UT Dallas Does It Again!

Once again the University of Texas at Dallas will offer a four-year, full-tuition-and-tuition 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 participate.

“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 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 1 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**

**W:** Pascal Opeansch (2054)
**B:** Patrick Humer (2455)


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 are deceiving: though appearing to be a mere development, 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. b4! Nxd6 12. e5 — see the discussion after Black’s 14th move.

11. ... Bb7 12. exf6?

At this moment — the first key one — the queen sacrifice is unsound. Correct is 12. Qgf4 exf6 13. ex5 Qxe5 14. Bf4 Qc5, so far Kuzmin–Gheorghiu (Riga International 1979), when ECO B suggests 15. Nb3f7 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. Opeansch, Black wins by attacking the g5-bishop: 13. ... gxf6 14. Bg6 (or 14. Bxg5) 14. ... Re8 15. Bg7 Rg8 16. Bf5 N8f6 when he is safe and sound and up a queen for two minor pieces.

14. Bxg8 d5

The second key moment in the game. White should simply play 15. Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Bxg8, transposing into Keres–Fischer (candidates’ Tournament, Yugoslavia 1959): 16. ... Bxg8 17. Rxe8+ Rxe8 18. Nxe5 Nxe5 19. fxe5+ Kf8 20. c3, with equal chances. As Mr. Opeansch explained to me, during the game he was afraid of 16. ... Qxg8 17. Kh2 Bxg8, only later seeing that White winds up with the advantage after 18. Bc6+ Kf7 (or 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. exf6 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. Qc4t 20. Nxd6 gxd6 21. b3 Qc3 22. Kbl 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. Rh1+ Kg8 22. Ne6 Bh6?

This loses out of hand. Black has to try 22. ... h6, although White’s advantage is clear after 23. g3 threatening 24. h4 (Openwork). Note that 22. ... Bf7 loses to 23. Nc7t.


If the rook moves, White has 25. Nc7.

**BENKO GAMBIT**

**W:** Steven Water (2332)
**B:** FM Marcel Martinez

1999 Denker Tournament of U.S. Champions

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 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 secured 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, c4, 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 Nh6 11. 0-0 Rb8 12. Nbd2 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-a5 by White. However, the text is also part of main line theory.

13. a5

13. ... Ne8


14. Ne4 Qb8 15. Bg5 f6!

A move like this should be avoided like the plague: it creates long-term weaknesses, in particular e6. White the intended 15. ... Ne7 fails to 16. Nxe6, reasonable are 15. ... h6 or 13. ... Rh4.

16. Be3 Nc7 17. f4 e5 18. e4 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 h4 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. Winer suggests a better plan...
28. ... Qb5 with the follow-up ... Rb7 and ...
29. Red1! Bb5 30. Qg2 b3 31. Ra3 Ne4
32. Bxe4 fxe4 33. Qxe4 Bxb2 34. Rxb3
Bf6?
The definitive end, as Black's pieces will find themselves paralyzed. Worth a try is 34. ... Qxa5 35. Rxb2 Bxb6 36. Rdb1
Rb8, though Black's position looks awfully drab after 37. Bxd2.
35. Rdb1 Be8 36. Bd2 Bb4+ 37. Kg2
Rb7 38. Qd3!

Giving Black the choice between a hopeless middlegame or endgame. Winer's technique is superlative to the end.
38. ... Qc3 39. Rxd3 Bf6 40. Ra1 Ra7
41. a6 Kg7 42. g5 Bg4 43. Nc8 Ra8 44. a7 Rxc8 45. a8=Q Rxa8 46. Rxa8 Bc6
47. Bx6 Bxa8 48. e7 Re8 49. Ba5 c4 50.
Rb8 Bxc7 51. Bxe7 c3 52. Ba5 c2 53.
Rc8, Black resigns.

The Jack London Award

Article and Art by Keith Halonen

HOSS HAS BEEN CALLED AN ART.
The shapes of modern pieces were inspired by columns and horses' heads from the Parthenon Frieze 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 showed the board and players with money. Chess is even emboldened in a copyright dispute. Players claim it to be a "mutually antagonistic work of art," the publication rights of which 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 score-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 1500-year-old war game, and its contests 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 use chess as the "benchmark" test for replicating or duplicating human thought and intuitive intelligence.

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

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

There was an Accelerated Reader program, a Clary-Gate-Transcript 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 "I 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 cartawing the animals.

The Dolphin Kings Chess Club of Santa Rosas 3.L. Stevens Elementary School, represented by Ms. Kathy Hefner, school librarian and club coordinator, and myself, a community chess instructor, received the top honors as we were declared winner of the 13th annual Jack London Awards for Educational Excellence. This honor supports the claim of many who call chess an educational tool.

As the only two people in the room, who are not certifying 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-regular. 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 space as well. Many arrive before school starts each day to get in a few games in the library before class.

PRESENTATION

Excerpt from: Professor of Mathematics Rick Lutman'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 succeeds is in a game is part of the point: Children (especially at the ages to which this program appeals, 4th-6th graders) need a certain flare-

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JULY 2000 / CHESS LIFE 43