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State K-12 Open Champion Michah Kirshner

Photo by Richard Shorman



**George Koltanowski
Memorial Issue**

California Chess Journal



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THE EDITOR'S REPORT

"To everything there is a season...a time to laugh and a time to cry". And so while we celebrate Vinay Bhat's achievement in becoming Northern California's youngest international master we also mourn the death of George Koltanowski. IM John Donaldson of the Mechanics Institute chronicles Vinay's struggle for his final IM norm in his report on the Zemitis International. Tom Dorsch, Dennis Wajckus, Sam Sloan and Don Lieberman share their memories of Kolty with us in this issue. Kolty will be missed.

Alan Kirshner (with the help of photographers Richard Shorman and Steve Cohen) chronicles his last and greatest year the helm of the CalChess State Scholastic Championship. The twenty-fifth 'Silver Anniversary' edition of this event had a special feel from start to finish. Alan makes it look easy but dealing with nearly a thousand kids, assorted parents, teachers, coaches and a large staff is a major occupation. Alan has built well upon the work of State Scholastic founder Ray Orwig. All of us at CalChess salute Alan and Ray for a job well-done.

Change is a necessary fact of life and I have come to the conclusion that I must give up being editor of this magazine after the next issue. I have accepted a second job teaching data processing classes at a local junior college and I find that I no longer have the necessary free time to keep this magazine on schedule. The next issue of this magazine should come out quickly and will be in the mail to you by mid-August. This will place the *California Chess Journal* back on schedule in advance of the upcoming CalChess annual meeting at the Labor Day Chess Festival. I intend to continue to be involved to the magazine as a contributor, assistant editor, and a production assistant.

The deadline for the next issue is July 20th. Please continue to send your submissions for the CCJ to me at: California Chess Journal, PO Box 27, Visalia CA 93279-0027

This issue is also dedicated to the memory of GM Arthur Dake of Oregon who passed away April 28th.

CalChess Scholastic Championships

A Very Special 25 Year Anniversary

By Alan M. Kirshner.

Photos by Richard Shorman

The 2000 CalChess State Scholastics turned out better than I ever dreamed. I had hoped for a very special event to mark the 25th year of this tournament, which happened to coincide with the new millennium (I know it really isn't). I, especially, wanted the silver anniversary to be extraordinary because I had told everyone that this would be my last year as organizer. After five years under my direction, I felt it was time to pass the ball to some younger organizers. Riley Hughes and Doug Shaker will organize the tournament at the Santa Clara Convention Center on March 3 and 4 of 2001. Both have assisted at the championships for many years now and they have produced their own successful tournaments.

Since taking over the tournament from Ray Orwig of St. Marks School in 1996, I strove to increase the number of players from its high of 350 to 1000. I almost met my goal with 985 registered and 968 on the rooster on April 8, the first day of the two day tournament. I gambled that if I increased the number of division and awards for both individuals and teams, I would excite more children to play and more coaches to bring their clubs. I guess the strategy worked. I had 200 more players than last year.

I awarded 25 place trophies in each of nine sections. I insist on awarding trophies to all players who are tied at place 25, a practice different from any nationals. In the K-12 under 950 Division this meant trophies down to 40th place. In the K-6 under 750 Division, with 273 players, I gave awards down to 81st place. This year, I added grade level trophies. I continued the rating group medals. I increased the school team trophies from five to eight and the non-school clubs from one to two

trophies. I added a bughouse tournament on Friday night which Riley Hughes directed. Elliott Temple and Liam MacDermid won the overall bughouse championship out of 34 teams. Trophies were given in each school section and medals for each school grade. The same night, Hans Poschmann supervised 35 blitz players. Chris Pascal took the top of three championship trophies with trophies provided to each school section winner and medals to the top in each grade.

Since this was the 25th anniversary of the tournament the trophies were silver and I special ordered larger sizes than in years past. Budd Setzepfandt worked with me to create a distinctive and attractive logo from an idea provided by Frisco del Rosario. This was rendered beautifully on our commemorative boards, on special medals, on the T-shirts and on the programs and the pins that all the players received.

The unexpected bonus that made this years tournament even more special for me was my son Micah winning the High School Championship and being named the California Chess State representative to the August 7-11 Denker Tournament of State High School Champions to be held in St. Paul, Minnesota.

While a few problems arose—don't they always—the only major delay came about in the Saturday kindergarten through third grade sessions. Beginning with the first round, when one of our directors had a senior moment and left 17 reporting sheets in a different playing room, and continuing with some computer malfunctions. We found ourselves an hour behind schedule. I take responsibility for some of this delay as I only assigned one computer operator—



From left to right: Eric Lin, Micah Fisher-Kirshner, Jeffrey Lonsdale, Joe Lonsdale, Kevin Simler

our best, David Gross. The number of entries in the three divisions demanded at least two computers.

Please forgive me for taking some space to name the tournament directors and all the helpers. They deserve their name in lights, not just print, for making things look easy and me look good. If I forgot someone, I sincerely beg your forgiveness—it was not intentional.

Tournament Directors: Allan Fifield (Chief TD), David Gross, Robert Lee, Steve Seegmiller, Doug Shaker, Hans Poschmann, John McCumiskey, Bonnie Yost, Steve Simler, Sujay Roy, Prakash Narayan, Nick Ayala, Peter Brett, Mike Haun, Riley Hughes, Robert Blatt, Steve Kwan, Dennis Alfaro, Frisco del Rosario, Henry Vinerts, Richard Koepke, Chris Torres, Rob Nicholson, Larry Gibie, Diana Ong, Toby Kahn, May Plata, Rene Plata, Robert Carpenter. Cornelius Caprar Sales Table: Susan Fisher-Kirshner, Kim Ma, Leila Tseung

Staff: Stephanie Blatt (Supervisor), Phoebe Chen, Kiran & Rita Buch, Lee Chen, Mamta Choksi, BJ Darr, Jenny Fang, Joanne Fang, Peter Hanson, John Hwa, Brian & Isa Iso, Somali Kumar, West Kurihara, Elizabeth Laufer, Patty Setzepfandt, Lydia Lee Elizabeth Karnazes, Athena, Jang, Joann Lin, Linda Loitz, Yizhi Lu, Ken Ma, May Miura, Tomoe Naoi, Lakshmi Palaniappan, Thamarai Ratnam, Ming Ho Rou, Lee Tay, Lilly Ting, Sunita Verma, Cyril Wang, Susan Luh, Fung-Mei Yang.



Mother and daughter enjoy the awards ceremony

Thank you Jay Blem from National Chess for your book and equipment store, Robert Snyder of Chess for Juniors for analyzing players games, Gary Kidgell for displaying your beautiful chess sets, Richard Shorman for your excellent photographs and Chess Mentor for providing your learning program to all our winners. And now some of the results:

**High School Championship
(K-12 Open)**

- 1st Micah Fisher-Kirshner (1931) 6-0
- 2nd Elliott Temple (2035) 5-0
 - Christopher Pascal (1846) 5-0
 - Joe Lonsdale (1534) 5-0
 - Michael Kai Lum (1560) 5-0
 - David Petty (1540) 5-0

Teams:

- Mission San Jose (Fremont) 19,
- Berkeley High School 15,
- Bellamine Prep (San Jose) 14

Clubs:

- Berkeley Chess Club 16,
- Chess for Juniors 11.5

As I wrote earlier, Micah's victory in the fifth round was a surprise, upsetting Jordy Mont-Reynaud. He defeated Elliott Temple in round six for the title. Granted, he has had a non-posted rating as high as 2086, but Jordy Mont-Reynaud (2340) came into the tournament rated 300 points higher. Without Vinay Bhat (2475), who played at the Mechan-

ics Institute in San Francisco to obtain (and I can happily report, got) his FIDE International Master norms, Jordy was the favorite. Vinay defeated Jordy in the last round of the two previous championships, preventing Jordy from representing CalChess at the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, one of America's most prestigious tournaments. This should have been Jordy's year. While I was ecstatic for Micah (Micah's commentary on the game follows this article), I felt very bad for Jordy.

When I gave the school team award to Mission San Jose High School, I broke down in tears. I have known those boys since they were in first grade. They were the Blue Knights, a chess group funded by the Fremont Police Department. Richard Shorman taught them and they all were on the Top 50 list and Open State Champions at one time. They won the Junior High School National Championship when they were at Hopkins in 1996. Except for Micah, they had played very little chess since junior high school. They came back together for one last title before they head off to different colleges: Micah Fisher-Kirshner (Primary School Champion, 1989, Elementary School Co-Champion, 1992 & 1994) is heading for the Elliott School of International Relations at George Washington University. Joe Lonsdale (Elementary School Co-Champion, 1993 and 1994) is off to Stanford. Kevin Simler (Primary School Champion, 1991) will study Engineering at Berkeley. Eric Lin (Junior High School Champion, 1996), recently returned from a couple of years in Singapore, is on to CalTech for the Engineering program in the fall. I wish them all the best and hope they will continue to play some chess in future years.

**High School Junior Varsity
(K-12 Under 950)**

- 1st Christopher Miller (unrated) 5.5
 - Bhairav Singh (unrated) 5.5
- 3rd Phil Jouriles (908) 5-1
 - Kaitlin Kirk (926) 5-1

Mather Fisher (859) 5-0

Teams:

- Biggs (near Chico) 15,
- Gunderson (San Jose) 14.5,
- Balboa (San Francisco) 13.5

Clubs:

- Paladin Knightmares (Santa Cruz) 17.5,
- Berkeley Chess School 16

This was a new division this year and had 62 entries. The unrated's had a field day with two of them receiving the title of Co-Champions. Biggs, from Northern California, brought down about 30 competitors and did well in a number of divisions including the team championship here. The Paladin Knightmares were one of the few clubs to out point the Berkeley Chess School in any of the sections.

**Junior High School
Championship Division
(K-8 Open)**

- 1st Alen Melikadamyam (1814) 5.5
- 2nd Lev Pizarisky (1534) 5-1
 - Adam Lischinsky (1810) 5-1
 - Keith Yost (1750) 5-1
 - Michael Pearson (1752) 5-1

Teams:

- Bartlett Middle School (Porterville) 14,
- Hopkins (Fremont) 12.5,
- St. Marks School (San Rafael) 11.5

Clubs:

- Berkeley Chess School 15.5,
- Chess For Juniors 11.5,
- Mechanics Institute 11.5

In round 7, Alen Melikadamyam of Chess for Juniors drew Matthew Ho (1920) to take first. Matthew had three draws in a row. With his reputation and rating I cannot help but wonder if his opponents played for the draws. By the way, since Alen comes from Southern California, a separate state according to the United States Chess Federation, he cannot claim the title of CalChess Champion. Therefore, Lev Pizarisky, Adam Lischinsky, Keith Yost and Michael Pearson are Co-Champions. The last time Bartlett Middle School won the title was back in 1991. Hans Borm, their coach, has supported this tournament for many years and always brings up competitive teams. I was glad to see them walk away with the big trophy.

**Junior High School
Junior Varsity Division
(K-8 Under 850)**



Art Wang awards a copy of Chess Mentor to the K-8 under 850 winner, Major Castleberry

- 1st Major Castleberry(837) 6-0
2nd Ryan Dooley (775) 5-1
Michael Fischer (792) 5-1
Philip Choi (unrated) 5-1
Justin Kreibich(831) 5-1
Brian Lau (785) 5-1
Billy Klotz (808) 5-1

Teams:

- St. Marks School (San Rafael) 17.5,
Sunnyvale Middle 17,
Emeryville Middle 14

Clubs:

- Berkeley Chess School 15.5,
Paladin Knightmares (Santa Cruz) 13.5

I need to add one historic note to the team championship. This was St. Marks 20th year of competition and their 20th championship. At their first competition they also edged out Sunnyvale Middle School for the title.

