



MONTANA

CHESS NEWS

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Alex Dawson Wins State Championship



The State Champion, with Alex Dawson

When Alex Dawson made a great move, twenty thousand people cheered. When he checkmated his opponent, cannons fired in celebration. No, it was not a dream that the repeating State Champion had; it was the 1999 State Closed Championship, held in Missoula this year in competition with a home game of the Grizzlies just down the street.

Dawson certainly made some moves worth cheering about, and all of them appear in the *Recent Games* section of this issue of MCN. It was his fifth championship title, and his third unshared title, tying him with Greg Nowak for most solo championships in Montana history. He won four games, (including one against the Octopus himself), and only Thad Suits was able to nick him for a draw.

Nowak had what for him must qualify as a rough tournament, losing two games for the first time in ages. Besides the loss to Dawson, he was the victim of a first round upset at the hands of Sherwood Moore.

For his part, Sherwood Moore took clear second place after only barely qualifying as an eleventh hour substitute. *Dark horses take note:* Outgoing co-champ Les Brennan was also a last-minute sub the year he won. Special congratulations are owed Sherwood since on the way to his 3.5 points he took the early lead in the Upset Derby (430 points), and he also broke into class A for the first time in his career.

With State Open winner David Duke having to bow out, Howard Hoene was left as the lone representative from Billings, and he also fared well. In the final round he was even in the enviable position of playing on board one for the championship. Although he lost to Dawson in that game, Hoene's three points left him tied with Nowak and Suits for a share of third place.

The event was held in venerable Rankin Hall on the University of Montana campus. It was a quaint site, and the price (free!) was certainly right. Still, we all look forward to the day when repair work is finished on the Social Sciences building, and the UCCC, host of this year's Closed, can return to its longtime home.

Katzl takes Barto Memorial on tie breaks

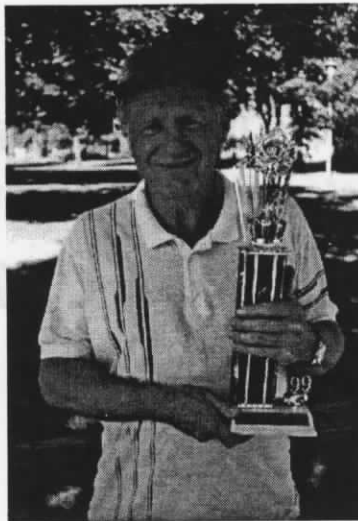
As the State Closed Championship was taking place on one side of the room, six players competed in the annual John Barto Memorial Tournament on the other side. This year the two strongest players finished on top, with Rudi Katzl just edging out Ron Erickson on tie break points to take home the first place trophy.

Owing to the small turnout, tournament director Dan McCourt changed the format from a Swiss to a round robin. The lot numbers (assigned randomly by the computer) caused Rudi and Ron to be paired against each other in the first round. With their nearest rivals grouped several hundred rating points below them, a win by either won in this game would have sapped the tournament of much of its drama. Fortunately from this perspective, Ron was able to hold a draw in an opposite-colored bishop endgame.

For Ron and Rudi it then became a case of avoiding upsets, and both of them were up to the task. In fact, the only reason their tie break totals were different at the end was due to a pre-arranged bye one of the other players received, meaning Ron had to take a bye instead of getting the chance to beat him.

Taking clear third place with a strong performance was Michael Johnson of Helena at 3.5 points. He lost ground only to Rudi Katzl and to a half point bye.

Final note: Young newcomer Robbie Hollingshead of Clinton, Montana, did not get any wins his first time out, but he did not play badly at all. Better luck next time, Robbie. It took most of us several tries before we notched our first victory.



Rudi Katzl

Prayer to Caïssa, the Muse of Chess

*Oh Caïssa, Patroness of the
eight-by-eight, hear my
prayer and answer.*

*May my King be secure in
his castle even as my Queen is
free from pins and forks.*

*May my Knight frolic from
square to square as an hart.*

*May my Rooks find open
files, and be doubled there-
upon, that they may seize the
seventh rank in thy name.*

*May both my Bishops be
the Good Bishop.*

*May my Pawns be con-
nected and, yea,*

May they be passed.

*But the Pawns of mine en-
emy, oh Caïssa,*

*Let them be isolated, dou-
bled and backward.*

*Let his Bishops and Rooks
lack scope.*

*Let his Knights be denied
outposts.*

*Let his Queen sacrifice her-
self for naught.*

*And let his King, bereft of
defenders, bow down to the
host of attackers that Thou
sendest before him.*

*Great Caïssa, forgive me
my blunders, and lead me to
victory in this tournament
and the tournaments to come.*

— Thad Suits

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Ron Erickson - Western V.P. (549-4671)

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.

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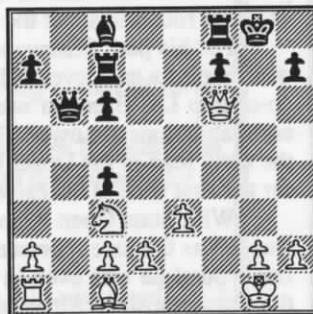
Issue 1 - Mar. 1, Issue 2 (Special for the Open) - May 10, Issue 3 - July 31, Issue 4 - Sept. 25, Issue 5 - Dec. 8. Deadline for most submissions is ten days before the publication date.

Biggest Upset to Date

Sherwood Moore - 430 points

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

Chess aphorisms

Add your own pearls of wisdom to this list

Pin will win
Seize the seventh
Connect your rooks
I never beat a well man
A knight on the rim will never win
The king is an attacking piece
Sit on your hands
Don't get any ideas
Gain the opposition
A knight on the rim is dim
Passed pawns must be pushed
Play the board, not the opponent
A fool and his pieces are soon parted
Always give check — it might be mate
If you're ahead in material, trade down
Don't move a piece twice in the opening
Pawns before knights and knights before bishops
Pry open the king bishop file, sac, sac, mate
Don't double your pawns, double your rooks
It is always preferable to sacrifice the pieces of your opponent

Octopus celebrates birthday in style

— Greg Nowak

On the Octopus's 52nd birthday, August 14th, 18 players matched positional savvy and combinational brilliance in the banquet room of the Shack Restaurant in Missoula. Greg Nowak finished first with 4½ points.

Hans Anderson grabbed second place with 4 points, Thomas Hesse third with 3½, and tied for fourth place were Rich Hall and Russ Kubisiak. Johnny Legan again won the junior award, and Ron Erickson won the prize for the best Bird Opening.

Welcome to two newcomers to the Missoula chess combat zone: Russell Kubisiak, a 1458 player, hails from Pocatello, Idaho; Thomas Hesse, rated 1521, has moved here from Cedar Falls, Iowa, and will be attending the University of Montana. Thomas scored two minor upsets with wins over Erickson and McCourt.

Tournament Director Jim

—by Jim Loy

I was once a certified tournament director. I don't know if that job expires over time or not. Back then, the requirements for becoming a tournament director were that you had to serve as an assistant tournament director, and you had to pass a test. I played in an eight-round tournament in Great Falls. There were only seven players, and the early round pairings were made as a Swiss system.

I expressed my concerns that in later rounds, the pairings were likely to become impossible. You get a situation where, in the next to the last round, player A has not played B or C, while B has not played C. This is impossible to pair in just two rounds, A must sit out the round in which B plays C, and you must add an extra round, so that A plays both B and C.

I volunteered to find a way to fit the pairings already made into the USCF round robin chart (for seven players). It was not difficult, as only two or three rounds had been played, and the round robin chart is logical and highly predictable. After about ten minutes of experimentation, I was able to change the pairing numbers of only a few of the players, so that the pairings fit the chart. And our Swiss system tournament was now a round robin. I was pleasantly surprised to be listed as an assistant tournament director of the tournament.

