

California CHESS Journal

Winter 2010-11

Kraai Captures 2010 CalChess Title



Grandmaster Jesse Kraai won the CalChess Labor Day State Championship held Sept. 4-6 in San Francisco.

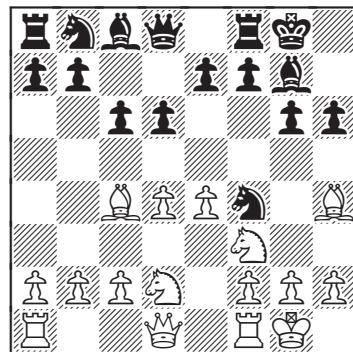
Richard Koepcke, Bob Blatt, and John McCumiskey directed 154 players in seven sections.

White: GM Jesse Kraai (2557)
Black: FM Andy Lee (2324)
King's Indian Defense
Notes by GM Jesse Kraai

**1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bg5
Bg7 4. Nbd2 O-O**
4. ... d5.
**5. e4 d6 6. Bd3 h6 7. Bh4
Nh5 8. O-O Nf4**

8. ... g5 9. Bg3 g4 10. Nh4
Bxd4 11. Nf5 Bxf5 12. exf5 Nf6
13. Ne4.

9. Bc4 c6



10. Bg3?

10. Re1 Qc7 11. e5 +/=.

Continued on Page 3

Zierk Wins U18 World Championship

Steven Zierk, a 17-year-old senior at Los Gatos High, won the Under 18 title at the World Youth Chess Championship in Halkidiki, Greece, in October.

Zierk became the third Northern California in four years to win a world youth championship, following FM Daniel Naroditsky and IM Sam Shankland, who won the under-12 in 2007 and under-18 in 2008, respectively. Zierk earned the international master title as a result of his win, plus a grandmaster norm.

Zierk scored 9.5 out of 11, ahead of five grandmasters, and

in spite of starting the tournament seeded 26th. "I was very focused and very stubborn, and in many games I just outfought my opponents," said Zierk.

Zierk said openings are a weak point in his game, and credited the USA team coaches with aiding his preparation. "In some games I played openings my opponents didn't like," he said.

Zierk also works with GM Melik Khachiyan, who coached GMs Aronian and Skripchenko while they were junior champions. Zierk said he'd like



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From Tom Langland

CalChess President's Message



Northern California is home to another world champion! Following Daniel Naroditsky (under 12, 2007) and Sam Shankland (under 18, 2008) Steven Zierk won the under 18 title in Halkidiki, Greece, in October. Steven wasn't satisfied with "just" winning the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in August, and took clear first in Halkidiki even though he was seeded

26th on the rating chart. He automatically received the IM title and earned a grandmaster norm.

Also at the Irvine U.S. Open, while Zierk was winning the Denker, our website www.calchess.org was named the Best USCF State Chapter Website by the Chess Journalists of America.

The next few months are rich in local tournaments. The Bay Area Chess New Year's Tournament offers a \$7,000 prize fund both at a very nice Hyatt Regency venue. BAC has begun conducting a Tuesday night event at its San Jose office — the 6 p.m. start is more convenient for the juniors on school nights.

David Pruess and Arun Sharma are holding the Berkeley International in January at the Berkeley Chess School. With a prize fund of \$8,500 and the lure of GM and IM norms, there are already 50 players rated over 2000 signed up, including nine grandmasters. If you can't play in the event, this is a great opportunity to watch some 2600+ rated players in action!

Immediately after that is the big one! The Continental Chess Association's 2nd Annual Golden State Open is on Martin Luther King weekend with a projected prize fund of \$40,000, and \$30,000 guaranteed! With a deep prize structure there is a great opportunity to win some money!

Please come out and participate in these events to show these organizers that Northern California can support first-class events!

California CHESS Journal

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Labor Day State Championship Results

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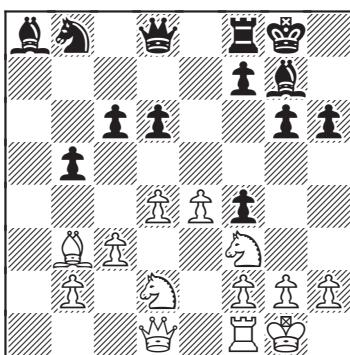
10. ... e5 11. c3 b5?

11. ... Qf6 and White has moderate counterplay.

12. Bb3 Bb7

The bishop doesn't belong on this diagonal.

13. a4 a6 14. axb5 axb5 15. Rxa8 Bxa8 16. Bxf4 exf4



17. Qe2

I intended this position when I played 13.a4. The menace of Qxb5 stops ...c6-c5, and without it, the a8-bishop will be bad. The rook will go to a1 and the only piece whose function is as yet unclear is the knight on d2.

17. ... Nd7 18. Ra1 Qb8 19. Nh4

An assumption of my plan was that if the black queen went

away, I might have this move — but of course it was difficult to be sure from a distance. I now saw to the end!

19. ... Kh8 20. Qg4! Nf6 21. Qxf4 g5 22. Qf5 gxh4

22. ... Bb7 23. e5 (23. Nh3 Bc8 -+) 23. ... dxe5 24. dxe5 Bc8 25. exf6! Bxf5 26. fxe7+ Kxg7 27. Nxh7+ +/- The strength of the three pieces against the queen is accentuated by Black's weaknesses on the light squares.

23. e5 dxe5 24. dxe5 Qd8

24. ... Qc8 25. Qxc8 Rxc8 26. exf6 Bxf6 27. Ne4 Be7 28. Ra7 -+.

25. Bc2 1-0

The only 6-0 score in the event was made in the Class A section. Ted Belanoff, a 19-year-old UC Berkeley student, finished 1.5 points ahead of the field.

Belanoff, the state junior high school champion in 2005, said about his last-round game that he was surprised at how unsalvageable his opponent's position became after an early mistake.

CalChess Labor Day State Championship Sept. 4-6, 2010

1	GM Jesse Kraai	5
2-3	FM Steven Zierk	4.5
	SM Saku Uesugi	
	U2300	
1-3	Edw. Perepelitsky	3.5
	Samuel Sevian	
	Julian Chan	
	Expert	
1	James Kwok	5
2-3	Hayk Manvelyan	4.5
	S. Rubinstein-Salzedo	
	A	
1	Ted Belanoff	6
2	Udit Iyengar	4.5
3-4	Yuan Wang	4
	Benjamin Tong	
	B	
1	Teodoro Porlares	5.5
2	David Trestor	5
3-4	Siddarth Banik	4.5
	Tudor Muntean	
	C	
1	Auditya Sharma	5.5
2	Albert Starr	5
3	Vikram Vasan	4.5
	D/E	
1-2	Adarsh Kadoor	5
	Sivakumar Budaraju	
3	Charles Falk	4.5
	U1200	
1-3	Alisha Chawla	3.5
	Swaminathan Sankar	
	Ishas Kekre	
	Unrated	
1	Peter Sullivan	0.5

CalChess State Champions

2010	Jesse Kraai
2009	Sam Shankland
2008	Sam Shankland
2007	Josh Friedel
2006	Josh Friedel

2005	Alex Yermolinsky
2004	Vladimir Mezentsev
2003	Dmitry Zilberstein
2002	Ricardo DeGuzman

UC Berkeley Student Makes the Sole Perfect Score at State Championship



Class A winner Ted Belanoff's rating went over 2000 at the CalChess championships.

White: Benjamin Tong (1865)

Black: Ted Belanoff (1962)

Scotch Game

Notes by Frisco Del Rosario

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3

If 2. d4 exd4, then White gains time going forward with 3. Qxd4, but 3...Nc6 gets the time right back.

2. ... Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4

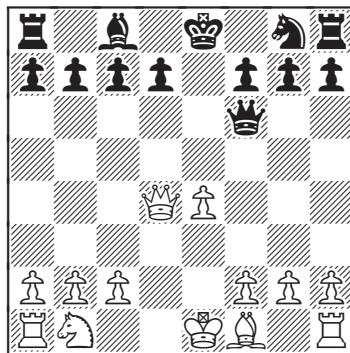
But now 4...Nxd4 is a mistake, because White gains time with 5. Qxd4 which Black can't recover.

4. ... Bc5 5. Be3 Nxd4 6. Bxd4 Bxd4

So Black has erred, but given his full-point lead over the field,

his desire to simplify is understandable.

7. Qxd4 Qf6



8. Qc3

White has a clear advantage after 8. e5 Qb6 9. Qxb6 axb6 10. Nc3, when Black will have to make another concession before developing his bishop, while White is ready for 11. Nd5 or 11. Nb5.

8. ... d6

White stood plainly better after 8. ... c6 9. Be2 Qg6 10. O-O Ne7 11. Nd2 O-O 12. f4 d5 13. f5 Qh6 14. f6 Ng6 15. exd5 cxd5 16. fxe7 Re8 17. Rae1 Be6 18. Qd4 Qh4 19. Nf3 Qxd4+ 20. Nxd4 Kxg7 in Laursen-Berg, Denmark Politiken Cup 2009, though the game was drawn in 35.

9. Qxc7 Qxb2 10. Bd3

Black reaches a comfortable endgame after 10. Qc3 Qc1+ 11. Ke2 Bg4+ 12. f3 Rc8 13. Nd2 Qxf1+ 14. Rxf1 Rxc3 15. fxe7 Rxc2 but Black is much less secure on 10. f3 Qxa1 11. Bb5+ Bd7 12. Bxd7+ Kf8 13. Qxd6+

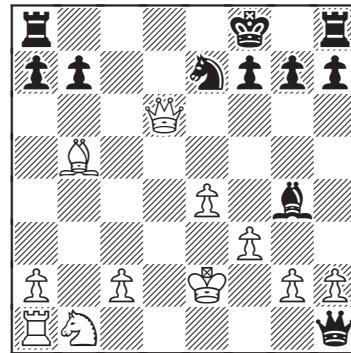
Ne7 14. O-O where Black has gained some material, but his pieces are disconnected.

