

COLORADO CHESS INFORMANT



**My Love Affair
With the Royal Game**

Knud Ekwall



The *Colorado State Chess Association, Incorporated*, is a Section 501(C)(3) tax exempt, non-profit educational corporation formed to promote chess in Colorado. Contributions are tax deductible.

Dues are \$15 a year. Youth (under 20) and Senior (65 or older) memberships are \$10. Family memberships are available to additional family members for \$3 off the regular dues. Scholastic tournament membership is available for \$3.

- Send address changes to *Ann Davies*.
- Send pay renewals & memberships to *Dean Brown*.
- See back cover for **EZ renewal form**.

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Articles in the CCI **do not** necessarily reflect the views of the CSCA Board of Directors or its membership.

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On the cover:

"The Proposal"

by Knut Ekwall

From the Editor

We are still in the thick of it. Online chess only since this mess broke out. It is tough but we are getting through it. I hope all is well and that you are healthy and reasonably happy.

There is some hope of chess life going on around the world with a few, and I mean very few, over-the-board tournaments being played. So far I have not heard of any covid-19 outbreaks at these tournaments. Hopefully it stays that way.

Now with online play there has now been a Grandmaster caught cheating while playing on *Pro Chess League* resulting in being banned for life from *Chess.com*. You can read about it here: <https://en.chessbase.com/post/cheating-controversy-at-prochessleague>. Such a shame and so unnecessary.

Fortunately no such incident in Colorado. I again want to hand out *Honorable Mentions* to those Directors and Organizers running tournaments for Colorado players online - thank you so much! It fills that void that is much needed at this time.

From the *Board of Directors Reports* listed in this issue you can read that a few tournaments are coming back to life OTB, at least the hope is they will. Time will tell...

May Caissa be with you.

Fred Eric Spell



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REPORTS FROM THE CSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 10, 2020

President's Report 2019-2020 / Paul Covington

Annual Reports are summaries of the year. This year was one for the record books and was sharply cut in half, before pandemic and after pandemic. CSCA had many accomplishments this year.

First and most important, I thank our Board for a wonderful year. We came together in our first board meeting determined to make this a great year for Colorado Chess. All board members gave of their time, talent, and treasure (yes, this board has been marked by their giving in all three areas). Our brainstorming session produced many ideas, then we began the process of planning how to accomplish those ideas. We worked together sharing and being transparent and accountable to each other. This has been the best board I have served on!

Together, we faced many challenges, established goals, worked to fulfill our 501(c)3 charter, kept our eyes on the goals and shared many accomplishments. The pandemic cut short our chess year yet we still had a busy year. The minutes of our meetings are listed on the ColoradoChess.com website.

Accomplishments:

Ann Davies attended Grant Writing classes and wrote several grants, one was approved! This was a first for the CSCA. Some write hundred of grant requests before getting an approval, so this is a tribute to Ann and to Kevin McConnell for his support aiding Ann. The American Association of University Women has granted us \$5,700 dollars to teach chess classes to girls in Title I Elementary schools in the Denver area. This program has been delayed until Spring of 2021. This grant was made possible because Ann taught these classes as a volunteer before applying for a grant. This paves the way for future instructors to be paid. The grant also will provide chess sets for the students. These sets and boards have already been purchased.

Kevin McConnell worked to bring the FIDE World Championship for Disabled Youth to Denver. Sadly, this has been postponed to July 2021 but is still on track. This is a major get for our chess. Teams from all over the world are scheduled to play. I have been assured this is an amazing show of pageantry. It will be a lot of work, but it puts Denver on the map for future events.

One major goal was to reunite the Scholastic program as an integral part of the CSCA. This led to bringing the checking accounts together under the elected CSCA Treasurer. The appointed Director of Scholastic chess still has check writing responsibilities but now has a backup should an emergency occur. This protects the CSCA. This also led to an expanded scholastic event planned by Lior Lapid (this years Director) and Kevin. Mike Klein of *ChessKids* brought a booth to our event and there were food trucks, t-shirt shop, a parents' chess tournament, a hand and brain chess event, a blitz championship, and a great Awards Ceremony. Every volunteer was honored by applause and meal stipends. I presented a special thank you plaque to Todd Bardwick for his many years of service to both CSCA and Scholastic chess. Lior led the presentation of trophies to the children. This was one of the best CSCA events I have attended.

CSCA did host the 2019 Class Championship and the 2020 Senior Championship, both at the Ranch in Loveland, before our tournaments were postponed due to the pandemic. It is our goal to host the Closed, Class, and Open this Fall or Spring if we are allowed.

While the Senior event was the last Championship event we were allowed to hold, it was not the end of our year. We still had to work through the difficulties as the results of the pandemic. One of these was Kevin's decision to resign as Vice President to dedicate all of his time to protecting his family. He worked tirelessly checking out playing sites, presenting plans and ideas to improve Colorado chess and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his amazing efforts. Thank you, Kevin!

Brad Lundstrom was selected by the Board to complete the year as Vice President in early April. In a brainstorming session, Brad presented the idea to hold a fundraiser event to support Colorado families needing food. We selected the Salvation Army to administer this program. Brad's vision and hard work resulted in an online tournament (he'll tell you more about this) that raised over three thousand dollars for families. WOW!!! Everyone on the Board was amazed by the generosity of our Colorado chess family! Congratulations to Brad for the vision, Alayne Wilinsky for directing the event, and to all who contributed!

Awards:

This year Colorado chess has been honored by our volunteers receiving recognition for their efforts. While all volunteers deserve recognition from CSCA members and we do thank each volunteer, we are highlighting these.

Fred Spell - His work producing the *Colorado Chess Informant* has won numerous awards as the best online State Magazine/Newsletter. However; this year the Chess Journalists of America recognized Fred's work on the CCI was awarded the Cramer Award: Best State Magazine - Online! Fred's win beating Northwest Chess is a major accomplishment for Fred and Colorado chess. Congratulations Fred!

John Brezina - Is a behind the camera kind of guy but he was the lead in a report featuring his photos of the U.S. Chess Championship. The report from St. Louis earned a Cramer Award for the Best Personal Narrative. John report included colorful stories by Brian Wall and J.C. McNeil's comments. This is the first time CSCA submitted John's work for an award. We are happy he won! Thanks John for all of your work over the years. Sorry it has taken us so long to honor your efforts.

Paul Covington - Earned the US Chess Federation Award for Meritorious Service to US Chess. This award was for his work with the Clubs Committee rewriting the Guide to a Successful Chess Club as part of the Committee's work and his service to chess over the years in Colorado, South Dakota, and Florida. It was special to be honored for my work. Thank you Colorado Chess for allowing me to serve you.

Other thoughts:

CSCA has received numerous donations this year. Thanks to all who donated to the online tournament fundraiser! All of the Board members made significant contributions this year. We have two other fundraisers this year: Shirley Herman raised over \$500 and George Mikhailovich raised \$360. Both have earmarks: one for inviting titled players to Denver Open; the other to host a scholastic tournament in Colorado Springs. The CSCA is honored to have such dedicated support.

CSCA has established relationships with other non-profits to establish our reputation and rating as a nonprofit organization. Facebook required some of these affiliations before they could pay us the fundraiser's funds. These include Network for Good, Smile.Amazon.com, PayPal account, GuideStar by Candid, Charity Navigator and some others.

Looking forward:

We have some challenges ahead of us. Pulling together the events we missed this year, preparing the 2021 Scholastic Championship, the upcoming FIDE World Championship for Disabled Youth, and our regular tournaments. The Board will need your support to achieve these goals. How can you support? Please pay your membership dues early. We are in good financial shape now and want to remain that way.

In Summary:

I have been working on two makeup tournaments.

Closed - Targeting October 30, 31 & November 1.

Open - November 13, 14 & 15.

We will follow health guidelines at these events. This is all up to the Governor's lockdown rules.

If we can have the Open, we will have the election on November 15th (Sunday) after Round 4 (the morning round).

Still working on the Class makeup dates.

This has been a busy year, filled with challenges, but this Board has worked hard to meet these challenges. It has been an honor to serve with each of you. Now, on to the other reports.

Vice President's Report 2019-2020 / Brad Lundstrom

After our elected Vice President Kevin McConnell resigned from the CSCA board last April, Paul Covington contacted me on behalf of the board and asked me if I would be willing to serve out Kevin's term. I accepted the invitation and upon attending the first few board meetings saw that due to the pandemic we were on shutdown mode and canceling everything up to and then later including our Colorado Open.

Seeing the success the Denver Chess Club was having with Alayne Wilinsky directing online tournaments through *Lichess.com* was encouraging. My idea was for the CSCA to do an outreach to all Colorado chess players and do a fundraising online tournament to benefit families suffering from the economic aftermath of the Covid-19 shutdown. Alayne directed and many volunteered as we put together a Saturday, June 20th event. I was able to enlist Grandmasters Alex Fishbein, Timur Gareyev and IM Keaton Kiewra to join us and we had one open section with all donations going to the Salvation Army food pantry. With 121 players and Colorado chess friends we raised \$3,410. Never before has Colorado Chess done an event like this to benefit society outside the chess world. I contacted many newspapers, TV, radio and magazines to share our story but did not make progress. However I learned a lot and it may yet serve us well in future public relation efforts. The director of the United States Chess Federation Carol Meyer did recognize our efforts and sent her thanks to all Colorado chess players.

Going forward I am willing to continue to serve as Vice President if you want me. Our primary goal is to hope and pray these pandemic times pass and we get chess back to normal. In everything we do, safety is our top priority. In the meantime lots of communication, zoom meetings and online chess will be our norm. I understand cheating on online chess is a huge concern and we will continue to follow USCF advice.

In the meantime I am running two scholastic clubs, directing local seniors tournaments, provide private lessons and am working with Zachary Bekkedahl of *Chessmates* to add some multi-school chess classes ... everything online.

When we are able to restore regular chess activity in Colorado, I'd like to help get us back to all our regular tournaments and in facilitating that effort.

Beyond that I am interested in serving Colorado Chess and have many exciting ideas that I will not go into now. One step at a time. Paul Covington has done a remarkable job as our CSCA President and the current board; Lior, Ann, Dean, Gracie, Griffin and Sullivan have been simply outstanding. Many thanks to Kevin McConnell who worked so hard and accomplished so much during his time this year as well. Looking forward to doing our best for Colorado chess this next year under any circumstances we face.

Secretary's Report 2019-2020 / Ann Davies

Membership Activities and Objectives:

The 2019-2020 year began with a review of the membership records both current and expired. This was an important task to take on since the funds CSCA uses throughout the year are primarily derived from membership dues. Upon review of these records, it was noted that there were quite a few players, who participated in CSCA sponsored tournaments, whose membership had expired. Immediate steps were taken to remedy that situation by updating membership lists as well as revising membership application forms for clarity. In addition, the Board decided to eliminate players signing up for a single tournament membership instead of a yearly membership. The annual Scholastic tournament remained an exception to that rule. Costs for individuals and family members remained the same throughout this year.

A majority of our memberships typically renew during the time of the Colorado Open. As of September 14, 2019, there were 141 current CSCA memberships. Dean Brown collected 44 CSCA membership forms at last year's Colorado Open (19 of those were new, 21 were renewals and 4 unknown). Out of those memberships renewals, 20 were junior memberships and 5 were senior memberships.

The Board had an overarching objective this year of increasing memberships. Partnering with the Denver Chess Club, a CSCA representative, Vice President Kevin McConnell, attended DCC tournaments with the objective of signing up members - both new and renewal.

As of this September 8, 2020, there are 151 current CSCA members. This represents a slight increase even though the CSCA was unable to hold many state tournaments, especially the Colorado Open, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board had discussed many ideas and plans with the hope of surpassing the number of 2019 Colorado Open participants (118 players) for 2020 and make it a truly spectacular event. Unfortunately, the Colorado Open was cancelled. As a result, our current membership is reflective of these facts.

Due to the pandemic, the CSCA Board voted to extend membership dates by six months. The 151 total membership on September 8, 2020 does not reflect this addition.

The CSCA hit the ground running with Kevin McConnell's and Lior Lapid's goal to increase the number of girls who play chess in Colorado. Their plan was to bring free chess instruction to girls in Title 1 schools. I volunteered to teach these classes at no cost to the schools or the CSCA. Through the CSCA's endeavors, a total of three Title 1 schools and approximately fifty girls received nine weeks of chess instruction at each school, once a week, along with free chess sets to take home and keep. These chess sets were paid for through specially earmarked donations. In addition, Lior encouraged these girls to participate in his monthly PALS tournaments at no cost.

During the fall semester of 2019, two schools were selected: Kullerstrand Elementary and Eiber Elementary. The enrollment at Kullerstrand was 14 girls and 18 girls at Eiber. These classes ran for approximately nine weeks. During the spring semester of 2020, chess classes I also taught at Wilmore Davis for nine weeks. The enrollment at Wilmore Davis was approximately 18 students.

Continuing with Kevin McConnell's vision, the CSCA applied for a few grants in the fall of 2019 to help raise funds to continue and expand this program.

