



MONTANA

CHESS NEWS

Volume 24, Issue 5 — December, 1999

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Suits wins last Chinook Open of the millenium

Collyer wins East Spokane (alias Turkey) Open

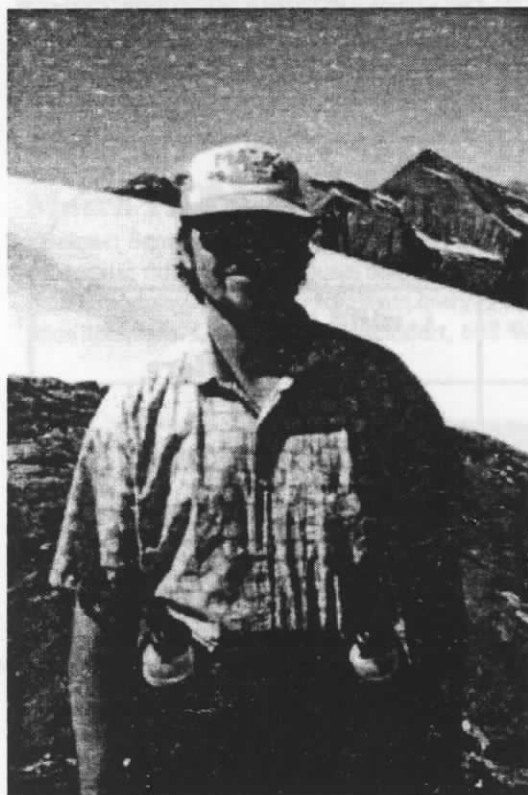
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A report on the 1999 Chinook Open



With that on-top-of-the-world feeling: Thad Suits, 1999 Chinook Open winner

Though outplayed through most of this year's Chinook Open, Thad Suits found a way to rally in the important games, winning his fourth Chinook Open title with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points out of 5. The tournament, held at the University of Great Falls on the weekend of October 16-17, had no football games on campus to compete with this time, but it did lose a few players due to the start of pheasant hunting season. Happily, all of the 12 players that did compete bagged at least a point.

Suits defended his title against a field that included last year's co-champ, Dan McCourt, along with Sherwood Moore, who was fresh from a hot showing at the State Closed, and Doug Hansen, whose two wins against Suits in the Triple Header were still smarting. In spite of a second round draw against the suddenly unsolvable Hansen, Suits grabbed clear first and the \$100 prize by winning all his other games. Some of these wins were unexpectedly close calls, including an endgame which Suits robbed from Helena's Nick Warner only after getting totally embarrassed in the opening. Nick went on to tie for third place with 3 points, behind Hansen's second place total of 4. Sharing third place with Warner were Moore and Great Falls' own rising star, Augusto Rodriguez Aponte, who defeated Dan McCourt in an exciting time scramble. He and Warner shared the \$25 prize for the second division, while Hansen took the upper division prize, which amounted to a \$25 second place award.

Unfortunately for Suits, the lengthy drive of 11 whole blocks to the tournament site was not enough to qualify for bonus Grand Prix points. As a result, Sherwood Moore took the early lead in the Grand Prix Race.

Other tournament notes: Dennis Petrak played in his first tournament in years, breaking even for the weekend. His quirky "Wild Bull Opening" is as scary and unpredictable as ever — just like its namesake. Nick Doulas was the surprise of the event. He gained 21 rating point for the tournament and very nearly upset Suits with a solid King's Indian Attack in the final round. Lastly, Marc Howe was impressive in his first outing, winning one game and letting two others slip away simply due to a lack of tournament experience. He is likely to be a player to reckon with before long.

Collyer wins Spokane-heavy Turkey Open

Only two Montanans compete in Missoula event

Curt Collyer of Spokane won all four games to take clear first place in Missoula's traditional Turkey Open. He beat out fellow Washingtonians John Julian, Ron Brinegar and Jeremy Younker, each of whom went 3-1 for the weekend.

The big story of the tournament was the amazing invasion of Spokane players and the appallingly low turnout among Montana players. Of the 13 participants, only two resident MCA members (Bill McBroom and James Chester) took part. Most of the rest were from Spokane, prompting tournament director Sherwood Moore to refer to his event (with both humor and disappointment) as "The East Spokane Open."

Gary Younker and the other Spokane players made good on a pledge they gave at the 1999 Montana Open to travel *en masse* to a Montana tournament. Their participation this year saved the Turkey Open from disaster, so if you happen to meet any Washingtonians on the street, be sure to thank them. Better still, make plans to attend their Dave Collyer memorial this winter.

All the prize winners were from Spokane. Second place went to John Julian

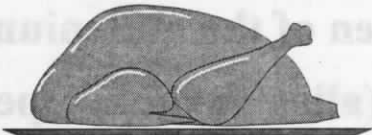
on tie-break points. Class prizes went to Jeremy Younker (who jumped a class to take the Under 1800 prize), Ron Brinegar (Under 1600), and Patrick Kirlin (Under 1400). Patrick also won the prize for Biggest Upset thanks to his win against Bill McBroom (419 rating points difference.)

This was a tournament in which youth dominated. Three of the top four finishers, including Collyer himself, are young players. Apparently what they lack in the wisdom of age they compensate for with the eagerness of youth.

And speaking of youth, ten-year old Michael Cambareri showed great promise, drawing against James Chester and nearly upsetting Bill McBroom too.

The MCA Board is looking at possible reasons for the low turnout this year, and hoping to find a way to address the problem. Sherwood Moore thinks there were several reasons for the poor showing. He cited the lack of both prize money and grand prix points for the winners. Competition with the Northwest Team Tourney the week before may have also been a factor.

Looking beyond the Turkey Open, the Board must decide if the low turnout was a one-time catastrophe, or if it reflects a trend. If you have any ideas, please write to the editor or speak with a member of the Executive Board.



MCA Board Members (1999-2000)

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- Les Brennan - Eastern V.P. (748-2154)
- 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, Microsoft Works, Publisher, Lotus, or .PGN.

Publishing schedule (five issues):

Issue 1 - Mar. 1; Issue 2 (Special for the Open) - May 10; Issue 3 - July 31; 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?



White to move and crunch

Is the MCA ready for Y2K?

Although experts all over the country are talking about millennium bug preparedness, few are asking the really important question: What will happen to chess in Montana in the event of a Y2K emergency? The MCA Executive Board can now confidently assert that tournament activity will continue as usual even if the worst happens. This is thanks to the recently completed, and highly secret, *Project PAWNSAC*.

Under the terms of *PAWNSAC*, the Board authorized the hoarding of fresh donuts. By press time it had laid away 1800 fresh donuts in a secret vault. (1000 glazed, and 200 each of cream-filled, jelly-filled, plain, and chocolate).

MCA members can now breathe easy. In the event of a world-wide donut shortage, *Project PAWNSAC* will keep us supplied until the year 2025.



Grand Prix Race Leaders

Sherwood Moore	11.4
Thad Suits	9.81
Nick Warner	9.14
Doug Hansen	8.83
Augusto Rodriguez	6.87

Biggest Upset to Date

Sherwood Moore - 430 points

MCA player profile: Augusto Rodriguez-Aponte

Editor's note: Last Christmas my wife and I had the pleasure of visiting with Augusto and his family in Puerto Rico. We even got to play some chess, and I can vouch that Puerto Rican hospitality, as generous as it is, does not extend to letting guests win at chess.

There is a Spanish proverb that says, "The student owes it to the teacher to defeat him in the end." As a ten-year-old chess player, Augusto Rodriguez-Aponte lived up to that piece of wisdom by quickly surpassing the neighbor who taught him the rules. Since then, he has had the privilege of defeating many of his "teachers", including a growing number of highly-rated MCA players.

Augusto was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, a beautiful city on the south side of the island. Ponce is often referred to as the "pearl" of Puerto Rico because of the splendor of its setting. It is a tropical setting that Augusto has been known to attempt to duplicate here in Montana by setting his living room thermostat up around 80 degrees.

Following his graduation from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, where he received a degree with honors in chemistry, Augusto joined the Air Force. His career in the military took him first to Texas, then to California and, since the Spring of 1998, to Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls.

His duties at Malmstrom entail managing and maintaining underground nuclear weapons facilities in central Montana. A job like that probably dovetails nicely with his chess talents; both require a cool head, a quick intelligence, and the ability to handle pressure.

To Augusto, balance in life is paramount. As he put it, "To balance family, academics, and chess is the perfect life formula." True Puerto Rican that he is, he then quickly adjusted his formula: "And I cannot forget music, too!"

As for the family part of this formula, Augusto is married to Susan, another pearl of Puerto Rico. They have two children, Carlos, age three, and Carol, age two. Although the kids are not yet playing chess, it might not be long before they are giving their teacher-father the unique satisfaction of beating him at his own game.

