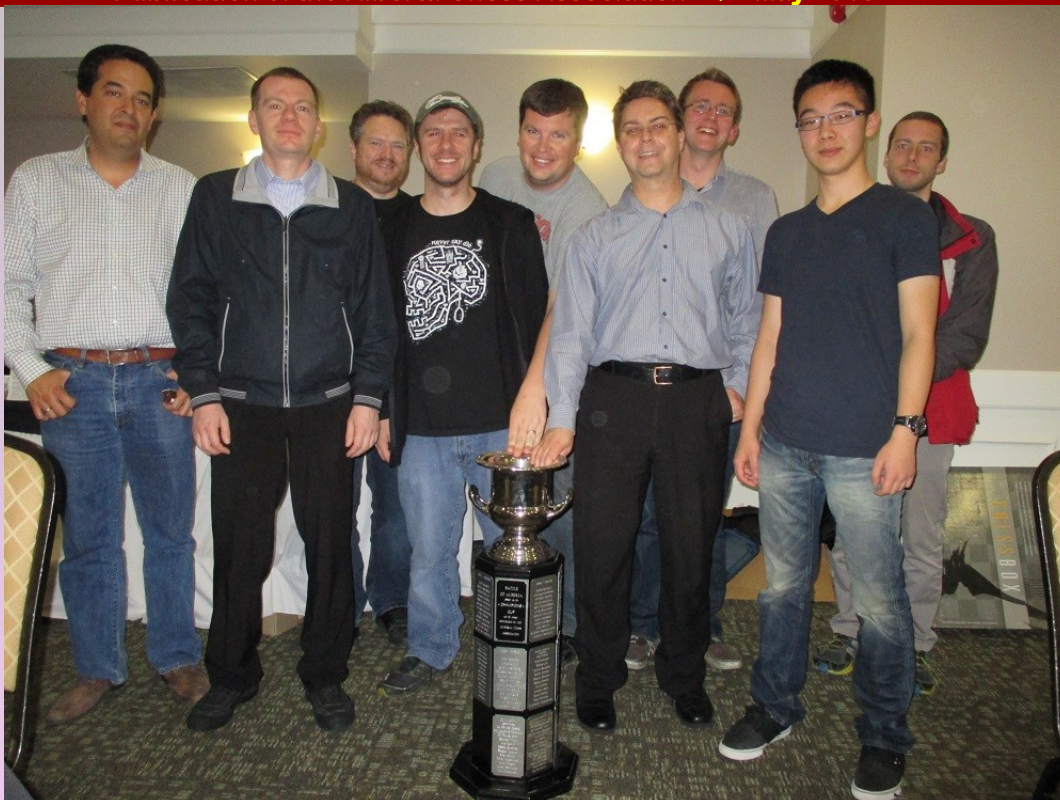


# Alberta Chess Report



Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ May 2015



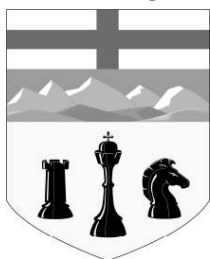
Team North dominates 2014 Battle of Alberta



GM Vassily Ivanchuk wins the 9th Edmonton International (photo with the TD Ali Razzaq)



GM Victor Mikhalevski takes the 7th Calgary International



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## Ukrainian legend wins the race of superstars at the 9th Edmonton International

By FM Vladimir Pechenkin

The 9th edition of the traditional festival was, in my humble opinion, the most impressive event on the ACA calendar in 2014. The organizers did a fantastic job once again putting together a roster of players that would have been hardly imaginable just a few years ago. Suffice it to say, the main event featured GMs Vassily Ivanchuk from Ukraine and Wesley So representing the Philippines. The Ukrainian superstar does not need any introduction, while Wesley entered the top-10 in the world just a few months later.

Sam Shankland, Irina Krush (both USA) and Anton Kovalyov (Canada) completed the list of grandmasters participating in the 10-player round-robin tournament. The remaining players were IM Raja Panjwani, IM Richard Wang, FM Vladimir Pechenkin, FM Dale Haessel and FM-elect Alex Yam. Needless to say, with such a formidable roster IM and GM norm opportunities were right there. In fact, a score of 4/9 was sufficient for an IM norm, while a GM-norm seeker was obligated to pull off a 6/9 performance. At first glance, neither goal seemed achievable to me before the beginning of the event but the reality proved me wrong.

Chess Canada had asked me to write a detailed article about the tournament for their June edition of the newsletter. The article was written from a player's perspective in a diary style, i.e., as the tournament progressed. The editor John Upper also added games annotated by IMs Richard Wang and Raja Panjwani as well as by himself.

This report is written from the spectators' perspective well after the completion of the last game.

As expected, the two rating favorites had a very close race for the title demolishing pretty much everyone on the way. After the first three rounds it became apparent that nobody else would be able to challenge them for the top two spots. Round 2 was particularly important. Vassily convincingly outplayed GM Kovalyov, while Wesley defeated GM Shankland. Here is a fragment of the first round game demonstrating once again the greatness of the Ukrainian star.

**Panjwani,Raja (2440) – Ivanchuk,Vassily (2738) [A30]**  
Edmonton International (1), 21.06.2014



Black's position is more pleasant as he firmly controls the only open file on the board. However, White has all the entry squares covered and it's unclear how Black can make progress.

**29...g5!?** What a brilliant idea! Such a move looks very risky and requires precise calculation. The computer recommends 29...♖d3 30.♖xd3 ♖xd3 with a slightly better endgame.

**30.h3?** Black's aggression pays off immediately. Correct is 30.fxg5 hxg5 31.h3 not creating a weak pawn on f4.

**30...♖d3! 31.♖h5** This tempting sortie loses. White must accept an inferior endgame after 31.♖xd3 ♖xd3 32.♖c2 gxf4 33.gxf4 ♔f7.

**31...♖e4+ 32.♔h2 gxf4 33.♖g6+ ♔f8** The black king walks away, while his white colleague is about to be checkmated. **34.♖g7+ ♔e8 35.♖g8+ ♔d7 36.♖d1+ ♔c6 37.♖xd8 ♖e2+ 0-1**

The long anticipated head-to-head encounter of the two leaders occurred in round 4 with Wesley having the White pieces. In the Sicilian Taimanov Vassily opted for an extremely rare line very early on.

**So,Wesley (2744) – Ivanchuk,Vassily (2738) [B46]**  
Edmonton International (4), 24.06.2014

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.♗d2 e5!?** This move had been played only twice before! Curiously, one of those games was Molner – Kovalyov, 2014, that I annotated for the March 2014 edition of Chess Canada.

**8.♘f5 d5 9.exd5 ♘b4 10.♘g3 ♘fxd5 11.a3** The aforementioned game continued 11.♙g5 f6 12.♘xd5 ♖xd5 13.♖xd5 ♘xd5 14.0-0-0 ♙e6 Anton equalized fairly comfortably and then outplayed his opponent in an instructive endgame. Wesley tries a different approach but cannot get any opening advantage either.

**11...♘xe3 12.fxe3 ♖xd2+ 13.♔xd2 ♘c6** The computer evaluates this position as equal. In fact, Black's play is easier thanks to the bishop pair and a better pawn structure.

**14.♙c4 ♙g4 15.h3 ♖d8+ 16.♔e1 ♙d7 17.♖f1 f6 18.♔e2 ♘a5 19.♙a2 ♖c8 20.♔d3 b5 21.♘d5 ♘c4 22.♙xc4 ♖xc4 23.♘b6 ♖c6 24.♘d7 ♔xd7 25.c3 g6 26.♘e4 ♙e7 27.♔e2 ♔e6 28.g4 h5 29.♖h1 a5 30.♘d2**



Vassily outplayed his opponent and achieved a sizeable lead. **30...b4?!** This, however, gives White a chance that Wesley does not miss. Instead, after 30...♖cc8 31.♖ag1 ♖cg8 Black is ready to utilize his kingside pawn majority.

**31.axb4 axb4 32.c4 b3 33.g5!** The purpose of this excellent pawn sacrifice is to keep the h-file closed. **33...fxg5 34.♖a7 ♖b8 35.♖c1?!**

The prophylactic 35.♖g1!? preventing Black's next maintains equality.

**35...g4! 36.hxg4 hxg4 37.♖g1 ♖h8 38.♖g2 ♙b4?** Unfortunately, Black misses the strongest continuation.

Instead, after 38...g3! White is facing new problems as 39.♖xg3? loses material to 39...♔h2+

**39.♖xg4!** The saving move. **39...♔f5** Black has to be satisfied with equality. 39...♔h2+ 40.♔f3 ♖xd2? doesn't work because of 41.♖xg6+ ♔f5 42.♖xc6.

The game went on for another 20 moves but the peaceful outcome was

never in doubt.

40.♖g2 ♕xd2 41.♖f7+ ♖e6 42.♖g7 ♖xc4 43.♖xg6+ ♖d5 44.♖d7+ ♖c5 45.♖c7+ ♖b5 46.♖xc4 ♖xc4 47.♖g4+ ♖d5 48.♖xd2 ♖c8 49.♖d3 ♖c2 50.♖b4 ♖xb2 51.♖b5+ ♖d6 52.♖c3 ♖b1 53.♖xb3 ♖xb3+ 54.♖xb3 ♖d5 55.♖c3 ♖e4 56.♖d2 ♖f3 57.♖d3 ♖f2 58.♖e4 ♖e2 59.♖xe5 ♖xe3 ½-½

That was the first half a point lost by either player.



So – Ivanchuk: Wesley is about to capture on g4 saving the game

After round 5 both superstars were leading the tournament with 4.5 points. Round 6 changed the status quo. Vassily drew GM Krush, while Wesley outplayed GM Kovalyov and took the lead.

**Krush,Irina (2484) –**

**Ivanchuk,Vassily (2738) [E41]**

Edmonton International (6), 27.06.2014



White's position looks solid and slightly better thanks to the strong center. However, Black's next shakes the foundation of White's position to the core and invites her to go for broke.

29...b5!? 30.d5?! The computer recommends a restrained 30.♖a1 bxc4 31.bxc4 maintaining a slight plus.

30...bxc4 31.dxe6 ♖xd2 32.♖xd2 cxb3 Right after the game the opponents analyzed 32...♖d3 which Vassily thought might be better than the text

move. The computer finds a defence, though: 33.♖e4!! The most interesting line here is 33...cxb3 34.♖xd3 ♖c1+ 35.♖e1 ♖xe1+ 36.♖xe1 ♖xd3 37.e7 b2 38.e8♖+ ♖h7 39.♖b8 The computer then evaluates this position as a draw, e.g., 39...♖c3 40.♖f1 a4 41.♖b5 ♖c2 42.♖b4 ♖d3+ 43.♖f2 a3 44.♖g3 ♖g6+ 45.♖h3 ♖f5+ etc.

33.♖d7 The only move. 33.e7? ♖e8 34.♖d8 ♖b5! and White is out of ideas. 33...♖f8 34.♖a4 The time pressure is taking its toll, and White decides to accept an endgame a pawn down.

Instead, 34.♖d4! leads to equality. The point is that the e6-pawn cannot be captured because of the checkmate.

34...fxe6 35.♖xb3 ♖f6 36.♖d4 ♖c2 37.♖e4 ♖xd4 38.♖xd4 ♖c5 39.♖e3 ♖b6 40.♖f2 ♖f5 After mutual inaccuracies in time pressure Black reached the time control with a healthy extra pawn. However, White was able to hold the endgame by tenacious defence.

41.♖e4 ♖b2+ 42.♖e2 ♖xe2+ 43.♖xe2 ♖f7 44.♖c4 ♖b5 45.♖c7+ ♖f6 46.♖a7 ♖b2+ 47.♖f1 ♖a2 48.h4 g6 49.♖g1 a4 50.♖h2 a3 51.♖a5 ♖e7 52.♖a6 ♖d7 53.♖g3 ♖e7 54.♖h3 ♖a1 55.♖g3 ♖f6 56.♖f4 ♖a2 57.g4 g5+ 58.hxg5+ hxg5+ 59.♖g3 ♖a1 60.♖a5 e5 61.♖g2 ♖e6 62.♖f2 ♖a2+ 63.♖g3 ♖d6 64.♖h3 ♖c6 65.♖xe5 ♖b6 66.♖e6+ ♖b5 67.♖e5+ ♖b4 68.♖e4+ ♖c3 69.♖e3+ ♖d2 70.♖e5 ♖a1 71.♖g2 a2 72.♖a5 ♖c3 73.♖a8 ♖b3 74.♖b8+ ♖c3 75.♖c8+ ♖b3 76.♖b8+ ♖c3 77.♖c8+ ♖b3 78.♖b8+ ♖c3 79.♖a8 ♖b3 80.♖b8+ ♖c3 ½-½



Wesley So watches the opening battle in the game Krush – Ivanchuk

The rest of the tournament looked easy for the Filipino star but the following two round changed the situation dramatically. In round 7 Wesley attained a large advantage against yours truly but couldn't pull the trigger. The game lasted 109 moves

ending in a draw. This marathon is fully annotated in the aforementioned Chess Canada article and therefore will not be reproduced here.

GM Ivanchuk, on the contrary, quickly won his game against FM Dale Haessel and thus was able to catch up his rival.

In round 8 Wesley had Black against GM Irina Krush and also played a long game lasting 80 moves. Surprisingly, he never generated real winning chances and it was actually Irina who tried to squeeze a full point after the time control.

Thus, before the last round GM Ivanchuk was in sole lead of the tournament for the first time. The battle for the first place wasn't over though as Vassily needed a win and his opponent was GM Samuel Shankland.

**Ivanchuk,Vassily (2738) –**

**Shankland,Samuel (2632) [D70]**

Edmonton International (9), 29.06.2014



White has the initiative but Black's position looks fairly solid. 25.h4!? White intends to push this pawn to h6 creating strong mating threats. Surprisingly, Black decided to ignore it completely.

25...♖bc8?! 25...h5 looks necessary. In this case White has got a lot of work to do to get a full point. 26.h5 e6? After this mistake Black's position suddenly collapses.

26...gxh5 is as ugly as it looks but it's still the best way to deal with White's kingside threats.

27.h6 ♖e5 28.♖b7! Black may have missed this nice distraction. White would be fully satisfied with just picking up the opponent's queenside pawns.

28...b4 Desperation. Also hopeless is 28...♖xb7 29.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 30.♖xe5 f6 31.♖xe6+ etc.

29.♖xb4 ♖xd1+ 30.♖xd1 ♖b8 31.c6



**♟xc6 32.♟c3!** The only but sufficient winning move. **32...♟e5 33.♟xc6 ♟xe2 34.♟d6 ♟f8 35.♟xa6 1-0**



Ivanchuk – Shankland: White is about to capture the a6-pawn and accept the opponent's resignation.

Thus, GM Vassily Ivanchuk won the 9th Edmonton International with an excellent score of 8/9, GM Wesley So finishing just half a point behind. GMs Samuel Shankland and Anton Kovalyov tied for third with 5.5/9 although neither player was particularly satisfied with their performance. Anton was ruthless against the bottom half of the field but scored only 0.5/4 against the GMs. Sam expected a better result, and he will get another chance at the upcoming 10th edition of the festival.

**Krush,Irina (2484) – Shankland,Samuel (2632) [D35]**  
Edmonton International (4), 24.06.2014  
*Annotated by GM Samuel Shankland*

**1.d4** The Edmonton International was far from my best event, but in spite of some really poor play in a lot of key moments I did produce some interesting games. Ironically the most interesting was my only draw of the tournament, against the reigning US Women's Champion.

**1...d5 2.c4 e6** I'm not much of a QGD player but I felt like playing solidly and playing a long game.

**3.♟c3 ♟f6 4. cxd5 exd5 5.♟g5 c6**



Krush – Shankland: after 5... c6

**6.e3** This is the old move. Probably

good enough for a slight edge but black is very solid in the resulting ending. **6.♟c2** is more common at top level nowadays. **6...♟f5 7.♟f3 ♟g6 8.♟xf6 ♟xf6 9.♟xf6 gxf6**

The next 15 moves are uninteresting.

**10.♟d2 ♟d7 11.♟d3 ♟b6 12.b3 a5 13.a4 ♟g8 14.g3 ♟b4 15.♟ge2 ♟c8 16.♟ac1 ♟e7 17.♟f4 ♟d7 18.♟e2 ♟d6 19.♟hg1 ♟xf4 20.gxf4 ♟xd3+ 21.♟xd3 f5 22.♟g3 ♟f6 23.♟cg1 ♟g6 24.f3 ♟cg8 25.♟g5**



So far the game had been going exactly as I had hoped. Black has managed to push a white pawn to the f4 square, depriving the white pieces of it, and his doubled f-pawns can hardly be exploited. At the same time, one day he can hope to make use of the queenside majority. While the position is surely drawn with proper play, I was reasonably optimistic here.

**25...h6?** This is the first really notable moment of the game. I have studied very similar endings where all the rooks get traded and only knights are left, which generally favors black. However, I failed to realize that the pawn is actually much worse on g6 than f7 because now white has an active plan – Ne5.

**[25...♟e6]** Something like this was prudent. It's not too easy for white to come up with a plan **26.♟e2 ♟e8!** The knight heads for d6. Then f6 will come **27.h4** This is natural but plays into black's hands (**27.♟1g3 ♟d6**) **27...f6 28.♟xg6 ♟xg6 29.♟xg6 hxg6** This would be what I am aiming for. White's play on the previous moves was complacent but it's clear black actually has a plan.]

**26.♟xg6 ♟xg6 27.♟xg6 fxg6 28.h4 ♟d6 29.♟e2 ♟h5?!** Too ambitious. I still

had not noticed white has a plan.

**[29...c5]** Black should have no troubles here. I would expect a draw promptly.]

**30.♟c3 ♟c7 31.♟d2 ♟g7 32.♟c1** Now it occurred to me Ne5 is coming.

**32...♟e6 33.♟d3 ♟d6 34.♟e5 c5?!** Objectively a poor move, but if I had played the prudent Nf8, the game would have been far less interesting...

**[34...♟f8]** Black is a bit passive but solid enough. I don't think he should have any problems making a draw **35.♟f7+** White will trap her own knight (**35.♟c3 b5 36.b4 axb4+ 37.♟xb4 bxa4 38.♟xa4 c5=**) **35...♟e7 36.♟xh6 ♟f6.]**

**35.dxc5+ ♟xc5 36.♟xg6 ♟b4** Let the fun begin! **37.♟c2 ♟c5 38.♟e7 d4!** The computer hates this one, but it does slow white's pawns down a lot. Incidentally I hate the computer's suggestion, so we don't get along too well. **[38...♟xb3 39.♟xf5 h5 40.e4+-]** The engine prefers this to what I played. I find it unfathomable.]

**39.exd4 ♟xb3 40.♟xf5 ♟xa4** Here we see the point of playing d4. White does not get connected passers and Nxb6 can be met with Nxd4+, trading another pawn and running to f8 really fast. **41.h5**

**[41.♟xh6? ♟xd4+ 42.♟d3 ♟e6 43.f5 ♟f8]** White's pawns are too uncoordinated for any real winning chances; **41.d5!** This was probably a bit more accurate. White will play d6, forcing Nc5, and then get Kb2 before black can go Ka3. **41...b5 (41...h5 42.♟g7 doesn't really change anything) 42.♟xh6 ♟d4+ (42...♟a3 43.♟f5! Black is unable to get Nd4+ in) 43.♟b2 computer says +8.]**

**41...b5 42.d5**

**[42.♟xh6]** also worked because the pawn on b5 prevents the black king from running back: **42...♟xd4+ 43.♟b2 ♟e6 44.♟f7!+-]**

**42...♟a3!** The best practical chance in a lost position. Nd4+ will gain a crucial tempo.

**[42...b4? 43.♟xh6 ♟d4+ 44.♟b2!+-]** The king on b2 stops everything; **42...♟c5? 43.♟xh6 b4 44.♟f5 b3+ 45.♟b1** The knight on f5 gets back to the defense very quickly, then the h-pawn goes.]