I took the tournament director test. It is a fairly easy, open book test. It determines that you, as a tournament director can find the correct ruling in the rule book, essentially. I guarantee that this is a valuable skill for a tournament director.

I directed a few local tournaments. And then I directed a Montana Open, here in Bozeman. In this tournament, I learned that it is very difficult to win chess games when you direct the tournament. I was constantly distracted. Should I close the door, as those people out there are talking loudly? Is anybody in time trouble? Are there enough boards and clocks? Have I forgotten to make any announcements? The tournament was a success; my play was a disaster.

I was directing a tournament. In the last round, I was playing Jim Chester. I needed a draw to take first place. After a while, I had him beat. But, the game went on and on and on and on. The other players needed to get on the road, to get home. So, we assumed that I would beat Jim, and I distributed the prizes. And everybody left, except Jim and me. What could go wrong? I lost a queen, left it hanging as I recall. Still I had some compensation, but my game eventually fell apart. I was about to resign, when Jim offered me a draw. He is too nice. Anyway, I didn't have to recall the trophies and redistribute them.

(© 1999 Jim Loy)

Remembering John Thompson (1910-1999)

As MCN readers know already, John Thompson died in Billings this past July 5th. He had been in declining health since a stroke in 1996, and his chess playing days were over, but during his full lifetime of 88 years, he became without doubt the most notable and influential chess player ever to call Montana home.

John was born and bred in Texas, and it was at the Dallas YMCA back in the twenties that he first took up chess. It was not long before he developed a reputation as one of the strongest players in the region, winning the Dallas championship in 1930, then going on to take second place in the very first Southwest Open two years later. Over the course of his long career in Texas, John won that event seven times. He also won the Texas Championship many times, including the first four straight years it was held.

As great a player as he was, John's most lasting contributions to American chess are in the areas of teaching and tournament organizing. Most Montana players are aware that John was the chess mentor of another well-known Texan, Ken Smith, who developed the Smith-Morra Gambit into the sharp and much-feared tournament weapon that it is today.

What fewer realize is that every time we play in a Swiss system tournament we owe a debt of thanks to John. Back in the bad old days, tournament organizers used various convoluted systems to try to determine a tournament champion. Often this made for a scheduling nightmare, as some systems would require players to hammer their way through as many as 15 games in an event. And this in the days before faster time controls became popular!

Then John spoke with George Koltanowski — another giant of American chess — who explained how to run a Swiss system event. As president of the Texas Chess Association at the time, it was John's wise decision to incorporate that format into the 1942 Southwest Open — the very first time it was used here. The winner vs. winner format was an instant hit with players and organizers alike.

The Swiss system gained national prominence a few years later when John, then USCF Vice President, ran the 1947 USCF Open in Corpus Christi using the Swiss system. It's hard to imagine now, but before the advent of the Swiss system, running a "big" tournament like the USCF Open (it had 87 players) in a "mere" two weeks seemed impossible at the time.



photo by Les Brennan

Of course, as Howard Hoene, another Billings chess player recently remarked, "There was much more to John than chess." He inspired affection in everyone who worked with him, including many Montana friends. A story Les Brennan recounts sums it up nicely:

I gravitated to his board when he was playing tournament games. I have a picture of me shaking John's hand after a game I won against him long ago. That picture will bring me pleasure the rest of my life, not so much because I won the game, but because it shows in the picture that he liked me. John seemed to like winning friends as much as winning chess games. He mastered both effortlessly.

He was widely traveled, having worked as an oilman all over the world. It was on one such job in Venezuela that he met his wife, Carmen, with whom he raised six sons. They are all still living, along with grandchildren and even one great-grandchild.

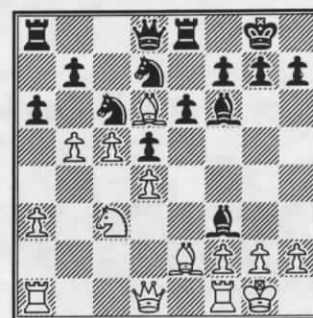
He moved to Billings in 1982 and remained active as a chess teacher and promoter until his stroke slowed him down. Even though in his lifetime John played against many of the finest chess talents in the country (beating more than a few), it seems appropriate to close with a game from his Montana days. Besides, even though defeating Thad "The Flounder" Suits might not have been the high point of John's career, it was certainly an instructive game for the loser. And a gift for passing on helpful ideas was one of the things that made John special.

Thompson, John (2200) - Suits, Thad (1900)
Caro-Kann (Panov Attack) [B13]
Billings Action Invitational (Game/30)
7 Apr 1990 - Notes by Suits

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.c5 Be7

Too passive, particularly against a savvy player like John Thompson. 8...Ne4! would have been an energetic reply.

9.Bf4 a6 10.0-0 0-0 11.a3 Nd7 12.b4 Bf6
13.Bd6 Re8 14.b5 Bxf3



15.bxc6!?

After the game I asked John how deeply he had calculated the ramifications of this sacrifice. His reply taught me a little something about trusting one's instincts, especially in fast games like this one: "Oh, I just sort of figured there would be enough there to make it work." In a weaker player a comment like this would betoken mere wishful thinking, but with John it was the sign of a trustworthy intuition, not wishful thinking.

15...Bxe2 16.cxd7 Bxd1 17.dxe8Q+
Qxe8 18.Rfxd1 Qc6 19.Rab1 Bd8 20.Rb3
Bc7 21.Bxc7 Qxc7 22.Rdb1 Rb8 23.Rb6
Kf8 24.Ne2 e5 25.c6 exd4?

Worse than pointless. 25.Rc8 would have forced White to capture with the more easily blocked pawn.

26.Nxd4?

Both players are in a time crunch now. 26.Rxb7 would have won outright.

26...Qe7?

After 26...Re8 the back rank mate threats allow Black time to eliminate the advanced pawn, cruising into the endgame with a decisive material advantage. E.g. 26...Re8 27.Rxb7 (27.cxb7? Qxb6!) 27...Qa5 28.h3 Qc3 29.c7 Rc8.

27.Rxb7 Black resigns. 1-0

Chess mentor: *A new feature for beginners and novice players*

We all have had mentors at one time or another in our chess careers. 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.

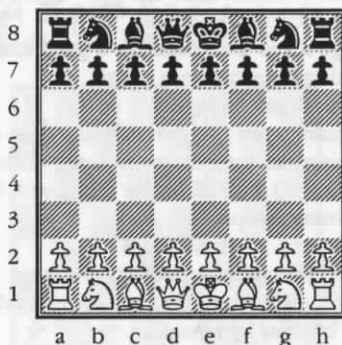
Novice players are often left to sink or swim in clubs and tournaments. While learning by losing is for many of us the best way to improve, a few hints along the way can make our losses more instructive, not to mention fewer and farther between. This debut installment of *Chess Mentor* will cover one basic skill: Reading and writing chess notation.

A surprising number of promising players are reluctant to take the time to learn chess notation. This is unfortunate, because learning chess notation is to chess what learning to read is to other areas of study: It makes it easy to learn from others. Many chess teachers maintain that simply playing over recorded games by great players is the single most important step you can take to improve your play. Learning the system takes little time, but the payback is great.

The most commonly-used notation today (and the one used in this newsletter) is called algebraic. The older system is "English" (or "descriptive") and will not be dealt with here.

The algebraic system identifies each square on the board in terms of its column and row. The columns are symbolized by the small letters *a* through *h*,

and the rows are symbolized by the numbers 1 to 8. These letters and numbers begin in White's near left corner with the square "a1" and continue to the far right with "h8", as shown here.



The pieces each use a single capital letter as an abbreviation: K=King, Q=Queen, B=Bishop, N=Knight, and R=Rook. In chess notation the piece that moves is listed first, followed by the square it moves to. For instance, if the 13th move of the game is "Bishop to the square b6", you would see "13.Bb6".

