



1



2.

1. Carl Stein at the UNM SUB
 2. Hassan Bilal cogitates at the Santa Fe Rooks
 3. Sam Dooley presses the clock. Jeffrey Sallade thinks.



3.



4.



5.



6.

4. Chad Schneider & Hector Flores
 5. Leroy Quintana takes on Caleb Jaquish
 6. USCF Master Steve Sandager



7



8.

7. Tim Martinson & DK Editor Jim Johnston
 8. Kyle Leeds-Tilley
 Pix #1 by Art Byers
 Pix 2-8 by Rick Lass

Desert Knight

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO CHESS ORGANIZATION

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Silas Perry: The clear winner of the 27th consecutive New Mexico Memorial Chess Tournament

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From the NMCO President

Welcome to the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho Open held for the second year at the Meadowlark Senior Center. A huge Thank you to all who helped make this possible. Communication and cooperation within the chess community seems to be growing. Earlier scheduling of events for next year will provide better opportunities to all our chess players. A big thanks to Jeff Dunning, Martin Cooper, Andy Nowak, Tom Poston and Jeffrey Sallade for their efforts in this arena.

I continue to work on reinvigorating and coordinating chess activity in the Southern part of New Mexico and invite everyone to assist in this endeavor. - James Scout Veitch.

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Annotation Symbols

Excellent Move	!!
Good Move	!
Interesting	!?
Dubious	?!
Bad	?
Blunder	??
Check	+
Double Check	++
Checkmate	#

White Winning	+ -
White advantage	+ =
White small edge	+ / =
Equal	=
Black Winning	- +
Black advantage	= +
Black small edge	= / +
Unclear position	∞
Better move is	> =

Puzzle Solutions: By Dan Pasono

Puzzle solutions always look for the best move each player could make for each of their moves. Moves that have Black play into White's plans (or vice versa) aren't considered because it's not what you'd see in a real game (unless the other player is forced into it, of course)

Puzzle 1 -- White to move 1) Rxb7+ if 1) ... Ka8 then 2) Nb6# if 1) ... Ka6 then 2) Nc7+ Ka5 3) Rxb5# if 1) ... Kxb7 then 2) Qc7+ if 2) ... Ka6 then 3) Qb6#, if 2) ... Ka8 then 3) Nb6#

Puzzle 2 -- Black to move 1) ... Nc5 if 2) Qxa8 then 2) ... Rxa8 and white loses a knight if 2) Qb6 then 2) ... Bb4+ 3) Kh1 Nb3 and black wins the exchange

Puzzle 3 -- White to move 1) Nf6+ Bxf6 2) Rdh1 and black can squirm but he can't escape the mate

Puzzle 4 -- Black to move 1) ... Ndf4 if 2) Qf1 then 2) ... Rxd1 and white can't recapture due to the mate on g2 if 2) gxf4 then 2) ... Nxf4 3) Qf1 Rxd1 and black wins the exchange

Paul Morton's Composed Problem Key move is: 1. Bb6

ENCHANTED - By Joe Fromme

Late June of this year the Rio Pueblo of Carson National Forest was still; beautiful sounds of water and birds soothing the soul, lush green fields, sheep, horses and art works together resonating a longed for dream. Fickle Fortune smiled upon me a unique presence of the Prophet of Trampas Canyon. According to local farmers, her wisdom and beauty was legendary. They were correct. Strolling in the pastoral gardens with her, I eagerly explained my latest episode in the continuing joeychess soap opera. Strategy, tactics, roller coaster rating, blunders and of course, which openings? Unexpectedly, it seemed crystal blue skies with cotton ball clouds, emerald pastures with gleaming brown horses were more intriguing than me! I proceeded to unleash a torrential flood of illogic and emotion. She was unmoved. Only the squawking of black crows punctuated the long awkward silence. Suddenly, thousands of feet above us, the clouds shifted exposing the sunshine, porch wind chimes played and she finally spoke. "Listen carefully Desert Cricket...bliss occurs when we perceive time standing still, for example, when you play chess for hours on end, it is but a moment for you. Apparently you love to play chess. Perhaps less preparation for the result and more play would suit you."

The surprising and wonderful fate of time spent there is a precious memory held close for the rest of my days, and the next time I drop a pawn or a tempo, I shall remember the wisdom of, the Prophet of Trampas Canyon.

Jesse Kraai ties for 11th at the US Championships in Saint Louis

By Jim Johnston

Former New Mexico several time state champ GM Kraai has a history of exceeding our expectations at US Championships. He did not qualify for the 09 champs, but his 1st = finish in last year's US Open gave him a spot this time. Jesse started out as the 21st seed in a field of 24. A run of 3 successive wins in rounds 3 – 5 suddenly put him in 3rd = place and I speculated on the NMCO forum that he could even get in the final four. Losses in rounds 6 and 7 and draws in the last 2 rounds gave him a final total of 4.5 out of 9. This left Jesse tied for 11th place and he collected over \$4,000 for his prize.

From NM you could follow the excitement live on the streaming video presentation hosted by Maurice Ashley and Jennifer Shahade. The following game was especially interesting for the choice of opening. Jesse always plays Nf3 and then c4, but here he felt that Joel Benjamin would have prepared something special against it, and so played e4 transposing to a Sicilian. I don't know of any recent cases when Jesse has played 1. e4 against top players, yet here it worked out extremely well for him. On the video show Jennifer Shahade asked him "Why did you play e4?" "I got too excited!" he explained.

GM Jesse Kraai (2533) - GM Joel Benjamin (2631) 2010 US Championships (4) [Sicilian Kan]

Jesse gets a great attack. Maybe he should try opening with 1. e4! **1.Nf3 c5 2.e4!** see above

2...e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 d5 9.0-0 Nf6 10.f4 Bb7 11.Kh1 the K may be safer here but W stays ahead with [\geq 11.Qe2] **11...c5= 12.e5 Nd7 13.f5 Nxe5 14.fxe6 fxe6 15.Bf4 Bd6 Diagram**



16.Bb5+ Nd7 [\geq 16...Nc6] 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Ne4+- Qe7 19.Qh5+ g6 20.Qe5 0-0-0 21.Nd6+ Kb8 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.Nf7+ Qc7 24.Qxc7+ Kxc7 25.Nxd8 Rxd8 26.Rf7+ Kb6 27.Re1 Rd6 28.Rxh7 d4 29.b3 Bd5 30.Rg7 Kb5 [\geq 30...c4] 31.Rxg6 Kb4 32.h4 Rd7 33.h5 Rh7 34.h6 Kc3 35.Re2 c4 36.Rg3+ Kb4 [\geq 36...d3] 37.Rh3 d3 38.cxd3 cxb3 39.axb3 a5 40.Kh2 Bxb3 1-0

Editor's Note: Desert Knight pages are numbered consecutively beginning with the January issue. This is to make games easy to find when the annual index is printed in the November Issue.

From the Editor - Jim Johnston

In this issue we have a great variety of tournament reports and articles. You will find detailed reports on our big local tournaments, the Don Wilson Memorial and the NM Class championships as well as games from the Pir Malecki Memorial, the Denker playoff, the Wired Kings quads, and the US Championships! The regular puzzle page plus a mate in 2 problem should help those wishing to study tactics. Finally enjoy a spell of communing with Nature and be Enchanted in the wild surroundings of northern NM.

As usual, many thanks to Art Byers who wrote games analysis, took photos and did layout and printing. Thanks also to Daniel Pasono for the puzzles, to Paul Morton for an original problem, to Silas Perry for his notes to his big win in the last round of the Memorial, to Rick Lass for photos from the Santa Fe Rooks events and to Joe Fromme for another awesome article.

NMCO Officers

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Tournament Organizer
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Member at Large : John Flores
Scholastic Liaison - Gabe Ewing**

**Email addresses:
newmexchessorg@gmail.com
info@nmchess.org**

Web Site: nmchess.org

Desert Knight Staff

**Desert Knight Editor-in-Chief
Jim Johnston
jdjohnston@earthlink.net**

**Composition & Publishing
Assistant Editor
Art Byers
artjbyers@gmail.com**

**Puzzle Master
Daniel Pasono
daniel@mnia.com**

**Contributors to this issue:
Joe Fromme ,Rick Lass
Silas Perry, Paul Morton**

Games are annotated by Jim Johnston, with and without computer help (Fritz or Rybka), unless otherwise noted.

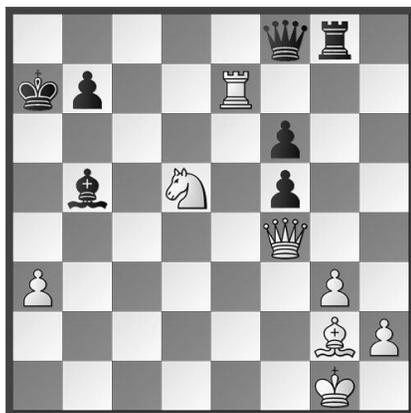
Cover photo by Art Byers

**Send games, articles and photos for the Desert Knight to:
NMCO P.O. Box 4215, Albuquerque NM 87196 or E-mail to the Editor**

THE PUZZLE PAGE by Daniel Pasono

In this issue the puzzles may or may not end in checkmate. Sometimes real games are won in the mid-game by spotting a position that's puzzle-like that wins material rather than the game. It's this gain in material that will eventually win the game, so these puzzles don't necessarily end in checkmate but rather reflect real life instead (which sometimes does end in checkmate – are you confused yet?)

