

# New Mexico Chess Clubs

**Bear Canyon Chess Club - Albuquerque-** Bear Canyon Senior Center, On Pitt St off of LaGrimaD'Oro Just N of Montgomery off Eubank . Mon. Wed. Fri. 12:30 P.M. Casual, Chess. Contact Lloyd Gustafson at 821-2083.

**Borders Book Store – Santa Fe** Mondays: 7 til 10pm on Montezuma in the Sambusco Ctr, . Casual chess,

**Cherry Hills Chess Club – Albuquerque** Meets from 1-5pm on the first Saturday of each month. Mostly school children. At Cherry Hills Library. Contact: Rod Avery [rlaery64@msn.com](mailto:rlaery64@msn.com)

**Coronado Chess Club - Albuquerque** Wednesdays at Frontier Restaurant on Central Ave. at Cornell, in the furthest East Room. One unrated G30, weekly, plus informal games Arrive before 7 P.M. See Richard Sherman (839-4218). \$5 per year or \$1 for one night. Sets/boards available. Bring Chess clocks.

**Foothills Chess Club - Albuquerque** The 3rd Sun. of every month from 2-6 P.M. Foothills Fellowship Church, on the SW corner of Candelaria and Tramway in NE ABQ. USCF rated games. Contact Oren Stevens [orenstevens@aol.com](mailto:orenstevens@aol.com).

**Four Corners Chess Club:** Meets in room 1008 at San Juan College on Tuesdays. For more info, contact Ken Weisner 505-598-6442 Email: [weisken@hotmail.com](mailto:weisken@hotmail.com)

**Los Alamos Chess Club** Thursdays 6:30 - 10:30pm at the Betty Ehart Senior Center (downstairs). Contact Gerard Jungman at 667-0369 (days) or Tom Pigott at 662-6962.

Meeting times may be subject to Change.

For all clubs. Check Contacts.

**New Mexico Tech Chess Club - Socorro** Meeting day/times may change during semesters. Contact: [akorienko@nmt.edu](mailto:akorienko@nmt.edu). Directions: NM Tech campus in Socorro, in "Old Jones" 2nd floor. Take I-25 exit 150 onto California Street. Turn right into Bullock Ave. (KFC at the corner). At the third intersection you will see the campus. Keep going straight. The street curves left. At stop sign, turn into the left parking lot .

**University of New Mexico Chess Club -** Monday nights 6-9 PM during the Spring '09 semester. Stop by for casual chess in the Student Union Building -- top floor. UNM Chess Club is free and drop-ins are welcome. Alumni and non-students are also encouraged to visit. Contact President, Anthony Chen at: [antchen@unm.edu](mailto:antchen@unm.edu) .

**Westside Chess Club - NW Albuquerque** Casual chess on Thursday nights starting at 7pm. The club meets at Barnes and Noble at 3701- A Ellison Dr. NW, Albuquerque off Rt #528...near Cottonwood Mall, between Sam's Club and Walmart. For more info, contact Holly McRoberts. [queenhjm@aol.com](mailto:queenhjm@aol.com)

**Wired Kings CC:** Meets at either Main Library or Erna Ferguson Library ABQ. Ask [WiredKingsCC@gmail.com](mailto:WiredKingsCC@gmail.com). Or [nmchess.org](http://nmchess.org)— USCF Rated games.

**The Chess Group – Rio Rancho** At the Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane SE in Rio Rancho. Thursdays at 1pm. Average age 70 to 75 years. Contact is Paul Morton. 867-9664 (home), 514-6807 (cell) Email: [p.morton@att.net](mailto:p.morton@att.net) or [morton.paul@gmail.com](mailto:morton.paul@gmail.com)

**The Valencia County Chess Club** Meets Saturday at the Belen Public Library 1—3:30 P.M. Info at <http://vcchess.net>.

When supplied, special club events are listed on [nmchess.org](http://nmchess.org).

To list your club, contact: [NMCO@q.com](mailto:NMCO@q.com)

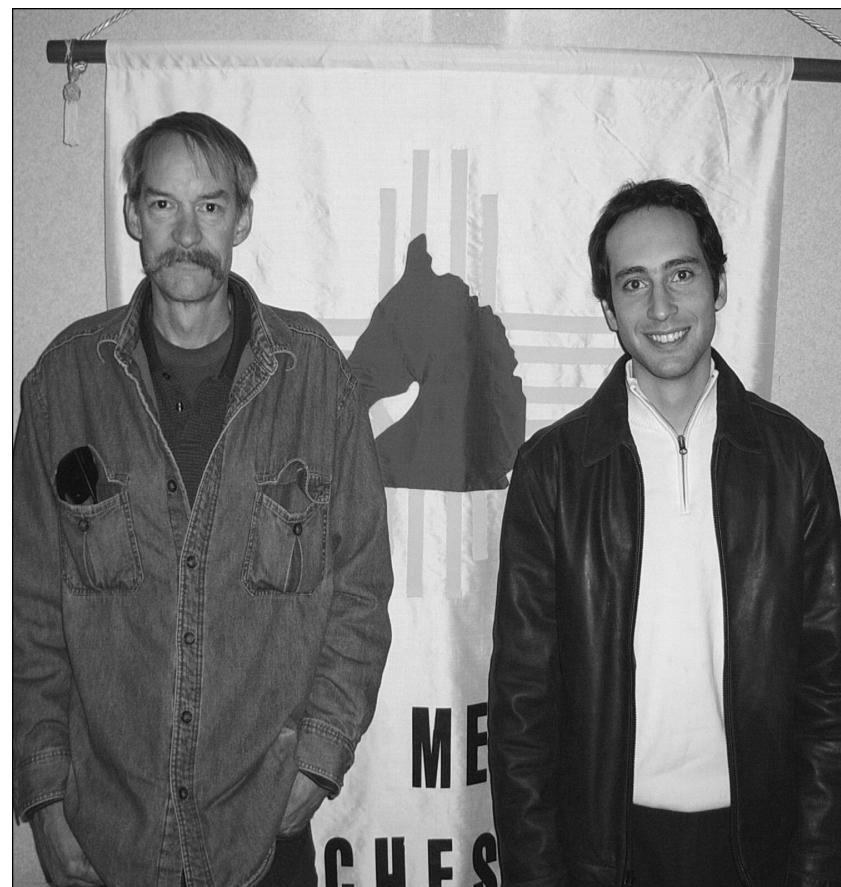
# Desert Knight

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO CHESS ORGANIZATION

VOL. XXVIII #1

JAN 2009

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**2008 New Mexico State Co-Champions  
Expert James Wilson and Master Lior Lapid  
Article and annotated games beginning at page 6**

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## From the President

2009's Spring should be a very busy time for New Mexico chess with a new club, the *Wired Kings CC*, meeting monthly to hold five USCF rated events from February to June.. Check the NMCO web site, nmchess.org, for dates and details. The NMCO Board is still working, as of this writing, on the annual Albuquerque Open, June 27/28; a September tournament in Santa Fe and the annual New Mexico Open in late October.

Remember, the NMCO Executive Board meetings are open to any player who wants to sit in. They take place at the Frontier Restaurant on Central. The next meeting is February 11th at 6:15 PM .Your comments are always welcome. Check nmchess.org for other dates and times . If you are not receiving our Email broadcasts—send your address to nmco@q.com. Art Byers

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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	> =

### Puzzle Solutions:

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) Rxd6 Bxd6 2) Qa8+ Ke7 3) Qxh8 and white wins a piece if 1) Aa8+ then 1) ... Qc8 and white loses his opportunity to win a piece

**Puzzle 2** -- White to move 1) Bxb6 Rxe1+ 2) Qxe1 At this point, if 2) ... cxb6 then 3) Qe8+ Nf8 4) Nd5 followed by 5) Nr7+ and 6) Qxf8# If 2) ... Qxb6 then 3) Qe8+ Nf8 4) Qxf7+ followed by mate

**Puzzle 3** -- Black to move 1) ... Qxd3 2) Qxd3 c2 and white can't stop the pawn promotion without sacrificing his queen, leaving black a rook up.

**Puzzle 4** -- Black to move 1) ... Bxf3 2) Rxf3 Rh2 White still needs to defend his F rook so, 3) Qf1 Rxd2 And black wins a piece

**Puzzle 5** -- Black to move 1) ... R8b2+ 2) Kg3 Rb3 3) Rxb3 Rxb3 And the white knight must fall.

**Puzzle 6** -- White to move 1) Nh5 gxf5 2) Rg3+ followed by mate

**Puzzle 7** -- White to move 1) Qg4+ Qd7 2) Qf3 And white wins the bishop due to the mate threat on a8.

**Puzzle 8** -- Black to move 1) ... Nh3 If 2) Kh1 then 2) ... Nxf2+ followed by Nxd1 So, 2) gxf3 Be3+ 3) Kh1 Bxf2 (threatening mate with Rg1) 4) Bc4 Qg5 And white can't stop the onslaught of black's army

**Puzzle 9** -- White to move 1) cxb5 axb5 2) Bc5 Trapping black's Queen

Puzzles and solutions by Puzzle Master Dan Pasono

### Spotted on the Internet

**Source: Mig Greengard's: The Daily Dirt Chess Blog October 9, 2008**

"The program Rybka has been the strongest in the world for years now, according both to the comp-comp rating lists and the opinion of just about any GM you ask. The latest confirmation of this came, sort of, at the computer world championship in Beijing, where chess was part of the Computer Games Championship. (Apparently Beijing is hosting the world championship of everything this year. This was surely the first comp tournament held at a golf club.)"

**Source: Article by David Kuhn, Chairman of the USCF Rules Committee, On the USCF Web Site, dated Sep. 27, 2008**

"If the Rules are followed, in sudden death time controls, a time delay **WILL** be used by anyone who has access to a delay capable clock. If you do not want to be penalized by not having such a clock, BUY ONE. 5 second delay is standard. Most players now own delay capable clocks. In the few cases where neither of the players have such a clock, well, that's their problem. Such clocks cost less than the average entry fee, and some cost less than a typical analog clock. (By the way, why does USCF Sales still sell such outdated and non-standard equipment?)"

**Source: Hans Ree's September 24, 2008 chess column in Chess Café.**

**Kortchnoi Speaks:** "On the YouTube website I type the word chess to see how many chess videos have been uploaded during the last 24 hours. It's 62 this time, bringing the total score to an estimated 34,500. By far not all chess videos on the web find their way to YouTube. Anyway, there and elsewhere on the web, there must be a lot going on that you wouldn't want to waste your time. Of course there are many interesting chess videos. Type 'Last days of Tal' on YouTube and you will be moved to tears. At least I was."

### Answers to the November 2008 *Desert Knight*

#### Name that Grandmaster Quiz:

1. Alekhine
2. Benjamin
3. Botvinnik
4. Bronstein
5. Chigorin
6. Euwe
7. Fischer
8. Gasprindashvili
9. Atalik
10. Leko
11. J. Polgar
12. Kasparov
13. Korchnoi
14. Morphy
15. Tal
16. Reshevsky
17. Teichman.

**The winner of a free entry in any NMCO 2009 tournament is: Jim Johnston (1 wrong) Runner up: Chad Schneider (4**

### From the Editor

Thanks to all who turned in their score sheets at recent tournaments. As usual we have printed the most interesting games and are looking for the best played games of the year. If you think your games should be included next time then please email me a game or two, preferably with your notes.

This issue features games from the NM Open, a look at US chess in 1972, a puzzle page, results of the photo quiz from last time and some items from the internet.

As usual I need to thank Daniel Pasono for the puzzles, and Art Byers for writing articles and game notes, taking pictures and composing the magazine layout

Jim Johnston

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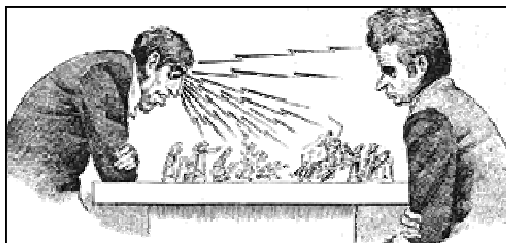
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**Photographs This Issue by**  
**Art Byers**

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

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

## Chess History - Looking Back at 1972 By Art Byers



Most of us consider that the best year for United States chess, during the 20th century, was 1972 and the reason is obvious. That year Robert Fisher won the undisputed world chess championship from Boris Spassky. Countless Americans who seldom played, took up the game with renewed fervor. However, this was a different era and major chess tournaments were long and difficult. Two examples stand out as adding to 1972's claim as the best year, ever, for U.S.A. chess.