10. ... Qc1+ 11. Ke2 Bg4+

This is why White needed to play f2-f3 at move 10, so this wouldn't be a check.

12. f3 Qxh1 13. Bb5+ Kf8

14. Qxd6+ Ne7



15. fxe7

The cleverest try is 15. Kf2, threatening to lock up the queen with 16. Bf1, but Black can run out with 16...Qc1 or play 16...h5, a witty move of his own.

15. ... Qxg2+

Black is as active as White, and even has the safer king, so it's pretty much over.

16. Kd1 Qxg4+ 17. Kc1

17. Be2 Qg1+ 18. Kd2 h5 with 19...Rh6 to come. --

17. ... Qg5+ 18. Nd2 Qxb5

19. Rb1 Qc6 0-1

New World Champion Puts in Hours of Study Each Day

Continued from Page 1

to earn the GM title soon, though his win in the Denker HS Champions tournament in August meant a scholarship to the University of Texas at Dallas, and he has also applied to MIT, where he said he has "a good chance of getting in."

The new world champion said he likes reading chess books, and spends a couple hours per day studying. He named some favorites: Dvoretsky's *Endgame Manual* and School of Chess Excellence, plus *The Art of the Middlegame* by Keres and Kotov, and Alexander Alekhine's *Best Games*.

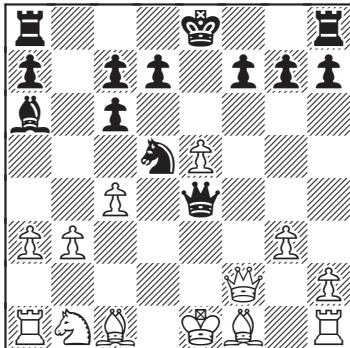
White: FM Steven Zierk (2391, USA)

Black: Anwesh Upadhyaya (2420, India)

Scotch Game

Notes by IM Steven Zierk

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nxc6 bxc6 6. e5 Qe7 7. Qe2 Nd5 8. c4 Ba6 9. b3 Qh4 10. a3 Bc5 11. g3 Bxf2+ 12. Qxf2 Qe4+



13. Kd2

13.Kd1 Qxh1 14.Nd2 Nc3+
15.Kc2 Ne4 16.Nxe4 Qxe4+
17.Bd3 Qg4.

13. ... Qxh1 14. Bg2 Qxh2

15. cxd5 O-O

15...cxd5, Morozovich-V. Ivanov Moscow ch 1992.

16. dxc6 Qh5

16...Bb5 is more interesting, when White can play 17.Kc3 Bxc6 18.Ra2 or 17.Ke1 Qh5 18.Bf4, in both cases with a complicated game ahead.

17. Nc3

Here I prefer White.

17. ... dxc6 18. Kc2 Rfd8

19. Bf4 Qf5+ 20. Kb2 Rab8

21. Qxa7?!

The idea to ensure that after ...Bc4 and b3-b4, Black does not have ...a7-a5. More solid, and probably better, was 21. b4 plus Qc5 to maintain the e5-pawn.

21. ... g5 22. Qxa6!?

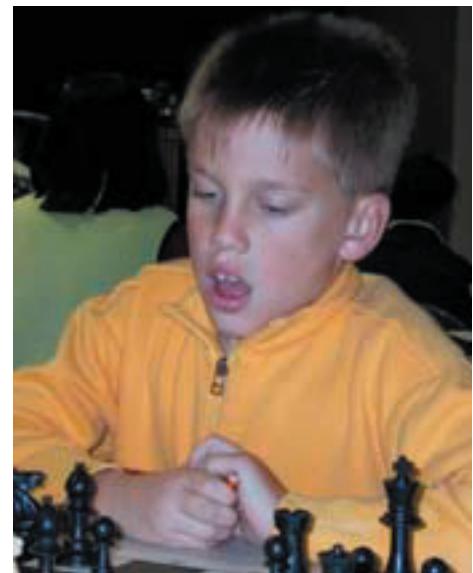
Now Black also has a weak king, but White will miss the bishop pair.

22. ... gxf4 23. Qe2 fxg3 24. Be4 Qg5

24...Qxe5?? 25.Bxh7+.

25. Kc2

Black's king is weaker - White has clear lines of attack while Black's lines are solidly defended. However, Black's pawns ensure that any endgame is good, so White must be careful.

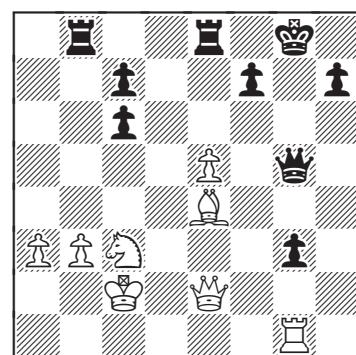


9-year-old Steven Zierk played on board one for the South Bay team against the Fremont team in 2002. (John Tu photo)

25. ... Re8?!

25...Rd4 is a better idea. Black can triple on the d-file.

26. Rg1



26...h5!?

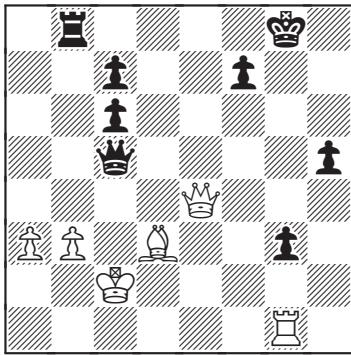
26...Rxe5?! 27.Qf3 is just bad for Black.

27. Bd3?! Rxe5?!

World Youth Championship Games

Black misses White's idea until it is too late. 27...Kf8 was necessary, but White is on the offensive.

**28. Ne4 Rxe4? 29. Qxe4
Qc5+**



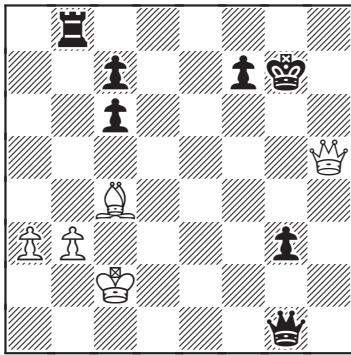
30. Bc4!!

Black expected 30.Kb2? Qxg1 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qh8+ Ke7 33.Qe5+ Kd8 when White's best hope is perpetual check.

30. ... Qxg1?!

30...Qf2+ 31.Kc3 Qf6+ 32.Qd4 was a must, although after either 32...Qxd4+ or 32...Qg5, White will blockade the kingside pawns, while White's passed a-pawn will also tell.

**31. Qg6+ Kh8 32. Qh6+
Kg8 33. Qg6+ Kh8 34.
Qxh5+ Kg7**



35. Qxf7+

White always has a draw, and as it turns out he has much more.

35. ... Kh8?

After 35...Kh6 36.Qf4+ Kg6 37.Bd3+ Kg7 (37...Kh5? 38.Qf5+ Kh4 39.Be2!) 38.Qxc7+ Kf6 39.Qxc6+, there are many lines, but they are all fruitless for Black. 39...Ke5 40.Qc7+ Kf6 41.Qxb8 Qf2+ 42.Kc3 Qc5+ 43.Bc4 Qe3+ 44.Kb4 Qd2+ 45.Kb5 g2 (45...Qd7+ 46.Kb6 Qd4+ 47.Kc6 Qe4+ 48.Bd5 Qc2+ 49.Kb7) 46.Qb6+ Kf5 47.Qc5+ Ke4 48.a4 White will sac his bishop for the pawn with Bd5. Of course, Black should have gone for one of these lines in the game as they are complicated.

36. Qh5+ Kg7 37. Qg5+ 1-0

37...Kf8 38. Qf6+ Ke8 39. Bf7+ Kd7 40. Qe6+ Kd8 41. Qe8# is inescapable.

White: FM Angel Arribas Lopez (Spain, 2454)

Black: FM Steven Zierk (US, 2391)

Grunfeld Defense

Notes by IM Steven Zierk

1. Nf3 d5 2. e3

White likes to play his moves in weird orders. I knew he played the e3 Slav system and prepared g6, transposing into a Grunfeld.

**2. ... Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. Nc3 g6
5. b3 Bg7 6. Bb2 O-O 7. Be2
Ne4?!**

I thought that most of Black's minor problems here come from having only one good square for his knights and possibly a "bad" light bishop. White's unusual opening order allows Black to solve both of these.

8. Qc2 Bg4 9. d4

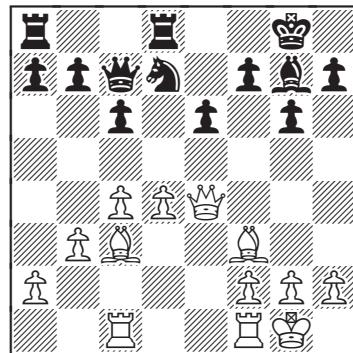
9. Nxe4?! Bxb2 10. Qxb2 dxe4 11. Nd4 Bxe2 12. Nxe2 Nd7?.

9. ... Nxc3 10. Bxc3 Nd7

**11. Rd1 e6 12. e4 dxe4 13.
Qxe4 Bxf3 14. Bxf3**

I would say Black has achieved equality. His position has no weaknesses and plenty of potential.

**14. ... Qc7 15. O-O Rfd8 16.
Rc1**



16...Nf6

16. ... e5 17. dxe5 Bxe5 is already slightly better for Black, but I thought it was too simplified. However, I think now I would have played this — my opponent perhaps would've suffered from lack of active play just as in the game.

**17. Qe3 Qb6 18. Rfd1 Rd7
19. Rd2 Rad8**

Both sides place all importance on the d4-pawn.

