

ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

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ODACHOWSKI WINS ALBERTA OPEN IN SMELLY AFFAIR

report by Ford Wong

The Alberta Open was attended by 38 players including three newcomers to competitive chess. Master Arthur Odachowski continued with his winning ways by qualifying for the Alberta Closed for the second time. He has won the last two Alberta Closed qualifiers (Alberta Open and Over 1800). Odie cruised to victory with 5 points giving away two draws in the last two rounds while all the other contenders struggled to keep pace. Yuri Vasylev was set back in round two by Derrick Jewlal. Sasha Grumic stumbled in round three to Michah Hughey. Roy Yearwood was unable to regain the half point lost by a first round bye but otherwise had a chance to overtake first. Dave Ottosen kept pace until round four

when he was beaten back by Odie. Vasylev, Yearwood, Grumic, and Ottosen all managed to bounce back to claim a share of second prize. Also sneaking in to claim a share of 2nd prize was Art Milne by converting a long endgame to a point. Art's only setback was a second round loss to Odie.

Overall, the tournament went smoothly, beginning with John Q who made the run to Costco to restock the chocolate bar inventory at the club and ensure that everyone had access to typical chess nourishment. The Alberta Open featured two "Smell" breaks; one in the middle of round two and one in the middle of the last round. During round two, a horrible odor entered the room making me wonder who had the beans or was it chili for lunch. Building

security burst into the room and asked us to evacuate the building, though not before I gave him the big sssssh!, telling them that there was a chess tournament going on. One of the players offered to use his lighter to check for gas. The fire department arrived to check things out. They let us back in a half hour later, saying that it was a sewer gas leak and there was nothing dangerous around. In addition to the Alberta Open, a wedding reception was interrupted. While waiting around outside, I asked the caterers if there was any spare grub, but they didn't have any... so much for a Thanksgiving dinner for everyone. Mind you, there were lots of people whose play reminding me of serving up turkey. Don't forget to pass the gravy. Dur-

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GRANDE PRAIRIE FALL ACTIVE

report by Phil Lefkowitz

The Grande Prairie Chess Club's annual fall active tournament drew ten players. Grant Mactavish of Dawson Creek, BC beat Larry Stutzman of Fort St. John, BC in the final round to win with a perfect 4-0 score. This threw Larry into a tie for second with Phil Lefkowitz of the home club with 3-1.

Dean Johnson of Grande Prairie took the Under 1600 section with 2-0, and Ian Brown, also of Grande Prairie, returned from a 15-year hiatus to place second with 1.5. Cliff Turner, at one time Grande Prairie's highest rated chess player, also returned after numerous years. Our club was very glad to have both of them over the board again.

The Alberta Chess Report (ACR) is published bimonthly by the Alberta Chess Association (ACA). The editor reserves the right to edit articles for brevity and clarity. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the ACA.

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A Chess Federation of Canada membership, which includes an ACA membership, costs: adults \$38; juniors \$26; participating \$11. An ACA membership only costs: adults \$5; juniors \$3; participating \$1. Tournament memberships cost: adults \$10; juniors \$5.

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**Submission deadline for next issue:
 January 15.**

Tournament Directors: The CFC requires a rating report to be submitted within a month, but strongly urges submissions within seven days. You owe it to participants to submit a report ASAP. Also, please support your newsletter by sending a written report to the *ACR*. Note that game scores are the property of tournament organizers. Prizes can be withheld until players submit their games.

The most preferred way to submit an item to the *ACR* is to email the editor at dave@cs.ualberta.ca. Hand-delivering to the editor is also possible. As a last resort, mail the item to the ACA:

**Alberta Chess Association
 Box 11839 Main P.O.
 Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3K9**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another Alberta Open, another ACA Board... another ACA President. Actually, new ACA Presidents are not that common. After Ford Wong spent 30-40 years as President, Walter Watson took over for the past 4 years, and now me. How did I come to get suckered in... I mean have this great opportunity!

Now, as all the avid readers of the President's Messages (yes, both of you) know, this is generally used to elaborate on all the new and fantastic initiatives being spearheaded by the ACA to benefit you, the Alberta Chess Player. Well, to take care of that part, the ACA has created the new tournament schedule for the year 2000, which has only minor changes; cancellation of the "Used to be U of A Open" (now known as the "Used to be a Tournament tournament"), addition of regional qualifiers for the Canadian Youth Chess Championship, and addition of a little 10 round Open tournament next July. The ACA is also continuing to take steps towards registering a domain name to host a web site.

The next ACA meeting will be in January, and it's the "big one"; the ACA Budget meeting. A number of people suggest many good ideas for the ACA; however, the ACA must follow the January budget in order to be fiscally responsible. If you have a great idea for chess in Alberta, NOW is the time to bring it to any ACA Board member so that they can request funding for it. However, I will add that ideas that are backed up by the willingness to do some work to support them will receive much more serious and favorable consideration from the ACA Board than "hey wouldn't it be great if the

ACA would..." type ideas.

Also at this meeting, I hope to discuss a new method of selecting CFC Governors that involves more membership involvement. If you have any ideas on how to do this in a feasible manner, please talk to myself or any ACA Board member. The next set of CFC Governors must be selected for the CFC Annual General Meeting in July at the Canadian Open.

Finally, please do not forget that both the Edmonton Chess Club and the Alberta Chess Association are both hosting casinos in Edmonton in early 2000. I appreciate all of those of you who have already signed up, but more volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in free food and playing blitz at a fancy casino, contact either Ford Wong or Micah Hughey. It is impossible to overstate the benefits of running casinos to the ACA; the alternative is to hold back money from prize funds to pay room rental and travel to national championships. Please do not hesitate to volunteer if you are asked!

Hmm... despite my best efforts, this turned into yet another boring President's message. Well, if anyone made it this far, obviously you enjoy reading extremely dull writing that meanders on with minimal purpose and is only marginally coherent to a person of average intelligence. Let me know, so I can have Walter send you some NDP literature.

