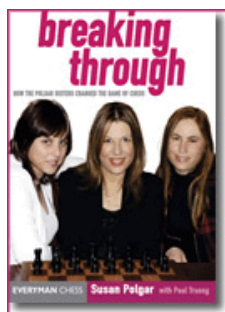




COLUMNISTS

Susan Polgar on Chess

Susan Polgar



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Magnus Force

The 2008 Aerosvit tournament took place in Foros, Crimea, Ukraine, June 7-20, 2008. It is considered one of the strongest tournaments of the year with an average rating of 2712. The tournament had an interesting mixture of veteran grandmasters, such as Ivanchuk, Svidler, and Shirov, and young superstars, such as Carlsen, Karjakin, and Volokitin.

Magnus Carlsen won the event by a full point over Ivanchuk with a fantastic score of 8/11. This technically should take him to the number two ranking in the world if the event is rated in time for the July FIDE rating list. Nevertheless, Carlsen has shown his brilliance and true strength. There is no doubt that he will soon be the #1 ranked player in the world.

Final standings

- 1. Carlsen, Magnus 8
- 2. Ivanchuk, Vassily 7
- 3-4. Karjakin, Sergey 6
- 3-4. Eljanov, Pavel 6
- 5-7. Volokitin, Andrei 5½
- 5-7. Jakovenko, Dmitry 5½
- 5-7. Shirov, Alexei 5½
- 8-10. Alekseev, Evgeny 5
- 8-10. Svidler, Peter 5
- 8-10. Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter 5
- 11. Van Wely, Loek 4
- 12. Onischuk, Alexander 3½

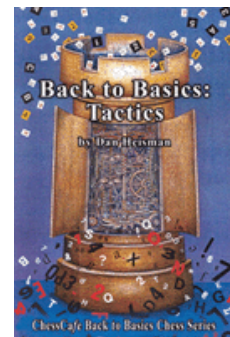
There is a relatively new [website](#) that keeps track of the top rankings. Here are their current top twenty players in the world:

- 1 Anand 2798.1 (-4.9)
- 2 Carlsen 2791½ (+26½)
- 3 Ivanchuk 2790.8 (+50.8)
- 4 Kramnik 2788.0 (0)
- 5 Morozevich 2787.9 (+13.9)
- 6 Topalov 2777.0 (+10)
- 7 Radjabov 2744.1 (-6.9)
- 8 Mamedyarov 2742.1 (-9.9)
- 9 Leko 2741.0 (0)
- 10 Aronian 2737.1 (-25.9)
- 11 Shirov 2736.7 (-3.3)
- 12 Adams 2734½ (+5½)
- 13 Karjakin 2728.9 (-3.1)
- 14 Grischuk 2728.2 (+12.2)
- 15 Svidler 2727.2 (-18.8)
- 16 Eljanov 2724.9 (+37.9)
- 17 Movsesian 2723.3 (+28.3)
- 18 Kamsky 2722.7 (-3.3)
- 19 Gelfand 2719.8 (-3.2)
- 20 Ponomarev 2717.6 (-1.4)

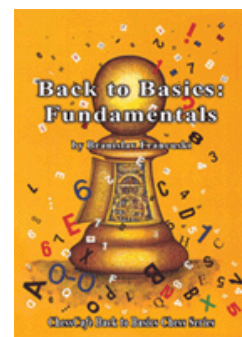
Major Sponsorship by Texas Tech University

In [May 2008](#), I wrote, "Texas Tech University's SPICE announced a substantial pledge that will fund scholarships for recruiting chess talent

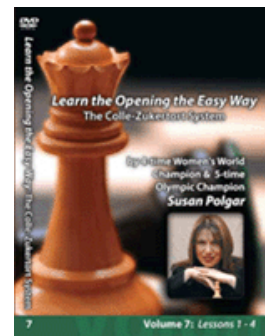
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and pay to install three public chess tables on campus. The idea is to bring chess recognition and chess fever to Texas Tech University. The gift, given by an anonymous donor, will provide \$320,000 for scholarships that can be used discretionally to attract chess players to Texas Tech University.”

