



MONTANA CHESS NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 5 — December, 2000

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From the Editor

In May I will be stepping down as Editor of the Newsletter. When I took on the job, a three year stint was what I had in mind, and that will be ending then. Working on it has been a lot of fun for me, but it's time for someone else to take a turn.

If you will consider giving it a try, even if just for a year, let me know. Will some volunteer please step forward?

Thad Suits

The Christmas Gift Campaign —*by MCA President Alex Dawson*



John T.
Roy S. (Jr.)
John S.
Kevin B. (Jr.)
Greg M. (Jr.)
Paul R.
Jim C.
Matt S. (Jr.)

Well, I'm happy to report that the membership drive is now in full swing and we're slowly, but steadily, inching our way towards our goal.

But for those of you that haven't signed up a new member (or two!) yet, please keep at it. I've signed up four myself so far and I have to say it gives you a good feeling every time you do. We have a ways to go, that's true, but with every new member the MCA becomes stronger and better. (And maybe a kid here and there will find some connection to an old game that'll bring him a lifetime of enjoyment and longtime friends.)

We're also going to begin mailing renewal invitations out soon to past members, and sending flyers out to the schools all around the state. These are to alert them to the new Junior Championships to be held in conjunction with the MT Open next May.

I'd like to bring your attention to another campaign which the Board is working on. The Christmas gift box to the left has a card attached with the names we have collected of eight chess

players. These are people who have expressed an interest in becoming MCA members, but just need a little nudge in the right direction to get them started. If you would like to make a Christmas gift of an MCA membership to one of these players, just copy the name down and mail it with one year's dues (\$10 for regular membership, \$5 for juniors) to:

Christmas Gift Member
c/o Thad Suits
2015 4th Ave. N.
Great Falls, MT 59401

We will follow your donation up with friendly invitations to play, reminders about clubs, and the like. I know they'll appreciate the gift and will, in many cases at least, opt to continue their memberships on their own after this first year.

It's another way of reaching out to interested players; we hope there are some current MCA members out there willing and able to spread some Christmas joy around in this way — a way that's good for chess in Montana.

Thanks, and have a nice Christmas.

Alex Dawson



In the trenches:

Recent discussions and votes by the MCA Board of Directors

The MCA Board has debated and voted on several issues since the last newsletter. Here are those decisions.

Seeding for the Closed

As reported in the September issue of MCN, the addition of the Montana Invitational tournament as a new pathway to the Closed means that one of the other traditional routes has to be abandoned. With the current champ as one seed and the winner of the Montana Invitational as another seed, the question became whether to go with three Open seeds and only one Grand Prix seed, or to go with two from both the Open and the Grand Prix.

In debating this issue (in part at a special chat room on our Website), some members said that having only two Open seeds would not leave enough room for a few of our strong players who cannot get to regular Grand Prix tournaments and depend on the Open as their only route to the Closed. To others it was important to reward those very players who do travel and have the skills to do well in several tournaments over the course of the season.

When the vote came it was 3-1 in favor of using two Grand Prix seeds and two Open seeds.

Faster Time Controls

Dennis Petrak proposed requiring faster time controls (no slower than Game/90) for Grand Prix tournaments. He pointed out that many players, himself included, find the slower games of most tournaments that include a secondary time control too exhausting. He also added that such a move was important if chess is to compete for younger players' interest. Opinion on the Board was split regarding the value of doing faster time controls in general, but the consensus was that setting time controls was a decision better left to the tournament directors themselves. The proposal was defeated 3-1.

Most of us do hope, however, that TDs will at least be willing to consider moving to faster time controls for some of their events.

Montana Invitational

As previously reported, the new Montana Invitational, which will debut sometime during March in Missoula, will be open to players rated 1700 or

higher. Since the prize fund is dependent on entry fees collected, no exact prizes can be announced in advance. Nevertheless, the Board voted to establish three prizes by dividing the total pot (after deducting tournament expenses) on a percentage basis. First place will get 50%, second place 30%, and third place 20%. Some favored a higher percentage for first place in the hopes that players would play more aggressively with that incentive, but others were not persuaded. It passed 3-1.

On the question of whether the Invitational could qualify for Grand Prix points, the consensus was that this would be unfair (and impossible under current bylaws) since the Invitational is not an open tournament.

Junior Championship

The Board voted to set the following terms for the Junior Championship, to be held concurrently with the Montana Open. Both measures passed on a 3-2 vote. 1) USCF membership will not be required, and it will not be rated. 2) The entry fee will be \$10, with free MCA membership included for new junior members.

MCA Board Members (2000-2001)

Alex Dawson - President (443-7903)
 Paul Motta - Vice President (721-5599)
 Greg Nowak - Western V.P. (549-7805)
 Dennis Petrak - Eastern V.P. (452-4786)
 Thad Suits - Secretary/Treasurer (453-6160)

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All submissions are welcome, including photos. Articles by E-mail or on a PC-formatted diskette are especially appreciated. Among the formats supported are ASCII text, Swis-Sys, WordPad, Microsoft Works, Publisher, Lotus and .PGN.

Publishing Schedule:

Issue 1 - Mar. 1, Issue 2 (Special for the Open) - May 10, Issue 3 - July 15, Issue 4 - Sept. 25, Issue 5 - Dec. 8. Deadline for most submissions is ten days before the publication date.



Grand	Prix
Race Leaders	
LONG,M	14.88
MCCOURT,D	14.88
JOHANSSON,J	9.92
SKOVRON,J	8.96
NOWAK,G	8.50
JENSEN,M	7.65
MOTTA,P	6.80
SUITS,T	5.98
JAY,F	5.98

Biggest Upset to Date
 Dan McCourt — 427 points

What's the Cruncher?

White has been eyeing the e6 pawn in the hopes of engineering a mating attack. Can you spot the cruncher? (Hint: The preceding comment is not a hint.) The answer is on the back page.



White to move and crunch.

Dark horses win at the Chinook Open

Three-way tie for first as Johansson and Suits falter

Michael Long, Jim Skovron, and Dan McCourt all have great tournaments on occasion, but at the 2000 Chinook Open, held October 14-15 at the University of Great Falls, they all had great tournaments at the same time. The result was a three-way split of the top prizes, as pre-tournament favorites Jan Johansson and Thad Suits both lost two games to the dark horse candidates.

For a while it looked like nobody was going to stop the Michael Long juggernaut. He had defeated Johansson and Suits in consecutive rounds and had a perfect score going into the final round. But Jim Skovron of Great Falls managed to create some sharp and imbalanced play in their game to come away with a last-round win. That left him tied for first with Long and with McCourt, who was simultaneously outplaying Suits on the next board over.

The top players might have known something was up when Dan McCourt started lamenting his miserable showing in a recent Spokane tournament as soon as he walked in the door. Yeah, Dan. We in Great Falls have heard that kind of hustling before. We always knew we were in trouble when John Barto would say with a sigh, "I just don't know what to do about this position."

These were not the only dark horse surprises. Freddie Jay of Great Falls won three games to take clear first in his division and the \$25 prize that went with it. Young



Kirk Lundby, another Great Falls player, continues to improve, winning one game and holding Bill Furdell to a draw.

Two unrated players from Livingston, protégés of Michael Long, fought it out for their division. Stephen Rassmussen won the \$25 unrated prize, half a point ahead of Mike Shuyler.

The prize money was ample, even after dividing the top place prizes place three ways. Long and Skovron both took home \$70 each, while McCourt was the big winner, earning that same share of first plus \$25 for biggest upset. The 427-point difference of his third round defeat of Johansson also gives him a commanding lead in this year's upset derby, leap-frogging over Bill Furdell's 304-point win in the Barto.

For some players, food was the highlight of the tournament. Free pizza was provided for lunch on Saturday, and then Sunday morning Dennis Petrak's wife, Mary Ann Cosgrove, again supplied a tasty treat for all in the form of a plum crisp. Better watch out, Mary Ann. Now that you've done it two years running, we consider your cooking for us to be a time-honored tradition!

Collyer and Nowak tie at Turkey Open

Curt Collyer of Spokane, whose rating has climbed almost 200 points in the last 18 months, tied with the best Montana has to offer, as he and Greg "The Octopus" Nowak, split the top prize at this year's Turkey Open, held November 11-12 in Missoula. Collyer, whose superior tiebreak points gave him the official first place, went 3.5-0.5, with his only draw coming in a last-round yawner against Nowak. Both players took home a \$100 share of the 1st and 2nd place split.

The Turkey made an encouraging turnaround from last year's poor showing. Spokane players once again swelled the ranks of participants, but this time there was a healthy complement of Montanans as well. All told, 20 players took part, up from 13 last year.

Other prize winners were once again mostly from Spokane: David Griffin (3-1) U1800; Jeremy Younker (2.5-1.5) U1600; and Daniel Copeland (2-2) U1200. Erik Easter (1.5-2.5) was, apart from Nowak, the only other Montana prize winner, earning the U1400 prize.

The insufficient losing chances rule reared its ugly head again. In his game with Jeremy Younker, Paul Motta had about two minutes left on his clock when he asked the TD, Sherwood Moore, for a time delay clock under the insufficient losing chances rule. His hope was to continue playing for the win, but in accordance with the rulebook, Sherwood declared this the equivalent of a draw offer, which Younker promptly accepted.

Players take note: Unless otherwise announced ahead of time, delay clocks are only inserted in a game at the TD's discretion in cases where an insufficient losing chances ruling could go either way. If you want to benefit from the time delay feature, buy a clock and use it from the start of the game.

On a sad note, Sherwood announced that this would be his last tournament, at least for a while. He is retiring from chess with well-wishes from and for the MCA. Thanks for all the help and the good chess over the years, Sherwood. We hope you'll get to missing us and come back soon.