David Ottosen
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MASTER LECTURE: SPAWN OF ODIE

report by Steve Hansen

Arthur ("don't call me Art or I will kill you") Odachowski is a flasher, ladies and gentlemen. Yes, on Nov. 30 at the CCC, Odie whipped out his little talk on Flash Cards for an awe-struck audience of 16. He explained that the idea behind flash cards was to create a permanent record of important ideas and positions that was easy to review. A recent convert to the flash card methodology, Mr. O. was frothing with religious fervor over the benefits of constructing these doily-sized things. Soon we were all frothing and prostrate and begging to be indoctrinated with flash card dogma!

Lead by the master, we discussed many different chess positions. Some of these were of the 'simple' rook vs. pawn type, and others involved more complex piece sacs (to get passed pawns), and tactical ideas. All illustrated some important point or another and were suitable as flash card subjects. The audience was also treated to several of Odipovs games. We are Spawn of Odie now.

Thanks to Arthur for sharing some of his knowledge with us, and to the Calgary Club for sponsoring this master lecture.

OVER/UNDER 1800

report by David Ottosen

Alberta's only sectional tournament was once again held this year, over the vociferous objections of NDP supported Walter Watson, who felt the tournament was just another example of the class system, and therefore evil. Despite his objections, 27 players showed up in the two sections, and divide themselves off as evenly as they could, with 13 in the top section and 14 in the bottom.

In the top section, Arthur Odachowski overcame a difficult (to say the least) start to his weekend to score 4/5 and win the spot to the Alberta Closed. Arthur had to take a forced bye in round 1, drew with Haessel in round 3, and rolled through the rest of his games to win the tournament outright. It looked as though Dale Haessel might win the tournament, but he became bogged down in a series of three draws to finish the tournament. Arthur Milne had a strong tournament, providing the only master scalp when he went *ciseaux-à-tête* with Sasha Grumic. My overall impression of the top section was that there were a lot of plodding closed games.

The bottom section was much more lively, as the players were fairly stunned when 12th ranked Theo Buitendyk stomped through his first 3 games, decimating the opposition in grotesque style. However, in round 4, he had to face the "Moment of Doo-th", as Alvin Doo soundly defeated him. Thus, going into the last round, Alvin was in clear first with 3.5/4. His customary early draw offer to Kurtis Nystrom was refused with the words "There will be NO draw", which turned out to represent good judgment on Nystrom's part, as he quickly obtained an overwhelming superiority and won handily. This allowed the resurgent Buitendyk to also tie for first, both with 4/5. Buitendyk's performance allowed him to gain a "warp your mind" 154 points.

The TD varied from the "submit a game or no \$\$" formula advocated by the ACA, and as a result, received only two games (both of which had to be solicited after the fact in fear of sending in an extremely short ACR report and incurring the wrath of the vengeful editor). [*Weren't you aware that Grant's not the editor anymore? Anyway, it so happens that there wasn't room to include them, but thanks for making the effort. -DG*]

CALGARY CHESS CLUB FALL SECTIONAL

report by Walter Watson

There was a lot of last-round excitement in the Fall Class tournament. In each of the four sections, the leading player met someone trailing him by only half a point. In three of the four, the leading player lost. The top three sections were six-player round robins, while the fourth was a fourteen-player Swiss.

Andrew Lapides started with 3-0 in the top section. He then lost the best game of the tournament to Roy Yearwood in round four. Because Arthur Odachowski had lost in time trouble to John Parrott, Lapides went into the last round still half a point ahead of those two. Parrott had to struggle to draw his last game, with Kris Boehmer. That let Odachowski earn clear first by defeating Lapides in the endgame, when each player had less than ten minutes left in sudden death. The leading scores were Odachowski 3.5/5, Lapides and Parrott 3, Boehmer and Yearwood 2.5. This was John Parrott's last regular tournament at the club, as he is moving to Saskatoon. His result pushed his rating back over 2200, but with a bit more luck, he could have finished even higher than he did.

In section II, Art Milne was playing some of his best chess in years when he led John Ferrar and Jim Flemming by half a point going into the last round. Milne had lost to Flemming in round three after refusing a draw, while Flemming had lost an interesting KID Saemisch to Alan Clark in round two. Meanwhile, Ferrar had started slowly with three draws before finally winning in round four. Milne's good form disappeared in round five when he dropped an early piece to Ferrar on the white side of a King's Gambit Accepted. Flemming missed a tie for first when he lost to Rod Weis. The scores in this hard-fought section were Ferrar 3.5/5, Milne 3, Flemming 2.5, and Clark, Weis, and Chris Kuczaj all with 2.

[For those who are interested in such things – if there's anyone besides me – each of the top two sections had a player named Arthur, one named Chris (Kris), one named

Jim, and one named John. Each also had another play whose first name starts with "A" (Andrew and Allan) and one whose first name starts with "R" (Roy and Rod). In an unofficial tag-team competition, the Arthurs and the Johns tied for first with 6.5/10. The "A"s came third with 5. Sorry, no prize for this.]

Kim Nguyen was the lowest-rated player in section III, but you'd never know it by his play. He only gave up a draw to Bill Bentley on the white side of a French Tarrasch to start with 3.5/4. Steve Sauve stayed a half point back with two wins and two draws. Nguyen finally overcame Sauve's last round blockade in a rook and pawn on the seventh versus rook ending, building a bridge to push the pawn through. Kevin Ward drew with John Rajchel in a game where both players missed that Rajchel could win a piece. The leading scores were Nguyen 4.5/5, Sauve and Ward 3, and Bentley 2.5.

The Swiss section had four unrated players out of fourteen. After two rounds, they all had at least one point, while the 3rd, 4th, 6th and 8th-rated players started with 0/2. Meanwhile, highest-rated Paul Lapides played steadily. He only gave up a draw to Bert Valeroso while taking the lead with 3.5/4. His closest pursuers were Ted Borowski, Juraj Pivovarov and unrated Casey Clark with 3 points. Lapides made the "last mistake" against Borowski in an uneven game, while rapidly improving Pivovarov beat strong newcomer Clark in a hard-fought struggle. The results were Borowski and Pivovarov 4/5, Lapides 3.5, Valeroso, Jonathan Bjornson, Mike Smith and Clark 3, unrated Jules Caouette 2.5, Tom McKay and recently returned Charles Gruhlke 2, etc. Clark won the top under 1500/unrated prize when Pivovarov tied for first. Congratulations to all the unrateds for your play. We hope you play again soon.

