



“HATS OFF TO PITTSBURGH!”

The Pittsburgh Chess Club Championship of 1913, and the Royal Game in the City of Steel - Part II

by Neil Brennen

(Part I of this article appeared in the March 2008 Pennswoodpusher.)

Still, while it must have been fun for Pittsburgh chess players to oppose the local columnist and the local doggerelist in simultaneous play, that April Pittsburgh was visited by a top rank master, US Champion Frank James Marshall. The Steel City’s enthusiasts turned out, filling the hall to help Marshall set a record for the greatest number of boards in a simultaneous, 57 boards. The Pittsburgh Chess Club’s strongest players, including Club Champion Howard Dolde, took a board against Marshall. So did John Emery, the poet Lyman George, the Western Pennsylvania Champion Kalman Erdekey, and others. Among the local ‘name’ players, only B. F. Lutton and William Napier didn’t play in the exhibition.

Abraham Isaacs and the *Leader* provided the most detailed coverage of the Champion’s visit. Under a four column photograph of Marshall in action during the simul, the *Leader*’s chess column of April 20 was headlined “America’s Greatest Chess Exhibition”. Isaacs continued:

“Frank James Marshall, the world’s chess master, gave a simultaneous exhibition at the Hotel Henry last Thursday night. It was necessary to utilize the entire length of the banquet hall to accommodate the players. 57 boards were played, at some of which two and three players were consulting against the champion.

This was the largest exhibition of its kind ever played in America. The previous record for similar exhibitions was also held under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Chess Club, when Capablanca, the Cuban champion, was pitted against 49 boards, at the same hotel, winning 42, drawing 5, and losing 2.

Thursday night’s exhibition was a double victory for Champion Marshall. He not only made a record by not losing a game, but he completed the entire performance in less than four hours. The time feature of Mr. Marshall’s performance will be better understood when we state that a master generally figures on five hours for a 35 board exhibition. That Mr. Marshall did not lose a game is phenomenal. The strength of Western Pennsylvania was pitted against him, the experts came from every known section of chess territory expecting to take home a book, which Mr. Marshall agreed to give every winner, but they went home empty handed.

The champion made his first move at 5 minutes past 9 in the evening and his final move at 5 minutes to 1 in the morning, just 3 hours and 50 minutes.

The final score was 46 wins and 11 drawn games. We have no record of a master ever having played over 25 boards without losing at least one game.

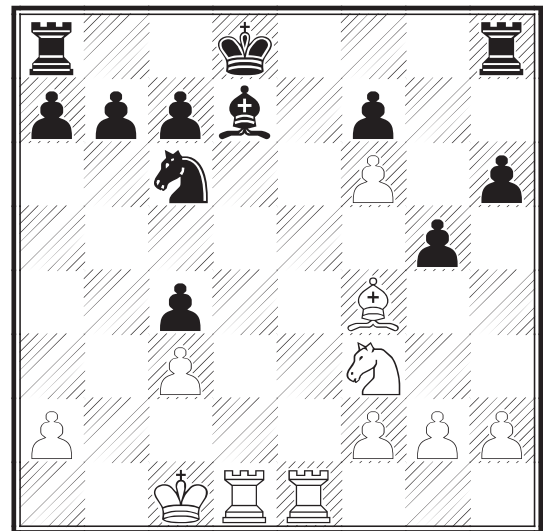
The evening was one that will long be remembered by those who participated. The uniformity of the boards which were made especially for the occasion pleased the players, many of whom had the champion attach his autograph, and they carried them home as souvenirs.”

Napier had some interesting comments on his friend’s simultaneous exhibition for the readers of the *Dispatch* on the morning of April 21. After jokingly labeling the result table for the simul “57 Varieties”, knowing his Pittsburgh readers would find amusing his appropriation of the well-known H. J. Heinz Company advertising slogan, Napier continued, “The forgoing table shows how Frank James Marshall created in this city, last Thursday evening, at least two chess records. In the first place the promoters gain chief honors for the largest “playing assemblage” yet gathered for a simultaneous performance in this country; in fact it is very little short of the world’s record. In the second place Mr. Marshall gets credit for emerging with a clean score, at least without a loss being registered against him, and, so far as our record show, this, with the number (57) playing, constitutes a world record. The time in which this was done also stands as a remarkable fact - 3 hours and 50 minutes.”

The *Leader* carried the detailed report on the event, but, perhaps by agreement, it was Napier and Dolde who provided gamescores to their readers. Dolde included his draw against the US Champion among the games he published.

Frank James Marshall - Bucher Simul, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/17/1913

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5 6.exf6 dxc4 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Bg5 g6 9.Nxc3 Bb4 10.O-O-O+ Bd7 11.Nf3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.Bf4 h6 14.Rhe1 g5

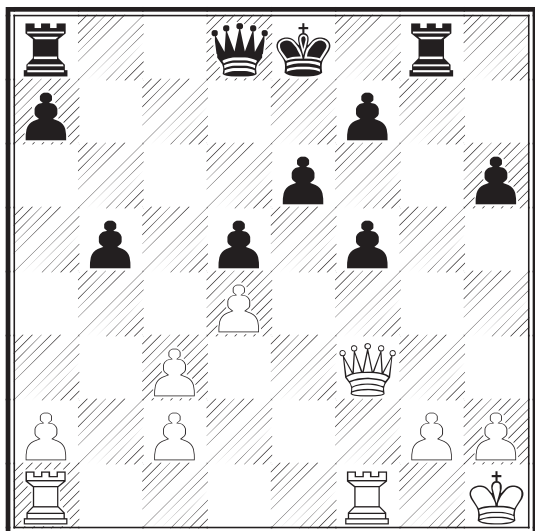


15.Bg3 Re8 16.Rxe8+ Kxe8 17.Bxc7 Bg4 18.h3 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rc8 20.Bd6 Rd8 21.f4 gxf4 22.Re1+ Kd7 ½:½
Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, April 27, 1913

Frank James Marshall - Howard L. Dolde

Simul, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/17/1913

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.Nf3 dxe4 6.Ne5 Nbd7
 7.Nxd7 Bxd7 8.Bc4 Bc6 9.O-O Bxc3 10.bxc3 Bd5 11.Bb5+
 c6 12.Be2 b5 13.f3 h6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.fxe4 Bxe4 16.Bf3 Bd5
 17.Bxd5 cxd5 18.Qf3 f5 19.Kh1 Rg8



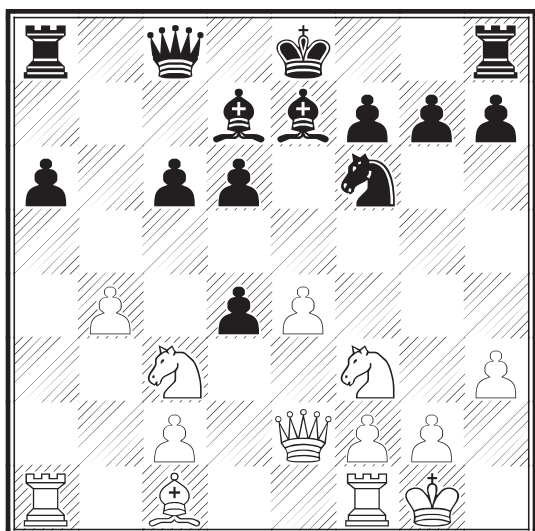
20.Rae1 Kd7 21.Rb1 Rb8 22.a4 a6 23.axb5 Rxb5 24.c4 dxc4
 25.Rxb5 axb5 26.d5 Kc7 27.dxe6 fxe6 28.Rd1 Qg5 29.Qf2
 Kc6 30.Qf3+ Kc7 31.Qf2 Kc6 ½:½

Drawn by perpetual check.

Pittsburgh Dispatch, April 28, 1913**Frank James Marshall - John Emery**

Simul, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/17/1913

1.e4 c5 2.b4 cxb4 3.a3 e5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 d6 6.axb4 Bg4
 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Qe2 Qc8 11.O-O Be7
 12.h3 Bd7 13.d4 exd4

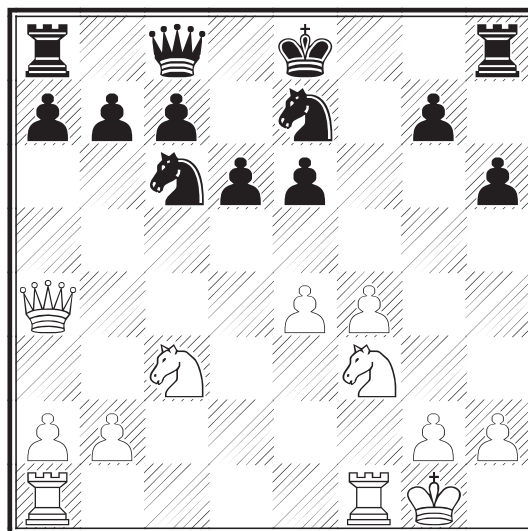


14.Nxd4 O-O ½:½

Pittsburgh Dispatch, April 28, 1913**Frank James Marshall - William Moorhead Murdoch**

Simul, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/17/1913

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Bc4 d6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Qb3 Be6
 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Nxc3 Qc8 9.O-O Nc6 10.Bg5 Bxg5 11.Nxg5
 Nd4 12.Qa4+ Nc6 13.f4 h6 14.Nf3 Nge7

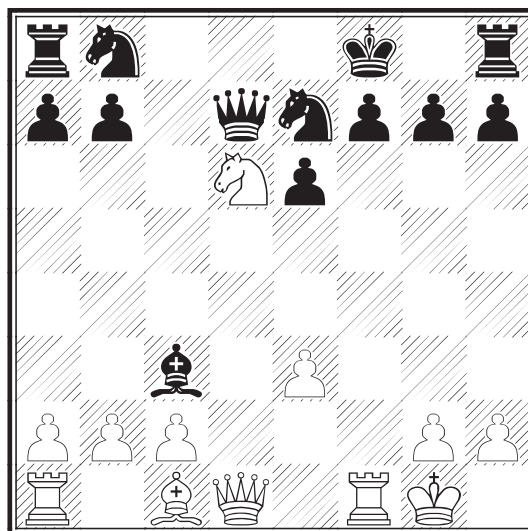


15.Rac1 O-O 16.Nh4 a6 17.Qd1 Qd7 18.Qg4 e5 19.f5 Rf6
 20.Ne2 ½:½

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, April 27, 1913**Frank James Marshall - Pfahl, Jr.**

Simul, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/17/1913

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd3 Ne7 5.Nf3 c5 6.Bb5+ Bd7
 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.dxc5 dxe4 9.Nd2 e3 10.fxe3 Bxc5 11.Nde4
 Bb4 12.O-O Bxc3 13.Nd6+ Kf8



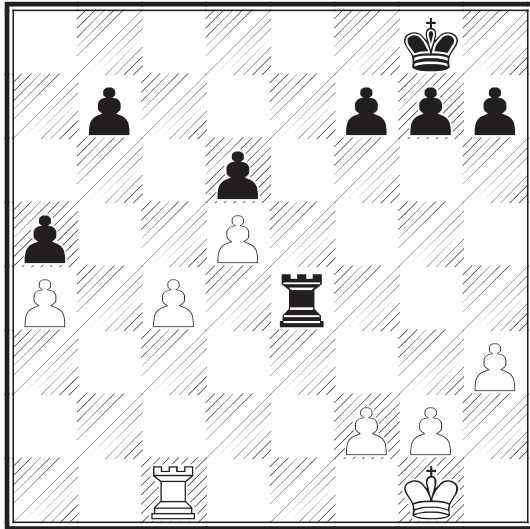
14.Rxf7+ Kg8 15.bxc3 Nbc6 16.c4 Ne5 17.Rf1 Qc6 18.Bb2
 Nxc4 19.Nxc4 Qxc4 20.Qd7 Nf5 21.Rxf5 1:0

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, April 27, 1913**July 26 & 27****Bloomsburg
39th Susquehanna Valley Open**

Frank James Marshall - Sutcliffe

Simul, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/17/1913

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.cxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Nf3 O-O 8.Be2 Nc6 9.O-O Bxc3 10.bxc3 Ne4 11.c4 Qd6 12.Bd3 Nf6 13.a4 Re8 14.Bb2 Bg4 15.d5 Ne5 16.Bxe5 Rxe5 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 a5 19.Rfe1 Rae8 20.Rxe5 Rxe5 21.Qg3 Ne4 22.Qh4 Nf6 23.Qg3 Ne4 24.Bxe4 Rxe4 25.Qxd6 cxd6 26.Rc1



26...f5 27.f3 Re2 28.Rb1 Rc2 29.Rxb7 Rxc4 30.Rb6 Rxa4 31.Rxd6 Rd4 32.Kf2 f4 33.Rd7 h5 34.h4 Kf8 35.d6 Rd2+ 36.Kf1 g6 37.Ra7 Rd5 38.Ra8+ Kf7 39.d7 ½:½

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, April 27, 1913

The day following the simul, Marshall played three consultation games simultaneously against teams of Pittsburgh's strongest players. The *Leader* in its column of April 20 described the teams as "being captained by one of Pittsburgh's strongest players, assisted by the club's best talent:

Board No. 1, captained by B. F. Lutton and consulting with Richtman, Couch, Firth and Schwartz with the Black pieces, played a French Defense and lost.