Top 10 things to say to the TD

10. Your flyer said you'd have free coffee. I'd like a double espresso with two Sweet n' Skinny's and just a hint of Madagascar cinnamon, please. And could you bring it over to board four? Thanks very much.

9. I know it's only the seventh move, but it looks drawish to ME.

8. ME shush? YOU shush!

7. Thanks for letting us use your clock, dude. I wound 'er up really good for ya.

6. Say, you didn't happen to find a copy of MCO under the garbage can in the men's room, did you?

5. Hi guy. Yeah, sorry to wake you, but can you put me down for tomorrow's tournament so I won't have to pay the late fee?

4. No, I'm just the janitor on the next floor. (Ummph, um-ummph.) Boy, these are some terrific donuts.

3. If I write you out a check for the membership dues, can you hold onto it for a few weeks?

2. Here's your sandwich and your change. We couldn't find that burger place you suggested. We went to that new health food restaurant instead and got you a tofu burger with extra sprouts!

1. Darn right I'm claiming repetition of position. That's the third time this year he's trapped my queen in the exact same way.

Submitted by Alex Dawson

MCA player profile: Dan McCourt

Editor's note: In this issue Dan writes his own droll profile based on a questionnaire I sent him.

I was born in the Columbus Hospital in Great Falls in 1949, and Montana has pretty much been home ever since. There was one brief period during which I worked in the imperialist services of a major world power. One of the perks was an expense-paid junket to Southeast Asia. Now I'm pretty much your average 50 year-old woodpusher with an ex-spouse, two semi-independent, young-adult children, and a self-important, shorthaired cat.

They all know more than I do--- just ask them.

These days I sell stamps to long lines of disgruntled customers, hike around the countryside once in a while and play too much chess.

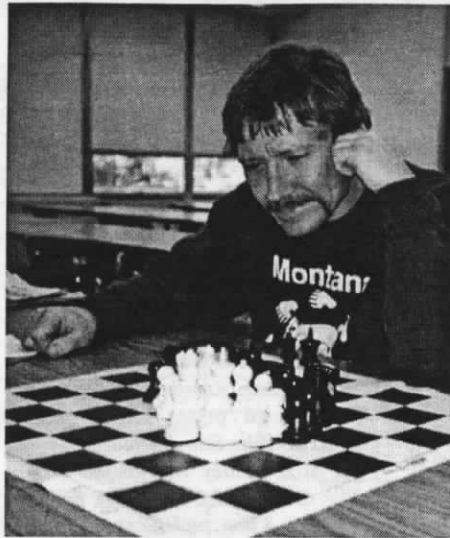
When I was about 11, some kid in the neighborhood learned to play chess and it got spread around to the rest of us. It was a pre-Philidor style that did not include en-passant or stalemate.

When I was about 18, I got hold of a Fred Reinfield book. Fred was kind of dogmatic. I learned that only the Ruy Lopez and the Queen's gambit were worthy of respect.

Until I was 30, I just played chess with siblings, drinking buddies, and fellow inmates in the barracks, jails and factories. Then I started hanging out with the sharks at the U-of-M chess scene and haven't been the same since. I do miss the rousing clashes with friends and relatives when we were on even terms.

In 1982, I played in the Crocus Open. Being one of over 50 players, I was dispatched to the "overflow" room to play on the bottom board. Somehow, I managed a 3.5 score for the weekend. A beginning that was more ominous than auspicious. It was probably 3.5 more years before I scored that well again.

I don't study much anymore, but when I do, it's the same as before---by flight-of-fancy. In the early days, I pretty much wore out my copies of *Modern Chess Opening Traps* (William Lombardy), Walter Korn's *MCO*, *The*



Dan McCourt, studying a complex position on his way to a win in the Chinook Open.

Modern Chess Sacrifice (Leonid Shamkovich), and *Masters of the Chessboard* (Richard Reti). And I religiously cut out and studied Bernard Zuckerman's Chess Life column on openings. They're still part of my "Old Testament".

For my "New Testament" scriptures, I go with opening books on the Dutch for black for about anything but "1 e4". Against e4, I recommend "1...e5 and wing it". Being a proponent of "e4 best-by-test", I keep opening books on the various semi-closed openings so I can defend myself against predatory Sicilians, Frenchmen, Scaro-Kanns, and such like. Against creatures like Rats and Vultures, I recommend "going with the flow". Of course, Reinfield and Tarasch would be setting to spinning in their graves just at the thought of a Vulture or a Grob, but if you should encounter one, just think to yourself, "What would Fred or Siegbert do if they were alive and not just lying around spinning?"

The questionnaire for this profile asked me what aspects of the game I dislike. Well, there's the "F" word (Fischer) and all the ongoing blather about that person. You might also have noticed that nowhere in the preceding was the word "endgame" used. That's because all that stuff that's written about the importance of the endgame is bunk. Before the endgame, the gods have

placed the fun-game. Remember that. Before you build a library on the "big snore", go to the bookstore and get a copy of Father Lombardy's *Modern Chess Opening Traps*.

And have fun.

For this profile's game, Dan sent along a swashbuckling three-sac gem from his early days at the UCCC. Since Dan is still an old-school descriptive notation type, the editor thought for once he would include a game in that format. It will probably be the last.

Dave Shughart-Dan McCourt
UCCC—Circa April 1983
Albin Counter Gambit

1) P-Q4 P-Q4 2) P-QB4 P-K4 3) P x KP P-Q5 4) K-KB3 N-QB3 5) P-KR3

The usual setup against this gambit involves 5) P-KN3 with a fianchetto.

5)...P-KB3 6) B-KB4 P-KN4 7) B-KR2 B-QN5ch 8) N1-Q2 P-QR4 9) P-QR3 B-QB4 10) N-QN3 Q-K2 11) P x P N x P 12) QN x P N-K5 13) P-K3 N x KBP! 14) K x N 0-0 15) P-KN4?



This removes a key defender for the knight. Without it the king is starting to look pretty exposed. 15) Q-Q3, is better.

15...B x NP! 16) P x B N x N 17) P x N R x Nch! 18) K x R?

Inviting a pin with 18) Q x R is best. E.g. 18) Q x R! R-KB1 19) B-K5! Q x B (If Black plays ...R x Qch, White keeps the material advantage.) 20) Q x B K-N2! Dave steadfastly refuses to return material to defuse things.

18...R-KB1ch 19) K-N2 Q-K5ch 20) K-R3 RB6ch 21) B-N3 B-Q3 22) R-N1? [Q x R!] P-R4?

Dan misses a quick mate beginning with 22)...R x B! Now if Dave plays 23) K-R2, releasing the pin and heading for the corner, he will survive and stay a rook ahead.

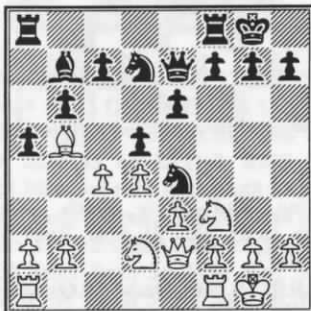
23) Q-K1? P x Pch 24) K-R2 Q-R2ch White resigns

Recent Games

Games from the UCCC

Moore,S (1703) - Hesse,T (1542)
Torre Attack [A47]
UCCC 1st Fall Open

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 Be7 4.e3 b6 5.
Nbd2 Bb7 6.Bd3 d5 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.c3 Ne4 9.
Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Qe2 a5 11.Bb5 0-0 12.c4



Too soon, due to the tactics that follow.
12...Nxd2 13.Nxd2 c6 14.Ba4 dxc4 15.
Bc2 [15.Nxc4? b5]15...b5 16.b3 c3

Black hopes to secure this forward out-
post with ...b4, but a quick mate threat from
White thwarts this idea.

17.Qd3 f5 18.Qxc3 c5 19.Qd3 Qg5 20.
f3 Rfd8 21.Qe2 cxd4 22.exd4 Bd5 23.f4
Qf6 24.Nf3?

Better to defend the pawn with 24.Qe3.
24...Bxf3 25.Rxf3? Qxd4+ 26.Kh1
Qxa1+ 27.Rf1 Qf6 28.Qxb5 Nf8 0-1

Jensen,M (1878) - McCourt,D (1610)
Bishop's Opening [C24]
UCCC 1st Fall Open

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Bb3 d5 5.
exd5 cxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.
Nc3 d4 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.dxe4 h6 12.Qd3 a6
13.Nh2 Bc5 14.f4?

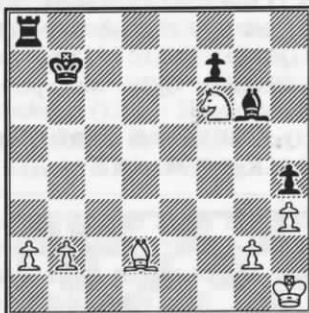


14...exf4?
14...Be2! then 15.QxB? loses to d3+!

15.Bxf4 g5 16.Bg3 Qe7 17.Ng4 0-0-0
18.Nf6 Bg6 19.Kh1 h5 20.Bd5 Nb4 21.Qc4
h4 22.Bh2 g4 23.Nxg4 Nxd5 24.exd5 b5 25.
Qb3 Qe2 26.Rae1 Qc4 27.Qxc4 bxc4 28.
Rf6 Rxd5 29.Rxa6 Kb7 30.Rf6

Better is 30.Ra4, preventing the coming
pawn push.

30...d3 31.cxd3 cxd3 32.Bf4 d2 33.Rd1
Be7 34.Rxd2 Rxd2 35.Bxd2 Bxf6 36.Nxf6
Ra8 1/2-1/2



Katzl,R (1900) - Hesse,T (1542)
Caro-Kann - Exchange [B13]
UCCC 1st Fall Open

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c3 Nc6 5.
Bd3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Bg4 7.Nf3 Ne4 8.Bf4 e6 9.
h3 Bh5 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Bxd6 Qxd6 12.Re1
f5 13.Re3 0-0 14.Nbd2 e5 15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.
Be2 f4? 17.Nxe4 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Qe5



19.Nc5?

