# 1999 Virginia Open

THE 1999 VIRGINIA OPEN played Jan 22-24 in Fredricksburg, saw a 3-way tie for 1st in the Open section between Adrian Negulescu, Emory Tate & Leonid Filatov. Each scored 4-1. Lance Rackham tallied 5½-½ to claim clear 1st in the Amateur section.

The Open winners rose to the top by different methods. Negulescu, a visiting IM from Rumania, took the "professional" route, jumping out 3-0 and then taking it easy on the last day, drawing fellow IMs Larry Kaufman and Richard Delaune in fairly bloodless fashion. Tate, a co-winner last year as well, had to fight back from behind this time after losing to Negulescu in round 3. He accomplished the task in fine style, jumping all over Kaufman right out of the opening in the final round. Filatov executed the semi Swiss Gambit, conceding a draw in the very first round and piling up points thereafter against mostly lower-rated opposition.

Larry Kaufman - Emory Tate
Sicilian
Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 f3 e5 6 Nb3 Be7 7 c4 a5 8 Be3 a4 9 N3d2 0-0 10 Bd3 Nc6 11 a3 (evidently an error) **11...Nd7! 12 0-0 Bg5 13 Bf2 Nc5 14 Bc2 Nd4!** (White is already remarkably tied up, with hardly any moves.) **15 f4!?** (Under the circumstances you can't fault White for trying this. If 15 Bxd4 exd4 16 f4 d3—*yuck!* If then 17 fxg5 Black can even look at 17...Qb6! Maybe 15 b4 was objectively best.) **15...Bg4** (15...Nxc2 16 Qxc2 Bxf4 was also good) **16 Qxg4 Nxc2 17 fxg5** (White's whole point has been to go for the attack, so naturally the grim 17 Ra2 Bxf4 held no attraction for him.) **17...Nxa1 18 Nc3 Nab3 19 Nf3 Nd3!?** (He's being rather carefree with White's threats, but in the end it turns out Black has everything in hand.) **20 Nd5 Nbc5 21 Nf6+** (Consequent, but it doesn't work. Maybe he could keep his powder dry a bit longer with 21 Bh4) **21...Kh8 22 Nxh7 Kxh7 23 g6+ fxg6 24 Ng5+ Kg8 25 Qh4**
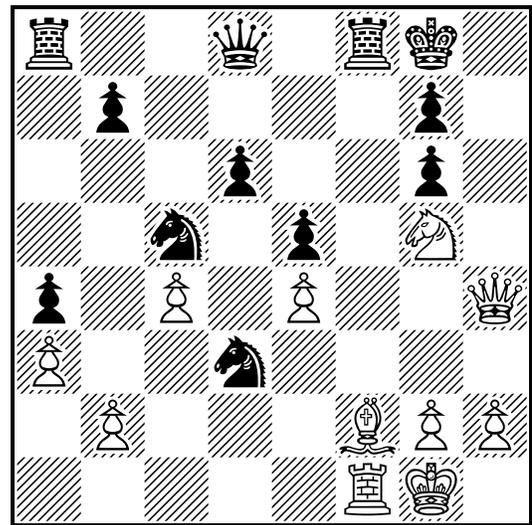
25...Qxg5! (When the smoke clears Black gets more than enough for his queen in view of the possible fork on e4) **26 Qxg5 Rxf2 27 Rxf2 Nxf2 28 Qxg6 Nfxe4** (Now Black will regroup his pieces for a combined attack on White's king, while White can only hope for perpetual check.) **29 g4 Rf8 30 g5 Nd2! 31 Qxd6 Rf1+ 32 Kg2 Rf2+ 33 Kh3** (33 Kxf2?? Nde4+) **33...Nce4 34 Qe6+ Kh7 35 g6+ Kh6 36 Qxe5 Nf3!**
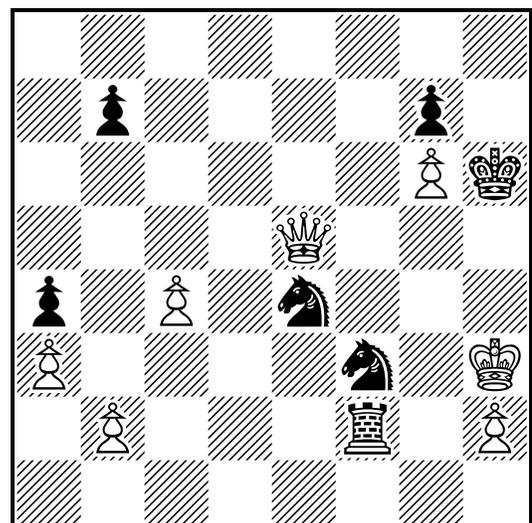
Virginia Open
continued

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37 Qb8 (Not 37 Qxe4? Ng5+; nor 37 Qf4+? Nfg5+ and Rxf4) **37...Nfg5+ 38 Kg4 Nf6+ 39 Kg3 Rf3+ 40 Kg2 Nfe4! 41 h4 Rf2+ 42 Kh1 Nf3** (setting up the winning Rh2+) **43 Qh8+** (if 43 Qf4+ Kh5 44 Qf5+ Neg5! ends it) **43...Kxg6 44 Qe8+ Kf5 45 Qd8 Kf4 46 Qc7+ Ke3 47 Qb6+ Ke2 0-1**

IMs Delaune & Kaufman, plus Stan Fink, Frank Gomez, Ron Nichols & Marvin Lazo scored 3$\frac{1}{2}$ points to tie for 4th and various class prizes. The scholastic prizewinner was Jeremy Hummer, rated 1681, who beat players rated 2003 & 1932, plus drew versus 2149.

The following tense last round game is from the top board in the Amateur. Prevost entered the contest in clear first with 5-0, but Rackham took the battle to him.

David Prevost - Lance Rackham
English
Notes by Macon Shibut

1 c4 g6 2 g3 d6 3 Bg2 Bg7 4 Nc3 Nc6 5 e4 e5 6 d3 Nce7 7 Nge2 f5 8 Be3 Nf6 9 h3 0-0 10 Qd2 Nh5 11 0-0-0 f4!? 12 gxf4 exf4 13 Nxf4 Nxf4 14 Bxf4 c6 15 Be3 Qa5 16 Kb1 Be6? 17 Rde1 (17 Nd5 would set back the attack some after either 17...Qd8 18 Nxe7+ Qxe7; or 17...Qxd2 18 Nxe7+ Kf7 19 Rxd2 Kxe7) **17...b5 18 cxb5?** (Now 18 Nd5 was really necessary) **18...Rab8 19 Nd5** (Now this merely clears the diagonal of Black's dark-square bishop since Black can maintain his queen in an aggressive post without losing a piece.) **19...Qxb5 20 Nxe7+ Kf7 21 d4** (Trying to hold the piece by 21 Bg5 Bxb2 is too risky!) **21...Kxe7** (This is a critical position. It's hard to say just what White should do, but since it's essential that he keep the long diagonal towards his king blocked, I nominate 22 Rd1 overprotecting d4. The move he actually played looks wrong in any event, throwing gasoline on the fire.) **22 Qc3 c5 23 e5 Rfc8 24 exd6+ Kd7**
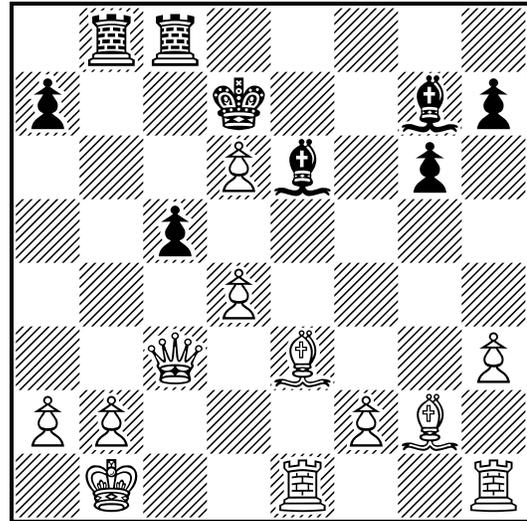
25 Qa3 a5 26 Bf1 Qb4 (Black can lightheartedly exchanges queens, even two pawns down. The attack remains strong.) **27 Qxb4 Rxb4 28 Bd2 Rbb8 29 Bxa5 Bxd4 30 b3 Kxd6 31 Bd2 Kd7** (sidestepping Bf4+) **32 h4 Bf5+ 33 Kc1 Bxf2 34 Re2 c4! 35 b4** (if 35 Rxf2 cxb3+ 36 Kb2 bxa2+ 37 Kxa2 Rb7 △ Ra8+) **35...Bd4 36 Bh3 c3 37 Bxf5+ gxf5 38 Bg5 Rxb4 39 Re7+ Kd6 40 Rhe1** (40 Rxh7 was also possible, threatening Be7+, although Black keeps on top after 40...Rb2) **40...c2?!** (40...Rb2 was best here too. Now White might have turned the tables. But the tension had its effect.) **41 Bf4+ Kd5 42 Rd7+ Kc4**

43 Rc7+?? (43 Re2! leads to the capture of Black's pawn. There are interesting tactics after 43...Kb5 but I think it all fizzles towards a draw: 43...Kb5 (43...Kd3 44 Re3+! Kc4 45 Re2) 44 Rxc2 Bb2+ 45 Kd1 Rxc2 46 Rb7+ Ka5 47 Rxb4 Kxb4 48 Kxc2 Bf6 is one possibility.) 43...Rxc7 44 Bxc7 Rb1+ 0-1

Prevost thus fell to a tie for 2nd with Jamarl Thomas, Stephen Jablon & Marvin Wilson. Under 1700 winners were James Barko & Daniel Talbert. Under 1500 saw a 7-way tie (!) among Leonard Holloway, Kenneth Lovering, Darryl Rue, Darrell Faulkner, Jiri Kovats, Phillip Shing & Jason Hart. Nelson Lopez was top under 1300, and David Shiffer was top under 1100. Daniel Ludwinski was the top scholastic player in the Amateur.