The CSCA successfully obtained a grant in the amount of \$5,700 from the American Association of University Women to expand this instructional program to ten Title 1 schools in the metropolitan Denver area. The funds would be used to hire chess teachers and pay for chess sets. The initial time period for the grant was the 2020-2021 school year. However, due to the pandemic, the beginning date of this grant has been extended to the beginning of January 2021.

Summary:

This has been an exciting and productive year for chess in Colorado due to the vision, hard work and dedication of this year's Board members. Thanks to President Paul Covington, we have had many scheduled Board meetings throughout the year designed to review issues and plan for future events. The goal of these meetings has always been to be inclusive and transparent. I believe this Board's accomplishments would have been even greater had it not been cut short by the pandemic. That said, in spite of the shortened chess calendar year, this CSCA Board has done an outstanding job.

I would like to thank the 2019-2020 Board members for their passion and love of chess and encourage new members to volunteer. This has been a truly rewarding experience on my part.

Treasurer's Report 2019-2020 / Dean Brown

(Note: All CSCA accounts were brought under the elected Treasurer this year. The three accounts are with US Bank in three separate checking accounts. Dean has managed the difficult task of bringing all this together. Thank you! - Paul Covington)

Main: \$12,178.83 / **Scholastic:** \$19721.99 / **Scholarship:** \$838.19

Per Paul's request, I'm reporting some finer detail of this fiscal year's Main Account financials:

STRIPES Deposits: \$12,602.96 (an amalgamation of entry fees, donations, memberships, reimbursements; specifics of which I have no direct access. Paul Covington and Dean Clow have the permissions to interrogate individual STRIPES transactions):

The following are Main Account checkbook transactions:

Tournament Deposits: \$1,276.00
Tournament Prizes Paid: \$2,265.00
Tournament Sites: \$2,310.00
Tournament Site Reimbursement: \$500.00
Tournament Reimbursements: \$2,304.44
Donations Received: \$1,145.00
Donations Paid Out: \$3,930.00
Equipment Purchased: \$1,856.33
Insurance (Annual): \$584.00
Memberships: \$390.00
Instructor: \$300
Domain Name Fees: \$30

Scholastic Director's Report 2019-2020 / Lior Lapid

Expenses:

The total cost to rent Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and equipment for the weekend of February 14-16 was \$4,925. We've reserved this site for the 2021 Colorado Scholastic State Championship over the weekend of February 12-14. The cost will probably remain the same, if the CSCA decides to rent the same number of rooms, but they haven't yet requested a deposit or sent an invoice.

We purchased four DGT boards and sets for \$3500.64.

CSCA purchased 80 replacement sets, with 40 of them for scholastic tournaments, for \$460.

USCF National scholastic tournaments were held online due to Covid-19, so no money was spent on stipends for Colorado's top scholastic players this year.

2020 CO Scholastic State Championship (February 14-16):

264 players in grades K-12 participated in the main tournament on Saturday and Sunday, and 53 of them competed in the blitz championship on Friday evening. 18 parents played in the Colorado Parents Championship on that Saturday.

We are very grateful to Chief Tournament Director Todd Bardwick, assistant tournament director Gunnar Andersen, Ken Cowin and Karthika Sakhtisaravanan (who directed the K-1 section), Paul Covington (who directed the Parents Championship and the "Hand and Brain" event), and all of the volunteers including Josh Bloomer, Penny and Pete Cannici, Jesse Cohen, Maria Figueroa, DuWayne Langseth, Brad Lundstrom, Kevin McConnell, Gracie Mukayess, Josh Romero and all of the parents who helped out with directing and/or live commentary throughout the event.

The Colorado Scholastic Blitz Championship and Colorado Parents Championship were both new events that were well-received, as was the fun "Hand and Brain" event that Paul directed. We hope to repeat all of these side events in next year's scholastic state championship.

Four food trucks sold food at the event: Chuey Fu's, Migration Taco, Pianta Pizza and Stella Blue. All were popular and the owner's told us that they'd love to come back next year.

We doubled the stipend to \$40 and a state championship t-shirt for each of the assistant TD's.

Cayden Hetzel, Sullivan McConnell, and Akshat Jain (the winners of the K-5, K-8, and K-12 sections respectively) all had the honor of representing Colorado in the National Championships for their age groups (the Rockefeller, Barber and Denker respectively). Sara Herman was the top scoring girl in the K-12 section and she was the Colorado representative in the Ruth Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions where she tied for 6th place. We are very proud of all of the CO scholastic champions who fought hard in these prestigious national championships.

Overall, despite a few hiccups before the first round started, this was a fun tournament that ran smoothly and easily thanks to the generous help of so many volunteers. We hope it will continue to grow over time.

1st FIDE Confederation Cup for the Disabled in Ankara, Turkey:

Rising talent Griffin McConnell was invited to play in the 1st FIDE Confederation Cup for the Disabled in Ankara, Turkey from December 7-14. FIDE paid for the tickets and hotel expenses, as Griffin is one of the top players with disabilities in the world for his age. Griffin's result was extraordinary: four wins out of four games (the only player in the entire tournament to achieve a perfect score), a Best Game Prize (selected by a panel of FIDE judges who reviewed all the games in the tournament!) for his win in round 2, an individual Gold Medal on board 5 and a bronze medal for Team Americas. Griffin became an overnight celebrity at the awards ceremony, with many people coming up for him asking for autographs and pictures with him.

I had the honor of accompanying Griffin as his coach and, to my surprise, as captain of Team Americas. It was a magical week, and Griffin and I became friends with the other five players on our team as well as Israeli Grandmaster Artur Kogan and others who we socialized with throughout the week. On the trip back, it was clear that this experience enhanced Griffin's love of chess and his motivation to continue improving.

I showed some pictures from this event at the Zoom meeting.

Chess Initiatives for Girls and Women:

We organized and began promoting the first Colorado Girls State Championship, which was scheduled for March 28, but unfortunately had to cancel this exciting event due to Covid-19. Phiona Mutesi (of "Queen of Katwe" fame) had agreed to be a special guest speaker and coach at this tournament and she expressed interest in coming next year.

We set up a booth at a popular local STEM event called "Girls in Science Day" at the Museum of Nature and Science. We used this opportunity to promote the Colorado Girls State Championship, and local talent Sravyasri Lankipalle attended together with Kevin McConnell (who had the idea and did the work to make this happen), Ann Davies and myself. We all played games and taught chess to many girls who seemed genuinely interested in learning the game.

Special thank you to Kevin McConnell for his leadership, vision and hard work organizing and promoting all of the chess for girls events, clubs and tournaments listed above, as well as co-writing the successful application for the AAUW Community Action Grant which awarded \$5,700 from the American Association of University Women for us to run after-school all-girls chess clubs in local Title 1 schools.

Special thank you to Ann Davies for her countless hours of volunteer coaching for two all-girls chess clubs at Eiber and Kullerstrand elementary schools, for co-writing the application for the AAUW Community Action Grant as well as numerous other grants (and for taking the time to go to grant writing workshops to master the craft before submitting the applications).

Special thank you to Gracie for promoting and coaching the Chess & Wine group (she will give her own presentation on that) and for her help coaching numerous scholastic chess classes.

Special thank you to Paul for his steady and selfless dedication, vision, leadership, and patience.

Member at Large's Report 2019-2020 / Gracie Mukayess

In August of 2019, Kevin McConnell and Lior Lapid approached me about starting a Woman's Chess and Wine Club. Our goal was to get more women involved in chess as well as attend tournaments. We decided to name it CWCWC Colorado Women's Chess and Wine Club. Our first meeting was Friday, October 18, 2019 at Regal Bakery near Lowry. I coached a lesson and the ladies played for an hour while sipping wine and munching on hors d'oeuvres. Turnout was great and I received a lot of positive feedback while promoting the CSCA. We continued to meet every other week until the end of the year. Since The CWCWC was such a great success, the board agreed that we should start up again in April. Unfortunately, The Regal Bakery closed their doors permanently. I then went on the hunt to find a new spot for our club. To my surprise, that was very easy to do. I found a cute, new coffee shop in the Taxi Campus in RINO. I met with the owner and he informed me that they were about to get their liquor license at the end of March and we would be good to go by April 17th. Sad to say, everything was cancelled due to Covid-19. I am hoping to get The CWCWC up and running again once it's safe. I feel that the program was a great success and had Covid-19 not hit, we'd be a force to reckon with. I have also started a CSCA twitter page as well as an instagram page. Although I have not had much luck with Twitter, the Instagram page is hot. This last year is definitely a year I'll never forget. I am extremely proud to be an active Member at Large and I have met some amazing people through this experience. I'm excited for what the future holds for the CSCA. Thank you for the opportunity of serving on this board.



My Love Affair With the Royal Game

by Fred Eric Spell

It Begins

“King me!”, my erstwhile opponent proclaims as we continue on with another game of ‘checkers’. At this point I am beyond bored with this, and I have been for some time. Ho hum I think, looking to finish the game up and move on to something else.

It is the year before a certain American chess player becomes the World Chess Champion and I am living in my hometown of San Diego, CA - my dad, being in the Navy, is stationed aboard the *USS Constellation* which called San Diego its home port. Nothing much happens really for me in those days, just go to school then come home and hang out with friends.

Then one day as I am looking out of the living room window and onto the courtyard from our apartment in naval housing, I see some friends of mine huddled around a ‘checkerboard’ but the pieces they are playing with are not the usual round disc’s but something quite different - I have to go outside and investigate.

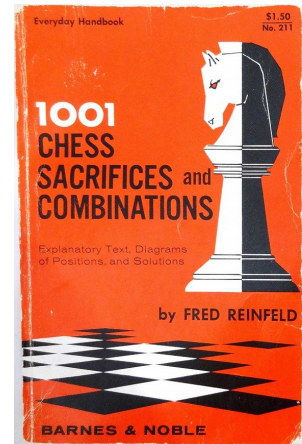
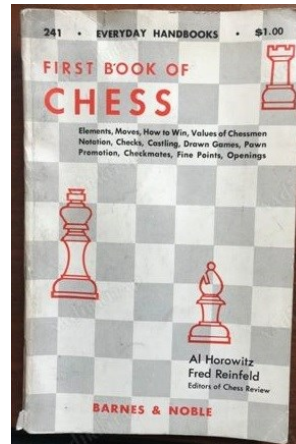
There it is - the game that will one day become one of my passions in life. I ask what is going on and someone says, “Oh, they’re just playing ‘chess’.” Intrigued, I sit on the grass of the courtyard and watch as two of my friends take turns moving and capturing in ways that I had never seen before. My brain becomes pre-occupied and I make the decision to learn this strange new game (well to me anyways).

After their game is over I ask for someone to teach me the rules. No problem, someone says - this piece moves like this and this piece moves like this and so on until I get the basics down. That day and for the next few days I’m bugging friends to play this game, over and over. Each game is played so differently then the previous one, each game has its own character and strategies, and with each game it just draws me in like no other. And then a curious thing happened as I got home from school one day...

Naval housing in those days was actually pretty roomy. We were a family of five living in a three bedroom, one bath apartment on the second (top) floor of this building. It even had a good sized storage closet within, and for whatever reason that day I went rummaging for something in there and happened upon a box with some of my dad’s books. And in that box amongst all the books there were two chess books! One was “*First Book of Chess*” by Al Horowitz and Fred Reinfeld, and the other was “*1001 Chess Sacrifices and Combinations*” also by Fred Reinfeld - jackpot!

I wasn’t much interested in the ‘1001’ book, I can check out the examples another time I thought to myself, but the ‘First Book of Chess’ told me right on the cover everything I needed to know to better understand the game of chess. Whatever I was looking for

originally when I first entered the closet was suddenly of no importance. I sat down and dug into Messrs. Horowitz and Reinfeld’s book and began to read as fast as I could, that is, until I got to the part where the rules are explained.



Wait a minute..., what the..., are you kidding me?! As I’m reading I see that you don’t actually capture the king to win the game. And castling couldn’t be done while your king is in check and you certainly couldn’t castle through a check - they told me you could. En passant - you’re allowed to capture an enemy pawn that way? That’s right, my friends taught me the rules of the game wrong! ARGH!!!

Being the smart aleck kid I was then (some will say I still am today but that’s for another therapy session), I couldn’t wait to tell them all the *real* rules of the game. They were a bit hesitant to believe me but I showed them the book. It’s right there in black and white so it must be true, I proclaimed. It’s always a much more enjoyable experience playing a game the way the rules meant it to be. So my friends and I kept playing and playing, correctly, and my interest continued to grow until the one day when I heard that an American guy was going to take on the Soviets single handedly, playing a game that only a year before, I knew nothing about. That guy was Bobby Fischer.

Fischer

This was huge!!! The year was 1972 and Bobby Fischer was taking on the Evil Empire all by himself. It seemed to me that the past year has all led me to this point. Here I can really learn from one of the best. Back in those days of course there was no internet, only a Public Broadcasting Service channel and a newspaper to follow along with all the action. I can still recall Shelby Lyman hosting the PBS broadcast along with commentators on that television set with a channel select dial - my parents must have thought I was bonkers while I watched.