20. Rcd1 Ne8 21. g4

I do not know if he wanted to prevent any future ...Nf5 or if he was going for kingside action. Probably the latter, which turned out unsound.

21. ... a6 22. Kg2 Qc7 23. Bb4 Bf8 24. Bxf8?!

White should have returned to c3. A draw seems likely, but White goes for more.

24. ... Kxf8 25. Qh6+?! Kg8 26. h4 Qd6 27. h5 Qf8 28. Qf4 Qg7 29. hxg6 hxg6 30. d5?!

White was still OK, though he had lost his bishop pair. Now he has committed to an unsound plan.

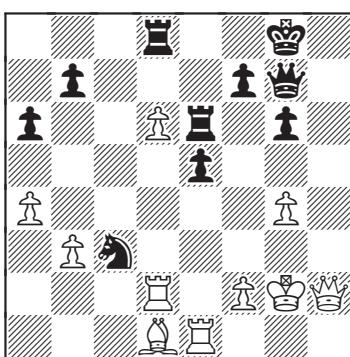
30. ... cxd5 31. cxd5 e5!?

The d5-pawn is just a weakness that blocks White's piece activity.

32. Qh2 Nd6 33. Re1 Re7 34. Bd1 Nb5?! 35. a4 Nc3

Black is trying too hard to take advantage of White's play. He should have built up pressure.

36. d6 Re6



37. Rd3?

37. Qg3 e4 is slightly better for White, but this would have meant changing his mind about his earlier play.

37. ... e4 38. Rh3?

After 38. Rd2 Qf6, White is losing material, but the fight goes on. 39. Re3 (39. Qg3 e3! 40. Rxe3 Ne4) 39. ... Rxd6 40. Rxd6 Rxd6 41. Rxc3 Rxd1 42. Rc8+ Rd8 43. Rxd8+ Qxd8 Black should probably win this endgame, but it is tricky, as all queen endings are.

38. ... Rxd6 -- 39. Rh1 Kf8

Where's the attack?

40. Bc2 Qf6 41. Re3?! Rd2 42. Qh8+ Qxh8 43. Rxh8+ Kg7 44. Rc8

44. Reh3?! Nd5 -- (44. ... Rxc2?? 45. g5 --).

44. ... Nd5 45. Re1

45. Rxe4 Rxc2.

45. ... e3 46. Rf1 e2 47. Re1 Nb4 0-1

White: Allan Beilin (USA, 1860)

Black: Ferran Cervello (Spain, 1830)

Ruy Lopez

Notes by Allan Beilin

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nge7

The Cozio Defense is sensibly motivated, enabling Black to recapture on c6 with a piece, but Black has to make another pawn move to develop his king bishop. — FDR

4. O-O a6

In Capablanca-E. Corzo, Havana 1902, Black played 4. ... g6, and then the youngster played 5. Bxc6, an uncharacter-



Allan Beilin won the 5th grade title at the National Elementary School Championship in Atlanta in May.

istic move, but he was not yet the mature master.—FDR

5. Ba4 g6 6. c3 Bg7 7. d4 b5 8. Bc2

In most master-class games, White played 8. Bb3 to give the bishop an open diagonal. Then if Black hits the bishop again with ...Nc6-a5, White burrows Bb3-c2. This game gives an impression that Black was following his book, which 8. Bc2 short-circuited, causing Black to go buggy at moves 13 and 16. — FDR

8. ... exd4 9. cxd4 d6 10. h3 O-O

Following Van den Doel-Gofshtein.

11. Nc3 h6

A novelty.

More from the World Youth in Greece

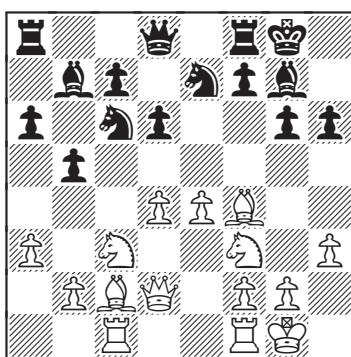
12. a3 Bb7 13. Bf4 Na5

Getting the knight to c4, it seemed.

14. Re1 Nac6

Wasting a tempo.

15. Qd2



15...Kh7

15. ... g5 16. Bg3 f5 17. d5 Ne5
18. Nxe5 Bxe5 19. Bxe5 dxe5 20.
exf5 Qd6.

16. Rad1 Na5

It is unclear what he is doing with his knight.

17. Qc1 f5 18. e5

18. exf5 Nxf5 19. d5 Nc4 20.
Bxf5 Rxf5 21. Nd4 Rf7 22. Ne6
Qf6.

18. ... Bxf3 19. gxf3 Nec6

For no apparent reason.

**20. Kg2 Nc4 21. b3 Nb6 22.
Bg3**

With the idea of f3-f4 followed by d4-d5.

22. ... Qg5

This made it easier for me.

23. f4 Qd8 24. Bb1

This is simply a blunder. I should have played 24. d5 right away.

24. ... d5 25. Nxb5 axb5 26.

Qxc6 Rxa3 27. Qxb5 Qe8

28. Qc5

Too greedy. I should have traded queens and gone into a won endgame.

**28. ... Ra7 29. Bd3 Rf7 30.
Ra1**

30. Bb5 was also possible.

30. ... Rxa1 31. Rxa1 Nd7

Blundering another pawn.

32. Qxd5 Nb6 33. Qc5 Bf8

34. Qb5

A mistake. I should have retreated Qc2 or Qc3.

**34. ... Qd8 35. Bc4 Rd7 36.
d5**

White is still much better.

36. ... Nxd5 37. Bxd5

A big mistake. 37. Ra8 gives White a strong initiative.

**37. ... Rxd5 38. Qc6 Rc5 39.
Qe6 Qb8**

Here I had 32 seconds to reach time control. I was about to play 40. Qf7 — winning on the spot — but with five seconds on the clock, I saw 40. Ra6 and played it instinctively. Unfortunately, it leads to a forced draw.

40. Ra6 Qb7+ 41. Kh2 Rc1

**42. Qf7+ Bg7 43. Qxg6+
Kg8 44. Qe8+ Kh7 45. Qg6+
Kg8 46. Qe8+ Kh7 47. Qg6+
1/2**

CalChess Players at the World Youth

U18 Steven Zierk 9.5, 1st
U12 Kesav Viswanadha 4.5
U12 Allan Beilin 5
U10 Cameron Wheeler 8, 5th
U10 Samuel Sevian 8, 6th
U10 V. Panchanatham 8, 9th
U8 Rayan Taghizadeh 7
Girls U8 Joanna Liu 6.5

9-year-old Samuel Sevian (pictured) broke the record as youngest U.S. master at the NorCal House of Chess Open on Dec. 19. Story in the next issue of the *California Chess Journal*.

Other Northern Californians to hold that record were Vinay Bhat, Jordy Mont-Reynaud, and Kenny Fong.



Variations on a Discovered Attack

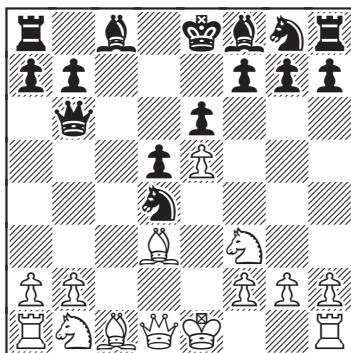
A French defender must know this discovered attack pattern:

Foster City 1996
White: Duane Anderson
Black: Lawrence Kueffer
Advance French

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Bd3 cxd4 7. cxd4

Before Black can safely grab the pawn, he has to play 7...Bd7.

7...Nxd4



8. Nxd4 Qxd4 9. Bb5+ 1-0

HSB championship 1979

White: Wisse
Black: Ram
Tarrasch French

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. Ngf3 cxd4 5. Nxd4 dxe4 6. Nxe4 a6 7. Bd3

A good move. The bishop is well placed, and now White can move the d4-knight without fear of ...Qxd1+ to stop his castling.

7...Qxd4 8. Bb5+ 1-0

Sunnyvale 1966

White: F. Sommer
Black: George Koloboff
Colle System

1. d4

Given the location and the date, it's possible that this game was played in the first Lockheed Employees Recreation Ass'n tournament. The LERA events were popular with Bay Area chessplayers for about 40 years.

1...d5 2. Nf3 Bf5 3. e3 e6 4. Bd3 Nf6 5. Bxf5 exf5 6. Qd3 Nc6 7. Qxf5 Bd6 8. Nc3 0-0!

Well recognizing an unreal threat. Black doesn't have to waste a move "defending" the d5-pawn. 9...Ne7? and 9...Bb4? would be very bad, non-developing and preventing White from making a losing move.

9. Nxd5 Nxd5 10. Qxd5 Bb4+ 0-1

Vienna 2003
White: Martin Neubauer
Black: Nikola Stajcic
Winawer French

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. exd5 exd5 5. Bd3 c6 6. Ne2 Ne7 7. Ng3 Be6 8. O-O Nd7 9. Nce2 Bd6 10. Nf4 Bxf4 11. Bxf4 Qb6 12. Bd6 Qxd4 13. Re1

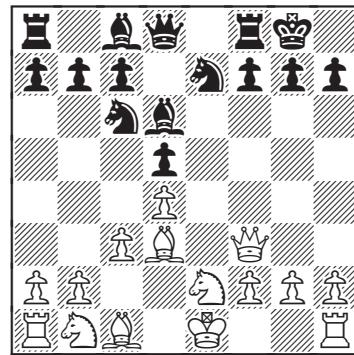
Some would play 13. Bxe7 without thinking, but 13. Re1 is better, developing with a threat.

13...g6 14. Rxe6! 1-0

The last example came from the World Youth Under 14s.