After 19.Re1 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 dxe4 21.
Rxe4 Qc7 22.Rae1 White is ahead in mater-
ial and development.

19...fxe3 20.Qxd5+

Dangerous for White would be 20.Bxh5
exf2+ 21.Kf1 Qh2.

20...Qxd5 21.Bxd5+ Bf7 22.Bxf7+ Rxf7
23.fxe3 Re8 24.Re1 Rd8 25.Re2 b6 26.Nb3
Rd1+ 27.Kh2 Rff1 28.Nd4 Rde1 29.Rd2
Rxe3 30.Nf3 h6 31.Kg3 Kf7 1/2-1/2

Black, ahead in material but considera-
bly behind in time, settles for a draw.

Games from the Chinook

We begin the Chinook report with three
games from State Champion Jan Johansson
of Emigrant, who also provides the com-
ments for them.

McCourt,D (1625) - Johansson,J (2052)
Pirc [B07]
Chinook Open
Notes by Johansson.

In spite of all its errors this is an exciting
game.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 e5 4.d5 c6 5.c4
Be7 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 Nh5 9.b4
Bg5 10.a4 a5? [10...c5] 11.dxc6! bxc6 12.
b5

White has a clear advantage.

12...Bb7 13.g4?

And Black is back in the game again.

13...Nf4 14.Nxf4 Bxf4 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.
Ne2



16...f5?

Interesting is 16...f3!? 17.Nd4 cxb 18.
cxb Qh4 19.Kh1! Qf6! 20.Nxf3 Nc5 21.
Re1Re8. Black has lost his pawn on f3 but
he probably has compensation.

17.exf5 exb5 18.Nxf4! Ne5 19.Be2 Qh4
20.f3 Rxf5?

The decisive error. Much better is 20...
bxc4 21.Ne6 Rfc8 22.Qxd6 Qf6 23.Rb1 Bc6
with lots of play for both.

21.Ng2! Qh3 22.gxf5 Ng4 23.Qxd6!
Re8 24.Rad1

White did not completely realize how
good his position was and he almost lets
Black recover. Simple is 24.axb5 Ne5 (24...
Rxe2 25.Qb8+ Kf7 26.Qxb7+ Kf8 27.fxg4
and White wins easily) 25.Rxa5 Bxf3 26.
Bxf3 Nxf3+ 27.Kh1 with the threats of 28.
Qe5+ and 28.Qxf3 remaining.

24...h5 25.Rf2 Nxf2 26.Kxf2 Rxe2+ 27.
Kxe2 Bxf3+

27...Qxf3+ 28.Kd2 Qxg2+ 29.Kc1 bxa4
30.Qg6! loses also.

28.Ke1 Qxg2?

There black missed his last chance. Instead 28...Bxd1! 29.Nf4 Qxf5 30.Kxd1 Qb1+, with only 5 minutes left for each player, would have been fun!

29.Qe6+ Kh7 30.Qg6+ Qxg6 31.fxg6+ Kh6 32.cxb5 Bxd1 33.Kxd1 1-0

Long,M (1741) - Johansson,J (2052)

Pirc [B07]

Chinook Open

Notes by Johansson.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.h3 Nbd7 5.Rb1 e5 6.Be3 Be7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Be2 b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.0-0 a6 11.Qd2 c5 12.d5 b4 13.axb4 cxb4 14.Na2 a5 [14...Nxe4!?] 15.Bd3 Nxe4!? 16.Bxe4 f5 17.Bxf5

Long simply gives back the piece instead of going into the complications after 17.Ng5 Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Qe8 19.Bf3 when Black probably has compensation for the sacrificed material.

17...Rxf5 18.c4 Qf8 19.b3 Rxf3 20.gxf3 Qxf3 21.Kh2 Rf8 22.Rg1 Bh4 23.Rg2 Nf6 24.Rbg1 Rf7 25.Nc1 Bc8 26.Rg3 Bxg3+ 27.Rxg3 Qh5?

Time trouble. Much better is 27...Qf5 28.Qd3 Ne4 29.Rg4 Nxf2.

28.Qe2 Qxe2?

Makes it too easy for Long. Better is 28...Qh4 29.Bg5 Ng4+ 30.Rxg4 Rxf2+ with wild complications.

29.Nxe2 Ne4 30.Rg2 Nc5 31.Nc1 Bf5 32.h4 Be4 33.Rg4 Bc2 34.Bxc5 dxc5 35.Kg3 a4?

I missed 35... Bf5! trapping the white Rook. This is called an oversight.

36.bxa4 b3 37.Nxb3 Bxb3 38.Re4 Bxa4 39.Rxe5 Bb3 40.d6 Bxc4?

A typical blunder, a blunder being an oversight with catastrophic consequences. 40...Rd7 wins.

41.Re8+ Rf8 42.d7 1-0

Johansson,J (2052) - Hansen,D (1714)

King's Indian Attack [A04]

Chinook Open

Notes by Johansson

1.Nf3 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.e4 d6 6.d3 Bg4 7.Nbd2 b5 8.h3 Bd7 9.Kh2 Rb8 10.Ng1 h5 11.f4 Nh6

At this point I realized that I had walked into a variation that Hansen had prepared (or found in a book) especially for me!

12.Ndf3 Nd4 13.c3 Nxf3+ 14.Nxf3 Qc8 15.f5?

I played this move to open up lines for my Rook and my Bishops and I thought it was a "!"-move until Thad Suits asked me to comment on it. Then I realized that I simply lose a pawn without compensation: 15...gxf 16.exf Nxf5 17.Qc2 e5.

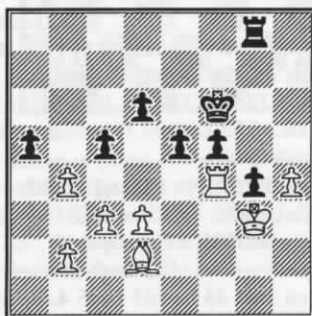
15...Ng4+?



16.hxg4 hxg4+ 17.Nh4 gxf5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Kg1 Be6 20.Qe1 b4 21.Bd2 a5 22.Qf2 Rh5 23.Be4 Bf6 24.Bf5 Bxh4 25.Bxe6 Qxe6 26.gxh4 Kd7 27.Rae1 Re5 28.Rxe5 Qxe5 29.Qf5+

Not 29.Qxf7? Qg3+ with perpetual check.

29...Qxf5 30.Rxf5 f6 31.Rf4 Rg8 32.Kg2 Ke6 33.Kg3 f5 34.a3 Kf6 35.axb4 e5



With a Bishop for two pawns I thought I stood better, but when Doug's pawns came rolling down the board I was not so sure anymore.

36.Rf2 axb4 37.d4 Ke6 38.Bg5 bxc3 39.bxc3 cxd4 40.cxd4 Rb8 41.d5+

Now I think White is better, but with only a couple of minutes on the clock I was mainly trying to survive.

41...Kxd5 42.Rxf5 Rb4 43.h5 Ke4 44.Rf7 d5 45.h6 d4 46.Rd7!

Excellent move. Now White gets his Queen, because if 46...Rb8 then 47.Bd8!

46...Rb1 47.h7 Rg1+ 48.Kh2

Note that after 48.Kf2? Rh1 followed by RxQ, Black might win on time!

48...Rb1 49.h8Q Kf3 50.Qf6+

White has less than a minute left!

50...Ke4 51.Qg6+ Kf3 52.Rf7+

Doug resigned, leaving my clock stopped at 50 seconds. 1-0

Long,M (1741) - Skovron,J (1872)

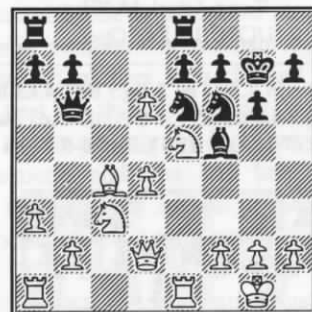
Sicilian [B06]

Chinook Open

Jim plays for an imbalanced game, even sacking a pawn. He does gain the initiative,

but in the end it's a simple blunder on Michael's part that hands him the game -- and a share of the title.

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Be3 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Qd2 cxd4 6.Bxd4 Bxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Nc3 d5 10.exd5 Nb4 11.Bb5+ Kf8 12.Bc4 Kg7 13.a3 Na6 14.0-0 Bf5 15.Rfe1 Rhe8 16.Ne5 Nc7 17.d6 Ne6



18.d7

Forcing, and pretty much winning, would be 18.d5 Nc5 19.dxe7 Rxe7 20.d6 Ree8 21.Nxf7

18...Rf8 19.Nd5 Qxd4 20.Qxd4 Nxd4 21.Rae1

White can keep the forward pawn with 21.Rad1 Nc6 22.Nxf6 Kxf6 23.f4] 21...Nxd7 22.Nxd7 Bxd7 23.Rxe7 Bc6 24.Nc7



This appears to save a tempo, but at the cost of misplacing the knight. 24.Nb4 was more accurate. Now Black takes the initiative.

24...Rad8 25.f3 Kf6 26.Reel Rd6 27.Red1 Rfd8 28.Rd2? Nxf3+? 0-1

Michael Long won two interesting games playing the Black side of the Sicilian's. Here are those games, with his comments.

Jay,F (1234) - Long,M (1731)

Sicilian [B30]

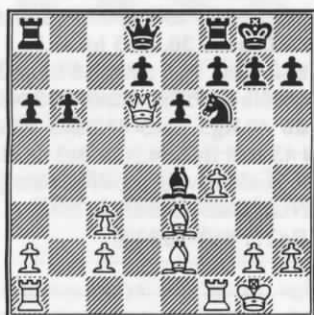
Chinook Open

Notes by Long

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d3 e6 5.Be3 b6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bb7 8.f4 Bb4 9.Qd3 Nf6 10.Be2 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Bxe4 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd6!?



