



2001 VIRGINIA OPEN



Ilye Figler, of New York, scored $4\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ to take clear first at the 2001 Virginia Open, held Jan 19-21 at the now-restored Holiday Inn in Fredericksburg. IM Adrian Negulescu and Macon Shibut scored 4-1 to tie for 2nd.

In the Amateur section, top rated David O'Bryant validated the rating system by scoring $5\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$. Jason Hart, Barry Quillon & Philip Shing tied for 2nd - 4th.

Other prizewinners in the Open included IM Larry Kaufman, Peter Fleischer, Boris Privman, Stan Fink & Ray Kaufman (=4th); and Paul Yavari, Ray Fletcher, Chris Sevilla & Marvin Lazo (= U2100). Amateur prizewinners included William Keough, Jason McKinney, Dan Calhoun & Jeffrey Mason Jones (= top B); Grant Fleming & Daniel Summers(= top C); Brian Jones, Jerry Cano, Fernand Piller, Marshall McDaniel, Dennis Okola & Jonathan Greenburg (all = top D); Adam Kuriloff (top Under 1200); Christopher Snell (2nd U1200); and Fredd Snell & Lisa DePasquale (= top unrated).

Mike Atkins and Ira Lee Riddle directed on behalf of the VCF.

VIRGINIA CHESS KIDS SCORE IN MIAMI

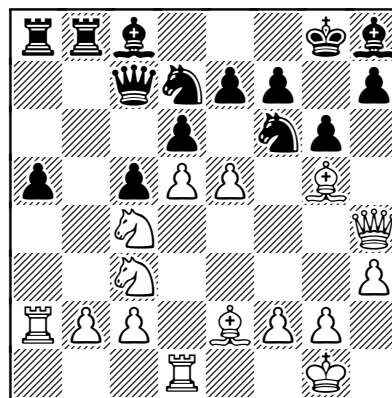
by Peter Hopkins

FOR THE SECOND year in a row, Virginia Scholastic Chess Association (VSCA) teams brought home trophies from the Junior Orange Bowl International Chess Championships held at the Radisson Mart Plaza in Miami, Florida, December 26 - 29, 2000.

After seven rounds of fierce competition in the 19-and-Under section, the VSCA team placed 2nd, just two match points behind Miami International Chess Academy and well ahead of teams from Netherlands Antilles, Jamaica and Barbados. The Miami team was led by 1999 national high school and US Junior Champion Marcel Martinez (USCF 2434) and 2000 national high school champion Rodelay Medina (2226). Martinez placed first in the section with a score of $6\frac{1}{2}$. VSCA's Judah Brownstein, from Lexington, scored a draw against Medina in the 5th round and the two eventually tied for second place. Philip Shing and Andrew Miller, both from Fredericksburg, and Robert Brady, from McLean and new on this year's team, completed the scoring for Virginia. All four members of the Under 20 team won individual trophies.

ADRIAN NEGULESCU - STAN FINK
BENONI

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 c5 3 d5 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 e4 d6
6 Bb5+ Nbd7 7 a4 O-O 8 h3 a6 9 Be2 Rb8 10
a5 b5 11 axb6 Bb7 12 O-O Nxb6 13 Bf4 Ra8
14 Qd2 Re8 15 Bh6 Bh8 16 Rfd1 Qc7 17 Qf4
Nbd7 18 Nd2 Ne5 19 Qh4 Ned7 20 Nc4 a5
21 Bg5 Reb8 22 Ra2 Bc8 23 e5



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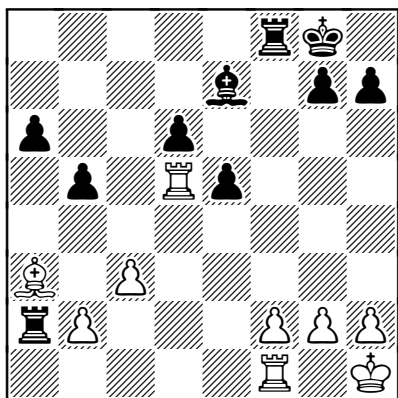


23...Nxe5 24 Nxe5 dxe5 25 d6 Qb6 26 dxe7 Be6
27 Bxf6 Bxf6 28 Qxf6 Bxa2 29 Qxb6 1-0

JASON MCKINNEY - DAVID O'BRYANT

SICILIAN

(This was the decisive last round game in the Amateur section.) 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Nd5 Qa5+ 10 Bd2 Qd8 11 Nxf6+ Qxf6 12 Bd3 Qg6 13 O-O Be7 14 Kh1 f5 15 exf5 Bxf5 16 Bxf5 Qxf5 17 Be3 Rc8 18 c3 O-O 19 Qd5+ Qf7 20 Rad1 Qxd5 21 Rxd5 Na5 22 Bb6 Nc4 23 Nxc4 Rxc4 24 Ba5 Ra4 25 Bb4 Rxa2 26 Ba3



26...Rb8 27 Rb1 a5 (White hoped to make something of the stuck Black rook but instead he finds his own bishop trapped! ...b4 is coming and if 28 Bxd6 Rd8 29 Rbd1 Bxd6 30 Rxd6 Rxd6 31 Rxd6 Ra1+) 28 b3 Rxa3 29 h3 Kf7 30 Kg1 Ke6 31 Rd2 Rc8 32 Rd3 a4 33 bxa4 bxa4 34 Rg3 g6 35 Rg4 Rcxc3 36 Rgb4 Rcb3 37 R1xb3 axb3 38 Kf1 Ra1+ 39 Ke2 Ra2+ 40 Kf3 d5 41 Rb6+ Bd6 42 Rxb3 Ra3 43 Rxa3 Bxa3 44 Ke3 Bc5+ 45 Ke2 Kf5 46 f3 Kf4 0-1

FLOYD BOUDREAUX - MACON SHIBUT

KING'S INDIAN

Notes by Macon Shibus

1 Nf3 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 c4 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 g3 0-0
6 Bg2 Nc6 7 d5 Na5 8 Nd2 c6

I have written previously (see *Virginia Chess* #1999/5) about why I believe it is inaccurate for

White to play d5 on the 7th move. Castling first and only then d5 would force Black to play the normal Yugoslav variation lines with ...c5 whereas now Black has this additional option ...c6. If 9 b4 Nxd5! the complications work out okay for Black; but otherwise Black has time to rescue his knight by cxd5 and Rc8 Δ Nc4.

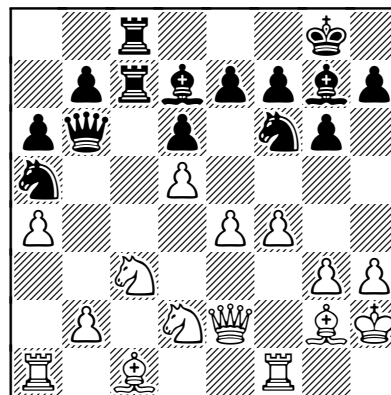
9 0-0 cxd5 10 cxd5 Bd7 11 a4

To stop ...b5; in any case, if 11 b4 Rc8!

11...Rc8 12 h3 Qb6 13 e4 a6

"Winning" a pawn by 13...Nh5 (threatens both g3 and c3) would be ridiculous.

14 Kh2 Rc7 15 Qe2 Rfc8 16 f4



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**16...Nb3**

It's time to consider concrete variations. My original thought was 16...e6 since White is undeveloped and it might seem to be in Black's interest to blow the situation open. However, I did not like the continuation 17 dxe6 Bxe6 18 f5 and after 18...Bd7 19 fxe6 White will sacrifice the exchange on f6 and then play Nd5.

I wasn't exactly in love with the text move because I hated doing White the favor of exchanging off his knight that's in the way of his bishop. But I saw no other constructive plan. One point of the text is that after my queen winds up at b3 she covers e6. In some variations that's useful if White tries stuff with e4-e5-e6... Otherwise, I win absolute control of square c4. I can trade queens there and the resulting positions highlight the greater activity of my rooks.

17 Nxb3 Qxb3 18 Ra3?!

This walks into a very powerful "sacrifice". 18 Be3 was better.

18...Qxa3 19 bxa3 Rxc3

White's problem is that he started an attack that he didn't finish. Now the effect of having played e4 and f4 is that his 1st, 2nd & 3rd ranks are all very exposed to the lateral pressure of Black's rooks.

20 Bd2 Rc2 21 Qe3 Bxa4 22 Rc1 Rxc1 23 Bxc1 Nd7 24 Bd2 Rc2 25 Bb4 Bb5

This costs no time since White has to deal with the threat ...Bf1, and it's a useful safeguard. If instead Black went 25...b6 (Δ ...a5) immediately White might confuse matters with 26 e5 a5 27 exd6 axb4 28 dxe7 Nf6 29 d6. Now, on the other hand, I'm ready to defuse that with ...Re2 at the right moment. White's 27th move takes out this ...Re2 resource but that gives me the tempo to finish driving back his dark square bishop.

26 Kh1 b6 27 Bf3 a5 28 Be1 Nc5 29 e5 h5 30 Bd1 Rc4

Threatens ...Re4

W.P. HOOGENDONK

I first met W.P. Hoogendonk prior to the 5th round of a Virginia Open. It was a Sunday morning in January 1989 at the old Howard Johnson's in Fredericksburg. That was my first tournament and after an opening win, things were not going very well. As we set up the pieces W.P. smiled and said, "I am not having a very good tournament." Thirteen moves later, his tournament had markedly improved while mine was still spiraling downward.

Over the years since, I have seen W.P. at dozens of events and played him several times. He was almost always in good humor and just as frequently had a briefcase in one hand and a pipe in the other. W.P. was a throwback to the days when a gentleman dressed like a gentleman, and thus he was always attired in jacket and tie.

He and I developed a bit of byplay involving that pipe. While he always had it at hand, he knew VCF events were non-smoking and thus he would go outside to actually light up. However, anytime I saw the pipe in or near the playing room, I would adopt a superior tone and say, "I'm sorry, Sir, but this is a No Smoking event." He would give me a long suffering look in return and say in his precise way, "It's not lit so I'm not breaking the rules."

