

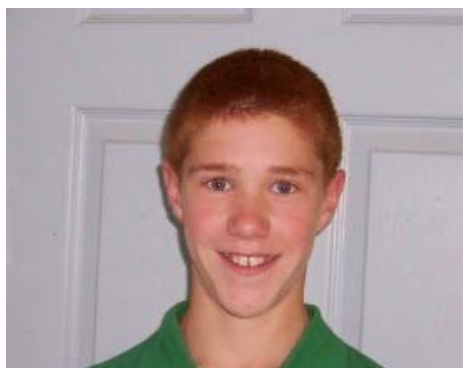
New Hampshire Chess Journal

The Scholastic Edition

New Hampshire State Scholastic Chess Champions, Individuals Tournament



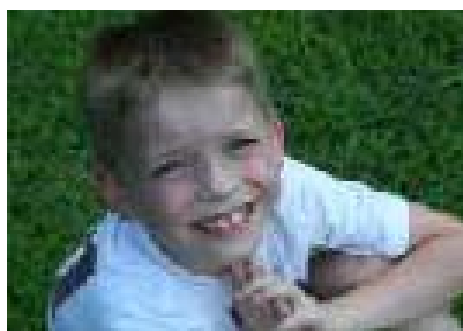
Cam Burger, High School



Jeremiah Boulter, Elementary



Kevin Ma, Junior High



Caleb Currier, Primary

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As volunteers for the New Hampshire Chess Association, we invite you to join us in promoting chess in New Hampshire by helping to run a tournament or a chess club. Contact any member of the NHCA board on next page or Vince Bradley, the scholastics coordinator, at vbradleychess@gmail.com.

Upcoming tournaments

Portsmouth Open

Jan. 16-17, Holiday Inn Portsmouth

A NH Grand Prix Event.

In 2 Sections **Open**: 5SS, GAME/110 + 10 Sec., FIDE rated.

U1750: 5SS, GAME/110 + 10 Sec.

EF: \$50 in advance, \$55 at site. Reg: Registration 9:00-9:45.

Advance entries must be postmarked by 1/09/2010.

Rds: 10-2:30-7, 9:30-2

INFO: Alex Relyea relyea@operamail.com.

Sign up to receive emailed announcements scholastic tournaments by contacting vbradleychess@gmail.com.

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Membership form on back cover...

www.nhchess.org

Vince Bradley Becomes New Scholastic Coordinator

by Doug Decker

Vince Bradley, a long-time scholastics volunteer, coach, and tournament director is the new scholastics coordinator, taking over for Mike Sullivan, who has served the New Hampshire Chess Association for the past three years. Bradley has worked as a paraprofessional for the past ten years at the Wells Memorial School in Harrisville, in southwest New Hampshire east of Keene. Vince has been coaching since 2001 and running tournaments, including his annual February Freeze and Wacky May scholastics tournaments, since 2003 with his co-director, Tom Cassar.

As the new scholastic coordinator, Vince plans for a full schedule of tournaments every other weekend throughout the state. He wants to get more adults in the schools and more tournament directors. “It’s not difficult to host or run a tournament,” says Bradley, who believes that more adults would help out if they believed this. Bradley wants to see more kids play in adult tournaments, possibly by having a scholastic section of an adult tournament or a scholastic tournament at an adult tournament, where kids could get to see serious chess. Vince wants to get chess into the mainstream by having more news coverage, and to “make chess a little cooler again.”



Bradley’s school, Wells Memorial, has only 45 students from kindergarten to sixth grade, and his club last year consisted of six to ten kindergarteners and first graders. Vince and Tom have designed a program for their novices, which naturally includes direct instruction and making sure the players play legal moves during skittles. The coaches will also play a game, thinking aloud about why they’re making each move and not making others. Sometimes, they’ll have the students play Monster Pawn, whereby each side starts with only three or four pawns on each side with no kings and plays from there. Monster Pawn teaches good pawn structure.

Bradley expounds on the values of learning chess. “Chess teaches critical thinking, concentration, sportsmanship, and connections to life skills,” says Bradley. “You don’t always need to capture a piece just because you can. When you’re on the playground, and someone is pushing you, you don’t have to push back; just go somewhere else.”

If you are an adult who would like to help kids learn chess and these skills, please contact out new scholastics coordinator, Vince Bradley, at vbradleychess@gmail.com.

2009 NH Scholastic Team Championships

| No. | Name | Rating | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Score |
|-----|------|--------|---|---|---|---|-------|
|-----|------|--------|---|---|---|---|-------|

High School Section

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| 1. | Tales Told Tall East (3) | 1114 | W2,2.5 | D3,2.0 | W4,4.0 | D2,2.0 | 3.0 |
| 2. | Tales Told Tall West (1) | 1243 | L1,1.5 | -B-,4.0 | W3,3.0 | D1,2.0 | 2.5 |
| 3. | Amherst King Bishops (2) | 1184 | W5,4.0 | D1,2.0 | L2,1.0 | W4,4.0 | 2.5 |
| 4. | Salem High #1 (4) | 661 | -B-,4.0 | W5,3.0 | L1,0.0 | L3,0.0 | 2.0 |
| 5. | Salem High #2 (5) | nnnn | L3,0.0 | L4,1.0 | -B-,4.0 | -N-,0.0 | 1.0 |

Junior High Section

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| 1. | Raymond Fischer Cats (1) | 1237 | W5,4.0 | W2,4.0 | W3,4.0 | W4,4.0 | 4.0 |
| 2. | Domination (2) | 728 | W3,3.0 | L1,0.0 | W4,2.5 | -B-,4.0 | 3.0 |
| 3. | District Attorneys (4) | 521 | L2,1.0 | -B-,4.0 | L1,0.0 | W5,2.5 | 2.0 |
| 4. | We Don't Have a Name (5) | 303 | -B-,4.0 | W5,3.0 | L2,1.5 | L1,0.0 | 2.0 |
| 5. | Profile Jr/Sr High School (3) | 567 | L1,0.0 | L4,1.0 | -B-,4.0 | L3,1.5 | 1.0 |

Elementary Section

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| 1. | Amherst King Bishops A (1) | 659 | W4,4.0 | W2,3.0 | W3,4.0 | W7,4.0 | 4.0 |
| 2. | Oyster River Champions (3) | 444 | W7,2.5 | L1,1.0 | W4,3.5 | W5,3.0 | 3.0 |
| 3. | Amherst King Bishops B (7) | 230 | -B-,4.0 | D5,2.0 | L1,0.0 | W6,3.0 | 2.5 |
| 4. | Bulls in China Shop (4) | 406 | L1,0.0 | W6,3.5 | L2,0.5 | -B-,4.0 | 2.0 |
| 5. | Ray School Kings (2) | 524 | D6,2.0 | D3,2.0 | D7,2.0 | L2,1.0 | 1.5 |
| 6. | Lafayette Chessnuts (5) | 334 | D5,2.0 | L4,0.5 | -B-,4.0 | L3,1.0 | 1.5 |
| 7. | Four Stooges (6) | 326 | L2,1.5 | -B-,4.0 | D5,2.0 | L1,0.0 | 1.5 |

Tournament Director Summary, 2009 Scholastic Individuals by John Elmore

The scholastic individuals were held in April in Amherst. We drew 74 players, a number lower than we enjoyed in years past, but a number superior to the 64 players we drew last year.

I'd like to congratulate our new scholastic champions, all of whom won their sections outright. Cameron Burger, despite not being the highest rated player in his section, successfully defended his high school championship title and remains champion for another year. Kevin Ma, this year's junior high section winner was the highest rated player in his section. The elementary section was won by Jeremiah Boulter, and the primary section was won by Caleb Currier. All four winners won with perfect scores.

NH State Scholastic Individuals Champs

| Name | Rating | Score | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|--------|-------|---|---|---|---|
|------|--------|-------|---|---|---|---|

High School Section

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 1. CAMERON BURGER | 1470 | 4 | W 10 | W 7 | W 6 | W 3 |
| 2. MICHAEL MC GRATH | 1603 | 3 | W 8 | L 3 | W 10 | W 6 |
| 3. BLAKE GENDRON | 1442 | 3 | W 11 | W 2 | W 5 | L 1 |
| 4. GERALD POTORSKI | 1460 | 2.5 | W 5 | L 6 | D 8 | W 7 |
| 5. HARRISON MORAN | 1564 | 2 | L 4 | W 9 | L 3 | W 8 |
| 6. TIMOTHY CHEVALIER | 1538 | 2 | W 9 | W 4 | L 1 | L 2 |
| 7. RICHARD NGO | 909 | 2 | B 0 | L 1 | W 9 | L 4 |
| 8. AVARY BELL | 991 | 1.5 | L 2 | W 11 | D 4 | L 5 |
| 9. NATHAN KOOCHER | 995 | 1 | L 6 | L 5 | L 7 | W 11 |
| 10. URIAH BROWN | 974 | 1 | L 1 | B 0 | L 2 | U 0 |
| 11. LIAM MURPHY | 849 | 1 | L 3 | L 8 | B 0 | L 9 |

Junior High Section

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 1. KEVIN MA | 1841 | 4 | W7 | W4 | W3 | W2 |
| 2. CAMERON CURRIER | 1638 | 3 | W 12 | W 10 | W 6 | L 1 |
| 3. GRIFFEN MOOERS | 1336 | 3 | W 18 | W 9 | L 1 | W 10 |
| 4. ETHAN BOULTER | 973 | 3 | W 14 | L 1 | W 5 | W 12 |
| 5. BEN MCCONNELL | 990 | 3 | W 19 | W 8 | L 4 | W 11 |
| 6. SKYLER LUCE | 1114 | 2.5 | W 17 | W 11 | L 2 | D 7 |
| 7. MICHAEL OVERY | 796 | 2.5 | L 1 | W 16 | W 13 | D 6 |
| 8. ANTHONY BRANCO | 623 | 2.5 | W 21 | L 5 | D 16 | W 15 |
| 9. JOSHUA UTTERBACK | 962 | 2 | W 15 | L 3 | L 12 | W 16 |
| 10. SEAN MCGRATH | 851 | 2 | W 20 | L 2 | W 18 | L 3 |
| 11. EVAN SUPRENANT | 782 | 2 | W 13 | L 6 | W 19 | L 5 |
| 12. JESSE L HAYES | 645 | 2 | L 2 | W 20 | W 9 | L 4 |
| 13. JAVEN MORSE | UNR | 2 | L 11 | W 17 | L 7 | W 18 |
| 14. WILLIAM F SHEA | 335 | 2 | L 4 | L 18 | W 21 | W 19 |
| 15. RYAN J BOYDEN | 243 | 2 | L 9 | B 0 | W 17 | L 8 |
| 16. JUSTIN M JOZOKOS | 258 | 1.5 | B 0 | L 7 | D 8 | L 9 |
| 17. MATTHEW J SPURR | 485 | 1 | L 6 | L 13 | L 15 | B 0 |
| 18. KODY S FERREIRA | 405 | 1 | L 3 | W 14 | L 10 | L 13 |
| 19. CHARLIE R SPURR | 376 | 1 | L 5 | W 21 | L 11 | L 14 |
| 20. SARAH UTTERBACK | 311 | 1 | L 10 | L 12 | B 0 | L 21 |
| 21. LEE CAMERON SMITH | 101 | 1 | L 8 | L 19 | L 14 | W 20 |