**Elementary School
Championship Division
(K-6 Open)**

- 1st Drake Wang (1605) 6-0
2nd Daniel Schwarz (1429) 5-1
Vanessa West (1512) 5-1
Aaron Wilkowski (1048) 5-1
Daichi Siegrist (1307) 5-1
Ewelina Krubnik (1226) 5-1
Ricky Yu (1205) 5-1
Sharon Tseung (1056) 5-1

Teams:

- Weibel (Fremont) 18, Biggs 15,

- Mission San Jose (Fremont) 12,
Forest Park 12

Clubs:

- Mechanics Institute (San Francisco) 19.5,
Berkeley Chess School 19.5

In this division of 110 players, the favorite did win. Drake might have been challenged by Alexander Setzepandt (1608), a fourth grader who decided to play up in the High School Division to obtain better games. He placed 36th, a respectable showing.



Next year's organizers (Doug Shaker on left and Riley Hughes) behind the 6th grade winners

**Elementary School
Junior Varsity Division
(K-6 Under 750)**

- 1st Kristof Horompoly (unrated) 6-0
Jonathan Jew (715) 6-0
Carl Yang (652) 6-0

Teams:

- Mission San Jose (Fremont) 21,
Forest Park (Fremont) 20.5,
St. Marks School (San Rafael) 18.5

Clubs:

- Berkeley Chess School 17,
Wisdom Chess 11.5

This division began with 275 players. Someone told me that we could have as many as eight champions after six rounds. Luckily, we only had three. If a seventh round had been played we might have reduced the winners to one or two. But, all are deserving of the title. Mission San Jose edged out their neighbor Forest Park for the state title.

**Primary School
Championship Division
(K-3 Open)**

- 1st Andres Fuentes-Afflick (1020) 5-0
Tyrone Plata (967) 5-0
3rd Melinda West (1075) 4-1



Tyrone Plata and Andres Fuentes-Afflick, co-champions K-3 open

- Corey Chang (900) 4-1
Hans Tsai (952) 4-1
Joshua Shaham (1089) 4-1
Alvin Cheng (871) 4-1
Brent Yamada (1018) 4-1
Tatsuro Yamamura (782) 4-1
Tau Jeng (862) 4-1
Keith Moffat (799) 4-1

Teams:

- Weibel (Fremont) 14,
St. Marks School (San Rafael) 11.5,
Mission San Jose (Fremont) 10

Clubs:

- Wisdom Chess (Fremont) 16,
Berkeley Chess School 15.5

Our co-champions in this division of 68 players could be twins—no, not in looks, but in their warm, pleasant and mellow personalities. I have seen them play with the continued support of their parents for the last three years. I am sure there will be many more years that they will share numerous victories and a few defeats.

Weibel had a clear victory in this year's Primary Championship Division, bringing their total wins in this section to five—one more than Mission San Jose. When Elizabeth Shaughnessy, came to obtain one of her few second place trophies for the Berkeley Chess School, she wanted to know who beat her club. I reminded her that the winner, Wisdom Chess, is a new club and an offspring of the Weibel program in Fremont. Their players helped Weibel defeat the Berkeley Bishops in this year's dual match.



Numerous people spent time trying to solve Hans Poschmann's chess problem on Saturday. The winner of a copy of Chess Mentor was Jonathan Jew.

**Primary School
Junior Varsity Division
(K-3 Under 600)**

1st Sally Freeman (514) 5-0
Daniel Wong (unrated) 5-0
Jaren Feeley (unrated) 5-0
Zhou Wu (unrated) 5-0

Teams:

Weibel (Fremont) 16,
Argonaut (Saratoga),
Blossom Hill (Los Gatos)

Clubs:

Berkeley Chess School 17,
Windsor Chess 9.5

One Hundred and seventy four players contested this division. We obviously could have used a sixth and seventh round to reduce the number of champions. However, why not spread the glory around.

Kindergarten Division

1st Donald Livingston (847) 5-0
2nd Kevin Hsu (960) 4-0
Marie Huff (202) 4-0
Richard Livingston (794) 4-0
Alan Hwang (627) 4-0

Forty children entered this section with some as young as four years old. Wow! A few can even play good chess. They all seemed to have a great time and we seldom saw two Kings alone on the board fighting to checkmate. Everyone in this division received a trophy. We do not have Kindergarten teams or clubs—I hope the reason is obvious.

If you want to see a more complete list of the results and a few photographs, go to <http://CalChess.webjump.com/Results00.html>. Finally, I want to thank everyone for their over-

whelming support over the last five years. I may have organized the tournament, but you made the CalChess State Scholastic Championships great. This 25th Anniversary Special will remain a positive memory for the remainder of my life. No, I will not leave scholastic chess. I will continue on as the CalChess Scholastic Chair, maintain the websites and provide a few small tournaments during the year. Keep the chess passions burning.



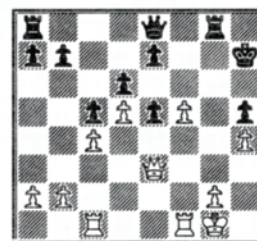
**State K-12 Open Champion
Michah Kirshner is all smiles
with his 50 inch trophy.**

**Mont-Reynaud, J (2365) -
Fisher-Kirshner, M (1930) [E73]**

Santa Clara (5), 2000
Notes by Micah Fisher-Kirshner
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7
4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 Nbd7
7.h4 h5 8.Rc1 At this point I was
out of book. 8...c5 9.d5 Ne5 10.Nf3
Nfg4 11.Nd2 Bh6 [11...Bf6 12.Bf4
Kh7 13.f3 Nh6 14.Bxh6 Kxh6 15.g4
With an advantage for white.]
12.Nf1 threatening f3



12...f6 13.Bxh6 [13.Bd2 Bxd2+
14.Qxd2 Kh7+] 13...Nxh6 14.Qd2
55 minutes left 14...Kh7 42 min-
utes left 15.Ng3 Bg4 I figured that
if he played f3 my bishop would go
back to d7 making him have a
rather delayed position to advance
his pawns. 16.0-0 Qc8 17.f4
[17.f3 Bd7 18.f4 +=] 17...Bxe2
18.Ncxe2 Neg4 19.f5 35 minutes
left 19...gxf5 21 minutes left
20.Nxf5 At this point I thought I
was basically going to lose a tough
fight with Nf5, until I found that I
could play Qe8 with some play.
20...Qe8!? [20...Nxf5? 21.Rxf5 Qe8
22.Nf4 Rh8 23.Rxh5+ Kg7+]
21.Nf4?! Tremendously better
was Ng3 then followed by Nf4 plac-
ing both knights on my h-pawn.
21...Nxf5 22.exf5 Now the posi-
tion is closed again, exactly what
I needed to protect my king.
22...Rg8 23.Qe2 This forces my
king to h6 so I can move my
knight back to e5. 23...Kh6
24.Ng6 16 minutes left 24...Ne5
9 minutes left 25.Qe3+ Kh7
26.Nxe5 fxe5



27.Qe4? Qd3 was the best move
here, so I could not move my rook
out onto the g4 square. 27...Rg4!
28.Qc2 Kg7 29.Rf3 12 minutes
left 29...Kf6! My king is now soli-
dly safe on f6. (5 minutes left)
30.Qb3 I was expecting Qd2 forc-
ing my queen to h8 followed by
bringing my queen's rook to g8.
30...Qg8 31.Rc2 b6 32.Qb5 Rd8
A must to play. [32...Rxh4 33.Qd7
Qg4 34.Qe6+ Kg7 35.f6+ exf6
36.Qxf6+ Kh7 With an extremely
hard endgame for me to win.]
33.a4 Rxh4 34.a5 Qg4 35.axb6
Around here Jordy is in time
trouble 35...axb6 36.Qa4
[36.Qxb6!? Qd4+ 37.Rcf2 Ra8
38.Ra3 Rf4 39.Kh2 Qxf2 40.Qb3
Rh4+ 41.Qh3 Rxh3+ 42.Rxh3 Rg8
43.Rg3 Qxg3+ 44.Kg1 Qxg2#]
36...Qd4+ 37.Rcf2 Re4 38.Qc2
[38.Qb3?? Re1+ 39.Kh2 Qh4+

A Different Eye!

Photos of the 25th State Scholastics

by
Steve Cohen

Drake Wang (front, r.) and Daniel Schwarz (behind Drake) moving in unison on Boards 1 & 2 in the K-6 Championship.



Berkeley Chess Club's Ewelina Krubnik and Aaron Wilkowski both defending as Black against other teammates.



K-6 JV co-champion Kritoff Horompoly in his first USCF event.

A proud mother with a well-known area champ, Ahmad Moghadam, wishing him luck before his final round.



Tournament K-12 Champion, Michah Fisher-Kirshner, shown here on the way to a final round victory over Elliot Temple.



Richard Shorman, photographer!

Zhou Wu deep in thought on his way to a last round victory for a perfect 6-0 in the K-3 JV section.



Despite an injury to his collarbone a few days before the event, Corey Chang persevered his way to a 5-1 performance.



Top Boards of the final round in the K-3 championship. Andres Fuetes-Afflick commands the top board while Tyrone Plata tries to defend against Corey Chang.

Chris Miller (l., a 9th grader) gave away a winning position on a "touch-move" situation. Chris kept his head to fight to a draw to become co-champion in the K-12 JV section.



George Koltanowski: A Great Person

by
Tom Dorsch
Photos by Dennis Wajckus

George Koltanowski was born September 17, 1903, in Antwerp, Belgium, into a family with five older brothers. His father worked at Antwerp's famous Diamond Bourse, the largest diamond exchange in the world. Koltanowski learned chess at home. It was a favorite of his rigidly orthodox Jewish household, "because it was the only game allowed by the rabbi on the Sabbath." By his own account, he was not an immediate success at the game. His father would take him to the Bourse with his older brothers, but he did not stand out as a player—at first.

A story he liked to tell is that his breakthrough occurred as a result of a blow to the head! He was playing on the street, around the corner from his house, when a line of Catholic nuns came up the street. Just as they approached young Koltanowski, the last nun in the queue tripped, and pushed all the other nuns down. The lead nun fell on the young boy, knocking his head against the edge of a stone step, and opening a scalp wound that bled profusely. All his life, he could still point to a depression along the top of his forehead, and say that it was the result of this accident when he was about eleven years old.

The mortified nun escorted the boy to a hospital, where he was sewn up. After that, she took an interest in the boy, and would escort him to the Bourse to play chess. She was responsible for his introduction to the larger world of organized chess by taking him to the Antwerp Chess Club. As Koltanowski told the story, almost immediately after his accident, his powers of analysis and understanding exploded. Whereas before he had had mediocre results against the other players at the

Bourse, after the accident he was able to "wipe the board" of the "beards," the orthodox Jews, and lost only to a few of the men without beards, among them Harrwitz, champion of Antwerp.

Not long after the nun, Sister Margaretha, began to take him to the Antwerp Club, he was able to play even on a level with Harrwitz. In gratitude for this patronage, Koltanowski throughout his life, when he was on tour, would send a box of candy to a nunnery in any city he visited, in memory of Sister Margaretha.

Koltanowski's blindfold career, the area in chess where he achieved his greatest fame, started during one of these excursions to the Antwerp Club. He was already the top player at the club, when an exhibition of blindfold chess was scheduled for visiting Hungarian master Gjula Breyer. In the first part of this century, blindfold exhibitions were a regular part of the repertoire of many traveling masters.

After the performance, the youthful Koltanowski bragged to his clubmates that he could easily do as well. Challenged to make good his boast, they set up a five-board exhibition, and Koltanowski got confused, lost track of the scores, and did horribly. After that, he was taunted as "the blindfold champion" by some of the club members, and these taunts motivated him to concentrate on his blindfold skills. He was soon able to play blindfold chess extremely well, and to erase any memory of his first failed effort.

A second leap forward occurred during a visit to England during his young adulthood when he stepped on a rusty nail and got a severe tetanus infection. At one point, the doctors recommended



George making a point to Marian Wajckus

that his leg be amputated, but he steadfastly refused. Instead, a doctor from India did extensive experimental surgery to save the leg, and, after a period of extended hospitalization, the young man recovered completely. During this long period in the hospital, Koltanowski honed his blindfold skills by playing and replaying games without a chess board. Before long, he was one of the best in the world at play sans voir.