A total of 131 players enjoyed the well-lit and spacious playing room at the Fredericksburg Sheraton. Kudos to organizers Helen Hinshaw and Catherine Clark! Michael Atkins and Paul Dame directed for the VCF. Thanks are also due Atkins for providing information used in producing this report. See Mike's Virginia Open web page for crosstables and additional games,

Richard Delaune - Leonid Filatov
Catalan

1 c4 e6 2 g3 d5 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Bg2 Be7 5 0-0 0-0 6 d4 dxc4 7 Qc2 a6 8 a4 Bd7 9 Rd1 Bc6 10 Nc3 Nbd7 11 e4 b5 12 d5 exd5 13 e5 Ne8 14 Nxd5 Bxd5 15 Rxd5 c6 16 Rd1 Qc7 17 axb5 cxb5 18 Bf4 Nc5 19 Ng5 Bxg5 20 Bxa8 Bxf4 21 gxf4 Nd3 22 Be4 Nxf4 23 Bxh7+ Kh8 24 Qf5 g5 25 Qe4 Ng7 26 Rxa6 Qc8 27 Rad6 Qg4+ 28 Kh1 Qh5 29 Rd8 Nge6 30 Rxf8+ Nxf8 31 Rd8 Kg7 32 Bf5 N8e6 33 Bxe6 Nxe6 34 Rd7 (Even after, say, 34 Rd2 the separated White pawns, exposed king, and strong knight outposts at d3, f4 & e6 make it really hard to make anything of White's exchange.) **34...Nc5 35 Qd4 Qf3+ 36 Kg1 Nxd7 37 Qxd7 Qe4 38 Qxb5 Qg4+ 39 Kf1 Qd1+ 40 Kg2 Qg4+ 41 Kf1 Qd1+ ½-½**

Emory Tate - Adrian Negulescu
Caro Kann / Gurgenidze

1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Nf3 g6 4 d4 Bg7 5 Be3 Bg4 6 Qd2 dxe4 7 Ng5 Nf6 8 Bc4 0-0 9 h3 Bc8 10 h4 Bf5 11 h5 gxh5 12 Rh4 e6 13 g3 Qa5 14 0-0-0 Nbd7 15 Bb3 Rad8 16 Rdh1 Nc5 17 Bc4 b5 18 Ncxe4 Qxd2+ 19 Nxd2 bxc4 20 dxc5 c3 21 bxc3 Ng4 22 Rxh5 Nxe3 23 fxe3 Bxc3 24 Nb1 Bg7 25 Nxh7 Rfe8 26 g4 Bg6 27 R5h3 Rd5 28 g5 Be4 29 R1h2 Bxh7 30 Rxh7 Rxg5 31 c3 Rxc5 32 R2h5 Rxh5 33 Rxh5 f5 34 Rh4 Rd8 35 Kc2 Rd5 36 Nd2 Rc5 37 Rc4 Bf8 38 Ra4 Re5 (Black gets his pieces tangled up and loses his advantage. Maybe 38... Bh6 △ 39 Kd3 Rd5+) **39 Nc4 Re4 40 Kd3 Bc5 41 Ra6 Kf7 42 Rxc6 Be7 43 Nd6+?** (White in turn passes up 43 Rc7 with the double threat Rxa7 and Nd6+, so Black gets back on top again.) **43...Bxd6 44 Rxd6 Ra4 45 Rd7+ Kf6 46 c4 Rxa2 47 c5 Ra3+ 48 Kd4 e5+ 49 Kd5 Rd3+ 50 Kc6 Rxe3 51 Rd6+ Kg5 52 Rd5 f4 53 Kb7 f3 54 c6 f2 55 c7 Rb3+ 56 Ka8** (56 Kc6 Rc3+ 57 Rc5 Rxc5+ 58 Kxc5 f1=Q 59 c8=Q Qc1+) **56...Rc3 57 Rxe5+ Kg4 58 Re4+ Kf3 59 Re7 f1=Q 0-1**

Jamael Thomas - Mark Ludwinski
Giuoco Piano

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Qe2 d6 5 c3 Bg4 6 d3 Qe7 7 Nbd2 f5 8 exf5 Bxf5 9 Ne4 Bb6 10 Nfg5 Nf6 11 Qf3 Bg6 12 Be3 Nxe4 13 Nxe4 Bxe3 14 Qxe3 0-0-0 15 Bd5 a6 16 Bxc6 bxc6 17 Qa7 Bxe4 18 dxe4 Qh4 19 Qxa6+ Kd7 20 Qe2 Ra8 21 0-0 Ra4 22 f3 Rha8 23 b3 Ra3 24 Rfd1 R8a5 25 c4 Qd8 26 Qb2 Qa8 27 c5 Qa7 28 Qxe5 Qxc5+ 29 Qxc5 Rxc5 30 Rd2 g5 31 Kf2 Ke6 32 Kg3 Kf6 33 h4 h6 34 hxg5+ hxg5 35 Kg4 Kg6 36 g3 Rca5 37 Rc1 c5 38 Rd5 Rxa2 39 Rxg5+ Kf6 40 Rh1 Ra7 41 f4 Rb2 42 Rh7 Rxb3 43 Kh5 1-0 (mate by Rg6 follows)

THE PRIME ATTACK PROBL

by Mike Keith

Virginia Chess *strives to offer a variety of content. Naturally it is games, analyses and news that comprise the greater part of our material, but occasionally an opportunity arises to present something different or even unique. And so we are very pleased to showcase this contribution from a VCF member, not only for the appeal it may hold for some readers but also for the demonstration to future contributors that there is room in these pages for any and all aspects of the Royal Game.*

G L Honaker, Jr is a science and mathematics teacher in Bristol, Virginia. He enjoys prime number theory and uses chess as an educational tool in the classroom. He won the Top Unrated prize at his first rated tournament, the 1996 Virginia Closed, from which he provided the following sample of his play: Darby – Honaker, Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bd3 a6 7 0-0 Be7 8 f4 Qc7 9 Nf3 b5 10 Kh1 Bb7 11 Qe2 0-0 12 e5 dxe5 13 Nxe5 Nc6 14 Nf3 Nb4 15 Bd2 Nxd3 16 Qxd3 Rfd8 17 Qe2 Rd7 18 Ne5 Rdd8 19 a3 Bd6 20 Rad1 Bxe5 21 fxe5 Nd5 22 Nxd5 Bxd5 23 Qe1 Qxc2 24 Rf2 Qc6 25 Rc1 Qd7 26 Rc3 Rac8 27 Rh3 Rc2 28 Qb1 Be4 29 Rc3 Rxc3 30 Qxe4 Qxd2 31 Kg1 Rc1+ 32 Rf1 Rxf1+ 33 Kxf1 Qxb2 34 Qf3 Qxe5 35 h3 Qf5 0-1

The article at hand discusses a chess-based puzzle created by Honaker. The actual author of the text, Mike Keith, is a computer consultant who lives in Salem, Oregon and enjoys exploring the uses of computers in recreational mathematics and linguistics. Contact him — or simply marvel at the "World of Words, Numbers, and Notes" — by pointing your browser to http://users.aol.com/s6sj7gt/mikehome.htm

Recognizing that not all chess players are mathematicians, it seems appropriate to provide a brief layman's introduction to what follows. Recall from your school days that a prime number *is a whole number whose only factors are itself and one. For example, 2 and 3 are primes, but 4 is not because 4 = 2x2. Likewise 5, 7 and 11 are prime, but not 6 (= 2x3), 8 (4x2), 9 (3x3) or 10 (5x2). In general, no even number beyond 2 can be prime because they all equal something times two. (Note, however, that 1999 is a "prime year!")*

For the purposes of what follows, it might be useful to think of primes as those numbers that cannot be represented by arranging objects rectangularly into rows and columns. (see box)

Interested readers may contact Mr Honaker via email at scitchr@3wave.com *Those who get hooked on this sort of thing might also want to check out More Prime Patterns at* http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Launchpad/4057/MorePrimes.htm
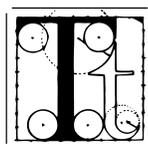
Have fun! –ed.

15 knights can be arranged as three rows of exactly five, so it's *not* prime
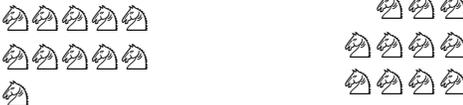
Try to arrange a rectangle of 11 knights, on the other hand, and you're always stuck with leftovers, no matter how many rows/columns you use (except 1x11). Eleven is prime!

THIS INTERESTING PROBLEM was posed by G L Honaker, Jr in November of 1998. First, create any knight's tour on an *n* x *n* chessboard, in which the knight starts on any square of the board and by successive knight's moves visits every square on the board exactly once. Number the squares visited by the knight in order starting with 1 for the starting square. When you are done, place a Queen on any square and count the number of prime numbers attacked by the Queen (note that the Queen is not considered to be attacking the square it sits on). Now, the problem: **What is the largest number of primes that can be attacked by the Queen, for any placement of the Queen and any knight's tour?**

First, note that there are 18 primes between 1 and 64. Amazingly, there is a *perfect* knight's tour in which all 18 primes can be attacked! Here it is, found by an approximately 12-hour computer search:
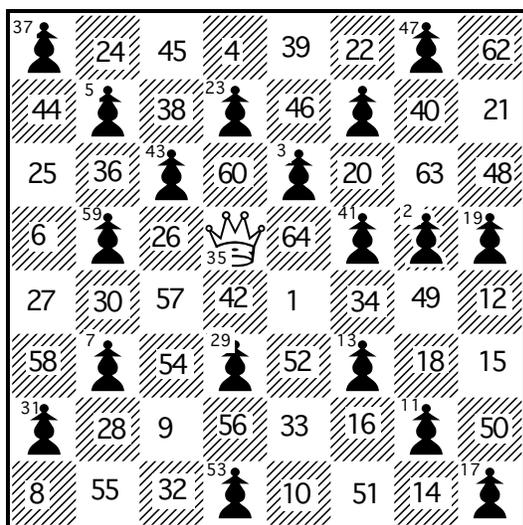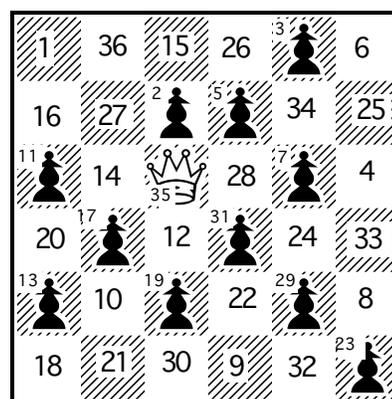
where the location of the Queen is d5 and the attacked primes are indicated by pawns.