A highlight of the tournament was the visit of David Ottosen from Edmonton, to check out his soon-to-be subjects. Thanks to Don Macfarlane for helping organize the tournament and to club president Warrick Walker.

WRITE SO THAT OTHERS MAY
READ. SUPPORT YOUR ACR.

ALBERTA OPEN

(Continued from page 1)

ing round six the smell came back and I stopped the tournament to have it checked again. The fire department came back and it was our old friend, sewer gas. I honestly don't think that the bad gas was caused by any of the participants having a really bad game... not that anyone would admit to anyway.

People who won turkey vouchers at the Alberta Open were:

Open: 1st Arthur Odachowski
2nd (tie) Art Milne,
David Ottosen,
Yuri Vasylev,
Roy Yearwood

Under 2000: 1st (tie) Jonathan Day,
Hans Olson,
John Quiring,
Rod Weis

Under 1800: 1st (tie) Alvin Doo,
Nic Haynes,
Kim Nguyen

Under 1600: 1st Stacy Kazakevich
2nd Cor Dewindt

The ACA was hoping that a large, top-heavy prize fund (\$750.00) in the Open section would attract more "Big Scalps". However, only four (five if you include Alberta's newest and weakest) masters appeared, and only four of the expert variety. This meant a gross disparity in the distribution of prizes relative to the distribution of players by class. It seems unfair to all the As, Bs, and Cs who bolstered the prize fund. I hope that the ACA will dispense with the top-heavy prize fund next year: it doesn't seem to bring out the stronger players. I personally like to spread the prizes around everywhere so that most everyone goes home with something. The ACA guaranteed a prize fund of \$1000 and had to contribute \$171.

Thanks again to all the players, especially the out-of-towners and the three people who were playing in their first competitive chess tournament. Special thanks go to Walter "Who?", who filled in for me as TD while I stepped out to do some family errands and to go into work for several hours.

ECC DANCE 'O POWER

report by David Ottosen

The Edmonton Chess Club held its traditional November "Dance 'o X" tournament. In 1998, David Ottosen won the Dance 'o Joy. Now, in 1999, he defended his title in the Dance 'o Power, scoring 4-0 to win the tournament. Finishing a surprising second was Jonathan Day with 3.5/4; Day drew with Micah Hughey and defeated Alan Clark (although he made no comment about the ratings of Calgarian players and their accuracy). An encouraging sign was

the second tournament in a row with over 20 players. The tournament also welcomed a couple of other newcomers who had successful tournaments; Brent Thompson, whose 1300 rating did not prevent him from winning in the first two rounds and showing one particular player who shall remain nameless that "c8=Q" is always a good move, and David Belleau, formerly of British Columbia. Kudos also to Dawn Rock for passing through one of the most important milestones in Edmonton Chess Club play: her first draw with Cor Dewindt.

MUD PIE AT THE ALBERTA OPEN:
THE TEST OF CHESS MANHOOD

report by Ford Wong

As with many chess tournaments (in this case, the Alberta Open) involving some of my Edmonton chess buds, when all the games are done after day one, we always go for a late night snack along with any others who want to join us. On this evening, there would be twelve of us... Instead of the usual Boston Pizza, it was decided that it was time to re-affirm one's chess manhood and take the Test. The Test is simple: go to Red Robin, consume a regular entrée with beverage – and more if you can – then the Mud Pie. Tonight there would be seven of us brave enough to take the test. There was actually eight but the eighth didn't count as he missed out on the entrée. I heard the waitress bark out "Eight

mud pies!", and the ensuing conversation: "Are you sure?" "Yes!" and then the sound of the chainsaws that were used to cut off chunks of the 8" thick chocolate ice cream that goes into the Test. Soon, the Test arrived: mounds of chocolate ice cream on top of a thick tar layer smothered in whipped cream, nuts, chocolate sauce and one maraschino cherry. It was delivered by a caravan of waiters who staggered up under the enormous weight of their cargo. And so the Test began. The first to finish was Walter "Who?", who had previously consumed a large lasagna, large milkshake, and a bottomless ginger ale. Next was "Johnny Q" (who seriously considered having another one). The remaining order of finish was Juraj, myself (who had a Reu-

ben for the entrée), Davey O (Canada's newest and weakest master), and then Adrien. With the Test, there is always one who fails. This time the honour went to someone who shall remain nameless until he redeems himself. To make things simple, I'll just refer to him as "Josh". As I sat pounded down in my chair, I looked at "Josh". I could tell that he was struggling by the tortured look on his face. There was still a chance that he could do it – half a pie left to go. Everyone was uttering encouragement. "You can do it". "Just one spoonful at a time"... The waitress tried to help by placing a lit sparkler on the mountain and asking the rest of the patrons in the restaurant for their encouragement. By this time, however, the words of encouragement had changed to a loud chorus of boos.

Seven put up their hand to order dessert but only six can walk tall. The Test was over. An armada of cranes was moved in to lift everyone out of the restaurant. The waitress said, "Come back soon!" as we made our way out. And for most of us, we knew that someday we would be back, as you never know when the Test would happen again. As for "Josh", he now is the nameless one in chess living in his shame knowing that he failed the Test of Chess Manhood.

As I left the restaurant, I couldn't help but think that perhaps the test was not really over as the waitress mentioned that the Banana Blast is twice as big as the Mud Pie. Hmmm? To be continued...

There is always one who fails...

I'll just refer to him as "Josh".

QUIRING, TAYLOR JUST CAN'T PLACE IN THE HAT

report by Bill Taylor

Twelve players locked chess horns in friendly competition in the 5th Annual Medicine Hat Open. The local competitors were outnumbered nine to three, but still gave a good accounting of themselves. Edmonton chess players continue to provide steady representation for which this TD expresses his gratitude. Calgary chess players would have been embarrassingly absent, were it not for Don MacFarlane and Juraj Pivovarov. Thank you for coming guys! Chris Kuczaj (a two-time champion) was unable to come due to other commitments at the last moment. I hope you can make it next year, Chris.

