

THE OUTPOST

SPRINGFIELD CHESS CLUB NEWS



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SPRINGFIELD, MO

AUGUST 2018

This month we're pleased to publish an article by Adam Whitaker, long-time chess proponent from Drury University, who has been working to establish the ranks of Springfield's future chess players. We encourage you to read the article and work with Adam in whatever way you can – ideas, discussion, and volunteer work – for the sake of enriching our local chess community. JM

Scholastic Chess Report

By Adam Whitaker

I (re-)founded the Drury University Chess Club with optimistic visions in mind. I was about to create a place that would be to chess as Paris was to writers in Hemingway's day. It would be a moveable chessic feast! The DUCC would be a place for young curious minds to explore the most complex game yet imagined by humanity, and college chicks would for sure dig the guy in charge!

Most of the time though, it was just me by myself watching Bugs Bunny cartoons on the Olin Library's giant projector. After a year, I had convinced about a half dozen college students to attend once a month or so. Otherwise, it was a few guys in town who had already been playing chess for years. My hopes of getting new chess players into the game was failing. If a Drury student came and lost on his first night, the odds of seeing him again were slim. I even considered a secret "the-first-win's-free" policy.

The hypothesis I formed was that when people cross the threshold into adulthood they tend to become too self-conscious to make the "investment in loss" necessary to learn the game. Folks tend to avoid realistic views of themselves. Instead, they secretly believe they are either a galactic-level genius or galactic-level dingbat. When they lose their first games against oppon-

ents who don't struggle to remember how the pieces move, either the former self-concept is threatened or the latter is confirmed. Either way, I'm back to watching Bugs the following week.

Marty Phillips and **Roger Pagel** had told me about how healthy scholastic chess used to be in the Springfield area. If I am remembering correctly, the SPBCC hosted some scholastic tournaments in the booming 90s and most local high schools had a chess team/club.

It occurred to me that I ought to take my chess missionary work to those who have not yet developed the cowardice of adulthood. What I discovered is that getting kids to play chess is about as difficult as convincing them to eat macaroni and cheese with fish sticks.

The main barrier was getting past the grown-ups who would let me start the club. Public schools gave me a couple of maybes, but I think their concern for security caused the idea to fizzle out after that. This, I believe, is a big opportunity for the SPBCC. If the club was to find a volunteer, or a rotating group of volunteers, then approach a school as a long-established club, I think public schools would feel more comfortable moving forward. Even if the club only partnered with a single school the

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\$/%!! Corrections to Last Month's Edition

by Jon McClenahan

It was terrific to see how nicely the newsletter came out last month, thanks to the expert printing work done by our good colleague, **Brian Rude!** We look forward to publishing many more, especially as our members submit more and more interesting games and articles.

It is to my great embarrassment to have to list seven (count 'em) errors spread over three of the games we published last month. Much thanks to **Mike Little** for finding these ... as follows:

1)Game A (Jackson-Chowdhury), on page 7:

a. Diagram 4 is missing the White queen at b6.

b. Moves 39 & 40 are incorrect. The correct moves should read as follows:

39. Rxb5 axb5

40. Qxb5 Red8

2)Game D (Stech-Pagel), on page 5:

a. The comment after White's move 22 should read: "The immediate 22. Qc7 would've been stronger here for White." (The incorrect text "22. Qd7" is an impossible move).

3)Game E (Smith-Brozovich), on page 6:

a. Move 26 is incorrect. It should read as follows:

26. fe+ Ke7

b. Black's 23rd move is incorrectly numbered as 22 (after the "fatal blunder" comment).

If anyone would like corrected scores for these games, contact us and we can email them to you. Be assured I will try much harder to avoid publishing these mistakes in the future!

– JM

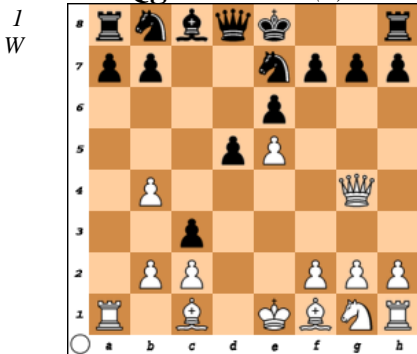
GAME A

Max Beneche – Joe Brozovich
Springfield Ladder Tournament
(date unknown) 2007

French Defense

Here's another highly entertaining match from our friend Joe Brozovich. If you enjoy watching players toss their queens around like chicken feed, you'll love this game!

1. e4 e6
2. d4 d5
3. Nc3 Bb4
4. e5 c5
5. a3 cd
6. axb4 dxc3
7. Qg4 Ne7 (1)

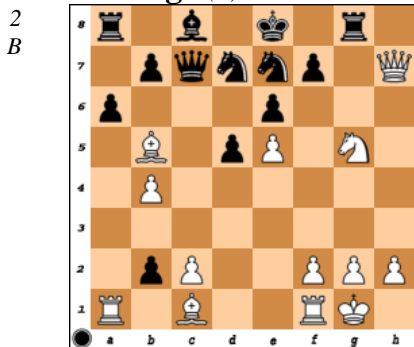


And now White decides to collect a few pawns.

8. Qxg7 Rg8
9. Qxh7 Qc7
10. Nf3 Nd7
11. Bb5 a6

As Black hasn't developed his queenside bishop, the rook is vulnerable and White's bishop at b5 can stay put.

12. O-O cb
13. Ng5 (2) ...



13. ... Qxe5

(continued on page 6)



SPBCC MEMBERS LIST

Jim Baumin	Kellen McIlroy
Steven Becker	Jeffrey McKeel
Jared Bray	Brayden Miao
Afzal Chowdhury	Roger Pagel
Isaac Drum	Alan Peters
Ben Elliot	Marty Phillips
Mustafa Farid	Matthew Pratt
Nathaniel Fast	John Quimby
Quentin Fitzpatrick	Brian Rude
Jeff Fuzzell	† Ed Rysal
Stan Horton	Kai Schaefer
Jay Howard	Troy Schuh
John Last	Zach Schuh
Mike Little	Ethan Stech
Jon McClenahan	Robert Talbot
David McFeely	Sam Weiner
	† 2018 Club Champion

GAME B

Matthew Pratt – Jared Bray
Springfield Ladder Tournament
March 2, 2018

Dutch Defense – Korchnoi Attack

1. d4 f5
2. h3 ...

This is the Korchnoi Attack, and it caught Mr. Bray off-guard. "Matt's stoicism betrayed not a hint of delight at my suddenly serious expression." JB

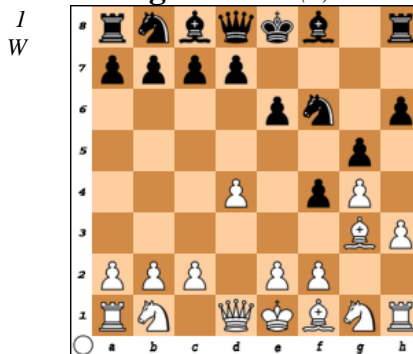
2. ... e6
3. g4 Nf6
4. Bg5?! ...