Every game I followed intently. If I could, I would watch every broadcast by Mr. Lyman. And with the game scores being printed in the newspaper after every game, I would clip it out and close myself in that storage closet with my cheap little chess set and go over every move. To me it was magical. I even remember one time after a game was played, being in school, anticipating when I could run home and get it from the newspaper and go over it right away - only to find out that the newspaper had already been thrown in the dumpster by my parents out back behind the apartment building. It was the first time in my life that I went 'dumpster diving'. I wanted that game score! Thinking about it now still makes me smirk.

The match goes on and Bobby is building his winning score and it looks like the title will be his. Every game I have the same routine, replay and learn what little I can from these great players. Then the day arrives when Bobby Fischer has become the World Chess Champion. For us Americans back then, pride, whether you played chess or not was endemic. Even though it was Bobby alone who won the title, it just seemed as though America just stuck it to the Soviets. For those of you too young to know, the Cold War was raging hot at that time and this victory felt like a monumental battle was won. Albeit, if it was only over a chessboard.

Expanding My Knowledge

By this time I'm feeling confident about my play. I win more than I lose against my friends but I have no mentor to guide me along (my dad just owned those two books I mentioned earlier, he didn't play the game), but no matter, I was hooked. At this time I had a Brazilian uncle (my mom is Brazilian) who got wind of my love for chess and as he was a chess player and a fan of the game himself told me that he was going to give me a Brazilian made wooden chess set. To say I was thrilled was an understatement! The thing was, due to shipping costs he was going to have mail it to me one piece and then the board, at a time over several months. No worries, I'll wait. It was almost like waiting for each game of the Fischer-Spassky match to be published. I can do that.

Well it turned out that even shipping one piece at a time was still cost prohibitive and he just couldn't work it out. But don't you worry my little chess playing nephew, I have a plan, he told me. When he and his immediate family comes for a visit next year he will present me with the entire set, all at once, because he was going to pack it away and carry it to America himself!

To this day I still have that beautiful set, and I will cherish it for the rest of my life. I can't begin to explain the joy of owning a real set of pieces and a board, for the first time, especially since it was made in Brazil.

My uncle and I would play so many games while he was visiting, and he was even impressed with my play. So much so that when my parents had some friends over one night my uncle insisted that I play one of my dad's friends as he was a chess player too. That poor guy, the whole evening we played a very



My Brazilian Made Chess Set

long an extended game which I lost after there were only a few pieces left on the board. He even remarked on my play as being impressive for a kid. I do remember feeling dejected that I lost, but not understanding that he just spent the night away playing a game of chess when he was there to socialize, I should have put my ego away and played a quick game instead. Lesson learned.

With my new set in hand and a better knowledge of the game play in my head I started to checkout any and all chess books at the local library. So much history and tournaments to read about. I took my time and did what I could on my own. At this time I just wasn't able to play in tournaments. But slowly I did learn some things.

Enjoying the Ride

But as with all endeavors there comes a point when life sort of gets in the way. When I entered High School my interest in chess waned but I still played in the school chess club though nothing else was going on with me chess wise. After all, there were other things like cars, and playing guitar, and girls... you get the idea.

That is until my thirty's when I decided to jump back in with both feet and hit it full force. I joined the USCF and entered to play in my first rated tournament - directed no less by Colorado's very own, Dean Brown. I now wish that my 'break' from the game wasn't so long but I'm happy where I'm at now - I have done so much since I got back in.

I occasionally get the question from those who don't understand, "Why do you play chess?" The only answer I can come up with is - because it makes you think. Every game is a challenge or a puzzle that one tries to solve, and it never gets boring.

As with all love affairs, there are ups and downs. But a true love stays with you forever. Till the end, I will always love this game, because win or lose, it always brings a smile to my face.



My Games With Don Sutherland (& more)

by Curtis Carlson

“Inflation is not caused by the actions of private citizens, but by the government, by an artificial expansion of the money supply required to support deficit spending. No private embezzlers or bank robbers in history have ever plundered people’s savings on a scale comparable to the plunder perpetrated by the fiscal policies of statist governments.”
- Ayn Rand

“A chess player should always be able to admit his mistake.”
- GM Tigran Petrosian

“Play the move that forces the win in the simplest way. Leave the brilliancies to Alekhine, Keres, and Tal.” - Irving Chernev

“In chess, as in life, a man is his most dangerous opponent.”
- GM Vasily Smyslov

“Having a Wal-Mart in your community is like getting a raise.” - Bruce Koepke

“In a practical game, combining good planning with good calculation is key to playing the position well.”
- GM Jonathan Hawkins

“Chess is a fairy tale of 1,001 blunders.” - Savielly Tartakower

“If you replace the word “capitalism” with “mercantilism,” you will suddenly find almost every complaint about “capitalism” to be true.” - Troy Camplin

California master Air Force Sergeant Don C. Sutherland was stationed in Denver from 1972-75 and was a regular participant in local tournaments more than three years. His first was the 1972 Colorado Open that **John Watson** won, and I believe his last was a one day Denver Chess Club event on November 22, 1975 that he won, beating me in 20 moves in the last round. Don had many successes while in Colorado: in January 1973 he won the Naylin Memorial (beating **Bob Wendling** in round 3), and won the Armed Forces championship later that year. He played in the 1974 Lone Pine masters tournament and tied for first in the 1974 and 1975 Denver Opens. He also won several small DCC tournaments. Don was a fine blitz player and won most of his games against me, Brian Wall and everyone else. It’s unfortunate (for local players) he wasn’t here longer. I’ve had no communication with him for 45 years, but remember him well. Two of his games with me and a few others are analyzed here. I don’t have the moves to our last game; after getting crushed like a beginner I must have tossed the game score in disgust, which I now regret. As backgammon ace Lewis Deyong wisely said, *“Never let emotion get the best of you.”* Many times I failed to follow this excellent advice, much to my embarrassment now. As a youth a glaring weakness in my psyche was not focusing

on the long run, which is exactly when long run thinking should predominate. I wish I had known 50 years ago what I know now.

“I never play against an opponent. I play against pieces.”
- GM Svetozar Gligoric

“If you perceive material as just one kind of ‘currency’ that can be exchanged for positional and/or time resources, you have made an important step toward non-materialistic thinking.” - GM Davorin Kuljasevic

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” - Mhatma Gandhi

My second rated game with Don was in the fourth round of the 1975 Denver Open where we agreed to a draw in twelve moves, which isn’t given here since it was a book continuation in his favorite Modern / Pirc Defense. When he unexpectedly offered to split the point I quickly agreed. It worked out well for both of us, since we tied for first with 5.5-0.5, a full point ahead of the field! I won on tiebreaks and became Denver champion for the first time (the second and last time was 1979). Poor Bob O’Donnell (winner of the 1973 Denver Open) lost to both of us on the last day to finish 4-2. I was lucky but Don defeated him decisively.

“ If... you ask me how many people in the world: a) work at least 4-6 hours a day long-term, b) take care of their physical fitness, c) have a strong-willed character, a desire to fight and win, then I’ll surprise you. There are maybe 5-6 people like that in the world – who manage to combine it all. And among those, he’s the best.” - GM Danil Dubov (speaking of GM Magnus Carlsen)

“Our world is frittered away by detail. Simplify! Simplify!”
- Henry David Thoreau

“You gotta find happiness where it lives. It ain’t comin’ to visit on its own.” - Steve Horwitz



Summer 1975: Don Sutherland wins a blitz tournament at Vance Aandahl’s house.

"Tal thinks he can win every game with one dazzling shot."
- GM Bobby Fischer

"The future belongs to the bishop pair." - Siegbert Tarrasch

"The enormous richness of chess as an intellectual activity is also underlined by just how little material is required to create something wonderful." - Christian Hesse

My first rated game with Don was close for a while until my natural talent took over.

CUDC Open - Round 3 / April 28, 1973
Don Sutherland (2201, age 31)
Curtis Carlson (1981, age 19)

B23 TC: 45/2 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2006059>):

1.f4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e4 e6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 d5 6.d3 Nf6 7.Be2 Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.h3 Rb8 (9...b6 10.Qe1 Qc7=+ HCE) 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxc6 Qxc6 12.Bf3 b5 13.axb5 axb5 14.e5 Nd7 15.Qe1 Qc7 16.Qg3 b4 17.Nd1 Rb6! (The rook is awkwardly placed here. I must have planned to transfer it to the kingside if White played f5. It was better to strike at the center immediately with 17...f6 which HCE says is ==) 18.Nf2 f5 19.exf6 Nxf6 20.Ng4 Nng4 21.hxg4?! (Against correct play this leads to disadvantage, but Don was understandably reluctant to simplify against a lower rated opponent. 21.Bxg4 g6=) 21...Bd6 (Typical of the passive play of my youth. Best was 21...g5!+= HCE. White's light squared bishop makes it hard for the other pieces to defend f4) 22.Ra8+= (22.g5=; 22.Qf2 Bf4 23.Bf4 Rf4 24.Qe3 Bb7= HCE) 22...Rb8! (This lets White get untangled. 22...g5+= was still right. Also good was 22...c4+=) 23.Rxb8 Qxb8 24.Qf2! Qc7 (This is OK but I would have played 24...Bf4 25.Bf4 Qf4 26.Qc5 d4 27.Qb4 Qe3 28.Kh2 Qh6 29.Qe3= had I seen it) 25.g3= Ba6? (This misplaces the bishop. I must have wanted to play ...c4. 25...g5= was right again) 26.Qe2+= Qd7? (Another poor move. Black should have admitted his mistake and played 26...Bc8+=, 26...Qf7 was also +=) 27.Re1 Bc8 28.Kg2= (HCE prefers 28.g5+= and 29.Bg4+=) 28...Bb8 (We were both low on time and I was just making moves. 28...Qf7 defends d5 and again prepares ...g5) 29.Be3 d4 30.Bf2 Bc7 (30...g5! 31.fg Rf3 32.Qf3 Bb7 33.Re4= HCE) 31.Qe4 Rf7 (I missed 31...g5= again. White's f4 pawn restricts Black's rook and dark squared bishop and should have been targeted. Even so Black is only slightly worse) 32.Ra1 Bd8?+/- (32...Bb8+=, 32...Bd6+=, and 32...g5! += were all preferable. Now Black gets into serious trouble) 33.Ra8 Rf8 34.g5! (Now ...g5 is forever ruled out, not that I would ever have played it) 34...Be7 35.b3 (More direct was 35.g4 g6 36.Bg3+/-) 35...Bd8? (Better were 36...Bd6+= or 36...g6+= HCE) 36.Kg1!? (Not bad but slow. HCE gives 36.g4 g6 37.Bg3+/-) 36...Kh8?+/- (This terrible move leaves f8 unprotected. 36...g6+=. I don't remember why I was so reluctant to move my g pawn!) 37.Qc6! Qxc6?+/- (The only try to hold on was 37...Be7 but it's still lost after 38.g4 Kg8 39.Bg3) 38.Bxc6 Be7 39.g4 e5? (This makes a bad position worse. 39...Rg8 and 39...Rd8 offered more resistance) 40.f5+-

Bxg5 41.Bd7 and I resigned way too late on move 50. I never knew how badly I played until HCE showed me 47 years later. For the whole game I must have thought ...g5 was illegal.

"Innovation is the child of freedom and the parent of prosperity." - Matt Ridley

"Every man lives by exchanging." - Adam Smith

"At the master or expert level, people don't hang pieces or pawns anymore. Many games go into the endgame when there's no blunders or howlers. Ya gotta have a more advanced and sophisticated strategy when the errors are hard to detect."
- FM Craig Mar

My game with Bob Shean the next day was also memorable:

CUDC Open - Round 5 / April 29, 1973
Curtis Carlson (1981, age 19)
Robert Shean (2012, age 34)

B77 TC: 45/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19546>):

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.Bb3 Qa5 11.h4 h5 12.0-0 Rfc8 13.Kb1 Ne5 14.Bg5 Qd8!+/- (This is too passive. HCE gives 14...b5 15.Bf6 Bf6 16.Nd5 Qd2 17.Nf6 ef 18.Rd2 a5+= where Black's position is a bit depressing but only slightly worse. 14...Rab8+= was also reasonable) 15.g4 (Bobby played g4 vs the Dragon, so it must always be good!) 15...hxg4 16.h5 (HCE gives 16.f4 Nc4 17.Qd3+/-, which I didn't even consider. All I knew about the Yugoslav attack was White was supposed to sacrifice pawns on the kingside) 16...Nc4?+/- (The best try is the thematic exchange sac 16...Rc3 17.bc Nf3 18.Qe3 Ng5 19.Qg5+/-) 17.Qe2?+/- (17.Qh2 Nh5 18.Nd5+- HCE; also good was 17.Bc4 Rc4 18.hg fg 19.Bf6 ef 20.Nf5+-HCE) 17...gxf3?+/- (17...Nb2 18.Kb2 Qa5+/- is bad for Black but better than this) 18.Nxf3 Nxb2 19.hxg6 (19.Bf6 ef 20.Rdg1 was also crushing) 19...Rc3? (19...Nd1 20.gf Kf8 21.Nd1+- is also bad but offered more resistance) 20.gxf7+ Kf8 21.Rdg1 Rxb3 (This stops 22.Rh8 Bh8 23.Bh6 Bg7 24.Bg7#) 22.axb3 (22.Bf6! was stronger. This amazing position deserves a diagram:



This would have given Bob something to think about! In my youth and my old age I was prone to automatic recaptures) 22...Qa5 (22...Ng4 was better) 23.Bh6 (23.Bf6! cf {23...Bf6 24.Rh7+} 24.Qg2 won immediately. I never liked trading bishops for knights, even when it led to mate) 23...Bxh6 24.Rxh6 Na4 25.Qc4 d5 26.exd5 (26.Ne5! was more forcing) 26...Nc3+ 27.Kb2 Qa2+ 28.Kxc3 b5 29.Rh8+ Kxf7 30.Ne5#
 This was one of the few times I outplayed Bob. With my 4-1 score I took second behind tournament winner Bob Wendling, who beat Don in the fourth round and had a perfect 5-0. After a year long slump, he was back! Don was held to a draw by Jack Hirsch in the last round and finished with a very respectable 3.5 -1.5, but despite his win over me I had the last laugh by finishing ahead of him on the crosstable! When I mentioned this to him he said something like even losers get lucky sometimes. He had a good sense of humor.