Pawns are a special case. A pawn move simply lists the target square without any piece abbreviation, the word "pawn" being understood, e.g. "1.e4".

Captures are another special case, and here usage varies. Most people insert the letter "x" (standing for "takes") between the piece that moves and the square it moves to (Nx f3). Another common practice is to use the abbreviation

for the piece captured instead of the square the piece moves to (NxB). Some treat captures the same as other moves.

Here are a few other details you will encounter as you start playing through games and recording your own: Castling kingside is listed as "0-0", and castling queenside is "0-0-0". A check is usually marked with a "+" symbol, and checkmate is shown either as "++" or "#". When a pawn is promoted to a queen, the tag "=Q" is added to the pawn's move.

One thing even experienced players often forget is to identify which paired piece (like a rook) is moving to a square in those cases where either one could reach it. This is written by adding the row or column of the moving piece after the piece's abbreviation. For instance, "Rf8" is read as "Rook on column e moves to the square f8".

In addition, players love to add exclamation marks and question marks to their moves. The first means "Great move!", and the second means something like, "What kind of a dumb move is this?"

Practice your new understanding of chess notation now by playing through a couple of the shorter games in this issue of the newsletter. It may be slow going at first, but be patient. Just remember that you are on your way to a deeper understanding of chess — and the wins that come with it. ♚



Recent Games

The games section begins with all five of State Champion Alex Dawson's efforts.

Dawson,A (1997) - Long,M (1742)
New St. George Defense [A40]
Montana State Closed 1999

1.d4 b5

Zygmund Mayer may be absent from the Montana chess scene (we hope only temporarily), but his legacy lives on.

2.c3 e6 3.e4 a6 4.Be3 Bb7 5.Nd2 Nf6 6.Bd3 d6 7.a4 c6 8.f4 Be7 9.Ng3 Nbd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Kh1 Nb6 12.a5 Nbd7 13.Qc2 g6 14.f5 Ng4 15.Bg1 c5 16.h3 Ngf6 17.e5 dxe5 18.dxe5 Nh5



19.fxg6!?

Presumably a purposeful sac, this gutsy move leads to a highly complex attack.

19...Ng3+ 20.Kh2 Nxf1+ 21.Rxf1 fxg6 22.Bxg6!

The only way the first sac makes sense is to sac this second piece and open up lines for attack.

22...hxg6 23.Qxg6+ Kh8 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Qxe6+

Of course, Alex has a draw by repetition right now if he wants it, but you don't get to be a repeat state champion by taking easy draws in the first round.

25...Kg7 26.Qg4+ Kh6 27.Be3+ Kh7 28.Qh5+ Kg8 29.Qg6+ Kh8 30.Qh6+ Kg8

And now, having made time control with only seconds to spare, Alex can examine the position to see if there really is a win in there.

31.Qg6+ Kh8 32.Bg5?

Alex misses the best way to get more of his pieces into the attack: 32.Qh5+! Kg8 33.Bg6, after which Michael will have to give up material to stop mate. This option was available as early as move 29, but if you miss a good move once, you'll probably miss it a hundred times.

32...Qe8 33.Qh6+ Kg8 34.e6 Nf6

The unintuitive retreat 34...Nb8 appears

to work better for Black. The text move has the disadvantage of blocking the black rook's view of the f file. It might look like this: 34...Nb8 35.Bxe7 Qxe7 36.Qg6+ Qg7 37.e7 Qxg6 38.exf8Q+ Kxf8 39.Ne5+ Kg7 40.Nxg6 Kxg6 and Black has a good chance of making his extra piece count.

35.Ne5 Qh5 36.Rxf6?

Capturing this way leaves White open to a crunching pin (see the next note). Instead, 36.QxQ NxQ 37.BxB leaves White with better winning prospects.

36...Qxh6 37.Rxh6 Bxg5

Here Michael misses the tricky pin 37.Bd6!, after which the best Alex could do would be draw by repetition.

38.Rg6+ Kh7 39.Rxg5 Rg8 40.Rh5+ Kg7 41.Nb3 c4 42.Nc5

And a few unrecorded moves later, Alex promoted his e pawn. 1-0

Hansen,D (1675) - Dawson,A (1997)
Smith-Morra Gambit [B21]
Montana State Closed

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.f4

In his analysis of the Smith-Morra Gambit, Ken Smith considered this variation to be dubious, but playable as a surprise weapon or in casual games. Doug remarked afterwards that he wanted to have a fast, exciting game, so that, win or lose, he'd have time to go find a TV with the Nebraska football game on it.

5...d6 6.Bc4 a6 7.Be3 e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 Nf6 10.h3 b5 11.Bb3 b4 12.Na4 Nxe4 13.Qc2 Nc5 14.Nxc5 Qb6?



15.Bf2?

Doug missed a chance to use a rogue knight. After 15.Nxe6! QxB+ 16.Kh1 Qb6 (to guard the knight) 17.Nxg7+ Black's isolated pawns make his position a complete shambles.

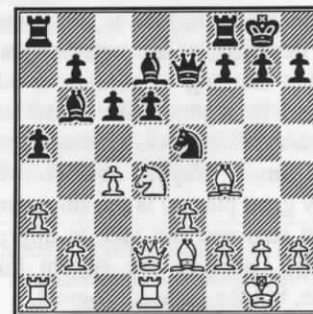
15...dxc5 16.Ba4 Bd7 17.Rac1 0-0 18.Ng5 g6 19.Ne4 Nd4 20.Bxd4 Bxa4

21.Qxa4 cxd4 22.Rc6 Qb7 23.Rfc1 Rfc8 24.Nd2 Kg7 25.Nf3 Bf6 26.g4 Rxc6 27.Rxc6 Rc8 28.Rxc8 Qxc8 29.Qxb4 Qc1+ 30.Kg2 Qxf4 31.Qb6 e5 32.Qd6 Qe3 33.h4 e4

Time to watch some football, Doug. 0-1

Dawson,A (1997) - Suits,T (1956)
Budapest Gambit [A52]
Montana State Closed

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 Bb4+ 5.Nd2 Nc6 6.Ng3 Qe7 7.e3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 d6 11.Nf3 a5 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.a3 Bc5 14.Qd2 c6 15.Rfd1 Bb6



16.b4? [16.Nf3!] 16...Rfd8 17.bxa5 Bxa5 18.Qb2 Rdb8 19.Nf3 Bc7 20.c5! f6 21.cxd6 Bxd6 22.Bxe5 fxe5?

Black wants to keep the bishop pair, and so captures with the pawn to prevent NxB on the next move. He fails to see he is in danger now of losing not just the bishop pair but the bishop.

23.Qd2 e4

This counterpunch works, but it really shouldn't.

24.Qxd6 Qxd6 25.Rxd6 exf3 26.Bxf3?

Instead 26.Bc4+ wins.

26...Bf5 27.g4 Bc2 28.Rd7 Ra4 29.Kg2 Bb3 30.Rb1 Be6 31.Rd3 Bxg4 32.Bxc6 Bf5 33.Bxa4 Bxd3 34.Rb6 Kf8 35.Bc6 Ra8 36.Rxb7 Rxa3 37.Bd5 Bg6 38.f3? Rxe3 39.Kg3 Rd3 40.Bb3!? Draw agreed. ½-½

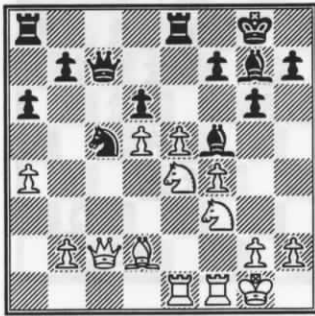
Dawson,A (1991) - Nowak,G (2189)
Benoni [A67]
Montana State Closed

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nbd7 9.a4 0-0 10.Nf3 a6 11.Bd3 c4 12.Bxc4 Re8 13.Qc2 Qa5?

