

CHESS HORIZONS



**2009 Spiegel Cup
Massachusetts
High School
Championship**

**Palin Gambit wins
2009 USATE**

April - June 2009

■ \$3.95

**SPIEGEL CUP
FEBRUARY 8, 2009
HIGH SCHOOL - 1ST PLACE**

About MACA

The Massachusetts Chess Association is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



Providing at least four major tournaments each year:

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship
Greater Boston Open
Harry Nelson Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

Quarterly publication of the award winning *Chess Horizons*, a journal of regional, national and international chess news and features.

Promotion and development of chess in correctional institutions through our Prison Chess program.

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Bob Messenger
4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12
Nashua, NH 03062
(603) 891-2484 or treasurer@masschess.org

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MACA

Massachusetts Chess Association
www.masschess.org

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Maryanne C. Reilly

VICE PRESIDENT
Donna M. Alarie
21 Blueberry Lane
Rutland, MA 01543-1320
(508) 847-8574

TREASURER
Robert D. Messenger
4 Hamlett Dr. Apt. 12
Nashua, NH 03062
(603) 891-2484

CLERK
Kenneth R. Ballou
27 Fenway Drive
Framingham, MA 01701-4012
(508) 788-2771

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
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CONTACT ADDRESS
www.masschess.org/contact

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Palin Gambit wins 2009 USATE

FM Paul MacIntyre

It has occurred on President's Day weekend now for thirty-nine years. Known to most as the United States Amateur Teams East, the USATE, or just "The Teams," it has recently been upgraded, somewhat immodestly, to "World Amateur Team Tournament" status.

This year about 280 teams of four players each, in a hotel in Parsippany, New Jersey, vied for proverbial peanuts – plaques, trophies, and clocks. First place netted a plaque, four individual trophies, four Excalibur clocks, and entry into the playoff matches with the winners of the Amateur Team Championships of the North, South, and West for the national title.

The winners of *that* tournament receive wristwatches. I know that because I have seen the one Charles Riordan proudly wears from his 2007 victory with his team, *My G8 Predecessors*, which included Alex Cherniack, Lawyer Times, and Charlie Mays. Second through fifth

places also receive four Excalibur clocks, as do teams that win the many class prizes. Special prizes include best mixed doubles team with two women and two men, best military team, best senior team, best college team, etc.

Yet despite the lack of money prizes, even grandmasters can't resist this extremely popular event: Karpov, Dzindzichashvili, Christiansen, De Firmian, Seirawan, Izoria have all been, to name just a few. Each team's rating must average at the most 2199.75, as it is an "amateur" event. Last year a team with three grandmasters and a five-year-old boy took first place. While their team rating average was indeed low enough, they unknowingly had flouted an old rule at the teams: there can't be more than a 1,000 rating point difference between the third board and the fourth board. For that reason, it was decided, after all, that they wouldn't be able to compete in the national finals.

So, three grandmasters and a child, a winning team formula, will no longer be allowed. So what is the second best win-

