College players dominate field at 73rd Southwest Open
L to R: FM John Bartholemew, IM Salvijus Bercys, IM Davorin Kuljasevic, WIM Luciana Morales

A Message from the President; Treasurer's Statement; Texas Girls' Scholastic ............................................ 3
GM Alejandro Ramirez wins U.S. Class Championship in Houston—NTD Franc Guadalupe ......................... 4
TCA Minutes — Drew Sarkisian ......................................................................................................................... 7
73rd Southwest Open — Five-way tie in Brownsville ...................................................................................... 9
Bradford's travels: Isle of Man International .................................................................................................. 20
Rylander wins San Antonio Fall Open ............................................................................................................ 22
Texas Chess Association

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Texas Chess Association is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting chess in Texas.


Send to TCA Treasurer, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719. Give name, address, city, state and zip code; also phone and e-mail (optional). Contributions beyond membership fees are tax deductible.

TCA Hall of Honor

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Lynne Babcock
James E. Berry
Joe Bradford
Clarence Callaway, Jr.
Michael E. Carpenter
San Benito CISD Chess Program
Gerge W. Church, Jr.
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Rheanna English family
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Edward Guetzow
Gerald Guillot
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Mark Marshall
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David Williamson

Contributors this issue: Salvijus Bercys, Franc Guadalupe, J.P. Hyltin, Alejandro Ramirez, Anton Solovyov, Greg Wren.

Game annotations if not attributed are a collaboration of NM Selby Anderson and Fritz 5.32.

Send submissions by e-mail to schachlied@yahoo.com, or mail to P.O. Box 501, Helotes, TX 78023 (include phone).

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Cover photo (and others in the Southwest Open article): Ed Guetzow

Editor's note: We regret the somewhat limited selection of SWO games. Duplicate scoresheets were in short supply, and the MonRoi devices (on loan for testing) were not divvied out selectively to the top players. Round 7 is a total loss.
A Message from the President

As always, the annual TCA business meeting was held during the Southwest Open, which this year was held in Brownsville. Among the matters voted on by the members present, we are trying something new with regard to Texas chess tournaments. Starting now, the TCA regional directors will be responsible for posting tournaments either on the TCA websites or the TCA discussion groups. This will add some more publicity to Texas OTB chess, and (perhaps more importantly) allow the regions to coordinate with each other on the scheduling of major events. Case in point: for the first time in more than a decade, Austin will be hosting a weekend tournament that should have a statewide draw – the Ken Smith Memorial, to be held the Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving. As an Austin resident, I am of course excited at the opportunity to play in a statewide event without leaving town (even if the first round is two days after I get back from Turkey), but it's the same weekend as the Jim Gallagher Memorial, being held in San Antonio less than a hundred miles away. I hope that both these tournaments are able to draw a crowd large enough to make them a success, but what I really hope is that we can avoid, or at least temper, such conflicts in the future. I'm pleased to announce that Eugene Kohnitz feels the same way, and that he's volunteered to act as the TCA Clearinghouse. Between Gene and the Regional Directors, we should be more efficient at announcing and coordinating Texas tournaments.

On the subject of Austin, look for the 2008 Texas State Championship to return to the capital next year. Because of the increased importance of regional directors, I'm more frustrated than ever about some of our regional vacancies. I'm not sure when TCA last had a regional director for Region IV (including El Paso), but it hasn't been since I was invited. If you are from this region and are interested in serving as regional director, or know someone who is, please write to me at msimmon@gmail.com. I want to make sure that part of the state is well-represented on the Board.

In about three weeks, if all goes as planned, I'll be in Antalya, Turkey attending the World Youth Chess Championship trying to begin the process of drumming up support for holding this event in Texas in 2010. As the date approaches, I'm consumed by how much I need to know about this event that I don't know, and don't even know I don't know. It's also dawning on me that holding the WYC in the western hemisphere will create a once-in-a-lifetime event for many children in Europe and other parts of the world. When I get back, I hope to meet with anyone interested about just how detailed our plan for the tournament needs to be. Send me an e-mail if you'd like to know more, or discuss more, about the WYC.

And that's it for now. By the time you read this, we should know the results of the U.S. Class Championships, just held in Houston. This is a good time to be a chess player in Texas.

Michael M. Simpson
TCA President

TCA Treasurer's Report

Sept. 1, 2007 checking account balance $1,088.23

Income
SW Open fee and memberships - Sept 2007 $437.00
September memberships 217.50
October memberships (so far) 10.00
Total $664.50

Expenses
2007 SW Open Prize Fund 1,200.00
Dachey Lin - 2007 World Youth attendee 600.00
Warren Harper - 2007 World Youth attendee 600.00
Warren Harper - 2007 Denker Invitational 1,000.00
Warren Harper Denker fund from Dale Coleman 500.00
Total $3,900.00

WF checking account balance $1,247.73
BOA checking account balance $13,598.18
Savings account balance $5,916.82
Certificate of deposit (8 mo. @ 5%) $25,000.00

English repeats Texas girls’ HS title

The seventh annual Texas Girls’ Championships were held Oct. 6-7 in Corpus Christi. A total of 84 players competed, down sharply from last year’s 150 in Brownsville (known for its large scholastic base). Repeating as the Texas high school girls’ champion was Rheanna English of San Antonio. Tied for second with 4.0 were Gayatri Vempati, Angel Bohannon, Charlina Hung, Julia Jones and Patricia Garza. English also won the blitz event with a 5-0 score.

Serena Zadoo won the Middle School championship with 6.0, with Kristin Ramos in clear second with 5.0.
Alejandro wins 2007 US Class!

By NTD Franc Guadalupe

Players from 12 states, Washington D.C., and Canada gathered at the beautiful facilities of the Doubletree Hotel Houston Airport to participate in the 2007 US Class Championships. When the last king was tipped, 19-year old GM Alejandro Ramirez, a senior at University of Texas at Dallas, became the upper Class Champion. His only blemish in the event was a third-round draw with Denker Champion Warren Harper. Taking nothing away from Warren’s efforts, Alejandro called that game a complete disaster and stated he did not know what was going on with his position, so he offered a draw that Warren gladly accepted.

The games were highly competitive among the Class winners finished with a perfect score, all with 4.5 points.

Artur Safin from Texas won the Expert division while Andy Lin from Arizona won the Class A. Bradley Anderson from The Woodlands near Houston won the Class B title. Two players from Kentucky claimed national titles in the next two classes – Ricky Durbin in the Class C and John Sefton in the D. Sefton’s performance resulted in a whopping 178-point rating improvement!

Missouri’s Peter Harris was a double winner as he conquered the Class E players while also competing in the K-12 division of the Scholastic side event! Both Matthew Resh from Texas and Peter tied for first in the K-12 but the tiebreaks went Matthew’s way. The K-8 winner, with a perfect 4-0 record, was Vinayak Shukla from Texas. Also with perfect records, Arjun Reddy and Turner Corbett, both from Texas, finished tied for first in the K-5 section, with Arjun taking the first place trophy on tiebreaks. In the K-2, also with a perfect record, Texas’ Christopher Cardenas finished first.

Through the generosity of Saitek a Saitek clock. A total of 163 players participated in the Class Championships, and 112 students joined us for the scholastic event. Mrs. Jean Traver, President of USCF Affiliate Cajun Chess and this writer organized the event. Our Assistant Director was Korey Kormick.

Notes by GM Alejandro Ramirez

English Opening A30
Alejandro Ramirez 2590
Daniel Fernandez 2468

US Class Championships (2)

1.e4
Dan uses the Slav as his main defense against 1.d4. I didn’t feel like breaking through such a solid opening and was hoping to lure him into some Nimzo type position without d4.

1...Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 c5
3...Bb4 was more or less what I expected: after 4.Qc2 0-0 5.g4!? the game is rather interesting.

4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7. Re1? This is a move that I remember Kramnik played sometime in 1995. All I remember is he played this
move, and won somehow. Maybe I should study a bit more.

7...0-0 8.e4 d6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qe8?

Okay, maybe I lied. I know the main line goes with Qc7, Nbd7 and a6, after which White plays h5 at some point to prevent white from expanding on the kingside too much. This line actually has tremendous amount of theory and is rather complex, since most of White's attempts to gain something tangible involve f4 and g4, which is of course risky, where a well timed d5 can make the entire White position crumble. [10... Qc7 11.Nd5!?]

