May 14–16, 2010  2010 Tennessee Senior Open
Fair Park Senior Center
1433 Livingston Road
Crossville, TN
Hotel: Crossville Comfort Suites
Harry Sabine  (931) 484-9593; hdsabine@citlink.net

May 29, 2010  Rutherford Co. Open
Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN
Rutherford Co. Chess Club: rccc@rccc.us

June 26, 2010  John Hurt Memorial 7
Hampton Inn, Memphis, TN
Entries: Memphis Chess Club

July 17, 2010  Clinton Pearson, Jr. Memorial Summer
Cumberland Co. Community Complex, Crossville
Harry Sabine  (931) 484-9593; hdsabine@citlink.net

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MEMBERSHIPS

TCA annual dues are $10 for a regular membership or student membership. Additional members of a family may join for one dollar each, but only one copy of printed TCN’s will be available per family. Both regular and patron memberships are for a 12-month period, starting in the month of purchase and expiring after a 12-month period.

Tax deductible Patron Memberships are available beginning at $100 per year for those who wish to help support the TCA and the FFTC. These memberships expire one year from the date of payment. The Patron membership categories are:

PATRON — $100;  PATRON KING — $300;  PATRON MASTER — $500;  PATRON GRANDMASTER — $1000+

The benefits that pertain to the different level of patronage are currently being refined and will be detailed on our website soon.

TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

TCN prints listings of upcoming tournaments that require TCA membership in each issue for free. Submit complete TLA information to Larry Grohn, Tournament Coordinator: E-MAIL: LarryGrohn@comcast.net

TN CHESS NEWS STAFF

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Leonard Dickerson

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TCN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Spring 2010 — Scheduled for May 1st covering Feb, Mar, and Apr events
Deadline for submission: Apr 18, 2010

Summer 2010 — Scheduled for Aug 1 covering May, Jun, and Jul events
Deadline for submission: July 18, 2010

Fall 2010 — Scheduled for Nov 1 covering Aug, Sept, and Oct events
Deadline for submission: Oct 18, 2010

Winter 2011 — Scheduled for Feb 1 covering Nov, Dec, and Jan events
Deadline for submission: Jan 18, 2011

Please submit material by e-mail to: lsdick@tds.net
The Tennessee Chess Hall of Fame was established to honor those members who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding achievements in chess, either in competition or in chess organization or promotion. Peter Lahde is chairman of the electing committee, and guidelines for nominations are posted onsite. Below is a listing of the current members and their year of induction.

Peter Lahde 1990  
Robert Coveyou 1990  
Jerry Sullivan 1990  
Martin Southern 1990  
Tom Finucane 1990  
Robert Serivener 1990  
L. Hunter Weaks 1990  

John Hurt 1992  
James A. Sweets 1993  
Rea Hayes 1997  
James A. Wright 1998  
Dr. Martin Katahn 2002  
David Burris 2003  
Albert Hodges 2005
Scholastic Winners and Scholarships

The Tennessee Individual Finals and both the Regional Team Qualifiers and Team Championship events are included in this issue. I didn’t receive many games but all that were submitted and legible have been annotated and included.

Tenn. Technological University contributed $130,000 in scholarship monies to the champions of our scholastic events. Undefeated Peter Suich received the $4,000 per year Academic Service Scholarship from TTU. Second-place finisher (after tie breaks) George Woodbury received the second-place scholarship of $2,500 per year. See more about the Individual Finals on page 5. White Station High School became the team champion and four members of its members received $4,000 per year scholarships. Hume-Fogg fought through a 10-minute tie breaker to finish in second place monies, with four of its members receiving $2,500 scholarships. Read more about the Team Finals on page 9 of this issue. Donations of over $100,000 must be regarded as serious money. We should do all that we can as members to assure that TTU’s generosity will continue in the future. Hence, you are encouraged to write the President or Dean of TTU to personally thank them for their support of Tennessee scholastic chess. Not only have we used their site free (the student center, which is now called the Roaden University Center) for over a decade, but they have long been generously donating the scholarship awards.

TCA Operating Monies

At the last TCA Board meeting of March 13, our treasurer informed us that the TCA has $52,083 total monies, including endowments and money market funds. Moreover, the TCA’s main sources of income were from TCA-supported tournaments (49%) and the Regional Scholastic tournaments (33%). Membership dues accounted for only 14% of the TCA’s income. The main expenditures were for TCA-supported tournaments (66%) and the Regional Scholastic tournaments (24%). Don’t be fooled by the size of the amount, though. This really does not give our organization much flexibility and certainly does not give us enough to start spending! We are obligated to spend approximately $6,000 on the Tenn. Open, $5,000 on the Tenn. Winter Open, and over $10,000 on our scholastic tournaments. So couple that with just regular operating expenses (liability insurance, etc.) and will quickly see that we aren’t rolling in the money. In fact, we are sorely in need of additional funds so that we can seriously consider supporting chess education in schools and other goals. Thus we have a need for sponsorship and are in need of donations.

