

# Desert Knight

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO CHESS ORGANIZATION

VOL. 40 #2 JUNE 2011

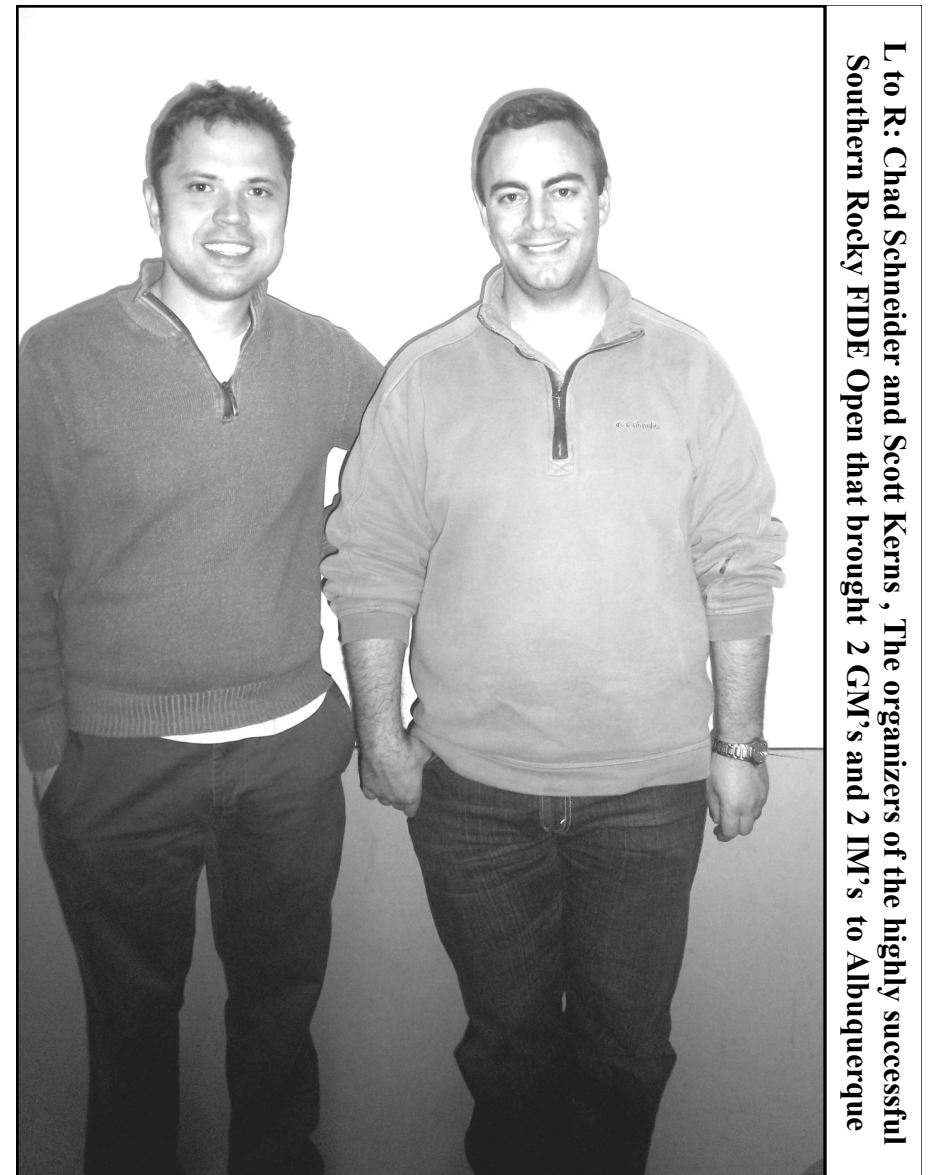
FREE WITH TOURNAMENT ENTRY



Above: Wayne Hatcher and his famous friend



Dean, Holly and Dale listening to Richard Sherman speaking to the Coronado Chess Club, at the Frontier Restaurant, prior to his departure for Virginia. Richard presided here for 17 years and was a member of Coronado for 30 years.



L to R: Chad Schneider and Scott Kerns, The organizers of the highly successful Southern Rocky FIDE Open that brought 2 GM's and 2 IM's to Albuquerque

### NMCO Officers :

**President—Oren Stevens; Vice-Pres.- Dante Archuleta; Secretary—Sam Dooley; Treasurer—Dean Brunton; Webmaster—Jeffrey S. Sallade; Desert Knight Editor: Jim Johnston; Tournament Organizer; Art Byers; Member at Large : Art Glassman; Scholastic Liaison - Gabe Ewing.**

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### Annotation Symbols

Excellent Move	!!	White Winning	+ -
Good Move	!	White advantage	+ =
Interesting	!?	White small edge	+ / =
Dubious	?!	Equal	=
Bad	?	Black Winning	- +
Blunder	??	Black advantage	= +
Check	+	Black small edge	= / +
Double Check	++	Unclear position	∞
Checkmate	#	Better move is	> =

32. Qxd5 Qd7! [With this consolidation, white's time is short.] 33. Qe5+ Qe6 34. Qb8+ Kf7 35. Qxa7+ Nd7 36. h4 Qe1+ 37. Kh2 Bd6+ 38. g3 Qxg3+ 0-1 I knew that Steve employed a relentless and talented style and that if I was to compete with these masters and become one I must initialize a serious plan to achieve that goal. Apparently, I inherently employed the ultra fighting spirit it takes, but I lacked chess education. After all I'd grown up in the chess desert of Las Vegas, New Mexico, but no excuses now!

After the 1972 Albuquerque Open and to achieve that master chess goal, I bought the latest Chess Informant (2 every year) and would do this for the next 12-years. I would play over every game, analyze every end-game, and special diagram and dissected each game to where I thoroughly understood it and the dynamics of a won, loss, or drawn battle. For years I employed the chess coach, Ken Damraü, who helped me especially with openings. My rating during this period, from the late 1970s to the 1980s, went from 1900s to the 2300s.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

With the November issue of *Desert Knight*, A new column will be featured named "My Favorite Game".

No matter what your rating, you are invited to submit one of the games you played as a favorite games for a candidate for this new section. Send as either a pgn or Fritz cbv file to: Jim Johnston at [jdjohnston@earthlink.net](mailto:jdjohnston@earthlink.net)

### Puzzle Page Solutions

#### McCracken/Grinberg:

1. Kc2 a5 (1... a6 2. Bc4 a5 3. Nd5 a4 4. Kc1 a3 5. Ne3 a2 6. Nc2#) 2. Bc4 a4 3. Nd5 a3 4. Ba2! an innovative way of preventing stalemate Kxa2 5. Nb4+ Ka1 6. Kc1 a2 7. Nc2#

#### White Wins:

1. Rc8 !! Rxc8 2. Bxf6+ Nxf6 3. Qxf6+ Rg7 4. Qxg7#) 2. Rxd8+ Rg8 3. Rxd7 and the other N falls since Rg6 ? fails to 4. Bxf6+ Rxf6 5. Rd8#

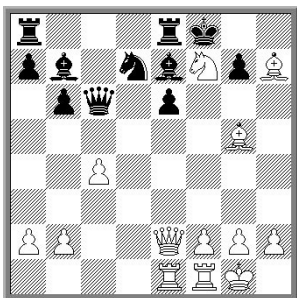
#### Sam Lloyd:

1. Bg1! Nf3 2. Rf2 Ke3 3. Rxf3#

#### Stamma 1745:

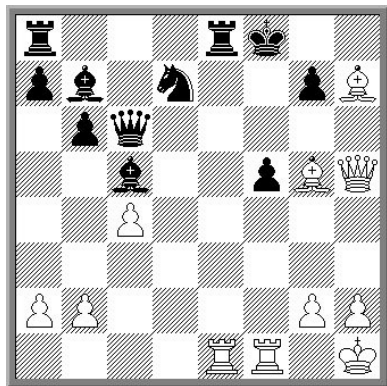
1. Qxa7+ ! Kxa7 2. Ra1+ Qa2 3. Rxa2+ Kb8 4. Ra8+ Kc7 5. Ncb5+ Kd7 6. Ra7+ Rc7 7. Rxc7+ Ke8 8. Bg6+ Kf8 9. Rh8+ Bxh8 10. Ne6+ Kg8 11. Bh7#

better on f8? What a stupid move with white having multiple opportunities to win outright. Rac8 is solid.] 19. Bxh7+!! [Black's busted; however, with an upcoming blunder on Steve's behalf, I will escape to win this game.] 19. ... Kf8 [19. ... Kxh7 20. Qh5+ Kg8 21. Qxf7+ Kh7 22. Re3 +-] 20. Nxf7?? [White returns the favor by missing a brilliant forced win! 20. Ng6!! and there is no defense to save the game. 20. ... fxc6 21. Qxe6 Nf6 22. Bxf6 +-] Qc6! Diagram



[Suddenly, white must be concerned with the defense of his own king. Black has yet to recover, but now I'm not out rightly busted.] 21. f4? [Guarding against mate and covering the bishop at g5, but this was not the way to go. 21. Qg4! Two variations are critical to black's short term survival: a. 21. ... Qxg2+ 22. Qxg2 Bxg2 23. Kxg2 Kxf7 24. Bxe7 Rxe7 25. Be4 ±; or this ultra sharp variation b. 21. ... Kxf7 22. Bg6+ Kxg6 23. Rxe6+ Qxe6 24. Qxe6+ Nf6 25. Bxf6 Bxf6 26. Qg4+ Kf7 27. Qd7+ Re7 28. Qf5 is mega complex with advantage to white because of his extra pawns.] 21. ... Kxf7 22. f5 Bc5+!! -+ [What this does in effect is to force white into a back row mate issue. By being super aggressive, so far both sides appear unyielding, but (at this juncture) it turns out to be an illusion that my king is more vulner-

able than his. I've gone from being totally lost to now winning.] 23. Kh1 exf5



24. Qh5+ Kf8! Diagram

[of course not 24. ... g6?? 25. Rxf5+ Kg7 26. Qh6+ Kh8 27. Bxg6+ Kg8 28. Bf7#] 25. Qh3 [Still white cannot ignore my mate on g2. My position appears to be hanging by a thread, but steadily I get out of white's attack. 25. Rxf5+ is a defeating shot because of Nf6 26. Rxf6+ Qxf6! 27. Rxe8+ Rxe8 -+] 25. ... Rxe1 26. Rxe1 Re8?! [I thought if I eliminated white's rooks it will be difficult for Steve to continue his attack, but 26. ... g6! leads to an easier win 27. Qh6+ Kf7 28. Re2 Re8 {Bf8-+} 29. Qxg6+ Qxg6 30. Bxg6+ Kxg6 31. Rxe8 Kxg5] 27. Rxe8+ Kxe8 28. Bxf5 g6?! [Not leading to the turn-around white could hope to achieve, but Nf6! Is stronger. Every move just hangs-on 28. ... g6 29. Bxd7+ Qxd7 30. Qh8+ Kf7 {Bf8} 31. Qh7+ Ke8 32. Qg8+ Bf8 33. Qxg6+ Qf7 34. Qxf7+ Kxf7 with a strong edge for black starting with Bc5 & Be4.] 29. Be6? Nf8! [However 29. ... Nf6!! curiously forces a more direct win again because of white's back row mate issues. 30. Bxf6 Qe4 with no contortions to save his game.]

**From the NMCO President:** When I first joined USCF, while living in San Diego, Ca. in 1975, I promptly entered a postal chess class tournament. It was shortly thereafter that I had received my first move from a newly assigned postal opponent and learned just how special and awesome the game of chess is. The postal card read: "My name is Singray Hughes, I live in Tucson, AZ. I'm 54 years old and have been bedridden for 30 years." With Chess serving as common ground during the year we took to complete two games of chess I was afforded the opportunity to gain a friendship with this gentleman.

The benefits of chess are many. This is but one example. I've made it my mission, while serving as your president, to team up with our executive board and other NMCO members to expand chess activity for men, women, boys, girls, young and old alike. This year our executive board has established a matching fund grant for our scholastic and college students (below 1400). We have also started a new chess program with our veterans at the VA Hospital.

