

# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2004 - #2



Grandmasters Ildar Ibragimov and Hikaru Nakamura

**MILLENNIUM  
CHESS  
FESTIVAL**

**VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

**APRIL 2 0 0 4**

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2004 - Issue #2

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# Millennium Chess Festival

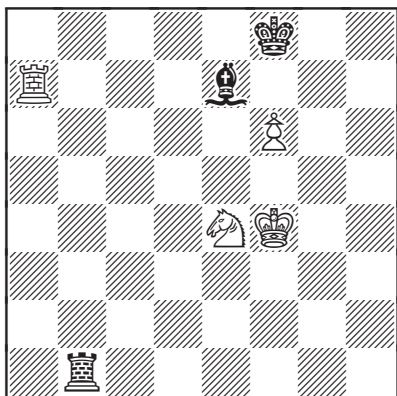
**G**RANDMASTERS Hikaru Nakamura and Ildar Ibragimov tied for top hon ors at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Millennium Chess Festival, April 2-4 in Virginia Beach. GMs Aleksander Wojtkiewicz & John Fedorowicz, IM John Donaldson, masters Aleksander Stannov & Boris Zisman all followed with 4-1. Wojtkiewicz could definitely claim to be 'first among equals' in this quintet inasmuch as he was the opponent in the lone drawn game by both of the co-winners! Reigning Virginia state champion Daniel Miller was part of a large group that came next with 3½ point scores.

So often the decisive 'money game' round in a big swiss system event is the penultimate one. That was the case at the Millennium. While the other perfect scores, Wojtkiewicz and Ibragimov, met a few feet away — and drew — Nakamura ground down one of the co-winners from last year's Festival.

## HIKARU NAKAMURA - JULIO BECERRA KING'S INDIAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6  
5 f3 O-O 6 Bg5 Nbd7 7 Nh3 a6 8  
Qd2 c6 9 d5 Ne5 10 Nf2 b5 11 cxb5  
cxd5 12 exd5 axb5 13 Bxb5 Ba6 14  
Bxa6 Rxa6 15 O-O Qa8 16 b3 Rb8  
17 Rac1 e6 18 dxe6 fxe6 19 Rfe1  
Nd5 20 Nxd5 Qxd5 21 Qxd5 exd5  
22 Re2 Rba8 23 Rd1 Rxa2 24 Rxa2  
Rxa2 25 Rxd5 Rb2 26 Ne4 Rxb3 27  
Rxd6 Nf7 28 Rd1 Nxd5 29 Nxd5 Bf6  
30 Ne4 Be7 31 Rd7 Kf7 32 Ra7 Ke6  
33 h3 h5 34 Ra6+ Kf7 35 Nd2 Rc3  
36 f4 h4 37 Nf3 Bf6 38 Ra7+ Kg8  
39 Ra4 Rc1+ 40 Kh2 Rd1 41 Ra5

Rb1 42 Ng5 Rf1 43 Ra4 Kg7 44 Nf3  
Rd1 45 Re4 Kf7 46 Rb4 Kf8 47 Rb5  
Rf1 48 Rb7 Kg8 49 Rd7 Ra1 50 g4  
hxd3+ 51 Kxd3 Ra5 52 Rc7 Rb5 53  
Rc4 Rd5 54 Ra4 Kg7 55 h4 Rb5 56  
Ra7+ Kg8 57 Nd2 Rb4 58 Rc7 Rd4  
59 Nf3 Rd5 60 Rc2 Kf7 61 Nd2 Rd4  
62 Nf3 Rd5 63 Re2 Kg7 64 Nd2  
Rh5 65 Rh2 Rd5 66 Ne4 Rd4 67  
Nc5 Kf7 68 Ra2 Rd1 (The specter  
of 'sudden death' arose. Somewhere  
around this point Black tried to claim  
'Insufficient Losing Chances'. The  
directors elected to introduce a Time  
Delay clock. White had 14 minutes  
— Black had 57 seconds.) 69 Ra7+  
Ke8 70 Ne4 Rg1+ 71 Kh3 Be7 72  
Ng3 Re1 73 Ra5 Kf7 74 Kg4 Re6  
75 Ra7 Ke8 76 h5 gxh5+ 77 Nxd5  
Kf8 78 f5 Re4+ 79 Kf3 Re5 (Even  
with the 5-second delay, the defense  
had cost Becerra too much time. He  
was now down to 4 seconds.) 80 Kf4  
Rb5 81 Ra6 Kf7 82 Ng3 Rb4+ 83  
Ne4 Rb1 84 Ra7 Kf8 85 f6!



Provoking the crisis! Black hesitated and... captured the pawn.

**85...Bxf6** Too late! He had lost on time! **1-0** Meanwhile, it appears to be a forced draw based on the idea 86 Nxf6 Rf1+! (86...Rb4+ allows the game to continue, 87 Ne4) 87 Kg5 (or 87 Ke5, similar) 87...Rf5+! The rook harasses the king, immune to capture due to stalemate. For instance, 88 Kg6 Rg5+ 89 Kh6 Rg6+ 90 Kh7 Rxf6 (or 90... Rg7+)

Among the class sections, Larry Larkin scored a come-from-behind triumph in the U2000. He finished 4½-½ after knocking off the only perfect 4-0, Robert Clifton, in the decisive finale round. Clifton thus had to settle for a tie, with Brian Salomon, Chris Bush & Bernard Gomez, for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. A last-round battle of 4-0's in the U1800 section saw Walter Key defeat Michael Bacon to win first prize. Bacon joined Marcelo Deyto, Joel Harrison, Andrew Briscoe, Philip Shing & Frank Berry in a massive tie for the runner-up spot. Micheal Spargo won the U1600 group by scoring 4½-½. A six-way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> included Jared Casazza (who nicked the only ½pt off the winner), Walter Overman, Steven Linett, Sorel Utsey, Jonathan Hundley & Jeffrey Hlywa. The U1300 section was won by Tan Dang with a 5-0 sweep. Andrew Carroll was second with 4½. Altogether, 279 players competed.

The top-rated player in the tournament, former world championship candidate GM Jaan Ehlevest, saw his chances hurt when he was held to a draw by expert James Burden. The chance to meet a player of Ehlevest's class is one of the great appeals of a tournament like the Millennium Festival. Burden certainly seized the opportunity with style, sacrificing his queen! Well, "sacrifice" might be a bit strong, a Black got sufficient material compensation. But it was in any case a spirited and fighting decision by the lower-rated player. Ehlevest obtained a danger passed pawn at b6. However, Black had an advanced passed pawn too, and after Ehlevest returned a piece more to eliminate it Black was able to force a draw by harassing the White queen.

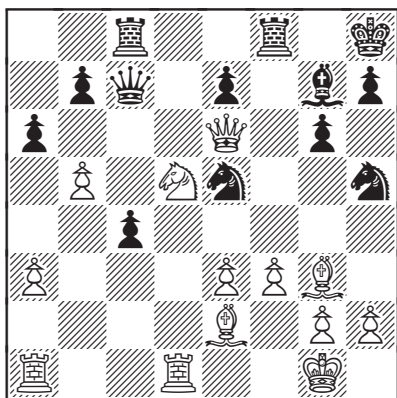




# JAAH EHLVEST - JAMES BURDEN

## KING'S INDIAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 c4 Bg7 4 Nc3  
O-O 5 Bg5 d6 6 e3 Nbd7 7 Qc2 c5 8  
Be2 a6 9 O-O Rb8 10 Rfd1 cxd4 11  
Nxd4 Qa5 12 Bh4 Ne5 13 a3 Bg4  
14 f3 Be6 15 Nxe6 fxe6 16 b4 Qc7  
17 Qb3 Rbc8 18 c5 dxc5 19 Qxe6+  
Kh8 20 b5 c4 21 Bg3 Nh5 22 Nd5



22...Nxg3 23 Nxc7 Nxe2+ 24 Kf1  
Nc3 25 b6 Nxd1 26 Rxd1 c3 27  
Qd5 Rf6 28 Qxb7 Rcf8 29 Ke2 Nc4  
30 Nd5 Rd6 31 Qc7 Nb2 32 Nxc3  
Nxd1 33 Nxd1 Rfd8 34 f4 Rd2+ 35  
Kf3 R2d7 36 Qc2 Rd2 37 Qb3 R2d3  
38 Qc2 Rd2 1/2-1/2

# TIMOTHY ROGALSKI-HIKARU NAKAMURA

## SICILIAN

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 Be7 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11  
c3 Ne7 12 Nxe7 Bxe7 13 Nc2 Bb7 14  
Bd3 O-O 15 Ne3 Bg5 16 Nd5 Bxd5  
17 exd5 e4 18 Bc2 e3 19 O-O exf2+  
20 Rxf2 Be3 21 Bxh7+ Kh8 22 Qh5  
Bxf2+ 23 Kxf2 Qf6+ 24 Bf5+ Qh6  
25 Qxh6+ gxh6 26 Ke3 Rfe8+ 27  
Kd3 Re5 28 Be4 Rae8 29 Bf3 Re1  
30 Rxe1 Rxe1 31 Kc2 Kg7 32 Kb3  
Kf6 33 a4 bxa4+ 34 Kxa4 Ra1+ 35





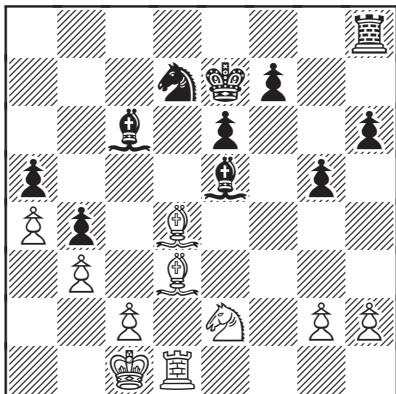
**Kb4 Ke5 36 b3 f5 37 Kc4 a5 38 Kb5 Ra3 39 Kc4 Kf4 40 Bh5 Ra2 41 Bf3 Rb2 0-1** White gets into zugzwang. b4 will always be answered ...a4 and the a-pawn decides. Otherwise White can only move his h-pawn, but soon those moves run out and something else will have to give way.

