



COLUMNISTS

Scholastic Chess

Steve Goldberg



*Winning Chess
the Easy Way*
by Susan Polgar

Polgar Invitational, Denker Tournament, and U.S. Class

Quite a bit of activity has occurred since our last column. The U.S. Open concluded in Phoenix, Arizona, together with all of the associated tournaments, including the second annual Polgar Invitational for Girls and the annual Denker Tournament of High School Champions. In addition, we have a report on the U.S. Class Championships in Chesterfield, Missouri. FM Aviv Friedman also checks in with an update to last month's report about the 2005 World Youth Chess Championship fiasco in France. Next month we'll continue our coverage of chess in Canada with O, Canada - Part Two.

Everyman Quiz of the Month

We are pleased to continue our Everyman Quiz of the Month, offering a free chess book, courtesy of Everyman Chess Books, to the first three respondents with correct answers. The questions are taken from earlier **ChessCafe** Scholastic Chess columns, which can be found in the [Archives](#). This month, our winners will receive *Winning Chess Openings* by GM Yasser Seirawan. Send your answers to scholasticchess@chesscafe.com. Good luck! Please note – previous winners are not eligible to enter subsequent contests.



1. The Canadian Chess Association, forerunner of the Chess Federation of Canada, was created in what year?

- a) 1915
- b) 1872
- c) 1848

2. Canada's primary scholastic chess organization is which of the following?

- a) Chess Canada Échecs
- b) Canadian Scholastic Chess Association
- c) Chess'n Math Association

3. According to the August 2005 USCF Rating Supplement, how many

USCF players under age 16 have ratings at or above 2300?

- a) 6
- b) 8
- c) 10

Did You Know?

What famous actor is slated to play the part of Salome Thomas-EL, middle-school principal, American Foundation for Chess board member, chess coach and author of *I Choose to Stay*, in an upcoming Disney movie?

2005 Denker Tournament of High School Champions, August 6-14, 2005

In a hard-fought tournament involving 45 state champions, three players finished tied for first: Trevor Jackson from Louisiana, Zhi-Ya Hu from Maryland, and Josh Bakker from Massachusetts. Based on tiebreak factors, Jackson was declared the winner of the four-year college scholarship to the University of Texas - Dallas (UTD).



High School Champions

Zhi-Ya Hu hails from Qi'an, China, having moved to the U.S. in 2000 at the age of ten. He now lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland with his parents and his three-year-old sister. His USCF rating stands at 2167 and this Denker tournament was his first national event, although he has had a number of other successes. In addition to winning the Maryland state high school championship, he placed second in the 2004 Maryland Open where he defeated two masters and drew two others, one rated about 2300.



Zhi-Ya Hu

I asked Zhi-Ya to what he attributes his success. “Well, it would have to be my old coach in China: Liu Yu Dong,” he said, “and my family’s support, especially from my grandparents back when I just started playing in China.” Of course, he works quite hard at chess himself, devoting perhaps 12-15 hours per week during the summer, and about an hour each day while school is in session. As time permits, he plays blitz games on the World Chess Network and also plays for his high school team, although he laments the fact that most of last year’s players have now graduated. Outside of chess, he enjoys other computer games, reading books, and playing a little soccer. His little sister also keeps him busy.

Asked how chess may be made more attractive to others, he had an interesting suggestion. “Well, this is just an idea, but the pieces may be more ‘animated’ than they are now. Perhaps having some heads of famous cartoon characters on them would attract little kids.”

Zhi-Ya advises other aspiring players to read as many chess books as they can. He also advises caution when reviewing one’s own games. “Do not review a chess game, no matter the result, right after finishing playing it,” he says, “because usually you will be too happy that you may not spot your mistakes, or you will be sad and focus on a particularly bad move and ignore the others. Take the game and review it some other day, just not the day in which you’ve played it.” Of course, if you have the option of reviewing with a stronger player who can accurately assess the game, this should be done any time.