In the money: Chinook Open prize winners. Back row: Jim Skovron, Freddie Jay, Michael Long. Front Row: Dan McCourt, Stephen Rasmussen.



An interesting move that allows time for White to gain some compensation for the pawn.

14...b5 15.c4!

A standout move that gives White's bishops more room to sweep the board, thus gaining more compensation for the pawn.

15...bxc4 16.Bxc4 Qe8 17.Be5 Re8

The threat was 18.QxR, winning the exchange.

18.Bb3 a5 19.a4 Ra6 20.Qd4 Qc6 21.g3 Bd5 22.c4 Bg2 23.Rf2 Bh3 24.Ba3 Qe4 25.Rd1 Qxd4 26.Rxd4 Rb6 27.Ba2 Reb8 28.Rfd2 h5 29.c5 Rc6 30.Be4 Rb1+ 31.Kf2 Rc7 32.Bb5 Nd5 33.Bd3 Rb3 34.Rb2! Rxb2+

Note that if Black grabs the bishop at a3 he gets abruptly mated. Cute!

35.Bxb2 Rxc5 36.Be4 Nb6 37.Bb5?

A drastic oversight. 37.Bb3 holds, although White is two pawns down after 37...d5.

37...Rc2+ 0-1

I'm very impressed with Freddie Jay's

potential. If this guy gets to playing chess the way he sings, we'll have a new tiger in Montana.

McCourt,D (1625) - Long,M (1741)
Sicilian [B21]
Chinook Open
Notes by Long

Among those who landed at the the top in the Chinook Open, each could have won some interesting concept prizes. Dan McCourt would easily win the prize for best opening play. Jim Skovron would win the prize for the best stretch run, and I would win the prize for the most resourceful chess played after positional screwups. Here's an example.

1.e4 c5 2.f4 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Na3 a6 9.Nc2 Bd7 10.Ne3 e6 11.Bd2 Qc7 12.Qe1 Nh5?

A real time-loser which White promptly takes advantage of.

13.Ng5! Nf6 14.Qh4 h6 15.Nh3 Qd8 16.g4 Nh7 17.g5 hxg5



18.fxg5 e5?

There are worse moves on the board, but this is a doosie. It gives White a perfect hole at d5 and locks in the bishop at g7.

19.Ng4 Bxg4 20.Bxg4 d5 21.Rf2 dxe4 22.dxe4 Qd3 23.Raf1 Rad8 24.Re2 b5 25.Nf2 Qd6 26.Be3 a5 27.Rd2 Qe7 28.Rfd1 Rxd2 29.Rxd2 Rd8 30.Rxd8+ Nxd8 31.Be2 c4 32.Qg3 Ne6 33.h4 Qc7

Black is preparing to put a knight at f4.

34.Ng4 Nf4 35.Bxf4 exf4 36.Qf3 Nf8 37.Kg2 Ne6 38.Nf2 Qd6

Black hopes to invade with ...Qd2.

39.Nh3 Qd2 40.Kf2 Qxb2 41.Nxf4 Nxf4 42.Qxf4 Bxc3 43.Qb8+ Kh7 44.h5 gxh5



45.Qh2

Editor's note: Dan, in a little time trouble, made this move immediately. Instead, 45.Qf8! appears to lead to a perpetual-check draw.

45...Bd4+ 46.Kf3 Qc3+ 0-1

Suits,T (1957) - McCourt,D (1625)
Dutch Stonewall [A80]
Chinook Open

1.d4 f5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nf3 e6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.Ne5 0-0 8.c4 Qe8 9.Ndf3 Ne4 10.h4 Bb4+ 11.Kf1 Be7 12.Ng5 Bf6 13.f3

A dense position. See photo, page 4.

13...Nd6 14.c5 Nb5 15.a4 Nc7 16.Qe1 a5 17.Qg3 Nca6 18.e4?



Way too impatient, what with the white king still on the soon-to-be-opened file. Better was 18.Kg1.

18...Nb4

Dan could have made quick use of the misplaced king with 18...fxe4! 19.fxe4 Nxc5!

19.Bb1 fxe4 20.fxe4 Qh5?!

This could have allowed White to cover the king with 21.Qf3. White has calculated incorrectly, though, and is convinced that the file poses no immediate danger.

21.exd5? Bxg5 22.Qxg5 Qxg5



23.hxg5?

The game might still have been saved with the following interesting line: 23. Bxh7+! Kxh7 24.hxg5+ Kg8 25.Ng6 Rxf4+ (Drawing would be 25...Re8 26.Rh8+ Kf7 27.Ne5+ Ke7 28.d6+ Kd8 29.Nf7+ Kd7) 26. Nxf4 Nxd5 with fighting chances.

23...Rxf4+ 24.Ke2 g6 25.Ke3? Nxd5+ 26.Kd3 Nd7 27.Nxd7 Bxd7 28.Rh6 Rg4 29. Kc4 Rxg5 30.Be4 Ne3+ 31.Kd3 Ng4 32. Rh4 Nf2+ 33.Ke3 Nxe4 0-1

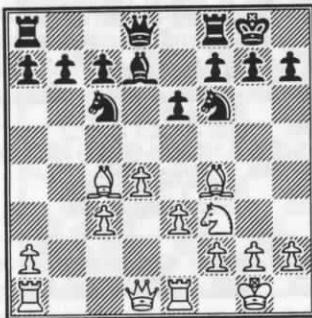
Drake,M (1268) - Shuyler,M (unr.)
Queen's Gambit [D30]
Chinook Open

With a little more experience and opening study, newcomer Mike Shuyler could become a threat. Here he succumbs to solid play from Mel Drake.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Bf4 Bd7 4.Nc3 Bb4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6.e3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Bxc3+

This move both gives White a powerful center and trades off a good bishop. 7...Nf6 was in order.

8.bxc3 Nf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1



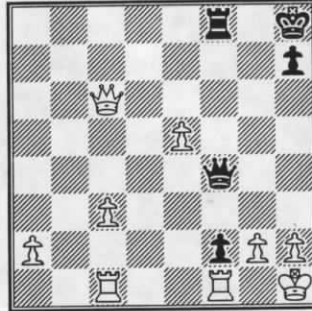
10...Ne4

A better posting of the knight would be 10.Nd5, attacking pawn and bishop, and so eliminating White's bishop pair.

11.Qc2 f5 12.Rad1 Na5 13.Bd3 Ng5?
14.Bxg5 Qe8 15.Qb2 a6 16.Bf4 Bb5 17. Bxc7 Nc4 18.Qb4 Qc8 19.Bxc4 Qxc7 20. Bxe6+ Kh8 21.Rc1 Rfe8 22.Bxf5 Qf7 23. Qb1 Bc6 24.Ne5 Rxe5 25.dxe5 Qh5 26. Qd3 Qg5 27.e4 g6 28.Be6 Qxe5 29.Bd5 Rf8 30.Bxc6 bxc6 31.Qxa6 Qf4 32.f3 g5 33.Qxc6 g4 34.e5 gxf3 35.Rf1?

This appears to have been White's move, but the scoresheets are pretty hazy at this point.

35...f2+ 36.Kh1



36...Rg8?

Mike missed a chance to win back at least a piece: 36...Qxc1 37.Qc4 Qe1 38.e6 Rf4 39.Qd3 Qxe6

37.e6 Qg4 38.Rxf2 Qg5 39.Rcfl

And White mated a few indecipherable moves later. 1-0

Petrak,D (1639) - Skovron,J (1872)
English [A35]
Chinook Open

After this loss in round two, Jim had to struggle to catch the leaders. He finally did in the last round. Here he never really gets in the game after a positional blunder early on.

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.e3 Qa5 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 a6 9. Nb3 Qc7 10.e4 e6?!



This creates holes in Black's position that cause him a world of pain for the rest of the game. 10...d6 was better.

11.Be3 0-0 [11...d6] 12.Bc5! Re8 13. Bd6 Qd8 14.e5 Nh5 15.Bxh5 gxh5 16. Qxh5 f5 17.f4 Ne7? 18.Qg5?



Michael Shuyler

Dennis missed the cute-looking 18.Bc7! Qxb9 19.QxR+.

18...Ng6 19.Qxd8 Rxd8 20.Rad1 b6 21. Bc7 Re8 22.Bxb6 Bh6 23.Ne2 Re7 24.Bd8 Rf7 25.Bf6 a5 26.Ne5 Bf8 27.Nd3 Ba6 28. b3 a4 29.Rf3 axb3 30.axb3 h6 31.Rg3 Kh7 32.h4 Ne7 33.Ra1 Bb7 34.Rxa8 Bxa8 35.b4 Nc6 36.b5 Nb4 37.Nxb4 Bxb4 38.Nc3 h5 39.Ne2 d6 40.Rg5 dxe5 41.Bxe5 Kh6 42. Rg8 Be4 43.Rc8 Bd3 44.Nd4 Bc3 45.Nf3

White could have grabbed another pawn with 45.Nxe6 Bxe5 46.fxe5.

45...Bd2?? 46.Nxd2 1-0

Lundby,K (1224) - Furdell,B (1304)
Smith-Morra Gambit [B21]
Chinook Open

Junior member Kirk Lundby holds a draw in this match-up featuring a complicated endgame.

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Bb5

The usual move in the Smith-Morra is 5. Bc4. Kirk trades off his most effective piece too early.

5...a6 6.Bxc6 bxc6 7.Nf3 d6 8.e5 Bf5 9. exd6 exd6 10.Nd4 Qd7 11.Qe2+ Be6 12. Bd2 Be7 13.Na4 Qb7?

