

Montana Chess Association Newsletter

March 2008

The six degrees of Garry Kasparov

BY BRETT DEJONGH

Every chess player dreams of playing a game that would capture the attention of the world - think Fischer's "Game of the Century" or Morphy's opera house game. This might not be possible for the great majority of chess players, but there is another kind of chess immortality that is available to anyone who can get one of their wins in the Chessbase Mega Database.

A database programmer in Italy has created a web site that will attempt to link any player to Garry Kasparov through that player's wins. Based on the "six degrees of separation" theory- the idea that any two people can be linked together by four or fewer intermediaries, the site uses a database of over 3 million games to create your link to Kasparov.

The site, *ibeatgarry.com*, allows you, if your query is successful, to say something like, "I beat so-and-so, who beat so-and-so, who beat so-and-so who beat Garry Kasparov."

J.C. Kuba is one Montana player who can make such a claim. He beat Frisco Del Rosario in a Sacramento open tournament in 1993. Del Rosario beat so-and-so, who beat-so-and-so, who beat so-and-so, who beat Alex Yermolinsky, who beat Kasparov.

Kuba doesn't remember

ibeatGarry.com :: The Six Degrees of Kasparov

Result

[Kuba, JC.](#) wins against [Kasparov, Garry](#) via 5 links, earning a Kasparov Number of 5:

[Kuba, JC.](#) beats [Del Rosario, Frisco](#)
Kuba, JC. vs. Del Rosario, Frisco 1-0, Sacramento op swiss USA 1993

[Del Rosario, Frisco](#) beats [Taylor, Gordon](#)
Del Rosario, Frisco vs. Taylor, Gordon 1-0, California op swiss USA 1992

[Taylor, Gordon](#) beats [Brooks, Michael A](#)
Taylor, Gordon vs. Brooks, Michael A 1-0, NWC October op swiss USA 1982

[Brooks, Michael A](#) beats [Yermolinsky, Alex](#)
Brooks, Michael A vs. Yermolinsky, Alex 1-0, Las Vegas op swiss USA 1994

[Yermolinsky, Alex](#) beats [Kasparov, Garry](#)
Kasparov, Garry vs. Yermolinsky, Alex 0-1, Leningrad game URS 1975

[Link another player](#) to Kasparov, Garry?



JC Kuba's path to Garry Kasparov.

ibeatGarry.com :: The Six Degrees of Kasparov

Result

[Lapiken, Peter P](#) wins against [Kasparov, Garry](#) via 5 links, earning a Kasparov Number of 5:

[Lapiken, Peter P](#) beats [Martin, Raymond](#)
Lapiken, Peter P vs. Martin, Raymond 1-0, USA-72ch swiss USA 1971

[Martin, Raymond](#) beats [Remlinger, Larry](#)
Remlinger, Larry vs. Martin, Raymond 0-1, Chicago Masters swiss USA 1992

[Remlinger, Larry](#) beats [Sherzer, Alex](#)
Sherzer, Alex vs. Remlinger, Larry 0-1, New York op swiss USA 1991

[Sherzer, Alex](#) beats [Yermolinsky, Alex](#)
Yermolinsky, Alex vs. Sherzer, Alex 0-1, USA-ch tourn USA 1992

[Yermolinsky, Alex](#) beats [Kasparov, Garry](#)
Kasparov, Garry vs. Yermolinsky, Alex 0-1, Leningrad game URS 1975



Peter Lapiken's path to Garry Kasparov.

anything specific about the game, but the Chessbase data suggests the players were both rated about 2100. Kuba's win against Del Rosario is given below.

ibeatgarry.com can also link to any other player. Using this feature, a searcher can connect the same players to any number of famous players, not just Kasparov.

And hey, if you've ever beat J.C. Kuba, you can say

you have a Kasparov number of 7.

Other factoids discovered by *ibeatgarry.com* include:

● Montana players Jim Loy and Eric Hongisto have a Kasparov number of "infinite," suggesting that either they are in the database but have only draws or losses, or that the chain of wins was broken at some point.