For more information on these new programs please contact Arthur Byers or myself. Teaching and encouraging others to play chess will make a positive difference in their life as well as your own. **Oren Stevens**

**From the Editor** (June 11) As usual I must thank Art Byers for doing all the real work of putting the magazine together and publishing it. Thanks also to Ryan McCracken for some challenging puzzles. What is different is that this time we got some great notes from the players. It always improves the magazine when there is a variety of annotators, so thanks to Chris Candelario for notes to a game from 39 years ago. More recently Sam Dooley won a quad but sent in notes to his only loss. Matt Grinberg sent notes to all of his games from the Memorial tournament and even sent in a problem he composed between rounds (see the Puzzle page). Lior Lapid also sent notes to two of his wins in the SR Fide Open. Readers might be surprised to learn that Lior's last round win against an I.M. which brought him a \$1000 prize was not his all-time favorite game. **Starting in the next issue, DK will print a new feature suitably entitled "My Favorite Game"** with a casual game with amazing sacrifices where Lior finally mates with his few remaining pieces. Chris's game would have fitted well under this heading and I am hoping that other NM players will dust off their archives and send us their favorite game. **Jim Johnston**

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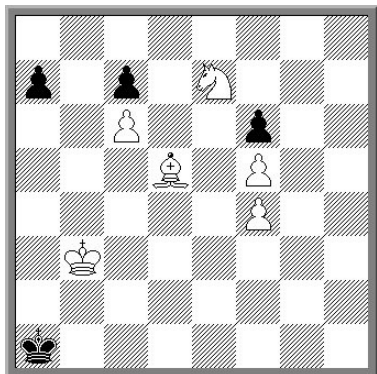
**Games are annotated by Jim Johnston, with and without computer help, unless otherwise noted. Front Cover photo by Art Byers.**

**Send games, articles and photos for the Desert Knight to:**

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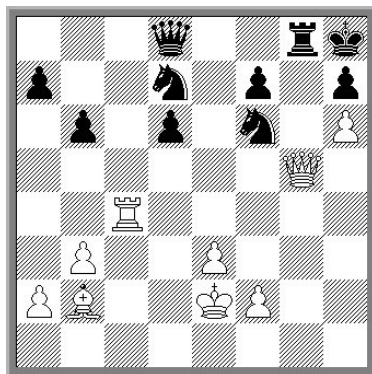
The Puzzle Page  
 Puzzle Master: Ryan McCracken  
 White to move in all

McCracken/Grinberg  
 By Ryan



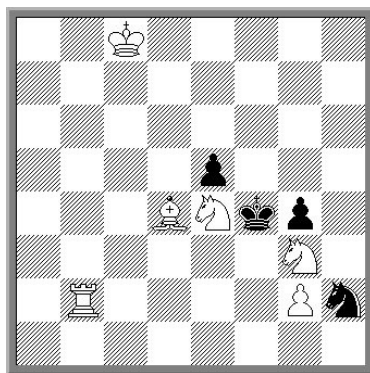
Mate in 7

White Wins  
 By Ryan



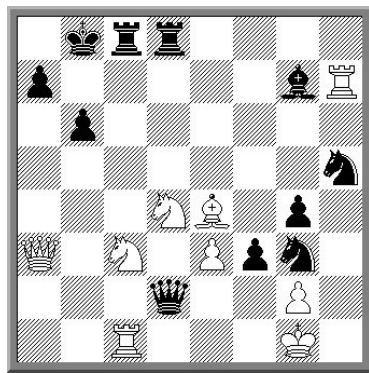
White Wins

Sam Lloyd



Mate In 3

Stamma 1745



Mate In 11

National Master Chris Candelario has contributed several interesting articles to Desert Knight in the past. Once again, Chris has gone into his archives for a game he played in 1972 (Ed.)

**Memoirs of a Chess Saboteur**

Part One by NM Chris Candelario

**SAND(ager)BAGGING**

Steve Sandager is among the Southwest's great tournament players, winning the NM state chess championship more than anyone else on record. In going over my scores, I believe I have a plus tournament score against him, 2w, 1d, 1L.

With Sandager we have won the NM State Team tournament at least twice and the "chess bughouse" championship once. In fact before the bughouse tournament, neither of us had ever played that brand of chess. Steve is also a terrific tennis player.

**SANDAGER -vs- CANDELARIO  
 1972 Albuquerque Open / C10  
 French Defence Rubinstein Variation**

1. e4 e6 [I've never been of the French Defence persuasion, but Steve and I had worked together on home analysis on multitude lines of 1. e4, c5 ... ; so that was out of the question] 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 [Nd2 is the Tarrasch variation.] dxe4 [Initializes the Rubinstein Variation. Just about any move except Bb4+ or the move I just played remains the Paulsen French. Bb4+ of course is the deeply analysed Winawer-

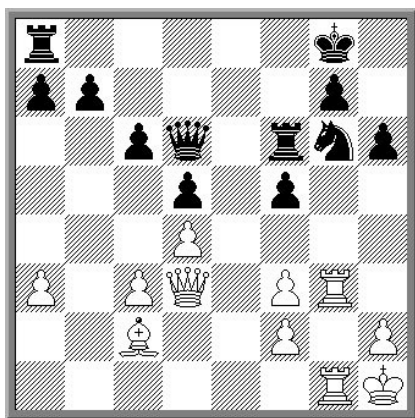
Nimzovitsch.] 4. Nxe4 Nd7 [Be7 is more accurate, but my thought is to overload on c5 and f6] 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Nxf6+ Nxf6 [Now my move order seems almost justified and Be7 appears less accurate, and the plus is white advances my queen's knight into controlling 8-squares. A sidebar try would have been to play Ng3, but not really Steve's style.] 7. Bd3 [Bc4 & Bb5!?!+ are other viable options, but I immediately see that his target is h7.] c5!?! [Way aggressive as Be7 is certainly more stable.] 8. Bg5 [aggressive as 0-0 seems preferable] cxd4 [8. ... Qb6 and 9. Bxf6 forces me with 3-pawn islands. Now I might eventually wage a queen-side minority attack against white's a/b/c pawns, but that's a long way off.] 9. Nxd4!?! [White didn't like Bb5+ still going for the 3-pawn islands] Qa5+ [Of course not 9. ..., Qxd4 10. Bb5+ and white has a miniature. Be7 still appears to be the safest move.] 10. Bd2 [I was hoping for 10. Qd2, Qxd2 with a semblance of equality.] Qe5+ 11. Be3 Bc5 [Nd5 12. Bb5+ Ke7 radical but bear with this analysis 13. Qd2 Nxe3 14. fxe3 Qc5 15. 0-0 g6 16. Qf2 f5 17. Qh4+ Kf7 Δ Be7, Bf6 and black looks fine.] 12. O-O O-O 13. Nf3 Qc7 14. Bg5 Be7 [Apparently a nice defensive move, but during the game I thought of trying 14. ..., Nd5 in which case 15. Be4 x-raying my rook on a8 seems logical right on for white.] 15. c4 b6 [I thought b6 was a clever move, but Rd8 is more stable.] 16. Qe2 [Re1 books up] Bb7 17. Ne5 [Rfe1] Rfe8?! [Somehow I really wanted to control my e6 point. Rfd8 maintains] 18. Rae1 Nd7??



23.Rh7 Rxc2+ [>=23...Nf5 is even stronger as 24.e4? Qf4 25.Rf1 Rxc2+ 26.Kxc2 Ne3+ mating] 24.Kxc2 Qc2+ 25.Kg1 Qf2+ 26.Kh1 Qf3+ 27.Kg1 Qxc3+ 28.Kh1 Qe4+ 29.Kg1 Qxd4+ 30.Kh1 Qe4+ 31.Kg1 Qg4+ 32.Kh1 Nf5 33.Rg1? now B can keep checking until he wins back all the material [33.Qd8=/+ ] 33...Qe4+ 34.Rg2 Qb1+ 35.Rg1 Qxb2? [>=35...Qd3 ] 36.Rd1? [36.Qb8= ] 36...Qb5 37.Rc1 Qd5+ 38.Kg1 Qd4+ 39.Kh1 Qe4+ 40.Kg1 Qe3+ 41.Kg2 Qxc1 42.Kh3 Qf1+ 43.Kg4 Ne3+ 44.Kg3 Qf3+ 45.Kh4 Qg4# 0-1

**Alex Ramirez - Harsh Bhundiya Southern Rocky Booster section**

**Gioco Piano:** {Improving his rating in every tournament. Harsh defeats the 4th round outright leader - enabling a 4-way first place tie. Alex makes an overly optimistic exchange Sac in an attempt to open access to the B K and later goes pawn hunting -- leaving a W B unprotected.} 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.c3 Bc5 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 {A frequently arrived position} 8...Nxe4 9.Bxb4 Nxb4 10.0-0 [10.Qb3!? d5 11.Qxb4 dxc4 12.0-0= ] 10...d5 11.Bb3 0-0 12.a3 {A wasted move that just drives the B N to a better square.} [12.Ne5 Bf5=+ ] 12...Nc6 13.Nc3 Bg4 14.Qd3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Ne7 17.Kh1 c6 18.Bc2 Ng6 19.Rg1 Qd6 20.Rg3 f5 [20...Rfe8!?-/+ ] 21.Rag1 Rf6 Diagram



22.Rxc6?? [>=22.Qd1 Kh8 23.Bxf5=/+ ] 22...Rxc6+ 23.Qxf5 Rxc6+ {Exchanging off White's last rook and luring the W K to an open file} 24.Kxc6 Qf6 25.Qd7?? {W goes pawn hunting - overlooking a forced series that loses the c2 B} [25.Qh5+ ] 25...Qg5+ {**Black Came! Black Saw! Black Conquered!**} 26.Kf1 [26.Qg4 Qc1+ 27.Bd1 Qxd1+ 28.Kg2 Qc2+ ] 26...Qc1+ 27.Kg2 Qxc2 {Black is a full rook ahead and went on to win.} 0-1

**SRFO Booster Section  
By Art Byers**

The U1400 section had 26 players so it was no surprise that most of the better ones did not get to play each other until the late rounds. Alex Ramirez led the pack into the fifth and final round with 3 ½ points followed by 7 others with 3 points. The final result: Harsh Bhundiya, Art Byers, Gabriel Maestas, and Mario Diaz landed in a tie for first place having 4 points and sharing 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> money. Too bad there were not two more rounds! What follows is the key Round five game that enabled the four-way tie.

As usual computer notes are in the [ ] brackets and my comment is in the { } face brackets.

**The 2011 Memorial / Senior tournament**

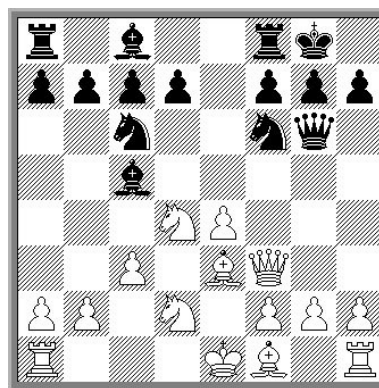
This year's memorial tournament was named for GM Larry Evans. There were 22 players in the open section, 9 in the reserve and 14 in the booster section. Some players who usually play in the reserve may have been drawn away by the rival attraction of football games.

The Open was won by Silas Perry on 4 points. Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place were Matt Grinberg, Raynaldo Fourzan and David Langlois. David lost to Matt in round 2, Matt lost to Ray in 3 and then Ray lost to Silas in round 4. Matt Grinberg became 2011 NM Senior champion. Congrats to all.