Though ugly-looking, 13...Bd8 would have guarded the pawn fine.

14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Qxe6 Qc8 16.Qxc8+ Rxc8 17.Bc3 Nf6 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.0-0-0 Be5 20.Nb6 Re7 21.Nc4 0-0 22.Nxd6 Rxf2 23.Nc4 Bf6 24.Rhe1 h6 25.Rd2 Bg5 26.Ne3 Rxd2 27.Kxd2 Rf7 28.g3 Rf2+ 29.Re2 Rf8 30.h4 Bf6 31.b3 Rd8+ 32.Kc2 Re8 33.Kd3 Kf7 34.Rc2 Re8 35.Nc4 Rd8+ 36.Ke2 c5 37.Nb6 Bd4 38.a3 Re8+ 39.Kd3 Re3+ 40.

Kc4 Rxb3 41.b4 Rg4 42.bxc5 Rxh4 43.Re2 Be5+

This misses an elegant way to win the pawn: 43...Bg1+! 44.Kd5 Rh5+.

44.Kd5 Bg3 45.c6 Rh5+ 46.Kc4 Bc7 47.Na8

Stronger for White was 47.Nd5! Bd6 48.Rf2+ Kg8 49.c7 and Black will eventually have to sack the bishop for the pawn.

47...Rh4+

Seeing that White's knight can shepherd the pawn to the back rank, Bill now plays for the draw. He might have still gone for the win, but with best play this position does appear to be drawn. Here is one possibility: 47...Bd6 48.Kd4 Rc5 49.c7 a5 50.a4 g6 51.Rb2 Ke6 52.Rb8 Rxc7 53.Nxc7+ Bxc7



Could Black win here? Who knows?

48.Kd5 Rh5+ 49.Kc4 Rh4+ 50.Kd5 Rh5+ 51.Kd4 1/2-1/2

Kasparoff,G (1268) - Suits,T (1957)
King's Indian Defense [A49]
Chinook Open

In many ways this is an ugly game (some of the names have been changed to protect the innocent), but the ending is certainly a thing of beauty.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Re1 c6

Jim Skovron's favorite move.

8.e4 e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.b3 Re8 11.Bb2 Qc7 12.Qe2 a5 13.Na4? b5 14.Nc3 Ba6 15.Qe3

The threat was ...b4 with a double attack.

15...h6 16.a4 b4 17.Nb1 Ng4 18.Qc1 Qb6 19.Qd2 Rad8 20.c3 Nc5 21.Qc2 Bd3 22.Qc1 Nxb3 23.Qd1



23...Nxf2! 24.Qxd3

The coming combination would follow 24.Qxb3 just as well.

24...Nh3!+ 25.Kh1 Qg1+ 26.Nxg1 Nf2# 0-1

Jay,F (1234) - Rasmussen,S (unr.)
Irregular Queen Pawn Opening [D00]
Chinook Open

Newcomer Steve Rasmussen, who won the unrated prize this year, almost steals a game from Freddie in this one.

1.Nc3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.b4 e6 4.a3 Bd6 5.h3 a6 6.e3 e5 7.Bb2 b5 8.dxe5 Bxe5 9.Nf3 Bxc3+ 10.Bxc3 Ne4?

Castling first was necessary.

11.Bxg7 Rg8 12.Bb2 Bf5 13.Ne5 f6 14.Nd3 Qd6 15.Nf4 Ng5 16.Qxd5 Qxd5 17.Nxd5 Kf7 18.c4 c6 19.Nxf6 Rd8 20.c5 Nd7 21.Nxd7 Rxd7 22.f4 Ne4 23.g4 Rd2 24.Bd4 Be6 25.Rg1 Rh2 26.f5 Bd5 27.Rb1?



27...Ng5?

Steve is aiming for the fork on f3. He could have forced it now with 27...Nd2! 28.Rb2 Nf3+

28.Rb2?

Instead, 28.Be2 would have kept the knight out. Now Steve proceeds with his plan. Unfortunately for him, he doesn't follow through properly.

28...Nf3+ 29.Kd1 Nxg1?

Winning was 29...Rxb1.

30.Rxb2 Nf3 31.Rf2 a5 32.Bg2 Nxd4 33.Bxd5+ cxd5 34.exd4 axb4 35.axb4 Kf6 36.h4 Ra1+ 37.Ke2 Rc1 38.g5+ Kf7 39.Kd2 Rc4 40.Kd3 Rxb4 41.Rc2 Ra4 42.c6 Ra7 43.Rc5 Ra3+ 44.Kc2 Ra2+ 45.Kb3 Ra8 46.c7 Re8 47.Kb4 Ke7 48.Kxb5 Kd6 49.Rc6+ Kd7 50.Kc5 Rxc7 51.Rxc7+ Kxc7 52.Kxd5 Kd7 53.Ke5 Ke7 54.h5 Kf7 55.d5 Kf8 56.Ke6 Ke8 57.d6 Kf8 58.d7 Kg8 59.d8Q+ 1-0

Games from the Turkey

McBroom,W (1534) - Collyer,C (1976)
Sicilian / KIA [B30]
Turkey Open

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 e6 6.Nbd2 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc4

Could be premature. The knight doesn't necessarily want to head for e3 yet, but now it gets pushed there. Biding time with 8.Re1 or 8.a4 looks better.

8...d5 9.Ne3 h6 10.c3 Kh7 11.Nd2 d4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Nc2 Ndc6 14.Nc4 Qd7 15.f4 Rd8 16.Ne5?!



16...Nxe5 17.fxe5 Nc6 18.Be3 b6 19.d4? cxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Qxd4+ 22.Qxd4 Rxd4 23.Rxf7 Rd7 24.Rxd7 Bxd7 25.Re1 Bxe5 26.Kf2 Re8 27.Rd1 Bb5 28.Bh3 Re8 29.b3 Re7 30.a4 Be8 31.Rd8 Kg7 32.Ke3 Kf7 33.Ke2 g5 34.Bg4 Kg6 35.Ke3 h5 36.Be2 g4 37.Bc4 Kf7 38.Rd3 Rd7 0-1

Furdell,W (1307) - Katzl,R (1900)
English [A11]
Turkey Open

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 Bf5 7.h3

An unlikely move since Black's queen bishop has already declared its intentions.

7...e6 8.Qb3 Qc7 9.d3 Bd6 10.Kh2 h6 11.Nh4 Bh7 12.Nc3 a6 13.a3 0-0 14.Nf3 b5



The position is pretty even. But now...

15.e4? dxe4 16.dxe4 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Re1 Bd5 19.Qd1 Rac8 20.Nd4? Nxd4 21.Qxd4 Bxg2 22.Bxb6?

Perhaps looking for a perpetual that isn't there.

22...f6

Playing it safe, but 22...gxh6 23.Qg4+ Kh7 is good for Black.

23.Qg4 Bd5 24.Ra1 Qf7 25.Rcd1 f5 0-1

Brownlee,K (1716) - Copeland,C (1166)
 Scotch Gambit Declined [C44]
 Turkey Open

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4

The Scotch Gambit. Another interesting line here is the Relfson Gambit, 4.Bg5.

4...h6

The book continuation of this gambit is 4...Bb4+ 5.c3. White plays c3 anyway, hoping that ...h6 will prove to be a wasted move. Black simply declines the gambit altogether, giving White a fine game.

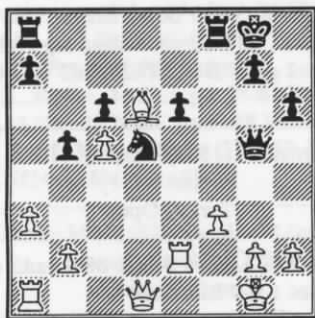
5.c3 d6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Re1 Bg4 8.e5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Rxe5+ Be7 11.f3 Nd7 12.Re4?

Wastes a tempo. The pawn is taboo owing to the skewer ...Bc5. Suddenly Black ends up with the slightly better position.

12...Bf5 13.Re2 0-0 14.cxd4 c6 15.Bf4 b5 16.Bb3 Nb6 17.Nc3 Bb4 18.Ne4 Be6

A positional blunder. This allows White to create a backwards, isolated pawn.

19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Bg3 Nd5 21.a3 Be7 22.Ne5 Bxc5 23.dxc5 Qf6 24.Bd6 Qg5?!



25.Qd2?!

Complicated, but winning, was 25.Bxf8 Rxf8 26.Qc2 Rxf3 27.Rxe6 Nf4 28.Re8+ Kf7 29.Kh1. Keith decides to play it for the long haul.

25...Qxd2 26.Rxd2 Rf7 27.Re1 Re8 28.Rde2 a5 29.Bg3 Rf6 30.Re4 b4 31.Be5 Rf5 32.f4 bxa3 33.bxa3

A well-played game so far (you can't tell me Chris Copeland is a true 1166 player), but apparently time trouble ensued because the scoresheet become erratic at this point. White somehow engineered the win, probably by targeting the isolated e-pawn. 1-0

Jensen,M (1881) - Easter,E (1263)
 Sicilian [B50]
 Turkey Open

Here Erik defends a cramped position superbly and saves the upset draw.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bd3 Nc6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bc2 e6 6.0-0 Be7 7.d4 Nd7 8.d5 Nce5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.f4 Ng6 11.c4 e5 12.f5

This gives good pressure, but it also begins a process of closing the position that

comes back to haunt Mike.

12...Nf8 13.Nd2 Bg5 14.Qg4 Rg8 15.Qe2 Bxd2 16.Bxd2 f6 17.Qh5+ Ke7 18.Qf3 Bd7 19.g4 g5 20.a3 Qe8 21.b4 b6 22.bxc5 bxc5 23.a4 Bc8 24.a5 Ba6 25.Ba4 Qc8 26.Bb5 Nd7 27.Rfb1 Rb8 28.Qa3

Possibly more flexible is 28.Qh3, threatening a kingside invasion to go with the queenside pressure.

