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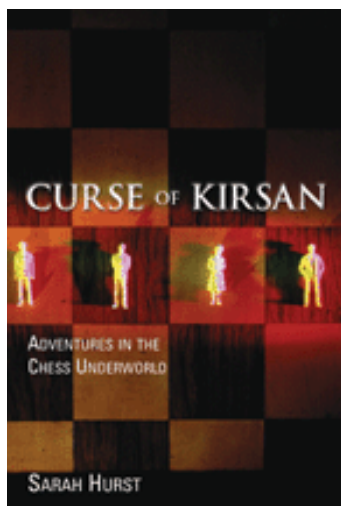


The Annual Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls

COLUMNISTS

Susan Polgar on Chess

Susan Polgar



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When I first learned how to play chess, I immediately had success in girls' tournaments, winning the Budapest Championship for Girls under 11 at the age of 4 with a perfect 10-0 score. After that, I was encouraged to play against boys and men. My ultimate goal at that time was not to be the best woman player of all time; I wanted to win the overall World Championship. My sight was focused in the big picture.

However, as I stated in one of my earlier articles, I did not have an easy time. I had to face a lot of discrimination throughout the years, right up to today. If it were not for the love, support and commitment of my family, I would not be where I am today. Even in the 21st century, women are still being discriminated against daily. I just watched a documentary produced by Sundance about women under the Taliban regime. Women have to cover their faces and they are being treated like slaves as well as sex objects. They have no say. They cannot have an education. They are not allowed to think for themselves. They have no life. They are born to serve.

Even after the end of the Taliban regime in some parts of the world, not much has changed. In this documentary, it was shown that young girls are officially allowed to go back to school in Iraq. But when they do, many old men protest. They go as far as throwing acid on these young innocent girls' faces to deter them from going to school. I still cannot believe that this mentality still exists in 2003. But it does.

This is why the Annual Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls is a very important event for me. I understand and realize that not all girls have the same dream as mine to be the overall world champion. Some do and some don't. Many girls just love to play chess. But they view chess differently. While boys are more results oriented and play to win at all costs, many girls view chess more for the artistic side of it. It is also an avenue for many of them to make new friends, travel to places, and gain valuable life experiences.

Chess has been proven to help young children enhance many skills for school and for life. Therefore, the goal is to have as many girls as possible play chess. I

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want to provide additional opportunities for young girls of America to play chess at their own pace, to fully enjoy and appreciate it, to raise their self-esteem and confidence, and maybe to earn chess scholarships along the way. For girls who like chess as a game, I welcome them. For girls who want to become chess champions, I welcome them too. I would like to reach out to all of them, not just the higher rated ones.

There are 3 main goals I would like to accomplish:

1. **Retain the girls:** There is a big drop-off for girls playing chess after a certain age (around 5th - 6th grade). I would like to change that. I would like to give more incentives for girls to stay in chess longer, even if they have no interest in becoming a chess professional.
2. **Increase the membership:** Some researches have shown that there are 35-40 million people who know how to play chess. And from this number, only about 100,000 are members of the United States Chess Federation. This is not good enough. I hope by raising the motivation for girls to be involved in chess, the membership for girls will increase substantially, and that will automatically help the USCF increase its membership level.
3. **Raise the top level:** In addition to getting more girls in chess, I would also like to raise the top level of women's chess. That is why the Women's Chess Olympiad Program was created. In addition, I am looking forward to changing the general interest in chess which in turn will bring in serious sponsors and that will help raise the overall prize funds.

Other initiatives were also planned and they will be announced publicly in the near future. Two of those initiatives are the US Junior Open for Girls (approved by USCF and the Scholastic Council) and the National Chess Training Program for Gifted Girls. These programs will be sponsored by the Kasparov Chess Foundation, with the assistance and endorsement by the United States Chess Federation and the US Women's Chess Committee.

We all believe in chess and we all believe that chess can help our youngsters excel. That is why it is my mission to help chess rise to a new level. I am so fortunate to have so much support in these projects from friends and colleagues from across the country such as Dewain Barber, Ralph Bowman, GM Arnold Denker, members of the scholastic committee/council, etc. Together, we will make a difference for the next generation and generations to come.

Many parents have asked me about the criteria and rules for the **Annual Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls**. Below is our first draft. A few minor details may be changed. But the idea will remain the same. This tournament will be very similar to the Denker Tournament of Champions. We did make a few modifications. Future updates will be available on my website at www.SusanPolgar.com as well as the USCF website.

