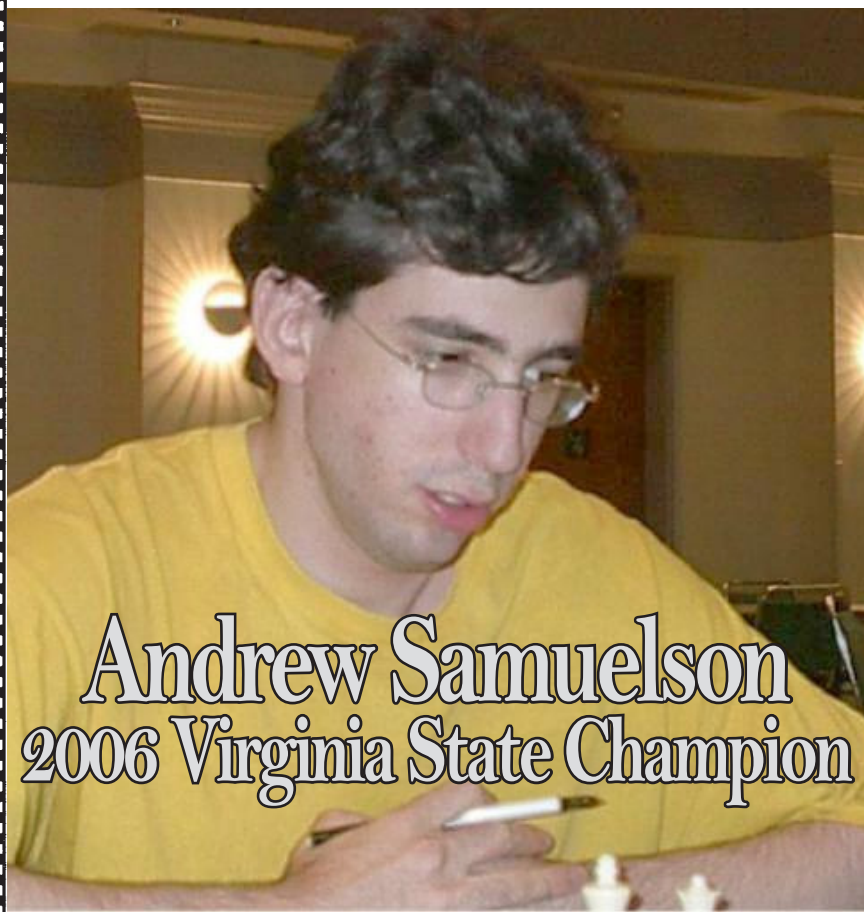


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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2006 - #5



Andrew Samuelson
2006 Virginia State Champion

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2006 - Issue #5

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2006 Virginia State Championship

Andrew Samuelson emerged the winner from one of the most wide open Virginia Closed tournaments in memory, held in Richmond over Labor Day weekend. The 24-year-old master thus becomes Virginia State Champion, adding this title to a resume that already included 1st place in the Virginia Open in 2005. He did it in a most unconventional way: his 5-1 score included four wins, one hard-fought draw, and an *unplanned* ½-point bye in the first round, which was necessitated by a traffic jam on I-95 that caused him to miss registration. In the Amateur Section, Carson Wang took a quick draw in the final round for the only blemish in his 5½-½ score, capturing the state amateur title.

At the VCF's annual business meeting, held on Saturday morning prior to the opening round, Marshall Denny was re-elected for a second year as federation President. A total of 85 players competed in the championship under the able direction of TD Ernie Schlich.

The tournament heralded the emergence of a wave of strong young players in Virginia. In general their ratings have not yet caught up with their strength, turning the standings and pairings upside down through much of the weekend. At no point was this more evident than in round four, which featured a historic pairing of two young women on board number one. It's possible that an all-female pairing has never occurred on the top board of a state championship anywhere in the US, and almost certainly it hasn't happened with two teenage girls. The heroines of



Mid-way through the state championship. Facing camera (L-R): Macon Shibut, Danny Miller, Andrew Samuelson, Ettie Nikolova. Backs to camera: Rodney Flores, Edward Lu.

Photo by Ernie Schlich



this development were Abby Marshall and Ettie Nikolova. They came in rated just 1983 and 1990 respectively (both have now reached Expert status as a result of this tournament) but seemed uncowed by higher-rated opposition through the first half of the event. Marshall's result was particularly eye-popping: in rounds 2 and 3 she upset former champion Macon Shibut and defending champion Daniel Miller, the two highest-rated players in the event! Almost lost in the hubbub over the girls' progress was the equally strong showing of several other young players. Virginia's 2006 scholastic champion Edward Lu also beat a former state champion, Rodney Flores; Jack Barrow likewise found a spot among the top boards. Down in the Amateur group, elementary schooler Katherine Wu scored $3\frac{1}{2}$ out of the first 4 rounds including the tournament's upset prize, while Oliver Goodridge, David Burstein & Robert Brik were laying the foundation for results that would ultimately bring them the C, D, and U1200 prizes, respectively. That's right—junior players took home all the titles in the Amateur section!

The last day of the three-day weekend saw a certain restoration of the old order. In Monday morning's 5th round, Samuelson finally stopped Marshall's run. At the same time, Miller knocked off Nikolova and Shibut beat Barrow.

All of which meant Samuelson stood alone with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points going into the final round. Shibut and Miller were each half a point behind, both of them having won all their games except for their losses to Marshall. The last round pairings were Samuelson-Shibut on board one, and Miller versus Larry Larkins (with $3\frac{1}{2}$ points) on board two. A brief, back-of-the-envelope calculation appeared to



Ettie Nikolova and Abby Marshall.

Photo by Ernie Schlich.



make the situation clear: if Samuelson won, he would be champion. A draw on the top board would open the door for Miller to tie for first with a win, but even then Samuelson's tiebreaks seemed better. A win by Shibut, on the other hand, would either make him champion or give the title to Miller, should he likewise win, on tiebreak. Both games developed into bitter fights. Eventually Samuelson collected the desired draw, apparently sewing up the title. Then there was a period of uncertainty: Miller might have a tiebreak advantage after all owing to some detail in the regulation pertaining to Samuelson's unplayed first round game. In the end, it was all moot as the Miller-Larkins game was also drawn, the very last game in the tournament to finish. Larkins wound up as Top Expert. Abby Marshall beat yet another master and former state champion, Steve Greanias, in the last round to capture an emphatically deserved Top Class A prize. Nikolova took the junior prize. Sanda Costescu, from the amateur section, won the women's prize while Top Senior went to Ilya Kremenchugskiy.

And so a new name gets engraved onto the Wilbur Moorman trophy. Congratulations, Andrew! The new champion kindly annotated two of his key games especially for *Virginia Chess*.

WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

by Andrew Samuelson

AS I SAT STUCK, FUMING, in heavy traffic north of Fredericksburg, I hardly imagined that this would be my best state championship ever. I had come close to various state titles in the past, but had always fallen just short. This year I arrived late without having entered the tournament yet, and was thus forced to take a ½-pt bye in the first round. Thus I was playing catch-up already after only one round. After winning a couple of tough games, I finally started meeting the leaders in round four. In the meantime, the other top seeds had all given up points and the top of the wall chart showed three young A-players leading the tournament.

In rounds four and five I played Virginia Denker representative Edward Lu and the recent winner of the 2006 Polgar Invitational, Abby Marshall (who also tied for first in the 2005 Polgar).^{*} Both of them had already beaten higher rated players and were performing well above their ratings. Abby Marshall in particular was having an excellent tournament, having knocked off the top two seeds in rounds two and three.

^{*} - The Denker and Polgar tournaments are national invitational events for scholastic players. See page 25 for Abby Marshall's first-hand account of her Polgar triumph. -ed



ANDREW SAMUELSON - EDWARD LU

SICILIAN

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

This was my first really key game. My opponent was one of three players with 3-0, while I was trying to catch up with 2½. As it turned out, the game on board 1 was drawn fairly quickly, which meant that I could catch the leaders with a win. **1 e4 c5 2 Na3** [This strange-looking move has some adherents even at the GM level now. Basically, I just didn't feel like going into the open Sicilian and decided to avoid main line theory. The text isn't nearly as pointless as it might appear. The knight on a3 goes to c2 or sometimes even c4, and White can try to play the position similarly to the Closed, Alapin or Rossilimo variations of the Sicilian depending on Black's response.] **2...Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 4 c3** [Doubling Black's pawns with 4 Bxc6 was an alternative, but I wanted to wait before giving up the bishop, figuring there might come a point where doing so would be more to my advantage.] **4...Bg7 5 f4 e6 6 Nf3 Nge7 7 0-0 d5 8 e5 0-0 9 d3 a6 10 Bxc6** [Now giving up the bishop forces Black to either accept doubled pawns or move his knight away from the kingside. I also felt my knights would be fine as Black's bishops have little scope and it's hard for him to open the position up much.] **10...Nxc6 11 Be3 Qe7 12 Qe1 f6 13 d4 c4 14 Bf2 f5 15 Nc2 b5 16 a3 a5** [Black will try

to break through on the queenside while White attacks on the kingside. The position is very imbalanced, which is one of the main things I was aiming for out of the opening.] **17 Bh4 Qc7 18 Qg3 Rb8 19 Qh3 b4 20 axb4 axb4 21 Be1 b3** [21... bxc3 was the alternative. After 22 Bxc3 my bishop isn't very good, but it at least holds my queenside together. Black's c8 bishop is also poor, and unlikely to do much in the future. White should probably be somewhat better here, but it's hard to make progress.] **22 Ne3 Bd7 23 Bh4 Ra8 24 Rae1** [I thought for a while about trying 24 Rab1 instead. True, the rook on b1 is passive, but it holds b2 and keeps a1 under control while leaving my knight on e3 free to help attack the kingside. Eventually I decided that keeping my rook as active as possible was more important than maintaining my knight on e3. The knight will do a good job from d1, holding onto b2 and c3, while my rook can be useful on the 2nd rank or on the kingside if I can manage to open a file there.] **24...Ra2 25 Nd1 Qa5 26 Re2 Ra1 27 Bg5** [Moving forward with the kingside play; still, the position is very blocked up and it will be tough to break through even if I can neutralize Black on the queenside.] **27...Rb1 28 Bh6 Rf7 29 Ng5 Re7 30 Qh4 Bxh6 31 Qxh6 Qa1 32**



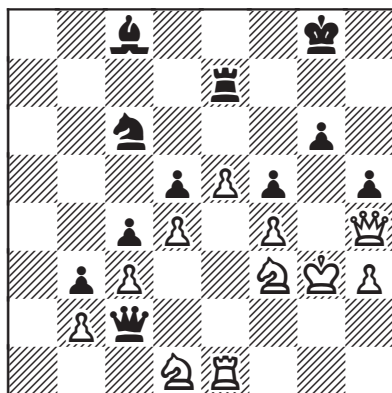
Rd2 Rc1 33 Qh4 Bc8 [If 33...Rc2 34 Qf2 Qc1 35 Nf3 White has an edge as trading major pieces will leave Black in an endgame where it's impossible to activate his bishop.]

