



UMBC and UTD - Dallas CO-CHAMPS AT 2001 PAN-AMS

The UMBC delegation; L. to r.: Coach Igor Epstein, FM William Morrison, Yegority Goshon, Faculty Advisor Alan T. Sherman, Captain IM Eugene Perelshteyn, FM Bryan G. Smith.

UTD received two scholarships; L. to r.: Chris Toolin, WM Alexey Root and Ryan Millsie.

Pan American Intercollegiate: 1st: UMBC (A), 2nd: UTD (A), 3rd: St. Clare's (A), 4th: UMB-C (B), 5th: UTD (B), 6th: Harvard (A), 7th: MIT, 4th: Chicago (A), 8th: R.I.C., 10th: Peru, 3rd. Top team under 2000: University of Toronto (A), 3rd. Top team under 1800: St. Clare's (B), 3rd. Top team under 1600: College of New Jersey. 3. Top team under 1400: University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee (B), 2nd. Top two-year college: Monroe Community College (A), 3rd. Top International school: Universidad Catolica de Peru, 3rd. 1st board prize: Alex Wojtkiewicz of UMBC (A), 5th. 2nd board prize: Marcin Kaminski of UTD (A), 5th. 3rd board prize: Hugo Padillo of Universidad Catolica de Peru, 4th. 4th board prize: Jason Rohel of Harvard (A), 5th. **Pan American Scholastics:** 1st: Ryan Millsie, 2nd: Chris Toolin, 3rd: Max Malyuks, 4th. Top Team: Central Falls, **Pan-Am Open:** 1st: Joshua Friedel, 5th; 2nd: Angelo Young, 4th; 3rd: Mikhail Perelshteyn, 4th; Tamer Karatekin, 4th. Top faculty/coach: Alan Sherman, 2. Under 2100: Michael Petrella, 3. **Pan-Am Reserve (14 players):** 1st: Brad Crouch, 2nd: Daniel Newman, 5th; 3rd: William Evans, 4th; Victor Herrera, 4. Under 1500: John Birns 3rd.

PRIZE WINNERS in tiebreak (trophy) order

on game points, 1 1/2 to 1 1/2.

for the second year in a row, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) tied for first place in the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship, the top college chess tournament held in the Western Hemisphere. Twenty-seven teams from the United States, Canada, and South America competed in the collegiate event. Also taking place December 26-29 were a scholastic tournament, an open tournament, a simul by GM Larry Christiansen, and a blitz and bughouse side events. Rhode Island College organized the Pan-Am events at the Providence Marriott. The prize structure of the tournament is available at the Rhode Island College website, <http://scg.ric.edu/chess>.

board, Bryan Smith of UMBC defeated UTD's Andrew Whatley.

Tied for third place with four match points were Stanford University's A team, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University's A team, and UTD's and UMBC's B teams. In all, 27 teams participated in the 47th Pan-Am, which began in 1946 as a biennial tournament and became an annual event in 1965.

In recent years, UTD and UMBC have developed an intense chess rivalry. The two tied at last year's Pan-Am in Milwaukee, and last spring UTD barely edged UMBC in The President's Cup in Dallas. In Providence, UMBC outscored UTD in game points, 18 1/2 to 18. Under USCF rules, the two universities are considered co-champions. Last year in Milwaukee, the situation was reversed, with UTD winning the tiebreak



The UMBC and UTD A teams each scored 5 1/2 match points out of a possible six. The two colleges met in Round 4. As happened last year, their match was tied 2-2. UTD's GM Yury Shulman drew as white versus UMBC's GM Alek Wojtkiewicz. On second board, IM Eugene Perelshteyn (UMBC) drew GM Marcin Kaminski (UTD). UTD's FM Andrei Zarembo defeated FM William



CONTRIVERSY CORNER

UMBC-A played University of Chicago-A in Round 3. The match lasted until the end of the second time control. During a final time scramble, the Chicago player had a White king, rook, and knight. The UMBC player had a Black king and rook, if the UMBC player held a draw, the match would be a 2 1/2-1 1/2 win for UMBC-A. According to the notes of International Arbiter Ira Lee Riddle, White (A) moved his knight to check Black (B). Riddle wrote, "A moves the knight to check B. B picks up the rook, seems to realize the only legal move is RxN followed by the loss of the rook and probably the game (with 3-4 minutes on each clock). Puts down the rook, moves the king instead. Spectator says, 'That's an illegal move. It's touch move on the rook.' TD observes and hears this said, and reaches over to stop the clock and says, 'We need to get the chief director to rule on this.' Player B then resigns. TD on site identifies speaker as captain of Player A's team." At that point, Chicago presumed the match score was 2-2.