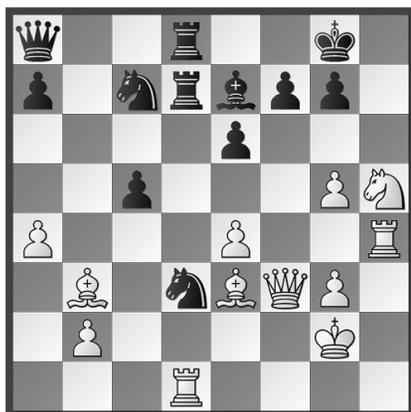
See page 55 for the answers, and remember, Have fun!



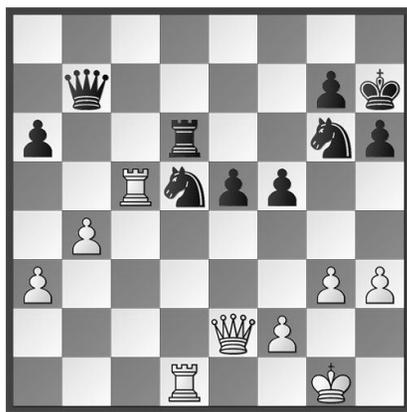
Puzzle #1 White to Move



Puzzle #2 Black to Move



Puzzle #3 White to Move



Puzzle #4 Black to Move



37...Rh8? Now W had a nice breakthrough idea with b4 so it was better to leave the R and play [37...e5 38.f4 exf4 39.Kxf4 g5+ 40.Kg4 Rh8=]
38.Re1 Rh2 39.Kg3 Rh5 40.a5 bxa5 41.Ra1 Rg5+ 42.Kf3 Rf5+ 43.Ke2 Re5+ 44.Kf1 Ke7 [>=44...g5 45.Rxa5 g4 46.Rb5 Rf5 47.Ke2 Ke7 48.b4 cxb4 49.Rxb4 Ra5=/+] **45.Rxa5 Kd6 46.Rb5 g5 47.b4 cxb4 48.Rxb4 Kc6** [>=48...Ra5 again the a file is the R's best place] **49.Rb8 Kd6** here I offered a draw **50.Ra8 Kc6 51.Ra6+ Kc5 52.Ra5+ Kd6 53.Rxe5 Kxe5 54.Kg2** here I wrongly assumed that f3 was winning for W but [54.f3 Kf4 is equal! My next move was played to prevent this but it stinks as now W will soon be able to run with the c pawn collect all of my pawns and queen the d pawn] **54...g4? 55.Kg3 Kf5 56.f3??=** [>=56.c5 Ke5 57.Kxg4 Kd5 58.Kf4 e5+ 59.Kf3 Kxc5 60.Ke4 Kd6 61.Kf5 Kd5 62.f3+- is the way to win it, if 62...Kd6 63.Kf6 Kd5 64.Ke7] **56...gxf3 57.Kxf3 e5 58.c5 Ke6??** [B has to keep a tempo by 58...Kf6 59.Ke4 Ke6=] **59.Ke4 1-0**

Who Will Win the Cup? Update by Jim Johnston

The NM Cup is a year long competition. Players score points for participation and performance in slow chess events in NM. It starts with the NM Open in the Fall. Each section winner receives a cup (actually a coffee mug.)

Current leaders are:

2000+: Silas Perry 178, Ben Coraretti 67, Steve Sandager 66

Class A: Jim Johnston 188, Jeffrey Serna 162, Chad Schneider 161

Class B: Bob Hampton 162, Jeff Sallade 156, Gabe Ewing 137

Class C: Holly McRoberts 102, David Baca 98, Richard Lass 92

Class D: Chris Hyde 96, Arthur Byers 79, Orion Rojas Granger 75

Class E: Joe Schrader 59, Hassan Bilal 44, Joseph Torres 39

U1000: Annabelle Romero 66.3, Alfredo Vigil 66.2, Craig Stamm 34

Overall, Jim Johnston leads Silas Perry by 10 points though Silas keeps winning tournaments and reducing the lead.

Check nmchess.org for all the cup points.

10...Nxb7+ 11.Qh5 Nxe5 {Hoping to break the attack by exchanges - but it was important to make the right exchange. IF instead: 11....Bxf4?! 12.Qxh7+ Kf8 .} 12.Bxe5 Be7 {The computer prefers 12....Qb6 but there was no way I was going to remove my Q from defense and being material ahead, I wanted more exchanges.} 13.Rfe1 Be6 14.Re5 [14.f4 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Nd7+] 14...Nd7 15.Bxe7 Rxe7 16.Rg5 Qf8 {To make space for my a8 Rook on e8} 17.Re1 Diagram



17...Rae8 {Doubling Rooks on the open file works out, but with enough clock time remaining, I should have examined more options before moving. Analyzing, after this move, I found I had missed a much better move: 17....Bg4!! threatening both mate and win of the W Q. One almost forced piece exchanging continuation might be: 18.Rxe7 Qxe7 19.Re5 Nxe5 20. Qxe5 Qxe5 21.dxe5+} 18.Qh4 Bf5! {Obviously, the f5 B is immune from capture.} 19.Rxe7 Rxe7 20.f3 {Even though the W Q now looks at the e1 square, it was the wrong "luft". 20. h3 was better for that purpose. However, Chris wanted to attack and so could have moved f4 after h3 as he puts the

pawn on f4 the very next move.} 20...Bg6 {Placing the B to defend h5 and h7.} 21.f4 {I expected 21.h3 Nf6. Chris probably was planning the move 22.f5 and expecting 22....Bh7 23. Rh5 Nf6.} [21.Qf2 Qe8 22.Qd2 Bxc2+] 21...Qe8 22.f5?? {This looks like a chess hallucination - thinking the W King had a safe escape square.} 22...Re1+ 23.Kf2 Qe3# 0-1

**USCF MASTER GARY SIMMS
Wins 2010 Pir Maleki**

**Gary Simms (2220) - Jim Johnston
(1878) Pir Maleki Memorial
[Kings Indian Attack]**

In this game against the #1 seed and top Section winner, I get some hopes of sneaking an upset draw. 1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ng3 Nc6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Re1 0-0 9.c3 Rb8 10.a4 b6 11.Nf1 Bb7 12.Bf4 Rc8 13.e5 Qc7 14.h4 d4 15.c4 Nb4 16.N1h2 Bc6 17.Ng4 Qb7 18.Nf6+ Kh8 19.h5 Nc2+/= B slows down the attack by trading some pieces but [>=19...h6=] 20.Qxc2 Bxf3 21.Bxf3 Qxf3 22.Qe2 Qxe2 23.Rxe2 Bxf6 [>=23...h6= missing the better move for a 2nd time] 24.exf6+/- Nc6 25.Bh6 [>=25.hxg6 fxe6 26.Rxe6 Kg8] 25...Rfe8? 26.Bg7+ [>=26.hxg6 Kg8 27.g7 e5 28.Rae1] 26...Kg8 27.hxg6 fxe6 28.Kg2 Kf7 29.Rh1 h5 30.Kf3 Ne7 31.g4 hxg4+ 32.Kxg4 Nf5 33.Rh7 Nxe7 34.Rxe7+ [>=34.Kg5] 34...Kxf6 35.Rxa7= Ra8 36.Rxa8 Rxa8 37.b3 Diagram on the next page

The Don Wilson Memorial/ NM Senior championship

By Jim Johnston

56 players came to compete in Rio Rancho in January. We usually see 70 plus competitors, but heavy snow a couple of days before the tournament caused several out of state players to change their plans.

In the Memorial (Open) section Steve Sandager was the only player to go 3 and 0, but Silas Perry beat him in the last round to win the section. This was the 27th consecutive annual NM Memorial championship. When Art Byers was engraving Silas's name on the plaque he noticed that back in 1984 the first winner was Steve Sandager! Tied for 2nd through 7th on 3 points were Steve Sandager, Jeff Serna, Wayne Hatcher, David Langlois, Tim Martinson and Reuben Sbarge. Sandager and Hatcher became joint senior champions. Congrats to all the above.

There was a similar outcome in the Reserve section when Peter Li Tiange won with 3.5 points. There were 4 players half a point back, Michael Torres, William Daly, John Warner and Antonio Swatts. The last 2 named were unrated at the start of this event, yet Swatts only lost to Tiange while Warner went undefeated, dropping a draw to Daly and also drawing with the winner. Congrats to all.