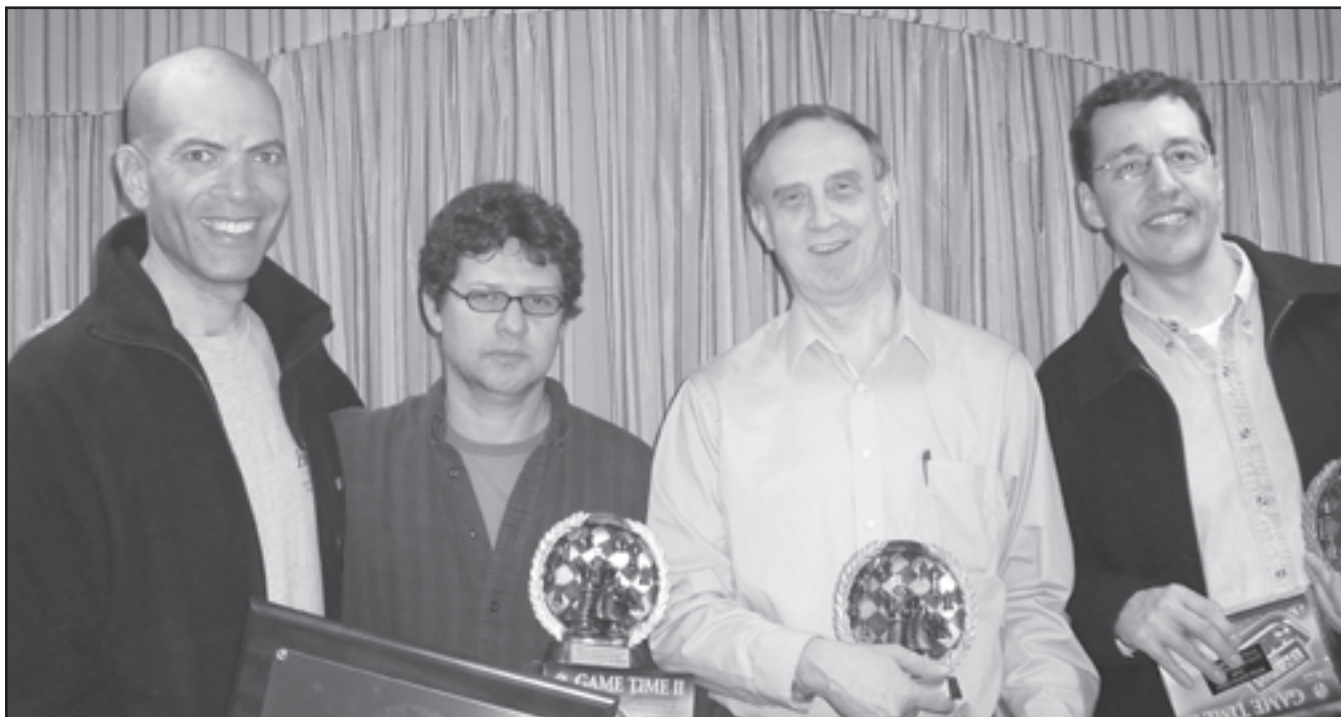
ning formula? Well, a team with two grandmasters and two weaker players seems like a good idea, but it has a fatal flaw. The problem is that there are bound to be times when the weaker bottom two boards will both lose, and the team will only draw. This is a big problem, as the World Amateur Team Tournament is so competitive that even one draw can ruin your chances of taking first, and two draws will definitely do so.

Expert Alan Price is a great proponent of the "balanced team" approach. He firmly believes that a team of four players whose ratings are relatively close is the one to bet on to win it all. Alan is perhaps one of the most successful Amateur Team player/organizers alive, as he has against all odds put together two winning teams now. The first was *Light Blue* in 1998:

From *The Washington Times*, March 21, 1998:

Offering a prize "fund" that wouldn't stretch the budget of a neighborhood lemonade stand, the U.S. Amateur Team

Photo: Brian Hulse's camera



The Palin Gambit: I can see checkmate from my house (l-r)

Alan "chaos theory" Price, Libardo "Ng5" Rueda, Brian "mercy killer" Hulse, Paul "I'm not dead yet" MacIntyre

Championship East has developed into one of the biggest attractions on the American chess calendar. Last month's edition was no different: A record 269 teams and 1,305 players knocked heads in Parsippany, N.J., highlighted by FIDE champ Anatoly Karpov holding down first board for the *WWW Chess Superstore* team. Both Karpov and his team went 6-0, but they were edged out on tiebreaks by *Light Blue* (Dylan McClain, Nathan Resika, Brian Hulse and Alan Price).

This year, 2009, on February 14-16, I had the pleasure of playing first board on Alan's second winning team effort, *The Palin Gambit: I can see checkmate from my house*. It was composed of:

Paul "I'm not dead yet" MacIntyre – (2320) Rumors circulated around the hall in the early rounds that MacIntyre had lost three games in a row. "His team must be out of the running by now – Hey, how come they're still on such a low-numbered board behind the velvet ropes?" Board Score: 2–4.

Brian "mercy killer" Hulse – (2200) This *Light Blue* veteran taught us all about how to let the opponent hang himself. His chess playing wisdom in the realms of personality and psychology educated us all. Board Score: 3–3.

Libardo "Ng5" Rueda – (2189) Libardo was junior champion of his home country of Colombia more than twenty years ago. He has recently returned to chess, and relies on about three openings books and raw talent. In this tournament, his black opponents allowed him to place knights on g5 in nearly every game, with deadly results. Board Score: 5½–½.

