

VIRGINIA CHESS

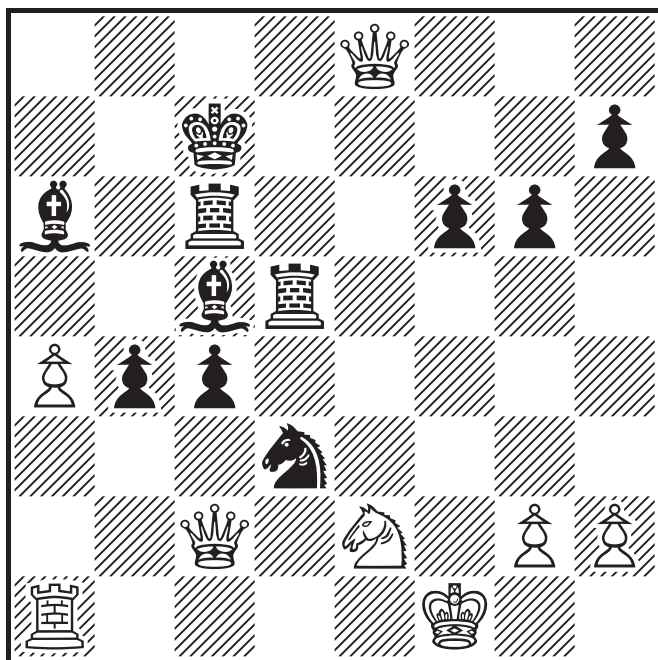
Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2003 - #6

GM Wojtkiewicz Wins Virginia Open

**Richard Fraser, William Carroll & Santy Wong
tie for 1st in Amateur**



Two Queens versus None! — see page 18

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2003 - Issue #6

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35th Annual **Virginia Open**

by Mike Atkins

GM Alex Wojtkiewicz won clear 1st prize with a score of $4\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ at the better-late-than-never Virginia Open. A total of 110 players came to the Ramada Quantico over the weekend of November 7-9 to experience the 35th annual running of the Open, traditionally the VCF's biggest event.

The Amateur section saw three players likewise score $4\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ to share 1st place: **Richard Fraser** (who took the title and plaque on tiebreaks), Arlington Chess Club's **William Carroll** and US Marine **Santy Wong** from Camp Lejeune.

This was the tournament that almost never happened. Originally scheduled for last January, it was cancelled after problems arose with the site hotel. Subsequent efforts met with hurdles,



roadblocks and seeming curses—but it finally came off, and pretty smoothly! The playing site was nice and although we had to compete with bar noise on both nights (disco music on Saturday and a some pretty raucous rock and roll church music on Sunday) the players were mostly good-natured and rolled with the punches.

GM Wojtkiewicz is a regular on the local circuit and winner of at least 3 US Grand Prix titles in a

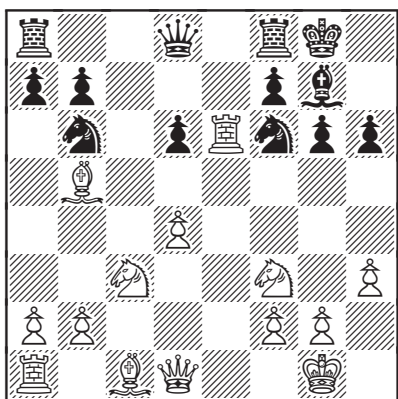
GM Alex Wojtkiewicz



row. Clearly the favorite at the Virginia Open, he succeeded in adding to his GP total this year but only after overcoming what he called "a brilliant game" played by **Stan Fink**. Time trouble spoiled a nice positional exchange sacrifice that otherwise might have produced a terrific win.

STAN FINK - ALEXANDER WOJTKIEWICZ
BOTVINNIK/PANOV

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 d4 Bg7 4 c3 cxd4 5 cxd4 d5 6 exd5 Nf6 7 Bb5+ Nbd7 8 Nc3 (From a Sicilian beginning we have transposed to a position that arises in the Botvinnik/Panov attack in the Caro Kann via something like 1...c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 cxd5 Bg7 7 Bb5+ Nbd7 8 Nf3) **8...O-O 9 d6 exd6 10 O-O Nb6 11 h3 Be6 12 Re1 h6 13 Rxe6!**



Fearless!

13...fxe6 14 Bd3 g5 15 h4 g4 16 Nh2 h5 17 Bg6 Nc8 18 Bg5 Ne7 19 Bxf6 Rxf6 20 Bxh5 Rh6 21 Bxg4 Nf5 22 Bxf5 exf5 23 Nf3 Qd7 24 Nd5 Kh8 25 Nf4 Bf6 26 d5 Rg8 27 h5 Qh7 28 Kf1 Bxb2 29 Rb1 Bf6 30 Qd2 Qc7 31 Rc1 Qd7 32 g3 Rc8 33 Kg1 Rxc1+ 34 Qxc1 Kg8 35 Qe3 b6 36 Qe2 Rh7 37 Qd1 Re7 38 Qc2 Re4 39 Ne6 Qb7 40 Qd3 Qc8 41 Nd2 Qc1+ 42 Kg2 Re5 (42...Qd1!?) 43 Nf3 (Too bad; 43 Nc4! Re1 44 Qxf5 White would stand to win. But things are still not clear.) **43...Re4 44 Qb5** (44 Qa6 to take the a7 pawn would be better) **44...Qc8 45 h6 Kh8 46 Nd2 Rxe6 47 dxe6 Qxe6 48 Qc6 Kh7 49 Nf3 Qxa2 50 Qc1** (50 Qxd6) **50...a5 51 Ng5+ Kxh6 52 Ne4+ Kg6 53 Nxf6 Kxf6 54 Qh6+ Ke7 55 Qg7+?** (Black must have played inaccurately



somewhere as now White had a chance to play 55 Qg5+ and, since 55...Ke6?? 56 Qg8+ is impossible, he would get to take f5 and then, who knows...?) **55...Qf7 56 Qg5+ Kd7 0-1**

Against FM **Rodion Rubenchik**, Alex misstepped in a won position and allowed a draw, the only score against him.

ALEXANDER WOJTKIEWICZ - RODION RUBENCHIK

CATALAN

1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 g3 dxc4 5 Bg2 c5 6 O-O Nc6 7 Qa4 Bd7 8 Qxc4 b5 9 Qd3 Rc8 10 dxc5 Bxc5 11 Nc3 b4 12 Nb5 Qe7 13 Be3 O-O 14 Bxc5 Qxc5 15 Nd6 Rb8 16 Rfc1 Qd5 17 Qxd5 Nxd5 18 Rc5 f6 19 Rac1 Rb6 20 Nb5 Ra6 21 Nfd4 (Fritz doesn't like this move and thinks White has a clear advantage with a3 or e4 or Bh3) **21...Nxd4 22 Nxd4 Nb6 23 Bc6 Bxc6 24 Rxc6 Rxa2 25 Nxe6 Re8 26 R1c2 Kf7** (26...Na4 27 Nc7 b3 28 Nxe8 bxc2 29 Rxc2 Kf8 30 Nd6 Rxb2 =) **27 Nd4 Re7 28 e3 g6 29 b3 Rxc2 30 Nxc2 Nd5 31 Rc5 ± Rd7 32 Kg2 f5 33 Kf3 Kf6 34 g4 fxg4+ 35 Kxg4 h5+ 36 Kf3 g5 37 h3 Kg6 38 Rc6+ Kh7 39 Nd4 Rf7+ 40 Kg2 a5 41 Rc5 Nc3 42 Ne6 Rf6 43 Nf4 a4 44 bxa4 Nxa4 45 Rb5 Rb6 46 Rxb6 Nxb6 ½-½** Several unrecorded "sudden death" moves were blitzed out before the draw was agreed.





