

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

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Virginia Chess Federation

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2015 - Issue #3

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Virginia Scholastic & Collegiate Championships

The 2015 Virginia Scholastic & Collegiate Championships drew 435 players to Monticello High School in Charlottesville over the weekend of March 14-15. State scholastic championship titles were awarded in five different age (grade) groups. The new champions are: Isaac Park (Kindergarten thru 3rd grad section); Aasa Dommalapati & Andrew Wang (co-champions tied for 1st in K-5 section); Evan Ling (K-8); Jennifer Yu, Taylor Brunotts, Vignesh Rajasekaran & Benjamin Lyons (co-champions in K-12, Yu also won Top Girl); and Quentin Moore (college). Twenty-six parents and friends of the scholastic players also scratched their competitive itch in a section just for them. Peter Abramenko finished 1st there.

Other prizewinners in the K-3 group included Atmika Gorti (2nd place overall and Top Girl); Siddhaarth Balamuthaiya, Sergey Patsuk, David Li, Ronen Wilson, Rishabh Kumaran, Siddhant Nair, Andrew Rousseau, Pranav Konduru, Samarth Bhargav, Max Yan, Kingston Ho, Parth Jaiswal, Omkar Kovvali, Sriharsha Sambangi, Bryce Phillips, Abhinav Vonteru, Sathvik Redrouthu & Arnav Tamnash Gupta (4th place thru 20th place respectively); Arnav Bhat, Kyle Ding & Shaurya Bisht (1st, 2nd, & 3rd Under 800, respectively); Roland Foster, Jessica Chen & Aneesh Nagireddi (1-3 Under 600, respectively); Lane Downing, Shivam Suri & Carolyn Chen (1-3 Under 400, respectively); and Natalie Xie & Chance Nguyen (1-2 Unrated, respectively).

Other K-5 prizewinners included Pranav Prem, Gideon Lohr, Jay Lalwani, Garrett Heller, Nithil Suresh, Varun Vonteru, Sudarshan Sriniaiyer, Kyle Phillips, Ted Tran, Geoffrey Davis, Ethan Zhou, Rick Sun, Nitin Kanuri, Franklin He, Akshay Kobla, Skyler Tunc, Srihan Kotnana, Prabhas Adivi, Daniel Zhou, Rahul Ponugoti, Akhil Morisetty, Mantra Vivek & Austin J Song (3rd thru 25th place, respectively—Mantra Vivek was also Top Girl); Kathleen Pham & Abhidyu Kumcha (1-2 U1000, respectively); Ranesh Mopuru, Tyler Burch & Aditya Vasantharao (1-3 U800, respectively); Shahzad Sohail, Jackson Kennedy & Zachary Rader (1-3 Under 600, respectively); and Brian Bogle & Ethan Bhatia (1-2 Unrated, respectively).

Other prizewinners in K-8 included Ryan Xu, Andy Huang, Isaac Chiu, Nathan Lohr, Bryant Lohr, Vishal Kobla, Jason Morefield, Vivian Cao-Dao, Kevin Zhang, Tan Nguyen, Neha Pattanaik, Justin Paul, Camden Wiseman, Diego



On the cover... A bird's eye view as a young warrior gets some coaching between rounds at the World Open played over July 4 weekend in Arlington.
Photo by Sharon Gustafson.

Continued on page 4






79th Annual Virginia Closed State Championship

*Blitz on Friday Evening, Sept 4th
Main Tournament on Saturday - Monday, Sept 5-7*