The UMBC delegation filed a complaint. About his ruling, Dr. Riddle's notes stated, "Chief TD ruled a loss for both players! A loses for teammate interference, B for resigning." The match score was thus adjusted to 2 (UMBC-A) vs. 1 (Chicago-A). Chief TD Riddle phoned special referee Tim Just, who said that Riddle's decision was one of several reasonable alternatives.

TRAVEL STORIES

Since the Pan-American is traditionally held between Christmas and New Year's, winter weather often affects travel. Mon-roie Community College (MCC) is located in the Buffalo/Rochester area. Twenty-five inches of snow fell on Christmas Day, closing the Buffalo airport. The MCC coach rented two cars for his A and B teams and drove to Providence.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's two teams, two UMBC players, and Sheldon Gelbart (Pan-Am Assistant TD) flew. At 35,000 feet, their airplane suffered a broken windshield. After returning to Chicago for a new airplane, the travelers arrived two and half hours late. The tournament directors paired the Wisconsin A and B teams with each other for Round 1.

In Providence, there was no snow but temperatures were in the 20s. The first night of the chess tournament, December 26th, the Olympic torch went through Providence. I attended the downtown torch celebration with UTD Round 1 alternates, Katie Roberts-Hoffman, Katya Ushakova, and Andrei Zarembo. The mayor of Providence spoke, and Billy Gilman encouraged us to sing along with his hit "One Voice."

During the rest of the Pan-Am Tournament, players bundled up for daily walks to Providence Place, a four-story-tall shopping mall. Several saw the film *All in the Mall's* movie theaters. Between the torch celebration and the boxing scenes in the movie, no doubt Pan-Am competitors were inspired to play fighting chess.

UTD's Andrew Whatley will graduate this spring with a B.S. in economics and finance. UTD freshman Katie Roberts-Hoffman, UTD transfer student Katya Ushakova, and Andrew annotated his Round 3 win. Katie and Katya's notes are labeled "K&K."

BENONI DEFENSE

W: Andrew Whatley (2343)
B: Miguel Raygado (2137)

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship, 2007

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d6 3. h3 Nb4 7. 4. Bf4 g6 5. e3 Bg7 6. Be2 0-0 7. 0-0 b6

This is too passive; better would be 7. ... c5 right away, if 8. c4 Ne4 9. Nc3 Nd6 or 8. dxc5 Nxc5 — K & K.

Whatley adds that he would likely have met 7. ... c5 with 8. c3, with the idea of a4, Nbd2, b4, and Qb3.

8. c4 c5 9. Nc3 Bb7

Maybe Black should consider playing on the kingside and leave his bishop on

c8 — K&K. Whatley expected 9. ... cxd4 10. exd4.

10. d5 a6

Whatley felt he had a good Benoni-type set-up.

11. e4 Ne8 12. Qd2 Nc7 13. Bb6 b5

There is not enough compensation for this sacrifice, instead 13. ... Rb8 and if 14. a4, play 14. ... a5, then ... Na6-b4, and ... Ba6xb5 if White plays Nb5 in the future — K&K

14. cxb5 axb5 15. Nxb5 Nxb5 16. Bxg7 Kxg7 17. Bxb5 Ba6 18. Bxd7 Qxd7 Whatley



Ryan Millisits

21. a4 Qc4 22. b5 Bc8 23. Qb2+ Kg8 24. Nd2 Qe2

24. ... Qd3 also loses after 25. Ra3 Qe2 26. g4 — K&K.

25. g4! Bd7

The queen is trapped. — K&K. Whatley writes, "25. ... f5 was Black's last reasonable move, as after 26. Ra3 f4. But the Black position after f5 is still lost in any case."

26. Ra3! Black resigns.

PAN-AM SCHOLASTIC

Twenty-one players participated in the scholastic championship. At stake was a University of Texas at Dallas scholarship. The scholarship provides four years of tuition, fees, plus a housing allowance to students who meet UTD's entrance requirements. For out-of-state students, the scholarship is worth about \$30,000.