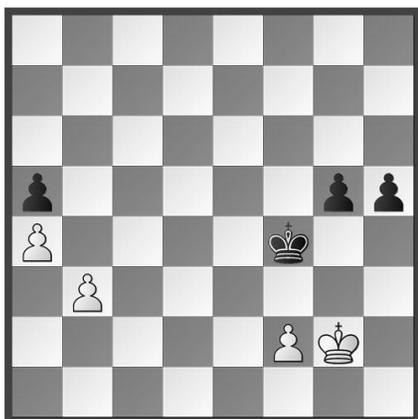
**Edward Lu (1846) - Steven
Sandager (2230) NM Memorial
[English]**

Eddy had a win against a master when he played the English in the 1st round of the NM Open last October. Here Steve punishes W's 8th move and steadily converts his advantage to a win 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.b3 c5 4.Bb2 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Be2 Nc6 7.a3 d5



8.d4? gives B a nice target. He wins this pawn 7 moves later [>=8.cxd5=] 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 Ne4 10.0-0 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nd6 13.Rd1? [>=13.Bd5] 13...Nxc4 14.bxc4 cxd4 15.exd4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bxd4 17.Ra2 Qb6 18.Nc3 Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Rad8 20.Rad2 Rxd2 21.Rxd2 Rd8 22.Qb4 Rxd2 23.Qxd2 Qb1+ 24.Kh2 Qe4! the B Q takes the center 25.Qb4 b6 26.f3 Qe5+ 27.Kh1 Kg7 28.Qa4 a5 29.Qb3 Qd4 30.Kh2 Kf6 31.Kg3 Ke5 [>=31...g5 when W's best is to retreat the K] 32.Qb5+ Kd6 33.Qb3 e5 34.h4 f5 35.a4 e4 36.fxe4 fxe4 37.Kf4 Qe5+ 38.Kg4 h5+ 39.Kh3 Qd4 40.Qg3+ Kc5 41.Qxg6 Kxc4 42.Qxh5 Kc3 43.Qe8 Kd2 44.Qe6 e3 45.Qa2+ Ke1 46.Kg3 e2 47.Qb1+ Kd2 48.Qa2+ Ke3 Diagram on the next page.

([>=27...Rxc4 28.dxc4 Rd4-/+] **28.Rxd3 Rxd3 29.Rxc5 Kf5 30.Rc4?** when you just have a rook, activity is the key [>=30.Rc6 a5 31.Rc7 Kg6 32.Rc5 a4 33.bxa4] **30...g5 31.Ra4 Rd6 32.Kg3 h5 33.h4 Re6 34.Rc4 e4** lets W trade off his doubled pawn. Now it looks dead even **35.Rc5+ Kg6 36.fxe4 Rxe4 37.hxg5 Rg4+ 38.Kh3 Rxg5 39.Rxg5+ fxx5 40.a4?** now B's a pawn stops W's a and b and B is winning [>=40.b4=] **40...a5-/+ 41.Kg3? Kf5 42.Kg2 Kf4** Diagram



43.b4? axb4 44.a5 b3 45.a6 b2 46.a7 b1Q 47.a8Q Qe4+ 48.Qxe4+ Kxe4 49.f3+ Kf4 50.Kf2 g4?? [>=50...h4 51.Ke2 Kg3 when B should get his 3rd and his 4th Qs] **51.fxg4 Kxg4 52.Kg2 h4 53.Kh2 h3 54.Kh1 Kg3 55.Kg1 h2+ 56.Kh1 1/2-1/2**

Desert Knight welcomes games annotated by the players in New Mexico tournaments. You can send them in as hard copy or Email as the following type of files: pgn or Fritz interface cbh or cbv. We also welcome chess related articles.

The Denker Playoff

The top six finishers from the K-12 tourney were invited to the playoff to determine the NM representative for the Denker tournament of high school champions, to be held in L A in August.

After 3 rounds there was a 4-way tie between John Flores, Jeff Serna, Edward Lu and Peter Li. All had lost one game. So John Flores, who had an extra half point from the original K-12 became the representative. This will be John's 3rd successive appearance at the Denker. We wish him well. Here is an example of John's exciting attacking chess.

John Sarracino (1489) - John Flores (1974) Denker Playoff (1) [King's Indian Attack]

In this opening W usually gets a strong K-side attack. Here B castles Q-side and gets his attack in first **1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 Bd7 8.e5 Ng4 9.Re1 Qc7 10.Qe2 h5 11.c3 0-0-0 12.d4 Rdg8=** [>=12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Nb4=/+] **13.Nb3 c4 14.Nbd2 h4 15.h3 Nh6 16.g4 f6? 17.Nxh4?** [W should start opening up the Q-side >=17.b3+/-] **17...g5 18.Nhf3 f5= 19.Nh2 fxx4 20.hxx4 Nf7 21.Ndf3 Qd8 22.Qd1?** b3 is still good Nf1 is also better than the text **22...Rh7 23.b3 Na5 24.b4?** [>=24.Nf1 Rgh8 25.Ne3+/-] **24...Nc6 25.a4 Nh8 26.a5 Ng6 27.a6 b6 28.Qc2 Rgg7 29.Re2 Qh8 30.Be3 Nh4 31.Qd2 Be8 32.b5 Nd8 33.Qc2? Bg6 34.Qa2 Bd3** [>=34...Nxg2] **35.Rd2** Diagram



Black to play and win.

8...Ng4 9.Rf1 [it's too late to play 9.0-0? Qh4 10.h3 Nxf2 11.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 12.Kh1 d6-+] **9...Nxh2** B should prefer to bring up some more pieces [>=9...Nh4 ; >=9...Qf6] **10.Na4 Nh4 11.Rg1** & W does not have time to capture the B: if 11.Nc5?? N4f3 12.gf Nf3# **d6 12.Nxc5 N4f3+ 13.gxf3 Nxf3+ 14.Kf1 Bh3+ 15.Rg2 Nh2+?** [B is still better. Perhaps he can win with >=15...Nh4 16.Kg1 Bxxg2 17.Nb3 Qc8 18.Ng3 Qh3 19.Be2 Bxxe4 20.Qf1 Bg2 21.Qd1 f5 22.Bg5 Ng6-+] **16.Kg1 Nf3+ 17.Kf1 1/2-1/2**

Tad Snedicker (1740) - John Flores (1995) Memorial Retij

W is doing well until he pushes his Q-side pawns. B breaks up the pawns and soon sees his advantage increase dramatically. **1.Nf3 d5 2.d3 Nf6 3.g3 Bg4 4.Nbd2 Nbd7 5.Bg2 e6 6.c3 Bd6 7.h3 Bh5 8.0-0 0-0 9.e4 dxe4 10.dxe4 Bg6 11.Re1 e5 12.Nh4 Bh5 13.Qc2** [>=13.g4+/-] **13...c6 14.b4 Ne8 15.Nf5 Bc7 16.g4 Bg6 17.a4 h5 18.Nf3 hxxg4 19.hxxg4 Bxf5** [>=19...Nef6] **20.gxf5 Nef6 21.Bg5 Qe8 22.c4+/- Qe7** Diagram



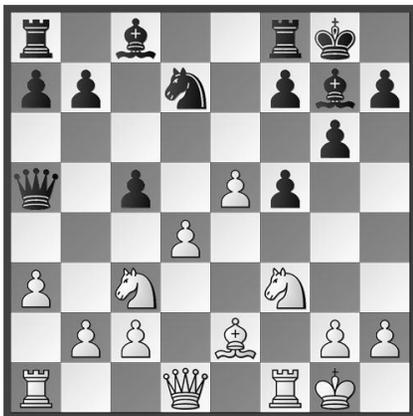
23.c5? [>=23.Rab1] **23...a5 24.bxa5?/= + Rxa5 25.Bd2 Ra7=** [>=25...Rxc5=/+] **26.Rec1 Ba5 27.Be1 Ng4 28.Nd2 Ndf6 29.Ra3 Nh5 30.f3** the B K is short on on pawn cover, watch how B uses f4 for his Ns **30...Ngf6 31.Rd3 Nf4 32.Rd6** [>=32.Re3 at least would avoid losing the exchange] **32...Ne2+ 33.Kf1 Nxc1 34.Qxc1 Bc7 35.Rd3 Rxa4 36.Bf2 Rfa8 37.Rb3 R8a7 38.Ke1 Ba5 39.Ke2 Nh5 40.Nb1 Nf4+ 41.Kf1 Qg5 42.Bh1 Qh6 43.Bg2 Qh2 44.Nc3 Qxxg2+ 45.Ke1 Bxxc3+** [45...Nd3+ wins the Q but the text forces mate faster] **46.Qxc3 Ra1+ 0-1**

Wayne Hatcher (1893) - Gabe Ewing (1741) Memorial [English]

After a lot of maneuvering W takes the e file and wins. **1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.d3 0-0 6.e3 d6 7.Nge2 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Qd2 f5 11.Nd5 Nf6 12.Nec3 a6 13.b3 Rb8 14.Bb2 Ne7?** [>=14...Bf7] **15.d4 exd4 16.Nxf6+ Rxf6 17.exd4 Ba7 18.f4** [>=18.Rae1] **18...Nc6 19.Nd5 Rf8 20.Kh2 Qd7 21.Nb4 Rbe8 22.Rfe1 Ra8? 23.Nxc6+ - bxc6 24.d5 c5 25.Re3 Bb6 26.Rae1 Rae8 27.Bc3 h6 28.Bb2 Qd8?** [>=28...Rxe3+] **29.Qc3 Qd7 30.Re6 Rxe6 31.Rxe6 c6 32.dxc6 Qc7** the Q has to cover the mate threat on g7. **33.Bd5** [even better than 33.Qe3] **33...Kh7 34.Qe3 1-0**

Tim Martinson (1878) - Holly McRoberts (1652)
NM Memorial [Pirc]

Beware the poisoned pawn! When B plays Q takes on b2 or W plays Qb7, they risk getting the Q trapped and if they avoid this it is still doubtful that the pawn will justify the time the Q is away from the action. Here B takes on b4 but then goes to b2 anyway **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 Bg7 5.f4 c6 6.Nf3 Qa5 7.Bxf6 exf6 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Nd7 10.a3 f5 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 c5?** Diagram