His first excursions outside of Belgium to compete came in 1924, when he was 21, just after he had completed his mandatory military service in the Belgian army. His first invitational event in Meran, Italy, placed him eleventh in a strong field that included Gruenfeld, Spielman, Rubinstein, Tarrasch, and Colle, the Belgian champion. Until his untimely death in 1931, Colle was Koltanowski's chief rival. After the death of Colle, Koltanowski pledged to the Belgian Chess Federation that he would do all he could to preserve the memory of Edgar Colle by promoting the opening named after him. This is a pledge Koltanowski fulfilled.

His next event was the Paris International, held in conjunction with the Olympic games. At that event, Alekhine formed a "players' union" among the participants. This organization evolved into FIDE (hence the French name), and 21-year-old George

Koltanowski was a founding member. At this event, he showed strong improvement, finishing tied for fourth place.

Koltanowski's blindfold exploits were so well-received, and he had such a natural gift as a showman, that he was able to abandon the family business, which he disliked, and concentrate on chess. He achieved world renown for his pursuit of the record for most blindfold games played simultaneously. It was particularly noteworthy because his rival for the record was none other than the world champion, Alexander Alekhine, who held the record by playing twenty-eight games simultaneously blindfolded.

Records are made to be broken, and Koltanowski determined to demonstrate his complete mastery of this aspect of the game by setting a world record. The Belgian Chess Association agreed to sponsor the effort, and Koltanowski succeeded in raising the record to thirty games. Alekhine retaliated by a year later by breaking the record again, this time playing thirty-two games. A healthy and friendly rivalry grew between the two Masters, and they even gave some tandem blindfold simultaneous exhibitions together. Alekhine is said to have remarked that Koltanowski is "the second-best blindfold player in the world!"

Koltanowski knew he had to reach even higher. Intrigued by this competition, the Edinburgh (Scotland) Chess Club offered Koltanowski the then-astronomical fee of £1000 to set a new world record of thirty-four games played simultaneously blindfold. It was the biggest prize in chess at the time, and a huge fee during the worldwide depression of the 1930s.

Traveling to Scotland, Koltanowski trained for a full year, and on the occasion of his thirty-fourth birthday in 1937 he accomplished the feat of playing thirty-four games simultaneously blindfold under strict supervision and control. This feat was so extraordinary and so difficult that blindfold exhibitions, once a staple, vir-

tually disappeared from the shows of traveling masters afterward, because there was no way that they could compete with this accomplishment.

It is still generally accepted that this record stands today, more than sixty years later. Two subsequent attempts to break it, one by Najdorf in 1948, and one by the Hungarian Fleisch, have not survived close scrutiny. Najdorf was allowed to write down his moves to assist his memory, and he later admitted to Koltanowski that the exhibition was an effort to generate publicity, to try to make it known to any surviving relatives in Europe that he was alive in South America. The exhibition by Fleisch was repudiated by his own Federation, because many of the players resigned after a few moves.

During most of the 1930s, after he had left his native Belgium, Koltanowski toured, exploiting his fame as world champion of blindfold chess. His headquarters at that time was Madrid, but when the Spanish Civil War started, he had to leave the country to avoid the hostilities, leaving behind his extensive collection of chess literature. It was during this time that he achieved his greatest successes in international tournaments, tying for first at Barcelona 1934 (with Tartakower and Lilienthal) and Barcelona 1935 (tied with Flohr, whom he defeated in their individual game). Although he played in top international events during this time, and on the basis of these results was given the IM and GM titles after the war, he made much more money touring and giving shows than he did playing in tournaments, and he focused little on competitive chess.

He was giving a show in Austria the night before the Anschluss, the German occupation, and was able to cross the Swiss border just in time to avoid being caught up in that struggle. In 1939, just as war was breaking out in Europe, he was traveling toward the Olympics in Buenos Aires, giving shows. He stopped

in Guatemala, where the leader of the military junta that ruled the country at the time was a chessplayer. He sat out the war giving shows and lessons to friends of the dictator.

After the war, he was able to make his way to Cuba, ostensibly to play in a chess tournament, but really he wanted to make sure that his friend, the dictator, would allow him to leave Guatemala! When he got to Havana, he immediately traveled to New York. His father, his strongest supporter in his decision to abandon the family business in favor of a chess career, died in 1935 while he was in Spain. His mother, his younger brother, and most of his relatives perished in the Holocaust.

Koltanowski was immediately able to get job cutting diamonds for \$300 per week, at that time an extremely good salary. But he hated it. Again he took the courageous step of abandoning a safe career to make a living by his wits. A friend in Canada, whom he met through one of his surviving brothers, first suggested to him the idea of a "Knight's Tour." He would make the knight move to every square of the board, touching each square only once, and make all the moves blindfold. It made for a delightful performance, and he constantly enhanced it, allowing members of the audience to choose the starting square at random, and eventually placing a name or number on each square that he would have to recall when the knight hit that square. Some of these feats were quite impressive. He was using serial numbers from dollar bills, telephone numbers, names of cities, names of individuals, all suggested by members of the audience and then recalled after a few minutes of memorization. At the Paul Masson tournament of 1980, he did three boards consecutively, memorizing bits of information and repeating them as the knight touched each of the 192 squares.

At the same time, he spun anecdotes of his encounters with

the greats of the chessworld—Alekhine, Capablanca, Euwe and all the others he knew personally and had played against, recounted positions of fascinating complexity, and told jokes—he had a marvelous sense of humor. He toured for forty years with these performances, giving lectures and simultaneous exhibitions all over this country and throughout Europe. He was, simply put, the most prodigious organizer of chess this country has ever seen.

One of his great innovations was the Swiss system (so named because he developed it in conjunction with Grob), which allows a group of any size to play a tournament of just a few rounds and still determine a winner. It revolutionized chess in this country. Koltanowski was America's premiere tournament director, and presided at more than twenty US Opens and dozens of other championship events of national and international character.

He established an organization, Chess Friends of Northern California, in his adopted region of San Francisco, and grew it into one of the largest such organizations in the country. In the '70s, an old friend from the Sacramento area, Lt. Col. Ed Edmonson, took over as leader of the United States Chess Federation in New York, and he was able to persuade Koltanowski to devote his efforts primarily to the national group. Koltanowski served nine years on the USCF Policy Board, as vice-president ('72-'75), president ('75-'78), and past president ('78-'81).

His syndicated newspaper column became another legend. He started writing for the San Francisco Chronicle daily—seven times per week—in 1948, and never missed a column for fifty-two years—over 19,000 published columns. It was the longest-running chess column in the world, and the only daily column in the United States.

Next to chess, the love of Koltanowski's life was his wife Leah. They met on a blind date in 1947. Koltanowski found a life partner and soulmate that fully

epitomized the phrase that behind every great man there is a great woman. Although she did not play chess, she complemented him



Leah proudly displays George's USCF Lifetime Award

perfectly. Koltanowski, despite his world-famous memory, could be quite absent-minded. Leah was a model of efficiency. She ran the household, keeping track of the infinite number of details of scheduling, public contact, and income that are the essential ingredient of a self-employed man, and this efficient administration of the all-important details left Koltanowski free to concentrate on his chess work.

I have never met a man who had more vigor or a more inquiring mind. Even in his mid-nineties, he would greet me as I came in the door with, "Tom, let's give some shows." And he was serious! We had to talk him out of going to Paris last year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of FIDE, because he was really not strong enough to make the trip. But it took some convincing!

Throughout it all, Koltanowski preserved the manners and demeanor of a true old-world gentleman. Sometimes, he gave the impression that he was curt, but that

was because he suffered from deteriorating hearing all his life, a consequence, he said, of damage suffered on a Belgian firing range during his military service. He was virtually deaf in his left ear, and had profound hearing loss in his right ear. He wore a hearing aid, but as he grew older, it became more difficult for him to understand things that were said. Rather than use his bad hearing as an excuse, he learned to compensate in various ways. Yet I have heard criticisms from some chessplayers that he ignored them or snubbed them. That was never the case, it just happened that often he was unable to hear their questions.

Leah liked to joke that "George put on his necktie to go to the bathroom," but he was extremely fastidious in his public appearance. He would not buy a suit off the rack, all of the suits he wore were custom tailored at fine shops in San Francisco, New York, and London. He would only wear Florsheim shoes. He was particularly fond of jokes, and he had a million of them. One of the things that made his shows so entertaining was his store of stories, most of them humorous. He loved to laugh.

Of course, he was always asked two things: what is the secret to your magnificent memory, and what is the secret to your great longevity? I'm convinced that he never really understood the biological nature of his gift. But he had the classic explanation of a photographic memory—he would say that once he had seen something, "it was like I had a phonograph record in my mind."

His robust health was another mystery. Sickly as a child, he seemed to have every risk factor known to modern medicine—he was overweight, he smoked cigarettes, then cigars, for forty years, he did not exercise, and he ate everything—he had a particular fondness for chocolates (although he was diagnosed as mildly diabetic and took medicine to control it for thirty years) and ate

Continued on page 26

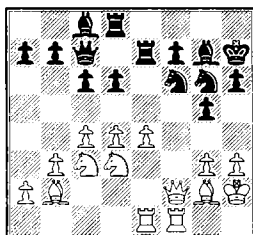
The Chess of George Koltanowski

Selected by Sam Sloan

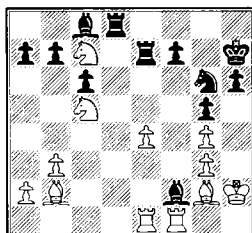
White: Rubinstein, Akiba
Black: Koltanowski, G
[ECO E60]

1931 Antwerp Round 5

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. Nc3 d6 6. e4 e5 7. Nge2 c6 8. h3 h6 9. Be3 Nbd7 10. Qd2 Kh7 11. b3 Qe7 12. Rd1 Re8 13. O-O Nf8 14. Kh2 Bd7 15. f4 exf4 16. Nxf4 Rad8 17. Rde1 Bc8 18. Qf2 g5 19. Nd3 Ng6 20. Bc1 Qc7 21. Bb2 Re7



22. c5 dxc5 23. Nxc5 Ng4+ 24. hxg4 Bxd4 25. Nb5 Bxf2 26. Nxc7



26...Bxe1 27. Bf6 Rdd7 28. Nxd7 Rxd7 29. Ne8 Ba5 30. e5 Rd2 31. Nd6 Bxg4 32. Nxb7 Bc7 33. Kh1 Bxe5 34. Bxc6 Bh3 0-1

White: Koltanowski, G
Black: Kotov, Alexander
[ECO A49]

1952 Olympiad Helsinki

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. O-O d6 6. c4 Nbd7 7. Nc3 e5 8. h3 c6 9. Be3 h6 10. Qc2 Qe7 11. Rad1 Ne8 12. c5 dxc5 13. d5 Nd6 14. dxc6 bxc6 15. Na4 Nf5

16. Bxc5 Nxc5 17. Nxc5 Rb8 18. e4 Nd6 19. Rd2 Rb4 20. Qc3 Rc4 21. Qd3 Rd8 22. Qe3 Nb5 23. Rxd8+ Qxd8 24. Nd3 Qd6 25. Rc1 Be6 26. b3 Rxc1+ 27. Nxc1 Qd1+ 28. Kh2 Qc2 29. Qd2 Qxe4 30. Qd8+ Bf8 31. Nd3 Qd5 32. Qxd5 cxd5 33. Nfxe5 Nc3 34. Nc6 Nxa2 35. Nxa7 Bf5 36. Bf1 Nb4 37. Nxb4 Bxb4 38. Nc6 Bd6 39. Bg2 Be6 40. Nd4 Bd7 41. Bxd5 Bc5 42. Nf3 Bxf2 43. Ne5 Bf5 1/2-1/2

White: Koltanowski, G
Black: Florian, Tibor
[ECO A49]

1952 Olympiad Helsinki

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 O-O 5. O-O d6 6. c4 c5 7. d5 Na6 8. Nc3 Nc7 9. h3 a6 10. a4 Rb8 11. a5 b5 12. axb6 Rxb6 13. Qc2 e6 14. dxe6 Bxe6 15. Nd2 Qc8 16. Kh2 h5 17. e4 Re8 18. Nd5 Bxd5 19. cxd5 Rb4 20. Nc4 Nb5 21. Bd2 Nd4 22. Qd3 Rxc4 23. Qxc4 Nxe4 24. Be3 Qf5 25. Bxd4 Bxd4 26. Rae1 Re5 27. f4 Nd2 28. fxe5 Nxc4 29. Rxf5 gxf5 30. e6 Kf8 31. Ra1 fxe6 32. Rxa6 Ke7 33. b3 Nd2 34. Ra7+ Kf6 35. dxe6 Kxe6 36. Rb7 Be5 37. Bc6 h4 38. Kg2 Bxg3 39. Bf3 Ke5 40. b4 cxb4 41. Rxb4 d5 42. Rb5 Ne4 43. Bh5 Nc3 44. Rb8 Ke4 45. Rf8 Nb5 46. Bf3+ Ke5 47. Bxd5 Kxd5 48. Rxf5+ Kc4 1/2-1/2

My Friend George

by
Dennis M. Wajckus

My wife Marian and I attended the Memorial Service for George Koltanowski conducted in San Francisco on Sunday, March 26th. Many friends and relatives spoke about George and had us laughing with stories about his appetite and how he kept his latest chess promotion plans from his wife Leah and many other memories.