After the natural follow-up of 13...Nxe4, Black would have taken the initiative. The text move wastes a crucial tempo, allowing

White to hang onto the pawn.

14.Bd2 Qc7 15.Bd3 Nc5 16.0-0 Nxd3
17.Qxd3 Nd7 18.Rae1 Nc5 19.Qc2 Bd7
20.e5 Bf5 21.Ne4



Now 21...Rac8 would be good, and Black, though still down a pawn, has excellent prospects.

21...Qb6 22.a5 Qa7?

Instead 22...Qd8 was playable. The text allows a crunching pin that simplifies to a won endgame.

23.Be3 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Nxe4 25.Bxa7
Rxa7 26.Rxe4 Raa8 27.Rc1 Rac8 28.Rc3
Rxc3 29.bxc3 g5 30.fxc3 dxe5 31.Kf2 Rc8
32.c4 Bf8 33.Nxe5 Bb4 34.Nd7 Bxa5 35.c5
Kg7 36.Ke3 Rc7 37.Re7 b5 38.d6 Rc8
39.Kd4 Kg6 40.Ne5+ Kxg5 41.Rxf7 b4
42.Rf3 b3 43.Rxb3 Rf8 44.Nf3+ Kf6
45.Ra3 Bd8 46.Rxa6

And the pawn eventually queened.1-0

Hoene,H (1707) - Dawson,A (1997)
Sicilian [B52]
Montana State Closed

This was the fifth-round game for all the marbles.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+
Qxd7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Re1 Nc6 7.Nc3 g6 8.d4
exd4 9.Nxd4 Bg7 10.Nf3 0-0 11.Rb1 Rac8
12.Bg5 Rfd8 13.Qd2 Ng4 14.Nd5 h6
15.Bh4 Kh7 16.b4?!



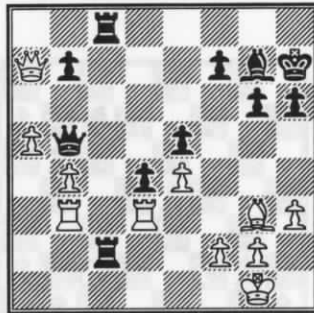
This self-imposed rupture of the queen-side seems dubious without any immediate tactical threats to back it up.

16...Re8 17.h3 Nge5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5
19.Bg3 Nc4 20.Qd3 e6 21.Ne3 Nxe3

22.Qxe3 Rxc2 23.Qxa7 Rec8 24.Red1 d5
25.a4 d4 26.a5 e5 27.Rd3?

More testing would be 27.b5, keeping out the black queen and threatening 28.a6.

27...Qb5 28.Rbb3



28...Ra2

Alex understandably wants to get a steamroller going on the seventh rank, but 28...R2c6 followed by 29...Ra6 would have trapped the enemy queen.

29.f3?

Open the gates! The Huns are threatening to batter them down!

29...Rcc2 30.Qb8 Rxc2+ 31.Kf1 Rxc3
32.Qc8 Rxf3+ 0-1



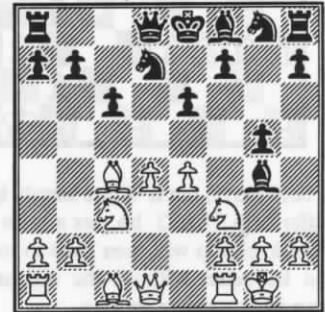
Howard Hoene, Jr.

Moore,S (1756) - Hoene,H (1707)
Baltic Defense [D02]
Montana State Closed

Both Howard Hoene and Sherwood Moore had a great tournament. Howard was playing for the championship on board one in the final round, losing to Alex, and Sherwood took clear second place in the event.

In this matchup between the two of them, Sherwood miscalculates some double-edged exchanges and drops a piece. It was to be his only careless move of the tournament.

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 3.e3 Nd7 4.c4 dxc4
5.Bxc4 e6 6.Nc3 c6 7.0-0 g5 8.e4 Bg4



9.Bxg5? Bxf3 10.Bxd8 Bxd1 11.Raxd1
Rxd8 12.f4 Ngf6 13.f5 e5 14.d5 Bc5+
15.Kh1 Ng4 16.Rd3 Ne3 17.Rxe3 Bxe3
18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Re1 Bd4 20.Nd1 Nf6
21.Bd3 Ke7 22.h3 h5 23.g3 Rdg8 24.Kg2 h4
25.g4 Nh5 26.Bc4 Nf4+ 27.Kh2 Rg7 28.b3
f6 29.Ne3 Bxe3 30.Rxe3 Rd8 31.a4 Rd2+
32.Kh1 Rh7 33.Bf1 Rh8 34.Rc3 Kd6 0-1

Loy,J (1812) - Hansen,D (1675)
King's Gambit Declined [C30]
Montana State Closed

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Bc4 Nf6
5.Nc3 c6 6.fxe5 dxe5?



Necessary first was 6...BxN to prevent the following tactical blow.

7.Bxf7+ Ke7

If 7...KxB, then 8.Nxe5+ wins back the piece and another pawn.

8.Bb3 Nbd7 9.0-0 b5 10.a3 a5 11.d4
exd4 12.Qxd4 Ke8 13.Kh1 Bc5 14.Qd3
Qc7 15.e5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Bf4 Qd4
18.Rfe1+ Kd7 19.h3

Interesting is 19.Rad1. Then the following two lines are possible. A) 19...QxQ 20.RxQ+ Kc8, and Black's pieces are not well coordinated. B) 19...BxR? 20.Qf5+! Kd8 21. RxB, and White wins.

19...Qxd3 20.cxd3 h5?!



A bold move, but if White simply ignores the offer with 21.Bh2 he gets a great game. The black bishop will then have to move or it can be taken without the reprisal that follows its immediate capture.

21.hxg4? hxg4+ 22.Bh2 g3 23.Be6+ Kc7 24.Bh3 gxh2 25.Kxh2 g5! 26.Kg3

26.Ne4 looks like a better try.

26...g4 27.Re6?

27.Bxg4, hoping to fight to a draw is the slow way to lose.

27...gxh3 28.Rxf6 Rag8+! 29.Kf3 hxg2 30.Ne2 g1Q 0-1

Hoene,H (1707) - Suits,T (1956)
Caro-Kann [B18]
Montana State Closed

Even in a relatively quiet opening like the Caro-Kann, one false move, and it's all over.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Be3 e6

6...Qb6 immediately is probably playable, but going after the b2 pawn looks scary. There is always the danger that when you send the queen down the hole she might not come back alive.

7.Bd3 Nf6 8.N1e2 Qc7 9.Nf4 Bxd3 10.Qxd3

Maybe 10.NxB is better. The knight can be pushed around where it is now.

10...Bd6 11.Nfh5?

11.Qd2 avoids the trap.

11...Nxb5 12.Nxb5 Qa5+

White is going to lose the knight and get absolutely nothing in return. 0-1

Moore,S (1787) - Nowak,G (2189)
Benko Gambit [E91]
Montana State Closed

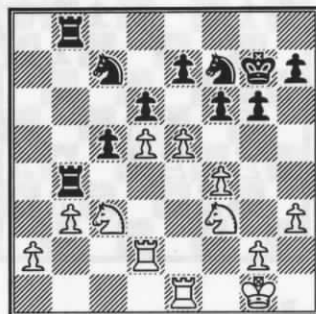
The Newsletter doesn't mean to pick on the Octopus by publishing both his losses in this issue. It's just that, well, when man bites dog....

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 c5 5.d5 d6 6.e4 0-0 7.Be2 b5

The Benko Gambit, one of the most solid gambits around. Black gives up the pawn for

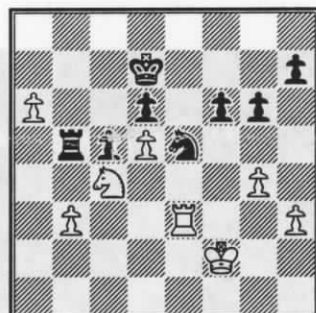
lasting pressure on the a and b files.