White: J.P. Cassemir Marques
Black: Jaime Santos Latasa
Exchange French

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Bd6 6. Qf3 Nge7 7. Ne2 O-O



8. Bf4

A common plan for either side in the Exchange French is N-K2 plus B-KB4 to swap the bad bishop for the opponent's good bishop on Q3.

8...Ng6

Black threatens to disrupt White's position by 9...Nxf4 10. Nxf4 Bxf4 11. Qxf4 Re8+ 12. Be2 Re4 13. Qd2 Qe7. Also, for moving the guard away from d5, Black sets a clever trap.

9. Bxg6 hxg6 10. Qxd5 Nb4! 11. Qf3

11. cxb4 Bxb4+ --; 11. Qb3 Nd3+ --.

11. ... Nc2+ 12. Kd2 Nxa1 13. Na3 Bxa3 14. bxa3 Qe7 15. c4 Bg4 0-1

Loanzon Wins Bay Area Chess Fall Open

Bay Area Chess Fall Open

Oct. 23-24, 2010

Open

1	Arjoe Loanzon	3.5
2-6	Nikunj Oza Hunter Klotz-Burwell Michael Da Cruz Neel Apte Eric Steger	2.5

B/C

1	Arvind Sankar	4
2-3	Tab Salvo Pranav Nagarajan	3

U1400

1-4	Sameer Vijay Chris Xiong Alekhya Nandula Alvin Kong	2.5

D/E

1	Srikanth Narahari	3.5
2-3	Srinath Goli Nancy Zhang	2.5

U1200

1	Allen Bazhenov	2.5
2-4	Andrew Paul Alanna Song Asritha Eswaran	

Bay Area Chess, the busiest USCF affiliate in the region, drew 42 players to its Fall Open Oct. 23 and 24 in San Jose. Salman Azhar and Arvind Sankar directed 42 players in three sections.

NM Arjoe Loanzon finished clear first, and contributed this annotated game.

This game was played during the third round against the

leader after two matches. My mindset before the game was to win at all costs — even with black — and take the lead going to the last round.

Therefore, I had to create tension and put pressure on my opponent until he cracked, either by gaining the initiative in the opening, finding a magical shot in the middlegame, or developing a python-like squeeze in the endgame. Whichever way, I had to get the job done for a shot at the top prize.

White: George Jeffers (1956)
Black: Arjoe Loanzon (2210)
Lasker-Pelikan-Sveshnikov
Sicilian

Notes by NM Arjoe Loanzon

1. e4 c5

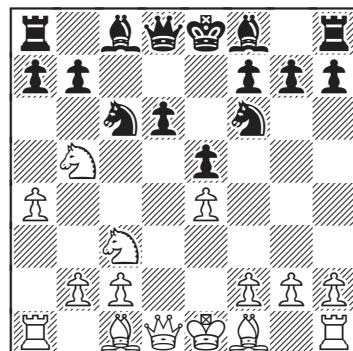
After the game, my opponent mentioned that he was expecting me to play 1...d5 and checked out some lines to play the night before, but I only play moves other than 1...c5 if I want to fool around and have fun with my opponent during the game.

2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5

After this move my opponent thought about his reply for about 20 minutes. At this point, I felt that he was trying to recollect the lines he used to play against the ambitious thrust at move 5 championed by Lasker and Pelikan, and then Sveshnikov during modern times. Or maybe wasn't expect-

ing an anti-positional move in the Sicilian labyrinth.

6. Ndb5 d6 7. a4



Perhaps this was the line he was trying to remember a few moves back. The point is to prevent Black from gaining queen-side space by ...b7-b5 after Black kicks the knight with ...a7-a6.

Most importantly, White avoids the main theoretical lines. It's a relatively old deviation, and I believe not so dangerous, but it still has some venom for the unwary.

7...a6 8. Na3

I took a moment to reflect about the present situation on the board and was trying to figure out whether the move 8...Be6 — followed by ...Rc8 and ...Nb4 — is sufficient to fight for control over the d5-square. That's the fundamental question in a Sicilian setup where Black takes on the backward d6-pawn.

8...Bxg4

To tempt him to play f2-f3, which weakens his dark-square control along a7-g1, after which I'll pull my bishop back to e6 and watch over d5.



NM Arjoe Loanzon teaches Bay Area Chess classes year-round and helps form its curriculum.

9. f3

In reply to 9.Be2, I intended 9...Bxe2 10.Qxe2 followed by either 10...Nd4 or 10...d5, solving the problem of my d-pawn.

9...Be6 10. Bc4

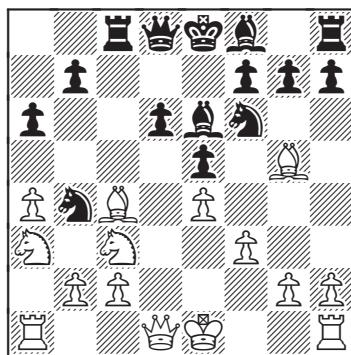
I expected 10.Nc4 Rc8 11.Ne3 Nb4 with at least an even game

10...Nb4

Fighting for the d5-square and exploiting the weakness on b4, which was created by 7. a4. I wasn't worried about him capturing on e6, since that would help me get central control after ...fxe6.

11. Bg5 Rc8

I liked what I was seeing. Black seems to be working toward the freeing move ...d6-d5 like clockwork. Also, the clock — the 33rd piece in a chess game — was on my side, as my opponent used 70 minutes to my 30.



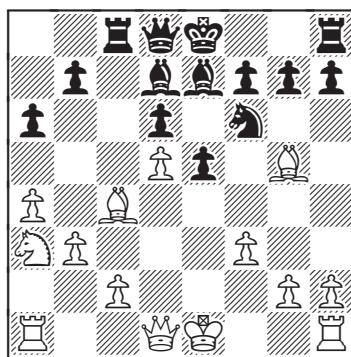
12. Nd5

Maybe 12.b3 is better, or 12. Bb3. Pogonina-Sebag North Urals Cup 2008 was equal after 12. Bb3 Be7 13. O-O O-O 14. Kh1 h6 15. Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Nd5 Nxd5 17. Bxd5 Qb6 18. b3, 1/2 in 117 moves.

12...Nbxd5 13. exd5 Bd7

13...Bxd5 is worth a closer look, but I decided not to waste time checking because my opponent had worked it out when he was pondering his 10th move.

14. b3 Be7



15. Bxf6

After this move I felt it's over for White. The weakness of the dark squares will be felt, while my d5-hole is gone. Two bishops on my side plus better piece placement — what else to ask for?

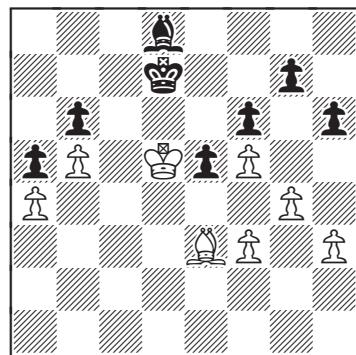
**15...Bxf6 16.Rc1 Bg5
17.Rb1 Qa5+ 18.Ke2 e4
19.Re1**

Missing the point, but it's hard to find a move when very low on time and swords are coming from both sides of the board.

19...b5 20. Bd3 exd3+ 21. Kxd3+ Kf8 22. Re4 Bf5 23. g4 Qc3+ 24. Ke2 Bxe4 25. fxe4 h5 26. h4 Qe3+ 27. Kf1 Bxh4 28. Qe2 Qf4+ 29. Kg1 Rc3 0-1

I believe that was the turning point of the tournament, bringing me to a fight for first place in the last round.

Against Hunter Klotz-Burwell, I eventually won a classic endgame of good bishop vs. bad:



Kraai Combines on a Labor Day/ Thanksgiving 1-2 Punch

BAC California Class Championship Nov. 26-28, 2010

Master

1	GM Jesse Kraai	5
2	IM Ricardo DeGuzman	4.5
3-4	Evan Sandberg	3.5
	NM Arjoe Loanzon	

Expert

1	James Kwok	4.5
2-4	Kyle Shin	4
	Cameron Wheeler	
	Jaya Ramachandran	

A

1-4	Rayan Taghizadeh	4.5
	Benjamin Tong	
	Aditya Kumar	
	Randy Moore	

B

1-2	Venkata Nandula	5
	Arvind Sankar	
3	Kevin Garbe	4.5
4-7	Kevin Moy	4
	Michael Wang	
	Taylor McCreary	
	Ben Parco	

C

1	Michael Lu	5.5
2-3	Rahul Mohan	5

Charles Tang	
4-7 Joel Alcaraz	4.5
Leonid Alzhin	
P. Narendranath	

D/E

1-2 Andrew Canafe	5
Gabriel Sison	
3-6 Joseph Larsen	4.5
Chris Breaux	
Sophia Li	

Under 1000

1 Vandana Mediboyina	5
2 Nick Bugbee	4
3-5 Selena Wong	3.5
Alex Berlaga	
Luke Bugbee	

6-10 Aaron Canafe

Estella Wong	3
Joshua Vendrow	
S. Vallabhaneni	

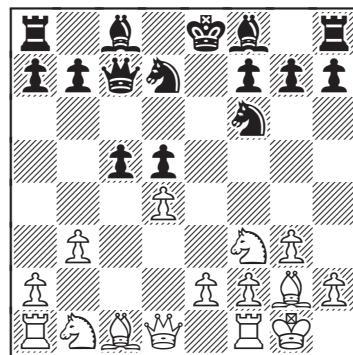
4. c4 c6 5. Bg2 Nbd7 6. O-O Qc7 7. b3 c5?

Suddenly the center is wide open. Considering black's kingside is not yet developed, this wasn't a smart choice. 7. ... Be7 is a simple developing move.

8. cxd5

White plays correctly, opening the center. Black has yet to fully develop his kingside.

8. ... exd5



9. dxc5?