Fellow co-champion Josh Bakker turned 17 just a few weeks prior to the tournament and has now begun his senior year of high school in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Although he has a healthy 2144 rating, he was surprised to find himself at the Denker event. At the state high school championship, he says, “I tied for first with 3 out of 4 surprisingly as I was absolutely exhausted because of a 2-day Model UN Convention in Boston. Although I lost in the blitz play-offs, the other candidates, Melvin Zhang and Roza Eynullyeva, could not attend the event and thus I was asked by MACA [Massachusetts Chess

Association] to attend.”



Josh Bakker

Because of a lack of chess tutors in his area, Josh is largely self-taught, although he does have the benefit of having an older brother (Andrew) who sports a master rating. Primarily Josh hones his chess skills by spending up to an hour daily playing one-minute games on the Internet Chess Club. He thoughtfully adds, “In the ultra-fast world today chess is just too slow compared to what kids get from video games and television. But this is not to say that 1-minute chess is what needs to be done to get more kids active in chess, for that will utterly ruin chess. My only suggestion is that chess be taught in schools. This will guarantee that kids will learn it at an early age, and perhaps make it more interesting to them.”

Josh credits his family for being very supportive of his chess activities. Asked to offer suggestions for other players, he quipped, “Although I haven’t taken any of this advice, studying classical games, post-analysis of personal games, and a lot of opening study are probably good ideas.” He leads a very active life, spending time reading, playing computer games, playing volleyball and badminton, besides maintaining a rigorous academic load at school.

His chess goals are clear. He stated that he is seeking his own master rating within the next 12 months, with an FM title from FIDE within the next several years. He is especially proud of his fifth-round victory at the 2005 Denker tournament where he executed a double-bishop sacrifice within the first twenty moves, followed by a forced mate. Here is the game with his notes:

David Wyde-Joshua Bakker

Denker Tournament of High School Champions (5), 2005 [A51]

I learned that I was going to play David Wyde of Washington the night before the game, and I was nervous after seeing the tremendous opening

preparation he seemed to have done when playing second ranked Nicholas Yap. I woke up an hour early and tried to prepare with my brother, which also allowed me to actually arrive on time for the game. This was by far my coolest game in the tournament, the game was a crowd-pleaser (had there been one).

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ne4 4.a3

Despite the passive nature of this move, many experts recommend it for White as it stops ...Bb4+, Black's main tool in the Fajarowicz.

4...Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.exd6?!

This allows a great deal of counterplay for Black as it opens up the d-file and develops Black's dark-colored bishop, better is 6.Qc2 which keeps the pressure.

6...Bxd6 7.Nbd2 Bf5 8.e3 Qe7 9.Be2

Too passive, leaving Black with good winning chances, 9.Nxe4 significantly reduces Black's attacking chances

9...0-0-0 10.Nxe4 Bxe4 11.Qa4 g5

White's position seems to be falling apart and 12.c5 Bxc5 13.Nxg5! seems to be White's only try.

12.0-0?

White now loses by force.

12...g4 13.Nd2 (only move)



13...Bxh2+! 14.Kxh2 (only move)

14.Kh1 Qh4+-.

14...Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Bxg2!!

The infamous double-bishop sacrifice!

16.Kxg2 (only move)

16.f4 g3+-.

16...Qh3+ 17.Kg1 g3 18.Bg4+ (only move)

18.fxg3 Qxg3+ 19.Kh1 Rdg8 20.Bg4+ Rxd4 21.Rg1 Qh3#; 18.Nf3 Ne5 19.fxg3 Rhg8 with mate.

18...Qxg4 19.Kg2 (only move) gxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Ne5 21.Rd1

21.Rg1 Rxd2+ 22.Bxd2 Qf3+ 23.Ke1 Nd3#.

21...Nd3+ 22.Kf1 Qh3+ 0-1

Congratulations to these fine young players, and to all of the other participants who contribute to the success of chess in this country.

2005 Polgar Invitational for Girls. August 6-14, 2005

Whereas the Denker tournament featured the top high school player for each state, the second annual Polgar Invitational showcased each state's top qualifying female player under age 19, plus those who met other qualifying criteria. According to the Susan Polgar Foundation, some 3000 girls participated in various regional and state qualifying events, with 48 players emerging to play in the 2005 Polgar Invitational.