Mr. Pratt jumps the gun, or as Mr. Bray says, "My opponent is showing his eagerness to claw at my weakened king position, but this bishop assault is ill-timed ..." If 4. gf ef 5. Bg2 d5 we have an equal position.

4. ... h6
5. Bh4 ...

Here, trading the bishop for knight could've led to a better position for Black. But instead ...

5. ... g5!
6. Bg3 f4! (1)



As Mr. Bray notes: "this retreat leads to a better position for Black."

7. Bh2 c5
8. e3 cd
9. ef Qb6

(continued on page 12)

GAME C

Jon McClenahan – Michael Clark
Drury Spring 2018 Championship
May 16, 2018

Caro-Kann Defense

1. e4 c6

So when you're not a particularly good chess player and your opponent has you outclassed by about 400 points, you make use of whatever other resources you have. When I saw Michael was playing a Caro-Kann, I determined to throw him as many curve balls as I could, in whatever way possible. In the end, this game was very entertaining, filled with threats, counter-threats, and outright gut punches!

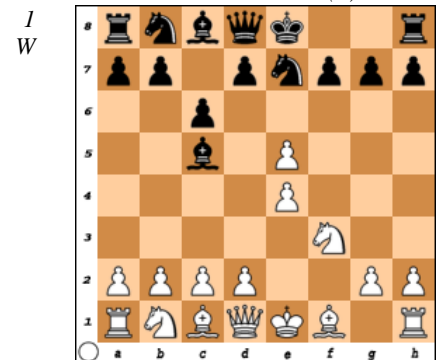
2. f4 ...

This move elicited a pause from my opponent. He commented after the game, that this move "should lose," although Roger Pagel thinks that statement is a bit too strong. All I knew was that it put Black in unfamiliar territory.

2. ... e5
3. Nf3 Bc5?

It is unwise to allow White to grab the e-pawn.

4. fe Ne7 (1)

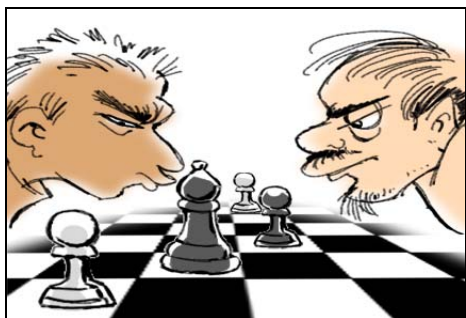


The game has transposed to an exotic variation of the King's Gambit Declined.

5. d4 Bb6
6. Bg5 O-O
7. Nbd2 d6
8. ed Qxd6
9. Nc4 Qe6
10. Nxb6 axb6
11. Bd3 f6
12. Bf4 Ng6
13. Bg3 f5

(continued on page 6)

Blast From the Past!



NOTE: Here's another golden-oldie, featuring (now-departed) SPBCC's 1982-83 champion, IM Jim Gallagher. He provides notes on this game against none other than US champion GM Yasser Seirawan!

*Yasser Seirawan – Jim Gallagher
Simultaneous, Houston TX
(date unknown) 1983*

Sicilian Defense – Dragon Variation

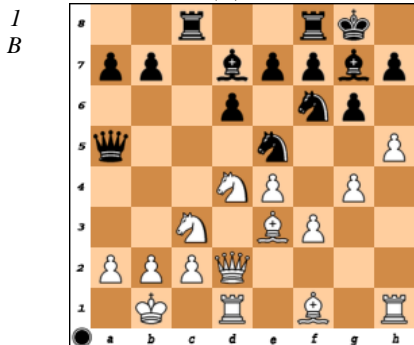
- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | d6 |
| 3. d4 | cd |
| 4. Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5. Nc3 | g6 |

“Yaz is not famous for his e-pawn exploits, so why not?” JG

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 6. Be3 | Bg7 |
| 7. f3 | Nc6 |
| 8. Qd2 | O-O |
| 9. g4 | ... |

“John Nunn’s move, or so it is called today. I couldn’t have asked for a better opportunity. Do you believe these next moves are called ‘The Gallagher Variation?’ Neither do I, but nonetheless I did invent this line.” JG

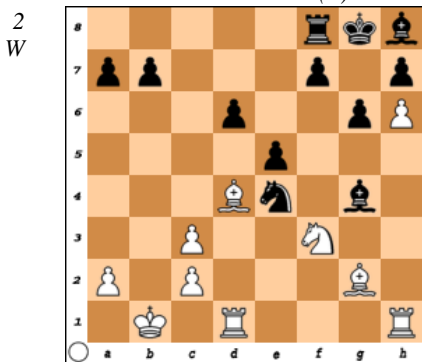
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| 9. ... | Bd7 |
| 10. O-O-O | Rc8 |
| 11. h4 | Ne5 |
| 12. h5 | Qa5 |
| 13. Kb1 (1) ... | |



- | | |
|----------|--------|
| 13. ... | Rxc3!? |
| 14. Qxc3 | Qxc3 |
| 15. bxc3 | Nxf3 |
| 16. Nxf3 | ... |

“Jones-Gallagher, Fairfield Glade 1982 continued 16. hg hg 17. Nxf3 Bxg4 18. Bg2 Nxe4 19. Rd3 Nxc3+ 20. Kc1 Bf5 21. Rxc3 Bxc3 22. Bxd4 Nd4 23. Bxd4 e5 24. Be3 Rc8 25. Bg5? and now Black MISSED 25. ... Rxc2+ 26. Kd1 Rxg2 27. Bf6 Bg4+ 28. Ke1 Bh5, winning. The game was drawn after 25. f6? 26. Bd5+ Kf8 27. Rh8+ Ke7? (Kg7!) 28. Rh7+ Ke8 29. Rh8+.” JG

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 16. ... | Bxg4 |
| 17. Bg2 | Nxe4 |
| 18. Bd4 | e5 |
| 19. h6 | Bh8 (2) |



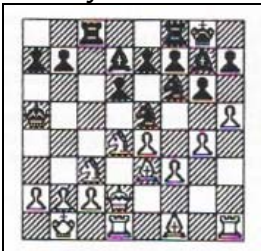
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|----------|-------|
| 20. Rde1 | Bxf3 |
| 21. Bxf3 | Nd2+! |
| 22. Kc1 | Nxf3 |
| 23. Ref1 | exd4 |
| 24. Rxf3 | dc |

After the rook-for-knight exchange (move 13), Black has accumulated enough material to constitute a significant advantage!

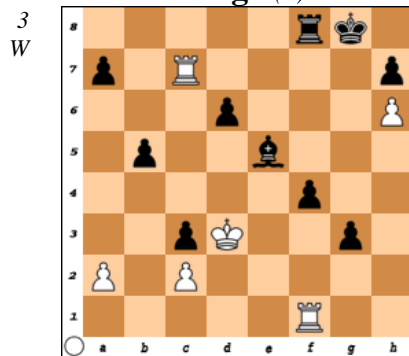
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| 25. Rh4 | f5 |
| 26. Rc4 | Be5 |
| 27. Rf1 | g5 |

Black prepares the dangerous pawn roller.

