

UT Dallas Does It Again!

Once again the University of Texas at Dallas will offer a four-year, full-tuition-and-fee scholarship to the top 11th-grade-or-below finisher in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. The only requirement for the recipient is that he or she meet UTD's academic entrance requirements upon matriculation. And again the University will offer the same award to the top 11th-grade-or-below girl if two or more girls partici-

pate. "Eleventh-grade" means anyone who is about to begin their senior year in high school. The value of the award for an out-of-state student is \$30,000.

The award(s) will be presented at the close of the tournament by Professor Tim Redman, Director of the Chess Program at the University of Texas at Dallas. These competition-based awards were developed at UTD by Professor Michael Coleman, Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

The University of Texas at Dallas is a science and engineering Carnegie Category I doctoral institution, located in the middle of Telecommunications Corridor in suburban Richardson, TX. For information about the university, contact Dr. Alexey Root, Associate Director of the Chess Program, at aroot@utdallas.edu.

It would be nice to have representatives from all 50 states!

Just to get your creative juices flowing, here are two games from last year's Denker.

Games Annotated by GM Edmar Mednis

SICILIAN DEFENSE

[399]

W: Pascal Openshaw (2054)
B: Patrick Hummel (2455)

1999 Denker Tournament of H. S. Champions

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7 8. Qf3 Qc7 9. 0-0-0 Nbd7 10. Be2

White's most effective plan for the past 40 years in the main line of the Najdorf has been 10.g4, to start attacking as quickly as possible. However, there are also other reasonable variations, and the text is one of them. Looks like a queen sacrifice, but it actually plans a queen sacrifice.

10. ... b5 11. e5

Probably okay, but if White is planning on the main line, the correct move order starts with 11. bxf6 Nxf6 12. e5 — see the discussion after Black's 14th move.

11. ... Bb7 12. exd6?

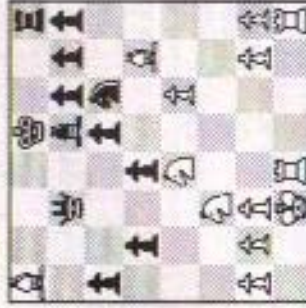
At this moment — the first key one — the queen sacrifice is unsound. Correct

is 12. Qg3 dx5 13. fx5 Qxe3 14. Bf4 Qc5, so far Kuzmin-Cheorghin (Riga International 1979), when ECO B suggests 15. Nb3? and calls the position "unclear."

12. ... Bxf3 13. Bxf3 Nxf6?

Black seems happy to enter the main line, but why? As pointed out by Mr. Openshaw, Black wins by attacking the g5-bishop: 13. ... gxh6 14. Bb6 (or 14. Bxa8 fxg5) 14. ... Rc8 15. Bg7 Rg8 16. Bb5 Nf8 when he is safe and sound and up a queen for two minor pieces.

14. Bxa8 d5



The second key moment in the game. White should simply play 15. Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Bxd5!, transposing into Keres-Fischer (candidates' Tournament, Yugoslavia 1959): 16. ... Bxd4 17. Rxd4 exd5 18. Nxd5 Qc5 19. Re1-Kf8 20. c3, with equal chances. As Mr. Openshaw explained to me, during the game he was afraid of 16. ... Qxf4+! 17. Kb2 Bxd4, only later seeing that White winds up with the advantage after 18. Bc6+ Kf8 for 18. ... Ke7? 19. Ne2 Qe5 followed by 20. Nxd4.

15. f5

Looks awkward yet here, too. White gets two good pawns for the piece and retains approximate equality.

15. ... 0-0 16. fxe6 Rxa8 17. exf7+ Kxf7 18. Bxf6 Bxf6 19. Nxd5 Bg5+?

The third key moment — and it looks to be the losing one. Black decides to keep the bishop on the board to increase his winning chances, but it turns out that the combination of two rooks and two agile knights just jump all over Black. As is, with rook, knight, and pawn for his queen. White is close to full material equality. In subsequently analyzing the game, we decided that best play for both sides is 19. ... Qc4! 20. Nxf6 gxh6 21. b3 Qc3 22. Kb1 Rd8 23. Rd3 Qc7. White is very solid and has sufficient compensation for this slight material inferiority in the draftiness of Black's king.

20. Kb1 Qb7 21. Rhf1+ Kg8 22. Ne6 Bb6?

This loses out of hand. Black has to try 22. ... h6, although White's advantage is clear after 23. g3! threatening 24. h4 (Openshaw). Note that 22. ... Be7? loses to 23. Nec7.

23. Rf2! Kh8 24. Ndc7, Black resigns.

If the rook moves, White has 25. Nd8!

