

# VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the  
Virginia Chess Federation

2018 - #6



*Caput Mortem (1985) by Gustavo Montoya*

# VIRGINIA CHESS

## Newsletter

2018 - Issue #6

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*Virginia Chess* is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. Membership benefits include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.

The **Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)** is a



non-profit organization for the use of its members.

Dues for regular adult membership are \$15/yr.

Junior memberships (under age 18 at expiration)

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## Zofchak Memorial

**L**ARRY LARKINS scored  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  to take clear 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 26<sup>th</sup>(!) annual David Zofchak Memorial, held Nov 17-18 in Norfolk. His win over top-rated Nemanja Milanovic in the third round provided the margin of victory as Milanovic finished 2<sup>nd</sup> a full point behind. Andy Rea (top expert) along with Lucas Revellon & Himanshu Keskar (= top class A) each scored 3 points.

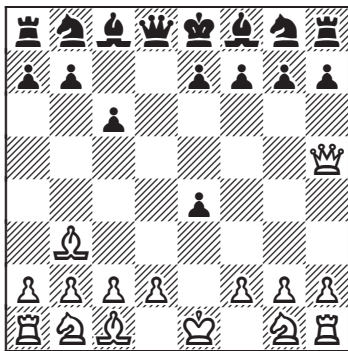
There was a 4-way tie atop the Under 1800 section. Gideon Lohr, Gerard Wasserbauer, Adamson Steiner & Oliver Gainer all tallied 4-1. An even larger group—8 players!—scored  $3\frac{1}{2}$  apiece, several of them winning or sharing various class prizes: Tyson Brady, Yang Zhang, Stephen Johnson, Marshall Robertson, Ilya Kremenchugskiy, Alexander Morton, Christian Carrasco & Joshua Havens. Blaine Eley & Mark Nuckols split the E prize. John Hill & Michael Kent were 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Unrated, respectively.

A total of 55 players participated. Ernie Schlich organized and directed.

**Larry Larkins - Andrew Rea**

**Caro Kann**

1 e4 c6 2 Bc4 d5 3 Bb3 dxe4 4 Qh5



4...e6 5 Nc3 Nf6 6 Qh4 Nbd7 7 Nxe4 Nxe4 8 Qxe4 Nc5 9 Qe3 Nxb3 10 axb3 Qd5 11 Nf3 Bd6 12 c4 Qf5 13 Qd4 Be7 14 Qxg7 Bf6 15 Qg3 Qe4+ 16 Kd1 Qg6 17 Re1 Qxg3 18 hxg3 h5 19 d4 b6 20 Bf4 Bb7 21 Kc2 a5 22 Bc7 Bd8 23 Bxd8 Kxd8 24 c5 Kc7 25

Re5 Rad8 26 cxb6+ Kxb6 27 Rxa5 Rd5 28 b4 Bc8 29 Rc5 Ba6 30 Re1 Bb5 31 Kc3 Rh6 32 Rh1 Be2 33 Ne5 f6 34 Rxc6+ Kb5 35 Rxe6 fxe5 36 Rxh6 exd4+ 37 Kd2 d3 38 Rh4 Rd7 39 f3 Rc7 40 R6xh5+ Ka4 41 Rc5 Rg7 42 Kc3 Rxg3 43 Ra5 *mate* 1-0

**Bryant Lohr - Nemanja Milanovic**  
**Sicilian**

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 d6 3 f4 Nc6 4 Bb5 Bd7 5 Nf3 g6 6 O-O Bg7 7 d3 e6 8 Bxc6 Bxc6 9 f5 Qd7 10 Ng5 Nf6 11 Qe1 O-O-O 12 fxe6 fxe6 13 h3 Rdf8 14 Be3 h6 15 Nf3 g5 16 Qg3 Nh5 17 Qh2 Nf4 18 g3 Ng6 19 Rf2 Qe7 20 Re1 Rf7 21 d4 Rxf3 22 Rxf3 cxd4 23 Bd2 dxc3 24 Bxc3 Bxc3 25 Rxc3 Ne5 26 Ree3 g4 27 Qe2 Nf3+ 28 Kg2 h5 29 b4 Kb8 30 h4 d5 31 Rc5 d4 32 Ra3 Qh7 33 Qc4 Qxe4 0-1

*Plan ahead! -- 2019 Virginia Open, March 22-24 --*

*\$4,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund!*

*at the Washington-Dulles Marriott in Sterling, Va*



## Emporia Open

by Ernest Schlich



**T**HE EMPORIA OPEN was held on Oct 20-21 and attracted 14 entries. Larry Larkins gave up a draw in round one but then played well to finish with 4½-½ and win the tournament. Mark Bland's 4-1 earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Gideon Lohr, Adamson Steiner & Christian Carrasco comprised a 3-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place (with top U1700 and top Jr thrown into the mix). Alexander Morton won the Under 1200 prize. Almost half the field were under age 18!

Woody Harris ran the Emporia Open for 25 years. The VCF has continued the tradition for a few years, albeit at a different venue and without the distinctive charms of Woody's Ruritan-hosted affair. Turnout has been disappointing, however, and the VCF is now looking for an alternative October event that can draw more players.

### Adamson Steiner - Larry Larkins French

*Notes by Larry Larkins*

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 exd5 4 c4** [going for a tactical game] **4...Nf6 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Ne2** [this looks slow; 6 Nf3] **6...O-O** [Probably a mistake; 6... dxc4] **7 g3** [Surprising, gambiting the c pawn for pressure on the long diagonal. I expected 7 a3] **7...dxc4 8 Bg2 Nbd7 9 O-O** [White catches up in development] **9...c6 10 Bg5** [10 d5 should have been

considered] **10...h6 11 Be3 Nb6** [gaining more control over d5] **12 a3 Bd6 13 Nf4 Bf5** [fighting for e4 too] **14 Qd2 Re8 15 Rfe1 Qd7 16 Rad1 Rad8** [White has to be careful about the d-pawn dropping] **17 Nce2?** [Maybe wanting to give the queen access to the queenside, or to give d4 more protection, but...] **17...g5** [...where does the knight go?] **18 Nh3 Ne4** [Black has many choices here—18...Rxe3 then ... Bxh3; or 18...Nh7. However the move played is definitely the most forcing, hitting the queen and protecting g5] **19 Bxe4** [This can save the knight, however the light squares are too weak.] **19...Bxe4 20 Nh4** [After 20 f3 Bxf3 21 Nf2 down two pawns White would be lost] **20... gxf4** [20...Bf3 would be stronger!] **21 Nxf4 Bf3 22 Ng2 Qh3 23 Nh4 Bxd1 24 Rxd1 c3 25 bxc3 Nc4 26 Qd3 Nb2 0-1** After 27 Qf1, trade of queens, the a-pawn falls and the queenside will roll.