GM John Fedorowicz contributes annotations to his first round defeat of No. Virginia expert Matt Grinberg.

### MATT GRINBERG—JOHN FEDOROWICZ SICILIAN

*Notes by John Fedorowicz*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd2 a6 8 O-O-O Bd7 9 f4 b5 10 e5?** (10 Bxf6 Qxf6 [or 10...gxf6 11 Nxc6 Bxc6 12 Bd3 Qb6 13 Qe1 {Δ Nd5} 13...Be7] 11 e5 dxe5 12 Ndx6 Qd8 13 Nd6+ Bxd6 14 Qxd6+) **10...dxe5 11 Nxc6 Bxc6 12 Qxd8+ Rxd8 13 Rxd8+ Kxd8 14 fxe5 h6 15 Be3** (if 15 Bxf6+ gxf6 16 exf6 Bc5!) **15...Nd7 16 Bd4 g5 17 Bd3 Bg7 18 a4 b4 19 Ne2 a5 20 b3 Ke7 21 Rd1 Bxe5**



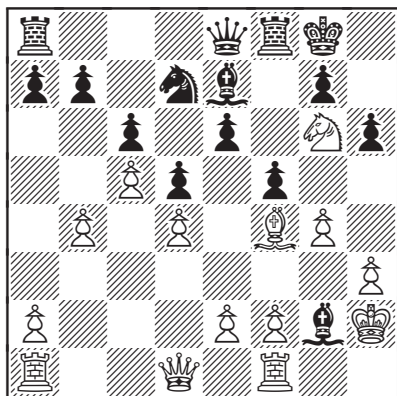
(Black wins a pawn but he has to be careful as it might get hard to make progress.) **22 Bb5 Rc8 23 Bxc6 Rxc6 24 Rd3 Bxd4 25 Rxd4 Ne5 26 Re4 Rc5 27 c4 bxc3 28 Kc2 f5 29 Re3 Ng4 30 Rh3 f4 31 Rxc3** (31 Nxc3 Nf2 wins thing king+pawn endgame) **31...Kd6 32 Nd4 Ne3+ 33 Kd3 Rxc3+ 34 Kxc3 Kd5 35 Ne2 Nxc2 36 b4 f3 37 Ng3 axb4+ 38 Kxb4 Ne3 39 a5 Kc6 40 Ne4 Ng4 41 h3 f2 42 Nd2 Ne3 1-0**



Andrew Johnson initiated complications against IM Donaldson but overlooked something and left himself a piece down.

### ANDREW JOHNSON—JOHN DONALDSON CATALAN

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 g3 Bf5 4 Bg2 e6 5 O-O Be7 6 c4 c6 7 Qb3 Qb6 8 c5 Qc7 9 Bf4 Qc8 10 Nc3 O-O 11 h3 h6 12 Kh2 Nbd7 13 g4 Bh7 14 Qd1 Ne4 15 Nxe4 Bxe4 16 b4 f5 17 Ne5?!** (Touching off all sorts of interesting possibilities, eg 17...fxg4 was possible now with an eye towards answering 18 Bxe4 Rxf4 19 Ng6 with 19...Qc7!) **18 Ng6 Qe8**



**19 Nxf8** (The complications keep coming and they aren't trending White's way. If now, eg, 19 Nxe7+ the could follow 19...Qxe7 20 Bd6 [or 20 Kxg2 fxc4 21 Bd6 Qh4!, the same thing] Qh4! 21 Kxg2 fxc4!) **19...Bxf1 20 Nxe6** (Neither does 20 Nxd7 avoid material loss since Black desperados his bishop, 20...Bxh3!, although this might have been White's best try.) **20...Bg5 21 gxf5 Bxf4+ 22 Nxf4 Qb8 23 e3 Bc4 24 Qg4 Nf6 25 Qg2 Nh5 17... Bxg2 26 Rg1 Qc7 27 f6 Nxf6 28 Kh1 Qf7 29 Ng6 Nd7 30 Nf4 Nf8 31 Qg4 Re8 0-1**

The  
Jewish  
Mother®



The good news for former state champion Rusty Potter was that he got to play a strong field including two grandmaster opponents. The bad news... well, a strong field including two grandmaster opponents.

## JOHN FEDOROWICZ—RUSTY POTTER BENONI

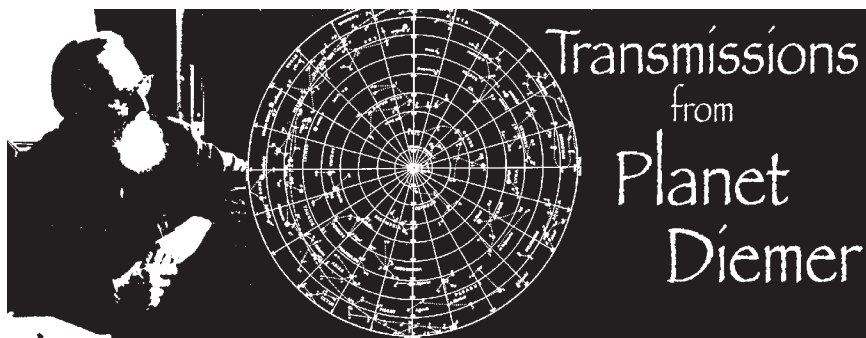
*Notes based on remarks by  
Fedorowicz & Potter*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 e4 d6 6 Bd3 O-O 7 h3 e6 8 Nf3 exd5 9 cxd5 Re8 10 O-O c4?! (10...b5) 11 Bxc4 Nxe4 12 Nxe4 Rxe4 13 Bg5 Qa5 (13...Bf6) 4 Nd2 Re8 15 Re1 Bd7 16 Ne4 Na6 17 Nxd6** (White has a decisive advantage — Black is too congested) **17...Rxe1+ 18 Qxe1 Qxe1+ 19 Rxe1 Nc5 20 b4 Bc3 21 bxc5 Bxe1 22 Nxb7 Rc8 23 c6 Bxc6 24 dxc6 Rxc6 25 Bxf7+ Kg7 26 Bb3 Bc3 27 Nd8 Rc8 28 Ne6+ Kf7 29 Be3 a5 30 Ng5+ Kg7 31 Ne4 Be5 32 f3 h5 33 Kf1 Ra8 34 Nc5 Bg3 35 Ke2 Re8 36 Kd3 Bh2 37 Ne4 Rc8 38 Bd4+ Kf8 39 Bc5+ Ke8 40 Nf6+ Kd8 41 Bb6+ Bc7 42 Bd4 Bd6 43 Ne4 Rc1 44 h4 Bc5 45 Bf6+ Kd7 46 Ng5 Rg1 47 Be6+ Kd6 48 Bf7 Rd1+ 49 Ke2 Rc1 50 Bxg6 Bb4 51 g4 Re1+ 52 Kf2 Rd1 53 Bf7 Rd2+ 54 Ke3 hxc4 55 fxc4 Rh2 56 Ke4** and White eventually won — a 'sudden death' time control conclusion **1-0**

TECHNICAL  
GAME SERVICES INC.



Another former state champion was involved in this special Millennium Chess Festival edition of...



### MACON SHIBUT - CORNELIUS VICK

#### BLACKMAR DIEMER GAMBIT

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

**1 e4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 dxe4 4 f3 Bf5 5 fxe4** (For those who prefer to sacrifice position instead of material there is 5 g4 Bg6 6 g5 Nd5 7 Nxe4. In my opinion that would be contrary to the spirit of this opening.) **5...Nxe4 6 Qf3 Nxc3 7 bxc3 Qc8 8 Bc4** (8 Ba3 [  $\Delta$  8...e6 9 Bxf8 etc] Qe6+ looks disruptive) **8...e6 9 Ne2** (Diemer himself reached this position in 1937 in a game. The continuation exemplified his credo, *vom Ersten Zug an auf Matt!* After 9 Rb1 c6 he literally forced Black to swallow more material: 10 g4 Bxc2 11 Rb2 Bg6 12 Rf2 Then the opponent, Stehle, obligingly coughed up a losing blunder. 12...f6? [12...Be7] 13 Re2 Bf7 14 Qf5 Be7 15 Bxe6 Bxe6 16 Rxe6 Kf7 17 Nf3 Qxe6+ 18 Ne5+ 1-0) **9...Be7 10 0-0 0-0 11 Bf4 Nd7 12 Rae1 Bxc2 13 Qg3 Nb6 14 Bb3 Bg6 15 Bxc7 Bh4 16 Qxh4 Qxc7 17 Rf3 Qd8 18 Qg3 Bh5 19 Re3 Bxe2 20 R1xe2 Rc8 21 Re5?! (21 Qg4; 21 Qe5. The text could have led to discouraging simplification.) 21...Qc7 22 R2e3 Nc4? (22...Nd7 forces the queens off. Vick thought, and I hoped, that my bishop's activity might yield some counterplay after 23 Rg5 Qxg3 24 Rexg3 g6 25 d5. But let's be objective here—even if that's again perhaps not the spirit of the opening—Black would have a clear advantage with no real danger in sight.) 23 Bxc4 Qxc4 24 Rg5 g6 25 h4 Qxa2 26 h5 Kg7 27 Qf4! f6 28 h6+ Kf7 29 d5**

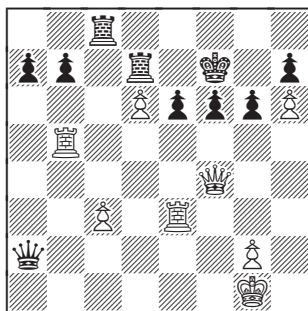
29 Rge5 was my original intention, and it's decent. But then I spotted a jaw-dropping tactic and of course I had to go for it — that is the spirit of the Blackmar Diemer Gambit. After the text the threat is to take e6, of course. What ought Black do? Not 29...Kg8? on account of 30 dxe6! anyway  $\Delta$  30...fxg5 31 Qe5 and there are only some spite checks before mate on g7.



