

My Rating History

Even though my dad taught me the moves when I was 7 years old, I probably hadn't played more than about a dozen games until 1966 when I started playing in the San Leandro High Chess Club and on the Team. The club was sponsored by teacher Raymond Ausmus, who also happened to be the Director of the Hayward Chess Club. He was my first chess teacher. My second chess teacher was Richard Shorman, who I met at the Hayward Chess Club in 1967. Although he wasn't really my teacher, because I didn't do any of the homework he assigned. But I learned just by hanging around him. One of my San Leandro comic book friends had an older brother who was good at chess...he introduced me to Alan Benson. Alan didn't teach me anything, but he gave me a goal to aspire to. When I graduated from high school in 1968, I was probably a Class C player. I played in a couple of tournaments over the summer, run by Richard Shorman. One was at his house on Tampa Street in Hayward; it was called the First Tampa Invitational.

Chess Friends of Northern California Ratings

My first rating of 1700 was awarded to me because I played first board on the Chabot College Team. I started the club and entered it into the East Bay League run by the Chess Friends of Northern California.

Kerry Lawless ... 1696 (Spring 1969)
Kerry Lawless ... 1680 (Summer 1969)
Kerry Lawless ... 1680 (Fall 1969)
Kerry Lawless ... 1680 (Winter 1969)
Kerry Lawless ... 1680 (Spring 1970)
Kerry Lawless ... 1717 (Winter 1970)

United States Chess Federation Ratings

Lawless, K 1-Cal. ... 1722* (December 1969)
Lawless, K. 1-Cal. ... 1753 (September 1970)
Lawless, K., 1-Cal. ... 1774 (December 1970)

On January 1971, I started active duty aboard the USS Enterprise (CVAN-65.)

Lawless, K., 1-Cal. ... 1795 (March 1971)
Lawless, Kerry, CA ... 1808 (June 1971)
Lawless, Kerry, CA ... 1808 (January 1972)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1808 (September 1972)

The ship's officers, like everyone else on board, were following the Fischer-Spassky match. They decided to have a chess championship aboard the aircraft carrier. I won it and received the trophy.

Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1990 (December 1972)

On Christmas day, when I was released from active duty, the first thing I did was to go to the Mechanics' Institute to play speed chess. In January, the USCF started a tournament director rating supplement to go along with the Chess Life magazine rating lists. (If the ratings below don't have the word 'supplement', they're from the Chess Life magazine.)

Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1985 (March 1973 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1928 (May 1973 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1928 (June 1973 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1934 (October 1973 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1926 (November 1973 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1920 (January 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1930 (February 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1928 (March 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1928 (April 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1899 (May 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1897 (June 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1885 (July 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1924 (August 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1901 (September 1974 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1945 (December 1974)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1879 (December 1974 - supplement)

In early 1975, Alan Benson wanted me to sell his comic book collection for him. He had SpiderMan 1-60 and 2 copies each of Conan 1-24. After I started selling at flea markets and comic book conventions on weekends I stopped playing in weekend chess tournaments. My rating decline is very visible.

Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1810 (March 1975 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1909 (April 1975 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1898 (May 1975 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1906 (June 1975 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1883 (July 1975 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry CA ... 1983 (December 1975)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1859 (January 1976 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1849 (February 1976 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1837 (April 1976 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1882 (June 1976 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1832 (August 1976 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1816 (October 1976 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1816 (December 1976)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1834 (February 1977 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1808 (April 1977 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1808 (June 1977 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1796 (October 1977 - supplement)

After I went down to Class B, I quit chess for about 6 months. But, I missed playing and it got me to thinking. I'd been trying too hard to win every game. If I loved playing and made moves because they felt right, I'd enjoy myself regardless of the outcome. I found a partner for my comic book business and started playing chess on weekends again.

Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1906 (1977 Annual Rating List – Chess Yearbook)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1952 (February 1978 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 1978 (April 1978 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2015 (June 1978 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2026 (August 1978 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2033 (December 1978)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2033 (February-April 1979 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2042 (Fall 1979 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2055 (January 1980 –1979 Annual Rating List)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2081 (June 1980 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2081 (September 1980 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2112 (November 1980 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2111 (1980 Annual Rating List - supplement)

About this time, it occurred to me that I could become a chess master if I played a lot more. So, I sold my comic book business and started playing more.

Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2102 (March 1981 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2121 (May 1981 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2196 (July 1981 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2195 (September 1981 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2202 (November 1981 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2205 (1981 Annual Rating List - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2205 (January 1982 – 1981 Annual Rating List)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2211 (March 1982 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2225 (May 1982 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2228 (July 1982 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2229 (September 1982 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2203 (November 1982 - supplement)

On January of 1983, I started a full load of classes in computer programming, which continued through March of 1984.

Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2189 (January 1983 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2199 (1983 Annual Rating List - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2199 (April 1983 – 1982 Annual Rating List)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2173 (July 1983 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2161 (September 1983 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2167 (November 1983 - supplement)
Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2166 (January 1984 – 1983 Annual Rating List)

Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2152 (March 1984 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2189 (May 1984 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2233 (July 1984 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2235 (September 1984 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2246 (November 1984 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2246 (January 1985 - 1984 Annual supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2246 (January 1985 – 1984 Annual Rating List)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2216 (March 1985 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2196 (July 1985 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2214 (November 1985 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2210 (January 1986 - 1985 Annual supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2210 (January 1986 – 1985 Annual Rating List)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2211 (March 1986 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2214 (May 1986 - supplement)

I'd been lusting after a home computer, so I bought an IBM 286. My first chess software was Bookup 6, followed closely by ChessBase 1. About this time, I realized that I'd never get very good at chess. Both of these programs showed me that my openings weren't very good and my endgame play was poor. So, I decided to become proficient in computer hardware and forgo weekend tournaments. I still played at chess clubs.

Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2259 (July 1986 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2239 (September 1986 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2262 (November 1986 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2251 (January 1987 - 1986 Annual supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2251 (January 1987 – 1986 Annual Rating List)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2283 (March 1987 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2285 (May 1987 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2285 (July 1987 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2288 (September 1987 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2277 (January 1988 - 1987 Annual supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2277 (January 1988 – 1987 Annual Rating List)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2267 (March 1988 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2267 (July 1988 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2267 (January 1989 - 1988 Annual supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2267 (January 1989 – 1988 Annual Rating List)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2269 (May 1989 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2269 (July 1989 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2269 (January 1990 - 1989 Annual supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2269 (January 1990 – 1989 Annual Rating List)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2274 (March 1990 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2274 (July 1990 - supplement)
 Lawless, Kerry H CA 10988926 ... 2274 (December 1990 - 1990 Annual supplement)

At this point, I quit playing rated chess entirely. It's interesting to me that these ratings aren't in the current USCF rating database. I've heard that the USCF had a computer

problem which destroyed the old database and they had to start over in 1991. Although I'm not sure that is true.

If this article seems like it's all about me, it is. But, it's also about the tournament directors rating supplements, which have always fascinated me. I received my collection from Ted Yudacufski and Hans Poschmann.

