

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2008 - #2



## Joel Benjamin Dominates Millennium Chess Fest



Slew of fine events set for June 13-15  
in Springfield - see page 6 for details

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## Newsletter

2008 - Issue #2

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## Millennium Chess Festival

**G**RANDMASTER JOEL BENJAMIN went undefeated, allowing only a final round draw versus IM Larry Kaufman, to claim undivided 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 8<sup>th</sup> Millennium Chess Festival. Kaufman and his son, FM Ray Kaufman, shared 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> places with 4-1 scores. Richard Francisco & Daniel Yeager trailed them by a half point. Three-time state champions Rusty Potter & Macon Shibut, grandmasters John Fedorowicz & Mark Paragua, FM Kazim Gulamali and way over-performing class A player Erickson Smith all scored 3 points to round out the list of open section prizewinners.

The Under 2200 group was won by Udayan Bapat, who drew his first round game and then proceeded to run off four straight wins. Edward Pabalan & Tom Alston tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Jonathan Hundley, Ilya Kremenchugskiy, Adam Sultan, Michael McHale & Keith Melbourne all scored 4-1 to share a crowded



*Joel Benjamin*

winner's circle in the Under 1900 section. Kevin Zhou was clear 1<sup>st</sup> in the Under 1600 section (4½-½) followed by Ian Morton & John Wells a half point behind. Finally, the Under 1300 section finished in a three-way tie between Benny Lebon, Blaine Eley & Cesar Flores.

Benjamin scored a Millennium Double by also winning this year's Grandmaster Dinner Exhibition. The exhibition dinner has been popular tradition at the Millennium Festival for several years. Two invited GMs play against each other from separate rooms, discussing the game aloud for the entertainment and instruction of the audience. At the same time, the audience is treated to a fine buffet dinner. This year's exhibition pitted Benjamin against Fedorowicz.

Kazim Gulamali crushed the field in the Millennium Blitz event, scoring 9-1. Kevin Zhou won the under 1800 section blitz.

The tournament was held once again at the familiar waterfront Virginia Beach site, although the venue's ownership name has changed. Now it's the Westin, formerly it was the Ramada Beach Club. The future of the Millennium Chess Festival must be in question, however, due to inexplicably faltering attendance. The first five MCFs saw the event grow in size and prestige until, as one visiting



grandmaster put it in 2005, it had become “one of the premier tournaments on the east coast”. Administrative difficulties led to the 2006 edition being cancelled. It was resurrected in 2007, but for some reason the year off seems to have dealt a heavy blow. Attendance dipped to less than half of what the event previously attracted. All right, there were problems last year with the Tournament Life announcement in *Chess Life*, so the organizers had hoped to see a full rebound this time. But it didn’t happen; indeed, the 2008 MCF attracted even fewer entries than 2007. The loss of this event would be a sad blow to chess in Virginia, as it is indeed one of our nicest, most enjoyable tournaments. There is no clear explanation for why it has not recovered after the 2006 cancellation. *[Editor’s note: if any of our readers played in the Millennium Chess Festival in 2004 or 2005, but have not returned in 2007 or 2008, we would be interested in hearing why. Send emails to [vcfeditor@cox.net](mailto:vcfeditor@cox.net)]*

We are pleased to be able to present all of Joel Benjamin’s wins from the 2008 Millennium Chess Festival, along with a few other games.

### Joel Benjamin – Rusty Potter

#### Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 d3 d6 5 c3 Bd7 6 Nbd2 g6 7 Nf1 Bg7 8 Bg5 h6 9 Bh4 o-o 10 Ne3 a6 11 Ba4 Re8 12 h3 Ne7 13 Bxd7 Qxd7 14 g4 c6 15 g5 hxg5 16 Bxg5 d5 17 Nxe5 Qe6 18 N5g4 dxe4 19 Bxf6 Bxf6 20 Nxf6+ Qxf6 21 dxe4 Nc8 22 Qg4 Nd6 23 f3 Re5 24 o-o-o Rae8 25 Qg3 R5e6 26 Rd3 b5 27 Ng4 Qg5+ 28 Kb1 Nc4 29 h4 Qe7 30 Rhd1 b4 31 Nh6+ Kh7 32 Rd7 Kxh6 33 Rxe7 R8xe7 34 cxb4 Rb7 35 Qg5+ Kg7 36 Qc5 Ne5 37 f4 Nf3 38 Qc3+ 1-0

### Shinsaku Uesugi - Joel Benjamin

#### Catalan

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 c6 4 o-o Bg4 5 d4 Nbd7 6 c4 e6 7 Nc3 dxc4 [One problem with these casual gambits is that sometimes the opponent can actually take the pawn and hang onto it! That is basically what appears to happen here.] 8 Qc2 Be7 9 Rd1 o-o 10 Ne5 Nxe5 11 dxe5 Nd5 12 Be4 g6 13 Rd4 f5 14 Bg2 [14 exf6 Bxf6 15 Rxc4 was the last chance to try to recover the pawn.] 14...b5 15 Bh6 Bc5 16 Rd2 Qb6! 17 Nxd5 Bxf2+ 18 Kh1 cxd5 19 Bxf8 Rxf8 20 Rf1 Be3 21 h3 Bh5 22 Rdd1 Qc5 [Rooks are nice but White has no open files on which to use them.] 23 g4?! [23 Bf3] 23...fxg4 24 Rxf8+ Qxf8 25 Rf1 Qh6 26 Qc3 gxh3 27 Bxd5 [In for a penny, in for a pound. This sacrifice doesn’t work but the alternatives were not great either.] 27...exd5 28 Qb4 Bf4 29 Qxb5 Qg5 30 Qxd5+ Kg7 31 Qd7+ Kh6 32 Qxh3 Qxe5 33 Qh4? Qe4+ 34 Rf3 g5 35 Qh3 g4 0-1