34 h3 Rc2 35 Rdf2 [Not 35 Ne3? Qxb2 36 Nxc2 bxc2 37 Qf2 Qxc3 38 Rxc2 Qxd4 and Black's connected passed pawns are far stronger than the exchange.] **35...Ra7 36 g4 Rc1**

37 Rd2 Rc2 [Here my opponent offered a draw. I thought for a while about accepting but eventually decided to play on, figuring I was still slightly better and needed to win.]

38 Rg2 Qc1 39 gxf5 exf5 [Now I have a protected passed pawn on e5, which Black must keep an eye on.] **40 Re1!** [I thought for a long time before concluding that putting the rook on a more active square and preparing to push my passed pawn in some lines was the right way forward.]

40...h5!? [This weakens g6 while stopping threats to h7, an interesting tradeoff.] **41 Nf3 Rxc2+ 42 Kxc2 Qc2+ 43 Kg3 Re7**



44 Ne3! [The best move of the game! It had to be calculated very accurately, as Black now wins the b2 pawn. However, the knight's entrance into the game enables me to overpower the Black defenses. After this White is winning.]

44...Qxb2 45 Nxd5 Re6 [if 45...Rg7 46 e6 Bb7 47 Qf6 +-, or 45...Ra7 46 Qf6 +-,] **46 Nf6+ Kg7 47 d5 Qxc3 48 dxe6 Bxe6** [48...Nd4 49 Rf1 Nxf3 50 Rxf3 Qe1+ is a better try but still should not be enough to save Black, eg 51 Rf2 Qg1+ 52 Kf3 Qd1+ 53 Re2 Bb7+ 54 Kf2 Qd4+ 55 Kf1 Qd1+ 56 Qe1 +-,] **49 Ne8+ Kf8 50 Qf6+ Kxe8 51 Qxe6+ Ne7 52 Rd1 h4+ 53 Kf2 b2 54 Qd7+ Kf7 55 Ng5+ Kg8 56 Qe8+ 1-0**

Next came what was possibly the most important game of the tournament. As I said before, my young opponent had already beaten the top two seeds and had better tiebreaks than mine, so even a draw probably would have killed my chances of winning the title. And had I lost, my opponent would lead the field by half a point with the best tiebreaks to boot. In other words, this was a game I absolutely had to win.





ABBY MARSHALL - ANDREW SAMUELSON

SICILIAN

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 [7...Nc6 is my usual move here; I also considered 7...Bd7 8 Qf3 Nc6 but decided to try the calmer text, which I had been looking at recently.] **8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bxf6** [9 0-0-0 is far and away the most popular move, when Black can choose between an endgame with 9...Qxd4 or a more complicated struggle with 9...Bd7. The text move, surrendering the bishop pair to mess up Black's pawns, is very double-edged, which made me pretty happy under the circumstances. My doubled pawns are hard to attack and the position is imbalanced.] **9...gxf6 10 Nb3 Bd7 11 Be2 h5** [A useful move, preventing Bh5] **12 0-0-0 0-0-0 13 Kb1 Kb8 14 Rhe1 Qc7 15 Bf3 b5!?** [Both ambitious and risky; I decided

I needed to do something active in order to generate chances to play for a win. The alternative was 15...Rc8 16 g3 Be7 ∞] **16 Qf2 h4 17 Ne2 Be7 18 Ned4 Nxd4 19 Rxd4?!** [I expected 19 Nxd4, after which the position seems unclear or maybe even slightly better for White, eg 19...Rc8 20 Qd2 Qc5 21 Re3] **19...a5 20 Qd2 a4 21 Nc1 h3 22 g3 a3!?** [Strictly speaking, this isn't necessary, but I felt it would create practical problems for White. Otherwise I would have played 22...Bc6] **23 b3!?** [After this the a3-pawn causes White problems with the safety of her king. Therefore 23 bxa3 seems preferable and after, eg, 23...Rc8 24 Rd3 Qb6 25 Rb3 White may be somewhat better, but the weakened pawn structure on the queenside gives Black compensation.]

11th annual Northern Virginia Open

November 4-5, 2006

Holiday Inn Express

6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, VA 22150

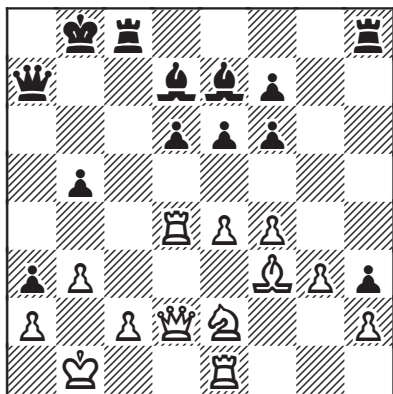
(conveniently located at the junction of I-95, I-495 and I-395)

5-SS, rds 1-3 game/2, rds 4-5 30/90 SD/1. \$\$2,400, top 3 guaranteed, rest b/80. \$575-350-250, top X/A/B/C/D each \$180, top U1200 \$150, top unrated \$100, top upset \$75. Reg 8:45-9:45am, rds 10-2:30-7, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½-pt bye allowed, must commit prior to 1st round. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/26, \$55 at site. Hotel \$85, reserve before 10/20, 877-800-6696 (local 703-644-5555) ask for chess rate and mention the tournament! Plenty of local eateries and places to visit. W, NS, FIDE. *Enter:* Make checks to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria, Va 22306. Info via email, matkins2@cox.net, or online at www.vachess.org/nova.htm

20 Grand Prix points



23...Rc8 24 Ne2 Qa7



25 Rc1 [Objectively maybe the best line for both sides is the repetition 25 Bg4 Rcg8 26 Bf3 Rc8. At the very least, the threat to the h3 pawn would have forced me to leave my rook in a passive post on h8 or give up the pawn if I want to try and play for a win] **25...Rc7 26 Rd3 Rhc8** [if 26...Qf2?! 27 Qb4 Qxh2 28 e5 White would be better since my king and queenside pawns are vulnerable and White's bishop and queen combine to create unpleasant threats such as Qa5-a8.] **27 Nd4 Qb6 28 Bh5?!** [28 Bg4 still looks okay for White; I have to worry about losing the h3 pawn for too little compensation.] **28...f5!** [After this move the position opens up and my pieces come to life.] **29 e5** [Probably not 29 Bxf7?! fxe4 30 Re3 d5= The protected passed pawn on e4 and freer position guarantee Black's advantage. But she could have tried 29 exf5 e5 30 f6 Bf8 31 fxe5 dxe5 32 Nf3 Bf5 33 Nxe5 Bxd3 34 Qxd3 Qc5= White has two pawns for the exchange, but her king

is in some danger with ...Bh6 coming next.] **29...dxe5 30 fxe5** [30 Nxf5 exf5 31 Rxd7 e4 is also better for Black, as I have a protected passer on e4 and threats on the dark squares thanks to the opposite colored bishops.] **30...Be8 31 g4 fxg4 32 Bxg4 Rc5 33 Nf3 Qc7 34 Bxh3** [The pawn finally drops, but now I have sufficient play for it. White's e5 pawn is weak and my bishops finally become active. Therefore White might have considered 34 Rd4 Bc6 35 b4 Bxf3 36 bxc5 Bxg4 37 Rxg4 Qxe5 38 Qb4 Qxc5 39 Qxc5 Rxc5, although here too Black is somewhat better with two connected passed pawns for the exchange and a strong bishop.] **34...Bc6 35 Nd4 Be4! 36 Rg3 Qxe5** [Black is winning; White's king is in too much danger to survive without material losses. The immediate threats are Rxc2 and Bf6.] **37 Re3 Bg5 38 Rxe4 Qxe4 39 Re1 Bxd2** [39...Qh4 40 Qa5 Bd8 41 Qb4 Rd5 was also possible, to keep the queens on and continue attacking. However, I opted for a less complicated approach.] **40 Rxe4** [In addition to my extra exchange, I have connected passed pawns and a strong attack. White's king is boxed in on the queenside and will never get out. The back rank problems tie White's pieces down, and the opposite color bishops only add strength to my attack.] **40...b4 41 Bf1 e5 42 Re2 Bf4 43 Nf3 Rd8 44 Re1 e4 45 Ng1 Rd2 46 Bc4 f5 47 h4 Rc7 48 Ne2 Rcd7 49 c3 Bh6 50 cxb4 Rb2+ 51 Ka1 Bg7 52 Rg1 Rxe2+ 53 Rxg7 Rd1** *mate 0-1*



After winning both of these very tough struggles, I was in clear first going into the last round. Miller and Shibut were each only half a point behind and could still hope to catch me. The players on the top boards all played the round believing that I would win the title on tiebreaks with a draw. As it turned out, this was incorrect and Miller could have retained the title with a win against his student Larry Larkins and a draw in my game. A wild draw with Shibut in the last round left me with a long wait for the board two game to finish. I had a feeling I might come up just short of a state title once again. Fortunately for me, someone forgot to tell Larry he was supposed to lose! In the end, that game was drawn too, giving me the title outright with a score of 5-1.