11.Be3 Nc6

I know in some Hedgehog lines this move is bad, but I can't say why in this position specifically. The idea of exchanging these knights is interesting but maybe not great, since after the disappearance of said knights a6 is unplayable and the weakness of d6 begins to be felt, something that Black rarely worries about. 11... Qxc4! is of course unplayable. 12.e5?! 11... Nbd7 12.Rc1 is more usual.

12.Rc1

The pawn will fall one day if I never protect it.

12...Nxd4 13.Bxd4

13.Qxd4 Ng4= Creates some uncomfortable threats on the h8-a1 diagonal.

13...Nd7

It turns out that a substitute is needed on d7, so Dan brings back the other one. This also takes some of the sting out of any kingside advance. On the other hand, the d5 breakthrough is now a distant dream.

14.Qe2 Rf8 15.b3 Bc6?!

This move is begging for an eventual Nd5 without bringing him anything tangible in return. I'm not sure about this move.

16.Ne5!

This move is tempting, but I just didn't see anything after the sensible 16...Bf8. I guess I can play Red1 or f4, but I just don't see what my knight is doing on d5. What did master Nimzovich say – “The threat is stronger than the execution”? Maybe I still remember a thing or two about chess.


I like this move. It threatens nothing; it just slightly improves the position, creating possibilities like Bg5, Bf4 and liberating the d4 square for a possible knight hop. That and d6 are now directly attacked – simple chess.

17.a3?

This is interesting. Black is sick of waiting and tries to force White's hand. Of course around here the idea of Nb5 forcing the trade and gaining access to d6 becomes very tempting, but timing is pretty important. 17... Ne5 Is the other way of playing, after Nb5 White is better, no doubt about it.

18.Qb3

This move is rather fearless. White realizes that the immediate control over c5 is worth much more than illusory pressure over the b4 pawn and the overall Black control over the open file. Wait ... that's fearless? What happened to fearless referring to crazy piece sacrifices and naked kings? I need to play more Sicilians in the upcoming tournaments. My original idea was 18... Nb5 Ne5 19.Bf4 but after 19...Qb6? It's hard to see a good way to keep even an edge.

18...Qb8

18...Qb7 19.b4 axb4 20.axb4 embarrasses the bishop on c6.

19.Nb5 Nc5 20.b4!

Oh I can still calculate four or five moves ahead.

20...axb4 21.axb4 Nd7

16...Bf8 17.Be3!

This line actually has tremendous interest specifically. The idea of exchanging these knights is interesting but maybe not great, since after Nb5 White is better, no doubt about it. After 21...Nxe4 there are two good ways to continue with White; the key is avoiding Bxe4. 22.Bg5! (22.Bxd4? Bxd4 23.Bg5 since after 23...Qb7! Only Black can be better; 22.Nd4 is also good, for a slight edge.) 22...Nxf5 23.Bxh6 It turns out Mr. N on g5 is trapped after h4, thus Black must concede an Exchange. However he does get some compensation after 23...Qe8! 24. Bg2! f5 25.Bxa8 (25.Nd4?± is actually interesting and probably better, attacking the weak pawn structure and not worrying about material for the moment.) 25...Qxa8 26.Qe3 Nf3+ 27.Kg2± And Black doesn't have any decent checks.

16...Bf8

Ugh, this move wasn't great. Probably the best way to keep up the pressure is 22.Ra1 Rxa1 23.Rxh1?M

22.Bxd4!

Giving White all the initiative again. [22...Ne5! 23.Qd4 (23.Qc3?) 23...Ra1! At first I thought this was slightly better for white. Seeing it with a cool head I think White still has an edge after the cool Qc3 but definitely some of it has evaporated. 24.Bf4? Rxh4 25.Bxe5 Bxb5?D

23.cxb5 Ra4 24.Bf4!

At this point I had calculated the following sequence that ended the game. Black is in trouble, deep trouble, since he cannot utilize his knight in any good way.
24...Qa8 25.Qc2!

Here! The point is that Ne5 is still prevented.

25...Rxb4 26.Bxd6 Bxd6 27.Rxd6

White’s pressure over the d file, on the b6 pawn and Black’s lack of coordination force him to give up the defense on b6, after which white is simply a clear pawn up.

27...Nc5?

27...Ne5 28.Rxd8+! Is probably even better (28.Rb6+ is also possible) 28...Qxd8 29.Rd1! (29.Qd2? Tempting but insufficient after 29...Qe8) 29...Qb8 Forced 30.f4 Ng6 31.Qe6 And Black’s position is in ruins.

28.e5 Qb8 29.Rxd8+ Qxd8 30.Ra1

Black’s lack of coordination allows the simple combination of Ra1 andBg2 to win a queen due to the back rank mating threats. 1-0

Benko Gambit A57

Warren Harper 2301

Alejandro Ramirez 2590

US Class Championships (4)


Notes by GM Alejandro Ramirez

English Opening A21

Mark Dejmek 2166

US Class Championships (5)


Notes by GM Alejandro Ramirez
Minutes of the TCA Business Meeting
held Sept. 2, 2007 in Brownsville

Attendees: Michael Simpson (President), Clemente Rendon (Vice-President), Barb Swafford (Treasurer), Drew Sarkisian (Secretary), Selby Anderson (Texas Knights Editor) Luis Salinas, Bob James, J.P. Hyltin, Jim Stalling, Rade Milovanovic, Tony Meza, Russell Harwood, Victor J. Flores, Edward Guetzow, Lakshmana Viswanath, R. Lynne Leone, Robert Sturgeon, Martin Gordon, Jack Garcia.

At 8:30 a.m. Michael Simpson introduced the TCA officers and the Editor of Texas Knights.

The reading of the previous meeting's minutes was waived. A reading of the Treasurer's report by Barb Swafford, summarizing the details, was accepted.

President's Report
Michael Simpson stated that he wanted to see more activity on the TCA web groups, and is encouraging folks to use the groups more often. TCA also need more content providers for the web site; feel free to email content to Peter Kappler (or Drew Sarkisian or Michael Simpson). Discussion ensued concerning getting more tournament information on the web site, etc., including sending out information to folks on how to update certain regions on the site (specifically regional directors).

Simpson discussed how the 2007 World Youth Championships are being held in Turkey. He is very interested in getting this tournament held in Texas in 2010...bids must be submitted from the USCF to FIDE by June 30 2008. The Board has provided Simpson with a stipend to send him to Turkey to have time with FIDE and USCF officials and find out what it takes to run this event. Simpson is soliciting folks to help in this endeavor; this is a huge undertaking. Please contact Michael Simpson if you are interested in helping with this undertaking.

Old business
Concerning section rules for the Texas Scholastics: There has been a debate going on for over a year now concerning how to section the Texas Scholastics. There are now two remaining proposed ways for running the sections: the current (referred to as "Status Quo"), and a different system referred to as "Modified Al."

"Modified Al", proposes play K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, Open (a large K-12 section as a catch-all).

"Status Quo": K-3, K-5/6 (depending on school type), 6-8 (rarely 9), 9-12.

Vish made a proposal to allow organizer to choose one OR the other system, with the choice of system given along with a tournament bid. Discussion of both systems ensued. M. Simpson brought to a vote to make "Modified Al" the REQUIRED system for Texas Scholastics: no votes for, majority against. A motion, seconded on the floor, is to require an organizer to supply a K-6 section as a catch-all system referred to as "Modified Al." Vote: 5 for, 4 against. Quorum: 15 people (not including the Chair), motion fails.

Vote on whether organizers MAY CHOOSE between "Modified Al" or "Status Quo": 3 for, 10 against.

Election results
(Ballot-counting committee: Selby Anderson, Lorraine Widener, J.P. Hyltin):
Vice-President: (all write-ins) C. Rendon 14 votes, Tom Crane 13, L. Salinas 2, 1 each for S. Anderson, M. Langer, V. Flores, A. Morshed, S. Polgar, R. Sturgeon, R. Vote(sp). Note that due to the closeness of the result, it was recounted to confirm the result.
Secretary: D. Sarkisian 39 votes, Treasurer: B. Swafford 43 votes.
Report of the ballot counting committee accepted.

