

MONTANA CHESS NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 3 — July, 2000

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Johansson sweeps State Open and Grand Prix
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

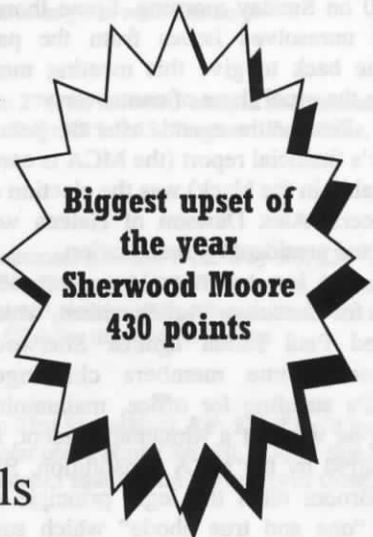
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Johansson wins as Montana Open goes international



Jan Johansson, 5-0 in Great Falls at the 2000 Montana State Open

Jan Johansson of Emigrant, only recently back to tournament chess, defeated all comers to win the Montana State Open, held June 3-4 at the University of Great Falls. With his clear first place showing, Johansson also gained two other victories he wasn't even thinking about: Senior Champ (Jan is 51), and winner of the Grand Prix race.

Always the most exciting Montana tournament of the year, this time the State Open was even more interesting than usual thanks to having seven Canadian players in the field of 33. One of them, Arthur Milne of Calgary, wound up playing against Jan for the championship on board one in the final round, but lost a quick and sharp game.

Jan's victory in that game paved the way for a dark-horse to take clear second place with 4 points. That was Dennis Petrak, whose only defeat came in round one at the hands of tournament director, Thad Suits.

After tiebreaks, Milne was at the top of a heap of six players tied with 3½ points to win the trophy for 3rd place. He was followed by Suits, who had to settle for the top Class A prize, Ronald

Hinds, another Canadian who ended the tournament with three straight draws, Paul Motta, and State Champion Alex Dawson, who (courageously? foolishly?) declined the offer of a draw from Johansson in their game despite being down the exchange.

Other trophy winners were: Doug Hansen of Great Falls, Class B; Brian Bailey of Bozeman, Class C; Nick Warner of Helena, Class D; and, also of Helena, Aldin Barnes, Class E/unrated.

Both Barnes and Warner scored huge upsets (735 and 560 points, respectively), but unfortunately for them, the results will not count in the Upset Derby since they are still provisionally rated.

In addition to the Canadian players, four others joined the USCF recently to play in the Open. We welcome Kirk Lundby, Rose Tremmel, Jake Bates, and Eric Heidecker to the fold.

Lastly, special thanks to Dennis Petrak's wife, Mary Ann Cosgrove, who sent along an incredibly tasty and fortifying apple strudel on Sunday morning. Who knows? Maybe that was why, for the first time in memory, there was not a single withdrawal from the tournament.

Notes on the Annual Business Meeting in Great Falls

Membership debates residency requirements and reverses itself on two key issues

The MCA's Annual Business Meeting was held in Great Falls this year between rounds of the Montana Open. Outgoing MCA President Doug Hansen of Great Falls, who is stepping down after a rare three year tenure in office, called the meeting to order at 8:30 on Sunday morning. Some thorny and unresolved issues from the past came back to give this meeting more than the usual share of controversy.

First on the agenda after the Secretary's financial report (the MCA is comfortably in the black) was the election of officers. Alex Dawson of Helena was elected president by acclamation.

Far less consensual was the election for Executive Vice President, which pitted Paul Motta against Sherwood Moore. Some members challenged Paul's standing for office, maintaining that he was not a Montana resident, as required by the MCA constitution. Bill McBroom cited the legal principle of the "one and true abode" which suggested to him that Paul, who now

spends most of his time in California, was not a legal resident. In response, Paul cited his Montana driver's license, the state taxes he pays, and the property in Missoula of which he is part owner, as being evidence enough of his legal standing.

The debate was becoming heated when Dennis Petrak stated that he considered bickering about such points to be counterproductive to the health of the MCA. He went on to say that, since Paul had been an energetic officer in the past, he favored letting him run again. When the votes came, Paul was allowed to run, and he defeated Sherwood, with the 11 proxies that Alex Dawson had secured tipping the balance.

The use of proxies itself became a sticking point until members accepted Bill Furdell's judgment (as a longtime debate coach and parliamentarian) that if proxies are allowed at all under an organization's constitution, they are implicitly valid for all motions.

Other officers elected with considerably less fanfare were Greg Nowak, Western V.P., Dennis Petrak, Eastern V. P., and Thad Suits, Secretary-Treasurer.

Members then voted to change the Grand Prix system, signaling a return to the way things used to be. A proposal of Sherwood Moore's passed which permits any tournament that has 10 or more players to qualify for Grand Prix status. To address members' concerns about over-saturating the state's tournament schedule, incoming Vice President Motta suggested that the Board could devise a fair schedule that would limit the total number of Grand Prix tournaments in the state to one per month.

In a complete about-face from previous meetings, members overwhelmingly voted to return to a 6-player Closed Championship format next season. A small minority of members objected, including Thad Suits, who pointed to the success of the 10-player format in making for an exciting event. But most members agreed with the proponents' arguments that the round-robin format is more likely to award the title to the strongest player. The measure

passed on a surprisingly lopsided 24-4 vote, including proxies.

With the debates about these matters taking up most of the hour that was scheduled for the meeting, other items on the agenda were passed by acclamation, the Board being directed to find ways to implement them. These motions concerned the institution of some form of a City League for tournament play, the reactivation of the Scholastic Chess Championship, the organization of an internet tournament, and the appointment of local public relations officers to beat the drums about chess activities in their respective areas.

With regard to the scholastic chess scene, Paul Motta and Dennis Petrak suggested running a "Scholastic Championship" section in conjunction with the State Open, open to all Montana students (high school or younger). That, they said, has worked in other states and would require less planning and money than a specially coordinated tournament between individual schools.

Watch these pages for progress reports on these and other issues as the new tournament season unfolds.

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)

Let them know about your ideas, complaints, suggestions, and praise.

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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.

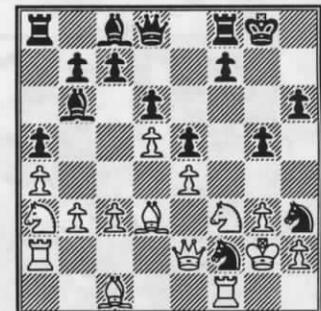
Publishing Schedule:

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.

Did you find (or miss) a subtly sharp move in one of your games? If so, send it to the editor and ask

What's the Cruncher?

The answer is on the back page.



Black to move and crunch.



As the new President of the MCA, I'm going to take a little space here every issue to try to keep you, the members, informed as to what the Board of Directors is doing on the chess front here in Big Sky country. First, on behalf of all the guys on the Board, we'd like to thank you for your vote at last month's Annual Meeting. The method used to secure the election for almost every office was a bit aggressive, but several of us felt that we needed an energetic bunch of guys that would "get the job done."

What job is that, you ask? Well, to start with, Montana has the least number of players in the whole nation. MAYBE we beat Wyoming, but we're still way down at the bottom. And being a BIG state, it follows that the number of entrants at any given tournament is going to be small, usually around 10-15 players. With an entry fee of say \$15, that's a gross of about \$200. After rent, rating fee, and miscellaneous, that doesn't

leave enough prize money, if any, to equal what the winner paid out for entry fee, dues, motel room, gasoline, etc., not to mention the other participants who also go home with just a handshake.

I can hear you now. "Oh, quit whining! You should be playing for the love of the game. You don't always need to make money on EVERYTHING." There's a lot of truth in that, but it always sounds like something a poor father would tell his 17-year old son, "A car? You don't need a big fancy car. You should just walk to school. That's what I did when I was your age. It's better for you anyway."

So, what's the solution? Well, we sure can't shrink the state down and we sure can't offer huge sums of money to attract out-of-state players. What's that? Charm them with our good looks and a friendly smile? Well, it couldn't hurt. But the best option I can see is to do what EVERYBODY else in my position tries to do, and that's to INCREASE

THE MEMBERSHIP. We just need to get to a certain "critical mass" to make everything a success.

With more members, there's higher turnouts at tournaments, better prizes, less rent each player must pay, stronger players, different players, more guys WILLING to work for the MCA, less guys HAVING to work for the MCA, more people to catch a ride with, less overhead for publishing the newsletter, etc., etc. It's just a win/win/win situation. So, that's what we're concentrating on. I want to DOUBLE the size of the MCA by the 1st of June, 2001. That's a total of 150 members. I know we can do it. They're out there, without a clue of our existence. If you have any suggestions on how we might achieve this goal, please contact any officer on the Board.

The cost for a signing up a youngster is only \$5. Call up your local grade school, Cub Scout Pack, or YMCA today(!), and have them get the name and address of a boy/girl who'd like to be a member and send in the dues for him/her. Then pat yourself on the back, you just did a good thing!

If you know someone who's no longer a member, give him a call. He just might sign up again when he remembers all the fun he used to have.

Try it, and you'll see how easy it is. I'm promising to get 10 new members myself. I'm certain you can bring in at least one.

Finally, I'd like to give a special thanks to Paul Motta, who single-handedly put together the new MCA Web Site. Here you can play through the games without having to set up the pieces, look up a tournament date if you can't find your newsletter, leave messages, (maybe you have some old chess book, or clock you want to sell), etc. Down the road, we plan to use the site for collecting entry fees and renewals, animated chess lessons, voice clips, maybe even make it so you'll be able to observe the State Open games in real-time, when you just can't make it. The sky's the limit!

If you don't have a computer, go to your local library and ask your friendly librarian to connect you with the address listed on the back page.

Thanks again. I'll see you next issue.

Fifth Northwest Team Tourney

82nd Armored survives Tsunami —by Greg Nowak

Competition went down to the last game in the Fifth Northwest Team Tourney, held on May 6th at the popular Pressbox Casino restaurant in Missoula. The lead changed hands three times in the course of the tournament, but when it was all over, The 82nd Armored Division emerged with another straight title.