In the reserve section Michael Torres won with 3 points. 2<sup>nd</sup> = on 2.5 were John Sarracino, Paul Padilla and Preston Herrington. There follows a selection of some of the key games. *Jim Johnston*

**Mem/Sr, Open, Caleb Jaquish (1808) - Tony Schroeder (2000) (1)/[Scotch]**

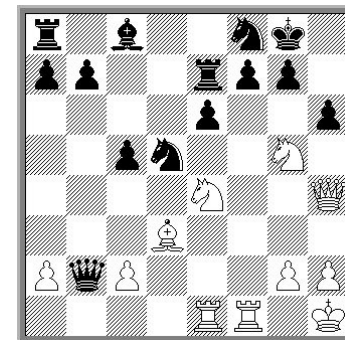
W scores an upset when a classic trap strikes again. 1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.Nf3 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 [many players have lost a piece from here with something like 5...Nf6?? 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bxc5 ] 6.c3 Qg6? 7.Qf3 Nf6 8.Nd2 0-0?? Diagram



9.Nxc6 the classic trap with an added sting in the tail 9...Bxe3? 10.Ne7+ Kh8 11.Nxc6+ 1-0

**Mem/Sr, Open, Gabe Ewing (1917) - Silas Perry (2066) (2) [Blackmar-Deimer Gambit] ..**

W keeps on sacking material and gets a promising attack for it but B defends. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 dxe4 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 e6 [>=5...Bg4 or Bf5 getting the B outside the pawn chain, and then e6] 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe1 c5 10.Qh4 Re8 11.d5 Nf8 12.Rae1? W aims everything at the B King but this R has more of a future on d1 or he should try [>=12.Bb5 Ng6 13.Qf2 Rf8=/+ ] 12...Qb6= [>=12...exd5 13.Bb5 Bd7 14.Bxd7 N8xd7+ gives B a 2 pawns lead] 13.Kh1 Qxb2 14.Ne4 Nxd5 that's 3 up 15.Bxe7 Rxe7 16.Nfg5 h6 Diagram

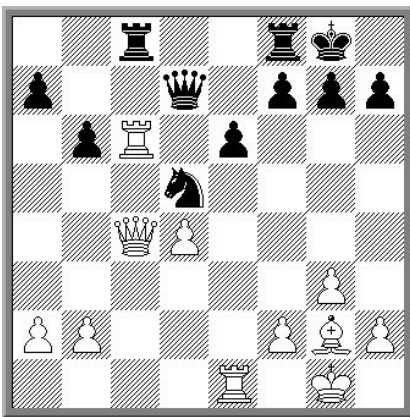


17.Nxf7 W has to continue the attack with a knight sac or he is just down a few pawns



**Dipro Chakraborty (2200) - Curtis Cooper (1889) SR Fide Open [Queen's Indian]**

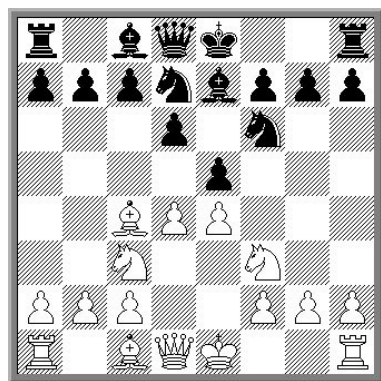
DK readers may be thinking that NM players were all getting crushed by visiting stars. Not so. Curtis did lose to Sipos in round 1 but beat a master in the last round. Dipro traveled to the tournament from Arizona. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 d5 5.Nf3 c6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bg5 Ba6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Be7 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.Ne5 Nd5 16.Qa4? [ $\geq$ 16.Nc6 Qd6 17.Bxd5 exd5 18.Ne7+ Kh8 19.Qh5+/= ] 16...Bb7= 17.Rac1 Qe8 18.Nc6 [ $\geq$ 18.Qa3 ] 18...Bxc6 19.Rxc6 Qd7 [ $\geq$ 19...Ne7 ] 20.Qc4 Rac8 Diagram



21.Bxd5? this loses. W had to play [21.Rc1= ] 21...exd5 22.Rxc8 dxc4 0-1

**GM Melikset Khachiyan (2564) - GM Mikheil Kekelidze (2536) SR Fide Open (5) [Pirc]**

The organizers had anticipated the 2 visiting GMs playing each other in the last round with them as the only players with full points. In fact they trailed the duo on top board and were not too happy to have to play each other on board 2. Kekelidze wins a short game to take a share of 2nd place while Melik, with 2 losses on the Sunday finished out of the prize money! 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 Diagram

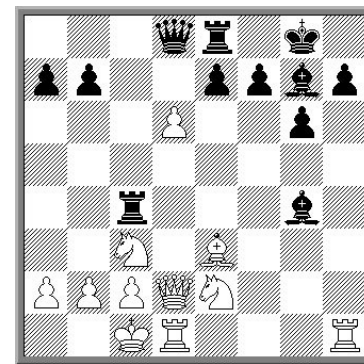


6.Bxf7+?! We must wonder if he would have played this if they had been on top board with \$1000 going to the winner... [ $\geq$ 6.Ng5 d5 7.Bxd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5 Bxg5? (8...0-0 9.Nxe7+/- ) 9.Bxg5 Qxg5 10.Nxc7+/- ;  $\geq$ 6.dxe5 ] 6...Kxf7 7.Ng5+ Kg8 8.Ne6 Qe8 9.Nxc7 Qg6 10.0-0/+ [ $\geq$ 10.Nxa8 Qxg2 11.Rf1 exd4 12.Qe2 Ne5= ] 10...Rb8 11.Be3 Nb6 12.dxe5 Bh3 13.g3 dxe5 14.Bxb6 axb6 15.N7d5 Nxd5 16.Qxd5+ Qe6 17.Rfd1 h5 18.Qxe6+ Bxe6 19.Nd5 Bd8 20.f4 h4 21.f5 Bf7 22.g4 Rc8 23.a3 b5 24.h3 Rc4 0-1

Overlooking my threat. After 18. Nb3 Nxe4, 19. Nxe4 fxe4, 20. Rxe4 White has a significant advantage. White's attack on the queen side is more advanced than my attack in the king side thanks to my 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> moves. 18...Nd3 0-1 White resigns. The resignation seems premature, but there is no doubt that after winning the exchange I will have a winning position.

**Mem/Sr, Open., Matt Grinberg (2028) - Jason Kammerdiner (1912) (4) [Sicilian Dragon] Notes by Matt Grinberg**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.h4 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.h5 Nxh5 15.g4 Nf6 Up to here this is all book. This game illustrates the usual pattern I see in amateur games played in sharp lines. Once both players leave the lines they know they start blundering. In the next few moves one player or the other achieves a hopeless position and the rest of the game turns into a massacre. 16.Nde2 [the last time I reached this position I played the normal 16.Bh6 and was shocked 16...Nxe4 If I had studied the line I would have found that W is slightly better after 17.Qe3+/- instead I decided to play Nde2 followed by Bd4 at the next opportunity] 16...Re8 17.e5!? so why didn't I play 17.Bd4= I saw that e5 wins a piece and played it without considering the consequences 17...Nxd4! 18.fxd4 Bxd4 19.exd6? Diagram



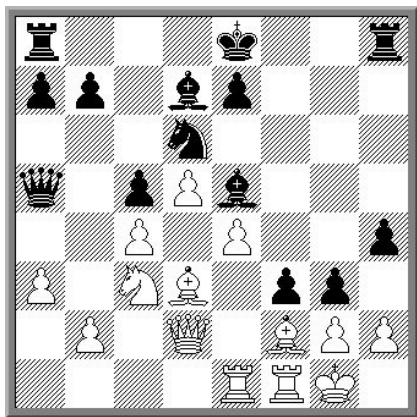
After this I should lose. 19.Qd3 would leave Black only slightly better. 19...exd6?! [returning the favor  $\geq$ 19...Qxd6 20.Qe1 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qa3+ 22.Kb1 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 Qxc3+ ] 20.Rdg1 h5 21.Bd4 Rxd4? Jason was worried about his weak dark squares if he exchanged Bs, but this is an extreme remedy [21...Bxe2 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Nxe2+- ; 21...Be5+- ] 22.Nxd4 Be5 23.Nd5 f5? [ $\geq$ 23...a6] [ missing the threat and weakening his position] 24.Nb5 f4 25.Nbc7 Rf8 26.Qd3 Rf5 [26...Bf5? 27.Rxg6+ Bxg6 28.Qxg6+ Bg7 29.Ne6 ] 27.Qc4 Rf7 28.Ne6! Qe8 [no better is 28...Bxe6 29.Rxg6+ Kf8 30.Rxe6 ] 29.Ng5 Kg7 30.Rxg4! b5 31.Qd3 Rf5 32.Rgg1 Bxb2+ apparently overlooking that Kb2 Qe5 Qc3 and W holds both Ns 33.Kxb2 Kh6 34.Nf3 [ $\geq$ 34.Rxh5+ forcing mate (Ed)] The editor has a nice point – but I think when you have an overwhelming position, you are entitled to win any way you like. 34...b4 35.Kb1 Qe6 36.Rxg6+! Kxg6 37.Nh4+ Kg5 38.Nxf5 Qxf5 39.Rxh5+ 1-0





**John Flores (2010) - IM Steven Zierk (2514) SR Fide Open (2) [Grunfeld]**

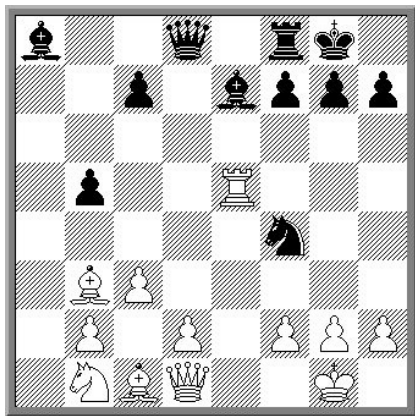
We all saw their photo on Chess Life Online....so here is the game. B leaves his K on e8 and charges up the board with the K-side pawns **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Nxe4 dxe4 6.e3 c5 7.Qd2 Nc6 8.Ne2 Bg7 9.d5 Ne5 10.Nc3 f5** well this works out in the end but B's K is stuck in the middle with little cover [I would go for a safe K with 10...Bf5 11.Be2 h6 12.Bh4 0-0 ] **11.Be2 Nf7 12.Bh4 h5 13.f3 exf3 14.Bxf3** [ $\geq$ 14.gxf3 g5 15.Bf2 h4 16.0-0-0+/- ] **14...g5 15.Bf2 Nd6 16.Be2 Qa5 17.Bd3?** [17.Bg3 e5 18.dxe6 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Ne4 20.Qc2= ] **17...h4 18.0-0 Be5 19.Rae1 Bd7 20.e4 f4 21.a3 g4 22.Re2 f3 23.Ree1 g3** Diagram



a successful pawn storm **24.Qg5 gxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Nf7 26.Qg6 Bd4+** W resigns His best is Kf3 0-0-0 Qf7 Rf8 winning the Q **0-1**

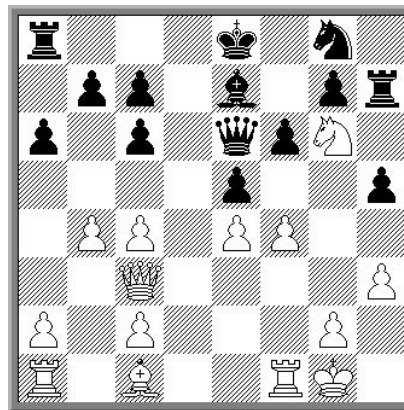
**Munir Hammad (1833) - Kesav Viswanadha (2008) SR Fide Open (3) [Spanish]**

Kesav is an 11 year-old player from California who finished 4th=on 4 points. In this game he gets a fine mating attack **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 Bb7 9.c3 d5** I know very little about this line but it seems that B is playing the Marshall attack even though W's a4 is supposed to be the anti-Marshall which should discourage d5 **10.axb5 axb5 11.Rxa8 Bxa8 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Rxe5 Nf4** Diagram



**15.f3?** keeping the extra pawn but giving B a monster N [ $\geq$ 15.d4 Nxg2 16.Qg4 Nh4= ] **15...Nd3+ 16.Rxb5** [if  $\geq$ 16.Re3 Bc5 17.Bc2 Bxe3+ 18.dxe3 Nxc1+ ] **16...Bc5+ 17.Kf1?** [ $\geq$ 17.Rxc5 Nxc5 18.d4 gets W back in the game] **17...Qh4! 18.Ke2** [ $\geq$ 18.Qe2 would avoid an immediate mate] **18...Nf4+** B will mate next move **0-1**

