

ILLINOIS CHESS BULLETIN

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INTERVIEW WITH JOEL BENJAMIN

GM JOEL BENJAMIN TIES FOR 1st AT MIDWEST MASTERS

MIDWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS
\$\$7150 IN PRIZES...JULY 17, 18, 19



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AL CHOW, GAMES EDITOR

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ILLINOIS CHESS BULLETIN

presidential ponderings

By ICA President Tim Just

An ICA Executive Director?

In the last 48 years the USCF has grown from a mom & pop operation into the professionally staffed organization we have today. At some point the Policy Board had to decide how to best provide services to its members. The dedicated volunteer chess administrator was doing a good job; however, a paid professional could provide even more.

Does the ICA now need to face those same issues?

What sort of service does the ICA membership want from their state chess organization?
What sort of service can the ICA provide?

Dedicated volunteer chess administrators have to balance commitments to their families, their jobs, and chess. It is not an easy task! Conflicts are bound to arise between those commitments. When that happens, chess, painfully, is dropped to the bottom of the list.

Wray Mc Caister, the excellent organizer/TD of those great Janesville, Wisconsin events, is a prime example of just how painful a decision can become when family, job, and chess are involved. Wray made a choice to spend more time with his family and less time organizing and directing.

Most commitment decisions are not as dramatic as Wray's; however, the results are. The chess playing community notices a change in the service it receives from the organization that the volunteer administrator is associated with.

A paid professional chess administrator (Executive Director, for example) solves many problems. A paid professional has the time to consistently provide more and better service to the chess playing community. A paid professional has a commitment to a job, not a hobby.

Do ICA members want the improved, increased, and consistent service that a paid professional can provide? Or, are ICA members satisfied with the services of a volunteer chess administrator?

Can the ICA afford a professional administrator? Can the ICA afford not to have a professional administrator?

An ICA Executive Director?

Please look at your mailing label on the back page to see if it's time to renew your membership!

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CHICAGO CHESS ASSOCIATION organizes major tournaments at the Holiday Inn O'Hare. Also master chess lessons, \$40 / 3 hr. Contact Dick Verber, 6531 N Lakewood, Chicago 60626. (312) 764-1404.

CHICAGO CHESS CENTER meets for casual chess 7 days a week, 6 pm to 1 am, 2923 N Southport, Chicago 60657. Also sponsors rated tournaments on selected weekends. Contact Jules Stein, (312) 929-7010.

CHICAGO INDUSTRIAL CHESS LEAGUE organizes frequent competition among commercial/government teams with awards, ratings, and special events. Contact Jim Brotsos, (312) 775-5054, or Bruce McNeil, (312) 742-5195.

DOWNERS GROVE PARK DISTRICT CHESS CLUB meets every Thursday, 6:30-10 pm, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave, Downers Grove. Affiliated with USCF and ICA. For further information, contact George Uffner, (312) 910-0421.

GREATER PEORIA CHESS FEDERATION meets Mondays, 7 to 11 pm, Bradley Student Center Cafeteria, 901 N Elmwood, Peoria. Contact Bill Wilkinson, 905 N Rebecca Pl, Peoria 61606. (309) 673-9455.

ILLINOIS VALLEY CHESS CLUB meets 1st and 3rd Sundays, 2-6 pm, and 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6-10 pm. Grace United Methodist Church, 1345 Chartres St, LaSalle. Byron Pappas, 432 Creve Coeur, LaSalle IL 61301. (815) 224-2869.

LAKE COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION sponsors rated tournaments in the Grayslake/Zion area. Contact Jim Just, 1521 Circle Ct, Waukegan 60085. (312) 244-7954.

MIDWEST CHESS ASSOCIATION organizes major tournaments for masters and experts. Contact Helen Warren, PO Box 305, Western Springs 60558. (312) 246-6665.

NORTH BOONE HIGH SCHOOL CHESS CLUB, 17641 Poplar Grove Rd, Poplar Grove 61065. Contact Guenter Wohlfarth, sponsor. (815) 765-3311.

OAK PARK / FOREST PARK CHESS CLUB meets Tuesdays, 7 pm to midnight, Mohr Community Center, Jackson and DesPlaines, Forest Park. Contact Ken Marshall, 357 W Grove, Lombard 60148. (312) 932-1455.

ORLAND PARK CHESS CLUB meets Fridays, 7 to 11 pm, George Brown Commons, 15045 West Ave, Orland Park. Contact Glenn Panner, 14300 S Ridge, Orland Park 60462. (312) 460-3111.

PARK FOREST CHESS CLUB meets Thursdays, 7 to 10:30 pm, Freedom Hall, Orchard & Lakewood, Park Forest. Contact Wayne Palmquist, 10605 Southwest Hwy #1F, Worth 60482. (312) 361-2571.

RAE PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS, 10926 S Western, Chicago 60643. Contact Fred Gruenberg, (312) 779-3360.

ST CHARLES CHESS CLUB meets Thursdays at 7 pm, Baker Community House, 101 S 2nd (Route 31), St Charles. Contact Ery Sedlock, 6 N 307 Old Homestead Rd, St Charles 60174. (312) 377-7995.

TULEY PARK CHESS CLUB meets Saturdays, 1 to 5 pm, Tuley Park Fieldhouse, 501 E 90th Pl, Chicago. Contact Thomas Fineberg, 7321 S South Shore Dr, Chicago 60649. (312) 721-3979.

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**JULY 17 - 19 BIGGEST CHICAGO TOURNAMENT SINCE 1983!
See the full-page ad in this issue of the ICB for further details.**

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST ANNUAL 1987

MIDWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

\$7150 IN PRIZES * JULY 17, 18, 19



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5 Round Swiss in 7 separate sections.
40 Moves in 2 hours, then 20 in 1.
Friday at 8 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.
- REGISTRATION:** 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, July 17 in the Main Ballroom on the 1st floor of the Chicago Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Only 5 minutes from O'Hare Airport. ½ pt. bye Friday evening if requested. Additional registration Saturday morning from 9 to 10 a.m.
- ENTRIES:** \$45 if mailed by July 1st. \$50 if mailed by July 12. \$55 late registration Friday, July 17th at the tournament site.

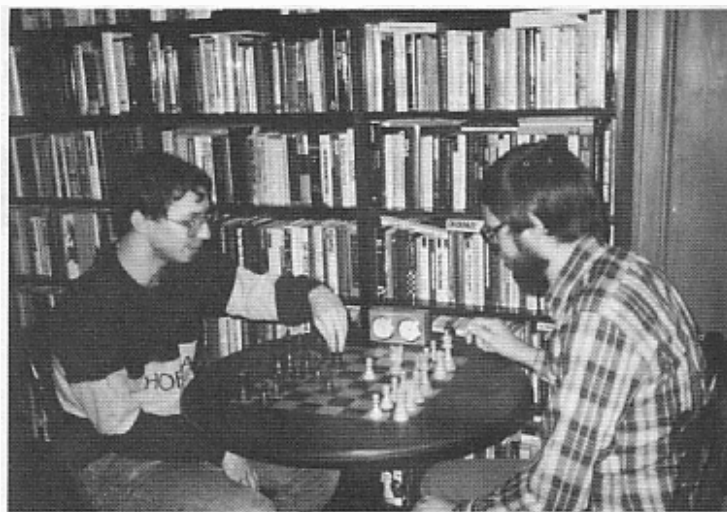
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Ken Marshall, President of the Oak Park-Forest Park Chess Club, welcomes Joel to his home in Lombard.



And now for a friendly and instructive game of blitz chess! If Ken keeps hosting these top GMs, he's going to become a Master himself!

JOEL BENJAMIN INTERVIEW

By Ken Marshall

At 23 years of age, Joel Benjamin is one of America's strongest young grandmasters and may represent the United States' best hope of eventually recapturing the world chess championship. Benjamin was in the Chicago area in early March to compete in Helen Warren's annual Midwest Masters tournament and to give a simultaneous exhibition at the Oak Park-Forest Park Chess Club. The GM's Illinois visit was a success, as he won the Midwest Masters on tie-breaks over Sergey Kudrin and Leonid Shamkovich, and yielded only three draws while defeating 28 of 31 "simul" opponents.

Grandmaster Benjamin is known for his strong views concerning both the present condition and the potential future of American chess. He shared some of those views, as well as information about his own chess career, in the following interview.

KEN MARSHALL: How did you first become interested in chess?

JOEL BENJAMIN: WHEN I WAS 8 YEARS OLD, I FOLLOWED THE FISCHER-SPASSKY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH. I THEN BEGAN PLAYING THE GAME REGULARLY, AND TOOK PART IN MY FIRST TOURNAMENT WHEN I WAS 10. AS MY INTEREST GREW, I TOOK CHESS LESSONS, STUDIED THE GAME, AND PLAYED OFTEN IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

KM: How quickly did you improve?

JB: I BECAME AN EXPERT AT 11, AND REMAINED AT THAT LEVEL FOR TWO YEARS. DURING THAT TIME, I OFTEN PLAYED IN STRONG TOURNAMENTS. PLAYING OPPONENTS SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN ME HELPED MY GAME.

KM: Did you do much "booking" in those days?

JB: ACTUALLY, I SPENT VERY LITTLE TIME REVIEWING GRANDMASTER LEVEL GAMES. ALTHOUGH THIS METHOD OF STUDY CAN BE VERY VALUABLE FOR YOUNG PLAYERS, I LEARNED PRIMARILY FROM ANALYZING MY OWN GAMES AND WATCHING OTHER GAMES AT TOURNAMENTS. I OFTEN PICKED UP NEW IDEAS IN THIS MANNER.

KM: When and why did you become a Chess Professional?

JB: WHEN I GRADUATED FROM YALE UNIVERSITY IN 1986, I DECIDED TO PURSUE A CHESS CAREER. I HAD GONE TO COLLEGE NOT KNOWING WHAT MY FUTURE WOULD BE, BUT DURING MY COLLEGE YEARS MY CHESS STRENGTH IMPROVED A GREAT DEAL. I THEN DECIDED THAT, IF I CONTINUED TO GET BETTER, I COULD EVENTUALLY BE ONE OF THE BEST CHESS PLAYERS IN THE WORLD. THE ONLY WAY TO CONTINUE IMPROVING WAS TO BECOME A CHESS PROFESSIONAL AND DEVOTE FULL TIME TO THE GAME. IF I HAD BELIEVED THAT I COULD NOT GET ANY BETTER, I WOULD NOT HAVE GONE ON IN CHESS, BUT WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A JOB IN ANOTHER FIELD.

KM: Is it possible to make a living as a chess professional in the United States?

JB: IT CAN BE DONE, BUT NOT NEARLY AS EASILY AS IN EUROPE, WHERE CHESS IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR SPORTS. IN AMERICA, CHESS PROFESSIONALS MAKE THEIR MONEY GIVING SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITIONS AND CHESS LESSONS, WRITING BOOKS, AND WINNING TOURNAMENT PRIZES. NONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES IS OVERLY LUCRATIVE. I DO NOT GIVE LESSONS AS A RULE, BUT PREFER TO CONCENTRATE ON TOURNAMENT PLAY. I HAVE DONE WELL ENOUGH TO HAVE ACCUMULATED SOME SAVINGS, AND THUS AM PERHAPS BETTER OFF FINANCIALLY THAN OTHER AMERICAN CHESS PROFESSIONALS.

KM: What are your plans for the next five years, and where do you hope to be with regard to chess at the end of that time?

JB: I PLAN TO PLAY IN EUROPEAN TOURNAMENTS AND TOP UNITED STATES EVENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. I WILL ALSO PROBABLY GIVE FOUR OR FIVE SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITIONS A YEAR. I WANT TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING AS A PLAYER AND FINDING OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO. BECAUSE I HAVE SOME SAVINGS, I CAN AFFORD TO BE PATIENT AS I WORK TO STRENGTHEN MY GAME. BY MID-1992, I PLAN TO BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP TEN CHESS PLAYERS.

THE DIFFICULTY OF MAKING A LIVING IN THE U.S. AS A CHESS PROFESSIONAL. EVEN FOR A GM!

KM: Why do you present simultaneous exhibitions?

JB: MY PRIMARY MOTIVATION FOR GIVING SIMULS IS TO HELP ME MAKE A LIVING. A STRONG SECONDARY REASON, HOWEVER, IS TO POPULARIZE CHESS. GENERALLY, A SIMUL ATTRACTS MEDIA INTEREST, THEREBY FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE GAME IN GENERAL AND PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL CHESS CLUBS.

KM: What techniques do you now use for improving your chess?

JB: TO BECOME STRONGER, IT IS IMPORTANT BOTH TO STUDY AND TO PLAY IN STRONG EVENTS. ANALYZING IS ESSENTIAL. SOMETIMES THIS ACTIVITY IS MORE PLEASANT THAN OTHER TIMES; ANALYZING WITH OTHER GOOD PLAYERS IS FUN. AT PRESENT I OFTEN REVIEW STRATEGY WITH MY FRIENDS (GRANDMASTER) JOHN FEDOROWICZ AND (INTERNATIONAL MASTER) MICHAEL WILDER. WE KNOW EACH OTHERS' STYLES AND TENDENCIES, AND WE ARE GOOD AT GENERATING IDEAS AND TESTING OUT THOSE IDEAS TOGETHER.

KM: What are your immediate plans?

JB: AFTER PLAYING IN THE NATIONAL OPEN (MARSHALL: IN WHICH HE TIED FOR FIRST THROUGH FIFTH), I WILL BE GOING TO SPAIN, PROBABLY IN EARLY MAY, WHERE I WILL STUDY CHESS EVERY DAY IN PREPARATION FOR THE JULY INTERZONAL, THE MOST IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR FOR ME. JOHN (FEDOROWICZ) IS IN SPAIN ALREADY, AND HE AND I WILL STUDY TOGETHER. I MAY ALSO PLAY IN A FEW TOURNAMENTS PRIOR TO THE INTERZONAL.

KM: How much time do you spend preparing for any given tournament?

JB: MY PREPARATION TIME DEPENDS UPON THE NATURE OF THE TOURNAMENT AND THE ANTICIPATED STRENGTH OF MY OPPONENTS. I PLAN TO STUDY LONG AND HARD FOR THE UPCOMING INTERZONAL. I SPENT A WEEK IN PREPARATION FOR THE 1986 US CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT (MARSHALL: HE FINISHED TIED FOR SECOND AND THIRD). FOR THE MIDWEST MASTERS, I RELIED ON MY GENERAL CHESS EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE, AND MADE NO SPECIAL PREPARATION.

KM: Do you plan to remain a chess professional for the rest of your life?