After round 2, Hannibal's Elephants were in the lead with a match score of 2-0, with Chess Tsunami and The 82nds tied for second at 1½ points each. By the end of round three, my Tsunamis had just watered down the Elephants and taken the lead by half a game point over the 82nds. But the 82nds pulled away with a last round 3-1 win over the King's Insurgents (a new team from Flathead). Meanwhile, the Northern Knights made a match upset with a match draw against the Tsunamis, giving clear first place to the 82nds. It was so close! Had the third board of the King's Insurgents been able to win with his knight advantage over his counterpart on the 82nd team, then the 82nds

would have drawn that match, and the Tsunamis would have taken first place on tie-break points.

It was a kind of déjà vu. My team was in first place going into the last round the last time around, but finished second then too.

The original seeding was also the final place standings. (See the tables on this page.) The 82nds' only setback was their draw against the Tsunamis.

It is interesting to note that the Elephants won only half a point less than the tournament winners. Game points were to be used only as tie breakers.

Board winners were: Board 1—Nowak (4.0); Board 2—McCourt, Anderson (tie, 3.0); Board 3—Stubblefield (3.5); Board 4—Todd (4.0).

Seven players came from the Flathead valley, nine from Missoula, and one each from Bozeman, Butte, Arlee, Plains, and Helena.

Notable upsets included Leader's win over Anderson, Kubisiak's over Loy, and Schmitz's draw with Loy. See page 14 for complete results.

MCA player profile: Les Brennan

To Les Brennan, the thrill of chess comes during those moments when, having sacrificed a piece or two or three, he can prove to his opponent that all the fireworks is going to pay off. That is the kind of chess magic that has kept Les traveling all across our far-flung state from his home in Colstrip for a regular tournament fix.

Les became seriously interested in chess shortly after moving to Montana from California in 1982. During his first two rough winters he needed to find an indoor hobby to keep from going crazy. (Some would say that choosing chess was a sure sign that he was already out of his mind, but let that pass.) The friend in California who had taught him the game told him about the USCF, and the USCF told him about the MCA. In January of 1986 he took the plunge, playing in the Chinook Open that year, drawing against John Barto and beating a B player on his way to a respectable tournament debut.

For three years, beginning in 1993, Les developed another chess-related hobby: Editing and publishing this newsletter. (See page 13 of this issue for a brief history of the MCN). His efforts on that score earned him a Player of the Year award from the MCA in 1996. As proud as he is of this side of his chess accomplishments, he is prouder still of taking home the State Championship trophy two years later.

Les was born 52 years ago in Orange, California. He got his start in the power industry working for Kerr McGee Chemicals in Trona, California. He now works for Montana Power operating steam boilers, which may account for his cool handling of those high-pressure tactical positions of which he is so fond.

He and his wife, Nancy, have been together for 17 years. They have two teen-aged children, David and Jessica. Les also has an adult son, Ron, from a previous marriage, and a pair of grandkids too.

Les is a fun guy to be around and, as many MCA members know, he is quite the outdoorsman, hunting and fishing being two favorite pastimes. "We eat wild game all year", Les said. "My prized possession is my drift boat that I



use on the Big Horn River. Paddlefish snagging is a one day per year event that I look forward to all year long."

Snagging fish. Sounds like the perfect hobby for any chess player.

The featured game for this profile pits a booked-up Romie Carpenter against a surprised Les. But what Les lacks in book knowledge he makes up for with great improvisatory skills.

Brennan,L (1745) - Carpenter,R (1900)
Vienna Game [C29]
1989 Montana Closed, Round 4

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5
Nxe4 5.d3 Bb4!?



Never having seen this sharp line before, Les is caught completely off guard. Impressively, he finds the correct line over the board.

6.dxe4

The safer-looking 6.Nge2 leads to an inferior position for White.

6...Qh4+ 7.Ke2 Nc6 8.g3

Another alternative here is 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.Nxd5 0-0-0 10.c3 f5 11.exf6 Rhe8 12.cxb4 Rxe4+ 13.Be3 gxf6, with pretty good compensation for the sacrificed piece.

8...Qg4+ 9.Kf2 Bxc3 10.Qxg4 Bd4+ 11.Be3 Bxe3+ 12.Kxe3 Bxg4 13.exd5 Nxe5



This game appeared in the MCN shortly after it was played, back in 1989. Quoting Paul Motta's comments from that issue, "The players have played out this book line exactly. At this point the position is considered equal."

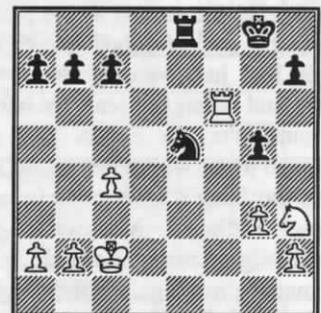
14.Kf4 f6 15.Re1 g5+ 16.Ke3 0-0

Castling queenside is better, thereby saving a tempo when re-positioning the rooks on the back rank.

17.Be2 Rfe8 18.Kd2 Bxe2 19.Rxe2 Rad8 20.Rf2 Rxd5+ 21.Kc1 Ng4 22.Rf1 Nf2 23.c4!

Not 23.RxN?? Re1#.

23...Rf5 24.Nh3 Nd3+ 25.Kc2 Rxf1 26.Rxf1 Ne5 27.Rxf6 ½-½



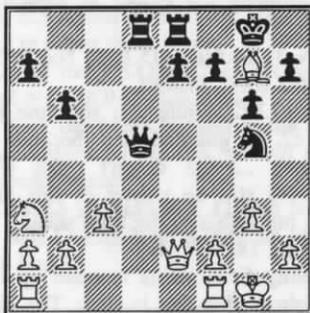
With 27...Ng4! Black still has the edge, but after weathering such a fierce tactical storm, Les certainly has earned the draw.

Recent Games

Games from the State Open

Johansson,J (2002) - Dawson,A (2035)
 Fianchetto Opening [A04]
 MT Open
 Notes by Johansson

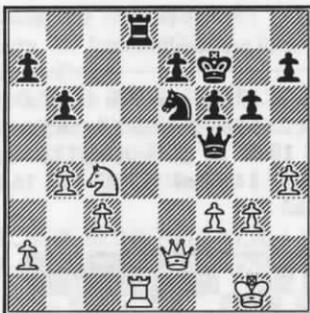
1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 Nc6
 5.d3 b6 6.e4 Bb7 7.c3 d5 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.
 Nd4 Qd7 10.Nxc6 Bxc6 11.Bxc6 Qxc6 12.
 Qe2 Rd8 13.Na3 Nf6 14.Be3 0-0 15.d4
 cxd4 16.Bxd4 Qd7 17.Kg2 Rfe8 18.Be5
 Qd5+ 19.Kg1 Ne4 20.Bxg7 Ng5!



21.Bd4?? Nh3 mate. Alex knows how to
 take advantage of my compromised K-side.
 21.f3 Kxg7 22.h4 Ne6 23.Rfd1 Qf5 24.
 Nc4 f6 25.b4!

After being completely outplayed by
 Alex I give myself credit for finding this
 move. My position is strategically hopeless
 but the idea of this move is to prevent Alex
 from using the square c5 for his Queen and
 Knight and make it harder for him to win.

25...Kf7 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Rd1



Hoping to trade all pieces and get a
 draw.

27...Rc8?

27...Rxd1 would of course help me to
 simplify, which Alex did not want to do be-
 cause I was in time trouble. (I had only 5
 min left, while Alex had 30.) Still, it was
 better than the text.

What we both missed was that Alex
 would have won easily with 27...Qh3 28.Kf2
 Rxd1 29.Qxd1 Qh2+ 30.Ke3 Qxg3.

28.Rd7

A nasty move at a crucial moment,
 threatening both Rxa7 and Nd6+, winning
 the Queen.

28...Rxc4?

Alex would probably still have won with
 28...Rc6 29.Kh2 (29.Rxa7? Qh3!) b5 30.
 Ne3 Qe5.

29.Qxc4 Qxf3 30.Qd3 Qc6 31.c4 a5 32.
 Qd5 Qxd5 33.cxd5

With only 3-4 minutes on the clock I
 offered Alex a draw but he turned it down.

33...Nd4 34.bxa5 bxa5 35.d6 Ke6 36.
 Rxe7+ Kxd6 37.Rxh7 Ke5 38.Ra7 Nc6 39.
 Ra6 Kd5 40.g4

The score sheets end here. First I picked
 up the a-pawn with my Rook, then he had to
 sacrifice his Knight for my a-pawn. When I
 was one step from queening my h-pawn and
 at the same time mating him, Alex resigned.
 I still had a couple of minutes on my clock
 when it was all over. 1-0

Milne,A (2002) - Johansson,J (2002)
 Macho Grob [A10]
 MT Open
 Notes by Johansson

1.c4 g5 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 c5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.
 e4 d6 6.d3 h6 7.h4 g4 8.Nge2 Nc6 9.Be3
 Qa5 10.Qd2



Arthur used less than one minute for all
 these moves. A couple of rounds earlier he
 had outplayed Michael Jensen in the same
 manner. I thought that my next move would
 give him something to think about (it stops
 an immediate d4 and threatens to plant a
 nasty black pawn on f3), but I was wrong; he
 continued at the same pace.

10...Ne5 11.0-0

Now that Arthur has chosen the kingside
 for his king, my next move becomes really
 promising.

11...Nf3+ 12.Bxf3 gxf3 13.Nf4 e5 14.
 Nfd5 Qd8 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Bxb6?

The kind of move a computer might
 make, but bad. It only helps me to open up
 lines in front of the king, so the bishop gets
 trapped. Arthur had to try 16.Qd1.