Advance motions:(posted in full detail in the July-Aug issue of Texas Knights):
Five (5) motions by Luis Salinas:
1. Move that the Dallas Chess Club be awarded $1,000 to run the Texas Masters tournament.
Minor amount of discussion: one (non-present) member's opinion was against this motion, but no specific reasons offered. Motion carries unanimously, with 1 abstention.
2. Move that until TCA or USCF establishes a training program, that the World Youth Qualifiers from Texas have their entry fees reimbursed by TCA for the following tournaments: Texas Masters, Texas State and Amateur, and Southwest Open. Luis noted that the money should come from the proceeds of the Texas Scholastic, and not the general TCA fund.11 for, 2 against; passed.
3. Bylaws change. Move that until TCA or USCF establishes a training program, that the World Youth Qualifiers from Texas have the right to play in the Championship section of the Texas State and Amateur. Motion withdrawn by L. Salinas.
4. Salinas moved to table the following until next year. Passes by majority vote. (Please refer to the July-Aug issue of Texas Knights for the full text of the bylaw and proposed changes).
4. Bylaws change, Article VI, Section 2, C 1.
5. Bylaws change, Article VI, Section 1, D 1.

Two (2) motions by Michael Simpson:
1. I move that the Region Map of the TCA website be altered or replaced to accurately reflect the newly created region IX.
2. That the list of counties in Region IX and other affected counties be verified, and correct if necessary, to accurately reflect the counties in each region after the creation of Region IX, pursuant to the intent of the movant who proposed creating Region IX. Brenda Hardesty has already provided a corrected list. Both motions voted on together, passed by acclamation.

Nine (9) advance motions from TCA Bylaws Committee (Bob James, chair): Please refer to the July-Aug 2007 issue of Texas Knights for the full text of each bylaw and the proposed change(s).
1. Bylaws change, Article V Officers, Section 4 Term. Rationale: provide a way to remove a Board member who is not fulfilling his responsibilities. Voting deferred; apparently never picked up again during meeting.
2. Bylaws change, various sections. Purpose: add the Webmaster to the TCA Board of Directors. 6 for, 5 opposed; motion fails (requires 2/3 vote).
3. Amend Article VII, Section 4, Bylaws Committee. Rationale: There is no specific reason to have the Immediate Past President as the Chair of the Bylaws Committee; changing this would give the President more flexibility if there are reasons why the Immediate Past President cannot serve in that capacity.
4. Amend Article VI, Section 2, C 1. Term. Rationale: provide a chance to express their opinion on whether or not we need a complete rewrite of the Bylaws, and an opportunity for the membership to comment or provide suggestions or additions.

Five (5) motions from the floor:
1. A motion to amend the amendment to make the $2,000 paid back to TCA if the tournament makes money. Passes by visual majority.
2. A motion to have TCA grant a stipend of $2,000 to the organizers of the 2009 Texas Scholastics to promote the event.
3. A motion to have TCA grant a stipend of $2,000 to the organizers of the 2009 Texas Scholastics to promote the event. Rationale: This prevents an issue of a bid not being reasonably comparable from being considered. 10 for, 0 opposed; passed.
4. Replace Article IV: Board of Directors, Section 5, Powers and Duties. Rationale: This is the Gaiffe Amendment referred to the Bylaws Committee from last year's Fall meeting. We are report it out as originally proposed. Currently, there are no spending limitations placed upon the Board. This proposal will cap annual Board spending to 30% of the current bank account funds without membership approval.
5. Bylaws change, Article VI, Section 3 Paragraph E. Rationale: This prevents an issue of a bid not being reasonably comparable from being considered. 10 for, 0 opposed; passed.

Discussion during the meeting brought about the following friendly amendments:

Change "Unanimous of voting Board members" to "unanimous of those voting". "Unanimous" changed to "3/4" of those voting. 12 for, 1 abstention, 0 opposed; passes as amended.

9. Advance motion: that the Bylaws Committee be tasked with looking into rewriting the Bylaws and adding a Constitution. Rationale: Many people have commented on problems with the Bylaws. This gives the membership a chance to express their opinion on whether or not we need a complete rewrite of the Bylaws, and an opportunity for the membership to comment or provide suggestions or additions.

Visual majority vote; passes.
Tournament Bids: Two (2) bids for the 2009 Texas Scholastic Championships; one from San Benito ISD, other from L. Salinas. L. Salinas withdrew bid since he felt it was San Benito's turn (rotation). Bid awarded to San Benito (McAllen).
Motion: If you have 20 pre-registered players, TCA will give some stipend (limit to each region, perhaps $500), perhaps over 500 miles.
After discussion, motion withdrawn.
Luis has bid for the 2008 and 2009 Southwestern Open. There is discussion concerning bid timing.
If Luis did not receive a bid for the 2008 Texas State and Amateur. Chairman refers Referring this and Luis' bid for the 2009 Southwest Open to the Board.
Motion: to have TCA grant a stipend of $2,000 to the organizers of the 2009 Texas Scholastics to promote the event.
A amendment to have the $2,000 paid back to TCA if the tournament makes money. Passes by visual majority.
A motion to amend the amendment to make the amount paid back 1/2 reimbursed. Not seconded.
Friendly amendment: subject to retaining our 501-3c status. 10 for, 3 opposed; passes.
Meeting was adjourned. Meeting time: two hours, 25 minutes.
73rd Southwest Open

by Selby Anderson

For the first time ever, the Southwest Open was held in Brownsville, numerically one of the strongholds of Texas chess. However, our southern city, like Amarillo or El Paso, poses a travel challenge even to central Texas players. From San Antonio it’s a five-hour ride, and we’re in South Texas!

So it was not a big surprise when only 43 played in the Open, and 33 in the Reserve. What was surprising was the scholastic draw of just 41 players, in a region that got subdivided because of huge scholastic programs. Having a tournament so early in the school year was apparently a logistical hurdle for coaches.

What saved the prestige of the event was the fact that our two strongest college chess programs, from the UT branches in Dallas and Brownsville, sent players in force, accounting for five of the seven IMs (six if you count the UTD coach).

The fact that the Reserve cutoff had been moved up to 2000 made this as attractive to Experts as a state championship. And the top prizes were guaranteed by TCA, which kicked in $1,200.

In the end, five players tied for first, four of them college students. In terms of the Dallas-Brownsville rivalry it was a draw, with UTD’s IM Salvijus Bercys and NM Tautvydas Vedrickas tying UTB’s IM Axel Bachmann and IM Daniel Fernandez, IM Alfonso Almeida Saenz of Brownsville, sent players in force.

In terms of the Dallas-Brownsville rivalry it was a draw, with UTB’s IM Axel Bachmann and IM Daniel Fernandez. IM Alfonso Almeida Saenz of Brownsville, sent players in force.

In the Reserve, Victor A. Flores won first ($600) with a 6-1 score. Leo Bonnell won second ($300) with 5.5, Gustavo Falcon won 1st Class C ($200) with 5 points, tying with the top Class D Simon Vasquez ($200).

Tied for 2nd Class C were Perry Johnson and Dhury Garg (4.5, $25). Top Class B was Wallace Brady with 4 ($200). Mario Sahagun won 1st Unrated with 3.5 ($50). Henry Velasquez won 2nd Class B ($50) with 3.5, tying with four players who shared 2nd Class D: Domingo Santoyo, Medardo Porras III, Kenneth Muir and Victor Bailey.

In the Scholastic Championship, Sauceda Boys had the top team. The best individual score was posted by Kristin Ramos with 5-0. Tied at 4-1 were Dhurv Garg, Philip Martinez and Selene Lopez. Jorge Hernandez with the Scholastic U750 with 5-0.

Edward Guetzow directed and organized, with help from Victor F. Flores, Luis Salinas, Tony Meza, and Coach Dan DeLeon and family.

I rode down from San Antonio with J.P. Hyltin. We both picked up some rating points before falling to the wayside in the money race and going home after Rd. 6.

In Rd. 1, we were paired with the young Hung brothers. I won in nine moves with Black against Daniel: 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4. d4 Nf6 5.g3 Bg4 6.Qd3 Nc6 7.d5 Nxb 8.Qh5+ e6 9.dxc6 Nxc2# 0–1.

J.P. took a bit longer, 14 with White.

Notes by J.P. Hyltin

Small field, big ratings

In the 73rd Southwest Open 2007

X

Nino-Indian E50

J .P .Hyltin 2064

J effrey Hung 1744

Southwest Open 2007 (1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nf6 5.5. Gustavo Falcon won 1st Class C ($200) with 5 points, tying with the top Class D Simon Vasquez ($200).