● Montana player Romie Carpenter has a doppelganger. Another Romie

Carpenter beat a Fiona Webster at a tournament in Aberdeen, England. This Romie Carpenter has a Kasparov number of 6.

A call to the Missoula-based Romie Carpenter revealed that he has never been to Aberdeen and doesn't know Fiona Webster.

● Kuba also has a link to Bobby Fischer via the same game against Del Rosario. The link gets to a man named Victors Pupols, who beat Fischer in an under-18 tournament.

● Peter Lapiken (see State Open article) has a Kasparov number of 5.

[White "Kuba, JC."]
[Black "Del Rosario, Francisco"]
[Result "1-0"]
[ECO "D13"]

1. d4 c6 2. c4 d5 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bf4 Qb6 7. a3 Qxb2 8. Na4 Qb5 9. Bd2 Nd8 10. e4 Qd7 11. Ne5 Qc7 12. Rc1 Nc6 13. Nxc6 bxc6 14. e5 Ne4 15. Bb4 g6 16. Bb5 Bd7 17. O-O Bh6 18. Rc2 a5 19. Be1 O-O 20. Bd3 Ng5 21. Bd2 Kg7 22. Qc1 f6 23. Ne5 Bc8 24. e6 Rb8 25. h4 Nf7 26. exf7 Bxd2 27. Qxd2 Rxf7 28. Rfc1 e5 29. dxe5 fxe5 30. Qg5 e4 31. Ba6 Rf5 32. Bxc8 Qxc8 33. Qe7+ Rf7 34. Qe5+ Kg8 35. Ne6 Rb6 36. Qxd5 cxd5 37. Rxc8+ Rf8 38. Rxf8#

Collyer Memorial draws record number of players

BY KEVIN KORSMO

The 16th installment of Spokane's biggest weekend tournament — the Dave Collyer Memorial — drew a record 67 players February 23-24, 2008. John Donaldson and Carl Haessler shared the crown with a score of 4.5. The two met in the final round and reached a quick draw to share the title. Third place was a four-way tie involving David Bragg, Josh Sinanan, Chris Kalina, and Michael Wang. Each scored 4.0 and received \$100 as their share of the combined third place, expert prize, and the two Class A prizes. Wang won an additional \$100 donated by the Gary Younker Foundation for the highest score by a player aged

18 or under. The Kirkland youngster played like a seasoned veteran and won his share of third place by winning the very last game of the tourney, a tight queen vs. rook endgame with little time left on the respective clocks.

The other winners included Alex Chow, Cyrus Desmarais, and Casey Fleck in Class B. Their 3.5 scores shared the \$175 in class prize money in the largest section in the tournament. The Class C prizes were shared by Ryan Ackerman and Dave Griffin, each of whom scored 3.0. The Class D and under prize was won by Cameron Leslie, making his first tournament appearance in the region and his first rated event in five, with a score of

3.5. The second place prize in the section went to Missoula's Brett Thomas-Dejongh with a 2.5 score. Brett played excellent chess the entire tournament and drew an exciting game with Michael Wang Saturday night.

As typical, there were many upsets in this always strong tournament. The top upset went to Helena's Bill Spencer with his last round victory over a player rated 688 points above him! The second upset was nearly as large. Robbin Arnett of Yakima bagged a player 651 points higher!! Each won \$100 for his upset efforts.

The Collyer Memorial is jointly sponsored by the Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation in honor of past Spokane Chess

Club presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker. Gary started the tournament in 1993 in honor of Dave. After Gary died of cancer in 2001, several of his friends formed the Gary Younker Foundation to promote chess in eastern Washington, with a special emphasis on youth chess. The Foundation has backed each of the subsequent Collyer Memorial tournaments, as well as other regional events. Several players made donations to the foundation, including Bill Spencer who donated his \$100 upset prize!