Allowing Black to develop his bishop easily. 9. Nc3 was a better alternative, developing a piece while putting pressure on the d5 pawn. Then 9. ... Be7 10. Bf4 Qa5 11. Qd3 establishes a comfortable formation for White.

9. ... Bxc5 10. e3

Understandable. White aims to cover the d4-square in order to prevent the advance of the black d-pawn, but this should not be a priority for White. Rather, he should focus on mo-

Grandmaster Jesse Kraai followed his win at the CalChess Labor Day State Championship with a third at the Sands Regency Western States Open in October in Reno.

Then Kraai returned to the Bay Area to win the Bay Area Chess California Class Championship in Burlingame on Thanksgiving weekend.

Salman Azhar, Tom Langland, and John McCumiskey directed 265 players in 12 sections, paying out \$8,000 in prizes.

White: Nicholas Silver (1634)

Black: Kevin Moy (1651)

Closed Catalan

Notes by Aditya Kumar

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. d4 e6

bilizing his pieces with 10. Bf4, developing with threats.

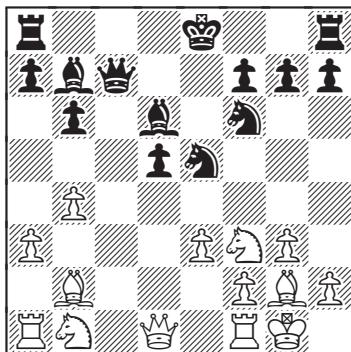
10. ... b6

10. ... O-O is the simplest and best move. Black should castle before starting his queenside development.

11. a3

In an open position, piece play is more important than pawn play. 11. Nc3 is a logical choice, pressuring the d5 pawn, and if 11. ... Bxe3?, then 12. Re1!.

11. ... Bb7 12. b4 Bd6 13. Bb2 Ne5



Aditya Kumar

14. Nbd2

14. Nc3 should be considered, threatening the strong Nb5. Then 14. ... Qe7 15. Nb5 Nxf3+ 16. Bxf3 O-O 17. Qd4, tying Black's knight down, connecting the rooks, and giving the queen a powerful central square.

14. ... O-O 15. Nxe5 Bxe5

16. Bxe5

16. Rc1! is a smart in-between move. 16. ... Qe7 17. Bxe5 Qxe5 18. Nf3 reaches the same position with the rook on c1.

16. ... Qxe5 17. Nf3 Qe7 18. Rc1 Rac8 19. Qb3 Ne4

Establishing the knight in the center. The positional tables are slowly turning in Black's favor.

20. Rfd1 Rfd8

A ...d5-d4 pawn push for Black doesn't seem to be in the near future, so this move isn't of much use. 20. ... Qf6 prepares ...Nc3 to attack the rook and threaten a fork on f2, and pins the white knight due to ...Qxf2+.

21. Bh3

If 21. Nd4, then ...Nc3 is prevented after 21. ... Qf6. Play could proceed 22. Bxe4 dxе4 23. Rxc8 Rxc8 24. Qa4.

21. ... Rxc1 22. Rxc1 Qf6

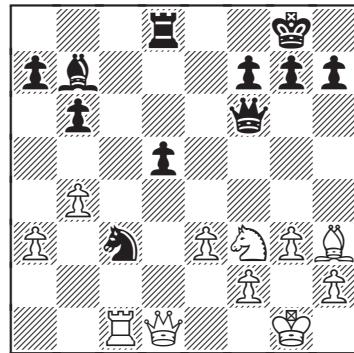
23. Qd1

Protecting the knight on f3, but making the c3-square available for the knight! The simple 23. Bg2 should have been considered — in general, a smaller unit should be preferred to a bigger piece for a defensive chore so that the bigger piece is free to attack.

23. ... Nc3



Kevin Moy. #55 among 10-year-olds in the USCF.



24. Qd2??

Loses the game on the spot. 24. Qc2 would have saved the game for White. Then 24. ... Qxf3 25. Bg2 Ne2+ 26. Kf1 Nxg3+ 27. hxg3 Ba6+ 28. Kg1 Qf6 29. Qc7 is more or less equal. Black is a pawn ahead, but White's position is quite good and he will probably regain the pawn soon.

24. ... Qxf3 25. Rxc3

25. Bg2 doesn't work either because of 25. ... Ne4!.

25. ... d4! 26. Kf1 Qh1+ 27. Ke2 d3+ 0-1

Cloudy with a Chance of Meaterial Wins U1600 Prize at USAT West

CalChess is contemplating a bid to bring the 2012 U.S. Amateur Team West to Northern California. The *California Chess Journal* is all for this idea, because that tournament is more fun than most. Our pal Mr. G from ChessPrep in Sunnyvale reports from the 2010 USAT. — FDR

By Dan Gertmenian

The most important part of the US Amateur Team tournaments every year is, of course, the best team name contest. Our friends on Jim Marshall's team went with a current theme — Cloudy with a Chance of Meaterial — hoping to pun their way into the top spot. So too did my UCLA team, which entered Phony Benoni.

Neither succeeded; the top two places went to Fourclosers and Toyota's Unstoppable Accelerated Dragons. I wasn't particularly impressed by Fourclosers but did find Accelerated Dragons funny.

Charlie Won, playing on Board 2 for Cloudy, went insane in the first three rounds, defeating a 1950, a 2106, and a 1917 for a performance rating of almost 2400 after three rounds, and two of his games featured the same rook sacrifice.

Charlie cooled off in round 4, losing to an expert, but picked it up with an exciting win in game

5 and an “escape” draw (after opening errors) in game 6. With a total of 4.5-1.5, Charlie nearly won the board prize for board 2.

Cloudy with a Chance of Meaterial WON the Under 1600 Section! In a 47-team event, Cloudy was the only team under 1800 to finish in the top 23.

White: Matthew Hayes (1996)

Black: Charles Won (1656)

Exchange Caro-Kann

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Nf6 6. h3

Wasting time. White needs to play 6. Bf4 to get control of e5 and allow Nd2 without blocking the bishop.

6. ... g6 7. Nf3

White had to play 7. Bf4.

7. ... Qc7

Black makes White pay for not seizing the h2-b8 diagonal.

8. Be3

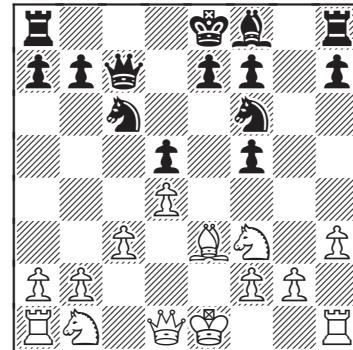
The bishop developed to an inferior square.

8. ... Bf5

Provocative and dynamic: Black concedes a slight pawn structure weakness for superior center control (if Bxf5, then e4 will be locked up) and chances down the g-file. If White does not trade, Black will trade off White's only good bishop and will be left with an good dark-

squared bishop vs. White's limited counterpart.

9. Bxf5 gxf5



10. Qb3

This is a typical move in some Caro-Kann lines, but with b7 already defended by Black's Q and d5 defended by Black's knight, this move looks weak.

10. ... Rg8

Black wastes no time hassling White on the g-file. Now 11. O-O invites Black to focus all his attention on the semi-open file.

11. Na3?

White does not relish the complications after 11. g3 Rxg3 12. fxg3 Qxg3+ 13. Ke2 Qg2+, although it is still unclear after 14. Bf2 Qxh1 15. Qxb7 when Black's queenside is as weak as (or maybe weaker than) White's kingside. But 11. Na3 seems like an artificial development. If White's plan is really Nb5, Black can easily meet that.

11. ... O-O-O!

Black shores up his queen-side, puts another defender on

d5, and prepares to add further fuel to the “g-fire”. Black could have played 11. ...Rxg2 grabbing the g-pawn, but White may be able to get it back with 12. Nh4, while he will have time to castle queenside and then challenge Black on the file with Rdg1.

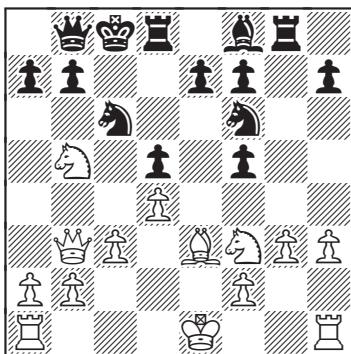
12. Nb5?

White follows through with his “threat,” but this seems like a beginner move to me. What is White’s long-term idea?

12. ... Qb8

Now Black can kick the knight back with ...a6 when he feels like it. White will then have lost two full moves for nothing.

13. g3?



White is concerned about Black’s play on the g-file (and threat to simply grab the undefended pawn). But:

13. ... Rxg3!!

Black takes the pawn anyway! This brilliant move highlights the deficiencies in White’s position, particularly his failure to castle (what else is new?).

14. Ke2

If White accepts the rook, Black regains the material investment with a blistering attack, i.e. 14. fxg3 Qxg3+ 15.

Ke2 (otherwise ...Qxf3 recovers the material) ...Qg2+ 16. Bf2 Ne4 (another piece springs into action) and now 17. Raf1 allows 17...Ng3+ while 17. Rh2 also fails to 17...Ng3+ when White can give back material by running his king away (18. Kd2) or try to hang on to his material: 18. Ke3 Bh6+ (more attackers!) 19. Kd3 Qxf3+ 20. Be3 Qxe3+ 21. Kc2 Qe4+ 22. Kd1 Qd3+ 23. Ke1 Qf1#.

By playing 14. Ke2, White keeps the game alive – but Black has won a pawn and has no intention of giving it back.

14. ... Rg7 15. Ne5

Finally, an aggressive move!

15. ... a6 16. a4?

White believes that since Black was able to sac a piece, he should too, but his position does not justify such a bold move.

16. ... axb5 17. axb5 Nxe5

Black wastes no time eliminating White’s pieces since he is a full piece ahead.