## VCF Policy on Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

On December 1, 2018, the VCF Board of Directors unanimously approved an update to the VCF's policy on cell phones and electronic devices. The Board continues to be concerned about the potential for cheating associated with any electronic devices, especially those capable of communications or calculations. For the purposes of our policy, the focus is on



(continued next page)



## 2019 Virginia Scholastic & College Chess Championships

Friday Night, Saturday and Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

<b>Place</b>	Monticello High School, 1400 Independence Way, Charlottesville, VA 22902
<b>FOR THE DETAILS ...</b>	<b>See the Tournament Home Page</b> at <a href="http://www.vachess.org">www.vachess.org</a> for more information and directions to the site.
<b>Tournament Format</b>	<p><b>THERE ARE <u>THREE</u> TOURNAMENTS!!</b></p> <p><b>#1. Friday Night Blitz: <u>March 8th</u>.</b> Four or five rounds in 3 Sections (K-5, K-12, and College). Time control is Game-in-5, no time delay, 2 games per Round.</p> <p><b>#2. <u>The Main Event</u>: Saturday and Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>One College Section</u>:</b> All 4 rounds played on <b><u>Saturday</u></b>.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>NEW for 2019</u>:</b> There are <b><u>8 Scholastic Sections</u></b>. Players play in one of the following based on their Grade in school and US Chess Rating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o K-12 Championship and K-12 Under 1400</li> <li>o K-8 Championship and K-8 Under 1200</li> <li>o K-5 Championship and K-5 Under 1000</li> <li>o K-3 Championship and K-3 Under 600</li> </ul> <p><i><u>Unrated Players may play in a Championship or an Under section.</u></i></p> </li> </ul> <p><b>#3. <u>Parents and Friends (P&amp;F) Tournament</u>:</b> For adults only, no scholastic or college players. 4 USCF-rated games, with Rounds 1-2 on Sat. and Rounds 3 and 4 on Sun.</p>

**Monticello High School, 1400 Independence Way, Charlottesville, Va 22902**

6-SS, rds 1-3 G/60 d5, rds. 4-6 G/90 d5. Blitz Championships Friday Mar 8 at 6 pm. Main tournament Sat-Sun Mar 9-10. NEW SECTIONS being introduced this year! Players must be in grades pre-K, K through 12, or College full time in Virginia as of Jan 2019. Open to Virginia residents only, including children of Military stationed in Virginia. State residency *not* required for Friday Night Blitz. Parents & Friends tournament on Sat-Sun. Simultaneous Exhibition on Sat 9 Mar by 3-time Virginia State Champion FM Macon Shibut. Tournament schedule, Details about new Sections, Prizes, Registration, Player Eligibility, Hotel Info and other information at: [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org). Questions to NTD Anand Dommalapati, email [adommalapati@yahoo.com](mailto:adommalapati@yahoo.com)

*US Chess Junior Grand Prix event*

“any device capable of transmitting or receiving information or signals, or capable of calculating moves or evaluating board positions, that can be used by a player, spectator, or assistant to convey an advantage to a player whose game is in progress.” Policy does not mandate that a device be in a VCF tournament; tournament Organizers and Chief Tournament Directors have the authority to ban all such devices from use in their event if they so choose, including electronic notation devices approved by the US Chess Federation. The complete text of the updated VCF policy is linked on our website home page, [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org)





Andrew Samuelson - Larry Gilden

DC Chess League 2018

Sicilian

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

This game was played in the first round of the 2018-2019 DC Chess League Winter Season. It was also my 30<sup>th</sup> regular rated game against Larry Gilden since he came back to chess in 2013—more than any other opponent in my history. This is kind of amazing as I have a much longer history against some other opponents. However, we played each other many times in G/45 tournaments at Arlington Chess Club, in other DCCL matches, and in other local tournaments. In this case, the setting was board 1 of a match between my team (Arlington Argyles) and Tabiya Technology, a new team this season. **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6**

**5 Nc3 a6** [I was surprised to see this as my opponent had never played the Najdorf against me in previous outings.] **6 h3 h5** [This move is rare; I think

Black should play 6...e5 7 Nde2 h5 to aim for this structure if desired. Other lines such as 6...e6 or 6...g6 are also reasonable. I was basically on my

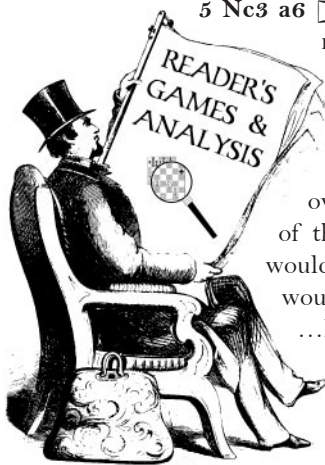
own now. I was trying to aim for a position in one of the main lines where the insertion of h3 and ...h5 would help White, although it occurred to me that Bc4 would be decent too, as Black generally doesn't play ...h5 in the Bc4 lines.] **7 Bg5 Nbd7** [7...e6 seems to

be the main alternative, although I think taking on f6 here may be less of a positional threat than usual. Black will often play h5 in the gxf6 structure, whereas h3 might be a waste of time or worse, as White sometimes wants to put a rook on

h3. On the other hand, 7...e5 8 Nf5 Bxf5 9 Bxf6 Qxf6 10 Nd5 Qd8 11 exf5 would be an improved version of that line for White, as he was able to move forward with the knight.] **8 Bc4** [Other moves such as Qd2 or Be2 are also very reasonable, but

