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**U2300 to U1300 Sections:** 7 rounds, choice of 5/27-30, 5/28-30 or 5/29-30. 40/2, SD/30, d10 except rounds 1-2 of 3 day are G/60, d10, and rounds 1-4 of 2 day are G/30, d10. No unrateds in U1300 to U1900.

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**U2300:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300.

**U2100:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. Unrated limit \$1000.

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**U1700:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300.

**U1500:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300.

**U1300:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300.

**U1000:** \$1000-500-300-200-200-150-150-100-100-100, unr limit \$200, trophies to top 10, 1st U800, U600, U400, Unrated.

**Prize limits:** if under 26 lifetime games: U1300 \$1000, U1500 \$1500, U1700 \$2000, U1900 \$2500. If any post-event rating posted 5/25/15 to 5/25/16 was more than 30 pts over section maximum, limit \$1500.

**Mixed Doubles:** best male/female combined 2-player "team" score: \$2000-1000-500-400-300. Must average under 2200, same section not required. Only rds 1-7 count for Open. See TLA for details.

**Ratings:** May official USCF ratings used for U2300 & below, FIDE for Open. Unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. Foreign ratings see chesstour.com.

**Top 7 sections entry fee:** \$207 online at chessaction.com by 3/21, \$227 online by 5/25, \$250 online until 2 hrs before rd 1 or at site until 1 hr before rd 1. Open \$100 more for US players not FIDE or USCF 2200/over. No check at site, credit card OK.

**Special entry fees:** GMs in Open, \$200 from prize. IMs & WGMs in Open \$100, another \$100 deducted from prize. \$100 less to seniors 65/over, except U1000 Section.

**U1000 Section entry fees:** \$57 online at chessaction.com by 5/25, \$80 online until 2 hrs before rd 1 or at site until 1 hr before.

**Mailed or phoned entries:** See Tournament Life or chesstour.com.

**Online or mailed EF \$5 less** to ICA members; join at il-chess.org. ICA tour event.

**USCF membership required.** Special dues, see TLA or chesstour.com.

**5-day schedule** (Open only): Late entry to Thu 6 pm, rds Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 noon & 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4.

**4-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): Late entry to Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 11 am & 6 pm, Mon 10 & 4.

**3-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): Late entry to Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11 am, 2:30 pm & 6 pm, Sun 11 am & 6 pm, Mon 10 & 4.

**3-day schedule** (U1000): Late entry to Sun 1 pm, rds. Sat 2 pm & 6 pm, Sun 10 am, 2 pm & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 2 pm.

**2-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): Late entry to Sun 9 am; rds. Sun 10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 3:45 pm & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 4 pm.

**2-day schedule** (U1000): Late entry to Sun 9 am; rds. Sun 10 am, 12 noon, 2 pm, 3:45 pm & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 2 pm.

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**All:** Bring sets, boards, clocks- none supplied. \$15 charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). Questions: chesstour.com, chesstour.info, Director@Chess.US, 347-201-2269. Junior GP points available.



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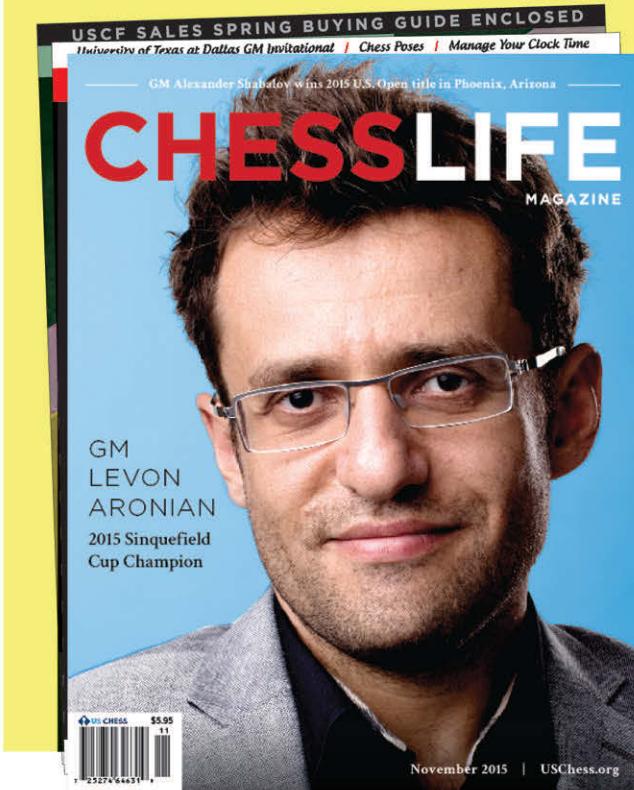


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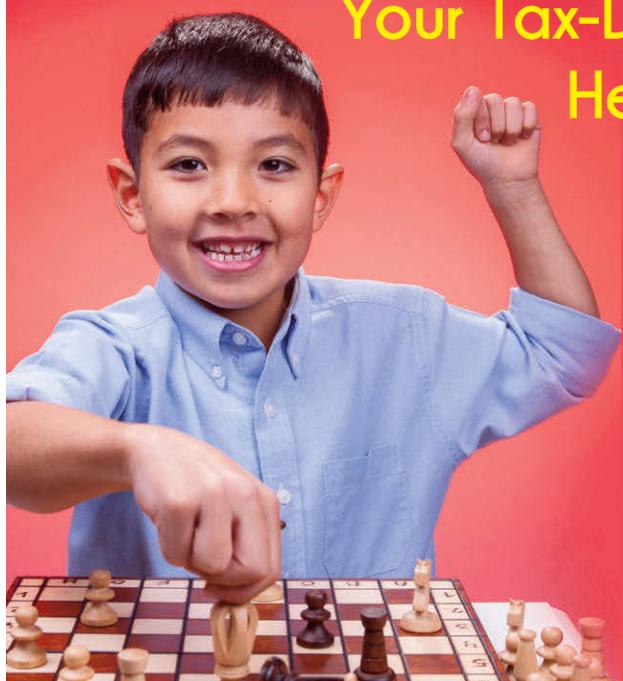
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# Chess Life

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Even though Pete Karagianis' article "The Struggle," beginning on page 20, focuses on the trials of American Swiss events, we felt this photo of the super-GM Vassily Ivanchuk encapsulated Karagianis' idea.

PHOTO BY DAVID LLADA



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By PETE KARAGIANIS

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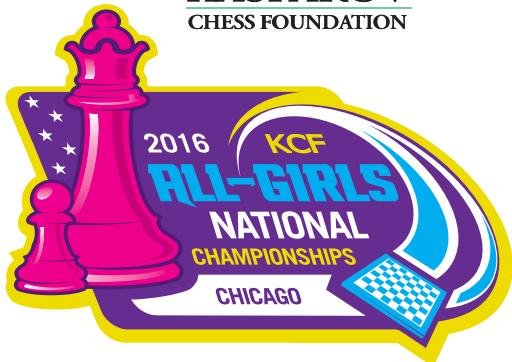
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### Sections (age as of 1/1/16)

- Under 8
- Under 14
- Under 10
- Under 16
- Under 12
- Under 18

### Friday April 22

2:30 PM Opening Ceremony  
3:00 PM Round 1

### Saturday April 23

10:00 AM Round 2  
2:30 PM Round 3  
6:30 PM Round 4

### Sunday April 24

9:00 AM Round 5  
1:00 PM Round 6  
5:00 PM Awards Ceremony

### Entry Fee

\$55 postmarked by 3/28, \$75 by 4/11, \$95 after/on-site.  
USCF membership required

### Entry & Info

Make checks payable to:  
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Tel: (773) 844-0701  
E-mail: d.heiser@  
renaissanceknights.org

## AWARDS

Trophies will be awarded to top 15 individual players and top four teams in the Under 8, 10, 12 & 14 Sections; top 8 individual players and top three teams in the Under 16 & 18 Sections. Three or more players from the same school to make a team (team scores will be calculated based on the top 3 scores to give teams their final standings). All players will receive a souvenir to honor their participation.

**All events held at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place  
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### SIDE EVENTS

#### Bughouse Tournament

**Fri. April 22** 11:00 AM  
**Entry fee:** \$30 per team

#### Blitz Tournament (G/5)

**Fri. April 22** 7:00 PM  
**Entry fee:** \$20 by 4/11, \$25  
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**Hyatt McCormick Place** 2233 S  
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**Hotel Reservations** (888) 421-1442,  
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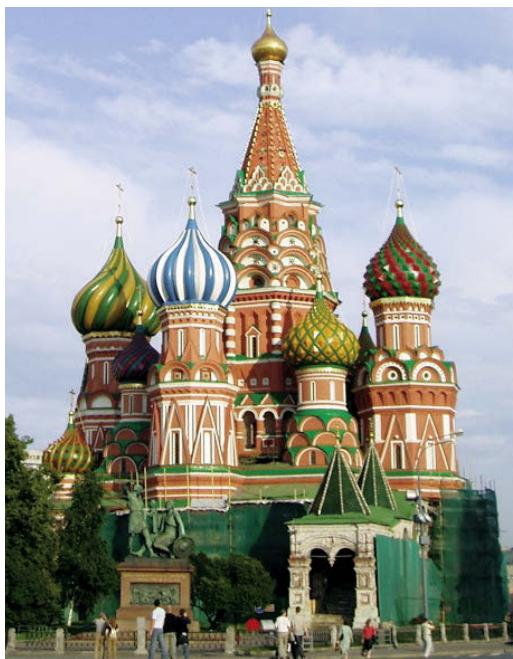
**Chess Rate** single - quad \$149  
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**Online Registration** [www.rknights.org/allgirls](http://www.rknights.org/allgirls)

[www.kasparovchessfoundation.org](http://www.kasparovchessfoundation.org)

## US CHESS NEWS PREVIEW

MARCH



### ALL EYES ON MOSCOW

Follow along on [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) as America's top two players, GMs Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura play amongst six others, including the wildcard GM Levon Aronian, in the Candidates Tournament in **Moscow** from March 10-30. The winner will face GM Magnus Carlsen in the World Championship match, which is scheduled for the U.S. in November 2016.

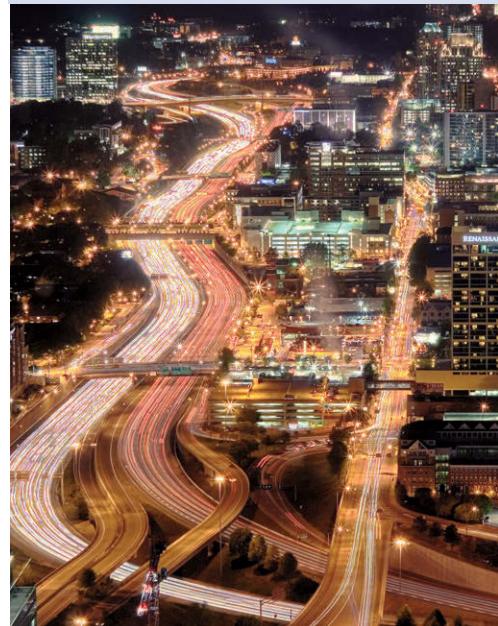


### KOSTYA ON HIS WORLD TOUR

FM Kostya Kavutskiy writes about searching for his final international master norm and cultural lessons on his two-month European chess tour from Gibraltar to **Reykjavik** (photo, above right).

### TROPHY TIME IN ATLANTA

The scholastics season kicks off on April 1-3 in **Atlanta**, Georgia with the National High School Championship so look for our lead-up coverage starting in late March.



### SPRING NORM-HUNTING

Look for our coverage of major Grand Prix tournaments, including the **Philadelphia** Open (with norm opportunities) held from March 23-27.

### CONTRIBUTORS

#### PETE KARAGIANIS

(“The Struggle”) is a chess instructor and writer from Bloomington, Illinois. He can be contacted at [Karagianis@gmail.com](mailto:Karagianis@gmail.com) or via his blog [nmpetek.blogspot.com](http://nmpetek.blogspot.com).

#### PETE TAMBURRO

(New Jersey Open) has been writing for *Chess Life* since 1973 and for *Chess Life Kids* since its inception. He is the author of *Learn Chess From the Greats* and *Openings for Amateurs*.

#### JAMAAL ABDUL-ALIM

(Max Lu) was the 2013 Chess Journalist of the Year.

#### TOM BECKMAN

(Eastern Open) is a tournament organizer in Washington, D.C.

#### AL LAWRENCE

(PanAms) is the former executive director of both US Chess and the World Chess Hall of Fame. He is currently managing director for the U.S. Chess Trust and chair of the US Chess College Chess committee. His latest book, with GM Lev Alburt, is *Chess for the Gifted and Busy*.

#### JOHN SAUNDERS

(London Classic) is a British chess player, writer, editor and journalist.



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*Her Turn: Revolutionary Women of Chess*, curated by Assistant Curator Emily Allred, celebrates the legacies of many of the game's greatest female players. Highlights from the collection of the World Chess Hall of Fame and loans from the John G. White Chess Collection at the Cleveland Public Library and private collections provide insight into the careers of U.S. and World Women's Chess Champions, writers, organizers, and other trailblazing women.

# her turn

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# More on Browne, Improving on Pandolfini, History

## MORE ON WALTER BROWNE

I feel sorrowful on the passing of Walter Browne and have a story to share about him.

Around 30 years ago or so, he appeared at the Westfield (New Jersey) Chess Club for an exhibition of about 24 players. I had a seat.

Next to me was a child, maybe 10 years of age. The exhibition began, Browne moving about the inner area. My game had not reached the moment of crushing just yet. Browne made his move and went to the child.

Upon making his move the child called out, "You can't do that—you're in check." Browne re-examined the board, then with one majestic sweep of his hand sent the kid's pieces flying and moved on to the next board.

The child turned to me and said, "Did you see that?"

I told him, "You'll remember this all your life—you've just beaten Walter Browne!"

Herbert C. Kaplan  
Westfield, New Jersey

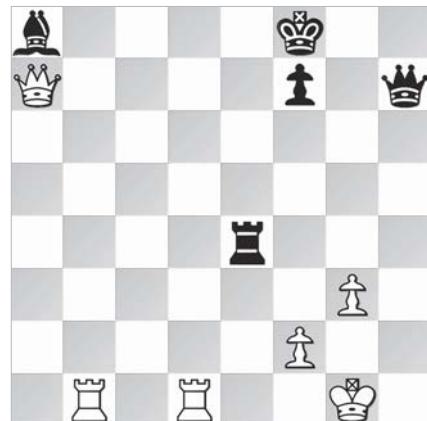
## MATE IN 2 IS BETTER THAN MATE IN 3

While there is technically nothing wrong with the given solution for this problem in the "ABCs of Chess," January 2016, Problem VI, the given solution to the diagram (*right*) is a mate in three when there is a more direct mate in two.

**1. ... Re1+ 2. Rxе1 Qh1 mate.**

This is faster than the given solution of:

**1. ... Qh1+ 2. Kxh1 Rh4+ 3. Kg1 Rh1 mate.**



The composition could be saved by adding a white pawn or piece on e3.

Jason Stein  
via e-mail

(Reader William Coombs also pointed out the 1. ... Re1+ move. ~ed.)

*What was on our readers' minds in March of 1986 and 1976?*

## 30 YEARS AGO IN CHESS LIFE

Congratulations to the United States Chess Federation for making 1986 "The Year of the USCF Member." Let's pursue this personnel policy one step further by challenging USCF members also to make 1986 "The Year of the De-Nerdification of American Chess."

Stated bluntly, the relatively low status of chess in America comes from the perception that "nerds play chess." This public relations problem arises in part from the social distancing practiced by chessplayers themselves. Of course, detachment from life's hustle and bustle is necessary for the pure aesthetic enjoyment of chess. Yet, too often we allow this trait to carry over to a detachment from broader social participation. In point of fact, we have created a sub-class of creative and brilliant people existing outside the mainstream culture.

As a political writer I am keenly aware of the nation's social, economic, and political problems. In an age when America's competitiveness is challenged on every front, it is a shame that we are losing the contributions that some of our best minds could make if chessplayers would "plug-in" to broader issues.

Tim Richardson  
Editor, *Quorum Report*  
Austin, Texas  
*From the March 1986 Chess Life*

## 40 YEARS AGO IN CHESS LIFE

I was amused to see Karpov referred to as "FIDE champion" rather than world champion. This slight was petty and somewhat silly. If that is all the clout the USCF can muster, why bother? The USCF should either accept Karpov as world champion or publicly announce its withdrawal of recognition of the FIDE world title. Definite action is required, not childish sulking.

Stephen W. Gordon  
Anchorage, Alaska  
*From the March 1976 Chess Life*

Send your letters to [letters@uschess.org](mailto:letters@uschess.org) or post on the US Chess Facebook group or the uschess.org Issues Forum. Letters are subject to editing for style, length, and content.

# 2016

**U.S. CHESS**  
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# 2016

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# Paying It Forward

**Angel (Josh) Hernandez-Camen and Shrey Gandhi are using chess to give back to the world**



**A**ngel (Josh) Hernandez-Camen and Shrey Gandhi have been creative and energetic in bringing chess to underdeveloped parts of the globe. Josh tells *Chess Life*, “The morning after the 2014 World Youth chess tournament ended, we rented a small car, bought some groceries, and drove 218 kilometers to Himeville, a small town in the Drakensberg mountains [of South Africa]. In our trunk were a dozen chess sets donated by Dewain Barber, and other chess equipment, souvenirs, and photos from Coach El Mekki and the Paul Robeson Chess Club in Philadelphia.

“[On our second day] I showed them a game and notation on the chalkboard as they followed along over their own boards. I stopped the play every now and then and explained the important moves in more detail. I feel like maybe they got a better feel for how the pieces move and some basic ideas. But really they just loved to play and that was good. It was enough to just instill the love of the game in them. Later they could learn to play better, and better, and better.

“On this day a chess player who is a member of the local Zulu community and who offered to be the team’s coach came and taught along with me, translating some of the more complicated concepts into Zulu. I think he’ll do a good job continuing the program, though I hope other chess players will come through and help also.”

Shrey Gandhi’s story is equally inspiring: “I decided to do something special for my 10th birthday, to play and teach chess to the disabled underprivileged kids in India. During my visit to Ahmedabad, this summer, in India, I visited a place called Pearl Special Needs Foundation.

“I went to talk with some teachers that work at the school. After that, one of the teachers took me to the class to play chess. When I reached there, I first asked, ‘Does anybody want to play chess?’ Only one person named

Nilesh raised his hand and we played a game of chess. I taught him that you are supposed to shake hands during the beginning of a game and at the ending of a game and we started playing a game.

“While everybody gathered around Nilesh to watch us play, I quickly finished the game and then taught the other people how to play chess. Two of the people started playing chess and I guided them while they were playing. I had a lot of fun and I hope to go there again because it was so fun and had an incredible and stupendous time. I donated chess sets that Mr. Dewain Barber had given me to take to the school.

“I also went to a place called SEWA Rural where they run a charity hospital to serve the medical needs of the poor people and played chess for two rounds. After that we decided to have some fun and we played a couple of games of suicide chess.

“The third place I visited is Apang Manav Mandar. Here, they have an all-day hostel for kids who have diseases, are disabled, or arrive when their families are not able to care for them. Since the kids understood only the local language Gujarati, I had to first learn what the pieces are called in Gujarati. I had played and explained some good chess moves in their language so they could understand. There I played with two people and I won the first time and then when they had a chance to checkmate I asked if they could recognize it. We donated multiple chess sets here as well. Teaching chess to others not only taught me to play better but has increased my respect for the game and given me the immense joy of helping somebody else learn.

*Above: Students at the Kwapitela Primary School in Pitela, South Africa holding some of their chess key rings that Paul Robeson Chess Club students in Philadelphia sent as mementos; the club, where Josh is a member, sponsored the trip.*



*The Pearl Special Needs Foundation was Gandhi's first stop during his Indian chess journey. Shrey is in the striped shirt.*



*Gandhi's visit included Apang Manav Mandar, an all-day hostel for disabled children.*



*Josh (standing) demonstrating a Paul Morphy game for the Kwapitela students. "I examined my chess databases for a game that would be suitable for beginners, as I wanted to show them an example of an actual game and notation," explained Josh.*

# ACES ACROSS THE BOARD

AT THE PAN AMNS!

By AL LAWRENCE

## WALKER GRIGGS

OBERLIN COLLEGE, OHIO



*16 PanAm games without a loss*

Life Master Walker Griggs not only helped put together this year's PanAms, he sang the National Anthem a cappella at its opening—and then led host-school Oberlin College to the best small college award, as he's done for three years in a row. "We have a small program, but an amazing and enthusiastic coach, Constantine Ananiadis," he said. "We'll only continue to grow." A junior, Walker doesn't get much opportunity to play but makes the most out of the December college championships. "I have a small streak going"—stretching back to the second round in 2013. Although Walker plays a variety of instruments and has performed in concerts and musicals, his main interest is language. After his team took the trophy in Cleveland, Walker headed to Russia, to stay with a host family before beginning the academic year at Saint Petersburg State University. "Chess fostered my love of Russian culture, and now I'm a Russian major living in Petersburg!"



## KALIND PARISH

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Wasn't sure about en passant but started the club*

Now a JD-Ph.D. student at Penn State, Kalind founded the Oberlin College Chess Clubs four years ago. Parish admits he "didn't even know all the rules of chess or notation," but that didn't stop him. "I walked into The Slow Train Café and found Constantine Ananiadis, the college women's tennis coach, sitting at a chess board," Kalind said. "I asked him if there was a chess team." There wasn't, but Kalish had bumped into the man who would help him make things happen. "He spends so much free time developing the club ... he teaches chess and spearheaded the 2015 PanAm. He's an amazing man." The club has competed in the last four PanAms, hosted the Ohio State Championships, runs two after-school chess programs, and brought the first PanAm to Cleveland since 1958. "We were hosting the biggest collegiate tournament less than four years after starting the club. During the first round, Mr. Ananiadis and I sat there in a state of shock."

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## 2015 Membership Appreciation Program Final Results

The Membership Appreciation Program is a year-long membership drive that provides prizes and recognition for affiliates and members who sign up new or renewing US Chess members. On the right are the affiliate and member top results; full category results will appear on [uschess.org](http://uschess.org).

**2016**

## Executive Board Election

The election committee has certified two candidates for the 2016 Executive Board election (listed in alphabetical order):

**Mike Hoffpauir****Charles D. Unruh**

There are two positions up for election this year; these are the positions currently held by Mike Atkins and Ruth Haring. Candidates' statements will appear in the April, May, and June issues of *Chess Life*. Ballots will be distributed to all voting members who are a current US Chess member (active as of May 4, 2016), whose membership expires on or after June 30, 2016, who will be age 16 or older by June 30, 2016, and who register to vote by May 1, 2016.

To check your registration status, go to your MSA page at [www.uschess.org/msa/](http://www.uschess.org/msa/) and verify that your "Voting Member Status" is "Registered Voting Member."

**The deadline to register to vote is May 1, 2016.**

See <https://secure2.uschess.org/voterregistration.php> for more information.

-Ken Ballou, US Chess Election Committee Chair

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BAY AREA CHESS	CA	617
SILVER KNIGHTS CHESS	VA	385
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	299
SUCCESS CHESS SCHOOL	CA	272
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	265
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	251
DALLAS CHESS CLUB	TX	225
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER	MO	216

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DELAWARE YOUTH CHESS ORG	DE	46
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GREAT PLAINS CHESS ASSOCIATION	SD	22
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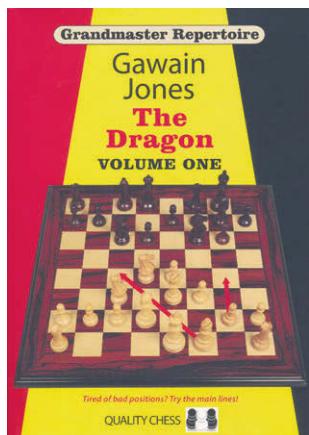
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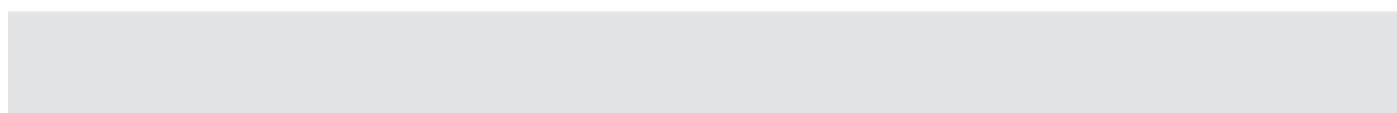
**US CHESS**  
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# The Theory and Practice of the Sicilian Dragon

A cutting-edge repertoire in two volumes

By JOHN HARTMANN



**C**hildren love playing it. It appears as a plot point in the soapiest of Spanish telenovelas period dramas. The Chinese have even gone so far as to try to make it their own.

It's gotta be the name, right?

Bobby Fischer famously claimed that he'd worked its defeat out to a science ("... pry open the h-file, sac, sac... mate!") but the theory and practice of the Sicilian Dragon have come a long way in recent years. Not only are there new sub-variations to try—the Chinese Dragon, the Topalov Variation, the Dragadorf—but the traditional main lines have undergone extensive analysis and empirical testing. How can the Dragoneer hope to keep up?

Older one-volume introductions by Chris Ward and Mikhail Golubev are now dated. David Vigorito's *Chess Developments: The Sicilian Dragon* (2011) is fairly current, but it does not cover every line. For a complete, cutting-edge repertoire, Dragon players should consider the new *Grandmaster Repertoire: The Dragon 1 and 2* by Gawain Jones.

In theory few are better suited to writing on the Dragon than Jones, a lifelong Dragon enthusiast with a rating in the mid-2600s. Of course Elo and experience are no guarantee of authorial talent, but after wrestling with the books for a few weeks now, I'm glad to report that Jones was up to the task.

The most critical lines in the Dragon emerge from this position:

*Jones, Gawain. Grandmaster Repertoire: The Dragon. Quality Chess: 2015. Volume 1: ISBN: 978-1784830076. 320 pages. Volume 2: ISBN: 978-1784830090. 325 pages. Paperback. (Available from uscsales.com; Volume 1, catalog number B0111QT, \$29.95; Volume 2, catalog number B0112QT, \$29.95).*



White's three main tries here are 9. Bc4, 9. g4 and 9. 0-0-0. Jones treats the first two in Volume 1, and the third in Volume 2. He recommends 9. ... Be6 against 9. g4, and more than half of Volume 2 is devoted to sidelines. The bulk of the work focuses on 9. Bc4 and 9. 0-0-0.

Against 9. Bc4, the traditional main line, Jones has two recommendations. His primary repertoire choice is the Topalov Variation (9. Bc4 Bd7 10. 0-0-0 Rc8 11. Bb3 Nxd4 12. Bxd4 b5), and I take it as a good sign that Jones has continued to play the line post-publication. White can dodge the Topalov with 10. h4 (instead of 10. 0-0-0), leading Jones to also include coverage of the Soltis (9. Bc4 Bd7 10. h4 h5 11. 0-0-0 Rc8 12. Bb3 Ne5) and Burnett (9. Bc4 Bd7 10. 0-0-0 Rc8 11. Bb3 Ne5 12. Kb1 Nxd4 13. Bxd4 Rxc4 14. g4 b5 15. b3 b4!) Variations. Readers are thus presented with two options against the Yugoslav.

9. 0-0-0 is perhaps the more critical variation in modern practice, and just under half of Volume 2 is devoted to it. After 9. 0-0-0 d5 Jones analyzes 10. exd5 Nxd5 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. Bd4 (the current main line of the Dragon; if 12. Nxd5 Jones

recommends 12. ... cxd5 13. Qxd5 Qc7 [For a sample game in this line, please see this month's "Back to Basics" pg. 18-19. ~ed.]) 12. ... Bxd4 13. Qxd4 Qb6 14. Na4 when two repertoire choices are offered: the slightly offbeat 14. ... Qa5 15. b3 Be6!? and 14. ... Qc7. After 10. Kb1 Black should play 10. ... Nxd4 11. e5! Nf5 12. exf6 exf6!, and in case of 10. Qe1, Jones plumps for 10. ... e5 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. exd5 Nxd5.

The repertoire presented in the two volumes of *The Dragon* resembles that of Peter Heine Nielsen on his recent two DVD set for ChessBase (*The Sicilian Dragon for the Tournament Player*), although they are not identical. Nielsen's videos are very good in terms of explanation, but they cannot begin to match the density of information presented in Jones' books.

And make no mistake—these are *dense* books. The analysis is comprehensive almost to the point of pedantry, as is typical for Quality Chess titles. Given the nature of the opening in question, such obsessive detail is perhaps warranted.

Some bones are thrown to those of us unburdened with photographic memories. There is a useful 20-page section on typical Dragon themes in Volume 1, and Jones is careful to point out standard motifs as they arise in his analysis. His notes are surprisingly verbose given how much ground he has to cover.

These two volumes provide a thorough and tested repertoire for the hardcore "dragoneer." You don't need to be a grandmaster to read them, but stronger players will surely derive more benefit from the sophisticated analysis. Players new to the Dragon might want to start with Nielsen's DVDs. ♦



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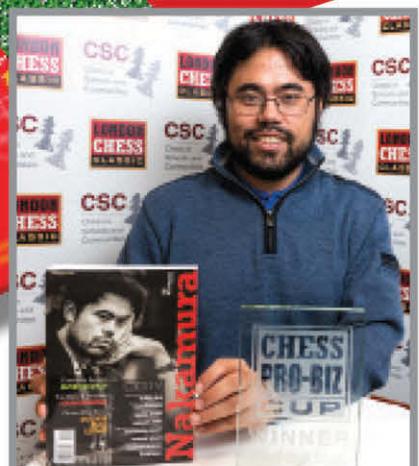
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# You've Got My Number

You don't have to be good at math to play good chess. But if you listen to players these days, you'd think we've all gone numbers mad.

By GM ANDY SOLTIS

A MAGNUS CARLSEN FAN, WATCHING one of his games live, in online coverage, will tweet: "MC outrates his opponent by 140 points. He's got a 69 percent chance of winning!"

Another couch-kibitzer will reply: "But he's Black. My database shows White wins 58 pct. in this opening."

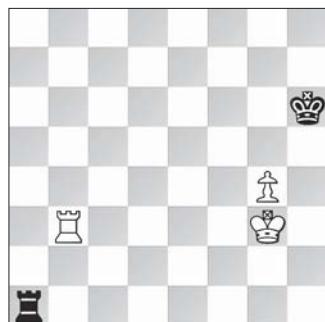
A third fan chimes in: "Yeah, but Stockfish at depth 30 says this position is -0.48."

Debates like this are increasingly fueled by the masses of data we have access to. But it also seems that chess doesn't quite add up.

The math of our game isn't *linear*. It does not neatly correspond to sequential jumps, like a number series.

## DEAD DRAW

GM Fabiano Caruana  
GM Grzegorz Gajewski  
Italian Team Championship, 2014



AFTER 68. Kg3

Computers give White a solid edge. But any experienced player knows this is a dead draw.

The defending king is in front of the pawn and can stop it or the white king from advancing far. (Engines got it right after the game went **68. ... Kg5 69. Rb5+ Kg6 70. g5 Rg1+ 71. Kf2 Rxg5 72. Rxg5+ Kxg5, Draw agreed.**) With only kings left, they gave the only evaluation possible, 0.00.)

Now suppose we improve White's position. Let's give him another pawn, say on h3 or f3.

Then it becomes a fairly easy win.

Okay, that makes some sense. A +2.00 position, in the endgame, middlegame or opening, is supposed to be a win.

But what happens if instead of one more extra pawn, we add *two*, on both h3 and f3?

Of course, it's even easier to win then. Yet it is only slightly easier than when we added one pawn to the diagram.

Sure, the computer's numbers will rate the three-pawn position as *more won* than the two-pawn position. But that doesn't translate into "winnability" when you actually play it.

Add a fourth white pawn and the numbers go up again—but again it is only slightly easier to win than the three-pawn position.

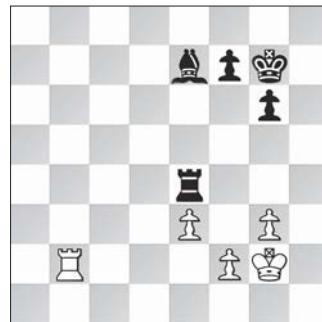
This is what could be called the Law of Disproportional Technique:

*The amount of extra material you have is not directly related to the degree of difficulty in winning your position.*

It's a variation on the law we all learned about diminishing returns.

## DIMINISHING RETURNS

GM Kateryna Lahno  
GM Humpy Koneru  
Kazan, 2012



AFTER 42... Rxe4

Computers spit out evaluations like -3.50 to -2.50. That should make it a no-think win for a grandmaster.

In fact, White didn't resign until 40 difficult moves later. Analysis showed that Black couldn't have shortened the game by much.

There's been some academic research that suggests that a position with a +4.00 edge for White, the equivalent of four extra pawns, is won 85 percent of the time. After that, the winnability increases marginally: the difference between +5.00, the rough equivalent of an extra rook, and +10.00, an extra queen, is surprisingly minor.

If you play chess long enough, you're bound to learn a lot about the game's fuzzy math. Another example is the "two bishops."

If you and your opponent exchanged minor pieces so that you have two bishops and he has a bishop and a knight, you probably have an advantage.

But if you then trade bishops, your edge will shrivel. It might disappear entirely. Why? Because two bishops are more than twice as strong as one.

## WHITE IS BETTER

GM Anish Giri  
GM David Howell  
Wijk aan Zee, 2010



AFTER 23... Ke8

If we remove Black's knight and White's c4-bishop from the board, both sides have one minor piece, a dark-squared bishop. White has no compensation for being a pawn down.



# The Pin Is Mightier Than The Sword

Sometimes, even class-level players need to know theory beyond the first dozen moves.

By GM LEV ALBURT

I WAS SO IMPRESSED, EVEN MOVED, BY this article (yes, this article!) by Charles Anthony, which might be subtitled *Chess Teachers of America: Horowitz, Reinfeld, Korn*, that I let most of his words stay, even the title. Writes Charles (*my further comments are in italics*):

The game that I am submitting for your consideration was played in the final round of the 1982 Queen of Hearts tournament in the historic city of Montgomery, Alabama. I had begun playing rated tournaments less than a year before, having played in only four previous tournaments. My results had been modest, with a record of 12 wins, nine losses, and three draws. Yet I found myself in the fifth round of the Amateur section with four wins, needing only a draw for a clear first place finish in a field of 40 competitors. I faced the prospect of having to at least draw with the black pieces. I had won two previous rounds with the Sicilian Dragon, one of the few openings that I had studied very much. My wife had given me a copy of I.A. Horowitz and Fred Reinfeld's book, *How To Think Ahead In Chess* for our first Christmas together in 1979. They recommended the Dragon against e4, and I thought the name "Dragon" was cool, so I played it. But I had not yet played it against the Yugoslav Attack.

## SICILIAN DEFENSE, DRAGON VARIATION (B76)

Darryl O. Freeman (1620)

Charles H. Anthony (1637)

1982 Queen of Hearts—Amateur Section

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6  
5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3

(see diagram top of next column)

6. ... Bg7

The attractive 6. ... Ng4 loses to 7. Bb5+.

7. f3

White stops ... Nf6-g4 and sets up the Yugoslav



Attack.



9. O-O-O

The alternative is 9. Bc4, preventing ... d6-d5.

9. ... d5!

In I.A. Horowitz's 1964 book *Chess Openings: Theory and Practice*, this line is the only one that I could find that gives Black the advantage. [Perhaps equality—L.A.] Fortunately, we had studied this line for the first time the previous evening. At first glance, White appears to win a pawn.

10. Nxc6

Usually White captures here with 10. exd5 Nxd5 and only then 11. Nxc6 bxc6. Today's theory, including de Firmian's MCO-15, recommends here 12. Bd4, with chances for a small edge, and views 12. Nxd5 as leading to equality (then-theory, 1983,

viewed both 12. Bd4 and 12. Nxd5 as leading to equality).

10. ... bxc6 11. exd5



11. ... cxd5

Because of White's unusual move order (10. Nxc6 rather than 10. cxd5), Black's has an interesting alternative, 11. ... Qa5. But 11. ... cxd5 is also good, and was well known to Charles.

12. Nxd5 Nxd5 13. Qxd5 Qc7!



Does Black not see his hanging rook? Horowitz gives 14. Qxa8 Bf5 15. Qxf8+ Kxf8 16. Rd2 h5 and offers the opinion that Black's queen is stronger than White's two rooks [and a pawn—L.A.] in view of Black's attacking chances.

And he's right! A position worth studying.

14. Rd3?

14. *Rd3* allows Black's counterattack to proceed unhindered. Walter Korn, in *Modern Chess Openings-12 [MCO-L.A.]* gives 14. *Qc5 Qb7 15. Qa3 Bf5 16. Ba6 Qc7 17. Qc5 Qb6 18. Qxb6 axb6 19. Bc4 Rfc8 20. Bb3 Rxa2!* with equal chances.

*Modern theory agrees. And, of course, 14. *Rd3* is a very serious blunder; this is not a position in which to lose tempi!*

**14. ... Bf5 15. Rd2 Rab8**



**16. Qc5**

16. *Qc5* comes two moves too late. Now Black gets the pawn back, plus a devastating attack!

*If 16. c3, *Qxc3+* (or 16. ... *Bxc3*) and Black wins.*

**16. ... Bxb2+ 17. Kd1 Qxc5**

Now Black is happy to remove White's best defender.

**18. Bxc5 Bc3**

Opening up the back rank for the rook, while removing the c-pawn's defender. White's king looks very vulnerable.

**19. Rd5**



**19. ... Rb1+**

The pin that follows on the king's bishop takes it and the king's rook permanently out of the action! Black's task has now become a lot easier!

*On move 17, Charles told about removing the white king's best defender, the queen. Now I'd like to play 19. ... *Rfd8* to exchange White's only active rook. In other words: exchange a pair of rooks; pin on the first rank with a remaining rook.*

**20. Ke2 Re1+**

*The rook is now next to the white king, and thus requires protection. And what for? Stronger was an immediate 20. ... *Bxc2*, keeping the option of a future ... *Re1+* in reserve.*

**21. Kf2 Bxc2 22. Bd4**

*This loses instantly. I don't see a quick win for Black after 22. *Bxa7*, with a threat of *Rd5-c5* (exploiting the vulnerable position of Black's e1-rook, as noted above).*

**22. ... Rd1**

Pinning the second bishop, as well.

**23. Ke3 e5!**



Forcing the loss of material.

**24. Bxe5 Rxd5 25. Bxc3 Rd1**

Reestablishing the pin on the hapless bishop!

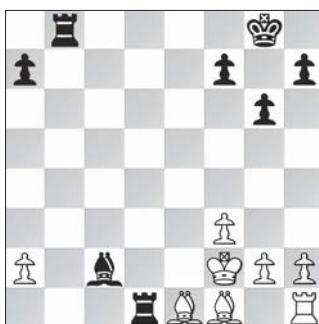
**26. Kf2**

*White could defend more stubbornly with 26. *g3* (to be able to play *Bf1-g2*) or 26. *a3* (to close the b-file, if needed, with *Bc3-b4*). Still, Black should win without any serious problems.*

**26. ... Rb8**

Activating the final piece!

**27. Be1**



**27. ... Rb2**

*An excellent move—and the final blow.*

**28. Be2**

Finally moving the king's bishop.

**28. ... Bd3!, White resigned.**

The final pin!

This 5-0 result raised my rating a whopping 102 points, and my modest cash winnings were enough to purchase my first chess clock! All in all, it was a very enjoyable weekend in my state's capital with my wife and young daughter. On a side note, I had never played a tournament with such long time controls (maybe 40 in 2 hours, not sure), so during the fourth round, in the middle of a Stonewall Attack (the opening recommended in Horowitz and Reinfeld's book) I made my move, punched my clock, then scurried out of the Civic Center to take my young family to the Sunday morning church services nearby. When I returned, I still had enough time on my clock to grind out a win for White in 59 moves. But that game is another story for another time. Thanks, Lev, for inspiring me to share this game with your readers. In reality, I am just happy to preserve the game for my four young grandsons.

*This game shows that a B-player can, and in some cases should, know his opening theory beyond the first dozen moves. White's tempo-losing blunder on move 14 was skillfully exploited by Charles, and while I disagreed with some of his later choices (moves 19 and 20) Black's big, perhaps even decisive, advantage was never in question. And indeed, pins stood up to their reputation. The entire story is very good and very uplifting. ♟*

*Does this column's title sound familiar? Long-time readers might remember that we used "The Pin Is Mightier Than The Sword" in our September 1994 issue as part of an article about chess pin collecting.*

## Send in your games!

If you are unrated or rated 1799 or below, then GM Lev Alburt invites you to send your most instructive game with notes to:

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Or e-mail your material to  
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GM Alburt will select the "most instructive" game and *Chess Life* will award an autographed copy of Lev's newest book, *Platonov's Chess Academy* (by Lev Alburt and Sam Palatnik) to the person submitting the most instructive game and annotations.

Make sure your game (or part of it) and your notes will be of interest to other readers. Writing skills are a plus, but instructiveness is a must! Do not send games with only a few notes, as they are of little instructive value and can't be used.

[www.ChessWithLev.com](http://www.ChessWithLev.com)



# The Struggle

The struggle of chess is quite simple: you can work tirelessly for extensive periods of time, give all you have to give, and make only incremental progress, if that.

*By PETE KARAGIANIS*

## THREE TABLES CHESS

**K**entucky has this odd notion of "moist" counties, as if one can somehow toe the line between the apparent all-out debauchery of an adult beverage and the multitude of transgressions that might erstwhile afterwards transpire and the clean simplicity of "Nope."

But, whatever.

It's nearing the end of summer and I've just completed a circuit of tournaments that took me to St. Louis, Denver then Las Vegas and back, Chicago, Burlington, Peoria, and now, at journey and August's end, Shelbyville, Kentucky.

I get in on a Friday night and just want to catch the tail end of the

Sox game and grab a bite to eat but there's quite literally nowhere to do so. It's hard to run a sports bar, I'd imagine, when selling an Old Style is outlaw behavior.

Two years ago, in July, 2013 I had just finished off one of the most unsuccessful rating plunges of my playing career, dropping from a peak of 2275 all the way to 2202 after scoring a miserable 0-for-3 in the Chicago Class before withdrawing.

That July, I remember, it had been months since I felt the twinge of excitement before a tournament. I was burnt out, worn out, and chessed



The main playing hall at the Coralville Marriott. "I remember the drive into Iowa City in college, which feels like yesterday but was in fact over a decade ago, when this whole place was a cornfield. Literally. Now it's an upscale commercial park featuring trendy restaurants with vegan-friendly menus, four-star hotels, sushi stops, cobblestone streets, cafes, a bus depot, even an antique automobile museum. Times change."

Consider the following two games, presented here in fragmented form, as simply part of the story. As the narrative progresses, so do the games.

## **NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE, CLASSICAL VARIATION (E38)**

IM Rolando Nolte (FIDE 2417, PHI)  
GM Sergei Tiviakov (FIDE 2651, NED)  
JAPFA Grandmaster Tournament  
2014 (5), Jakarta, Indonesia,  
04.20.2014 *True Story.*

"You want to see a real will to win?" Gopal asks. He lays sideways on his twin bed across from mine in the Coralville Marriott, shirt pulled up, and rubs his belly. He makes a few clicks on his old laptop and says, "Here, come feast your eyes on this."

I reach over and grab the laptop from Gopal. He stands up, pulls his shirt back down and looks for hummus leftover from lunch in the hotel fridge.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 c5  
5. dxc5 Bxc5 6. Nf3 Qb6 7. e3 Qc7 8.  
Be2 b6 9. a3 Bb7 10. b4 Be7 11. Bb2 a6  
12. Rc1 d6 13. 0-0 Nbd7 14. h3 Rc8 15.  
e4

"Now like a Sicilian structure," I say. Gopal

## SICILIAN DEFENSE, KAN VARIATION (B42)

James Neal (2149)  
Petros Karagianis (2280)  
61st Iowa Open (4), Coralville, Iowa,  
08.30.2015  
*Notes by Gopal Menon.*

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6  
5. Bd3 Qc7 6. Qe2 Bd6!?

An interesting move, borrowing a common theme from the Kan's sister opening, the Taimanov. The idea is to control the dark squares, however it's value is doubtful. (6. ...  $Nf6$  appears playable anyway: 7.  $e5$   $Nd5$  8. 0-0  $d6$  dissolving White's 'spearhead' pawn on  $e5$ .

7. Nf3

*Perhaps surprised by Black's last move, White reacts somewhat limply. A more stern test was 7. Nd2!, a critical move and typical for the 5. Bd3 variation, Nd2 exploits the fact that White didn't commit the knight to c3. White aims to inconvenience Black with Nc4.*

7. ... Nc6 8. 0-0 Nf6 9. Nbd2 Ng4

*Consistent with the plan to control dark squares.*

10. h3 Nge5 11. Nc4 Nxc4 12. Bxc4 b5  
13. Bd3 Bb7 14. Bd2 Bf4 15. Rfc1

*A good plan, ready to probe Black on the queenside.*



15. ... 0-0 16. a4 b4

*The move 16. c4 appeared to fit better with White's previous move. Since Black's plan to trade dark square bishops, followed by placing pawns*

*I was burnt out, worn out, and chessed out. I was playing tournaments at an all-time low rate.*

out. I was playing tournaments at an all-time low rate, once every few months at absolute most. And even then, I struggled to find motivation. The wall was there, and I'd hit it like a crash test dummy at full speed and found no give. I often thought I'd just quit. If I couldn't play up to my own standards, what was the point?

## THE 61ST IOWA OPEN

**S**ometime in April this year, Alan Guebert, an old family friend and fantastic columnist, completed a book of memoirs, mainly from his youth, *The Land of Milk and Uncle Honey*.

That's the Midwest, I guess, lots of distant (or not so) relations and farm imagery.

Truth be told, Alan was closer with my mother and sister than me. But I recall a specific Labor Day, maybe 10 years ago, at the old Guebert residence in Delavan, Illinois, a large, white classic American construct complete with a porch and workspace above the garage, when all the males were inside watching NASCAR and their better halves were outside lounging in the early September evening and Alan and I were somewhere in between. And I, a college undergrad, told him about a short story I was trying to work out and write and he, a national

I was two points away from bouncing off my rating floor for the first time ever.

The following Monday, when the tournament report was released I received two texts—the first, from my good friend Tim McEntee which read, “2203” and the second from my training partner, Gopal Menon which contained one character: “?”

Tim had the boasting rights for the first time in several years. By one point.

Now, August 2015, I drive twenty-some miles east of Louisville to complete a four-and-a-half-hour Friday night sprint from Bloomington to Shelbyville and am looking out my Holiday Inn Express fourth floor window at the wasteland that is rural Kentucky. I decide to message the tournament organizer, Michael Johnson, “Am I seriously in a dry county?”

“I’d ask the hotel,” he responds. “Not everything can be Googled.”

“Lies,” I fire back instantly. “Google is omniscient.”

crunches a pita chip. “Just keep going.”



15. ... 0-0 16. Rfe1 Rfd8 17. Bf1 Nf8 18. Qb3 Ng6 19. Rcd1 Nd7 20. Nb1 Nde5 21. Nxe5 Nxe5 22. Nd2 Bf6 23. Ba1 Bc6 24. Qe3 a5 25. Nf3 Nxf3+ 26. Qxf3 Bxa1 27. Rxa1 e5

(see diagram next box, next page)

28. Qe3 Bd7 29. Rac1 Be6 30. Rc3 Qa7 31. Rec1 axb4 32. axb4 Rc6 33. Qd2 Qc7 34. Be2 h6 35. Qe3 Rc8

on d6 and e5, is clear (following well-known positional rules), White should try to preempt that with c2-c4 followed by c4-c5: 16. c4 b4 17. c5!

17. c3 Bxd2 18. Qxd2 Qa5 19. c4?



19. c4 now is a serious positional error which loses all of White's advantage. Apart from losing tempo (a2-a4 then c2-c3-c4), there's more: this move not only leaves White short of valuable pawn breaks which would help target Black's potential weaknesses, it also makes the d3-bishop a rather sad piece. Black therefore proceeds with the aforementioned plan of putting pawns on

dark squares after the trade of dark square bishops.

19. ... d6 20. b3 e5?!

Not horrible, but since Black always has the option to play ... e5, it was perhaps best to stay flexible with 20. ... Qc5.

21. Ra2 h6?!



22. Bf1?

Playing without purpose. Perhaps White reconciled himself to a quiet maneuvering game. (22.

In point of fact, I had wanted to stop for awhile.

The struggle of chess is quite simple. If you were to put it into a sentence, it may look something like this: you can work tirelessly for extensive periods of time, give all you have to give, and make only incremental progress, if that.

I spend a Tuesday night trying to convince Gopal of the merits of playing in the 2015 Iowa Open, the 61st edition of the tournament. To help boost attendance, Mark Capron, the organizer, has offered me a room in exchange for me bringing another 2300+ player, but the accommodation isn't the real selling point.

I have coached chess for nearly 10 years and there is simply no way around it, to improve, you must play tournaments. "It is good to play," I tell Gopal over the phone. Chess is two parts: knowledge and playing tendencies. It is impossible to improve one without the other, and playing habits can only truly be worked on within the confines and pressures of a tournament. I've given this speech a thousand times to a thousand students.

Gopal has a habit of finding reasons not to participate in events—the prize fund is too low, he should receive conditions, politics, time control. But Gopal is one of the few players I am willing to admit is simply better than I am at chess. Everyone else, I think I can beat, even Carlsen.

## THREE TABLES CHESS

The idea for Three Tables Chess occurred to Michael Johnson sometime over lunch in 2012, when he played his daily chess game with a FedEx delivery driver who handled the workload for Interwood Forest Products (IFP). Michael had just picked up the game shortly before being hired on as an accountant with IFP in 2002 and the opportunity to hone his skills over a sandwich and chips felt

As a chess player you have to think this way. But Gopal doesn't play enough, he doesn't hone his practical skill set. Over the phone, I say, "You have to find reasons to play, not reasons not to play." Immediately, I know it's the clincher. He already recognizes I'm right, now I have put it in a way he can't ignore.

We leave on a Friday. Iowa stays true to form and greets us with a pounding thunderstorm and we arrive late, near the end of the Iowa Quick Championship. IM Angelo Young, who we both train with on occasion, is busy finishing off WCM Claudia Munoz, of Texas, to win the event. He wears his navy blue commander-in-chief baseball cap and all five-foot-four of him leans over the table so far he shadows half the position.

Gopal turns to face me, "El presidente," he whispers with a grin, "is mobilizing the troops."

*I have coached chess for nearly ten years and there is simply no way around it, to improve, you must play tournaments.*



"He's just shuffling," I say.

"OK. Keep going."

"Alright," I say. Gopal has this tendency to always study chess. Sometimes, the night before a tournament I'll do my best to convince him that it's time for a rest, that you can have too much. And here we are Saturday night after the first three rounds. I have 3 and he has 2½ and he insists I see this Tiviakov game through to its end but I just want to finish off the hummus, watch a little YouTube and go to sleep, do my best

*c5! would put Black under some pressure and make sense of the placement of White's rooks.*

**22. ... Qc5**

*But Black corrects the earlier mistake and does not allow White a second chance.*

**23. Rd1 Rad8 24. Qd3 g5**

*An interesting move to gain space on the king-side, though perhaps not best.*

**25. Be2 Ne7 26. Nh2 f5 27. Bf3 f4 28. Bg4 Rf6? 29. Kf1**

*Despite my computer's evaluation of a slight edge for White after this move, I must disagree.*

*The move 29. Kf1 and the subsequent moves show that White is content to merely shuffle and force Black to demonstrate an idea. However, such an attitude will give Black the time they need to improve their position while White just sits. It was time to start playing more actively with 29. h4! trying to probe for a weakness. Time and again I have noticed a typical trait amongst lower rated players is to sit tight and shuffle, as if to ask the higher rated player, "What now?"*

*or "how will you beat me?" Such an attitude is dangerous though from a pure chess perspective since the lack of pressure on the opponent will give them the time necessary to first improve and second realize their plan.*

**29. ... a5 30. Re2 Kg7 31. Ke1 Kg6 32. Qf3 Nc6??**

*A miscue which gives White the chance to invade.*

**33. Bh5+?**



*Missing a huge chance. 32. ... Nc6 with the*

Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis and it left an impression on him—so big of one that he carefully researched the company that provided the chess tables for the St. Louis Club and ordered three of the same.