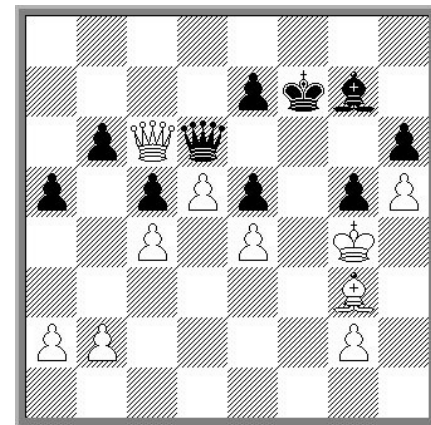
[12.b3 ] **12...Be7** [ $\geq$ 12...Bf8 keeping e7 free for the N] **13.Qc3 f6** weakening, but otherwise the e5 pawn can't be defended **14.Nh4 Kf7** this just loses time [ $\geq$ 14...a5 ] **15.f4 Ke8** forced. Now it's too late for [15...a5? 16.fxe5 Bxb4 17.Qg3 Bc5+ 18.Kh1 Bd4 19.exf6 Nxf6 20.Nf5 ] **16.Ng6 Rh7** Diagram



**17.f5** keeping the position open might be objectively better but I felt that after f5 my positional advantage is so strong that I must be winning and don't have to worry about counter play. **17...Qd6 18.c5 Qd4+** losing a pawn but much worse is [18...Qd7? 19.Qc4 ] **19.Qxd4 exd4 20.Bb2 Bd8 21.Bxd4 Ne7 22.Nf4 Kf7 23.Ne6 Rh8 24.Rae1 Re8 25.c3 Ng8?** losing another pawn, but B's position is so difficult that it's just a matter of time before W finds a decisive breakthrough **26.Nf4 h4 27.Ng6 Nh6 28.Nxh4 Kg8 29.Ng6 Nf7 30.Re3 a5 31.a3 b6 32.Rfe1 Ne5 33.Bxe5 fxe5 34.cxb6 cxb6 35.Rd1 Bf6 36.Rd7 axb4 37.cxb4 Red8 38.Rdd3 c5 39.Rc3 Rac8 40.h4 Rd6 41.g4 Rcd8 42.g5 Rd1+ 43.Kf2 R8d2+ 44.Re2 Be7? 45.Nxe7+ I am not sure that the last 10 moves are correct, but the final position is correct **1-0****

**Mem/Sr, Open. Scott Wade (1443) - Julian Trujillo (1522) (2) [London]**

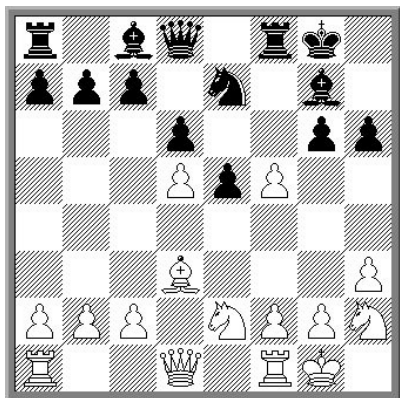
After many maneuvers the W Q penetrates B's position **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bf4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 Nh5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 Ndf6 10.h3 Nh7?** 2 Ns on the rim cannot be best **11.Nd5 N5f6 12.Nxf6+ Nxf6 13.e4 Nd7 14.Qd2 c5 15.d5 Ne5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.0-0 f5 18.f3 g5? 19.Bf2 Qd6 20.Rab1** [he does not need to prepare the advance of the b pawn  $\geq$ 20.b4 cxb4 21.c5 Qf6 22.Qxb4+/-] **20...fxe4 21.fxe4 a5 22.Bg3 Bf6 23.Rf2 Bd7 24.Rbf1 b6 25.Be2 Bg7 26.Qd1 Qg6 27.Bg4 Qd6 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Rxf8+ Kxf8 30.Qf3+ Kg8 31.h4 Bf6 32.Bf5 Bxf5 33.Qxf5 Kg7 34.h5 Kg8 35.Qc8+ Kf7 36.Qf5 Kf8 37.Kh2 Kg8 38.Qg6+ Bg7 39.Qe8+ Bf8 40.Qc6 Kf7 41.Kh3 Bg7 42.Kg4** Diagram



**42...Kf6?** [42...Bf6 43.b3 Bg7 and though B is cramped I think he can survive] **43.Qe8 e6 44.Qg6+ 1-0**

**Mem/Sr Reserve. Scout Veitch (1122) - John Sarracino (1695) (3) [King's Indian]**

*The battle between Knights and Bishops is well illustrated in this game.*  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bd3 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.h3 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6? [W should hold on to his good B >=10.Be3 Nd7 11.Qd2 Kh7 ] **10...Bxf6 11.Nh2 Bg7 12.Ne2 f5 13.exf5** Diagram**



*a n instructive moment. Before you read on decide how you would take back.....I hope nobody chose Rf5 but 3 other choices are possible. General principles suggest Bf5 bringing the unmoved B out while gf looks terrible as it exposes the K. BUT King's Indian players must go for dynamic play not principles! gf is the best choice when B gets control of e4, threatens to play e4 liberating his B on g7 and can use the open g file to line up his heavy pieces and attack the W king* **13...Bxf5** [ $\geq$ 13...gxf5 when play could continue 14.Bc4 Qe8 15.f4 Kh7 16.Qd2 e4 17.c3 Qg6 18.Rfd1 Rg8 19.Kh1 Bf6 20.Rg1 Bd7-/+ ] **14.Bxf5 Nxf5 15.Ng3?** [ $\geq$ 15.c3 ] **15...Nxc3 16.fxg3 Qg5 17.Qg4 Qxg4 18.Nxc3 h5 19.Rxf8+**

**Rxf8 20.Nf2 c6?** [ $\geq$ 20...Bh6 the B should be stronger than the N but it needs a better diagonal] **21.c4= Kf7 22.Ne4 cxd5 23.cxd5 Ke7 24.Rc1 Kd7** Diagram **25.Rc2** [ $\geq$ 25.Rc3 Rf5 26.Rf3 Bh6 27.Nf6+ Kc7 28.Kf2+/= ] **25...Bf6 26.Rf2 Be7 27.Rxf8 Bxf8 28.Kf2 Kc7?** **29.h4 Kb6 30.Kf3 Be7 31.Nc3?**+/= the N must stay on e4 to have any chance against the B [ $\geq$ 31.g4+/= ] **31...Kc5 32.Ke4 b5 33.a3?** W should get the N back in the action [ $\geq$ 33.Ne2 a5 34.Ng1 a4 35.Nf3 Bf6 36.Nd2 Bg7 ] **33...a5 34.b3 g5?** [ $\geq$ 34...b4 35.Na4+ Kb5-+ ] **35.hxg5 Bxg5 36.Kf5 Bc1 37.Ne4+ Kxd5 38.Nf6+ Kd4 39.a4 bxa4 40.bxa4 d5 41.g4 hxg4 42.Nxc4 Bf4 43.Nf2 Bg3 44.Nh3 e4 45.Kg4 Be5 46.Ng5 Kd3 47.Kf5 Bc3 48.g4 e3 49.Nf3 e2 50.g5 Ke3 0-1**

**Mem/Sr Reserve. Paul Padilla (1562) - Michael Torres (1651) Reserve (4) [Pirc]**

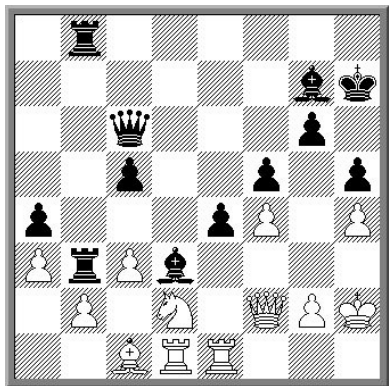
*In the last round this game would decide 1st and 2nd places. W gets a winning position but then drops a rook.*  
**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Bg5** [ $\geq$ 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4+/- ] **6...Be6 7.0-0-0+ Bd6 8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.Be2+/= h6 10.Bxf6+ gxf6 11.Nd2 Ke7 12.Bc4? = Rhg8 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.g3 f5** [ $\geq$ 14...Rad8 ] **15.exf5 exf5 16.Nd5+ Ke6 17.Nc4 Rac8 18.Rhe1 Nb6 19.Ndxb6** [W could win a pawn with  $\geq$ 19.Nf4+ Ke7 20.Nxe5 Kf6 ] **19...axb6 20.Nxe5 Kf6 21.Nd7+ Kf7 22.Nxb6** in fact he won 2 pawns **22...Rcd8 23.Nc4 Bc5 24.Ne5+ Kg7 25.Nd3 Bd6 26.f4 h5 27.a3 Rh8 28.b4 h4 29.c4 hxg3 30.hxc3 Rh3 31.c5 Bf8** Diagram

and feeble moves like 49.Ra2 should be discarded almost immediately. White must activate his rooks at all costs, not only because they are more effective behind the enemy pawns but also because Black's king is somewhat exposed. **49...Rxa3 50.Re2** neither of us had much time remaining, but it's relatively easy for White to find good moves quickly. It's clear that there's nothing better than activating the rooks to create threats against Black's king and pawns. **50...Kg8** it's probably better for Black to get the a-pawn rolling right away: [50...Rb3 , e.g. 51.Re7+ Kh6 52.Rce1 a3 53.Rf7 Be3 54.Rd1 Bd4 with a draw] **51.Re7 Ra2 52.Rc4** the best way to bring the second rook into the game. Now when the a-pawn advances the c4-rook can just swing over to the a-file and assume a commanding presence. **52...Kf8 53.Ra7 a3 54.Rca4** As I wrote in my analysis to this game for Chess Life online, "I felt like a caged animal that, after years of suffering, was finally released back into the wild. After making this move it struck me for the first time that I might actually win the game." **54...Bf2+ 55.Kh3 Re2 56.Rxa3 Re8 57.Rc7 Re7 58.Rc6** note that it's Black who wants to trade rooks and it's White who avoids it. Oftentimes players with a material advantage play too eagerly for simplifications, but just because one is ahead in material does not mean that all equal trades are in his or her interest. In this case White's two rooks can easily pick off the g6-pawn - - weakening the other two kingside pawns in the process -- whereas one rook would not offer enough force to overcome a humble king's defense from f7 or g7. **58...Kf7 59.Raa6** win-

ning the g6-pawn, this marks the beginning of the end for Black. **59...Bd4 60.Rxg6 Re3?!** [more stubborn resistance was offered by 60...Ra7! , which will force the trade of rooks before he loses two more pawns first (as in the game), but White still has a clear path to victory, e.g. : 61.Rac6 Rc7 62.Kg2 Rxc6 63.Rxc6 Kg7 64.Kf1 and Black has to play 64...Bf6 before White's king makes his way behind enemy lines. Now 65.Rxc5 Kg6 66.Rc6 Kg7 67.Rc2 Bxh4 68.Rh2 Be7 69.Rxh5 Kg6 70.Rh8 Bd6 71.Ke2 Bxf4 72.Kd3 leads to a theoretically winning endgame for White, even if Black sets up a fortress with a bishop on e3 and the pawn on f4, because White can force Black into an eventual zugzwang. But it requires some precise technique on White's behalf and is certainly more challenging than the text.] **61.Kg3 Re1 62.Rgc6 Rg1+ 63.Kh2 Re1 64.Rh6 Re2+ 65.Kg3 c4 66.Rxh5 c3 67.Rxf5+ Kg7 68.Rg5+ Kh7 69.Rd5 Bg7 70.Rc6 Re7 71.Rdc5 Bd4 72.Rc4 Bg7 73.Rc7 Re3 74.R4c5 Kh6 75.R5c6+ Kh7 76.h5 Kh8 77.h6 Bd4 78.Rd7** It felt great to win such a strong tournament, of course, but when Sipos resigned I felt exhausted more than triumphant. I would have been lucky to escape from the ugly middlegame position with a draw, let alone a win. Sipos' comment after the game summed it up perfectly: "Well," he shrugged, "that's chess." **1-0**

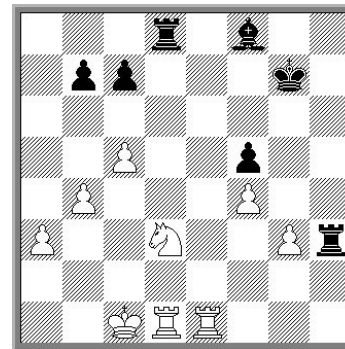
**The Great Santa Fe  
 Gambit Day. Sept.  
 17th. See  
 nmchess.org**

and declining the draw would mean that Sipos had to justify to them as well as himself that he had found some kind of winning plan. In other words, declining the offer would pressure him to try to break through quickly, possibly before his position was ripe for it. Sipos declined the draw but only after thinking it over for another three minutes, and it appeared to me that it was a reluctant decision on his part. Now I was feeling a bit more confident than before. **37...Qd5 38.Ne3 Qc6 39.Nf1 Rb3 40.Nd2?!** Diagram