W.P. was a fixture at VCF events. I have no idea how many games he would play in an average year but I know he played across the Old Dominion as well as in other states including North Carolina and Maryland. I don't recall ever hearing a complaint from him about anything or anyone. He loved chess and was always happy to be playing it.

In 1994 W.P. agreed to take a position on the VCF Board of Directors and he served ably and well in that capacity for six years.

W.P. Hoogendonk passed away on January 12, 2001 at the age of 79. He will be missed.

He was one of the good guys.

— Mark Johnson

31 Bf3 Kh7 32 h4?

After this it's pretty clear sailing. 32 g4 was the way to keep some chances.

32...dxe5 33 fxe5 Bh6 34 Qe2

The queen has no good retreat; if 34 Qg1 Rc1 would be very hard for White. With the text White



hoped that after returning the queen his bishop pair and the possibility of getting an advanced passed d-pawn might bail him out somehow. But a couple accurate moves put an end to that.

34...Rxb4+ 35 gxb4 Bxe2 36 Bxe2 Bf4 37 Bc3 Ne4 0-1

The knight threatens both bishops. White could defend by 38 Be1 but then 38...Bxe5 leaves him three pawns down with no counterplay.

DON CONNORS - DANIEL MILLER
SOKOLSKY

1 b4 Nf6 2 Bb2 e6 3 b5 d5 4 e3 a6 5 a4 Bd6 6 Nf3 O-O 7 c4 c6 8 Nc3 e5 9 d4 e4 10 Nd2 Ng4 11 cxd5 Nxe3 12 fxe3 Qh4+ 13 Ke2 Bg4+ 14 Nf3 cxd5 15 Kd2 exf3 16 gxf3 Qf2+ 17 Qe2 Qxf3 18 Bg2 Qf5 19 Qf1 Qxf1 20 Raxf1 axb5 21 axb5 Be6 22 Bxd5 Bxd5 23 Nxd5 Ra2 24 Rb1 Re8 25 Kd3 f5 26 h4 Nd7 27 Rhg1 Kf7 28 Rg5 g6 29 h5 Be7 30 Nxe7 Rxe7 31 Bc3 Nf6 32 Bb4 Rc7 33 hxg6+ hxg6 34 Rh1 Rcc2 35 Rh6 Ne4 36 Rh7+ Kg8 0-1

Dake Memorial

Sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Chess Club

Saturday, April 21, 2001
Salem Senior Citizen Center
110 Union Street
Salem, Virginia

4-SS, rd 1 game/40 mintes, rds 2 & 3 game/50, rd 4 game/60. \$\$: 20% of gross receipts to 1st overall, 18% to 2nd, top under 1500 16%, top under 1200 14%, top unrated 12%. EF \$10 if rec'd by 4/4, \$12 at site. Reg 8:30 - 9:15am. Rds 9:30-noon-2-4. Enter: Paul Yearling, 1123 Locust Bottom Rd, Eagle Rock VA 24085. (Make checks payable to Roanoke Valley Chess Club) For more information contact Bill Rulison (540) 343-0740

Arthur Dake (1910-2000), an American Grandmaster, was a strong influence on the US Olympiad teams of the early 1930s. The highlight of his career was defeating world champion Alexander Alekhine at Pasadena 1932.

ZOFCHAK MEMORIAL

by Woody Harris

THE 11th David Zofchak Memorial was something of a disappointment turnout wise as only 24 players competed. The event was won by reigning state champion Daniel Miller with a convincing 5-0, though he readily admitted that his last round game against Nelson Lopez (the class C winner!!) should have been drawn. Daniel even offered a draw at one point during the game, which Lopez declined! Nelson bears watching.

With turnout below the 'based on' for guaranteeing the prizes, scholastic players who had paid the full entry fee (versus the 'book-prizes-only' scholastic rate) were given an opportunity to switch. Nelson wanted to know what the prize would be after the reduction. After his dad explained that the class prize was \$60 for a \$40 entry fee, Nelson clarified that he meant the *first prize* money. His full entry stayed in force and he justified that approach with an impressive 3½ out of 5.

Ilya Kremenchugskiy finished a point behind the winner to take 2nd prize. Rodney Flores won top A. We welcome home Ernie Schlich, who took top B. As noted above, Nelson Lopez was top C. Top D/E was a tie between Roy Gee, Stewart McBurney & John Wehremberg. Top Scholastic went to Dimitar Vlassarev, followed by Ettie Nikolova and then Illinna Nikolova.

Woody Harris and Rodney Flores organized and directed.



KING WILLIAM'S OPEN

February 10-11, 2001

University Center at the College of William & Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia

5-SS, G/90. In two sections: *Open* \$200-100-50, top X, A each 50. *Under 1800* \$150-100-50, under 1600, 1400, 1200/unrated each 50. *Both* All prizes b/45 total entries. EF \$25 (20 before 2/1), reg 10:30-11:30 2/10, rds 12-3:30-7, 10-1:30. Info, entries contact artral@mail.wm.edu or 757-221-7421



VSCA Kids in Miami
continued from page 1

In the 12-and-Under section, VSCA's team finished third behind Ecuador's national team and another strong team from Miami International. Just one and a half match points separated the top three. Nelson Lopez II, from Chesapeake, was individual champion in the section after scoring draws against Ecuador's top two players, both of whom have USCF ratings over 2000. Bret Latter, from Vienna, scored an impressive five wins to place 12th overall for the Virginia team. Alex Miller, of Luray, James Habboush, of Richmond, Billy Trischler, of Alexandria, and Erik Golden, of Midlothian, rounded out the Under 13 team.

VSCA's entry in the 9-and-Under section had only 3 players: Johnny Trischler, from Alexandria, Travis Bass, from Richmond, and Lauralee Lopez, from Chesapeake. However, they accumulated enough match points to place 7th in a field of seventeen teams. Johnny led his Virginia teammates, winning an individual trophy for his 8th place finish while Travis and Lauralee received handsome medals. Ecuador and Jamaica finished just ahead of them in team standings while teams from New York, California and Texas were well below Virginia in team standings.

Side events included a simultaneous exhibition by Ecuador's national champion and WGM, Martha Fierro. Twenty young players challenged Fierro. VSCA's Philip Shing was among the few who achieved a draw. In another side event, Philip teamed with Judah Brownstein and the pair claimed 2nd place in the bughouse tournament.

The trip was made possible, in part, by the Ford Motor Company which provided a 15 passenger van for transportation in Miami and the round trip from Richmond. Of equal importance, a number of individuals in Virginia's chess community gave generous financial support to see that Virginia was well represented in the only international scholastic chess tournament held in the United States.

WGM MARTHA FIERRO - PHILLIP SHING

SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION

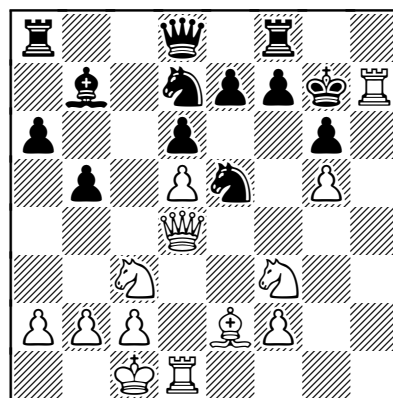
TWO KNIGHTS

1 d4 g6 2 e4 d6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Bf4 c5
6 d5 Qa5 7 Qd2 a6 8 Bd3 b5 9 0-0 0-0 10 a3
Nbd7 11 Rfe1 Bb7 12 Bh6 c4 13 Bf1 Nc5 14
Bxg7 Kxg7 15 e5 Nxd5 16 exd6 exd6 17 Qd4+
Nf6 18 Qxd6 Na4 19 Nxa4 Qxa4 20 Nd4 Rfd8
21 Qf4 Re8 22 Qg5 Ne4 23 Nf5+ Kg8 24 Nh6+
Kg7 25 Nf5+ Kg8 26 Nh6+ Kg7 ½-½

ANDREW MILLER - MARK ALLEYNE

PIRC

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 Be3
Nc6 6 Qd2 Nf6 7 Be2 0-0 8 h3 Bc8 9 0-0-0 a6
10 Bh6 b5 11 Bxg7 Kxg7 12 d5 Nb8 13 g4 c6
14 g5 Nfd7 15 h4 Bb7 16 h5 cxd5 17 exd5 Ne5
18 hxg6 hxg6 19 Qd4 Nd7 20 Rh7+!



If 20 ... Kxh7 21 Qh4+ Kg7 22 Qh6+ Kg8 23 Rh1
forces mate. **1-0**

ROBERT BRADY - CANDER FLANDERS

KING'S INDIAN

1 d4 g6 2 c4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 e4 0-0
6 Bf4 c5 7 d5 Ne8 8 Qd2 f5 9 Bh6 fxe4 10 Nxe4
Bf5 11 Bd3 b5 12 b3 Bxa1 13 Bxf8 Kxf8 14
Neg5 Kg8 15 Bxf5 gxf5 16 Ne6 Qc8 17 Qh6
Bg7 18 Nxc7 Nxc7 19 Ng5 Kf8 20 Ne6+ Ke8
21 Nxc7+ Kd7 22 Qxh7 Qd8 23 Qxf5+ Kc7 24
Ne6+ 1-0



ARLINGTON CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

by Mike Atkins

IM Larry Kaufman is the 2000 Arlington Chess Club Champion. His 3½-½ score was equaled by Yevgeniy Gershov who is not a club member. Ted Udelson won the Amateur title, also with 3½, sharing the money in a four-way split with Michael Chedester, Jacqueline Guglielmi and Michael McHale. Altogether fifty-eight players braved cold December air to play at George Mason University's Arlington Campus.

Going into the final round Kaufman stood alone at 3-0 and faced a classic last round pairing with IM Eugene Meyer, the 1998 club champ. They played to a very tough draw. Meanwhile on board 2 Gershov was facing Harry Cohen. Harry went up a Queen for R+B and had two connected

passed pawns. But it was not simple; Gershov fought and fought, and gradually the advantage slipped away. Meyer and Stanislav Kriventsov tied for 3rd place with 3-1. Alex Passov took Top Expert, Chris Bush top Class A.

In the Amateur, McHale and Guglielmi weren't club members, and Udelson topped Chedester on tiebreak. Top Class C went to Ted Covey. Brian Jones, Jiri Kovats & Daniel O'Connor shared under 1400, & John Meriwether won top unrated.

