



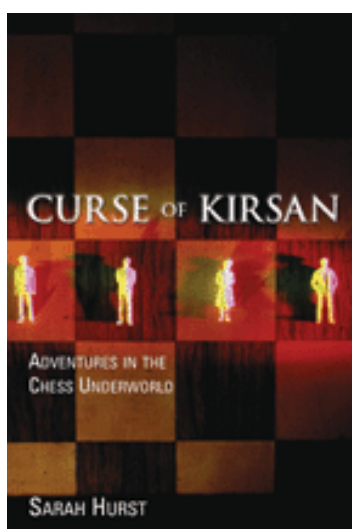
The Future of Women's Chess in America

I have previously spoken a lot about the status of women's chess. I am proud to see that many women have had wonderful results and the level of play has improved quite a bit. We are not there yet but we are on the right track.

COLUMNISTS

Susan Polgar on Chess

Susan Polgar



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Recently after the Bled Olympiad, my sister Judit became the first woman to break the 2700 rating barrier. She followed that up with finishing first in Benidorm, beating FIDE world champion Ruslan Ponomarev in the play-off. Last week, she finished second at the Corus Super Tournament, ahead of world champions Vladimir Kramnik, Ruslan Ponomarev and Anatoly Karpov.

We do not have to look far to see that we have some good women players in our backyard and they are the future of chess in this country. The following are some information about four of the top women players in America.

IM Irina Krush

US Women's Champion, Pan Am Youth Champion and Two-time Olympian

International Master Irina Krush was born on December 24, 1983 in Odessa, Ukraine. Her family immigrated to the New York City from Odessa just before she was 5 years old. It was her father who introduced her to the game of chess.

Though she is young, Irina has already accomplished a lot. She convincingly won the prestigious 1998 U.S. Women's Championship. In 2000, Irina became the first American woman to earn the International Master title. And, in January 2003, Irina tied for first among women at the U.S. Championship in Seattle.



Irina was one of the key world team coaches in the Kasparov versus the world match on Microsoft Network. Irina has also represented the United States in the FIDE World Junior Championship for Girls and at the Pan American Youth Games. Irina won the bronze medal in 1998 and tied for first in 1999 at the World Junior Championship for Girls. She was the gold medallist in the 1998 Pan-American Youth Championships in Brazil with a perfect score of 7-0.

Irina has been the top American player (boys and girls) under age 16 several times. In 2001, she finished tied for first at the NY City Mayor's Cup International Chess Tournament while gaining her first men's grandmaster norm. Recently, Irina played top board for the U.S. women's olympiad team in Bled, Slovenia and finished 4th in best individual performance.

The aspect she likes most about chess is the fight. Her other interests and hobbies include tennis, reading and shopping. Irina also loves to travel. Her favorite country is India and her favorite city is St. Petersburg, Russia. Irina is currently attending New York University. With tremendous chess talent and a wonderful personality, Irina is a role model for thousands of young girls and boys across the country.

WIM Jennifer Shahade

US Women's Champion and Two-time Olympian

Women's international master Jennifer Shahade was born on December 31, 1980 in Philadelphia. She discovered the game of chess through her father Michael, a FIDE Master. Her brother Gregory is an international master and a former Samford Scholarship winner. She likes the emotional intensity of the game and the joys of a critical win or a brilliant combination. Jennifer's fearless attacking style often creates sharp, dramatic and interesting games, something that is always a thrill for the audience.



Susan Polgar and Jennifer Shahade

Jennifer was the U.S. Junior Open Champion in 1998. Last year at the U.S. Championship in Seattle, Jennifer became the U.S. Women's Champion for the first time. In addition to winning the prestigious national championship, Jennifer also earned her first international master norm. Jennifer is only the second U.S. woman in history to reach this level of excellence in chess competition. Jennifer

secured her second IM and WGM norm in January 2003 when she tied for

first among women at this year's U.S. Championship.

Jennifer has represented the United States in the past two Olympiads in Bled and Istanbul. She also represented New York University, along with Irina Krush, in the previous Pan American Team Championship in Miami, Florida. Jennifer has just recently graduated from New York University.

She has been teaching chess part time for the last four years for Chess in the Schools, a non-profit organization based in New York and has found teaching chess to enthusiastic students to be great fun. Jennifer's outgoing personality and charms often makes her the fan's favorite. With her recent accomplishments in the past few years, she is a true inspiration for boys and girls nationwide. There are little doubts that Jennifer's chess future is very bright.

WGM Anna Zatonskih

Two-time Ukrainian Women's Champion and Two-time Olympian

Women's grandmaster Anna Zatonskih was born on July 17, 1978 in Mariupol, Ukraine. She first picked up the game from her father at age 5 and he continued to help Anna for a long time. At the age of 8, she switched her focus in chess from a mere hobby to a full-time career. This decision really paid dividends in a big way as she has so far achieved many wonderful results in international competition.