Board No. 2, captained by L. F. George, consulting with Sutcliffe, Sanders and Twig, with the White pieces, played a Petroff and won.

Board No. 3, captained by K. Erdeky, consulting with Anderson, Dolde and Wilson, with the Black pieces, played a French Defense and won.

The loss of the two games can only be accounted for by the over exertion of the champion the evening before."

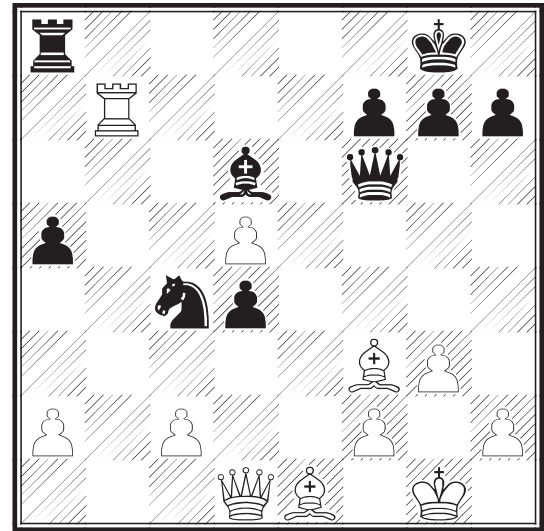
None of the consultation games were published in the *Leader* or the *Gazette-Times*, although the *Gazette-Times* did include a photo of Marshall playing the consultation teams. Napier's *Dispatch* column of April 27 included the two losses by Marshall in the consultation display.

Lyman Fairbanks George, Sutcliffe, Sanders & Twig - Frank James Marshall

Consultation Game, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/18/1913

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6

7.O-O Bg4 8.Nc3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 O-O 10.Rb1 Nd7 11.Bd2 Re8 12.c4 c5 13.cxd5 cxd4 14.Re1 Rxe1+ 15.Bxe1 Nb6 16.Ba5 Qf6 17.Be2 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Nc4 19.Bb4 Bf4 20.g3 a5 21.Be1 Bd6 22.Rxb7



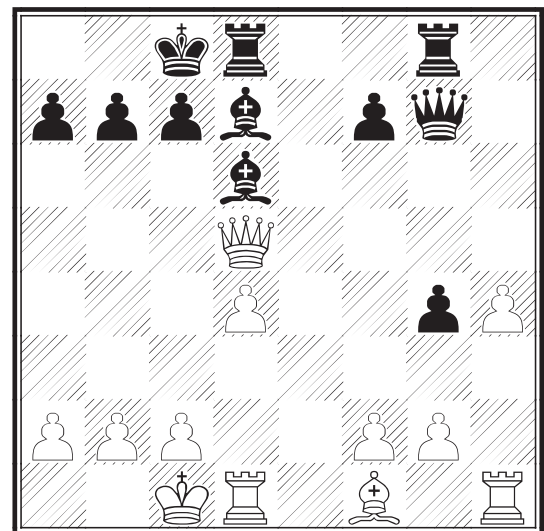
22...Re8 23.Kg2 h6 24.a4 Re3 25.Rb3 Re8 26.Rb5 h5 27.Bxb5 Qe5 28.Bxa5 Na3 29.Rb7 Qxd5+ 30.Qf3 Qxf3+ 31.Bxf3 Nxc2 32.Bd5 Re2 33.Bxf7+ Kh7 34.Kf1 Re5 35.Bd2 Na3 36.Bf4 Re7 37.Rxe7 Bxe7 38.a5 Bc5 39.a6 Nb5 40.Bc4 Na7 41.Bb8 Kg6 42.Bxa7 Bxa7 43.Ke2 Kf5 44.h3 Ke4 45.f3+ Ke5 46.Kd3 Kd6 47.Ke4 Kc5 48.Bd3 Kb4 49.f4 Kc5 50.g4 1:0

Pittsburgh Dispatch, April 28, 1913

Frank James Marshall - Kalman Erdeky, Davis Anderson, Howard L. Dolde & Wilson

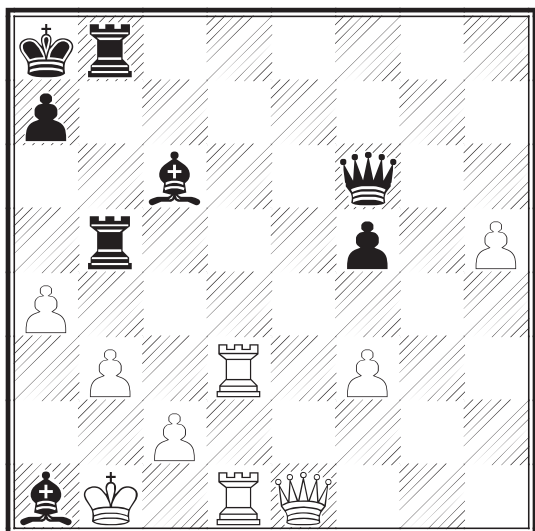
Consultation Game, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/18/1913

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.e5 h6 6.exf6 hxg5 7.fxg7 Rg8 8.Qh5 Qf6 9.Nf3 Qxg7 10.h4 g4 11.Ne5 Nd7 12.Nxd7 Bxd7 13.O-O-O Bd6 14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Qxd5 O-O-O



16.Ba6 Qh6+ 17.Kb1 c6 18.Qc4 bxa6 19.Qxa6+ Kb8 20.Rd3

Ka8 21.d5 Rb8 22.dxc6 Rb6 23.Qa5 Bxc6 24.Rhd1 Rgb8
25.b3 Bc7 26.Qf5 Qg7 27.Qc5 Qf6 28.h5 Rb5 29.Qc4 Qe6
30.Qc3 Be5 31.Qe1 f5 32.f3 gxf3 33.gxf3 Qf6 34.a4 Ba1



35.Kc1 Rxb3! 36.Rxb3 Rxb3 37.Qg1 0:1

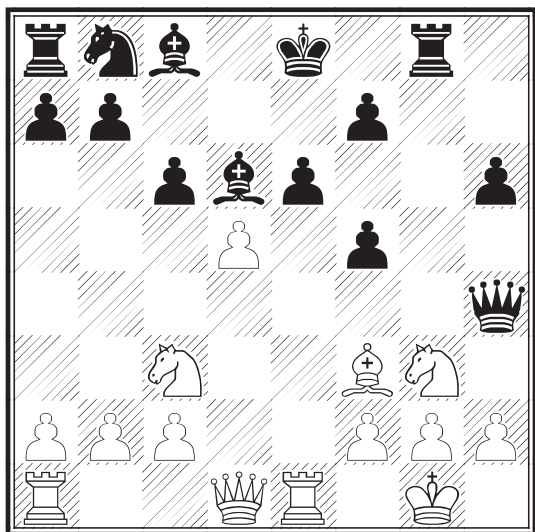
Black announced mate in four.

Pittsburgh Dispatch, April 28, 1913

Marshall's chess activities in the Smoky City concluded with another consultation game, this one against the Pittsburgh Chess Club itself! As Isaacs explains in his *Leader* column of April 20, "Friday night the champion played a game at the club with the entire attendance consulting against him. Mr. Marshall played the White pieces to a McCutcheon variation of the French Defense and won in 23 moves." The following week Isaacs provided the score for his readers:

Frank James Marshall - Pittsburgh Chess Club Consultation Game, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4/18/1913

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.Bd3 h6 6.Bxf6 gxf6
7.Nge2 Rg8 8.O-O dxe4 9.Bxe4 f5 10.Bf3 c6 11.Re1 Qh4
12.Ng3 Bd6 13.d5



13...Bc5 14.dxc6 Nxc6 15.Bxc6+ bxc6 16.Qf3 Kd7 17.Nxf5

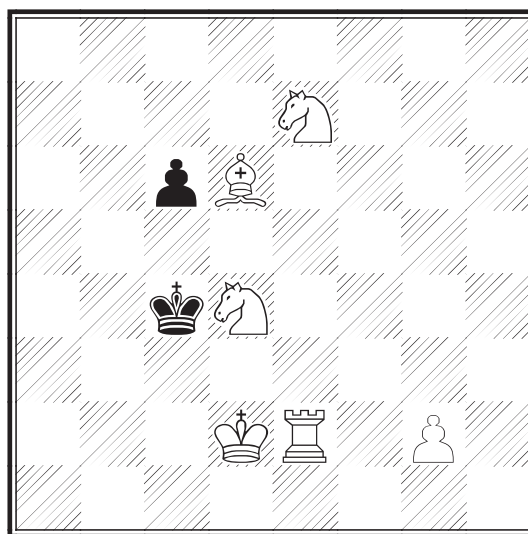
exf5 18.Qxf5+ Kc7 19.Qxc5 Rxc2+ 20.Kxg2 Qh3+ 21.Kg1
Qg4+ 22.Kf1 Ba6+ 23.Re2 1:0

Pittsburgh Leader, April 27, 1913

The *Leader* account of Marshall's visit concluded on the 27th with a thank you from "The Champion" and Mrs. Marshall, and the note that Saturday the 19th had been "spent by Mr. and Mrs. Marshall at the home of Mr. Marshall's brother, Charles R. Marshall, at New Kensington, PA, leaving today for the west, where the champion has many engagements."

There was one final accolade for Marshall in the *Leader* column. Dr. Samuel Gold, recently honored by the *Leader* on the occasion of his seventy-second birthday, composed a mate in three problem in Marshall's honor. The problem was "fraternally dedicated to the American Champion, Mr. Frank James Marshall, by Dr. Samuel Gold, New York, NY."

Dr. Samuel Gold - Mate in three



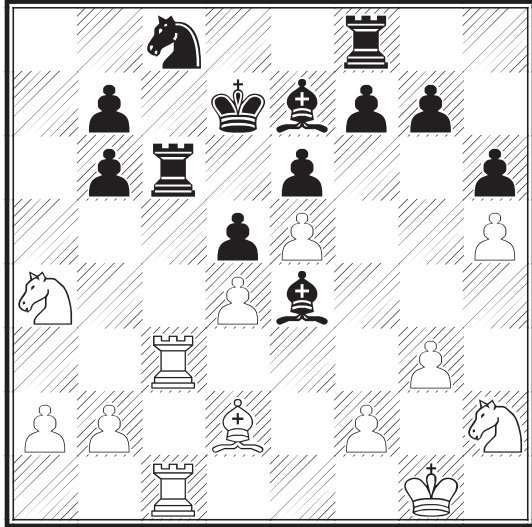
Pittsburgh Leader, April 20, 1913 (The solution is at the end of the article)

The presence of both Dolde and Erdekey on one of the consultation teams against Marshall indicates tempers had cooled since the latter's letter to chess columnist Isaacs in December complaining about the Pittsburgh Chess Club's Championship tournament. At some point during the past four months the subject of a match between the current Western Pennsylvania Champion and the Pittsburgh Chess Club Champion was probably raised, and the two titleholders came to terms.