Individuals Champs continued ...

| Name | Rating | Score | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Elementary Section | | | | | | |
| 1. JEREMIAH BOULTER | 1196 | 4 | W18 | W14 | W5 | W6 |
| 2. DAVID LONG | 1352 | 3.5 | W 22 | W 12 | W 11 | D 3 |
| 3. NICK MCCONNELL | 938 | 3.5 | W 23 | W 7 | W 8 | D 2 |
| 4. TERRAN B CAMPBELL | 1077 | 3 | W 24 | W 16 | L 6 | W 14 |
| 5. JACOB MITCHELL | 826 | 3 | W 31 | W 17 | L 1 | W 16 |
| 6. JENNY MA | 715 | 3 | W 28 | W 20 | W 4 | L 1 |
| 7. MASON YOUNG | 695 | 3 | W 29 | L 3 | W 27 | W 11 |
| 8. JOSHUA D CAMPBELL | 710 | 3 | W 32 | W 27 | L 3 | W 20 |
| 9. ALDEN I MINARD | 677 | 3 | L 20 | W 28 | W 24 | W 15 |
| 10. ARTHUR TANG | 557 | 3 | L 11 | W 21 | W 22 | W 12 |
| 11. JAMIE SEGEE-WRIGHT | 933 | 2 | W 10 | W 15 | L 2 | L 7 |
| 12. GEORGE CARLSON | 823 | 2 | W 26 | L 2 | W 18 | L 10 |
| 13. SAMUEL GEIGER | 830 | 2 | L 17 | W 31 | L 15 | W 26 |
| 14. JEFFREY BOITNOTT | 696 | 2 | W 21 | L 1 | W 17 | L 4 |
| 15. FRANCES DARNALL | 580 | 2 | W 19 | L 11 | W 13 | L 9 |
| 16. NICHOLAS D PAYNE | 612 | 2 | W 30 | L 4 | W 23 | L 5 |
| 17. CHANDLER M RHEAULT | 465 | 2 | W 13 | L 5 | L 14 | W 23 |
| 18. MATTHEW COPPOLA | 491 | 2 | L 1 | W 32 | L 12 | W 27 |
| 19. ISIAH BLAIR | UNR | 2 | L 15 | D 22 | D 31 | W 24 |
| 20. CHARLES HARDY | 101 | 2 | W 9 | L 6 | W 25 | L 8 |
| 21. ANDREW S GAUMONT | 147 | 2 | L 14 | L 10 | W 32 | W 25 |
| 22. ELIZABETH DARNALL | 590 | 1.5 | L 2 | D 19 | L 10 | W 28 |
| 23. ANDREW WINTER | 438 | 1 | L 3 | W 26 | L 16 | L 17 |
| 24. PATRICK J GENDRON | 464 | 1 | L 4 | W 30 | L 9 | L 19 |
| 25. REILLY LAWN | 586 | 1 | L 27 | W 29 | L 20 | L 21 |
| 26. TONY CELENTANO | UNR | 1 | L 12 | L 23 | W 29 | L 13 |
| 27. KEVIN WHELAN | 242 | 1 | W 25 | L 8 | L 7 | L 18 |
| 28. ETHAN MACGREGOR | 195 | 1 | L 6 | L 9 | W 30 | L 22 |
| 29. ALEX KIVIKOSKI | UNR | 1 | L 7 | L 25 | L 26 | W 31 |
| 30. KYLE J ANDERSON | UNR | 1 | L 16 | L 24 | L 28 | W 32 |
| 31. CODY STEELE | 260 | 0.5 | L 5 | L 13 | D 19 | L 29 |
| 32. ZACHARY J JUKOSKI | UNR | 0 | L 8 | L 18 | L 21 | L 30 |

Primary Section

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|---|------|------|------|------|
| 1. CALEB CURRIER | 1247 | 4 | W 4 | W 2 | W 3 | W 5 |
| 2. TOMMY DARNALL | 536 | 3 | W 5 | L 1 | W 9 | W 4 |
| 3. ANDREW CURRIER | 500 | 3 | W 6 | W 7 | L 1 | W 8 |
| 4. LIAM EARLEY | 374 | 2 | L 1 | W 8 | W 7 | L 2 |
| 5. ELI J YOUNG | 343 | 2 | L 2 | W 6 | W 8 | L 1 |
| 6. WILL RUSSO | UNR | 2 | L 3 | L 5 | W 10 | W 9 |
| 7. WILL DARNALL | 139 | 2 | W 9 | L 3 | L 4 | W 10 |
| 8. MATTHEW J MCCONNELL | 109 | 1 | W 10 | L 4 | L 5 | L 3 |
| 9. GEOFFREY R SMITH | UNR | 1 | L 7 | W 10 | L 2 | L 6 |
| 10. JOE E MORRELL | UNR | 0 | L 8 | L 9 | L 6 | L 7 |

Amherst Shines in Scholastic Championship Tournaments

by Dave McGrath

Amherst's scholastic chess players won three State Champion honors at the 2009 New Hampshire Scholastic Chess Team and Individual championship tournaments. The 1st place finishes brought the Amherst King Bishops chess club's title count to 16 since 2003, and include an incredible run of seven consecutive years of winning at least one state championship.

At Pelham Elementary School on March 21st, Amherst's Primary and Elementary teams earned the 1st place trophies in their respective divisions of the tournament. Amherst home school brothers Tommy and Will Darnall, together with Wilkins School students Liam Earley and Eli Young arrived in Pelham only to find they were the only (Kindergarten to 3rd grade) Primary Team entered. They were thus instantly crowned as Primary Team champions and were asked to "play up" in the Elementary (4th-6th grade) section. As if to demonstrate they would have won the Primary Team state title no matter how many teams were entered, they proceeded to finish an amazing 3rd, competing in the upper division against older players! Their only lost match was to their own friends and family on the Amherst King Bishops Elementary Team. The Elementary team of Wilkins School 4th graders George Carlson and Mason Young, together with 5th grade home school twins Frances and Elizabeth Darnall were near perfect, winning 15 of their 16 individual games on their way to a 4-0 match score and 1st place finish. Amherst nearly went 3 for 3 at the event as its High School team of Mike McGrath, Cameron Burger, Liam Murphy and Sean McGrath finished in 2nd place in a very competitive 5 team battle.

On April 4th, Amherst Middle School was host to the New Hampshire Scholastic Chess Individual Championships, where 74 of the best players in the state fought for ten top honors in four sections (Primary, Elementary, Jr. High and High School). Amherst chess players took four of the top six trophies in the Primary section. Tommy Darnall finished 2nd, and Liam Earley, Eli Young and Will Darnall finished 4th, 5th and 6th respectively. Home school brothers Caleb and Andrew Currier of Raymond finished 1st and 3rd in the section. Mason Young of Amherst took home the 7th place trophy in the very competitive 32-player Elementary section and Mike McGrath finished 3rd in the High School division.

Cameron Burger, a Souhegan High School Junior, successfully defended the New Hampshire High School Champion Title that he earned last year by winning all four of his games at the tournament. This win was his 4th state individual title and 7th overall as he has helped three Amherst teams to state championships as well. Cameron represented the state of New Hampshire at the Arnold Denker National High School Championship Tournament in Indianapolis in August.

Congratulations to all of our chess players and to the many Amherst scholastic chess mentors who have helped them to learn and enjoy the king of games. The Amherst Recreation Department's Diana Jones was instrumental in bringing the State Championship tournament to Amherst. Special thanks also are due to Mary McGrath, Patty Grady, Patrick Murphy, Mike McGrath, Liam Murphy and the staff of the Amherst Middle School and Amherst Town Library.

A08

□ A. Larsen,UNR

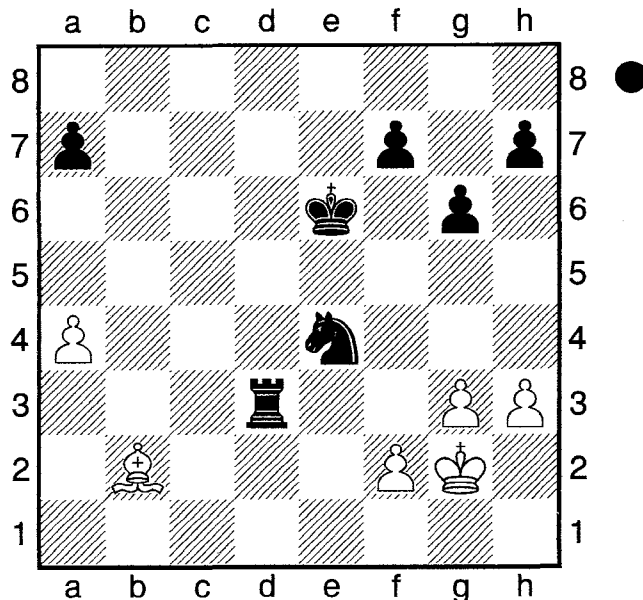
■ M. McGrath,1548

2009 Scholastic Team Championship (HS) 2009
[K. McDermott]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0-0 e5 5.c3 Be6 6.Nxe5? Nxe5 7.Qa4+ Qd7 8.Qxd7+ White is down material and should avoid exchanges. Trade when ahead, not when behind. Nxd7 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 Ngf6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.e4 f4 was perhaps a bit better here. It takes advantage of black's "trapped" B at e6. The threat would be to really trap the B by playing f5. Look for pieces that have little or no mobility. You may be able to trap them. dxe4 13.Nxe4 0-0 Black should be the one to exchange here. 14.Nxf6+ Nxf6 15.Bxb7 Rab8 16.Bf3 Rfd8 17.Bf4? Look for all of your opponent's threats. Here Black threatened the d pawn and White should defend it. White can't afford to lose any more material. Black wisely invades his opponent's second rank. Here the R paralyzes the position and threatens to win pawns. Rxb2 18.Rab1 Rxb1 19.Rxb1 Rxd4 20.Rb8+ Bf8 21.Rxf8+? White should not be trading at all here and especially not trading a R worth 5 points for a B worth 3. Kxf8 22.Be5 Rd3 23.Kg2 Bh3+ Nice tactics! Black drives away White's defender of the B by this check and continues exchanging pieces into the endgame. 24.Kxh3 Rxf3 25.Bd6+ Ke8 26.Kg2 Rd3 27.Be5 Ke7 28.Bb2 Ke6 29.a3 g6 30.h3 Ne4 31.a4 Diagram