28...Rh8 29.Rb3 Bb7 30.Rab1 Qe8? 31.a6?

31.Bxd7 Qxd7 32.a6 wins the piece.

31...Ba8 32.Qa4 Qc8 33.Bxd7?!

Simplifying and allowing bishops of opposite colors in such a closed position almost guarantees the draw.

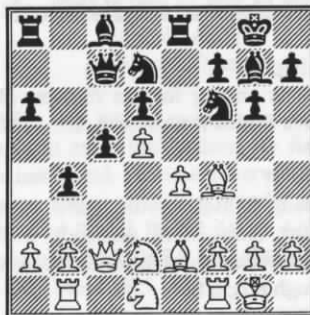
33...Rxb3 34.Rxb3 Qxd7 35.Qxd7+ Kxd7 36.Kg2 Kc8 37.Kg3 h5 38.gxh5 Rxh5 39.h3 Rh4 40.Re3 Kc7 41.Ba5+ Kc8 42.Kf2 Rh7 43.Ke2 Rh8 44.Kd2 Kd7 45.Kc2 Kc8 46.Kb3 Kd7 47.Ka4 Kc8 48.Be1 Kd7 49.Rb3 Kc7 50.Ba5+ ½-½

Griffin,D (1504) - Copeland,D (1110)
 Benoni [A65]
 Turkey Open

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.d4 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bb5+ Nbd7 8.Nf3

ECO recommends 8.a4 first to slow down Black's steamroller pawns.

8...a6 9.Be2 b5 10.Qc2 Bg7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bf4 Qc7 13.Rab1 b4 14.Nd1 Re8 15.Nd2?



15...Rb8? [15...Nxd5!] 16.Ne3 Nb6 17.

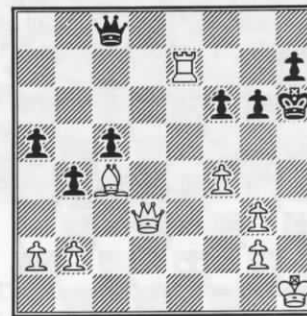
Bd3 Nh5 18.Bg3 Nxc3 19.hxc3 a5 20.f4?! Bd4 21.Kf2 Bxe3+

Even stronger was the immediate 21...Nxd5!

22.Kxe3 Nxd5+ 23.Kf2 Nf6 24.Rfe1 Qa7 25.Nc4 Ba6 26.Kg1 Bxc4 27.Bxc4 Rbd8 28.Kh1 Qb7 29.Qd3? d5?

Black (another under-rated player, if you ask me) could win a pawn and increase his already commanding lead with 29...Nxe4! The text move lets White back in the game.

30.exd5 Rxe1+ 31.Rxe1 Nxd5? 32.Re5 f6? 33.Re8+ Kg7 34.Rxd8 Ne7 35.Rd7 Qc8 36.Rxe7+ Kh6



37.Qd7

There was a cute forced mate here: 37. Bg8! Qxg8 38.g4! etc.

37...Qxd7 38.Rxd7 g5 39.Bd3 gxf4 40.gxf4 Kh5 41.Rxb7+ Kg4 42.Rf7 Kxf4 43.Rxf6+ Ke3 44.Rf3+ Kd4 45.b3 Kc3 46.Bb5+ Kb2 47.g4 Kxa2 48.g5 Ka3 49.g6 Ka2 50.g7 a4 51.g8Q axb3 52.Qxb3+ Ka1 53.Rf1# 1-0

McKean,R (1741) - Felber,J (2003)
 Caro-Kann [B10]
 Turkey Open

This game features an opening trap that anyone who plays against the Caro-Kann should be aware of.

1.e4 c6 2.d3 e5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nxe5?

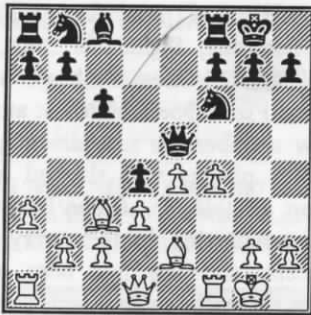
Against an expert, if a move seems too good to be true, it probably is.

4...Qa5+ 5.Nc3 Qxe5 6.Be2 Bb4 7.Bd2



0-0 8.0-0 d5 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 d4?! 11.f4

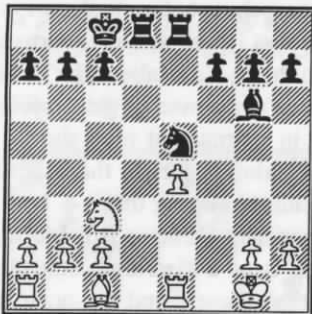
The only hope for counterplay is getting aggressive like this. It proves to be not enough.



11...Qe7 12.Bxd4 c5 13.Bf2 Nc6 14. Bh4 Nd4 15.h3 Qe6 16.f5 Qe5 17.g4 h6 18. Kg2 Bd7 19.Bg3 Qe7 20.Bf3 Bc6 21.Kh2 Nxf3+ 22.Rxf3 c4 23.Qe2 Rfd8 24.Rd1 Rd7 25.Bh4 Qe5+ 26.Rg3 Rad8 27.g5 hxg5 28.Bxg5 exd3 29.cxd3 Kf8 30.Bxf6 gxf6 31. Qd2 a5 32.Qc3 Qxc3 33.bxc3 Bxe4 34.d4 Rd5 35.Rdg1 Bxf5 36.Rg8+ Ke7 37.Re1+ Be6 38.Rxd8 Kxd8 39.h4 Kd7 40.Rd1 Rf5 41.Kg3 Kc6 42.Rh1 Bd5 43.Rc1 b5 44.Kg4 Rf2 45.Kg3 Ra2 46.h5 Rg2+ 47.Kh3 Rg5 48.Kh4 Be6 49.Re1 Rg4+ 50.Kh3 Re4+ 0-1

Fabian,S (1664) - Motta,P (1900)
Elephant Gambit [C40]
Turkey Open

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nxe5 dxe4 4.d4
MCO 11 says this gives Black equality, recommending instead the double-edged 4. Bc4 Qg5 5.Bxf7+ Ke7 6.d4 Qxg2 7.Rf1 Bh3 8.Bc4 with advantage to White.
4...Bd6 5.Bc4 Bxe5 6.Qh5 Qe7 7.Qxe5 Qxe5 8.dxe5 Nc6 9.Bd5 Nxe5 10.Bxe4 Nf6 11.0-0 Nxe4 12.Re1 Bf5 13.f3 0-0-0 14.fxe4 Bg6 15.Nc3 Rhe8



Black starts targeting the two weak pawns on e4 and c2. Both fall without much of a struggle.

16.b3 Nc6 17.Bf4 Rd4 18.Bg3 Rd2 19. Rac1 Nd4 20.Bf4 Rxc2 21.Rxc2 Nxc2 22. Re2 Nd4 23.Rd2 Ne6 24.Bg3 c6 25.Kf2 ?6.Re2

Pushing the pawn is no help either be-

cause 26.e5 is met by ...Nd3+!

26...Nxe4+ 27.Nxe4 Rxe4

Trading rooks leaves only bishops of opposite colors left. This seems to carry an unnecessary risk of drawing. 27...Bxe4 might be better for that reason.

28.Rxe4 Bxe4 29.Be5 f6 30.Bd4 Kc7 31.g4 b6 32.Ke3 Bd5 33.h4 Kd6 34.g5 fxg5 35.hxg5 h5 36.Bxg7 h4 37.Kf4 h3 38.Kg3 Be6 39.Bf8+ Kd5 40.g6 c5 41.g7 Kc6 42. g8Q Bxg8 43.Kxh3

If the king were not so far away from the action White could get the draw. But the cavalry comes too late to help now.

43...Kb5 44.Kg4 Kb4 45.Bd6 Bxb3!

The surest path to victory.

46.Kf4 Bxa2 47.Ke3 a5 48.Kd2 a4 49. Kc2 a3 50.Bc7 b5 51.Bd6 Kc4 0-1

Stuckey,R (1201) - Shuyler,M (unr.)
French Defense [C16]
Turkey Open

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5. Nf3 Nh6 6.Bd2 Bb7 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.0-0 Qd7 9.a3 Be7 10.h3 Nf5 11.Ne2 f6 12.c3 fxe5 13.dxe5 0-0-0 14.Nf4 d4?

This gets Black overextended, but White misses the follow-up.



15.Bxf5? [15.Bc4!] 15...exf5 16.Re1 dxc3 17.Bxc3 Qxd1 18.Raxd1 Rxd1 19. Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Nxd8 21.e6?

Now Michael quite properly wrecks Richard's pawn structure.

21...Bxf3 22.gxf3 g6 23.Nd5



23...Bd6?

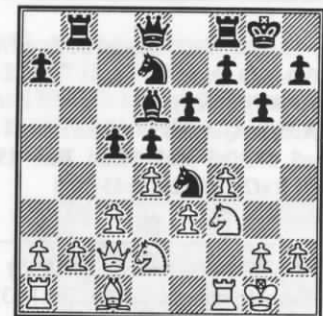
After 23...Nc6 Black has no weaknesses and White has many, thanks to his four over-

extended, doubled, and isolated pawns. His pawns are so weak that even after winning a piece, a draw is the best he can manage.

