



ALBERTA CHESS REPORT



A Newsletter Published By The Alberta Chess Association
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BATTLE OF ALBERTA Calgary: 15.5 Edmonton: 8.5 (Ooooooh, that's gotta hurt)

By David Ottosen

At last years Alberta Open, Neil Sharp suggested reviving the Battle of Alberta, long dormant. Sharp then commandeered John Quiring in Edmonton and Dave "Forrest" Gomboc into arranging teams for the two areas of Alberta. The two quickly swung into action, and within a couple of weeks, most of the Masters in Alberta, and a fair helping of Candidate Masters, had agreed to play. On paper, it seemed as though Calgary would have the edge on the higher boards, but that Edmonton might be able to pick up some points on the lower boards.

However, the truth of the matter was that Edmonton was blasted out of the water in Round 1, losing 9.5-2.5, and only scoring one win out of twelve boards. As our team dragged our torn egos and pride out for lunch, we could only hope to do better in the next round. After all, the reasoning went, they are ONLY Calgarians! What's wrong with us?!

The next round was much more reasonable. Grumic gave the team a boost with a crushing win over Ristovic on board 2, and Fullbrook completed his sweep of Haessel on board 4. However, Frialde had already gone down in a horrible game on board 1, so the onus of the match was on the lower boards. Unfortunately, we were outplayed on most of the lower boards, and could only manage a 6-6 tie in round 2. So, overall, Calgary defeated Edmonton by a score of 15.5-8.5. Truly...a sad day for chess everywhere (except maybe Calgary).

[Note from John Quiring, Captain for Edmonton: I would like to thank all 24 players for coming out for this unique and special event. I hope it happens again next year. I am especially grateful to Jonathan Schaeffer and Len Steele, who shook off 14 years of rust between them to come and support the team. With my endless whining and cajoling, I knew they would either agree to play or apply for a court order to keep me away.

Of course, I am not happy with the overall result. Outraged by an average of about 40 points per board, we expected to lose about 14-10, but couldn't quite keep it that close. However, I note that the U.S. magazine *Chess Review* reports in the September 1954 issue that Edmonton (led by L. Moser and W. Holowach), whupped Calgary (led by C. Kirton and P. Janewski) by the score of 9-3 that year. And I know that one day the

north will rise again! [Is this guy really looking back 43 years to find a bright spot? You bet! -ed]

Thanks also to David Gomboc for organizing the Calgary team, and to TD/Org. Neil Sharp who made this tournament happen, and as always, did a first rate job as organizer/director.]

THE GAMES

This contest was 12 boards, each player playing once with white and once with black against his counterpart on the other team.

(Notes by David Ottosen, unless otherwise credited.)

Greg Huber (CGY) - Arniel Frialde (EDM)

Black neglects development and central presence. A piece sacrifice opens the position too quickly for him to handle.

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.Bc4 d6 5.Qf3 e6 6.Nge2 Qe7 7.h4 h6 8.Be3 Nd7 9.h5 g5 10.O-O

O-O Ngf6

11.Qg3 e5

12.f4 exf4

13.Nxf4 gxf4

14.Bxf4 Bf8

15.e5 dxe5

16.dxe5 Nd5

17.Bxd5 cxd5

18.Nxd5 Qc5

[Diagram]

19.e6 fxe6

20.Nc7+ Kf7

21.Qg6+ Ke7 22.Qxc6+ Kd8 23.Qe8# 1-0

Huber wins the board 1 match 2-0.

Sasa Grumic (EDM) - Nenad Ristovic (CGY)

White rips the position apart with myriad sacrifices. When Black gives up his queen, it looks like he has chances, but is efficiently mated.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6

6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bd7 8.O-O Nxd4 9.Nxd4

Qxd4 10.Qe2 Qb6 11.Nc3 a6 12.Kh1 Ne7

13.f4 g6 14.Be3 Qa5 15.g4 Nc6 16.Bg1 Bg7

17.a3 Qc7

18.Rac1 b5

19.Bxb5 axb5

20.Nxb5 Qb8

21.Nd6+ Kf8

22.f5 exf5

23.gxf5 Bxe5

24.fxg6 f6

25.g7+ Kxg7

26.Qg2+ Kf8

27.Qxd5 Bxd6

28.Rxf6+ Ke7

29.Rxd6 Qxd6 30.Bc5 Qxc5 31.Qxc5+ Kd8

32.Qd6 Rc8 33.Rd1 Nb8 34.Qb6+ 1-0

Grumic wins the board 2 match 1.5 - .5

Victor Maric (CGY) - Yuri Vasylev (EDM)

The French took a beating in this tournament...here is another example.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6

6.a3 Bd7 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nge7 9.Nc3 Nf5

10.Na4 Qd8 11.Bb2 a5 12.b5 Na7 13.Qb3 Rc8

14.Bd3 Nh4 15.Nxh4 Qxh4 16.O-O Be7

17.Nb6 Rb8

18.Rac1 Bd8

19.g3 Qe7

20.Na4 b6 21.f4

O-O 22.Rce1 f5

23.exf6 Rxf6

24.Bc1 h6 25.f5

Nc8 26.Nc3 Qf7

27.Bf4 Rb7

28.Be5 exf5

29.Nxd5 Rg6

30.Bxf5 Bxf5

[Diagram]

31.Rxf5 Qe6 32.Qf3 Rd7 33.Rf8+ Kh7 34.Nf4

Qg4 35.Qe4 Nd6 36.Rh8+ 1-0

Maric wins the board 3 match 2-0.

IM Yan Teplitsky is coming to Alberta

See page 3

Alberta Junior Championship

See page 6

Alberta Closed qualifying rules

See page 10

Dale Haessel (CGY) - Nigel Fullbrook (EDM)

Fullbrook uses the light squares and an annoyingly safe pawn to wreak havoc in Haessel's position.

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 d4 4.Nb5 Ng4 5.f4 a6

6.Na3 Nh6 7.Nf3 c5 8.Be2 Nc6 9.O-O e6

10.d3 Nf5 11.g4 Nh4 12.Qe1 Be7 13.Nc4 b5

14.Nxh4 bxc4

15.Nf3 Nb4

16.Qd1 cxd3

17.Bxd3 Bb7

18.Bc4 O-O

19.Qe2 Qd7

20.f5 Qc6

21.a3 Nd5

22.Bd3 Ne3

23.Bxe3 dxe3

2 4 . R a e 1

[Diagram]

24. ... Bh4 25.Rd1 Bf2+ 26.Rxf2 exf2+

27.Kxf2 exf5 28.gxf5 Rad8 29.Rg1 Qh6

[Diagram] 30.Rg2 Rfe8 31.f6 g6 32.Bc4 Bxf3 33.Kxf3

(Continued on page 4)

The *Alberta Chess Report (ACR)* is published 5 times per year by the Alberta Chess Association. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for brevity, clarity and levity. Uncredited articles are usually by the Editor; opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the ACA.

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Membership fees

ACA-senior \$5 per year.
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 Chess Federation Of Canada (CFC) membership includes ACA: senior-\$38, junior-\$23, participating-\$11. 'Junior' and 'Participating' memberships are only available to those 17 years of age or less (submit birth date). Participating members don't get *ACR* or *En Passant*. Provide player's full name, address and CFC number (if previous member). State if female. If sending info to ACA, phone # appreciated.

Deadline for next issue: March 15, 1997

Organizers of Events: Please send *ACR* details well in advance. Please include date, time, location, entry fee, and the organizer's hat size.

Articles can be submitted in MANY ways: give to either John or David; mail to the ACA mailbox; eMail to David at dottosen@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca or to John's new Internet address at dma@compusmart.ab.ca However, the ACR editors do NOT subscribe to Jojo's Psychic Alliance, so mental telepathy is out (for now).

Reminder to Tournament Directors

The CFC requires a rating report to be submitted within 7 days after an event--you owe it to the players to send in rating and membership reports ASAP. Also, please send a written report to the *ACR*. Support your Alberta newsletter! Be warned: If you don't send something, we will write it ourselves with an excess of mockery of YOU! Report or be mocked!

Editorial
 By David Ottosen, Associate Editor

Having run the Canadian Junior over the holidays, a question has arisen in my mind. Why, in general, are our provincial champions having so little success at the national levels? Our Closed Champion usually finishes near the bottom of the pack, as do our Junior, Cadet, and Women's champions. Are the players from the East more talented? Undoubtedly no. Do they have more opportunities to play? Quite probably not. Do they have more chance to play against stronger opposition? And herein lies our problem...

Any chess primer or instructional manual will show you that the best way to improve is to lose. By playing people better than you, your own areas of weakness are highlighted so that you know what to improve on. However, the majority of our champions never get the opportunity to do so. It is hard to suggest to a Greg Huber that he come to play in a weekend tournament when it is clear that he will get at most one or two games against master level opposition. Should we be sending Douglas Wu or Nathan McLean to the EJCC or CJCC to mow down a string of 1200 rated players? Of course not.

What is the solution? On at least one occasion in the past, a training match for juniors was arranged with some "selected opposition". This idea is worth reviving, so that players like Wu or McLean do not have to jet off to the Canadian Cadet having played 5 games of chess in the last 6 months.

At the upper levels, the problem is less easy to solve. A Huber or Frialde or Risticovic can only find so much competition in Alberta, and it is very familiar competition at that. Perhaps the ACA should consider arranging a training match for our Closed Champion with an out of province opponent (the stronger the better!). While financial issues would have to be resolved, it is fairly clear that if the ACA wishes for our provincial champions to start making some noise on the national level, the ACA must aid them more in preparing to do so.

Coming Next Issue...

Canadian Junior Report: reports by Doug Wu and Nathan McLean.
Four Closed Qualifiers: the Edmonton Closed, Calgary Closed, Northern Alberta Open and Rural Qualifier send four winners to the Closed.

STACK SPIRE

This list comprises the top-rated ACA members who have played in the last (approximately) 12 months.