TCA website

The revised TCA website (tnchess.org) is functioning well with updates being rapidly made. Many have commented with surprise on how speedily information on the scholastic tournament winners was available. Not only that, but photographs and short biographies of the winners of the scholastic events are highlighted on the website. Too, the tournament calendar is up and active. Several have already used our PayPal service to sign up for upcoming tournaments and pay TCA membership dues. So this service has been a big addition to our site and will see much more use in the future as the membership acquaints themselves with it. The site is still under development, and this is most evident when one tries to view games online. We are addressing this problem and our game viewer will be operational soon. If you find any other feature of our website that is not performing properly—or if you can think of a feature that we need to add—let an officer of the TCA know immediately.

Any of you guys over 50? Then immediately make plans to play in the Tennessee Senior Open Championship!

Tennessee Senior Open Championship — May 14-16, 2010
3 Round Swiss — Traditional Schedule (3 days) — Game/120 — Class Prizes
$550 Guaranteed Prize Fund & Plaques/Awards
On Feb. 27th, the Tenn. Individual Finals tournament was again hosted by Tennessee Technological University (TTU). Peter Suich emerged as undefeated champion in the High School Championship with a perfect score and pocketed the $4,000 yearly-scholarship money. Three other players tied for 2nd-4th place.

After the 10-minute tie-break games were held to determine who would receive the $2,500 per year Service Scholarship, George Woodbury captured the second-place money over Chase Knowles and Graham Gibson.

Jason Fu won the Jr. High Championship by defeating higher-rated Nathan Vogt in the last round. Jason had a perfect score, while both Vogt and Neglia Salvatore tied for 2nd–3rd with 4.0 points.

In the Elementary Section, Arum Jambulapati captured clear first with 4.5 points, being trailed by three others who had 4.0 points: Alexander Qin, Max Friedman, and Kevin Hong.

Shaun Burgess (who was rated about two classes above his opposition) scored a perfect 5.0 to promote himself as champion of the Primary Section. Four others trailed him with 4.0 points (Weston Sharpe, Nina Bhat, Joshua Kouch, and Lucas Pao).

Crosstables of the tournament along with a nice bio of the players are available online as the Tenn. Chess Assoc. Website: tnchess.org. Photographs of the champion are also included there!

Below are three games from the Reg. 4 Ind. Qualifying tournaments. No games were submitted from the Finals.

Reg. 4 Indiv. Qualifier
Feb. 13, 2010
Chase Knowles – 1787
Graham Horobetz – 2011
1. c4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6
4. g3 Bg7 5. Bg2 O-O 6. Nf3 a6 7. 0-0 Nbd7 8. e4 e5 9. dxe5 dxe5 10. Bg5 c6 11. Qc2

Reg. 4 Indiv. Qualifier
Graham Horobetz – 2011
Graham Gibson – 1651
1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. f4 e6
4. Nf3 d5 5. d3 Be7 6. g3 Nf6 7. e5 Nd7 8. Bg2 a6 9. a4 Qc7 10. 0-0 0-0 11. h4 f6
12. Bh3 f5 13. Ng5 Nd8 14. Qh5 h6

g5 25. fxg5 (25. Bg3 Kh8 26. Nc3 gx4 27. Bxf4 Bxe5 28. Bxe5+ Rxe5 +/-) 25... hxg5
26. Bxg5 Nxe5 27. Qxg5 Rxe5 28. Qf4 Qd7 29. h4 f5 30. Rf3?

Below are three games from the Reg. 4 Ind. Qualifying tournaments. No games were submitted from the Finals.

Reg. 4 Indiv. Qualifier
Shane Franklin – 1231
Graham Horobetz – 2011


An interesting game occurred between elementary players in the Team Finals. The players avoided the usual lines of the Petroff Defense with some spirited play.

Elementary Team Finals
Board 3, Round 2
Joshua Leow – 1044
Elsa Wilson – 847

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. d4 d6!?