"The first tournament was held on December 8th, 2012. After seeing how much everyone liked the three tables I was inspired to add another three. Now I have six, but I kept the original name of Three Tables Chess," he tells me. "It just has a nicer sound to it."

The tables are now set up carefully throughout his "chess room" and wooden plaques, replicas from those at the Hall of Fame itself, hang on the walls surrounding the playing area.

"So, assuming that strong competition was the primary motivation, I began to understand why players didn't travel much to play at small local events. That's what led me to hit upon the idea of an invitation tournament; if stronger players knew that other stronger players would be there by inviting them, that might increase the number of players willing to travel."

He was right, I thought, it worked for me. All it took to convince me to make the solo nine-hour round trip was a 12-man invitational rating list with everyone between 2100 and 2440. Michael showed me the attendees and my instant reaction was, "Hell yeah I'm in."

"I suggested this to organizers for a while," he continues, "but no one ever did it. I finally decided to give it a try."

Three Tables chess is an idea. So I guess if I had to put it into words,

to make sense of it in some way, I'm in Kentucky, after suffering my way through long, dull interstates which resulted in neither beer nor Chicago baseball, because I like good ideas.

"I heard people frequently question why stronger players in Kentucky don't play as much once they achieve a higher rating," Michael says. "I would hear stories of players traveling an hour or two to be the only strong player at the open tournament."

Over a decade ago, in 2003, Tim McEntee and I had the same problem in Iowa. Every in-state tournament was Tim seed 1, me seed 2 (or vice versa), and, assuming the only other master level player Mitch Weiss didn't show (which he usually didn't), no one else within 200 rating points. Such is the struggle of mid-to-small state chess. In Iowa, it has gotten better, now, but it took a lot of hard work. We organized FIDE futurities in Ames—Tim was to thank for all of them, I just made the suggestion and let him do the real work. The two of us played as frequently as possible, helped out at local chess clubs, gave lectures, attended almost every tournament. It was exhausting. But now, finally, things in Iowa aren't so bad. It isn't the rating wasteland it once was. We both helped a few students

pass the 2100 rating mark and meanwhile other masters sprang up. Robert Keating made a successful transition from correspondence chess to over-the-board play; Kushan Tyagi, a former student, broke through to master; and Dan Brashaw turned a successful scholastic experience into a national master title himself. James Neal, I have no doubt, will be next. Tim and I, and others, stayed the course. I wonder if Michael will do the same.

*In America, quality open events are very hard to come by, especially outside of large population centers. To really improve, one has to have not only desire but also resources, and one has to understand that a desire to improve requires expenditure of resources.*

not to worry about my round-four opponent and sleep. But part of my improvement—I should mention, back in 2013, I asked Gopal to train with me, I told him I'd finally commit—is the extra effort, the one or two steps more to make that tiny incremental progress actual progress instead of regression. So, ok, back to Nolte-Tiviakov:

**36. Bg4 Bxg4**



"OK it's just dead equal."

"threat" ... *Nd4* may have hypnotized White into further passivity. *33. Bf5!* was winning. All of White's pieces start to cooperate, e.g.: *Kg7 34. Qh5 Nd4 35. Ng4 Rdf8 36. Nxh6!*

**33. ... Kg7 34. Qd3 Nd4 35. Red2 Qc6 36. f3 Qc5 37. Ng4 Rff8 38. Nf2 Ne6 39. Kf1 Nd4 40. Kg1 Kf6 41. Kh1 Ke7 42. Qb1!**

*The threat of an Exchange sacrifice on d4 explains Black's next move.*

**42. ... Ne6 43. Nd3 Qc7 44. Qc2 Nc5**

*A very tough call, since it was also tempting to chase the bishop with the idea to try to mobilize Black's kingside via 44. ... Ng7 and a subsequent ... h6-h5. However, that would leave the c5-square un-guarded and White could lever the position open with c4-c5.*

**45. Bg6 Ne6 46. Nc1 Nd4?**

*Outright inviting a dangerous sacrifice. However, we've seen it before and we'll see it again, White is unwilling to engage in active operations.*

**47. Qd3?**

**47. Rxd4 exd4 48. Ne2. Hard to hold practically.**

**47. ... Rf6 48. Bh5 Ne6 49. Bg4 Nc5**

*Black takes care to find the best stands for his pieces before attempting the final breakthrough.*

**50. Qc2 Rh8**

*Hinting at activity ...*

**51. Bf5**

*Which White, under duress of time, ignores. More consistent was to blockade with 51. Bh5.*

**51. ... h5 52. Nd3 g4!?**



## THE 61ST IOWA OPEN

**M**ark Capron was one who stayed the course. I first met Mark sometime in 2003 when he began directing tournaments for the University of Iowa Hawkeye Chess Club (HCC). Mark was there during the lean years, when the HCC's premier event, the Mind Challenge, saw only 17 players show up, all of whom then had to drive home in a record-making snowstorm that closed I-80.

Nine years later, Mark agreed to take over Iowa's largest event, the Iowa Open. That was 2011, when the late Steve Young, former Iowa state chess association (IASCA) president, asked Mark to step in. "I was a little apprehensive at the time," Mark admits to me, "but signed on anyway. That first year we had 89 players which we viewed as successful."

It's Saturday morning, 30 minutes before the first round of the main event. I'm on the ground level of the brand new Marriott in Coralville. I remember the drive into Iowa City in college, which feels like yesterday but was in fact over a decade ago, when this whole place was a cornfield. Literally. Now it's an upscale commercial park featuring trendy restaurants with vegan-friendly menus, four-star hotels, sushi stops, cobblestone streets, cafes, a bus depot, even an antique automobile museum. Times change.

I take the long walk from the lobby down the red-carpeted corridors and past the previous night's wedding banquet room to the Marriott convention center, where I find Mark behind the Iowa Open registration desk. I give him a nod.

"How many?" I ask.

"235 and counting," Mark says with a smile.

Mark has put in the work. In the past few months, he's distributed fliers, sent out mass e-mails, even traveled to out-of-state tournaments to promote the 61st edition of Iowa's most prestigious chess tournament. It's a well-deserved two-thirty-five and counting.

I turn into the playing hall, a giant warehouse-like room with well-spaced chess tables leading back to a roped off area for the top five boards with black curtains behind them. It's massive and grand, a spectacular

venue. I feel far away from the 2008 Mind Challenge, stuffed deep into the back corner room on the second floor of the Iowa Student Union.

When I nearly hit my rating floor in 2013 I was so upset that at the very next opportunity, drove two hours to play in two back-to-back events, a Game/60 and Game/45 at the ChessIQ center in Skokie. I wasn't improving, just treading water and gasping at rating points.

But I felt I had to prove something, most of all to myself. Not that I "had it." Not that I was better than my rating or performance indicated. Nothing of the sort. Somehow, I had to know that my desire to play still existed. This is another struggle entirely. In America, quality open events are very hard to come by, especially outside of large population centers. To really improve, one has to have not only desire but also resources, and one has to understand that a desire to improve requires expenditure of resources. For me, it was a logical crisis. Were the returns valuable enough? Was the opportunity cost too high? What, ultimately, would it take to reach the next level, and did I want to sacrifice for it?

It seemed like in that entire line of questioning there were too many "nos" as responses.

Maybe, this is why tournaments and mid-population states ultimately suffer. At some point, everyone must face their own motivation. At some point, everyone must face themselves. In many senses, in fact perhaps almost every, chess is a struggle with the self.

And while I made no improvements to my play during the summer of 2013, one thing I did learn is that I did not want to end my relationship with chess. Whatever the result, a complete severance was not my intention. And so there was only one other choice.

"The secret is not to stop."

Since April, this has been the mantra that runs through my head before the tournament, during the tournament, and after. "The secret is not to stop." I have been working my way through *The Land of Milk and Uncle Honey* one story at a time, moving towards the handwritten note I know is coming in the book's back cover.

"Is it?"

**37. hxg4 Qe7 38. Qd3 Qe6 39. Qe2 Kf8 40. g3 Ke7 41. Kg2 R8c7 42. R1c2 Qc8 43. f3 Qe6 44. Qd3 Rc8 45. Rc1 Kf6 46. R3c2 Ke7 47. Rc3 g6 48. Qe3 g5 49. R1c2 Kf6 50. Rc1 Kg6**

If I hadn't wanted to stop looking at the game previously, this was roughly the point where I wanted to shut Gopal's laptop, toss it back over to him and request politely that he never recommend such a boring course of study again. But, somehow there was a decisive result coming. "A real will to win."

**51. Qd3 h5**

Hm, I thought, supporting the pawn break with his king. Ok. Humorous, but still how can Black win?

**52. gxh5+ Kxh5 53. g4+ Kg6 54. b5**

But now there is never c5.

**54. ... Rc5 55. Rd1 Rd8 56. Rd2 Kg7 57. Qe3 Qh6 58. Qg1 Rh8 59. Kf2 Qe6 60. Rd5 Ra8 61. Qd1 Qh6**

*A move which may seem risky but in fact is not. White's extra material on the kingside will be a target for Black's heavy pieces and moreover he will have to solve concrete defensive problems while low on time.*

**53. Nxc5 Qxc5 54. fxg4**

*Another option was to sit tight with 54. Rf1. Open lines is what Black wants, so it would be worth analyzing what happens when White doesn't oblige: 54. ... Rg8 55. Qd3 gxf3 56. Rxf3 Rxf5 57. exf5 e4 with favorable complications to Black—58. Re2 Qe5.*

**54. ... hxg4 55. Bxg4 Rh4 56. Bf3?**

*Now White is in serious danger. 56. Bf5! would prevent the b7-bishop from entering the game on c8. Perhaps White feared 56. ... f3, but 57. Kh2 should hold.*

**56. ... Rg6 57. Qd3 Bc6**

*(see diagram next column)*

*More timely is 57. ... Bc8!*



**58. Qe2**

*Overprotecting h3 with 58. Qf1 was objectively safer.*

**58. ... Rh6?!**

*Black again missed the chance to concretely strike with 58. ... Bd7. With the modern 30/90 time control, it's hard to remain accurate in permanent time trouble.*

**59. Qf2 Qxf2 60. Rxf2 Rg3 61. Kh2?**

*White should play 61. c5!*

## THREE TABLES CHESS &amp; THE 61ST IOWA OPEN

**M**ichael Johnson and Mark Capron had, at its absolute essence, the exact same idea: to run a quality chess tournament, top-down.

"We got a few donations, but we had to be willing to put some money on the line to make it successful," Mark tells me. "Our goal was two hundred, and we did it. Two thirty eight. I think that a few titled players over the years and this past year really helped get the attendance," he continues, "IM Michael Brooks, FM Awonder Liang (now IM. ~ed.), IM Angelo Young, IM Arjun Vishnuvardhan, and of course GM Alex Yermolinsky. In 2015, we even had two titled female players, WGM Camilla Baginskaite and WCM Claudia Munoz, all the way from Texas."

Sound familiar? Like Michael, Mark saw the trend: players want competition. It's hard to run a quality event, truly it is. There may be risk. There may be setbacks.

"Securing several titled players to come was key," Mark says. "People want the chance to play them, or at least watch their games."

There may be problems, both financial and logistical. And sometimes it takes a leap of faith. Sometimes it takes a do-it-yourself attitude which spurs you to knock down a wall in your house, invite over some strangers, and hold master-level tournaments there. Sometimes it takes a trip to the World Chess Hall of Fame. Sometimes, it takes a little inspiration. It's hard to run a quality event, really, but in the summer of 2015, Mark Capron and Michael Johnson both pulled one off.

Both of them are quick to shift credit to others, though. Mark will readily mention current IASCA President Eric Vigil, or FIDE Arbiter Bill Broich, amongst others. It's a team effort to bring together an event such as the 61st Iowa Open, and the team performed well. Michael, on the other hand, says he wants to continue because "the tournaments are important to the people who play them. Fortunately," he says, "people took a chance and started coming."

After agreeing to play in the Three Tables Chess master invitational, I forced myself to participate in a few local events with fast time

controls. The Three Tables tournament would use a quicker time control—Game/90 d5—than the 90+30 FIDE events I had become accustomed to in Chicago. I spent resources—time, chiefly, and energy, but also money, to play in events I would otherwise not have played in, because there was a goal in sight, a light at the end of the tunnel. After miserably dropping points left and right while training myself to play quicker, I knew that I had, back to back, Three Tables Chess and the Iowa Open to look forward to. And I was going to have myself ready.

The secret is not to stop. So I find myself in Shelbyville, in the Interwood Forest Products conference room, where Michael had moved the tournament for overflow, playing on premium, custom-made wooden chess tables with top-notch sets. It feels like a real event. It feels like I am doing something. The local news comes. Everyone seems happy, invested, interested.

The secret is not to stop. So I find myself in an enormous high-ceilinged warehouse-style ballroom with two hundred and thirty eight entrants from every surrounding state competing in the 61st Iowa Open. In between, I enjoy lunch with Peer Saleem and my student Arshaq. We joke around, remember the lean years of Iowa chess. After my last round finish of 4½/5 guarantees me a tie for first with IM Michael Brooks (and, ultimately, Gopal and Angelo, too), Arshaq says, "Yeah but Brooks has won this thing like seven times."

"Maybe," I say, quickly tabbing away from the Sinquefield Cup broadcast on my laptop to pull up the [uschess.org](http://uschess.org) Member Services Area page, "but has he ever won it as a 1900?" I ask, spinning the laptop around to display the 2002 Iowa Open crosstable, where I, a 1913-rated A-Player, split top honors at 4/5. We both laugh. "Probably not," Arshaq says.

Later, when the tournament has concluded and we are on the drive home, "Gopal," I say somewhere in the emptiness of western Illinois, "chess is fun again."



"Ah." I stopped mindlessly clicking the worn touchpad. "There it is."

"Ra8?" Gopal is always a move ahead of me.

"No, Qh6."

**62. Kg2 Rh8 63. Qg1 Rcc8 64. Rc1 Ra8 65. Rd2 Ra3 66. Kf2 Qh2+ 67. Qg2 Qf4, White resigned.**

"Very nice."

"You're welcome."

**61. ... Bd7 62. Rh1 Bxh3 63. Kg1 Rhg6?**



*Maintaining a pull in the rook endgame, but missing a chance to cash in with 63. ... Bxg2!! 64. Bxg2 (64. Rxh6 Bxf3+ 65. Kh2 Bxe4) 64. ... Rxh1+ 65. Kxh1 Rxh3.*

**64. Rh2 Bg4 65. Kf1 Rg7 66. Ke2 Bxf3+ 67. gxf3 Rg1 68. Kd3 Rc1 69. Rc2 Rb1 70. Rb2 Rxb2 71. Rxb2 Rg3 72. Rf2 Kd7**

*Black improves to the maximum by bringing the king to c5.*

**73. Ke2 Kc6 74. Rh2 Kc5**

*Still good, but it was possible to try to go on a rampage with the rook—74. ... Rg1 White can't defend all of the pawns after this. For example 75. Kd3 Rf1 76. Rh3 (76. Ke2 Rb1) 76. ... Rf2 Zugzwang.*

**75. Kf2 Rg6?**

*Still maintaining an edge, but spoiling a great part of the advantage 75. ... Kd4 76. Rh6 It was undoubtedly this move Black feared, but Black just invades and wins on the queenside. 76. ... Kc3 77. Rxd6 Kxb3 78. Rd5 (78. c5 Rg7 White is getting nowhere) 78. ... Ka2.*

**76. Rh1!**

*A great defense, stopping Black's idea to invade and creating counterplay which is hard to control in time trouble.*

**76. ... Kd4 77. Rc1 Kd3 78. c5 dxc5 79. Rxc5 Rg5?**

*(see diagram next box, next page)*

## OUTRO

**S**cene: Gopal and I after 12 hours of chess, three 90+30 games on a Saturday, exhausted, still willing to click through games from the database, scrounging whatever late-night leftovers we can find after the finish of the third round. Outside, a dark calm has settled over Iowa City in the distance. The storms have stopped. Most of the city is asleep.

Gopal takes his first cigarette break of the day now, just after midnight. He is trying to quit, and going from 8 a.m. 15 hours to nearly 1 a.m. is a strong step in the right direction from his old three-to-four smokes per match regimen he used to engage in. I step into some sandals and take the elevator down with him past the remaining members of the wedding party, across the patterned marble floor, underneath the exquisite glass chandelier, through the revolving hotel doors and outside into the surprisingly warm night air. We stand beneath the facade of the Marriott and he pulls one out of the pack and lights it. A blonde with a Southern accent from the party inside approaches us and asks for one; he obliges. We stand quietly in a half circle, unspeaking, unwinding. When it's over, he nods and the two of us head back to the room. In the elevator on the way up, Gopal sighs and puts his elbow against the cabin. He knows I am stressed about the morning game. I need a good event after all the summer's work.

"Tomorrow," he says with a half-smile, "just channel your inner Tiviakov, right?"

"Right." ♠



(Clockwise from above): James Neal versus Petros Karagianis (right); Mark Capron, Iowa Open organizer; Valeriy Kosokin versus GM Alex Yermolinsky (right).



Making life harder, better was to preserve the connected passers with 79...Ra6. A weird Zugzwang would arise after this move. Either White can take on e5 and let Black's active king gobble the queenside or he could move the rook away from the fifth rank which would in turn free Black's rook to go and pester the king. 80.Rc8(80.Rxe5Kc3) 80...Rh6(If White tries to keep the rook at bay) 81.Kg2Ke3 The black king can't be driven away and the white kingside pawns disappear one by one.

**80. Rxa5 Kc3 81. Rd5 Kxb3 82. a5 Ka4?**

Again, with little time on the clock this makes

Black's life much harder—82...Rg6 Black's king will shepherd the pawn home while the rook on the sixth rank keeps White's passers (should he take on e5) under control 83.Rxe5 Ka2.

**83. a6 Rg6?**



And this spoils it. By letting White advance the pawn to a7. Black's rook is forced to take up babysitting duty. White will guard the a7-pawn from the seventh rank and stop Black from queening. The time Black will take to push the pawn forward and support it with the king allows White to approach with his own king and keep

the pawn under careful guard. Best is 83...Rg7 when Black keeps matters under control, but it's still rather hairy: 84.Ke2 b3 85.Kd2(85.Rxe5 b2) 85...Ra7 86.Rxe5 Rxa6 87.Kc1 White can get the king in front of the pawn but leaves his f3-pawn unguarded. 87...Rc6+ 88.Kb1 Rc3.

**84. a7 Ra6 85. Ke2?**

Presented with an unexpected drawing chance, White lets it all go. After Black's passer claims the life of the white rook, the black king and rook will be just in time to hamper the activity of the king and passed pawn(s).

**85. ... Rxa7 86. Rxe5 b3 87. Kd2 Ka3 88. Rb5 b2 89. e5 Ka2 90. Kd3 b1=Q+ 91. Rxb1 Kxb1 92. Ke4 Ra4+ 93. Kf5 Kc2, White resigned.**

The pawn is halted and a sigh of relief breathed with both players utterly exhausted from this intense struggle. An example of how pure determination to win can carry anyone through positions which seem "unwinnable" or, in many cases, outright dangerous. As Tartakower once famously stated "The mistakes are there, waiting to be made."

# Openings for Amateurs—and Grandmasters

A look at the fighting openings used at the 2015 New Jersey Open

By PETE TAMBURRO

**W**e are all used to playing over the grandmaster games from super-tournaments or our own national championships, looking for, say, the latest nuance in the Najdorf or Semi-Slav as it is presented to the chess public. You also see chess players haunt the book stalls at tournaments searching for the latest specialty opening books.

Yet most U.S. chess players go their own merry way in state and local tournaments. They play 1. e4 and 1. d4 in equal numbers. There might be some system or repertoire they play; however, by move 10 most are on their own. They might dream about catching some international master or grandmaster in their specialty opening, but, let's face it—what are the odds you might actually meet one in a Swiss?

The odds have gotten better in New Jersey. We have been fortunate to come up with a formula for attracting grandmasters to our New Jersey Open so our many young, up-and-coming players get a shot at testing their skills against the big guys.

What do we do? We offer them free entry and free accommodations at a luxury hotel in a lovely Morristown that has parks and restaurants to walk to because your car is freely parked for the weekend in the hotel. We even pick you up at the railroad station if you're arriving that way. The prizes are decent, too.

The formula worked at the 2015 event as 10 grandmasters accepted, and four international masters showed up as well as several FIDE masters. And they fought! The tournament hall gave them a round of applause before the last round in appreciation. When the rest of us were done with our games, we would always wander over and watch their games.

Here's the honored group of grandmasters: Magesh Panchanathan and Sergei Azarov (the winners) and Alexander Stripunsky, Mackenzie Molner, Arun Prasad Subramanian, Sergey Kudrin, Joel Benjamin, Alex Fishbein, John Fedorowicz and Michael Rohde.

Thus, we got an interesting collection of games: grandmaster versus amateur, grandmaster versus grandmaster and amateur versus amateur and even coach versus student. Participants got to watch the pros go after each other and quite a few of the players got to experience it right across the board.

## Grandmaster versus Grandmaster: The Sicilian e6 lines

Many people watched, with rapt attention, the various Sicilian Defenses that were played by the grandmasters from both sides. There are quite a few "e6" Sicilian types, so two grandmaster battles attracted attention. Alex Stripunsky carried the shield for the e6 lines against two fellow grandmasters.

### SICILIAN DEFENSE, KAN VARIATION (B41)

GM Mackenzie Molner (2567)  
GM Alexander Stripunsky (2664)  
New Jersey Open 2015, Open Section (6), Morristown, New Jersey, 09.07.2015  
Notes by Molner.

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4  
4. Nxd4 a6 5. c4 Bc5 6. Nb3**

White has a small edge after 6. Nc3! d6 (6. ... Qb6 7. Na4 Bb4+ 8. Bd2!) 7. Be2 Nf6 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Nb3 Ba7 10. Qd3.

**6. ... Ba7 7. Nc3 Nc6 8. Be2**

I was strongly debating this continuation during the game but didn't love it. It appears reasonable 8. c5 b6 9. Bf4! bxc5 10. Bd6.

**8. ... d6 9. 0-0 e5 10. Qd3**

Interesting is 10. Be3 Bxe3 11. fxe3 Nf6.

**10. ... Nge7**



And, now, Molner played **11. Rd1**. He now prefers 11. Be3. After 49 moves, it was drawn.

Magesh Panchanathan had another approach:

### SICILIAN DEFENSE, KAN VARIATION (B42)

GM Magesh Panchanathan (2636)  
GM Alexander Stripunsky (2664)  
New Jersey Open 2015, Open Section (4), Morristown, New Jersey, 09.06.2015

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4  
4. Nxd4 a6 5. Bd3 Ne7 6. 0-0 Nbc6 7. Be3 Nxd4 8. Bxd4  
Nc6 9. Be3 Be7 10. c4 Bf6 11. Nc3 d6 12. Be2! 0-0 13. Qd2  
Qa5 14. a3 Rd8 15. Rfd1 Rb8  
16. b4 Qc7 17. Rac1 Ne5 18.  
Ba7 Ra8 19. Bd4 b6 20. f4  
Ng6 21. Bxf6 gxf6 22. f5 Ne5  
23. Qh6 Qe7 24. Na4 exf5 25.  
Nxb6 Bb7 26. Nxa8 Bxa8 27.  
exf5 Qb7 28. Bf1 Qe4 29. Qxf6  
Nf3+ 30. Kh1**

It is over after 30. gxf3 Qe3+ 31. Kh1 Qxf3+ 32. Kg1 Qe3 mate.

**30. ... Re8 31. Qxd6 Qe3 32.**

**Qg3+ Kh8 33. Bd3 Rg8 34. Qh3**  
**Qg5 35. gxf3 Qe3**



Although we're examining openings, a noteworthy finish occurred. White played the natural-looking **36. Rf1** (However, Houdini found: 36. Be2! Qxe2 37. Rf1 Rg1+ 38. Rxg1 Bxf3+ 39. Rg2 Bxg2+ 39. Kxg2 Qxd3 40. Rgf1 Qxa3 41. c5 Qxb4 42. Rf2 Qe4+ 43. Kg1 Qc6 44. Rg2 h5, Draw agreed.

## Grandmaster versus Amateur: Chess Lesson

While the grandmasters were testing new paths, one of our talented teens, Kimberly Dong, was thrown into the deep end of the pool in the first round as she got a free lesson from GM Alex Fishbein about the knight occupation of d5 not always being a good idea.

### CLASSICAL SICILIAN (B59)

WFM Kimberly Ding (2063)  
 GM Alex Fishbein (2574)  
 New Jersey Open 2015, Open Section (1), Morristown, New Jersey, 09.05.2015

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Be2**

Both 6. Bg5 and 6. Bc4 are more popular because of Black's next move.

**6. ... e5 7. Nb3**

Black has the kind of counterplay he's looking for after 7. Ndb5 a6 8. Na3 b5.

**7. ... Be7 8. Bg5**

This plan with the bishop is not commendable. Either 8. 0-0 or 8. Be3 are better. 8. f3 is worth a look

as well. Giving up the bishop to take temporary occupation of d5 does not turn out well here.

**8. ... 0-0 9. Bxf6 Bxf6 10. Nd5**  
**Be6 11. 0-0 Bg5 12. c4 Rc8 13.**  
**Qd3 a5 14. a4**

Ceding the b4-square to Black, which has consequences for the knight on d5. Better was 14. Rad1 although Black is the one with the initiative.

**14. ... Nb4 15. Qf3 Bxd5 16.**  
**cxtd5 g6 17. Rad1 Rc2 18. Rb1 f5**

Black's plan is straightforward and effective.

**9. g3 Qb6**

One other instructive alternative was: 19. ... f4 20. g4 Rxe2 21. Qxe2 f3 22. Qd1 Bf4.

**20. h4 Bh6 21. h5**

A more obstinate defense, though with the same result, would have been: 21. exf5 Rxf5 22. Qe4 Rf6 23. Kg2 Be3 24. Qxe3 Qxe3 25. fxe3 Rxe2+ 26. Kg1 Nxd5 27. Nxa5 Rxe3 28. Rxf6 Nxf6 29. Nxb7 Rg3+ 30. Kh2 Rg4 31. b4 Rxh4+ 32. Kg3 Rc4 33. Nxd6 Rc6 34. Nb5 Nd5.

**21. ... Kg7 22. Bd1 fxe4 23. Qg2**  
**Rcxf2, White resigned.**

## Amateur versus Amateur: Excitement!

What happens when amateur meets amateur in the Sicilian? They, too, start out with the e6 line, but then the fun starts.

### SICILIAN DEFENSE (B50)

Stephen Meyer (1602)  
 Charles Hua (1797)  
 New Jersey Open 2015, U2000 Section (3), Morristown, New Jersey, 09.06.2015

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Nc3 a6 4.**  
**g3 d6 5. Bg2 Qc7 6. 0-0 Nf6 7.**  
**Re1 Nbd7 8. d3 Be7**

We've transposed into a Closed Sicilian where the two sides tap dance with each other before it gets exciting.

**9. Bf4 Nh5 10. Bg5 Nhf6 11. Bf4**  
**Nh5 12. Bg5 Qd8**

One of the annoying things about Swiss tournaments. You hate to draw against someone 200 points below you, so you pick a weaker move.

**13. Bxe7 Qxe7 14. Nh4 Nhf6 15.**  
**f4 Nb6**

By opening the bishop's defense to f5, this seems like a good move, but ...



**16. Nf5! exf5**

No better is 16. ... Qf8 17. e5 dxe5 18. fxe5 Nfd5 19. Nd6+.

**17. exf5 Be6 18. fxe6 fxe6 19.**  
**Qe2 Kf7 20. Bxb7! Qxb7 21.**  
**Qxe6+ Kg6**

The inevitable king hunt begins in earnest. Bring him up the board! If 21. ... Kf8, 22. Qxd6+ Kf7 23. Qe6+ Kf8 24. Ne4 Nxe4 25. Rxe4 Nd5 26. Rae1.

**22. f5+ Kg5**

22. ... Kh6 23. Qe3+ g5 24. h4 Rhg8 25. hgx5+ Rxe5 26. Re2 Qf7 27. Rh2+ Nh5 28. Ne4 Qxf5 29. Rf1 Qe5 30. g4 would be a piquant finish as well.

**23. Qxd6**

An unnecessary pit stop. Don't stop to pick up pawns. Mate him! 23. Qe3+ was best.

**23. ... Nbd5**

If 23. ... Qb8 24. Ne4+ Nxe4 25. Qe7+ Nf6 26. Qxg7+ Kh5 27. Qxf6 Rg8 28. Qh4 mate.

**24. Nxd5 Nxd5 25. h4+**

That's the idea!

**25. ... Kg4 26. Re4+ Kh5 27.**  
**g4+ Kxh4 28. Qh2+ Kg5 29.**  
**Qh5+ Kf6 30. Re6 mate.**

One suspects our winner won't be a 1600 player for long. Very nicely done!

## International Master versus Amateur: A Brilliance Until ...

This one is a heartbreaker. After a rather sedate Caro-Kann opening, Dennis Fan Li conjures up an attack worthy of Tal. GM John Fedorowicz alerted me to what was unfolding at the board, so I watched with utter fascination at what transpired. I wonder if someone will ever write an "Almost Immortal" anthology?

### CLASSICAL CARO-KANN (B19)

Dennis Fan Li (2119)  
 IM Justin Sarkar (2473)  
 New Jersey Open 2015, Open Section (4), Morristown, New Jersey, 09.06.2015

**1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 dxe5**  
**4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. Ng3 Bg6 6. h4**  
**h6 7. Nf3 e6**

Also possible is 7. ... Nd7.

**8. Ne5 Bh7 9. Qh5!?**

Not unknown and not bad. Another route: 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. Qxd3 Nd7 11. Bf4 Ngf6 12. 0-0-0.

**9. ... Qc7 10. Bc4**

The bishop can also offer to exchange: 10. Bd3 Nf6 11. Qe2 Bxd3 12. Nxd3.

**10. ... Nf6 11. Qe2 Nd5!?**

Maybe safer is 11. ... Bd6 12. Bf4 0-0.

**12. Bb3**

The young man keeps avoiding exchanges: 12. Bd3 Bxd3 13. Nxd3. Commendable that he has no fear of the titled player.

**12. ... Bb4+!**

Praised by two chess engines and chosen by Sarkar. None of them expected what came next.



**13. c3!?**

You gotta love this kid! What a move to play against such an opponent. Fascinating complications arise from, for example, 13. Kf1 Nd7 14. Nh5 Nxe5 15. Nxe7+ Kf8 16. dxe5 Kxg7 17. Bxd5 cxd5 18. Qg4+ Bg6 19. h5 Bc5 20. Rh3 Qxe5 21. hxg6 h5 22. Qh4 fxg6 23. Bf4 Qf6 24. Qxf6+ Kxf6 25. Rf3 Ke7 26. Bg5+ Kd6 27. Rf7 Rae8 (27. ... b6 28. Re1) 28. Re1 e5 29. Rxb7; however, White's chosen move also shows quite a sense of adventure!

**13. ... Nxc3 14. bxc3!!**

What an amazing move! You need to leave the old chess engine on for a week here. The whole theme of this attack revolves around White's ability to sacrifice on f7 and the black queen's ability to hold the fort until reinforcements arrive. Also worthy of consideration was: 14. Qg4? Nd5+ 15. Kf1 Bf8 16. Nh5 Rg8 17. Bxd5 cxd5 18. Bxh6 Nd7 19. Nxe7+ Bxg7 20. Bxg7 Nxe5 21. dxe5 Qc2.

**14. ... Bxc3+ 15. Bd2 Bxa1**



Well, why not? As long as the black queen has been defending f7, the sacrifices on that square and then capture on e6 don't get to happen. One other possibility: 15. ... Bxd4 16. Nxf7 Qxf7 17. 0-0 Bxa1 18. Rxa1 and White has ample compensation.

**16. Qg4?!**



Tough to meet would be an old Tal idea: 16. Nh5! Rg8 (Not 16. ... Bxd4 17. Nxe7+ Kf8 18. Nxe6+ fxe6 19. Bxh6+) 17. 0-0 Bxd4 18. Nxf7 Qxf7 19. Bxe6 Qe7 20. Qg4 with excellent winning chances.

**16. ... O-O??**

Talk about castling into it! 16. ... Nd7! 17. Nxf7 (17. Qxg7 0-0-0!) 17. ... O-O!! 18. Nh5 Rxf7 19. Bxe6 Bxd4 Remember him? 20. Qxd4 Qe5+! and the attack is over.

**17. O-O?!**



Rarely are two back-to-back castling moves bad, but here you are! White keeps his edge; however, 17. Bxh6 is brutal. 17. ... f5 (17. ... Bg6 18. Nxe6 fxg6 19. Bd2! Re8 20. h5 g5 21. h6 g6 22. Qxg5 Kh7 23. Qf6 [followed by 24. Ne4 and 25. Ng5+]; 17. ... g6 18. h5 Bxd4 19. Qxd4 c5 20. Qc3 Nc6 21. Nxc6 e5 22. hxg6 Bxg6 23. Bxf8 bxc6 24. Bxc5) 18. Bxe6+ Kh8 19. Ng6+ Bxg6 20. Qxg6 Qe7 21. Be3 Rf6 22. Qh5+ Rh6 23. Bxh6 Qxe6+ 24. Be3+ Kg8 25. Nxf5 g6 26. Nh6+ Kg7 27. Qg4 Qxg4 28. Nxe4 Bc3+ 29. Ke2 Nd7 30. Rb1 b6 31. Rc1.

**17. ... Bb2??**



It's hard to find a defense, but this was worth a try: 17. ... Bxd4 18. Qxd4 c5 19. Qc3 f6 (19. ... Qe7 20. Nh5 f6 21. Re1! Kh8 22. Bxe6!) 20. Bxe6+ Kh8 21. Nd3 Nd7 and White keeps an edge, but it's tiny in comparison to that Bxh6 battering ram.

**18. Bb4??**

The move 18. Bxh6 is screaming to be played. The complications must have fried these otherwise fine players. It's nice to have a chess engine for writing annotations.

**18. ... c5! 19. Bxc5**

Still 19. Nh5! f5 20. Qg3 cxb4 21. Bxe6+ Kh8 22. Bd7! g5 23. Ng6+! Bxg6 24. Qxc7 was worth a shot.

**19. ... Nc6! 20. Nh5 f5 21. Bxe6+ Kh8 22. Qg3**

Necessary was 22. Ng6+! Bxg6 23. Qxg6 Nxd4 Ah, the difference of losing a move with Bxc5 and allowing ... Nc6. At least White's in the game with this line.

**22. ... Nxe5**

Since move 19, IM Sarkar has regained his footing, played an accurate series of defensive moves and Dennis Fan Li's extraordinary attack is at an end. What a shame! He's a young man and has many great games ahead of him, if this is any example, and we look forward to more successful finishes in his future.

**23. Bd6 f4 24. Bxc7 fxg3 25. Bxe5 Bd3 26. Bxg7+ Kh7 27. Bxf8 Rxf8 28. Nxg3 Bxf1 29. Kxf1 Bxd4 30. f3 b5 31. Ne4 a5** and **White resigned** on move 44. The rest of the score was understandably unreadable.

**International Master versus Amateur: An Upset!**

Not all of the youngsters flailed away at the titled players. National Master Gene Salomon (who once played Alekhine!) called this game a beautifully played gem with an endgame conception of exceptional maturity. The opening was as solid as you can get for both sides. Glassman, however, takes advantage of a few inaccuracies by the international master in superb fashion.

**BOGO-INDIAN (E11)**

**Jeremy Glassman (2215)**  
**IM Yaakov Norowitz (2532)**  
**New Jersey Open 2015, Open Section (2)**  
**Morristown, New Jersey, 09.05.2015**

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4+ 4. Bd2 Qe7 5. g3 Nc6 6. Bg2 Bxd2+ 7. Nbxd2 d6 8. O-O e5 9. d5 Nb8 10. e4 a5 11. Ne1 O-O 12. Nd3 Na6 13. a3 Nc5?! 14. Nxc5 dxc5 15. Qc2 Ne8 16. Qc3 Nd6 17. b4! b6 18. bxc5 bxc5 19. f4 Re8 20. Nb3 Nb7 21. Nc1 a4 22. Nd3 f6 23. fxe5 fxe5 24. Ra2 Qg5 25. Raf2 Qe3 26. Re1 Qd4 27. Qxd4 cxd4 28. Ref1 Bd7 29. Rf7 Rad8 30. c5! Bb5 31. Rxc7 Bxd3 32. Rxb7 Ba6**

No better is 32. ... Bxf1 33. Bxf1 Rb8 34. Rxb8 Rxb8 35. c6 Kf7 36. c7 Rc8 37. d6 Ke6 38. Bh3+

**33. Ra7 Bxf1 34. Bxf1 Ra8 35. Rxa8 Rxa8 36. c6 d3 37. Kf2 Rf8+ 38. Ke1 d2+ 39. Kxd2 Rxf1 40. c7, Black resigned.**

**Grandmaster versus Amateur: Positional Lesson**

**DUTCH DEFENSE (A90)**

**GM Arun Prasad Subramanian (2685)**  
**John Ward (2076)**  
**New Jersey Open 2015, Open Section (1), Morristown, New Jersey, 09.05.2015**

The Dutch Defense is often sneered at by positional wonks; however, when you think of the players that have championed it—Alekhine, Botvinnik, Bronstein, Larsen—you have to credit those judgments as stylistic differences. However, the amateur player who wants to follow these greats had better know it very well or else lose fairly easily to stronger players. A case in point is this game. GM Subramanian uses the classical Nh3 approach and U.S. expert John Ward had better get a copy of *Win With the Stonewall Dutch* to read Johnsen and Bern's clever suggestion as to how to anticipate this line. They suggest 4. ... c6! as a "move-order finesse." The idea is, as Botvinnik pointed out years ago, to meet an early Nh3 with the e6/d6 Dutch formation where Nh3 doesn't really fit in. Thus, 4. ... c6 is a "waiting move" of sorts. If White plays Nf3, you go into the Stonewall. If White plays Nh3 you stick with a d6 system. A sharp



# MASTER MAX

## Max Lu is the latest prodigy to break the record for youngest US Chess master.

By JAMAAL ABDUL-ALIM



Max Lu competing at the 2015 World Youth in Greece.

When Max Lu first walked into an after-school chess class at Pear Tree Point School—an elite private school surrounded by a short stonewall lined with neatly trimmed bushes—he hardly knew the first thing about chess.

Like just about any child enamored with animals and who should happen to encounter a chess set, Max took a special liking to the knight.

"I like animals a lot," the fourth-grader recalled of his first experience with chess at the after-school program in Darien, Connecticut back in September 2011, when he was just five-years-old going on six. "I associated the knight with a horse."

But he didn't know how the "horse"—or any of the other pieces, for that matter—maneuvered, recalled Max's former after-school chess program instructor, Alex Eydelman, president of the National Educational Chess Association, an organization that provides chess instruction in schools in Connecticut and New York State.

"I taught him how the pieces are moving," Eydelman said in an accent that hearkens back to his native Russia.

Max said he used to like the knight so much that Eydelman had to prod him to move other pieces. After that, his game took off.

"He picked up very quickly," Eydelman said. "He very quickly started beating everyone."

"Everyone," of course, meant all the other kids in the program, which Max's father, David, said he quickly "outgrew." But it wouldn't be long—less than four years, in fact—before the term "everyone" would come to encompass Eydelman, a US Chess candidate master, too.

"I was playing black and he just strangled me," Eydelman recalled of the round two game he played against Max in a quad hosted this past August by the of Fairfield County Chess Club in Norwalk, Connecticut.

"He played really solid chess," Eydelman said. "I did some inaccuracies, and he capitalized on that."

Max didn't view the defeat of the master who taught him the game as a big deal.

"It's just as you get better, if you stay with it, you're going to start beating people like him," Max said. "Or you're not going to lose to him."

Such is the unexcitable Whitby School fourth-grader from Connecticut, who this past fall became the youngest master in United States chess history—a feat he accomplished this past fall just weeks after he beat Eydelman.

Those who know Max say his progress stems from a combination of dedication, talent and strong parental support.

"I would describe Max as a very mature player," said National Master Andrew Ng, a Princeton computer science major and founder of Chesscademy who has been serving as one of Max's coaches—and acting as a "big brother figure," according to Max's father—for about three years.

"His approach to the game suggests that he has been playing chess for far longer than he has," Ng said. "Out of all my students, Max has shown the most promise through his natural talent and dedication."

For perspective on the steep incline of Max's chess trajectory, consider the fact that chess powerhouse Webster University's GM Ray Robson—who began playing chess with his father at age three and went on to become America's youngest grandmaster at age 14—only crossed the 2200 master level threshold when he was 12 years old.

***"His approach to the game suggests that he has been playing chess for far longer than he has," Ng said.***

GM Samuel Sevian—who in 2014 broke Robson's record and became America's youngest grandmaster at age 13—broke the record for the youngest US Chess master in 2010, when he attained the master title about a week shy of his 10th birthday. Sevian began playing at age 5.

Then along came Awonder Liang, who also began playing at age 5, and who broke Sevian's record and became a master about two weeks shy of his 10th birthday in 2013.

But Lu bested them all this past September, when he reached master nearly a full month before his 10th birthday. Theoretically, that could set Max up to become America's next youngest grandmaster.

"He certainly has the talent to become a grandmaster and I see him having a big impact on the growing American chess scene," Ng said.

Like Ng, Eydelman, who kept tabs on Max's

rise over the years, credits Max's rapid ascent to his dedication to the game. But dedication is only part of the equation.

Max has also had access to training from some of the best in the business.

In addition to Ng, Max has gotten training from IM David Pruess—who says he worked with Max on "every aspect of chess, from tactics to strategy to endgames to openings, to study techniques, and self-analysis." Pruess says Max's ability to do serious work is "unlike what I've seen with other kids his age."

"Thanks to his improved play, he's also getting to play more and more strong players, and learn from them," Pruess said. "His improvement remains steady."

From the earliest days of his introduction to chess, Maximillian Lu has always taken a studious approach toward the game.

He says it all began when Eydelman used to "help" another player in the after-school program. Max said that made him "upset." But it also prompted him to start to read chess books in order to discover new ways to win.

The books included two classics by Murray Chandler—*Chess Tactics for Kids: 50 Tricky Tactics to Outwit Your Opponent*, and *How to Beat Your Dad at Chess*.

"They were helping so I continued to read them," Max said.

He's no longer upset about how Eydelman

used to help his opponent. In fact—in another sign of his maturity—he says he thinks Eydelman was helping his opponent on purpose to make Max a better player.

Eydelman doesn't recall doing such a thing but doesn't rule out that something similar could have happened.

"Maybe," he said when asked if he had helped one of Max's opponents to make Max better. "Kids, they remember more things than we do, so I guess."

Max's book study continued to pay off.

"You could see the impact," his father, David, recalls of charting his son's rating progress.

Still, Max would make two- or three-move "tactical blunders," his father said.

"We really focused on just trying to work on the process and let the rating take care of itself,"

David Lu said. "If you keep working on a thing, things click and you sort of move to another level."

David Lu said one of the most interesting aspects of his son's career is that he focused on his weak point.

"It really helps with the process of growing as a chess player," David Lu said.

He also credits his son's coaches with encouraging him to continue to do more active learning as opposed to passive learning.

"They kind of challenged him to do the work and the analysis so that when you learn, actually you understand it better than just being fed stuff," David Lu said. "So going over grandmaster games and reading annotations was pretty helpful but it's something you kind of have to do on your own."

As Max's rating continued to soar, he didn't really focus on it.

"The rating just was like showing what I needed to work on," Max said.

Eydelman credits his parents with making sure Max got plenty of rated game experience.

"His dad and mom, they travelled with him," Eydelman said. "They took him to different events, the Marshall Chess Club, local tournaments."

Indeed, records show Max has played an average of about one chess event per week, mostly in Connecticut and New York but also at tournaments in Florida, Tennessee, the United Arab Emirates and Canada.

Eydelman said the exposure that such travel afforded Lu to other players, particularly those from European countries where chess is embedded deep within the nation's culture, helped improve his game.

"It helps usually when you play with European players," Eydelman said. "European players play really well."

"Even the kids, they are—like me, I'm originally from Russia—if you play Russian kids or Ukrainian kids, even from the Middle East, they are very strong," Eydelman said. "They come home from school, they just play and study. No video games for them."

Max doesn't go overboard with his chess studies.

"I study about 45 minutes to an hour, depending on how much homework I have," Max said of his daily routine.

Before a tournament, he will study between one and two hours. And on weekends.

"I think what I'm doing now, it's fine," Max said of his chess study regimen.

He watches videos from the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis. He is a big fan of the videos that feature GM Maurice Ashley.

"He sort of makes the videos like a sports game," Max said.

In terms of books, Max reads *Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors*.

"I think there's a lot of interesting games in it," Max said. "I also like the history of it."

Max owns about 20 chess books. He checks out any number of others from the library.

His favorite chess engine is *stockfish.org* "because it's free." He also uses the *tallchess.com* app. But he doesn't place an inordinate amount of trust in computers.

"Sometimes computers are wrong, too," Max says. "Computers have limitations."

Max said GM Hikaru Nakamura is one of his

favorite contemporary players. "I like watching his rapid games," Max said of Nakamura.

"I like his game against Rybka with six bishops," Max says of the 2008 three-minute blitz game that Nakamura played against the chess engine and promoted to six bishops.

Among historical figures, Max counts Fischer and Kasparov among his favorites.

"I like Fischer because I like his attacking style play," Max said. "And also Kasparov because he understood all parts of the game."

When Max trekked to Greece this past fall to compete in the World Youth & Cadets Championship, he used the opportunity for more than just chess.

"I got to play pingpong and practice my Spanish with members of the Spanish team," Max recalled.

Max is critical of the games he played in Greece.

"Some of them were not the best games," he said. "Most of them were boring."

Below, Max annotates his favorite effort from the World Youth Championship.

## MAX IN GREECE

Nico Chasin (FIDE 1513, USA)  
CM Max Lu (FIDE 1844, USA)  
FIDE World Youth - Cadets  
Chess Championships - open  
U10 (8), Porto Carras - Halkidiki,  
11.02.2015



BLACK TO MOVE

7. ... Qb6 8. Rb1 Bd7 9. Be3 e6  
10. 0-0 Bd6 11. h3 0-0 12. b4  
Qc7 13. b5 Nb4 14. bxa6 bxa6  
15. Qd2 Nxd3 16. cxd3

White unexpectedly compromises his pawn structure, so he must want to open an extra file for his other rook.

16. ... Rab8 17. Rxb8 Rxb8 18.  
Rc1 Ba3 19. Bf4 Bxc1 20. Nxc1

Here 20. ... Bxc7 also came into consideration for White.

20. ... Qb6 21. Bxb8 Qxb8 22.  
Nb3

To try to get to c5 and attack a6.

22. ... Qb4 23. Nd1 Qxd2 24.  
Nxd2

This game demonstrates the imbalances between the bishop and the knight.

24. ... Kf8 25. Kf1

(see diagram next column)

We are both getting our kings ready for the long struggle in the center as the king is a very important



tant piece in the endgame.

25. ... Ke7 26. Ke2 Ne8

This may not be the best move, but it's still an interesting move possibly wanting to play ... f7-f6 and ... e6-e5 or maybe trying to bring the knight to f5 or b5. I played this move because I think it's flexible.

27. Nb3 Kd6 28. Kd2 Kc6

Wanting to go to b6 in case of Nc5 and trading off knights with ... Nd6-b7.

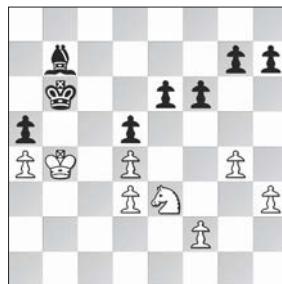
29. Nc5

Executing his plan of going to c5 to pressure a6 and making my bishop temporarily passive.

29. ... Bc8 30... Kc3 Nd6 31. a4

Stopping ... Nb5+.

31. ... f6 32. Ne3 Kb6 33. g4  
Nb7 34. Nxb7 Bxb7 35. Kb4  
a5+



This check is very important for

a couple reasons. Number one is that it fixes the weakness on a4 forever. Now a4 has become a target for my bishop and one of the white pieces will be stuck babysitting it. Secondly, it opens up a6 for my bishop to attack d3. Thirdly, if White gets to play a4-a5 then a6 becomes a target to Nc5.

36. Kb3 Kc6

Rushing to the center to play ... e6-e5.

37. f4 Kd6 38. Kc3 Bc6

Keeping the king close to the a4-pawn.

39. Kb3 g6

Preventing Nf5(+) after ... e6-e5.

40. Ka3 e5 41. fxe5+ fxe5 42.  
Nc2 Bb7 43. Kb3 exd4 44.  
Nxd4 Ke5 45. Kc3 Kf4 46.  
Ne6+ Ke3 47. Nd4

Basically a repetition, but with my king on e3.

47. ... h6 48. g5

This is desperation. Almost anything else was better. (48. Nb3 Bc6 49. Nxa5 Bxa4 50. Kb4 Bc2 51. Kc5 d4 52. Nc4+ Kxd3 53. Nd6 Ba4 54. Kb4 Bd1).

48. ... hgx5 49. Ne6 Bc6

Now that the position has opened up a bit, the bishop has gotten a lot better and is better than the knight.

50. Nxe5 Bxa4

Now Black is just up a pawn for nothing.

51. Ne6 Bd7 52. Nc7 Bc6

I rejected 52. ... d4+ because I underestimated the power of the passed pawn. (52. ... d4+ 53. Kc4 Bxh3 54. Nd5+ Kd2 55. Kxd4 Bf5

56. Ne7 Bxd3 57. Nxg6 a4! 58. Ne5 a3 59. Nxd3 a2 60. Nc5 Kc2!).

53. Ne6 Bb5 54. d4 Kf3 55.  
Ng5+ Kf4 56. Ne6+ Kf5

The dance with the knight doesn't stop my plans.

57. Nc7 Bc6 58. Na6 Kg5

Trying to gain some time.

59. Nc5 Kh4 60. Ne6

Another knight dance. I can't take h3 because of Nf4+ and the reduction of material on the board the harder it is to win.

60. ... g5 61. Kb2

Moving the king away from the d4- and h3- pawns is certainly not right, but White is tied up anyway.

61. ... Bd7 62. Nc7 Bc6 63. Ne6 Kh5

Trying to trap the knight in enemy territory and also protect d5 to leave my bishop free to target h3.