First, was the **15 round** international tournament held in San Antonio featuring such world class Grand Masters as Anatoly Karpov, Lajos Portisch, Tigran V Petrosian, Svetozar Gligoric, Vlastimil Hort, Bent Larson and the great Paul Keres. The balance of the field were not soft touches: Duncan Suttles, Henrique Mecking, Donald Byrne, Larry Evans, Walter S. Brown, Julio Kaplan, Mario Campos Lopez, Anthony Saidy and Kenneth Smith – all multi tournament winners in their own right. Average Elo was 2524 - a Category 11 by today's standards.\*

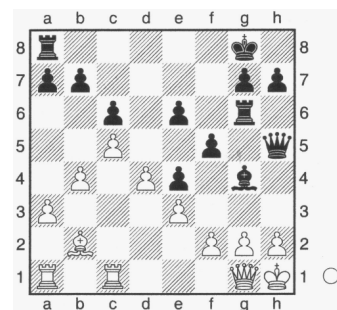
It would be inconceivable to hold a **16 player round robin** in the United States today, - when a "major" tournament consists of a 7 or even 9 round Swiss held over 4 or 5 days. Remember, the games were at classical time controls, with sealed moves and adjournments, so the better part of a month was consumed by play, rest days and those adjournments. Of course the cream rose to the top of the milk can with a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10.5 points, by Karpov, Portish and Petrosian. The best finish by an American was by Donald Byrne with 7 points.

The second event was the **14 player round robin** '72 U.S. Championship held, over almost three weeks, in New York - financed by a very wealthy patron. Missing only Bobby Fisher, this was a stellar field with an average Elo of 2458, today's Category 9.\*

The players in order of finish (The top 3 tied for first with 9 points out of 13): Robert Byrne, Lubomir Kavalack, Samuel Reshevsky, Larry Evans, Pal Benko, William Lombardy, Edmar Mednis, Arthur Bisguier, William Martz, Larry Kaufman, Arthur Fuerstein, Al Horowitz, and Orest Popovych.

IM Larry Kaufman is still active as a player and chess writer. His picture was on the cover of the July '08 *Chess Life*. Kavalack and Evens currently write chess columns. As a sad side note, this tournament was the "Swan Song" for Israel Albert Horowitz who was diagnosed with a terminal illness in 1969. He sold *Chess Review*, including his stock of chess equipment and books, to the USCF at a bargain price. While he was still able to travel, he went to Iceland to witness the great match that brought the world title to America and all too soon passed on. Yes, those were the "Golden Days".

*\* Remember! There has been about a 100 point "rating inflation" at the top levels since '72 !!*



A good move even though Rybka thinks 19.Bf3 may be better. [ $\geq$ 19...Bf3 20.gxf3 Rg6 21.Qxg6 hxg6+] ]20.Qf1?? The double Question mark is unfair as even the better move now suggested by Rybka does not save White [ $\geq$ 20.f4 exf3 21.g3+ ] 20...Bf3! 21.Rc2 [21.gxf3 Qxf3+ Mate attack; ] 21...Qh3 22.Rcc1 [22.b5 Bxg2+ 23.Kg1 Bxf1+ 24.Kh1 Qg2# ] 22...Bxg2+ Black decides to play until mated. 23.Kg1 Bxf1+ 24.Kh1 Qg2# 0-1

\* The 1450 rating was taken from the Colorado Open cross table. Tim's increase to 1474 from Pike's Peak would not have shown up until the USCF September data base.



Biggest Upset Winner (500 rating pt difference) at the '08 NM Open, Edward Wycoff displays his prize winnings.



## The Scholastic Chess Learning Curve

By Art Byers

The rate of chess improvement of scholastic players often is slow with sudden jumps of point gains. As a typical example, let's look at a young New Mexican by the name of Timothy Martinson.

Tim entered rated USCF Chess in 2004 and, as he grew older, gradually worked his rating up to 1204. This past year, 2008, was one of those big jumps in skill and accordingly rating.

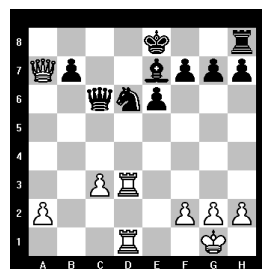
Date	Event	Rating result.
2/03	Los Alamos School. Championship.	1204>=1248
2/18	NM K-12 Chess Championship	1248>=1285
3/01	UNM Octagon Tournament	1285>=1322
3/08	NM K-9 Chess Championship	1322>=1326
4/06	National JHS Championship (TX)	1326>=1336
4/26	14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Pir Maleki Memorial (NM)	1336>=1314
5/31	Quads By Knight (NM)	1314>=1328
6/14	Albuquerque Open Warmup (NM)	1328>+1386
6/29	Albuquerque Open U1400 (NM)	1386>=1450
8/03	Pikes Peak Open (CO)	1450>=1474
8/31	Colorado Open (Reserve Section)	1474>=1543

Along the way, Tim, gaining confidence, won his section in a few events and collected some prize money. Here is how Tim defeated a higher rated adult player in Colorado:

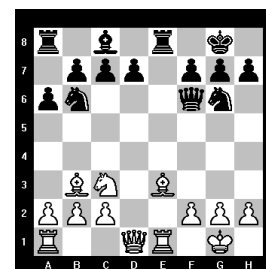
**Barkmeyer, Eric (1597) - Martinson, Tim (1450\* [D00] Colorado Open Reserve Section, 30.08.2008** [Comment by AB Variations by Rybka] D00: 1 d4 d5: Unusual lines 1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 last book move 3.a3 Bf5 4.c4 c6 5.c5 White gains space - but takes pressure off of the center. The usual Q side attack by White, after development of his pieces, is b4-b5. 5...Nbd7 6.Nf3 e6 7.b4 Ne4 8.Bb2 Be7 9.Nc3 Ndf6 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bd3 0-0 12.0-0 Bg5 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Nxg5 Qxg5 Black has doubled pawns but the B P on e5 will prove worthwhile down the road. 15.Kh1 Bg4 16.Qd2 Qh5 17.Rfcl f5 18.Qe1 [18.b5!?!/+ As mentioned after W move 5.] 18...Rf6-/+ This rook lift causes W to fold under the expectation of coming pressure. 19.Qg1?? [>=19.d5!?! {Rybka would counter a wing attack with center action.} Rh6 20.Be5-/+ ] 19...Rg6 Diagram

## The Puzzle Page By Dan Pasono

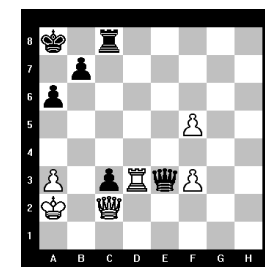
In this issue the puzzles, as a whole, contain a backhanded hint of the first move for each puzzle. The hint is: of the 9 puzzles listed, there are two puzzles (one black and one white) that start by moving each of the major pieces (Q, B, N, and R). That only accounts for 8 puzzles, you say, and you'd be right. The ninth puzzle starts by moving, well, you'll figure it out.. See page 31 for the answers, and remember, Have fun!



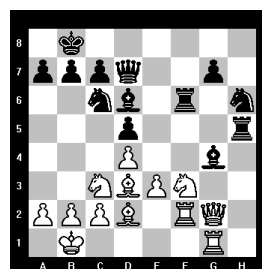
#1 White to move



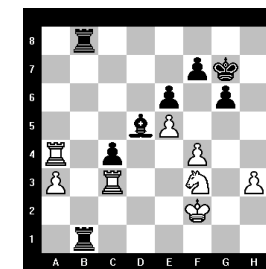
#2 White to move



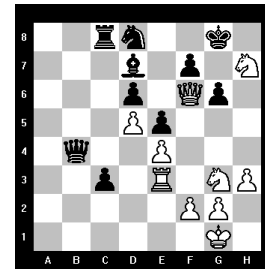
#3 Black to move



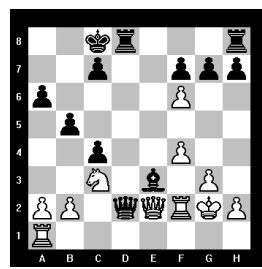
#4 Black to move



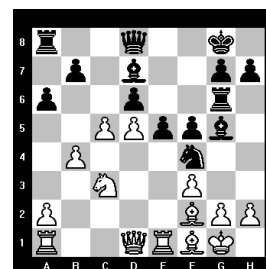
#5 Black to move



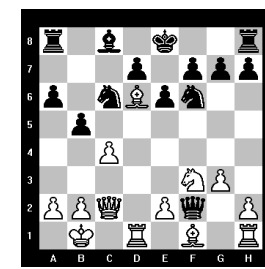
#6 White to move



#7 White to Move



#8 Black to move



#9 White to move

**About Puzzle Master Dan Pasono:** Dan is one of the wheels that makes the Foot-hills Chess Club roll smoothly. Each week he sends a puzzle, by Email, to all the club members. At each monthly meeting, he puts the latest one up on the demo board for the club to analyze and discuss and find the best move. See Page 32 for meeting dates.

## The New Mexico Open

We had a great turn-out for this year's state championship. The 86 players filled the Day's Inn venue and made me think that we could use a larger site. We did have 96 entrants to one tournament a year or so ago, but that was at UNM.

In the Open section we were sure to get a brand new state champ as no previous champions competed. In fact we got two! After 5 rounds the 2 highest rated entrants, Las Cruces master Lior Lapid and Jim Wilson, an expert from Santa Fe, became co- champions. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Paul Covington from Colorado Springs, while the U1900 prize was shared by John Flores, Douglas Thigpen and Brian McNiece.

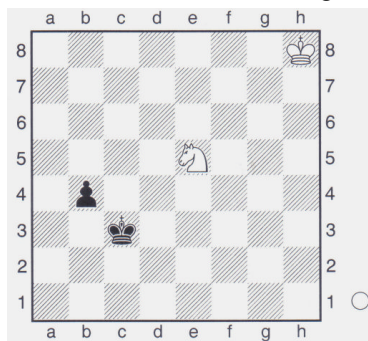
The U1800 section also saw 2 new winners. The rapidly improving Caleb Jaquish tied with new player Akanni Olatokunbo. Four players with more familiar names came equal third when Eddy Lu, Michael Torres, Isaac Ewing and Dale Gibbs all scored 3.5 points.

Art Byers comments about the U1400 and U1100 sections follow these games. Between us we have annotated 34 games from the event. Enjoy. *Jim J.*

### Jim Johnston - James Wilson NM Open (1) /Slav/

W comes close to scoring an upset draw but finally plays the wrong N move 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 This invites B to sink a N into b4. c5 or e3 are alternatives. 5...e6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 h6 8.Bh4 a5 9.Bd3 Na6! 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Rc1 Nb4 12.Bb1 Be6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Ne5 Nd7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.f4? [16.Nd3= ] 16...Nxe5 17.fxe5 f6 18.Qh5 Qe8 19.Qg6? now B can mess up Ws pawn structure [>=19.Qh4 ] 19...Qxg6 20.Bxg6 fxe5 21.dxe5 Bf7 22.Bb1? and W loses the p on e5 [>=22.Bxf7+ ] 22...Rfe8 23.Rf3 Rxe5+ 24.Rcf1 Re7 25.h3 Rd8 26.Ne2 c5 27.Ng3 g6 28.h4 h5 29.Ne2 d4 30.exd4 cxd4 31.Nf4 d3 32.Bxd3 Nxd3 33.Rxd3 Rxd3 34.Nxd3 Bc4 35.Rel? [>=35.Rf3 ] 35...Rxe1+ 36.Nxe1-/+ Bb3 37.Nd3 Bxa4 38.Ne5 Be8 39.Kf2 Kg7 40.Ke3

Kf6 41.Kf4 b5 W is going to have problems trying to stop the pawns 42.g4 hxg4 [>=42...a4 ] 43.Nxg4+ Ke6 44.Ne5? [>=44.Ke4 ] 44...Kd5 45.Ng4 Kc4 46.Nf6 Bf7 47.Nd7 Kb3 48.Ne5 Be8 49.Kg5 Kxb2 [>=49...a4 ] 50.Nxg6 Bf7 51.h5 a4 52.h6 Bg8 53.Kf6 a3 54.Kg7 Bh7? [>=54...Bd5 ]55.Kxh7 a2 56.Kg8 a1Q 57.h7 Kc2? and W is surprised to find he has good prospects of reaching a draw [>=57...Qa8+ ] 58.h8Q Qxh8+ 59.Kxh8= b4 60.Ne5 Kc3 Diagram



### Submitting games to DK

The best games we get from you are those you **annotate yourself**—giving your thoughts and reasons for your moves, your strategy and tactics. Even your clock times if they are germane to the game.