Two of the things that will always stand out about George in my mind were his generosity and fine sense of humor. These are traits that George held onto till the end. Both of these characteristics were demonstrated the last time I had the privilege of visiting George at his home in San Francisco in August of 1999.

Marian and I had attended a USDA Market News conference in Oakland and made it across the bridge to San Francisco to spend a few hours with our friends Leah and George. During our visit George started handing me books and magazines on chess that were clear that he had been looking through himself. "You have this one? How about this book?" I hardly knew what to say. George willingly autographed a number of books for me that I had brought along even though it was obvious he was not having one of his better health days.

George of course claimed to be quite an expert on chocolate candy. Shortly before we were to return to Fresno he handed Marian a box of chocolate candy and said "this is pretty good even by Koltanowski standards." He added after looking me over (I'm almost twice Marian's size) and then looking back at Marian, "I hope you get some of this candy! Then he kept giving me the eye and shaking his head.

After we got home Marian would offer me a piece of the candy she got from George. I would refuse; "George gave those to you." The sad part is that I never got a chance to tell George that Marian ate the whole box. However, I'm sure he would have been shocked and pleased to learn about that.

My Koltanowski Story

by
Sam Sloan

Almost everybody has a favorite Koltanowski story. Here is mine:

I first met George Koltanowski at the 1959 US Open in Omaha, when I was 14 years old. I arrived at the tournament seven rounds late. Every Summer, my mother, who was originally from Iowa, drove us to Creston, Iowa to meet our relatives. I was able to go 100 miles further to Omaha to play in the last part of the US Open.

Koltanowski said that I was too late and could not enter the tournament. However, a chess player from Virginia named Phil Morrell talked him into letting me play. Kolty gave me a bye for my first game, which was round 7, and then I scored 2 1/2 in the remaining four rounds, defeating chess luminary E. Forry Laucks.

Years later, at the 1966 US Open in Seattle, Peter Cleghorn was among the leaders. Cleghorn was a terrific player who could have been a grandmaster, but he tended to live in areas where not much chess was played. Cleghorn was already at least a 2300 player when he played his first rated game of chess.

In the 1966 US Open in Seattle, Cleghorn was playing Grandmaster Benko. An endgame was reached with a locked pawn structure. Koltanowski, who was the director of every US Open from 1946 until the late 1970s, came to the board with a sealed move envelope. Since sealed move en-

velopes are no longer used in this age of computers, I need to explain that when a game was adjourned for the night, one player would seal his move in an envelope, which would be opened the next day when play was resumed. In this way, each player would know what his own last move was and would not know what his opponent's next move would be.

Koltanowski did not give more than a quick glance at the position on the board. After the move had been sealed and Koltanowski had taken the envelope, I and several others analyzed the position with Cleghorn. The result of our analysis was that Cleghorn had a win. If Benko's king moved to the right, Cleghorn's king would go to the left and break through and win. On the other hand, if Benko's king moved to the left, then Cleghorn's king would go to the right and break through and win. We analyzed for well over an hour and nobody could find a way for Benko to hold a draw.

After almost everyone had disbursed, I went up to Koltanowski, who was sitting at the tournament director's table planning the pairings for the next round. I happened to say something about the Benko-Cleghorn game. Koltanowski said, "The game is a draw."

"What do you mean?," I said. "We just analyzed the position for over an hour and Cleghorn wins in all variations. If Benko's king

goes to the right, Cleghorn's king goes to the left and wins. If Benko's king goes to the left, Cleghorn's king goes to the right and wins. No matter where Benko's king goes, Cleghorn wins."

"Yes," Koltanowski said. "But what if Benko's king does not move at all? What if it stays exactly where it is?"

We went back and looked. Koltanowski was right. If Benko's king just marked time in the middle and waited for Cleghorn to take aggressive action, there was no way for Cleghorn to win. If Cleghorn's king went right, Benko's king also went right. If Cleghorn's king went left, Benko's king also went left. In either case, Benko's king would arrive just in time to stop Cleghorn from breaking through. Benko had long since gone to his hotel room to analyze the position himself.

The next morning, the players came down and sat down to play. Koltanowski opened the sealed move envelope. The sealed move was played on the board and the clock was started. Benko moved his king to the right. Cleghorn moved his king to the left. Cleghorn's king broke through and won the game. Grandmaster Benko had not seen a drawing idea which Koltanowski had seen in just a brief glance at the board, while receiving the sealed move envelope. ■

Memories of Kolty

by
Don Lieberman, M.D.

Sixty-one years ago as a lad of twelve, I played in my first chess tournament which was directed by George Koltanowski. He had been hired by the city of Milwaukee to teach chess to school children during their summer vacation.

Fast forward to 1965 when I played in my first tournament in the Bay Area which was again directed by George. I approached him and said, "Kolty, you taught me to play better chess back in 1938 in Milwaukee." His quick response was classic Kolty, "Don't

remind me how old I am!"

Happily for all of us who were very fond of George, he remained the "Dean of American Chess" for thirty-five more years, setting a record for distinguished service that will never be equaled. ■

The Frisco Masters

March 31-April 3, 2000
Mechanics Insitute Chess Club

Place		Prize
1st-3rd	Alex Shabalov	\$2000
1st-3rd	Alex Yermolinsky	\$2000
1st-3 rd	Jann Ehlvest	\$2000
Fischer Prize #1	Rogelio Barcenilla	\$1000
Fischer Prize #2	Guillermo Rey	\$250
	Igor Ivanov	\$250
Pillsbury Prize #1	Gregg Small	\$800
Pillsbury Prize #2	Richard Lobo	\$100
	Aaron Stearns	\$100
	David Pruess	\$100
	Tigran Iskhanov	\$100
Morphy Prize #1	William Longren	\$600
Morphy Prize #2	Bela Evans	\$150
	Mariano Acosta	\$150
Upset Prizes		
Round 1	Zoran Lazetich	\$50
Round 2	Mark Pinto	\$50
Round 3	Carl Haessler	\$50
Round 4	Aaron Stearns	\$50
Round 5	William Longren	\$50
Round 6	William Longren	\$50
Round 7	William Longren	\$50

Assistant Directors: Steve Brandwein, John Donaldson & Alan Glasscoe

Report by Chief T.D. Mike Goodall

Vinay Bhat scores IM title

at the

Val Zemitis International

By
IM John Donaldson

April 5th

Dana Reizniece, David Pruess and IM Zoran Ilic jumped into the lead after round one of the Zemitis International. Reizniece, a 19-year-old Women's International Master from Riga, Latvia, defeated 15-year-old Vinay Bhat in his favorite Closed Sicilian in excellent style. Meanwhile, Ilic, who suffered a painful 0-2 on the last day of the Frisco Masters, showed his mettle by defeating the tough junior Hary Akopian of Los Angeles. Cal Berkeley student David Pruess made his international debut a successful one by turning back SF veteran master Richard Lobo.

White: Pruess, D. (2228)
Black: Lobo, R (2300)
[ECO B62]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Bb5 Bd7 8. Bxc6 bxc6 9. Qf3 Qa5 10. h4 Be7 11. Nb3 Qc7 12. O-O-O O-O 13. e5 dxe5 14. Ne4 Nd5 15. Bxe7 Nxe7 16. Ng5 Nd5 17. Qd3 e4 18. Nxe4 Bc8 19. c4 Nb4 20. Qd2 c5 21. Nxc5 Rb8 22. Qd6 Qxd6 23. Rxd6 Nxa2+ 24. Kd2 e5 25. Ra1 Nb4 26. Kc3 Bf5 27. Ra4 Rb6 28. Rxb6 axb6 29. Kxb4 bxc5+ 30. Kxc5 f6 31. Na5 Rd8 32. b4 Rd2 33. b5 Rxf2 34. b6 Be4 35. Nc6 Rb2 36. Rb4 Rxb4 37. Nxb4 1-0

April 6th

The second round of the Val Zemitis IM norm tournament saw several norm hunters chances set back. 19-year-old Latvian WIM Dana Reizniece lost to IM Guillermo Rey, while

local favorite Richard Lobo was beaten by Harry Akopian of Los Angeles. Second seeded Levon Altounian (2438) is off to a good start with a first round draw with IM Altin Cela (2527) and a second round victory over WIM Camilla Baginskaite. IMs Ilic and Cela made a quick draw in the "Battle of the Balkans".

White: Altounian, L.(2438)
Black: Baginskaite, C. (2240)
[ECO E97]

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. d4 O-O 6. Be2 e5 7. O-O Nc6 8. dxe5 dxe5 9. Bg5 Qxd1 10. Rfxd1 Bg4 11. Rd3 Bxf3 12. Bxf3 Nd4 13. Nd5 Nxd5 14. cxd5 c6 15. dxc6 bxc6 16. Rc1 a5 17. Bd1 Rfb8 18. b3 Bf8 19. Be3 c5 20. Kf1 h5 21. Rc4 Rb4 22. Rdc3 Rab8 23. Ke1 Rxc4 24. Rxc4 Rb4 25. Bd2 Rb7 26. Bxa5 Ra7 27. Ra4 Nc6 28. Bc3 Rxa4 29. bxa4 c4 30. Be2 Bb4 31. Bxb4 Nxb4 32. Bxc4 Kf8 33. Bd5 Ke7 34. a5 f6 35. a3 Na6 36. Bb7 1-0

April 7th

Action heated up in round three of the Val Zemitis International with four of the five games decisive. The big shocker was Cela-Lobo where White blundered into a mate with 23.cxb5??. To be fair Black was already doing very well and might have had something stronger a few moves before. 19-year-old Dana Reizniece of Latvia scored her second victory with the Black pieces when UC Berkeley student David Pruess pushed too hard. The shortest decisive game of the event so far is Bhat-Ilic (preplayed from

round 8) where the San Jose youngster followed recent theory (12.Nd5!) after the mistake 10...Be7. Black could have put up more resistance with 17...Kf8.