8.cxb5 a6 9.bxa6 Bxa6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.h3 Ne8 12.Be3 Qa5 13.Bxa6 Qxa6 14.Qd2 Nc7 15.Bh6 Rfb8 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Rfe1 f6 18.Nh2 Ne5 19.b3 Qd3 20.Rad1 Qxd2 21.Rxd2 Rb4 22.f4 Nf7 23.Nf3 Rab8 24.e5



This push could have waited. Black wins back the pawn without a fight.

24...Rxf4 25.exd6 exd6 26.Re7 Nb5 27.Nxb5 Rxb5 28.Rd7 Re4 29.Kf2 Ra5 30.Rc7 Rb5 31.Rd3 Kf8 32.Nd2 Re7 33.Rc8+ Re8 34.Rxe8+ Kxe8 35.Ne4 Ke7 36.a4 Ra5 37.Re3 Ne5 38.Nd2 Ra7 39.g4 Rb7 40.Nc4 Kd7 41.a5 Rb5 42.a6



42...Rb8?

42...NxN first was required.

43.a7 Rd8 44.Nb6+ Kc7 45.a8Q Rxa8 46.Nxa8+ Kb7 47.Re2 Kxa8 48.Re4 Kb7 49.Ra4 Nd7 50.Re4 Nb6 51.Re7+ Ka6 52.Rxh7 g5 53.Re7 Nxd5 54.Rd7 Nf4 55.Kf3 Nxb5 56.Rxd6+ Kb5 57.Rxf6 Kb4 58.Rf5 c4 59.bxc4 Kxc4 60.Ke3?

Faster was 60.Kg2.

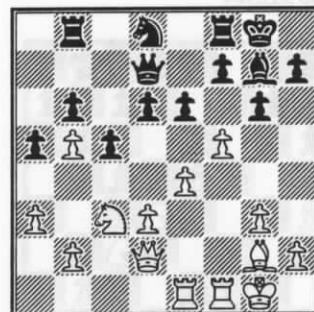
60...Kc3 61.Kf3 Kd4 62.Kg3 Ng1 63.Rxg5 Ne2+ 64.Kf3 Nc3 65.Rf5 Nd5 66.g5 Ne7 67.Kg4

And the pawn eventually queened.1-0

Nowak,G (2189) - Suits,T (1956)
English - Symmetrical [A36]
Montana State Closed

1.g3 g6 2.Bg2 Bg7 3.c4 c5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.a3 d6 6.Rb1 Be6!? 7.d3 Rb8 8.Nh3 Nf6 9.Nf4 Bd7 10.Bd2 a5 11.Nb5 0-0 12.Bc3 Qc8 13.0-0 b6 14.e3 Nd8 15.Bxf6 Bxf6

16.Nd5 Kg7 17.Qd2 Bxb5 18.cxb5 Qe6 19.f4 Kg8 20.e4 Bg7 21.Rbe1 Qd7 22.f5 e6 23.Nc3



23... f6

Black could have won a pawn with 23...BxN 24.bxB Qxb5, but 25.f6, followed by the mate threat of 26.Qh6 looked too scary. However, Black can probably hold in that line simply by sliding the king to h8 and the rook to g8, bringing the queen to f8 for a trade of queens if necessary.

24.Bh3 exf5 25.Nd5 Qf7 26.Qg2 Re8?

Much better was the simple 26...fe4 27.Qxe4 f5, and Black is a pawn up and will soon untangle his position.

27.exf5 Rxe1

This cedes the file to White.

28.Rxe1 g5 29.Re7 Qf8 30.Qe4 Nf7 31.Qe6



31...h6

None of Black's pieces can move without immediate disaster, so he moves a pawn. Disaster will follow anyway.

32.Bg4 1-0

McCourt,D (1600) - Hansen,D (1675)
Petrov's Defense [C42]
Montana State Closed

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Bb4 4.c3 Ba5 5.d3 d6 6.Qb3 Qe7

7.Ng5?

White misses the opening cruncher 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.Bb5, and after 9.BxN either the bishop or the rook must fall.

7...h6? 8.Nf3

Another cruncher slips by White. 8.Bxf7+

Kf8 9.Be6 wins a pawn and destroys the enemy camp.

8...Bb6 9.h3 Nc6 10.Qd1 Be6 11.Bb5 Bd7 12.Nbd2 0-0-0 13.Qe2 a6 14.Ba4 Nh5 15.g3 g6 16.b4 f5 17.Bc2 f4 18.g4 Nf6 19.a4 Na7?



Blocking the bishop's escape square. Now White doesn't miss the cruncher.

20.Nc4 Kb8 21.Bb2 g5 22.a5 Bxf2+ 23.Qxf2 Nb5 24.Kd2 Bc6 25.Kc1 d5 26.Ncx5 dxe4 27.Nxc6+ bxc6 28.dxe4 Nxe4 29.Bxe4 Qxe4 30.Re1 Qc4 31.Ne5 Qd5 32.c4 Qe6 33.cxb5 cxb5 34.Ra3 Rhe8 35.Rc3 Rd6 36.Nc6+ Rxc6 37.Rxe6 Rxe6 38.Kd2 Re3 39.Rxe3 fxe3+ 40.Qxe3 1-0

McBroom,B (1619) - Loy,J (1812)
Modern Opening [A46]
Montana State Closed

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 exd4 4.exd4 d5 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.c3 e6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.0-0 h6 9.Bh4 a6 10.Nbd2 b5 11.Rc1 b4



Black is getting overextended. Castling and completing development seems more reasonable.

12.c4 dxc4 13.Nxc4

13.Rxc4 would have guarded d4. Now White drops a pawn, although he gets good play for it.

13...Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Qxd4 15.Bxf6 Qxf6? 16.Nb6

A fork plus a discovered double attack on the bishop. Ouch. Note that after 15...gxB the queen would stay in position to prevent the knight from moving to b6.

16...0-0 17.Nxa8 Bb7 18.Nb6 Qg5 19.g3

h5 20.h4 Qa5 21.Rc7 Qxb6 22.Rxe7 Rd8 23.Rxb7

Also convincing was 23.Qxh5!, with mate to follow. 1-0

McCourt,D (1600) - McBroom,B (1619)
Quasi-Benoni [A40]
Montana State Closed

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Be7 3.e4 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.exd5 d6 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 Nxd5?



8.Bxh7?

8.Bb5+ wins the knight.

8...Rxb7 9.Qxd5 Be6 10.Qe4 g6 11.Bf4?

11.Qxb7 wins a poison-free pawn.

11...d5 12.Qe5 Nc6 13.Qe3 d4 14.Qd2 Rh5 15.Re1 Qa5 16.Qxa5 Nxa5 17.Nbd2 Nc6 18.Ne4 0-0-0 19.Ng3 Rhd5 20.Ne5 g5 21.Nxc6 bxc6 22.Bd2 Kd7 23.a3 Rh8 24.Re2 Bd6 25.Rae1 Rf4 26.Nf1 d3 27.cxd3 Rxd3 28.Bxf4 gxf4



It's not that often you see a player with five isolated pawns go on to win the game.

29.Re4 f3

Often one to get in time trouble, Dan just misses time control by forgetting to hit the clock. After 30.gxf3 White would have an edge due to the extra passed pawn. 0-1

Warner,N (unr.) - Hollingshead,R (unr.)
French Defense [C00]
Barto Memorial

This was a battle of the newcomers. Nick was still only provisionally rated, and Robbie was playing his very first rated game.



Nick Warner

Like most of us, Robbie's first time out ends in a hard-fought defeat.