**43.♟xh6!** Taking the bait!

**[43.d6]** Advancing this pawn is not particularly important. White wants to go Nxb6 and queen the h-pawn, not the d

–pawn, and this tempo turns out to be huge 43...♖c5 44.♗xh6 b4 45.♗b1 b3 46.♗f7 ♖a4 47.d7 ♖c3+ 48.♗c1 b2+ 49.♗d2 b1♗ 50.d8♗ White retains some winning chances but I think black should hold without a ton of trouble.]

**43...♗d4+ 44.♗d3?** Not throwing the win away, but making it harder. This is a very unfortunate square for the white king.

[44.♗d2! White needed to leave the d3 square for the knight 44...b4 45.♗g4 b3 46.♗e5 ♗a2 47.♗d3 (47.♗c4 This also wins 47...♗f5 48.d6! A key resource available because b1=Q does not come with check 48...♗xd6 49.♗xd6! b2 50.♗e4+-)]

44.♗b1?? One can dream 44...♗b3! 45.d6 a4 46.♗f5 ♖c2! and black wins!]

**44...b4 45.♗g4**

[45.♗xd4? b3 46.d6 b2 47.d7 (47.♗f7! Ironically this is still a draw) 47...b1♗ 48.d8♗ White queens as well with an extra knight, but... 48...♗d1+ The tables have turned.]

**45...b3 46.♗e5 ♗a2 47.♗c4 ♗f5** Now the white pawns are blockaded nicely and black has some counterplay.

**48.♗c3 a4**



**49.♗b4?** Finally white slips up and allows a draw. h6 was winning, but this is much easier to say with an engine running. I expected Kb4 during the game as well.

[49.h6! ♗xh6 50.d6! ♗f7 51.d7! ♗d8 (51...a3 52.♗b4 never helped anyone) 52.f5! ♗f7 53.f4! (53.f6? a3! 54.♗b4 b2 55.♗xa3 ♗e5!) 53...♗d8 54.f6! After a very precise 5 move sequence only a silicon brain can understand, white is indeed winning 54...♗f7 55.♗e5 b2 56.♗xf7 b1♗ 57.d8♗+-] **49...a3!**

[49...♗e3 draws as well. I missed that Nxe3? b2 Nd1 b1/Q Nc3+ fails to Qxb4. This is how one knows they are off form...]

**50.♗xa3 b2=** This guy will queen.

**51.♗a4**

[51.h6 ♗e3! should lead to the same position as the game.]

**51...♗d6 52.h6 ♗c4 53.h7 ♗xa3**

**54.h8♗ b1♗ 55.♗h2+** White is rather fortunate to have this check. If the pawn were on f2, black would be winning. **55...♗c2 56.♗d2 ♗b3+ 57.♗a5 ♗c4 58.♗b6 ♗b3 59.d6 ♗d4 60.♗d1+ ♗b4 61.♗e1+ ♗b3 62.♗b1+ ♗a3 63.♗a1+ ♗b3 64.♗b1+ ♗a3 65.♗a1+ 1/2-1/2**

A wild game, largely due to the poor play by both sides, but a fascinating one to analyze. Regrettably I was unable to recreate all the gems from the 5 player post-mortem, but hopefully I was able to show some nice lines in what initially looked like a very boring and equal endgame. I'd like to thank the Edmonton Chess Club for inviting me, and with any luck I'll be able to show better chess in future editions.

Irina Krush had a rather curious tournament. She turned out to be the only player who was able to take half a point off both winners and she also drew two other GMs. On the contrary, her result against the bottom half of the field was far less encouraging: she managed only 2/5. One of the beneficiaries was Alex Yam who recorded his first ever GM scalp.

**Yam,Alex (2299) –**

**Krush,Irina (2484) [C00]**

Edmonton International (7), 27.06.2014



White obtained a good position out of the opening but underestimated the

opponent's play against the e5-pawn.

**16...♗g6!** What to do now? **17.♗f6!?** Objectively, a dubious move but the computer's alternative doesn't inspire at all. The silicon brain advocates 17.♗h2 ♗ce5 18.♗xb7 ♗xb7 19.h5 ♗e7 but White's compensation for the lost pawn is insufficient.

**17...gxf6 18.exf6 ♗d8 19.♗g5 ♗h8?**

Returning the piece by means of 19...e5! 20.h5 ♗d6! 21.hxg6 hxg6 allows Black to consolidate and then get rid of the nail on f6. Now the situation changes dramatically.

**20.♗bxd4!** Black must have missed this blow. **20...♗g8** Alas.

The point is that 20...♗xd4 runs into 21.♗e5! ♗b5 22.h5 with a crushing attack. For example, 22...♗g8 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.♗c4 ♗f5 25.♗xg6 etc.

**21.♗xc6 ♗xc6 22.♗xc6 ♗xc6 23.♗h5!**

The knight jump to g5 is going to be lethal so it's high time for desperate measures. **23...♗f4 24.gxf4 ♗xg2+ 25.♗xg2 ♗xf6 26.♗xf7 ♗g8+ 27.♗f1 ♗xb2 28.♗g5 ♗h1+ 29.♗e2 ♗xh4 30.♗g1 ♗g7 31.♗g3 ♗c8**



After Black's blunder on move 19 White has played excellently and achieved an overwhelming position. Unfortunately, the rest of the game was marred by mutual mistakes in time pressure but there is no doubt that Alex fully deserved his first GM scalp.

**32.♗f3 ♗f6 33.♗xa7 ♗h6 34.♗e5 ♗f8 35.♗xb6 ♗xf4 36.♗e3 ♗f6 37.♗d4 ♗f4 38.♗f3 ♗g8 39.♗c6 e5 40.♗d5+ ♗g7 41.d4 exd4 42.♗xd4 ♗a6+ 43.♗b5 ♗g6 44.♗d4+ ♗g8 45.♗xf4 ♗c2+ 46.♗f3 ♗c6+ 47.♗e4 ♗xf4+ 48.♗xf4 ♗xb5 49.♗e6+ 1-0**

Another notable GM scalp went to IM Richard Wang who defeated Sam Shank-



land in round 6. This is the highest rated opponent that Richard has beaten so far. The game was fully annotated by the winner in Chess Canada so here I'll mention just the critical point.

**Wang, Richard (2365) –**  
**Shankland, Samuel (2632) [A46]**  
 Edmonton International (6), 27.06.2014



**28...Rc7?** As Richard pointed out, this is Black's first real mistake in the game. Instead, after 28...Rf8 the position is equal. **29.Rc1!** Now all of a sudden White is winning! **29...Rff7** The planned 29...Rfc8 fails to 30.Rc6! For example, 30...Rd8 31.Rfc1 Qh8 32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Rxc7 Rxc7 34.d6 Rf8 35.Rd5 and the d-pawn is unstoppable. **30.Rfd1** Protecting the queen and renewing the threat of Rxc6. **30...Rxc1 31.Rxc1 Qe7 32.Rxe5** White's position is overwhelming; Black's defeat is inevitable. **32...Rf6 33.Rc7 33...Rxe7 Rxe7 34.d6+** wins immediately. **33...Qf8 34.Rxa7 g5 35.Ra8+ Qf7 36.Ra7 Qf8 37.Rd7** Black resigned in view of 37...Rxd7 38.Rxf6+ Qe8 39. Qh8+ Qf7 40.d6+ 1-0

My own performance was decent, overall. In fact, I kept my chances for an IM norm alive until the very last moment. All I needed is a first ever GM scalp in the last round and I came close.

**Pechenkin, Vladimir (2311) –**  
**Krush, Irina (2484) [E05]**  
 Edmonton International (9), 29.06.2014



**17...Bb7** After this seemingly logical move Black begins experiencing some difficulties. During the game I didn't like 17...Qe4 and it's indeed Black's best. White has problems untangling his pieces. **18.Rc2!** If Black doesn't do something quickly, White will restore the coordination of his pieces and will simply stand better. That's why Black opts for a thematic break: **18...c5! 19.dxc5 Qd5 20.Qd4 f6** Otherwise, Black may not be able to win her pawn back. **21.Qd3 e5 22.e4!** The only but sufficient continuation. **22...exd4?** After this natural capture White obtains a large positional advantage. The computer strongly recommends 22...Qb4!? 23.Qxb4 exd4 which may indeed be the only way for Black to keep the position close to equality.

After 24.Qd5 Qxc5 25.Rac1 Qc4 the knight is back into play, and White may not have anything special here. **23.exd5 Qxd5 24.b4 Qc6 25.Qb3 Qc4 26.Rdc1 Qf7 27.Qxf7+ Qxf7 28.a4** I was tempted to immediately commence operations on the queen-side as Black faces a difficult choice. **28...Qb8 29.axb5 Qxb5**

White would certainly like to see 29...axb5? 30.Ra6 Rfc8 31.Rxc6! Rxc6 32.Qfe5+ fxe5 33.Qxe5+ Qf8 34.Qxc6 but it's too cooperative.

The critical moment of the game. **30.Rc4?** I briefly considered the correct 30.Rxa6! Qxb4 31.Qxb4 Rxb4 32.c6 but rejected it: the material remains equal, and Black's passed pawn looks more dangerous than before. It was worth calculating further: 32...d3 33.Ra7 Rb2 34.Rd7! The key maneuver that allows White to pick up the opponent's d-pawn under more favorable circumstances than in the game 34...Rc8 35.Rxd3 Rb6 36.Qd4 The passed c-pawn promises White good winning chances.

**30...a5!** The queenside is going to be liquidated. **31.bxa5 Rxa5 32.Rxa5 Qxa5 33.Rxd4 Rc8 34.Rd7** Now Black wins the pawn back with a dead draw. The best try is 34.Rb4 keeping the pawn for now. After 34...Qc6 35.Rb3 Black still needs to find a way to surround and win White's passer. **34...Qb3 35.c6 Qa5 36.Qf4 Qxc6 37.Qd5 Qe6 38.Qxe7 Qxd7 39.Qxc8 Qxc8 40.h4 1/2-1/2**

This was the strongest Edmonton International so far but the upcoming 10th edition of the festival promises an even more impressive field. GM Ivanchuk will be back to defend his title, and two other 2700+ GMs already confirmed their participation. Action begins on June 20, 2015!

### 9th Edmonton International Standings

#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Place
1	GM Irina Krush	2484	X	1	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	4	6th-7th
2	FM Dale Haessel	2168	0	X	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	1	10th
3	IM Richard Wang	2365	0.5	1	X	1	0	0	1	0	0.5	0	4	6th-7th
4	GM Samuel Shankland	2632	0.5	1	0	X	1	0	1	0	1	1	5.5	3rd-4th
5	IM Raja Panjwani	2440	1	0.5	1	0	X	0	1	0	1	0	4.5	5th
6	GM Vassily Ivanchuk	2738	0.5	1	1	1	1	X	1	0.5	1	1	8	1st
7	Alex Yam	2299	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	1.5	9th
8	GM Wesley So	2744	0.5	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	X	0.5	1	7.5	2nd
9	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2311	0.5	1	0.5	0	0	0	1	0.5	X	0	3.5	8th
10	GM Anton Kovalyov	2636	0.5	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	X	5.5	3rd-4th



# Team North strikes back at the 2014 Battle of AB

The 19th edition of the annual competition was traditionally held at the Red Deer Lodge on September 13. Team South was the defending champion this time although their chances to retain the trophy seemed even slimmer than last year. Team North had a formidable roster of players as well as plenty of motivation to regain the cup. It is also worth mentioning that South's improbable victory in 2013 tied the all-time score at 9-9, and both teams were eager to take the lead in that race as well.

Round 1 started around 11:45 am and was a tightly contested affair. South obtained promising positions on several boards, and after a couple of hours of play the match looked quite close. On board 2 NM Vlad Rekhson managed to hold IM Richard Wang to a draw in the Exchange variation of the French defence. On board 11 Jim Daniluk refuted Micah Hughey's gambit play and brought home a full point. North responded with the following crushing win on board 12 that turned the match into the favorite's favor.

**Karmali, Hafiz (2039) – Ottosen, David (2128) [D31]**  
2014 Battle of AB (1.12), 13.09.2014



Foreground: Micah Hughey – Jim Daniluk  
Background: Hafiz Karmali – David Ottosen

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 e6 4.e4** White offers a theoretical duel in a very sharp Marshall gambit. **4...dxe4 5.♗xe4 ♕b4+ 6.♗c3** but then changes his mind. The main line of the gambit is **6.♗d2 ♖xd4 7.♗xb4 ♖xe4+ 8.♗e2** White's compensation for the pawn looks more than sufficient but quite a few Black players have been up to the challenge to prove the opposite. **6...c5**



Playing hall before round 1: everybody is ready to begin

**7.♗e3 cxd4 8.♗xd4** With the benefit of hindsight, White should prefer **8. ♖xd4!**? going for an endgame. **8...♗f6 9.a3 ♗e7 10.♗f3 ♗c6 11.♗e3 0-0**



Black has equalized but White should not have any problems either. **12.♖c2** This natural move appears to be the root of all evil. It was worth spending a tempo on **12.h3!**? **12...♗g4!** Black begins a fierce fight for the initiative. His following play is almost exemplary. **13. ♗f4 e5!** Time is at a premium! **13...♖a5** was played in Raicevic – Ciric, 1979. This allowed White to castle before being demolished. **14.♗g3 f5.** Aggressive enough although there is an even more energetic (computer) alternative available. **14...e4!!** denies

White any time to consolidate. A plausible continuation is **15.♗xe4 ♗f5 16. ♗d3 ♖a5+ 17.♗f1 ♗b4 18.♖c3 ♗fd8** and White remains under tremendous pressure. **15.♗d1 ♖e8! 16.h3 ♗d4! 17.♗xd4 exd4 18.♗e2 ♗f6 19.♗xd4**



After this fearless capture of the poisoned pawn Black's attack becomes irresistible. White should try to dig in: **19.f3 ♗h5 20.♗f2** etc. **19...♗c5 20.♗d1 ♗e4 21.♖d3 f4.**

The white king is hopelessly stuck in the center and is going to be ruthlessly executed. **22. ♗h4 ♗f5 23.♖d5+ ♗h8 24.f3 ♖h5 25.fxe4 ♖xh4+ 26.g3 fxd3 27.♗g2 ♗f2+ 28.♗f1 ♗g6 29.♖xb7 ♗ab8 30. ♖c6 ♖xb2 31.e5 ♗h5** A fantastic game by David Ottosen. **0-1**



The final score of the first round was 8-4 in favor of Team North although such a large advantage is somewhat misleading. Here is a typical example.

**Pechenkin, Vladimir (2386) –**

**Ng, Gary (2252) [A11]**

2014 Battle of AB (1.3), 13.09.2014



18...♙xe4 19. ♙xe4 f5?! Black is tempted by his kingside attack prospects as well as by a strong outpost for the knight. However, White's bishop pair will soon prove to be the most significant positional factor. Correct is 19...♗xe4 20.dxe4 when the game is completely equal. 20.♙g2 ♗f7 21.♙b4 The knight is about to be dislodged. 21...♙f8 22.♗b2! ♗d7 Gary regarded this move as a mistake but it is the computer's top choice. The b7-pawn must be protected. 23.♗a3 ♗a6?

Now White quickly obtains a decisive advantage. Black is going to lose a pawn anyway, so he should minimize the damage by playing 23...♗e6! White is better after 24.♗xa7 ♙xb4 25.♗xb4 ♗e7 26.♗db1 ♗c5 but Black is very much in the game. Most importantly, his pawn structure remains intact. 24. ♙xc6! The only but sufficient move that must be precisely calculated. 24...♗xb4 looks scary at first but after 25.♙xd7 ♗xd7 26.♗xb4 Black can't take advantage of the pin. Relatively best here is 26...♙xb4 27. ♗xb4 with a healthy extra pawn for White. 25.♗xa6 ♗e6 26.♙xf8 ♗xf8 27.♗b7.

Black's kingside attack remains just a dream as White's play along the b-file is too strong. 27...♗xb7 28.♗xb7 ♗c5 29.♗c8+ ♗f7 30.♗b1 f4 31.♗b7+ ♗f6 32.♗d8+ The computer shows that 32.♗h8+ ♗g5 33.♗d8+ ♗f6 34.h4+ ♗f5 35.♗c8+ ♗e6 36.♗f7+ wins faster

but the game continuation is simpler. 32...♗e7 33. ♗xe7+ ♗xe7 34.♗xe7 ♗xe7 35.♙g2 ♗d6.

If Black waits passively, White is going to create a passed pawn in the center that will decide the game. 36.♙f3 fxg3 37.fxg3 ♗c5 38.♙e4 ♗b4 Desperation. 39.♙xe5 ♗a3 40.d4 1-0

Round 2 began with the following miniature that should have inspired Team South.

**Shi, Diwen (2194) –**

**Gardner, Robert (2225) [B07]**

2014 Battle of AB (2.7), 13.09.2014



Foreground: Rob Gardner did better in his first game against Diwen Shi. Background: David Miller took both points from Behrooz Ebrahim-Shirazi.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♗f6 3.♗c3 g6 4.♙g5 ♙g7 5.♗d2 0-0 6.0-0-0 c5? This pawn sacrifice looks dubious at best and has been tried only once so far. 7.dxc5 ♗a5 8.cxd6 ♗xe4? The piece sacrifice is unsound, which White proves very quickly. Ferenc – Bosnjak, 2010, continued 8...exd6 9.♙c4 ♗c6 10.♗f3 ♙g4 11.♙h6 with a large advantage to White although Black somehow managed to win the game. 9.♗xe4 ♗xa2



10.♗b4! After this precise response Black's attack is over. In the mean-

time, he is down a lot of material. 10...♙f5 Black's desperate attempts do not change anything. If 10...♗c6 then 11.♗a3. 11.dxe7 ♗c6 12.♗a3 ♗e6 13.exf8 ♗+ ♙xf8 14.♗f6+ 1-0

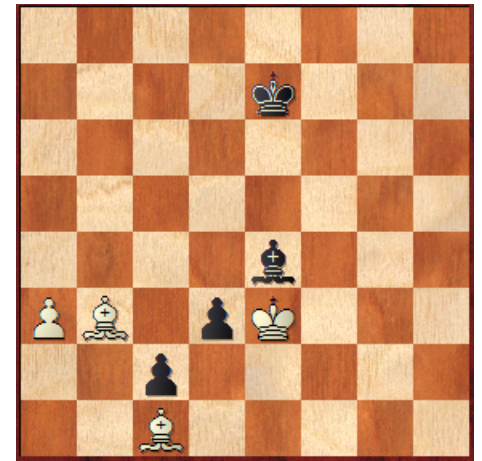
Team South did obtain promising positions on several boards including the top two. However, little by little, IMs Edward Porper and Richard Wang were able to untangle their pieces and to take advantage of the opponents' inaccuracies. On board 10 Sasa Grumic was down a lot of material against Jerry Kobalenko but somehow managed to bring home the full point in his usual style. Nic Haynes and Rafael Arruebarrena won their games convincingly levelling the score of their mini-matches against Brad Booker and Georgi Kostadinov, respectively. The outcome of the Battle was decided.

The last game to finish featured a curious endgame.