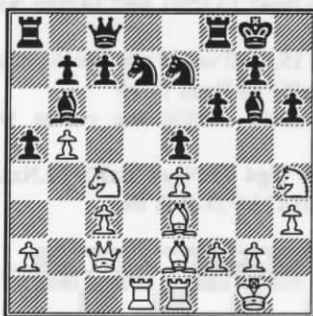
The featured game for this profile is Augusto's first USCF-rated win.

Rodriguez,A (unr.) - Hansen,D (1600)
Two Knights Defense [C55]
1998 Montana Open

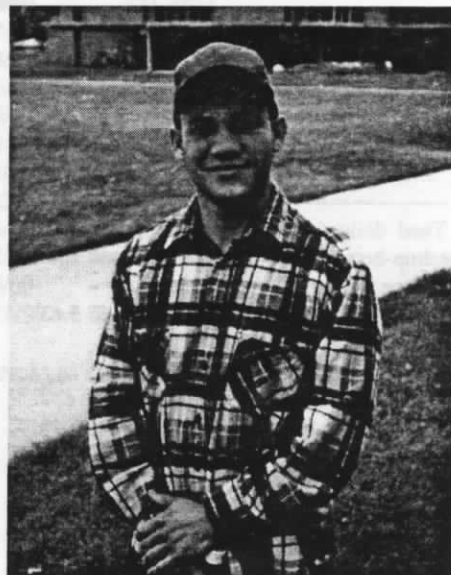
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6
5.0-0 Bb4 6.c3 Ba5 7.b4 Bb6 8.Be3 d6
9.Nbd2 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Re1 0-0
12.Qc2 a5 13.b5 Ne7 14.d4 Nd7
15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Be2 Bg6 17.Rad1 f6?!

This weakening move will come back to haunt Doug. 17...BxB was better.

18.Nc4 Qc8 19.Nh4



Black's position is riddled with holes, but 19...BxB would slow White down.



19...Re8? 20.Bg4

This move is strong, although it might have been even stronger after 20.NhxB, since Black would be denied ...f5.

20...f5 21.Qb3

Making good use of the weakened diagonal, initiating threats based on a discovered check by the knight.

21...Bf7 22.Bh5 g6 23.Nxg6! Nxg6
24.Bxg6 Nc5? 25.Bxc5 Bxc5 26.Bxf7+
1-0 ♖

82nd Armored Division takes Team Tourney Tiebreaks doom Mighty Fireants —by Greg Nowak

On November 6th, at the Shack Restaurant in Missoula, five teams of four players each battled it out in the game/30 Fourth Northwest Team Championship. When the dust settled, the 82nd Armored Division (consisting of Mike Jensen, Hans Andersen, Burt Bentley and Pat Todd) squeezed out the win on tie-break points over the Mighty Fireants (Greg Nowak, Bob Leader, Eric Bilbertsen and Mike Joyce.)

The 82nds had 3.5 out of 4, as did the Fireants, but took the title thanks to their half point lead in total game points, 12.5 to 12. The battle between the two top teams ended in a 2-2 tie. Going into the last round the 82nds had to win all four games to take the tie-break advantage, and that's what they did.

In third place at 1.5 points were the Brainstormers (Paul Mitchell, Pete Lowney, Dale Gross, Ken Schultz, and Andy Shipp. They were one tie-break point ahead of Hannibal's Elephants (Dan McCourt, Ted Cat-

ten, Dan Jensen and Robbie Hollingshead.

Pulling up the rear was an odds and ends team called 1-2-3 which got two game points but no match points.

Best board prizes went to Nowak (board 1), Andersen and Lowney (board 2), Bentley (board 3), and Joyce (board 4).

There were some upsets! Pete Lowney of Butte upset both Hans Andersen and Ted Catten on board 2. I got lucky against Mitchell in round 1, when both of us got into time trouble. He had king, rook and a few pawns, and I had king, bishop and a few pawns. I fortunately picked off his rook for free, then had to win with just seconds remaining. Whew! I dodged a bullet!

There were four no-shows, which again affected the event. There could have been six teams. And with a little bit of luck there could have been a Bitterroot team, a Butte team, and a Helena team.

Well, maybe next year!

Recent Games

Suits,T (1956) - Hansen,D (1675)
Bird-Larsen [A03]
Chinook Open

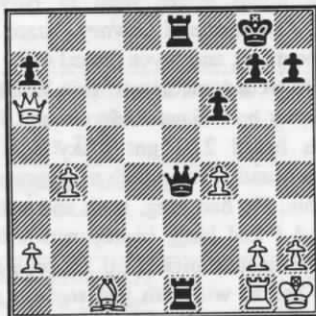
Thad dodges a bullet in this round two matchup between the eventual first and second place winners.

1.f4 d5 2.b3 Bf5 3.Nf3 e6 4.Bb2 f6 5.e3 Bc5 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0-0 d4 8.Bb5?!
8.Qc1 is a simpler approach.
8...dxe3 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.d4 e2?
11.Qxe2 Bb6 12.Kh1 Ne7 13.Na3 Nd5
14.Nh4 Kf7 15.Nxf5 exf5



Now White has 16.c4! Play might then continue 16...Nb4? 17.c5 Ba5 18.Nc4, winning the bishop, or 16...Qe7 17.Qf3 Ne3 18.Rae1, winning the knight.

16.Rad1 Re8 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Qxf5?
Chess blindness, pure and simple.
18...Ne3 19.Qd3 Qd5 20.Rf3 Nxd1
21.Qxd1 Rad8 22.c3 Qe4 23.Rf1 c5 24.Nc2
Qe2 25.Qc1 Qh5 26.b4 cxd4 27.Nxd4 Bxd4
28.cxd4 Re2 29.Qd1 Rde8 30.Bc1 Qg4
31.Rg1 Qe6 32.d5 Qe4 33.d6 cxd6
34.Qxd6 Re1 35.Qa6



This move has two virtues: If Doug doesn't see the trap it, will salvage a draw for White; if Doug avoids the trap, the end will at least come swiftly.

35...Rxc1? [35...Qd4!] 36.Rxc1 Qe1+
37.Qf1

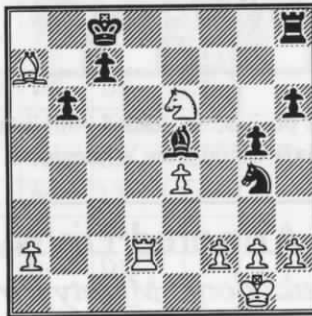
Most of us have fallen for this trick at one time or another. Doug was counting on 37.RxQ? RxR+.
37...Qxb4 ½-½

Warner,N (1388) - Howe,M (unr.)
Albin Counter Gambit [D08]
Chinook Open

Very nearly a winner in his first tournament game, Marc Howe of Great Falls loses his concentration for one fateful instant.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.Nf3?! Nc6 4.dxe5 dxc4
5.Qxd8+ Nxd8 6.e4 Nc6 7.Bxc4 Be6
8.Bxe6 fxe6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Be3 0-0-0 11.0-0
g5 12.Nc3 Nge7 13.Rfd1 Bg7 14.Nb5 Nxe5
15.Rac1?

Instead 15.Nd4! would win the e6 pawn.
15...Rxd1+ 16.Rxd1 N7c6
Black could double the pawns with 15.NxN+.
17.Nfd4 Ng4 18.Nxe6 Bxb2 19.Nxa7+
Nxa7 20.Bxa7 b6 21.Rd2 Be5

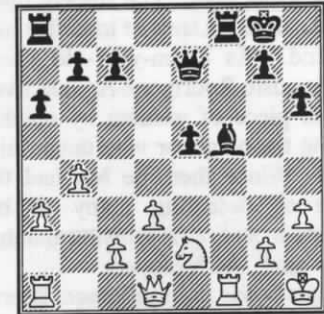


22.Rd3? Kb7
Since White's bishop can't run away, playing 22...Bxh2+ first wins another pawn.
23.Nd8+ Kxa7 24.Ra3+ Kb8 25.Nc6+
Kc8?
Marc sends his king the wrong way.
25...Kb7 should be good enough for the win.
26.Nxe5 Nxe5 27.Ra8+ Kb7 28.Rxh8
Nf7 29.Rh7 Nd6 30.e5 Nf5 31.e6 1-0

Petrak,D (1647) - Edmiston,R (1260)
The Wild Bull [C26]
Chinook Open

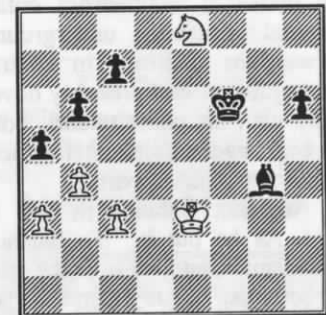
Dennis Petrak, back in action after several years away from tournament chess, fought his way to an even score for the weekend. It was great to see him and his pet openings again. In this game against Rick Edmiston of Livingston (the tournament's farthest traveler — thanks, Rick!), the Wild Bull Opening shows a little tarnish in places.