35th Virginia Open: Open Section

#	Name	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	GM Alek Wojtkiewicz	W24	W11	W4	D2	W8	4.5
2	FM Rodion Rubenchik	H---	W16	W12	D1	W10	4.0
3	Raymond Kaufman	D27	W33	D15	W16	W14	4.0
4	Stan Fink	W28	W7	L1	W25	W9	4.0
5	IM Lawrence Kaufman	W37	L12	W32	D14	W19	3.5
6	John Russ Potter	D32	W17	L8	W34	W21	3.5
7	Chris Sevilla	W36	L4	D29	W22	W18	3.5
8	FM Macon Shibut	W25	D15	W6	D9	L1	3.0
9	FM Boris Privman	W26	W20	D14	D8	L4	3.0
10	Boris Zisman	D21	D29	W37	W15	L2	3.0
11	FM Boris Reichstein	W22	L1	L25	W39	W24	3.0
12	Denis Strenzwilk	W39	W5	L2	D21	D17	3.0
13	Paul Yavari	D17	H---	L21	W35	W25	3.0
14	Alex Barnett	W35	W18	D9	D5	L3	3.0
15	Timothy Rogalski	W23	D8	D3	L10	W28	3.0
16	Jonathan Mathews	W40	L2	W28	L3	W29	3.0
17	Alfred W Harvey	D13	L6	W31	W32	D12	3.0
18	FM Dov Gorman	W31	L14	W24	D19	L7	2.5
19	Floyd Boudreaux	D29	D21	W26	D18	L5	2.5
20	Ronald Phillips	W41	L9	D22	D29	D23	2.5
21	Andrew Johnson	D10	D19	W13	D12	L6	2.5
22	William F Gray	L11	W30	D20	L7	W32	2.5
23	Robert Brady	L15	L37	W41	W26	D20	2.5
24	Bob Chase	L1	W34	L18	W30	L11	2.0
25	Paul Waldowski	L8	W40	W11	L4	L13	2.0
26	Jason McKinney	L9	W35	L19	L23	W40	2.0
27	Brian S Garbera	D3	L32	L34	D31	W37	2.0
28	James Robert Guill	L4	W41	L16	W37	L15	2.0
29	David F Long	D19	D10	D7	D20	L16	2.0
30	Dustin R Harris	L38	L22	B---	L24	W41	2.0
31	William Stokes	L18	H---	L17	D27	D35	1.5
32	Jim A Kinsman	D6	W27	L5	L17	L22	1.5
33	George L Harris	H---	L3	W36	U---	U---	1.5
34	Marvin Lazo	H---	L24	W27	L6	U---	1.5
35	John Brinski	L14	L26	W40	L13	D31	1.5
36	Larry G Brock	L7	D39	L33	L40	W42	1.5
37	Andrew Samuelson	L5	W23	L10	L28	L27	1.0
38	Kebadu Belachew	W30	U---	U---	U---	U---	1.0
39	David W Hulvey	L12	D36	H---	L11	U---	1.0
40	Ross Leskin	L16	L25	L35	W36	L26	1.0
41	Peter Brian Snow	L20	L28	L23	H---	L30	0.5
42	Arman Khojandi	U---	U---	U---	U---	L36	0.0



In the end Fink and Rubinchuk shared 2nd place at 4-1 along with Maryland master Ray Kaufman. former state champion Rusty Potter scored 3½ and took top U2300. Chris Sevilla, with the same score, won U2100. Chris' last round upset of FM Dov Gorman also gave him the upset prize in the Open section. Current state Scholastic champ Robert Brady and John Brninski. were the top scholastic players in the Open.

Aside from the trio at the top, other Amateur section prizewinners included Ernie Schlich, Edward McLaughlin, Michael Foycik & Raymond Balucanag (= top B); Thomas Butler, Aryan Khojandi & Daniel Clancy (= top C); Milt Kicklighter (top D); Thomas Hoffmann & Joseph Tyler (top U1200); Lkhagva Zorigt (top unrated, with an excellent 3½-½ score); Nick Halgren (top scholastic); Steven Linett (2nd scholastic); and Jonathon Giuffrida (upset). Here a couple games by two of the Amateur winners:

WILLIAM CARROLL - JON MORRIS

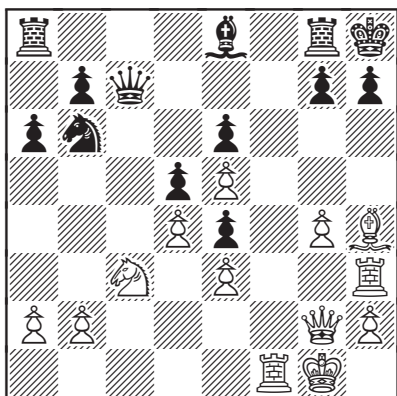
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 Be3 Bg4 7 c4 Qd7 8 d5 Bxf3 9 Qxf3 Nb4 10 Na3 e6 11 dxe6 fxe6 12 Be2 Be7 13 O-O O-O 14 Rfd1 Qc8 15 Nb5 Nfd5 16 Qg3 Nxe3 17 fxe3 a6 18 Nd6 Qc7 19 Bg4 Rf6 20 Ne4 Qxg3 21 Nxf6+ Kf7 22 hxg3 gxf6 23 Rd7 Nc2 24 Bh5+ Kf8 25 Rc1 Nxe3 26 Re1 Nf5 27 Rxe6 Kg8 28 g4 1-0

SANTY WONG - RAYMOND BALUCANOG

DUTCH

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 f5 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 e3 c6 6 Bd3 Bd6 7 Ne5 O-O 8 O-O Nbd7 9 f4 Ne4 10 Bd2 Qe8 11 Rc1 Kh8 12 Rf3 Rg8 13 Bxe4 fxe4 14 Rg3 Nf6 15 Be1 Bd7 16 Qe2 Qe7 17 Rh3 Be8 18 Bh4 Qc7 19 cxd5 cxd5 20 Rf1 a6 21 g4 Nd7 22 Qg2 Bxe5 23 fxe5 Nb6



24 Bd8! Qxd8 Not much choice, as the queen was attacked, but now...

25 Rxh7+! Kxh7 26 Qh3+ 1-0
(26...Kg6 27 Qh5#)

Maryland master Denis Strenzwilk, a veteran of perhaps as many Virginia Opens as anyone alive, upset IM Larry Kaufman, the tournament's 2nd-ranked player.

DENIS STRENCWILK - LARRY KAUFMAN

RUY LOPEZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 O-O Nxe4 5 d4 Nd6 6 dxe5 Nxb5 7 a4 (a variation that dates back to several turn-of-the-century Pillsbury games) **7...Nd6** (Pillsbury's opponents played 7...d6, eg Wolf – Pillsbury, Munich 1900: 7...d6 8 e6 fxe6 9 axb5 Ne7 10 Nc3 Ng6 11 Ng5 Be7 12 Qh5 Bxg5 13 Bxg5 Qd7 14 Ra3 0-0 15 Ne4 Nf4 16 Bxf4 Rxf4 17 Rh3 h6 18 Re1 Qf7 19 Qe2 b6 20 Ra3 Bb7 21 Ng3 e5 22 Rea1 Qd5 23 f3 Qd4+ 24 Qf2 Qxb2 25 Rxa7 Qxa1+ 26 Rxa1 Rxa1+ 27 Nf1 Bd5 28 Qe3 Bc4 29 h3 Rxf1+ 30 Kh2 h5 31 Qa3 h4 32 Qa8+ Kh7 33 Qe8 Bf7 34 Qe7 Bh5 35 Qg5 Bxf3 36 gxf3 R1xf3 37 Qh5+ Kg8 38 Qe8+ Rf8 39 Qe6+ Kh7 40 Qc4 Rf2+ 0-1) **8 Bg5 f6 9 Re1 fxe5 10 exd6+ Kf7 11 Qd5+ Kg6 12 dxc7 Qf6 13 Nc3 d6 14 Rad1 h6 15 Ne4 Qf5 16 Qd2 Kh7 17 c3 d5** (17 ... Ne5!? After the text Black gets the queens off and remains a piece ahead but somehow he never quite completes his development, never manages to liquidate the c7 pawn.) **18 Qxd5 Qxd5 19 Rxd5 Bg4 20 Nd4 Rc8 21 h3 Nxd4 22 Rxd4 Bf5 23 Ng3 Bg6 24 Rd7 a5 25 Re5 b6 26 Ne4 Bxe4**



(26...Kg8!?) 27 Rxe4 b5 28 axb5 Bc5 29 Rc4 Ba7 30 Rc6 Rhe8 31 b6 Bxb6 32 Rxb6 Re5 33 Rb8 Ree8 34 Rxc8 Rxc8 35 Kf1 Kg6 36 Ke2 Kf6 37 Kd3 h5 38 Kc4 g6 39 Kb5 1-0

