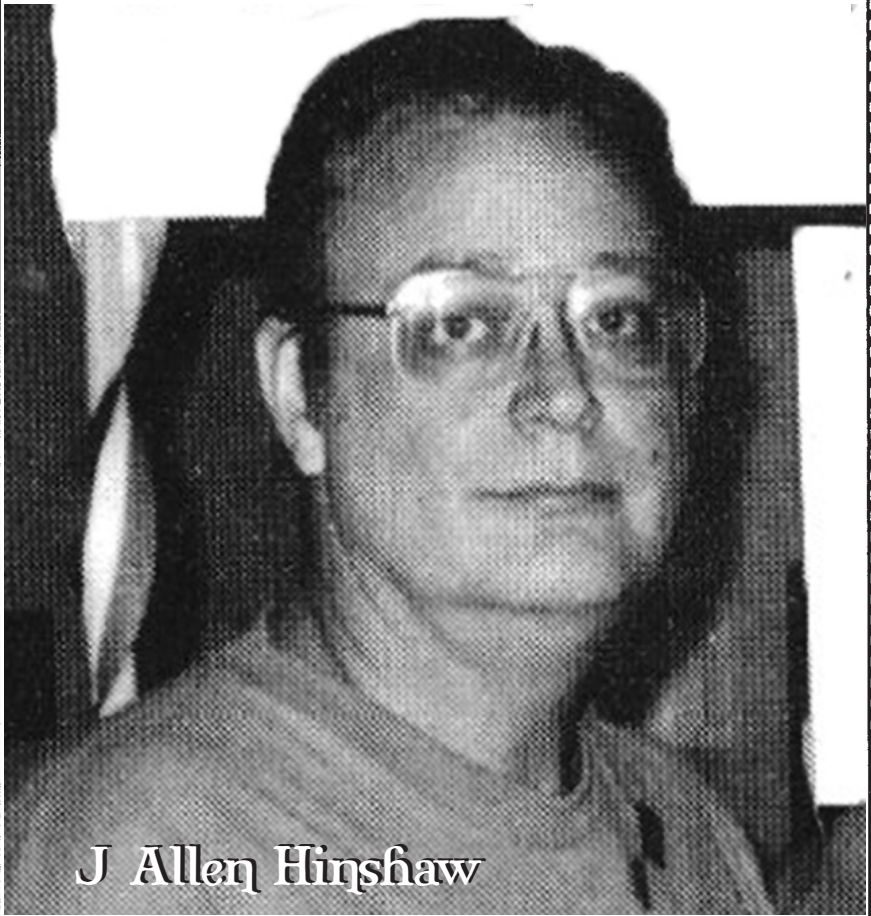


VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
Virginia Chess Federation

2019 - #1



J Allen Hingshaw

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2019 - Issue #1

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Virginia Chess is published six times per year by the Virginia Chess Federation. Membership benefits include a subscription to *Virginia Chess*. Send material for publication to the editor. Send dues, address changes, etc to Circulation.

The **Virginia Chess Federation (VCF)** is a



non-profit organization for the use of its members.

Dues for regular adult membership are \$15/yr.

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Eastern Open

Portions of this report are derived from Tom Beckman's "Eastern Open Tournament Book".

THE VENERABLE Eastern Open returned to northern Virginia Dec 27-30. 210 players entered and GM Alex Lenderman proved the best of them all, finishing 6-1 for clear first in the Open section. GM Sergey Erenburg took 2nd with 5½ points, while soon-to-be GM Nicolas Checa scored 5-2 to nail down 3rd place.

Other section winners included Douglas Ulrich, Richard Tan, Evan Ling & Tian Nguyen (=1st in Under 2200); Chen-Chen Ye (U1900); Roy Russell III (U1600); and Duraisamy Parimal, Lang Leo Xiong, Stephen Parsons & Alexander Morton (=U1300).

Tournament Organizer Tom Beckman deserves special acknowledgement for his energy and innovation as he seeks to make the Eastern Open a full-fledge chess *festival* every year. In addition to the main tournament, a day-long Scholastic tourney drew 38 players in 3 sections, and a Blitz tourney attracted of 18 entrants. GM Lenderman performed a simultaneous exhibition and also presented a lecture on relative piece activity. A tournament e-book containing over 50 annotated and raw game scores, as well as brilliancies, tactics, and puzzles, was distributed to all registered participants!



continued

On the cover...

J Allen Hinshaw

We regretfully convey the news that J Allen Hinshaw died November 25, 2018. Allen and his wife of 47 years, Helen, were mainstays of chess in Virginia for decades. On numerous years Allen served as president of the Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) and as USCF delegate from Virginia. He played a key role in bringing two US Opens (Fairfax 1976 & Alexandria 1996) to our state. He and Helen together were honored by the national federation at an awards banquet of yet another Virginia US Open, Norfolk 2017.

On a personal level, the Editor remembers Allen as one of those ubiquitous guys who was plugged in to everything about local organized chess when I first started this journey in 1973. He organized or directed several of my earliest tournaments, and my absolutely first introduction to the VCF's inner workings occurred on Aug 9, 1974—the exact date is remembered because it was the same day Richard Nixon resigned the presidency—when the Hinshaws recruited me to help collate and staple newsletters at a downtown Richmond printshop. I recall the basement of *'the Hinshaw Hacienda'*, Allen and Helen's Spanish mission-style home in Richmond, as a veritable workshop of chess publishing and organization. I'm sure that all VCF members join me in offering condolences to Helen and their daughter Melissa.



Fittingly, the top two prizewinners also contested the game that won the special Best Game prize. Here it is, with notes as presented in the aforementioned tournament e-Book.

Alex Lenderman-Sergey Erenburg Slav

Notes by Alex Lenderman [AL], Sergey Erenburg [SE] & Tom Beckman [TB]

[TB] I hope this conversation between two very strong players provides insights into their preparation and thinking during the game. Part of the story surrounding this critical game was the room sharing, preparation, and opposition research. Initially, I had planned to room with GM Alex Lenderman as we had several rooms reserved at the hotel for me and the TDs. Then, I got an email from GMs Lenderman and Erenburg requesting that they wished to room together. I agreed to this, but jokingly ‘complained’ that they weren’t willing to share any GM secrets with a patzer (me). Little did I realize the implications of this ‘move’ until later...

[SE] As far as the preparation for the game against Alex goes, after round 5 we still did not know if we would necessarily play in round 6. However, it was pretty obvious that even if we didn’t in round 6, we’d meet in round 7, and Alex would still play with White. The only alternative pairing in round 6 was that I’d play IM Nicolas Checa with White, a second White in a row, which would imply that I’d still have to play Alex with Black in the last round. So, Alex left the room to talk to his coach and was probably away for a couple of hours—by the time he got back, I was already asleep.

I’ve played Alex multiple times, but typically, I don’t manage to predict the line he chooses, so I only briefly looked at some of the games we previously played

and made sure I went to sleep early. Although I was half a point behind, I made a conscious decision to play normal chess, since I played with the Black pieces. It has happened to me (and many others) that when you play gung-ho with the Black pieces against strong opponents, the outcome is typically bad. The hope was that Alex would drop half a point in the last round with the Black pieces (yes, I hoped he’d play against IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat) and I’d be able to catch up.

The morning before the game, when it finally became obvious that we would play, I had not done much additional preparation, except to try and get to the game in normal shape by finishing my breakfast about 45 minutes before the game started. At that point, it became clear that I’d play IM Checa in the last round, and my biggest worry was to make it to the last bus, so I was looking into that in the morning as well.