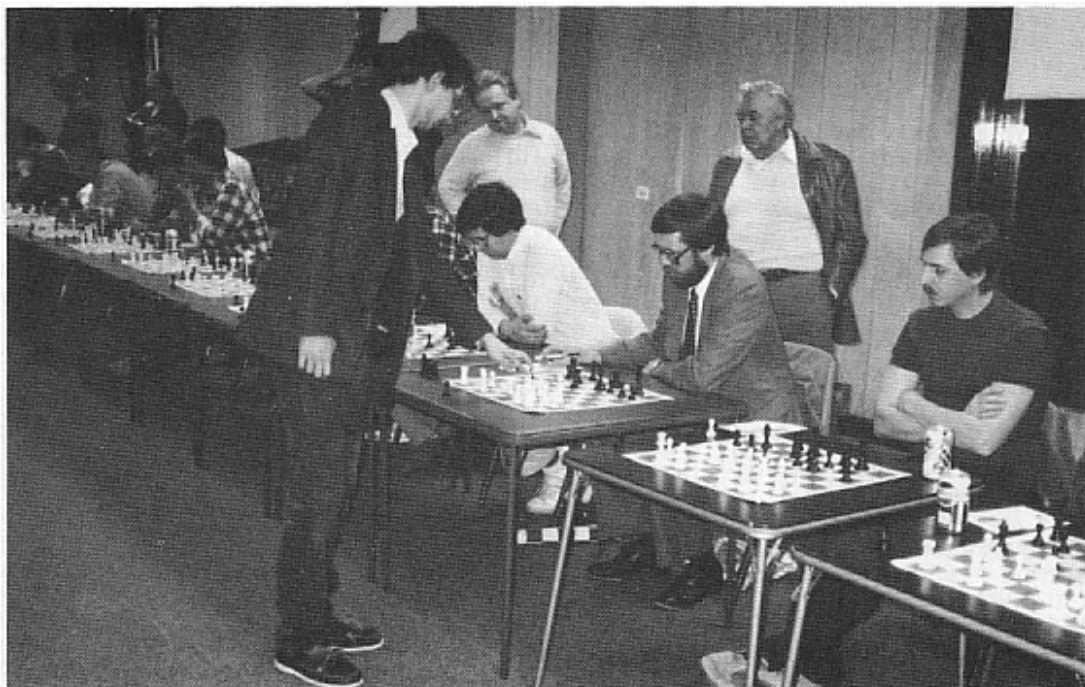
JB: THAT IS MY PRESENT INTENTION. IF I CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, AND ALSO MAKE A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY, I WILL CONTINUE PLAYING CHESS FOR A LIVING. ALTHOUGH I PLAY CHESS TO SUPPORT MYSELF, THE GAME IS NOT SIMPLY A JOB FOR ME. SHOULD I SEE THAT MY CHESS STRENGTH IS NOT INCREASING, I WILL CONSIDER GOING INTO ANOTHER FIELD.

KM: How does one become a great chess player?

JB: THERE IS NO SUREFIRE METHOD. CERTAIN STEPS, SUCH AS STUDY OF THE OPENINGS, ANALYSIS OF ONE'S OWN GAMES, AND FREQUENT PLAY, ARE FACTORS, BUT NO INDIVIDUAL CAN BE SURE OF BECOMING GOOD SIMPLY BY COPYING ANOTHER'S TRAINING METHODS. I THINK THAT THE MAJOR FACTOR PROBABLY IS PLAYING AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE AGAINST GOOD COMPETITION. A PLAYER SHOULD NOT COMPETE AGAINST OPPONENTS WHO TOTALLY OUTCLASS HIM, HOWEVER. RATHER, HE SHOULD TRY TO FIND OPPONENTS WHO ARE SOMEWHAT BETTER, SO THAT HE WILL LEARN IN A COMPETITIVE CONTEST, RATHER THAN SIMPLY BE CRUSHED BY OVERWHELMINGLY SUPERIOR OPPOSITION.

KM: Are there factors other than chess knowledge and experience involved?

JB: A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF NATURAL TALENT IS REQUIRED. ALSO, IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A GOOD MENTAL ATTITUDE AND TO STAY IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. I TRY TO KEEP IN SHAPE, AND TAKING CARE OF MYSELF HAS HELPED. FOR INSTANCE, DURING A RECENT TOURNAMENT, I KEPT MY ALCOHOL INTAKE CONSIDERABLY BELOW THAT OF SOME OF THE OTHER COMPETITORS!



"YASSER AND CHRISTIANSEN THE TOP 2 AMERICANS" "BENJAMIN AND DLUGY TOP YOUNGER GRANDMASTERS"

- KM: Turning to the American chess scene: who are the best players in the United States at present?
JB: RIGHT NOW, YASSER SEIRAWAN AND LARRY CHRISTIANSEN ARE THE TOP TWO. NEXT COMES A GROUP OF FOUR PLAYERS OF ROUGHLY EQUAL STRENGTH: LEV ALBERT, JOHN FEDOROWICZ, LUBOMIR KAVALEK, AND ME.
- KM: What young players represent America's brightest hope for the future?
JB: MAXIM DLUGY AND I ARE THE BEST YOUNG PLAYERS IN THE UNITED STATES NOW. WE ARE BOTH IN OUR EARLY TWENTIES, ARE STRONG PLAYERS, AND ARE STILL COMMITTED TO CHESS AFTER MAKING OUR EDUCATION AND CAREER DECISIONS. AMONG THE YOUNGER PLAYERS, STUART RACHELS AND ILYA GUREVICH ARE THE MOST PROMISING. THESE TWO ARE PHENOMENALLY TALENTED, AND COULD EVENTUALLY BE AMONG THE STRONGEST GRANDMASTERS IN THE WORLD. THEIR CRITICAL DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE REMAIN TO BE MADE, HOWEVER. BOTH RACHELS AND GUREVICH ARE GOOD, WELL-ROUNDED TEENAGERS, AND THEY MAY CHOOSE TO PURSUE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES OR PROFESSIONS RATHER THAN CHESS.
- KM: What can be done to keep our strongest young players interested in chess?
JB: SUPPORT MUST BE INCREASED FOR THOSE STRONG PLAYERS IN THEIR EARLY TWENTIES WHO DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO CHESS. AT THE PRESENT TIME, BOTH THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION AND THE AMERICAN CHESS FOUNDATION PROVIDE HELP TO VERY YOUNG PLAYERS. THOSE KIDS GO ON TO COLLEGE, HOWEVER, AND UPON GRADUATION, DO NOT RECEIVE THE SUPPORT WHICH THEY GOT WHILE IN THEIR TEENS. WITHOUT SUCH SUPPORT, AND FACED WITH THE DIFFICULT PROSPECT OF TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING AS A CHESS PROFESSIONAL IN THE UNITED STATES, MANY STRONG YOUNG PLAYERS HAVE GONE INTO OTHER FIELDS RATHER THAN CONTINUING IN CHESS. THE "MYSTIQUE OF YOUTH" HAS LIMITED THE SUPPORT FLOWING TO OLDER PLAYERS. INCREASING SUCH SUPPORT WOULD PAY DIVIDENDS, HOWEVER. IF YOUNG PLAYERS COULD SEE ME, OR DLUGY, OR FEDOROWICZ DOING WELL AT CHESS AND LIVING COMFORTABLY AS A RESULT, THEY MIGHT DECIDE TO CONTINUE IN CHESS, AND THEREBY ENRICH AMERICAN CHESS LIFE. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THIS SIMPLY DOES NOT HAPPEN.
- KM: How do you respond to the argument that the USCF's primary mission is to serve the lower rated players, since it is these players who make up the vast majority of the Federation membership?
JB: UNFORTUNATELY, MASTERS ARE PERCEIVED AS SELFISH WHEN THEY SEEK MORE SUPPORT FROM THE USCF. BUT MUCH OF WHAT THE MASTERS ASK FOR CAN BRING MUCH GOOD TO THE FEDERATION. IN OTHER SPORTS, SUCH AS GOLF AND TENNIS, IT WAS THE BEST PLAYERS WHO MADE THE SPORT POPULAR BY BRINGING IT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION. IN CHESS, THE BEST PLAYERS IN AMERICA CAN DO MORE TO POPULARIZE THE GAME THAN HUNDREDS OF AVERAGE USCF MEMBERS. IT WOULD BE NICE IF THE USCF TOOK THE LEAD IN PROMOTING MASTER CHESS, BUT THE FEDERATION IS SIMPLY NOT ACCOMPLISHING WHAT THE CHESS PROFESSIONALS WANT TO SEE DONE, THAT IS, MAKING CHESS A "BIG TIME" SPORT IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY PROCHESS WAS FORMED. (MARSHALL: PROCHESS IS AN ASSOCIATION OF GRANDMASTERS AND CHESS PROFESSIONALS.)
- KM: There has been much discussion in American chess circles about the editorial policy and the general direction of Chess Life. What are your feelings about the magazine?
JB: FIRST, CHESS LIFE SHOULD FORGET ABOUT TRYING TO INCREASE NEWSSTAND SALES. SUCH SALES MEAN LITTLE, AND EVEN IF THEY DID MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, NEWSSTAND CIRCULATION IS NOT WHAT CHESS LIFE IS FOR. THE USCF SHOULD STOP JUSTIFYING CERTAIN CHESS LIFE TRENDS AS BEING NEEDED "TO IMPROVE SALES". FOR INSTANCE, THE COVER OF THE APRIL CHESS LIFE WAS A DISGRACE. (MARSHALL: THE APRIL COVER PROMOTED A CONTEST WHICH INVOLVED SOLVING A CHESS PROBLEM AND FIGURING OUT A PUZZLE BASED UPON PREVIOUS CHESS LIFE COVERS.) THAT COVER WAS MEANINGLESS. IN FACT, BEING FEATURED ON THE COVER OF THE USCF MAGAZINE SHOULD BE A REWARD FOR AMERICAN PLAYERS WHO DO WELL. IT WOULD HAVE MADE MUCH MORE SENSE TO HAVE PHOTOS OF THE THREE NEW AMERICAN GRANDMASTERS - DLUGY, FEDOROWICZ, AND MYSELF - ON THE APRIL COVER. THE MESSAGE TO AMERICAN CHESS PLAYERS WOULD THEN HAVE BEEN THAT SOME TOP PLAYERS ARE MAKING NAMES FOR THEMSELVES ON THE WORLD CHESS SCENE, NOT JUST WINNING AMERICAN SWISS WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS.
- KM: Do you have any other comments concerning Chess Life?
JB: I THINK IT IS OUTRAGEOUS TO EDIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. A LETTER WHICH I SENT TO THE MAGAZINE APPEARED IN THE MARCH 1987 ISSUE. IT WAS NOT, HOWEVER, THE LETTER WHICH I WROTE. TWO SUBTLE EDITING CHANGES MADE MY ARGUMENT APPEAR WEAKER, AND RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN MEANING. TAMPERING WITH THE LANGUAGE OF A LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN SUCH A FASHION IS INTOLERABLE.
- IT WAS A DISGRACE NOT TO HAVE JOHN FEDOROWICZ ON THE MARCH, 1987 COVER, WHICH FEATURED THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC TEAM. FEDOROWICZ MADE THE HIGHEST SCORE ON THE TEAM IN DUBAI, YET HIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS NOT INCLUDED WITH THAT OF OTHER TEAM MEMBERS ON THE FRONT OF THE USCF'S NATIONAL MAGAZINE.
- ANOTHER PROBLEM WITH CHESS LIFE IS THE WAY IN WHICH CONTRIBUTORS ARE CHOSEN. SINCE GRANDMASTERS ARE PAID MORE FOR AN ARTICLE THAN ARE INTERNATIONAL MASTERS, WHO, IN TURN, ARE PAID MORE THAN NATIONAL MASTERS, THE MAGAZINE OFTEN DECIDES TO SAVE MONEY BY NOT ASKING GRANDMASTERS TO WRITE STORIES. THUS, THE ARTICLE ON THE 1986 UNITED STATES CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP WAS WRITTEN NOT BY A GRANDMASTER, BUT BY AN INTERNATIONAL MASTER.
- KM: Does the problem you perceive with the direction of Chess Life extend beyond the magazine to the Federation itself?
JB: BOTH THE PEOPLE PRESENTLY RUNNING CHESS LIFE AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE USCF POLICY BOARD DO NOT HAVE THE VISION NEEDED TO MAKE AMERICAN CHESS MORE THAN WHAT IT IS NOW. TRUE, THE FEDERATION CAN STAY IN BUSINESS "AS IS", AND SURVIVE "AS IS". BUT IF BOTH THE USCF AND CHESS IN GENERAL ARE TO GROW IN AMERICA, THE FEDERATION MUST LOOK TO OTHER SPORTS, SUCH AS GOLF OR TENNIS, AS EXAMPLES. WHY DOES ANY SPORT IN AMERICA SUCCEED? IT IS BECAUSE PROFESSIONALS IN THAT SPORT ARE RESPECTED, AND CAN MAKE A GOOD LIVING. PEOPLE CAN WATCH THE PROFESSIONALS ON TELEVISION, AND REALIZE THAT THE SPORT IS BOTH RESPECTABLE AND POPULAR. OFTEN A YOUNG TENNIS PLAYER WILL GO OUT ON THE COURT WITH THE THOUGHT IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND THAT HE'S "PLAYING TENNIS LIKE JOHN MCENROE".



Joel with Ken Marshall's 2 young kids.



It's Ken's move. Chris Musgrave, with arms folded, provides moral support.

THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CHESS MUST BE CHANGED IF THE GAME IS TO BE POPULARIZED. ALTHOUGH CHESS PLAYERS THEMSELVES MUST DO THEIR PART TO EFFECT THIS CHANGE, IT IS THE USCF WHICH SHOULD PLAY THE MAJOR ROLE. YET THE FEDERATION SEEMS TO BE SITTING BACK AND HOPING FOR SOMETHING MAGICAL TO HAPPEN - PERHAPS A NEW FISCHER TO APPEAR. INSTEAD, THE FEDERATION SHOULD CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR AMERICAN PLAYERS TO MOVE TO THE TOP. BY PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE BEST PLAYERS, THE USCF WILL CERTAINLY IMPROVE THE ODDS THAT ONE OR TWO OF THEM WILL MAKE IT INTO THE WORLD CHESS ELITE. ONCE THIS HAPPENS, CHESS WILL BECOME MUCH MORE POPULAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

KM: Are you publicly endorsing any particular candidate for USCF office in the upcoming elections?

JB: I AM NOT MAKING ANY STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR ANY CANDIDATE FOR ANY OFFICE. SOME OF THE CANDIDATES HAVE THE VISION NEEDED TO EXPAND AND POPULARIZE CHESS IN AMERICA. IT WILL BE UP TO THE USCF VOTING MEMBERS TO DECIDE WHICH OF THOSE CANDIDATES ARE THE BEST QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE FEDERATION.

KM: How does chess in Europe and in the Soviet Union compare with chess in America?

JB: IN EUROPE, CHESS IS ONE OF THE TOP THREE SPORTS. ON BOTH THE CONTINENT AND IN RUSSIA, CHESS IS AS POPULAR AS BASEBALL IS IN THE UNITED STATES. GRANDMASTERS ARE RECOGNIZED ON THE STREET IN PLACES SUCH AS HOLLAND. IN AMERICA, HOWEVER, CHESS PROFESSIONALS ARE NOT APPRECIATED. THE UNITED STATES HAS SO MANY DIFFERENT SPORTS CONTENDING FOR PUBLIC ATTENTION, NOT TO MENTION MOVIE AND TELEVISION STARS AND OTHER CELEBRITIES IN THE PUBLIC EYE, THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR CHESS PLAYERS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE FOR PUBLIC RECOGNITION AS SPORTS HEROES. IN THE SOVIET UNION, CHESS IS TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS, THE TOP CHESS PROFESSIONALS ARE NATIONALLY KNOWN FIGURES, AND KIDS WANT TO PLAY CHESS. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN THIS COUNTRY.