So perhaps 29...Rfe8, yes? Then I would have played 30 d6 threatening d7 (unless I found a problem, in which case 30 Rge5 is still a good fallback since Black then can't continue 30...exd5? 31 Rxe8 Rxe8 32 Qc7+). Now let Black defend with some reasonable move—say 30...Red8, for instance. Then we attack the b-pawn: 31 Rb5. And again play any normal defense for Black: 31...Rd7 (or ...b6; or ...Qa6)

(diagram)

Which brings us to the sole reason for even publishing this silly swindle game. 32 Qxf6+!! Kxf6 33 Rf3 and yes, that works. In fact, that is mate. Before I had a chance to look more closely for possible spoiler defenses, my opponent moved...



29...e5 (Avoids the brilliancy, but after this White wins prosaically.) 30 Rgxe5 Kg8 31 Re7 Qxd5 32 Rg7+ Kh8 33 Ree7 Qd1+ 34 Qf1 1-0



## DANIEL MILLER — TOM ALSTON

### SICILIAN

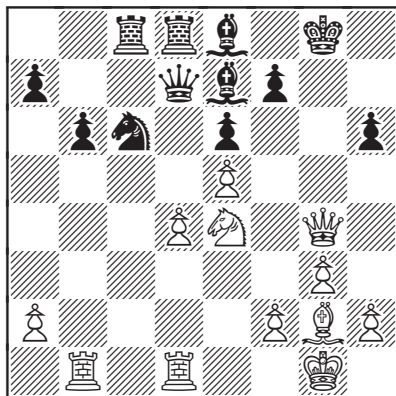
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 d6 4 O-O Bd7 5 c3 Nf6 6 Re1 a6 7 Bf1 e5 8 h3 h6 9 d4 Qc7 10 Nbd2 g6 11 Nc4 b5 12 Ne3 Bg7 13 Nd5 Qa7 14 a4 b4 15 dxe5 dxe5 16 cxb4 cxb4 17 Be3 Qb7 18 Bc5 Be6 19 Rc1 Rd8 20 Bxa6 Qb8 21 Bb5 Qb7 22 Be7 Qxe7 23 Bxc6+ Kf8 24 Nxe7 Rxd1 25 Nxg6+ fxg6 26 Rxd1 Nh5 27 Rd8+ Ke7 28 Rxh8 Bxh8 29 a5 Bc8 30 Bb7 Bxb7 31 Rc7+ Kd6 32 Rxb7 1-0

## HIKARU NAKAMURA — BORIS ZISMAN

### SEMI TARRASCH

1 c4 c5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 g3 Nc6 6 Bg2 e6 7 O-O Be7 8 d4 Nxc3 9 bxc3 O-O 10 Rb1 Qc7 11 Qa4 Bd7 12 Bf4 Qc8 13 Qd1

Rd8 14 e4 b6 15 Qe2 Be8 16 Rfd1 cxd4 17 cxd4 Bd6 18 Be3 Qd7 19 e5! Be7 20 Ng5 h6 21 Ne4 Rac8? 22 Bxh6 gxh6 23 Qg4+



The immobilized Be8 does Black in. After the king moves out of check,



White will play Nf6 threatening Qg8#. Since there is no way to clear the back rank, Black will have to take the knight. Then, after exf6, his pieces can't cover the mate at g7. 1-0

## OTANI

JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE

**JULIO BECERRA — JOHN DONALDSON**

### SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 g6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Bc4 O-O 8 Bb3 a5 (IM Donaldson literally wrote the book on this variation) 9 O-O d6 10 h3 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 Bd7 12 a3 Bc6 13 Qd3 Nd7 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 Qd4+ Kg8 16 Nd5 Bxd5 17 exd5 Qb6 18 Rad1 Qxd4 19 Rxd4 Nc5 20 Bc4 Rfc8 21 Re1 Rc7 22 Bb5 a4 23 Re3 Ra5 24 Be2 Kf8 25 Rh4 Na6 26 c4 Kg7 27 Rhe4 Kf8 28 Rh4 Kg7 29 Rhe4 Kf8 30 Rh4 ½-½

**DANNY KOPEC — BRYAN SMITH**  
FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Bb4 5 e5 h6 6 Bd2 Bxc3 7 bxc3 Ne4 8 Qg4 Kf8 9 Bd3 Nxd2 10 Kxd2 c5 11 h4 Nc6 12 Rh3 c4 13 Rg3?!? (Whoa! Theory or oversight?) cxd3 14 Qxg7+ Ke7 15 Qf6+ Kd7 16 Qxf7+ Ne7 17 Rg6 Rf8 18 Qxe6+ Ke8 19 Qd6 Nxd6 20 Qxg6+ Ke7 21 Nf3 Qb6 22 e6 Bxe6 23 Re1 dxc2 24 Qxh6 Rae8 25 Ng5 Rxf2+ 26 Ke3 c1Q+ 0-1 (27 Rxc1 Re2+ 28 Kxe2 [or 28 Kf4 Qd6+] Bg4+ and Qxh6)

**JOSEF FRIEDMAN-RODION RUBENCHIK**  
SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nd7 4 O-O Nf6 5 Re1 a6 6 Bf1 g6 7 c3 Bg7 8 d4 O-O 9 a4 b6 10 d5 Ne8 11 Bf4 Ne5 12 Bxe5 Bxe5 13 Nxe5 dxe5 14 Nd2 Nd6 15 Nc4 f6 16 Qb3 Rb8 17 Na5 Qc7 18 Nc6 Ra8 19 a5 b5 20 c4 b4



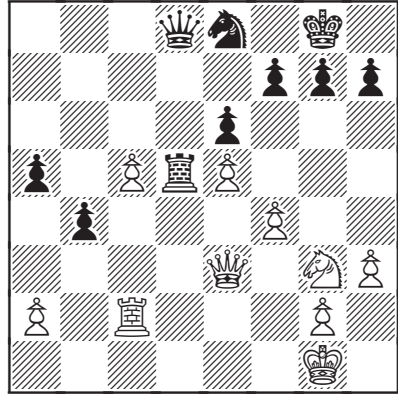
Round #3 at the Millennium Festival — IM John Donaldson (left) defends his trademark Accelerated Dragon against GM Julio Becerra. GM John Fedorowicz is on the adjacent board.



21 Qe3 Nb7 22 Qh6 Rf7 23 f4 Bd7  
 24 fxe5 fxe5 (To this point it might  
 appear that White has played an  
 active, dynamic game. But now he  
 just runs out of gas and Black starts  
 taking pawns left and right.) 25 Qg5  
 Bxc6 26 dxc6 Nxa5 27 Rad1 Nxc6  
 28 Rd5 e6 29 Rxc5 Qb6 30 Qe3  
 Raf8 31 Bd3 Nd4 0-1

**MARAJUDI DAFTANI — LARRY KAUFMAN**  
**SICI LIAN**

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4  
 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 O-O Nf6 6 Re1 Nc6  
 7 c3 e6 8 d3 Be7 9 Bg5 O-O 10  
 Nbd2 Rfd8 11 Nf1 Rac8 12 h3 b5  
 13 Ng3 Ne8 14 Qd2 d5 15 e5 d4 16  
 Rad1 dxc3 17 bxc3 b4 18 c4 Bxg5  
 19 Qxg5 Qe7 20 Qg4 Rd7 21 d4  
 cxd4 22 Nxd4 Nxd4 23 Rxd4 Rxd4  
 24 Qxd4 Rd8 25 Qe3 Qc7 26 Rc1  
 a5 27 c5 Rd5 28 f4 Qd8 29 Rc2



*Final Quiz time!*  
*Black to move and win...*



## 2004 Arlington Chess Club Championship May 15-16, 2004

**George Mason University Professional Center** (aka Old Law School)  
**3401 N Fairfax Dr, Arlington** (across From Virginia Square Metro Stop)

5-SS, game/120. One Section, FIDE rated. \$\$2000 b/66, top 3 guaranteed:  
 \$500-300-200, top X,A,B,C,D each \$110, top U1200 \$100, top unr \$100,  
 top ACC Member U1800 \$250. In addition, top scoring ACC member gets  
 plaque and 2004 club champion title; top scoring U1800 ACC member  
 gets plaque and club amateur champion title. EF \$45 if rec'd by 5/5, \$55  
 at site. Reg 9-9:45, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30. One irrevokable ½pt bye  
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 For additional info, email [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net) or check the web site <http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/94champ.htm>

**20 GRAND PRIX POINTS**



**Daftani-Kaufman**, *continued*

29...Rd3! 30 Qf2 Rxc3! 31 c6 (31 Qxc3 Qd1+ and Qxc2) Rc3 32 Rd2 Qc7 33 f5 Rc1+ 34 Kh2 Qxe5+ 35 g3 Qxf5 0-1



VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

THE MILLENNIUM CHESS FESTIVAL is indeed a *festival*, with other events besides the main tourney. In this connection GM Nakamura had an especially busy weekend! Besides sharing first prize in the main event, he also notched up a convincing triumph in the annual blitz tournament. Nakamura raced to a 9-0 start, then clinched undivided first with a last-round draw against GM Bcerra who finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 8½-1½. GM Jaan Ehlevest and upstart A-player Brian Salomon tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> with 8-2. Where did this guy come from?! As mentioned above, Salomon 'only' tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U2000 section of the main event, but in the blitz he and Nakamura were the only players to navigate all ten rounds undefeated!