The match was held on June 6, probably one of the last organized events before the summer heat settled in over the three rivers, and Erdekey's lack of practice told against him. As Isaacs described the match in his June 15, 1913 *Leader* column, "It only required four games to decide the match between Kalman Erdekey, the ex-champion, and H. L. Dolde, the challenger, at the Pittsburgh Chess Club last week. Mr. Erdekey, who is well-known in the west, having made good scores in the Chicago tournament, played a rather indifferent game here, much to the disappointment of his friends. The winner's play was careful in the openings but he found three opportunities for a sacrifice, producing situations creating much enthusiasm among the spectators. The new champion has been busy receiving congratulations, and has been well fed as a result." The gamescores appeared in the *American Chess Bulletin*.

Kalman Erdeky - Howard L. Dolde

Western Pennsylvania Championship, Rd 1, Pittsburgh, 6/1913
 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 Bd7 7.Bc2
 Rc8 8.O-O cxd4 9.cxd4 Nb4 10.Nc3 Nxc2 11.Qxc2 h6 12.h4
 Bb5 13.Re1 Ne7 14.Qb3 Bd3 15.Qxb6 axb6 16.Re3 Bg6
 17.Na4 Rc6 18.Rc3 Nc8 19.Bd2 Be7 20.Rac1 Kd7 21.g3 Bf5
 22.Nh2 Be4 23.h5 Rf8

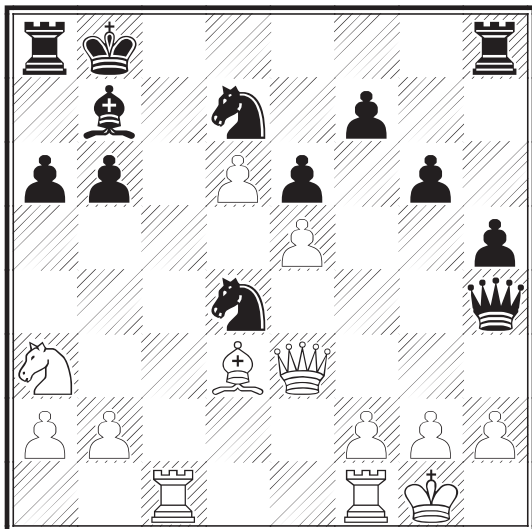


24.f3 Bh7 25.Ng4 Kc7 26.b4 Na7 27.Rxc6+ bxc6 28.Nc3 Kb7
 29.a3 Ra8 30.Ra1 Bd3 31.Ne3 Nb5 32.Nxb5 Bxb5 33.Kf2 c5
 34.bxc5 bxc5 35.dxc5 Bxc5 36.Rb1 Kc6 37.Rc1 Rxa3 38.Bb4
 Ra2+ 39.Kg1 Bc4 40.Bxc5 Kxc5 41.f4 Kd4 42.Ng4 Be2 43.Nf2
 Bxh5 44.g4 Bg6 45.Kg2 Ke3 46.Rc3+ Kxf4 47.Rf3+ Kxe5
 48.Kg3 f6 49.Re3+ Be4 50.Nd1 f5 0:1

American Chess Bulletin 1913, p. 231

Howard L. Dolde - Kalman Erdeky

Western Pennsylvania Championship, Rd 2, Pittsburgh, 6/1913
 1.d4 b6 2.e4 Bb7 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bd3 Bg7 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nge2 e6
 7.Qd2 d5 8.e5 Nfd7 9.Bh6 Bxh6 10.Qxh6 Qe7 11.Nb5 Kd8
 12.O-O a6 13.Na3 c5 14.c3 Nc6 15.Rac1 Kc7 16.Qe3 h5 17.c4
 cxd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.cxd5+ Kb8 20.d6 Qh4

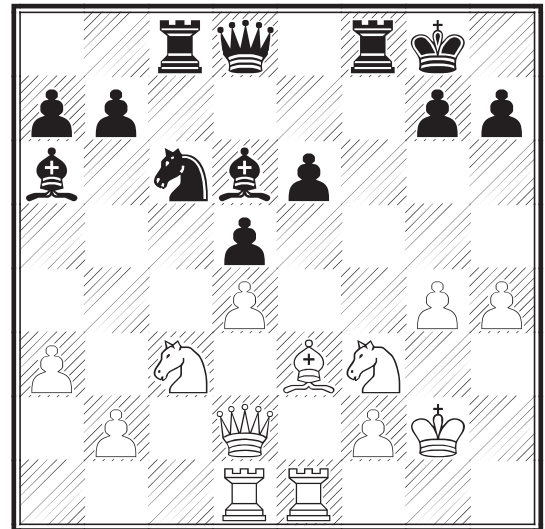


21.Rc4 Qg4 22.f3 Nf5 23.Qd2 Nxe5 24.fxg4 hxg4 25.Bxf5 exf5
 26.Rc7 f6 27.Rfc1 Bxg2 28.Qxg2 Nf3+ 29.Kh1 Ra7 30.R1c3
 1:0

American Chess Bulletin 1913, p. 231

Kalman Erdeky - Howard L. Dolde

Western Pennsylvania Championship, Rd 3, Pittsburgh, 6/1913
 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 Bd7 7.Bc2
 Rc8 8.O-O cxd4 9.cxd4 Nb4 10.Nc3 Nxc2 11.Qxc2 Ne7 12.g4
 Bb5 13.Re1 Ba6 14.Be3 Nc6 15.a3 Qd8 16.Kg2 Be7 17.Kg3
 O-O 18.h4 f6 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Rad1 Be7 21.Qd2 Bd6+ 22.Kg2

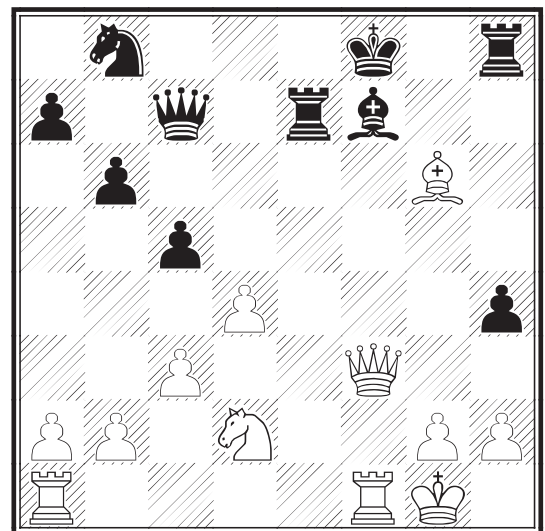


22...Rxf3! 23.Kxf3 Qxh4 24.Rh1 Rf8+ 25.Bf4 Qg5 26.Ne2
 Bxe2+ 27.Kxe2 Rxf4 28.Qd3 Qxg4+ 29.Kf1 Qf5 0:1

American Chess Bulletin 1913, p. 231

Howard L. Dolde - Kalman Erdeky

Western Pennsylvania Championship, Rd 4, Pittsburgh, 6/1913
 1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c3 b6 4.Be3 Bb7 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nd2 d6 7.Ne2
 Nbd7 8.Ng3 c5 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.f4 h5 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 Ng4
 13.O-O Nxe3 14.Qxe3 h4 15.Nge4 Bd5 16.Nd6+ Kf8 17.Nxf7
 Bxf7 18.Qf3 Bf6 19.exf6 Re8 20.fxe7+ Rxe7 21.Bxg6 Nb8



22.Qd5 Rh6 23.Bxf7 Rxf7 24.Rxf7+ Qxf7 25.Rf1 Rf6 26.Qd8+ Kg7 27.Rxf6 Qxf6 28.Qxf6+ Kxf6 29.dxc5 b5 30.Nf3 h3 31.Nd4 Na6 32.c6 Nc7 33.gxh3 1:0

American Chess Bulletin 1913, p. 231

And so with Dolde's victory over Erdekey the chess season in Pittsburgh came to an end. It was a season that had only one big name, Marshall, playing in the Steel City, but for the Pittsburgh Chess Club, it was a very successful year, full of events and conflict both on and off the chessboard. The season of 1912-1913 became history, and the stuff of history for the curious historian.

The solution to the mate in three by Dr. Samuel Gold is: **1.Re5 Kxd4 2.Rc5 Ke4 3.Rc4#.**

Junior Gems

by Dan Heisman

Steven D. Johnson - Connor M. Unice

Erie City Championship, Round 5, 2/29/2008

Annotations by Dan Heisman

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3

This natural move is fine, but often difficult to play if you don't know the line. The main line is 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7.

5...Bb4

The attack on e4 and the possibility of either castling quickly and/or playing an early ...d5 gives White some problems that must be solved accurately.

6.Bg5

Already Black is better. White should try 6.Nxc6 with approximate equality.

6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6

Black is ahead the bishop pair and has a comfortable development.

8.Nde2 d6 9.a3 Bc5 10.f3

This is not a mistake, but makes White's position very difficult to play because he is weak on the dark squares. Good principle to remember: 'If you have a weak squares complex and your opponent has a bishop of that color and you do not, that is a big problem, and even bigger if queens are on the board.'

10...Be6 11.Rb1?

White should just play 11.Qd2 and head for castling queenside. Now castling queenside is illegal and castling kingside almost impossible. Good general principle: 'When queens are on the board, always make sure your king will have a safe haven somewhere!'

11...O-O-O 12.Nd5 Qg5?

Logical, but best is to capture the pesky knight with 12...Bxd5. Now White can achieve rough equality with 13.b4!

13.Nec3? f5?

Again, Black has to be commended for playing the kind of vigorous moves that should blast open the center with the vulnerable White King and bring victory. However, specific analysis takes precedence, and this move allows White off the hook. Better is the simply 13...Rhe8 bringing the only dormant piece into the fight, with a nice advantage to Black.

14.Bb5??

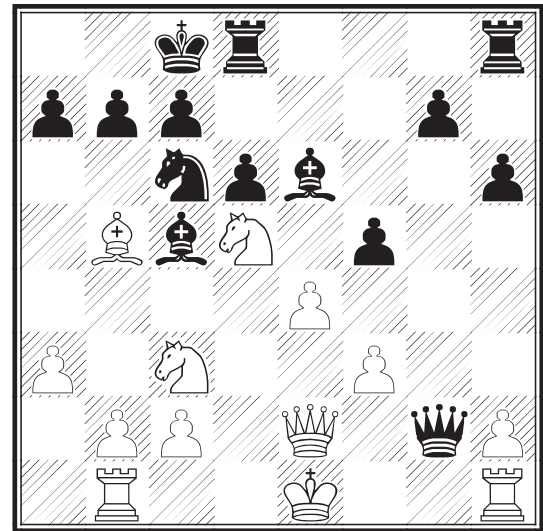
This is a big mistake for two reasons: 1) It leaves the important g-pawn en prise and the White King out to dry, and 2) White could equalize with 14.f4! Qg6 15.b4 when the threat of b5 removing the Knight's guard of e7. Then the threat of the Ne7+ fork forces Black to

dissipate his advantage. Of course, 14...Qg6 is not forced, but no other move retains an advantage either (analysis courtesy of World Computer Chess Champion Rybka).

14...Qxg2

With a winning advantage.

15.Qe2



15...Qxe2+

It is commendable that Black did not want to play 15...Qxh1+ because it looks like the Queen is trapped after 16.Kd2. But Rybka points out that the only move to save the Queen, the strange looking 16...Bg1! is the best plan. However, the exchange of queens also wins, as Black aptly demonstrates.