18. dxe5

After this move White has no play, but after 18. Bf4, Black can hold easily with ...Nfd7.

18. ... Qxe5

To add to his troubles, White’s bishop is pinned (Black threatens ...f4 winning yet another piece).

19. b6

Hoping for mating combination junk.

19. ... Nd7

No junk for you.

20. Kd2

Hoping to play Bd4.

20. ... Rg2 21. Qb5

Threatening...nothing.

21. ... f4 22. Bd4 Qd6

Black refuses to concede even the c5 square and prepares his next threat.

23. Ra8+

The loser gets the last check.

23. ... Nb8 24. Rha1

White still has no actual threats!

24. ... e5

That does it. After this, White is completely hosed. Notice that 25. Bc5 is not possible since Black’s Bf8 has been freed to control c5.

25. Qf1 f3 26. Be3 d4 27.

cxd4 cxd4 0-1

White’s bishop is trapped; his king will soon be as well.

Charlie’s best game of the tournament features a classy attack that leaves his opponent wondering what went wrong.

White: Fei Yue Wang (2079)

Black: Charles Won (1656)

Exchange Caro-Kann

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5

cxd5 4. Bd3

In our six games as Black in this tournament, Charlie and I played six Caro-Kanns, and four of the six were the Exchange Caro (I hope this percentage continues throughout our chess careers!).

4. ... Nc6 5. c3 g6 6. Bf4 Nf6

7. Nf3 Bf5 8. Bxf5 gxf5

Black again has mastery over e4 and a semi-open g-file at the

Two ...Rxg3! Sacrifices in the Exchange Caro-Kann

cost of a slight pawn structure weakness. We saw how that went in game 1....

9. Nbd2 Ne4

Black wastes no time plunking his knight on the dominating square.

10. Qb3

Once again, I am not sure this move makes a lot of sense given that the light-squared bishops have already been exchanged.

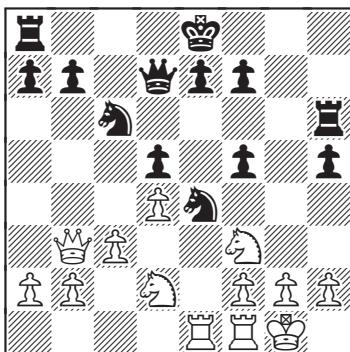
10. ... Qd7 11. O-O

White judged that he has enough pieces around his king to withstand an attack. But even if he does, where is White's play?

11. ... h5 12. Rae1

White centralizes his rook, but with a knight firmly entrenched on e4, it is not clear what this accomplishes.

12. ... Bh6 13. Bxh6 Rxh6



14. Qd1

White realizes that his queen was doing nothing on b3, and so

retreats it to d1 to free the Nf3 from having to defend the Nd2.

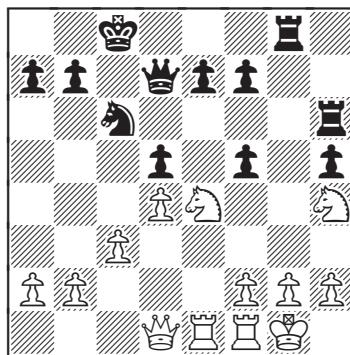
14. ... O-O-O

Black, for his part, knows exactly what his plan is.

15. Nh4

Preventing Black from playing ...h4 and possibly allowing White to block the g-file with g3.

15. ... Rg8 16. Nxe4



16... dxe4

If 16...fxe4, then White can defend with 17. Re3 — Black can't play ...Qh3, and if he tries to double on the g-file, White has time for Rg3.

17. Qd2

This move is OK, but not as strong as 17. f3.

17. ... Qe6?

This is a serious error.

18. Nxf5?

18. d5 forks queen and knight, forcing 18...Rd8 19. Rd1 Qf6 20. Qf4 Ne5. Then White can win a clear pawn with 21. Qxf5+ or play for more with 21. Nxf5.

In either case, Black's game is finished.

18. ... Rhg6

Suddenly Black has doubled rooks, and the threats to White's king are serious.

19. Ne3

At this point the computer assesses the game as equal...but which side would YOU want to play?

19. ... Qh3

Fritz gives ...Rhg2+ as equal (Black can force a perpetual check), but Black is not interested in a perpetual check.

20. g3 h4 21. Ng2?

Logical, but wrong: White should have played Qe2 or Re2 first.

21. ... hxg3 22. fxg3 Rh8

Having opened the h-file, Black shifts his attack there.

23. Nf4

The best move, according to Fritz. But Black is ready:

23. ... Rxg3+!

For the second game in a row as Black, Charlie sacrifices a rook on g3.

24. Kh1

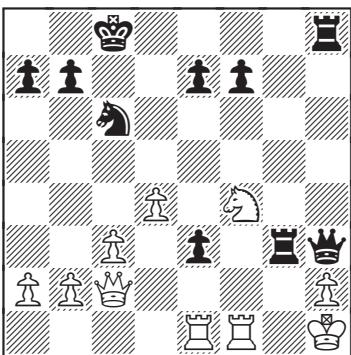
This is forced since 24. hxg3 allows mate in three.

24. ... e3

More threats! White is not allowed time to breathe.

25. Qc2

If White plays something else, Black will have access to e4 (i.e. 25. ...Qh7-e4).



25. ... Qg4

I asked Charlie why he played this move. His answer: "Light squares and diagonal. If diagonal falls, so does h2."

26. Qe2?

This move, although outwardly logical, does not do the job because Black is not going to give up his pressure by trading queens, while White's queen has given up control of the critical e4 square.

The correct defense was 26. Ng2! (threatening to simply take on e3) when Black must defend with either ...Qe6 or ...Qg5, but after either move White has 27. Qf5+! forcing a trade and equalizing the position.

It is amusing that White's two defensive errors involved Ng2: on move 19, Ng2? was wrong, while on move 26, Ng2! would have been right!

26. ... Qf5 27. Rf3

White's last chance to stay alive was 27. Qd3, hoping for a trade.

27. ... Rxf3 28. Qxf3 e5 29.

dxe5

Slightly better was 29. d5, but Black is still winning.

29. ... Nxe5

Also strong is 29. ...Rh4, but in a sense ...Nxe5 is more consistent, bringing in another piece with tempo.

30. Qxe3 Rxh2+!

One good rook sac deserves another! Charlie's rooks have utterly destroyed White's pawn shield.

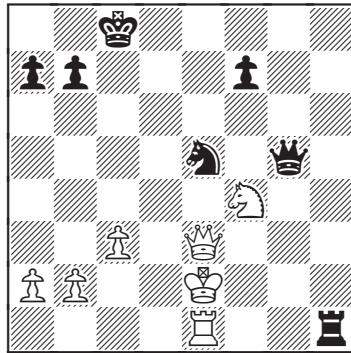
31. Kg1

On 31. Kxh2, Black forks it up with 31. ...Ng4+.

31. ... Qg5+

Black swoops in for the kill.

32. Kf1 Rh1+ 33. Ke2



33...Qg4+!

Acceptable is 33. ... Rxe1+, but this move is more terminal.

34. Kd2

White chooses the more prosaic way to die, but 34. Kf2 loses to 34. ...Qh4+ or, even more brutally, 34. ...Nd3+! 35. Qxd3 Qxf4+ when White loses a whole rook.

34. ... Nc4+ 0-1

A wonderful attacking game by Charlie, whose last 17 moves

were first rate. And he calls himself a class B player?!

I hope I get to win one game like this in the next decade.

A supplemental game from the Pitt Archive:

1991 USSR Spartakiad

White: Anatoly Kudriashov

Black: Oleg Dzuban

Exchange Caro-Kann

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Bd3 g6 6. Nf3 Bg7 7. O-O Nh6

A sensible add-on. Whether Black retakes on f5 with knight or pawn, his position improves.

8. Re1 O-O 9. h3 Bf5 10. Bxh6

The upshot is that Black's dark-squared bishop goes unopposed while it aids in the attack.

10. ... Bxh6 11. Bxf5 gxf5

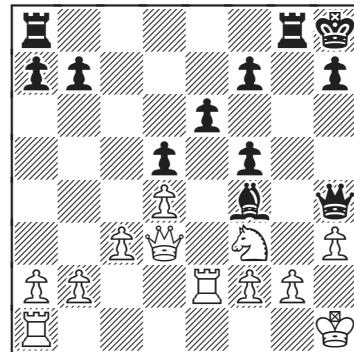
12. Qd3 e6 13. Nbd2 Kh8

14. Ne5 Nxe5 15. Rxe5 Rg8

These Exchange Caros in which Black crashes down the g-file remind us why Bronstein-Larsen's 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Nxf6+ gxf6!? is so popular at times.

16. Re2 Qh4 17. Kh1 Bf4

18. Nf3



18...Rxf3! 0-1

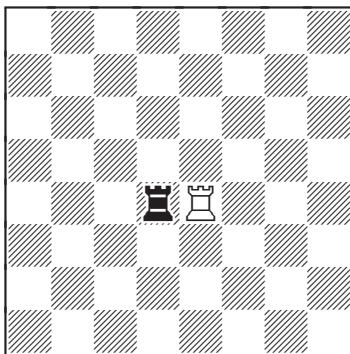
The Best Tactics Books for New Players Ever Produced

By Frisco Del Rosario

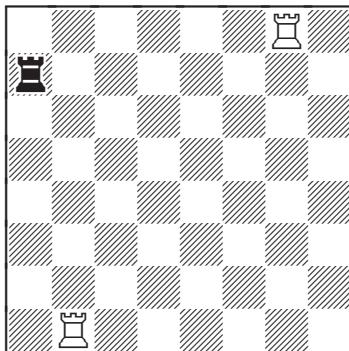
Mongoose Press bought my book *Capablanca: A Primer of Checkmate* in January 2010, and got tired of my whining before Valentine's Day. I argued about every editorial and design change Mongoose suggested, and they finally shut me up by saying "Hey, want to work on some children's books for us?".