Greg Huber.....	2379
Nenad Risticovic.....	2322
John Ferrar.....	2314
Arniel Frialde.....	2306
Victor Maric.....	2276
Sasa Grumic.....	2239
Nigel Fullbrook.....	2238
Jonathan Schaeffer.....	2229
Neil Sharp.....	2229
Arthur Odachowski.....	2229
Roy Yearwood.....	2224
Ted Wilson.....	2212
Dale Haessel.....	2191
Eugene Gibney.....	2162
Ante Zaradic.....	2154
Jim Daniluk.....	2142
Dave Gomboc.....	2132
Michael Jorgensen.....	2126
John Parrott.....	2119
Farzan Nazarian.....	2115
Brad Willis.....	2108
Tedge Davies.....	2102
Zoltan Baunok.....	2092
Warrick Walker.....	2091
Hafiz Karmali.....	2082
Geoff Newton.....	2080
Adam Wu.....	2074
Grant Brown.....	2067
Leo Danglapen.....	2060
David Ottosen.....	2055
Paul Thibodeau.....	2052
Chris Kuczaj.....	2043
Barney Fegyvermeki.....	2039
Walter Zwirner.....	2034
Walter Watson.....	2028
Yngvi Bjornsson.....	2018
Ford Wong.....	2017
Jim Flemming.....	2015
Jeff Chrumka.....	2003

Note: This list is based on established ratings. Note that Martin Oberrauch has a provisional rating of 2290, based on 7 games. Also, there are high rated players who are currently inactive..

We have a large number of different contributors in this issue, which is good news. I think that variety adds greatly to the ACR. Still, there are hundreds of ACA members who never contribute anything, and I want to tell you that your games or chess stories are welcome here.

I wish more people were like Arthur Milne. No, not a lawyer, definitely not THAT. Art regularly sends in stories and annotations about his games. It's a lot of work, and I'm very grateful for it because it adds colour and variety to the ACR

Yes, if only more people were like Art (but not the lawyer part, definitely not THAT).

NEWS FROM THE ALBERTA CHESS ASSOCIATION

By Walter Watson, President

To follow up what I wrote in the last ACR, the governors voted against reducing the CFC membership fee to its former level. As a result, as of January 1 an adult CFC membership in Alberta costs \$38. The ACA receives \$5 of that amount for its membership fee, which basically pays for the Alberta Chess Report.

The last ACA Board meeting voted to proceed with a provincial Tournament Player's Club for non-CFC members. You will hear more about it in due course.

By the time you read this, the Board will

have held its longest and most painful meeting of the year to prepare its budget. Again this year we are faced with a cutback in our government grant. I expect that there will be the usual sharp difference of views as Board members try to provide for the needs of Alberta chess with limited funds. All Board members should have a copy of last year's budget plan, and they will receive a copy of this year's after it is formally prepared. Any ACA member who is interested should feel free to ask one of the Board to see the plan, and I will try to highlight the changes in the next ACR.

As it is still early in the new year, I want to wish all ACA members a happy and

successful 1997. We have recently come through the season that emphasizes peace and good will, and new resolutions. It seems to me that this can apply to our conduct as chess players. The ACA Policies allow players guilty of poor sportsmanship to be disciplined, which may include suspension. Poor sportsmanship is too broad a term to be easily defined, but may arise from the way we treat other players or from failure to meet our obligations to the tournament directors and organizers. I would urge all of us to avoid such conduct by trying to treat others as we would like to be treated, regardless of whether we feel hard-done-by ourselves. There is no ACA Policy against such an approach.

INTERVIEW WITH YAN TEPLITSKY

Yan Teplitsky of Vancouver is an International Master, having achieved that title with his performance in the Canadian Closed last August. He is 21 years old, and was a member of Canada's Olympic team a few months ago. Yan was in Edmonton accompanying Andrew Ho to the Canadian Junior Chess Championship over Christmas. He is polite, friendly and easy-going, and graciously agreed to be interviewed.

John: First I have to ask you about yesterday's simul. [Yan won 12 and drew 2 games against opponents with an average rating of 1974; this is a performance rating of over 2300]. Occasionally you spend as long as 10 or 15 seconds looking at a game. Are you searching for defensive consolidation? long range plans? tactical breakthroughs?

Yan: No, I don't calculate tactics at all in a simul. I just try to make logical moves, to put pieces on good squares where they are well coordinated.

John: Well, it seems to work.

As a youth in Russia, were you a talented player? Did you receive chess training in school?

Yan: Yes, I attended a chess school taught by several well-known players and instructors: Polugaevsky, Dvoretsky, Yusupov, Kaidanov, Dolmatov.

John: How old were you at this time?

Yan: 10 years old.

John: Were these "normal" schools, teaching also mathematics, history, etc?

Yan: No, just chess. The schools ran about 3 times a year, with each session lasting 2 - 3 weeks. The rest of the time I would attend a "normal" school.

John: When you left Russia, you moved to Israel. Why Israel?

Yan: Israel was the only country that would accept Russian immigrants at that time [about 1991]. I had qualified for the world junior and was hoping to become a chess professional in Israel, but that didn't work out. It was very difficult to go to school in a new language, with a complete different alphabet than the Russian language.

John: Did you go to the World Junior?

Yan: No. I qualified three times, but I never played. The first time, I qualified in Russia, but left for Israel before I could go. The second time, I had lived in Israel for too short a time for them to send me. And the third time, other complications prevented me from going.

John: When you left Israel, why did you move to Canada? And why Vancouver?

Yan: It was my parents choice. They chose Canada because it is a nice country, a peaceful country.

John: You already had two IM norms when you arrived, right?

Yan: Yes, but I only had played 22 games in those two events. FIDE requires 24 games before awarding the title.

John: In August, of course, you qualified for the title based on your result in the Canadian Closed.

Yan: Yes. I haven't received the official certificate from FIDE yet, but they have confirmed that the title has been awarded.

John: A young IM is obviously looking for the Grandmaster title next. Where will you find GM norm opportunities?

Yan: It will be difficult. The Olympics are the best opportunity, because the GM title can be earned in just one event.

John: Why did you take a last round draw with Hergott in the Canadian Closed? It seemed that Hergott wasn't in top form, and you could have tied for first by winning.

Yan: You are referring to the letter in *En Passant*. There was no single reason, but many small factors. First of all, a victory for me wouldn't necessarily tie for first, since Spraggett was still playing his game. You have to consider also that Hergott had the white pieces and was making no effort to win. It is not so easy to beat an IM who is content to draw with white. Spraggett is the best player and most deserving to go to the World Championship. Also, I had not expected to win the tournament, and was happy to have earned the IM title.

[At this point, David Ottosen, author of the letter in *En Passant*, sat down.]

David: [smiling, slaps the table] You should have played to win.

Yan: [laughing] Perhaps. It is difficult to say.

IM YAN TEPLITSKY is coming to Alberta. A member of Canada's last Olympic team, and undefeated in CFC-rated tournaments, Yan will be playing in the Northern Alberta Open in Edmonton, Feb. 22-24. See page 10 for more info.

David: You have been here over two years and have not lost a single CFC rated game. Is there anyone who can beat you?

Yan: Oh, yes, there are many players who can beat me.

David: How many games has it been without a loss?

Yan: [rattles off a list of tournaments] About 80 or 90, I think.

David: Have you had any lost positions during your streak?

Yan: I have had numerous "worse" positions, but "worse" is not the same as "lost". I can't really recall any clearly lost positions. [laughing] You know, I have a lucky pen. Andrew Ho is using it right now [in the Junior Championship].

John: Well, I hope he doesn't use up all the luck. You are coaching Andrew and some other Juniors in Vancouver, right? And some adults?

Yan: Just juniors.

John: What do Canada's talented juniors need to do to improve their games?

Yan: The requirements to improve are different for each individual. Generally, though, juniors need more support. Consider France's young star Bacrot, for example. If Canadian juniors received the same level of support as Bacrot, they would excel too. Our juniors could benefit from playing more strong round robins, or in contests pitting a group of masters against a group of juniors. The CFC could help by giving juniors better chances to play in the Canadian Closed.

Also, it would help if there were more FIDE rated players in Canada. A FIDE rating gives players more opportunities to play in the US and Europe. And it is not difficult to hold a FIDE rated tournament. Many IM's are readily willing to travel to such events.

John: Thank you for speaking with me.

Yan: My pleasure.

(Continued from page 1)

Rd4 34.e6 Qf4# 0-1
Fullbrook wins the board 4 match 2-0.

Jonathan Schaeffer (EDM) - Roy Yearwood (CGY)

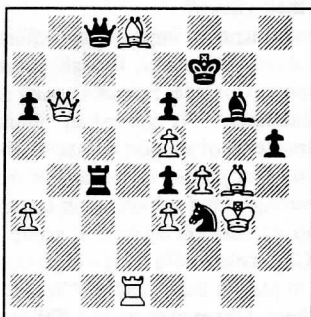
Schaeffer makes 20 moves in a minute to reach time control, but the second time control is sudden death...

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bh4 d5 4.f3 Nd6 5.e3 g6 6.Nc3 c6 7.e4 Bh6 8.Bf2 Qb6 9.Rb1 Be6 10.Bd3 Na6 11.Nge2 Nb4 12.O-O Qa5 13.a3 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Nc4 15.Rfd1 O-O 16.f4 b5 17.Qg3 dxe4 18.Qh4 Bg7 19.Nxe4 h6 20.Qxe7 Bg4 21.Re1 Rfe8 22.Qh4 Rxe4 23.Qxg4 Rae8 24.Nc3 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 26.Bxe1 Bxd4+ 27.Kh1 Qd8 28.f5 Ne3 29.Qe4 Nxf5 30.Qxc6 Qe7 31.Bd2 b4 32.axb4 Qxb4 33.Qb5 Qe7 34.Qd3 h5 35.b3 Qh4 36.Nd1 Be5 37.Qh3 Qd4 38.Qd3 Qa1 39.Be1 Kh7 40.Kg1 Ne3 41.Nxe3 Qxe1+ 42.Nf1 Bc7 43.Qf3 Kg7 44.g3 h4 45.gxh4 Bb6+ 46.Kg2 Qxh4 47.Ng3 Qg5 48.c4 Qc1 49.Ne2 Qd1 50.h3 f5 51.Qc3+ Kf7 52.Qf3 Qe1 53.Qd5+ Kf6 54.Qd6+ Kg7 55.Qe7+ Kh6 56.Qf8+ Kh5 57.Qe7 Qf2+ 58.Kh1 Be3 59.Qh7+ Bh6 60.Qe7 f4 61.Qe6 Bg5 62.Qg4+ Kh6 63.h4 Bxh4 64.Qxf4+ Kh5 65.Qxf2 Bxf2 66.Kg2 Bc5 67.Nc1 Kg4 68.Nd3 Bd4 69.b4 Kf5 70.Nc1 Ke4 71.c5 a6 72.Nb3 Be5 73.Na5 Kd5 74.Kf3 Bc7 75.Nb7 Kc6 76.Nd6 Bxd6 77.cxd6 Kxd6 0-1
Yearwood wins the board 5 match 1.5 - .5

Ante Zaradic (CGY) - Brad Willis (EDM)

The early part of the game centers on the kingside, but surprisingly, the Queenside provides Zaradic the decisive penetration.