Tournament Location	Westin Dulles Airport, 2520 Wasser Terrace, in Herndon, VA. Chess Rate is \$89 (plus taxes) from Friday night Sept 4 through Monday night Sept. 7th. Same rate for 1-4 persons in the room. Reserve your room using the VCF Website at www.vachess.org , or call the hotel at (703) 793-3366. You must reserve your room by 5PM on Tuesday, August 4th to receive the Chess Rate. Ask for the "Chess Rate."
Who can Play? Event Format? PRIZES??	<p>Eligibility: Main Event is open to all Virginia residents, military stationed in Virginia, and students attending any Virginia school or college (must show student ID or other proof of Fall 2015 school enrollment). Friday Night Blitz is open to ANYONE, you do not have to be a Virginia Resident.</p> <p>Format: 6 Rounds using the Swiss-System format. There will be two event Schedules, see below. All 3 Sections will be USCF Rated.</p> <p>The Main Event on Saturday - Monday has 3 Sections, with \$3800 in Cash Prizes & Trophies based on 90 players. Choose a section based on your playing strength and competitive desires: -- Championship: 1st-\$650+Champion's Plaque; 2nd-\$375; 3rd-\$275; Top Expert and Top Class A, \$125 each + Trophy -- Amateur (Under 1800): 1st-\$525+Champion's Plaque; 2nd-\$325; 3rd-\$200; Top Class C & Class D, \$100 each + Trophy</p> <p>PRIZES??</p> <p>-- Under-1200 & Unrated: 1st-\$400+Trophy; 2nd-\$200; 3rd-\$100; Top Unrated-\$75; Trophies to Top U-1000, U-800, and U600. Unrated winning a place prize is limited to \$200.</p> <p>Friday Night BLITZ has 2 Sections, with \$400 in Cash Prizes based on 30 total players -- Championship: Cash to 1st-3rd places based on number of players in the section -- Amateur (Under 1800): Cash to 1st-3rd places based on number of players in the section Both Sections will be USCF Rated</p>
Tournament Schedule	<p>Friday Night Blitz: On-site Registration closes at 6PM for Blitz, with Round 1 at 6:30PM sharp!! Time Control is Game-in-5 minutes (G/5), with no Time Delay</p> <p>The MAIN EVENT has two Schedule options: A Long Schedule and a Short Schedule.</p> <p>Long Schedule: Time Control is 30/90, SD/1, d5 (e.g. 30 moves in the first 90 minutes per player, then complete the game in 1 hour per player, with a 5-second time delay throughout). -- Sat: Rd 1 at 1PM; Rd 2 at 7PM. Sun: Rd 3 at 11AM; Rd 4 at 5PM. Mon: Rd 5 at 9:30AM, Rd 6 3:30PM.</p> <p>Short Schedule: Time Control is G/60, d5 (e.g. 60 minutes per player, with a 5-second time delay). -- Sat: Rd 1 at 5PM; Rd 2 at 8PM. On Sunday all Short Schedule players join the Long Schedule.</p> <p>"Re-Entry": A player who loses his/her Rd 1 game can "re-enter" the tournament by paying the \$30 Re-Entry Fee. -- If you lose your Rd 1 game, you can re-enter the tournament in the Short Schedule, or you can re-enter the tournament by taking a 1/2-point bye in Rd 1 and playing in Rd 2 of the Long Schedule. -- If you re-enter into the Short Schedule, you will play a new Rd 1 game at 5PM. Your previous Rd 1 game only counts for "rating points." So if you lose in your "new" Round 1 game, you get 0 points for Round 1, and if you win you get a full point for Round 1. -- If you decide to Re-enter into Round 2 of the Long Schedule, you receive a 1/2-Point Bye for Rd 1 and then play Rd 2 with the Long Schedule at 7PM.</p>
Entry Fees & Tournament Registration	<p>Entry Fees & Deadlines: Main Event is \$65 before Sept 1st; \$80 starting Sept 1st and On-Site. Blitz is \$25 before Sept 1st, \$35 on Sept 1st and at the Tournament.</p> <p>-- On-Line Entry: Enter early using our On-line Registration option at www.vachess.org</p> <p>-- On-site Entry: Enter at the Hotel on Saturday from 8AM - 12 Noon for the Long Schedule. Registration for the Short Schedule continues until 4PM.</p> <p>-- By Mail: If you prefer to enter by mail, follow the instructions for payment and mailing on the Entry Form on the next page. Your Entry must be post-marked by Sept 1 to receive the Early Entry Fee. Entries post-marked AFTER Sept 1st will be assessed a \$15 late fee.</p>
What to Bring	Please bring your Chess Set, Clock (delay capable), and your favorite score book.



			
Tournament Entry Form (use this form to enter by mail) You can enter on-line at www.vachess.org			
Last Name: _____		First Name: _____ MI: _____	
USCF Member: YES NO		If Yes , write your USCF ID Here: _____	
Street Address: _____ _____		Email: _____ Phone: _____	
City: _____, VA	Zip: _____	Birth Date: _____	
Tournament Dates: Saturday-Monday, Sept 5-7, 2015. Entry Fee is \$65 by mail, \$80 at the door.			
Section you are entering (circle one): OPEN AMATEUR (U1800) Under-1200			
Schedule you are playing (circle one): LONG (Rd 1 at 1PM) Short (Rd 1 at 5PM)			
Byes (up to 2): Rd ___, Rd ___			
Mail your completed form to and Payment to:			
Mike Hoffpauir ATTN: VA Closed 405 Hounds Chase Yorktown, VA 23693-3356			
Checks payable to "VCF" or "VA Chess"			
YOUR ENTRY MUST BE POST-MARKED BY TUESDAY SEPT 1st to receive the Early Entry Fee Entries post-marked after Sept 1 st will be assessed a \$15 late entry charge.			
If you have any questions, please contact Mike by email at mhoffpauir@aol.com . Or call me at 757-846-4805			

Version 1.0, June 24, 2015

2017 US Open Set for Norfolk!



The **2017 US Open Chess Championship** will take place at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Va, from July 29 to August 6, 2017! This is the third US Open to be held in Virginia, the previous two being Fairfax 1976 and Alexandria 1996. The hotel rate will be \$114 and complimentary self-parking will be provided for overnight guests (others \$5 per day). VIRGINIA CHESS will provide additional information about the 2017 US Open as it becomes available!