40. Rd2 is much better, overprotecting the b2-pawn and continuing to focus on preventing any and all possible breakthroughs. With the text I was hoping to give Black another dilemma to think about, i.e. whether to go for the exchange on b2 through which he'd exchange a rook for bishop and two pawns. It appeared to me that even if Black is winning in that variation, the ensuing complications would make it harder for him to play accurately in time trouble. I wasn't convinced that the exchange on b2 was winning for Black and I knew that I would at least have hopes of someday activating my

rooks and attaining counterplay. **40...Rxb2** Sipos didn't have to think for very long about this move, and my heart sank as I was certain he had assessed the resulting position as winning for Black. In fact he was exactly right: White is completely lost in this position. **41.Bxb2 Rxb2 42.Rc1 Qd5 43.Red1 Bc2?** but now I thanked my lucky stars as Black made his first and only big mistake in the game. Chess is a beautiful game but also a cruel one: you can outplay your opponent for forty moves only to throw it away with one unfortunate blunder. [43...Ra2 picks off the a-pawn and Black's bishops and pawns are far more powerful than White's extra rook. From here, as they say, it's "just a matter of technique."] **44.Nxe4** It is Black's misfortune that he made the prophylactic move 33... Kh7. Of course we probably would never have reached this position in that case, but here if Black's king were still on g8 he would be able to respond with 44.. .Bxd1, maintaining some advantage. Now, however, 44...Bxd1 is met with the *zwischenzug* 45.Ng5ch. **44...Qxe4 45.Rd2 Bxc3 46.Rdxc2?** played quickly as this is the most obvious reply, but it is not the best. Lasker's maxim comes to mind here: "When you see a good move, look for a better one!" [46.Rd7+! is superior, and Black's king is not so comfortable anymore. 46...Kh8 (46...Bg7 47.Re1+-) 47.Qg3 Bd3[] 48.Rxc3 (48.Qxg6?? Qxf4+-+ ) 48...Bf1 49.Qf3 Qxf3 50.Rxf3 Bxg2 51.Rfd3 and White should win.] **46...Bd4 47.Qf3 Qxf3 48.gxf3 Rb3 49.Kg3** It is essential to hold the kingside pawns together. Passive play can no longer be condoned,



**32.Rg1** [ $\geq$ 32.Re3 looks more active;  $\geq$ 32.Ne5 Rxd1+ 33.Rxd1 Rxg3 34.Rd7+ wins] **32...Be7 33.Nf2 Rh2 34.Rxd8 Bxd8 35.Nd1** [ $\geq$ 35.Rd1 ] **35...Ra2 36.Ne3? Ra1+ 37.Kd2 Rxg1 38.Nxf5+ Kf6 39.g4 Rxg4 40.Ne3 Rg1** and soon **0-1**

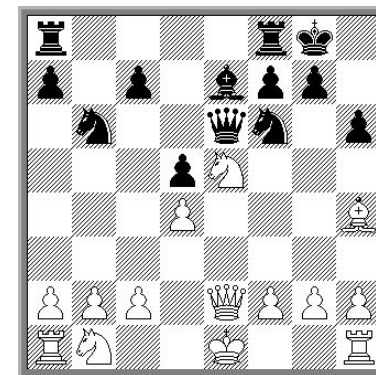
### Booster Section.By Art Byers

This section was the biggest surprise of the tournament as Noah Lewis, who was the 7<sup>th</sup> seed, with his USCF Rating of 954, finished a clear first with a 4 – 0 record. Tied for second/third at 3 – 1 were Bruce Lewis (1156) and Aubrey O'Neal (Unr). Finishing out of the money but still on the plus side were Gabriel Maestas (1251) and Achut Warrior (911) with 2.5 points. Note that Noah won from both 3 point finishers so his fine win was very well deserved.

A deliberate attempt has been made to publish games of players who have never, or very seldom, had a game in *Desert Knight*. As usual, comment and variations in the square [ ] brackets are computer generated while comment in the face { } brackets are mine.

### Mem/Sr,Booster. Achut Warrior (911) - Wendel Brown (1007) NM (2) [French]

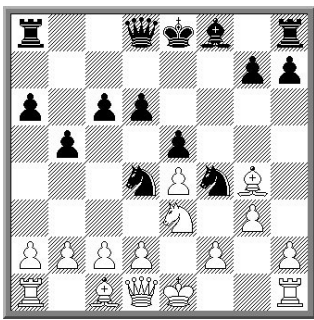
{What seems unique about this short game is the travels of the W Q using empty white square diagonals like an express railroad track to go from the center to deep into the Black Q-side, back to the center and then over to the h-file to accomplish checkmate.} **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5** {It is generally considered that the Exchange variation of the French is not much of a problem for Black. On the other side of that coin, there is not as much to remember for White. MCO 15 has 90 columns on the French, plus loads more than that in sub-variations as it covers the Advance, Classical, MaCutcheon, Rubenstein, Steinitz, Tarrasch, Winawer, and unusual variations. Therefore, a youngster, like Achut, who is a relative newcomer to chess, is probably quite wise to seek out the simpler choice of the Exchange.} **3...exd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Qe2+ Be6** {This leaves the B p on b7 unprotected} **7.Bh4 Be7 8.Qb5+ Nbd7 9.Qxb7 Nb6** [ $\geq$ 9...Rb8 10.Qxa7 Rxb2 11.Bxf6 Bxf6=/+ ] **10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Qa6 0-0 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.Ne5 Qe6** [13...Qf5 14.0-0+/= ] **14.Qe2** Diagram



{The 5th Q move out of the 14 moves made by W. At the cost of a pawn, Black is castled and has all his pieces out. White is not castled and still has a N on its original square blocking the a1 R. If you were evaluating the opening, you well might say that Black got the better of things.} **14...g5 15.Bg3+/= Ne4 16.Qd3** [ $\geq$ =16.Nd2!/? and White can hope to live 16...Nxd2 17.Kxd2+/= (17.Qxd2? f6+ ) ] **16...f6=/+ 17.f3 Nxc3??** [forfeits winning chances {Allowing the W Q access to the g6 square}] [ $\geq$ =17...fxe5 this is the best bet to save the position 18.fxe4 exd4=/+ ] **18.Qg6+ Kh8 19.Qxh6+ Kg8 20.hxg3** [20.Qg6+ Kh8 21.hxg3+ Qh3 22.Rxh3# ] **20...fxe5 21.Qh7#** {The 9th Q move out of 21 finishes this game.} **1-0**

**Mem/Sr Booster.Noah Lewis (954) - Aubrey O'Neal (1156) (1)**

**[Spanish]** {The Ultimate Section winner gets off on a fast round one start with this miniature victory. In common with the previous game, W makes good use of the empty light square diagonals.} **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.Nc3 a6 5.Ba4 b5 6.Bb3 d6 7.Ng5+/-** {Twice attacking the weak p on f7} **7...Be6** { Better would have been 7....d5 8.Nxd5 Nd4 } **8.Nxe6+- fxe6 9.Bxe6 Nd4 10.Bg4 Ng6 11.Nd5** [11.g3 c6 12.Ne2 Be7+- / 11...c6 12.Ne3 [12.c3 cxd5 13.cxd4 Qb6+- / 12...Nf4+- 13.g3 Diagram

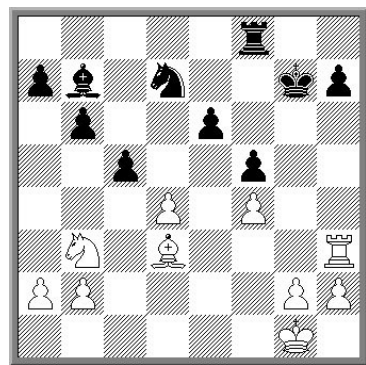


**13...c5??** {B abandons Pawn control of

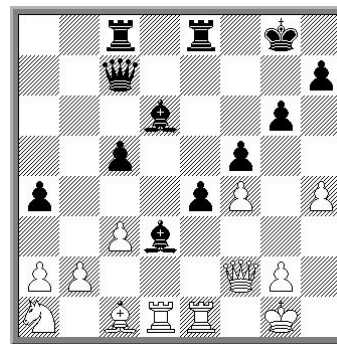
the key d5 square - plus leaving his f4 N en prise} **14.gxf4+- exf4 15.Nd5 g5 16.c3 Nc6** {16....Bg7 makes an escape square for the B K but leaves White with an overwhelming advantage after 1 7.cxd4} **17.Bh5+ Kd7 18.Qg4# 1-0**

**Mem/Sr Booster. Wendel Brown (1007) - Peter Lupsha (521) (3)**  
**[London]**

{When Black makes some second best moves and leaves W with a well placed N, W lines up Q & R on the h-file for the win} **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5.c4 c6 6.c5 Qa5+ 7.Nbd2+/- Nd5 8.Bd3 f5?** [ $\geq$ =8...Nxf4!/? 9.exf4 0-0+/= ] **9.Be5** [9.0-0 Nxf4 10.Nc4 Nh3+ 11.gxh3 Qd8 12.Nd6+ Kf8+- ] **9...Bxe5 10.Nxe5** [10.dxe5?! 0-0+/= ] **10...0-0 11.0-0 Qc7 12.f4??** {Allowing the N fork of the W Q & R} [ $\geq$ =12.e4 fxe4 13.Nxe4+- ] **12...Nxe3-/+ 13.Qf3 Nxf1 14.Rxf1 d6 15.cxd6 Qxd6 16.Nb3 Nd7 17.Qh3 c5 18.Qh6? b6 19.Rf3 Bb7??** [ $\geq$ =19...Nxe5 20.fxe5 Qc7+- ] **20.Rh3+/-** Diagram



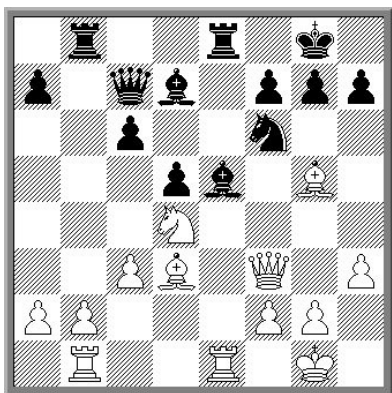
**20...Qd5??** {Black is wearing horse blinders and so only sees his own mate threat without seeing that he is one move too late.} **21.Qxh7# 1-0**



chuckled a little as my embarrassed knight was forced to retreat to the corner. I felt like I was caught in quicksand and almost sinking, just barely clutching to some thin branch for as long as possible and waiting in terror for the sound of snapping. My only solace was that Sipos now had under 20 minutes on his clock and was creeping towards time trouble, although with the 30-second increment I wasn't feeling too hopeful. **28...Qf7 29.a3 Rb8 30.Re3 Bf8 31.Rh3** intimating that I'm going to charge ahead with h4-h5, and maybe I would if the opportunity arose, but I'm really just bidding time. Black's ...h7-h5 makes the kingside lockdown official and also weakens Black's pawn structure ever-so-slightly. **31...h5 32.Nc2 Qb3 33.Ne3** as Nimzovich taught, the best piece to blockade a passed pawn in usually the knight. **33...Kh7 34.Rh1 Rb7 35.Kh2 Reb8 36.Rhe1** White's moves may appear comical. After all, I seem to have moved my h-pawn to h4 only to draw pretty rectangles with my rook via Re1-e3-h1-e1. But my feeling was that my position could not really be improved anymore given the current structure -- which is not to say that White's position is good, but only

that my pieces are already on the best squares they can realistically occupy. Sometimes passive positions must be patiently accepted. The worst thing for me to do would be to try to force the issue via some kind of sacrifice or reckless and unjustified attack. In some cases, of course, activity is called for at all costs. But in this case it was better to shut down the position as much as possible by preventing pawn breakthroughs, and then to sit back and pose the question to Black: how do you intend to make progress? Indeed, it seemed to me that Black's position was no better now than it had been around 15 moves ago, and in fact my pieces were slightly better coordinated than before. Of course Black's two bishops, space advantage and superior pawn structure give Sipos the clear advantage, but he still has to take decisive action at some point and in such positions it's not so easy to do so (especially in time trouble). **36...Bg7 37.Nf1** At this point I made my best move of the game: I offered a draw. It was more of a psychological move than anything, and a big part of me was hoping he would decline as he did. I felt it would be a bit unsettling: here we are in the championship game, and the lower-rated player in a clearly worse position has the chutzpah to offer a draw to his titled opponent?! So on the one hand, I knew Sipos couldn't very well accept the draw under those circumstances. On the other hand, I also knew the offer would be tempting. Sipos had under five minutes remaining (I had about 15 minutes) and despite the increment, it's never pleasant to have to play for a win in a closed position without clear breakthroughs. In addition a crowd of approximately 50

tions, opting to maintain the tension with] **12...Bd7** instead. **13.Qf3 Be5 14.c3 Qc7 15.h3 Rab8 16.Rab1** the initiative is firmly on Black's side, as White has been having to respond to Black's moves and now feels compelled to accept the suboptimal b1-square for his queen's rook. **16...Rfe8** It was clear to me that Black wants to play 17... Ne4, when 18.Bxe4 dxe4, 19. Qxe4?? is impossible due to 19...Bh2+, but I thought my next move prevented him from doing so. **17.Rfe1** Diagram