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.e4 e5 3.a3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bc5
5.h3 a6 6.Nf3 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 Nd4 9.Nxd4
Bxd4 10.Ne2 Ba7 11.Bg5 h6 12.Be3 Bxe3
13.fxe3 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Qxd5
16.e4 Qc5+ 17.Kh1 f5 18.b4 Qe7 19.exf5
Bxf5



Black has been saddled with an isolated pawn, but Dennis is more interested in saddling him with a checkmated king.

20.Ng3 Bd7 21.Qe2 Bc6 22.Qg4 Rxf1+
23.Rxf1 Rf8 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Qf5+ Ke8
26.Nh5 Bd7 27.Qg6+
Better was 27.Qh7 Qg5 28.Qg8+ Ke7
29.Qxg7, winning a pawn.
27...Kf8 28.Qe4 Bc6 29.Qf5+ Ke8
30.Qe8+ Kf7 31.Qf5+ Ke8 32.Ng3 Bd7
33.Qh5+ Kd8 34.Ne4 a5 35.c3 Bc6 36.Qf5
b6 37.Ng3 Qf6 38.Kg1 Bd7 39.Qxf6+ gxf6
40.Kf2 Ke7 41.Ke3 Ke6 42.d4 Bc6 43.dxe5
Bxg2 44.exf6 Bxh3 45.Nh5 Bg4 46.Ng7+
Kxf6 47.Ne8+



47...Kf5

With play on both sides of the board a bishop is usually better than a knight. 47...Ke5 is better here because it would keep the knight from moving to d5 so quickly. E.g. 47...Ke5 48.Nxc7 h5 49.Na8 axb4 50.axb4 b5 51.Nc7 Bd7. But in spite of White's backward pawn, even this is probably just a draw.

48.Nxc7 h5 49.Nd5 axb4 50.axb4 b5
51.Nc7 h4 52.Kf2

52.Nxb5 also appears to lead to a draw.
 52...Ke5 53.Nxb5 Kd5 54.Nd4 Kc4
 55.Nf3 Kxc3 56.Nxh4 ½-½

McCourt,D (1600) - Moore,S (1776)
 French (Tarrasch) [C07]
 Chinook Open

Sherwood wins a rook and pawn versus rook endgame. Unfortunately, the final moves are missing from the scoresheet.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5
 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qc5 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.0-0
 Nf6 9.Nb3 Qb6 10.Rd1 Be7 11.Nfxd4
 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 0-0 13.c3 Bd7 14.Bg5 Rad8
 15.Nf5 exf5 16.Qxe7 Be6 17.Bxe6 Qxe6
 18.Bxf6 gxf6

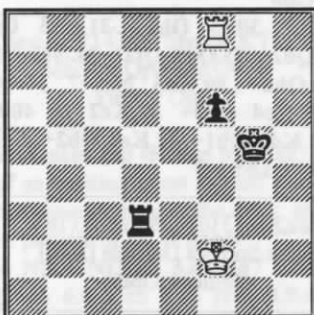


Chess books that failed: *Triple Your Pawns to Victory*.

19.Qxe6

Interesting is 19.QxR, with two rooks versus queen.

19...fxe6 20.Kf1 Kf7 21.Ke2 Ke7 22.c4
 Rg8 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Rc1 Rd4 25.f3 h5
 26.g3 e5 27.Rc3 Kd7 28.Ke3 Kc6 29.b4 a5
 30.a3 axb4 31.axb4 h4 32.Rc2 hxg3
 33.hxg3 f4+ 34.gxf4 Rxf4 35.Ke2 b5
 36.cxb5+ Kxb5 37.Rc5+ Kxb4 38.Rc6
 Kb5 39.Rc8 Rc4 40.Rf8 Rc6 41.Kd3 Rd6+
 42.Ke3 Ke5 43.f4 Kd5 44.Ra8 Ke6 45.fxe5
 Kxe5 46.Re8+ Kf5 47.Rf8 Kg6 48.Kf3
 Rd3+ 49.Kf2 Kg5



Endgames aren't a specialty of the editor (neither are openings or middle games, for that matter), but it seems that with White's king in front of the pawn this ought to be a draw. Readers more versed in endgame tech-

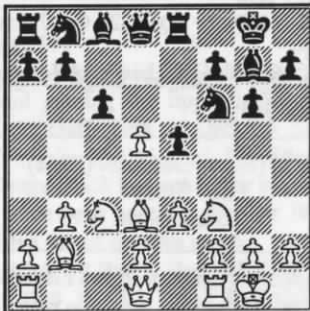
nic may want to correct me on this.

50.Kg2 f5 51.Rg8+ Kf4 52.Rb8 Rd2+
 53.Kf1 Kg4 54.Rb4+ f4

Scoresheets end here, but as soon as Black plays the pawn to f3, White should be able to check with the rook from behind to keep the king out and secure the draw. Dan, last year's Chinook Open co-champ, somehow found a path to defeat. 0-1

Rodriguez,A (1423) - Suits,T (1956)
 Reti [A06]
 Chinook Open

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.c4 c6 5.Nc3
 Bg7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.Bb2 Re8 8.0-0 e5
 9.cxd5?!

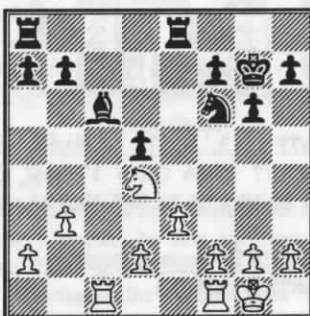


Augusto wanted to mix things up in the opening, figuring that doing so was his best chance to win. This sacrifice doesn't quite give White enough play, though.

9...e4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bxg7 Kxg7
 12.Qc2?

White could at least have held another pawn with 12.BxN, followed by 13.dc6.

12...cxd5 13.Rac1 Nc6 14.Qb2+ Qf6
 15.Qxf6+ Nxf6 16.Bb5 Bd7 17.Bxc6 Bxc6
 18.Nd4



The knight is well-posted; it will take a long time for Black to dislodge it.

18...Rac8 19.f3 Nd7 20.Rc3 Nb6
 21.Rfc1 Bd7 22.a4 Rxc3 23.Rxc3 Rc8
 24.a5 Rxc3 25.dxc3 Nc8 26.Kf2 Nd6
 27.Nc2 Nb5 28.c4 dxc4 29.bxc4 Nd6
 30.Na3 Be6 31.c5 Nc4 32.Nxc4 Bxc4
 33.Ke1

Perhaps a better try was 33.e4, followed

by 34.Ke3.

33...Kf6 34.Kd2 Ke5 35.Kc3 Kd5 36.a6
 Bxa6 37.Kb4 Bf1 0-1

Drake,M (1316) - Howe,M (unr.)
 Albin Counter Gambit [D08]
 Chinook Open

Here newcomer Marc Howe gets his first tournament win in convincing fashion. Mel's queen gets skewered and he never recovers.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 c6 [3...ed4] 4.dxe5
 Nd7 5.Nf3 Nc5 6.Ng5 Nh6



7.f3

7.cxd5 would snag a pawn. This capture is available for several moves, but Mel shies away from it.

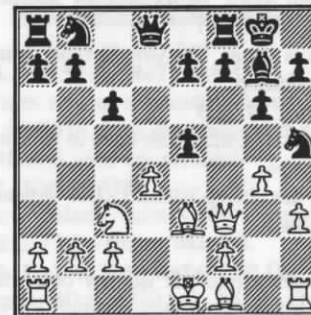
7...Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.e4 Ne6 10.Nxe6
 Bxe6 11.Ne2 dxc4 12.Ng3 a5 13.Qc3?

The Queen throws herself on the sword.

13...Bb4 14.Qxb4 axb4 15.Be2 c3 16.b3
 Qd4 17.Nf5 Nxf5 18.exf5! Bxb3 19.a3 c2
 20.Bd3 Qxd3 21.Rf1 Qc3+ 22.Kf2 Qxa1
 0-1

Edmiston,R (1260) - Rodriguez,A (1423)
 Queen Pawn Opening [A48]
 Chinook Open

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bf4 d6
 5.e4 0-0 6.e5 Nh5 7.Be3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3
 9.Qxf3 c6 10.g4 dxe5



11.gxh5

Capturing the pawn first avoids the pawn fork that ensues.

11...exd4 12.0-0-0 Qb6 13.Bxd4 Bxd4
 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.Rh2 Nd7 16.Qe4 Bxc3

17.bxc3 Nf6 18.Qxe7 Nd5 19.Qa3 Qc7
20.Rg2 Qf4+ 21.Kb1 Rad8 22.Rd3 Rfe8
23.Rd1 Nxc3+ 24.Qxc3 Rxd1+ 25.Kb2
Qc1+ 26.Kb3 Qb1+ 27.Ka3 Rxf1
28.Rxg6+ fxc6 29.Qc4+ Kf8 30.Qf4+ Ke7
31.Qe5+ Kd8 32.Qb8+ Kd7 33.Qxa7 Rfe1
34.Qd4+ Kc7 0-1

Suits,T (1956) - Moore,S (1776)
London System [A45]
Chinook Open

Thad sacrifices three pieces in this exciting win from round four.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 d6 4.Nd2 Bg7
5.Bd3 Nbd7 6.c3 Nh5 7.Bg3 e5 8.Ngf3 Bf6

Sherwood adopts a system recommended by Karpov. The idea is for Black to get the two bishops and a little scope to make use of them.

