



Desert Knight



The Official publication of the New Mexico Chess Organization
June 2014. Free as a pdf file on nmchess.org.

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1. Venus Wainright receiving Heart of the Desert gift basket from NMCO in appreciation of her service presented by President Oren Stevens and TD Art Byers at the New Mexico Open in Rio Rancho. Oren also presented Art Byers with a Heart of the Desert wine gift box in appreciation for his many years of service to NMCO.
2. Ben Coraretti giving simultaneous exhibition at New Mexico Tech Chess Olympiad in Socorro.
3. Jason Kammerdiner, New Mexico Co-Champion, giving simultaneous at National Chess Day celebration in Las Cruces.
4. Matt Grinberg giving simultaneous exhibition at National Chess Day celebration (hands as fast as lightning).

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Contributors to this issue:

Steve Farmer
Ben Coraretti
Oren Stevens
Matt Grinberg

Annotation Symbols	
Excellent Move	!!
Good Move	!
Interesting	!?
Dubious	?!
Bad	?
Blunder	??
Check	+
Double Check	++
Checkmate	#
White Winning	+-
White advantage	+=
White small edge	+/=
Equal	=
Black Winning	-+
Black advantage	=+
Black small edge	=/+
Unclear position	∞
Better move is	>=
Novelty	N
Except as noted, numeric evaluation are by Rybka4.	

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From The Editor/Publisher
Matt Grinberg

Thanks to all the contributors to this edition of Desert Knight!

We are covering a broader spectrum of events in this edition. This is motivated by two things. First there have been two major NMCO tournaments since the last Desert Knight, rather than just one. The coverage of the major tournaments is not as extensive as usual. Second, by covering more events we are hoping to appeal to a broader audience and get more contributors to Desert knight.

DK is available in hard copy for those who play in the June ABQ/RR Open and to all others as a pdf file download on the web: nmchess.org.

The President's Column

Long time New Mexico scholastic chess organizer, Andy Nowak, passed away recently.

A Tribute to Sir Andy Nowak

After returning to Albuquerque in 1976 I started a chess club at my son's school. I affiliated the club with the USCF and enrolled thirty students as junior members of the USCF. I decided to enter my students in their first rated tournament at an event in Los Alamos. It was there that I was first privileged to meet Andy Nowak. Having no experience directing or organizing a chess tournament, I reasoned that showing up an hour early unannounced would be ample time for the tournament director to process a bus load of students. It was not long after our arrival that we heard the moaning, whinnying, and complaining from the adult players. They did not want to play a bunch of kids. They did not want to play inexperienced players. They just wanted to compete against their usual opponents.

I was fully expecting to be told by the TD to "Get out, stay out and don't come back." Instead, to my delight, we were greeted by a gentleman with a smile who welcomed us to his tournament. He assured us that he would find a way for us to play. He was the organizer and director of the tournament, Andy Nowak. Andy calmed down the adult players. He entered my

stronger students in the main tournament and found a conference room for the rest of the students to play rated games against each other. Andy shared with me years later that this was the moment he realized the need for mentoring children in chess and making scholastic chess tournaments and a chess league available to the youth in the Northern schools of the state.

Shortly after I realized that what Andy was forced to deal with was a director's nightmare. His words, his actions and his attitude clearly defined the outstanding qualities of his character. I understood from that moment forward who Andy was.

I have met Andy on numerous occasions since, as he organized and directed scholastic tournaments. After many years of observing Andy's hard work and dedication to scholastic chess in Northern New Mexico, his founding of the Northern School's Chess League and his many years organizing and directing the Annual Arm and Hammer International College's Pir Maleki Tournament, I decided to dedicate a tournament held a few years back at Eldorado High School to Andy Nowak, Don Wilson, who has since passed away, (the founder of The Albuquerque Schools Chess League) and Ron Kensek (the current Director of The Albuquerque Schools Chess League).

I will always remember Andy as gentlemen of outstanding character

and a model citizen. I think of Andy as one of New Mexico's favorite sons. His contributions to youth throughout our state were priceless. His memory will live on in those who he mentored, and in those who have had the privilege to know him. I believe in my heart that if Andy had the opportunity to express his last thoughts to all of us it would be these three words: **PASS IT FORWARD!!**

To Sir Andy Nowak: I proudly salute you. You will be sorely missed. You have been one of the most selfless, compassionate and dedicated gentleman to the cause of mentoring the children in our state I have been honored to meet.

I thank you for your life time example of putting others ahead of yourself.

New Desert Knight Editor

Our search for an editor for the NMCO's Desert Knight publication is at long last over. I am certain the person I asked to fill the position, and who was confirmed by our Executive Board, will produce an exceptional publication starting with the June issue. I welcome Matt Grinberg to the NMCO Executive Board as Publisher/Editor of the Desert Knight. The entire Board looks forward to working with you and supporting your efforts.

New NMCO Vice-President

Since the New Mexico Open last September, NMCO has been very fortunate to acquire a newly elected officer who has already made a positive difference, especially in scholastic chess in the central region of our state. I have been acquainted with this person since the eighties and consider him a friend. Steve Perea, our new Vice President, has proven to be a man of vision and great energy. Steve joins us as the Chess Director of the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA). Under Steve's direction and with the support of the Executive Board, we have organized, for the first time in the state's history, regional and state-wide elementary and middle school team chess championship tournaments. This has been my vision and I want to thank Steve for spearheading this project and making it happen.

I have had the privilege to serve as the NMCO President for four years. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Executive Board members for the time they have volunteered to support NMCO's primary mission: To expand chess activities throughout the State of New Mexico.

Oren V. Stevens, President, New Mexico Chess Organization

Oren also presented Art Byers with a wine gift box in appreciation for his many years of service to NMCO.

New Mexico Open - 2013

Jason Kammerdiner and Doug Thigpen tied for first at 4-1 in the Open Section. Jason lost to Tony Schroeder in round 3, but bounced back to beat top rated Ted Belanoff in the final round. Doug gave up draws to Belanoff in round three and to Matt Grinberg in the final round. Ted tied for 3rd and 4th place with Tony at 3.5-0.5.

Thigpen, Doug (2019) - Mulcahy, Donald (1951), 1-0 New Mexico Open, Round 1 Rio Rancho, 9/28/2013

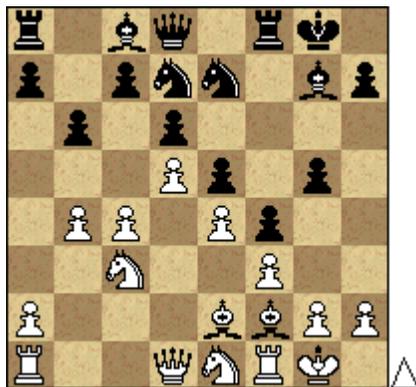
This was a tough battle for either player to start the tournament. Doug's win is a sign of the fortitude he would maintain in order to fight for first place.

Comments by Steve Farmer

King's Indian Defense - Classical Main Line

1. c4 g6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Be2 e5 7. O-O Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. Ne1 Nd7 10. Be3 f5 11. f3 f4 12. Bf2 g5 13. b4 b6 This was played to inhibit 14.c5. White's most common moves at this point are Rc1 or Nd3, but Mr. Thigpen is undaunted by Black's prophylactic play and pushes ahead with c5.

[13... Nf6 14. c5 Ng6 15. Rc1 Rf7 16. cxd6 cxd6 17. a4! Most of my opponents play 17. Nb5 but one played a4, looking to dominate the queenside. Try as I might I could never shake the feeling that White was better. (17. Nb5 g4 (Or 17... a6 18. Nc3 Bd7 19. Na4 g4 when Black is in time with his kingside play) 18. Qc2 (18. fxe4 Nxe4 Black is fine.) 18... g3 19. hxg3 fxe4 20. Bxe4 Bh6 Black's active pieces are enough for the pawn) 17... Bf8 18. a5]



14. c5N Objectively this is not best, but, looking at it from a psychological point of view, maybe not a bad idea! One of the fun aspects of chess is the battle of ideas; your opponent plays a move designed to stop your move, then you play it anyway!