Andrew Samuelson – Macon Shibut

King Pawn

Notes by Macon Shibut

**1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 d6 3 h3!? Nf6 4 Nc3 e5
5 d4 exd4** [In principle Black shouldn't
fear a line like 5...Be7 6 dxe5 dxe5 7
Qxd8+ Bxd8 8 Bb5 Bd7 9 Be3, but the
resulting position is pretty arid and not
what he needs in a must-win situation.]
6 Nxd4 Nxe4!? [This standard trick
often doesn't work out well unless

you have a lead in development. Here,
however, there is an additional motive:
Black's play is directed specifically
against White having moved h3. After
7 Nxe4 Qe7 White will have to continue
8 f3 soon, whereupon the dark squares
on his kingside resemble swiss cheese.]
7 Nxe4 [There's nothing better. If, for

6th annual

Arlington Open

October 14-15, 2006

George Mason Univ Professional Ctr (The Old Law School)
3401 N Fairfax Dr, Arlington Virginia

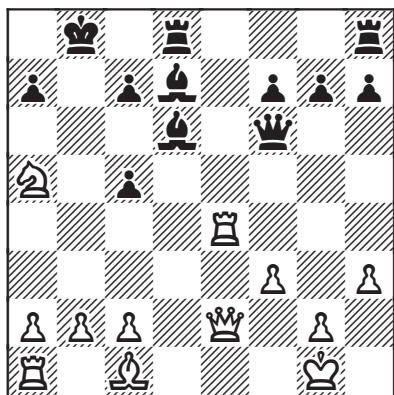
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5-SS, rds 1-3 game/2, rds 4-5 30/90 SD/1. One Section, \$\$1800 b/60, top 3
guaranteed: \$500-300-200, top X, A, B, C, D each \$120, under 1200 \$100, Unr
\$100. EF \$45 if rec'd by 10/6, \$55 at site, \$5 discount to GMU students with
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must declare before rd 1. NS, NC, FIDE rated. *Enter:* Michael Atkins, PO Box
6139 Alexandria, Va 22306, make checks payable to Michael Atkins. Info via
email, matkins2@cox.net, or online at members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/arlopen.htm

20 Grand Prix points



instance, 7 Nxc6 Nxc3 8 Qf3 Black holds an extra pawn after 8...Qf6!] **7...Qe7 8 f3** [Again there's little choice since both 8 Bd3 and 8 Qe2 fail to 8...Nxd4; or 8 Nxc6 Qxe4+ captures both knights and again retains the pawn plus.] **8...d5** [8...f5!?] **9 Bb5 Bd7 10 Bxc6 bxc6 11 0-0 dxe4 12 Re1 0-0-0** [12...f5 isn't so good because of 13 fxe4 fxe4 14 Qe2 where 14...0-0-0? (14...c5 is better but Black is still uncomfortable after 15 Nb5 with Bf4 coming) 15 Qa6+ Kb8 16 Re3 leaves Black without a defense.] **13 Rxe4 Qf6 14 Qe2 c5 15 Nb3 Bd6!** [Black relies on a nexus of tactical defenses. For instance, now 16 Qa6+ Kb8 17 Na5 looks really good, even winning, for White—until you notice 17...Bh2+!] **16 Na5** [White tries the same attack with a different move order. Black's reply seems forced.] **16...Kb8**

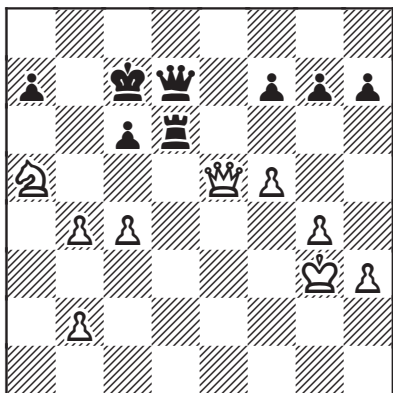


[The mechanism holding up Black's game is illustrated by 17 Qd3 (threatening Qb3+) Ka8 18 Qd5+? c6 19 Nxc6 and again the device 19...Bh2+! 20 Kxh2 Bxc6 comes to the rescue. With that in mind, the "mysterious" 17 Kh1!? makes a lot of sense. Instead,

however, Andrew goes for the throat...] **17 Bg5!? Qxg5** [17...Qxb2 is well met by 18 Qf1! threatening Rb1] **18 Qa6 Qd5 19 c4 Qa8 20 Re3** [A few forced moves appear to have stretched Black to the breaking point, but now our old friend, the Bh2+ motif, returns to the stage.] **20...Ba4 21 Rb3+ Bxb3 22 axb3** [White can win a queen with 22 Nc6+ but after 22...Qxc6 23 Qxc6 Bxc4 Black has nothing to fear.] **22...Bh2+! 23 Kxh2 Rd6 24 Qb5+ Kc8 25 Re1 c6** [Reactivating the queen now and not, eg, after 25...Rhd8 26 Re7 when Black could no longer go 26...c6 because of 27 Qa6+] **26 Qxc5 Qb8 27 Kh1 Qc7 28 b4 Rhd8 29 Qf5+ Kb8 30 f4 Rd1 31 Rxd1 Rxd1+ 32 Kh2** [Time control has passed and a new phase begins. Black has a minimal material advantage—the exchange for one pawn. That's not easy to exploit, especially since White has a safer king; the possibility Nxc6+ hangs over Black like the Sword of Damocles.] **32...Rd4 33 Kg3 Rd6 34 Qe4 Rg6+ 35 Kf3** [Drawing White's king out into the open, since if 35 Kh2 Re6 36 Qf3 g5 etc] **35...Qd7** [At the end a long tournament filled with tough games, Black lacked energy and wanted to exploit his material advantage "risk free," ie, without giving up more pawns or allowing the knight to start hopping around. It was this passive attitude, more than any particular move, that ultimately killed his chances. Thus 35...Re6 36 Qxh7 Qd8 was rejected even though 37 Qc2 (forced?) Qd4 seems promising.] **36 f5 Rf6** [Drawing the g-



pawn forward in the hope that White's king will become exposed.] **37 g4 Rd6 38 Kg3 Kc7?** [The first of three weak moves in a row. 38...Rd3+ 39 Kh4 Qd8+ 40 g5 Rd4 doesn't work because of 41 Nxc6+, so Black determined to move his king. On general principles he chose to come forward and reinforce c6. 38...Kc8! was correct, however. White would still face a hard defense.] **39 Qe5!** [General principles notwithstanding, the concrete problem is two simultaneous threats, c5 and Qxg7]



39...f6?

The dynamic of Black's collapse will sound familiar to experienced players: Hoping for a technical exploitation of a small advantage, he avoids sharp play and winds up choosing a superficial move. The opponent's reply demonstrates that things are not as simple as he had hoped. Discouraged by the turn of affairs, he resolves to settle the situation and make the best of things by playing... yet another superficial move.

The text meets both threats but it has the greater disadvantage of making

h4 much safer haven for White's king. Black considered the superior try 39... Kc8 and saw that after 40 Qxg7 Rd3+ would win in the event of 41 Kh4? Qe7+ 42 f6 Qe1+ 43 Kg5 h6+! 44 Qxh6 Qd2+. However, the frustration comes after 41 Kf2! White's king is amazingly slippery and the anticipated 'winning attack' proves elusive: 41...Rd2+ 42 Kf3 Qd3+ 43 Kf4... Still, that is how Black ought to have played.

40 Qc5 Kd8? [The general collapse culminates in an outright blunder. Black needed to try 40...Kb8. White would have tucked his king away, 41 Kh4, when anything might yet happen.] **41 Nb7+ Qxb7 42 Qxd6+ Ke8 ½-½** Now of course White has all the winning chances with his extra pawn. It might not be easy to haul in the full point, but there would be little risk in trying and moreover he enjoyed a large advantage on the clock in the sudden death time control. However, Andrew immediately grasped the draw which assured his becoming the new state champion. *Or so we thought.* A bit later we learned that Andrew's first round bye might thrown the tiebreak calculations in Danny Miller's favor if Miller could win. It was only an hour later that the Miller-Larkins game finally ended in a draw.





DANIEL MILLER - LARRY LARKINS

QUEEN PAWN

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 Nc6 3 d4 d6 4 Bg2 Bf5
5 c4 e5 6 d5 Ne7 7 Nc3 Ng6 8 Nd2 Be7
9 e4 Bd7 10 h4 h6 11 Nf1 Qc8 12 Bd2
a6 13 Rc1 0-0 14 a4 Rb8 15 a5 b6 16
b4 bxa5 17 bxa5 Rb2 18 Ne3 Ng4 19
Rb1 Nxe3 20 Bxe3 Qb7 21 0-0 Rb8 22
Qd3 Qc8 23 Rfc1 R8b3 24 Rxb2 Rxb2
25 Rb1 Qb7 26 Bc1 Rb3 27 Bd2 Kf8 28
Bf3 Ke8 29 Bd1 Rxb1 30 Qxb1 Qxb1
31 Nxb1 c5 32 Kg2 Bd8 33 Na3 Ne7

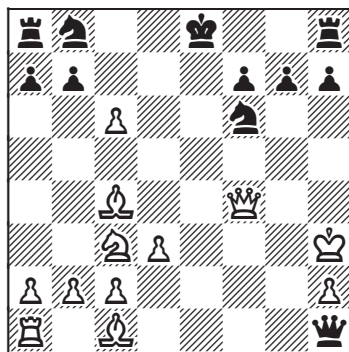
34 Nc2 Kf8 35 Ne3 Kg8 36 Bg4 Bxg4
37 Nxg4 f5 38 Ne3 [White rejects 38
exf5 Nxf5 because he's fearful of allowing
Black's knight into the impressive square
d4, from which it might later go to b3 and
attack the a5 pawn.] 38...fxe4 39 h5 Kf7
40 Kh3 Ng8 41 Nf5 Bc7 42 g4 Nf6 43
Ne3 Nh7 44 Nf5 Nf6 45 Ne3 Nh7 46 Nf5
Kf8 47 Kg2 Nf6 48 Kg3 Kf7 49 Ne3 Kf8
50 Nf5 Kf7 51 Kh4 Nh7 52 Kh3 ½-½

ABBY MARSHALL - DANIEL MILLER

KING'S GAMBIT

Notes by GM Susan Polgar from Susan Polgar Chess Blog,
<http://susanpolgar.blogspot.com/>