**Miller, David (2235) – Ebrahim-**

**Shirazi, Behrooz (2188) [C18]**

2014 Battle of AB (2.8), 13.09.2014



Black quickly played 77...♙h1 probably believing the position to be drawn. At first glance, it seems to be the case, and quite a few spectators were of the same opinion. However, with careful play White should win almost on autopilot. Black needs a trade of the light-squared bishops but it's not going to happen. White will gradually push his king and the a-pawn forward, and there is nothing that Black can do about it. 77...♙f5 looks more tenacious but White adopts the same winning plan disregarding Black's passers. The computer gives White a huge plus score at a large depth confirming this evaluation. 78.♙xd3 ♗d7 79.♙xc2 At



this point tablebases may be used to confirm White's win. In the following, he never lets the full point slip away. 79...♖c6 80.♗c3 ♖b7 81.♗b4 ♗a8 82.a4 ♗g2 83.♗c5 ♖b7 84.a5. 84.♗c4 is slightly more convincing. The game could have concluded as follows: 84...♗c7 85.a5 ♖b7 86.♗e3 ♗e4 87. a6+ ♖b8 88.♗b6 ♗f3 89.♗e6 ♗e4 90. ♗f4+ ♖a8 91.♗c8 ♗f3 92.♗b7+ ♗xb7 93.axb7# 84...♗f1 85.♗d5+ ♗a6 86.♗d2 ♗e2 87.♗c6 The king goes to c7, then ♗b7+ clears the way for the passed pawn. 1-0

The second round ended with a result of 8.5-3.5 in favor of Team North. The final score of the match is therefore 16.5-7.5. North clearly prevailed this time although Team South deserved a better fate. Until next year!

### NM Alex Yam claims a spot at the 9th Edmonton International

The 9th Edmonton International Qualifier/Fundraiser was held at the Edmonton Chess Club over the course of the week-end of May 31-June 1. As usual, it was a traditional tournament on the ACA calendar designed to give everyone a chance to participate in the main event of the 9th Edmonton International Festival. The stakes were unusually high this time though as the winner would get a unique opportunity to play in a round-robin tournament with a Ukrainian legend GM Vassily Ivanchuk and a rapidly progressing young star GM Wesley So representing the Philippines at the time. The rating favorite NM Alex Yam had a great tournament and deservedly finished on top of the standings. Alex led the race from beginning to end never leaving his success in doubt. In the meantime, after his first-round win over Tristan Tran-Ly, Alex's live FIDE rating crossed the 2300 mark. Thus, Alex is now eligible to apply for a FIDE Master title and his application will undoubtedly be approved.

Below is a critical encounter from round 4 that may have decided the outcome of the tournament. Rob Gardner was trailing by half a point meaning that he was essentially in a must-win situation. **Gardner,Robert (2301) – Yam,Alex (2383) [D85]**  
9th Edmonton International Qualifier(4)  
Edmonton, 01.06.2014

North	CFC	FIDE	R1	R2	Bd	R1	R2	South	CFC	FIDE
IM Edward Porper	2485	2423	1	1	1	0	0	NM Daniel Kazmaier	2298	2202
IM Richard Wang	2433	2364	½	1	2	½	0	NM Vladislav Rekhson	2252	2142
FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2386	2319	1	½	3	0	½	NM Gary Ng	2251	2156
NM Belsar Valencia	2311	2223	1	½	4	0	½	FM Dale Haessel	2246	2161
NM Nicholas Haynes	2285	2170	0	1	5	1	0	NM Brad Booker	2232	2088
CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2272	2277	0	1	6	1	0	NM Georgi Kostadinov	2202	2106
NM Robert J. Gardner	2255	2137	½	0	7	½	1	Diwen Shi	2194	2058
David Miller	2235	2073	1	1	8	0	0	Behrooz Ibrahim-Shirazi	2188	2076
NM Aaron Sequillion	2235	2073	1	1	9	0	0	Kim Nguyen	2142	2041
NM Sasa Grumic	2227	2087	1	1	10	0	0	Jerry Kobalenko	2036	
NM Micah Hughey	2194	2088	0	0	11	1	1	Jim Daniluk	2052	1934
NM David Ottosen	2128	2094	1	½	12	0	½	Hafiz Karmali	2039	1949
North Totals			8	8½		4	3½	South Totals		
Grand Totals			16½			7½		Grand Totals		
Rating Average			2287		2194	Rating Average		2178		2083

### 2014 Battle of Alberta technical results

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Nd7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Be2 c5 10.Be3 Nb6N A novelty. So far in practice Black has preferred 10...Nf6 but it's not necessarily better than the text move. 11. Qa3 Qc7?! This is uncharacteristically slow for Alex. Correct is 11...cxd4 12. cxd4 Bg4 with typical dynamic counterplay against d4. After a plausible 13.0-0 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 Bxd4 15.Rad1 e5 and Black is OK. 12.d5? A grave error that loses all the advantage. The natural 12.0-0 is very strong as now Black doesn't have enough pressure against d4. 12...f5! Emphasizing temporary lack of coordination in White's camp. 13.e5 Rela-



9th Edmonton International Qualifier: the playing hall during the last round



**15.Bxc5?** White overestimates his chances and ends up in serious trouble. After the correct 15.Qxc5 e6 the position is equal. **15...b6!** Black has a number of good moves but the game continuation is the strongest. **16.Bxe7** 16.Bxd5+ Rxd5 17.Bd4 may be the lesser evil but after 17...Be6 White is positionally lost.

**16...Qxc4 17.Bxd8 Ba6** Black is practically winning in all lines. The computer points out to the most precise continuation: 17...Qe4+ 18.Kf1 Bf8 19.Qb3 Ba6+ 20.Kg1 Rxd8 with an overwhelming position. **18.0-0-0** The only chance.



**18...Rxd8** A simpler solution is 18...Nxc3 19.Qb3 (what else?) 19...Nxd1+ 20.Qxc4+ Bxc4 21.Rxd1 Rc8 The endgame is very difficult for White, and he is probably going to lose a pawn soon. **19.Rd4!** The best move again. Black's pieces are suddenly hanging.

**19...Bh6+** Possible but it is now Black who has to be careful. Still, I can hardly classify this move as a mistake. The following line preserves the advantage for Black if he plays with a computer precision: 19...Bf8 20.Qb3 Qc6 21.Rhd1 Bb7 22.c4 b5 23.Qxb5 Ba3+ 24.Kd2 Qxb5 25.cxb5 Bc5 etc. Good luck in finding this over the board.

**20.Kb2 Qe2+ 21.Ka1 Bc4!** The only good move. At this point Black must have already calculated the variations till the end of the game. **22.Re1! Qxf2 23.Rxc4 Ne3.** In a must-win situation Black would prefer 23...Qxg2!? Here the position remains unclear and all three results are possible.

**24.Qe7** Correct. 24.Qb3?! is a mistake. After the cold-blooded 24...Kh8!

Black will regain his exchange with a better position. **24...Nc2+ 25.Kb1 Bf8** A draw was agreed as a perpetual check to either king is inevitable. For example, 26.Qxd8 Na3+ 27.Ka1 Nc2+ 28.Kb2 Na3+ and White has to repeat the moves since 29.Kb3?? runs into 29...Qc2#. 1/2-1/2



Round 5: Nic Haynes had a chance to grab the coveted spot in case of a win but the game ended in a draw.

In the last round of the event Alex drew Nicolas Haynes and finished with 4/5. David Miller and Vlad Rekhson managed to catch the leader and to get a share of the first place. However, it was clear before the start of the round that Alex would have better tie-breaks so neither David nor Vlad were very happy about their result. It was one of these cases where a share of the first could not be considered a success.

## Rob Gardner convincingly wins Section B of the 9th Edmonton International

For the second straight year a 6-player round-robin tournament was held alongside the main event of the Edmonton International Festival. Playing at a pace of one game a day is a rare opportunity in Alberta, especially when GMs Vassily Ivanchuk and Wesley So sit only a few meters away. A great idea by the organizers!

Rob Gardner had a good tournament finishing clear first with a score of 4.5/5. David Miller had a chance to leapfrog Rob in the last round but could not pull the trigger in an endgame with two extra pawns. Nevertheless, David's result of 4/5 was sufficient for the second place.

Below is a collection of fragments from the tournament where tactical shots of various difficulty were missed by either one or both opponents. Let's begin with the winner's games.

**Gardner, Robert (2295) – Sequillion, Aaron (2214) [A60]**  
9th Edmonton International Section B  
Edmonton (1), 21.06.2014



This game was a see-saw battle with a number of twists and turns. In the diagrammed position the black kings is in trouble despite two extra pawns but there was a solution available.

**31...Bb8?** This loses quickly, just like every other move except the only one. The spectacular 31...Qxf5!! saves the game: 32.Qxf5+ Qxf5 33.Qxa8 Qf2! The point. 34.Qxb7+ Qf8 White has to be content with the perpetual to avoid being checkmated: 35.Qc8+ Qe7 36.Qb7+ etc.

**32.Qd5+ Qd7 33.Qf8** Now Black is defenseless. **33...Qd6 34.Qxf7+ Qd8 35.Qg1 Qxg1+ 36.Qxg1 b5 37.Qxf6+ Qd7 38.Qe6+ Qc6 39.Qf6+ Qc7 40.Qe8+ 1-0**

**Zeggelaar, Mike (2011) – Gardner, Robert (2295) [B09]**  
9th Edmonton International Section B  
Edmonton (3), 21.06.2014



White was dead lost after move 12 but



Black's inaccuracies allowed the opponent counterplay.

**21.♖f7+ ♔h8 22.♖xd5** Now Black must be careful. **22...h6** Correct is **22...♖f8!** intending **23.♗f7+ ♖xf7 24.♖xf7 ♖a4! 25.♖b3 ♖xf4+** when the raging bishops leave White with little hope for survival. **23.h4**

**23.♗f7+ ♔h7 24.h4** is a more accurate move order. Then **24...♗g4** transposes back to the game. **23...♗g4**

Again, Black should play **23...♖f8!** **24.♗f7+ ♖xf7 25.♖xf7 ♖b4 26.♖b3 ♖xf4+** similarly to the line above. **24.♗f7+ ♔h7** Suddenly, the position is unclear. **25.f5**

**25.h5!?** is another interesting resource with the idea **25...♗xh5? 26.g4! ♗xg4?? 27.♗g5+ ♔h8 28.♖xb7 ♖f8 29.♖xh6+! ♗xh6 30.♖h7#**

**25...gxf5?** Even though **25...♖f8** is long overdue, it is still the best move. To be fair, **26.fxg6+ ♔xg6** does look scary for Black.

**26.♗g5+ hxg5 27.hxg5+?** Missing his chance. White draws after **27.♖e6!! ♗h5** (what else?) **28.hxg5** and Black has to take the perpetual himself: **28...♗xb2+ 29.♔xb2 ♖b4+ 30.♔a1 ♖c3+ 31.♔b1 ♖b4+** etc.

**27...♔g6** Now it's all over. **28.♖e6+ ♔xg5 29.♖h7 ♖c7 30.♖e3+ ♔g6 31.♖h1 ♖e5 32.♖b3 ♖e8 0-1**

### Zeggelaar, Mike (2011) –

#### Sequillion, Aaron (2214) [B66]

9th Edmonton International Section B  
Edmonton (5), 25.06.2014



The pin is deadly and Black is winning. **32.♖d2** Desperation. **32...♖xd2** Good enough but a simple tactical shot **32...♖xf1+ 33.♖xf1 ♖xd2** forces an immediate resignation. **33.♖xd2 ♗b5 34.♖f2 ♖e1** White resigned on move 39. **0-1**

### Salehian, Mohammad (1859) – Zeggelaar, Mike (2011) [E92]

9th Edmonton International Section B  
Edmonton (4), 24.06.2014



White's large material advantage gives him a winning position. Care is required, however, as Black's threats must be taken seriously.

**38.♖a7+?** The queen is needed for defence, there is no time for counter-attack. A good way to consolidate is **38.♗d7!?** intending to put the bishop on g4 when necessary.

**38...♔f6 39.♗e8?** This is clearly asking for trouble. White should acknowledge his mistake and play **39.♖g1. 39...♖h1+ 40.♖g1?** Now Black wins by force. **40.♔e2** saves the game in a miraculous fashion, which is, however, beyond the scope of this example. An interested reader may quickly verify it with a computer.

**40...♖xf3+ 41.♖f2** Apparently, White was pinning his hopes on this defensive resource but it doesn't work. Black also wins after **41.♔e1 ♖xe4+ 42.♔f1 ♖d3+ 43.♔g2 ♔f4+** etc.

**41...♗g3+ 42.♔e1 ♗d2+!** A nice tactical shot forcing an immediate resignation. White has to part with his queen or allow checkmate. **0-1**

### Rekhson and Sequillion tie for first at the 9th Edmonton International Reserves

The traditional Swiss event was held over the course of the last three days of the festival. The winners scored 4/5 drawing each other as well as David Miller. David and Jim Daniluk finished in a tie for third with a result of 3.5/5.

When I was preparing material for this

tournament, I recalled GM Alexei Shirov's piece of advice on how to master tactical play. Essentially, the author of the book "Fire on the Board" recommended taking notes of as many tactical patterns occurring in real games as possible. Then I found two examples of two Alberta's promising juniors falling for an almost identical trick...

### Hughey, Leah (1510) –

#### Grossmann, Lenard (1800) [A22]

9th Edmonton International Reserves  
Edmonton (5), 29.06.2014



Black's large material advantage is supposed to give him a win but White's attack is not to be underestimated. **20.f4!** The best try.

**20...e4?** Surprisingly, after this innocent looking move White wins by force. Black should try to keep the long diagonal closed. After **20...♖e7 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.♖e3 ♖e8 23.♗g5 h6** White doesn't have anything concrete.

**21.♗g5 h6** Black may have pinned his hopes to this move but it doesn't help. No better is **21...♔g8 22.♖xh7 ♖e7 23.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 24.♗xg7 ♔xg7 25.g4!** and White's attack is decisive.

**22.♖xh6+** Of course. The g7-pawn is pinned! **22...♔g8 23.♖g6 ♖f7** White has a wide choice of winning moves here. **24.♗e6 ♗xe6 25.dxe6 ♖e7 26.♖xg7+ ♔f8 27.♗f6 ♔c6 28.♖b2 ♖xg7 29.♗xd8 ♔d4 30.e7+ ♔e8 31.e3 ♔e2+ 32.♔f2** The rest is redundant. White went on to win on move 38.

### Mah, Sean Kenneth (1461) –

#### Briones, Dante (1968) [D00]

9th Edmonton International Reserves  
Edmonton (1), 28.06.2014

(See the diagram on the next page).





All I can say is that it's hard to figure out what's going on even with computer assistance. **24.f5?!** Looks tempting but Black has a strong reply. In this complex position White can try 24.a4!? undermining the opponent's queenside pawn chain. **24...d4!** **25.d4xg4?** The decisive mistake. Opening up the h-file is suicidal. White should prefer 25.f4. **25...hxg4** **26.gxf1** **26...hxh3+** Exactly the same pattern as in the previous example! **27.h1** **27...h2# 0-1**

## 2014 Over/Under 1800

This year the annual event was held in Edmonton on August 30–31. The Over 1800 Section was dominated by Aaron Sequillion and Louis Cheng who tied for first with a score of 4/5. Mike Zeggelaar and Damon MacLeod shared the third place with a result of 3/5. The tournament would probably have had a clear winner if Aaron hadn't blundered in an absolutely won position in round 4.

**Sequillion, Aaron (2184) – Cheng, Louis (2093) [B77]**  
Over 1800 Edmonton (4), 31.08.2014



Over/Under 1800: Playing hall during Round 1

White is totally winning as his g-pawn should cost Black a rook soon. **31.f5?** A surprising blunder that loses White's main trump for no good reason.

Instead, after 31.h8+ f7 32.f5 g7 (or 32...g8 33.h7+ f8 34.g6 hxh8 35.g7+ with a checkmate) 33.g6+ f6 34.f8+ e5 35.f6+ Black has to resign. **31...xg5** Of course!

**32.h8+ g7 33.xg5+** A better try is 33.h7+ f6 34.f8+ e5 35.f6. However, if Black finds 35...e6 36.f7 g8! 37.fxe7 e8! he has good chances to hold on.

**33...hxh8 34.hc1** **34...d5 35.g4 b5 36.d2.** 36.e4 was White's last chance to create problems for his opponent.

**36...xf5 37.xd4 g7.** Now the end-game is completely equal, and a draw was agreed on move 80. ½-½

Round 5 featured the following wild encounter between the top two ACA Board members.

**Pedersen, Rick (1854) – Miller, David (2261) [B50]**  
Over 1800 Edmonton (5), 31.08.2014

The position (see the next diagram) is approximately equal if White simply castles kingside.

**13.0-0-0?!** Overly ambitious as Black's attack should develop faster. **13...e5?** Black intends to trap the opponent's



Pedersen– Miller, position after 12 moves queen in the corner of the board but it doesn't work. Instead, 13...xf4+ 14.fxf4 b5 looks promising. **14.g3 g4 15.xb7** **15...b8 16.xa6** **16...c8?** Playing for a loss.

Objectively, Black should force a draw by 16...a8 17.c6 c8 18.b7 b8 etc. Instead, if 16...xd1 17.xd1, then the material is equal but White has a large positional advantage.

**17.a7** **17...b7 18.a8** **18...b6 19.a5?** **19.b3** **19...g4 20.a6** with a subsequent trade of queens leads to White's large advantage. **19...xb2+?**

After a very subtle 19...b4! the position becomes unclear. For example, 20.a6? **20...xb2+** **21.d2** **21...b3!** and White is suddenly in trouble.

**20.d2** **20...g4 21.a6** **21...xd1 22.xd1**



Black's pieces are hanging, and he can't avoid material losses. David tries his last trick.

**22...♙e7 23.♖b1 ♜e4+ 24. dxe4 ♙g5+**  
The critical moment of the battle.



Background: Rick's "Benko style" sunglasses may have played a role in the game

**25.♔d3?** All of sudden, this loses. The only but sufficient move is 25.f4!! For example, 25...♖d8+ 26.♙d5 exf4 27. h4! fxc3+ 28.hxc3 and wins.

**25...♖d8+ 26.♙d5 ♖xd5+ 27.exd5 e4+!** The point. **28.♔xe4 ♖xc2+** The white king will not be able to survive. **29.♔f3 ♖xc3+ 30.♔g4 ♖d4+ 31.f4 h5+ 32.♔xg5 ♖xd5+ 33.♔h4 ♖xb1 34.♖c8+ ♔h7 35.a6 ♖e6** Black decides to take it easy. 35...f6 36.a7 ♖a1 wins faster. **36.♖xe6 fxe6** and Black converted after 20 more moves. **0-1**

The Under 1800 Section was won by Peter Pisanski (4/5). Suresh Kadavil finished second with 3.5/5, while Dustin Koperski and Logan McLeod tied for third with 3/5. In their head-to-head encounter in the first round Dustin came up with a pretty spectacular move.

### Koperski,Dustin (1716) – McLeod,Logan (1566) [B21]

Under 1800 Edmonton (1), 30.08.2014



The position after 27 moves is yet another example of a pair of minor pieces fighting against a rook and a couple of pawns. **28.♙d5** In this particular case White's initiative outweighs a small material deficit. **28...♖b7?** The queen should stay on the kingside.

**28...♖g5!** is necessary when it's not so easy for White to proceed.

**29.♖h4!** Now the black king is in trouble. **29...f5 30.♙f6**

**30.♙e7 ♔g7 31. ♖xd6** is a good alternative. **30...♖g7 31.♖xd6 g5?** Black must have counted on this resource but White refutes it brilliantly. **31...♖c7** holds on for the time being.