4. dxe5 More popular is 4. Nc3, offering Black a transposition to the Philidor Defense. Nxe4 5. exd6 Now Qd5 followed by Bg5 gives more. cxd6? Certainly the simple Bxd6 is better. 6. Bf4 Nc6 7. Bc4 Bg4 Black could assume an initiative with Qf6, hitting the bishop and e2. 8. Qd5 Be6 9. Qxe4 Be7?? Playing d5 would have limited the loss to only a pawn. 10. Bxe6 Qa5+! 11. Nc3?!! Defending with the obvious Bd2 would have won another piece. fxe6 12. Qxe6 Nb4 13. O-O Best was Bx6, threatening mate on e7. Nxc2 14. Bxd6 Qd8 15. Rad1 Qd7 16. Qxd7+ Best is Qe4, hitting the knight and retaining all other threats. Kxd7 17. Bxe7+ Kxe7 18. Nd5+ Kg7 19. Rcl Rh8 20. Rf1! Best was Nc7 followed by Rxc2. Rac8 21. Ne5+ Had White played the better Ng5+, the king could not have approached without being exposed to a check on e7 which would have forked his rook. Ke6 22. Nc7+ Rxc7?!! Best is Kxe5 when White must be careful that he does not expose his back rank: (22... Kxe5 23. Rxd8 Rxd8 24. f4+! (24. Rxc2 Rd1+) 24... Ke4 25. Rxc2 Rd1+ 26. Kf2 Kxf4) 23. Rxd8 Kxe5 24. Rd2 Nbd4 25. Rc7 Nxa2 26. Rxb7 a5 27. Rg7 a4 28. Rxa7 Ke4 29. Rd8 Nb4 30. Re7+ Kf5 31. Re8+ Kg6 32. Rf3 Nd5 33. Re8 Kg7 34. Re4 Nf6 35. Rxf6 Kxf6 Black plays on because it is a team game. 36. Kf1 Kf5 37. Re8 Kf6 38. Ke2 Ke7 39. Re3 Kf6 40. Kd3 Kf5 41. Kc4 Kf6 42. Kd4 Kg5 43. Ke5 and White gave mate on the 49th move. 1-0
On March 6, the Tenn. State Scholastic Team Chess Qualifying tournaments were held in the four regions of Tenn. to determine those who would become eligible to become the state team champions. The below teams and the next top-three finishers in the respective sections went on to represent their regions in the state finals.

Championship Teams of Regional Qualifiers

Reg. 1 Championship Teams
HS: Webb HS
JH: Farragut MS
Elem: Sequoyah Elem.
Prim: Woodland Elem.

Reg. 2 Championship Teams
HS: McCallie School
JH: Crossville Home
Elem: CSTHEA
Prim: CSTHEA

Reg. 3 Championship Teams
HS: Hume-Fogg Magnet
JH: Shanan Home School
Elem: Meigs Magnet
Prim: Univ. School of Nashville

Reg. 4 Championship Teams
HS: White Station
JH: Memphis University
Elem: Sycamore Elem.
Prim: Grahamwood

In the Elementary Section of Region 1, Sequoyah and Woodland both finished with 3.0 points. But Sequoyah won the 10-min. tie-break games and emerged as overall champion. Moreover, in Region 4 the Elementary Section was very competitive. Three teams finished with 3.0 points. Their tie-break finish was Sycamore Elem., Grahamwood, and White Station Middle School. (Trailing by only a half point was St. George.)

In Region 1, it is noteworthy that the powerful Webb Middle School already had 3.0 points in the third round. Why didn’t they win? They made the mistake of substituting in an Alternate on Board 3 above a registered player on Board 4. They failed to properly substitute toward the top, and, consequently, had to forfeit their third-round win. Since they achieved only a draw in their last round, they ended up not even qualifying to represent the region. So be warned: substitute properly or risk forfeiture.

For a break-down of the qualifiers by region and section, check out the results on the Tenn. Chess Assoc. website. Games from the tournament appear throughout this issue.

Team Finals Elem Rd 1/Bd 2
March 27, 2010
Carter, Mekhi – 670
Friedman, Max – 1549


to obtain what appeared to be a perpetual check. Though there was still a problematical win present, Black didn’t look too deep into the position because all his team needed at that time was a half point to win the match. Below is the position from which the draw resulted:

**ANALYSIS**

Position could have resulted in a win.

White to move tried to engineer a perpetual check. Indeed, Black conceded that the game was drawn after a few tentative moves. But he could have pressed on and got the win: 1. Rh8+ Kg4 2. Rf8+ Kf4 3. Rh4+ Ke4 4. Rf4+ Kd4 5. Rd4+ Ke5 6. Rd1+ Kg5 7. Rf1+ Kh4 8. Rf4+ Kg4 9. Rf4+ Kg4 10. Rf4+ Kg4 but, as stated above, Blue did not persist but settled for the draw. 1/2-1/2


><br>9. Rxe3+ (9. Rf4+ g4) 9... Kg4 10. Kxg2 Nf4+ but, as stated above, Blue did not persist but settled for the draw. 1/2-1/2

Nc2+ Instead of the simple capture of the bishop and an easy win, Black’s pawn snatching later cost him the game. 1-0
The Tenn. State Scholastic Team Finals Chess tournament was held March 27 at the Roaden University Ctr. of Tenn. Technological Univ. The top 16 teams from each region competed in their respective divisions to determine not simply which team is the best but—in the particular case of the High School teams—who would secure their future with TTU’s scholarship monies.