David Ottosen is our new champion this year, going undefeated with a record of 4.5/5. However, he can't claim he had a blemish-free tournament, because he miraculously swindled a win out of Juraj Pivovarov in round three. Juraj missed several forced wins (and probably check-mates) along the way. Is it possible he was employing a **master** strategy all along, or was he spending too much time contemplating the **master** handshake? Will we ever know the truth? Dave Gomboc finished a solid second at 3.5/5. He was also undefeated. I don't think Dave was ever in any serious difficulties, although I made him work for a draw in the last round. Third place at 3/5 overall was shared by Micah Hughey, Bill Taylor, and Juraj Pivovarov. Young Ian Taylor brought up the rear in his first tournament with 0.5/5. Despite the polite request of the TD that all "locals" be allowed to win one game, he wasn't able to secure a victory. Still, he found it an enjoyable and valuable experience.

The continuing presence of "Big John" (Quiring) is an ongoing inspiration. John is the only out-of-towner who has attended all our tournaments thus far (Ford Wong lost that distinction this year, as other business kept him in Edmonton). Perhaps John should receive an award for his consistency and participation. Unfortunately, John has (temporarily) forgotten the secret **expert** player handshake, and, despite his Herculean efforts over the years, has **not** been able to secure a place on the "Winners" plaques on the coveted **Taylor Cup**. But then, neither have I!

Free coffee, muffins, and Werther's Originals were enjoyed by the participants, cour-

tesy of the Medicine Hat Chess Club, Safeway, and the generous support of ten local sponsors. Thanks to these sponsors, "Lunch for a Buck" was offered to all our players. This consisted of delicious chicken vegetable noodle soup and sandwiches provided by Barney Cunningham (owner of Barney's Place restaurant). Regrettably, this perk may not be available at next year's tournament, as the Medicine Hat Chess Club may have to find a new home for all future tournaments.

Next year, I hope to welcome more Calgaryans to our tournament. Does anyone know if there are any tournament-playing chess players in Lethbridge? They have never darkened our doorstep, and I fear they may not exist. Until next year...

Micah Hughey – Bill Taylor
annotated by Bill Taylor

1. e4 ♘f6 2. e5 ♘d5 3. d4 d6 4. ♘f3 ♗g4

This is Black's most natural reply to 4. ♘f3. The most common alternative is 4...g6 (the Albur variation, named in honour of one of its pioneers, Lev Albur). Lesser played alternatives are 4...c6, 4...♗f5, and 4...♘b6.

5. ♗e2 e6 6. O-O ♗e7

6...g6, 6...dxe5, and 6...♗xf3 are less promising.

7. c4 ♘b6 8. ♘c3 dxe5

8...O-O is usual, after which 9. ♗e3 d5 10. c5 ♗xf3 11. gxf3! ♘c8 favours White. I can't find any mention of this move in my reference books. The idea was to exchange the d-pawns and queens, followed by ...c6 and ...O-O.

9. ♘xe5

I had expected 9. dxe5.

9...♗xe2 10. ♗xe2 ♗xd4?!

Is this pawn safe to take? I don't know: 11. ♗d1 ♗c5 12. a3 a5 13. ♗b1 is a nuisance and may offer White compensation for his pawn.

11. ♘b5 ♗d8

11...♗c5 12. a3 f6 (12...a5 13. ♗b1 f6)

13. ♗h5+ g6 14. ♘xg6 hxg6 15. ♗xh8+ looks risky.

12. ♗f3 ♗f6

Better than 12...O-O 13. ♗xb7 ♗d6 14. ♗d1 or 14. ♗f4.

13. ♗d1

I feel 13. ♗xb7 is better.

13...♗c8 14. ♗f4

14. ♗g5 is interesting. If Black plays 14...♗xe5, 15. ♗d8+ ♗xd8 16. ♗xd8 ♘xd8 17. ♗xf7. The question is will the ♗ vs. ♗+♗+♗ be sufficient? Black can decline by playing 14...♘d6d7.

14...a6 15. ♘xc7

This doesn't appear to work. Perhaps White should accept the loss of the d-pawn and regroup with 15. ♘c3.

15...♗xc7 16. ♘g6 ♗c6

This was the problem with 15. ♘xc7.

17. ♘xh8 (=)

A draw was offered by White, but declined.

17...♗xf3 18. gxf3 ♘c6?!

The question to answer is how to best to take the ♘/h8. 18...♘c6 is probably an error because it allows the ♗/d1 to infiltrate. A better plan is 18...g6 19. ♗e3 (19. ♘xf7 ♘xf7 favours Black due to the doubled f-pawns) ♘8d7 20. ♗d4 e5 21. ♗e1 ♘f8 and the knight will soon fall.

19. ♗e3 ♘xc4 20. ♘xf7 ♘xf7 21. ♗d7+ ♘g6 22. ♗xb7 ♘xb2

After this move Black probably stands marginally better, but I couldn't see any clear way to capitalize on the advantage of 2♗ vs. ♗.

23. ♗b1 ♘d3 24. ♗b6 ♘ce5 25. ♗xe6 ♘xf3+ 26. ♘g2 ♘fe1+ 27. ♘f1 ♘c2 28. ♗a7

28. ♗d2? allows 28...♘c5, forking the rooks.

28...♘f4 29. ♗xa6 ♗d8 30. ♗b1 ♘d4 ½-½

ANNOTATIONS FROM MEDICINE HAT OPEN

In my opinion the game is even, or possibly favouring White, so I offered a draw. I was glad it was accepted!

Bill Taylor – Hans Olson
annotated by Bill Taylor

1. f4

The first move of Bird's Opening, named after the English master Henry Bird who often employed it in the late 19th century.

1... ♖f6

1...e5 is the opening move of the exciting From's Gambit, which possesses significant challenges to white. Typically, 2. fxe5 d6 3. exd6 ♗xd6 4. ♖f3 g5 5. g3 g4 6. ♗h4 follows.

2. ♖f3

White usually plays 2. b3 in this opening.

2...d5 3. e3 c5 4. ♗b5+

I'm now out of the opening repertoire of my opening book on the Bird-Larsen attack. Other than preparing for kingside castling, it threatens nothing and is easily met by 4... ♗d7.

4... ♗bd7 5. c4 e6

5...a6 commits the bishop to move to a4 or take the ♗/d7. 6. ♖a4?! is met by 6... ♗b8.