Now there is more good news from the sponsorship front. Because of the outreach effort of SPICE, a number of schools in Lubbock ISD now offer chess as an after-school program. The Lubbock Area Foundation (LAF) recently awarded SPICE a substantial grant to introduce chess in schools that do not have such programs.

The LAF is a tremendous resource for Lubbock and West Texas citizens. My hope is to be able to raise enough financial support to begin or support chess programs in every school in Lubbock and surrounding cities. Chess is such an effective and inexpensive tool to enhance young people’s educational and life experiences.

Texas Tech has enjoyed a large number of inquiries from student chess players since last year. In the fall, some of the top chess players in the United States, and indeed the world, will enroll at Tech. Rising water raises all boats, and it sure has been raining a lot this past week! Soon, Lubbock will be known as the center of chess in the United States.

Last year, Texas Tech University generously agreed to host the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls for the next ten years and award a four-year academic scholarship to the winner each year to attend TTU. That is nearly an \$800,000 sponsorship package.



This is an invitational event and all qualifiers must confirm their participations. From the confirmation so far, which is handled by Mr. Dewain Barber, chair of both the Polgar and Denker committees, it seems that this year’s event will draw at least the same amount of players as in previous years and we are very close to breaking the all-time record.

After the announcement was made, Texas Tech made the sponsorship offer even better by offering free accommodation for players (based on double occupancy; small, additional fees for single rooms or to share with family members may occur) who choose to stay on TTU’s campus and complete the tournament.

Last week, the Provost Office announced an unprecedented offer to complete this incredible sponsorship package. All participants will receive free meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner for six days) on campus for the entire tournament! Parents, coaches, or siblings who want to join their players will only pay \$22.00 per day for all three meals (buffet style).

This brings the total sponsorship for the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls to more than \$1 million! Many thanks to Provost Dr. William Marcy, Vice-Provost Dr. Jim Brink, Peggy Flores, and everyone else who made this possible! Other than Dr. Karlsson, Dr. Marcy and Dr. Brink are the biggest reasons why my family and I chose to come to Texas Tech. They fully understand the importance of chess and education, research, and outreach and they are the men behind the

creation of SPICE. This one of a kind world-class institute would not exist without their full commitment and support.

2008 Olympiad in Dresden, Germany

The Russian Chess Federation has just announced its lineup for the upcoming Chess Olympiads, which will be held November 12-25, 2008 in Dresden, Germany. The selected players are Vladimir Kramnik, Alexander Morozevich, Peter Svidler, Alexander Grischuk and Dmitry Jakovenko. The Dresden Olympiad begins only twelve days after the end of the World Championship match between Kramnik and Anand. It is obvious that Russia wants to reclaim their dominance after losing the last two Olympiads to Ukraine and Armenia respectively. Russia took their last team gold in 2002.

Not to be outdone, the defending Olympiad Champion Armenia also announced its line-up. According to *AZG Armenian Daily*, the following players will be on the team in Dresden: GM Aronian, GM Akopian, GM Sargissian, GM Art. Minasian, and GM Petrosian. Petrosian will take the place of GM Karen Asrian, who tragically died earlier this month. The line-up for the Armenian women's team is IM Danielian, IM Mktrchian, WGM Aginian, WIM Galoian, and WIM S.Andriasian.



Susan Polgar World Open for Girls and Boys

The 2008 Susan Polgar World Open for Girls and Boys was held in Las Vegas, June 6-8, 2008. A record 230 players took part in the main event. Over \$120,000 in chess scholarship and chess prizes were awarded. There were three separate events: puzzle solving, blitz, and the main event for players under the age of nineteen. This was all part of the [Las Vegas Chess Festival](#), which includes the National Open. A list of the top finishers can be found [here](#).

Chess Giants / Asrian Memorial

The "Chess Giants Yerevan 2008" rapid chess tournament was held in Yerevan, Armenia, June 8-15, 2008. There were eight players in this double round robin. Unfortunately, shortly after the tournament began, Armenian grandmaster Karen Asrian passed away at the young age of twenty-eight. The tournament was halted for a few days out of respect and renamed the Asrian Memorial in his honor.