(Diagram)

Nxf2 By this capture Black wins a pawn and sets up a fork of B and K. Black just keeps trading and heading toward an easily won endgame. 32.Kxf2 Rd2+ 33.Ke3 Rxb2 34.Kf3 Ra2 35.g4 Rxa4 36.h4 Rb4 37.h5 a5 38.hxg6 hxg6 39.g5 a4 40.Ke2 a3 41.Kd2 a2 42.Kc3 Rb8 43.Kd4 a1Q+ 44.Ke4 Rb3 45.Kf4 Qa4# 0-1



C20

□ B. Hale,UNR

■ L. Murphy,800

2009 Scholastic Team Championship (HS) 2009

1.e4 e5 2.Bd3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.0-0 Bc5 5.b4 Bd4 6.c3 Bb6 7.Ng5 d5 8.Bb5 dxe4 9.c4 0-0 10.Nc3 Ng4 11.Qe2 Qxg5 12.Nxe4 Qh6 13.c5 Qxh2# 0-1

C23

□ B. Mahogany,239

■ J. Boitnott,678

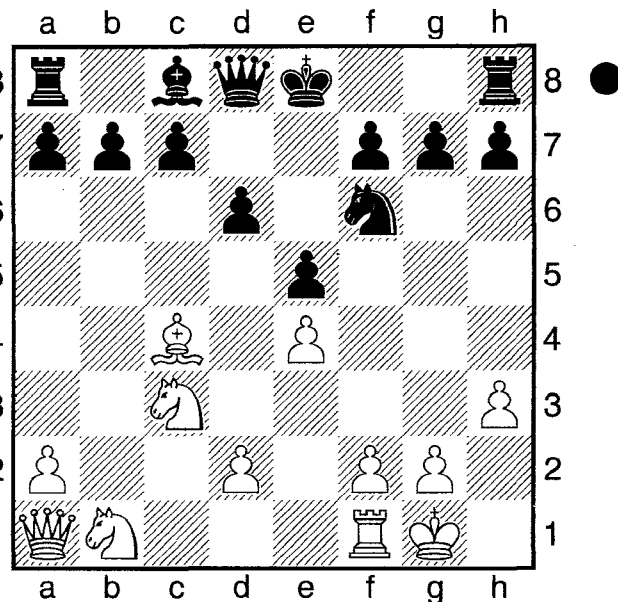
2009 Scholastic Team Championship(Elem) 2009
[K. McDermott]

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Qe7 This blocks the B. More usual in the Bishop's Opening is Nf6 or Bc5. 3.Qf3 White is hoping that Black will move the Q and will be mated by Qxf6. Most people have fallen for this by now and won't fall for it again. Better for white would be to develop the Nf3. It is generally not good to bring the Q out so early. Nf6 4.Ne2 Nc6 5.0-0 Na5 6.Bd3 Bd3 block the d pawn and therefore makes it more difficult to develop the B at c1. 6. Bb3 Nxb3, 7. ab is

perfectly fine for White. It is true that it is good to have the "2 bishops" but not at the cost of slowing down your own development. Also worth considering was 6. d3 which allows white to continue developing quickly at the cost of a doubled P after 6. Nxb4. **Qd8** Now black's second move is seen to have been not the best because the Q is now moved back to its original square so the B at f8 can move. **7.h3** Moving the Rook pawn near the King is sometimes useful to prevent a pin of the N at f3 or to force the pinning B to make a choice. It is not needed here. Better to develop another piece such as **Nc3**. **Be7** This is the right piece to develop, but this is a bit too timid. **Bc5** is a good post for the B. **8.b4** White uses a valuable move to chase a N that is not doing or threatening anything. This P move also weakens White's pawns. Chasing the N this way is like running after a faster friend that you can't catch! Try to avoid unnecessary pawn moves. Develop pieces instead! Besides all of that... Black could just take the P by **Bxb4**. Always check the threats as soon as it is your move and after you've decided on the move you are about to make. **Nc6** **9.Ba3** The P was attacked twice. Protecting it with one piece won't help. That pawn needed to be protected with another P. Black wouldn't be able to take it then. **Bxb4** **10.Bxb4** **Nxb4** **11.Bc4** It is always necessary to check the threats after you have decided on your move. Ask yourself whether your opponent can take any of your pieces or put you in checkmate if you make the move you want to. **Nxc2** **12.Qc3** **Nxa1** **13.Qxa1** **d6** **14.Nec3** Diagram

(Diagram)

Better for white would have been **Nbc3**. This would develop another piece. That way white would be very much ahead in development. The lead in development might help make up for the loss of the R for the N (also known as losing the "exchange"). **Qe7** **15.Qb2** **Rb8** **16.Qb5+** **Bd7** Trade when you are ahead! Offer white the exchange of Queens. **Qd7** prevents White's next move which forks two pawns. **17.Qa5** **Ra8**



18.Ba6 White did well to fork the a and c pawns. The c pawn was free for the taking. **19.Qxa6** **0-0** **20.Re1** **Bc8** **21.Qe2** **Bd7** **22.Na3** **Qe8** **23.g4** **a6** **24.Rb1** **Rb8** **25.Qc4** It is hard when you are playing a piece or two down. Your opponent can always offer trades that you must refuse. Every exchange gets your opponent closer to the endgame which will be easy to win with the extra pieces. **Rxb1+** **26.Kh2** **Rb2** **27.Qxc7** **Rxd2** **28.Qa7** **Qc8** **29.Nc4** **Qxc4** **30.Nb1** **Rxa2** **31.Qxd7** **Nxd7** **32.h4** **Rxf2+** **33.Kh3** **Qd3#** **0-1**

□ Human

■ Human

Slow Chess Game

0007

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.Qb3 Qe7 7.d4 Nxd4 8.Nxd4 exd4 9.0-0 Bb6 10.Ba3 d6 11.cxd4 Bxd4 12.Nc3 Nf6 13.Rad1 Bxc3 14.Qxc3 0-0 15.Rfe1 Be6 16.e5 Ne8 17.exd6 Nxd6 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Qb3 Rfe8 20.Rd3 Kh8 21.Rde3 Qf7 22.Rxe6 Rxe6 23.Qxe6 Re8 24.Qxe8+ Nxe8 25.g3 h6 26.Re7 Qg6 27.Kg2 Qc6+ 28.Kf1 Nf6 29.Bb2 Qb5+ 30.Re2 c5 31.Ke1 Qb4+ 32.Kf1 c4 33.Bxf6 gxf6 34.Re4 Qb1+ 35.Re1 Qxa2 36.Re8+ Kg7 37.Re7+ Kg6 38.Rxb7 c3

39.Rc7 c2 40.Kg2 Qb1 41.h4 c1Q 42.Rxc1
Qxc1 43.Kf3 Qc3+ 44.Kg2 a5 45.h5+ Kxh5
46.f3 a4 47.g4+ Kg5 48.Kf2 a3 49.f4+ Kxf4
50.g5 fxg5 51.Kg2 Qf3+ 52.Kg1 Qe2 53.Kh1

□ C. Currier,1638

■ S. McGrath,851

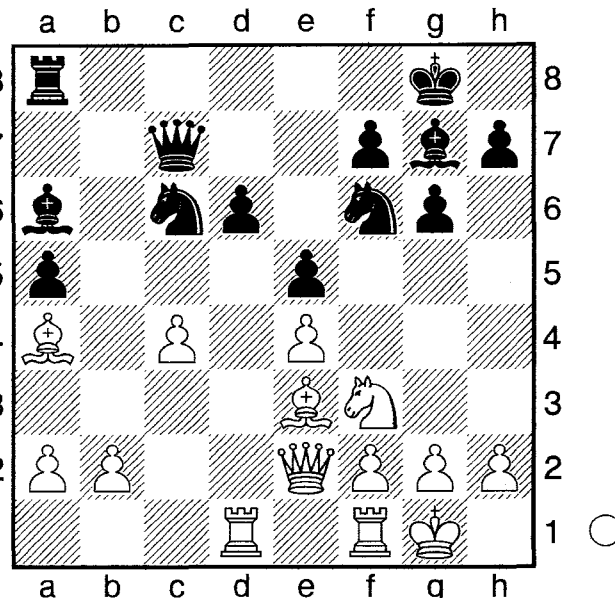
2009 Scholastic Ind Champ(JH)

[K. McDermott]

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7
5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 Qd7 7.d5 White has done well
with his "classical" development against the
"hypermodern" Black defense. White has
controlled the center and developed his pieces
to active posts. d5 blocks the Bishop's diagonal
to black's weakest square (f7). Better to just
develop another piece – Re1 or Bg5. Nf6 8.Qe2
c6 9.Be3 e5 10.Rad1 b5 11.dxc6
A fine "inbetween move". Perhaps Black was
expecting White to play either Bb3 or Bd3 which
Black would follow with c5 and b4 with a bit of
queen side space advantage and a small
initiative. 11. dc upsets this plan and wins a
pawn. Remember, not all attacked pieces must
move. Nxc6 Of the three ways to recapture
black wisely chooses the one that develops a
new piece. 12.Bxb5 a6 13.Ba4 a5 The pawn
advance to a6 was fine encouraging White to
exchange B for N. This additional P advance to
a5 weakens the b5 square which can now be
occupied by a piece that can not be pushed
away by a pawn. 14.Nd5 Ba6 Of course 14...
Nxe4 would be a mistake because of the N fork
at b6. 15.c4 Bb5 is somewhat better here
because the pawn move leaves d4 weak and
ripe for a N to settle into eventually that cannot
be kicked away by a pawn. 0-0 16.Nb6
Black just forgot to "check the threats". It is
essential to do this EVERY move. Qc7 17.Nxa8
Rxa8 Diagram
18.Bxc6 Now White wisely begins to trade
down to a won endgame. Trade when you are
ahead! White creates opportunities to exchange
pieces at every chance from here on out. Qxc6
19.b3 Qxe4 20.Rxd6 Ng4 21.Rfd1 Bb7