The tournament was played at the St. Anne's Children's Center in downtown Spokane. The site drew a fine review from the players and will be used for next year's Collyer Memorial.

In the face of a queen sacrifice, can you play like a computer?

[Event "Joyce's January Thaw"]

[Date "2008.01.27"]

[White "Skovron, Jim"]

[Black "Martin, Bob"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. e3 c6 5. Nc3 Nbd7 6. cxd5 cxd5 7. Bd3 a6 8. Qa4 Be7 9. Ne5 O-O 10. f4 Nxe5 11. fxe5 Nd7 12. Qc2 f5 13. O-O Qe8 14. Nxd5 exd5 15. Bxf5 Rxf5 16. Qxf5 Nf6 17. exf6??

Fritz gives this move two question marks, and says that Black has a 500 centipawn advantage after move 18. Fritz sees that after some accurate moves, Black can round up the white pawn on e7. 17. Bxf5 18. fxe7 Qg6 19. b3 Re8
Instead of Re8, Black can play 19 ...Be4, threatening

mate and freeing the queen from the defense of the bishop. After 20.Rf2 to defend against the mate threat, Black can play 20...Qd6. This prevents the White bishop from coming to a3 to protect the pawn.

20. Ba3 Rxe7 21. Bxe7
Black decides to get rid of the pawn at the cost of a rook.

21. ...Qe6 with a double attack on the bishop and the pawn on e3.

22. Rxf5! The rook can't be taken because of 23. Rf1 hitting the queen and threatening mate on f8. The queen will have to give herself up for a rook and bishop and get a lost endgame for her efforts.

22. Qxe3+ 23. Kh1 Qxe7 24. Rxd5 h6 25. Re5 Qb4 26. Rd1 Qc3



Skovron sacs the queen, playing 17. exf6.

27. Rc5 Qe3
Better is 27. Qb2
28. Rc8+ Kh7 29. d5 Qe2
30. Rcc1

Surely dreading the advance of the d pawn, Martin resigned here.
1-0

Coming tournament: Montana State Open in Billings

From the Montana Chess Association newsletter circa 1965.

The Montana Open Chess Tournament, sponsored by the Montana Chess Association, had its beginning in Livingston, Montana, in 1935.

In the following years considerable experimentation was carried on in an endeavor to fit an increasing number of entrants into the limitations of a week end tournament, and at the same time not leave half the players completely eliminated after the first round.

Straight knock-out tournaments, with first round losers forming a Class "A" group have been tried. The dividing of players into small round-robin elimination groups with the group winners playing for the championship was experimented with. The use of three classes to reduce the number of players in any one class was another effort. Finally, in the tournament of 1951 held in Butte, the Swiss System Tournament was introduced for the first time, and five round Swiss tournaments have been used at

all succeeding tournaments.

During 1553, 1954, 1955, and 1956, a single class Swiss system was used. However, as the number of entrants increased, it became difficult to determine a winner with only five rounds of play, and the two class tournament was again resorted to.

While these changes were taking place, there was also a considerable change in the nomenclature used for the various classes. The top class has been variously designated as "Masters", "Championship" and "Class AA".

In 1953 the Great Falls Chess Club presented the state Association with a plaque on which the names of the champions for each year could be engraved. However the terms of the presentation were that the name to be engraved on the plaque would be that of the highest ranking Montana chess player.

Montanans have not always been able to keep their Chess Championship within their own state. In a few cases the name engraved on the plaque does not agree with the actual champion.

73rd Montana State Open

Where: Best Western Kelly Inn and Suites; Billings, Montana; 4915 Southgate Drive (Exit 447 off I-90)

Mention chess for rooms: single= \$85, double=\$95 (several being held until March 1).

When: April 5 and 6, 2008

Entry Fee: \$30 by April 3, \$35 at the door; juniors (under age 19) half price

Format: 5 R SS, Game in 120 (insufficient losing chances rule in effect); Full K

On-site Registration: 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m., mandatory players' meeting 9:50 a.m.