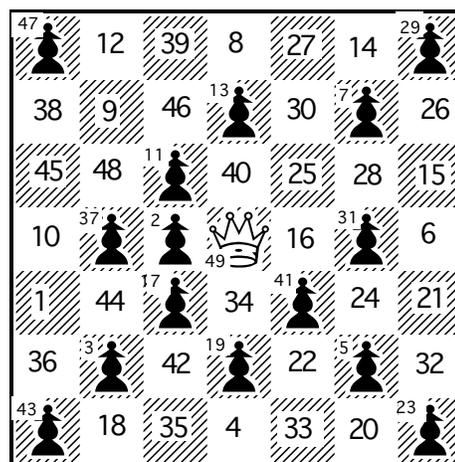Knights tours are impossible on 1x1, 2x2, 3x3, 4x4 boards, but it is natural to ask the same question for any *n* x *n* board, with *n* ≥ 5. Here are perfect solutions for 5x5 through 7x7 (all by M Keith):
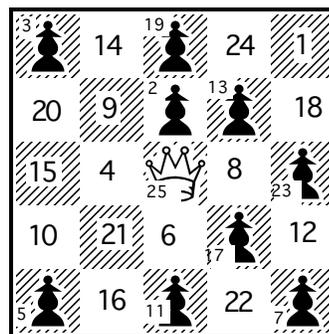
5x5 board - 9 of 9 primes

6x6 board - 11 of 11 primes

7x7 board - 15 of 15 primes

The table below includes these values of Q(n) as well as some larger values of n (whose full boards we do not show for space reasons). The last column shows the total number of primes in the array.

n	Q(n)	Total primes
5	9	9
6	11	11
7	15	15
8	18	18
9	19	22
10	20	25
11	22	30
12	23	34

Note that 8x8 is the largest one for which we have found a perfect solution. As n increases it appears to become harder to achieve perfection, and a moment's thought shows why this is the case. Assume n is even (a similar argument works for n odd). Since the dark squares (or light squares) on the chessboard always contain numbers with the same parity, due to the properties of a knight's tour, the most odd numbers that can be attacked by a Queen is $3n$-5, which happens when the Queen sits on one of the two central odd numbers. If all of these were primes, and if the Queen also attacked the prime 2, then there could be at most $3n$-4 primes attacked. On the other hand, there are pi($n2$) primes [the number of primes $\leq n2$] in the array. This grows faster than linearly, so it becomes harder and harder to reach, since $3n$-4 grows linearly.

Denote by $M(n)$ the most number of primes that could ever be attacked in an n x n grid, as described in the previous paragraph. Then, $M(n) = 3n$-4 for n even and $4[n/4] + 2n - 1$ for n odd. The growth argument means that for all n sufficiently large a perfect attack configuration is impossible. This first happens for n=11, since then $M(n) = 4[n/4] + 2n - 1$ = 29 whereas pi(121)=30. So we have:

Theorem:

A perfect configuration is impossible for $n \geq 11$.

In fact, the above evidence suggests:

Conjecture:

A perfect configuration is possible only for n = 5, 6, 7, and 8.

We can define a *quasi-perfect* configuration as one that attacks not pi(n) primes but rather $M(n)$, the maximum amount possible when $n \geq 11$. In contrast to perfectness, it should be *easier* to be quasi-perfect as n becomes larger. What, we wonder, is the smallest value of n for which a quasi-perfect configuration is possible?

Some other open questions:

(1) Are the above values of Q(n) really the best? Is the conjecture true?

(2) What's the best that can be achieved if the knight's tour is required to be closed (reentrant)? (Late-breaking news: I can attack 16 on an 8x8 board in a reentrant tour.)

(3) What's the best score for larger values of n?

(4) What's the best score attainable for other chess or fairy chess pieces?

JEFFERSON OPEN

Macon Shibut swept through the field to post a 5-0 score and clear 1st place at the Jefferson Open, in Charlottesville, December 5-6. The winner caught a slight break in that his closest competition, Frederick Kagan, had taken an irrevocable $^1/_2$-point bye at registration. This short circuited what otherwise would have been a last round showdown between the two masters. As it was Shibut defeated #s 3, 4 and 5 on the wallchart *en route* to the winner's circle.

Alan Brownstein - Macon Shibut
King's Gambit
Notes by Macon Shibut

1	e4	e5
2	f4	

Oh, no. I'd forgotten that Brownstein plays this, else I would have chosen a different first move. My intention was to roll out ol' Philidor's countergambit 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f5!? for another workout (see my articles in various prior issues of *Virginia Chess*). Alas, Alan hit me with his nineteenth century opening before I had a chance to land my own.

Nonetheless, I did not proceed unarmed. Six years ago, while preparing my book on Paul Morphy, I examined quite a few Kings Gambits.

The traditional defense consists of what someone (Tarrasch, I think) once termed the "suicide move," 2...exf4 3 Nf3 g5!? The thing to understand is that this grotesque-looking, "anti-positional" bid to secure the gambit pawn is not sheer materialism, but in fact has a positional (!) motivation, namely to keep the f-file — absolutely the key artery of White's prospective attack — blocked. For

his part White may be willing to sacrifice *real* material if that's what it takes to clear the f-file blockage.

Black's plan succeeds more or less against the old-style developing continuation 4 Bc4 (the Hanstein/Philidor gambits) because after 4...Bg7 his *king rook is defended* and thus he's ready to maintain the pawn chain — and the f4 clog — in case of 5 h4 h6 etc. For precisely this reason, the "modern" continuation for White is considered to be 4 h4! (Kieseritsky). Now 4...h6 doesn't work, so we get 4...g4 5 Ne5 (5 Ng5 is also possible but after 5...h6 the knight has no safe squares so White is already committed to the major sacrifice 6 Nxf7) and now either 5...Nf6 or 5...d6, in either case with a rich, full game where White inevitably achieves Bxf4 and at least some chances on the f-line. The Spassky-Fischer game from Mar del Plata 1960 is doubtless the most famous contemporary example: 5...Nf6 6 d4 d6 7 Nd3 Nxe4 8 Bxf4 Bg7 9 Nc3 Nxc3 10 bxc3 c5 11 Be2 cxd4 12 0-0 Nc6

13 Bxg4 0-0 14 Bxc8 Rxc8 15 Qg4 f5 16 Qg3 dxc3 17 Rae1 Kh8 18 Kh1 Rg8 19 Bxd6 Bf8 20 Be5+ Nxe5 21 Qxe5+ Rg7 22 Rxf5 Qxh4+ 23 Kg1 Qg4 24 Rf2 Be7 25 Re4 Qg5 26 Qd4 Rf8 27 Re5 Rd8 28 Qe4 Qh4 29 Rf4 1-0

As a direct reaction to this experience, Bobby Fischer put the King's Gambit under his microscope and published an article, "A Bust to the King's Gambit," in the Summer 1961 issue of *American Chess Quarterly*. Fischer's recommendation was 3...d6. He called this a "high-class waiting move," the point being in essence to transpose to the Hanstein/Philidor variety of the ...g5 defense complex while excluding the

possibility of White reaching the preferred Kieseritsky version. Let us see how this works.
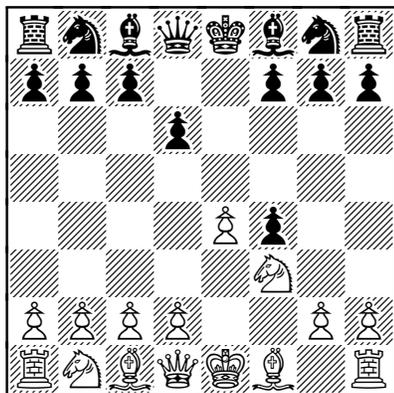
From the diagram, suppose White goes 4 Bc4. Black will respond 4...h6! and White is in a bit of a quandary. Sure he can play 5 h4?! but in the present circumstances — no pawn chain as of yet — the h-pawn looks ridiculous. Is this why White sacrificed a pawn, in order to follow up with such a preventative move? 5...Nf6, 5...Bg4, — any sort of normal play should be okay for Black. But other 5th moves by White — 5 0-0; 5 d4 — let Black get in 5...g5 △ if 6 h4 h6 etc arriving safely in the Hanstein/Philidor lagoon.

Returning to the diagram, White can also go 4 d4. The threat Bxf4 impels Black to go ahead with 4...g5 straight away. Based on what we've seen, it might seem that 5 h4 should follow as a matter of course. But now the subtle merits of the Fischer move order come to the fore. 5...g4.
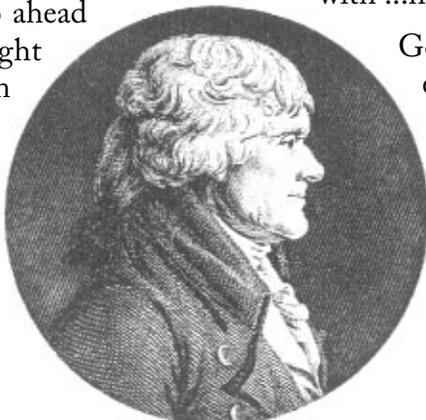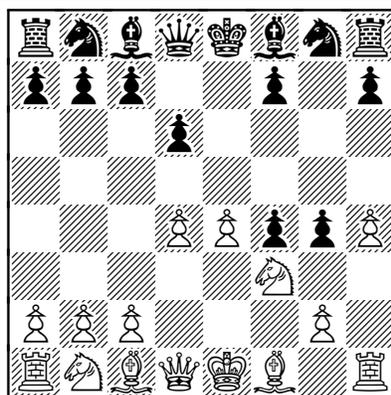
Compared to the normal Kieseritsky gambit, both sides' d-pawns have moved. The upshot is that White doesn't have the normal Ne5 hop! Either he plunges ahead with the dubious piece sacrifice 6 Ng5 (which is, incidentally, even more suspect here than in the position without the d-pawns' moves) or he plays the utterly un-gambit-like retreat 6 Ng1, after which the battle continues but it should go without saying that Black has improved his chances relative to the normal Kieseritsky lines.

If White does not want play *á la* Kieseritsky 5 h4, then naturally he goes 5 Bc4, whereupon 5...Bg7 and Black is again all set for maintaining his pawn chain with ...h6 as necessary.

Going back still earlier, mention is also due the King's Bishop's Gambit, 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4!? — a whole 'nother story! I will not elaborate it here but

Thomas Jefferson

note that since the time of Fischer's article, many of those grandmasters who venture the King's Gambit have favored the Bishop's form, beginning with Fischer himself and more recently Judith Polgar, Nigel Short, Vassily Ivanchuk, etc. Presumably this is in large part a reaction against 3 Nf3 d6!