24.e7 Kd7 25.exd8Q+ Kxd8 26.Bf6+ Kd7 27.Ne3 Kc6 28.Nc2 Kb5 29.Nd4+ Ka4 30.Nc6 a5 31.Nd4 c5 32.Ne2 Kb3 33.Nc1+ Kc2 34.Ne2 b5 35.Kf1 c4? 36.Bc3? [36. Nd4+!] 36...b4 37.Nd4+?! Kb1 38.Nc6 bxc3 39.bxc3 Bxa3 40.Nxa5 Bb2 41.Nxc4 Bxc3 42.Ke2 Bg7 43.Nd2+ Ka2 44.f4 h5 45.h4 Bf6 46.Nf3 Kb3 ½-½

Yunker,G (1599) - Fabian,S (1664)
Stonewall [A45]
Turkey Open

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 g6 3.f4 d5 4.Bd3 Bf5 5. Nf3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Qb5+ Nbd7 8.Qxb7 c5 9.Qb3 Ne4 10.c3 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qc2 Rb8 13.Nbd2



13...cxd4? 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Nxd4 Nc5 16.Nc6 Qb6 17.Nxb8 Rxb8 18.b4 Nd3 19. g3 Rc8 20.Qd2 Rc4 21.Kg2

The king needs to get off the diagonal, but it turns out that 21.Kh1 is a better way.

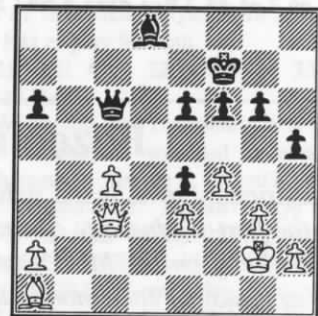
21...Qc7 22.Bb2 Bxb4

Now 23.cxB loses to 23...Rc2, pinning the queen. Gary decides to return material.

23.Rfc1 Ba5?

23...Nxr is good.

24.Ra1 a6 25.Ba1 Qa7 26.Rb3 Nxc1 27.Qxc1 Qd7 28.Rb8+ Bd8 29.Qc2 h5 30. Qe2 Rc8 31.Rxc8 Qxc8 32.c4 f6 33.Qc2 Qc6 34.Qc3 Kf7



Black has fought hard to regain the lost material. The position here seems about equal, and Black went on to win, though the end of the game is not recorded. 0-1

Katzl,R (1900) - Younker,J (1572)
Center Counter [B00]
Turkey Open

1.e4 d5 2.d4 Nc6 3.e5 f6 4.exf6 Nxf6 5.
Nf3 Bg4 6.c3 e5 7.Be2 e4 8.Ne5 Nxe5 9.
dxe5 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Nd7 11.Bf4 Qe7 12.
Qb5?!



After 12.O-O White should be fine.

12...0-0-0 13.Qxd5?

Disastrously greedy.

13...Nc5 14.Qc4 Nd3+ 15.Kf1 Nxf4 16.
Na3 Qxe5 17.Nb5 Bc5 18.b4 Bb6 19.a4
Rd2 20.a5 Rxf2+ 21.Ke1 Nd3+ 0-1

Nowak,G (2139) - Collyer,C (1978)
Ridiculously Symmetrical Opening [A38]
Turkey Open

Instead of ending with the drama that
was its due, the 2000 Turkey Open ended in
abject anti-climax with this soporific game.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.
Bg2 c5 6.0-0 d6 7.d3 Nc6 8.Rb1 Rb8 9.a3
a6 10.b4 cxb4 11.axb4 b5 12.cxb5 axb5

Draw agreed. Those advocating the abo-
lition of shared prizes need look no further
for justification. 1/2-1/2

Motta,P (1900) - Nowak,G (2139)
French [C00]
Turkey Open

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Be3 dxe4 4.Nd2 Nf6
5.f3

Trying to transpose to some variation of
the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit.

5...e5 6.dxe5 Nd5 7.Qe2 Qe7 8.0-0-0
Nc6 9.Nb3 Nxe3 10.Qxe3 Qxe5 11.f4

As usual, Paul positively insists on play-
ing a gambit.

11...Qe6 12.g4 Be7 13.Bh3 g5 14.Nd4!?

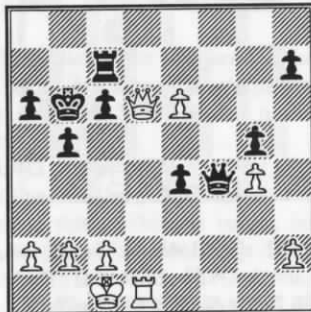


Whether planned or not, this initiates an
exciting sacrifice in which Paul displaces
Greg's king and keeps the initiative for a
long time.

14...Nxd4 15.Rxd4!? Bc5 16.Rd8+!?
Kxd8 17.Qxc5 Rg8 18.Ne2 b6 19.Rd1+
Bd7 20.Qc3 Ke8 21.Nd4 Qf6 22.f5 Re8 23.
Bf1 a6 24.Bc4 c6?! 25.Qb3 b5 26.Bxf7

Winning a pawn and eliminating a de-
fender of the important e6 square.

26...Re7 27.Be6 Kb7 28.Qg3 Rc8 29.
Qd6 Rc7 30.Nb3 Bxe6 31.Nc5+ Kb6 32.
Nxe6 Rxe6 33.fxe6 Qf4+



Paul has clawed and scratched his way
back to an advantage. Unfortunately for him,
it has taken its toll on his clock. His flag fell
here, just as he had turned the corner. 0-1

Bozeman Club News

Our friend, Steve Scarff writes: *The University Chess Club is now meet-
ing on the first Wednesday of each month in the Union Market of the Strand
Union Building on the MSU campus, Bozeman. We are also meeting on the
third Wednesday of each month at the Leaf and Bean coffee house on Main St.
Meetings start at 7:30 PM. For more information, contact Steve Scarff at his
email address: sscarff@MailAndNews.com.*

This is great news. An active Bozeman club will fill a vacuum we have
felt in the MCA for several years now. Good luck, Steve!

Two clubs sponsor promotional events

Second Pizza Open, Great Falls

On Saturday, September 30th, the
Great Falls/UGF Chess Club sponsored
its second Pizza Open, aimed at attract-
ing new members to tournament play.
Of the ten players who showed up to
take part in this \$5, Game/15 event,
three were playing in their very first
tournament, and one had been away
from the MCA for several years. It was
not the newcomers who prevailed, how-
ever; Thad Suits won all seven of his
games to beat out previous Pizza Open
winner Dennis Petrak by a point.

Michael Shuyler made the trip all
the way from Livingston with Jim Cad-
wallader. Both are promising newcom-
ers to tournament chess. This was also
the first return tournament for Bob
Melquist, who is recovering nicely from
a stroke. He mostly just came by to say
hi, but he renewed his membership
while he was at it, and got in one game.

Another player making his Montana
chess debut was Clany Soileau of
Valier. Recently moved from Louisiana,
Clany took clear 3rd place with 4 points.

All in all it was a successful promo-
tion, and the lunchtime pizza was sub-
jected to a relentless attack from all
sides until not a single piece remained.

One Dollar Unrated, Missoula

Five players who had never played
competitive chess before took part in
the UCCC's first Unrateds Only tournament
in Missoula on November 5th. The idea
behind this event was to get players in-
terested in tournament play shortly be-
fore the Turkey Open, in the hopes that
they would sign up for that.

Tournament Director Bill McBroom
described it as a "learning experience"
for both the players and the organizers.
Although it's always good to find new
players in the community, there were
not enough of them to justify the prizes
that the club offered (nice chess sets to
the winners).

The UCCC plans to promote a simi-
lar event before the 2001 Crocus Open
with no entry fee and no prizes.

Holiday greetings to all members! As you might have read in previous newsletters, the Montana Chess Association now has an official website. Our site – a step

into the future – is not only extremely useful for members, but is also a fun and exciting way to stay on top of your game. I encourage you to look it over and try out all the features -- features many of other larger state associations don't even have. If you can access the following URL in your web browser: <http://www.msys.net/tlabue/stlink.html>, you can check out the many other state association sites on the web. If you compare all of these, from the layout and design, to the ease of navigating and the interaction between the members, our MCA website is by far the best of the bunch (and it will still be getting better!).

Here's what the site has to offer our members:

•**Tournament announcements** – All the dates and details of all MCA events. (No more looking for your old newsletter the night before the big tourney!)

•**Results of events** -Complete with summaries, pictures and selected games, playable on an animated board. (Notation errors are eliminated, and we even set up all those pieces for you after each game!)

•**Ratings for all active Montana players** - Updated monthly.

•**Online rating calculator** -

For Your Eyes ONLY

by Paul Motta



Use it to calculate your new USCF rating after you finish an event. No more waiting months!

•**Live chat room** – A new feature! Chat with any other MCA member who might be present, or arrange your own chat. Choose a handle and a password, jump in and type away! Save on phone calls across the state! Arrange an intrastate chess match, conduct a chess lecture/lesson, etc., you name it. And best of all, it's open 24 hours.

•**E-mail chess** – A new feature! If you know the e-mail address of another member and would like to start a game, just enter the info at the appropriate

*New website logon info
(to take effect at the
end of the year):*

User name: endgame

Password: checkm8

page. A game board will be created and a move will be sent. No opponent? Just post a want ad at the site's message board. This is a great way to practice between

events, or just follow along and watch your friends battle it out. (And maybe get an idea about what openings they play). ☺

•**Message Boards** – Five of them! There's a message board for

posting club events and last-minute special events. There's a discussion forum for MCA issues, and a message board for members to post questions and answers related to chess openings, etc. or about chess items for sale or wanted. Two other message boards are available at the site – one for ride sharing and one for house sharing. These are excellent for helping fellow members with travel and accommodations for tournaments.

•**Contact the Board** – A custom online form available for members to contact any member of the Board. Ask them about proposals and issues or anything else related to chess in Montana. *It's your feedback that gives the MCA direction.*

•**Constitution & Bylaws** – These documents are available for viewing online and downloading to your printer. Always up-to-date.

•**Site update notification** – Sign up and be notified by email whenever something new is added. A convenient feature!