Rounds: Saturday, 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. (or A.S.A.P.)

Prizes: (based on 30 paid adults) 1st=\$150, 2nd=\$75, 3rd=\$50, best A=\$40, best B=\$30, biggest upset (both must have established ratings)=\$20, and trophies top senior (age 55+) and junior (under age 19)

Entries/Information: William H. McBroom
2321 Raymond Ave.
Missoula, MT 59802
406.728.4654

This is an MCA Grand Prix Event. MCA membership required of all Montana residents.

In the days of the giants: Peter Lapiken - Adam Smith 1965

As we look forward to the 73rd Montana State Open, perhaps it is appropriate to also look back at the games of previous Montana champions.

By 1965, Peter Lapiken had already won the Montana Open quite a few times, and this game shows his patience and his skill at attacking weak pawns.

It seems like neither player was in a hurry and engaged in lengthy maneuvers. Was such slow play necessary? Maybe the pace of life was just that

much slower in 1965.

30th Montana State Tournament
Missoula, 1965

White "Lapiken, Peter"

Black "Smith, Adam"

Result "1-0"

1. g3 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg2 d5 4. O-O b6 5. d3 Bb7 6. b3 Nbd7 7. c4 Be7 8. Bb2
O-O 9. Nbd2 c5 10. e3 Ne8 11. cxd5 exd5 12. d4 Bf6 13. Rc1 Nc7 14. a4 Re8 15.
Qc2 Rc8 16. Qf5 Ne6 17. h4 g6 18. Qb1 Bg7 19. Rfe1 cxd4 20.

Rxc8 Qxc8 21. exd4
Qb8 22. Nf1 Qd6 23. Ne3 Nc7
24. Bc3 Nf6 25. Nc2 Ne4 26.
Bb4 Qd8 27. a5 Nb5 28.
Qa1 Qc8 29. Rc1 Qa8 30. Bh3
f5 31. Bf1 Nbd6 32. axb6 axb6
33. Qb2 Qd8 34. Kg2
Qd7 35. Ne3 Bh6 36. Ne5 Qe6
37. Rc7 Bxe3 38. fxe3 Rc8 39.
Qc1 Ne8 40. Rxc8 Qxc8
41. Qxc8 Bxc8 42. Bb5 Nc7 43.
Bc6 Be6 44. Be7 Kg7 45. Bd8
Na6 46. Bxb6 Nb4 47.
Ba5 Nc2 48. Kf3 Nd6 49. Nd3
Kf6 50. Nb4 Nc8 51. Nxd5+
Bxd5+ 52. Bxd5 Ke7 1-0



The Black knight on e6 got there via a journey from f6 to e8 to c7 to e6.

MCA Grand Prix Standings

Duke, David	20.5
McCourt, Dan	19.4
McLaughlin, Ed	11.2
Skovron, Jim	11.2
Eklund, Eric	9.2
McBroom, Bill	7.5
DeJongh, Brett	7.5
Martin, Robert	5.6

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The Montana Chess Association newsletter welcomes submissions of games, tournament announcements and reports, news tips and general suggestions - or whatever you'd like to send. You can best reach the editor at bretter23@yahoo.com.

A long time coming: Spencer - Burney

BY BILL SPENCER

Needless to say, I'd never seen or even heard of this opening before. As usual, I made some bad blunders, but so did my opponent. It ended up being real messy when I did the kingside pawn push. My calculating ability went totally downhill on me, but it was the last round of the tourney, when mental fatigue can set in. I had about 20 minutes left on my clock and my opponent had about half that when the game ended.

Editor's Note: I couldn't make sense of the game after White's 36th move. According to Spencer, Black's 36th move is ...Rg4. White's 37th move is given as Rg5. I went over the preceding moves several times, but had to admit defeat.