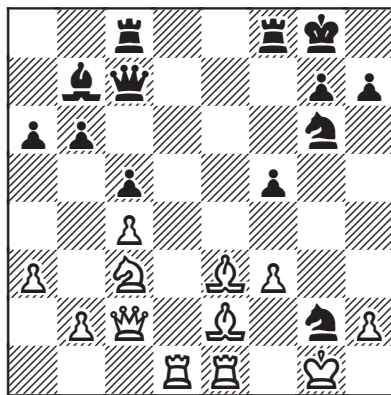


### Joel Benjamin - Daniel Yeager Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 a4 e5 7 Nf3 Be7 8 Bg5 Be6 9 Bxf6 Bxf6 10 Nd5 Nd7 11 Be2 o-o 12 o-o Rc8 13 c3 Bxd5 14 Qxd5 Qc7 15 a5 Be7 16 Nd2 Nf6 17 Qb3 Rfd8 18 Bf3 Rb8 19 Ra4 b5 20 axb6 Rxb6 21 Qa2 Rdb8 22 Rb1 Ra8 23 Be2 Qa7 24 Ra1 Qb8 25 b4 Qc7 26 b5 Rab8 27 bxa6 Qxc3 28 a7 Ra8 29 Nc4 Rb7 30 Rb1 Rxb1+ 31 Qxb1 Nxe4 32 Nb6 1-0

### Ray Kaufman - Joel Benjamin Nimzoindian

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 o-o 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 Qxc3 d6 7 Bg5 Nbd7 8 e3 b6 9 Ne2 Bb7 10 Qd3 a6 11 Nc3 c5 12 Rd1 Rc8 13 dxc5 dxc5 14 f3 Ne5 15 Qc2 Qc7 16 Be2 Ng6 17 e4 Nh5 18 Be3 f5 19 o-o Nhf4 20 exf5 exf5 21 Rfe1 Nxg2!? 22 Kxg2 Nh4+ 23 Kg1 Nxf3+ 24 Bxf3 Bxf3 25 Nd5 Qf7 [Going for it all, not even bothering to recover material by 25...Bxd1 etc] 26 Qf2 [It's not clear what would happen after 26 Rd2 (Δ 26... Qg6+ 27 Kf1). Black has a strong initiative but White may hang on.] 26...Bxd1 27 Rxd1 Rce8 28 b4 Qh5 29 Rc1 Re4 [Black's attack is still a serious matter.] 30 bxc5 bxc5 31 Nf4 Qh6 32 Nd5 f4 33 Bxc5 Rfe8 34 Kh1 Re2 35 Qxf4 Rxh2+ 36 Qxh2 Qxc1+ 37 Bg1 Qxc4 38 Qh5? [38 Nb6—onto a defended square] 38...Qe4+ 39 Kh2 Re5 o-1



speculative — 21...Nxg2

### Rusty Potter - Kazim Gulamali Benoni

1 d4 c5 2 d5 e5 3 c4 d6 4 e4 Be7 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Nc3 Bxf3 7 Qxf3 Bg5 8 Bd3 Bxc1 9 Rxc1 Ne7 10 o-o o-o 11 Rb1 Nd7 12 a3 Kh8 13 b4 b6 14 Nb5 Nc8 15 Qh3 a6 16 Nc3 Ra7 17 Be2 Ne7 18 Bg4 Nf6 19 bxc5 bxc5 20 Rb3 Nxg4 21 Qxg4 h6 22 Rfb1 Qa5 23 g3 f5 24 exf5 Nxf5 25 Ne4 Kh7 26 Kg2 Raf7 27 Qh5 g6? [Walking straight into it. 27...Kg8 seems okay.] 28 Ng5+ Kg7 [It's hard to say what Black overlooked. If 28...Kg8 29 Qxg6+ Rg7 30 Qe6+ ; 28...Kh8 29 Nxf7+] 29 Ne6+ Kf6 30 Qf3 1-0 White threatens both Nxf8 and g4



## Kingstowne Chess Festival VI

by Don Millican

Bobby Fischer's recent death at age sixty-four gave us chess players a sense of the supernatural. The sixth installment of the Kingstowne Chess Festival, staged over the weekend of February 9-10 in Alexandria, came close to the same magic number in total participation. Sixty-one players competed for almost \$1,400 in cash prizes in four sections.

Fifteen players contested the Open section. Raymond Kaufman finished first with 3½-½. Tracy Callis took second place while IM Oladapo Adu & Craig Saperstein tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Saperstein also won the Under 2000 prize. Christopher Couch & Ashley Xue rounded out the winners by tying for Under 1800.

Matt Freeman & Richard Skinnell topped the dozen players of the Amateur (under 1800/unr) section with scores of 4-1 apiece. Michael Donovan scored 3½ to finish all alone in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Adip Bhargav won Under 1600 with 3.

Silver Spring's Ramanuja Sreenivasan won the nine-player Booster (under 1600/unr) section with 4 out of 5. David Phillips finished 2<sup>nd</sup> while Aditya Ponukumati tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> with Vishal Erabelli. Erabelli also won Under 1400.