Scholastic & Collegiate Vahmpionship, *continued from page 1*

Gutierrez, Saigautam Bonam, Trung Nguyen, Sam Schenk, Niraj Patel & Vedant Balu (2nd thru 20th place, respectively—Vivian Cao-Dao was also Top Girl); Yevgeny Dodzin & Andrew Song (1-2 U1400, respectively); Tarun Ravi, Ritvik Kumaran & Gautam Lalwani (1-3 U1200, respectively);, Justin Kreft, Nathan Moskowitz & Deepika Gunturu (1-3 U1000, respectively); Sidhardh Burre, Nicholas Yowell & John Ryan Sedovy (1-2 U800, respectively); and Virginia Peng & Bharath Vemuri (1-2 Unrated, respectively).

Other prizewinners in K-12 included Brian Li, Sean Senft, Alvin Cao, Matthew Shih, Akshita Gorti, Abhinay Dommalapati, Jeevan Karamsetty, Vikas Rajasekaran, Justin Lohr, Isuru Attanagoda & Isaac Steincamp (5th thru 15th, respectively); Jeffrey Song & Sadhana Suri (1-2 U1400, respectively); Mark Tenzer & David Normansell (1-2 U1200, respectively); Nathaniel Davidson & Evan Lin (1-2 Unrated, respectively).

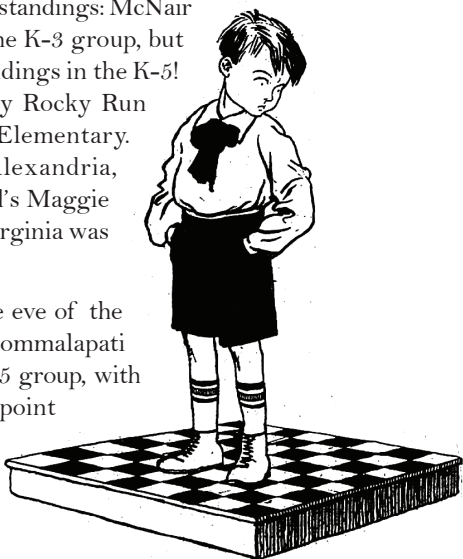
Paul A Cordova finiahed 2nd in the College section, followed by Benjamin Vaughan. Andrew Williams was top U1400 and Brian Ammer top U1200.

Among the Parents & Friends, Luan Nguyen finished 2nd and 3rd was a 5-way tie between Deodato Obregon, Brian Failon, Hrishikesh Karambelkar, Csaba Gabor & Manohar Viswanathan.

In addition to the individual titles, schools that sent multiple entries to the event vied for team honors. Two Fairfax County elementary schools topped both the K-3 and K-5 section team standings: McNair and Greenbriar West. McNair won in the K-3 group, but the schools switched places atop the standings in the K-5!

The K-8 team competition was won by Rocky Run Middle School, followed by Haycock Elementary. Thomas Jefferson High School, in Alexandria, won the K-12 team title, with Richmond's Maggie Walker HS second. The University of Virginia was the only team in the College group.

A blitz tournament was also held on the eve of the championships in two sections. Aasa Dommalapati & Siddhant Nair tied for 1st/2nd in the K-5 group, with Pranav Prem & Andrew Wang half a point behind tied for 3rd/4th. In K-12, Justin Paul won clear 1st place followed by Aditya Ponukumati. Isuru Attanagoda & Justin Lohr tied for 3rd/4th.