Players at the 2005 Polgar Invitational

The top three seeded players entering the tournament finished in a three-way tie for first and each was awarded a full scholarship to UTD. Winners WGM Anya Corke, WFM Alisa Melekhina, and Abby Marshall were all kind enough to share their stories with us and each has an interesting tale to tell.

Anya Corke turns 15 this month (September 2005) and was born in California, although she currently lives in Hong Kong, where she has lived most of her life. Learning how to play at the age of nine, she enrolled in her grade school chess club, but had to learn largely on her own because of a lack of chess coaches nearby. She does, however, now take advantage of online coaching available and has blossomed into a wonderfully strong player.



GM Susan Polgar makes the first move for WGM Anya Corke (left)

Anya has won three British Junior Championships (open to both boys and girls) and also placed first in both the 2004 Asian Under 14 Girls Championship and the 2004 Hong Kong Championship. Yet, her best accomplishment in 2004 was at the Calvià Olympiad where the diminutive teenager competed as part of the Hong Kong men's team and achieved an incredible 2400+ performance rating during twelve rounds of play, thereby earning her WGM title.



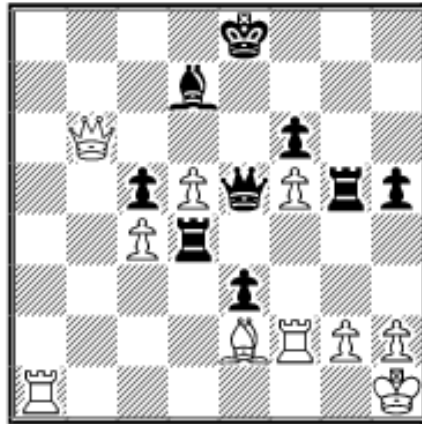
WGM Anya Corke

Typically, Anya will spend several hours daily working on her chess, including Internet chess nearly every day. Her work is paying off – this past April at an Open tournament in Italy she defeated GM Igor Efimov in a beautiful 72-move game requiring careful play in all aspects of the game (shown below). Earlier this year she also defeated an IM and drew with two others. Her simple advice to others is to “study your games and don’t get discouraged by disappointing results.”

Anya Corke (2138) - Igor Efimov (2458)

2nd Arvier op (2), 2005 [A45]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.Bxf6 gxf6 4.d5 Qb6 5.Qc1 Bg7 6.c4 f5 7.Nc3 d6
8.e3 Nd7 9.Qc2 Nf6 10.Nf3 Ne4 11.Nd2 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Rc1
Bd7 14.Bd3 e6 15.0-0 h5 16.f4 Rh6 17.e4 fxe4 18.Bxe4 0-0-0 19.f5 e5
20.Rb1 Rg8 21.Qb2 b6 22.Bd3 e4 23.Nxe4 Be5 24.Kh1 f6 25.Rbc1
Rh7 26.Nd2 Rhg7 27.Rf2 Kc7 28.Nf3 Rg4 29.Nxe5 dxe5 30.Qd2 b5
31.Be2 Rh4 32.cxb5 Qb6 33.c4 Qd6 34.Rcf1 Rg5 35.Qe3 Rd4 36.a4
e4 37.a5 Qe5 38.b6+ axb6 39.axb6+ Kxb6 40.Qb3+ Kc7 41.Rb1 Kd8
42.Qb6+ Ke8 43.Ra1 e3



44.Ra8+ Kf7 45.Qxc5 Qe7
46.Qxd4 exf2 47.Qxf2 Rxf5 48.Bf3
Qb4 49.c5 Ba4 50.Ra7+ Kg6 51.h3
h4 52.Re7 Bd1 53.Re3 Qd4 54.c6
Bxf3 55.Rxf3 Qa1+ 56.Qg1 Qxg1+
57.Kxg1 Rxd5 58.Rc3 Rd8 59.c7
Rc8 60.Kf2 Kg5 61.Kf3 Kf5
62.Rc5+ Ke6 63.Kg4 f5+ 64.Kxh4
Kd6 65.Rc3 Ke5 66.Kg5 Rg8+
67.Kh6 Rc8 68.Kg6 Ke6 69.h4 f4
70.h5 Rg8+ 71.Kh7 Rc8 72.Kg7 1-0

The 2005 Polgar Invitational was Anya's first U.S. tournament – not a bad way to start! Her goal, however, is to achieve her own IM and GM titles. With a FIDE rating of 2223 and already with some major “scalps” she appears well on her way.