Original hand-drawn chess diagram showing the position after White's 13th move. That's the way you getter dun in them days!



- | | |
|---------|--------|
| 28. Kd1 | g4 |
| 29. Ke2 | b5 |
| 30. Rc7 | f4 |
| 31. Kd3 | g3 (3) |



Seirawan resigned. After 32. Ke2 g2 33. Rd1 f3+ 34. Kf2 Rf4 35. Rb7 Rh4 36. Rxb5 Rh1 37. Rbb1 Bd4+ 38. Kxf3 Rxd1 39. Rxd1 g1=Q Black will be left with more than enough material to triumph. As per Mr. Gallagher: “Quite a thrill to win against the US’s top-rated player, even in a simul!”

0-1



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Scholastic Chess Report

(continued from p. 1)

result could be a couple dozen kids playing chess who wouldn't have been otherwise.

Weller Elementary has a thriving club, thanks largely to the involvement of faculty members Benjamin McVicker and John Cameron. Most school clubs I have found, however, often a semester or two after they faded away, had a teacher put in charge who did not have any particular interest in chess.

(continued on p 4)

GAME D



Stan Jackson – John Last
Springfield Ladder Tournament
November 11, 2017

Queen's Pawn Game

Most of the analysis on this game thanks to **Marty Phillips**.

1. Nf3 d5
2. d4 Bg4
3. c3 ...

Following are a couple of established continuations for this opening:

- 3. c4 Bxf3 4. gxf3 dc 5. e4?! e5 6. de Qxd1+ 7. Kxd1 Nc6 8. f4 Rd8+ 9. Bd2 Bc5 10. Rg1 Nge7! and Black is winning (Steinitz-Chigorin, Havana 1889).
- 3. Ne5 Bf5 4. c4 f6 5. Nf3 e6 6. Qb3 b6 7. Nc3 c6 8. a4 Na6 9. cd ed 10. e4 de 11. Bxa6 exf3 12. O-O and White has a winning attack (Lasker-Schiffers, Nuremberg 1896).

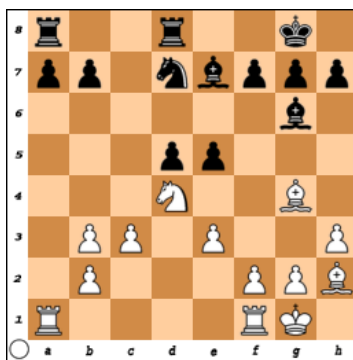
3. ... Nf6
4. Bf4 e6
5. Ne5 Bf5
6. Nd2 Nbd7
7. e3 Be7
8. Be2 O-O
9. Ndf3 c5
10. h3 Qb6 (1)

1
W



11. Qb3 Qxb3
12. axb3 Rfc8
13. O-O cd
14. Nxd7 Nxd7
15. Nxd4 Bg6
16. Bh2 e5
17. Bg4 Rd8 (2)

2
W

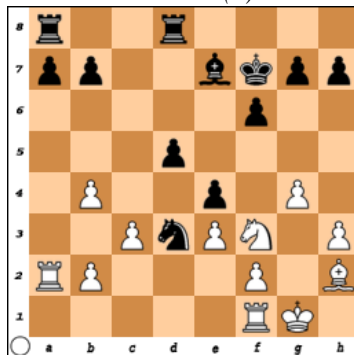


18. Nf3? f6?

Fritz didn't like either player's moves, and Marty particularly didn't like Black's move. As per Fritz, better was 18. Nb5 for White. For Black, given White's actual move, Marty suggests 18. ... Nc5! (which Black will actually play in a few moves), while Fritz points out the obvious: 18. ... f5 traps White's bishop!

19. Be6+ Bf7
20. Bxf7+ Kxf7
21. g4 Nc5
22. b4 Nd3
23. Ra2 e4 (3)

3
W



24. Rfa1? ...

"In my opinion, this is a rather speculative sack. Black did a fairly good job of proving that opinion ..." MP

In the end, the game was decided by this difference in material strength. Fritz was more blunt: "White loses the upper hand." Both agree that the straightforward 24. Nd4 would've been much better.

24. ... exf3
25. Bc7 Rd7
26. Bb6 ...

This may be the position White wanted to achieve, but Black defends it properly, and it comes to nothing.

26. ... a6
27. b5 Bc5

(continued on p. 9)

Scholastic Chess Report

(continued from p. 3)

Several were called "board game clubs" in which chess was profanely lumped in with Operation and Candy Land. These clubs did not fail because kids and chess are no longer a good match. It is crucial that there be a faculty member involved in a school chess club in most cases, but what is also needed is someone who can explain why 1.h3 is a suspicious move along with telling stories about the game and its players that will spark a kid's interest. In cases where this won't be the same person, it would be great to have two or three of the guys at the SPBCC available to partner with the teacher.

I would also argue that involvement of SPBCC members is important for the club's future as it makes the club more welcoming to kids. Roger, for instance, made time to come out to the Summit Chess Club last year (destroying the kids' belief that I was the best player in town) and taught a lesson. **Ed Rysal** came to one of the scholastic tournaments at Drury and I was able to tell a few kids who he is. I saw a big difference in kids' reactions when I suggested they visit the SPBCC for the monthly blitz tournament. The intimidation melted away a little because they already know a couple of the people there.

Consider that the average beginner's USCF rating is around 600, according to an IM lecture I listened to on the St. Louis Club's YouTube channel. It's very common for me to see 100-300 ratings for scholastic players. I think if someone were to break down active SPBCC members by class, it would be clear that there is a huge gap between beginners and the lower-rated end of the core group.

It's not a problem for me to lose each Friday because my pride died in the early 2000s, just before sandwich cookies became a dinner option for me. However, for many this divide is not just accepted. It becomes a deterrent. I have talked to many who have told me so. Those visitors who arrive, get clob-

(continued on p. 5)



GAME E

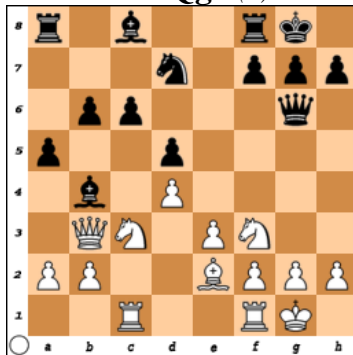
Ethan Stech – David McFeely
Springfield Ladder Tournament
July 6, 2018

Semi-Slav Defense

Although he's unrated as at this writing, our David McFeely puts up a great fight with Ethan Stech in this recent Ladder match.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. d4 | d5 |
| 2. c4 | c6 |
| 3. Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 4. Nc3 | e6 |
| 5. Bg5 | Bb4 |
| 6. Bxf6 | Qxf6 |
| 7. e3 | b6 |
| 8. Rc1 | Nd7 |
| 9. cd | ed |
| 10. Qb3 | a5 |
| 11. Be2 | O-O |
| 12. O-O | Qg6 (1) |

1
W



The position is more or less equal.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 13. a3 | Bxc3 |
| 14. Rxc3 | Bb7 |
| 15. Ne5 | ... |

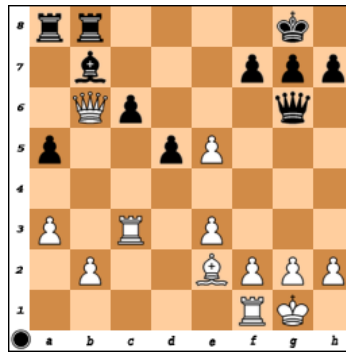
Mr. Stech has an idea for penetrating Black's position ... but he needs to be careful of walking into a hornet's nest!