**32.♖h5! ♖xf6 33.♖d8+ ♖f8**



**34.♖e8!!** Excellent! Black is defenceless. **34...♖c1+ 35.♔h2** and White went on to win on move 44. **1-0**

### Kaixin Wang emerges victorious at the Edmonton Junior Regional

For the second straight year this qualifying tournament was held at the Edmonton Chess Club on October 4-5. The field was divided into two sections: Open and Under 1300. Just as the year before, the winner of the Open Section obtained a guaranteed spot in the Championship Section of the 2014 Alberta Junior.

Such an incentive certainly made the event more interesting to both the participants and the spectators. The competition for the first place was very tight and involved 3 players: Kaixin Wang, David Yao and Lenard Grossmann. All their head-to-head encounters ended up drawn resulting in a thrilling finish of the event. After round 4 the trio shared the lead with 3 points each, and a potential three-way tie for the top spot was looming at the horizon. Kaixin and David did win in round 5 thus finish-

ing with 4/5. Lenard's game was a really long one and featured a curious position.

### Mah,Sean (1555) –

### Grossmann,Lenard (1701) [B21]

Edmonton Junior Regional Champ.  
Edmonton (5), 05.10.2014



The game has already seen a number of twists and turns reaching what appears to be a dead draw. However, **37.♖a6?** allowed **37...♔b7** trapping the rook. Further adventures on the way! **38.♖xb6+ ♔xb6**

With six pieces left on the board, this position is in Nalimov's tablebases. Interestingly enough, White draws after any pawn move.

**39.♔c2** Nalimov disapproves this one. The most natural would be 39.a5+ trying to get rid of both pawns as quickly as possible.

**39...♙d5** Now Black delivers checkmate in 94! It may seem that White will be able to claim a draw by a 50-move rule way before that but it is actually not the case if both sides play perfectly. Needless to say, the route to victory is highly nontrivial. For the record, I am certain that I would not be able to find it over the board.

**40.♔d2 ♔a5 41.b3 ♔b4**

Understandably, both young players are confused about what they should really be doing. In theory, the best is 41...♙b4 blocking the pawns, with a checkmate in 90 to follow.

**42.♔e1 ♔xb3** Black finally decides to grab both pawns and to verify experimentally whether two knights can deliver checkmate or not.

**43.a5 ♔b4 44.♔f2** As before, White should just jettison his last pawn by means of 44.a6! **44...♔a4** Again, 44...♙a6 gives Black a chance to win



in 92. 45.♗e3 ♕fd5+ 46.♗d4 ♗xa5  
Now it's officially over. Lenard did try his best for the following 50 moves but could not change the theoretical verdict. White claimed a draw on move 97. ½-½

As a result of this marathon, Lenard finished with 3.5/5 taking clear third. Kaixin and David played a tense play-off match for the qualification spot to AB Jr. with Kaixin eventually emerging victorious in the Armageddon blitz game.

The Under 1300 section was won by Justin Qian with a score of 4.5/6. Sydney Mah took second (in fact, she claimed the Best Girl prize instead), while Mark Ivanescu finished third.



Under 1300 winners. Right to left: Justin Qian, Mark Ivanescu, Sydney Mah (best girl prize) and Ron Offengenden.

### Patrick Tolentino wins Calgary Junior Regional Championship

The second qualifier for the Alberta Junior was held at the Calgary Chess Club on October 18-19. A total of 35 participants were slotted into 4 groups including a special Girls section. The winner of the Open Section guaranteed a spot in the Championship Section of the 2014 Alberta Junior making this group a very interesting one to watch. And there were quite a few surprises, too. The rating favorites Chenxi Wu and Jeff Wang somehow ended up in the bottom half of the crosstable with only 2/5. The main competitors for the top spot turned out to be Patrick and Andre Tolentino as well as Ian Zhao. Just as at the Edmonton Junior Regional, the top three finishers did not lose a single game! After 3 rounds Andre was leading the tournament with 2.5 points. However, Patrick won both of his games in the last two rounds and finished just ahead of his brother with 4/5. Andre and Ian tied for second with 3.5/5.



Calgary Junior Regional Championship: playing hall



Open Section, Round 1.  
Foreground: Jeff Wang – Nimai Koneru.  
Background: Ian Zhao – Chenxi Wu.

The Under 1300 Section featured 14 participants. Due to the faster time control, the format of the tournament was a 7-round Swiss. Dhruv Jindal was the most consistent player of the field finishing undefeated with a score of 6/7. Zacchary Schlegel and Zehan Li drew the winner but ended up just behind with 5.5/7.

The Under 800 Section followed the same format, and the winner Victor Zhao also scored 6/7. There was a three-way tie for the second place involving the Bryuzgin brothers Michael and Maxim as well as Sam Munoz. All three finished with 5/7.

The Girls section featured 4 participants in a double round-robin event. Tanushka Jindal had a strong tournament finishing first with 5/6. Shaira Munoz was able to tie her mini-match with the winner 1-1 and ended up right behind with 4.5/6. Her sister Shekinah claimed third with 2/6.



Girls Section, Round 1

### Calgary Chess Club schedule:

**Tuesdays:** Standard time controls (90+30) Each tournament starts on the first Tuesday of the month. \$5/week entry fee 80% going to prizes. CFC rated. Doors open at 7 pm.

**Thursdays:** unrated Active chess, one tournament per week. \$5 entry fee. Doors open at 7 pm. Tournament starts at 7:30 pm, 4 rounds.

**Saturday:** Junior drop in centre. Free with a purchase of an annual junior club membership \$20. Doors open at 12:30 pm

[www.calgarychess.com](http://www.calgarychess.com)





## IM Edward Porper wins the 2014 Alberta Open

The largest Open event in the province was held at the Deerfoot Inn & Casino in Calgary on the Thanksgiving weekend of October 11-13. A total of 43 players took part in the 6-round Swiss tournament with a guaranteed first prize of \$1,000.

The first two rounds did not feature any major surprises. I have decided to include the following curious miniature as it must have been the shortest upset of the whole tournament.

### Koperski,Dustin (1703) – Zhao,Ian (1434) [C57]

AB Open, Calgary (2), 11.10.2014

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♜f6 4.♞g5 d5 5.exd5 ♜d4 6.c3 b5 7.♙f1 ♜xd5 8.cxd4 ♞xg5 9.♙xb5+ ♜d8 10.0-0 ♙b7 The game follows a well-trodden path with more than a hundred examples in the database.

11.d3?? This natural move was played in only two games, both of which ended precisely as the current one. The correct continuation is 11.♞f3 with an interesting battle lying ahead. 11...♜f4 Quick checkmate is inevitable so White had to resign. 0-1

After round 3 only two players maintained perfect score: IM Edward Porper and Rob “Rocket” Gardner. Rob had a difficult position in the third round but his opponents missed his chances.

### Gardner,Robert (2244) – Willis,Bradley (2004) [B07]

AB Open, Calgary (3), 12.10.2014



White is up a pawn but Black has a strong initiative that more than compensates for a small material deficit. Brad finds the best continuation increasing the pressure on the queen-side: 24...♞a6! 25.♙b1 After 25.a3 c3 Black's attack is also very dangerous. 25...c3 26.♜b3 This is relatively best. 26...♜d2+ An excellent alternative is 26...e6! The light-squared bishop is solidified, while the dark-squared one can soon join the attack via f8. On the other hand, White's pieces remain poorly coordinated. 27.♞xd2 cxd2 28.♞d1 The natural 28.♞xd2 allows a spectacular 28...♞xa2+! 29.♜xa2 ♙xb3+ 30.♜xb3 ♞xd2. 28...e6! 29.♜f3 The critical moment of the game.



29...♙xb3? Unfortunately, this loses all the advantage.

Black had a beautiful tactical shot that would have won the game: 29...♙xf4!! 30.♞xf4 (30.gxf4 ♞xh3 is hopeless for White) 30...♞e2 31.♞xd2 ♙xf3 etc.

30.axb3 Black's attack is now over. White will soon restore material equality by picking up the d2-pawn so the position is approximately equal as well. The game could have ended with any of the three possible results; Rob was the last but one to make a mistake and won on move 49. 1-0



Robert Sasata watches Gardner – Willis

Board 1 in round 4 featured a head-to-head encounter of the two leaders: Gardner – Porper. After Edward's mistakes in the opening Rob obtained a strong passed pawn and a significant advantage in the endgame. Black's position seemed difficult to hold but IM Porper somehow managed to do so and saved half a point after 75 moves of play.

As a result, the two leaders were joined by Robert Sasata, Gary Ng and Diwen Shi. The top 3 matchups in round 5 looked very interesting and did not disappoint.

### Sasata,Robert (2378) –

### Gardner,Robert (2244) [E38]

AB Open, Calgary (5), 13.10.2014



White's lead in development allows the following standard operation: 14.♜d5! The lesser evil is ♞b7. After 14...exd5 15.cxd5 ♜xd5 16.♞xd5 Black's hedgehog is in ruins, not to mention an unpleasant pin. 15.♜xe7+ ♞xe7 16.b4 ♙b7 17.♞b2 An inaccuracy that allows Black to get rid of White's dangerous dark-squared bishop. Instead, 17.h3!? looks good. The bishop will find shelter on h2. 17...h6 18.♙h4 g5! Seizing the opportunity. 19.♙g3 ♜e4 20.♜d2 ♜xg3 21.hxg3 ♜e5? Too optimistic.

Best is 21...f6 preparing the e5-square for the knight. White retains the better chances though. 22.c5! Black's position on the dark squares falls apart. 22...bxc5 The only move is 22...♞f6 although after 23.♜c4 White's pressure on the dark squares is excruciating. 23.bxc5 f6 24.f4!

The decisive thrust. White has too many threats. 24...♜c6 25.♜e4 dxc5 26.♜xf6+ ♜f8 27.♜d7+ A nice finish. Black is checkmated after 27...♞xd7 28.♞h8+ ♜f7 29.♙h5# 27...♙g8 28.♞xb7 1-0



IM Edward Porper and Diwen Shi also won their games thus creating a three-way tie for the first place. The outcome of the tournament was decided in the last round on board 1.

**Sasata, Robert (2275) –  
Porper, Edward (2427) [E33]**  
AB Open, Calgary (6), 13.10.2014



The position is approximately equal. White controls the d-file but doesn't have a good entry square yet. On the other hand, Black's potential attack on the kingside is not to be underestimated. 23...♖h5 The f4-knight is an important piece cementing White's position so Black intends to exchange it. 24.♗e6?? A very strange blunder that immediately costs White the game. A normal continuation is 24.♗xh5 ♜xh5 25.h3 ♜g5 maintaining a balanced position.

24...f6 Good enough but there was an even more brutal refutation.

24...♞xe6 25.♞xe6 ♜g4 and suddenly the whole White's position is hanging. The threat of h4-h3 is lethal; if 26.♞c2 then simply 26...♞xe6 with an extra piece.

25.♗f4 Now Black wins prosaically.

After 25.♗c7 the game could have taken a really beautiful course: 25...h3 26.♞e1 ♗f3+ 27.gxf3 ♞g6+ 28.♗f1 ♗f4 29.exf4 ♞g2+ 30.♗e2 exf3+ 31.♗d3 ♞xe1 32.♞xe1 ♞xf2 33.♗c3 ♞xh2 34.♗xa8 f2 35.♞f1 ♞g1 36.♗e2 h2 Black will soon get a new queen or maybe even two new queens.

25...♗xf4 26.exf4 ♗d3 27.♞d2 h3 White decided to throw in the towel. He is going to lose at least a pawn, and his kingside will be destroyed. 0-1

An unfortunate end of the tournament for



2014 Alberta Open: playing hall during round 2

Robert Sasata who had a great event otherwise. Diwen Shi had a chance to get a share of the first place although his game with Martin Robichaud on board 2 could have gone either way.

**Robichaud, Martin (2193) –  
Shi, Diwen (2208) [B22]**  
AB Open, Calgary (6), 13.10.2014



Over the course of the previous 36 moves the evaluation of the position changed quite a few times but it is at this point that White had a really great shot at winning the game. 37.♞g8! creates a threat of winning a piece. If 37...♗d7 then 38.♞xb8 ♗xb8 39.♞e7 ♗c6 40.♗h4+! It is one of those positions where two knights outplay the bishop pair, mainly because of the de-

plorable situation of the black king. After 40...♗h5 41.♗hf5 White wins a pawn with a decisive advantage.

Instead, Martin tries a different idea but it doesn't work: 37.♗h2? ♞g5 38.♗df3 ♞b5 39.♗h4+?! Objectively, the safest way is 39.♗d8 ♗c7 40.♗d2 with equality but that wasn't the point of White's previous play. 39...♗f7 40.♗d8 ♗c7 41.♞de8 ♗e5! Black correctly judges that he has a right to play for a win. 42.♞h8 ♞xb2 43.♗2f3 ♗d6! 44.♞ee8 White has doubled the rooks and appears to be winning material. 44...g5! Refutation. 45.♗d8 Best try. After 45.♗g2 Black has 45...♗g4! 45...♗e7 What a pity! The way to play for a full point is 45...♗g4! 46.♞xb8 ♗xb8 47.♞xb8 gxf4 48.♗xh4 ♞b1+ 49.♗g2 ♗d7 This endgame is difficult for White to hold as his queenside pawns are weak. Diwen's decision is certainly understandable as both the stakes and the tension over the board were incredibly high.

46.♞de8+ ♗f7 47.♗d8 1/2-1/2

Thus, IM Porper finished clear first with 5.5/6, while Diwen Shi took clear second with 5/6. There was a four-way tie for third involving Robert Sasata, Martin Robichaud, Robert Gardner and FM Vladimir Pechenkin. Special thanks go to the TD Ali Razzaq who faced a few challenges during the event but handled them all well.

## Foreign Grandmasters Dominate 7th Calgary International Classic

This year the traditional festival was held at the Calgary Chess Club on November 6-11. The main event was a 10-player round-robin with IM norm opportunities. The Reserves was an Open Swiss of 29 participants played alongside on November 7-9. Thanks to the financial support of Alberta Sport Connection, GM Victor Mikhalevski Lecture Series was organized on November 2-5 and attracted 47 participants.

Vlad Rekhson did a great job as the organizer of the festival putting everything together and assembling an interesting roster of players for the International. Apart from well known GMs Victor Mikhalevski (Israel), Alexander Shabalov and Enrico Sevillano (both USA), the main event featured quite a few new faces. Albertans Gary Ng, Diwen Shi, Brad Booker and Rafael Arruebarrena as well as FM Michael Humphreys from Ontario participated in the International section of the festival for the first time ever. FMs Dale Haessel and Vladimir Pechenkin completed the list of invited players.

The rating favorite Victor Mikhalevski fully matched the spectators' expectations as he went straight down to work early on. Having defeated FM Haessel in round 1, Victor attained a comfortable draw with the black pieces against the #2 seed GM Shabalov. Another GM clash occurred in round 3, and that encounter may have decided the outcome of the whole event.

**Mikhalevski, Victor (2565) – Sevillano, Enrico (2456) [A70]**  
7th Calgary International (3), 08.11.2014  
*Annotated by GM Victor Mikhalevski*

This game was played in the third round of the 2014 Calgary international and was very important as there were only three grandmasters in the tournament and any game between them could become a decisive factor for the final standings.

**1.d4** Recently I played more often 1.c4 and 1.f3, although I don't think the text came as a surprise for Enrico.

**1...f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.f3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.f3 g6 7.f4** Usually I meet the Benoni with the Fianchetto variation, 7.g3. During the home preparation I saw that my opponent plays exclusively 7...g7, instead of

the main line, 7...a6 and so decided to surprise him with this line. **7...g7** Sevillano is faithful to himself. **8.a4+** The most challenging line against 7...g7 and the reason why 7...a6 is more popular. This way White provokes Black's light-squared bishop to d7, where it's misplaced as this square belongs to the b8-knight. **8...d7** The only move. Otherwise Black loses either the d6-pawn or the right to castle. **9.b3** A double attack on b7 and d6. **9...c7** The most natural move. Black protects his hanging pawns. 9...b5 is the main alternative, but the move is very risky and you don't see it too often in the modern tournament practice, although it was tested by Vugar Gashimov. Now after 10.xd6 b6 11.e5 0-0 12.e3 c4 13.d1 Black usually chooses between 13...a6 and 13...b4 with certain compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

**10.e4 0-0 11.d2** An important subtlety. White plays this move before developing his bishop to e2 in order to avoid both 11...b5 and exchange of the Black's light-squared bishop, when it gets to g4. Thus after the natural 11.e2 Black can choose between playing 11...h5 and 11...b5.

The latter leads to some complications. For example, 12.xb5 h4 13.h4 a5+ 14.c3 (14.d2 xb5 15.xb5 xb5 16.d6 is more popular) 14...xb5 15.0-0-0 d7 16.xd6 a6 17.xf8 xf8 18.he1 b8 19.c4 b4 20.d3 c4 21.e3 xb2 22.d2 xc3 23.xb2 a3 0-1

Moradiabadi, E (2570) – Sevillano, E (2526)/Los Angeles 2012.

Or 12.xb5 xb5 13.xb5 h4 as in Hess, R (2624)–Sevillano, E (2526)/Los Angeles 2012.

After going over those game I realized that I want to play 11.Nd2.

In case of 11.e2 h5 12.e3 a6 13.a4 g4 Black exchanges his light-squared bishop, which is often Black's problem in the Benoni.

**11...h5 12.e3 a6** A pretty rare continuation as Black later uses this square for his queen's knight. 12...f5 is the main line: 13.exf5 xf5 14.e2 f6 15.h3 a6 16.a3 and so on.

**13.a4** White is preventing b5. **13...f5 14.exf5 xf5**

Black played 14...gxf5 more often. White can meet it with 15.e2.

Now 15...f4 16.xc5 f3 is strongly an-

swered by 17.b6 with the decisive edge (16...xc5 is relatively better, but White retains a clear edge after 17.de4 c7 18.xh5+)

Instead, if 15...e8, then 16.f3+ and the weakness of the f-pawn plus the weak e6-square promise White a comfortable edge.

**15.e2 f6 16.h3** We've got a position from the main line with inclusion of moves a6 and a4, which seems to be in White's favour, who doesn't have to worry about h6. Moreover the knight can't be developed to d7 in view of g4.

**16...e8** Enrico has already spent a lot of time, but found an interesting tactical idea. 16...bd7?? 17.g4 and the bishop on f5 is trapped. **17.0-0 bd7** This move came as a surprise as I considered it to be impossible.



**18.g4** I played this move rather quickly. **18...h4!** That's what Black was cooking. Even though Black doesn't lose a piece here White can obtain a serious edge. **19.ae1?** This move was played after one-hour thought. As usual, such a long thought leads to a mistake.

I started my calculations with the correct 19.gxf5! h4 20.xd2 xd2 xc3 21.xc3 xe2 22.ae1!

(During the game I considered mostly 22.fe1 in order to meet 22...ae8 with 23.xe2 xe2 24.e3 with the idea to trap the rook by means of 25.f1. That's why the f-rook went to e1. However, Black can save the rook. 24...b6! 25.b1 b4 and the rook gets an escape square on c2. Nevertheless, White continues 26.f1 xc3 27.bxc3 a2 28.xb7 f6 29.fxg6 hxg6 30.b6 xd5 31.xa6 xe3+ 32.fxe3 with an extra pawn in the rook endgame, but Black retains good



chances for a draw.)