DOV GORMAN - ALEX BARNETT

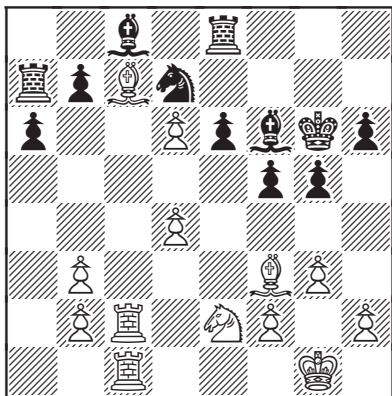
ENGLISH

1 a3 a6 (wise guys) 2 c4 c5 3 Nf3 e6 4 g3 b6 5 Bg2 Bb7 6 O-O Be7 7 Nc3 Nf6 8 d4 O-O 9 d5 exd5 10 cxd5 d6 11 a4 b5 12 Ne1 b4 13 Nb1 a5 14 b3 Nbd7 15 Nc2 Rc8 16 e4 Re8 17 Re1 Bf8 18 Bb2 Ba6 19 f4 Nb6 20 Nd2 Bd3!? 21 Rc1 c4 22 Nxc4 Bxc4 23 bxc4 Nxa4 24 Bxf6 Qxf6 25 Ne3 Nc5 26 e5 dxe5 27 Ng4 Qb6 28 Kh1 e4 29 Qd4 f5 30 Ne5 Qf6 31 Qe3 Bd6 32 Nc6 Nd3 33 Nxa5 Bc5 34 Qe2 Ra8 35 Nb3 Qd6 36 Rf1 Ra3 37 Rb1 Rea8 38 Nc1 Qf6 39 Nxd3 Rxd3 40 Rfd1 Re3 41 Qb2 Qxb2 42 Rxb2 b3 43 Bf1 Ra2 44 Rbb1 Rc3 45 Rdc1 Rcc2 46 Rxc2 bxc2 47 Re1 Kf8 48 d6 Bxd6 0-1

MACON SHIBUT - PAUL WALDOWSKI

BOTVINNIK/PANOV

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 d4 cxd5 5 Nc3 g6 6 cxd5 Bg7 7 Qb3 0-0 8 Be2 Nbd7 9 Bf3 Qb6 10 Nge2 Rd8 11 Bf4 Qxb3 12 axb3 Ne8 13 0-0 h6 14 Nb5 a6 15 Nc7 (15 d6!?) 15...Ra7 16 Nb5 Ra8 17 Nc7 Ra7 18 Rfc1 g5 19 Nxe8 Rxe8 20 Bc7 f5 21 d6 e6 22 g3 Kh7 23 Rc2 Kg6 24 Rac1 (24 Rd1) 24...Bf6 (24...e5)



25 Bb8! Ra8 26 Rxc8 Rxb8 27 Rxe8 Rxe8 28 Bxb7 Nb8 29 Rc7 Rd8 30 Rc8 Rxc8 31 Bxc8 Kf7 32 b4 Bd8? 33 Nc3 Kf6 34 Na4 Nc6 35 Nc5 Nxd4 36 Bxa6 e5 37 Bc4 e4 38 b5 Nf3+ 39 Kg2 Ne5 40 Bd5 h5 41 b4 Nd3? (4 ...Kg6 but the defense is difficult in any case) 42 Nd7+ Kg7 43 b6 Bxb6 44 Nxb6 Nxb4 45 d7 1-0



35th Virginia Open: Amateur Section

#	Name	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Santy B Wong	H---	W9	W14	W28	W10	4.5
2	Richard A Frazer	W44	W30	W21	W5	D3	4.5
3	William Carroll	W45	W20	W41	W7	D2	4.5
4	David Edelschick	L9	W48	W22	W30	W19	4.0
5	Ted Udelson	W54	W40	W38	L2	W11	4.0
6	Mel Ross	H---	W52	W29	D19	W21	4.0
7	Jon W Morris	W55	W18	W32	L3	W25	4.0
8	Duane R Smith	W60	L32	W20	W34	W17	4.0
9	Nick S Halgren	W4	L1	W27	W18	W28	4.0
10	Ilya Kremenchugskiy	D23	W66	W33	W15	L1	3.5
11	Ernest W Schlich	W57	W53	D15	W26	L5	3.5
12	Edward Mc Laughlin	W46	L21	W43	W32	H---	3.5
13	Michael J Foycik	W24	L15	D45	W55	W33	3.5
14	Raymond Balucanag	H---	W59	L1	W53	W31	3.5
15	Lkhagva Zorigt	W42	W13	D11	L10	W29	3.5
16	Sanda Costescu	D56	D23	L34	W46	W35	3.0
17	Christopher Brashers	H---	D56	W54	W41	L8	3.0
18	Tyler D Cook	W49	L7	W23	L9	W41	3.0
19	Richard Skinnell	H---	W64	W47	D6	L4	3.0
20	Thomas Ja Butler	W63	L3	L8	W47	W44	3.0
21	Aryan I Khojandi	W65	W12	L2	W38	L6	3.0
22	Daniel J Clancy	H---	W51	L4	D37	W39	3.0
23	Milt Kicklighter	D10	D16	L18	W63	W53	3.0
24	Steven J Linett	L13	D42	W66	H---	W40	3.0
25	Andryei Ganbat	L41	W46	W40	W39	L7	3.0
26	William Van Lear	W43	W39	H---	L11	U---	2.5
27	Eric G Kangas	W48	L41	L9	W56	D32	2.5
28	Raghu B Rajaram	H---	W67	W31	L1	L9	2.5
29	Michael T Abron	H---	W35	L6	W42	L15	2.5
30	Joe Faries	W61	L2	W56	L4	D34	2.5
31	Jacob Feldman	H---	W36	L28	W45	L14	2.5
32	Edward J Lu	W64	W8	L7	L12	D27	2.5
33	Adithya Sundar	H---	W37	L10	W51	L13	2.5
34	Joshua B Lilly	W68	L38	W16	L8	D30	2.5
35	Marvin A Reyesgarcia	H---	L29	W49	W52	L16	2.5
36	Sema Sebwe	H---	L31	L42	W67	W54	2.5
37	Stephen Skirpan	H---	L33	W63	D22	U---	2.0



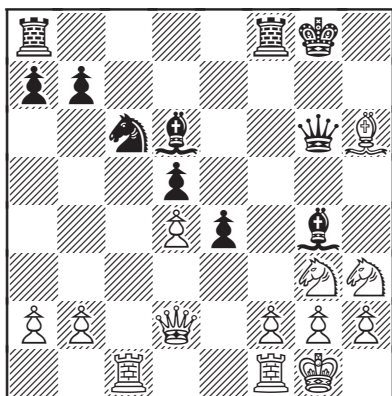
38	Glenn Flodstrom	W47	W34	L5	L21	U---	2.0
39	Bill Simmons	W58	L26	W57	L25	L22	2.0
40	Chester W Neal	W62	L5	L25	W57	L24	2.0
41	Alec Hollingsworth	W25	W27	L3	L17	L18	2.0
42	David M Paden	L15	D24	W36	L29	D45	2.0
43	Jeffrey S Thode	L26	W58	L12	W64	U---	2.0
44	John E Donihee	L2	L63	W61	W48	L20	2.0
45	David N Hydorn	L3	W61	D13	L31	D42	2.0
46	James Johnson	L12	L25	W65	L16	W63	2.0
47	Dick Stableford	L38	W68	L19	L20	W64	2.0
48	Yuan Rao	L27	L4	W50	L44	W65	2.0
49	Tyler Hollingsworth	L18	D55	L35	W59	D56	2.0
50	Steve Li	L53	L57	L48	W61	W62	2.0
51	John T Campbell	H---	L22	W60	L33	U---	1.5
52	Wilfredo Acevedo	D59	L6	W67	L35	U---	1.5
53	William J Hall	W50	L11	H---	L14	L23	1.5
54	Joan H Schlich	L5	W65	L17	D58	L36	1.5
55	John Brockhouse	L7	D49	W59	L13	U---	1.5
56	Daniel C Huffman	D16	D17	L30	L27	D49	1.5
57	Glenn M Shelton	L11	W50	L39	L40	H---	1.5
58	Thomas Hoffmann	L39	L43	W68	D54	U---	1.5
59	Joseph W Tyler	D52	L14	L55	L49	W68	1.5
60	Carlston Boucher	L8	H---	L51	D62	U---	1.0
61	Arman Y Khojandi	L30	L45	L44	L50	B---	1.0
62	Penelope Barnett	L40	H---	U---	D60	L50	1.0
63	Jonathon Giuffrida	L20	W44	L37	L23	L46	1.0
64	Steven Robert Drass	L32	L19	B---	L43	L47	1.0
65	Drew McFayden	L21	L54	L46	W68	L48	1.0
66	Kevin J Butler	H---	L10	L24	U---	U---	0.5
67	Donald G Means	H---	L28	L52	L36	U---	0.5
68	John Eggleston	L34	L47	L58	L65	L59	0.0