KM: What about the much vaunted Soviet support system for its chess players?

JB: CERTAINLY THE STRONG PLAYERS RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL HELP IN THE SOVIET CHESS SYSTEM. BOTH KARPOV AND KASPAROV, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE SPOTTED AS EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, AND WERE TRAINED AND SUPPORTED ACCORDINGLY.

KM: What are your thoughts when you sit down opposite a Soviet player in a tournament?

JB: I GENERALLY TREAT SUCH AN ENCOUNTER AS SIMPLY ONE CHESS PLAYER AGAINST ANOTHER. RARELY DO I THINK IN TERMS OF "AMERICA VERSUS THE SOVIET UNION". IN FACT, DESPITE THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED (AND IN MY OPINION, OVERRATED INFLUENCE OF) SOVIET ADJOURNMENT TEAM ANALYSIS, THE GAME REMAINS ESSENTIALLY ONE CHESS PLAYER AGAINST ANOTHER, REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY.

KM: What does it take to become world chess champion?

JB: THE WORLD CHAMPION IS A GENIUS, AND HIS TALENT IS, IN A SENSE, A GIFT FROM GOD. THE CHAMPION PLAYS ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM OTHER GRANDMASTERS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY THAT ANY GIVEN PLAYER CAN BECOME WORLD CHESS CHAMPION. ONE CAN LOOK AT A PARTICULAR PLAYER AND PREDICT THAT THAT INDIVIDUAL MIGHT BECOME PART OF THE WORLD CHESS ELITE, THAT IS, ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP TEN PLAYERS. ONE CAN ALSO LOOK AT AN INDIVIDUAL PLAYER AND CONFIDENTLY STATE THAT THAT PERSON WILL NEVER BECOME WORLD CHAMPION. IT IS DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, TO TAKE ANY INDIVIDUAL PLAYER AND PREDICT WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THAT PLAYER WILL IN FACT SOME DAY WIN THE WORLD TITLE.

KM: What is your vision with regard to the future of chess in the United States?

JB: MY DREAM IS THAT AMERICAN KIDS WILL SOME DAY WANT TO BE CHESS PLAYERS, AND HAVE CHESS PLAYERS AS HEROES. THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE PUBLIC IS MADE MORE AWARE OF THE GAME, AND CHESS PLAYERS ARE PERCEIVED AS PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN MAKE A COMFORTABLE LIVING IN THEIR CHOSEN PROFESSION. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH MONEY IN CHESS IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT CHESS PROFESSIONALS AND THEREBY POPULARIZE THE GAME. UNFORTUNATELY, MUCH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC STILL VIEWS CHESS PLAYERS AS ODD OR WORSE. ONLY AFTER THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CHESS IN THE UNITED STATES IS CHANGED, AND THE GAME IS SEEN AS A REASONABLE PROFESSION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO FOLLOW, WILL CHESS ESCAPE ITS PRESENT STANDING AS A RATHER INNOCUOUS DIVERSION FOR A SMALL NUMBER OF SOMEWHAT ECCENTRIC PEOPLE.

**JULY 17 - 19 BIGGEST CHICAGO TOURNAMENT SINCE 1983!
See the full-page ad in this issue of the ICB for further details.**

TOURNAMENT CROSSTABLES

Oak Park Forest Park Spring Open

May 2-3, 1987

1 WALLACH Ken	2301	W16	D 3	W 7	W19	W 6	4.5
2 COLIAS Bill	2346	W18	W10	D 5	W 7	D 3	4
3 SZPISJAK Steven	2060	W21	D 1	W34	W11	D 2	4
4 CONDRON James	2084	W31	D 7	D14	W24	W10	4
5 BROCK Bill	2128	W 8	W24	D 2	L 6	W12	3.5
6 UMEZINWA George	2232	W17	W13	Dbye	W 5	L 1	3.5
7 PUKEL Bernard	1879	W36	D 4	L 1	W34	W20	3.5
8 MAREMA David	1679	L 5	W29	W22	D13	W19	3.5
9 BURKE John	2189	W27	W22	W11	L 2	-	3
10 REYES Catalino	2046	W37	L 2	W25	W14	L 4	3
11 STEIN Peter	2196	W26	W12	L 9	L 3	W21	3
12 SURAK Steve	2041	W28	L11	W17	W15	L 5	3
13 BEASLEY Leonard	1997	W35	L 6	W26	D 8	D16	3
14 SCHREMSER Todd	1895	D32	W23	D 4	L10	W26	3
15 ILOSVAY Paul	1883	W38	L19	W31	L12	W25	3
16 STOLTZ Robert	1827	L 1	W28	D20	W35	D13	3
17 DELRICH Tom	1775	L 6	W37	L12	W31	W24	3
18 STAPAY Tim	1829	L 2	L25	W29	W30	W27	3
19 SATTERLEE Ray	2097	W20	W15	Dbye	L 1	L 8	2.5
20 FOPE Raymond	1598	L19	W38	D16	W23	L 7	2.5
21 WYNKOOP Walker	1548	L 3	W39	D32	W33	L11	2.5
22 KIMURA James	1906	W29	L 9	L 8	D25	W35	2.5
23 BUTTNY Bill	1859	W39	L14	Dbye	L20	W34	2.5
24 SAX Robert	1961	W41	L 5	W30	L 4	L17	2
25 SAIKOWSKI Daniel	-	D33	W18	L10	D22	L15	2
26 CLARK Lawrence	1750	L11	W41	L13	W28	L14	2
27 PETERS Ed	1711	L 9	L35	W38	W32	L18	2
28 ZYLES James	1466	L12	L16	W39	L26	W38	2
29 CARSON David	1406	L22	L 8	L18	W39	W37	2
30 MARSHALL Ken	1696	Dbye	D33	L24	L18	W36	2
31 SWIENER Douglas	1566	L 4	W36	L15	L17	D32	1.5
32 WINCHELL Howard	1319	D14	L34	D21	L27	D31	1.5
33 NICHOLSON Donn	1843	D25	D30	Dbye	L21	-	1.5
34 SWANSON Victor	1736	Dbye	W32	L 3	L 7	L23	1.5
35 PADILLA Rudy	1457	L13	W27	Dbye	L16	L22	1.5
36 WOODRUFF Philip	1222	L 7	L31	Wbye	D37	L30	1.5
37 CANNELL Myron	1541	L10	L17	Dbye	D36	L29	1
38 BOYLE Sean	1318	L15	L20	L27	Wbye	L28	1
39 ABERCROMBIE Tim	-	L23	L21	L28	L29	Wbye	1
40 VAN PETTEN Stacy	1810	Dbye	-	-	-	-	0.5
41 KNIGHT Jerry	1424	L24	L26	-	-	-	0

Ken Wallach has been winning almost as many tournaments this year as State Champ Ricardo Szmetan. In addition to capturing first at the Lake County Club tournaments, Ken Wallach dominated the Oak Park Club's strong Spring Open ahead of 2 masters and 8 experts. Among Wallach's victims at Oak Park-Forest Park was Chicago Master George Umezina. Thanks to his fine results so far this year, Ken's rating has risen above 2300 and he is in 2nd Place on the ILLINOIS TOUR.

Billy Colias, Steve Szpisjak, and Jim Condron each gave up 2 draws to finish in a tie for 2nd, a half point behind Ken Wallach.

Oak Park-Forest Park Chess Club President Ken Marshall reports that the 38-player Club Championship ended Tuesday, June 2nd in a 3-way tie between David Marema (1679), Elli Sollano (2050), and Tony Schroeder (2100) --- each with 5-1 scores. Marema did exceptionally well, defeating 4 experts and a master. It looks like he will be saying good-bye to Class B forever. Jim McNamara and Keith Esses each scored 4 1/2. Chris Musgrave, retired Club President at Oak Park, served his fellows as T.D.

Caveau Tie's Open/Reserve

April 25-26, 1987

OPEN SECTION

1 WALLACH Ken	2268	W 7	W 3	W 2	W 4	W 5	5
2 STEIN Peter	2218	W 8	W 4	L 1	W 3	W 6	4
3 BOTZ Jon	2057	W 6	L 1	W 5	L 2	W 9	3
4 SZPISJAK Steve	2060	W 5	L 2	W 7	L 1	W 8	3
5 PUKEL Bernard	1998	L 4	W 8	L 3	D 6	L 1	1.5
6 BRAVES WILLIAM	1922	L 3	L 7	W 8	D 5	L 2	1.5
7 SURAK Steve	2041	L 1	W 6	L 4	-	-	1
8 SANDFORD Craig	2014	L 2	L 5	L 6	W 9	L 4	1
9 MARTIN Donald	1814	-	-	-	L 8	L 3	0

RESERVE SECTION

1 DENNIS Mike	1696	D 5	W 6	Dbye	W 2	W 3	4
2 JUST Tim	1721	W 7	W 3	D 4	L 1	D 5	3
3 ZELINSKI Daryl	1525	W 8	L 7	W11	W 4	L 1	3
4 GRANT Dennis	1620	D 9	W 5	D 2	L 3	W 6	3
5 CALLAHAN Gerard	1417	D 1	L 4	W 8	W10	D 2	3
6 OWIECKI Roger	-	W10	L 1	Dbye	W 9	L 4	2.5
7 JONES Tom	-	L 2	D 8	L10	W11	W 9	2.5
8 SCHALLBERG Scott	1324	L 3	D 7	L 5	Wbye	W10	2.5
9 BIEZYNSKI Stan	1369	D 4	W10	Dbye	L 6	L 7	2
10 PADILLA Rudy	1457	L 6	L 9	W 7	L 5	L 8	1
11 HENDERSON Dale	1485	Dbye	-	L 3	L 7	-	0.5

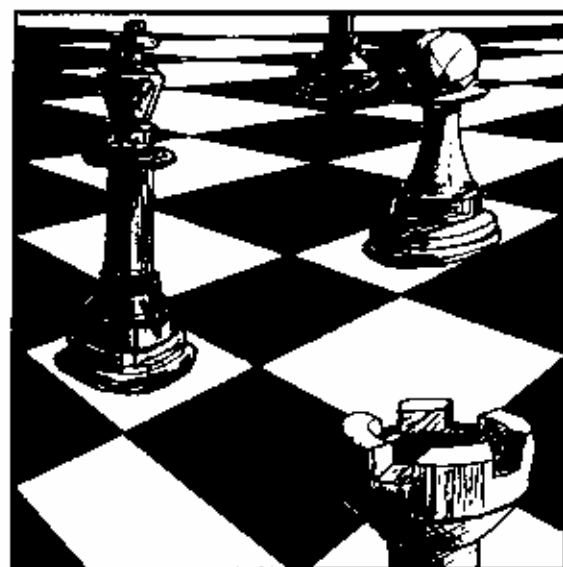


Illustration by Art Schreyer

SZMETAN WINS GREATER PEORIA

Greater Peoria Open

March 28-29, 1987

OPEN SECTION

1 SZMETAN Ricardo	2414	W19	W 3	W12	D 2	W 4	4.5
2 SPRENKLE David	2392	D22	W24	W21	D 1	W 5	4
3 VLASTNIK Richard	2040	W25	L 1	W15	W12	W 9	4
4 MC ENTEE Tim	2175	W27	D13	W20	W 8	L 1	3.5
5 IKUECHI Curtis	2059	D16	W22	W13	W11	L 2	3.5
6 VEGH Carlos	1966	L12	W23	D10	W21	W22	3.5
7 NAFF Bill	2133	L26	W28	Dbye	W18	W11	3.5
8 SURAK Steve	2073	W30	W15	D11	L 4	D12	3
9 MC GOWAN Andy	2059	L15	W30	W16	W14	L 3	3
10 ACOSTA Mariano	2236	D24	D16	D 6	D22	W13	3
11 VAN METER Lester	2273	W18	W26	D 8	L 5	L 7	2.5
12 MOTE David	2195	W 6	W14	L 1	L 3	D 8	2.5
13 ASH Robert	2029	W28	D 4	L 5	W26	L10	2.5
14 FORBIS Robert	2020	W23	L12	W25	L 9	D17	2.5
15 GRAVES Bill	1839	W 9	L 8	L 3	D16	W24	2.5
16 ZABLOTSKY Edgardo	1887	D 5	D10	L 9	D15	W25	2.5
17 ULTCH Douglas	2013	L20	D29	D24	W23	D14	2.5
18 ANDERSON Phil	1992	L11	W27	Dbye	L 7	W20	2.5
19 PUKEL Bernard	1998	L 1	L25	W30	D20	W29	2.5
20 BUMGARDNER Gerald	1733	W17	D21	L 4	D19	L18	2
21 GOTZ Jon	2057	W29	D20	L 2	L 6	D27	2
22 RALPH William	1998	D 2	L 5	W29	D10	L 6	2
23 CROUSE Matthew	1752	L14	L 6	Mbye	L17	W28	2
24 MANDEVILLE Joel	1967	D10	L 2	D17	D25	L15	1.5
25 FRENCH Kevin	1821	L 3	W19	L14	D24	L16	1.5
26 GODFREY Jonathan	1950	W 7	L11	Dbye	L13	-	1.5
27 STEELE Robert	1956	L 4	L18	D28	D29	D21	1.5
28 BRITT Jeffery	1806	L13	L 7	D27	Mbye	L23	1.5
29 BOUTON Barry	1825	L21	D17	L22	D27	L19	1
30 HERNANDEZ Hector	1921	L 8	L 9	L19	-	-	0

Illinois State Champion Ricardo Szmetan continued his winning ways at the 1987 Greater Peoria Open in late March. Szmetan gave up only 1 draw, to David Sprenkle of Urbana, while defeating Peoria's top player Tom McEntee and 2 strong experts.

The 1987 Greater Peoria drew 62 players and was considered a major success, almost double the number of entrants at last year's event. Next year both sections of the tournament will be on the Illinois Chess Tour.

The Peoria Spring Tornado was won by Cyrus Bondari, who is the current leader in the Expert section of the Illinois Chess Tour. See the Tour Page in this issue of the ICB for complete Tour Standings and information on how to go about registering tournaments for the ILLINOIS TOUR.