B00

2009



22.Rd8+ Rxd8 23.Rxd8+ Bf8 24.h3 Nxe3
Unfortunately Black is forced to exchange here.
White was threatening 25. Bh6 followed by Rxf8
mate. 25.Qxe3 Qb1+ Again Black was forced
into an exchange that he unwisely avoided.
White has mate threats by Qh6 or Qb5. The
only way to stop them is to exchange queens.
26.Kh2 Kg7 27.Qxe5+ Kh6 28.Rxf8 f5
29.Rf7 Be4 30.Qg7+ Kh5 31.Qxh7#
1-0

A40

□ C. Spurr,352

■ K. Miller,296

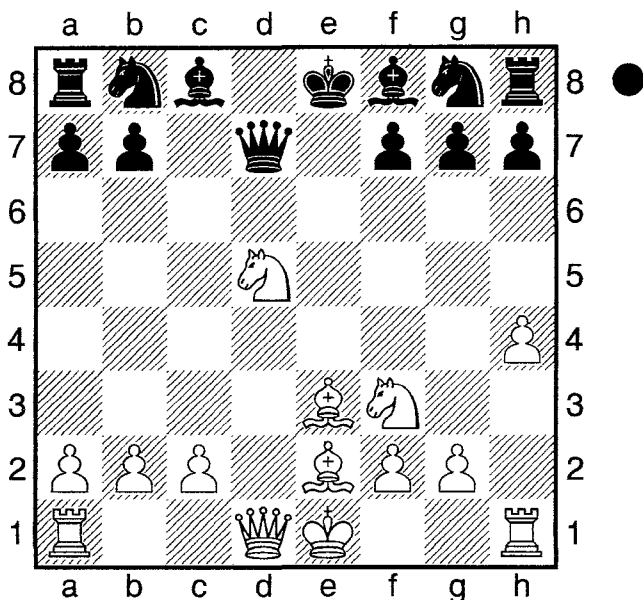
2009 Scholastic Team Championship(JH) 2009

[K. McDermott]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d6 If Black wanted to play the
French defense favored by world champion
Botvinnik, d5 was the correct move. d6 blocks in
the B at f8 3.Nc3 c5 4.Nf3 d5
To many inexperienced players it may sound
unimportant that Black wasted a move by
moving the d pawn first to d6 then to d5 when
the pawn could have gone to d5 in one move. In
the opening EVERY MOVE COUNTS. If you
can do something in one move instead of two,
that is like getting a free move. 5.exd5 exd5
6.dxc5 Qe7+ 7.Be2 In many ways the opening

11/16/2009

that has been played is similar to the French Defense Tarrasch variation only White got an extra move in because Black took two moves to get the pawn to d5. Better here was Be3 as it guards the threatened pawn. **Qxc5 8.Be3 Qe7** Black should move the queen perhaps to c6 where it guards the valuable d pawn and allows the B at f8 to develop. **9.Nxd5 Qd7 10.h4** Diagram



White has done so well in this opening having won a pawn and getting several moves ahead in development. The plan now when you are ahead in development is to look for a combination or attack or to find a way to get even further ahead in development. This pawn move doesn't do any of those things. WHEN IN DOUBT DO ALMOST ANYTHING OTHER THAN MOVE A PAWN! **Na6 11.0-0 Nb4 12.c4 Nxd5 13.cxd5 Bd6 14.a4 Bc7 15.Bb5 Ne7 16.Bxd7+ Bxd7 17.Qb3 0-0 18.Qxb7 Rac8 19.d6 Bxd6 20.Qxd7 Rfd8 21.Qb5 Rb8 22.Qa6 Ra8 23.Rad1 Nc8 24.Bg5 f6 25.Qb7 Rb8 26.Qd5+ Kh8 27.Rfe1 fxg5 28.Qxg5 Rxb2 29.Qxd8+ Bf8 30.Qxf8# 1-0**

□ E. Boulter,935

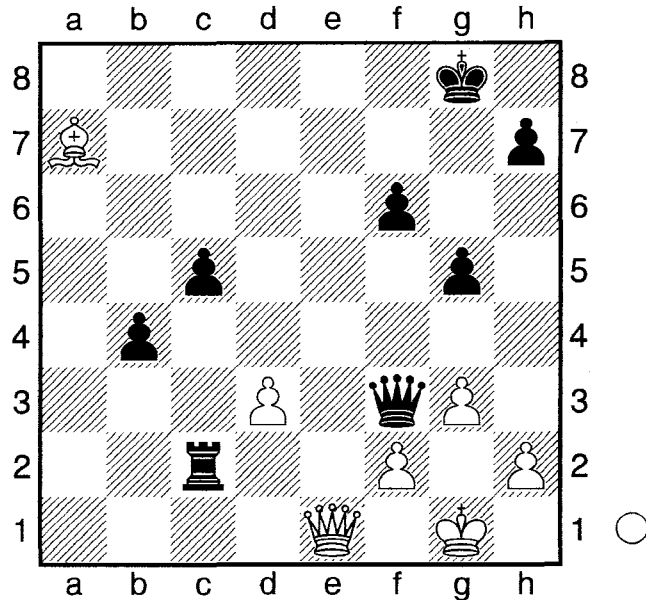
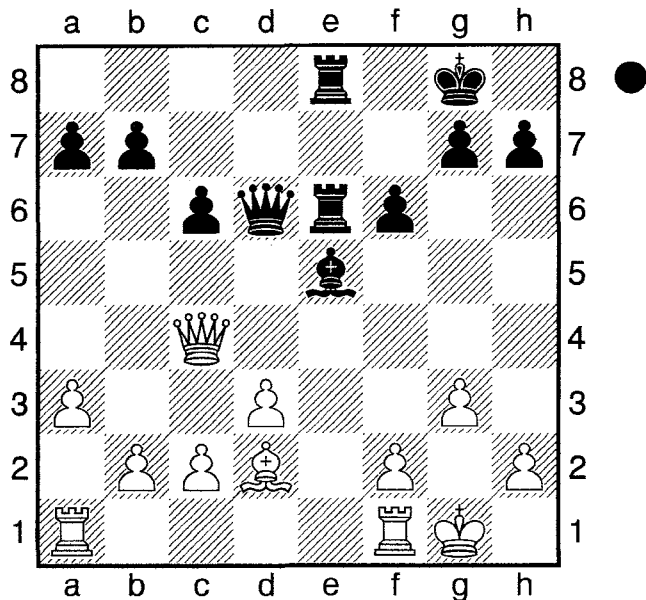
■ J. Hayes,697

2009 Scholastic Team Championship(JH) 2009 [K. McDermott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 A Ruy Lopez has turned into the Four Knights Opening. **5.d3** This is a minor error. It is better to castle here so that Black does not play 5... Nd4 taking advantage of the pinned N at c3. Black obtains the two bishops this way. **0-0 6.0-0 Nd4** One move too late. **7.Nxd4 exd4 8.Nd5** Ne2 was better here. Ne2 attacks Black's d pawn and does not allow Black to double White's d pawns. **Nxd5 9.exd5 c6 10.dxc6 dxc6 11.Bc4 Re8 12.Qf3 Be6 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.a3 Bd6 15.Qg4 Qe7** This allows White to grab the valuable d pawn. 15... Qb6 holds the pawn and puts some pressure on White's queen side. **16.Bg5** White misses the chance to grab that central pawn. **f6 17.Bd2 Re8 18.Qxd4 Be5 19.Qc4** Better for White was to just grab the a pawn. **Qd6** This looks good, but again grabbing the free pawn was probably better. **20.g3** Diagram [20.Rfe1 Bxh2+ 21.Kh1 Be5 22.f4 Bxb2 23.Rab1 b5 24.Rxe6 Rxe6 25.Qb3 Qd5 26.Qxd5 cxd5 27.Rxb2]

(Diagram)

Ok, so that was a long variation and perhaps unlikely to be seen during the game. However, it does illustrate the power of the pin. All of Black's pieces were immobilized because the Re6 was pinned. White was able to take advantage of that pin through various tactical threats. It also illustrates another idea... if you can find a way to avoid your opponent's attack on your king without moving pawns it is often best to do it that way instead. I have often moved a pawn in front of my king when I could have found another way to take care of a threat. I have paid the price! **20...Bxb2 21.Rab1 Bxa3** The "inbetween move" 21... b5 forces White's queen to move and now that the b pawn is at b5 it is protected by the c pawn. This way Black saves his b pawn. Don't always just make the



"obvious" move. Look for those inbetween moves. **22.Rfe1** Now White loses his opportunity to grab Black's b pawn. Rxb7 was better. **b6 22... b5** was better winning a "tempo" by threatening White's queen while also protecting the weak b pawn. It is often good to threaten a piece while you accomplish something else at the same time. **23.Ra1 b5 24.Qb3 Bc5 25.Bf4 Qd5 26.Rxe6 Rxe6 27.Qc3** White missed the skewer Bd4. Black took full advantage. One must always ask before making their move "What can my opponent do to me if I make this move?" Visualize the board after the move is made. Have you hung a piece? Will you be check mated? Have you left yourself open for another tactic? **Bd4 28.Qa3 Bxa1 29.Qxa1 g5 30.Bd2** 30. Be3 was better because it keeps Black's rook out of White's second rank. It is always dangerous when your opponent has a rook there. **Re2 31.Bc3 Qf3 32.Bd4 Rxc2 33.Bxa7 c5 34.Qe1 b4** Diagram

(Diagram)

Black pursues the correct plan of advancing his passed pawn. Notice also how Black has sealed White's bishop out of the game with the c pawn. **35.Qe8+ Kg7 36.Qe7+ Kg6** Black escapes perpetual check as follows: [36...Kh6 37.Qf8+

Kh5 38.Qf7+ Kg4 39.h3+ Kxh3 40.Qxh7+ Kg4 41.Qe4+ Qxe4 42.dxe4] 37.Qe8+ Kg7 38.Qe7+ Kg6 39.Qe8+ Kf5 40.Qc8+ Ke5 41.Qc7+ Ke6 42.Qc8+ Kd5 Suddenly the game changes after this unfortunate move. Black is mated in two by **Qd7+ and Bb8#**. Black should try to get back to the winning variation given above. **43.Qb7+** Black misses the pretty mate in two, but wins the queen instead. **Kd4 44.Qxf3 b3 45.Qe4+ Kc3 46.Qc4+ Kb2 47.Qb5 Kc3 48.Qxc5+ Kb2 49.Qb4 h5 50.Bd4+ Kb1 51.Qxb3+ Kc1 52.Be3+ Rd2 53.Bxd2+ Kxd2 54.Kg2 Ke2 55.d4 f5 56.Qe3+ Kd1 57.f4 gxf4 58.gxf4 h4 59.Qf2 h3+ 60.Kf3 Kc1** A nice finish by White. A very interesting game!