White: Cela, A. (2527)
Black: Lobo, R. (2300)
[ECO C10]

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Bd3 Be7 7. Nxf6+ Nxf6 8. Qe2 O-O 9. Bd2 b6 10. g4 Bb7 11. Rg1 Qd5 12. Rg3 g6 13. c4 Qd6 14. O-O-O c5 15. dxc5 Qxc5 16. Bc3 Rac8 17. Ne5 Rfd8 18. Rh3 b5 19. g5 Rxd3 20. Rhxd3 Ne4 21. Bd4 Bxg5+ 22. Kb1 Qc7 23. cxb5 Qe1+ 0-1

April 8th

Four Rounds into the Zemitis International the early leader is San Francisco IM Guillermo Rey with 3 from 4, closely followed by IM Zoran Ilic (3/5 - he has an extra game, Bhat-Ilic from round 8), SM Levon Altounian, Dana Reizniece and Harry Akopian. All those on 2 1/2 are aiming at 6 points from 9, the magical score needed for an IM norm. There were no decisive games in round four, but it was not from lack of trying Bhat-Cela saw White pressing for much of the game, and Altounian must be wondering if extra pawns count for anything in endgames involving opposite colored Bishops. He couldn't win against Cela in round one and today Reizniece was able to save the day with active play on the dark squares

White: Reizniece, D. (2259)
Black: Altounian, L. (2438)
[ECO A21]

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Bb4 3. Nf3 Bxc3
 4. bxc3 Nc6 5. d4 e4 6. Ng5 f5 7. d5
 Ne5 8. Qd4 Qe7 9. d6 Qxd6 10. Qxd6
 cxd6 11. e3 Nh6 12. Ba3 Nhf7 13.
 h4 b6 14. Nxf7 Nxf7 15. Rd1 Bb7
 16. Be2 Rc8 17. O-O Ne5 18. Bxd6
 Nxc4 19. Bxc4 Rxc4 20. Be5 Rg8
 21. Kh2 Ra4 22. Rd2 Ba6 23. Rh1
 Bc4 24. Kg3 Bxa2 25. Ra1 Bb3 26.
 Rxa4 Bxa4 27. Ra2 b5 28. Kf4 g6
 29. Kg5 Kf7 30. Kh6 a5 31. Kxh7
 Ra8 32. Bc7 Ra7 33. Bb6 Ra6 34.
 Bc7 Ke7 35. Kg7 Ra7 36. Bb6 Ra6
 1/2-1/2

April 12th

Norm hunters chances took a heavily blow in round seven of the Val Zemitis International. Senior Master Levon Altounian, who had been cruising at plus two for most of the tournament, lost to Vinay Bhat with White trying to reach the magic plus three (the norm is 6-3). The loss put Altounian into a four-way tie for second at plus one.

White: Altounian, L.(2438)
Black: Bhat, V. (2398)
[ECO C03]

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Be7 4. Ngf3
 Nf6 5. Bd3 c5 6. exd5 Qxd5 7. dxc5
 Nbd7 8. Qe2 Nxc5 9. Bb5+ Bd7 10.
 Bxd7+ Ncx7 11. O-O O-O 12. Nb3
 Rac8 13. Bg5 Nc5 14. Nxc5 Qxc5

15. c3 Rfd8 16. Rfd1 Qa5 17. a3 Qf5
 18. Bh4 Bc5 19. b4 Bf8 20. c4 a5
 21. Rxd8 Rxd8 22. Qb2 a4 23. Bxf6
 gxf6 24. h3 Rd3 25. c5 Qd5 26. Qc2
 f5 27. Qxa4 e5 28. Ne1 Rb3 29. Nf3
 e4 30. Nd2 Rb2 31. Nf1 Qd4 32. Ne3
 Rxf2 33. Kxf2 Qxa1 34. Nxf5 Qb2+
 35. Kf1 Qd2 36. Kg1 Qc1+ 37. Kh2
 Qf4+ 38. Ng3 h5 39. Qd1 h4 40.
 Qg4+ Qxg4 41. hxg4 hxg3+ 42. Kxg3
 Bh6 43. b5 Kf8 44. Kf2 Ke8 45. a4
 Bf8 46. c6 Bc5+ 0-1

April 13th

The Val Zemitis International continues to be bitterly fought with four of the five round eight games decisive. The one draw, Pruess-Altounian, was the most exciting fight of the round. Early in the game (7.a3?!!) Pruess allowed his King Bishop to be buried on a2 but he later received excellent compensation in the form of a great Knight on f6 and control of the h-file. Also, Black's own Bishop on b7 was no great shakes. Pruess, who is trying to take no prisoners in this event, upped the stakes by sacking his Queen for just a Rook. He had fantastic compensation, but with his Ba2 dead he could only make symbolic progress and the game ended in a draw. Going into the last day (note three games are still postponed) IM Rey looks very good with an undefeated 4.5/6 with three games to play. The others are all closely bunched. Altounian's draw and

Reizniece's loss knocked both players out of the norm hunt. Now only Vinay Bhat, who needs 3 out of 3, has a theoretical chance.

White: Bhat, V. (2398) Black:
Ilic, Z. (2381)
[ECO B51]

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Nd7
 4. d4 Ngf6 5. O-O Nxe4 6. Qe2 Nef6
 7. dxc5 e6 8. Rd1 Qc7 9. Nc3 Qxc5
 10. Bg5 Be7 11. Bxf6 gxf6 12. Nd5
 a6 13. b4 Qa7 14. Nd4 axb5 15.
 Nxe6 Ne5 16. Qxb5+ Nc6 17. Nec7+
 Kd8 18. Nxa8 Qxa8 19. Qb6+ Kd7
 20. Qc7+ Ke8 21. Nb6 Bd8 22. Qxc8
 Qxc8 23. Nxc8 1-0

April 17th

15-year-old IM Vinay Bhat just made his third and final International Master norm and will be awarded the title at the FIDE congress in Istanbul in October. Bhat becomes the youngest IM in the US and the most recent player native to the Bay Area since Jay Whitehead back in the mid-1980s. Bhat made all three of his IM norms at the MI. This was the fifth IM or GM norm event the MI has held since December of 1998 (Wilkerson, Koltanowski, Falconer, Dake and Zemitis). Vinay was also equal second in the US Junior Closed held at the club last July.



Crosstable for Val Zemitis International

April 5th to April 14th

#	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1	Cela Altin [2527]	X	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	0	1	1/2	0	1	4 1/2
2	Altounian [2438]	1/2	X	0	1	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	1	1/2	5 1/2
3	Bhat V [2398]	1/2	1	X	1	1	1	0	0	1/2	1	6
4	IM Ilic Z [2381]	1/2	0	0	X	1/2	1/2	1	1	1	0	4 1/2
5	IM Rey [2359]	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	X	1/2	1	1	1/2	1	5 1/2
6	Lobo R [2300]	1	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	X	0	1	1/2	0	4
7	Akopian H [2274]	0	0	1	0	0	1	X	0	0	1/2	2 1/2
8	Reizniece [2259]	1/2	1/2	1	0	0	0	1	X	0	1	4
9	Baginskaite[2240]	1	0	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	1	1	X	0	4 1/2
0	Pruess D [2228]	0	1/2	0	1	0	1	1/2	0	1	X	4

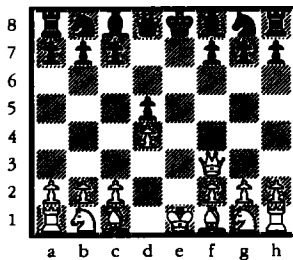
Selected Games from The Fresno County Championship November 20-21, 1999

Annotations and Photographs by Allan Fifeild

Russell,D (1857) - Setzepfandt,A
(1492)
[C01] Open Rd 1

Darren Russell barely escapes with his life against talented Alexander Setzepfandt in the first round.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5
4.Qf3!?



A Russell specialty against the French.

7....Be6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Ne2 Nf6
7.h3 Bd6 8.0-0 Qd7 9.Nbc3 0-0-0
10.Nb5 Be7 11.Bf4 Ne8 12.a4 g5!

A correct counter-strike for active play; Black demands his fair share of the board.

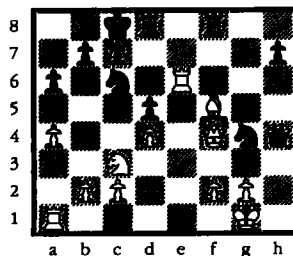
13.Bh2 g4 14.hxg4 Bxg4
15.Qf4

15.Qxf7?! was analyzed after the game. White might snatch the pawn and survive in a postal game but over-the-board with the clock ticking all the practical chances are with Black and his active pieces.

15...a6 16.Nbc3 Bd6 17.Qh6
Bxh2+ 18.Kxh2 Qe7!

With the threat 19...Rd6

19.Qf4 Nf6 20.Rfe1 Be6
21.Ng3 Ng4+ 22.Kg1 Qh4 23.Nf5
Qh5 24.Ng7 Qh4 25.Nxe6 fxe6
26.Rxe6 Rhf8 27.Bf5?



27....Nxd4?

An unfortunate transposition;
27....Rxf5! 28.Qxf5 Nxd4 wins ev-
erything for black.

28.Re7+ Rd7 29.Bxd7+ Kb8
30.Qxf8+ Ka7 31.Bxg4 1-0



Peters,J (2519)

Pascal,C (1785)

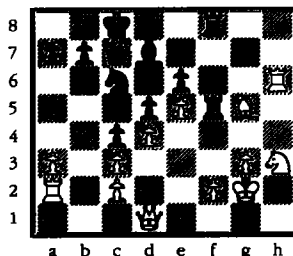
[C19] Open Rd 1

Chris Pascal throws the top section wide open with his upset round 1 draw against IM Jack Peters.

1.e4 e6!

Quite probably the refutation to 1.e4. Chris plays the upcoming Winawer variation in a professional manner.

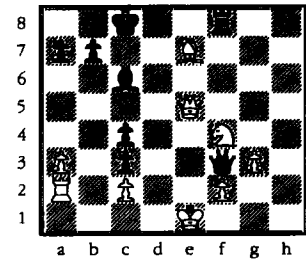
2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5
5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3
Nbc6 8.Bd3 Bd7 9.0-0 c4 10.Be2
Qa5 11.Ra2 Qa4 12.Ng5 h6
13.Nh3 0-0-0 14.Nf4 g6 15.h4
Nf5 16.h5 Nce7 17.Bg4 Rdg8
18.Kh2 Qa5 19.Bd2 Qc7 20.g3
Rh7 21.Rh1 Rf8 22.hxg6 fxg6
23.Kg2 Rhf7 24.Bxf5 Rxf5
25.Rxh6 g5 26.Nh3 Nc6 27.Bxg5



Chris boldly sacrifices to go

king hunting on the white squares with his bishop and queen. Bishops of opposite color may be drawish in the endgame but can lead to brutal attacks in the middle game. An additional factor here is the white rook on a2 which is sadly out of play so that black can afford to toss a mere knight to get closer to the opposing monarch.

27....Nxe5! 28.dxe5 Qxe5
29.Qd4 Qe2 30.Nf4 Qg4 31.Rh8
Bc6 32.Be7 e5 33.Rxf8+ Rxf8
34.Qxe5 d4+ 35.Kf1 Qd1+ 36.Qe1
Qf3 37.Qe6+ Kb8 38.Qe5+ Kc8
39.Ke1 dxc3! 1/2-1/2



Gomez,D (979)

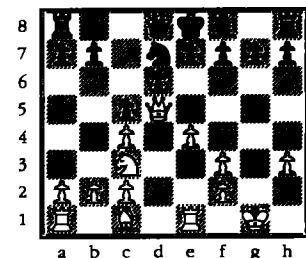
Friesen,R (1377)

[B50] Reserve Rd 1

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nc6
4.Nc3 Nf6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.Re1 Ne5
7.d3 Nxc4!?

To my taste a fine looking knight to trade for a mere doubled pawn.

8.dxc4 Nd7 9.h3 Bh5 10.Qd5
Bxf3 11.gxf3



White's position looks a little awkward; Advantage black.

11....Ne5 12.Re3 Qc8 13.f4
Ng6 14.Qg5 h6 15.Qg3 Qe6?

Pokes his nose into the other guys fist.