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.d4 c6 5.Bd3 d5 6.e5 Ng4

The knight has no future on this side of the board. 6...Nd2 was better.

7.h3 Nh6 8.Bxh6 gxh6 9.0-0 b6 10.a3 Rg8 11.Ne2 c5 12.Bxh7 Rh8 13.Bd3



13...cxd4?

Robbie fails to follow through on the trap he has set. 13...c4! would win the bishop.

14.Nexd4 Bd7 15.Re1 b5 16.Qe2 Nc6 17.Nxc6 Bxc6 18.Bxb5 Bxb5 19.Qxb5+ Kf8 20.Qd3 f6 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Rxe6 Bxb2 23.Qf5+ Kg8 24.Rg6+ Kh7 25.Qf7+ Bg7 26.Qxg7# 1-0

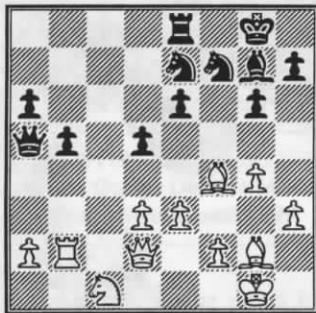
Erickson,R (1680) - Katzl,R (1965)
English - Symmetrical [A37]
Barto Memorial

1.Nf3 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.g3 c5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Bg2

The symmetrical variation of the English Opening. Here it lives up to its drawish reputation.

5...e6 6.d3 Nge7 7.Rb1 0-0 8.0-0 d5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Bf4 a6 11.Qd2 Be6 12.Rfc1 Re8 13.b3 Rc8 14.Ng5 Nd4 15.e3 Ndf5 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.g4 Nh6 18.h3 Nf7

19.b4 cxb4 20.Rxb4 b5 21.Ne2 Qa5
22.Rb2? Rxc1+ 23.Nxc1



And now 23...Bc3 would win the exchange.

23...Qxd2? 24.Rxd2 Rc8 25.Ne2 b4
26.d4 a5 27.Bg3 g5 28.f4 h6 29.f5!

This drops a pawn. 29.h4 or 29.Rb2 look better.

29...exf5 30.gxf5 Nxf5 31.Bxd5 Nxe3
32.Bb3 Nf5 33.Be6 Nfg3 34.Bxc8 Nxe2+
35.Rxe2 Bxd4+ 36.Kg2 Kf8 37.Bd7 Ne5
38.Bb5 Ke7 39.Kg3 Kd6 40.Ba4 Bc3
41.Bb3 Kc5 42.Rxe5+ Bxe5+ 43.Kg4 Kb5
44.Kh5 a4 45.Be6 Bg7 46.Kg6 Bf8 47.Kf7
Bd6



Here is another one of those intriguing positions in which, due to the opposite colored bishop effect, Black can't win even though he is up two pawns.

48.Kg6 Kc5 49.Kxb6 Bf4 50.Kg6 Kd4
51.Bd7 b3 52.axb3 axb3 53.Bf5 b2 54.Kh5
½-½

Johnson,M (1260) - Drake,M (1316)
Ruy Lopez [C65]
Barto Memorial

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Bc5
5.c3 0-0 6.Re1 Ng4 7.d4 Bb6 8.h3 a6 9.Ba4
Nf6 10.Bg5 Ba7?

Whenever you have a minor piece in front of your king or queen, be on the lookout for pins, because you can be sure your opponent will.

11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Qe7 13.Nxd7?
[13.Ng4] Bxd7 14.Bxd7 Rad8 15.Qc1
Rxd7 16.e5 Qc5 17.exf6 g6? 18.Be3 Qc6

19.Bxa7 b6 20.Qg5 Ra8 21.Na3 Rd6
22.Rad1 Rxf6 23.Qd5 Rxa7 24.Qxc6 Rxc6
25.Re7 Ra8 26.Rdd7 Rf8 27.Nc2 Re6
28.Rxe6 fxe6 29.Rxc7 Rd8 30.Nb4 Rd2
31.Nxa6 Rxb2 32.Nb4 h5 33.f3 Re2
34.Rb7 Re3 35.Rxb6 Kf7 36.Rc6 Ke7
37.Kf2 Re5 38.c4 Ra5 39.g4 Ra4 40.Rb6
h4 41.Ke3 g5 42.Ke4 Ra3 43.c5 Rc3
44.Nc6+ Kd7 45.Ne5+ Ke7 46.Rb7+
Kf6??



47.c6?? [47.Rf7#] 47...Rc5 48.Nd7+?

A fork is good, but as the saying goes, "If you've found a good move, look for a better one." 48.Rf7# is still there. 1-0

Drake,M (1316) - Hollingshead,R (unr.)
Nimzo-Indian [A40]
Barto Memorial

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4
5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Nd2? Nxd4 8.f3



8...Be7

Robbie sees that White is threatening 9.Nde4 with a double attack on the knight, so he gives it some extra protection. 8...Nf5 would have been a little better, though, because it would have gotten the knight to a better square and chased away White's bishop. Multi-purpose moves tend to be good ones.

9.Bf2 Nh7?

Until now Robbie has made excellent moves. He apparently forgot to ask himself the golden question: "Why did my opponent make his last move?"

10.Bxd4 Bh4+ 11.g3 Bg5 12.Nde4 f6

13.f4 e5

A healthy reaction on Robbie's part. Instead of getting desperate he faces the trapping of his bishop with a counter-attack on White's that buys him some time.

14.Bc5 exf4 15.Qd5+ Rf7 16.h4 fxg3
17.hxg5 c6 18.Qd3 b6?



19.Bd6?

Melvin misses 19.g6!, forking the rook and knight. Still, that admittedly is a nice place to put a bishop.

19...fxg5 20.0-0 Re7 21.Qxg3 Nf6
22.Nxf6+ gxf6 23.Rxh6 Qf8 24.Qh3 Ba6
25.Rh8+ Kg7 26.Qh7# 1-0

Katzl,R (1965) - Johnson,M (unr.)
Blackmar-Diemer Gambit [B01]
Barto Memorial

1.e4 d5 2.d4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bg4
5.f3 Nbd7? 6.Bc4

Both scoresheets show White refusing to take the bishop, but the reason for this reticence is not clear.

6...c6 7.Qe2 Qa5 8.0-0-0 exf3 9.Nxf3 e6
10.Rhf1 Bb4 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.h3 Bh5
13.g4



13...Nxg4?

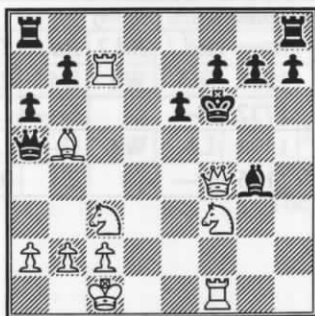
Michael was up a pawn and had no real weaknesses. He should have just retreated the bishop. Often Black returns material in the BDG, but this is going overboard.

14.hxg4 Bxg4 15.d5 cxd5

Castling to safety on the queenside would leave Black OK. In the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit (known to its adherents affection-

ately as "the BDG"), Black usually perishes quickly if he doesn't get castled.

16.Rxd5 Bc5 17.Bb5+ Kf8 18.Rxc5 a6 19.Qc4 Ke7 20.Rc7+ Kf6 21.Qf4+

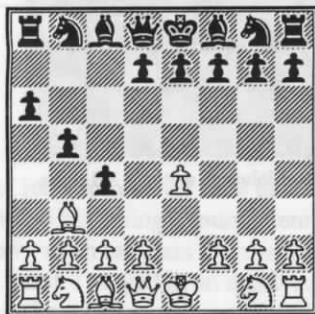


The black king is lined up against a wall of his own pawns, ready for the firing squad. 22.Qg4, mate is next, no matter what Black does. 1-0

Warner, N (unr.) - Erickson, R (1681)
 Sicilian [B20]
 Barto Memorial

Nick Warner has already had several exciting upsets in his first few Montana tournaments. Unfortunately for him, this wasn't one of them.