[14. Nd3 gives White the better position. 14... Nf6 15. c5 Qe8 16. a4 Qh5 17. Nb5 White is verging on winning, N. Smagin (2043) vs. G. Tkachev (2124) Dagomys 2009 - White won in 40 moves; 14. Rc1 is the most common move. 14... Ng6 When I am Black, I prefer 14...a5 to disrupt White's plans. 15. Nd3 Nf6 16. c5 h5 17. cxd6 cxd6 18. Nb5 Ne8 19. a4 White is better, with active play on the queenside and little to fear on the kingside, J. Mohamed vs. K. Punya Man Teheran 1997 - Black won in 59 moves]

14... bxc5 15. bxc5 Black needs to relieve the tension in the center. White would like to maintain the tension as he has lots of queenside space for maneuvering his pieces, but how does Black relieve the tension? In King's Indian Defense Black likes to keep as many pieces as possible and bring them to the kingside for an attack, so the move 15...Nxc5 doesn't look that attractive (As a KID player I want that knight on h5!). But taking on c5 with the pawn allows White to play 16.Na4 when he can capture on c5 with the knight, maintaining the bishop pair and a healthy pawn structure and leaving Black with isolated a and c pawns and a backwards e-pawn. If Black played this way, White has the same advan-

tage as in variations arising from moves like 14.Nd3 or 14.Rc1. 15... Nxc5! This move is the 'fly in the ointment' for White's plan. Now, to mess up Black's pawn structure, he must give up his bishop pair, leaving himself with his bad bishop.

16. Bxc5 dxc5 17. Na4 Qd6 18. Rc1 Rb8 19. Qc2 Both players start to lose the thread of the game, not in a big way, but missing some subtle 'battles of ideas.' White would have held a slight edge after either 19.Nxc5 or 19.Bc4.

19... c4?! The idea behind this move escapes me.

[19... c6 Though the pawn structure is different, this is a theme in the Breyer variation of the Ruy Lopez - to destabilize White's center or force a few exchanges to ease the defense. 20. dxc6 This is correct for White. Taking on c5 with the queen is suspect. (20. Qxc5?! Qxc5 21. Nxc5 cxd5 22. exd5 Nf5 The computer calls this equal, or gives Black an edge. As a player who patiently takes the bishop pair deep into the endgame, I would prefer to play the Black and sit patiently until move 80 if needed. White has fractured pawns and a bad bishop) 20... Nxc6 21. Qxc5 Qd4 22. Qxd4 Nxd4 23. Bc4 Kh8 This is level and I'd be okay playing either side, though I'd lean towards Black due to the bishop pair]

20. Bxc4 Bd7

[20... Kh8 Getting out of the discovery in order to play ...c6. 21. Bb3 Blocking Black's open file and putting pressure on his c-pawn. 21... c6 The only way to get compensation is to jettison this pawn in the most effective way possible, perhaps to round it up later, but after 22. dxc6 Qc7 23. Bd5 the pawn is well protected and White is better]

21. Bb3 Rfc8 22. Nc5?! Not best.

[22. Nd3 Kh8 23. Nac5 c6 Giving up the bishop pair is Black's best shot at holding. (23... Be8 To preserve the bishop pair. 24. Ne6 Bf6 25. Qc5 Rb7 26. Nb2 Qxc5 27. Nxc5 Rbb8 28. Ne6 Rb7 29. Rc2 White will win the c-pawn.) 24. Nxd7 Qxd7 White can choose from 25.Ba4 or the aggressive 25.d6. Both moves give White an advantage]

22... Kh8 Black, in turn, misses the best defense.

[22... Be8 23. Rf2 is the best chance for White to hold a slim advantage. (23. Ne6 Unlike in the 23. Rf2 variation, Black will give up the bishop pair to eliminate White's edge, the d5 pawn. 23... c6! 24. Qc5 (24. Nxc6 Black is better; the pawn structure is equal, Black has a good bishop, White's bishop is technically bad, Black's knight has immediate access to the outpost on d4, while White's knight cannot easily get to d5) 24... Qxc5 25. Rxc5 cxd5 26. Rxc8 Rxc8 27. exd5 Nf5! 28. Nxc6 Ne3 29. d6! (29. Rf2? Rc1 30. Re2 Bf6 31. Ne4 Bh4 32. g3 Bb5! Well, this looks just lovely for Black.) 29... Kh8 30. d7! (30. Rf2 Rc1 31. Re2 Bf6 32. Ne6 Nf5 33. Nc7 Bd7 Black is doing well and should regain the pawn) 30... Bxd7 31. Nf7 Kg8 32. Nxe5 Kf8 33. Nxd7 Ke7 34. Rf2 Rc1 35. Re2 Kxd7 Black's more active pieces and bishops of opposite color should be enough to hold the pawn down endgame) 23... c6 24. dxc6 Kh8 25. Be6 Rxc6 26. Rd2 Qc7 White is a little better, but as an advocate of the bishop pair I wouldn't mind playing Black with the plan of trading queens and maybe one pair of rooks]

23. Ne6 Again, a slight inaccuracy. White should have taken the bishop. This would leave balanced material. Both sides would have a bad bishop, and White would have the better position based on pawn structure.

[23. Nxd7 Qxd7 24. Ba4 White has a bind on Black's position.

Black needs to get rid of one of his pawn weaknesses and he can try to do this with 24... c6! 25. Nd3! (25. dxc6? is a bad mistake as Black is guarding this pawn with tactic: 25... Nxc6! 26. Bxc6 Qd4 27. Rf2 Rb6 28. Kf1 Rbxc6 29. Qxc6 Rxc6 30. Rxc6 Things are not so clear now. Black has a queen for two rooks, but he still has a bad bishop. Still, the queen is tricky to play against on an open board) 25... Qd6 But now the tension can be broken to White's advantage. 26. dxc6 Nxc6 (26... Qd4 The logic behind 25.Nd3! becomes obvious 27. Nf2 and White is close to winning) 27. Bxc6 Rb6 (27... Qd4 falls short to 28. Nf2) 28. Qa4 Rbxc6 29. Rxc6 White will next take the a-pawn with a slight edge]

23... Bf6 This is quite a complex mid-game! This move makes perfect sense; it preserves the bishop pair and protects the g-pawn. Still, it was better to trade on e6 to get rid of the knight.

24. Qc5 Qxc5? Trading queens plays into White's wheelhouse. Better was to take on e6.

25. Rxc5? White misses a chance to gain a decisive advantage.

[25. Nxc5! Be8 (25... Bb5 26. Bc4 Bxc4 27. Rxc4 Rb2 28. Nd7 Kg7 29. Ra4 Ra8 30. Ra6 Ng8 31. Nd3 Rc2 32. Rc1 Rxc1 33. Nxc1 with a winning endgame for White.) 26. Ned3 Ng6 Now, with some accurate moves White topples Black's defenses. 27. Na6! Rb7 28. d6! Rb6 29. Be6! White is winning]

25... Bb5? Black returns the favor.

[Better is 25... c6!? when 26. d6 (or 26. Nd3 cxd5 27. exd5 Nf5; or 26. dxc6 Rxc6 27. Rxc6 Nxc6) 26... Ng6 all leave the position level, leading to drawville. Black still has two weak pawns but they can no longer be overloaded as Black has adequate defenses]

26. Rf2 Rb7?! Better was either 26...Bd7 or 26...Ng6 with an advantage to White. After the move in the

game Black is strategically lost.

27. Rfc2 Ng6? Judging from the errors, I assume Donald was in time pressure. The mistakes he makes are not blunders but they add up over time.

[27... Bd7 28. Nxc7 Rd8 29. Nd3 Ng6 30. Na6 Rb6 31. Ra5 Black can resist, but White's win is inevitable]

28. Rxc7 Rbxc7 29. Rxc7 Rxc7 30. Nxc7 Bd7 31. Nd3 White makes things hard on himself. He is still better but it is no longer a clear-cut win.

[31. d6 The point is that White will be able to eventually force a critical defender out of the way of the d-pawn and force Black to give up a piece for the pawn. The best defense I can find is: 31... Kg7 32. Nd3 Nf8 33. Nc5 Bc8 34. Ba4 Bd8 White dominates d7, so Black makes his last stand on d8. 35. Nd5 Be6 36. d7 Bf7 37. Nb7 Ne6 38. Nb4 Kf6 39. Kf1 a5 40. Nc6 Bc7 41. Bb3 Bg6 42. d8=Q Nxd8 43. Ncxd8 and wins]

31... Be7 32. Bc4 Bd6 33. Bb5 Bc8? Inattentiveness? Time trouble? Who knows, but this gives back a winning advantage to White.

[33... Bxc7 34. Bxd7 h6 35. Kf1 Kg7 36. Nc5 Kf7 White should be able to win, but it is not easy]

34. Ne8 Be7

[34... Ba3 is not enough to hold. 35. d6 Be6 36. Kf1 Bxa2 37. d7 Be7 38. Ke2 Kg8 39. Nd6 Nf8 40. Nb7 White will promote costing Black a piece.]

35. d6 Bd8 36. d7 Bb7

[36... Bb6 will not alter the outcome. 37. Kf1 Bxd7 38. Bxd7]

37. Nd6 Bb6 38. Kf1 a6

[Or 38... Ba8 39. Nc8 Bc7 40. Nxa7 Kg7 41. Bc6 Bxc6 42. Nxc6 when Black is too far away to stop the pawn.]

39. Nxb7 axb5 40. d8=Q Bxd8 41. Nxd8 Kg8 42. Nc6 Kf7 43. Ncxe5 Black resigned.

This was a really nice game.