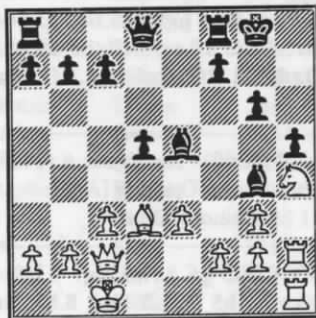
9.Qc2 0-0 10.0-0 Nxc3

In post-game analysis, Sherwood quoted a game from Kamsky-Karpov in which this trade gave Black a good game. In that game White had castled kingside; with White castling long, opening the rook file looks more dangerous.

11.hxg3 d5 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5
14.Nf3 Bg7 15.Rh2

With this move White commits himself to a kingside attack.

15...Bg4 16.Rdh1 h5 17.Nh4 Be5



18.Nxg6! fxc6 19.Bxg6 Qf6 20.Bxh5
Bf5 21.Qd1 c6 22.f4?

22.Qb3 is better. Sherwood's reply comes without hesitation.

22...Bxc3! 23.Qb3

Not 23.bxB? Qxc3, with mate to follow.

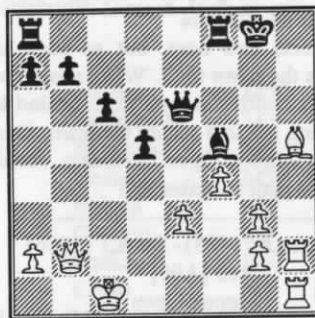
23...Bxb2+

Saving the bishop with 23...Ba5 is probably preferable.

24.Qxb2

Now after a trade of queens both sides would have liabilities. White would have to defend the backward e-pawn, but Black would have to be on guard against penetration by the white rooks. After some thought, Sherwood decides the balance would favor White, so he opts not to trade. As it turns out, trading would be far better.

24...Qe6?



25.Bf7+! Kxf7

On any other move mate in the corner follows.

26.Qxb7+ Kf6

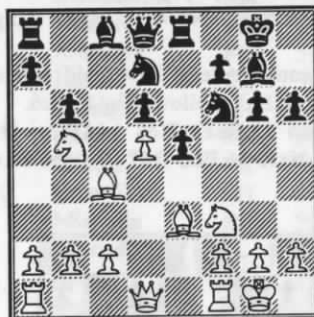
26...Ke8 27.QxR+ Qc8 28.Qxa7 loses more slowly.

27.Rh6+ Bg6 28.Rxg6+! Kxg6 29.Qh7+
Kf6 30.Rh6# 1-0

Howe,M (unr.) - Doulas,N (1251)
Pirc? [B08]
Chinook Open

Marc outplays Nick, but shows his lack of experience in overlooking a cheapo mate.

1.e4 d6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 Nbd7
5.Bd3 Bg7 6.d5 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.Be3 c6
9.Ng5 cxd5 10.exd5 h6 11.Nf3 e5 12.Bc4
b6 13.Nb5



13...Bb7? [13...Nc5] 14.Nxd6 Re7
15.Nxb7 Qc7? 16.d6 Qxc4 17.dxe7 Qc7
18.Nd6 e4 19.Nh4 h5 20.Bg5 Ng4 21.e8R+
Rxe8

Danger, Will Robinson! Danger!
22.Nxe8?? Qxh2# 0-1

Hansen,D (1675) - Warner,N (1388)
Smith-Morra Gambit [B21]
Chinook Open

Nick Warner had another good tournament, including coming within a whisker of upsetting Thad Suits, the eventual tournament winner. Here he falls prey to the dreaded Smith-Morra Gambit.

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 e6

5.Nf3 b6 6.Bf4 Bb4 7.Rc1 d5?



8.exd5?

White can win a piece with 8.Qa4+! Nc6
9.Bb5.

8...exd5 9.Nd4 Nf6 10.Bxb8 Rxb8
11.Nc6

11.Qa4+! is still there, too.

11...Qd6 12.Nxb8 Qxb8 13.Bb5+

Guess what? 13.Qa4+! is still there.

13...Bd7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Bxd7 Nxd7
16.Nxd5 Bd6 17.g3 Re8 18.Re1 Ne5 19.f4
Ng6 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Qe1 Bc5+ 22.Kg2
Qc6 23.Qe4 h6 24.b4 Qa4 25.Kf3 Qa3+
26.Rc3 Qxa2 27.bxc5 bxc5 28.Rxc5 Qxh2



29.Rc8+

There is a cute mate in five here that's hard to spot (unless you happen to be a computer.) 29.Qe8+ Nf8 30.Qxf8+! Kh7 Not 30...KxQ? Rc8#. 31.Nf6+ gxf6 32.Qxf7+ Kh8 33.Rc8#

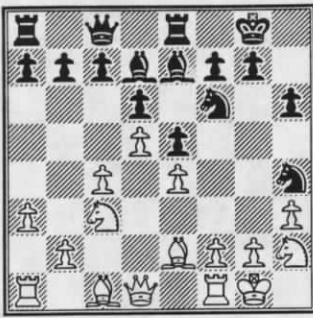
29...Kh7 30.f5 Qh1+ 31.Ke3 Qe1+
32.Kd4 Qd2+ 33.Qd3 Qf2+ 34.Ne3 Qb2+
35.Qc3 Qb6+ 36.Kd3 Ne5+? 37.Qxe5
Qa6+ 38.Rc4 Qa3+ 39.Kc2 f6 40.Qe8
Qa2+ 41.Kd3 Qb1+ 42.Ke2 Qb2+ 43.Rc2
Qb5+? 44.Qxb5 1-0

Drake,M (1316) - Petrak,D (1647)
Giant Springs Defense [A40]
Chinook Open

Dennis wins big with his patented Giant Springs Defense. Where would a player find this system listed in the MCO, anyway?

1.d4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.a3 h6 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3
Nce7 6.e4 Bd7 7.Be2 Ng6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.h3
Be7 10.d5 e5 11.Bd3 Qe8 12.Nh2 0-0

13.Be2 Re8 14.Bf3 Nh4 15.Be2?



15...Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Kh1

Also losing would be 17.Bf3 Ng4
18.Nxg4 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Qxf3.
17...Qg2# 0-1

Drake, M (1316) - Edmiston, R (1260)
Queen's Gambit Accepted [D20]
Chinook Open

This miniature shows the kind of violence that can happen in the Queen's Gambit Accepted, which is probably why so many club players avoid it.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 Nc6 4.Bxc4 e6
5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 a6 8.Qa4
b5



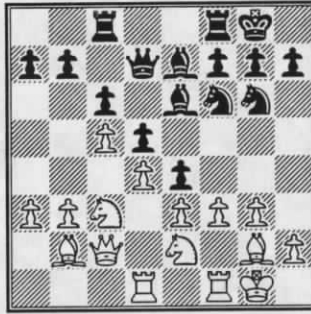
9.Bxb5 Bb7 10.Bxc6+ Bxc6 11.Qxc6+
Kf8 12.Ba3+ 1-0

Black could fight on after 12...Ne7, but it's pretty bleak.

Furdell, B (1280) - Petrak, D (1647)
Giant (English) Springs Defense [A10]
Chinook Open

Dennis gets a strong attack going but stumbles with victory in his grasp. Take heart, Dennis. A few more tournaments and that unrelenting concentration will come back to you.

1.c4 Nc6 2.g3 Ne5 3.b3 e6 4.Bg2 Ng6
5.Bb2 c6 6.Nf3 d6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nc3 Be7
9.d3 0-0 10.Qc2 Qc7 11.Rad1 Bd7 12.e3
Rac8 13.Nd4 e5 14.Nde2 Be6 15.d4 d5
16.e5 e4 17.a3 Qd7 18.f3



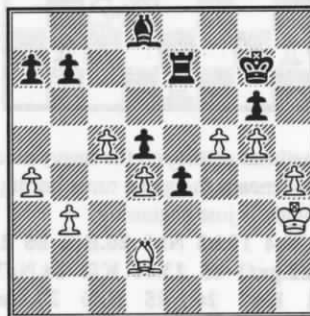
A dense position: 18 moves without a capture.