16.Kxe2

Now Black caps his aggressive play with a pretty finish!

16...Nd4+ 17.Kd3 c6 18.Ne7+ Kd7 19.Ng6 cxb5 20.Nxh8 Nxf3 21.Ng6

Losing prettily and immediately, but nothing could save the game.

21...Bc4# 0:1

In this game all of Black's mistakes could have been made by a much stronger player, too, and so his play was exceptional for his rating.

(Players in grades 12 and under are encouraged to send us their instructive games to be analyzed by Dan Heisman and presented to our readers. - editor.)

PA TODAY

Tournament and Club News from around the Keystone State
by Joe Mucerino, Roving Reporter
patzerpounder@hotmail.com

Beat the Blues Tornado

ALLENTOWN, 1/5/2008 - Eighteen players attended the Center City Chess Club's (located on 7th Street) inaugural tournament of 2008. It was also a very strong turnout, with four players rated over 2000. William LeBoeuf is beginning to make a habit of holding strong players to a draw in the first round; this time he did it to Jack Mongilutz. All of the other top players won. Dennis Baluk scored a minor upset in round two by beating Richard Blank. Round 3's heavyweight matchup Mucerino-Greg Nolan was drawn, giving both players 2½/

3, while many others had two points. Nolan won the tournament in the final round by defeating Baluk, while I was held to a draw by Mongilutz, a player against whom I have had poor results. Tying with me for second were Blank, LeBoeuf, and Phil Rizzo.

Haverford High School Open and Quads

HAVERFORD, 2/23/2008 - This tournament has become an annual tradition where Haverford College (yes, that place where the speed limit on campus is thirteen miles per hour) holds a free tournament for high schoolers to try to attract prospective students. Alongside the main event were quads that people of any age could play in.

There were two high school sections: rated and non-rated. Attendance was nearly equal: forty players took part in the rated section, and thirty-three in the non-rated.

Akmal Kholbaev, who is beginning to make a name for himself, won the rated section with 4½/5, only conceding a draw to the top-rated Andrew McCurdy of New Jersey in the penultimate round. George Washington High School won the team competition. In the non-rated division, Kylil Redmon posted a perfect 6-0 score to finish a full point in front of the field. There was no separate team prize for this section, but there was a team prize for the top school in both scholastic sections combined, and that was won by Carver High School.

There were two quads, and both of them could not have been more predictable. Not only did the highest rated player win his respective quad, but the second seed came in second, number three on the wallchart finished in third place, and the lowest rated player finished the day as the tailender. On top of that, in both quads, first place scored 2½ points, second place had two points, third 1½ points, and fourth place was blanked. The two quad winners were Adam Weissbarth and Sebastian Lara.

North Penn Chess Club Winter Round Robin

LANSDALE, 1/11-2/29/2008 - Quads are common, but how about eight player round robins that take two months to complete? Each year the members of the North Penn Chess Club look forward to this popular tournament. There were two sections this year, and TD Eric Funk easily won the top section, scoring 6/7, only drawing William Duley and the second-place Preston Ladson en route. Your author had a disappointing year, only scoring fifty percent with two wins and two losses.

The lower section was more closely contested, with Robert Kampia and Joe Kennedy both scoring 5½ points to tie for top honors. Don Funk was one point back.

34th West Chester Chess Club Championship

WEST CHESTER, 2/14-3/6/2008 - They say that records are made to be broken, but Michael Bury's record of thirteen WCCC championships (and counting!) seems likely to withstand any assaults in the future. Michael won his first crown in 1993 and, except for the trio of 2003, '04 and '05, has been the champion or co-champion ever since. This year the field was larger than usual with 24 players, including Bury's main rival, Joe Mucerino.

The first round produced the greatest upset of the entire event when Peter Mason (864) defeated Nicholas Pino (1563). Another major sur-

prise was Roy Eikerenkoetter's loss to the unrated Philip Derstine. Bury and Mucerino won without difficulty and they duplicated that result in round 2. But Mucerino was derailed in the third round when he could not win against Larry Saxby and had to split the point. Meanwhile Bury was defeating Keith Johnson and shared the lead with Mel Ross, the '03 champion. Many spectators had been hoping for Mucerino, the '04 and '05 champion, and Bury to cross swords in the final round, but that was not to be.

In round 4, Bury ground out a difficult victory against a stubborn Ross to emerge once again undefeated and champion for the 13th time! Joe Mucerino finished second with 3½ points. The Reserve champions were Donald Anderson and Andrew Fleming. The Under Age 12 winner was Pranov Ranganathan.

Here is Michael's third round encounter:

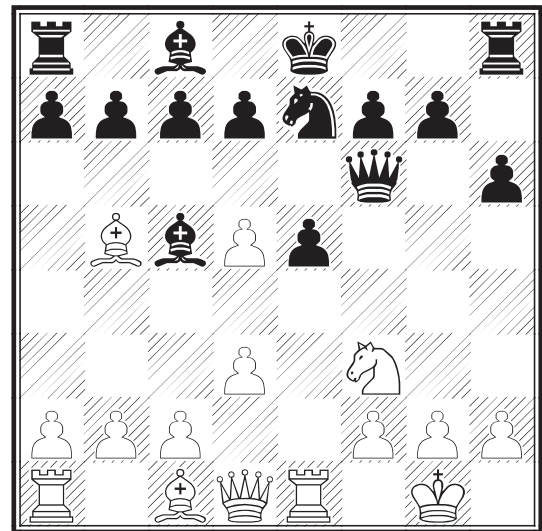
Keith B. Johnson - Michael J. Bury

West Chester Chess Club Championship, Round 4, 2/28/2008

Annotations by Michael J. Bury

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.O-O Qf6 5.Nc3 Nge7 6.d3 h6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.Re1?

The idea is good, but the move is tactically bad.



9...Qb6 10.d4 exd4 11.d6

Fritz hates this move, because, like all chess programs, it likes material and mate. Practically speaking however, the move makes a lot of sense.

11...Qxd6 12.Ne5 O-O 13.Qg4

13.Qf3 c6 14.Bc4 Nd5 15.Bxd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 cxd5 makes for some ugly chess.

13...Qe6

13...Ng6 14.Nd3 c6 15.Nxc5 Qxc5 16.Bd3 d6 would free Black's pieces, though likely at the eventual cost of one of his extra pawns.

14.Qh5 Qf5

Another possibility is 14...d6 15.Nd3 Qf5 16.Qxf5 Nxf5.

15.Qxf5 Nxf5 16.Nxd7 Bxd7

16...Bb4 17.c3 dxc3 18.Nxf8 cxb2 19.Bxb2 Bxe1 20.Rxe1 Nd6 21.Nd7 a6 22.Ba4 b5 23.Re7 bxa4 is winning for Black according to Fritz, but I don't know any humans who play like that.

17.Bxd7 Nd6 18.Re5 Bb6 19.b3

19.Re7 is better.

19...Rad8

19...d3

20.Ba4 c6 21.Ba3 d3! 22.c3

22.cxd3?? Bd4 forking the rooks.

22...Bc7 23.Re7 Bb8 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.Rxb7 d2 26.b4 Re8
27.Rf1 Rde6 28.g3 Be5 29.Rd7 Bxc3 30.a3 Re1 31.Rd3 Rc1
32.Re3 Rd8

32...Rxe3 33.fxe3 Bb2 will pick off White's queenside pawns.

33.Rd1 Rd6 34.Kf1 a5 0:1

At this point, White's flag fell.

- Roy C. Eikerenkoetter

10th Pennsylvania State Quick Chess Championship

CARLISLE, 3/7/2008 – Has it been ten years already? It seems like just yesterday this tournament had its first edition in Bloomsburg back in 1999 with only 22 players. Here is a trivia question for you: Which year had the highest attendance? It was 2004, with a whopping 153 players! This year there were 109 participants, the third largest attendance ever. Did you know that only one person played all ten years? Can you guess who that is? If you said me, you're right! Kudos to Peter Minear and Mike Cox for playing in nine of the ten years.

Fittingly, this was probably the strongest edition ever, with IM Bryan Smith, FM Rodion Rubenchik, and NMs Dan Yeager (who was able to compete because the K-12 Open was scaled back to five rounds this year), Peter Minear, and *five-time* defending champion Gerald Bailleau competing. Here is another trivia question: who was the last winner of the event prior to Bailleau's steak? It was IM Stanislav Kriventsov, who scored a perfect 7-0 in 2002 in Bloomsburg.

Obviously, the masters and stronger experts dominated the tournament this year. A few experts like myself did not do so well; I finished with only 3½/6. Round one was business as usual, but in the second frame dangerous Vincent Waters upset Minear. The most shocking news occurred in round three: Bailleau had been defeated by the top rated Smith. Not an upset rating-wise, but Bailleau's streak was now in jeopardy. One of the stronger experts, Adam Weissbarth, also fell to Yeager in this round, and Rubenchik beat Waters to join Smith and Yeager with perfect scores.

Now past the halfway mark, Yeager met his nemesis, Pennsylvania State Champion IM Bryan Smith. I caught a glimpse of this game, and it looked like Smith was doing well, but something must have went wrong, because Yeager beat him for the first time ever, I believe. Somehow I made it up to board two and got smashed by Rubenchik, who kept his perfect score. Bailleau and Weissbarth both won, and were joined by Ilya Shvartsman with 3/4.

The two perfect scores went head-to-head in the penultimate round, and Rubenchik proved to be the better player. Smith beat Shvartsman, Bailleau won another game, and Minear won his second straight game to claw back into contention. In the final round, although he needed only a draw with black to win the tournament, Rubenchik succumbed to the state champion, Bryan Smith. Yeager defeated Bailleau to join them in a three-way tie for first place. Weissbarth and Minear won their final round games to tie for fourth place with 4½ points.

The U1500 section also had a three-way tie with Alex Chen, Michael Pergeorelis, and David Power all scoring five points each. Keith Williams was the only clear winner this year; he took home the top prize in the U1100 section with an unequaled 5½ points. Sharing second place were Anh Tuan Nguyen and Nick Yankowsky.

Pennsylvania State Losers Chess Championship

CARLISLE, 3/7/2008 - Yes, I could not believe it either when I saw the flyer for this chess variant. Steve McLaughlin had some leftover trophies, so he came up with this event to make a couple of bucks for the PSCF. Apparently losers chess is very popular on the Internet. The object is to give away all of your pieces, except your king, or force your opponent to checkmate you. If it is possible to capture a piece, you must do so. With the time control of G/1 (that is game in one minute, not one hour) it was possible to squeeze it in immediately following the PA State Quick Chess Championship on Friday night. Five double rounds (you play your opponent with each color) were on the menu.

With only trophy prizes up for grabs, most of the top players did not participate. Federico Garcia was the only player above class B to take part. Having the highest USCF rating did not help though. The players who had the most Internet experience were the ones who dominated the tournament. Steve McLaughlin, Jr. and Zach Taylor both scored 9/10, splitting their match and defeating everyone else. McLaughlin won the one game playoff to take a clear first place. Taylor took home the second place trophy, and Garcia was third after winning his playoff. About twenty players took part.

Pennsylvania State Bughouse Championship

CARLISLE, 3/8/2008 – I was so concerned about getting a good night's rest because of Daylight Savings Time that I forgot to go watch and report on who won! Thankfully, TD Steve McLaughlin told me that there were twelve teams this year, and THE BETTER TEAM (Josh Bowman and Steve McLaughlin, Jr.) were the best team, posting a perfect 8-0 score. JON AND DAN (Jonathan Pfefer and Dan O'Brien scored six points, only losing both of there games against THE BETTER TEAM. THE CHESS BOMBERS (Qinhong Chen and Steven Qiang) finished in third place with five points, which was a great accomplishment because, based on the team's average USCF rating, they were only ranked ninth on the wallchart. HYPERFISH (Adam Janes and Daryl Beltz) was the top U1000 team, and SHADOW (Justin Lademar and Khoa Phan) was the top U700.