Alan "chaos theory" Price – (2052) At home in a shower of tactics, Alan has had to fight his temptation towards uncontrollable positions as he makes his way from 2100 to his dream of a master rating. His mantras include "embrace the dull" and "avoid shiny objects." Board Score: 6–0.

Three of us were Boylston players; indeed, Boylston and Massachusetts talent abounded at the tournament. George Mirijanian compiled the following list for the MACA news of how Massachusetts players fared individually:

- 6 - Alan Price
- 5½ - Libardo Rueda, Roza Eynullayeva, Andrew Wang, Edward Epp
- 5 - Denys Shmelov, Alex Cherniack, Maxwell Schwartz, Will Thalheimer, Thomas Filipek
- 4½ - Charles Riordan, Melvin Zhang, Anatoly Levin
- 4 - William Kelleher, Arthur Bisguier, Ilya Krasik, Carey Theil, Charles Mays, Richard Rose, Reilly Nathans, Benjamin Smith
- 3½ - Timothy Hanke, Natasha Christiansen
- 3 - Christopher Williams, Lawyer Times, Frank Wang, Philip Nutzman, Jake Garbarino, Gabriel Frieden, Michelle Chen, Matthew Lee, Srivat Dattatreya
- 2½ - William G. Michael, Matthew Phelps, Michael Raphael, Alexander Lee, Clara Wang, Karl Hahn, Nicholas Plotkin
- 2 - Paul MacIntyre, Daniel Bartley, Anthony Andrews, Barry Lai
- 1½ - Robert Oresick
- 0 - Daniel Plotkin

In Round One our team was paired way down against a Massachusetts squad headed by Jake Garbarino and named, *Those Guys Who Beat Us*. As expected, my three teammates dispatched their opponents without too much trouble, but my game was another story. I was handed the worst upset I've suffered in years by Jake Garbarino (1981), who had the black pieces. (Actually his pieces were red. I attribute my loss at least in part to his psychedelic set.) Luckily for us, the team didn't need my help this time.

In Round Two, we faced Robert Hess's team, *Be Kind, Resign*. Hess himself is a senior in high school with a 2550 rating. Here, my role was really just to "absorb" all those extra rating points and allow my teammates to beat the lower boards. So, I was duly drubbed, Brian drew, while Libardo and Alan won versus their 1800-rated opponents.

In Round Three came the greatest threat to our chances: a team that more than rated to draw with us. *MCO XVI* had GM Fedorowicz on board two, and two of their young students on boards three and four. Unless I or Brian could somehow nick something off the two giants, our team's chances were sunk. I chose to

grovel with white (cue *Nobody Does It Better*) in a Moscow Sicilian, trading the queens early on. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, De Firmian's perfect technique snuffed me out relatively quickly.

Now all our hopes were pinned on Brian. Earlier, he had told us that Fedorowicz was a childhood friend of his, and that he had had good results against him on various occasions. Brian played a Bogo-Indian, and held an ending after Fedorowicz had invaded deep into Brian's queenside, but thanks to Brian's deft defense he had run out of objects of attack and just ended up trading pieces. The knight ending proved to be unwinnable for either side. Alan and Libardo beat up on the youngsters, and we had passed the test!

White: Fedorowicz, John
Black: Hulse, Brian (2200)
 USATE (3), Parsippany 2009
 Bogo-Indian [E11]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.g3 O-O 6.Bg2 d5 7.Qc2 Na6

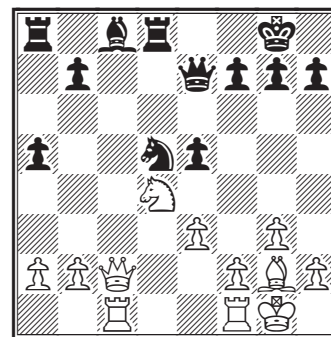
Brian is first to leave book.

8.O-O c5 9.Bg5 cxd4 10.cxd5 Be7 11.Nxd4 Nxd5

The intermediary 11...Nb4 12.Qd2 h6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Nc3 would have allowed black to avoid an IQP position.