In the near future, we plan to add cartoons, stories, chess lessons, puzzles and a special section on those new—and always confusing—tournament rules.

(See Website on page 15)

Tournament Tables

2nd Pizza Open (9/30/2000)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Rd7	Tot
1	Thad Suits	1928	W2	W6	W3	W8	W5	W4	W7	7.0
2	Dennis F Petrak	1639	L1	W5	W6	W4	W3	W7	W8	6.0
3	Clany J Soileau	1224	W4	W7	L1	L6	L2	W8	W5	4.0
4	Douglas J Hansen	1667	L3	W8	L5	L2	W7	L1	W6	3.0
5	Richard L Stuckey	1201	L8	L2	W4	W7	L1	W6	L3	3.0
6	Zinne/Pallares*	unr.	L7	L1	L2	W3	W8	L5	L4	2.0
7	Michael Shuyler	unr.	W6	L3	W8	L5	L4	L2	L1	2.0
8	Jim Cadwallader	unr.	W5	L4	L7	L1	L6	L3	L2	1.0

*Zinne withdrew and was replaced by houseman Pallares in some games

Chinook Open (10/14,15/2000)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Michael J Long	1741	W6	W4	W5	W2	L3	4.0
2	Daniel Mc Court	1625	W14	W8	W4	L1	W5	4.0
3	James J Skovron	1872	W12	L7	W11	W6	W1	4.0
4	Jan Johansson	2052	W8	L1	L2	W9	W7	3.0
5	Thad Suits	1957	W10	W9	L1	W7	L2	3.0
6	Freddie Jay	1234	L1	W14	W13	L3	W10	3.0
7	Dennis F Petrak	1639	W13	W3	H---	L5	L4	2.5
8	William J Furdell	1307	L4	L2	D12	W11	W13	2.5
9	Douglas J Hansen	1714	W11	L5	H---	L4	W12	2.5
10	Melvin P Drake	1268	L5	L11	W14	W13	L6	2.0
11	Richard L Stuckey	1201	L9	W10	L3	L8	D14	1.5
12	Kirk Lundby	1224	L3	L13	D8	W14	L9	1.5
13	Stephen Rasmussen	unr.	L7	W12	L6	L10	L8	1.0
14	Mike Shuyler	unr.	L2	L6	L10	L12	D11	0.5

Turkey Open (11/11,12/2000)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	COLLYER, C	1943	W13	W11	W3	D2	3.5
2	NOWAK, G	2139	W16	W14	W6	D1	3.5
3	FELBER, J	2003	W7	W8	L1	W9	3.0
4	GRIFFIN, D	1504	L6	W12	W15	W8	3.0
5	JENSEN, M	1881	D15	W17	D9	W10	3.0
6	MOTTA, P	1900	W4	W10	L2	D7	2.5
7	YOUNKER, J	1572	L3	W18	W14	D6	2.5
8	MC KEAN, R	1741	W18	L3	W11	L4	2.0
9	BROWNLEE, K	1718	D17	W15	D5	L3	2.0
10	FABIAN, S	1664	W12	L6	W16	L5	2.0
11	MC COURT, D	1625	W20	L1	L8	W17	2.0
12	COPELAND, D	1110	L10	L4	B---	W16	2.0
13	MC BROOM, B	1547	L1	W20	H---	D14	2.0
14	KATZL, R	1900	W19	L2	L7	D13	1.5
15	EASTER, E	1263	D5	L9	L4	W20	1.5
16	YOUNKER, G	1599	L2	W19	L10	L12	1.0
17	COPELAND, C	1166	D9	L5	D19	L11	1.0
18	STUCKEY, R	1201	L8	L7	D20	D19	1.0
19	FURDELL, B	1307	L14	L16	D17	D18	1.0
20	SHUYLER, M	unr.	L11	L13	D18	L15	0.5

Note: Tiebreaks included

—Reminder—
Annual MCA dues are now
\$10 for regular members,
\$5 for junior members.

Coming in 2001...

VCO

A Chess Odyssey

The Polgar Corner

The following position is taken from the encyclopaedia *Chess* by László Polgár. How quickly can you find this mate in three?
The answer is on the back page.

Upcoming Events

GP = Grand Prix eligible. USCF and MCA membership required unless otherwise noted. (Other states OK).
Juniors half price at MCA events unless otherwise noted.

January 20-21 — Helena's January Thaw (The Capital's premiere Grand Prix event!)

Format: GP. 5 rd Swiss, Game/90. **Site:** Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch. **EF:** \$20 by Jan 18, \$25 after that. **Prizes:** Based on 10 entries — 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$60, 3rd - \$30. \$25 biggest upset prize. \$25 Senior prize (60+). **Registration:** 10:00-10:45 **Rnds:** 11, 2:30, 7 / 9, 12:30. **Entries to:** Melvin Drake, 5950 Canyon Ferry Rd, Helena, MT 59602. Tel. 475-3481. **Other:** As always, free coffee and donuts.

February 3 — Midwinter Open (In Bozeman this year)

Format: 4 rd Swiss, G/1 hr. **Site:** Student Union Bldg. room 276, on the MSU campus in Bozeman. **EF:** SPECIAL PROMO web entries \$10 if rec'd by Feb 1; mail entries \$12 if rec'd by Feb 1, otherwise \$15, no exceptions. **Prizes:** \$ based on entries. **Rnds:** 9:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30. **Reg:** 9:00-9:25. Web entries accepted through PayPal: <https://secure.paypal.com/refer/pal=sscarff%40MailAndNews.com>. Mail entries to: Steve Scarff, 214 S. Church Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715. Email: sscarff@MailAndNews.com. No phone entries. **Other:** Sponsored by University Chess Club. Thanks to Montana State University for the tournament site.

February 23-25 — Dave Collyer Memorial

Format: Spokane tournament will again feature a simul by IM John Donaldson on Friday with the tournament proper (a 5-rd Swiss) starting Saturday morning. **Site:** Gonzaga University, room 101 of the Administrative Building. **EF:** \$25. **Entries and enquiries to:** Gary Younker, Spokane Chess Club / Box 14191 / Spokane, WA 99214. email: CHELANS@aol.com.

March 24-25 — Montana Invitational

This new event for all players rated 1700 and higher will be inaugurated the last weekend of March in Missoula. As of press time, the exact site was not yet set. Format is to be a 4 rd Swiss with late starts (probably 11:00 on both Saturday and Sunday.) Entry fee will be \$25, with all fees (after some nominal expenses) going towards prizes for the top three finishers. 1st place—50% of the take; 2nd—30%; 3rd—20%. The winner also qualifies for the Closed Championship.

Website *(Continued from page 13)*

We're even hoping to try out a web cam at a tournament for those of you at home to follow the action.

In recent years, some state chess associations have resorted to using an Internet site like ours as a replacement for a newsletter. This is possibly an attempt to keep printing costs to a minimum or just the fact that many associations do not have membership fees to support the cost of publishing a newsletter. Another reason may be that the people running some of the state associations are looking to the Internet as the way of the future, a me-

dium that can more efficiently keep their members informed.

In the case of the MCA, the goal is not to replace our printed newsletter, but rather to complement it. Most of the members, both new and old, have enjoyed receiving the newsletters during the past years, and many save these newsletters for game references. However, newsletters do become damaged and get lost or thrown away. The website serves as a permanent archive for the happenings in the MCA — results & games, ratings, tournament announcements, articles, pictures, etc. It also has the advantage of allowing a more frequent update of the current news and events

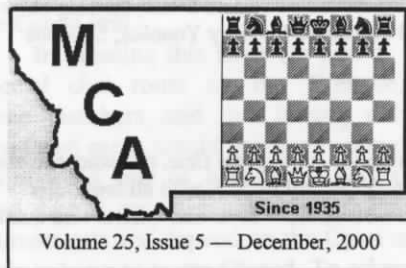
regarding chess in Montana.

In addition, the Board uses the net for discussing issues, proposals and bylaw changes via message boards and monthly live chat meetings. So far, these virtual conferences have been very effective. We also vote online. (And, believe it or not, we have Florida's system of tallying votes beat by a long shot!)

So again, I invite you for open house at MCA's website. And please let me know if there is anything you'd like to see added or changed.

Until later, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Thad Suits
2015 4th Ave N.
Great Falls, MT 59401



20 and 10 years ago in MCN

December, 1980

There is no copy of MCN for November-December on file. (If anyone has that issue, let me know so I can complete the archives.) The next issue reports that 45 players (sigh!) played in the Montana University Open. **Kip Stubberud** won the Open Section, and **B. Gould** and **J. Verhoef** tied for first in the Amateur Section.

December, 1990

“**Arman Goplen** of Kalispel and **Don Gisselbeck** of Missoula were the underdog heroes of the 1990 Turkey Open. Arman beat two experts (**Mike Jensen** and **Zygmund Mayer**) to tie with **Phil Heikkinen** and **Paul Motta** with 4 points.... Don won the biggest upset prize by handing Wyoming visitor **John Carr** a first round defeat (a difference of 525 rating points.)”

Answer to “What’s the Cruncher?”

From Hansen-Pallares, 2nd Pizza Open — Doug Hansen played a bishop sac and went on to win like Philidor when Black defended incorrectly. 1.Bxe6?! dxB 2.Qxe6 Rac8? 3. Nh6+! Kh8 4.Qg8+! RxQ 5.Nhf7#. But had Black played 2... Bxb2! instead, giving the king air, he would have taken the initiative. The curious thing about this position is that White, so enamored with his sacrificial possibilities, missed a patzer’s move: 1.Rac1 is the cruncher, trapping the queen.

Answer to “The Polgar Corner”

Like the Hansen-Pallares game above, this one ends in a smothered mate. 1.Nh6+! RxR 2.Qb8+! RxQ 3.Nc7#.