[AL] I knew after my draw in round 5 against Nico Checa that I would most likely play Sergey Erenburg in round 6 and I’d be White. Both Nico Checa and Sergey Erenburg had already lost points against lower-rated players in the tournament. I figured that Sergey and Nico would have to still play in the last round, and since I was leading the tournament, I figured a draw with White against Sergey would be a decent result



for me in round 6. Therefore, I decided to go into a relatively forced line that leads to a completely risk free endgame, but one where I can ask a couple of questions.

Regarding preparation, it was slightly awkward since Sergey and I shared a room during the tournament, but I took advantage of the time when Sergey was still busy playing round 5 to decide on which opening line I would play. I wanted to also play something that I knew relatively well. I also stepped out for an hour or so to give Sergey a chance to prepare when I wasn't in the room. In the end it wasn't such an awkward thing.

1 c4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e3 e6

[TB] Although starting out as an English Opening, the game quickly transposes into the solid Semi-Slav.

5 Nf3 a6

[TB] And this move defines the Chebanenko Slav variation, named after a famous Moldovan trainer.

6 Qc2

[SE] Alex was half a point ahead of me, so in hindsight, his choice of this solid line made perfect sense.

[AL] 6 b3 Bb4 7 Bd2 Nbd7 is also a topical line.

6...c5

[SE] Now the queenside knight is going to be developed to c6. I could have avoided long theoretical lines with 6...Nbd7 and after 7 b3 we would get an Anti-Meran with perhaps wasted a7-a6 tempo. Here White is also likely to get a risk free position after 7...Bd6 8 Bb2 O-O 9 Be2 e5 10 Nxd5

Nxd5 11 cxd5 Qa5+ 12 Bc3 Bb4 13 Bxb4 Qxb4+ 14 Qd2 Qxd2+ 15 Kxd2 exd4 16 Nxd4 cxd5 17 Rhc1 [TB] with a very nice White advantage despite the later draw in Giri-Mamedyarov, Tashkent 2014.

[AL] If Black wanted to play for a win he can play 6...Nbd7, but then I feel like White has good chances for an advantage because of 7 b3 Bb4 8 Bb2, and now with my queen on c2, Black's Ne4 and Qa5 aren't a problem anymore and my bishop is much better placed on b2 than on d2.

7 cxd5 exd5 8 Be2 Nc6 9 O-O

[SE] Two years before, in the same tournament, Alex won a game against IM Tegshsuren Enkhbat after 9...cxd4 10 Nxd4 Nxd4 11 exd4 Be7 12 Bg5 Be6 13 Bf3 Qd7 14 Qb3 Rd8 15 Rac1 Ne4 16 Bxe7 Nd2 17 Qd1 Nxf3+ 18 Qxf3 Qxe7 19 Na4 O-O 20 Nc5 and White had a nice advantage. A better plan was played in Ragger-Mamedyarov, Vienna 2015 with 10...Qc7 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 b3 Bd6 13 h3 O-O 14 Bb2 Re8 15 Rac1 Bd7 16 Rfd1 h6 17 Bf3 Rac8 18 Na4 Ne4 19 Bxe4 Rxe4 20 Nc5 Bxc5 21 Qxc5 ±

9...Be6 10 Rd1 cxd4

[SE] Since the world championship match between Anand and Gelfand, this is considered to be the main line and grants Black equality. 10...Nb4 is also playable, but based on the recent games White is out of risk here as well after 11 Qd2 Ne4 12 Nxe4 dxe4 13 a3 exf3 14 Bxf3 Nc6 15 d5 Ne5 16 dxe6 Nxf3+ 17 gxf3 fxe6 drawn in 32 moves, Martinovic-Banusz, Austria 2018.

11 Nxd4 Nxd4 12 Rxd4 Bc5 13 Rd1 Qe7

[SE] Of course not 13...O-O?? 14 Nxd5.



14 Bf3

[SE] White has also tried 14 Na4 but Black seems to have enough resources to equalize after 14...Bd6 (14...Ba7? 15 Bxa6) 15 Nb6 Bxh2+ 16 Kxh2 Qd6+ 17 Kg1 Qxb6 18 Qa4+ Bd7 19 Qf4 O-O 20 b3 Rac8 21 Bb2 [TB] 21...Rc2 N but White still has a small edge as in Aleksandrov-Rublevsky, Loo 2013.

14...O-O

[SE] This sacrifice of a central pawn for the initiative is a well known theoretical line. White gets a pleasant position after 14...Rd8 15 b3 with the idea to meet d5-d4 with Na4 after 15...O-O 16 Bb2 Rc8 17 Nxd5 Bxd5 18 Bxd5 Bxe3 19 Qe2 Nxd5 20 Rxd5 Bc5 N (½-½, 29) Lenic-Rublevsky, Aix les Bains 2011.

[AL] Black has to sacrifice a pawn here, as after 14...Rd8 15 b3 White has some advantage.

15 Bxd5 Nxd5 16 Nxd5 Bxd5 17 Rxd5 Rac8

[AL] This was all played before in the game Schandorff-Erenburg awhile back, where Black equalized easily. However, in that game, as far as I remember, White played 18 Bd2.

18 Qd3

[SE] White does not return the pawn, but hopes to gradually neutralize Black's initiative. I am sure Alex was aware of my previous game from 2013, where Black was fine after 18 Bd2 Bxe3 19 Bc3 Bb6 20 Qb3 (or 20 Qf5 Qe6 21 Qf3 f6 later drawn in Gelfand-Anand, Moscow 2012) 20...Qe6 21 Rad1 (21 Re1?? Rxc3)

h6 22 h3 Rfe8 23 Qb4 Rc6 24 Re5 Qc8 25 Rde1 and soon drawn in Schandorff-Erenburg, Helsingor 2013.

18...Rfd8

[SE] A logical move to take control over the open d-file. However, 18...Rcd8 is probably more precise because it keeps the option of the following b7-b6 after 19 g3 b6, [TB] although 19...Rxd5 20 Qxd5 Rd8 21 Qf3 Bd6 22 e4 Be5 may be a slightly better move order.

19 g3!

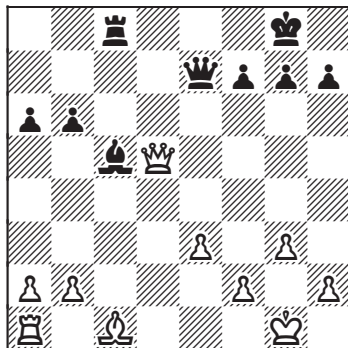
[SE] Probably the best attempt to fight for an edge.

[AL] White's 18th and 19th moves are not the most common in this position, as far as I know.

19...Rxd5

[SE] Now 19...b6? is a blunder in view of 20 Qxa6 Qe4 21 Rd2!. Another logical attempt to equalize was 19...Bb6!? 20 Bd2 Rxd5 21 Qxd5 Rd8 22 Qb3 Rxd2 23 Qxb6 Qe4 and Black's activity should be sufficient for equality.