6. b3 a6 7. ♗a4 ♗b8 8. ♗c3 ♗d6 9. ♗b2 O-O 10. O-O

10. ♗xd7 makes more sense in view of the following five moves.

10... ♗b6 11. d3 ♗xa4 12. ♗xa4 b5 13. cxb5 axb5 14. ♗c3 b4 15. ♗e2 ♗a6 16. h3

16. ♖c2 is an alternative to prevent the 16...c4 pawn push, but I suspect Black can build up efficient pressure on the c-file to enforce the push. 16. ♗c1 is also reasonable, when 16... ♖a5 can be met by 17. ♗xf6 and 18. ♗c2.

16...c4 17. dxc4 dxc4 18. bxc4 ♗xc4 19. ♗xf6 ♖xf6

19...gxf6 is probably better.

20. ♗c1

20. ♖xd6?! ♗xe2 21. ♗fe1 ♗xf3 22. gxf3 appears good for Black.

20... ♗xe2 21. ♖xe2 (=)

I considered the game even and offered a draw.

21... ♗a8

21... ♗fc8, vying for the open c-file, makes better sense.

22. ♗c6 ♖e7 23. ♗fc1 g6

Why not 23...f6?

24. ♗1c2 ♗fd8 25. g4 ♗a3

To put pressure on e3. 25...f6 was still playable.

26. ♗c8 ♗xc8?

This allows the next 7-8 moves. 26...f6 or 26... ♗aa8 were better.

27. ♗xc8 ♗g7 28. ♖b2+ f6

28... ♗c3 would drop a pawn.

29. g5 ♗xe3 30. gxf6+ ♖xf6 31. ♗g8+ ♗f7 32. ♗g5+ ♖xg5+

The only move. 32... ♗e7?? loses to 33. ♗g7+.

33. fxg5 ♗xg8 34. ♖d4 ♗g3+ 35. ♗f2 ♗c7 36. ♖d7?

36. ♖c4, threatening the bishop and the e-pawn, appears to give White a much easier win. The only response is 36... ♗c3 37. ♖xb4 ♗c2+ 38. ♗e3 ♗xa2 39. ♖c4 ♗b6+ 40. ♗e4, and after 41. ♖xe6+ either the rook or the bishop will fall.

36... ♗c3 37. ♖xe6+ ♗f8 38. ♗e2?!

White continues to underestimate the importance of the b-pawn to Black's defence. 38. ♖f6+ ♗e8(g8) 39. ♖d4 is better.

38... ♗d8 39. h4 ♗e7 40. ♗d2 ♗a3 41. ♗c2 ♗c3+ 42. ♗b2 ♗a3 43. ♖e5 ♗f7 44. ♖h8 ♗f8 45. ♖xh7+ ♗g7+ 46. ♗b1 ♗h3 47. ♗c2 ♗c3+ 48. ♗d2

White's only hope now is to advance his h-pawn.

48... ♗h3 49. ♗e2 ♗h2+ 50. ♗f3 ♗xa2 51. h5 gxh5?

51... ♗a3+ 52. ♗f4 gxh5 53. ♖f5+ may still be a draw, but after the text White can snatch the rook and the victory. Black played the ♗+♗ vs. ♖ ending very well and with White's mistakes deserved a draw.

52. ♖f5+ ♗e7 53. ♖c5+ ♗e8 54. ♖c8+ ♗e7 55. ♖c7+ ♗f8 56. ♖d8+ ♗f7 57. ♖d5+ ♗g6 58. ♖xa2 ♗xg5 59. ♖a5+ ♗g6 60. ♖xb4 ♗f6 61. ♖d6 ♗g5 62. ♖g3+ ♗f5 63. ♖f4+ ♗g6 64. ♗e4 1-0

Juraj Pivovarov – David Ottosen
annotated by David Ottosen

Ordinarily, I would not send in a routine win such as this, but the ACR Editor forced me. My usual annotation style has a lot of words and not so much computer analysis, but this game defies vocabularic explanation. I will let Fritz take over now...

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♗f6 3. d4 ♗xd5 4. c4 ♗f6 5. ♗c3 g6 6. h3 ♗g7 7. ♗e3 O-O 8. ♗d3 ♗bd7 9. ♖d2 ♗e8 10. ♗ge2 e5 11. d5 e4 12. ♗c2 ♗e5 13. b3 ♗f5 14. ♗d4 ♗d7 15. O-O-O a6 16. ♗b1 c5 17. ♗de2 ♖b6

Fritz considers the position here to be 0.5 in White's favour, undoubtedly due to the weak pawn on e4.

18. ♗g3?? ♗xc4

Fritz now considers the position to be 0.94 pawns in Black's favour.

19. ♖c1 ♖b4 20. ♗ge2 ♗a3+ 21. ♗b2 ♗c4+ 22. ♗b1 ♗a3+ 23. ♗b2 ♗b5

Now 3.22 in Black's favour.

24. ♗xb5 axb5 25. ♗h6 ♗h8 26. ♖g5

Now 8.22 in Black's favour, with 29... ♗xc2.

26... ♗xd5+ 27. ♗c1 ♗c3 28. ♗d2 ♗xa2+ 29. ♗d1 ♗c3+ 30. ♗e1 ♗xc2+ 31. ♗xc2 ♗a1+ 32. ♗c1 e3 33. ♖g4

Black's position reaches its peak: 10.84. That's about a rook and two pieces worth of material. It is fair to say that pretty much

ANNOTATIONS FROM MEDICINE HAT OPEN

any move wins here; the two best moves are probably 33...♖a3 (most likely to push the advantage up to a new high) or 33...♗xg4 (simplest and with fewest complications). Now White begins the comeback!

33...♙xc1+ 34. ♙xc1 ♘e4+ 35. ♚f1 e2+ 36. ♗xe2 ♘g3+ 37. fxg3 ♙xe2 38. ♚xe2 ♗e4+

A measly 3.31 for Black now. I've "won back" two pieces and a pawn worth of Fritzpoints! And after all, isn't that the real goal of chess... Fritzpoints?

39. ♚f1 ♙d4! 40. ♙e1 ♗f5+ 41. ♚e2 f6?

41...♗h5 ends all cheapos... oh yeah, and wins a piece.