This concludes our brief tutorial, but I will close with an additional editorial comment: Fischer's use of the word "bust" seems rather strong. Black can indeed circumvent the Kieseritsky gambit, but merely reaching Hanstein/Philidor territory is no guarantee of success. The cast of players who have *voluntarily* gone this route as White, answering 3...g5 with 4 Bc4 even though 4 h4 was available, is an exalted troupe: Anderssen, Morphy, Steinitz, Blackburne, Zukertort, Tchigorin, Lasker, Marshall, Reti, Capablanca... A case can be made that Fischer's whole point is moot since the Hanstein/Philidor complex promises more to the first player than Kieseritsky's "loosening" 4 h4 in any event.

2 ... d6!?

I learned this finesse from Jack Mayer. It looks like a cramped Kings Gambit Declined but in fact Black plans to take the pawn next turn. (3 fxe5?? Qh4+) This is a clever way to introduce the Fischer Defense because White *invariably* plays...

### 3 Nf3

whereupon there follows...

3   ...   exf4

and we've tricked White out of any chance to play the Bishop's Gambit, just in case that's what he intended!

4	d4	g5
5	Bc4	Bg7
6	0-0	Nc6
7	c3	h6
8	Qb3	Qe7

The particular move order by which we arrived at this position gave Black an additional option, 8...Qd7(!) △ Na5. Considering it it now, I have to say that I like the looks of it, but during the game it was hard to discard what I knew to be the main line for the sake of sticking my queen in front of my queen's bishop.
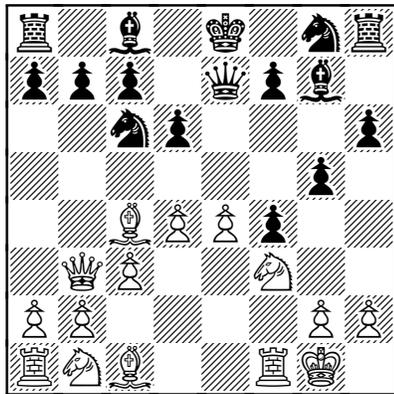
And so 8...Qe7, and we have reached a *tabiya*, a set position from which many games have diverged onto different paths. White can play a simple developing move here — 9 Nbd2 or Na3, say, — but Black is on the brink of developing his king knight and castling without incident. Sooner or later White will have to come back to the strategic imperative of undermining Black's pawn chain

and prying open the f-file, and practice suggests that he might best get to it straight away. He has two devices for doing the job: h4 after all (Philidor), or g3 (Hanstein).
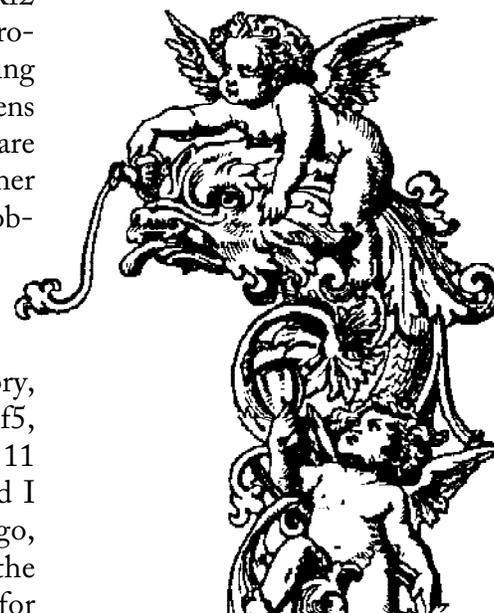
Fischer's analysis highlights the Philidor method, giving as a main line 9 h4 Nf6! (Black is not deterred by the threat to his g-pawn) 10 hxg5 hxg5 11 Nxg5 Nxe4 (11...Nxd4!? has also been tried with success) 12 Bxf7+ Kd8 13 Nxe4 Qxe4 14 Bxf4 Nxd4!

As for 9 g3 (which could also have been tried on moves 6, 7, or 8, each case posing different problems in detail but the same general theme), Black's fundamental reaction is 9...g4 followed by ...f3 after White's knight moves away. Fischer endorses a variation he attributes to Nimzowitsch (offhand I don't know where from): 9 g3 g4 10 Nh4 f3 11 Nf5 Bxf5 12 exf5 (12 Qxb7 Rb8 13 Qxc6+ Qd7≠) 0-0-0 13 Bxf7 Qe2 14 Qe6+ (14 Rf2 Nxd4! 15 Rxe2 fxe2) Rd7! introducing the idea ...Nd8 winning a piece. White can't trade queens as both his rook and bishop are attacked after ...fxe2, but neither can he squirm out of the problems confronting him on both ends of the board after 15 Rf2 Qd1+ 16 Rf1 Qc2.

This is not the end of the story, however. Instead of 11 Nf5, Korchnoi has suggested that 11 Bf4 might favor White. And I remember, from six years ago, examining 11 Nbd2 with the idea of sacrificing a knight for

two pawns, Ndxf3! I recall how surprised and impressed I was by White's practical chances after the Black bridgehead gets vaporized.

I mention my recollections from six years back; over the board I was pretty much at the end of my store of concrete data on the opening, although of course I still had a general foreknowledge of plans and themes for the coming middlegame. I did not specifically remember either of the variations given in the preceding paragraphs, after the last diagram, but there is an obvious echo of Fischer's 9 h4 Nf6! line in a possibility that I discovered and wrestled with during the game: 9 g3 g4 10 Nh4 Nxd4!? 11 cxd4 Bxd4+ 12 Kh1 Qxe4+ 13 Ng2 f3 14 Bxf7+ (14 Nf4) Kd8 15 Nf4 Bf5 and it would be probably too much to hope for 16 Bxg8? f2+ 17 Ng2 Qxg2+ 18 Kxg2 Be4+ 19 Qf3 Bxf3#

9   g3   g4
10   d5?!

An innovation but not a good one. (Fischer: "Of course White can always play differently, in which case he merely loses differently.") The d-pawn will get in the way of White's attack battery, affording Black the time to get his king squirreled away.

But right away there is a decision to be made. It was tempting to give White's king a taste of the action, eg 10...Na5 11 Qa4+ Bd7 12 Qxa5 and now 12...fxg3!? △ 13 Nd4 Qh4 14 hxg3 Qxg3+ 15 Kh1 Be5. For Black this would represent a fundamental change of plan, however, and as such it must be considered carefully. Of course White doesn't have to self-immolate, but may return the piece by 13 hxg3 gxf3 14 Rxf3. How does the position look then? Certainly not 14...Qxe4? 15 Re3, but otherwise it's not easy to evaluate which king will come under the most serious fire.

The alternative is 10...Nd8 (certainly not 10...Ne5?, which allows White to exchange his attacked knight and then take on f4 — total strategic success). What a peculiar knight! It has no mobility whatsoever, which means some measure of strategic risk for Black — as Tarrasch once said, one bad piece and the whole position is bad. On the other hand, the knight proves remarkably useful right on this spot, covering b7 and f7 in a way that relieves the rest of Black's army.

10   ...   Nd8!
11   Nh4

He might as well go to the center, 11 Nd4, since 11...Bxd4+? 12 cxd4 Qxe4 13 Bxf4 Qxd4+ 14 Be3 would certainly be nothing for White to worry about.

11   ...   f3
12   Bf4   Be5
13   Bxe5 Qxe5

I had honed in on the point that the d-pawn was blocking his own activity and so hardly considered 13...dxe5, but in fact it's not out of the question △ Qc5+, Ne7

14   Nd2   Ne7

In general I was most concerned about the idea of his sacrificing a knight on f3, uprooting the e5 blockade, and pushing the e-pawn, for instance 15 Ndxf3 gxf3 16 Nxf3 Qg7 17 e5... In this way White solves the basic strategic problems, opening the f-file and the position in general and likely unblocking his d-pawn as well. For all that, it does not take much analysis to see that he gets precious little initiative for the significant material investment. It is precisely here, in the critical, semi-open positions arising from these sacrifices, that Black's dismal looking knight starts to really pull its weight! The extra defense of f7 foils the creation of any real threats for some time.

Brownstein evidently had the same assessment and so did not make the thematic sacrifice, settling instead for simple developing moves followed by a fairly benign campaign to challenge my e5 blockade. Meanwhile, Black gets his house in order.

15   Rae1 0-0
16   Bd3   Qg5
17   Nc4   Ng6
18   Nxg6

If 18 Nf5 f6!? △ N-f7-e5

18   ...   Qxg6
19   Qc2   Qg5
20   e5

Finally — but by now Black has prepared a concrete response.

20   ...   b5!
21   Nd2

There are no tricks. For example, if 21 e6 Black just chops away, 21...fxe6 22 dxe6 Nxe6

21   ...   dxe5
22   Bxb5

Defending the King's Gambit, one simply must live with the apprehension that White will find some unexpected sacrificial blow

that throws all your meticulous fortifications into confusion. So I was pleased to see White's last move, because it indicated that he had come up empty in the main arena, and so was reduced to re-covering a stray pawn.

22   ...   Nb7

It's alive!

23   Ne4 Qg6
24   Bd3 f5
25   Nd2 e4

Not a bad pawn constellation. Unfortunately I got carried away with the momentum of battle and messed it up a few moves later.

26   Bc4 Na5
27   Bb3 Qb6+
28   Kh1 e3?!

Unnecessarily exposing the pawn bulwark that has served me so well thus far. I should have lined up on his king, 28...Bb7!, with all sorts of line-clearing combinations in the offing.

29   Nxf3

Of course White seizes the chance to destroy The Obstacle with a sacrifice that he'd like to have made some time ago. It is too little, too late, but White undoubtably gets some practical chances now, as the game opens up and the avenues towards Black's king come clear.

29   ...   gxf3
30   Rxf3 Nxb3
31   axb3 Rb8

So now Black must be a little bit careful. For instance, 31...Bd7 32 Rfxe3 Rae8 33 Rxe8 and neither 33...Bxe8 34 Re6 Qa5 35 c4; nor 33...Rxe8 34 Rxe8+ Bxe8 35 Qxf5 looked like what I wanted.

The normal impulse when a piece ahead is to simplify, but in this case I considered that Black should activate the extra bishop and use it for attack. The key is the removal of the d5 pawn, the same pawn that impeded White's pieces earlier. Now it clogs the diagonal of *my* bishop to White's king, and its removal will more than compensate for the loss of e3.