**Porter, Paul B. (1354) - Kammerdiner, Jason (1930), 0:1
New Mexico Open, Round 2
Rio Rancho, 9/28/2013**

This is a David versus Goliath battle. After a roller-coaster opening and middle game Goliath finds the stone hurled at him and returns it to the sender.

Comments by Steve Farmer

Queen Pawn Game

1. d4 Nf6 2. e3 d5 3. Bd3 g6 4. f4 c5 5. c3 Bg4 6. Nf3 Ne4 This novelty, though not bad, does not impress me.

[I would prefer simple developing moves such as 6... Nc6; or 6... Bg7]

7. Nbd2

[White had an interesting try here with 7. Qb3 hitting the undefended b7-pawn. White just needed to calculate the line where Black plays for the fork with c4. 7... Nf6 is best for Black, but he still loses a pawn after (If 7... c4 right away 8. Bxc4 dxc4 9. Qxb7 Nd7 10. Qxe4 White is two pawns up and owns the center) 8. O-O c4 9. Qxb7 Nbd7 10. Be2 White is fine]

7... Nxd2 8. Bxd2 cxd4 9. exd4 Nc6 10. O-O Bg7 11. Qb3 Bxf3 12. Rxf3 Qb6 13. Qxb6 axb6 14. f5! A fine decision by Paul - his lead in development dictates aggressive play.

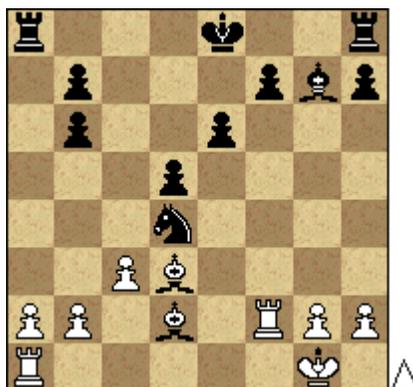
14... gxf5
[14... Bf6 is better. Perhaps Jason realized he was in for a battle and decided to complicate with dreams of battling on the half open g-file]

15. Rxf5 e6 16. Rf2 Jason is rewarded. Consolidation makes sense, but he has a lead in development and should have looked for an active move.

[16. Rh5 looks good]

16... Nxd4

[16... h5 is more fitting though White is still better]



17. Kh1?? Paul fails to call his opponent's bluff. Never trust that your opponent's combination is sound. I have found that the best wins come when you sac your opponent's pieces, not your own.

[White should have taken the knight. It would have breathed life into his bishop pair. For example; 17. cxd4 Bxd4 18. Bb5 Kf8 19. Bb4 Kg8 20. a4 White is ready to swing the rook to g3 via a3. Black has given up two pieces for a rook and two pawns, but the activity of the White pieces give him good chances]

17... Nb3 Perhaps Paul overlooked this move. The position swings in Black's favor. Sneaky play is sometimes rewarded!

18. Bb5 Ke7 19. Bg5 f6 20. Raf1 fxe5 The advantage swings back to White.

[Better was 20... Rhf8 when Black has a tiny edge]

21. Rf7 Kd6 22. axb3 Kc5! This is a difficult move for Jason to play, but it is best. The most natural response would have been to protect the bishop, but that would allow White to play b4 with a solid edge.

23. Rxe7??!

[He should have kept the bishops on the board with 23. Bd3 when the game would be even. Black's bishop has to move. Protecting it with the h-rook drops the h-pawn. Protecting it with the a-rook is retarded. So 23... Bf8 24. Re1 and Black has to choose which pawn he will lose, the b-pawn or e-pawn. If he plays Kd6, White could still go after the e-pawn with Rf6. Prob-

bly not a winning advantage, but Black will have several pawn weaknesses and it would be White's choice to play for a win.]

23... Kxb5 24. g3 Ra2 25. Rf2 h6 26. Rxb7 White has his pawn back, but the position is drawish.

26... Re8 27. Rh7 e5 28. Rxe6 e4 We ran into confusion with the game score here. If the moves are not correct, my apologies. This was recreated as best as possible.

29. Rhf6 e3 30. Re2 Ra1 31. Kg2 Rd1 32. Rf1

[White missed a chance to play 32. g4 which would have locked all of Black's pawns in place, giving White good winning chances. Black should just accept he is worse and play ...Kc5. If he tries to force the d-pawn forward he will be in trouble: 32... d4 33. Rf5 Kc6 34. cxd4 Rg8 35. d5 Rxd5 36. Rxd5 Kxd5 37. Rxe3 White has excellent winning chances!]

32... Rxf1 33. Kxf1 Re4 34. b4?

[White could still play for a win with 34. Re1 The idea is; the king is a better blockader than the rook. The rook needs freedom to move. If the king is on e2, White's rook can play actively]

34... Kc4 35. Kg2?

[Again 35. Re1 was the move]

35... d4! Nicely done by Jason. White's pawns are weak. Black's king and rook work their way into White's position.

36. cxd4 Kxd4 37. Kf3 Kd3 38. Rxe3 [Desperation, but there is no defense - ed]

[38. h3 Re5 39. Re1 e2 40. Kf2 Rf5 41. Kg2 Kd2 and wins]

38... Rxe3 39. Kg4 Re5 40. h4 gxh4 41. Kxh4 White resigned.

What is the moral of this game? As the higher rated player, never take your opponent lightly. He is there to win too. As the lower rated player, never assume your opponent has calculated better or further - that only comes from hard work at the board and the desire to find the truth.

**Darsey, Heidi L. (1451) - Barkmeyer, Brady (1649), 0:1
New Mexico Open, Under 1800,
Round 1
Rio Rancho, 9/28/2013**

Brady Barkmeyer's road to clear first place at 4.5-0-5 starts with this hard fought first round game. The game appears to be headed for an inevitable draw when White loses her way in the knight endgame.

Comments by Ben Coraretti

Queen Pawn Game

1. d4 e6 2. Nf3 d5 3. e3 c5 4. c3 a6 With 4...Nc6 or 4...Nf6 we'd have a colors-reversed Semi-Slav Meran Variation. The text is a rare move in an already rare opening, but it's playable. 5. Nbd2 Nf6 6. Bd3 c4!?! The double mark appears! It's a mark I use for a move that is not bad but not principled either. The positive is that it takes some space and prepares a queenside pawn storm. The negatives are: Black takes pressure off d4 thereby enabling White a stronger e3-e4 push; it's unclear just how effective the pawn storm will be. Perhaps Black assessed dxc5 or c4 as threats, but a nice fluid solution to both is 6...Nbd7. 7. Bc2 b5 8. O-O

[I and many others would play 8. e4, but this move is coming anyway and Black's efforts to prevent it only harm his position. Well played by White]

8... Bb7 9. Re1 Ne4?!

[This is what I alluded to in the last comment. Black would be better off with 9... Be7]

10. Nxe4 dxe4 11. Nd2 f5 12. f3! Just what the doctor ordered. 12... exf3 13. Nxf3 Bd6 14. e4 O-O 15. Bg5 White has done everything right so far and searches for the knockout blow. Unfortunately there is nothing decisive against Black's bend-but-don't-break position. The text is a slight inaccuracy.

[Better is 15. Ng5 Qd7 16. d5 exd5 17. exf5 Rf6 18. Re6 Be7 19. Qg4 going for domination of

e6. White is much better, but with best play it's likely a draw] 15... Qc7 16. e5? Not right. If after 16...Be7 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 White could find a way to get a knight on d6, I might be willing to surrender control of d5, but neither I nor my silicon compatriot can find it.

[16. a4 pressurizing, maintained some edge.]

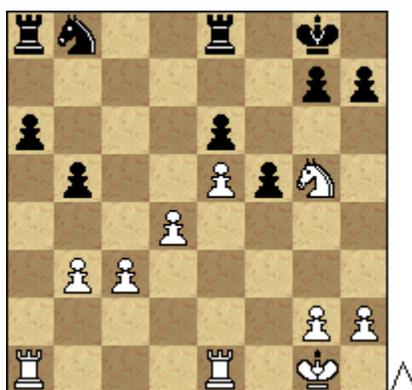
16... Be7 17. b3 Bd5 18. bxc4 This is not helpful since 18...bxc4 keeps the bind with potential threats on the b-file.

18... Bxc4? But White is rewarded for trying!

19. Bb3! This is the point. A trade of light-square bishops will weaken Black's pawn structure.

19... Bxg5 20. Nxg5 Qc6 21. Bxc4 Qxc4 22. Qb3 Very thematic.