42. ♚d2 ♙e5

By now, Hughey and Gomboc were predicting a win for White, not based on the position, but based on "aw man, he's going to slime out of that". [*Yes, from about move 36. -DG*]

43. ♙hf1 ♗d7+ 44. ♚c2 ♗d6 45. ♙d1 ♗c7 46. ♙d5 c4 47. b4 ♚f7 48. ♙fd1 ♚e6 49. ♙d8 ♗c6 50. ♙1d2 ♙xg3 51. ♙e2+ ♙e5 52. ♙f8 ♚f7 53. ♙c5 ♗e6 54. g4 h5 55. ♙ed2

Finally, back to 0.00. White has a perpetual check after 55...g5 56. ♙2d7+ ♚g6 57. ♙e7. It's too bad Juraj didn't play this. I wonder if I would have stupidly done something else in search of a win. ("Do you feel lucky... punk?!")

55...c3?? 56. ♙2d7+ 1-0

+3.19 for White! Juraj had only considered 56. ♙8d7+. Personally, I feel I had this game well under control. This was a fitting win to help me reach 2200 for the first time.

David Ottosen – Micah Hughey annotated by David Ottosen

Going into this round, I was in clear first by a half-point, but more importantly, a win would leave my rating at the master level for the first time. A draw was not a consideration. Also, I had some confidence because I had not played a really good game yet in the tournament, so I figured I was due.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4. ♙a4 ♘f6 5. O-O ♙e7 6. ♙e1 b5 7. ♙b3 O-O 8. c3!

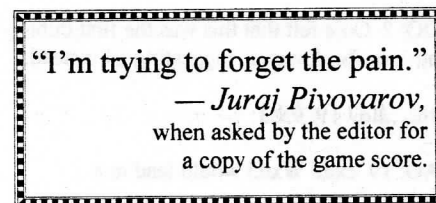
Daring Black to play ...d5 and enter the unsound Marshall Gambit! You want to know why it is unsound? Try it against me some time and you will find out!

8...d6!

With quite a few of the top players in the tournament around checking out if he would go for the Marshall, he chickens out / makes a wise decision.

9. d4

One of many old lines Fischer once revived. Does it give an edge? Perhaps, perhaps not; however, the ideas are not beyond my grasp and I tend to do okay with this move.



9...♙g4 10. ♙e3 ♗d7

The first move out of my book. It does not seem that impressive, as the light-squared bishop now has no retreat and may get trapped in on the kingside.

11. ♘bd2 ♙fe8

11...♘e4 12. ♘e4 d5 13. ♘g3 e4 14. h3 does not work for Black yet, but White must always watch out for these kind of tricks.

12. ♙c2 ♙f8 13. h3 ♙h5 14. d5 ♘e7

I now saw the possibility of the following combination, and luckily, Micah played right down the main line.

15. ♙g5 c6?

Black was quite happy with his position here, feeling he had broken up the white centre. We had a short post-mortem, but in retrospect, even without the tactical flaw, I don't see exactly why opening the centre up should qualify as a great accomplishment for Black. White's pieces seem better

poised to jump through the centre and attack the black king.

16. ♙xf6 gxf6 17. ♘xe5!

A seemingly obvious continuation, but it is not clear that it wins until move 23; the great thing about the combination is that on move 20 it appears to be over and an unclear position is reached; Black can be forgiven for only looking that far. However, White has a further resource at the end.

17...♙xd1?

Fritz immediately jumps on 17...♗xh3 18. ♘df3 ♗c8 19. ♘xc6 ♘xc6 20. dxc6 ♗xc6 when Black's pawns are ruinous, but he does have the two bishops. Regardless of your assessment of this position, it is obviously the only playable continuation for Black.

18. ♘xd7 ♙xc2 19. ♘xf6+ ♚h8 20. ♘xe8 ♙xe8 21. ♙ac1 ♙d3 22. ♙e3 ♙c4 23. b3!

The combination is now complete, and Black must go into the ending down in material. Now, the key question is how to give up the material in the way that maximizes drawing chances. Black chose...

23...♙h6

Clearly White should still win after 23...♘xd5! 24. exd5 ♙xe3 25. fxe3 ♙xd5, but I think Black has better drawing chances than in the game. Two bishops against a rook and knight can create much more complications than zero pawns against two.

24. bxc4 ♙xe3 25. fxe3 c5 26. cxb5 axb5 27. ♙b1 ♙a8 28. ♙xb5 ♙xa2 29. ♘c4 ♙c2 30. ♙b3 ♙e2 31. ♚f1 1-0

The long road to 2200 is finally completed. I was happy that after all the semi-dubious wins I have achieved in the past eight months, I could actually get the master title with a decent game. My master title never would have happened without the help of a lot of people on the way; I'd like to particularly mention Aaron Lovi, the Wu family, and especially Ford Wong and John Quiring for their varied assistance in making it possible (oh, and of course, all of you who donated a few rating points along the way...)

2000 Alberta Women's Chess Championship

April 21 and 22, 2000

Edmonton, Alberta

All females who have been resident in Alberta for six months are eligible to compete. Entrants must register in advance by March 31, 2000, by one of the following methods:

- write the ACA (our address is on page two of the ACR)
- contact John Quiring at (780) 468-9173, or dma@compusmart.ab.ca
- contact Walter Watson at (403) 277-5620.

The format will be either a round-robin or a five-round swiss, depending on the number of entrants.

OTTOSEN-ODACHOWSKI DOUBLE ANNOTATION

David Ottosen – Arthur Odachowski
annotated independently by both players

AO: The following game was picked by Ford as a symbol of cooperation between Calgary and Edmonton. On a personal note, I picked it as it was the only game of the Alberta Open where for a brief moment I actually stood worse.

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6
5. ♘c3 ♘c6 6. ♗g5 e6 7. ♖d2 a6 8. O-O-O
h6 9. ♗e3 ♗d7 10. f4

AO: Dave always plays manly chess. 10. f3 is also good.

DO: Odie described this as a "man's move".

10...b5 11. ♗d3 ♗e7

DO: I was not prepared for this move. I guess that's what you get for doing your preparation at Dairy Queen.

12. h3

AO: 12. ♖b1 is a major alternative.