But how to proceed? Of course 31...Bb7 is met with 32 Rxf5, both attack and defending. A longer term problem is that d5 has a secure defender in the wings in pawn to c4. The oblique pur-pose of the text move is to tempt White's pawn to b4 and so give his c-pawn a task to do right where it stands, thus inhibiting it from supporting the true target. In the game at least this plan worked to perfection.

32   b4   Qd6

Already we see the effect: White can't go 33 c4 without simply los-ing b4. Instead he moves his queen to an exposed square. The pin on the d-line against his un-defended queen allows my own c-pawn to mobilize.

33	Qd3	c6
34	c4	

Now this buys a little time but that is all.

34	...	Rxb4
35	Rfxe3	cxd5
36	Re7	Rxc4
37	Rxa7	Qc5!
38	Rae7	

If 38 Ree7 Rc1+ 39 Kg2 Qg1+ 40 Kh3 f4+ wins. Now everything proceeds by force.

38	...	Re4
39	R7xe4	fxe4
40	Qd2	Bg4!
41	h4	Rf2
	0-1	

Macon Shibut - Donny Gray
Caro-Kann
Notes by Macon Shibut
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Bc4 Nf6 5 f3 exf3 6 Nxf3 e6 7 0-0 Be7 8 Qe1 Nbd7 9 Bg5 h6 10 Qh4 Nf8 (If 10...0-0 I'd have played 11 Bd3 contemplating Bxh6. With the text Black threatens to defend his rook with tempo by ...Ng6 and then ...hxg5.) **11 Bd3** (not 11 Ne5? hxg5 12 Qxh8 Qxd4+) **11...Nd5 12 Bxe7 Qxe7 13 Qg3 f6 14 Rae1 Nxc3 15 bxc3**
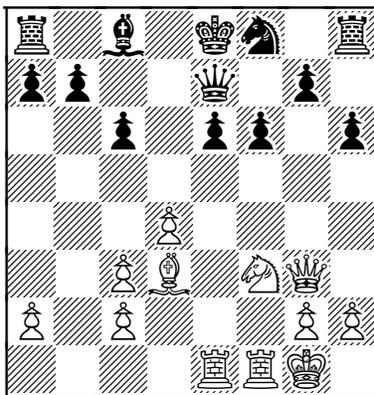
(We count it a success that Black swapped off his only developed piece. Meanwhile the "weakening" of White's pawn structure is not entirely clear inasmuch as now the d-pawn is secure and the b-file is open. Taking stock, Black is up a pawn but otherwise White has a nearly *ideal position*. The immediate consequence was that my opponent had a hard time forming a progressive plan. He thought a long time and eventually came up with...) **15...Kd8 16 c4** (My plan: pawn to c5, knight into d6) **Qc7 17 Qh4 Bd7 18 c5 b5** (This keeps me from using c4 as an entry square, but there are other ways.) **19 Nd2 g5 20 Qf2 f5 21 Ne4! Ng6** (If 21...fxe4 22 Qf6+ wins material.) **22 Nd6 Rf8 23 Qf3** (△ Qh5) **Nf4 24 Bxb5** (This wouldn't have worked until his knight came to f4 because of the reply ...g4, but now I'd just take his knight in that case.) **cxb5!? 25 Qxa8+ Ke7 26 Qf3 Bc6 27 Qe3 Rf6** (27...Nxg2? 28 Qxe6+; or 27...Bxg2? 28 Rxf4) **28 Rxf4! gxf4 29 Qxf4 Kf8 30 Rxe6! Qg7** (30...Rxe6 31 Qxf5+ Ke7 32 Qf7+ Kd8 33 Qxe6) **31 Rxf6+ Qxf6 32 Qxf5 Qxf5** (32...Ke7 33 Nc8+! Kf7 34 Qxf6+ Kxf6 35 Nxa7) **33 Nxf5 Be4 34 Nd6! 1-0**

YOUNG VIRGINIANS SCORE IN K-12 CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Peter Hopkins

Bret Latter, from Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna, Sean Clendening, from Westwood Hills Elementary in Waynesboro, and Jack Barrow, from Clover Hill Elementary in Midlothian, gave good accounts of themselves in the 4th grade section of the 1998 National K-12 Scholastic Grade Championships, in Oak Brook, Illinois over the weekend of December 4-6. Bret was 14th with a 5-1 score, Sean placed 25th with 4½ points, and Jack 28th with a score of 4-2 in a field of 214 4th graders from throughout the US.

Bret's score was one game off the 2-way tie for 1st, and a half point shy of tying for 3rd. Losing only to Rishi Sethi, of Illinois, in the 3rd round, Bret bested two other Illinois players as well as opponents from Indiana, California and New Jersey.

After making a draw in the 3rd round against Connecticut's Garret Browning, Sean's only loss came in his 4th round game against California's Daniel Schwartz. Sean's 4 wins came against opponents from Illinois, Ohio, New York and North Carolina.

Jack scored wins over opponents from Illinois, California, Michigan and Tennessee. In the 4th round he lost to New York City 4th grade champion Allen Weiss, who eventually placed 4th.

Jack's other loss came at the hands of New Jersey's Vadim Chernyak.

Also of interest was the performance of Cooper Jones, recently of Richmond but now a resident of Memphis, Tennessee. Cooper placed 19th in the 66-player 1st grade section with a score of 4.

More and more of our young Virginia chess players are gaining national recognition. Giles County star Courtney Olsen is among the country's top 10 girls under 16, while James Hare is on the top 50 list of 15-16 year olds. Two younger boys are now in the top 50 among 9-10 year olds and three of our young ladies are among the top 50 girls in the under-13 age group.

ZOFCHAK MEMORIAL

by Rodney Flores from *Tidewater Chess News*

NM Errol Liebowitz won the 9th edition of Tidewater's biggest tournament, November 14-15, with a rock-solid 4½-½. His only draw came in the 4th round when the number 1 and 2 seeds met. Errol had a slight advantage in the middlegame against expert Rodney Flores but failed to add on to it in a bit of two-sided time pressure prior to move 40. When the smoke cleared it was Errol with knight and 3 pawns against Rodney with rook and pawn.

The last round pairings saw both leaders facing much lower-rated opponents: Errol versus Larry Doughty and Flores against one of his students, Rob DeBois. A two-way tie for first looked inevitable, but the chess gods intervened. Errol's game appeared to be anything but easy, with Larry giving him a run for his money before succumbing. Rob played a gambit in the Center Counter against me but lost his initiative, and I began to coast in "trade mode." What happened next is every chess coach's dream/nightmare come true. I reached a bishop and 5 pawns versus bishop and 4 pawns ending where I could not figure the win, and Rob held the draw! (In the post-mortem, Errol came over and showed me the way to win the endgame. I was very impressed with his endgame prowess... It showed me something to shoot for in that area of the game.)

There ensued a logjam for 2nd place at 4-1 between Flores (also top X), Danny Derby (also top A), Ilya Kremenshosky (also top B), and DeBois (also top D!). Top C player went to Rich Koch with 3½ points. First through third in the scholastic division went as follows: Ryan Arab, Daniel Newman, and Richard Bulaclac.

Danny Derby - Marcial Padua
Lisitsin Gambit

Notes by Danny Derby [D] & Rodney Flores [F]

1 Nf3 f5 2 e4 d6 (Marcial eschews the gambit [F]) **3 Nc3 Nf6?!** (This move appears to be where Black starts to go wrong Hard to believe it can happen on move 3, but lack of opening preparation can sometimes kill you—I should know. 3...e5 4 d4 Nf6 5 exf5 Bxf5 6 dxe5 ± ; 3...fxe4 4 Nxe4 e5 [F]) **4 e5 dxe5 5 Nxe5 e6 6 Bc4** (± White has a lead in development, pressure on e6 and the half-open e-file. Simple chess should work here. [D] I feel like White already has a clear advantage. He wastes no time attacking the backward e6 pawn. [F]) **6...Qd4?** (Makes matters worse—see note to move 6. This allows more development

where the queen becomes a target. [D]) **7 Qe2 c6 8 Nf3 Qd6 9 a4** (I wanted to preserve the bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal so I prevented a possible b7-b4 followed by a c5-c4 push. [D]) **9...h6 10 0-0 Na6!** (Danny gave the exclam for the ingenious defense of e6 [F]) **11 Re1 Nc7 12 Ne5** (I would really hate that knight!! [F]) **g5! 13 b3 a6 14 Ba3 c5 15 Rad1 Qd4 16 Nf3 Qf4 17 d4!** +-
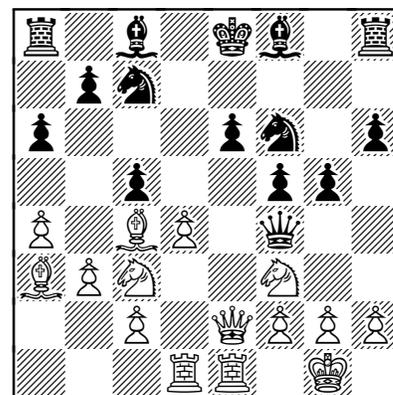
17...g4 18 Ne5 Qg5 (18 cxd4 19 Bc1 wins [F]) **19 d5 f4 20 Qd2 f3** (He wants to trade queens. I figured this was okay since the continuation that follows is forced. It is the culmination of a big lead in development and pressure. [D]) **21 Qxg5 hxg5 22 Ng6 Rg8 23 Nxf8 Kxf8 24 Bxc5+ Kf7 25 d6! Nce8 26 d7 Bxd7 27 Rxd7+! Nxd7 28 Bxe6+ Kg7 29 Bxd7 Nf6 30 Bf5** (The bishops rule!! [D]) **Rge8 31 Re3 Rad8 32 Be7 Nd5 33 Nxd5 Rxd5 34 Bd3** (Stops black's cheapo and threatens Bf6+ [D]) **b5 35 axb5 Rxb5?? 36 Bxb5 1-0**

ARLINGTON CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The largest club in the Old Dominion, DC, and Maryland, eleven years without a formal club championship! Impossible! Not any more!

by Mike Atkins

The first formal club championship since 1987 was held over the Dec 12-13 weekend at the same site as last time, the George Mason University Law School cafeteria. The reigning champ, the late Jack Mayer would have surely been here to defend his title, and his wry jokes wafted through the air even now....