LARRY KAUFMAN - ALEX BARNETT

FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Bd3 c5 6 c3 Nc6 7 Ne2
 cxd4 8 cxd4 f6 9 exf6 Nxf6 10 Nf3 Bd6 11 O-O Qc7 12 Bg5
 O-O 13 Rc1 h6 14 Bd2 Ng4 15 Ng3 g5 16 Nxc5 e5 17 Nh3 e4
 18 Be2 Qg7 19 Bxc4 Bxc4 20 Bxh6 Qg6 21 Qd2



21...Bxh3 22 Bxf8 Rxf8 23
gxh3 Bf4 24 Qc3 Bxc1 25 Rxc1
Qf6 26 Qe3 Nxd4 27 Kh1 Nf3
28 Qb3 Qf7 29 Rd1 Rc8 30 a3
Rc4 31 Qe3 Rc2 32 Qxa7 Ng5
33 Qe3 Nxh3 34 Nxe4 Qf5 35
Qg3+ Kf8 36 Qd6+ Ke8 37
Qb8+ Ke7 38 Qxb7+ Kf8 39
Qb8+ Kg7 40 Qg3+ Kf8 41
Qd6+ Kg7 42 Qg3+ Kf8 43
Qd6+ Kg7 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Feb 7-8, 2004

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Springfield, Va 22150

5-SS, rds 1-3 G/120, rds 4-5 30/90, SD/1. **\$2100** (top 3 G, rest b/70): \$550-325-225, top X, A, B, C, D, U1200 each \$150, Unr \$100. EF\$ \$45 if rec'd by 1/31/2004, \$55 at site. Reg 8:45-9:45, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½pt bye allowed, must be declared before rd 1 starts. VCF membership required (OSA) \$10 Adults, \$5 U19. Hotel \$65 reserve before Feb 1!! 877-800-6696 (local 703-644-5555) ask for chess rate. More info web <http://vachess.org/gwo2004.htm> or email matkins2@cox.net but no phone or internet entries. NS, NC, W, FIDE Enter: **Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306** Make checks payable to "Virginia Chess."



EMPORIA OPEN

The 19th annual running of the Emporia Open produced a 1st place tie between Macon Shibut and Andrew Johnson. They each scored 4½-½. Sanda Costescu was clear 3rd with 4-1. Other prizewinners included David Long (top A); Herbert Edwards; (B); Mark Bland, Ted Rust & Chris Hanes (=C); Milton Kicklighter, Ryan Rust & Frank Papcin (=D); Mike Krain (E); Ettie Nikolova; (top Scholastic); and Jack Barrow (2nd Scholastic).

The winners drew their individual game in the 4th round:

ANDREW JOHNSON - MACON SHIBUT

OLD INDIAN

Notes by Macon Shibut

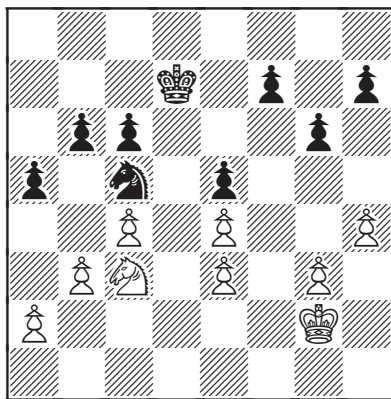
1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d6 3 g3 Nbd7 4 Bg2 e5 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 0-0 c6 7 c4 Be7 8 Nc3 0-0 9 Qc2 Re8 10 e4 Qc7 11 h3 a5 12 Be3 Bc5 13 Na4!? (An interesting attempt to enliven the play; the double pawns will cover squares and not constitute much of a weakness for the time being, whereas White will get the f-file.) **13...Bxe3 14 fxe3 b6** (Forestalling c5, when White's queen could complement the pressure against f7 along the a2-g8 diagonal.) **15 Nh4 g6** (This had to be considered carefully as it further softens the f-line. But I calculated that I could resist the pressure, after which White's

pawn weaknesses and the poor Bg2 might tell in my favor.) **16 Rf2** (Other moves that I considered included 16 Qf2, which I would have answered 16...Re7 or ...Rf8 covering f7 so the f6 knight can move; and 16 Qb3 [threatening Nxb6!] Nh5 ready to answer 17 c5 Nxc5 and Black's queen defends f7) **16...Nh5** (Part of the basic defensive plan: the knight hits on g3 and eyes the longer term maneuver N-g7-e6-c5) **17 Kh2 Re7** (17...Rf8 also came into consideration to keep the tactical resource ...Qd8!? threatening both ...Qg5 and ...Nxc3! However, I did not see any realistic



continuations where that would come to pass, so I chose the move that kept the rook on a more active spot.) **18 Raf1 Ba6 19 b3 Ng7 20 Rd1 Ne6 21 Qd2 Ndc5 22 Nxc5 Nxc5 23 Qd6 Qxd6 24 Rxd6 Re6 25 Rfd2 Rxd6 26 Rxd6 Bb7** (White's initiative is finished. Now Black will bring his king over to drive out the rook and hope the doubled pawns are enough to make something of the endgame.) **27 Nf3 Re8** (Of course Black wants no part of anything like 27...Nxe4? 28 Rd7 Bc8 29 Re7 f6 30 Nxe5 Nxg3 31 Nxc6 which dissolves White's structural weakness and activates his pieces.) **28 Ng1** (There still was not much danger of ...Nxe4 but sooner or later White would have to defend his pawn.) **28...Kf8 29 Ne2 Ke7 30 Rd2 Rd8** (If I had it to do again I would try to make progress somehow with the rooks still on the board, but basically my advantage isn't much to speak of.) **31 Rxd8 Kxd8 32 Nc3 Kc7** (32...g5!?) **33 h4 Ba6** (Since White obviously played his last move with the purpose of activating

his bishop to h3, I tried to concoct a scenario where that would be a mistake. If now **34 Bh3** there would have followed **34...b5! 35 cxb5** [it's too late for **35 Bf1 b4** and ...Nxe4] **35...Bxb5! ΔBd3** with discernible advantage. For example, **36 Nxb5+ cxb5 37 Bg2 Nd3 ΔNc1** etc) **34 Bf1** (No such luck!) **34...Bc8 35 Bh3 Bd7 36 Bxd7 Kxd7 37 Kg2**



(Black has a structural advantage on the kingside and also a certain superiority on the queenside thanks to the more active knight. It's impossible to make further progress, however, since the king has no entry route. Any attempt to create one will involve either liquidating White's doubled pawns or removing



the knight from its optimal c5 post.) **37...Kd6 38 Kf3 Ke7** (I tack around to reserve ...Nd7 Δ Kc5 until a moment when e4 is not defended by White's king.) **39 Ke2 Ke6 40 Kf3 Kd6 41 Ke2 Nd7** (not much else to try) **42 Na4 b5** (I considered 42...Nc5. The pawn ending would be good for Black in case of 43 Nxc5? Kxc5 44 Kd3 Kb4 45 Kc2 Ka3 46 Kb1 a4 but of course he would not trade and just move his knight back, 43 Nc3. "Why not at least try it?", "you might ask. True, Black can always return his knight to d7 again and continue as in the game. But we were already in the 'sudden death' phase and I decided not to waste moves — and seconds — on

what I had no doubt would be a futile repetition.) **43 cxb5 cxb5 44 Nc3 b4** (if 44...Kc5 45 Nd5 White has adequate counterplay) **45 Na4** (This was last realistic opportunity for White to go wrong: now 45 Nd5? would be a mistake in view of 45...f5 winning a pawn since 46 Kf3? fxe4+ 47 Kxe4 Nc5+ loses.) **45...Nc5** (out of serious ideas) **46 Nxc5 Kxc5 47 g4 h5 48 gxh5 gxh5 49 Kd2 f6** (Even tricky stuff like 49...f5 50 exf5 e4 leads nowhere: 51 Ke2 Kd5 52 Kf2 Ke5 53 Kg3 Kxf5 54 Kh3) **50 Kd3 Kb5 51 Ke2 Kc6 52 Kf2** (A particularly conclusive move; Black has no way through on the queenside so White isn't going to bother going there himself, not even



The Greenville Ruritan Club, home of the Emporia Open



pursuing his own infiltration via c4. If instead 52 Kd3 the game could at least continue, 52...Kd6!? [52...Kc5=] 53 Kc4 Ke6 54 Kb5 f5 55 exf5+ Kxf5 56 Kxa5 Ke4 57 Kxb4 Kxe3 58 a4 Kd3 59 a5 e4 60 a6 e3 61 a7 e2 62 a8Q e1Q+ 63 Kc5 and ...Qxh4, although this too is just equal, of course.)
52...Kd6 53 Ke2 Kc6 54 Kf2 Kd6 ½-½

Woody Harris again organized and directed this thoroughly enjoyable fixture on the VCF calendar. The barbecue was a particular highlight this year. If you have never experience the Emporia Open's unique mix of competition, hospitality and home-cooked food in a bucolic setting, next year's 20th edition would be a good time to start!