12...♘xd4 13. ♗xd4 b4

DO: The extremely outdated ECO feels that 13...♗c6 should have been played.

14. ♘e2 e5 15. ♗e3

AO: 15. fxe5 dxe5 16. ♗xe5? ♖a5
17. ♗xf6 ♖xa2 →

15...♖a5

DO: MCO 13 suggests 15...♖b8 =.

16. ♖b1 ♗e6

AO: ?! 16...O-O was better.

17. ♘c1 d5 18. f5

DO: ? Odie felt that this was the first dubious non-book move, suggesting g4 instead.

18...♗d7 19. ♘b3

AO: 19. exd5 ♖xd5 would lead to a balanced position.

DO: !? I was about to play 19. exd5 with the idea of 19...♘xd5 20. ♗e4 +, but then I spotted both 19...e4 and 19...♖xd5 (the latter preferred by Odie in the post-mortem) and decided to push him back a bit.

19...♖c7 20. exd5 ♘xd5

AO: We used 20 minutes each here.

21. ♖he1

AO: !

DO: ! The only serious continuation: any retreat by the bishop can be met by either ...♘f4 or ...♗g5 or simply ...O-O. I felt the only way to play was to develop and give up the two bishops and try to work up some central pressure.

21...♘f6

AO: ?! I had a 50-minute think, but talked myself out of 21...a5! Not 21...♘xe3

22. ♖xe3 ±

DO: ? Arthur took nearly an hour to play this. The line I had expected was 21...♘xe3 22. ♖xe3 ♗d6 23. ♘d4, when to my surprise and through no fault of my own, White would have a nice position. He

would have ideas of pressuring the ♗/e5 or playing g4-g5, while Black really would have little to accomplish with his two bishops.

22. ♖e2

Setting up pressure on the e-file as well as covering the g4 and h5 squares in anticipation of playing g4-h4-g5.

22...O-O (=)

AO: Suddenly I didn't like my position all that much, so I offered a draw.

DO: I was sorely tempted to accept, but I really wanted to win and I thought I had a strong move.

23. ♗d4

AO: ! Dave declined the offer by saying something like "Don't take draws against over-rated Calgarians!"

DO: ! Odie preferred 23. ♗f4 in the post-mortem, but I like leaving the pawn within striking range of my knight. I also did not want to open too many central files, because I felt that I had a strong attack brewing, and didn't want to give Black too many avenues for exchanging pieces.

23...exd4 24. ♖xe7 ♖b6 25. ♖e5

AO: ?! At this point Dave could have used a little more estrogen. White wants to checkmate, but he should have played 25. ♖c5! with the simple idea of going after the ♗/d4.

DO: Simply attacking the e5 pawn.

25...♗c6 26. g4

OTTOSEN-ODACHOWSKI DOUBLE ANNOTATION

AO: 26. ♖xd4!? ♗xg2 27. ♖g1 ♗xh3.
 Ottosen, Grumic, Yearwood and I were
 analyzing this position after the game, when
 I convincingly demonstrated Black's
 resources. I was afraid of 26. ♗d1!?

26... ♗ad8

AO: At this point I am starting to play
 speed chess. My opponent still had an hour
 left to reach move 40.

DO: Now White has two basic choices:
 play for mate, or play for the weak pawns.
 Perhaps had I taken the time to do a
 Dorfman analysis here, I would have made
 the correct decision. Material is equal, king
 safety is equal, but the white pawn structure
 destroys the black pawn structure. There-
 fore, White should play **statically!** The
 way to do so is 27. ♖c5! The coming move
 is my worst of the tournament.

27. ♖g3

DO: ?? Sometimes, the patzer in me comes
 out and demands that I try to mate every-
 one!

27... ♗fe8 28. h4

AO: ?! White has a pawn-pushing fetish.
 DO: ? I underestimated Black's counter-
 play. I should have followed up my attack-
 ing idea with 28. g5 and played for the
 mate. It's not clear that I **will** mate him
 after that, but I no longer have a choice.
 The text is simply too slow.

28... ♗e3

AO: ♣
 DO: !

29. ♗xe3 dxe3 30. g5

AO: ?! The underrated Edmontonian has
 only the forward gears. 30. ♗e1.

30... ♗e4

DO: I had overlooked / underestimated the
 idea of the knight going to f2.

31. ♖g1

AO: 31. ♖f4 hxg5 32. hxg5 ♗f2 ♣

31... hxg5

AO: +-

32. hxg5 ♗f2 33. ♖h2

AO: ? A brilliant concept, but it has a flaw
 or two. Moving the rook was better.
 DO: White is now lost, but 33. g6 is a better
 cheapo, because Black can easily defend
 here with 33... ♗xd1 34. f6 ♗xd3 if he
 wants to be super-safe.

32... ♗e4

AO: !! 33... ♗xd1 34. g6! No thanks.
 DO: !!

34. g6 ♖f6

AO: !

DO: ! White is now completely crushed. I
 played on until time control...

35. ♖h7+ ♗f8 36. ♗e1 ♗xd3

AO: ! A simple combination, putting an
 end to any illusions.

37. ♖h8+ ♗e7 38. cxd3 ♗xd3 39. ♖h2
 ♗xe1+ 40. ♗c1 ♖c6+ 41. ♗d1 ♗f3 0-1

AO: After the game Dave was shocked, and
 lost as for the reason he lost the game.
 DO: A nice counterattack by Odie, the de-
 serving winner of the Alberta Open.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2000

The October CJCC and EJCC meetings will double as Southern/Northern Alberta
 Junior qualifying tournaments. If you have additions or corrections to this schedule,
 please contact an ACA board member, or the ACR editor, respectively.

Grant Brown didn't get an ad into this ACR for the 2000 Canadian Open, so please
 deluge him with email at cdnopen2000@home.com and make him happy.