LARRY KAUFMAN - BRYAN SMITH
SICILIAN

1 e4 e6 2 d3 c5 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Bg7
6 0-0 Nge7 7 c3 0-0 8 Re1 e5 9 Be3 d6 10 d4
cxd4 11 cxd4 Bg4 12 d5 Nd4 13 Nbd2 f5 14

ADVANCED CHESS WORKSHOP WITH GRANDMASTER GREGORY K Aidanov

On March 31 - April 1, 2001, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Kaissa Chess Club will host an advanced chess workshop in Richmond. This workshop is intended for experienced chess players in the 1600-2000 rating range. Lower rated players may apply if they desire and their applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Conducting the workshop will be Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov of Lexington, Kentucky, currently one of the strongest players in the US. GM Kaidanov has won numerous tournaments in the US (US Open, World Open, National Open, etc) and abroad (Moscow, Vienna, Hastings, etc). He has also represented the US in several Chess Olympiads and World Team Championship cycles, winning gold, silver, and bronze medals on a number of occasions.

GM Kaidanov is a very experienced chess teacher. He was a faculty member of the prestigious Dvoretzky Chess School, in Moscow, before emigrating to the US in 1991. Since his arrival, he has become the primary coach and teacher for many well-known and internationally titled players such as the first Afro-American chess GM Maurice Ashley, IM Josh Waitzkin, IM Ben Finegold, and IM Vinay Bhat.

The workshop will be held at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts at 2800 Grove Avenue in Richmond, Virginia — at the corner of Boulevard (Route 161) & Grove. There is a cafe on the museum grounds for lunch. You can also enjoy the wonderful art galleries during your visit!

Each participant may submit from one to six of his or her own games in advance. On Sunday afternoon, everyone will have a personal interview with GM Kaidanov during which they will have an opportunity to ask specific questions and will receive a personalized assessment & study recommendations.

Games submitted should be those which offer the player the most opportunity for learning - those games which illustrate the areas in which the player feels he or she needs the most help. GM Kaidanov has also requested that, if possible, each player annotate their games prior to submitting them. This will provide him with a better sense of your strengths and weaknesses as a player and will aid him in his assessment & development of a study plan for everyone.

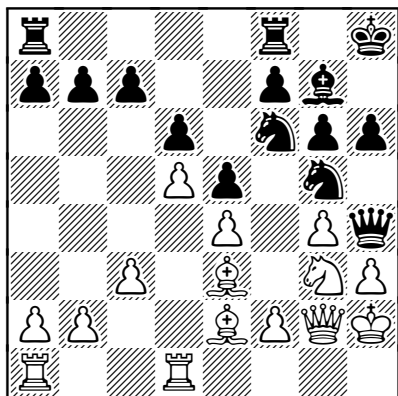
Tuition for this workshop is \$125. Space is limited, so sign up now. Reservations will close on March 10th. Direct questions and inquiries to Brian Sumner at bsumner@planet2000.com or 804-304-6369.



Bxd4 exd4 15 h3 fxe4 16 hxg4 exf3 17 Nxf3 h6 18 Re2 Rf7 19 Nxd4 Qb6 20 Ne6 Rc8 21 Qd2 g5 22 Nxc7 Kxc7 23 Be4 Rc4 24 Rae1 Qd4 25 b3 Qxd2 26 Rxd2 Rc5 27 Kg2 a5 28 Re3 b5 29 a3 Rf8 30 Rd4 Rfc8 31 Bf5 Nxf5 32 gxf5 Rc2 33 Re7+ Kf8 34 Rh7 R8c3 35 Re4 Rxb3 36 Ree7 Rbb2 37 Ra7 Rxf2+ 38 Kh3 Kg8 39 Rhg7+ Kf8 40 Rgf7+ Kg8 41 f6 Rbe2 42 Rg7+ 1-0 (42...Kf8 43 Rh7 forces mate)

OLADAPO ADU - MARK YOUNG
MODERN

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nf3 d6 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 Qe2 Bg4 6 h3 Bxf3 7 Qxf3 0-0 8 0-0 Nc6 9 c3 e5 10 Rd1 Qe7 11 d5 Nb8 12 Nd2 Nbd7 13 Nf1 h6 14 g4 Nh7 15 Ng3 Qh4 16 Kh2 Ng5 17 Qg2 Nf6 18 Be2 Kh8 19 Be3



19...Nfxe4! 20 Nxe4 Nxe4 21 Qxe4 f5 22 Qg2 f4 23 Bd2 f3! (a classic breakthrough) 24 Bxf3 e4! 25 Bxe4 Rxf2 26 Be1 Rxc2+ 27 Kxc2 Qg5 28 Bd2 Qe5 29 Re1 Rf8 30 Re2 Qf6 31 Be3 Kh7 32 Rae1 Qf7 33 h4 Qd7 34 Kh3 h5 (White is okay material-wise but the airy king will make it very hard to maintain coordination. Straight through to the end Black comes up with tactical shot after tactical shot based on some intermediate check.) 35 Rg1 Rf1! 36 Bf5!? hxg4+ 37 Bxc4 Rf3+ 38 Rg3 (if 38 Kh2 Be5+ 39 Kh1 Rh3+!) 38...Rxc3+ 39 Kxc3 Qb5 40 Rd2 Qf1 41 Bf4 Be5 42 Bxe5 Qe1+ (again!) 43 Rf2 Qxe5+ 44 Kh3 Qxd5 45 a3 Kg7 46 Re2 c5 47 Kg3 Qb3 48 Kf4 Kf6 49 Rd2 d5 50 Bf3 Qc4+ 51 Kg3 d4 52 cxd4 cxd4 53 Be4 Qb3+ 54 Bd3 b5 55 Kf4 Qd5 56 Re2 a5 57 Kg4 Qb3 58 Rf2+ Kg7 59 Be4 Qe3 60 Rf4 d3 61 Bf3 d2 0-1

CORCORAN, BROWNSTEIN WIN SHARES OF NATIONAL GRADE LEVEL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two Virginia players tied for first in their respective grade levels at the 2000 National Scholastic K-12 Grade Championship held December 15-17, 2000 in Orlando, Florida. Eight-year-old Micah Corcoran, of Roanoke, tied with Sarah Dapul-Weberman (NY) with a perfect score in the 3rd grade section. Judah Brownstein, of Lexington, scored 5-1 to tie for 1st with Evan Rosenberg (also NY) in the 12th grade championship.

Corcoran's achievement became the focus of an article in the January 5, 2001 edition of the *Roanoke Times*, reprinted below.

WINNING STRATEGY CAPTURES NATIONAL TITLE by Joel Turner

To calm his nerves before the national title match last month, Micah Corcoran took a dip in the pool and relaxed for a few minutes.

He was still nervous when the chess match began, but his anxiety soon disappeared as he began concentrating on the board.

Once it was over, 8-year-old Micah was crowned as the national third-grade champion. He's the first Roanoke student who has won a national chess title, said Mickey Owens, chess coordinator for city schools.

Micah said he always concentrates intensely because he thinks it is one of the keys to being a good chess player. Patience and practice are also important, he said.

A third-grader at Roanoke's Fishburn Park Elementary School, Micah knows about patience and practice: He averages playing chess about two hours a day with friends or opponents on the Internet.

Micah was prepared when he faced off against a third-grader from California in the final match of the 2000 National Grade Level Chess Championships in Orlando, Fla. They were the finalists from a field of 172 third-graders nationwide.

"I stopped being nervous when he made a mistake," Micah said. "I had a better position. Then I knew I had won."

Micah is modest about his accomplishment, preferring to talk about how he enjoyed competition on the Internet



during the winter break last week. He has played against students from Australia, Europe and Africa. But school officials are not so reserved about the young chess player.

“That kid is incredible,” Owens said. “In local tournaments, he competes against students who are in the seventh and eighth grades.”

Micah is not just a chess prodigy, Owens said, “he’s quality in everything he does.”

Owens, who also teaches history and science, said Micah calls and asks probing questions about his school subjects.

Micah said he became interested in chess because two older brothers taught him the game before he was 3. He loved the competition, and it came naturally to him. He was defeating his brothers by the time he was 5.

He has won city, regional and state chess tournaments.

Micah said he would like to win more national championships before he graduates from high school. He is already thinking about trying to use his chess skills to win a college scholarship.

Another Roanoke student, Tom Raney, tied for fourth place in the national ninth-grade competition. Tom, who attends Patrick Henry High and the Roanoke Valley’s Governor’s School for Science and Technology, also hones his chess skills on the Internet.

Tom, who attended Fishburn Park, said he enjoys the competition and strategy. He has been playing since he was in the first grade. He was a member of a third-grade state championship team at Fishburn Park, which has a strong chess tradition.

Chess has helped Tom improve his math and science skills, said his mother, Julie Raney. “He took Algebra 2 in middle school, and he’s taking math at the 11th grade level.”

A third student with a link to Roanoke was national co-champion for the 12th grade. Judah Brownstein of Rockbridge County High School is the son of Alan Brownstein, Roanoke’s lead chess instructor.

The Roanoke school system has sponsored and funded a chess program for more than a decade. Several school divisions in the region have chess programs, but most are not as extensive as Roanoke’s. All Roanoke schools have chess clubs that meet after school.

The city also has evening chess classes that are free for students. Brownstein, a nationally rated chess expert who has been competing and teaching for 25 years, is the instructor. Classes are offered at all skills levels.

School officials say chess has many benefits. It can help teach

students analytical and geometry skills—to think and plan ahead. They said chess can also help disruptive students by teaching them to be calm and focused.

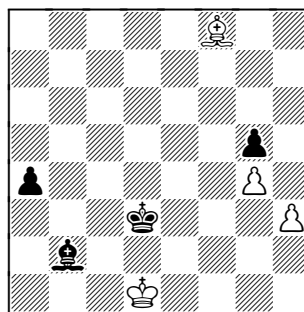
Owens, a teacher for two decades, agreed to run the city chess program six years ago when it was restructured and expanded after participation had dwindled. More than 1,000 students joined chess clubs, enrolled in chess classes or competed in tournaments during the past year.