BENKO GAMBIT

[A57]

W: Steven Winter (2352)
B: FM Marcel Martinez

1999 Denker Tournament of H. S. Champions

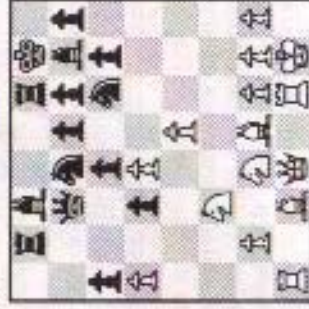
1. d4 Nf6 2. e4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. b6?

The text is an excellent theoretical and practical choice for players who prefer to avoid complications while having promising long-term prospects. Due to the c5-pawn, White is ensured a spatial advantage in the center, while returning the extra pawn on his terms; White has excellent chances of controlling important squares on the queenside, such as a5, b6, e4, and c6. Winer's skill in unburiedly exploiting the plusses in White's position is exceptional. His credo is: Space in the center and squares on the queenside!

5. ... d6 6. Nc3 Qxb6 7. a4 g6 8. e4 Bg7 9. Nf3 0-0 10. Be2 Nbd7 11. 0-0 Rb8 12. Nd2 Qc7

Winer suggests 12. ... Qb7 could be better, to leave the c7-square for the f6-knight to get to b5 via e8 and c7 in case of an early a4-a6 by White. However, the text is also part of main line theory.

13. a5



13. ... Ne8

But this is not. In Seirawan-Shirov (Amsterdam 1995), Black reached laborious equality after 13. ... Rb4 14. Nc4 Ne8 15. Bd2 Qa7 16. Na4 Rb7 17. Nxb6 Nc7 18. Bg4 Na8! 19. Nxa8 Qxa8 20. Bxd7 Bxd7 21. Nb6 Rxb6! 22. axb6 Bxb2 23. Rb1 Bf6! 24. Qf3 Bb5 25. Rcl Qb7.

14. Nc4 Qd8 15. Bg5 f6?

A move like this should be avoided like the plague: it creates long-term weaknesses, in particular e6. While the intended 15. ... Nc7 falls to 16. Nxd6, reasonable are 15. ... h6 or 15. ... Rb4.

16. Be3 Nc7 17. f4 f5 18. e5! Nb5 19. e6 Nf6 20. Nxb5 axb5?

Black straightens out his queenside pawns, yet the cost is too great: potential counterplay along the b-file is quashed and White obtains a powerful passed pawn. For better or worse, the thematic 20. ... Rxb5 is required.

21. Nb6 Ba6 22. Ra2 Qc7 23. h3 Qb7

24. Bf3 b4 25. Re1 Bb5

Opening action on the other flank means that Black will have to worry about both sides of the board.

26. g4! Qa6 27. Ra1 Bd3 28. Qd2 Kb8?

This seems irrelevant. Winner suggests 28... Qb5 with the follow-up ... Rb7 and ... Ra7 as a better plan.

29. Red! Bb5 30. Qg2 b3 31. Ra3 Ne4

32. Bxe4 fxe4 33. Qxe4 Bxb2 34. Rxb3 Bb7?

The definitive end, as Black's pieces will find themselves paralyzed. Worth a try is 34... Qxe5 35. Rxb2 Rxb6 36. Rdb1 Rfb8, though Black's position looks awfully drafty after 37. Bd2.

35. Rdb1 Be8 36. Bd2 Bd4+ 37. Kg2 Rb7 38. Qd3!

Giving Black the choice between a hopeless middlegame or endgame. Winner's technique is superlative to the end.

38... Qxd3 39. Rxd3 Bf6 40. Ra3! Ra7 41. a6 Kg7 42. g5 Bd4 43. Nc8 Ra8 44. a7! Rxc8 45. a8=Q Rxa8 46. Rxa8 Bc6 47. dxc6 Rxa8 48. e7 Rc8 49. Ba5 c4 50. Rb8 Rxc7 51. Bxc7 c3 52. Ba5 c2 53. Rc8, Black resigns.

♣

Article and Art by Keith Holton
CHESS HAS BEEN CALLED AN ART.

The shapes of modern pieces were inspired by columns and horses' heads from the Parthenon. Fresco in the Elgin Marbles, and patented in 1849 by artist Nathaniel Cook. One of the "immortal" games was so admired by viewers that when it ended they showered the board and players with money. Chess is even embroiled in copyright dispute. Players claim it to be a "mutually antagonistic work of art," the publication rights of which should belong to them. Publishers claim that since it is created in full view of the watching world it is actually public domain.

at inception. Tournament Directors argue that since they collect and evaluate the sheets (containing every move of the game) and its results, they ought to own the rights.

CHESS HAS BEEN CALLED A SPORT. It is a 1,500-year-old war game, and its contestants certainly engage in mental sport.

Former World Champion Anatoly Karpov routinely lost between 20 and 30 pounds during each of his month-long title defending matches. Thinking burns up calories.