- | | |
|------------|------|
| 15. ... | Nxe5 |
| 16. Qxb6?! | ... |

The idea is to grab the bishop and then, after disposing of the knight at e5. But Mr. McFeely had the answer.

- | | |
|--------------|-------|
| 16. ... | Rfb8! |
| 17. dxe5 (2) | ... |

2
B



The knight exchange is resolved, but those side-by-side Black rooks present a major threat. And Black knew how to capitalize!

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 17. ... | Ba6! |
| 18. Qxa6 | ... |

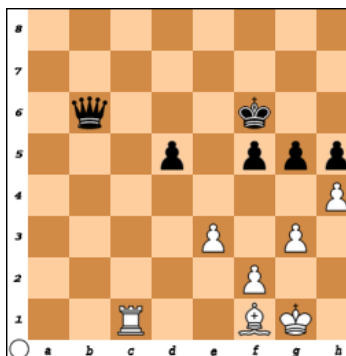
Materially this is a bit better than 18. Qd4 Bxe2 19. Rfc1 Bf3, leaving White down a bishop to a pawn; alternately it's much better than 18. Bxa6 Rxb6, leaving White down the equivalent of a rook. So the question of the day is this: Can White's bishop and rook hold up against Black's queen?

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 18. ... | Rxa6 |
| 19. Bxa6 | Rxb2 |
| 20. Bd3 | Qe6 |
| 21. Rfc1 | Rb6 |
| 22. Rc5 | Qxe5 |
| 23. Rxa5 | g6 |
| 24. Rac5 | Qb2 |
| 25. Rxc6 | Rxc6 |
| 26. Rxc6 | Qxa3 |
| 27. Rc8+ | Kg7 |
| 28. Bf1 | f5 |

Here Fritz prefers 28. ... h5 to retain Black's edge.

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| 29. Rc2 | Qb4 |
| 30. g3 | h5 |
| 31. Rc7+ | Kf6 |
| 32. h4! | Qb6 |
| 33. Rc1 | g5 (3) |

3
W



(continued on p.7)

Scholastic Chess Report

(continued from p. 4)

bered, and stay home the next week would be more likely to stick around if there were already a group of people under 1000. They could play competitive games. They could lose games that were close. They could go ask the experienced members questions.

Of course this is easier said than done, but the club forming a partnership with Springfield Public Schools might do the trick. Contacting Mr. Cameron and Mr. McVicker would be a good place to start as they are already working on getting chess into more schools in the district. A partnership with the SPBCC would dramatically help the odds of these clubs surviving beyond a semester as well as provide a bridge from the school clubs to the SPBCC. An annual SPBCC Scholastic Tournament is another idea. Maybe an SPBCC vs. Summit Chess Club tournament would be fun for the kids.

Even making an appearance at kids' tournaments contributes to making new players feel more comfortable about attending meetings at the big club since they will meet familiar faces there. I mentioned Roger and Ed having done this earlier. Roger has also entered the small rated Drury tournaments and played against the kids who came. Last Saturday Mike Little and I met at Pizza Hut and I half-way expected it would be the two of us as it had been for our McDonald's duel last month. Instead, we ended up with about ten players. Mike and Brian Rude played one kid after another. I think these small encounters between kids and SPBCC members will have a big impact in attendance at the Senior Center.

Besides the Weller Club, the only other Springfield Public School I know of with a verified club is Meredith Wisniewski's at Central High School. I say verified because almost every call I've made to local schools gets the

(continued on p. 6)

GAME A

(continued from p. 2)

At first glance this seems a dubious 'stopper'. The threat was 14. Qxf7+ Kd8 15. Nxe6#. Now Black can stop it ... but only by disposing of his queen!

14. Qxf7+ Kd8

15. Nxe6?? ...

Question marks? Huh? Well, you see, just like old King Henry VIII, Black has another queen waiting in the wings!

15. ... Qxe6

16. Qxe6 bxa1=Q

17. Qxg8+ ...

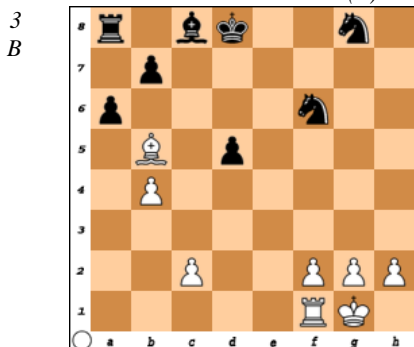
White now must throw his own queen away in order to kill the new Black queen!

17. ... Nxc6

18. Bg5+! Qf6!

Black can get a bishop for his queen ... as Joe points out, it's "better than nothing!"

19. Bxf6+ Ndx6 (3)



That bishop at b5 will now have to skedaddle. And as the smoke clears from the firestorm of the last seven moves, we find Black is well ahead in material. White's only hope is to promote one of those kingside pawns.

20. Bd3 Bd7

21. Re1 Kc7

22. h3 Re8

23. Rd1 Ne7

24. g4 Nxc4!

Nipping White's chances in the bud. "Black trades his knight for two pawns to stop White's kingside pawn storm." JB

25. hxg4 Bxg4

26. Re1 Kd8

27. Ra1 Bf5!

28. Bxf5 Nxf5

29. Rd1 Rg8+

30. Kh2 Ne7

31. f4 Rg4

32. Rd4 Kc7

33. Kh3 Rg3+

34. Kh2 ...

"If 34. Kxg3 Nf5+ wins the rook back." JB

34. ... Rc3

35. f5 Rf3

36. c4 Rxf5

37. c5 Re5

38. Rd2 Re4

39. Rb2 d4

40. Kg3 d3

41. Kf3 Rd4

42. Ke3 d2

43. Rxd2 Rxd2

44. Kxd2 Nd5

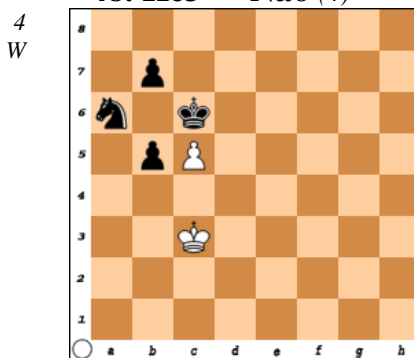
White has been perhaps looking for an endgame stalemate, but at this point there's no hope of that.