But that wasn't all. One of the most popular and special Millennium attractions is the Grandmaster Dinner Game on Saturday night. Spectators are treated to a hotel-catered buffet and live commentary from two grandmasters who engage in an exhibition game. Playing from different rooms to facilitate conversation with the audience, this year's contestants were John Fedorowicz and, yes indeed, Hikaru Nakamura! His stature as one of the youngest grandmasters in the world added to the interest that his participation generated. Like every Dinner Game in previous years, this one ended in a draw. Virginia Chess will try to obtain fuller coverage of this exhibition, including excerpts from the live commentary transcript, in a future issue.

Once again the Millennium Chess Festival was presented by Beach Events and Technical Game Services, Inc (Tom Braunlich!), with additional sponsorship by Ramada Plaza Resorts and local merchants Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Otani Japanese Steakhouse, Papa John's Pizza, The Jewish Mother restaurant and Dominion Scholastic Chess Supplies. Mike Atkins and Ernie Schlich directed.



37th Annual

# VIRGINIA OPEN

## June 18-20

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5SS, rd1 G/2, rds 2-5 40/2, SD/1. \$3400 (top 4 Open G, rest b/110). Two Sections: *Open* \$600-400-300-250, top X, A each \$180. Winner gets plaque and Virginia Open title. *Amateur* (U1900) \$400-200-150, top B, C, D, U1200 each \$160, top Unr \$100. Winner gets plaque and Virginia Amateur title. *Both* EF \$50 if rec'd by 6/11, \$60 at site. VCF membership required (OSA) \$10 Adults, \$5 U19. Reg Friday 6/18 5:30pm-7:45pm. Rds 8, 10-4:30, 9-3:30. One irreversible ½-pt bye allowed, must be declared before rd 1. NS, NC, W, FIDE Hotel: 703-644-5555, ask for "Sales Department" and request special chess rate of \$79. Reserve before June 4! *Special* Former US Champion GM Walter Browne will play in the Virginia Open. GM Browne Simul/Lecture, June 17 at Arlington Chess Club with 1st priority entry to former WBCA members with credit - see tmnt website. *Enter* Make checks payable to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306. More info <http://vachess.org/vaopen2004.htm> or email [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net). No phone or internet entries, just inquiries!

**30 GRAND PRIX POINTS**



# Road Trip!

2004 EASTERN AMATEUR TEAM TOURNAMENT

by David Long

EVERY FEBRUARY, Tim Hamilton, Roger Mahach, Harry Cohen, and I make the pilgrimage to NJ to play in the Eastern Amateur Team Tournament. For many players in this region this is the high point of the chess year. The event has become just huge over the past 30 some years—this year the players and extras for 286 teams (!) filled two hotels.

You just can't beat it for having a great time in chess, but I think that this year we pretty much maxed out the total experience. On the competitive front, some weak individual results lately had conspired to drive us into the U2000 rating category for the first time, but we came out of it with a team score of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  out of 6. Our only loss—even to call it a “crush” would understate what happened to us—came in round 2, against Stan Kriventsov's team, which went on to win the tournament. We managed to win four matches, and in the last round we were able to hold to a draw a very strong team on board 12. More about that later.

Our result carried us to the Best Virginia Team prize, ahead of Daniel Miller's higher-rated Tidewater team. (Although Harry lives in Maryland now, we got a waiver in recognition of his many years in Arlington.) We were even in the running for best U2000 going into the last round.

On top of all that, we finally won the Best Name competition! Our entry, *USCF = Un-Stable Cash Flow*, made up for years of close defeats of some of Harry's best creations (*My Other Karpov is a Portisch*, etc, etc). We caught a big break this year when the nominating committee chose not to advance *My Big Fat Greek Predecessors* on the grounds that it was neither topical nor had anything to do with chess. The organizers also ignored the inevitable Paris Hilton jokes. So there's luck off the board, too.

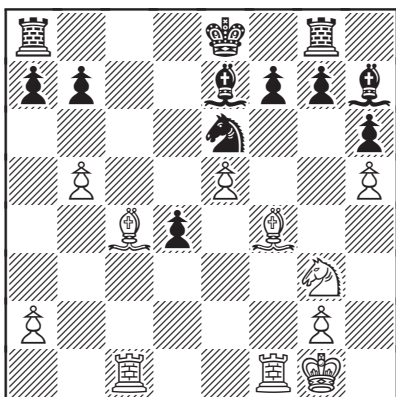
From having done this tournament so often, we finally appear to have achieved the status of “regulars” at our favorite bagel bakery near the hotel. That pretty much tells you where our real priorities for this event lie.

But on to some of our games. First up is one of Tim's efforts on first board, illustrating once again his ability to get nearly every piece *en prise* at once and somehow get out of it okay.



### TIM HAMILTON - MICHAEL THALER CARO KANN

1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 c6 3 d4 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 f4 e6 7 c3 Nf6 8 Qe2 Be7 9 Nf3 Qc7 10 Ne5 Nfd7 11 h4 Nxe5 12 fxe5 h6 13 h5 Bh7 14 Qg4 Rg8 15 Be2 c5 16 0-0 Nc6 17 d5 exd5 18 Bf4 Qd7 19 Qxd7+ Kxd7 20 Rad1 d4 21 b4 Ke8 22 b5 Nd8 23 cxd4 cxd4 24 Rc1 Ne6 25 Bc4



25...Nxf4 26 Rxf4 Bg5 27 Bxf7+ Ke7 28 Rc7+ Kd8 29 Bxg8 Bxf4 30 Rxg7 Bxe5 31 Rxh7 Bxg3 32 Bc4 Rc8 33 Rh8+ Kc7 34 Rxc8+ Kxc8 35 Kf1 Kc7 36 Ke2 Kd6 37 Kf3 Bh4 38 Bd3 Bg5 39 Ke4 Be3 40 a4 Kc5 41 a5 Kb4 42 a6 bxa6 43 bxa6 Kc5 44 Be2 Kd6 45 Kd3 Kc5 46 Bf3 Kb6 ½-½



Next up are two games by Harry, playing third board this year. The first one was our only score (a draw) against Kriventsov's team. Harry rates this one his best of the event:

### MICHAEL BERNSHTEYN - HARRY COHEN CARO KANN

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 N1e2 e6 8 Nf4 Bh7 9 Bc4 Nf6 10 Qe2 Nd5 11 c3 Nxf4 12 Bxf4 Bd6 13 Qg4 Bxf4 14 Qxf4 Nd7 15 Ne4 Bxe4 16 Qxe4 Nf6 17 Qf3 Qc7 18 0-0-0 Nd5 19 Kb1 b5 20 Bd3 0-0 21 g3 c5 22 Be4 Rad8 23 dxc5 Qxc5 24 Bxd5 exd5 25 Rd4 Rd6 26 Rhd1 Rfd8 27 Qd3 a5 28 b4 axb4 29 cxb4 Qb6 30 f4 Rc8 31 Rxd5 Rxd5 32 Qxd5 Rc4 33 Qd8+ Qxd8 34 Rxd8+ Kh7 35 a3 Rc3 36 Kb2 Rxc3 37 Rd5 Rg2+ 38 Kc3 Rg3+ 39 Kd4 Rxa3 40 Rxb5 Rh3 41 h5 g6 42 Rb7 Kg7 43 hxg6 Kxg6 44 b5 h5 45 b6 Rb3 46 Kc5 h4 47 Rb8 Kf5 48 Rh8 Kg4 49 Kc6 Rc3+ 50 Kd6 Rb3 51 Kc7 Rc3+ 52 Kb8 h3 53 b7 Kxf4 54 Ka7 Ra3+ 55 Kb6 Rb3+ 56 Kc7 Kg3 57 b8=Q Rxb8 58 Rxb8 h2 59 Rg8+ Kf2 60 Rh8 Kg2 61 Kd6 ½-½

The second game is more like an adventure story, but it ended well for Harry and saved a match for us. It confirms once more that you can actually win or lose one of these games two or three times, while, as Harry says, you're "waiting for the ratings to kick in."

### HARRY COHEN - ROLANDO SAYLO DUTCH

*Notes by Harry Cohen*

1 c4 f5 2 g3 g6 3 Bg2 Nf6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 0-0 c6 7 d4 d5 8 Ne5 e6 9 b3 Ne4 10 Nxe4 fxe4 11 e3 (11 Ba3 is better, forcing the rook



to make a choice.) **11...Nd7 12 Ba3 Rf6 13 Ng4** (White should consider getting things going with 13 f4 while his pieces are better developed.) **13...Rf5 14 f3 h5 15 Nf2 exf3 16 Bxf3 b6 17 e4 Rf7 18 exd5** (18 cxd5 exd5 19 e5 is better.) **18...exd5 19 cxd5 Nf6** (This loses a pawn. 19...c5 is much better. [Well, maybe. 19...c5 20 d6 appears to win an exchange by the dual threats Bxa8 and Bd5. It also worries me that g6 is hanging. For his part Black has resources ...Bxd4 and ...Ba6. This is messy. —ed]) **20 dxc6 Nd5 21 Bxd5?** (21 Rc1 would keep the c-pawn as a menace.) **21...Qxd5 22 Bb2 Ba6** (Black is now better.) **23 Re1 Bb5?** (23...Raf8 and the latent threat of ...Rf1+ will be decisive.) **24 Qc2** (White is out of the soup for the moment.) **24...Bxc6 25 Qe4 Raf8 26 Qxd5 Bxd5 27 Nd3 Rf3?! 28 Nf4 Bb7?** (Black should swallow hard and sac the exchange here: 28...R3xf4 29 gxf4 Rxf4) **29 Re7 Rf7 30 Rxf7 Kxf7 31 Rf1?! (31 Rc1 is much stronger.) 31...Rxf1+ 32 Kxf1 Be4 33 Ke2 Ke7 34 Ke3 Bf5 35 a3 Kd6 36 Bc3 a5 37 b4 axb4 38 Bxb4+ Kd7 39 d5 Bh6 40 Kd4 Bg7+ 41 Kc4 Be5 42 Bd2 Bb2 43 a4 Be5 44 Nd3 Bd6 45 Be3 Kc7 46 Bf4 Bd7 47 Kb3 Bf5 48 Ne5?? Be4?? (48...g5 and Black wins.) 49 Kc4?? (giving Black another bite at the apple) 49...Bc2?? (49...g5 again.) 50 h4 Bxa4 51 Nxg6 Be8 52 Bxd6+ Kxd6 53 Nf4 Ke5 54 Kb4 Ke4?! (Black pulls his goalie.) 55 d6 Kf5 56 Nxh5 Bd7 57 g4+ Ke5**