22... Qxb3 23. axb3 Re8 Let's take stock of this ending. White has pressure on the a-file and a potential breakthrough with c3-c4 followed by d4-d5. However, if White plays this plan immediately, she will find her e5 pawn is weak. 24.Nf3 voluntarily leaving g5 to protect e5 is a hard move to find and, because it is slow, gives no advantage to White after Black replies 24...Nc6=. It is amazing how well White has played, but how little she has to show for it. Black's position has remarkable resilience and he too deserves credit. Both sides falter in the delicate ending.



24. c4 h6 25. Nf3 Nc6 26. cxb5?!

[26. d5 pressing in the center is better]

26... axb5 27. Rxa8 Rxa8 28. Rc1?!

[28. d5 exd5 and then 29. Rc1

was a necessary sacrifice to keep equal! The key is that the Black knight must not be permitted to occupy d5]

28... Nb4 29. h3 Ra3?!

[Preferable is 29...Nd5 to meet 30. Rc5 with 30...b4]

30. Rc5 Rxb3 31. Rxb5 Rb1 32. Kh2 Rb2 33. Kg3?!

[33. d5 takes advantage of the pin on the black knight. After 33... exd5 34. e6 Kf8 35. Rb8 Ke7 36. Nd4 Nd3 37. Rg8 White has some chances and certainly should not lose. Notice Black doesn't have 37... Rb4?? because of 38. Nc6]

33... Nd3 34. Rxb2 Nxb2 35. Kf4 Nd1 36. h4 Kf7 37. Nd2 Nc3 38. g3??

A double question mark may be a bit much since 38.g3 doesn't lose the game, but the defense becomes a herculean task. I suspect time trouble was involved, and as a player with my own warehouse of horrendous mistakes, I hesitate to criticize.

[Just protect the d-pawn with 38. Nb3]

38... Ne2 39. Kf3 Nxd4 40. Kf4 Ne2 41. Kf3 Nc1 42. Kf4?? But this is getting out of hand. Even in extreme time pressure, the 5 second delay is enough to spot that Black is just fishing around with his knight hoping to catch something.

[Better is 42. Nc4 defending the e-pawn and keeping guard on g3 with the king. Black can't win with a lone knight. He must bring in his king eventually. However, Black has played a tough game and is being rewarded for his efforts. He went on to pick off White's remaining pawns one by one. Imagine the position right after the rooks were traded and let that previous sentence sink in]

42... Nd3 43. Ke3 Nxe5 44. Nb3 g5 45. h5 Ng4 46. Kf3 Nf6 47. Nd4 Nxe5 48. g4 Ng7 49. Nc6 f4 50. Ke4 Ne8 51. Nd4 Nf6 52. Kf3 e5 53. Nf5 e4 54. Ke2 Nxe4 55. Kf1 Ne3 56. Nxe3 fxe3 57. Ke2 g4 58. Kxe3 g3 59. Ke2 h5 60. Ke3 h4 61. Ke2 h3 62. Kf1 [0:1]

The Under 1400 Section ended in a four way tie at 4-1 among Steve Anderson III, Victor Popa-Simil, Aaron Currance and Bruce Lewis.

**Lewis, Bruce R. (1316) - Warrior, Akshay (935), 1-0
New Mexico Open, Under 1400, Round 1
Rio Rancho, 9/28/2013**

Bruce Lewis plays very aggressively from the start. The attack may not be quite sound, but when Black misses his best defense, his position goes down in flames.

Comments by Ben Coraretti

Giucco Piano

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 I've been playing this position with both colors since I left the delivery room. I've always felt the Giucco Piano is a fundamental position of chess and a perfect learning tool for beginners. The position still has a following even at the highest levels. GM Leinier Domínguez Pérez is the biggest proponent of White while just about everybody is willing to play Black given the difficult theoretical state of affairs with, 3...Nf6, the Two Knights Defense.

4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 Bd6?! Incredibly, this anti-positional move has been played 136 times in my database. This is a failure on the part of chess instructors. I have a message for beginning and intermediate players: study Paul Morphy's games! He will show you how to get your pieces out and then how to use them!

6. Bg5

[More judicious is 6. O-O It's eerie how his failure to play it will come to manifest itself. The text move almost justifies 5...Bd6]

6... h6 7. Bh4 g5 8. Bg3 Nxe4! This daring capture is Black's best response. It is the only chance to justify his previous play.

9. dxe5?! White counters with a creative, but incorrect line.

[9. Bxe5 is a pleasant advantage

for White]

9... Nxc3 10. fxc3 Nxe5 11. Nxe5 Bxe5 12. Bxf7 Kxf7 13. Qd5 Kf6?? White has uncorked a sparkling display of fireworks!

[But Black has devious response. No! It can't be! The Ghost of Christmas Past! 13... Ke8! Black was already up a piece and can give it back - retaining a small advantage - had he only noticed that after **14. Qxe5** he has **14... Qe7** pinning the queen to her un-castled husband! I repeat: un-castled. Remember move 6?]

14. O-O How often do you get to castle short with check?

14... Bf4 15. gxf4 Rf8 16. Qe5? And



yet the drama continues.

[16. fxc3 **Kg6 17. Nd2** connecting the rooks to fuel the attack and pay homage to Paul Morphy was much better - Houdini 4 assessing about +9.50 compared to the game at +1.30]

16... Kg6 17. f5 Kh7 18. f6 d6??

[18... d5 stopping Qe4+, was imperative and would have kept a White victory in doubt]

19. Qe4 Kh8 20. Qg6 Rg8

[20... Qd7 would have held out a little longer, but not in any meaningful way: **21. Qxh6 Kg8 22. Qxg5 Kh8 23. Qh6 Kg8 24. Qg6 Kh8 25. Rf5! Rf7 26. Qh6 Kg8 27. Rg5** is the alternative]

21. Qxh6#

Nathan Miao went into the last round of the Under 1000 section with a perfect 4-0. Declan Foster was a half point back with a chance to take the title with a win.

Nathan completed the perfect 5-0, while Joseph Camacho took second at 4-1 and Declan tied James Camacho for third at 3.5-1.5.

**Foster, Declan T. (581) - Miao, Nathan J. (916), 0:1
New Mexico Open, Under 1000, Round 5
Rio Rancho, 9/28/2013**

Comments by Steve Farmer

Four Knights Opening

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d3 Nf6 4. Nc3 d5 5. Bd2 dxe4 6. dxe4 Bb4 7. Bd3 O-O 8. Bg5 Bxc3 9. bxc3 h6 10. Bxf6 White should have kept the bishop pair as compensation for the weak queenside pawns.

10... Qxf6 White is saddled with weak pawns on the queenside and a bad bishop blocked by his e-pawn.

11. h3 Ne7 12. Qe2 Qc6 13. Nxe5?? Perhaps the most important rule in chess is, "Never trust your opponent to blunder material!" Your opponent is playing for a win, just as you are. He will try every sneaky trick in the book to lure you into a trap. You must be on the look-out for such traps on every move. Had White kept this in mind then surely he would have seen the trick that now jolts him awake!

[13. Qd2 was much better]

13... Qxc3 Ouch! That is a nasty fork, hitting the king, rook and knight all at once!

14. Qd2 Qxa1 A sad state of affairs for White. If he blocks with the queen on d1, he will lose the knight.

15. Ke2 Qxh1 16. Ng4 Qxg2 17. Nxe6 Kh8 It was safe for Black to take the knight. White has too few pieces to attack with.

18. c3 Qxh3 19. Nxf7 Rxf7 20. Bc4 Bg4 21. f3 Qxf3 22. Ke1 Qxe4 Black misses mate in two.

[22... Qg3 **23. Qf2 Qxf2#**]

23. Be2 Bh3 Again mate in two was available.

[23... Qh1 **24. Bf1 Rxf1#**]

24. Qd3 Qxd3 Black decides to simplify the game and win by brute

force.

[24... Qh1 25. Kd2 Bf5 26. Bf3 Qh6 27. Qe3 Rd8 28. Ke2 Bd3 29. Kf2 Qh2 30. Ke1 Qg3 31. Qf2 Qf4 32. Kd1 Be4 33. Ke2 Bxf3 34. Kf1 Rd1 35. Qe1 Bh1 36. Kg1 Rxe1#]

25. Bxd3 c5 White resigned. He had seen enough!

New Mexico Richard Sherman

This tournament was both the Richard Sherman Memorial and the New Mexico Senior Championship.

The section winners were:

Open: Harold Stevens 4-0

Reserve: Donald Poston 4-0

Booster: Robert Scott 4-0

Morphy: Jacob Moya 5-0

The winners were obviously not fooling around!

In the Open Section Doug Thigpen at 3.5 -0.5 finished second. Cesar Guevarra and Matt Grinberg tied for third at 3-1 and shared the Senior Championship.

Hammad, Munir (2005) - Thigpen, Douglas B. (2093), 0:1 New Mexico Richard Sherman, Open, Round 4 Rio Rancho, 1/11/2014

Doug Thigpen pulls a nifty combination to secure sole second place in the Open Section.