TTU awards four-year University Service Scholarships to the first and second-place finishing teams of the High School Section, with $4,000 per year being granted to each of the four members of the first place team and $2,500 per year each to four members of the second place team.

In the High School Section, White Station High emerged undefeated, winning all their matches by 3 or more points. (The intimidating team was composed of Roh Parvathareddy, Chase Knowles, Jonathan Beatty, Nishit Reddy, Oscar Carrillo, and Jordan Berryhill.) There was a three-way tie between Hume-Fogg Magnet, Webb High School, and McCallie School for the $2,500 second-place scholarship monies. Tiebreak games of 10-min were conducted to determine which of the three teams would take the money. In the first thrilling tiebreak session, McCallie held Webb to a draw. So another tie-breaking session was necessary—which also ended in a draw! Finally, Webb triumphed in a third tiebreak session. However, they still needed to get through Hume-Fogg before they could claim the money. This was not to be. Hume-Fogg (composed of Vikas Kumar, Manu Nair, Max Breyer, Michael Schoenfield, Jacob Schafer, and Andrew Yang) won the 10-min. tiebreaker and collected the $2,500 scholarships for their school.

In the Junior High Section, Memphis University School and Farragut Middle School both ended up with 3.5 points, a full point ahead of the field. After a tiebreak session, Farragut Middle (Jason Fu, Charles Blue, Kevin Hong, and Kai Smith) took the title and notched their first victory as divisional team champions of Tennessee.

In the Elementary Section, favored Grahamwood Elementary suffered a forfeit-loss to St. George in the third round. This catapulted St. George’s Independent School (Shaun Burgess, William Federman, Carter Burgess, Richard Kuehn, and John Mann) into the driver’s seat and they drew their match with powerful White Station Middle School in the last round to earn the title of the Tennessee Elementary Team State Champions. (They scored 3.5 team points in doing so—almost perfect!)

Grahamwood (Nina Bhat, Joshua Kouch, Kevin Cao, Michael Rotz, Allen Wu, and Justin Couch) displayed outright dominance in the Primary Section, winning every individual game that they played except one. They showed that their 200-rating point spread was meaningful as they out-paced second-place finishing University School of Nashville by a full point, earning themselves yet another Championship title.

Below is a photograph of the Junior High Championship team. Photographs of all the championship teams are available online for viewing at the TCA website. Crosstables of the event are presented on pages 14–17. Several games from the event are annotated throughout this issue.

Photo submitted by Kathy Blue.

2010 Jr. High Champions: Farragut Middle School
Charles Blue, Kevin Hong, Jason Fu, and Kai Smith

Photo submitted by Kathy Blue.
defended. pawn can't really be Better is Rd8, since the attacked.

the pawn on c7 to advance if Necessary was c5 to enable an advantage.

Better was Qg6, maintaining 19. Kxh2 Rxe4) 18. Qxe4? Bf5?

Rae8) 16. Nxe5 Bxe5 14. Bd3 Qf6 15. Bc2 threatening Qd3 b6 (15... g5 16. h4 =) 16. Bxh6 gxh6 17. Qg4+ Qg7 18. Qe4 =) 10... Qg4?!

Better was a5, hoping to get in a4 while leaving the king position to keep White from switching his attack back to the kingside. (37... a5 38. f5 (38. a4!? Trying to imbalance the position as much as possible. bxa4 39. f5 Be4 40. f6 Bb1 41. f7 Ke7 42. Kxc6 Bd3 43. Kb6 Kxf7 44. Kxa5 Bc2 45. c4 Ke6 46. c5 Kd5 47. Kb6 Bf5 =) 38... Be4 39. f6 Bd5 40. Bd6 a4 =) 38. Be5 Kb7? Now a5 is imperative. 39. f5 Ka7?


Kc8 Better was a5, hoping to get in a4 while leaving the king position to keep White from switching his attack back to the kingside. (37... a5 38. f5 (38. a4!? Trying to imbalance the position as much as possible. bxa4 39. f5 Be4 40. f6 Bb1 41. f7 Ke7 42. Kxc6 Bd3 43. Kb6 Kxf7 44. Kxa5 Bc2 45. c4 Ke6 46. c5 Kd5 47. Kb6 Bf5 =) 38... Be4 39. f6 Bd5 40. Bd6 a4 =) 38. Be5 Kb7? Now a5 is imperative. 39. f5 Ka7?