22...♖ae8

(22...♗e5? 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.♕f4 ♖ee8 25.♗e6!+-

After 22...♖ee8 23.♕h6 ♖f8 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.♕xf8 ♖xe1 26.♖xe1 ♖xf8 27.♗e6 ♖f7 28.♖g3± White wins a pawn.)

23.♕h6 ♖b6 24.fxg6 ♖xe1 25.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 26.♖xe1 hxg6 27.♗e6+ ♖f7 28.♖xd6 ♖xd5 29.♖xc5± with an extra pawn for White, although he still has to solve some technical problems on his way to a win.

19...♕xc3 This capture isn't yet bad, although I would have preferred 19...Nxd2 or 19...Nxc3.

19...♖xd2!? 20.♕xd2 ♕e4 21.f3 (21.♕f4!?) c4! 22.♕xc4 ♖c5 23.♖d1 ♕d3 leads to a position with good compensation for a pawn thanks to activity of the black pieces.

19...♖xc3!? 20.bxc3 ♕e4 21.c4 (21.♕c4 is answered by 21...♖e5; it has to be mentioned that 21.f3?! is dubious in view of 21...♕c2 22.♖xc2 ♖xe3±) 21...♖b6! 22.♖xb6 (or 22.♖a2 ♕d4!) 22...♖xb6 23.a5 ♖a4 24.♖xe4 ♖xe4 25.♕d3 ♖ee8 with counterplay.

20.bxc3 ♖xd2 21.♕xd2 ♖xe2?? It's not so obvious, but this move is the decisive mistake. After the correct 21...c4! 22.♖xc4 ♖xc4 23.♕xc4 ♕c2 Black obtains counterplay. 22.♖xe2 ♕d3



23.♗e7! Black has underestimated this move. Now Black's king starts to feel lonely, while a pin along the seventh rank only makes it more difficult for Black. 23...♕xf1 24.c4!+- This intermediate move creates a deadly threat of 25.♖c3 or 25.♖b2, while the bishop on f1 is trapped anyway.

For the truth sake it has to be said that even the simple 24.♕xf1 is sufficient

for the decisive advantage. For example, 24...♖d8 25.♕g5 ♖c8 26.c4 ♖e5 27.♕h6 b5 28.f4! bxa4 29.♖e3+- and White wins.

24...♖d8 25.♕g5! The key-move. White is threatening with 26.♖b2 again. 25...h6 Enrico is trying to sac the queen for a rook and a bishop. 25...♖c8 26.♕xf1 ♖e5 27.♕h6+- is hopeless too, as after 24.♕f1.

26.♖b1! ♖f8 In case of 26...♖e5 White wins with 27.♖xe5! hxg5 28.♖xg6+ ♖h8 29.♖h6+ ♖g8 30.♖xg5+- with a clear win. 27.♕f6 Now White is threatening with 28.Rg7, which forces Black to capture the rook.

27.♖xb7+- also wins. For example, 27...♖b8 28.♖g7+ ♖h8 29.♖f7.

27...♖xe7 28.♕xe7 ♕xc4 29.♖xb7 and Black resigned as after 29...♖e8 30.♕f6 he can't stop checkmate. A relatively short, but interesting game.

1-0

GM Shabalov was able to keep pace with the leader for the first four rounds. In the following three rounds, however, Alex managed to score just a point, which essentially put him out of contention for the first place. Things could have got even worse as the following fragment shows.

**Haessel,Dale (2155) –**

**Shabalov,Alexander (2530) [A06]**

7th Calgary International (5), 09.11.2014



After a lot of creative and risky play from both sides the game has reached a very sharp and highly unbalanced position. Black has strong connected passed pawns but his king feels uncomfortable in the center. 27.f5! White intends to clear as many files and diagonals in the center as possible. His main goal is to dislodge the excellently



V. Mikhalevski – B. Booker (Round 8)

placed enemy bishop. 27...♖e8! Black correctly holds on to the key e6-square. 28.♖e5 ♖c6? Surprisingly, this natural looking move is a decisive mistake. The computer's top choice is a somewhat paradoxical 28...♖a3!? maintaining equilibrium. The position remains highly unclear, of course.

29.♖a1!! The white queen has been passive so far but now she is ready to penetrate the enemy position with a devastating effect. 29...♖c7 30.♖a5 c3 Black doesn't have much of a choice. 30...♖b6 31.♖xb6 axb6 32.fxe6 ♕xe6 33.d5 ♕d7 34.♖xc4 is hopeless.

31.fxe6! cxd2+ 32.♕xd2 ♕c4 Looks like desperation. After 32...♕xe6 33.d5 all the lines work in White's favor.

33.e7+ A step in a wrong direction. Even though White is still winning, his task has just become more difficult. I believe that after the programmed 33.d5! Black would not have been able to save the game. 33...♕c8 34.♕g4+ ♖b8 The critical moment of the battle.



35.♕f4? Alas. Surprisingly, 35.♕f2!! is the only winning move. It looks crazy to give up the f6-pawn with a cheque 35...♖xf6+ especially since after 36.♖g3 Black might be able to capture the e7-pawn as well. However, after



36...Rxe7? 37.Wxb4+ Black loses a lot of material and the game is over. Granted, going for a line like this in time pressure may be possible only for a computer.

35...Wh1+ Now Black escapes with a perpetual check. 36.f2 White can try 36.d2 but then 36...Wf1! still draws. For example, 37.Rb5+ a8! 38.Wxc7 Wd3+ 39.c1 Wc3+ etc. 36...Wf1+ 37.g3 Wg1+ 38.f3 Wf1+ 1/2-1/2

After round 7 GM Mikhalevski was leading the tournament with an excellent result of 6.5/7. However, the battle for the first place wasn't over yet. Despite losing the head-to-head encounter, GM Sevillano was following the leader within a striking distance (5.5/7).

### Sevillano, Enrico (2456) – Arruebarrena, Rafael (2268) [B22]

7th Calgary International (2), 07.11.2014

Notes by GM Enrico Sevillano

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.e5 d5 4.f3 e6 The main line here is 4...d6, also possible is 4...d6. 5.d4 [5.c4 is most played.]

5...cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 This is the main line. Other moves like b6, d6 or e7 are also possible. 7.d3 The best move here is 7.c4 also playable is 7.a3, 7.exd6 or 7.d3. 7...dxc3 8.bxc3 Wc7!? 9.d2 Maybe 9.Wb3 is more deserving. 9...d7 10.d5 Also interesting is 10.exd6 d6 11.d3 b6 12.0-0 b7 13.We2. 10...h6!

[10...dxe5?! 11.Wh5 b8 (11...d6 12.b5+ is good for White) 12.b5+ d6 13.d7 and White is better.]

11.exd6 d6 12.d4 f4 13.f4 Wxf4 14.d3 0-0 15.0-0 b6 16.Re1 b7 17.Re3 Rac8! Pressure on c3.

18.Wc2 Wc7

[18...dxe4 19.Rxe4 Wg5 20.Rg4 Wa5 looks scary but Black has a slight advantage here.] 19.c4 Rfe8 [19...dxe4!? deserves attention.]

20.Re1 h8?! Again, 20...dxe4 is equal. 21.d2? [21.d3!]

21...Rd8? [21...f8! is equal.]

22.Rh3? [22.d5! and White is better.]

22...d6! 23.d3? I think that 23.Rh4 is a forced move. 23...a5

[23...Wf4! 24.a4 a5 25.Wc3 Wxe3 26.Rxe3 g6 and Black is better.]

24.Wb2? [24.Wc3 is equal.]

24...c6?! [24...a4! 25.d1 a3 26.Wa1 a6 is almost winning for Black.]



25.d5! The only move to equalize. 25...exd5 26.d4 Wc5 27.d5 d4?? 27...Re8 is the only move. 28.Wc1 Now White has a decisive advantage. 28...Re8 29.Rxe8 Rxe8 30.d5 Rg7 Re3 31.fxe3 d5 32.e4 d6 33.Wf4 1-0

In round 8 all three GMs won their games so the tournament situation was as follows: GM Mikhalevski (7.5/8), GM Sevillano (6.5/8), GM Shabalov (5.5/8). It looked like the last round would be just a formality but in reality it turned out to be full of action.

Victor opted for this favorite Grünfeld defence against FM Humphreys and after the opponent's novelty suddenly sacrificed a piece for insufficient compensation. A few moves later Black's position was already dead lost. White's material advantage increased move by move and reached the whole rook. Then something unusual occurred.

### Humphreys, Michael (2190) – Mikhalevski, Victor (2565) [D85]

7th Calgary International (9), 11.11.2014



White just needs to defend the g4-pawn, then his extra rook will tell. 34.Wh4 [34.Wg2 is the simplest solution.]



Round 8. Foreground: Ng – Sevillano  
Background: Pechenkin – Shabalov

34...Wf3 35.Rxg7+?! Perhaps, White believes that he can win this game by playing just about anything. This may be correct but his task has just become more difficult. The computer advocates 35.d2 intending 35...Rxg4 36.Re8+ f8 37.Wh3! and Black's attack comes to an end.

35...d5 36.Wh6+ d6 37.Rxg6+ d7 38.Wh6+ d8 39.We6+ d7 40.We7+ d8 41.We8+ d7 42.Wh5+ d8 43.We8+

The road to victory is not so obvious anymore: 43.d2! Rxg4 44.Wxg4+ Wxg4 45.Rg1 Rxg1+ 46.d5 b5 47.a3! and the black pawns aren't going anywhere.

43...d7 44.We7+ d8 45.We6+ d7 46.Wh6+ It's hard to believe but a draw was agreed here. Apparently, White decided not to try 46.Wf5+ Wxf5 47.gxf5, which is objectively winning for him. The magic of a GM title, perhaps? 1/2-1/2

Somewhat surprisingly, the other two GMs also drew their games. The following fragment looks especially curious.

### Shabalov, Alexander (2530) – Shi, Diwen (2219) [A50]

7th Calgary International (9), 11.11.2014





The piece placement emphasizes that the grandmaster completely outplayed his young opponent. **19.♖b5! ♜xe4** There is really not much else. Black cannot give up his light-squared bishop for a knight, and the f7-pawn is about to fall anyway. **20.♞d8+ ♞xd8 21.♞xd8 ♞xd8 22.♞xf7+! ♞xf7 23.♞xc6** The GM executed the best line and attained a decisive advantage. **23...♙h8!** However, Black isn't going to resign just yet as he has a few tactical ideas. **24.f3 ♙h6!?**

Diwen realizes that after the immediate **24...♞fd7** White will return the queen: **25.fxe4! ♞d1+ 26.♙f2 ♞8d2+ 27.♙f3 ♞d3+ 28.♞xd3 ♞xd3+ 29.♙e2** The back rank problem more or less forces **29...♞d8 30.♙xa7** with an easily won endgame for White.

**25.h4?** Surprisingly, this natural looking move allows Black to not only regain the material but also achieve a better endgame! Correct is **25.g3!** clearing more squares for the king. Black's counterplay turns out to be insufficient. **25...♞fd7! 26.fxe4** There is nothing else. **26...♞d1+ 27.♞xd1**

Alas, **27.♙h2?** runs into **27...♙f4+ 28.g3 ♞8d2+ 29.♙h3 ♞h1+ 30.♙g4 h5+ 31.♙f3 ♞f1#** checkmate!

**27.♙f2 ♞8d2+ 28.♙f3 ♞d3+ 29.♞xd3 ♞xd3+** transposes to the game.

**27...♞xd1+ 28.♙f2 ♞d2+ 29.♙f3 ♞d3+** Diwen prefers taking an immediate draw and it's impossible to blame him for not playing on. Objectively, after **29...♞xb2 30.♞c8+ ♙g7 31.♞c7+ ♙g8 32.♞c8+ ♙f8 33.♙xa7 ♞b3+ 34.♙e2 ♙g7** Black's chances in the endgame are to be preferred.

**30.♙f2 ♞d2+ 31.♙f3 ♞d3+ 1/2-1/2**

Diwen Shi did not have a good tournament but this success against a prominent grandmaster should definitely inspire him.

Thus, GM Victor Mikhalevski finished clear first with an outstanding result of 8/9. GMs Enrico Sevillano and Alexander Shabalov followed with 7/9 and 6/9, respectively. The results of the other participants are summarized in a crosstable.

The best Albertans were FM Dale Haessel (4.5/9) and Gary Ng (4/9). Judging by the positions they obtained in their games, both players' final score should have been even higher allowing them to have a shot at an IM norm. Next time, perhaps.

## 7th Calgary International Open

The Reserves Section of the festival was a 5-round Swiss that attracted a total of 29 players. The rating favorite David Miller and Jim Daniluk went undefeated and shared the first place with 4/5. Their route to victory was far from easy though, and the outcome of the tournament remained unclear until the last moment. The winners didn't face each other but had to concede half a point to Michel Cancellierre who participated in his first CFC-rated event. Michel also finished undefeated and tied for third with Omid Malek, Ovo Adagha and Patrick Tolentino.

The following game from round 2 was annotated by a promising Calgarian junior who managed to pull off a big upset.

**Pua, Richard (1897) –**

**Wu, Chenxi (1633) [B22]**

Calgary International Open (2), 08.11.2014  
Notes by Chenxi Wu & Vlad Rekhson

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.c3 ♜c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 ♜f6 6.♜c3 g6 7.♙e2 ♙g4 8.♙e3 ♙g7 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 ♞xf3** Maybe **10...♙d7** would be a better alternative. **Bxf3** gives up my light-

squared bishop and gives White's bishop a better diagonal. **Bd7** would have kept my bishop, and now my opponent has the bishop pair.

**11.♞xf3 ♞d7 12.♞d2 ♞fd8 13.♞fd1 e6** Weakens my d6 pawn. However, my opponent cannot target it at the moment. The purpose of the move was to prepare for d4. If it is followed by e5, then Ne8 and I plan to move the knight to b6.

**14.♞ac1 ♞ac8** I played this slow going move to see White's reply. I felt that White planned to break through with d5, and that would be beneficial for my knight coming to e5.

**15.d5 ♜e5 16.♙e2 ♜c4 17.dxe6 ♞xe6 18.♞xc4 ♞xc4** Not **Qxc4**, because **Rxc4** adds an attacker to e4.

**19.♞xa7** In my opinion this isn't a very good move, because it deflects the bishop away and basically leaves the e4 pawn for me without even putting up a fight.

**19...♜xe4 20.♜xe4 ♞xe4** This opens my queen to attack a2, as well as threatening e2, indirectly attacking b2.

**21.♞c2** There is a beautiful albeit cooperative line beginning with **21.♙e3 ♞xa2?! 22.♞xd6!!** If Black doesn't take the queen, then White regained the pawn with a roughly even game. However, **22...♞xd6?** runs into **23.♞c8+ ♙f8 24.♙h6!! ♞xd1+ 25.♙h2 ♞h1+ 26.♙xh1 ♞b1+ 27.♙h2** and White wins!

**21...♞xa2 22.♙b6 ♞de8 23.♞xd6??** I was up a pawn before, but this move loses the game. **23...♞e1+ 24.♞xe1 ♞xe1+ 25.♙h2 ♙e5+ 26.♞xe5 ♞xe5 27.♞c8+ ♙g7 28.♙d4 ♞d5 29.♙c3 ♙h6** Getting out of the pin, and Black's queen easily gets the better of White's rook. **0-1**

## 7th Calgary International Standings

#	Player	ELO	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2332	CAN	x	½	½	0	0	½	1	0	½	½	3½
2	NM Diwen Shi	2190	CAN	½	x	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	1½
3	CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2268	VEN	½	½	x	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	2½
4	GM Victor Mikhalevski	2565	ISR	1	1	1	x	1	½	1	½	1	1	8
5	NM Brad Booker	2062	CAN	1	1	1	0	x	0	0	0	0	½	3½
6	FM Michael Humphreys	2190	CAN	½	1	½	½	1	x	0	0	0	1	4½
7	FM Dale Haessel	2155	CAN	0	1	0	0	1	1	x	½	½	½	4½
8	GM Alexander Shabalov	2530	USA	1	½	1	½	1	1	½	x	0	½	6
9	GM Enrico Sevillano	2456	USA	½	1	1	0	1	1	½	1	x	1	7
10	NM Gary Ng	2151	CAN	½	1	1	0	½	0	½	½	0	x	4

## Tri-force of Wisdom Takes the 2014 WBX Tournament

The 2014 edition of the annual team tournament "Week Before Christmas" was excellently organized and smoothly run by Terry Seehagen. Once again, Terry did a great job putting the teams together and finding substitutes when necessary.

The rules of the competition remained the same as in 2013. Each team consisted of 3 players plus an optional substitute. Most importantly, the average team rating could not exceed 2000.

While various approaches to forming a roster are possible, previous editions of the tournament indicate that all three players must make a contribution in order for the team to be successful, i.e., to compete for the title. It was certainly the case this time. The number one seed "The Tri-Force of Wisdom" (Kim Nguyen, Robert Brazeau and Patrick Porter) finished with 10.5/15, a full point ahead of "The Knights of the Square Table" (Robert Gardner, David Ludwig and Michael Ludwig). The success of the rating favorites was mostly due to Kim's 4 points on board 1 and Patrick's 4.5 points on board 3. Nevertheless, Rob Brazeau's 2 points was also a crucial contribution that may have decided the outcome of the tournament.

Despite Kim's excellent performance, I'd like to present a fragment of his only loss. The significance of the light long diagonal is thematic, and the execution by Rafael Arruebarrena is impeccable.

**Nguyen, Kim (2060) – Arruebarrena, Rafael (2233) [B47]**  
WBX Team Tournament (2), 13.12.2014



Black has just sacrificed a pawn to grab the initiative.

**22...c5 23.gg2 d7** The knight is



Round 4 of the 2014 WBX Team Tournament: The Tri-Force of Wisdom versus the Last-Minute Squad (Louis Cheng, Terry Seehagen and Christian Ivanescu)

going to h4 presenting White with a difficult defensive task. **24.♙e4**

**24.♙f3** looks better but after **24...♘g6 25.♘e4 ♖h4 26.♘xc5 ♜xc5** White should give up the exchange **27.♘d4** to avoid the worst.

**24...♘f6 25.♙e1** The computer recommends **25.f5** preventing the following sequence although White's position remains unenviable in any case.

**25...♘xe4 26.♘xe4 ♙c6 27.♘2g3 f5!** The key thrust. The catastrophe on the light squares is unavoidable. **28.gxf5 ♘xf5 29.♙e2 ♘g3+ 30.♙g3 ♜ce8 31.♜f3 ♜f7 32.c4**

White can try **32.♜ae1 ♜fe7 33.♙h2** but it doesn't help: **33...bxc3 34.bxc3 ♜xe4 35.♜xe4 ♙xe4 36.♜xe4 ♜b2+** and Black wins.

**32...♜fe7 33.♜ae1 ♜xe4 34.♜xe4 ♜xe4** White resigned in view of **35.♜xe4 ♜b7 36.♜e8+ ♙h7. 0-1**

Robert Gardner's squad finished second despite being the lowest rated team! I was quite satisfied that my team was able to tie the match in our head-to-head encounter.

**Gardner, Robert (2101) – Pechenkin, Vladimir (2302) [A01]**  
WBX Team Tournament (2), 13.12.2014

**1.b3 b6 2.♙b2 ♙b7** This game has been picked because of the opening.

After a few painful losses to 1.b3 I've decided to follow GM Kovalyov's advice that was very simple: just do the same thing! **3.d4 e6 4.♘d2** However, the next few moves do not represent a great play, and multiple improvements for both sides are possible. **4...c5 5.e4 cxd4 6.♘gf3 d6 7.♘xd4 ♘f6 8.♙d3 ♘bd7 9.0-0 ♙e7 10.f4 0-0** Somehow the position transposed into something closely resembling an Open Sicilian. Since neither opponent has a Sicilian defence as a main opening weapon, the following may look a little funny to the experts.