20 Qxd5 b6 N





Virginia Scholastic & College Championships March 9-10, 2019

Monticello High School, 1400 Independence Way
Charlottesville, Va 22902

5-SS, rds 1-2 G/60 d5, rds. 3-5 G/90 d5. Main tournament Sat-Sun Mar 9-10. Blitz Championships Friday Mar 8 at 6 pm. **NEW SECTIONS** being introduced this year! Players must be in grades pre-K, K through 12, or College full time in Virginia as of Jan 2019. Open to Virginia residents only, including children of Military stationed in Virginia. State residency *not* required for Friday Night Blitz. Parents & Friends tournament on Sat-Sun. Simultaneous Exhibition on Sat 9 Mar by 3-time Virginia State Champion FM Macon Shibut. Tournament schedule, Details about new Sections, Prizes, Registration, Player Eligibility, Hotel Info and other information at: www.vachess.org. Questions to NTD Anand Dommalapati, email adommalapati@yahoo.com

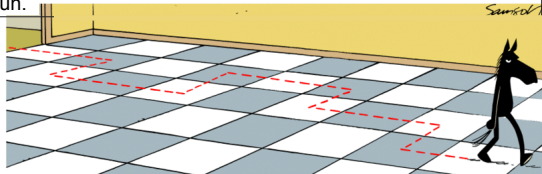
US Chess Junior Grand Prix event



2019 Virginia Scholastic & College Chess Championships

Friday Night, Saturday and Sunday, March 8th - 10th, 2019

Place	Monticello High School, 1400 Independence Way, Charlottesville, VA 22902
FOR THE DETAILS ...	See the Tournament Home Page at www.vachess.org for more information and directions to the site.
Tournament Format	<p style="text-align: center;">THERE ARE <u>THREE</u> TOURNAMENTS!!</p> <p>#1. Friday Night Blitz: March 8th. Four or five rounds in 3 Sections (K-5, K-12, and College). Time control is Game-in-5, no time delay, 2 games per Round.</p> <p>#2. The Main Event: Saturday and Sunday, March 9th and 10th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> One College Section: All 4 rounds played on Saturday. <input type="checkbox"/> NEW for 2019: There are 8 Scholastic Sections. Players play in one of the following based on their Grade in school and US Chess Rating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ K-12 Championship and K-12 Under 1400 ○ K-8 Championship and K-8 Under 1200 ○ K-5 Championship and K-5 Under 1000 ○ K-3 Championship and K-3 Under 600 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Unrated Players may play in a Championship or an Under section.</i></p> <p>#3. Parents and Friends (P&F) Tournament: For adults only, no scholastic or college players. 4 USCF-rated games, with Rounds 1-2 on Sat. and Rounds 3 and 4 on Sun.</p>





[SE] I decided that it was wise to place the queenside pawns on b6 and a5 squares to make sure nothing is hanging there, when and if my heavy pieces get the opportunity to invade into the White camp. Also, this set up secures my bishop as well. Black did not equalize after 20...Rd8 21 Qf3 Qd7?! 22 b3 f6 23 Kg2 b6 24 Bb2 Qd2 25 Bd4 Bxd4 26 Rd1 Qxa2 27 Rxd4 Rxd4 28 exd4 Qd2 29 Qd5+ Kf8 30 Qd8+ Kf7 31 Qxb6 ± (1-0, 48) in Kovalenko-Shimanov, Wroclaw 2014.

[AL] 20...Rd8 21 Qf3 Bd6 probably should equalize but I wanted to play this line since it's completely risk-free and a draw was decent for me at this point in the tournament.

[TB] However, after 20...Rd8 21 Qf3 Bd6! 22 Kg2 Be5 23 e4 Qb4 24 Be3 Bxb2

25 Rb1 b5 26 Bb6 (26 Bc1 Qe1) Re8 27 Qd3 h6 Black has equalized.

21 Kg2

[AL] Now I was on my own. If 21 Qf5 Rd8 22 Qc2 Qd7 23 b3 h5; or if 21 b3 Qf6 22 Rb1 Rd8 23 Qh5 Qg6 24 Qxg6 Rd1+ 25 Kg2 hxg6 26 Ra1 g5

[TB] 21 Qf5 looks like an improvement after 21...Rd8 22 Qc2 Qd6 23 b3 Qd3 24 Qxd3 Rxd3 25 Kf1 White has consolidated his extra pawn.

20...Rd8 22 Qf3 h6

[SE] A good prophylactic move, which allows me to activate my rook.

[TB] Another option is 22...Qe5 23 Rb1 Qd6

52nd annual

Virginia Open

March 22-24, 2-19



Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel

45020 Aviation Dr, Dulles, Va 20166

5SS, rds 1-2 Game/90 inc 30, rds 3-5 40/90, SD/30 inc 30. \$\$4000 Guaranteed!

Two Sections. *Open* (FIDE-rated): \$750-475-325-230, top X, A (based on USCF ratings) each \$200. FIDE Rules, 30-minute default for late arrivals.

Amateur (U1900 USCF): \$500-300-200, top B, C, D, each \$175, top U1200 \$165, top Unr \$130 (limited to \$200 place award), trophies to top U1000, U800, U600 and Unrated. *Both*: Reg Fri 3/22 4:30-6:45pm, rds 7:30, 10-3, 10-4. EF \$85 if rec'd by Sat 3/16, \$100 thereafter and on site, \$5 retained if you withdraw before the tournament. VCF memb req'd for Va residents (\$15 Adults, \$8 Jr under 18). One ½-pt bye allowed any round, must commit by Sat 9:30am. Re-entry \$40, start rd2 with ½ pt. Hotel \$109 chess rate plus taxes, reserve by Fri 3/1 at 703-471-9500. www.marriott.com. Plaques to 1st Place overall in both Open & Amateur. *Enter*: Checks payable to VCF, mail to Anand Dommalapati, ATTN: VA Open, PO Box 223582, Chantilly, VA 20151; or online at www.vachess.org.

30 US Chess Grand Prix Points

A VCF Cup Event



23 b3 a5

[SE] Black's initiative is quickly neutralized after 23...Qe5 24 Rb1 Qc3 because of the strong 25 Qe4! Qd3 26 Qxd3 Rxd3 27 Rb2 ± Ba3? 28 Rd2 leaving him short a pawn.

24 Bb2

[SE] I was mostly worried about 24 Rb1 with the idea to introduce the rook to the game via b2-d2 route. But then Black has a very strong reply after which equality is achieved: 24...Rd1!! 25 Qxd1 (25 Ra1 Rd8) Qe4+ 26 f3 Qxb1 27 Qd2 f5

[TB] 24 h4 is an interesting alternative.

24...Rd2 25 Bc3 Rc2 26 Bd4 Bxd4 27 exd4 ±

[SE] Although Black's pieces are more active, Black still has to play precisely to keep the balance.

27...Qe2

[SE] Once I saw 29...Rc2 after the trade of the queens I was pretty confident that the rook endgame is drawn. After 27...Rd2 my confidence in an eventual draw was not as high. The engine demonstrates that even here Black is objectively okay, but it requires nerves of steel and a little more time than I had at this point of the game

28 Qxe2 Rxe2 29 Kf3 Rc2!

[SE] In rook endgames, the activity of the pieces is of the utmost importance. So it was vital to deny White's king the c6 square. Worse is 29...Rd2 30 Ke4 Rxf2 31 Kd5 Rxh2?! (31...Rc2 ± gives Black better chances to survive) 32 Kc6 ±

30 Re1!

[SE] Now after 30 Ke4 my king is just in time to meet his colleague in the center to prevent its march farther into the Black camp after 30...Kf8 31 Kd5 Ke7 =

[AL] The best winning chance. If 30 Ke4 Kf8 or if 30 Ke3 Kf8 =

30...Rxa2

[SE] Otherwise White would protect his queenside pawns after 30...Kf8? 31 Re2 ±

[AL] If 30...Kf8 31. Re2 ± White has excellent winning chances here.