Collyer Memorial 2008

Date: 2008.02.24

Round 5

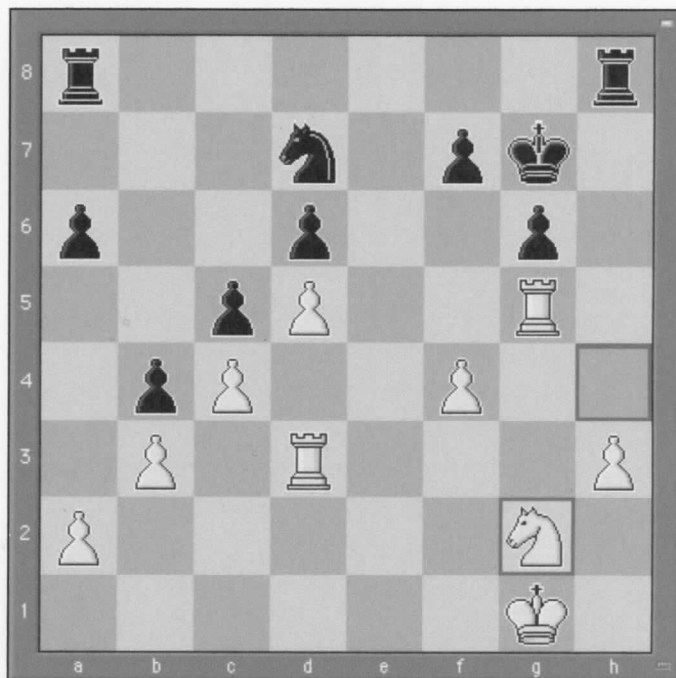
White: William T. Spencer

Black: James L. Burney

Result 1-0

WhiteElo: 555

BlackElo: 1243



This is the last known correct position. Any thoughts, Bill?

1. e4 a6 2. d4 b5 3. Nf3 Bb7 4. Nc3 b4 5. Nd5 e6 6. Nf4 Bxe4 7. Bd3 Bb7 8. O-O c5 9. Be3 Qc7 10. b3 Nf6 11. c4 Ne4 12. Rc1 Be7 13. d5 e5 14. Bxe4 exf4 15. Bxf4 Qxf4 16. Re1 O-O 17. Bd3 d6 18. Rxe7 Bc8 19. Re4 Qf6 20. Re3 Bg4 21. Qe2 Nd7 22. h3 Bh5 23. Qc2 Bg6 24. Rce1 Qd8 25. Qe2 Bxd3 26. Qxd3 Nf6 27. Nh4 g6 28. g4 Kg7 29. f4 Nd7 30. g5 h6 31. Rg3 hgx5 32. Rxg5 Qf6 33. Re6 Qd4+ 34. Re3 Qxd3 35. Rxd3 Rh8 36. Ng2

This is not the last move of the game, but it's the last move that makes sense. All we really know is that Bill triumphed from this position. Bill, if you are reading this, please shed some light on the rest of the game.

Favorite chess quotations: Arrogance

BY BRETT DEJONGH

From Alekhine to Fischer, more than a few true masters of our game have been misanthropes.

I suppose it's hard to remain humble when you are a contender for the world championship at just about anything, but no one can deny that chess masters have been, on the whole, horrible egotists.

Here are a few quotations that are entertaining and illus-

trate my point.

"As one by one I mowed them down, my superiority soon became apparent" - Jose Capablanca

"When I'm white, I win because I'm white. When I'm Black, I win because I'm Bogolyubov." - Efim Bogolubov

"People have been playing against me below their strength for fifteen years." - Bobby Fischer

"There's no one alive I can't beat." - Bobby Fischer

Wilhelm Steinitz was said to have claimed that he could give God pawn-and-move odds and win the game, but this appears to be just legend.