CHESS MATE



Peoria Spring Tornado

April 25, 1987

1 BONDARI Cyrus	2092	W20	W14	W 5	W 2	4
2 SCOTT Winfield	1841	W12	W15	W 9	L 1	3
3 MC ENTEE Tim	2214	L15	W19	W17	W10	3
4 DODD Randy	-	L14	W20	W19	W 9	3
5 ANDERSON Phil	2108	W18	W 6	L 1	D 7	2.5
6 BLAIR Charles	1787	W17	L 5	D 8	W14	2.5
7 WOLF William	-	L10	W21	W14	D 5	2.5
8 WALTON Clarence	1689	L 9	W21	D 6	W16	2.5
9 IKEUCHI Curtis	2111	W 8	W10	L 2	L 4	2
10 VERO Carl	1756	W 7	L 9	W16	L 3	2
11 WILKINSON Bill	2015	L16	W12	W15	-	2
12 ANDERSON Richard	1542	L 2	L11	W18	W17	2
13 RHODES Murrel	1925	D19	W16	-	-	1.5
14 OPPER Steve	1701	W 4	L 1	L 7	L 6	1
15 STAFFORD Jerry	1695	W 3	L 2	L11	-	1
16 STOTLER Richard	1624	W11	L13	L10	L 8	1
17 MOORE Rod	1445	L 6	W18	L 3	L12	1
18 OPPER Stan	1662	L 5	L17	L12	W21	1
19 LYBARGER Dean	1543	D13	L 3	L 4	-	0.5
20 GALLAGHER Danny Lee	1630	L 1	L 4	D21	-	0.5
21 CAIN Dennis	1198	L 7	L 8	D20	L18	0.5

CHESS MATE is the official publication of the Peoria Chess Federation. Dues of \$8 per year can be sent to the Editor, Wayne Zimmerle, 2811 Springfield Road #426, East Peoria, Illinois 61611. CHESS MATE is an excellent chess magazine focusing on chess activity in Central Illinois and we strongly recommend you subscribe.

Murrel Rhodes was elected President of the Greater Peoria Chess Federation April 27th at the annual League banquet and business meeting. Murrel takes over from Tim McEntee, who has moved to St. Louis. Tim McEntee is already beginning to make his mark in St. Louis, where he finished 2nd in the Missouri State Championship over the Memorial Day Weekend.

Murrel Rhodes has been a prominent chess organizer and one of Peoria's top players for more than 2 decades. This will be Murrel's third term as GPCF President.

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Examples: A MAXI-TOUR event with 60 players costs \$60.
A MAXI-TOUR event with 125 players costs \$100.
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A MINI-TOUR event with 65 players costs \$50.
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WHAT YOU GET:

1. Increased event attendance. Now ALL players, rather than just the various class and event winners, can accumulate Tour Points. The new revised Tour Point formula awards points to ALL players in your event that score above 0. The more events these players participate in, the more Tour Points they gain!
2. Free ICB ads!! MAXI = 1 Page, MINI = 1/2 page.
3. Promotional priority on Chess Phone.
4. A list of ICA members to help you verify that ALL PLAYERS in your event are CURRENT ICA members.
5. Forms to register new and renewed ICA Members.
6. A current list of ICA Tour players and their accumulated Tour Points.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

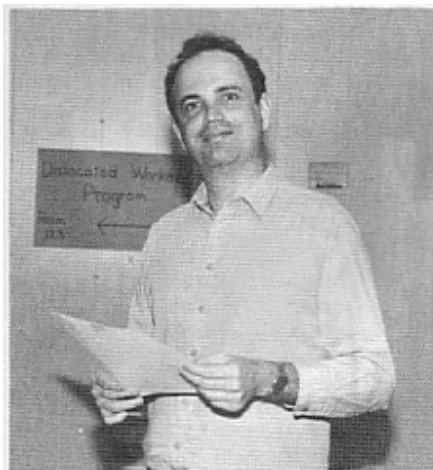
1. A Copy of the Wallchart (not USCF X-Table!).
2. ICA Tour event payment.
3. New and renewed ICA membership forms along with any dues collected.

FOR DETAILS & INFO: ICA PRESIDENT TIM JUST, 1521 CIRCLE CT.,
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS 60085 312-244-7954.

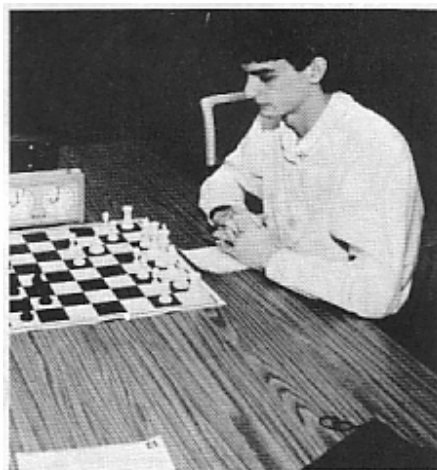
ILLINOIS CHESS TOUR AT MID-YEAR

Photos courtesy of Dennis Grant.

Report By Bill Smythe



Illinois State Champion Ricardo Szmetan, the leader in the 1987 Illinois Tour.



Promising young master, Ken Wallach, the strongest player in Lake County.

Master Tour Leaders:

Ricardo Szmetan	32
Ken Wallach	24
Cyrus Bondari	16
Tim McEntee	16
Phil Anderson	13
Bernard Pukel	12.5
Steve Surak	12
Mariano Acosta	11
Jeff Britt	9.5
Robert Feldstein	8
Curtis Ikuechi	8
Dan Kamen	8
David Penkalski	8
Winfield Scott	8
David Sprenkle	8
Carlos Vegh	8
Richard Vlastnik	8
Sandy Zabell	8
Edgardo Zablotsky	6.5
Kevin Gensler	5.5
Jon Gotz	5
Clarence Walton	5

SZMETAN & WALLACH LEADING ILLINOIS TOUR

Six ICA Tour events are included in this issue's calculations, as follows:

Tim Just Winter Open/Reserve, January	(MAXI)
Peoria Winter Tornado, January	(mini)
Caveman Saturday Spectacular, March	(mini)
Greater Peoria Open, March	(MAXI)
Peoria Spring Tornado, April	(mini)
Caveman Tim's Open/Reserve, April	(mini)

Two more Tour events have taken place but their crosstables are not available to us at press time. These will be included in next issue's Tour Page:

Illinois Valley Tornado, June	(mini)
Master Challenge, June	(MAXI)

Upcoming Tour events include the State Championship on Labor Day weekend. See you there!

Following is a list of all ICA members with at least five ICA Tour Points in any of the six Tour classes Master, Expert, A, B, C, D:

Class A Tour Leaders:

Bernard Pukel	12.5
Phil Anderson	10.5
Jeff Britt	9.5
Robert Feldstein	8
Winfield Scott	8
Carlos Vegh	8
Edgardo Zablotsky	6.5
Clarence Walton	5

Class B Tour Leaders:

Davar Hamadani	16
James Marshall	16
Bakhshali Hamedani	8
Don Martin	8
Daryl Zelinski	8
Clarence Walton	5

Class C Tour Leaders:

Daryl Zelinski	8
----------------	---

In Class D, no player has 5 Tour points.

Expert Tour Leaders:

Cyrus Bondari	16
Phil Anderson	13
Bernard Pukel	12.5
Tim McEntee	12
Steve Surak	12
Jeff Britt	9.5
Robert Feldstein	8
Curtis Ikuechi	8
Dan Kamen	8
Winfield Scott	8
Carlos Vegh	8
Richard Vlastnik	8
Sandy Zabell	8
Edgardo Zablotsky	6.5
Kevin Gensler	5.5
Jon Gotz	5
Clarence Walton	5

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\$\$7150 IN PRIZES...JULY 17, 18, 19
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GMS BENJAMIN, KUDRIN, & SHAMKOVICH TOP 1987 MIDWEST MASTERS

White: Joel Benjamin (2646).
Black: Calvin Blocker (2548).

Midwest Masters, March 6-8.
Annotated by Richard Verber.

This is my favorite Midwest Masters game, a beautiful example of Joel Benjamin's subtle positional understanding. Opponent Calvin Blocker of Ohio is currently the Midwest's highest rated master.

```

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 c5
4 d5 exd5
5 cxd5 d6
6 Nc3 g6
7 Bg5 Bg7
8 e3
    
```

Twenty years ago 8 e4 was the normal continuation here, but the text has the advantage of retaining the option of piece play on the e4 square.

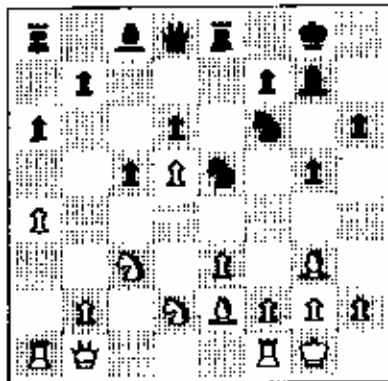
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8 .... h6
9 Bh4 O-O
10 Nd2!
    
```

Preventing the maneuver 10...g5 and 11...Nh5, going after White's Bishop.

```

10 .... bNd7
11 Be2 a6
12 a4 Re8
13 O-O g5
14 Bg3 Ne5
15 Qh1!
    
```



The key move, preventing Black from deploying his c-Bishop at f5. Joel begins to exploit Black's potential weakness on the white squares.

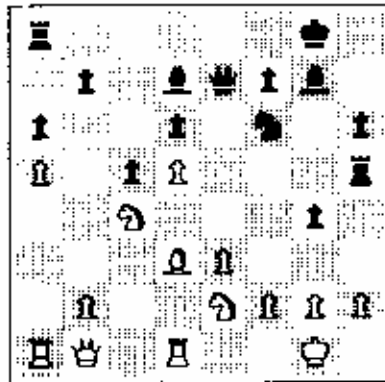
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15 .... g4
Preparing ....Nh5.
16 Bxe5!
    
```

It is important to capture now when Black must recapture with the Rook. Capturing with the d-Pawn would give White a passed d-Pawn.

```

16 .... Rxe5
17 Nc4 Rh5
17...Rg5 may save a tempo.
18 Rd1 Bf5
19 Bd3 Bd7
20 a5
Well played. 20 Nxd6? loses
to 20...Qc7. The White
d-Pawn is not vulnerable
because of the check Bh7+.
20 .... Qe7
21 Ne2!
    
```



The nicest move of the game! Believe it or not, Black cannot capture the d-Pawn, and Benjamin re-deploys the Knight on the Kingside where it can help exploit the Black Pawn structure.

```

21 .... Rg5
22 Ng3 Rd8
23 Nb6 h5
24 Nxd7 Nxd7
25 Nf5 Bf8
    
```

The Black Queen is totally out of play. 25...Bf6 would give better counterplay.

```

26 Rf1 Bf6
27 Kh1 Kh8
28 Ra4 Re8
29 Be2 Rg6
30 h3!
    
```

And the Black Kingside begins to crumble.

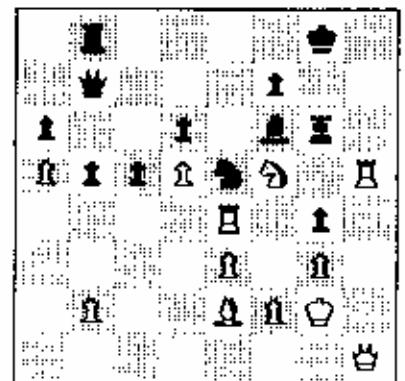
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30 .... Ne5
31 hxg4 hxg4
32 g3 Kg8
33 Kg2 Rb8
34 Rh1 b5
35 Re4!
    
```

Much better than 35 axb6 opening the b-file.

```

35 .... Qc8
36 Rh5 Qb7
37 Qh1
    
```



A little trick. 37...Qxd5? would lose the Queen to 38 Rh8+ and 39 Ne7+.

```

37 .... Re8
38 Qd1 Bg7
39 Bxg4
    
```

Winning a Pawn and the game. Now it's easy.