12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Nc3 Nab4 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Rac1 Rd8 16.e3

Fedorowicz eschews the IQP position obtainable after 16.Bxd5, and Fritz 9 agrees that there was no advantage there. **16...e5**



Black has equalized.

17.Nb5 Be6 18.Qc5 Qxc5 19.Rxc5 b6 20.Rcc1 Rac8 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Rd1 Nf6 23.Na7 Re8 24.Bc6 Rb8 25.a3 Kf8 26.f3 Ng8 27.e4 Ne7 28.Ba4 g6 29.Rd6 Rb7 30.Rd8+ Kg7 31.Nb5 Rd7 32.Rxd7 Bxd7 33.Nc3 Bxa4 34.Nxa4

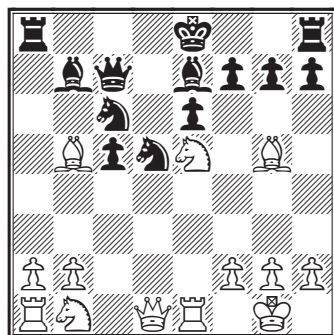
Nc8 35.Kf2 Kf6 36.Nc3 Ke6 37.Nd5 f5 38.Ke3 fxe4 39.fxe4 h6 40.Kd3 Kd6 41.Ne3 b5 42.a4 bxa4 43.Nc4+ Ke6 44.Nxa5 Nd6 45.Nc4 Nb5 46.Na3 Nd6 1/2-1/2

In Round Four we were paired with strong college player James Critelli's team, *Working On A Team*, whose second board was chess blogger Abby Marshall. Alan and Libardo eliminated their opponents, while I was finally returning to form, and had a large advantage when I agreed to a draw with Critelli to clinch the match. As soon as he saw that I had taken the draw, Brian really let Abby off the hook in a very winning position, but as there was no need to win, he preferred to offer her a merciful draw. Alan and Libardo both faced dangerous young players on boards three and four. Here are their games:

White: Rabin, Evan (2136)
Black: Rueda, Libardo (2185)
 USATE (4), Parsippany 2009
 Sicilian Defense [B30]

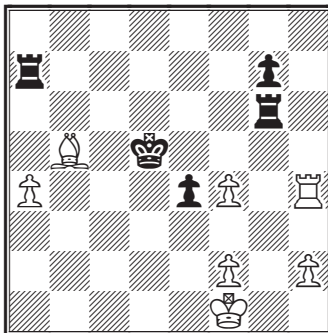
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Qc7 4.O-O e6 4...Nf6 is more popular.
 5.c3 Nf6 6.Re1 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.d4 Be7

Things have gone a bit wrong, and Black must now allow White to play c4 and d5 in order to complete development.
 9.c4 Nf6 10.d5 a6 11.Ba4 b5 12.cxb5?! 12.dxc6 was better.
 12...axb5 13.Bxb5 Nxd5
 Now Black, with a strong knight on d5 and good central influence has no problems.
 14.Ne5 Bb7 15.Bg5?



A pseudo-brilliance that only serves to activate Black's position to the max.
 15...Bxg5 16.Nxc6 O-O 17.Ne5 Rfd8 18.Qb3 Bf6 19.Nf3 Nb4 20.Na3 Qf4

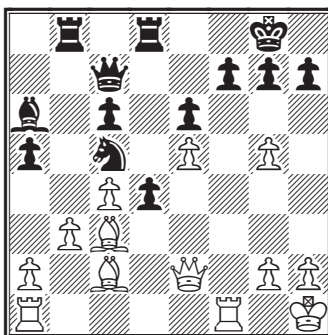
21.Qc4 Qxc4 22.Nxc4 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Nc2 24.a4 Rdb8 25.Rac1 Nxe1 26.Rxe1 Kf8 27.Rb1 Ke7 28.b4 cxb4 29.Rxb4 Bc3 30.Rb3 Ba5 31.Ne5 Rb6 32.Nc6+ Kd6 33.Rd3+ Kc5 34.Nxa5 Rxa5 35.Rd7 e5 36.Rxf7 Rg6+ 37.Kf1 h5 38.Rf5 Kd4 39.Rxh5 Ra7 40.Rh4+ Kd5 41.f4 e4