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1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 c5 6.Nf6 5.5. Gustavo Falcon won 1st Class C ($200) with 5 points, tying with the top Class D Simon Vasquez ($200).

Tied for 2nd Class C were Perry Johnson and Dhury Garg (4.5, $25). Top Class B was Wallace Brady with 4 ($200). Mario Sahagun won 1st Unrated with 3.5 ($50). Henry Velasquez won 2nd Class B ($50) with 3.5, tying with four players who shared 2nd Class D: Domingo Santoyo, Medardo Porras III, Kenneth Muir and Victor Bailey.

In the Scholastic Championship, Sauceda Boys had the top team. The best individual score was posted by Kristin Ramos with 5-0. Tied at 4-1 were Dhurv Garg, Philip Martinez and Selene Lopez. Jorge Hernandez with the Scholastic U750 with 5-0.

Edward Guetzow directed and organized, with help from Victor F. Flores, Luis Salinas, Tony Meza, and Coach Dan DeLeon and family.

I rode down from San Antonio with J.P. Hyltin. We both picked up some rating points before falling to the wayside in the money race and going home after Rd. 6.
This walks into the mate. I had spent time on 13...Kg6; this is a good position for learning to play this type of attack. 14.Qd3+ (14.f4 crossed my mind Fritz says it wins.) 14...f5 15.exf6+ (15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16. Nxb8+ Nxb8 was not enough.) 15...Kxf6 and White has a crusher here in 16.Re1 (not 16.Qf3+ Ke7 17.Qxe8 Nc6? with a queen trap).

14.Qh5
Black resigned. Mate follows on 14...Rd8 15.Qxf7+ Kh8 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qh7+ Kf8 18.Qh8+ Ke7 19.Qxg7+ Ke8 20.Qf7#.

1–0
15 lines
For Rd. 3 I was paired up against IM Almeida, and had the Black side in a difficult Bogo-Indian where he won a pawn but had to weather some attacking chances. He missed a win or two, and shortly before time control gave me a winning endgame.

Bogo-Indian E11
Alfonso Almeida 2491
Seiby Anderson 2200
Southwest Open 2007 (3)
18.cxb5 Qa2 19.Bb5 Bb6
XA B C D E F G H Y
8r + - - + - + - 2pp 7+ - - - + - + - 76 - - pl - - + & 5+ pp - p - h - - & 4 - - - - - - - 3p - Q - + P + P + 2p 1+, - + P + P + + # 1-, + - , + - + 1-+ 0 0+ 0 0+ 1+ 0 xabc def g h y 20.e4
A likely win is 20.Rxd6! and ...
(a) 20...Nfx4 21.Rxe6! Qxe6 22.e4??
(b) 20...Bb3 21.Qxe5 Rae8 22.Be7 Qa1+ 22.Kd2 Rf7 23.Qxe5 Qxb2+ 24.Kc1 Rxc7 25.Rd2?&e and White consolidates his extra pawns. 20...Bb3 21.Bxe2

Notes by J.P. Hyltin

13...Nxe5 14.f3 Bf5 15.Qd4 c5 15...Qc6 16.b3 Rae8 17.Bg1 Nd3+ 18.Kd1 c5 19.Qd5 ?+ 16.Qc3 Qe6 17.0-0-b5?? Trying to hurry the attack before White consolidates his center.
18.cxb5 Qa2 19.Bb5 Bb6
XA B C D E F G H Y
8r + - - + - + - 2pp 7+ - - - + - + - 76 - - pl - - + & 5+ pp - p - h - - & 4 - - - - - - - 3p - Q - + P + P + 2p 1+, - + P + P + + # 1-, + - , + - + 1-+ 0 0+ 0 0+ 1+ 0 xabc def g h y 20.e4
A likely win is 20.Rxd6! and ...
(a) 20...Nfx4 21.Rxe6! Qxe6 22.e4??
(b) 20...Bb3 21.Qxe5 Rae8 22.Be7 Qa1+ 22.Kd2 Rf7 23.Qxe5 Qxb2+ 24.Kc1 Rxc7 25.Rd2?&e and White consolidates his extra pawns. 20...Bb3 21.Bxe2

Notes by J.P. Hyltin

King’s Gambit Declined C30
Arturo Gracia 2008
J.P. Hyltin 2006
Southwest Open 2007 (3)
Motivated by the need to preserve the Bc4 to prevent castling. 6...Bg4 is another move.
7.Na4 Bb7 8.Bd5
White’s last two moves were inaccurate.
8...Nxd5 9.exd5 Nc4 10.Nxd4
I saw 10.fxex5 Nfx3+ (7a0...Bg4) 11.Qxg4+ (8...Qxg4+ was my bail out plan, and I liked that position.) 13.Qxg7 This was as far as I looked, and decided it was trouble.
10...Bxd4
I briefly considered 10...exd4 and understood the plight of his Na4, but didn’t like my Ba7. Fritz points out 11.Qe2+ Qxe2 12.Qxe7+ Kxe7 13.b3 b5 14.Nhb2 Bb7?? 11.Qf3 0-0 12.Be3 Qe8+ 13.fxe5 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Qxa4 15.0-0 I did not think long here, thinking the next is forced.
15...dxe5 16.Qxe5 Qd7
Better alternatives are 16...Bg4 17.Rf4 Qd7; and 16...Qxc2, but I wanted to play this a little safer than that. 16...Bd7 seems to be the best move. 17.b3 (17.Qxe7 Qd4+ 18.Kh1 Qxd5 19.c4 Qd4 17.c4 Qxc2 18. Rad1 Qxe3) 17...Qxe5 18.c4 Rae8??
17.Rac1 Qd6
17...c6 18.d6 was all I saw, and figured the rook would get to g7 before I got developed.
18.Qxd6 exd6 19.Rh7 Rb8
Played after a long think. My advantage is slipping away.
20.c4 b5 21.b3
21.c5 dxc5 22.d6 Bb7 23.Rfe1 Rd7??.
21...Rb7 22.Rxb7 Bxb7 23.Rxe1 Bc8
24.Re7 Rd8 25.Kf2 Bd7
Now I was sure it was over.

26.Kxe3 Kf8
26...Re8 was simpler.

27.Re4 Re8 28.Kd4 f5
I wanted to take the rooks off, but not with the undoubling of the d-pawns. I saw what was coming and decided I didn’t have to, but I thought the rook trade was winning anyway. 28...Rxe4+ 29.Kxe4 f6??

29.Rf4 Re2 30.c5 Ke7 31.Rf3 Rg2
32.Re3+ Kd8 33.xd6
33.c6 Bc8 34.Rh3 h6 35.a4 bx4
36.bxa4 Rg4+ 37.Kc3 Rx4 38.Rg3 Rg4
33...f4 34.Rf3 g5 35.h4 Bg4 36.Rf1 Be2 37.Rc1 f3 38.Ke3 g5 39.Rc7 Bd1 40.Rxh7 Rxe2+ 41.Kd4 f2 42.Bf2

Notes by Anton Solovyov

Irregular KP C20
Axel Bachmann 2556
Anton Solovyov 2131
Southwest Open 2007 (4)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3
2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 is better; this way White takes control of the d5 square earlier. Also there is still an option of developing the knight to f3, which is preferable to e2 in some variations.

2...Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6
Continuing development. Also possible is the immediate 3...d5.

4.g3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Bc6
Black has solved his opening problems. This system of development is probably the best response to fianchetto in open games. It is similar to the Sicilian Dragon with reversed colors, however with an open e-file instead of c-file. It will be very difficult for White to create an attack on the queenside. The position of the knight on e2 instead of f3 makes it impossible to create any pressure on the e5-pawn in the near future.

7.d3
A very modest move. Better is 7.0-0 Qd7 and now if White wants easy equality then 8.d4=

8.Re1 avoids the exchange of light-squared bishops but allows 8...0-0-0?? and White can no longer play d2-d4.

7...Qd7 8.h4??
A complete waste of time. Either 8.Bc3!? or even 8.f4!? was better

8...0-0-0??
Black has an advantage due to superiority in the center.

9.a3
White wants to complicate the game.

