



## "My Brilliant Brain"

I just returned from a trip to India to promote the National Geographic documentary "My Brilliant Brain." This is a fantastic film that shows how the brain functions and how it can be developed if properly trained. National Geographic plans to air it in around 160 countries. It has not been shown in the U.S., but it is available online via Google.

## COLUMNISTS

### *Susan Polgar* on *Chess*

Susan Polgar



### *Breaking Through* by Susan Polgar

## CHESSTHEATRE

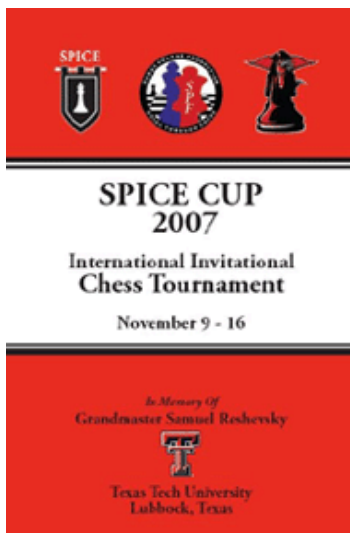
Play through and download the games from [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com) in the [DGT Game Viewer](#).

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### \$100K in scholarships and prizes

The annual Susan Polgar National Open Championship for girls and boys is taking place in Brownsville, Texas from January 18-20, 2008. This year it is being labeled as the Susan Polgar Trifecta Events since we just added an open international section. In terms of prizes, it will be the biggest scholastic event ever in the U.S.

The winner of each section will receive a state of the art notebook computer. In addition, more than \$100,000 in scholarships (two 4-year full scholarships to Texas A&M University-Kingsville and other 4-year scholarships to Texas Tech University) and chess prizes will also be awarded. Details are available [here](#).



### 2007 SPICE Cup

As I wrote last [month](#), the SPICE Cup took place November 9-16, 2007 at the Matador Room in the Student Union Building at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. It was organized by the Susan Polgar Foundation, SPICE (Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence), the Knight Raiders and the Provost Office.

It was a Category 12 event, with an average rating of 2527. It was also the strongest

international round robin tournaments in Texas since 1972, and one of the strongest in the United States in many years.

GM Eugene Perelshteyn convincingly won it with 6½ points in 9 rounds, followed by GM Gilberto Hernandez of Mexico. Here is the full crosstable:

1	Perelshteyn, E.	USA	*	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	½	½	6½
2	Hernandez, G.	MEX	½	*	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	6
3	Becerra Rivero, J.	USA	½	½	*	½	1	½	1	½	½	½	5½
4	Miton, K.	POL	0	0	½	*	½	1	1	½	1	1	5½
5	Hera, I.	HUN	½	½	0	½	*	½	½	1	½	1	5
6	Krush, I.	USA	0	½	½	0	½	*	0	1	1	½	4
7	Leon Hoyos, M.	MEX	0	½	0	0	½	1	*	0	1	½	3½
8	Lugo, B.	USA	0	½	½	½	0	0	1	*	½	0	3
9	Gulko, B.	USA	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	*	1	3
10	Schneider, D.	USA	½	0	½	0	0	½	½	1	0	*	3

All local TV networks, print media and radio stations were covering the event, in addition to the NY Times, TWIC, Chessville, USCF online, Chessdom, MonRoi, etc. In a very short period of time, more than sixty-five sponsors and supporters stepped up to make this tournament happen. With this kind of media attention, I hope to be able to raise more sponsorship for further prestigious events in the future.



*Susan Polgar with Eugene Perelshteyn*

The list of sponsors, supporters and people who helped made the event a success can be found [here](#). The official website of the tournament is [here](#).

#### **Chess Champions League – A tournament of Champions**

What a great idea! A tournament of champions! Originally former FIDE Knockout World Champion Alexander Khalifman was to be one of the participants. Unfortunately, he had to drop out at the last minute because of health issues. In fact, just a day before the event was about to start. When the organizer heard of Alexander's withdrawal, I (as former Women's World Champion) got a last minute invitation to substitute for him. It was an honor to be invited. However, sadly, because of my commitments to the SPICE Cup, I could not accept this very special opportunity. Hopefully another time...

As for my sister Judit, she played great fighting chess as usual, although she was not in her best form. She certainly made the most of her chances, saving several suspicious positions along the way. Here is one of her games:

#### **Rustam Kasimdzhanov (2690) – Judit Polgar (2708)**

Chess Champions League Vitoria, Gasteiz ESP November 4, 2007  
Ruy Lopez [C92]

1.e4 e5



A shocking surprise! I believe this was the first time in her life Judit varied from her usual Sicilian Defense in a serious game! I personally think it was about time. In today's top level chess it is very important to be versatile.