Comments by Doug Thigpen

Caro-Kann Defense

1. e4 c6 A new tool of mine. There are many ways to play this system, but my favorite has been to play for a solid position until a chance to attack presents itself.

2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. Ng3 Bg6 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. h4 h6 8. Bd3

Bxd3 9. Qxd3 e6 10. O-O!? I imagine this move was played partly to deviate from the main continuation involving queenside castling, however I am not convinced it is good. White's own king will slow down preparation for a kingside attack. On the other hand, White also denies Black a juicier queenside target and keeps his weaknesses to a minimum, so I'll keep an open mind to the move's potential. Due to White's space advantage he cannot be worse, so the position is more or less equal.

10... Ngf6 11. Re1 Be7 12. c4 O-O 13. Bf4 Re8 Both sides now maneuver to better position themselves. I considered Re8 to be an important prerequisite to Qa5 to avoid any unwanted Nf5 shenanigans.

14. Rad1 Qa5 15. Bd2 Qc7

[15... Qxa2?? would have brightened my opponent's day after 16. Ra1 Qxb2 17. Reb1]

16. Bc3 Rad8 17. Qe2 Bf8 18. Nh2?! c5 19. dxc5 Bxc5 20. Qf3 e5! I give this move an exclamation because it completely changes the flow of the game. Now Black has the initiative. Black's plan is to double rooks behind this battering ram of a pawn where they will serve the dual threats of supporting the e-pawn's march up the board and swinging to the kingside.

21. b3 Re6 22. Qf5 Rde8 23. Ne4 Nxe4 24. Qxe4 Nf6 25. Qf5 e4 26. Ng4 Nxe4 27. Qxe4 Rg6 28. Qd7 The computer doesn't like this move (28. Rd7 is better) because it allows Black a tactical opportunity. However, the reality is that White is in a tense position. Black's correct move is not so easy to find, if Black is unable to find it, then White will have a fine game. For these practical reasons I refuse to label 28. Qd7 as a mistake. I consider myself fortunate to have found the correct move.



28... Bxf2! 29. Kxf2 Qg3 30. Ke2 Qxg2 31. Ke3 Qg3 32. Ke2 Qh2

[I missed a Mate in four 32... Qf3 33. Kd2 Rg2 34. Kc1 (34. Re2 Qxe2 35. Kc1 Qc2#) 34... Qxc3 35. Kb1 Qb2#]

33. Ke3 Ree6 34. Qc8 Kh7 35. Rd5 This allows mate in three, but the position was hopeless anyway. I invite the reader to find Black's deadly reply to each of White's possible moves.

35... Rg3 36. Kd4 Qf2 White resigned.

Ronquillo, Rodelio (1673) - Grinberg, Matthew M. (2082), 0:1

New Mexico Richard Sherman, Open, Round 2 Rio Rancho, 1/11/2014

Matt Grinberg, Senior Co-Champion, wins when Rodelio Ronquillo loses control of e4, the key square in the Queen's Indian Defense.

Comments by Matt Grinberg

Queen's Indian Defense

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. e3 Bb7 5. Nbd2 A little passive.

[5. Bd3 d5 6. cxd5 exd5 7. Nc3 Bd6 8. O-O O-O 9. Qc2 c5 10. Rd1 Nc6 11. dxc5 bxc5 12. a3 Ne5 13. Nxe5 Bxe5 14. e4 d4 15. Ne2 c4 16. Qxc4 Nxe4 17. Bxe4 Bxe4 18. Bf4 Rc8 19. Qb4 a5 20. Qe1 Bxf4 21. Rxd4 Bxh2 1/2-1/2, Mamedyarov Shakhriyar (AZE) 2752 - Kramnik Vladimir

(RUS) 2785, Dortmund 6/26/2007 It (cat.20)]

5... **Ne4?!** A good move when White's knight is on c3 since it threatens to double his pawns. But here, why should Black want to trade his good knight for the passive knight on d2?

[5... c5 6. Bd3 cxd4 7. exd4 Be7 8. O-O O-O 9. b3 d5 +0.06]

6. **a3 Be7 7. Bd3 f5 8. Bxe4?!** Even if he doubles Black's pawns, giving up a bishop for a knight and planting a strong pawn on e4 doesn't look right.

[Force Black into exchanging! 8. Qc2 Nxd2 9. Bxd2 O-O +0.45]

8... **fxe4 9. Ne5 O-O 10. h3 d6 11. Ng4 Nd7 12. b3 Qe8 13. O-O Qg6 14. Bb2 h5 15. Nh2 Bg5 16. Qe2 Rf7 17. f4 exf3!?** Exchanging off the strong pawn on e4 allows him to free up his position, equalizing.

[17... Bh4 -0.61]

18. **Nhxf3 Raf8 19. Nxc5 Qxc5 20. Rxf7 Rxf7 21. Rf1?!** It is tempting to go for this exchange if you are looking for a draw. The problem is that after Black takes, White must concede something no matter how he retakes. Seeking exchanges to draw is fine so long as you do not hurt your position.

[The path to a draw is through a strong center. 21. e4! Rf4 22. Re1 e5 23. d5 -0.07]

21... **Rxf1 22. Kxf1?!** Exposing his king to attack allows Black to exploit the undefended bishop, winning a pawn.

[Best is 22. Nxf1 but Black's pieces dominate e4, stifling White. 22... Nf6 23. Bc3 Qf5 -0.62]

22... **Qf5 23. Nf3** The alternatives are no better.

[23. Ke1 Qc2 24. Nf3 Qxb3 -1.68;

23. Qf2 Qc2 24. Nf3 Qxb3 -2.20]

23... **Nf6** This was the move I had intended, eying e4. I didn't stop to see if there was something else.

[I could have immediately won the pawn, but there is no way for him to avoid the loss of a pawn after 23... Nf6 anyway. 23... Bxf3 24. gxf3 Qxh3 -1.53]

24. **Kg1 Bxf3 25. gxf3 Qxh3 26. e4 Qg3 27. Kh1 e5 28. dxe5 dxe5 29. Bc3 Kf7 30. a4 g5 31. Qg2** He must exchange to relieve the pressure on his king.

31... **Qf4!?** Before exchanging I want to draw his bishop off of my e-pawn.

[But keeping the queens on the board gives him counter play. I should just exchange. 31... Qxg2 32. Kxg2 Nd7 -1.97;

or 31... Nxe4 32. Qxg3 Nxc3 33. Kg2 Nf5 34. Bxe5 Nd6 -2.06]

32. **Bd2 Qh4 33. Qh2 Qxh2 34. Kxh2 g4 35. Bc3??** Losing instantly.

[He still has a chance to hold after 35. Kg2 gxf3 36. Kxf3 -2.59]

35... **gxf3 36. Bxe5?** Dropping the bishop, but the position is hopeless anyway.

36... **Ng4** White resigns.

Below are two games by players who tied for second in the Reserve Section. The four players tied for second were, David Lewis, Hector Martinez, Daniel Herman and Preston Herrington.

Herman, Rebecca (1409) - Herrington, Preston (1633),
½:½

New Mexico Richard Sherman, Reserve, Round 1
Rio Rancho, 1/11/2014

Rebecca Herman of Colorado had the better game but, due to a couple of inaccuracies, Preston Herrington was able to spring a tactic that enabled him to trade queens, easing his burden in the middle-game.

Comments by Steve Farmer

English Opening

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. cxd5 Nxd5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 g6

[6... e5 is a viable alternative]

7. d4 A new move but it goes into an inferior variation of the Gruenfeld Defense. White is better. 7... Bg7 8. Be2 O-O 9. O-O Bg4 10. Bb2

[White should put the question to the bishop and play 10. h3]

10... **a6 11. a4 Bxf3** This trade does not fit into the scheme of the opening.

12. **Bxf3 b5?** This is a tactical and strategic mistake.

[Black needed to strike back at the center with 12... e5]

13. **e5** The bishop on f3 comes to life - White has a winning advantage.

13... **Qd7 14. axb5**

[Perhaps 14. Qe2; or 14. Ba3 is better]

14... **axb5 15. Re1**

[More accurate is 15. Qe2 so that the queen maintains central influence and the rook on f1 covers a1]

15... **Rxa1 16. Qxa1 b4 17. Qa4?!** This leaves the door open for Black. Preston is quick to spot its downside!

[17. Qa6!? bxc3 18. Bxc6 Qxd4 19. Bc1 Bxe5 20. Qa5±]

17... **Nxe5!**



18. **Qxd7!** Necessity is the mother of all forced moves. A lot of material is traded off, reducing the winning chances for both players.