We will accept annotated games by internet Email (see page #3) in PGN format or in condensed Chess Base CBV format.

Games do not have to be of super GM quality. We look for games that are interesting – Win—lose—or draw.

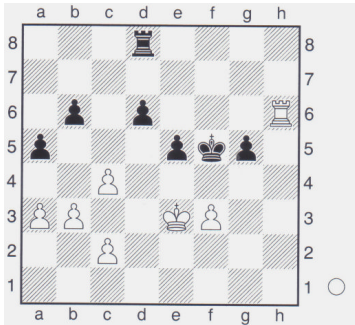
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<b>Special Discounts</b> Check our special rates for member programs, seniors, government employees and large groups	<b>Hotel Package Deals.</b> Look at our fantastic money-saving hotel packages. We are always adding new deals.	
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NM Open: Getting ready for round #1

34.Kd2 Kf7 35.Ng6 Rxc6 [35...a4!? 36.Rh1+ ] 36.fxc6+ Kxc6 37.Ke3 f5?? {This one poor move allows White back in the game.} [>=37...Rh8+ {Rooks belong behind passed pawns}] 38.exf5+= Kxf5 39.Rxh5 {We bid goodbye to the black outside passed pawn.} 39...b6 40.Rh6 Rd8 41.f3 Rd7 4 2 . a 3 R d 8 D i a g r a m

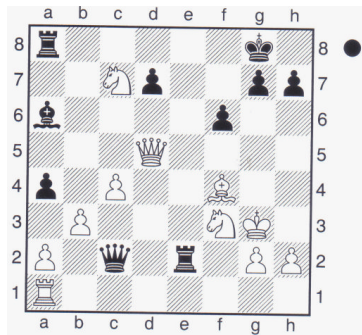


43.c3 Rd7 44.b4 axb4 45.cxb4 Rd8 46.c5 [46.a4 Rd7= ] 46...bxc5 47.bxc5 dxc5 48.Rc6 Ra8 49.Rxc5 Rxa3+ 50.Ke2 Kf4 51.Rc4+= 1/2-1/2

Ian N Jones - Kathy A Schneider  
NM Open U1100 Albuquerque  
NM (3) [Spanish]

{Black Sacs two pieces for the exchange and a pawn. White proves this was wrong.} 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.Nc3 Ng4 [6...b5!? 7.Bb3 Bb7= ] 7.d3 Nxf2? {Who among us chess players has not tried this themselves or had it tried against them in a skittles game? To exchange out well developed pieces in a serious tournament game is ask-

ing for trouble.} 8.Rxf2+- Bxf2+ 9.Kxf2 0-0 10.Bxc6 {Following the principle: When ahead a piece, exchange pieces. An alternate try would be 10.Bg5 and if 10...f3 11.Bb3+} 10...bxc6 11.Nxe5+- Qf6+ 12.Nf3 Qe7 13.Bf4 a5 14.Ng5 f6 15.Nf3 a4 16.d4 c5 17.Nd5 Qxe4+/- 18.c4 Ba6? [18...c6 19.Nc7 Qxf4 20.Nxa8 Qb8+/- ] 19.b3?? cxd4?? 20.Qxd4 [>=20.Nd2 Qd3 21.Nxc7+- ] 20...Rfe8?? [>=20...Qxd4+ 21.Nxd4 axb3 22.axb3 Bb7 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Bxc7 Ra2+ 25.Kf3 Rd2+/- ] 21.Nxc7+- Qc2+ 22.Kg3 Re2?? [22...Qg6+ 23.Kh4 Qxg2 24.Qd5+ Kh8= ] 23.Qd5+ Dia-

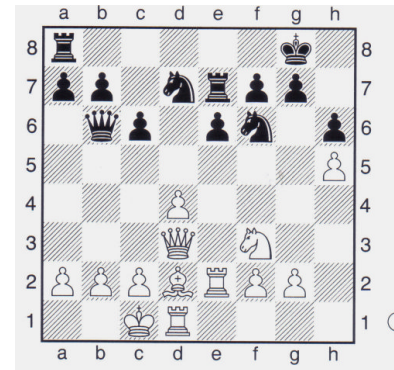


{Now Black will lose a lot of material in the attempt to stop mate and still get mated} 23...Kh8 {If 23...Kf8 24.Bd6#.} [the two W Knights are killers!] 23...Re6 24.Qxa8+ Bc8 25.Qxc8+ Kf7 26.Nxe6 Qg6+ 27.Neg5+ fxg5 28.Ne5+ forking the black K and Q] 24.Qxa8+ [24.Qxa8+ Bc8 25.Qxc8+ Re8 26.Qxe8# ] 1-0

W to play and draw 61.Nc6?? but not this way [>=61.Nd7= b3 62.Nc5 b2 63.Na4+ draw] 61...b3 62.Ne7 b2 63.Nd5+ Kd4 64.Nf6 b1Q 65.Kg7 Qf5 66.Ng8 Ke5 67.Kh6 Ke6 68.Kg7 Qf7+ 69.Kh8 Ke5 70.Nh6 Qg6 71.Ng8 Ke6 72.Ne7 Qf6+ 0-1

Randel Eng - Jason Stoneking  
NM Open (1) [Caro-Kann]

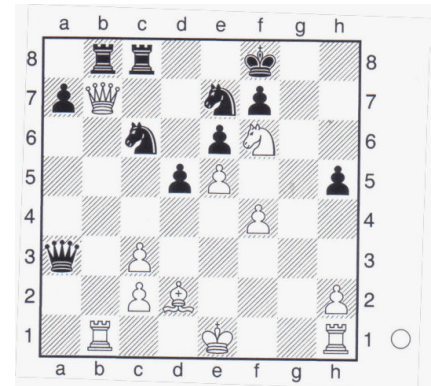
W's attack crashes through 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Ngf6 11.Bd2 e6 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Rhe1 0-0 14.Re2 Qb6 [>=14...Rc8 15.Ne4 c5=+/ ] 15.Nf5 Rfe8 16.Nxe7+/- Rxe7 Diagram



17.g4! W sacs this pawn to open up the B king 17...Nxc4 18.Rg1 f5 19.Nh4 Kf7? [>=19...Rf7 ] 20.Qg3? missing a winning combination [>=20.Nxf5 exf5 21.Qxf5+ Ndf6 22.Qg6+ Kf8 23.Rxe7 Kxe7 24.Qxg7+ ] 20...Rg8 21.Rge1 Qb5 22.f3 Ngf6 23.Qg6+ Kf8 24.Nxf5 Qxe2 25.Rxe2 exf5 26.Bb4 c5 27.dxc5 Nd5 28.c6! Nxb4 29.cxd7 Nc6 30.Qxc6 with # in 3 [30.Qxf5+ is even quicker] 1-0

John Flores - Lior Lapid  
NM Open (2) [French]

Flores takes a draw from the top seed 1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.f4 Unusual. W keeps an edge with Qg4 or Nf3...Qa5 8.Bd2 Qa4 9.Nf3 b6 10.Bd3 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Qxa6 12.Ng5 Nbc6 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Qh5 g6 15.Qh6 Nf5 16.Qh3 h5+/- 17.g4 Nh6 18.gxh5 Nf5 19.Qg2 gxh5 20.Rb1 Ke7 21.Qg1 Rhc8 22.Qxc5+ Ke8 23.Qb5 Qxa3 24.Qb7 Nfe7 25.Nh7 Rab8 26.Nf6+ Kf8 Diagram

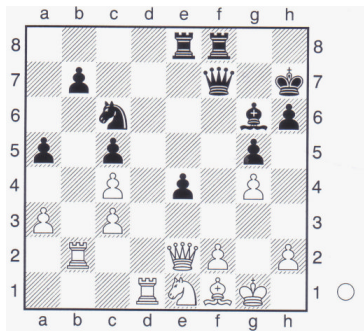


27.f5 seems to give W a strong attack, but B can survive and keep a Q to W's assorted material. Fritz prefers to give up the Q first by [27.Rg1 Rxb7 28.Rxb7 Qa1+ 29.Kf2 Qxg1+= ] 27...Nxf5 28.Nd7+ Kg7 29.Rg1+ Kh8 30.Nxb8 Rxb8 31.Qxb8+ Nxb8 32.Rxb8+ Kh7 33.Rgg8 Ng7 34.Rgf8 Kg6 and notation stops. After a few more moves Lior took a perpetual with the Q checking on the light squares f1 and b5 1/2-1/2



**Hector Flores - Steve Hoffman**  
**NM Open (2) [c3 Sicilian]**

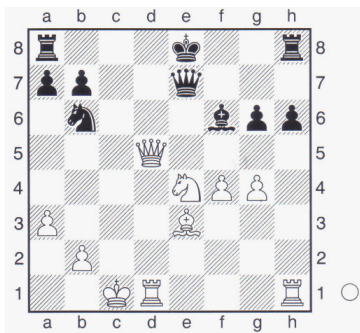
Hoffman plays in his first tournament since 05. He gets a nice attack here **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Be2 e5 6.d3 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nbd2 g6 12.Qb3 Be6 13.c4?** W keeps an edge after [>=13.Ne4 Be7 14.Qxb7+/= ] **13...Qd7 14.Ne4 Be7 15.Qc3 f5 16.Ng3 Bf6 17.Qc1 Kh7 18.Rb1 Rfe8 19.a3 a5 20.Bf1 Bf7 21.Qc2 g5 22.Ne2 e4 [>=22...Rad8 ] 23.dxe4 fxe4 24.Nc3 Bxc3 25.bxc3 Bg6 26.Red1 Qf7 27.Ne1 Rf8 28.Rb2 Rae8 29.Qe2 Bh5 30.g4 Bg6**



**31.Ng2?** W needs to play **Qe3** and then **Be2** if he is to survive **31...Ne5+** **32.Ne3 Nf3+** **33.Kh1 Qf4** and W must take the N if he is to avoid mate **34.Rxb7+ Kh8 0-1**

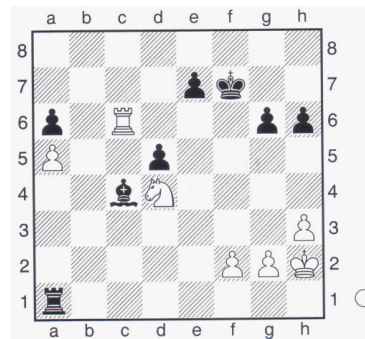
**Lior Lapid - Zach Stuart**  
**NM Open (3) [Alekhine]**

Zach has been winning a lot of games this year, but Lior makes his Alekhine look dubious **1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5** well this is a book line, but it seems risky to open up the position here. Bg4 or g6 look more promising to me **5.Nxe5 c6+/- 6.c4 Nb4 7.Be3 Bf5 8.Nd3 e6 9.Nc3 Nd7 10.a3 Nxd3+ 11.Bxd3 Bg6 12.h4 Be7 13.h5 Bxd3 14.Qxd3 Bg5 15.0-0-0 Qe7** now W gets a big K-side attack [>=15...Bxe3+] **16.f4 Bf6 17.g4 h6 18.Ne4 g5?** [>=18...Qd8 ] **019.hxg6 fxg6 20.d5 cxd5 21.cxd5 exd5 22.Qxd5 Nb6**



there are a bunch of ways to win here **23.Bxb6 [>=23.Nxf6+ Qxf6 24.Qe4+ Qe7 25.Qxg6+ ; 23.Qb5+ Kf8 24.Bc5 Rc8 25.Kb1 Rxc5 26.Nxc5 ] 23...axb6 24.Rhe1 Kf8 25.Nd6 Qc7+ 26.Kb1 Kg7 27.Rc1 Qd8 28.Qf7# 1-0**