Alisa Melekhina is no stranger to this column, having appeared previously in our [December 2004](#) and [February 2005](#) columns. She has played in a number of international World Youth Chess Championships (and plans to return again next year for the 2006 WYCC to be held in Russia), but doesn't play in many national events. Still, she was the top-finishing girl at the Pennsylvania K-12 Championship and thus won the right to represent her state at the 2005 Polgar Invitational.



WFM Alisa Melekhina

Arriving in Phoenix barely a week after the 2005 WYCC in France, Alisa was registered for both the Polgar event and the U.S. Open. “There was a lot of pressure and stress throughout both tournaments,” she said. “I was playing in both tournaments at the same time, so I played in the Polgar in the morning and the U.S. Open in the evening. Each day I had to adjust to the different time control, and standings in both tournaments. I was doing really well in the Polgar, but when I had 2/4 in the Open, my spirits were dampened a bit.” However, her considerable previous experience in the WYCC events prepared her well for the pressures she faced. She won each of her first four Polgar games before drawing the final two with her eventual co-champions. In the puzzle-solving side event, she came in clear first, having solved nine of the ten problems presented.

Alisa had mentioned earlier that she doesn’t have any regular chess coaches other than her father, but Aviv Friedman had been of some help to her. When I asked Alisa about this again, she said emphatically, “actually, Aviv Friedman has been a *tremendous* help in international tournaments and no, I have not worked with any other chess coaches this year.” Aviv was pleased to learn of Alisa’s accomplishment at the Polgar tournament and had this to say about her:

To me, if there was a poster child for scholastic chess, Alisa’s face and personal profile would be high on my list to be it. A combination of talent, a fighting spirit and the tenacity of a warrior, packaged in a very pleasant young person. She is well rounded and has many interests, all of which she toggles well with academic success.

We have worked together at quite a few international events, usually doing opening preparation and trying to anticipate what the opponent might play and how to best confront her style of play. Alisa has already notched some top finishes in world events, and was a favorite for a medal in Belfort [2005

WYCC in Belfort, France]. Unfortunately, even though I think she was the best player in her section, it was one of those events where nothing goes right (Imagine, she finishes with 7/11 at the world championships and I allow myself to say it was a bad event. I think it's a compliment to Alisa!).

As for her future, I spoke to her and Alexander (Dr. Melekhin) and made some suggestions about making some changes and adjustments this year. Sometimes, it is easier to notice things objectively, from the sidelines. I am very optimistic about her chess; She has qualities that are enviable and with some tweaking she will be an even bigger powerhouse. How far she could go depends mainly on her own priorities and other interests - in my mind she will gain many rating points and titles in the future.



Alisa Melekhina during the Polgar Blitz tournament

Regarding titles, Alisa's father would like to see her achieve WIM and NM status, but Alisa herself says, "For now, I am just trying to raise my rating (which has proven to be extremely difficult once your rating is 2000+), and I think it is too early to think about a future chess career." Currently her rating stands at 2070. Her final comments? "I would like to thank Susan Polgar for organizing a great tournament, and am looking forward to playing in more all-girl events that she is planning."



Happy winners of the Polgar Blitz and Puzzle Solving side events

The third Polgar co-champion is Abby Marshall, a tenacious 14-year-old who was born in Pittsburgh, but lived in Columbus, Ohio until just a few days ago. She now makes her home in Newport News, Virginia, where she is attending 8th grade. Abby learned chess while in kindergarten and says, “My mom, dad and little sister know how to play and at the beginning they were good practice for me. However, by the time I turned seven I could beat them.” Fortunately for Abby, she was attending Indianola Elementary School in Columbus which has a very strong chess program thanks to coach NM Mark Morss, who provides his services to the school chess team and to its individual members at no charge.