45. b5 ab

46. Kd3 Kc6

47. Kd4 Nb4

48. Kc3 Na6 (4)



And White resigned. **0-1**

GAME C

(continued from p. 2)

14. Qe2 (2) ...



White is hoping Black won't notice the danger his queen is in. But 1800+ ...

(continued on p. 7)

Scholastic Chess Report

(continued from p. 5)

response, "I think we have a chess club. Or we did. Phyllis, do we have a chess club? Phyllis? Is she on lunch? She must be on lunch, but I'd almost swear we have a chess club where they play board games..."

I took a vote from the two people at the DUCC meeting one week and we unanimously decided to donate some boards and equipment to the Central Club to get them started. I think she has since gotten some funding to add to their stash and when I attended the club they had more than a dozen in attendance. There seems to be little interest at the Central Club right now for tournament play as only one of her kids has attended the Drury tournaments. High schoolers are nearing that threshold I mentioned earlier and seem to be too self-conscious to compete. Upper elementary and middle school is the best age range to get them started.

There are also rumors that the private school New Covenant has a chess club, but we might need a source at the CIA to find out. I have left several messages and sent a few emails without a response. I also left a stack of invitations for the Drury Scholastic Open but none came.

Another instance where I failed but the SPBCC might succeed is with the Park Board's SPARC program. I did not get an answer from my two or three emails, but an email from a representative of the club might have better luck.

One place where I did have good luck is with the local Boys and Girls Clubs. I made weekly visits to both the Sertoma and Henderson BGCs.

Chess became more of an afterthought at Sertoma where it was sometimes tricky to get them to announce I was there and invite the kids to come. Field trips to the Drury tournaments were not a priority, though they did attend one. This example shows how a club needs BOTH a guy who knows how the knight moves and a staff member to help organize. In the first semester

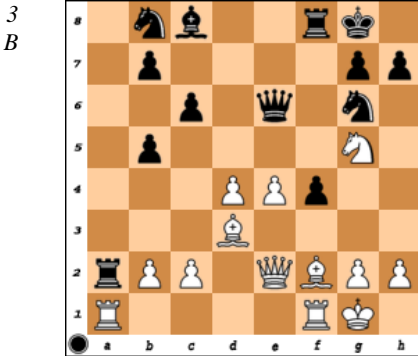
(continued on p. 7)

GAME C

(continued from p. 6)

players don't miss those sorts of things. While you're at it, though, take note of Black's aggressive f-pawn. It will continue to be one of Black's best weapons!

14. ... b5
 15. O-O f4
 16. Bf2 Rxa2?
 17. Ng5! (3) ...



By attacking the queen, Black is forced to give up protection of the rook (at a2); there's nowhere on that diagonal to go!

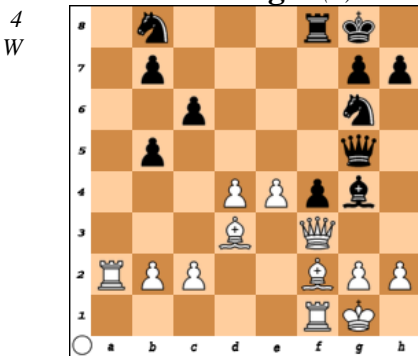
17. ... Qe7
 18. Rxa2 ...

White wins the exchange now, but misses a much more forceful continuation: 18. Qh5! h6 19. Qxg6 Qxg5 20. Qxg5 hxg5 21. Rxa2 and then White is a whole rook up.

18. ... Qxg5
 19. Qf3?? ...

Something like 19. Be1 probably would've worked nicely here. The intention was to block that f-pawn, but Black had the gut-punch ready and waiting.

19. ... Bg4! (4)



Now whose queen has nowhere to go?

20. Bc4+ bxc4
 21. Qc3 b5
 22. h3 Be6
 23. Ra7 Nd7

Black saw the plan: 24. d5 cd and then 25. Qxg7#. The knight move blocks it.

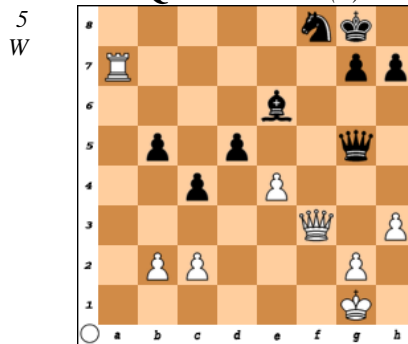
24. d5!? cd
 25. Bc5! ...

Here Michael grabbed his d7 knight, ready to take the 'free' bishop, then paused for a moment. "Of course!" he whispered aloud. The bishop was a trap. The Q-R checkmate threat (Qxg7#) had not gone away! Having already touched that knight, he placed it in the best place he knew. Bg6 The better move would've been with his other knight: 25. ... Nge5.

25. ... Nde5
 26. Bxf8 f3!

Black still has mating threats!

27. Rxf3 Nxf3+
 28. Qxf3 Nxf8 (5)



1/2-1/2 Fritz considers Black to have the better game at this point, with two pieces to White's rook. However, Black was pressed for time. A draw was offered and I was glad to accept.

This story would not be complete without mentioning that in the next encounter between these two players, Clark won in 11 moves!

GAME E

(continued from p. 5)

Here 33. ... d4 had to be considered. The IQP was otherwise a target. In any case, Black is discovering the limitations of having only one piece to assist his king.

34. hg+ Kxg5
 35. Rd1 Qd6
 36. Rd4 Qc5
 37. Be2 Qc1+
 38. Kg2 Qc6
 39. Bf3 Qh6

With dogged perseverance and some nice maneuvering, White has won back

(continued on p. 9)

Scholastic Chess Report

(continued from p. 6)

there was a staff member assigned to help with the club. He would gather the kids and help me answer their questions. After a few months he had other jobs to do and that's when the club started to have trouble. They told me they were too busy for chess this summer but I'm hoping to revive the club once school starts because there were about a half dozen kids who showed a real interest.

At Henderson I have found great support from Lauren who helps organize the entire club, and staff like Yolanda who is in charge of the classroom where the club meets. There is always the challenge of distractions at the BGC. We meet in the computer room and chess has to compete with computer games and an enormous projector TV, but it's common to have 8-12 players each week. One challenge we are working on is to have the same kids attend every meeting so that they have a chance of improving and competing at the Drury Cup. As it stands now though, at least they are exposed to chess and have the option of playing each week.