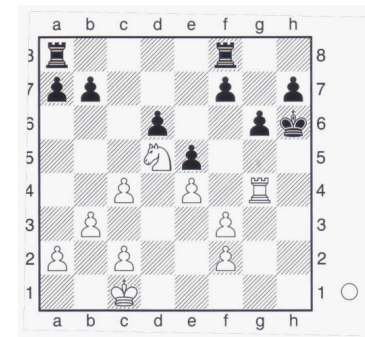
**21.0-0 Rd2 22.Rfe1 Kf7 23.Ra2 d5 24.h3 [24.Ng3!?!/+ ] 24...Bf5-/+ 25.Nf4 [25.g4!/? Be4 26.f3 Bxf3 27.Kf2 Bxe2 28.Rxe2 Rxe2+ 29.Kxe2-+ ] 25...Rxc2-+ 26.Rxc2 Bxc2 27.Rc1 Bxb3 28.Rxc6 Bc4?** {better to have played 28.... Bxa4 giving black an outside passed pawn with a rook supporting its future progress} [>=28...Bxa4!/? 29.Rc1 d4 30.Nd3-+ ] **29.a5 [29.Ne6 Rb8-/+ ] 29...Rb8 30.Ne6 h6 [30...Rb5 31.Ng5+ Kg7 32.Ne6+ Kg8 33.Rc7 Rxa5 34.Kh2-+ ] 31.Nd4 [31.Rb6!/? Rg8 32.f4= ] 31...Rb1+/-+ 32.Kh2 Ra1 33.Nc2? [>=33.Nf3 ] 33...Rxa5-+ 34.Nb4 Ra3** {Better to support the f5 pawn by 34....e6} **35.g4? a5 36.Na6 Bxa6 37.Rxa6 d4 38.Rb6 d3 39.Rb1 d2 40.Kg2 a4 41.Kf1**



**41...Rxb3 [>=41...Rc3 42.Rd1 Rc1-+ 43.Ke2 Rxd1 44.Kxd1 a3** {B will Queen one pawn or the other}] **42.Ke2 Rb3 43.Rxb3 axb3 44.Kxd2 Kf6 45.Kc3 Kg5 46.f3 Kf4 47.Kxb3 Kxf3 48.Kc2 Kxg4 0-1**

**Pearl DeLucchio - Ian N Jones**  
**NM Open U1100 Albuquerque (2), [Sicilian]**

{If there was an award for the best handwriting on a score sheet, Pearl would be the easy winner! Black gets the better game but one lemon of a move lets white obtain the draw.} **1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 d6 5.d3 g6= 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 Bg4 8.h3 [8.Ng5 0-0= ] 8...Bxf3=/+ 9.gxf3 0-0 10.0-0-0 Nd7 11.Bh6 Nd4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Qe3 Nc6 14.Rhg1 Nde5+/= [14...e6 15.Kb1= ] 15.h4 [15.f4 Nxc4 16.dxc4 Nd4+/- ] 15...Nxc4 [15...h5!?!/+ ] 16.dxc4+/- Ne5 [16...h5 17.f4+/- ] 17.b3 Nc6 18.Nd5 [18.h5!?!+ ] 18...e6+/- 19.Qc3+ [19.Nc3 Nd4+/= ] 19...Kh6? [19...Nd4!/? 20.Rxd4 cxd4 21.Qxd4+ e5=/+ ] 20.Qe3+ Kg7 21.Qc3+ [>=21.Nc3+/- ] 21...Nd4=/+ 22.Rxd4** {this took courage - I'd give it a !?} **22...cxd4 23.Qxd4+ e5 24.Qe3 Qxh4=/+ 25.Rg4 [25.Kb2 a5=/+ ] 25...Qh6 26.Qxh6+? [>=26.f4!?!-/+ ] 26...Kxh6+**

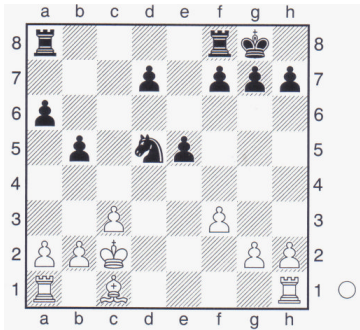


{Fritz says Black is winning } **27.Ne3 Kg7 28.f4 h5 29.Rh4 Rh8 30.f5 g5 31.Rh2 a5 32.Nd5 f6 33.Ne7 Rh6 [33...a4!/? 34.Kb2-+ ]**

[>=24.Bxh3 Qxh3 25.Qxb7+- ]  
**24...Rd4??** {Already down two pawns, this move loses a black piece} [>=24...Bxg2 25.Kxg2 Qd5+ 26.Qe4 Rxe5 27.Qxd5 Rxd5 28.Re8+ Kh7+/- ] **25.Bxh3+- Qd5 26.Bg2** [>=26.Qb5 Re7+/- ] **26...Qd8 27.Qxb7 Re7 28.Qa8 Qxa8 29.Bxa8 Red7 30.e6 fxe6 31.Rxe6 Rd1+ 32.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 33.Kg2 Kf7 34.Re2 1-0**

**Ian N Jones - Edward F Wyckoff**  
**NM Open U1100 Albuquerque (6)**  
*[Sicilian]*

Last round draws are sometimes agreed because both players are out of the money and simply want to go home- but Ian and Edward play well until material is reduced and the draw makes sense. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 a6 6.Nd6+ Bxd6 7.Qxd6 Qf6 8.Qxf6 Nxf6 9.Nc3 9...Nd4 10.Kd2 0-0=** [10...d5 11.f3 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4+ 13.fxe4= ] **11.Bc4 b5 12.Bd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5= Bb7 14.c3 Ne6 15.f3** [15.Ne7+!? Kh8 16.Ke3= ] **15...Bxd5=+/+ 16.exd5 Nf4 17.Kc2 Nxd5** Diagram

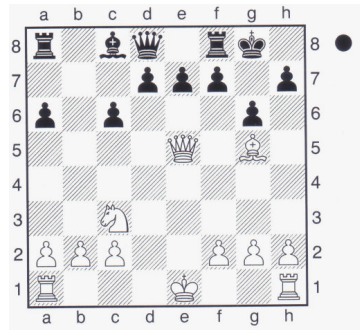


{Fritz thinks breaking White's K-side pawn structure gains the advan-

tage. Also the advanced pawn on d5 will not be easy to defend and, possibly, can be won later. This might have been Edward's last chance to win.} >=17...Nxc2!? 18.h4 f5-/+ ] **18.Rd1= Nf6 19.Bg5 Rad8** [19...Ra7!?= ] **20.Rd6+/- Rfe8 21.Rad1 Re6 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Rxe6 fxe6 24.Rd6 Kf7 25.Rxa6 Rg8 26.g4** [26.g3 Rg6= ] **26...e4= 27.fxe4 Rxc4** { Fritz evaluates this position as only slightly in Blacks Favor.} 1/2-1/2

**Vincent Torres – Tara Mendez**  
**NM Open U1100 Albuquerque (5)**  
*[Sicilian]*

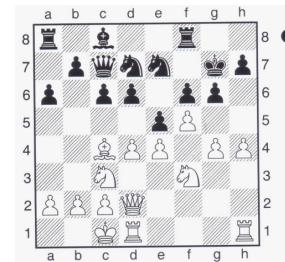
{This win in the penultimate round game assured Tara of at least a tie for first. The Morra Gambit seems to be popular at almost all levels in NMCO Tournaments} **1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qd3 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.e5? [>=8.Be2!?= ] 8...Ng4-/+ 9.Qe4? Ngxe5 [>=9...Qb6!? 10.Qxg4 Qxb2-+ ] 10.Nxe5 Bxe5-+** {Black has won the opening!} **11.Bb5 a6?! [>=11...Qa5 12.Rb1 d5-+ ] 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Qxe5=**



**13...f6 14.Qc5 fxc5 15.Qxg5 Rf5 16.Qd2 Qb6 17.b3 Re5+ 18.Ne2 Qb5= 19.a4 Qd5 20.Qxd5+ Rxd5**

**Gordon McMillan - Cesar Guevarra**  
**NM Open (3) [Pirc]**

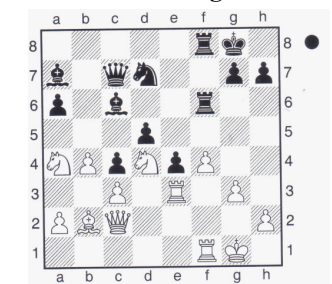
When players castle on opposite sides the first one to throw all his pawns at the enemy king usually wins. Here W storms first but misses a couple of strong continuations, giving us a real Saturday night game **1.e4 d6 2.d4 c6 3.Nc3 Qc7 4.Be3 Nd7 5.f4 e5 6.Nf3 g6 7.Qd2 Bg7 8.0-0-0 Ne7 9.g4+/- a6 10.f5** [>=10.g5 is the way to keep the storm moving] **10...f6?** makes it easier for W to open lines [>=10...b5 ] **11.Bh6 0-0 12.Bc4+ Kh8 13.Bxg7 7+ [>=13.Be6 ] 13...Kxg7 14.h4**



can B survive? **14...b5 15.Bb3 a5 16.h5! gxf5 17.h6+** perhaps W could use this square for a piece [>=17.gxf5 d5 18.Rdg1+ Kh8 19.Qh6 ] **17...Kh8 18.gxf5 d5 19.a3?** [>=19.exd5 ] **19...b4=+/+ 20.Nb1 dxe4?** [>=20...a4 ] **21.Qg2** and W has a clear win **21...Nxf5 22.Nh4?** [>=22.Rdg1 and B gets mated] **22...Nb6 23.Qxe4? Ng3 24.Qg2 Nxh1 25.Rg1 Nd5 26.dxe5 fxe5 27.Qxh1-+ [27.Qg7+ seems to leave W ahead in material] 27...Be6 28.Nd2 Rg8 29.Rxg8+ Rxg8 30.Qf1 Qe7 31.Qe1 Bd7 32.Nc4 e4 33.Nxa5 Rg4 0-1**

**Carlos Santillan - Brian McNiece**  
**NM Open (2) [French]**

B gets a tremendous attacking position with a N on d3 and W's pieces tied down. W sacrifices a rook trying to relieve the pressure, but B is too far ahead for this to succeed **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nf3 c5 6.Bb5 Nc6 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Na4 Ba7 11.b3 0-0 12.Bb2 Qc7=** [>=12...Bb7=+/+ ] **13.Rc1 c5 14.Re1 Bb7 15.c3?** so the N has no retreat [>=15.Qd3 ] **15...Bb8 16.Re3?** [>=16.c4 ] **16...f6-+ 17.exf6 Rxf6 18.g3 e5 19.b4 c4 20.Qe2 e4 21.Nd4 Ba7 22.f4 Bc6 23.Qc2 Raf8 24.Rf1** Diagram

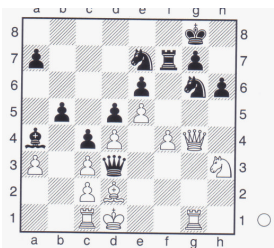


**24...Ne5! 25.Kg2 Nd3** now that's a knight! **26.Ba3 R8f7 27.Nc5 Bxc5 28.bxc5 Bd7 29.Rb1 h6 30.Qd2 Rg6** [>=30...g5 ] **31.Kh1 Kh7 32.Rf1 Bh3 33.Rg1 Bg4 34.Rf1 Bh3 35.Rg1 Rgf6 36.Qe2 Bg4 37.Qg2 g5 38.Rxe4? dxe4 39.Qxe4+ Bf5 40.Qe3 Re7 41.Qd2 Be4+ 42.Rg2 Bxg2+ 43.Kxg2 gxf4 44.c6 Re3** [>=44...f3+ 45.Nxf3 Qxc6 and B can force mate] **45.Nc2 Qxc6+ 46.Kg1 Re4 47.Bc1 Nxc1 48.Qxc1 fxc3 49.hxc3 Re2 50.Ne1 Qc5+ and mate is forced 0-1**



**Douglas Thigpen - Lior Lapid**  
**NM Open (5) [French]**

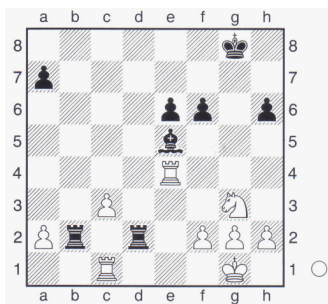
In a Winawer Doug throws everything at the King and gets a slight advantage. As in earlier rounds, Lior outplays his opponent in the complications. 1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.Bd3 f5 9.Qh4 Qc7 10.Bd2 Ng6 11.Qc3 Bd7 12.h4 Ba4 13.h5 Nh8 14.Rc1 Nc6 15.Qf4 planning to push the g pawn, but Nf3 is stronger 15...b5 16.g4 e4 17.Bf1 fxe4 18.Qxe4 Rf5 gives W a nice move with tempo on R and pawn [ >=18...Nf7 ] 19.Bh3+/- Qf7 20.Qg2 Qxh5 21.Bxf5 [ >=21.Ne2 ] 21...Qxf5 22.Kd1 Rf8 23.Nh3? [ >=23.Qh3 ] 23...Ng6=/+ 24.f4 Nce7 25.Rg1 Qd3 26.Nf2 Qf5 27.Qg3 Rf7 28.Nh3 h6 29.Qg4 Qd3