Rxc7 Rxc7 26. Bxc7 a6 There is no need to push this pawn now. Kg7 is best. 27. f4 f5 28. Kf2 Kg7 29. Kf3 Be4+ 30. Kxe3 g6 31. g4 fxg4 32. hxg4 f5 33. gxf5+ Even stronger is the pawn while allowing Black's own f-pawn to restrict his bishop from the b1-h7 diagonal. Kxf5 This should be a dead draw—unless White can, perhaps, get to the pawn on a6. 34. Ke3 Bd5 35. Kd4 Ke6 36. Kc5 Kd7 37. Bb8


Tennessee Chess News — Spring 2010 tnchess.org
Tennessee Girls Chess Championship
Graham Gibson wins

Contributed by Alvin Harris

Nineteen of Tennessee’s best girl chess players competed in this year’s Tennessee Girls Chess Championship at the Nashville Chess Center on April 24. The tournament was open to any girl in grades K – 12 who is a Tennessee resident. When the dust cleared, Graham Gibson was awarded the title of 2010 Tennessee Girls Champion, receiving an engraved glass trophy. Gibson lived up to her top rating and defeated all of her opponents to finish with a perfect 4.0 score. Gibson is an 11th grade home-school student from Cordova, Tennessee.

Joann Welch finished second with 3.5 points, giving up a draw to last year’s champion Autumn Douthitt in the 3rd round. Douthitt finished in sixth place with 2.5 points after losing to champion Graham Gibson in the final round.

This year’s tournament coincided with Nashville’s Country Music Marathon and Half-Marathon which ran right by the Chess Center on Belmont Blvd. “Fortunately, the girls who played today were not distracted by the runners, the band playing right next door or the stormy weather,” said Chief TD Alvin Harris. “Even with everything going on outside, the girls all did a great job of focusing on their games and playing excellent chess.”

The top ten finishers received trophies. All other players took home a chess book or a set of tournament pieces and a vinyl carrying bag.

The Cumberland Co. Spring Open was held in Crossville, TN on April 17. Twenty-seven of the 57 participating players played in the Open Section. Andrew Crigger (1808) and Kevin Hong (1328) tied with 3.5 points to win the section. Kevin gained over 140 points in addition to share 1st-place honors.

There was also a tie for first place in the Amateur Section. Rachel Weishaar (905) and Quinton Bruyn (797) both went undefeated to share the championship title and money. Too, Quinton added about 200 more points to his rating.

Several of the intense battles from this Game/60 event follow.

1. f4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c3
Ordinarily, White controls the black squares with his pieces rather than occupying them, i.e., Bb2 and e3. d6 4. d3 Bg7 5. e4 O-O =/+ 6. Be3 Ng4 7. Bd4?! Much better was Bg1. e5 8. fxe5 dxe5 9. Bc5 Re8 10. Nbd2 Better was h3 to chase the knight from his commanding post. b6 11. Ba3? Ne3 12. Qb3 Nxf1 This is certainly okay, but harassing the queen by a5 was even stronger. 13. Rxf1 Qxd3 14. Ng5? Be6?? Always look for checks and undefended pieces. White misses his winning checking-fork. 15. Nxe6 Rxe6 16. Qd5 Qe3+ Excellent. Not settling for a simple endgame but keeping White in the center and going for much more. 17. Kd1 Nc6 18. Qd7 Bf6 19. Re1 Qg5 20. Re2 Rd8 21. Qxc7 According to Fritz, Black has almost a 5-point advantage, if he continues with Qg4 followed by

Elementary Team Finals
Board 2; Rd 1
March 27, 2010
Carter, Mekhi – 670
Friedman, Max – 1549

Jr. High Team Championship  
March 27, 2010  
Marvin Banks – 1134  
Kai Smith – 1199  

In this critical 4th-round game (the championship game) the eventual co-champion shows good technique after starting with some weak opening moves. The consistency of his play shows his maturing skill and that he is a talent of which opponents must reckon. 

(Regardless of their ratings, the game is a solid 1500 effort.)


This is a serious and unnecessary blunder. The simple Bd6 is sufficient to gain equality. This move, however, introduces the possibility of a disrupting check on b5. 6. a3 (6. Bxb8 Qxb8 7. Bb5+ Kd8 +/=-) 6... 


Qe5 Qxe5+ Much better was the simple Qd8, though the coming invasion of the knights should not be of any real consequence. 14. Nxe5 

Rac8 The game would remain equal if Black simply traded c-pawns with Bxc2. This should be preferred than tying the rooks down to defense. 15. c3 Rfd8? Black is trying to prepare Nd7 but this defense is too slow. 16. 