After reviewing the first three volumes of Igor Sukhin's *Chess Camp* series, I started telling chess educators that these were the best elementary tactics books I have ever seen.

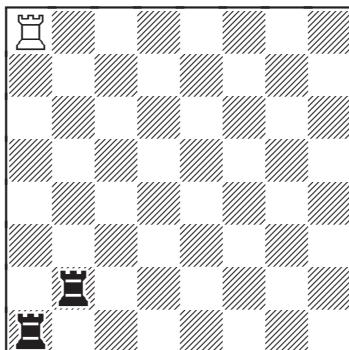
According to the publisher, Sukhin is Russia's leading authority on elementary chess education. He teaches chess in ideal fashion. His problems grow are homogeneous. For instance, take problem #1. Can White capture the black rook?



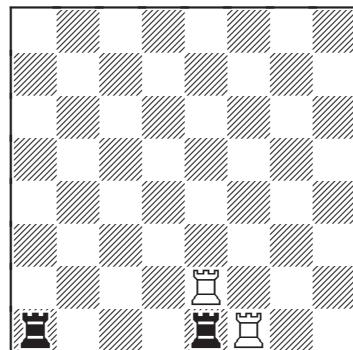
Problem #6 is a little more difficult.



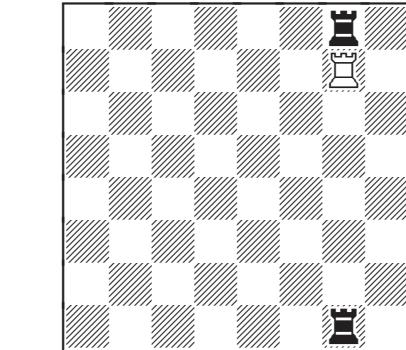
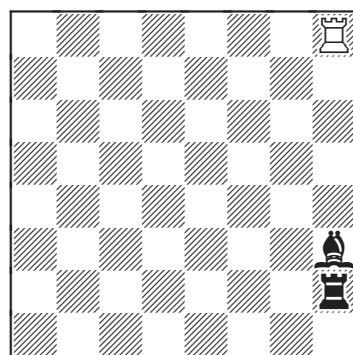
Problems #13 and #17 ask a different question — not *can* White capture the black rook, but *should* White capture?



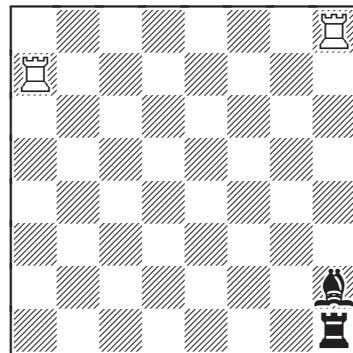
capture, or *should* Black capture, but *which* capture?

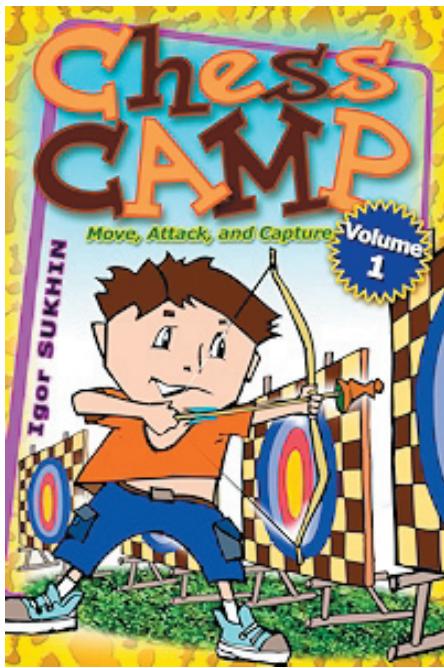


That's a gentle introduction to the pin! A few pages later, the student defends against pins. How can Black save material?



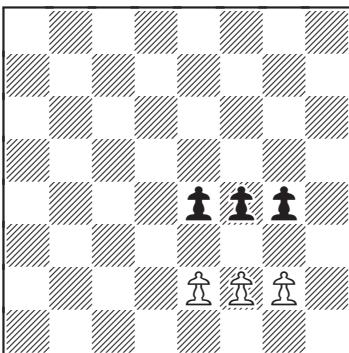
On the next page, Sukhin keeps building. Not *can* Black



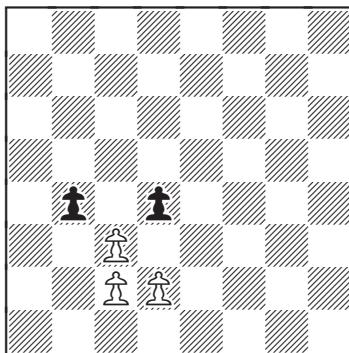


Note that the last example teaches from the start that the best defense, if possible, is a counterattack.

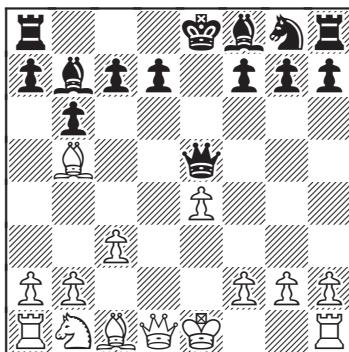
Chess should be taught from the end, going backward. (Chess teachers who teach chess from the beginning going forward should be sued for fraud.) Every player should know this pattern in problem #312. Black to play and win:



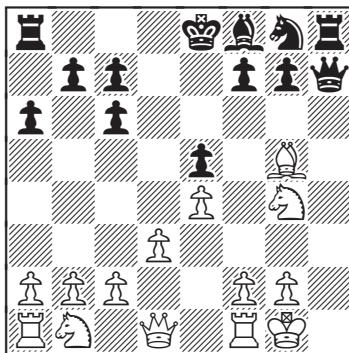
Sukhin introduces that required pattern in its *later* state in problem #310!:



The *Chess Camp* books even teach the opening the right way, by demonstrating the opening's checkmating themes. White can mate in one in this position that might arise in Bird's Defense to the Ruy Lopez:



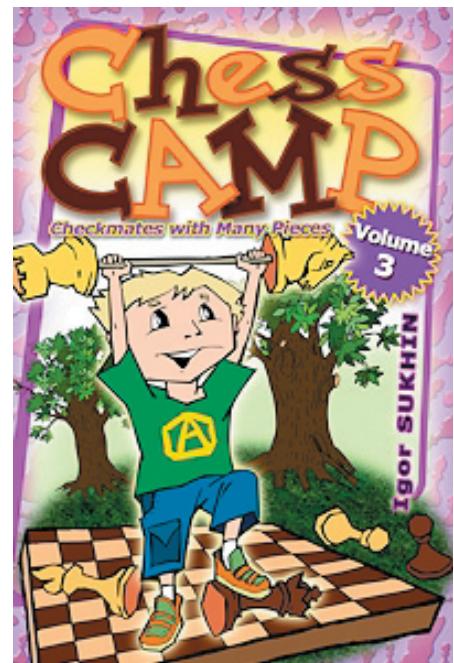
Black often makes counterplay on the h-file in the Exchange Lopez:



Chess Camp volumes 1-3 provide more than 1,800 of the most useful and practical chess problems imaginable. I can't speak highly enough of these books — I've been in the tournament trenches for more than 30 years, and these tactics books for inexperienced players made me a better player. Sukhin showed me old problems in new settings, and many charming puzzles that I'd never seen before.

Mongoose Press believes so honestly in the value of these books that they are giving free copies to chess teachers. Accept the offer, read the books, become a better chess teacher.

If you're not a chess teacher, buy them. *Chess Camp* should be the first books anyone reads after learning how to move the pieces.



How to Play Passably Well

By Frisco Del Rosario

Threatening moves are the most powerful and most important moves on the chessboard. You must examine every threatening move — your threatening move that goes overlooked is the one that can save your skin or your time, and if you don't see one threatening move by your opponent, that's the move that bites you in the butt.

To play chess passably well, said Purdy the chess teacher, you must examine every threatening move, and you must recognize the unreality of their unreal threats.

To recognize an unreal threat, imagine your opponent carrying it out. Starting with grade school chess classes, players are taught to ask themselves at each turn "What's my opponent doing, and what can I do about it?", but that isn't the right question to ask! The right question to ask is "What's my opponent doing, and what if I don't do anything about it?".

When you identify your enemy's threat, imagine that you pass your turn. Then ponder the results of your opponent making the move he wants to make. Sometimes your opponent is heading for a cliff, and you must let him fall!

Defending against a real threat costs a precious move. Defending against an unreal

threat is a waste of a move that could've been used any other way. Worst of all, defending against an unreal threat occasionally stops one's opponent from making a mistake! You don't have to make great moves every time if you let your opponents make the bad moves they want to make.

Pinar del Rio 1941
White: J.R. Capablanca
Black: Allies
French Defense

1. e4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 Ne7

For White's omission of 2. d4, Black had to consider 3...d4, and also 3...dxe4 4. Nxd4 c5.

4. d4 Nd7

Neither of Black's knight moves was advisable — Black has to move the knights again or risk additional pawn moves in order to develop the bishops.

5. Bd3 c6 6. e5

For the last few moves, the e4-e5 advance was perhaps premature because Black could hit the center with ...c7-c5. But after 5...c6, 6. e5 — gaining central space while opening the bishop's line — is indicated because ...c6-c5 loses time.

6. ... Ng6 7. h4 f5 8. exf6

Ahead in development and pursuing an initiative, White wants to open the position.

8. ... gxf6 9. Qe2

Preferable to 9. h5 for introducing more new force.