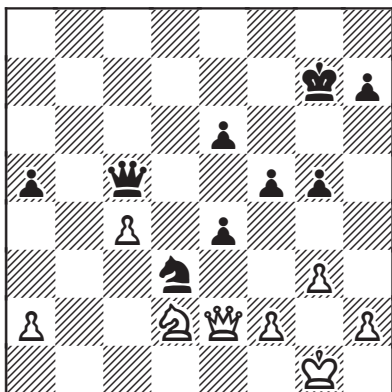
The section with the smallest advertised prize fund had the greatest turnout: twenty-five entrants competed in the Novice (under 1400/unr) section. Rahul Ramraj, of Centreville, took first with 5-1. Sharing 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> along with Under 1200 were George Deyman, Wendy Sun & Petar Duric, all with 4½. Shicheng Zho took Under 1000, and Sai Methukupally went home with top Unrated.

The result that had everyone talking was the second round encounter between Adu and Vienna's own Yang Dai. Dai, just back from the World Youth Championships (scoring 7½-3½ in the Girls Under 14 section), won a game that lasted almost the full allotted time.

### Yang Dai - Oladapo Adu Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d3 d6 4 g3 b6 5 Bg2 Bb7 6 o-o Nf6 7 Qe2 Be7 8 c3 c4 9 Nbd2 cxd3 10 Qxd3 Nbd7 11 Re1 Qc7 12 c4 o-o 13 b3 Ne5 14 Nxe5 dxe5 15 Bb2 Bb4 16 Qc2 Rfd8 17 Rad1 b5 18 Bc3 Bxc3 19 Qxc3 Rd4 20 Qc2 Rad8 21 Nf1 Rxd1 22 Rxd1 Rxd1 23 Qxd1 bxc4 24 bxc4 Nxe4 25 Qe2 f5 26 Nd2 Nc3 27 Qe3 Bxg2 28 Kxg2 Na4 29 Qb3 Nc5 30 Qc2 e4 31 Nb3 Nd3 32 Kg1 a5 33 Nd2 Qc5 34 Nf1 g5 35 Qe2 Kg7 36 Nd2





36...Nxf2 37 Nb3 Nh3+ 38 Kg2 Qg1+ 39 Kxh3 g4+ 40 Kh4 Qa7 41 Qd2 Kf7 42 Qd6 Qe3 43 Qd7+ Kf6 44 Qd4+ Qxd4 45 Nxd4 e5 46 Ne2 a4 47 Kh5 a3 48 c5 Ke6 49 Kg5 e3 50 c6 h6+ 51 Kg6 f4 52 gxf4 exf4 53 Nxf4+ Kd6 54 c7 Kxc7 55 Nd5+ Kd6 56 Nxe3 Kc5 57 Nc2 1-0

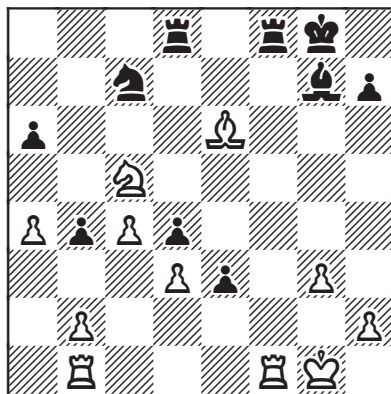
## Dzindzichashvili Simul

Grandmaster Roman Dzindzichashvili conducted a simultaneous exhibition at the Arlington Chess Club on Friday, March 7. The two-time United States champion (1983 & 1989) scored 14 wins and 2 draws. The draws were obtained by Wyatt Banks and Tom Saunders. Congrats to them!

### Tom Saunders - Roman Dzindzichashvili Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 c3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 Nc6 5 Ne2 Nf6 6 d3 O-O 7 Nd2 d6 8 O-O Rb8 9 a4 a6 10 Rb1 b5 11 Qc2 b4 12 c4 Ne8 13 Nb3 Bg4 14 Be3 Bxe2 15 Qxe2 Nc7 16 Bh3 Kh8 17 f4 f5 18 exf5 gxf5 19 Bg2 Qd7 20 Qf3 Nd4 21 Bxd4 cxd4 22 Qc6 Qxc6 23 Bxc6 e6 24 Bg2 e5 25 fxe5 dxe5 26 Nc5 Rbd8 27 Bh3 e4 28 Bxf5 e3 29 Bg4 Kg8 30 Be6+

The computer program Rybka has Saunders up by +1.18, ie, a little more than one pawn. He offered a draw here and it was quickly accepted. ½-½





## Mid-June Chess Festival Set for Springfield

Virginia players will have a great opportunity to tune up for the World Open this year. A battery of chess events will be hosted at the Holiday Inn Express – Springfield over the weekend of June 13-15.

The centerpiece will be the **5<sup>th</sup> George Washington Open**. This 5-round swiss will boast 20 Grand Prix points and \$2,100 in prize money (based on 80 entries). The first 3 rounds (Saturday, June 14 at 10am, 2:30pm & 7pm) will be played at a time control of Game/2 hours. Sunday's final 2 rounds (9am & 3pm) will be at 30/90 followed by a secondary control of SD/1. Prizes will be as follows: \$500-350-250 (these top 3 are guaranteed, regardless of number of entries); top X, A/Unr, B, C, D, U1200 each \$125. On-site registration will be 8:45-9:45am on Saturday morning. The entry fee is \$50 if rec'd by 6/8, \$60 later or at site. A \$5 discount is available for active military (with ID). A single, irrevocable ½-pt bye for any round is also available if claimed prior to the start of rd 1. VCF membership is required (\$10 adults, \$5 U19.) As usual for VCF events, no smoking, no computers. Wheelchair accessible playing site. FIDE rated. Let's go!