64. Nc7 Kg6 65. Kc3 Kf6 66.  
Kd3 Ke7

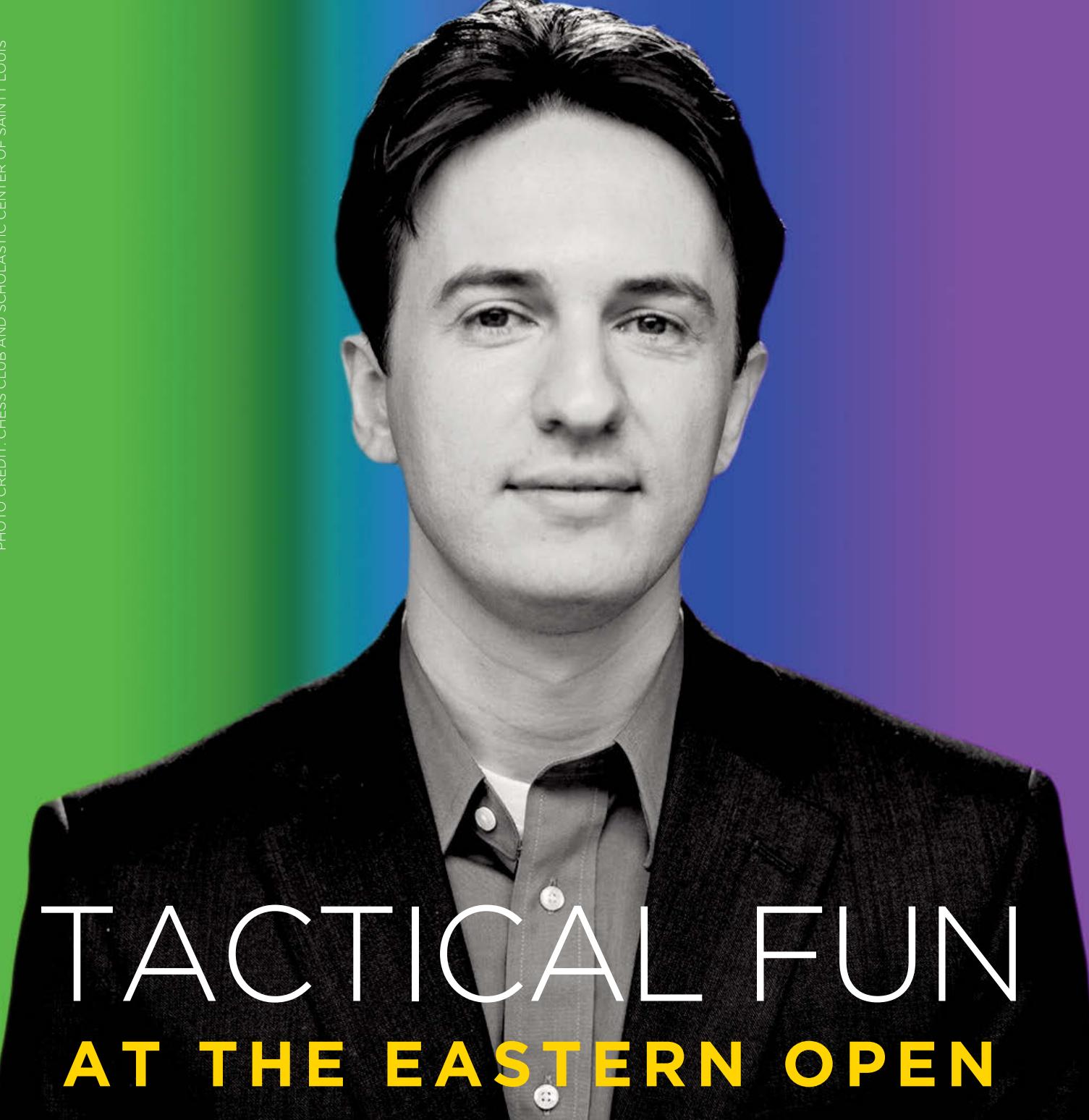
Mission accomplished.

67. Kc3 Kd6, White resigned.

Given his remarkable maturity, it only seemed fitting to ask Max the question that just about every kid gets asked from time to time—the one about what the child wants to "be" when he or she grows up.

The answer he gave shows that—just as he did when he first started playing chess several years ago—he still has an affinity for animals.

"Maybe I want to take care of animals," Max said. "I'm not sure." ♟



# TACTICAL FUN AT THE EASTERN OPEN

The 42nd Eastern Open featured 160 players with **GM Sergey Erenburg** (pictured above) winning by a full point over GM Alexander Shabalov. Here are a selection of tactical highlights from the Bethesda, Maryland event held just after Christmas. *By TOM BECKMAN*

**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

Peter Giannatos (2263)

Tom Beckman (2059)

42nd Annual Eastern Open, Open section (1), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.26.2015

I'm sure Peter wasn't too happy with this pairing since I also beat him last year in the first round.

This is my best moment from the Eastern Open. After 22. Ne2?, Black realizes his superiority on the kingside:



WHITE TO PLAY

**22. Ne2?**

In retrospect, White needs to guard f2 and f3 better with 22. Qe2 Qa5, although Black is much better.

**22. ... Rxf2+!!**

Also winning is 22. ... Bxf2+!! and now either: 23. Kh1 Be3 24. Bd4 Bxd4 or 23. Rxf2 Rxf2+ 24. Kxg2 Nh4+ 25. Kh1 Qxf2.

**23. Kxg2 Nh4+ 24. Kg3?**

White misses a fascinating defense with 24. Kh1! Nf3 25. Rg1! (not 25. Qc3 d4) 25. ... Nxe5 26. Rxf7+! Kxf7 27. Qg5+ Ng6 28. Bxg6 Qd8! although Black should still win.

**24. ... Bxf2+ 25. Kg4 Nf3?!**

Even better is 25. ... h5+ 26. Kxh5 Nf3 27. Qc3 Rf5+! 28. Bxf5 exf5 and mate in four.

**26. Qc3 Bxe1 27. Rxe1 Qf2! 28. Bxh7+**

Or 28. Bg3 h5+ 29. Kxh5 Be8+ 30. Bg6 Qg2 31. Kg4 Bxg6 32. Nf4 Bf5+ with mate in five.

**28. ... Kxh7 29. Qd3+ g6 30. Bg3 Nxe1, White resigned.**

An opening round upset finished with a nice sacrifice.

**SHABA GIFTS A PAWN?**

GM Alex Shabalov (2622)

Andrew Zheng (2279)

42nd Annual Eastern Open, Open section (2), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.27.2015

**(see diagram top of next column)**

After 20. Qd4, should Black take the b2-



AFTER 20. Qd4

pawn, or play more solidly? Put another way, would Shaba really gift a pawn?

No! Apparently Zheng believed it so and played 20. ... Nxb2? 21. Bh6! Nxd1 22. Ncd5 Qd8 23. Nxe7+ Qxe7 24. Bg5 a5? (However, here Black has the fine resource 24. ... Ne3! 25. Bxf6 Qxf6 26. Qxf6 Nxf1 with some chances to survive. Although 27. Qf4 or 27. Qg5 makes it difficult on Black.) 25. Bxf6 Qc7 26. Qd2, Black resigned.

**A MOVE ONLY A COMPUTER COULD LOVE**

IM Oladapo Adu (2318)

Tom Beckman (2059)

42nd Annual Eastern Open, Open section (2), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.27.2015



AFTER 21. Nd4

On the way to being crushed, the computer uncovered a fine resource for Black that might hold.

I played 21. ... Rh5? (Trying to mix things up, but perhaps Black shouldn't. This helps the white queen escape. We both overlooked the amazing positional sacrifice 21. ... Rf4!! 22. gxf4 Nxd4 23. f5 Nxf5 24. Qf4 Bh6 25. Qf3 Nh4 with some chances to save the game.) 22. Qg4 and White won.

**COULD YOU PLEASE SPELL YOUR FIRST NAME AGAIN?**

Paul Yavari (2032)

Dang Minh Nguyen (1986)

42nd Annual Eastern Open, Under 2200 section (4), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.28.2015



AFTER 28. ... d5

With six Nguyen's playing in the tournament coming from only two different families, it got a bit confusing!

Paul loves to attack and his opponent has just played 28. ... d5.

How should he continue? Maybe open up the position?

**29. e5!**

Slightly fooled you? Paul's comment: "At the expense of a pawn, I get the e-file for both rooks, the bishop at b7 is dulled, and will be buried if the pawn at e5 is not accepted and rolls on to e6."

**29. ... Qxe5 30. Re2 Qf6 31. Re6 Qf7 32. Rxe1?**

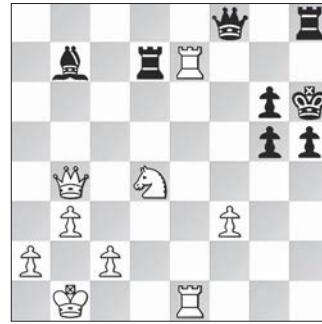
But now White should have continued with 32. Nf5+! Kg8 33. Nxh6+ Rxh6 34. Rxh6 d4 35. Rxe6+.

**FINISH WITH A FLOURISH**

Paul Yavari (2032)

Dang Minh Nguyen (1986)

42nd Annual Eastern Open, Under 2200 section (4), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.28.2015



AFTER 36. ... Qf8

OK, now for an easy one following from the previous game position!

After 36. Re7, Black responded with 36. ... Qf7-f8, pinning the rook.

How did Paul finish the game?

**37. Rxd7! Qxb4 38. Nf5+! gxf5 39. Re6 mate.**

**(see next game, next page)**



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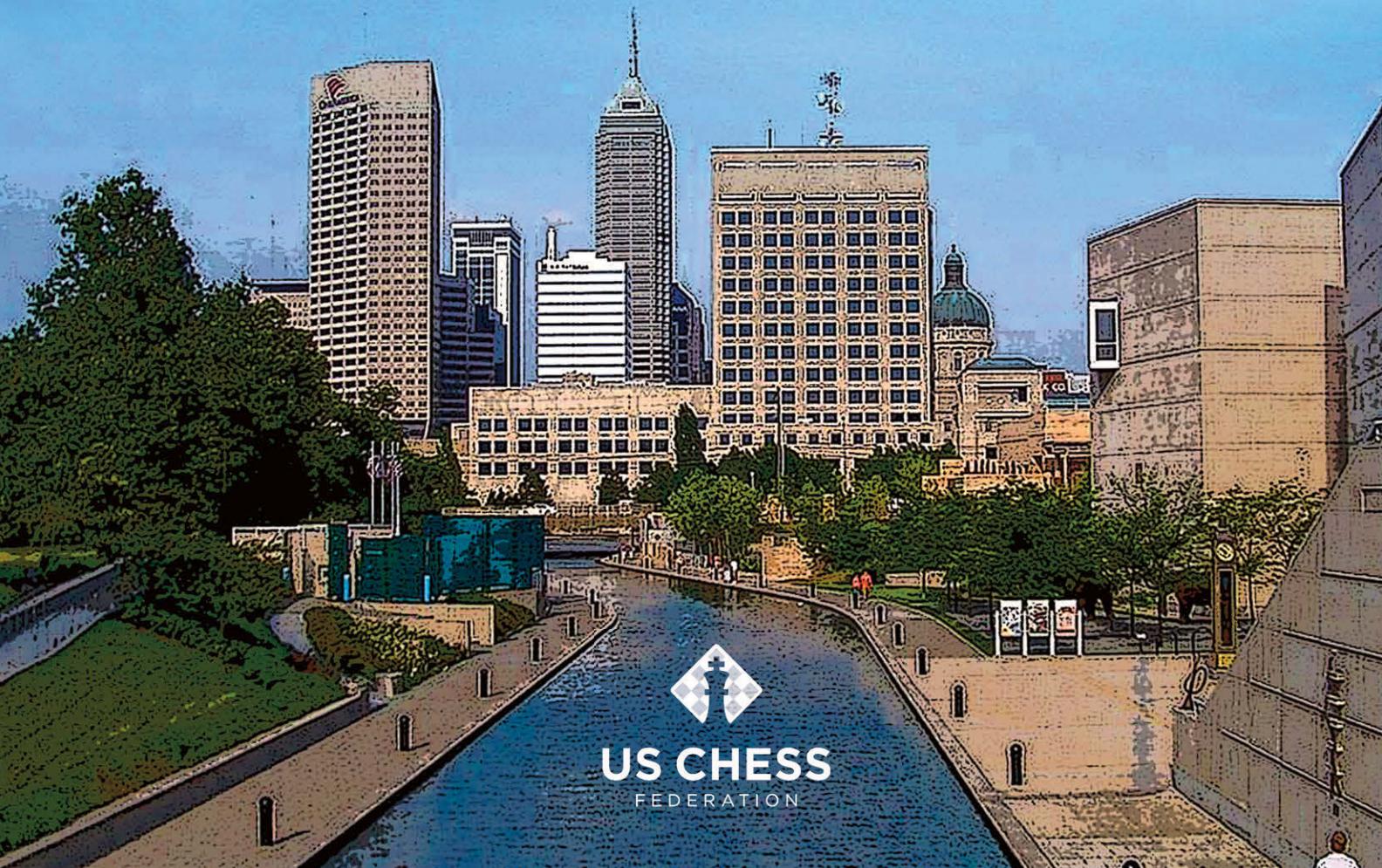
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## BIG GUNS VERSUS KING IN THE CENTER:

Ernest Colding (2200)  
Tan D. Nguyen (2035)  
42nd Annual Eastern Open, Open section (4), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.28.2015



AFTER 16... Qb8

After obtaining a great position against Tan Nguyen's Modern Defense, Ernest finds a great way to decide the game.

And now there are two ways to win:

- 1) Simplest is **17. Bxd7+! Kf8** (if 17... Kxd7 18. Nb6+ Nxb6 19. Qb5+ Bc6 20. Qxc6 mate) **18. Qd2 h6 19. Bf4 Kg8 20. Bxc8 Qxc8 21. Nxd6.**
- 2) The game went **17. Nfe5! dxe5 18. Bxd7+ Kf8 19. Qf3** (19. d5? was played in the game and Colding eventually won) **19... Kg8 20. dxe5 Ba6 21. Be8** (or 21. Bxc8) **21... Ra7 22. Nxa5 Qxe5 23. Be3 Nd6** (or 23. ... Qxa5 24. Bxa7) **24. Nc6 Qf6 25. Qxf6** is much more complicated.

## JUST ANOTHER BORING ENDGAME?:

Daniel Lowinger (2226)  
Andy Samuelson (2295)  
42nd Annual Eastern Open, Open section (4), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.28.2015



AFTER 33. Rg7

Andy has played a fine game until here and now finishes with some tactics.

Daniel has just played **33. Rg7** although **33. Reh1** would have been the lesser evil.

Black's knight is much better than White's big pawn. What are Black's potential threats in this position?

**33. ... Rh3! 34. Rxg5?**

Desperate, but after the better 34. Re2 a5 35. Kb2 Nd3+ 36. Ka3 Rb8! 37. Rxf7 Ne5 38. Rxe5 (else 38. ... Nc4+ and 39. ... Rb4 mate), Black still wins.

**34. ... a5 35. Rc1**

No better is 35. Rh5 Rg3.

**35. ... a4 36. Rxc5 dxc5 37. Kxa4 f6**

Or 37. ... Kd6.

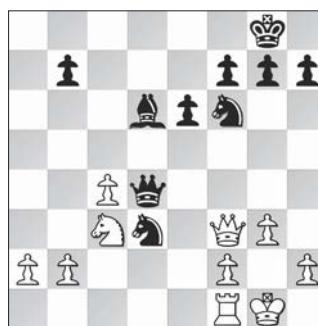
**38. Rg7 Kd6 39. Rg6**

The white rook and bishop make a sorry pair!

**39. ... Ra8+ 40. Kb5 Rb8+ 41. Ka4 c4 42. Bxc4 Kc5, White resigned.**

## IT'S JUST MOP UP, RIGHT?:

GM Sergey Erenburg (2654)  
IM Raymond Kaufman (2337)  
42nd Annual Eastern Open, Open section (5), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.28.2015  
Notes by Erenburg and Beckman.



AFTER 24... Qd4

So what are the candidate moves, here?

**25. Rd1; 25. Nb5; 25. Qxb7; 25. Ne2**

White must be vigilant to the bitter end:

- 1) **25. Nb5!, Black resigned** in view of the following variation 25. ... Qe4 (or 25. ... Qxb2 26. Nxd6) 26. Qxe4 Nxe4 27. Nxd6 Nxd6 28. Rd1.
- 2) But not **25. Rd1?!** Ng4!! with the idea 26. Rxd3 Ne5 winning. Better is 26. Nb5 Qxf2+ (26. ... Qxb2 27. Nxd6 Nde5 28. Qf4 Qe2 29. Rf1 Nxh2 30. Kxh2 Qxf1 31. Qxe5 Qxf2+ 32. Kh3 Qf1+ with a perpetual with equal chances) 27. Qxf2 Ngxf2 28. Rxd3 Nxd3 29. Nxd6 Nxb2 with equal chances.
- 3) 25. Qxb7? Bc5 (less impressive is 25. ... Bb4 26. a3.) 26. Na4 (neither 26. Ne2 Qe5 nor 26. Qb8+ Bf8 help much.) 26. ... Bf8 27. Qf3 Nxb2 when Black has the edge.
- 4) 25. Ne2? Qxc4 26. Qxb7 h6 and Black is better.

(see next game, top of next column)

## IN THE FOOTNOTES:

GM Alexander Shabalov (2622)

GM Sergey Erenburg (2654)

42nd Annual Eastern Open, Open section (4), Bethesda, Maryland, 12.28.2015  
Notes by Erenburg.



AFTER 21. Qf1

White has just played **21. Qf1** although **21. Qe3** would have been stronger.

How did Black respond?

After **21... Qd5!** the tables have been turned on White.

But what happens after **22. Bxf6 gxf6 23. Ng4?** Isn't Black in trouble?



AFTER 23. Ng4?

Black has the beautiful **23. ... Kh8!! 24. Nxf6** (Another try is 24. Bb5 Bxb5 25. axb5 Rfd8 26. Rad3 Qe4 but leaves Black in command.) **24. ... Nf3+!!** (Winning but less elegant is 24. ... Qd8! 25. Ne4 [not 25. Nxf7? Nf3+! 26. gxf3 Qxh4] 25. ... Qxh4 winning.) **25. gxf3** (if 25. Kh1 Qe5! 26. Ng4 Qh5! wins) **25. ... Qxf3 26. Be4 Qxf6 27. Bxc6 bxc6** with a big advantage to Black.♦



# TEXAS TECH COMEBACK

TTU's Rebuilt Program Wins PanAms;  
UT-RGV, Webster and Columbia Join Final Four

By AL LAWRENCE

In 2012, the Texas Tech (TTU) Knight Raiders were coming off back-to-back Final Four victories under the direction of GM Susan Polgar after a five-year university investment in scholarships and coaching salaries. Then Polgar, along with every grandmaster (GM) on the team except Iranian champ Elshan Moradiabadi, headed out of town and into Webster University team jackets. The suburban St. Louis campus had imported a championship team readymade.

Texas Tech started over. This writer made the 2,000-mile trek from New York to Lubbock and stayed three years to serve as program director. In the key staffing move, former U.S. Champion GM Alex Onischuk signed on as coach. Three years after his teammates' defection, the genteel Moradiabadi, now studying for his Ph.D., played board two for the Knight Raiders A-team as they won their first-ever Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship, going undefeated in Cleveland, scoring 5-1 despite a grueling gauntlet of top opponents.

Three other schools lost out on tiebreak points but matched that score and so can claim the title of co-champions. Placing second through fourth, in order, were the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley-A (UT-RGV-A), Webster University-B, and Columbia-A. The teams need letters because universities can enter as many squads as they can muster. (See "B Equals A," page 39.) These top finishers will move on to the Final Four playoff, sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton and Two Sigma, in April at the

Marshall Chess Club in New York City.

University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, a new name in college chess, is a consolidation of UT-Pan American and UT-Brownsville (UT-B). "I thought we wouldn't make it," Head Coach GM Bartek Macieja said. After sitting on the tarmac three hours in Brownsville, the flight to Dallas was scratched due to tornadoes. Bartek managed to get tickets to Houston, a seven-hour drive. No rental vans were available. Buses to Houston were booked solid. The team nervously watched two buses come and go without cancellations. At the last chance, five seats opened up. Bartek drove the three remaining team members the seven windy hours to Houston to make the connection, getting everyone to Cleveland just in time on Sunday night. "I think the travel problems motivated us even more," Bartek said. Whatever made them find the right moves, Cleveland was a powerful debut for the newly branded program. Progenitor UT-B had never managed a PanAms co-championship.

Despite a surplus of such hardship travalogues, all 42 pre-registered college teams from 27 colleges punched their clocks on time to start the strongest-ever PanAms. More than one-third of the 185 entries were titled players, including 25 grandmasters, four women grandmasters, a dozen international masters, and more than 30 other masters. At the beginning, six top teams—two each from Webster and UT-Dallas, plus one each from Texas Tech and UT-RGV—definitely looked to be the shark tank, stocked with GMs.

*"While we receive a generous allocation each year from Columbia, it does not come close to resembling that of our powerhouse colleagues. Playing against teams of grandmasters gives us ... a great deal of motivation."*

—COLUMBIA'S JONATHAN PAGAN



**The Knight Raider A-team members on hearing they had won Texas Tech's first-ever Intercollegiate Pan-American Team Chess Championship. From left, IM Andriy Gorovets (board four), GM Andriy Baryshpolets (board three), Head Coach GM Alex Onischuk, GM Yaro Zherebukh (board one), and GM Elshan Moradiabadi (board two).**

## DARK HORSE WITH A LONG TRADITION

Collegiate team chess goes back to the 1890s, and Columbia University was then dominant. Near the turn of the century, even José Raúl Capablanca played first board for Columbia. The PanAms have been held regularly since 1946, and Columbia has won five times, but not since 1984, a decade before the days of big scholarship programs. Led this year by FMs Arthur Shen and Kyron Griffith, who earned "best board two" recognition, the Lions lost only to Webster-B in round three. Escaping a matchup with another powerhouse, the 2340-rated team went 5-1. "The entire team was ecstatic," Expert Jonathan Pagan, board two of Columbia's B-team said. "The previous two years, we were close to qualifying but faltered in the critical rounds. We owe a lot of our success to Kyron Griffith's performance on board two, including the last round win that earned us the Final Four berth." (See Games.) "While we receive a generous allocation each year from Columbia, it does not come close to resembling that of our powerhouse colleagues. Playing against teams of grandmasters gives us ... a great deal of motivation."

Some of the biggest news concerned super-teams that did *not* make the Final Four cut in Cleveland: UT-Dallas, a deep-bench program whose top two teams include seven grandmasters and three international masters, has won the PanAms 10 times. But in rounds four and five, its A-team suffered back-to-back losses to UT-RGV-A and Webster-B. UTD-Dallas-B kept hope smoldering until its final-round 3-1 rout by Texas Tech. Another 10-time PanAms winner, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, is the only team that had qualified for the Final Four every year since the event's founding in 2001. UMBC's Alan Sherman is the pioneer of college scholarship chess teams. His program offers four Pepsi-sponsored full scholarships. But this year, the best UMBC could do was a 1900-player on board four. "With only

three strong players on our team this year ... it was a difficult uphill battle. Recruiting has become more challenging now that at least six schools are offering major chess scholarships." (See "Scholarship Bigamy," page 40.)

## B EQUALS A

The most surprising also-ran was prohibitive favorite Webster-A, a team with an average rating of 2747—distancing anyone else by nearly 100 points. Its third-round loss to UTD-B and a fifth-round draw with Texas Tech-A left the nation's premier college squad out of the winner's circle. Regardless, the very same top four who played for Webster's A-team will go to the Final Four, augmented with some additional GMs, according to a comment online to the *Webster University Journal* by team coach and publicist Paul Truong. Although Webster's B-team secured the spot, the current rules permit a university to field whatever team they want at the playoffs. And there are no limits to the number of teams a university can enter. Some argue for limiting universities to one GM team. Columbia's Shen, although not a member of a scholarship powerhouse, disagrees. "If grandmasters are going to college, they should be able to play."

While we're on the subject of rules that may surprise—at the Final Four it's possible to beat every other team in head-to-head matches and still not win the championship. That's because game points, not match points, count at the playoffs. Imagine Major League Baseball using total runs to determine the winner of the World Series. Or don't.

## THE BILLIKEN IN THE ROOM

The "Billiken," a gnome-like, fanciful creation of Kansas City Artist Florence Pretz, was the Yoda doll of 1908. Somehow, and no one really

knows why, the pot-bellied caricature became the mascot of St. Louis University (SLU). Fans of Division I college basketball know about the Billikens. Now there's word of an SLU squad who likely can't dunk coming to the Gateway City in time for a trip to next year's PanAms—the Chess Billikens. Six months ago, SLU hired Grandmaster Alejandro Ramirez as coach. Many know him as a commentator for Internet broadcasts from the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL), a project of multimillionaire chess philanthropist Rex Sinquefield. SLU is Rex's alma mater. "It's been a joint project between SLU and the CCSCSL," Ramirez said. "It was Rex's idea, but the University immediately loved it." Ramirez has been busy recruiting talent from around the world.

A new sponsored college team springing up so quickly is big news in college chess. "The more chess scholarships, the better," as Ramirez put it, a sentiment that's widely echoed. But a munificently backed squad challenges the dominance of existing scholarship programs. Rumors of big sums being offered to top GMs caused some at the US Chess college committee meeting in Cleveland to seek rules limiting the lucre. But Ramirez, a former UT-Dallas scholarship player, brushes aside the scuttlebutt with a laugh. "Like UT-Dallas, we're giving a small stipend as well as college expenses—but [that stipend is] nowhere near the tens and even hundreds of thousands of dollars rumored." Indeed, his biggest challenge has been recruiting. "There's a limited pool of players" who qualify and want to come to the U.S. for college, "and lots of competition."

## SCHOLARSHIP BIGAMY

The tug-of-war for the rare college-age international chess star who wants to study in the U.S.—and who can meet an American university's English-language and admission requirements and pass bureaucratic scrutiny for a student visa—creates a seller's market. Paid-for plane trips from Europe, campus tours, dinners, and gift iPads can all come to nothing when the prospect winds up signing with another school offering even more.

With the top schools recruiting hard for April's Final Four and future PanAms, one student signed with two different scholarship programs to begin school in January 2015. Each school had only one slot left in its budgeted lineup and counted on the new player to complete its team.

The double-booking came to light over a lunch between college officials at the PanAms, when one diner shared information about a new recruit, freezing his partner's fork in front of his surprised expression. On December 31, just days before his expected arrival, the student finally sent a letter of regret to one school's director. This letter turned out evidently to be a relative courtesy, since it was two weeks later when the student sent the same kind of letter to the second school, revealing that he had chosen yet a third, unnamed university in St. Louis for a better offer. So make that "trigamy."

The PanAms is about more than big programs and titles vying for four top spots. Average team US Chess ratings ranged all the way from Webster A's 2747 to Lindenwood B's 1322, and no one was blanked in the six-round Swiss. The PanAms Championship offer six top overall prizes (Webster-A and UTD-B placed fifth and sixth in Cleveland), as well as Division II (Columbia-B), III (Texas Tech-C), IV (Illinois-C), and V (UMBC-B) honors. Trophies also go to the top community college (Miami Dade), top women's team (Webster), top international team (Toronto), and there's even more hardware. (See [www.buckeyecheess.com](http://www.buckeyecheess.com) for a complete list of winners.) All the awards become meaningful recognition back on campuses, incentives to back chess.

The PanAms is held under the auspices of US Chess and is partially sponsored by the U.S. Chess Trust. This year's chief organizer, Constantine Ananiadis of Oberlin College, was a star college tennis player and a conference-coach-of-the-year. He also makes time to volunteer as faculty advisor to the chess club. "It was an honor to bring back the event to Cleveland after 57 years," he said. "It's great for Ohio chess and terrific for Oberlin College." The conditions he and his college organized—a spacious playing area, a spectator room featuring a four-screen broadcast of the top boards, plus a roomy skittles area and an Internet broadcast—could easily have served as a U.S. Championship venue. Chief Director NTD Joe Yun, NTD Boyd Reed and STD Kelly Bloomfield showed smooth professionalism.

Ananiadis' Oberlin took home the best small college trophy for the third year in a row—which Constantine, then board-one player, helped to win for Florida's Stetson University 20 years ago in both 1994 and 1995.

Comebacks are possible everywhere—not just in Texas.

## TOP TEAM SHOOTOUT

When your board four has played in the U.S. Championship, you know you have a strong team. Webster-A, with 4 points and GM Ray Robson as its last board, and Texas Tech-A, with 4½, met in round five on Tuesday night.

### GRÜNFELD DEFENSE (D80)

IM Andriy Gorovets (2624), Texas Tech-A  
GM Ray Robson (2743), Webster-A  
2015 PanAmerican Intercollegiate (5),  
Cleveland, Ohio

*Comments by Robson.*

This was a very important match for our team, as after losing to UTD-B we couldn't afford to drop any more points.

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Bg5 Bg7  
5. Bxf6 Bxf6 6. cxd5 c5**

Although Black sacrifices another pawn, he will get it back and have good compensation

due to the two bishops in an open position.

**7. dxc5 Nd7 8. e3**

8. c6 Nc5 9. e3 bxc6 10. dxc6 Qa5 11. Rc1 Bf5, and Black's initiative outweighs the deficit.

**8. ... Qa5 9. Rc1 0-0 10. Nf3 Nxc5 11. Qd2 Rd8 12. Nd4**

The continuation 12. Be2 Bg4 gives Black good compensation because 0-0 always allows ... Na4.

**12. ... e6**

Now I expected 13. Be2 exd5, with equality. However, my opponent played a more ambitious move, perhaps overlooking a tactical trick.

**13. Bc4?!**

13. Rb1 Na6!, Black is equal. If 13. dxe6, ... Nxe6, regaining the pawn with the initiative.

**13. ... exd5 14. Nxd5**



**14. ... Nd3+!**

This is probably what my opponent missed.

**15. Bxd3 Qxd5 16. 0-0 Bxd4 17. exd4**

The try 17. Bc4? would have led to a forced sequence of moves: 17. ... Qg5 18. f4 Bg7 (the best square because it controls f8) 19. fxe5 Rxd2 20. Rxf7 Kh8, and Black is up a piece.



UT-RGV chess squad (bottom row:) GM Bartek Macieja (coach), IM Felix Ynojosa, Mkhitar Hobosyan, Senior Program Coordinator IM Alfonso Almeida; (middle row:) GM Anton Kovalyov, GM Holden Hernandez, Armando Cortez, IM Joshua Ruiz; (top row:) GM Andriy Stukopin, Jeffrey Serna, Simon Vasquez III, IM Guillermo Vazquez

### 17. ... Qxd4 18. Rfd1?

I had seen a much stronger defense here, namely 18. Qc2!. The bishop on d3 is immune to capture due to Rfd1 followed by taking my rook on d8 with check. However, after 18. ... Be6, White is still not out of the woods. The threat of capturing on d3 is renewed, as well as the new ideas of ... Rac8 or even taking on a2. The only move then is 19. Rcd1! Now, due to the threat of Bxg6, I don't have time to do anything but move my queen. After something like 19. ... Qb4 20. b3 Rac8, Black still has some pressure, but White's position is sound.

### 18. ... Bf5 19. Rc3 Rd6 20. Qc1?

The line 20. h3 Rad8 21. Qe2 was the last chance, after which I thought that even the simple 21. ... Bxd3 22. Rcx3 Qxd3 23. Rxd3 Rxd3 would give me good chances to win.

### 20. ... Rad8 21. h3

Immediately fatal is 21. Be2 Qxd1+ 22. Bxd1 Rxd1+.

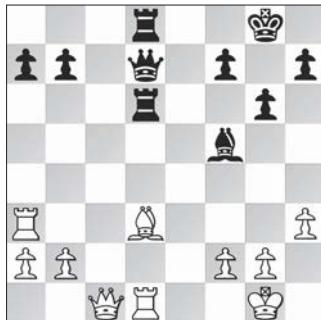
### 21. ... Qa4!

After this strong move, White still can't escape the pin on the d-file, and in the meantime Black can grab material.

### 22. Ra3

22. b3 Qxa2 wouldn't help much.

### 22. ... Qd7, White resigned.



### EVENING UP THE SCORE

An hour later on the next board up, Texas Tech's GM Baryshpolets played a beautiful attack as Black to tie the match.

### RUY LOPEZ, BERLIN DEFENSE (C67)

GM Vasif Durarbayli (2710), Webster-A GM Andriy Baryshpolets (2631), Texas Tech-A  
2015 PanAmerican Intercollegiate (5), Cleveland, Ohio  
Comments by Baryshpolets.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. O-O Nxe4 5. Re1 Nd6 6. Nxe5 Be7 7. Bf1 Nxe5 8. Rxe5 O-O 9. d4 Bf6 10. Re1 Nf5 11. d5 Re8 12. Nd2 Rxe1 13. Qxe1 d6 14. Ne4 Bd4 15. c3 Bb6 16. Bf4 Bd7 17. Bd3 Ne7 18. c4 Ng6 19. Bg5 Qf8 20. Qc3 f5 21. Nd2 Ne5 22. Bf4 Re8 23. b4 Qf6 24. Bxe5 Rxe5 25. Qc1 c5 26. Nf3 Re8 27. a3 f4 28. h3 g5 29. Rb1 h5 30. bxc5 Bxc5 31. Rxb7



### 31. ... g4!

It is the crucial moment for Black's attack, after which White's position collapses. Black has no time for 31. ... Bc8, which runs into 32. Qb2! Qxb2 33. Rxb2 g4 34. Bg6!.

### 32. Rxd7



Webster's B-team secured a spot in the Final Four for its higher-rated teammates by finishing third. (left to right:) GM Alex Shimanov (board one), GM Ashwin Jayaram (board two), GM Denes Boros (board four), and GM Fidel Corrales (board three), with Chief Organizer Constantine Ananiadis.



Columbia University's A-team won fourth place. (left to right:) Aaron Jacobson, FM Arthur Shen, FM Kyron Griffith and Alexander Fabbri. Columbia will play in its first-ever Final Four April 2-3 at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City, an event co-sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton and Two Sigma.

There's no help from 32. Nd2 Bxf2+! 33. Kxf2 Qd4+, with mate in 10. [One sample line: 34. Kf1 Qxd3+ 35. Kg1 Qe3+ 36. Kh1 Qe1+, and if 37. Qxe1 Rx e1+ 38. Kh2 g3 mate—AL].

**32. ... gxf3 33. Qc2**

On 33. Qf1 I was planning to play 33. ... Qc3 (The followup 33. ... Qg5 is even stronger, with the idea ... Re1) 34. Bh7+ Kf8 35. Kh2 Re1 36. Qd3 Qxd3 37. Bxd3 Re2! 38. gxf3 Rxf2+ 39. Kh1 Rxf3, ending up in an easily winning endgame. Or 33. Qb1 Bxf2+! 34. Kxf2 Qh4+ 35. Kf1 fxg2+ 36. Kxg2 Qg3+ 37. Kf1 Qxh3+ 38. Kg1 Qxd7 when Black has won the Exchange and a pawn..

**33. ... Re1+ 34. Bf1**



**34. ... Rxf1+! 35. Kh2**

No better is 35. Kxf1 Qa1+.

**35. ... fxg2 36. Qh7+ Kf8 37. Rd8+ Qxd8  
38. Qh8+ Ke7, White resigned.**

## TEXAS TECH'S BIG FINISH

After a draw by Moradiabadi and a brilliant save by TTU's board one Yaro Zherebukh, Webster-A was another half-point down, and Texas Tech was 5-1 going into round six. "All" that was left for Tech was to win the final round against UT-Dallas-B, a leader with 4½. "Yaro Z" contributed elegantly to TTU's 3-1 finish to win the title.

### NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE, RUBINSTEIN VARIATION (E49)

GM Yaro Zherebukh (2699), Texas Tech-A  
GM Valentin Iotov (2562), UTD-B  
2015 PanAmerican Intercollegiate (6),  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Comments by Zherebukh.

I am thrilled to win the PanAms in Cleveland as a Texas Tech team member. Our coach GM Alex Onischuk made it clear we had to win the final match if we wanted to qualify for the Final Four in New York City. Luckily, I played my best game in years.

**1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. a3!**

The "manly" choice. The straightforward and the sharpest attempt to gain the advantage.

4. ... Bxc3+ 5. bxc3 c5 6. e3 Nf6 7. cxd5 exd5 8. Bd3 O-O 9. Ne2 b6 10. O-O Ba6 11. f3

Here I recalled the epic game Botvinnik-Capablanca in 1938 (1-0) and my loss (as Black!) against GM Borki Predojevic in 2009. White's plan is clear: to prepare e3-e4.

11. ... Re8 12. Ng3 Qd7? 13. Bf5!

Now I get to keep the bishop pair plus a flexible center. Combined, these advantages are a deadly weapon!

13. ... Qc7 14. Re1 Nc6



15. Ra2!

A maneuver I remembered from Kramnik-Polgar, 2005.

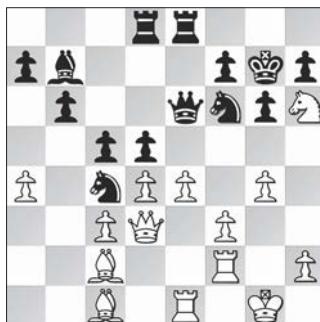
15. ... Rad8 16. Rd2! Na5 17. Bc2 Nc4 18. Rf2 Qd7 19. a4

Since Black has no active plan, White can sit back, relax, improve his position slightly, and watch his teammates playing.

19. ... Bb7 20. Qd3 Qd6 21. Nf5 Qe6 22. g4

It's always a good idea to attack the king if your opponent is in time trouble. Here, Black acquires additional problems in defense.

22. ... g6 23. Nh6+ Kg7 24. e4!



The bishops are on fire!

24. ... cxd4 25. cxd4 dxe4 26. fxe4 Nd6

White wins material after 26. ... Bxe4 27. Qf1.

27. d5 Nxd5

No better is 27. ... Bxd5 28. Bb2 Kxh6 29. Bxf6 Qxg4+ 30. Rg2 Qxg2+ 31. Kxg2 Bxe4+ 32. Rxe4 Rxe4 33. Qh3+ Rh4 34. Qxh4 mate.

28. Rf1 Rd7

Gruesome is 28. ... Qxe4 29. Rxf7+ Nxf7 30. Rxf7+ Kh8 31. Bb2+.

29. exd5 Qxd5 30. Bb2+ Kf8 31. Qxd5 Bxd5 32. Rd2 Be6 33. g5, Black resigned.

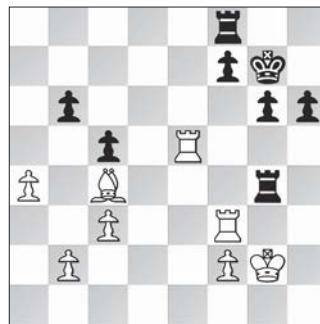


## THIRD PLAYER AT THE BOARD

Luck—often in the form of your opponent's blind spots—is always the third player at the chessboard. In the last round, two schools ranked just below the powerhouse lineups had four points and were paired for a shot at glory. After 42 moves, Nicholas Rosenthal of Lindenwood, another St. Louis college that provides scholarships for chess, had a winning position against FM Kyron Griffith of Columbia University. Rosenthal was in check and had to decide where to put his king. What would you play?

## WHAT WOULD YOU PLAY?

Nicholas Rosenthal (2265), Lindenwood-A  
FM Kyron Griffith (2394), Columbia-A  
2015 PanAmerican Intercollegiate (6),  
Cleveland, Ohio



WHITE TO PLAY

43. Kf1??

Giving away a 3+ advantage! Griffith, who won board two honors, then went on to outplay White and win a Final Four spot for Columbia. Probably on any other day, Rosenthal would have seen that 43. Kh3! kept him a piece ahead, since 43. ... Rxc4 allows 44. b3!, when the rook has no haven. ♦

## At A Glance

## 2015 PanAmerican Intercollegiate

**Date:** December 27-30, 2015 | **Location:** Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio | **185 players** | **Top Finishers:** 1st-4th, 5: Texas Tech - A (GM Yaroslav Zherebukh, GM Elshan Moradiabadi, GM Andriy Baryshpolets, IM Andriy Gorovets); University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - A (GM Anton Kovalyov, GM Andriy Stukopin, GM Holden Hernandez, IM Guillermo Vazquez, IM Fe Ynojosa Aponte); Webster University - B (GM Alex Shimanov, GM Ashwin Jayaram, GM Corrales Jimenez, GM Denes Boros); Columbia University - A (FM Arthur Shen, FM Kyron W. Griffith, Aaron Jacobson, Alexander Fabbri); 5th-6th, 4½: Webster University - A (GM Liem Le, GM Illia I. Nyzhnyk, GM Vasif Durarbayli, GM Ray Robson, Paul M. Truong); University of Texas at Dallas - B (GM Valentin L. Yotov, GM David Berczes, GM Nadezh Kosintseva, IM Zurab Javakhadze, WIM Mariam Danelia); Division I Champion (Team 2200 or above), 4: University of Texas at Dallas - A (GM Gil Popilski, GM Aleksandar Indjic, GM Denis Kadric, GM Dani Raznikov, IM Kacper Drozdowski); Division II Champion (Team 2000 to 2199), 4: Columbia University - B (Jonathan J. Pagan, Xiuwen Sun, Theodore Ja Coyne, Anthony Panat); Division III Champion (Team 1800 to 1999), 3: Texas Tech - C (Olzas Alexandrov, Trey Modlin, Seethara Marreddy, Shane Day Metzler, Umruddin Babayev); Division IV Champion (Team 1600 to 1799), 2½: University of Illinois - C (Mark Waechter, Nathan Beauchamp, Hephestio Bolaris, Krishn Appalaneni); Division V Champion (Team under 1600), 2½: University of Maryland, Baltimore County - B (Abhilash Puranik, Mustapha Diomande, Nathaniel Wong, Jeffrey Mich Carr). | **Chief Tournament Director:** Joseph Yun.

For more information, see <http://buckeyecheess.com/index.html>.

The Pan Am is open to college teams of four players, with up to two alternates, from the same university, college, or community college in North America, Central America, South America, or the Caribbean. Teams play head-to-head matches in a six-round, open Swiss tournament.

# Carlsen In Top Form

## Caruana, Nakamura well back in pack at London Classic

By JOHN SAUNDERS

The final day of the London Classic had the lot—a mind-numbing, eight-hour extravaganza of chess in three different formats, brilliant moves, crazy strategies, outrageous slices of luck—and somehow you just knew that Magnus Carlsen would come through it all to snatch first place in the tournament and in the inaugural Grand Chess Tour. He did so and deserves the plaudits.

Here are the results from the 2015 Grand Chess Tour with the qualifiers for the 2016 Grand Chess Tour:

### 2015 Grand Chess Tour

Top 3 Grand Chess Tour finishers automatically qualify for the 2016 Tour. The remaining six players for 2016 are determined by 2015's average FIDE rating.

**First Place** Magnus Carlsen; **Second Place** Anish Giri; **Third Place** Levon Aronian; **Fourth Place** Maxime Vachier-Lagrave; **Fifth Place** Hikaru Nakamura; **Sixth Place** Veselin Topalov; **Seventh Place** Alexander Grischuk; **Eighth Place** Viswanathan Anand; **Ninth Place** Fabiano Caruana; **Tenth Place** Michael Adams; **Eleventh Place** Jon Hammer; **Twelfth Place** Wesley So.

Here is a titanic, almost-seven-hour game between GM Carlsen and GM Hikaru Nakamura. The Exchange Slav elicited a few groans from the watching spectators, as this opening is right up there with the Berlin Wall when it comes to turgid openings. However, any snap judgements on what sort of game we were about to see proved to be very, very wrong. This was to be Carlsen at his majestic best, against an opponent who struggles against him at classical time controls, but there was a golden opportunity for Nakamura to save himself.

#### SLAV DEFENSE (D11)

GM Magnus Carlsen (FIDE 2834, NOR)  
GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2793, USA)  
London Chess Classic 2015 (7), London, England, 12.11.2015

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 Bg4 5. h3 Bh5 6. cxd5

"Oh no, an Exchange Slav!" most of us must have been thinking when we saw this. But at the same time we've all seen what Magnus can do with a dry as dust position when he's on his game. It's just that he hasn't really been on his game for quite a time now.

6. ... cxd5 7. Nc3 e6 8. g4 Bg6 9. Ne5 Nfd7 10. Nxg6 hxg6 11. Bg2 Nc6 12. e4 dxe4 13. Nxe4 Bb4+ 14. Nc3 Nb6 15. O-O

The continuation 15. ... Nxd4!? 16. Bxb7 Rxh3 is playable but perhaps a little risky for Black.

16. d5 exd5 17. Nxd5 Bc5 18. Nc3 Bd4 19. Qf3 Qf6 20. Qxf6 Bxf6

I expect many people were beginning to write this off as a draw.

21. Bf4 Rad8 22. Rad1 Bxc3

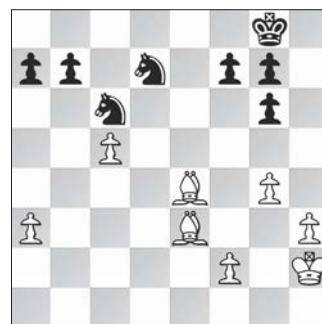
Giving up his remaining bishop for a knight is risky. But only with the benefit of hindsight: on the board at the time, it looked fine.

23. bxc3 Na4 24. c4 Nc3 25. Rd2 Rxd2 26. Bxd2 Ne2+ 27. Kh2 Rd8 28. Be3 Nc3 29. a3 Rd3 30. Rc1 Nd1 31. Be4 Rd7 32. Bc5 Nb2 33. Rc2 Na4 34. Be3 Nb6 35. c5 Nd5 36. Rd2 Nf6 37. Rxd7 Nxd7

(see diagram top of next column)

So there we have the basic tableau for the endgame. Two bishops for two knights is an advantage, but only if there is some vulnerability in the black defenses. If there is, it is not visible here to us lesser mortals.

38. Kg3 Kf8 39. f4 Nf6 40. Bf3 Ke7 41. f5 gxf5 42. gxf5 Kd7 43. Kf4 Ne8 44. Kg5 Ke7 45. Bf4 a6



"Unnecessary." (Carlsen)

46. h4 Kf8 47. Bg3 Nf6 48. Bd6+ Ke8 49. Kf4 Nd7 50. Bg2 Kd8 51. Kg5 Ke8 52. h5

Now the outline of the Carlsen plan is becoming clear: he's going to swap his h-pawn for Black's g-pawn and get his king to g7 to pressure the f7-pawn. But then surely the black knights can defend and also conjure up a few threats themselves? It still doesn't look like a winning plan.

52. ... Nf6 53. h6 Nh7+ 54. Kh5 Nf6+ 55. Kg5 Nh7+

A repetition ... draw?

56. Kh4

Not yet, my friend.

56. ... gxh6 57. Kh5 Nf6+ 58. Kxh6 Ng4+ 59. Kg7 Nd4 60. Be4

Not 60. Bxb7? Nxf5+ 61. Kh7 Nxd6 62. cxd6 Kd7 63. Bxa6 Kxd6 with a simple draw.

60. ... Nf2 61. Bb1

The only move to make progress. He must retain the f-pawn, of course.

61. ... Ng4 62. Bf4 f6

Possibly a mistake. Magnus thought so, anyway. But it was getting very hard to find moves and the agony was writ large on Hikaru's face as he struggled to find a defense.

63. Be4 Nf2 64. Bb1 Ng4 65. Be4 Nf2 66. Bxb7! Nd3!



© Ray Morris-Hill

With his victory in London, World Champion Magnus Carlsen also tops the 2015 Grand Chess Tour.

Hikaru finds the best defense. The alternative line is hopeless: 66. ... Nxf5+ 67. Kxf6 Nd4 68. c6 Nxc6 69. Bxc6+ Kd8 70. Ke6 Nd3 71. Bd6.

#### 67. Kxf6!

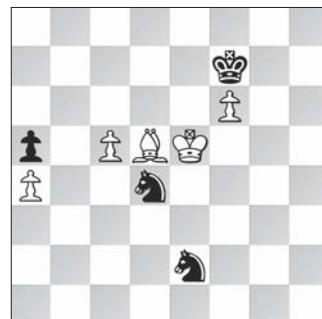
Carlsen turns on the afterburners, with just

two minutes (plus 30 second increments) left to think. He gives up the piece to clear the forward path of the f-pawn and also paralyze the two knights. But he would also have to reckon with a myriad other possibilities.

#### 67. ... Nxf4

67. ... Nxc5 68. Bd5! is very difficult to meet for Black.

**68. Ke5 Nfe2 69. f6 a5 70. a4 Kf7 71. Bd5+**



**71. ... Kf8?**

In the commentary room a cheer went up from a posse of watching Norwegians as Nakamura chose the wrong move. After 71. ... Kg6! it is by no means clear that Carlsen can win. A tragedy for Hikaru as he has defended incredibly well to here. Now analysis engines were telling us that Magnus had only one way to win. But would he find it?

#### 72. Ke4!!

He would. 72. Kd6? is a mistake as it frees the e2-knight from its defensive duties and allows 72. ... Nc3!; 72. c6 Nxc6+ 73. Bxc6 Kf7 74. Bd5+ Ke8 and White can't win.

#### 72. ... Nc2

After 72. ... Ke8 73. Ke3 completes the job of paralyzing the knights: 73. ... Kf8 74. Bc4 Ke8 75. Bxe2 Ne6 76. Bh5+ Kd8 77. c6 wins.

#### 73. c6 Nc3+ 74. Ke5 Nxa4 75. Bb3!

A very sweet move to win back a piece.

**75. ... Nb6 76. Bxc2 a4 77. c7 Kf7 78. Bxa4, Black resigned.♦**

See more about the Grand Chess Tour at [grandchesstour.com](http://grandchesstour.com).



## At A Glance

**London Classic, final scores:** 1st: Magnus Carlsen 5½; 2nd: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave 5½; 3rd: Anish Giri 5½; 4th: Levon Aronian 5; 5th-7th: Alexander Grischuk, Fabiano Caruana, Michael Adams 4½; 8th: Hikaru Nakamura 4; 9th: Viswanathan Anand 3½; 10th: Veselin Topalov 2½. **Rapidplay Play-off Semi-Final:** Maxime Vachier-Lagrave beat Anish Giri 2-1 (after an Armageddon decider); **Rapidplay Play-off Final:** Magnus Carlsen beat Maxime Vachier-Lagrave 1½-½. **Grand Chess Tour, leading final placings:** 1 Carlsen 26, 2 Anish Giri 23, 3 Aronian 22, 4 Vachier-Lagrave 20, 5 Nakamura 19, 6 Topalov 18, etc.

**London Classic Stats Round-Up:** This was Carlsen's fourth Classic victory, adding to his wins in 2009, 2010 and 2012. Other Classic winners have been Kramnik (2011), Hikaru Nakamura (2013, rapidplay k.o. format), Anand (2014). Carlsen's first Classic victory in 2009 took him to the top of the rating list, where he has stayed ever since. His 2012 victory, with a Tournament Performance Rating (TPR) of 3021, took him over Garry Kasparov's TPR.

## London Chess Classic 2015

# Cruising Away

While crossing the Atlantic, former World Champion Emanuel Lasker shows that if you don't like to study openings, you better be resourceful in later stages of the game.