**11.g4 ♘c5 12.♜e2 d5 13.e5 ♘fe4 14.♜f3** Apparently, White intends to deliver checkmate on h7. **14...♘d2 15.♜xd2 ♘e4 16.♜e2 ♙c5 17.♜h3**





The correct move order is 17.g5! After 17...♖e7 18.♗h3 Black can still break with 18...f6 but now it is sufficient only for equality. 17...f6! 18.b4 White decides to test the opponent's idea but all the lines just work in Black's favor.

The computer advocates 18.♔g2! ♖e7 19.♕f3 intending to recapture on e5 with the knight. Black's position remains preferable though.

18...fxe5 Forced. 19.bxc5

Or 19.fxe5 ♕xd4+ 20.♕xd4 ♗g5, also with good prospects for Black.

19...exd4 20.♕xd4 ♗xf4 Much weaker is 20...bxc5 21.♕xe4 dxe4 22.♕e5 as the f4-pawn plays a big role. 21.♕e5 21.♕e3 ♗f7 doesn't change much.

21...♗f7 22.♕xe4 dxe4 This position turns out to be really bad for White because of his exposed king and poorly coordinated pieces. His attempt to preserve the initiative at all cost quickly backfires. 23.♗d1 ♖e7 24.♗d6 bxc5 25.♗d2 ♗af8 26.g5 ♗f1+ 0-1

### Rafael Arruebarrena is ruthless at the 2015 Northern AB Open

This tournament was the last qualifier for the 2015 Alberta Closed, the starting list promising an interesting and close battle for the first place. In reality, however, the second seed Rafael Arruebarrena cruised to victory without even noticing the opposition. Rafael achieved a perfect score of 5/5 and made it look easy! He needed only 128 moves in total to score all the points (25.6 moves per game on average) despite facing such players as Robert Gardner and Kim Nguyen. Below is Rafael's longest game of the tournament from the last round that sealed the deal.

**Gardner, Robert (2095) – Arruebarrena, Rafael (2224) [D91]**  
Northern AB Open (5), 15.02.2015

1.d4 ♕f6 2.c4 g6 3.♕c3 d5 4.♕f3 ♕g7 5.♕g5 ♕e4 6.♕h4 ♕xc3 7.bxc3 dxc4 8.♗a4+ ♖d7 9.♗xc4 b6 10.e3 ♕a6 11.♗b3 ♕xf1 12.♕xf1 0-0 13.♕e2 ♕c6 So far the game has followed a well-trodden path with more than 60 predecessors in the database.

14.♕g3 This novelty is unlikely to attract many followers, however.

14.♗hd1 has been played almost exclusively and for obvious reasons. The omission of this move allows Black to



Round 3 of the Northern Alberta Open: Rafael Arruebarrena played a principal line of the Pirc defence against Roy Yearwood and quickly achieved an overwhelming position

strike immediately.

14...♕a5 15.♗b4 c5! 16.dxc5? This capture is as reckless as it looks.

Being in a must-win situation, White cannot accept the passive 16.♗b2 and decides to take the bull by the horns.

16...♗ac8 Even better is 16...♗fc8 17.♗ad1 ♖e8 not disconnecting the rooks. Black will soon regain the c5-pawn anyway. 17.♗hd1 ♗b7? The only moment of the game when Rafael can be criticized. Black has a comfortable advantage after 17...♗f5 18.♕d4 ♗h5+ 19.♕f1 ♗xc5.



18.♗d3? White misses his chance and he isn't going to get another one. 18.♗ab1! takes the sting out of 18...♗a6+ in view of 19.♗b5 Black

should probably sacrifice a pawn or two to maintain the initiative.

18...♗xc5 19.♗ad1 ♗a6 20.♕d4? e5! It's all over now. Black finishes off the game in style. 21.♕b3 ♗c4 22.♗e7 e4 23.♗d7 ♗a4+ 24.♕e1 ♕xb3 25.axb3 ♕xc3+ 26.♗7d2 ♕xd2+ 27.♗xd2 ♗a1+ 28.♗d1 ♗xd1+ 29.♕xd1 ♗d3+ 0-1

The rating favorite of the event IM Richard Wang unexpectedly blundered a piece in his second round game against Itohan Gold. Richard won the rest of his games but his final result of 4/5 was good enough only for a share of the second place.

The tournament path of the third seed FM Dale Haessel was very similar. In round 2 Dale had a large material advantage against Mike Zeggelaar but somehow managed to walk into a mating net. Dale also won his remaining games and finished in a tie for the second place. Kim Nguyen and Itohan Gold were the other two players to score 4/5.

A special thanks goes to Ali Razzaq for organizing and directing the tournament.

### ACA Executive Changes

On January 11, 2015, Rick Pedersen resigned as the ACA President, and the Vice President David Miller assumed the presidential responsibilities. The ACA thanks Rick for years of his dedicated service to the betterment of chess in the province.



# IM Richard Wang cruises to victory at the 2014 Alberta Junior

The annual competition open to all participants of under 20 years of age took place at the Edmonton Chess Club on November 22-23. The Championship Section featured a field of select six players, with the winner receiving \$1,000 towards expenses to the 2015 Canadian Junior. Just as in 2013, Richard was a heavy rating favorite. His main competitor was Diwen Shi who had a few strong performances in 2014. The previous issue of the Alberta Chess Report featured Diwen's win in Fort McMurray, and he also finished clear second in a very strong Alberta Open field.

After the drawing of lots it turned out that the two rating favorites would face each other in the last round, with Richard having the white pieces. From the spectators' point of view this was quite promising.

The rest of the field included the winners of the regional qualifiers Kaixin Wang and Patrick Tolentino, as well as Lenard Grossmann and Sean Mah. The roster could certainly have been stronger but a lot of higher rated players had unfortunately declined personal invitations. The first two rounds went more or less as expected. The biggest surprise of the tournament occurred in the third round.

## Tolentino, Patrick (1653) – Shi, Diwen (2230) [B23]

AB Jr. Ch., Edmonton (3), 22.11.2014



Black's position looks suspicious as his sensitive e6-square is difficult to cover. Diwen tries an interesting approach: 23...♟f7 The computer recommends 23... ♞xd1+ 24.♞xd1 ♞d8 with the idea to take advantage of White's temporary back rank problems. Nevertheless, after 25.♞e1!?



IM Richard Wang – Diwen Shi: White had to acknowledge a theoretical draw on move 79

♞d6 26.♞f2 Black will have a hard time protecting all his weaknesses.24.♞xh7 This move is tempting but gives Black a chance to equalize with precise play. 24...♞c6? Diwen just misses it.

Correct is 24...♞b6! If White continues as in the game 25.♞xd8? ♞xd8 26.♞d4? ♞xd4 27.cxd4, Black obtains a winning position after 27... ♞xb2 28.♞d1 ♞e2 29.♞b1 ♞e3+ 30.♟h1 ♞xd4 etc. No doubt both players knew that 24...♞h8? would lose immediately to 25.♞xg7+! ♟xg7 26.♞xe6+.

25.♞xd8! Certainly not 25.♞d4? in view of 25...♞xd4 26.cxd4 ♞h8 and Black wins. 25...♞xd8 26. ♞d4! Now this is strong. 26...♞xd4 27.cxd4 ♞d6 28.♞d1! ♞xf4? Black finally falls for the same trick but his position is lost anyway. 29.♞xg7+! 1-0

This upset clearly affected the tournament situation and allowed Richard to sit comfortably in the driver's seat until the end of the event. After round 4 he was ahead of Diwen by a full point and needed just a draw in their head-to-head encounter in order to secure the title. Nevertheless, Richard kept pressing for a win throughout the whole game; Diwen was able to save half a point by tenacious defence.

Thus, IM Richard Wang won the title with a result of 4.5/5, and Diwen finished clear second a full point behind. Kaixin Wang lost to both winners but achieved a perfect score against the rest of the field. His 3/5

and a clear third place is a definite success. Andre Tolentino dominated the Open Section finishing undefeated with a result of 4.5/5. Siddhartha Chitrakar claimed clear second with 3.5/5. David Yao and Nimai Koneru scored 3/5 and tied for the third place. David collected the trophy by virtue of having a slightly better tie-breaker.

The Under 1300 Section saw a race between Justin Qian and Mark Ivanescu. Mark won the head-to-head encounter but lost to Khino Tolentino. As a result, both Justin and Mark finished in a tie for the first place with 6/7.

The play-off match for the title between the two looked like a very close one. Unfortunately, Mark lost the second game on time in a completely winning position thus making Justin the champion. Dhruv Jindal won the third-place trophy with a score of 4.5/7.



Mark Ivanescu – Justin Qian: Play-off match for 1st place in Under 1300 Section, Game 2



## Impossible Deja Vu

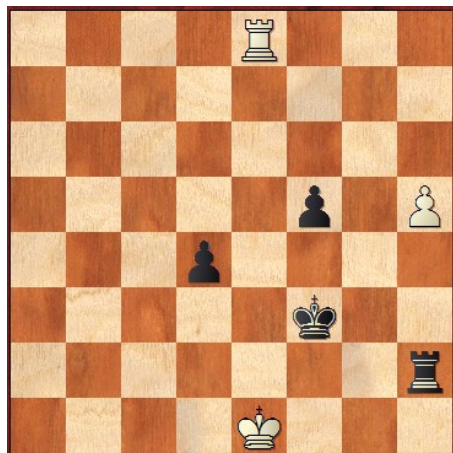
By Vladimir Pechenkin

Once upon a time I happened to follow some of the games at the Russian Championship, a strong round-robin tournament featuring several top players in the world. In the very first round of the event my attention was drawn to the following rook endgame.

**Goganov,Aleksey (2575) –**

**Vitiugov,Nikita (2729) [E11]**

66th ch-RUS, Nizhny Novgorod, 05.10.2013

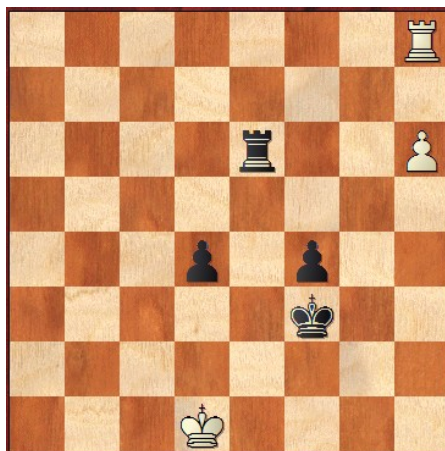


Black is up a pawn and appears to be winning but the battle isn't over yet. **45. ♖h8** Best. The other moves are simply bad. For example, **45. ♖d8 ♖xh5** **46. ♖xd4?** loses immediately to **46... ♗e3**. **45... f4** Correct. **46. h6** White's main (and obvious) idea is to push his passed pawn to h7 and then to look for an opportunity to deliver a deadly rook check followed by the pawn promotion. Conventional wisdom suggests that the outcome of the game largely depends on whether Black will be able to create a shelter for his king avoiding such a check. **46... ♖e2+**

GM Vitiugov follows the conventional wisdom intending to create the shelter on the e-file. Quite surprisingly, even though this approach looks right, it fails to achieve anything special if White defends correctly. Instead, the winning plan is to relocate the king to d3 and then push the f-pawn: **46... ♗e3** **47. ♖e8+ ♗d3**. A plausible conclusion of the game is then **48. ♖h8 (48. ♖f8?** loses to the familiar **48... ♖xh6** **49. ♖xf4 ♗e3** **50. ♖f1 ♖a6)** **48... f3** **49. h7** (or **49. ♖f8 ♖xh6** **50. ♖xf3+ ♗c2)** **49... f2+** **50. ♗f1 ♗d2** **51. ♖d8 ♖xh7** **52. ♖xd4+ ♗e3** and wins. **47. ♗d1 ♖e6?**

It's hard to believe but this logical

move allows White to escape with a draw. The defensive idea is far from obvious though. Black has to "take it back": **47... ♖h2** **48. ♗e1** then go for **48... ♗e3** **49. ♖e8+ ♗d3** etc.



**48. h7?** After this final mistake Black plays very precisely and converts his advantage in a computer-like fashion. The path to a draw is narrow but it does exist: **48. ♗d2 ♗e4** **49. ♗e2 f3+** **50. ♗d2! d3** **51. ♖h7!!** The point of keeping the h7-square available to the rook. White avoids the zugzwang, and Black cannot make progress. For example, **51... ♖e5** **52. ♖f7 ♖h5** **53. ♖e7+** with a draw. **48... ♖e7!** **49. ♗d2 ♗e4** **50. ♗e2 d3+** **51. ♗f2 f3** Now White is in zugzwang and has to abandon his passer. **52. ♖a8 ♖xh7** **53. ♖a4+**

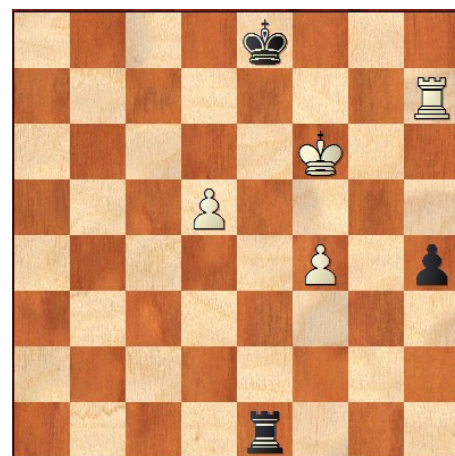
GM Vitiugov must still find a few precise moves and he does. **53... ♗d5!** **54. ♗e3** The point of Black's previous is that after **54. ♗xf3** the white king can be cut off by means of **54... ♖e7!** with an easy win. **54... ♖f7!** **55. ♖a1 f2** **56. ♖f1 ♗c4** The rest is straightforward. **57. ♗d2 ♖a7** **58. ♖c1+ ♗d4** **59. ♖a1 ♖a2+ 0-1**

When I was looking through this endgame, it occurred to me that I had already seen something very similar before. I checked my records and wasn't disappointed, indeed. The position on the following diagram from the first round of the 2010 Alberta Closed is identical to Goganov - Vitiugov! The colors must be reversed, of course. Let's see how the game proceeded.

**Pechenkin,Vladimir (2343) –**  
**Gardner,Robert (2163) [A26]**

Alberta Closed(1), Edmonton, 02.04.2010

**61... ♖h1** Correct. **62. d6?** This hasty push allows Black to escape. We were



approaching midnight, and the fatigue might have been taking its toll. As we already know, the right way is **62. f5 h3** **63. ♗e6 ♖e1+** **64. ♗d6** etc. **62... h3** **63. f5 h2?** Rob makes the same mistake as GM Goganov.

The computer points out that Black has two moves that lead to a draw, the simpler one is **63... ♗d8**. Now White cannot regroup as in the game. If **64. ♗e6 ♖e1+** **65. ♗f7 ♖h1** **66. f6**, then just **66... h2** and White runs out of ideas. We are already familiar with a more cynical alternative: **63... ♖h2** **64. ♖e7+ ♗d8** **65. ♖e3 ♗d7** **66. ♗e5 ♖h1** **67. f6 ♖h2!!** etc. **64. ♖e7+! ♗d8** **65. ♖h7** White repeats the position to gain some time on the clock. Fortunately, there is nothing that Black can do at this point. **65... ♗e8** **66. ♖e7+ ♗d8** **67. ♖e2! ♗d7** **68. ♖d2** Similarly to Vitiugov's game, **68. ♗e5** also wins but I already calculated the other winning line.

**68... ♗e8** Now White has to demonstrate the entire idea. **68... ♖a1** **69. ♖xh2 ♗xd6** **70. ♖d2+** is an easy win; **68... ♗d8** **69. d7 ♖f1** **70. ♖xh2 ♗xd7** **71. ♖e2!** doesn't change anything. **69. d7+ ♗d8** Another curious moment. It seems that White is in zugzwang and cannot make further progress. GM Sergey Shipov, who was doing live commentary of the game Goganov - Vitiugov, actually got to this very position in his express analysis and declared it drawn! Certainly, he had very little time on his "clock" so this superficial judgement is fully exusable. Nevertheless, it's quite delightful to prove the opposite in a real game! **70. ♗f7! ♖f1** What else? **71. ♖xh2 ♖xf5+** **71... ♗xd7** **72. ♖d2+ ♗c7** **73. f6** is a familiar theme. **72. ♗e6 ♖f8** **73. ♖c2** Black is defenceless and has to resign. **1-0** Rook endgames are really difficult to play!

## 20th Annual Medicine Hat Open

Report by Dr. William P. Taylor

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Medicine “OPEN” (Fall) Chess Tournament took place on another sunny, warm, “Fall” weekend. We continue to be blessed with mainly good weather (sunshine and warmth), for this event, now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year.

This year the Medicine Hat Chess Club (MHCC) was pleased to welcome 19 participants (an increase over 2013!), including 6 people who were first time participants. It was a distinct pleasure to welcome Len Steele, a distinguished figure in Alberta Chess (for more than 40 years!), who was a prominent organizer of chess events from the 1970's to the 1990's. Although retired from chess in 1992, Len held a Tournament Director's (TD) workshop in June, 1995 which I attended prior to running the first Medicine Hat OPEN (September, 1995). He returned to OTB chess in 2009. In honor of his appearance and participation, he was presented with a commemorative “named” (“Len”), MHCC -logoed coffee mug and a small gold pin which celebrates the world's “**Largest Chess Set**”. I was also delighted to welcome Dr. Mark Andersen (a political science educator and chess organizer), from Browning, Montana and a retired judge, Mr. David Fletcher of Tempe Arizona, who is taking an extended road trip. We also may have had our youngest registrant ever, Quirck Migrino”, a 10 year old from Calgary. He distinguished himself well in the event! Steve Panteluk, John Quiring, and Ford Wong (returning for the first time since 2009) our most faithful, Edmonton participants, were also in attendance. It was truly gratifying to have this robust turnout along with 6 “new” participants join us to experience the Medicine Hat OPEN and our unique hospitality.

This year saw another new first time winner, Tristan Tran-Ly, a Junior from Edmonton claim 1<sup>st</sup> place. Tristan finished with a 4.5/5 record, going undefeated in the event. He had a final (5<sup>th</sup>) round draw against last year's winner, Aaron Sequil. Aaron also went undefeated, but had a draw in round 3 with David Miller. Aaron finished tied for second place, with “Mr. Power”, John Quiring. Aaron was awarded second place and the second place keeper plaque on the basis of tie-break. In fourth place in this section was David Miller with 3.5/5.

There was a five-way tie for first place in the Under 1750 (lower) section. The individuals finishing tied for first place with 2.5/5 were: Adam Szulski (Medicine Hat), Len Steele (Edmonton), Dustin Koperski (Edmonton), Mike Scholz (Calgary), and Dr. Mark C. Anderson (Browning, Montana). Our youngest Junior (Quirck Migrino) finished with 2/5. There was general agreement during casual conversation in the “skittles” room during the lunch break on Sunday that he is probably on a rapid ascent in terms of his chess knowledge and abilities. It will be difficult for mere mortals (myself, Ford, John, Steve, etc.) to beat him in a few years' time. The three top performers in the Top section, and the 5 tied for first place in the Bottom section, were awarded prizes, consisting of either merchandise, gift certificates, and cash.