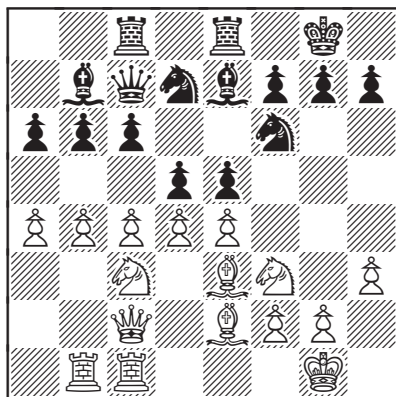
**58 Ng7** (58 g5 Kxd6 59 Nf6 is much better.) **58...Bxg4 59 h5 Bxh5?? 60 d7 1-0**

In the last round we got paired way up against a team rated close to 2200. This time, they were waiting for *our* ratings to kick in. Here's my game on bottom board against a 1960-rated player:

### JOSE ESPINOSA - DAVE LONG OLD INDIAN

Notes by Dave Long

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nc3 Nbd7 4 Nf3 e5 5 e4 Be7 6 Be2 c6 7 0-0 0-0 8 Qc2 a6 9 a4 Qc7 10 h3 Re8 11 Be3 b6 12 Rfc1 Bb7 13 b4 Rac8 14 Rab1 d5**



**15 exd5 cxd5 16 c5 exd4 17 cxb6?** (White plays to trap my queen on c3 but it's a case of miscounting.) **17...Qxc3! (anyway) 18 Qa2 dxe3!** (Black wins material with an active position.) **19 Rxc3 exf2+** (And now the dark squares in the white Kingside are weak, too, making Black's pieces



even stronger.) **20 Kf1 Rxc3 21 Kxf2 Ne4+ 22 Kg1 Nxb6 23 a5 Nc4 24 Bxc4 Rxc4 25 b5 Bc5+ 26 Kh2 Nc3 27 Qa1 Nxb1 28 Qxb1 Bd6+ 29 g3 Re2+ 0-1**

If I was paired against an A-player, that meant everybody else confronted some *really* formidable opponents – three masters, in fact. Here's Rog's win on second board, which gave us the drawn match and dramatically improved the late night drive back to Virginia:

### ELVIN WILSON - ROGER MAHACH SLAV

*Notes by Roger Mahach*

The US Amateur Team Chess Championship is the only tournament I get to play in these days. Each year my good friends and I make the drive up to Parsippany, NJ, for a

great weekend of camaraderie, chess hijinx, and eating. This year was my fourteenth year and the fifth with the same team, which, we have all agreed, is the best team we have ever fielded. Obviously, my playing has suffered, but my love for the game has only increased. As my children grow older I hope to get back into the weekend battles that sustain so many of us. I miss my many dear friends in the VCF, and Karen and the triplets wish you all well.

**1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 e3 Bf5 5 Nc3 e6 6 Qb3 Qc7 7 Nh4 Bg6** (Perhaps 7...Bg4 is better, forcing White to loosen up his kingside if he wants the light-squared bishop.) **8 Bd2 Ne4** (Black has a nice position and threatens to disrupt White's game.) **9 Nxe4** (9 Nxc6 Nxd2 10 Kxd2 hxg6) **9...Bxe4 10 f3 dxc4**



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**11 Qc3** (Too fancy. Best is just Bxc4, when Black plays ...Bd5 and we get some exchanges. However, the pressure was on the Master at this point as Dave, our 4th board, had just 'sacrificed' his queen for a brutal attack.) **11...Bd3 12 Bxd3 cxd3 13 f4 Na6 14 Qxd3 Be7 15 Nf3 0-0 16 Rc1 Qb6 17 0-0 c5 18 Bc3 Rac8 19 f5 Rfd8 20 Qe4** (White seems to be developing some threats.) **20...Bf6 21 Ne5 exf5 22 Qxf5 Qe6 23 Ng4 Qxf5 24 Rxf5 Be7 25 Rcf1 f6 26 h4** (White should seriously consider getting his rooks behind the e- and d-pawns and open the game up for his bishop. The knight is out of play and should find its way to f5.) **26...b6 27 h5 h6 28 Kh1 cxd4 29 exd4 Bb4** (Looking to play against the isolated pawn by getting rid of the white bishop. Black is set up perfectly

and White's time trouble only makes his task more difficult.) **30 R5f3 Rd5** (A risky move but one that cost White 10 minutes in considering his response.) **31 Rh3** (He plays it safe. The other option was 31 Rxf6! Rxh5+ 32 Kg1 Bxc3 33 bxc3 Rxc3 34 Rf8+ Kh7 35 R8f7 Kg8 36 Rxa7 Nc7 37 Ne5 Rc2 38 Nd7 Rg5 39 Rf2 Rc6 with unclear play.) **31...Rg5** (This leads to a forcing sequence that favors Black.) **32 Nh2 Re8 33 Rf2 Bxc3 34 bxc3 Re1+ 35 Nf1 Rb5** (White had less than five minutes here and was spooked by this move.) **36 g4 Rbb1 37 Kg2 Nc7** (The Knight finally enters the game, headed for the weak dark squares on f4 and e3) **38 Ne3 Ne6 39 Rf1??** (On 39 Nf1 Re4 40 Rg3 Nf4+ 41 Kh2 White should be able to hold.) **39...Rxf1 40 Nxf1 Nf4+ 0-1**

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# Kingstowne Chess Festival

by Don W Millican

**T**HE KINGSTOWNE CHESS CLUB conducted its annual Chess Festival over Valentine's Day weekend. As an improvement over last year, the 2004 event was a Grand Prix tournament and FIDE-rated. More than 60 players competed over 3 days for more than \$800 in cash plus trophies.

In the Open section, John MacMillan & Daniel Clancy tied for 1st-2nd with 3½ out of a possible 4. Allan Savage & Oladapo Adu, a Nigerian-born International Master living in Upper Marlboro, Md, tied for 3rd-4th with 3. Thomas Rehle, of Washington, won the Under 2000 prize with 2½. Marcello



Deyto & Tyler Cook tied for the Under 1800 prize with 2. Jacob Feldman won the Under 1600 prize with 1½.

In the Amateur section, Nikolai Van Beek won with 4½ - ½.



Michael Abron & David Paden tied for 2nd-3rd with 4. Mr

Paden also won the Under 1600 prize. A three-way tie for the Under 1400 prize resulted between Jeffrey Matthews, Jerrod Rugge & Joel DeWyer with 3 each. In his first-ever tournament, Kingstowne resident Christopher Naji took Top Unrated prize money with 1 point.

The Novice section saw Dennis Gallagher & Philip Hood tie for 1st-2nd with 4. Mr Gallagher took the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy on tiebreak. 3rd place went to David Becker of Kingstowne with 3½, while Anjali Patel & James Kurucz won the Under 1200 and Under 1000 trophies with 2 and 1½ points respectively.



The Festival kicked off on Friday night with a Quick Chess competition. David Sterner was the clear winner with a perfect score of 5-0. Aryan Khojandi was second with 3½. Jeffrey Matthews won the Under 1500 prize with 3-2, and David Becker & Louis Meyer tied for Under 1200/Unrated with 2-3.



Area merchants provided extra prizes, which were awarded before the start of the last round. Thanks go out to Chipotle, Bella Donna Spa, King Street Blues, Mama Mia Pizzeria, Papa John's Pizza, Springfield Station, and Starbucks Coffee! Thanks also to Kingstowne Resident Owners Corporation and Brad Walker for providing facilities and support.

**Springfield  
Station**

*Chipotle.*

Mama Mia  
Pizzeria

### John MacMillan - Oladapo Adu Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 a6 3 Nge2 d6 4 g3  
b5 5 Bg2 Bb7 6 d4 cxd4 7 Nxd4  
Nd7 8 0-0 Ngf6 9 Re1 Qb8 10 a4  
bxa4 (10...b4 11 Nd5) 11 Rxa4 e6  
12 Rb4 Qc8 13 Rxb7! Qxb7 14 e5  
Nd5 15 Nxd5 exd5 16 exd6+ Kd8  
17 Bg5+ Nf6 18 Nf5 Ra7 19 Bxd5  
Qd7 20 Qd4! Qxf5 21 Bxf6+ gxf6  
22 Qb6+ 1-0

### Yang Dai - Jacob Feldman Two Knights

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d3  
Be7 5 Nc3 d6 6 h3 0-0 7 Be3 Be6 8  
Qe2 d5 9 exd5 Nxd5 10 Nxd5 Bxd5  
11 0-0-0 a6 12 g4 b5 13 Bxd5 Qxd5  
14 Kb1 b4 15 g5 a5 16 h4 a4 17 h5  
b3 18 c4 bxa2+ 19 Kxa2 Qd6 20  
Rhg1 a3 21 b3 g6 22 hxg6 fxg6 23  
Rh1 Rfb8 24 Nh4 Nd4 (24...Rxb3!?  
25 Kxb3 a2) 25 Bxd4 Qxd4 26 Nf3  
Qc3 27 Rb1 Bd6 28 Rhc1 Qa5 29 c5