1 e4 e5 2 f4 d5 3 exd5 c6 4 Nc3 exf4
5 Bc4 Qh4+?! [This move violates the
Opening Principles. An isolated attack
without support from many other
pieces usually does not work, especially
when one's own king is exposed. 5...
Nf6 6 Nf3 cxd5 7 Bb3 d4 8 Ne2 Bd6 9
d3 0-0 10 0-0 Ng4 11 Nxf4 Nc6 ∞]
6 Kf1 f3 7 d3 fxg2+ 8 Kxg2 Bg4?!
[8...Be7 9 Qe2 Kf8 ∞] 9 Qd2 Bc5?
[This moves allow Qf4 and White has a
very powerful attack; 9...Bd6 (stopping
Qf4) 10 Qg5 Qxg5 11 Bxg5 ±] 10
Qf4 Bxg1? [10...b5 11 dxc6 bxc4 12
h3 Bxh3+ 13 Rxh3 Qxf4 14 Bxf4 ±]
11 Kxg1! +- [11 Rxg1 Nf6 12 Qe3+
Kd7 ±] 11...Qe1+ [11...Qh5 White is
still so much better, but Black would be
better than in the actual game] 12 Kg2
Bh3+ 13 Kxh3 Qxh1 14 dxc6!! [This
is the final blow for Black. White is now
completely winning!] 14...Nf6



15 Be3! [Another brilliant move! White is
willing to sacrifice her rook for a tempo and
additional material to attack.] 15...Qxa1
[15...Qxc6 16 Bb5 0-0 17 Bxc6 Nxc6 18
Rg1 would be completely winning for
White] 16 cxb7 0-0 [Too little, too late]
17 bxa8Q Qxb2 18 Qg2 Nh5 19 Qfg4
[19 Qxf7+ Rxf7 20 Qd5 h6 21 Qxf7+ Kh7
22 Qf5+ Kh8 23 Qc8+ Kh7 24 Bg8+ Kg6
25 Qe8+ Kf6 26 Qe6mate] 19...Qxc3 20
Qxh5 Nd7 21 Qhg4 1-0

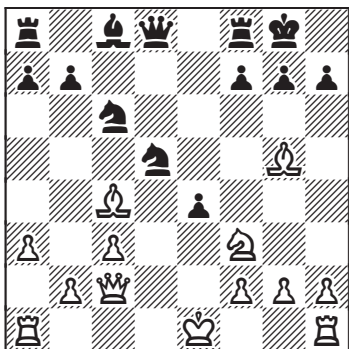


STEVE GREANIAS - DANIEL MILLER

ENGLISH

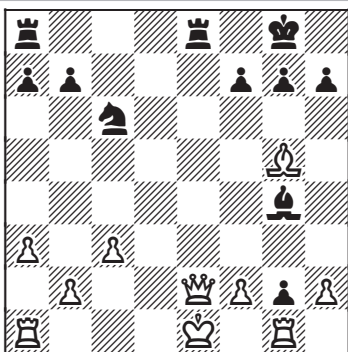
Notes by Daniel Miller

[Given the tournament situation, this was a must-win with Black against a former state champion.] **1 c4 e5** [I used to play this 15 years ago as an alternative to my normal King's Indian Defense. Now it's as an alternative to the Semi-Slav. In 2000 Steve responded to my 1...c6 by playing 2 e4, and while I do not mind that position, I chose something with more dynamic potential to give maximum winning chances in a situation where a draw would not be a good result.] **2 Nc3 Bb4 3 Nd5 Ba5 4 e4?! [4 b4 c6 5 bxa5 cxd5 6 cxd5 Nf6 is thought to be ± but is a position with which I have been very familiar for more than 15 years. Nevertheless, to play 3 Nd5 you must follow up with 4 b4] 4...c6** [Now Black is playing a favorable version of a Rossolimo Sicilian reversed.] **5 Nc3 Nf6 6 Qc2 0-0 7 a3 Bxc3 8 dxc3 d5 9 cxd5 cxd5 10 exd5 Nxd5?! [10...Qxd5] 11 Nf3 Nc6 12 Bc4 e4 13 Bg5 [13 Ng5 Bf5 14 0-0 Ne5 was the type of position I was trying to achieve]**



13...exf3!? **14 Bxd8 fxe2** [The factor that led me into all these complications was White's extreme weakness on the light squares. He may get mated even if he manages to castle. Black's pawn structure was compact and, even if I end up with only two pieces for the queen, I figured they would be more active given the weaknesses on b3, d3, c4, f3 & a4.] **15 Rg1** [if 15 0-0-0? gxh1Q 16 Rxh1 Rxd8 wins; and if 15 Bxd5 Re8+ 16 Kd2 Rxd8! 17 Rhg1 Rxd5+ 18 Kc1 Bf5 19 Qb3 Rad8 20 Rxe2 Na5 Black has too much light square control. However, in this latter line, maybe 16 Be7!! Rxe7+ 17 Kd2 gxh1Q is slightly better for White] **15...Re8+ 16 Be2** [16 Kd2 Rxd8 17 Bxd5 Rxd5+ 18 Kc1 Ne5 19 Qe4 Nd3+ 20 Kc2? Bf5 was a fantasy variation Steve and I looked at after the game, though White can improve] **16...Nf4!** [I believe I spent more time choosing between 16...Nf4 and 16...Bg4 than I did deciding upon the original queen sacrifice. I felt Black was better after the text, whereas after 16...Bg4 17 0-0-0 Rxe2 18 Qb3 Rxd8 19 Rxd5 Rxd5 20 Qxd5 Rxf2 21 Rxe2 Rf1+ I just couldn't see any mates, pins or forks, and my back rank was about to cost me a tempo.] **17 Bg5** [17 Rxe2! Nxe2+ 18 Kf1 Bh3 is winning for Black] **17...Nxe2 18 Qxe2 Bg4**

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19 f3 [Not 19 Qxe8+? Rxe8+ 20 Kd2 Re2+ 21 Kd3 Ne5+ 22 Kd4 Nf3+; and 19 Qe3 Rxe3+ 20 fxe3 Bf3 21 Kf2 Be4 22 Rad1 Ne5 would be enjoyable for Black too. The opposite color bishops mean that it is not a normal exchange-up position. I tend to think of it as Black having two pieces for a rook while White has an extra piece,—which is an unusual way of looking at it, I know, and

will prompt many questions. The point is that all of Black's pieces can control the light squares with no interference from White's bishop. The pawn on g2 would tip the balance in Black's favor, I believe.] 19...Bxf3 20 Qxe8+ Rxe8+ 21 Kf2 Be4 22 Rad1 f6 23 Be3 Re7 24 b4 b6 25 Rd6 Ne5 26 Bd4? [time pressure] 26...Nf3? [I was so confident of the coming forced rook ending that I didn't look further, but Steve pointed out after the game that 26...Nf7 traps the rook.] 27 Rxg2 Nxd4 28 Rxd4 Bxg2 29 Kxg2 Re2+ 30 Kf3 Rxh2 31 Rd8+ Kf7 32 Rd7+ Kg6 33 Rxa7 Rh3+ 34 Ke4 Rxc3 -+ 35 Kd4 Rc8 36 Rb7 [As an example of how Black wins all pawn races, 36 b5 h5 37 Ra6 Rb8 38 Kd5 h4 39 Ra4 Kh5 40 Kc6 g5 41 Kc7 Re8 42 Kxb6 h3 43 Rd4 h2 44 Rd1 g4 etc] 36... Ra8 37 Rxb6 Rxa3 0-1

Here are a few additional games from the championship:

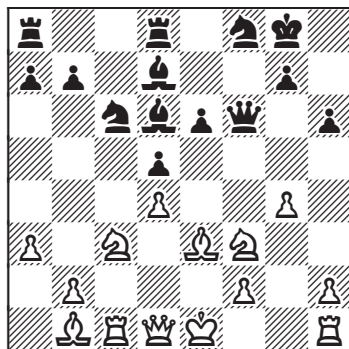
ALFRED HARVEY - ANDREW SAMUELSON SICILIAN

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Nc6 8 Nxc6 bxc6 9 e5 h6 10 Bh4 g5 11 fxg5 Nd5 12 Nxd5 cxd5 13 Qh5 Qb6 14 Bd3 Qe3+ 15 Kd1 Qxe5 16 Rf1 Ra7 17 Qg4 hxg5 18 Bf2 Qxb2 19 Qd4 Bg7 20 Qxa7 Qxa1+ 21 Ke2 Qe5+ 22 Kd1 0-0 23 Bg3 Qd4 24 Qc7 e5 25 Kc1 Be6 26 Rd1 e4 27 Bxa6 Qa1+ 28 Kd2 e3+ 0-1

DANIEL MILLER - ETTIE NIKOLOVA 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 Qxf6 10 Nf3 h6 11 Be3 Bd6

12 Rc1 0-0 13 Nc3 Rd8 14 Bb1 Nf8 15 a3 Bd7 16 g4



16...Bf4 17 h4 Bxe3 18 fxe3 Qf7 19 g5 h5 20 g6 Qe7 21 Ng5 Be8 22 Qxh5 Qc7 23 Rf1 Rd7 24 Qh8+ 1-0



ANDREW SAMUELSON - JAMES GUILL

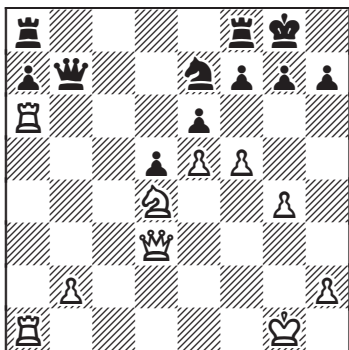
FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 b3 b6 3 Bb2 Bb7 4 d3 c5
5 Nd2 d6 6 Ngf3 Nf6 7 Qe2 Nc6 8
Nc4 Be7 9 g4 Qc7 10 Rg1 0-0-0 11 e5
Nd5 12 0-0-0 Rhg8 13 Rg3 dxe5 14
Nfxe5 Bg5+ 15 Kb1 Nf4 16 Qe1 Nd4
17 c3 Nc6 18 Nxc6 Bxc6 19 Ne5 Bb7
20 d4 Bf6 21 Nd3 cxd4 22 cxd4 Kb8
23 Nb4 a5 24 Na6+ Bxa6 25 Bxa6
Ka7 26 Bc4 g6 27 g5 Bg7 28 Qe4
Rge8 29 Rf3 Nd5 30 Rc1 Qb7 31 Qh4
Ne7 32 Rxf7 1-0