By BRUCE PANDOLFINI

THE ONE-AND-ONLY EMANUEL LASKER clearly had a disdain for the study of openings. He strongly expressed the opinion that many book lines were simply wrong. At times, he got by with "any old variation," perhaps reasoning that his superior chess acumen could save many inferior positions. To be sure, he seemed to relish such challenges. On a cruise across the Atlantic, in an offhand game, Lasker had the opportunity to display his indifference to opening play, and his resourceful salvaging skills, against the formidable Efim Bogolyubow. Veering off into a quixotic line, Lasker quickly got the worst of it before luring Bogolyubow into overconfidence and resulting mistakes. The game began:

## FOUR KNIGHTS GAME (BY TRANSPOSITION) (C60)

Emanuel Lasker  
Efim Bogolyubow  
Atlantic Ocean, 1924

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6



Now make sure you have the above position set up on your chessboard. As you play through the remaining moves in this game, use a piece of paper to cover the article, exposing White's next move only after trying to guess it. If you guess correctly, give yourself the par score. Sometimes points are also awarded for second-best moves, and there may be bonus points—or deductions—for other moves and variations. Note that \*\* means that White's move is on the next line.\*\*

<p><b>4. Bc4</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 5</b></span></p> <p>Now there's a Lasker move for you. He voluntarily (perhaps whimsically) shifts to an Italian Game a move behind, since Black has gotten in ... a7-a6 for free. Certainly accept <i>full credit</i> for either 4. Ba4 or 4. Bxc6.</p>	<p><b>8. Bxe6</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 5</b></span></p> <p>Lasker plays to disrupt Black's pawn structure. After all, the former champ is a true endgame wizard, and structural weaknesses in that phase can be critical. Of course, we're not yet in the endgame, and there's plenty of play for Bogolyubow as the position moves closer to the middlegame.</p>
<p><b>4. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Nf6</b></span></p> <p>And so Black plays the Two Knight's Defense, with an extra useful move in the bargain. Will Lasker continue with 5. Ng5?**</p>	<p><b>8. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>fxe6</b></span></p> <p>Black naturally retakes. Give yourself <i>1 bonus point</i> if you had planned on answering 8. ... Bxe3 by the desperado 9. Bxf7+, stealing a pawn.**</p>
<p><b>5. d3</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 5</b></span></p> <p>White decides to play it safely. Perhaps Lasker was thinking he could transposition to a quiet Four Knights Game, where Black's ... a7-a6 doesn't mean much, if anything. Or perhaps he was focused more on the ocean waves. Who knows? Accept <i>full credit</i> for either 5. Nc3 or 5. 0-0.</p>	<p><b>9. Bxc5</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 5</b></span></p> <p>This is the move that fractures Black's pawn setup. Bogolyubow will now wind up with doubled, isolated e-pawns in exchange for open lines and the possibility of using a few strong squares.</p>
<p><b>5. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Bc5</b></span></p> <p>Black continues his development.**</p>	<p><b>9. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>dxc5</b></span></p> <p>To be sure, Black's knight would love to come into d4 someday.**</p>
<p><b>6. Nc3</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 5</b></span></p> <p>Now we have an Italian Four Knights Game. <i>Full credit</i> for 6. c3, 6. 0-0, 6. h3, 6. Bg5, or 6. Be3, all okay by Lasker's opening standards.</p>	<p><b>10. b3</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 6</b></span></p> <p>White tries to fix the c5-pawn, making it harder for Bogolyubow to exchange it for a healthy white pawn.</p>
<p><b>6. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>d6</b></span></p> <p>Black continues with his development. They haven't had lunch yet, and even Bogolyubow doesn't feel like speculating much on an empty stomach.**</p>	<p><b>10. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>0-0</b></span></p> <p>Finally, someone castles. Black has a half-open f-file for his major pieces and some strong squares, namely d4 and f4. Let's see if he can exploit any of that.**</p>
<p><b>7. Be3</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 5</b></span></p> <p>A small surprise. Many players would have continued 7. Bg5 (<i>full credit</i>), pinning the f6-knight. One thing that Black has lost because of the earlier ... a7-a6 is the possibility of 7. ... Bb6, which now would be answered by 8. Bxb6, forcing Black to recapture away from the center.</p>	<p><b>11. Na4</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Par Score 5</b></span></p> <p>Lasker immediately zeroes in the doubled c-pawn.</p>
<p><b>7. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Be6</b></span></p> <p>This looks a little bold. Black could have tried 7. ... Bg4, which was a nice alternative.**</p>	<p><b>11. ...</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Qd6</b></span></p> <p>This move of Bogolyubow's is fine, but did he miss a more aggressive possibility in 11. ... b5? If 12. Nxc5 Qe7, Black should at least get his pawn back. Even though it's a</p>

## ABCs of Chess

These problems are all related to key positions in this month's game. In each case, **Black is to move**. The answers can be found in Solutions on page 71.

**March Exercise:** Find a collection of real-game mating positions, with all the pieces and pawns in place. Try to solve the problems without moving the pieces. After working on each puzzle, try to remove all the superfluous forces from the board, for both sides. Make sure the mate still works with the units that remain. Once you're sure you can't reduce the situation any further, make a diagram of it, affixing it to a an index card or in an electronic file. As you regularly review this growing stockpile of core material, you will become more adept at finding such tactics in your own games.

### PROBLEM I Desperado



### PROBLEM II Trapping



### Problem III Driving off



### PROBLEM IV Double threat



### PROBLEM V Fork



### PROBLEM VI Mating net



move for Black, and not for White, award yourself *1 bonus point* if you had so analyzed the possibility.\*\*

#### 12. **Nb2** Par Score 5

Add *1 bonus point* if you saw the threat before playing 12. Nb2. That's what a lot of chess reduces to: doing one thing so that you can do another.

#### 12. ... b5

Black takes away the potential post at c4. But truly, Lasker's b2-knight stinks. If only it were a bishop.\*\*

#### 13. **a4** Par Score 5

This move tries to induce 13. ... b4?, which would then allow 14. Nc4, gaining the e5-pawn. Fat chance that Bogolyubow would miss it (he didn't), but give yourself *1 bonus point* if you analyzed it.

#### 13. ... Nd4

So the black knight assumes a strong post. Doubled pawns and all, Bogolyubow is doing fine.\*\*

#### 14. **axb5** Par Score 5

Rather than sitting on the position, which is hard to do, Lasker tries to ease the pressure on his game with a few exchanges.

#### 14. ... axb5

This is the best way for Black to take back, opening the a-file and keeping his pawns fluid.\*\*

#### 15. **Rxa8**

#### Par Score 5

By trading rooks, Lasker diverts Bogolyubow's rook from the half open f-file, but that allows it to assume the open a-file. Many players would rather have black here than white?

#### 15. ...

#### Rxa8\*\*

#### 16. **0-0**

#### Par Score 5

Finally, White can castle. Doesn't everyone castle on move 16? Clearly, Lasker's having some fun here.

#### 16. ...

#### Ra2

This appears to be a powerful invasion. But it's likely that by now Lasker has seen the chance for Black to go wrong. One question is, will the rook be able to stay there?\*\*

#### 17. **Qb1**

#### Par Score 6

Go away rook! Now, of course, the rook can go away, even profitably. It could go back to a8, for instance, with the idea of shifting to f8. But first, Black inflicts a kingside pawn weakness.

#### 17. ...

#### Nxf3+\*\*

#### 18. **gxf3**

#### Par Score 4

Now Black should probably just retreat the rook to a8, hoping to deploy to f8 and beyond.

#### 18. ...

#### Qa6

Here, Black gets too comfortable, and that situation of relaxing into mechanical play was always a mistake against Lasker.\*\*

#### 19. **Na4!**

#### Par Score 7

The knight is momentarily immune, since the rook is hanging. Black has very little choice. His next move is essentially forced.

#### 19. ...

#### Ra3\*\*

#### 20. **Nxc5**

#### Par Score 5

So Lasker plunders a pawn. But Black is still in the game, with decent counterplay.

#### 20. ...

#### Qc6

The black queen is saved with a gain of time.\*\*

#### 21. **b4**

#### Par Score 6

Another practically forced move. *Deduct 3 points* for the blunder 21. Qb2, when 21. ... Qxc5 also defends the rook.

#### 21. ...

#### Nh5

This is an inaccuracy. Much wiser was the retreat 21. ... Ra3-a8, with the idea of shifting the rook back to f8 for attack.\*\*

#### 22. **Qb2**

#### Par Score 6

Black's forces are not working well together. Both the rook and e-pawn are hanging. If 22. ... Ra8 (or 22. ... Qa8), 23. Qxe5 is fairly ominous. Since it's going to get worse, Black decided it was time to take a stroll on the deck.

#### 22. ...

#### Black resigned.♦

# Of Knights and Men

*We real cool. We Left school. We Lurk late. We Strike straight. We Sing sin. We Thin gin. We Jazz June. We Die soon. ~Gwendolyn Brooks, 1960*

By GM DANIEL NARODITSKY

GWENDOLYN BROOKS' POIGNANT DEPICTION of the tragic path followed by countless American youths in the 1950s and '60s is one of the most notorious and influential poems of all time. It has been the subject of fierce literary and prosodic debate since its publication, but—to my amazement—no scholar has dared to approach this poem through the lens of our beloved game. Indeed, even a cursory analysis reveals that the mysterious we refers to—wait for it—knights. Knights are definitely real cool. They refuse to move in a conventional manner, so it stands to reason that they have not received a proper education. They strike straight through the heart of an unsuspecting king. They constantly violate positional principles. And unfortunately, their impudence often brings about an untimely demise.

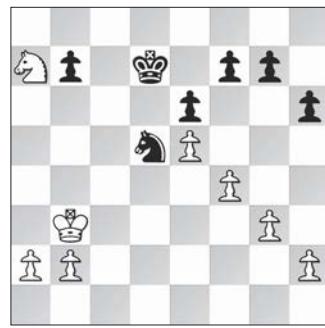
In the endgame, all of these qualities are accentuated tenfold. To navigate the stormy waters of a knight versus knight endgame, calculation and theoretical knowledge is not enough; one must also understand and conceptualize how a knight operates under various circumstances. Hopefully, the following recent endgame battle will help us do just that.

## WE STRIKE STRAIGHT

GM Baris Esen (FIDE 2562, TUR)

IM Eesha Karavade (FIDE 2379, IND)

Qatar Masters 2015, Doha, Qatar, 12.22.15



BLACK TO MOVE

White is obviously in the driver's seat. While the disparity in knight placement appears to counterbalance his extra pawn, this disparity is nothing but an illusion. Indeed, White needs only two moves to entrench his cavalier on d6, where it will wreak further havoc on Black's defenseless pawn. Sensing the danger, Karavade embarks on a last-ditch effort to hunt down White's vulnerable kingside pawns.

**28. ... Ne3**

The only way to maintain drawing chances: the knight heads for f1. Of course, Black's aim is not to restore the material balance, but rather to create a passed pawn as soon as possible.

**29. Nb5**

Esen follows through on his own plan, leading the knight to an imperial outpost on d6. These two moves alone illustrate **just how skillfully knights target and eliminate undefended pawns**.

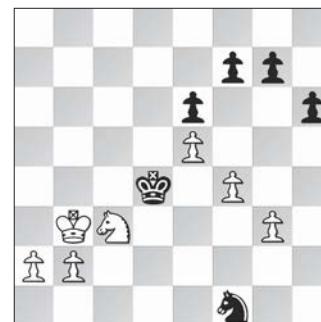
**29. ... Nf1 30. Nd6 Nxh2 31. Nxb7 Nf1**

The first critical point has been reached. Even without calculating, it is evident that the game will eventually boil down to a pawn race. It is equally clear that White will have an advantage in this race; after all, he is the one with connected passers, and Black does not even have a passed pawn yet. To this end, it is very tempting to get the ball rolling with 32. a4. However, following 32. ... Nhg3 33. a5 Kc7 34. Nd6 h5 it transpires that Black's king is more than equipped to restrain the a-pawn. White can squeeze out a draw with the computer-like 35. Nxf7! (Just plain awful is 35. a6? Kb6) 35. ... Ne4 36. a6 Kb6 37. Nd6!, but this is not the kind of finale one would envision. This brings us to a second important point: **knights are very poor at close-quarter combat against the king**. The king's mobility is limited, but its ability to move in any direction usually enables it to circumvent the knight's influence. With this idea in mind, White must make every effort to halt Black's kingside progress:

**32. Nc5+! Kc6 33. Ne4**

We strike straight! With the g3-pawn safely protected, a2-a4 becomes a serious threat. Hence, Black has no choice but to draw her king further away from the queenside.

**33. ... Kd5 34. Nc3+ Kd4?**



Karavade's choice is perfectly understandable: 34. ... Kc5 meets with 35. Ne2, when it appears that Black's counterplay evaporates for good. However, the text move simply loses by force: Black will succeed in capturing on g3, but he will stand little chance in the ensuing pawn race. In fact, the game is far from over after 34. ... Kc5 35. Ne2 g5!. The problem is that 36. fxg5 hxg5 37. a4 is unconvincing due to 37. ... Nd2+ 38. Kc3 Ne4+, when 39. Kd3 falls prey to 39. ... Nf2+ 40. Kc2 (White loses one of his jewels after 40. Ke3 Nd1+) 40. ... Kb4. The king paralyzes White's connected passers, and it is only a matter of time before the dreadfully weak pawn on e5 suffers a gruesome fate. Thus, White should try 36. Kc2 gxf4 37. gxf4, granting Black an outside passer but keeping the kingside pawns intact. Following 37. ... Ne3+ 38. Kd3 Nd5, we reach a fascinating position:

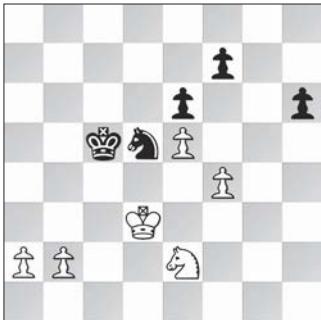
**(see diagram next page)**

My intuition screams that White should eventually set his pawns in motion, but this is much easier said than done. After tackling this incredibly complex position with a strong

## Striking Through Passed Pawns

Each month GM Naroditsky will present two problems taken from actual games that illustrate the theme of this month's column. Your task is to find the best line of play. Problem I should be solvable by a player at roughly a 1500 rating and Problem II by a player roughly at a 2000 rating.

*See the solutions on page 71.*



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

computer, I uncovered a long and tenuous path to victory starting with 39. Ke4.

All of this goes to show that **knight endgames are often tremendously complex despite the limited material**. As I've stressed previously, the most prudent course of action is to embrace this complexity, and trust your intuition when you cannot make sense of the complications.

### 35. a4?!

This ruins nothing, but it gives Black an unnecessary opportunity to prolong the game. 35. Kb4! would have been more accurate.

### 35. ... Nxg3?!

Karavade returns the favor. The repentant 35. ... Kc5 would have held on for a while longer, although 36. Ne4+ Kb6 37. Kb4 is obviously hopeless in the long run.

### 36. Kb4 h5 37. a5 h4 38. a6 h3

(see diagram top of next column)

Without the knights, 39. a7 would decide the game immediately, but things are less simple in their presence. Apparently, the Turkish grandmaster was so intent on promoting as fast as possible that he temporarily forgot one of the knight's greatest virtues: its ability to stop passed pawns.

### PROBLEM I: 1500 LEVEL

Andre Cheron  
Study, 1952



WHITE TO MOVE

### PROBLEM II: 2000 LEVEL

GM Hikaru Nakamura (FIDE 2786)  
GM Vladimir Kramnik (FIDE 2793)  
World Team Championship, 2013



WHITE TO MOVE



39. a7??

Given this position as an exercise, a player of Esen's caliber would undoubtedly find 39. Nd1! h2 40. Nf2 in an instant. Black can resign, since 40. ... Ke3 fails to 41. Ng4+ and 40. ... Ne4 is coolly rebuffed by 41. Nh1. It is no coincidence that White had this resource: **because of their unique movement, knights can often reach a pawn's queening square from almost any corner of the board**. Make no mistake: in the long run, a king and far-advanced passer will surmount the knight's blockade, but the knight's ability to deliver forks (40. ... Ke3 41. Ng4+!) frequently renders such an operation time-consuming. When calculating any knight endgame, never assume that a pawn will simply promote once it has started its march.

39. ... h2 40. a8=Q h1=Q 41. Qa7+ Kd3 42. Qxf7 Qc6!

The key. Black will lose two pawns, but her excellent piece coordination and lasting initiative provides more than enough compensation.

43. Qxg7 Nf5 44. Qg1 Qc4+?!

After mounting a heroic (albeit somewhat lucky) resistance, Karavade begins to lose the thread. This is not a major transgression in itself, but there was no need to go pawn hunting. The straightforward 44. ... Ne3! would have drawn on the spot; 45. Qb1 is strongly

met with 45. ... Nc2+, and White must accept perpetual with 46. Ka5 Qc7+ 47. Ka6 Qc6+.

45. Ka5 Qxf4 46. Qb1+ Ke3 47. Qe1+ Kf3?

Mistakes, one wise human being once remarked, rarely stand alone. Karavade evacuates her king out of the danger zone, but gives White a golden opportunity to coordinate his forces and set the b-pawn in motion. Instead, the intrepid 47. ... Kd3! would have maintained equality. Following 48. Qe2+ Kd4 49. Nb5+ Kc5 there is nothing to fear. White must give up the e5-pawn to deal with the threat of ... Qb4+, so the time is ripe to sign the scoresheets.

48. Qe2+ Kg3 49. Ne4+ Kh3 50. Qh5+!

In addition to centralizing his knight, White continues to harass the king, forcing Black to cripple her position even further.

50. ... Nh4

An unfortunate necessity, since 50. ... Kg2 enables White to trade queens with 51. Qg5+.

51. Nc5 Kg3 52. b4 Qc1?

This loses on the spot, although Black's defensive task was unenviable to say the least. Karavade should have tried 52. ... Qe3, but after 53. Ka4! I doubt that the position is salvageable from a human standpoint.

53. Ne4+ Kh3 54. Nf2+ Kg3 55. Qg4+!

We die soon!

55. ... Kxf2 56. Qxh4+ Kf3 57. Qf6+, Black resigned.

This is the kind of working-class, meat-and-potatoes endgame that will probably never be annotated in a magazine (other than *Chess Life!*) or featured in an endgame manual. Nonetheless, it offers a tremendously instructive (and quite entertaining) journey into the heart of a complex knight endgame. It is my sincere hope that you have now arrived at a fuller understanding of the mysterious, inimitable, straight-shooting, piece that we call the knight. ♦

# 2016 TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX SUMMARY

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**GM ALEXANDER IVANOV**

Finishing near the top is commonplace for **GM ALEXANDER IVANOV**, as he did at the 42nd Annual Eastern Open where he tied for third place. As the 2016 Trophies Plus Grand Prix race kicks off, Ivanov takes an early lead. You can see some exciting action from the Eastern Open on page 35 of this issue.

## 2016 TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX STANDINGS

	NAME	STATE	PTS.
1	<b>GM ALEXANDER IVANOV</b>	MA	<b>42.50</b>
2	GM Oliver Barbosa	CA	40.33
3	GM Eugene Perelshteyn	MA	38.33
4	GM Alexander Shabalov	PA	36.75
5	GM Yaroslav Zherebukh	TX	35.50
6	GM Timur Gareyev	KS	31.13
7	IM Ruifeng Li	TX	28.00
8	IM Aleksandr Ostrovskiy	NY	27.75
9	GM Enrico Sevillano	CA	26.33
10	IM Andrey Gorovets	TX	26.33
11	IM John Daniel Bryant	CA	26.33
12	GM Andrey Stukopin	TX	26.33
13	IM Awonder Liang	WI	24.50
14	GM Elshan Moradiabadi	TX	24.00
15	IM Darwin Yang	TX	23.00

## 2015 US CHESS JUNIOR GRAND PRIX FINAL OVERALL STANDINGS

The top prize for 2015 will be a *Chess.com* one-year Diamond membership valued at \$100, a *Chess.com* gear/merchandise package valued at \$100, a US Chess plaque, free entry into the 2016 U.S. Open, and \$1,000 of expense money from US Chess to offset the trip. For the top five players on the overall list and to each state winner, *Chess.com* will also award a choice of a one-year *ChessKid.com* gold membership (valued at \$50/annually) or a one-year *Chess.com* Gold membership (valued at \$40/annually). US Chess gratefully acknowledges the participation of *Chess.com*!

Name	State	Pts.	State Winners	State	Pts.	State Winners	State	Pts.
SILVER, JACK	NJ	10941	XU, GRACE D	IN	4612	WANG, JASON YUYANG	OH	7017
GUO, ARTHUR	GA	9924	JOSEPH, RITA MARY	KS	5303	PATEL, ADVAIT	OK	4789
NAIR, SIDDHANT	VA	8434	COLE, CHRISTOPHER J	KY	2789	DALTHORP, MARK	OR	2774
SINGHAL, SANAT	CA-N	7871	TROSLAIR, ROCCO	LA	4309	TRIFALE, SHARVIL	PA	6710
CHINNAMBETI, ABHINAV SAI	NJ	7849	ISAKOV, MICHAEL GREGORY	MA	4805	LIN, ETHAN	RI	2227
State Winners	State	Pts.						
WU, ROCHELLE	AL	3635	BHATIA, ROHAN	MD	6164	DIAS, NEHA ALISHA	SC	4243
SHE, CHENGYUE	AR	5094	HENDRIX, WYATT MICHAEL	ME	2849	JORENBY, JOSIAH ISRAEL	SD	1290
KRUNZ, EYAD	AZ	6106	NARAYANAN, AKASH L	MI	5692	DAVILA BLANCO, JUAN JOSE TERR	4325	
KONDAKOV, ADRIAN	CA-N	7226	WEBER, SHANE MATHIAS	MN	3940	GOUGH, TURNER CHRISTIAN	TN	5478
KOPELIOVICH, JONATHAN	CA-S	5542	YE, LUKE SICONG	MO	5343	LI, RUIFENG	TX	7027
HEMMAT, ALEXANDER	CO	5159	JOHNSON, JORDAN	MS	1908	ROACH, AUSTIN	UT	3584
LOMELI, CHRISTOPHER	CT	4075	MCGLENN, SIMON BLAISE	MT	700	VONTERU, VARUN REDDY	VA	7698
PAN, ZACHARY STIER	DC	3646	VENKATARAJA, TRIYAKSHARI	NC	3795	MONTFORT, JOHN A	VT	1398
IRVING, NICHOLAS	DE	2034	WOLF, STUART	ND	1886	TIEN, SOPHIE	WA	6425
ORTEGA, VALENTINA LARA	FL	6778	LE, HARRY	NE	4043	LIANG, AWONDER	WI	5116
DEVALAPALLI, PRANAV	GA	6523	ROGERS, NOAH	NH	3134	MALE, PRESTON JOSEPH	WV	2100
KIM, GYUYUN	HI	3118	KUMAR, ARAVIND	NJ	6530	MC LNERNEY, BRYAN C	WY	1418
TAKAHASHI, MICHAEL JOHN	IA	5791	ROMERO, JONAH ANTHONY	NM	3583			
RIPLEY, RYAN DANIEL	ID	2322	BATTSETSEG, BAYASGALAN	NV	2450			
RAO, PATRICK	IL	6284	ESTAVILLO, JESSTIN	NV	2450			
			DEDONA, MARK	NY	7025			



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13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

(PLUS TITLE OF US CHESS ELECTRONIC KNIGHTS CHAMPION AND PLAQUE)

**2ND PLACE \$500 • 3RD \$300 • 4TH THRU 10TH PLACE \$100 EACH • ENTRY FEE: \$25**

These US Chess Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all US Chess members with e-mail access. Your US Chess membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten. **Note:** Prize fund based on 200 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

**TO ENTER: 800-903-USCF(8723) OR FAX 931-787-1200 OR ONLINE AT [WWW.USCHESS.ORG](http://WWW.USCHESS.ORG)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ US CHESS ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Est. Rating \_\_\_\_\_

To pay with credit card please call US Chess.

Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated.

\*Note: This may slow down your assignment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO US CHESS AND MAIL TO: JOAN DUBOIS, US CHESS, PO BOX 3967, CROSSVILLE, TN 38557

### Correspondence Chess Matches (two players)

TWO OR SIX-GAME OPTIONS. ENTRY FEE: \$5.

**WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY**

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings. 1st-place winner receives a trophy. **ENTRY FEE: \$10.**

**VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS**

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. **ENTRY FEE: \$25.**

**JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENTS**

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate. **ENTRY FEE: \$7.**

### Email Rated Events (need email access)

**LIGHTNING MATCH**

Two players with two or six-game option. **ENTRY FEE: \$5.**

**SWIFT QUADS**

Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize US Chess CC entry credit of \$30. **ENTRY FEE: \$10.**

**WALTER MUIR E-QUADS (WEB SERVER CHESS)**

Four-player, double round-robin webserver format tournament with class-level pairings. 1st-place receives a certificate. **ENTRY FEE: \$7.**

**Please check event(s) selected.**

**NOTE:** Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads & Electronic Knights, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.



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[www.trophiesplus.com](http://www.trophiesplus.com)



# National Events

*Note: Tournament memberships not valid for National events*

## *See TLA in this issue for details*

**2016 National High School (K-12) Championship** April 1-3 • Atlanta, Georgia

**2016 National Junior High School (K-9) Championships** April 15-17 • Indianapolis, Indiana

**2016 All-Girls National Championships** April 22-24 • Chicago, Illinois

**2016 National Elementary School (K-6) Championships** May 6-8 • Nashville, Tennessee

**2016 U.S. Amateur Championship - West** May 28-30 • Tucson, Arizona

**72nd Annual (2016) U.S. Amateur Championship - East** May 28-30 or 29-30 • Morristown, New Jersey

**2016 U.S. Women's Open** June 22-23 • Las Vegas, Nevada

**2016 National Open** June 24-26 or 25-26 • Las Vegas, Nevada

**2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship** June 27 • Las Vegas, Nevada

**117th annual (2016) U.S. Open** July 30-August 7, August 2-7 or August 4-7 • Indianapolis, Indiana

## **FUTURE EVENTS (Watch for details)**

**2016 U.S. Championship (Closed)** April 13-29 • St. Louis, Missouri - Contact Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis - 314-361-2437

**2016 U.S. Women's Championship (Closed)** April 13-29 • St. Louis, Missouri - Contact Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis - 314-361-2437

**2016 U.S. Senior Open Championship** June 16-19 • Kenner, Louisiana

**2016 U.S. Junior Open Championship** June 17-19 • Kenner, Louisiana

**2016 U.S. Girls Junior Championship (Closed)** June 25-29 (not June 23-27) • Manchester, New Hampshire - Contact: Alex Relyea [relyea@operamail.com](mailto:relyea@operamail.com)

**2016 U.S. Cadet Championship (Closed)** July 16-20 • Rockville, Maryland - Contact: Michael Regan [mregan@stsci.edu](mailto:mregan@stsci.edu)

**2016 U.S. Masters Championship** August 25-29 • Greensboro, North Carolina

**2016 K-12 Grade Championships** December 16-18 • Nashville, Tennessee

**2016 Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship** December 26-29 • Kenner, Louisiana

**2017 SuperNationals VI** May 12-14 • Nashville, Tennessee

**118th annual (2017) U.S. Open** July 29-August 7 • Norfolk, Virginia

**2017 K-12 Grade Championships** December 8-10 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida

**2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championships** May 11-13 • Nashville, Tennessee

**119th annual (2018) U.S. Open** July 28-August 5 • Middleton, Wisconsin

**2018 K-12 Grade Championships** December 14-16 • Orlando, Florida

**2019 National Elementary (K-6) Championships** May 10-12 • Nashville, Tennessee

**2019 K-12 Grade Championships** December 13-15 • Lake Buena Vista, Florida

**2020 National Elementary (K-6) Championships** May 8-10 • Nashville, Tennessee

**2020 K-12 Grade Championships** December 11-13 • Orlando, Florida

**2021 SuperNationals VII** May 7-9 • Nashville, Tennessee

## Bids

Note: Organizers previously awarded options for US Chess National Events must still submit proposals (including sample budgets) for their events.

### **OVERDUE BIDS**

Please contact the National Office if you are interested in bidding for a National Event. US Chess recommends that bids be submitted according to the following schedule. However, bids may be considered prior to these dates. US Chess reserves the right to decline all bids and organize the event itself.

**For our expanded list of national events available for bid, see: [www.uschess.org/cont/view/12116/705/](http://www.uschess.org/cont/view/12116/705/).**

### **RATING SUPPLEMENTS**

Rating supplements will be updated EACH MONTH on the US Chess website, and each monthly rating supplement will be used for all tournaments beginning in that month, unless otherwise announced in *Chess Life*. The US Chess website at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org) also frequently lists unofficial ratings. The purpose of unofficial ratings is to inform you of your progress; however, most tournaments do not use them for pairing or prize purposes. If you would otherwise be unrated, organizers may use your unofficial rating at their discretion, even without advance publicity of such a policy.

### **NOTE**

The TLA pages "Information for Organizers, TDs, and Affiliates" and "Information for Players" can now be found online at [main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo](http://main.uschess.org/go/tlainfo).

### **PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS HEALTH AND BENEFITS FUND**

Many Grand Prix tournament organizers will contribute \$1 per player to the Professional Health & Benefits Fund. All Grand Prix tournaments which participate in this program are entitled to be promoted to the next higher Grand Prix category—for example, a six-point tournament would become a 10-point (Enhanced) tournament. Points in the top category are promoted 50%.

### **ATTENTION AFFILIATES**

US Chess has partnered with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance Brokers, Inc. to provide US Chess affiliates with affordable annual liability and short term event insurance. The liability coverage is available for approximately \$265 per year for a \$1,000,000 limit of insurance. Also available is contents property and bonding insurance. For more information, please go to [www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html](http://www.rvnuccio.com/chess-federation.html). For event insurance, please go to [www.rvnuccio.com](http://www.rvnuccio.com).

## Nationals

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 1-3, GEORGIA

### 2016 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) CHAMPIONSHIP

7SS, G/120 d5. Hyatt Regency Atlanta, 265 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303. Hotel Chess Rate \$125. Guest rooms may be booked, NLT 3/9/2016 by calling (404) 577-1234 or (888) 421-1442, mention "US Chess" or online at: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/14059639/owner/323/home>. **6 Sections:** K-12 Championship, K-12 U1900, K-12 U1600, K-12 U1200, K-12 U800 and K-12 Unrated. March Rating Supplement will be used. One1/2-point bye available (limit one) any round (except Round 7) if requested prior to the start of Rd. 1. Team score = total of top four (minimum two) finishers from each school per section. K-12 Championship first place individual and team, including ties, will be the National High School Champion. **Schedule:** Opening ceremony Fri. 12:45 pm. Rds.: Fri. 1 pm and 7 pm, Sat. 9 am, 2 pm and 7 pm, Sun. 9 am-2 pm. Awards Ceremony Sun., approx. 7 pm. **EF:** \$50/participant postmarked or online by 2/29, \$70 postmarked or online by 3/21, \$85 online by 3/30, \$90 on site; \$5.00 extra for all phone registrations; \$20 fee for roster or section changes after 3/21 or any onsite changes. Onsite registration Thurs. 9 AM - 9 PM & Fri. 8 AM - 11 AM. Players who register or change sections after 11 am on Friday will receive a 1/2-point bye for Rd. 1. Players must disclose any other, non-USCF, over-the-board (OTB) ratings. **Awards:** Trophies to top individuals & top teams in each section. Every player receives a commemorative item! Full list of trophies on tournament Info Page. **Side Events:** Bughouse: Thurs. 11 am, Reg. onsite only Thurs. 9-10 am, \$25/team. Blitz Section: K-12, Thurs. 5 pm, Reg. onsite until 4 pm. Blitz EF: \$15 by 3/21, \$20 after or at site. Class trophies will be awarded in main event and in Blitz. Full list of trophies on tournament Info Page. Team Rooms are limited. Contact Susan Kantor at 931.787.1234 ext. 136 or by email: [skantor@uschess.org](mailto:skantor@uschess.org). Questions: Susan Kantor at 931.787.1234 ext. 136. **Entries:** US Chess Federation, Attn.: 2016 HS Championship, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 or online at [www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/hs/](http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/hs/). See web site for additional information about the event, advance entries, awards, meetings, updates, corrections, and registration forms.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 15-17, INDIANA

### 2016 NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (K-9) CHAMPIONSHIP

7SS, G/120 d5. Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 East 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219. Hotel Chess Rate \$119. Guest rooms may be booked, NLT 3/18/2016 by calling (800) 228-9290 or (317) 352-1231, mention "US Chess" or see [www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/jhs/](http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/jhs/) to book now!

The Tournament Announcements on the following pages are provided for the convenience of US Chess members and for informational purposes only. Unless expressly indicated otherwise, neither US Chess nor *Chess Life* warrants the accuracy of anything contained in these tournament announcements. Those interested in additional information about or having questions concerning any of these tournaments are directed to contact the organizer listed. *Chess Life* will exercise all due diligence in providing accurate typesetting of non-camera-ready copy but assumes no responsibility for errors made in such work.

**Effective with TLAs submitted after November 10, 2010, the following additional rules apply to Grand Prix tournaments:** 1) The guaranteed first prize must be at least \$150. 2) No more than one prize under \$100 may count towards the Grand Prix point total. 3) Prizes below the maximum entry fee do not count towards the Grand Prix point total. Also include full time control noting increment or time delay even if delay is zero (d0).

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix:** A Junior Grand Prix event must have four or more rounds with a time control greater than 65 min. Please see: [www.uschess.org/data\\_page/JGP-Rules.php](http://www.uschess.org/data_page/JGP-Rules.php) for complete Rules.

**SUBMISSIONS:** E-mail your tla to: [tla@uschess.org](mailto:tla@uschess.org) (Joan DuBois). For tla deadline schedule, formatting help and Grand Prix information check [www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo](http://www.uschess.org/go/tlainfo) and "Advertising" at uschess.org. Payment can be done online through the TD/Affiliate area or sent to: US Chess, TLA Dept., PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557.

**6 Sections:** K-9 Championship, K-9 U1250, K-9 Unrated, K-8 Championship, K-8 U1000 and K-8 U750. April Rating Supplement will be used. One1/2-point bye available (limit one) any round (except Round 7) if requested prior to the start of Rd. 1. Team score = total of top four (minimum two) finishers from each school per section. K-9 Championship first place individual and team, including ties, will be the National Junior High School Champion. **Schedule:** Opening ceremony Fri. 12:30 pm. Rds.: Fri. 1 pm and 7 pm, Sat. 9 am, 2 pm and 7 pm, Sun. 9 am-2 pm. Awards Ceremony Sun., approx. 7 pm. **EF:** \$50/participant postmarked or online by 3/21, \$70 postmarked or online by 4/4, \$85 online by 4/13, \$90 on site; \$5.00 extra for all phone registrations; \$20 fee for roster or section changes after 4/4 or any onsite changes. Onsite registration Thurs. 9 AM - 9 PM & Fri. 8 AM - 11 AM. Players who register or change sections after 11 am on Friday will receive a 1/2-point bye for Rd. 1. Players must disclose any other, non-USCF, over-the-board (OTB) ratings. **Awards:** Trophies to top individuals & top teams in each section. Every player receives a commemorative item! Full list of trophies on tournament Info Page. **Side Events:** Bughouse: Thurs. 11 am, Reg. onsite only Thurs. 9-10 am, \$25/team. Blitz Section: K-9, Thurs. 5 pm, Reg. onsite until 4 pm. Blitz EF: \$15 by 4/4, \$20 after or at site. Class trophies will be awarded in main event and in Blitz. Full list of trophies on tournament

Info Page. Team Rooms are limited. Contact Susan Kantor at 931.787.1234 ext. 136 or by email: [skantor@uschess.org](mailto:skantor@uschess.org). Questions: Susan Kantor at 931.787.1234 ext. 136. **Entries:** U.S. Chess Federation, Attn.: 2016 JHS Championship, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 or online at [www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/jhs/](http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/jhs/). See website for additional information about the event, advance entries, awards, meetings, updates, corrections, and registration forms.

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

APR. 22-24, ILLINOIS

### 2016 ALL-GIRLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PRESENTED BY THE KASPAROV CHESS FOUNDATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE RENAISSANCE KNIGHTS CHESS FOUNDATION & US CHESS

*First place winners of each section will qualify to represent the USA at the 2016 World Youth/Cadets Championships.* 6SS, G/90 d5. Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Chicago, IL 60616, (free Wi-Fi). **6 Sections:** Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 & Under 18. **Age as of 1/1/2016.** **EF:** \$55 mail/online by 3/28, \$75 by 4/11, \$95 after. Do not mail after 4/15. \$20 fee for roster or section changes after April 15. \$10 fee for refunds. **Opening Ceremony:** 2:30pm, Friday. **Rounds:** Rd. 1 – 3:00pm Fri; Rounds 2-4 – Sat 10am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm; Rounds 5-6 – Sun 9am & pm.

# GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES

## GOLD

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 50 US Chess memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Gold Affiliate. Gold Affiliates are honored in a special list in larger type in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Gold Affiliation costs \$350 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation, or \$20 for each month remaining on their Silver Affiliation. **As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of \$500 (instead of \$350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.**

**SILVER** Any affiliate that has submitted at least 25 US Chess memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Silver Affiliate. These affiliates will be recognized in a special list in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, state, and choice of either phone number, e-mail address, or website. Silver Affiliation costs \$150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. **Alternatively, for an annual payment of \$250.00 (instead of \$150), the requirement for a minimum number of US Chess members will be waived.**

**Bay Area Chess (CA)**  
[www.BayAreaChess.com](http://www.BayAreaChess.com)

**Long Island Chess Nuts (NY)**  
516-739-3907

**Oklahoma Chess Foundation**  
[OCFChess.org](http://OCFChess.org)

**The Berkeley Chess School (CA)**  
[www.berkeleychessschool.org](http://www.berkeleychessschool.org)

**Los Angeles Chess Club (CA)**  
[www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com)

**Sparta Chess Club (NJ)**  
[www.spartachessclub.org](http://www.spartachessclub.org)

**En Passant Chess Club (TX)**  
[edguetzou@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edguetzou@sbcglobal.net)

**Michigan Chess Association**  
[www.michess.org](http://www.michess.org)

**Success Chess School (CA)**  
[www.successchess.com](http://www.successchess.com)

## ChessIQ

4957 Oakton Street, Suite 113,  
Skokie, IL 60077, 847-423-8626  
[sevan@chessiq.com](mailto:sevan@chessiq.com)  
[www.chessiq.com](http://www.chessiq.com)

## Chesskids Tournaments

P.O. Box 34722,  
Reno, NV 89533,  
775-223-9644  
[vernonyoung@gmail.com](mailto:vernonyoung@gmail.com)  
[www.chesskidz.org](http://www.chesskidz.org)

## ChessNYC.com

c/o Russell Makovsky  
& Michael Propper,  
PO Box 189, 1710 1st Avenue,  
New York, NY 10012,  
212-475-8130  
[info@chessnyc.com](mailto:info@chessnyc.com)  
[www.chessnyc.com](http://www.chessnyc.com)

## Continental Chess Association

PO Box 8482,  
Pelham, NY 10803,  
201-347-2269  
[director@chess.us](mailto:director@chess.us)  
[www.chestour.com](http://www.chestour.com)

## Dallas Chess Club

200 S. Cottonwood Drive Suite C,  
Richardson, TX 75080,  
972-231-2065  
[info@dallaschess.com](mailto:info@dallaschess.com)  
[www.dallaschess.com](http://www.dallaschess.com)

## Eagle Chess Academy, Inc.

PO Box 6141,  
Largo, MD 20774, 301-467-5024  
[tedfagan@eaglechessacademy.com](mailto:tedfagan@eaglechessacademy.com)  
[www.eaglechessacademy.com](http://www.eaglechessacademy.com)

## Marshall Chess Club

23 W. 10th Street,  
New York, NY 10011,  
212-477-3716  
[admin@marshallchessclub.org](mailto:admin@marshallchessclub.org)  
[www.marshallchessclub.org](http://www.marshallchessclub.org)

## PaperClip Pairings

c/o J. Houghtaling Jr  
& Remy Ferrari,  
6005 Forest Boulevard,  
Brownsville, TX 78526,  
956-459-2421  
[jejrhoughtaling@bisd.us](mailto:jejrhoughtaling@bisd.us)

## San Diego Chess Club

2225 6th Avenue,  
San Diego, CA 92101,  
619-239-7166  
[sandiegochessclub@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegochessclub@gmail.com)  
[www.sandiegochessclub.org](http://www.sandiegochessclub.org)

## Shore HS Chess League

PO Box 773,  
Lincroft, NJ 07738  
[shorehschessleague@yahoo.com](mailto:shorehschessleague@yahoo.com)

## Shining Knights, Ltd.

P.O. Box 545,  
Glenmoore, PA 19343,  
484-228-8457  
[cindy@shiningknights.com](mailto:cindy@shiningknights.com)  
[www.shiningknights.com](http://www.shiningknights.com)

## Silver Knights Chess

701 W. Broad Street, Suite 308,  
Falls Church, VA 22406,  
703-574-2070  
[chess@silverknightschess.com](mailto:chess@silverknightschess.com)  
[www.silverknightschess.com](http://www.silverknightschess.com)

**Awards Ceremony:** Sun. 5pm. **Trophies** top 15 individual players and top 4 teams in the Under 8, 10, 12 & 14 Sections; top 8 individual players and top 3 teams in the Under 16 & 18 Sections. (top 3 players added for team scores). **Bye:** One 1/2-pt bye available, any round, if requested before end of Rd. 2 and if player has not received a full-point bye. **Side Events: Bughouse Tournament** – Fri. 11:00 am, EF \$30/team. **Blitz Tournament** – Fri. 7pm, G/5 d0, EF \$20 by 4/11, \$25 after or on site. **HR:** single - quad \$149 Reservations: (888) 421-1442. Reserve early rate may increase. **Entries:** online/info at: <http://rknight.org/registration/tournaments/all-girls-nationals/> or mail to RKKnights, Attn: All-Girls, P.O. Box 1074, Northbrook, IL 60065, include name, section, rating, USCF ID#, date of birth, grade, school name city & state.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAY 6-8, TENNESSEE****2016 NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6) CHAMPIONSHIP**

7SS, G/120 d5 (K-1 G/90 d5), Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, 2800 Opryland Dr., Nashville, TN 37214. Hotel Chess Rate \$148. Guest rooms may be booked, NLT 4/11/2016 by calling (888) 777-6779 or (615) 889-1000, mention "US Chess" or book online at: <https://aws.passkey.com/g/53584332>. **9 Sections:** K-6 Championship, K-6 U1000, K-6 Unrated, K-5 Championship, K-5 U900, K-3 Championship, K-3 U800, K-3 Unrated, K-1 Championship. April Rating Supplement will be used. One 1/2-point bye available (limit one) any round (except Round 7) if requested prior to the start of Rd. 1. Team score = total of top four (minimum two) finishers from each school per section. K-6 Championship first place individual and team, including ties, will be the National Elementary School Champion. **Schedule:** Opening ceremony Fri. 12:30 pm. Rds.: Fri. 1 pm and 7 pm, Sat. 9 am, 2 pm and 7 pm, Sun. 9 am-2 pm. Awards Ceremony Sun., approx. 7 pm. **Special Schedule for K-1 Rounds:** Fri. 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm, Sat. 9:30 am-1:30 pm and 6:30 pm, Sun. 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Awards Ceremony Sun., approx. 5:30 pm. **EF:** \$50/participant postmarked or online by 4/4, \$70 postmarked or online by 4/25, \$85 online by 5/4, \$90 on site; \$5.00 extra for all phone registrations; \$20 fee for roster or section changes after 4/25 or any onsite changes. Onsite registration Thurs. 9 AM - 9 PM & Fri. 8 AM -11 AM. Players who register or change sections after 11 am on Friday will receive a 1/2-point bye for Rd. 1. Players must disclose any other, non-USCF, over-the-board (OTB) ratings. **Awards:** Trophies to top individuals & top teams in each section. Every player receives a commemorative

item! Full list of trophies on tournament Info Page. **Side Events:** Bughouse: Thurs. 11 am, Reg. onsite only Thurs. 9-10 am, \$25/team. Blitz Sections: K-6 and K-3, Thurs. 5 pm, Reg. onsite until 4 pm. Blitz EF: \$15 by 4/25, \$20 after or at site. Class trophies will be awarded in main event and in Blitz. Full list of trophies on tournament Info Page. Team Rooms are limited. Contact Susan Kantor at 931.787.1234 ext. 136 or by email: [skantor@uschess.org](mailto:skantor@uschess.org). Questions: Susan Kantor at 931.787.1234 ext. 136. **Entries:** U.S. Chess Federation, Attn: 2016 Elem Championship, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557 or online at [www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/elem/](http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/elem/). See website for additional information about the event, admission, entries, awards, meetings, updates, corrections, and registration forms.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAY 28-30, ARIZONA****2016 U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP WEST**

Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort, 10000 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704, 1-800-325-7832. **SECTIONS:** Championship (U2200), Reserve (U1600), Booster (U1200). **SCHEDULE:** (Championship & Reserve) 6/SS; 40/90, G/30, Inc/30; Rds.: 10-4, 10-4, 9-3. (Booster) 6/SS, Game/60, Inc/30; Rds.: (Sat) 10-1:30-5, (Sun) 10-1:30-5. **PRIZES:** (Championship) Digital Clock + plaque to Top 3; Digital clock to 1st + Plaque to Top 2 1800-1999, 1600-1799, and U1600; Plaque to top Senior 50+, Junior U20 and Junior U14. (Reserve) Digital clock + plaque to Top 3, Digital clock to 1st + Plaque to Top 2 1200-1399 and U1200; Plaque to top Senior 50+ and Junior U14. (Booster) Digital clock + trophy to 1st; Trophy to 2nd - 5th, Top Unrated and Junior U11. **SPECIAL PRIZES:** 1st Place in Championship and Reserve will receive a FREE ENTRY to the 2016 National Open. Top 2 Family Pairs in combined sections. Biggest Upset of each round (Rds. 1-5). **EF:** (Championship & Reserve) \$60 if rec'd by 5/25, \$70 if after 5/25. (Booster) \$40 if rec'd by 5/25, \$50 if after 5/25. **SIDE EVENTS:** Blitz tournament Friday 5/22 at 6:00pm, Reg: 5:00 - 5:45 at site, G/5 d0, 5 Rounds, Double SS; Entry Fee: \$10 (\$15 to non-tournament players); **Saturday Scholastic tournament** (K-6 and U1000 rating), Saturday 5/28 at 10:00am, Reg: 8:30 - 9:30, GAME/40 d5; 4 rounds, Entry fee \$15; **Sunday Scholastic tournament** (K-6 and U1000 rating), Sunday 5/29 at 10:00am, Reg: 8:30 - 9:30, GAME/40 d5; 4 rounds, Entry fee \$15; **Quick tournament** Monday 5/30 at noon, Reg: 10:30 - 11:30, GAME/10 d2; 5 rounds, Entry Fee: \$10 (\$15 to non-tournament players). **ENTER:** <http://events4Chess.com>

chess.com or mail to (make checks payable to "Rookery Chess"): 2016 US Amateur West, PMB 215, 4729 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson, AZ 85718 or at site. **HR:** 1-800-325-7832, \$99 (2 Queen), \$139 (jr. suite), or \$179 (casita), mention "Amateur West". **INFO:** Karen Pennock, 520-261-3176, email: [kpennock\\_83@yahoo.com](mailto:kpennock_83@yahoo.com). W.

**A Heritage Event!****US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAY 28-30 OR 29-30, NEW JERSEY****72ND ANNUAL U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP - EAST**

6-SS, 40/2 d5, SD-1. Hyatt Morristown, 3 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. For chess rates (\$119 per night), please make reservations at [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org). Phone: 973-647-1234, mention NJ Chess. Free parking, public transportation to NYC, Philadelphia. Walking distance to 30 restaurants, shops and parks within 5 minute stroll. In 3 sections: Championship (under 2200); Reserve (under 1800); Booster (under 1400); 2-day and 3-day schedules available. **3-Day Registration:** Saturday, May 28, 9:30-10:45 am. Rounds: 12-6:15, 11-5:15, 9:3-15. **2-Day Registration:** Sunday, May 24, 8:30-9:30 am. **2-day Schedule:** First 3 games, May 29, G/60 d5. Rounds: 10, 12:15, 2:30. All schedules merge in round 4. **Prizes for each section:** trophies to top 5 and top Senior 55/over and Juniors under 16 and 13. **Additional Prizes**—Championship Section: Trophies to top Under 2000, Under 1900, Under 1800. Reserve Section: Trophies to top Under 1600, Under 1500. Booster Section: Trophies to top Under 1200, Under 1100, Under 1000, Under 900, Under 800. **EF:** \$49, if postmarked by May 16. EF at site \$60 cash. Byes: 3 half-point byes allowed in rounds 1-5. Sets and clocks **NOT** provided. Entries to Aaron Kiedes, 4 Seymour Terrace, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Call 973-343-3260 for information or email [akiedes@gmail.com](mailto:akiedes@gmail.com). Entries must include name, USCF ID and expiration date, mailing address, email address, phone number, Section and entry fee. Checks made out to NJSCF. **No phone entries.** Online entries \$52 at [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org) after 4-15-16 until 5-26-16 at midnight. W

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****JUNE 22-23, NEVADA****TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)****2016 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN**

5SS, G/90 +30. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Rd., 89109. **\$2,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund.** \$500-300-200, U2000

## Membership Appreciation Program (MAP)

The MAP program continues in 2015. See details at [main.uschess.org/go/MAP](http://main.uschess.org/go/MAP). Top standings will appear every two months in *Chess Life*.

**Overall Affiliate Standings**

**Name**  
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN  
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS  
BAY AREA CHESS  
SILVER KNIGHTS CHESS  
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB  
SUCCESS CHESS SCHOOL  
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION  
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL  
DALLAS CHESS CLUB  
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR

**Small State Affiliate Standings**

**Name**  
MAINE ASSOC OF CHESS COACHES  
TOURNAMENT IN A BOX  
DELAWARE YOUTH CHESS ORG  
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC  
MESA CHESS CLUB  
WVSCA  
NEW MEXICO SCHOL CHESS ORG  
AIRLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
GREAT PLAINS CHESS ASSOCIATION  
LIKENS CHESS

**State Chapter Affiliate Standings**

**Name**  
MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION  
PENNSYLVANIA ST CHESS FED  
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION  
MINNESOTA ST CHESS ASSN  
MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC  
NEW JERSEY ST CHESS FED  
DELAWARE CHESS ASSOCIATION  
VERMONT CHESS ASSOCIATION  
TENNESSEE CHESS ASSOCIATION  
KANSAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

**State**

NY  
TX  
CA  
VA  
FL  
CA  
MI  
CA  
TX  
MO

**Count**

1186  
973  
617  
385  
299  
272  
265  
251  
225  
216

**Adult Membership Standings**

**Name**  
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN  
MARSHALL CHESS CLUB  
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR  
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB  
JERSEY SHORE HS CHESS LEAGUE  
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS  
DALLAS CHESS CLUB  
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION  
LOS ANGELES CHESS CLUB  
ROCHESTER CHESS CENTER

**State**

NY  
NY  
MO  
CA  
NJ  
TX  
MI  
CA  
NY

**Count**

945  
191  
140  
121  
118  
98  
77  
77  
77

**Scholastic and Youth Membership Standings**

**Name**  
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS  
BAY AREA CHESS  
SILVER KNIGHTS CHESS  
SUCCESS CHESS SCHOOL  
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN  
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL  
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB  
SACRAMENTO VALLEY SCH CL  
NEW YORK CITY CHESS INC  
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION

**State**

TX  
CA  
VA  
CA  
NY  
CA  
FL  
CA  
NY

**Count**

875  
543  
384  
266  
241  
234  
223  
191  
189  
188

**Member Standings**

**Name**  
WOLF, TODD W  
NAVARRO, DANIEL A  
KRANICH RITTER, TANIA  
CLARK, MIKE  
BRACKENRIDGE, KEITH  
TUSING, TIMOTHY A  
ACOR, COREY  
SETSER, BRADY  
DEAN, JOSEPH A  
FERGUSON, HERBERT

**State**

ND  
TX  
FL  
MO  
OH  
FL  
FL  
SC  
SC  
IL

**Count**

64  
31  
10  
7  
6  
5  
5  
5  
5  
5

**PCT Gain Standings**

State	Dec14	Dec15	PCT	State	Dec14	Dec15	PCT	State	Dec14	Dec15	PCT	State	Dec14	Dec15	PCT
HI	138	284	105.8	ND	99	135	36.4	NV	741	897	21.1	PA	3292	3777	14.7
MS	259	406	56.8	SC	658	851	29.3	SD	192	230	19.8				
KS	344	481	39.8	WY	109	137	25.7	NE	289	333	15.2				

\$200, U1800 \$200, U1600 \$200, U1400 \$200, U1200 \$200. **EF:** \$50 by 6/3, \$70 later. **REG:** 9-9:30 a.m. **RDS:** 10-2:30-7, 10-2:30. 1/2 point bye available in any round (limit 1). **HR** \$69 (\$89 Friday and Saturday nights). (800) 732-7117 – be sure to ask for the **CHESS** rates. This event kicks off the **LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL** on Wednesday before the **National Open**. ENT Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or [www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com). FIDE.

### An American Classic!

A Heritage Event!