Chess historians have been unable to determine the story's origin or definitively attribute this to Steinitz. So that Steinitz can do Fischer one better, I'll list this one anyway,

"I could give God pawn and move and still win the game." - Wilhelm Steinitz

Montana Chess Association Newsletter

May 2008

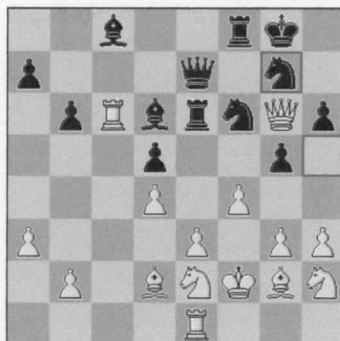
Heartbreaking blunders at the 73rd Montana State Open

BRETT DEJONGH

Going through the games from the 2008 State Open really made me feel better about myself. I know everyone commits blunders from time to time, and I know that even grandmasters give up a mate in one once or twice in their professional careers. But it'll be that much easier to console myself after hanging a piece now that I've seen some of the blunders from the State Open. In order to give everyone a chance to experience the same sense of schadenfreude, here are some - of course with names omitted.

Note: All of these blunders ended the game, except for the position at the lower right. There is a lot going on in that position, but f4 only creates more problems for White. Feel free to disagree and email your analysis to

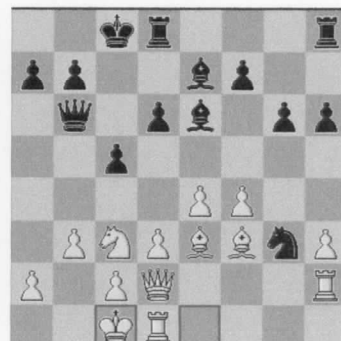
bretter23@yahoo.com.



White played 1.f5??



Black played 1. ..Kh8??



Black played 1. ..Be7??



White played 1.e3??



White played 1.c3??



White played 1.f4?

Montana players give simul at Tri-State Match

BRETT DEJONGH

Jim Skovron, Ed McLaughlin and Mel Drake traveled to Jackson Hole, Wyo. for the Tri-State Match between Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, held May 3rd and 4th.

The match format presented an extra challenge to the short-handed Montana team. The teams from Idaho and Wyoming each had five players - a full contingent. The Montana play-

ers were short two competitors.

The format of the match dictated that there be one player per board - think the chess Olympiad format, where the top player would be on board one, the second-best on board two and so on.

Not having a board four or five, two Montana players had to play two opponents at once. According to Skovron, the head of the Montana team, this didn't hamper their performance too

badly. The team finished in third place with 6.5 points, but judging by their post-tournament ratings, the simultaneous play didn't cause them to play markedly worse.

In a widely-circulated post-tournament e-mail, Idaho team member and former Idaho Chess Association president Jeff Roland wrote, "Both of my games against Montana were tough ones. I think Board 3 would have said the same

thing."

Skovron said that Montana will bring a team next year, and that he had floated the idea of a Swiss-system tournament where team members would not play each other.

He also encouraged Montana players to attend future matches, mentioning that the tournament will be scheduled again next year in the "off season" for Jackson Hole - making the trip more affordable.

Duke is top Montana player at State Open

**BILL MCBROOM AND
BRETT DEJONGH**

David Duke, with four points, was the top Montana finisher at the 73rd Montana Open. Robert Feldstein, of Brooklyn, was tied for best score with his own four points. They split the 1st/2nd prize and received \$93 each. While short of the 30 players required to pay the advertised prize fund, MCA was able to pay out approximately 85% of the listed prizes.

Of the 25 players participating, several were from out of state - including our old friend, Arman Goplen, now from North Dakota. Jerry Triggs was an out-of-state expert and Alan Kobernat—another expert and the only player to best David Duke—came from California. Like Feldstein before him, Kobernat has set himself the goal of playing a tournament in all 50 states. There were some

Montana players playing in their first rated tournament: Kip Farnum and Keith Hall. Welcome, fellows.

Five players had 3 1/2 points. Timothy Schoessler of North Dakota did better by taking the \$33 class prize for A players. This left Alan Kobernat, Jim Skovron, Sherwood Moore, and Dustin Thompson to share (\$16.75 apiece) the B prize combined with the overall third prize.