CHESS HAS BEEN CALLED A SCIENCE. The Arabs began studying it as such in the ninth century, cataloging the myriad possible opening variation trees and giving them names. Computer programmers used chess as the "benchmark" test for replicating or imitating human thought; and intuitive intelligence.

And Wednesday evening, 10 May 2000, at Sonoma State University, 50 miles north of San Francisco in Eufornia Park, California, a minor form of chess went up against some stiff competition for a special academic acknowledgment.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

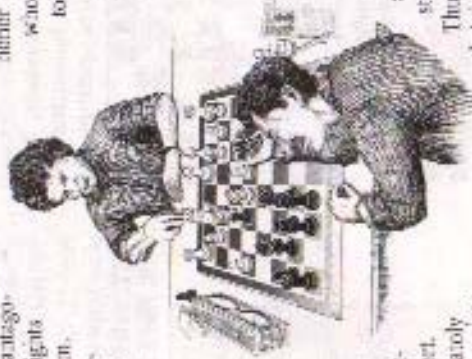
There was an Accelerated Reader program, a Cluytic-Tramatican program supporting self-knowledge for 6th graders, a French-American Exchange program, a unique 4-6 Phys Ed program, a psychologist's incredibly creative Social and Emotional Literacy Program with a clever "caught you reading" feature, and a \$7-million Wildlife Management Museum where students do

everything, including pour the concrete and saw the wood for the traffic signs, never mind caretaking the animals.

The Dolphin Kings Chess Club of Santa Rosa's 3-L Stevens Elementary School, represented by Ms. Kathy Hoffmeyer, school librarian and club coordinator, and myself, a community chess instructor, received top honors as we were declared winner of the 15th annual Jack London Awards for Educational Excellence. This

award supports the claim of many who call chess an educational tool.

As the only two people in the room who are not credentialized teachers we were doubly astonished to have the first Jack London Award of the new millennium. Though I am paid for my services by the Wright District Parent Teachers Club, Kathy is strictly a volunteer, and the only unpaid semi-trailer. She manages 60 students who show up every Thursday to play chess during their lunch hour. They fill the school library, occupying all the tables and all the floor space as well. Many arrive before school starts each day to get in a few games in the library before class.



PRESENTATION

except from Professor of Mathematics Rick Lettman's June comments read before presenting our award:

"I must confess in which I first heard that a Chess Club was proposed for the Jack London award. I was highly skeptical. I just didn't see how an activity devoted to what is, after all, a game could possibly have the academic merit that is normally present in programs that I have observed in the past for the Jack London award.

"I have been educated on this point! I have now completely changed my mind. I find that this Chess Club at R. L. Stevens School is a highly successful and highly effective vehicle for accomplishing several important educational goals. The fact that what wonderful it is a game is part of the point. Children (especially at the ages in which this program appears, 4th-6th graders) need a certain mental

steeze to be motivated to learn. A dry and dull presentation, no matter what its other virtues, will leave children unmoved and unmotivated.

"But more — this is not merely any game; this is chess. It is undoubtedly the most intellectually stimulating that has ever been invented in all of human history. Unlike many games, there is no element of chance involved, unlike many other games there is no element of physical skill involved. Success in this game depends on only one thing: how well you think."

Never missing an opportunity to wax proud, my acceptance comments:

"In my kids chess class the challenge is to make 15 minutes of boring rules and dry tactics memorable, so I put them out with 35 minutes of completely crazy chess stories. 'French and Cuban players argued for 100 years about pawn moves!' The story is actually longer than that, longer than a sentence, that is. Chess made it to America 50 years before Columbus! The bishops used to be elephants!"

"And their eyes really light up when I tell them, 'A sudden war the strongest player in the world in 1385? And he wrote all these stories about himself, himself... in his spare time, after his day job — attorney to Mongol Conqueror Timur the Lame! And Aladdin could play four games of chess all at once! ... blindfold!"

"Crazy stories seem to make the lesson stick better, perhaps because these stories are all true."

"My friend George Koltanowski, past president (1950-51) of Santa Rosa Chess Club was reigning World Chess Champion. Chess Champion of the World when he passed away in February. Koly held the title since 1957 when he played 34 blindfold games at once, drawing 19, winning 24, losing 10. He was the first to beat Koly once he had a tough opponent named Humphrey Bogart, and nobody turned his back on Bogart! George taught chess to children throughout his life. I'd dedicate my award of this honor to George Koltanowski."

Only later, as they were taking photographs of us holding our trophy, did I notice that at the point made of the tall central column was the symbol of Sonoma State University, usually seen on its stationery with the motto *Lux Mentis... Lux Orbis* (Light of the Mind... Light of the Eye). There atop the pillar was a perfectly sculpted golden oil lamp alight with the flame of knowledge. It was A. Addida lamp! ♣

The Jack London Award