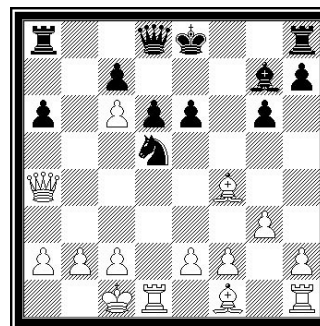


**Ne4!?** I was wrong, and after much deliberation Sipos brought his knight to that powerful square anyway. Objectively this move is not the best for Black, but in practice it was very difficult to find the correct continuation and Black went on to attain a significant advantage as a result. **18.Bxe4** [18.Be3 c5 19.Nf5 Rb6! and White's position is highly unpleasant.[Rb6f6]] **18...dxe4 19.Qh5?** a serious mistake. I thought that 19.Rxe4 would have just lost the exchange and was bewildered when Chad Schneider told me after the game that it was perfectly playable in

this position. [In fact, 19.Rxe4! even renders some advantage after 19...c5 20.Rxe5! I had actually seen this far but had missed the powerful response after 20...Rxe5 , 21.Qg3! , with threats like 22.Nf3 and 22.Bf4, and Black will be the one fighting for the draw. For example [21...cxd4 22.cxd4 Re1+ 23.Rxe1 Qxg3 24.fxg3 Rxb2 25.Re7 Rb7 26.d5 ] **19...c5 20.Nb3 Bb5 21.Rbd1 Bd3** Black's rooks and minor pieces are far more active than their White counterparts, and my position must slip into highly unpleasant passivity. **22.Bc1** securing the b2-pawn, because if that pawn falls to Black's rook, White's entire queenside edifice will soon follow. **22...g6 23.Qh6 f5 24.h4** my pieces are in no position to attack the kingside so the point of 24.h4 was not really to be aggressive. Rather, I was hoping to shut down the kingside as much as possible, which is achieved with the subsequent moves. [24.Qe3 right away was probably better.] **24...a5 25.Qe3 Rbc8** [25...a4 right away was better because White cannot respond 26.Nxc5 due to 26...f4-+ ] **26.f4** a very important move. White is more than happy to grant Black a passed e-pawn if it will help to keep the position blocked, thus improving the effectiveness of White's knight relative to Black's bishops. I could not allow Black to play ... f5-f4 himself, because once those pawns start rolling my kingside would collapse. **26...Bd6 27.Qf2 a4 28.Na1** Diagram next page

**Mem/Sr Booster.Penny Darcy (808) - Dave Tall (811) (4) [London]**

*Here is another miniature between evenly rated players. As in two of the previous games, the winner also uses vacant light square diagonals for the checkmate. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bf4 Nc6 6.Qd3 [ >=6.Bg2+/= ] 6...Nb4? {Black goes adventuring before completion of development 6....0-0 makes more sense.} 7.Qd2?? {The ?? is not fair when applied to players at the 800 rating level. It is almost impossible for both to have calculated through the following variation} [ >=7.Qb5+ Nc6 8.d5 a6 9.Qa4 b5 10.Nxb5 Bd7 11.Nxd6+ exd6 12.dxc6 Be6 13.Ng5 Nd5 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.0-0-0 Variation Diagram*



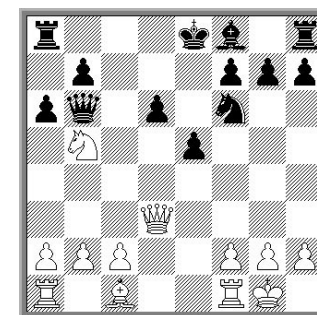
*{And at this point the computer evaluates White as about a pawn and a half ahead so there would still be lots of play for both sides.} 7...Bf5=/+ 8.e4? [ >=8.Rc1=/+ ] 8...Nxe4+ 9.Bb5?? c6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 {10...Nxc6 is much better} 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Qxb4 Bxf3 13.0-0 Qd7 14.Rfe1 {Material is even but White does not see the danger presented by the empty light squares around her K.} [14.Qb3 is still a small chance 14...Bd5 15.Qd3-+ ] 14...Qh3*

*{Looming is a Black Mate in one - so White proceeds to make a number of useless sacrifices that will postpone but not prevent the inevitable.}*

**15.Rxe7+ Kf8 16.Re8+ Rxe8 17.Qxd6+ Kg8 18.Qf8+ Rxf8 19.Re1 Qg2# 0-1**

**Mem/Sr Booster.Helen Vaughn (1156) - Bruce Lewis (959) (2)**

*[Sicilian Sozin] ... 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nxe4 6.0-0 e5 7.Qf3 Nf6 8.Nf5 [8.Bb5+ Bd7 9.Re1 Qc8= ] 8...Bxf5 [8...e4!? 9.Re1 Qa5 10.Rxe4+ Nxe4 11.Qxe4+ Qe5-/+ ] 9.Qxf5= Nc6 10.Nc3 Nd4 11.Bb5+ [11.Qd3!? d5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.c3= ] 11...Nxb5=/+ 12.Nxb5 Qb6 13.Qd3 a6 Diagram*



**14.Be3??** { A hallucination that loses the W N for no good reason} [ >=14.Nc3=/+ ] **14...Qxb5+** **15.Qc3 Nd5 16.a4 Qd7 17.Qd3 Nxe3 18.Qxe3 Rc8 19.f4 f6 20.Rac1 d5 21.fxe5 Be5 22.exf6+ Kd8?** [ >=22...Bxe3+ 23.Kh1 Bxc1 24.Rxc1 -+ ] **23.Rce1 Bxe3+ 24.Rxe3 gxf6 [ >=24...Rxc2 25.a5 Qg4-+ ] 25.Rxf6 Re8 26.Ref3** The score from here on could not be reconstructed - but Black, a full Queen ahead, went on to win. **0-1**



### The Wired Kings David Quadderfield Quads III by Jim Johnston

Congratulations to Chad and Scott on completing 2 years of tournaments. Their 1<sup>st</sup> one was named for Dickens birthday, and the third edition last February marked the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of monthly tourneys in the library. Sam Dooley won the top quad with 2 out of 3. When we asked him if he could annotate one of his games he chose the following loss as it was more interesting than his wins against Doug Thigpen and Wayne Hatcher! His thorough notes will give readers an idea of why Sam has won a bunch of these tournaments recently. Our report also includes a game and an ending from other sections.

#### WKCC Saturday Quad 2/5/2011 (rd 1) Jeff Serna (1892 \_ Sam Dooley 1875 Notes by Sam Dooley.

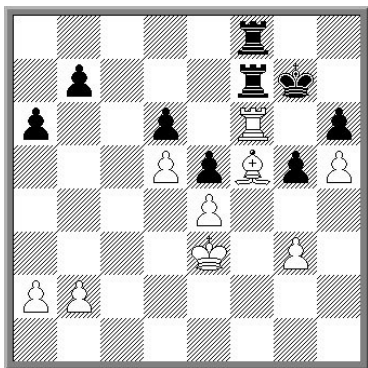
**1. e4 Nf6** Alekhine's Defense, expecting e5 in the main line. **2. Nc3** Inviting black to transpose into the main line of the Vienna Game, which is usually reached by 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6. **2. ... e5** The Scandinavian Variation (d5) of Alekhine's Defense is a worthwhile option, but seems appropriate more for casual games. **3. f4** Entering the Vienna Gambit, with many lines similar to those found in the King's Gambit, which begins with 1. e4 e5 2. f4. **3. ... d5** The main response to the Vienna Gambit. The pawn setup is the same as in the Falkbeer Counter Gambit, 1. e4 e5 2. f4 d5, but with the knights developed first. **4. exd5** This move is the main response in the Falkbeer Counter Gambit, but fxe5 is more common in the Vienna Gambit. **4. ... Nxd5** The advance e4 seems more common (and more combative) here, but exf4 also appears to be playable. **5. Nxd5** White can capture the pawn with fxe5, but then the white king is stranded in the center after 5. fxe5 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Qh4+. **5. ... Qxd5** Recovering the knight, but now white

will develop with tempi against the black queen. **6. fxe5 Qxe5+** Recovering the pawn, but the black queen stands poorly on e5. The developing move Nc6 regains the pawn with more activity. [6. ... Nc6 7. Nf3 Bg4 8. Be2 Nxe5 9. Nxe5 Qxe5, for example] **7. Be2 Nc6 8. Nf3** And the black queen must find shelter, losing time on an open board, which helps white prepare the attack on the queenside. **8. ... Qd6** Blocking the Bf8. The alternative Qd5 leaves an open path for the bishop, since c4 would make the d2 pawn as a target. **9. d4 Be6** The idea with Be6 is to control d5 and the light squares on the queenside. But apparently Be7 is somewhat better, and would allow black to castle kingside with more shelter. **10. O-O O-O -O 11. c3** Another way to defend the pawn is to develop with Be3. **11. ... Be7?** The advance f6 prevents Ng5, guards against Ne5, and is needed later anyway to block the dark squares and the half open f file. **12. Ng5!** A strong move, since black needs to keep the e6 bishop to guard the approaches along the light squares. **12. ... Bxg5 13. Bxg5 f6 14. Bf4** And again the black queen must

and Sipos as the only players with 4/4. My opponent sported a 2450 rating and had an intimidating Hungarian accent to boot, so I knew my chances weren't too good. But when playing against very strong players, it's important to remember that they're human too and they get nervous like anybody else. Sipos might beat me nine times out of ten, I told myself, just not this particular time. It was nice knowing that he was expected to win. In addition I had the homefield advantage if such a thing exists in chess (I really think it does, since I felt most of the people in the audience were rooting for me). All the pressure was on my opponent, and I was surprisingly relaxed as I sat down to play this game. **1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 0-0** I had never encountered this move before and didn't really know if White should try to hold on to an extra pawn by playing 9.dxc6 here, but it didn't look pleasant after It was a simple calculation, really: if an International Master sacrifices a pawn right out of the opening without any thought or hesitation, I figure it's better for my health to give him the benefit of the doubt (especially when playing under fast time controls like G90). In terms of the psychology of the move, it told me that Sipos wanted to unbalance the position early on and was not playing for a draw. This may seem obvious, since he is higher rated, but a draw would have meant sharing first-prize and I thought there was some chance he might be amenable to the idea. With this move I realized he was playing for a win, but that gave me a psychological edge because it often happens that one player overextends in an attempt to win at all