[>=12...Qd8 could have been played here] **13.b4+- cxb4 14.axb4 Qxb4 15.Nd5 Qb2** the poisoned pawn deferred? **16.Bc4 Nb6 17.Ra2** the Q is trapped **17...Nxc4 18.Rxb2 Nxb2 19.Qc1 Nc4 20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Ng5 h6 22.Rf3! f4** [not 22...hxg5?? 23.Rh3+ Bh6 24.Rxh6+ Kg7 and Rh7 is mate] **23.Qxf4 hxg5? 24.Qxg5 Bxf6 25.Qh6+ 1-0**

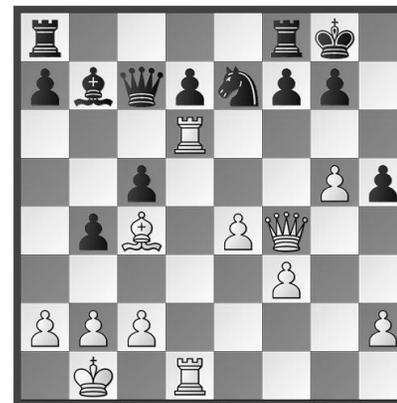
Douglas Thigpen (1939) - Jim Johnston (1733)
NM Memorial [French]

W attacks strongly but B defends and even wins a pawn, eventually winning the ending. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nxf6+ [>=7.Nf3] 7...Qxf6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bd3 Re8 10.Ng5 h6 11.h4? Nd7** It looks too dangerous to grab the N. W will perhaps mate on the open h file. Yet my pal Fritz is fearless [>=11...hxg5 12.hxg5 Qxg5 13.Bh7+ Kf8 14.Be4 Nd7 15.Rh8+ Ke7 16.Rh5 Qf4 17.Bf3 Nf6-+] **12.Qh5** threat 26 Nf7 Qf7 and 27 Bg6 **12...Re7** [>=12...e5 13.Bh7+ Kf8 14.Be4 hxg5 15.hxg5 g6 16.Qh4 Qg7] **13.Rh3? Qxd4 14.0-0-0 Qf4+ 15.Kb1 Nf6** Diagram



W to move. Can you spot what both players missed? **16.Qf3?** since move 7 I had been hoping to move the Q somewhere and then play Nf6. Now I got to win a pawn AND move the N with tempo. It seems that W must retreat the Q when his attack is over. So I

19.g4 Qb6 20.Rd6 Qc7 21.Rhd1 Bb7?? [forfeits the advantage] [21...Nc6! 22.h4-+] **22.g5 h5** Diagram

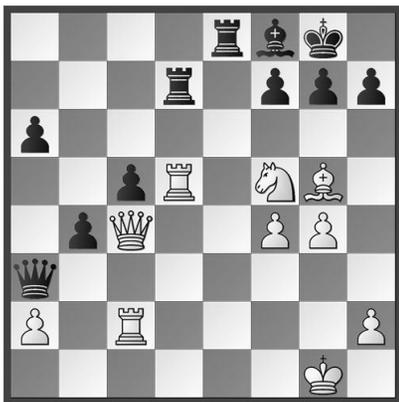


[{At first glance, 22. Nc8 might look good - but Fritz shows how it could lead to disaster.} 22...Nc8 23.gxh6 Nxd6 24.hxg7 Bxe4 (24...Kxg7?? 25.Rg1+ Kh8 26.Qh6#) 25.Qh6 Bxc2+ 26.Kxc2 b3+ 27.Bxb3 c4 28.Qh8#] **23.e5-/+ Rad8** [>=23...Rae8-/+] **24.g6+- Nc8??** [Black crumbles in face of a dire situation] [24...Bd5 25.R1xd5 fxg6

Kh8 27.gxf7 Qxd6 28.exd6+- ; 25...Nxg6?? That pawn is poisoned 26.Rxg6 fxg6 27.Rxc5+ Kh7 28.Qxf8+- (28.Rxc7 is not possible 28...Rxf4 29.Kc1 a5-+) 26.Rxc5+ Kh7 27.Rxc7 Rxf4+-] **25.gxf7+ Kh8** [25...Kh7 does not solve anything 26.Qf5+ g6 27.Qxg6+ Kh8 28.Qh6#] **26.Rh6+!! gxh6 27.Qxh6# 1-0**

(9) Joseph Torres (1183) - Joe Schrader (1122) NM Class E (4) [Sicilian]

Torres finished 1st and Schrader 2nd in Class E. They played an eventful draw against each other **1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.h3 e6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.0-0 a6 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.d3 Nf6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.e5 Nd5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.exd6 Qxd6 15.c4?** W leaves a weak d pawn backward on the open file **15...Bc6 16.Ne5 Rfd8 17.Qd2 f6 18.Nxc6 Qxc6 19.Qe3 e5 20.Rad1 Rd4+ 21.Qf3 Qxf3 22.gxf3 Rad8 23.Re3 b5** [>=23...Rxc4] **24.b3 Kf7 25.Kg2 Ke6 26.Rc1 bxc4 27.Rxc4 Rxd3** [>=27...Rxc4 28.dxc4 Rd4-/+]



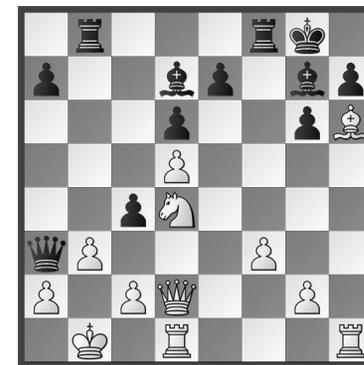
B to play and win 27...Rxd5? [27...Qf3! and the threat of mate nets a whole R 28.Qf1 Qxd5+] 28.Qxd5 Qh3 29.Rg2 g6 30.Qd2 Qf3 31.Rg3 Qc6 [>=31...Qe2] 32.Nh6+ Kg7 33.Rd3 Be7 34.Bxe7 Rxe7 35.g5 Kf8 36.Rd6 Qb5 37.Rd8+ if Kg7 Rg8 is mate, or Re8 Qd6 Kg7 Qf6 and Qf7#. The only move to delay mate is Qe8, when Fritz says it's mate in 13! 0-1

Brian Willmon (1217) - Carl Stein (1298) [Class D

C45: Scotch Game Comment in { } is by Art Byers .All other comment and variations are by Fritz {A miscalculation at move 16 costs White a piece. Undaunted, he takes control of a central file and aided by some second best moves from Black- manages to mate in 27 moves.} 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nxd4 [4...Nf6!? 5.Nc3 B b 4 6 . N x c 6 b x c 6 =] 5.Qxd4+/- Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bc4 h6 9.Bh4 c6 10.f3 Re8 11.0-0 Qa5 12.Kb1+/- b5 13.Be2?? [13.e5 bxc4 14.exf6 Bf8+/-] 13...c5?? [>=13...b4 14.Nb5 Ba6+ (14...cxb5 15.e5=)] 14.Qd2+/- b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Bxe7?? {There is the miscalculation} [>=16.Qxd5 Bxh4 17.Qxa8+/-] 16...Nxe7 17.Bc4 Rd8 {This looks like a wasted move. The pawn on d7 was in no danger. Black is up a piece but now his Rooks and Bishop have no freedom.} [17...Nc6!? 18.Qf4 Re7 19.Qd6+] 18.Qf4 Rf8 {The B R on f8 is strictly defensive;} [18...d5 19.exd5 Ng6 20.Qe4+]

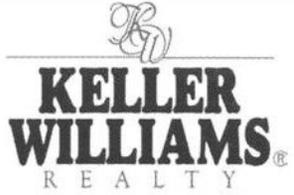
was surprised when young Fritz pointed out that Nf6 is a blunder. We had been focused on the attack and defense of f7 when we should notice that B has deserted his back rank. W wins by opening the d file with tempo [>=16.Bh7+ Nxh7 17.Rf3 Qf5 18.Rd8+ Nf8+- 19.Rxf5 exf5 20.Kc1+- Good player, that Fritz] 16...Qxf3 17.gxf3 Bd7 18.Ne4 Nd5 19.Nc5 Bc6 20.Be4 Rd8 threat Nc3 21.Rhh1 Rd6 22.c4 Nf6 23.b3 Nxe4 24.Nxe4 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rd7 [>=25...f5] 26.Rxd7 Bxd7 27.b4 [>=27.f4] 27...Bc6 28.Kb2 a6 29.Kb3 b6 30.a4 f5 [a clearer way to win is 30...Bxe4 31.fxe4 Kh7 32.h5 g6+] 31.Nd2 e5 feeping the N tied down to defending the f3 pawn [>=31...g5] 32.b5 axb5 33.axb5 Bb7 34.Kb4 Kf7 35.c5 bxc5+ 36.Kxc5 Ke6 37.f4 from here my score sheet has some blanks...the game went something like the following 37...exf4 38.Nb3 g5 39.hxg5 hxg5 40.Nd4+ Kf6 41.Nc6 Ke6 42.Nb4 g4 43.Na6 g3 44.fxg3 fxg3 45.Nxc7+ Ke5 46.Kb6 Be4 47.Ka6 g2 48.b6 g1Q 49.Ka7 Qa1+ 0-1

due to the K move. Both Kb1 and b3 played together I think is a small mistake 17...Qb4 18.Nd5?! Nxd5 19.exd5 Note that black gains access to f5 for the B. It is prudent for white to prevent this with g4. 19...Qa3 20.Bh6 Nothing looks too out of the ordinary here, so it is a bit surprising that black is already winning. I sensed a winning combination lurking, but missed one key idea. Diagram