9...Be5!
Giving White the gift of a tempo since Nc3-c4 is a part of his plan. The best move obviously was just developing with 9...Be7 10.Ne4 (10. b4?! 11.e3 Nc4 10.0-0 Bxb7?)
10...f5 11.Ng5 Bxg5 12.Bxg5 Rde8 13.Bd2 (13.0-0 f4! 14.g4 h5?? 13...f4! 14.Nc3 Nx3 15.Bx5 (or 15.bxc3 Bxd5) 15...Bxd5?? 9...f6 was also better than Be5.

10.Ne4
Black was hoping for 10.h4?
10...Be7 11.b4

11...h6
Not the best move – Black wants to prevent Ng5, but it was not that dangerous. Better is 11...f5.

12.Rb1 N d4 13.c4 Nf6
Easier is 13...Nxc2 14.Qxc2 (not as good is 14.0d5?! because of 14... Nxc1 15.dxe6 Nxd3+) 14...Nf6 15. Nc5 Bxc5 16.bxc5 c6 17.0-0?! Rhe8?? (not 17...Bxh3 18.Bxh3 Qxh3 19.Qxe5 Rd3 20.Bxf4, or 17...Qxh3 18.Qb2)
14.Nc5 (14.Nxf6 Bxf6?? 14...Bxc5 15.bxc5 0-0!

Attack and defense at the same time! 15...c6?? would allow a dangerous attack after 16.Qa4.

16.Nxd4
16.dxe4?? Nf3+.

16...Qxd4 17.Qb3
White has obtained some counterplay

17.Qxd4?
Prevents White from castling but creates unnecessary complications, that are not that favorable for Black. Better and simpler was 17...b6 18. 0–0 Qxd3??

18.Qxb7+ Kd7
Now the Black king is also in danger!

18...Kc7

19.Bf1
Here White had a spectacular move: 19.Bxb6!! Bg4! a) 19...gxh6 20.Rd1?! winning the queen; b) 19...Kc7? 20.Bxg7 Bx4 21.Qxh3+ Rf7 (21...Kf8 22.Qe5+), 22.Qh3+ and White checkmates first; 20.hxg4 Rh8 21.c6+ Ke6 22.Rd1 Rxh7 23. Rxh7 Rb+ 24.Rd1 Rxd1+ 25.Kxd1. Black has good chances for a draw in this endgame, but likely not more, for example 25...Rhxh6 26.g5 Rxh1+ 27.Bxh1 Ng4 28.Kf5?

19...Qf3 20.Rg1
20.Be3? Qxh6 21.c6+ Ke8 22. Qxh6 Bxh3?? (22...Bxc4? 23.Qe5+ Kg8 (23...Be7 24.c7 Rc8 25.Rb8??
24.Qc5+ Kg8 25.Qxg4?). 20...Bxc4 21.8e3

12
A mistake that finally loses the game. It was necessary to take with 21.Bxc4 to exchange the bishop on f1, put the king in relative safety and connect the rooks: 21...Qc3+ 22.Kf1! (22.Bd2? Qxc4#) 22...Qxc4+ 23.Kg2! (22.Bd2? Qxc4#) 22...Qxc4+

23.Kg2?! White has very good compensation, and black has to play carefully not to end up in a worse position, e.g. 23...Rb8? 24.Rd1+ Ke6 25.Qxe7 Rxb6 26.Bxf4??

21...Bxf1 22.Rxf1 Rb8! Black correctly evaluates that in this position the queen will be stronger than two rooks.

23.c6+ Ke6 24.Qxb8 Rb8 25.Rb3 fs 27.Kd2 f4?! This is too hasty. Much better was to attack with a phalanx of pawns: 27...g5 28.Rb1 Nxe3 29.fxe3 (29.Rxe8 Qxe4+ 30.Kf1 Qxe3) 29...Qxg3

28.Rg1?!

White had an interesting way to play for a draw by making a fortress: 30.Rxd3! exd3 31.Bxh6+! breaking the last pair of Black's connected pawns 31...Kd6 32.Bxe3 Kxe6 33.Bxc7. Black wins the pawn at h3, but White wins d3 and stops Black's passed c-pawn with a likely draw.

30...g5 31.Rb8 Qf5?!

Black should just gobble up white pawns with 31...Qxh3, not worrying about 32.Rh8 (32.Bxa7 Qh2) because of 32...Nxf2! 33.Bxf2

37...Qb2+ 38.Kd3 Qxa3+ 39.Kd4 Qb2+ 40.Rc3 Nf4 41.Bxf4 gxf4 42. Kc4 a5 43.Rdd3 Qb4+ 44.Kd5 Kf5

In this endgame White's king centralization is not a good thing!

45.Rc5?

White resigned, not waiting for Qe4# [45.Rc4 Qd6#; 45.Ra3 Qd6+ 46.Kc4 Qxc6+?+]

Notes by J.P. Hyltin

King's Indian E63

J.P. Hyltin 2064

Ali Morshedi 2300

Southwest Open 2007 (4)


10...Nxa5 11.dxe6 c5 12.b3 b5 13. Qc2

I have been in this position a few times, but with our rooks on f1 and f8. The difference could have been important. Computers are not useful in such positions.

13...h5

13...e6 seems the way to take advantage of the rook placement.

14.Bb2 h4 15.Nce4

This looks odd, but it is thematic.

15...h3 16.Nxf6+ I chose this because I knew Ali would have to make several decisions.

16...exf6

The drawback of this move is that my bishop at b2 can be used against his knight at a5.


19.Nxe4 Qe7 20.f3 bxc4 21.bxc4 Rb4?
21...Bxe4 22.fxе4 Rb4 23.Bc3 Rxб1 24.Rxb1 Nxc4 25.Qd3??

14...Qd8 15.Be3?

White blocks the g7 bishop at d5. It's amazing how much trouble I have when I'm up two rooks.

34.Qxe5 35.Kf2 Qh4+ =.

Comparing this position to the position after White's 11th move, white got two free moves: Re1-c3 and e4-e5.

15...Bf5 16.0-0 Na5

16...Nб4 trying to put the knight on d5 17.Nf4!?? preventing Nb4-d5 (also possible is 17.Qd2 Nd5 18. Bxd5 Qxd5 19.Nf4 Qd7 20.Rfc1?)

17...Be4 18.Qd2 Nd5 19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Rfc1?? White controls the c-file, black controls the d5 square, but can not put any pressure on the d4-pawn since it's securely protected by white's "bad" bishop (which is better than black's nominally "good" bishop!)

Overall, I think, White has some advantage.

17.Qd2??

White finishes developing and seeks to create play on the c-file.

17...Qd7 18.Rfc1 Rfd8


19.f4

Protecting the center (Bxe5 was a threat), and preparing d4-d5.

19...Be4?

Notes by Anton Solovyov

Southwest Open 2007 (5)


10.Qd2!? [The main line is 10.0-0--] 10...Qd4 11.Qxе4 Qb6+ 12.Bd2

This move is a novelty, and even though not the best one, after black's inaccuracy white obtained an advantage. More common in this position is 12.Kf1 with the idea h2-h4-h5 and an attack on the kingside.

12...Qe7!

Here the queen will be misplaced. Possibly my opponent did not expect the move Bd2. The resulting position after Qa3 is similar to the variation where white sacrifices the a2 pawn, except here Black did not win a pawn. Better is 12...Qb4.

13.Rc3 Qd6 14.e5?

White blocks the g7 bishop at the cost of giving up the d5-square. However it will not be easy for black to use it.

14...Qd8 15.Be3??

A combination based on two unprotected pieces (Na5, Be4) that wins a pawn, but gives Black counterplay. White had an interesting idea without winning a pawn: 20. Bd3!? Bxd3 21.Rxd3!, using the bad position of Black's knight on a5 to
seize the control of the c-file: 21...b6 (21...Nc6 22.d5) 22.Rdc3 Rac8 23. Qc2 Rxc3 24.Qxc3+ White has a small, stable advantage and Black has no counterplay.

20...Kxf7 21.Rc7 Qb5!
21...Qg4 22.Ng3 Bc6 23.Qxa5 h5? (21...Nc6 22.d5) 22.Rdc3 Rac8 23.Qc2 Rxc3 24.Qxc3+ White has a small, stable advantage and Black has no counterplay.

22...Qd3! 23.Rxa5 b6
The white rook is in danger!

24.Ra4 a5
White has won a pawn, but his pieces are uncoordinated; Black has compensation.

22.Rc3 Qb8 23.Rxa5 Bc6 24.Qc2 Rxc3 25.Qxc3+ White has a small, stable advantage and Black has no counterplay.