“One of the beauties of chess is that it never lacks surprises.”
 - Irving Chernev

“Intelligence isn’t knowing everything, it’s the ability to challenge everything you know.” - Unknown

“I play honest and I play to win. If I lose, I take my medicine.”
 - GM Bobby Fischer



Denver, September 1977: GM Yasser Seirawan prepares for the next round of the US Junior Championship by rolling dice.

“I have always been impressed by Vassily Ivanchuk’s great discipline and capacity to learn. Vassily always took a notebook full of difficult chess problems to breakfast. It surprised me how quickly he found the solutions, while I was sipping my coffee.” - GM Viktor Moskalenko

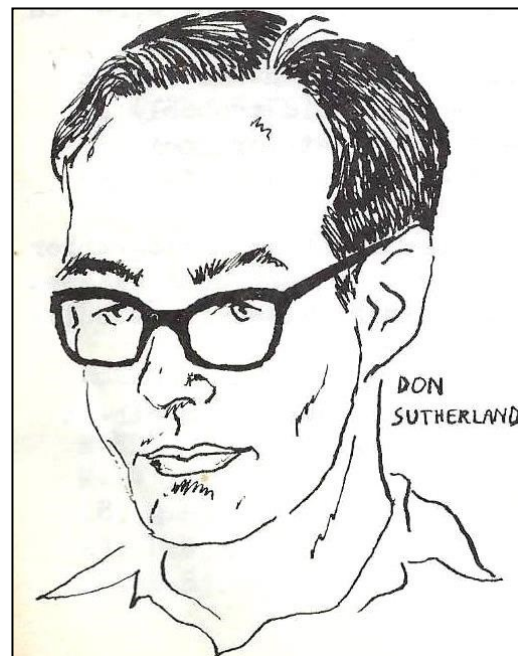
“The best endgame book is the one you read. Trust me, I have at least 100 books on the endgame and I will estimate I have read maybe 5 of them from cover to cover and some of them haven’t been opened since I brought them home.”
 - FM Carsten Hansen

“Musicians are always there. Not just good times, but in the really, really bad times. So you see, we are here for you. We are the first responders of the soul.” - Rufus Olivier

Air Force Academy Open - Round 6 / May 28, 1973
 Don Sutherland (2201, age 31)
 Tom Nelson (1891, age about 25)

A02 45/2: (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=20060611>):

1.f4 f5!? 2.e4 (Don plays the From’s Gambit with colors reversed!) 2...fxe4 3.d3 d5 4.dxe4 dxe4 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.h3 h5 8.Be3 c6 9.O-O-O+ Kc7 10.Nge2 Be6 (10...Nbd7= and 10...b5= HCE) 11.Nd4 Bd5? (11...Bf7 12.f5 Nbd7+=) 12.Be2 (12.Nd5 cd 13.c4 is already +-, according to HCE. Don’s move is also good) 12...e6 13.g4 Nbd7 14.g5 Ne8 15.f5 exf5 16.Nxf5 g6? (16...Nb6 was the only try) 17.Nd4!? (17.Nd5 cd 18.Bf4 Nd6 19.Ne3 was crushing) 17...Nd6 18.Bf4 Be7? (This is suicide. Black is still fighting after 18...a6) 19.Ndb5+ exb5 20.Nxd5+ Kd8 21.Nxe7 1-0 It’s not often you see a double Bird!



Christine Hendrickson’s sketch of Don shortly after he won the 1974 Denver Open.

“My opponents make good moves too. Sometimes I don’t take these things into consideration.” - GM Bobby Fischer

“There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.” - Ray Bradbury

“A very rich man once told me that there is a great difference between people who want to have a million dollars and people who want to earn a million dollars. Most of the people who want to have a million dollars do not want to earn them.” - Tom G. Palmer

While researching games for this article I came across this unpublished game of Bob Wendling's. **Jim Bickford (1946-2007)** was known as '**Jim Bookford**,' since he knew openings very well. In this game Bob wisely sidestepped main lines. It's nice to know I wasn't the only one of Bob's opponents not allowed to rely on memory!

Air Force Academy Open - Round 3 / May 27, 1973

Robert Wendling (2182, age25)

James Bickford (1983, age 27)

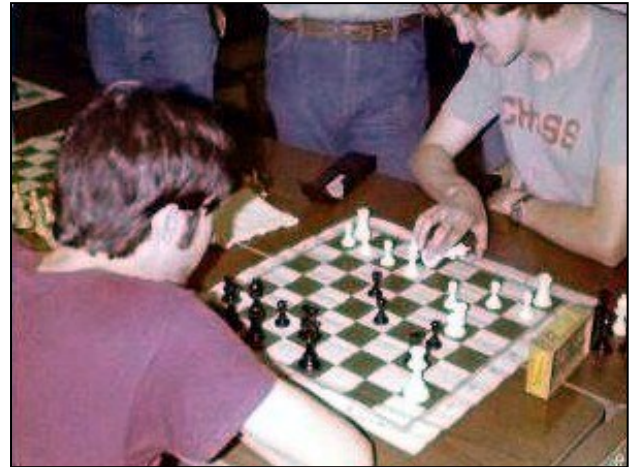
B02 TC 45/2 (<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=2006060>):

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 d4 4.Nce2 Ne4 5.d3 Nc5 6.f4 Nc6 7.h3 h5!? (7...g5= HCE) 8.Nf3 h4!? (8...a5 stops White's next) 9.b4! (It's already +/- HCE. It's obvious why Bob sidestepped main lines!) 9...Nxb4 10.Nexd4 b6? (After this weakening move Black is lost. Trying to develop with 10...e6 and ...Be7 was more reasonable, when Black's h4 pawn doesn't look as bad) 11.c3 Nd5 12.Qc2!? (This loses most of the advantage. It's hard to see why Bob passed on the obvious 12.c4 Nc3 13.Qc2 N3a4 14.e6!+-. If 12...Nb4 13.e6!+ is very strong) 12...Qd7 13.Nb3 Na4 14.Bd2 e6+= 15.d4 Qc6?! (Black is only slightly worse after 15...Bb7) 16.c4 Nb4 17.Qb1+/- Bb7 18.a3 Na6 19.Bd3 Qd7 20.O-O c5?+- (Too optimistic. Better but still bad was 20...O-O-O) 21.d5 (HCE prefers 21.f5! trying to weaken g6 by deflecting the f7 pawn, although Black is lost either way) 21...O-O-O 22.Be4 Nc7 23.d6 Ne8 24.Bxb7+ Qxb7 25.Qc2 Qc6 26.Ng5 Rd7 27.f5 exf5 28.Qxf5 Bxd6 29.exd6 (This automatic recapture loses some of White's edge. 29.Nf7! made it hard for Black to continue the game) 29...Nxd6 30.Qc2 f6 31.Nf3 g5? (Again too optimistic. 31...Qe4 or 31...Re8 are both +/- and make White work for the win) 32.Rae1 g4 (This counter attack is hopeless since White has an extra piece and better development. The rest requires no comment) 33.hxg4 h3 34.Re6 Rdh7 35.Bf4 Qd7 36.Rxd6 Qxg4 37.g3 h2+ 38.Kh1 Qh3 39.Qd3 Nb2 40.Qe2 Re7 41.Qf2 Rhe8 42.Nxc5 Re2 43.Rc6+ Kd8 44.Qd4+ Ke7 45.Qxf6# Bob finishes very nicely. He loved to attack.

"The value of a piece changes during a game, as it always depends on its placement on the board." - GM Viktor Moskalenko

"Everybody blames capitalism for urban slums. Why does nobody blame the inhumane, poverty-maintaining welfare state?" - Michael Hurd

"Gold is the money of kings, silver is the money of gentlemen, barter is the money of peasants - but debt is the money of slaves." - Norm Franz



*Stillwater, OK August 1976:
IM Elliott Winslow takes me down!
I still have the Chess City shirt from the
1974 NY City US Open*

"My favorite piece is the one that wins." - GM Bobby Fischer

*"Strategy requires thought; tactics requires observation."
- GM Max Euwe*

"Success in chess requires skill in handling a mass of heterogeneous forces." - Iliia Shumov (1819-1881)

This is my only rated win over Don:

Denver Chess Club Tournament - Round 3

November 1, 1975

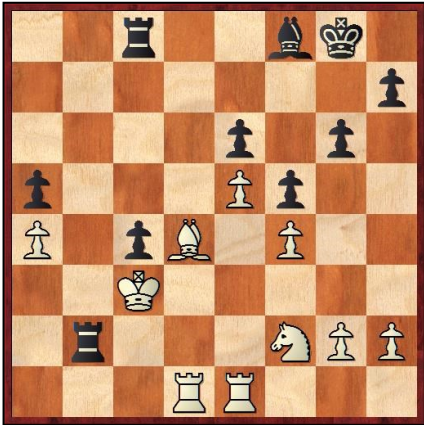
Curtis Carlson (2127, age 21)

Don Sutherland (2296, age 33)

B06 TC 30/30 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19547>):

1 .e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 c6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Ne7 8.Be3 O-O 9.Qd2 d5 10.O-O-O a5 11.a4 Qb4 12.Na2 Qxd2+ 13.Nxd2 b5 14.Nc3 b4 15.Ne2 Ba6 16.Rhe1 Nd7 17.Ng3 Nb6 18.Bg1 Rfe8 19.Kb1 Rab8 20.Rc1 Bh6+= 21.Be3 f5 22.e5? (22.ef ef 23.Ngf1 Nec8 24.g3=+) 22...Nc4-+ 23.Bxc4 dxc4 24.b3 c3 25.Nc4 Bxc4?=(Now I have a game again! White could almost resign after 25...Nd5 since he loses at least a pawn) 26.bxc4 Nc8= 27.Ka2 Nb6 28.Kb3 Rb7 29.Nh1 Reb8 30.Rb1 Bf8 31.Nf2 Nd7 32.Nd3 Rc8 33.Rbd1 Rbc7 34.Nf2 Nb6 35.d5!? (This is impatient. 35.Nd3+= HCE) 35...cxd5 36.Bxb6 dxc4+ 37.Ka2 b3+ (37...Rb7=+) 38.Kb1 Rb7 39.Bd4? (A blunder that should have lost. 39.Rd8 bc 40.Kc2 Rd8 41.Bd8 Rb2 43.Kc3 Rf2= HCE. Another case of moving the wrong piece!) 39...bxc2+ 40.Kxc2 Rb2+ 41.Kxc3





41...Rcb8? (We were both low on time and moving quickly. 41...Ra2! 42.Rb1 Bb4 43.Rb4 Ra3 44.Kc2 ab+) 42.Rc1 (I don't remember why I played this, but best was 42.Rf1 R8b4 43.Ra1+- HCE) 42...R2b3? (A time pressure blunder. It's equal after 42...Ba3 43.Kc4 R2b4 44.Kd3 Bc1 45.Rc1 Ra4 46.Rc6= HCE) 43.Kc2+- Ba3 44.Rb1 (Black should not have allowed a challenge of the b file) 44...R8b4 45.Bc3 Rxa4 46.Rxb3 cxb3+ 47.Kxb3 Rxf4 48.Nd3 Rg4 49.Kxa3 Rxc2 50.Rh1 score illegible 1-0 on about move 70. This was my only win over Don, and it was very undeserved. The loser got lucky again! This was also my only tournament game where I mated with bishop and knight.



This sketch of me was drawn by Christine Hendrickson in 1974 shortly after I won a small tournament in Laramie, WY. Before seeing it I didn't know I looked so much like Joe Cocker!

"Don't be afraid of good moves." - Savielly Tartakower

"Orwell and many others have pointed out the wisdom of falsifying history if you want to destroy a culture." - Linda Raeder

"I have been told that when Spassky played his first match against Petrosian he felt that he did not know how he could win a game. Botvinnik then gave him some surprising advice: lose one!" - GM Bent Larsen

The Air Force transferred Don to Thailand in late 1975. I don't know how long he was there, or if he got transferred again, but in 1991 he retired to San Antonio where he still lives. Like most other old timers he's also retired from tournament play, and like most other old timers he has lots of chess memories. He probably hasn't forgotten his crushing win over Brian Wall in the fifth round of the 1973 Colorado Open, which was the same round I got crushed on an adjacent board by Bob Wendling. At least Brian and I had each others' shoulder to cry on.