True to tradition, all tournament participants were treated to the usual MHCC and “Taylor-made” hospitality. My wife, Margaret, once again was a big part in making this happen! She coordinated the Saturday Night drinks and dessert (which this year offered a thematically decorated carrot cake from the Cheesecake Café, yummy pumpkin chocolate chip cookies, frozen strawberries and ice cream. Complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate, a variety of soft drinks, Corona beer, Guinness ale, assorted muffins, a plentitude of Werther's® soft and hard candies, hickory smoked almonds, white chocolate coated almonds, Turkish Delight® small bite size chocolates, and President's Choice® (“gourmet”) jelly beans were offered up. All of this came courtesy of the generous support of **50** sponsors. Your intrepid Tournament Organizer and co-Tournament Director once again presented and cajoled others to share jokes with the assembled multitude. This tradition, started in 2009, will continue as “Laughter, truly is the best medicine”. Thank you to all who dignified my request to promote levity.

In addition to the Saturday night “**Drinks and Dessert**” social (for the thirteenth consecutive year!), we once again offered “**Lunch for a Buck**” on Sunday, for the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year. My wife (Margaret) provided thick, creamy potato cheddar soup, cold ham slices, cheese slices, lettuce, tomatoes, Kaiser buns, and garnishes so that people could make their own sandwiches. Thanks to our sponsors, **\$295.00** was injected into the tournament prize

fund, over and above the entry fees. This is the **16<sup>th</sup>** straight year that our prize fund has exceeded the value of our entry fees. With the anticipated ongoing support of our many sponsors, and the new sponsors that I recruit, I will continue to offer all of these “perks” and enhancements next year.

Medicine Hat (and Canada's) unique **GIANT CHESS SET Project** enjoyed a ninth full season. We partnered with the CORE Association in hiring two “**Chess Educators/Civic Ambassadors**” (Conrad Huculuk and Michael Strong) who worked for our Project from May 16<sup>th</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup>. They were joined by a CORE Association employee, Mr. Eric Bizio (and his support worker). I again hosted a Jazz event at the GIANT CHESS SET, featuring 5 local musicians (including myself) and Peter Curtis (a U.S. based Jazz guitarist). I'm glad that Len Steele could join me to visit the GIANT CHESS SET and witness it first hand.

I continue to encourage and challenge other tournament committees/TDs elsewhere, to offer similar enhancements at their Chess tournaments. I know that many of the participants (at the MH OPEN and elsewhere where enhancements are offered) are grateful for these kindnesses. Such enhancements would not be possible, without the support of sponsors. As stated many times before, (and I will continue to repeating myself like a broken record!), **SPONSORSHIP MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE!!** Please feel free to contact me if you want some ideas on how to go about it. It's not really that difficult. Until next year ...

### Medicine Hat Chess Club Next Step Residential Services Building

Rm. 5, 826 - 11<sup>th</sup> St. S.E.

Wednesdays

mid-September to mid-June

Contact: Bill Taylor 403.526.5484

403.527.3574,

[taylormw@shaw.ca](mailto:taylormw@shaw.ca)

### Red Deer Chess Club

Dawe Centre Library

Monday nights, 5 pm-6 pm Junior  
program, after 6 pm open play.

Contact Alexey Taranik for more  
information

Phone: 403-8721062



## Gary Ng's Winning Streak

If we take a look at the performance of the Albertan chess players during the last year or so, Gary Ng's will almost certainly be the most impressive one. Apart from gaining about 100 rating points, he finished atop of the standings in a few tournaments where the first place was at a premium.

It all started with the Calgary International Qualifier/Fundraiser that was held at the Calgary Chess Club over the course of the weekend of August 16-17, 2014.

The organizers divided the event into two sections: Open and Under 1400. The first prize in the Open section was a guaranteed spot in the main event of the 7th Calgary International festival. A total of 36 players participated in the tournament that was completely dominated by Gary. He started with four consecutive wins, then secured clear first with a last-round draw. Aaron Sequillion finished half a point behind, while there was a 5-way tie for the third place. The U1400 section was won by Quirck Migrino and Bradley Spostwood with a score of 4/5.

The 2014 Southern Alberta Open featured a very similar scenario. A total of 32 players competed at the Calgary Chess Club on November 29-30, 2014, for a qualification spot in the 2015 Alberta Closed. Again, Gary began the tournament with 4/4 leaving all the opposition behind. Then something curious occurred. His opponent in the last round, Jim Daniluk, offered a draw that would secure the leader clear first. However, Gary felt so confident that declined the offer... and had to work hard to eventually get that half a point. Well, all is well that ends well. Jim finished with 4/5 sharing the second place with FM Dale Haessel and David Miller. Dale's result could have been better if he had not unexpectedly lost to Bhavik Dave in round 2.

Finally, Gary won Section A of the annual John Schleinich Memorial in Calgary, this time along with Daniel Kazmaier. Dan prevailed in their head-to-head encounter but conceded draws to two other opponents. Since Gary won all four of his remaining games, both winners ended up with 4/5. FM Dale Haessel claimed the third place with a score of 3.5/5.

This year the Memorial was held on January 2-4, 2015, and featured a double prize fund thanks to a donation from a private sponsor. A total of 35 players participated, and the section winners were as follows: Itohan Gold (B), Nicholas Lee (C), Nimai



Round 2 of the 7th Calgary International Qualifier/Fundraiser.

Foreground: Gary Ng – Tristan Tran-Ly. Background: Mike Zeggelaar – David Miller.

Koneru (D), Dhruv Jindal (E) and Mohsen Saeed (F). Below is a game from the top Section annotated by the winner.

**Nguyen, Kim (2255) – Ng, Gary (2285) [A01]**

Schleinich Memorial A (2), 03.01.2015

Notes by Gary Ng

1.b3 e5 2.♘b2 ♘c6 3.e3 ♘f6 4.♘b5 ♘d6 5.♘e2 a6 6.♘xc6 dxc6 7.d3 ♖e7 8.h3 Out of theory.  
8.e4 ♘d7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♘d2 ♘c5 11.f4 ♘g4 12.f5 f6 13.h3 ♘xe2 14.♖xe2 a5  
Vaisser, A (2515) – Gozzoli, Y (2520)  
1/2-1/2 2010  
8...h5 9.♘d2 ♘e6 10.♘f3 ♘d7 11.c4 c5 12.♖c2 h4 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 14.♘c3 ♘6 15.♖he1 g5 16.♘e4 g4 17.♘fg5 gxh3



18.f4?! Fireworks! 18...hxg2! Best move here in a complicated and scary position. Black calmly collects two passers that white can't ignore. 19.d4? [19.♘xd6+ ♖xd6 20.♖xg2 ♖ Black is up a pawn but white has some compensation here.] 19...cxd4

[19...h3! 20.dxe5 ♘c7 21.♘d6+ ♖b8-+] 20.f5 ♘b4

[20...♘xf5 21.♘xd6+ ♖xd6 22.♖xf5 ♖f6 23.♖xf6 ♘xf6 24.♘xf7 h3 25.♘xd8 h2-+] 21.fxe6 fxe6

Not the most efficient but works.

[21...♘c5-+; 21...♘xe1 22.exd7+ ♖xd7 23.♖xe1 h3 24.♘xh3 ♖xh3 25.♖xg2 ♖]

22.♖xg2 ♘xe1 23.♖xe1 ♖dg8 24.♖g4 ♘c5 25.♘a3 ♘d3+ 26.♘d2 ♖xa3 27.♖xe6+ ♖b8 28.♘xd3 ♖e8

[28...♖xa2 Looks risky here and I missed 33...Qa5! I.e., 29.♖xe5+ ♖a8 30.♘c5 h3 31.♘ge6 h2 32.♘c7+ ♖a7 33.♖xd4 ♖a5!-+]

29.♖d6+ ♖xd6 30.♘xd6 ♖eg8 31.♘gf7 ♖h5 32.exd4 exd4 33.♘xd4?

[33.♖e7 White's best chance to draw. 33...♖a8 (33...h3? 34.♘e5 ♖a8 35.♘d7 ♖a7 36.♘e5=) 34.♘e5 ♖gh8! (34...h3? 35.♘d7 ♖a7 36.♘e5=) 35.♘d7 ♖5h7-+]

33...h3 34.♖h1 h2 35.♘e4 ♖g1 36.♘f2 ♖xh1 37.♘xh1 ♖f5 38.♘d6 c5+ 39.♘d3? ♖f1 40.♘g3 ♖d1+ 41.♘e2 ♖xd6 0-1

I am certain that Gary's upcoming tournaments will be very interesting to watch.



# 2015 Alberta Youth Chess Championship

This year's edition of the most prestigious junior event in the province took place at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel in Edmonton on February 21-22. As usual, the competition was held in 6 age groups, the winners receiving a \$1,000 travel grants from the ACA towards a trip to the 2015 Canadian Youth Chess Championship in Windsor, Ontario.

The head organizer of the event Jina Burn did a tremendous job putting everything together and going an extra mile to make the tournament memorable for the participants. A special thanks goes to Jackie Mah who found a nice venue capable of accommodating 73 players (and possibly more). Jackie also organized a hot dog station that provided meals in between the rounds for the players and their parents.

Speaking of the results, the youngest (Under 8) section was convincingly won by a 6-year-old Ron Offengenden. Ron scored a perfect 5/5 and finished a full point ahead of the runner-up Vishruth Sharma. Colton Rostoker took clear third with 3.5/5.

The Under 10 section was also won by the rating favorite Ian Zhao although he did get a lot completion from the rest of the field. Still, Ian showed the most consistent play and took clear first with 4.5/5. Andi Superceanu and Alexander Tan shared the second place with a score of 4/5.



Under 10 section, round 3.

Foreground: Mark Ivanescu – Justin Qian.  
Background: Ian Zhao – Andi Superceanu.

As usual, section Under 12 was the biggest one, Kaixin Wang being a clear rating favorite. Kaixin had a strong event overall scoring 4/5. However, it was good only for a share of the second place along with Andrew Xu. The winner of the tournament was essentially determined in the following endgame from round 4.



2015 Alberta Youth Chess Championship: playing hall during round 2

**Wang, Kaixin (1819) – Mah, Sean (1640) [B13]**  
2015 AYCC U12 (4), 22.02.2015



White is up a pawn and controls the only open file.

**38.b3?** Kaixin must have underestimated the opponent's reply. The best move is 38.h4! slowing down Black's play on the kingside. **38...h4! 39.gxh4** 39.g4 is possible and may have been the best continuation.

**39...h7! 40.f4** h4+ **41.g3** h7 **42.c4?!** The situation on the board has changed. White should activate his rook by means of **42.c8** then take a draw: **42...xd4 43.d8+ e5 44.e8+ etc.**

**42...g7+** Not bad but Black had an even better move. After **42...f4+** White

faces a difficult choice. For example, **43.f4** h3 **44.c7** f3+ **45.g4** xf2 **46.d7+** e6 and Black's passed pawn is very strong.

**43.f4** g2 **44.e3 f4+**

There is nothing wrong with **44...h2** **45.c7** h3+ **46.e2** xd4 **47.xa7** and Black can play for a full point.

**45.f4** xf2+ **46.g3?**

The losing move. Correct is **46.e3** keeping the king in front of Black's passer. After **46...f3+** **47.e2** h3 **48.c7** the position is drawn.

**46...f3+** Black can play **46...e3** immediately. **47.g2** f7 **48.c2** xd4 **49.f2** g7+ **50.f1** d3 **51.e1?** This loses on the spot. **51...g1+** **52.f1** xf1+ **53.f1** d2 0-1



U-12, Round 4: Kaixin Wang – Sean Mah

The Under 14 section featured a fierce competition for the first place as there was no clear rating favorite. In fact, it looked



like any of the top 5 seeds could have emerged victorious. In the end, Chenxi Wu crossed the finish line with 4/5, half a point ahead of Jeff Wang and Nimai Koneru. (Jeff won a tie-breaking match for the second place.) The following game represents the champion's smooth win.

**Wu, Chenxi (1663) –  
Saheb, Arya (1667) [B91]**  
2015 AYCC U14 (3), 21.02.2015



Black can be satisfied with the outcome of the opening but after **16.b4** he engages in a dubious maneuver **16...♞e5?** that his opponent punishes. Correct is **16...♞c7** with a complex position. **17.f4! ♞f6 18.♟h5! ♞g6 19.f5 exf5 20.exf5 ♞h7** The queen will be out of play for a long time. Consequently, White has a wide choice of good continuations. **21.♟e4 ♟f6 22.♟xf6+ ♟xf6 23.♟b6 ♞b8 24.♟d5 ♞e8?** After this White's advantage becomes overwhelming. **24...♟h4** is more tenacious. **25.♟xf6+ gxf6 26.♟xc6 bxc6 27.♞xd6 ♟b7 28.♟d4 h5** Black is trying to free his queen but it's too late. **28...♞g7** may prolong the agony. **29.♞xf6 hxc4 30.♞g5+ ♟f8 31.♟c5+ ♞e7 32.♞xe7+ ♟g8 33.♞g5+** White won a whole rook, and Black resigned in a few moves. **1-0**

The rating favorite Diwen Shi dominated the Under 16 section winning with a perfect score of 5/5. However, the runner-up Salar Saheb (4/5) gave Diwen a good fight in their head-to-head encounter and was actually not far from a major upset of the tournament.

**Saheb, Salar (1853) –  
Shi, Diwen (2198) [A50]**  
2015 AYCC U16 (3), 21.02.2015



Under 14 section, round 3.  
Foreground: Nimai Koneru – Jeff Wang.  
Background: Chenxi Wu – Arya Saheb

**1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 ♟c6** Diwen's pet line. **3.♟c3 e5 4.dxe5** This is unambitious and allows Black to equalize. **4.d5** is the main continuation, of course. **4...♟xe5 5.e3 ♟b4 6.♟d2 0-0 7.a3 ♟xc3 8.♟xc3 ♞e7** A novelty. **8...♞e8** was played in the only 2 games found in the database. **9.♞c2 ♞d8 10.♟xe5** There is no need to give up the bishop pair but White is eager to complete his development as quickly as possible. **10...♞xe5 11.♟f3 ♞e7 12.♟d3 d5 13.cxd5 ♟g4** Aggressive play from the rating favorite! In the meantime, there is nothing wrong with **13...♞xd5**. **14.0-0-0** Black may have underestimated this reply. **14...c6** Obviously, **14...♞xd5?** loses material to **15.♟xh7+** so Black sacrifices a pawn for the initiative. **15.dxc6 ♞dc8 16.♞a4 ♞xc6+ 17.♟b1 ♞b6 18.h3** There is no need to spend time on this move. **18.♞d2!?** strengthening the queenside is more to the point. **18...♟d7 19.♞a5 ♟e4** Black is in a hurry to create threats. Instead, **19...♟c6!?** intending to recapture on e4 with the bishop deserves attention. **20.♟xe4 ♞xe4+ 21.♟a1 ♟e6 22.♞d4 ♞c2** The critical position of the game.



Salar Saheb – Diwen Shi (U-16, Round 3)

Black's play has been quite logical so far but White has a strong resource that can put him in the driver's seat. **23.♞d2?** Unfortunately, Salar misses his chance. The consolidating **23.♞d2!** suddenly threatens a checkmate on d8 so Black has no time to take on b2. In fact, an exchange of queens is almost unavoidable leaving White with a healthy extra pawn in the endgame. **23...♞b3!** Now it's all over. **24.♟b1 ♞c8** The checkmate is inevitable, and White resigned in a few moves. **0-1**

Johnny Burn and Zacchary Schlegel finished with 3/5; Johnny then won a tie-breaking match for the third place.



Under 16 section, round 2

And last but not least, IM Richard Wang claimed the title in the Under 18 category by defeating Abraham Bwalya in a match.



Abraham Bwalya – Richard Wang (U-18)



## Kim Nguyen takes the 2015 March of Kings

The annual event took place at the Calgary Chess Club on March 14-15, 2015. Kim Nguyen was a heavy rating favorite out of 15 participants as the #2 seed was rated more than 400 CFC points below him. Kim's final result (perfect 5/5) suggests that his victory was just as easy as expected but the following fragments demonstrate that it wasn't the case at all. In fact, Kim went through two positions that the computer evaluates as totally winning for his opponents.

### Nguyen, Kim (2231) – Koneru, Nimai (1619) [B12]

2015 March of Kings (1), 14.03.2015



White has a healthy extra pawn and a positional advantage. **40.a4** Kim wants to weaken the opponent's king position but this approach suddenly backfires. Instead, energetic **40.f4!** forces favorable exchanges: **40...xg3 41. xg3 dxc8 42. g7+ de7 43. xh6 xh6 44. g7** with a much better end-game for White.

**40...dc8! 41.c4? de7 42.cxd5 cxd5 43. f4 g5 44. f3 e3 45. f1 f8! 46. a1** White's plan is now clear: the queen is going to d6. However, Black can live with it as all the other white pieces are passive.

**46...h3?** The queen doesn't do much here. Correct is **46...c6!** with the following sample continuation: **47. a3 d2! 48. d6+ c8** (the white queen is in danger of being trapped) **49. c5 b8 50. d6+ a8 51. c5** It turns out that White has no active plan and has to wait passively. Black may try to improve his position further by activating the knight **51...b4!** etc.

**47. a3 dxc8??** Unfortunately, Black misses that the f8-rook is no longer defended. After the correct **47...e8 48. d6 c6** the position is still about equal. **48. xf8 1-0**

### Wu, Chenxi (1681) – Nguyen, Kim (2231) [B91]

2015 March of Kings (4), 15.03.2015



The position is approximately equal.

**20...g6?** This overly optimistic move should have cost Black the full point. The computer recommends **20...c8** intending to exchange White's active knight. The d6-pawn is defended tactically. The game may continue **21. d3 xg3 22. xg3 d7** with equal play.

**21. e3!** Suddenly, several black pieces are hanging. **21...a5** Black can try **21...e5+** but after **22. g1 dc5 23. h6+** White picks up the f7-pawn with a large positional advantage. **22. h6+ g7 23. xe4 xe4** The critical moment of the game.



**24. f3?** Unfortunately, this wrong move order turns the tables completely. After the correct **24. xf6!** Black is in serious trouble no matter what he does. For example, **24...xe3** (Or

**24...xf6 25. f3+ e5 26. xf7+ xd5 27. d1+ etc.) 25. xf7+ xh6 26. g5+ xg5 27. g4+ h6 28. h4# 24...e5+** Now it is Black who wins. **25. g1 xd5 26. xf7 f4!** The only but sufficient move. **27. xe5 xf3 28. xf3 xf3 29. xf3** Black converted his advantage into a full point. **0-1**

The second place was shared by Mohamad Fellah and Ian Zhao. Below is their head-to-head encounter in the last round.

### Fellah, Mohamad (1657) – Zhao, Ian (1639) [C89]

2015 March of Kings (5), 15.03.2015

**1.e4 e5 2. d3 dxc6 3. b5 a6 4. a4 d6 5.0-0 e7 6. e1 b5 7. b3 0-0 8. c3 d5 9. exd5 dxd5 10. dxe5 dxe5 11. xe5 d6 12. d4 d6 13. e1 d4 14. h3 h4 15. f3** We have transposed to Capablanca–Marshall, 1918, that gave the line its name! **15...xf2 16. e2 dxc3+** Marshall opted for **16...g4 17. hxg4 h2+ 18. f1 g3** but Capablanca repelled the opponent's attack and won that historical game. **17. gxh3 xh3 18. e4 g3+ 19. xg3 xg3 20. e3 f4 21. xh3 xc1 22. h2 e8 23. a3?** A novelty that gives away a major portion of White's advantage. Correct is **23. f1. 23...e1+ 24. f2 fe8 25. b1?** Best is **25. d2** when White can still play for a win after **25...8e2+ 26. g3 xh2 27. xh2**



**25...1e2+** Unfortunately, Black decides to take an immediate draw. Instead, after **25...8e2+ 26. g3 g1+ 27. h3 e3+ 28. h4 e4+ 29. h3 eg4** White is in serious trouble. **26. g1 e1+ 27. f2 1e2+ 28. g1 e1+ 29. f2 1e2+ 1/2-1/2**



## University of Calgary wins the 2015 University Battle of Alberta

The now traditional battle among the provincial universities successfully continued in 2015 as the Mount Royal University hosted the seventh edition of the annual event for the second year in a row. A total of 38 participants from 4 universities and local communities played 10 rounds of active chess over the course of two days, February 7-8. As before, the top five individual results counted for an overall team score.