[Rebecca realized she could not bring her queen back to protect the bishop on f3 as Black opens up the game in his favor: 18. Qd1 Nxf3 19. Qxf3 c5 20. cxb4 cxb4 Black has a passed pawn and good winning chances]

18... **Nxd7 19. Rxe7 bxc3 20. Bxc3 Rb8 21. g3**

[21. Kf1 bringing the king closer to the center might have kept White's slim chances for a win alive]

21... **Rb3** Preston tries to keep win-

chances in this position.

22. Rxd7

[White needs to avoid getting into a bishops of opposite color endgame which can be accomplished by 22. Ba5]

22... Rxc3 23. Kg2 c6 Draw Agreed.

Lewis, W D. (1770) - Romero, Jonah A. (1540), ½:½
New Mexico Richard Sherman, Reserve, Round 1
Rio Rancho, 1/11/2014

Two of the players destined to tie for second place tie square off in Round 1.

Comments by Steve Farmer

King's Indian Defense

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bf4 d6 4. h3 h5 A new move but it needlessly weakens Black's kingside. It is not a bad move, but also not typical of the opening. **5. Nbd2 Bg7 6. e3** A timid response.

[6. e4 staking a big claim in the center is better. This is one of the problems when a player uses an opening 'system,' he is unwilling to alter the course of the 'well known' lines he has studied. Sticking to one or two opening systems is like trying to thread a needle at arm's length, with one eye closed.]

6... O-O 7. Bd3 c5 8. c3 Bd7

[Black should release the tension in the center with 8... cxd4]

9. O-O

[White could have gotten the better of the opening with 9. dxc5 dxc5 **10. Qe2** White is better in that he has better development and control of the center. He will castle and fight for the d-file]

9... Nc6

[Again, Black should release the tension with 9... cxd4]

10. dxc5 White doesn't let a second chance slip past!

10... dxc5 11. Nc4

[Mr. Lewis correctly points out

11. Qe2 in his notes. White is better.]

11... Be6 12. Ng5 Bxc4 13. Bxc4 e6 Black felt pressure on f7, but it was better to chase the bishop away with ...Na5 (White does not want to give up the bishop pair by trading two minor pieces for a rook and pawn).

14. Qe2

[Better was 14. Bd6 Re8 **15. Bxc5** Black does not have enough for the pawn. White's bishop pair is an added bonus. White is better]

14... Nd5 15. Bxd5 White gives up the bishop pair. **15... exd5 16. Rfd1 d4 17. Nf3**

[Either 17. b4; or 17. Qc4 were better]

17... Qb6 18. cxd4 cxd4 19. Rab1 dxe3 20. Bxe3 Qc7 21. b4 a6 22. a4 Rfe8 23. Qc4 Qe7 24. Bc5 Qe6 25. Qc2



[**25. Qxe6 Rxe6 26. Rd7 b5 27. axb5 axb5 28. Ng5 Rf6 29. Rb7** White will pick off the b-pawn. **29... Rf5 30. Ne4 Nd8 31. Rxb5 Ne6 32. Rb7** White has good winning chances. Endgames require patience. The side with the advantage can take things slow and easy whereas defender has to always be on his toes to find the right path to draw]

25... Qe4

[Black needed to try for a rook trade with 25... Rad8]

26. Qb3

[**26. Qxe4 Rxe4 27. Rd7 Rc4 (27... b5 28. axb5 axb5 29. Rxf7! Kxf7 30. Ng5** White has a comfortable edge) **28. Rxb7 a5 29.**

b5 Rxc5 30. Rc7 Rb8 31. Rd1 Rc4 32. bxc6 White has a small advantage, but not enough to win with correct defense]

26... Qe6 27. Qa3 Again, White should trade queens and go into a rook and minor piece ending with a small edge.

27... Ne5 28. Re1 Nxf3 29. Qxf3 Qd7 30. a5 Rxe1 31. Rxe1 Qb5?

[31... Bf8 contesting White's powerful bishop would equalize]

32. Re7 The double attack on b7 and f7 will win a pawn and gain the advantage.

32... Qc4 33. Qxb7 Rd8 34. Rd7 White would like to trade rooks as then there would be no stopping White from playing b5 creating a dangerous passed pawn.

[34. Qc6 Black needs to concede that the rooks have to come off the board and play **34... Bc3** (Avoiding the rook trade with **34... Rd1** is questionable. For example; **35. Kh2 Be5 36. g3 Bd6 (36... Qd5** may be best for Black, but after **37. Qxd5 Rxd5 38. Rb7** White holds a clear edge with little to worry about since the queens are gone) **37. Qe8 Kg7 38. Re1 Rxe1** (Black can no longer avoid the exchange of rooks for a tactical reason: **38... Rd2 39. Bxd6 Rxd6 40. Qe5 Rf6 41. Re4** Now that Rf4 is a threat. Black has only one move **41... Qb5** but the endgame is child's play for White after **42. Qxb5 axb5 43. Kg2)) 35. Re8 Rxe8 36. Qxe8 Kh7 37. Qe7** White is clearly better, though Black may be able to hold a draw with perfect play]

34... Re8 35. Qd5

[As pointed out by David Lewis, **35. Be3** leaves White in a very good position with no rook checks for Black **Qb3 36. Qd5 Qxd5 37. Rxd5 Ra8+-]**

35... Re1?

[**35... Qxd5 36. Rxd5 Bf8** would have kept Black in the fight, though struggling for a draw]

36. Kh2 Be5 37. g3 Qxd5 Now this is too late as there is no way to con-

test the powerful White bishop.

38. Rxd5 Bg7

[After 38... Bf6 39. b5 axb5! is the way forward for White. The passed pawn will cost Black a piece. 40. a6 b4 41. a7 Ra1 42. Bb6 Ra6 (42... b3 43. Ra5 b2 44. a8=Q Kg7 45. Bd8 b1=Q 46. Bxf6 Kxf6 47. Qh8 Ke6 There is no need to grab the rook 48. Re5 will lead to mate) 43. Ra5 Rxa7 44. Bxa7 White wins]

39. Rd8

[David played the best move, though he pointed out that 39. Rd6 Re6 40. Rxe6 fxe6 41. b5 also wins easily]

39... Kh7 40. Bd4?? Brought on by time pressure? Unfortunately this puts the win in question.

[40. b5 Re5 41. Rc8 with an easy win]

40... Bxd4 41. Rxd4 Rb1 42. Kg2 Kg7 43. Kf3 Kf6 44. Rd6 Ke5 45. Rxa6 Rxb4 46. Ra7 Ra4 Swap the position of the two rooks and this is a well-known win for White, but here, with Black's rook behind the a-pawn it is only a draw.

47. Rxf7 Rxa5 48. Re7 Kf5 49. Re3 Ra4 50. Rc3 Draw Agreed.

It is a shame. Mr. Lewis played a fine game but one hasty move took it all away. As the saying goes, "One bad move can negate 40 good ones!"

National Chess Day Celebration

The National Chess Day celebration at Heart of the Desert Pistachios and Wines Gift Shop in the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum in Las Cruces was a roaring success!

The festivities started at 10am with the simultaneous exhibition. Matt Grinberg played 9 opponents simultaneously while Jason Kammerdiner took on 5. As games ended, players were replaced with others who had been waiting. Jason played 15 games winning them all. Matt played 25 games conceding only a draw to Danielle Slough from the Las Cruces

Chess Academy.

Then starting at 1pm we had The I10 Showdown, pitting a team of players from Southern New Mexico against a team of players from El Paso.

Congratulations to the El Paso team for winning the first I10 Showdown. They moved to a strong 5.5 - 2.5 start in the first round and beat off any attempt by the Southern New Mexico to come back in the second round to wind up with a convincing 9.5 - 6.5 victory!

Helwick, John (1610) - Burns, Dan (1633), 0-1

The I10 Showdown, Round 1 Las Cruces, 10/12/2013

Dan Burns scores a key win on the way to El Paso's domination of the first round. Dan gets a protected passed pawn, then relentlessly trades off until he gets a winning pawn endgame.

Comments by Matt Grinberg

Caro-Kann

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nf6 5. c3 e6!?

Blocking in the bishop. [5... g6 6. Nf3 Bg7 7. O-O Bg4 8. Nbd2 Nc6 9. h3 Bxf3 10. Nxf3 O-O 11. Re1 e6 12. Bg5 Qc7 13. Bxf6 Bxf6 14. Re2 Qf4 15. Qd2 Qxd2 16. Nxd2 Be7 17. a4 1/2-1/2, Kurajica Bojan (CRO) 2545 - Hort Vlastimil (GER) 2600 , Surakarta 1982 It (cat.9)]

6. Nf3 Bd6 7. h3N!?

This is both weakening and a waste of time. [7. O-O O-O 8. Re1 h6 9. Ne5 Ne8 10. Nd2 Nc6 11. Ndf3 Ne7 12. Bc2 f5 13. h4 Nf6 14. Bf4 b5 15. Nd3 Kh7 16. Bxd6 Qxd6 17. Nfe5 Rb8 18. f3 g6 19. Qd2 a5 20. a3 Nd7 21. Nxd7 Bxd7 22. Re2 Nc6 23. b4 Kg7 24. Nc5 Rfe8 25. Rae1 a4 26. Bd3 Nd8 27. h5 Nf7 28. hxg6 Ng5 29. Re5 Kxg6 30. Qf4 Nf7 31. Rxe6 Bxe6 32. Rxe6 Rxe6 33. Qxf5 Kg7 34. Nxe6 1-0, Nun Jiri (CZE) 2380 -

Maximov Alexey (RUS) 2331 , Pardubice 1998 It (open)]

7... O-O 8. O-O b6 9. Qc2 Ba6 10. Bxa6 Nxa6 11. Ne5 Nd7 12. Qe2 Bxe5 13. Qxa6!?