Carlisle Open & PA State Collegiate Championship

CARLISLE, 3/8&9/2008 - Yes, as always, during the PA State Scholastic Championship, there is tournament in which adults and collegiate players can play. Eighty-four players took part in either the open or U1500 section, and while that is normal, the number of collegiate players spiked from only five a year ago to twenty-five this year! More colleges are sending teams to compete for the team trophies, as opposed to single players seeking individual glory.

Normally, the top players group at, well, the top of course, but this year many strong players struggled. Your author, David Owocki, Ron Gross, Tamara Corey, and Andrew Spore conceded draws the first time at bat to Bob Waruszewski, Christopher Couch, Edward Mereminsky, Randall Sears and Antonio Scalzo respectively. There were some minor (100 rating point) upsets in the second round, and a few more draws, but nothing earth shattering. The big news half way through was that top seed FM Rodion Rubenchik had taken a half-point bye. Also of note was comebacking Alex Palanker defeated the defending champion Federico Garcia. Peter Minear beat Carlos Cruz to join Palanker as the only perfect scores. They fought to a long, hard fought draw on Sunday morning, while Rubenchik got back on track

by defeating Magar. Magar withdrew after this, as did Garcia, who lost again to Stanley Hwang. Three people had 3½ points, and seven had three points entering the final round. Palanker drew Arthur Glassman, which gave Rubenchik the opportunity for a clear first if he could defeat Minear with his English Opening. He did. Hwang won this game to become the state collegiate champion:

Stanley Hwang - Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

Carlisle Open, Round 5, 3/9/2008

Annotations by Joseph J. Mucerino, Jr.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxe2 5.Nxe2 Qxd5 6.O-O Nc6 7.Na3

An unusual way to support 8.c4. Normally, White plays 5.Qxe2, and then c4 can be played right away.

7...O-O 8.c4 Qe4 9.Nb5 a6 10.Nbc3 Qg4 11.h3 Qd7 12.Be3 h6 13.Qc2

Here, and on the next few moves, White can play d5 followed by Nd4.

13...g5 14.a3 Nh5

Fritz preferred 14...g4, but I thought that White was safe after bypassing with 15.h4.

15.b4!

White's pawn storm will be faster than Black's.

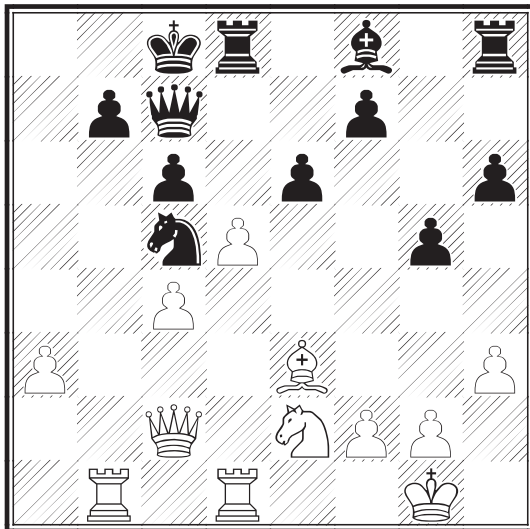
15...Nf4 16.b5 Nxe2+ 17.Nxe2 Nb8 18.bxa6 Nxa6 19.Rab1 e6 20.Qb3

This is fine, but I was really afraid of 20.Qb2, when d5, hitting the rook in the corner and blowing open the center, is a possibility.

20...c6 21.Rfd1 Qc7 22.d5! Nc5

Trying to block White's attack, but it does not do much good.

23.Qc2



23...exd5 24.cxd5 Rxd5?

I realized that grabbing a pawn was risky, but I felt that I had to roll the dice.

25.Rxd5 cxd5 26.Qf5+

26.Rc1 also works.

26...Qd7??

This seals Black's fate. I had to try 26...Kb8 to get out of White's upcoming pin.

27.Qf6 Rg8 28.Rc1 Qe6 29.Qxe6+ fxe6 30.Bxc5 Bxc5

31.Rxc5+ Kd7

I tried in vain to create some counterplay, but White had too much extra material.

32.Nd4 Ra8 33.Nb5 Ke7 34.Rc7+ Kf6 35.Rxb7 Ra4 36.Rh7 Kg6 37.Ra7 Rc4 38.Kf1 Rc1+ 39.Ke2 Rc2+ 40.Ke3 e5 41.Rc7 d4+ 42.Kf3 d3 43.Rd7 Rc5 44.a4 Rc4 45.Rd6+ Kg7 46.Ke3 Rxa4 47.Rxd3 h5 48.Nc3 Rc4 49.Ne4 g4 50.hxg4 hxg4 51.Rd5 1:0

Meanwhile, Tim Alles defeated Scalzo to join Palanker and Hwang with four points. Spore won his game against Waruszewski for the second place collegiate trophy.

In the U1500 section, collegiate players ruled, with four of the top six places going to undergraduate students. Cory Ruck was the big winner, going 5-0 and taking the top collegiate trophy to boot. Charles Gibson was held to a draw by Winn Jones in round four, but won the rest, and took clear second and the second place collegiate trophy. Four players with four points tied for third: Sunny Guest, Michael Rumpf, Jones, and Mike Kobily. The collegiate team trophies were decided on the combined scores from players in both sections. Drexel University took home the first place trophy with 14½ points, followed by the University of Pittsburgh, with 11½ points. Penn State University, Saint Vincent College, and Bloomsburg University also fielded teams. Perhaps one day there will be so many collegiate players they could have their own section!

Coatesville Third Saturday Swiss

COATESVILLE, 3/15/2008 - This was the first tournament at Coatesville this year, because it did not make sense to have this event compete with the Liberty Bell Open in January or the U.S.A.T.E. in February. Ten players entered, and no one was surprised when top seed FM Rodion Rubenchik won, although I don't think his play was as impressive as before. I did not play well either, missing a win against Frank Jackson in round one and surviving a bad position against Ron Raush to draw in round two. Ron Gross, who won his first two games, played pretty well against Rubenchik in the penultimate round, but was ground down in the end. I won a long game against Andrew Spore to earn myself a crack at Rubenchik in the final round. Again I played badly, losing a pawn, but I hung in there, and Rodion surprisingly made a mistake, exposing just enough that I could win a pawn back. In a queen and same colored bishop with an equal number of pawns on both sides, Rubenchik offered a draw. He finished a full point ahead of Mel Ross, Gross, and myself, who tied for second with 2½/4.

PA State Game/29 Championship

PITTSBURGH, 3/29/2008 - Appropriately enough, 29 players competed in the Open section of the 2008 Pennsylvania State Game/29 Championship held on Saturday March 29th.

After 5 rounds of the Swiss-system tournament, Robert Sulman emerged as the clear winner with a 4½-½ score. Sulman not only repeated as the state Game/29 champ, but also mimicked last year's tournament performance by winning the first four games and drawing in the final round.

Tom Magar drew the tourney winner and shared 2nd place with Daniel Malkiel, each winning three games and drawing two for 4 points.

A second section was also contested for scholastic players rated under 900. Harvish Mehta had a perfect 5-0 score to take sole posses-

sion of first place, while five players scored 4/5 to finish 2nd - 6th. Those players were: Darek Dinkel, Jared Skolnicki, Carter McCutchan, Logan Dick, and Steven Mullen.

Results, crosstables, and a list of prize winners by section can be found at the University of Pittsburgh Chess Club website (<http://www.pitt.edu/~schach/>).

- Joshua J. Mankey

Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club Championship

LEMOYNE, 2/11-4/7/2008 - This was to be the final event to be held at the Calvary United Methodist Church, because the church sharply raised the rental rate of the room that the club was using. The Harrisburg West Shore Chess Club has found a new site in nearby Camp Hill (more on that in the next issue of *Pennswoodpusher*).

On paper, it looked like winning my fifth straight club title would be a formality. With players like Vincent Waters and Dave Brogan not attending, there was about a 400 rating point gap between myself and the rest of the field. But I knew better than to expect a walk through.

Round one was no surprise, with the only minor upsets being Michael Liebner Sr. over Nate Carabello and Michael Liebner II defeating Sunny Guest. Tom Smith played his best ever game against me, so I knew the rest of the event would be no joy ride. In round two, I had to face Liebner Sr. yet again, this time with black. I thought he was better early on, but then he made a mistake and it seemed to me that he lost confidence after that, and I won an easy ending. Carabello was victorious against Liebner II, giving them both fifty percent. At the halfway point, I played white against Chris Walls, another player who gets better every time I play him. He gave me the most difficult game of the tournament. He played very solidly early on, risking nothing, and I could make no progress. Then he started to build up an attack, but he exposed his King in doing so, and I exploited that to the fullest to pocket the point. Carabello won against Smith, and Guest took his second straight game against John Bylander. Doug Dorsey, who had not played in many years, defeated Liebner Sr. more impressively than I did. That made the two of us the only perfect scores entering round four.

We had the same color schedule, so I knew that I would be black. Dorsey played 1.b3 against Libener Sr., so I reviewed all of my lines against that. He varied with 1.Nf3 against me, which suited me just fine. He kept the pressure on, but I had a hint of a space advantage. He played 16.Bh1 and 18.Ng2, and kept those pieces there for a few moves, so I knew that I had to be better. The action took place on the queenside, and a nice combination netted me a piece and traded queens also, leaving me with an easy cleanup. Dorsey is certainly stronger than 1575 though. Liebner II, Carabello, and Guest all won their games in this round.

I was white against Carabello in the final round. Although I only needed a half point for a clear first finish, I decided to at least try for a win. I never had a perfect score when I won the club title previously, and I did have a perfect lifetime score with white against Carabello (although only a lifetime fifty percent score with black), so I decided to go for it, but not take any risks. I entered the middlegame with a fine position, but when I could not figure out the proper way to continue, I offered a draw, which Carabello was happy to accept. Dorsey, the discovery of the tournament, defeated Guest, and Liebner II beat Walls, giving them both a share of second with four points. Carabello finished in clear fourth place.

7th Annual Knights of Columbus

DUBOIS, 4/5/2008 – This year's tournament was held in the memory of Jerry Gavazzi, who for years contributed his time and food to help make the tournament the success that it is. Fittingly, the tournament had its largest turnout for quite some time, with thirty-six players taking part in one of the three non-USCF-rated sections. Dan Lines directed in fine style.

The Youth (pre-teen) section was the largest, with fourteen players. Cody Hennard of Derrick City posted a perfect 4-0 score. Tying for second place with three points were (in tiebreak order): Tim Rutledge of DuBois, Leah Swineford of Bradford, Justin Wedge of Bradford (one of three members of the Wedge family in the Youth section!), and Ashley Hennard of Derrick City.

The winner of the Teen section was no surprise to me: Mark Ishler of Curwensville, whose father Jerry gave me a good game in my first trip to DuBois back in '04, swept this section, playing on first board in every round, and defeated the players who finished in second and third place en route. Those players were, respectively, Ryan Shaffer of Brockway and Nico Alvarado of Bradford. They had three points as did Rachel Crusley of Brockport. Fifth place went to Nathan Buganza, also of Brockport.

Your author missed this tournament last year, having decided to play only in the DuBois Spring Tornado. John Caliguire won last year, and beating him this year was probably going to be more difficult than advertised. I drove to DuBois straight from the second round of the Lancaster County Championship, and did not arrive until 3 am. On that chilly morning, I only managed about two hours of sleep in my car (I prefer to have Rip van Wrinkle quantities of sleep). Having only gotten five hours of sleep the previous night, I thought that I might fade towards the end of the tournament.