**Rules and Conditions
for the
Annual Susan Polgar
National Invitational for Girls
(1st Draft - August 2003)**

1. The tournament shall be played during the U.S. Open Championship each year. Starting time of each round shall be at 11:00 A.M. The time control shall be Game/120 minutes. Registration shall be required at pre-tournament registration.
2. Each state shall be allowed one representative. Alternates may be substituted as the official representative no later than June 1. (If there are an odd number of entrants in the tournament, the Chairman of the Polgar Committee may allow the host state to enter an additional qualified player.) The Chairperson of the Polgar Committee may allow exceptions for cause from the entry deadline of May 25. Should the state affiliate fail to respond to the notice for this tournament, the Chairperson of the Polgar Committee and/or USCF may determine in its sole discretion the candidate from that state. Alternates may be substituted as the official representative no later than June 1.
3. All players must be under the age of 19 as of September 1 of the year in which the tournament is held, and have been enrolled, during the previous spring, in a school located in the state they represent. Students who are home schooled on a full time basis prior to June 1 of the year in which the tournament is held and under the age of 19 as of September 1 of the year in which the tournament is held, are eligible to represent the state in which they reside. Proof of eligibility shall be the responsibility of the players and the state official certifying the representative and alternate.
4. All players must be under the age of 19 on September 1 of the year in which the tournament is held, and have been enrolled, in a school (up to 12th grade) located in the state they represent. Home schooled students who are under the age of 19 on September 1 of the year in which the tournament is held and who have never attended college on a full time basis prior to June 1 of the year in which the tournament is held, are eligible to represent the state in which they reside. Proof of eligibility shall be the responsibility of the players and of the state official certifying the representative and alternate.
5. Players shall be required to play in and complete all six rounds of the tournament. Failure to do so, without permission of the Tournament Director, will result in a forfeiture of expense monies.
6. Player shall be required to furnish the Tournament Director with a legible and complete score sheet.

7. Players shall be required to furnish the Tournament Director an emergency phone number of a parent/guardian.
8. Players are responsible for their own travel and hotel expenses.
9. Players who complete the tournament shall receive a minimum of **\$100 (maximum \$200)** in travel stipend from the sum of **\$5,000**, which is provided by the Susan Polgar Foundation.
10. The prize fund, sponsored by the Susan Polgar Foundation, shall be \$1,250 divided into four scholarship prizes: **1st. \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$250, 4th \$200**. These prizes shall be paid to the players directly by the Susan Polgar Foundation, but only upon receipt of proof of enrollment in a college, trade or technical school.
11. The winner of the tournament shall be crowned the Susan Polgar National Invitational Champion. In case of ties, co-champions shall be recognized.
12. The University of Texas at Dallas plans to award a full four-year academic scholarship to the highest finishing player who has not graduated from high school by August. In the case of ties for these scholarships, tie-breaks used will be 1. Modified Median. 2. Solkoff 3. Cumulative and 4. Cumulative of Opposition, in that order.
13. It is the goal of the Polgar Committee to have all 50 states (2 for California), the District of Columbia, and the Territories of the United States represented. Consequently, we strongly encourage each state affiliate and the District of Columbia to hold a scholastic championship tournament to determine its girls' champion. Failing this, rating criteria may be acceptable.
14. A scholastic girls' champion or the highest rated girls' scholastic player in a state that has no state affiliate of the USCF should contact the Chairman of the Polgar Committee who is currently: FM Paul Truong, c/o Polgar Chess Center 97-09 64th Road Rego Park, NY 11374 - Tel: 718-897-4600 or Mobile (917) 224-6824 - E-mail: PaulTruong@aol.com
15. The Chairman of the Polgar Committee and its members may elect to award up to 2 wild cards each year for the Susan Polgar National Invitation for Girls based on very special circumstances and in its sole discretion.

The final official version will be posted on the USCF website as well as my own website.

US Women's Chess Update:

- **WGM Anna Zatonskih** who just recently scored her 3rd and final IM norm at the 2003 World Open, finished as the top Women Player at the 2003 US Open Championship in Los Angeles. She scored 9/12. She also tied for 7th overall. Anna is currently ranked #2 in the US in USCF rating (nearly 2500) and #3 in FIDE rating (nearly 2450), just right behind IM Irina Krush.
- **WGM Rusa Goletiani** scored 8½/12 at the 2003 US Open Championship. She earned her spot at the 2004 US Championship by winning the qualifying spot. Even without much opportunity to play chess in the past few years, Rusa proved that she is a fighter with 8 wins, 3

losses and only 1 draw.