Why take the "knight on the rim" instead of the well placed bishop? [13. dxe5 Nac5 14. Be3 Ne4 15. Bd4 Rc8 16. Nd2 +0.00]

13... Bd6 14. Qe2 Qc7 15. f4 g6!?

Weakening and unnecessary. [15... Rae8 16. Be3 f5 17. Nd2 Nf6 18. g3 Ne4 19. Qg2=+/]

16. Be3 f5 17. Nd2 Nf6 18. Qf2 Ne4 19. Nxe4!?

Rather than giving Black a protected passed pawn, White should work to get his own knight to e5. This may already be the losing move. [19. Qh4=+/]

19... fxe4 Black's pawn on e4 never moves for the rest of the game, but it is the cloud of death hanging over White's position.



20. Qd2 Rf6 21. Rf2 Raf8 22. Raf1 a5 23. g3 b5 24. g4!?

Since he is never going to be able to play f5, all this does is weaken the pawn on f4. [24. Kg2 -0.48]

24... b4 25. cxb4 Bxb4 26. Qc2 Rc8 27. Qxc7 Rxc7 28. Bd2?! -1.12

Giving Black control of the open file. [28. Rc1 Rxc1 (28... Rff7 29. Rfc2 Rxc2 30. Rxc2 -0.25) 29. Bxc1 a4 30. Rc2 Bd6 31. Rc6 Bxf4 32. Bxf4 Rxf4 33. Rxe6 -0.40]

28... Bxd2 29. Rxd2 Rf8 30. f5? Giving away a pawn and allowing Black to have two connected passed pawns. [30. Kg2=+]

30... exf5 31. gxf5 Rxf5 32. Rxf5?!

Trading rooks makes it more difficult to generate counter play.

[32. Rb1 -2.38]

32... gxf5 33. b3 Attempting to create a passed pawn of his own.

[Defense is useless. 33. Rf2 Rf7 34. Rc2 f4 35. Kf2 f3 36. Rc5 e3 37. Kf1 f2 38. Rc2 Rg7-+]

33... f4 34. a3 Rc1 35. Kh2 f3 36. Kg3 Rg1 37. Kf4 Rg2 38. Ke3 Kf7? This should still win, but it turns a no-brainer into something difficult.

[38... Rxd2 39. Kxd2 f2 40.

Ke2 e3 41. b4 axb4 42. axb4 Kf7 43. b5 Ke6 44. b6 Kd6 45. b7 Kc7-+]

39. b4? Missing his chance to muddy the waters.

[39. Rxc2 fxc2 40. Kf2 Ke6 41. a4 Kf5 42. Kxc2 Kf4 43. b4 axb4 44. a5 b3 45. a6 b2 46. a7 b1=Q 47. a8=Q -3.22 Queen and pawn endgames can be very difficult to win]

39... axb4 40. axb4 Ke7 41. Rxc2 fxc2 42. Kf2 Kd7 43. Kxc2 Kc6 44. Kg3 Kb5 White resigns.

New Mexico Tech Chess Olympiad

This tournament was organized by Oren Stevens and Caleb Jaquish. The rated section was directed by Steve Perea and the unrated section by Oren Stevens.

Thirteen players were in the rated section and forty players in the unrated section. Players came from Estancia, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Socorro, Las Cruces, Alamogordo and El Paso. Players in the unrated section were mostly students from New Mexico Tech,

This was the first time a rated tournament was held at the new Joseph A. Fidel Center at New Mexico Tech.

The highlight of the tournament was the Ben Coraretti simultaneous exhibition.

I thank Ron and Ben Coraretti for donating their time to promote this event. I welcome back to active tournament

play Mark Schwarman, William Barfield and Brad Earlywine.

The volunteers from NMCO, the campus administration and the players all contributed to a very successful tournament. The students really enjoyed the tournament. NMCO has established good will with New Mexico Tech and has secured a great new venue for future tournaments. The New Mexico Open will be held there in September.

I also express my appreciation to Caleb Jaquish, who invested a lot of time promoting this event, and managed to raise enough money to cover all costs. I also to give most of the credit to Caleb for creating an excellent relationship between NMCO and the New Mexico Tech administration.

Report by Oren Stevens.

Section 1 ended in a tie between Mark Schwarman and William Barefield.

Section 2 was won by Peter Lattimore.

Section 3 ended in a three way tie among Robert Scott, Benjamin Harris and Declan Foster.

We do not have games from main sections, but we do have two annotated games from side events.

Coraretti, Ron (1812) - Mulcahy, Donald J. (1826), 0:1 New Mexico Tech Chess Olympiad, Side Games, Round 3 Socorro, 3/29/2014

White plays very aggressively, but leaves his rear exposed. A blunder in an already awkward position does him in.

Comments by Ben Coraretti

Sicilian Defense, Alapin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. c3 Gambit anyone? 4... Nf6 No takers. 5. e5 Nd5 6. cxd4 Nc6 7. a3 d6 8.

exd6

[Or 8. Bd3, but the text is also sound]

8... Bxd6 9. Bd3 Nf4!?

[Or 9... O-O with a very comfortable defense]

10. Bxf4 Bxf4 11. O-O O-O 12. Nc3 g6! On point. The maneuver of the dark-square bishop to the long diagonal demonstrates the virtues of the ...Nf4 idea. Other moves would have given a small edge to White.

13. Qa4! My old man finds the right reply, but does he know why it is right?

13... Bh6 14. Rad1?! He does not.

[White should play 14. Be4 with a dynamic game. Unfortunately Houdini 4 likes to take interesting imbalances and chop them down to a draw, so it only offers: 14... Bg7 15. Bxc6 bxc6 16. Rfe1 Qb6 17. Ne4 Rd8 18. Rac1 Bxd4 19. Rxc6 Qxb2 20. Rc2 Qb6 21. Rc6 Qb2=]

14... Bg7 15. Bb5?!

[The wrong direction. Again 15. Be4]

15... Bd7?! This is the only significant inaccuracy of the game by Mr. Mulcahy which is very impressive.

[Better is 15... Ne7 leaving White's pieces grasping for meaning]

16. d5?!

[16. Ne5 was the fly in the ointment]

16... exd5 17. Rxd5 Qc7 18. Rfd1 Be6 19. Rc5? White is desperate in the face of Black's lasers.

19... Rad8 20. Bxc6 bxc6 21. Ra5?? Evidently the intended, but unsound, follow up to 19.Rc5.

21... Bxc3!



This refutes. Anyone who understands chess knows this move has to exist in such positions. Tactics flow from a superior position. Magnus Carlsen himself could not hold this against Mr. Mulcahy.

22. Rxd8 Rxd8 23. Ra6 Bg7 24. h3 Bd5 25. Rxa7 Qb8 26. Ne1 Bb3 27. Qa5 Bxb2 28. Re7 Qd6 29. Re3 Bd5 30. Nc2 c5 31. Qe1 Be6 32. Qa5 Kg7 33. g4 Bd4 34. Re1 Bb3 35. Ne3 Bxe3 36. Rxe3 c4 37. Kg2 Qd5 38. Qxd5 Rxd5 39. Rc3 Ra5 Dad resigned - and not a moment too soon.

Foster, Declan (792) Coraretti, Ben (2268) 0-1
Coraretti Simultaneous Exhibition
Socorro, 3/29/2014

Declan Foster takes on USCF Master, Ben Coraretti, in a simultaneous exhibition during the New Mexico Tech Olympiad. Declan almost pulls off the upset.

Comments by Ben Coraretti except as noted

Dutch Defense

1. d4 g6 I have done only two simuls in my short career, but I've probably spent more time thinking about simultaneous strategy than playing the games. I like to play differently in each game, often playing outside my normal repertoire, if, for no other reason, just for variation to enhance the creative experience. You might be surprised to know how often an idea from one game can spark an idea for another in completely different openings/early middle games. Declan was my last board in the circuit of the 12-board simul and I had already played 1...Nf6 and 1...f5 in other games.