1.e4 e5 2.Bb5 a6 3.Ba4 b5 4.Bb3 c4



A variation of the "Noah's Ark trap", so-called because it's as old as Noah's Ark. Most of us have fallen for it at least once.

5.c3 cxb3 6.Qxb3 Bb7 7.f3 e6 8.d4 Nf6 9.c4 Nc6 10.Ne2 Na5 11.Qc3 bxc4 12.Bg5 Be7 13.0-0 h6 14.Bf4 0-0 15.Ng3 Qb6 16.Nd2 Rac8 17.a3 Nb3 18.Nxc4 Rxc4 19.Qxc4 Nxa1 20.Rxa1 Qxb2 21.Ra2 Qb1+ 22.Kf2 Rc8 23.Qe2 Qb5 24.Qd2 Nh7 25.Rb2 Qc6 26.Bxb6 gxb6 27.Qxb6 Qc3 28.Rxb7 Qxd4+ 29.Qe3 Qc4 30.Rxd7 Bc5 31.Qxc5 Qxc5+ 0-1

Easter, E (1105) - Katzl, R (1901)
 English [A21]
 Midsummer Open

In this game Erik Easter totally outplays Rudi Katzl -- for the first 23 moves anyway.

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 f5

An interesting attempt to make the infuriatingly well-balanced English Opening a little unpredictable. In this game it backfires against Rudi.

3.d4 exd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd1

ECO gives 5.Qe3+ as slightly better for White.

5...Nf6 6.Bg5 Bc5

Reasonable-looking, but 6...Bb4 might be a better try. This is because the bishop will only be "biting on granite" at c5, and because of tactical considerations which become clear in a couple of moves.

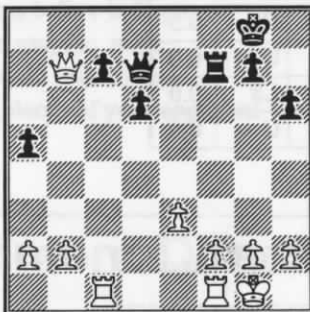
7.e3 0-0? 8.Nf3? h6? 9.Bxf6!

Nice of Rudi to give Erik a second chance to spot the cruncher.

9...Qxf6 10.Qd5+

Goodbye, Mr. bishop.

10...Kh8 11.Qxc5 d6 12.Qa3 f4 13.Nd5 Qf7 14.Nxf4 Bg4 15.Be2 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Qxc4? 17.Ng6+ Kg8 18.Nxf8 Rxf8 19.Bxc6 Qxc6 20.0-0 Rf5 21.Rac1 Qd7 22.Qb3+ Rf7 23.Qxb7 a5



White is in the driver's seat. It would seem that nothing could go wrong now. Nothing, that is, short of a severe hallucination.

24.Rxc7? Qxc7 25.Qxc7 Rxc7

Okay, so White gave back the rook -- he's still two pawns ahead. But now the white rook and king get misplaced, and his pawns start falling like dominoes.

26.h3 Kf7 27.Rd1 Ke6 28.Kh2

At this stage of the game the king can become a fighting piece, so it should not be headed for the rim of the board. Besides, you can't let your opponent seize the seventh rank without a fight. 28.Rd2 was good.

28...Re2 29.Rb1 Rxf2 30.a3

Centralizing the king with 30.Kg3 would have kept the win still within reach.

30...Re2 31.b4 Rxe3 32.Ra1 axb4 33.axb4 Rb3 34.Ra4 d5 35.Kg1 Ke5 36.Kf1 g5 37.Ke1 Kd4 38.Kd2 Rb2+ 39.Kc1 Rxc2 40.Ra1 Kc3 41.Ra3+ Kxb4 42.Rf3 d4 0-1

A narrowly lost opportunity for a 796 point upset. It would have been like Dawson beating Kasparov -- not impossible, but certainly highly unusual.

Erickson, R (1681) - McCourt, D (1637)
 Larsen's Opening [A06]
 Midsummer Open

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Qc7 5.Bb2 Bf5 6.d3 Nbd7 7.Nbd2 e6 8.Nh4 Bg6 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.e3 a5 11.a4 Bd6 12.f4 Kf8 13.Nf3 Ng4 14.Qd2 Bb4 15.c3 Be7 16.h3 Ngf6 17.Kf2 Qb6 18.Nd4



18...Qc7 19.g4 e5 20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.Raf1 Kg8 22.Nf3 Nxf3 23.Bxf3 Qb6 24.Qc2 Re8 25.Re1 Nd7

The threat of ...Ba4+ allows Black time to clear the file so he can gang up on the weak e3 pawn.

26.Kg2 Bh4 27.Re2 Rxe3 28.d4 Rxe2+ 29.Bxe2 Qc7 30.Qd3 Nf8 31.Qf3 Ne6 32.Bd3 Ng5 33.Qe3 Kh7 34.Rf1 Qd7 35.Qf4 Re8

Black is up a pawn and in command of the open file, but time must have been getting close. Draw agreed. 1/2-1/2

Moore, S (1787) - Nowak, G (2189)
 The Something-or-Other Opening [A46]
 Midsummer Open

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 c6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Bg2 Qb6 7.0-0 Ne4 8.Nc3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nc6 10.Bf4 Be7 11.Qc2 Qa6 12.e3 0-0 13.a4 Bd7 14.Rfc1 b6 15.Bf1



A draw was agreed, in light of the following: 15...Qd3! 16.Qxd3 Nxd4 17.cxd4 e5 18.dxe5 Bf6 19.exf6 Bxa4 20.Rxa4 g6 21.Rxa7 d4 22.exd4 h5 23.Rxa8 b5 24.Qxb5 Kh7 25.Bg5 h4 26.g4 h3 27.Rxf8 1/2-1/2

Tournament Tables

Western Montana Open (8/14/99)

| # | Name | Rtng | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Tot |
|----|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | Greg Nowak | 2191 | W18 | W7 | W3 | D2 | W4 | 4.5 |
| 2 | Hans Anderson | 1693 | W16 | W5 | W4 | D1 | D3 | 4.0 |
| 3 | Thomas Hesse | 1521 | W17 | W11 | L1 | W7 | D2 | 3.5 |
| 4 | Russ Kubisiak | 1688 | W10 | W16 | L2 | W6 | L1 | 3.0 |
| 5 | Rich Hall | 1517 | W9 | L2 | L6 | W10 | W7 | 3.0 |
| 6 | Johnny Legan | 1686 | L11 | W10 | W5 | L4 | D15 | 2.5 |
| 7 | Dan McCourt | 1665 | W14 | L1 | W9 | L3 | L5 | 2.0 |
| 8 | Jane Locastro | 1152 | U--- | U--- | W12 | L9 | W17 | 2.0 |
| 9 | Caleb Sanford | unr. | L5 | W17 | L7 | W8 | U--- | 2.0 |
| 10 | Nick Warner | unr. | L4 | L6 | W16 | L5 | W12 | 2.0 |
| 11 | Ron Erickson | 1707 | W6 | L3 | U--- | U--- | U--- | 1.0 |
| 12 | Cindy Swahlen | 951 | U--- | U--- | L8 | W17 | L10 | 1.0 |
| 13 | Roberts | unr. | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | W14 | 1.0 |
| 14 | Pat Todd | unr. | L7 | U--- | U--- | W16 | L13 | 1.0 |
| 15 | Dale Gross | 1424 | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | D6 | 0.5 |
| 16 | Andrew Stickney | 988 | L2 | L4 | L10 | L14 | U--- | 0.0 |
| 17 | Andy Shipp | 939 | L3 | L9 | U--- | L12 | L8 | 0.0 |
| 18 | Burt Bentley | unr. | L1 | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | 0.0 |