The biggest club I started is the Summit Chess Club. Here again, there is great support from several staff members and the parents are very helpful too. This is the club that Roger came to visit last year and a few of Summit's members have started to visit the SPBCC. Diana Hamlet, Leah Martin, Shawn Jha, Aiden Chaverri, and Isaac Chaverri are all Summit Chess Club members who have visited. The Summit Club has a great core group of kids who have a genuine interest in, and excitement about, chess. They are moving to a new building next year off South Campbell, where the Cox Fitness Center used to be. With the extra space, we are planning a Summit Ravens chess tournament for local scholastic players that I am hoping will become a yearly event.

I am also working on an experiment that began when Roger invited me to join him at the Goddard preschool ...

(continued on p. 8)

Scholastic Chess Report

(continued from p. 7)

one day. Roger tried to give a lesson on the demonstration board while dozens of kids ran around him in circles. I later talked to the woman who runs the place and asked her if I could work with 4 to 6 kids each week. We are mostly doing pawn-mover type exercises and a couple can mate a lone king with two rooks. My idea though is that if I can teach these few kids, we can bring in a few newbies at a time and they can help me teach them. I would then use the Goddard Club as a minor league team for the Summit Club, both of which being part of my SPBCC farm system.

The Midtown Carnegie Library has been very generous with giving us places to play chess. With school out, I wanted to start a summer club and we meet each Thursday in the library's basement meeting room. Two Saturdays ago we used the upstairs meeting room for a dual-rated tournament in which a baker's dozen played. The Hansen kids and Chaverri brothers look to be our core group but a lot of homeschool parents are showing interest too. Once school starts, I'm hoping to merge the summer club with the Summit club.

Michael Clark, who helps with the Drury tournament events, has a good-sized group of kids he teaches. I think they mainly come from a couple of families in town. **Brayden Miao** is one of his students, and an active member at the club. This group is the most experienced and "Clark's Kids" have won both of the Drury Cup tournaments. These are team tournaments in which the winning team gets to display the Drury Cup trophy until the next tournament. The trophy can currently be found above the register at Ichiban, a Chinese food restaurant owned by some of the kids' parents.

Tournaments have been a big success and the main useful purpose for the DUCC. Drury allows the free use of Reed Auditorium for the club. The schedule we have settled on is the Drury Cup and Scholastic Open in the spring and the Drury Cup and Santa Claus Open in the fall. The Drury Cup is the team event mentioned above and the others are

individual events. The Springfield Open was also hosted here last year and had a very good scholastic turnout. It is common to have thirty kids in attendance and the record so far is in the forties. I am planning to open the Santa Claus tournament to adults too so that it can provide an opportunity for the kids to meet and play against SPBCC members.

The idea I have been working on lately is to form a chess "season". If there were a handful of scholastic school clubs in the area we could have a chess season, just as schools have baseball seasons. This is likely well in the future, but I spoke with the guys running the Weller club and they were very open to the idea of having a tournament each semester against Summit. We would take turns hosting. Maybe that will be the start of our chess league!



Springfield Park Board Chess Club Board of Governors

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SPBCC Tank Destroyer	Afzal Chowdhury
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As you will remember from last month's edition, we published the beginning of a story told by the great old-school GM J. R. Capablanca. Below we publish the tale in its entirety, along with its far-reaching implications ... appropriately entitled:

The Mystery of Chess: SOLVED

"I was playing in a tournament in Germany one year when a man approached me. Thinking he just wanted an autograph, I reached for my pen, when the man made a startling announcement.

"I've solved chess!" he blurted. I sensibly started to back away, in case the man was dangerous as well as insane, but the man continued:

"I'll bet you 50 marks that if you come back to my hotel room I can prove it to you." Well, 50 marks were 50 marks, so I humored the fellow and accompanied him to his room.

"Back at the room, we sat down at his chess board. I've worked it all out. White mates in twelve, no matter what!"

"I played black, perhaps a bit incautiously, but I found to my horror that white's pieces coordinated very strangely, and that I was going to be mated on the 12th move!"



Jose Raul Capablanca

"I tried again, and I played a completely different defense that couldn't possibly result in such a position, but after a series of very queer-looking moves, once again I found my king surrounded, with mate to fall on the 12th move. I asked the man to wait while I ran downstairs and fetched Emanuel Lasker, who was world champion before me. He was extremely skeptical, but agreed to at least come and play. Along the way we snagged Alekhine, who was then world champion, and the three of us ran back up to the room.

"Lasker took no chances, but played as cautiously as could be, yet after a bizarre, pointless-looking series of maneuvers, found himself hemmed in, a mating net from which there was no escape! Alekhine tried his hand, too, but all to no avail."

"It was awful! Here we were, the finest players in the world, men who had devoted our very lives to the game, and it was all over! The tournaments, the matches, everything – chess had been solved. White wins."

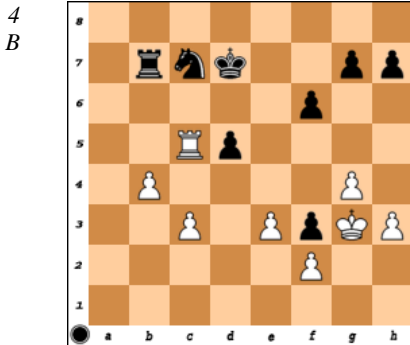
About this time, after listening to the entire account, Capablanca's friends would inevitably break in, saying "Wait a minute; I never heard anything about all this! What happened after that?"

"Why, we killed him, of course."

GAME D

(continued from p. 4)

28. Bxc5 Nxc5
 29. b4 Ne6
 30. ba ba
 31. Rxa6 Rxa6
 32. Rxa6 Rb7
 33. Kh2 Nc7
 34. Rc6 Ke7
 35. Kg3 Kd7
 36. Rc5 (4) ...



36. ... Rb5!

“By forcing White’s rook off the board, Black’s advantage increases.” MP

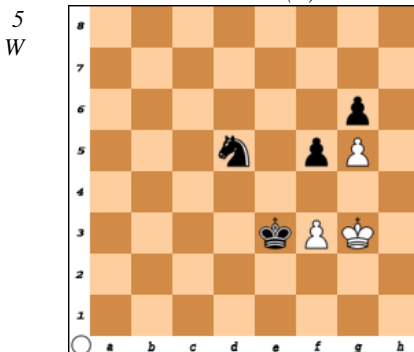
37. Kxf3 Rxc5
 38. bxc5 Kc6
 39. e4 Kxc5
 40. ed Nxd5
 41. Ke4 g6
 42. c4 Kxc4
 43. h4 Nc3+!

“Well played. Black forces the White king back.” MP

44. Kf4 Kd4
 45. h5 Nd5+
 46. Kg3 Ke4
 47. hg hg
 48. g5 f5!

Avoiding possibilities of a draw.

49. f3+ Ke3 (5)



Here Mr. Jackson resigned. As Marty points out, after 50. (White moves) Kf4, there’s nothing left for White. **0-1**



“When you see a good move, look for a better one.”