Owens said he works long hours because he believes chess is more than just a game. It can help change students, he said.

RUSTY POTTER ENDGAME CHALLENGE



Last issue we kicked off the Rusty Potter Endgame Challenge. The original plan was to publish solutions, announce Part 1 winners, and perhaps move on to Part 2 this issue. But chess, being the game where “a gnat may drink or an elephant may bathe,” had other ideas. Some of the submitted analysis (right before our deadline, naturally) has offered food for thought that deserves publication but will require time to digest. Meanwhile, readers may want to chew on the following to get an idea of what we mean. And keep an eye on the VCF web page (www.vachess.org) for Part 2 of the contest.



REX NAYLOR -
RUSTY POTTER

Black to move and win

This was position #6 of the initial offering. Rusty’s solution reads as follows: “**1...Kc3!** (but after 1...a3? 2 Bxa3!! Bxa3 3 Ke1 Ke3 4 Kf1 Kf3 5 h4! is the key point! Since White now threatens h4xg5 with a dead draw, Black is forced to go into rook’s pawn + wrong-colored bishop — also a draw. 5...gxh4 6 Kg1 Kxg4 7 Kh1 =) **2 Be7 Kb3 3 Bd6 Ba3!** (3...a3? 4 Bxa3 Bxa3 5 Ke2 Kc2 6 Kf3 Kd3 7 Kg2 Ke4 8 h4! = as in a previous variation. 3...Ba3! does not allow this drawing combination.) **4 Be5 Bb4 5 Kc1** (5 h4 gxh4 6 g5 h3 7 g6 Bf8 8 Ke2 Bg7! and either 9 Bxg7 h2 or 9 Bd6 a3 10 Kf3 a2, Black wins in either case.) **5...a3 6 Kb1** (6 Bf6 a2 7 Ba1 Bc3 8 Bxc3 Kxc3 -+) **6...Bc3 7 Bxc3 Kxc3 8 Ka2 Kb4 9**

Continued page 19





GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

by Peter Hopkins

Two hundred seventy two players gathered at Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond on Saturday, January 13, to play in the 6th annual Governor's School Chess Tournament. The number of participants created the largest non-championship USCF-rated scholastic chess tournament ever held in Virginia. Thirty seven teams, some from as far away as West Virginia, were represented by two or more players.

The open section was won by Ray Fletcher, who coaches the Ecoff Elementary School chess team and whose sons, Nathaniel and Ian, are regular participants in Virginia Scholastic Chess Association (VSCA) events. Runner up was Mark Butler, who coaches the Larkspur Middle School chess team in Virginia Beach and whose son, Charles, is also a participant in VSCA tourneys.

In the K-12 section, the Governor's School for Science & Technology, in Alexandria, battled Fredericksburg's Chancellor High School to a tie. "Sci Tek" won the trophy on tie breaks. Third place saw another tie, this time between Henrico County's Mills Godwin High School and Richmond's Governor's School for Government and International Studies (GSGIS). Godwin, fielding a team for the first time in recent memory, won on tie breaks. First place individual honors went to Chancellor's Philip Shing, who was undefeated in all five rounds. Sci Tek's Rocco Repetski and Ettie Nikolova, from Chesapeake's Indian River Middle School, tied for 2nd (Rocco on tie breaks).

Benjamin Franklin Middle School from Rocky Mount was the clear winner of the K-8 section. Newport News' Crittenden Middle School was 2nd and Chesterfield County's Swift Creek Middle School 3rd. Swift Creek's William J "Jack" Barrow was individual winner with an undefeated score. He was followed by Franklin's Malcolm Scott. Seven players finished in a crunch for 3rd through 10th place.

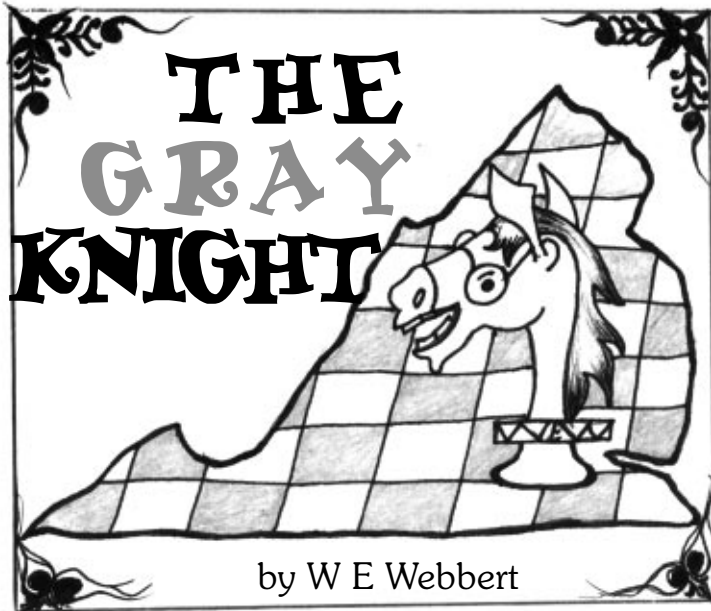
With 11 teams and 9 unattached players, the K-5 section was largest in the tournament. Deer Park Alternative School, from Newport News, won clear 1st. Chesterfield's Swift Creek Elementary edged out Henrico County's Lakeside Elementary by a half point to claim the 2nd place trophy. Deer Parks' Patrick O'Connell was individual winner. Lakeside's Dylan Kolhoff and Swift Creek's Nathan Kendler played each other to a draw in the fifth round and ended in a tie for 2nd place. Dylan won the trophy on tie breaks. 4th through 14th place saw another mass tie.

While the K-3 section was smallest with only six teams, the battle for first place team honors was hotly contested. Only 1 match point separated the top three teams as Deer Park emerged victorious, followed by Swift Creek and then Richmond Montessori. 1st place individual ended in a tie between Montessori teammates Logan Webb and Sam Scannell. Logan picked up the first place trophy on tie breaks. Four tied for 3rd place.

The tournament was hosted by the GSGIS Chess Club and conducted by the VSCA. Dominion Scholastic Chess Supply donated a magnetic chess set which was raffled off to benefit the VSCA. As always, a cadre of dedicated coaches and parents gave another Saturday to provide a fun-filled day in a safe environment. Membership in the VSCA, a non-profit charitable organization, is \$5 per year. Applications for membership and tax deductible donations can be sent to Box 8314. Richmond, Virginia, 23226.

(Editor's note: The VSCA is not affiliated with the Virginia Chess Federation. If you desire to send money to the VSCA, please direct it to the address above and not to the VCF!)





This is a column devoted to Chess Playing Seniors. For sake of argument, let's say that's anyone over 55 years of age from this general area (DC-VA-MD) and who can play (learn) Chess. Please feel free to call me at (703) 591-2106 and inform me of your Senior Chess events, notable performances, memorable games, etc. We still need games and senior tournament results from other than the Northern Virginia area. Keep those cards and letters coming!

Upcoming Senior Chess events: YHR has proposed a "Sign Up A Senior" Membership drive to the VCF based on a few contingencies. My idea is that the VCF would lower the Senior yearly membership to \$8.00 (same as the Jr

rate), designate the age at which one is considered a senior, and contribute a couple of free tournament entries to the individual(s) who sign up the most new VCF Senior Members. For my part, I would insure that these hard working recruiters receive some cash as well along with *other suitable recognition and our thanks*. If we can work this out my guess is we can double the senior membership in the VCF with no problem and maybe that will lead to more senior events, awards for seniors and discounted senior entry fees. Who know what else?

Senior Chess Results: The Arlington Seniors Chess Club (ASCC) was visited twice in October (16th and 30th) by local Life Master and teacher Steve Mayer who explained and demonstrated some of the more interesting games in the Kasparov - Kramnik world title match. Also, YHR managed to win the Top Individual Score trophy for the DC Summer Chess League while playing for the Arlington Bishops (a "B" division team). I played on 2nd, 3rd, or 4th board at various times through the season and won every game, including a playoff. The Bishops won the "B" team prize as well. We are one of the long time DC League teams with one or more seniors on the roster regularly. Below are selected Senior efforts from DC League play. The winter season just started in November.

BILL LIM - W E WEBBERT
CENTER COUNTER

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 d4 Nxd5 4 c3 (too passive) Nc6 5 Bd3 g6 6 Ne2 Bg7 7 0-0 0-0 8 Nd2

e5 9 dxe5 Nxe5 10 Ne4 Nxd3 11 Qxd3 c6 (11...Bf5) 12 N2g3 f5 13 Nc5 b6 14 Nb3 f4 15 Ne2 Qh4 16 Nbd4 Bb7 17 Nf3 Qd8 (17...Qe7) 18 c4 Ba6 19 Rb1 Nb4 (19...Qc7) 20 Qb3 Nd3 21 Rd1 Nxc1 22 Rbxc1 Qc7 23 Ned4 Rae8 24 c5+ Qf7 25 Qxf7+ Rxf7 26 cxb6 axb6 27 Rxc6 Rd7 28 h3 (White lost on time. This was the deciding game for best individual performance in the B section as both players were undefeated/untied up to that point.) 0-1

W E WEBBERT - SRILATHA KUNTUMALLA
SCOTCH

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 d6 4 d4 exd4 5 Nxd4 Ne5 6 Bb3 c6 (weak) 7 0-0 Nf6 8 f4 Neg4 9 h3 Nh6 10 e5 Nfg4? 11 hxg4 Bxg4 12 Qe1 dxe5 13 Qxe5+ Kd7 (13...Qe7) 14 Ne2 Bd6 15 Rd1 Kc7 16 Qa5+ b6 17 Qe1 Bc5+ 18 Kf1 Qe7 19 Nbc3 Nf5 20 Rd3 Rhe8 21 Bd2 Ne3+ 22 Bxe3 Bxe3 23 Rad1 Qf6 (23...Bf5) 24 Qg3 Qh6? 25 Rxe3 f5 26 Rxe8 Rxe8 27 Qd3 Kb7? 28 Qd7+ Ka6 29 Bc4+ b5 30 Bxb5+ Ka5 31 Qxa7+ 1-0



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*Book Review*

The Sicilian Grand Prix Attack

by James Plaskett

Everyman Chess, softcover, 144 pages. List price \$19.95

by Salvador Rosario

HAVE YOU EVER FACED an opponent who is booked to the hilt on the latest wrinkles of the Sicilian Dragon or Najdorf variation? Are you tired of having to stare at game after game after game for the latest thirty-eighth move nuance in your favorite opening just to keep current? Tired of seeing your superior chess capability lose out to some kid with a good memory? Then consider the reading *Sicilian Grand Prix Attack*, by James Plaskett, as an answer to those problems.