"One of the bittersweet things about growing old is realizing how mistaken you were when you were young."
- Thomas Sowell

"The older they get, the better they were when they were younger." - Jim Bouton (referring to baseball players)

"If you think ignorance is bliss, you ought to try stupidity sometime. That's ecstasy." - Robert Higgs



Lincoln NE, January 1977: the Chess brothers play chess!
Richard Chess (left) gets a lesson from the late Mike Chess

"It is quite strange that modern authors on strategy dogmatically keep repeating old concepts of the classic writers, studying strategy and tactics separately! They do not manage to discover the obvious: that both are the same thing, and it is not sufficient to use only one of these concepts to play chess successfully." - GM Viktor Moskalenko

"...the beginner is looking for the best move in any position, while the master is looking for the best plan." - IM Nikolay Yakovlev

"Backward moves are often the most difficult to make." - GM Davorin Kuljasevic

IM John Watson had this fascinating game with Don:

Appreciation Open - Round 4 / May 26, 1974

John Watson (2212, age 23)

Don Sutherland (2312, age 32)

B06 TC 45/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19548>):

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 c6 5.Qd2 Qa5 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.f4 b5 (A brave move that leads to wild complications that White dives into. John always was an optimist) 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Nxb5 Qxd2+ (White's line of play is challenged by 9...Qb6! 10.Nc3 Qd4 which is at least equal. Trading queens gives White a small edge) 10.Kxd2 cxb5!? (This leads to a bad position. HCE prefers 10...Na6+= {or 10...d5 10.Nc7 Kd7 11.Na8 dc= HCE=} hoping the bishop pair compensates for the lost pawn) 11.Bd5+/- Bxd4 12.Bxa8 e6 (Black hopes the badly placed bishop compensates for the exchange. White still has an advantage after 12...Bb2 13.Rb1 Bd4 14.Ne2 Bb6 15.Rb5+/- HCE) 13.Nf3 Bb6 14.c3 (14.e5+/- HCE) 14...Kd7!? (Too optimistic. 14...Bd7 15.Rhc1 Ke7+/- HCE) 15.a4! bxa4 16.Rxa4 Na6 17.Nd4 Nc5 18.Ra3 Rd8 19.b4 Kc7 20.Nc6 (20.Nb5 Kb8 21.Bc6+/- HCE) 20...Nxe4+ 21.Kc2 Rf8 22.Nxa7 Nf2 23.Nb5+ Kd7 24.Rha1 d5 25.Nd4 (25.Ra7 Ba7 26.Ra7 Kd8 27.Nd4+/- HCE) 25...Kd6 26.h3+/- (26.Nb5 Ke7 27.Bc6+/- HCE was still right) 26...f6 27.Rf1 Ne4 28.Nf3 g5 29.c4 gxf4 30.c5+ Nxc5 31.bxc5+ Bxc5 32.Ra4 e5 33.Rd1 Bf5+ 34.Kb2 Rb8+ 35.Ka1 d4 36.Ra6+ Ke7 37.Rc1 Bd3 38.Ra5 Bb4 39.Ra7+ Ke6 40.Rc6+ Kf5 41.Bb7 Bc3+ 42.Ka2 Rg8 43.Ka3 Rg3 44.Rd6 Be2 45.Nh4+ Kg5 46.Nf3+ Kf5 47.Nh4+ Kg5 48.Be4 0.5-0.5 After game comment by Don: "Grandmaster Draw." In the final position HCE thinks White is winning after 48...Kh4 49.Rh7 Kg5 50.h4 Kg4 51.Rf6, but Black's active bishops and advanced pawns must have made John nervous. This was a great game to watch in progress, since none of the spectators knew what was happening. In the post mortem John kept telling Don he was 'destroying my game,' with suggestions he didn't agree with. It seems great minds don't always think alike.

"It is important to be conscious of the virtues of your position." - IM Erik Kislik

"Chess cannot be exhausted analytically, but may be domesticated by intuitive thinking." - GM Mihail Marin

"The history of the world is also the sum of things which would have been avoidable." - Konrad Adenauer

Don had an interesting game two rounds earlier. Notes in *green italics* are his made shortly after the game was played:

Appreciation Open - Round 2 / May 25, 1974

Paul Nikitovich (1820, age 17)

Don Sutherland (2312, age 32)

B06 TC 45/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19549>):

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 c6 5.Bc4 Qa5 6.Be3 (6.Be3 wastes time and is inconsistent. Better is 6.Qd2 transposing into Watson-Sutherland Round 4) 6...Nf6 7.f3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 O-O 9.h4 h5 10.Nh3 b5 11.Bd3 e5 (White has wasted time with both bishops and his kingside attack will be slow in developing. As the wing thrust materializes, Black logically counters in the center) 12.d5 (? Loses a pawn) 12...b4 13.Ne2 cxd5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Bh6 N7f6 16.Nf2 Bb7 (! Supporting Black's central play) 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rg1 Qc5 19.g4 Nf4 20.g5 (Not 20.Nf4 ef 21.Qf4 Rae8 22.Kf1 Nd5+)) 20...N6d5

21.Ne4 Qb6 22.O-O-O Ne3 23.Nxf4 (! Quite correct - Black should not now play 23...Nd1 24.Nh5= or 24.Rd1 ef 25.Qf4, both lines giving play for White) 23...exf4 24.Rde1 Rac8 25.Kb1 Qd4 (Threatens 26...Rc2) 26.Qh2 d5 27.Nd6 (Not 27.Qf4? Nf5 wins a piece) 27...Rb8 28.Nb5 Qe5 29.Re2 Ba6 30.Rge1 d4 31.Nxa7 Bxd3 32.Nc6 Qf5 33.Nxb8 Bb5 0-1

"When one of us plays chess, he is like a man who has already caught a dose of microbes of, say, Hong Kong flu. Such a man walks along the street, and he does not yet know that he is ill. He is healthy, he feels fine, but the microbes are doing their job." - GM Mikhail Tal

"The Fischer I knew gave up chess immediately after becoming the greatest World Champion ever; and he never came back." - GM Mihail Marin

"History may not repeat itself, but it does rhyme a lot."
- Mark Twain

John took clear first in the tournament, drawing only with Don. Don took clear second, drawing only with John and Bob Shean. John called this The Watergate Game, recorded for historical purposes only:

Appreciation Open - Round 3 / May 26, 1974

Don Sutherland (2312, age 32)

Bob Shean (2025, age 35)

A04 TC 45/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19550>):

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 d6 6.O-O e6 7.Nc3 Nge7 8.Be3 O-O 9.Qd2 Bd7 10.Bh6 a6 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.Nd1 f5 13.Ne3 e5 14. Nd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Nd4 16.Nxd4 exd4 0.5-0.5 Richard Nixon must have heard about this game since he resigned the Presidency three months later.

"Everything is new that is well forgotten."
- GM Viktor Korchnoi

"...my first swindle taught me a valuable lesson: that it's possible in chess to earn points from losing positions. In chess, as opposed to running or swimming or even tennis, the winner is not necessarily the stronger athlete, but often the most cunning." - GM David Smerdon

"All in all, if you are a chess fan, you should not let it be known you are interested in parapsychology."
- GM Bent Larsen

In the July 1974 CSCA Newsletter Don wrote an article that was likely aimed at *Brian Wall*:

A Program for Chess Improvement, by Don Sutherland

Chess Improvement is not an easy matter since, unlike almost any other activity, there is little professional coaching available (John Watson is an outstanding exception). Our education system prepares individuals for professional football, baseball, basketball, golf, and the Olympics, but not to play international

chess. The traditional “learning” method is to go down to the local chess club (if one is available) and get your brains beat out a couple of hundred times. You either get better or vow never to return. Such trial and error methods of learning (favored by the Huns) are inherently wasteful when taken to such an extreme and may engender lasting bad habits depending on the standard of the club. This learning system needs to be changed and I hope that professional instruction will be available in the school system in the future.

As a poor alternative to professional coaching I would like to suggest a possible pattern of chess study that may be profitable. Each person’s situation is of course unique and one’s interest, talent (an unfortunate requirement) and time are all factors. So your comments and suggestions to my proposals will be appreciated - no ticking packages, please.

The first point is the role of practice games in chess study. I think, in the beginning, playing a lot of games is important to get a feel for how the pieces move, in making plans, and carrying out the ideas you are studying. As you advance you will have to spend more and more time on studying chess literature, but in the beginning playing is important.

You should try to find opponents who are at different levels than you. By playing stronger players you will be tested and you will see new ideas and techniques. You should play weaker players in order to practice winning. You should also play players about your same strength. They are the best indicators of your progress.

What is the role of five minute chess? I happen to be a believer in five minute chess. I think it is a great way to practice openings and just see more positions in a given amount of practice time. This is important since many players will spend an hour or more on a skittles game with little profit (ex: one player keeps playing on a couple of pieces down).

Along with practice there is a need to study. Without a thorough study of the games and ideas of current and past greats you are denying yourself all their experiences. Your study should encompass the three basic phases of the game: opening, middle game, and endgame.

The endings are possibly the best place to start studying. I would particularly recommend this to players starting out. The movement of the pieces and pawns, their coordination and relative values are well demonstrated in endgames. For example, when is a knight better than a bishop? Normally a knight is better than a bishop when you have a locked position. This principle applies to the middle game as well, but it is easier to see in a knight versus bishop endgame. I would recommend the following books for your study:

Chess Endings, Essential Knowledge by Averbakh
A Pocket Guide to Endgames by Hooper
Rook Endings by Levenfish and Smyslov

Curtis Carlson, Colorado’s leading endgame expert, would recommend Fine’s *Basic Chess Endings* and those really in the

know would cast a vote for Cheron’s *Lehr Und Handbuch Der Endspiele*.

to be continued next issue

I’m glad I saved my old CSCA Newsletters! Don’s remark about me wasn’t serious, since many times he teased me about poor endgame play. In any case it was nice to know he was thinking of me! I don’t remember if there was a follow up article but will try to find the next CSCA newsletter.

“I love the concrete approach to positions, but every once in a while, we should think like Petrosian.” - GM Alex Yermolinsky

“Calculation without a goal is wasted.” - GM Jonathan Hawkins

“I am probably the only chess player in history who has managed to win an international tournament in which he lost a game in 14 moves! - GM Davorin Kuljasevic (referring to his game with GM Zdenko Kozul 2011: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 O-O 6.e3 b6 7.cd Nd5 8.Nd5 Qd5 9.Be2 Bb4 10.Nd2 Qg2 11.Bf3 Bd2 12.Kd2 Qf2 13.Kc3 c6 14.h4 1-0)



Christine Hendrickson (1949-2005) drew pix of many Colorado chess players for the Colorado Chess Bulletin. She died too young at age 56.

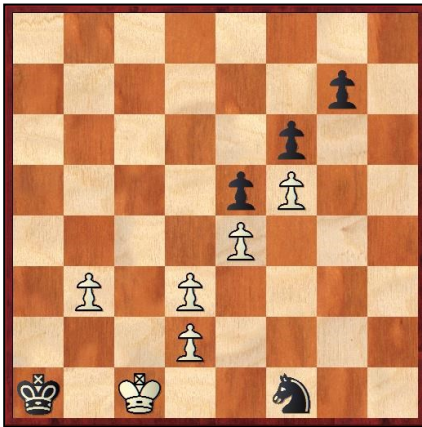
Endgame studies

“In my opinion chess masters ought to teach gurus meditation.” - GM Bent Larsen

“There are tough players and nice guys. I’m a tough player.” - GM Bobby Fischer

“Theoretical concepts are absolutely indispensable for gaining a useful understanding of reality... Yet concepts... necessarily simplify. That’s both a feature and a bug of concepts and their instantiations.” - Donald J. Boudreaux

TCL Kok / 1935



White to play

This is appendix position #13 from Sutherland & Lommer's 1234 Modern End-Game Studies, which I just finished 47 years after buying it. The given solution is **1.b4 Nh2 2.d4! ed 3.e5! fe 4.f6! gf 5.b5+-; if 2...Nf3 3.d5 Nd4 4.d6 Nc6 5.d7 Ka2 6.b5 Nd8 7.Kc2 Ka3 8.Kc3 Ka4 9.Kc4 Ka5 10.Kc5 Ka4 11.Kb6+-.** But instead of the blunder **9...Ka5?** Black draws with **9...Nb7!** when White's king can't occupy c5. HCE gives **10.d3 Ka5 11.Kd5 Kb5 12.Ke6 Kc6 13.Ke7 Kc7 14.Ke8 Nd6 15.Ke7 Nb7=**

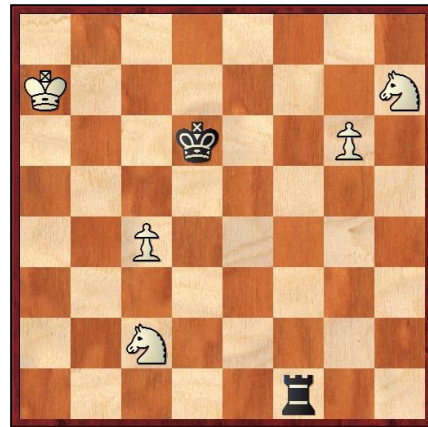
"Moral sentiments aren't enough. You have to do the right thing, not just know what the right thing is." - Sarah Skwire

"Ultimately chess is just chess - not the best thing in the world and not the worst thing in the world, but there is nothing quite like it." - W. C. Fields

"The day I lost against Nezhmetdinov." - Mikhail Tal, when asked what was the happiest day of his life.