30.Qxe6? [30.Nf2= ] 30...Nh4=/+ now B builds up his advantage until the end 31.Nf2 Qf3++ 32.Ke1 Nef5 33.Kf1 Ne3+ 34.Bxe3 Qxe3 35.Re1 though still not equalizing, the last chance to hang on was [ >=35.Rxg7+ Kxg7 36.Qxh6+ Kxh6 37.Ng4+ ] 35...Qxf4 36.Re2 Qc1+ 37.Re1 Qxc2 38.Qe8+ Rf8 39.Rxg7+ Kxg7 40.Qe7+ Rf7 41.Qxh4 Qd3+ 42.Kg2 Qf3+ 43.Kf1 Qd3+ [ >=43...Bc2 ] 44.Kg2 Qxc3 45.Ng4 Qd2+ 46.Kh1 Bd1 47.e6 Bf3+ 48.Kg1 Qg2# 0-1

**Samuel Echaure - James Wilson**  
**NM Open (5) [4 Knights]**

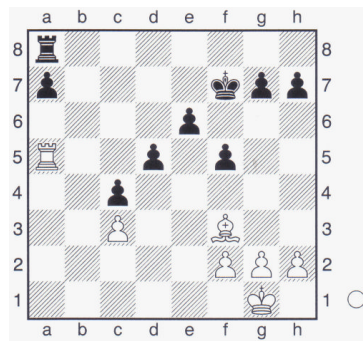
Wilson takes a share of State championship as he steadily improves his position against Echaure 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10.Bg5 c6 11.Qf3 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Qxf6 gxf6 14.Ne2 Be6 15.c3 Bd6 16.Rfe1 c5 17.Ng3 Ra b 8 18. b 3 [ >=18.Rab1= ] 18...Be5=/+ 19.Rac1 c4 20.bxc4 dxc4 21.Bf1 Rb2 22.Re4 Rd8 23.Bxc4 Rdd2 24.Bxe6 fxe6



25.Rg4+? [ >=25.Rce1 Rxa2 26.R4e2-/+ gives up a pawn but breaks up the pigs on the 7th] 25...Kf7 26.Nh5 f5 27.Rb4 Bxc3 28.Rxb2 Rxb2-+ 29.g3 Ba5 30.a4 Bb6 31.Rc6 Bxf2+ 32.Kf1 Bb6 33.Nf4 Rxh2 34.Nxe6 Rf2+ 35.Ke1 Ra2 36.Nc7 Rxa4 [ >=36...Bf2+ ] 37.Nd5 Re4+ 38.Kf1 Re6 39.Rc2 Rd6 40.Nf4 a5 41.Ra2 Ke7 42.Kg2 Kd7 43.Kh3 Kc7 44.Kh4 Kb7 45.Kh5 Ka6 46.Ng6 Rd3 47.Rg2 Bc7 48.Kxh6 Bxg3 49.Kg5 Rf3 50.Ne7 f4 51.Kg4 Rd3 52.Ng6 Rd4 53.Kf3 Rd3+ 54.Ke4 f3 55.Ra2 [ >=55.Rxg3 ] 55...Rb3 56.Ra1 f2 57.Nf8 Bd6 58.Ne6 Bb4 0-1

**Orion Rojas-Grainger – Wendel Brown**  
**NM Open U1100 Albuquerque (3) [French]**

{Wendel hangs tough and splits the point. With hindsight, losing this 1/2 point cost Orion undisputed first place. Fritz says, with the actual moves made, at no point did either player have a sufficient winning advantage. However, Orion did miss a nice combinative win at move 32.} 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Be2 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qa4 Qa5+ 7.Qxa5= Nxa5 8.Nc3 Bd7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Nb5 Rc8 11.Nd6+ Bxd6-/+ 12.exd6 Nf6 [ >=12...Nb4 ] 13.Nf3 0-0 14.0-0 Rfe8 15.Rad1 Ne4 16.Bd3 Nxd6= 17.Bc5 Nf5 18.Rfe1 b6 19.Bxf5 bxc5 20.Bg4 Nb4 21.c3=/+ Nxa2? 22.Ra1+/- Nxc3 23.bxc3 Ra8 24.Ne5 Re7 25.Red1 c4 26.Nxd7 Rxd7+/- 27.Ra5 Rb7 28.Rd4 Rb1+ 29.Rd1 Rxd1+ 30.Bxd1+/- f5 31.Bf3 Kf7?

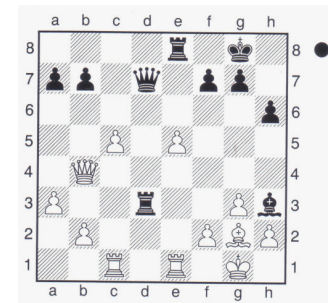


{Black has three pawns for a piece, one of which is an outside passer. Note that 31...Kf8 would break the combination in the notes after white's 32nd move.} 32.Bxd5?? {Sacrificing the wrong piece.} [ >=32.Rxd5!! Rb8 (32...exd5

33.Bxd5++- ) 33.Rd7+ Kf6 34.Rb7 Rxb7 35.Bxb7+- ] 32...exd5-/+ 33.Rxd5 Re8 34.f4 g6 35.Rc5 Re4 36.Rc7+ Ke6 37.Rxa7 Kf6 38.Rxh7 Rxf4 39.Rc7 Kg5 1/2-1/2

**Terrance Benally – Karen Recontre**  
**NM Open U1100 Albuquerque (5) [English]**

{Black loses the path in the complications and drops pawns and piece..} 1.c4 e5 2.d3 Nc6 3.Nc3 3...h6 4.e3 d6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Bg4 7.Nf3 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5= 9.Nxd5 [9.h3!? Bh5 10.0-0 Nxc3 11.bxc3= ] 9...Qxd5-/+ 10.e4 [10.h3 Bh5 11.0-0 0-0-0-/+ ] 10...Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Bb4 [11...Qa6 12.0-0-/+ ] 12.a3=/+ Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2 Qc5 14.Rc1 Qb6 15.Qc3 [15.Rxc6 bxc6 16.Nxe5 Be6= ] 15...0-0 {losing the Black e5 Pawn.} [ >=15...Bxf3!? 16.Bxf3 0-0-0=/+ ] 16.Nxe5=/+ Nxe5 17.Qxe5 Rfe8 18.Qc3 Rad8 19.0-0 Qb5 The backward pawn on d3 becomes a target [19...Be2!? 20.Rfe1 Bxd3+/- (20...Rxd3?? 21.Qc2+- ) ] 20.d4+/- c5 21.dxc5 Rd3 22.Qb4 [ >=22.Qc4 Qxc4 23.Rxc4 Bd7+- ] 22...Qd7? [22...Qxb4!? 23.axb4 Rb3+/- ] 23.Rfe1 [ >=23.e5 Rxe5 24.Bxb7+- ] 23...Bh3?? 24.e5 Diagram



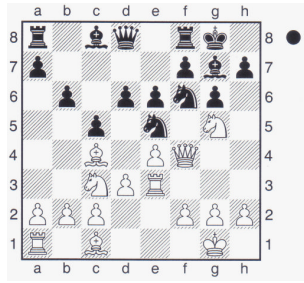
**Karen Rencontre - Kathy Schneider**  
**Nm Open U1100**

**Albuquerque (1)**  
*[2 knights defense]*

{In this Miniature, one too hasty move hands black the win.} 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.0-0 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.d3 Be7 7.Bd2 0-0= 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Qe2 Nf4 10.Qe4 [10.Bxf4 Bxc4 11.Bxe5 Be6+/- ] 10...Bxc4+/-= 11.Qxc4 Nd4? 12.Nxe5 Nfe2+ 13.Nxe2 Nxe2+ 14.Kh1 Bd6 15.Qd5 [>=15.Rae1!? Bxe5 16.Rxe2 Bxb2 17.Rb1+- ] 15...c6+/-= 16.Bg5?? {An error that should have lost a piece.} 16...Qxg5? {Opportunity knocked. Black did not answer the door.} [>=16...cxd5 17.Bxd8 Raxd8+- ] 17.Qxd6=/+ Nf4 [>=17...Rad8!/? 18.Qc7 Rc8= ] 18.Rae1?? {OOPS !?!?! } 18...Qxg2# 0-1

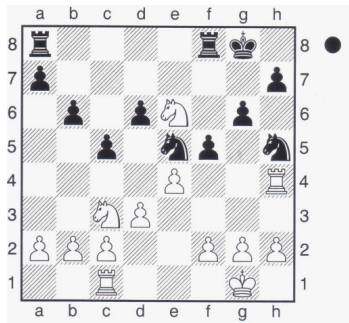
**Jeffrey Li - Bruce Lewis [B50]**  
**NM Open U1100 Albuquerque (1)**  
*[Sicilian]*

{Both White and Black play into intense complications - through which, at first, neither sees clearly. Finally, at the end of the Monitor's maze, Black emerges with the win.} 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Ng5 g6 5.Bc4 e6 6.d3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Nbd7 [8...Nc6= ] 9.Re3 b6 10.Qf3 [10.Bd2!/?= ] 10...Ne5=/+ 11.Qf4?? *See Diagram top next column* Fritz's double "??" would be O.K if white were a grand master. No U1100 player is going to see through the very complicated variation plus multiple sub-variations that Fritz presented, - which therefore, your commentator chose to delete. 11. Qe2



would be O.K.} 11...Bh6 {However, Black certainly should have seen the simple N move 11...Nh5, attacking the W Q} [>=11...Nh5 12.Qh4 h6-+ {Attacking the pinned the W N (to the W Q) - winning}] 12.Rh3= Nh5 [12...Bg7 13.Re3 h6-+ ] 13.Qh4+/- f5? [>=13...d5 14.exd5 exd5 15.Bxd5 Bxh3 16.Bxa8 Be6+/- ] 14.g4?? [14.Bxe6+ Bxe6 15.Nxe6 Qxh4 16.Rxh4 Bxc1 17.Rxc1+-

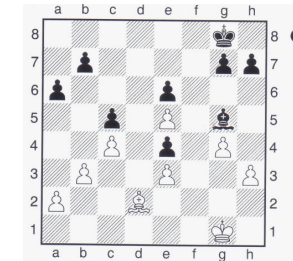
**Variation Diagram**



{ Is White being a pawn up enough to justify Fritz's "+-"? I think there is still play for both sides.} 14...fxg4-+ 15.Bxe6+?? { Now White is lost.} 15...Bxe6 16.Nxe6 Nf3+ 17.Rxf3 Qxh4 {White could have resigned here} 18.Nxf8 gxf3 19.Bxh6 [If 19.Kf1 Qxh2 20.Ne2 Qg2+ 21.Ke1 Qh1+ 22.Ng1 Qxg1# ] 19...Qh3 20.Ne6 [20.Nxg6 Qg2# ] 20...Qg2# 0-1

**Steven Young - Paul Covington**  
**NM Open (5) [Bird's]**

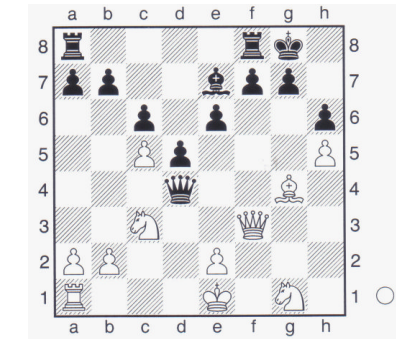
Covington drove down from Colorado Springs and had a successful weekend when he came 3rd in the open section after finishing with 3 straight wins. 1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.c4 Nf6 6.0-0 Be7 7.b3 0-0 8.Bb2 d4 [>=8...b6 ] 9.e3 dxe3 10.dxe3 Ng4 11.Qe2 f5 Fritz likes Bf6 here with a slight advantage to W 12.Nc3+/- Nf6 13.Rfd1 Qb6 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.fxe5 [>=15.Na4 Qa5 16.Bxe5+- ] 15...Ng4 16.Nb5 a6 17.Nd6 Qc7 18.h3 Nh6 19.Qh5 [>=19.Qd2 ] 19...Nf7 20.Nxf7 Rxf7 21.Rd3 Bd7 22.Rad1 Rd8 23.Qf3 [>=23.R1d2 ] 23...Bc6 24.Qe2 Rxd3 25.Rxd3 Be4 26.Rd1 Rf8 27.Bxe4 fxe4 28.Rf1 Qd8 29.Rxf8+ Qxf8 30.g4 [>=30.Qg2 ] 30...Bg5 31.Bc3 Qd8 32.Qd2 Qxd2 33.Bxd2



