

New Mexico Chess Champions

Tim Pointon

Tim Pointon won the New Mexico Championship in 1992. He actually finished tied for fourth, but the three players ahead (including GM Igor Ivanov of Utah) were all from out of state and thus not eligible for the New Mexico Championship. He played in many New Mexico Open Championships in the 1990's and early 2000's. In the 1995, 1999, 2000 and 2002 Championships he tied for second. His rating has been over 2200 for at least the last 25 years, peaking at 2312 in 1992.

He also played in many of the National Open Tournaments in Las Vegas, Nevada. The game below is taken from the 1995 National Open. I found it at the web site, 365Chess.com. His opponent, Expert Adam Colby, launches an attack on the queenside, but Tim deftly defends and the attack goes nowhere. With his opponent's pieces committed to the queenside, Tim launches a devastating counter attack in the kingside.

Pointon, Tim D. – Colby, Adam L., 1-0
National Open, Round 6
Las Vegas, Nevada, 5/7/1995

King's Indian Defense, Averbakh System

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 This move transposes to the King's Indian Defense. 5. Be2 O-O 6. Bg5 This system of play was introduced into practice by Yuri Averbakh. 6... c5 7. d5 Qa5! This is very aggressive, but the development of the queen at this early stage is also risky.

[Black equalizes with 7... h6 8. Be3 e6 9. Qd2 exd5 10. cxd5 Re8 11. f3=]

8. Bd2! The retreat of the bishop neutralizes the threats created by the black queen's lunge to a5. 8... Na6 9. Nf3 Rb8?! Black is focused on the idea of the b5 break. However, the awkward placement of the queen on a5 and the knight on a6 makes it unlikely to succeed. For it to succeed he would need to play Nc7, Bd7, a6 followed by b5. But the knight at c7 would block the retreat of his queen, thus making the queen vulnerable when White moves his c3 knight. He can solve the problem by retreating his queen before playing Nc7, but that would be a loss of time. This single minded pursuit of b5 and the queenside attack costs him the game.

[A better plan at this point is to go for the e6 break and play in the center. 9... Bg4 10. O-O Qd8 11. h3 Bxf3 12. Bxf3 Nd7 13. Be2 Nc7 14. Qc2 e6 White has the bishop pair and more space]

10. O-O Qd8 He sees the futility of keeping the queen on a5. The net result of this excursion has been that Black has wasted two tempi, Qa5 and Qd8, while White has wasted just one tempo, Bd2. 11. h3 Bd7 12. Bf4 Ne8 13. a4 Nb4 14. Re1 a6 15. Qd2



15... b5?! They say you should stick to your plan, but at some point you have to face reality. Black refuses to give up on his plan. He hopes that the opening of lines on the queenside for his bishop on g7 and his rook on b8 will give him compensation for the pawn, but there is nothing there.

[With no active plan likely to succeed a better idea is to simply complete his development and brace for White's inevitable attack. 15... Qc7 16. Rac1 Rd8 White's space advantage gives him the better game]

16. cxb5 axb5 17. Bxb5 He wants to trade off his bad bishop. **17... Nc7 18. Bf1!?** He doesn't want to trade off his bad bishop?!

[Even if he belatedly decided he didn't want to trade bishops, you would think 18. Bc4 makes more sense]

18... Nca6?! Black is still going after the elusive queenside attack, but at the same time he weakens his hold on the center.

[White threatens to take the initiative with e5. Therefore Black should play 18... f6 to slow down White's attack]

19. g4?! He has the right idea; go for the kingside attack, but...

[he should play 19. e5 while he has the chance]

19... f6! Finally he understands that his "attack" is going nowhere and defense is called for. **20. Bg3 Qc8 21. b3 f5?** Apparently Black now thinks HE has the kingside attack!

[If he can keep the position closed, he might have a chance to hold. 21... g5]

22. exf5 gxf5? Fatal. He cannot allow the rook to take on e7.

[22... Bf6 23. fxg6 hxg6 24. Qh6 Rf7 25. Rac1 White is two pawns up with a winning attack]

23. Rxe7 Bf6



24. **Rae1!** White only needs one rook for his attack, but Black has to keep his dark square bishop for defense. 24... **fxg4** 25. **Qh6 Bf5**



26. **R1e6!!** Again, White only needs one rook for his attack! 26... **Bxe7** 27. **Rxe7 Rf7** 28. **Rxf7 Kxf7** 29. **Ng5 Kg8** There is no defense.

[29... **Ke8** 30. **Nb5 Qd8** The alternatives are even worse. (30... **Kd8** 31. **Qf8 Kd7** 32. **Qxf5 Kd8** 33. **Qf6 Kd7** 34. **Qe6 Kd8** 35. **Nf7#**; 30... **Qd7** 31. **Bxd6 Kd8** 32. **Qf8 Qe8** 33. **Qf6 Kc8** 34. **Qxf5 Qd7** 35. **Na7 Kb7** 36. **Qxd7** White wins) 31. **Nxd6 Kd7** 32. **Nxf5 Rb6** 33.

Qxh7 White has a winning material advantage and the attack rolls on;

29... **Ke7** leads to mate. 30. **Qxd6 Ke8** 31. **Qe5 Kd8** 32. **Nf7 Kd7** 33. **Bb5 Rxb5** 34. **Qxf5 Ke7** 35. **Bd6 Ke8** 36. **Qe4 Kxf7** 37. **Qxh7 Kf6** 38. **Ne4#]**

30. **hxg4 Bg6** 31. **Ne6 Rb7** 32. **Bxa6 Nxa6** 33. **Nb5 Rf7** 34. **Nxd6** Black resigned. [1:0]

Matt Grinberg, 7/4/2016