16.f5 Qxc4 17.fxg6 f6 18.Nd5

0-0-0 19.c3 f5 20.Qf4 e6 21.b3 Qa6 22.Nb4? cxb4 23.cxb4 Qb5 24.exf5 Qxf5 25.Qxf5 exf5 26.Bb2 d5 27.Rc1+ Kd7 28.Rd3 Bxb4 29.Rxd5+ Ke6 30.Rxd8 Rxd8 31.Rc7 Rd7 32.Rxd7 Kxd7 33.Bxg7 h5 34.Bh6 Ke7 35.g7?

The pawn is now too far advanced and on the wrong colored square (i.e. the same color as the opponents bishop.) More promising is 35. Bg5+ followed by 36.Kg2 bring the white king into the fray.

35.....Kf7 36.a4 Bc3 37.Bf4 Kxg7 38.Bc7 Kg6 39.Bd6 Kg5 40.b4 Kf6 41.b5 Ke6 42.Bc5 a6 43.bxa6 bxa6 44.Kg2 Kd5 45.Be7 Kc4 46.Kg3 Kb3 47.Kh4 Kxa4 48.Kxh5 Kb3 49.Kg5 a5 50.h4 a4 51.h5 a3 52.Bxa3 Kxa3 53.Kxf5 Kb4 54.f4 Kc5 55.Kg6 Kd6 56.f5 Ke7 57.h6 Kf8 58.h7 Bh8 59.f6 Ke8 60.f7+ Ke7 61.Kh6 Kxf7 1/2-1/2

Thonthap,A (1050)
Maslowski,K (1333)
[A45]

Reserve Round 2

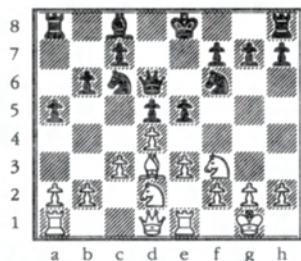
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 Nc6?!

The queen knight belongs either behind the c pawn after a future c7-c5 or on d7. Looking for ways to develop one of the bishops is a better alternative.

5.Nf3 e6 6.Nbd2

And here we have a queen knight properly placed.

6....Bd6 7.Bxd6 Qxd6 8.Bd3 Nf6 9.c3 b6 10.0-0 a5 11.Re1 e5??



This break with is premature for black with his king in the center.

12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.Nf3 Qd6 15.e4!

The thematic punishment for black's premature break with the e pawn.

15....0-0 16.e5 Qe7 17.exf6 Qxf6 18.Rc1 c5 19.Qe2 Ra7

20.Qe5!

Anna shows nice technique in winning a won position in the next few moves. Black must either trade or retreat.

21....Qd8 21.Qh5 h6 22.Qh4 f6 23.Qh5 g5?

Equivalent to resignation.

24.Rc2 Rff7 25.Qg6+ Rg7 26.Re8+ 1-0

Russell,D (1857)

Nunez,T (1655)

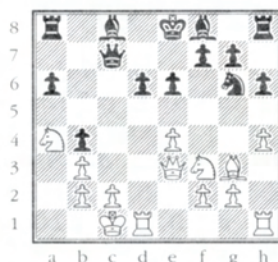
[B53]

Open Rd 3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4



4.Qxd4 a6 5.Bg5 Nc6 6.Qe3 Qc7 7.Nc3 e6 8.0-0-0 h6 9.Bh4 Nge7 10.Bc4 b5 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Bg3 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Ng6 14.h4 b4 15.Na4



15... Be7 16.h5 Ne5 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Rd3 Bg5 19.f4 exf4 20.Qd4 fxg3+ 21.Kb1 0-0 22.Qxb4 Rb8 23.Qe1 Bf4 24.Rf3 Rd8 25.Rhf1 e5 26.Nc3 Be6 27.Ne2 Rd2 28.Rc3 Qd6 29.Nxg3 Rd8 30.Ne2 Bg5 31.Qg3 Rxe2 32.Rd3 Qc7 33.Rc3 Qa5 34.Rc6 0-1

Setzepfandt,A (1492)

Cohen,E (2025)

[C34]

Open Rd 4

The story of the tournament so far is young Alexander Setzepfandt (1492) playing up in

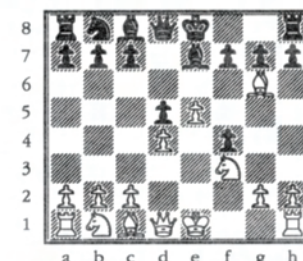


the open section. Alexander shows no fear and gives no quarter to his highly rated opponents.

1.e4 e5 2.f4!

The courage of youth!

2....exf4 3.Nf3 Ne7 4.d4 d5 5.e5 Ng6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.Bxg6!?



Although this works out well in this game, it's hard to believe that it's the best move. The bishop on d3 is an agile attacker while the knight on g6 is an awkward defender that can be displaced by h2-h4-h5. Is 7.0-0 too slow?

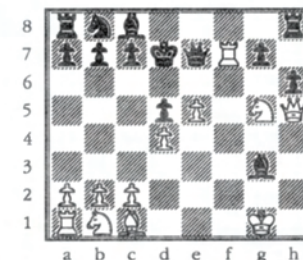
7...Bh4+?

After this black seems to lose almost by force. 7....hxg6 gives black some pressure down the half open h file, preserves a pawn at f7, and reserves the option for kingside castling.

8.g3 fxg3 9.Bxf7+!

Strikes on the eternally weak f7 square in double e pawn openings.

9....Kxf7 10.0-0 Ke8 11.hxg3 Bxg3 12.Ng5 Qe7 13.Qf3 h6 14.Qh5+ Kd7 15.Rf7



It's over....

15...Rf8 16.Rxe7+ Kxe7 17.Be3
 Rf5 18.Nc3 Be6 19.Rf1 hxc5
 20.Rxf5 Bxf5 21.Qxc5+ Ke6
 22.Qxc3 Nc6 23.Qf3 Ne7 24.Bg5
 Be4 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Qxe4 c6
 27.c4 Rf8 28.Bxe7 Kxe7 29.d5
 g5 30.Qh7+ Rf7 31.Qg6 Kf8
 32.e6 1-0



Coletti,E (911)

Hicks,E (857)

[C41] Reserve Rd 4

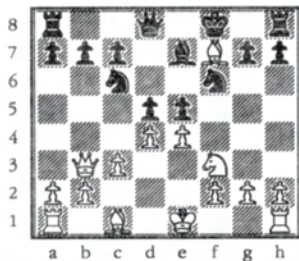
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nc6
 4.Bc4 Be7 5.c3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Bg4
 7.Qb3!

A tough move to answer with
 dual threats against b7 and f7.
 In double e pawn openings,
 black's f7 is the weakest square
 on the board.

7....Bxf3?!

Personally I would give up
 the b pawn by 7....0-0 when the
 black king would be safe and
 counter threats could be gener-
 ated down the half-open b file.

8.Bxf7+ Kf8 9.Nxf3 d5



10.Bxd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Na5
 12.Qc2 exd4 13.Qf5+ Bf6
 14.Bg5?!

Objectively there may be
 nothing wrong with this move
 but in a practical sense castling

immediately seems a little safer.
 Why take any chances in a won
 position by leaving your king ex-
 posed in the center?

14....Qe7+ 15.Qe6 dxc3
 16.Qxe7+ Bxe7 17.bxc3 Bxc3
 18.Nxc3 Re8+ 19.Ne6+ Kg8
 20.0-0 c6 21.Rad1 cxd5
 22.Rxd5! Rxe6 23.Rd8+ Kf7
 24.Rxh8 Nc4 25.Rxh7 Ra6
 26.Rh4 Nb2 27.Rb4! Rxa2
 28.Rxb7+ Kg6 29.g3 a5 30.Rc1
 a4 31.Kg2 Nc4 32.Kf3 1-0

Emily's resignation is a bit
 premature. A knight always of-
 fers the possibility of a 'random'
 fork against two rooks and the
 passed black a pawn offers some
 cheapie potential. Nevertheless
 a very nice game by Ed!

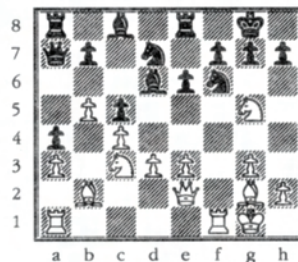


Ivanov,I (2358)

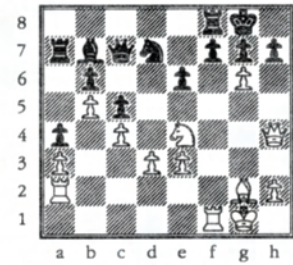
Ziatdinov,R (2542)

[A13] Open Rd 4

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6
 4.Bg2 c6 5.b3 a5 6.a3 Nbd7 7.Bb2
 Qb6 8.d3 a4 9.b4 c5 10.b5 d4
 11.0-0 Bd6 12.e4 dxe3 13.fxe3
 0-0 14.Nc3 Qa7 15.Qe2 Re8
 16.Ng5



16...Be5 17.Nce4 Bxb2 18.Qxb2
 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Qb6 20.g4 Qc7
 21.g5 Ra7 22.Qf2 Rf8 23.Qh4 b6
 24.Ra2 Bb7 25.g6



25...fxg6 26.Qe7 Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1
 Bxe4 28.Qxe6+ Kf8 29.Bxe4 Nf6
 30.Rf2 Qe7 31.Qxb6 Rd7 32.Bd5
 Rd8 33.e4 Re8 34.Qc6 Qe5
 35.Qxc5+ Re7 36.b6 Qg5
 37.Qc8+ Re8 38.Qc7 Qc1+
 39.Kg2 Qg5+ 40.Qg3 1-0



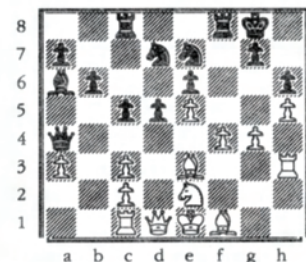
Peters,J (2519)

Ivanov,I (2358)

[C16] Open Rd 5

The money game (for \$500!)
 is an easy looking game for IM
 Peters who will take first place
 with four victories in a row after
 a first round draw. IM Ivanov
 seems strangely unable to get
 untracked in this game.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4
 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 b6
 7.Qg4 Ng6 8.Bg5 Qd7 9.h4 Qa4
 10.Qd1 h6 11.Bd2 Ba6 12.Ne2 c5
 13.Be3 Nd7 14.Rh3 Rc8 15.Rc1
 Ne7 16.h5 0-0 17.g4 f6 18.f4 fxe5
 19.dxe5



With the black queen a little

Continued on page 26

US Chess Championship to be **Held in Seattle in October**

by
Sam Sloan

NEWBURGH, May 21 - The Executive Board of the United States Chess Federation has approved a deal to have the US Championship held in Seattle in October. The event will be organized and held by a private group of businessmen brought together by Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan and a Mr. Oke.

Last October, the Executive Board canceled the 2000 US

Championship for financial reasons. This led the Seattle based Seirawan group and several other groups to try to put the championship together on a private basis.

Two Executive Board members, Doris Barry and Helen Warren, expressed opposition to the event being held at all. In a telephone conference call earlier this month, the board voted 5-2 to pay

travel expenses to allow George DeFeis, Executive Director, to go to Seattle to negotiate with the Seirawan Group. Barry and Warren voted not to authorize DeFeis to travel and to negotiate. Garrett Scott was not in on the conference call.

DeFeis went to Seattle and came back with an agreement. The main points are as follows:

1. The Seattle Group will incorporate by June 15. The name will be the "Seattle Chess Foundation".
2. The Seattle Group will produce proof by August 15 that it has \$100,000.
3. The Seattle Group will have an option to hold the championship every year for the next ten years. However, if the Seattle Group fails to hold the event in any year, then the agreement for all future years will be canceled at the option of the USCF.
4. Within 60 days after the US Championship has been held, the Seattle Group will notify the USCF whether it intends to hold the championship the next year.
5. For the rights to hold the US Championship, the Seattle Group will pay the USCF \$5,000 per year for the first five years and \$10,000 per year for the last five years.
6. The Executive Director will be on the US Championship Organizing Committee.
7. Standards will be maintained so that the Seattle Group cannot hold a "cheap" event in one year and still retain the rights to future years.
8. All games from the US Championship will be broadcast on the Seattle Group's website. The USCF website will link to that website but will not broadcast the games itself.