16...Qd7 17.Qe3



After moving his Queen, Arthur sud-
 denly resigned. He had used only 15 minutes
 for the whole game, whereas I had only 30
 minutes left. I think he gave up too early, for
 two reasons. First, it is not so easy for Black
 to figure out how to win this game. Sec-
 ondly, if I had been White I would have been
 interested to see how Black would do it. So,
 let's take a look:

1) My stupid but super strong computer
 program, CM 7000, suggested the following
 line for Black: 17...Rxb6 18.Qxf3 (18.
 Qxb6?? Qh3!) Bd8 19.Nd5 Qh3 20.Qg2
 Qxg2+ and Black has bishop for two pawns,
 but can he win? I would at least have kept
 the queens on the board.

2) Dangerous for Black is to keep the f3-
 pawn: 17...Qg4 18.Nb5! Kd7 (18...Rxb6?
 19.Nxd6+ Ke7 20.Qxc5) 19.Bg5 Bg7 20.d4
 cd 21.Qa3 Bf8 22.c5 dc 23.Qa4.

3) The solution: 17...Qh3! 18.Qxf3 Rxb6
 19.Nd5 Bxb4 20.Nc7+ Kd8 21.Nxa8 Bxg3
 22.Qg2 Bh2+ 23.Kh1 Qh4 24.Rfel Bf4+ 25.
 Kg1 Rg6 and Black wins. 0-1

Pivovarov,J (1600) - Skovron,J (1888)
 English [A40]
 MT Open

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 c5 4.Nf3 f5 5.e3
 Nf6 6.g3 d6 7.Bg2 Nbd7 8.0-0 Qa5 9.Nd2
 Ne4 10.Ne2 Ndf6 11.Nb3 Qc7 12.Qe1 cxd4
 13.Nbxd4

Better is 13.ed4, after which the pawn on
 c4 is taboo. If 13...Qxc4? 14.f3! traps the
 knight.

13...Qxc4 14.b3 Qa6 15.b4 e5 16.Nb3
 Be6 17.f3 Bxb3 18.fxe4 Nxe4? [18...Bc4]



19.Bxe4?

White had a tricky equalizing line that takes advantage of Black's misplaced queen: 19.b5! Qa4 20.Bxe4 fxe4 21.Nc3 Qa5 22.Nxe4 Qxe1 23.Rxe1 d5 24.axb3 dxe4.

19...fxe4 20.Nc3 Bc4 21.Rf2 d5 22.Bb2 0-0-0 23.Rc1 Kb8 24.a4 Qb6 25.Nxe4 Rhf8 26.Nc5 Rxf2 27.Kxf2 Qf6+ 28.Kg2 b6



29.Ne4?!

This appears to save the knight, since ... dxN would allow RxB....

29...Qf5?

...but Black can win quickly by taking the knight anyway. E.g. 29...dxe4! 30.Rxc4 Qf3+ 31.Kh3 Rd1 32.Qc3? (bad, but anything else drops the exchange) 32...Qf1+ 33.Kh4 Bf6+ 34.Kg4 Qf5#.

30.Nf2 Rf8 31.Qd2 Qf3+ 32.Kg1 Ba6 33.e4 d4 34.Qc2 Rc8

The quick knock-out was 34...Bh6! 35.Rd1 Be2!

35.Qd2 Rxc1+ 36.Qxc1 Bb7 37.Qc2 Bh6 38.Qd3? Be3 0-1.

Mate in 5 follows, so White resigned.

Motta,P (1900) - Hinds,R (1991)
Blackmar-Diemer Gambit [D00]
MT Open

In the BDG Black usually tries to trade off as many of White's attacking pieces as possible before they can get in on the action. Here Canada's Ronald Hinds manages to do that, but Paul still finds a way go on the offensive.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4 Nxe4 4.Nxe4 dxe4 5.Be4 g6 6.c3 Bg7 7.Be3 Nd7 8.f3 Nb6 9.Bb3 Nd5 10.Qd2 Nxe3 11.Qxe3 exf3

12.Nxf3 0-0 13.0-0 Qd6 14.Rae1 Bf6 15.Ng5 Bf5 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Qxe4 c6 18.Rf3 Rae8 19.Ref1 Kg7 20.g4 h6 21.h4

Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!
21...Rh8 22.h5 g5?!



The scary-looking 22...gxh5 23.gxh5 Reg8 probably holds the edge.

23.Bxf7 Kxf7 24.Qg6+ Kf8 25.Rxf6+ exf6 26.Rxf6+ Qxf6 27.Qxf6+ Kg8 28.Qg6+ Kf8



29.Qf6+

It looks like White's best chance for the win is with 29.Qd6+ Kf7 30.d5 cxd5 31.Qxd5+ Kf6 32.Qd4+ Kf7 33.Qxa7

29...Kg8 30.c4 Re1+ 31.Kf2 Re8 32.Qg6+ Kf8 1/2-1/2

Milne,A (2002) - Hinds,R (1991)
Larsen [A01]
MT Open

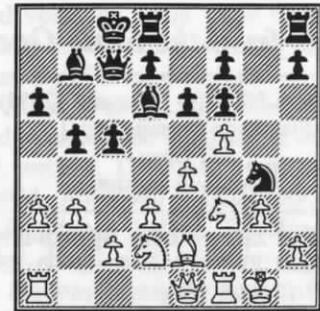
Canadians can be justly proud of their reputation as a peace-loving nation, but pacifism is oddly out of place at the chess board. Here two players from Calgary show the true meaning of brotherly love: A ten move draw without a single capture.

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 Nc6 4.e3 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Qc2 Nge7 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Be2 0-0 9.d3 h6 10.0-0 d5 1/2-1/2

Ward,K (1720) - Mayer,E (1477)
New St. George [C00]
MT Open 2000, 04.06.2000

In this game Eriel gets some good pressure and gains the exchange, but Canadian Kevin Ward wriggles free and wins.

1.e4 e6 2.f4 a6 3.Nf3 b5 4.b3 Bb7 5.d3 c5 6.Bb2 Nf6 7.Be2 Nc6 8.0-0 Qc7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.f5 Bd6 11.Qe1 0-0-0 12.a3 Ne5 13.Nbd2 Ng4 14.g3?!



The h2 square must be defended, but 14.Qh4 does that without weakening the king-side or allowing the knight to exploit the holes so much.

14...Ne3! 15.fxe6 [15.Rf2? Nxc2] 15...fxe6 16.Rc1 Rdg8 17.Kh1

After 17.Rf2 White can save the rook because c2 is guarded and because the bishop sack ...Bxg3 doesn't quite work. Black would still be master of this game after ...f5, but with a harder fight ahead.

17...Nxf1 18.Nxf1 Re8

Evidently Eriel wants to open up lines for his bishops, but this is slow. The direct assault on the king with 18...h5 was probably in order.

19.c4 f5 20.N1d2 fxe4 21.Nxe4 Bxe4

Allowing White to trade off the other bishop makes a little more sense. White has not only survived, but has equalized.

22.dxe4 b4 23.axb4 cxb4 24.c5 Bxc5 25.Bxa6+ Kd8 26.Qd2 Qb6?

It was essential to keep the white queen out with something like ...Rhg8.

27.Qg5+ Be7?? 28.Rc8# 1-0

Smith,M (1696) - Katzl,R (1919)
Polish [A00]
MT Open

1.b4 e5 2.a3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb2 Bd6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Nb5 Bb8 10.d3 a6 11.Nc3 b5 12.a4 bxa4 13.Rxa4 Bb7 14.d4 e4 15.Nd2 Nb6 16.Ra1 Re8 17.Nb3 Nc4





The seven Montana Open participants from Canada, eh? Back row: Kevin Ward, Juraj Pivovarov, Arthur Milne, Ronald Hinds. Front row: Michael Smith, Don Macfarlane, Riana Hinds.

Black has a comfortable game, extra space, and some initiative, but this move could be premature. The center pawn will now be isolated, surrounded, and extracted, in that order.

18.Bxc4 dxc4

Isolated.

19.Nc5

Surrounded.

19...Bc8 20.Qc2 Qb6 21.Ba3 Bf5 22.N3a4 Qb5 23.Rc1 Bd6 24.Qxc4

Extracted.

24...Rec8 25.Qxb5?

The tactics that follow cede the initiative back to Black.

25...axb5 26.Nb6 Rxa3 27.Nxc8 Bxc8 28.Nxe4 Bxb4+ 29.Nd2? Be6

More accurate was 29...Bf5, preventing the possible counterstrike 30.Rb1.

30.Ke2? Ra2 31.Rhd1 Ne4 32.d5 Bf5 33.g4 Bd7 34.Rc7 Nc3+ 35.Kf3 Nxd1 36.Rxd7 Rxd2 37.Rd8+ Bf8 38.e4 Rxf2+ 39.Kg3 Rd2 40.e5 b4 41.d6 b3 42.d7 b2 43.Kf3 b1Q 44.Kg3 Qd3+ 45.Kf4 Rf2+ 46.Kg5 h6+ 0-1

Hansen,D (1712) - Motta,P (1900)
Nimzovitch [B00]
MT Open

Doug won the trophy for Class B this year, but he loses a couple of pawns -- and the game -- to Paul in this one.

1.e4 Nc6 2.f4 d5 3.exd5

ECO recommends 3.e5.

3...Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.d3 a6 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.0-0 e6 10.Bd2 Bd6 11.Qe2 Bxf3

Black could win a pawn, but it's probably poisoned. 11...Qb6+ 12.Kh1 Qxb2 13.Rab1 Qa3 14.f5

12.Qxf3 0-0-0 13.Ne4 Bb4 14.c3 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Bd6 16.a4 Qd5



17.b4?

Instead, 17.Qxd5 exd5 looks pretty drawish.

17...Qxe4 18.dxe4 Bxb4 19.Be3 Bxc3 20.Ra2 Bd4 21.Re1 Bxe3+ 22.Rxe3 Rd4 23.Kf2 Rhd8 24.Kf3 Rd3 25.Ke2 Rxe3+ 26.Kxe3 b6 27.g4 Kb7 28.f5 e5 29.h4 h6 30.Rg2 Rd4 31.g5 h5 32.g6 f6 33.Rg5

Desperation.