To get warmed up for the George Washington Open, come on Friday night, June 13 for the **Virginia State Blitz Championship**. It will be a 5-round Double Swiss event (ie, ten games, one with each color against 5 opponents) played at a rate of game in 5 minutes. Regular ratings will be used for pairings and prizes, and the new USCF Blitz rules will be in effect. The total prize fund is \$1000 (b/40, top 2 guaranteed): \$300-200, under 2200- \$140, under 1900- \$125, under 1600- \$120, under 1300- \$115. The entry fee is \$30 in advance (rec'd by 6/6), \$35 at the site, where registration will run from 5pm to 7:30pm. One irrevocable bye allowed before play starts or with late entry. Rounds start shortly thereafter, with a short break between rounds. The top Virginian will receive the title 2008 Virginia State Blitz Champ.

For those who want to play rated games but cannot commit the whole weekend to chess, there will be Quads running all weekend. Friday night, June 13, will be the **Springfield Action Quads**: 3-RR, G/30. EF \$25 if rec'd by 6/6, \$30 at site. Register 5-7:50pm, rounds at 8-9:15-10:30. \$\$ 1st in each section \$75. On Saturday, June 14, there will be the **Springfield Saturday G/60 Quads**. Register 9-10:45am, rounds at 11-2-4:30, all other details the same as Friday night. And then, with a somewhat more leisurely time control, Sunday, June 15, will bring the **Springfield Sunday G/75 Quads**. 3-RR G/75. EF \$30 if rec'd by 6/6, \$35 at site. Register 9-10:15am, rounds at 10:30-1:30-4:15. \$\$ 1st in each section \$100.





To pre-enter any of these events (except the invitational), make checks payable to "Virginia Chess" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria VA 22306. Additional information and inquiries can be made by email (matkins2@cox.net) or visit the web site, <http://vachess.org/gwopen.htm>

Last but certainly not least -- indeed, the most unique and noteworthy event of the weekend -- will be the **Springfield Invitational FIDE Rating Tournament**. Play seven FIDE rated games over one weekend! Running all three days, this special round robin will be open to the eight highest eight players (over 1800 USCF and FIDE-rated) who e-mail organizer matkins2@cox.net by May 25. EF for IMs/GMs will be free; for others just \$10. However, note: *no withdrawals allowed!* Withdrawals really mess up a round robin format event. Therefore, entrants will pay a \$50 deposit/entry and receive \$40 back upon completion of the tournament. The time control will be G/2 and the rounds will be at 7:30pm on Friday night, 10-2:30-7 on Saturday, and 9-1:30-6 on Sunday. Final entry field will be confirmed on 5/26 and pairings for all 7 rounds will be posted in advance to allow for preparation like the pros! Entry deposits due June 1. First and second place win plaques. **Check the website, [www.vachess.org/invitational.htm](http://www.vachess.org/invitational.htm), to see the latest entry applicants.**

The Holiday Inn is offering a special chess rate of \$95 if you reserve by May 20. Call 703-644-5555, ask for the Sales Department, and inquire about the chess rate. **Please stay at the hotel if at all possible; if the chess events can account for filling 25 room nights on Saturday night, we'll get the playing site rent-free and the prize fund will be correspondingly increased!** Also, one player who stayed at hotel will be randomly chosen to receive a night free.

## Anne Graham

From Larry Storch, President of the Central Florida Chess Club (CFCC), we learn that Anne Graham passed away in Orlando in January. She was living there, but was a long time resident of Virginia Beach and a former editor of the *Virginia Chess*. The following item appeared on the web page of the CFCC web site ([www.centralflchess.org](http://www.centralflchess.org)):

Long time friend and player, Anne Graham passed away recently of cancer. The avante-garde writer, artist and chess player never let barriers stand in her way. She was the editor of the Virginia Chess Federation newsletter. Anne was working on a book about chess players (along with Larry Storch) when she became ill. She will be missed.



## WALTER MUIR MEMORIAL

**WHAT:** A 3- Round, Grand Prix, Open chess tournament sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Chess Club. This tournament will be fully-rated by the U.S. Chess Federation.

**WHERE:** The Va. Heights Baptist Church. The church is located in Roanoke, Va. at the corner of Grandin Rd. and Memorial Ave. SW. It is directly across the street from the Grandin Theater.

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 10, 2008.  
Rounds: 10am, 2pm & 6pm.  
Time Controls: G/90.

**REGISTRATION:** Advance registration is \$30 up until 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm on Friday, May 9th. Registration is \$40 after that date, including at the door. Registration at the door will be from 8:00 am - 9:30 am, May 10th.

**PRIZES:** ALL PRIZES ARE GUARANTEED !!

The top - section consists of the 8-11 highest rated players. The prizes for this TOP section are as follows : 1<sup>st</sup>: \$125.00 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$100.00 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$75.00.

Other sections will be formed based on the number of players who enter.

Some examples follow:

Octagonal Section

Prize Structure:

1<sup>st</sup>: \$ 125.00

2<sup>nd</sup>: \$100.00

Hexagonal Section

Prize Structure:

1<sup>st</sup>: \$ 100.00

2<sup>nd</sup>: \$ 75.00

Quad Section

Prize Structure:

1<sup>st</sup>: \$ 100.00

**NOTE:** If any section has less than a Quad, then this section will be combined with the one above it. In this case, the prize fund for the upper section will be increased; thus almost ALL of the entry fees will go for prizes!