- **WFM Tatev Abrahamyan** (a 15-year old sensation from California) also scored 8½/12 at the 2003 US Open Championship, defeating a few GMs along the way. Even though she finished with the same score as WGM Goletiani, she barely lost out on tie-breaks. I was very impressed by Tatev's play and I see very bright future ahead of her.

Cheparinov, I. (2529) - Krush, I. (2449)

Andorra (5), 09.07.2003

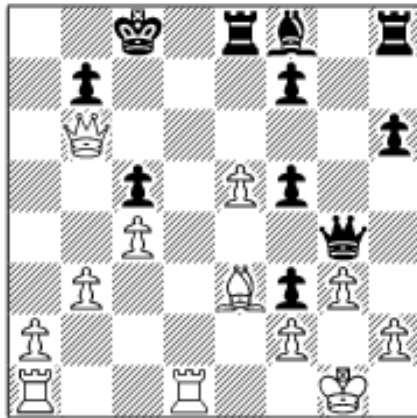
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Re1 Bf5 10.c5 Bc7 11.Nc3 Re8 12.Qc2 Nd7 13.b4 Bg6 14.Bb2 Re6 15.Ne2 Qe7 16.Ng3 Re8 17.Qb3 h5 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.d5 cxd5 20.Nd4 h4 21.Nf1 Qg5 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Bd4 Bh5 24.Kh1 Rf8 25.b5 Ne5 26.Qe3 Qg6 27.b6 axb6 28.cxb6 Bd6 29.Bxe5 Bxe5 30.Rab1 Rf3 31.Qc5 Qf5 32.Qc8+ Kh7 33.Qd8 Bf6 34.Qc7 Rxf2 35.Ne3 Qg5 36.Qxb7 Bd4 37.Rf1 Qxe3 38.Rxf2 Qxf2 39.Qc7 Bf3 0-1

Polgar, J. (2715) - Fernandez Garcia, J. (2452)

Basque Country vs. World Rapid Santurtzi ESP (6), 03.05.2003

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 c6 6.c4 Nb6 7.Nbd2 N8d7 8.0-0 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Bf5 11.Bg4 e6 12.Bxf5 exf5 13.Qc2 Qd7 14.Nf3 0-0-0 15.Bg5 Qd3 16.Qc1 Re8 17.b3 h6 18.Rd1 Qe4 19.Be3 c5 20.Qa3 g5 21.Qxa7 g4 22.Qxb6 gxf3 23.g3 Qg4

24.Rd7 1-0



Polgar, J. (2715) - Izeta, F. (2470)

Basque Country vs. World Blindfold Santurtzi ESP (2), 01.05.2003

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 This is called the Czech System of the Pirc. It has become a more common choice only in the past decade. Black used to play almost exclusively 3...g6. **4.a4** Preventing a future pawn advance (by b7-b5) on the Queenside. **4...e5 5.Nf3 Bg4** Maybe 5...Qc7 was safer. **6.dxe5 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 dxe5 8.Bc4 Nbd7**



Probably this natural looking move is already the decisive mistake. Although after the better 8...Be7 White also won convincingly in the following short game: 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Ne2 Qc7 12.Ng3 Kh8 13.Bd2 a5 14.h4 Nc5 15.Bc3 Ne6 16.Nf5 Bb4 17.Nxg7 Nxg7 18.Qxf6 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Rad8 20.h5 1-0 Unzicker - Luecke, Moscow 1991 **9.g4!** One of those typical amazing "Judit's g4!" moves. **9...h6** The threat was 10.g5, chasing the Knight away and then checkmate on f7. **10.h4** Following up on the previous

idea. **10...g6 11.Bd2 Qe7 12.0-0-0 Bg7 13.Kb1 0-0** This is an overly brave decision, however it is hard to suggest an improvement. **14.h5 g5**



And now comes the final destruction.

15.Bxg5! hxg5 16.h6 Nb6 16...Bh8 17.h7+ Kg7 (or 17...Nxb7 18.Rxd7! Qxd7 19.Qh3) 18.Qh3 Nxg4 19.Qxg4 Rfd8 20.Ne2 followed by Ng3-f5 with a killer attack. **17.Bb3 17.Qf5** was even more accurate. 17...Nxc4 18.Qxg5 **17...Rfd8 18.hxg7 Rxd1+ 19.Nxd1** and Black resigned, feeling helpless against the Knight maneuver to f5 and the threats on the h-file. 1-0

Paul Truong assisted Susan Polgar in the preparation of this column. Susan Polgar is available for chess instruction. For more information, visit the Polgar Chess Center, 97-09 64th Road, Rego Park, NY 11374 (Tel: 718-897-4600) or email: PolgarChessInc@aol.com

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