1-0

C42

□ G. Mooers,1336

■ K. Ferreira,405

2009 Scholastic Ind Champ(JH)

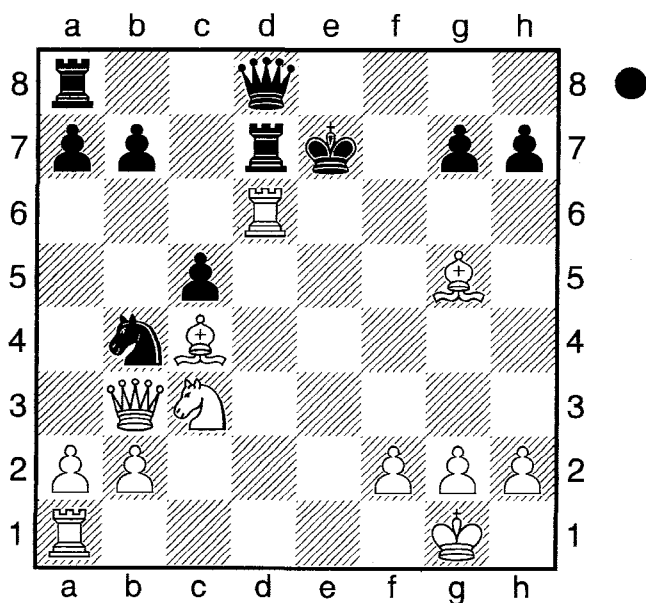
[K. McDermott]

2009

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4? This is a classic mistake/trap. The correct move here in the Petrov Defense is **3... d6. 4.Qe2 d5 5.d3 Bd6 6.Nxf7** Desperado. If you must lose a piece, take something for it. **Kxf7 7.dxe4 Qe8**

B90

Better here would have been 7... de. The text move loses a pawn. **8.exd5 Bb4+ 9.c3 Qd8** It is important to not trade when behind in material, but not at the cost of a bishop. **10.cxb4 Qxd5 11.Nc3** White develops with an attack on the queen. **Qd7** This move blocks in Black's bishop. The queen should have found another square such as c6. **12.Qd2** Perhaps White could have tried Qc2 followed by Be2 and 0-0 to further his development. **Qe7+ 13.Be2 Rd8 14.Qc2 Nc6 15.0-0** 15. a3 saves the pawn and prevents the annoying attack on the queen. Always check the threats. **Nxb4 16.Qb3+ Be6 17.Bc4 c5** This is a wasted move as the N was already guarded by the queen. It also allows the move that White actually played which takes advantage of the pine on Black's B at e6. **18.Re1 Rd7 19.Rxe6 Qd8 20.Rd6+ Ke7 21.Bg5+** Diagram



From here on out White's extra material is able to create too many threats for Black to handle. **Kxd6 22.Bxd8 Raxd8 23.Rd1+ Nd5 24.Rxd5+ Ke7 25.Rxd7+ Rxd7 26.g3 a6 27.Ne4 b5 28.Bf1 c4 29.Qb4+ Kd8 30.Nc5 Rd1 31.Nxa6 Rc1 32.Qxb5 c3 33.bxc3 Rxc3 34.Kg2 g6 35.Nc5 Ke7 36.a4 Kd6 37.Ne4+ Ke6 38.Nxc3 h5 39.Kf3 g5 40.Ke4 Kf6 41.Qe5+ Kf7 42.Kf5 h4 43.Qe6+ Kg7 44.Qd7+ Kg8 45.Kf6 1-0**

□ G. Potorski,1460

■ H. Moran,1564

2009 Scholastic Ind Champ(HS)

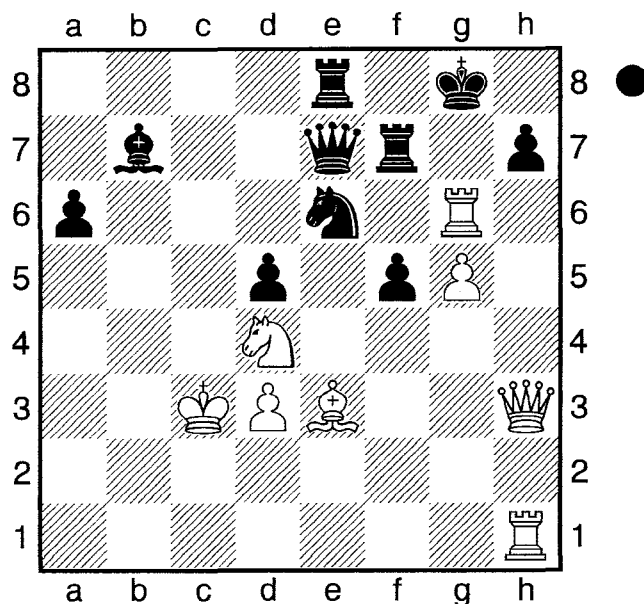
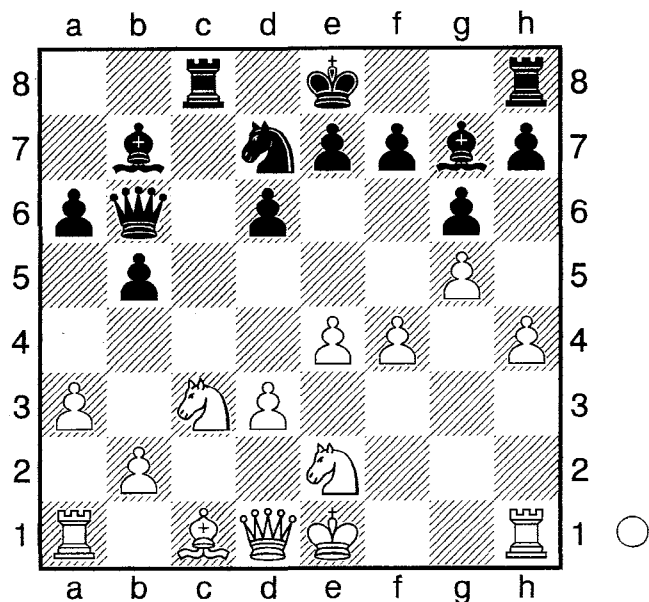
2009

[K. McDermott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 In the Sicilian Najdorf (being played here) the most usual move for White is 6. Bg5. Other common moves are: f4, Be2, or Be3. If White is concerned about 6... Bg4, then 6. Be2 was the move. Be2 develops a piece, enables castling and doesn't create the slight weakness that h6 does should Black launch a king side attack. **b5 6... Nbd7** followed by Nc5 is more in keeping with the opening. **7.Bd3 Bb7 8.a3** preventing 8... b4 driving away the Nc3 and winning White's valuable e pawn. **Nbd7 9.f3** White's e pawn is perfectly safe. This move is both unnecessary and unwise. It creates a weak set of dark squares on White's king side. **9. 0-0** or **Qe2** would have been much better. **Rc8 10.g4** White should not be thinking of attack here at least until development is complete. Black has not created any weaknesses and has played reasonably correct developing moves. An attack should not be started unless there is a weakness to attack or there is an advantage in development. **Nc5 11.g5** Now this pawn is too far advanced and should become a weakness. Black can now open the h file at any time by simply playing g6 followed by h6. The overly advanced pawn also eliminates a good square for White's Bc1. **Nfd7 12.f4 Nxd3+** Also to be considered here is 12... e5 beginning to break up White's center. **13.cxd3 g6 14.Nde2 Qb6 15.h4 Bg7** Diagram

(Diagram)

The proper plan here for black is to take advantage of White's exposed king. The plan should always come from the position. **15... h6** opens the h file assisting in the plan to attack White's king. **16.Rh3** This move weakens White's back rank. Black's queen is aiming at g1. If White's Ne2 should be forced to move then the black queen enters the attack. **Bxc3+**



16... Rxc3 wins at least a P for Black. Always look at every check and capture even if they seem incorrect at first. [16...Rxc3 17.bxc3 Bxc3+ 18.Bd2 (18.Nxc3 Qg1+ 19.Kd2 Qg2+ 20.Ne2 Qxh3) 18...Bxa1 19.Qxa1 0-0] 17.bxc3 0-0 Black just castles into a ready made attack here. Black's king, while in the center, was perfectly safe. Now White will be able to open the h file and attack down it. 18.Be3 Qc7 19.h5 d5 20.hxg6 fxg6 21.e5 e6 22.Rc1 Qa5 23.Kd2? Qb3 holds the a pawn. The reason for this king move is unclear. Qxa3 24.Nd4 Qe7 25.Qg4 Rce8 26.Rch1 Rf7 27.Rh6 Nf8 28.Qh3 b4 29.f5 bxc3+ 30.Kxc3 exf5 Black is now 2 pawns ahead with the a pawn passed, and should expect an easy win. 31.e6 Nxe6? 31... Rg7 holds everything. Now Black is in serious trouble. 32.Rxg6+! Diagram

(Diagram)

White plays nearly perfectly from here on out. Rg7 33.Qxh7+ Kf7 34.Rxg7+ Nxg7 35.g6+ Kf6 36.Qh4+ Kxg6 37.Rg1+ Kf7 38.Rxg7+ Kxg7 39.Nxf5+ Kf7 40.Nxe7 Rxe7 41.Qf4+ Ke6 42.Bd4 Kd7 43.Bc5 Re8 44.Qf7+ Kc6 45.Qxe8+ Kxc5 46.d4+ Kb6 47.Qd8+ Ka7 48.Kb4 Ba8 49.Kc5 Bb7 50.Qc7 a5

51.Qxa5+ Kb8

1-0

□ J. Boitnott,678

■ S. Geiger,862

2009 ScholasticTeam Champ

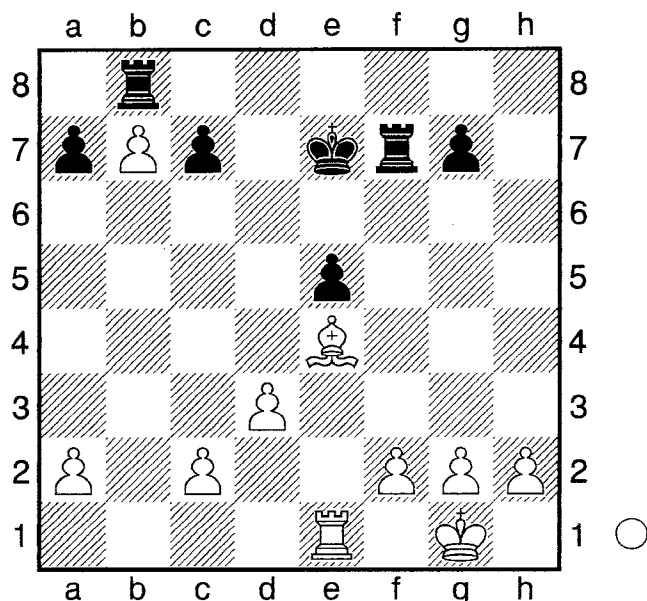
[K. McDermott]