Sherwood Moore won the best senior trophy. Ed Tarter victimized Ed McLaughlin for the biggest upset: an impressive 438 rating point difference.

Dan McCourt's success over the year earned him enough grand prix points to land him along with the other grand prix leader, Jim Skovron, a spot in the State Closed Championship coming this June in Bozeman. As current champion, David Duke is the first

seed. Sherwood Moore, Dustin Thompson, and Romie Carpenter earned the right to play for the crown with their performances in the Open. A number of these players multiply qualified.

The scoresheets tell the tale of a tournament where upsets were common, and blunders were just as plentiful. More than a few games went 20 moves or fewer.

The venue - Billings' Best Western: Kelly Inn and Suites - was widely praised, but was the subject of some confusion. More than one carload of players stopped first at another Kelly Inn - also in the hotel district but much more downscale. Thankfully the desk attendants were well aware of the difference and were able to redirect players to the Kelly Inn that had a pool, wifi and a meeting room big enough to hold a chess tournament.

**David Duke(1891)
Jerry Triggs (2055)
1-0**

1 c4 c6	29 Qg2 Be8
2 d4 d5	30 Rg1 Bh5
3 Nf3 c6	31 Qh3 Qxf4
4 e3 Bd6	32 Qxh5 Rxd6
5 Nc3 Nd7	33 exd6 Qxd6
6 Be2 f5	34 Qg5 Qd7
7 b3 Ngf6	35 Rxe6 Qf7
8 O-O Ne4	36 Re7 Qg6
9 Bb2 Qf6	37 Qxg6 hxg6
10 Qc2 O-O	38 Rxg6 f4
11 Rac1 Kh8	39 Rgg7 Rf6
12 Bd3 g5	40 Rgf7
13 Nd1 g4	1-0
14 Ne5 Nxe5	
15 dxe5 Bxc5	
16 Bxc5 Qxe5	
17 f3 gxf3	
18 gxf3 Nc5	
19 Kh1 Nxd3	
20 Qxd3 Bd7	
21 Nc3 Rad8	
22 e4 dxc4	
23 bxc4 Bc8	
24 Qc2 Qf6	
25 e5 Qh6	
26 f4 c5	
27 Nb5 b6	
28 Nd6 Bd7	

Luigi's: A good reason for taking a third round bye

BILL MCBROOM

For a number of years I have taken a third-round bye in tournaments. This decision stems in part from my experiences in the days before sudden death time controls. In the UCCC Crocus Open one year I had two adjourned games—and walked out of the playing hall at 4:00 a.m.

This, coupled with the allure of fine dining in Spokane, led me to take third-round byes in any five-round Swiss-style weekend tournament. Ever since Gary Younker brought a contingent to play in Missoula, I have gone to Spokane at every opportunity. At first, it was merely to reciprocate the atten-

dance of Spokane players at UCCC tournaments. Montana players who have gone to Spokane know how tough the competition can be. Those who haven't gone should.

Romie Carpenter and I found Luigi's by chance. The first time I had eggplant Parmesan with a side of spaghetti. I found the spaghetti so delicious that I ignored the eggplant until the pasta was all gone. Since then I have sampled the menu widely.

There are the usual entrees one would find - like linguine with clam sauce and veal Marsala along with rarely encountered specialty items, such as smoked salmon lasagne and Myzithra spaghetti.

Like any fine Italian restaurant, there is a dish named for some important visitor. Luigi's is 'Tony's Favorite,' a splendid blend of scampi and mussels—named for Tony Bennett.

More recently I resolved literally to work my way through the menu.

In August I had "Spaghetti with the Works"—meatballs, Italian sausage, and meat sauce. It was splendid, but more than I could eat.

In September I had gnocchi with marinara sauce. I am looking forward to the Collyer Memorial in February when I can have two meals there.