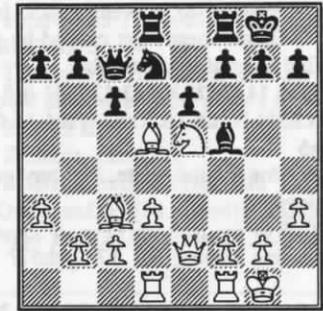
33...fxg5 34.hxg5 Rd8 35.f6 c5 36.Kf3 c4 37.Kg3 c3 0-1

Pivovarov,J (1600) - McBroom,W (1567)
Center Counter [B01]
MT Open

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bf5

Pinning the knight with 5...Bg4 is more common here, although this looks perfectly playable.

6.0-0 e6 7.h3 Bb4 8.Qe2 0-0 9.d3 c6 10.Bd2 Nbd7 11.Rad1 Rad8 12.a3 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Qc7 14.Ne5 Nd5 15.Bxd5



15...cxd5

Capturing with ...exd5 instead leaves Black's bishop with a square to retreat to.

16.g4 Bg6 17.h4 h6

Also awkward for Black is 17...Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Qb6 19.h5 f6 20.hxg6 fxe5 21.gxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qxe5.

18.Nxg6 fxe6 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 20.Qxg6 Ne5 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.d4 Rd6? 23.dxe5 Rxe6 24.Rd4 Re8 25.c3 Rc4 26.Rfd1 Rxe6+ 27.Rxe6 Rxe6+ 28.Kh2 Rxe6+ 29.Kg3 g5 30.Rxd5 h5 31.e6 Re4 32.Rxe5 h4+ 33.Kh3 Rxe6 34.Kxe4 Re2 35.Rb5 Rxf2 36.Rxb7 Re2 37.Kg5 Rg2+ 38.Kf6 Rf2+ 39.Ke6 a5 40.Kd6 Kg8 41.Kc6 Kf8 42.Rb5 Ke7 43.Kc5 Kd7 44.Kc4 Kc6 45.a4 Rf4+ 46.Kb3 Rf8 47.Rxa5 Rb8+ 48.Ka3 Rh8 49.b4 Rh1 50.Kb3 Rb1+ 51.Kc4 Rh1 52.Ra6+ Kb7 53.b5 Rh4+ 54.Kb3 Rh1 55.Kb4 Rh4+ 56.c4 Rh1 57.c5 Rh5 58.c6+ Kc7 59.Ra7+ Kb6 60.Rb7# 1-0

Lundy,K (unr.) - Furdell,W (1283)
Smith-Morra [B21]
MT Open

Young Kirk Lundy demonstrates a remarkably good feel for the attacking game of the Smith-Morra Gambit, but just misses a few important details.

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Bc4 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4



7.e5

This is a bit impatient. Castling first is more usual.

7...Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 f6

8...Qa5 puts pressure on both White's advanced pawns.

9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Ba3

Wisely striving to prevent Black from castling. If Black doesn't get castled he will quickly find himself in big trouble.

10...Qa5 11.Qd2? Qxa3 12.Rd1 0-0 13. h4 d5 14.h5?! Nxb5 15.Rxb5 dxc4 16.Qc2 g6 17.Ng5

Playing for a quick mate, like any good gambit player.

17...Qe7

White was hoping for 17...gxf5?? 18. Qxh7#.

18.Rd6 gxf5 19.Ne4 Ne5 20.Ke2 Nd3 21.Rd4 b5 22.a4 a6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Nd6 Rxf2+ 25.Kd1 Rxc2 26.Kxc2 Ra2+ 0-1

Warner,N (1604) - Petrak,D (1359)
High Plains Defense [A40]
MT Open

1.d4 Nc6 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3 exd4 4.Nxd4 Ne5 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.e4 Nf6 7.f3 0-0 8.Be2 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 d6 10.0-0 Be6 11.f4 Nxc4?!

Safe but cramped was 11...Nc6.

12.f5

More accurate here was 12.NxB+.

12...Nxe4 13.fxe6 Nxc3



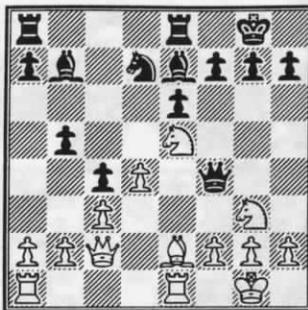
14.Qd3

Interesting here, and quite strong, is the following forcing line: 14.exf7+ Rxf7 15. Bxc4 Nxd1 16.Bxf7+ Kh8 17.Ne6 Qh4 18. Bg5 Qb4 19.Raxd1.

14...Nxe2+ 15.Qxe2 Ne5 16.Qh5 Qe7 17.exf7+ Rxf7 18.Bg5 Qd7 19.Rab1 c6 20. Rxf7 Nxf7 21.Rf1 g6 22.Qf3? Nng5 23. Qb3+ d5 24.Qe3 Ne4 25.Nf3 Qe7 26.Re1 b6 27.Qh6 Qc5+ 28.Qe3 Qxe3+ 29.Rxe3 Rf8 30.Ra3 Ra8 31.Ne5 c5 32.Nc6 d4 33. Nxa7 Nc3 34.Kf2 Kf7 35.Ke1 Ke6 36. Kd2? Nb1+ 0-1

Suits (1956) - Duke,D (1864)
London [D00]
MT Open

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nd2 Nbd7 5.c3 Be7 6.Ng3 0-0 7.Bd3 c5 8.Qc2 c4 9. Be2 b5 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Bb7 12.Ng3 Re8 13.0-0 Nd5 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.Rfe1 Nf4 16.Bxf4 Qxf4 17.Ne5?!



A sharp move, based on the tactics 17... NxN 18.exN Qxe5? 19.Bxc4! The trouble with this is Black need not grab the extra pawn right away.

17...Nf6

Much better was 17...Nxe5! 18.dxe5 Rad8! 19.Rad1 (...Rd2 is threatened.) 19... Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Bc5 21.Bf1 Qxe5.

18.Bf3 Bxf3 19.Nxf3 Rad8 20.Ne5 Bd6 21.Re2 h5 22.h3 h4 23.Nf1 Bxe5 24.Rxe5 Rd5 25.Rae1 Rxe5 26.Rxe5 Nd5 27.Qe2 Kf8 28.Nd2 a6 29.Re4 Qf6 30.Qg4 Qh6 31. Qe2 f5 32.Re5 Nf4 33.Qe3 Qg5 34.Qf3 Nd3 35.Re2 Qf6 36.b3 e5 37.dxe5 Rxe5 38. Rxe5 Qxe5 39.bxc4 Qe1+ 40.Nf1

Score sheets end here; the game eventually ended in a draw by repetition. 1/2-1/2

Hoene, Jr.,H (1740) - Dawson,A (2035)
Sicilian [B20]
MT Open

1.e4 c5 2.b3 d6 3.f4 e6 4.Bb2 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9. Be2 0-0 10.Qd2 Qa5 11.0-0 d5 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.e5 Nd7 14.Kh1 Rac8 15.Qe3 Bc5 16.Qg3 d4 17.Nd1 Bb6 18.Nf2 Rfd8 19. Ng4 Kh8 20.f5!? Be4 21.fxe6!?



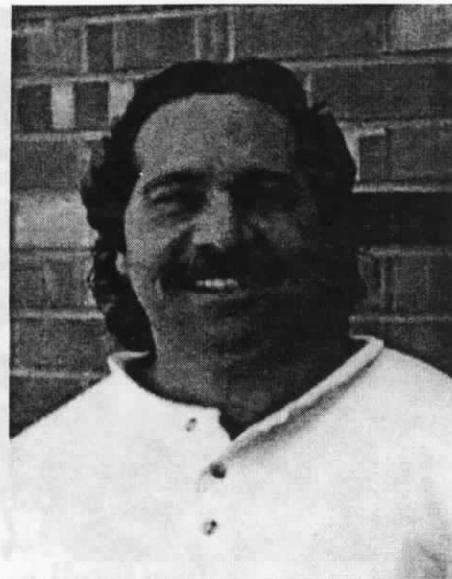
This initiates a double-edged attack that leaves both sides playing for mate. 21.f6 g6 22.Bc4 is more solid.

21...Rxc2! 22.Bf3 Bxf3 23.Rxf3 fxe6

Black could use his queen now to tie the whole position down and secure his advantage. 23...Qd5 24.exd7 Rxb2 The text move lets White back into the game momentarily.

24.Rf7 Rg8

Taking the bishop now could get Black



Paul Motta, new MCA Vice-President

in hot water. E.g. 24...Rxb2 25.Nf6 Rg8 26. Nng8 Qxe5 27.Nh6.

25.Rxd7 Rxb2 26.Qh4?

Here Howard still could have salvaged half a point: 26.Nh6! gxf6 27.Qf4 Rbxg2 28. Qf6+ R8g7.

26...Qxa2!



27.Rg1 Rb1 28.Nh6 Rxg1+ 29.Kxg1 d3+ 0-1

Heidecker,E (unr.) - Macfarlane,D (1478)
Quasi-Benoni [A56]
MT Open

Don, another one of the Canadian players, pulls one out of the fire here against newcomer Eric, both of whom ended the tournament with two wins.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Bg5!?

This one isn't in the books, probably because 3...Qb6 gives Black instant action.

3...Ne4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.e3 d6 6.Bd3 Nng5 7.Nxg5 e5 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.exd4 Bg4

9...Qb6 was still looking good instead.

10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Be4 Qf6 12.Nbd2 Qe6 13.0-0 Nxc4? 14.Re1

This isn't bad, but 14.Qa4+ wins a piece.

14...Ne5



15.b3?

There was no need to shore up the queenside. Better was 15.Bxb7, followed by Qa4+ and White will win the exchange of bishop for rook one way or the other.

15...Rb8 16.h3 d5? 17.Bxd5 Qxd5 18.hxg4 Bd6? 19.Nc4 Qxd1 20.Raxd1 0-0 21.Nxd6 Nxd4 22.Ng5 b6 23.Nb5 Rb7 24.Ne4 f5 25.Ned6 Rd7 26.Nc4 Rxd1 27.Rxd1 Re8 28.Nxa7 Re2 29.f3 Nf6 30.a4 g5 31.Nxb6 Rb2 32.Nd5 Nh5 33.Ne7+ Kf7 34.Nxf5 Nf4 35.Nc6 Rxd2+ 36.Kf1 Rb2 37.Ncd4 h5 38.Ng3 h4 39.Nh1 Ng2 40.a5?