31 Re8+ Kh7 32 Rb8 g6!

[SE] My only problem was my passive king, and this was the most efficient way to bring it closer to the center to help stop the passed d-pawn. The drawback of 32...f6 was that once the Black king moved to g6, White could play Rb7 making my king passive once again. The danger of my position is illustrated by the following line: 32...Ra3? 33 Rxb6 a4 34 Ke4 axb3? (34...f5+! might be the last chance; of course not 34...Rxb3?? 35 Rxb3 axb3 36 Kd3 winning) 35 d5 and White wins. During the game it was not obvious to me that Black could hold after 32...Rb2 as well after 33 Rxb6 a4 34 Ke3 axb3 35 d5 Rb1! 36 Kd2 g5! 37 d6 Rb2+ 38 Kc3 Rb1 39 Rb8 Rd1 40 Rd8 Kg7 41 Kxb3 Kf6 42 Kc4 Ke6 43 Re8+ Kd7 44 Re7+ Kxd6 45 Rxf7 Rf1 46 Kd4 Ke6 =

[AL] A very classy move to bring the king in the game. After 32...Ra3 33 Rxb6 a4 34 Ke4 axb3 (34...Rxb3 35 Rxb3 axb3 36 Kd3) 35 d5 Ra2 36 Rxb3 and White is winning. Here it becomes clear that the Black king is too far away to stop the pawn in many lines.



33 Rxb6 Kg7 =

[SE] White can't avoid the exchange of the queenside pawns, and since the Black king is close to the passed d-pawn, this endgame is drawn.

34 d5

[SE] 34 Ke3 does not change much: 34...a4 35 b4 Rb2 36 h4 a3

[AL] 34 h4 might give a slightly better chance of winning after 34...h5 35 Ke3 Kf8 36 f3 a4 37 bxa4 Rxa4 38 g4 hxg4 39 fxg4 Ra5

34...a4 35 bxa4

[SE] White could try 35 b4 but once again Black is fine: 35...Rb2 36 Ke3 a3 37 Ra6 Rxb4 38 Rxa3 Kf6

35...Rxa4 36 g4

[SE] White is trying to fix Black's kingside pawns by preventing h6-h5. However, this leads to immediate draw because White's pawns are too vulnerable. 36 Ke3 Kf8 would still lead to a draw.

[AL] After 36 Ke3 Kf8 37 h4 h5 38 Rb7 Ke8 39 f3 Rc4 I couldn't figure out how to make progress.

36...Rd4 37 Rd6

[TB] White could try 37 Rb7 h5 38 h4 Ke8 39 f3 f6 40 d6 Ra6 41 Re7+ Kf8 42 Rd7 Ke8 43 Rg7 Rxd6 44 Rxg6 Kf7 45 Rh6 Rd5 46 Rh8 Ra5 47 Rd8 Ke6 but he can't make further progress. See why I'm glad I didn't spend time studying R+P endings?

37...Kf8 38 Rd8+ Ke7 39 Rh8 h5!

[SE] I did not feel like playing a 2-vs-3 rook endgame, so I made sure to end the game as quickly as possible. 39...Rxd5 40 Rxh6 is still a draw but would require a little more time to be spent at the board.

40 gxh5 Rxd5 41 hxg6 fxg6 1/2-1/2

[SE] Even without the g6 paw this position is a theoretical draw, so Alex decided not to waste time and agreed to a draw.

[TB] This game won 1st prize for Best Played Game, and for Opening Innovation.

Dennis Norman - Andrew Samuelson, Benoni

Notes by Andrew Samuelson

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 c5 3 d5 g6 4 Nc3 Bg7 5 e4 O-O 6 Be2 d6 [I recalled seeing some games with 6...b5, but couldn't remember the lines and wasn't sure why it was playable. 6...b5 7 e5 Ng4 8 Bf4 b4 9 Ne4 d6 10 exd6 exd6 11 O-O Nf6 This is probably more or less okay for Black, but very complicated and risky.] **7 O-O Na6** [This is the most popular move here, although there are alternatives. 7...e6 8 Bf4 exd5 9 exd5 Re8 10 h3 Nbd7 11 Re1 Ne4 12 Nxe4 Rxe4 13 Bxd6 Bxb2 is probably a little better for White, but messy; 7...Bg4 is a standard Benoni idea to trade some pieces and prevent e5, although here it may not be ideal. 8 a4 Nbd7 9 Be3 Ne8 10 Qd2 Bxf3 11 Bxf3 Qa5 12 h3 a6 White seems to be better as Black is struggling to play ...b5.] **8 Bf4** [Maybe this isn't best as it's hard for White to get a favorable version of the e5 pawn break.] **8...Nc7 9 a4 a6 10 h3 Rb8** [White prevented the Bg4 idea so now I prepare b5 instead.] **11 a5 b5 12 axb6 Rxb6 13 Qc1** [White should consider retreating 13 Bc1 as the bishop ended up loose on f4 in



the game. After 13...Rb4 14 Bd3 Re8 15 Re1 Nd7 Black would be fairly active but White may still be a bit better. Compared to a Modern Benoni, the e-file is closed, which may favor White.] **13...Rb4 14 Nd2?** [A mistake, which runs into a tactical shot as the Bf4 is unprotected. Black is probably a bit worse after the tactics 14 Bd3 c4 15 Be2 Nxe4 16 Nxe4 Bxb2 17 Qd2 c3 18 Nxc3 Bxc3 19 Qxc3 Rxf4 20 Qd2 Rf5 but maybe it's manageable.] **14...Nfxd5! 15 exd5** [if 15 Bxd6 exd6 16 exd5 Bxh3 17 gxh3 Qg5+ 18 Bg4 f5 19 Nde4 Qxc1 20 Rfxc1 fxg4 21 hxg4 Rxb2 Black is winning] **15...Rxf4 16 Nde4 Be5** [There were some much saner and better options. 16...Bh6 looked risky during the game, but if 17 g3 Rh4 18 f4 Rxh3 19 Kg2 Bg7 20 Qd2 Rh6 Black is two pawns up; 16...Nxd5 is also an alternative, but it's complicated and I was worried about 17 Bc4 although it seems White doesn't have that much compensation for the two pawns after 17...Bxc3 18 bxc3 Rxe4 19 Bxd5 Re5 20 c4.] **17 g3 Nxd5** [This turns the game into an unbalanced mess, where Black will be down a rook for some pawns, the bishop pair, and an attack! Simply 17...Bxc3 18 gxf4 Bg7 19 Rd1 Bf5 20 Bf3 Qd7 would keep an advantage for Black, who has the two bishops, a pawn, and the superior structure for the exchange.] **18 gxf4** [White doesn't have a good alternative to taking the rook, so he goes for it.] **18...Nxf4 19 Qe3** [if 19 Bxa6 Bxa6 20 Rxa6 Qc8 forking a6 and h3 wins] **19...Bxh3** [19...Nxb3+ seems stronger in hindsight, but I wanted to develop another piece. White would have been in trouble after 20 Kg2 Nf4+ 21 Kg1 e6 22 Rfd1 f5 23 Ng3 Qg5 24 Kf1 Qh4 25 Bf3 Nh3 26 Ra4 f4 27 Qe2 Bxc3 28 bxc3 Bd7, a nice line demonstrating Black's attacking chances.]

Colonial Open

April 19-21, 2019

Executive Conference and Training Center

22685 Holiday Park Dr, Sterling, Va 20166

5SS, \$\$5600 GTD. 4 sections. *Open (FIDE)*: \$1000-500-300-150, U2300/Unr \$200. *U2100 (FIDE)*: \$800-400- 200, U1900 \$200, Unr limit \$200. *U1700*: \$600-300-150, U1500 \$150, Unr limit \$150. *U1300(1-day/Sat only)*: \$300-150-100, U1100 \$100, Unr limit \$100. Top 3 sections EF Online early bird \$80 by 3/20, \$90 by 4/12, \$95 by 4/18, \$105 later and onsite, \$5 service fee for refunds. U1300 EF \$20 less. Two schedule options: *3-day*: Rd 1 G/90;+30, rds 2-5 40/90, SD/30;+30, reg ends 7pm, rds 7:30, 10-4, 10-4. *2-day*: Rds 1-2 G/45;+15inc, rds 3-5 40/90,SD/30;+30), reg ends Sat 9:30, rds Sat 10-1-4, 10-4pm. U1300 Sat only, 5 rounds G/45 d5 (10-12-2-4-6. *All*: One ½ pt bye available for any round, must commit 1 hr before rd 3. Hotel: Holiday Inn Wash-Dulles Airport 3 mins walk from ECTC \$69/night, 703-471-7411, reserve by 4/5. *Enter*: colonialopenchess.com or Capital Area Chess Inc, PO Box 223582, Chantilly, VA 20151. Side Events - 4-round Rapid on Fri at 7:30pm and Blitz 5-SS Double on Sat 9pm, reg ends 8:45pm.