B02

2009

1.e4 d5 2.Nc3 The correct move in the Scandinavian is 2. de. Nf6 3.d3 e5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bg5 Bg4 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.Be2 Both sides have developed without really considering the tactics on the board. Here White could play 7. ed winning the valuable d pawn. It is important to look at all threats even in the opening. One must not play the opening moves automatically without thinking. Bc5 8.0-0 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Bd4 10.exd5 Bxc3 11.dxc6 Bxb2 12.Rb1 e4 13.Bxe4 0-0 14.Rxb2 Before making a move on the board, make the move in your mind and ask yourself, "If I play this move can I be captured or checked or mated or forked?" Qxb2 15.cxb7 Rab8 16.Qh5 f6 16... g6 or 16... h6 would prevent 17. Qxh7ch. 17.Qxh7+ Kf7 18.Qg6+ Ke7 19.Re1 White cleverly sets up a discovered attack on Black's king. Qe5 20.Qf5 Rf7 21.Qxe5+ fxe5 Diagram

An ending is reached in which White has extra



□ J. Hayes,697

■ C. Currier,1242

2009 Scholastic Team Champ(JH)

2009

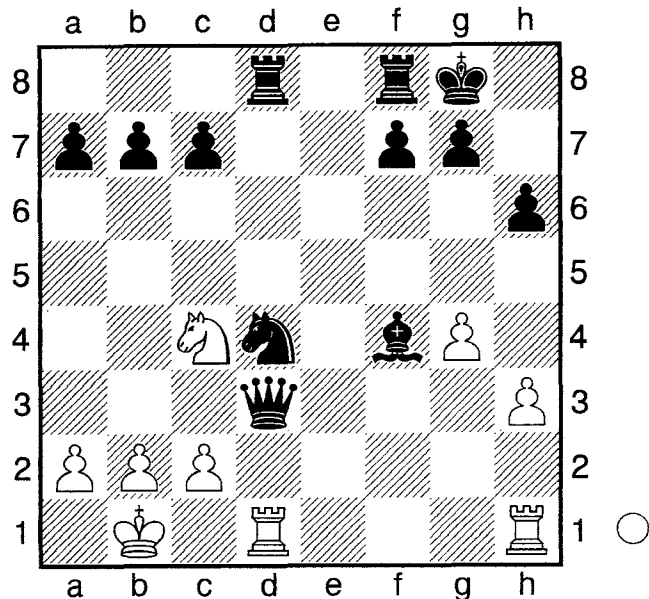
[K. McDermott]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3
4. Ng5 is the famous "fried liver" attack. It leads to a very interesting game. It is not a well respected opening for white, but if Black is not prepared it can lead to some very quick wins. 4. Nc3 allows the "fork trick" which black uses here to eliminate White's valuable e pawn. The fork trick also allows black to play d5 furthering development. Nxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bxd5 6. Bd3 is usually played in order to keep the 2 bishops. Qxd5 7.d3 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 White should not advance this pawn creating king side weaknesses. Better is just 0-0. Bg6 10.Bg5 One must always check the threats. Black is threatening BxN. h6 11.Be3 Bxe4 12.dxe4 Qxe4 13.Qe2 Be7 White is obviously looking to castle queen side. 13... Rd8 puts the R on an open file and delays White's castling for at least one move. 14.0-0-0 0-0 15.Nd2 Qg6 16.Nc4 Rad8 17.f4 exf4 18.Bxf4 Bg5 Black is ahead and exchanges pieces heading to an endgame. This is a good plan. 19.Qf3? Nd4 20.Qd3 Bxf4+ 21.Kb1 Qxd3 Diagram

(Diagram)

pawns and a "b" pawn holding Black's Rb8 in place. White has good winning chances here. 22.Bg6 Rff8 23.Rxe5+ White has gotten a bit greedy here and misses 23... Kf6 winning White's B. Much better was Rb1 preserving the valuable b pawn. Kf6 24.f4 White's best chance here was to play 24. Ra5 followed by Rxa7 at least getting a P for the B. If you must lose a piece take at least a P if you can. Kxg6 25.g3 Rxb7 26.Re6+ Rf6 27.Rxf6+ Don't trade when you are down... especially in the endgame. Kxf6 Black wins easily from here. 28.h4 Rb1+ 29.Kf2 g5 30.hxg5+ Kf5 31.Kf3 Rf1+ 32.Kg2 Re1 33.Kf2 Rh1 34.d4 Kg4 35.g6 Rh2+ 36.Kg1 Rh8 37.d5 Rg8 38.Kg2 Rxg6 39.c4 c6 40.dxc6 Rxc6 41.a4 Rxc4 42.Kf2 Rxa4 43.Ke3 a5 44.Kf2 Rb4 45.Ke3 a4 46.Kd3 a3 47.Kc3 Rb8 48.Kd4 a2 49.Ke4 a1Q 50.f5 Re8+ 51.Kd5 Qa5+ 52.Kd4 Qe5+ 53.Kd3 Qe3+ 54.Kc4 Rc8+ 55.Kd5 Rd8+ 56.Kc6 Qc3+ 57.Kb7 Rd1 58.f6 Rb1+ 59.Ka6 Qa3# 0-1

Black is further ahead in material and just keeps trading. The rest is easy. 22.Rxd3 Nc6 23.Rf1 Rxd3 24.cxd3 Bg5 25.Kc2 Rd8 26.Kc3 Bf6+ 27.Kc2 Nb4+ 28.Kb3 Nxd3 29.Kc2 c5 30.Rd1 Nb4+ 31.Kc1 Bg5+ 32.Nd2 Rxd2 33.Rxd2 Bxd2+ 34.Kxd2 Nxa2 35.Kc2 b5 36.Kb3 h5 37.Kc2 hxg4 38.hxg4 g6 39.Kd3 f5 40.gxf5 gxf5 41.Ke3 Kf7 42.Kf3 Ke6 43.Kg3 Ke5 44.Kf3 f4 45.Kf2 Ke4 46.Kf1 Kf3 47.Kg1 Ke2 48.Kg2 f3+ 49.Kg3 f2 50.Kf4 f1Q+ 51.Ke4 Qd1 52.Ke5 Ke3 53.b4 Qd4+ 54.Kf5 Qe4+ 55.Kf6 Kf4 56.bxc5 Qc6+ 57.Kg7 Kg5 58.Kh7 Qc7+ 59.Kh8 Kg6 0-1



□ J. Tilley,1179

■ R. Ngo,907

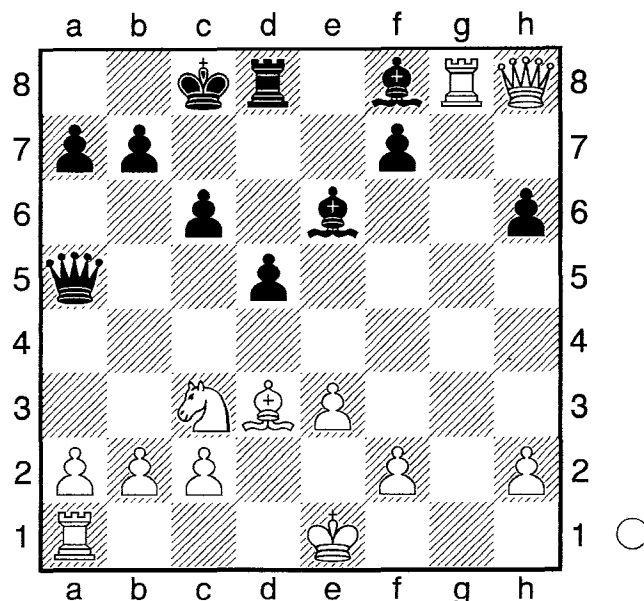
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[K. McDermott]

A40

2009

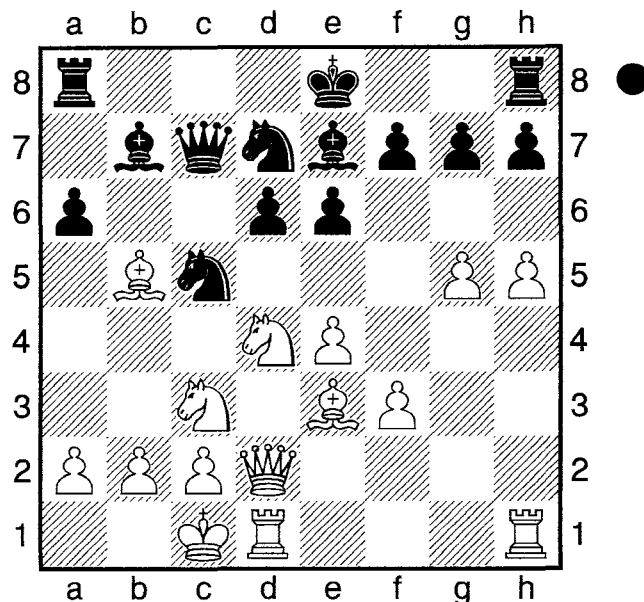
1.d4 Nc6 In the queen pawn openings it is best to develop this knight after the c pawn has moved. Often in the queen pawn openings the c pawn will be used to protect Black's center or attack White's. Playing the N to c6 blocks the pawn and prevents these two uses of the pawn.
2.g3 Nxd4 It is necessary to always check the threats. Visualize in your mind the position on the board after you make the move you want to make. Then ask, "Can I be checked? Checkmated? Can any of my pieces be captured?" This will prevent mistakes like this one.
3.Qxd4 Nf6 4.Bg5 h6 Black should be thinking of developing more pieces at this point. Chasing White's B won't really help. White will eventually exchange the B for N anyway because White is ahead (trade when ahead). There is no need for Black to use a move to make White do what was already going to be done.
5.Bxf6 gxf6 Generally it is good to capture toward the center. Here, however, Black is so far behind in development that 5... ef

was better because it would help develop the Bf8. Also capturing with the e pawn means that Black's h pawn will not be isolated. **6.Nf3 e5** At first this looks like a good move. e5 threatens the Q and helps develop a piece. However, as will be seen, the move should lose a pawn. **7.Nxe5! fxe5** Black should not have captured the N because now the black R is lost. Best was probably 7... d5 furthering Black's development. **8.Qxe5+ Be7 9.Qxh8+ Bf8 10.e3 c6 11.Bd3 Qa5+ 12.Nc3 d5 13.g4 Bxg4 14.Rg1 Be6 15.Rg8 0-0-0** Diagram