18...exf3 19.Bxf3 Bh3 20.Bg2 Bd8
21.Rf3 Bg4 22.Rf2 Bh3 23.Rf3 Re8
24.Nf4? Bg4 25.Nxg6 hxg6 26.Rdf1 Bxf3
27.Rxf3 Bc7 28.Bc1 Re7 29.Nd1 Rce8
30.Qd3 Qg4 31.Nf2 Qg5 32.h4 Qh6 33.Bd2



Dennis (Wild Bull) Petrak

33...Qh5 34.Nh3 Ne4 35.Be1 f6 36.a4 g5
37.Rf5 g6 38.Bf3 Qh7 39.Nxg5 fxe5
40.Bxe4 dxe4 41.Qc4+ Rf7 42.Rxg5 Bd8
43.Rg4 Qh5 44.Rf4 Qd5 45.Qxd5 cxd5
46.Rg4 Re6 47.Bb4 Kh7 48.Kg2 Ref6
49.Rf4 Rxf4 50.exf4 Kh6 51.Bd2 Kh5
52.Kh3 Re7 53.g4+ Kh6 54.f5+ Kg7 55.g5



55...e3? [55...gxf5] 56.f6+ Kf7 57.fxe7
Bxe7

Bill, down to his last two minutes, accepts the draw offer. It was one of two draws he got against 1600+ rated players. ½-½

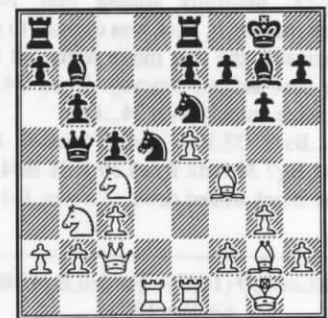
Doulas, N (1251) - Suits, T (1956)
King's Indian Attack [A07]
Chinook Open

Nick Doulas had a good tournament, and in the final round he even had a shot at winning it. This decisive game -- the last to finish -- was exceedingly rich in tactics; unfortunately, most of the tactics sailed clear over both players' heads while they were playing it.

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7
5.d3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.Re1 Na6 8.c3 Nc7
9.e4 dxe4 10.dxe4 Re8 11.Qc2 b6?!

Black's queen bishop is a problem, but the fianchetto weakens the diagonal too much. 11...Bg4 is safer.

12.e5 Nfd5 13.Nd4 e5 14.N4b3 Bb7
15.Nc4 Qd7 16.Bf4 Ne6 17.Rad1 Qb5?



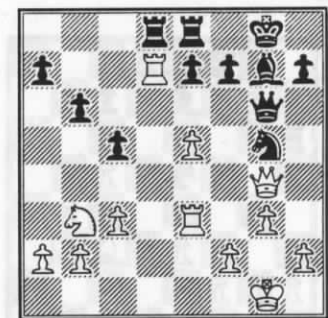
18.Ne3?

Tricky tactics are hidden in the position: 18.Na3! Qd7 19.c4 wins a piece, but it isn't easy. 19...Nd4! 20.e6! NxQ 21.exQ NxR 22.dxe6=Q+ RxQ 23.RxN.

18...Nxe3 19.Rxe3?

White doesn't want to capture with the bishop because e5 would fall, but the text move allows Black to trap the bishop.

19...Bxg2 20.Kxg2 g5 21.Bxg5 Nxg5
22.Qf5 Qc6+ 23.Kg1 Qg6 24.Qg4 Rad8
25.Rd7



Now Thad blows the first of several chances to put the game away.

25...h5

25...Nf3+! would deflect the white queen from guarding the rook on d7.

26.Qd1 Ne6?

Conclusive was 26...Nh3+!. E.g. A) 27.Kf1 Qf5, threatening mate or the win of the rook. B) 27.Kg2 Nf4+ 28.Kg1 Rxd7, threatening a back rank mate if White recaptures. C) 27.Kg2 Nf4+ 28.Kf1 Qc6!, also simultaneously threatening a back rank mate and the rook.

27.f4 Rxd7 28.Qxd7 Rd8 29.Qxe7 Qb1+?

Black had the opportunity for the following forced win: 29...Rd1+ 30.Kf2 30.Kg2 Nxf4+ 31.Kf2 Qc2+ Nxf4 31.gxf4 Qg1+ 32.Kf3 Rf1+ 33.Ke4 Qg2+ 34.Kd3 Rd1+ 35.Nd2 Rxd2+ 36.Kc4 Qd5+ 37.Kb5 Rxb2+ 38.Ka6 Rxa2+ 39.Kb5 Ra5#

30.Kf2 Qxb2+ 31.Re2 Qxc3 32.f5 Rf8! 33.fxe6 fxe6+ 34.Qxf8+

In the game, Nick actually tried to play 34.Qxe6+?! Thad informed him that he was in check, helpfully adding that, having touched his queen, Nick was obliged to move it. Ironically, the text move turns out to be Nick's best defense anyway. Upon 34.Kg1, Black wins quickly with 34...Qf6.

34...Bxf8 35.Re3 Qc2+ 36.Re2 Qf5+ 37.Ke1 Bg7 38.Nd2 Bxe5 39.Kd1 Bd4
And Black traded down to a win. 0-1

McCourt,D (1600) - Furdell,B (1280)
Sicilian [B21]
Chinook Open

Bill Furdell got two draws this year. One of them was the already-analyzed cheapo draw against Dennis Petrak. Unlike that one (of which Bill is not unashamed), this draw was well-deserved.

1.e4 c5 2.f4 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be4 e6 5.0-0 d5 6.exd5 exd5 7.Qe2+ Qe7 8.Qxe7+ Ngxe7 9.Be2 Bf5 10.d3 d4 11.Na3 0-0-0 12.Nc4 Nd5 13.Kf2 Bd6 14.Nxd6+ Rxd6 15.Ng5 Rf6 16.g4 h6 17.Nh3 Bd7 18.Kg3 Re8 19.Rf2 Rfe6 20.Ng1 Ncb4 21.f5 Ra6 22.Bf3



Now 22...Re1 would keep the pressure on, and Black gets a great position.

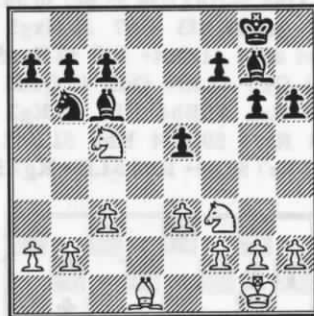
22...Bc6 23.a3 Ne3 24.Bxe3 Bxf3 25.Kxf3 Rxe3+ 26.Kg2 Nd5 ½-½.



The two Nicks, Doulas and Warner, after the Chinook Open

McBroom,B (1603) - Carpenter,R (1800)
Torre Attack [A48]
UCCC 1st Fall Open

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Nbd2 h6 8.Bh4 e5 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.c3 Nb6 11.Ne4 Bg7 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Rad1 Bd7 15.Nc5 Bc6 16.Rxd8+ Rxd8 17.Rd1 Rxd1+ 18.Bxd1

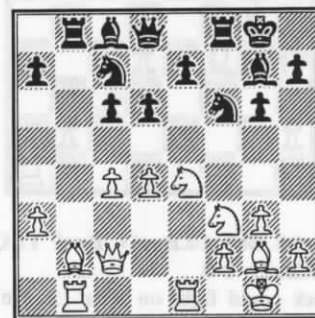


Sometimes getting all the heavy pieces off the board means the game turns boring. Here the struggle is just beginning.

18...Nc4 19.b3 Nb2 20.Bc2 b6 21.Na6 Bxf3 22.gxf3 c5 23.e4 Kf8 24.Nc7 Ke7 25.Kf1 Kd7 26.Nd5 Kd6 27.Ke2 h5 28.Kd2 c4 29.b4 Bh6+ 30.Ne3 h4 31.h3 Kc6 32.Kc1 Nd3+ 33.Bxd3 exd3 34.Kd2 Kb5 35.Kxd3 Ka4 36.Nc4 f6 37.Nd6 b5 38.Nc8 a6 39.Ne7 Ka3 40.Nxg6 Bg5 41.Ne7 Kxa2 42.Nd5 Kb3 43.Nc7 Bc1 44.Nxa6 Bb2 45.Nc5+ Ka3 46.Kc2 Ba1 47.Nd7 1-0

Moore,S (1776) - McCourt,D (1658)
Larsen (Dutch Setup) [A04]
UCCC 1st Fall Open

1.Nf3 f5 2.b3 Nf6 3.Bb2 e6 4.c4 d6 5.d4 g6 6.g3 Bg7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Qe8 9.Nbd2 Na6 10.a3 Nc7 11.Qc2 Rb8 12.Rfe1 b5 13.Rab1 bxc4 14.bxc4 Qd8 15.e4? fxe4 16.Nxe4



Here's a bonus point for fans of "What's the Cruncher?": Black to move and crunch in this position. See the final comment.