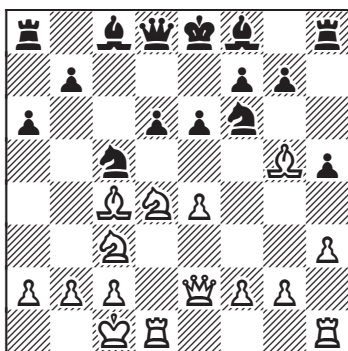
I was happy with this as I've played the Bg5 Nbd7 line as Black and know ...h7-h6 is a key move in many lines with Bc4.] **8...Nc5** [I think this move is a mistake. Black should continue developing and try to get to a decent version of the main lines. 8...Qc7 9 Bb3 e6 looks somewhat playable for Black, although ...h5 already being

on the board probably makes this an inferior version.] **9 Qe2** [This guards the e4 pawn and c4 bishop and prepares to castle queenside. 9 Bxf6 gxf6 was another thought during the game. I worried it would be hard to castle queenside then, but castling kingside may be good for White now that Black's pawn structure is somewhat compromised. 10 O-O Ne6 11 Nf5 Nf4 12 Qf3 Ng6 13 Bb3 e6 14 Nd4 Bd7 Black is hanging on, but he's probably worse.] **9...e6** [This typical Najdorf





move 9...e5 might have been better, as some of the White pieces could be driven from the center. 10 Nb3 Ne6 11 Bxe6 fxe6 12 O-O-O Be7 13 Kb1. White should still be better here, but it seems manageable.] **10 O-O-O** [Thematic, although there are alternatives, eg 10 O-O with the possible continuation 10...Qb6 11 Nb3 Bd7 12 Rad1—better for White but maybe not immensely so.]



### 10...Qa5

A mistake, after which Black's situation becomes very difficult. 10...b5 would have been much more forcing.

White could consider sacrificing: 11 Bd5 This is a thematic idea to open the e-file. 11...exd5 12 exd5+ Kd7 13 Nc6 Qb6 14 b4 Na4 15 Nxa4 bxa4 16 Be3 Qb7 The position is very dangerous for Black in spite of his extra piece. For example, 17 a3 Kc7 18 Rhe1 Bf5 19 Na5 Qb5 20 c4 Qd7 21 Nc6 Qc8 22 Kb2 a5 23 b5

Kb7 24 Bd4 Rh6 25 Qf3 Black still has the material but his king is unsafe and his pieces lack squares. In practice, this type of position is very difficult to play for Black. However, the extra material at least gives him some practical chances.

If White doesn't want to sacrifice a piece, 11 e5 is also strong, trying to open the d-file instead! 11...bxc4 (11...dxe5 12 Nxe6 wins for White) 12 exf6 gxf6 13 Nd5 Rh6 (this is a computer suggestion, instead of 13...fxg5 14 Nc6 trapping the Black queen) 14 Bxh6 Bxh6+ 15 Kb1 Kf8 16 Nc6 Qe8 17 Nde7 Bd7 18 Rxd6 Bxc6 19 Nxc6 Nb7 20 Qxh5 Kg7 21 Rhd1 Nxd6 22 Rxd6 White is much better with an extra pawn and more active pieces.

**11 f4** [Protecting the bishop so that discoveries along the 5th rank won't be an issue; also, this prepares to play e5, when the position will be critical for Black.] **11...Bd7** Again 11...b5 may have been the last real chance. 12 e5 bxc4 13 exf6 g6 14 Qxc4 Bb7 15 Rhe1 d5 16 Qe2 O-O-O 17 Nf3 Nd7 18 Rd3 is very good for White with an extra pawn and well placed pieces, but still probably a better chance than what Black got in the game.] **12 e5!** [wrecks Black's position] **12...dxe5 13 fxe5 Nh7 14 Bh4** [My initial thought was 14 Qxh5, eg 14...g6 15 Qh4 Bg7 16 Bf4 g5 17 Qg4 Qc7 18 Rhe1, which is also very good for White, but in the end I decided to keep Black's king in the center where it's a rough life.] **14...b5** Loses tactically, although White would also have a great position after 14...g6 15 Rhf1 Bg7 16 Kb1 O-O 17 Be7 Rfc8 18 Nb3 Nxb3 19 cxb3 Bc6 20 Bd6] **15 Rhf1** [threatening Qf3 forking a8 and f7] **15...g6** [Δ Bh6+ and O-O, with some chances to continue the fight] **16 Kb1!** [simply sidestepping the check] **16...Bh6 17 Nb3** [17 Rxf7 was good too: 17...Kxf7 18 Nb3 and White has