For those of you not aware, the Grand Prix is the creation of the duo e4 and f4 in response to the Sicilian Defense 1...c5. While this formation is common in many variations of the Sicilian, in the Grand Prix it is established as early as the second move. The Grand Prix belongs to the group of openings which also includes the King's Gambit, the Schliemann Defense, or the Latvian Counter Gambit, all sharing the belief that aggression is best done early. The reasons to play it in tournaments are twofold. First, at today's fast time controls (G/30, G45, G/60) the initiative is worth accepting a greater level of risk. Second, there is the possibility of catching an opponent unaware.

The basic ideas behind the Grand Prix are simple. There are three basic strategies at the moment. First, capture the knight at c6 with the bishop and double the pawns, then bring pressure to bare. Second, go for rapid development, then break with e5 or f5 to attack the king. And finally, pin the knight at c6, then attempt to increase pressure with Ne5 and Qf3.

GM Plaskett's book covers these ideas nicely with accompanying diagrams, game scores, and suggestions. He loads the book with excellent introduction, the traditional pedigree games, and indices for our convenience. My only criticism is that a seminal game, Saidy - Fischer, 1969, is not given higher billing. It can only be found buried in a note on page 24. Fischer played the Grand Prix superbly a tempo down as Black! The real gem of *Sicilian Grand Prix Attack*, however, is the treatment of the Tal's counter-sacrifice line 2...d5! The appraisal is honest and well researched from the point of view of both middle and endgame advantages.

In all, *Sicilian Grand Prix Attack* is an excellent addition to a chess player's library and a critical one for those who rely on understanding and not memory.

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Readers' Games & Analysis



JOHN CAMPBELL - PHIL COLLI
GEORGE WASHINGTON OPEN
MODERN

1 e4 d6 2 d4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 Be3 Nc6 5 Bc4
e5 6 Nge2 Nf6 7 f3 0-0 8 Qd2 Na5 9 Bb3 Nxb3
10 axb3 c6 11 g4 exd4 12 Nxd4 d5 13 e5 Ne8
14 0-0-0 Bxe5 15 Bh6 Ng7 16 h4 Qa5 17 Kb1
Qc7 18 h5 Re8 19 hxg6 fxd6 20 f4 Bf6 21 f5
Re4 22 Nxe4 dxe4 23 g5 Be5 24 f6 Nf5 25 Nxf5
Bxf5 26 Rhf1 a5 27 Rxf5 gxf5 28 Qd7 Qxd7
29 Rxd7 e3 30 f7+ Kh8 31 Re7 Bg7 32 Rxe3
Rf8 33 Re8 f4 34 Rxf8+ Bxf8 35 Bxf8 h5 36
Bd6 Kh7 37 f8Q Kg6 38 Qf6+ Kh7 39 Bf8 1-0

TED WATKINS - STEPHEN STYERS
2000 EMPORIA OPEN
LONDON

Notes by Stephen Styers

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Bf4 Bg7 4 e3 d6 5 Be2 0-0
6 c3 Nh5? 7 Bg5 Nf6 8 Nbd2 Bf5 9 0-0 Nc6
10 Qb3 Qc8 11 Bxf6 Bxf6 12 e4 Bd7 13 Rfe1
a5 14 Qc2 e5 15 d5 Na7 16 Rad1 c5 17 a4 b5
18 axb5 Nxb5 19 Ra1 Bd8 20 Nc4 Qb8 21 Ra2

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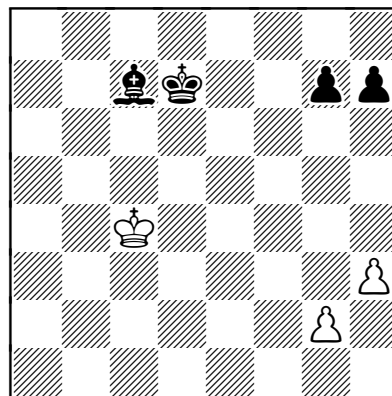
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f5 22 Bd3 fxe4 23 Bxe4 Bf5 24 Nfd2 Bc7 25
Rea1 Qd8 26 f3 Rf6 27 Nb3 a4 28 Nbd2 a3 29
Nxa3 Nxa3 30 Rxa3 Rxa3 31 bxa3 Qa8 32
Nf1? c4 33 Ng3 Qa7+ 34 Kh1 Bd7 35 Qe2 Bb5
36 a4 Bb6 37 Qa2 Ba6 38 a5 Bf2 39 Qa4 Bxg3
40 hxg3 Qe3? (40...g5!) 41 Qe8+ Kg7 42 Qe7+
Rf7 43 Qxd6 Qh6+ 44 Kg1 Qe3+ 45 Kf1?!
Qxe4 46 Qxa6 Qd3+ 47 Kf2 Qxc3 48 Re1
Qd4+ 49 Kf1 Qxd5 50 Qb6 Rb7 51 Qe3 Qxa5
½-½



Bishop + "Wrong Color" Rook's Pawn



BRAD MARTS - HELEN HINSHAW
Position after 53 Bc4

At the 2000 Virginia Closed Helen Hinshaw submitted her scoresheet for this game with a note to The Editor attached: "Review this with Helen please!! How could I have won?" Now a couple issues of *Virginia Chess* have come and gone; Helen doubtless believes we've either forgotten her request of simply ignored it. Far from it!

By the way, the game overall was an entertaining, up-and-down affair. For the record, the moves producing the diagram position were: 1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e3 b5 4 Nc3 a6 5 a4 c6 6 axb5 cxb5 7 Nxb5 Qb6 8 Bxc4 axb5 9 Bxf7+ Kxf7 10 Rxa8 Nf6 11 Ra1 Nc6 12 Ne2 e6 13 0-0 Bd6 14 Qb3 Re8 15 Nc3 b4 16 Na4 Qc7 17 h3 Ne4 18



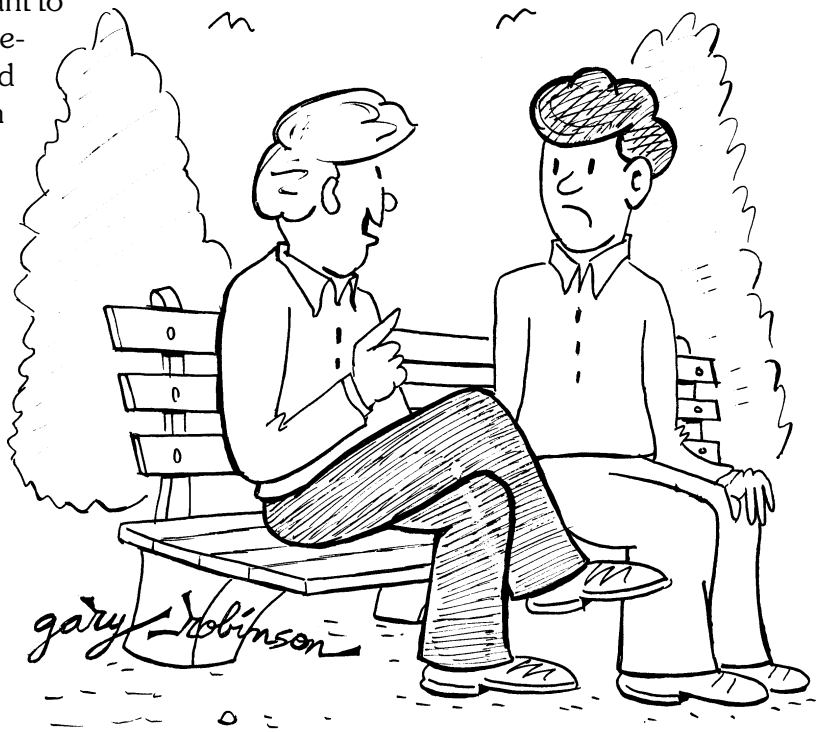
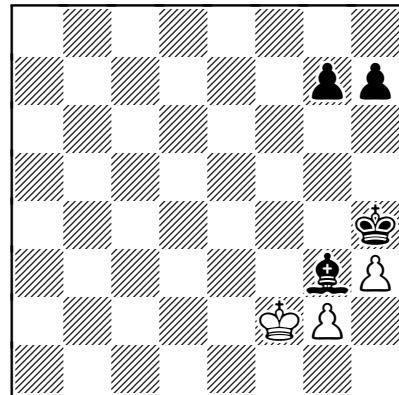
Qd3 Nf6 19 e4 Rd8 20 Be3 e5 21 Qc4+ Kf8 22 d5 Nd4 23 Qxc7 Bxc7 24 Bxd4 exd4 25 f3 Nh5 26 Rac1 Bf4 27 Ra1 Ng3 28 Rfe1 Be3+ 29 Kh2 Bf2 30 Rec1 Ne2 31 Rc2 d3 32 Rd2 Ba6 33 Nc5 Bxc5 34 Rxa6 Nc1 35 Ra4 Rb8 36 Ra1 Nb3 37 Rad1 Nxd2 38 Rxd2 Bd6+ 39 Kg1 Be5 40 Kf2 Bd4+ 41 Kg3 Rb6 42 f4 Rg6+ 43 Kf3 Ra6 44 e5 Ra2 45 d6 Rxb2 46 Rxb2 Bxb2 47 Ke3 Bc1+ 48 Kxd3 Bxf4 49 d7 Ke7 50 e6 Bc7 51 Kc4 Kxe6 52 Kxb4 Kxd7 53 Kc4

Black is a full piece ahead. With a couple pawns still on the board and none of them weak or exposed, she certainly ought to win. The salient feature to note, however, is the notorious “wrong color” rook’s pawn / bishop tandem. That is, the bishop does not control the queening square for the h-pawn. Black must hang onto her g-pawn to be sure of success, and the fact that the B+RP alone cannot win (provided White’s king gets into the corner) is one of those fundamental endings you simply have to know about in order to correctly play these antecedent positions.