It did not happen. In the first round of the Adult section, the only upset was Steve Hudson (who is running for the U.S. Congress in Silver Spring, MD!) drawing Caliguire with black. I had my first challenge in round two when Ryan Miller played solidly against my Center Counter. Eventually I won a few pawns and the game. Jason Smith had the biggest upset of the round, over tournament organizer Tom Shade. Miller and Shade were held to draws in round three, while I beat Hudson and Caliguire beat Smith. The annual Caliguire-Mucerino meeting was in the final round this year. I decided not to take any risks against Caliguire's interesting gambit 1.e4 d5 2.Nf3 dxe4 3.Ng5. Needing only a half-point, I developed normally and gave the pawn back, and we agreed to a draw early in the middlegame, assuring my fourth victory in four attempts (one was shared with Caliguire). Zeb Bartels upset Smith, and Shade defeated Hudson on board three.

The final results: your author of Douglassville finished in first place with 3½ points. Tying for second a half point back were Caliguire of Punxsutawney and Bartels of DuBois. Blase Hodgson of Rossiter was fourth and Shade of DuBois was fifth.

Yes, it's spring cleaning time once again! If you are a member of any chess club in Pennsylvania, please check you club listing on the back cover to make sure if the information is still accurate. As always, all corrections/additions/deletions are welcome!

Thank you all once again!

- Joe Mucerino

The Best American Chess Player

By Dan Heisman

“Sir, there is a Mister Richard Franklin here to see you. He wishes to indulge in a game or two, if you are interested.”

The study was filled with fine paintings and books that his family had collected over many decades. In the northwest corner, near a candleholder and window, sat a seldom used chessboard. The World Champion frowned.

Franklin? The name was not familiar. He was probably another old, wealthy gentleman who wished to tell his grandchildren that he had played the famous recluse. Sometimes he humored them, more often not. Being a little bored with nothing else to do, this time it was humor: “Show him in please, Charles.”

“Very good, sir.” Charles was never surprised no matter what his employer decided, or at least if he was, he never showed it.

Not half a minute later Charles reappeared, but no longer alone.

“Sir, Mr. Richard Franklin.”

The Champion looked up and stared; he couldn't have been more wrong. Franklin was a young man, tall and somewhat slender, with large shoulders. But it was the eyes... These were the eyes of an assassin, or at least not those of someone who was here just to lose a couple of chess games. Why was he here?

“Do sit down Mr. Franklin. Tell me, what brings you to my home on such a nice Louisiana afternoon? You don't look like a local player.”

“I am ... from the North.” His accent confirmed this. Not that many Yankees wanted to be in the South these days.

“I see.” The diminutive master of the house was almost a foot shorter than his guest. He let the subject drop, reasoning that the stranger's hesitation was due to political, and not social matters. “Charles says that you have come all this way just to play some chess with me.”

“Yes, that it precisely the reason I came.”

This was quite unusual. Usually guests would say something like, “I would be honored.” No such courtesy was offered here. Straight. Harsh. Assassin?

Paul Morphy walked over to a handsomely carved bureau and opened a drawer. Inside was a box containing an exquisitely carved wooden set he had been given during his tour of Europe.

“Nice set, Mr. Morphy.” A pleasantry? Or a recognition of the set's rare quality?

“Thank you. You may have the White pieces if you wish.”

“I would rather play Black.”

Morphy set up the White pieces without comment, but before he could finish the Black army was ready and its commander waiting to move. Whoever he was, he sure knew his way around the chessboard. Sometimes just the way someone captured a piece or set up the pieces was a clue. He played 1.e4.

Franklin's hand instinctively shot out for the c-pawn, but then he stopped. Apparently that would not serve his purpose; apparently only one move would; it was 1...e5. Franklin was not afraid of any lines with 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4.

3.Bc4 it was.

The game soon turned into a rare, old, and yet really not so old variation of the Max Lange attack. Black was close to equalizing, but there was plenty of play in the position and he had to be careful.

Soon both sides were moving very slowly. White's extra space and development stacked against Black's extra pawn and solid pawn structure. But Morphy was happy; he was familiar with this type of position and had won handily many times. Today it was not so easy, not easy at all.

Nevertheless, the pressure on Black's King grew more quickly than the tall stranger had anticipated. He began to play even more slowly.

Strange, thought Morphy. This Franklin fellow is much stronger than the average master. He has already stopped several subtle threats that almost anyone would not have seen. Usually when Morphy got to play his type of opening with White, things ended rather quickly – Anderssen and the other top players always did their best to avoid situations like these against him.

And for good reason. Despite the stranger's good defense, Morphy soon found his attack irresistible, and even though stranger gave up the exchange to avoid the worst, it was not enough and Morphy finally won a nice endgame.

“You play very well, Mr. Franklin.”

“Another game?”

It was only fair. Morphy took the captured Black pieces and began to set them up. He found himself obliged to answer 1.e4 with 1...e5, just as Franklin had done in the first game.

This time the game was a Ruy Lopez. It was the rare 3.Bxc6 exchange variation. This did not suit Morphy's style, but he had often won when his Bishop pair was unleashed later in the game. This time Morphy had some awkwardness defending the queenside, but eventually mustered enough threats on the Kingside to force his opponent to simplify.

The endgame, with Rook, Bishop, and six pawns against Rook, Knight, and six pawns was obviously drawn despite Black's doubled c-pawns. But Franklin was obviously not satisfied and pressed on for a win.

Darkness started to fall and Charles dutifully lit the candles both beside the board and near the doorway.

Morphy did not offer a draw. It was the obligation of the player trying to win to decide when he could not. Many times Morphy had won when his opponent tried to hard for a win in a drawn position, but Franklin was not giving him one chance at all. Only careful defense could hold the position. Morphy was not known for his defense, but as a World Champion he was not all that bad, either.

It was pitch black outside when Franklin frowned, extended himself to his full height, and offered his hand. Morphy acknowledged the draw. Without further pleasantries, Franklin spun around and got to the study door before Charles, in the next room, could react as an escort.

Normally a score of one-and-a-half out of two would be an embarrassment to Morphy, but not this time. The best player in American history picked up the pieces and, one by one, gently placed them back into the box.

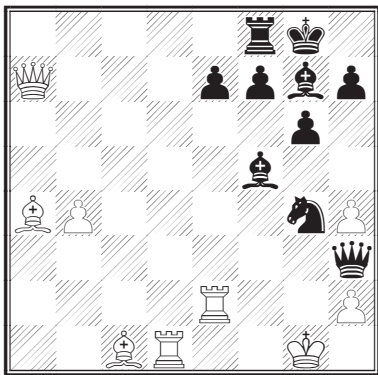
Play It Forward

by Ken Hamilton

Instead of the usual grandmaster games found here, this issue is intended as a tribute to the Indiana player Tom Harris. Here are positions from five of his games - and, to keep him company, three games of his "Nd4" team-mates.

1. Ben Inskeep - Thomas J. Harris

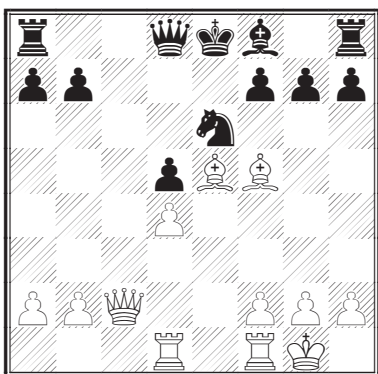
Indiana Champ, Rd 2, 9/15/2001



30... Be4
31.Rde1 Bf3
32.Rc2 Qxh4
33.Rf2 ?

2. Thomas J. Harris - Mark R. Frank

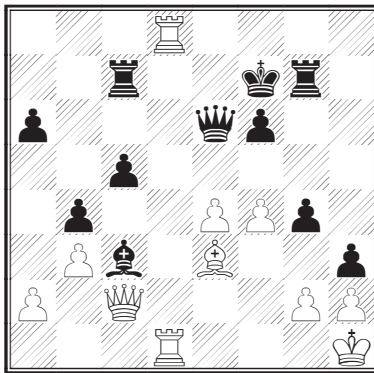
Indy Tornado, Rd 4, 2/21/1998



17.Qb3 Qd7
18.Rc1 Bd6
19.Bxd6 Qxd6
20.Bxe6 fxe6
21.Qxb7 O-O
22. ?

Remember, you're not looking for a brilliancy so much as a strong move to finish the series shown above. These exercises are meant to help you improve your visualization ability, a key to playing winning chess.

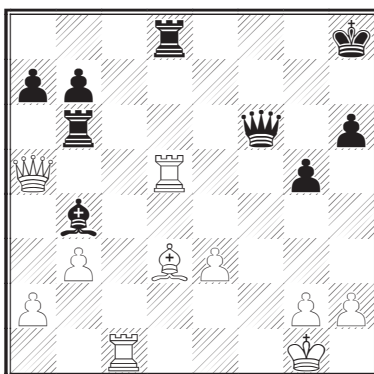
If this were a "What's the best move" quiz starting from the diagram, I hope that you would have chosen 17.Qb3. If Black had replied 17...b6 then after 18.Rc1 his position would soon have become intolerable.

3. Thomas J. Harris - Michael J. Mosher
USAT Midwest, Rd 6, 2/15/1998

35.R1d6 Qe7
36.Qd3 Bd4
37.f5 c4
38.Qxd4 Rg8
39. ?

4. Mike K. Herron - Phil J. Bossaers

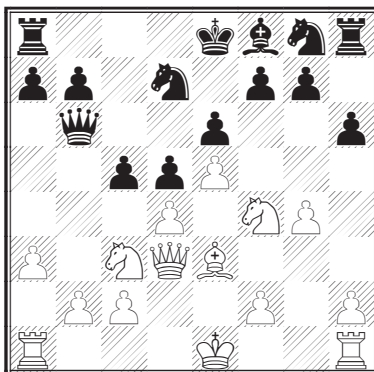
USAT Midwest, Rd 5, 2/16/1997



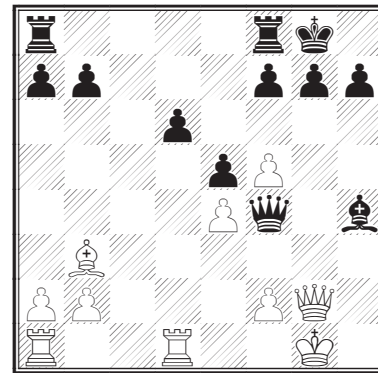
35.Rxd8+ Qxd8
36.Qe5+ Qf6
37. ?

5. Jay A. Carr - Leonard D. Augsburg

USAT Midwest, Rd 4, 2/16/1997



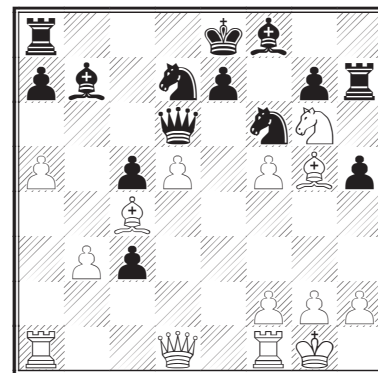
13.O-O cxd4
14.Bxd4 Qc7
15.Nb5 Qd8
16. ?

6. Mark S. Parnaby - Thomas J. Harris
USAT Midwest, Rd 4, 2/15/2004

21... Rac8
22.Kf1 Rc6
23.Ke2 Rfc8
24.Rg1 ?

7. Glenn W. Snow - Adil Skuka

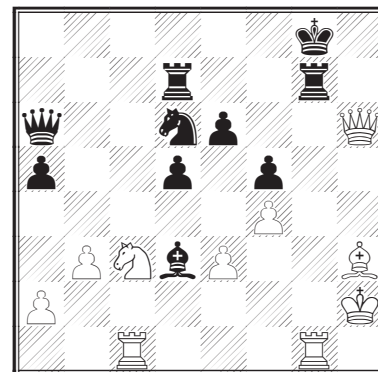
Midwest Class, Rd 4, 10/29/2000



17.Bf4 Ne5
18.Nxe5 Bxd5
19.Bb5+ Kd8
20. ?