After several good moves Black has developed some pieces and even won back a P. Here Ke7 would save the B. Especially when there is a series of captures that can be made it is important to use the "I go here, they take my piece, I take them back..." kind of thinking, and then to picture what pieces have been exchanged and whether or not that was a good series of exchanges. **16.b4** White gets a little too greedy here threatening the Q. It would have been better to simply play 16. RxB. **Qa3** 16... QxP was best here. The P was unguarded and from that square the Q protects the B and attacks White's N threatening to win the R as well. It is usually a good idea to make a move that does so many good things at once. **17.Kd2 f5 18.Qe5** 18. RxB was best here. It wins at least a B and forces the exchange of more

pieces. Since white is ahead that is the correct plan. Always look at all checks and captures, both yours and your opponents. **Qxb4 19.Rag1 Bxg8 20.Rxg8 Bd6 21.Qe6+ Kc7 22.Qf7+ Rd7 23.Qe8 Kb6 24.Qxd7** From here on out White does a nice job using his extra pieces to win more material. White then finishes with a nice king hunt and mate. **f4 25.Rg7 fxe3+ 26.fxe3 d4 27.Qxb7+ Kc5 28.exd4+ Kxd4 29.Rg4+ Kc5 30.Rxb4 a5 31.Ne4+ Kd5 32.Qf7+ Ke5 33.Qh5+ Ke6 34.Qxh6+ Kd7 35.Rb7+ Bc7 36.Nf6+ Ke6 37.Rxc7 Kd6 38.Qf4+ Ke6 39.Rxc6+ Kf7 40.Nh5+ Ke7 41.Qf6+ Kd7 42.Bf5+ Ke8 43.Rc7 a4 44.Qh8# 1-0**



□ M. McGrath,1548

■ H. Moran,1556

2009 Scholastic Team Champ(HS)

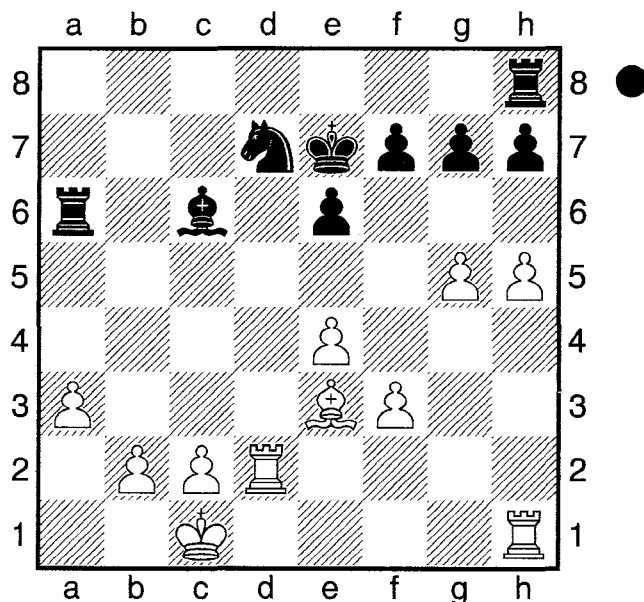
[K. McDermott]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 6. f3 does nothing for White's development or to control the center (the two goals of the opening). The main line is **6. Bg5. e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.0-0-0** Castling king side was probably safer. White's king is not as safe on the queen side because of Black's open c file and the general fact that the White king must make one more move to b1 in order to protect all of his pawns in front of his king. **Qc7 10.g4 Nc5 11.h4 b5 12.h5 Bb7 13.g5 Nfd7 14.Bxb5?** Diagram

(Diagram)

This is an unwise and unnecessary sacrifice. While it is true that White gets three pawns for the B, it is also true that two new files have now been opened onto White's K. Also, White's plan was apparently to attack Black's king side. **BxP** is not consistent with that plan. **axb5 15.Ndxb5 Qa5 16.Nxd6+ Bxd6 17.Qxd6 Ra6** Now White should be in great danger. All but one of Black's pieces are poised for the attack

B90 on the K. **18.Qg3 Na4** Black correctly exchanges off White's last remaining defending piece. **19.Nxa4 Qxa4 20.Qc7** White wisely exchanges queens to end Black's attacking possibilities. **Qc6 21.Qxc6 Bxc6 22.a3 Ke7 23.Rd2** Diagram



In this harmless looking position Black finds it difficult to find any good moves. White's R and B and Pawns make it difficult for Black to untangle. **23... h6** or **f5** may be best. Both of those moves create some breathing space for Black's king by exchanging White's g pawn. **Ne5**

24.Bc5+ Ke8 25.Rhd1 Black is now playing without the use of the Rh8. **Nd7 26.Bd4 e5** When the position is tight and there are few moves to make it is all too easy to make a poor one. Better here was Rg8 getting the R off of the dangerous diagonal and protecting the g pawn. **27.Bc3** Now White misses the simple **27. Bxe5 Nxe5 28. Rd8+** winning the Black's R. Both players must have been in time trouble for the remainder of the game as evidenced by the number of errors. **Nc5 28.Bxe5 Bxe4 29.fxe4 Nxe4 30.Re2 f5 31.gxf6 Nxf6 32.Bxf6+ Kf7 33.Bc3 Rc8 34.Rd7+ Kg8 35.Rxg7+ Kh8 36.Rg3+ 1-0**

□ **M. Spurr,457**

■ **N. Koocher,991**

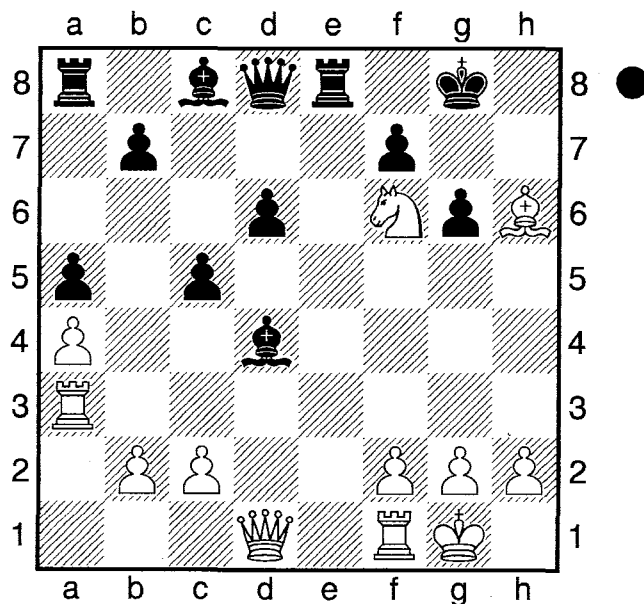
2009 Scholastic Team Championship
[K. McDermott]

B07

2009

1.e4 d6 2.a4 The opening is for developing pieces and controlling the center. This move doesn't do either of those things. The best moves for White here would be d4, Nf3 or Nc3. **Nf6 3.d3** It is always good to play a move that does two things at once. 3. Nc3 protects the e pawn and develops a new piece. **g6 4.Nd2 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.Ngf3 Nbd7 7.Ng5** An attack should only be started if your opponent has created a weakness. Black has made no weak moves, so White should continue developing by 0-0. **h6 8.Ngf3 e5 9.0-0 a5 10.Ra3 Nc5 11.d4** This loses a valuable center pawn for White. Better would have been to continue development by Re1. **exd4 12.Nxd4 Nfxe4 13.Bd3** The first thing that any player should do when it is there move is to "check the threats." Here, White's Nd4 is unprotected and attacked by Black's Bg7. 13. Bd3 does nothing to protect that B. **Bxd4** Now Black's Ne4 is also threatened. Black can always take the Nd4. A good idea here would be to use the threatened Ne4 to capture a P or piece and then on the next move Black can capture the Bd4. This way Black wins material. [13...Nxf2 14.Kxf2 Bxd4+

15.Ke1 Nxd3+ 16.cxd3 Re8+ 17.Ne4 f5 18.Qb3+ d5 19.Bxh6 fxe4] 14.Bxe4 Nxe4 Black is ahead a P and decides to exchange N for B. This will also win the "two bishops." Two bishops tend to work better together than either two knights or a N and B. **15.Nxe4 c5** Instead of moving a P to protect the exposed B, it would be better to have played Bg7 to both protect the B and the P at h6. **16.Bxh6 Re8 17.Nf6+ Diagram**



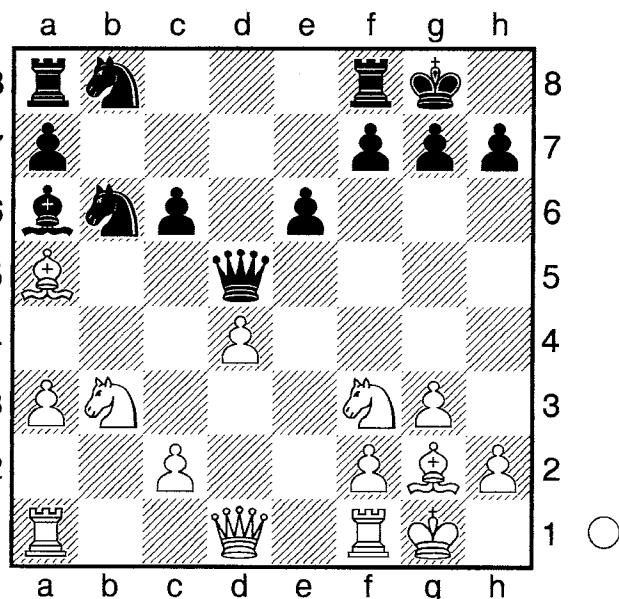
This move just loses the N for nothing. One must always check for threats before making their move. "If I move my piece to this square, can it be taken?" **Bxf6** White just exchanges down and wins the endgame. **18.Re3 Rxe3 19.fxe3 Bg5 20.Bxg5 Qxg5 21.Qxd6 Bh3 22.Qg3 Qxg3 23.hxg3 Bf5 24.b4 axb4 25.a5 Rxa5 26.Rd1 Bxc2 27.Rd8+ Kg7 28.e4 Bxe4 29.Rd1 b3 30.Re1 Bd3 31.Re3 c4 32.Re7 b2 33.Rxb7 b1Q+ 34.Kh2 Qxb7 35.g4 Bf1 36.Kg3 Qxg2+ 37.Kf4 c3 38.Ke3 c2 39.Kd4 Qxg4+ 40.Kc3 c1Q+ 41.Kb3 Qa4# 0-1**