DAVID LONG - SANDA COSTESCU
PIRC

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 f4 Bg7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 Bd3 Nc6 7 0-0 Bg4 8 Be3 e5 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 h3 Bxf3 11 Qxf3 exf4 12 Bxf4 Nh5 13 Be3 Ne5 14 Qe2 Ng3 15 Qf2 Nxf1 16 Bxf1 b6 17 Rd1

Qf6 18 Qg3 c6 19 Be2 Rad8 20 Re1 Qe6 21 a4 Nc4 22 Bg5 f6 23 Bg4 Qe5 24 Bf4 Qd4+ 25 Kh1 Nxb2 26 Ne2 Qxa4 27 Be6+ Kh8 28 Qc3 Rd1 29 Bb3 Rxe1+ 30 Qxe1 Qxe4 31 Qf2 Re8 0-1

FRANK PAPCIN - JOHN SMITHWICK
KING'S INDIAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 e3 0-0 5 Bd3 d6 6 0-0 Nc6 7 a3 a6 8 Rb1 e5 9 d5 Ne7 10 e4 Nd7 11 b4 f5 12 Bc4 b5 13 Bb3 Nb6 14 Nd2 fxe4 15 Ndxe4 h6 16 h3 Kh7 17 Be3 Bb7 18 Bxb6 cxb6 19 Qd3 Rc8 20 Rbc1 Nf5 21 Ne2 Rc7 22 c4 bxc4 23 Rxc4 Rcf7 24 Rc2 b5 25 Kh2 Qb6 26 g4 Nh4 27 Ng1 Nf3+ 28 Kg2 Nd4 29 Rb2 Qd8 30 Ba2 Rf4 31 f3 R8f7 32 Rbf2 Bf8 33 Ng3 Bg7 34 Nh5 Qh4 35 Nxf4 exf4 36 Kh1 Be5 37 Rg2 Rg7 38 Kh2 Bc8 39 Ne2 Nxe2 40 Qxe2 Bd4 41 Qe4 Be3 42 Qe8 Bd7 43 Qb8 h5 44 Qxd6 hxg4 45 fxe4 Re7 46 Bb1 Be8 47 Qxa6 Bd4 48 Qc8 f3 49 Rxf3 Be5+ 50 Kh1 Qe1+ 51 Rg1 Qe2 52 Rfg3 Bxg3 53 Rxg3 Qf1+ 54 Kh2 Re2+ 0-1



JOHN SMITHWICK - JACK BURROW
STONEWALL

1 d4 d5 2 e3 Nf6 3 Bd3 Bg4
4 f3 Bh5 5 Ne2 e6 6 a3 c5
7 c3 Nc6 8 f4 c4 9 Bc2 b5
10 0-0 Bd6 11 Nd2 a5 12 e4
Bc7 13 e5 Nd7 14 Nf3 Bg6
15 Ng3 0-0 16 f5 exf5 17 Nxf5
f6 18 e6 Nb6 19 N3h4 Qb8
20 g3 Re8? (20...Bxf5 21 Nxf5
Kh8 22 Qg4 Rg8) 21 Qg4 Ne7
22 Nxe7+ Rxe7 23 Nxxg6 hxg6
24 Bxxg6 Bd6 25 Qh3 Rb7
26 Qh7+ Kf8 27 Rxxf6+ Ke7
28 Rf7+ Kd8 29 Qg8+ 1-0



Return To Emporia!

An Addendum by David Long

Emporia is one of the great fun events in Virginia chess and well worth the trip from the DC area. Woody Harris's efforts successfully combine a well-run tournament, cool location and playing site, hospitality, and good food included in the entry fee. My results for the event were so-so at best because of another suicidal loss to Andrew Johnson (who had a strong tournament including

a draw with the Editor, the only points he gave up) and a worse last-round disaster against Sanda Costescu (unfortunately presented above).

I mentioned the local hospitality of the event, but that gets put aside once the competition begins, as my first-round escape shows:

Hollingsworth - Long
Old Indian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 Nbd7
4 Nf3 c6 5 e4 e5 6 d5 Be7 7
Be2 0-0 8 00 Nc5 9 Bd3 a5
(There's no need yet to secure the knight's position, as it can capture on d3. Better would be ...Nxd3 followed by Nd7, preparing Nc5 with tempo and f5 with or without g6, as suggested by the Editor.)
10 Be3 Nxd3 11 Qxd3 Ng4
(Changing plans, with the idea of securing the bishop pair and playing f5, but this is really a mistake in connection with what follows.) 12 h3 Nxe3 13 Qxe3
f5 14 Rad1 f4 15 Qe2 c5? (In the words of the philosopher, "Doh!" A positional blunder; after too much time spent considering whether to leave



the pawn structure alone and start transferring the remaining pieces to the kingside for an attack, I decided to close the queenside first. But this formation only helps his knights and gives him targets and weak squares in my position.) **16 Rd3 Kh8 17 Nd2** (White can seek active play by Nb5 and/or Rb3. In that case it would have been much harder for Black to set up attack formations like f4-g5-h5-Bh6-Qg6. I was looking at trying to place the major pieces on the h-file before breaking with h5-g5-g4, a less convincing layout.) **17...Bd7 18 a4 Qe8**



Dave Long

19 b3 (White's last two pawn moves foreclose the plan in the last note.) **19...g5 20 f3 Qh5 21 Rf2 Rf6 22 Nf1 Kg7 23 g4 fxg3 24 Nxg3 Qg6** (And now White can play his Knights to e3 and f5, still with a fine game and ending with an unchallenged knight on f5 versus Black's dark square bishop.) **25 Rh2 Rf4 26 Qf2 Kh8** (Abandoning the earlier ideas on the h-file; the king seems exposed on g7) **27 Nce2?** (It was still not too late for Nd1-e3!-f5. With the ensuing sequence, however, White goes completely onto the defensive and allows Black to get all his pieces into the game undisturbed.) **27...Rh4 28 Qg2 Rf8 29 Kf2 Qh6 30 Ng1 g4 31 Nf5 Bxf5 32 exf5 Rxf5 33 Re3 Bg5 34 Re4 g3+** (34...gf3 is also decisive) **35 Kxg3 Rxe4 36 fxe4 Qh4# 0-1** Too many "instructive" errors on my part...

Long - Hanes Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bg5 (I wanted to experiment with an open Sicilian for a change.)