JACK BARROW - ETTIE NIKOLOVA

FRENCH

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3
Qb6 6 Be2 cxd4 7 cxd4 Nh6 8 Nc3
Nf5 9 Na4 Qa5+ 10 Bd2 Bb4 11 Bc3
b5 12 a3 Bxc3+ 13 Nxc3 b4 14 axb4
Qxb4 15 Bb5 Bd7 16 0-0 Nxe5 17
dxe5 Bxb5 18 Nxb5 Qxb5 19 g4 Ne7
20 Nd4 Qd7 21 Ra6 [White plans to
attack the a pawn with Qd3 Rfa1 Nb5]
21...0-0 22 Qd3 Qb7 23 Rfa1 Qb8
24 f4 Ng6 25 Nc6 Qb7 26 f5 Ne7
27 Nd4



27...exf5 28 gxf5 Qc7 29 e6 Nc8 30
Kh1 Qf4 31 Rg1 Kh8 32 Rf1 Qh4 33

Qa3 Qe4+ 34 Nf3 Nb6 35 Rxa7 fxe6
36 Qe7 Rg8 37 Rxa8 Nxa8 38 fxe6
Qd3 39 Rf2 Qb1+ 40 Kg2 Qg6+ 41
Ng5 h6 42 Rf3 42 Rf8 Qxg5+ 43
Qxg5 hxg5 44 e7 Nc7 45 b4 g6 46 b5
Kg7 47 b6 1-0 Black can't stop the two
pawns {It's not entirely clear from the score
whether the game actually ended here or a
few moves before or after this point. The
players stopped keeping score in the sudden
death time control phase and some moves
were reconstructed afterwards. -ed}

ABBY MARSHALL - MACON SHIBUT

CARO KANN

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 Nf6
5 Nc3 g6 6 Nf3 Bg7 7 Be2 0-0 8 0-0
Nc6 9 cxd5 Nxd5 10 Re1 Bf5 11 a3
Rc8 12 Bg5 Nxc3 13 bxc3 Qc7 14
Bb5 Bf6 15 Bxf6 exf6 16 Rc1 Rfd8
17 Qa4 Na5 18 Qb4 a6 19 Bf1 Nc6
20 Qb2 b5 21 Nd2 Na5 22 Qb4 Nc6
23 Qb2 Qd6 24 Nb3 Rb8 25 Nc5 Na5
26 Red1 Nb7 27 Nxb7 Rxb7 28 c4
Rdb8 29 c5 Qd5 30 Qd2 Bd7 31 Be2
Rc7 32 Bf3 Qb3 33 Qa5 Rbc8 34 d5
Rxc5 35 Rxc5 Rxc5 36 Qd8+ Kg7 37
Qxd7 Qxa3 38 Qe7 a5 39 d6 Re5 40
Qxe5 fxe5 41 d7 e4 42 Bxe4 Qe7 43
d8Q Qxe4 44 Qd4+ Qxd4 45 Rxd4
b4 46 Rd5 a4 47 Rd4 1-0

JACK BARROW - RAYMOND FLETCHER

RUY LOPEZ

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4
Nf6 5 0-0 Nxe4 6 Re1 Nc5 7 Nxe5
Nxe5 8 Rxe5+ Be7 9 Bb3 Nxb3 10
axb3 0-0 11 d3 Bf6 12 Re1 d5 13
Nc3 Qd6 14 Qf3 Be6 15 Bf4 Qd7 16
Qg3 Rac8 17 Na4 b6 18 Nc3 a5 19
Be5 Bxe5 20 Qxe5 Rfe8 21 d4 f6 22



Qh5 Bf7 23 Qf3 Rxe1+ 24 Rxe1 Rd8 25 Re3 Bg6 26 Qe2 Kf8 27 g4 c5 28 Re6 cxd4 29 Na4 d3 30 cxd3 Bxd3 31 Nxb6 Bxe2 32 Nxd7+ Rxd7 33 Rxe2 d4 34 Rd2 Ke7 35 Kg2 Ke6 36 Kf3 Kd5 37 Ke2 Ke4 38 f3+ Kf4 39 Rd3 g5 40 Kd2 Ke5 41 Kc2 Rc7+ 42 Kd2 Kd5 43 Kd1 Re7 44 Kd2 Re5 45 f4 gxf4 46 Rh3 Rg5 47 Rxh7 Rxg4 48 Ra7 Ke4 49 Re7+ Kf3 50 Kd3 Kg2 51 Re2+ Kf1 52 Re4 f5 53 Re5 f3 54 Rxf5 f2 55 Rxa5 Kg2 56 Rf5 f1Q+ 57 Rxf1 Kxf1 58 b4 Kg2 59 b5 Kxh2 60 b6 Rg6 61 Kxd4 Rxb6 62 Kc3 Kg3 63 b4 Kf4 64 Kc4 Ke5 65 Kc5 Rh6 66 b5 Rh1 67 Kc6 Rc1+ 68 Kd7 Rb1 69 Kc6 Ke6 70 b6 Rc1+ 71 Kb7 Kd7 72 Ka8 Ra1+ 73 Kb8 Kc6 74 b7 Rb1 75 Ka8 Kc7 0-1

JAMES GUILL - WALTER CHESTER SICILIAN

Notes by Walter Chester

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Bc5 5 Nb3 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 Be7 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Be2 Nf6 9 0-0 0-0 10 Be3 b6 11 f4 Bb4 12 Bf3 Bxc3 13 bxc3 d5 14 e5 Nd7 15 c4 Qc7 16 cxd5 exd5 17 Bxd5 Bb7 18 Qg4 Rad8 19 c4 Kh8 20

Rf3 Ncxe5 [After dropping a pawn in a botched opening, I manage to equalize by exchanging two knights for a rook and two pawns] **21 fxe5 Nxe5 22 Qh5 Nxf3+ 23 Qxf3 Bxd5 24 cxd5 Qe5 25 Rd1 Rfe8 26 Bf2 Qe2 27 Qxe2 Rxe2 28 Nc1 Rc2 29 d6? Rxd6! 30 Re1** [Accepting the rook sacrifice would leave me a pawn up in a rook endgame: **30 Rxd6 Rxc1+ 31 Be1 Rxe1+ 32 Kf2 Re8 33 Rd7 Ra8 34 Rxf7 b5**, etc. My opponent declined the sacrifice, but that lost a second pawn in allowing doubled rooks on the 7th rank.] **30... h6 31 a4 Rdd2 32 Bg3 Rxg2+ 33 Kf1 Rgd2 34 Ne2 Kh7 35 Bb8 a6 36 Ba7 Rd6 37 Kf2 g5 38 Kg3 f5 39 a5 b5 40 h4 Rd3+ 41 Kh2 Kg6 42 Kg1 f4 43 hxg5 hxg5 44 Nd4 Ra2 45 Bb6 Kh5 46 Ne6 Rdd2 47 Kf1 Kh4 48 Bd8 Rf2+ 49 Kg1 Rg2+ 50 Kh1 Rh2+ 51 Kg1 Rag2+ 52 Kf1 f3** [The final trick was to see that setting up mate would still allow my king to run out from checks by his rook, bishop and knight on an open board and still hold on to the f-pawn.] **53 Re4+ Kh5 54 Nf4+ gxf4 55 Re5+ Kg6 56 Re6+ Kf7 0-1**

Joshua Lilly, of Martinsville, wrote in about Tim Rogalski's Philidor article (*Virginia Chess* #2006/4, p 3), specifically Rogalski's remark that he had neither heard any of Philidor's music nor knew anyone that had heard it. Josh informs us that his personal "gargantuan collection of operas from the late 18th and early 19th centuries" includes multiple pieces by Philidor, including two complete operas and a very bizarre 'March for Four Timpani'. Some of what he's got is on commercial CDs and thus under copyright, but other stuff is in the public domain and can be shared freely. Josh invites *Virginia Chess* readers who are interested in listening to music by Philidor to contact him at josh@patrick.k12.va.us





Kingstowne Chess Club

by Don Millican

QUAD #32/ACTION-PLUS #4 - THE RETURN OF THE ACTION-PLUS

The Cash Quads of last year may have come and gone, but the August 5 tournament from the Kingstowne Chess Club in Alexandria proved the popularity of the Action-Plus (game in 45 minutes) format. Fifteen players (plus a no-show) competed in the Quads, while a dozen others battled in the fourth Action-Plus tournament.

In the top Quad Stephen Jablon won a silver medal with $2\frac{1}{2}$ points while Witold Pacheco took the bronze for second with 2. Adam Renfro Chrisney won the second Quad and a gold medal with 3. Samuel Golant took the bronze with 2. Steven Halseth won gold in the third Quad with a perfect 3, doubling up Byron O'Neal's $1\frac{1}{2}$, which was good enough for bronze. The bottom Quad saw Nicholas Kinney score a perfect 3 and a gold medal while Erik Halseth (Quad 3 winner Steven's son) had 2 points and took home a bronze medal.

In the Action-Plus, Darwin Li & Christopher Snell tied for 1st-2nd with $4\frac{1}{2}$. Michael Abron, Raymond Wang & Justin Chang tied for Under 1800, while Mike Anliker & Jeffrey Chang (brother of Under 1800 co-winner Justin) tied for Under 1400, all with $2\frac{1}{2}$. Yuan Zhou took the Top Unrated prize with 2.

QUAD #33/ACTION-PLUS #5

Well, maybe not so fast as regards assuming the popularity of the Action-Plus format. At the Kingstowne Club's September 9 event, Quad #33 went well with three full quad sections. In the top Quad, William H Wilson, Jr snagged a gold medal with a perfect 3-0. W E Webbert scored 2 and took the bronze. Carlston Boucher & Glenn Shelton tied with 2 in the middle Quad. Boucher won silver on tiebreak, leaving the bronze for Shelton. The bottom Quad went to Aravind Ponukumati who scored a perfect 3 and a gold medal, while Steven Kool's 2 points netted bronze.