2. c4 Bg7 3. Nf3 Really I was hoping for 3.e4 so I could play 3...c5, but, upon seeing 3.Nf3, I immediately learn a great deal about my opponents opening tendencies, and decide, reluctantly, my most promising course is to make another Dutch.

3... f5 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Bg5!? An anti-Dutch plan right off the bat! I love it. Credit to the young man for making the first interesting move of the game. Of course, 5.g3 and 5.e3 are normal plans. Even Levon Aronian's 5.Bf4 has a few more followers in my database than the text. I'm in full support, by the way, of experimenting with normal and anti-normal chess. **5... O-O** This move and 5...d6 are the most popular responses by far, but, despite a small sample size, my estranged cousin Houdini 4 takes a liking to 5...Ne4. A little theoretical gem perhaps?

[5... Ne4 6. Bd2 (Or 6. Nxe4 fxe4 7. Nd2 Bxd4 -0.02) 6... c5 7. d5 -0.01]

6. Qd2 Consistent but not necessarily good.

[6. e3 d6 7. Qb3 +0.17]

6... d6!? Now 6...Ne4 makes too much sense.

[6... Ne4 White can't even play 7. Nxe4?! fxe4 8. Ne5?? because 8... d6 rounds up the cavalry.]

7. h3 Better to complete the 7.Bh6 plan I think.

7... Qe8N (!? - ed) This is the first new move according to my database. I must confess I have a terrible addiction for Qe1/Qe8 moves and it goes back as far as I can remember. In the Chicago Open a few years back I crushed IM Florin Felecan on the white-side of a Modern Defense with a Qe1 move. The queen moved once and never again the whole game. This move here is, of course, not correct. (Again Ne4 is better! - ed)

[7... Ne4 8. Qe3 Nxe5 9. Qxe5 c5 10. Qd2 cxd4 11. Nxd4 -0.41]

8. Bh6 e5 9. d5 Ne4?? A terribly optimistic move is the sugar-coated description of this ghastly decision. On average I spent between 5 and 10 seconds per move in these games and took only as long as a minute and a half on few occasions. I should have thought more here as this move not only weakens my whole center and kingside, but I also manage to create the one variation where 7.h3 plays a critical role.

[9... Nbd7 10. Bxg7 Kxg7 11. e3 Nc5 -0.18]

10. Nxe4 fxe4 11. Bxg7 Kxg7 12. Ng5 Bf5(!? - ed) (This attempt to hold the pawn backfires because it results in his castled position being opened and White getting a strong attack - ed)

[(Ben should instead let the pawn go to gain the initiative - ed) 12... e3! 13. Qxe3 Qa4 14. Qc3 Na6 +0.37]

13. g4! h6 14. gxf5 hxg5 15. fxe6 Qxe6 16. Rg1 Rf4 17. h4 g4(!? - ed)

Declan has played a nice game. The question I had at the time, however, was: Does he know that? I knew my position was just about lost especially after 17...g4, but the material is still equal. Less experienced players often evaluate positions solely on material so my strategy was to keep it even. Had I given him the g-pawn, I think he would have played tougher. I see this phenomenon on the internet when my opponents play poor strategically and I sacrifice material (correctly). Often the defender plays bitterly tough to hold it. Of course when the sac is good they may play as tough as they like - the result will be the same. Perhaps we are just wired to want material and IM's and GM's are who they are because of a successful deprogramming to material and board control. (I know from personal experience that Declan prefers active play to materialistic play - ed)

[17... Qh7 18. Rxe5 Kf6 19. Rg3 +0.89]

18. Bh3 Nd7?? (This should have lost the game. The Black king and queen lined up with White's rook on g1 is a fatal. He has to get one or the other off of the g-file - ed)

[18... Kh8 19. e3 Rf6 20. Rxe4 Qf7 +1.47]

19. Qxf4(? - ed) After 19.e3 I must acquiesce to material loss. I would have kept my Queen in any and all circumstances, again just for psychological reasons, to make it harder for him to evaluate. 19.Qxf4 is an unfortunate mistake - ironically he spots a more complex tactic than the one

that wins the game.

[(As Ben pointed out to Declan after the game - ed) 19. e3! (wins because Black has to lose either the rook or the queen - ed) 19... Rf3 20. h5 (20. Rxc4? Rxc3 21. Rxc6 Kxc6 22. O-O-O Rxc4 +2.00) 20... Qf7 21. Bxc4 Kh7 22. Bxf3 Qxf3 +2.88]

19... exf4 20. Rxc4 Ne5 21. Rxc6 Kxc6 22. O-O-O Nxc4?? This is just sloppy and unnecessary. (Of course it is tempting to just grab the c-pawn, but the h-pawn is of more concern. Plus the capture leaves three undefended pieces on the fourth rank and neglects the development of the rook - ed)

23. Rg1 Kf6(!? - ed) There's some interest in this ending, but Matt has covered it nicely and there's no need to regurgitate his analysis. Truthfully, Black should hold and White must play well or the position will flip on him. (In general the king should go to the center in the endgame, but there are two reasons why it would be better to play to h6 here. First, Kf6 sets Black up for White playing Rg5, Rf5+. Second, it would be better to use the king to keep the h-pawn blocked so Black's rook can play actively - ed)

24. Be6 Ne5 25. h5?! (Pushing the pawn is futile since it has no hope of queening and will inevitably be lost - ed)

[(Declan passes up the last chance at - ed) 25. Rg5 Rf8 26. b3 Ng6 27. Rf5 Kg7 28. Rxf8 Nxf8 29. Bf5 e3 30. fxe3 fxe3 31. Kc2 Kf6 +0.46]

25... Rh8 26. Bg4? (Up to here Declan has kept the master at bay, but now his position collapses - ed)



[(The no risk way to hold the pawn is - ed) 26. Rh1 Rh6 (Not 26... Kg5? 27. Rg1 Kxh5?? 28. Rh1 Kg5 29. Rxc4) 27. Bc8 - 0.29]

26... Rg8! 27. h6?

[(There may be some slim hope after - ed) 27. f3 exf3 28. exf3 Nxf3 29. Rf1 Nh2 30. Rxf4 Ke5 31. Rf5 Ke4 32. Rf7 Nxc4 33. Rxc7 -2.38]

27... Rxc4 28. Rh1 Rg8 29. h7 Rh8 30. e3 f3 31. Rh6 Ng6 32. Kc2 Kg7 33. Rh1 Rxc7 34. Rxc7? (After the exchange of rooks the game becomes a "no brainer" for Black. To keep any hope of counter play, White needs to keep his rook on the board - ed) 34... Kxc7 35. Kc3 c5 36. dxc6 bxc6 37. Kd4 d5 38. Kc5 Ne5 39. Kd4 Ng4 40. Kc3 Nxe3 41. Kd2 Nc4 42. Ke1 d4 43. b3 Nb2 44. Kd2 Nd3 45. Kd1 e3 46. fxe3 dxe3 47. a4 e2 48. Kd2 e1=Q 49. Kxd3 f2 50. Kd4 f1=Q 51. Kc5 Qc1 52. Kb4 Qfe1#

Declan Foster was awarded the best game medal for causing me great internal conflict at the time and forcing me to learn the Dutch Defense henceforth. I'd like to thank Caleb Jacquish and Oren Stevens for the opportunity and the players for a fun experience.

Shortest Loss Ever by a World Chess Champion

Zapata, Alonso - Anand, Viswanathan

1:0, 1988

Petroff's Defense

This game was played in a minor tournament twenty years before Anand won the World Chess Championship, but even so he was already a strong player. His opponent is a Columbian grandmaster.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nxe5 d6 4. Nf3 Nxe4 5. Nc3 Not the usual move, but perfectly good.

5... Bf5? At least Anand was aware that his knight was under attack. Unfortunately this move falls short.

[5... Nxc3 6. dxc3 Be7 7. Bd3 Nd7 8. Be3 Nc5 9. Bxc5 dxc5 10. Qe2 O-O 11. O-O-O Bd6 12. Rhe1 Qf6 13. Kb1 Be6 14. Qe3 Rfe8 15. Qg5 Be7 16. Qg3 Bd6 17. Qg5 Be7 18. Qg3 Bd6 19. Qg5 1/2-1/2, Radjabov Teimour (AZE) 2756 - Topalov Veselin (BUL) 2813 , Nice 3/14/2009 It "Amber" (blindfold)]



6. Qe2

[The only plausible defense to the threat to win the knight, 6... Qe7, fails to 7. Nd5 Qd7 8. d3]

[1:0]

Nobody is perfect.

New Mexico Open Chess Tournament September 26th - 28th, 2014

The five round New Mexico Open will decide the 2014 New Mexico Championship.

The tournament will be in the beautiful new Joseph A. Fidel Center on the New Mexico Tech campus in Socorro, New Mexico.

The site, near the center of New Mexico and just off of I25 is easily accessible to players throughout the state.