Speaking more generally, you always want to involve your king in the endgame. Especially here Black, who wants to avoid pawn exchanges, should make as much headway as possible with her king before resorting to pawn play. Which brings us to another key point. Of what use is the extra piece? Certainly not in creating direct threats since White can keep his pawns on light squares where the bishop cannot attack them. But if we think about king and pawn endings, we know that the opposition is often of decisive importance as the kings jockey for position. The chief value of the bishop, at least in the preliminary phase of this ending, will be just to play tempo moves. Black never need worry about the opposition, he can repeatedly “pass” with his bishop to put White in zugzwang and ensure further progress with her king.

53...Ke6 54 Kd4 Kf5 55 Ke3 h5

This is not a bad move. Indeed, in light of the note at move 58 it’s probably the fastest way to win. However, fastest may not be best if you are unsure of your technique and looking for the safest path. In principle Black should stay with the theme explained above and maximize her king before involving the pawns. So, pedagogically speaking, I’d prefer to see 55...Kg5 56 Kf3 Kh4 57 Kf2 Bg3+



"Our chess team is strong this year... We've got a tactical wizard on board one, an endgame genius on board two, and Emanuel Lasker look-alike on board three."



58 Kf3 Be1 White must give way. If 59 Ke2 Black just goes 59...Kg3! 60 Kxe1 (60 Kf1 Be2) Kxg2 and wins: 61 h4 Kg3 62 h5 Kg4 (or 62...h6 of course) 63 h6 g6! (but not 63...gxh6? 64 Kf1=) Likewise 59 Kf4 g5+ 60 Kf3 h6 61 Ke2 Kg3! 62 Kxe1 Kxg2 63 h4 g4 wins.

Back at the diagram White can hold out longer by conceding g3 straightaway and heading for the corner. But after 58 Kf1 Kg5 59 Ke2 Kf4 60 Kf1 Ke3 61 Kg1 Ke2 62 Kh1 Kf2 this is *not* stalemate! 63 h4 Bxh4 64 Kh2 h5 65 Kh3 g5 66 Kh2 g4 67 Kh1 Kg3 68 Kg1 Bg5 69 Kh1 h4 70 Kg1 h3 71 gxh3 (71 Kh1 hxg2+ 72 Kg1 Be3 mate) 71...Kxh3 is the simple win.

56 Kf3 h4 57 Kf2 Kf4 58 Kg1 g5

This is more worrisome. Black is still winning but the text move indicates that she does not appreciate the absolute requirement to preserve the g-pawn. 58...Kg3 was the right way, with the continuation 59 Kh1 (59 Kf1 Bb6) Kf2 60 g4 hxg3 (or 60...Kg3 Δ Kxh3 if you're suffering stalemate hallucinations) 61 h4 g2 mate

59 Kh1 g4??

This blows the win. 59...Ke3 60 Kg1 Ke2 61 Kh1 Kf2 was still the way to go.

60 Kg1

White could also draw by 60 hxg4. For example 60...Kxg4 (60...Kg3 61 g5 Be5 62 g6 Bg7 63 Kg1 doesn't help) 61 Kg1 Kg3 62 Kh1 Kf2 and since White no longer has an h-pawn, it's a draw: 63 g4 hxg3 stalemate.

60...gxh3

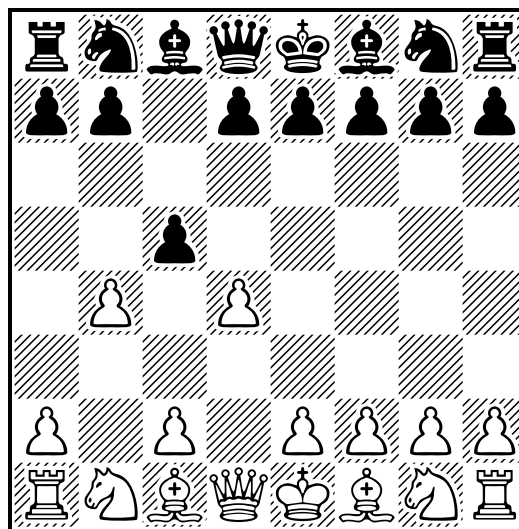
Or 60 g3, when White hides in the corner and Black can only stalemate him

61 gxh3 Kg3 62 Kh1 Kxh3 63 Kg1

and we have achieved the theoretical position: **63...Kg3 64 Kh1 h3 65 Kg1 h2+ 66 Kh1 Kh3 stalemate $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$**

THE ZILBERMINTS BENONI 1 d4 c5 2 b4!

Continued from last issue



Part 3: Unusual moves and transpositions plus an Update

by Lev Zilbermints

In this, the last of three parts, I cover moves other than 2...cxd4 and 2...cxb4. To this day I have not seen any games where the "pure" Zilbermints Benoni move order occurred and Black declined to take either pawn. However, there are some examples by transposition from the variation of the Orangutan that begins 1 b4 c5, which is in itself unusual. Without realizing it, many players follow the same path that would have occurred had the move order been 1 d4 c5 2 b4!. The



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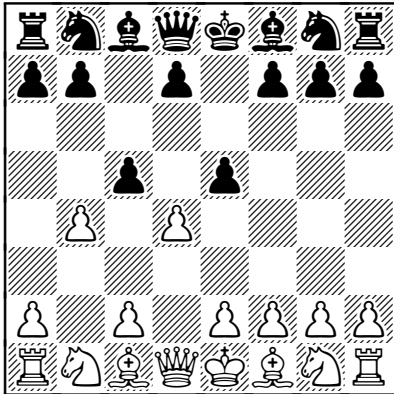
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games that follow should be of some interest to Sokolsky/Orangutan fans who need a good weapon against 1...c5.

1 d4 c5 2 b4 e5!?



The actual move order was 1 b4 c5 2 bc5 e5. Both Black and White play crazy in this variation. If playing 2 b4 against 1...c5 takes courage, then 2...e5!? takes nerves of steel and 19th century bravery. I do not think one player in ten will play something like this — too crazy. However, three games involved this move by transposition.

3 bc5 Nc6 4 Bb2 exd4 5 Bxd4 Nxd4 6 Qxd4 Qg5 7 e4 Qxc5 8 Qxc5 Bxc5 9 Bc4 d6 10 Nf3 Nf6... Here the game score **Z Provaznik - T Skaug, 1990** simply stops, saying **0-1**. I cannot understand the logic of this for White can play 11 Nbd2 and still fight it out. All I can say is that I found this game on the Internet Chess Club 2 million game database. That database, however, is not to be trusted in terms of accuracy. I have seen too many partial game scores, duplicate scores, and wrong dates. Sufficient to say that I have my doubts about the completeness of the above game score.

In the game **H Moller - S Werner, Germany, 1992**, there followed **3...exd4 4 Qxd4 Nc6 5 Qe4+ Be7 6 Bb2 Qa5+ 7 Bc3 Nf6 8 Qxe7+ Kxe7 9 Bxa5 Nxa5 10 Nc3 a6 11 e3 Re8 12 Bd3 Rb8 13 Nf3 b6 14 Rb1 b5 15 Nd4 Bb7 16 0-0 Kf8 17 a4 bxa4 18 Nxa4 Nd5 19 Nb6 Nxb6**

20 Rxb6 Rec8 21 Rfb1 Rxc5 22 Bxa6 Rc7 23 Nf5 Rxc2 and **Black resigned** because of the immediate **24 Nd6+!**

Katalymov - Kupreichik, Minsk 1971 continued (the actual move order was 1 b4 c5 2 bxc5 e5 3 e3) **3...Bxc5 4 d4 exd4 5 ed4 Be7 6 Bd3 d5 7 Nf3 Nc6 8 0-0 Bg4 9 c3 Nf6 10 h3 Bh5 11 Qb3 Qc7 12 Ne5 0-0 13 f4 Bg6 14 f5 Nxe5 15 dxe5 Bc5+ 16 Kh2 Nh5 17 Qd5 Rad8 18 Qe4 Rfe8 19 fxc6 hxc6 20 Rxf7 Qxf7 21 Bc4 Re6 22 Bxe6 Qxe6 23 Nd2 Qb6 24 Nf3 Rd1 25 Be3 Bxe3 26 Qc4+ Kh7 27 Rxd1 Bf4+ 28 Qxf4 Nxf4 29 Ng5+ Kh6 30 Rd4 g5 0-1**

Black tried to improve in the game **W Labahn - R Merten, Germany 1990** by playing **3...Bxc5** (the actual move order was 1 b4 c5 2 bxc5 e5 3 e3 Bxc5 4 d4 exd4 5 exd4 Be7, which transposed) but after **4 d4 exd4 5 exd4 Be7 6 Bd3 d5 7 Ne2 Nf6 8 0-0 Nc6 9 c3 0-0 10 Nd2 Bg4 11 f3 Be6 12 f4 Qc7 13 Nf3 Ne4 14 Bxe4 dxe4 15 Ng5 Bd5 16 f5 h6 17 Nh3 Bc4 18 Rf4 Bd6 19 Rg4 Bxh2+ 20 Kh1 h5 21 Rg5 Rfe8 22 f6 g6 23 Nef4** it was White who won.

But the Zilbermints Benoni can also be reached from the Reti Opening: 1 Nf3 c5 2 d4 cd 3 b4; the Benoni: 1 d4 c5 2 Nf3 cxd4 3 b4; the Orangutan: 1 b4 c5 2 d4; or the Franco-Benoni: 1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 c5 3 b4 cxd4 4 a3. In the first two cases the move sequences 1 d4 c5 2 Nf3 cxd4 3 b4 and 1 Nf3 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 b4 carry an important advantage over the other two lines in that Black is deprived of the...cxb4 option.