too many threats. I got a bit sidetracked trying to make 18 Qf3+ work, but 18...Kg7 19 Bf6+ Nxf6 20 Qxf6+ Kh7 21 Qe7+ Bg7 22 Nf3 bxc4 23 Ng5+ Kh6 24 Nf7+ Kh7 is just a draw by repetition.] **17...Nxb3** [17...Qb4 18 Rxf7 Kxf7 19 Nxc5 Qxc4 20 Qf3+ Qf4 21 Rxd7+ Kg8 22 Qxa8+ is over as well] **18 Rxd7** [Second best, although still good enough to win comfortably. 18 Rxf7 is even more convincing. 18...Nc5 19 Re7+ Kd8 20 Rxd7+ Nxd7 21 Qd3 Nf6 22 Bxe6 Kc8 23 exf6 Black's position completely collapses] **18...Nd2+ 19 Rxd2** [A natural response, and winning, although again there were even better alternatives. But they would have been much harder to calculate! 19 Ka1 O-O 20 Rxf7 Rxf7 21 Bxe6 Rf8 22 Bxf7+ Rxf7 23 e6 Rf1+ 24 Qxf1 Nxf1 25 e7 Kf7 26 Rd8 wins; or 19 Qxd2 Bxd2 20 Re7+ Kd8 21 Ra7+ Ng5 22 Bxg5+ Bxg5 23 Rxa8+ Ke7 24 Ra7+ Kd8 25 Bxb5 Be3 26 Rd1+ Kc8 27 Rxa6 Qc7 28 Ra8+ Kb7 29 Rxh8 is another way.] **19...bxc4** [The best try; 19...Bxd2 is worse due to 20 Qxd2 bxc4 21 Qd6 g5 22 Qc6+ Kf8 23 Qb7 Black has to start throwing pieces away to delay mate] **20 Rxf7!** [not allowing Black's king to escape!] **20...Ng5** [If 20...Kxf7 21 Qf3+ Kg8 22 Qxa8+ recovering all the material with a winning attack. For example: 22...Nf8 23 Rf2 Bg7 24 Qb7 Qxe5 25 a4 g5 26 Bg3 (26 Qf7+ Kh7 27 Qxh5+ Kg8 28 Qxg5 Qxg5 29 Bxg5 Bxc3 30 bxc3 is a more mundane way to win) 26...Qxg3 27 Ne4 Qe5 28 Qf7+ Kh7 29 Qxh5+ Kg8 30 Qf7+ Kh7 31 Nf6+ Qxf6 32 Rxf6 mating. 20...Brd2 21 Re7+ Kd8 (or 21...Kf8 22 Qf3+ Bf4 23 Qxa8+) 22 Qxd2+ is no better.] **21 Rf6 Qb6 22 Qxc4 1-0** White has two extra pawns and the attack continues, so Black resigned. My team ended up winning the match 4-2.



AASA DOMMALAPATI, of Centreville, won the Gold medal in the Under 14 Girls section at the recent North American Youth Chess Championships in Puerto Nuevo, Baja California, Mexico! She contributed a couple annotated games from the event.

### Aasa Dommalapati - Kylie Tan 2018 North American Youth Sicilian

*Notes by Aasa Dommalapati*

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 O-O Nf6 6 Re1 g6** [The main line is 6...e6 7 c3 Nc6 8 d4 cxd4 9 cxd4 d5 10 e5 Ne4 11 Nbd2 Nxd2 12 Bxd2] **7 c3 Bg7 8 d4 Qc7** [8...O-O 9 Bf4 was a better approach for Black] **9 e5 dxe5 10 dxe5 Ng4 11 e6 f5** [if 11...fxe6 12 Qa4+; or if 11...Ne5 12 Nxe5 Bxe5 13 exf7+ Kxf7 14 Qd5+] **12 h3 Nf6 13 Na3 O-O 14 Nc4 Nc6 15 Nce5 Nxe5 16 Nxe5 Rfd8 17 Qf3 Ne4 18 Nf7 Re8** [Black has a better chance with 18...Rf8 since then my queen is in a x-ray] **19 g4 Rf8 20 gxf5 gxf5 21 Qg2** [21 Bh6 was good too: 21...Nf6 22 Qg2 Ne8 23 Rad1; or 21...Bxh6 22 Nxh6+ Kg7 23 Nxf5+





Kh8 24 Qxe4+] 21...Nf6 22 Bh6 Ne8 23 Kh1 Qc6 24 f3 Rxf7 25 exf7+ Kxf7 26 Bxg7 Nxg7 27 f4 Qc7 28 Qf3 Rb8 29 Rad1 b6 30 Qd5+ Kf8 31 Re5 e6 32 Qd7 Qb7+ 33 Qxb7 Rxb7 34 Rd8+ Kf7 35 Kg2 Rc7 36 Kf3 Ke7 37 Rd1 Kf6 38 Re2 Re7 39 Rd6 Rb7 40 Red2 Ke7 41 Rd8 h5 42 Rg8 Kf7 43 Rdd8 Rc7 44 Rgf8+ Kg6 45 Rd6 Kh7 46 Rfd8 Kg6 47 R6d7 Rxd7 48 Rxd7 a5 49 Rb7 Kf6 50 Rxb6 a4 51 Rc6 c4 52 Rxc4 a3 53 bxa3 e5 54 Rc6+ Ne6 55 fxe5+ Kxe5 56 Rxe6+ Kxe6 57 Kf4 h4 58 a4 Kd5 59 Kxf5 Kc6 60 Kg4 Kb6 61 Kxh4 Ka5 62 Kg5 Kxa4 63 h4 1-0

Aasa Dommalapati - Grace Liang

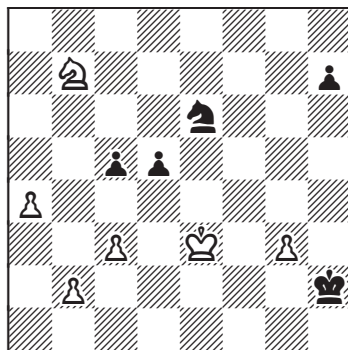
2018 North American Youth

French

Notes by Aasa Dommalapati

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 exd5 exd5 5 Qf3 Nf6 6 a3 Ba5 7 Bd3 Nc6 8 Be3 [The natural 8 Ne2 runs into 8...Bg4 which forces White to block the diagonal of the bishop by 9 Qe3+] 8...Qe7 9 Ne2 Be6 10 O-O O-O [I was expecting 10...O-O-O as she developed all her pieces on the queen side. Then after 11 b4 Bb6 12 h3 would be needed to prevent ...Bg4 (my queen may get trapped—eg 12 Rfb1 Bg4 13 Qg3 h5)] 11 Bg5 Bb6 12 Bxf6 [These exchanges were a crucial moment during the game. Black got doubled pawns, but in return she earned development and I lost a couple of tempi. 12 Qg3 would have been a more attacking approach. It might have continued 12...h6 (12...Kh8? 13 Qh4 winning) 13 Bxh6 Nh5 14 Qf3 gxf6 15 Qxh5 Qg5 16 Qxg5+ hxg5 17 Rad1 Nxd4 18 Nxd4 Bxd4 19 Bh7+ Kxh7 20 Rxd4 Black's bishop and the rooks are theoretically better in the endgame, but for now White's pieces are better placed and Black's pawns are scattered.] 12...Qxf6 13 Qxf6 gxf6 14 Rad1 Kh8 15 Bb5 Ne7 16 Na4 c6 17 Nxb6 [Exchanging the knight for the bishop is necessary because if I played a simple move such as 17 Bd3 then the dark squared bishop would become powerful with the long b8-h2 diagonal after 17...Bc7] 17...axb6 18 Bd3 [I lost many tempi here, but they were needed to save the d4 pawn] 18...Rg8 19 Rfe1 [19 Ng3 is a better move as it prevents Nf5] 19...Nf5 20 c3 Nh4 21 Ng3 f5 22 f4 Rg4 23 Rf1 Ng6 24 Bxf5 Bxf5 25 Nxf5 Rxf4 26 Nd6 [26 Rxf4 Nxf4 27 Nd6 Kg7 28 Nxb7 Re8 was another possibility] 26...Kg7 27 g3 Rf6 28 Rxf6 Kxf6 29 Rf1+ Ke7 30 Nxf7 Rf8 31 Nh6 c5 32 Rxf8 Nxf8 33 Kf2 Kf6 34 Ke3 Kg5 35 Nf7+ Kg4 36 Nd6 Kh3 37 Nxb7 Ne6 38 dxc5 bxc5 39 a4 Kxh2 (diagram)