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

### JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, NEVADA

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 300 (ENHANCED)**

#### 2016 NATIONAL OPEN

6-SS, 40/90, SD/30 +30 (2-day rounds 1-3 and unrated G/40 +5). Westgate Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas 89109. **\$100,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund** will not be reduced! In 8 sections, top 2 FIDE rated. **Open:** \$8,000-4,000-2,000-1,000-600-500-400-300-300, top under 2500 \$2,500, top under 2400 \$2,400. **EXTRA \$2,500** for perfect score. The winner of the Open section also receives a replica of the Edmondson Cup. **Under 2300:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 2100:** \$6,000-3,000-1,500-750-400-350-300-250-250-250. **Under 1900:** \$5,000-2500-1250-600-350-300-250-250-250-250. **Under 1700:** \$4,000-2,000-1,000-500-300-250-250-250-250-250. **Under 1500:** \$3,000-1500-700-350-300-250-250-250-250-250. **Under 1300:** \$2,000-1,000-500-300-250-250-250, top under 1000 (no provisional) \$900. **Unrated or Provisional Under 1000:** 3 schedules with 6 rounds per day \$200-125-75 each day plus \$300 overall (best 2 results). **Plus Score Bonus** (\$12,000 guaranteed) in addition to any other prizes, every player with 3-1/2 points or more wins a \$50 gift certificate. Plus score certificates will be awarded on site only. Players age 14 and under are eligible for best game prizes including the Freddie Award and \$400 in cash prizes (donated by Fred Gruenberg). **Mixed Doubles:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$1,500-750-350-250-150. Teammates may play in different sections but must have average rating below 2200. **The Freddie:** Players age 14 and under are eligible for best game prizes including the Freddie Award and \$400 in cash prizes (donated by Fred Gruenberg). Unrated players may play only in Unrated or Open Section. Provisionally rated players may not win more than 40% of top prize in any under section; balance goes to next player(s) in line. CCA minimum ratings or other ratings may be used if higher than US Chess June Supplement. **EF:** \$199 by 1/31, \$225 by 6/3, \$250 by 6/22, \$280 later. \$40 less for seniors 65 and over. \$125 less for players in only 1 unrated section, \$60 less for 2 schedules. Add \$125 for adults rated under 2200 or juniors under 2100 playing in the Open Section. **Reg:** 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Thursday, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Friday. **Rds.:** 11-5:30, 10-4:30, 10-4:30. 2-day schedule: **Reg:** 8:30-9 a.m. Saturday. **Rds.:** 10-12-2 then merge with 3-day in round 4 at 4:30. Half point byes available in any round; round 5 or 6 byes must be requested before the start of round 2 and may not be cancelled.

Chess sets and boards provided for tournament play only, not for skittles. Please bring digital chess clocks! The **LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL** features the National Open, the U.S. Game/10 Championship, the U.S. Women's Open, the International Youth Championship, and other events. **Many free extras and surprises!** Free parking. Free raffles with great prizes. Free GM Lectures. Free GM analysis of your games. Free Daily Bulletins and free commemorative DVD mailed to all participants. **Grandmaster Simuls and Chess Camp** for all ages on Thursday. **U.S. Women's Open** Wednesday and Thursday. **Walter Brown Memorial Blitz** Thursday 7:00 p.m. **U.S. Game/10** Championship Monday morning. **Youth Tournaments** Friday, Saturday & Sunday. **Blitz Tournaments** Saturday & Sunday. **Poker Tournament** Thursday afternoon. **Don't be shut out** — make your reservations early and **be sure to ask for the CHESS rates** — \$69 single or double (\$89 Friday and Saturday nights) guarantees a premium room with new furniture, refrigerator, flat screen TV and more. The optional resort package including access to the Fitness Center, free WI-FI, and more is substantially discounted for our group. Cutoff for special hotel rate is **June 3rd**. (800) 732-7117 or [www.VegasChessFestival.com/hotel](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com/hotel). ENT Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925, on line at [www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com). **Info:** (702) 930-9550 and leave a message. FIDE.

### JUNE 27, NEVADA

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)**

#### 2016 U.S. GAME/10 CHAMPIONSHIP (QC)

8SS, G/10 +2. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, 89109. **\$7,500 Prize Fund** based on 100 paid entries. **\$5,000 Guaranteed:** \$1800-900-600, U2000 575, U2250 550, U2100 525, U1950 500, U1800 475, U1650 450, U1500 425, U1250 400, U1000 300. Must be 3 players eligible for each prize awarded. **EF:** \$69 by 6/3, \$79 by 6/22, \$100 later. **Reg:** 8:30-9 a.m. Rd. 1 at 10 a.m. — finish by 2:30 p.m. Higher of regular or quick rating. 1/2 point byes available in any round (limit 2). **HR:** \$69 single or double (\$89 Friday and Saturday nights). (800) 732-7117 – be sure to ask for the **CHESS** rates. ENT: Vegas Chess Festivals, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or [www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com). FIDE.

A Heritage Event!

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

### JULY 30-AUG. 7, AUG. 2-7 OR AUG. 4-7, INDIANA

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 300**

#### 117TH ANNUAL U.S. OPEN

Includes Traditional one game per day schedule (9 days), also 6-day slow-time control option, and 4-day option. 9SS, 40/90, SD/30; inc. 30 (4-day option, Rds. 1-6, G/60 d5). **Playing and Meeting Areas:** Marriott Indianapolis East, 7202 East 21st St., Indianapolis IN 46219. **Guest Rooms:** **Indianapolis Conference Center (formerly La Quinta Inn & Suites)**, 7304 East 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219, HR: \$84, Call (317) 359-1021, mention "US Chess"; **Fairfield Inn & Suites**, 7110 East 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219, HR: \$99, Call (317) 322-0101, mention "US Chess". Free parking - All three hotels are next to each other (Marriott at the center) and share same parking lot. Reserve by July 1 or rate may increase. **\$50,000 in prizes based on 500 paid entries, else proportional, \$40,000 (80% of each prize) minimum guaranteed.** A one-section tournament with Class prizes. Top US player not otherwise qualified qualifies for 2017 US Championship. **Choice of three schedules:** **Traditional:** 40/90, SD/30; inc. 30. One round daily at 7 PM, except Rd. 9, 3 PM 8/7. **6-Day Option:** 40/90, SD/30; inc. 30. 7 PM 8/2, 12 NOON & 7 PM 8/3-8/5, 7 PM 8/6, 3 PM 8/7. **4-Day Option:** Rds. 1-6: G/60 d5; then 40/90, SD/30; inc. 30. 12 NOON, 3 PM, 7 PM, 10 PM 8/4; 12 NOON, 3 PM, 7 PM 8/5; 7 PM 8/6; 3 PM 8/7. **All** schedules merge after Round 6 & compete for same prizes. **Projected prizes:** Top places \$8000-4000-2000-1500-1000-800-600-500, clear winner playoff \$200 bonus. If tie for first, top two on tiebreak play Armageddon game (White 5 minutes, 2-sec delay, Black 3 minutes, 2-sec delay and gets draw odds) for bonus and title. **Class Prizes:** Top Master (2200-2399) \$2500-1200-800-500, Expert (2000-2199) \$2500-1200-800-500, Class A (1800-1999) \$2500-1200-800-500, Class B (1600-1799) \$2500-1200-800-500, Class C (1400-1599) \$2000-1000-600-400, Class D (1200-1399) \$1500-700-500-300, Class E or below (under 1200) \$1500-700-500-300, Unrated \$800-400-200. **Half-Point Byes:** must commit before Round 4; up to 3 byes allowed for 2000/up, 2 byes for 1400-1999, one bye for Under 1400/Urn. Limit 1 bye in last two rounds. Zero-point byes are always available in any round if requested at least two hours before the round(s) in question. **Entry Fee:** Online, \$145 by 6/20, \$165 by 7/18, \$185 after 7/18. By mail, \$147 postmarked by 6/20, \$167 postmarked by 7/18, \$187 after 7/18; do not mail after 7/25! By phone, \$150 by 6/20, \$170 by 7/18, \$185 after. No phone entries after 7/29 (by the close of business at the Office!) At site, all \$190; Free entry for GMs and WGMs for main event. All entries must be made at least two (2) hours prior to the player's first game. Current US Chess membership required. **July Rating Supplement** used; unofficial ratings (at least four games) used if otherwise unrated. CCA ratings used if above US Chess. Foreign player ratings: usually 100 points added to FIDE or FQE, 200+ added to most foreign national ratings, no points added to CFC. Highest of multiple ratings generally used. **Entries:** US Chess, ATTN: 2016 US Open, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Online entry available soon: <https://secure2.uschess.org/webstore/tournament.php?wkevent=2016USOPEN>. Phone entry: 800.903-8723. **Not FIDE rated, No cell phones.** Bring a clock — none supplied. Sets/boards supplied for tournament but not for skittles. Many meetings, workshops and seminars, including: **US Chess Committee Meetings** 8/3-8/5, **US Chess Awards Luncheon** 8/6 NOON, **US Chess Delegates Meeting** 8/6-7. Many side events and other championships, including: **US National Blitz Championship** 7SS Double, G/5 d0, Rd. 1 at 12 NOON 8/6; **Weekend Swiss** 5SS, G/60 d5, 12-3 Sat 7/30, 10-12:30-3 Sun 7/31; **US Open Scholastic** (see separate TLA for the Scholastic event); **US Open Quads** G/30 d5 except on Wed (G/60 d5) 12-1:30-3 Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri; Wed 10-12:30-3. **US National G/15 Championship** 12-1:2-3-4 Wed 8/3; **US Open Bughouse** Sat. 10:30 AM 7/30. **18th Annual Golf Tournament** for the US Open Chess Players, (see tournament website for details). **US Open Tennis Tournament** (see

tournament website for details). In addition, three other championships will also take place: the **2016 Denker Tournament of HS Champions** (see website for participants' list), the **2016 Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions** (see website for participants' list) and the **2016 National Girls' Tournament of Champions** (see website for participants' list). Please check the **US Open website often for updates, new information and corrections and other useful documents!** (Coming soon) <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2016/usopen/>.

## Grand Prix

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

### MAR. 11-13 OR 12-13, PENNSYLVANIA

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)**

#### 17TH ANNUAL PITTSBURGH OPEN

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Wyndham Garden Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, One Industry Ln., Pittsburgh 15275. Free parking, free airport shuttle, free internet in guest rooms and skittles room. **\$10,000 guaranteed prizes.** In 5 sections. **Open:** \$1400-700-400, clear or tiebreak winner \$100 bonus, top Under 2300/Unr \$500. **Under 2100:** \$1000-500-300, top Under 1900/Unr \$400. **Under 1800:** \$1000-500-300, top Under 1600 (no unr) \$300. **Under 1500:** \$600-400-200, top Under 1300 (no unr) \$200. **Under 1200:** \$300-200-100. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 3/12; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **Unrated** may not win over \$200 in U1200, \$400 U1500 or \$600 U1800. **Top 3 sections EF:** \$95 online at chessaction.com by 3/9, \$100 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/7, 3-day \$103, 2-day \$102 mailed by 3/2, all \$110 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hours before game. GMs, IMs & WGMs free; \$90 deducted from prize. **U1500 Section EF:** all \$30 less than top 3 sections EF. **U1200 Section EF:** all \$60 less than top 3 sections EF. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry \$60:** not available in Open Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **All** Half point byes OK all, limit 2, Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$99-99, 1-800-996-3426, 724-695-0002; reserve by 2/26 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD D657633, or reserve car online through chessaction.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: [www.chesstour.com](http://www.chesstour.com), DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Saturday 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

### MAR. 12, ILLINOIS

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10**

#### 2016 SCHAMBURG OPEN - 2ND FIDEL SERRANO JR. MEMORIAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Hilton Garden Inn, 1191 E. Woodfield Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173. Tel. 847-524-0455, 4SS, G/60 d5. \$1000 b/40, 80% Guaranteed. **Registration:** starts at 9 AM 4:15. **Rounds:** start at 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:15 PM, and 4:30 PM. **Byes:** Max 2 must commit before 1st round. **EF:** GM/IM Free \$35 mailed before March 1. \$45 at site. **Scholastic EF:** \$30 mailed before March 1. \$35 at site. **Open Prizes:** 1st - \$250 - \$200, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$125, 4th \$100, 5th \$75. **Top** U1800- \$100, U1600- \$100, U1400- \$100. **Scholastic:** U1600; U1200; U800; U600. 1st Trophy, 2nd Trophy, 3rd Trophy, 4th-6th Medals all sections. Raffles: 1st Prize: 1 night stay at Hilton Garden Inn Schaumburg. 2nd Prize: Chess book. 3rd Prize: Chess book. Bring chess sets and clocks, none provided. **Advanced entries checks payable to:** Virgilio Forro, 736 Berwick Place, Roselle, IL 60172 Or Pay Pal: [virgilioforro@yahoo.com](mailto:virgilioforro@yahoo.com). **Tournament Consultants:** IM Angelo Young/ Florentino Inumerable. **Tournament rules:** US Chess Books and equipment on sale at the site.

### MAR. 15, NEW YORK

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10**

#### MARSHALL MASTERS

4-SS, G/25 d5. Open to 2000+ players. FIDE Rapid rated. **\$750 GTD:** 250-150-100. Top U2400 125, Top U2300 100, Biggest upset \$25. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$30, GMs Free. **Reg:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds:** 7:15-8:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for round 1 or 4 only. Request at entry. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. [www.marshallchessclub.org](http://www.marshallchessclub.org).

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

### MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, MISSOURI

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)**

#### 20TH ANNUAL MID-AMERICA OPEN

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Crowne Plaza Hotel St. Louis-Clayton, 7750 Carondelet Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105 I-64 W/US 40-W 40-Ex 32B, 1.2 miles north on Hanley Rd. **SS \$20,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND.** In 7 sections: **Open:** \$2000-1000-500-300, clear winner or 1st on tiebreak \$100 bonus, top U2300/Unr \$800-400. **FIDE, Under 2100:** \$1400-700-400-200. **Under 1900:** \$1400-700-400-200. **Under 1700:** \$1400-700-400-200. **Under 1500:** \$1200-600-300-200. **Under 1300:** \$1000-500-300-200. **Under 1000:** \$500-300-200-100, plaques to first 3, top U800, U600, Unrated **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$200 in U1000, \$300 U1300, \$500 U1500, or \$700 U1700. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$800-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before 2 pm 3/19; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$109 online at chessaction.com by 3/16, \$115 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/14 (entry only, no questions), 3-day \$113, 2-day \$112 mailed by 3/9, \$130 online until 2 hours before game or at site. GMs free; \$100 deducted from prize. **U1000 Section**

For later events, see [chesstour.com](http://chesstour.com).

**EF:** all \$50 less than above. **Online EF \$3 less** to MCA members. **No checks at site**, credit cards OK. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 yr USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry \$60**; not available in Open Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **Byes:** OK all, limit 2; Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR: \$97-100-105-110**, includes free full hot buffet breakfast and free parking, 888-303-1746, 314-726-5400, request chess rate, reserve by 3/4 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. Questions: Director@Chess.US, chesstour.com, chesstour.info, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Saturday 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, TEXAS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

#### LONE STAR OPEN

5SS, (Open and U2000 Sections are G/90 i30, and FIDE rated; All other Sections are G/120 d5). Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs and WIMs (EF deducted from winnings). **SIDE EVENTS:** (Schol. Team & Ind., 4SS, G/30 d5, 1-day only, Sat. Mar. 19th); 5-min. Blitz "CAJUN KNOCK-OUT" (Sat. night after Rd. 3). Separate room for schol. Players - A trophy or medal will be awarded to each schol. player. DoubleTree Houston North, 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032, Ph: 281-848-4000, \$85 chess rate (reserve by 3/1 and mention Cajun Chess Tournament). Free Parking! Free airport shuttle service! Free wireless internet in all guestrooms! Discounted Hotel Breakfast Coupons for Hotel Guests (\$5 off of the \$15 Hot Breakfast Buffet - Guests are responsible for tax & gratuities). Hotel check-in time is 3pm; check-out time is 12 noon. For guests who need later check out on Sunday, you may stay in your room until 7pm for an additional day rate of \$69; otherwise, hotel will store luggage at no charge on Sunday afternoon for those checking out at 12 noon. 5 Sects. **PRIZES:** \$10,000 b/200 paid ent. **OPEN:** \$1400-800-500-300-200; U2200: \$700-400; **U2000:** \$800-400-200-100-50; **U1800:** \$800-400-200-100-50; **U1600/Unr\*:** \$800-400-200-100-50; **U1300:** \$400-300-200-100-50. \*Unrated players may only win 50% of the prize fund except in the Open Sect. where they must pay full EF and are eligible for full prize fund. Schol. Sects. (Team & Individual): **K-2, K-5, K-8, K-12.** **Prizes:** Trophies to top 5 individuals & top 3 teams in each section (more ind. trophies depending on pre-entries). Every non-trophy winner receives a souvenir chess medal. Teams may have as many players as they wish from the same school in the same section but must have a minimum of 3 players to be considered a team; the top 4 scores will count for final team score. **Scholastic Players may play in both Scholastic and Main Tournamen**

ments if desired by registering for the Scholastic Tournament **AND a section in the 3-day Schedule of the Main Tournament with a 1/2-point Bye in the 2nd Round of the 3-Day Schedule.** USCF-recommended computer tiebreaks will decide trophy and medal placements for winners of all schol. sections. Free chess gift to oldest player and to player who travels farthest to OPEN tour. **CAJUN BOUNTY:** Defeat the top ranked player in the OPEN sect. and win free entry to our next tournament! EF: \$89 by 3/11; \$99 thereafter and at site; **Unr. (U1600) and Jr.** (under 19 yrs of age and playing in U1300 or U1600 Sections) \$59 by 3/11; \$69 thereafter and at site. **Schol. EF:** \$20 by 3/11; \$25 thereafter and at site; Re-Entry Fee (no Re-Entry in OPEN and U2000 Sects): \$25 (avail. up to Rd. 4; 3 re-entries or 2 Jr. entries count as one additional entry for prize fund). **3-day Sched:** Reg. Fri. 5:30-7pm, Rds. Fri. 8pm; Sat. 2-7, Sun. 10-3. **2-day Sched:** Reg. Sat. 7:45-8:30am, (Rds. Sat. 9-2-7, Sun. 10-3. Both schedules merge at Rd. 2. **Schol. Sched:** (All 4 rds. G/30 d5 - one day only, Sat., Mar. 19). Reg. Sat. 8:30am-9:30am, Rd. one at 10am; Other Rds. will immediately follow. Byes for OPEN Tourn: Avail. all Rds. and must commit before Rd. 3. Byes for SCHOL. Tourn: Only one 1/2-point bye allowed and must commit before Rd. 2. **HR:** \$85 (281-848-4000), reserve by 3/1 and mention Cajun Chess Tournament to assure group entry. **ENT:** On-line registration, printable entry form to Cajun Chess, 12405 Hillary Step Dr., Olive Branch, MS 38654. Info or Phone Ent: 504-208-9596 or 504-905-2971. Major credit cards accepted (no checks at site). FIDE.

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 18-20, VIRGINIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

#### 48TH VIRGINIA OPEN

5SS, a VCF Cup Event, \$3600 Guaranteed! **SITE:** Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel, 45200 Aviation Dr., Dulles, VA 20166-7506; www.marriott.com, 703-471-9500, rooms \$89 chess rate, res. by 3/6, 800-228-9200. 2 Sections. **OPEN (FIDE rated):** \$650-410-300-240; Top X, A ea \$200. **AMATEUR(U1900):** \$420-250-190; Top B,C,D,U1200 ea \$160, top unr \$100. Plaques to 1st Place in Open and Amateur. **5 Rds:** Rd. 1 Fri 3/18, 7:45pm (G/120 d5); Rds. 2 & 3 Sat 3/19 10am & 3:30pm (40/115, SD/30 d5), Rds. 4 & 5 Sun 3/20 10am & 3:30pm (40/115, SD/30 d5) **EF:** \$70 if rec'd by Tues. 3/15, \$85 starting 3/16 and on site. VCF Mem req. for VA Residents (\$10 Adults, U19 \$5). One 1/2 point Bye allowed, commit by Sat 9:30am. Re-entry \$40, start Rd2 with 1/2 pt. Checks payable to Virginia Chess Federation. **REG:** On-line at www.vachess.org, mail to Mike Hoffpaur, ATTN: VA Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693; On-site Fri 3/18 5-7pm. **Info:** andrere2@yahoo.com.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 18-20, NORTH CAROLINA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)

#### 3RD ANNUAL RON SIMPSON MEMORIAL

5-SS, G/120 d5. Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, 2703 Ramada Rd., Burlington, NC 27215, (336) 227-5541, mention chess for \$75 rate until Mar. 3, 2016. Full hot buffet breakfast included! **\$5,000** in total prizes **ALL UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED**! **OPEN (FIDE rated):** \$750-400-250-100; U2200 (class): 150-100; U2000 (class): 150-100; **U1800:** \$600-400-250-200-150-100; U1600 (class): 150-100; **U1400:** \$400-250-150; U1200 (class): 150-100. May play up if within 100 points of next section. Unrated may only win \$200 in U1800 and \$100 in U1400. **EF:** \$69 if received by March 6th; \$85 thereafter. **RDS.:** Round 1: Friday at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 10 am (G90; d/5); then Saturday 2-7, Sunday 9-2. One bye allowed (any round) must be requested before Round 2. **Advance Entry:** Online registration is available at www.carolinaschessinitiative.com. Alternately, mail checks to: Walter High, 105 N. Crabtree Knoll, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Make checks payable to: Carolinas Chess Initiative (CCI). On site entry: March 18 from 5-7 pm and March 19 from 8-9:30 am. **Saturday Scholastic:** Open to kids rated U1000. 4 Rd-SS, G/30 d5. **EF:** \$20 by March 13, \$25 thereafter. Rounds: 10:30 am-12:30 pm-1:45 pm-3:00 pm. Trophies: top 5 in two sections. Sections based on ratings. **INFO:** Walter High wmhhigh@nc.rr.com. Open Section FIDE-rated and played under strict FIDE rules. No smoking including electronic cigarettes.

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 19-20, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED)

#### 38TH ANNUAL MARCHAND OPEN

Dr. Erich Marchand "requested that his friends play chess in his memory." 5SS, G/115 d5. **Location:** Strong National Museum of Play, One Manhattan Square, Rochester, NY 14607. **\$16,440 Gtd. Open Section:** \$3000-2000-1300-800-500-300. Under 2200 & U2000 each \$750-450. FIDE Rated: EF: \$85. **U1800 Section:** \$1100-750-450. Under 1600 \$750-450. EF: \$70. **U1400 Section:** \$500-300-200. Under 1200 \$300-200. EF: \$60. **U1000 Section:** \$400-250-160. Under 800 \$200-130. EF: \$50. Unrated players in the U1800 section can only win \$375, in U1400 \$175 & U1000 \$125. No limit in Open. Balance to next prize winners. EF refunded and \$100 appearance award to all GM and IM if paid by 3/5/2016. **All EF add \$20 after 3/5/2016.** NYSCA members deduct \$3. All sections USCF rated. Ratings as in March Supplement. Bring sets, boards, and clocks - none provided. Food court and chess books & equipment sales available on-site. No smoking allowed on the Strong campus. Free parking. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:15am. **Rds.:** Sat. 10:2-15 6:30, Sun. 10:2-15. One 1/2 point bye available in rd. 1, 2, 3, or 4 if requested at entry. Optional first round Friday, 3/18/2016 at 7:30 pm played at Rochester Chess Center (register by 6:30pm). **Info:** 585-442-2430. **Mail entry to:** Rochester Chess Center, 221 Norris Dr., Rochester, NY 14610. Website: nycheess.org. Store: chessset.com.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 19-20, TEXAS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

#### 2016 DCC FIDE OPEN IV UNDERWRITTEN BY RUIFENG LI

## 25th annual EASTERN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

### April 22-24 or 23-24, 2016 - \$20,000 guaranteed prizes!

#### 5 rounds, Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, Sturbridge, Massachusetts

**5 rounds, Host Hotel at Cedar Lake,**  
366 Main St (Rt 20 west), Sturbridge MA  
01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90). Free parking.

**Experience 1790-1840 America** at Old Sturbridge Village (www.osv.org), visit shops, galleries & restaurants.

**Two schedule options:** 3-day, 40/100, SD/30, d10, or 2-day, rounds 1-2 G/60, d10, then merges with 3-day and competes for same prizes.

**In 7 sections** (rated players may play up one section).

**Master:** \$2000-1000-500-300, clear or tiebreak win \$100 bonus, top U2300 \$800-400. 120 GPP (enhanced).

**Expert:** \$1500-700-500-300.

**Class A:** \$1500-700-500-300.

**Class B:** \$1500-700-500-300.

**Class C:** \$1000-500-300-200.

**Class D:** \$1000-500-300-200

**Class E:** \$500-250-150-100, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated.

**Unrated** prize limits: E \$150, D \$300, C \$450, B \$600.

**Mixed doubles:** best male/female 2-player "team" (average under 2200) combined score among all sections: \$600-300. May be in different sections.

**Top 4 sections entry fee:** \$115 online at chessaction.com by 4/20, \$120 at 406-896-2038 by 4/18, 3-day \$118, 2-day \$117 mailed by 4/13, \$130 (no checks, credit cards OK) at site, or online until 2 hrs before game. Re-entry (Expert/below) \$60.

**Class C or D Section entry fee:** all \$30 less than top 4 sections entry fee.

**Class E Section entry fee:** all \$60 less than top 4 sections entry fee.

**Online entry fee** \$5 less to MACA members; may join/renew at masschess.org

**3-day schedule:** Reg. Fri to 6 pm, rds Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 am & 5 pm, Sun 10 & 3:15.

**2-day schedule:** Reg. Sat to 10 am, rds Sat 11 am, 2 pm & 5 pm, Sun 10 & 3:15.

**Half-pt byes** OK all rds (limit 2); Master must commit before rd 2, others before rd 3.

**Unofficial** uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated.

**Special 1 year USCF dues** with Chess Life: see Chess Life or chesstour.com. USCF membership required..

**Hotel rates:** \$96-96, 800-582-3232, 508-347-7393, reserve by 4/8.

**Entry:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: chesstour.com, director@chess.us, 347-201-2269. Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). Bring set, board, clock if possible- none supplied.

## Tournament Life / March

5SS, G/90 inc/30. Dallas Chess Club, 200 S. Cottonwood Dr. #C, Richardson, TX 75080. **Two sections:** Open and Reserve. **Open:** \$\$875G. FIDE and US Chess rated but uses FIDE rules. Use US Chess ratings and rules for pairings and for awarding prizes. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. Note that Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play. Note that USA Players with no FIDE ID must disclose their email address. \$\$550-\$250-\$125. **EF:** \$80, Senior/Birthday during tournament/Additional Family Member \$55. Small appearance fee to the First three GM/IM's who apply. GM/IM must play all rounds to get appearance fee (appearance fee might be deducted from prize). **Reserve:** Open to players rated below 2000 USCF. This section is not Fide Rated but is US Chess rated and uses US Chess rules. **EF:** \$40. The Reserve give back 10% of prizes and if at least 8 paid entries and if there is a clear winner, then that winner receives free entry to next DCC Fide Open. In the reserve section, Tournament reserves the right to use Fide rules on electronic devices and on starting White's clock at start of a round and to use FIDE pairing rules. **Both:** **Reg:** Saturday from 9:45-10:15 am. **Rds:** Sat 10:45 am-3:10pm-7:16pm, Sun 9:45 am-2:10pm. One half point Bye allowed if requested before end of round rd. 2 and before getting full point bye. Withdrawals and zero point last round byes are not eligible for prizes. Note that house players (if required) must pay \$5 per round and be US Chess members. **Ent:** Make/mail Checks payable to Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719. **Info:** 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com. FIDE.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 20, NEW JERSEY

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

#### DR. DAVID OSTFELD MEMORIAL ICA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Site: Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601. Open All Ages With Rating above 1400. 4SS, G/61 d5. Prize Fund 1st - 3rd \$300, \$250, \$200, U2200, U1800, U1600 each \$100 Best Under 13 Years Old \$75, Best Over 55 Years Old \$75. Reg Ends at 9 AM. Only one 1/2-point bye allowed, if requested before the start of round two. **EF:** Adp (pmk) By Mar 16th) \$40, A1 Site \$45. GMs Free Entry. **INFO:** 201 287 0250 or chessdirector@icanj.net. **SB\$40:** Prize Fund Will Not Be Reduced Below 70%. **Rds:** 9:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:15 PM, 4:30 PM. **Ent:** Make EF payable to: International Chess Academy. Mail To: Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Ln., New Milford, NJ 07646. **INFO:** www.icanj.net. W.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, PENNSYLVANIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

#### 10TH ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA OPEN

**OPEN SECTION, MAR 23-27:** 95S, 40/2, SD/30 d10. GM & IM norms possible, FIDE rated. **OTHER SECTIONS, MAR 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27:** 7SS, 40/2, SD/30 d10 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10; 2-day option, rds. 1-4 G/30 d10). At the luxurious **Philadelphia Marriott Downtown**, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, directly across the street from the world famous Reading Terminal Market with over 100 food vendors. **Prizes \$80,000** based on 500 paid entries (seniors, re-entries, GMs, IMs, WGMs count as half entries, U100 Section as 40% entries), else proportional, minimum \$60,000 (75% of each prize) guaranteed. In 7 sections: **Open:** \$7000-4000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400, clear or tiebreak first \$200 bonus, FIDE Under 2400/Urn \$2000-1000. **Under 2200/Urn, Under 2000/Urn, Under 1800:** each \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300. Unrated may not win over \$2000 in U2000 Section. **Under 1600:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1400:** \$3000-1500-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1100/Urn:** \$1000-700-500-400-300-200-200-100-100. Unrated may not win over \$300 in U1100 Section. **Unrated not allowed** in U1800, U1600 or U1400 sections. **Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes:** best male/female combined 2-player team score: \$1000-500-300-200. In Open Section, only the first 7 rounds are counted. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; prize limits do not apply to mixed doubles. **Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used** if otherwise unrated. **Prize limits:** 1) If post-event rating posted 3/22/15-3/22/16 is more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$1500. 2) Players with under 26 lifetime games as of 3/16 official cannot win over \$500 in U1100, \$1000 in U1400, \$1500 U1600, or \$2000 U1800. 3) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Open EF, for GMs, IMs & WGMs:** \$125 online by 3/21, \$150 at site. **Minimum prize guarantees** in Open Section, to players who play all 9 games with no byes: US GM \$300, foreign GM \$600 (limited to first 5 to enter, others \$300), foreign IM/WGM \$300, foreign FM/WIM \$200, foreign FIDE rated \$100. **Open EF, for US players who are not USCF or FIDE rated 2200/over:** \$355 online at chessaction.com by 1/14, \$375 online by 3/21, \$400 at site. **Open EF, for others:** \$205 online at chessaction.com by 1/14, \$225 online by 3/21, \$250 at site. **Open mailed or phoned entries:** all \$10 more than online entry, mail by 3/14, phone to 406-896-2038 by 3/18. **U2200 through U1400 Sections:** **EF:** \$205 online at chessaction.com by 1/14, \$225 online by 3/21, \$250 at site. Mailed EF: 4-day \$214, 3-day \$213, 2-day \$212 mailed by 1/14, all \$20 more mailed by 3/14. **U1100/Urn Section EF:** \$75 online at chessaction.com by 3/21, 4-day \$84, 3-day \$83, 2-day \$82 mailed by 3/14, \$100 at site. **Phoned EF:** All \$10 more than online EF, 406-896-2038 (entry only, no questions), available only through 3/18. **Online late entry after 3/21:** available until 2 hours before your first game, same price as entry at site. **EF \$100 less to seniors 65/over in Open through U1400. Special 1 year USCF membership** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. **Re-entry:** \$100, no re-entry from Open Section to Open Section. **5-day schedule** (Open only): Reg. ends Wed 6 pm, rds. Wed. 7 pm, Thu 12 & 7 (corrected), Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun

10 & 4. **4-day schedule** (except Open): Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds. Thu 7 pm, Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4. **3-day schedule** (except Open): Reg. ends Fri 10 am, rds. Fri 11, 2:30 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 10 & 4. **2-day schedule** (except Open): Reg. ends Sat 9 am, rds. Sat 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Sun 10 & 4. **4-day, 3-day, & 2-day merge & compete for same prizes.** **Byes:** Half point byes OK all rounds, limit 3 byes, limit 2 in last 4 rounds. Open Section must commit before rd. 2, other sections before rd. 4. **Bring sets, boards, clocks** if possible- none supplied. **HR:** \$104-104-124, 215-625-2900, reserve by 3/11 or rate may increase. **Parking:** Marriott valet parking, about \$20/day (60% off regular rate) for first 100 valet parking spaces sold. 925 Walnut (2/5 mile from Marriott), about \$10/day Sat & Sun, \$15/day other days. **Car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633 or reserve car online at chesstour.com. **Ratings:** FIDE March used for Open, USCF March official for U2200 & below; note that USCF ratings after the March list (see above) may result in a \$1500 prize limit. **Foreign player ratings:** see www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm. **Cellphone & anti-cheating rules:** see www.chesstour.com/devices.htm. Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: DirectorAtChess.us, 347-201-2269, chesstour.com. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sat 10 pm, enter by 9:45 pm.

#### MAR. 25, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6 (ENHANCED)

#### 52ND CINCINNATI OPEN

Hilton Garden Inn, 5300 Corinth Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45242. **4SS, Sections:** Open, U2100, U1700, U1300. Players may choose to play up one section only. **Time Control:** G/150 d10 except 2-day rds 1s & G/75 d5. **Prizes:** Open: \$600-450-350-250, top under 2200 \$225-175; U2100: \$450-350-250-180; U1700: \$350-250-180-140; U1300: \$225-150-125-100; prizes based on 100 paid entries, else proportional. (No unrated may win more than the third-place prize amount except in Open.) **Entry fee:** Advance \$99, must be received by March 30; onsite \$110; re-entry \$50. \$10 loyalty discount for those who played in 2015 Cincinnati Open; \$3 discount for current Ohio Chess Association members. Free entry to GMs/IMs; \$99 deducted from prize. **Advance registration:** Mail entries to Cincinnati Open, 9180 Pinewood Dr., Loveland, OH 45140 or enter online at www.chesscincinnati.com. **Onsite registration:** Friday, April 1 5:30-6:30; Saturday, April 2 9:00-9:30. **3-day schedule:** Friday 7:00, Saturday 10:00 and 5:00, Sunday 9:00 and 3:00. **2-day schedule:** Saturday 10:00 and 1:00, then merge with 3-day. **Byes:** Maximum two half-point byes, must commit before 4:30 pm Saturday. **HR:** \$99/king bed, \$105/two queen beds. Reserve by Friday, March 18, 2016 to ensure rate and room. For reservations, call 513-469-6900, reference code "CSC", or use link on our website to book online. **Bring sets and clocks.** Complete information, including online and mail registration forms, at www.chesscincinnati.com. **Questions:** Alan Hodge 513-600-9915, a.hodge195@gmail.com.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 25-27, NEVADA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 150 (ENHANCED)

#### 5TH ANNUAL RENO-LARRY EVANS MEMORIAL OPEN (FORMERLY THE FAR WEST OPEN) - FIDE

6SS, 40/2, G/55 d5. Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, 345 N. Arlington Ave., Reno, NV 89501. 1-866-386-7829 or (775) 348-2200. \$26,300 b/275. \$16,500 Gtd. (Prizes 1-10 in Open Section Gtd. plus 1/2 of all other prizes). **5 Sections (Open (2000 & above) EF:** \$159, (1999 & below = \$200) (GMs & IMs free but must enter by (2/26 or pay late fee) \$52,000-1,300-1000-700-500-400-200-200, (239/below) - \$1,000, (229/below) - \$1,000, (219/below) - \$1500-800-500-300, (209/below) - \$600. (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy). **Sec."A" (1800-1999) EF:** \$158; \$2,000-1000-500-300-200, **Sec."B" (1600-1799) EF:** \$157; \$1,800-900-500-300-200, **Sec."C" (1400-1599) EF:** \$156; \$1,600-800-400-300-200, **Sec."D" (under 1399below) (Note: "D"/under has approx., 1/2 entry fee and is considered 1/2 player for tournament prize fund), EF:** \$75; \$600-400-300-200; 1199/below - \$200; Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Champ \$600-400 (Provisional rated players, GMs, IMs and unrated players not eligible for Top Senior or Club Championship). **ALL:** Entries must be postmarked by 2/26 or pay late fee-\$11 until 3/18 (not due after 3/18 or email after 3/22) 22 at site. Trophies 1st – 3rd ("A" – "D" sections). Unrated players are free entry but not eligible for cash prizes and must join USCF for 1 full year thru this tournament. 1st Unrated = trophy + 1 yr. USCF Mem. \$10 discount to Seniors (65 + yrs, "D"/under not eligible for senior discount) Players may play up. Provisionally rated players may only win 1/2 of 1st place money (except Open Section 1 – 10). CCA ratings may be used. Note: pairings not changed for color unless 3 in a row or a plus 3 and if the unlikely situation occurs 3 colors in a row may be assigned. **SIDE EVENTS:** Wed. (3/23) 7:00pm GM Sergey Kudrin – Clock Simul with game analysis (\$30); Thurs. (3/24) 7:15pm Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE); 7:30pm- GM Melikset Khachian – Simul (\$20); 7:30pm-Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney (\$20) 80% entries = Prize Fund. Sat. (3/26) 3:40pm Free Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson. **ALL REG: (3/24) 5-8pm, (3/25) 9-10am. RDS:** (Fri)12-7, (Sat)10-6, (Sun)9:30-4:30. Byes available any round if requested by Rd.1 (Open Section 2 byes max). **ENT:** make checks payable and send to: SANDS REGENCY (address listed above). **HR:** (Sun-Thurs. \$40/43) (Fri. & Sat. \$63.13) 1-866-386-7829 Reservation Code: CHESS316 (Reserve by 3/15/16 to get Chess prize). **INFO:** Jerry Weikel, 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523, (775) 747-1405, wackyjk@comcast.net or check out our website at: www.renocom.com. To verify entry check website.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 26-27, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### 2016 SMYTH LOMER MEMORIAL

(A sponsored event) 5SS, G/61 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. **1 Open section:** **EF:** \$75, \$55 LACC members; No prizes 1/2, spouses/siblings 1/2, new members 1/2, Free new LACC Life members. **Reg:** Sat 10-11:30 am. **Rds:** 12, 2, 4 pm each day. **Byes:** Up to three 1/2-point byes available. Last Rd. bye before 4 pm. **1-Day option I:** Play 1 day - no 1/2 pt byes- 1/2 EF. **1-Day option II:** Play 1 day & receive three 1/2 pt byes. **Full EF:** **Prizes:** \$51,500 (b/45) \$750 Gtd. 1st-3rd \$400-200-100 U2000: \$100. U1800: \$200-100-50; U1600: \$100-50-25; U1400: \$100-50-25; U1200: Book prize. **Info:** Mick Bighamian: (310) 795-5710; Mick@LAChessClub.com or www.LAChessClub.com. **Parking:** Free on streets, BoA, or basement.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### MAR. 28, APR. 4, 11, 18, 25, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### 105TH NASSAU GRAND PRIX

5-SS, 40/80 d0. 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st & Main Sts., Mineola, 2 sections. **Open:** EF: \$36 by 3/25. \$ (630 b/20, top 2 G) 180-120, U2100, 1900, 1700/UR each 110. **Booster:** open to U1500/UR. EF: \$19 by 3/25. \$ (210 b/14) 90, U1300, 1100/UR each 60. **Both:** 2 byes 1-5 (Last rd bye must be req before rd. 3 and is irrevocable). \$11 more for non-memb. EF \$7 more at site. Reg ends 7:15 PM. Rds.: 7:15 each Mon. April ratings used. Info only: capthal@optonline.net. Ent: Harold Stenzel, 80 Amy Dr., Sayville, NY 11782.

### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 1-3 OR 2-3, OHIO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

#### 52ND CINCINNATI OPEN

Hilton Garden Inn, 5300 Corinth Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45242. **4SS, Sections:** Open, U2100, U1700, U1300. Players may choose to play up one section only. **Time Control:** G/150 d10 except 2-day rds 1s & G/75 d5. **Prizes:** Open: \$600-450-350-250, top under 2200 \$225-175; U2100: \$450-350-250-180; U1700: \$350-250-180-140; U1300: \$225-150-125-100; prizes based on 100 paid entries, else proportional. (No unrated may win more than the third-place prize amount except in Open.) **Entry fee:** Advance \$99, must be received by March 30; onsite \$110; re-entry \$50. \$10 loyalty discount for those who played in 2015 Cincinnati Open; \$3 discount for current Ohio Chess Association members. Free entry to GMs/IMs; \$99 deducted from prize. **Advance registration:** Mail entries to Cincinnati Open, 9180 Pinewood Dr., Loveland, OH 45140 or enter online at www.chesscincinnati.com. **Onsite registration:** Friday, April 1 5:30-6:30; Saturday, April 2 9:00-9:30. **3-day schedule:** Friday 7:00, Saturday 10:00 and 5:00, Sunday 9:00 and 3:00. **2-day schedule:** Saturday 10:00 and 1:00, then merge with 3-day. **Byes:** Maximum two half-point byes, must commit before 4:30 pm Saturday. **HR:** \$99/king bed, \$105/two queen beds. Reserve by Friday, March 18, 2016 to ensure rate and room. For reservations, call 513-469-6900, reference code "CSC", or use link on our website to book online. **Bring sets and clocks.** Complete information, including online and mail registration forms, at www.chesscincinnati.com. **Questions:** Alan Hodge 513-600-9915, a.hodge195@gmail.com.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 1-3 OR 2-3, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

#### BILL LITTLE MEMORIAL

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Siena College, 515 Loudon Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211. **\$2000 guaranteed** prize fund. In 3 sections. **Open:** \$400-200-150, top U2000/Urn \$180. **Under 1800:** \$250-130-70, top U1600 (no urn) \$140. **Under 1400:** \$160-80-50, top U1200 (no urn) \$90. **Unrated** may not win over \$100 in U1400. **Mixed doubles:** \$100 bonus to best male/female combined score among all sections. Team average must be under 2200; may play in different sections; teams must register by 2 pm 4/2. **Top 2 sections EF:** \$59 online at chessaction.com by 3/30, 3-day \$63, 2-day \$62 if check mailed by 3/23, \$70 at site or online until 2 hours before round 1. Online entry \$5 less to NYSCA members (may join with entry). **U1400 Section EF:** all \$20 less than above. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. **GMs, IMs & WGMs** free, \$50 deducted from prize. **All:** Re-entry \$40; not available in Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, reg. by 9:15 pm.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 1-3, MISSOURI

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100

**BILL WRIGHT SAINT LOUIS OPEN (FIDE RATED) \$10K EVENT** 5/SS, G/90 + 30 second increment. Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108. Free entries for GMs and IMs. **EF:** \$100, \$80 if registered by 3/29. **Two Sections:** Open (FIDE Rated) & U2000. **Prize Fund:** \$10,000 UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED!! **Open Section:** \$1500-\$1000-\$800-\$650-\$300. Under 2300: \$600-\$400-\$250. Under 2100: \$350-\$200. **Under 2000 Section:** \$1000-\$600-\$350-\$200. U1800: \$500-\$250. U1600: \$400-\$200. U1400: \$300-\$150. **Reg:** 3:00-6:30 on Friday Afternoon. **Rds:** Friday: 7:00 PM. Saturday 12:00, 5:00 Sunday 11:00, 4:00. Two half point byes available if declared before Round 2. MCA Membership required from \$5. **OSA:** Ent: 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108, or online at saintlouischessclub.org **Info:** 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org.

### APR. 2, PENNSYLVANIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### 2016 PA STATE GAME/29 CHAMPIONSHIP (QC)

5SS, G/29 d0, Wm. Pitt Union, Univ. of Pitt, 5th & Bigelow, Pittsburgh PA 15213. **2 Sections: Championship:** EF: \$25 by 3/25, \$35 later. \$ (690G): \$200-100, U2000 \$90, U1800 \$80, U1600 \$70, U1400 \$60, U1200 \$50, U1000 \$40. Trophies: 1-3 U1400, 1-3 U1200, 1-3 U1000. **Scholastic:** Grades K-12 unrated or U900. EF: \$15 by 3/25, \$25 later. Trophies to Top 7, 1-3 U600. **ALL:** Trophies: 1-2 Schools, 1-2 Clubs, Teams of 4-7 players from both sections. PSCF \$5, OSA. **Reg:** 10:10-30am. **Rds:** 11-12:30-1:45-3:45:1. Ent/Info: PSCF, c/o Tom Martinkak, 25 Freeport St., Pittsburgh, PA 15223, martinkak\_tom\_m@hotmail.com.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 2-3, OREGON

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### SOUTHERN OREGON CHESS OPEN

**Location:** Diamond Medical Maintenance, 902 Chevy Way, Suite 101, Medford, OR 97504. **Entry Fee:** \$25.00 if received before March 15th. \$32.00 if registered onsite. **Prizes:** Open 1st \$250.00-2nd \$100.00-3rd \$50.00; Expert: \$50.00; A Class: \$50.00; B Class: \$50.00; C Class: \$50.00; D Class: \$50.00. Prize Fund Guaranteed! Onsite registration: April 2, 2016 at 7AM-7:45AM. Game/2hrs. d5. **Schedule:** Saturday Rounds: 8AM, 12:30PM, 5PM. Sunday Rounds: 9AM, 1PM. **Misc:** US Chess & Northwest Chess Membership Required. Please send entrance fees, USCF ID, rating, full name to: Ritch Duron, P.O. Box 3071, Central Point, OR 97502. **Contact:** Ritch Duron 541-245-3876, ritch@dmminc.net.

#### APR. 9, MARYLAND

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

#### MARYLAND APRIL ACTION

5SS, G/45; +5: incr. Rockville Hilton, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. All Prizes Guaranteed. 2 Sections: Championship (min 1600 rating) \$350-\$225-\$125-\$75, U2000 \$150. Under 1800 \$275-\$100-\$50, U1600 \$75, U1400 \$50. **Sets, boards and clocks provided.** **EF:** \$35 by 3/8, \$40 later. **Schedule:** Reg. ends 10am, rds. 10:30-12:30-3:00-5:00-7:00. More information & online: <http://mdchess.com>.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 9, WISCONSIN

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

#### HALES CORNERS CHALLENGE XXXII

4SS, G/60 d6. **Sections:** Open & Reserve (under 1600). Olympia Resort Hotel, 1350 Royale Mile Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066; 1-800-558-9573 (mention Southwest Chess Club for \$99 room rate). **EF:** \$40-Open, \$30-Reserve, both \$5 more after April 7. Comp EF for USCF 2200+. **SSGTd: Open:** 1st-\$325, 2nd-\$175, A-\$100, B & Below-\$75; **Reserve:** 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, D-\$50, E & Below-\$40. GoddessChess prizes for Females in addition to above prizes: Open: \$50 per win/\$25 per draw; Reserve: \$20 per win/\$10 per draw. Perfect Score Prizes for Females: \$80 in Open/\$40 in Reserve. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:30. **Rds.:** 10-1-3:30-6. **Entries/Questions to:** Robin Grochowski, 3835 E. Morris Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110; 414-861-2745. [rgrochowski@wi.rr.com](mailto:rgrochowski@wi.rr.com).

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 9-10, TEXAS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20 (ENHANCED)

#### 2016 DCC FIDE OPEN V

5SS, G/90 inc/30. Dallas Chess Club, 200 S. Cottonwood Dr. #C, Richardson, TX 75080. **Two sections:** Open and Reserve. **Open:** \$875G. FIDE and US Chess rated but uses FIDE rules. Use US Chess ratings and rules for pairings and for awarding prizes. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. Note that Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play. Note that USA Players with no FIDE ID must disclose their email address. \$5 \$500-\$250-\$125. **EF:** \$80, Senior/Birthday during tournament/Additional Family Member \$55. Small appearance fee to the First three GM/IM's who apply. GM/IM must play all rounds to get appearance fee (appearance fee might be deducted from prize). **Reserve:** Open to players rated below 2000 USCF. This section is not FIDE Rated but is US Chess rated and uses US Chess rules. **EF:** \$40. The Reserve give back 10% of prizes and if at least 8 pair entries and if there is a clear winner, then that winner receives free entry to next DCC Fide Open. In the reserve section, Tournament reserves the right to use Fide rules on electronic devices and on starting White's clock at start of a round and to use FIDE pairing rules. **Both: Reg.:** Saturday from 9:45-10:15 am. **Rds.:** Sat 10:45 am-3:10pm-7:16pm, Sun 9:45 am-2:10pm. One half point Bye allowed if requested before end of round rd. 2 and before getting full point Bye. Withdrawals and zero point last round byes are not eligible for prizes. Note that house players (if required) must pay \$5 per round and be US Chess members. ENT: Make/mail Checks payable to Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036-4719. **Info:** 214-632-9000, [info@dallaschess.com](mailto:info@dallaschess.com). FIDE.

#### A Heritage Event!

#### A State Championship Event!

#### APR. 10, MASSACHUSETTS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15 (ENHANCED)

#### 26TH MASSACHUSETTS G/60 CHAMPIONSHIP

4SS, G/60 d5. Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlboro, MA 01752 (I-495, exit 24B, rt. 20W, one mile from exit). 508-460-0700 or 888-543-9500. \$2,500 b/100 paid entries (U1200 counts 70%), \$2,000 minimum (80% each prize). 6 sets. **Open:** \$300-175, top Under 2400 \$150, top Under 2200 \$150. **Under 2000:** \$250-125. **Under 1800:** \$250-125. **Under 1600:** \$200-125. **Under 1400:** \$200-100. **Under 1200:** \$150-100, top Under 1000 \$100, trophies to top 4, top U1000, U900, U800, Unrated. **Unrated prize limits:** \$75 in U1200, \$100 in U1400, \$125 in U1600, \$150 in U1800, \$175 in U2000. **EF:** \$34 if mailed by 4/5 or online by 4/8, \$40 at site. \$10 discount to players in U1200 Section. GMs and IMs free. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:30 am. **Rds.:** 10-1-3:30-6. **Other:** Bye 1-4 with entry, limit 1, must commit before round 2, no half point byes for players receiving full point byes. MACA memb. required for Mass. residents (\$12 adult, \$6 jr. U18, add \$8 for Chess Horizons subscription). **Ent:** Robert Messenger, 4 Hamlett Dr., Apt. 12, Nashua, NH 03062 or online (PayPal) at [www.MassChess.org](http://www.MassChess.org). Make checks payable to MACA. **Info:** 603-891-2484 or send email to [info@masschess.org](mailto:info@masschess.org). The address of the tournament call 603-557-1732. W.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 16-17, COLORADO

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 10

#### 2016 DENVER OPEN

5 round SS. **TC:** Sat, G/60 d5; Sun, G/90; inc30. **Site:** Embassy Suites Southeast, 7525 E. Hampden Ave., Denver, CO 80231. Ph 303-696-6644. Directions: 1 mile east of I-25 on Hampden. On the north side, behind a Chase bank. **Prizes:** Open 1st, \$700; 2nd, \$400; 3rd, \$200, u2100, \$100 u1950, \$100. U1800 1st, \$600; 2nd, \$300; 3rd, \$200; u1700, \$100 u1600, \$100. U1500 1st, \$500; 2nd, \$250; 3rd, \$150; u1400, \$100 u1300, \$100; u1200, \$100. **EF:** \$50 by 4/13/16, \$55 at the door. DCC members; \$40

at any time. Prizes \$4000 based on 125 entries. **Special prizes:** Caissa Women's Prize (WIM excluded) - sponsored by Ann Davies: Highest score by a Woman \$125; 2nd \$75. All Females: \$10 off entry fee. **Reg.:** 8:30-15 am. **Rds.:** Saturday, 10:00pm, 2:30pm, 7:00pm. Sunday, 9:00am, 3:00pm. **Entries:** Randolph G. Schine, 8101 E. Dartmouth Ave., #15, Denver, CO 80231-4258. Ph 303-695-7839 or 720-300-7544. Email: [randolphschine@comcast.net](mailto:randolphschine@comcast.net). Make checks payable to: Denver Chess Club. Preregister online at [DenverChess.com](http://DenverChess.com). A CSCA Tour event. USCF and CSCA membership (in-state players) is required. Unrated players are eligible for any place prize in the Open section but are not eligible for the Open under prizes. Unrated players in U1800 section will be restricted to \$150, and in the U1500 section, \$100. Only one 1/2-point bye will apply to a player's final score regarding prize money. Last round bye will be scored as a ZERO point but will not be considered a withdrawal. 2-hour notice required for each bye. 10 Embassy Suites rooms available at the special rate of \$115 per night, if reserved by 3/18/16. The price includes: 1) a 2-room suite which comfortably sleeps 4, with a door between the rooms. 2) a made-to-order gourmet breakfast for up to 4 people. 3) a "happy-hour" from 5:30-7:30 pm, serving drinks and snacks. Special rate is available for Friday thru Sunday. Phone 303-696-6644, and mention chess tournament. Join the DCC on or before the day of the tournament and receive the discounted entry fee of \$40. Side-Event: WIM Mariam Danelia will be doing a 25-person simul on Friday evening-7pm, April 15, preceded at 6PM by a FREE lecture. Entry fee is \$50, \$40 for DCC members. Combo fee for both the simul and the tournament: \$85, \$70 for DCC members. Prizes are \$50 (draw) and \$100 (win). Please bring clocks and sets, none provided.