Abby Marshall

Abby’s father clearly holds coach Morss in high esteem. “We owe Mark an enormous debt of gratitude for all of the time and effort he has devoted to Abby’s chess career,” he says. “Mark is the volunteer coach at Abby’s former elementary school, Indianola Alternative. His wife has taught at that school for the past 25 years ... He is a real student of the game, and he has been able to communicate his deep knowledge and love of chess to Abby. Much of Abby’s success is because of Mark ... He has been running the chess program at Indianola Elementary for 13

years and has compiled a remarkable record. His players and teams have won any number of state championships over the years. Mark's accomplishments are all the more impressive when you consider that he has achieved these results working at a public school in a major city district."

Morss' work with Abby the last five years has certainly paid dividends. She devotes at least an hour a day to chess during the school year, more on weekends and when school's out. She plays in numerous national events, having attended six grade level national tournaments, the past two SuperNationals in 2001 and 2005, the inaugural 2004 Kasparov All-Girls tournament and the 2005 Junior Open. The past year she either won clearly or shared first place at the Ohio Middle School Championship, Ohio Grade Level Championship (for 7th grade), Ohio Girls Championship, Columbus Public Schools Championship, National K-8 Blitz Championship, National K-12 Championship (for 7th grade), and now she has tied for first at the 2005 Polgar Invitational. Her USCF rating has shot up 200 points over the past 12 months, now standing at 1934.



Polgar Blitz champion Abby Marshall

Abby suggests a three-pronged approach to chess improvement: "The number one thing for kids to do is just play a lot of chess. Whether you play in a club, at school, in tournaments, on the Internet or with your friends makes no difference as long as you play a lot. The number two thing to do is study tactics. Solving tactical exercises everyday will double your playing strength. That was my main form of preparation for the Polgar and other nationals. The third thing to do is analyze all your games. Take your games to a strong teacher and analyze your games in depth before you turn to the computer."

As for her own budding chess career, she says clearly: "If it wasn't for my coach and the great program at my elementary school, I wouldn't be playing chess today. The scholastic scene in Columbus also helped move me along. Chess has always worked well for me as I'm very

competitive and that competitiveness spurred me on to study and work hard. And my parents deserve credit for taking me to tournaments.”

Coach Morss had effusive praise for Abby when I asked him to comment on his impressions of her:

Abby Marshall is an ardent student of chess. I once told her father to get her a copy of Fishbein's book on king and pawn endings. When they received it, Abby and I had something else to work on, but after a couple of weeks I said, 'Well, next week we should turn to Fishbein.' She said, 'Oh, I've already finished it!' And that actually is rather typical of the alacrity with which Abby attacks her chess studies.

Abby's principal gifts as a chess player are a keen grasp of tactics and a tough, hard-bitten fighting spirit. I'm very happy about the tactics, which I have emphasized very much in my work with her and with other children. Her mother once told me that when Abby gets up in the morning, she solves chess tactics. Her fine tactical sense makes her a fearsome speed chess player, and I was not at all surprised to learn that she dominated the speed chess side-event at the Polgar. Indeed, she took second place in the speed chess side-event at Super-Nationals in Nashville (where, incidentally, she also became U.S. 7th Grade Champion). She spends a lot of time playing speed chess on ICC, which I encourage, because I think speed chess gives a player good sight of the board at regular time limits. To her credit, she also plays correspondence chess which, along with annotating one's own games, is a great way to examine one's own strengths and weaknesses.

A player's fighting qualities come from the soul, so Abby's certainly are not something for which I can take credit. But Abby Marshall is made out of iron. I haven't seen her determination and resolute self-possession in very many players, male or female, and she had these qualities even as a little girl. Never have I had to worry that Abby would wilt in the midst of difficulties. On the contrary, hard contests seem to increase her determination, even to the last move. I expect great things of Abby Marshall, not only in women's chess, and I do not envy her future opponents!