40 a5 [The g3 pawn needed support! The big mistake I played in the game was allowing Black to capture this pawn and create an outside passed pawn. So 40 Kf2! and then 40...d4 41 cxd4 cxd4 42 a5 d3 43 b4 d2 44 Ke2 Kxg3 45 Kxd2 h5 46 Nd6 Kf4 47 a6 Nc7 48 b5 h4 49 Ke2 h3 50 Kf2 h2 51 Kg2 Ke5 52 a7 Kxd6 53 b6 Kc6 54 bxc7 Kb7 55 a8Q+ Kxa8 56 c8Q+ is winning.] 40...d4+ 41





**cx d4 cxd4+ 42 Kd3** [42 Kf2 is still winning. 42...d3 43 b4 d2 44 Ke2 Kxg3 45 a6 Nc7 46 a7 h5 47 Nd6 Kf4 48 b5 Ke5 49 b6 Kxd6 50 bxc7 Kxc7 51 a8Q] **42...Kxg3 43 a6 Nc7 44 a7 h5 45 Nd6 Kf4 46 Nb5** [46 Kxd4 h4 would not be good; and if 46 b4 then 46...h4 47 b5 h3 48 b6 h2 49 bxc7 h1Q 50 c8Q Qd1+ 51 Kc4 Qa4+ White should not be able to win after Black captures the a7 pawn.] **46...Na8 47 Nxd4 h4 48 Ne2+ Ke5 49 Kc4 Kd6 50 Kb5 Kc7 51 Ka6 Kc6 52 Nd4+ Kc7 53 b4 h3 54 Nf3 Kc8 55 b5 Kc7 56 Nh2 Nb6 57 Ng4 Na8 58 Nh2 Nb6 59 Nf3** 1/2-1/2

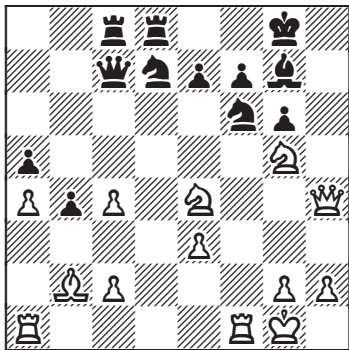
*The State Championship Wrap-up in our previous issue included analysis of the final round game Hoshall - Yang. Briefly, White had a dangerous attack but the win never quite materialized and in the end he settled for forcing a draw. Larry Larkins writes in with a suggestion for the elusive knockout.*

I was present at the postmortem between Hoshall and Yang as they went through basically the same analysis as given by the Editor. (VIRGINIA CHESS #2018/5, p 8) Skimming through the game, I had a different idea at move 20. This game reminds me of an endgame study or problem in that, if I were to try straightforward move analysis, I almost always fail; however, if I can find the right *questions* then I am usually able to solve it.

### Shawn Hoshall - Qindong Yang

#### 2018 Virginia 'Closed' State Championship

1 f4 d5 2 Nf3 c5 3 e3 Nf6 4 b3 g6 5 Bb2 Bg7 6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Bxd7+ Nbx d7 8 O-O O-O 9 Qe1 b5 10 a4 b4 11 d3 a5 12 Nbd2 Nb6 13 Qh4 c4 14 bxc4 dxc4 15 dxc4 Rc8 16 f5 Qc7 17 fxg6 hxg6 18 Ng5 Rfd8 19 Nde4 Nbd7



So basically, the candidate moves were 20 c5 (computer likes the best but is it convincing?), 20 Rf3, and 20 Rad1. VIRGINIA CHESS gives a very good analysis of these lines. What are the right questions? *Where does the rook on a1 belong?* The two choices are f1 or d1. *How can I stop black's activity?* Combining these questions, I came up with **20 Rf4!**

I turned on the engines (smallfish and fritz 15) to see what they thought and whether I'd missed any obvious tactics. Initially, 20 Rf4 is

their third choice. However, as Black tries whatever variation, Whites advantage grows to over 3.00! The c-pawn cannot be touched. But if Black does nothing, then Raf1, Nf7, Qh7 wins. The only question is whether White's rook might be exposed on f4. Here are Black's tries:

**20...Qb6 21 Bd4! Qc6 22 Raf1** Now it becomes obvious that e5 doesn't work, the c pawn still can't be taken and taken the a pawn loses, black is just lost. **22... Rc7 23 Nxf7! Kxf7 24 Qh7 Rf8 25 Ng5+ Ke8 26 Qxg7** etc;



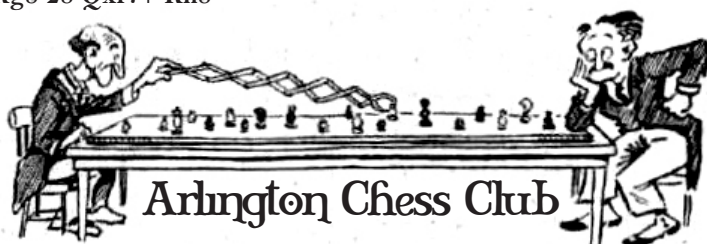
20...Nh5 21 Bxg7 f6 22 Raf1! Qb6 23 g4 Kxg7 24 gxh5 Rf8 25 Qh3 f5 26 hxg6 Qxg6 27 Rxf5 winning;

