

Alberta Chess Report



Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ February 2010



GM Josh Friedel wins 4th Edmonton International

GMs Josh Friedel and Victor Mikhalevski each scored 7/9 to finish on top, but better tie-breaks gave Josh the title. No norms were scored this year, but IM Marc Esserman came as close as you could get to a GM norm. Saskatchewan's Keith MacKinnon defeats his first GM! This issue features game analysis from most of the participants. Coverage starts on page 3.



Road Warrior

Aaron Sequillion takes 1st place for 2009, playing in every Road Warrior event along the way. The 2010 Road Warrior program gets an injection of cash, offering \$1,000 in total prizes! Details on page 14.



2010 Battle at the Border

With players like GM Nakamura and GM Charbonneau, it looks like this year's classic won't be a walk in the park! Jamin Gluckie is organizing what looks to be the most interesting weekend swiss in Alberta this year. You had better reserve the Labour Day weekend for this event. A short article appears on page 15.

The Junior Pages

Roy Yearwood and Bruce Thomas each contributed an article to make up this new column. Roy takes apart a game from the 2009 Alberta Junior and Bruce reports on a team event held at West Edmonton Mall. We plan on making this a regular column in the ACR. The Junior Pages starts on page 16.



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The ACR is published every two months. Deadline for submissions and changes is two weeks prior to the month of publication. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they relate to Alberta.

Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited.

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4th Edmonton International Chess Festival

The Edmonton International Chess Festival took place this past December 17-21 at the Edmonton Chess Club. Organized by Vlad Rekhson and Micah Hughey, the festival included the Edmonton International, the WBX (Week Before Christmas) Team Tournament, a lecture by GM Josh Friedel and a simul by the star of the tournament, GM Victor Mikhalevski.

Vlad Rekhson reports:

“This year's Edmonton International Chess Festival was kicked off on Wednesday, December 16 with a lecture by GM Josh Friedel. An interesting incident occurred before it started, as the lecture was supposed to start at 6:00, yet by 6:20 pm Josh wasn't around. Eventually, I decided to call his hotel room where I found Josh leisurely answering the phone. It turned out that Josh, who is from California assumed that he didn't have to change his clock when he arrived in Edmonton. Thus, he thought that it was only

5:20 and was taking his time. Nevertheless, 10 minutes later Josh was all ready to start the lecture. The wait was certainly worth it as approximately 15 chess players witnessed an interesting game that Josh won in Netherlands just 2 months prior. By showing the game Josh nicely illustrated the different decisions that a chess player of any level has to make during the game. Those decisions involve choosing whether to go for more complicated lines, or safer ones. Josh's style is more aggressive and even though he could have positionally converted the advantage which he gathered early on, Josh argued that this would probably be the choice of his good friend and another tournament participant GM Jesse Kraai. Instead, Josh decided to go for tactics which almost cost him the win but in the end earned him the brilliancy award.

After the lecture, the crowd was entertained with a simul by GM Victor Mikhalevski. Victor took on 10 locals in a clock simul and the result was a very convincing 10-0 including a win over yours truly and two other 2000+ opponents. Even though no one was able to get any points against GM Mikhalevski, Victor mentioned that probably his toughest opponent was Ali Raz-

zaq who only succumb to a loss in the endgame”.

Normally the EICF is held over the long weekend in August. However, that would have been a little tough to do for the organizers as they also organized the 2009 Canadian Open in July. Putting together two major events within two weeks is a little much to ask. Wisely, Vlad and Micah decided to move the event to December.

For the first time in the tournament's history, GM and IM norms were guaranteed in this ten player/nine round event. That means that there were enough titled players where you could be certain that you would play the required number of games against titled players, as well as meet all of the other FIDE GM and IM norm requirements. All you had to do was win! It's that simple.

I acted as arbiter this time around and also ran the DGT boards. This helped the organizing committee concentrate on other duties. From where I was sitting, the organizers did an exceptional job from start to finish. The only major issue to surface prior to the start of round one was the news that IM elect Daniel Rensch of the USA would not be able to play. Vlad was able to fill

4 th Edmonton International Progressive Crosstable (CAN) 17-21 xii					cat. VII (2412)									
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
1	Josh Friedel	g	USA	2551	D7	W8	W6	W2	D3	D4	W9	W10	D5	7
2	Victor Mikhalevski	g	ISR	2607	W9	W5	W8	L1	D4	W10	W7	W6	D3	7
3	Marc Esserman	m	USA	2408	W4	W10	D7	D6	D1	W9	D5	W8	D2	6.5
4	Gergely Antal	m	HUN	2495	L3	W9	D5	D8	D2	D1	W10	W7	W6	6
5	Jesse Kraai	g	USA	2509	W8	L2	D4	W10	W7	D6	D3	L9	D1	5
6	Eric Hansen	f	CAN	2409	W10	D7	L1	D3	W9	D5	D8	L2	L4	4
7	Edward Porper	m	CAN	2445	D1	D6	D3	W9	L5	D8	L2	L4	D10	3.5
8	Dale Haessel	f	CAN	2201	L5	L1	L2	D4	D10	D7	D6	L3	D9	2.5
9	Keith MacKinnon		CAN	2125	L2	L4	D10	L7	L6	L3	L1	W5	D8	2
10	Vladimir Pechenkin	f	CAN	2372	L6	L3	D9	L5	D8	L2	L4	L1	D7	1.5



Left to right: Eric Hansen, Jesse Kraai, Victor Mikhalevski, Josh Friedel, Marc Esserman, Keith MacKinnon, Vlad Pechenkin. Missing are Dale Haessel, Edward Porper and Gergely Antal.

the void with Calgary FM Dale Haessel. Things were ready to roll.

Most of the featured players stayed at the Glenora Bed & Breakfast Inn which is just a few short blocks away from the Edmonton Chess Club. The building itself is a historical landmark in the neighbourhood. It was built in 1912 as apartment dwellings. The most famous tenant was one Wilfred “Wop” May. Wilfred gained fame for being the pilot that was being pursued by Baron Von Richtofen, the infamous “Red Baron,” when he was allegedly shot out of the sky by Canadian Ace, Captain Arthur “Roy” Brown. There are a flock of theories out there about what really happened that day, but I like this one.

The distance from the Glenora to the club is about a ten minute walk, a perfect distance to get yourself some fresh air before you play. Most of the players chose to walk each day. I was lazy and drove the six blocks. The only problem with walking was the extreme

cold weather that was happening. Only one week before the tournament, Edmonton experienced -45° Celsius temperatures, before wind-chill, making it the coldest place on the planet. On the last day, I offered rides to any player who wanted one. Jesse Kraai decided he would walk (jog is more like it). He ended up beating the rest of us to the club!

After the games we usually wound up going out for dinner at the local Boston Pizza or some other restaurant in the city. The games usually ended around 11 pm which limited our eating and drinking options. After the last round, all the players and organizers went out for dinner and drinks at a local establishment. Entertainment was provided by Marc Esserman and Eric Hansen who played a blindfold game. The final result of the game is still a mystery but it surfaced on the USCF site in an article written by GM Josh Friedel (<http://main.uschess.org/content/view/10009/571/>).

Unfortunately, nobody earned a norm at the event. Two players did come close as IM Marc Esserman missed a GM norm by 1/2 point and FM Eric Hansen missed out on what would have been his final IM norm by a point. FIDE had recently revamped their regulations for norms. I believe Marc would have qualified for the GM norm under the old rules, but I could be mistaken.

In the end it was GMs Josh Friedel of the US and Victor Mikhalevski of Israel taking 1st-2nd place with 7/9. Josh had the better tie-break and took home the silver platter. US IM Marc Esserman claimed 3rd all by himself with 6.5/9 and it could be argued that he played the most enterprising chess of the tournament. IM Gergely Antal of Hungary, currently attending university in Texas, also put in a solid performance with 6/9, losing just one game to Esserman. GM Jesse Kraai was slightly off form and only managed 5/9. FM Eric Hansen finished with 4/9 and was only given trouble by

the three GMs. Eric may not be happy with the final outcome, but I am certain that his final IM norm is not far away. Edmonton's IM Edward Porper did not have a good tournament this time around and finished with 3.5/9. FM Dale Haessel had his moments and should have finished a little higher than he did, missing a few opportunities over the board when he stood better. Dale finished with 2.5/9. The only non-titled player was Keith MacKinnon of Saskatchewan who put in a respectable effort with 2/9. Keith took his first GM scalp with his 8th round victory over Jesse Kraai and should have drawn with Mikhalevski in their encounter, making a critical mistake in the endgame in a drawn position. FM Vladimir Pechenkin of Edmonton scored 1.5/9 and there is no doubt he was not happy with the final standings. At the very least, Vlad gained some valuable experience. All the games for the tournament are available online to view or download at http://www.albertachess.org/EICF2009/EICF_Games.html.

Thanks must go to the organizing committee headed by Vlad and Micah. They produced an excellent tournament and very good playing conditions. Terry Seehagen should also receive praise for keeping the tournament site in tip top shape. The atmosphere at the tournament was always friendly and enjoyable. As the arbiter, the only dispute I had was with the waitress at a restaurant when I was told they were sold out of my favourite beer. That I can live with.