6...e6 7 Qd2 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Kb1 (9 f4 Nxd4 10 Qxd4 Qa5 11 Kb1 Rd8 12 Be2 is a main line from *NCO* (p 212, col 3)) **9...a6 10 f4 Qc7 11 Be2 b5?** (Black needs to exchange the Nd4 first.) **12 Nxc6 Qxc6 13 e5** (winning material) **13...b4** (13...Nd5 14.Bxe7 [14 Nxd5 Bxg5 15 fxc5 exd5 16 Bf3 Be6±] 14...Nxe7 [14...Nxc3+ 15.Qxc3] 15.exd6+; or 13...dxe5 14.Bxf6 and Bf3 wins) **14 Bf3 d5 15 Nxd5! exd5 16 exf6 Bxf6 17 Bxd5 Qa4 18 Bxf6 gxf6 19 Bxa8 Bf5 20 b3 Qb5 21 Bf3 Rc8 22 Rc1 Qb6 23 g4 Be6 24 f5 Rd8 25 Qe2 Bd7 1-0**

Buaiz – Long London

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bf4 g6 4 h3 Bg7 5 e3 0-0 6 Be2 c5 7 0-0 Qb6 8 Qc1 Nc6 9 c3 Bf5 10 dxc5 Qxc5 11 Nbd2 Rac8 12 Nh4 Be6 13 e4 Qa5 14 Bd3 b5 15 Nb3 Qb6 16 Be3 Qb7 17 Nf3 Nb4 18 Bb1 Nxe4 19 Bxe4 (White could consider lines starting with Na5, Bh6, or Qd1. Now Black's edge increases.) **19...Qxe4** (winning a pawn) **20 Ng5 Qb7 21 Nxe6 fxe6 22 Nd4** (Moving the queen off the c-file would have been better. Now Black uses the queen's position to liquidate into a favorable position



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- Over 30 Years of Chess Teaching Experience
- Three-time Virginia State Champion

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a pawn up with only major pieces remaining.) **22...Bxd4 23 Bxd4 e5 24 Be3 Nd3 25 Qd2 Nf4 26 Bxf4 Rxf4 27 Rad1** (Perhaps planning to exchange queens.) **27...Kg7 28 g3** (Weakening the king position and the f-file/f3 square.) **28...Rf3 29 Qg5?** (The queen ends up out of play after White's maneuvers following this move.) **29...Rcf8 30 h4 R8f5 31 Qg4 h5 32 Qh3 -+ Qb6 33 Qg2 Qc5** (Still okay, but a better plan is to play quickly for e4-e3. In mutual time trouble I postponed it in order to tie up his queenside and sit on the position [by moves such as Qc5 with a5-a4, for example] until the time

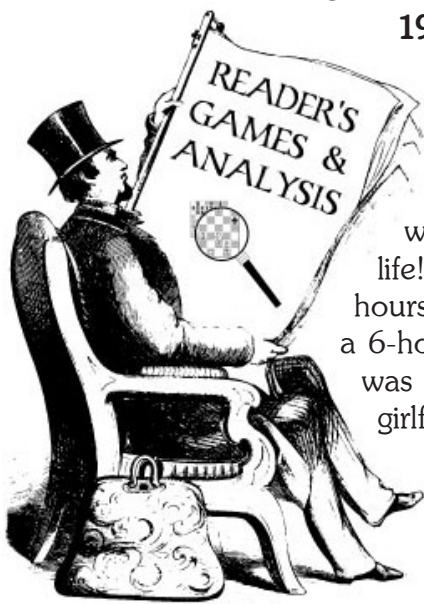
control. I thought this would take away any chances of queenside play for White in the event that somehow he survived what was coming on the kingside.) **34 Rde1 a5 35 a3 a4 36 Re4 Qd5 37 Rb4 e4 38 g4 hxg4 39 Qxg4 R3f4 40 Qg3 Rf3 41 Qg2 Qe5** (Better was ...e3, which should also follow after 41 Qg4) **42 Rd4 R5f4** (Back on track, preparing to triple on the f-file and also threaten ...Rg4. The h-pawn is another target.) **43 Re1 d5 44 Rb4 Qf5 45 Re3 Rxe3 46 fxe3 Rg4 0-1** Lights out. In a quick post mortem, my opponent told me that I played well "for a beginner."

COURTNEY FOOTMAN - TIMOTHY ROGALSKI

1996 US OPEN, ARLINGTON, VA

BENKO GAMBIT

Notes by Timothy Rogalski



The 1996 US Open was one of the few held in Virginia. It was the longest two weeks of my life! Each day, after more than eight hours at work, I would rush off to play a 6-hour round. Then, after the round was over, I'd rush off to my new girlfriend's cozy apartment.

This game found its way into ChessBase but with my opponent's name incorrectly given as "Freeman".



**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5
4 cxb5 a6 5 Nc3 axb5 6 e4 b4
7 Nb5 d6 8 Bc4**

This aggressive move introduces the so-called Nescafe Frappe Attack (NFA) of the Benko Gambit. A booklet by FM Graham Burgess (1990) is dedicated to the NFA but I had never seen the line before meeting it over the board in this game.

8...g6

Taking the e-pawn with 8...Nxe4 yields White excellent compensation for the pawn after 9 Qe2 f5 □ (9...Nf6? 10 Bf4 Ra6 11 Nxd6+ Rxd6 12 Bb5+ Rd7 13 Bxb8 Nxd5 14 0-0-0 Haik-Fraguela, Lanzarote 1976) 10 f3 Nf6 11 Bf4 Ra6 12 Nh3 g6 13 0-0 Bg7 14 Rfe1 h6 15 Rad1. For example, Zhuravlev-Grushko, Kaliningrad 1976 continued 15...Kf7 16 Bc1 Re8 17 Nf4 Rb6 18 Na7 Rb7 19 Nxc8 Qxc8 20 Ne6 Ra7 21 g4!? fxg4 22 fxg4 g5 23 Rf1 Kg8 24 Qc2 Rf8 25 Qg6 Rf7 26 Rxf6! +- exf6 27 Bd3 f5 28 Bxf5 Rxf5 29 gxf5 Qa6 30 Rf1.

8...g5? (hoping for 9 Bxg5 Nxe4) is best met by 9 e5! But if White's bishop is already on f4, ...g7-g5 can be an important defensive resource against the NFA.

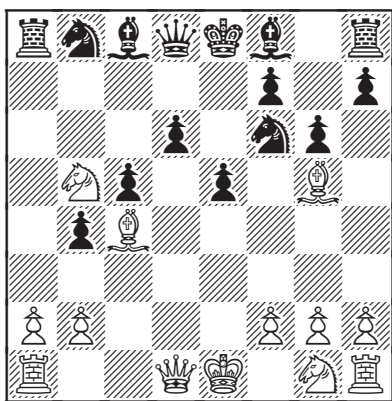
8...Nbd7 is the safest way to avoid all the complications of the line.

**9 e5!? dxe5 10 d6!? exd6
11 Bg5**

I went into shock after White fired off his moves but soon regained my balance. I reasoned that I hadn't made any mistake, and I remembered how Capablanca composed himself when Marshall debuted the Marshall gambit of the Ruy Lopez against him. [From *My Chess Career*: "And now I was sure I had fallen into a prepared variation. ... I thought for a little while before playing ... knowing I would be subjected thereafter to a terrific attack, all the lines of which would be of necessity familiar to my adversary. The lust of battle, however, had been aroused within me. I felt that my judgment and skill were being challenged by a player



who had reason to fear both, (as shown by the records of our previous encounters); but who wanted to take advantage of the element of surprise and of the fact of my being unfamiliar with a thing to which he had devoted many a night of toil and hard work. I considered the position then and decided I was honour bound, so to speak, to take the pawn and accept the challenge as my knowledge and judgment told me that my position should then be defensible.”]



White has sacrificed both center pawns to open lines and generate many potent threats. It is difficult to navigate all the dangerous pitfalls in the ensuing tactical complications, and I am glad that at the time I didn't know this remarkable

statistic: White's rating performance in the NFA is 250 Elo points higher than the average rating of the players of the White pieces—roughly equivalent to scoring 25% more than would normally be expected.

11...Bb7

11...Ra5 is the most common move but there too White has his attack, eg 12 Nf3 Nc6 13 Nd2 Bf5 14 Nb3! Rxb5? 15 Bxb5 +- Kd7 (15...Bd7 16 Qf3) 16 Nxc5+ Kc7 17 Na6+ with a mating attack.

12 Bd5

[It seems to me that this is no time for White to suddenly concern himself with materialist trifles like ...Bxg2xh1. 12 Qb3 looks more in the spirit of things (12 Bxf6 Qxf6 13 Nc7+ has also been played), eg 12...Bg7 13 0-0-0 0-0 (or 13...Ra6 14 Bxf7+ Kf8 15 Nf3 Fang-Veach, 1989 1-0, 47) 14 Nxd6 Bxg2 15 Nxf7 Qa5 16 Ne2 Bxh1 17 Nxe5+ Kh8 18 Nf4 Hergert-Leisebein, corr 1992 (½-½, 47) —ed]

12...Nxd5!!