```

39 .... Rxf4
40 Rxf4 i-o
    
```

U.S. OPEN

CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

August 2-14, 1987

PORTLAND, OREGON



"See you at the U.S. Open"



1987 Midwest Masters -- March 6-7-8
Annotated by John Tomas Round 1

Gruchacz (2482),TM - Tomas (2213);English

1 c4 e5
2 Nc3 Nc6
3 Nf3 ...

White's third move is usually regarded as a slight inaccuracy. Black's next is impossible after 3 g3 since 4 e3 and 5 d4 cracks open the center to White's advantage. In truth, however, 3 Nf3 give White just as many chances for the initiative as 3 g3. The whole thing is a matter of taste.

3 ... f5
4 d4 e4
5 Nd2 ...

I was happy to see this move because I think 5 Ng5 is more complex and offers White better chances for an initiative. Since I had never played this line before I was uneasy about entering complex positions with a lengthy history. However, Gruchacz probably felt the same way.

5 ... Bb4

Watson calls this a mistake suggesting 6 Nd3! But after 6 ... Nf5, I'm unable to see how White can avoid a transposition to the text.

6 e3 Nf6
7 Nd5 Q-O

I would prefer to keep the two bishops, but by giving them up, I can gain an advantage in development.

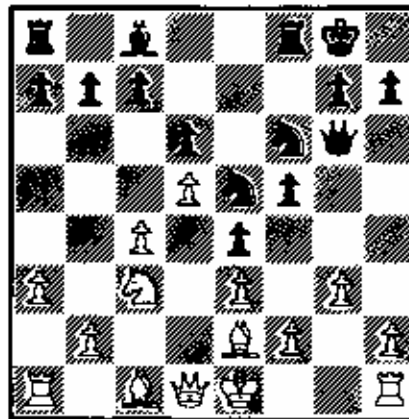
8 Nxb4 Nxb4
9 a3 Nc6
10 d5?!

A case can be made for the previous three moves, but I feel this idea is really dubious. Black could not hope for a better square for his Knight than e5.

10 ... Nc5
11 Be2 d6
12 Nb1?!

This cannot be good, and I was really surprised when Gruchacz played it. 12 O-O d6 13 b4 would be normal and about equal.

12 ... Qe8
13 Nc3 Qg6
14 g3



f4!

I had been looking at ideas like this for quite some time, and I was pleased to be able to play it. Naturally, Gruchacz had seen the idea too, but he judged it quite differently. The next day Vince McCambridge came over to me and told me that Gruchacz had come over to him after taking the pawn and claimed that he was winning! After the pawn sacrifice, I couldn't see how I could lose! My point is that now my inactive Bishop can enter the game and the soon to be weakened white squares.

15 exf4?!

It may be that this is the losing move. After the text, White never has a chance to make his pawn count, nor really to break the force of Black's attack. Probably Gruchacz looked at 15 gxf4 and discarded it because of 15 ... Qg2 when 16 Rf1 Nf3-17 Bxf3 exf3 leaves White without a good defense to the combined threats of ... Bh3 and ... Ng4. Until recently I believed the same. However, after the suprising 16 Kf2!, White can break the back of Black's attack. 16 ... Nef1 17 Qf1 Qxf2 18 Qxf2 Nxf2 leaves Black better, because his pieces are more active, and White's King is still wandering about the center, but White certainly has play. It is the type of position where the better player might well win in the end.

15 ... Nf3+

I also considered 15 ... Nd3- but finally decided on the text because now White can never castle K-side without getting mated.

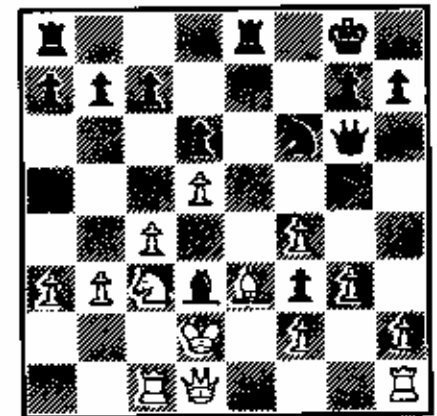
16 Bxf3 exf3
17 Be3 Rfe8!

One of the two most difficult moves in the game. At first glance it seems that Black would want to play an immediate 17 ... Bf5 to prevent White from castling Q-side. However, after long thought I concluded that White's King would be just as exposed on the Queenside as in the center and that I could spend the tempo on another useful move. Now, White cannot play 18 Qxf3? because of 18 ... Bg4 19 Qg2 Qd3 20 Qf1 Rxe3!- 21 fxe3 Qxe3- 22 Ne2 Ne4 23 Rd1 R#! and Black will mate.

18 Rc1 ...

The critical line follows 18 Qd2 Ne4 19 Nxe4 (19 Qd3 Nxc3 20 Qxg6 hxg6 21 hxc3 Re4 wins back the pawn immediately and maintains a clear advantage.) 19 ... Rxe4 20 Qc3 h5! when White's King can hardly hope for happier times on the Q side.

18 ... Bf5
19 Kd2 Bd3
20 b3



Ne4!

The other really difficult move in the game. I really don't want to exchange pieces unless I get something out of it, but I saw no other way to make progress. White's Kd2 has set up the possibility of actually taking the pawn on f3: 21 Qxf3 Ne4- 22 Kxd3! and Black doesn't get enough for his piece. It turns out that White's Knight is a very useful defensive piece, protecting b5, d5, e4 and e2, all important squares in the coming attack. Now, Black's Bishop is a constant thorn in White's side.

21 Nxe4 Be2!
22 Qc2 Rxe4
23 h3 ...

Gruchacz was getting quite short of time, and the idea he comes up with is good only for time-pressure. In his situation I would seriously consider 23 Rce1 followed by sacrificing the exchange on e2. From Gruchacz's standpoint, the problem with that solution would be that he would abandon any pretense of winning the game. Gruchacz probably wanted to put his Bishop on d4 and advance his f and g pawns, but he really didn't have enough time to do it.

23 ... c6
24 dxc6

Opening the position still further, but if he allows me to take on d5, he'll lose the d pawn.

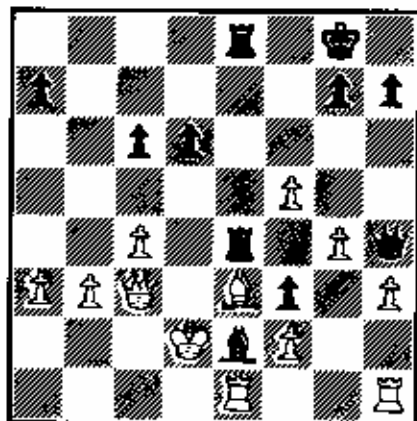
24 ... bxc6
25 g4

Of course, White can't play 25 Bxa7 because of 25 ... c5 which cuts the Bishop off from the defense.

25 ... Ra8
26 f5

White is virtually forced to play this since the threat of 26 ... Qe5 followed by 27 Rxc3 or 27 ... d5 and 28 ... d4 is very strong.

26 ... Qf6
27 Qe3 Qh4
28 Rce1



There are two moves which may offer better chances. White might try 28 Rh2? hoping for 28 ... Rxc3 29 hxg1 Qxh2 30 f6!, and White has escaped. However, Black has better 28 ... Rxc3! 29 fxe3 Qg3 30 Rh1! (30 Reh1? Bf1!) 30 ... Qf2! 31 Rce1 Bf1- 32 Kc1 Bg2 33 Rg1 Qg3 and Black wins. White might also try 28 Rd4, but after 28 ... c5! Black can reach positions analogous to those in the game.

28 ... Rxc3!

Pretty, but not very difficult to see, which was fortunate since I was now almost as short of time as Gruchacz.

29 fxe3 Qf2
30 Kc1

Gruchacz was in too great time pressure to consider allowing the discovered check, but the variations turn out to be similar to those following the possible 28 Rh2. If there were no time-pressure, Black would certainly win, but in time pressure the complex dance around the g2 and f2 squares might have proved too much for me to find. So, Kc1 might well have been the losing move.

30 ... Rxc3
31 Qe2

White also loses after 31 Qd4 Rd3! 32 Qc3 Re2 33 Rxe2 Qxe2 34 Re1 f2!

31 ... Qg3
32 Kb1

This loses the Queen, but White is lost anyway (thus no "1" Shamkovich, who was fighting for his life in the next board, had thought that Gruchacz had escaped, but the combined threats of ... Qe5 and f2 leave White without a defense).

32 ... Bd3
33 Rxc3 Bxc2+
34 Kxc2 Qg2+
35 Kd3 Qxh1

36 Re8+ Rf7
37 Re3 f2
38 c5 f1(Q)+
39 Kc3 dxc5
40 f6 Qa1+
41 Kc4 ...
41 Resigns
0-1

After Gruchacz had congratulated me on a well-played game, he asked me if I had ever had one of those games where I knew the moves I was playing were bad, but I just couldn't think of anything else. I have had games like those, but it was sort of nice to have the shoe on the other foot!



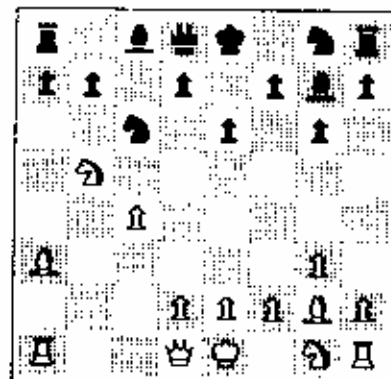
During the past year Brian Schuman's rating has improved by more than 100 points to make him a solid Master. The following game from the 1st round of the Midwest Masters reveals Brian's excellent positional judgment as he upsets Illinois State Champion Ricardo Szmétan.

W: Brian Schuman (2234).
B: Ricardo Szmétan (2409).

Annotated by Schuman.

1 c4 c5
2 Nc3 g6
3 g3 Bg7
4 Bg2 Nc6
5 a3 e6
6 Rb1

After the game I found this possibility: 6 b4?! cxb4 7 axb4 Nxb4 8 Ba3! Nc6 9 Nb5!



Position after hypothetical 9 Nb5!

But 6...Nxb4 7 axb4 cxb4 [Verber] is interesting.

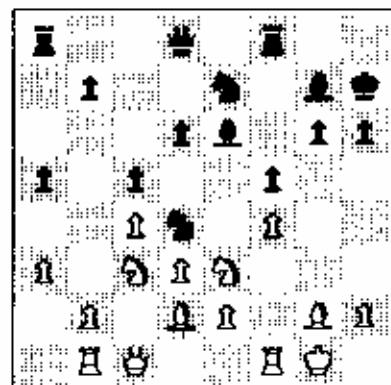
6 ... a5
7 Nh3 e5

Transposing to a Botvinnik line, losing a tempo with the idea that White's Knight is misplaced. 7...d5 [8 cxd5 exd5 optional] 9 Nf4 d4 is unclear to me.

8 d3 d6
9 O-O gNe7
10 f4 O-O
11 Bd2 h6
12 Nf2 f5
13 Qc1

This move begins an idea to conquer d5 and the white squares.

13 ... Kh7
14 fNd1 Be6
15 Ne3 exf4
16 gxh4 Nd4!



17 b4

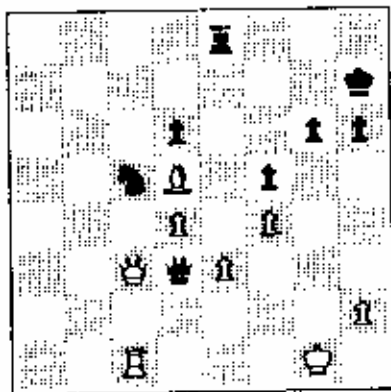
17 Bxb7 Rb8 and 18...Nb3 where Black trades Knight for Bishop and gains b-file and dark square pressure.

17 axb4
 18 axb4 Rb8
 19 Rf2 Qd7
 20 eNd5 Nxd5
 21 Nxd5 Bxd5
 22 Bxd5 fReB
 23 e3 Ne6
 24 Bc3

Had White played bxc5 on move 20, this move would be more playable. As will be seen in the next note, 24 b5 might be better.

24....cxb4 is better followed by 25....Nc5 attacking White's weaknesses and overworking the White Queen.

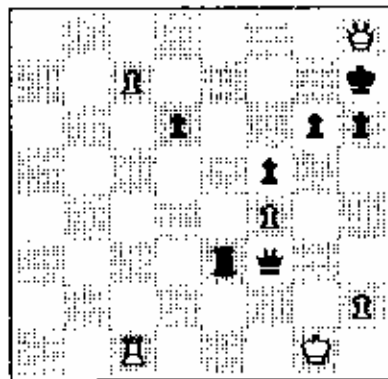
25 Qxc3 cxb4
 26 Rxb4 Nc5
 27 Rf3 eRc8
 28 Rf1 b5?
 29 cxb5 Rxb5
 30 Rxb5 Qxb5
 31 d4 Qd3
 32 Rc1 Re8



33 dxc5 Qxd5
 34 c6 Qf3
 35 c7! Rxe3

On 35....Qg4+ the White King eventually escapes the checks by heading for d3.

36 Qh8+!



36 Kxh8
 37 cB+ Kg7
 38 Rc7+ Kf6
 39 QfB+ Ke6
 40 Qf7+ 1-0

W: Ben Finegold (2459).
 B: Brian Schuman (2234).

Annotated by Schuman.

1 d4 Nf6
 2 c4 e6
 3 Nc3 Bb4
 4 Qc2

This move was advertised on his T-shirt.

4 c5
 5 dxc5 Nc6

5....0-0 is more flexible allowingNa6 in some variations. I was already out of book and thought the Knight belonged on c6.

6 Nf3 Bxc5

I had to recapture the Pawn, and felt the Bishop was now the only piece for that. Playing it immediately seemed the most flexible.