Final standings

- 1. Aronian, Levon 8½
- 2. Leko, Peter 8
- 3. Morozevich, Alexander 7½
- 4. Gelfand, Boris 7½
- 5. Bu Xiangzhi 7
- 6. Sargissian, Gabriel 6½
- 7. Adams, Michael 6

U.S. Junior & Cadet Championships

The U.S. Junior & Cadet Championships are supposed to be two of the most prestigious junior tournaments in the country. In the past, most of the biggest names competed in these events. The usual format was either a ten- or twelve-player round robin (at least for the U.S. Junior).

This year, by midway through the tournament, there were only four players left. I believe that this is the smallest field ever. One problem was that the USCF scheduled these events during final's week and many of the top players, especially on the East coast, could not participate. IM Robert Hess (2539) wrote to me and commented that he and some of his friends could not compete unless the USCF moved the dates back about two weeks. I tried to contact the USCF to fix this problem, but it was already too late.

I know the people in Lindsborg did their best to put on a good show. It is not their fault. I am not sure why the USCF did not check the dates to see if schools were still in session. These young players cannot simply take ten or eleven days off during final's week to compete. I hope this problem will be rectified in the future.

Conrad Holt won the U.S. Cadet Championship ahead of Deepak Aaron, Shvartsman, Richard Tuhim, Darwin Yang, Alex Markobitz, and Patrick Tae.

Tyler Hughes and Gregory Young tied for first at the U.S. Junior Championship; with Hughes winning on tiebreak. The field also included Daniel Yeager, Edward Lu, Bradley Sawyer (who withdrew in the middle of the championship), and Chris Williams (who withdrew right before the championship). Congratulations to all!

Special Summer Camp: Chess: *It's a Girl thing!*

July 21-24, 2008, For Girls K-12, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

This is the first ever all-girls chess camp being held at Texas Tech University for girls of all levels. In addition to chess, campers will also learn writing and computer skills. There will be additional activities for youngsters who chose the residential plan.

Commuter Plan: \$125 Check-in 7/21 6:30 PM. Camp is 7-9 PM 7/21, and 9 AM-3 PM daily 7/22-7/24. Ends 3 PM on 7/24. Lunch included; all ages.

Residential Plan: \$315 Arrive 7/21 from 1-4 PM. Lodging and all meals including dinner on 7/21 through lunch on 7/24. Ends 3 PM on 7/24. Girls entering grades 5-12 only.

For further information, visit the [website](#), [e-mail](#), or call (806) 742-7742.

Paul Truong assisted Susan Polgar in the preparation of this column. Susan Polgar is the director of the Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence (SPICE) at Texas Tech University. For more information, visit www.spice.ttu.edu or email: SusanPolgar@aol.com.

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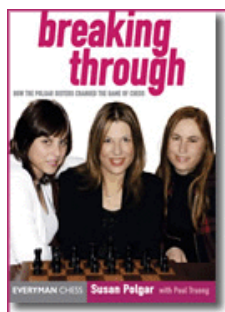
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Puzzle Solving Results

U-600

- 1. Tejes Srivastava 7½ (32 min 30 sec)
- 2. Paul Nehmeh 7 (31 min 30 sec)
- 3. Adam Nehmeh 6 (28 min 0 sec)
- 4. Kristen Drake 6 (33 min 55 sec)

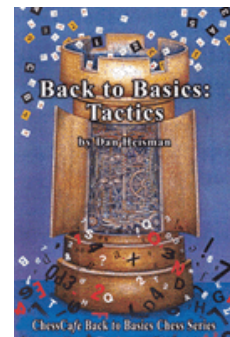
U-1000

- 1. Arman Sanatinia 8 (10 min 30 sec)
- 2. Soren Aletbeia 8 (12 min 20 sec)
- 3. Kevin Jin 7 (23 min)
- 4-6. Shelley Anthopoulos 7 (32 min 50 sec)
- 4-6. Paul M. Truong 7 (33 min 15 sec)
- 4-6. Leeam Polgar 7 (33 min 20 sec)