20.g4! keeps white in the game] 20...Bxh6 Stephen had seen the bulk of the combination here and pointed it out to me following the game. He was of course very happy to see 20...Bxh6 [20...cxb3!! Of course black should not capture here unless there is immediate gratification, which there is 21.cxb3 (21.axb3 Rxb3+ 22.cxb3 Bf5+ 23.Nxf5 Qxb3+ 24.Kc1 Rc8+) 21...Rxb3+ 22.Ka1 (22.axb3 Bf5+ 23.Nxf5 Qxb3+ 24.Kc1 Rc8+ ; 22.Nxb3 Bf5+ 23.Qc2 Qb2#) 22...Rfb8 threatening Rb2 with mate to follow 23.Rb1 Rxb1+ (The computer finds 23...Qa5 which wins on the spot) 24.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 25.Kxb1 Bxh6 26.Qxh6 Qd3+ 27.Nc2 Bf5 28.Qc1 Qxd5] 21.Qxh6 Rf7 22.Qe3 a5 23.Qc3 cxb3 24.cxb3 a4 25.Rd3 White has more tenacious moves at his disposal [25.Qc7 Ra8 26.Qxd7 axb3 27.axb3 e5 28.dxe6 {Continued on the next page}





KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Ramzi Hammad
Realtor
Cell: (505) 907-6815

9201 Montgomery Blvd. NE Suite 101
Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 271-8200

**Make the right move.
Hire Ramzi Hammad**

Sandager, Stephen (2230) - Perry, Silas (2023) [B78]NMCO Memorial Notes by Silas Perry

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0 Rb8 This move characterizes the Chinese Dragon (Rc8 is standard here but W has been doing well by defending the N on c3 and moving Kb1. So Top GM's have taken up Rb8 and opening the b file here. Presumably the Chinese players did it first, but more recently Carlsen has won some games with this move.. Ed) 11.Bb3 Na5 12.h4 b5 13.h5 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.Kb1 Qb6 17.b3 I had been expecting Qc1

.Qa2+ 29.Kc1 Rxd7 30.exd7 Qxg2 31.Nc2 Rd8-+] 25...axb3 26.axb3 It's tough to see how white will be able to hold on now with such a weak K position 26...Ra8 27.Qb2 Qc5 28.Ne6 Bxe6 29.dxe6 Rf6 30.Re1 Qf5 31.Qe2 31...Qa5 32.Re2 Rf4! 33.Qb2 (33.Qxf4 Qa1+ 34.Kc2 Ra2#) 33...Qb5 34.Rc3 Rd4 35.Re1 Qf5+ 36.Qc2 Qa5 37.Qb2 Rd3 38.Kc2 Rxc3+ 39.Qxc3 Qa2+ 40.Kd1 Qxg2-+] 31...Qa5! 32.Re3 Qa1+ 33.Kc2 Rc8+ 34.Kd3 Qc3+ 35.Ke4 d5+ 0-1

Hector Martinez (1729) - Dante Archuleta (1789) Memorial (4) [Dutch, Stonewall]

In this fun draw both players miss a win or 2 until B finds a pretty perpetual. 1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 c6 7.0-0 d5 8.b3 b6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Bb2 Bd6 11.Nb5 Ba6? with so many pawns on light squares, B needs to keep the dark squared B [11...Be7=] 12.Nxd6+/- Qxd6 13.Rc1 Nbd7 14.Qd2 Rac8 15.Rfd1 Ne4 16.Qe3 Ndf6? lets W bring his N to e5 17.Rxc8 Rxc8 18.Ne5? but not quite yet [>=18.Rc1 Qd8 19.Ne5=] 18...Rc2 19.Rc1? [>=19.Rb1] 19...Rxb2 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 21.Rc6 Qb4 [>=21...Qd8 stops all the back rank threats] 22.Qc1 Rxe2 23.Rc8+ Qf8? [23...Bxc8 24.Qxc8+ Qf8 25.Qxe6+=] 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Qc7? Diagram



now it's W's turn to miss the win of a piece [>=25.Qa3+] 25...Re1+ 26.Kg2 Bf1+ 27.Kf3 Ng5+ 28.Kf4 Nh3+ 29.Kf3 Ng5+ 1/2-1/2

Christopher Cruz (1471) - Rick Lass (1525) NM Memorial Reserve [Fried Liver]

B does not seem to know the theory of this sharp line and has a difficult position until W blunders a R 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 [>=5...Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 is perhaps a safer line] 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Diagram

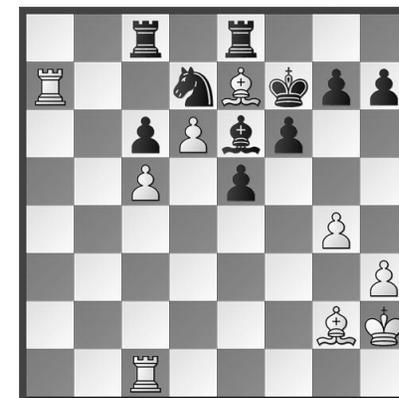


24...f6! only way to stop W from playing f6 winning the house 25.Qg3 d4? [>=25...fxe5=] 26.cxd4+- Qxd4 27.Rae1 [>=27.Rad1! is the way to keep the attack going] 27...Kh8 28.Bxg7+ Nxe7 29.exf6 Qxf6 30.Qh3 Rd2=+ 31.Bb1 Rxb2+ 32.Qg4 c3 33.Qc4 e6? [>=33...a4 and the pawns are hard to slow down] 34.fxe6 Qe7+- [>=34...Rf2+/-] 35.Rxf8+- Qxf8 36.Qe4 Qg8 37.e7 Ne8 38.Rf1 Qg6 39.Qe5+ Kg8 40.Bxg6 1-0

Gabe Ewing (1782) - Albert Zuo (1692) NM Class B (2) [Blackmar-Deimer Gambit]

B accepts the gambit and gets a promising position until he misses the chance to grab the e pawn, when W steadily improves and takes the full point 1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Bg6 8.Ne5 e6 9.Bg2 c6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qf3? Nxe5 12.dxe5 Be5+ [>=12...Qd4+ 13.Kh1 Qxe5+ and B has 2 extra pawns] 13.Kh1 Nd5 14.Ne4 Be7 15.c4 Nb6 16.c5 Nd5 17.Nd6+ Bxd6 18.exd6 0-0 19.Bd2 Qf6= [19...Rb8 20.b4 b6 21.Qa3 a5-]

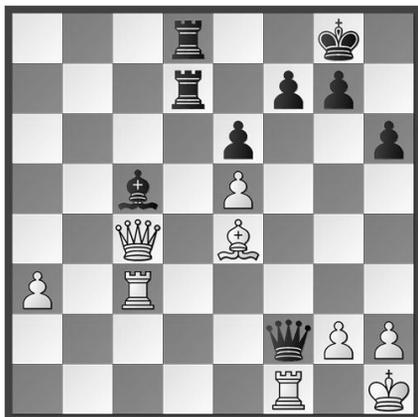
+] 20.Qxf6 Nxf6 21.Bg5 Nd7 22.Be7 Rfe8 23.b4 f6 24.Rfe1 e5 25.b5 Rac8 26.bxc6 bxc6 27.Rac1 Bf7 28.Re3 Bxa2 29.Ra3 Be6 30.Rxa7 Kf7 3 1 . K h 2 Diagram



31...f5? [31...g6= as now W wins 2 pieces for the R] 32.gxf5 Bxf5 33.Rf1 Ke6 34.Rxf5 Kxf5 35.Rxd7 Ke6 36.Rb7 Ra8 37.Bxc6 Ra2+ 38.Kg3 Rd2 39.Bxe8 Rd3+ 40.Kf2 Rc3 41.c6 e4 42.c7 1-0

Evan Liu (1496) - Sebastian Lara (1518) NM Class C (2) [Sicilian]

W won the section but here B missed several good winning chances 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.g3 Qc7 [a common trap is 4...Nxe4? 5.Qa4+ winning the N] 5.Bg2 e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.Qe2 Nbd7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.Nc3 a6 11.Be3 b5 12.Rac1 Qb8? [>=12...Bb7 13.Nxb5 (13.Nd5 Qd8+/-) 13...Qa5 14.Nxd6 Bxd6 15.e5 Be7+/-] 13.Rfd1= [>=13.e5+/-] 13...Bb7 14.d5 b4! 15.Na4 [>=15.dxe6] 15...exd5 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Bd2 Re8 18.Nd4 Nc5 19.Nxc5 dxc5 20.Nf5 Bf8 21.Qc4 Qe5 22.g4 Rad8 23.Bg5 Rd7 24.f4 Qxb2 25.Rc2 Qa3 26.Bxd5 Bxd5 27.Rxd5 Diagram