Emanuel Lasker

Lasker & Nimzowitsch

“Emmanuel Lasker and Aron Nimzowitsch were playing a game and Lasker had agreed not to smoke his cigars during the game because the latter was allergic to smoke. About six or seven moves into the game, Lasker pulls out his cigar, bites off the end and puts it in his mouth. Nimzo immediately jumps up and tells the arbiter, ‘Look, he is smoking!’ The arbiter says, ‘No, it is not lit,’ to which Nimzo replies, ‘Ah, but he is *threatening* to smoke and you as well as anybody else know that Lasker says the threat is worse than its execution!’”

from “*What is your Favorite Chess Story?*” at chess.com

Pirc & Unzicker

“German grandmaster Wolfgang Unzicker loved to tell jokes, even at the most inappropriate occasions. He would often start telling one immediately after a chess game, while he and his opponent were still signing the score sheet.

“Once he tried doing that after a game against Vasja Pirc. He started with the customary: ‘Excuse me, grandmaster, but did I ever tell you this joke...’

“Is it good?’ asked Pirc.

“Oh, excellent!’ replied Unzicker.

“Then it means you haven’t told it to me.”

from “*Funny Chess Stories*” at chessentials.com

GAME E

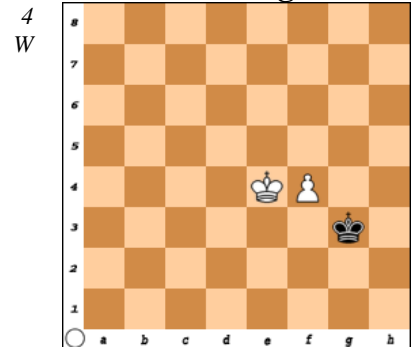
(continued from p. 7)

the isolated pawn and for all intents and purposes, brought back material balance with a slight advantage.

40. Bxd5 Kf6
 41. Bf3 Kg5
 42. Rh4 Qg6
 43. Rxd5+ Qxd5??

The queen-for-rook-and-bishop trade played earlier in the game was forced – and bad for White. But at this juncture it is worse for Black, leaving Mr. McFeely up the river without a paddle. Although the position is tough, 43. ... Kf6 was preferable.

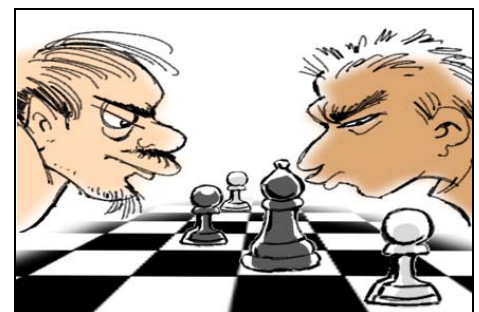
44. Bxh5 Kxh5
 45. Kf3 Kg5
 46. e4 fe+
 47. Kxe4 Kg4
 48. f4 Kxg3 (4)



You could say this loses, but there are no saving moves in this position.

49. f5 Kg4
 50. f6 Kg5
 51. f7 Kg6
 52. f8=Q Kh7

And after soldiering on for a few more moves, Black gave up. **1-0**



CHESS PUZZLES

(answers on page 11)

Puzzle #1

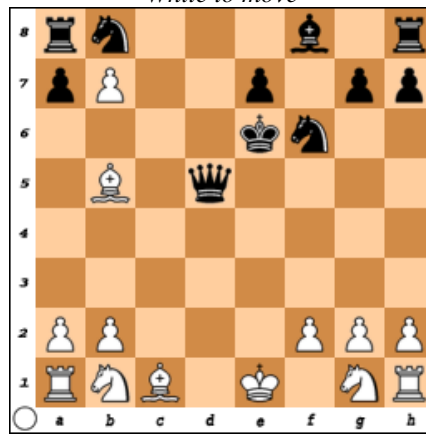
Black to move



Black is up a bishop, but it looks like White is about to get that bishop back. How can Black proceed?

Puzzle #2

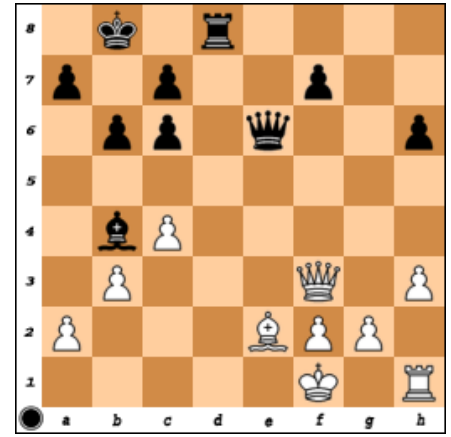
White to move



White is in trouble – already down a queen. Still, there may be hope. What's the best continuation for White?

Puzzle #3

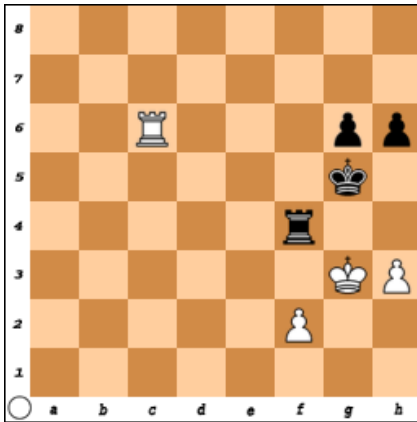
Black to move



Material is even. White has superior pawn structure. But Black has a trick up his sleeve.

Puzzle #4

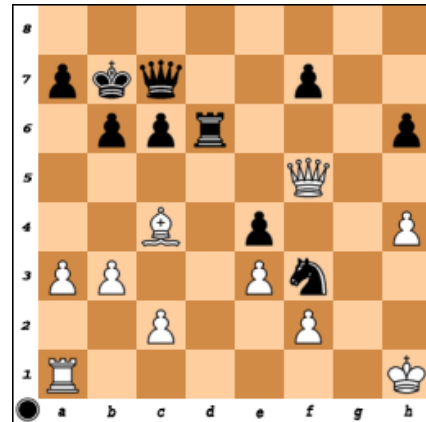
White to move



Looks like a draw. But maybe White can make something happen?

Puzzle #5

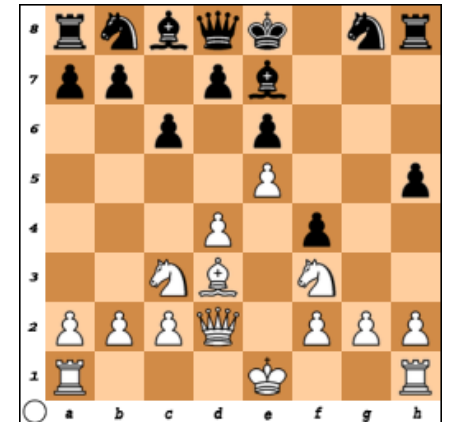
Black to move



White has the bishop to Black's knight and threatens to win the pawn at f7. But maybe all that doesn't matter?

Puzzle #6

White to move



White just lost his bishop, trapped by a kingside pawn storm. But he has compensation ... can you see how?

“Many have become chess masters; no one has become the master of chess.”