Krishna Sudharsan won the Amateur title with a perfect 4-0. He almost switched into the open at the last minute, but in the end seemed glad he didn't! David Sterner, Herman Louie and Mark Pennybacker (who brought top under 1500 money into the 2nd-3rd pot) tied for 2nd-3rd with 3-1. Michael Dervan took top under 1200 with 1½.

The Open section — and club champion's laurel — went to IM Eugene Meyer with 3½ points. He gave up a draw to his brother John, but otherwise was the dominating force one might have expected. Well, actually he trailed Phil Collier by ½ point going into the final round. But IM Meyer dispatched Collier while Steve Greanias was defeating John Meyer, which left Eugene in clear first. Collier wound up second (3-1) and masters Ram Avramhami, John Meyer, Steve

Greanias & Nelson Egbert comprised a 4-way tie for 3rd.

The 1999 Arlington Chess Club Championship will most likely happen in May.

Eugene Meyer - Nelson Egbert
English
1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e5 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 g3 d6 5 Bg2 g6 6 d4 exd4 7 Nxd4 Nxd4 8 Qxd4 Bg7 9 b3 0-0 10 Bb2 Nd7 11 Qd2 Nc5 12 Rd1 Bd7 13 h4 Bc6 14 Bxc6 bxc6 15 h5 Qe7 16 b4 Ne4 17 Nxe4 Qxe4 18 f3 Qe6 19 Bxg7 Kxg7 20 hxg6 Qxg6 21 Kf2 Rae8 22 Rh4 f5 23 Rdh1 Kg8 24 Rh5 Qf7 25 R1h4 Re6 26 Rg5+ Kh8 27 Rf4 Qf6 28 Rgxf5 Qxf5 29 Rxf5 Rxf5 30 Qd4+ Kg8 31 Qg4+ 1-0

Phil Collier - Ram Avrahami
Queen's Gambit Declined
1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 e3 h6 7 Bh4 b6 8 Bd3 Bb7 9 cxd5 exd5 10 Qc2 Nbd7 11 Rd1 c5 12 Bf5 c4 13 g4 Ne8 14 Bg3 a6 15 h4 g6 16 Bxd7 Qxd7 17 Ne5 Qe6 18 f4 Nd6 19 Rf1 f5 20 h5 gxh5 21 gxh5 Kh7 22 Qf2 b5 23 a3 a5 24 Ng6 Rfe8 25 Ne5 b4 26 Ne2 Ne4 27 Qh2 bxa3 28 bxa3 Bxa3 29 Rg1 c3 30 Bh4 c2 31 Ra1 Bb4+ 32 Kf1 Rg8 33 Rg6 Qc8 34 Qg2 Ba6 35 Rc1 Qc3 36 Nf7 Bxe2+ 37 Qxe2 Rxg6 38 hxg6+
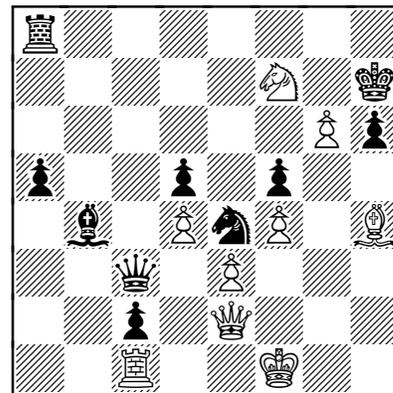
(Now both players believed that after 38...Kg6 Ne5+Kh7 Qh5 there would be a mating net. However, Fritz 5 doesn't see it and offers the following analysis to indicate that Black can hold the position: 38...Kxg6 39 Ne5+ Kh7 40 Qh5 Ra6 41 Qf7+ (or 41 Qxf5+ Kh8 42 Qd7 Nd2+ =) 41...Kh8 42 Qe8+ Kh7 43 Qf7+ Kh8 44 Qe8+)

38...Kg7? 39 Rxc2 Nd2+ 40 Rxd2 Qxd2 41 Qh5 Qc1+ 42 Kg2 Qd2+ 43 Bf2 Kf6 44 Qxh6 Rg8 45 Qg5+ Ke6 46 Nh6 Qc2 (46...Rg7 47 Qxf5+) 47 Nxg8 a4 48 Qf6+ Kd7 49 g7 Be1 50 Qh4 1-0

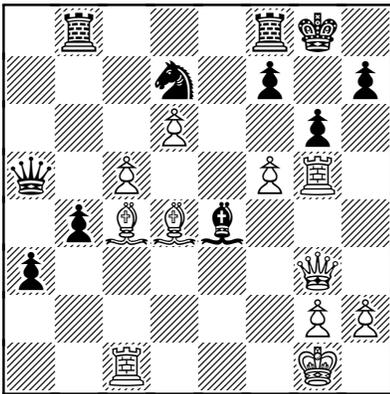**John Meyer - Alex Passov**
Slav
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 e6 4 Nf3 dxc4 5 e3 b5 6 a4 Bb4 7 Bd2 a5 8 Ne5 Nf6 9 axb5 Bxc3 10 Bxc3 cxb5 11 b3 Bb7 12 bxc4 b4 13 Bb2 0-0 14 Bd3 Nbd7 15 Nxd7 Qxd7 16 d5 Qe7 17 d6 Qd8
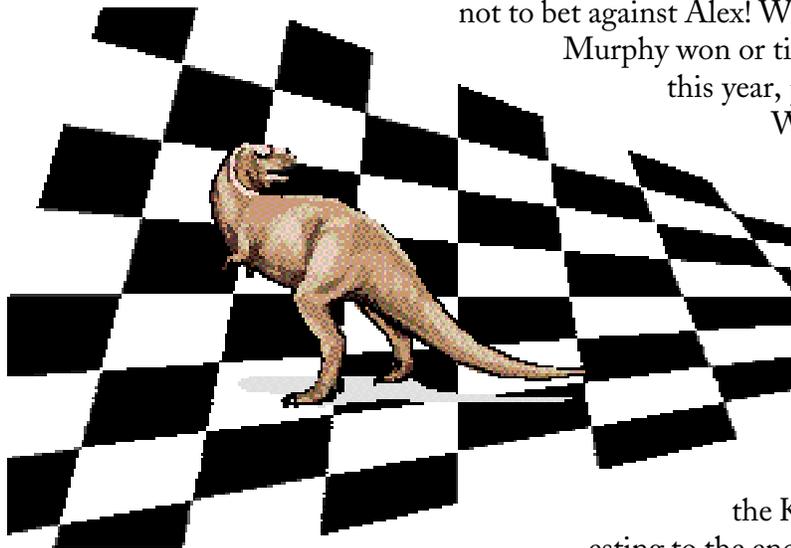
18 0-0 a4 19 c5 a3 20 Bd4 e5 21
Bxe5 Nd7 22 Bd4 Qg5 23 e4
Rfc8 24 f4 Qh4 25 Qb3 Rab8 26
Rf3 Ba8 27 Rh3 Qd8 28 Rg3 g6
29 Rc1 Qa5 30 Rg5 Bc6 31 Bc4
Rf8 32 Qg3 Bxe4 33 f5

1-0

ACC Blitz Tournament of Champions

by Mike Atkins

Sometimes, being an experienced international player isn't enough in the fast paced world of WBCA blitz. Sometimes it's more important just to be fast and accurate and tactical. Sometimes, needing the money can make a player more aggressive and decisive... Whatever the reason, Thomas Murphy was the upset winner at the 4th annual Arlington Chess Club WBCA Tournament of Blitz Champions, held on December 11, 1998.

The event was a twelve player round-robin contest with a field consisting, as always, of the previous year's champion (Fred Garcia) and the winners of monthly qualifying tournaments held throughout 1998, plus an "at large bid." Two qualified players did not turn up, resulting finally in a ten man field.

This year's championship began with two clear favorites, IMs Eugene Meyer and Larry Kaufman. On the other hand Murphy, recently arrived to DC from the Philadelphia area with an OTB rating around 2080 and a WBCA rating of 2240, wasn't expected to win — except by Alex Passov, who stated before the event that Murphy was the strongest blitz player in the tournament and would win! Remind me not to bet against Alex! With hindsight we might have noticed that Murphy won or tied for each blitz event he played at ACC this year, plus he did very well in the World Open WBCA event, getting a plus score in a tough field and splitting his games with GM Pavel Blatny.

Murphy was 2 points ahead of the field with 2 rounds to go; only a complete choke would prevent him from locking up the title. The IMs were playing one another in the penultimate round, so there had to be a decisive game here to force Murphy to score anything. But the Kaufmans teamed up to keep things interesting to the end, with son Ray handing Murphy his only defeat while Dad Larry beat Meyer. This set up Murphy with having to score in the last round to ensure the title. He quickly drew with William Marcelino, leaving the top three at Murphy (9-2), L Kaufman (8½) & E Meyer (7½).

Murphy thus becomes the first qualifier for the 1999 Championship.

THE GAMBITEER
BY ANDY TEJLER

BLINDFOLD CHESS - *PART 3*

JOHN CAMPBELL IS RESPONSIBLE for urging me to cover, if only briefly, the psychological background of blindfold chess. The book *Thought and Choice in Chess,* by Adriaan D deGroot (Professor of Applied Psychology and Methodology, University of Amsterdam), Basic Books, Inc, New York, 1965 is a good place to begin your investigation of this fascinating problem. In addition there are dozens of articles in the psychological literature. Particular authors to look for include: N Charness, W G Chase and H A Simon, N J Cooke, R S Atlas, D M Lane, and R C Berger.

My father was a checker expert, and he once told me that in checkers the expert had to be able to recognize some 20 positions, after which it became a matter of technique to win the game.

Chase and Simon postulate something similar among chess players to account for a superior selection of chess moves. They term this ability "pattern-based retrieval." The problem is more complex, but I will leave it to the truly interested to survey the literature for further information.

George Koltanowski's book *In The Dark* gives an account of a blindfold exhibition against first-class opposition given in tandem by Koltanowski and Dr Alexander Alekhine. Twenty-four opponents were grouped in consultation at six boards of four players each. The tandem players were not permitted to consult together. Playing the White pieces, they made alternate moves on each board. They completed this unusual exhibition in five hours, the masters winning three of the games, drawing two and losing but one.

As Koltanowski points out, tandem blindfold chess is very difficult inasmuch as you must not only understand the workings of the minds of your opponents, but also fathom the plans of your partner.