My heart was pounding when making this move. *[It seems like a good practical decision, however. Black fights for the initiative, not just survival. In the event of 12...Bxd5—who knows? Maybe it would have ended in a draw after 13 Bxf6 Qxf6 14 Qxd5 Ra4 15 Nc7+ Kd8 16 Qb7 Nd7 17 Nd5 Qh4 18 Qc7+ Ke8 19 Qc8+ Qd8 20 Nc7+ Ke7 21 Nd5+ Ke8 22 Nc7+... —ed]*

13 Bxd8 ± Kxd8

For the queen Black gets two bishops, two pawns, a passed d-pawn, and a lot of long-term potential if he can mobilize his central pawn mass.

14 a4 Nd7 15 Ne2?!

This is going in the wrong direction; the knight stands poorly in relation to the e5-pawn. Ng1-f3-d2-c4 was a better plan to maintain pressure on the d6-pawn. However, from e2 the knight does at least prevent ...Nd5-f4-e6 which is better than ...Nd5-f6.

15...Be7 16 0-0 Ra6

This was played with the idea of protecting the d6-pawn, so the d5-knight can move, so the d-pawn can advance creating rolling phalanxes.

17 Qb3 Rf8

Not creating any weaknesses; 17...f5 might eventually allow the queen onto e6; I liked this move when I played it.

18 Nbc3? N5f6?

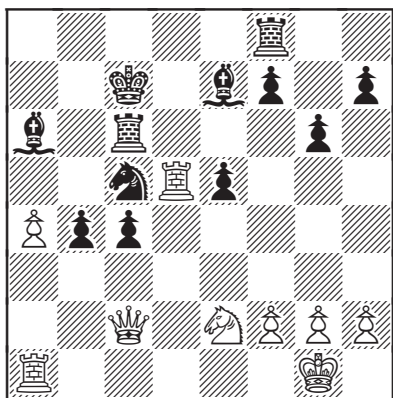
Too dogmatic in following my plan and inflexible in my thinking, I missed a simple tactical shot: 18...c4! 19 Qxc4 bxc3 would have won a piece.

19 Nd1 d5 = 20 Qc2 c4 21 b3 Rc6

21...c3 was also possible, when 22 f4? would be bad for White after 22...Bc5+

22 bxc4 dxc4 23 Ne3 Ba6 24 Rfd1 Kc7 25 Nd5+ Nxd5 26 Rxd5 Nc5?!

A knight on d3 will paralyze White and prevent him from connecting rooks with Rad1. This was another move that I really liked at the time—but there was a refutation!



27 f4?

Only after this is Black ensured of strong play. On the other hand, White might have turned the tables by sacrificing the exchange to blow open the position and expose my bare king: 27 Qb2! Nd3 28 Rxd3! cxd3 29 Qxe5+ Kd7 30 Qd4+ Bd6 31 Qa7+ Bc7 32 Nd4 Rd6 33 Nb3 Notice how well the queen and knight coordinate together on the open board.

27...Nd3 28 fxe5 Bc5+ 29 Kf1 f6! 30 e6 Rd8 31 e7??

This was published as the last position in Andy Soltis' Chess to Enjoy column, *Chess Life*

April 1997. (31 Rxd8 was correct.)

31...Rxd5!! 32 e8Q

See the diagram on the front cover of this newsletter — such a position is too rare to occur even once in a lifetime! For the moment White has two queens vs Black's none, yet he is losing. Players on either side of my board became more absorbed in watching this game instead of playing their own.

32...Rf5+ 33 Nf4 Rxf4+ 34 Ke2 c3! 35 Qf7+ Kb8 36 Qe8+ Rc8 37 Qe6 Nc1+

There was even a second way: 37...Rf2+ 38 Kd1 Rf1+ 39 Ke2 Nf4#

38 Ke1

Or 38 Kd1 Rf1+ 39 Qe1 Rd8+ 40 Qd3 Rxd3+ 41 Kc2 b3+ 42 Kb1 Rxe1—quite a turnaround from the previous diagram.

38...Rf1# 0-1

At the time I thought this game was a candidate for a brilliancy prize. But there was no such prize offered, just enormous



satisfaction. Afterwards my opponent told me that this was the first time he ever lost with his pet line. The game was lavishly annotated by David Sands in his *Washington Times* chess column.

SATHYA VIJAYAKUMAR - NICK HALGREN

CARO-KANN

NOTES BY NICK HALGREN

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 N1e2 Nd7 7 Nf4 Ngf6 8 Nxg6 hxg6 (I think the plan to win the bishop pair is inconsistent because the pawn on g6 deadens the White knight on g3.) **9 Bd3 e5** (A good novelty that made my opponent think for a while.) **10 Qe2 Qe7 11 0-0 exd4** (I gladly took the pawn since I'm almost ahead in development.) **12 Qxe7+ Bxe7 13 Re1 Nd5?** (Here 13...Nc5! was so much better. It vacates a square on d7 for my king to step out of the pressure on the e-file, attacks the d3-bishop, and maintains control of the e4 square. ...Nd5 has none of these benefits and allows 14 Re4, doubling rooks with tempo on my extra pawn.) **14 Re4 c5 15 Bg5 f6 16 Rae1 fxg5 17 c4 dxc3 18 bxc3 Kd8 19 Bc4 Bd6?** (Here I think 19...N7f6 would have refuted the whole combination, winning the exchange.) **20 Bxd5 Nf6 21 Re6 Bxg3 22 fxg3 Nxd5 23 Rd6+ Kc7 24 Rxd5 Kc6** (Now I decide to relinquish material considerations and attack the c-pawn, hoping to force white to sacrifice his rook for my advanced passer.) **25 Rxc3 Rhe8 26 Rxc6+ Kb5 27 Rxe8 Rxe8 28 Rxc7 Kc4 29 Rxb7 Kxc3 30 Kf2 c4 31 Rc7 Kd3 32 Rxa7? Rc8** (White's 32 Rxa7 is inconsistent with his preceding move, as well as just greedy. All the White pawns will take the same 5 moves to promote, so why waste two tempi grabbing another Black one?) **33 Ra3+ (? 33 Rd7+ -ed) Kd2** (33...c3 was better) **34 g4 c3 35 Rxc3 Kxc3 36 g5 Kd4 37 Kf3 Ke5 38 h4 Kf5 39 g4+ Kg6 40 Ke3 Ra8** (Also ...Rh8 wins faster) **41 Kf4 Ra4+ 42 Kg3 Rxa2 43 Kf3 Ra8 44 Kf4 Rf8+ 45 Ke4? Rf1** (I was in some time trouble, and instinct told me to attack the pawn from behind.) **46 Ke3 Rh1 47 h5+ Kxg5 48 Kf3 Rh4 1-0**

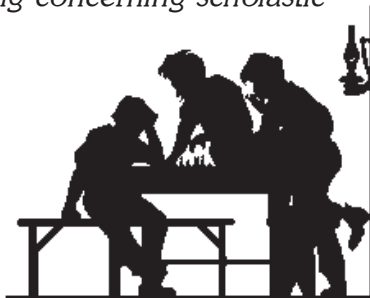


*Editor's Note: It is no secret that Virginia is a hotbed of scholastic chess activity. In the past, Virginia Chess Newsletter has covered these events on a sort of catch-as-catch-can basis. Beginning this issue, a more comprehensive approach becomes possible; I am very pleased to welcome **Emily Rhodes** as our new Scholastic Editor. Emily's Scholar's Mate column will appear each issue, touching on everything and anything concerning scholastic*

SCHOLAR'S MATE

by Emily Rhodes

One of the largest increases in the chess-playing population can be found among school-aged children. The VCF has recognized this rapidly growing group with its own regular column, the Scholar's Mate. This is our premier edition. I am pleased to have been chosen as the scholastic chess news editor and will try to keep you informed about what's going on in the world of scholastic chess.



I am involved in scholastic chess in several ways. I play chess at Pocahontas Middle School in Henrico County and am an assistant chess coach at Springfield Park Elementary. My brother, Eric Rhodes, is a very competitive chess player in the 5th grade at Springfield Park. My mother is the secretary of the Virginia Scholastic Chess Association and my father teaches beginning chess in many area schools. As you can see, we are very involved as a family in scholastic chess.

My goals are to inform you of upcoming scholastic tournaments, results of previous tournaments, and other interesting facts related specifically to the school scene. If you have any comments, suggestions, or news for me to feature, contact me at (804) 747-7773 or by e-mail at kimberlyrhodes@comcast.net.