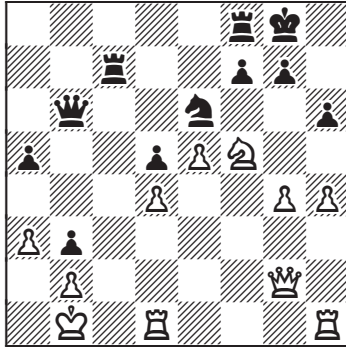




Aasa Dommalapati - Pranav Prem

French

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e5 Nfd7 6 h4 h6 7 Bxe7 Qxe7 8 f4 a6
9 Nf3 c5 10 dxc5 Nxc5 11 Qd2 Nc6 12 O-O-O b5 13 Bd3 b4 14 Ne2 a5 15
Kb1 Ba6 16 Ned4 Nxd4 17 Nxd4 Bxd3 18 cxd3 b3 19 a3 Qb7 20 f5 Qb6 21
fxe6 Nxe6 22 Nf5 O-O 23 d4 Ra7 24 g4 Rc7 25 Qg2



25...Rc2 26 Qxd5 Rd8 27 Nd6 Qb8 28 Rhf1 Rf8 29 Rxf7 Rxf7 30 Qxe6 Rf2
31 Nxf7 Rxf7 32 Rf1 Qb7 33 Qxf7+ Qxf7 34 Rxf7 Kxf7 35 d5 g5 36 hxg5
hxg5 37 Kc1 a4 38 Kd2 Ke7 39 Ke3 Kf7 40 Kd4 Ke7 41 d6+ Ke6 42 Ke4 1-0

Vishnu Pulavarthi - Zachary Anderson

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 e6 4 d3 d5 5 exd5 exd5 6 Bb3 Nf6 7 Bf4 Qa5+ 8
Nbd2 Bg4 9 O-O Be7 10 Bg5 Rd8 11 Re1 O-O 12 c3 b5 13 c4 dxc4 14 dxc4
a6 15 h3 Bxf3 16 Qxf3 Rxd2 17 Bxd2 Qxd2 18 Qxc6 Re8 19 cxb5 axb5 20
Rf1 c4 21 Bd1 Qxb2 22 Bh5 Rd8 23 Rae1 Bb4 24 Qc7 Rf8 25 Rd1 Nxb5 26
Rd8 c3 27 Rxf8+ Bxf8 28 Qc8 c2 29 g4 Nf4 30 Re1 0-1

Maggie Luo - Krishan Perumal

Sicilian

1 e4 c5 2 d3 e6 3 g3 Nc6 4 Bg2 Nf6 5 f4 d6 6 Nf3 Be7 7 O-O O-O 8 c3 b6 9 Qe2
Ba6 10 Rd1 Qc7 11 Nbd2 Rad8 12 Nf1 e5 13 Nh4 d5 14 fxe5 Nxe5 15 Bf4 Bd6
16 Nf5 g6 17 Nxd6 Qxd6 18 exd5 Rfe8 19 Re1 Bxd3 20 Qxd3 Nxd3 21 Rxe8+
Nxe8 22 Bxd6 Nxd6 23 b3 Nf5 24 Rd1 Ne5 25 Kf2 a5 26 Ne3 Nd6 27 g4 f6 28
Kg3 g5 29 Nf5 Nb5 30 c4 Nc3 31 Rd2 Ng6 32 Rc2 Nd1 33 Bf3 Ne3 1-0 (34 Nxe3)





Reflections

Reflections



Looking Back on an Amateur Chess “Career”

by Mark Warriner

ARE YOU READY FOR ME?!

The last edition of this column featured some really bad chess on my part. In my defense, it was early in my “career” and I hadn’t put in much study effort. I figure it’s time to “gun the engine” and show that I was capable of some “decent” chess. Okay, perhaps that’s using the term liberally, but certainly not awful chess. It’s nice to have some decent prep/research and just play for gusto, not worrying about absolute precision, but overall soundness. No player is perfect; maintaining a level of consistency is paramount to success.

The movie *2 Guns* starring actors Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg features a loud and boisterous song called “Are You Ready For Me?” by the band The Unknown. It perfectly fits the mood when you just want to steamroll your opponent. So lock and load, gas up, and let’s take the fight to them!

Sathish Nath - Mark Warriner

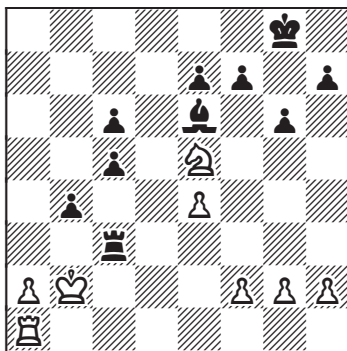
1988 George Mason University Open

Grünfeld

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Nf3 c5 8 Bb5+ Nc6 [Kasparov and Karpov played several Gruenfelds in 1987. I have fond memories of playing over their World Championship games during lunch breaks at work, eating “Russian Reubens” from Dunderbachs. *Sigh...* My opponent walked right into some ideas with which I was already familiar, and interestingly this was a line I’d actually studied and prepared. It’s one of the few times I can say that most of it was already known and I only had to find a few moves over the board. My, the nervous energy this saves!] **9 d5 a6 10 dxc6** [And White makes the positional mistake. Either 10 Be2 or 10 Ba4 was necessary.] **10...Qxd1+ 11 Kxd1 axb5 12 Be3** [if 12 cxb7 Bxb7 Black’s bishops rule the board.] **12...bxc6** [12...Bxc3 was better, but this works also.] **13 Kc2 Ra3 14 Bd2?** [14 e5 was necessary] **14...Bg4 15 Rhb1** [15 Ne1 may have been better.] **15...O-O 16 Rb3 Rfa8** [I had thought this strong and best but engines indicate retreating the a-rook is stronger.] **17 Kb2?** [17 Rxa3 Rxa3 18 Ne1] **17...b4** [Even looking at it today this feels convincing, but again engines indicating retreating with 17...