The 5th Edmonton International will happen this summer from July 28-August 2. Details are short at this time. Watch this newsletter or visit the ACA website for details (www.albertachess.org)

Here are a few games from the tournament.

Notes by Eric Hansen

□ Hansen, Eric (2409)

■ Pechenkin, Vladimir (2372)
4th Edmonton International (1),
17.12.2009

Old Indian Defence [A55]

1.d4

I hadn't eaten that day and just got to the tournament after a 3 hour bus ride and a day at school, so it's safe to say I was exhausted and not wanting to play.

1...♟f6 2.c4 d6 3.♟f3 ♞bd7 4.♞c3 e5

Black's plan in this opening is to play solid and give White a large centre. Then Black hopes for White to over-extend with his space advantage so he can counter-attack.

5.e4 ♟e7 6.♟e2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.h3

I've had a bit of experience in this sort of position. White's dark squared Bishop is very valuable, so ♟g5 is out of the question and therefore the most logical place is on e3. The move h3 is needed to prevent the annoying ...♞g4 at some point.

8...a6

Trying either to gain space on the queenside with a b7-b5 push or see if White will create some holes by playing a4, when he will reply with a5, gaining valuable queenside dark squares.

9.a4?!

I play a similar set up as Black, and so I knew that he would play ...a5 right away. I was not very happy with this move, but played it because I couldn't find a way to prevent ...b5, which is supposed to be good for Black in this opening. It turns out that I was completely wrong. Better was 9.♟e3 b5 10.a3± keeping the tension and still having a comfortable space advantage.

9...a5 10.♟e1 ♞e8 11.♟e3 exd4
12.♞xd4 ♞c5 13.♞c2 ♟f8 14.♟f3=

The past few moves are fairly standard for Black so he was playing pretty quickly. White's replies have been mainly forced and now I must come

up with a plan if I want to play for a win.

14...h6 15.♟ad1 ♞b6 16.g4!?!∞

This move is quite risky and leads the game into unclear waters. The reason I like this move is because it changes the nature of the position. I think I read somewhere that if you don't like the way the position is headed, the best thing to do is to try and change the nature of the position. Now the game turns sharp and tactical, suiting me a bit more.

16...♟d7 17.♟g2 ♞ad8 18.f4 ♟c8
19.♟f2 ♞h7

Black is waiting for me to push my kingside pawns and make weaknesses.

20.♟f1

Shifting my pieces to the best squares for a kingside pawn storm.

20...g6 21.♞f3 ♞b4

This is why I played ♟f1 earlier.

22.f5

A very aggressive move which looks bad because it gives up my last dark square and invites Black to come in. We were starting to get into time trouble now with 18 moves left before time control. However, this is the only pawn push that can actually create some attacking chances on his King. 22.g5 leads to nothing, e.g., 22.g5 hxg5 23.fxg5 ♟c6. Too many weaknesses and no attack.

22...gxf5

My threat was 23.fxg6 fxg6 followed by e5, hitting his unprotected g6 pawn with my Queen.

23.gxf5?

Played quickly, and not the best. 23.exf5 is better as I have threats such as ♟h4, while he also has problems finding places for his pieces. For example, he can't play 23...♟g7 (which I was afraid of) immediately because of 24.♞xd6!, which I missed. 23.exf5 ♞xc1 24.♞xc1± is still a very sharp position.

23...♟g7

Natural, as it is a strong diagonal while it also allows Black to use the open g-file after ...♔h8 followed by ...♖g8.

24.♕d4

This looks odd as the Bishop was the last piece controlling the dark squares. However, my plan is to go after the weak h6 square.

24...♗xd4+ 25.♜xd4 ♔h8 26.♔h1

We were both in bad time trouble here and these moves were played with little calculation. I was nervous but confident because during mutual time trouble, I have a tendency of emerging ahead because of my quick calculating ability.

26...♜d7 27.♖d2 ♜e5!

The b2 pawn is worth much more than the h6 pawn, as after I lose b2, my pawns become weak while my pieces are threatened and in disarray. Taking on h6 creates no immediate threats.

28.b3 ♖g8

Natural and correct. This position looks good for Black but it is easy to underestimate the tactical resources in the position.

29.♖b2

I don't have time to get my Rook on the g-file, and right now my pieces have no threats at all. This move, at the very least, may have a discovered check or pin the Knight on e5 in a few moves. We only had a few minutes to make 10+ moves here.

29...♖g3?

I was hoping for this when I played ♖b2, and had calculated a line several moves deep. 29...♖g7! is a multi-purpose move that will allow Black to double on the g-file while also making sure no b2-h8 tactics can come into play. Black would have been clearly better had he played this.

30.♜ce2!

Black probably saw this when he played ...♖g3 and had planned ...♗e3, when there are numerous threats against White, including the fall of the

e4 pawn. Here he should have re-treated the Rook.

30...♗e3

30...♖g7 31.♜f4 ♖dg8 32.♜d3 with an unclear position, but I prefer Black as he has more tricks and fewer weaknesses.

31.♖c1

Forcing 31...♗xe4 and allowing Black to play ...♜d3 after 32.♖xh6; 31.♜c2 ♖xb3 (31...♗xb3 32.♖xe5+ dxe5 33.♗xd8+-); 32.♖xe5+ dxe5 33.♗xd8+ ♔g7 34.♜xe3 ♖xe3 35.♗xc8∞.

31...♗xe4 32.♖xh6 ♜d3

Seems like a good way to win the exchange.



33.♗g2

This is the position I was hoping for, and now my mating threats become real. It is very easy for Black to slip here with only a couple minutes on the clock, by being a little greedy. For example, winning the piece with 33...♗xd4 34.♜xd4 34.♜xe1 35.f6! 35.♖g8 (forced) 36.♗c4 ♖g6 ♗xg6 and there is no way to stop mate on g7.

33...♜f2+

Dodging my trick, however White has a better position now as his pieces are coming out.

34.♔h2

Black, who was trying to play for the win a couple moves ago, now has only one move which is not totally losing. With under a minute to play here, it is

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extremely difficult to find 34...♖g4!, as you need to see first of all why that funny looking move is required.

34...♖xd1??

Under extreme time pressure, he needed to make a move and didn't see my idea. In the post-mortem, Vlad said when he avoided this trap on the previous move, that it wasn't based on this sequence as he had not seen it: 34...♖e5 35.♜h4!+-; 34...♖xd4 35.♖xd4 ♖xd1 36.f6 ♖g8 37.♗c4 ♖g6 38.♗xg6+-; 34...♖ec8 35.♖f1 ♖xd1 (35... ♖e4 36.♗xe4 ♖xe4 37.♖g1+-) 36.f6!; 34...♖g4 35.♖g1±. A pretty crazy position although White has more resources here.

35.f6 1-0.

Black resigned with a few seconds on the clock. Only 35...♖g8 prevents ♜g7 mate, but after 36.♗xe4 the mates on h7 and g7 cannot be stopped.

A very satisfying way to end the game as it always feels good to win with tactical sequences like this. My opening was not good but I managed to steer the position into complications and use my calculating ability and a bit of luck from there. My opponent played an excellent game and only the natural looking ...♖g3-e3 maneuver cost him the game.

Notes by Josh Friedel

□ Friedel, Josh (2551)

■ Mikhalevski, Victor (2607)

4th Edmonton International (4), 19.12.2009

Ruy Lopez Breyer [C95]

Victor had 3-0 going into this round while I had 2.5, so this was a crucial game towards determining the winner of the event.

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♖f6 5.0-0 ♗e7

In our previous game, he played the Open Ruy, which is his main weapon, but this time he decided to surprise me.

6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♖b8 10.d4 ♖bd7 11.♖bd2 ♗b7 12.♗c2

♗e8 13.♖f1 ♗f8 14.♖g3 g6 15.a4 ♖b6

This was obviously a move prepared by Victor. 15...c5, ...c6 and ...♗g7 are more common.

16.b3 ♗g7 17.a5 ♖bd7 18.d5 ♖e7 19.c4 c5

My opponent was still playing instantly, and it is always worrisome when you are stuck in your opponent's prep. I spent some time and came up with an idea that I think is a good one and, more importantly, got him to think.

20.cxb5

20.♖h2 b4 led to a short draw in Motylev-Ivanchuk.

20...axb5 21.b4

My idea is quite simple. I don't want to allow Black to completely lock the queenside with b4, and in this way I can use the weakness on b5. He goes astray right away.

21...c4?



21...cxb4 22.♗d2 b3 23.♗xb3 ♖c5 24.♗c2 is pleasant for White, as the b5 pawn is more vulnerable than the a5 one, and I still have a pleasant central space advantage; 21...♗c8!? is an interesting try, with the idea that after 22.♗d2 c4 23.♖e2 ♖b8! Black has better chances to defend with his Bishop on d7 and Knight on a6.

22.♖e2!

Once the Knight gets to c3, it will be very unpleasant for Black. He'll be

tied to his b5 pawn and I'll be free to build on the kingside.