42.Ke2 Rc7 43.Rh8 Rh6 44.Rd8+ Rd6 45.Rxd6+ Kxd6 46.f3 Kd5 47.fxe4+ Kxe4 48.Kf2 Kxf4 49.Kg2 Rc2+ 50.Kh3 g5 51.Bd7 Ra2 52.Be6 Rxa4 53.Kg2 Ra6 54.Bd7 Ra2+ 55.Kh3 Rc2 56.Be6 Rc3+ 57.Kg2 g4 58.Bd5 Rc2+ 59.Kg1 Kg5 60.Bg2 Kh4 61.Kf1 Ra2 62.Kg1 g3 63.h3 Ra1+ 64.Bf1 Rxf1+ 65.Kxf1 Kxh3 0-1

White: Price, Alan (2052)
Black: Williams, Jeremiah (1969)
 USATE (4), Parsippany 2009
 Sicilian Defense [B42]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Bd3 Qc7 7.O-O a6 8.Qe2 d5 9.c4 Nf6 10.e5 Nd7 11.f4 11.Bf4!? Nc5 12.Bc2 Rb8 13.b3 dxc4 14.Qxc4 a5 15.Qc3 Ba6 16.Rd1.
 11...Bc5+ 12.Kh1 0-0 13.Nd2 Be7 14.b3 Nc5 15.Bc2 a5 16.Bb2 Rb8 17.Bc3 Rd8 18.Nf3 Ba6 19.Ng5!? Bxg5!?
 19...g6 20.Qe1.
 20.fxg5 d4



Black is threatening to win a piece with a pawn fork on d3.

21.Bxa5!
 First deflect the queen away from its defense of f7.
 21...Qxa5 22.Bxh7+!
 Then go after the king.

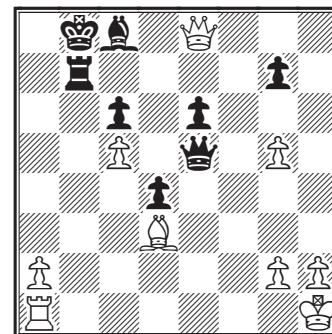
22...Kf8
 22...Kxh7? 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Qxf7+ Kh8 25.Qh5+ Kg8 26.g6 and Qh7 mate will follow.
 23.Bg6 Rd7 24.Qh5
 24.b4! I didn't see this theme until later in the combination. 24...Qxb4 (24...Rxb4 25.Qh5 Ke7 26.Qh8 and mate is unstoppable.) 25.Rab1 Qxb1 26.Bxb1.
 24...Ke7 25.Rxf7+ Kd8 26.Rf8+ Kc7 27.Rxb8 Kxb8 28.b4!

Winning the piece back.
 28...Qa3
 28...Qxb4 loses the queen but the game is still very complicated. 29.Rb1 Qxb1+ 30.Bxb1 d3 31.Qg4 Bxc4 32.h4 d2 33.Bc2 Bxa2.
 29.bxc5 Qxc5 30.Bd3

I was trying to figure out how to continue the attack but not allow the d pawn to run for a touchdown. 30.Qh8+ Ka7 31.Be4 Rb7 32.Qe8 Bxc4 33.Qxc6 Qxc6 34.Bxc6 Rb2 35.h4 Kb6 36.Bf3.
 30...Qxe5

30...Bxc4? 31.Qe8+! (31.Rc1?! is the obvious pin but I was concerned about the back rank dangers. 31...Qa3) 31...Kc7 32.Bxc4 Qxc4 33.Rb1 threatens Qb8 mate. 33...Qb5 34.Rxb5 cxb5 35.Qxe6 d3 36.Qb3 d2 37.Qd1 and white should be able to win by pushing the kingside pawns.

31.Qe8+ Bc8
 Black has survived the first wave of attack. I spent some time thinking about how to create a second wave.
 32.c5! Rb7?



Black underestimated the threats.
 33.Rf1
 33.Ba6! Rc7 34.Rb1+ Ka7 35.Bxc8.

33...Qxc5 34.Ba6 Rc7 35.Rb1+ Ka7
36.Bxc8 Qc2 37.Rg1 d3 38.Bxe6
38...d2 39.Bb3 Qd3 40.h3

I wanted to eliminate any back rank nonsense.