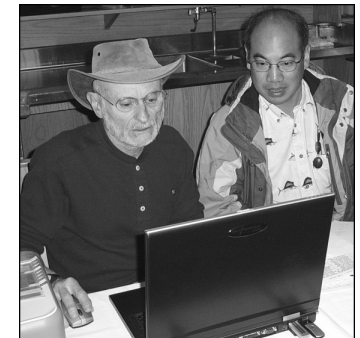
looks drawish 33...b5 34.cxb5 axb5 35.a4? [35.Kf2 keeps it even] 35...c4! 36.bxc4 bxa4 and B is winning. His outside passed pawn means that W cannot trade Bs 37.Kf2 Kf8 [>=37...a3 ] 38.Bb4+ Ke8 [>=38...Be7 ] 39.Ke2 Kd7 40.Bc5 Be7 41.Bd4 Kc6 42.Kd2 Be5 43.Bc3 Bb6 44.Bb4 Bc7 45.Kc2 Bxe5+ 46.Kb1 Bd6 47.Bc3 g6 48.Kb2 Kc5 0-1

**Dante Archuleta -Jason Stoneking**  
**NM Open (5) [Despres Opening]**

1.h4 d5 2.g3 Bf5 3.Bg2 e6 4.d4 Nf6 5.c4 c6 6.c5? W should keep piling up on d5 [>=6.Qb3 Qb6 7.Nc3 ] 6...Nbd7 7.Bf4 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.f3? Nh5 10.Qd2 Nxf4 [>=10...e5 ] 11.Qxf4 h6 12.g4? Bh7 [>=12...Bxh4+-+ ] 13.Qh2 Qb8 [>=13...b6 ] 14.f4 Nf6 15.Bf3 Be4 16.h5? Nxg4 17.Bxg4 Bxh1 18.Qxh1 Qxf4 19.Qf3 Qxd4



It may look premature to resign here, but B will win the pawn on c5 and have a rook and 4 pawns against 2Ns. The Ns have few prospects while the W king is wide open 0-1

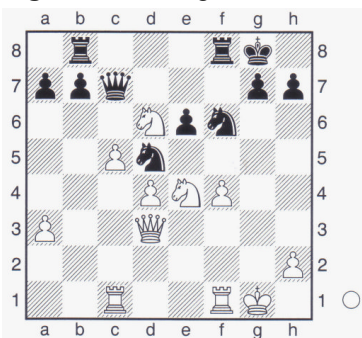


TD Art Glassman takes a lesson from computer expert Hy Tran



**Leroy Quintana - Dale Gibbs  
NM Open U1800 (1) [London]**

In this exciting game W insists on attacking on the K-side, first by advancing the pawns then sacking the exchange. When B misses some opportunities the advancing pawns prevail. **1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 wastes a tempo 4.f3 Bf5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Nd2 c5 8.c3 Nbd7** [I would prefer >=8...Nc6 and play on the Q-side] **9.Ne2 cxd4 10.exd4 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.g4?! Nb6** [**>=12...Qb6=/+** ] **13.Ng3 Bd6 14.Bxd6= Qxd6 15.g5 Nfd7 16.f4 Qe7 17.b3 Rac8 18.c4 dxc4 19.bxc4 Qb4** this Q move must encourage W to keep attacking on the K-side **20.a3 Qa4 21.c5 Nd5 22.Nge4 Qa5 23.Nc4 Qc7 24.Ncd6+-** the W knights give W the advantage **24...Rb8 25.Rac1 f5?** [**>=25...Ne7** ] **26.gxf6 N7xf6** Diagram

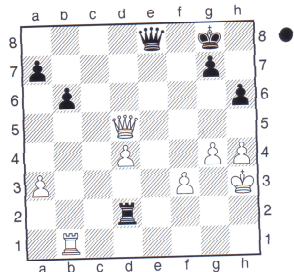


now W misses the stronger move **27.Nxf6+?** [**>=27.Ng5 Qd7 28.Rce1 Rbe8 29.Nxe8+-** ] **27...Rxf6+/= 28.f5 Rbf8 29.fxe6 Nf4 30.Rxf4 Rxf4=/+ 31.d5 Qe7 32.Ne4** [32.Nf7= ] **32...Qe8?** B could have won the brilliancy prize here [32...Rxe4! 33.Qxe4 Qg5+ 34.Kh1 Qxc1+ 35.Kg2 Qf1+ 36.Kg3 Qg1+ 37.Kh4 Rf6 ] **33.Ng3+/- Rf3 34.Qe4**

**Rf2? 35.d6 R2f4 36.Qd5 R4f5? 37.Nxf5 Qg6+ 38.Ng3 Qh6 39.e7+ 1-0** Albert Zuo -

**Akanni Olatokunbo  
NM Open U1800 (4)  
[Nimzo-Indian]**

Olatokunbo keeps fighting and eventually turns the game around. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 h6?** no need to prevent Bg5 here **6.Nf3 c5 7.e3 Ne4 8.Qc2+/- f5 9.Bd3 d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Ne5** [**>=11.c4** and W will make the B king suffer from over exposure] **11...0-0 12.f3 Ng5** [not 12...Qh4+ 13.g3 Nxc3 14.Qf2 ] **13.h4 Nf7 14.Bxf5** [**>=14.Ng6** ] **14...Bxf5 15.Qxf5 Nxe5 16.Qxe5 Re8 17.Qf5 cxd4 18.cxd4 Nc6 19.Kf2 Qd6 20.Bd2 Re6 21.Rab1 Rf8 22.Qd3 b6 23.Rhc1 Rfe8 24.Re1 Qe7 25.Qb3 Nxd4** [25...Qxh4+] **26.exd4 Re2+?** [26...Qxh4+= ] **27.Kg3 Qd6+ 28.Kh3 Qd7+ 29.g4 Rxd2 30.Rxe8+ Qxe8 31.Qxd5+++/=**

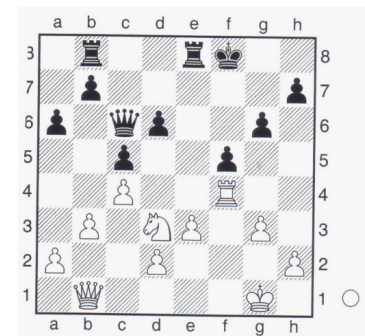


**31...Kh8** now B keeps looking for a way to penetrate **32.Rc1 Qb8 33.Qe5 Qf8 34.Rc3 Ra2 35.Qe3 Qb8 36.f4 Qb7 37.Qg1 Rd2 38.h5 Qd7 39.Rc4 Rd3+ 40.Kh2 Qe6 41.Rc2 Qe4 42.Qc1 Rxd4 43.Rc7**

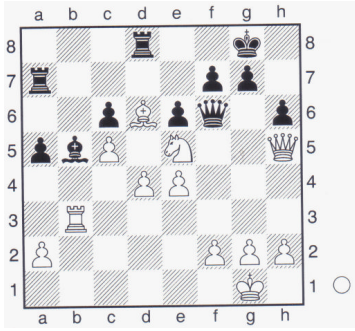
**Tara Mendez -  
Orion Rojas-Grainger  
NM Open U1100 Albuquerque  
NM (6) [Reti]**

{This last round win allowed Orion to tie for first place.} **1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bg2 5...Be6 6.b3 g6= 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Rb1 Bf5 9.Bb2?!** {Loses the exchange, after which White is struggling for equality.} [9.d3!?= ] **9...Bxb1-/+ 10.Qxb1 e5 11.Ng5 Rc8 12.Nce4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 f5 14.Nc3 0-0 15.f4** {At this point, Fritz rates Black as ahead about the value of a pawn.} **15...Re8** [15...e4 16.d3 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 exd3 18.Qxd3-/+ ] **16.e3 exf4 17.Bd5+ Kf8 18.Rxf4 Be5 19.Rf2 Qe7 20.Kg2 Nb4 21.Kf1** [**>=21.Bf3** {Maintaining this important Bishop} 21...Kg8-/+ ] **21...Nxd5** [21...Bxc3!? {Preventing the white Knight from occupying a commanding position on d5 - and eliminating a very good White Bishop on d5} 22.Bxc3 Nxd5 23.cxd5-+ ] **22.Nxd5-/+ Qg7 23.Bxe5 Qxe5 24.Nf4** {Removing the N from an excellent square. Fritz suggests 24.g4 - but that reduces K security. As Fischer said - Often, you have to give something to get something} [24.g4 Kg7 25.gxf5 gxf5 -/+ ] **24...a6 25.Kg1 Rb8 26.Nd3 Qe4 27.Rf4 Qc6** Diagram {Emphasizing White's light square weakness on the long diagonal. The W N never should have left d5} **28.Qb2** [**>=28.g4 Ke7 29.b4-/+** ] **28...Ke7??** {Giving White good chances to gain the initiative and save the game.} [**>=28...Kg8-+** ] **29.Qg7+** [**>=29.Rh4** {Putting an additional strong piece to help the W Q with the attack.} 29...h5 30.Qg7+ Kd8

**31.Qxg6 Kc7+/- Variation Diagram**



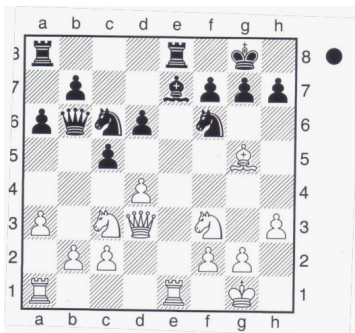
{and the Blk K-Side pawns will be lost. The W N can go to d5 via f4 and the smart money would bet on White} **29...Kd8 30.Qxh7 Re4** [**>=30...b5 31.Qxg6 bxc4 32.Rxc4 Qd5 33.Qf6+ Kd7+/-** ] **31.Qg8+??** {W throws away a chance to win enough material to bring home the game.} [**>=31.Qxg6 Kc7 32.Rxf5+-** ] **31...Qe8= 32.Qxe8+** {With Queens off the board, Black's exchange up will make it harder for W to hold equality.} [32.Qg7 Re7 33.Qc3 Kc7= ] **32...Kxe8 33.Rxe4+ fxe4 34.Nf4?** {White begins to lose the game thread. W should be trying to win pawns.} [**>=34.Nf2=/+** ] **34...Kf7** [**>=34...b5 35.cxb5 axb5-+** ] **35.b4??** {Doing for Blk what Blk should have done for himself - breaking up the white Q-side. White loses a pawn for no reason} [**>=35.Nd5-+** ] **35...b5** [**>=35...cxb4 36.Kf2-+** ] **36.Nd5** {From this point on, the score sheet was empty - but both signatures said that Black won.} **0-1**



Ra7 35.Rf3?? [ $\geq$ 35.h4 Qf4 36.Rg3+/- ] 35...Qg5=/+ Black has a mate threat 36.Qh3?? [ $\geq$ 36.Qxg5 would save the game 36...hxg5 37.h3=/+ ] 36...Qc1# 0-1

**Christopher Cruz – Alexander Wang NM Open U1400 Albuquerque NM (6)/Sicilian/**

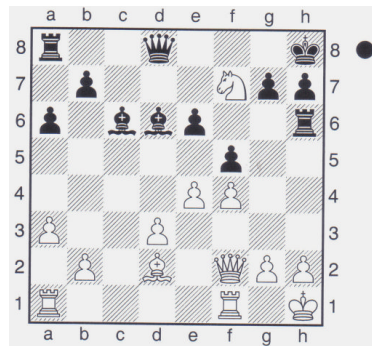
{We have all heard of the "poisoned pawn". When Black takes a pawn laced with Cyanide. It costs him the game.} 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Nc3 Bxb5 5.Nxb5 Nf6 {why not gain a tempo with 5...a6} 6.e5 Ng4 7.exd6 exd6 8.h3 Nf6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Re1 a6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.d4 Nc6 13.Bg5 Re8 14.a3 Qb6 15.Qd3 Diagram



15...Qxb2?? [ $\geq$ 15...cxd4 was necessary 16.Bxf6 Bxf6= ] 16.Reb1+- Qxa1 17.Rxa1 {And white went on to win.} 1-0