40.Rd3 would have shored things up nicely.

40...Ne3+ 41.Ke1 Ng2+!

Good thinking here. The knight can always go back to e3 to fork the rook a second time, and it gives White one more chance to fall into the trap.

42.Kf1 Ne3+ 43.Kg1?? Rg2# 0-1

Bailey,B (1581) - Hoene Jr.,H (1740)
Queen's Gambit Accepted [D20]
MT Open

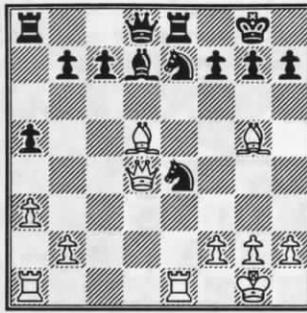
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bxc4 Bb4 6.Nge2?

This drops a pawn. 6.Bg5 or 6.e5 seem to work OK.

6...Nxe4 7.0-0 Nd6?!

Having won a pawn, Black decides to get fancy. 7...NxN reduces the chances for counterplay.

8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.d5 exd5 10.Bxd5 a5 11.a3 Bxc3 12.Nxc3 Bd7 13.Re1+ Ne7 14.Qd4 0-0 15.Bg5 Re8 16.Ne4 Nxe4



17.Rxe4

Recapturing with the bishop is better, thereby taking the bite out of Black's idea of ...Bc6.

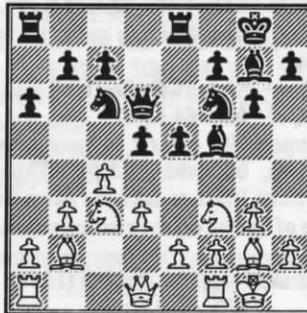
17...Bc6! 18.Rxe7 Rxe7 19.Bxe7 Qxd5 20.Qxd5 Bxd5 21.Rd1 c6 22.f3 Re8 23.Re1 f5 24.Kf1 Kf7 25.Bc5 Rxe1+ 26.Kxe1 Ke6 27.Kd2 Bc4 28.Ke3 Ke5 29.Bd4+ Kd5

Score sheets end here. Brian, who used the clock to win a lost game against Rudi Katzl the night before, finds himself in extreme time trouble himself now. He ends up throwing a drawn game away with just seconds remaining. 0-1

Heidecker,E (unr.) - Drake,M (1278)
Reti [A09]
MT Open

TD's note: Before the tournament began, I cautioned newcomer Eric Heidecker not to expect too much his first time out. He must not have heard me, because he went on to win two games at the Open. One of them was this last-round game in which Mel simply falls asleep at the switch.

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 Nc6 4.b3 g6 5.Bb2 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.Na3 e5 9.d3 Bf5 10.Nb5 a6 11.Nc3 Qd6



This was the time for a pawn push. Both 11...d4 and 11...e4 are playable. The text should have been met with 12.Nxd5 NxN 13.cd5 and the queen can't recapture due to 13...Qxd5? 14.e4.

12.Qc2 Rad8 13.Rfd1 Nb4 14.Qb1 Qc6?

This cuts off the knight's only escape. 15.a3 e4 16.cxd5?

16.Nd4 wins the knight free and clear.

16...Nbx5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Ng5 Nc3 19.Bxc3 Bxc3

Taking with the queen is better because it could then support the pawn's advance.

20.Ra2 e3??

Zzzzzzz. Zzzzzzz.

21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Qc2 Bf6 23.Ne4 Bg7 24.Qxc6 exf2+ [24...Bxe4!] 25.Kxf2 Be5 26.Nf6+ Bxf6 27.Qxf6 Re6?? 28.Qxd8+ 1-0

Barnes,A (unr.) - Chester,J (1373)
Philidor's Defense [C42]
MT Open

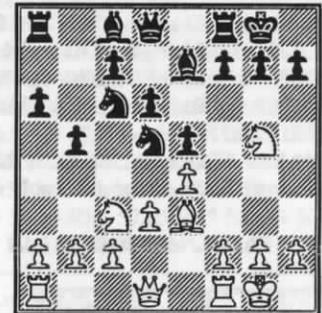
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3

Avoiding the more involved book lines of Petrov's Defense after 3.Nxe5 d6.

3...d6

Transposing to a Philidor's Defense of sorts, but without the usual d4 from White.

4.Bc4 Be7 5.Ng5 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.d3 a6 8.Be3 b5 9.Bd5 Nxd5



This discovers an attack on the knight, so the only way to keep from losing material is to counter-attack.

10.Nxd5? [10.exd5] 10...Bxg5 11.Bxg5 Qxg5 12.Nxc7 Ra7 13.Nd5 Be6 14.Rc1 Nd4 15.Kh1 f5 16.c3 Nc6 17.g3 fxe4 18.dxe4 Raf7 19.h4 Qg4 20.Qxg4 Bxg4 21.Ne3 Bf3+

Stronger is ...Be2, followed by ...Rxf2.

22.Kg1 Bxe4 23.Rcd1 Rd8 24.Nd5 Bxd5 25.Rxd5 Ne7 26.Rd2 d5 27.f3 Nf5 28.Kf2 Ne7 29.Re1 Nc6 30.b3 e4 31.f4 h6 32.a3 g5 33.c4 dxc4 34.Rxd8+ Nxd8 35.bxc4 gxf4 36.Rxe4 fxg3 37.Kxg3 bxc4 38.Rxc4 Kg7 39.Rg4+ Kh7 40.Rd4 Nb7 41.Rb4 h5 42.Ra4 Rf6 43.Rb4 Nc5 44.Rc4 Nd3 45.Rc7+ Kg6 46.Rc3 Ne5 47.Re3 Nc4 48.Rc3 Nd2 49.Rc1 Ne4+ 50.Kg2 Rf2+ 51.Kh3 Rf3+ 52.Kg2 Rxa3 53.Rc6+ Nf6 54.Kf2 Kf5 55.Rc5+ Kg4 56.Rc4+ Kh3 57.Rf4 Ng4+ 58.Ke2 Kxh4 59.Rf1 Kg5 0-1

Barnes,A (unr.) - Hoene Jr.,H (1740)
Petrov's [C42]
MT Open

Aldin Barnes of Helena gets a 735 point upset using the oldest trick in the book.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Bb4 4.a3 Bc5
5.d3 c6 6.Nc3 d5 7.Bb3 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.
Bd2 b5 10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Qd2 Nbd7 12.0-0-0
Bxf2 13.Rhf1 Bg3 14.Ne2 dxe4 15.Be3 Qc7



16.Nfg1?!

Better is 16.NxB. Since White did not trade off the bishop, Black should save it now with 17...Bh2.

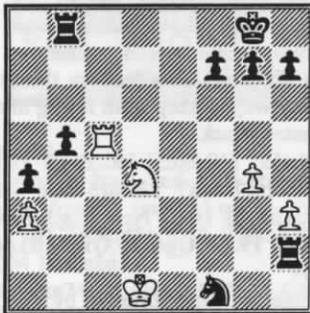
16...exd3 17.cxd3

Still better is NxB.

17...e4 18.Nxg3 Qxg3 19.Ne2 Qd6 20.
Bc2 exd3 21.Bxd3 Bg6 22.Nf4 Bxd3 23.
Qxd3 Qxd3 24.Nxd3 a5 25.Bf4 0-0 26.Rfe1
Nd5 27.Bd2 c5 28.b3 a4 29.b4 cxb4 30.
Nxb4 N5b6 31.Nc2 Nc5 32.Kb1 Rfd8 33.
Re5 Nc4 34.Rxc5 Rxd2 35.g4 Rb8 36.Kcl
Re2 37.Rf1? Nd2?

Black had 37...Rxc2+! 38.Kxc2 Ne3+
but no matter. White drops the rook soon
anyway.

38.Kd1 Rh2 39.Nd4? Nxf1



Looks bleak for White. About the only
thing that could save him now is a cheapo
back-rank mate, and that sort of thing just
doesn't happen at the high level of play typi-
cal of the State Open.

40.Nxb5 Ne3+ 41.Ke1 Rd8 42.Nc3
Rdd2?? 43.Rc8+ 1-0

Hinds,R (1346) - Tremmel,R (unr.)
Center-Counter [B02]
MT Open

Rose demonstrates the truth of the old
adage, "while there is life there is hope."

1.e4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d4 dxe4 4.g3 Bf5
5.Bg2 e6 6.Bd2 Bd6 7.Nge2 e5 8.Bg5 exd4
9.Nxd4 Bg6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Nxe4 Qe5 12.

f4 Qe7

12...Qa5+ would buy some time for
Black. Besides, anytime the queen is right in
front of the king you should be a little nerv-
ous.

13.0-0



13...Bxe4 14.Bxe4 Qxe4? 15.Re1 Qe7
16.Nf5!

The queen can't go anywhere, so Riana
takes her time.

16...Nc6 17.Nxe7 Nxe7 18.Qf3 Rb8 19.
Rad1 Rd8 20.Qxb7 0-0 21.Kg2 g6 22.a4
Nc8 23.b4 Nb6 24.a5 Nd7 25.c4 Rb8 26.
Qc6 Bxb4 27.Qxc7? Bxe1 28.Qxd7

In endgames bishops are usually more
powerful, so 28.RxB was better. Now it's
going to be a long fight.

28...Bxa5 29.Rd5 Rbd8 30.Qxa7 Rxd5
31.cxd5 Bb4 32.Qb6 Bc3 33.d6 Bf6 34.h4
h6 35.d7 Bd8 36.Qd6 f6 37.g4 Ba5 38.g5
Kg7 39.Qd5? [39.Qe7+ Kg8 40.gxf6] 39...
Bd8 40.gxf6+ Kxf6 41.Qe5+ Kf7 42.f5 gxf5
43.Qxf5+ Bf6 44.Qh7+ Ke6 45.Qxh6 Rg8+
46.Kh3 Rd8 47.Qe3+ Kxd7

Now Riana wastes time with checks,
when pushing the pawn should be her first
order of business.