Doris Barry, who obviously remains opposed to this agreement, objected that the games from the US Championship should be on the USCF website. However, it was pointed out that the Seattle Group

hopes to make money from advertising on its website. Therefore, if the USCF were to insist that the games be on the USCF website, there would be no deal. Doris Barry nevertheless continued to

insist that the games be on the USCF website. Doris Barry also said that Al Lawrence had been working on a backup plan.



LIVERMORE CHAMPIONSHIP

MAY 6-7TH, 2000

by
Riley Hughes

Livermore is back! After a two year hiatus, the Livermore Championship has returned. With 48 players attending at Dania Hall, a prize fund of \$953 was awarded. That's a full 75% return, before expenses!

This May's event was won by Tom Dorsch and Emmanuel Perez, who shared top honors with 3.5 points out of 4. They split the \$255 First and Second place monies. Tom and Emmanuel agreed to an early draw in round three, which left Robert Sferra undefeated after three rounds.

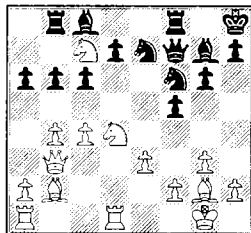
The final round had Tom facing Larry Snyder while Emmanuel played the tournament leader Robert Sferra.

Here are their games:

Perez, Emmanuel 2339
Sferra, Robert 2200

1.c4 Nc6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 f5
4.Bg2 Nf6 5.e3 g6 6.Nge2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 Ne7 9.d4 exd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.b4 Kh8 12.Qb3 Rb8 13.Bb2

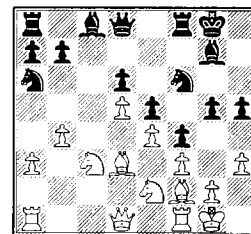
b6 14.Rfd1 Qe8 15.Nd5 c6 16.Nc7 Qf7



17.Nf3 Qg8 18.Ne5 g5 19.Rd6 b5
20.Qc2 bxc4 21.Bf1 Rxb4 22.Bc3 Rb7 (22...Ne4! looks like a good try in a complex position, for example 23.Bxb4 Bxe5) 23.Bxc4 Ned5 24.Nxd5 cxd5 25.Bb3 Rc7 26.Qb2 Bb7 27.Bd4 Bc8 28.Rd1 a5? 29.Rxd5! Nxd5 30.Bxd5 Qxd5 1-0

Snyder, Larry 2096
Dorsch, Tom 2204

1.e4 c5 2.c3 g6 3.d4 cxd4
4.cxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.h3 Nc6 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Nge2 Nd7 10.0-0 e5 11.d5 Nb4 12.Bb1 f5 13.f3 Nf6 14.a3 Na6 15.b4 h5 16.Bd3 f4 17.Bf2 g5



18.Kh1 Rf7 19.Qd2 g4 20.Ng1 Nh7
21.Rfc1 Bf8 22.Rc2 Rg7 23.Rac1 Bd7 24.Nb5 Qg5 25.Nxa7 gxf3 26.Bb6 Qg3 27.Nxf3 Ng5 28.Bf2 Nxf3 29.Bxg3 Nxd2 30.Bf2 Nb3. 0-1

In the reserve section (Under 1900), Todd McFarren (1776) breezed through with a 4-0 result to win \$125 outright. And in the booster (Under 1500), Ralph Hipps (1001) finished with 3 1/2 points, 1/2 point ahead of the four players tying for second place. Ralph's performance rating was 1467!

The next Livermore Championship is scheduled for the November 4th and 5th. See you then!



Messages from the Mechanics

by
John Donaldson IM
Mechanics Institute Chess Room Director

National Master Jonathan Baker won January's WBCA Blitz held at the Mechanics' Institute. Baker, who drew only with Expert Neil Falconer, scored 9 1/2 - 1/2 to take home the \$50 first prize. Felix Rudyak was second at 7 1/2 followed by Juan Cendejas and Andrei Ionescu in a tie for third at 6 1/2. Tom Stevens and Julio Avella made the final remaining plus scores with 6 and 5 1/2 respectively. The 11-player round robin featured one master and five

experts.

Looking to improve your game for free? Sound to good to be true? It's not! Check out GM Alex Yermolinsky's free lectures at the MI Chess Room every Tuesday (5:15-6:15) and Wednesday (6:15-7:15) night.

Several players closely connected with Bay Area chess will be celebrating milestone birthdays this year. GM Arthur Dake of Portland, who was a regular at the MI in the late 1920s and early

1930s, will turn 90 on April 8. Three days later Val Zemitis of Davis, author of *The Unknown Tal* and a longtime contributor to the *California Chess Reporter*, will be 75.

The MI Chess Room is going through the process of trying to have the City of San Francisco name a street or alley after the late George Koltanowski. Letters of support can be E-mailed to imwjd@aol.com to be forwarded on.



27th Annual Peoples Chess Tournament

by
Mike Goodall

The 27th People's, an American Heritage Event, was held over Presidents' Day weekend at the U.C. campus in Berkeley. 139 players converged in five sections for this six round event. Camille Baginskaite (rated 2406 and also Alexander Yermolisky's wife) won the open section a full point ahead of the field. She is the first woman to even finish in the money, much less win the Bay Area's biggest open tournament. All three of the international masters finished out of the money. Chief director Riley Hughes worked harder than most chief directors. He was ably assisted by both Steve Brandwein in the adults and by Bonnie Yost who ran the Young Peoples tournament on Monday.

That the tournament went so smoothly was attributed by many to the following tournament information posted by Alan Glasscoe:

Tournament Information 27th Annual People's Tournament

1. We are using the June 1996 Rating List because the printing is more legible.
2. Players may play down one section for an additional fee.
3. Rule variations:
 - A. All rook and pawn endings will be declared drawn.
 - B. You must say "I adjust" before taking back a move
 - C. You may request a ½ point bye before the first time control
4. If you leave the playing area for longer than 15 minutes during your game, please bring back pizza and Cokes for the directors.
5. If you must discuss your game in progress, do it in a language the directors don't understand.
6. The directors attempt to equalize and alternate colors except when they are tired.
7. While your game is in progress, please do not disturb skittles players and players analyzing their completed games near you.
8. If you are in time trouble, add a few irrelevant moves to your score sheet.
9. You may take home any pieces you capture.
10. To expedite payment of prizes, checks will be taped to a blind turtle which will be spun around three times and dropped out a second floor window of the Oakland mail center.

Place		Prizes
First	Camille Baginskaite	\$500
Second	Vinay Bhat	\$218
Third	David Pruess	\$218
1 st U2300	Bela Evans	\$218
1 st Expert	Vivek Nambiar	\$300
2 nd Expert	H.W. Earth	\$150
3 rd Expert	Michael Aigner	\$25
3 rd Expert	Victor Ossipoz	\$25
3 rd Expert	Elliot Temple	\$25
1 st -2 nd A	Steve Gaffagan	\$220
1 st -2 nd A	Felix Rudyak	\$220
3 rd A	Neil Regan	\$25
3 rd A	James Smith	\$25
1 st B	Pierre Vachon	\$280
2 nd B	Keith Yost	\$140
3 rd B	Joet Garcia	\$35
3 rd B	Gil Chambers	\$35
Reserve Section		
1 st -2 nd	David Petty	\$163
	Sam Petty	\$163
3 rd	Mike Lum	\$50
Best U1400	Gary Huang	\$70
	Ernst Westphal	\$70

SACRAMENTO SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

TROPHY PRIZE WINNERS

(Except where noted, tie-breaks were used to determine final standings in the event of ties)

Grades K-3:	1 st Place, Louis Depello (Sacramento Christian Academy)	5-0
	2 nd Place, Rebecca Chow (North Davis Elementary)	4-1
	3 rd Place, Graham McDaniel (North Davis Elementary)	3.5-1.5
	1 st Place Team: North Davis Elementary	13
Grades 4-6:	1 st Place, Daniel Schwarz (Del Paso Manor) (won the playoff tiebreaker)	5-0
	2 nd Place, Tyler Woodruff (Cesar Chavez)	5-0
	3 rd Place, David Rivera (Biggs Elementary)	4-1
	4 th Place, Emmanuel Garcia (Biggs Elementary)	4-1
	5 th Place, Anyon Harrington (Esparto Elementary)	4-1
	6 th Place, Brandon Zeman (Del Paso Manor)	4-1
	7 th Place, Cameron Knipe (Biggs Elementary)	4-1
	8 th Place, Chris Saeturn (Biggs Elementary)	4-1
	9 th Place, Tyler Wilken (Davis Independent Study)	4-1
	10 th Place, Shiloh Rainwater (Twin Oaks Academy)	4-1
	1 st Place Team: Biggs Elementary	16
	2 nd Place Team: Del Paso Manor	12
	3 rd Place Team: Cowan Fundamental	10
Grades 7-8:	1 st Place, Marcus Langston (Harriet Eddy Middle School)	5-0
	2 nd Place, Juan Corona (Biggs Middle School)	4-1
	3 rd Place, Nicholas Robinson, (Tenaya Middle School)	3-2
	1 st Place Team: Biggs Middle School	6
Grades 9-12:	1 st Place, Muraad Khan (Florin High School)	5-0
	2 nd Place, Joshua Prochaska-Saglio (Pacific Grove)	4-1
	3 rd Place, Tommy Innes (Florin High School)	4-1
	4 th Place, Jose Rivera (Biggs High School)	4-1
	5 th Place, Tou Feusue Yang (Luther Burbank)	3.5-1.5
	6 th Place, Eduardo Corona (Biggs High School)	3.5-1.5
	7 th Place, Travis Itterly (Biggs High School)	3-2
	1 st Place Team: Florin High School	15
	2 nd Place Team: Biggs High School	13.5

2000 SACRAMENTO SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

John ...niskey, ...organize

The 2000 Sacramento Scholastic Chess Championship, held at the Ethel Mac Leod Hart Senior Center, was the first USCF rated scholastic championship in memory. The event had 88 players sign up and 85 participate, far more than the 30 or 35 I hoped for!! Participants came from Biggs, Palo Alto, Monterey, and the greater Sacramento area.

Outside, a better day couldn't have been scripted for a better the April 29th event. Between rounds, the park outside the center was flowing with kids, adults, chess, picnics, tents, and all other types of fun! Inside, the games were hotly contested.

The K-3 champion was Louis DePello, Sacramento Christian Academy, with a perfect score of 5-0. In second place in the 14 player section with a score of 4-1 was Rebecca Chao, North Davis Elementary School. North Davis Elementary took home the team prize with a score of 13 points.

The grades 4-6 section was the largest of the event with 40

players. At the completion of the fifth round, Daniel Schwarz and Tyler Woodruff were atop the field with perfect scores of 5-0. Daniel won the championship in a 5-minute playoff game. The team event saw Biggs Elementary take first place with a score of 16 points, Del Paso Manor in second with 12 points, and Cowan Fundamental taking the third place trophy with 10 points.

The 7th-8th grade section was a round robin with 6 players. Finishing atop the field was Marcus Langston from Harriet Eddy Middle School with a score of 5-0. Runner-up Juan Corona from Biggs Middle School scored 4-1. The first place team trophy was taken by Biggs Middle School.

Florin High School's Muraad Kahn won the grades 9-12 section with a perfect 5-0. In second place was Joshua Prochaska-Saglio of Pacific Grove School, third place was captured by Tommy Innes of Florin High School, and Jose Rivera of Biggs High School finished fourth, all three players

scoring 4-1. Florin High School won the team event with 15 points and Biggs High School was in second place with 13.5 points.

Of special note was the participation of Sacramento's Cowan Fundamental School. Chess coach Andy Parnas arranged for the participation of 19 members of the school's club in the event (16 in the 4th - 6th grade section), all 19 playing in their first USCF scholastic event! Way to go, Andy!