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nc3 d5 5.Ne5 Nbd7 6.e3 Bd6 7.f4 O-O 8.Be2 Qe8 9.a3 Ne4 10.Nxe4 fxe4 11.O-O Nf6 12.c4 c6 13.Bh4 b6 14.b4 Bd7 15.g4 Kh8 16.Rf2 Ng8 17.Qf1 Nh6 18.Rc1 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Rc8 20.Qd1 Nf7 21.g5 Qe7 22.Bg3 g6 23.h4 Kg7 24.h5 gxh5 25.Rg2 Nh8 26.Rh2 Be8 27.Kg2 Bg6 28.Bxh5 Nf7 29.Bg4 Rcd8 30.cxd5 Rxd5 31.Qc2 c5 32.bxc5 Rxc5 33.Qb2 Rfc8 34.Rxc5 Rxc5 35.Be1 Nxc5 36.Bh4 Qc7 37.Kg3 Nf3 38.Bf6+ Kf7 39.Qb3 Rc4 40.Rh1 a6 41.Rd1 h5 42.Bd8 Qc8



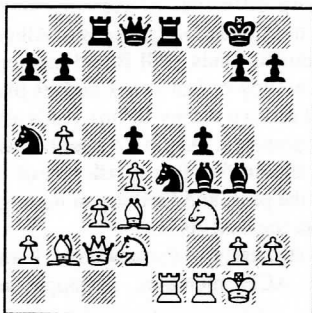
43.Qxb6 [Diagram]
43. ... hxg4 44.Qa7+ Kg8 45.Rd7 Rc1
46.Rg7+ Kh8 47.Rh7+ 1-0
Zaradic wins the board 6 match 1.5 - .5

Leo Danglapien (CGY) - Hafiz Karmali (EDM)

Karmali's knight on e4 proves to be

Danglapien's undoing.

1.e4 e5- 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be2 Nc6 5.c3 Bg4 6.b4 Bb6 7.b5 Na5 8.d4 Nf6 9.fxe5 Nxe4 10.O-O O-O 11.exd6 cxd6 12.Bd3 d5 13.Qc2 Re8 14.Kh1 Bc7 15.Nbd2 f5 16.Kg1 Rc8 17.Bb2 Bf4 18.Rae1 [Diagram] 18. ... Nxd2 19. R x e 8 + 20.Nxd2 Qe3+ 21.Rf2 Bxh2+ 22.Kxh2 Qxf2 23.Nf3 Qxc2 24.Bxc2 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Re8 26.Bd3 Re3 27.Bf1 Nc4 28.Bxc4 dxc4 29.Kg3 Re2 30.Ba3 Rxa2 31.Bb4 Kf7 0-1



Karmali wins the board 7 match 1.5 - .5

Dave Gomboc (CGY) - Chris Dartana (EDM)

Dartana entombs his bishop, but manages to get a lot of counterplay. Perhaps with 36...Qxg5 Gomboc would not have been so fortunate.

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.f4 O-O 6.Nf3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Be2 exd5 9.cxd5 Bg4 10.O-O a6 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nbd7 13.g4 Ne8 14.g5 b5 15.Bg4 Nc7 16.e5 dxe5 17.f5 Nb6 18.f6 Bh8 19.d6 Ne6 20.Nd5 Nxd5 21.Qxd5 Qd7 22.Be3 Rac8 23.Rac1 c4 24.Qxe5 Rfe8 25.Qd5 Rc6 26.Bxe6 Rxe6 27.Bf4 h6 28.h4 Rc8 29.Rf2 Rce8 30.Kh2 Re4 31.Rcc2 hxg5 32.hxg5 Qg4 33.Bg3 Rd4 34.Qc6 Re1 35.Rf1 Re3 36.Rg2 Kh7 37.Bf2 Qh3+ 38.Kg1 Qe6 39.Bxe3 Qxe3+ 40.Kh1 Rh4+ 41.Rh2 Rxh2+ 42.Kxh2 Qd2+ 43.Qg2 Qxd6+ 44.Qg3 Qd5 45.Rh1 1-0
Gomboc wins the board 8 match 1.5 - .5

Ford Wong (EDM) - Chris Kuczaj (CGY)

After winning a pawn in the opening, White doesn't seem to know how to proceed. Black gets the idea to go after the king ... and succeeds.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be3 O-O 6.f3 e5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Bd3 f5 9.exf5 gxf5 10.Nge2 c6 11.Qd2 Nd7 12.O-O-O Nc5 13.Be2 cxd5 14.Nxd5 Ne6 15.Ndc3 Nf6 16.Bxf5 Nd4 17.Be4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 d5 19.cxd5 Qxd5 20.N2c3 Qc6 21.Kb1 Bf5 22.Rc1 Rfd8 23.Qf2 Qa6 24.Qf1 Qe6 25.Qf2 Rac8 26.Ka1 Qa6 27.Bxd4 exd4 28.Nb1 Be6 29.a3 Qd3 30.Nbd2 Qb5 31.Qg3 Kh8 32.Qg5 Qb6 33.Nf6 Bf7 34.Nh5 Bxh5 35.Rxc8 Rxc8 36.Qxh5 d3 37.Nc4 Qb3 38.Re1 Qxc4 39.Re4 Qc1+ 40.Ka2 Qxb2# 0-1

Kuczaj wins the board 9 match 1.5 - .5

Dave Ottosen (EDM) - Art Milne (CGY)

(Notes by Milne)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5!? 3.dxe5 Ne4 The

Fajarowitz variation of the Budapest Defence

4.a3! Best to prevent ... Bb4. Unbeknownst to me, I had essayed the same opening David plays with the Black pieces; moreover, I was playing this line for the first time in a tournament game, so not surprisingly, this enterprising line found David better prepared than I. 4. ... Nc6 Doesn't really threaten ... Nxe5 because of Qd5, but can't be bad. 5.g3!? I surmise this is David's special antidote for this line. The idea is to gain time by driving back the black knight. 5. ... d6 6.Bg2 Nc5 Here Black begins to think hard about his options. 6. ... f5 is totally unthematic; 6. ... Ng5 looks odd but deserves attention; 6. ... Bf5 is met by 7.Qd5, and the bishop isn't particularly well-placed on f5; and the text, 6. ... Nc5. 7.b4 Ne6 8.exd6 Bxd6?! A knee-jerk reaction which leads to difficulties for Black; better is 8. ... Qf6! 9.Bb2 Qe7? Loses a piece! 10.Bxc6+! bxc6 11.c5 Bxc5 12.bxc5 O-O Black is toast. There was a time not long ago when I resigned such positions, but I thought I would play on to see if I could stave off resignation until White's 29th move, when David resigned the first game. 13.Nf3 Rb8 One of the compensations for my repulsive pawn structure is that I have plenty of open lines! 14.Qc2 Nxc5 If White stops to defend b3 by say 15.Nbd2, his king is stuck in the centre with 14. ... Bh3; so he castles and faces the consequences. 15.O-O!? Nb3 It begins to look as though Black will snag the exchange. 16.Nc3!? 16.Ra2 Be6, and it will cost White the exchange to unscramble his queen-side forces. 16. ... Nxa1 17.Bxa1 The smoke clears with White enjoying a clear edge because of the two pieces for the rook and Black's shattered queen-side pawns. 17. ... Re8 This move aims to tie down the White Nc3 to the defence of the e2-pawn, which in turn confines the Ba1, while the response 18.e3 makes life easier for Black's bishop; 17. ... Rd8 looks logical, but invites tactics against the c6 pawn with a knight because of the unfortunate positioning of Black's heavy pieces. 18.Qa4 Qc5 19.Qf4 Rb3 It is natural to place the rook on an active square. 20.Ng5 Qf5 Black figures that his remaining forces are sufficiently active that a queen trade would not be out of order. 21.Qxf5 Bxf5 22.a4 f6! Better than 22. ... h6, because f6 blunts the long diagonal, enables the Black king to come to the centre, and controls the e5 square. 23.Nf3 Rd8 24.e3!? Attempting to seize the d4 square with the knight, causing havoc in Black's position. 24. ... Bh3 The point behind this move isn't very profound: the white rook is to be confined to the first rank because of the back rank mate threats. 25.Rc1 c5!? The most direct method; indeed the only method to prevent Nd4. 26.Kh1!? Attempting to solve the back rank problem, but this costs time. 26. ... Kf7 27.Nb5? 27.Ne4! with the threats of Nxc5 and

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

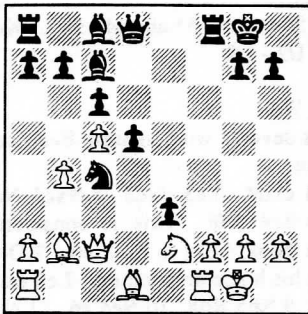
Neg5+ was the move that really had me worried. 27. ... c6! The same move Black would have played had White tried this on move 26. 28.Nc3 Rb4 29.Ng1 Well, the 29th move has arrived! 29. ... Be6 Sorry, no resignation. 30.Kg2 30. ... a5!?! Fixing the a-pawn on a light square so it can be attacked with ... Bb3. 31.Nge2 Rd2 32.Nf4 Bb3 33.Kf3 Threatening 34.Ne4. 33. ... Bc2 34.e4 Bxa4 35.Nxa4 Rxa4 36.Bc3 Ra3 37.Ke3 Rd7 The king rook is badly placed on a2. 38.Nd3 c4 39.Nb2 The c-pawns are doomed. 39. ... Ra2 Clearing the path for the a-pawn, which is the great Black hope, and the great White fear. 40.Nxc4 a4 Time control. White: 1:15, Black 1:49. 41.Bb4 Ke6 42.Na5 c5 43.Rxc5 Rb2 44.Rc6+ Kf7 45.Rc4 Black has as compensation for his material deficit the fact the White's forces are awkwardly placed, his rooks are active and of course the a-pawn. 45. ... Kg6 46.Bc3 Rc2 47.Nc6 a3 48.Nd4 Rc1 49.Ne2 Rc2 50.Ra4 a2 51.f4 Rd1! Now Black is sure to enter the last stage of the ending up an exchange for a pawn. 52.e5 Rxc3+ 53.Nxc3 a1(Q) 54.Rxa1 Rxa1 White's extra pawn and the fact that all the pawns are on the same side of the board spells draw. 55.exf6 gxf6!?! Aiming to unbalance the position, but Black doesn't significantly enhance his winning chances by self-inflicting a gash on his pawns. 56.Ne2 Rh1 57.h4 Rf1?! 58.g4 Ra1 59.h5+ Kf7 60.Nd4 Ra3+ 61.Ke4 Rg3 62.Kf5 Ra3 If Black's pointless rook maneuvers look like those of a player who was busted and now can't quite believe his good fortune that he's still in the game, it's probably because he is a player who was busted and can't quite believe his good fortune that he's still in the game. Here Black makes a draw offer. 63.Nc6 ...which White spurns. [Dave checked the score-board; a draw would tie round two at 6-6 in the match, and that's just not good enough...-ed.] 63. ... Ra8 64.g5 fxe5 65.fxe5 Rc8 66.Ne5+ Kg7 67.h6+ Kg8 68.g6 hxe6 69.Kg3 Rc7 70.Ng4 Rg7+! 1/2-1/2

Milne wins the board 10 match 1.5 - .5

John Quiring (EDM) - Martin Oberrauch (CGY)

This is how all Dutch Stonewall players dream of playing this opening.