**2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6**

A standard set up in the Ruy Lopez, Judit is not going for the very popular and wilder Marshall attack with 7....0-0 8.c3 d5.

**8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.a4**

So far all of this has been played thousands of times. This is where Judit began to wander off the main roads.

**12...Na5**

The most common choice is 12...h6, preventing white's knight or bishop coming to g5.

**13.Bc2 b4**

A typical idea in the Ruy, but new in this particular position. Previously 13...c5 was played.

**14.Bd3**



If White accepts the pawn sacrifice 14.cxb4, Black quickly regains it after 14...Nc6. This is an interesting moment. The reason why the Ruy Lopez is one of the most popular openings of all times is that it is so complex and there are so many interesting ways to play it. While Black's next move is certainly not an only move, it makes the game very exciting.

**14...d5**

Judit follows the general advice: first develop your pieces, castle, and then open the position (usually in the center).

**15.exd5**

White's best choice of the various captures. After either 15.dxe5 dxe4 16.exf6 (16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Bxe4 Qxd1) 16...Qxd3 or 15.Nxe5 dxe4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.Rxe4 f6, Black comes out ahead.

**15...exd4**

Clearly the best move. After 15...Qxd5 16.c4 Qd6 17.Rxe5 Rxe5 18.Nxe5 Qxd4 19.Ndf3, White seems to get the initiative. Now the question will be if the isolated d4-pawn will be a weakness or strength.

**16.c4**

After 16.Nxd4 Qxd5 17.N2f3 bxc3 18.bxc3 Rxe1+ 19.Nxe1 c5, only White has troubles.

**16...c6**

This is a good idea, reactivating both the bishop on b7 and the knight on a5.

**17.dxc6 Rxe1+ 18.Qxe1 Bxc6 19.Qd1**

White gets out of the way of the future Re8 attack - in advance. Also preparing Nd2-f1 (by protecting the other knight on f3) may have been another idea of White's last move.

**19...g6**

This is a bit surprising. I would have preferred 19...Qd6 getting the rook into the game and then regrouping one of the knights to c5.

**20.Ne5 Bb7 21.Ndf3 Nd7 22.Bg5 Qc7 23.Nxd7**

If 23.Bf4 Bd6.

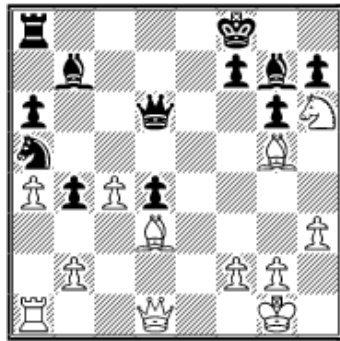
**23...Qxd7**

In this position, White started an overambitious knight maneuver, which ultimately cost him the game.

**24.Ne5 Qd6 25.Ng4**

If 25.Bf4, Black can safely answer with 25...Bg7, because after the discovery by 26.Nxg6, White loses material upon 26...Qf6.

**25...Bg7 26.Nh6+ Kf8**



The white knight looks nice on h6, especially seeing black's king on f8, but in reality it is only an illusion as it makes little impact.

**27.Bd2**

White had to follow up the attack by 27.Qg4.

**27...Re8 28.Rc1**

With the idea of c4-c5.

**28...Qc5**

Preventing White's plan.

**29.Qg4 Nc6**

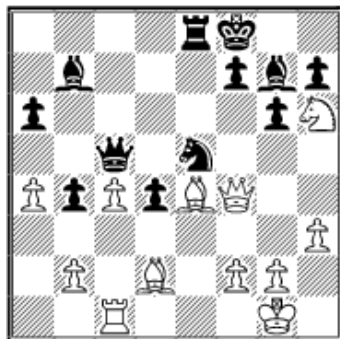
Finally the knight comes back into action.

**30.Qf4**

30.Qd7 does nothing for White, as Black is safe after 30...Qe7.

**30...Ne5 31.Be4**

The losing move. 31.Re1 was called for.



**31...g5!**

This attractive move decided the game! Now White cannot avoid losing a piece.

**32.Qf5 Bxe4 33.Qxe4 Bxh6 34.h4**

After 34.Qxh7 Bg7, White could not capture the second pawn with 35.Bxg5 because of 35...Nf3+.

**34...Ng6 35.Qb7 a5 36.Qb5 Re5 0-1**

#### **2007 World Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk**

The 2007 World Cup took place in Khanty-Mansiysk; 128 players competed for a chance to face Topalov to determine a challenger for the winner of the Anand – Kramnik match scheduled for 2008.