**RULES:** USCF membership is required for this event.  
( These are available at site ).

MISC: 1/2-pt. byes are available for any round if requested before Rd.1. ( Maximum # of byes-1,)  
No Smoking. No Computers.

### ADVANCE ENTRIES & OTHER INFO.:

Send to:

Roanoke Valley Chess Club

P.O. Box 14143

Roanoke, Va. 24038

Tel. #: ( 540 ) 588-7519

E-mail: [info@roanokechess.com](mailto:info@roanokechess.com)

Web Page : [www.roanokechess.com](http://www.roanokechess.com)





# Don Starkweather Celebration

by Jonathan R Hendrickson Sr

The Don Starkweather Celebration Tournament that took place on Feb. 9th at the Virginia Heights Baptist Church in Roanoke. The 9-player Grand Prix section was won by Felix McCain, of Lynchburg. There was a four-way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> between Harold Mitchell, Andrew Krawczyk, Mike Huff & J Robert Mahan. The second section had eight players and Gilbert Stone, of Bluefield, WV finished first. Andrew Bazak, Christopher Teeple & Jon Hendrickson tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*The 48th annual*

## Maryland Open.

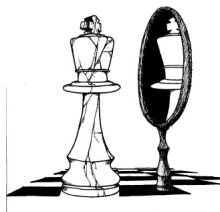
April 26-27, 2008

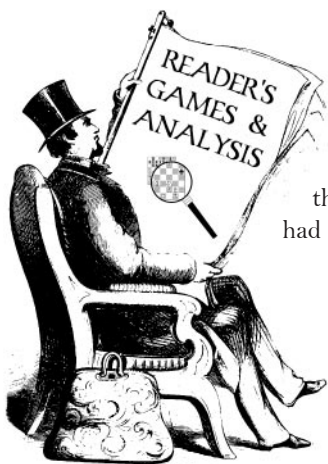
Colony Ballroom, Adele Stamp Student Union

University of Maryland-College Park

5SS, G/120. \$3500 b/120. Two Sections: *Open* \$600-400-300-200 (G), top X, A \$175 each. *Amateur* (U1800) \$400-275-175, top C, D, E, U1000 \$150 each, top Unrated \$100. *Both* Overall top Upset \$100. Top Maryland residents in Open and Amateur are, respectively, 2008 Maryland State Champion and 2008 Maryland Amateur Champion. Reg Saturday 8:30-9:45, rds 10-2:30-7, 11:30-4. EF \$50 if rec'd in mail by 4/19, \$60 at site. \$30 re-entry allowed after rd 1 with ½pt bye. \$5 discount to UofMd students with ID. NS, NC, W, FIDE. Recommended local hotel is The Clarion Inn, 8601 Baltimore Boulevard, College Park, MD 20740, 301-474-2800 or for reservations 1-877-424-6423, but no special chess rates are available. Enter: Make checks to "MCA" and mail to Michael Atkins, PO Box 6139, Alexandria, VA 22306. Info at <http://members.cox.net/tournaments/mdopen.htm> or email [matkins2@cox.net](mailto:matkins2@cox.net) but no phone or Internet entries.

*30 Grand Prix points*





**E**XPERT Tim Hamilton shares two recent wins versus master Stan Fink. The first helped the Arlington Passed Pawns team to draw the match against Coral Reef. Tim notes that Fink had a big advantage but blundered in time pressure.

**Stan Fink - Tim Hamilton**  
**DC League 2008**  
**English**

1 Nf3 Nc6 2 c4 e5 3 Nc3 f5 4 d3 Bc5 5 a3 a5 6 e3 Nf6 7 d4 exd4 8 exd4 Be7 9 d5 Nb8 10 Bd3 b5 11 cxb5 c6 12 Bxf5 cxd5 13 Nxd5 Bb7 14 Nxf6+ Bxf6 15 o-o o-o 16 Bc2 d5 17 Nd4 Qd6 18 Qd3 g6 19 Bh6 Nd7 20 Bxf8 Rxf8 21 Rae1 Nc5 22 Qd1 a4 23 Bxa4 Qf4 24 b4 Bxd4 25 bxc5 Bxc5 26 Bb3 Kg7 27 Qc1 Bxf2+ 28 Rxf2 Qxf2+ 29 Kh1 d4 30 Re7+ Kh8 31 Rxh7+ Kxh7 32 Qc7+ Kh6 33 Qc1+ Qe3 o-1

Two days later the players met again in Baltimore Free State League. This time Tim claimed to have had some advantage until making "some dubious moves when [Fink] was down to five minutes." After that Fink had the advantage but again blundered in time pressure.