UCCC 2nd Summer Open (7/15/99)

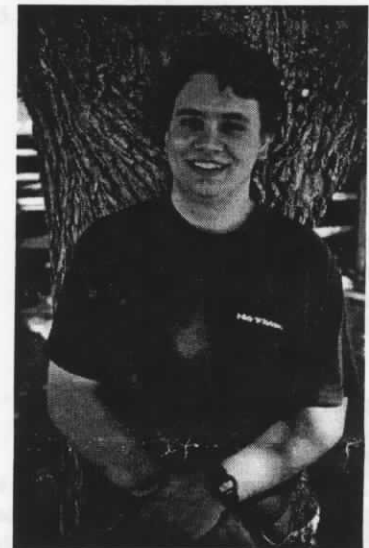
| # | Name | Rtng | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Tot |
|---|-----------------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | Mike Jensen | 1861 | W3 | W2 | D4 | 2.5 |
| 2 | Sherwood Moore | 1732 | B--- | L1 | U--- | 1.0 |
| 3 | William McBroom | 1596 | L1 | W4 | U--- | 1.0 |
| 4 | Erik Easter | 1105 | U--- | L3 | D1 | 0.5 |

John Barto Memorial (9/11,12/99)

| # | Name | Rtng | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Tot |
|---|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | Katzl Rudolf G | 1965 | D2 | W4 | W6 | W3 | W5 | 4.5 |
| 2 | Ron Erickson | 1681 | D1 | W6 | B--- | W5 | W4 | 4.5 |
| 3 | Michael Johnson | 1260 | W4 | W5 | H--- | L1 | W6 | 3.5 |
| 4 | Melvin P Drake | 1316 | L3 | L1 | W5 | W6 | L2 | 2.0 |
| 5 | Warner Nick D | 1300 | W6 | L3 | L4 | L2 | L1 | 1.0 |
| 6 | Robbie Hollingshead | unr. | L5 | L2 | L1 | L4 | L3 | 0.0 |

Montana State Closed Championship (9/11,12/99)

| # | Name | Rtng | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Tot |
|----|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | Alex T Dawson | 1997 | W6 | W7 | D4 | W3 | W5 | 4.5 |
| 2 | Sherwood Moore | 1756 | W3 | D4 | L5 | W6 | W7 | 3.5 |
| 3 | Gregory Nowak | 2186 | L2 | W9 | W8 | L1 | W4 | 3.0 |
| 4 | Thad Suits | 1956 | W5 | D2 | D1 | W9 | L3 | 3.0 |
| 5 | Howard F Hoene | 1707 | L4 | W6 | W2 | W8 | L1 | 3.0 |
| 6 | Michael Long | 1742 | L1 | L5 | X--- | L2 | B--- | 2.0 |
| 7 | Douglas J Hansen | 1675 | W10 | L1 | L9 | B--- | L2 | 2.0 |
| 8 | William Mc Broom | 1619 | U--- | W10 | L3 | L5 | W9 | 2.0 |
| 9 | Daniel J Mc Court | 1600 | B--- | L3 | W7 | L4 | L8 | 2.0 |
| 10 | James R. Loy | 1812 | L7 | L8 | F--- | U--- | U--- | 0.0 |

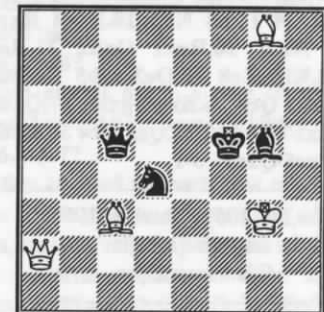


Michael Johnson, a strong 3rd place

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.

October 16 & 17.....Chinook Open (Great Falls' Grand Prix Event)

Format: 5 rnd Swiss. **Time Controls:** Game/2. **Site:** University of Great Falls, Classroom Bldg., Room 203. Enter from 23rd St. parking lot. **EF:** \$15 if rec'd by 10/13, \$20 any time after that. **Prizes:** 1st - \$100, \$20 to top in each division. **Reg:** 8:45-9:30. **Rnds:** 10, 2, 7; 9, 1. **Contact:** Thad Suits, 2015 4th Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401, Tel. (406) 453-6160. **Other:** Limited housing available on a first-come-first-served basis.

November 6.....Fourth Greater Northwest Team Tourney

Format: 7 teams, 4 per team, G/30, round robin (unrated). **Site:** Shack Restaurant, 222 W. Main, Missoula. **EF:** \$32 per team if rec'd by 10/23, \$40 until 10/30, when team entries close. Individual entries \$8 by 10/23, \$10 by 10/30, \$12 by 11/5, \$14 at door. MCA membership encouraged, not required. **Prizes:** Winning team shares top team pot equally. 1st place - \$15 each, 2nd - \$5 each. Best board prizes: \$5. **Registration:** Team entries should be submitted by 4/17. Individuals may enter and be in the player-pool for team assignments. **Registration times:** 11:00-11:45 a.m. **Rounds:** Noon, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:30, ASAP (if needed). **Entries to:** Greg Nowak, Hellgate Station, PO Box 8572, Missoula, MT 59807. **Other:** Limited to 28 players. Individuals must be present by 11:45 or lose their entries. Teams may use subs without extra charge.

November 13 & 14.....Turkey Open

Format: 4 rnd Swiss. **Time Controls:** Game/2. **Site:** University of Montana, Rankin Hall, Room 203. **EF:** \$15 if rec'd by 11/11, \$20 any time after that. **Prizes:** Trophies for 1st, 2nd, U1800, U1600, U1400. Plaque for biggest (non-provisional) upset. **Reg:** 8-8:45. **Rnds:** 9, 2; 9, 2. **Contact:** Sherwood Moore, 453 Minnesota, Missoula, MT 59802, Tel. (406) 728-1695, Email SMOore@aol.com.

Apologies from our Mr. Methuselah

State Senior Champion Jim Loy has expressed regrets about disappearing from the State Closed Championship after round two without notifying anyone. The day after the tournament he sent a message to the tournament director to apologize to him and to the other players. In it he confessed that after a series of mishaps, both on and off the board, "it was way too easy to just drive to the Interstate and go home."

As a former tournament director himself, Jim knows better than to withdraw from an event without first notifying the TD. In extreme cases, such as alien abduction, a player may be pardoned for vanishing, but even then most TD's will require a written note from the alien in charge.

In light of your extremely advanced age, Jim, and the fact that this is your first offense, we will let you off easy this time. Apology accepted.

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



| # | Name | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | 2019 |
|---|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | Kurt Lohr | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | 2019 |
| 2 | Bob Williams | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | 2019 |
| 3 | Arthur Jensen | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | 2019 |
| 4 | Malvin F. Dean | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | 2019 |
| 5 | Wesley Hill | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | 2019 |
| 6 | Robert Hollander | 1979 | 1989 | 1999 | 2009 | 2019 |

20 and 10 years ago in MCN

September, 1979

Steve Smith won the Wyoming Closed Championship — one of several state titles he earned in his career.

Bill Lynch took the top prize in the three-section Billings Rimrock Open. Alex Dawson, rated a mere 1744 at the time, only managed to break even for the event.

September, 1989

Mike Jensen won the State Championship in Great Falls with a perfect 5-0 score. Paul Motta took second place, his only defeat coming in round one against Mike.

Answer to “What’s the Cruncher?”

From Suits-Fabian, 1999 Montana Open. Thad (the Flounder) Suits missed 1.Na4!, attacking the queen and preparing 2.Bb2. After that, Black would have to surrender the queen to prevent mate in the corner. 1.Rb1, the move Thad played, is less effective due to 1...Qa5, when White must play very carefully to keep the black queen from coming to the rescue.

Answer to “The Polgar Corner” - 1.Qe6+