Bf8 30 Qxe5 Re8 31 Qd5+ Kh8 32 Rc2 Rad8 33 Qc4 Bg7 34 Nh4 Rd4 35 Nxc6+ hxc6 36 Rh1+ Bh6 37 Qxd4+ Kg8 38 Rxh6 Re1 39 Rh8+ Kf7 40 Qf6mate 1-0

Francis Raue - Tim Rogalski

Tchigorin

1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6 3 Nf3 Bg4 4 e3 e6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Be2 Nf6 7 0-0 Bxc3 8

bxc3 0-0 9 c5? Ne4 10 Bd2 b6 11 cxb6 axb6 12 h3 Bxf3 13 Bxf3 Nd6 14 Re1 f5! 15 a4?! Na5 16 Be2 Qd7 17 Qc2 Ra7 18 Rec1 Rfa8 19 Rcb1 Nac4 20 Bd1 b5 21 Rb4 Rxa4 22 Rbxa4 bxa4 23 Bc1 a3 24 Qb3 Qb5 25 Qc2 Qa5 26 f3 a2 +- 27 Qb3 Nb5 28 Be2 Qxc3 29 Qxc3 Nxc3 30 Bxc4 dxc4 31 Kf2 Rb8 32 Bd2 Rb2 33 Rc1 Rxd2+ 34 Ke1 Rb2 35 Rxc3 0-1

## *Bella Donna Spa*

# 3<sup>rd</sup> George Washington Open

by Mike Atkins

**Q**VER HAVE one of those days in which nothing worked, everything was bad, and it seemed like the universe was conspiring against you? February 6, the day before the third George Washington Open, was one of those days.

It actually started the night before when the weekly weather mess descended upon Northern Virginia. Cold freezing rain turned into a day-long deluge, melting clumps of frozen snow into a frigid torrent running through the streets. Having sloshed my way to the tournament site Friday afternoon, I checked into my room at the Springfield Holiday Inn Express. Hotel registration was easy enough, but when I got to my room I discovered that I'd forgotten both my printer cable and my power strip. Fortunately there was a Radio Shack across the street. I bought a nice printer cable (which can keep company with the three others I have at home) along with a pair of cheap power strips.

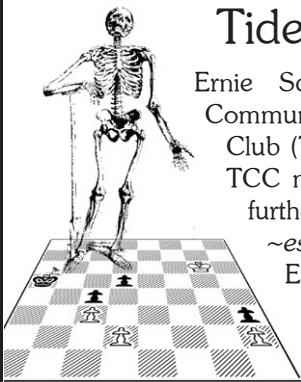




I started setting up the tournament room around 7:15 the next morning and discovered to my horror that the printer cable didn't fit! Who would ever have thought that some design genius would have made a cable with a head so thick that it doesn't fit into the back of a laptop? Fortunately, no one was in the room to hear my Nixonesque expletive deleteds. At this point I didn't trust the Universe enough to waste more money buying another cable, so I drove back home to get one I *knew* would work. Would a cop get me for speeding en route? Would a truck flatten me? An iceberg float into my car? Against all odds, the trip went well. I was back in 40 minutes. All was forgiven in the Universe as registration began.

We had 43 advance entries. The usual formula is that you expect the at-site entries to double the field and, indeed, we wound up with 82 altogether. In the "good ole days" — the 70's and 80's, before the influx of Russian masters and roving bands of hungry GMs — tournaments tended to have nice normal distributions of players. Today, however, things are more often top-heavy with a disproportionate number of masters. In that spirit, who should turn up but Estonian Grandmaster Jaan Ehlevest — several-time participant in the FIDE World Championship? Unfortunately, he arrived several minutes *after* round 1 got underway! Fortunately, Keadu Belachew also showed up at the same time and the two were duly paired.

Round 1's upsets saw Andryei Ganbat (1645) defeat FM Boris Reichstein (2219); and Glen Flodstrom (1669) draw FM Boris Privman (2292). Round 3 saw little Yang Dai (1277) beat Patrick Ray (1692). Ganbat's win eventually took the upset prize; first round upsets are usually good for these prizes.



## Tidewater Club Site — R.I.P.?

Ernie Schlich reports bad news: the Tidewater Community College site, home of the Tidewater Chess Club (TCC) for several years, is no longer available. TCC meetings and tournaments are cancelled until further notice. Visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~eschlich> for updates.

Ernie is investigating alternate sites, preferably on Monday evenings. If you know of a potential site where we can meet from 6:30 to 10 pm or later, contact him at 853-5296 or email [eschlich@aol.com](mailto:eschlich@aol.com)



The last round started with Ehlvest in clear first with 4-0, ahead of six players with 3½: IM Larry Kaufman; FMs Ilye Figler, Boris Zisman & Privman; and experts William Morriss & Andrew Johnson. Ehlvest versus Kaufman was the natural and fitting pairing for the finale — the two highest-rated players in the tournament. They had played once before, with Larry taking the full point on that occasion. This time the battle developed into a long, drawn-out affair. Ehlvest exploited the White pieces and seemed to have a positional edge every time I checked the game. Finally he did as Grandmasters are wont do: squeeze out the full point.

### GM JAAN EHLVEST — IM LARRY KAUFMAN

#### BOGO INDIAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 e6 4 g3 Bb4+ 5 Bd2 Be7 6 Bg2 O-O 7 O-O c6 8 Qc2 b6 9 Bf4 Bb7 10 Rd1 Nbd7 11 Nc3 Rc8 12 Ne5 Qe8 13 e4 dxe4 14 Nxe4 Nxe4 15 Bxe4 Nf6 16 Bg2 Nd7 17 Qa4 Nxe5 18 dxe5 a6 19 Be3 b5 20 Qc2 Ba8 21 Be4 h6 22 c5 Rd8 23 h4 Rxd1+ 24 Rxd1 Qc8 25 h5 Rd8 26 Rb1 a5 27 a3 Qc7 28 f4 a4 29 Rf1 Bb7 30 Qe2 Bc8 31 Qf3 Bd7 32 Bb1 Kf8 33 Qe4 Ke8 34 g4 Bc8 35 Qf3 Bf8 36 Kh1 Bb7 37 Be4 Rd7 38 f5 exf5 39 Bxf5 Re7 40 e6 f6 41 Rd1 1-0

Thus Ehlvest took 1st place money with a clean 5-0. Privman & Figler were also winning quickly to finish with 4½ points apiece. Privman defeated Morriss while Figler produced this nice effort against Zisman.

### FM ILYE FIGLER — FM BORIS ZISMAN

#### GRÜNFELD

1 c4 c6 2 Nf3 d5 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 g6 5 Qb3 Bg7 6 Bf4 O-O 7 e3 b6 8 h3 dxc4 9 Bxc4 Ba6 10 Ne5 Bxc4 11 Qxc4 Qc8 12 Rc1 Nfd7 13 Nd5 Re8 14 Nxc6 (14 Nxf7 cxd5 15 Nh6+ Bxh6 16 Qxd5+ e6 17 Rxc8 exd5 18 Rxe8+) 14... Nxc6 15 Qxc6 Qxc6 16 Rxc6 e5 17 dxe5 Bxe5 18 Bxe5 Rxe5 19 Nf4 Nf8 20 Ke2 Rd8 21 Rhc1 Kg7 22 Rc8 Rxc8 23 Rxc8 Ne6 24 Nd3 Rb5 25 b4 Rd5 26 e4 Rd4 27 Ke3 Rd7 28 f4 f6 29 g4 Nd8 30 Rc4 Re7 31 Rd4 Nf7 32 b5 h6 33 Nb4 g5 34 Nc6 Rc7 35 Ra4 Nd6 36 Rxa7 Nxb5 37 Rxc7+ Nxc7 38 Ne7 Ne6 39 f5 Nc5 40 Kd4 Kf7 41 Nc8 Nd7 42 Kd5 Ke8 43 Kc6 Nc5 44 Nxb6 Nxe4 45 a4 1-0

As often happens, three of the final four games to finish affected the top prizes. Rarely do all the critical games finish quickly, to the dismay of players hanging around to see if they get a piece of the money (and directors frazzled after a long weekend). Andrew Johnson and Ray Kaufman played an exciting game that was one of those final four; Kaufman pulled out a tough win. Glen Flodstrom and Joey Regalbuto played down to a R vs B ending; a few more



moves and they determined that no one was taking home the full point. When all was said and done, Jeremy Hummer & Chris Sevilla emerged as Top Experts with at 4-1. Robert Brady, also 4-1, was clear first in Class A. Five tied atop Class B with 3-2: Yuri Loboda, Daniel Clancy, Sanda Costescu, Raghu Rajaram & Edward Lu. Class C went to Adithya Sundar's 3½-1½. This was an exceptionally good result as he finished ahead of the Class B winners. With 2½ points, Jeffrey Matthews & Joey Regalbuto shared Class D. Under 1200 winner was Chris Fitzgerald, also with 2½. Peter Farzan's 1½ was good for top Unrated.