The U.S. sent nine players: Gata Kamsky, Alex Onischuk, Alex Shabalov, Yury Shulman, Gregory Kaidanov, Varuzhan Akobian,, Julio Becerra, Alexander Ivanov and Sergey Kudrin.

After the first round, only three had made it through: Gata Kamsky, Alex Onischuk and Yury Shulman. After the second round, only Kamsky and Onischuk advanced. And then there was one, and only Kamsky remains in the competition. He is facing the four-time Russian Champion Peter Svidler and the first game was drawn with Kamsky having black.

As in any two-game knockout event, upsets are bound to happen. The top seed Ivanchuk was knocked out in round three by the former European Champion Nisipeanu. Other contenders such as Mamedyarov, Radjabov, Grischuk and Kasimdzhanov have also all been eliminated.

The format is two games at a regular time control, followed by two rapid games (if tied), then two blitz games (if tied) and finally an Armageddon blitz game. This is a horrible format to determine a true champion, but it is certainly better than using this system to determine the real world champion as in the past.

### **Ivanchuk is the new World Blitz Champion**

One cannot create a better ending than the 2007 World Blitz Championship in Moscow, Russia! The championship ended on November 22 with Ivanchuk and Anand tied for first heading to the final game in round thirty-eight (in a twenty player double round robin tournament).

Ivanchuk defeated Anand in the last round with the black pieces to win the 2007 World Blitz Championship! Ivanchuk finished with 25½ points, a point ahead of Anand. Grischuk and Kamsky finished tied for third and fourth with 23½ points. The final standings are available [here](#).

### **Kramnik back to old form**

Kramnik is back to his old form. He scored +4 in one of the strongest tournaments of the year without a single loss and recorded a 2900+ performance. His latest performance will certainly make his World Championship match against Anand even more intriguing. Shirov finished clear second with a +1 score, followed by Gelfand, Carlsen, Jakovenko and Leko, all at even score. The official website is [here](#).

### **Naroditsky gold, Chiang silver at the World Youth**

Both Daniel Naroditsky (California) and young superstar Illya Nyzhnyk won their final game to tie for first at the World Youth boy's under 12 section in Turkey. However, Daniel had better tiebreaks and captured the Gold medal for the American delegation.

Sarah Chiang (Texas) who either was in the lead or near the top throughout the entire event, lost her final game, while Anna Styazhkina won in the final round. Therefore, Sarah got the Silver medal in the World Youth girl's under 10 section. Congratulations to Daniel and Sarah!

Here are some other notable U.S. results:

- Alisa Melekhina scored 7½ points to finish in a tie for seventh place in the girl's under 16 section.
- Yang Dai scored 7½ points to finish in a tie for seventh place in the girl's under 14 section.
- FM Ray Robson scored 8 points to finish in a tie for sixth in the boy's under 14 section.
- Brian Luo scored 8 points to finish in a tie for sixth in the boy's under 10 section.
- Simone Liao scored 8 points to finish in a tie for fourth in the girl's under 8 section.
- Jonathan Chiang scored 8 points to finish in clear sixth place in the boy's under 8 section.

Here are the complete scores of the U.S. team from all eleven rounds:

<b>Boys U18</b>	<b>Girls U18</b>
FM Elliot Liu 5½	Ettie Nikolova 6
<b>Boys U16</b>	Elina Kats 4½
Marc Tyler Arnold 6	Julia Kerr 4½
Warren Harper 6	<b>Girls U16</b>
Samuel Shankland 6	WFM Alisa Melekhina 7½

<b>Boys U14</b>	Abby Marshall 6½
FM Ray Robson 8	Courtney Jamison 5½
Victor Shen 7	Louiza Livschitz 5½
Alec Getz 6	<b>Girls U14</b>
Michael Yee 5	Dai Yang 7½
Christian Tanaka 7	Jennie Liu 5
<b>Boys Under 12</b>	Gayatri Vempati 5
Daniel Naroditsky 9½	<b>Girls U12</b>
FM Darwin Yang 6	Alena Kuzniatsova 5½
Christopher Heung 6½	Anna Matlin 6½
<b>Boys Under 10</b>	<b>Girls U10</b>
Brian Luo 8	Sarah Chiang 8½
Varun Krishnan 6½	Ellen Xiang 6
Jarod Pamatmat 6	<b>Girls U8</b>
<b>Boys Under 8</b>	Evan Xiang 6½
Jonathan Chiang 8	Simone Liao 8
Dachey Lin 7	

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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, 103-10 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375 (Tel: 718-897-4600) or email: [PolgarChessInc@aol.com](mailto:PolgarChessInc@aol.com)

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