**Tim Hamilton - Stan Fink**  
**Free State League 2008**  
**Dunst**

1 Nc3 d5 2 e4 d4 3 Nce2 e5 4 Ng3 Be6 5 b3 Nd7 6 Bc4 Bxc4 7 bxc4 Nb6 8 Nf3 Nxc4 9 c3 Nb6 10 Nxe5 Qd6 11 f4 Nh6 12 c4 f6 13 Nd3 Qc6 14 c5 Nd7 15 Ba3 Qb5 16 Qc2 b6 17 Rb1 Qc6 18 o-o Bxc5 19 Bxc5 bxc5 20 Nb4 Qe6 21 Nd5 Rc8 22 Qc4 Kd8 23 f5 Qe5 24 Nf4 Nb6 25 Qa6 Ke7 26 Rb5 Qd6 27 e5 fxe5 28 Ne4 Qc6 29 Rxc5 Qxe4 30 Nd3 Nf7 31 Re1 Qh4 32 Rc6 Rhe8 33 g3 Qg5 34 Qa3+ Kd7 35 Rec1 Re7 36 Qxa7 Ke8 37 Rxb6 Qxd2 38 Rb8 Ng5 39 Rxc8+ Kf7 40 Nxe5+ Rxe5 41 R1xc7+ Kf6 42 Rf8+ Nf7 1-o on time

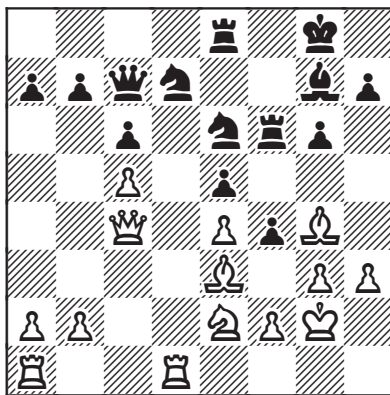




Christopher Tanaka – Macon Shibut  
2008 Foxwoods Open  
King's Indian

*Notes by Macon Shibut*

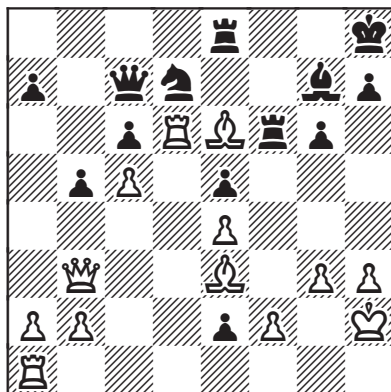
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d6 3 Nf3 g6 4 g3 Bg7 5 Bg2 o-o 6 o-o c6 7 Nc3 Qa5 8 e4 e5 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 Qc2 Bg4 (10...Nbd7) 11 Bd2 Qc7 12 h3 Bxf3 13 Bxf3 Nbd7 14 Kg2 This looked odd to me. 14...Nc5 15 Be3 Ne6 16 Ne2 Nd7 [The provocative position of White's king plus his generally passive play led me to consider 16...Nxe4 17 Bxe4 f5 18 Bf3 (or 18 Bd3) 18...e4 19 Bxe4 fxe4 20 Qxe4 Rae8 but after 21 Qc2 I didn't see any compensation for the pawn. So I decided to push ahead with ...f5, at the same time continuing with the policy of taking over square d4.] 17 Rfd1 f5 18 c5 [The clearing of the diagonal a2-g8 should have led me to consider immediately evacuating my king to the corner. Instead I bulled ahead. First I considered 18...fxe4? and noticed that the reply 19 Bg4 seemed awkward, eg 19...Nd4 20 Bxd4 exd4 21 Nxd4 Bxd4 22 Rxd4±] 18...f4? [The same reply is at least as strong after this, but the situation is much more complicated. That allowed my aggressive mood to overcome any temptation towards objectivity...] 19 Bg4 Rae8 [Of course not 19...fxe3? 20 Bxe6+ Kh8 21 Rxd7. As for 19...Rf6, that might be an improvement if White replies 20 Qc4?! Nf8 Δ Qf7; but simply 20 Bxe6+! Rxe6 21 gxf4 is good for White with fewer complications.] 20 Qc4 Rf6



21 Rd6? [During the game I feared 21 gxf4! in view of the exchange sacrifice 21...Kh8 22 Rxd7 Qxd7 23 fxe5 with f4 to follow. It's not as bad as all that, however. I completely missed an important idea, which also would have come in handy as the actual game continued. 21...Nf8! and it turns out that 22 f5 is nothing thanks to a couple details. First is that Black has 22...h5, not at all fearing 23 fxe6 hxg4 24 e7+ Ne6 25 hxg4 Qxe7. So, 23 Bf3 instead of taking the knight, but then 23...



Qf7!, the second detail being that White's queen is *en pris* so he has to watch out for Nf4+!. Something like 24 Qa4 gxf5 25 Qxa7 still wins a pawn but Black's pieces are nicely grouped for typical King's Indian counterplay against White's weak king.] **21...b5?** [This was my whole idea from several turns back. By driving his queen back to b3 I'm setting up a big tactical blow as revealed in the note at move 25. However, the game continuation shows its insufficiency. Meanwhile, again I completely overlooked how White's undefended queen makes the idea Nf8 Δ Qf7 good for me: 21...Nf8! 22 gxf4 Qf7! White must take time for something like 23 Rc1 and then 23...Nxf4+ escapes with my entire skin.] **22 Qb3 f3+** [There are different move orders that lead to the same position with best play, and I selected on psychological grounds. Thus 22...Kh8 23 Bxe6 f3+ was equivalent, but the text seemed more devious. He might go for 23 Bxf3?! Kh8 with ...Nxc5 hard to stop thanks to the exposed Rd6] **23 Kh2 Kh8** [Here again 23...fxe2 leads to the same as the game after 24 Bxe6+ Kh8. That might have been a subjectively better way to lay the snare – if White feels like he's pushing me around, taking stuff with check, he might then be more inclined to continue forcefully with 24 25 Rxd7?, which is exactly what I want – see below. The rather stupid reason I chose the text was to retain the (worthless) “bail out” option 24 Bxe6 Nf8?, which I was never going to play as it is plainly bad for Black after 25 Bg4 fxe2 26 Bxe2] **24 Bxe6 fxe2**