8. Thomas J. Harris - Brian Schuman

USAT Midwest, Rd 3, 2/15/1997



37.Qxe6+ Kh7
38.Nxd5 Be4
39.Nf6+ Kh8
40. ?

For solutions, see page 14.

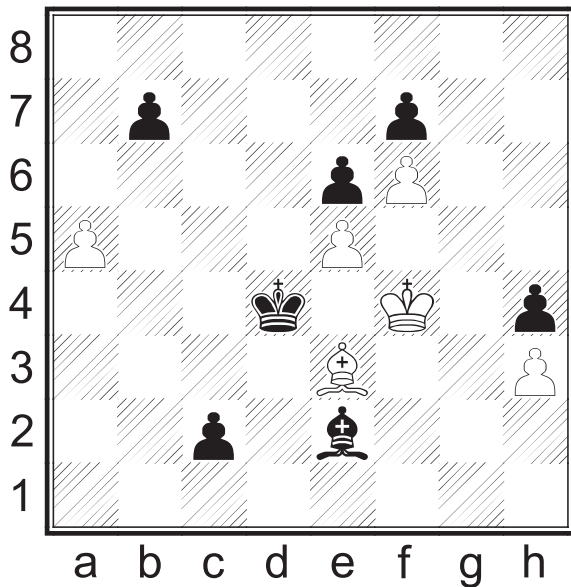
Coaches Corner: One vs. Many - Part II

by IM Igor Khmel'nitsky

Last issue I showed you some interesting examples from the games that I played against the members of North Penn Chess Club (<http://www.npchessclub.org/>) in Lansdale. In this article I will continue with some additional examples from that simul.

Do you think Black can win? What should Black's plan be? Where would you move your King?

5. Black to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

The opposite color bishop endgames are always tricky. Since the majority of the White pawns are on dark squares, his bishop could attempt to defend them, while preventing c-pawn from promoting. The White King, if given a chance, would go after the h-pawn and/or the f-pawn. However, the latter is less likely, since the Black Bishop could easily defend it from g6.

Now, some specific plans for Black:

1. Attacking a5 seems to be of little value, since with the White Bishop on d2, Black could at best trade his c-pawn for a-pawn.
2. The King can go towards c1 to help promote the c-pawn and win the White Bishop. Then White would win the h-pawn and send his King to g5 and the h-pawn forward. I hope you noticed that, unfortunately for White, his King and h-pawn wouldn't be able to go forward in unison. If the Pawn reaches h6 with the K still on g5, Black could play Bd3 freezing all progress on the kingside. If the White King runs first to h6 with the pawn on h5, then with the Black Bishop on e2, the White King is stuck. Only with the King on h6 and the pawn on h4 can White create pressure. Specifically, he could play Kg7 threatening the f-pawn and the Bishop would need to be able to both defend the f-pawn and prevent the advance of the King and h-pawn. The result could be a draw. Of course, all of this analysis assumes that the Black King is not present to help. In reality, that King is not that far away and should be able to come and help. The bottom line, this plan looks promising for Black, but you must calculate accurately, or else White could escape.

3. Not committing to anything and trying to win the e-pawn or the h-pawn, or both. In return we would be ready to give up the Black h-pawn. Any of the above trades would enable the Black King to go to c1 without any risk. White wouldn't be able to generate any play on the kingside without his h-pawn. Also, if Black wins the e-pawn, he could play Kf5, e5 and win Whites's f-pawn. The initial setup would be very simple: Kd5, Bf1.

Now that we outlined all plans, lets proceed. We know that plan 1 is bad. Plan 2 seems OK, but we need to calculate. If you selected 1...Kd3 or 1...Ke3 after careful calculation, your decision is correct. If you played one of these moves without any calculation, your decision-making could be improved. Plan 3 seems pretty good too and requires no real calculation, just a basic setup of Kd5 and Bf1.

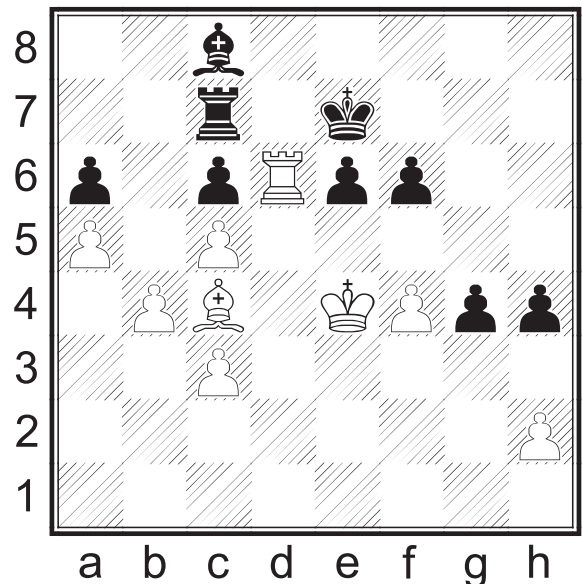
As you can imagine, under the conditions of a simul, walking around in circles taking 20-30 seconds on each move, I choose plan 3. After 1...Kd5 2.Bc1 (planning Bb2) Bf1 White's choices were not very exciting: 3.Bb2 Bxh3 4.Kg5 Ke4 5.Kxh4 Bf5 and the Black King goes to d1, while Black Bishop is guarding his pawns; or 3.Kg4 Kxe5 4.Bb2+ (4.Bg5 Ke4 5.Kxh4 Kf5) Ke4 5.Kxh4 Kf4 soon winning either the h-pawn or the f-pawn. As you can see, the whole premise of plan 3 is a "no rush" strategy. Just a mere threat of sending his King to d1 gives Black many different opportunities.

Summary: In the endgame you often have a choice - continue building your advantage and leave yourself with various winning ideas or going for a kill. The latter option often puts you at risk and thus requires a very accurate calculation.

In this endgame, White has just played 1.Ke4.

How do you assess this position? What should Black do?

6. Black to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

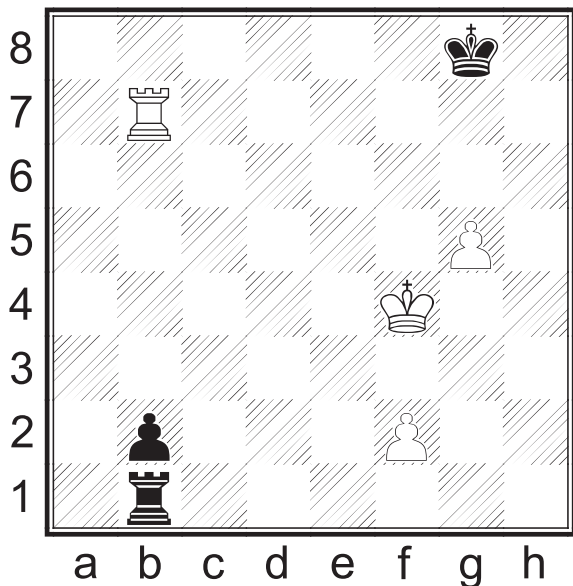
As much as I liked my position (White), I had no clear idea how to make a progress. Black is worse here, but he can maintain his resistance. The Bishop is guarding the pawns on a6 and e6 and can't move. The Rook is guarding the pawn on c6, but can move to a7, since 2.Rxc6? would be bad due to 2...Bb7. 1...Kf7? Runs into 2.f5! Any pawn moves on the kingside result in a loss of flexibility and lead to the creation of holes. 1...f5+ 2.Ke5 or 1...h3 2.Ke3 aiming for g3. Finally, after 1...g3 (which was played in the game!) 2.hg3 hxg3

3.Rd3! and White quickly won the g-pawn and the game. Thus by the process of elimination we can conclude that 1...Ra7 was the best choice and Black's position is passive, but sound.

Summary: When your position is passive, but solid, try to keep it that way. Any unprepared activity could backfire.

What result do you expect? What should White play?

7. White to move



Play It Forward Solutions (from page 12)

1. **Inskip-Harris:** Ben resigned after the simple 33...Nxh2, clearing the way for a crushing queen check on g3. If 34.Rxf3 Nxf3+ 35.Kg2 Nxe1+ etc.

2. **Harris-Frank:** Mark was forced to give up after 22.Rc7.

3. **Harris-Mosher:** 39.Qd5+ was the killer move. If 39...Qe6 40.Qxe6+ Kg7 41.Qxg8#.

4. **Herron-Bossaers:** 37.Qe4! and Mike notes "His exposed king proves to be his undoing. The mate threat on h7 and the coming rook invasion on c8 and c7 mean an immediate win for me." The game continued 37...Qe7 38.Rc8+ Kg7 and Black resigned. "I was going to play the simple 39.Rc7! to win the queen with 39...Qxc7 40.Qh7+."

5. **Carr-Augsburger:** 16. Nxe6! "And just like that, it's over." (Jay) 16...fxe6 17.Qg6+ Ke7 18.Nd6 Nxe5 "The best try, but it's all over bar the shouting as White emerges up a clean rook."

6. **Parnaby-Harris:** 24...Rc2+! "A convincing end." (Tom) 25.Bxc2 Rxc2+ "The nicest combinations are those leading to mate." 26.Ke1 Qe3+ and White resigned, as 27.Kf1 allows 27...Qe2#.

7. **Snow-Skuka:** 20.Nf7+ effectively brings an end to the game, though Glenn notes "Even stronger seems 20.Nc6+!" After 20...Bxf7 21.Bxd6 Black struggled on before his flag fell on move 30.

8. **Harris-Schuman:** Tom notes "Now if White takes the rook he loses: 40.Nxd7?? Qe2+ 41.Rg2 Rxc2+ 43.Kg1 Rh1#. However, it is too late. White can mate in two." 40.Qg8+ Black, a 2250 rated master, resigned, saying "That's a beautiful finish." And Les Kistler, who was kibitzing, said with a smile that the onlookers "should have showered the board with gold pieces". (A reference to the well-known incident at the end of the game Levitsky-Marshall, Breslau, 1912.)

(Reprinted from the September 2004 *Chess IN Indiana*. For more information on the Indiana State Chess Association visit their website at <http://www.indianachess.org/>)

Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answers.

This position tests your knowledge of basic rook endgames. I'd like to hear that you were able to answer correctly and very quickly! The pawn on b2 is dangerous and must be tamed in a certain way. Winning the pawn on b2 would lead to an easily won R+2 vs. R endgame. However, if you have to give up one of your pawns in exchange for it, then you would very likely reach a drawn position.

Thus not only must you watch out for checks by the Black Rook, but you must also not allow any other Rook moves that attack one of your pawns.

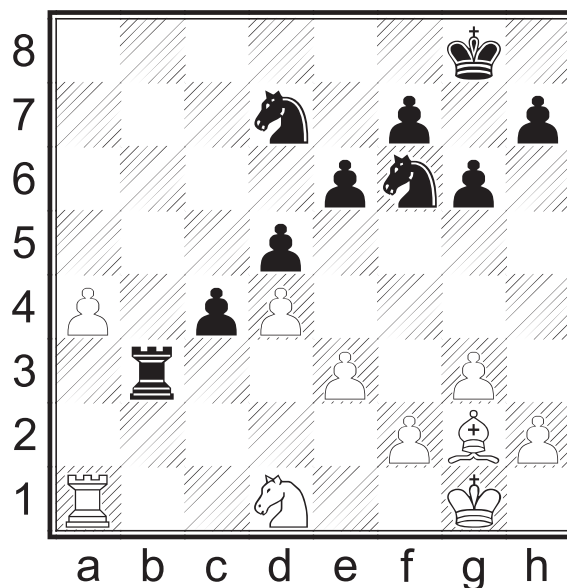
These nuances seem to create a lot of problems even when you have two connected passed pawns and your King nearby. That is, unless you know this basic idea: Keep one of your pawns on the second rank and send your King and the other pawn forward!