#### APR. 19, NEW YORK

#### MARSHALL MASTERS

4SS, G/25 d5. Open to 2000+ players. FIDE Rapid rated. **7500 GTD:** 250-150-100. Top U2400 125, Top U2300 100, Biggest upset \$25. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$30. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds.:** 7:15-9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for round 1 or 4 only. Request at entry. 23 W. 10th St, NYC. 212-477-3716. [www.marshallchessclub.org](http://marshallchessclub.org).

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 21, 28, MAY 5, 12, 19, 26, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

#### LONG ISLAND ILAN KLEINER MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

6SS, G/90 d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all:** **\$2000 GTD:** \$600-\$400. Top U2000, U1750, U1500, U1250/unr. \$250 ea. **EF (cash only):** \$50 LCCC Members, \$60 Non-LCCC members. **Reg.:** 6:45 - 7:25 PM. **Adv. Ent:** Cash only in person at the LCCC any Thursday evening prior to rd. 1 (NO ady entry via mail, e-mail, or online). **Rds.:** 7:30 PM SHARP ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-6 (rd. 6 bye dec. before rd. 3). No draws by agreement prior to Black's 25th move, Rdm. pairings var. (within each score group) of the SS used. **Info:** [www.lichessclub.com](http://www.lichessclub.com).

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 22-24 OR 23-24, MASSACHUSETTS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

#### 25TH ANNUAL EASTERN CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10). Host Hotel at Cedar Lake, 366 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566 (I-84 Exit 3, near I-90). Free parking. **\$20,000 guaranteed prizes. Free lectures** by IM Danny Kopeck, Sat 9am & Sun 9am, also analysis in afternoons of games submitted by players. In 7 sections: **Master** (2200/up): \$2000-1000-500, clear winner or 1st on tiebreak \$100 bonus, top U2300-\$800-400. **Expert** (2000-2199): \$1500-700-500-300. **Class A** (1800-1999/Urn): \$1500-700-500-300. **Class B** (1600-1799/Urn): \$1500-700-500-300. **Class C** (1400-1599/Urn): \$1000-500-300-200. **Class D** (1200-1399/Urn): \$1000-500-300-200. **Class E** (Under 1200/Urn): \$500-250-150-100, trophies to first 3, top U1000, U800, U600, Unrated. **Rated players** may play up one section. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$150 in E, \$300 D, \$450 C or \$600 B. **Mixed doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$600-300. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register at site (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible. **Top 4 sections EF:** \$115 online at chessaction.com by 4/20, \$120 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 4/18 (entry only, no questions), 3-day \$118, 2-day \$117 mailed by 4/13, \$130 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. GMs free, \$100 deducted from prize. **Class C or D EF:** All \$30 less than top 4 sections EF. **Class E EF:** All \$60 less than top 4 sections EF. **No checks** at site, credit cards OK. **Online EF** \$5 less to MACA members; may join/renew at [masschess.org](http://masschess.org). **Unofficial uschess.org ratings** usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 yr USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry** \$60; not available in Master Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11 & 2, Sun 5 & 10 & 3:15. **Byes:** OK all, limit 2; Master must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$96-96-106, 800-582-3232, 508-347-7393, request chess rate, reserve by 4/8 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chessaction.com. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. Questions: DirectorAtChess.us, chesstour.com, chesstour.info, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Saturday 9:30 pm, entry by 9:15 pm.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 22-24 OR 23-24, IOWA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 20

#### 10TH ANNUAL OKOBJI OPEN, RESERVE (U1600) & BLITZ

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, 1405 Highway 71 S, Okoboji, IA 51355. **Okoboji Open:** 5SS, Game/120 d5 (2 games at G/90 d5 if playing in 2 day option), EF: \$50 (\$40 jr. & sr.) if registered by 4/15/2016

or online by 4/20/2016; \$60 cash or \$65 check on site (GMs & IMs free entry). \$50/30-350-200(Gtd), U2000: \$125, U1800:\$115, U1600 : 100 each. Trophy to 1st place. 1 half point bye per player allowed if requested in advance. State membership required, other states accepted. **Okoboji Reserve:** 5SS, Game/120 d5 (2 games at G/90 d5 if playing in 2 day option), Open to 1599 & under. EF: \$30 if registered by 4/15/2016 or online by 4/20/2016; \$40 cash or \$45 check on site. \$50/20-300-175-125(Gtd), U1400 :\$100, U1250: \$75, U1000 \$50. Trophy to 1st place. 1 half point bye per player allowed if requested in advance. **Open and Reserve Round Times:** 2 day round times: April 22: 9:30-11:45am; April 23: 9:30-11:45am; April 24: 9:20-11:30am; April 25: 9:20-11:30am. **Okoboji Blitz:** 5SS, G/5;d0, EF: \$10 if received by 4/15/2016 or online by 4/20/2016 - \$15 on site. \$50/20: \$75-\$50. U1500, U1250, Unrated : \$25, 4/22 at 9:30 pm or 1/2 hour after finish of Open/Reserve first round. Rounds 2-5 ASAP. 1/2 point bye any one round. ENT: Jodene Kruse, 934 6th St., Sibley, IA 51249, (712) 330-8254, [jodene7@yahoo.com](mailto:jodene7@yahoo.com). Make checks payable to S-O Chess Club/Jodene Kruse or pay online at <https://www.onlineregistration.cc/>. INFO: Jodene Kruse. \$79 Hotel rate, if reserved by March 22nd, call 1-800-727-4561.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 22-24 OR 23-24, FLORIDA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50

#### 23RD SPACE COAST OPEN

5SS, Top section FIDE rated (but USCF ratings used for pairings and sections) on G/100+Incom. Lower sections G/120 d5. (2-day Rd. 1 for all sections G/60 d5). International Palms Resort, 1300 N. Atlantic Ave. (Hwy A1A), Cocoa Beach, FL. **\$15,000 b/200 pdp**, \$10,000 Gtd. 6 Sections: **Master/Expert:** \$1500 +trophy-900-500-300, U2400 \$1000+trophy, U2200 \$1000+trophy-500-300. **Class A:** \$1000+trophy-500-300-200. **Class B:** \$1000+trophy-500-300-200. **Class C:** \$800+trophy-400-250-150. **Class D:** \$700+trophy-400-200-100. **Class E / U1200:** \$600+trophy-300-200-100, U1000 \$300+\$200+trophy-200, U800 \$200+trophy-100, trophies to top Brevard County scholastics players in K-3, K-8, K-12, book to plus score not winning other prize. **All:** Rated players may play up one class only. Unr. may enter any section. Unr. may not win over \$300 or trophy unless place prize in Master/Expert section. Prizes for 1st-3rd brilliance and biggest upset rds 1-4. **EF:** \$99 via mail or on-line by 4/15, \$120 on-line by 7AM on 4/22 or at site (no credit cards at site); \$20 less if Unr. or under age 18. Re-entry \$50 by round 3 (1/2 point Byes for earlier rounds). GM/IM free entry available online until 3/31, else \$100 from prize. Special EF for Brevard County students in any section: \$25 on-line by 4/15, \$30 on-line by 7AM on 4/22 or at site (counts as 1/4 entry for based on prize fund). **Reg.:** ends 1 hr. before 1st rd. **Rds.:** Rd. 1 7pm Fri (2-day 10am Sat. at G/60 d5), Rds. 2-5 Sat. 1-7, Sun. 9:20-1:30. 1/2 point Bye available any round if requested in advance and before round 2 (limit 2). **Side events:** Space Coast Open Blitz. 4-SS (2 games/Rd), G/5 d0. Prizes: Cash prizes based on entries. **EF:** \$20. Rds. Sat. 12:30-6:30, Sun. 8:30-2:00. (i.e., Blitz rounds are prior to rounds 2-5 of main tournament). Other events: see <https://onlineregistration.cc/> /SCCF/SC02016. **HR:** \$97, Ocean view \$117, Loft \$137, Ocean Suite \$137. Resort fee \$5.95. 800-206-2747 or 321-783-2271, release by 4/8. **Ent:** Space Coast Chess Federation, c/o Harvey Lerman, 921 N. Thistle Ln., Maitland, FL 32751 or <https://onlineregistration.cc/> /SCCF/SC02016. **Info only:** Peter Dyson 321-452-9863, peter200@modusoperandi.com. FIDE. W.

#### APR. 23, VIRGINIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### WALTER MUIR MEMORIAL

3-Round Swiss System, Game/75 w/25 sec inc. Westhampton Christian Church, 2515 Grandin Road SW, Roanoke, VA 24015. **PRIZES:** Open Section: \$400-\$200-\$100-\$75 based on 20 entrants. Top under 1600 \$100, Top under 1200 \$100. **ENTRY FEE:** If received by April 15, \$45.00. At site, \$55.00. **REGISTRATION:** 8:30-9:30 am on 4/23. **ROUNDS:** 10-2-6. **BYES:** One 1/2 point by available per tournament; must request before 1st round begins. **ADVANCE ENTRIES:** Roanoke Valley Chess Club, P.O. Box 4141, Roanoke, VA 24015. **TD:** Ray Megginson. (540) 761-2789. [rmegginson@yahoo.com](mailto:rmegginson@yahoo.com). **WEB PAGE:** [www.roanokechess.com](http://www.roanokechess.com). (RVCC Special Grand Prix Points: 90.) W.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 23-24, CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### 11TH ANNUAL FRANK DOYLE OPEN

Exchange Bank, 444 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. 4 Round Swiss, G/120 d5. In 3 Sections. **Open:** 4SS, G/120 d5, **SSGTd:** \$250-175. **Reserve:** 4SS, G/120 d5, Open to 1899 & under. **SSGTd:** \$200-125. **Booster:** 4SS, G/120 d5, Open to 1499 & under. **SSGTd:** \$150-100. Unr. must play in Booster Section. Unrated players winning prizes will only receive half of the prize. **All:** **EF:** \$35 advance until 4/20, \$45 at site. No phone or e-mail entries. \$10 fee to play up a section. **Reg.:** 04/23 8:30am-9:30am. **Rds.:** Sat 10, 3; Sun 10, 3. **ENT:** Paul Stagnoli, 4233 Kintyre Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95409-4127. **INFO:** (707) 478-4385 [pauls@sonic.net](mailto:pauls@sonic.net). <http://pstagnol.users.sonic.net/>. **Bring your own equipment, none provided.** **No cell phones allowed.** W.

#### APR. 29, NEW YORK

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 6

#### MARSHALL \$500 FIDE BLITZ (BLZ)

9-SS, G/3 +2 inc. FIDE Blitz rated. **\$500:** \$200-100, top U2400/unr, U2200, U2000, U1800: \$50. USCF regular rating used for pairings & prizes. **EF:** \$30, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45. **Rds.:** 7-7:30-7:50-8:10-8:40-9:20-9:40-10pm. Max three byes. Request at entry. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. [www.marshallchessclub.org](http://marshallchessclub.org).

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### APR. 29- MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, MARYLAND

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30

#### MARYLAND OPEN

5SS, 40/90, SD/30 +30" incr, (Rd. 1 G/90 +30" incr) (2-day schedule: rds. 1-2 G/45 +30" incr) U1300 & U1000 G/120 d5 (rds. 1-2 G/60 d5),

(U1300 3-day option rds. 1&2 G/120 d5). Rockville Hilton, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. \$Based on score. 7 sections: Championship (min. rating of 2000) FIDE rated: 5.0 = \$1600, 4.5 = \$800, 4.0 = \$450, 3.5 = \$175, 3.0 = \$50 [min \$1500 payout, top score group raised if less than \$1500]. U2200: 5.0 = \$1500, 4.5 = \$700, 4.0 = \$350, 3.5 = \$150. U2000: 5.0 = \$1200, 4.5 = \$650, 4.0 = \$325, 3.5 = \$125. U1800: 5.0 = \$1200, 4.5 = \$600, 4.0 = \$300, 3.5 = \$100. U1600: 5.0 = \$1000, 4.5 = \$500, 4.0 = \$250, 3.5 = \$100. U1300 & U1000: 5.0 = \$500, 4.5 = \$250, 4.0 = \$125, 3.5 = \$50. **If no 5-0 in section, then sole 1st @ 4.5 or shared 1st at lower score receive bonus (added to score price)** - Championship: \$300; U2200 \$200, U2000 \$150, U1800 & U1600: \$100; U1300 & U1000: \$50. Unrated may not play in U1000 & U1300, limited to \$400 in U1600. **Sets and boards provided. Clocks provided in the Championship, U2200, U2000, and U1800 sections. Optionally, pairings can be texted/mailed to your phone. Free Sunday morning continental breakfast for players.** Free parking for day guests. EF: \$99 by 4/15, \$104 by 4/26, and \$109 online only by 4/28, \$120 at the door. Special EFs: \$35 less for U1300 & U1000, GMs free, \$50 deducted from prize, IMs \$45 off EF, \$20 deducted from prize, HR: \$99, (\$5 EF discount if staying at hotel). Rooms may not be avail after 4/15. 3-day schedule: Reg. ends Fri 7pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 9:30 & 3:30. 2-day schedule: Reg. ends Sat 10am rds. 11, 2:15 & 6, Sun 9:30 & 3:30. U1300 & U1000 schedule Reg. ends Sat 10am rds. 11, 1:15 & 4:00, Sun 9:30 & 1:30. U1300 3-day schedule Reg. ends Fri 7pm, rds. Fri 8, Sat 11 & 4:00, Sun 9:30 & 1:30. Ent: MCA, 1827 Thornton Ridge Rd., Towson, MD 21204. Detailed rules, more information and registration at <http://themopen.com>.

### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, MICHIGAN**

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 15

### 13TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES CHESS OPEN - BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

at the McCamly Plaza Hotel, 50 Capital Avenue, SW, Battle Creek, MI 49017. **3 Sections OPEN, U1800, U1400,** (Merge after Round 2) Up to two 1/2pt byes-must be requested prior to the start of Rd3. **\*OPEN section FIDE rated. USCF & State Membership required** (can be purchased on site) **PRIZE FUND: \$4,500 OPEN Section \$2,250 (B/38, min. 6 per prize section):** 1st, \$900, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$350. **Top X, Top A, U1800/Unr \$250 each, U1800 Section \$1200 (B/34, min. 6 per prize section):** 1st \$500, 2nd \$300, **Top U1600, U1400/Unr \$200 each. U1400 Section \$800 (B/34, min. 6 per prize section):** 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, **Top E, U1000, U800/Unr \$100 each. \*UNR eligible for TOP or UNRATED prizes ONLY. ENTRY FEES:** Due by April 22, 2016 (After April 22nd add \$10) **OPEN:** 3 Day: \$83, 2 Day: \$82 (no re-entries) IM's/GM's FREE! (\$80 EF deducted from prize) **U1800** 3 Day- \$63, 2 Day- \$62, Re-Entry- \$40. **U1400** 3 Day- \$53, 2 Day- \$52, Re-Entry- \$35. **TIME LIMITS:** (Merge after Rd. 2) **3 Day**-Rd's 1-3 G/120 d5; RD, 4-5 G/120 d5; RD, 6-7 G/120 d5; RD, 8-9 G/120 d5; RD, 10-11 G/120 d5; RD, 12-13 G/120 d5; RD, 14-15 G/120 d5; RD, 16-17 G/120 d5; RD, 18-19 G/120 d5; RD, 20-21 G/120 d5; RD, 22-23 G/120 d5; RD, 24-25 G/120 d5; RD, 26-27 G/120 d5; RD, 28-29 G/120 d5; RD, 30-31 G/120 d5; RD, 32-33 G/120 d5; RD, 34-35 G/120 d5; RD, 36-37 G/120 d5; RD, 38-39 G/120 d5; RD, 40-41 G/120 d5; RD, 42-43 G/120 d5; RD, 44-45 G/120 d5; RD, 46-47 G/120 d5; RD, 48-49 G/120 d5; RD, 50-51 G/120 d5; RD, 52-53 G/120 d5; RD, 54-55 G/120 d5; RD, 56-57 G/120 d5; RD, 58-59 G/120 d5; RD, 60-61 G/120 d5; RD, 62-63 G/120 d5; RD, 64-65 G/120 d5; RD, 66-67 G/120 d5; RD, 68-69 G/120 d5; RD, 70-71 G/120 d5; RD, 72-73 G/120 d5; RD, 74-75 G/120 d5; RD, 76-77 G/120 d5; RD, 78-79 G/120 d5; RD, 80-81 G/120 d5; RD, 82-83 G/120 d5; RD, 84-85 G/120 d5; RD, 86-87 G/120 d5; RD, 88-89 G/120 d5; RD, 90-91 G/120 d5; RD, 92-93 G/120 d5; RD, 94-95 G/120 d5; RD, 96-97 G/120 d5; RD, 98-99 G/120 d5; RD, 100-101 G/120 d5; RD, 102-103 G/120 d5; RD, 104-105 G/120 d5; RD, 106-107 G/120 d5; RD, 108-109 G/120 d5; RD, 110-111 G/120 d5; RD, 112-113 G/120 d5; RD, 114-115 G/120 d5; RD, 116-117 G/120 d5; RD, 118-119 G/120 d5; RD, 120-121 G/120 d5; RD, 122-123 G/120 d5; RD, 124-125 G/120 d5; RD, 126-127 G/120 d5; RD, 128-129 G/120 d5; RD, 130-131 G/120 d5; RD, 132-133 G/120 d5; RD, 134-135 G/120 d5; RD, 136-137 G/120 d5; RD, 138-139 G/120 d5; RD, 140-141 G/120 d5; RD, 142-143 G/120 d5; RD, 144-145 G/120 d5; RD, 146-147 G/120 d5; RD, 148-149 G/120 d5; RD, 150-151 G/120 d5; RD, 152-153 G/120 d5; RD, 154-155 G/120 d5; RD, 156-157 G/120 d5; RD, 158-159 G/120 d5; RD, 160-161 G/120 d5; RD, 162-163 G/120 d5; RD, 164-165 G/120 d5; RD, 166-167 G/120 d5; RD, 168-169 G/120 d5; RD, 170-171 G/120 d5; RD, 172-173 G/120 d5; RD, 174-175 G/120 d5; RD, 176-177 G/120 d5; RD, 178-179 G/120 d5; RD, 180-181 G/120 d5; RD, 182-183 G/120 d5; RD, 184-185 G/120 d5; RD, 186-187 G/120 d5; RD, 188-189 G/120 d5; RD, 190-191 G/120 d5; RD, 192-193 G/120 d5; RD, 194-195 G/120 d5; RD, 196-197 G/120 d5; RD, 198-199 G/120 d5; RD, 200-201 G/120 d5; RD, 202-203 G/120 d5; RD, 204-205 G/120 d5; RD, 206-207 G/120 d5; RD, 208-209 G/120 d5; RD, 210-211 G/120 d5; RD, 212-213 G/120 d5; RD, 214-215 G/120 d5; RD, 216-217 G/120 d5; RD, 218-219 G/120 d5; RD, 220-221 G/120 d5; RD, 222-223 G/120 d5; RD, 224-225 G/120 d5; RD, 226-227 G/120 d5; RD, 228-229 G/120 d5; RD, 230-231 G/120 d5; RD, 232-233 G/120 d5; RD, 234-235 G/120 d5; RD, 236-237 G/120 d5; RD, 238-239 G/120 d5; RD, 240-241 G/120 d5; RD, 242-243 G/120 d5; RD, 244-245 G/120 d5; RD, 246-247 G/120 d5; RD, 248-249 G/120 d5; RD, 250-251 G/120 d5; RD, 252-253 G/120 d5; RD, 254-255 G/120 d5; RD, 256-257 G/120 d5; RD, 258-259 G/120 d5; RD, 260-261 G/120 d5; RD, 262-263 G/120 d5; RD, 264-265 G/120 d5; RD, 266-267 G/120 d5; RD, 268-269 G/120 d5; RD, 270-271 G/120 d5; RD, 272-273 G/120 d5; RD, 274-275 G/120 d5; RD, 276-277 G/120 d5; RD, 278-279 G/120 d5; RD, 280-281 G/120 d5; RD, 282-283 G/120 d5; RD, 284-285 G/120 d5; RD, 286-287 G/120 d5; RD, 288-289 G/120 d5; RD, 290-291 G/120 d5; RD, 292-293 G/120 d5; RD, 294-295 G/120 d5; RD, 296-297 G/120 d5; RD, 298-299 G/120 d5; RD, 300-301 G/120 d5; RD, 302-303 G/120 d5; RD, 304-305 G/120 d5; RD, 306-307 G/120 d5; RD, 308-309 G/120 d5; RD, 310-311 G/120 d5; RD, 312-313 G/120 d5; RD, 314-315 G/120 d5; RD, 316-317 G/120 d5; RD, 318-319 G/120 d5; RD, 320-321 G/120 d5; RD, 322-323 G/120 d5; RD, 324-325 G/120 d5; RD, 326-327 G/120 d5; RD, 328-329 G/120 d5; RD, 330-331 G/120 d5; RD, 332-333 G/120 d5; RD, 334-335 G/120 d5; RD, 336-337 G/120 d5; RD, 338-339 G/120 d5; RD, 340-341 G/120 d5; RD, 342-343 G/120 d5; RD, 344-345 G/120 d5; RD, 346-347 G/120 d5; RD, 348-349 G/120 d5; RD, 350-351 G/120 d5; RD, 352-353 G/120 d5; RD, 354-355 G/120 d5; RD, 356-357 G/120 d5; RD, 358-359 G/120 d5; RD, 360-361 G/120 d5; RD, 362-363 G/120 d5; RD, 364-365 G/120 d5; RD, 366-367 G/120 d5; RD, 368-369 G/120 d5; RD, 370-371 G/120 d5; RD, 372-373 G/120 d5; RD, 374-375 G/120 d5; RD, 376-377 G/120 d5; RD, 378-379 G/120 d5; RD, 380-381 G/120 d5; RD, 382-383 G/120 d5; RD, 384-385 G/120 d5; RD, 386-387 G/120 d5; RD, 388-389 G/120 d5; RD, 390-391 G/120 d5; RD, 392-393 G/120 d5; RD, 394-395 G/120 d5; RD, 396-397 G/120 d5; RD, 398-399 G/120 d5; RD, 400-401 G/120 d5; RD, 402-403 G/120 d5; RD, 404-405 G/120 d5; RD, 406-407 G/120 d5; RD, 408-409 G/120 d5; RD, 410-411 G/120 d5; RD, 412-413 G/120 d5; RD, 414-415 G/120 d5; RD, 416-417 G/120 d5; RD, 418-419 G/120 d5; RD, 420-421 G/120 d5; RD, 422-423 G/120 d5; RD, 424-425 G/120 d5; RD, 426-427 G/120 d5; RD, 428-429 G/120 d5; RD, 430-431 G/120 d5; RD, 432-433 G/120 d5; RD, 434-435 G/120 d5; RD, 436-437 G/120 d5; RD, 438-439 G/120 d5; RD, 440-441 G/120 d5; RD, 442-443 G/120 d5; RD, 444-445 G/120 d5; RD, 446-447 G/120 d5; RD, 448-449 G/120 d5; RD, 450-451 G/120 d5; RD, 452-453 G/120 d5; RD, 454-455 G/120 d5; 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RD, 548-549 G/120 d5; RD, 550-551 G/120 d5; RD, 552-553 G/120 d5; RD, 554-555 G/120 d5; RD, 556-557 G/120 d5; RD, 558-559 G/120 d5; RD, 560-561 G/120 d5; RD, 562-563 G/120 d5; RD, 564-565 G/120 d5; RD, 566-567 G/120 d5; RD, 568-569 G/120 d5; RD, 570-571 G/120 d5; RD, 572-573 G/120 d5; RD, 574-575 G/120 d5; RD, 576-577 G/120 d5; RD, 578-579 G/120 d5; RD, 580-581 G/120 d5; RD, 582-583 G/120 d5; RD, 584-585 G/120 d5; RD, 586-587 G/120 d5; RD, 588-589 G/120 d5; RD, 590-591 G/120 d5; RD, 592-593 G/120 d5; RD, 594-595 G/120 d5; RD, 596-597 G/120 d5; RD, 598-599 G/120 d5; RD, 600-601 G/120 d5; RD, 602-603 G/120 d5; RD, 604-605 G/120 d5; RD, 606-607 G/120 d5; RD, 608-609 G/120 d5; RD, 610-611 G/120 d5; RD, 612-613 G/120 d5; RD, 614-615 G/120 d5; RD, 616-617 G/120 d5; RD, 618-619 G/120 d5; RD, 620-621 G/120 d5; RD, 622-623 G/120 d5; RD, 624-625 G/120 d5; RD, 626-627 G/120 d5; RD, 628-629 G/120 d5; RD, 630-631 G/120 d5; RD, 632-633 G/120 d5; RD, 634-635 G/120 d5; RD, 636-637 G/120 d5; RD, 638-639 G/120 d5; RD, 640-641 G/120 d5; RD, 642-643 G/120 d5; RD, 644-645 G/120 d5; RD, 646-647 G/120 d5; RD, 648-649 G/120 d5; RD, 650-651 G/120 d5; RD, 652-653 G/120 d5; RD, 654-655 G/120 d5; RD, 656-657 G/120 d5; RD, 658-659 G/120 d5; RD, 660-661 G/120 d5; RD, 662-663 G/120 d5; RD, 664-665 G/120 d5; RD, 666-667 G/120 d5; RD, 668-669 G/120 d5; RD, 670-671 G/120 d5; RD, 672-673 G/120 d5; RD, 674-675 G/120 d5; RD, 676-677 G/120 d5; RD, 678-679 G/120 d5; RD, 680-681 G/120 d5; RD, 682-683 G/120 d5; RD, 684-685 G/120 d5; RD, 686-687 G/120 d5; RD, 688-689 G/120 d5; RD, 690-691 G/120 d5; RD, 692-693 G/120 d5; RD, 694-695 G/120 d5; RD, 696-697 G/120 d5; RD, 698-699 G/120 d5; RD, 700-701 G/120 d5; RD, 702-703 G/120 d5; RD, 704-705 G/120 d5; RD, 706-707 G/120 d5; RD, 708-709 G/120 d5; RD, 710-711 G/120 d5; RD, 712-713 G/120 d5; RD, 714-715 G/120 d5; RD, 716-717 G/120 d5; RD, 718-719 G/120 d5; RD, 720-721 G/120 d5; RD, 722-723 G/120 d5; RD, 724-725 G/120 d5; RD, 726-727 G/120 d5; RD, 728-729 G/120 d5; RD, 730-731 G/120 d5; RD, 732-733 G/120 d5; RD, 734-735 G/120 d5; RD, 736-737 G/120 d5; RD, 738-739 G/120 d5; RD, 740-741 G/120 d5; RD, 742-743 G/120 d5; RD, 744-745 G/120 d5; RD, 746-747 G/120 d5; RD, 748-749 G/120 d5; RD, 750-751 G/120 d5; RD, 752-753 G/120 d5; RD, 754-755 G/120 d5; RD, 756-757 G/120 d5; RD, 758-759 G/120 d5; RD, 760-761 G/120 d5; RD, 762-763 G/120 d5; RD, 764-765 G/120 d5; RD, 766-767 G/120 d5; RD, 768-769 G/120 d5; RD, 770-771 G/120 d5; RD, 772-773 G/120 d5; RD, 774-775 G/120 d5; RD, 776-777 G/120 d5; RD, 778-779 G/120 d5; RD, 780-781 G/120 d5; RD, 782-783 G/120 d5; RD, 784-785 G/120 d5; RD, 786-787 G/120 d5; RD, 788-789 G/120 d5; RD, 790-791 G/120 d5; RD, 792-793 G/120 d5; RD, 794-795 G/120 d5; RD, 796-797 G/120 d5; RD, 798-799 G/120 d5; RD, 800-801 G/120 d5; RD, 802-803 G/120 d5; RD, 804-805 G/120 d5; RD, 806-807 G/120 d5; RD, 808-809 G/120 d5; RD, 810-811 G/120 d5; RD, 812-813 G/120 d5; RD, 814-815 G/120 d5; RD, 816-817 G/120 d5; RD, 818-819 G/120 d5; RD, 820-821 G/120 d5; RD, 822-823 G/120 d5; RD, 824-825 G/120 d5; RD, 826-827 G/120 d5; RD, 828-829 G/120 d5; RD, 830-831 G/120 d5; RD, 832-833 G/120 d5; RD, 834-835 G/120 d5; RD, 836-837 G/120 d5; RD, 838-839 G/120 d5; RD, 840-841 G/120 d5; RD, 842-843 G/120 d5; RD, 844-845 G/120 d5; RD, 846-847 G/120 d5; RD, 848-849 G/120 d5; RD, 850-851 G/120 d5; RD, 852-853 G/120 d5; RD, 854-855 G/120 d5; RD, 856-857 G/120 d5; RD, 858-859 G/120 d5; RD, 860-861 G/120 d5; RD, 862-863 G/120 d5; RD, 864-865 G/120 d5; RD, 866-867 G/120 d5; RD, 868-869 G/120 d5; RD, 870-871 G/120 d5; RD, 872-873 G/120 d5; RD, 874-875 G/120 d5; RD, 876-877 G/120 d5; RD, 878-879 G/120 d5; RD, 880-881 G/120 d5; RD, 882-883 G/120 d5; RD, 884-885 G/120 d5; RD, 886-887 G/120 d5; RD, 888-889 G/120 d5; RD, 890-891 G/120 d5; RD, 892-893 G/120 d5; RD, 894-895 G/120 d5; RD, 896-897 G/120 d5; RD, 898-899 G/120 d5; RD, 900-901 G/120 d5; RD, 902-903 G/120 d5; RD, 904-905 G/120 d5; RD, 906-907 G/120 d5; RD, 908-909 G/120 d5; RD, 910-911 G/120 d5; RD, 912-913 G/120 d5; RD, 914-915 G/120 d5; RD, 916-917 G/120 d5; RD, 918-919 G/120 d5; RD, 920-921 G/120 d5; RD, 922-923 G/120 d5; RD, 924-925 G/120 d5; RD, 926-927 G/120 d5; RD, 928-929 G/120 d5; RD, 930-931 G/120 d5; RD, 932-933 G/120 d5; RD, 934-935 G/120 d5; RD, 936-937 G/120 d5; RD, 938-939 G/120 d5; RD, 940-941 G/120 d5; RD, 942-943 G/120 d5; RD, 944-945 G/120 d5; RD, 946-947 G/120 d5; RD, 948-949 G/120 d5; RD, 950-951 G/120 d5; RD, 952-953 G/120 d5; RD, 954-955 G/120 d5; RD, 956-957 G/120 d5; RD, 958-959 G/120 d5; RD, 960-961 G/120 d5; RD, 962-963 G/120 d5; RD, 964-965 G/120 d5; RD, 966-967 G/120 d5; RD, 968-969 G/120 d5; RD, 970-971 G/120 d5; RD, 972-973 G/120 d5; RD, 974-975 G/120 d5; RD, 976-977 G/120 d5; RD, 978-979 G/120 d5; RD, 980-981 G/120 d5; RD, 982-983 G/120 d5; RD, 984-985 G/120 d5; RD, 986-987 G/120 d5; RD, 988-989 G/120 d5; RD, 990-991 G/120 d5; RD, 992-993 G/120 d5; RD, 994-995 G/120 d5; RD, 996-997 G/120 d5; RD, 998-999 G/120 d5; RD, 999-1000 G/120 d5; RD, 1000-1001 G/120 d5; RD, 1002-1003 G/120 d5; RD, 1004-1005 G/120 d5; RD, 1006-1007 G/120 d5; RD, 1008-1009 G/120 d5; RD, 1010-1011 G/120 d5; RD, 1012-1013 G/120 d5; RD, 1014-1015 G/120 d5; RD, 1016-1017 G/120 d5; RD, 1018-1019 G/120 d5; RD, 1020-1021 G/120 d5; RD, 1022-1023 G/120 d5; RD, 1024-1025 G/120 d5; RD, 1026-1027 G/120 d5; RD, 1028-1029 G/120 d5; RD, 1030-1031 G/120 d5; RD, 1032-1033 G/120 d5; RD, 1034-1035 G/120 d5; RD, 1036-1037 G/120 d5; RD, 1038-1039 G/120 d5; RD, 1040-1041 G/120 d5; RD, 1042-1043 G/120 d5; RD, 1044-1045 G/120 d5; RD, 1046-1047 G/120 d5; RD, 1048-1049 G/120 d5; RD, 1050-1051 G/120 d5; RD, 1052-1053 G/120 d5; RD, 1054-1055 G/120 d5; RD, 1056-1057 G/120 d5; RD, 1058-1059 G/120 d5; RD, 1060-1061 G/120 d5; RD, 1062-1063 G/120 d5; RD, 1064-1065 G/120 d5; RD, 1066-1067 G/120 d5; RD, 1068-1069 G/120 d5; RD, 1070-1071 G/120 d5; RD, 1072-1073 G/120 d5; RD, 1074-1075 G/120 d5; RD, 1076-1077 G/120 d5; RD, 1078-1079 G/120 d5; RD, 1080-1081 G/120 d5; RD, 1082-1083 G/120 d5; RD, 1084-1085 G/12

\$17. Re-entry \$40, not available in Open Section. GMs, IMs & WGMs free, \$60 deducted from prize. **3-day schedule:** Reg ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. Half point byes OK all, must commit before rd. 2; limit 2 byes (limit 1 bye if under 1810/unr in Open). **HR:** \$80-80, call 518-668-5744 Mon-Fri 9 am-5pm; reserve by 4/30 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. Questions: www.chesstour.com, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269, \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, reg. by 9:15 pm.

#### An American Classic!

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### **MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30, ILLINOIS**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)**

#### 25TH ANNUAL CHICAGO OPEN

**Open Section, May 26-30:** 9SS, 40/2, SD/30 d10, GM & IM norms possible, FIDE rated. **Under 2300 through Under 1300 Sections, May 27-30, 28-30 & 29-30:** 7SS, 40/2, SD/30 d10 (3-day option, rds. 1-2 G/60 d10; 2-day option, rds. 1-4 G/30 d10). **Under 1000 Section, May 28-30 or 29-30:** 7SS, G/90 d10 (2-day option, rds. 1-4 G/30 d10). **Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel**, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 (from Chicago, I-294 north to US-45 north; from Milwaukee, I-94 east to Lake Cook Rd. to US-45 south.) Free parking. **Free lectures and analysis of your games** by GM John Fedorowicz. **\$100,000 guaranteed prize fund.** In 8 sections (unrated allowed only in Open, U2300, U2100 or U1000). **Open:** \$1,000-5000-2500-1300-1000-800-600-500-400-400, clear or tiebreak winner bonus \$300, top FIDE Under 2400/Unr 2000-1000. FIDE rated, GM and IM norms possible. **Under 2300:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 2100:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300; unrated limit \$1000. **Under 1900:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1700:** \$5000-2500-1200-800-600-500-400-300-300-300. **Under 1500:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300. **Under 1300:** \$4000-2000-1000-700-500-400-300-300-300-300. **Under 1000:** \$1000-500-300-200-150-100-100, unrated limit \$200, trophies to first 10, top U800, U600, U400, Unrated. **Prize limits:** 1) If any post-event rating posted 5/25/15-5/25/16 was more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$1500. 2) Players with under 26 lifetime games rated as of 5/16 official list cannot win over \$1000 in U1300, \$1500 U1500, \$2000 U1700, or \$2500 U1900. 3) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes:** best male/female combined 2-player "team" score: \$2000-1000-500-400-300. For Open Section, only rounds 1-7 counted towards mixed doubles. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible; prize limits do not apply to mixed doubles.

**Open EF for titled players:** GMs free; \$200 deducted from prize. IMs/WGMs \$100; another \$100 deducted from prize. **Open entry fee, if rated 2200/over** by USCF or FIDE or foreign FIDE rated: \$207 online at chessaction.com by 3/21, \$227 by 5/24, \$250 at site, or online until 5 pm 5/26. Mailed by 3/21 \$215, mailed by 5/13 \$235. Phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/21 \$215, by 5/23 \$235. **US players not rated 2200/over by USCF or FIDE:** \$100 more. **U2300 to U1300 Sections EF:** \$207 online at chessaction.com by 3/21, \$227 by 5/25, \$215 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 3/21, \$235 phoned by 5/23 (entry only, no questions), 4-day \$214, 3-day \$213, 2-day \$212 mailed by 3/21, all \$20 more mailed by 5/13. All \$250 online until 2 hours before game or at site until 1 hour before game. No checks at site, credit cards OK. Do not mail entry after 5/13. **EF \$100 less** to seniors age 65/over, except in U1000 Section. **Under 1000 Section EF:** \$57 online at chessaction.com by 5/25, \$65 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 5/23 (entry only, no questions), 3-day \$63, 2-day \$62 mailed by 5/13, all \$80 online until 2 hours before game or at site until 1 hour before game. No checks at site, credit cards OK. **Online or mailed EF** \$5 less to ICA members; join at il-chess.org. An ICA Tour Event. **Special 1 yr US Chess dues** with magazine if paid with entry: Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Re-entry:** \$100, no re-entry from Open to Open. **5-day schedule** (Open only): Reg. ends Thu 6 pm, rds. Thu 7 pm, Fri 12 & 7, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4. **4-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, Rds. Fri 7 pm, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4. **3-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): Reg. ends Sat 10 am, Rds. Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4. **2-day schedule** (U2300 to U1300): Reg. ends Sun 9 am, Rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 4. **3-day U1000 schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 1 pm, Rds. Sat 2 & 6, Sun 10, 2 & 6, Mon 10 & 2. **2-day U1000 schedule:** Reg. ends Sun 9 am, Rds. Sun 10, 12, 2, 3:45 & 6, Mon 10 & 2. **4-day, 3-day & 2-day** schedules merge & compete for same prizes. **Byes:** OK all, limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rds.). Open must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 4. **Hotel rates:** \$107-107-107-107, 800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserve by 5/12 or rate may increase. **Car rental:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **Foreign player ratings:** See www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm. **US player ratings:** May official ratings used; FIDE ratings used for Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special rules:** 1) Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. See also chesstour.com/devices.htm. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. Questions: chesstour.com, chesstour.info, DirectorAtChess.US, 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### A State Championship Event!

#### **MAY 27-30 OR 28-30, TEXAS**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)**

#### 71ST ANNUAL TEXAS STATE AND AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

7SS. DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76155. \$8,350 b/175, full entries in Championship and Amateur sections, one scholastic side event that doesn't count toward base. **Championship:** This section is FIDE rated and uses FIDE rules. The tournament will use USCF ratings for pairings and prize purposes. Must be rated 2000 or above by either USCF or Fide to play in this section. Defending Texas State Amateur Champion may also play in this section. Texas Scholastic High School Champions may also play in this section. Foreign unrateds may play in this section and at TDs discretion may be required to play in Championship section. G/90 with 30 sec. increment. Foreign players must disclose their FIDE ID number before 1st round in order to play in Championship section. Default late forfeiture time is one hour. TD may extend this time at TD's discretion. \$5,000-500-250, 2200-2399 \$750, U2200 \$750. **Amateur:** U2000 & unrated. Rds. 1-7 G/90 with 30 sec increment. \$5,000-400-200. B \$5,00-300-150, C 500-250-125, U1400 \$500-250-125, U1200 \$400, U1000 \$300 Unrated \$200. Both: TCA membership required. Other states accepted. **EF:** \$88 if received by 5/19, else \$99. \$80 Junior(U19) if received by 5/19 else \$90 (juniors count as 90% toward base), Senior (over 65)/Handicapped/ additional family participant \$52 if receive by 5/19 else \$65 (Senior/Handicap/ Additional family participant counts 60% toward base). Add \$5 for CC phone entries; pre-reg requires pre-payment. After 5/24 all registration and changes on site only; all changes including withdrawals, \$10 after 5/24. 4 day: Reg. Friday 5/27, 6:15 pm-7:15, Rds. Fri: 7:45, Sat: 2:45 pm - 7:30, Sun: 11:00 am - 5:15 pm, Mon: 9:30 am - 2:15 pm, 3 day: Reg. Sat. 5/28, 9:30-10 am, Rd. 1 at 10 am then merge with 4 day. Foreign Unrated must play in Championship section. Registrations that do not indicate 4 or 3 day schedule will be put in the 3 day. **HR:** \$94/94/94, \$94 rate includes up to four continental breakfast per room per day, can upgrade to full breakfast for \$5 per person, 817-358-1700 or 800-228-9290 reserve by 5/20 and ask for Dallas Chess Club rate. After 5/20 chess rate may not be honored. Free Parking. Up to 1/2 pt byes available if requested before end of rd. 2 and before receiving full point bye, but byes for both rds. 6 AND 7 not permitted. **K-12 Scholastic on Saturday**, 5/28, 5-SS, Rds. G/30 d5, EF: \$29 by 5/19, \$45 after; Pre-reg. requires pre-payment. After 5/24 all registration and changes on site only; all changes \$10 after 5/20. No refunds after 5/24, \$10 handling fee for refunds before 5/24. Entries do not count toward base in Championship and Amateur. Registration 8:15-8:45 am, Rd. 1 at 9:30 am, rest ASAP with small lunch break. Sections: **K-12 Championship** and **K-12 U1000**. Prizes: Trophies to top 12 individuals, top five teams in each section. K-12 U1000 also top three unrateds. Medals to those who do not win a trophy. Ent: Dallas Chess Club, C/O Barbara Swafford, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, TX 76036. Info: Barb Swafford, 214-632-9000, info@dallaschess.com www.dallaschess.com W. FIDE.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### **MAY 28-30 OR 29-30, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)**

#### 2016 LINA GRUMMETTE MEMORIAL DAY CLASSIC

6-SS, 3-day 40/100, SD/60 d10; 2-day rds. 1-3 G/60 d2 then merges. Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 2280 South Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91761, \$10,000 b/200, 50% of each prize guaranteed. **In five sections:** **Open:** \$57+1700-750-400-300-200, U2400 400, U2200 700-300-200. **Premier (under 2000):** \$570-300-200-100. **Reserve (Under 1600):** \$5750-300-200-100. **Booster (Under 1400/unrated):** \$440-200-100, U1200 150, Unr 150. (Unrated may win unrated prizes only.) **EF:** \$88 by 5/26, \$99 at door. **Booster (U1400) section EF:** \$72 by 5/26, \$85 door. **Reg.:** ends 9:30am 5/28, 8:30 AM, 5/29. **Rds.:** 3-day: 10-5, 10-5, 9:30-4:30-2:30-2: day: 9:11-30-2 (G/60 d2), then merges with 3 day. **All:** SCFF membership req. (\$18 adults, \$13 youth with print mag, \$3 youth w/o mag). OSA: \$25 Best Game prize, all sections eligible. 1 half-point bye if requested at least 1 round in advance, rd. 6 must be requested with entry. **HR:** \$95.99, comp breakfast (909) 930-5555, www.hiexpressontario.com, code MDC, reserve by 4/27. **Parking Free.** Free WiFi, airport shuttle. **Info:** contactashok.21@gmail.com. On-line entry: www.sccchess.com. **Ent:** SCCF, 12714 Bloomfield Ave., Apt. #178, Norwalk, CA 90650. State Championship Qualifier.

#### May 29, ILLINOIS

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)**

#### CHICAGO OPEN BLITZ (BLZ)

5SS, G/5 d0, double round, 10 games. Westin North Shore Hotel (see Chicago Open). \$5000 guaranteed: \$400-200-100, U2300/Unr \$220-110, U2100/Unr \$200-100, U1900 \$180-90, U1700 \$150-70, U1500 \$120-60. **EF:** \$40 by 7 pm 5/29, \$50 by 9:30 pm 5/29. GMs free; \$40 from prize. Enter at site only, no checks. **Reg.:** ends 9:30 pm, rds. 10 pm, 10:40, 11:10, 11:40, 12:10. 1 bye allowed (1 point out of 2), must give notice before rd. 2. Blitz rated, but higher of regular or blitz used for pairings & prizes.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### **JUNE 3-5, NORTH CAROLINA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)**

#### 15TH ANNUAL CAROLINAS CLASSIC

5-SS, G/110; inc.30 for Championship; G/120 d5 for other sections. Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 J.M. Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262 (704) 547-7444, mention chess for \$101 rate until May 24, 2016 (\$15 off entry fee if staying at hotel (2 per room). **\$10,000** in total prizes **UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED: CHAMPIONSHIP** section (FIDE rated): \$1,200-700-400; \$200 bonus to clear winner or \$10 to tie-break winner; \$100 to top NC and SC finisher; U2200 (class prize): \$450-200; **Class A:** \$1,000-500-200-100; **Class B:** \$1,000-500-200-100; **Class C:** \$900-450-200-100; **Class D/E:** \$700-400-200; U2200 (class prize): \$200-100; Can play up if within 100 points of next section. **EF:** \$89 if received by May 24th; \$99 thereafter; GM-IM free with no deduction if committed by May 1st (\$90 deduction after). **RDS.:** Round 1: Friday at 7:30 pm or Saturday at 9:30 am (G/75 d5); then Saturday 1-7, Sunday 10-4. Two half-point byes allowed (except rd. 5) must be requested before Rd. 2. **Advance Entry:** Online registration available at www.charlottechesscenter.org. Alternately: mail checks to Charlotte Chess Center, 1800 Camden Rd., Suite 108, Charlotte, NC 28203. Onsite entry: June 3rd from 5-6:45 pm and June 4th from 8:15-9:00 am. **Saturday Scholastic** Open to K-12 rated U1000, 4 Rd-SS, G/30 d5. EF: \$20 by May 24, \$30 thereafter. Rounds: 10:00 am-11:15 am-1:00 pm-2:15 pm. Trophies: top 10. **INFO:** charlottechesscenter.org, (980) 265-1156. Open Section FIDE rated and played under strict FIDE rules. No smoking including electronic cigarettes.

before Rd. 2. **Advance Entry:** Online registration available at www.charlottechesscenter.org. Alternately: mail checks to Charlotte Chess Center, 1800 Camden Rd., Suite 108, Charlotte, NC 28203. Onsite entry: June 3rd from 5-6:45 pm and June 4th from 8:15-9:00 am. **Saturday Scholastic** Open to K-12 rated U1000, 4 Rd-SS, G/30 d5. EF: \$20 by May 24, \$30 thereafter. Rounds: 10:00 am-11:15 am-1:00 pm-2:15 pm. Trophies: top 10. **INFO:** charlottechesscenter.org, (980) 265-1156. Open Section FIDE rated and played under strict FIDE rules. No smoking including electronic cigarettes.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### **JUNE 17-19 OR 18-19, VIRGINIA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)**

#### 5TH ANNUAL CONTINENTAL CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, G/60 d10). Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon, VA 20171. Free parking, free airport shuttle. **\$20,000 guaranteed prize fund.** In 7 sections: **Master** (2200/upper): \$2000-1000-500-300, clear win or 1st on tiebreak \$100, top U2400 \$800-400. **Expert** (2000-2199): \$1400-700-400-200. **Class A** (1800-1999/Unr): \$1400-700-400-200. **Class B** (1600-1799/Unr): \$1400-700-400-200. **Class C** (1400-1599/Unr): \$1200-600-400-200. **Class D** (1200-1399/Unr): \$1000-500-300-200. **Class E** (Under 1200/Unr): \$500-250-150-100, plaques to first 3, top Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600. **Unrated**, **Rated players** may play up one section. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$150 in E, \$500 D, \$450 C, \$600 B, or \$750 A. **Mixed Doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$800-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 6/18. **Top 6 sections** **EF:** \$105 online at chessaction.com by 6/15, \$110 phoned to 406-896-2038 (entry only, no questions) by 6/13, 3-day \$108, 2-day \$107 mailed by 6/8, all \$120 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. GMs \$100 from prize. **Class E Section EF:** all \$50 less than above. **All:** No checks at site, credit cards OK. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year US Chess dues** with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$17. Re-entry \$50; not available in Master Section. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **Bye:** all, limit 2; Master must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$95-95, 1-800-223-8585, reserve by 6/3 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: DirectorAtChess.US, chesstour.com, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, enter by 9:15 pm.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**  
**JUNE 17-19 OR 18-19, OHIO**  
**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)**  
**2016 COLUMBUS OPEN**  
5-SS, G/30/90, SD/60 d5 (2-day schedule, rds. 1-2 G/90 d5), Over \$8000 IN PRIZES, UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED. All rounds will be played at the Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43210, on the Ohio State University campus. Parking is \$7/day at nearby campus parking garages. 3 sections: **Open**, open to all. G \$1500, 1000, 600, 500, 400; U2000, \$600, 400; **Premier**, open to 1799/below: \$600, 400; U1600, \$600, 400; **Reserve**, open to 1399/below: \$600, 400. **All EF:** \$100 if rec'd by 6/13/2016. \$110 at site. Free to Sr. Master/above who complete their schedule. A discount of \$3.00 for OCA membership. **3-day schedule:** Reg. Ends Fri: 6:00 p.m., Rds: Fri: 6:30 p.m.; Sat: 11 a.m., 5:00 p.m.; Sun: 9:00 a.m., 3 p.m. **2-day schedule:** Reg. Ends Sat: 9:30 a.m. Rd. 1 at 10 a.m. and Rd. 2 at 1:30 p.m., then merges with 3-day schedule. Re-entry: \$20. Any player who loses Fri. night may re-enter for \$20 and loss will not count in tournament standlings! One 1/2-pt. Bye available in Rds. 1-4 (request required prior to Rd. 1). Unrated players may play in any section. \$25 upset prize each section. **HOTELS:** We were unable to obtain a group rate, so inquire at the area hotels for room rate, and check the internet for rates and proximity. Downtown is about 3 miles from playing site. There is a big event at OSU Stadium this weekend, so book your accommodations as early as possible. **ENT:** To register online at websites: www.centralchessclub.com. Or www.buckeyechess.com. To register by mail, send to Lou Friscoe, 1623 Glenn Ave., Columbus, OH 43212. Inquiries: (614) 486-6856 or (614) 228-8111. Entry forms available at www.centralchessclub.com.

#### **JUNE 22-23, NEVADA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 30 (ENHANCED)**

#### 2016 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

See Nationals.

#### **JUNE 23, NEVADA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 50 (ENHANCED)**

#### WALTER BROWNE MEMORIAL NATIONAL OPEN BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP (BLZ)

7 D-SS (14 games), G/3 + 2. Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, 3000 Paradise Road, 89109. **\$5,000 Guaranteed** Prize fund! **Open:** \$1000-500-300, U2400 300, U2300 275, U2200 250, U2100 225, U2000 200. **Reserve (U1900):** \$500-300-150, U1700 250, U1600 200, U1500 175, U1400 150, U1200 125, U1000 100. Open section FIDE blitz rated. Must be 3 players eligible for each prize awarded. Unrated eligible for under prizes in open section only. **EF:** \$40 by 6/3, \$60 later. **REG.:** by 6:00 p.m. Rd. 1 at 7 p.m. [www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com).

#### **JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, NEVADA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 300 (ENHANCED)**

#### 2016 NATIONAL OPEN

See Nationals.

#### **JUNE 27, NEVADA**

**TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 60 (ENHANCED)**

#### 2016 U.S. GAME/10 CHAMPIONSHIP (QC)

See Nationals.