I know of only one better Italian restaurant—Angelo's of Mul-

berry Street in New York's Little Italy. To be sure, Marie's in Stevensville is first rate, but its variable menu, limited hours, and lack of a full-service bar diminish its appeal in comparison.

Like the gold standard, Angelo's, at Luigi's if there is a specialty item one has had earlier and find it not on the menu, they will prepare it for you if the ingredients are on hand.

Kevin Korsmo, who often directs tournaments in Spokane and who knows of my habits, has joked that he will ask Thad Suits to modify his "Swiss-Sys" program to enter an "L" in the third round whenever I play in Spokane.

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Chess quotations: Our opponents

BRETT DEJONGH

I no longer set up my board and clock when waiting for opponents in coffeehouses, hospital cafeterias, parks, or any other public place.

I used to use this down time productively, going over games from whatever chess book I was carrying around. But the sight of a lone chess-player, thinking about a game already in progress, would invariably cause a curious passerby to ask, "Are you playing against yourself?"

I used to think these people were really interested in the answer to this question. I thought, "Maybe they intuitively see the futility of the endeavor. Maybe they are making a comment about man's relationship to himself."

After a couple such encounters, I realized that they just wanted to figure out if I was a weirdo or not.

Since playing chess against

yourself is boring, people have traditionally played the game against someone else. But the introduction of the "someone else," to the game leads only to frustration for some players. As evidence, I introduce this quotation from Alekhine. **"Oh! this opponent, this collaborator against his will, whose notion of Beauty always differs from yours and whose means (strength, imagination, technique) are often too limited to help you effectively! What torment, to have your thinking and your phantasy tied down by another person!"**

Alexander Alekhine, foreword to Mes Problèmes et études d'échecs, Fred Lazard, 1929.

In this view, the other player is a necessary evil, to be tolerated only until he resigns or is checkmated.

Of course there is the more equitable view that opponents are people who share a passion

for chess and are capable of helping us to improve our game. Here is Bobby Fischer(!) expressing that idea. **"That's what chess is all about. One day you give your opponent a lesson, the next day he gives you one."**

Alekhine says we are "unwilling collaborators," Fischer suggests we are each other's teachers, but is it possible to be friends with our opponents?

The well-liked (but never World Champion) Miguel Najdorf thought so. **"I won't play with you anymore. You have insulted my friend."**

Miguel Najdorf, at blitz, when an opponent cursed himself for a blunder.

If our opponents are our friends, is it harder to summon the desire to win at their expense?

Here again is Bobby Fischer to give us some insight. **"I like to make them squirm."**

And really, friend or no, who doesn't?

Coming tournament: State Closed\Barto Memorial

Location: Days Inn Bozeman

Where: Days Inn; 1321 North 7th Avenue; Bozeman, Montana (mention "Chess")

When: June 7 and 8, 2008

Entry Fee:

Closed, none to qualifiers
Barto Memorial Open, \$25 by June 4, \$30 at door (juniors-under age 20-half price)

Format:

Closed, 5 RD RR, (qualifiers: Duke ; 1st - 2nd Grand Prix; 1st -3rd with plus-scores from 2008 State Open)

Barto Memorial Open: 5 RD Swiss

Time Controls: game in 2

hours, full K, insufficient losing chances in effect

On-site Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.; mandatory players meeting 9:50 a.m.

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Prizes:

Closed, plaque(s) to champion(s)

Barto Memorial Open: 1st=\$75, 2nd=\$50 (based on 15 paid adults)

MCA membership required of all Montana residents

Entries/Information:

Steve Scarff; 214 S. Church, Bozeman, MT 59715 (no phone entries)

The Montana Chess Association newsletter welcomes submissions of games, tournament announcements and reports, news tips and general suggestions - or whatever you'd like to send. You can best reach the editor at bretter23@yahoo.com.

Who is in the State Closed?

David Duke
Jim Skovron
Sherwood Moore
Romie Carpenter
Dan McCourt
Dustin Thompson

Ed McLaughlin - 1st
Alternate
Eric Eklund - 2nd
Alternate