20...Kxf7 21.Rc7 Qb5!
21...Qg4 22.Ng3 Bc6 23.Qxa5 h5? (21...Nc6 22.d5) 22.Rdc3 Rac8 23.Qc2 Rxc3 24.Qxc3+ White has a small, stable advantage and Black has no counterplay.

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20...Kxf7 21.Rc7 Qb5!
21...Qg4 22.Ng3 Bc6 23.Qxa5 h5? (21...Nc6 22.d5) 22.Rdc3 Rac8 23.Qc2 Rxc3 24.Qxc3+ White has a small, stable advantage and Black has no counterplay.

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21...Qg4 22.Ng3 Bc6 23.Qxa5 h5? (21...Nc6 22.d5) 22.Rdc3 Rac8 23.Qc2 Rxc3 24.Qxc3+ White has a small, stable advantage and Black has no counterplay.

22...Qd3! 23.Rxa5 b6
The white rook is in danger!

24.Ra4 a5
White has won a pawn, but his pieces are uncoordinated; Black has compensation.

22.Rc3 Qb8 23.Rxa5 Bc6 24.Qc2 Rxc3 25.Qxc3+ White has a small, stable advantage and Black has no counterplay.

Here I hoped to make something of a weak c-pawn, but my knights can find outposts, and his Bishops have a great future on this open board.

28...Nf3+ 29.Kg2 Nxd2 30.Rxd2 Re5

30...Re7 31.Rb1 Nd8 hangs in, but I'm not defensive minded. 31.Rb1 Rxb5 32.Rc2

Reality sets in. He'll get a rook to the seventh, and the c-pawn is hard to stop.

1-0

Center Counter B01

John Bartholomew 2488

Southwest Open 2007 (5)


The Slav Defense becomes a Dutch Stonewall.


White would have saved a tempo by playing Be2 at move 6. 11...Nf6?

It was necessary to exchange White's active knight on e5: Black's knight on f6 will have too many square bishops, and he can not give up his dark square bishop for the knight because the dark squares will be very weak. Better was 11...Nxe5 12.fxe5 (12.dxe5 Bc5 13.0-0 Bc6=) 12...Rx e5+ 13.Qxf1 Be7=. White is a little more active due to his space advantage on the queenside: he can play c4-c5, and then advance b2-b4, a2-a4 and b4-b5. However, after the almost inevitable exchange of rooks on f-file White will have very few chances of winning.

12.Bd2?! Because of Black's inaccuracy, White has achieved an advantage out of the opening. Now begins a maneuvering phase where White tries to develop an initiative, and Black tries to finish development and equalize.

12...Qc7

Less good is 12...Bd7 13.Qb5 Rb8 14.Bb4, as the exchange of dark square bishops is more useful for White because of the pawn structure.

13.0-0 Be6

White still stands better but does not do anything to improve his position. This move unnecessarily weakens the queenside. But what is its goal, to prepare b2-b4 and c4-c5? More consistent would be 14.Qg3 if White wants to play on the kingside, for example 14...Be8 15.Qh3 preventing Bb5 and attacking the c-pawn. It is very hard for Black to do anything active here. In the mean-

Notes by Anton Solovyov

Dutch Defense A84

Alfonso A Mejida 2491
Anton Solovyov 2131

Southwest Open 2007 (6)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 f5

...
time White can slowly improve his position and have some initiative on the kingside, for example move both rooks to f-file, put bishop on c3 to reinforce the center and maybe then start advancing kingside pawns.

14...Bd8 15.Kh7!

Again a not the most active move that allows black to start fighting for initiative. White is planning to do something on g-file. Better was 15.Qh4 or even 15.b4.

15... Bh5 16.g4

It turns out White does not want to exchange the light-square bishops. Or maybe he was intending to play g2-g4 all along?

16...Bd6 17.Rg1

White is planning to advance on the kingside, but allows Black to undermine White’s center.

XA B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + l e k + (7p p p - q - p p p' 6- + p p p n - - & 5- + p n n - - % 4p + p p p p p + $ 3 + - + - p + - + # 2- p - k L + - p " 1 R - + - R - K ! x a b c d e f g h y 17...Nd7 18.Rg3!

White should consider 18.g5 which prevents g7-g5, but leads to equality. Also possible was more brave 18.h4!? g6 and then h7-h5, g4-g5 and the position would be closed and equal.

18...g5!

Beginning to dismantle White’s center. Black dares to counterstrike on the kingside, where White was preparing an attack! The move g2-g4 left the f4 pawn without natural pawn support by g2-g3

19.Rg2 xf4 20.exf4 c5!

A hit from the other side! Black is exchanging his wing pawns for White’s center pawns and White’s center completely falls apart.

21.dxc5 Nxc5?A

At last the knight found an active square.

22.Bg3 Nb3 23.Rd1 d4 24.Rxd4

This exchange sacrifice is forced (24.Bxd4? Nxd4 25.Rxd4 Rxf4 and the knight on e5 has nowhere to go!)

24...Nxd4

24...Bxe5 25.fxe5 Nxd4 26.Bxd4 Bxa4??

25.Bxd4 Rxf4 Black has a big advantage. 26.g5 e3! 27.Bc3 Qc7?!

It was absolutely necessary to exchange last White’s rook with 27...Rf1! After that white’s attack would be extinguished and the position would become almost technically winning for Black.

28.g6!

A very good practical chance for White. Black walks right into it.

XA B C D E F G H Y
8r + - + l e k + (7p p p - q - p p p' 6- + p p p n - - & 5- + p n n - - % 4p + p p p p p + $ 3 + - + - p + - + # 2- p - k L + - p " 1 R - + - R - K ! x a b c d e f g h y 28...Bxe5?

Black is too greedy, and on top of that micromanipulates, which gives away the last thread of advantage but surprisingly does not lose by force. Here the computer suggests a very counterintuitive move, going into discovered check: 28...hxg6!! 29. Nfxg6 (29.Nf3 Qf7 30.Ng5 Qf5?? 29...Rf2?? with the following variations a) 30.Rxf2 exf2 31.Qxf2 Bxg6 +Z b) 30.Ne7+ Kf7??Z (c) 30.Nh4+

1M. Alfonso Almeida??q

?U Rxg2?Worse was 28...h5 29.Nf7??

29.gxh7+ Kxh7??

A time trouble blunder that leads to a forced mate. Black could save the situation by the only move 29...Kf7!, suggested by the chess program Rybka. A move like this or 28...hxg6 would be extremely hard to find and calculate for a human player, especially with only a few minutes left on the clock.

Here Rybka gives a long forced variation that ends in a very unclear position with four White pawns against Black’s bishop and pawn, with queens still on the board. 29. Kf7 30.Bh5+ Ke7 31.Bxe5 (31.Qxe3 Rf1+) 31...Qxe5 32.Qb4+ Kd8 33. Qxb7 Rf1+ 34.Rg1 Rxg1+ 35.Kxg1 Qxb7 36.Qax8+ Kc7 37.Qa7+ Bd7 38.Qxe3 Qg6+ 39.Kf1 Qh772

In case of 29...Kh8?? 30.Qg3!!

Rf1+ 31.Bxf1, the pin on the long diagonal a1-h8 protects the queen and White checkmates.

30.Bd3+ Kh8 [30...Kh6 31.Qxe3??]

31.Qxe3 Rf1+ 32.Bxf1 Bxg3 33. Qh6+ 1-0

Queen’s Indian E15

Salvijus Bercys 2488
Tautvydas Vetrickas 2285

Southwest Open 2007 (6)
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Ba6
  cxd5 exd5 9. Ne5 0-0 10. Nc3 B.b7
 11.0-0 Nbd7 12. Bf4 c6 13. Nd3 Re8
 14.b4 Bf8 15. B.g5 h6 16.Bxf6 Nxf6
 17.Rc1 B.d6
 17...Ne4 (Bercys) 18.Nxe4 dxe4
 19.Ne5 c5 20.bxc5 bxc5 21.e3?? If
  anything, Black is slightly better.
 18.b5 Q.e7 19.bxc6 Bxc6 20.Q.b3
  Rad8 21.e3 Bd7 22.Nb5 B.b8 23.
  Nb4 h5 24.Nc6 Bxc6 25.Rxc6 h4
  Bercys: “This was a ‘bad’ move in
  the computer’s mind, and it said
  that 28.Nxd5 miraculously held after
  28...Q.g5 29.Nc7! and apparently
  Black had no attack.”
  28...dxe4 29.Q.b5 g6 30.Rfc1 Draw

Sicilian B52
Selby Anderson 2200
Daniel Fernandez 2455
Southwest Open 2007 (6)
  Bxe7+ Qxe7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.d3 g6
  7.Nc3??
This has been played against 6...e6, where it has more of a point.