costs, and it backfires. [8...0-0 9.dxc6!? Re8+ 10.Be3 Ng4] **9.0-0** this simple move transposes back to the theory of the line that I had at least some familiarity with. **9...cxd5 10.Bg5 c6 11.Ne2!?** I chose this opening because I wanted to play a relatively simple line against an opponent with must-win mindset, but in general I don't think this variation offers White much hope for an advantage. Black's superior pawn center and open lines secure active play for his pieces. My eleventh move is not the main line. Both 11.Qf3, putting more pressure on Black's pinned knight, and 11.Na4 with hopes of later occupying the c5 square are far more common moves and probably better. But 11.Ne2 is a move I've used before with some success, and the idea is simply to continue to d4 and then possibly to f5, provoking an exchange of Black's light squared bishop and thereby garnering the two-bishop advantage. All that didn't work out too well for me in the opening of this game, however. **11...Bd6 12.Nd4** [12.Nd4 Sipos thought for quite a while here. I think was calculating 12...c5 when I was planning to respond 13.Nc6 Qc7 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qh5 f5 with a draw by perpetual: 16.Qg5+ Kh8 17.Qf6+ Kg8 18.Qg5+ Kh8 19.Qf6+ ; 12.Nd4 the problem is that after 12...c5 13.Nc6 Qc7 14.Bxf6 Black has the stronger move 14...Qxc6 15.Qh5 h6 and White's kingside "attack" is illusory, while Black's pawn center is real and confers a slight advantage for the second player.; 12.Nd4 better for White after 12...c5 is therefore 13.Nb5 Be7 14.c4 , challenging Black's center immediately with approximately equal chances in my opinion. But in the end Sipos decided to avoid these somewhat forcing varia-

pieces are slowly beginning to crawl out of their caves.] **31.Ng4 Bxc4 32.Nxf6+ Kf8 33.Rxc4** [I had the option to force a draw with 33.Nh7+ Kg8 34.Nf6+ Kf8 35.Nh7+ etc. But feeling brave -- or reckless -- I convinced myself that I had enough compensation and was determined to play for a win.] **33...Kg7 34.Ng4 Nb6 35.Rc2 Rbc8 36.Rf2** it would be suicidal to exchange rooks. Instead, I focus on the threat of the passed f5-pawn. If it moves forward, the bishop can finally spring to action along the h3-c8 diagonal. **36...Nd7 37.f6+** critical. It's now or never, so it might as well be now. **37...Kh7 38.Bh3** at this point I was feeling confident that despite the blunder, I had regained decent winning chances. With best play Black can probably defend himself, but it's much easier to play the White side of this. **38...Rc7 39.f7 Rf8?** [39...Kg7 was better, with a likely draw in the event of 40.Nxh6 Kxh6 41.Bxd7 Rxd7 42.f8Q+ Rxf8 43.Rxf8 Kxh5 ] **40.Nf6+ Nxf6 41.Rxf6** now Black is lost. **41...Rxf7 42.Bf5+ Kg7** Diagram



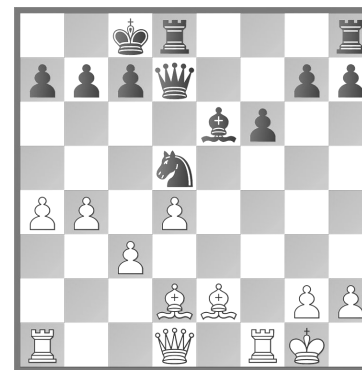
**43.Rg6+ Kh7 44.Rxd6+ Kg7 45.Rg6+ Kh7 46.Rxg5+?!** [windmills

are lots of fun, but it's important not to get trigger happy with 46.Rxa6+?? Rxf5+ ; But 46.Re6+ Kg7 47.Rxe5 Rf6 48.Kd4 was a simpler way to win.] **46...Kh8 47.Rg6 Rf6 48.g4** the idea behind this move is to control the h5-square after Black trades rooks and I recapture with the h-pawn. That way Black cannot play ...h6-h5 himself, which would leave me with a pawn on g3 in constant need of protection from my king, thereby limiting my king's ability to enter the fray without risk. [48.d6 immediately also wins.] **48...Rxc6 49.hxc6 Rd8 50.Kd3** Once the king is sufficiently active, Black won't be able to prevent one of the two passed pawns from queening. **50...Kg7 51.Kc4 b6 52.a4 Kf6 53.b4 Ke7 54.a5** in order to pave a path for the king. The opening of the b-file is immaterial. **54...bxa5 55.bxa5 Rb8 56.Kc5 Rd8 57.d6+ Kf6 58.d7 Ke7 59.Kd5 Kf6 60.Kc6 Ke7 61.Kc7 Ra8 62.Kb7 Rg8 63.Kxa6 Rb8 64.Ka7 Rb5 65.a6 h5 66.g7** A comedy of errors, but not without instructive value. 1-0

### Lior Lapid (2223) - Istvan Sipos (2450) Southern Rocky FIDE Open, [Notes by Lior Lapid ]

I never expected to be playing on board 1 in the final round of a tournament featuring two Grandmasters and two International Masters, and I benefited from a very fortunate draw to get there. In the first four rounds I had played lower-rated players, and in round 4 IM Sipos upset top-seeded GM Khachiyani while IM Zierk drew with GM Kekelidze, leaving myself

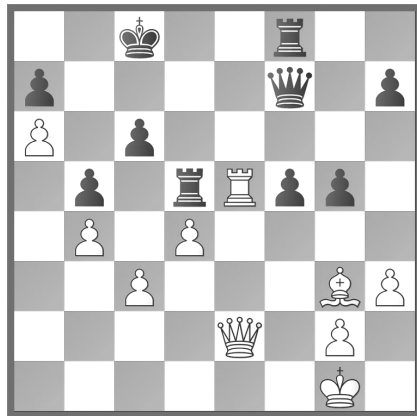
*seek shelter. 14. ... Qd7 15. b4* Beginning the queenside pawn storm. But apparently Qa4 or a4 should also be considered. **15. ... Ne7** Heading eventually for greener pastures on e5 and then c4. Yet it seems Rhe8 may be slightly better. **16. a4** And the bum's rush on the queenside continues. The computer evaluates Qd3 as stronger, but the idea behind it seems unclear. **16. ... Nd5** Attacking the Bf4 and the loose c3 pawn. **17. Bd2** Diagram



*Seemingly forced, even though Qd2 may be objectively better. But trading the knight for the bishop would seem to help blunt the coming attack on c7. 17. ... Qd6?* A lame attempt to prevent c4, missing the tactical Nxb4! where 18. cxb4 Qxd4+ regains the bishop on d2 with two pawns to the good instead of one. But apparently white has enough to equalize after Nxb4 with either Rf2 or Rb1. **18. Rb1** With a5 or b5 white would gain even more of an advantage in space on the queenside. **18. ... Nb6** Moving closer to c4 while the route through b6 is still available. But Bd7 should also be considered. **19. a5 Nc4**

*Finally reaching the promised land and slowing down the queenside pawn storm, at least for the moment. 20. Bf4* And yet again the black queen must find some place to hide. **20. ... Qe7** It seems as though d7 would be a better place for the queen. **21. Re1** Chasing the queen once again, to prevent Bxc4, but a6 is already possible. White is clearly more active at this point. **21. ... Qf7 22. Bf3** Renews the battle for the light squares along another diagonal. **22. ... g5** The idea is to kick the Bf4 back with tempo, to prepare Bd5, and to dream of an eventual Nd2 if white would just cooperate, but the direct Bd5 is better here. **23. Bg3?** Now white misses a tactical opportunity to take a pawn with 23. Bxg5!, since fxg4 24. Rxe6! Qxe6 25. Bg4! wins the queen. White can also interject Bh5 before taking the pawn. **23. ... Bd5** The pawn advances f5 or h5 seem equally appropriate here. **24. a6** The exchange Bxd5 would seem to simplify the task for black, but white has the advantage either way. **24. ... b5** The computer suggests Rhe8, but 25. axb7+ seems too dangerous for black to allow, and b5 will help keep the knight secure. **25. Qd3?** Giving away much of white's initiative in a single move, not that black realized it. The alternative Bh5 keeps knocking the black queen around, or the exchange Bxd5 also keeps up the attack. **25. ... f5!** Closing down most of the white squares, but giving white control of e5, at least temporarily. **26. Re5?** Advancing the bishop instead with Be5 would allow white to permanently keep control of e5 and ultimately the

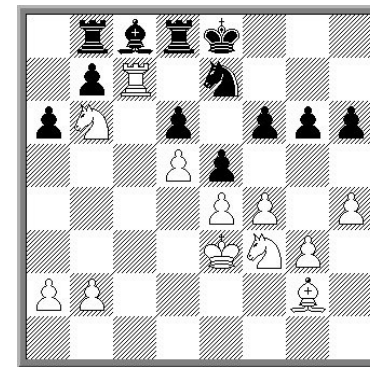
e file. 26. ... Rhf8? Black can already take the exchange with Nxe5, but the possibility of Bxe5 and/or Qxb5 puts the white queen too close to the black king for comfort. Rhf8 protects f5 and awaits further developments, but black should exchange instead to seize the advantage. 27. Rbe1? Giving black another chance at the exchange on e5. Exchanging with Bxd5 retains the e file for white after 27. Bxd5 Rxd5 28. Rxd5 Qxd5 29. Re1. 27. ... Nxe5! Finally realizing that Qxb5 fails to Nxc3+, since the bishop on d4 survives to protect against the mate on b7. 28. Rxe5 c6 And the pawn advance c6 now holds everything, pocketing the exchange. Black's position should only improve from here. 29. h3 Bxf3 30. Qxf3 Each exchange brings black closer to a winning endgame. 30. ... Rd5 Planning to dislodge or exchange the white Re5. 31. Qe2 **DIA-GRAM**



Threatening to advance the rook with (Re7). 31. ... Rxe5? Exchanging off the rooks would seem to move another step closer to the end. However, Kd7 would allow black to retake the e file with the heavy pieces, and shut down any hope of counter-play by the white queen, reaching the desired endgame more convincingly. 32. Qxe5? It seems that dxe5 would keep black busy for quite some time to stop the newly created passed pawn. 32. ... f4 Shutting the white bishop away from the action. 33. Bf2 Now the advance d5 would give white counterplay on the queenside. 33.

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21.Nc4, hitting the d6 pawn and the newly weakened b6-square. But I quickly saw that 21...Nb5 traps my rook and defends the d6-pawn all at once, so I discarded that move and started looking for others. I considered 21.Nf3, 21. Rf1, and 21.Rhc1, and went back and forth between them for at least 15-20 minutes before inexplicably returning to 21. Nc4 and -- even more inexplicably! -- forgetting that 21...Nb5 nets Black the exchange. When looking at 21.Nc4 a second time it seemed very strong, and since I had already spent too long on this move I just played it, remembering to my horror, in the instant I took my hand off the piece, that I had just blundered. 21.Nc4?? yes, masters blunder too (especially this one) ! 21...Nb5 It took me a few minutes to collect myself after first seeing and then missing such an obvious reply. Luckily, White does have some compensation because the positional advantages remain. 22.Rc1 Rd8 23.Nb6?! yet another inaccuracy. Better was [23.Rxe7+ Kxe7 24.Nb6 Rb8 25.a4 Nd4 26.Rc7+ Kf8 (26...Bd7 27.Ng4 ) 27.fxe5 fxe5 28.Rxh7 Kg8 29.Rc7 and White has a pawn for the exchange and sufficient compensation. With best play this position should be drawn.] 23...Nxc7 24.Rxc7 Rb8 25.Nf3 h6 played to avoid fxe5 fxe5, Ng5+ 26.Ke3 Ke8 Diagram



27.h5! A very important and instructive move. I wanted to set up a blockade on the kingside since I already have a pretty good bind on the queenside. Ideally, I wanted Black's pawn to go to g5 so that I could advance my f-pawn to f5, preventing any future pawn breakthroughs and leaving the g4-square vacated for my knight, resulting in an improved position for my pieces and fewer opportunities for Black's rooks. This is exactly what happened in the game. 27...g5 This is best. [if 27...gxh5 I was prepared to respond with 28.Nh4 intending 29.f5 and 30. Bf3. If Black tries to break open the center via 28...f5? himself, 29.Bf3 anyway and White's army is better prepared to handle the aftermath of the pawn revolution: 29...exf4+ (29...fxe4 30.Bxh5+ Kf8 31.fxe5 dxe5 32.Kxe4 is winning.) 30.gxf4 fxe4 31.Bxh5+ Kf8 32.Kxe4 and White's pieces are too active for Black to handle.] 28.f5 Bd7 29.Nh2 [following the plan, but in fact 29.Nd2 was better, aiming to reinforce the knight on b6 which is like a thorn in Black's side, specifically his queenside.] 29...Nc8 30.Nc4 Bb5? [30...Ke7 would have retained the advantage, as Black's