1 Nf3 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 b4 The first time this particular move transposition into the Zilbermints Benoni was played. **3...d5 4 a3 Nd7 5 Qxd4 N8f6 6 Bb2 Qc7 7 Nc3 e6 8 Nb5 Qc8 9 c4 a6 10 Nc3 dc 11 Qc4 b5 12 Qh4 Bb7 13 e3 Be7 14 Qg3 Qxg3 15 hxg3 Rc8 16 Rc1 0-0 17 Be2 Nb6 18 0-0 Nc4 19 Bxc4 Rxc4 20 Rcd1 R8c8 21 Rd3 Nd5 22 Nxd5 Bxd5 23 Rfd1 h6 24 Rd4 Rd4 25 Bd4 Rc2 26 Rd2 Rd2 27 Nd2 f6 28 f4 Kf7 29 Kf2 Bd6 30 e4 Ba2 31 Ke3 g5 32 e5 fe 33 fe Bc7 34 Ne4 Bd5 35 g4 Kg6 36 g3 h5 37 gh5**



Kxh5 38 Nf6+ Kg6 39 g4 Bc6 40 Ne4 Bd5 41 Nc5 a5 42 Ne4 ab 43 ab ½-½ Zilbermints - Lux, Marshall CC 2000

And now an update to the previous issues' coverage. Improvements for White have been found, and additional games have been played, both over-the-board and on the Internet. In the following game, the reader sees the value of how the Zilbermints Benoni could be kept from transposing to the Sicilian Defense:

LEV ZILBERMINTS - ROMAN DUBINSKY

MARSHALL CC G/10 TOURNAMENT, 2000

1 d4 c5 2 b4! cxd4 3 Nf3 d5 4 a3 Nf6 (4...Nc6 5 Nd4 e5 6 Nc6 bc 7 e3 Nf6 8 Bb2 Qc7 9 Nbd2 Be7 10 c4 00 11 Rc1 d4 12 ed ed 13 Bd4 a5 14 Bd4 Ne4? 15 Ne4 Bh4 16 Be2 Re8 17 Qd4 f6 18 g3 Bf5, eventually drawn, Zilbermints - Figler, Marshall CC Rapids 2000) **5 Bb2!** (An improvement over Zilbermints - Rasnick, North Jersey 1998, which continued 3...e6 4 a3 Nc6 5 e4!? transposing into a Sicilian Defense. After 5...d5 6 e5 Qc7 7 Bf4 Nge7 8 Bb5 Bd7 9 Bxc6 Nxc6 10 0-0 Be7 11 Re1 0-0 12 Nbd2 Qd8 13 Nb3 f6 14 Nfd4 fxe5 White won in another 50+ moves. The value of the text move lies in the fact that it prevents a transposition to a Sicilian Defense. White will eventually play e3, getting the Bf1 out and protecting the vulnerable f2-square.) **5...Nc6 6 Nxd4 Nxd4 7 Bd4 Qc7 8 e3 e5 9 Bb2 Bf5 10 Bd3 Bg4 11 Be2 Bd7 12 Nd2 Be7 13 Rc1 Rc8 14 c4 Qb8 15 Nf3 Bd6 16 cd Rc1 17 Bc1 0-0 18 Bb2 e4 19 Nd2 Be5 20 Be5 Qe5 21 0-0** (Since Dubinsky likes cheapos it is best to return the pawn, thus eliminating any possible weaknesses for him to concentrate on.) **21...Qd5 22 Nc4 Qg5 23 Qd6 Be6 24 Qg3 Qf5 25 Qe5 Qg6 26 Qg3 Qh6 27 Qf4 g5 28 Qe5 Qg7 29 Nd6 b6 30 Qg3 h5 31 Bc4** ≥ The rest was unrecorded as we both were in time trouble. Eventually I won with an extra Queen and four passed pawns to Dubinsky's none... As the game shows, the Zilbermints Benoni can be played positionally, thereby denying Black any tactical tricks that are common in the Sicilian Defense.

But over-the-board chess is but one of the many avenues for exploring unknown territory. I also play chess on the Internet. My favorite chess site at the moment is chess.net, where I hold a master ratings in blitz and lightning (2 minutes or less) chess. With few exceptions, everyone on chess.net uses a nickname or "handle." Thus, when citing Internet games I will give not the player's actual name but the handle by which he/she is known. The paragraph numbering (eg, "B12", etc) corresponds with the taxonomy of variations established in Parts I and II from previous issues of *Virginia Chess*.

1 d4 c5 2 b4 cxd4 3 Nf3

B1) 3...e5

1 d4 c5 2 b4 cxd4 3 Nf3 e5 4 a3 d6 5 e3 dxe3 6 Bxe3 Nf6 7 c4 Bg4 8 Be2 Nbd7 9 Nc3 Rc8 10 O-O a6 11 Nd5 Bxf3 12 Nxf6+ Nxf6 13 Bxf3 e4 14 Be2 Be7 15 Rc1 O-O 16 f3 Qd7 17 fxe4 Nxe4 18 Bf3 Qe6 19 Qe2 f5 20 Bd4 Bg5 21 Rc2 Rce8 22 Re1 h6 23 Qd3 Qg6 24 Rce2 Nf6 25 Bxf6 Rxe2 26 Rxe2 Qxf6 27 Re1 b6 28 Qd5+ Kh7 29 Qd3 Bf4 30 Bd5 Be5 31 Rd1 Re8 32 Bf3 g6 33 Bc6 Qh4 34 g3 Qf6 35 Bxe8 h5 36 Bc6 h4 37 Bg2 hxg3 38 hxg3 Qg5 39 Kf2 Kg7 40 Rh1 f4 41 gxf4 Qxf4+ 42 Ke2 Qg4+ 43 Bf3 Qg3 44 Kd2 Qf2+ 45 Be2 Qf4+ 46 Kc2 a5 47 Rf1 Qg5 48 Qd5 Qg3 49 Qf7+ Kh6 50 Rh1+ Kg5 51 Qf3 Qxf3 52 Bxf3 Kf4 53 Bc6 axb4 54 axb4 g5 55 Kd3 g4 56 Ke2 g3 57 Rh5 Kg4 58 Bf3+ Kf4 59 Rxe5 Kxe5 60 Kd3 Kf4 61 Bg2 Ke5 62 Ke3 Ke6 63 Kd4 Kd7 64 Kd5 Kc7 65 b5 Kd7 66 Kd4 Ke6 67 Ke4 Kf6 68 Kf4 Ke6 69 Kxg3 Ke5 70 Kf2 Kd4 71 Bd5 Kd3 72 Kf3 Kd4 73 Kf4 Kc5 74 Kf5 Kd4 75 Ke6 Kc5 76 Kd7 Kb4 77 Kxd6 Kc3 78 Kc6, 1-0 Zilbermints-GAULOIS , G/5 minutes 2000

B2) 3... e6 4 a3 led to quick wins for White:

4...a5 5 b5 Nf6 6 Nxd4 Be7 7 Bb2 00 8 e3 b6 9 Qf3 Ra7 10 Bd3 Bb7 11 Qh3 h6 12 Nd2 d5 13 g4 e5 14 Nf5 e4 15 Be2 Bc8 16 Nxb6+ gxh6 17 Qxh6 Nh7 18 Qg7 mate 1-0 Zilbermints-turtle22, G/3 minutes 1999



4...a5 5 b5 Nf6 6 Bb2 Bc5 7 Nxd4 00 8 e3 d5 9 Nf3 Nbd7 10 Bd3 Nb6 11 a4 Bd6 12 00 Qe7 13 Bd4 Nbd7 14 Bb2 e5 15 Bf5 e4 16 Nd4 Ne5 17 Bxc8 Raxc8 18 Nf5 Qe6 19 Nxd6 Qxd6 20 Ba3 Qc7 21 Bxf8 Kxf8 22 Nd2 Nfg4 23 g3 Qxc2 24 Rc1 Qxc1 25 Qxc1 Rxc1 26 Rxc1 Ke7 27 Rc7+ Nb7 28 Rxb7 Kd6 29 Ra7 Nge5 30 Rxa5 Kc5 31 Ra8 Kb6 32 Nb3 Nc4 33 Nd4 Nc5 34 Rd8 Nb2 35 Rxd5 1-0 Zilbermints-fiker, G/5 minutes 2000

4...Nf6 5 Nxd4 d5 6 Nf3 Be7 7 Bb2 00 8 e3 b6 9 Bd3 Bb7 10 00 Nbd7 11 c4 Rc8 12 cxd5 Nxd5 13 Nbd2 N7f6 14 Ne5 Nxe3 15 fxe3 Bd6 16 Ndc4 b5 17 Nxd6 Qxd6 18 Bxh7+ 1-0 Zilbermints-chartist, G/3 minutes 2000

B4) 3...Nc6

4 a3 b6 5 Nxd4 Bb7 6 Bb2 Nf6 7 e3 g6 8 Nd2 Bg7 9 N2f3 0-0 10 Be2 Rc8 11 0-0 12 Rc1 Nxd4 13 Bxd4 Qc6 14 Ne1 Qxg2?? 15 Nxc2 1-0 Zilbermints - Glauber, G/2 minutes 1999

4 a3 Nf6 5 Bb2 e5 6 c3 a6 7 cxd4 exd4 8 Nxd4 Nxd4 9 Bxd4 d5 10 e3 Be6 11 Bd3 Bd6 12 0-0 0-0 13 f4 Rc8 14 Nd2 Nd7 15 Qf3 Be7 16 g4 Bf6 17 f5 Bxd4 18 exd4 Nf6 19 fxe6 fxe6 20 g5 Nd7 21 Qh3 Rxf1+ 22 Rxf1 g6 23 Nf3 b6 24 Nh4 Qe8 25 Qg3 a5 26 b5 Nf8 27 Nf3 Nd7 28 Ne5 Nxe5 29 Qxe5 Qe7 30 Rf6 Rf8 31 Be2 Rxf6 32 gf6 Qf7 33 Bg4 h5 34 Bxe6 1-0 Zilbermints - Poytr, G/1 minute 1999

4 a3 e5 5 c3 dc3 6 Nxc3 d6 7 Bb2 Bg4 8 e3 This stops the opening from becoming a Sicilian Smith-Morra Gambit. Nf6 9 Be2 Be7 10 00 00 11 Qd2 a5 12 b5 Na7 13 Rad1 Qd7 14 a4 Nc8 15 e4 Nb6 16 Qe3 Bd8 17 Nxe5 Qc8 18 Nxc4 Nxc4 19 Bxc4 Qxc4 20 Rxd6 Bc7 21 Rdd1 Nc4 22 Qc1 Be5 23 Ba1 Bxc3 24 Qxc3 Qxe4 25 Qxg7 mate 1-0 Zilbermints - BAKMAGE, G/5 minutes 1999