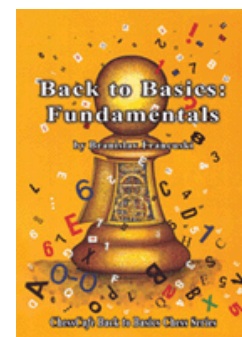
Open

- 1. Tom Polgar 10 (19 min)
- 2. Alec Andersen 10 (29 min)
- 3. Ojas Chinchwadkar 9 (5 min)
- 4. Nick Thompson 9 (7 min 30 sec)
- 5. Sayaka Foley 9 (8 min 30 sec)
- 6. Kayden Troff 9 (12 min 30 sec)
- 7. Fletcher Peavy 9 (16 min)
- 8. Victoria Bian 9 (16 min 30 sec)
- 9. Jacob Maneth 9 (16 min 45 sec)
- 10. Joseph Stafford 9 (25 min)
- 11-13. Caleb Kircher 9 (31 min)
- 11-13. Harrison Stanton 9 (32 min)
- 11-13. Richard Birberick 9 (33 min)

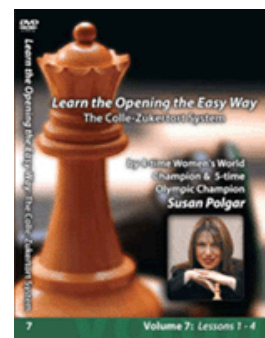
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Blitz Results

Boys U19

- 1 Kircher, Caleb 4½
- 2 Zhitny, Vladislav 4.0
- 3 Grenier, Ricardo 3½

Boys U14

- 1 Altieri, Jonathan 4.0
- 2 Aletheia-Zomlefer, Soren 3½
- 3-6 Pennock, Steven 3.0
- 3-6 Winkelman, Jeremy 3.0
- 3-6 Lerner, Jonah 3.0
- 3-6 Gailey, Austin Ero 3.0

Boys U11

- 1 Lalonde, Luc Paul 5.0
- 2 Polgar, Tom 4½
- 3-8 Huang, Kyle 4.0
- 3-8 Sawamura, Jared 4.0
- 3-8 Jiang, Robert 4.0
- 3-8 Hueber, Travis 4.0
- 3-8 Barkmeyer, Brady 4.0
- 3-8 Abnell, Comas 4.0

Boys U8

- 1 Karp, Eli 4.0
- 2 Qi, Richard 4.0
- 3-4 Chinchwadkar, Om 3.0
- 3-4 Verma, Ritik 3.0

Girls U14

- 1 Foley, Sayaka B 6.0 (Overall winner)
- 2 Koong, Joanne 5.0
- 3-4 Botez, V Alexandra 4.0
- 3-4 Comas, Rinelly 4.0

Girls U11

- 1 Bian, Victoria 5.0
- 2 Hwa, Leanne 5.0
- 3-4 Wong, Vanessa 3.0
- 3-4 Anthopoulos, Shelley 3.0

Girls U8

- 1-3 Rodriguez, Zowie 2.0

- 1-3 Wong, Jennifer 2.0
- 1-3 Chawla, Alisha 2.0

Main Events

Girls under 8 Co-Champions: Annie Wang, Nicole Zlotchevsky, Alisha Chawla, Queena Deng 4-1

Boys under 8 Champion: Winston Zen 5-0 Girls under 11 Champion: Leanne Hwa 5-0

Boys under 11 Champion: Tommy Polgar 5-0

Girls under 14 Champion: Sayaka Foley 5-0 (TTU \$36,000 scholarship - Out of state tuition)

Boys under 14 Champion: Matthew Martinez 5-0

Girls under 19 Champion: Rebecca Lelko 4½-½ (TTU \$36,000 scholarship - Out of state tuition)

Boys under 19 Champion: Randel Eng 5-0 (TTU \$36,000 scholarship - Out of state tuition)

Top finishers at the National Open

- 1-6 GM Kamsky, Gata 5.0
- 1-6 GM Fressinet, Laurent 5.0
- 1-6 GM Petrosian, Tigran 5.0
- 1-6 GM Kolev, Atanas 5.0
- 1-6 IM Finegold, Ben 5.0
- 1-6 GM Friedel, Josh 5.0
- 7-9 GM Erenburg, Sergey 4½
- 7-9 GM Khachiyani, Melikset 4½
- 7-9 IM Robson, Ray 4½

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