16...Bf5? 17.Nh4 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Nxe4 19.Qxe4 e6 20.Qxc6 Rb6 21.Qe4 d5 22.cxd5 exd5 23.Qd3 Nb5 24.f4 Nd6 25.Bc3 Nc4 26.Bb4 Re8 27.Nf3 a5 28.Rxe8+ Qxe8 29.Re1 Re6 30.Rxe6 Qxe6 31.Bc5 Nb2 32.Qd2 Nc4 33.Qe1 Qd7 34.Ne5 Nxe5 35.fxe5 Qg4 36.Qf2 h5 37.Kg2 h4 38.Qf3 h3+ 39.Kf2 Qe6 40.g4

Black resigned. The cruncher was 16...NxN 17.QxN Bf5, skewering queen and rook. God, I love playing Monday morning quarterback. 1-0

Collyer,C (1836) - Julian,J (1595)
English [A16]
Turkey Open

This was the round 2 match-up between the eventual top two finishers.

1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 0-0 5.d3 c6 6.Bg5 d6 7.Qd2 Re8 8.e4 Na6 9.h3 Nc7 10.Nge2 Rb8 11.0-0 a6 12.Bh6 Bd7 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.f4

A steamroller is headed Black's way. He decides to get play on the queenside.

14...b5 15.b3 b4 16.Nd1 a5 17.Ne3 c5 18.g4 Qc8 19.Ng3 Rg8?!



The rook has no future here. 19...h6 would probably hold the fort.

20.g5 Nfe8 21.f5 Kf8 22.Ng4 gxf5 23.Nh6 f6?!

After 23...Rh8, White gets a strong position, but now he gets a strong position and an immediate material advantage.

24.Nxg8 Kxg8 25.Nxf5 Bxf5 26.exf5 Qd7 27.g6 hxg6 28.fxg6 Kg7 29.Rf4 Ne6 30.Rf2 N8c7 31.Re1 Nd4 32.Qe3 e5 33.h4 Rh8 34.Bh3 Qe8 35.Qe4 Qe7 36.Bf5 Nce6 37.Ref1 Rf8 38.h5 Nxf5 39.Qxf5 Nf4 40.h6+! Kg8 [40...Kxh6 41.Rh2+ Kg7 42.Rh7+] 41.Rxf4! exf4 42.Qd5+ Kh8 43.g7+ Kh7 44.gxf8Q Qxf8 45.Qf5+ Kh8 46.Qg6 1-0

Also good was 46.Re1, leading to a quick mate no matter how Black replies.

Chester,J (1430) - Jensen,K (1150)
Modern Opening [A48]
Turkey Open

Kristi Jensen (no relation to Mike) almost pulls off an exciting upset against James, but the latter manages to save the draw, and with it, some particle of MCA honor.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g3 3.e3 Bg7 4.Bd3 0-0 5.Nbd2 d6 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.Re1 Re8 9.e4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nb4 11.Bc4 e6 12.a3 Nc6 13.b4 a6 14.Bb2 b5 15.Bb3 a5 16.Bc3 Qb6 17.e5 dxe5 18.dxe5 Nd7 19.bxa5 Nxa5 20.Bd4 Nc5?

This self-pin is not necessary. 20...Qb8 looks fine.

21.Rc1 Bf8 22.Qc2 Nab7 23.Ra1?
The logical follow-up was 23.Ne4, putting even more pressure on the knight.
23...Qd8 24.Rec1 Bd7 25.h4 Be7 26.g3 Rc8 27.Kg2 f6 28.Rh1 Bc6 29.h5? Qxd4 30.hxg6 f5



31.gxh7+?

Instead, White had 31.Qxf5!, threatening mate and gaining the upper hand. For instance, 31.Qxf5 Nd8 32.Qh5 h6 33.Qxh6 Qxe5 34.Qh7+ Kf8 35.Rae1. Considering all the mileage Black got out of the pin on f3, it would have been poetic justice for White to win with a pin of his own on e6.

31...Kh8 32.Rad1 Qg4 33.Rh4? Bxh4 34.Rh1 Bg5 35.Rh2 Nxb3 36.Qxb3 Bxd2 37.Rh3 Qg5 38.Kh2 Nc5 39.Nxg5 Nxb3 40.Nf7+ Kg7 41.Nd6 Rh8 42.Nxc8 Rxh7?

After 42...RxN the game was in the bag. Perhaps time was a factor, but from here on Kristi's huge lead slowly evaporates.

43.Ne7 Bg5? 44.Rxh7+ Kxh7 45.Nxc6 Nd2 46.Nd4 Be7 47.Nxb5 Ne4? [47...Nf3+] 48.Kg2 Bc5 49.f3 Nf2 50.a4 Bb6? 51.a5 Bxa5 52.Kxf2 Bb6+ 53.Kg2 Kg7 54.Kh3 Kg6 55.f4 Kh5 56.Nd6 Kg6 57.Nc4 Bc5 58.g4 fxg4+ 59.Kxg4 Bd4 60.Nd6 Bc3 61.Nb5 Bb2 62.Nc7 Kf7 63.f5 Ke7 64.f6+ Kf7 65.Kf4 Bc3 66.Nb5 Bb2 67.Nc7 Bc3 68.Nxe6 Kxe6 1/2-1/2

Yunker,J (1527) - Yunker,G (1741)
King Pawn Counter Gambit [A40]
Turkey Open

1.d4 e5?!

One would think that when father and son play, there should be few surprises in the opening. ECO gives 2.de5 as leading to a solid advantage for White, but Jeremy doesn't bite. Maybe he has been burned with this opening in other games, or maybe he hasn't seen it, but is afraid Dad has something up his sleeve.

2.Nc3 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe4+ Nge7 5.Bg5 d6 6.0-0-0 Be6 7.Nd5 Qd7 8.Bxe7 Bxe7 9.Nxe7 Qxe7 10.b3? Qf6!

Threatening both ...Qa1+ and ...Qxf2.

11.Kb1 a5

Gary opts for a storming of the castle, but

11...Qxf2 looks pretty good.
12.e3 0-0 13.Bd3 g6 14.Nf3 a4 15.Nd4



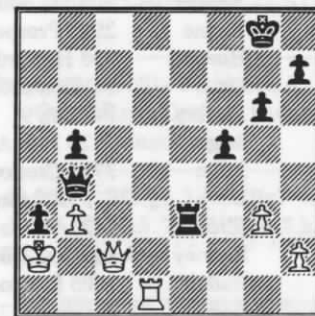
a3?!

Instead 15...ab3, opening up lines for the rooks, looks more deadly.

16.c3?

This leaves f2 weak. Either the simple 16.Qf3 or the interesting 16.Rhe1 would have kept a slight advantage. In the latter case, play might continue 16.Rhe1 NxN 17.QxN Qxf2!? 18.Re2! c5, with advantage to White.

16...Nxd4 17.exd4 Qxf2 18.Qe2 Qh4 19.g3 Qg5 20.Qd2 Qa5 21.c4 Qb6 22.c5? dxc5 23.dxc5 Qxc5 24.Rc1 Qd6 25.Qc3 c6 26.Rhd1 Qc7 27.Bc4 Bxc4 28.Qxc4 Ra5 29.Rd2 Re5 30.Qd4 Qe7 31.Qd6 Qg5 32.Rf2 Qe3 33.Qd2 Rfe8 34.Qc2 c5 35.Rf4 b5 36.Rcf1 f5 37.R4f2 Qd4 38.Rd2 Qb4 39.Rfd1 c4 40.Ka1 Re3 41.Rd4 Re2 42.R1d2 Re1+ 43.Rd1 Rxd1+ 44.Rxd1 cxb3 45.axb3 Re3 46.Ka2



46...Rf3? [46...Re7] 47.Rd8+?

White misses a cruncher here. 47.Qc8+ Kg7 48.Qb7+ wins the rook, and 47.Qc8+ Qf8 48.Rd8 wins the exchange.

47...Kg7 48.Qd1

Now Black misses the cruncher of 48...Rf2+! Like father, like son.