<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1102235>

J de Villeneuve Esclapon (undated)



White to play

This is appendix position #20 in the 1234 Endgame book. The given solution is **1.c5 Kc5 2.Ng5 Rg1 (2...Rd1 3.Nd4!) 3.Nd4 Kd4 (3...Kd6 4.Nde6+-) 4.Nf3 Kd5 5.Ng1 Ke6 6.Nf3 Kf6 7.Nh4+-.** But Black draws after **3...Kd6 4.Nde6 Ra1 5.Kb7 Rb1 6.Kc8 Ra1** when there's no way to promote. There's nothing like a tablebase to make a weak player feel like a grandmaster.

"The secret to happiness in life isn't what you see, but what you overlook." - Clay Johnson (fictional TV character)

"The move I intended to make I entirely overlooked." - Oscar Tenner

"Fortunately for chess, a champion has to be not only a fighter, but also a creator. Bringing creativity into the fight, he enriches the game and gives us some respite from the game's forecast 'death by draws'." - IM Maxim Chetverik

"One who has more ideas has advantage in chess." - Anatoly Georgevich Kuznetsov

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to share memories. My email is curt2309@comcast.net.



Players Who Deserve to be Better Known

by Jeffrey A. Baffo

Due to twists of fate, laziness, ego, (or lack of it!) why is one player, writer, thinker on chess remembered and another not? Don't get me wrong, the ones we do remember certainly deserve their fame, but what about the other ones? Strong players who also showed visionary conceptions about the game of chess, often time decades before the "Superstars" got the credit. Sadly, that person often fades from memory and becomes lost, barely a footnote in the rich history of our game. Please allow me to make a small effort to redress that injustice.

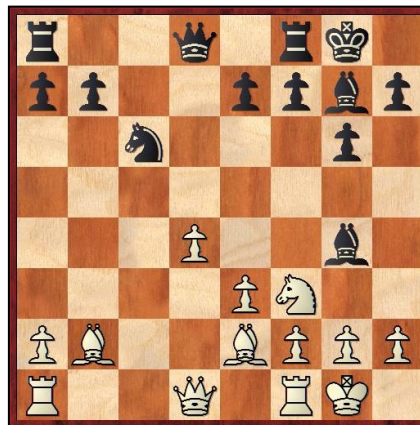
One of those I would like to put forward is "The Brahmin". A very strong player who sought no fame or notoriety on his own, yet comes to us by way of the efforts of another lesser known chess star; John Cochrane (4 February 1798 - 2 March 1878). Cochrane is also very interesting, a Scottish chess master and lawyer who served in the Royal Navy. After his military career, he started studying law, along the way becoming a very strong chess player.

After a long tour of duty in India, he returned to the UK and beat everyone except Howard Staunton, whom he then helped to prepare for his victorious match against the Frenchman Saint-Amant, which established Staunton as the world's leading player. Cochrane returned to India, where he became a leading member of the Calcutta Chess Club. He sent many games to the UK for publication, mostly in Staunton's columns. His two main opponents were Indians, one of whom was Moheschunder Bannerjee or Mahesh Chandra. Banerjee a strong chess player from Bengal. Many hundreds of whose games survive due to Cochrane correspondence with Staunton. His first name is sometimes misspelled Mohishunder, though Mahescandra is a variant. Banerjee is a common Bengali Brahmin surname.

Moheshchunder, also known as "the Brahmin", was a player from the mofussil or suburbs of Calcutta. Not only was this Indian a strong player. I came across a game of his on page 337 of the magnificent 'How to Reassess Your Chess', 4th edition by Jeremy Silman. More than simply a strong player who never got into the limelight, but (as Silman points out) a visionary competitor, who played opening concepts that were decades ahead of their time. The game itself is badly flawed, with Mahescandra (as Silman's book spells it) blundering horribly and allowing a smothered mate. But the opening showed the Gruenfeld Defense being used to good effect, and Mahescandra had fully equalized the game before his tragic mistake. This was some 60+ years before it entered mainstream Chess consciousness in spectacular fashion, as it's namesake beat none other than future World Champion Alexander Alekhine!

John Cochrane
Mahescandra
1855

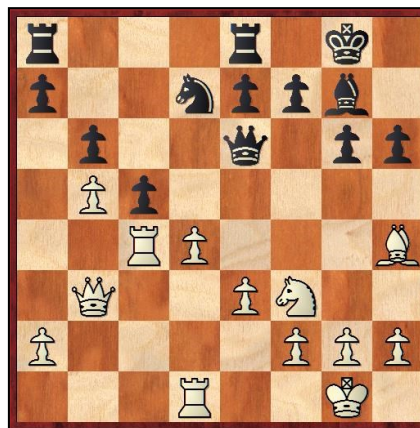
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.cxd5 Nxd5
7.Be2 Nxc3 8.bxc3 c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nc6 11.Bb2 Bg4?



(11...Qd5! = Silman) 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.Ba3 Qa5 14.Qb3 Rfe8
15.Rc5 Qb6 16.Rb5 Qc7 17.Ng5 Bxe2 18.Nxf7?? [18.Qxf7+
Kh8 19.Ne6] 18...Na5 19.Nh6+ Kh8 20.Qg8+ Rxc8 21.Nf7#
1-0

Alexander Alekhine
Ernst Gruenfeld
Vienna / 1922

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.cxd5 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Qxd5
7.Nf3 Bg7 8.e3 c5 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.c4 Qe4 11.0-0 Bxb5 12.cxb5
Nd7 13.Rc1 b6 14.Qb3 h6 15.Bh4 0-0 16.Rc4 Qe6 17.Rd1 Rfe8



18.d5 Qd6 19.Bg3 e5 20.dxe6 Qxe6 21.Rd6 Qe7 22.Ra4 Nf8
23.Qd5 Rad8 24.Nd2 Rxd6 25.Bxd6 Rd8 26.Nc4 Qd7 27.h3
Ne6 28.Qe4 Bf8 29.Bxf8 Qd1+ 30.Kh2 Qxa4 31.Be7 Re8
32.Bf6 Ng7 33.Qd3 Qxa2 34.Bb2 Re6 35.Qc3 f6 36.Qd3 h5
37.e4 Qa4 38.Nd6 Qb4 39.Nc4 Qxb5 40.f4 Qc6 41.e5 f5 42.Nd6
Re7 43.Qg3 Kh7 44.Qg5 Qd7 45.Qg3 Ne6 46.Qf3 b5 47.Qa8
Qd8 48.Qd5 b4 49.g3 a5 50.Qc6 Qd7 51.Qa6 a4 52.Ba1 a3
53.Qc4 Qc6 54.Kg1 Qf3 55.Kh2 Qf2+ 0-1

Players Who Deserve to be Better Known

Entry #2 - Karel Opočenský



Karel Opočenský in 1969

Karel Opočenský (7 February 1892 - 16 November 1975, Prague) was a Czech chess master. International Master, Gold medal winner at the chess Olympiad, Czech national champion, World Championship Arbiter, “noted theoretician”, etc. That much anyone can find on Wikipedia. However, my interest comes as a result of research into two of my favorite openings; The Benko Gambit and the Najdorf Sicilian. Here I find Opočenský was a path finder, early adaptor, explorer, dare I say...visionary?!?! Check out these two very modern looking games played long before they were widely adapted.

Erich Gottlieb Eliskases Karel Opočenský Prague / 1937

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.e4 b5 6.cxb5 Bg7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nge2 a6 9.0-0 axb5 10.Bxb5 Ba6 11.Ng3 Bxb5 12.Nxb5 Nbd7 13.Bd2 h5 14.Qc2 Nb6 15.b3 Qd7 16.Nc3 h4 17.Nge2 h3 18.Ng3 hxg2 19.Kxg2 Qc8 20.a4 Nbd7 21.Rab1 e6 22.Bf4 exd5 23.exd5 Re8 24.Rfd1 Ne5 25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.Qd3 Nh5 27.Qf3 Qd7 28.Re1 Rae8 29.Re4 Nxc3 30.hxc3 Qb7 31.Rxe5 Rxe5 32.Nb5 Qd7 33.Qd3 Re8 34.b4 Ra8 35.bxc5 dxc5 36.Qc4 Bf8 37.Rd1 Qb7 38.Kg1 Qa6 39.d6 Qc6 40.Qd5 Qxd5 41.Rxd5 c4 42.Rd4 Rd8 43.Rxc4 Bxd6 44.a5 Bf8 45.a6 1-0

Jan Foltys Karel Opočenský Duras 60 Memorial Prague / 1942

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.g3 g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3 Nbd7 10.Kh2 Nc5 11.Be3 Qc7 12.Qd2 Bd7 13.Rfe1 Na4 14.Nxa4 Bxa4 15.c4 Bc6 16.f3 Rac8 17.Rac1 Rfd8



18.b4 b6 19.Ne2 Bb7 20.Nc3 Nd7 21.f4 b5 22.e5 bxc4 23.exd6 exd6 24.Nd5 Bxd5 25.Qxd5 c3 26.Qd3 d5 27.Qxa6 d4 28.Bg1 d3 29.Qxd3 Ne5 30.Qxd8+ Rxd8 31.fxg5 Bxe5 32.Re3 Rd2 33.Kh1 Rxa2 34.b5 Qd6 35.Rf1 c2 36.b6 Qd2 0-1



Polugayevsky - Balashov, Leningrad, 1977

Or, Why Amateur Players Sometimes Scream at Their Chess Books

by Jeffrey A. Baffo

I have a chess book, 'Positional Chess Handbook' by Israel Gelfer. Available on Amazon (<https://tinyurl.com/y3cmdu3l>).

Mr. Gelfer is a FIDE Master. The book has excellent learning material (though the diagrams are small and blurry) but FM Gelfer's explanations (or lack thereof) caused me no small amount of frustration. My example (from page 34):



This was a heavy weight encounter at an important tournament 43 years ago. Nonetheless it is an excellent example of the intricacies of "Bishops - Same Colour" endings. In the diagram White just played 57.Kf3. The author's comment; "A well known strategy whose aim is to win the f-pawn." Period. Full stop. I am not kidding. There is no further verbal explanation. The game goes on for 30 (!) more moves. White wins in instructive fashion. I guess. I have to guess because FM Gelfer did not tell me.

I'm really trying not to be a whiny little punk. I understand that teachers/coaches/professors/Grandmasters, etc will many times present a situation with only a declarative statement, thereby forcing their student to work hard to figure out what they meant! This is very valuable! However, in this particular case, I initially decided that our Master's mysterious comment forces a little too much work on the student. In any case, whether I am a demanding little snot-nose who wants everything handed to him on a silver platter or not, would even just a tiny bit of expository text have been totally out of line? So, this is a "well known strategy" is it Mr. FM? Who knows it? When was it discovered? Which endgame text book has it? Since it's so well known, shouldn't it have a name, like "Triangulation" or "The Lucena position" or something? How would you describe or summarize this well-known maneuver? Well let's just call it the "Step back

two squares from the pawn you say you aim to win, thereby allowing your opponent to march said pawn straight into being captured" maneuver. Sheesh!

OK, I took a nap and somebody changed my diaper. Now I understand! I still don't know what this maneuver is called (if it even has a name at all!) but I believe I now understand what White is doing.

The paradoxical looking king retreat from his seemingly ideal post on f4 wins for White due to three factors; Zugswang and line-clearance, and the principle of two weaknesses. To provide the detail I demand, let me break it down even further; The key factor is setting up pressure on BOTH Black's weak king-side pawns. In a finely balanced position where the defense seems to barely hold on, many times the break thru occurs when the winning side finds the appropriate way to force the other side to upset the balance of the position, in other words, the perfect waiting move. Normally, a king positioned as White's is in our diagram would never be retreated and White would find some other way to "wait out" Black. Here, this is not possible due to the lack of squares along the crucial a4-e8 and a4-d1 diagonals. White's bishop needs to stay put so as to be able to attack the Black pawn at h5 thru either Be8 or Bd1. Therefore, by moving his own king back to f3 he gains two advantages; he clears the d1-h5 diagonal AND passes the move over to Black who is forced into a fatal double bind; if he stays near his h-pawn he is unable to save the f-pawn or vice versa.

(The following is the entire game score.)