R3a4] **18 Ne1** [Too late as now 18...Rd8 would have been very strong. Instead, however...] **18...Be6?** [...giving up some of the advantage.] **19 Rxa3 Rxa3**
20 Nd3 Bxc3+ [“Metal Friend” also likes 20...bxc3+ 21 Kxa3 cxd2 22 Rd1 c4
 23 Rxd2 cxd3 24 Rxd3 Be5 but would you go for that?!] **21 Bxc3 Rxc3** **22 Ne5**



22...Bc4? [Clank—the only really sour note in an otherwise good game. Had White now played 23 a4! Black would have work to do to hold.] **23 Nxc6? Bd3**
24 a4 Rc2+ **25 Kb3 Rxf2** [There are several better alternatives—25...Bxe4;
 25...Rc3+; or even 25...Kg7—but this still works.] **26 a5?** [White needed to try
 26 Rc1] **26...Bxe4** [26...Bc2+ 27 Kc4 b3 28 Kc3 Bxe4 poses bigger problems.]
27 Nxe7+ Kf8 **28 Nc8 Rxg2** [28...Bc2+ 29 Kc4 Rf4+ 30 Kxc5 b3 31 Re1 b2 32
 Nd6 Ra4 33 Nc4 b1Q] **29 a6 Rxh2** **30 a7 Rh3+** **31 Kc4 Rc3+** **32 Kb5 Ra3** **33**
Rd1 b3 **34 Rd8+ Kg7** **35 Nb6 b2** **36 a8Q Bxa8** 0-1 Good enough for the win,
 but 36...b1Q+ was a quicker mate.

Jaime Foote – Mark Warriner

11th US Correspondence Championship Preliminaries

English

1 c4 e5 **2 g3 d6** **3 Bg2 f5** **4 Nc3 Nf6** **5 d3 g6** **6 e4 c6** [Very punchy to say the
 least. I'd already established that I wasn't afraid of uncharted waters with 2....
 d6, 3....f4 and 4....Nf6, but this was really out there.] **7 Nge2 Bg7** **8 O-O O-O**
9 h3 [There's really no need for this weakening at this point. Something like 9
 exf5 or 9 Bg5 was fine.] **9...a5** [I really liked this move at the time, but our Metal
 Friend says “nay”, preferring 9....f4, at least after a few minutes “thought”.] **10**
Be3 Kh8 [Again, I liked this but again MF says “nope” because now, it indicates,
 11 Qd2 Na6 12 Rad1 White is for choice.] **11 Rb1 Na6** **12 a3 Nh5** [I liked this
 move at the time too but these days I cringe a little, recalling “LPDO” (Loose
 Pieces Drop Off) from John Nunn's excellent SECRETS OF PRACTICAL CHESS (ISBN
 987-1-904600-70-1, Gambit, 2007). After 13 exf5 gxf5 and the knight wouldn't
 be protected.] **13 f4 Qe7** **14 Kh2** [Not sure what White was thinking as there
 were plenty of palatable alternatives that accomplished more.] **14...Nc5** **15 fxe5**



23rd David Zofchak Memorial Open Nov. 21-22, 2015

Norfolk, VA A Virginia Chess Federation & VCF Cup Event

\$1200 in prizes b/o 40 2 Sections 5 Round Swiss System Game/120 d5

Prizes: Open Section 1st \$160 2nd \$140 3rd \$120
 Top A \$110 Top B \$100

Under 1600 Section 1st \$120 2nd \$110 3rd \$100

Top D/unr \$90 Top E \$80 U1000 \$70

Site/Hotel: Sleep Inn Lake Wright 6280 Northampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23502 (757) 461-6251
 Rooms \$74 + tax w/free breakfast. Please Reserve by 11/10. The hotel is one block from the I-64 Northampton Blvd. exit.

Entry Fee: \$50 if received by 11/19, \$60 thereafter. **No credit cards: Cash or check only on site.**

Memberships: USCF [all] and VCF (\$10 \$5 jr.) for VA residents is required and can be purchased on site.

