his extra pawn, eg, 4...Bf5 5 c4. But it isn't that simple. The  $\text{\textcircled{f}3}$  is a positional abomination, blocking the king knight's best square and leaving behind a weak e3. Black has the necessary development to exploit these factors in continuations such as 5...e6 6 dxe6 Nc6! 7 exf7+? (7 Be3) Kxf7 8 Be3 Bb4+ 9 Nc3 Re8 10 Kf2 Rxe3 11 Kxe3 Nxd4 12 Qxd4 Qe7+ and White is in big trouble.

If, on the other hand, White demurs at self-inflicted wounds and instead goes 4 Nf3, Black reverses course with 4...Qxd5! Lo and behold, we get the "improved Center Counter" without ever affording White the option of those independent (and relatively solid) Nimzowitsch Defense lines.

This still doesn't comprise a complete defensive system, however. 3 d4 is White's most popular move, but 3 Bb5+ is just as "critical," inasmuch as it also commits Black to a pawn sacrifice. And 3 c4 is also important. Then 3...c6 4 dxc6?! is reputedly quite good for Black,



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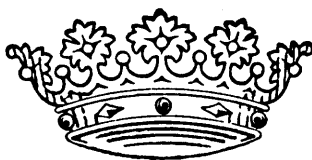
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but he must also be prepared to defend the Panov attack of the Caro Kann in the (usual) event of simply 4 d4. In recent years Black has tried sidestepping this by offering the Icelandic Gambit, 3...e6!? Say what you will about its soundness, this is another sharp, practical line that would make a good stable mate for the Portuguese in a tactician's arsenal. However, the present book doesn't address any alternatives to 3 d4.

If all of this has application to your opening repertoire, or if you're simply tired of getting blasted in the Sicilian, *The Portuguese Variation* assembles relevant material for less than \$10. Following a short primer on "Characteristic Positions and Themes," each sub-branch is afforded an analytic section backed up by a handful of illustrative games. Production quality is uneven — some mismatched typefaces, numerous typos, etc — but the biggest threat to this book's success is probably the near-simultaneous appearance of Shelby Anderson's direct rival, *Center Counter Defense: The Portuguese Variation* (Pickard & Sons publisher). \$7 more expensive and 20 pages shorter, it nonetheless gives an impression of being a more polished work.















## **Submission Deadline for Next Issue: July 15, 1998**

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