22...♜f8 23.♖c3 ♗a6 24.g4

I don't want to allow ...♗h6, which might ease the pressure a bit. Now I'm free to build my position while it is difficult for Black to untangle his forces.

24...♖eb8 25.♗e3 ♖e8 26.♜d2 ♖c7 27.♖h2 ♖f6 28.♖g1 ♖h8 29.♖h4 ♜e7 30.♗g5!?

I had planned this when I played ♖h4. My idea is to keep his f6 Knight pinned while preparing f4.

30...♖g8

This ends up being an unfortunate square for the Rook. 30...♗c8 immediately might have been more tenacious.

31.♖g3 ♗c8 32.♖f1 ♗d7 33.f4

This was my big idea.

33...h6 34.♖gf3!

34.♗xf6 ♜xf6 35.♖g2 cxf4 is far from clear.

34...exf4 35.♗xf4 ♖h7

This is very awkward, but it is tough to find an improvement. 35...g5 doesn't help, as after 36.♗e3 gxh4 (36... ♗xg4 37.♖xf6) 37.♖xf6 ♗xf6 38.♖xf6 ♖g6 39.♗d4 White is crushing.; 35...♖xg4+ 36.hxg4 ♜xh4+ (36... ♗xg4 37.♖g3 ♜xh4+ 38.♖g2 transposes) 37.♖g2 ♗xg4 38.♖g3 also gives White a huge attack.

36.♗g3 ♗e8



The only move, as otherwise ♖xf7



Josh Friedel vs. Victor Mikhalievski

wins immediately. It is now clear why ...g8 was an unfortunate move; his King needs room to breathe!

37.e5!

I break open Black's position, and let my last piece (c2 Bishop) into the game.

37...xc5 38.Ke1?

This natural move may throw away a large part of White's advantage.

38.xc5+ Kxe5+ 39.g2 is stronger, with Kh6 and Ke1 threatened.

39...Kg5 (39...Kg7 40.Ke3 and Re7 is going to crush.) 40.Kd4+ f6 41.Kxf6! Kxf6 42.f3! Ke6 43.dxe6 Kc6 44.Kc4+-.

38...g5?

38...xg3+ 39.xg3 Kg5 40.Kd4+ Kg7 is an interesting defense Victor found after the game, but after 41.Ke3 Kd7 42.f3 Kf6 43.Ke7, it looks nearly impossible to hold.; 38...Kg5!, and now after 39.xc5+ dxe5 40.Kxg5 hxg5 41.g2 f6 I still prefer White, but it isn't easy to break through while Black has a pawn for his troubles.

39.Ke5!

Now Black is completely lost.

39...dxe5 40.d6 Kd8 41.Ke3 Kxd6 42.Kxe5+ Kxe5 43.Ke5+ f6 44.Kxd6 Kxf3+ 45.Kxf3 Ka6

Victor plays on awhile, but Black has no real chances from here on.

46.Kd4 Kg7 47.Kg3 Kd7 48.Kxb5

Ke8 49.Kf2 Ke6 50.Kd1 Kc6 51.Ke2 Kb5 52.Kxb5 c3 53.Kd3 g5 54.Kd4 Kxd6 55.Kf5+ Kg8 56.Kxd6 Kxb4 57.Kf5 Ke7 58.Kb5 c2 59.Kxc2 Kxc2 60.a6 1-0.

Notes by Edward Porper and Jesse Kraai

□ Kraai, Jesse (2509)

■ Porper, Edward (2445)

4th Edmonton International (5), 19.12.2009

Queen's Gambit Declined, Slav [D12]

1.Kf3 d5 2.d4 c6 3.c4 Kf6 4.e3 Kf5 5.Kc3 e6 6.Kh4 Kg6 7.Kxg6 hxg6 8.Kd2

EP: A less popular alternative to 8.Kc2.

8...Kbd7 9.cxd5

EP:?! Unassuming. After this move White has no realistic shot at an opening advantage as the whole idea of 4.e3 is to develop the pieces behind the pawn chain and then gain space by pushing the e-pawn one step further. Now it would only isolate the d-pawn, leaving Black an easy target to advance upon.

JK: The product of months of sweat by me and my silicon pet. White wants to open the position for the Bishops.

9...exd5 10.Kd3 Kd6 11.h3 Ke7 12.Ke1

JK:!? Discouraging ...0-0-0

12...g5

EP: ? Winning this game was my last chance to stay in the race for a coveted GM-norm. Even a draw would have left me in dire straits, having to score 100% in the remaining 4 games, one of them against GM Viktor Mikhalievski with Black. So I decided to go all guns blazing against a presumably easier opponent. The natural 12...0-0 13.0-0 Kae8 followed by ...Ke4 would have given Black a very promising position.

JK:?! aka The Panda. GM Josh Friedel thought ...0-0 was more prudent.

13.0-0

JK: ! Action on the wing is met by action in the centre. White intends e4.

13...Ke4



EP: ?? This norm-hunt combined with hanging around the tournament hall between the rounds (instead of taking a sound nap) rendered my brain even softer than it would normally be!

13...g4 would have at least justified the previous move though after 14. c4 dxe4 15.Ke4 gxh3 16.Ke1, or 15...Ke4 16.Kxe4 gxh3 17.Ke1 and Black is still in a deep trouble 17...Kh4 18.Kxc6 Kd8 19.Ke4! Yet, to follow a waste of time with bursting the game open was a blackout to be really "proud" of.

JK: 13...g4 14.e4 dxe4 15.Ke1 0-0-0 16.Ke4. I only saw up to here and thought I would have good play. 16.gxh3 17.Kb3! with the attack.

14.Kxe4 dxe4 15.f3

EP: Of course White is all too happy to oblige.

15...♟f6

JK: ? Better is 15...exf3. My sense is that White is a little better as my centre will unfold with e4 and Black's g5 pawn will regret having advanced.

16.♞xe4 ♞xe4 17.fxe4 ♞xe4 18.♞b3

EP: Not such a difficult move to be overlooked, after a good rest that is.

18...♞e7

EP: After the game my opponent suggested 18...0-0 19.♞xb7 ♞d3 as the last resort, but the attempt fails to 20.♞cd1 ♞ab8 21.♞xa7 ♞xb2 22.♟c1.

JK: 18...0-0 19.♞xb7 ♞d3 (19...♞ab8 20.♞xc6) 20.♞cd1!

19.e4

EP: Now the pawn avalanche is unstoppable.

19...f6 20.e5 fxe5 21.dxe5 ♟c5+ 22.♞h1 0-0-0

EP: The King has nowhere to hide. 22...♟b6 23.♟b4.

23.♞f7 ♞xd2 24.♞xe7

EP: ? Who wouldn't take a free Queen? One who would spot 24.♞xc5! ending the game immediately. As it was, a relatively short agony followed.

JK: ? 24.♞xc5!

24...♟xe7 25.♞d1 ♞xd1+ 26.♞xd1 ♟c7 27.♞d4 a6 28.♞c4

EP: Her Majesty has an ample choice of temporary residences like e6 or f7. The g-pawn is doomed and Black's hopes to build a fortress are gone with the wind.

28...♞h4 29.♞e6 ♟c5 30.♞f7+ ♟b6 31.♞xg7 ♞e4 32.♞xg5 ♟d4 33.♞d2 ♟xe5 34.g4 1-0.

Notes by Marc Esserman

□ Esserman, Marc (2408)

■ MacKinnon, Keith (2125)

4th Edmonton International (6), 20.12.2009

Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♞f6 3.d4 ♟g4 4.♞f3

♞xd5

Keith returns to the Scandinavian via the Portugese Defense move order. However, his Bishop is now committed to g4 whereas in the Scandinavian it can go to f5 or g4 depending on the situation.

5.♞c3 ♞d6

Entering the Bronstein variation, yet with the moves ...♟g4 and ♞f3 thrown in the mix. Normally Black has a chance to play a6 to secure his Queen's position on d6 (stopping ♞b5), but this tempo has already been spent on ...♟g4. White's resulting play attempts to take advantage of this nuance.

6.h3 ♟h5 7.g4

Sending the Bishop on its way and taking the momentum.

7...♟g6 8.♞e5

The principle motive behind this move is to further harass the Queen by ♟f4.

8...c6

8...a6 is better here. Now Black no longer has time for the thematic ...a6 as ♟f4 and ♟g2 yield White a large advantage. 9.♟f4 ♞d8 10.♟g2±.

9.♟f4 ♞d8

White already has a near decisive advantage. The simple moves h4 or ♟g2 would be fine, but White tries for even more. 9...♞b4? and the Queen's problems are highlighted in the following variation: 10.♞c4 (*threatening a3!*) 10...♞e4 11.a3 anyway! 11...♞xc3 12.axb4 (12.♞d2 ♞a4 13.b3 ♞b5 14.♞d6+ exd6 15.♟xb5 ♞xb5 and White has a Queen for three pieces plus a big lead in development) 12...♞xd1 13.♞b6 and White wins.

10.d5!? ♞xd5

10...cxd5 meets an immediate end after 11.♟b5+ ♞bd7 12.♞xd5 ♞a5+ 13.b4+.