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.e3 d5 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.c5 Bc7 8.b4 O-O 9.O-O Nbd7



10.Bb2 Ne4
11.Nd2 e5
12.dxe5 Nxe5
13.Bc2 Nxd2
14.Qxd2 f4
15.Bd1 Nc4
16.Qc2 fxe3
1 7 . N e 2
[Diagram]
17. ... exf2+
18.Rxf2 Bxh2+
19.Kxh2 Qh4+

20.Kg1 Qxf2+ 0-1

Oberrauch wins the board 11 match 2-0.

Nathan McLean (CGY) - Len Steele (EDM)

Steele sends his Queen scouting around McLean's back row, but can't ever find a way through the thicket of white pieces.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 b6 3.Nf3 d5 4.e5 c6 5.Bd3 Ba6 6.O-O Bxd3 7.Qxd3 Nd7 8.c3 Ne7 9.Ng5 h6 10.Nh7 g6 11.Nxf8 Kxf8 12.Nd2 Kg7 13.f4 Qc7 14.g4 h5 15.h3 hxe4 16.hxe4 Rh4 17.Qg3 Rah8 18.Nf3 Rh1+ 19.Kg2 Rxf1 20.Kxf1 Qc8 21.Nh4 Kf8 22.Be3 Qa6+ 23.Kf2 Qd3 24.Re1 Ke8 25.a3 Qc2+ 26.Re2 Qb1 27.Kg2 Qe4+ 28.Nf3 g5 29.fxe5 Ng6 30.Kg1 Qb1+ 31.Qe1 Qe4 32.Qg3 Qb1+ 33.Kf2 Ndf8 34.Qgl Qd3 35.Bc1 Nh4 36.Nxh4 Rxh4 37.Qg3 Qh7 38.Kg2 Ng6 39.Re1 Ne7 40.Bd2 Ng6 41.Be3 Qh8 42.Bg1 Rh1 43.Bh2 Rxe1 44.Qxe1 Qh4 45.Qxh4 Nxh4+ 46.Kf2 Ng6 47.Bg3 Kd7 48.Ke2 Kc7 49.Kd3 Kb7 50.b3 a6 51.c4 Kc8 52.Kc3 Kb7 53.Kb4 a5+ 54.Kc3 Ka6 55.b4 axb4+ 56.axb4 b5 57.cxd5 cxd5 58.Kd3 1/2 - 1/2

McLean and Steele tie the board 12 match 1-1.

CALGARY CC FALL OPEN

TD: Tedge Davies; Rep: Walter Watson

The Fall Open was held in two sections this year, and both had interesting contests. The first section had 16 players rated from 1753 to 2112. After six rounds out of seven, top-seeded Farzan Nazarian had 4.5 points followed by Leo Danglapan, Chris Kuczaj, Jim Flemming and Art Milne with 4, and Warrick Walker and Paul Usselman with 3.5. Farzan outplayed Chris in the last round to win undivided first prize with 5.5 points, while Jim and Leo tied for the second prize at 5 points. Jim beat Art with an exchange sac, and Leo defeated Warrick who was in his usual time trouble. Gurb Singh upset Paul, scoring a noteworthy 4 points although he was the second lowest-ranked player.

In the 19-player second section Steve Sauve led with 5 points after 6 rounds, followed by Tom Lay and John Rajchel at 4.5 points and Nick Podolchak and Ante Sokol at 4. All three leaders won in the last round, Steve against Ante and John against Nick, while Tom defeated Tony Zaradic. Steve thus won the section's first prize with 6 points, while Tom and John split second third with 5.5. Steve's only missed points were his draws against Tom and John. Tom defeated John in their game, but his sixth round loss to Ante let Steve move into the lead to stay.

Tedge Davies directed the tournament with a firm hand, while finding time as the new club president to greet visitors and dispense his usual good cheer to all.

A. Milne - J. Flemming

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 4. ... Bc5 is the Max Lange Attack. 5.O-O Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qh5 The alternative is 8. ... Qa5. 9.Nxe4 Be6 10.Bg5 Be7?! So far, Jim had found the main line moves over the board, but this represents a known error; best is 10. ... Bb4. 11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.Qxd4!?! Now White varies; book is 12.Nxd4 which Keene rates better for White. 12. ... O-O 13.Neg5? Altogether the wrong plan; best is 13.Ng3! (Walker) with the idea of embarrassing the black queen. 13. ... Nc6 14.Qf4 h6 15.Nxe6 fxe 16.Qxc7 After sacking two pawns in the opening, White soon chokes on his own voracity. 16. ... Rxf3! 17.gxf 17.Qxb7 Raf8 18.Qxc6 Rxf2 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 leaves White 2 pawns up but scratching for a good continuation. 17. ... Nd4 18.Re3 Nxf3+ 19.Kg2 19.Kh1 e5. 19. ... Rf8 20.Rh1? Better is 20.Qg3, and Black can take back his exchange with 20. ... Nh5+ followed by ... Nf5, with a better position. 20. ... Nh4+ 21.Kf1? Now it's a forced mate in four; 21.Kh3 had to be tried. 21. ... Qd1+ 22.Re1 Rxf2+! 0-1

STARDUST AUTUMN ACTIVE

By Piotr Rajski

Despite the well-advanced winter season by November 23, the Stardust Autumn active gathered together 11 players, the biggest number in Northern Alberta so far. (By the way, we consider naming tournaments in Edmonton as "Northern Alberta" to be a joke.) We were especially excited about the last minute arrival of "La Crete Dragons", i.e. the Wiebe brothers, who gave up a ski-doo contest to compete on the 64 squares. The tournament brought in four new CFC (and ACA) members.

In the five round Swiss, top rated Piotr Rajski secured first place with 4.5/5, thanks to a hard fought draw in the last round against Abe J. Wiebe. Keith Martin took second with 4, losing only to the winner. Danny McIntosh and a newcomer Phil Friesen tied for third place with 3/5. Maciej Rajski grabbed the First Cadet prize. LaCrete Dragons were somewhat rusty this time and finished in the middle of the pack.

Said Morad, the owner of the Stardust Motor Inn, made the tournament very attractive by matching all the entry fees. First prize was \$120.00, second \$60.00, third \$35.00 and First Cadet \$18.00. Considering there were only 11 players, and that first prize was taken by a not-quite 1700 rated player, one should not have a second thought about playing in the High Level Stardust Classic April 19-20, 1997. However, we will not give you this money easily!

The following game, in which Danny McIntosh overcame 438 rating point, was chosen as best of the tournament.

D. McIntosh - A. J. Wiebe

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 d5 5.e3 Ne4 6.Bd2 Nxd2 7.Qxd2 Nc6 8.Bd3 b6 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Qxc3 Bb7 11.O-O O-O 12.Rae1 dxc4 13.Bxc4 Na5 14.Bd3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qd7 16.b4 Nb7 17.Be4 Rab8 18.Kh1 Nd6 19.Bd3 Rac8 20.Rg1 Rca8? 21.d5 g6 22.dxe6 fxe6? 23.Bxg6! hxe6 24.Rxg6 Kh7 25.Reg1 Rg8 26.Qf6 Rxg6 27.Qxg6 Kh8 28.Qf6+! Kh7 29.Qh4# 1-0



ALBERTA JUNIOR CHESS REPORT



(A Special section of the Alberta Chess Report, February 1997)

ALBERTA JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

By Neil Sharp, TD

	x	1	0	=	0	Tot
Nathan McLean	x	1	0	=	0	2.5
John Rajchel	0	x	=	0	=	0
Douglas Wu	1	=	x	=	1	3.5
Beatrice Wu	0	1	=	x	0	2
Cynthia Wu	=	=	0	1	x	1
Dmitri Shefer	1	1	=	=	0	x

[Douglas Wu, at age 14, wins his second consecutive Alberta Junior Championship (for players under 20 years old) and will represent Alberta at the Canadian Championships in Edmonton—ed]

J. Rajchel - C. Wu

An interesting endgame results in both players missing wins.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nc6 4.h3 Bd7 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d3 g6 7.O-O Bg7 8.Be3 O-O 9.Qd2 Re8 10.Rad1 Rc8 11.Rfe1 a6 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Ng5 b5 14.a3 Bb7 15.f4 d5 16.Bf2 e5 17.f5 d4 18.fxg6 fxg6 19.Ne2 Qe7 It seems to me that Black should start playing down the c-file with c4, tripling the heavy pieces, and eventually exd3 20.Nf3 Nd7 21.Bh4 Bf6 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Qg5 Qxg5 24.Nxg5 h6 25.Nf3 Rf8 26.Rf1 Rf6 27.Ng3 Rcf8 28.Nh4 Kg7 29.Rxf6 Rxf6 30.Rf1 Nf8 31.Nhf5+ Kh7 If 31. ... gf5 32.Nh5 Kg6 33.Nf6 Kf6 34.Rf5 and the rook creates havoc. 32.Nd6 Rxf1+ If 32. ... Rd6 33.Rf7 Kg8 34.Rb7 with a small advantage for White. 33.Kxf1 Igor Shefer suggested 33.Nf1 but 35. ... Bc6 34.Nd2 Kg7 35.Nf3 Kf6 holds. The knight has to be careful about being trapped. 33. ... Bc6 34.Nf7 Nd7 35.Nd8 Ba8 36.Ne6 Kg8 37.Nc7 Bb7 38.h4 Kf7 39.c4 Why not the consistent 39.h5 giving White the f5 square? 39. ... bxc4 39. ... dc3 40.bc3 Nf6 leaves White with some big problems. 40.dxc4 Now the knight can use the d5 square. Nb6 41.b3 Ke7 A mistake which forces Black to capture on d5 next move. 42.Nd5+ Nxd5 42. ... Bd5 43.ed5 a5! 44.a4 Nd7 45.Ne4 and Black might hold. 43.exd5 43.ed5! followed by Ne4 wins the c5 pawn. 43. ... a5 44.Ke2 h5 45.Nh1 Ba6+ 46.Kd2 Bf1 47.g3 Bg2 48.Nf2 Bf3 49.Kd3 Kd6 50.Kc4 Turning a draw into a loss. 50. ... Be2+ 51.Nd3 Bxd3+ Turning a win back into a draw. White of course has put himself into a zugzwang situation, and can resign after 51. ... Kd7. 52.Kxd3 Kc7 53.Kc4 Kd6 54.a4 White could

still lose with 54.b4 cb4 55.ab4 a4. 54. ... Kd7 55.Kd3 Kd6 1/2 - 1/2

D. Shefer - B. Wu

Dmitri misses several wins against Beatrice's dogged defence.

