

NM Chess Champions

Jason Kammerdiner

Jason Kammerdiner shared the New Mexico Chess Championship with Doug Thigpen in 2013 with a 4-1 score. Doug gave up draws to top rated Ted Belanoff (2231) in round 3 and to Matt Grinberg in the final round. Jason lost to Tony Schroeder in round three, but clinched the tie for first with a victory over Belanoff in the final round.

Jason is the only player who has won the New Mexico Championship since 2008 who I have not included in this series. I didn't because I was unable to find any game he won. I decided to make another attempt at finding a game Jason won and found the game below in the November, 2011 issue of Desert Knight. I would really like to see the win against Belanoff from the 2013 New Mexico Open Championship, but have not been able to locate it. Jason, if you still have it, could you send it in?

Jason is perhaps the most dynamic and aggressive player I have ever had the pleasure to play. Every time you sit down across from Jason you know that, win lose or draw, you are going to have a battle royal.

The game below, also from a New Mexico Open Championship Tournament, is not as dynamic as Jason's typical game. He comes out swinging, but, when his initial attempts to play for an attack get nowhere, he seems to be satisfied with playing for a draw against his higher rated opponent. But that is precisely when his opponent lets down his guard. One ill-considered move and Jason hits back with the decisive combination.

Kammerdiner, Jason - Olatokunbo, Akanni, 1-0
New Mexico Open Championship, Round 4
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 11/7/2010

Sicilian Defense

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. c3!? White is willing to give up a pawn to get greater activity for his pieces.

[The usual continuation is 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 a6 8. O-O-O White is more active, but Black has the better center and a solid position]

4... d5!? Black doesn't want to play into White's hands.

[But White does not have enough for the pawn after 4... dxc3 5. Nxc3 e6 6. Bc4 Nf6 7. O-O Nxe4! 8. Nxe4 d5]

5. exd5 Qxd5 6. cxd4 e6 7. Nc3 This same position can be reached from the Caro-Kann Defense - 1. e4 c6, 2. d4 d5, 3. exd5 cxd5, 4. c4 Nc6, 5. cxd5 Qxd5, 6. Nf3 e6, 7. Nc3. **7... Qa5 8. Bd2 Nf6 9. Bc4 Qd8 10. Bg5 Be7 11. O-O O-O 12. Rb1N!?** I am puzzled as to the point of this novelty. The obvious moves are 12. Rc1 or 12. Re1, developing a rook, as in the following two

games where White uses his active pieces to win decisively.

[12. Rc1 b6 13. Ne5 Nxe5? (13... Nxd4 White's pieces are very active, but it is not enough for two pawns) 14. dxe5 Black is thrown on the defensive and never recovers. 14... Nd7 15. Bf4 Bb7 16. Qg4 Kh8 17. Rfd1 Rc8 18. Bb5 Bc6 19. Qe2 Qe8 20. Ba6 Rc7 21. Nb5 Bxb5 22. Bxb5 No matter how Black squirms he cannot avoid losing the knight. 1-0, Sveshnikov, Evgeny (LAT) 2504 - Ivanisevic, Ivan (SRB) 2653 , Pula 1990 It (open);

12. Re1 b6 13. Qd2 Bb7 14. Rad1 Rc8 15. Qe2 Nd5? As in the previous game, Black plays an ill considered move that leaves him on the defensive and leads to a quick defeat. (15... Na5=) 16. Bxd5 Bxg5 17. Be4 Bf6 18. d5 exd5 19. Bxd5 Qc7 20. Nb5 Qb8 21. Nd6 Rc7 22. Nxb7 Qxb7 23. Rc1 As in the previous game, the pinned knight does in Black. 23... Qc8 24. Qc2 Rd8 25. Bxc6 g6 26. h3 Kg7 27. b4 b5 28. Qc5 a6 29. Re2 Rd3 30. Re8 1-0, Tan, Zhongyi (CHN) 2510 - Bulmaga, Irina (ROM) 2399 , Kazan 7/15/2013 Universiade (w)]

12... a6



13. Bxf6!? True to his nature, Jason immediately gives his opponent the bishop pair in order to play d5 and open the position for his pieces.

[The waiting move 13. Bb3 is better. 13... b5 What else is black going to do? 14. Bxf6! Now this works because the light square bishop is no longer vulnerable. 14... Bxf6 15. d5 Nb4 (15... Na5 Unlike in the game, this does not threaten to win a piece 16. dxe6 fxe6=) 16. dxe6 Bxe6 17. Bxe6 Qxd1 18. Rfxd1 fxe6=]

13... Bxf6 14. d5 Following his plan but losing a pawn in the process. Will he get enough piece play as compensation?

[Because the d-pawn is threatened, the only alternative is the sickly 14. Ne2 which gives Black the advantage anyway]

14... Na5! Because the bishop is hanging White does not have time to play dxe6. 15. Bd3 Forcing Black to give back the bishop pair if he wants to win the pawn. 15... Bxc3

[Not 15... exd5? 16. Nxd5 Qxd5?? 17. Bxh7 Kxh7 18. Qxd5 White wins]

16. bxc3 Qxd5 17. Qc2 White plays to convert his piece activity into a kingside attack. 17... h6 18. Rfd1 Qc5 19. Rb4 b5 20. Be4?! Attacking the rook looks good. But no matter how good a move looks, it is not good if it forces your opponent to play a good move in return...

[20. a4 bxa4 21. Qxa4 White has the initiative for the pawn]

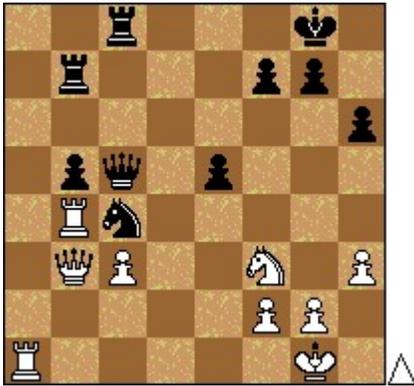
20... Rb8?! ... unless your opponent fails to find the good move.

[20... Bb7! He is a pawn up and his opponent has the initiative. The obvious plan is to trade off to reduce the pressure and eventually trade off the a winning endgame. This move is particularly good because Black's bishop is hemmed in by his own pawns. 21. Bxb7 Nxb7 22. a4 Rfd8 23. Rxd8 Rxd8 24. axb5 axb5 White has nothing for the pawn.]

21. a4 Bb7 22. Bxb7 Rxb7 23. axb5 axb5!? Again he should be looking for exchanges.

[23... Rxb5 24. Rxb5 axb5 White has nothing for the pawn]

24. Rdb1 Now we enter a phase where Black is saddled to the defense of the b-pawn and White is saddled to the defense of the c-pawn. Jason is probably satisfied with a draw, but is still looking for opportunities. Black no doubt feels he should win, but cannot find anything. 24... Rc8 25. h3 Nc4 26. Qb3 Rcb8 27. Ra1 e5 28. Ra6 Rd8 29. Ra1 Rc8



30. Rd1! A very crafty move! Jason gives up control of the a-file to lure Black into a trap. 30... Ra8 31. Rc1 This is perhaps not the best move, but he dangles the bait in front of his unsuspecting opponent. 31... Ra3??



Black falls for it hook, line and sinker! It is not clear how Black could win, but he certainly should not have lost. 32. Rxc4! If he takes White's queen, White takes his queen. If he takes the rook, he loses one of his own. 33... Qe7 Black resigned without waiting for a response. [...]

[33. Rc8 Kh7 34. Qd5 White wins.]

[1:0]

Matt Grinberg, 9/24/2017