11.♞xd5 ♟e4

Keith finds the most challenging move. If White is not careful now, he will be punished for the ambitious d5.

11...♞xd5 12.♞xd5 cxd5 13.♟b5+ ♟d8 14.0-0-0 e6 15.c4±.



12.♞xf7!

In the spirit of Tal. With two pieces en prise, put another one under attack. As Tal said, "they can only take them one at a time!" 12.♞f6+?! is not sufficient as 12...gxf6 13.♞xd8+ ♟xd8 14.♞xf7+ ♟e8 15.♞xh8 ♟xh1 16.♟c4 ♟d5 and the White Knight will not escape the corner; 12.♟c4?! ♟xd5 stops this fantasy (12...♟xh1 13.♞c7+ ♞xc7 14.♟xf7#); 12.♞xc6!! (*even stronger, and more irrational, than ♞xf7!*) 12...♞xd5 (12...♞xc6 13.♞c7+) 13.♞xd5 ♟xd5 14.♞xb8. The White Knight has now swapped roles with its counterpart! 14...♟xh1 (14...e5□ 15.♟xe5 ♟xh1 16.♟b5+ ♟e7 17.0-0-0 with a massive attack for the exchange 17...♟f3 18.♞d7+ ♟e6 19.♟g3±) 15.♟b5+ ♟d8 16.0-0-0+ ♟c8 17.♟d7+ ♟d8 18.♟f5+ ♟e8 19.♞xh1+.

12...♞xd5□

12...♟xf7 13.♞c7! ♞xd1+ 14.♞xd1 ♟xh1 15.♞xa8±.

13.♞xd5

Black is now presented with a difficult recapture.

13...cxd5!

13...♟xd5 14.♞xh8 ♟xh1 15.♟d3 and with the pawn on c6, not d5, Black cannot play ...♟c4 to seal the Knight's fate. If 15...g6, Black falls one move short; 15...g5!? 16.♟xg5 ♟g7 17.♞g6! again! 17...hxg6 18.♟xg6+ ♟f8 (18...♟d7 19.0-0-0+) 19.0-0-0

threatening mate! 19...♙d5 20.c4+-.
16.♗xg6! hxg6 17.♙xg6+ ♗d7 18.0-0+ ♙d5 19.c4+-. White regains all material and the attack remains.

14.♗xh8 ♙xh1

Finally it appears there will be no escape for the Knight.

15.♙xb8!

The key to the combination, trading off White's strong Bishop for Black's inactive Knight. 15.♙d3? ♙c4!; 15.♙b5+!? Ironically it turns out that this move also wins, as in the following variation the trapped h8 Knight participates in the trapping of the h1 Bishop! 15...♗c6 (15...♗d7 16.♗e2 ♙e4 {16...♙g2 17.f3} 17.f3 ♙xc2 18.♖c1+-) 16.♗e2! ♙c4 (16...♙g2 17.♖g1 ♙xh3 18.♖g3) 17.f3! and the Knight eyes the Bishop's retreat to g6! 17...♙xc2 18.♖c1+-.

15...♖xb8 16.♙b5+

The King must give ground, releasing the wayward Knight .

16...♗d8 17.♗f7+ ♗c7 18.♙d3

It is now the Black Bishop that is short of squares.

18...g6 19.♗e2 ♙e4

19...♙g2 20.♖g1 ♙xh3 21.♗g5+-.

20.♙xe4 dxe4 21.♗g5

The rest of the game is technical; White has an extra pawn with a superior minor piece and pawn structure.

21...h6 22.♗xe4 ♙g7 23.c3 b5 24.b4 ♗b6 25.a4 a6 26.axb5 axb5 27.♗c5 ♙xc3 28.♖c1 1-0.

Notes by Victor Mikhalevski

□ Mikhalevski, Victor (2607)

■ Porper, Edward (2445)

4th Edmonton International (7),

20.12.2009

Queen's Gambit Declined, Slav [D15]

This is probably my best game in Edmonton.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♗f3 ♗f6 4.♗c3 a6 5.c5 ♗bd7 6.♙f4 ♗h5 7.♙g5

A tricky line. White provokes ...h6. The idea behind the move can be seen in two other games I played in this

line. **7...♖c7**

Earlier my opponents played the main line 7...h6 8.♙d2 ♗hf6 9.♙f4 ♗h5 10.♙e5 ♗xe5 11.♗xe5 ♗f6 12.e4 e6 (12...♙e6 13.f3 g6 14.♙e2 ♙g7 15.0-0 0-0 16.♖d3 ♖c7 17.♖e3 ♖ad8 18.f4 dxe4 19.♗xe4 ♗d5 20.♖g3 ♙f5 21.♗c3 ♗b4 22.♖ad1 ♗c2 23.♖f2 b6 24.♙xa6 bxc5 25.dxc5 ♙xe5 26.fxe5 ♖xe5 27.♖xd8 ♖xd8 28.g4 ♗e3 29.♖e1 1-0 Mikhalevski, V (2584)–Prie, E (2532)/Ajaccio 2007/(31)) 13.exd5 exd5 14.♙d3 ♙e7 15.0-0 ♗d7 16.f4 ♗xe5 17.fxe5 ♙e6 18.♗a4 ♙g5 19.♗b6 ♙e3+ 20.♗h1 ♙xd4 21.♗xa8 ♙xc5 22.♖c2 ♙e7 23.♙f5 ♙xf5 24.♖xf5 0-0 25.♗b6 ♖xb6 26.♖d7 ♖d8 27.♖xb7 d4 28.♖xc6 1-0 Mikhalevski, V (2580)–Belov, V (2589)/Manila 2006.

8.e4 dxe4 9.♗xe4 ♗df6 10.♗c3!

Now the Knight on h5 won't feel good.

10...h6 11.♙d2 ♗f4 12.♖b3! ♗d5

12...e6!?!; 12...♙e6 13.♙xf4 ♖xf4 14.♖xb7 illustrates the idea of my 12th move.

13.♙c4 ♙e6

After 13...e6, the light-squared Bishop remains behind the pawn chain.

14.0-0! ♖d8

After 14...♗xc3? I have a pleasant choice between 15.♙xe6 ♗cd5 (15...♗e2+ 16.♗h1 fxe6 17.♖ae1+-) 16.♙a5! ♖b8 (16...♖xa5 17.♖xb7+-) 17.♗e5! fxe6 18.♖c2! ♗f4 19.g3+-; and 15.bxc3 ♙xc4 16.♖xc4 e6 17.♖ab1± and Black is going to have serious problems along the b-file.

15.♗e5! ♙f5 16.♙f4!?!±

White is already clearly better. Even better would be 16.♗xd5! ♗xd5 17.♖a4!+- with the deadly threat of ♙a5.

16...♖c8 17.♙g3

17.♖ad1!?! was a good alternative. 17...g6 18.♙xd5 ♗xd5 19.♗xd5 cxd5 (19...♖xd5 20.♗c4+- with 21.♗b6 to follow) 20.♖c1 ♙d7 21.♙d2 ♙b5

22.♙a5 ♙xf1 23.♖xf1 ♖d7 24.♗xd7 ♖xd7 25.♖g3 ♖c6 26.♖b8+ ♗d7 27.♖d8+ ♗c6 28.♖e1+ ♗f6 29.♖xe7! ♙xe7 30.♖xh8+ ♗c6 31.♖c5+ ♗d7 32.h3±.

17...g6 18.♗a4! e6 19.♙xd5! ♗xd5 20.♗c4

Black can't stop the appearance of a White Knight on b6.

20...♖d7

Black decides to give up an exchange. 20...♖a8 is hardly better. 21.♗cb6 ♖a7 22.♗xd5 ♖xd5 23.♙e5 ♖h7 24.♖ad1 ♖d8 25.♗b6 ♙e7 26.♙c7+-.

21.♗ab6 ♗xb6 22.♗xb6 ♖d8 23.♙e5 ♖g8 24.♖fe1!

The Rook on d7 can't escape.

24...♙e7 25.♗xd7 ♖xd7 26.♖ac1!

This Rook will penetrate to c7! 26.♖ad1!?

26...f6 27.♙d6!

It's important to open lines for my Rooks.

27...♗f7 28.h3 h5 29.♙xe7 ♖xe7

29...♗xe7 is not better. 30.d5! cxd5 31.g4! hxg4 32.hxg4 ♙xg4 33.♖b4! ♙f5 34.c6+ ♖d6 35.♖xb7+ ♗f8 36.c7+-.



30.d5! cxd5 31.c6

White breaks through on the queen-side.

31...bxc6

31...b5 would be the lesser of evils.

32.♖xc6

Now you can see that my 26th move

was justified!

32...♖d8 33.♗ec1 ♖d7 34.♗b8! d4 35.♗c7!?

I had good alternatives. 35.g4! hxg4 36.hxg4 ♗xg4 37.♗h8! ♗f8 38.♗c7!! e5 (38... ♗xh8 39.♖xd7+ ♗e8 40.♖a7! +-) 39.♗h7+ ♗g7 40.♗xg7+ ♗xg7 41.♖xd7+ ♗xd7 42.♗c7+- and White wins.; 35.♗h8!? ♖d8 36.♗h6 e5 37.♗c7 ♗d7 38.♖1c6+-.