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 Nf6 This is considered dubious. The book move is 6. ... e6. 7.O-O Dmitri forgets his home preparation. 7.e5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Nxd8 9.Nb5 Rb8 10.Ne5 e6 11.Nc7 Ke7 12.Be3 with a big advantage. 7. ... Bg4 Now with 7. ... e6 Black can transpose to the main book line. 8.Qb3 e6 9.Qxb7 Qc8 9. ... Rc8 10.Bb5 Qd7 11.Qa6 Bf3 12.gxf3 leaves Black in a nasty pin. 10.Ba6 e5 11.Ng5 11.Qb5+! Qd7 12.Bb7 Rc8 wins the exchange. 11. ... Bd7 11. ... Nd8 looks better. 12.Qb5 12.Nf7 Kf7 13.Qb3 Be6 14.Bc8 Bb3 15.Bb7 Rb8 16.Bc6 wins a pawn. 12. ... Nd4 13.Qc4 Qxc4 14.Bxc4 Ne6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Rd1 Kf7 17.f3 Be7 18.Bg5 Rhd8 19.Rac1 Rac8 20.Nb5 Bxb5 Why not 20. ... Rc4 21.Nd6 Bxd6 22.Rc4 Bb5 23.Rcc1 Be5 24.Kh1 Rd1 25.Rd1 21.Bxb5 Rb8 22.Bc4 22.a4 looks fine for White. 22. ... Rbc8 Black was afraid to take the pawn because of the trapped rook: 22. ... Rb2 23.Bb3 followed by Bd2, Bc3, Kf1. However, after 23. ... Rd7 24.Bd2 Bd8 25.Bc3 Bb6 26.Kh1 Rf2 the rook is still alive. 23.a3 d5 24.exd5 exd5 25.Ba2 Be5+ 26.Kf1 Bd4 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Rc1 Rxc1+ 29.Bxc1 Ke6 30.Ke2 a5 31.Kd3 Nd7 32.b4 axb4 33.axb4 Nb6 34.Be3 Bxe3 35.Kxe3 Kd6 36.f4 e4 37.Kd4 Kc6 38.g4 Kb5 Black's king embarks on a high-risk journey. 39.f5 Kxb4 40.g5 Ka3 41.Bxd5 Nxd5 42.Kxe4 Ne7 43.f6 43.Ke5 Kb4 44.Ke6 Nc6 45.Kf7 h6 46.g6 Nd4 47.f6! wins. If 44. ... Nc8 45.f6 gxf6 46.gxf6 wins. Perhaps Black can play differently at move 43 and hold this position but it will be extremely difficult. 43. ... gxf6 44.gxf6 Ng6 45.f7 Kb4 46.Kd5 Kb5 47.h4 h5 48.Ke6 Kc6 49.Kf6 Nf8 50.Kg7 Ne6+ 51.Kg6 Kd7 52.Kxh5 Ke7 1/2 - 1/2

D. Wu - N. McLean

Some careless play by Nathan in a blocked position.

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 g6 3.Bd3 Bg7 4.f4 d5 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Nbd2 e6 7.O-O Nbd7 8.b3 c5 9.c3 b6 10.Ba3 Bb7 11.Ne5 Rc8 12.Rc1 Ne8 13.Qg4 f5 14.Qh3 Nd6 15.Ndf3 Threatening 16.Ng5. 15. ... Ne4 Not paying attention in a dull position. Acceptable is 15. ... Ne5 16.dxe5 Nf7 or 16.Ne5 Ne4 or 16.Ng5 Qg5. 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Ng5 Nf6 18.Nxe6 Qe8 19.Nxf8 Bxf8 20.Rfd1 cxd4 21.Bxf8 Qxf8 22.Rxd4 Qa3 23.Rc2 Ba6 24.Ra4 Qd6 25.Rd4 Qd3 26.Qh4

Kg7 27.g4 fxg4 28.Nxg4 Nxg4 29.Rd7+ Kf8 30.Qxh7 Nh6 A much better move is to resign. 31.Qxh6+ 31.Qh8 Ng8 32.Qg7 Ke8 33.Qf7 mate. 31. ... Ke8 32.Rxa7 Qd6 33.Qh8+ Qf8 34.Qe5+ Kd8 35.Qg5+ Ke8 36.Qxg6+ Kd8 37.Qxb6+ Ke8 38.Qe6+ 1-0

J. Rajchel - D. Wu

John defends well to get a draw against the eventual winner.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d3 g6 7.O-O Bg7 8.Be3 O-O 9.h3 b5 10.a3 Na6 11.Rb1 Rfc8 12.Qd2 Rc7 13.e5 b4 14.axb4 cxb4 15.exf6 bxc3 16.bxc3 Bxf6 17.c4 Rac8 18.Bd4 Bxd4 19.Nxd4 d5 20.Nb5 Rc5 21.Qa5 R8c6 22.Rfd1 R6c6 23.Qc3 Rb6 24.Na3 Rxb1 25.Rxb1 dxc4 26.Nxc4 Rb5 27.Rxb5 Qxb5 28.Ne3 Qc5 29.Qxc5 Nxc5 30.Kf1 Kf8 31.Ke2 Ke8 32.Kd2 Kd7 33.Kc3 Kc6 34.Kc4 e6 1/2 - 1/2

D. Shefer - C. Wu

A fine game by Cynthia.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 O-O 6.Nf3 Nfd7 7.Be3 e5 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.d5 a5 10.Bd3 Na6 11.Rc1 Ndc5 12.Bb1 f5 13.Bg5 Bf6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.O-O Nb4 17.Ne1 Qh4 17. ... Qb6 18.Bf5 Ncd3 19.Kh1 Nc1 20.Be6 Qe6 21.Nf3 Qg4 22.Qc1 Qc4 wins. 18.b3 18.Nf3 Qc4? 19.Na4 18. ... Nbd3 18. ... Bb1 19.Nf3 Rxf3 wins. 19.Nf3 19.Rf5 Qd4 20.Kh1 Nc1 21.Qc1 gxf5 22.Nf3 Qf4 winning. 19.Nd3 Bd3 20.Bd3 Qd4 21.Kh1 Nd3 22.Rc2 Rf2 23.Ne2 Qe4 24.Rg1 Nf4 wins. 19.Bd3 Qd4 20.Kh1 Bd3 21.Nf3 Qf4 22.Re1 e4 23.Nd4 Rae8 is good for Black. 19. ... Qh6 19. ... Qf6 20.Rc2 e4 21.Ne1 Qd4 22.Kh1 Bg4 wins. 19. ... Qf6 20.Bd3 Nd3 21.Rc2 e4 22.Ne1 Qd4 23.Kh1 Bf4 wins. 20.Bxd3 Qe3+ 20. ... Nd3 21.Rc2 e4 22.Nd2 Qe3 23.Kh1 Bg4 24.Qg4 Nf2!! mates and if 22.Qd2 Qg7 23.Nh4 Qd4 24.Kh1 e3 25.Nf3 Qb6 wins. 21.Kh1 Nxd3 22.Ra1 22.Rc2 e4 23.Ng1 and I don't see a clear win. 22. ... Nf2+ 23.Rxf2 Qxf2 24.Nxe5 24.Qel Qel 25.Re1 and White can play on. 24. ... Rae8 25.Nf3 Bg4 26.Qd2 Rxf3 0-1

D. Wu - D. Shefer (Round 5)

The most important game of the tournament, looked forward to since Round 1.

1.d4 c5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 cxd4 4.exd4 Nc6 5.Nf3 d5 6.c3 The game has transposed to a Caro-Kann. 6. ... Qb6 7.O-O Bg4 8.Nbd2 e6 9.Re1 Bd6 10.h3 1/2 - 1/2 Having achieved an interesting unbalanced position in a game where he needs a win, Black accepts a draw. You figure it out, I can't.

ALBERTA CADET

By Neil Sharp, TD.

The Alberta Cadet Championship was held in Red Deer on December 14-15.

						Tot
Duncan Campbell	x	0	0	1	0	1
Nathan McLean	1	x	1	1	=	4.5
Jeremiah Gallinger	1	0	x	0	0	2
Nigel Sharp	0	0	1	x	0	1
Douglas Wu	1	=	1	1	x	4.5
John Rajchel	1	0	0	1	0	x 2

Jordan Davies was ill and was replaced by Nigel Sharp, who scored the first win in the first round.

J. Gallinger - Ni. Sharp

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f4 Nc6 7.h3 Bg7 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.e5 dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Bc4 e4 12.Bxf7 e6 13.Bxf4 Ke7 14.Bxg6 hxg6 15.O-O-O Rd8 16.g4 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Bb7 18.Be5 Rd8 19.Rf1 Rf8 20.Rd1 Rf7 21.g5 Nd5 22.Bxg7 Rxd7 23.Ne4 Rh7 24.Nc5 Bc8 25.Rh1 Nf4 26.h4 Ng2 27.Rh2 Nxd4 28.Ne4 Bb7 29.Kd2 0-1

The key game of the tournament occurred in round one.

N. McLean - D. Wu

1.e4 c5 2.f4 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.d3 g6 6.g3 b5 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.O-O Bg7 9.Be3 O-O 10.Re1 b4 11.Ne2 Nbd7 12.c3 Rc8 13.Rc1 a5 14.Bf2 Ng4 15.h3 Nxf2 16.Kxf2 Qb6 17.Nd2 Qa6 18.Nb1 Qa7 19.Qd2 Nf2 20.Ng1 e6 21.Qe3 Nd7 22.Ne2 Nb6 23.Nd2 Na4 24.Rc2 Bc6 25.d4 Nxb2 26.Rxb2 bxc3 27.Qxc3 cxd4 28.Qd3 Bb7 29.e5 Bxg2 30.Kxg2 dxe5 31.fxe5 Bxe5 32.Nc4 Bg7 33.Rb5 a4 34.Rc1 Qd7 35.Ne5 Bxe5 36.Rxc8 Rxc8 37.Rxe5 f6 38.Ra5 e5 39.Kf2 Qxh3 40.Rxa4 Qh2+ 41.Kf1 Qh1+ 42.Kf2 Qh2+ 43.Ke1 Qh1+ 44.Kd2 Qh6+ 45.Ke1 Qh1+ 46.Kf2 Qh2+ 47.Kf1 Qh1+ 1/2 - 1/2

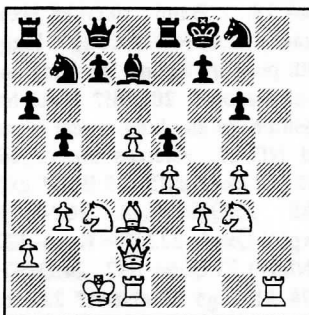
Douglas and Nathan then proceeded to win the rest of their games, thus creating a tie for first. There was however plenty of excitement along the way.