**Manuel D. ,Rios - Michael Martinson. NM Open U1400 Albuquerque (3) /Sicilian/**

{Black seems to come out of the opening with some advantage - BUT - two poor moves at #16 and #20 hand the game to White.} 1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 Nge7 5.Bb5 d5 6.d3 a6 7.Bxc6+ Nxc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qe1 0-0 10.Qg3 d4 11.Ne2 Kh8 [11...Nb4 12.Bd2=/+ ] 12.a3 Covers b4 [12.Ne5 Qc7=/+ ] 12...Bd7 13.Kh1 f5 14.Bd2 Rf6 15.c3? Secures b4 {but creates a hole at b3} [15.Ne5 fxe4 16.dxe4 Be8=/+ ] 15...Rg6 {Attacking the enemy Q often seems attractive but GM Fritz sees a better move.} [15...fxe4!? 16.dxe4 d3-+ ] 16.Qf2/+ + Rh6?? gives the opponent new chances [ $\geq$ 16...fxe4 17.dxe4 d3-+ ] 17.cxd4+/- cxd4 18.Nexd4 Be8 [18...Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Bh4 20.Qe3+/- ] 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Ne5 20...Bd6?? Blunder [ $\geq$ 20...Kg8+/- ] 21.Nf7++-

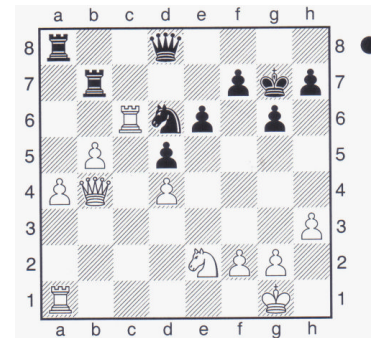


1-0

Qe2+ 44.Kh1 Rd1+ 0-1

**David Baca-Hector Martinez NM Open U1800 (4) /Stonewall/**

W plays an awesome attacking game 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 g6 4.Bd3 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.c3 c5 8.Re1 cxd4 [ $\geq$ 8...Re8 ] 9.exd4 e6 10.Nf1+/- b6 11.Ng3 a5 12.Bf4 Ba6 13.h3 Re8 14.Ne5 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Re8 16.Qd2 b5 17.a4 b4? gives W a pair of passers [ $\geq$ 17...bxa4 ] 18.cxb4 axb4 19.Qxb4+/- Rb8 20.Qd2 Rb7 21.b4 Qb6 22.b5 Nxe5 23.Bxe5 Ra8 24.Rec1 Ne8 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Ne2 Nd6 27.Rc6 Qd8 28.Qb4

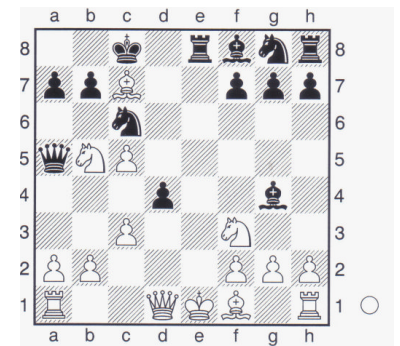


Can B grab the pawn? 28...Nxb5? 29.Rac1 Nxd4 30.Qxd4+ Qf6 31.Qc5 Rxa4 32.Rc8 Qb2 33.Qf8+ Kf6 34.Qh8+ [ $\geq$ 34.R8c7 and B can resign 34...Rxc7 35.Qh8+ ] 34...Kg5 35.Qd8+ Kh6 36.R8c2 Qe5 37.g4 Rab4 38.Qf8+! Kg5 39.Ng3 Rb3 40.Ne2 Rf3 41.Rf1 Rbb3 42.Rd2 Rb2 43.Nd4 Rxh3 44.f4+ Qxf4 45.Rxf4 Rxd2 46.Qxf7! Rg3+ 47.Kf1 Rh3 48.Qf6+ [48.Nxe6+ is even stronger] 48...Kh6 49.Qf8+ Kg5 50.Nxe6+ Kh4 51.Qf6+

[ $\geq$ 51.Qh6+ ] 51...g5 [51...Kg3 ] 52.Ke1 Rhh2 53.Qxg5+ Kg3 54.Qe5 Ra2 55.Rf2+! 1-0

**Timothy Martinson - Isaac Ewing NM Open U1800 (4) /Morra Gambit/**

Perhaps Isaac saw several wins by Tim in the DK when his opponents accepted the gambit. Here he gets a French set-up and wins a miniature. 1.e4 c5 2.d4 e6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bf4 d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.dxc5 d4 8.Nb5 Qa5+ 9.c3 0-0-0 10.Bc7 [ $\geq$ 10.Bd3 ] 10...Re8+

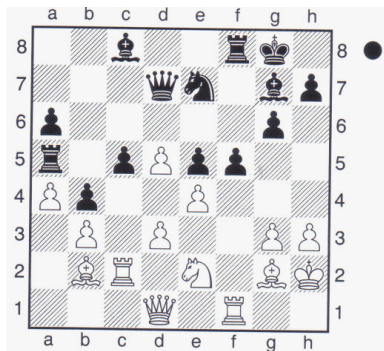


11.Be2? now B wins [11.Kd2+/=] 11...Qxb5! 12.Bd6 d3 13.Bxf8 dxe2 14.Qd6 Qxb2 15.Bxg7 Qxa1+ 16.Kd2 Qxa2+ 17.Kc1 Qa3+ 18.Kc2 Bf5+ in Russian books they would now say..mat budyet...mate follows 0-1



**Michael Lott - Dean Brown**  
**NM Open U1800 (4)**  
*[English]*

Lott plays a fine strategical game **1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 d6 4.d3 g6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 e5? [>=8...Be6 ] 9.h3+/- a6 10.Rb1 Rb8 11.Kh2 b5 12.b3 b4 13.Nd5= Nxd5 14.cxd5 [>=14.exd5 ] 14...Ne7 15.Bb2 Qd7 16.f4 f5 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Rc1 Rb5 19.a4 Ra5 20.Rc2**

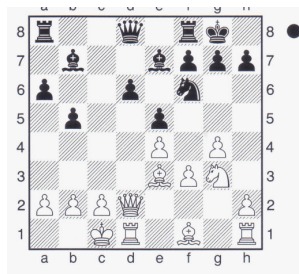


**20...fxe4?** losing move [20...h5 ]  
**21.Rxf8+! Bxf8 22.dxe4+-** material is

even but W has better Bs and the R on a5 is without a move **22...Nc6 23.Qc1 Na7 24.Bxe5 h5 25.Qg5 Qh7 26.Nf4 Bh6** not waiting for Qd8 Bf8 Ng6 1-0

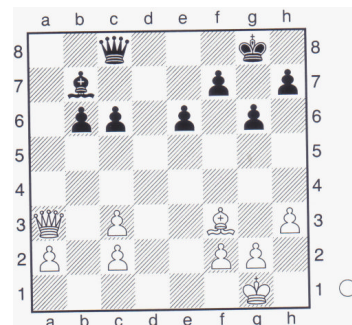
**Paul Padilla - Preston Herrington**  
**N M O p e n U 1 8 0 0 ( 5 )**  
*[Sicilian]*

Padilla plays the English attack like an expert **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.f3** the English attack, in this line W plays as if B had entered the Dragon variation and storms with the pawns **7...e6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.g4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5= 12.Ne2 e5 13.Be3 Bb7 14.Ng3**



**Alexander Wang - Manuel D. Rios**  
**NM Open U1400 Albuquerque**  
*[Sicilian]*

White gains some advantage but then misses his best opportunity to turn that into a winning advantage and a draw was agreed.  
**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 0-0 8.Be3 b6 9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.Qe2 [10.a4 Qc7+/- ] 10...Qc7 [10...b5 11.Bd3= ] 11.Rad1 11...Bb7 [11...b5 12.Bd3= ] 12.Bg5 {White has the more active position} 12...Rad8 13.e5 Nd5 14.Bxd5 [14.Bxe7 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qxe7= ] 14...Bxg5 Black has the pair of bishops 15.Be4 g6 {The W P on e5 is poisoned. 15...Qxe5 16 Bxh7+ and the B Q is lost.} 16.Bf3 Bf4 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 [Less advisable is 17...Qxd8 18.g3 Bh6 19.Ne4+/- ] 18.Re1 Bd2 [18...Rd4 19.g3 Bd2 20.Ra1=/+ ] 19.Rd1= Bxc3 20.Rxd8+ Qxd8 21.bxc3 Qc7 22.Qe4 Qe7 23.Qa4 [23.h3= ] 23...Qc5?! [>=23...c5 is a viable option 24.Bxb7 Qxb7 25.Qe8+ Kg7=/+ ] 24.Qxa7+/- Qxe5 [24...Qb5 25.h3 Ba6 26.a4 Qxa4 27.Qxb6+/- ] 25.h3 Qc7 26.Qa3?? forfeits the advantage [>=26.a4+- Kg7 27.Be2 W would have gained the upper hand] 26...Qc8=**



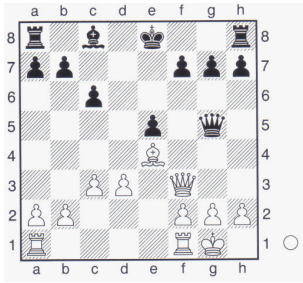
1/2-1/2

**Jordan ,Ogas - Gabriel ,Maestas**  
**NM Open U1400 Albuquerque**  
**NM (2)[QGD Cambridge Springs]**

After a back and forth fight, at the end, White overlooks a simple one move mate!} **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Qc2 Nf6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e3 Qc7 [7...Qa5 8.Bxf6 Nxf6 9.Bd3= ] 8.Bd3+/- h6 9.Bf4 Qd8 [9...Bd6 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.0-0+/- ] 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rad1 [11.a3 Be7+/- ] 11...Bxc3 [11...Nh5 12.Be5+/- ] 12.bxc3 Re8 13.Bd6 [13.Rb1 b6+/- ] 13...Ne4 [13...dxc4 14.Be2+/- (14.Bxc4? Nb6 -+ ) ] 14.Bxe4 dxe4 [14...Nf6!? 15.Bd3 Qxd6+/- ] 15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qf4 b5 17.c5 [>=17.Be5+- ] 17...Nd5= 18.Qg3 [18.Qe4 Nxc3 19.Qxc6 Bd7+/- ] 18...Nxc3 19.Rd2 [>=19.Rde1!?= must be considered] 19...Ne4+/- 20.Qf4 Nxd2 21.Nxd2 Qf6 22.Qe4 22...Bb7 23.Nf3 Qf5 24.Qh4 [>=24.Qxf5 exf5 25.d5-/+ ] 24...Qf6 [>=24...Qc2!?+ ] 25.Qh5 [25.Qe4 a5-/+ ] 25...Qf5 26.Qh4 b4 [>=26...Qc2!?+ ] 27.e4-/+ Qg6 [27...Qh7 28.Nd2-/+ ] 28.Ne5=/+ 28...Qg5 29.Qh3 Ba6 [29...h5=/+ ] 30.Rb1 [30.f4 Qd8 31.Rb1+/- (<31.Nxc6 Qc8 32.Nxb4 Bxf1 33.Kxf1 Qb7-+ ) ] 30...Bb5-/+ 31.Qf3 [>=31.g3 a5 32.f4-/+ ] 31...Qf6?? Black has let it slip away [>=31...f6!? 32.Ng4 Qd2 33.Nxf6+ gxf6 34.Qxf6 Qg5 35.Qxg5+ hxg5 36.Rxb4 Kh7-+ ] 32.Qh5 [32.Qxf6 gxf6 33.Nd7 Kg7= ] 32...Red8 [>=32...a5!?=/+ ] 33.Rxb4+/- a5 [>=33...Qf4!? looks like a viable alternative 34.Rb1 Qxe4 35.Qxf7+ Kh7= ] 34.Rb3+/-**

See Diagram on page #20



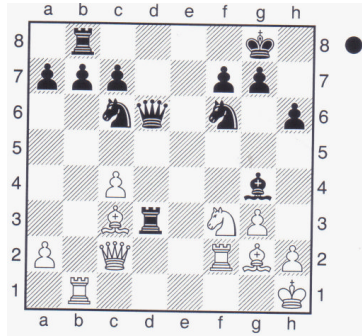


[14...Be6 15.d4 exd4 16.cxd4= ]  
**15.Re3??** White loses the upper hand [15.Bxc6+ Kf7 16.Bxb7 Rb8 17.Bxc8 Rhxc8+- ] **15...Qg4?** [15...0-0 16.Qd1 Be6 17.Qa4= ] **16.Qg3??** a transit from better to worse [16.Bxc6+ Ke7 17.h3 Qxf3 18.Bxf3+- (18.gxf3? bxc6 19.f4 Rb8+- ) ] **16...Qxg3 17.Rxg3** [17.fxg3 Be6= ] **17...Kf7 18.d4 exd4 19.cxd4 f5 20.Rf3 g6** {Fritz evaluates the final position as very slightly in Black's favor} 1/2-1/2