**25 Bxd7!** [Alas. My dream finish was 25 Rxd7? Qa5 threatening to promote the pawn as well as to take Be6, so White must react forcefully, 26 Bd2—except then the queen sacrifice 26...Rxf2+ 27 Kg1 Ref8! would win for me as there is no good defense to Rf1+ etc] **25...Rxd6 26 Bxe8 Rd8 27 Qc2!** [The point. White doesn't try to hold the piece but just captures the dangerous pawn and remains a clear pawn ahead.] **27...Rxe8 28 Qxe2 Qa5 29 b3 Qb4** [Now Black can only hope to stir up practical counterchances; there is no real compensation for the lost





# MATE

A Psychological Thriller

by

Alexander Kane

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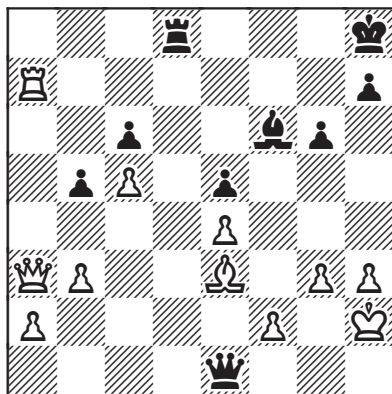
**L**OCAL AREA CHESS PLAYER ALEXANDRER KANE recently co-produced his first motion picture, a gritty crime thriller called *The Box*, starring Gabrielle Union and Mia Maestro. The red carpet premiere for *The Box*, which took place in Georgetown on the evening of Monday, January 7th, was a phenomenal success.

Alex is now in the process of gearing up for his directorial debut via a psychological chess thriller entitled *Mate*. Filming for *Mate* is slated to begin next month, five weeks in LA and two days in DC. Alex and his producers are in need of extras for the DC scenes, as well as anyone who may be interested in acquiring an investment position in this upcoming motion picture.

For more information about *Mate*, please visit [www.ablekaneproductions.com](http://www.ablekaneproductions.com) or contact Alex at [akproductionsllc@aol.com](mailto:akproductionsllc@aol.com) or 301-868-0215.



pawn.] **30 Rd1** [A good move. I was dissuaded from capturing 30...Qxe4 because of 31 Rd7 threatening both a7 and 32 Rxg7 Kxg7 33 Bh6+ winning the queen. In fact, White may have even better in 31 Qg4! Qxg4 32 hxg4 and his command of the d-file plus Black's weak pawns (e5, c6, a7) will mean a cheerless ending for me] **30...Bf8 31 Qc2 Be7 32 Rd7 Qe1 33 Rxa7?** [Time pressure had us stepping a bit quickly now and I did not have time to consider everything carefully, but I hoped (not unreasonably) to draw the bishop ending in the event of 33 Qd2 Qxd2 34 Rxd2 Rd8. However 33 Qd3! would have retained all the advantage in White's position. Rxe7 is already threatened, so I guess 33...Kg8 but then 34 Rxa7 and if 34...Rd8 he can just return his rook to the d-file with both material and positional domination.] **33...Rd8!** [Seeking, as I said, purely practical chances. For even now, as I discovered later analyzing at home, White could have simply called my bluff: 34 Rxe7! Rd1 35 Qxd1 Qxd1 and now 36 Bh6 causes real and unexpected problems! If 36...Kg8 37 Rg7+ Kh8 apart from simply repeating, White can play to win by 38 Rc7. So perhaps 36...Qd8 instead? No!, for then 37 Rf7! and in view of Rf8+ nothing remains except liquidation to an ending with two extra pawns for White.] **34 Qb2? Bf6 35 Bg5?** [White is unnerved by what is happening and so he tries a throw of the dice. At the board I noticed 35 Bh6!? preventing 35...Rd1 due to 36 Ra8+, but I would have answered 35...Qxe4 defending e5 and now threatening Rd1—Black is okay, I think. But amazingly, there is another resource that shows that White is still on top! 35 Qa3!!



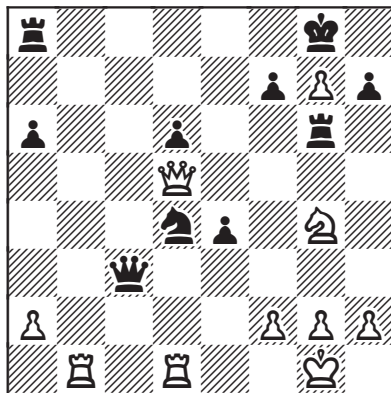
35...Rd1 (what else?) 36 Ra8+ Bd8 37 Rxd8+! Rxd8 38 Qa6 White will capture c6 and have three pawns for the exchange plus a well knit-together position. Black's exposed king insures that I can never hope for more than a draw; the dangerous White c-pawn makes even that a long shot (if 38...Rf8 39 Kg2).] **35...Rd1!** [Now, finally, the tables are turned. So it took three consecutive errors by White for me to gain the victory.] **36 Bxf6+ Kg8 37 Rg7+ Kf8 38 Be7+** [He can



only keep checking and hope, as there is no defense to mate if I ever get a free move.] 38...Kxg7 39 Qxe5+ Kf7 40 Qf6+ Ke8 [Time control! Now White convinced himself that after 41 Qf8+ Kd7 42 Qd8+ Ke6 he'd have to give up the bishop anyway, so I did it immediately to get the c-pawn.] 41 Qxc6+ Kxe7 42 Qc7+ [I took a walk around the room to calm my nerves and then determined I could win by simply driving my king straight into his position. Happily, I can go through e5 as it turns out f4+ doesn't do any damage.] 42...Ke6 43 Qc8+ Ke5 44 Qe8+ [Or 44 Qh8+ Kxe4 45 Qe8+ Kd4 46 Qxe1 Rxe1 the rook will win easily enough.] 44...Kd4 45 Qh8+ Kd3 46 Qd8+ Ke2 o-1