N. McLean - J. Rajchel

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 d6 4.Bb5 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bd7 6.O-O Nxd4 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7 8.Qxd4 Nf6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Re1 Qb5 11.e5 c5 12.Qh4 dxe5 13.Na3 Qxb2 14.Nc4 Qc3 15.Nxe5 O-O 16.Nd7 Nxd7 17.Bxe7 Rfe8 18.Rad1 Nf6 19.f3 Qxc2 20.Bxf6 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 gxf6 22.Qxf6 Qxa2 23.Re4 Qb1+ 24.Kf2 Qb6 25.Rg4+ Kf8 26.Qh8+ Ke7 27.Qxa8 c4+ 28.Kg3 Qd6+ 29.Kh3 Qh6+ 30.Rh4 Qe6+ 31.g4 Qc6 32.Kg2 c3 33.Qxa7 c2 34.Qe3+ Kd7 35.Qd4+ Ke7 36.Qe5+ Kd7 37.Rxh7 Qc4 38.Qf5+ Kc6 39.Rh6+ Kc7 40.Qe5+ Kd7 41.Qd6+ 1-0

D. Wu - D. Campbell

After 22 moves, Douglas goes king hunting. [Diagram]



23.Rh8 Ke7
24.Qg5+ Kd6
25.Rxg8 Rxd6
26.Qf6+ Kc5
27.Qxe5 Qe8
28.Qxc7+ Kb4
29.Kb2 Bc6
30.a3+ Kc5
31.b4+ Kd4
32.Bxb5+ Ke3
33.Nf1+ Kxf3
34.Qg3+ 1-0.

And so Nathan McLean and Douglas Wu will play off to see who will represent Alberta at the Canadian Cadet.

[Subsequently, Douglas decided not to contest the playoff, so Nathan will travel to the nationals in Victoria in March 1997.-ed.]

CANADIAN YOUTH CHESS FESTIVAL-- Alberta Finals

By Neil Sharp, TD & Org.

The Alberta Finals were held in Red Deer on November 30.

Under 18: Nathan McLean gave up an early round draw to Cynthia Wu which meant he needed to defeat his arch-rival Douglas Wu in the key last round game. In a dramatic time scramble Douglas prevailed to finish first. Under 14: Jordan Davies carelessly stalemated Paul Kirvan in the key game in this section to create a tie for first, but won the extra game and first place. Paul was a good second while John Rajchel finished third.

Under 12: Jeff Huang breezed through this section with no difficulties. Richard Canal and Daniel Jacob, both from Calgary, finished second and third respectively.

Under 10: Nigel Sharp repeated his last year's win in this section. Joshua Sealy of Calgary was second.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA CADET

By Dave Gomboc, Org. and TD

The 1996 Southern Alberta Cadet Championship was held on October 19. Jordan Davies and John Rajchel shook hands early in the last round, scored 2.5 points of a possible 3, and advanced to the Alberta Cadet Championship. Nigel scored a point against Jeff Huang, who won material but missed Nigel's checkmate at the end of the combination!

CANADIAN YOUTH CHESS FESTIVAL - Edmonton Regionals

by Ford Wong.

A disappointing 6 players showed up to play in this years tournament. Down from the 39 the year before. It seems that many people were not aware of this event.

Thanks to all who came to play and my fellow volunteers. To make the day worthwhile at least for the volunteers (John Quiring, Dave Ottosen, Wayne Mendryk and Tom Karpa), we had a round robin active tournament, won by Ford, John and David.

CANADIAN CHESS CHALLENGE

(National Organizer: Chess'n Math)

Alberta will send a team of 12 provincial champions to Montreal in May 1997 - one for each school grade. Who will be on this team? We will know VERY SOON because the qualifying tournaments are about to begin.

There are five regional tournaments in Alberta Calgary: Feb. 22, 1997

Contact: Glenn Booth 284-2159

Peace River: Mar. 1, 1997

Contact: David Bond 624-3273

Red Deer: Mar. 2, 1997

Contact: Neil Sharp 346-0420

Edmonton: Mar. 8, 1997

Contact: Ford Wong 481-6474

Lethbridge: Mar. 8, 1997

Contact: Grant Brown 381-0308

Anyone may play in any regional qualifier. The entry fee is \$10.00, payable at the tournament site.

The Alberta Championship will be at Red Deer College on Saturday, April 12, 1997. Contact Neil Sharp 346-0420.

Provincial winners in each grade advance to the Canadian Championships in Montreal, May 18-19, 1997.

CALGARY JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

(Sponsored by Chess'n Math)

Contact: Glenn Booth (284-2159)

Site: ABC Charter P.S.

Schedule:

Sunday March 9, 1997

Sunday April 6, 1997

Sunday May 4, 1997

RED DEER JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

Contact: Neil Sharp (346-0420)

Site: Red Deer Library

Schedule: Sundays, 1:30 - 5:00

EDMONTON JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

Contact: Adam Wu (462-0838)

Site: Edmonton Chess Club, Prince of Wales Armoury, 10440 108 Ave. southwest entrance.

Registration: before 9:45 a.m.

Schedule:

March 1: Long March Active

April 5: April Showers Active

May 3: Flowers of May Active

THE WEEKEND BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Ford Wong, TD & Org.

Nineteen "I like chess so much that I'm not afraid of the cold" braved the frigid weather to play in the "Weekend Before Christmas". This included numerous people from out of town: Jay Feng and Lewis Harkes from B.C., Dave Gomboc, Nenad Ristic, Roy Yearwood and Jimmy Argue from Calgary, Victor Bilodeau from Edson, Hans Olson from Camrose, Keith Martin from LaCrete and as usual Cor Dewindt from Thorhild. (Where are all the Edmontonians?)

Gomboc, Ristic, and Harkes drove in the night before, arriving about 3:30 AM following a delayed start caused by a weather advisory, and the closing of Highway 2 (following a 60 car collision) for several hours. They drove without a heater and with the constant threat of vehicle failure in minus 30 degree weather (including stops to keep the car running smoothly)—that's dedication! May Santa leave a new car heater under the Christmas tree this year.

The tournament went smoothly for roughly three rounds with no upsets. Round 3 saw Ristic and Fullbrook beat Yearwood and Grumic respectively to take the lead. In round 4, Ristic beat Fullbrook in a long game (90 moves), to become sole leader. (This game made the TD think about whether sudden death time control should have been used.) On board 2, Harkes held Grumic to a draw in a wild game. Elsewhere, Gomboc scalped Yearwood on board 3 (perhaps showing the teacher that the pupil is ready to leave the roost) while Ottosen completed a hattrick of sorts by beating Dartana for the third time in a week, in 3 separate tournaments, to jump up amongst the leaders.

In round 5, on board 1, Ristic-Gomboc was over in 10 moves, drawn so that Ristic would get clear 1st and Gomboc would get at least =1st <2200. This meant that on board 2, the winner of Ottosen-Fullbrook would take clear second. That game ended with Ottosen triumphant in the white side of the Classical Dragon (transposed from Accelerated). Elsewhere Feng (who was really "focussed" with no distractions) drew with Harkes to get =1st <1800, as well as moving back over 1800.

Finally, a great big thank you to everyone who came out to play. The tournament included adding a new function to the TD description: boosting cars. This included the TDs' car, which failed to start following a short trip for lunch, leaving the TD to walk back (Burr) to the tournament. However, later that night, the TD's car fired up immediately, thanks to a new battery and pizza to warm things up. P.S. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with lots of chess books and rating points under your Christmas tree.

Congratulations to all the winners (who all took home some turkey vouchers):

1st: Nenad Ristic

2nd: Dave Ottosen,

1900-2199: 1st: Dave Gomboc

2nd: Lewis Harkes

1600-1899: 1st: Harold Climenhaga

and Jay Feng

Under 1599: 1st: Chris Miller

2nd: Victor Bilodeau,

Jimmy Argue and Hans Olson.

D. Ottosen - N. Fullbrook

Notes by Ottosen.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nb3 O-O 8.Be2 d6 9.f4 a5 10.a4 Be6 11.O-O Rc8 12.Bf3 TN 12.Kh1 Nd7 13.Bf3 Nb6 14.Bxb6 Qxb6 15.Nd5 Bxd5= MCO-13 12. ... Nb4 13.Nd4 Bc4 14.Re1 [14.Rf2 Nd7 15.Rd2 with threats of e5; White is better - Grumic 14. ... Nd7 15.Qd2 Nc5 16.Rad1 b6 17.f5 Qd7 18.Bh6!? Ba6 18. ... Bxb6 19.Qxh6 Nxa4 20.Nxa4 Qxa4 21.b3+- 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Bg4! With pressure against the King and along the h3-c8 diagonal. 20...f6!? Black has a difficult position, as any king retreat is met by Qh6 and Nf3-g5, whereas 20. ... e6? 21.Nd5 Nxd5 22.exd5 exf5 23.Bxf5! gxf5 24.Qg5+ Kh8 25.Qf6+ Kg8 26.Nxf5+- 21.e5? 21.fxg6!! Qxg4 22.Nf5+ Kxg6 (22. ... Kg8 23.Nh6+) 23.Qh6+ Kf7 24.Qxh7+ Ke8 25.Qxe7# 21. ... g5 22.exf6+!? 22.exd6 23.Ne6+ Nxe6 24.Rxe6 may be a more clear path to advantage, avoiding counterplay. 22. ... Rxf6 22. ... exf6 transposes into the last note. 23.Qxg5+ Kh8 24.Qe3 Rg8 25.Bf3 Rg7 26.Nd5?! Unnecessarily returning the pawn. 26. ... Nxd5 27.Bxd5 Qxa4 28.Bc6 Qc4 29.b3 Qg8 30.Qf3 Bc8? 30. ... e5! is a better way for Black to relieve some of White's play, while taking more space: 31.Nb5 Qb8 with a lot of pressure against the weak f5 pawn. 31.Qh3 d5?! Allows White's rooks to become more active with tempo, as well as making the e-pawn a fixed target. 31. ... Qf8! maintains the pressure against f5, while guarding e7. 32.Ne6 Nxe6 33.fxe6 Rgg6 34.Bd5 Qg8 35.Qc3 leaves the pieces in a balanced but tense position. 32.Re5 e6 33.Rde1 Ne4! With threats of deflecting the Queen from its guard of g2. 34.Re2!? Some other alternatives: 1) 34.fxe6 Nf2!; 2) 34.g3 Nxg3 35.hxg3 Rxg3+; 3) 34.Nxe6! may be an improvement: 34. ... Bxe6 35.Rxe6 Ng5 36.Qc3 Rxf5 37.Re8 is a way for Black to lose. 34. ... Qf8 Clock times: W 1:44 B 61:33 35.Qh4! Qd6?? Losing instantly. 35. ... Rff7! 36.c4 Qd6 37.Qf4 Rg4 38.Qxg4 Qxe5 39.Nf3 is still advantageous for Black. 36.R5xe4 dxe4 37.Qxf6 Qf4 38.Qf8+ Rg8 39.Qf6+ Rg7 Repeating to get closer to time control. 40.Rxe4 Qc1+ 41.Kf2 Ba6 42.c4 Qb2+ 43.Re2 Qc3 44.Rxe6 44.fxe6! and Black has no defense to e7-e8Q. However, the