Michael Atkins organized and ran the tournament for the VCF. Many thanks are also due former VCF President Catherine Clark for finding and securing this new site, bringing lots of goodies, and being there Saturday morning. Thanks also to former State Champ Steve Greanias who had to withdraw but donated his EF to the tournament. It provided fruit for the players! A crosstable and a few other games can be accessed online at <http://www.vachess.org/gwo2004.htm>

## IM OLADAPO ADU - ANDREW SAMUELSON

### SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Qxd4 Nc6 5 Bb5 Bd7 6 Bxc6 Bxc6 7 Nc3 Nf6 8 Bg5 e6 9 O-O-O Be7 10 Qd3 O-O 11 Nd4 Qa5 12 h4 Rf8 13 f3 a6 14 g4 b5 15 Kb1 b4 16 Nce2 Bb5 17 Qd2 Bc4 18 Nc1 Qb6 19 Be3 Qb7 20 h5 d5 21 g5 Nd7 22 b3 Bb5 23 exd5 exd5 24 Nf5 Bf8 25 Bd4 a5 26 Rdg1 Nc5 27 g6 (27 Nh6+ Kh8—forced, otherwise mate in 9!—28 g6 Ra6 29 Nxf7+ Kg8 30 gxh7+ Kxh7 (or 30...Kxf7 31 Qf4+ Rf6 32 Bxf6) 31 h6 gxh6 32 Rxh6+ Rxh6 33 Qf4 Bd3 34 Qe5 Bxc2+ 35 Ka1 Nxb3+ 36 Kb2 Rf6 37 Qxf6 Nxd4 38 Qh8#) 27...fxg6 28 hxg6 hxg6 29 Rxg6 Ra6 30 Qg5 Ne6 31 Nh6+ Kh7 32 Qf5 Nxd4 33 Nf7+ 1-0

## New Club!

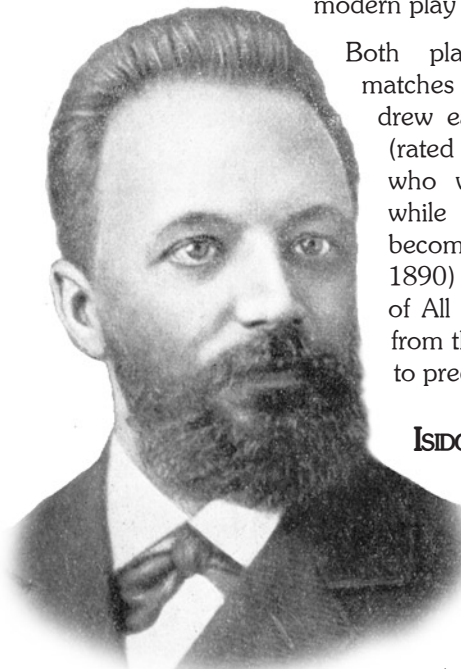
There is a new club in McLean, Virginia. The Booz Allen Hamilton Chess Club held its inaugural meeting on Thursday, April 1. The initial meeting featured free catered food and USCF annual memberships offered at \$38 (an \$11 savings). Future club dates are TBD, but will probably be bi-monthly at the same time and venue: Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., Hamilton Building Room 2032, 8283 Greensboro Drive, McLean, VA 22102. A series of Rated Beginner Opens (RBOs) is envisioned. For more information, please contact Charles Thrasher, (703) 917-2235.



# Epic Masterpiece

by Tim Rogalski

The following under-appreciated game has long fascinated me. I first discovered it in *La Strategie des Echecs* (game #2502) — from 1867 to 1940 the *New In Chess* of its day — while exploring the rare book department of the Buffalo State College library. Black's magnificent maneuvering and hyper-modern play culminates in a surprise conclusion.



Both players lost World Championship matches to Steinitz (rated #1 in 1890). They drew each other in this match. Gunsberg (rated #3 in 1890) was one of the players who worked the automation Mephisto, while Tchigorin (the first Russian to become a chess professional, rated #2 in 1890) made Fischer's list of Top 10 Players of All Time. To gain the most enjoyment from this game, cover up the score and try to predict every Tchigorin move!

**ISIDOR GUNSBERG - MIKHAIL TCHIGORIN  
MATCH (GAME #20), HAVANA 1890**

**RUY LOPEZ**

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4  
Ba4 Nf6 5 d3 d6 6 Nc3 g6 7 Be3  
Bd7 8 Qd2 Bg7 9 h3 0-0 10 g4**

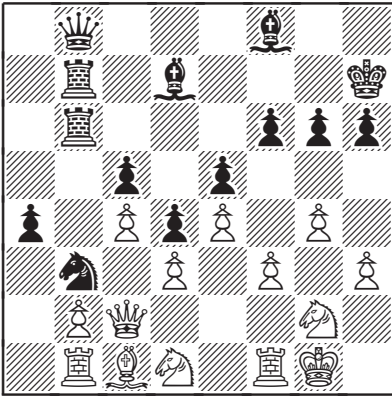
**Kh8** (This was one of Tchigorin's  
trademark moves.) **11 Bb3 Na5 12**

**Ne2 Nxb3 13 axb3** (Some sources state that

Tchigorin preferred knights over bishops, but he was not dogmatic like some of his contemporaries. I believe it would be more correct to say that he knew how to work his knights better than his opponents did. Notice how more influential he manages to make his lone knight compared to White's two in this game.) **13...Qe7 14 Ng3 Ng8 15 Rg1 c6 16 c3 h6 17 b4 Kh7 18 Qe2 f6 19 Qf1 Qf7** (This reminded me of a Shogi *anaguma* castle.) **20 Nh4 d5 21 f3 Rfd8!?** ± (intentionally provoking White's next move) **22 Bb6 Re8 23 Qg2 Ne7 24 Bc5 Nc8 25 Qe2 b6 26 Bf2** (Black has achieved a model pawn structure with five phalanxes.) **26...Bf8 27 Nf1 d4 28 Nd2 c5** (purposely



undoubling his opponent's pawns with the idea of frontally attacking the b2 weakling) **29 bxc5 bxc5 30 c4 Nb6 31 Qd1 a5 32 Ng2 Reb8 33 Ke2?! (Why would a player of world champion candidate caliber select this and not 33 f4, now or over the next dozen moves?) 33...Qe8 34 Qc2 Na4 35 Rgb1 Ra6!** (One of the most profound moves of the game; would you think that the only point is to double rooks on the b-file? Tchigorin stated that he "didn't like 35...Rb4 because of 36 Ra3 Rab8 37 Nb3 with Be1 to follow and Black's attack would be weakened.") **36 Be1** (Here Gunsberg offered a draw.) **36...Rb7** (Tchigorin confidently declines and continues to weave what I consider to be an epic masterpiece.) **37 Nf1 Rba7 38 Bd2 Nb6 39 Ng3 a4 40 Rh1 Nc8 41 Rhf1** ("Gunsberg does not have his usual decisiveness and plays without a goal" —Steinitz) **41...Rb7 42 Nh1** ("Gunsberg plays to defend the b2-pawn, which is necessary based on the game continuation." -Tchigorin) **42...Rab6 43 Bc1 Ne7 44 Nf2 Qb8** (While admiring his wonderful position, Tchigorin's eyes were probably glistening due to his being "in the zone.") **45 Nd1 Nc6 46 Kf2** (46 Rxa4 Nb4 wins; 46 Qxa4 Ra7 wins) **46...Na5 47**



**Kg1 Nb3** (How quickly do you think Black is going to breakthrough on the queenside?) **48 Rb1** (*diagram*) **48...f5!** ("Black has masked his real intentions, takes the offensive against the White king, and conducts the attack with great energy." -Steinitz) **49 Qe2 f4! -+ 50 Ne1 Be7** (50...Nxc1 51 Rxc1 Rxb2 52 Nxb2 Rxb2 53 Qd1 a3 54 Rf2! -Tchigorin) **51 Nc2 Bh4** ("Tchigorin plays the remaining part of the game with remarkable precision. White is paralyzed because of his unfavorable

play, and Black's pieces enthusiastically swarm the kingside." -Rosenthal) **52 Bd2** (52 Na1 Nxc1 53 Rxc1 Rxb2 54 Nxb2 Rxb2 55 Qd1 a3 56 Rc2 Qb4! 57 Rg2 (57 Rxb2 axb2 58 Nc2 Qc3 -+) 57 Ba4 58 Qc1 Qc3! 59 Qxc3 dxc3 60 Rc1 a2! -+ -Tchigorin) **52...Nxd2 53 Qxd2 Kg7!** ("This quiet move is deep and powerful. It prepares the cooperation of the queen to h8 after the h-file is opened." —Steinitz) **54 Ra1 h5 55 Ra2 g5 56 Qe2 Bg3 57 Na3 hxcg4 58 fxcg4 Rh6!** (Recall the note to Black's 35th move.) **59 Qg2** (59 Kg2 Rxb3! 60 Kxb3 Qh8+ 61 Kg2 Qh2+ 62 Kf3 Qh3! "and Black mates in two moves, at most." -Tchigorin) **59...Qh8 60 Nb5 Rxb3 61 Nd6 Rh2 62 Qf3 Bxcg4! 63 Ne8+ Kg6** ("and it is evident that after 66 Qxcg4 Rh1+ 65 Kg2 Qh2+, it is mate in two moves." -Rosenthal. Quite impressive, don't you think?) **0-1**



And now, here is *my* version of the Gunsberg-Tchigorin game. This 30-minute action game versus a computer also has characteristics of an exotic king maneuver from Petrosian-Unzicker, Hamburg 1960. Try to predict on which side of the board the final breakthrough will occur.