35...e5



36.♗h8!

The Rook on c7 is not hanging!

36...g5

36...♖xc7 37.♖xc7 ♗d7 (37... ♗xc7 38. ♗h7+ +-) 38.♗h7+ +-.

37.♖xd7? ⊕

Missing a one move win with 37.♖c8! +-.

37...♗xd7 38.♖c7

38.♗xh5+!?!+-.

38...h4

38...♗d6!? is a better defence, but White is winning anyway. 39.♗d8! ♗e6 40.♖b7! d3 41.♖b6 ♗c6 42.♗c8+ ♗d5 43.♗g8+ ♗c5 44.♗b3 ♗d4 45.♖b8! ♗e4 46.♖a3+ ♗d5 47.♖d8+ ♗e6 48.♗d6+ ♗f5 49.♖xd3+-.

39.♖b7

The Rook is much better on the b-file from where it has access to the 6th and 8th ranks. 39.♗h7+!?! ♗e6 40.♗g8+ ♗d6 41.♖a7+-.

39...♗e8 40.♗h7+ ♗e6 41.♖b6+ ♗d5 42.♖xf6!

Dinner time.

42...e4 43.♗g7

43.♖xa6!+- also wins easily.

43...d3 44.♖xa6!+- ♗b5 45.♖g6

45.♗xg5+ ♗e5 46.♗d8+ ♗c5

47.♗c8+ ♗d4 48.♖e6+-.

45...e3

The last chance.

46.♖xg5+ ♗c6 47.♗c3+

Or 47.♗f6+!?! ♗c7 48.♖e5 ♗c6

49.♖c7+ ♗b6 50.♗d4+-.

47...♗b7 48.♖g7+ ♗a6

48...♗d7 49.♖xd3 exf2+ 50.♗xf2

♗f8+ 51.♗f3+-.

49.♗a3+

49.♗a3+ ♗a4 (if 49... ♗b6, Black gets mated) 50.♗a7+ ♗c6 51.♗c7+ ♗d5 52.♖g5+ ♗e6 (52... ♗e4 53.f3+ ♗d4 54.♗c3#) 53.♗e5+ ♗d7 54.♖g7+ ♗c6 55.♖c7+ ♗b6 56.♗c5+ ♗a5 57.♖a7#) **1-0.**

Notes by Keith MacKinnon

□ MacKinnon, Keith (2125)

■ Kraai, Jesse (2509)

4th Edmonton International (8), 21.12.2009

Alekhine's Defence [B03]

The following game is my first win against a GM. I had been having a bit of a tough time in the tournament, but this game lifted my spirits considerably!

1.e4 ♗f6

This move came as a big surprise. I had expected the French Defense.

2.e5 ♗d5 3.c4 ♗b6 4.d4 d6 5.exd6 exd6 6.♗c3 ♗e7 7.h3

Not allowing the black Bishop to develop itself to its ideal square on g4.

7...0-0 8.♗f3 ♗f5 9.♗e3

9.♗e2 is played far more frequently.

9...♗f6 (9... ♗c6 10.d5 ♗e5 11.♗d4±)

10.♗c3 ♗c6 11.0-0 and the position is pretty level, but White probably has a small edge.

9...♗c6 10.♖c1

I think 10.d5 right away would have been stronger.

10...♖e8 11.d5 ♗b4

During the game, I thought that this move was an inaccuracy, but it turns out to be Black's best move.

11...♗h4!? is a interesting try, but after 12.♗d2 ♗e5 13.♗xe5 ♖xe5 14.♗e2 White is still a tiny bit better.

12.♗d4?!

It was more important to develop my light squared Bishop and castle quickly.

12...♗g6

12...♗d7± with the idea of a quick ...♗g5.

13.♗e2 c5

This seems overambitious to me.

14.dxc6 ♗xc6

14...bxc6 15.a3 c5 16.axb4 cxd4 17.♗xd4±.

15.0-0 ♗f6 16.♖e1?

I was not being careful enough here. Jesse quickly sacked the exchange on e3, but he missed a stronger move which would have guaranteed him a



Keith MacKinnon vs. Jesse Kraai

good game. I should have played 16. ♖db5 ♜e6 (16... ♙e5 17. f4±) 17. ♞d2± and White will build up pressure against Black's weak d6 pawn.

16... ♞xe3?!

16... ♜xc4! was the move that he missed. 17. ♙xc4 ♜xd4 and I can't take back on d4 due to ... ♞xc1+, 18. ♞d2 ♜f5 19. ♙f4∞, Black is a pawn up, but White's pieces are active and I can play against Black's isolated pawn.

17. fx3 ♙h4 18. ♜xc6

18. ♞f1 ♙g5 19. ♞d2 ♞e7 20. ♜d1. The computer likes this for White, but it seems very passive to me.

18... bxc6 19. ♞f1 ♙g5 20. ♞f3 ♞e7

21. ♞d4 ♜d7

Played quickly, but it is most likely a mistake. 21... ♞c8 22. ♞d1 ♙c2 is Black's best option. If he tries to play for more than the draw, he could quickly end up in trouble. 23. ♞c1 ♙g6 24. ♞d1=.

22. ♞d1 ♜e5 23. ♞xd6

Rybka likes the idea of keeping material with 23. ♞f2. It is probably best to keep the Rook.

23... ♜xf3+ 24. ♙xf3 ♞xe3+ 25. ♙h1 h6!

This is actually the best move even though it looks a bit strange. Black

needs to make an escape square for his King before he can start really doing anything.

26. ♞xc6 ♞b8 27. c5

Not the best. It gives Black a draw if he wants one. 27. ♜d5 first was better, with the idea of b4.



27... ♙c2

27... ♞xb2 28. ♜d5∞. After the tournament, GM Mikhalevski was looking at this position, and he came to the conclusion that White should be better due to the great Knight on d5.

28. ♞f1 ♙d3 29. ♞d1 ♙c2 30. ♞f1 ♞xb2?

He should have taken the draw by repeating moves.

31. ♜d1!

I found this move in mild time trouble and was about 95% sure that I was won.

31... ♙xd1

31... ♞c1 puts up the most resistance 32. ♞c8+ ♙h7 33. h4!+- . Black can't take on h4 because of ♙e4+, and after ... ♙f4, the White Queen simply takes f7; 31... ♞d3 32. ♞c8+ ♙h7 33. ♙e2 game over (33. ♙e4+ ♞xe4 34. ♞xe4+ ♙xe4 35. ♜xb2+-).

32. ♞c8+

32. ♞a8+ ♙h7 33. ♙e4+ f5 34. ♞xf5+- is another way to win, but the win I found is more aesthetically pleasing.

32... ♙h7 33. ♞f5+ ♙g8 34. ♙e4!!

Of course! The draw by repetition was there for the taking with ♞c8 and back to f5, but this move just wins. I am now threatening ♞c8# and ♞xf7+, followed by ♞f8#. Black can't defend against all of the threats.

34... f6 35. ♞c8+ ♙f7 36. ♞d7+ ♙f8 37. ♙g6 1-0.

Mate is unstoppable. It wasn't a great game by me as I made some mistakes in the middle-game, but my opponent's oversight on the 30th move gave me the opportunity to find the forced win.

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Road Warrior



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Schleinich Memorial

The 2010 Schleinich Memorial was held from January 8-10. Each year the Schleinich Memorial is held to honour the late John Schleinich who was a prominent chess organizer in Alberta in the 70s and 80s. I never had the opportunity to meet him, but I have read enough history about him to know that he was a dedicated organizer in Alberta for years.

The Schleinich is run as a six player sectional round robin. This year we could only put together two full sections for a total of twelve players. The attendance was low because it was advertised very late. Another factor might have been the proximity of this tournament to the University Battle of Alberta which was played on the following weekend.

Section A was CFC and FIDE rated. Brad Willis of Edmonton and Thomas Kaminski of Calgary split top honours with 4/5. Brad won their individual encounter so is the true winner of the section, going undefeated throughout. Calgary's Artur Wojtas finished 3rd, putting in a strong performance.

Section B was hotly contested. Adie Todd of Calgary played impressive chess to capture clear 1st with 4.5/5, giving up only half a point to 2nd place finisher, me! I finished with 3.5/5. Phil Holmstrom of Edmonton and Chris Kuczaj of Calgary split 3rd and 4th at 2.5/5.

Kuczaj, Chris (1785)
Todd, Adie (1596)
English Four Knights [A28]
Notes by Tony Ficzer

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.e3 d5
 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♗b5 ♘xc3 7.bxc3
 ♗d6 8.d4 ♗e7 9.d5 a6 10.♗a4 ♗b8
 11.dxc6 axb5 12.♗xb5 0-0 13.cxb7
 ♗xb7 14.♗e2 ♗g4 15.e4 f5?!

Going for the throat. White is a little better here and I'm not sure that Black should play this move.