Anna became a women's international master in 1995 and an international women's grandmaster in 1999. In 2000, she obtained the title of Master of Sports. In the same year, she broke into the world's top 20 for women at number 19. Some of her impressive results include winning back to back Ukrainian Women's Championship in 2001 and 2002, the Women's World Championship Zonal Tournament Champion in 1999, two-time Ukrainian Junior Champion (for girls under 20 in 1997 and girls under 14 in 1992), and Bulgarian Women's Open Champion in 1993 among other fine results. She is also a two-time Olympian (6th place in 2002 and 4th place in 2000).



Anna Zatonskih

Recently, Anna finished half point out of first place, scoring her second international master norm at the Lindsborg Rotary Open, just barely missing a grandmaster norm. During her career, Anna has visited more than 20 countries and won the top prizes more than 30 times. Anna and her husband live in Ohio, where she teaches chess, while continuing to play chess professionally. She currently ranks as one of the top women players in the United States. Anna is committed to improve her game to the next level. She also hopes to represent the United States in future international competitions. I am sure she will make U.S. all proud.

WGM Rusudan “Rusa” Goletiani

European Junior Co-Champion and Three-time World Junior Champion

Women’s grandmaster “Rusa” Goletiani was born on September 8, 1980 in the Republic of Georgia, the same country that has produced two great women’s world champions, Nona Gaprindashvili and Maia Chiburdanidze. She learned chess from her father at the age of 6. Since then, she has compiled an impressive chess resume even though she faced a lot of hardships after her mother died in a car accident when Rusa was only 12.

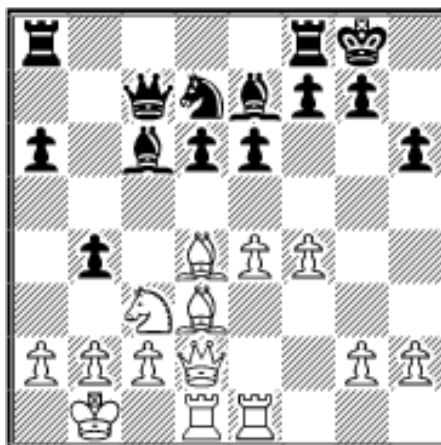
Rusa has been ranked as one of the top young women players in the world and is now ranked among the best women players in the United States. Some of her most impressive results include winning three World Junior Championships (girls under 14, 16, and 18). She was also the European Junior Co-Champion (girls under 20), tied for second in World Championship Zonal Tournament and tied for second place in the Moscow International Tournament. Rusa has also won the USSR, Georgia and Russia National Junior Championship in her age group.

In 1998, Rusa earned the women’s grandmaster title. She moved to the United States in 2000 and she is currently working as a chess instructor for the National Scholastic Chess Foundation, a non-profit organization in New York, run by the famous scholastic coach Sunil Weeramantry, helping the stars of tomorrow. She feels that her best results are ahead of her. With that determination, I am sure we can see a lot more of Rusa’s name in the spot light in the near future.

Below are examples of games by these talented young ladies:

WGM Anna Zatonskih – WGM Alexandra Kosteniuk 12/2000

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 a6 8. 0-0-0 h6 9. Be3 Bd7 10. f3 b5 11. Nxc6 Bxc6 12. Kb1 Qc7 13. Bd3 Nd7 14. Rhe1 Be7 15. Bd4 0-0 16. f4 b4



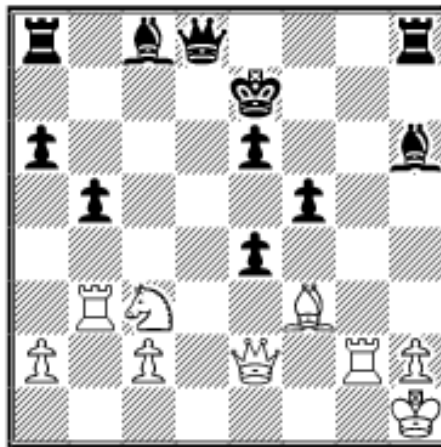
17...Bxd5 18. exd5 e5 19. Bf5 Bf6 20. Bxd7 exd4 21. Bc6 Rab8 22. g4 Qd8 23. Rh1 a5 24. Qd3 g6 25. Rd2 Rc8 26. h4 Bxh4 27. g5 hxg5 28. fxg5 Bxg5 29. Qh3 Bh4 30. Qxh4 Qxh4 31. Rxh4 Kg7 32. Rhxd4 Rh8 33. a3 bxa3 34. b3 f5 35. Ra4 g5 36. Rxa5 g4 37. Ra7+ Kf6 38. Bd7 Rcf8 39. Be6 g3 40. Rg2 f4 41. b4 Rb8 42. Rf7+ Kg5 43. c3 Rh1+ 44. Ka2 Rbh8 45. Kxa3 Rb1 46. Ka4 Rh6 47. Rf5+ Kg4 48. Rf6+ Kg5 49. Rxh6 Kxh6