7 Bg5 h6
 8 Bh4 g5
 9 Bg3 Nh5
 10 e3 Ncg3
 11 hxg3 Be7

Black has his two Bishops but White has everything else -- better development, weaknesses to work on, h6 and a weak black color complex which may be exploited by a timely Ne4.

12 Be2 b6
 13 0-0-0 Bb7
 14 Rh5

White trains his heavy pieces on Black's weak h-Pawn. But 14 Ne4 with pressure on d6 and f6 worried me more.

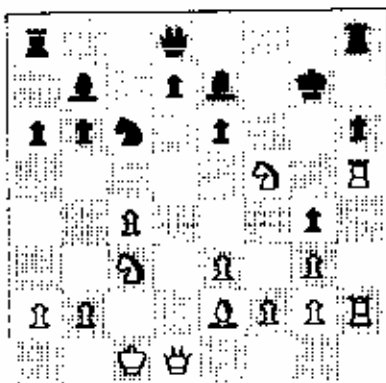
14 Kf8
 15 dRh1 Kg7
 16 Qd1 a6

This prevents a future Nb5, but it is slow.

17 lRh2 g4

Something had to be done about the impending threats against the h-Pawn. This move allows 18....Bg5. The next move, besides guarding the g-Pawn, also cuts the Rook off from the central squares.

18 Nd4 f5
 19 Nxf5+



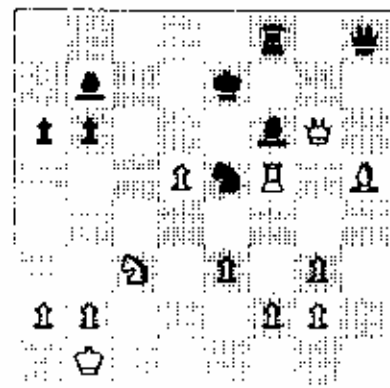
Alternatives are 19 Bxg4 (I planned 19....Nxd4) and 19 f3.

19 exf5
 20 Rxf5 Nb4?

Very bad and refuted by 21 a3.

21 Qd4+ Bf6

22 Qxg4+ Kf7
 23 Qf4 d5
 What else? Black is lost.
 White can play 24 a3!
 24 Bh5+? Ke7
 25 Be2 Kf7
 26 Rxh6 Rxb6
 27 Qxh6 Qh8
 28 Bh5+? Ke7
 29 Qg6 Rf8
 30 cxd5 Nd3+
 31 Kb1 Ne5



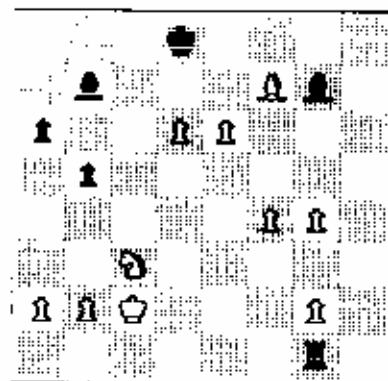
32 Rxe5+ Bxe5
 33 f4 Bf6

33....Bxc3 allows mate in four. A remarkable balance of material has occurred: five Pawns for a Rook.

34 e4 Qg7
 35 Qxg7+ Bxg7
 36 e5 Kd8
 37 d6 Rh8
 38 g4 b5
 39 Bf7 Rh1+
 40 Kc2 Rg1

Black needed to play 40....Bf8, but this move at least made the time control.

41 e6



41 Rxg2+
 42 Kb3 Bf8
 43 e7+ Bxg7
 44 dxe7+ Kxe7
 45 Bd5 Bxd5+
 46 Nxd5+ Kd6
 47 Nf6 Kc5
 48 Draw

With 47....Kc5 Black intends 48....Kd4 or 48....a5 or 48....Rg3 depending on White's move. I think this is better than alternatives such as 48....Ke6 but it may be only a matter of style. I felt I might be won here, but it would be difficult. Exhausted, I offered a draw which was accepted.

Schuman's following game from the Midwest Masters drew quite a crowd of Master Spectators. It's not often that one sees such a bizarre case of rook versus 5 pawns!

W: Larry Chachere (2298).
 B: Arthur Bisguier (2437).

Midwest Masters, March 6-8.
 Annotated by Richard Verber.

During the past year 23-year-old Larry Chachere has proven himself one of our state's most promising young masters. At the 1986 Illinois Class Championship Larry came close to beating Grandmaster Sergey Kudrin, and here at the Midwest Masters he secured draws with GMs Gurevich and Bisguier. Art Bisguier commented that he considers Chachere one of Illinois' strongest masters. As of this May, Larry's rating had risen to 2342, placing him among the top 15 in Illinois.

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	d5
4	Bg5	bNd7
5	cxd5	exd5
6	e3	c6
7	Bd3	Bd6
8	Qc2	Nf8
9	Nf3	Ng6

One disadvantage of this method of development is that Bisguier will be unable to play ...h6 breaking the pin on the Knight.

10	h3	Qe7
11	0-0-0!	

An enterprising continuation that deserves to be played more frequently.

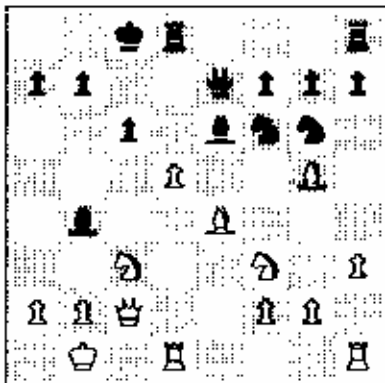
11	....	Be6
12	Kb1	0-0-0
13	e4!	dxe4
14	Bxe4!	

Excellent judgment. Chachere's threat of 15 d5! is powerful.

14	Bb4?!
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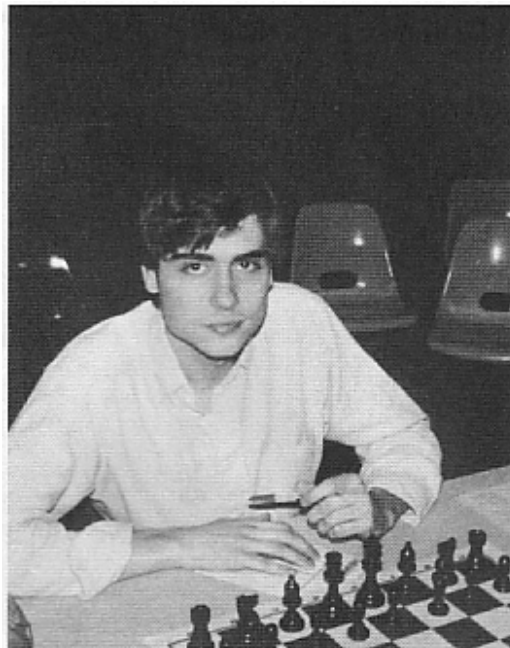
This is provocative, but more defensive moves such as 14....Kb8 or 14....Qc7 are also unappetizing.

15	d5!	
----	-----	--



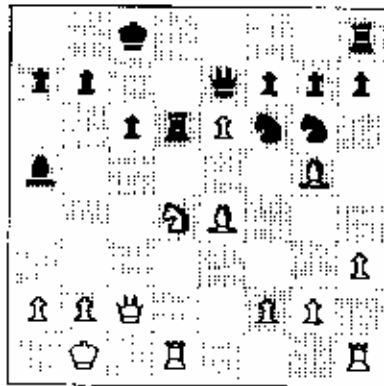
15	....	Bxc3
16	dx6	Ba5
17	Nd4!	

At this point Bisguier must have been having nightmares about Chachere winning a brilliancy prize for the game. Both 18 Nxc6! and 18 Bxc6! threaten to win.



Formerly a student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Larry Chachere is presently attending graduate school in Champaign-Urbana.

17	Rd6
----	------	-----



Probably the best practical try for a defense. But it looks bleak.

18	Bxc6!?	
----	--------	--

Chachere offers the piece sacrifice anyway, since it would be disaster to accept it. Another complicated path to victory is 18 Bxg6! followed by 19 Bf4 winning the Exchange for a Pawn.

18	....	fxe6
19	Be4?!	

Chachere must have been surprised to find that there is no clear-cut win here. 19 Bf3+ and 19 Ba4+ are both promising continuations, but no sure win.

19	....	Kb8
20	Bxg6	hxg6
21	Nb3	Bb6
22	Bf4	e5
23	Rxd6	Qxd6
24	Bh2	Nd5

Equalizing. There should be no trouble drawing now.

25	Re1	Nb4
26	Bxe5	Oxe5
27	Rxe5	Nxc2
28	Kxc2	Bxf2

29	Re2	RcB+
30	Kd3	Rc7
31	Re8+	Rc8
32	Re7	Rc7
33	ReB+	Rc8
34	Rxc8+	Kxc8
35	Ke4	Kd7
36	Kd5	Kc7
37	Nc5	Kb6
38	Ne6	Bh4
39	Kc4	Bf6
40	b3	Kc6
41	Nd4+	Kd6
42	Nb5+	Draw



In the last issue of the ICB we noted that Greg Small had an outstanding result at the Midwest Masters, scoring wins against Bisguier and Morris Giles (2467) and draws with Chow, Formanek, and Shirazi (2564).

W: Arthur Bisguier (2437).
 B: Greg Small (2323).

Midwest Masters, March 6-8.
 Annotated by Richard Verber.

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	g6
3	Bg5	Bg7
4	bNd2	d6
5	e4	0-0
6	c3	Nc6
7	Bb5	a6
8	Ba4	b5
9	Bc2	e5

Equalizing. The position has transposed into a sort of Ruy Lopez where the Black pieces are developed more aggressively than usual.

10	0-0	h6
11	Bh4	Bb7
12	Re1	Re8
13	Rc1	Qd7

Black's development has been harmonious and the position is quite comfortable.

14	d5	Ne7
15	c4!?	

Bisguier aims to provoke white square weaknesses on the Queenside. Likewise, 16 c5! is threatened.

15	c5
----	------	----

In order to prevent 16 c5.

16	dx6	
----	-----	--

It is hard to agree with this idea. Opening the game helps activate the Black pieces. 16 Bxf6 followed by 17 Nb3 looks better.

16	....	Nxc6
17	exb5	axb5
18	Bb1	

Passive. Why not the natural 18 a3...?

18	....	Gc7
19	Bb3	Qa5
20	Nf1	

This would be fine if White had time to play Ne3 and Bxf6, but Greg's next move turns it into a waste of time.

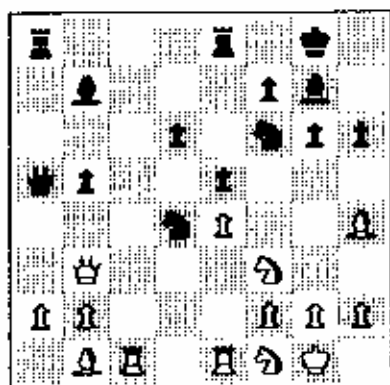
GAMES FROM THE MIDWEST MASTERS



The top 2 Illinois performers at this year's Midwest Masters were Greg Small (left) and Angelo Sandrin. Each of them took advantage of the tough competition by turning in performance ratings well above 2500! Needless to say, they made a bundle of rating points. Greg went up 45 points and Angelo 54 points.

Arthur Bisguier vs. Greg Small

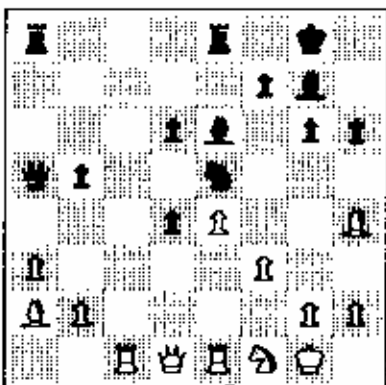
20 Nd4!



Very strong. White has little choice but to capture the strong Black Knight, giving Black an equally strong d-Pawn.

21 Nxd4 exd4
22 f3 Nd7
23 a3 Ne5
24 Ba2 Bc8!

Threatening 25....Be6, winning a piece.
25 Qd1 Be6



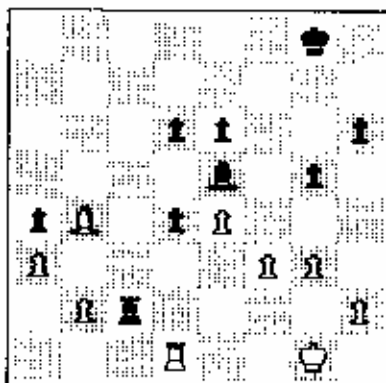
26 Bxe6 fxe6
27 Nd2 Qb6
28 Qb3 Qa5
29 eRd1 Qa4

Pushing White into the bad endgame.

30 Qxa4 bxa4
31 Nc4 Nxc4
32 Rxc4 eRc8
33 Rxc8+ Rxc8
34 Be1

34 Rd2 is a better try, so as to try to avoid trading Rooks.

34 Rc2
35 Bb4 Be5
36 g3 g5



The ending is won for Greg Small now, though Bisguier puts up a spirited fight.

37 Rd2 Rxd2
38 Bxd2 d3
39 Bb4 Bxb2
40 Kf1 d5
41 exd5 exd5
42 Ke1 Bc1
43 Bc5 Kf7
44 Kd1 d2
45 g4 Ke6
46 Bf8 Kf7
47 Bc5 Ke6
48 Bf8 Ke5

49 Bxh6 Bxa3
50 Kxd2 Be7
51 Kc2 d4
52 Bg7+ Bf6
53 Bf8 Kf4
54 Kd3 Kxf3
55 h3 Kg3
56 Ke4 Kxh3
57 Kf5 d3!
58 Bb4 a3!
59 Kxf6 a2
60 Bc3 d2
61 0-1



W: Angelo Sandrin (2223).
B: Steven Odendahl (2533).

Midwest Masters, March 6-8.
Annotated by Richard Verber.

During the 1960s Angelo Sandrin was one of Chicago's best masters, usually sporting a USCF rating near 2300. Then followed a period of relative inactivity due to illness in the family, and Angelo's rating fell to Expert. Now that Angelo has returned to active play, he's improved by leaps and bounds. His performance rating at the Midwest Masters was over 2500. Keep up the excellent play, Angelo!

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 c5
4 d5 exd5
5 cxd5 d6
6 Nc3 g6
7 Bg5 Bg7
8 e3

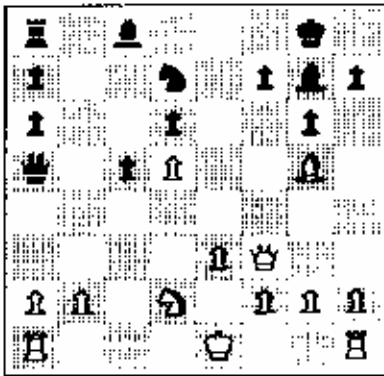
The same modern approach seen in the Benjamin-Blocker game played in an earlier round.

8 D-D
 9 Nd2 Na6
 9....h6, threatening to break the Bishop pin, is a reasonable alternative.
 10 Bxa6 bxa6
 11 cNe4 Re8
 12 Bf3

White's most aggressive follow-up, but not necessarily better than 12 D-D.

12 Rxe4!
 Much more enterprising than 12....Bf5, giving Angelo his choice between a number of attractive possibilities.

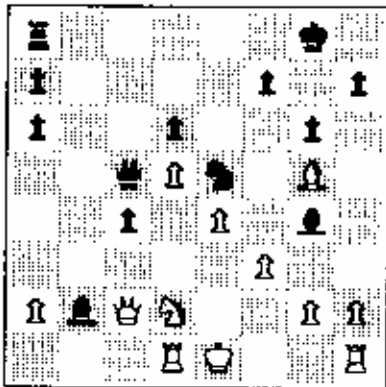
13 Nxe4 Qa5+
 14 Nd2 Nd7!



Odendahl has strong compensation for the Exchange.

15 e4 Bxb2
 16 Rd1 Ne5
 17 Qb3 c4
 18 Qc2 Bg4
 19 f3 Qc5

Threatening 20....Nd3+.



20 Ke2 Bd7
 21 Be3 Qb4
 22 Rb1 c3
 23 Qb3!

The best defense in a difficult situation.

23 Bb5+
 24 Kf2 Qa5
 25 Kg3!

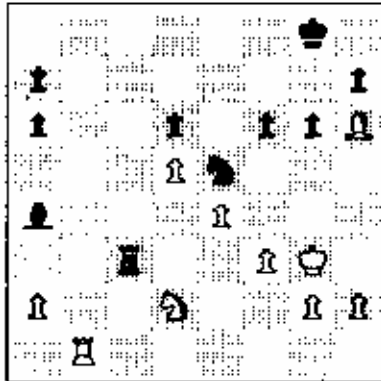
Another excellent defensive move. The King is perfectly safe on g3.

25 Rc8
 26 Rxb2! cxb2
 27 Qxb2

Returning the Exchange has solved White's problems. In fact, Angelo suddenly has pressure on the dark squares and a better Pawn structure.

27 Qc3
 28 Qb3 Ba4?
 Odendahl seriously overplays his hand, apparently under-estimating Angelo's next few moves. 28....f6 is more prudent. Exchanging Queens is also good.

29 Qxc3 Rxc3
 30 Bh6 f6
 31 Rb1



31 g5
 32 Rb7 Bd7
 33 h4! Kf7

33....Rc2 is no real improvement! 34 hxg5! Rxd2 35 Rb8+ Kf7 36 g6+ and 37 Bxd2.

34 hxg5 Kg6
 35 Bf8 1-0

Did Odendahl miss a win at some point in this game?