**Lior Lapid (2221) - Tres Roring, (2054) (3), Notes by Lior Lapid**

1.e4 e6 2.d3 hardly the most testing response, but I was trying to avoid early main lines and complications since I felt woefully unprepared for this tournament. I had only played in six chess tournaments since 2002: the El Paso Open and Dave Meier Memorial in El Paso, three New Mexico Opens in Albuquerque, and a small local tournament here in Las Cruces. All that is about to change now that I'm finally returning to regular chess competition. But as for this tournament, I had been working on my Master's thesis for many months and hadn't even touched a chess board since the NM Open in 2010. Feeling that I didn't know much opening theory anymore (and my opening knowledge was always lacking anyway), I was playing peacefully in an attempt to bypass theoretical battles and let the fight begin in the middlegame. 2...c5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Nge7 5.Bg2 g6 6.c3 Believe me, White has no advantage in this line whatsoever. Don't play it. 6...Bg7 7.Be3 castling immediately is more natural. 7...Qa5 a novelty, but not a very good one. I think it's too early to commit the Queen to a square like a5, as it's not entirely clear what she's doing there. [better is 7...b6 ] 8.Qd2 looking to exchange off Black's good bishop. 8...0-0 9.Bh6 e5 [I was expecting 9...d5 , intending to trade on e4 and bring the rook to d8 with tempo. This would have been a more principled response from Black.] 10.h4 f6 this seems necessary either now or after exchanging bishops, since otherwise h5 is unpleasant to meet. Now Black will be able to meet it with ...

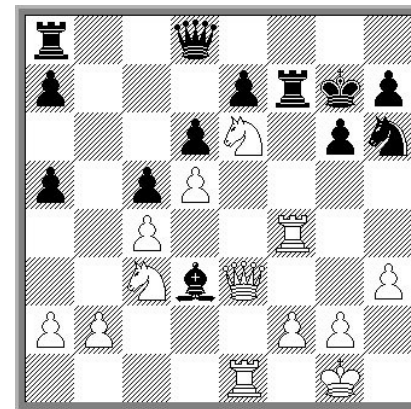
g5. I briefly considered retreating my bishop now that Black's fianchettoed bishop appears to have mutated into something ghastly, but it would just waste too much time. Black would have moves like 11...d5 that give him too much initiative. 11.Na3 d6 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.d4? Terrible. Trying to force the issue in the center but since my pieces are not well coordinated, my timing is off. [I should have continued with 13.h5 g5 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Ne3 with a complicated game; Black is relatively weak on the light squares and White might eventually use that to his advantage.] 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 Qxd2+ 15.Kxd2 Bg4?! [15...f5! is strongest, after which Black is clearly better. His pieces are just too active.; if 15...exd4 White gets back the pawn with 16.Nb5 ] 16.Nh2 it's possible that Black missed this response. I've noticed that I often miss retreating knight moves in my own games, especially to such unsightly squares as h2. Simple retreating knight moves are surprisingly easy to overlook. 16...Bd7 17.d5 Nd4 [17...Nb4 is even stronger because of the pressure it exerts on a2 and, more importantly, d5. Black can then try to undermine the d5-pawn with ...f6-f5, which opens a dangerous file for his rook in the process.] 18.Rac1 Bc8? a very strange and exceedingly passive move. [better was the natural 18...Rac8= , with a likely draw after 19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Rc1 ] 19.Rc7 Kf7 20.f4 now White has the initiative and the more active rooks, and Black's position is very uncomfortable. 20...a6 but here a funny thing happened. The very first move that occurred to me was

... Qd5 Black would be happy to trade off the queens, but white has other plans. 34. Qg7 Rf7 35. Qg8+ The white queen can maintain the pressure, and now black has to watch for attacks on the a7 pawn. 35. ... Kd7 The black king can run to either side. Apparently it would have been better to move to the queenside with Kc7 to try to eliminate the a6 pawn, but after 36. Qa8 Kb6 39. Qc8 black is in a pretty tight box. 36. Qb8 Ke6 Continuing to move toward the kingside, avoiding Qd7?? and 38. Qe5#. But there is no reason not to exchange the pawns with fxc3 38. Bxc3 Kf5. 38. h4 Qd7?? The final and fatal mistake, stepping into a mate in 2. Best appears to be Kg7 to limit the action of the white queen. 39. Qe5+ Kg6 40. Qxg5#

**Eddie Wyckoff (1144) - Dillon Tidmore (1049) WKCC February Quads (3), Notes in { } by Art Byers..**

B32: Sicilian: Löwenthal and Kalashnikov Variations {Eddie Wyckoff has gradually been increasing his USCF rating with an improving eye for both positional advantage - he triples major pieces on a file in this game - and tactics. Here, his constant aggressive pressure leads to a losing error by his opponent.} 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 b6 4.d5 Na5 5.Bd2 Nf6 6.Bxa5 {The computer suggests 6.e5 but it seems O.K. to give black weak doubled pawns on the a-file} 6...bxa5 7.e5 Ng4 8.h3 Nh6 9.c4 [9.Nc3!? g6 10.d6 exd6 11.Bb5+/- ] 9...g6+/- 10.Bd3 Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Re8 13.Nc3 Bb7 14.Nd2 [14.Qd2 Qb6+/- ] 14...d6 15.e6 [15.exd6!? exd6 16.Qa4+/- ] 15...fxe6=

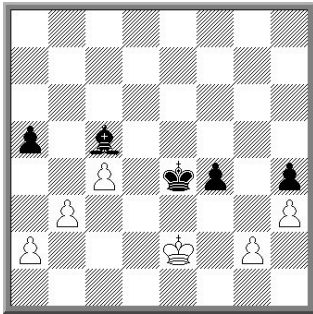
16.Rxe6 {White will now put pressure on the backward Black pawn on e7. The white rook on an outpost at e7 should be driven off by the Black B currently on b7} 16...Rf8 17.Qe2+/- = Rf7 18.Re1+/- Bf6 {At this point the computer considers white to have an advantage of about 1 & 1/3 pawns} 19.Qe3 {W aims at the unprotected N on h6 which is not a bad move. However, The computer suggests as a better: 19.Nce4!/? Bd4 20.Nf3+/- } 19...Kg7 20.Nf3 Bc8 21.Re4 Bf5 22.Rf4+/- 22...Bg5?? {An outright blunder that prematurely decides an interesting fight.} [>=22...Qb6 was necessary 23.Re2 Bxc3 24.bxc3 Bxd3 25.Rxf7+ Nxf7 26.Qxd3 Qb7+/- ] 23.Nxg5+- Bxd3 24.Ne6+Diagram{Forking the B K & Q} 1-0



**The New Mexico  
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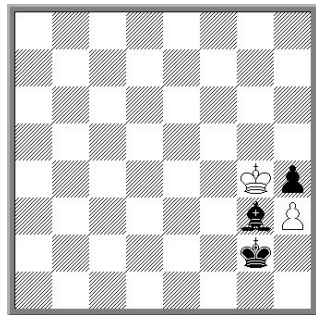
**Ethan M Ross (1218) - Art Byers (1300) WKCC February Quad Albuquerque NM Notes by Art Byers ..**

*{I entered this endgame with less than 15 minutes on my clock to my opponents 35. Ethan had sac'd a B for 3 pawns but I had been able to recoup one in the middle game. I spent about 4 minutes of my time checking out what I thought would be a winning move. Subsequently, as my time ran down, I made one poor move after another and only my opponent's lack of accuracy enabled me to pull out the win.}* Starting diagram



**1...a4!?** *{Breaking up White's dangerous connected Q-side pawn's structure. Ed.In Chief, Jim J, correctly prefers 1...f3! 2. gxf3+...Kf4 and the W P on h3 can't be defended.}* **2.bxa4 Bb6** *{to prevent the advance of W's a & c pawns - but overlooking that 3...f3 4.gxfe+Kf4 keeps a winning advantage }* **3.Kd2 Kd4?** *{Again, 3....f3 would have won 4. gxfe+ Kxf3 and I have ample tempos to take the W P on h3 and Queen the B P on h4 - even if I have to sacrifice my Bishop to stop a W pawn push.}* **4.Ke2=/+ Kxc4??** **5.Kf3=** *{ And the game should be a draw with correct play by both*

*sides} 5...Kb4 6.Kxf4 { According to a very long variation by Fritz, 6.a3+ keeps the draw in hand but neither player is strong enough to have seen it through to the end so it would be unfair to give 6.Kxf4 a "???"}* **6...Bf2??** *{another weak move. 6.... Bc7+ is correct as the B can then go to g3 and prevent the equalizing push of the W P on g2.}* **7.Kf3??** *{He who makes the last blunder loses - That was Tarterkower's cliché? >=7.g3 hxg3 (7...Bxg3+ 8.Kf3 Kxa4 9.Kg2 Ka3 10.Kf3 Kxa2 11.Kg2 and even though the black K can march over to the K-side, there is no way for it to win the h3 W P and 3 time repetition or stalemate looms because the W K has access to the g2 square formerly occupied by a W P)}* *{and the B K can get into "the box" and stop the W h3 pawn BUT the Black B must stop the two W P's on the a-file so the Black P falls and the game is drawn}* **7...Bg3+ 8.a5 Kxa5 9.Ke3 Ka4 10.Kf3 Ka3+ 11.Ke2 Kxa2 12.Ke3 Kb3 13.Kd3 Bc7 14.Ke2 Kc3 15.Ke3** *{15.g4 would prolong the game but still lose as the B K can get into "the box" }* **15...Bg3 16.Ke2 Kd4 17.Kf3 Kd3 18.Kg4 Ke2 19.Kf5 Kf2 20.Kg4 Kxg2** *{Zugzwang! White is forced to unprotected the h3 pawn} 0-1*



## The Southern Rocky Fide Open by Jim Johnston

If you did not play in the SRFO then you missed out on an awesome tournament. Chad Schneider and Scott Kerns (aka the Wired Kings) put together an event that seemed just like the big tourneys that we sometimes fly to or drive for a couple of days to get to, BUT this tourney was on our doorstep and we all knew most of the players there.

Four titled players came: GMs Melikset Khachiyan and Mikheil Kekelidze and IMs Steven Zierk and Istvan Sipos. The GMs gave simulms simultaneously on the Friday afternoon and then played in the blitz tourney. 28 players took part in the blitz and it was won by IM Zierk the current U18 world champion.

When the tournament began on Saturday morning there were 50 players in the open section including 2 GMs, 2 IMs, 3 masters and 12 experts! Sensationally, a NM player took clear first place. Congratulations to Lior Lapid of Las Cruces (at that time – now of Albuquerque) who made the only 5 point perfect score. 2<sup>nd</sup>= on 4.5 were Kekelidze and Zierk. Finishing 4<sup>th</sup>= on 4 points were Hungarian IM Sipos, Alfonso Rascon, Ben Coraretti, and 11 year old Kesav Visvanadha. I think that U2000 rating prizes were won by Jeff Serna on 3.5 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place under 2000 on 3 points was shared between Jeffrey Csimas of Colorado and 6 NM players- Curtis Cooper, Sam Dooley, Wayne Hatcher, Brian McNeice, Cesar Guevarra and Dante Archuleta.

The reserve section had 29 players. Jim Johnston and Leroy Quintana were 1<sup>st</sup>= on 4.5 a point ahead of Tad Snedicker and Joe Fromme who were 3<sup>rd</sup>=. Players with 3 points who shared the U1600 prize were Roger Bracht, Tony Lewon, Preston Herrington, Julian Trujillo and Stephen Aarons. I hope I didn't miss anybody. In the games that follow I have concentrated on the top players. I don't often have the chance to suggest better moves in GM games. Thanks to Lior who wrote brand new notes to the 5<sup>th</sup> round win against Istvan Sipos ( he had previously annotated it for Chess Life Online) and sent in notes to his 3<sup>rd</sup> round win. Enjoy.