48.Qd3+ Kc8 49.Qc4+ Kd7 50.Qd3+
Ke8 51.Qe4+ Be7 52.Qc6+ Kf8 53.Qf3+
Ke8 54.Qe4 Rb8 55.Qe5 Rb4 56.h5 Rh4+
57.Kg3 Kf7 58.Qf5+ Bf6 59.Kf3 Kg7?

59.Ke7 forces White to come up with a
better plan.

60.Qg6+ Kh8 61.Qxf6+ Kh7 62.Qxh4
Kg7 63.Qe7+ Kh6 64.Kg4??

Stalemate. It's natural to want to guard
your pawns, but with 64.Kf4! White can
actually force Black to take the pawn for the
privilege of a mate on the next move. 1/2-1/2

Petrak,D (1604) - Duke,D (1864)
Wild Bull [A00]
MT Open

Notes by Dennis "Wild Bull" Petrak

My good friend Bill (BISAR) Hammell,
who tragically died in December, encour-
aged me and mentored my ideas for this
opening. It was difficult to take the "Dunst"
abuse at first, but the opening has some in-
teresting quirks and can be deadly if you're
not paying close attention.

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4

The line da Bull dislikes da most.

3.Nce2 Nc6 4.Ng3

White must make three knight moves,
and it seems as if Black gains at least two
tempi.

4...e5 5.h3 Nf6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nf3 Bd6

The bishop is just a big pawn right now.

8.0-0 0-0

Black has out-developed White, but the
queenside could become a wasteland.

9.d3 h6 10.Bd2 Re8 11.Qc1 Bf8 12.a3
Kh7 13.Bxc6

No reason to let this horsie gallop
around.

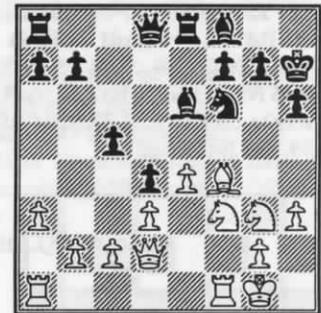
13...Bxc6 14.Nh2

Preparation for kingside space.

14...Bd7 15.f4

The exchange of pawns leaves White's
king safe because of the blockaded pawns.

15...exf4 16.Bxf4 Be6 17.Nf3 c5 18.Qd2

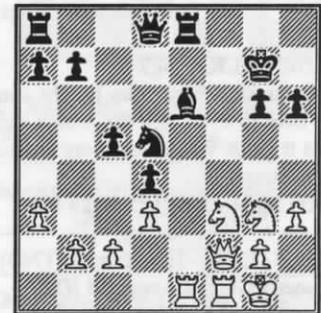


Inviting 18...g5? 19.Bxg5 hxB 20.Qxg5,
with Black's king well exposed.

18...Ng8 19.Qf2 g6 20.Rae1 Bg7 21.e5

I thought "make it so".

21...f5 22.exf6 Nxf6 23.Be5 Nd5 24.
Bxg7 Kxg7



25.Nxd4!?

Editor's note: See the box on page 15 for
an explanation of this move.

25...cxd4 26.Qxd4+ Kh7 27.Rxe6

The rook is immune due to 27...RxB 28.
Rf7+ Kg7 29.Qg7#. White gets two central
pawns for the knight.

27...Qd7 28.Rxe8 Qxe8 29.Ne4 Qe6 30.
c4 Ne7

David offered a draw. He had two min-
utes left to my 73.

31.Rf6 Qg8

I can see clearly now!

32.Qd7 Qg7 33.d4 b6 34.b3 b5 35.c5 Rf8 36.Rxf8 Qxf8 37.c6 Kg8 38.c7 Nc8 39. b4 Nb6 40.Qe6+ Kh8 41.Qxg6 Qc8 42.Nf6 1-0

Lundby,K (unr.) - Chester,J (1373)
Danish Gambit Declined [C21]
MT Open

Kirk Lundby, a young Great Falls player who has been catching some experienced club players off guard, ended the tournament with a quite respectable 1233 performance rating.

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 c5!?

An unorthodox way of declining the gambit. The Danish Gambit can be sharp and dangerous, but Black usually does fine to accept the pawns offered, as long as he is willing to return them later.

4.cxd4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qa4 Qa5+ 7.Qxa5 Nxa5 8.Bd2 Nc6 9.Na3?

If Kirk can break himself of the habit of putting knights on the rim, he will pose an even greater threat.

9...Bxa3 10.bxa3 Nf6 11.Bc3 Nxe4 12. Bxg7 Rg8 13.Bh6 Nd4 14.Bd3 d5 15.f3 Nf6 16.Bf4 Rxg2



17.Be5?

Scaring the rook away with 17.Kf1 was necessary, but James misses the follow-up.

17...Nxf3+?

It was time for the old fork trick: 17... Rxc1+! 18.Rxc1 Nxf3+ 19.Kf2 Nxe5

18.Nxf3 Bg4 19.Bxf6

Even better is 19.Nh4!, trapping the rook.

19...Bxf3 20.Rf1 Rxc2 21.Rg1 Rg2 22. Rf1 Be4 23.Bxe4 Rc2? 24.Bxc2 1-0

Jay,F (1209) - Bates,J (unr.)
Fianchetto Opening [B00]
MT Open

Newcomer Jake Bates, a young man from Ulm, Montana, drops a piece in the opening. To his credit, he tries his best to make things complicated, giving Freddie as many opportunities as possible to misstep.

1.e4 b6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 Bd6?



New MCA faces — Top: Eric Heidecker, Rose Tremmel; Bottom: Kirk Lundby, Jake Bates.

It's usually not a good idea to block a center pawn with the bishop like this. Now it's especially harmful due to the coming fork.

5.e5 Be7 6.exf6 Bxf6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.h4 Nc6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Be3 e5 11.Nd5 exd4 12. Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.Bd2 d6 14.c3 Bf5 15.Bb5 Be4 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Nxd4 Rae8+ 18.Kf1 Be4 19.Be3 Qg6 20.Nf3 Bc2 21.Qd4 Bd3+ 22.Kg1 c5 23.Qf4 Re4 24.h5 Qh7 25.Qxd6 Rg4? 26.Ne5 Re4 27.Nxd3 Re6 28.Qd7 Qf5 29.Nf4 Qg4 30.f3 Qf5 31.Nxe6 fxe6 32. Kf2 Qf6 33.Qxa7 e5 34.Qb7 Re8 35.Qe4 c4 36.Qxc4+ Re6 37.Rad1 e4 38.f4 Kh7 39.g3 Rc6 40.Qxe4+ Kg8 41.Bd4 Re6 42.Qd5 Qf7 43.Be5 Kf8 44.Ke3 b5 45.Qxb5 Qa7+ 46.Rd4 Qb6 47.Qd7 Qc6 48.Qxg7+ Ke8 49.Rhd1 Qb6 50.R1d2 Re7 51.Qg8# 1-0

Edmiston,R (1195) - Drake,M (1278)
Queen Pawn Opening [D02]
MT Open

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bf5 4.Bf4 Nf6 5.a3 a6 6.e3 e6 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Nh5 9. Ne5 Nxf4 10.exf4 Na5 11.b4 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.0-0 Bd6 14.g3 0-0 15.Na4 Qb8 16. Nc5

A well-posted knight, indeed.

16...Qc8 17.Qd2 Rd8 18.Rfe1 a5



19.bxa5

Better to ignore that pawn. Now 19... BxN would give White a nightmare pawn structure.

19...Qb8 20.Rab1 Qa7 21.Nb7 Rdb8 22.Nxd6 cxd6 23.Rxb8+ Rxb8 24.Re3 Rb1+ 25.Kg2 c5

Black should try to penetrate with 25... Qa6. White could now take advantage of back rank mate threats to win a pawn: 26. dc5 dc5 27.Qxd5!

26.Rb3 Ra1 27.Rb6 Qc7 28.Qc3 Rd1 29.Qb2 h6 30.a6 Qa7 31.dxc5 dxc5 32.c4?

32.Qb5 wins a pawn and prepares White's own pawn pushes.

32...dxc4 33.Qb5 Kh7 34.Qxc5 Qa8+ 35.Qc6 Qa7



36.Rb7

36.Qe4+! wins pretty quickly.

36...Qd4 37.a7?

White can still win with 37.Rxf7 Qd3 38.Qxe6 Qf1+ 39.Kf3 Rd3+ 40.Kg4 Qd1+ 41.Kh4.

37...Rd2?

This is the right idea, but the wrong way to do it. 37...Qd3! prevents the saving retreat of 38.Qf3! Fortunately for Mel, Rick misses this resource.

38.Kh3? Qxf2 39.Qh1 Qe2 40.Kh4 Kg6 41.f5+ exf5 42.Rb6+ f6 0-1

Katzl,R (1919) - Warner,N (1350)
 Sicilian [B23]
 MT Open

This first-round game was one of two humongous upsets at the Open this year. Despite this demoralizing loss, Rudi fought on in the tournament, winning three games before it was all over.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 g6 5.f4 f5 6.d3 Bg7 7.Nge2 Nd4 8.0-0 Bd7?

The bishop was needed to guard the b7 pawn.

9.exf5 Nxf5 10.Bxb7 Rb8 11.Bd5

Considering all the activity that Nick gets for his lost pawn, 11.Bg2 might have been a more judicious retreat.

11...Nf6 12.Bb3 Ng4 13.Qe1

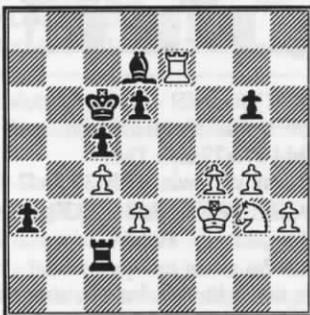


13.Re1 prevents the tactical shots that follow, but even so, Black gets great initiative for the pawn after ...c5.