Because there was a tie for first place, UTD awarded two scholarships. First on tiebreak was 10th-grader Ryan Millisits. Ryan is a high honor student (3.875) at Taylor Alderdice High School, Pittsburgh, PA. He is the Pittsburgh Chess Club adult, junior and five-minute champion. Ryan won the state science fair, for analysis of soil and water samples collected at national chess tournament sites throughout the country. Tying for first place in the Scholastic was Christopher Toolin. Chris is a sophomore at Barrington High School in Rhode Island. He has all As and Bs, likes football, and hopes to study nutrition in college.

In Round 4 the two scholarship winners met. All game annotations are by Ryan Millisits, GM Larry Christiansen analyzed Pan-Am games between rounds. Millisits credited Christiansen for his help with this game's analysis.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

(B2)

W: Ryan Millisits (2038)

B: Christopher Toolin (1980)

Pan-American Scholastic Championship, 2007

1. e4 c5 2. c3 e6 3. d4 Nf6

The Sicilian Alapin. Most natural is 3. ... d5, possibly turning into a French Defense Advance Variation with 4. e5.

4. Bd3 Be7 5. f4!?

An idea I have played before that was suggested by my coach, Life Master William Hughes. This move may be too aggressive. Christiansen suggests a simple 5. Nf3 or 5. e5.

5. ... d5 6. e5 Nfd7 7. Nf3 0-0 8. 0-0 Ne6
White has arrived at a favorable French-type position with good attacking ideas on the kingside.

9. Qe1?

White should play 9. a3 (Christian-sen). This move consolidates White's



Andrew Whatley



Chris Toolin

writes, "If Black had played 18. ... Bxf1, then 19. Bc6. After 18. ... Qxd7, White is up a pawn in a Benko-like position, where Black doesn't have his good dark-square bishop. White's knight should be better than Black's bishop, though Black does have play on the a- and b-files."

19. Rfb1

The text is a good idea, giving White an advantage on the queenside — K&K.

19. ... Rfb8 20. b4 Qb5?

Now White gets two passed pawns — K&K.

Whatley writes, "I was fully expecting 20. ... Qa4, where Black still had some pressure. A possible line could continue 21. bxc5 Rxb1 22. Rxb1 Qxe4 23. Re1 Qc4. The lines get complicated here, and I am unsure of the position. However, Black would still have some play."

(In the above line, 22. ... Qxe4 is a mistake and is refuted by 23. Re1 Qc4 24. 24. Rxe7 when White follows up with Ng5, and Black can't defend f7 and stop White's center pawns. Required is 22. ... dxc5 23. Qc3+ Kg8 24. Re1, which is also lost but demands technique. — IM Ron Burnett)

position and stops any ideas of ... Nb4. For instance, 9. Qe1 cxd4 and 10. cxd4 Nb4 and White is forced to waste another move with his queen and give up his dangerous light-squared bishop.

9. ... cxd4 10. Nxd4 Nc5 11. Bc2 f6
Attempting to break up White's center.

12. b4!? fxe5!

A very interesting piece sacrifice with an idea of gaining at least two pawns for the knight and to activate Black's light-squared bishop.

13. Nxc6 bxc6 14. bxc5 Bxc5+ 15. Kh1 Ba6 16. Rf3 e4 17. Rh3 e5

Black gains a lot of time and a large central pawn mass in exchange for the piece.

18. c4!?

This move allows the White rook to patrol the third rank in case of ... Be8. It also applies pressure to Black's center and allows the c3 square for the knight.

18. ... Bd4 19. Nc3 Bxc4 20. Rb1 exf4
Black captures his fourth pawn for the piece and has an overpowering center. Christiansen clearly favored Black's position. White must be willing to give back some material to disrupt the center and gain some attacking chances.

21. Nxe4 Re8

Certainly not 21. ... dxe4 22. Qxe4 as Black's king will be under heavy fire with such ideas as after 22. ... g6, 23. Rxb7.

22. Qb4 c5 23. Qa4 Be2

Black is now threatening to take on e4 and once the knight moves, Black has ideas of ... Bb5 or ... Bg4 threatening mate on e1.

24. Nd2 Bg4 25. Bxf7+ Kf7
Black missed what most likely was his best defense, 25. ... Kh8! The only logical continuation would be 26. Bg6+ Bxh3 27. Qxe8- Qxe8 28. Bxe8 Bxg2+ 29. Kxg2 Rxe8 and Black has three pawns for the knight in the ending.