The headaches were in Action-Plus #5. When entries cut off, the Action-Plus had six players. With six players and five rounds, a round robin was the obvious choice. However, one player had requested a half-point bye in round 2 at registration, which made a round robin impossible. Then another player decided to switch to the Quads (not an entirely undesirable development as this 12 quad entries, good for three full sections). With five players and five rounds, rematches, a violation of Swiss system rules, seemed inevitable. Most likely the leaders would have a



rematch in the final round. Then the roof fell in: another player withdrew (without informing the director) after a round 1 loss, turning the section into a distorted quad. All legal pairings were exhausted by round three, so rounds four and five were rematches for all. At the end, Darwin Li was at the top with a perfect 5-0. Michael Abron & Kun Liu tied for 2nd with 3-2, also sharing the Under 1800 prize. Perry Feng finished with half a point, winning the Under 1400 prize by virtue of being the only player left eligible for it. (One knows it's been a very small turnout when a player with a rating of just under 700 wins a class prize with an upper limit double his rating.)

Kingstowne Chess Club's next tournament will be the annual Fall Festival on October 21-22, with \$1,000 in prize money and 20 Grand Prix points in the Open section. \$500 in prizes are available in the Amateur (under 1800 or unrated) section.



There is no November event; another organization took our date and beat us in getting an announcement into *Chess Life*. The final Quad for 2006 will be December 9.

HARRIS OPEN AIR PAVILION

The fourth chess event at the Harris Pavilion, and the third installment of the "Open Air" format, lived up to its designation as "the hottest tournament in Virginia". However, both the turnout and the outdoor temperature in Manassas on August 19 were less than those experienced in previous years. In total, eight played in the Open section for cash prizes and Grand Prix points while twenty-five others played in the non-rated Fun section for trophy prizes.

Roderick Brown continued his success in the Open section with a perfect 5 points and 1st place. (Brown won the "Open Air" Open last year and tied for first in its inaugural in 2004.) Andrew Tichenor scored 4 for clear 2nd place. Tying for 3rd-5th were Quentin Moore, Paul Serrano & Kevin Wang, all with 2½. Moore also took the Under 2000 prize while Serrano & Wang shared the Under 1800 prize. Joseph Vaikasas took the Under 1600 prize with 2, while Mahil Santran took Top Unrated in his tournament debut with 1.

The non USCF-rated Fun section had its share of repeat players and winners. John Farrell won with a perfect 5-0, to go along with his ties for 1st both last year and at the inaugural "Open Air" Fun section in 2004. 2nd through 4th places went respectively to Robert Johnston, James Reed & Bill Murphy on tiebreak with 4 apiece. Alone in 5th place was Reynado Pasa with 3½. 6th through 10th went to,



respectively, Harry Hopewell, Richard Stableford, Richie Walz, Susan McClanahan & Robert Hopewell (son of Harry Hopewell), just ahead of Andrew Fuller & Hans Beuttler. Inspired by success in his first-ever tournament, Walz signed up for USCF membership and is planning to play in the Open section next year.

Harris Pavilion, under the direction of Anna Marie Morgan, provided the playing facilities and \$500 of \$800 in prize money for the Open section. Kingstowne Chess Club provided the remaining \$300 in Open prize money and the trophies for the Fun section. Alex Passov provided instruction and insight to players and spectators during the first three rounds.

Alex Wojtkiewicz, 1963-2006

GM Alex Wojtkiewicz passed away July 14 at St Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. He had looked really sick even while tying for first at the World Open and having taken first on tiebreaks at The National Open. Five days before he passed he was winning yet again at the Columbus Open — a man clearly on top of his chess game as his body was failing.

I decided to change the name of the Capital Blitz Classic to the Alex Wojtkiewicz Memorial Blitz. He played in the event last year and would have been there this year. I must have directed him 20 times in blitz events. Alex was one of chess's true original personalities.

—Mike Atkins



Alex Wojtkiewicz Memorial Blitz

November 3, 2006

Arlington Chess Club

Lyon Village Community House

1920 N Highland, Arlington, Virginia 22201

(corner of N Highland & Lee Highway)

5 round double swiss (ie, 10 games), game/5 minutes. \$\$1680 b/70, top 3 in Open guaranteed. Two Sections: *Open* \$400-200-150, top X, A/Unr \$125, top ACC Member wins 2006 club blitz championship & trophy. *Amateur* \$250-125, top C, D, U1200 \$110, top ACC member wins club amateur blitz championship & trophy. *Both* EF \$30 if rec'd by Oct 27, \$40 at site. *Entries by cash only at site.* Reg 6-8:15pm, rd 1 at 8:25, others follow ASAP. USCF Quick rated but regular OTB ratings used for pairings and prizes. One bye allowed if requested before rd 2. WBCA Rules. NS. 50% of profit goes to Wojtkiewicz Burial Fund. *Enter:* Make checks and send entries to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria Va 22306. Info at <http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/capitalblitz.htm>

15 Grand Prix points



TIMOTHY ROGALSKI – PAVEL BLEHM UMBC CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

SICILIAN

Notes by Tim Rogalski

[In my entire life, I have played only four games versus Grandmasters. They were GMs Rogoff, Stripunsky, Nakamura, and Blehm. In each game I achieved decent and sometimes favorable positions.

This is where I beat the odds and won.] **1 e4 c5 2**

Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nx d4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bg5

e6 7 Qd2 a6 8 0-0-0 Bd7 9 f3 [The aggressive 9 f4 is the most common move. When Black plays an

early Bd7, he generally intends Nxd4 and Bc6. My modest

f-pawn move discourages that while keeping everything solid. It is also good shape in relation to the f6-knight and provides a comfortable haven for the g5-bishop on e3 where it cannot be harassed by Ng4.] **9...Rc8 10 Nb3** [Tal used to play this before initiating the English Attack with g4, but generally on move 9 after Black had played the more normal 8...Be7 instead of 8...Bd7. I wanted to keep pieces on the board and signal my intentions that I wasn't afraid of a little tension.] **10...h6** [This momentarily gives Black a tempo, but the h6-pawn becomes a target and later causes Black to think twice about castling.] **11 Be3** [11 Bxf6 Qxf6 12 Nc5 Rc7 13 Nxd7 Rxd7 would relieve Black's cramp and place his rook in opposition to my queen.] **11...b5 12 Kb1** [This preparatory move gets out of the c8-rook's line of fire and secures the queenside before beginning any operations on the kingside. These simple types of moves, which

22nd annual

Emporia Open

Oct 21-22, 2006

Greensville Ruritan Club, Ruritan Rd., Emporia

Off of Hwy 58 West of Emporia.

5SS, 40/90, SD/60. \$\$G 500, \$400 class prizes b/5: \$250-150-100, X (if no X wins top 3), A, B, C each \$75, D, E each \$50. EF \$35 if rec'd by 10/19, \$45 site, free to Unrated. Reg 9-9:45am, rds 10-3-8, 9-2. **Significant refreshments provided w/EE, no add'l charge.** VCF memb req'd, (\$10/yr), available at site. *Info:* Woodrow Harris, 1105 West End Dr, Emporia, VA 23847 or email harrisfw@adelphia.net

10 Grand Prix points



Note Change From Traditional Date!



improve your position without rushing an attack, sometimes make all the difference a dozen moves later.] **12...Be7 13 g4 Qc7** [Targeting c2, which I immediately over-secure, Petrosian-style.] **14 Bd3 Ne5** [14...0-0 15 h4 gives White a turnkey attack, threatening g5 next.] **15 Qf2 b4 16 Ne2 d5!** [With this central thrust Black achieves the objective of every Sicilian and so obtains the better position. But when is he going to castle? Can he really blow me away by keeping his king in the middle of the board? That was my ray of hope...] **17 Ng3** [17 Bxa6?! would be interesting if he answered 17...Qxc2+ since after 18 Ka1 suddenly White's queen and rok are both under threat, eg, 18...Ra8 19 Rc1! Qxb3 (I've noticed that my best games tend to contain queen sacrifices, even if only in the notes) 20 axb3 Nd3 21 Qf1 Rxa6+ 22 Kb1 Nxc1 23 Nxc1 and at least Black loses whatever advantage he had on move 16. However, this is all moot because, unfortunately, he doesn't need to thrust his queen down to c2. Simply 17...Ra8! 18 Bd3 dxe4 gives Black all the play.] **17...dxe4** [17...Nxd3 18 cxd3 Bb5 19 Rd2 0-0 20 Rc1 contests Black's control of the c-file.] **18 Bxe4** [If 18 Nxe4 now 18...Nxd3 19 Nxf6+ Bxf6 20 Rxd3 Bb5 allows Black's pieces to spring into activity with his two bishops raking the board.] **18...Nc4 19 Bc1** [Another benefit of 12 Kb1 is that it allows White good coordination of his pieces.] **19...a5!?** [GM Blehm took a long time on this move, and now I understand why. The principled 19...0-0 appears to lose his dynamic advantage if White just keeps his two bishops with 20 Bd3. Bishop pair fanatics wouldn't think twice about playing 19...Nxe4, but then after 20 Nxe4 0-0 21 g5 h5 (keeping lines closed) 22 Rhg1 g6 (looks forced) 23 Nf6+ Bxf6 24 gxf6 Black's dark squares would be very weak.] **20 Bd3 Ne5 21 Rhe1** [The longer Black keeps his king in the middle of the board, the more light I see at the

2006 Arlington Chess Club Championship

Dec 9-10, 2006

George Mason University Professional Center (The Old Law School)

3401 N Fairfax Dr, Arlington Virginia

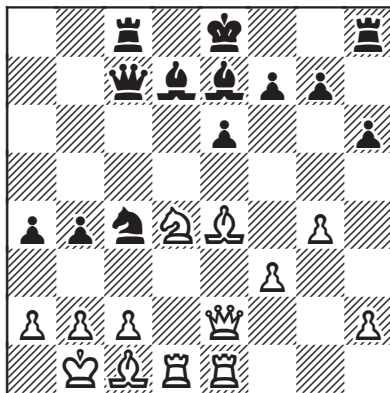
(Across from Virginia Square Metro Stop)