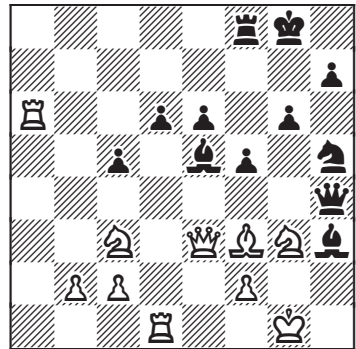
50 US Chess Grand Prix Points



20 Rfd1 e6 [planning to bring the queen into the attack] **21 Bf3** [21 Ng3 was a better defense. For example 21...h5 22 Qxe5 dxe5 23 Rxd8 Nxe2+ 24 Nxe2 Rxd8 25 Ne4 c4 26 N2c3 Rb8 27 Nd1 Bf5 28 f3 Bxe4 29 fxe4 Rb6 is not so clear. 21 Bf1 is also interesting. 21...Bg4 22 f3 Bf5 23 Ne2 Bxe4 24 Nxf4 Bxc2 25 Qxe5 dxe5 26 Rxd8 Rxd8 27 Ng2 with an unbalanced endgame where Black has many pawns for the knight but some of them are weak. Black is probably better here though, as 5 pawns is a lot for a piece.] **21... f5** [If 21...Qh4 one possibility was 22 Ng3 a5 23 Nce2 h5 24 Re1 Nxe2+ 25 Bxe2 Bf4 26 Qf3 Qg5 27 Bf1 Bf5 28 Qg2 Bxc2 29 Ne4 Bxe4 30 Rxe4 d5 31 Qxg5 Bxg5 32 Re4 Bd2 is an unclear ending with five pawns for the rook] **22 Ng3 Qh4** [22...Qg5 23 Ra4 h5 24 Rxf4 Qxf4 25 Qxf4 Bxf4 26 Ra1 Rb8 27 b3 Rb6 would have been a bit better for Black, with two bishops and four pawns against bishop and two knights.] **23 Rxa6** [23 Nce2 is a tougher defense. 23...g5 24 Rxa6 Ng6 25 Raxd6 f4 26 Qxc5 fxg3 27 Rd8 Bg4 28 Rxf8+ Nxf8 29 Rd8 Qh2+ 30 Kf1 Bg7 31 Rxf8+ Bxf8 32 Qxg5+ Bg7 33 Qd8+ Bf8 with a repetition after White's counterattack.] **23...Nh5** [In a sense, this was both a mistake and the winning move! 23...Bg4 was objectively better 24 Rxd6 Nh3+ 25 Kf1 Bxg3 26 fxg3 Qxg3 27 Ne2 Qxf3+ 28 Qxf3 Bxf3 29 Rxe6 Rf7 30 Ng1 Nxg1 31 Kxg1 with another fairly unclear ending.] (diagram)

24 Bxh5?

White took the wrong way! 24 Nxh5! looked bad during the game due to 24...f4. However, White has resources! 25 Qe4! (We both thought 25 Nxf4 was basically forced, when Black really does win: 25...Bxf4 26 Qe4 Rf5 27 Ne2 Bh2+ 28 Kh1 Qxf2 29 Ng1 Be5 30 Qe2 Qh4) 25...Qg5+ 26 Kh1 Qh4 27 Qb7 Bf1+ 28 Kg1 Bxa6 29 Qxa6 Qh3 30 Qc6 gxh5 31 Ne4 Kh8 32 Nxd6 Bxb2 33 Bg2 Qg4 34 Rd3 White's extra piece outweighs the three pawns.



There doesn't seem to be a better solution to 24 Nxh5! for me. 24...gxh5 25 Raxd6 Bxd6 26 Rxd6 f4 27 Qxc5 Rf5 28 Qc8+ Rf8 29 Qc4 Qg5+ 30 Kh2 Qh4 31 Kg1 also wins as White's extra material finally has its say. 31...Qg5+ 32 Kh1 Qh4 33 Rd3 Qxf2 34 Ne4 Qh4 35 b4

24...f4! [This is much better than taking the bishop. If 24...gxh5 25 Raxd6 Bxd6 26 Qxe6+ Kh8 27 Rxd6 f4 28 Qe5+ Kg8 29 Nce4 fxg3 30 fxg3 Qg4 31 Nf6+ Rxf6 32 Rxf6 White wins] **25 Qe4 Qg5 26 Ne2??** [With the time control approaching, White finally cracks. 26 Qh1 Qh4 27 Qe4 Qg5 28 Qh1 may be nothing more than a draw; and 26 Ra8 fxg3 27 Rxf8+ Kxf8 28 Qa8+ Kg7 29 Bf3 Qh4 30 Ne4 d5 31 Qa7+ Kh6 32 Nxg3 Bxg3 33 Qxc5 Be5 34 Qe3+ Bf4 35 Qa3 Kg7 looks scary but it seems White can defend here as well.] **26...fxg3 -+ 27 Nxg3 Bxg3 28 fxg3**



Qxg3+ 29 Kh1 Rf2! [forcing mate after the checks expire!] **30 Ra8+ Kg7 31 Ra7+ Kf6** [The final finesse, after which White has no good checks. 31...Kh6 32 Rxh7+ Kxh7 33 Qxg6+ Qxg6 34 Bxg6+ Kxg6 is also a winning ending for Black, but gets no style points.] **0-1** This game won a 2nd prize for Best Fighting Spirit.

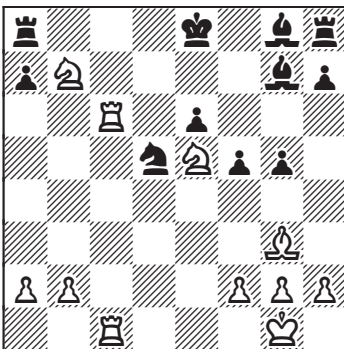
Macon Shibut - Merric Hu Sicilian

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3 Nf6 4 e5 Nd5 5 d4 cxd4 6 cxd4 d6 7 Bc4 dxe5 8 Bxd5 Qxd5 9 Nc3 Qd6 10 d5 Nb8 [Giving back the pawn, 10...Nd4 11 Nxd4 exd4 12 Qxd4 e5. is supposed to be the right way, although I think White is better there too.] **11 O-O** [I had this position before. My opponent played 11...a6 but fell into insoluble trouble after 12 Re1 Nd7 13 Qa4 (Shibut-Virkud, Chicago 2016)] **11...Bg4 12 Qa4+ Qd7** [If 12...Bd7 I intended 13 Qb3] **13 Nxe5** [I toyed around with 13 Qe4 but dropped it after noticing the absolutely not forced variation 13...Bxf3 (13...f6) 14 gxf3 f6 15 f4 Qg4+ 16 Kh1 f5 17 Qxe5 Qf3+ draw. The text secures a development advantage.] **13...Qxa4 14 Nxa4 Bf5 15 Bf4** [My first thought was 15 Re1 to do something on the e-file before Black can castle, but then I decided the c-file is the more sensitive inroad.] **15...g5 16 Bg3 Bg7 17 Rac1 Na6 18 Nc5** [My opponent started thinking for a long time, which surprised me since I had assumed 18...Nxc5 was all but forced.] **18...Nb4** [He showed me there was indeed a lot to think about! Now possible are 19 Nxb7, 19 d6, 19 a3, 19 Rfd1... My instinct was for 19 d6!? exd6 20 Nc4 but I couldn't see it working after 20...dxc5 21 Nd6+ Kf8 22 Nxf5 Bxb2. That was a bad evaluation, since in this final position White would be close to winning after 23 Bd6+. But earlier Black could defend better by 20...O-O 21 Nxd6 Bg6. Anyway, I eventually chose the straightforward text move, which does not promise much.] **19 Nxb7 Nxd5 20 Rc5 Be6** [Black had a lot of things *en pris* along his 4th rank.] **21 Rd1 f5 22 Rc6** [There was also simply 22 Nf3 relying on the tactic 22...f4? 23 Nxc5] **22...Bg8** [My young opponent plays as the computer teaches. For my generation, such moves as ... f5 and ...Bg8 seem counterintuitive.] **23 Rdc1 e6** [The mate threat provoked Black