Christopher Toolin – Macon Shibut  
2008 Foxwoods Open  
Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Nd5 Bg7 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 Bg7 11 c3 f5 12 Bd3 Be6 13 Qh5 o-o 14 exf5 Bxd5 15 f6 e4 16 fxg7 Re8 17 Be2 Re5 18 Qh6 b4 19 Nc2 [If 19 cxb4 I intended 19...Nd4] 19...bxc3 20 bxc3 Qa5 [Not just to grab the pawn, but also I hoped that my queen would prove well placed on c3; perhaps later it will retreat on the long diagonal to capture on g7] 21 o-o Qxc3 22 Ne3 Nd4 23 Bg4 Be6 24 Rac1 Qb2 25 Rfd1 Bxg4 26 Rb1 Qc3 27 Nxg4 Re6 28 Qg5 Rg6 29 Qd5



I had overlooked this (not as it was played but earlier, when contemplating the Qxc3 plan). My equilibrium was disrupted and from this moment I played weaker every turn.

My first reaction was to look at the exchange sacrifice 29...Rxg4?! 30 Qxa8+ Kxg7 but I did not have the nerve to play it, especially since White could just decline to take the rook and instead just go 30 Qxd4 with few prospects for either side after something like 30...Qxd4 31 Rxd4 Kxg7 32 Rxd6 Rg6



In some vague way, this left me with the impression that a draw must be this game's inevitable result, one way or another. I fatally switched my mode of thinking to one where I assumed White was likewise resigned to it being just a draw, and my goal became merely looking for the most "comfortable" way, with perhaps a chance to probe him a little. Thus, in turning my attention to 29...Qc6 I *only* considered the reply 30 Qxd4, eg, 30...Rxc4 31 Qxd6 Qxd6 32 Rxd6 Rg6 = and it never even occurred to me there might be whole other vistas of opportunity in the position — for my opponent! But indeed, 30 Ne3! would then have been very awkward. Black's knight is attacked, it cannot move without leaving the queen in peril, and if I trade queens the knight will still be *en pris* plus there will be Ne7+ to worry about... Perhaps Black can wriggle out somehow, but the point is that very simple, even obvious moves by White prove menacing in a way I never suspected.

**29...Rc8?** [I expected him to take the knight with a draw shortly. So he surprised me again, but it should have been a pleasant surprise...] **30 Rb7?** [30 Ne3! was still most unpleasant for Black due to the impending followup Nf5. Thanks to White's inaccuracy I could have escaped after the text move by 30...Ne2+! 31 Kf1 Qxg7—but again, I never sensed the danger.] **30...Qc4? 31 Qxc4 Rxc4 32 Ne3!** [Now I understood everything, which is a bad feeling once it's no longer possible to do anything about it. The basic problem is that my rook must defend my knight, but if 32...Ra4 there follows 33 Rxd4 Rxd4 34 Rb8+ Kxg7 35 Nf5+] **32...Rc1 33 Rxc1 Ne2+ 34 Kf1 Nxc1 35 Nf5 h6** [Of course 35...f6 holds out a bit longer. During the game I saw 36 Ne7+ but it turns out things are even worse than that: 36 h4! Black is in a total bind and the further advance of this h-pawn will cost me an entire rook. So I don't feel too bad about having allowed mate in two.] **36 Rb8+ Kh7 37 Rh8mate 1-0**

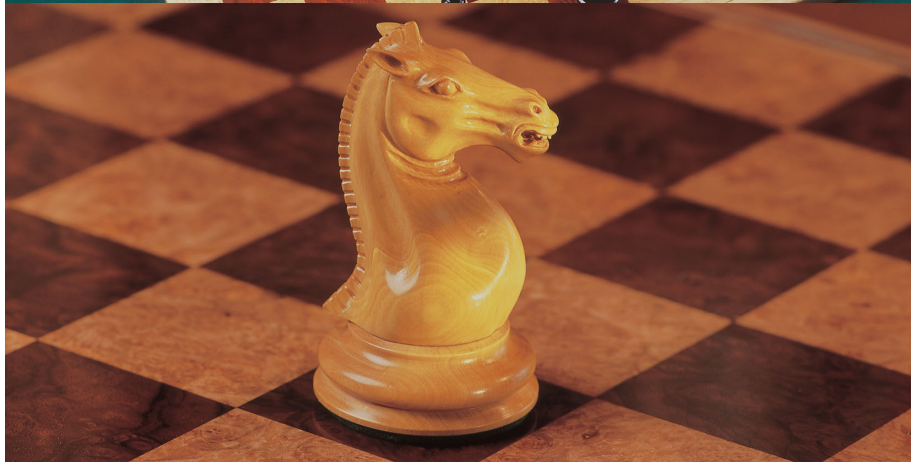


## Springfield Invitational FIDE Rating Tournament June 13-15

See page 7 of this issue for full details. Check the website, [www.vachess.org/invitational.htm](http://www.vachess.org/invitational.htm), to see the latest entry applicants.



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