Rac1 Ra2 25. b3 Rb2 26. Rb1 Rxbl 27. Rxb1 Nxc3 28. Re1 Rb8 More precise was Be4 but White is severely crippled regardless. 29. Re3 Nb5 Better was Na2. 30. Nh4 Nxd4 

31. Nxf5 Nxf5 32. Rxe6 Rb8 33. Re4 Ke7 34. Ra8 Rb7 35. g4 Ne7 36. Ra1 Rb6 Preparing to put the rook behind the passer and shove it down the board. 37. 

Kg2 Rd6 38. Kf3 a5 39. Ke4 d4 40. Kg5 Rc6 41. Be2 Ke6 42. Rd1 Ke5 43. h3 Kg7 44. Kf3 

Kg6 45. Be6+ Ke7 46. Kf4 Kf6 47. Kg5 Kg7 48. Kh6 Kh8 49. Kg7 Kg8 50. Kh6 Kh8 51. 


Kg3 Kg8 58. Kh2 h5 59. Kg2 Kf5 60. Kh3 h4+ 61. Kh3 g4+ 62. Kg2 Kg4 63. Kh3 g3+ 64. Kg2 h3+ 65. Kh1 Kg3 66. Kg1 g2 67. Kh2 Kf2 68. Kh3 

Kg1=Q 69. Kh4 Kf3 70. Kh5 Kf4 71. Kh6 Kf5 0-1 

Cumberland Co. Spring Open  
April 17, 2010  
Jesse Austen – 1091  
Victor Suich – 1577  
1/2-1/2  


Qe2 Nxc3 7. dxc3 Be7 8. Ne5 Nd7 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. cxd3 

Nxe5 11. Qxe5 0-0 Black doesn't see that resulting mating threats allow him to profitably snatch White's d-pawn: ... Qxd3 12. Qxc7 Rd8 


Qe3 Qxg2 18. 0-0-0 Qd5 19. 

Kb1 Rc6 20. Rhg1 Ra6 21. b3 

Bf8 22. Rg5 Qc6 23. Be5 g6 

24. Rh5 Rd7 25. Rxh7? 

This is a serious and unnecessary blunder. The simple Bd6 is sufficient to gain equality. This move, however, introduces the possibility of a disrupting check on b5. 6. a3 (6. Bxb8 Qxb8 7. Bb5+ Kd8 +/=-) 6... 


Qe5 Qxe5+ Much better was the simple Qd8, though the coming invasion of the knights should not be of any real consequence. 14. Nxe5 

Rac8 The game would remain equal if Black simply traded c-pawns with Bxc2. This should be preferred than tying the rooks down to defense. 15. c3 Rfd8? Black is trying to prepare Nd7 but this defense is too slow. 16. 

Nc5 Ne4!? A pawn is lost regardless of what Black does. 17. Nxa6 f6 18. Nf3 Ra8 Fritz recommends continuing with e5 to promote the pawn. However, a mating continuation would have ended the game quicker: 44... Re6! threatening a one-move mate 45. Kc1 Re7 46. Kb2 d2 47. Rd7 d1=Q 48. 

Rxd1 Rxd1 45. Rc3 Ne1 46. 

f4 f5 47. Re3 fxg4 48. hxg4 Rd3 49. Rxd3 (49. Re6+ Kf7 50. Rb6 Ng2 51. Rbl Ne3+ 52. 

Ke2 d1=Q+ 53. Rxd1 Rxd1) 49... Nxd3 50. Kd2 White's technique leaves little to doubt. 51. Ke3 Kf7 52. 

Kf3 Ne6 53. Kg3 Nd4 54. Kh3 

Kf4 55. Kh4 g5+ 56. Kh3 h6 

57. Kg2 Kg4 58. Kh2 h5 59. 

Kg2 Kf5 60. Kg3 h4+ 61. Kh3 

g4+ 62. Kg2 Kg4 63. Kh3 g3+ 64. Kg2 h3+ 65. Kh1 Kg3 66. 

Kg1 g2 67. Kh2 Kf2 68. Kh3 

Kg1=Q 69. Kh4 Kf3 70. Kh5 Kf4 71. Kh6 Kg5 0-1 

f6? (25... Kxh7 26. Qh3+ Bh6 ++ when White would be unable to follow up with Bf4 because of Qe4+) 26. d5? 