White wins easily after 1.Kf5 followed by Kf6 and then g6. After 1...Rf1 2.Rxb2 and the White Rook defends the f-pawn. (That is why we kept the pawn on the second rank!)

Summary: Learn your basic endgames!

How do you assess this position? What is Black's plan? What should Black's next move be?

8. Black to move



Spend 5 to 10 minutes thinking about your answer.

This is an interesting endgame. Black is better because of his active Rook, solid pawn structure and advantage of N+N over N+B in this closed position. White has one major plus - the passed a-pawn supported by his Rook. He also may try to break through via e3-e4 in hopes of either activating his Bishop after d5xe4 or creating a weakness on d5 after e4xd5.

So my plan was:

1. To block the a-pawn with a knight.
2. To keep the other knight on f6 to prevent e4.
3. To start bringing my King to c6 where it would support d5, and thus free my knight from duty on f6. Also, from c6 my King can easily attack the a-pawn and pressure the d-pawn (in the case of e4).

I played 1...Nb8. Below is how the game progressed based on my recollection. If you are interested, you can practice the starting position against a friend or computer. 2.a5 Na6 3.Bf1 Kf8 4.f3 Ke7 5.Kf2 Kd6 6.Ke1 Ne8 7.Kd2 Nec7 8.Be2 Nb5 9.Kc2 Kc6 10.h4 Na3+ 11.Kd2 Kb5 12.Nc3+ Kb4 13.Nd1 Kxa5 14.Ra2 Kb4 15.Rb2 c3+ 0-1

Summary: It often helps to neutralize your opponent's pluses in the early stages of your plan.

(For comments, questions, training or to order an autographed copy of *Chess Exam and Training Guide*, which was declared the 2005 Best Chess Book by the Chess Journalists of America, or *Chess Exam and Training Guide 2: Tactics*, please contact IM Igor Khmelnsky via his website <http://www.iamcoach.com/>)

UPCOMING PSCF EVENTS

June 21 **GPP:6** **Pennsylvania**
2008 PA State Game/45 Championship. 4-SS. G/45. Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 3 sections, \$\$ (695G): **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$30 postmarked by 6/13, \$40 after. \$200-100, U2000 \$75, U1800 \$50. **Premier:** Open to unrated or rated under 1600. EF: \$25 postmarked by 6/13, \$35 after. \$\$ \$90-60, U1400 \$50, U1200 \$40, U1000 \$30. Trophies to Top 2, Top 2 under 1400, Top 2 under 1200, and Top 2 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 6/13, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from all sections. Reg ends Noon. Rds 12:30pm - 2:15pm - 4pm - 6pm. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. W. *Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

July 12 **GPP:6** **Pennsylvania**
2008 PA State Action Chess Championship. 5-SS. G/30. Assembly Room, Main Floor, William Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15213. 2 sections: **Championship:** Open to all. EF: \$25 postmarked by 7/4, \$35 after. \$\$ (690G): 200-100, U2000 \$90, U1800 \$80, U1600 \$70, U1400 \$60, U1200 \$50, U1000 \$40. Trophies to Top 3 under 1400, Top 3 under 1200, and Top 3 under 1000. **Scholastic:** Open to K-12 who are unrated or rated under 900. EF: \$15 postmarked by 7/4, \$25 after. Trophies to Top 7, and Top 3 under 600. **All:** Trophies to 1st-2nd club and school teams combining 4-7 players from both sections. Reg ends Noon. Rds 12:30pm - 1:45pm - 3pm - 4:15pm - 5:45pm. PSCF required \$5 OSA. **Info:** martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com, 412-908-0286. **Ent:** PSCF, c/o Tom Martinak, 549 13th Ave., New Brighton PA 15066-1208. Checks payable to PSCF. W. *Sponsored & Organized by the PA State Chess Federation & University of Pittsburgh Chess Club.*

A Heritage Event

July 26 & 27. 39th Susquehanna Valley Open. 5-SS. 50/2, SD/30. Honeysuckle Student Apts., 111 Honeysuckle Ct., Bloomsburg, PA 17815. **EF:** \$25 by 7/18, \$32 later, \$2 discount for Bloomsburg University students. PSCF required \$5, OSA. \$\$ (175 b/30): 100-50-25, Class prizes based on entries. Door prizes will be awarded between rounds. Reg 8-8:45am. Rds 9am - 2:30pm - 7:30pm, 9am - 2pm. **Info:** 717-580-7492, slam.dk@verizon.net **Housing:** \$40 (if available). **Ent:** Sam Lamonto, 1408 Walnut Street, Camp Hill PA 17011-3966.

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ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

ALLENTOWN

- (1) Center City CC; St Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N 7th St; Sat Noon-6 pm
 (2) Lehigh Valley CA; St James Evangelical Lutheran Church, 710 N 11th St; Sat 12:30 pm, 610-821-4320

ALTOONA

Andrew Stergiou 814-941-8718

BLOOMSBURG

Kehr Union Bldg; Bob Ross 570-784-8571

BRADFORD

- (1) School Street Elementary; Wed 6:30-8:30 pm, Oct-Mar
 (2) 78 Main St Fl 3; Sun 1-5 pm, Wed 6-10 pm Mar-Sept, 814-368-4197

CARBONDALE

Public Library; 5 N Main St; Thurs 6 pm, 570-282-2793

CHAMBERSBURG

Chessman; 600 Miller St; Mon 7-10 pm, 717-261-9132, 717-263-2836

COATESVILLE

Cultural Soc, 258 E Lincoln Hwy; Thurs 5-10 pm, Bob Jones 610-384-1790

COUDERSPORT

High School, 698 Dwight St; Fri 3-4:30 pm, Patrick Keeney 814-274-4428

DOUGLASSVILLE

Amity CC, St Paul's UCC, 1312 Old Swede Rd; Fri 7-10 pm, 610-385-6324

DUNCANVILLE/ALTOONA

Lois Kaneshiki 814-693-9390

EPHRATA

Ephrata Public Library, 550 S Reading Rd; Tues 4-8 pm, Brandon Keath 717-733-9657

ERIE

Zurn Science Building, W 7th St between Peach and Sassafras, Room 348; Fri 6:30-10 pm, James Walczak 814-870-7763

GLADWYNE

Main Line CC; Waverly Hts Ret Comm Game Room, 1400 Waverly Rd; Tues 7 pm, Dan Heisman 610-649-0750

HARRISBURG

West Shore YMCA, 410 Fallowfield Rd, Camp Hill; Mon 7-10 pm, Brian Sheinfeld 717-761-3151

HATBORO

Chaturanga CC; Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, County Line Rd W of Blair Mill Rd; Thurs 8 pm, 215-794-8368

HAZLETON

Greater Hazleton CC; Zola's Lamp Post, Rt 940; Tues & Thurs 8-11 pm, Bob Brubaker 570-384-4122

HUNTINGDON VALLEY

Huntingdon Valley Chess Society Juniors; Huntingdon Valley Library, 625 Red Lion Rd; Tues 7:30-8:30 pm

JOHNSTOWN

Starbucks, 109 Town Centre Dr; Tues 7-8:30 pm, 814-467-9759

LANCASTER

Rodney Park, Crystal & Rodney St; Wed 6:30-9 pm, 717-892-6612

LANSDALE

- (1) North Penn CC; St John's UCC Church, Main and Richardson Sts; Fri 7 pm - 1 am, 215-699-8418
 (2) Lansdale Public Library CC; 301 Vine St; last Sat of the month 10am

LEBANON

Library, 125 N 7th St; Wed 6-8 pm, Rene 717-279-7030

MAHONEY CITY

Library, 19 W Mahanoy St; Sat Noon - 2 pm, Tom 570-773-3250

MONROEVILLE

Wed 6:30-8:30 pm, Delbert Tyler 412-824-5015

MURRYSVILLE

First Presbyterian Church, 3202 N Hills Rd; Wed 7-11 pm, Jay 724-325-2484

NEW CASTLE

Lawrence County CC; Moose Lodge, 29 S Mercer St; Thurs 6:30-9 pm

PECKVILLE

Valley Community Library, 739 River St (Rt 247); Sat 1-4 pm, 570-487-1125

PETERS TOWNSHIP

CRC, Peterswood Park, 700 Meredith Dr; Wed 6-7 pm, Eric 412-221-2394

PHILADELPHIA

- (1) FMCC; 2012 Walnut, Lower Level; Mon - Thurs 1-9 pm, Fri & Sat 1-Midnight, 215-496-0811
 (2) Univ of Penn CC; Chats Cafeteria, 3800 Locust; Wed 8 pm
 (3) Masterminds CC; Fountains @ Logan Square East, 2 Franklin Town Blvd; Wed & Fri 7-10 pm, Steve Slocum 215-455-6285
 (4) Jardel Recreation Center, 1400 Cottman Ave, Thurs 6:30-9:30 pm, Sat Noon-4 pm
 (5) Temple Univ CC; SAC Dining Area, Mon/Wed 6-7 pm, Tues/Thurs 12-3 pm, 267-973-0765
 (6) Drexel Univ CC; Creese Student Center, Bookstore Lobby, Wed 5 - 8 pm

PITTSBURGH

- (1) Univ of Pitt CC; William Pitt Union; Tues & Thurs 7-11 pm, 412-908-0286
 (2) Pittsburgh CC; Wightman School Community Center, 5604 Solway St; Wed 1-9 pm, Sat Noon-10 pm, 412-421-1881
 (3) Crafton Public Library, 140 Bradford; Sat 9 - Noon, 412-922-4234
 (4) Hill Branch Library, 419 Dinwiddie St; Mon & Thurs 3-7 pm, Sat 1-5 pm, 412-361-6170
 (5) CMU CC; University Center Commons; Thurs 6-8 pm
 (6) Mt Lebanon Lib, 16 Castle Shannon; Scholastics: 1st/3rd Mon Sept-May, Adults/Older Scholastics: Thurs 7-8:30 pm; 412-531-1912

READING

Million Youth Chess Club; Mike 610-373-3061

RIDLEY PARK

Ridley Park United Methodist Church, 15 E Dupont St; Mon 6:15 - 11 pm, 610-586-8205

SHIPPENSBURG

Shippensburg Public Library, 73 W King St; Wed 6:30 pm, 717-477-0645

SKIPPACK

Hidden Staircase Used Books Fl 2, Rts 73 & 113; Tues 3:30-4:30 pm, 610-277-0540

STATE COLLEGE

- (1) PSU CC; ASI Bldg, Room 16; Thurs 7 pm
 (2) Schlow Library, 211 South Allen St; Sat 1:45-4:45 pm, 814-571-9629

STROUDSBURG

YMCA, Main St; Thurs 7-11 pm, Eric 570-476-8939 or Jim 717-992-5475; & Loder Senior Center, 62 Analomink St, East Stroudsburg; Tues 7-11 pm

SWARTHMORE

121 Park Ave; Sat 7-9 pm

VANDERGRIFT

St Paul's Lutheran Church, 714 Wallace St; Mon 6-9 pm, 724-567-6580

WARMINSTER

WREC, 1101 Little Ln; Tues 6:30-8 pm, 215-443-5428

WASHINGTON

1st Lutheran Ch, 92 West Walnut St; Thurs 8:30-11:30 pm, 724-743-4350

WEST CHESTER

- (1) West Chester CC; United Methodist Ch, High & Barnard Sts; Thurs 7 pm
 (2) WC Univ CC; Sykes Student Building, Rm 254; Tues 5-7:30 pm

WYNCOTE

Montgomery Youth CC; Calvary Presbyterian Church, 217 Fernbrook Ave; Wed 7-8:30 pm, Steve McLaughlin 215-784-5938

YORK

York Emporium, 343 West Market St; Thurs 6-9 pm, 717-845-9368

<http://www.pscfchess.org/clubs/>