□ N. Koocher,989

■ A. Larson,UNR

2009 Scholastic Team Championship(
[K. McDermott]

1.Nf3 e6 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d4 Bb4 6.a3 Ba5 7.Bd2 White could have done this on the previous move. Therefore 6. a3 was not necessary. In the opening it is best to use every move to develop new pieces. **b6** Black helps White trap the B. Always be aware when your pieces have no moves. They may become trapped. The B was already guarded by Black's Q. **7... 0-0** was perhaps best. **8.b4 Nd5 9.bxa5 bxa5 10.e4** What takes advantage of Black's vulnerable N at d5 by advancing the e pawn. This advance helps control the center and drives Black's N away. It is almost always good to be able to do two things with one move. **Nb6 11.Bxa5 0-0 12.Nbd2 d5 13.exd5 Qxd5 14.Nb3** Since White is ahead material it may be best here to just exchange on b6. Trade when you are ahead. **Ba6** Diagram



15.Ne5 White uses the powerful tactic of discovered attack on Black's Q. This attack leaves Black's Q only one safe square (d8). The Q is driven back and the pin on the N at b6 is renewed. **f6 16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.Re1 fxe5 18.Rxe5** White recaptures with the R instead of

A04 the P. This recapture leaves Black with a backward e pawn. In addition to the material advantage that White has, there are also positional weaknesses to be taken advantage of. **Rf5** Black offers to exchange. It is almost never a good idea to exchange when you are down material. The exception is when your opponent is attacking and exchanging a piece will break the attack. **19.Rxf5 exf5 20.Nc5 Nc6 21.Bxb6 axb6 22.Nxa6 Rxa6 23.Qe2 Nb8 24.Qe8# 1-0**

□ S. Luce,1114

■ C. Currier,1639

2009 Scholastic Individual Champ(JH)
[K. McDermott]

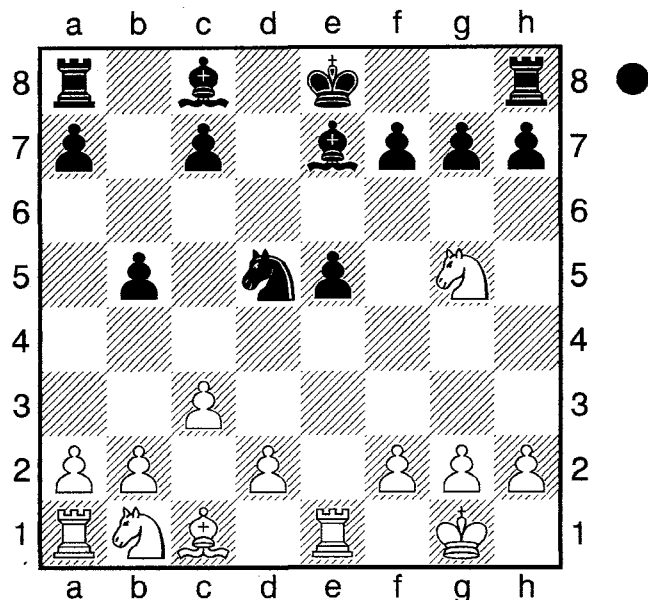
C57

2009

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 b5 The usual and best move here is 5... Na5. Black sacrifices a P for development. White's attack on Black's K is too early because White does not have enough pieces developed. However, White can win quickly with the "fried liver" attack (which was begun here) if Black is not ready for it. **6.Bb3** Best here is 6. dxNc6. The continuation might be 6... bxBc4, 7. Qe2 Qd5, 8. f4 with a wild game. **Nd4 7.c3** While the Nd4 is annoying, this pawn move forces Black to make an exchange that was eventually going to happen anyway. Don't use a move to force your opponent to do something they were going to do anyway. Use your move to accomplish something that will improve your position. The pawn at c3 now makes it difficult to develop White's Nb1. **Nxb3 8.Qxb3 Qxd5 9.Qxd5 Nxd5** Now black has a lead the lead in development that should belong to White. **10.0-0 Be7 11.Re1** Diagram

(Diagram)

Nf4 Black sets a trap here for White. If White tries to grab the P at e5 by 12. Rxe5 there would follow 12... Bxg5, 13. Rxg5 Ne2+, 14. Kf1 Nxc1 and Black has won a piece for a pawn. **12.Re3** This loses the Ng5. Best was 12. Nf3. But,



even then Black can play 12... Nd3 digging the N in at White's weak d3. This weak square was caused by the innocent looking 7. c3. Beware of moving pawns. Pawn moves have a way of creating weaknesses if you are not careful. **Bxg5 13.Rxe5+ Be7 14.Re3 Be6** Black closes the e file so that castling can occur without the loss of the Be7. This is a common technique. **15.d4 Nd5 16.Re5 Bf6** White's poor R is being chased around the board while Black's pieces gradually find better squares. **17.Re4 0-0 18.a3 Bf5 19.Re2 Rfe8 20.Rxe8+ Rxe8** Black has played very well here. Development is complete and Black controls the only open file. **21.Bd2 a6 22.c4 0-1**

□ C. Currier,1638

■ K. Ma,1863

2009 NH JHS Championship
[NM Hal Terrie]

04.04.2009

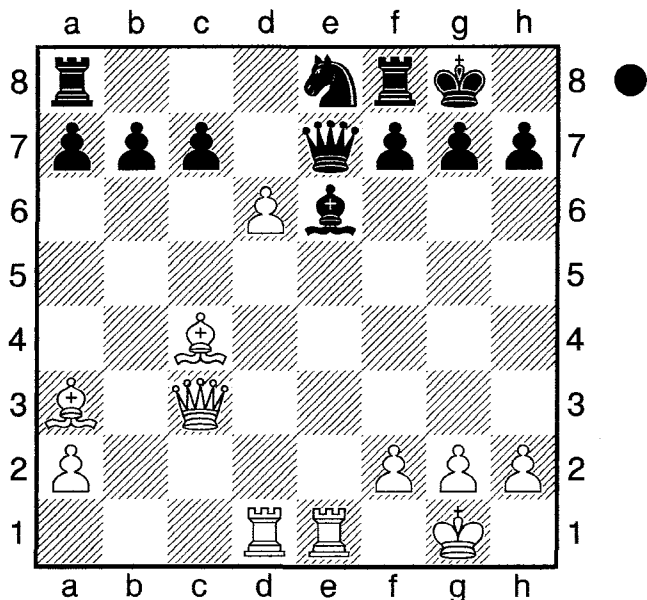
C52

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.Qb3 This is a recommendation of GM Michael Rohde to improve over the usual move order. The idea is to draw the BQ onto e7. I went over this idea with Cameron at a lesson Thursday before the tournament. [The main line

continues with 6.d4 and now exd4 (On 6...d6 7.Qb3 Qd7! is the Lasker defense which leads to an equal game for Black. The idea of putting the BQ on the strange looking d7 square is that if d5, N-moves, White does not have Qb5+ (or Qa4+) winning a piece. Blacki will untangle the Q and c8 bishop later.) 7.0-0 with complicated play.] **6...Qe7** [6...Qf6 is worse.] **7.d4 Nxd4** Probably the best defense, eliminating a pair of minor pieces. [Or 7...exd4 8.0-0 Bb6 (8...d6 9.e5 with good attacking play for White.) 9.cxd4 Bxd4 (9...Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Nc3 c6 12.Rd1 Qf6 13.Bb2 Bxf2+ 14.Kh1 with tremendous threats for White.) 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qg3 with many attacking ideas for White.; On 7...d6 8.d5 we see Rohde's idea: because the BQ is on e7 instead of d7 (as in the Lasker defense), Black can't just play ...Nb8 or ...Nd8 now because of Qb5+ winning the a5 bishop. So Black is forced into complications. **Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.0-0!** (Not 10.Qa4+ Bd7 11.Qxa5 Qxe4+ is not so good for White, despite the extra piece.) 10...Bb6 when Rohde gives 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.cxd4 with good play for White.] **8.Nxd4 exd4 9.0-0 Bb6!** Best. Faced with an unfamiliar variation, Kevin has found a good continuation challenging White to show an attack. [9...dxc3 10.Ba3 Qf6 11.e5] **10.Ba3** [It may be that the strange looking 10.cxd4 Bxd4 11.Nc3 is better, keeping open the option of placing the c1 bishop on a different diagonal. I've looked at the position after Black's 9th for a long time without reaching a clear conclusion.] **10...d6 11.cxd4 Bxd4 12.Nc3 Nf6 13.Rad1 Bxc3 14.Qxc3 0-0 15.Rfe1 Be6 16.e5** [16.Bd3!?] **16...Ne8 17.exd6?** Diagram [After the game, Cameron immediately suggested that 17.Bd3 avoiding exchanges and keeping pressure on, would have been better. I agree.]

(Diagram)

This exchange allows Black to relieve some of the pressure with exchanges. **17...Nxd6 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Qb3 Rfe8 20.Rd3 Kh8 21.Rde3 Qf7 22.Rxe6?** Cameron makes a tactical oversight. [The right way to do it is first



22.Bxd6 cxd6 and only then 23.Rxe6]
22...Rxe6 23.Qxe6? [23.Rxe6 Qxe6! 24.Qxe6
 Re8 25.Qxe8+ Nxe8 with a winning pawn-up
 endgame for Black.] **23...Re8 24.Qxe8+ Nxe8**
 Now Black is just winning and wraps it up
 without much trouble. **25.g3 h6 26.Re7 Qg6**
27.Kg2 Qc6+ 28.Kf1 Nf6 29.Bb2 Qb5+
30.Re2 c5 31.Ke1 Qb4+ 32.Kf1 c4 33.Bxf6
gxf6 34.Re4 Qb1+ 35.Re1 Qxa2 36.Re8+
Kg7 37.Re7+ Kg6 38.Rxb7 c3 39.Rc7 c2
40.Kg2 Qb1 41.h4 c1Q 42.Rxc1 Qxc1
43.Kf3 Qc3+ 44.Kg2 a5 45.h5+ Kxh5 46.f3
a4 47.g4+ Kg5 48.Kf2 a3 49.f4+ Kxf4 50.g5
fxg5 51.Kg2 Qf3+ 52.Kg1 Qe2 53.Kh1
 0-1

Pages 23 & 24, *Where to Play in NH!*, do not appear in the online version.
 Please see the link in the NH Chess Association's home page for the most
 up-to-date information.