**Lev Polugaevsky
Yuri Balashov**

USSR Championship / Leningrad, 1977

1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 f5 4.d4 e4 5.Ng5 Nf6 6.e3 Bb4 7.Bd2 Qe7 8.Nh3 Nd8 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 d6 11.Nf4 0-0 12.Be2 c6 13.d5 c5 14.h4 Nf7 15.b4 b6 16.g3 Ne5 17.bxc5 bxc5 18.Rb1 Nfg4 19.Kf1 Rf7 20.Kg2 Qe8 21.Qc2 Re7 22.Rb2 Ba6 23.Ba5 Rb8 24.Rxb8 Qxb8 25.Rb1 Rb7 26.Rxb7 Qxb7 27.Ne6 Nf6 28.Bc3 Ned7 29.Nd8 Qc7 30.Nc6 Nb6 31.Bxf6 gxf6 32.a4 Nc8 33.Qb2 Kg7 34.a5 Ne7 35.Nxe7 Qxe7 36.Qb8 Qd7 37.Kg1 Qe7 38.Bf1 Qd7 39.Kh2 Qe7 40.Kg1 Qd7 41.Qa8 Qc7 42.Qe8 Bc8 43.Bh3 Qd7 44.Qh5 Qf7 45.Qd1 Qb7 46.Kg2 a6 47.Qh5 Qf7 48.Qxf7+ Kxf7 *(The book starts from the following move.)* 49.f3 exf3+ 50.Kxf3 h5 51.Kf4 Kg6 52.Bf1 Bd7 53.Bd3 Bc8 54.Bb1 Bd7 55.Bc2 Bc8 56.Ba4 Kf7 57.Kf3 Ke7 58.Kf2 f4 59.gxf4 Bf5 60.Ke2 Kd8 61.Kd2 Bg6 62.Bc6 Kc7 63.Ke2 f5 64.e4 fxe4 65.Ke3 Kc8 66.Ba4 Kd8 67.Bd1 Ke7 68.f5 Bxf5 69.Bxh5 Kf6 70.Kf4 Bh3 71.Be2 Bf5 72.Bg4 e3 73.Be2 Bd7 74.Kxe3 Kf5 75.Bh5 Kf6 76.Kf4 Bf5 77.Be2 Bc2 78.Ke3 Bf5 79.Bd3 Bg4 80.Bc2 Bh3 81.Bh7 Bf1 82.Bd3 Bh3 83.Kf4 Bd7 84.h5 Ba4 85.h6 Bb3 86.h7 Kg7 87.Kf5 1-0

So, dear reader, scream at your chess book if you must, but don't get mad at your coach/teacher/author. If you are force to do hard work to discover why they made a statement, that is to your ultimate benefit!



COLORADO CHESS CLUB DIRECTORY

Boulder Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays at the University Memorial Center (First Floor) on the CU Boulder campus, 6:30-9:30pm. 1669 Euclid Avenue, 80309. www.BoulderChess.com.

Carbondale Chess Club: Meets every Tuesday from 6:00pm until the wee hours at Kahhak Fine Arts & School, 411 Main Street, Carbondale, 81623. All levels and ages are welcome and chess coaching is available. Please contact Majid Kahhak at (970) 704-0622 or email: Mkakhak@sopris.net.

Castle Rock Chess Club: Meets every Monday from 6:00-9:00pm at the Philip S. Miller Library, 100 South Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, 80104.

Chess Knights: (Highlands Ranch) Meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. Highlands Ranch Library, 9292 Ridgeline Boulevard, 80129.

Information is also available on the Chess Knights' Web site at HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org.

Contact: Frank Atwood (720) 260-1493 or by email: FrankAtwood@HighlandsRanchLibraryChess.org.

Chessmates Chess Club: (Fort Collins) 4825 South Lemay Avenue, 80525. Mondays & Thursdays 5:00-6:30pm for Advanced players, Tuesdays for Beginners from 5:15-6:15pm. Instructed by Zachary Bekkedahl. For more information contact Zachary Bekkedahl by email at info@chessmatesfc.com or go to www.chessmatesfc.com.

Colorado Springs Chess Club: Meets Tuesday evenings, 7:00-10:00pm, in the ballroom of the Acacia Apartments building, 104 East Platte Avenue. Scheduled activities every meeting at 8:00pm (must show up by 8:00pm or you might be locked out). For information see our website at www.SpringsChess.org or email Richard "Buck" Buchanan at buckpeace@pcisys.net or call (719) 685-1984.

Craig Chess Club: Call Rick or Mary Nelson, (970) 824-4780 to schedule play.

Denver Chess Club: Meets on Tuesdays, 6:00-10:00pm at the Third Christian Reformed Church, 2400 South Ash Street, Denver. (303) 733-8940. www.DenverChess.com.

Denver Chess / Meetup.com: This group is run through the social site Meetup.com, and our page is www.Meetup.com/Learn-to-Play-Chess/. Players must join in order to receive information and sign up for events. Contact: David Costantino at avs1cup@yahoo.com or through the group's Meetup.com page.

Durango Chess Club: Meets on Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00pm at Durango Joe's Coffee Shop, 732 East College Drive.

Fort Collins Chess Club: Currently meets Tuesdays, 7:00pm, in the food court of the Lory Student Center (2nd level), Colorado State University. You can email Randy Reynolds at randy_teyana@msn.com.

On the web - groups.yahoo.com/group/fort_collins_chess.

Fort Lewis College Chess Club: Meets Thursday nights in the X-treme room which is located the College Union Building, the club is sponsored by the school and is a USCF affiliate club. For more info, contact Andrea Browne at (970) 247-6239.

Grand Junction Chess Club: Meets Mondays at 6:30pm in the Safeway at Starbucks, 2901 Patterson Road. Call Rick Lovato at (970) 243-1073.

Grand Junction Junior Chess Club: Meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Building, 2853 North Avenue. Call Rand Dodd at (970) 245-4015.

Greeley Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00pm at Your Place Coffee, 2308 West 17th Street, Greeley. Contact Brad Lundstrom at ChessCoach2014@gmail.com. Or call him at (970) 415-3855.

Lafayette Chess Club: Meets Mondays, from 6:00-9:00pm at the Mojo Coffeehouse, 211 North Public Road in Lafayette. For more information send an email to aerofirewp@yahoo.com or contact Victor Creazzi at (303) 332-7039.

Longmont Chess Club: Meets Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00pm. Check www.LongmontChess.com for current meeting location. Email Todd Burge at Admin@LongmontChess.com or call (720) 220-5240.

North Jeffco Chess Club: Meets Thursdays from 7:00-10:00pm at the Grandview Tavern & Grill, 7427 Grandview Avenue in Arvada. Email jax@well.com for more information.

Northeast Denver Chess Club: Meets Mondays and Thursdays from 4:00-8:00pm at 2575 Vine Street, Denver. Call (303) 320-6716 for more info.

Pagosa Springs Chess Club: Meets on Tuesdays (6:00-9:00pm) and on Saturday mornings (9:00-Noon) at Nello's Restaurant, 135 Country Center Drive, #A. For more information contact Anthony Steventon by email at asteveton@centurytel.net or at (970) 731-3029.

Parker Chess Club: Meets every Thursday from 7:00-9:00pm at the new Parker library in Parker, CO. All levels and ages welcome. Contact John Brezina at skibrezina@gmail.com.

Pueblo Chess Club: Meets at the Hanging Tree Café, 209 South Union, 81003 on Tuesdays and Thursdays after 6:30pm. For more info contact Liz Nickovich at chessliz@comcast.net or by phone at (719) 696-8389.

Rifle Chess Club: Meets Thursdays, 6:30-9:00pm, at City Hall. For information email Dane Lyons at duilen@gmail.com.

Stonebridge Games Chess Club: (Longmont) Meets Tuesdays at 5:00pm. 449 Main Street, Longmont. Call (303) 776-3796 for more info.



One of My Games From the 3rd Annual National Tournament of Senior State Champions July 25, 2020

by Ala'a-Addin Moussa

Just as in the 1st *National Tournament of Senior State Champions* (when I represented Michigan),
I got paired in the first round with top seed GM Alexander Fishbein.

Ala'a-Addin Moussa
Alexander Fishbein

Held online via *Chess.com* / Time Control: G90; inc/10
(Notes by Ala'a-Addin Moussa)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Nf3 (GM Margeir Petursson in his monograph on the Averbakh variation considers 8.Qd2 to be the strongest. The opening now transposes into the Modern Benoni which I had played before with White.)

8...exd5 9.cxd5 h6 10.Bh4 a6 11.a4 g5 12.Bg3 Nh5 13.Nd2 Nxg3 14.hxg3 Nd7 15.0-0 (15.Nc4 with the idea of Ne3 has been played before.)

15...Nf6 16.Nc4 Re8 17.Bd3 Rb8 18.a5 Ng4 19.Qb3 Ne5?! (19...b5! 20.axb6 Ne5 21.Na4 Nxc4 22.Qxc4 Bd7 23.Qxa6 Bxa4 24.Qxa4 Rxb6 is the correct order of move but I failed to take the advantage.)

20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Bxa6 h5 22.Bd3?! (22. Bb5 preventing the thematic b5 was better.)

22...Bd7 23.Na4? (Was not too late to admit the previous inaccuracy and play 23.Bb5.)

23...b5 24.axb6 Bxa4 25.Qxa4 Rxb6 26.Bb5 (Now is too late. Black has the advantage.)

26...Rf8 27.Qa5 (I started struggling to find a good plan so I decided to prevent the queen from hopping to f6.)

27...Bxb2 28.Rab1 Bd4 29.Qa7 Qb8 30.Qxb8 (Avoiding queen exchange with 30.Qa4 is better but I missed 31....Rb2.)

30...Rfxb8 31.Bd3 Rb2! 32.Rbc1 Rd2 33.Rcd1 Bxf2+ 34.Kh2 Rxd1 35.Rxd1 Bd4 36.Be2 g4 37.Rf1 Be5 38.Rf5 Rb3 39.Rxh5 Bxg3+ 40.Kg1 Rb1+ 41.Bf1 Be5 42.Kf2 g3+ 43.Ke2 c4 44.Rf5 c3 45.Kd3 Rb2 46.Be2 Rd2+ 47.Ke3 Bd4+ 48.Kf3 c2 49.Rg5+ Kf8 (I won Round 2 then drew the last 4 with a last round quick peace accord vs. another ex-Coloradan Damian Nash from Hawaii just before the server crashed resulting in a delay of Round 6 conclusion.) **0-1**



Tactics Time!

by Tim Brennan

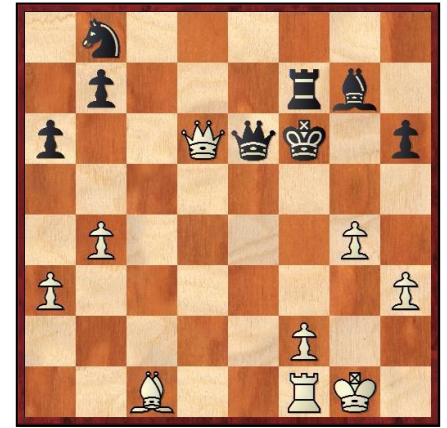
One of the best ways to improve your game is to study tactics, such as the following, from games played by Colorado players. Answers are on the next page.



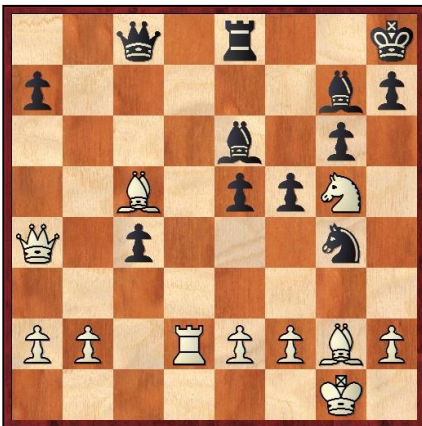
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DCC June / 2019
White to move



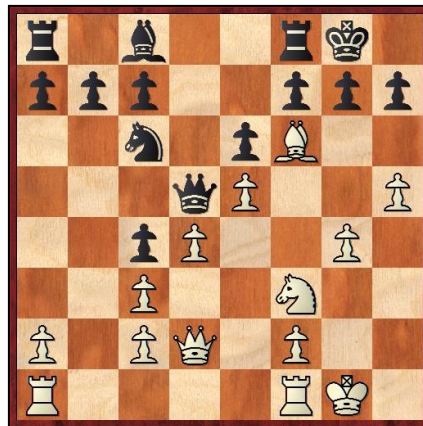
2. Wesley Woo - Aditya Krishna
Colorado Scholastic Closed / 2019
White to move



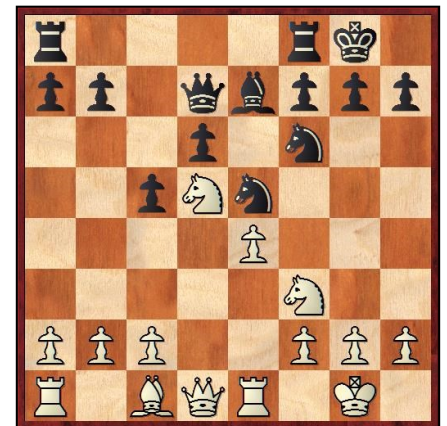
3. Alaa-Adin Moussa - Brad Lundstrom
Colorado Senior / 2019
White to move