B5) 3...Nf6

1 d4 c5 2 b4 cxd4 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nxd4 g6 5 Bb2 Bg7 6 a3 00 7 g3 d6 8 Bg2 e5 9 Nb5 Ne8 10 0-0 a6 11 N5c3 f5 12 Bd5+ Kh8 13 e4 Nf6 14 f4 Nxd5 15 exd5 exf4 16 Rxf4 Qb6+ 17 Kh1 Nd7 18 Na4 Qa7 19 Bxc7 Kxc7 20 Qd3 b5 21 Qc3+ Nf6 22 Nb2 g5 23 Rf1 Kg6 24 Nd2 Bd7 25 Nd3 Rac8 26 Qb2 Qe3 27 Nf3 Ng4 28 Rae1 Qb6 29 h3 Ne3 30 Rg1 Rxc2 31 Qd4 Qxd4 32 Nxd4 Rd2 33 Nf3 f4 34 gxf4 Black overstepped the time limit. 1-0 Zilbermints - Rebse, G/1 minute 1999

B6) 3...g6

4 Qxd4 Nf6 5 Bb2 Bg7 6 Qh4 d6 7 a3 Nbd7 8 Nbd2 h6 9 e3 g5 10 Qc4 Nb6 11 Qb3 Be6 12 c4 Rc8 13 Rc1 00 14 Nd4 Bd7 15 Bd3 Ba4 16 Qa2 e6 17 h4 g4 18 Ne2 e5 19 Nc3 Bd7 20 Qb3 Be6 21 a4 d5 22 cxd5 Nbx5 23 Nxd5 Rxc1+ 24 Bxc1 Bxd5 25 Bc4 Bxc4 26 Rg1 Bc6 27 b5 Bd5 28 Bxd5 Nxd5 29 Rxc4 Qd7 30 Rg1 Rc8 31 Bb2 Qe6 32 Ne4 Nf4 33 Qxe6 Nxe6 34 Bc3 Kh7 35 Kd2 f5 36 Nd6 Rd8 37 Rxc7+ Kxc7 38 Bxe5 Kf8 39 Ke2 f4 40 Nxb7, Black overstepped 1-0 Zilbermints-tkep, G/5 minutes 1999

A second game with same opponent, G/3 minutes, 1999, continued the same way for the first eight moves and then I deviated. There followed 9 Qc4 00 10 e3 Nb6 11 Qb3 Be6 12 c4 Rc8 13 Rc1 Nbd7 14 Nd4 Ne5 15 Nxe6 fxe6 16 Bxe5 dxe5 17 Be2 Kh7 18 Rd1 Qc7 19 00 e4 20 c5 Qe5 21 Nc4 Qf5 22 h3 Nd5 23 Bg4 Qg5 24 Nd2 Nc3 25 Rc1 h5 26 Bd1 Qe5 27 Nc4 Qg5 28 Rxc3 Bxc3 29 Qxc3 Rf6 30 Qe5 Qxe5 31 Nxe5 Rd8 32 Bb3 Rd2 33 Bc4 and again Black overstepped, 1-0.

B7) 3...f6?!

4 a3 Nc6 5 Nxd4 e5 6 Nb3 Nge7 7 e3 b6 8 Bd3 d6 10 Qf3 g6 11 Bb2 Rc8 12 N1d2 Bh6 13 g4 Bxc4 14 Qxc4 f5 15 Qf3 0-0 16 Qh3 Bg5 17 f4 exf4 18 exf4 Bf6 19 Rb1 Bd4+ 20 Kh1 Be3 21 Qxe3 Nd5 22 Qe6+ Rf7 23 Qxd5, Black overstepped 1-0 Zilbermints - infernomic, G/5 minutes 1999

B8) 3...Qa5??

4 ba5 1-0 Zilbermints-Mauro, G/2 minutes 1999

So what does all this say about the Zilbermints Benoni? Playable? Definitely. It's just that many masters, international masters and grandmasters are, in my opinion, too chicken to experiment with unorthodox openings. These conservative people are so biased against unorthodox openings that they will say and do anything to prove a variation "unsound." To this I reply: Show me some specific lines and games that prove your viewpoint, otherwise your argument is just a lot of hot air.



**Potter Endgame**

Continued from page 8

h4 (9 Kb1 Kb3 10 h4 gxh4 11 g5 h3 12 g6 h2 13 g7 h1Qmate) **9...gxh4 10 g5 h3 11 g6 h2 12 g7 h1Q 13 g8Q Qh2+ 14 Kb1 Qb2mate**"

Contest entrant Jim Lussier suggests an alternate solution involving a delicate bishop maneuver aimed at getting to g3 or h4 in good time to prevent the h4 sacrifice. One line that exemplifies the basic idea is: 1...Be5 2 Be7 Kc3 3 Kc1 Kb3 4 Kd1 4 Kb1 a3 5 Bxa3 Kxa3 6 Kc2 Bg3. With that introduction to help get your bearings, here is Lussier's analysis as submitted:

1...Be5! 2. Be7

I consider this the main line. I will show other white moves afterward.

2. ... Kc3 then:

a. 3. Bxg5 a3

b. **3. h4 gxh4 4. Ke2** (if 4. Bxh4 a3 will queen the a-pawn) **4. ... h3 5. Kf1 Kc4 6. g5 Kd5** gets in the square of the pawn. (White can delay the advance of the g-pawn, e.g., 6. Kg1 Kd4 7. Kh1 Ke4 8. Kg1 Kf4 9. g5 Kf5 10. Kh1 Bf4 loses) **7. g6** (or 7. Kg1 Ke6 8. Bf8 Kf5 9. Be7 Bf4 10. Kh1 Bxg5 11. Ba3 Bf4 loses) **7...Ke6 8. Bf8 Kf6 9. g7 Kf7 10. Kg1 Bxg7 11. Ba3 Be5** and the White king goes to b3 and blocks the diagonal with Bb4 and queens the a-pawn.

c. **3. Ba3 (or Bc4) 3...Bg3** inhibits h4 because Black will not be left with a wrong rook pawn so he can afford to trade the a-pawn for the white bishop by Kb3 and a3) **4. Kc1** (or 4. Bc1 Bh4

5. Ba3 Kb3 6. Be7 a3 7. Bf6 a2 followed by bringing the bishop around to a3 and b2) **4...Kb3 5. Bb2 a3 6. Bf6 a2 7. Kd2 Bd6 8. h4 Ba3.**

d. **3. Ke2 Bg3** threatening to get the bishop to h4 when Kb3 wins as in c. above **4. Bxg5 a3 5. Bf6+** (on other moves Be5 wins) **5...Kc2!** (5...Kb3 only draws) **6. g5** (6. h4 a2 7. h5 Bh4 8. Ba1 Bg5 9. Bg7 Bc1) **6...Bh4 7. Kf3 a2 8. Kg4 Be1 9. g6 Bc3 10. Bxc3 Kxc3 11. g7 a1=Q** (a heart-breaker for White) **12. Kg5 Qa2 13. h4 Kd4 14. h5 Ke5 15. h6 Qg2+ 16. Kh5 Kf5.**

e. **3. Kc1 Kb3 4. Kd1** (4. Kb1 a3 5. Bxa3 Kxa3 6. Kc2 Bg3 wins) **4...Bg3 5. Bxg5 a3 6. Bf6 a2 7. Bg7 Bh4 8. Be5** and Black is ahead of the previous line **8... Be7 9. Ke2 Ba3.**

Now some other initial moves for White

2. Ba3 is the most interesting 2. ...Kc3 3. h4 gxh4 4. Ke2 h3 5. Kf3 Kb3 6. Bc1 gives White some additional prospects if Black goes after the pawn on g5 because c1 is a better place to guard the pawn than from in front but...6...h2 7. Kg2 Bb2 8. Bxb2 Kxb2 9. g5 h1=Q+ 10. Kxh1 a3.

Other bishop moves are obviously less testing e.g.,

2. Bc5 Kc4 3. Be7 Kb3 4. h4 gxh4 5. Ke2 h3 6. Kf3 Kc4 transposing to an earlier line, so all that remains to be considered are King moves and an immediate pawn break neither of which is too difficult.

2. h4 gxh4 3. Ke1 Ke3 4. Kf1 Kf3 5. g5 Bd4 6. g6 h3 7. Bd6 a3 8. g7 a2.

2. Kc1 Kc3 3. Kb1 Kb3 4. Be7 a3 5. Bxa3 Kxa3 6. Kc2 Bg3

2. Ke1 Bg3+ 3. Kf1 Kc3 4. Be7 Bh4.

This is all very clever but we are not quite convinced. Let's take another look at the (e) line **1...Be5 2 Be7 Kc3 3 Kc1**. After **3...Kb3 4 Kd1 Bg3 5 Bxg5 a3 6 Bf6 a2** the offered 7 Bg7 looks accommodating as it accomplishes nothing and lets Black get on the h4-d8 diagonal — where he restrains White's pawns — to conduct the maneuver around to a3. So we considered **7 Kd2** (but not 7 g5 Bh4! Δ Bxg5, White just loses his pawn) and then if **7...Bd6 8 g5 Ba3 9 g6 Bb2 10 g7 a1Q 11 g8Q+**, yes?

Well, no, actually. Black has a subtlety of his own: **7 ... Bf4+**! There is more than one way to b2, and c1 covers g5 so that if 8 Kd3 Bc1 9 g5 Bxg5. On the other hand, if White uses his king to force Black to use the a3 route after all we get **8 Kd1 Bd6 9 g5 Ba3 10 g6 Bb2 11 g7 a1Q+** and the crucial difference is that now it's Black who queens with check!

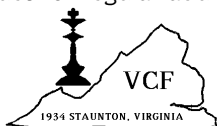
Well, this is all rather complicated and we do not suggest that this analysis is the final word. As always, readers' ideas are welcome...



Deadline for submitting
material for next issue:

March 10

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