[>=40.Qa4] 40...Rd1! 41.Rc1 Qxf1+ 42.Qxf1 Rxf1+ 43.Rxf1 Bxa3 44.Bf3 Bb2 45.Re1 Rc8 46.Kg1 Rc1 [>=46...Rc5] 47.Rxc1 Bxc1 48.Kf2 Bf4 49.h3 Bxe5 with opposite colored Bs, 2 pawns extra may not be enough to win 50.Be4 Kf8-/+ 51.g4 Ke7 52.Kf3 g6 53.Bd3 f5 54.gxf5 gxf5 55.Be2 Kd6 56.Ke3 Bf6 57.Bf3 Bg5+ 58.Ke2 e5 [>=58...Ke5 59.Kd3 Kf4] 59.Kf2 e4 60.Be2 Ke5 61.Bd1 f4 62.Bc2 f3 63.Bb3 Kf4 64.Bd5 e3+ 65.Ke1 Bh4+

0-1

Douglas Thigpen (1963) - Jeff Serna (1904) NM Class A (3) [Owen's Defense]

B suffers from a lack of development in this miniature 1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 d5 6.Nbd2 dxe4 [the position is going to open up so B must develop his K-side >=6...Nf6] 7.Nxe4 Nd7 [>=7...Nf6 see previous comment] 8.dxc5 Nxc5 9.Bb5+ Diagram



9...Nd7? [still difficult but avoiding immediate loss is >=9...Ke7 10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Nxc5 Bxf3 12.gxf3 bxc5 13.Be3 Kf6+/-] 10.Ne5 Bxe4? still losing but not quite so soon is [>=10...Bc8 11.Ng5 Ngf6 12.Nexf7 Qe7 13.Qf3 Rb8 14.Nxh8 Bb7 15.Qg3+-] 11.Bxd7+ Ke7 12.Qd4 Bb7 13.Bg5+ f6 14.Qb4# 1-0

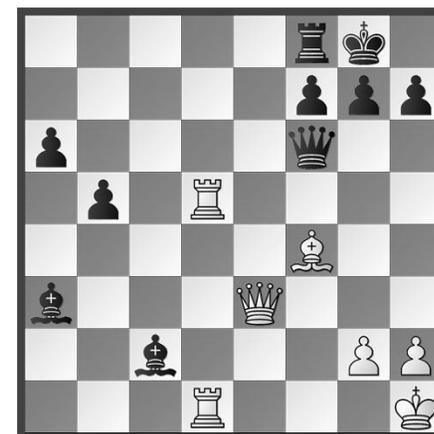
Bob Hampton (1780) - Joe Fitzpatrick (1666) NM Class B (3) [Bird's Opening]

W gets a K side attack. B defends successfully, and even gets an edge, but does not survive the second wave of the attack 1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.0-0 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.c3 Nf6 8.Nbd2 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bc2 0-0 11.Qe1 Qb6 12.d4 c4? better to open things up with cd or first b4 13.e4 Be6 14.f5 [>=14.e5 and W has stopped all of B's Q-side activity] 14...gxf5 15.exf5 Bd7 16.Qh4 b4 17.Kh1 a5? 18.Ne5 Rad8 19.Ndf3 Qa6 20.Bh6+/- Qc8? [>=20...Bxh6] 21.Qg5 Ne8 22.Nxd7 Qxd7 23.Ne5 Nxe5 24.dxe5 Diagram

7...Qf6? [>=7...Ke6 8.Nc3 Ncb4 and B keeps his extra N] 8.Bxd5+/- and B is lost. But not for long! 8...Be6 9.Bxe6+ Kxe6 10.Qb3+ Kd7 11.Nc3 Qf5 12.d3 Nd4 13.Qa4+ c6 14.Ne2 Nxe2 15.Kxe2 Bc5 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.fxe3 b5 18.Raf1?? [>=18.Qb4+/-] 18...Qxf1+ 19.Rxf1 bxa4 20.Rf7+ Ke6 21.Rxg7 and B won 0-1

David Baca (1591) - Preston Herrington (1540) NM Memorial Reserve [Sicilian]

In a Nadjorf B sacs the exchange on c3, but W seems better. Soon B wins pawns on the Q side and his 2Bs are strong. Finally W's weak back rank gives B a win 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 exd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Bc4 b5 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.a3 Nc6 9.Be3 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 e5 11.Be3 Be7 [>=11...d5 In the Nadjorf, B is always doing well if he can play d5 without losing anything] 12.0-0 Rc8 13.f4 Rxc3 speaking of typical ideas for B, Rc3 is a common idea. B gets a N and a p for his R and leaves doubled c pawns. Here it does not seem to get quite enough [>=13...0-0] 14.bxc3 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 Bxe4 16.Qg4+/- 0-0 17.fxe5 Bxc2 18.Bh6 [>=18.Rf2+/- gaining a tempo] 18...Bg6 19.exd6 Qxd6 20.Bf4?=/+ [>=20.Be3 Qc7 21.Bd4=] 20...Qc5+ 21.Kh1 Qxc3 22.Rfe1 Qd4 23.Rd1 Qb2 24.Qf3 Qc2 25.Rac1 Qf5 26.Rd5 Qf6 27.Qe3 Bxa3 28.Rcd1 Bc2 Diagram



29.Be5? [>=29.Bg5 Qe6 30.Qxa3 Bxd1 31.Rxd1+/-] 29...Qe7-/+ 30.Rd7 Qe6 31.R1d4 Bc5 32.Qg3 Bg6 33.Rd1 Re8 34.Bc7 [>=34.Rd8] 34...Bc2 35.Rd8 Bxd1 36.Rxd1 Qe2 0-1

Peter Li Tiange (1527) - Antonio Swatts NM Memorial Reserve [Benoni]

Swatts was unrated but won the first 3 games and only lost this one. Tiange won the section with 3.5 points after an earlier draw with John Warner, another unrated player. Here B plays 2 neat tricks, each time winning a pawn, and reaches a won ending 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.a3 [3.Nf3 is a simpler way to avoid the Nimzo] 3...c5 4.d5 d6 5.Bg5 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.e4 Nxd5 Here's W's 1st trick. He could have played it 1 move earlier, when W could trade and then play Ne4...so it's stronger now 8.cxd5 Bxg5 9.Nf3 Bf6 10.Bc4 a6 11.a4 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 e5 13.h3 f5 14.Qd3 fxe4 15.Qxe4 Bf5 16.Qe3 h6 17.0-0 Nd7 18.Rfe1 Qf6 19.Ra2 Bxh3 2nd trick 20.gxh3 Qxf3 21.Qxf3 Rxf3 22.Re3

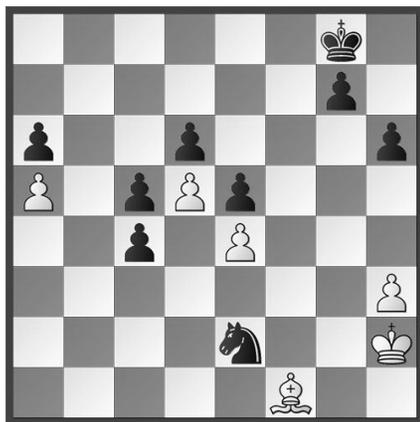
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Santa Fe Open: Sep 25/26

New Mexico Open Nov 6 / 7

Check nmchess.org for info

Rxe3 23.fxe3 Nb6 24.Be2 Nd7 [certainly not 24...Nxd5? 25.Bc4] 25.e4 Rb8 26.a5 Nf6 27.Bd3 b5 28.Kf2 [>=28.axb6] 28...Nh5 29.Bf1 Rf8+ 30.Kg1 Rf3 31.Rc2 Re3 32.Bg2 Nf4 33.Kh2 Re2 34.Rxe2 Nxe2 35.e4 bxc4 36.Bf1 Diagram

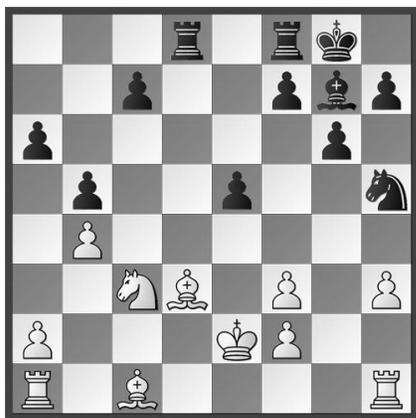


36...c3! finishing in style 0-1

John Boyd (1458) - Arthur Bayley (1400) NM Memorial Reserve [Grunfeld]

Arthur Bayley was the oldest entrant in the Memorial/Senior tourney. Here is his win from the last round. W seems to have an advantage until he decides to keep his K in the center. B opens his B's diagonal and wins material, but W gets a strong passer. Both sides promote with an exciting finish 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg4? 5.h3 [>=5.Qb3 should win a pawn] 5...Bxf3 6.gxf3 dxc4 7.Qa4+ [>=7.e4] 7...Nc6 8.e3 Bg7 9.Bxc4 0-0 10.b4? I would try Bd2 and then 0-0-0 10...e6 [>=10...Nxd4! 11.exd4? Qxd4 12.Qb3 Ng4+] 11.Ba3 a6 12.Qc2 b5 13.Bd3 e5 14.Ne4 Nxd4

15.exd4 Qxd4 16.Qc3 Qxc3+ 17.Nxc3 Rad8 18.Ke2? [>=18.0-0 is ok now the Qs are off] 18...Nh5 19 . B c 1 Diagram