### Mach III – Tomothy Rogalski

#### Casual game, Chantilly VA

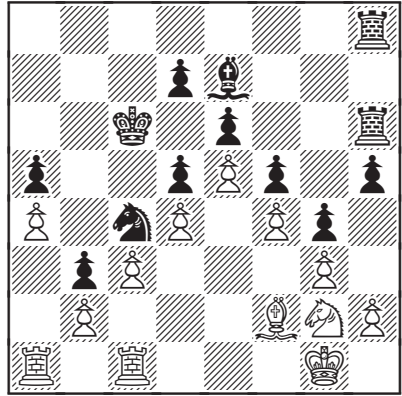
#### Irregular

**1 d4 f6** (I call this simply 'the f6-defense'; its White counterpart is 'the f3 attack,' of course.) **2.e4** ♣ (This position was played as early as 1858 in a game Morphy-Barnes [0-1, 50]). **2...g6 3 Nc3 Nh6 4 Nf3 Nf7 5 Bc4 e6 6 0-0 Nc6 7 Bf4 Ne7 8 e5 f5 9 Qd3 Bg7 10 Rae1 c6! 11 Re2 0-0 12 a4 a6 13 Ra1 b6 14 Rae1** (Caricaturing Nimzowitsch, Kmoch joked that the key to winning this kind of position was to overprotect the e5-pawn.) **14...b5 15 Bb3 b4 16 Na2 a5 17 Bd2 Ba6 = 18 Bc4 Qb6 19 Nc1 Nd8! 20 Bxa6 Qxa6 21 Qxa6 Rxa6 22 Nd3 Nb7 23 Bg5 Nd5 24 Nf4 Kf7!? 25 Nxd5?! cxd5 ± 26 Nh4 Rc8 27 Rb1 Rac6 28 c3 h6 29 Bd2 b3 30 g3 Rc4 31 Ra1 Bf8 32 Ng2 g5 33 Ne3 R4c6 34 f3 Kg6 35 Ng2 Nd8 36 f4 g4 37 Ne3 Ra6 38 Rf1 Nc6 39 Ref2 h5 40 Ng2 Be7 41 Re2 Na7 42 Ne3 Rcc6 43 Kh1 Nc8 44 Ra1 Ra8 45 Rf2 Nb6 46 Be1 Rh8 47 Re2 Kf7! 48 Bf2 Ke8 49 Nf1 Nc4 50 Rae1 Kd8 51 Kg1 Rc8 52 Rd1 Rh6 53 Ne3 Nb6 54 Kh1 Kc7 55 Ra1 Kc6 56 Ng2 Nc4 57 Kg1 Rch8 58 Be1 Rb8 59 Kh1 Rhh8 60 Bf2 Rb7 61 Kg1 Rbh8 62 Be1 Ba3!? 63 Rb1 Be7**





64 Kh1 Rh8 65 Rd1 Rbb8 66 Bf2 Rh6  
 67 Rc1 Rbh8 68 Rb1 Bd8 69 Rd1 Nb6  
 70 Ra1 Be7 71 Reel Nc8 72 Rec1 Nb6  
 73 Kg1 Nc4 (diagram) 74 Rcb1?! Rb8?!  
 (74 Nd2! 75 Rc1 Nf3+ 76 Kh1 h4+  
 was better) 75 Kh1 Rb7 76 Be1 Rh8 77  
 Kg1 Rbh8 78 Bf2 Ba3! 79 Rxa3 Nxa3  
 80 bxa3 b2 = 81 Ne3 Rb3 82 Nd1  
 Rxa3 83 Rxb2 Rxb2 84 Nxb2 Ra2 85  
 Nd3 Rxa4 86 Kf1 Ra1+ 87 Be1 a4 +-  
 88 Nb4+ Kb5 89 Ke2 Kc4 90 Nd3 a3  
 91 Nb4 a2 92 Nxa2 Rxa2+ 93 Bd2 Rc2  
 94 Ke3 Rxc3+ 95 Bxc3 Kxc3 96 Ke2  
 Kxd4 97 Kd2 Ke4 98 Ke2 d4 99 Kd2 d3 100 Ke1 Ke3 101 Kd1 d2 102 Kc2  
 Ke2 103 Kc3 d1Q 104 Kb4 Qc2 105 Ka5 Qb3 106 Ka6 Kd3 107 Ka5 Kc4  
 108 Ka6 Kc5 109 Ka7 Kc6 110 Ka8 Qb7mate 0-1



# Scholar's Mate

by Emily Rhodes



It's common knowledge that many athletes have superstitions regarding their sport, but have you ever wondered how many chess players have superstitions? After interviewing many Virginia chess players, I found that almost no adult chess players have superstitions, while boys admit to having a few. I found no girls with good luck charms or superstitions when it comes to chess. This means that only a handful have superstitions regarding chess and males under the age of 18 are the most likely to have good luck charms or superstitions.

For those that did, some of the more common superstitions or good luck charms were a lucky item, like a shirt, or eating a certain food, or carrying a favorite trinket in their pocket.



More people did, however, admit to having certain rituals or routines they go through before they play. Jerome Mueller, a fourth grader at Swift Creek Elementary School, said that he prays before every game to help him focus. And coach Dave DeClark of Springfield Park Elementary said, "I don't look my opponents in the eye until I'm winning." Another player stated that he tries to arrive at his board before his opponent. Going through a normal routine before a game doesn't help just chess players. It can also help athletes as well, because it helps people mentally prepare for their game.

In most cases, however, I've found that chess players don't have good luck charms — or at least they won't admit to them.

In scholastic tournament news, the Virginia Scholastic Chess Championships were held in Fredericksburg March 12-13. Congratulations to the winners listed below:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Team</i>
K-12	Ruixin Yang	Thomas Jefferson HS
K-8	Edward Lu	Manchester MS
K-5	Darwin Li	Bull Run ES
K-3	Jeevan Karamsetty	Collegiate

Complete crosstables for the state championship can be viewed online at: <http://spotsychessclub.freesevers.com/results/states2004.html>

The National Scholastic Chess Championships were held in Pittsburgh, PA April 2-4. Virginia had a number of participants. Those finishing in the top half of the nation in their respective championship brackets were:

K-6 (out of a total 210 participants): Aryan Khojandi #38, Devan Samant #43, George Li #67, Arman Khojandi #88.

K-5 (out of 358): Yang Dai #35, Darwin Li #38, Quentin Moore #45, Madhu Karamsetty # 105, Allen Qiu #127, Eric Rhodes #150, Christopher Mills # 166, Nicholas Kousen #171.



K-3 (out of 228): Krishna Bindumadhavan #31, Jason Deng #53, Andrew Freix #59, Daniel Jackson #92.

K-1 (out of 195): Jeevan Karamsetty #6, Richard Nehrboss #53

The Fork Union Scholastic X was held April 3rd. Winners included the following.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Team</i>
K-3	Daniel Toth	Bettie Weaver ES
K-5	Jerome Mueller	Swift Creek ES
K-8	Carson Wang	Manchester MS
K-12	Alexander Miller	Fork Union Military

Upcoming local scholastic tournaments include the Hopewell Scholastic on May 15<sup>th</sup> and the VSCA sponsored Chess-a-thon to be held in Richmond in June.



The following account of the State Scholastic Championship appeared in the March 15 edition of *The Free Lance-Star* newspaper under the byline of Laura Moyer.

## **Brainy form of March Madness comes to Spotsylvania's Chancellor High**

Hundreds of students from across Virginia compete in state chess championship

Jeevan Karamsetty and Jason Deng have some history.

At last year's Virginia State Scholastic Chess Championship, the two excellent players were aware of each other but didn't ever match up.

At a couple of smaller tournaments this year, they did play each other. Once, Jason beat Jeevan. Once, Jeevan beat Jason.

It came to a showdown yesterday in a final round of this year's state championship, held at Chancellor High School in Spotsylvania County. Each had won all five games going into the final, and this game was for the championship in their age group.



All over the school, hundreds of players from kindergarten through 12th grade faced one another with varying degrees of composure during the two-day event. A few trash-talked—or at least trash-whispered—during intense games that lasted up to three hours.

But Jeevan and Jason played a concise, sportsmanlike game. Neither tried to get an edge with sly words or unsettling complaints to the tournament directors. Neither seemed even to notice other players or the few observers allowed in the high school gym.

Jason and Jeevan played fiercely and mostly evenly for the first hour and 10 minutes. But the final five minutes turned things Jeevan's way.

As the game ended, he and Jason solemnly shook hands. No gloating. No tears. Gentlemen all the way.

Jason is 9. Jeevan is 5.

Either could have beaten many of the players in the high school division, and in some years that kind of age mismatch does happen. But Jeevan's dad, Pardha Karamsetty of Reston, and Jason's parents, Runtao Deng and Sen Guan of Richmond, seemed happy to have their sons right where they were, in the primary group.

As chess parents, they said, they want their children to be challenged. But not crushed.

If anything, Pardha Karamsetty said, he has to hold his chess-hungry kindergartner back.

At last year's tournament, when Jeevan competed as an unrated preschooler, he was so focused on chess that he picked up extra games between each round. In two days, he played an exhausting 23 games.

After yesterday's final round, Pardha Karamsetty gently but firmly steered Jeevan into an Uno game while awaiting the elementary and primary awards ceremony. Jeevan played cards in a group of kids that included his 10-year-old sister, Madhu, also a highly competitive chess player.

But Uno didn't hold Jeevan's interest. Soon, he was peering intently, and a bit longingly, at a chess game between two older boys.

That kind of intensity could be seen all over the school, in all age levels. Five hundred or so kids from across the state, and all on fire for chess.



But winning games, improving ratings and snagging trophies is only part of the state chess tournament.

Another part is learning to win or lose with class.

That was amply demonstrated in a fifth-round contest between 14-year-old Jessee Perry of Chesterfield County and 15-year-old Steven Li of Richmond.

Steven and Jessee had played chess online before, and Steven had won.

But Jessee is picking up speed--getting back into chess as a ninth-grader after taking a break in middle school. And yesterday, she won.

They shook hands, and Steven complimented his opponent on a good match. Afterward, they took turns explaining to a reporter why chess is so great.

"It's kind of fun to see the combinations," Jessee said.

"And it has the potential to be so brilliant," added Steven.

You go into a game knowing what you want to do, Jessee said, but a good opponent will steer the game another way. Both players must strategize from beginning to end, staying poker-faced so as not to signal a mistake.

"A friend described playing chess as kind of like driving blind," Steven said.

"You're just thinking, 'I hope this works,'" said Jessee.

Jessee said Steven was a gracious opponent, unlike a guy she'd beaten the day before.

That boy grumbled about playing against a girl, and when she won he blurted, "I hate this game."

Steven just shook his head at that story. Competition is competition.

"But some girls would lose on purpose for a guy, so he wouldn't be embarrassed," Jessee said.

Would she?

"No way!"

## Virginia Chess

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