Upcoming tournaments include:

Nov. 15 th	Swift Creek K-8
Nov. 15 th	Chancellor Fall Scholastic
Nov. 22 nd	2003 Star City Challenge in Roanoke
Dec. 6 th	Lakeside K-5 IV
Dec. 6 th	Staunton Scholastic
Dec. 13 th	Hopewell XX
Jan. 10 th	Virginia Grade Championship in Fredericksburg
Jan. 17 th	1 st Annual James River Scholastic
Jan. 24 th	2004 Winter Extravaganza in Roanoke

Results of scholastic tournaments in October (1st place individuals & teams):

Prince George Scholastic VII –Oct. 11, 2003

	Individual	Team
K-3	Daniel Jackson	Collegiate
K-5	Krishna Bindumadhavan	Springfield Park
K-8	Carson Wang	Manchester
K-12	Nick Halgren	MLW Governor's School, Richmond

Luray Scholastic VII – Oct. 18, 2003

	Individual	Team
K-3	Dylan Cooper	
K-5	Eric A. Rhodes	Luray (combined K-3/K-5)
K-8	Johnny Trischler	St. Louis
K-12	Alexander Miller	Chancellor

Coming up in the next edition:

How to know when your child is
ready to play in an adult tournament!



CHess IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

by Ruth E Chodrow and Ed Jankiewicz

THERE'S BEEN AN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH of chess interest in the Shenandoah Valley, especially around Staunton and Augusta County. Scholastic chess clubs are sprouting up like mushrooms, a Staunton community chess club fields 4-5 tables weekly, and both students and adults are competing in tournaments, many for the first time. What happened? Let me tell you a story...

A few years ago, a chess enthusiast decided to retire to the Augusta County area. He found only a few scattered scholastic clubs and nothing for adults. In the 1970s Staunton had boasted an active club and even hosted an open tournament, but interest had since waned. There was a small club in Harrisonburg, another in Charlottesville, but nothing in between. Only one child in the Shenandoah Valley had ever been to a scholastic tournament. Chess players in the Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta County area had to find each other by lucky accidents.

The retiree met the mother of a young chessplayer, and suggested a chess club for the boy's school. The principal was initially skeptical that elementary-age children would be interested, but soon changed his mind. So many students flocked to the club that they had to move from a classroom to the cafeteria and had to buy more chess sets. As other schools heard of the success of that club, they wanted to set up their own. The movement was on. Today, the retiree coaches five thriving elementary school chess clubs — one every afternoon of the week — and has had to turn down requests to coach others. The Augusta County Library started its own chess program, as did the summer day camp run by the Staunton Parks and Recreation Department. The enthusiasm continues to run high. Consider:

♔ At Stewart Gordon Middle School in Fort Defiance, a group of 20 students signed a petition to the principal asking to set up a chess club.

♔ Wilson Elementary in Fishersville has a waiting list to get into the chess club.

♔ At Shelburne Middle School in Staunton, after-school clubs weren't supposed to start until the third week of school, when the activity bus would be running. The students couldn't wait to start playing chess, so they told the teacher that they would make their own transportation arrangements if he started club the first week of school.



♔ An initial meeting of a proposed chess club at Wilson High School in Fishersville attracted 70 students.

♔ The chess club at Luray Elementary School attracts 30-40 students each week, as it has for the past 12 years.

Meanwhile the mother and son previously mentioned had discovered the world of scholastic chess. Nobody in Staunton had even known that scholastic chess tournaments existed. In February of 2001, the very first chess team ever from a Staunton public school entered a tournament—and came home with a trophy! True, there were trophies for the top three teams and only two teams competed in that division. But a second-place trophy is a trophy nonetheless. The middle-school team has continued to compete (now with six trophies in the display case), and several area elementary school teams have taken home trophies as well.

Then a USCF-rated scholastic tournament was scheduled for Staunton in 2002. There had never been a scholastic chess tournament there before. The organizers were told that 30-40 competitors would be a good turnout for an inaugural event. Everyone—including the directors in the regional scholastic chess league—were surprised when 72 students came to compete in Staunton. Now the Staunton Scholastic, held on the first Saturday in December, has become an annual event.

Meanwhile, a Staunton community chess club that would appeal to all ages was trying to organize. It was discouraging at first. A suitable location was hard to find, and the club moved four times in three years. Only two or three players would show up on some weeks. However, the club finally found a friendly downtown coffeeshop with a chess-playing proprietor. Now there's active chess at Coffee on the Corner every Wednesday evening.





The Shenandoah Valley is home to some outstanding chess players. One of the best postal players in the country, National Master Rob Cale, resides in Staunton. The highest-rated woman player in Virginia, Ruth Donelly, is a member of the Charlottesville Chess Club. The small town of Luray produced Alexander Miller, the Virginia middle school champion in the 2001 state competition. Sean Clendening of Waynesboro has competed in a number of national scholastic tournaments, and posted an individual top ten finish at the International Junior Orange Bowl of Chess. In 2002, Philip Chodrow of Staunton was named to the USCF list of the 100 top 11-year old players in the country; in 2003 he was named to the top 100 12-year old list as well.

The Charlottesville Open attracted 86 competitors this year. Charlottesville's chess club has sponsored simultaneous exhibitions with three-time state champion Rusty Potter, in addition to its weekly meetings. Several Harrisonburg schools have set up clubs for the first time, and their community chess club meets weekly. Students from Luray compete in tournaments statewide, and a community club there meets regularly at a restaurant downtown.

Why has chess become so popular? In these days of video games and computers, the ancient game of chess still captures the imagination of student and adult alike. For one thing, anyone — no matter what their age, sex, height, or background—can become a good or even great chessplayer. And the possibilities of play—developing tactics, inventing strategies—are limitless. Children love the concept of “war on a board” and learn to problem-solve while they’re enjoying themselves. There’s something for everyone in chess!



Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor.

♙ Alexandria: Fairfax County Chess Club, Lee District Park, Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm in the Snack Bar, info Walter Scott, WScott123@aol.com ♜ Arlington: Arlington Chess Club, Lyon Village Community House, 1920 N Highland St (at Lee Hwy), Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info www.wizard.net/~matkins or John Campbell (703) 534-6232 - Arlington Seniors Chess Club, Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, info (703) 228-5285 ♚ Blacksburg: Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♚ 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 Battlefiled Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♖ Culpeper: Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). Adults meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:45pm, juniors Thursdays 6:30-8:45pm. Info John Clark 540-829-6606 ♖ Fort Eustis: contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♖ Danville: Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ♖ 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 ♖ Glenss: Rappahannock Community College - Glenss Campus Chess Club, Glenss Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♖ Harrisonburg: Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm, <http://cep.jmu.edu/huffmacj/svcc/svcchome.html> ♖ Mechanicsville: Stonewall Library, Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♖ Norfolk: Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm - ODU Chess Club, Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info 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 ♖ Richmond: The Kaissa Chess Club, Willow Lawn Shopping Center, in the food court, Thursdays 5-9pm. info Alfredo Franco 367-1154 - 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 Walter Chester 276-5662 - Jewish Ctr CC, 5403 Monument Ave. 4-6pm every other Sunday beginning 1/8/95. (804) 288-0045 - VCU CC, 907 Floyd Ave, Capital Ballroom C, Saturdays 3-7pm, info Michael Neal, grandmaster_2b@yahoo.com ♖ Roanoke: Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Grandin Ct Rec Ctr, Corner of Lofton & Barham Rd SW, Fridays 7:00-11:00pm, Info Brian Roark (540) 378-1316 or brian.roark@acterna.com ♖ Virginia Beach: Tidewater Community College CC, Princess Anne Rd, Bldg D (Kempsville) Cafeteria, Monday & Wednesday 6:45-10pm, Ernie Schlich eschlich@aol.com or 757-853-5296 ♖ Williamsburg: Williamsburg CC, The Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive. 2nd floor Game Room. Mondays 7-9pm. Don Woolfolk 757-229-8774 or Tom Landvogt 757-565-5792 ♖ Winchester: Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm ♖ Woodrbridge: Prince William Chess Club, Wednesdays 7-9pm either in the Community Room, Potomac Library, 2201 Opitz Road or C D Hylton High School, 14051 Spriggs Rd. Contact Dick Stableford, 703-670-5887 or o6usmc@erols.com

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