7...B.g7 8.f4 Nc6 9.Nf3 h6
I was feeling better now.

10.Nf3 0-0-0?? 11.Ne2 g5
So here was his point! Now it’s
time to batten down the hatches.
12.f3xg5 hxg5 13.Nxg5 Ne4 14.Ng3
  Qxf3 Ne5 18.0-0 Rd8 19.Bf4 B.h6
  Rg6 23.Kh1 e6 24.Ne3 Q.g7 25.Rg1
  Rh5 26.Nf1 Q.h6 27.Qf2 B.e6

Having weathered the storm, I
considered whether to “do nothing”
and challenge Black to find a plan,
or to start a countattack.

28.a3! Q.f8
28...Bc1?? 29.Ng3??
29.Ng3 Rh7 30.Ne2 B.g5 31.Lc3 R.h4
  32.Ng3 Rgh6 33.Nf1 c4 34.Qe2

Weaken g6 with ... h6.

6...e6, where it has more of a point.

7.Ng5!?
Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0...

12.fxg5 hxg5 13.Nxg5 Ne5 14.Ng3
  Nf6, the trendy choices have been
  4...a6 and 4...dxc4. The text is not
  an easy line to research. - SKA
5.b3 Nf6 6.g3 B.d6 7.Bg2 Nbd7 8.0-
  0-0-0 N.e5 6.N.d3 B.b7 11.Rf4
  Q.e7 12.f3?

There are plenty of reasonable
moves: 12.cxd5, 12.Rc1 or 12.Bg5.

12...dxe4 13.Bxe4 c5 14.B.e3
I started to take a lot of time. I
looked at but rejected 14.c5 bxc5 15.
Qxb5+ Kh8 16.Qxb7 (Better is 16.
  Bxe5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxe5
  Qxe5?!) 16...exd4]

14...exd4 15.Bxd4 c5 16.B.f2 N.e5
17.Q.a4

Preventing Ba6.
17...Ng6 18.Nb5
I struggle for moves here, so all I can do is hope to get 2 B's.
18...Bb8 19.e3
Preventing f4.
19...Ne5
The weakness of f3 surprised me.
I might have saved a move.
23...Bc7 24.Nb1 g5 25.Qc2
Fritz demonstrates lines approaching equality with 25.Nc3 because 25...g4 26.Nd5 Nxd5 27.Qxd5 discoursing 27...gx3 28.d6+ with complications favoring White.
25...Qe6 26.Nd2 g4 27.a4
I didn't have anything else.
27...gx4?!!
I thought 27...f4 was good, and if 28.fxg4 Nxg4.
28.exf5 Qe8 29.Rfe1 Qd3 30.Qxd3 Rxd3 31.Bf1 Rd7
31...Ra3 32.Re3 Rxa2 33.Nfx3 Nc4?!
32.Nb1 Rfd8 33.Nc3 Rxd4 34.Rxd1 Rxd1 35.Nxd1
An immensely complicated ending has arisen, where control of key squares and long sequences of piece redeployments are common themes.
35...Be5 36.Bd3 Kf7 37.h3 h5 38.Kf3?!?
38.Ne3 Bd4 concerned me. I figured out if I trade his White squared bishop off, I would have chances to steal a queenside pawn. I wasn't sure about trading my knight, which helped me create dynamics.
38...Be4
Just what I wanted. Then I realized I was dropping a pawn, so I had to start examining those dynamics.
39.Bxe4 Nxe4 40.Ne3 Nxg3+
If he had realized where this was heading, he could have bailed out here with several other moves. Fortunately, this is the last move of time control. [40...Bd4; 40...Kf6 41.Nd5+ Kxd5 42.Nxb6 Bd4?]
41.Bxg3 Bxg3 42.Nd5 b5 43.axb5 axb5 44.Nc3
And here's what I found. He now thought 46 minutes in this problematic ending. Now the real fun begins.

```
X A C D E F G H Y
8- + - + + + + + +
7+ + - - - + + + +
6- 0 0 + - + + + + &
5+ p p - + p + p %
4- + - + + + + + +
3- + N - + p P #
2P + - - + K + - +
1- + - + - + - -
```

44...h4
44...b4 45.Ne4 h4 (45...c4 has some points but falls short. 46.Nxg3 b3 (46...c4 47.Kc3 47.axb3 cxb3 48. Ne4) 46.Nxg3 Kf6 47.Nd3= winning either the b-pawn or the f-pawn. Black can't win with a dark-squared bishop and the h-pawn, so I need only sac the knight for the last pawn. 44...Kf6 also looks crazy but still falls short. After 45.Ne4+ ...
(a) 45...Kx5 46. Nxe5+ Ke4 47.Nxh5 c4 48.Ng3 and my king will catch the c-pawn, while the h-pawn threat distracts; (b) 45... Ke5 46.Nxg3 h4 47. Ne4 (47.Kf2 hxg3+ 48.Kg3 c4 49.Kxf3=)...47...c4 48.Nd2 Kf5 49. Kxf2 50.Kc2=)
45.Nxb5 Kf6 46.a4 Kxf5
46...c4 47.a5 Kxd5 48.a6 Bb8 49.a7 Bxa7 50.Nxa7 c3 51.Nb5 c2 52.Nd4+ ?!
47.Na3
47.a5 Bb8 48.a6 c4 I saw this far and did not think I could play 49.a7 (49.Kf2 almost blows it. 49...Kf4 50. Nc3 (a draw is available with 50.a7 Bxa7+ 51.Nxa7 c3 52.Nc6?)) 53. Nb4 c1Q 54.Nd3+? 50...Ba7+ 51. Kf1 Kg3 52.Nb6 Bb8+=) 49...Bxa7
50.Nxa7 c3 51.Nb5 c2 52.Nd4+ I missed this point, and that drove me to the text. Fortunately he had no time to figure out any kind of punishment.
47...Kd4 48.a5 Bc7
Black was low on time and missed a chance to complicate. 51...Kf4 52.Nxc4 Kg3 makes it easy for White to go astray: (a) 53.Nd2? Ba7 54.Ne4 Kxh3 55.Ne5 Kg37?W 54. Ne4+ Kxh3 55.Nf2+ Kg3 56.Ne4+ Kf4 57.Nf2 Bb6 58.Nh3 h5 59.Nf2 Bf2= 60.Kf2 h2 61.a7 hQ 62.a8Q Qg2± 63.Kc1 Qc2±; (b) 53.Na5 Kxh3 54.Nc6 Kg3 55.Nxb3 53.h3? (c) 53.Ne1 Ba7 54.Nc6 Bb6 (54... Kg3 55.Na7 Kg3 56.Nc6 h3 57.Nc6 heading for e4+ and f2 blocking the h-pawn. 57...Kf4 58. Ne4! Kxe4 59.a7? (queenation check.) 55.a7 Bxa7 56.Nxa7 Kxh3 57.Kf2 Kg4 58.Nc6 h3 59.Ne5+ Kf4 60.Nxh3=)
52.Nxc4 Kxc4 53.Kf2 Kxb5 Draw

Texas Girls (cont’d from p. 3)
Joanna Slusarewicz won the Elementary title with 5, ahead of Georgi Olvera and Abigail Glatman who tied for second with 4.5. Brianna Guillon won the Primary championship with 6.0. Kennedy Quintanilla was clear second with 5. Amanda Gonzalez and Rorye Jones tied for the K-1 championship with 5.0.

Ping-Jung Tingtera was the chief TD, assisted by Eddie Rios, Sr., who organized the event for the Kingsville Chess Club. Section chiefs were Astrid Santoyo, Daphne Wang, Robert B. Jones, Criselda DeLeon and Russell Shelton.
Bradford’s travels: Isle of Man International

Joe Bradford continued his overseas adventures after Gibraltar, playing in the 16th Monarch Assurance Isle of Man International, held Sept. 22-30. He finished with 4½ out of 9, defeating two GMs (Svetushkin and Hebden) and finishing in a tie for 16th, a half-point out of the prize money.