to expose the 7th rank. But White has burned his bridges because now material sacrifice is almost unavoidable in view of the double threat posed by ...f4—my Bg3 and Ne5 are both vulnerable.]

{diagram}



24 Rc7! [Well, there actually was a way to wriggle out, 24 Rc8+ Rxc8 25 Rxc8+ Ke7 and now there is the resource 26 f4 gxf4 27 Bh4+ to get the tempo to move away my knight next. But that is much weaker than the exchange sacrifice as played. For his rook White wants to get Black's

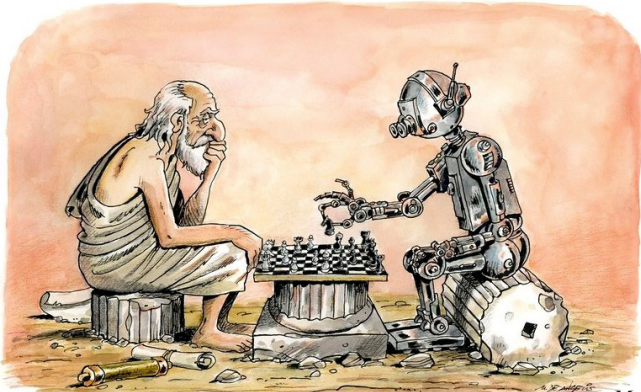


good knight rather than his inactive Ra8] **24...Nxc7 25 Rxc7 f4** [On 25...Bf6 if nothing better I have 26 Nd6+ Kf8 (26...Kd8 27 Rd7mate) 27 Nd7+ Kg7 28 Nb6+ and Nxa8] **26 Rxc7 fxg3 27 hxg3!** [Back when contemplating 24 Rc7 I confused myself considering all sorts of checks and other forcing possibilities in this position, trying in vain to 'justify' the exchange sacrifice. My epiphany came when I stepped back and realized the Ne5 is colossal, especially in conjunction with my rook on the seventh rank. Don't force anything, just maintain that knight right where it stands. It is stronger than either Black rook.] **27...Kf8 28 Rc7 Re8 29 Nd6 Re7** [Loses, but I don't see any other plan for Black.] **30 Rc8+ Kg7 31 Ne8+ Kh6 32 Nf6 Kg7 33 Nh5+ Kh6 34 g4!** [Now the bind on the 8th rank is eternal. White would be winning even if I had to slow play it by bringing my king over and advancing the queenside pawn majority, but as it happens there is also an immediate and irresistible threat.] **34...Rb7 35 Rf8! Rg7 36 Nxc7 Kxc7 37 Ra8 h6** [The one chance to unseat Ne5—he could have played 37...Kf6 but then of course the situation on the back rank would be hopeless. Black plays to untangle finally.] **38 g3!** [The same theme; now ...Kf6 can always be answered f4, so the knight achieves immortality.] **38...Rh7 39 Rxa7+ Kf6 40 Rxh7 Bxh7 41 f4 Ke7 42 Kf2 Bb1 43 a3 Bc2 44 Ke3 1-0**

Finally, the following game is from GM Lenderman's simultaneous exhibition. He allowed his opponents to choose colors and openings! Marion Wilson, of Woodbridge, availed himself of the opportunity and defeated the grandmaster.

Marion Wilson - Aleks Lenderman Simultaneous Exhibition Two Knights

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Na5 6 Bb5+ c6 7 dxc6 bxc6 8 Ba4 h6 9 Nf3 e4 10 Qe2 Be7 11 Ne5 Qd4 12 Bxc6+ Nxc6 13 Nxc6 Qc5 14 Nxe7 Qxe7 15 Nc3 O-O 16 O-O Re8 17 d3 Ba6 18 Be3 exd3 19 cxd3 Rad8 20 Rad1 Qd7 21 Qf3 Bxd3 22 Rfe1 Re6? 23 Rxd3 Qxd3 24 Rd1 1-0



Marco de Angelis



Reflections

REFLECTIONS



by Mark Warriner

Looking Back on an Amateur Chess “Career”

FRENCH DESSERT

In the last several installments I bid farewell, and not a fond one, to playing the French Defense as Black. Flushing the system felt quite cathartic, though it still leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Upon reflection, I decided to postpone some planned article ideas to present just a few of my games from the *White* side of the French. I actually have a few decent examples to present, though perhaps I should let you be the judge. Either that or I’m being influenced by the vanilla cream cookies currently giving me a stomach ache and keeping me up at 1 am...

This first game was played as a part of my participation in the 1991(?) US Amateur Team East, on the team “Walk the Dog”. I covered this in Virginia Chess #2016/2. It was in the fifth of six rounds and as our top board was already having a bad tournament, we knew we were out of the running. Knowing this freed me to play somewhat more speculatively than I might have otherwise. I can distinctly recall teammate state champion Bill Mason watching my board with a look of concern. He mentioned after the game that he wondered what in the world I was thinking playing this line. What can I say? I enjoy it even though it’s not objectively sound.

Mark Warriner – Joseph DeRaymond 1991 US Amateur Team East French

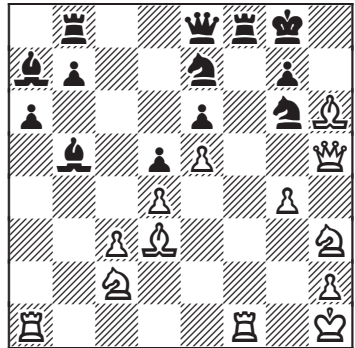
1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e5 c5 4 b4 [I was blissfully unaware of this gambit line until I obtained a copy of Nikolay Minev’s *French Defense: New and Forgotten Ideas!*, Thinker’s Press 1988, ISBN 0-938650-36-X. I became quite the addict, playing this for the next quarter century. Generally, it’s served me surprisingly well, albeit all at an amateur level of play.] **4...cxb4 5 a3 Nc6 6 d4 Bd7 7 axb4 Bxb4+ 8 c3 Ba5** [8...Be7 is definitely superior; perhaps even 8...Bf8. The issue is that the dark-squared bishop gets shut out of play. White will castling kingside and that bishop won’t easily be able to participate in an attack.] **9 Bd3 Nge7** [9...h6 is worth considering as well.] **10 O-O** [10 Ba3 might have been better, certainly at least as good.] **10...Ng6** [Not the correct square for Black’s knight in view of White’s intended attack. The surprising 10...b5 is preferred by engines. 11 Bxb5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Bxb5 13 c4 dxc4 14 Nxf7 Kxf7 15 Qh5+ g6 16 Qxb5 is a computer’s flight of fancy.] **11 Ng5 Nce7 12 Bd2?** [Clank. Quite the dud. White had two better continuations: 12 Nf3 (*j’adoube!*) or the