Abby is not shy about her goals. “In the next twelve months I'd like to get my rating over 2000, preferably somewhere around 2050. Placing well in the nationals this year would also be nice. In the long term I guess I'm hoping to be 2200 or even 2300 at the end of high school. I'd like to be national champion a few more times too. Eventually my goal is to be an IM and play on the US women's Olympiad team.”

Perhaps Anya, Alisa and Abby will all share spots on that Olympiad

team in the not-too-distant future. Congratulations to an outstanding group of young women.



Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Chess'n Math Association Canadian Scholastic Invitational, August 19-21, 2005

104 players participated in this tournament celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Chess'n Math Association in Canada. This total includes 17 students from the Chess in Schools program in New York.

The top section (grades 9-12) finished in a two-way tie between Raja Panjwani and Jonathan Tayar, both of whom finished with four wins and two draws. Jonathan will share some of his thoughts with us next month.

The 8th grade division was dominated by New Yorkers, who captured the top four spots, while the 7th grade section was won cleanly by Shiyam Thavandiran who was undefeated in his six games. The only other player to finish with a perfect 6-0 score was Karoly Szalay, who topped the Grade 6 division.

2005 U.S. Class Championships, August 26-28, 2005

151 players attended this event, including GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz, IM Michael Brooks, and 2300-rated Movses Movsisyan. It's not often that the St. Louis area hosts such chess powerhouses. Movsisyan won the Master section, finishing half a point ahead of both Wojtkiewicz and Brooks.

Chicago chess parent and blogger Brad Rosen tipped me to the fact that Chicagoland youngsters Josh Dubin and Dan McNally would be at the event and worth watching. Good advice – Josh won the Class A section, and Dan won the Class B division.

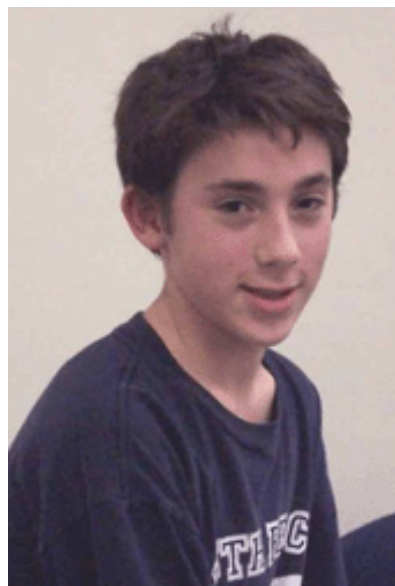
At the tournament, I noticed a woman hovering near some of the

Chicago kids, so I introduced myself and learned that this was Debbie Dubin, Josh's mother! After the event, she commented, "It was a very enjoyable tournament but as Josh would tell you, it's always more fun when you're playing well and winning." She added Josh, "will definitely attend the K-12 nationals in December and might go to some other out of state tournaments this fall as well. He has previously competed in almost all national scholastic tournaments since he was in kindergarten and has frequently done quite well. He recently took 3rd in the K-5 nationals in Nashville in April and also went 6/9 at the HB Global and took home some prize money as well. Last year he was one of 4 kids in the U10 division invited to play in the World Youth Chess Championship in Crete last November where he placed 30th out of more than 200 kids. His goal is to be invited back again this year in the U12 division but there is definitely tough competition and he probably needs his rating to go up another 50-75 points."



U.S. Class A winner Josh Dubin

Debbie noted that Josh's interests are not limited to chess. "He is a sports fanatic and particularly enjoys both playing and watching baseball. He's a talented trumpet player (I think chess and musical aptitude go together) and is also a very good marksman in riflery, or whatever that would be called. His newest interest has been playing and studying poker – what can I say?"



Dan McNally

Dan McNally began playing at age 4 and found quick success, winning the kindergarten section of the Illinois State Championship in 1997. His brother Michael won the K-3 section of the same tournament. Dan's father notes, "Not long after, Daniel lost interest in chess and stopped going to tournaments, but a few years ago he got his second wind and came back to chess, playing for the school chess club at Emerson Middle School in Park Ridge, IL. He started going to tournaments again, began working with tutors and getting stronger by the day. In the last year the improvement in his game has been remarkable, and he managed a tie for second in his

return to Peoria this year for the state championship, losing a single

game to the eventual champ in his section. He attended the national championship in Tucson AZ last year, and also went to Nashville this year [2005 SuperNationals] and finished 26th in the K-9 section. I look forward to seeing him compete with the chess club on Board One at Maine South where he recently started high school, and also I'm hopeful that he will be competing for the Denker at some point over the next four years."