20...Qc6 21 Raf1 Qxa4 22 Rxf6—mate in 7;

20...e5 21 Rf2! Qxc4 Black wins the c pawn but weakens the f file. 22 Bxe5! Nxe5 23 Nxf6+ Kf8 24 Rf4! forcing Black to decide if to abandon the critical e6 or f7 squares. Now there are branches:

if 24...Qxc2 25 Raf1 Rd2 (or 25...Rd6 26 Nfe4 Rd1 27 Ne6+ Kg8 28 N4g5 +-) 26 Ne6+ fxe6 27 Nd5+ and Black must give up his queen (...Qf5);

if 24...Qe2 25 Ne6+ fxe6 (25...Ke7 loses after 26 Nxg7) 26 Nd5+ Nf7 27 Qe7+ Kg8 28 Qxf7+ Kh8



by Adam Chrisney

Apparently, the theme for August was 'everyone must be on vacation' as turnout was suppressed in all of our events. The ACC Action Plus tournament (5 rounds, G/45, d5) was held again at the new Marriott Residence Inn venue, and Larry Gilden (4-1) took 1<sup>st</sup> place half a point ahead of Franco Jose & Alex Emmons. In the U1700 section, newcomer Rahul Chaudhury had an excellent tournament picking up nearly 200 ratings points and running the boards on the way to clear first place. Brynn Toops traveled from Baltimore to take 2<sup>nd</sup> and Andrew Lott won 3<sup>rd</sup>—they picked up 300 and 200 ratings points, respectively. Pracheth Godlaveti won the U1400 prize and Arjun Srinivasan won the U1200 prize.

Separately, in the ACC Blitz tournament, only 6 players competed with newcomer Chaz Daly (9-1) narrowing holding off Larry Gilden (8½) for the win. In the ACC Action tournament, Robert Cousins edged out Keadu Belachew for 1<sup>st</sup> place out of 8 players.

The September ACC Action Plus was dominated by Andrew Samuelson as he ran the boards to a perfect 5-0 in a field of 24 players in the Premier section. Larry Gilden & Alex Marler tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> a point behind. In the U1700 section, visiting player Ryan Howard won clear first (4½), with Nassim Gannoun taking 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vedanth Iyer & Zach Lessner split the U1400 prize.

Separately, on the ACC Ladder, out of nearly 50 players, Andrew Lott topped the field by a whole point to win the prize. He was followed by James Williams & Elvir Husicic. In the ACC Blitz tournament, Larry Gilden (7½-2½) held off the competition in a 14-player field to win by half a point over Alex Jian and newcomer Anant Dole.



# Reflections

## Reflections



Looking Back on an Amateur Chess "Career"

### THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY – AU REVOIR TO THE FRENCH – PART IV

SO we finally bring to a close my long good-bye to the French Defense. One final loss in correspondence play (12<sup>th</sup> United States CC Championship) sealed the deal for me. As Clint Eastwood famously said in *Magnum Force*, "a man's got to know his limitations." For now, understanding how to accurately play this opening with the Black pieces exceeds my limits. According to John Watson in Vol. 1 of his four volume masterpiece series *MASTERING THE CHESS OPENINGS* (Gambit Publications, 2006, ISBN 978-1-904600-60-2), the French is "hard to characterize in general terms since it combines highly tactical play and ultra-positional types of play." It also features "one quality that few other openings have, and perhaps none to this extent: a persistence of centralized structure." And of course there's the issue of freeing Black's light-square bishop. Whatever it was, it mostly stumped me. Enough!

#### Brant Sanderson – Mark Warriner 2004 Va State Championship

One of the most frustrating things about playing in single section Open tournaments is that if you are rated a strong club player, not quite Expert, you are going to get some wild swings in the strength of your opponents. This game took place in the same tournament where five-time State Champion Dan Miller wiped the floor with me. Here I confront an opponent rated over one thousand points lower than Dan. **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Be3** [Not a top move that scores as well as either 5 f4 or 5 Nf3] **5...c5 6 Nf3** [Played most often, but doesn't score as well as 6 f4] **6...Nc6 7 Bb5 cxd4 8 Bxd4 a6 9 Ba4** [White was already in an unproductive line, but 9 Bxc6 had to be played. Things are going bad fast. Yes, he has four pieces 'developed' but they are getting kicked around and Black is creating a very nice position with plenty of space and

strong squares.] **9...b5 10 Bb3 Qc7** [10...Nxd4 might be better, but Black's pretty solid either way] **11 Nxd5?** [It was too early to go for broke, and what exactly was he going for anyway? Just 11 O-O and suffer on.] **11...exd5 12 Bxd5 Nxd4** [12...Bb7 or 12...Nc5 kept a solid advantage. The move played creates unnecessary risk.] **13 Nxd4** [13 Qxd4 would have kept more tension in the position. Now Black's firmly in the driver's seat and never looks back.] **13...Qxe5+ 14 Ne2 Rb8 15 O-O Bd6 16 Ng3 O-O 17 c3** [17 Re1] **17...Nf6 18 Bb3 Bg4** [18...Rd8 was more accurate] **19 f3 Rbd8** [White would sustain material losses preventing mate after 19...Nh5 20 fxg4 Nxg3 21 hxg3 Qe3+ 22 Rf2 Qxg3 23 Kf1 Qh2] **20 Qe2 Qc5+ 21 Kh1 Rfe8 22 Qf2 Qxf2 23 Rxf2 Bxg3 24 hxg3 Be6 25 Bc2 Rd6 26 Rd1 Rxd1** + A piece down and facing further losses, White finally capitulates.