26. Rf3 Bxd3 27. Nxf3 Qd6 28. Ba3 Bf6??

Best is 28. ... Be3, still protecting both c5 and f4.

29. Qc2!

Black is defenseless against the threat of Bxc5 or Qg6+ with a huge attack.

29. ... Rec8 30. Qg6+ Kf8 31. Ng5

There is no defense.

31. ... Qe7 32. Qf5 Re6 33. Qxd5 Qc7 34. Re1 Be5 35. Rxe5 Qxe5 36. Qf7 mate.



Josh Friedel



Hugo Padillo



Marcin Kaminski



Alek Wojtkiewicz

7. Be2

This strange-looking move is part of a very powerful plan. White intends Be2-Bc3, Nge2-Nf4 and Qb3, a position where four White pieces are defending the extra d5 pawn. Should White be allowed to just hold on to the extra pawn, he will be much better.

7. ... Nb6 8. Qb3 Bg7 9. Bf3 0-0 10. Nge2 Bf5

Theory also considers 10. ... Bg4 to be the other main move in this position.

11. Nf4

In hindsight, 11. 0-0 may be a better concept.

11. ... Re8

Black can lash out for some counterplay with 11. ... g5 12. Nf6 2 (also possible is 12. Nh5 exchanging a pair of minor pieces) 12. ... g4 13. Ng3 Bg6 14. Be2 with an unclear position due to Black's weakened kingside.

12. 0-0 g5 13. Nh5 Nxb5 14. Bxb5 Bd3 15. Bxg5

A typical concept from me. I see that I'm currently a pawn up. If I move my rook, he will recapture on d5 eventually, and material will be equal. Now I can give up a rook for a bishop and two pawns. Also, I have shattered my opponent's kingside and I have the power of the bishop pair. I felt this sacrifice had to be correct. 15. Rd1 Bc4 was the idea that frightened me the most, since I didn't like my queen being a prospective target on the c-file, and to boot I was losing my d5 pawn. It turns out Fritz finds the solution to my problems, viz. 16. Qa3 keeping an eye on the a7- and g5-pawns.

15. ... Bxf1 16. Rxf1 Bxd4 17. Rd1
This move is what convinced me that this variation must be played. Black now has to deal with the threat of d6! once the bishop moves. Another way of proceeding was 17. Nb5 Be5 18. f4 Bf6 (18. ... Bg7 is strongly met by 19. d6) 19. Bxf6 exf6 and White is better with significant attacking chances.

17. ... Bf6 18. Ne4

The omnipresent trainer Fritz suggests the following continuation: 18. Bxf6 exf6 19. Ne4, which should also be very good for White. The weakness of the Black king is very visible, and it's very difficult for Black to defend his king with pieces.

18. ... Bxg5 19. Nxc5 h6 20. Qg3

A very gutsy move, but consistent with my previous play, throwing more wood on the fire. I just couldn't seem to make 20. Nxf7 work after 20. ... Rxf7 21. d6. Perpetual check and a forced draw seems to be what comes of 21. Bxf7+

photos
by
my
cousin

take us swimming? We need an adult with us to get to swim." Frank said, "No, I have to work here in the TD room. I volunteered to be the "parent" for seven boys and one girl in the hotel swimming pool.

PAN-AM OPEN

Chess master Joshua Friedel, age 15, won with 5½ of six in an 18-player field. Clear second was IM Angelo Young, who simultaneously played first board for University of Chicago A. Angelo also won the Blitz tournament. Tamer Karatekin, first board for MIT, also played all games in both the Intercollegiate and the Open.

UMBC's Dr. Alan T. Sherman had tactical games throughout the Pan-Am Open. John Fernandez annotated his win against Dr. Sherman from Round 3.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE

W: John Fernandez (2104)

B: Alan Sherman (1698)

Pan-American Open, 2007

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. d4 exd5 5. Nc3 g6 6. exd5 Nbd7

An interesting move order. Usually Black strives to complete his kingside development or he takes the pawn back immediately. Dr. Sherman had played 6. ... Nxd5 in the previous round against Bournival. Perhaps he was afraid that I had some improvement on his game, which is why he deviated. Another common move seen in this position is 6. ... Bg7.

Kxf7 22. d6- Kg7 23. Qg3+, and White has to reckon with possibly being worse after 21. ... Qf8 22. d7 Nxd7 23. Rxd7 Rc1+ 24. Rd1 Rxd1+ 25. Qxd1.