4-SS, 30/100 SD/1. One Section \$\$2000 b/70, top 3 guaranteed: \$550-300-200, top X, A/Unr, B, C, D each \$130, U1200 \$100. Top ACC Member wins plaque and 2005 ACC Championship. Top ACC Member U1800 wins plaque/ACC Amateur title and \$200. EF \$45 if rec'd by 11/23, \$55 at site. \$5 discount to ACC Members. Reg 9-9:45am, rds 10-4, 10-3:30. One irrevocable ½ pt bye available, must declare before rd 1. FIDE rated, NS, NC. Enter: Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139 Alexandria VA 22306, make checks payable to Michael Atkins. Info (but no e-mail entries!) matkins2@cox.net or browse members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/champ06.htm

20 Grand Prix points



end of the tunnel.] **21...a4 22 Nd4** [The position is richly complicated and the air felt full of tension. Approaching time control, it was reassuring that we'd found ourselves a position where Black had more possibilities to examine than White.] **22...Bc5** [22...0-0 allows 23 g5 and White strikes first.] **23 Ne4** [Oddly, making time control—the rate of play for this tournament was a bizarre 23 moves/60 minutes, followed by sudden death/60 minutes.) Fritz suggested the pure computer variation 23 Ba6 Ra8 24 Bf4 Nd3 25 Bxd3 Qxf4 26 Ne4 with an equal position—during the game, I never examined any of this. But I was very happy making time control while not yet losing against a grandmaster. The little peacock in my brain started to strut.] **23...Nxe4 24 Bxe4 Nc4?** [Increasing the pressure with the strong 24...Qb6! (Δ 25...b3) would have forced me to find the awkward 25 Bd5—a very difficult move to see, and even then Black maintains his advantage: my knight is pinned, the d5-bishop could easily become loose, and Black can draw blood with the dagger-like b4-b3. Where would you place your bet then?—on the rabbit, or the python?] **25 Qe2** [Deftly escaping the pin and even threatening to take a piece. Suddenly, I felt that all the pressure was off.] **25...Be7** **26 Nf5!** [Played with a flurry and a bang! I could barely believe my fortune. *Here I am on board 1, a lowly Expert, offering a whole piece to an International Grandmaster!* I looked around to see if anyone noticed that Black was suddenly in trouble on my board.] **26...Bb5** [If he takes the piece, 26...exf5, the forcing 27 Rxd7! Kxd7 (27... Qxd7 28 Bxf5 Qc7 29 Bxc8 and Black can't take the bishop with 29...Qxc8 because of 30 Qxe7mate, s-w-e-e-t!) 28 Bxf5+ Kd8 29 Bxc8 Bh4 30 Ba6! Bxe1 31 Bxc4 leaves his king dangerously exposed and his rook inactive. My light-squared bishop definitely gets around! So the text is best, but now my brave knight valiantly sacrificing his life to strip away the Black king's protection.] **27 N×g7+ Kf8 28 N×e6+! f×e6 29 Bd3** [White is threatening to capture a third pawn for the piece. Black's rooks are disconnected and there is no shelter for his king.] **29...Qc6** [If Black tries to hold onto the pawn with 29...e5 then after 30 Qe4 my pieces rush onto all the open lines.] **30 Q×e6 Bf6?** [This was a big surprise. White's most deadly piece is his queen, so of course I expected 30...Q×e6 31 R×e6. Either he was afraid of losing the weak h6-pawn—and with it the endgame—after the queen trade, or he felt his queenside attack might still break through.] **31 Qf5!** [But this threatens the nasty 32 Re6, and now White is winning. My adrenaline levels



Position after 25...Be7



were sky-high. I played the move with panache, and the queen landed on f5 like a magnet.] **31...Na3+!** [his best chance] **32 bxa3** [Forced; if I don't take, I'm screwed.] **32...Bxd3** [I was relieved he didn't play 32...Qc3! but after the game he showed me the stunning reply 33 Re5!! forcing 33...Qxe5 34 Qxe5 Bxe5 35 Bxb5 and White's extra pawns win.] **33 Qxd3 Rb8 34 Bf4!** [I slid the bishop along the board and spent several seconds slowly screwing it into f4. I caught my opponent's eye, and could almost smell the fear when, only now, he realized that he was lost. After the game he acknowledged that he had overlooked the move.] **34...bxa3+ 35 Bxb8 Qb7+ 36 Kc1 Qb2+ [36...Bg5+ 37 f4] 37 Kd2 Qxb8 38 Qd7!** [Shogi training allowed me to see this move instantly! Black's king is pinned to the edge of the board with nowhere to go.] **38...h5 39 Re6 Rh6** [Here he offered me a draw. He had 5 minutes left on his clock to my 3 minutes. This is the only time that a grandmaster has ever offered me a draw and my heart was pounding thru my chest, I could feel the adrenaline surging through me. Should I accept the draw and be a wuss? Or risk losing on time in a winning position?] **40 Rde1** [I told myself that life was meant to be lived, and without a word I confidently slid my rook over and authoritatively punched my clock.] **40...Qb4+ 41 Ke2 Qb8 42 Kf1 1-0** My opponent graciously extended his hand and resigned; a White rook will give mate on e8. I was in a state of euphoric shock. We analyzed for several minutes before the grandmaster went off to find a director to withdraw from the tournament. But later, his friend convinced him to continue playing and he wound up scoring 4-1 to earn clear 2nd place. I went on to draw against NM Denis Strenzwilk and to beat another master (who was also champion of Afghanistan) before losing in the last round to FM Bruci Lopez (who finished 5-0). My 3½-1½ was good enough to win the \$100 expert prize. It was, as I said, the first time that a GM ever offered me a draw, and the first time that I beat a GM; but it was not my true 'tournament of firsts'. That is another story for another time...

Arlington Tornado

November 11, 2006

Lyon Village Community House (*site of Arlington Chess Club*)

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4-SS, G/45. \$\$1000 b/40, top two guaranteed: \$300-200, under 2200 \$125, under 1900 \$125, under 1600/unr \$125, under 1300 \$125. Reg 8:30-9:30am, rds 9:45-11:25-1:30 - 3:15. EF \$35 if rec'd by Nov 11, \$45 at site. One irrevocable ½-pt point bye allowed, must declare before round 1. NS, NC, W. *Enter*: Make checks to "Michael Atkins" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria Va, 22306. Info via email, matkins2@cox.net, or online at <http://members.cox.net/tournaments/tornado.htm>

10 Grand Prix points



DC CHESS LEAGUE 2006

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

Position after 20...Nd3



21 Nf5! [Now the threat of Bb6 forces concessions from Black.] **21...Bxf5** [If 21...Nxf2 22 Qxf2 again g2 will drop but this time the threats against e7 leave Black in dire straits.] **22 exf5 Nxe1** [He might as well take the Exchange. Black is in trouble on the e-file in any case, but now he can try to give back some material to break the attack. 22...Kf8 23 Bb6 Qd7 24 Rxe7 Qxf5 25 Qxd6 Kg8 26 Nf6+ Kg7 27 Bd4 would be losing.] **23 Rxe1 Kf8 24 Nxe7 Qxe7** [After the game we looked at various ways to avoid giving up the queen. It seems that 24...Rc4 is the best of the lot, but after 25 f6! Black has a very difficult time defending his king. For example, 25...Rf4 26 Bd4 Rxd4 (26...Rh4 27 Qg7+! Bxg7 28 fxg7+ Ke8 29 gxh8Q+ Rxh8 30 Nc6+ wins) 27 cxd4 Black is in a bad way.] **25 Rxe7 Kxe7** [Simply counting pieces Black isn't doing so badly (two rooks *vs* queen + pawn), but his position is too scattered to survive. Black was also very short of time.] **26 Qh4+ Kd7 27 Qf6 +- Bc1** [27...Rh7 28 Bg3 Rc6 29 Kxg2 +-] **28 Qxf7+ Kc6 29 Kxg2 Rhf8 30 Qc4+ Kd7** [Having reached the time control after a few hectic moments, White is winning.] **31 Qe6+ Kc7 32 Bg3 Rcd8** [This allows a tactic that wins material, but Black's position is lost in any event.] **33 Bxd6+ 1-0** in view of 33...Rxd6 34 Qe7+ Kc6 35 Qxf8

Last issue we reported results of the 2006 Charlottesville Open, where IM Oladapo Adu swept to a 5-0 victory. William Stokes sent us additional game from the event:

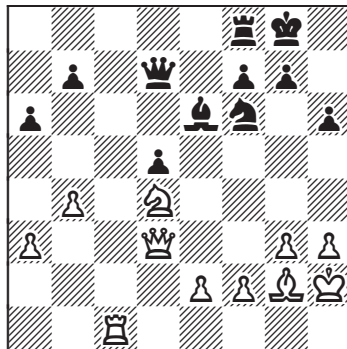
WILLIAM STOKES - HELEN KARN

2006 CHARLOTTESVILLE OPEN

TARRASCH

Notes by William Stokes

1 c4 e6 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5 4 cxd5 exd5 5 d4 Be7 6 a3 0-0 7 Nc3 Bg4 8 h3 Be6 9 Nf3 c5 10 0-0 Nc6 11 Bg5 cxd4 12 Nb5 Rc8 13 Nbx d4 Nxd4 14 Nxd4 a6 15 Qd3 Rc7 16 Rac1 Qd7 17 Rxc7 Qxc7 18 Rc1 Qd7 19 Bf4 Bd6 [19...Bxh3? 20 Rc7] 20 Bxd6 Qxd6 21 b4 Qd7 22 Kh2 h6 23 f4 Qd8 24 Nb3 Qb8 25 Nc5 Rc8 26 f5 Bd7 27 Nxd7 Nxd7 28 Rxc8+ Qxc8 29 Qxd5 b5 30 Qa8 Qxa8 31 Bxa8 Nb8 32 Kg2 f6 33 Kf3 Kf8 34 Bb7 Ke7 35 Kg4 Kd6 36 Kh5 Ke5 37 Bc8 Kd6 38 Kg6 Kc7 39 Be6 [I was tempted to let the bishop go (39 Kxg7)] 39...Nc6 40 Kxg7 1-0



Position after 22...h6



2006 Susan Polgar National Invitational For Girls

by Abby Marshall

LAST YEAR at the Polgar Invitational in Phoenix I did not have high expectations. I hoped for a nice score and a place in the top five. Mostly, I was just thrilled to be there and get a chance to play other top girls from around the country. Still, my motivation and interest in chess were at an all-time high, and I looked forward to the trip with excitement and dreams of winning. Six days later, after four wins and two draws against players with international titles, I was declared co-champion and awarded a scholarship to UTD.