Six players tied for first with 6½ points to win £1,484: Mateusz Bartel (Poland), Zahar Efimenko (Ukraine), Vitali Golod (Israel), Mikhail Kobalia (Russia), Michael Roiz (Israel), Yuri Yakovich (Russia).

Bradford had a slow start, with a loss followed by two draws. In Rd. 1 he was paired with GM Yuri Yakovich, trainer to GM Alexandra Kosteniuk. Joe defended a wild-looking sideline in the Meran Defense, but a mental error on move 15 rather than the choice of opening seems to blame the loss. In the game.

Fritz claims Black is equal after 15...cx6d: (a) 16.Bxd4 Qxd7 17. Bxf6+ Kxf6 18.e5+ Ke7=; (b) 16. Bxe6 dxe6 17.Bd5 Ba6! 18.fxe6! Bxe1 19.Bxa8 Qxa8 =. That Black could tolerate the vanishing of his e6 pawn is not intuitively obvious.


16...Bxd6 27.cxd6+ Kd7 28.Rc3 Qb5 29.Rc7+ Ke6 30.Rc7+ Kd6 31.Qc7# 1-0

Bradford got on a winning streak in Rds. 4-6, defeating two experts and then a grandmaster:

QGD Meran D27

Joe Bradford 2406

Dmitri Svetushkin 2618

Ise of Man 2007 (6)


X A B C D E F G H Y
8r - + Q K + + - + (7lw + n+ + + + +)
6- ++ - - - P + + + &
5 + L - - - + P + + %
4 - P - P + + + +
3 + - - - Z N + + #
2 P - + + + P P P "
1 R - + Q R K - !
a b c d e f g h y

14... K e7 15.Bxd7 Qxd7?

After this Black is lost in the game.

The super-solid 9...Be7 continues to score respectably at the upper levels. Also playable is 9...Nxe4 10. Bxe4 Bb7 with similar play.

The text, playing for the open g-file, seems to be the black sheep of this line despite the best efforts of its top exponent, GM Andrei Kharlov.

10.Nx6f+ gxf6 11.e4 Bd6 12.0-0 h5

A young Nikolay Minev played 12...Rg8 against Botvinnik in the 1954 Amsterdam Olympiad. He lost, though not spectacularly.


X A B C D E F G H Y
8r - + Q K + + - + (7lw + n+ + + + +)
6- ++ - - - P + + + &
5 + L - - - + P + + %
4 - P - P + + + +
3 + - - - Z N + + #
2 P - + + + P P P "
1 R - + Q R K - !
a b c d e f g h y

20
44...Bf5 45.Re2 e3 46.Rxe3 Ra7 47.f3 Ra8 48.Re2 Nb1 49.Bxb1 Bxb1 50.g4! hxg4 51.hxg4

The passed d-pawn is a monster with the bishop cut off from f5.


Black’s bishop has gone through a lot to cover d7, and then this move smacks it right down.


Did Hebden know that Igor Shirm once used this move order to get a lost round draw with Bradford?

...b6 56.Bg5 Bb7 57.Nbd2 B e7 5.4 h4 d6 7.h5 N d7 7. e3 5.Bf4 Qc7 10. B d3 exd4 11.cxd4 R c 8 12.Bg3 h6 13.Nh4 Q c 6 14.d4 d5 15.e5 N e 4

Joe Bradford 2406

Alexander Areshchenko 2656

The passed d-pawn is a monster with the bishop cut off from f5.

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...b6 56.Bg5 Bb7 57.Nbd2 B e7 5.4 h4 d6 7.h5 N d7 7. e3 5.Bf4 Qc7 10. B d3 exd4 11.cxd4 R c 8 12.Bg3 h6 13.Nh4 Q c 6 14.d4 d5 15.e5 N e 4

Joe Bradford 2406

Alexander Areshchenko 2656

11.Ne2 Kf7 12.Nf4 B a 6?? 1-0

Just as he stuck his head up among the contenders, Bradford left himself open to a crisp opening tactic in the kind of French Defense position he could usually play blindingfolded.

F r e n c h W i n a u e r C 1 8

A l e x a n d e r A r e s c h e n k o 2 6 5 6

Joe Bradford 2406

Isle of Man 2007 (7)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5. a 3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Q f 4 f 6 8.Qg3 e 5 d4 9.exd4 N e 7 10.e3 h6 11.Ne2 Kf7 12.Nf4 B a 6?? 1-0

X A B C D E F G H Y

8r R - + - + + - ( 7p - + + + p p - ' 6 - p + p + + + & 5 + + p + p - + & 4 + - - p - - - - $ 3 p - p - + - O - # 2 - - + + - P + + " 1 R - + - K L + R ! x a b c d e f g h y

If there is an overarching theme to this game, it is that centralization rules. White has gone on a tangent with his “creative” flank play.

16.f4 Bg5 g3 h5 b5 B a 3 18.Nb3 Q b 6 19.Q e 2 b 4 20.Q e 6 B a 6! 21.B g 5 White can’t win a pawn with 21. Bxe4 dxe4 22.Qxe4?? B b 7, or with 22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.Qxg5 Q b 5 24.Q d 2 R x h 5 and Black has the upper hand.

21...hxg5 22.Nf3 Bxd3 23.Qxd3 g4 24.Q f 3 Qf 5 25.dxe5 Qx e 5 26.Nf3 Qf 5 27.Nh4 Qf 5 28.Qg 3 Q f 5 29.Q d 5 Q f 5 30.Q f 5 Q f 5 31.Q e 4 Q f 5 32.Q f 5 Q f 5

(by patient, creeping maneuvers Black demonstrates he’s still on top. 43.h6 Rxh6 44.Qc 8 K c 8 45.Q c 5 46.Kg 2 d 4 47.Q c 6 R h 5)

Combining attack with defense.

48.Re1 Qa 5

...d3! trades the d-pawn for a tactical win: 49.Qd 7+ Kh 6 50.Q d 3 Q x b 2+ (a) 51.Q c 6 Q b 7+ (this also refutes 51.Re 7) 52.Q f 3 Rh 2+ ? (b) 5 1.K f 3 R f 5+ 52.Kxe 3 Q x f 2+ 49.R e 2 Q d 8

Again, strong is 49...d3 because of 50.Q d 7+ Kh 6 51.Q x d 3 Q a 8+ with

(Continued on page 23)
San Antonio Fall Open

Dennis Rylander topped the Fall Open with 3.5 out of 4, winning clear first prize of $160. Although he took Rd. 3 bye, no one could catch him as draws predominated that round. Tied for 2nd+U2200 with 3.0 were J.P. Hytlin and Mark McCue, who each won $70. Avinash Thangirala, Andrew Nathanael Lozano and Steven Chen tied for the U2000 prize, $20 each. In the Reserve, Juan Carriñales was clear winner with 4-0 ($80). In second with 3 were Mike LaBole, Raul Flores, Evan Xiang and Daniel Lozano, splitting 2nd + U1600 prizes for $30 each. Adam English won U1400 with 2.5 ($40), Lloyd Lyssyj won U1200 with 2.0 ($40). Martin Gordon directed the 40-player event, held Sept. 22-23 at the Texas Neurosciences Institute in San Antonio. The prizes were paid at 80% of advertised (b40 full entries) because of the junior and senior discounted entries.

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Dutch Leningrad A89
Nathanael Lozano 1805
Dennis Rylander 2354

**Fall Open (1)**


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**Catalan Opening E05**

Ellen Xiang 1776
J.J. Hytlin 2082

**Fall Open (1)**


**QGD Exchange D36**
John Patty 2200
Steven Chen 1796

**Fall Open (1)**


**QGD Slav D43**
Dennis Rylander 2354
Martin Gordon 1909

**Fall Open (2)**


**Queen's Gambit D29**
J.P. Hytlin 2082
Avinash Thangirala 1822

**Fall Open (2)**

King’s Indian E61
John Patty 2200
Derek Chang 1831
Fall Open (3)

Solution (back cover): 1.Qb4 (1…e4 2.Qc5#; 1…c5 2.Qb7#; 1…c6 2.Qb5#).

Falls Open (3)

Solution (back cover): 1.Qb4 (1…e4 2.Qc5#; 1…c5 2.Qb7#; 1…c6 2.Qb5#).
See inside front cover for TCA membership information.

Nikolai Bantush
StageGems, 2000

White to move, mate in two
Solution: p. 23