It often happened in the past that the community players occupied the whole pedestal. Looking at the final standings it seems that it was also the case this year. There is a catch, however. This time the winner of the tournament Vlad Rekhson actually represented the University of Calgary! Vlad must have been in a terrific shape as he finished with a remarkable score of 10/10. Second place went to FM Dale Haessel (8.5/10), while Kim Nguyen took clear third (7/10).

The top U of C players followed the leader amassing 32.5 team points overall. Their perennial competitor, the University of Alberta, managed only 29.0 this time. The University of Lethbridge and the Mount Royal University ended up in a tie for the third place (21.5 points each).

## Bradley Willis and Jim Daniluk at the 2014 Canadian Seniors

*Report by Bradley Willis*

The Canadian Seniors (65+) ended up being a major disappointment. I could have and should have won it after all, but I conceded two draws in the last two rounds to end up with two wins and five draws, and in a three-way tie for second place with Ruperto Frilles and Ian Findlay behind the winner, Bill Doubleday. The quality of my play was way too erratic. In both Round 1 (Evans Gambit) and again in Round 6 (Albin–Chatard–Alekhine), I launched speculative attacks against much weaker players, but mishandled them and just about came a cropper; then in Round 7 Findlay as White played the Scotch Four Knights. I couldn't spot a way to complicate things and had to bail out into a drawn endgame. However, the atmosphere was pleasant and it was a lot of fun.

So all in all it was a very worthwhile trip, though I find myself still replaying in my



Mount Royal University hosted the University Battle of Alberta in 2015

head a position from the concluding time scramble in Game 6 in which my opponent left his Queen *en pris* (to be captured with a back-rank checkmate, yet!), and for some reason I had a hallucination and did not think I could take it! A real "Charlie Brown" moment!

Jim Daniluk, on the other hand, playing in the (much stronger) 50-65 tournament, had an excellent result and from what I saw deserved to do even better than he did.

I played one decent game which (or the finish of which – the game itself wasn't up

to much but the finish was kind of nice) I have annotated for the ACR.

## Willis, Bradley (2024) – Deline, Ralph (1865)

Canadian Seniors 65+ Championship (3), 02.08.2014 (*Notes by Bradley Willis*)



In an inferior but tenable position, Ralph committed an oversight:

**35...♖bb8?** instead of 35...♖xc8 which holds. **36.♖1c7**

The game concluded **36...♗xh5**

Now if 36...♗a2 37.♗f6 ♖xc8 38.♖xh7# mate. Or if 36...♖xc8 37.♖xf7 ♖c1+ 38.♗f2 ♖ac8 39.♗d2 ♗h6 (39...♖1c2 40.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 41.♗xc2) 40.♗f6

**37.gxh5 ♖xc8 38.♖xc8 ♖xc8 39.♗xb5** and Black resigned in a few moves. **1-0**



Happy U Battle of AB winner with a trophy



# 32nd Annual Trumpeter Classic

**June 6 - 7, 2015**  
at the Sandman Hotel



**Organizer:** Wade Caughlin

Email: [wade.caughlin@sunlife.com](mailto:wade.caughlin@sunlife.com)

**Tournament Director:** Tim Pradzinski

Email: [database@telusplanet.net](mailto:database@telusplanet.net)

**Tournament Format:** 5 Round Swiss System

**Time control:** Game in 90 minutes +

30 seconds per move starting from move 1

**Register:** 8:45 am to 9:45 am Saturday morning (on site)

**Round times:**

Saturday: 10 am, 2:30 pm, 7 pm

Sunday: 9 am, 1:30 pm (or ASAP)

**Byes:** Up to two 1/2-point byes in rounds 1-4 if requested before the start of round 1

**Entry fees:** \$40 adults, \$30 juniors (20 and under)

Free entry to GM's, IM's, FM's

CFC Membership Required (can be purchased on site)

**32nd Annual Trumpeter Classic**

**Friday Night Speed Chess Tournament**

Sponsored by Caughlin Financial Services

**\$200 prize fund guaranteed**

1st – \$100, 2nd – \$60, 3rd – \$40

**Date:** June 5, 2015 (Friday Night)

**Time:** 8:00 pm at the Sandman Hotel

**Register** Friday from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm (on site)

**Time control:** Game in 5 minutes

**Entry fee:** \$10

This will be a round robin tournament limited to 10 players. If more than 10 register, the top 10 highest rated players will be selected.



This tournament is a  
**Road Warrior**  
event

**Estimated Prize Fund** (based on 20 adult entries)

**\$1,700** with **\$1,000** guaranteed

**Open Section**

1st – \$500

2nd – \$300

3rd – \$200

**Under 1900**

1st – \$250

2nd – \$150

3rd – \$100

**Under 1700**

1st – \$150

2nd – \$100



**Alberta Chess  
Association**

**Tournament Website:** <http://www.gpchessclub.com/trumpeter-classic.html>

**Sponsored by Caughlin Financial Services and the Alberta Chess Association**



## 2015 Alberta Active Championship

**Date:** August 16, 2015

**Venue:** Red Deer Lodge

**Address:** 4311 49 Ave, Red Deer, AB T4N 5Y4

**Organizer:** Alexey Taranik, email: [taranik1978@yahoo.ca](mailto:taranik1978@yahoo.ca)

**Tournament Director:** Tristan Tran-Ly

**Tournament format:** 5-round Swiss, CFC Active Rated

**Time control:** Game in 25 minutes with a 5-second increment

**On-Site Registration:** Sunday, August 16, 11:15-11:45 am

**Estimated round times:** 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

There will be a 1-hour break after round 3.

Awards ceremony will commence immediately after round 5.

**Entry fees:** \$20 for adults, \$15 for juniors (U20) and women.  
Free entry for GM/IM/FM.

CFC Membership is required and may be purchased on site.

Annual membership is \$43 for adults, \$28 for juniors.

CFC tournament membership is \$13 for adults, \$7 for juniors.

**Prize fund:** Sum of entry fees less ACA dues of \$3 per player.

**Byes:** Up to two half-point byes are allowed in rounds 1-4 if requested before the start of round 1.

**Coffee and tea** will be provided.

**Tournament Website:** <http://www.albertachess.org/2015AAC.html>



This tournament is a  
**Road Warrior**  
event



**Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association**

### TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As of May 25, 2015

1	Hansen, Eric	2630
2	Porper, Edward	2468
3	Wang, Richard	2426
4	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2386
5	Yam, Alex	2384
6	Arruebarrena, Rafael	2354
7	Reeve, Jeff	2321
8	Ng, Gary	2308
9	Valencia, Belsar	2299
10	Haynes, Nicolas	2297
11	Kazmaier, Daniel	2296
12	Matras-Clement, Agnieszka	2279
13	Haessel, Dale	2266
14	Gardner, Robert J.	2237
15	Booker, Brad	2229
16	Miller, David	2227
17	Sequillion, Aaron	2223
18	Hughey, Micah	2217
19	Rekhson, Vladislav	2214
20	Shi, Diwen	2214
21	Robichaud, Martin	2213
22	Nguyen, Kim	2212
23	Cheng, Louis	2166
24	Ottosen, David	2136
25	Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz	2135
26	Gold, Itohan	2108
27	Tran-Ly, Tristan	2106
28	Kostadinov, Georgi	2092
29	Abdelrhman, Hamid	2091
30	Beaudry, Lukas	2065
31	Daniluk, Jim	2062
32	Parveen, Seyda Shabana	2052
33	Adagha, Ovo	2034
34	Yearwood, Roy	2001
35	Zeggelaar, Mike	1995
36	Pivovarov, Juraj	1991
37	Karmali, Hafiz	1975
38	Briones, Dante	1969
39	Purewal, Sardul	1961
40	Willis, Bradley J.	1951

### TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

As of May 1, 2015

1	GM Hansen, Eric	2580
2	IM Porper, Edward	2411
3	IM Wang, Richard	2361
4	FM Pechenkin, Vladimir	2314
5	FM Yam, Alex	2306
6	Matras-Clement, Agnieszka	2269
7	Arruebarrena, Rafael	2266
8	Reeve, Jeff	2254
9	Valencia, Belsar	2229
10	Ng, Gary	2204



## 2015 ACA Tournament Schedule

All tournaments subject to change by the ACA and/or Organizer. For updated info, visit our website:

[www.albertachess.org/](http://www.albertachess.org/)

Tournaments noted with a star are eligible for

### *Road Warrior* Points.

Date	Event	Organizer	Location
Jan 2-4	Schleinich Sectional*	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Jan 24	Calgary Youth	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Jan 31	Lethbridge Youth	Peter Davis-Imhof	Lethbridge
Jan 31	Fort McMurray Youth	Jina Burn	Ft. McMurray
Feb 7-8	University Battle of AB*	MR University	Calgary
Feb 14-15	Northern AB Open*	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton
Feb 21-22	AB Youth Championship	Jina Burn	Edmonton
Mar 14-15	March of Kings*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Apr 3-5	AB Closed/Reserves*	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary
Apr 11	Edmonton Schools	Leah Hughey	Edmonton
Apr 11-12	Lethbridge Open*	Dr. P. Viminitz	Lethbridge
Apr 25	Calgary Schools	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Apr 25	Fort McMurray Schools	Jina Burn	Ft. McMurray
Apr 25-26	AB Women's	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton
Apr 25-26	AB Seniors	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton
May 2-3	Edmonton Int. Qualifier*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
May 16-17	Red Deer Open*	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer
May 23	AB Schools	Paul Gagne	Calgary
May 30-31	Calgary Int. Fundraiser*	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary
Jun 6-7	32nd Trumpeter Classic*	Wade Caughlin	Grande Prairie
Jun 20-28	10th Edmonton Intl.*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Jun 26-28	10th Edm. Intl. Reserves*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Jul 4-5	Fort McMurray Open*	Jina Burn	Ft. McMurray
Jul 29-Aug 3	8th Calgary International*	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary
Aug 16	AB Active	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer
Sep 5-6	Over/Under 1800*	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Sep 12	Battle of AB	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer
Sep 19-20	Medicine Hat Open*	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 3-4	Edmonton Jr. Regional	David Miller	Edmonton
Oct 10-12	AB Open*	David Miller	Edmonton
Oct 17-18	Calgary Jr. Regional	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Nov 6-8	Edmonton Fall Sectional*	Leah Hughey	Edmonton
Nov 14-15	AB Jr./Reserves	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Nov 28-29	Southern AB Open*	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Dec 12-13	WBX Team Tournament*	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton

## Road Warrior Update



The Road Warrior competition rewards players who participate in open ACA events with points based on the distance of their travel. For example, if you travel from Edmonton to Calgary, 3 points are awarded for travel. A trip from Grande Prairie to Edmonton will earn you 5 points. An additional point is awarded to all the tournament participants.

In 2014, a total of 212 Albertans took part in the open ACA events eligible for Road Warrior points.

The prizes in 2014 were distributed as follows:

1st: \$200 – David Miller

2nd: \$100 – Aaron Sequillion

3rd: \$50 – Tristan Tran-Ly

A special draw prize of \$150 was awarded to one player who travelled to at least two open ACA events outside their region (one hour of travel or more). The draw took place at the first ACA event of 2014, the John Schleinich Memorial. A total of 35 players were eligible for the draw, John Quiring emerging as a lucky winner.

Full details and regulations can be found at:  
[www.albertachess.org/Road\\_Warrior.html](http://www.albertachess.org/Road_Warrior.html)

### 2014 Final Standings

1	David Miller	Edmonton	<b>59.5</b>
2	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	<b>48.0</b>
3	Tristan Tran-Ly	Edmonton	<b>41.5</b>
4	Chris White	La Crete	<b>39.5</b>
5	Dustin Koperski	Edmonton	<b>39.0</b>
6	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	<b>28.5</b>
7	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	<b>28.0</b>
8	Vladimir Pechenkin	Edmonton	<b>27.0</b>
9	Robert Gardner	Edmonton	<b>19.0</b>
10	Kim Nguyen	Calgary	<b>19.0</b>
11	Diwen Shi	Calgary	<b>19.0</b>
12	Mark Dodd	Calgary	<b>18.5</b>
13	John Quiring	Edmonton	<b>18.0</b>
14	Steve Panteluk	Edmonton	<b>18.0</b>

<b>Airdrie Chess Club</b> Airdrie Public Library 111 304 Main Street Contact: Larry Besplug (president) email: <a href="mailto:besplug@shaw.ca">besplug@shaw.ca</a> or Dennis Young: <a href="mailto:panaspor@hotmail.com">panaspor@hotmail.com</a>	<b>La Crete Chess Club</b> Contact: Chris White Phone or Text: (780) 821-0044 (Cell) Email: <a href="mailto:cwnlca@gmail.com">cwnlca@gmail.com</a>
<b>Calgary Chess Club</b> 274 3359 27th St. NE Parma Tech Centre, North Building Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday from 12:30 to 5 pm. phone: 403.264.9498 website: <a href="http://www.calgarychess.com">www.calgarychess.com</a>	<b>Lethbridge Chess Club</b> Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South (on the second floor in the games room) 6:00pm until 9 or 10pm <a href="http://www.lethbridgechess.ca">www.lethbridgechess.ca</a> Contact: Paul Viminitz <a href="mailto:vimip0@uleth.ca">vimip0@uleth.ca</a>
<b>Calgary Junior Chess Club</b> Contact: Paul Gagne email: <a href="mailto:paul.gagne@cassd.ab.ca">paul.gagne@cassd.ab.ca</a> website: <a href="http://www.calgarychess.com">www.calgarychess.com</a>	<b>University of Lethbridge Chess Club</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:gregory.d.holmes.1@facebook.com">gregory.d.holmes.1@facebook.com</a>
<b>University of Calgary Chess Club</b> email: <a href="mailto:mwanless@gmail.com">mwanless@gmail.com</a>	<b>Lloydminster</b> Contact: Terry Chaisson phone: 780.875.8186 or 780.871.3995
<b>Edmonton Chess Club</b> #204 10840-124 St Mondays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. phone: 780.424.0283 website: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/TheEdmontonChessClub?fref=ts">http://www.facebook.com/TheEdmontonChessClub?fref=ts</a>	<b>Okotoks Chess Club</b> Contact: Richard Bradley Email: <a href="mailto:richard.bradley@shaw.ca">richard.bradley@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Grande Prairie Chess Club</b> Contact Tim Pradzinski phone: 780.518.2281 email: <a href="mailto:database@telusplanet.net">database@telusplanet.net</a> website: <a href="http://www.gpchessclub.com">www.gpchessclub.com</a>	<b>Medicine Hat Chess Club</b> 826 - 11th St. S.E. Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor phone: 403.526.5484 email: <a href="mailto:taylormw@shaw.ca">taylormw@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Fort McMurray Chess Club</b> Westwood Family YMCA: 221 Tundra Drive. Thursday for adults 6PM -10PM and for kids every Saturday 1-4PM. For more information call Jina at: 780.715.9332 or e-mail at: <a href="mailto:swp@shaw">swp@shaw</a>	<b>Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club</b> Earl Kitchener School, Community Room 211 4th St. S.E. End of October to early March, Saturdays 1:30-4 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor Ph:403.526.5484 email: <a href="mailto:taylormw@shaw.ca">taylormw@shaw.ca</a>
<b>University of Alberta</b> All skill levels welcome to attend! Blitz once each month in CAB 373 or 369 Email <a href="mailto:uachess@ualberta.ca">uachess@ualberta.ca</a> for info <a href="http://uachess.wikifoundry.com/">http://uachess.wikifoundry.com/</a>	<b>Sherwood Park</b> Strathcona County Library, 2nd Floor Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to closing Contact: Les Jones phone: 780.467.7393
<b>Lethbridge Junior Chess</b> Family Centre, Suite 225, 200 - 4th Avenue South, Lethbridge Centre Towards a Brighter Future Presentation Room. 2:30-4:00 pm Fridays Phone: 403.320.4232 Website: <a href="http://www.famcentre.ca/">http://www.famcentre.ca/</a> Contact: Kent Karapita email: <a href="mailto:kentkarapita@hotmail.com">kentkarapita@hotmail.com</a> or Peter Davis-Imhof: email: <a href="mailto:peter.davisimhof@gmail.com">peter.davisimhof@gmail.com</a>	<b>Wainwright Chess Club</b> Showtime Video 701-10 Main St. Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact: Allen Tinio phone: 780.842.4123 email: <a href="mailto:amtinio@telus.net">amtinio@telus.net</a>
<b>Red Deer Chess Club</b> Contact: Alexey Taranik phone: 403-872-1062 email: <a href="mailto:taranik1978@yahoo.ca">taranik1978@yahoo.ca</a>	

## Edmonton Chess Club

#204, 10840-124 St.



**Mondays & Thursday**

**7-11 p.m.**

**Saturdays**

**1-5 p.m.**

**Phone 780.424.0283**

**Website**

<http://www.facebook.com/TheEdmontonChessClub?fref=ts>



**Contact us:**

Wade Caughlin

Email :

[wade.caughlin@sunlife.com](mailto:wade.caughlin@sunlife.com)

[www.gpchessclub.com](http://www.gpchessclub.com)

## Calgary Chess Club



**274 3359 27th St. NE**

**Tuesdays, Thursdays**

**from 7 p.m.**

**Saturday Junior program**

**10 am-4pm**

**Lessons available**

[www.calgarychess.com](http://www.calgarychess.com)

## Fort McMurray Chess Club

Fort McMurray Chess Club is open at Westwood Family YMCA: 221 Tundra Drive.

Every Thursday for adults 6PM -10PM and for kids every Saturday 1-4PM.

For more information call Jina at:

780.715.9332 or e-mail at: [swp@shaw.ca](mailto:swp@shaw.ca)





# 8<sup>th</sup> Calgary International Chess Classic

July 29-August 3, 2015

Calgary Chess Club

#204-3359 27<sup>th</sup> St. NE

[www.calgary-international.com](http://www.calgary-international.com)

Contact: Vlad Rekhson

[vrehson@yahoo.ca](mailto:vrehson@yahoo.ca)



**Lecture/Simul/Camp**

TBA

**Calgary International Blitz Championship**

Aug 2, 2015



## 8th Calgary International

Open to all

July 29-Aug 3

Open Swiss

CFC & FIDE rated

GM/IM norm opportunities

Top games will be broadcast live

**Calgary International Qualifier/Fundraiser**

May 30-31, 2015

Open and U/1400 sections.

[Calgary-international.com/sideevents.php](http://Calgary-international.com/sideevents.php)



Featured players include:

GM Aleksandr Lenderman (USA)

GM Victor Mikhalevski (Israel)

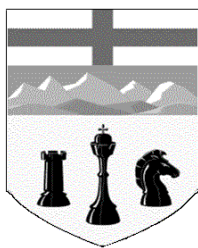
GM Michael Roiz (Israel)

IM Richard Wang (Canada)

And more to come...



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Dale Haessel, President

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Development"



Calgary Chess  
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[www.calgary-international.com](http://www.calgary-international.com)