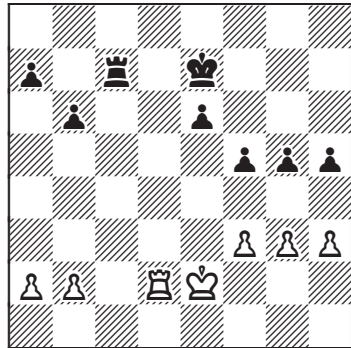


Dexter Wright – Mark Warriner

### 2006 Charlottesville Open

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 dxe4 [3...Nf6 and 3...c5 are more common, but it's a matter of taste. I didn't want to deal with an isolated queen pawn that day (still smarting from my drubbing by Dan a couple of years prior).] 4 Nxe4 Nd7 5 Nf3 Ngf6 6 Nxf6+ Nxf6 7 Bd3 Be7 [or 7...c5] 8 O-O O-O [White is quite comfortable and enjoys a wide range of choices.] 9 Bf4 [It's not clear where the dark-square bishop belongs just yet, so this is perhaps somewhat speculative compared to 9 Ne5 or 9 c3] 9...b6 10 c3 Bb7 11 h3 [Unnecessary and weakening. 11 Qe2] 11...c5 12 dxc5 [again, 12 Qe2] 12...Bxc5 13 Qe2 Qd5 [I had an idea in mind with the text move, but it wasn't a very good one. 13...Bd6 seems at least plausible.] 14 Rfd1 Qh5 [Trying to provoke either 15 Bg3 Bxf3 16 Qxf3 Qxf3 17 gxf3; or 15 Ne5 Rfd8 16 Qxh5 Nxh5. Either way, things are still just about equal.] 15 Nd4 Qxe2 [15...Bxd4 16 cxd4 Qd5 17 Qf1 White has the bishop pair, but also an IQP] 16 Nxe2 [16 Bxe2] 16...Nd5 [16...Rfd8; 16...h6] 17 Bg3 [17 Be5 is worth considering] 17...Rad8 18 Be4 f5? [I was feeling frustrated and amateurishly thought I had to do something to force the action. The result was just an unnecessary weakening move. 18...Bc6 or 18...Ba6 were more appropriate.] 19 Bf3 Ba8 20 c4 [either 20 Nd4 or 20 Be5 pose with more questions] 20...Nf6 21 Bxa8 Rxa8 [21...Rxd1+ 22 Rxd1 Rxa8 was possible] 22 Nf4 [22 Bd6 Bxd6 23 Rxd6 Rad8 24 Rxe6 Rd2 25 b3 is gutsy and maybe better] 22...Rfe8 23 Nd3 Be7 24 Ne5 [24 b3; 24 Kf1] 24...Ne4 25 Bh2 g5 [25...Bc5] 26 Kf1 Other

possibilities for White included 26 Rd7; 26 Rac1; or 26 f3] 26...Bf6 27 Nd3 [27 f3 f4 28 Nd7 Bxb2 29 fxe4 Bxa1 30 Rxa1 is a computer line. 27 Rd4 looks suspicious due to the pin, but the pin doesn't matter in this case as Black can't play f4] 27...Rac8 [But now he could have played 27...f4 now, and maybe ought to have taken the opportunity.] 28 f3 Nc5 29 Be5 Be7 [I was trying to lay a trap, for which he obligingly fell.] 30 Nxc5 Rxc5 31 Bd6? [Oops. 31 Bc3 Rxc4 32 Rd7] 31...Rxc4 32 Bxe7 Rxe7 [White's just down a pawn and Black has a lot of play to boot.] 33 Rd8+ Kf7 34 Rad1 Rc2 35 R1d2 Rxd2 36 Rxd2 Rc7 37 Ke2 Ke7 38 g3 h5 [Engines give some other moves—38...Rc1; 38...e5 besides the text.]



I'll join the guilty throng that overuses the phrase *"the rest is a matter of technique."* I'm sure someone more qualified than I could explain that this position is far from that, and what I should or shouldn't have done from here. But I felt confident I could prosecute this to victory and I did.

39 Kf2 Rc1 40 Kg2 e5 41 Kf2 Rh1 42 Kg2 Ra1 43 b3 Rc1 44 Kf2 Ke6 45 Kg2 Rc7 46 Kf2 e4 47 f4? [Why render aid





and comfort to the enemy in the form of a supported passed pawn?" **47...gxf4 48 gxf4 Rc3 49 Kg2 h4 50 Re2 Rf3 51 Rf2?** [If you must fight on, avoid trading material!] **51...Rxf2+ 52 Kxf2 Kd5 53 Ke3 Kc5 54 a3 a5 55 Ke2 Kd4 56 Kd2 e3+ 57 Ke2 Ke4 58 b4 axb4 59 axb4**

**Kxf4 60 b5 Ke4 61 Kf1 f4 62 Ke2 f3+ 63 Kf1 Kd3 64 Kg1 Kc4 65 Kf1 Kxb5 66 Kg1 Kc4 67 Kf1 b5 68 Kg1 b4 69 Kf1 b3 70 Kg1 b2 71 Kh1 b1Q+ 72 Kh2 Qa2+** A very small regret—I wish I'd played 72...Qg6 instead, as then White could not even have chosen the mating square.] **0-1**

### John Stopa – Mark Warriner

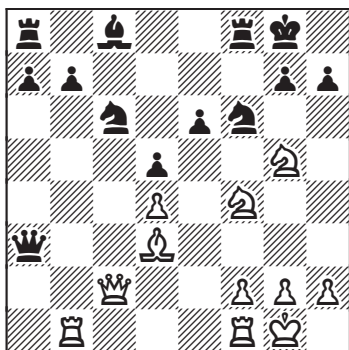
#### 12<sup>th</sup> United States Correspondence Championship (Preliminaries)

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Bd3 c5 6 c3 Nc6 7 Ne2 cxd4 8 cxd4 Qb6 9 Nf3 f6** [How I could play this game and then lose the way that I did to Dan Miller (see VIRGINIA CHESS #2018/5) is beyond me. Memory failed me.] **10 exf6 Nxf6 11 O-O Bd6 12 Bf4** [12 b3; 12 Nc3] **12...Bxf4 13 Nxf4 Qxb2** [Long before engines roamed the landscape, I calculated that Black could grab this pawn and still reach a comfortable game. I was right, sort of.] **14 Rb1 Qxa2** [Black has seldom survived after 14...Qa3] **15 Ra1 Qb2 16 Rb1 Qa3 17 Ng5 O-O 18 Qc2**

**18...g6**

In Brzeski-Seifert, Przelazy 2004 Black tried the less fortunate 18...Ne4 and after 19 Bxe4 Rxf4 20 Bxh7+ Kf8 21 Rxb7 Nxd4 22 Qc7 he resigned. I'd deduced correctly that the text is Black's only practical chance.