**Michael Martinson (1365) – Gabriel Maestas (1047)**  
 NM Open U1400 Albuquerque NM (5) [English]

{Here is an "upset with a 318 rating point difference.} **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4 4.Bg2 Bxc3 5.bxc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.d3 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2 Bg4 10.c4 Nf6 11.0-0 h6+/=** [11...Re8 12.Ng5= ] **12.Rb1 Rb8 13.Ne1 Qd7= 14.f4** Black has an active position **14...Qd4+ 15.Kh1** White has a cramped position [>=15.e3 Qd7 16.Qc2+/= ] **15...Qe5? 16.fxe5+/=** [>=16.Rb5!? Qe7 17.fxe5+/- ] **16...Qxe5 17.Nf3 Qe6 18.Rf2 Rfe8 19.e3=/+** [19.Bf4 Qd7= ] **19...Qd6 20.Be3?** [>=20.Qc2!/?=] **20...Rxe3-/+**

**21.Qd2??**

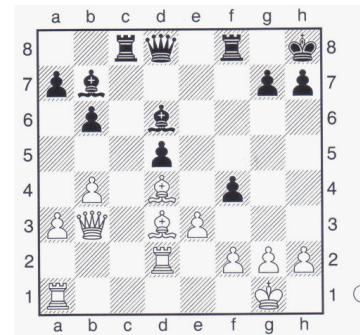


[>=21.Qc2-/+ ] **21...Rxd3+ 22.Qc2 Re3** [>=22...Ne4 and Black has triumphed 23.Rff1 Nxc3+- ] **23.Re1 Ree8** [23...Rbe8 24.Rxe3 Rxe3 25.Ng1+- ] **24.Bxf6** [24.Rff1 Rbd8+- ] **24...Bxf3 25.Rxe8+/-+ Rxe8 26.Bxf3 Qxf6 27.Bd5 Qa1+ 28.Kg2 Ne5** [>=28...Nd8-/+ ] **29.Bxb7??** [29.Qf5!? is noteworthy 29...Rf8 30.Re2-/+ ] **29...c6** [>=29...Ng4 and Black takes home the point 30.Re2 Ne3+ 31.Rxe3 Rxe3+- ] **30.Re2 Re6 31.Rd2** [31.Qd2 Qb1 32.Bc8-/+ ] **31...Re8 32.Rd6??** The isolani on c6 becomes a target. [>=32.Re2= is just about the only chance] **32...Qe1** [>=32...Ng4 and Black can already relax 33.Kh3 Qe5 34.Kxg4 Qxd6+- ] **33.Qf2** [33.Rd1 is the last straw 33...Qe3 34.Rf1+- ] **33...Qe4+** [33...Nxc4?! is not possible 34.Qxe1 Rxe1 35.Rxc6=/+ ] **34.Kg1 Nxc4** [{good enough but} >=34...Nf3+ seems even better 35.Kf1 ] **35.Rd4** [35.Rd1+- ] **35...Qb1+ 36.Kg2 Ne3+ 37.Kh3 Qxb7 38.Qe2 Qc8+** {With Black up a piece and two pawns, white was justified to resign.} 0-1

**14...h6?** B makes the mistake of moving the pawns in front of his king **15.Nf5+- Rc8 16.Bxh6** this is good but [>=16.g5 Ng4 17.gxh6 Nxe3 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Qxe3 g6 20.h4 Kh8 21.h5 g5 22.Rg1 f6 23.Bh3+- ] **16...Nxe4 17.fxe4 Bxe4 18.Bd3 Bxf5?** [>=18...Bxh1+- ] **19.gxf5!** and B is lost **19...gxh6 20.Rhg1+ Kh7 21.f6+ Kh8 22.Qxh6# 1-0**

**Eddy Lu - Akanni Olatokunbo**  
 NM Open U1800 (5), 09.11.2008 [Reti]

Olatokunbo was unrated at the start of the tourney, but shows once more, that he can play like an A player at the very least. **1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.e3** GM Kraai plays this. **3...Nf6 4.b3 c5 5.Bb2 Nc6 6.d4?** [6.cxd5= ] **6...b6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 Ne4?** [>=9...Bb7 ] **10.cxd5+/= exd5 11.a3 Bb7 12.Qc2 f5 13.Bd3 Re8 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.b4 Be7 16.Qb3+/= Kh8 17.Rfd1 Nxd2+/-** [>=17...Bd6= ] **18.Rxd2 Bd6 19.Nd4?** [19.Rad1 keeps W's advantage] **19...Nxd4 20.Bxd4 f4** Diagram

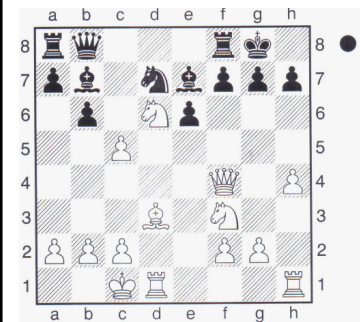


**21.exf4?** after this mistake B steadily increases his advantage **21...Bxf4-/+ 22.Rc2 Bxh2+ 23.Kf1 Qg5 24.Re1 Bd6 25.Qa4 Rxc2 26.Bxc2 Qh4 27.b5 Qh1+-+ 28.Ke2 Qxg2 29.Kd2 Qf3**

**30.Qxa7 Bf4+ 31.Be3 Qxf2+ 32.Re2 Bxe3+ 33.Kd1 Qf1+ 34.Re1 Qf3+ 35.Re2 d4 36.Bd3 Qf1+ 37.Kc2 Qc1+ 38.Kb3 Bd5+ 39.Ka4 Ra8 0-1**

**Wang Hao - Jesse Kraai**  
 World Mind Sports Games, China 2008 [French]

Here is a nice win by Jesse from the Blitz. Wang was 34th in the world with a 2696 on the October 2008 Fide ratings. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qd2 b6 9.0-0-0 Bb7 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.h4 Be7 12.Qf4 c5 13.dxc5 Qb8. 14.Nd6?** diagram



[>=14.Qxb8= ] **14...Nxc5 15.Ng5 Nxd3+ 16.Rxd3 h6** [>=16...Bd5 ] **17.c4? Qc7 18.Rhd1 Bd5** hg is even stronger **19.Ngxf7 Bxd6 20.Qxd6 Rxf7** [>=20...Qxc4+ ] **21.Qxc7 Rxc7 22.b3 Bxg2** so B is a whole piece up, but in blitz it's still worth playing on. **23.Kb2 Be4 24.Rd6 Bf5 25.a4 Kf7 26.Kc3 Ke7 27.f4 Rf8 28.Kb4 Bg4 29.R1d4 h5 30.Kc3 Rxf4 31.Rxe6+ Kxe6 32.Rxf4 Ke5 33.Rf8 Bf5 34.Re8+ Kf4 35.Kd4 Kg4 36.Re5 g6 37.b4 Kxh4 38.c5?** B has his name on the c8 square **38...bxc5+ 39.bxc5 Kg4 40.Kd5 h4 41.c6 h3 42.Kd6 Re8 43.c7 h2 0-1**

## U1400 & U1100

The editors' priority for these two sections was not just to present games from the sections' champions but also to try to showcase games from players who never or very seldom had a game in *Desert Knight*. There were problems, one not so good in 1400 and one pleasant in U1100:

First, With 60 games played in the U1400 section, we should have had some 120 score sheets turned in. Unfortunately, less than 30 were in the tray. Out of those, too many were simply not able to be reconstructed so the seven games presented have more player duplication than we would have liked, but still, there are some names new to DK.

Second, in the U1100 group, we had a great many more score sheets presented, an embarrassment of riches, and space limitations meant we had difficulty deciding which worthy games to insert. Again, quite a few scores were not able to be reconstructed so we lost some exciting games. We did our best and hope you find the choice instructive.

**Chris Cruz and Raul McElroy** tied for the top spot in the U1400 followed by a 3-way tie for third. **Orion Rojas-Grainger and Tara Mendez** tied for first in the U1100 with a 4-way tie at third.

Comment in the face brackets { } is by Art Byers. All other comment and variations are by Fritz 11.



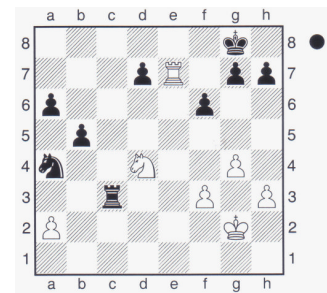
**Chris & Raul  
Co- Winners of the  
U1400 Section**



**Tara Mendez shows off  
her winnings in the  
U1100 section**

### Christopher Cruz - Raul McElroy NM Open U1400 Albuquerque NM (3) [Spanish]

{This is the third round game between the two who would later tie for first place.}  
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 6.0-0 Bc5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.d4 Bxd4 9.Qxd4 Nc6 10.Qc3 0-0 11.Bg5** [Somewhat better is 11.e5! Ng4 12.Bf4+/- ]  
**11...Nxe4= 12.Bxd8 Nxc3 13.Bxc7 Ne2+ 14.Kh1 Ned4** [14...Bb7 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3= ] **15.Nd2 Ne6** [15...Nxb3 16.Nxb3 d5 17.Rad1= ] **16.Bd6+/= Re8 17.Rfe1 Bb7** White has an active position  
**18.Bd5 Ned4** [18...Na5 19.Bxe6 dxe6 20.Rad1= ] **19.c3** {attacking the N and stopping any later Nb4}  
 [19.Be4 Na5 20.Bd3 Bd5+/- ] **19...Nc2= 20.Rxe8+ Rxe8 21.Rc1 Na5 22.Bxb7 Nxb7 23.Bg3 Ne1 24.Nb3?** [>=24.Rd1!?!=/+ would allow White to play on] **24...Nd3-/+ 25.Rb1 Nxb2 26.h3** [26.f3 Na4 27.Re1 Rxe1+ 28.Bxe1 Nac5 29.Nxc5 Nxc5-+ ] **26...Na4-+ 27.Rc1 Rc8 28.Be5 f6 29.Bd4 Nd6 30.f3 Nf5 31.g4 Ng3+ 32.Kg2 Ne2 33.Re1 Nxd4 34.Nxd4 Rxc3** [34...Kf8!? 35.Nf5 Rc6 36.Rd1+ ] **35.Re7**



[35.Nf5 {White misses this better move which is understandable as it is quite difficult to calculate, with accuracy, 6 moves ahead.} 35...Nc5 36.Re8+ Kf7 37.Re7+ Kf8 38.Rxg7 Ra3 39.Rxh7 Rxa2+ 40.Kg3 b4-/+ ] **35...Rd3 36.Nf5 g6** [>=36...g5-/+ ] **37.Re8+??** [>=37.Nh6+ Kf8 38.Rxh7-/+ {was the best chance, but B's pawns on the Q-side should still win}] **37...Kf7-+ 38.Re7+ Kf8 39.Rxh7 gxf5** {Having the extra piece, Black won without difficulty.} **0-1**

### Rachael Eng - Charles Mc Daniel NM Open U1400 Albuquerque NM (3)

[Max Lange]

{ Rachael seems to have the upper hand but three not so good moves allow Charles to Draw.} **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Nxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.Bxe4 Nd4 8.c3** [>=8.Nxd4+/- ] **8...Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3** [Instead of 9.gxf3 f5 10.Bc2 Be6=/+ ] **9...c6 10.d3** [10.0-0 Qc7+ = ] **10...Be7= 11.0-0?** [>=11.Qh5= ] **11...Bg5??** an unfortunate move [>=11...f5 would have made life much easier for Black 12.Bxc6+ (12.Bxf5 0-0 ) 12...bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Bd7-+ ] **12.Be3??** not a good decision, because now the opponent is right back in the game [12.Bxg5 Qxg5 13.Bxc6+ Ke7 14.Bxb7 Rb8+- ] **12...Qf6?** [>=12...Bxe3 13.fxe3 0-0+/- ] **13.Bxg5+- Qxg5** *See the Diagram on page 18* **14.Rfe1??** White is ruining her position [14.Bxc6+ Ke7 ( { 14...bxc6 15.Qxc6+ and the B R on a8 is lost.} ) 15.Bd5 Qf4+- ] **14...f6?**