40...c5 41.Qa4+ Kb8 42.Bc2 Qe2
43.Be4 Re7 44.Bf3

I was nursing this game to victory and overly cautious. 44.Rb1+! is a better path to victory. 44...Kc7 (44...Kc8 45.Qc6+ Rc7 46.Qe8#) 45.Qc6+ Kd8 46.Rb8#.

44...Qe1 45.Qb5+ Kc7 46.Qxc5+ Kd8
47.Bg4 1-0

In spite of its imperfections I was delighted with this attacking game.

Round Five saw us paired against Pennsylvania's *Blago-Indian Defense – Pay to Play*. Brian Hulse showed wisdom and prudence by taking a draw although he was up a queen for rook and bishop. His sense of danger told him that his losing chances were perhaps better than his winning chances. Libardo Rueda, who lacked the necessary time to explore the many tactical variations in the difficult situation that had developed, thought it best to go for a perpetual check. Alan then won a wild game against his expert opponent, so I actually had to perform against my 2328 rated opponent in order for us to win, and I did, scoring a full point and tilting the match in our favor. Here's Alan's game from Round Five:

White: Opaska, Mike (2003)

Black: Price, Alan (2052)

USATE (5), Parsippany 2009

Closed Sicilian [B26]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7
5.d3 d6 6.Be3 Nd4 7.Nce2!?

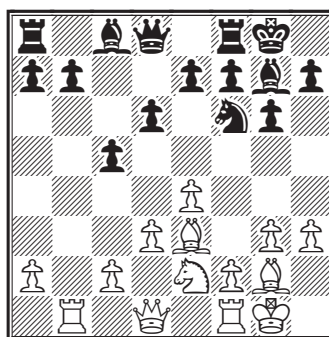
White sacrifices the b2-pawn for attacking chances.

7...Nxe2 8.Nxe2 Bxb2 9.Rb1 Bg7

Now I try to catch up in development.
10.0-0 Nf6 11.h3 0-0

I had this same position via the same move order in round one of the tournament.

Jake Garbarino, a member of the 2008 Hurvitz Cup High School champion commonwealth school, achieved his first expert rating at the USATE world amateur team event.



12.Qd2

12.f4 Rb8 13.e5 this looks aggressive but only weakens White's pawns. 13...Ne8 (13...Nd7 was equally playable.) 14.d4 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Bd7 16.Bxb7 Qc7 17.exd6 Nxd6 18.Bg2 Rxb1 19.Qxb1 Qc3! white loses a piece. 20.Qb3 Bxd4 21.Qxc3 Bxc3 22.Bxa7 Rc8 23.Rb1 Ba4 White resigned. 0-1, Smith, Benjamin (1850) - Price, Alan (2052).

12...Rb8 13.f4 b6 14.g4 Bb7 15.c4 e6
16.f5 exf5 17.gxf5 Nd7 18.Rf2 Bf6
19.Rbf1 Bh4 20.Rf4 Bg5 21.Rg4 Bxe3+
22.Qxe3 Ne5 23.f6

My teammates were slightly concerned that I might be mated in a few moves.

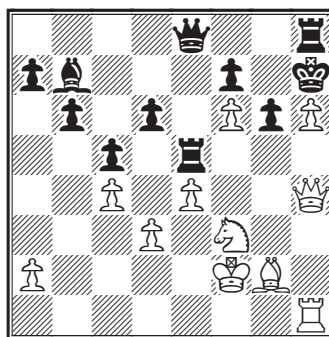
23...Nxc4 24.hxc4 Kh8 25.Qh6 Rg8
26.g5

White is threatening a brutal attack. After playing Kf2, he can sacrifice the queen on h7 and play Rh1 mate. I was pleased with my defensive maneuverings.

26...Qf8 27.Qh4 h6 28.Kf2 Kh7 29.Rh1
Rh8 30.gxh6

The assault is almost over. Now the pawn on h6 shelters my king. The only piece that can hurt me would be a knight on g5, so I prepare to give back the exchange to eliminate the knight.

30...Re8 31.Ng1 Re5 32.Nf3 Qe8



32...Rh5 this may have been better.
33.Ng5+ Kg8 34.h7+ R8xh7 35.Nxh7

Kxh7 36.Qg3 Rxh1 37.Bxh1 during the game I couldn't visualize how to win this position.

33.Ng5+?!