48...Re3 49.Rd4 Re2+?! 50.Qxe2 Qxd4 51.Qe7+ Kh6 52.Qxa3 b4 53.Qc1+ g5 54.Qc6+ Kh5 55.Qe8+ Kg4 56.Qe2+ Kh3 57.Qh5+ Kg2 58.Qxg5 Qf2+ 59.Kb1 Kxh2 60.Qh4+ Kg2 61.Qxb4 Kxg3 62.Qc3+ Kh4 63.Qf6+ Kg3 64.Qg5+ Kh2 65.Qh6+ Kg1 66.Qxh7 f4 67.Qg6+ Kf1 68.Qd3+ Qe2 69.Qh3+ Kf2 70.Qh4+ Kg2? 71.Qxf4 1-0

MCA members, December, 1999

Here is our annual paid-up membership list as of press time. Phone numbers (area code 406 unless otherwise noted) are included where known. Your expiration date is listed in year/month format. **If your membership has expired, or is about to expire, please send in your renewal right away.**

Ames	Jason	843 8th Ave.	Helena	MT	59601	1/00	442-4565
Arnold	Michael	14 Fox Island Ln	Great Falls	MT	59405	11/99	761-5317
Bailey	Brian	309 E Garfield St, Apt F	Bozeman	MT	59715	9/00	587-9625
Beyenal	Haluk	366 EPS CBE, M.S.U.	Bozeman	MT	59717	12/99	
Borchardt	James	1563 Virginia Dale	Helena	MT	59601	9/00	443-1649
Brennan	Les	Box 2404	Colstrip	MT	59323	2/02	748-5055 ext.
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DeTienne	Russell	428 N. 11th	Bozeman	MT	59715	5/00	585-9338
Douglas	Nick	523 27th St. S.	Great Falls	MT	59405	5/00	727-2310
Drake	Melvin	5950 Canyon Ferry Rd	Helena	MT	59602	9/00	475-3481
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Goplen	Arman	1220 North First St	Bismarck	ND	58501	1/00	
Griffen	David B.	PO Box 992	Couer d'Alene	ID	83816	5/00	
Hall	Richard	607 Ambrose Creek	Stevensville	MT	59870	3/00	777-3352
Hansen	Doug	3805 7th St. NE, #59	Great Falls	MT	59404	10/00	761-4517
Hardy	Samuel	307 1/2 South Ave. W.	Missoula	MT	59801	2/00	
Hildenstab	Duane	2995 Prospect #6	Helena	MT	59601	10/00	
Hoene Jr.	Howard	935 Howard Ave	Billings	MT	59101	9/00	
Hofland	Dave	PO Box 255	Kevin	MT	59454	11/99	
Hollingshead	Robbie	PO Box 9	Clinton	MT	59825	9/00	825-3187
Howe	Marc	2526 11th Ave. S., Apt. 40	Great Falls	MT	59405	10/00	452-7150
Jensen	Mike	3714 Creekwood	Missoula	MT	59802	7/00	721-0131
Johnson	Dave	213 El Reposo Pl.	Panama City	FL	32413	11/99	
Johnson	Michael	1724 Peosta	Helena	MT	59601	1/01	442-4053
Joki	Rodney	845 N. 23rd St	Couer D'Alene	ID	83814	4/00	
Katzl	Rudolf	1405 E. Broadway #P201	Missoula	MT	59802	2/00	
Leader	Bob	PO Box 412	Plains	MT	59859	3/00	544-8053
Legan	Johnny	Box 849	Corvallis	MT	59828	1/00	
Long	Michael	Box 473	Livingston	MT	59047	11/99	222-6422
Loy	Jim	1104 S. Montana, H7	Bozeman	MT	59715	5/00	586-8622
Lynch	William	2010 14th St. West	Billings	MT	59102	1/50	
Martin	Robert	Box 1922	East Helena	MT	59635	8/00	
Martinez	Michael	Box 1822	Kalispell	MT	59903	2/05	
Matous	Ronald	Box 102	Kelly	WY	83011	5/00	
Mayer	Eriel	4415 Rimrock Rd	Billings	MT	59106	5/00	655-0907
McBroom	William	2321 Raymond	Missoula	MT	59802	11/00	728-4654
McCourt	Chris	608 West Central	Missoula	MT	59801	9/00	721-0254
McCourt	Dan	608 W. Central	Missoula	MT	59801	9/00	721-0254
Mesaros	Robert	213 Poplar Dr.	Bozeman	MT	59718	5/00	388-4921
Moore	Sherwood	453 Minnesota	Missoula	MT	59802	2/00	728-1695
Motta	Paul	Box 7891	Missoula	MT	59807	10/00	
Mundy	Jerry	1627 W. Main #256	Bozeman	MT	59715	1/01	
Nowak	Greg	Hellgate Sta. - Box 8572	Missoula	MT	59807	9/00	549-7805

Petrak	Dennis	1909 Colorado Ave.	Black Eagle	MT	59414	7/00	452-4786
Price	Don	1615 Alder Court	Bozeman	MT	59715	5/00	
Rodriguez	Augusto	1130 Briarwood Loop	Great Falls	MT	59405	5/00	771-8824
Scarff	Steve	214 S. Church Ave.	Bozeman	MT	59715	7/00	
Skarstedt	Peter	Box 1524	Whitefish	MT	59937	5/00	
Skovron	James	3404 Jasper	Great Falls	MT	59404	5/00	771-0630
Stripes	James	PO Box 576	Deer Park	WA	99006	8/00	
Stuckey	Richard	304 32nd St. S.	Great Falls	MT	59405	9/00	454-1960
Suits	Thad	2015 4th Ave N.	Great Falls	MT	59401	10/02	453-6160
Voyles	Frank	Box 8213	Anaconda	MT	59711	12/99	
Warner	Nick D.	3363 Pinecrest Dr.	Helena	MT	59602	5/00	475-3010
Yunker	Jeremy	PO Box 14191	Spokane	WA	99214	2/00	509-922-0126
Zedekar	Stanley	80 Chilchote	Big Fork	MT	59911	9/00	
Zolinkov	Norma	270 Road 4	Roundup	MT	59072	11/99	

In addition to their regular addresses, the following players have provided their Email addresses to the Newsletter:

Brian Bailey - shrike.montana@montana.campuscw.net
 James Chester - chester@homer.libby.org
 Alex Dawson - dawson@ixi.net
 David B. Griffin - dbgrffin@hotmail.com
 Michael Johnson - mj@helenaweb.com
 Michael Martinez - martinez@lonewolfpub.com
 William McBroom - whm@selway.umt.edu
 Dennis Petrak - dpetrak@imt.net
 Thad Suits - suits@initco.net
 Nick Warner - KingUrk@aol.com

Chess mentor: *Seven practical principles for the opening*

If you are the mentor to any novice players, take the time to go over this series with them. They may even start beating you before long.

Here are seven pointers to help you survive the opening. There are many other important ideas in the openings, of course, but these seem to be the ones most often overlooked by newcomers to chess. The ideas behind them will be familiar to any experienced player, though even experienced players sometimes forget. When they do, you can show them the error of their ways only if you understand why these principles are so important in the first place.

1) Center pawn first. Since most chess openings sooner or later turn into a battle for the center of the board, it is not surprising that the two most common opening moves for White are 1.e4 and 1.d4. These make the best of White's first move advantage by laying claim to the center. Although there are many other strong opening moves, players with less experience should start off by pushing a center pawn forward two

squares. A move like 1.e3, while perfectly playable, is utterly passive. It says to your opponent, "Come and get me!", and in most cases that is exactly what your opponent will do.

2) Knights before bishops. Novice players with a healthy aggressive sense tend to like bishops. They can slash across the entire board, creating threats over long distances. The problem is, bishops work much better in the opening when supported by a knight or two. For that reason, experienced players will usually play out a knight first.

3) Don't move a piece twice in the opening. This well-known dictum is often ignored by novices. Moving a piece twice is usually bad because it necessarily means you have lost a chance to bring a new piece into play. In the opening quick development is crucial.

4) Chess isn't checkers. You don't have to capture. Take a piece because you *want* to, not because you *can*. This is especially true if you are behind in material. In those cases, decline an offer to trade pieces if possible.

5) Check isn't checkmate. Similarly, don't give a check simply because it is there. Often your opponent will be able to improve his position at the same time he gets out of check. Remember the chess saying: *Patzer sees check, patzer gives check*, and don't be a patzer.

6) Castle. Early in the game you should, in Yasser Seirawan's phrase, "build a house for your king." Don't become so enamored of your attacking plans that you forget basic defense. Castling is the first step in providing your king the safety he needs for any attack to work.

7) Hold back your queen. The queen is the most valuable piece on the board, but as such it is also the most easily pushed around. Hold back the queen until her help has been prepared by her subjects and all assassination threats are under control.

Each of these rules has exceptions, but don't worry about that now. As you gain experience with the power of these principles, you will come to understand the occasional need to break the rules.