Registration: Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Please be on time. Registration will close promptly at 9:30 and if late arrivals cannot be properly paired without delaying the start of the 1st round, they will have to take a 1st round 1/2 pt. bye.
On-line registration. Advance entries, links to maps and additional information can be found at www.vachess.org

Register and pay on-line at the VCF website

Rounds: Saturday: Rd. 1 9:45 Rd. 2 2:00 Rd. 3 7:00
 Sunday: Rd. 4 9:30 Rd. 5 2:45

Byes: A single half pt. bye is available & must be requested before the start of Rd.3. Byes for rounds 4 & 5 may not be removed after the start of Rd. 3.

No Phone Entries Accepted. Info only. Call Ernie at (757) 362-6542 or e-mail ernest.schlich@gmail.com

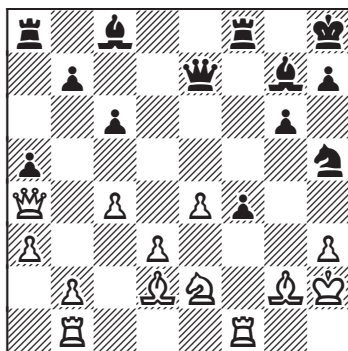
23rd David Zofchak Memorial Nov. 21-22, 2015 EF \$50 if received by 11/19 Request Bye for Rd.: _____

Name: _____		
Last	First	MI.
Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____
USCF ID: _____	USCF Exp. Date: _____	VCF Exp. Date: _____
Phone: () _____	E-mail: _____	Birthdate: _____
<small>mm / dd / yyyy</small>		
Make Checks Payable To: Virginia Chess and Mail Entry To: ERNEST W. SCHLICH 1370 South Braden Crescent Norfolk, VA 23502		





[15 d4 was better but not 15 Bxc5? dxc5 and Black is for choice.] **15...dxe5 16 Na4?** [That's gonna hurt. 16 exf5 or Bxc5 were better.] **16...Nxa4 17 Qxa4** [What follows is thematic.] **17...f4 18 gxf4 exf4 19 Bd2?** [19 Bd4 was better.]



19...f3! 20 Rxf3 Rxf3 21 Bxf3 Qd6+ [21...Qh4 may have been better, technically, but the text works well also.] **22 Kg2 Qxd3 23 Qd1 Bxh3+ 24 Kf2 Rf8 25 Ng1??** [25 Bf4 at least prolonged the agony.] **25...Bd4+ 0-1** White can only choose the mating square.

Mark Warriner – Gary Newsome

12th US Correspondence Championship Preliminaries

Modern Defense

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 f4 c6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Be3 Qb6 7 Qd2 Bxf3 8 gxf3 Nd7 9 Na4 [I had been following NEW IDEAS IN THE PIRC DEFENSE by John Nunn (ISBN 0-8050-2939-7, Henry Holt, 1993), but for some reason I failed to keep in my notes why I deviated. A real blast from the past looking back at my correspondence notes from over 20 years ago! I'm going to guess that either I saw something in one of the other books on this opening in my personal library or else something topical at the time in either ECO some Informant (ancient lore that was useful at the time). These days I'd say there are probably several moves superior to this one.] **9...Qc7 10 c4 f5** [Interestingly, I played two games in this tournament that reached the position after 10 c4. I'm not sure what my opponent was thinking by advancing his f-pawn. The other game continued 10...e6 11 Nc3 Ne7 12 Rg1 O-O-O 13 O-O-O f5 14 Kb1 Kb8 15 Qc2 a6 16 e5 d5 17 c5 Ka7 18 Na4 Rb8 19 Rd3 Nc8 20 Ra3 Bf8 21 b4 Ra8 22 b5 cxb5 23 Bxb5 Kb8 24 Bxd7 Qxd7 25 Rb3 Kc7 26 Nb6 Nxb6 27 cxb6+ Kd8 28 Rc1 Rc8 29 Qxc8+ Qxc8 30 Rxc8+ Kxc8 31 Rc3+ Kb8 32 Rc7 Bb4 33 Kb2 Ba5 34 Re7 ½-½ Warriner – Kornhouser] **11 d5** [But this isn't a very good reaction. Castling looks much better in hindsight.] **11...c5** [Now White's back in business. Just 11...fxe4 12 fxe4 Ngf6 was fine.] **12 Nc3 Ngf6?** [That's not going to turn out well. Instead, 12....