19...e4! All of W's pieces are either attacked or still where they started 20.Bg5 exd3+ 21.Kd2 Rd7 22.Rhe1 [>=22.Rac1] 22...f6 [>=22...c5 is even better] 23.Be3 f5 24.Bc5 Bxc3+ 25.Kxc3 Rff7 [>=25...d2 26.Red1 Re8] 26.Re8+ Kg7 27.Bd4+ Kh6 28.Rd1 Rde7 29.Rxe7 Rxe7 30.Be3+ f4 31.Bd4 Kg5 32.Kxd3 Kh4 33.Rh1 Re8 34.Bc5 Nf6 35.Kd4 Nd7 36.Kd5 Nf6+ [>=36...Ne5] 37.Kc6 Re2 38.a4? bxa4 39.Ra1 Nh5? 40.Rxa4 Ng3? 41.Rxa6 Kxh3 42.Kxc7 Kg2 43.Ra3 Nh1 B attacks the f2 pawn with everything 44.b5 Nxf2 45.Bxf2 [>=45.b6 Rb2 46.Bd4 Rb4 47.b7 and B has to give up his R to stop the pawn] 45...Kxf2 46.b6 Re3 47.Rxe3? fxe3 48.b7 e2 49.b8Q e1Q 50.Qb6+ Qe3 51.Qb2+ Kg3 52.Qg7 Qa7+ 0-1

(3) Robert Haines (2103) - Akanni Olatakunbo (2009) NM Class M / X (1) [c3 Sicilian]

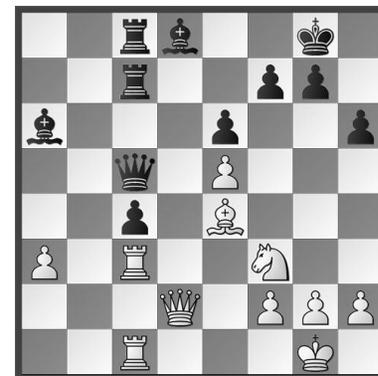
B scores an upset win thanks to his strong Bs 1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 Nf6 7.dxc5 Qxc5 this Q will get chased around a lot. He could let W keep the extra pawn [7...Qxd1+ 8.Bxd1 e5 9.b4 e4 10.Nd4 Bxd1 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Kxd1+/-] 8.Be3 Qa5 9.Nbd2 e6 10.Qb3 Qc7 11.h3 Bh5 12.g4 Bg6 13.Nd4 [with hindsight we can see that 13.Nh4 to remove the B is best] 13...Nd5 and B will take on e3 and leave W with a very weak pawn there 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.0-0 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Bc5 17.Nc4 Qg3 winning the pawn but even better is [>=17...Be4 when B's Bs rule] 18.Qb7? Diagram



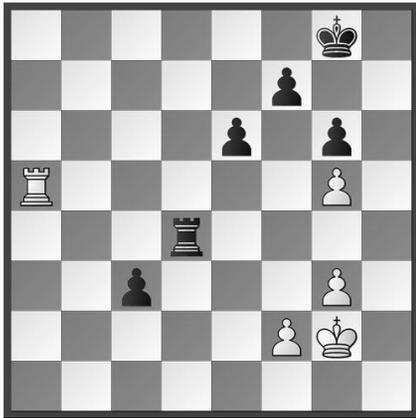
[last chance to play 18.Bd3 now W gets killed on the diagonals] 18...Bxe3+ 19.Nxe3 Qxe3+ 20.Rd2 0-0 21.Rhd1 Rad8 22.Qxc6 Rxd2 23.Rxd2 Rd8 0-1

Edward Lu (1892) - Curtis Cooper (1837) NM Class A (1) [Reti] This game too has a fine ending.

Cooper has not played any tournaments for some years but still remembers how to win opposite B endings 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.b3 Bd6 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Qc2 h6 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.d4 b6 9.0-0 Ne4 [>=9...Bb7] 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.Qxc3 Nf6 12.Rac1 Ne4 13.Qc2 Bb7 14.a3 Qe7 15.b4= dxc4 16.Bxc4 a5 17.Bd3 Nf6 18.e4 Bf4 19.Rb1 c6? [19...axb4 20.axb4 c6] 20.Bc1 Bc7 21.Bd2+/- Ra7 22.Rfc1 Nd7 23.e5 [>=23.bxa5 bxa5 24.a4+/-] 23...Rc8 [>=23...axb4] 24.Be4 Bd8 25.Rb3+/- [>=25.bxa5+/- bxa5 26.Rb3] 25...axb4 26.Bxb4 c5 27.dxc5 bxc5 28.Bd2 [>=28.Bxb7] 28...Ba6 29.Be3 Rac7 30.Qd2 c4 31.Rbc3 Nc5= 32.Bxc5 Qxc5 Diagram



33.Qd6? Ra7=/+ [now B misses a better move >=33...Qxd6 34.exd6 Rd7 35.Rd1 Bf6+] 34.Nd4 Bb6 35.Nc6 Qxf2+ 36.Kh1 Bc5 37.Ne7+ Rxe7 [>=37...Kh8] 38.Qxa6 Rd8 39.Qxc4 Red7 40.Rf1 Diagram



49.Rc5 now the extra pawn will not be enough 49...Rd3 50.Kf1 Rd5 51.Rxc3 Rxc3 52.Ke2 Ra5 53.Rc7 Ra3 54.Rb7 Kg7 55.Rc7 g5 56.Rb7 Kg6 57.Rb6 g4 58.Rb4 Kg5 59.Rb5+ f5 60.Rb6 e5 61.Rb5 Kf6 62.Rb6+ Kg5 63.Rb5 e4 64.Rb6 Rf3 65.Re6 f4?=[65...Rb3-/+ would keep some slight winning chances] 66.Re5+ Kf6 67.Rxe4 fxc3 68.Rxc4 gxf2 69.Kf1 1/2-1/2

Raynaldo Fourzan (1926) - Ben Coraretti (2066) NM Class M / X (1) [French]

B plays a provocative Q move but W misses the strongest line. When W sacs a bishop to open up the K he does not have a good follow-up and B goes further ahead. B gives back some material and then finds a neat mate. (Ed Note: *Altho not a rated expert, Ray played up so that the M/X section would have an even number of players*) 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Ndf3 Nc6 7.c3 a5 8.a4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.cxd4 Bb4+ 11.Kf2= looks dubious but this is a book line. W has usually played g3 already and can walk the K to g2! Bd2 is ok too [11.Bd2 Qh4+ 12.g3

Qe7 13.Bxb4 Qxb4+/=] 11...0-0 12.Bd3 Qh4+ 13.g3 Qh6? Diagram



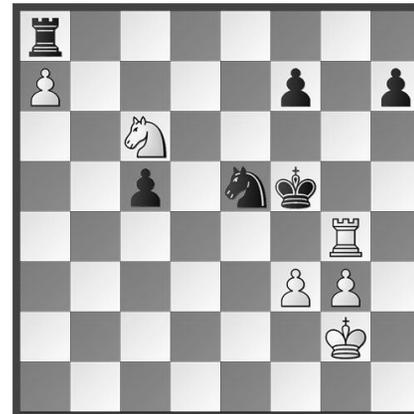
14.Nf3=[B really should have retreated the Q to e7. Now W misses the opportunity to profit from the exposed Q >=14.f5 g5 15.f6 Nxf6 16.exf6 Qxf6+ 17.Kg2 Qg7 18.Qh5 Be7+-] 14...f6 15.f5 does not work out so well now [the same idea of trapping the Q can be seen in this line 15.h4 Qh5 16.g4 Qxg4? (16...Qe8) 17.Bxh7+ Kxh7 18.Ng5+] 15...Qh5 16.g4 Qxg4 17.Bh6? Qh5 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Rg1+ Kh8 20.Qf1 Nxe5! B decides that it's worth giving some material back to remove the White R from the g file 21.dxe5 Bc5+ 22.Ke1 Bxg1 23.Nxg1 fxe5 24.Qf2 Bd7 25.Qg3 Rxf5 B returns the exchange to keep the position under control [25...e4 26.Qe5+ Kg8 27.Qg3+ Kf7 28.fxe6+ Bxe6 29.Bb5] 26.Bxf5 Qxf5 27.Ne2 Rg8 28.Qc3 Qe4 29.Rc1 d4 30.Qc2 Rg1+ 31.Kd2 Qe3# 0-1

2010 Memorial/Senior Booster Section

This section had a four-way tie for first place among Gabriel Maestas, Joe Schrader, Bruce Lewis and Geoffrey Gill. As usual, computer variations and comment are in the [] brackets and my comments are in the { } brackets. Art Byers

Mark Vickers (Unr) - Noah Lewis (1054) Mem/Sr Booster' Queen's Gambit Declined:

{Unrated Mark Vickers, playing in his very first USCF tournament, finished back in the pack--BUT - showed great future promise with a fine move in this position.} 48...Ne5 Diagram

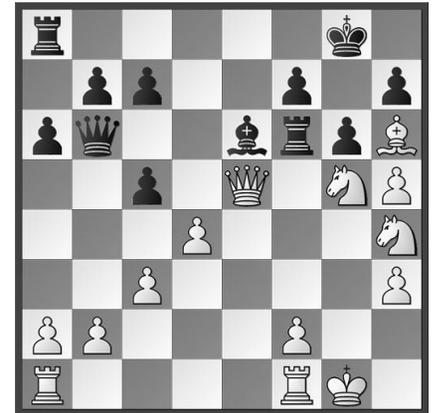


{White to move. Find the best and fastest way to win. The answer is after the last of the Booster Games.}

Gabriel Maestas (1141) - Bruce Lewis (1034) Mem/Sr Booster

Four Knights: { Gabriel was the only player in this section to go undefeated and certainly deserved his tie for first place. By Move 25 Gabriel is two pieces ahead and went on to mate.} 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 a6 [4...Bb4!?= might be a viable alternative] 5.Bxc6+/- dxc6 6.Nxe5 Qd4 7.Nf3 Qd8 8.d3 Bd6??