Foreground: Hafiz Karmali vs. Brad Willis. Background: Artur Wojtas vs. Thomas Kaminski

16.exf5 e4 17.♗c4+ ♔h8 18.♘d4 ♗c5
 19.♘e6?



19...♗xf2+?!

Very aggressive, but can Black get away with this?

20.♔xf2 ♗xf5+ 21.♔e1 ♗f7
 22.♗xc7??

I'm not sure what Chris was thinking here. He was clearly winning and then he makes this terrible blunder. 22.h3 or; 22.♗a4 win easily.

22...♗xc7 0-1.



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University Battle of Alberta

The Calgary Chess Club hosted a very successful battle on January 16-17. Simon Ong organized and directed and as usual, the tournament hall was nicely decorated for the players. Each player had a tent card with their name and rating, along with their team name. University teams registered from the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge. The community teams were from the Calgary Chess Club, Calgary Junior Chess Club and the Edmonton Chess Club. This was a new idea for 2010, introduced by Simon. The formula seemed to work as there were 47 players this time out, compared to 35 last year.

The format was one large Swiss system. I believe the first two rounds were run using accelerated pairings. Time control was game in 90 minutes plus a 30 second increment.

Individual winners were as follows:

1st: Dan Kazmaier, 4.5/5

2nd: Aaron Sequillion, 4/5

FM Vladimir Pechenkin, 4/5

Avelino Angelo Tolentino, 4/5

Best performance by a player on a community team went to Roy Yearwood with 3.5/5. Avelino would have won this prize, but players are only allowed to win one prize. Roy donated his winnings to the prize fund for next year's University Battle of Alberta.

Top U1700: Adie Todd and Chris

Kuczaj, 3.5/5

1st Unrated: Nicholas Selebaleng, 3/5

2nd Unrated: Shishir Shivare, 2.5/5

3rd Unrated: Nick Todd, 2/5

Best Junior: Yoekai Wang who also scored 4/5, losing to Dan Kazmaier in the last round.

Top U1000 Junior: Patrick Angelo Tolentino (aka Alberta Grade 1 champion), 1.5/5

Top team overall went to the Calgary Chess Club, while the top University team prize went to the University of Alberta

Road Warrior UPDATE

The final standings for 2009 are in. The top three finishers were:

Aaron Sequillion 50.5 \$175

Roy Yearwood 39.5 \$75

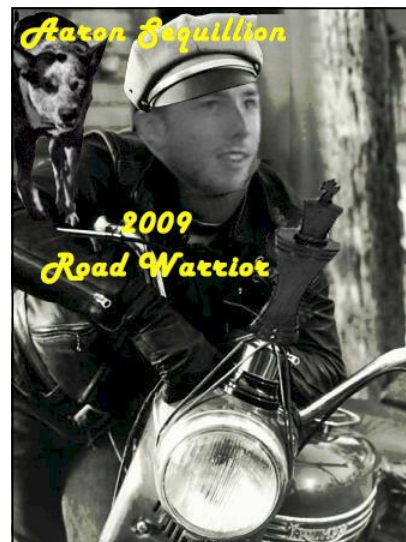
Chris White 39.0 \$50

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who showed up to play!

2010 Road Warrior

The prizes have been increased this year. The total prize fund is now **\$1,000!** More prizes will be given out. The prize structure is as follows:

1st \$400 2nd \$200 3rd \$100 4th \$100 5th \$100 6th \$100



Here are the Road Warrior events for 2010:

#	Date	Event	City
1	January 8-10	Schleinich Memorial	Calgary
2	January 30-31	Trumpeter Classic	Grande Prairie
3	February 20-21	Northern Alberta Open	Edmonton
4	March 6-7	March of Kings	Calgary
5	March 20-21	Lethbridge Open	Lethbridge
6	April 2-4	Alberta Closed Championship	Edmonton
6	April 3-4	Alberta Reserves	Edmonton
6	April 3-4	Alberta Women's Championship	Edmonton
7	May 1-2	Over/Under 1800	Edmonton
8	May 20-24	Calgary International Chess Classic	Calgary
9	June 20-21	Edmonton International Qualifier	Edmonton
10	July 28-August 2	Edmonton International Chess Festival	Edmonton
11	September 4-6	Battle at the Border	Lloydminster
12	September 18-19	Medicine Hat Open	Medicine Hat
13	October 9-11	Alberta Open	Calgary
14	October 22-24	Edmonton Fall Sectional	Edmonton
15	November 20-21	Southern Alberta Open	Calgary
16	December 18-19	WBX Team Tournament	Edmonton



Chess on the Internet: Calgary vs. Brantford Ontario

The two clubs had been planning an internet match for months. Both clubs are in the middle of an email match at the rate of one move per week. The email match features two games with both teams getting one White and one Black. You can view the progress of this match by visiting the Calgary Chess Club website at the following link: http://www.calgarychess.com/Email_Challenge.html. Each week, moves are suggested from anyone who attends the clubs. The candidate moves are listed and then voted upon. The moves are then sent by email.

The internet match features 4 boards. Average rating is near 1670. The first half of the match took place on January 23 at the Calgary Chess Club, and the home of Rob Gashgarian, president of the Brantford Chess Club. The Calgary Chess Club has information of the match on their website at:

http://www.calgarychess.com/Internet_Match.html

The games are being played live on FICS (Free Internet Chess Server). Spectators are invited. All you need to do is download one of several interfaces that FICS offers, look for our handles and watch. Go to the FICS website to open your account and download at www.freechess.org.

Captain Rob Gashgarian (gashman) put together the crew from Brantford, while I, Captain Tony Ficzer (fritzer) assembled the Calgary team. There were absolutely no technical problems with the first round of the match.

Brantford won the first half of the match 3-1. Rob defeated me on board one. On board two, Calgary's Bob Macfie went down in flames against Lee Hendon. Bob's position in the late opening/early middle game looked quite good, but Bob fell apart for some unknown reason, giving up a pawn, and eventually the game. Board three was won by Brantford junior, Adam

Cormier. Adam defeated Tom McKay handily. Board four saw Calgary's only victory of the match when Nicholas Sebelabeng easily out-matched Tyler Ensor. The rest of the Calgary team was very happy that Nicholas showed up!

Tyler was quick to point out that he was sharpening his knife for the re-match. I quickly pointed out that you shouldn't bring a knife to a gun fight. Then, when Brantford's board 3 won (Adam Cormier), they were quick to point out that you shouldn't bring a gun to a tank fight! Good point.

The match will be CFC rated. At stake is \$5,000 in Monopoly money. The second half of the match will take place in late February. Calgary must score at least 3 wins to pull even. The rules for tie breaks have not been worked out yet.

I know all of us in Calgary enjoyed the match and look forward to the 2nd half. We've already received an email by another club looking to get into the action. I'm surprised more internet events like this haven't taken place. Calgary will certainly be doing this more often.

GM Nakamura coming to Alberta

US champion GM Hikaru Nakamura will be playing in the 2010 Battle at the Border which takes place September 4-6 in Lloydminster.

Former Canadian champion GM Pascal Charbonneau will also be in attendance. IM Yan Teplitski and FM Jack Yoos are also in the lineup.

Jamin Gluckie is the organizer. For complete event details, visit the tournament website:

www.albertachess.org/2010BATB/index.php



TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As of February 10, 2010

1	Porper, Edward	2494
2	Hansen, Eric	2484
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2380
4	Huber, Gregory	2330
5	Haessel, Dale	2328
6	Gardner, Robert J.	2320
7	Kaminski, Victor	2315
8	Reeve, Jeff	2306
9	Peter, Steven	2294
10	Haynes, Nicolas	2282
11	Li, Zhichao	2280
12	Neven, Knut	2266
13	Kazmaier, Daniel	2264
14	Ristic, Nenad	2262
15	Kaminski, Thomas	2226
16	Wang, Richard	2190
17	Booker, Brad	2188
18	Robichaud, Martin	2184
19	Yearwood, Roy	2158
20	Nguyen, Kim	2158
21	Grumic, Sasa	2154
22	Kalisvaart, Peter	2132
23	Willis, Bradley J.	2106
24	Purewal, Sardul	2082
25	Perron, Sean	2081
26	Monaghan, Jim	2080
27	Campbell, Gordon	2077
28	Gorelik, Lev	2076
29	Pedersen, Rick	2076
30	Zhang, David	2064
31	Daniluk, Jim	2064
32	Karmali, Hafiz	2022
33	Stark, Mark	2008
34	Tot, Nandor	1997
35	Pradzinski, Tim	1988
36	Pua, Richard	1985
37	Macintosh, John J.	1974
38	Rusnell, Lorne	1966
39	Regimbald, Adrien	1954
40	Miller, Brian	1953

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

As of February 10, 2010

1	Porper, Edward	2431
2	Hansen, Eric	2406
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2335
4	Kaminski, Victor	2247
5	Peter, Steven	2234
6	Reeve, Jeff	2230
7	Haessel, Dale	2220
8	Huber, Gregory	2217
9	Ristic, Nenad	2203
10	Li, Zhichao	2184

The Junior Pages

Here you will find tournament results, games and articles on junior chess in our province. We hope to make this a regular feature in the ACR.