White forces the issue. 33.Qf4 was better. I think we both missed it.

33...Rxc5 34.Qxc5 Qe5 35.Qd2 Qxf6+
36.Ke2 Bc8 37.Bf3 Re8 38.Rf1 Re5
39.Kd1 Qe7 40.Kc2 f5 41.Re1 Bb7
42.exf5 Rxe1 43.fxc6+ Kxc6 44.Bxb7
Re2 45.Be4+ Qxe4!

This liquidates into a simple, winning endgame.

46.dxe4 Rxd2+ 47.Kxd2 Kxh6 48.Ke3
Kg5 49.Kf3 a6 50.a3 Kf6 51.Kf4 b5
52.cxb5 axb5 0-1

In Round Six we faced the Maryland team *UR Outrated: Give Up* which had GM Lawrence Kaufman and IM Ray Kaufman, his son, on boards one and two. In fact, on boards three and four it was *we* who outrated *them*.

First Libardo won on board three. Ray Kaufman then handed Brian Hulse his only loss of the tournament (Hulse had the black side of a Queen's Indian). As had become his habit at the teams, Alan emerged victorious from great complications.

That left it up to me to stop GM Kaufman. Before the round, I had insisted that Alan take me out to the car to fish out the excellent opening repertoire book *The Chess Advantage in Black and White* by GM Kaufman himself. As I leafed through it for ideas of what to play, I bounced ideas off Alan, and finally concluded that the Giuoco Piano would be the best approach for me to take with white.

I did not, however, expect that on move ten he would make a very serious misstep. I capitalized on it and left him with a prospectless, objectively lost position. With two wins already obtained, I accepted the draw at his proposal (Alan and my games below), and *The Palin Gambit* took its honored place in the annals of the World Amateur Team Tournament. The national playoff will take place on March 21st. Wish us luck!

Melvin Zhang, the MACA 1997 K-3 state champ, achieved a USCF master rating at the recent USATE world amateur team event.

Chess Horizons

White: Stanley, Douglas (1981)

Black: Price, Alan (2052)

USATE (6), Parsippany 2009
Dutch Defense [A83]

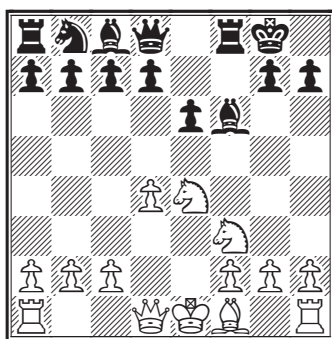
1.d4 f5

I spent a few minutes on my first move. I had not played or studied the Dutch in several years. My usual responses to 1.d4 (Grünfeld, Nimzo, Slav) are more solid, but I was willing to take a risk.

2.Nc3

We're immediately in a side variation that I'm struggling to remember.

2...Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 fxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 0-0?!



I should have been more patient, developed some more pieces, and castled queenside. Now I'm the target of some justified aggression. **7...Nc6 8.c3 d6 9.d5 exd5 10.Qxd5 Qe7 11.Bb5 Bd7 12.0-0-0.**

8.Bd3 Nc6 9.c3 g6 10.h4!?

I underestimated this direct attack.

10...Bg7 11.h5 d5 12.Neg5?!

This was just the break I needed. Now Black is fine. **12.Ng3** was solid and bet-

ter. **12...Qf6 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.Qb3 Ne7 15.0-0-0 b6 16.Qa3 Qf4+ 17.Kb1 Qd6** During the game, I thought this was a difficult but workable position.

12...h6 13.hxg6 hxg5

Black is better. Although I have to be careful about White's pawn on g6, it actually provides nice shelter for my king for the rest of the game.

14.Rh5 e5!

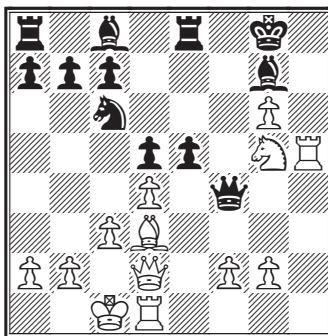
Taking advantage of the fact that White's king is still in the center.