more dashing 12 h4 Nxf4 13 Qh5 Nhg6 14 Ba3—this idea would become useful in a later game, as we shall see.] **12...Bb6?** [Either 12...f6 13 exf6 gxf6 14 Nf3 or 12...h6 13 Nf3 O-O were superior.] **13 Na3** [perhaps 13 Qg4] **13...a6** [or again 13...f6] **14 g3** [14 Rb1 would have been more to the point, before Black plays 14...f6] **14...Ba7** [That is one sad bishop.] **15 Qe2 h6 16 Nh3?** [I thought long and hard trying to figure how to make the knight useful for both defense and attack. It shouldn't have been that hard to determine that the steed stands best on f3. Amateurs...] **16...Nf5?** [No need for this awkward placement, just 16...b5 or 16...O-O were equal.] **17 Nc2** [Probably second best compared to 17 g4 Nfh4 (or 17...Nfe7) 18 f4 with a rolling attack.] **17...O-O 18 Kg2** [White's 'faffing about' for a plan. Just 18 Rfb1 or again the adventuresome 18 g4 were superior.] **18...Re8?** [The rook was already where it belonged.] **19 Rfb1 Rb8 20 f4** [I really didn't have a plan in mind and was just sort of going with the flow, gaining some space and waiting for an idea to become obvious—a recipe for drifting into dangerous waters.] **20...f6 21 Rf1** [*Meh.* 21 Qg4 Kh7 22 Ng1 White's pieces start to coalesce into an attacking formation.] **21...Qe7** [Put the rook back, 21...Rf8, here or again next turn.] **22 Kh1 fxe5 23 fxe5 Rf8 24 Qh5** [Again, *meh.* 24 Ne3 kept the pressure and brought more forces to the fight.] **24...Be8 25 Qe2 Bd7 26 Qh5 Qe8** [a misjudgment that even I caught] **27 g4** [finally catching the thematic idea in the position] **27...Nfe7 28 Bxh6!** [spot on!] **28...Bb5**

(*diagram*)

29 Rxf8+? [The complications after 29 Ng5 are messy but favor White, eg 29...Nf4 30 Qxe8 Rfxe8 (or 30...Bxe8 31 Bxg7 Kxg7 32 Rxf4!) 31 Bxb5 gxh6 32 Nh7. The text could have cost the advantage.] **29...Kxf8?** [29...Qxf8 introduces the alarming possibility ...Qf3+ and if 30 Rf1?! Bxd3! 31 Rxf8+ Rxf8 it's not just White playing for the win.] **30 Bxg7+** [I cringe when I see this wastefulness! Mate is imminent after simply 30 Ng5] **30...Kxg7 31 Ng5 Qh8 32 Nxe6+ Kf7 33 Ng5+** [33 Bxg6+ was simpler, eg 33...Kxe6 34 Bf5+ Nxf5 35 gxf5+ Ke7 36 f6+ Ke6 37 Qg4+ Kf7 38 Qf5 Re8 39 Re1 Re6 40 Rg1] **33...Kg7 34 Qxh8+** [34 Bxg6] **34...Kxh8 Rxh8 35 Bxb5 Rc8** [The dust has settled, and I remember taking stock of the position right about here. White's better but how to convert? The first time control was 50 moves/2 hrs and minutes were running low with 15 moves still to go. 36 Ra3 or 36 c4 were sound. I found something that wasn't so much that, but it held up. Barely.] **36 Ne3 Rxc3 37 Nf5 Rb3** [37...Bxd4 38 Nxd4 axb5 39 Ra8+ Kg7 40 Nde6+ Kh6 is optically very interesting. Is White still in control? Thankfully, yes. White's pawns are farther advanced and his knights better positioned to control the board. For example, 41 h4 Rc8 42 Nf7+ Kh7 43 Rxc8 Nxc8 44 h5 Nge7 45 Kg2 b4 46 Nc5 Nc6 (or 46...b6 47 Nb3 Nc6 48 Ng5+ Kg7 49 Nf3) 47 Ng5+ Kg8 48 Nf3] **38 Ba4 Rc3** [Black doesn't manage to hold after





38...Rb2 39 Ne6 either, eg 39...Nxf5 40 gxf5 Bxd4 41 fxg6 Rxh2+ 42 Kxh2 Bxa1 43 Bb3 Bxe5+ 44 Kg2 d4 45 Kf3 d3 46 Ke4 etc; or 39...b5 40 Bd1 Rd2 41 Rc1 Bxd4 42 Nxd4 Nxf5 43 Nf3 Rxd1+ 44 Rxd1 Ne3 45 Ra1 Nxc4 46 Rxa6] **39 Be8 Rc2** [if 39...Rc8 40 Bxc6 Nxc6 41 Re1 and Black doesn't have a good answer for White's rushing e-pawn] **40 Bf7** [Timid compared to Rf1, either straightaway or after first exchanging on g6] **40...Rc4 41 Rd1 b5** [Other tries, all insufficient: 41...a5 42 Bxc6 Nxc6 43 h4; 41...Bxd4 42 Nxd4 Nxe5 43 Bh5; 41...Nxf5 42 gxf5 Nh4 43 f6 Bxd4 44 Bxd5] **42 Bxc6 Nxc6 43 e6 a5 44 Nd6 Ne7 44...Rxd4 45 Rc1 b4 46 Nf3 b3 47 Nxd4 b2 48 Rb1 Bxd4 49 Nf5 Be5 50 e7 Nxe7 51 Nxe7 a4 52 Nxd5 a3 53 Nb4 45 Nxb5** [45 Nxc4 actually works for White, but it would have been a lot to calculate: 45...bxc4 46 Rf1 Bxd4 47 Rf8+ Kg7 48 Rf7+ Kh6 49 Rxe7 Kxc5 50 Rf7 Bc5 51 e7 Bxe7 52 Rxe7 Kf6 53 Ra7 d4 54 g5+ Kg6 55 Rxa5 d3 56 Rd5 stops the pawn duo.] **45...Bb6 46 Nf7+ Kg7 47 Nfd6 Rc2 48 Nf5+** [It's so important to be accurate—48 Rf1!—and prevent one's task from becoming more difficult, thus risking the result.] **48...Kf6 49 Nxe7 Kxe7 50 Re1** [50 g5] **50...Rb2?** [Finally gives White a clear path (actually two) to the full point, whereas Black can still fight after 50...Rc6 51 Re5 Rxe6 52 Rxd5 Re2] **51 Nc3 Bxd4** [51...Ke8 52 Nxd5 Bxd4 transposes] **52 Nxd5+ Ke8 53 Rc1** [The engine gives some crazy continuation beginning 53 Re4, but I way is simpler for a human. Much.] **53...Rb8 54 e7** [That pawn is queening and there's nothing reasonable that Black can do to stop it.] **54...Be5 55 Re1 1-0**

The next game was played in the 1990-94 Virginia Postal Championship. It was my first correspondence tournament and I wanted to get as much experience as possible, so I'd entered two of the three sections, doubling the number of games I had to carry but also giving myself an extra chance to qualify. I decided upon the strategy of playing one section in a solid fashion and the second with more speculative and adventurous openings. I'll let you guess from which section this game came.