With the simple Rxd7 followed by Bxf6 White would gain a significant advantage. It is uncertain what this pawn thrust is intended to accomplish, especially since Rxd5 would win a piece for Black because three White pieces would be left under attack. 26...exd5 27. Rxd7 Qxd7 28. Bd4 

Qf5+ 29. Kd1 Kf3 30. Qd3 Qd8 31. Rxd3 a6 32. Re3 

Rxe3 33. Bxe3 White has 20 remaining minutes and Black has 6. A draw was declared. 1/2-1/2
Snatching Pawns While Uncastled

It is generally unwise to grab pawns with pieces while your king remains in the center. This especially applies to center pawns because you open lines upon which your opponent can post heavy pieces and target your homeless king. Just a consideration of the many opening systems and traps that willingly give up pawns for development (and time) should discourage you from snatching pawns.

Let’s review the factors that determine your plans or attack notions. These imbalances are: the initiative, material balance, pawn structure, open lines and squares, quality of minor pieces, development, and space. In the May 2008 Chess Life, Mackenzie suggests that the mnemonic IMPLODeS be used to remember these factors, where she has substituted “Officers” to signify the pieces (hence producing an “O”).

When you snatch pawns, you usually are trading time for material. This is okay as long as your king’s safety is assured. But you must be especially careful that you aren’t also giving up the initiative.

Consider the seventh game of the current World Championship match being played between Anand and Topalov. Topalov gave up a whole piece for a single pawn but yet was able to maintain the draw because for his material outlay he obtained the initiative and development, later transforming these into a queening threat that maintained equality even though he remained a piece down. See the adjacent diagram.

This position resulted after Black’s 20th move. (Note that Black also has king safety as a plus.) While lesser players such as us can’t hope to have such a grasp of the elements to weigh their quality as Topalov can, we can make sure that our greed does not lead us astray before we even get out of the opening.

To illustrate this point, I am going to use a Round 1 game from the Cumberland Co. Spring Open between two Class E players. The game is further proof that it is difficult to win a center pawn without also possessing piece activity. Mainly, though, it illustrates the interplay of the application of the imbalances of chess and the rewards of following a clear plan (pressuring the center).

Cumberland Co. Spring Open April 17, 2010 Cole Evered Lukas Gonzales

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5

The Ruy Lopez is played to gain a long-term positional advantage, not to win the e-pawn. Nf6 4. Nc3 Bc5 Now that White has protected his e-pawn, he still can’t win Black’s pawn: 5. Bxc6 dxc 6. Nxe5 Bxf2+ regains the pawn with a small advantage. 5. O-O O-O This is actually better than directly protecting the pawn with d6: 5... d6 6. d4 exd4 7. Nxd4 Bd7 +/- 6. Bxc6 dxc 7. Nxe5

Qe7??! Better is the simple Bd4 or Re8, but the game continuation still guarantees return of the pawn. (7... Bd4 8. Nf3 Bxc3 9. dxc3 Nxe4) 8. d4 This move would not have been practical if Black had previously played Re8 instead of Qe7. Bd6 9. Bf4?! (9. f4 +/- c5 10. d5 Bxe5 11. fxe5 Qxe5 12. Bf4 +) 9... c5 10. Re1 Re8 (10... cxd4! 11. Nd5 (11. Qxd4?? c5 12. Qc4 Bxe5) 11... Nxd5 12. exd5 Bb4 13. Re2 Re8 14. a3 Bb6 15. Re5 Bf4 16. Qxd4 Bxc2 and Black's consistent pressures regains the pawn) 11. Nd5 +/- Better was Nd3, clamping to the pawn while defending the bishop and threatening e5: 11. Nd3 Bxf4 12. Nxf4 cxd4 13. Qxd4. 11... Qe6 12. Nxf6?! = Nd3 was still best. Qxf6 13. Qd2 cxd4 14. g3?? Black's continued pressure finally collapses White's position. Bxe5 15. Bxe5 Qxe5 16. f3 d3?! Better is the simple Be6. Until Black activates all his pieces, he can't boast about being a piece up: 17. Qxd3? Qxb2 18. a4 Qb6+ 19. Re3 There is no need to pin the rook. The simple Kg2 was best. c6 20. Rd1 Bh3 21. Kh1?? Rad8 22. c4 Rxd3 23. Rxd3 Qb1+ 24. Re1 Qxe1# 1-0

In summation, if White can get in this sort of trouble even after he has castled, then it certainly behooves you not to be snatching center pawns before you castle!
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<td>15. Providence Christian Academy</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>B6,1.0</td>
<td>W9,1.0</td>
<td>B14,2.0</td>
<td>W11,1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>R3</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<td>16. Big Ridge Elementary</td>
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<td>B12,1.0</td>
<td>B13,1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>R2</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
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Roy Manners mentioned an interesting program being conducted at the Clarksville Chess Club that deserves both publication and emulation. At the club, NM Henry Robinson has been commissioned to provide chess lessons in four-week cycles. Interested members pay him a $5.00 fee to participate in the 4-week cycle’s developments. The fee covers the cost of CDs and printed materials that Henry prepares and provides to them. Material on the CDs include chess software, databases, and PowerPoint presentations of the lessons. Robinson has taught endgames, middlegame pawn structures, and is presently presenting his module on the pawn pair resulting from Isolated Queen Pawn games.