13...Nge3 14.Bxe3 Nxe3 15.Rf3 Rxb3 16.axb3 Nxc2 17.Qc1 Nxa1 18.Qxa1

Two bishops against two knights, with plenty of open lines to use the bishops. Black is in great shape.

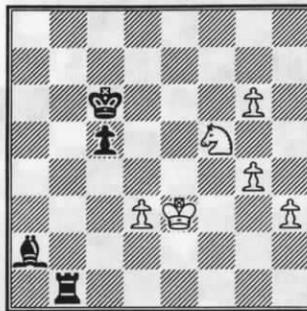
18...Qb6 19.Ne4 Bg4 20.Qa4+ Kd8 21.Rf2 Qb4 22.N4c3 Qxa4 23.bxa4 Kd7 24.Kg2 Rb8 25.h3 Bf5 26.Nc1 Bxc3 27.bxc3 Rb1 28.Rf1 Ra1 29.g4 Be6 30.c4 Rxa4 31.Ne2 Ra2 32.Kf3 a5 33.Rb1 Kc6 34.Rb8 Bd7 35.Rh8 a4 36.Rxh7 a3 37.Rxe7 Rc2 38.Ng3



38...a2

Best here is 38...Rd2! White can't play 39.Ke3 owing to 39...a2! So play might continue as follows: 39.f5 gxf5 40.gxf5 Rxd3+

41.Kf2 a2 42.Re1 Rd2+ 43.Kf3 Be8 44.Ra1 Bf7 45.Ke3 Rh2 and Black should clean up.
 39.Re1 Rb2 40.Ra1 d5 41.cxd5+ Kxd5
 42.Ke3 Be6 43.f5 Bg8 44.fxg6 Kc6 45.Nf5 Rb1 46.Rxa2 Bxa2



Black has won the rook, but those pawns are probably going to prove unstoppable.

47.h4 Rg1 48.Kf4 Rd1 49.h5 Rxd3 50.h6 c4 51.h7 Rd8 52.g7 c3 53.h8Q c2 54.Qxd8 c1Q+ 55.Ne3 Qc5 56.g8Q Bxg8 57.Qxg8 Qd4+ 58.Kf3 Qf6+ 59.Nf5 Qc3+

This is not the kind of position anyone would want to have win in time trouble. A few moves later Rudi, short on time, carelessly allowed his queen to get skewered. Rather than play for mate, Nick simply played fast, avoiding repetition of position until Rudi's flag fell. 0-1

Late-breaking news from the MCA Board

Just before press time the MCA Board voted on some ideas which its members have been discussing. Here is a summary of those decisions:

MCA Website. Paul Motta volunteered to create and maintain an official MCA website. There will be no cost to the MCA. Approved unanimously.

Residency bylaw. The Board rescinded the special residency requirement for the Closed, deeming it in conflict with the constitution's residency clause. Passed, 3-1. Note that although this change allows Paul Motta to qualify for the Closed, he has a conflict this year and will not be able to attend.

Montana Invitational. The Board is debating the institution of a Montana Invitational, open to either the ten highest-rated players or to all players above a certain rating. The winner of this tournament would then become a seed to the next Closed, replacing one of the two Grand Prix seeds. Please let the Board know your opinion of this idea to help it decide the best way to go.

A letter from Michael Long

The MCA has had a fair share of dedicated people who have contributed to a strong base. They have always provided increased services, increased opportunities, and increased participation for all the members. In contrast, myself and others have always regarded the six player closed as a point of misuse to the MCA members. Montana has far more than six members who can play inspired chess. While the entire country and the world has made opening up opportunities for chess players as their primary objective, Montana, a state with limited tournament opportunities, is now diminishing both opportunity and participation with a reversion back to the old six player closed.

There are some important considerations to make now that the six player closed is back:

1) This tiny group of qualifiers must be limited to full time Montana residents only, because the Closed is there to determine who the champion Montana resident is. It's not there to determine how someone from New York or California can do against Montana

residents. This is especially true with a six player closed where one out-of-state entry amounts to 16.6 percent of the participants. That would be a complete misuse placed upon the members of the MCA. Add to this that if one out-of-state resident is given this unfair advantage, then this same policy would have to apply to all out-of-state residents equally or the MCA board would be a biased organization.

2) The MCA ought to use proxy votes the way most organizations do - with a full quorum voting and with a full announcement to all members as to what the issue is and where and how to send in their proxy votes. Anything less than this will produce highly distorted results.

I herein make a promise to the members of the MCA to bring forth increased opportunity and increased participation by restoring the ten player closed. I want to communicate with as many of you as possible as to your views on this important subject and will be very appreciative of your input.

MCN turns 25

This year marks the silver anniversary of Montana Chess News, so to celebrate, here is a brief history of the MCN.

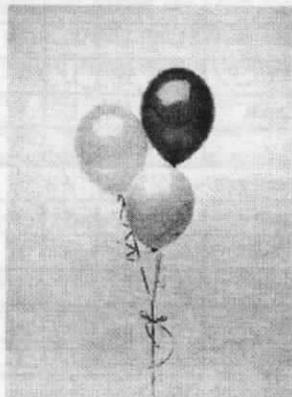
Bill Lynch of Billings started sending out a few type-written pages to MCA players back in 1975. He kept it up until 1992, improving the quality and increasing the quantity with each passing year. (How he could put out such a reliable newsletter without the aid of a computer absolutely boggles the mind.) He even covered the Wyoming beat from 1978-1979, calling his newsletter "The Montana-Wyoming Chess News."

After a brief period in which the MCN was under the umbrella of "Rocky Mountain Chess" (a publication put out by Missoula master John Lenchner), Colstrip's Les Brennan took over in March of 1993. Les put out a witty and much-admired newsletter for three years, adding scanned photos and graphics for the first time, and increasing the number of board diagrams and features.

When he stepped down, Michael Martinez of Missoula volunteered to take over. Michael carried on MCN publication from 1996-1998, during which time he also developed and maintained the MCA's first website.

In 1998 I agreed to give it a go, and it's been a lot of fun. Since I want to stop while it's still fun, I've decided this will be my last year as editor. Please consider giving it a try yourself. My thanks to all the tournament directors and other MCN contributors who have helped make my first two years as editor go smoothly. I will strive to do the same for whoever takes over the job next.

Happy 25, MCN!



Season wrap-up, 1999-2000

Ten qualifiers for State Closed set

The tournament cycle ended with the Montana Open, so the stage is now set for the State Closed. These ten qualifiers have qualified to meet in Bozeman on September 9-10 in order to compete for the championship:

Current Seeded Champion
Alex Dawson

Grand Prix Qualifiers
Jan Johansson, Jim Skovron,
Greg Nowak, Thad Suits

State Open Qualifiers
Dennis Petrak, Paul Motta, Doug Hansen,
Howard Hoene, Brian Bailey

If any of these players cannot attend, (Paul Motta has already sent in his regrets) alternates for Grand Prix qualification are Sherwood Moore, then Michael Long; alternates for the Open are Mike Jensen, Rudi Katzl, and Sherwood Moore.

Those players who did not qualify this year should bear in mind that there will be an exciting satellite tournament — The Barto Memorial — running concurrently with the Closed. Come and watch others duke it out for the title while you compete for your own share of glory.



Grand Prix Final Top 10

1	JOHANSSON, J	30.04
2	SKOVRON, J	27.71
3	NOWAK, G	21.06
4	SUITS, T	16.64
5	MOORE, S	14.02
6	BAILEY, B	11.84
7	LONG, M	11.34
8	MOTTA, P	11.34
9	HANSEN, D	10.41
10	PETRAK, D	9.46

**Montana State
Champion,
1999-2000**

Alex T. Dawson

Grand Prix Champion
Jan Johansson

State Open Champion
Jan Johansson

Senior Champion
Jan Johansson

Biggest Upset
Sherwood Moore
430 points

*And, at least until the Triple
header Championship coming
July 22-23rd in Helena...*

Action Champion
Thad Suits

Quick Champion
Douglas Hansen

Blitz Champion
James Skovron

*Congratulations to all these
players from the MCA.*

Tournament Tables

Montana State Open (6/3,4/2000)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Jan Johansson	2002	W22	W12	W7	W6	W3	5.0
2	Dennis F Petrak	1604	L4	W21	W29	W18	W20	4.0
3	Arthur Milne	2002	W28	W9	D5	W13	L1	3.5
4	Thad Suits	1956	W2	D16	W8	D5	D18	3.5
5	Ronald Hinds	1991	W25	W11	D3	D4	D7	3.5
6	Alex Dawson	2035	W19	D18	W16	L1	W10	3.5
7	Paul S Motta	1900	W30	W20	L1	W9	D5	3.5
8	James J Skovron	1888	W21	W24	L4	D17	W16	3.5
9	Douglas J Hansen	1712	W26	L3	W22	L7	W25	3.0
10	Howard F Hoene	1740	L24	W23	W26	W11	L6	3.0
11	Brian W Bailey	1581	W29	L5	W14	L10	W21	3.0
12	Kevin M. Ward	1720	W27	L1	L20	W30	W22	3.0
13	J Michael Jensen	1913	W23	W17	H---	L3	D15	3.0
14	Rudolf G Katzl	1919	L20	W30	L11	W23	W17	3.0
15	Sherwood Moore	1702	H---	U---	W33	W20	D13	3.0
16	Juraj Pivovarov	1600	W33	D4	L6	W19	L8	2.5
17	Michael R Smith	1696	W32	L13	W24	D8	L14	2.5
18	David A Duke	1864	W31	D6	H---	L2	D4	2.5
19	Wm H McBroom	1567	L6	W31	H---	L16	W28	2.5
20	Nick D Warner	1359	W14	L7	W12	L15	L2	2.0
21	Freddie Jay	1209	L8	L2	W32	W26	L11	2.0
22	Eriel Mayer	1477	L1	W32	L9	W29	L12	2.0
23	William J Furdell	1283	L13	L10	W27	L14	W29	2.0
24	Aldin M Barnes	1005	W10	L8	L17	L25	W33	2.0
25	James M Chester	1373	L5	L29	W28	W24	L9	2.0
26	Don Macfarlane	1478	L9	W27	L10	L21	W31	2.0
27	Eric D Heidecker	unr.	L12	L26	L23	W33	W30	2.0
28	Riana Hinds	1346	L3	D33	L25	W32	L19	1.5
29	Kirk Lundby	unr.	L11	W25	L2	L22	L23	1.0
30	Melvin P Drake	1278	L7	L14	W31	L12	L27	1.0
31	Rick E Edmiston	1195	L18	L19	L30	B---	L26	1.0
32	Jake Bates	unr.	L17	L22	L21	L28	B---	1.0
33	Rose Tremmel	unr.	L16	D28	L15	L27	L24	0.5