Roy Yearwood provides the following game from the 2009 Alberta Junior Reserves:

Patrick Tolentino

Jackson Prather

Notes by Roy Yearwood

1.e4

White opens his Bishop and Queen and gains control of the d5 and f5 squares.

1...h5

Black plays with complete disregard for conventional opening principles regarding the centre and development. This is probably due to lack of knowledge of them more than anything else.

2.d4

The other Bishop is opened up.



2...c6

Black prepares to develop his Queen.

3.g3

White is confused. It's probably better to get with his prepared development with 3.♗c4, perhaps followed by ♖f3 and a future castling, which would go a long way to making the White King safe, at least for the foreseeable future.

3...d6

Black in turn prepares to bring out the Bishop from c8.

4.♗g2

Develops toward the centre and supports the pawn at e4.

4...♗g4

Black develops and attacks the White Queen.

5.♖e2

White develops another piece and prepares to castle.

5...♗a5+



Black is sort of consistent and brings out his Queen with check, no less. This development is not the best, however. Perhaps a move that brings out a piece

aiming to control the centre might be better.

6.♗d2

White responds with a developing move of his own. This also parries the threat to the White King and attacks the Black Queen on the a5 square. Other moves to consider were 6.♖bc3, 6.♖bd2, 6.♗d2, and moving the pawn on c2 to c3.

6...♗b6

Black sees the threat to his Queen and so retreats. At the same time, he attacks the pawn on the b2 square.

7.b3

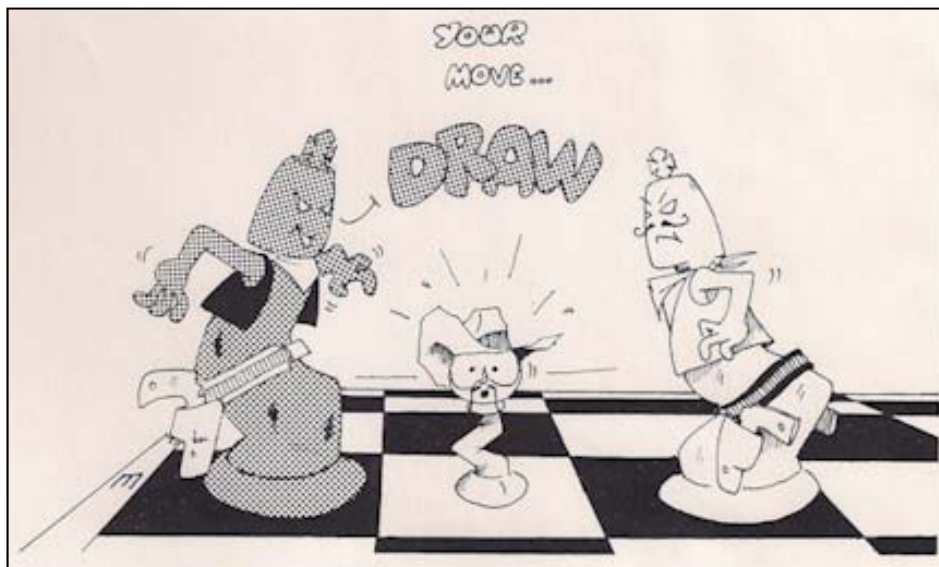
White responds to the threat by direct defence and moves the pawn forward to b3. Whenever there is a threat that you, in your turn, decide to respond to, you should consider one of four responses. They are capture, block, move, and defend. You might remember your options more easily using the first letter of each word: C for capture, B for block, M for move, and D for defend, to get the sequence C B M D.

7...c5

Black attacks the centre and makes way for the Knight on b8 to come out.

8.dxc5

White deals with the attack on his pawn on d4 by capture. This move also has the added benefit of gaining White a material superiority of one pawn. In



general, it's good to be up material, provided other concerns (King safety, piece placement, pawn structure and development to name just a few) are equal.

8...dxc5

Black recaptures and restores material equality.

9.O-O

Moving the King to a safer place. For a more detailed discussion of when to castle, see Lawrence Day's article in *Canadian Chess News*, September 2009.

9...♗d7

Black, at a loss regarding the principles of opening development, retreats his Bishop to an unfortunate square.

10.e5



White advances into Black's half of the board. This move has the virtue of opening the h1-a8 diagonal for the White Bishop placed on g2 while also restricting the easy development of Black's Knight to the f6 square. Perhaps White could do better by seeing about the development of his queen-side pieces (e.g. 10.♖bc3).

10...♞c6

Black develops while gaining time. The pawn on the e5 square is attacked. Developing with gain of tempo is usually a good idea, especially so in the opening.

11.♙c3

White responds with direct defence of the pawn on e5.

11...h4

Black sees a way to attack the White King by opening the h-file. After, say, hxg3, this would bring the Rook on the h8 square to life.

12.♗b2

This may have been done to put the Bishop in a safer place.

12...hxg3

Black continues with his ambitious play.

13.fxg3

This restores material equality. At the same time, it opens the f-file and the g1-a7 diagonal.

13...c4+

Black takes advantage of White's last move and lunges forward.

14.♞h1

14.♞d4, 14.♖f2, and 14.♗d4 were other possible choices. The move chosen, however, is best under the circumstances.

14...♞b5

Black defends his pawn on the c4 square while simultaneously attacking the White pawn on e5.

15.♞d2

In the course of preparing his own plans, White overlooks or ignores the attack on his e5 pawn. One of the questions a chess player must always ask him or herself is, "What is the threat, if any, contained in my opponent's last move?" This simple question, when asked, will often save pieces, pawns and more importantly, points.

15...e6

Perhaps this was done to prepare development of the Bishop from the f8 square, or maybe to bring the Knight to e7. I think however, that it's more likely that Black wants White's pawn on e5 to remain there, so that it can be attacked yet again. Castling long may have been better.

16.♞d1

White prepares to end the game, if he can.

16...f6

This is a poor move, for obvious reasons. By simply asking himself the question: "**What's the threat?**" Black would have at least been alerted to the possibility of an upcoming checkmate.

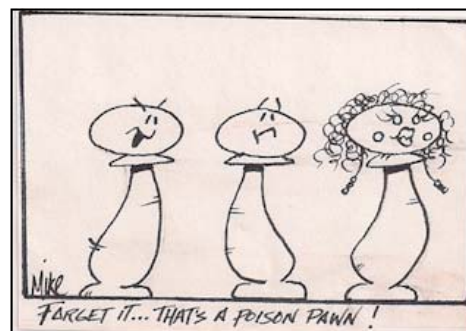
17.♞xd7#

The game ends. The figures are reset for the next game.

Conclusions: a poor game conducted by the general commanding the Black pieces. A few lessons spent on opening principles and strategy will surely help here. The White general conducted himself better, but not overly so. When playing a game, it would be a good idea to approach it with a little more seriousness than is the case at present.

When a move is made, ask yourself: "What's the threat?" By asking yourself this simple question, you should be alerted to most simple tactical ideas or threats that might be looming on the horizon. Positional threats (e.g., getting or giving doubled pawns, backward pawns, isolated or split pawns, loss of castling rights, or having a poorly developed position, to name but a few), while being harder to see, can also be spotted by again asking the question: "What's the threat?"

Also consider your options when confronted with an attack to which you are going to respond. Remember your four response possibilities: Capture, Block, Move, Defend (CBMD). Considering these responses will save you a lot of pieces, pawns, and games that would otherwise be lost to you.



West Edmonton Mall School Team Match

By Bruce Thomas

This event was organized by Roving Chess Nuts. Directors of the event were Bruce Thomas, Howard Louie, Derek Thomas, Andrew Hess and Alexander Kaiser. New Horizons School of Ardrossan continued to dominate school team chess by taking first in Section A and seconds in Sections B and C of the West Edmonton Mall Elementary School Team Match on January 24. But the A team had to win first place by tiebreak because after it dominated a preliminary round-robin, it played a sudden death round with Westbrook A Team which resulted in a 2.5-2.5 tie. There were a total of 12 teams representing eight schools at this third school team of the current school year. The next team match will be February 28, followed by the Northern Alberta Championship on April 25.