50. c4 Kg5 51. c5 dxc5 52. bxc5 Kh4 53. Rd2 Re1 54. d6 Rxe6 55. d7 Ra6+ 56. Kb4 Ra8 57. c6 Rb8+ 58. Ka5 f3 59. c7 Black Resigns

WIM *Jennifer Shahade* - WGM *Pin Wang* Bled Olympiad, 2002

This game was annotated by WIM Jennifer Shahade.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 In the China - U.S.A Summit match, I tried Be3, and lost. **6...e6 7. f4 Qb6 8. Qd2 Qxb2 9. Rb1 Qa3 10. Bxf6 gxf6 11. Be2 h5 12. 0-0 Nd7** Slightly unusual. (12...Nc6 13. Nxc6 bxc6 14. Kh1 Qa5 15. f5 Be7 16. Bf3 is the more theoretical variation.) **13. Kh1 Nc5 14. f5 Be7 15. Rf3** Although it works well in the game, objectively, the rook maneuver is too artificial. The natural 15. Bf3 gives white a good attacking position. **15...Qa5 16. Rg3 h4 17. Rg7 Bf8 18. Rg4 h3** (18...Na4 taking advantage of the removal of the rook from the third rank, is possible. 19. Rb3 Bh6 20. Qe1 Nxc3 21. Rxc3 Qxa2 22. Rxh4 and the passed a-pawn does not seem particularly relevant.) **19. fxe6 fxe6 20. e5! dxe5 21. Nb3 Nxb3 22. Rxb3 Bh6 23. Qd3 f5 24. Rg6 hxg2+ 25. Rxg2 Qd8 26. Bh5+ Ke7 27. Qe2?** Ruining an otherwise well-played game. The queen belongs on the dark squares, and 27. Qe2 loses a crucial tempo. Black defends well after 27...Qd4! (27. Qg3! Qd4 28. Ne2. And now the e2 square is free for the knight to force the queen out of the powerful d4 post.) **27...b5?** This mistake allows me to win stylishly. 27...b5 does follow the principle of getting all the pieces into the game, which is well demonstrated after 28. Qe5? Bb7! But in this position, the very unprincipled, undeveloping Queen sortie was correct (27...Qd4!) **28. Bf3 e4**



29. Nxe4! fxe4 30. Qxe4 Bd7 31. Qb4+ Kf6 32. Qh4+ Kf7 (32...Ke5 33. Re2+ Kd6 34. Rd3+ Kc7 35. Rc3+ Kb8 [35...Kd6 36. Qb4#] 36. Qg3+ Ka7 37. Rc7+ Kb8) 33. Bh5+ Kf8 34. Rf3+ Black Resigns

WGM Rusudan Goletiani - WIM Elena Lopatskaya Moscow, 1998

1. Nf3 c5 2. e4 Nf6 3. d3 Nc6 4. g3 d5 5. Nbd2 e5 6. Bg2 Be7 7. 0-0 0-0
8. exd5 Nxd5 9. Re1 f6 10. c3 Kh8 11. Nh4 Be6 12. f4 Qd7 13. f5 Bf7
14. Be4 b5 15. Qf3 Rfd8 16. a4 a6 17. axb5 axb5 18. Rxa8 Rxa8 19. c4
bxc4 20. dxc4 Ndb4



21. Ng6+ hxg6 22. fxg6 Be6 23. Bf5
Kg8 24. Qh5 24...Qd6 25. Ne4 Qd4+
26. Be3 Qxc4 27. Bxe6+ Qxe6 28.
Ng5 Black Resigns

IM Irina Krush – IM Julian Estrada Nieto Oakham, 2001

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 b5 6. Bb3 Bc5 7. c3 d6
8. a4 Bb7 9. d4 Bb6 10. Re1 0-0 11. Bg5 h6 12. Bh4 g5



13. Nxg5 hxg5 14. Bxg5 exd4 15.
Bd5 Kg7 16. cxd4 Qd7 17. Ra3 Nh7
18. Rg3 Kh8 19. Qh5 Bxd4 20. e5
Bxe5 21. Bf6+ Bxf6 22. Be4 Black
Resigns

Photograph of Anna Zatonskih provided by her; all other photographs
courtesy Paul Truong.

Paul Truong assisted Susan Polgar in the preparation of this column. Susan
Polgar is available for chess instruction. For more information, visit the
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