## Tournament Life / March

### An American Classic!

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, JULY 1-4 OR 2-4, PENNSYLVANIA**  
TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 300 (ENHANCED)

#### 44TH ANNUAL WORLD OPEN

9SS at luxurious **Philadelphia Marriott Downtown**, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, directly across the street from the world famous Reading Terminal Market with over 100 food vendors. In 9 sections. **\$225,000 guaranteed prizes**. Unrated may enter only Open, U2200, U2000, or Unrated Sections. Free analysis of your games by GM Sam Palatnik 6/30-7/4, free GM lectures 9 am 7/2 & 7/3. **Open Section, June 30-July 4 only: 40/2, SD/30 d10. Under 2200 to Under 1200 Sections, June 30-July 4, July 1-4 or 2-4: 40/2, SD/30 d10 (4-day option, rds. 1-2 G/6 d10; 3-day option, rds. 1-5 G/35 d10). Under 900 Section & Unrated Section, July 2-4 only: G/6 d10, play separate schedule. Open: \$2000-10000-5000-2500-1300-1000-800-600-500**

clear winner bonus \$500, top FIDE 2300-2449 \$5000-2500-1500, top FIDE 2200-2299 \$5000-2500-1500. Top FIDE U2200/Unr \$5000-2500-1500. If tie for first, top 2 on tiebreak play speed game 10 pm 7/4 for title & bonus prize. GM & IM norms possible. FIDE rated. **Under 2200/Unr: \$12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U2100 (nr) \$2000-1000, unrated limit \$2000. Under 2000/Unr: \$12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1900 (no unr) \$2000-1000, unrated limit \$1000. Under 1800: \$12000-6000-3000-1500-1000-800-600-500-400-400, top U1700 \$2000-1000. Under 1600: \$10000-5000-2500-1300-900-700-600-500-400-400, top U1500 \$2000-1000. Under 1400: \$8000-4000-2000-1300-900-700-600-500-400-400, top U1300 \$1600-800. Under 1200: \$4000-2000-1000-800-600-500-400-400-300-300, top U1000 \$1000-500. Under 900: \$600-400-300-200-100, plaques to top 10. Unrated: \$600-400-300-200-100, plaques to top 10. **Prize limits:** 1) If any post-event rating posted 6/28/15-6/28/16 was more than 30 points over section maximum, prize limit \$2000. 2) Players with under 26 lifetime games rated as of 7/16 official list cannot win over \$1000 in U1200, \$2000 U1400, \$3000 U1600 through U2000. Games rated too late for 7/16 official list not counted toward 26 game total. 3) Balance of any limited prize goes to next player(s) in line. **Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes:** best male/female combined 2-player "team" score: \$3000-1500-700-500-300. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; teams must register (no extra fee) before both players begin round 2; teammate pairings avoided but possible; prize limits do not apply to mixed doubles. **Entry fee** for U2200 through U1400 sections, and Open Section if USCF or FIDE 2200/over: **Online at chessaction.com:** \$308 by 4/15, \$318 by 5/15, \$328 by 6/27, \$350 until 2 hours before first game. **Phoned to 406-896-2038:** \$315 by 4/15, \$325 by 5/15, \$335 by 6/25. **Mailed by 4/15:** 5-day \$315, 4-day \$314, 3-day \$313. **Mailed by 5/15:** 5-day \$325, 4-day \$324, 3-day \$323. **Mailed by 6/15:** 5-day \$335, 4-day \$334, 3-day \$333. Do not mail entry after 6/15. **At site until 1 1/2 hours before first game:** all \$350; no checks, credit cards OK. **GMs in Open:** free; \$200 deducted from prize. **IMs & WGMs in Open:** EF \$100 less. **Open Section EF \$100 more** if not rated 2200 or over by USCF or FIDE. **Under 1200 Section EF:** all \$100 less than above. **Seniors 65/up:** all EF \$100 less in U1400 or above sections. **U900 Section or Unrated Section EF:** \$68 online at chessaction.com by 6/27, \$73 mailed by 6/15 or phoned by 6/25, \$80 at site until 1 hour before game or online until 2 hours before game. **No checks** at site; credit cards OK. **Re-entry: \$160**, no re-entry from Open to Open. **\$20 fee for switching section** after 6/29. **Special 1 year USCF dues** with magazine if paid with entry: **Online at chessaction.com**, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **5-day schedule:** Thu 7 pm, Fri 11 am & 6 pm, Sat 11 am & 6 pm, Sun 11 am & 6 pm, Mon 10 am & 4:30 pm. **4-day schedule:** Fri 11, 2:30 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30. **3-day schedule:** Sat 11, 1:30, 3:30, 6 & 8:30, Sun 11 & 6, Mon 10 & 4:30. **U900 Section, Unrated Section schedule:** Sat 11, 2:30 & 6, Sun 11, 2:30 & 6, Mon 10, 1:30 & 4:30. **All schedules** merge & compete for same prizes. **Half point byes** OK all, limit 4 (limit 2 in last 4 rds), Open must commit before rd. 2 others before rd. 5. **Entries, re-entries** close 11/2 hours before your first game. **HR: \$115-115-125, 215-625-2900**, reserve early as chess block may sell out by early June. **Parking:** Marriott valet parking, about \$20/day (60% off regular rate) for first 100 valet parking spaces sold. 925 Walnut (2.5 mile from Marriott), about \$10/day Sat & Sun, \$15/day other days. Gateway Garage, 1540 Spring St. (3/5 mile from Marriott, 1 block from Sheraton Hotel), about \$5/day Sat & Sun (free shuttle to/from Marriott may be available, see chesstour.com), \$20/day other days. **Special car rental rates:** Avis, 800-331-1600, AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. **Foreign player ratings:** See [www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm](http://www.chesstour.com/foreignratings.htm). **US player ratings:** Official July ratings used; June FIDE ratings used for Open Section. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special rules:** Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by Director. See also chesstour.com/devices.htm. **Ent:** Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. **Questions:** chesstour.com, chesstour.info, DirectorAtChess.US. \$15 service charge for refunds. **Advance entries** posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Awards:** Open through U1800 prizes & all plaques awarded 7/4, others mailed by 7/18. **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied.**

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### JULY 2-4, CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 100 (ENHANCED)

#### PACIFIC SOUTHWEST OPEN

6-SS, G/90 + 30 second inc. The Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport, Irvine, CA 92612. **\$12,000 in Prizes**, based on 160 players, but 80% of all prizes are guaranteed. 6 Sections. **Prizes: Open Sec 1st \$1,800-1,200-800-400-200, plus BU2300 \$400-200; U2200, U2000, U1800 and U1600 Sections ALL: \$800-400-200-100; U1400: \$400-200-100, plus BU1200 \$200-100, Book prize for Best unrated in each section; if any. Open Section will be FIDE rated. Reg.: 9 to 9:45 AM, June official**

rating list used. No two day or "fast" schedule & no re-entries, but two 1/2 point byes are available, must commit by rd. 4. **Rds.: 10 AM & 3 PM Sat, Sun and Mon. EF: \$90 Early Bird Special if received by 5/31, \$100 from 6/1 to 7/01, \$120 after 7/01.** No credit cards at door, checks or cash only. Special rate of only \$60 if U1400 or unrated. GMs, IMs, WGMs and WIMs all have free entry, but \$100 deducted from any prize winnings. Players who forfeit any round are subject to a \$25 fine! SCCF membership req'd (\$18 Adult; \$13 Jr or \$3 Jr w/o mag.) for all So Cal residents. **Rated Blitz** on 7/03 at 8 PM; 3 sections: Open, U2000 and U1600, 8 rounds, G/5 d2; \$20 EF, all entry fees returned in prize fund minus rating fee. **Entries:** SCDC, PO Box 120162, San Diego, CA 92112 or enter online at [www.sccchess.com](http://www.sccchess.com). For more info call Chuck Ensey at 858-432-8006 or email me at [chucngho@aol.com](mailto:chucngho@aol.com). **Hotel Rates:** \$125, 800-445-8667, if booked by 6/15/16, This event is a State Championship Qualifier.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### JULY 5-7, PENNSYLVANIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 40 (ENHANCED)

#### 5TH ANNUAL WORLD OPEN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown (see World Open for location, rates). Open to all females. **\$2500 guaranteed prizes:** \$1000-500-300, top U1800/Unr \$260, U1500 \$240, U1200 \$200, plaques to top 3, 1st U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000. **EF: \$85** online at chessaction.com by 6/28, \$90 mailed by 6/15, \$100 at site, or online until 8/7. 5 GMs, IMs & WGMs free; \$80 from prize. **Reg.** ends Tue 5pm, **rds.** Tue 6, Wed 11 & 6, Thu 9 & 2. **Bye:** OK any round, limit 1 bye, must commit before rd. 2. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### JULY 5-10, PENNSYLVANIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 200 (ENHANCED)

#### 10TH ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL

9SS, 40/2, SD/30 d10, open to all. GM & IM norms possible, satisfies FIDE requirement that one GM norm be in an event with only one round per day for a minimum of 3 days. FIDE rated. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107 (see World Open for rates & parking info). **\$6K 10,000:** \$3000-1500-1000-700-600-500-400-300-200, top FIDE under 2300 or unrated \$100-200. **Minimum prize guarantees:** \$700 to foreign GMs with FIDE ratings 2500/over, \$500 to foreign GMs with FIDE ratings under 2500, \$300 to foreign IMs/WGMs (all must complete all 9 games with no byes; limited to first 5 foreign GMs & first 5 foreign IMs/WGMs to entry by 6/24 at chessaction.com). Minimum prize \$300 to other GMs (including US) who complete all 9 games with no byes. Players who have forfeited without notice in past CCA Internationals are not eligible for minimum prizes. **EF:** GMs, IMs, WGMs \$50 online at chessaction.com by 6/1, \$75 online at chessaction.com by 6/28, \$100 at site; \$100 deducted from prize (no deduction from minimum prize). **Foreign FIDE rated players:** \$100 online at chessaction.com by 6/1, \$125 online by 6/28, \$150 at site. **USA players FIDE rated 2200/up:** \$200 online by 6/1, \$225 online by 6/28, \$250 at site. **Others:** \$300 online by 6/1, \$325 online by 6/28, \$350 at site. **All:** Phoned entry (406-896-2038) all \$10 more; no phone entry after 6/28. Mailed entry (Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803) all \$10 more; do not mail entry after 6/15. No checks at site, credit cards OK. **Special 1 year USCF dues with magazine:** see World Open. **Schedule:** Late reg. ends Tue 5 pm, rds. Tue 6 pm, Wed 11 & 6, Thu 6, Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 am. Two half point byes available (must commit before rd. 2); norm not possible if taking bye. **HR:** see World Open. **Bring sets, boards, clocks** if possible- none supplied. **Ent:** chessaction.com. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: [www.chestour.com](http://www.chestour.com), DirectorAtChess.us, 347-201-2269. Online entries posted instantly at chessaction.com. Invitations: GoAtChess.us. Use @ symbol instead of "At" in email addresses.

#### JULY 6-10 OR 8-10, PENNSYLVANIA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 80 (ENHANCED)

#### WORLD OPEN SENIOR

6SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia 19107 (see World Open for rates & parking info). Open to all born before 7/10/66; option of 5-day or 3-day schedule. **\$7000 guaranteed prizes:** \$1500-800-500-300, clear or tiebreak winner \$100, top Under 2250/Unr \$700-400, 1850-2049/Unr \$600-300, Under 1850 (no unr) \$600-300, Under 1650 (no unr) \$400-200, Under 1450 (no unr) \$300. **EF: \$98 online at chessaction.com by 6/27, \$105 phoned to 406-896-2038 by 6/25, \$120 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1.** 5-day \$105, 3-day \$103 if mailed by 6/15; do not mail entry after 6/15. GMs free; \$80 deducted from prize. **5-day reg. ends 5 pm 7/6, rds. Wed-Sat 6 pm each day, Sun 11 & 4:15. 3-day reg. ends 10 am 7/8, rds. Fri 11 & 6, Sat 11 & 6, Sun 11 & 4:15.** Half point byes OK all rounds, limit 2 byes (limit 1 bye if under 1850), must commit before rd. 2. **Special USCF dues:** see World Open. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly).

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### JULY 15-17 OR 16-17, ILLINOIS

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 120 (ENHANCED)

#### 9TH ANNUAL CHICAGO CLASS

5SS, 40/100, SD/30 d10 (2-day option, G/60 d10). Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel, 601 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090 (from Chicago, I-294 north to US-45 north; from Milwaukee, I-94 to Lake Cook Rd. to US-45 south). Free parking. **\$20,000 guaranteed prize fund** in 7 sections: **Master** (2200/up): \$12000-1000-500-300, clear win or 1st on tiebreak \$100, top U2400 \$800-400. **FIDE Expert** (2000-2199): \$1400-700-400-200. **Class A** (1800-1999/Unr): \$1400-700-400-200. **Class B** (1600-1799/Unr): \$1400-700-400-200. **Class C** (1400-1599/Unr): \$1200-600-400-200. **Class D** (1200-1399/Unr): \$1000-500-300-200. **Class E** (Under 1200/Unr): \$500-250-150-100, trophies to first 3, top Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600, Unrated. **Rated players** may play up one section. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$100 in E, \$200 in D, \$300 C, \$500 B, or \$700 A. **Mixed Doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$800-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; \$800-400-200. Team sections; teams must register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 7/16. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$105 online at chessaction.com by 7/13, \$110 phoned to 406-896-2038 (entry only, no questions) by 7/11, 3-day \$108, 2-day \$107 mailed by 7/6, all \$120 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. **Class E Section EF:** all \$50 less than above. **All:** No checks at site, credit cards OK. Online EF \$5 less to ICA members; join/renew at ilchess.org. An ICA Tour event. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues:** with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. Re-entry \$50; not available in Master Section. GMs \$80 from prize. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **Bye:** all, limit 2; Master must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$107-107-107-107, \$800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserved by 7/1 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: DirectorAtChess.US, chesstour.com, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, entry by 9:15 pm.

(Under 1200/Unr): \$500-250-150-100, trophies to first 3, top Under 1000, Under 800, Under 600, Unrated. **Rated players** may play up one section. **Prize limits:** Unrated may not win over \$100 in E, \$200 in D, \$300 C, \$500 B, or \$700 A. **Mixed Doubles bonus prizes:** best male/female 2-player "team" combined score among all sections: \$800-400-200. Team average must be under 2200; teammates may play in different sections; \$800-400-200. Team sections; teams must register (no extra fee) by 2 pm 7/16. **Top 6 sections EF:** \$105 online at chessaction.com by 7/13, \$110 phoned to 406-896-2038 (entry only, no questions) by 7/11, 3-day \$108, 2-day \$107 mailed by 7/6, all \$120 at site, or online until 2 hours before round 1. **Class E Section EF:** all \$50 less than above. **All:** No checks at site, credit cards OK. Online EF \$5 less to ICA members; join/renew at ilchess.org. An ICA Tour event. Unofficial uschess.org ratings usually used if otherwise unrated. **Special 1 year USCF dues:** with paper magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Adult \$35, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed, phoned or paid at site, Adult \$40, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. Re-entry \$50; not available in Master Section. GMs \$80 from prize. **3-day schedule:** Reg. ends Fri 6 pm, rds. Fri 7, Sat 11 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **2-day schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2 & 5, Sun 10 & 3:15. **Bye:** all, limit 2; Master must commit before rd. 2, others before rd. 3. **HR:** \$107-107-107-107, \$800-937-8461, 847-777-6500, reserved by 7/1 or rate may increase. Car rental: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633. **Ent:** chessaction.com or Continental Chess, Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. \$15 service charge for refunds. Questions: DirectorAtChess.US, chesstour.com, 347-201-2269. Advance entries posted at chessaction.com (online entries posted instantly). **Blitz tournament** Sat 9:30 pm, entry by 9:15 pm.

#### A Heritage Event!

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### JULY 30-AUG. 7, AUG. 2-7 OR AUG. 4-7, INDIANA

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 300

#### 117TH ANNUAL U.S. OPEN

See Nationals.

#### US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

#### AUG. 13-17, MARYLAND

TROPHIES PLUS GRAND PRIX POINTS: 150

#### 5TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL

9SS, 40/90, SD/20 inc/30 Rockville Hilton, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-468-0308. **All prizes guaranteed.** Two sections: **A Section (minimum 2100 FIDE or 2200 USCF to play. FIDE ratings used for pairings and prizes)** \$4000-2000-1000-900-800-700-600-500, top U2500 \$1300-650, top U2300 \$1100-550. Limited number of minimum prizes for non-US FIDE rated players, see web page. Limited amount of housing support is available for non-US GMs and IMs. **GM and IM norms possible (2 IMs earned last year).** **B Section 9-SS (under 2201 USCF and under 2200 FIDE, USCF ratings used, FIDE rated)** \$2000-\$1000-\$600-\$400, top U2000 \$1000-\$450, top under 1800 \$550. **Free Continental breakfast for players each morning. All equipment provided for both sections.** **A section EF:** GMs, non-US IMs Free; US IMs and WGMs \$199; FMs \$299; FIDE above 2200 \$349, FIDE from 2100 to 2199 \$399, FIDE from 2000 to 2099 \$600, FIDE below 2000 \$800. All \$25 more after 6/13, \$35 more after 7/30, \$45 more after 8/9, \$70 more at the door. **B Section EF:** \$249. \$20 more after 7/30, \$30 more after 8/9, \$40 more at the door. **Special EFs:** All \$100 less for non-US FIDE rated in A section; If staying at the Hilton (min 3 nights), \$50 less for US IMs and WGMs, others \$75 less. All \$25 less for new WI players. All \$20 rebate for every new paying WI player you refer. All \$50 less, if born before 8/13/1966. **Schedule** Reg ends Sat 10 am, rds. 8/13-8/16:11am & 5:30pm. Wed 8/17 11am. **HR** #93. **Ent:** MCA, c/o Michael Regan, 1827 Thornton Ridge Rd., Townsend, MD 21224. More information, hotel reservations link & online entry at <http://washint.mdcchess.com>.

## Regional

### ALABAMA

#### MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, Lone Star Open (TX)

See Grand Prix.

#### A State Championship Event!

#### MAR. 19, Alabama Scholastic Championship

7 sections: **Open Championship** (Grades K-12), **Jr. High Championship** (K-8) 4SS, G/45 d5, **Open U1000** (K-12, rating<1000), **Jr. High U800** (K-8, rating<800), **Elementary Championship** (Grades 4-6), **Elementary U600** (G-4, rating<600), **Primary** (K-3) 5SS, G/30 d5. **Site:** Indian Springs School, 190 Woodward Dr., Pelham, AL 35124. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:00am. **Rds.:** Open & Jr. High Championship 10:00, 12:45, 2:30, 4:15; all others 10:00, 11:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00. **EF:** \$25 (\$55 family) rec'd by 3/5, \$35 by 3/16, \$60 after. **Prizes:** Trophies to top 5 each section. Only Alabama students are trophy-eligible. **Ent:** Gerald A. Larson, 2909 Gallalee Rd., Huntsville, AL 35801. Alabama Chess Federation (other states OK) required. **Info, forms, entries:** [www.alabamachess.org](http://www.alabamachess.org).

#### A State Championship Event!

#### MAR. 20, Alabama Scholastic Team Championship

4SS, 4-board teams, match-point scoring. Only Alabama schools, home-schools, and ACF affiliates eligible. 6 (or more) sections: **Open** (Grades K-12) and **Jr. High** (K-9) G/45 d5, sections will split into schools & clubs if entries permit; **Elementary** (K-6), **Elementary Club**, **Primary** (K-3), **Primary Club**, G/30 d5. **Site:** Indian Springs School, 190 Woodward Dr., Pelham, AL 35124. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:00AM. **Rds.:** Open & Jr. High 10:00, 12:45, 2:30, 4:15; all others 10:00, 11:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00. **EF:** \$50/team rec'd by 3/16, \$100 after. **Prizes:** Open & Jr. High trophies to top 2 schools and top club each section; Elementary & Primary trophies to top 3; Elementary Club and Primary Club trophies to top 2. **Ent:** Gerald A. Larson, 2909 Gallalee Rd., Huntsville, AL 35801. Alabama Chess Federation membership required. **More info, team eligibility, forms:** [www.alabamachess.org](http://www.alabamachess.org).

**APR. 16, Sunny Street Space City Monthly #6**

4SS, G/60 d5. Hitachi Consulting Government Solutions Huntsville, 1500 Perimeter Pkwy NW, Suite 100, Huntsville, AL 35806. Hitachi is a secure building call Don Maddox (256783-5042) for entry upon arrival. McAllister's just across the parking lot safe, easy walking distance. On-site Book & Equipment Sales provided by House of Staunton. **Sponsors:** Sunny Street Cafe and House of Staunton. **EF:** \$30 by April 8, 2016 - \$45 onsite. No checks onsite. **Memb. Req'd:** \$15. **OSA, \$5b/25:** \$225-155-95. **Reg.:** 9:30 am April 16, 2016. Deadline April 8, 2016. **Rds.:** 10:00 am 1:00 pm 3:30 pm 6:00 pm. Half-point byes available for Rounds 1-2 if requested before 8 Apr 2016. Players Meeting 9:45 am, Apr 16, 2016. **ENT:** Huntsville/Space City Chess Club, 13082 Virginia Ct., Madison AL 35756. 256-783-5042. <http://newquii.com/store/>. **INFO:** Don Maddox ddmad-dox@hotmail.com. **DIR:** Off Hwy 72 & Research Park on the right behind McAllister's. <http://newquii.com/store/>. **Space City Chess Club:** Madison and Huntsville have consolidated into a single club, meeting at 6 pm on Mondays at Sunny Street Caf, 7143 B Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758. In addition to monthly tournaments, SCCC hosts weekly club-rated Madville Quads (G/25 d5) during regular Monday meetings (Kids Quads start at 5:30 pm; Adults at 7:00 pm). SCCC is dedicated to providing local players with a steady, convenient, and safe local venue. Club stays open as long as players want to play. Check us out. W.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, 2016 Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship (GA)**

See Grand Prix.

**ARIZONA****US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****Tuesday Night Open**

4 or 5 round, USCF rated tournament. ROUND TIMES: 7:00pm. One game every Tuesday of the month. Time Control: 40/120, SD/60 d5. PRIZES: 1st Place and Class Prizes based on number of entries. ENTRY FEE: \$45. TO REGISTER: [chessempporium.com](http://chessempporium.com), call 602-482-4867. SITE: 18001 N. 32nd St., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAR. 19-20, Bobby Fischer Memorial Swiss**

4SS, 30/90, 25/60, 25/60 d0. No Sudden Death! Pan Asian Community Center, 940 S. Craycroft, Tucson, AZ 85711. Open to Must be 18 years old or older to play in this tournament. **EF:** \$25 at the door. No late fees. **Prizes:** Trophies to 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Trophy to winner of the Bobby Fischer Trivia contest. Details at [www.events4chess.com](http://www.events4chess.com). **Reg.:** Sat: 9AM to 9:45. **Rds.:** Sat. & Sun. 10AM & 3:30. Tie Breaks: Cumulative, Solkoff, Median. **INFO:** Morry Holland (520) 358-5841, Ed Yetman Desert-paradise@hotmail.com. [www.Events4chess.com](http://www.Events4chess.com).

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****APR. 16-17, Leonard Nimoy Memorial Swiss**

4SS, 30/90, 25/60, 25/60 d0. No Sudden Death! Pan Asian Community Center, 940 S. Craycroft, Tucson, AZ 85711. Open to Must be 18 years old or older to play in this tournament. **EF:** \$25 at the door. No late fees. **Prizes:** Trophies to 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Trophy to winner of the Leonard Nimoy Trivia contest. Details at [www.events4chess.com](http://www.events4chess.com). **Reg.:** Sat: 9AM to 9:45. **Rds.:** Sat. & Sun. 10AM & 3:30. Tie Breaks: Cumulative, Solkoff, Median. **INFO:** Morry Holland (520) 358-5841, Ed Yetman Desert-paradise@hotmail.com. [www.Events4chess.com](http://www.Events4chess.com).

**MAY 28-30, 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship West**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, 2016 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26, International Youth Championship (NV)**

See Nevada.

**JUNE 27, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)**

See Nationals.

**ARKANSAS****MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, Lone Star Open (TX)**

See Grand Prix.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAR. 19-20, Arkansas Open**

5-SS, G/90+30pm. Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center, 150 N. Skyline Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72701. 1-479-443-4531 or 800-760-8126. Call M-F 9-5. Cottage Cabins \$70. **EF:** \$40 by 3/7, \$45 at door. **Reg.:** 8:30-9:15 Sat AM; **Rds.:** 9:30-2:6; 9-1. **SS (b/35) 250-150; A,B,C,D & below each 120 (min. 3 in class); 1 half pt. bye rds. 1-5 (declared before 3rd rd. pairings).** **TD/Entries:** Les Kline, 801 N. Rush Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72701; cl\_kline@sbcglobal.net; 479-595-5720.

**CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN****A Heritage Event!****US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****A State Championship Event!****MAR. 19-20, 41st CalChess State Scholastics Championship 2016**

Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Pkwy., CA 95054. Park free. **Prizes:** Trophies to top 20 players w + score & top 5 teams and top 5 clubs (in ea section). Medals to all. In case of ties, tiebreaks will det. place. Sections based on grades and rating. **Sched: 1-day event** for all u800 sections: KG, K-Gr3 Rookie(unr), K-Gr3 Beginner(u500), K-Gr3 JV(500-799); Sa only 5SSxG/30 d5; Rds.: 9:30a, 11:30a, 1:30p, 3p, 4:30p. K-Gr6 Rookie(unr), K-Gr6 Beginner(u500), K-Gr6 JV(500-799), K-Gr8 Beginner(u800), K-Gr12 Beginner(u800); Su only 5SSxG/30 d5; Rds.: 9:30a, 11:30a, 1:30p, 3p, 4:30p. **2-day event**

for sections: K-Gr3 Champ (800+), K-Gr5 Champ (800+), K-Gr6 Champ (800+), K-Gr8 JV (800-1199), K-Gr8 Champ (1200+), K-Gr12 JV (800-1599), K-Gr12 Champ(1600+); Sa+Su 6SSxG/75 d5. **Rds.:** Sat & Sun 9a, 12n, 3p. **Side-event: Blitz:** KG-Gr3, Gr4-6, Gr 9-12: G/5 d0; Sat 6-8p. **Bughouse:** (G/5 d0) Su 6-8p. **EF:** by 3/1: 1-day \$52, 2-day \$65. Playup: +20, Late Fee: +10 after 3/1, +20 after 3/14, Onsite: +\$40. Change Fee: \$10 after 3/1, \$20 after 3/14, \$30 onsite. Blitz/Bughouse: \$12. Tshirt: \$15 preordered. **Register:** [bayareachess.com/states](http://www.bayareachess.com/states until Friday 3/18 noon! Onsite 7:30-8am! No on-site registration after 8AM.</a> CalChess & USCF membership req'd except KG, Gr1-3 Rookie, Mar 16 Supp & TD disc to place players. Info/reg: <a href=). Quest: ask@BayAreaChess.com. USCF+CalChess Mem req'd. W.

**MAR. 27, San Jose Kids Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5)**

2050 Concord Drive #42, San Jose, CA 95131. **Trophies:** Players w/plus score. **Sched:** Required Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2-5p. **EF:** 29, 44 after 3/25. **Info:** [BayAreaChess.com/signature](http://BayAreaChess.com/signature). W.

**APR. 2, Pleasanton Pawn Promotion - G/90 (3SS, G/90 d5)**

Sheraton Pleasanton, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588. **Prizes:** \$1,300 b/50, 60% guar. 1900+: \$200-100-100, u2000 50-50. 1500-1899: \$200-100, u1600 50-50. u1500: \$200-100, u1200 50-50. Apr 16 Supp & TD disc. **Sched:** Reg: 9:15-15. Rds.: 9:30a-12:50p-4:15p. **EF:** 48, Econ 33 w 1/2 prz, after 3/30 +15, playup +25, Rtd 2200+ \$0 by 3/24. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/grandprix>. W.

**APR. 3, Bay Area Cupertino Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino, CA 95014. **Trophies:** Players w/plus score. **Sched:** Reqr. Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2:15-5p. **EF:** 29, 44 after 4/1. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**APR. 9, Sacramento Chess4Less Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. **Trophies:** Players w/plus score. **Sched:** Reqr. Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2:30-5p. **EF:** 24, 39 after 4/7. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****APR. 9, Sacramento SuperSwiss (4SS, G/61 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. **Prizes:** \$600 b/36. 1700+: \$150-100, u1900 50. u1700: \$150-100, u1600 50. Apr 16 Supp & TD disc. **Sched:** Reg: 9:15-15. Rds.: 9:30 11:50 2:30 5. **EF:** 48, Econ 33 1/2 prz, after 4/15 +15, playup +25, Rated 2200+ \$0 by 4/1. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/barber>. W.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****APR. 9-10, Barber Qualifier (K-Gr8) For 1800+ players, 5SS, G/90+30**

2050 Concourse Drive #42, San Jose, CA 95131. **Sched:** Reg: 9:15-9:45a, Rds.: 1-3 Sat 10a, 1:30p, 5p, Rds. 4-5 Sun 10a, 1:30p. **1 Section: 1800+ (FIDE rated). Prizes: \$650 Guaranteed:** \$300-200-100-50. \$300 to first place provided he/she completes Barber tournament as Northern California Representative. 2nd: \$200, 3rd: \$100; 4th: \$50. EF: \$54, after 3/21 +15. Apr 16 Supp used for pairing & TD disc. Info: <http://BayAreaChess.com/barber>. W.

**APR. 10, Bay Area Fremont Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, Fremont, CA 94538. **Trophies:** Players w/plus score. **Sched:** Reqr. Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2:15-5p. **EF:** 29, 44 after 4/8. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**APR. 10, Bay Area Fremont Swiss (PK-12; 4SS, G/30 d5)**

Courtyard Marriott, Fremont, CA 94538. **Trophies:** Players w/plus score. **Sched:** Reg: 9:30-9:45a. **Games:** 10a-1:30p. **EF:** 34, 49 after 4/8. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature>. W.

**APR. 10, Milpitas Lover\$Swiss (3SS, G/90 d5)**

1639A S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035. **Prizes:** \$1,300 b/50. 60% guar. 1900+: \$200-100-100, u2000 50-50. 1500-1899: \$200-100, u1600 50-50. u1500: \$200-100, u1200 50-50. Apr 16 Supp & TD disc. **Sched:** Reg: 9:15-15. Rds.: 9:30-12:50-4:15. **EF:** 48, Econ 33 w 1/2 prz, after 4/7 +15, playup +25, Rtd 2200+ \$0 by 4/1. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/grandprix>. W.

**APR. 23-24, 11th Annual Frank Doyle Open**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, 2016 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26, International Youth Championship (NV)**

See Nevada.

**JUNE 27, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)**

See Nationals.

**APR. 13-17, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN****THE LOS ANGELES CHESS CLUB**

The Most Active Club on the West Coast! (310) 795-5710. \* LACC: [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com); VCC: [www.ValleyChessClub.com](http://www.ValleyChessClub.com); Contact email: Mick@LAChessClub.com; Saturdays: 10am-10 pm (Beg & Intermed. classes + 3 Tournaments). Sundays: 11 am - 1 pm (Junior class + 2 Tournaments) - Details on our web site. Tuesdays: 7:30-9:30 pm (Advance Lecture). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. (4 blocks W of 405, SW corner of Santa Monica & Butler \* 2nd Floor - above Javan Restaurant) Group Classes \* Tournaments \* Private (1:1) Lessons. Note: We added a new club in the valley!

**Alec's Chess Club**

[www.alecschessclub.com](http://www.alecschessclub.com). 818-220-0257. Tournaments for KIDS on Saturdays or Sundays 12-4pm weekly. Includes free class! Tournaments for ADULTS on Saturdays 5-9pm (6/30 d5) and 9-11pm (Blitz). Private Classes available by appointment. Located at 4418 Simpson Ave., #5, Valley Village, CA 91607. YOUR FIRST TOURNAMENT IS FREE! Please contact Alec with any questions at alecnspencer@hotmail.com or on our website at [www.alecschessclub.com](http://www.alecschessclub.com).

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAR. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, LACC - Saturday & Sunday G/61**

6SS, G/60 d5. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA 90025, 2nd fl. **EF:** \$60 (\$40 LACC memb; No prizes 1/2; second child 1/2). **Reg.:** 11-12 pm. **Rds.:** 12, 2, 4 pm each day. 1-day option: \$30/\$20. **Prizes:** 1/2 collections. **Parking:** Free at BoA & basement. **Info:** 310/795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com).

**MAR. 5, 12, 19, 26, LACC - Every Saturday Chess 4 JRS**

4 separate events- 5SS, G/30 d0. 11514 Santa Monica Blvd. & Butler LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blocks West of 405. **EF:** \$30 (\$20 LACC memb; No prize 1/2, siblings 1/2, Free new LACC members). **Reg.:** 12-1 pm. **Rds.:** 1pm & asap; done by 4. **Prizes:** Trophies & medals; All players receive 1/2 collections **Parking:** Free on streets & BoA. Free pizzas & juices. **Info:** (310) 795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com).

**MAR. 5, 12, 19, 26, LACC - Saturday Nite Blitzathon (BLZ)**

4 separate events- 7DSS, G/5/d1 (14 Games). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blocks W of 405. **EF:** \$20 (\$15 LACC memb). Blitz-rated. No prizes \$10. **Reg.:** 6:30-8 pm. **Rds.:** 6:30, 6:55, 7:20, 7:45, 8:10, 8:30, 9:15 pm. **Prizes:** 1/2 collections. **Parking:** Free on streets & BoA. **Info:** 310/795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com).

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, LACC - Sunday Nite Blitzathon (BLZ)** 4 separate events- 5DSS, G/5/d1 (10 Games). 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 90025, 2nd fl. 4 blocks West of 405. **EF:** \$20 (\$15 LACC memb), Blitz-rated. No prizes \$10. **Reg.:** 6:30-8 pm. **Rds.:** 6:30, 6:55, 7:20, 7:45, 8:10 pm. **Prizes:** 1/2 collections. **Parking:** Free on streets & BoA. **Info:** 310/795-5710 or [www.LAChessClub.com](http://www.LAChessClub.com).

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, Santa Monica Bay Chess Club Championship MONDAY EVENINGS:** (4-SS, G/1:55 d5) Cash prizes. **Guaranteed Open prizes: \$150-125-100; Class prizes based on entries.** St. Andrew's Church, 11555 National Blvd., WLA, 90064. **EF:** \$25 - Club members, \$40 - non-members. **Reg.:** 7-7:10 p.m. **Rds.:** 7:10-11:00 p.m., USCF rated. Free **Parking:** Free coffee. **INFO:** (310) 827-2789.

**MAR. 26-27, 2016 Smyslov Memorial**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 28, MDC Scholastics**

5-SS, G/30 d2. Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 2280 South Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91761. Open to gr. 12-below. In two sections: Open: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U2100, top 2 Unrated. Grade 6/below U1000: Trophies to top 5, top 3 U700, top 2 Unrated. Reg.: 8:30-9. **Rds.:** 9:30-15:45-3:15-3. **EF:** \$16 if received by 5/26, \$20 door, SCCC membership required (13\$ youth with print mag, \$3 youth w/o mag). **Info:** contactashok.21@gmail.com On-line ent: [www.schess.com](http://www.schess.com). Ent: SCCC, 12714 Bloomfield Ave., Apt. #178, Norwalk, CA 90650. On-line entry: [www.schess.com](http://www.schess.com).

**MAY 29, MDC Hexes**

3-SS, G/90 d2. Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 2280 South Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91761. 8-player sections by rating. **EF:** \$21 if received by 5/27, \$24 door, \$8 40-10 each section. **Reg.:** 9:30-10 a.m. **Rds.:** 10:15-11:30-1:15-3:45. **Ent:** SCCC, 12714 Bloomfield Ave., Apt. #178, Norwalk, CA 90650. On-line entry: [www.schess.com](http://www.schess.com).

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, 2016 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26, International Youth Championship (NV)**

See Nevada.

**JUNE 27, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JULY 2-4, Pacific Southwest Open**

See Grand Prix.

**AUG. 13-17, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**COLORADO****APR. 16-17, 2016 Denver Open**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

## Tournament Life / March

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26**, 2016 National Open (NV)

See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26**, International Youth Championship (NV)

See Nevada.

**JUNE 27**, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)

See Nationals.

### CONNECTICUT

**MAR. 12-13**, 49th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)

See New York.

**MAR. 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27**, 10th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 1-3 OR 2-3**, Bill Little Memorial (NY)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24**, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 20-22 OR 21-22**, 24th annual New York State Open (NY)

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, JULY 1-4 OR 2-4**, 44th Annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-10**, 10th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 6-10 OR 8-10**, World Open Senior (PA)

See Grand Prix.

### DELAWARE

**MAR. 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27**, 10th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

### FLORIDA

#### South Florida Grand Prix Series

This is the former Epicure Grand Prix that took place at Miami Country Day. Scholastic and Non-Scholastic sections. More information at website: [www.bocachess.com](http://www.bocachess.com) or call 561-479-0351.

#### The Stormont Kings Chess Center in Miami, FL

Conducts Private and Group Lessons, Homeschool Activities, Tournaments, Camps, Family Game Nights, Parents Night Out, Casual Chess Play and more! Complimentary Refreshments, Ample Parking, Comfortable Waiting Room, and more! Located at 8353 SW 124 St., Suite 201-A, Miami, FL 33156. Contact Chris Stormont, Phone: 786-303-2437, Email: [chris@stormontkingschess.com](mailto:chris@stormontkingschess.com), Web: [www.StormontKingsChess.com](http://www.StormontKingsChess.com).

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20**, Lone Star Open (TX)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24**, 23rd Space Coast Open

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 2016 Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship (GA)

See Grand Prix.

**AUG. 13-17**, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)

See Grand Prix.

### GEORGIA

#### Georgia Chess - Every Friday Knight Face-Off

3SS, G/30 d5. Georgia Chess Club - Hampton Inn & Suites, 16785 Old Morris Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004. Registration: Online \$15.00 GCC Members; \$20.00 Non-Members. [www.GeorgiaChess.Club](http://www.GeorgiaChess.Club). Online 6:00PM to 6:45PM \$5.00 more. Sections: Open/Reserve (may change at TD's discretion). Rds.: 7:00, 2nd and 3rd round will start immediately after, (1/2 point byes available).

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20**, Lone Star Open (TX)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 1-3**, 2016 National High School (K-12) Championship

See Nationals.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 2016 Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship

See Grand Prix.

### ILLINOIS

**MAR. 12**, 2016 Schaumburg Open - 2nd Fidel Serrano Jr. Memorial Chess Tournament

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20**, 20th annual Mid-America Open (MO)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 22-24**, 2016 All-Girls National Championships presented by the Kasparov Chess Foundation in association with the Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation & US Chess

See Nationals.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 13th Annual Great Lakes Chess Open - Battle Creek, Michigan (MI)

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30**, 25th annual Chicago Open See Grand Prix.

**MAY 29**, Chicago Open Blitz (BLZ)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17**, 9th annual Chicago Class

See Grand Prix.

**AUG. 13-17**, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)

See Grand Prix.

### INDIANA

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20**, 20th annual Mid-America Open (MO)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 15-17**, 2016 National Junior High School (K-9) Championship

See Nationals.

*US Chess Junior Grand Prix!*

**APR. 23**, ISCA Memorial 2016

4SS, G/60 d10. Church of the Nativity, 7300 N. Lantern Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46256. **In 2 Sections:** OPEN and U1800, **EF:** \$40 if by April 9, 2016, later \$55, \$8 1125, based on 40 entries. **OPEN:** 1st \$270, 2nd \$170, Top U/2000 \$120. **U1800:** 1st \$225, 2nd \$140, Top U/1600 \$100; Top U/1400 \$100. **Registration:** 8:15-9:00. **Rounds:** 9:30AM, 12:30, 3:00, 6:00PM. **Entries:** Advance: [Indianachess.org](http://Indianachess.org) or mail to: Roger Norris, 2703 Wallace Ave., Terre Haute, IN 47802, Email: [rnorris@ma.rr.com](mailto:rnorris@ma.rr.com), 812-878-6517, ISCA membership Required, USA, 1 bye if before Rd.2, NO LAST RD. BYES.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 13th Annual Great Lakes Chess Open - Battle Creek, Michigan (MI)

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30**, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 29**, Chicago Open Blitz (BLZ) (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17**, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 30-AUG. 7, AUG. 2-7 OR AUG. 4-7**, 117th Annual U.S. Open See Nationals.

### IOWA

*US Chess Junior Grand Prix!*

**APR. 2**, 2016 Iowa Class Championship

4-SS, Divided into Classes: M-X-A, B, C, D, Players may play up one class. Some sections may be combined. **Where:** FFA Enrichment Center, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, IA 50023. **Reg.:** 8:15 to 9:00 am. **USCF membership required.** On-site available. **ISCA membership required**, \$10.00. **Rds.:** M-X-A, B, C, & D, 9:30-2:30-5:00-7:30. **G/75 d5 . Entry Fee:** \$25 if postmarked by March 25, \$30 on site. **Prize Info:** Class prizes, 1st place \$50 + trophy, 2nd place \$30. **Send Entry Fee to:** Checks payable to Eric Vigil, 445 Galway Dr., Iowa City, IA 52246. Include name, USCF ID, Section, phone #, email address. Annual meeting at 1 pm. **Online Entry:** [www.onlineregistration.cc](http://www.onlineregistration.cc).

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24**, 10th Annual Okoboji Open, Reserve (U1600) & Blitz

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30**, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17**, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix.

### KANSAS

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30**, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17**, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix.

### KENTUCKY

*US Chess Junior Grand Prix!*

**MAR. 19**, Greater Louisville Open

4-SS, G/70 d10. Yussman Chess Center, Suite 079, 173 Sears Ave., Louisville, KY 40207. **EF:** \$30/(by3/12), \$40 at site. **PRIZE FUND** \$800, based on 40 entries, **1st-\$175, 2nd-\$130, A, B, C, D/E** each \$70, \$40, Top unrated \$55. **Registration:** 8:00-8:45AM, **Rds.:** 9:15,12:00, 2:30, 5:00. **Entries (in Advance)mail to:** Craig Hines, 613 North Park Dr., Evansville, IN 47710, 812-423-2996, CELL- 812-618-8700, Email: [Mrsc2740@hotmail.com](mailto:Mrsc2740@hotmail.com) 1 bye if claimed before Rd.2.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 2016 Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship (GA)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 2016 Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship (GA)

See Grand Prix.

### LOUISIANA

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20**, Lone Star Open (TX)

See Grand Prix.

### MAINE

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24**, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)

See Grand Prix.

### MARYLAND

#### MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS

MCA runs scholastic tournaments (almost every other Saturday from mid-September to late May) & open tournaments (usually 10+ annually) throughout Maryland. Listings & online registration at [www.MDChess.org](http://www.MDChess.org). Maryland scholastic players who compete in the Varsity section (which has a floor of 1600) of a Maryland-Sweet-16 Qualifier can qualify for the \$44,000 scholarship to UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) awarded each year.

**MAR. 19**, Waldorf Quad #8

3 Rd. Quads, G/90 d5. Waldorf Chess Club, 2932 Mattawoman Beantown Rd., Waldorf, MD 20601. **EF:** \$20. **SSGTD:** \$50. 1st each Quad. **Reg.:** 8:30 - 9:45 AM. **Rds.:** 10:00, 2:00, and 5:30. **INFO:** Roland Thorpe, 301-572-5169, [strider\\_08@comcast.net](mailto:strider_08@comcast.net). **DIR:** 1/2 mile north of Waldorf Park & Ride. **Waldorf Chess Club** meets regularly from 6-9 pm on **Friday evenings**. Call for 2016 Saturday schedule.

**MAR. 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27**, 10th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 9**, Maryland April Action

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, Maryland Open

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 17-19 OR 18-19**, 5th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-10**, 10th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 9-10**, 8th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)

See Pennsylvania.

**AUG. 13-17**, 5th Annual Washington International

See Grand Prix.

### MASSACHUSETTS

**MAR. 12-13**, 49th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)

See New York.

*US Chess Junior Grand Prix!*

**MAR. 30, APR. 6, 13, 20, 27**, Evert Siiskonen Memorial

5SS, G/100 d5. Wachusett CC, McKay Complex, Fitchburg State University, 67 Rindge Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420. **EF:** \$20 annual club dues or \$1 per game. **Reg.:** 6-7:10 p.m. **Rds.:** 7:15 p.m. each Wed. **Byes:** 1-4, limit two. **Prizes:** books to 1st, 2nd, top U1800, U1600, U1400. **Info:** George Mirjanian, 176 Oak Hill Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420, [mirilng2@aol.com](mailto:mirilng2@aol.com), 978-345-5011. **Website:** [www.wachusettchess.org](http://www.wachusettchess.org). Free parking. W.

**APR. 1-3 OR 2-3**, Bill Little Memorial (NY)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 10**, 26th Massachusetts G/60 Championship

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24**, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 20-22 OR 21-22**, 24th annual New York State Open (NY)

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, JULY 1-4 OR 2-4**, 44th Annual World Open (PA)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-10**, 10th annual Philadelphia International (PA)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 6-10 OR 8-10**, World Open Senior (PA)

See Grand Prix.

### MICHIGAN

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 13th Annual Great Lakes Chess Open - Battle Creek, Michigan

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30**, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17**, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix.

### MINNESOTA

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30**, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17**, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)

See Grand Prix.

**MISSISSIPPI****US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAR. 12-13, Third Annual Grand Picayune Open**

**5SS, 2 Sections:** Open and U 1500. Minimum rating of 1400 for the Open. **TC:** G/90 d5. **Location:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites Picayune, 1001 Dauphin St., Picayune, MS 39466. **EF:** \$40 if paid by March 5, \$50 on site. Send early entries to 72 Hwy 607, Picayune, MS 39466. Make checks out to the Mississippi Chess Association. **Prizes:** (For each section) 1st: 15% of the entry fee, 2nd: 10% of the entry fee, 3rd: 5% of the entry fee (3rd place added only if we have over 40 players), Trophy for first place overall. **Hotel:** King - 1 bed \$99.99, Queen - 2 bed \$109.99, Reservations must be made by 2/1/16 to receive discount. **Schedule:** Saturday Mar 12: Registration: 8-9 AM, r1: 9:15 AM, r2: 1:00 PM, r3: 4:30 PM, Chess Lecture by National Master Ben Bailey: 8:30-9:30 PM Sunday Mar 13: r4: 9:00 AM, r5: 1:00 PM, Awards: 4:30 PM. **Contact:** Clay Polk for more information 901-609-0696, claypolk2014@gmail.com

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, Lone Star Open (TX)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, 2016 Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship (GA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MISSOURI****MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, 20th annual Mid-America Open**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, Lone Star Open (TX)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 26, Blitz Bonanza (BLZ)**

**7SS G/5 d0** Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108. Free entries for GMs and IMs. **PF:** \$100 Unconditionally Guaranteed!! \$25-\$20-\$15-\$12. Top U1800-\$10. Top U1500-\$8. Biggest Upset-\$10. **EF:** \$5. **Reg.:** 6:00-6:45. 1st Round starts at 7:00 with event finishing by 9:00. Blitz ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes. USCF Membership required as event is Blitz Rated. One 1/2 point bye if declared before round 1. **Info:** 314-361-CHESS, info@saintlouischessclub.org.

**MAR. 26, Columbia College Open**

**4SS, G/60 d5.** **Location:** Columbia College, Lee Room, Dulaney Hall, 600 N. 8th St., Columbia, MO 65126. [www.ccis.edu/about/campus-map.aspx](http://www.ccis.edu/about/campus-map.aspx) for an interactive map. **Registration:** Email to bdhowe@yahoo.com or **9-9:45am** on-site. **Round times:** 10, 12:30, 2:45, 5: EF: \$5, No Prizes, play for rating enjoyment only: USCF and MCA membership required, available on site. O.S.A. **Info:** Bob Howe (636) 234-7928, bdhowe@yahoo.com.

**MAR. 26, Saint Louis Action Championship (QC)**

**5SS, G/20 d3.** (Quick Rated only). Chess Club & Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108. Free entries for GMs and IMs. **EF:** \$10, \$5 for annual members of the club if registered by 3/25. **PF:** \$200 Unconditionally Guaranteed!! \$50-\$40-\$30-\$25. Top U1800-\$20. Top U1500-\$15. Biggest Upset-\$20. Quick ratings will be used for Pairing and Prize Purposes. **Reg.:** 12-14:45. **Rds.:** 1, 2, 3, 4:30, 5:30. Two 1/2 point byes if declared before round 2. **Ent:** 4657 Maryland Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63108, or online at saintlouischessclub.org. **Info:** 314-361-CHESS info@saintlouischessclub.org.

**APR. 1-3, Bill Wright Saint Louis Open (FIDE Rated) \$10K Event**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 30, 2016 Kansas City Chess Club Championship**

Liberty United Methodist Church, 1001 Sunset Ave., Liberty, MO 64068. **G/60 d5, 3SS.** **Sections:** Open/U1400 \$300 Cash Prizes. EF: \$27 online Reg4Chess.com. \$35 onsite. **Reg.:** 9AM, Rd. 1 at 9:30AM. Memb Req. USCF and KCCA. Flyer at kansascitychessclub.com. **Free Entry For ALL New and Unrated USCF Players!**

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**NEBRASKA****MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**NEVADA****Reno Scholastic Chess Quadz**

University of Nevada, Reno FH19 PK-College. **G/30 d5 Sched:** 12:00-3pm. **EF:** 10. Weekly event on designated Saturdays. **Info:** [www.chesskidz.org/quadz.html](http://www.chesskidz.org/quadz.html) or chesskidz@chesskidz.org

**MAR. 25-27, 5th Annual Reno-Larry Evans Memorial Open (formerly the Far West Open) - FIDE**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 23, Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, 2016 National Open**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26, International Youth Championship**

**6-SS, G/60 d5.** Westgate Las Vegas Resort, 3000 Paradise Road, 89109. **In 4 Sections by age:** 14 & Under, 14 & Under Reserve (under 1000), 9 & Under, 9 & Under Reserve (under 800). **Trophies** to top 10 in each section plus class and team trophies. 1st Place in each section wins a **Computer** loaded with valuable Chess Software and hundreds of Videos, 2nd-4th win chess prizes valued at 250-150-100. Unrated players may not win 1st in Reserve sections. **EF:** \$89 by 6/3, \$99 by 6/22, \$120 later, 1/2 point by in any round (limit 2) if requested in advance. **Reg.:** 8:30-9 a.m. **Rds.:** 10-1:30, 10-1:30:30. Youth Blitz 6/24 6:00 p.m. (\$20 by 6/3 25 later). **HR:** \$69, \$89 Friday and Saturday, (800) 732-7117 - be sure to ask for the **CHESS** rates. **ENT:** Vegas Chess Festival, PO Box 90925, Henderson, NV 89009-0925 or [www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com).

**JUNE 27, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC)**

See Nationals.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE****APR. 9, Saturday Super-Amateur in Middlebury (VT)**

See Vermont.

**APR. 10, Sunday G/45 in Middlebury (VT)**

See Vermont.

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**NEW JERSEY****MAR. 12-13, 49th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome) (NY)**

See New York.

**MAR. 17, 3rd Thursday Quads**

**3 RR, G/30 d5.** Effects Quick/Rg Rating. Quads grouped by Quick Rating. All the King's Men Chess & Games Center (Just 22 mins. from Phila/NJ bridges), 62 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ. 856-582-8222. **Prizes:** \$25 1st per quad. Unr. cannot win more than \$10. **EF:** \$12.50, members \$10. **Reg.:** 6-7:15 p.m. **Rds.:** 7:30-8:30-9:30 pm. **All:** Visa/MC/Disc/Amex OK w/\$1surcharge. **Info:** cs@ATKmchessSets.com. Bring a clock!