This proud father takes credit for being "at least a little restrained in extolling Daniel's virtues as a chess player. Chess aside, he's a really nice kid."

Update on the 2005 World Youth Chess Championship problems

As reported last month, a plethora of problems accompanied the 2005 World Youth Chess Championship (WYCC), held this past July in France. There were lengthy delays, untenable playing conditions, inadequate room and board, and unkept promises. FIDE responded with a press release dated 8-23-05 in which they stated:

FIDE has received complaints from twelve Federations regarding the conditions and the circumstances under which the World Youth Championships 2005 in Belfort, France took place ... From the complaints received, it is quite obvious that the Championships were not organized on the level that should be expected of this important World event and in accordance with well-established practice. This includes the conditions for the participants, the infrastructure of the Championships and the quality of the management. Many participants and delegations expressed their dissatisfaction in the way they were treated and how their concerns were resolved. It is very important for FIDE that the World Youth Championships are held in the very best and professional manner and it reflects very badly not only on FIDE but on the whole chess world when we experience unprofessional conduct of the events.

The press release notes that FIDE has banned 2005 WYCC organizer Jean-Paul Touze from organizing any other FIDE event for a five-year period.

FM Aviv Friedman, one of the coaches for the 2005 WYCC team, pulled no punches in a letter he distributed describing the sordid events surrounding this tournament (see our [August column](#)). I asked him to share with our readers his thoughts concerning FIDE's response: "I think it was to be expected," he said. "My letter was designed to expose the deplorable conditions at the WYCC for all to know, but not surprisingly, a more official process where many federations have formally complained to FIDE was going on in parallel. In a way, I am almost sorry that Touze was not granted a chance to 'explain himself' in front of a panel of FIDE officials. I would have been curious to see

what he would have said to the direct allegations.”

Friedman may be granted his wish. The FIDE press release went on to say, “All the complaints received by the FIDE Secretariat will be handed over to the FIDE Ethics Commission for further examination. The Organizer may present his views in the examination.” I would be cautious in one’s expectations from a FIDE “Ethics Commission,” but I’m pleased that the matter is being addressed.

Upcoming Tournaments

2005 National Youth Action, November 18-20, 2005

This tournament is scheduled for the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Last year’s tournament drew 554 participants to Hershey, PA. There will be nine rounds at Game/30, with four sections available: K-12, K-9, K-6 and K-3.

2005 National Scholastic K-12 / Collegiate Championship, December 2-4, 2005

Last year’s event in Orlando drew over 1600 players from as far as China. This year the tournament is to be held in Houston, with the National K-12/Collegiate alternating between the two cities for the next several years. There is one section for each grade from kindergarten through 12th grade, plus the collegiate section. Seven rounds are scheduled, at Game/90.

2005 Pan-Am Intercollegiate, December 27-30, 2005

This prestigious event, won the last two years by the powerful University of Texas - Dallas (UTD) team, will be held in Miami, Florida. The team from the University of Maryland - Baltimore County (UMBC), UTD’s traditional rival, will surely be looking to repeat its performance from the College Final Four this past April, where it went undefeated in finishing ahead of UTD.

Answer to Did You Know?

Acclaimed chess-playing actor Will Smith will play the part of Salome Thomas-EL. See this [website](#) for more information.

Have something newsworthy you’d like to share? E-mail me at scholasticchess@chesscafe.com. I can’t promise that I’ll be able to respond to each e-mail, but every one will be read and considered. For all games submitted, please provide the following information: (1) Names and age of both players; (2) Ratings of both players; (3) When and where the game was played; (4) The time control used in the game; and (5) Any other information you think would be helpful for us to know.

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