White: Greg DeFotis (2427).
 Black: Chuck Kramer (2336).

Midwest Masters, March 6-8.
 Annotated by Richard Verber.

1 g3 e5
 2 c4 Nc6
 3 Bg2 f5

Master opinion is divided on this move. Is it the beginning of a Kingside attack? Or a positional error that will wind up blocking Black's c-Bishop?

4 Nc3 Nf6
 5 e3 Be7
 6 d4 e4
 7 f3!

Immediately contesting control of the white squares.

7 exf3
 8 Nxf3

B Bxf3 is also good. White would then continue 9 Nh3 and 10 Nf4.

8 d6

Black's position already looks cramped, and there is a draft on key white squares such as d5 and e6.

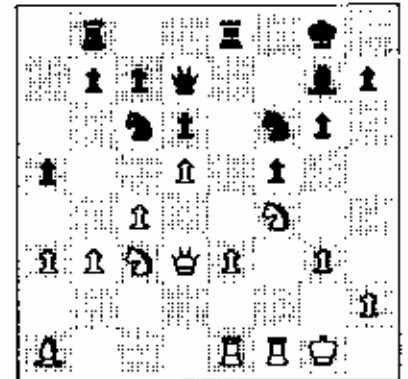
9 D-D D-D
 10 b3 Re8
 11 Qd3 Bf8
 12 Bb2 g6
 13 aRe1 Bd7
 14 Nh4

PreventingNe4 and beginning re-deployment aimed at making progress on the white squares.

14 Bg7
 15 a3 a5
 16 Ba1 Rb8
 17 Bf3 Ne7
 18 Ng2 Bc6

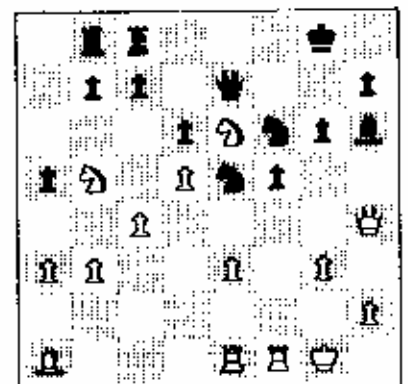
In a cramped position there is always a temptation to trade pieces, but now the White Knight has an easier time reaching e6.

19 Nf4 Bxf3
 20 Rxf3 Nc6
 21 FRf1 Bd7
 22 d5!



White's control of e6 is more important than the temporary weakness of the e3-Pawn.

22 Ne5
 23 Qe2 eNg4
 24 Ne6 Bh6
 25 Qd3 Ne5
 26 Qd4 Qe7
 27 Nb5 eRc8
 28 Qh4

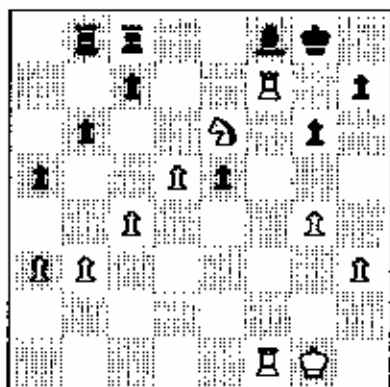


28 Bf8
 29 bNd4 Ne4
 30 Qh3 Ng5
 31 Nxf3 Qxf3
 32 Ne6 Qg4
 33 Qxg4 Nig4
 34 e4!

Opening the e- and f-files for the White Rooks.

34 Nh6
 35 exf5 Nxf5
 36 g4 Nh6
 37 h3 Nf7
 38 Rf2 b6
 39 eRf1 Ne5
 40 Bxe5 dxe5

41 R#7!



White is winning. Black cannot even play 41...Bxa3 without allowing mate in 10.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 41 | .... | Re8 |
| 42 | Rxc7 | Rxe6 |
| 43 | dxe6 | Re8 |
| 44 | Rc6 | Bxa3 |
| 45 | Kg2 | Bc5 |
| 46 | Ra1 | Bd4 |
| 47 | Kf3 | Bc3 |
| 48 | Rd1 | Bd4 |
| 49 | Ke4 | Rf8 |
| 50 | Rc7 | Rd8 |
| 51 | Rd7 | 1-0 |

Excellent positional play by DeFotis.



Grandmaster-Spectators Gurevich and Kudrin seem to be enjoying the situation as Greg Small (with his back to the camera) simultaneously draws adjourned games with both Shirazi (2564) and Chow (2401).

THE GREGG SMALL SIMUL

BY TIM JUST

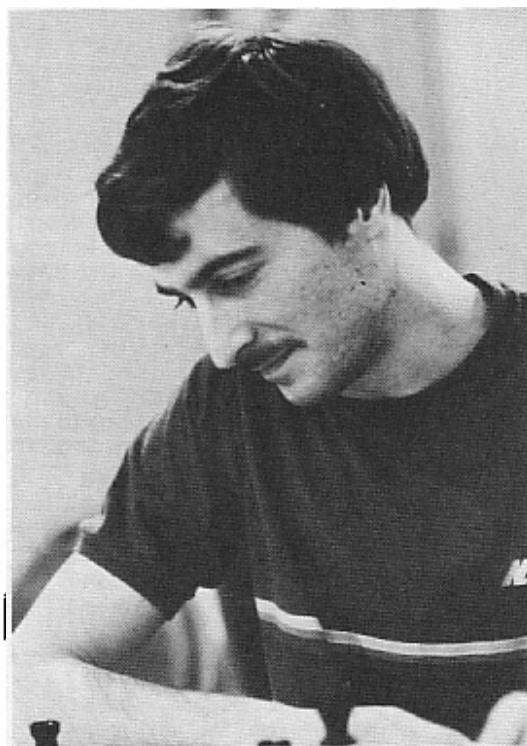
Every tournament seems to produce one great story. This year's Midwest Masters produced the Gregg Small simul.

It was round 4 and all the games had finished except for Gregg Small (2239) and Kamran Shirazi (2590). It was Rook, Knight, and Pawn Vs Rook, Knight, and Pawn. The game could go on for hours. Shirazi had already rejected draw offers from Small. Every other Master at the tournament saw nothing better than a draw result for either player; however, a win by Shirazi would give him a share of some of the prize money. The game was adjourned and paired as a draw. Round 5 could begin.

It was round 5 and all the games had finished except for Gregg Small (2239) and Al Chow (2423). It was Chow's Knight and dark squared Bishop Vs Small's dark squared Bishop. If Al could win the game he would take home the \$900 Illinois Master prize. If he draws, he splits the prize with many others (possibly even Small).

Somewhere in the late hours of the morning, Small decided to make the best use of his time. He continued to play his 5th round game with Chow while also resuming play of his 4th round game with Shirazi! It now became the GREGG SMALL SIMUL!

Gregg went on to draw both games after some long patient play. He, along with Chow and several others, took home part of the Illinois Master prize. Shirazi took home the story of the Gregg Small simul.



Jim Rizzatano, an IM rated 2551, will be moving to Chicago (from Boston) this October. Rizzatano will become our #1 rated Master.

Tuley Park 4-round Swiss #4

May 9, 1987



Dick Verber and Jim Condron chat before the start of the last round as tournament organizer Tom Fineberg looks on.

Tom Fineberg has announced that the next of these "Smash-40" tournaments --- scheduled for September --- will feature a guaranteed 1st prize of \$100.

Players who enjoy fast time limits like 40 minutes for the entire game will want to contact Tom Fineberg at 721-3979 for details regarding the September event.

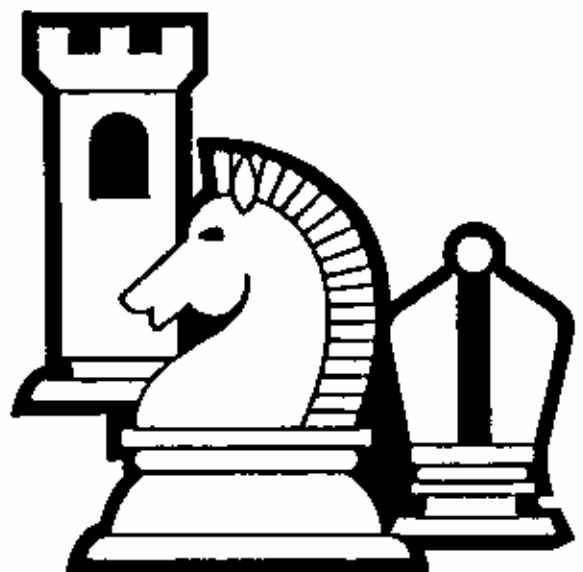
The tournament conditions at Tuley Park are excellent, with good lighting and plenty of space.

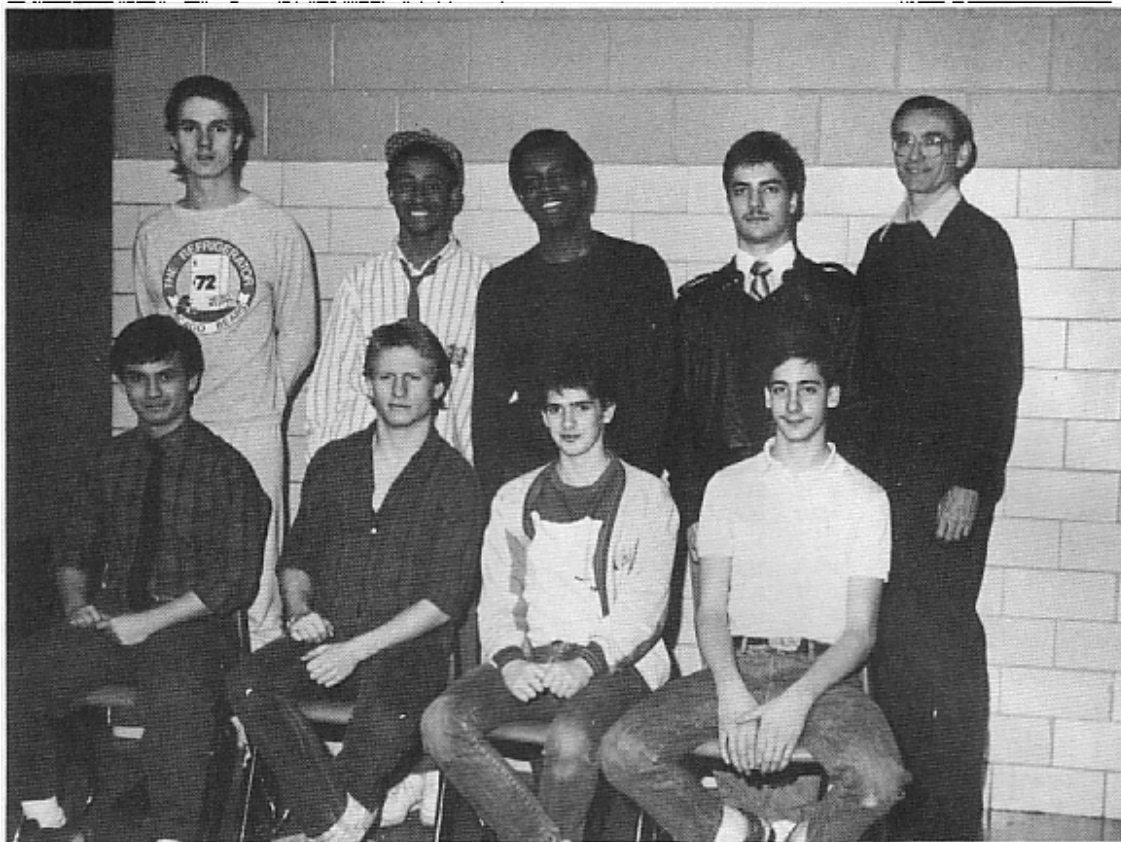
1	VERBER Richard	2349	W12	W22	W 5	W 3	4
2	DANDRIDGE Marvin	2293	W13	D 8	W 4	W 9	3.5
3	CONDON James	2084	W16	W11	W 6	L 1	3
4	WOLFF Robert	-	W17	W15	L 2	W16	3
5	HICKMAN Roger	1927	W23	W21	L 1	W13	3
6	NIELSEN John	1840	W14	W27	L 3	W12	3
7	BOLDEN Darren	2104	L21	W19	W 8	W11	3
8	SANDERS Robert	1743	W25	D 2	L 7	W14	2.5
9	JOHNSON Marvin	1802	Dbye	W20	W10	L 2	2.5
10	MEEKINS DuJuan	1747	Dbye	W28	L 9	W19	2.5
11	CLARK Lawrence	1700	W24	L 3	W27	L 7	2
12	PORTER John	1678	L 1	W17	W15	L 6	2
13	ROBINSON Harrison	1647	L 2	W25	W23	L 5	2
14	LAWRENCE Brenda	1441	L 6	W18	W21	L 8	2
15	ALVARADO Miguel	1533	W18	L 4	L12	W27	2
16	HUGHES Nathaniel	1543	L 3	W29	W22	L 4	2
17	LODENYCK David	1329	L 4	L12	W29	W21	2
18	JORDAN Roland	1975	L15	L14	W20	W23	2
19	HAYWOOD John	-	Dbye	L 7	W28	L10	1.5
20	JONES Anthony	1297	Dbye	L 9	L18	W24	1.5
21	LESTER Michael	1507	W 7	L 5	L14	L17	1
22	FAGAN James	1706	W29	L 1	L16	-	1
23	PEACOCK John	-	L 5	W24	L13	L18	1
24	WEST Eric	-	L11	L23	W25	L20	1
25	MYRICK Wayne	-	L 8	L13	L24	W28	1
26	FINEBERG Thomas	1681	-	-	-	W29	1
27	ZABLONSKY Fred	1645	W 6	L11	L15	L15	1
28	DAVIS Lorenzo	1187	Dbye	L10	L19	L25	0.5
29	FRANKLIN Charles	1173	L22	L16	L17	L26	0
30	SMALL Gregg	2239	LF	-	-	-	0

Cavean Saturday Spectacular

March 21, 1987

1	SURAK Steve	2073	W22	W 5	W 3	D 2	3.5
2	ACOSTA Mariano	2238	W 9	W12	W11	D 1	3.5
3	PLIKEL Bernard	1998	W19	W14	L 1	W 6	3
4	VEGH Carlos	1966	W21	D 6	W 7	D 8	3
5	ZABLONSKY Edgardo	1887	W24	L 1	W21	W12	3
6	SMITH Dan	2221	W15	D 4	W18	L 3	2.5
7	BACHLER Kevin	2208	W23	D18	L 4	W13	2.5
8	GEMSLER Kevin	2119	W25	L11	W23	D 4	2.5
9	PANPEL William	1706	L 2	W16	W14	D10	2.5
10	JONAITIS Algis	1924	L14	W13	W22	D 9	2.5
11	BOUTON Barry	1882	W26	W 8	L 2	-	2
12	KEARNEY Todd	1992	W16	L 2	W15	L 5	2
13	WOLF William	-	W17	L10	W19	L 7	2
14	OSANYINJOBI Toks	1448	W10	L 3	L 9	W22	2
15	LARSON David	1686	L 6	W24	L12	W21	2
16	SJONHLM David	1559	L12	L 9	W25	W24	2
17	GRAVES William	1839	L13	L21	W20	W18	2
18	JUST Tim	1730	W20	D 7	L 6	L17	1.5
19	POPE Raymond	1593	L 3	D20	L13	W26	1.5
20	JONES Tom	-	L18	D19	L17	W25	1.5
21	ZELINSKI Daryl	1458	L 4	W17	L 5	L15	1
22	GRANT Dennis	1628	L 1	W25	L10	L14	1
23	HOLLAND Kirnes	1681	L 7	W26	L 8	-	1
24	SCHALLBERG Scott	1342	L 5	L15	W26	L16	1
25	MAROTTA David	956	L 8	L22	L16	L20	0
26	SEVCIK Jeremy	1274	L11	L23	L24	L19	0





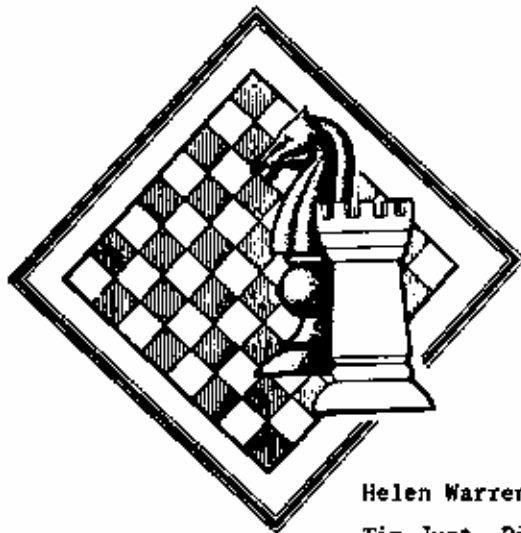
THE PROVISO WEST CHESS TEAM

Standing (left): John Nielsen - Bd. 1; Gary Christopher - Bd. 2; Armon Haynes - Bd. 3; Jason Brawka - Bd. 4; Larry Stilwell - Coach; **Sitting:** Charles Cairo - Bd. 5; Jason Frost - Bd. 6; Dave Lodewyck - Bd. 7; Irvin Fields - Bd. 8.

544 HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS AT EVERGREEN PARK!



BY 1984 POSTAL TO TIM JUST



Postal Chess

Helen Warren, Director

Tim Just, Dir., 1984

REGION VII TOP TEN

DAVE TAYLOR (IL).....	1126
ANDY AMELUNG (MO).....	1112
MAX ZAVANELLI (IL).....	1104
ADAM LIEF (CA).....	1068
DAVID FIELD (IA).....	1065
MITCH WEISS (IA).....	1008
WALTER MILBRATZ (CA).....	1003
JIM WARREN (IL).....	975
FRED BENDER (WI).....	968
DON WALHOUT (IL).....	950

THE 1984 REGION VII & ICA POSTAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT IS NOW COMPLETE. EARLIER THIS YEAR FIRST PLACE, \$150, AND A TROPHY WAS CAPTURED BY ANDY AMELUNG OF PACIFIC, MISSOURI. THE BATTLE FOR 2ND AND 3RD PLACE HINGED ON THE ONE GAME ADAM LIEF VS DONALD WALHOUT. LIEF HAS WON THE GAME TO CAPTURE 2ND PLACE AND \$100. MAX ZAVANELLI TOOK 3RD PLACE AND \$50.

THE FINAL SCORE FOR EACH PLAYER WAS COMPUTED BY ADDING TOGETHER THE PLAYER'S PRELIMINARY SECTION SCORE + 1.5 X FINAL SECTION SCORE.

PRE FIN TOT

1. ANDY AMELUNG	5.0 + 7.50 = 12.50
2. ADAM LIEF	6.5 + 6.75 = 12.25
3. MAX ZAVANELLI	6.0 + 6.00 = 12.00
4. DON FIELD	4.5 + 6.00 = 10.50
5. DAVE TAYLOR	5.5 + 3.75 = 9.25
6. DON WALHOUT	4.5 + 1.50 = 6.00

84-F PLAYERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	SCORE
1 Zavanelli	♙	1	1/2	1/2	1	0	1	4-2
2 Taylor	0	♙	0	1/2	1	0	1	2.5-3.5
3 Field	1/2	1	♙	0	1	1/2	1	4-2
4 Lief	1/2	1/2	1	♙	1	1/2	1	4.5-1.5
5 Walhout	0	0	0	0	♙	0	1	1-5
6 Amelung	1	1	1/2	1/2	1	♙	1	5-1
7 BYE	0	0	0	0	0	0	♙	0-6

ZAVANELLI-TAYLOR POSTAL GAME Annotated By Max Zavanelli

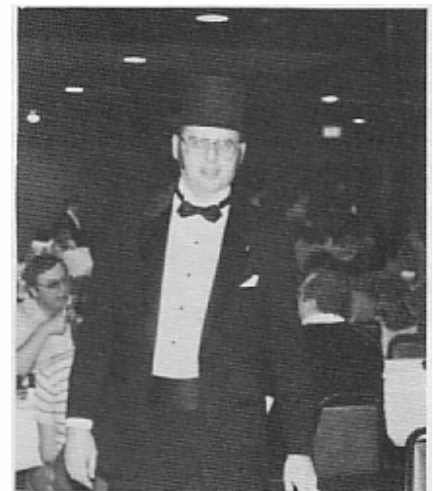
My opponent, a CCLA, APCT and USCF correspondence master, had always been rated the highest in Region VII correspondence play sponsored by the Illinois Chess Association (ICA) since I began to play in their events in 1980. Taylor was, in 1986, also the highest rated player in the APCT which is a much larger postal organization. After four years of steady struggle, I climbed from a beginners 800 rating to 1110, second place on the rating list and only the second player besides Taylor to cross 1100. Along the way, I best in ICA correspondence play a former Golden Knights champion, three APCT Rook Champions, one state correspondence champion and one OTB state champion, among others. In 1984 and 1985, no matter how fast my rating would go up, Taylor would stay ahead of