Siegbert Tarrasch

CHESS PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Puzzle #1

Black to move

1. ... Qa5+!
2. Bd2 Qxf5

Black keeps his bishop, for the time being!

Puzzle #2

White to move

1. Bc4! Qxc4
2. bxa1=Q

White's king is still flapping in the breeze, but so is Black's, and at least he gets a queen back!

Puzzle #3

Black to move

1. ... Rd1+!
2. Bxd1 Qe1#

Hey, sometimes sacrifices DO work!

Puzzle #4

White to move

1. Rxc6+ Kxc6
2. Kxf4 ...

White is now able to force the Black king back, clean up Black's remaining pawn, and promote one of his own.

Puzzle #5

Black to move

1. ... Rd1+!
2. Rxd1 Qh2#

Or if 2. Kg2, same result. ZING! That advanced knight outpost was too dangerous to ignore!

Puzzle #6

White to move

1. Bg6+ Kf8
2. Qxf4+ ...

Now Black must give back a piece (e.g. 2. ... Bf6). Otherwise, if 2. ... Kg7?? 3. Qf7+ Kh6 4. Bxh5 and checkmate follows.

All these chess puzzles were taken from games played by the Editor (in some cases the great moves weren't necessarily his).

Got some good ones from your own games to share? Send 'em to us!

brevcamp@yahoo.com

"Among a great many other things that chess teaches you is to control the initial excitement you feel when you see something that looks good. It trains you to think before grabbing and to think just as objectively when you're in trouble."

Stanley Kubrick

"A chess game is divided into three stages: the first, when you hope you have the advantage; the second, when you believe you have an advantage; and the third, when you know you're going to lose!"

Savielly Tartakower



Springfield Chess Calendar

Springfield Park Board Club Ladder Tournament

This is an ongoing cumulative tournament every Friday (except the last of the month) at 7:15 PM. 90-minute games, 5-second delay.
Members only: join the club (\$10 annual fee) and join the fun!

Blitz Tournaments!

On the LAST Friday of every month. 10-minute games, no delay.
Entry fee \$1 - all proceeds go to our hosts, Southside Senior Center.
Be there by 7:15 PM to register for pairings.

2018 Springfield Open Scholastic

October 27, 2018
sponsored by SPBCC and the Joplin Chess Club
Saturday from 8 AM to 6 PM at MSU's Plaster Student Union (1110 E Madison, Springfield MO 65807)

FOR TICKETS go to: www.joplinchess.org

Pizza Hut Chess!

Saturday September 1, 6:00 PM
Pizza Hut, 806 US Hwy 60, Republic, MO
Two sections: G/10 and G/30

Please consider eating supper there to show your support (and encourage them to allow future events). Email Adam Whitaker for details: adamgrantwhitaker@gmail.com

National Chess Day!

is on Saturday, October 13, 2018

We are celebrating with a FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT to benefit our hosts, the Southside Senior Center.

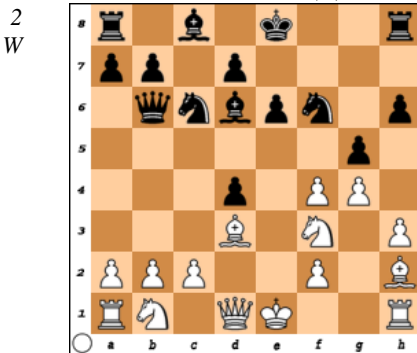
Look for details on our Facebook page!



GAME B

(continued from p. 2)

10. Nf3 Nc6
11. Bd3 Bd6 (2)



12. O-O ...

Slightly better is 12. fg Bxh2 13. gxf6 after which Mr. Bray suggests 13. ... Bh4 and Fritz suggests (riskier for Black) 13. ... Qxb2 14. Bg6+ Kd8 15. Nbd2.

12. ... Bxf4
13. Bg6+ Kd8
14. Nbd2 d5

Mr. Bray feels 14. ... Nd5 is "by far the superior move." Fritz bears it out: 14. ... Nd5 15. Be4 Bxh2+ 16. Kxh2 Qc7+ 17. Kh1 and now 17. ... h5! and as White's kingside pawns fall, the ensuing attack becomes very serious.

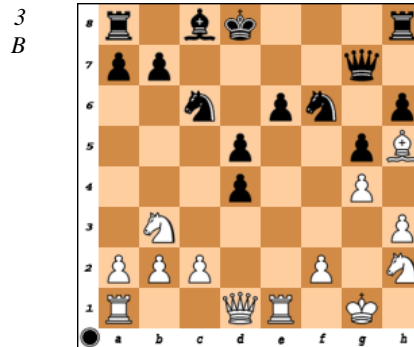
15. Re1? ...

Premature. As per Bray's notes, White "missed his last chance to ... recapture on f4," after which the text move would be more effective.

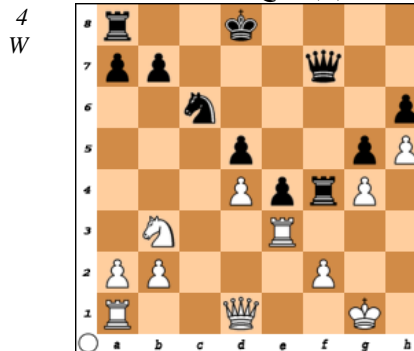
15. ... Qc7

16. Nb3 Bxh2+
17. Nxb2 Qg7
18. Bh5? (3) ...

Better was 18. Bd3.



18. ... Nxb5
19. gxh5 e5
20. Ng4 Rf8
21. c3 Rf4
22. cd Bxg4
23. hxg4 e4
24. Re3 Qf7 (4)



25. Qd2?? ...

In his panic to generate counterplay, White blunders away the vulnerable g4-pawn. 25. Qe2 would've been correct.

As Jared said, "Matt's position does more than creak after this." Nicely understated.

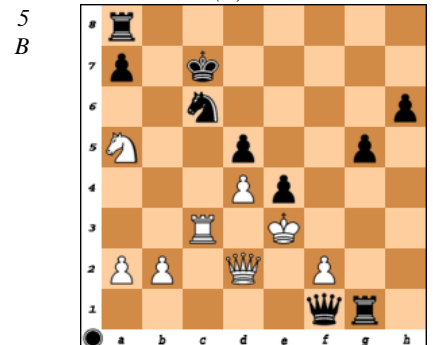
25. ... Rxb4+
26. Kf1 Qxh5
27. Nc5?? ...

Loses outright, but to put it in perspective, Pratt was short on time.

27. ... Qh1+
28. Ke2 Qxa1
29. Nxb7+ Kc7
30. Na5 Rg1!
31. Rc3 ...

Looking to win the knight at c6. Unfortunately, there's no time for this.

31. ... Qf1+
32. Ke3 (5) ...



32. ... Rg3+!!
33. fxg3 Qf3#

A wonderful mating combination! In his notes Jared expressed his thanks to Matt for allowing it to play out on the board.

0-1