Qa5 probably.] **13 exf5 gxf5 14 Bd3 Nb6?** [Again Qa5 was better.] **15 Qc2**
 [Search me as to why I didn't play 15 Rg1] **15...Rf8 16 Bxf5 Nxc4??** [Whoops!
 Yes, even in correspondence such things happen.] **17 Qa4+ 1-0**

Mark Warriner – John Cullison

1986 VCU Tuesday Night

Caro Kann

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 Nf3 e6 7 h4 Bd6?
 [Standard stuff up until this point. Black was a fairly inexperienced club player
 and myself only just a bit more so. A good book for learning the Caro-Kann at
 the time, and still, is CARO-KANN DEFENSE by Alexei Suetin (ISBN 0-7134-5939-5,
 Batsford, 1983).] **8 h5 Bxg3?** [This might seem optically attractive but it suffers
 due to tactics.] **9 hxg6 Bd6??** [Cliff diving. What follows isn't pretty. Okay, maybe
 from my point of view...] **10 Rxh7 Nh6??** [Oops] **11 Rxh8+ Bf8 12 Bxh6 1-0**

*Editor's postscript: The tactical theme that decided this game has also occurred in the Caro Kann
 with colors reversed and rather flashier form: 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Ng3 h5
 6 Bg5 h4 7 Bxf6 hgx3 8 Be5 White relied on this to cover h2, but now 8...Rxf2 9 Rxf2 Qa5+!
 10 c3 Qxe5+! 11 dxe5 gxf2 Black gets a new queen and remains a piece ahead.*



2015 Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational

by Maggie Luo

Most parents would send their kids to chess tournaments in hopes of them playing well. But it's not always about winning or losing. The reason I continue chess is to make friends and spend more time with them. I have made friends everywhere from my own school to players from many other states. So the Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational (SPFGI) is the perfect opportunity to make friends.

The SPFGI was held at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, from July 25 to 30. I was very nervous about this trip because my parents were not going with me. When I had arrived, a nice woman named Anna (a GM) came to pick up me and two other girls. I made friends with them right off the bat. When we arrived at the dorms we were given the events schedule, meal times, a bag, and our room keys. With all our stuff in hand we went up to our rooms. I found out that many other girls on that same floor were also there without their parents. My room was pretty spacious and my roomie and I shared a bathroom with the room next door. Down the hall was a common room where we practiced and played some bughouse and blitz for fun. Right across from that was a kitchen.

As for our meals, we had to walk a bit to the restaurant, but they served a variety of foods and drinks. Each day would bring a different main course but most of



the side dishes stayed the same: salads, fruits, vegetables, and meats to keep you healthy. My personal favorites were the deserts and my friends and I often snuck them back to the dorms. There were plenty of seats and right in the back was the way to the playing hall, so it was pretty convenient.

The playing hall held all the events including the Puzzle Solving competition, the Bughouse tournament, the Blitz tournament, and the main tournament. For each of these events, drinks, chocolates and small candies were served. Grandmasters were available to review our games. For the main event, each board adorned with both players' state or country flags so we all knew where each other were from. Some of us also brought small souvenirs from our states to give to our opponents. I thought this was pretty neat.

There were girls of all ages, ranging from six year olds to twenty-five year olds, from all over the US and a couple other countries too! The Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational is an amazing opportunity for young girls to learn new things by playing people from different states and to make tons of new friends, like I did. I'm grateful that the VCF sent me as the representative for Virginia to give me this great opportunity.



Ed note: Maggie scored $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ to finish in a tie for 14th place in the 61-player event. Photo from <https://picasaweb.google.com/116302832360230031699/SPFGirlsInvitational2015> where you can find a zillion additional pictures from the event.





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Chess Clubs

Please send additions / corrections to the Editor.