Section A Results:

Round Robin followed by top two teams play for gold, bottom two play for third (average rating after team name)

1st New Horizons Team A (1405)

1. David McCullough, 2. Noah Hoffner, 3. Ian McCullough, 4. Allan Stanilus, 5. Austin Hesse

2nd Westbrook Team A (1275)

1. Tony Yang, 2. Richard Mah, 3. Chris Li, 4. Rayden Lin, 5. Mark Nie

3rd Greenfield (1160)

1. Zhonglin Huang, 2. Dante Chan, 3. Destin Chan, 4. Jeremy Kerr, 5. Dylan Kerr

4th York Academic (1006)

1. David Li, 2. Davin Ness, 3. Dustin Shemko, 4. Collin Harrison, 5. Hunter Verge

Section B Results:

Round Robin followed by top 2 teams play for gold, bottom two play for third

(average rating after team name)

1st Westbrook Team B (1022)

1. Ryan Nowakowsky, 2. Andrei Niculescu, 3. Kaining Lin, 4. Mehrshad Sahebsara, 5. Polar Wang

2nd New Horizons Team B (969)

1. Ryan Jensen, 2. Marcela Louie, 3. Mitchell Powley, 4. Brody Shandro, 5. Jarod Hasell

3rd Garneau Elementary (942)

1. Jakob Kaiser, 2. Alex Broughton, 3. Vinh Nguyen, 4. Jadyd Buchanan

4th. Glenora (964)

1. Stephen Pavlic, 2. Filip Stevanovic, 3. Andrew Keates, 4. Boris Stevanovic, 5. Riley Ross

Section C Results:

Round Robin followed by top 2 teams play for gold, bottom two play for third (average rating after team name)

1st Tempo (835)

1. Sebastien Despres, 2. John Cervantes, 3. Patrick Cervantes, 4. Albert Li, 5. Adrideo Samuels

2nd New Horizons Team C (622)

1. Tosin Kuye, 2. Kevin Stanislus 3. Ayush Namboothiri, 4. Justin Powley, 5. Ty Reed, 6. Dawson Reed

3rd McKernan (665 for 5)

1. Dennis Situ, 2. Vincent Baird, 3. Rown Ley, 4. Sebastian Ley

4th Westbrook Team C (566)

1. Ethan Chew, 2. Rith Bal, 3. Norman Fu, 4. Novin Kong, 5. Jannon Kong, 6. Shenal Wijeyeratne

Team Draw Prize Winners

Pizza Party for School Chess Program:

Westbrook A, Westbrook C, McKernan

Chess Set for Library:

Westbrook B, New Horizons, Greenfield



Roving Chess Nuts



New Horizons A Team kept its champ title by winning Section A at the West Edmonton Mall Elementary School Team Match on January 24. Team members were: front, left to right, Austin Hesse, Noah Hoffner, David McCullough and Ian McCullough; back Allan Stanislus.

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN ALBERTA!

<p>Calgary Chess Club #274, 3359-27th St. NE (Parma Tech Centre, North Building) Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights from 6:30-11 p.m. Phone 403.264.9498 Website: www.calgarychess.com</p>	<p>Grande Prairie Chess Club 1st Apostolic Church, 9932 91 Ave Tuesdays from 6-10 p.m. Contact: Tim Pradzinski 780.518.2281 Email database@telusplanet.net Website: www.gpchessclub.com</p>	<p>Okotoks Chess Club Contact: Richard Bradley Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Calgary Junior Chess Club #274, 3359-27th St. NE (Parma Tech Centre, North Building) Contact: Simon Ong Email: simong89@yahoo.ca Website: www.geocities.com/calgarychess4juniors/home.html</p>	<p>Hanna Chess Club United Church on Centre St. Contact Jon, 403.854.3412</p>	<p>Sherwood Park Second Cup on Baseline Road Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to closing time Contact: Les Jones, 780.467.7393</p>
<p>University of Calgary Chess Club Contact: Adie Email: chess@ucalgary.ca</p>	<p>Hinton Queen's Bakery and Café, 124 Market St. Contact: Peter Bundscherer, 780.865.5050</p>	<p>Wainwright Chess Club Showtime Video, #701 10 Main St. Thursdays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact: Allen Tinio, 780.842.4123 Email: amtinio@telus.net.</p>
<p>Edmonton Chess Club #204, 10840-124 St. Mondays & Thursdays, 7-11 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Phone 780. 424.0283 Website: edmontonchessclub.org/</p>	<p>Lethbridge Contact: Kent Karapita Email: kentkarapita@hotmail.com</p>	<p>EDMONTON CASUAL CHESS For general information or if you are interested in setting up a new casual site in Northern Alberta. Contact: Bruce Thomas 780.474.2318 Email: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Edmonton Castle Downs Castledowns Public Library program room, 106 Lakeside Landing, 15379 Castle Downs Road Tuesdays 1-4:30 p.m. Casual chess - no clocks, no ratings; open to all ages, up to 16 players involved.</p>	<p>University of Lethbridge Contact: Thomas Fox Email: thomas.fox@uleth.ca Website: people.uleth.ca/~chess.club/</p>	<p>Edmonton-Blackspot Café 15120 Stony Plain Road Sundays, 2-10 p.m. Sets are available.</p>
<p>University of Alberta Student Union Building @ Avenue Pizza Restaurant/Lounge September through April (excluding Dec), Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Contact: Stephen Stone Email: StephenRStone@gmail.com Website: uachess.wetpaint.com</p>	<p>Lloydminster Contact: Terry Chaisson H. 780.875.8186 Or cell: 780.871.3995</p>	<p>Edmonton-ChessMart 12015-76 St Open weekdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and some evenings and weekends. Casual games can be arranged and evaluation of players of all ages.</p>
	<p>Medicine Hat Chess Club Southridge Village, 550 Spruce Way SE Mid September to mid June, Wednesdays, 7-10:30 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484 Email taylorlmw@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Edmonton-Millwoods Seniors Drop-in Centre inside Millwoods Town Centre Mall Thursdays, starting 1 p.m. For changes, corrections, or additions to this listing email tficzere@telus.net</p>
	<p>Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club 1015 3rd St. N.W. End of October to early March, Saturdays 1:30-4 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484 Email taylorlmw@shaw.ca</p>	

Upcoming Tournaments & Events

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZER	LOCATION
Feb 13-14	AYCC Championship	Simon Ong & Roy Yearwood	Calgary
Feb 20-21	Northern Alberta Open	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton
March 6-7	March of Kings	Tony Ficzere	Calgary
March 20-21	Lethbridge Open	Paul Viminitz	Lethbridge
April 2-4	Alberta Closed	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton
April 3-4	Alberta Reserves	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton
April 3-4	Alberta Women's Championship	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton



Tired of all those bothersome boys running around at chess tournaments!

Here's an event for **GIRLS ONLY!**

Only for Gals Chess Tournament

Saturday, February 13 Sign in 12:50 p.m.
Roving ChessNuts 12013 76 Street Edmonton
Games start at 1 - finishing time 3 to 3:15 p.m.
Register online at www.rovingchessnuts.com
prior to February 9. Entry fee on sign-in: \$10

All entrants eligible for special awards and draw prizes
Healthy snacks and juice included in entry
Friendly chess games in round-robin sections

A great event for the female chess players in school programs who want to make chess friends who are not queen-bashing guys!
There may be a section for adult females - chess playing moms welcomed!
If time allows there will be some coaching and games analysis!
Phone 780-474-2318 if you have questions - Register online: www.rovingchessnuts.com

2010 March of Kings

March 6-7
Calgary Chess Club
274 3359 27th St. NE
Parma Tech Centre, North Building
5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE Rated, ONE SECTION
CFC membership required, can be purchased on site
Note: CFC membership (if expired) must be renewed prior to start of round 1
TD: Tony Ficzero
Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increment
Round Times: Saturday 10 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 7 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. & ASAP after round 4
Byes: Maximum 2 half point byes available in first 3 rounds if notified before start of round 1
Prizes: Entries less expenses
Entry Fee: Adult \$30, Junior (<18) \$25. Free entry to I.M.'s & G.M.'s.
Registration: Advanced entries encouraged. Email tficzero@telus.net or phone 403-971-2437
On-site Registration: Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Advanced entries required to check in at registration desk by 9:45 a.m. or you will not be paired for first round.
CASH ONLY AT SITE, NO CHEQUES
This is a *Road Warrior* event

2010 Lethbridge Open

March 20-21
Lethbridge Lodge
320 Scenic Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta
5 Round Swiss - CFC Rated
CFC membership required, can be purchased at site
TD: Tony Ficzero
Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increment
Schedule: Saturday 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m., ASAP
Entry Fee: \$30 Adult, \$20 Junior
Byes: Maximum 2 half point byes available in first 4 rounds
Prize Fund: Sum of entry fees (expenses paid by organizer)
Registration:
Saturday March 20 from 9:30-9:45 a.m.
Advanced entries email tficzero@telus.net
If you are looking for transportation, contact tficzero@telus.net
A limited number of billets will be available.
There will be a free wine and cheese at the home of Dr. Viminitz after the last (3rd) round on Saturday.
For further information contact Dr. Paul Viminitz at 403-331-3295 or vimp0@uleth.ca
This is a *Road Warrior* event

If you are not a higher rated player in Calgary for the Alberta Youth Chess Championships then join the fun in Edmonton ...



Be My Chess
Valentine's!

Open
Scholastic
Tournament
on Valentine's
February 14

Edmonton Chess Club
Lots of Draw Prizes
of Chocolates & Goodies!

Round-Robin Sections according to C'n'M ratings
Entries limited to first 64 players - register early
as many beginning players from school programs
are being invited to this event

Register online for this Society of Alberta Chess Knights event:
www.rovingchessnuts.com

Alberta Closed (April 2-4)
Alberta Women's Championship (April 3-4)
Alberta Reserves (April 3-4)

Alberta's premier chess events!

The winner of the Alberta Closed qualifies to the Canadian Closed Championship

TD: Terry Seehagen
Visit www.albertachess.org for details