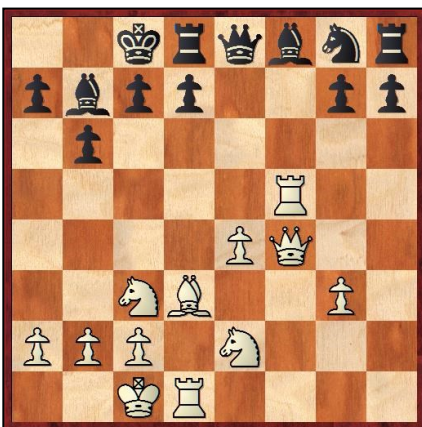
4. Richard Shtivelband - Kevin Seidler
DCC July / 2019
White to move



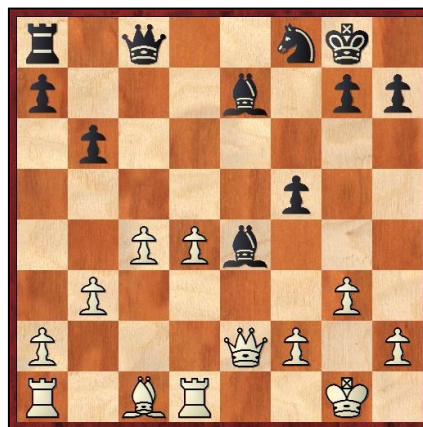
5. Jason McEwan - George Peschke
DCC July / 2019
White to move



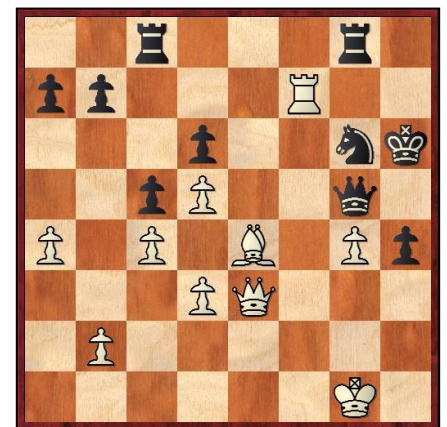
6. Coleman Hoyt - Michael Crill
DCC July / 2019
White to move



7. Ed Yasutake - Brian Wall
Boulder Open / 2019
Black to move



8. Andrew Eskenazi - Coleman Hoyt
Colorado Open / 2019
White to move



9. Brian Wall - Hans Morrow
Pikes Peak Open / 2019
White to move



Tactics Time Answers:

1. **42.Re6+** forks the Black king and bishop.
2. **29.Rxd5** takes advantage of the pinned e6 pawn.
3. **35.Bb2+** overloads the White king **35...Kg6** **36.Qxe6+**.
4. **28.Bb7!!** Deflects the overloaded Black queen which is protecting both the rook on e8 and bishop on e6.
5. **16.Qg5** sets up an unstoppable mating net **16...g6** **17.Qh6** **Qxf3** **18.Qg7#**.
6. **12.Nxe5** and Black cannot recapture because of **12...dxe5** **13.Nxf6+** discovered attack on the queen **13...Bxf6** **14.Qxd7**.
7. **16...g6** attacks the White rook, and threatens **17...Bh6** pinning the White queen to the king.
8. **19.f3** was missed in the game, attacking the bishop which is pinned to the undefended bishop on e7.
9. **27.Rh7+!!** Overloads the Black king **27...Kxh7** **28.Qxg5**.



The Chess Detective®

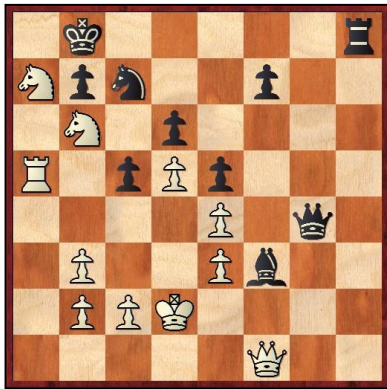
Deflection Problems

by NM Todd Bardwick

(Reprinted with permission of the Author, the United States Chess Federation & Chess Life magazine)

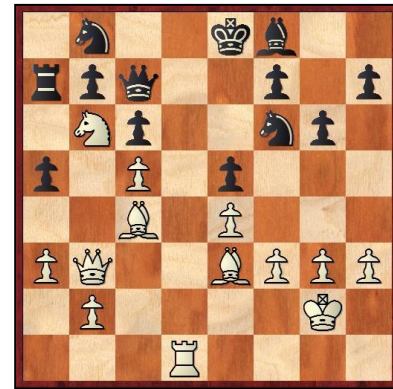
We looked at some examples of deflections in the July 2020 edition of the *Colorado Chess Informant*. Now it's your turn to find the deflection. Remember deflections often involve chasing away or eliminating a key defender.
(Answers are on the next page)

#1



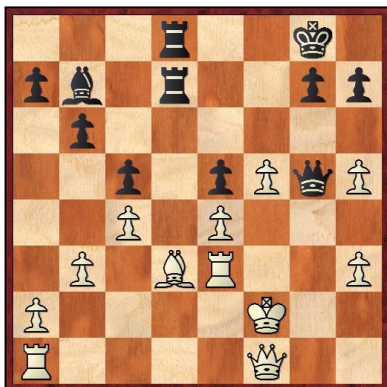
Position after 32...Qg4 / White to move

#4



Position after 32...Bf8 / White to move

#2



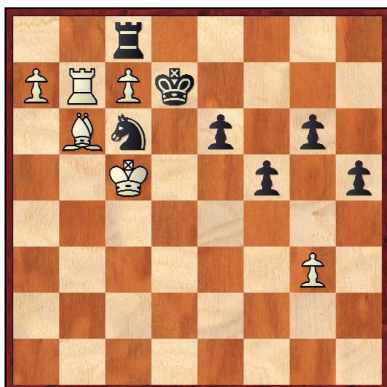
Position after 28.Qf1 / Black to move

#5



Position after 18...Qe5 / White to move

#3



Position after 59...f5 / White to move

#6



Position after 34.Rb2 / Black to move

#1

Black's queen is guarding his bishop and the d7 square. White played, **33.Qxf3!** Deflecting the Black queen from d7.

The game continued, **33...Qxf3 34.Nd7+ Ka8 35.Nc6+ Na6 36.Nb6 mate.**

This game was played in Paris, France, in 1867 between Sam Loyd & Samuel Rosenthal.

#2

28...Bxe4! Deflecting White's bishop from blocking the d-file. This will allow the ...Rd2+ in the future.

29.Bex4 Qf4+ 30.Bf3 Rd2+ 31.Re2 e4 32.Rxd2 Rxd2+ 33.Resigns

This position is from a game between Rodolfo Tan Cardoso & Borislav Ivkov played in Bauang, Philippines, in 1973.

#3

60.a8Q! Deflecting the rook from c8. **60...Rxa8 61.c8Q+** The second deflection, deflecting the Black king from defending the knight.

61...Kxc8 62.Kxc6 Resigns

This position was from a game between Vladimir Kramnik & Peter Leko in Moscow, Russia, in 2007.

#4

33.Bxf7+! Forcing the queen to recapture on f7 and setting up a deflection. **33...Ke7 34.Qe6 mate.**

33...Qxf7 34.Rd8+! Offering the rook to deflect the Black king from protecting his queen. **34...Ke7 (34...Kxd8 35.Qxf7) 35.Nc8+ Resigns.**

Now the king must take the rook and White will capture Black's queen.

Alexander Naumann was White against Wisuwat Teerapabpaisit in this game from the 2008 Chess Olympiad in Dresden, Germany.

#5

White played, **19.Bb2! Qxb2 20.Rd8+!** Deflecting the bishop from defending the queen. **20...Ke7 21.Qd6 mate.**

20...Bxd8 21.Qxb2 b5 22.Qe5+ Resigns
22...Be7 23.Bd5 Ra7 24.Qb8 forking the rook and bishop. **22...Kd7 23.Qd5+ or 22...Kf8 23.Qd5.**

This position is from Frunze, Russia, in 1979 between Konstantin Lerner & Fikret Israfil Sideif-Sade.

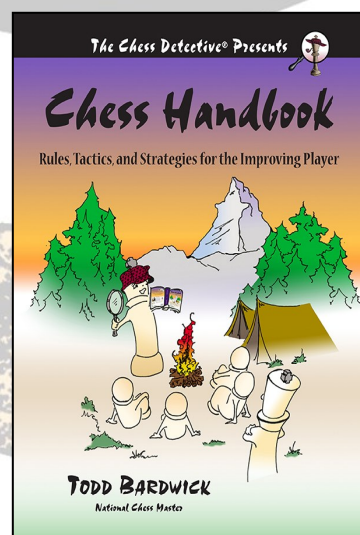
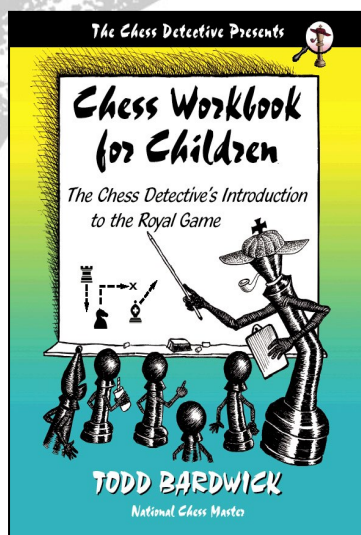
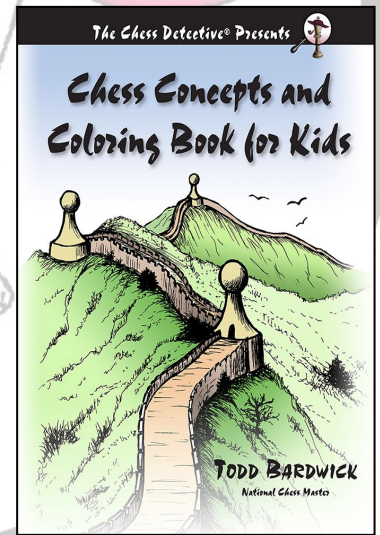
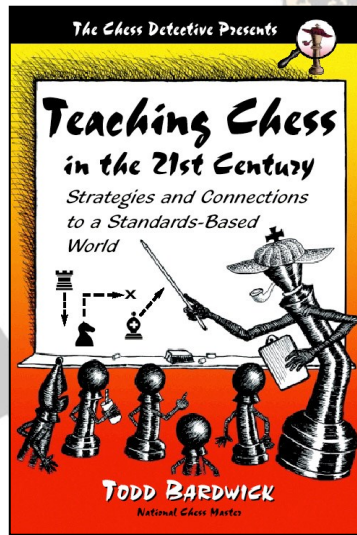
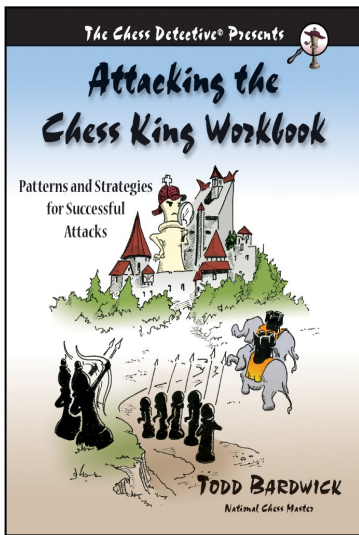
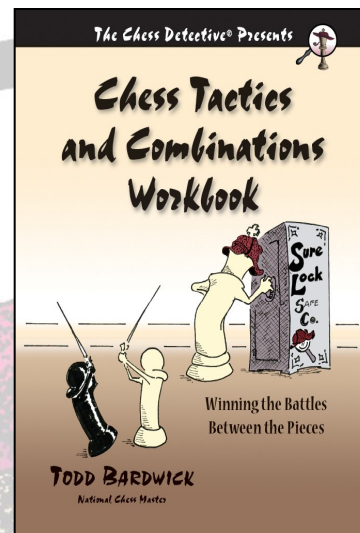
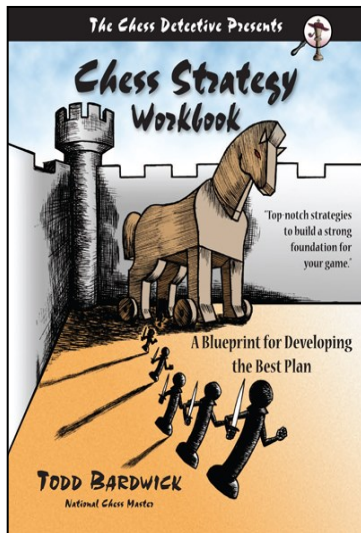
#6

34...Bxe4! Eliminating the knight that protects g3. **35.fxe4 Ng3+ 36.Kg1 Qxh2+!** A nice queen sacrifice that leads to mate.

37.Kxh2 Rh6+ 38.Kg1 Rh1 mate

This position is from a game between George Michelakis & Vasilios Kotronias in the 1996 Chess Olympiad in Yerevan, Armenia.

*NM Todd Bardwick is the author of
 'Chess Strategy Workbook',
 'Chess Tactics & Combinations Workbook' &
 'Attacking the Chess King Workbook for Rated Players'
 He can be reached at www.ColoradoMasterChess.com*



NM Todd Bardwick's books can be purchased at Amazon.com here:
<https://tinyurl.com/y4dk56ky>



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