Tournament Tables

Chinook Open (10/15,16/99)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Thad Suits	1956	W4	D2	W5	W3	W8	4.5
2	Douglas J Hansen	1675	W9	D1	H---	W5	W4	4.0
3	Sherwood Moore	1776	W11	W7	H---	L1	D6	3.0
4	Augusto Rodriguez	1423	L1	W10	W12	W7	L2	3.0
5	Nick Warner	1388	W12	W6	L1	L2	W9	3.0
6	Dennis Petrak	1647	D10	L5	W11	D9	D3	2.5
7	Daniel J McCourt	1600	W8	L3	D9	L4	W11	2.5
8	Nick J Doulas	1251	L7	H---	W10	W12	L1	2.5
9	Bill Furdell	1280	L2	B---	D7	D6	L5	2.0
10	Rick E. Edmiston	1260	D6	L4	L8	L11	W12	1.5
11	Melvin P Drake	1316	L3	L12	L6	W10	L7	1.0
12	Marc Howe	unr.	L5	W11	L4	L8	L10	1.0

UCCC 1st Fall Open (10/14/99)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Tot
1	McBroom, B.	1607	L2	W5	W3	2.0
2	McCourt, D.	1658	W1	L3	L4	1.0
3	Moore, S.	1776	U—	W2	L1	1.0
4	Jensen, M.	1889	U—	U—	W2	1.0
5	Carpenter, R.	1800	U—	L1	U—	0.0

Turkey Open (11/13,14/99)

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	CURT D COLLYER	1836	W7	W2	W3	W4	4.0
2	JOHN C JULIAN	1595	W5	L1	W12	W7	3.0
3	RON BRINEGAR	1594	W11	W9	L1	W8	3.0
4	JEREMY R YOUNKER	1527	W13	W6	W9	L1	3.0
5	PATRICK M KIRLIN	1188	L2	W10	W6	D9	2.5
6	WILLIAM MCBROOM	1607	W10	L4	L5	W13	2.0
7	DAVID B GRIFFIN	1484	L1	W8	W13	L2	2.0
8	DANIEL R COPELAND	916	B---	L7	W11	L3	2.0
9	GARY YOUNKER	1741	W12	L3	L4	D5	1.5
10	MICHAEL E CAMBARERI	1245	L6	L5	B---	D12	1.5
11	KRISTI B JENSEN	1150	L3	D12	L8	B---	1.5
12	JAMES M CHESTER	1430	L9	D11	L2	D10	1.0
13	CHRIS COPELAND	1068	L4	B---	L7	L6	1.0

4th Greater Northwest Team Tourney (11/6/99)

#	Team	1	2	3	4	5	Tot	Game Pnts
1	82nd Armored Division M. Jensen, Anderson, Bentley, Todd	X	½	1	1	1	3½	12½
2	Mighty Fireants Nowak, Leader, Gilbertsen, Joyce	½	X	1	1	1	3½	12
3	Brainstormers Mitchell, Lowney, Gross, Shipp	0	0	X	½	1	1½	7
4	Hannibal's Elephants D. McCourt, Catten, D. Jensen, Hollingshead	0	0	½	X	1	1½	6½
5	1-2-3 Stroh, Travis, Schilling, Mittmann	0	0	0	0	X	0	4

A Riddle

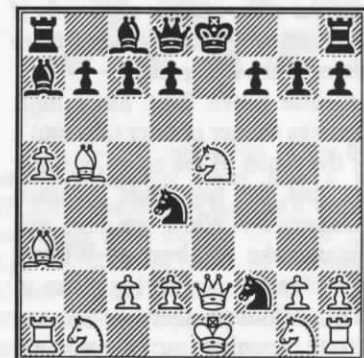
Q. Why did the gambiteer bring his camera to the tournament?

A. Because he wanted to take a picture of the winner.

The Polgar Corner

The following position is taken from the encyclopedia *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

Upcoming Events

Membership in USCF and MCA (or other state affiliate) required for all events unless otherwise noted.

December 18.....A Jolly Christmas Chess Party

Format: 3 events in one. *Santa's Egg Nog* - Game/30 (Swiss); *The Reindeer* - Game/15 (round robin); *Donner and "Blitz"en* - Game/5 (double round robin). **Site:** Clandestine Chess club, 125 W. Main, Missoula. **EF:** \$10 for all three events. Individual events can be entered at \$5, \$4, and \$3, respectively. \$2 more for any event at the door. **Reg:** 10:30-10:50 a.m. **Rnds:** 11, 12:15, 1:30 (*Egg Nog*); *Reindeer* starts at 1:45, *Donner and Blitzen* starts at 4. **Prizes:** Cash place prizes for all three events ranging from \$10 down to \$2. Highest total for all 3 events wins either a T-shirt, a \$5 restaurant coupon, or an MCA membership. (Greg Nowak excludes himself for eligibility of this combined prize.) **Contact:** Greg Nowak, Hellgate Sta., Box 8572, Missoula, MT, 59807. **Other:** USCF and MCA memberships encouraged but not required. Free christmas cookies provided.

January 9 — Paul Keres Memorial

Format: 3 or 4 round rated Swiss, G/60, limited to 12 entries. **Site:** Clandestine Chess Club, 125 W. Main, Missoula. **EF:** \$10 if by 1/1, \$12 early, \$15 at door. Juniors \$3 less. **Prizes** (based on \$80 in entries): 1st - \$18, 2nd - \$15, 3rd - \$11. \$5 Junior prize based on 2 or more entries. **Registration:** 10:30-10:50. **Rounds:** 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:30. **Entries to:** Greg Nowak, Hellgate Station, PO Box 8572, Missoula, MT 59807. **Other:** Please bring USCF ID card. MCA membership (\$9) strongly encouraged.

January 15-16 — No-Fees Change of Pace Freeze-Out

Format: Semi-organized and casual, based on player preferences. Morning rounds pot-luck pairing, (rated, game/90), followed by something different (bughouse, blitz, skittles, more rated games — you name it.) **Site:** Meeting room of Finnegan's Restaurant, 700 East Braodway, Missoula. **EF:** Free entry. **Prizes:** To be determined. **Rnds:** 9:30 both days for rated game/90, 12:30 for change of pace activities. **Contact:** Dan McCourt, 608 West Central, Missoula, MT 59801. Tel. 406-721-0254, Email: ddmc@bigsky.net.

January 22-23 — Second Annual January Thaw (Helena's Grand Prix event!)

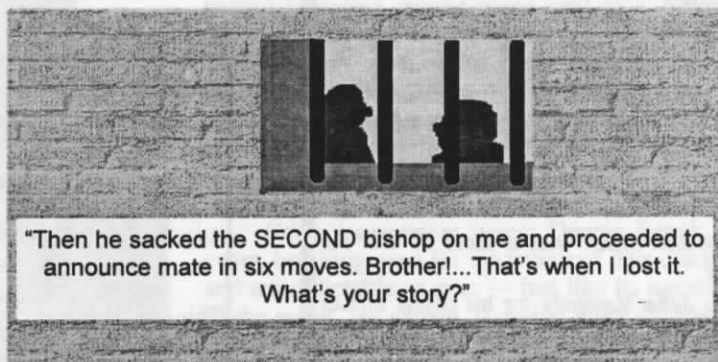
Format: 5 round Swiss, 40/90, SD/30. **Site:** Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch. **EF:** \$20 by Jan 20, \$25 at site. **Prizes:** Based on 12 entries — 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$50, \$25 biggest upset prize. **Registration:** 8:00-8:45 **Rnds:** 9, 2, 7 / 9, 2. **Entries to:** Melvin Drake, 5950 Canyon Ferry Rd, Helena, MT 59602. Tel. 475-3481. **Other:** As always, free coffee and free donuts.

February 26-27 — Dave Collyer Memorial

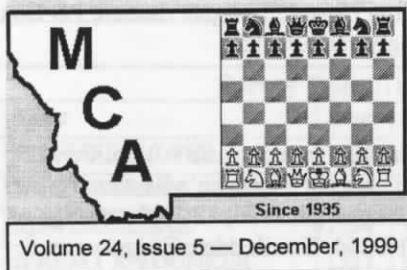
Spokane tournament to feature IM John Donaldson. Contact Gary Younker for details: Spokane Chess Club, Box 14191, Spokane, WA, 99214. Email: CHELANS@aol.com.

March 11-12 — No-Fees Change of Pace Bookworm

Format: Semi-organized and casual, based on player preferences. Morning rounds pot-luck pairing, (rated, game/90), followed by something different (bughouse, blitz, skittles, more rated games — you name it.) **Site:** Meeting room of Finnegan's Restaurant, 700 East Braodway, Missoula. **EF:** Free entry. **Prizes:** To be determined. **Rnds:** 9:30 both days for rated game/90, 12:30 for change of pace activities. **Contact:** Dan McCourt, 608 West Central, Missoula, MT 59801. Tel. 406-721-0254, Email: ddmc@bigsky.net.



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



20 and 10 years ago in MCN

December, 1979

Leslie Gunderson was tops in a field of 13 young players to win the Montana Junior Championship with a perfect 5-0 score.

In another special MCA event, **Alex Dawson** took first place at the Montana State Prison Open (a kind of odd name for a tournament, when you think about it).

December, 1989

Paul Motta of Ennis won the Winter Open with a score of 4-0. An impressive 22 players took part that year.

Biggest upset of the year went to **John Kennedy** for his defeat of **Les Brennan** — a 403 point rating difference at the time.

Answer to "What's the Cruncher?"

From McCourt-Hansen, 1999 Montana Championship
Dan McCourt missed a chance for an early knock-out.
1. Qa4 Nc6 2.Bb5, then either A) 2...Bb6 3.BxN+ bxB
4.Qxc6+ to win the rook, or B) 2...Bd7 3.BxN BxB
4.QxB wins the bishop.

Answer to "The Polgar Corner"

This exercise demonstrates the power of both discovered and double check. 1.Nxe7+ NxQ 2.Nf6#