[>=8...Be7+/-] 9.e5+- Qe7 10.Qe2 0-0 11.exd6 Qxd6 12.0-0 Nh5 13.Nh4 g6 14.Bh6 Rd8 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Ne4 Qb4 17.h3 [>=17.Qd2 a5 18.a3 Qxd2 19.Nfxd2+-] 17...Be6 18.c3 [18.g4 seems even better 18...Ng7 19.Nf6+ Kh8+-] 18...Qb6 19.d4 [19.g4 makes it even easier for White 19...Ng7 20.Nf6+ Kh8+-] 19...Rd5 20.Neg5 [>=20.g4 Ng7 21.Nf6+ Kh8+-] 20...Nf4 21.Qe3 Rf5 22.Nh4 Rf6 23.Qe5 Nh5 24.g4 [>=24.Ne4 Rf4 25.Bxf4 c5+-]24...c5 25.gxh5 Diagram



{And white had an easy win.} 1-0

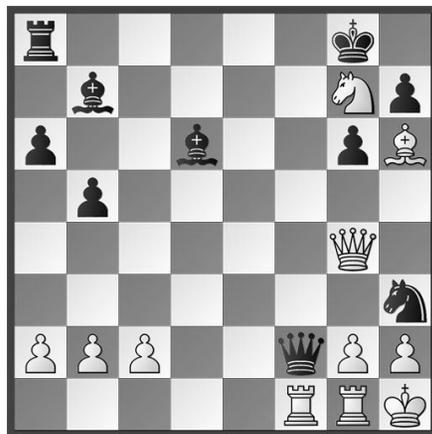
The larger diagrams are at the request of one of our seniors whose failing eyesight and diminishing mental capacity could not cope with the small diagrams in previous issues.

Annabelle Romero (983) - Geoffrey Gill (Unr) Mem/Sr Booster: Ponziani Opening and Scotch Gambit {Black simply outplays White in this miniature.} 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 Bc5 4.Bg2 d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Nc3 Nxe4 9.Qe2? [\geq 9.0-0!? is an interesting alternative 9...Nxc3 10.Qe1+ Qe7 11.bxc3=] 9...Qe7 10.0-0 Nxc3+ 11.Qxe7+ Nxe7 12.bxc3 Bxc3 13.Rb1 0-0 14.Ng5 Rb8 [14...Bxd4 15.Re1 Nc6 16.Bd5+] 15.Be4 Bf5 16.Bxb7?? [\geq 16.Rd1+] 16...Bxb1 [16...Bxb1 17.Be4 Bxd4+ Black has a decisive advantage] 0-1

Bruce Lewis (1034) - Joe Schrader (1053) Mem/Sr Booster Sicilian Scheveningen/Najdorf

{Black misses a well known mate combination at move 26 and then loses his way in the complications three moves later allowing white to go a piece up.} 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3+/- d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4+/- e6 7.0-0 Be7 [Black is behind in development.] 8.Nce2 d5 {Black misses the opportunity to win a pawn with 8....Nxe4} 9.exd5+/- b5 [9...exd5!? 10.Bd3 0-0+/- =] 10.Bd3 {10.Bb3 was an O.K. alternative.} 10...Nxd5 11.Ng3 [White has an active position] 11...Bb7 12.Nh5 0-0 13.Qg4 g6 14.Bh6 f5 [14...Qb6 15.c3 Rd8 16.Rfe1=] 15.Qg3 [15.Qe2 Rf7 16.Nxe6 Qb6+/-] 15...Rf7 16.Nxe6+/- Qb6 17.Rfe1 Nd7 18.Nhg7 [\geq 18.Nhf4!? Bd6 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Bf4+/-] 18...Bd6= 19.Qg5 Nc5 20.Bxf5 [20.Rad1 Nb4 21.h4 Be7=] 20...Nxe6= 21.Bxe6 [21.Rxe6 Nc7 22.Qd2+/-] 21...Qxf2+/- 22.Kh1 Nf4 23.Bxf7+ Kxf7 24.Rg1 Kg8 25.Raf1

[\geq 25.Qg3!? looks like a viable alternative 25...Qxg3 26.hxg3 Nxc7 27.Rxc7=] 25...Nh3=/+ 26.Qg4?? Diagram



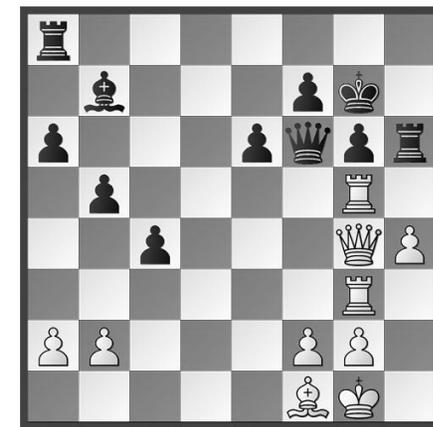
26...Rf8 {Black now misses mate in two: 26...Qxg1+ 27.Rxc7 Nf2#} 27.Qe6+ Kh8 [\geq 27...Rf7!? is an interesting idea 28.Qxh3 Qxf1=/+] 28.Qxh3= Qxf1 29.Ne6 Bxg2+?? [\geq 29...Qf5 30.Qc3+ Be5 31.Bg7+ Kg8 32.Bxe5 Qxe6=] 30.Qxg2+- Qxg2+ 31.Rxc7 Rf5 32.Rd2 Be7 33.Rd7 Kg8 34.Rxe7 Rf7 35.Re8+ Rf8 36.Rxf8# 1-0

Mark Vickers/ Bruce Lewis continued from page # 41. . 49.Rg8!! (The double exclamation is by Fritz. Did you find this move and its Knight fork sequence??) 49...Rxc8 [49...Rxa7 {does not save the game} 50.Nxa7 Ke6+-] 50.Ne7+ {After this Knight fork which wins the B R on g8, Black could have easily resigned but held out a few more moves even after White "Queened" the a-pawn.} 1-0

The NM Class Championship
Kudos to Chad Schneider who had the idea of challenging Colorado to an annual chess match. The Colorado team was to be determined by a class championship so Chad organized this tourney to determine who would represent NM at the match in Colorado Springs. Co-sponsored by the Wired Kings, the UNM Chess Club and the New Mexico Chess Organization, 68 players showed up for the tournament which was held at the UNM Student Union Building in Albuquerque. There was a surprisingly good turnout in the master/expert section where 8 players competed. Section winners were: (M/X) Stephen Sandager and Ben Coraretti; (A) Douglas Thigpen; (B) Robert Hampton; (C) Evan Liu; (D) Isaac Ewing and Chad Frantz; (E) Joseph Torres. Congrats to all. There follows a selection of the most interesting games from each section. Enjoy. Jim Johnston ,

Stephen Sandager (2224) - John Flores (1984)NM Class M / X (1) [Semi Slav]

In this tournament we used the FIDE time control with 30 second increments so that players would have time to play endings like the following. Here John Flores has several chances to score an upset, but top seed Steve Sandager hangs on for the draw . 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.Be2 Bb7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.e5 Nd5 10.Ne4 0-0 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Bf1 [\geq 12.b3 now or on move 14 is my computer's preference. The K -side assault seems optimistic] 12...Qb6 13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Nfg5+/- h6 15.Qh5 c5 16.dxc5 Qc7 17.Nf6+? Nxf6?=/+ too trusting of the opponent. B can grab material here [\geq 17...gxf6 18.exf6 Nxf6 19.Qxh6 Qf4 20.Nxf7 Qxh6-/+] 18.exf6 hxg5 19.Re3 g4= [\geq 19...g6 20.Qxg5 Nf5+] 20.fxe7 Qxe7 21.Qxg4 Qxc5 22.Rg3 Qe5 23.Re1 Qf6 24.Qh5 a6 25.Re5-/+ [\geq 25.Rh3=] 25...g6 26.Reg5 Kg7 27.Qg4 Rh8 28.h4 Rh6 Diagram



[\geq 28...Rad8 with threats of Rd2 or Rd4 is winning for B] 29.Re3 Rah8 30.g3 Rh5 31.Bg2 Bxg2 32.Kxg2 Rxc5 33.hxg5 Qxb2? puts B 2 pawns up but missing the more spectacular [33...Rh2+! 34.Kxh2 Qxf2+ 35.Kh1 Qxe3 and W can resign] 34.Qe4 Qa1 35.Re1 Qb2 36.Rd1 Rh5? [\geq 36...Rc8] 37.Qf4= Rh8 38.Rd7 Rf8 39.Qe4 Kg8 40.Rd1 a5 [\geq 40...c3] 41.Rb1 Qxa2 42.Rxb5 c3 43.Rc5 Qd2 44.Qc4 Rd8 [\geq 44...Ra8] 45.Rxa5 Qd3 46.Qf4 Qd2 47.Qf6 Qd4 48.Qxd4 Rxd4 Diagram