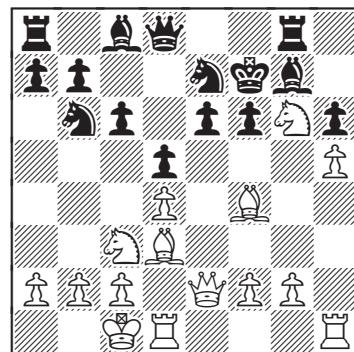
9. ... Nb6 10. h5 Ne7 11. Bf4 Kf7 12. O-O-O h6

Another pawn move, preparing ...Rg8 without running into Bxh7, or ...Bg7 while avoiding h5-h6 (though a bishop on g7 is a big pawn). Further, White can make good use of the hole that appears on g6.

13. Nh4

White's development is complete, so the pieces can make their second moves with a clear conscience. 13. Nh4 aims for the hole, and opens the diagonal for the queen to close in.

13. ... Rg8 14. Ng6 Bg7



15. Rh3

15. Rde1 was an alternative, but White recognized that Black will not play ...Nhg6, enabling hxg6 and the opening of the file for free. So he lifted the rook.

15. ... Nc4

Black can discover an attack with 15. ... e5, but White gets

a winning attack by 16. Nxe7 Bxh3 17. Nxg8 Kxg8 18. gxh3 exf4 19. Qe6+.

16. Bxc4 dxc4 17. Qxc4 Nd5

18. Rf3 18. Bd2 preserves the bishop, but 18. Rf3 is a more active move, while Black's bishops don't amount to much after 18...Nxf4 19. Rxf4.

18. ... Nxc3 19. Qxc3 Qd5 20. Be5!

You must see the unreality of their unreal threats! 20...Qxa2? is an unreal threat, one that may be ignored, because the reply 21. d5 would be crushing. When I guessed at the moves in this game, I played 20. Kb1?, a hopeless patzer's move because it wastes an entire move while preventing Black from making a poor move!

20. ... Bd7?

20...Qd8 or 20...b6 was better.

21. Qb4 Rge8 22. Qxb7

Especially after playing 21. Qb4 to threaten Qe7+ while freeing the c-pawn, it is a surprise that White didn't play 22. c4 Qe4 23. Re1 Qxf3 24. gxf3 fxe5 25. dxe5, winning.

22. ... a5 23. Kb1

23. Bxf6 Bxf6 24. Ne5+ was winning more directly.

23. ... Rad8 24. b3

24. Bc7 is a stronger move that threatens. For these last three moves, the old lion was tired.

24. ... Qb5 25. Qc7 a4 26. Bxf6 Bxf6 27. Qe5!

An analysis engine could suggest that 27. Ne5+ is better, but

both moves win, while 27. Qe5 is more pleasing aesthetically.

27. ... Qxe5 28. dxe5 axb3

29. axb3

Better than 29. Rxf6+. White does not want a rook on f6; White wants a passed pawn on f6, and then Ne5+ will break the black king's blockade.

29. ... Rg8 30. exf6

Still not 30. Rxf6+, which does not make a passed pawn.

The fastest way to win an end-game is to queen a passed pawn, so get a passed pawn. Furthermore, the threat of 31. Ne5+ Ke8 32. f7+ is overwhelming.

30. ... Rxg6 31. hxg6+ Kxg6

32. Rfd3

32. f7 Rf8 33. Rxd7 is a bit more precise, preserving the passed pawn.

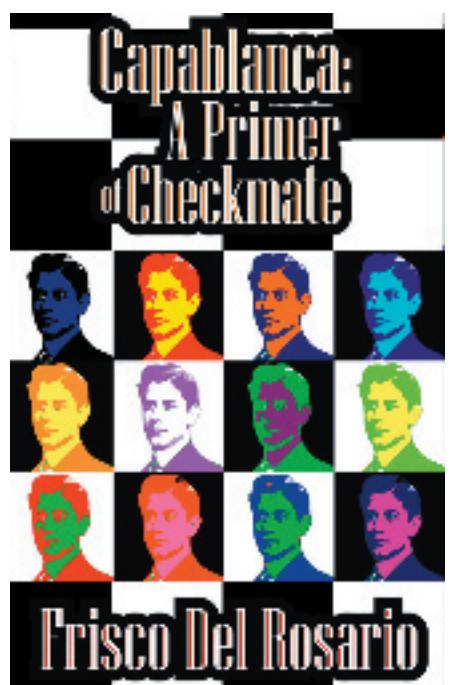
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Readers review Capablanca: A Primer of Checkmate

"Presents a taxonomy of tactics, all of which are the bread and butter of chess sharks everywhere..."

"Frisco's encouraging and practical coaching style comes through in print in a way I would not have thought possible..."

"The introduction in *Capablanca: A Primer of Checkmate* should be required reading for all do-it-yourself chess improvers..."

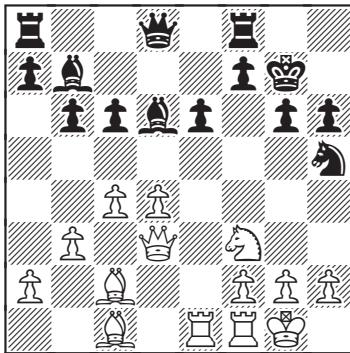


"*Frisco Del Rosario describes and explains the great games of Capablanca in a very entertaining style.*" – GM Peter Biyiasas

From the back cover:

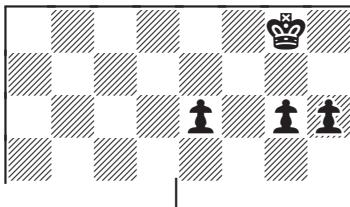
In this groundbreaking work, chess coach and author Frisco Del Rosario shines a long-overdue light on a neglected aspect of Capablanca's record: the attack against the enemy king. He illustrates how Capablanca used positional concepts to build up irresistible king hunts, embodying the principles of good play advocated by the unrivaled teacher, C.J.S. Purdy. The author also identifies an overlooked checkmate pattern – Capablanca's Mate – that aspiring attackers can add to the standard catalogue in Renaud and Kahn's *The Art of the Checkmate*.

Demystifying Alekhine's 26...Re3!!

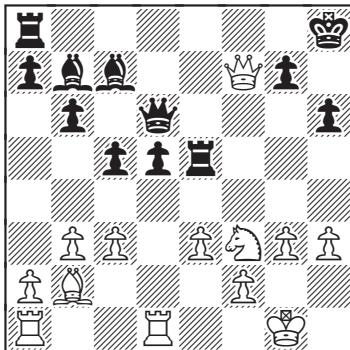


Capablanca-Jaffe, New York 1910, greatly influenced my writing. **17. Rxe6!** led to "Smiting the e6-f7-g6-h6 Pawn Structure" in the Jan. 2002 *California Chess Journal*.

The e6-f7-g6-h6 pawn shield is bad for the black king. Its peculiar feature is that whether White captures on e6, f7, or g6, Black's recapture on e6, f7 or g6 results in the same tatters.



I did so much writing about attacking that pawn structure that it helped my play.



In Levitan-Del Rosario, Kolty Chess Club 2007, **21...** **Rxe3! 22. Nh4 Rg3+!** looks creative, but I was following Capablanca's example.

IM Steven Zierk — the new U18 world champion — said one chess book he liked is *Alexander Alekhine's Best Games*, and said that Reti-Alekhine, Baden Baden 1925, is a game he liked in particular.

Many years ago, I looked at Reti-Alekhine in a book that said Alekhine's 26...Re3!! was one of the greatest and most arcane moves ever played. I was a lazy player who hadn't done my homework, so I took the writer's word for it — Alekhine was too much for me to understand. But when Zierk brought it up, I had to re-examine.

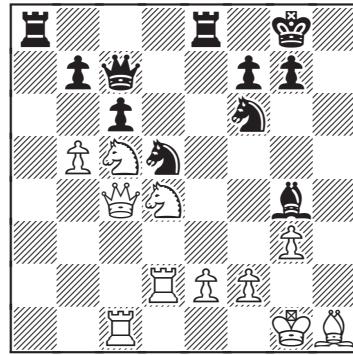
Baden Baden 1925
White: Richard Reti
Black: Alexander Alekhine
Alekhine's Defense Reversed

1. g3 e5 2. Nf3 e4 3. Nd4 d5 4. d3 exd3 5. Qxd3 Nf6 6. Bg2 Bb4+ 7. Bd2 Bxd2+ 8. Nxd2 O-O 9. c4 Na6 10. cxd5 Nb4 11. Qc4 Nbxd5 12. N2b3 c6 13. O-O Re8 14. Rfd1 Bg4 15. Rd2 Qc8 16. Nc5 Bh3 17. Bf3 Bg4 18. Bg2 Bh3 19. Bf3 Bg4 20. Bh1 h5 21. b4 a6 22. Rb1 h4 23. a4 hxg3 24. hxg3

Look at what happened there. The exchange on g3 weakened

g3 just as if the h2-pawn had been coerced to h3. Now if Black can budge the f2-pawn, g3 will break.

24. ... Qc7 25. b5 axb5 26. axb5



26...Re3!! 27. Nf3

Black was threatening 27... Rg3+, same as 21...Rxe3 plus 22...Rg3+ in the Kolty Chess Club game.

27. ... cxb5 28. Qxb5 Nc3 29. Qxb7 Qxb7 30. Nxb7 Nxe2+ 31. Kh2 Ne4 32. Rc4 Nxf2 33. Bg2 Be6 34. Rcc2 Ng4+ 35. Kh3 Ne5+ 36. Kh2 Rxf3 37. Rxe2 Ng4+ 38. Kh3 Ne3+ 39. Kh2 Nxc2 40. Bxf3 Nd4 0-1

Obviously, Alekhine showed in 1925 that he learned as much as I did from Capablanca-Jaffe, New York 1910.

In two more years, Alekhine would win the world championship away from Capablanca.