I would like to thank Merry Geil, Director of the Ethel Mac Leod Hart Senior Center for use of the facility; Assistant Tournament Directors Michael Aigner, Steve Bickford, and Cain Garrett, and Tournament Directors' Assistant Debbie Garrett. With out their help, the event could never have run so smoothly. In the future, I plan on organizing more scholastic events in the Sacramento area.



CalChess Email Lists

CalChess maintains an email list of CalChess members. Most of the postings to this list are announcements of tournaments or other chess events. To join the list, include your email address on the form when you join or renew your CalChess membership. You can also join the list by sending email to:

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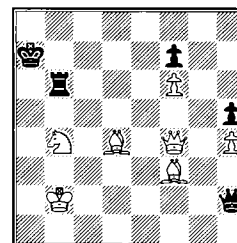
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— Doug Shaker —

Problem

by Kevin Begley



White to move and win!
Solution in next issue

The CalChess Calendar of Events

(* = CalChess discount) last update 6-8/00)

2000

Jun.	24	(Sa):	Mechanics G/25 (San Francisco)	(JA2)
June	24	(Sa):	Weibel Scholastic Quad (Fremont)	(AK)
July	1-3	(Sa-M):	TBA	(JD)
July	9	(Sa):	Berkely Scholastic Quad (Berkeley)	(AK)
July	15	(Sa):	Hayward Scholastic Quad (Hayward)	(AK)
Aug.	19-20	(Sa-Su):	Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #5	(JM)
Sept	24	(Sa-Mon):	Labor Day Chess Festival (TBA)	(RK)*
Oct.	7	(Sa):	Visalia Fall Picnic (Visalia)	(AF)
Oct.	20-22	(F-Su):	Western States Open (Reno)	(JW)
Nov.	18-19	(Sa-Su)	8 th Annual Fresno Country Championship (Fresno)	(DW)*

Annual Events

2nd weekend Jan (Sa-Su): Sojourner Truth Girls' Tourney (Palo Alto) (DS)
Martin Luther King weekend (Sa-M): Martin Luther King (RK)
Presidents' Day weekend (Sa-M): People's (Berkeley) (MG & AG)
1st weekend March (F-Su): San Francisco Amateur (JA2)
Last weekend March (Sa-Su): State Scholastic Championship (Santa Clara) (AK)
1st weekend May (Sa-Su): Livermore Spring Open (RH)
Weekend prior to Memorial Day (Sa-Su): San Joaquin Championship (Fresno) (DW)
Memorial Day weekend (Sa-M): LERA Memorial Day (Sunnyvale) (JH)
2nd weekend June (F-Su): Stamer Memorial (San Francisco) (JA2)
4th of July weekend (Sa-M): Universe Open (TD)
Labor Day weekend (1st weekend Sept.) (Sa-M): Labor Day Festival (RK)
last weekend Oct. (F-Su): Western States Open (Reno) (JW)
1st weekend Nov. (S-Su): Livermore Fall Open (RH)
2nd weekend Nov. (F-Su): Capps (San Francisco) (JA2)
Weekend Prior to Thanksgiving (Sa-Su): Fresno County Championship (DW)
Thanksgiving Weekend (Sa-M): LERA Thanksgiving (Sunnyvale) (JH)

Club Directory

Places to play chess in Northern California and Northern Nevada

Arcata

Monday, 6-10 pm
Arcata Chess Club
Conference Room, Arcata
Library
James Bauman 707-822-7619

Berkeley

Friday, 7:15 p.m.
Berkeley City Club
2315 Durant
A. Glasscoe 510-652-5324

Burlingame

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Burlingame Lions Hall
990 Burlingame Ave
Scott Wilson 650-355-9402
www.BurlingameChessClub.com

Campbell

Kolty Chess Club
Thursdays 7-11:30 p.m.
Campbell Comm Ctr
Winchester/W.Campbell
F. Leffingwell 408-732-5188
work 408-526-7090
fleffing@cisco.com

Carmel

Call for current information
Randall Swanson
408-626-6113

Carmichael

Monday 6-10 p.m.
Senior Citizens Ctr.
4701 Gibbons

Chico

Thursday 7-11 p.m.
Mtn Mike's Pizza
1722 Mangrove Ave
Barry Nelson 916-873-3107

Davis

Thursday 7 p.m.
Hunt Hall UCD, Room 241
Dave Johnson 916-756-2752

Fremont

Fridays 7:00-on
Newark Coffee Company
39279 Cedar Blvd, Newark
Hans Poschmann
510-656-8505

Fresno

Mondays 6-11 p.m.
Carls Jr.
3820 N. Cedar Ave.
D. Wajckus 559-252-4484

Humboldt County

Call for current information
Bob Phillips 707-839-4674

Livermore

Fridays 7-12 p.m.
South Cafeteria
Lawrence Livermore Lab
Charles Pigg 510-447-5067

Merced

Merced Chess Club
Friday 6:30 p.m.
Merced Mall Food Court

Menlo Park

Mondays, 6:30-9
Onetta Harris Center
100 Terminal Ave.
Doug Shaker 650-854-9793
doug@theshakers.org

Modesto Chess Club

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Doctor's Hospital Cafeteria
1441 Florida Ave
John Barnard 209-785-7895

Monterey

Open daily except Mon.
430 Alvarado St.
Yudacufski 408-646-8730

Mt Shasta

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
George Washington Manor
Mt. Shasta
Dick Bolling 530-926-3608

Paradise

Tuesday 7-10 p.m.
Paradise Senior Center
Barry Nelson 916-873-3107

Porterville

Wednesday 7 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
Corner of Henderson
& Indiana
Hans Borm 559-784-3820

Reno, NV

Sun-Thurs 6:30 p.m.
2850 Wrondel Way, Suite D
Club: 775-827-3867
Jerry Weikel 702-747-1405

Richmond

Fridays 6 p.m.
Richmond Library
26th & MacDonald

Ross Valley (Marin County)

For current info, write:
P.O. Box 69
Ross CA 94957

Sacramento

Wednesday 6-10 p.m.
Senior Citizens Ctr
915-27th St.
Stewart Katz 916-444-3133
CSU Sacramento
Student Union Bldg.

Salinas

Any weekend afternoon
Carl's Jr.
1061 N Davis Rd
Abe Mina
831-758-4429

San Anselmo

Tuesday 7 p.m.
Round Table Pizza,
Red Hill Shpping Ctr
Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Jim Mickle 415-457-2719

San Francisco

Mechancis' Institute
Open daily
57 Post St, 4th Floor
John Donaldson
415-421-2258

San Jose

Tue & Fri, Noon-4 p.m.
Willows Senior Center
2175 Lincoln Avenue
Jerry Marshall 408-267-1574

Santa Clara

2d Sat. Each month
2:15-6:15 p.m.
Mary Gomez Park
F. Sierra 408-241-1447

Santa Rosa

Tuesdays 6-10:45 p.m.
Sonoma Coffe Company
521 4th Street
Keith Halonen 707-578-6125

Santa Rosa

1st & Last Saturdays of month
Adult & Youth Chess Club
of Sonoma County
Rincon Valley Library
Conference Room
6959 Montecito Blvd,
Santa Rosa
Mike Haun 707-537-0162

Stanford

Monday 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Student Union, Rm 550-550d
Andrian Keatinge-Clay
415-497-0598

Sunnyvale

LERA
Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Lockheed Rec Ctr, Bldg #160
Ken Stone 408-629-5530

Vallejo

Fridays 7:00 p.m.
Senior Citizens Ctr
333 Amador St
Frank Harris 707-644-3004

Visalia

Tuesday 7 p.m.
Borders Books
Mooney & Caldwell
Allan Fifield 559-734-2784

Woodland Chess Group

Sundays, 3:30-9:00 p.m.
Senior Citizens Center
630 Lincoln Avenue
Don Copeland 530-666-0868

Yuba-Sutter

Mon & Wed 7-11 p.m.
Carls Jr
Bridge St & Hwy 99, Yuba City
Tom Giertych 916-671-1715



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The next deadline for C.C.J. submissions is July 20.
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AOL: jostensvis
Internet: fifielda@jostens.com

George Koltanowski

Continued from page 10

candy every day of his life. He did not believe in vitamins, he did not like vegetables, and he avoided fresh fruit.

In the end, Koltanowski will be remembered as a great person. He was a friend to everybody who needed a helping hand, and many young chessmasters were assisted along the way. He achieved the very pinnacle of his profession in every aspect, earning the title of International Grandmaster as a player, International Arbiter and National Tournament Director as an official, earning the presidency of the USCF, and earning the respect and admiration of a chessplayers everywhere. He had the first TV show devoted exclusively to chess. His tireless touring, promoting, writing and teaching introduced many thousands to

the Royal Game. He was awarded the title of "Dean of American Chess," then awarded again the title "American Chess Treasure." He was one of the three original inductees into the US Chess Hall of Fame (with Fine and Reshevsky).

With a career that spanned from the Golden Age of Sports in the 1920s to the 21st century, Koltanowski was truly a Renaissance Man. Those who were privileged to know him will never forget him.

CalChess Scholastic Championships

Continued from page 6

40.Rh3 Qxf2-+} 38...Qxc4 39.Qd2 Rh8 40.Rg3 Rg4 41.Rxg4 hxg4 42.Qe3 Qd4 43.Qb3 Rh1+! 44.Kxh1 Qxf2 45.Kh2 [45.Qd1 g3 46.Qc1 Qf4 47.Qb1 Qxf5-+} 45...Qh4+ 46.Kg1 g3 47.Qf3 Qf4 48.Qe2 I think this was his move considering that it blocked the mate threat of Qf2+. 48...Qc1+ White resigns. 0-1

Fresno County Championship

Continued from page 18

lonely off on the a file and the white pawns seizing impressive looking space on the king side, Igor decides on an inadequate knight sacrifice to mix it up.

19...Nxe5 20.fxe5 Qxg4 21.Nf4 Qxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Bxf1 23.Kxf1 d4 24.Bd2 Nd5 25.Rf3 dxc3 26.Bc1 Rf5 27.Kg2 Nxf4+ 28.Bxf4 Rcf8 29.Rdf1 Rxh5 30.Bg3 Rhf5 31.Rxf5 exf5 32.e6 Rf6 33.Re1 Kf8 34.Bb8 Ke7 35.Bxa7 Rxe6 36.Rxe6+ Kxe6 37.Bxb6 Kd5 38.Ba5 Kc4 39.a4 g5 40.Bxc3! f4 41.Kf3 h5 42.Ba5 h4 43.Kg4 f3 44.Kxf3 h3 1-0

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<http://calchess.webjump.com>
&
<http://webjump.com/scholastics.html>

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 Napa 94581
 (707) 251-8175
 zenwabi@aol.com
- JA2= Joan Arbil
 57 Post St.,
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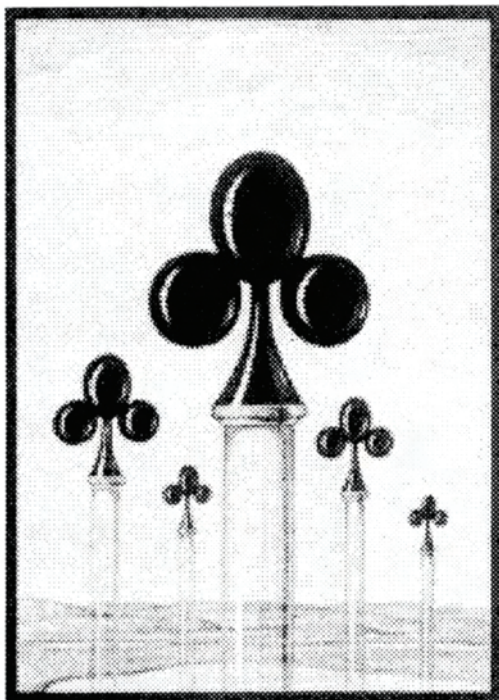
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