Mark Warriner – Alan Lofdahl 1990 Virginia Postal Championship Preliminary French

1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e5 c5 4 b4 [Maybe a little crazy for correspondence, but as has been well established if you read this column regularly, it speaks to my sensibilities (or lack thereof).] **4...cxb4** [4...d4] **5 a3** [5 d4] **5...bxa3** [5...d4] **6 d4 Nc6 7 c3 Bd7 8 Bd3 Nge7** [See the next game for 8...a6. 8...Rc8 and 8...h6 are also possible, but perhaps 8...b5 is most interesting of all.] **9 Nxa3** [9 Bxa3 made sense. And the late Emory Tate played 9 Ng5 in a 1995 game and after 9...Ng6 10 Qh5 Nce7 11 Qf3 Nf5 12 Bxf5 exf5 13 Qxd5 he was already winning.] **9...Nc8 10 Ng5 h6** [an unfortunate weakening] **11 Qh5 Qe7?** [even 11...hxg5 12 Qxh8 was preferable] **12 Nxf7 Qxf7 13 Bg6 Qxc6 14 Qxc6+ Ke7 15 Nb5 Be8 16 Qd3** [White's position is so dominant that great accuracy isn't required, but frankly, I was a bit annoyed my opponent hadn't resigned and I wanted to focus on other games that I had going on.]



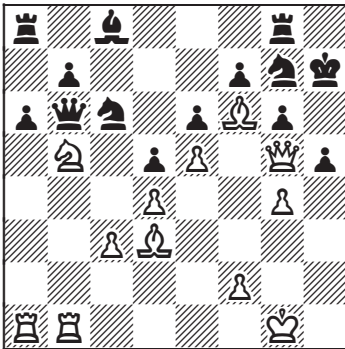
16...Kd7 17 O-O [17 Ba3] **17...a6 18 f4** [18 c4 works too] **18...N6e7 19 g4 Kd8 20 Na3 b5 21 f5 exf5 22 gxf5 b4 23 cxb4 Nb6 24 Bd2 g6 25 f6 Nf5 26 Rxf5** [Not technically best, but I was still annoyed and wanted to make the point that I could even do this and was still going to easily win the game. It brought about the desired quick end.] **26...gxf5 27 Qxf5 1-0**

The final game is from the 11th US Correspondence Championship (Preliminaries). Though it's not without a flaw, it's one of the best games I've managed to produce and I'm very happy to present it. In the early 1990's, correspondence players were allowed to consult books and periodicals, but engines were illegal (and useless anyway), and databases were unobtainable unless you had some means. So I poured over a few *Informants* and issues of *Correspondence Yearbook* searching for nuggets of guidance. These days? Searches are trivial. Sigh.

Mark Warriner – Carl Waldrep

11th United States Correspondence Championship Preliminary French

1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 e5 c5 4 b4 cxb4 5 a3 Nc6 6 d4 [6 axb4 Bxb4 7 c3 Be7 8 d4 h5 9 Bd3 Nh6 10 h4 Bd7 11 Bg5 a6 12 Nbd2 Rc8 13 Nb3 g6 14 O-O Rc7 15 Qd2 Nf5 16 Bxf5 gxf5 17 Nc5 Bc8 18 Nd3 Bxg5 19 Nxg5 Ne7 20 Nf4 Ng6 21 Nxg6 fxg6 22 Rfb1 Rc6 23 Rc1 O-O 24 Qf4 Bd7 25 Nf3 Kg7 26 Rab1 b5 27 Ra1 Qe7 28 Nd2 Rfc8 29 Qg3 b4 30 Nf3 Rxc3 31 Rxc3 bxc3 32 Ng5 c2 33 Qe3 Bb5 34 Rc1 Rc6 35 Nh3 a5 36 Nf4 Qxh4 37 Qa3 Kf7 38 g3 Qd8 39 Qb2 Qb6 40 Rxc2 Rxc2 41 Qxc2 Bd7 42 Qd2 a4 43 Nh3 a3 44 Qg5 a2 45 Qf6+ Ke8 46 Qh8+ Ke7 47 Qf6+ Ke8 48 Qh8+ Ke7 ½-½ Al Modiahki–Short, Riadh 2017] **6...bxa3 7 c3 a6 8 Bd3 Nge7 9 Nxa3 Ng6** [Again the curious and in my opinion unfortunate placement of the knight that occurred against Joseph DeRaymond. That experience clued me as to what to do in this game.] **10 h4** [10 O-O Be7 has generally favored White as well.] **10...Be7** [10...h6 or even admitting the error by 10...Nge7 were superior.] **11 Ng5** [Other than trying this speculative gambit in the first place, this was probably was my only questionable move. 11 h5 Nf8 12 Rh3 better prosecutes the attack.] **11...Nxh4** [The beginning of Black's woes! 11...Bd7; 11...Qa5] **12 Qh5 12...Bxg5** [There's just no good way for Black to get out of this. 12...Ng6 runs into 13 Nxf7 Kxf7 14 Bxg6+ hxg6 15 Qxh8 Qxh8 16 Rxh8] **13 Bxg5 Qa5 14 O-O** [I very much enjoyed playing this nifty move, and it's clearly best.] **14...Nf5** [After 14...Ng6 15 Nc4 dxc4 (15...Qxc3 16 Nd6+) 16 Rxa5 cxd3 (16...Nxa5 17 Be4) 17 Rc5 White has work to do, but it's quite the pleasant chore.] **15 Nb5 Qb6** [15...axb5 16 Rxa5 Rxa5 17 g4 Nfe7 18 f4 White still crashes through.] **16 Rfb1 O-O 17 g4 g6 18 Qh3** [Engines waffle between this and 18 Qh1 Not being the least bit biased (wink), I think my choice is superior.] **18...Ng7** [if 18...f6 19 gxf5 exf5 20 Bxf6] **19 Bf6 h5 20 Qe3 Kh7 21 Qg5 Rg8** [21...Nf5 further delays the result, but what's the point? 22 gxf5 exf5 23 Nd6] {diagram next page}



22 Kg2!

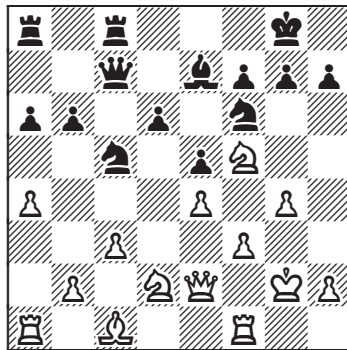
Perhaps my most favorite move that I've played in a game. It quietly ends things on the spot, if you can call the idea R-h1xh5+ quiet. 1-0

So there you have it, a French dessert as it were. I hope you didn't mind the extended adventures into this opening. I promise we're quite through with it for now. *En attendant de nous revoir...*



David Bennett - Geoff McKenna
DC Chess League 2018
Queen's Pawn

1 Nf3 e6 2 d4 Nf6 3 g3 b6 4 Bg2 Bb7 5 O-O c5 6 Nbd2 cxd4 7 Nb3 Be7 8 a4 d6
9 Nfxd4 Bxg2 10 Kxg2 a6 11 e4 O-O 12 f3 Qc7 13 Qe2 Rc8
14 c3 Nbd7 15 g4 Nc5 16 Nd2 e5 17 Nf5



17...d5 18 Kh1 dxe4 19 fxe4 Ne6 20 Nf3 Bf8 21
N3h4 Nf4 22 Bxf4 exf4 23 g5 Nd7 24 Qg4 Nc5
25 Rxf4 Re8 26 Ng2 Qc6 27 Ng3 Bd6 28 Rf6 Ne6
29 Rf5 Bxg3 30 hxg3 Nc5 31 Raf1 Qxe4 32 R5f4 Qe6 33 Qf3 Ra7 34 Rh4 Qe2
35 Qf4 Nd3 36 Qf5 g6 37 Qf6 Rae7 38 Rh2 Ne5 39 Re1 Qxe1+ 40 Nxe1 Ng4 41
Qxb6 Rxe1+ 42 Kg2 R1e2+ 43 Kh3 Nxh2 44 b4 Nf3 45 Kg4 R2e3 46 Qf6 Ng1 0-1



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