text is of course good enough to win 44 Qd2+ 45.Ne2 h6 46.Re7 46.Qf8+ Kh7 47.Qxg7+ Qxg7 48.Rxg7 Kxg7 49.Kf3 Kf6 50.Kf4 Bc8 51.g4 Ba6 52.h4 Bc8 53.g5+ hxg5+ 54.hxg5+ Ke7 55.Ke5 Kf7 56.Nf4 Kg7 57.f6+ Kh8 58.g6 b5 59.g7+ Kh7 60.Be4+ Bf5 61.Bxf5+ Kg8 62.Bg6 a4 63.Nh5 (1-0)

N. Ristic - R. Yearwood

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 b6 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.Qc2 Na6 10.Bd3 f5 11.O-O Bxc3 12.bxc3 Rg8 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Qf6 15.f3 d6 16.a4 e5 17.a5 Nb8 18.axb6 cxb6 19.c5 bxc5 20.Bb5+ Ke7 21.dxc5 dxc5 22.Qa2 Rc8 23.Rfd1 Be6 24.Bxc6 Rxc6 25.Qd5 Qe6 26.Qd8+ Kf7 27.Rab1 Rb6 28.Qh8 Kg6 29.Bxe5 Nd7 30.Qxa8 Nxe5 31.Rxb6 axb6 32.e4 Nc4 33.exf5+ Kxf5 34.Qf8+ Kg6 35.h3 Kh5 36.Qd8 Kh4 37.Qd7 Qe3+ 38.Kh1 Ne5 39.Qd2 Nc4 40.Qxe3 Nxe3 41.Re1 Nd5 42.Kh2 Kh5 43.Re6 Nxc3 44.g4+ Kh4 45.Rxh6# 1-0

D. Gomboc - R. Yearwood

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd2 e5 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.f5 Bc5 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.Nf3 h6 11.g4 b6 12.g5 Qe7 13.Bc4 Ba6 14.Qe2 b5 15.Bb3 Nd7 16.gxh6 gxh6 17.O-O Bb7 18.Be3 a5 19.Rxd7 Bxe3+ 20.Qxe3 Kxd7 21.Bxf7 Kc7 22.Be6 Be8 23.Bxc8 Kxc8 24.Qc3 Kb7 25.Nxe5 Rac8 26.Ng6 Qg5+ 27.Qd2 Rhe8 28.Qxg5 hxg5 29.e5 Rc7 30.Kd2 Rg7 31.Ke3 Rxg6 32.fxg6 Rxe5+ 33.Kd4 Re6 34.h4 Rxg6 35.h5 Rg8 36.h6 g4 37.h7 Rh8 38.Ke4 Kc7 39.Kf4 Kd6 40.Kxg4 Ke7 41.Kg5 Kf7 42.Kh6 Rd8 43.Rf1+ Ke6 44.Kg7 Rd7+ 45.Kg6 Rd8 46.Re1+ Kd7 47.Rd1+ Ke8 48.h8Q+ Ke7 49.Qf6+ Ke8 50.Rxd8# 1-0

L. Harkes - S. Grumic

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.c3 Nd7 5.f4 e5 6.Nf3 h6 7.Bh4 Qb6 8.Na3 a6 9.Nc4 Qc7 10.a4 Ndf6 11.e5 Nd5 12.Qe2 Be6 13.f5? gxf5 14.exd6 exd6 15.dxc5 dxc5 16.O-O-O Kf8 17.Ne3 Ngf6 18.Qd2 Nxe3 19.Qxe3 f4 20.Qe5 Qxe5 21.Nxe5 Nd5 22.Nd7+ Bxd7 23.Rxd5 Bxa4 24.Bc4 b5 25.Be2 c4 26.Bh5 b4 27.Rf5 Ra7 28.Bf2 Rc7 29.Bc5+ Rxc5 30.Rxc5 bxc3 31.bxc3 Bb5 32.Re1? Bxc3 33.Re4 Bf6 34.Rc7 Be8 35.Rc8 Be7 36.Bxf7 (time pressure) 36. ... Ba3+ 37.Kc2 Kxf7 38.Rxf4+ Ke6 39.Rcxc4 Bg6+ 40.Kb3 Bd6 41.Rc6 Rb8+ 42.Kc3 Be8 43.Rxa6 Rc8+ 44.Kd4 Bc6 45.Rh4 Bf8 46.Re4+ Kd7 47.Ra7+ Kd6 48.Rg4 Be8 49.Rg8 Bd7 50.Rg6+ Ke7 51.Kd5 Rc1 52.Re6+ Kd8 53.Ra8+ Kc7 54.Ra7+ Kc8 55.Rf6 Rd1+ 56.Ke4? (56.Kc4) 56. ... Bc5 57.Ra2 Kc7 58.Rc2 (58.Rxh6) 58. ... Bc6+ 59.Kf5 Rf1+ 60.Kg6 Be4+ 61.Kg7 Rxf6 62.Rxc5+ Kd6 63.Kxf6 Kxc5 64.Kg7 h5 65.Kh6 1/2 - 1/2

SOUTHERN ALBERTA OPEN

By Grant Brown, TD

Twenty-nine players, including David Moore and Mike Harding from Kelowna, BC braved the minus-30 degree temperatures to participate in the Southern Alberta Open on the weekend of November 23-24. In the Open section, first place was shared by a relative newcomer to Calgary, Nenad Ristic, and long-time contender Ted Wilson. They drew their third-round game against each other while winning the rest to finish with 4.5/5. Martin Oberrauch, an exchange student from Italy, finished clear third with 3.5. There was a three-way tie for the Under 2100 prizes between Chris Kuczaj, Ford Wong and David Ottosen, with 3.

In a closely contested Under 1800 section, Ken Bourassa went undefeated to take clear first place with 4. An exciting draw in the last round against Bourassa earned Garth Dunn a share of second-fourth place at 3.5 with Nick Podolchak and youngster Jeff Huang. Huang took home the Under 1600 prize.

Those who have not played in an Alberta weekend tournament recently should seriously think about rejoining the chess scene here--you may not now what you are missing! The Tournament went quite smoothly, with instantaneous updating of cross-tables and timely pairings. And at the instigation of Tedge Davies, the Quality Inn provided a fine, low-cost Sunday brunch especially for the chess players.

Games coming in the next issue!

EDMONTON OPEN

The Edmonton Open was won by John Quiring with 4.5/5. Micah Hughey continued his consistently improving play to finish clear second with 4. Other players with good rating gains were Rob Brazeau, Jay Brown and John Anderson M. Hughey - J. Shepherd

(Notes by Hughey)

This is my first win against an Expert.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 g6? It was necessary to sacrifice a pawn with 7. ... Nge7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 with an unclear position. But the move played weakens the dark squares f6 and h6, and since Black has already traded his dark-squared bishop, White will be able to invade unopposed. **8.Nf3 Qc7 9.Bd3 Nge7 10.O-O cxd4?!** This eliminates White's only weakness, the doubled c-pawns. **11.cxd4 Bd7 12.Bg5!** The ! is only for following through on the plan to invade the dark squares. **12. ... O-O-O?!** Loses immediately, although it is already hard to find a defence. **13.Qh4!** And wins. Besides the threat to win a piece, White threatens Bf6. **13. ... Nf5** There was no defence, e.g. **13. ... Rde8 14.Bf6 Rhf8 15.Qxh7** with Ng5 and Nx7 to follow. White triumphs on the dark squares due to 7. ... g6. Black decides to sacrifice the exchange, but gets no counterplay. **14.Bxf5 gxf5 15.Bxd8 Qxd8 15. ... Nxd8** keeps the queens on at least. Now it is over. **16.Qxd8+ Kxd8 17.Rab1 Na5 18.Nd2** To keep the black knight out of c4. **18. ... b6 19.Rfc1 Kc7 20.c4 dxc4 21.Nxc4 Nxc4 22.Rxc4+ Kb7 23.Rbc1 Rc8 24.Rxc8 Bxc8 25.f4 Bd7 26.Rc3 a5 27.Rh3 Bc6 28.Rxh7 Bd5 29.Rxf7+ Kc6 30.Kf2 Kb5 31.h4 1-0**

ALMOST UNDER 1800 NOVEMBER ACTIVE

By Steve Sauve, TD

The November Active lured 18 entrants, of whom 2 were first time CFC members. Tom Lay proved his fine ability as he forced his way to a 5/5 win. Frank Knoll put in a splendid performance of 4/5 to clinch clear second. Kim Nguyen played some solid chess to manage a 3.5/5 score, and third place. John Rajchel, Ken Bourassa, Joe Nemeth, Graham Sorgard, and Ron Follgard all ended with 3/5, very impressive. A chess set was awarded to the top Under 1400 player. Graham Sorgard outplayed Ron Follgard 2/3 in a blitz playoff to win the chess set.

ALMOST UNDER 1800 DECEMBER ACTIVE

By Jeff Chrumka, TD

This month's Under 1800 Active attracted 14 players. Max Carcamo played very well and ended up taking clear first with a 4.5/5 score. Max's shutout bid was broken up in the last round when Dave Gomboc managed to get the only half point Max would concede on the day. Second place went to Don Coward who scored a solid 4/5, losing only to Max in the fourth round. Nice to have Don back after a four year absence. Welcome back! Third place went to Dave Gomboc with 3.5. Dave gave up a draw to Max in round 5 and a loss to Don in round 3. Thanks to Rook St. Peter for hosting yet another tournament at Word's Books. Similar thanks to Tedge Davies for organizing the event.