Here are two games from this remarkable exhibition, conducted in Antwerp, 1934.

Alekhine & Koltanowski - Chessboard Chess Club
Sicilian
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 d6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Bb5 Bd7 7 0-0 Bg7 8 Nb3 Nf6 9 Kh1 0-0 10 f4 Qc7 11 Qe1 Rac8 12 a3 Rfd8 13 Qh4 e6 14 Bd3 Ne7 15 Be3 Bc6 16 f5 exf5 17 exf5 Ned5 18 Nxd5 Nxd5 19 Bg5 Re8 20 Rf3 Bd7 21 Raf1 Re5 22 fxg6 fxg6 23 Rf7 Ne3 24 Rxg7+ Kxg7 25 Qh6+? (25 Bxg6! wins - Koltanowski) **25...Kg8 26 Bxe3 Be6 27 Nd4 Bd5 28 Bg5 Qd7 29 Bf6 Rh5 30 Qf4 Rf8 31 c4 Bxg2+ 32 Kxg2 Qh3+ 33 Kg1 Qxd3 34 Qg3 Qxc4** Here Koltanowski states: "adjudicated a win for White," whereas the Spanish book on blindfold chess *Ajedrez a la Ciega,* by Benito Lopez Esnaola, gives the following continuation: **35 Qxd6 Rd5 36 Qe6+ Rf7 37 Nf3** *Abandonan* I have no idea whether the closing moves were actually played, or were the result of analysis for adjudication.

Alekhine & Koltanowski - Flemish Chess Club
Ruy Lopez
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 5 d4 Bg4 6 dxe5 Qxd1+ 7 Kxd1 Bc5 8 Ke2 Ne7 9 h3 Be6 10 b3 Ng6 11 g3 Nxe5 12 Be3 Bd6 13 Nd4 Bd7 14 f4 Ng6 15 Nd2 c5 16 N4f3 f6 17 Rad1 Rd8 18 Nc4 Bb5 19 Nd2 Kf7 20 a4 Bxc4+ 21 Nxc4 b6 22 Kf3 Rhe8 23 h4 h6 24 h5 Nf8 25 Rd5 Be7 26 Rhd1 Rxd5 27 Rxd5 Rd8 28 Rxd8 Bxd8 29 e5 Nd7 30 Ke4 b5 31 axb5 axb5 32 Na5 Be7 33 Kd5 fxe5 34 fxe5 and wins; the White king must penetrate - Koltanowski

HENRICO SCHOLASTIC I

PETER HOPKINS SENT THESE RESULT tables from a scholastic event. There was no accompanying text and I'm not sure whether the appearance of some names on the crosstable in ALL CAPS indicates anything; perhaps they are prizewinners in various categories?

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Henrico Scholastic I -- High/Middle

Place    Name                  Schl    Scr    Tie1    Tie2    Tie3
                                               Med     Sol     Cum
 1  GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL (RICHMO  1788   16.50   35.00   60.00   50.50
 2  CHANCELLOR HIGH            1092   14.50   38.50   63.50   49.50
 3  WESTERN BRANCH HIGH        1269   12.50   33.50   58.00   36.50
 4  OSCAR SMITH HIGH           1268   12.50   30.50   51.00   39.50
 5  MOODY MIDDLE               0636   12.00   32.50   54.00   34.00
 6  CHANCELLOR MIDDLE          1096    6.00   18.50   28.50   11.00
 7  DINWIDDIE COUNTY HIGH      0305    5.00   24.00   39.00   18.00
 8  BATTLEFIELD MIDDLE         1095    5.00   15.50   27.50   14.00
 9  HENRICO HIGH               0628    5.00   15.50   25.00   15.00
10  J. E. J. MOORE MIDDLE      0895    4.00   22.00   37.00   15.00
11  BENEDICTINE HIGH           1799    1.00    6.50   11.00    2.00
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THE GAMBITEER BY ANDY TEJLER

continued

After the exhibition Alekhine stated (modestly?) that he considered Koltanowski the second-best blindfold player in the world.

Returning to the mechanics of blindfold play, I wish to emphasize that there is much more involved than mere "pattern-based retrieval." What is needed is an article summarizing what is known, instead of itemizing isolated aspects of this ability.

Editor's note: I would be surprised if such an article has not, in fact, been written. Some psychologist among our readers may wish to clue us in.

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   Pairing#/Name       Rating            Rounds
   Place               Pre   Post  TOT
 1   1 CAREW, RICKY C   1350  1373  5.0 W-17 W-36 W-12 W-16 W-11
 2   2 SHING, PHILIP    1333  1348  4.5 W-18 W-35 W--9 W--7 D--6
 3   6 HICKS, DANIEL    1186  1241  4.5 W-22 W-43 W-15 W--3 D--2
 4   3 BARROW, WILLIAM J 1328 1326  4.0 W-19 W-40 W--8 L--6 W-16
 5   7 Bulaclac, Richard 1117 1156  4.0 W-23 W-48 W-14 L--2 W-19
 6  11 Thode, Jeffrey   1080  1145  4.0 W-28 W-53 W--4 W--5 L--1
 7  17 HUBENTHAL, BRAM  1006  1074  4.0 L--1 W-32 W-41 W-62 W--5
 8  14 Hall, Matthew    1064  1103  4.0 W-30 W-62 L--7 W-36 W-55
 9  39 KOLHOFF, ANDREW F 0797  891  4.0 L-55 W-25 W-61 W-15 W-10
10   4 Ludwinski, Daniel 1278 1275  4.0 W-20 W-41 L-11 W-24 W-18
11   8 Tiller, Adam J   1095  1135  4.0 W-24 W-47 L--3 W-30 W-28
12  12 Cooper, Kevin    1079  1110  3.5 W-27 W-54 L--1 D-35 W-15
13  13 Wright, Justin   1065  1084  3.5 W-29 D-52 L-16 W-49 W-20
14  16 HELLIGRATH, MAX  1033  1070  3.0 W-32 W-61 W-13 L--1 L--3
15  55 Ayala, Alejandio UNR  1105  3.0 W-39 L-15 W-27 W-22 L-14
16  18 Carpio, Lawrence 1000  1039  3.0 L--2 W-38 W-52 W-48 L--4
17  28 MANKE, CHAD A    0871   925  3.0 L-11 W-51 W-45 W--9 L--8
18  36 Green, Miles     0827   889  3.0 W-51 L--1 W-54 L-14 W-24
19  19 HOSTETTER, JACOB 0969  1008  3.0 L--3 W-33 W-43 W-40 L--7
20  10 Faust, Greg      1087  1093  3.0 W-26 W-49 L--5 W-37 L-39
21  48 LANDIN, HANS     0630   711  3.0 W-33 L--7 W-26 L-18 W-30
22   9 Lam, Tu          1091  1100  3.0 W-25 W-44 L--2 L-28 W-35
23   5 Hart, Jason T    1206  1186  3.0 W-21 W-42 W-10 L-11 L-17
24  22 LYON, WILLIAM    0904   948  3.0 L--6 W-57 W-42 L-55 W-38
25  54 Zwier, John      UNR   1096  3.0 W-38 L-12 L-36 W-31 W-33
26  32 Gosselin, Andrew M0848  898  3.0 L-16 L-17 W-50 W-47 W-49
27  26 THODE, ERIC D    0886   931  3.0 L-10 W-50 L-48 W-42 W-37
28  27 WILSON, DANIEL   0877   923  3.0 L-12 W-46 L-55 W-44 W-41
29  35 Kidd, Philip     0836   884  2.5 W-50 L--2 W-53 D-12 L--9
30  40 Leung, Brian     0754   808  2.5 W-56 L--3 W-20 L-19 D-25
31  25 Terrill, Ryan V  0895   922  2.5 L--9 L-39 W-46 W-43 D-40
32  62 Lam, Tai         UNR   1014  2.5 W-46 L-14 W-21 L-17 D-34
33  52 KRAMER, MAGNUM   0419   494  2.5 W-37 D-13 L-18 L-20 W-58
34  34 Wahlgren, James  0840   874  2.5 L-49 L-20 W-59 W-56 D-62
35  15 KREHELY, GREGORY 1059  1041  2.0 W-31 W-55 L--6 L-39 L-12
36  41 GREEN, JOHN B    0733   773  2.0 W-57 L--4 L-17 W-61 L-27
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37  20  MALOVE, KRIS       0943   952  2.0  L--4  W-34  L-40  W-52  L-13
38  30  Schools, Joey L    0858   879  2.0  L-14  W-59  W-47  L--8  L-48
39  49  CLAY, MICHAEL B    0619   669  2.0  W-34  L-10  W-31  L-13  L-32
40  24  Lam, Hung          0903   921  2.0  L--8  W-60  W-44  L--4  L-36
41  33  Radtke, Derek      0840   858  2.0  L-48  L-19  W-57  W-53  L-54
42  37  STAPP, KYLE C      0822   846  2.0  L-52  W-21  W-56  L-10  L-26
43  38  Ward, Joseph M     0813   836  2.0  L-54  L-18  W-60  W-58  L-22
44  43  Weeks, Wesley      0700   743  2.0  W-60  L--6  L-19  L-25  W-61
45  56  Brooks, Ephesus J  UNR    920  2.0  L-40  W-29  L-37  L-34  W-42
46  57  Baab, Carl         UNR    920  2.0  L-41  L-22  L-33  W-46  W-29
47  51  LAROSE, JUSTIN D   0425   483  2.0  L-36  L-28  L-29  W-21  W-31
48  23  SELBY, JOHN        0903   913  2.0  L--7  L-45  L-58  W-60  W-44
49  45  MONTAGUE, AMANDA M0684   730  2.0  L-61  W-23  L-28  W-29  U---
50  42  Ress, Jared        0720   729  1.0  W-58  L--5  L-22  L-26  L-56
51  61  Oh, Daniel         UNR    767  1.0  W-45  L-16  L-39  L-41  L-43
52  44  Edwards, Robert    0693   703  1.0  W-59  L--9  L-24  L-27  L-23
52  47  MONTAGUE, ALEXANDE0648   667  1.0  W-63  L--8  L-30  L-32  U---
54  46  MECHTLY, MICHAEL J0682   692  1.0  L-62  L-27  L-25  L-57  W-60
55  29  Abernathy, Joel    0869   852  1.0  L-13  L-56  W-51  L-45  L-57
56  50  Keister, Browning  0496   521  1.0  L-35  L-26  L-32  W-59  U---
57  31  SNOW, TONYA        0854   840  1.0  L-15  W-58  L-49  L-54  L-51
58  58  Zito, David        UNR    760  1.0  L-42  L-31  W-23  L-38  L-52
59  53  SCHMIEDER, MIKE    0255   254  1.0  B---  L-11  L-35  L-33  U---
60  59  Noe-Payne, Erin    UNR    760  1.0  L-44  L-30  L-34  L-50  W-21
61  21  Vinsh, Arron       0920   865  0.0  L--5  L-37  L-62  L-51  L-59
62  60  Hart, Jonathan     UNR    600  0.0  L-43  L-24  L-38  L-23  L-46
63  63  Jones, Nick        UNR    600  0.0  L-47  U---  U---  U---  U---
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Henrico Scholastic I -- Elem/Primary