♠ **Alexandria:** Kingstowne Chess Club, Kingstowne South Center, 6080 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Tuesdays 7-9:30pm, info Gary McMullin, gary.at.kcc@gmail.com, (571) 295-5463 ♠ **Arlington:** Arlington Chess Club, Arlington Forest United Methodist Church, 4701 Arlington Blvd, Fridays 7:30pm. Registration for rated Ladder and Action events ends 8pm. Blitz/Quick tourney first Friday of each month. Info John Campbell (703) 534-6232 ♠ **Arlington Seniors Chess Club,** Madison Community Center, 3829 N Stafford St, Mondays, 9:45am, info (703) 228-5285 ♠ **Ashburn:** Ashburn Chess Club, Sakasa Tea and Coffee House, 44927 George Washington Blvd, Suite 125. Tuesdays 5pm, Saturdays 3pm. Bring board and set. Info www.meetup.com/Ashburn-Chess-Club/ or Scott Knoke, 703-433-2146 ♠ **Blacksburg:** Chess Club of Virginia Tech, GB Johnson Student Center, Rm 102, Virginia Tech, Wednesdays 7-9pm ♠ **Charlottesville:** Charlottesville Chess Club, St Mark Lutheran Church, Rt 250 & Alderman Rd, Monday evenings ♠ **Senior Center,** 1180 Pepsi Place, 6-8pm on Thursdays. Info 434-244-2977 ♠ **Chesapeake:** Zero's Sub Shop, 3116 Western Branch Blvd (Rt 17), (Poplar Hill Plaza near Taylor Rd intersection), Mondays 6pm to closing ♠ **Great Bridge United Methodist Church,** corner of Battlefield Blvd & Stadium Dr, Tuesdays, 6:30-10pm, info 686-0822 ♠ **Culpeper:** Culpeper Chess Club, Culpeper County Public Library, Rt 29 Business (near Safeway). Chess players casually drop by on Wednesday nights starting at 6:30pm ♠ **Danville:** Danville Chess Club, Danville YMCA, 810 Main Street. Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm. Info John Thompson 434-799-8898 ♠ **Fort Eustis:** contact Sorel Utsey 878-4448 ♠ **Fredricksburg:** Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania area chess players get together every Friday evening 6-10pm on the second floor of Wegman's in Central Park. ♠ **Glenns:** Rappahannock Community College - Glenns Campus Chess Club, Glenns Campus Library, Tuesdays 8-10pm in the student lounge, info Zack Loesch 758-5324(x208) ♠ **Gloucester:** Gloucester Chess Club, Gloucester Library (main branch), Tuesdays 5-8pm, www.co.gloucester.va.us/lib/clubschess.html ♠ **Harrisonburg:** Shenandoah Valley Chess Club, Trinity Presbyterian Church, corner of S High (rt 42) & Maryland Ave (Port Republic Rd), Fridays 7:30pm ♠ **McLean:** Booz Allen Hamilton CC, Hamilton Bldg, Rm 2032, 8283 Greensboro Dr. Thursdays, info Thomas Thompson, 703-902-5418, thompson_thomas@bah.com ♠ **Mechanicsville:** Mechanicsville Chess Club, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, Station #3, 4428 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, Va 23111. 2nd & 4th Tuesday of ever month, 6-9pm. Info www.MechanicsvilleChessClub.org or Kevin Nardini 804-615-8762 ♠ **Stonewall Library,** Stonewall Pkwy, Mondays 6:30-9pm 730-8944 ♠ **Norfolk:** Larchmont Public Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, Wednesday 6-9pm ♠ **ODU Chess Club,** Webb Univ Ctr, Old Dominion University, info www.odu.edu/~chess ♠ **Reston:** Reston Community Ctr Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Thursdays 6:30-9:30 pm. Limited number of sets & boards available, or bring your own. No fee, but you must sign-in at each meeting ♠ **Richmond:** Henrico Chess Club, Virginia Center Commons food court, 10101 Brook Rd, Glen Allen, Va, Wednesdays & Fridays 6-9, www.henricochessclub.com, 443-823-5530 ♠ **One-Eyed Jacques,** 3104 W Cary St, Saturdays 5-10pm. ♠ **Huguenot Chess Knights,** Bon Air Library Community Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-11pm, info Walter Chester 276-5662 ♠ **Starbucks,** 5802 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226, Wednesdays 5-8pm. For more info contact Christopher Yarger at www.facebook.com/RichmondChess ♠ **Panera Bread Chess,** Panera Bread-Ridge Shopping Center, 1517 N Parham Rd, Richmond, Va 23229. Thursdays 6-9pm, casual games, blitz, rapid or no clock. Lots of tables and room to play, heated outdoor patio. ♠ **Roanoke:** Roanoke Valley Chess Club, Saturday afternoons 1-6 pm in the coffee shop of the Roanoke Natural Foods Co-Op, 1319 Grandin Road SW. For more information www.roanokechess.com or write PO Box 14143, Roanoke, Va 24038, (540) 725-9525 ♠ **Stafford:** Bella Cafe Chess Nights, 3869 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 103, Stafford, VA 22554.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 7pm -10, sets & boards on site, frequent tourneys. Contact

Will at 703-445-8855 or bellabagelcafe@yahoo.com ♠ **Virginia Beach:** Tidewater Community Chess Club, Bldg D ("Kempsville") Cafeteria, Tidewater Community College Va Beach Campus, 1700 College Crescent Rd. Mondays 7-10pm ♠ **Waynesboro:** Augusta Chess Club, Books-A-Million, 801 Town Center Dr, every Saturday 10am-noon. Contact Alex Patterson (540) 405-1111 or AugustaChessClub@gmail.com ♠ **Winchester:** Winchester Chess Club, Westminster-Canterbury Home for the Elderly, Tuesdays 7pm



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