PEACE VALLEY CLASSIC

By Alex Phimester

Only 13 combatants took part in this year's Peace Valley Classic, so needless to say the tournament was played in one section. There was an obvious division, though, as the top 5 players were rated over 1650, and the other 8 being rated below 1400. Myself (being part of the latter) took great pride in earning (or at least getting) a draw against a class B player (1600-1799). Here's how it went:

A. Phimester - D. Johnson

1.e4 c5 The Sicilian! Already I feel some pressure as I'm not very familiar with this opening. As it turns out, I'm able to follow the book into the Najdorf variation. **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.g3** This is the first time I go for the fianchetto. **7. ... Be7 8.Bg2 h6 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.O-O Qb6 11.Nbe2 Bd7 12.b3**

e5 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.exf5 Qc7 15.c3 Nc6 16.Re1 O-O-O?! Dean said afterwards he felt this was a mistake. **17.Rc1 h5 18.c4 Ne7 19.Qc2 Kb8 20.Nc3 Qc8 21.Be4 Rh6 22.Nd5 Bg5 23.Nxe7 Bxe7 24.Red1 h4 25.Re3** Backing up the g3 pawn. **25. ... Rf8 26.h3** I played this to prevent him from playing it. **26. ... hxg3 27.Rxg3 Rg8 28.Rf3 Rgh8 29.Kh2 g6 30.Qd3 g5 31.Rg1 1/2 - 1/2** His draw offer. I had a 25 minute advantage on the clock, but Dean should have no trouble making the time control. Even though his bishop is weak, while mine is developed, it's better to accept a draw than try an endgame with a player rated 400 points higher.

A big thanks to those at the ACR for giving us patzers a chance to strut our stuff when we have momentarily inspired chess play. Keep up the good work.

CALGARY CC GRAND PRIX SPEED TOURNAMENT #1

By Walter Watson, TD

The first 1996-7 Grand Prix tournament was a close 4-way race. Roy Yearwood led after 11 rounds, but a 14th-round loss to Nenad Ristic knocked him out of first and a 17th (last) round loss to Don MacFarlane ended his chances. Branimir Brebric lost to Roy and then to Colin and Jeff Chrumka in rounds 2 to 4, but moved into contention by winning 11 straight before losing to Ted Wilson in round 16. Ted won 8 out of his last 9 games, but his 11th round loss to Nenad kept him from sole first place. After losing early to Branimir and overlooking a 9th round mating combination by visitor Terry Chaisson, Nenad won his last 8 games to gain the tie. The final scores were Nenad and Ted at 14.5-2.5, and Branimir and Roy at 13-4. Chris Kuczaj won his last 4 games to score 12.5 points, while Jeff had 12.

The under 1800 players also had a 4-way race. After 12 rounds, Steve Sauve had 6.5 points followed by Tom Lay and Colin Chrumka with 6 and John Rajchel with 5.5. While John scored 4 points in the last 5 rounds to end with 9.5, the others scored 2 points each giving Steve 8.5 while Tom and Colin had 8. John's points included wins against Ted and Jeff.

CALGARY CC CHAMPIONSHIP

By Farzan Nazarian, TD

The event turned out to be a close competition with Arthur Odachowski winning the first 6 rounds (and the tournament) only to be stopped by the second contestant Nenad Ristic who scored 5.5/7. The third position was stolen by the small guy Jordan Davies who surprised a few bigger guys including myself!

Tom McKay won the prize for under 1700 players with 4 points along with John Rajchel and Don MacFarlane sharing the second and third positions with 3.5 points each. It was the last tournament that took place in the Sandman Hotel and the next opening of the club will be in the Elephant & Castle for at least one year. For more info please contact any of the club executives.

ALBERTA CLUBS

CALGARY CHESS CLUB

*** NEW *** NEW *** NEW ***

Meets at Elephant & Castle Restaurant

8th Ave. and 4th St. SW.

Tournament chess: Tues 7:00 - 11:00

Speed Chess: Fri at 7:00

Contact: Tedge Davies (jdavies@cwave.com)

or Walter Watson (277-5620)

Mail to 302 - 312 - 6 Ave NE

Calgary AB T2E 0L9

Schedule:

Jan. 14 - Feb. 18, Mar. 4: Calgary Closed

Feb. 25: IM Lawrence Day present, special activities

Mar. 11: Grand Prix #3

Mar. 18: Calgary Open starts

ALMOST UNDER 1800 CLUB

Meets: Word Books and Cappuccino Bar,

1715 - 17 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB,

during business hours.

Contact: Rook St. Peter (244-4239) or Tedge

Davies (277-0209); jdavies@cwave.com

Tournament Schedule

10:00 - 4:30, \$5.00 entry fee, CFC rated.

Mar. 1: For players rated 1700-2000

Mar. 15: For players rated under 1700

Apr. 5: For players rated 1700-2000

Apr. 19: For players rated under 1700

May 3: For players rated 1700-2000

May 17: For players rated under 1700

EDMONTON CHESS CLUB

Meets: Prince Of Wales Armoury, Suite

114A, 10440 - 108 Ave., Edmonton T5H 3Z9

entrance south west corner, open 7-11pm

Monday--casual chess tournaments, no

membership required; relaxed noise

controls

Thursday--CFC-rated tournaments, CFC

membership required; strict noise controls.

Info: club phone (424-0283); Kurt Lauterwald

(434-7536). Mail: see club address above.

Schedule for Thursday tournaments:

New tournaments start the first Thursday

of every month.

GRANDE PRAIRIE CHESS CLUB

Meets: Royal Canadian Legion,

9912-101 Ave, Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

(Sept. 1 - Apr. 30).

Info: Phil Lefkowitz (538-1903; mail: c/o 9905

75 Ave, Grande Prairie T8V 6G2).

ALBERTA CLOSED RULES

(Complete rules are available from the ACA)

The eight players who will play in the Closed are the defending champ (Frialde) and the winners of 7 qualifying tournaments: Alberta Open (Frialde), Junior Champ (D. Wu), Southern Alberta Open (Ristic), Edmonton Closed, Calgary Closed, Northern Alberta Open, Rural Qualifier. Available spots are filled from the rating list.

JUNIOR CLUBS & TOURNAMENTS

See page 6 in the Junior Chess Section.

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES CC

Info: Bernie Tynan (771-3757).

MEDICINE HAT CHESS CLUB

Meets on Wednesdays 7-10:15, starting

September 25, at Southview Community

School, Coffee Corner room.

Info: Bill Taylor (526-5484).

PEACE RIVER CHESS CLUB

Meets: Peace Valley Inn (Rose Room), 9609-

101 St. Sat. 9:00-4:00

Dates: Call Todd.

Info: Todd Seitz (624-3256). Mail: Bag 1200,

Peace River T8S 1V1.

NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA ACTIVE CHESS SOCIETY

La Crete

Meets: La Crete Public School

Info: Keith Martin (928-2702)

High Level

Meets: High Level Public Library

Info: High Level: Piotr Rajski (926-4658)

Fort Vermillion

Info: Theresa or Aung Zaw-Tun (927-3274)

Schedule:

Mar. 8: La Crete Popular Active

Apr. 5: Fort Vermillion Popular Active

Apr. 19-20: High Level CFC Rated Classic

May 3: La Crete CFC Rated Active

May 19: Victoria Day Simul, High Level

(to be confirmed)

May 31: Fort Vermillion Popular Active

Jun 14: La Crete CFC Rated Active

RED DEER JR & SR CC

Meet: Red Deer Public Library,

Sun. 1:30-5:00

Info: Neil Sharp (346-0420). Mail c/o 1512,

4902-37 St., Red Deer T4N 6M9.

RIMBEY CC

Info: Cameron McLean (843-3736).

In addition, every player must have 2 "participation" points from playing/directing chess tournaments. Qualifying tournaments for the Alberta Closed are worth 1 point; other tournaments are worth a half point.

Every player who wishes to play **must write** to the ACA by Mar. 10, stating their intention to play and listing their participation points.

This applies to tournament winners as well as players who wish to qualify from the rating list.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

All tournaments require ACA and CFC membership (may be purchased on site)

NORTHERN ALBERTA OPEN

Where: Edmonton Chess Club, Prince of Wales Armoury, 104 Ave & 108 Str

When: Feb. 22 - 23

Format: 5 round Swiss, ~~Swiss~~

Contact: David Ottosen (425-1584)

Entry: Adult \$20, Junior \$15, age 14 and under \$5 with "no prize" option.

Winner qualifies for the Alberta Closed

IM Yan Teplitsky will be playing in this event.

IM Lawrence Day is expected to play; last minute arrangements are in progress.

RURAL QUALIFIER

Where: Red Deer College (32 St. exit off Highway #2)

When: Mar. 15-16

Format: 5 round Swiss

Contact: Neil Sharp (346-0420)

Entry: Adult \$20, Junior \$15, age 14 and under \$5 with "no prize" option.

Last chance to qualify for the Alberta Closed; players from the Calgary Closed (top section) and Edmonton Closed (top section) may NOT play in this tournament.

PEACE RIVER SPRING ACTIVE

When: Mar. 22

Contact: Todd Seitz (624-3256)

HIGH LEVEL STARDUST CLASSIC

Where: Stardust Motor Inn, High Level

When: April 19-20; registration 9:30.

Format: Four rounds (10:00, 1:00, 5:00 on

April 19; 10:00 on April 20)

Entries: Adults \$20, Sr./Jr. \$10

All entry fees will be matched by the Stardust Motor Inn.

Time control: 45/120, Game/30.

Contact: Piotr Rajski 926-4658.

Accommodation: Stardust Motor Inn, 926-4222

ALBERTA CLOSED

Where: Quality Inn, Motel Village, Calgary

When: Mar. 28 - 30

Players will receive full details.

ALBERTA RESERVES

Where: Quality Inn, Motel Village 2359 Banff Trail NW, Calgary

When: March 29-30; note early registration time: 8:00 - 8:45 on Saturday.

Format: Five rounds (9:00, 2:00, 7:00 on Mar. 29; 10:00, 3:00 on Mar. 30)

Entries: Adults \$20, Jr. \$15, age 14 and under \$5 with "no prize" option.

Contact: John Quiring (468-9173)

Come watch the Alberta Closed on March 28, then play alongside the Closed on Mar 29-30.