Robinson provides lessons during the 4-week period and then takes two or three weeks off while he prepares another teaching module. Then a new cycle of lessons begin in which the interested members pay the small fee for materials to participate in the new cycle.

Based on the value received and the effort that Robinson expends to prepare and present the lessons, Manners feels that they are getting more than a bargain. He states that “this wonderful program of lessons is donated by the goodness of Henry’s heart to help us all become better at the game we love. Wonderful things happen when you take the profit mongering out of the picture!”

I concur that Henry Robinson deserves recognition for his work and dedication to helping others gain a better understanding and appreciation of the game. If you know of someone who is similarly giving unselfishly for the advancement of chess, let a TCN representative know about it so that we can give them the recognition that they have earned!

Photo: Henry presenting a lesson to the members of the Clarksville Chess Club.
review of Lahde’s new book

In the Winter TCN, we mentioned that Peter Lahde had just published the comprehensive historical tome: Isaac Kashdan, American Chess Grandmaster: A Career Summary With 757 Games. If you need a little more information to convince you that it is a worthy buy, then consider GM John Donaldson’s opinion:

“... Kashdan planned to write a book about his best games called CHESS HOLIDAYS but it never came to pass. Thankfully the well-known chess historian and writer Peter Lahde has filled a huge gap in American chess literature with the publication of Isaac Kashdan ..., a project more than twenty years in the making.

What really makes this book something special are the dozens of games that Kashdan annotated for Chess Review in the 1930s. Played against some of the world’s best — Alekhine, Nimzovitch, Flohr, Fine, Reshevsky and Marshall to mention but a few — the games feature first-rate notes. ISAAC KASHDAN, AMERICAN CHESS GRANDMASTER also benefits enormously from the goldmine of previously unpublished Kashdan scoresheets made available to Lahde by Richard Kashdan, the son of Isaac, and his cousin Teddy Seidenfeld. Chess has been made much richer by their generosity. It seems like over half the books written on the endgame feature Stoltz-Kashdan, Hague Olympiad 1928, as one of the classic model examples of the superiority of Bishop over Knight. They all start with the position after White’s 28th move because the first part of the game was lost. Now with Kashdan’s scoresheet the missing first half has been made available.

Author Lahde has done a first rate research job. Kashdan’s career, first in New York, then Europe and finally Los Angeles, is thoroughly covered. Besides the games, which make up the bulk of the book, there are 70 pages of biographical material and 30 pages devoted to his overall record with pages and pages of crosstables. McFarland has done its usual high quality job with excellent paper, library binding and a clear layout.

ISAAC KASHDAN, AMERICAN CHESS GRANDMASTER is a fitting tribute to not only one of the kings of American chess but also one of its greatest gentlemen.”

Highly Recommended

Regional Jr.Hi.High Team - 4
Matthew Klawonn
Sanchit Wadhawan

1. c4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. g3 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. Nc3 e5 6. d3 d6 7. O-O Nge7 8. Bg5 It is premature to put the bishop here since Black can gain a desirable tempo with h6. f5 This seems premature. Black should play f6 followed by f5 later. Now Nd5 can reduce any coming attack. Fritz even claims a definite edge for White. 9. Nd2 O-O 10. Nb3?! This is a terrible move which kills off White’s usual queenside counterplay. Again, Nd5 was good and even Bd5+ was better. h6 11. Bd2 (11. Bxe7 Qxe7 12. Nd5 Qf7 13. e3 =) 11... f4 12. Qc1 g5 13. Nd5 Nd4 Better is Bg4 or Ng6. Nd4 is awful because it rescues White’s abandoned knight on h3. 14. Nxd4 cxd4 (See Diagram) 15. b4 (15. Ba5! (Fritz11) Qd7 16. c5 Nc6 17. Bc7 +/−) 15... Be6 16. Nxe7+ Qxe7 17. a4 Qd7 18. b5 Rac8 = 19. Qa3 d5 20. c5 Bf5 Interesting, revealing

Bh3! (26... e3 27. fxe3? Bh3) 27. c6 Kh1 was necessary, followed later, perhaps, by Rgl. bxc6 28. Rxc6 Bxf1 29. Rxc8+ Qxc8 30. Rc1 Qh3 0-1

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