This year I felt much more edgy and nervous. Naturally, it would feel less special to win this prestigious title again, and, what's more, I did not think I could do it. Arguably the competition was stronger last year with two players rated 2050 and 2300 respectively, but for some reason, I was less sure of myself and my playing ability. I felt there was little time to prepare for the tournament because I spent several weeks away on vacation at the beginning of the summer. Also, at the time of the tournament, I had not played a serious game of chess for two months. Finally, last year the family of a friend who was playing in the Denker [ie, the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Chess Champions; both tournaments are held as side events in conjunction with the US Open —ed] had taken me to this event and I remember having a lot of freedom in the hotel and around the city. This year my mom, younger sister, and baby brother were coming, and so this meant we were less flexible.

Being the returning champion put me in a difficult situation psychologically. If I finished in any place other than first, it would seem like a big disappointment. I'm not sure what other people thought of my chances, but I knew the competition would be tough with the top four players (I was number four) all within fifty points of each other, and a cluster of 1800 players just below.

Everything seemed less special to me. I remember I played every game last year in a blend of high excitement, adrenaline, and nerves with confidence in myself that I could at least draw every player here. I would walk around the tournament site in order to calm myself and be clear-headed for the game and then sit down at the board, highly motivated yet also relaxed. This year I went through the first day of the tournament rather sluggishly and without feeling very excited, trying to get myself motivated for the game and recover the thrill of last year.



Luckily, by the third round I started to become more alert and focused. I met some really great people and the old excitement and positive tension came back to me. It also helped that the three players ahead of me either lost or drew their games so I moved onto the top board. After the round I usually relaxed in the hotel room until my mom, sister, and brother came back and we'd all go see some relatives who lived in the area. It definitely was not the ideal tournament routine, driving an hour and visiting late into the night, but I think ultimately it cleared my head and eased some of the pressure. Other nights I would play bughouse for a few hours, again, not to be recommended, but perhaps that motivated me to play well.

In the second and third games my opponents put up terrific battles, going 70 and 55 moves, showing why they were the best in their states. Regardless of one's rating, every person was the best somewhere. When you travel to represent your state, you try.

The fourth game was the first test I thought I might fail. I met my opponent last year at the Polgar. She is a strong player, from Texas and is less than 100 points behind me. For me the opening was a bit of a mess. She quickly equalized and got a comfortable game while I struggled to reorganize my pieces. After this phase I made no obvious good moves I'm proud of; but I think she may have played too slowly and allowed me to build an easy attack that got overpowering. This was the turning point in the tournament for me, beating a good player about my strength. I felt confident again and a repeat of last year now looked entirely doable.

Game five was the decisive battle. Only my opponent and I still had perfect scores. I believe everyone else was a point behind us or would be by the end of the round. This round my motivation and nerves peaked and, more importantly, I felt confident and ready. Whomever won would be guaranteed at least a tie for first, so I figured if I won now that would be enough and I could enjoy the last round. Such thoughts are bad luck and revealed to me I still was not in the proper mindset.

My opponent employed the Stonewall, which I loathe to play against. I don't really know much about what to do against this system other than a basic idea of where my pieces should go. In blitz, I always get into trouble against it. I thought I was doing all right in the beginning. She began a typical Stonewall attack with the f- and g-pawns while I drummed up some play on the queenside and watched the center. I believe she made a mistake in pushing g4-g5, which brought about a strange position where I thought I should be better. It appeared my pieces could defend my king while I mopped up her weak pawn, got reorganized, and used my extra material and space. She simply played logical moves while I struggled to find the simplest way to proceed, using about forty five minutes for the next four moves, which was a generous amount given the time controls. My efforts failed to find the best moves and she had a chance to win by clearing the way for her dark-squared bishop.

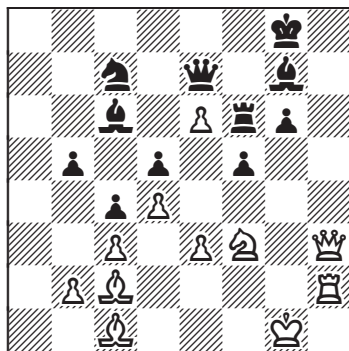


AMANDA MATEER - ABBY MARSHALL

SUSAN POLGAR NATL INVITATIONAL FOR GIRLS 2006

1 d4 d5 2 e3 c5 3 c3 Nd7 4 f4 Ngf6 5 Bd3 g6 6 Nf3 Bg7 7 Nbd2 a6 8 a4 b6
 9 Ne5 Qc7 10 0-0 Bb7 11 Qf3 0-0 12 g4 c4 13 Bc2 b5 14 g5 Nxe5 15 fxe5
 Nd7 16 h4 f6 17 gxf6 exf6 18 e6 Nb6 19 h5 f5 20 hxg6 hxg6 21 axb5 axb5
 22 Rxa8 Nxa8 23 Qh3 Qe7 24 Rf2 Bc6 25 Nf3 Nc7 26 Rh2 Rf6

I did see her crushing move after I played 26...Rf6 but she played the next two moves in about five minutes so I did not have to endure much agony. We got into an interesting ending where I had a valuable extra pawn though she had the two bishops. I thought it should be a draw, and brooded a bit over accepting her draw offer around move 55, but I decided to press a little longer. She got too aggressive with her king and so I managed to win. A similar thing happened last year when, in a drawn late-middlegame position in the same round, my opponent blundered badly and lost.



*White could play 27 e4!, eg 27...fxe4
 28 Qh7+ Kf8 29 Bh6 wins since if
 29...Bxh6 30 Qh8 is checkmate*

27 Qh7+ Kf8 28 Ng5? [28 e4! is still strong] 28...Nxe6 29 Qh8+ Bxh8 30 Rxh8+ Kg7 31 Rh7+ Kf8 32 Rh8+ Kg7 33 Rh7+ Kg8 34 Rxe7 Nxg5 35 b3 Rf7 36 Ba3 Rxe7 37 Bxe7 Ne6 38 Bd6 Kh7 39 Kf2 Kh6 40 Kg3 Kh7 41 Kh4 Kg7 42 Be5+ Kf7 43 b4 Nf8 44 Kg5 Nh7+ 45 Kh6 Nf6 46 Kg5 Ng4 47 Bf4 Nf2 48 Bg3 Ng4 49 Bf4 Nf6 50 Be5 Nd7 51 Bc7 Nf8 52 Bd6 Ne6+ 53 Kh6 Be8 54 Bb1 Nd8 55 Bc7 Nc6 56 Bc2 Kf6 57 Bf4 Ke6 58 Kg7 Na7 59 Kf8 Bf7 60 Bg5 Nc8 61 Bd8 Nd6 62 Bc7 Ne8 63 Bf4 Nf6 64 Bc7 g5 65 Bd8 f4 66 exf4 gxf4 67 Kg7 f3 68 Bd1 f2 69 Be2 Nh5+ 70 Kh6 Ng3 71 Bg4+ Nf5+ 0-1

After this victory I felt utterly jubilant yet also relaxed. That night I played a couple hours of bughouse and stuck around to watch the US Open, basking in the glow of successfully defending my title. I figured by tomorrow my motivation for the last game would come and I could hopefully win the tournament outright. Right then, all I felt was relief. It's strange that this win didn't add any pressure to get a perfect score; my only goal in this tournament was to get first again and so I didn't feel any additional anxiety now that my primary objective was achieved. These emotions are bad for a chess player. If I had been in a similar position last year, I believe I would have been much more focused and able to play a higher quality sixth game.

The last round saw me paired against the top seed. To my dismay I felt no more pressure than in a casual skittles game, which for me is disastrous because I play



very well under pressure and not up to my usual strength when I feel relaxed. This is true for many players: usually the more tension you feel the more you care about winning the game.

During the whole game I felt restless and made my moves quickly, getting up from the board frequently and pacing around the room. Only when my position began disintegrating did I finally sit down and focus. My opponent definitely had winning chances in the game but played too slowly and gave me a chance for a counterattack on her king. I failed to exploit this and again she built up pressure on my weak queenside. We traded into an endgame where she had a definite edge, though she continued trading into a very drawn position. I offered a draw, which she declined. A few moves later, she offered, and I accepted.

This was one of the toughest tournaments I have ever played in, psychologically and chess-wise. I did not dominate my opponents. I just played a little better and made the next-to-last mistake. My final score, with five straight victories and a draw, is not an accurate representation of how hard this event was for me. With a couple of different moves, my performance could have turned out far worse. In the critical games, my opponents had winning chances and I had to struggle in the early rounds to get the full point. Most of my games went to the third hour mark. In these events, the high prestige and excitement provided by being surrounded by so many good players inspires all participants to play well above their ratings.

I suppose my biggest problem in this tournament was not getting in the proper mindset. I played not to lose and worried too much about not finishing first. It would have been better to concentrate more on enjoying the event like last year and improving my score or aiming to win outright. It seemed to me like facing the same incredible challenge again but for no gain this time, when I should have realized there is a lot to gain the second time around. I did not expect to win but I'm happy I tried and found out how wonderful it is to be a two-time winner of such an amazing event.

All in all, I'm very glad I decided to participate in the Polgar this year. It's a great chance to meet other girls who enjoy chess and inspiring to see girls advanced enough to play good games. I met some extraordinary people here and had a good time. The Polgar is a phenomenal event that I fully support. The hotel looked magnificent and in a convenient location to eat, shop, and go into the city. The playing conditions were excellent and using the flags and MonRois added to the grandeur of the Polgar. The only thing I would change is the clock. It's nice to practice with international time controls, but I think better chess would be played with the Denker's game/180. I always felt rushed at the end even with the increment and would much rather have the additional hour and a half. Otherwise, everything is perfect, especially the added blitz match between the Denker and Polgar winners, and I think the Polgar has a bright future.

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