Date	Tournament	City	Contact
Jan. 15-16	Trumpeter Classic	GPr	Phil Lefkowitz
Jan. 29-30	January Open	Cal	Rod Weis
Feb. 19-20	Northern Alberta Open	Edm	David Ottosen
Mar. 18-19	March of Kings	Cal	Rod Weis
Apr. 8	CYCC Regionals	Cal	Walter Watson
Apr. 8	CYCC Regionals	Edm	Peter Alderton
Apr. 21-23	Alberta Closed Championship	Edm	John Quiring
Apr. 21-22	Alberta Women's Championship	Edm	John Quiring
Apr. 21-23	Alberta Reserves	Edm	John Quiring
May 6	CYCC Provincial Championship	Edm	Ford Wong
May 20-21	CMA Chess Festival	Cal	Glenn Booth
Jun. 10-11	June Open	Cal	Rod Weis
Jul. 5-7	CYCC National Championship	Edm	CFC
Jul. 8-16	Canadian Open Chess Championship	Edm	Grant Brown
Aug. 12	Battle of Alberta	RDr	Neil Sharp
Sep. 2-3	Over/Under 1800	Edm	John Quiring
Sep. 16-17	Medicine Hat Open	MdH	Bill Taylor
Oct. 7-9	Alberta Open	Cal	Rod Weis
Nov. 4-5	Alberta Junior Championship	RDr	Neil Sharp
Nov. 18-19	Southern Alberta Open	Cal	Rod Weis
Dec. 16-17	Two Weekends Before Xmas Open	Edm	Ford Wong

ECC OCTOBER OPEN

report by David Ottosen

Newly minted master David Ottosen played at the Edmonton Chess Club October Open, and much to his surprise, he escaped with 4/4 to win the tournament. Coming in second were Tim Dean (who lost a completely won position against Ottosen) and Jonathan Day (who lost a completely lost position to Ottosen). The club welcomed new participants Peter Lacroix, Dawn Rock, and Brent Thompson to Thursday night play!

Micah Hughey - David Ottosen

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 ♘f6 4. ♘c3 ♘bd7
5. ♗e2 ♗e7 6. 0-0 0-0 7. b3 exd4 8. ♖xd4
♘c5 9. ♗b2 ♘e6 10. ♖d2 ♘c5 11. ♖f4
♗e8 12. ♗fe1 ♘h5 13. ♖d2 ♗g4 14. h3
♗d7 15. ♗ad1 ♘e6 16. ♗c4 ♘g5 17. ♘d4
♗xh3 18. gxf3 c5 19. ♗e3 cxd4 20. ♖xd4
♘f4 21. ♗f1 ♗f6 22. ♗b4 ♗e5 23. ♖xb7
♖c8 24. ♗b5 ♘gxh3+ 25. ♗xh3 ♘xh3+
26. ♗f1 ♖g4 27. f3 ♖h4 28. ♗d5 ♘f4
29. ♗d2 ♖h3+ 0-1

CCC FALL OPEN


report by Warrick Walker

The Calgary Chess Club's latest installment in their annual series of Tuesday tournaments was a big success. Thirty battle-hardened warriors showed up to combat one another for first place and those all-important rating points. The pre-tournament favourites, Andrew Lapides and John Ferrar were true to their reputations, tying for first with 5/6. Coming in a very close second with 4.5/6 were Vaclav Contos, Chris Kuczaj, and Dr. Ron Hinds. One point of interest was the fact that Vaclav was visiting from the Czech Republic, and had heard about the chess club via the internet. This is an idea that deserves some follow-up as a means of promoting Alberta chess. In any event, I live it with the powers that be to pursue.

Tying for top under 2000 were Rod (soon to be an expert) Weis and another newcomer to Calgary chess, Nebojsa Mrvos. This was an important event this year as several of the players will be hoping to qualify for the Calgary Closed - every rating point may be crucial. Congratulations to all the participants, and thanks for making the tournament a delight to direct.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Alberta Chess Association receives funding each year from the Alberta government via the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, a division of Alberta Community Development. The ACA thanks them for their financial support.


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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EDMONTON JUNIOR CHESS CLUB: NOVEMBER

report by Cynthia Wu

Hi! Remember me? Yes, yes, yes. I haven't been doing my homework and keeping up with these reports lately. I plead a temporary 5 month case of amnesia, Alzheimer's, the flu, insanity, you name it as my defense. Just in case you were all worried about it, the Edmonton Junior Chess Club is not in fact defunct, but still quite alive and kicking. June (geez I'd better get into gear!), September and October all saw...um...unreported (but exciting!) tournaments. Ahem...moving on to the present: On Saturday November 6, the regular EJCC meeting doubled as the Northern Alberta Junior qualifier tournament. A book prize was awarded to the top player and the top two players qualified to the Alberta Junior in Red Deer. 11 young chess enthusiasts made their way to the club and the tournament generally went smoothly, despite the fact that three of the lower ranked players, including new player Daniel Yngvason, decided to show up about half an hour late

to the TD's dismay (poor me). Fortunately, this only caused pairing headaches, which an odd number of players normally brings on some scale or another anyway. The record holder for this month's tardiness though was awarded to newcomer Salimah Kasamali (first showing in October), who appeared a little before lunch. Unfortunately, I couldn't, at that point, fit her into the tournament, but she was just as content to play the player with the bye for the ensuing rounds (not to mention the introduction to Siamese chess Salimah gladly welcomed). Also very newsworthy was the stunning first tournament of wee 5 year old Luke McDonald, who played 3 intense games, before withdrawing, a very tired boy, coming up with 2 wins and then a loss to third ranked Jonathan Chi! Luke's dad relayed how his son began playing at 3 and learned both from himself (a casual chess player) and their computer. Keep up the good work and great concentration!

The 5 round Swiss tournament was other-

wise uneventful in terms of upsets, although Evan Kucharski started to show his colors by scooping up 3 points, slowly, but surely, climbing uphill from his start as one of our club's lowest ranked players. Ah. Reminds me of my first days at this very chess club where I had a pitiful sub-1000 rating and all I could do was get 0.5 out of 5 for drawing my little brother. And I can't even do that anymore. Sigh.... Back to the story: Top seated players Nic Haynes and Zhouran Li drew their 3rd round game which ultimately precipitated a playoff (for the book). Both were undefeated throughout the tournament although the last round match between Zhouran and Jonathan could have turned the events around had Jonathan not blundered a winning position. In the end, Nic bested Zhouran in both 5 minute speed playoff games and ran home with another book. Congrats to both Nic and Zhouran for qualifying to the Alberta Junior and good luck in Red Deer. Thanks to everyone else who came out for the tournament. See you all next month!