Place	Name	Schl	Scr	Tie1 Med	Tie2 Sol	Tie3 Cum
1	WESTWOOD HILLS ELEMENTARY	1759	15.00	36.50	58.00	46.50
2	DEER PARK CENTER ALTERNAT	1463	13.50	31.00	52.50	41.00
3	CLOVER HILL ELEMENTARY	0253	12.50	32.50	53.00	36.00
4	WILLIAM FOX ELEMENTARY	1613	9.00	22.00	36.00	25.00
5	MARY MUNFORD ELEMENTARY	1602	7.50	21.00	35.50	18.00
6	DUPONT ELEMENTARY	1383	6.00	17.00	29.50	21.00
7	LAKESIDE ELEMENTARY	0657	6.00	13.50	23.50	15.50
8	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	0645	5.00	19.50	30.50	12.50
9	WILLIAM A. WALTON ELEMENT	0903	3.00	15.00	25.50	10.50
10	TIDEWATER HOME SCHOOL	8007	3.00	15.00	25.50	8.00

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         Pairing#/          Rating               Rounds
      Place               Pre   Post  TOT
 1   1  CLENDENING, SEAN M0955  1045  5.0  W-13  W-30  W--8  W--5  W--6
 2   7  Simonsen, Ben      0815   934  5.0  W-19  W-45  W--2  W-10  W--4
 3   6  Ludwinski, David   0819   905  4.0  W-18  W-29  W-41  W--4  L--1
 4   2  Clementson, Luke   0870   947  4.0  W-14  W-25  L--7  W-24  W-18
 5   5  Leskin, Ross       0828   913  4.0  W-17  W-35  W-33  L--1  W-25
 6  30  O'connell, PatrickUNR   1240  4.0  W-44  L--1  W-14  W-16  W--8
 7  41  Smith, Melvin L    UNR   1160  3.5  W-26  W-11  L--6  D-21  W-24
 8  13  Quel, Jacob        0610   707  3.5  L--1  D-32  W-37  W-26  W-34
 9  27  Prince, James      UNR   1160  3.5  W-42  L--4  W-15  D--8  W-10
10   4  Wilkins, Elaine M  0851   899  3.0  W-16  W-27  W-21  L--6  L--7
11  25  Benton, Jessica    UNR   1080  3.0  W-40  L--2  W-12  W--3  L--5
12  18  Simonsen, Kelsey   0343   435  3.0  L--6  W-40  W-29  W-33  L--2
13  33  O'connell, Andrew  UNR   1080  3.0  W-46  W--3  L--5  L-18  W-42
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14   3 Waldrup, Brent    0860   907  3.0 W-15 L-33 W-36 L-25 W-21
15  12 KOLHOFF, DYLAN R  0621   701  3.0 D-24 D-37 L-25 W-39 W-26
16  48 Tierney, John     UNR   1080  3.0 L-35 D-23 W-20 D-22 W-28
17  11 Kolhoff, Laura    0640   718  3.0 W-23 L-41 L-26 W-29 W-43
18  22 Brown, Nanneral S UNR   1080  3.0 L-10 W-47 D-43 D-48 W-46
19   9 Skipper, Carson   0760   798  3.0 L-21 L-39 B--- W-31 W-36
20   8 Marr, Ryan        0793   836  2.5 W-20 W-34 L--1 D-27 L-30
21  10 HAYES, MICHAEL J  0695   751  2.5 W-22 D-36 W-39 L--7 L-27
22  24 Moore, Jelyn      UNR   1000  2.5 D-12 W-31 W-45 L--2 L-41
23  21 Long, Mary S      UNR   1000  2.5 W--9 W-43 L--4 D-41 L--3
24  35 Suarez, Michael   UNR   1000  2.5 W-48 L--5 D-16 D-43 D-45
25  45 Benson, Adam      UNR   1000  2.5 W-32 L--7 L-24 W-14 D-35
26  34 Iverson, Jasmine  UNR   1000  2.5 W-47 L--8 W-19 D-42 L-13
26  36 Kaminski, Paul-DavUNR   1000  2.5 W-49 D-10 L--3 W-17 L--9
28  23 Carroll, Ashley   UNR   1000  2.5 L-11 D-48 L-42 W-32 W-16
29  37 Sain, Brittany    UNR   1000  2.5 D-39 D-12 L-13 D-15 W-17
30  38 Harbin, Rebecca S UNR    900  2.5 L-29 L-16 D-49 B--- W-15
31  26 Parker, Hakeem    UNR    920  2.0 L-41 W-49 W-11 L-13 L-12
32  14 Kaminski, Zecariah0608   657  2.0 L--2 W-28 L-30 L-45 W-39
33  29 Souser, Andrew    UNR    920  2.0 W-38 L--6 L-18 L-11 W-20
34  43 Simonsen, Aubrey  UNR    920  2.0 W-28 L-21 D-22 D-35 L-11
35  42 Clementson, Sarah UNR    920  2.0 L-27 D-20 W-23 D-34 L-33
36  46 Bost, William     UNR    920  2.0 L-33 D-17 D-31 W-19 L-22
37  31 Retherford, BenjamUNR    920  2.0 D-38 L-24 D-46 L--9 W-19
38  28 Wilson, Christina UNR    920  2.0 L-43 L-14 W-44 W-47 L-48
39  47 Moncure, William  UNR    920  2.0 L-34 L-22 W-40 L-28 W-44
40  16 Vinsh, Toni A     0528   566  1.5 L--4 W-38 D-35 L-30 L-23
41  39 Sherman, Matthew  UNR    840  1.5 D-37 W--9 L-10 L-12 L-14
42  15 CHENEY, GRAYSON   0546   583  1.5 L--3 W-44 L-27 D-37 L-38
43  17 VINSH, MICHAEL D  0483   523  1.5 L--5 D-46 W-32 L-36 L-37
44  20 Schlie, Robert    UNR    840  1.5 L--8 D-42 L-48 W-49 L-29
45  40 McClure, Timothy  UNR    840  1.5 L-25 L-18 L-47 D-44 W-32
46  49 Benson, Stephanie UNR    700  1.5 L-36 L-26 D-38 L-20 B---
47  19 Kaminski, Josiah E0315   313  1.0 L--7 B--- L-34 L-46 L-31
48  32 Deguzman, Angel   UNR    680  0.5 L-45 D-13 L-17 L-23 L-40
49  44 Marr, Lindsey     UNR    680  0.5 L-30 L-15 L-28 D-40 L-47
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PENINSULA QUICK CHESS

by Dave Stiffler

The first Peninsula Quick Chess Tournament was held at Thomas Nelson Community College on 21 November. Jason Earley took clear first, going undefeated in the five-round, G/29 format. Clear 2nd was Kelly Ward with 3 points. There was a four way logjam for 3rd place: Tom Belke, Jerry Cano, Tim Schmal & Joe McIntyre.

Overall it was a fun tournament, and well run by Tim. The fact that we were finished and the prizes handed out before 4pm was nice, too. I am hoping that attendance will rise as Tim holds more of these in the future. Thomas Nelson is located right off I-64 West in Peninsula, and can be reached from most places on the southside in about 30 minutes. Folks also play at TNCC every Thursday evening from 7-9pm. Come on out and have some fun!

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

1999 - #1
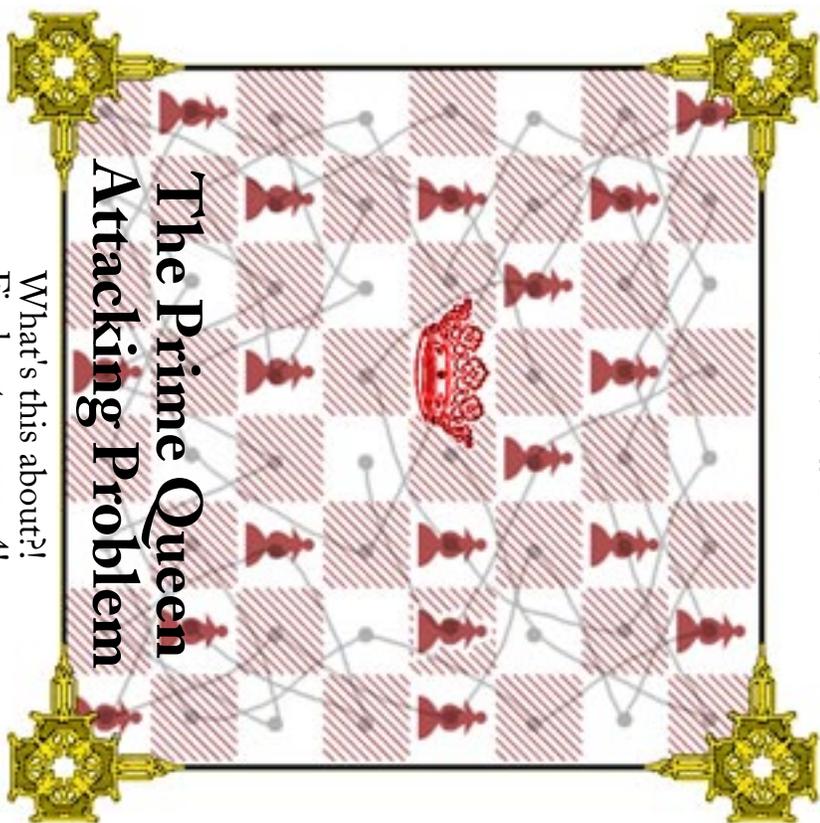
The Prime Queen Attacking Problem

What's this about?!
Find out — page 4!

Also inside:

Negulescu, Tate, Filatov win 1999 Virginia Open