**19 Bxg6** [Had he played 19 Nfxe6 Bxe6 20 Nxe6 and I was still undecided whether 20...Rfc8, 20...Rfe8 or 20...Nb4 was the best continuation. At any rate, my opponent chose a move that was easier move to deal with.] **19...Qe7** [Whew!] **20 Qd2 hxc6** [probably 20...Qg7 instead] **21 Nxc6 Qg7 22 Nxf8 Kxf8 23 Rfe1** [23 Rb3 and Black must still scramble] **23...Nxd4 24 Qxd4 Qxc6 25 h4** [either 25 Re3 or 25 Rb3 worried me bit more] **25...Qg7** [I think 25...Qh6 was slightly more accurate] **26 Rb3 Qh6 27 Rf3** [27 Qc5+ and I'm still sweating to hold] **27...Ke7 28 Rc3** [28 Qb4+; 28 Qc5+] **28...Bd7 29 Qb4+ Kf7 30 Qxb7** [30 Rf3] **30...Re8** [Okay, but 30...Qd2 was a bit more assertive. At any rate, my opponent here agreed to an uneasy truce.] **½-½**



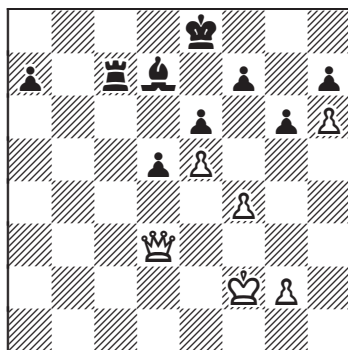


## Dusan Tutush – Mark Warriner

12<sup>th</sup> United States Correspondence Championship (Preliminaries)

And so, the final nail in the coffin. **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e5 Nfd7 6 h4** [a well-trodden gambit] **6...c5** [Kasparov-Kortchnoi, Zurich 2001 was an example of 6...Bxg5 at the highest level. 7 hxg5 Qxg5 8 Qd3 Nc6 9 Nf3 Qg6 10 Qxg6 fxg6 11 Nb5 Ke7 12 Nxc7 Rb8 13 Nb5 Nb6 14 c3 Bd7 15 Bd3 Na5 16 b3 Bxb5 17 Bxb5 h6 18 Nh4 Rhc8 19 Rh3 g5 20 Ng6+ Kf7 21 Rf3+ Kxg6 22 Bd3+ Kh5 23 Rh3+ Kg4 24 f3+ Kf4 25 Kf2 g4 26 g3+ 1-0] **7 Bxe7 Kxe7** [Nigel Short ventured 7...Qxe7 8 Nb5 O-O 9 Nc7 Nc6 10 Nxa8 cxd4 in Hunt-Short, Bunratty 2011. After 11 Nf3 Qb4+ 12 Qd2 Qxb2 13 Rd1 Nc5 14 Bd3 Bd7 15 Nc7 Rc8 16 Nxd5 exd5 17 O-O the experiment had not completely justified itself, but he got a draw in 71 moves.] **8 f4 Qb6 9 Na4 Qa5+ 10 c3 Nc6** [I was blissfully unaware that 10...b6 was best. It looked unattractive to cut off the queen's retreat, but my choice lands Black in a heap of trouble.] **11 Kf2** [Thanks to this Theoretical Novelty by my opponent, I find myself for just the second time in ChessBase, and not in a good way. 11 Nf3 has been the usual move.] **11...b5** [again 11...b6 or perhaps 11...Rb8] **12 Nxc5 Nxc5 13 dxc5 b4 14 cxb4 Qxb4 15 Qc1 Rb8 16 b3** [Scrappy play has earned me what I think is a rough equality, but unfortunately I go wrong now.] **16...Nd4** [16...f6, or first 16...Rf8

to support the push] **17 Bd3** [The classic rook lift 17 Rh3! would have forced Black to retreat the knight back to c6, after which 18 Nf3 solidifies White's edge.] **17...Bd7 18 Qe3 Rhc8** [18...Bb5 was possible also] **19 Rc1 Qa3** [or 19...a5] **20 Ne2** [20 Bb1] **20...Nxe2 21 Bxe2 Qxa2 22 c6 Bxc6 23 Ra1 Qxb3 24 Qc5+ Ke8 25 Rhb1 Qxb1 26 Rxb1 Rxb1 27 Ba6 Bb7 28 Bb5+ Rxb5 29 Qxb5+ Bc6 30 Qa6 Rc7?** [Spoiling a good effort. Better was to give up the pawn and defend a solid position with 30...Bd7] **31 h5 Bd7 32 Qd3 g6 33 h6**



I thought White could just maneuver the Queen to capture h7 and there wasn't much I could do to stop it. In retrospect and with the aid of engines, I realize now that White's task is far from simple. Queenside activity with pushing the a-pawn creates a lot of problems. I should have obliged him to prove himself up to the task! Instead... **1-0 ?!**

**A**ND SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT. One shouldn't reveal one's repertoire choices so openly perhaps, but if you should venture 1 e4 against me, you'll not see the French Defense. Although I did just obtain Andy Soltis' MIKHAIL BOTVINNIK: THE LIFE AND GAMES OF A WORLD CHESS CHAMPION (ISBN 978-0-786473-37-3, McFarland 2014). Perhaps the Father of Soviet Chess can persuade me otherwise after another round of studying his games. But I rather doubt it. *Au revoir et bon débarras!*

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