**MAR. 19, Princeton Charter School**

**Princeton Charter School at:** 100 Bunn Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540. **TIME CONTROL:** G/30 d0 Swiss to 4 rounds. **SECTIONS:** Open above 1000; U1000; U700; U500/Unrated (sections might be combined when necessary for pairings). **Parental Supervision Required:** The parents or another adult must be designated to supervise the student player between rounds. **Schedule:** (will be accelerated if possible). **First Round:** 12:01 PM; **Second Round:** ASAP; **Third Round:** ASAP; **Fourth Round:** ASAP; **Award Ceremony:** ASAP (4:05 the latest). Schedule will be accelerated if possible (\*) **Online Registration \$30 Only if register one week before:** [www.ChessKidsNY.com/PCSCheessProgram.htm](http://www.ChessKidsNY.com/PCSCheessProgram.htm) (\*) **Fee will increase automatically to \$35 if register later.** On site registration the date of the event: \$40 from 11:45 am to 12:00 noon. **Information:** email to Miguel Iniguez at: migini@gmail.com. **Results will be posted online the same day of the event!**

**MAR. 20, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Championship in 5 Sections**

**SITE:** BERGEN ACADEMY, 200 HACKENSACK AVE., HACKENSACK, NJ 07610. **4SS, EVERYONE PLAYS 4 GAMES, ALL PLAYERS WITH 2.5 PTS OR MORE WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY!** USCF Membr Reg'd for Sections 3, 4 AND 5. Info: 201 287 0250 or chessdirector@icajnj.net. ADV EF (pmk by Mar 16th) \$25, At Site \$30. Reg ends 1/2 hr before 1st rd. Late entrants will receive a 1/2 pt bye for rd. 1. In 5 Sections: **Section 1 Junior Novice (not USCF rated):** Open to unr players K thru 2nd grade. **Rds.:** First Round 10:15 AM then ASAP. **Section 2 Novice (not USCF rated):** Open to unr players K thru 4th grade. **Rds.:** First Round 10:00 AM then ASAP. **Section 3 G/45 d5 U800:** Open to players rated below 800 and unr players K thru 12th grade. **Rds.:** 9:45 AM, 11:30, 1:15, 3:00 PM. **Section 4 G/45 d5 U1200:** Open to players rated below 1200 and unr players K thru 12th grade. **Rds.:** 9:45 AM, 11:30, 1:15, 3:00 PM. **Section 5 G/60 d5 U1400:** Open to All Ages rated below 1400 or unrated. **Rds.:** 9:30 AM, 11:45, 2:00, 4:30 PM. **ENT:** Make EF payable to: International Chess Academy. Mail To: Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Ln., New Milford, NJ 07646. **INFO:** [www.icajnj.net](http://www.icajnj.net). W.

**MAR. 20, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA Open Championship**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 20, Dr. David Ostfeld Memorial ICA U1600 Championship**

Site: Bergen Academy, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07610. Open To All Ages With Rating below 1600. **4SS, G/60 d5.** Prize Fund (\$5 b/25) 1st - 3rd \$200, \$150, \$100, TU1400 \$50, TU1200 \$50. INFO: 201 287 0250 or chessdirector@icajnj.net. ADV EF (pmk by Mar 16th) \$30, At Site \$35. Reg ends 1/2 hr before 1st rd. Late entrants will receive a 1/2 pt bye for rd. 1. **Rds.:** 9:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM. **ENT:** Make EF payable to: International Chess Academy. Mail To: Diana Tulman, 28 Canterbury Ln., New Milford, NJ 07646. **INFO:** [www.icajnj.net](http://www.icajnj.net). W.

**MAR. 20, Reno Scholastic Chess Quadz**

University of Nevada, Reno FH19 PK-College. **G/30 d5 Sched:** 12:00-3pm. **EF:** 10. Weekly event on designated Saturdays. **Info:** [www.chesskidz.org/quadz.html](http://www.chesskidz.org/quadz.html) or chesskidz@chesskidz.org

**MAR. 25-27, 5th Annual Reno-Larry Evans Memorial Open (formerly the Far West Open) - FIDE**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 23, Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship (BLZ)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 26, Central Jersey Chess Tournament**

Princeton Academy, 1128 Great Rd., Princeton. 4 rated & 2 unrated sections. **Open, U1200:** K-12, 3 rds., G/40 d5. **U900, U600:** K-12, 4 rds., G/25 d5. **Intermediate (K-6), Beginners (K-2):** 4 rds, not rated. Trophies to 1st-3rd & top school/club team per section, medals to all! \$35 pre-reg online by 3/24. \$45 on-site 1:15-1:45. Rd.1 2:00.

[njchess.com](http://njchess.com).**MAR. 26, Hamilton Chess Club Quads**

3RR, 40/80 15/30 15/30 d0. Full K. McManimon Hall, 320 Scully Ave., Hamilton Twp., NJ 08610. Quads open to all. **EF:** \$10. **Prizes:** \$25 per Quad. **Reg.:** 9:10-10:30am. **Rds.:** 10:30am-1:30pm-4:30pm. OSA. **Contact email:** hamiltonchessclub.com.

**APR. 1-3 OR 2-3, Bill Little Memorial (NY)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 3, Westfield G/45 Quads**

3-RR, G/40 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 1:15-1:45 p.m. **Rounds:** 2:00, 3:45, 5:30 p.m. **Information:** email John Moldovan westfieldchessclub@gmail.com, Bill Cohen: 732-548-8432 or 848-219-1358, [www.westfieldchessclub.com](http://www.westfieldchessclub.com) and [westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com](http://westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com).

**APR. 9, Princeton Day School**

650 The Great Road. Plaques to top 3 school teams and top 8 in each section. Medals to all players. Sections for OVER 1000 rated players begin at 10:15 and must preregister: 3 rds. G/55 d5. **NEAR MASTERS** (players K-12 OVER 1400), **FUTURE MASTERS** (players K-12 1200-1400), **CLOSED** (K-12 1000-1200). **ALL AFTERNOON SECTIONS.** G/25 d5, 4 rds. Beginning at 12:00 noon. (round times will be accelerated if possible): **OPEN** (Players K-12 U-1000), **RESERVE** (K-12 U-800), **NOVICE II** (K-8 U-600), **NOVICE I** (unrated K-8), **K-1** (unrated) **NO SCORE K-1** (novice). **PARENTS OF PLAYERS** rated G/25 d5, 3rds. Parents play free. Pre-registration online, \$35 pay at the door. **Info and register online:** [www.pds.org/chess](http://www.pds.org/chess). On-site 11-12 noon \$45. Inquiries to Bonnie Waitzkin Chesscoach@gmail.com.

**APR. 10, Westfield G/45 Quads**

3-RR, G/40 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 1:15-1:45 p.m. **Rounds:** 2:00, 3:45, 5:30 p.m. **Information:** email John Moldovan westfieldchessclub@gmail.com, Bill Cohen: 732-548-8432 or 848-219-1358, [www.westfieldchessclub.com](http://www.westfieldchessclub.com) and [westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com](http://westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com).

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 24, Westfield G/45 Quads**

3-RR, G/40 d5. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **EF:** \$25, \$20 members. **Prizes:** \$60 to first in each section. **Register:** 1:15-1:45 p.m. **Rounds:** 2:00, 3:45, 5:30 p.m. **Information:** email John Moldovan westfieldchessclub@gmail.com, Bill Cohen: 732-548-8432 or 848-219-1358, [www.westfieldchessclub.com](http://www.westfieldchessclub.com) and [westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com](http://westfieldchessclub.blogspot.com).

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, Maryland Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 1, Ernesto Labate Memorial Grand Prix**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 8, Mother's Day Blitz (BLZ)**

G/5 d2. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. **2 Sections:** Premier (8 highest-rated players), Quads (all other players). **Premier:** 7-RR. **Prizes:** \$50-30-20. **Quads:** DRR (6 games). **Prizes:** \$50 to 1st in each section. **Register:** 1:15-1:45 p.m. **EF:** \$20, \$15 members. **Rounds:** All sections 2:00, 2:20, 4:40, 3:00, 3:20 & 3:40. p.m. Final round of Premier 4:00 p.m. **Info:** [westfieldchessclub@gmail.com](http://westfieldchessclub@gmail.com).

**MAY 20-22 OR 21-22, 24th annual New York State Open (NY)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 28, US Amateur K-8 East Under 1200**

**5-SS, G/30 d5.** Hyatt Morristown, 3 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960. If staying, for chess rate (\$119 per night), please make reservations at [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org). Phone: 973-647-1234, mention NJ Chess. Free parking, public transportation to NYC, Philadelphia, walking distance, 30 restaurants, shops and parks within 5 minute stroll. In three sections: Under 1200, Under 900, Under 600. Trophies to Top Ten. Others win chess medals. Unrated may not win first place. **Registration:** Saturday, May 28, 11am -12noon. **Rounds:** 12:30pm, then ASAP, with lunch break after Round Two. **EF:** \$30 if postmarked by May 16th. \$40 cash at site. One 1/2 point by allowed if requested with entry fee. April Rating Supplement used. **Entries:** to Aaron Kiedes, 4 Seymour Terrace, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Call 973-343-3260 for information or email [akiedes@gmail.com](mailto:akiedes@gmail.com). Entries must include name, USCF ID and expiration date, mailing address, email address, phone number, section, grade level and entry fee. Checks made out to NJSCF. **No phone entries.** Online entries \$32 at [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org) after 4-15-15 until 5-26-16 at midnight. W.

**MAY 28-30 OR 29-30, 72nd Annual U.S. Amateur Championship - East**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 17-19 OR 18-19, 5th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, JULY 1-4 OR 2-4, 44th Annual World Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-7, 5th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-10, 10th annual Philadelphia International (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 6-10 OR 8-10, World Open Senior (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 9-10, 8th annual World Open Under 13 Championship (PA)**  
See Pennsylvania.

**AUG. 13-17, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)**  
See Grand Prix.

### NEW YORK

A Heritage Event!  
US Chess Junior Grand Prix!  
A State Championship Event!

**MAR. 12-13, 49th annual New York State Scholastic Championships (out of state welcome)**

**Note corrected time control and schedule.** 6SS, G/60 d10, open to grades K-12; top NYS player & team in each section are NY champions. In 10 sections. **HS & JHS Championships** at Courtyard by Marriott, 11 Excelsior Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (2.5 miles from Saratoga Hilton). **Other sections** at Saratoga Hilton, 534 Broadway (I-87 Exit 13-N, 4 miles north on US 9), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. **Team prizes** based on top 4 scores from same school; no combined school teams allowed even if one school "feeds" another. Teams of 2 or 3 players allowed, but are at a disadvantage. **Online entry fee at chessaction.com, all sections:** \$44 by 2/19, \$54 2/20-3/5, \$60 3/6 to 3/11. **Entry fee at site, all sections:** \$70. **High School**, open to grades K-12 born after 9/1/96. EF \$48.20 mailed by 2/19. Top NYS grade 9-12 qualifies for Denker Tournament of HS Champions, top NYS grade K-12 girl qualifies for National Girls Invitational. **High School Reserve**, open to K-12 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$48 mailed by 2/19. **Junior High**, open to all in grades K-9. EF \$47.90 mailed by 2/19. Top NYS grade K-8 born after 9/1/00 qualifies for Barber tournament of K-8 Champions. **Middle School Reserve**, open to K-8 under 1000 or unrated. EF \$47.80 mailed by 2/19. **Elementary**, open to all in grades K-6. EF \$47.60 mailed by 2/19. **Elementary Intermediate**, open to grades K-6 under 1200 or unrated. EF \$47.50 mailed by 2/19. **Elementary Reserve**, open to grades K-5 under 800 or unrated. EF \$47.40 mailed by 2/19. **Primary**, open to grades K-3. EF \$47.30 mailed by 2/19. **Primary Reserve**, open to grades K-3 under 600 or unrated. EF: \$47.20 mailed by 2/19. **K-1**, open to grades K-1. EF \$47.10 mailed by 2/19. **Postmarked 2/20-3/2:** All EF \$10 more. Do not mail entry after 3/2. **Special 1 year US Chess dues** with magazine if paid with entry. Online at chessaction.com, Young Adult \$22, Scholastic \$15. Mailed or paid at site, Young Adult \$25, Scholastic \$17. **Trophies** to top 15 players and top 7 teams each section, top 3 unrated in K-1 and each Reserve section, and top U1600, U1400, U1200 (HS), U900, U700 (HS Reserve & Elem Intermediate), U1400, U1200, U1000 (JHS), U700, U500 (MS Reserve), U1300, U1100 (Elem), U500, U300 (Elem Reserve), U500 (Primary), U200 (Primary Reserve, K-1). Speed playoff if perfect score tie. **Free entry** to NY State Championship, Labor Day weekend 2016 (Albany), to top player each section, if

not already qualified for free entry from another event. **Schedule:** Reg. ends Sat 10 am, rds. Sat 11, 2, 5, Sun 9, 12, 3, **Awards** 5:30 pm. **Half point byes** OK all, limit 2, must commit before rd. 2. **HR:** \$129-129 at either hotel, Courtyard 866-210-9325, Hilton 888-999-4711, 518-584-4000, two nights minimum, reserve by 2/6 or rate may increase; hotels often sell out a few months before the deadline. Free parking at Courtyard; free parking for overnight guests at Hilton. 7 days notice required for room cancellation. **Special car rentals:** Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #657633. **Online entry:** www.chessaction.com. **Mail entry:** Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisburs Mills, NY 12577. Include name, rating, US Chess ID, USCF expiration (non-members enclose dues), section, school, grade, birth date, address of each player. Checks payable to Continental Chess. **\$15 per player** service charge for refunds. **\$10 extra to switch sections**, all substitutions from advance list charged \$70. **Questions:** DirectorAtChess.US (At = @), 347-201-2260. **Bring set, board, clock** if possible- none supplied. **March official ratings used** (except unofficial web ratings usually used if otherwise unrated). TD reserves right to assign estimated rating to players with non-US Chess ratings.

**MAR. 15, Marshall Masters**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 17, Marshall Thursday Action**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$375 b/25): \$150-100, U2200: \$75, U1900: \$50. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$25. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds.:** 7:8-15:9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for round 1 or 4 only. Request at entry. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 17, 24, 31, APR. 7, 14, 21, 8th LICC March Open**

5SS, G/90 d5. United Methodist Church, 470 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. **Open to all. \$/b/20 pd. ent.:** \$100-80. Top U-2000, U-1500/unr. \$50 ea. **EF/cash only:** \$35. Non-LICC members +\$10. UNRATED FREE! **Reg.:** 7:15 - 7:30 PM, no adv. ent., **Rds.:** 7:30 PM ea. Thursday. 2 byes 1-5. Skittles rm. **Info:** www.lichessclub.com.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 17, 24, 31, APR. 7, 14, 21, Marshall Thursday Open**

6-SS, G/90 +30. (\$600 b/25): \$250-150, U2100: \$100. U1800: \$100. **EF:** \$60, MCC Mbrs \$40. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds.:** 7pm each Thurs. Limit two byes; request by rd. 4. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 18-20, 19-20 OR 20, Marshall Monthly U2300 (New Round Times!)**

5-SS, G/40/90 SD30 +30. Open to players rated below 2300 USCF. **\$800 Gtd:** \$300-150-100. U2100: \$125; U1800 \$125. **EF:** \$60, MCC Mbrs \$40. **Reg.:** Ends 15 min before round start. **Rds.:** 3-day: Fri. 6pm, Sat. & Sun. 1 & 6pm; 2-day: Sat. 11:30am (G/25 d5) then merge with 3-day in round 2. 1-day: Sun. 9:10-15:11:30am (G/25 d5) then merge in round 4. Max two byes, request at entry. **SIDE EVENT: March 18, Marshall Progressive Chess Tournament!** 5-SS, G/15 + 30. Scottish Progressive Chess Rules. Not rated. (\$450 b/35 players): \$200-100, top U2200/unr & U1900 team average: \$75. USCF regular rating used for pairings & prizes. **EF:** \$30, MCC Mbrs & GMs \$20. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds.:** 7:7-40:8-20:9-40pm. Max one bye, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 19, Marshall Saturday U1800**

4-SS, G/40 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1500: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. **Reg.:** 11:15-11:45am. **Rds.:** 12:1-45:4-00:5-45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 19-20, 38th Annual Marchand Open**

See Grand Prix.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 20, 65th Binghamton Open**

4SS, G/65 d5. **Prizes:** \$300 b/24. **Open-\$100-\$60-\$30; Reserve-\$50-\$40-\$20 (U1700).** **EF:** Open \$25, Reserve \$20 (U1700). Cash only on site. **Schedule:** Registration 8:45-9:15 AM. **Rounds:** 9:30-12 Noon 2:30-4:45. **Entry:** payable to: "Cordisco's Corner Store", 308 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901, (607) 772-8782, cordiscos@stny.rr.com.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

**MAR. 21, 28, APR. 4, 11, 18, 25, Marshall FIDE**

**Mondays/U1800**

6-SS, G/90 +30. Two sections. **Open:** Open to all players 1600+ FIDE Rated. (\$600 b/25) \$200-150-100. U2000: \$100-50. **U1800:** (\$600 b/25) \$200-150-100. U1500: \$100-50. **EF:** \$60, MCC Mbrs \$40. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. Rd: 7pm each Mon. Limit two byes; request by rd. 4. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**MAR. 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27, 10th annual Philadelphia Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 24, Marshall Thursday Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$375 b/25): \$150-100, U2200: \$75, U1900: \$50. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$25. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 6:15-6:45pm. **Rds.:** 7:8-15:9:30-10:45pm. Max one bye, for round 1 or 4 only. Request at entry. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716. www.marshallchessclub.org.

**MAR. 25, Marshall \$500 FIDE Blitz (BLZ)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 26, Marshall Saturday G/60 (Open & U1700)**

4-SS, G/55 d5. Two sections: **Open:** (\$450 b/35): \$175-125, U2300: \$75, U2000: \$75. **U1700:** (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 11:15-11:45am. **Rds.:** 12:2-3:0-4:45-7pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

4-SS, G/25 d5. (\$325 b/25): \$150-100, U1400: \$75. **EF:** \$40, MCC Mbrs \$20. GMs Free. **Reg.:** 8:15-8:45am. **Rds.:** 9:10-15:11:30am-12:45pm. One bye available, request at entry. www.marshallchessclub.org. 23 W. 10th St., NYC. 212-477-3716.

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**MAR. 27, Marshall Morning Action!**

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**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17**, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)  
See Grand Prix.

**AUG. 13-17**, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)  
See Grand Prix.

## OKLAHOMA

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20**, Lone Star Open (TX)  
See Grand Prix.

## OREGON

**APR. 2-3**, Southern Oregon Chess Open  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 22-23**, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26**, 2016 National Open (NV)  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26**, International Youth Championship (NV)  
See Nevada.

**JUNE 27**, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)  
See Nationals.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### North Penn Chess Club

Main & Richardson, Lansdale, PA. See [www.northpennchessclub.org](http://www.northpennchessclub.org) for schedules & info or 215-699-8418.

**MAR. 11-13 OR 12-13**, 17th annual Pittsburgh Open  
See Grand Prix.

A Heritage Event!

US Chess Junior Grand Prix!

**MAR. 18, APR. 1, 15, 29, MAY 13, 20**, 68th Annual Lancaster County Championship

6-SS, 40/120, SD30 d10. This historic, friendly and unique event is open to all players! EF: \$35 online, \$40 after 3/16 on-site. **\$800 b/30** else in proportion **Open/Unrated**: 200-100-50 u1800: 120-60 u1400: 100-50 u1200: 80-40. **Rds.**: 6:00pm. **Byes**: Limit 2, Must be requested at registration or before end of Round 2. **Reg.**: Online at [www.lancasterchess.com](http://www.lancasterchess.com). On-Site Ends 6:00pm on 4/1 (may register late with 1/2 point bye). **Site**: Lancaster Country Day School, Rm. 111, 725 Hamilton Rd., Lancaster, PA 17603 (park in Hamilton Rd. lot, not at 725 Hamilton Rd., Lancaster, PA 17603 (park in Hamilton Rd. lot, not at

lower school). Hotel Rates available! **Contact**: Jere Cassidy, [www.lancasterchess.com](http://www.lancasterchess.com), 717-431-0199. **Email**: [jere@lancasterchess.com](mailto:jere@lancasterchess.com).

**MAR. 19**, 15th Horizons for Youth Spring Scholastic/RBO \$375 GTD 5SS, G/30 d5. Northampton Com. College, 3835 Green Pond Rd., Main Campus, Coll. Ctr. Bldg., Bethlehem, PA 18020. **Reg.**: 8:30a. **Rds.**: 9:30 & ASAP. **2 Events**: 1) Open and U1200. 2) Age-Based, Non-Rated under 14 yrs. **EF**: \$34 by 12p, 3/17, \$39 after. **Prizes**: OPEN, \$200-1st place, \$100-2nd place. **Trophies**: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, U14. **U1200**, \$75-1st place, **Trophies**: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, U10, U8, U6, UNR. **OPEN Tie** (Blitzoff), **Non-Rated Trophies** b/o age. [www.northampton.edu/chess/](http://www.northampton.edu/chess/) (Online only). **Info**: 610-861-4120/szrinski@gmail.com.

**MAR. 23-27, 24-27, 25-27 OR 26-27**, 10th annual Philadelphia Open

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 26**, PCL March Quick Quads (QC)

3RR, G/15d3. Wm. Pitt Union, Univ. of Pittsburgh, 5th Ave. & Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. **EF**: \$10, \$7 Jrs. \$20 to 1st/quad. **Reg.**: 11:15am. **Info**: [martinak\\_tom\\_mc@hotmail.com](mailto:martinak_tom_mc@hotmail.com), 412-908-0286. W.

**APR. 2**, 2016 PA State Game/29 Championship (QC)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 2**, W.Chester 1st Sat. Quads

Over 27th year! 3RR, Game/80 d5. 2nd Presbyterian Church, 114 S. Walnut St., West Chester, PA. **EF**: \$20, \$40, \$50 for 3-0. **Reg.**: 9am. **Rds.**: 9:40, 1:00, 4:00. **Info**: [WCCC1975@gmail.com](mailto:WCCC1975@gmail.com).

**APR. 3**, PCL April Quick Quads (QC)

3RR, G/15 d3. O'Hara Student Center, Univ. of Pitt., 4024 O'Hara St., Pittsburgh PA 15213. **EF**: \$10, \$7 Jrs. \$20 to 1st/quad. **Reg.**: 11-11:15am. **Info**: [martinak\\_tom\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto:martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com), 412-908-0286. W.

**APR. 9**, MasterMinds CC Swiss/Quads

Linenfest Center, 3890 N. 10th St., Philadelphia, PA 19140. **Quads**: 3RR, G/85 d5. **EF**: \$30 cash; winner \$100. **Reg.** ends 9AM. **Rd.**: 9:30, 1, 4. **Scholastic**: 4SS, K-12 Open, K-8 U1200, K-6 U800, K-3 U500 G/40 d5. **EF**: \$5 rec'd by Thurs. before, \$15 on site. **Reg.** ends 9AM. **Rd.** 1 10AM then asap. **Mail Ent**: payable to MasterMinds CC, 36 E. Horter St., Philadelphia, PA 19119. **Info**: [mastermindschess.org](http://mastermindschess.org) or [brad@mastermindschess.org](mailto:brad@mastermindschess.org).

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24**, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, Maryland Open (MD)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1**, 13th Annual Great Lakes Chess Open - Battle Creek, Michigan (MI)

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 30**, 2nd Annual LVCA Bruce Alberston Memorial \$1050 Gtd-RBO

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 17-19 OR 18-19**, 5th annual Continental Class Championships (VA)

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, JULY 1-4 OR 2-4**, 44th Annual World Open

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-7**, 5th annual World Open Women's Championship

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-10**, 10th annual Philadelphia International

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 6-10 OR 8-10**, World Open Senior

See Grand Prix.

*US Chess Junior Grand Prix!*

**JULY 9-10**, 8th annual World Open Under 13 Championship

6SS, G/60 d10. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown (see World Open for location, rates). Open to all born after 7/10/03. In 4 sections. **Open Section**: Trophies to top 10, 1st C, Under 1400/Unr; free entry in all CCA tournaments 7/15/16-12/31/16 to 1st. **Under 1400 Section**: Trophies to top 10, 1st Under 1200, Unrated; free entry in all CCA tournaments 7/15/16-9/30/16 to 1st. **Under 1000 Section**: Trophies to top 10, 1st Under 800, Unrated; free entry in all CCA tournaments 7/15/16-9/30/16 to 1st. **EF**: \$42 online at [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) by 7/7, \$45 mailed by 6/15, \$50 at site. **US Chess membership required**. Special 1 year dues with magazine: Online with entry, \$22 with Chess Life, \$15 with Chess Life for Kids. Mailed or at site, \$25 with Chess Life, \$17 with Chess Life for Kids. **Reg.**: 7/9 to 10 am, rds. Sat. 11-2-5, Sun. 10-1-4. Up to 2 half point byes allowed, must commit before rd. 3. **Ent**: [chessaction.com](http://chessaction.com) or Continental Chess, PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803. Questions: [chessstour.info](http://chessstour.com), [DirectorAtChess.US](mailto:DirectorAtChess.US), 347-201-2269. \$15 service charge for refunds.

**AUG. 13-17**, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)

See Grand Prix.

## RHODE ISLAND

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24**, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)

See Grand Prix.

## US Chess Membership Rates: Premium (P) and Regular (R)

(U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

Type	1 yr	2 yr
Adult P	\$49	\$95
Adult R	\$40	\$75
Senior (65+)	\$40	\$75
Young Adult P (U25)*	\$35	\$65
Young Adult R (U25)*	\$26	\$48
Youth P (U16)*	\$30	\$55
Youth R (U16)*	\$22	\$40
Scholastic P (U13)*	\$25	\$45
Scholastic R (U13)*	\$17	\$30

Premium membership provides a printed copy of Chess Life (monthly) or Chess Life for Kids (bimonthly) plus all other benefits of regular membership. Regular membership provides online-only access to Chess Life and Chess Life for Kids. Youth provides bimonthly Chess Life, Scholastic bimonthly Chess Life for Kids, others listed above monthly Chess Life. See [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org) for other membership categories. Dues are not refundable and may be changed without notice. \*Ages at expiration



**US CHESS NATIONAL OPEN**  
June 24–26 or 25–26

**\$100,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND**

**U. S. GAME / 10 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Monday June 27 – 10:00 a.m.  
**\$7,500 PRIZE FUND**  
based on 100 – \$5,000 Guaranteed

**U. S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Wednesday – Thursday June 22–23  
**\$2,000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND**

THE NATIONAL OPEN  
U. S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP  
U. S. GAME/10 CHAMPIONSHIP  
WALTER BROWNE MEMORIAL BLITZ  
THURSDAY JUNE 23 – 7:00 P.M.  
GRANDMASTER SIMULS  
FREE LECTURES  
GRANDMASTER CHESS CAMP  
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP  
AND MORE

June 22–27, 2016  
[www.VegasChessFestival.com](http://www.VegasChessFestival.com)



**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, 2016** Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship (GA)  
See Grand Prix.

**TENNESSEE**

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, 20th annual Mid-America Open (MO)**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, Lone Star Open (TX)**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 16, 2016 Cumberland County Spring Open**

Cumberland Co. Community Complex, 1398 Livingston Rd., Crossville, TN 38555. \$420 Guaranteed prize fund. In 2 Sections. **Open:** 4SS, G/60 d5, **SS:** \$75, 30-X,A,B,C,D Below. **Amateur:** 4SS, G/60 d5, Open to 1199 & under. **SS:** \$75, 30-F, G,H,Below,UNR UNR eligible for unrated prize only. **All:** **EF:** \$15 if mailed by 4/11, \$20 at site. **Memb. Req'd:** TCA \$10 TN residents only. **Ent:** Harry D. Sabine, P. O. Box 381, Crossville, TN 38557. **INFO:** [www.cumberlandcountychess.org](http://www.cumberlandcountychess.org) or Susan at 931-287-3765. W.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, 2016 Phillip Taylor Georgia State Championship (GA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 6-8, 2016 National Elementary (K-6) Championship**  
See Nationals.

**TEXAS**

**MAR. 18-20 OR 19-20, Lone Star Open**

See Grand Prix.

**MAR. 19-20, 2016 DCC FIDE Open IV Underwritten by Rui Feng Li**  
See Grand Prix.

**APR. 9-10, 2016 DCC FIDE Open V**  
See Grand Prix.

**MAY 27-30 OR 28-30, 71st Annual Texas State and Amateur Championships**  
See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, 2016 National Open (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26, International Youth Championship (NV)**  
See Nevada.

**JUNE 27, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)**  
See Nationals.

**AUG. 13-17, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)**  
See Grand Prix.

**UTAH**

**Club 84065**

See [www.chessprep.org](http://www.chessprep.org) for club activities.

**US Chess Junior Grand Prix!****MAR. 19, 2nd Annual Salt Lake Open**

University of Utah, Warnock Engineering Building. **Prizes:** \$800 absolutely guaranteed. Open Section: \$150-\$100, U1800 \$60, U1600 Section: \$100-\$75, U1400 \$50, U1200/\$50. U1000 Section: \$60-\$50-\$40-\$30, U600 \$25-\$10. Open and U1600: G/75 d5 **Rds:** 9, 11, 14, 2, 3, 5, 15. U1000: 5 rounds, G/30 d5, Rd. 1 at 10 am, others to follow. **EF** (all sections): \$20 if paid by Mar 17, additional \$10 thereafter. Unrateds free. Detailed flyer and link to online registration at [utahchess.com](http://utahchess.com). Availability may be limited so register early.

**JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, 2016 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26, International Youth Championship (NV)**

See Nevada.

**JUNE 27, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)**

See Nationals.

**VERMONT****APR. 1-3 OR 2-3, Bill Little Memorial (NY)**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 9, Saturday Super-Amateur in Middlebury**

4SS, G/60 d5. Courtyard Marriott, 309 Court St (Route 7), Middlebury, VT 05753; 802-388-7600. Two sections. **Under 2300:** \$\$ b/16: 200-100, U2100 100, U1900 100, U1700 100. **Under 1500:** \$\$ b/16: 160-80, U1300 80, U1000 80, Unr. 40. No unr. may win over \$60. **Both sections:** EF: \$33 if rec'd by 4/7, \$35 if rec'd on 4/8, or \$38 at site. OK to send EF via PayPal; add \$1.25 or pay the transaction fee. **Reg:** 8:45-9:35 a.m. **Rds:** 10-1-3:45-6:15. **Ent:** Parker "Monty" Montgomery, PO Box 831, Middlebury, VT 05753-0831; [vermonty64@earthlink.net](mailto:vermonty64@earthlink.net), mobile 802-349-7739.

349-7739. **HR:** \$125 or less; contact Monty for assistance, preferably before 3/18.

**APR. 10, Sunday G/45 in Middlebury**

4SS, G/45 d5. Courtyard Marriott, 309 Court St. (Route 7), Middlebury, VT 05753. Two sections. **Open:** \$\$ b/16: 160-80, U2000 80, U1800 80, U1600 80, U800 32, Unr. 32. No unr. may win over \$48. **Both sections:** EF: \$27.45 in advance or \$32 on 4/10. OK to send EF via PayPal; add \$1.25 or pay the transaction fee. **Reg:** 8:45-9:35 a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:30-2:45-4:5. **Ent:** Parker "Monty" Montgomery, PO Box 831, Middlebury, VT 05753-0831; [vermonty64@earthlink.net](mailto:vermonty64@earthlink.net), mobile 802-349-7739.

**APR. 22-24 OR 23-24, 25th annual Eastern Class Championships (MA)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 20-22 OR 21-22, 24th annual New York State Open (NY)**  
See Grand Prix.

**VIRGINIA****US Chess Junior Grand Prix!**

*A State Championship Event!*

**MAR. 5-6, Virginia Scholastic & College Championships**

6SS, Rds. 1-3 G/60 d5; Rds. 4-6 G/90 d5. Organized by the VA Chess Federation and hosted by Rock Ridge HS in Ashburn, VA. **Blitz and Bughouse Championships** Friday March 4 at 6PM. **Main tournament** Saturday and Sunday, March 5-6. Players must be K-12 or College players attending school or college full time in Virginia as of Jan. 2016, or must be Virginia residents. Virginia residency NOT REQUIRED for the Blitz or Bughouse Tournaments. Family & Friends Tournament on Sat & Sun. **On-line registration, eligibility, hotel info and other details at:** [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org). **Info:** Mike Hoffpauir, [mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com), or 757-846-4805.

**MAR. 18-20, 48th Virginia Open**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 23, Walter Muir Memorial**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, Maryland Open (MD)**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 17-19 OR 18-19, 5th annual Continental Class Championships**

See Grand Prix.

**JUNE 30-JULY 4, JULY 1-4 OR 2-4, 44th Annual World Open (PA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JULY 5-7, 5th annual World Open Women's Championship (PA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**JULY 6-10 OR 8-10, World Open Senior (PA)**  
See Grand Prix.

**AUG. 13-17, 5th Annual Washington International (MD)**  
See Grand Prix.

**WASHINGTON****JUNE 22-23, 2016 U.S. Women's Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 24-26 OR 25-26, 2016 National Open (NV)**

See Nationals.

**JUNE 25-26, International Youth Championship (NV)**

See Nevada.

**JUNE 27, 2016 U.S. Game/10 Championship (QC) (NV)**

See Nationals.

**WEST VIRGINIA****MAR. 11-13 OR 12-13, 17th annual Pittsburgh Open (PA)**

See Grand Prix.

**WISCONSIN****APR. 9, Hales Corners Challenge XXIII**

See Grand Prix.

**APR. 29-MAY 1 OR APR. 30-MAY 1, 13th Annual Great Lakes Chess Open - Battle Creek, Michigan (MI)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 26-30, 27-30, 28-30 OR 29-30, 25th annual Chicago Open (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**MAY 29, Chicago Open Blitz (BLZ) (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**JULY 15-17 OR 16-17, 9th annual Chicago Class (IL)**

See Grand Prix.

**ORGANIZER AND DIRECTOR SEMINARS**

If you are a senior level TD or higher and willing to conduct a free seminar about organizing/directing USCF-rated tournaments, please contact Joan Dubois at [tla@uschess.org](mailto:tla@uschess.org).

# NO TOURNAMENTS IN YOUR AREA? WHY NOT ORGANIZE ONE?

Do you need to go out of town for tournament play? Would you and others in your area like the convenience of an occasional event closer to home? Organize one!

It's not much work to hold a small tournament, and there is little risk if you use a low-cost site and avoid guaranteed prizes. You might even make a profit! Either a based-on Swiss with projected prizes up to \$500, a Quad format, or a trophy tournament will virtually guarantee taking in more in fees than you pay out in prizes.

The affiliation fee is just \$40 a year. You will receive the annual rating supplement and have access to the TD/Affiliate area of our website.

Remember, you can both run and play in a small event. Many of them wouldn't be held if the organizer/TD couldn't play.

## Want to know more?

Contact Joan DuBois at [joandubois@uschess.org](mailto:joandubois@uschess.org). We'll be glad to help you be part of the promotion of American chess!

# Information for Players

## US CHESS MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

If not a member, add dues to advance entry fee or pay them with entry fee at site.

**U.S. Championship Qualifier.** Tournament in which qualification spots for the U.S. Championship are awarded.

**American Classic.** Generally, an event that has been held by one organizer for the last three years and has attracted more than 400 players each year.

**Heritage Event.** Tournament held for at least 25 years.

**Quick Chess.** Tournaments with time controls of G/5 to G/29. There is a separate "quick" or "overall" rating system that includes these events, and games played in these tournaments will not affect a player's regular rating. Games played with a time control of G/30 through G/60 will be rated in both the quick/overall system and the regular system.

## RATING CLASSES

In most events, you don't have to win the tournament to win a prize—you can win a class prize as a top scorer of your rating group, or a section prize in a section restricted to your rating group. These rating groups are:

**Senior Master:** 2400 & up • **Master:** 2200-2399 •  
**Expert:** 2000-2199 • **Class A:** 1800-1999 • **Class B:**  
1600-1799 • **Class C:** 1400-1599 • **Class D:** 1200-  
1399 • **Class E:** 1000-1199 • **Class F:** 800-999 •  
**Class G:** 600-799 • **Class H:** 400-599 • **Class I:** 200-  
399 • **Class J:** 199/below

Some tournaments use different groups such as 1900-2099, and some have "under" prizes or sections including all below a specified level.

## RATINGS INFORMATION

You never lose your rating, no matter how long it has been since you last played. If you return after a long absence, please tell the director and US Chess your approximate rating and last year of play.

If you have a FIDE rating, or a rating or category from any other country, no matter how many years ago, you are not unrated. FIDE or foreign ratings may be rejected or have adjustment points added. If details are not announced, players wishing to use such ratings should contact the organizer in advance.

For foreign players with multiple ratings (US Chess, FIDE, CFC, FQE, other foreign), the highest rating is used, with possible adjustment points added, unless otherwise announced.

Ratings based on 4-25 games are called "provisional ratings" to indicate they are less reliable than established ratings. However, such ratings are valid for pairing and prize purposes at all US Chess-rated events, unless otherwise stated.

A tournament director (TD) may assign an estimated rating to any player, and may expel an improperly rated player from an event.

## HOW TO ENTER IN ADVANCE

Entering by mail or online (if available) is easier for both you and the tournament organizer and often costs less. Check the tournament life announcement (TLA) ads for entering options.

Along with entry fee, send full name, address, US Chess ID number, expiration date, and section desired (if any). Also, give your last official US Chess rating (from Player/Ratings Look-Up). If you are unrated, or have a rating from many years ago, be sure to indicate this.

Mailed entries are usually not acknowledged unless you enclose a self-addressed postcard. If entering online, print confirmation of entry. They are refundable if you withdraw before round one is paired, unless otherwise stated.

For national events, refund requests must be submitted in writing no later than 30 days after the tournament ends. Any requests made after this date may not be honored.

## HOTEL-MOTEL RATES

Rates listed are often special chess rates—you must request "chess rates" or you will be charged more. The chess rates may be unavailable if not reserved several weeks in advance, or if the block of chess rooms is used up. Hotel-desk personnel are often poorly informed about chess rates—if that is the case, ask for the sales office or contact the tournament organizer.

## WHAT TO TAKE TO A TOURNAMENT

Along with a pen or pencil and your US Chess identification card (or current *Chess Life*), take a chessboard, set, and clock if you have them.

For prizes of \$600 or more, bring your U.S. Social Security card. If you have no Social Security number, the organizer must deduct 30 percent from your prize for the IRS (this includes foreigners).

**Warning!** The use of a cell phone in the tournament room is prohibited at most tournaments. If your cell phone rings in a room with games in progress, you could be penalized, or even forfeited.

## IF YOU MUST WITHDRAW

If you enter by mail and cannot attend, or must drop out of a tournament in progress, it is important you give notice before pairings are started, so no one is deprived of a game. Mail entrants should send withdrawal notices at least a week beforehand—phone any later than this. To withdraw by phone on the tournament day, call the site and ask specifically for "the chess tournament." E-mail withdrawals several days in advance are acceptable if the TD's e-mail address is listed. Any later than this, both e-mail your withdrawal and call the tournament site as the TD might not have access to his (her) e-mail account. If you forfeit without notice, you may be fined up to the amount of the entry fee.

## TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Tournament director certification is an endorsement of professional competence only. Such certification does not in itself render any tournament director an agent of US Chess, nor is any affiliate an agent of US Chess.

## TOURNAMENT LIFE: ABBREVIATIONS & TERMS

All tournaments are non-smoking with no computers allowed unless otherwise advertised.

<b>BLZ:</b>	Blitz rated.
<b>QC:</b>	Quick Chess events.
<b>\$\$Gtd:</b>	Guaranteed prizes.
<b>\$\$b/x:</b>	Based-on prizes, x = number of entries needed to payfull prize fund. At least 50% of the advertised prize fund of \$501 or more must be awarded.
<b>Bye:</b>	Indicates which rounds players who find it inconvenient to play may take 1/2-point byes instead. For example, Bye 1-3 means 1/2-point byes are available in Rounds 1 through 3.
<b>CC:</b>	Chess club.
<b>dx:</b>	Time delay, x = number of seconds.
<b>+xx:</b>	Time increment, xx = number of seconds added after each move.
<b>EF:</b>	Entry fee.
<b>Ent:</b>	Where to mail entries.
<b>FIDE:</b>	Results submitted to FIDE for possible rating.
<b>G/:</b>	Game in. For instance, G/75 means each side has 75 minutes for the entire game.
<b>GPP:</b>	Grand Prix Points available.
<b>HR:</b>	Hotel rates. For example, 60-65-70-75 means \$60 single, \$65 twin, \$70/3 in room, \$75/4 in room.
<b>JGP:</b>	Junior Grand Prix.

<b>Memb.</b>	Membership required; cost follows. Usually refers to state affiliate.
<b>Open:</b>	A section open to all. Often has very strong players, but some eligible for lower sections can play for the learning experience.
<b>Quad:</b>	4-player round robin sections; similar strength players.
<b>RBO:</b>	Rated Beginner's Open.
<b>Rds:</b>	Rounds; scheduled game times follow. For example, 11-5, 9-3 means games begin 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. on the first day, 9 a.m. & 3 p.m. on the second day.
<b>Reg:</b>	Registration at site.
<b>RR:</b>	Round robin (preceded by number of rounds).
<b>SD/:</b>	Sudden-death time control (time for rest of game follows). For example, 30/90, SD/1 means each player must make 30 moves in 90 minutes, then complete the rest of the game in an hour.
<b>SS:</b>	Swiss-System pairings (preceded by number of rounds).
<b>Unr:</b>	Unrated.
<b>W:</b>	Site is accessible to wheelchairs.
<b>WEB:</b>	Tournaments that will use a player's online rating.

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*Chess Life* accepts classified advertising in these categories: Activities, For Rent, For Sale, Games, Instruction, Miscellaneous, Services, Tournaments, Wanted. Only typed or e-mailed copy is accepted. Absolutely no telephone orders. Rates (per word, per insertion): 1-2 insertions \$1.50, 3-6 insertions \$1.25, 7+ insertions \$1.00. Affiliates pay \$1.00 per word regardless of insertion frequency. No other discounts available. Advertisements with less than 15 words will cost a minimum of \$15 per issue. Post office boxes count as two words, telephone numbers as one, ZIP code is free. Full payment must accompany all advertising. All advertising published in *Chess Life* is subject to the applicable rate card, available from the Advertising Department. *Chess Life* reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Only publication of an advertisement constitutes final acceptance. For a copy of these complete set of regulations & a schedule of deadlines, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *Chess Life* Classifieds, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Ads are due two months prior (by the 10th) of the issue cover date you want your ad to appear in. (For example: October CL ads MUST be submitted no later than August 10th). You can e-mail your classified ad to Joan DuBois, [tla@uschess.org](mailto:tla@uschess.org).

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# Solutions

## PAGE 17 / CHESS TO ENJOY

**PROBLEM I.** 30. ... Qe4+ 31. Ka1 Qd5! attacks the rook and bishop (32. Rxd5 Rg1+ mates). Or. 31. Kc1 Rc8+ and mates. **PROBLEM II.** 31. Ba3!, Black resigned because of 31. ... Qxe6 32. Rd8+ and mates or 31. ... Qxa3 32. Rd8+ and wins. **PROBLEM III.** 43. ... Be3! exploits pins. **PROBLEM IV.** Don't take credit for 74. Kc4! unless you saw how the rook can be won by checks, e.g. 74. ... Rb6 75. Qg1+; 74. ... Rb7 75. Qg1+ Kf5 76. Qc5+! Kf4 77. Qf2 Ke5 (77. Kg4 78. Qg2+) 78. Qd4+ and 79. Qd5+; **74. ... Rb8!** 75. Qg1+ Kf5 76. Qc5+! Kg4 77. Qd4+ Kf3 78. Qf6+ Ke4! 79. Qe6+ Kf3 80. Qf5+ Kg2 81. Qg4+ Kh1 82. Qh3+ Kg1 83. Qg3+ and 84. Qxb8. **PROBLEM V.** 30. Bc2! Qxc2 31. Nd3! and the Qxh7 mate threat wins (31. ... Kg8 32. Qxh7+ Kf7 33. Ne5+ Ke6 34. Qxc2). **PROBLEM VI.** White only drew after 42. Rxe4+? fxe4 43. Qh8+ Kd7 44. f5 Rxg5! 45. Rxg5 Qf2+. But 42. a3!! traps the queen and wins it with 43. Nb4! and 44. Na6 (or 44. Nd3) (or 43. ... axb4 44. axb4).

## PAGE 47 / ABCS OF CHESS

**PROBLEM I. Desperado:** Black wins a pawn by 1. ... Bxe3 2. Bxe6 Bxf2+. **PROBLEM II. Trapping:** Black traps the knight by 1. ... Rb8. **PROBLEM III. Driving off:** Black acquires the e4-pawn after 1. ... Nc5. **PROBLEM IV. Double threat:** Black wins the Exchange with 1. ... Na5, since 2. Ra6 is met by 2. ... Nb3+. **PROBLEM V. Fork:** White has no adequate answer to 1. ... Qb7. **PROBLEM VI. Mating net:** The game concludes with 1. ... Qh3+ 2. Kxh3 Nf4+ 3. Kg4 Be6+ 4. Kg5 Rh5 mate.

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81-94	2200-2399
66-80	2000-2199
51-65	1800-1999
36-50	1600-1799
21-35	1400-1599
06-20	1200-1399
0-05	under 1200

## PAGE 49 / STRIKING THROUGH PASSED PAWNS!

**PROBLEM I.** Knights are excellent at stopping passed pawns. But there are exceptions to every rule, and this study is a beautiful exception indeed: 1. Ng7!!! Nxg7 2. h6 Kf7 3. h7, White wins. An amazing construction that you should take to heart, as it can occur in real games as well. **PROBLEM II.** It is tempting to assume that 39. Nxb6 is a sad necessity, but that could not be farther from the truth: 39. axb5! a4 40. Nc5!! What was that about knights and passers? 40. ... a3 After 40. ... bxc5 White promotes with check: 41. b6 a3 42. b7 a2 43. b8=Q+. 41. Nb3 The pawn is safely restrained, and the game is over. 41. ... a2 42. Ke3 Kf7 43. Kd4 Ke7 44. e4 e5+ 45. fxe5 Ke6 46. Na1 fxe5+ 47. Kc3 g5 48. Kb2 gxh4 49. gxh4 Kd6 50. Nb3, Black resigned.

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Please log into TD/Affiliate Area for contact information.

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# MY BEST MOVE

## GM ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ

First Central American Grandmaster

Master's degree in arts and technology, video game design

2013 U.S. Championship runner-up

Picking out a best move is not such a simple decision for a grandmaster—after all we have accumulated enough games that at some point we must have made a brilliancy here or there! Now, I do believe that the style of players will make this decision harder or easier: if, for example, you asked Alexander Shabalov for his best move, I have no doubts that he could pull out a medium-sized book of his own spectacular coups. Despite the fact that I have a few nice tactical wins, I don't feel they fully exemplify my style as a subtle and very boring positional player. When I remembered my game against Larry Christiansen from 2013 and replayed it, it became an instant winner!

The tournament situation was already quite tense: a few people were tied for second place half a point behind Gata Kamsky in the 2013 U.S. Championship. Gata had black against Ray Robson and was in for a tough fight, while I had the luck of getting my second white in a row to finish the tournament. In the diagram position things are quite complicated. With the queenside locked down, my opponent has just played the move Re7 to reposition his rooks for the impending breaks in the center. Little did he suspect that this move was already a grave mistake:

### SYMMETRICAL ENGLISH (A37)

GM Alejandro Ramirez (2623)

GM Larry Mark Christiansen (2657)

2013 U.S. Championship (9), St. Louis, Missouri, 05.12.2013

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nc3 e5 4. g3 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. a3 Nge7 7. Rb1 0-0 8. 0-0 a5 9. Ne1 d6 10. Nc2 a4 11. Ne3

When playing against Larry C. it is not a bad idea to play as boring as boring gets.

11. ... Nd4 12. d3 h6 13. Re1 Qa5 14. Ned5 Nxd5 15. Bxd5 Kh7 16. Be3 Nb3 17. Ne4 Qb6 18. Nd2 f5 19. Nxb3 axb3 20. Bd2 Bd7 21. e3 Rae8 22. Bc3 Re7



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CENTER OF SAINT LOUIS

“... at some point we must have made a brilliancy here or there! ”



23. a4!

**My Best Move.** This subtle pawn push surprisingly gives White a great advantage. Black could technically ignore the pawn, but after 24. a5 he no longer has a way of defending b3.

23. ... Bxa4 24. Ra1 Ra8

24. ... Qa6 25. Ra3 will eventually cost Black material: he has no good way of defending against Qe2 and Rea1.

25. e4!

This is the point. I have no way of improving the pressure on the a-file, but I don't have to.

With Black's rook tied down to defending the bishop and the bishop itself being pinned on the a-file, I plan to use the few tempi and superior force on the other wing I have to explode the kingside and get a winning attack. For this reason I start by threatening exf5 followed by Qh5.

25. ... f4 26. gxf4 exf4 27. Bxg7 Kxg7 28. Qf3 Re5 29. Qxf4 Rf8 30. Qe3 Bc6

Black has unpinned himself but the damage is done. White's structure is far superior and my pawns start rolling.

31. f4 Rh5 32. Qg3 Bxd5 33. exd5

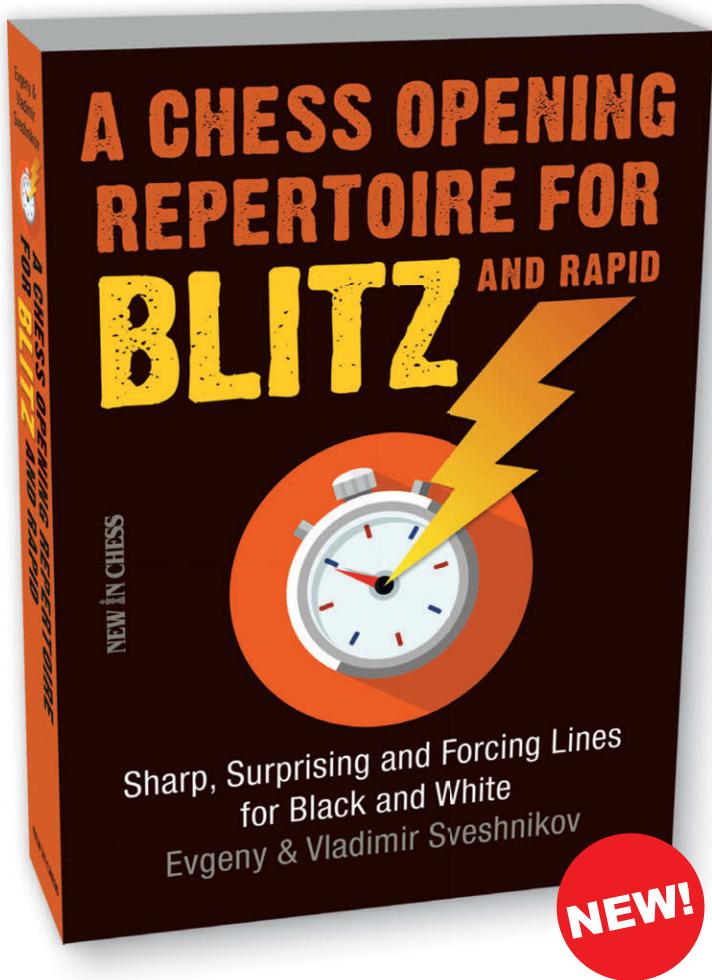
Black prevented me from taking with the c-pawn, but the fact that he had to give up the e-file is probably even worse.

33. ... Rhf5 34. Re6 R8f6 35. Ra8 Rxe6 36. dxe6 Qc7 37. Re8 d5 38. e7 Kf7 39. Rh8 Kxe7 40. Qxg6, Black resigned.

With this win, I was able to force a tiebreak against Kamsky, and despite losing the Armageddon it remains one of the happiest chess memories for me. ♠

*Whose Best Move would you like to see? Write to us at [letters.uschess.org](http://letters.uschess.org).*

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- confronting them with ugly-looking moves with a hidden purpose along the way

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