Note: Tiebreaks included

UCCC Club Championship (4/2000)

#	Name	Rtng	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	McClure, Jim	1782	---	W	W	W	W	4.0
2	Jensen, Mike	1898	L	---	D	W	D	2.0
3	Moore, Sherwood	1779	L	D	---	L	W	1.5
4	McCourt, Daniel	1639	L	L	W	---	W	2.0
5	McBroom, Wm.	1568	L	D	L	L	---	0.5

Summer Storm Open (6/17/2000)

#	Name	Rtng	1	2	3	Tot
1	Rudy Katzl	1919	W4	D2	D3	2.0
2	Hans Anderson	1691	W5	D1	W4	2.5
3	Dan McCourt	1616	W8	W6	D1	2.5
4	Rich Hall	1562	L1	W7	L2	1.0
5	Bob Leader	1453	L2	W8	L6	1.0
6	Eric Gilbertsen	1440	H-	L3	W5	1.5
7	K. Mittman	1108	U-	L4	W8	1.0
8	Andy Shipp	957	L3	L5	L7	0.0

Northwest Team Tourney team-by-team results

82nd Armored Division (#1)

#	Name	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	Loy	L	D	W	L	1.5
2	Anderson	L	W	W	W	3.0
3	Lowney	W	L	L	W	2.0
4	Todd	W	W	W	W	4.0

Chess Tsunami (#2)

#	Name	1	3	4	5	Tot
1	Nowak	W	W	W	W	4.0
2	Leader	W	L	L	D	1.5
3	Gilbertsen	L	D	W	W	2.5
4	Johnson	L	W	L	W	2.0

Hannibals' Elephants (#3)

#	Name	1	2	4	5	Tot
1	McCourt, D	L	W	W	W	3.0
2	Schmitz	D	L	W	L	1.5
3	Stubblefield	W	D	W	W	3.5
4	MacMurray	L	L	W	W	2.0

Northern Knights (#4)

#	Name	1	2	3	5	Tot
1	Chester	L	L	L	L	0.0
2	Mitchell, P.	L	W	L	W	2.0
3	Skarstedt	W	L	L	W	2.0
4	Dyer	L	W	L	W	2.0

King's Insurgents (#5)

#	Name	1	2	3	4	Tot
1	Kubisiak	W	L	W	W	3.0
2	Spencer	L	D	L	L	0.5
3	Crobar	L	L	L	L	0.0
4	Wallace	L	L	L	L	0.0

Fifth Northwest Team Tourney (5/6/2000)

#	Team Name	1	2	3	4	5	match pts	game pts
1	82nd Armored	---	D	W	W	W	3.5	10.5
2	Chess Tsunami	D	---	W	D	W	3.0	10
3	Hannibals' Elephants	L	L	---	W	W	2.0	10
4	Northern Knights	L	D	L	---	W	1.5	6
5	King's Insurgents	L	L	L	L	---	0.0	3.5

Upcoming Events

USCF and MCA membership required unless otherwise noted. (Other states OK)

July 22-23 — The 2000 Triple Header Championship in Helena - Three Championships in One

Format: 3 State Championships in one: *Action* (G/30), *Blitz* (G/5) and *Quick* (G/15). Action and Quick will be 5 round Swiss, quick-rated; Blitz will be unrated, format depends on number of entries. **EF:** \$15 by July 19, \$20 at site. **Site:** Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena. **Prizes:** Trophy and title to top resident finisher in each category. **Registration:** 9:00-9:45. **Rnds:** Sat. - *Action* 10, 11:30, 1:30, 3, 4:30. *Blitz* begins at 7:30 p.m Saturday night. Sun. - *Quick* 9, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15, 12. If necessary, a blitz game acts as tiebreak for all categories. **Contact:** Mel Drake, 5950 Canyon Ferry Rd., Helena, MT 59602. Tel. 406-475-3481. **Other:** Non-residents welcome, but titles go to residents only.

Sept 9-10 — The Montana State Closed Championship

Format: Ten-player invitational, 5 rnd Swiss. **Time Controls:** 30/90, G/60. **Site:** Student Union Bldg. room 276, on the MSU campus in Bozeman. **EF:** Free to qualifiers. **Prizes:** Trophy, Championship title and \$100 to winner. **Rnds:** Sat: 9, 2, 7; Sun 9, 2. **Reg:** 8:15-8:45. **Contact:** Thad Suits, 2015 4th Ave. N. Great Falls, MT 59401. Tel. 453-6160. **Other:** Participation is by invitation only.

Sept 9-10 — The John Barto Memorial (Held in conjunction with the State Closed)

Format: 5 rnd Swiss. **Time Controls:** G/2. **Site:** Student Union Bldg. room 276, on the MSU campus in Bozeman. **EF:** \$15 if rec'd by 9/8, \$20 after that. **Prizes:** \$50 first place. 2nd place trophy. **Rnds:** Sat: 9, 2, 7; Sun 9, 2. **Reg:** 8:15 -8:45. **Contact:** Scarff Steve, 214 S. Church Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715. Email: sscarff@MailAndNews.com No phone entries, please, but registration fees are accepted electronically through PayPal: <https://secure.paypal.com/refer/pal=sscarff%40MailAndNews.com> **Other:** Thanks to the University Chess Club for the tournament site.

October 14-15 — The Chinook Open

Format: 5 rnd Swiss. **Time Controls:** G/2. **Site:** Univ. of Great Falls, Sullivan Hall, Room 203 (Enter from 23rd St. parking). **EF:** \$20 if rec'd by 10/10, \$25 after that. **Prizes (more than ever!):** 1st—\$125; 2nd—\$60, \$25 to top in each division. \$25 biggest upset. **Rnds:** Sat: 10, 2:30, 7; Sun 9, 2. **Reg:** 8:45-9:30. **Contact:** Thad Suits, 2015 4th Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401. Tel. 453-6160. **Other:** Thanks again to the University of Great Falls for the event site.

November 11-12 — The Turkey Open

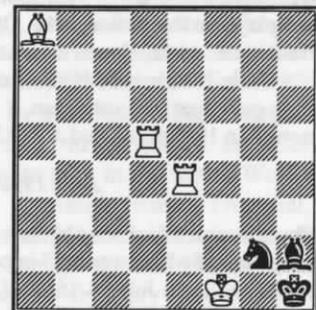
Format: 4 round Swiss, Game/2. **EF:** \$20 by 11/11, \$25 at site. **Site:** Univ. of Mt, Rankin Hall, Room 203. **Prizes:** 1st—\$100; 2nd—\$50; U1800—\$25, U1600—\$25, U1400—\$25, U1200—\$25. **Registration:** 8:00-8:30. **Rnds:** 9,2; 9,2. **Contact:** Sherwood Moore, 453 Minnesota, Missoula, MT 59802. Tel. 728-1695.

The Attacking Game in a Nutshell

"F#@ it, I'm sackin' the knight."
Dennis Petrak, describing his reaction upon seeing that his position was becoming cramped.

The Polgar Corner

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



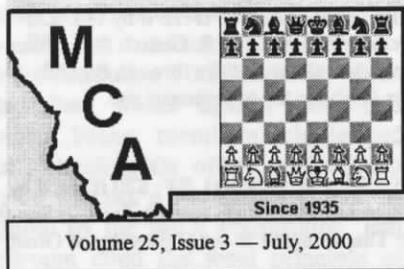
White to move and mate in 2

Celebrity chess —submitted by Alex Dawson



"Sure, I'll play with you, son. Just don't expect me to play any of those 'Indian' defenses."

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



New Website

www.montanachess.com

Most areas are open to anyone browsing the Web, but for access to the "members" area use this user name and password: octopus, 4benko.

This is just the beginning, so watch these pages for updates. In the meantime, check out the site to see the MCA's presence on the Internet.

Happy browsing!

20 and 10 years ago in MCN

July, 1980

A list of MCA members showed **Matthew Guthrie** of Missoula to be the highest rated player in the state in 1918. Other ratings of note from that issue: **Mike Jensen**, 1601; **Howard Hoene**, 1573; **Jim Loy**, 1639; **Doug Hansen**, 1296, **Kip Stubberud**, 1882. But if the MCA gave an award for greatest rating gain over a 20 year span, it would have to go to **Bill McBroom**, who in 1980 was listed at 1143.

July, 1990

"**Kip Stubberud** scored four wins against one loss to win the Montana championship playoff which was held in conjunction with the Midsummer Open in Missoula on July 14-15. **Phil Heikkinen**, who scored the lone win over Kip, finished one half point back after losing a hard game to **Paul Motta**."

Answer to "What's the Cruncher?"

From Cruz-Anderson, 2000 Crocus Open. Black, thinking that the knight was dead anyway, played 1...Nxd3 so that it could at least grab a pawn on the way to the funeral. But he could have made life miserable for White with 1...Nf4+! and then A) 2.Bxf4 Bh3+ 3.Kg1 Nxe4+ 4.Be3 Nxc3 5.Qd2 Bxe3+ 6.Qxe3 Nxa2 or B) 2.gxf4 Bh3+ 3.Kg1 Nxe4+ 4.Kh1 Nxc3.

Answer to "The Polgar Corner"

1.Rh5. Black is then in zugzwang. Only the knight can move, and after it does, RxN will be mate.