me. In the 1983 finals I scored 11-1, he scored 11-1. If we would play, I might catch him. At last in 1986, we met for the first time in the 1984 finals. The game was to be almost flawless and to conclude with an infantry charge over the ramparts. It was to be a tactical melee worthy of Tal and Fischer.

At the conclusion of the game, my worthy and gracious opponent would write:

"My best congratulations! Your last several moves were all very excellent! You very much deserved to win. I don't remember when I was beat by such a series of powerful moves. You can be very proud on this game."

For this we play correspondence chess.



Does Max Zavanelli wear a tux when playing Postal Chess?

One thing is certain: Zavanelli and Dave Taylor are our top 2 Illinois Postal Players!

White: Max Zavanelli (2079).
 Black: David Taylor (2199).

Annotated by Zavanelli.

1 e4 d5
 What's this? The Center Counter; surely this can't be any good in correspondence play? Is this a disdainful reply by my opponent? Checking with a few other players whom he had beaten, I discover Taylor plays the Center Counter devotedly with success. But how can he get equality when I have every book line at my disposal?

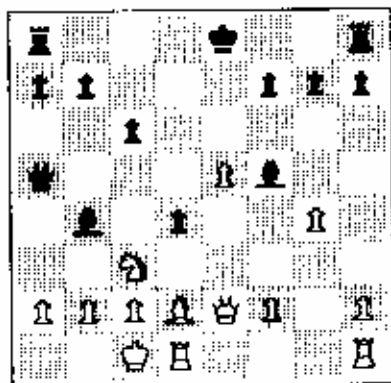
2 exd5 Qxd5
 And he doesn't even play the Marshall 2...Nf6!

3 Nc3 Qa5
 4 d4 Nf6
 5 Nf3 Bf5
 6 Bc4 e6
 7 Bd2 c6
 (7...bNd7?!)
 8 Qe2 Bb4
 9 Na5

I could have also chosen 9 a3 or 9 O-O-O. But according to Grefe and Silman's book on the Center Counter (page 44) this is White's strongest move. I decided to follow the Jansa-Taubert game (Copenhagen 1981), in which White had a solid positional edge and a few side variants that were also plus for White, just in case I needed an escape hatch. I felt safe playing a line that the authors and advocates of the Center Counter indicated favorable for White.

9 bNd7
 10 O-O-O Nxe5
 11 dxe5 Nd5

Here Taubert had played 11...Nd7. The game continued 12 a3 b5 13 Ba2 +-; better still is 13 axb4 Qa1+ 14 Nb1 bxc4 15 Qxc4 +-. The authors comment that also unappetizing for Black is 11...Nd5 as played above by Taylor: 12 Bxd5 exd5 13 g4 Bd7 [13...Be6!? and now not 14 a3? Bxa3! but 14 f4!? when 14...d4? 15 Ne4 is +- and 14...Bxc3 15 Bxc3 Qxa2 16 f5 is difficult for Black] 14 a3 Bxc3 15 Bxc3 Qc7 16 f4.
 12 Bxd5 exd5
 13 g4 d4!



Grefe and Silman had seen this and gave 13...d4 14 Nb1 Bxd2+ 15 Rxd2! Be6 16 Rxd4 Qxa2 17 f4 as favoring White, e.g. 17...Bd5 18 hRd1 O-O-O 19 c4!

14 Nb1 Be6!
 Taylor plays this first instead of the Bishop exchange given above. His move is far better. I've been hornswaggled. Black will soon equalize.

15 a3?!
 White's alternative is 15 Bxb4 Qxb4 16 a3. At least the text move picks up a tempo in development.

15 Bxd2+
 16 Rxd2 c5
 17 f4 Bd5
 18 hRd1 Qa4!

Shuts down c4 for White in the above notes. Black has equality and my efforts have been for naught. It will now be a horse race. Will Black's Pawns storm the White fortress or can White get his own infantry to Black's gates first?

19 f5 O-O
 20 Re1

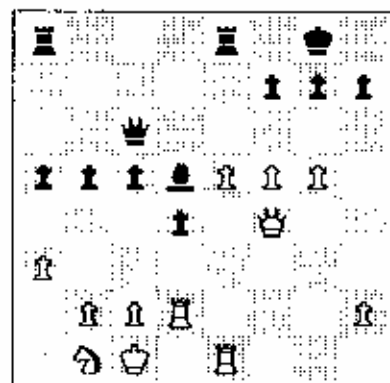
Freeing the Queen. White must reposition every piece in order to conduct an attack.

20 fRe6
 Black is cautious.

21 Qf2! Qc6!
 Again I had hoped Black would launch ...b5 and I could continue 22 f6! but Black's Queen move stops this and even stops 22 Qh4 as White's Pawn is too weak.

22 Qf4! a5
 Here it comes.

23 g5 b5
 It's not the time to be squeamish.



The fifth rank is an artistic delight.

24 Rd3!
 The first of a series of power-packed blows.

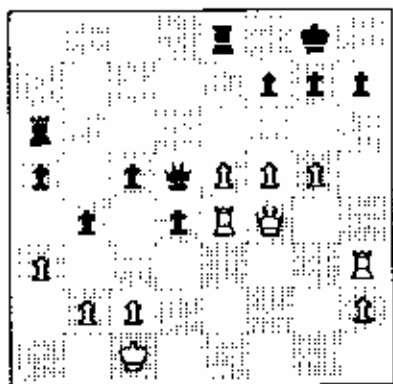
24 Ra6
 25 Rh3 Qd7!
 Preventing 26 Qh4.

26 Nd2! b4
 The cavalry is set loose despite the Black Pawn swarm.

27 Ne4 Bxe4
 The exchange is forced; White removes a defender.

28 Rxe4!
 An important blocking move as well as mobilizing the second Rook. Taking with the Queen would have blundered away the initiative.

28 Qd5



The Queen has addressed her remaining troops and nobles. The battle flag is raised and the trumpet plays no quarter. There can be no retreat. But which Pawn will be the lead battering ram, e6, f6, or g6? The subsequent variations are enough to fill a looseleaf notebook. What joy for the correspondence player.

29 e6!! fxe6

HELP SUPPORT ILLINOIS CHESS BY BECOMING AN ICA ANGEL!
CENTURY MEMBER: \$100 GOLD CARD: \$50 PATRON: \$25
 Please mail your contribution to the Illinois Chess Association,
 Bill Smythe, Treasurer, 6945 N. Ashland, Chicago 60626.

(continued)

ZAVANELLI-TAYLOR POSTAL GAME

Black declines with
 29...Rd7 30 Bxh7! Kxh7
 31 Bx4+ Kg8 32 exf7+! and
 Black has three replies:
 32...Qxf7 33 g6 Resigns;
 32...Kxf7 33 g6+ leads to
 34 Qc1 35...Rxf7 33 Rxb8+
 34 Rxf8+ Kxf8 35 Qh8+

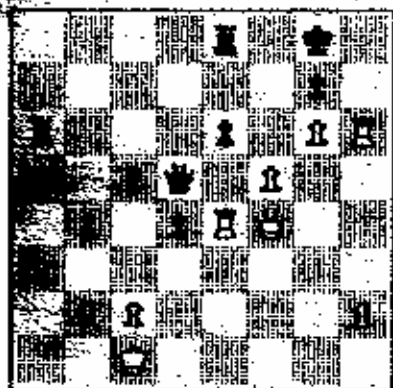
30 Rnh7! Black could try
 31 Qxe4-Kxh7 32 exf7!
 (threatens Qh4 mate) Rxe4
 33 f8 etc.

If Black tries to counter with
 the infiltration 29...Qe2
 30 Qh4 h6 31 Qh5 is certain.
 30 g6!!

31 f6 would fail to
 32...e5! which holds f7 and
 33 the Queen: 31 Qh4 h6
 32 f6 32 gxf6? g6! or
 32 Qh5 Qd7 (not Qxe4 33 Qxe8+
 34 Rnh4 and mate next)
 would hold.

30...h6
 31...e5? 31 Rnh7! and mate
 next; if 31...hxg6 there is
 every pretty response:
 32 fxf6 e5 33 Qf3!!! Rxf6
 34 Qh8+ Kxh8 35 Rh4+ winning
 the Queen and everything else.
 32 Qf3!!! is the best
 delayed move of the game.

31 Rnh6!! 1-0
 31...gxf6 32 Qc7 Qxf5
 33 Rh7+ queening with
 discovered check. If
 32...e5 33 Rh7 and Black's
 position crumbles. I was
 prepared for 31...Qd8 to
 32 Qh4 and Qc7; then not
 32 Rnh6+? Kxh8 33 Qg4 Kg8 but
 32 Rh4! Qf6 33 Qc7 with
 gxf6 next and all is lost.



The "Ace" has chopped his way
to top gun in the ICA.

\$7150 IN PRIZES . JULY 17, 18, 19 MIDWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MASTER: \$1000, 600, 300, 200 B: \$800, 300, 150
 EXPERT: \$600, 300, 200 C: \$500, 300, 150
 CLASS A: \$500, 300, 200 D-E: \$300, 200, 100

Holiday Inn O'HARE 7 SEPARATE SECTIONS

5440 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois 60018



PARK FOREST CHESS CLUB

The Park Forest Chess Club meets every Thursday evening from 7 to 10:30 PM at Freedom Hall in Park Forest --- next to the Park Forest Library at Orchard and Lakewood. Visitors are welcome and dues are only \$5 per year, \$4 for Juniors. Phone Wayne Palmquist (361-2571) for information.

The Park Forest Club's ANNUAL BANQUET will be held July 9th at 8 PM. Thursday, July 16th is the starting date for a 5-round USCF-rated open Swiss tournament to be held on consecutive Thursdays. Phone 361-2571 regarding these and other Club activities.

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW FOR THE 1987 ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP --
 LABOR DAY WEEKEND -- \$3000 PRIZE FUND AT THE HYATT O'HARE**

NEW NUMBER OF
ILLINOIS CHESS PHONE 971-3666



ILLINOIS TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Call ChessPhone, (312) 971-3666, for recorded tournament announcements and results, often more up-to-date than Chess Life or the ICB. The official ICA ChessPhone voice is Todd Barre.

Unless otherwise noted, all tournaments require USCF membership. ICA Tour events also require ICA membership. All phones are area (312) unless otherwise noted.

July 17-19: **MIDWEST CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS** \$4 7150 in Guaranteed Prizes, 40/2, 7 Sections at the Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, Illinois. Richard Verber, 764-1404.

July 18-19: **Duffers Delight**, Two 1-day events Chicago Chess Center, 2923 N. Southport, Chgo. Julian Stein, 929-7010.

July 25: **YRCC 6**, 3-SS in 8-man sections, Illini Student Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61821. Barry Fisher, 217-333-9083.

July 25, 26: **Mating Mania**, Two 1-day events at Chicago Chess Center, 929-7010.

August 1, 2: **Blunders Count**, Two 1-day events at the Chicago Chess Center, 929-7010.

August 1, 2: **Hammond City Championship**, 5-SS, \$700 based on 50 entrants, Hammond Public Library, 171st & Grand, Hammond, Indiana. Ed Ross, 319-972-0436.

August 8-9: **Potzer Pains**, Two 1-day events at Chicago Chess Center, 929-7010.

August 2-14: **U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP** in Portland, Oregon, 12-SS, \$26,000 in Prizes at the Portland Hilton Hotel. See **CHESS LIFE** for details.

August 15-16: **Fianchetto Fever**, Two 1-day events at Chgo. Chess Center, 929-7010.

August 22: **ILLINOIS VALLEY TORNADO**, 4-SS, at Grace United Methodist Church, 1345 Chartres, LaSalle, Illinois -- An ICA Tour Event -- Byron Pappas, 815-224-2809.

August 22-23: **St. Charles Open**, 5-SS, 40/100, \$ 425 based on 40 players, Erv Sedlock, 377-7995.

August 29: **TWIN CITIES SUMMER TORNADO**, 4-SS, Miller Park Pavilion, 1020 S. Morris, Bloomington, IL 61701. An ICA Tour Event. Andy McGowan, 309-827-7892.

August 29-30: **Bargain Basement Bononi**, Two 1-day events at the Chgo. Chess Center, 929-7010.

September 5-7: **ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**, \$3000 Prize Fund -- an ICA Maxi-Tour event.

ILLINOIS CHESS ASSOCIATION
Box 267847
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