15.Nxg5 Qf6

15...exd4 was probably better.; 15...e4 this may be playable, but it seemed prudent to avoid the possible opening of the b3 to g8 diagonal. **16.Nxe4 (16.Bxe4 Bf5 17.f3 Ne7 18.Qb3 Bxg6) 16...Re8 (16...dxe4?? 17.Qb3+ suddenly Black gets mated.) 17.Qb3 Be6.**

16.Qe2 Re8 17.0-0-0 Qf4+ 18.Qd2

Only move, otherwise Bg4 picks up more material.



18...Qxd2+

18...Bg4?! looks like a nice fork, but walks into the counter pin **19.Rh4!**

19.Rxd2 exd4 20.Kc2

20.cxd4? Re1+ 21.Rd1 (21.Kc2? Nxd4+ 22.Kc3 Rc1+ 23.Rc2 Nxc2+ 24.Kd2 Nb4 25.Kxc1 Nxd3+) 21...Rxd1+ 22.Kxd1 Bg4+.

20...dxc3 21.bxc3 Ne5 22.Nh3 Nxd3 23.Rxd3 c6 24.Kd2 Re4 25.Kc2 Bd7 26.f3 Rc4 27.Kb3 Re8 28.g4 Re1 29.g5 Bf5 0-1

White: MacIntyre, Paul (2307)

Black: Kaufman, Lawrence (2440)

USATE (6), Parsippany 2009
Giuoco Piano [C54]

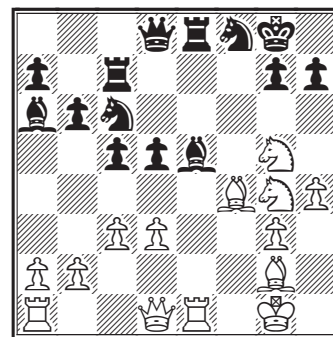
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 a6 6.Nbd2 O-O 7.Bb3 d6 8.Nf1 d5 9.Qe2 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nh5?? 11.Ng5 Qf6 12.Qxh5 Qxf2+ 13.Kd1 h6 14.Nxf7 Rxf7 15.Qxf7+ Qxf7 16.Bxf7+ Kxf7 17.Be3 Bf8 18.Kc2 Ke8 19.h4 Nd8 20.Ng3 Nf7 21.h5 Nd6 22.Bc5 Nxe4 23.Nxe4 Bf5 24.Kb3 Bxe4 25.Rae1 Bxc5 26.Rxe4 Bd6 27.Rg4 Kf7 28.Rf1+ Kg8 29.Re4 Re8 30.Rf5 Re6 31.g4 g6 32.hxg6 Rxg6 33.Kc4 Re6 1/2-1/2

White: Rueda, Libardo

Black: Schoch, Ian

USATE (6), Parsippany 2009
French Defense [C00]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.d3 e6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.c3 0-0 8.e4 b6 9.e5 Nd7 10.Re1 Ba6 11.Nf1 Rc8 12.h4 Re8 13.N1h2 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Ng5 Nf8 16.Ng4 Rc7 17.f4 e5 18.fxe5 Bxe5 19.Bf4



19...Rce7

19...Bxf4 20.Rxe8 Qxe8 21.Bxd5+ Kh8 22.gxf4 h6 23.Qf3 Bb7 and White's awkwardly placed pieces give Black compensation for his pawn deficit. (Dylan Loeb McClain, *Herald Tribune*).

20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Rxe5 Rxe5 23.Qf3 Qf6 24.d4 Rf5 25.Qe3 h6 26.Nh3 cxd4 27.cxd4 Qd6 28.Re1 Bb7 29.Nf4 Ng6 30.Qe8+ Kh7 31.Re6 1-0

A principled guideline for studying opening books

- 1) Familiarize yourself with the basic patterns by playing through the games at speed. At this stage you should ignore the notes and sub-variations.
- 2) Play these lines in quick games at your local club or on the Internet.
- 3) Look up the lines that occurred in your games and cross-check your play against the recommended lines.
- 4) Repeat steps 2 and 3 for a month or two.
- 5) Study the book more carefully, working from cover to cover and making notes about any point of interest. Analyze the points of interest.
- 6) Adopt your new weapon in competitive games and matches.
- 7) Analyze your competitive games to establish what happened and whether either side could improve.

From *Taming the Sicilian*, by Nigel Davies, Everyman Chess