20. ... hxxg5 21. Qxxg5+ Kh7 22. Bg4

The line 22. Qf5+ Kh8 23. Qe5+ f6 24. Qf4 Qc7 25. Qh6+ is just a draw, and probably the best play. Much better is 22. Be2. The situation is still very unclear, but I feel that Black should never lose.

22. ... f5

GM Wojtkiewicz suggested the move I was most afraid of, 22. ... e6 23. Qh5- Kg7 24. dxe6 Qe7 and Black is winning! During the game I thought that Black had to go in for 24. ... Qxd1+ 25. Bxd1 fxe6 26. Qg5+ and White wins. Now it was just a matter of some simple calculation to find the forced win.

23. Bxf5+ Rxf5 24. Qxf5+ Kg7 25. g3 Qd6 26. Rd4 Rc4

Black is forced to give back the piece or get mated. 26. ... Qf6 27. Rg4+ Kf8 28. Qh3 is easily winning.

27. Rxc4 Nxc4 28. Qg4+ Qg6 29. Qxc4 Qb1+ 30. Kg2 Qxb2 31. b4

There's no way to find a perpetual check.

31. ... b5 32. Qc5 Qe2 33. Qxa7 Qe4+ 34. Kh2 Qe2 35. d6, Black resigns.

And the d5-pawn which I fought so hard to hold on to now decides the game.

PAN-AM BLITZ and BUGHOUSE

Twenty-seven players competed in the Pan American Blitz. IM Angelo Young and Jorge Sammour-Hasbun shared first place. Robert Millits directed the Blitz.

Ten teams played in the Bughouse tournament. Ryan Millits and Mauricio Ruiz tied with Michael Clark and Andrew Whatley for the top team prize. Top teams with average ratings under 1800 were Kimberly Goodwin/Dan Ben-Moshe and Jordy Mont-Reynaud (who was his own partner for two of the five rounds). Ira Lee Riddle directed.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Rhode Island College (R.I.C.) has a long and impressive history in college chess. R.I.C. is believed to be the first university in the United States to offer chess scholarships. In 1985, R.I.C. won the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship.

1995 U.S. Women's Co-Champion WIM Sharon Burtman is a Rhode Island College alumna. Sharon wrote, "Throughout my tenure on the Rhode Island College chess team, we always received tremendous support from all of R.I.C., including from the Student Council, the Finance Commission, our chess club advisor, Dr. Armand Patrucco, and the community as a whole. While playing for R.I.C. at the 1986 Pan American Intercollegiate Chess

Championship at the Billmore Hotel in Providence, I defeated my first master: all the more gratifying because it was during our match against Harvard. There was always something special about attending a state school that held its own against the teams of the Ivy League. I shall always remain grateful for my experiences at Rhode Island College."

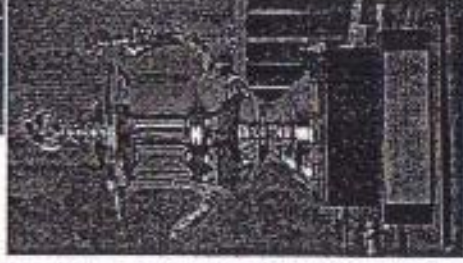
Seneca Nowland, President of the Rhode Island College Chess Club, is continuing the tradition of chess excellence at R.I.C.

Besides organizing this year's Pan-Am, he arranged for GM Larry Christiansen to coach the R.I.C. chess team this academic year. Nowland, a senior at R.I.C., was elected to serve his second term as Vice-

Yuri Shulman



Chair of the College Chess Committee, which will again be chaired by Dr. Alan Sherman. In addition to WIM Burtman, many strong players have attended Rhode Island College, most notably then-IM Alex Sherzer, and 2400+ player Jim Thibault, a former Massachusetts state champion. Rhode Island College sends teams annually to the Pan-Am and U.S. Amateur Team tournaments, organizes local tournaments, and awards chess scholarships. With the excess revenue raised through the arrangement with R.I.C. Student Community Government, the R.I.C. chess club hopes to hire GM Christiansen for a longer tenure at the college.



STAFFING

National TD Ira Lee Riddle was chief tournament director. Frank C. Del Bonis was chief assistant TD. Sheldon Gelbart, Frank Vogel, and Robert Millits were assistant TDs. Gus Gosselin was the bookseller.



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