



COLUMNISTS

Scholastic Chess

Steve Goldberg



*Winning Chess
the Easy Way*
by Susan Polgar

Summer Chess Camps 2006

Readers, sit back, have a beverage and snack ready, because we cover plenty of ground this month. The primary feature of this month's column is to briefly describe a number of [summer chess camps](#) that are available throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, we have the following:

- Can you guess how many players from the 2006 U.S. Championship were under 20 years of age? We'll tell you below, and we include a wild game between two of these junior players, one of whom happens to be last year's U.S. Champion.
- A couple of notes about the new U.S. Chess School.
- Commentary about the Kasparov All-Girls National Championship last month, including a summary of some of Garry Kasparov's pointed comments during his keynote lecture.
- You thought that the University of Florida won the Final Four championship over UCLA in March? That's the *other* Final Four. The main Final Four took place in March in Richardson, Texas and we provide coverage of this event, together with the game that decided the championship.
- With the many Kasparov and Polgar tournaments around, there's nothing surprising about a female winning a chess tournament. But recently girls won or tied for first in the High School, Middle School, and Elementary School sections of a recent championship tournament and it *wasn't* a girls-only event. Read on...

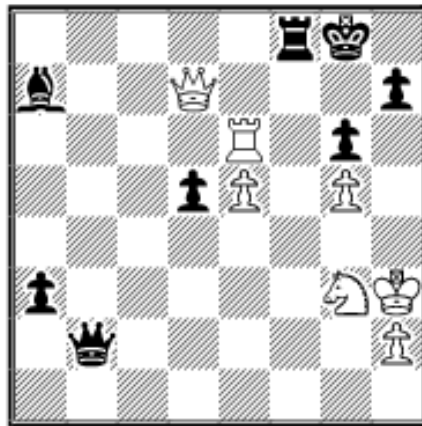
For additional information and links about Summer Chess Camps visit the United States Chess Federation [website](#).

Everyman Quiz of the Month

Each month Everyman Chess Books sponsors our Everyman Quiz of the Month, offering a free chess book to three respondents with correct answers. This month, winners of our quiz will receive *It's Your Move*, by GM Chris Ward. Send your answers to scholasticchess@chesscafe.com. Good luck! Please note – winners within the last three months are ineligible for this month's contest.



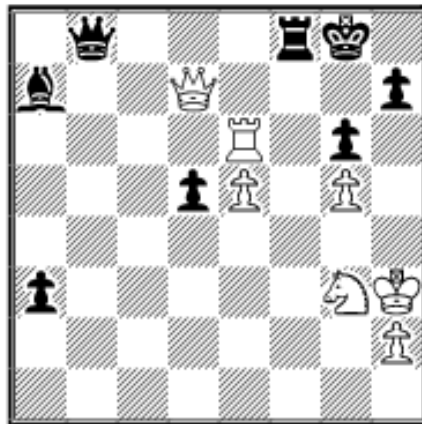
We will accept all contest answers for one week following the appearance of the column, then randomly select our three winners from this group. So please e-mail your responses to me by April 19, 2006.



Problem 1:

It is Black's turn to move, with Fritz indicating that "Black has a decisive advantage."

What do you suggest?



Problem 2:

This is a continuation of Problem 1. Black has played 40...Qb8 to reach this position, for which Fritz now indicates that "White has a decisive advantage."

How should White respond? For extra credit, can you identify the game from which these problems

are taken from?

For both problems, send your answers to scholasticchess@chesscafe.com.

2006 U.S. Chess Championship

It is interesting to note that of the sixty-four participants in the recently completed 2006 U.S. Chess Championship, fourteen were age 19 or younger:

- *Elliot Liu*, age 15, USCF 2139
- *Alex Lenderman*, 16, USCF 2427
- *Tatev Abrahamyan*, 17, USCF 2325, tied for third place among women
- *Hana Itkis*, 17, USCF 2149
- *Laura Ross*, 17, USCF 2238, tied for third place among women
- *Vanessa West*, 17, USCF 2034
- *Sal Bercys*, 18, USCF 2440
- *Lev Milman*, 18, USCF 2528
- *Hikaru Nakamura*, 18, USCF 2774, tied for 4th place overall
- *Igor Schneider*, 18, USCF 2420
- *Josh Friedel*, 19, USCF 2513, tied for 8th place overall and achieved a GM norm!
- *Jake Kleiman*, 19, USCF 2318
- *Batchimeg Tuvshintugs*, 19, USCF 2271, achieved a WGM norm and won the Joyce Jillson Brilliancy Prize
- *Iryna Zenyuk*, 19, USCF 2194

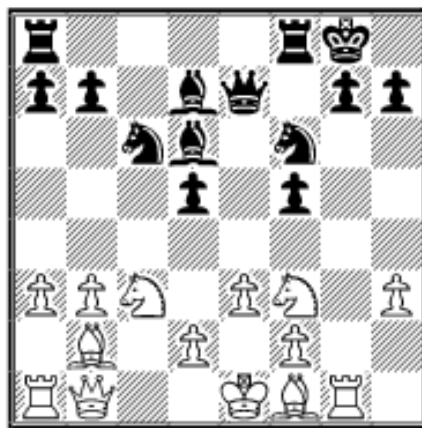
A wild game occurred in the first round, with tactical shots throughout. Defending U.S. Champion Nakamura was paired with the always dangerous Josh Friedel:

GM Hikaru Nakamura (2774) - IM Josh Friedel (2513)

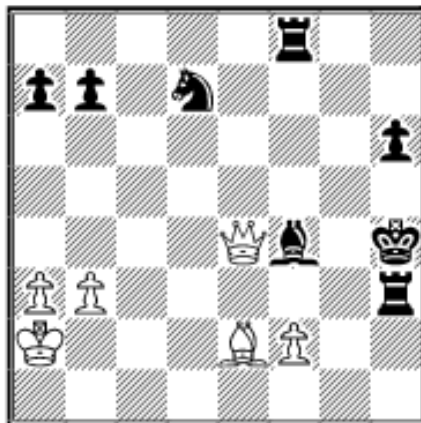
2006 U.S. Championship, Round 1

March 2, 2006

**1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 e6 4.Qc2 Bd6 5.Nc3 f5 6.h3 Nf6 7.g4 0-0 8.gxf5
exf5 9.b3 Qe7 10.Bb2 Na6 11.Rg1 Bd7 12.cxd5 Nb4 13.Qb1 cxd5
14.a3 Nc6**



**15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bc4 Be6
17.Rxg7+ Qxg7 18.Bxg7 Kxg7
19.Qb2+ Rf6 20.0-0-0 h6 21.d3
Kf7 22.e4 fxe4 23.dxe4 Rxf3
24.exd5 Bf4+ 25.Kb1 Bf5+ 26.Ka2
Ne5 27.d6+ Kg6 28.Be2 Rxh3
29.Qd4 Rf8 30.Bb5 Be6 31.Qe4+
Kh5 32.Be2+ Kh4 33.d7 Bxd7
34.Rxd7 Nxd7**



35.Qe7+

Fritz9 indicated that White is winning after 35.Qe6 Nf6 36.Qe7.

35...Bg5 36.Qxd7 Rf4 37.f3 Rh2 38.Qd3 Kg3 39.b4 Rf2 40.Kb1 Kg2 41.Bd1 Bh4 42.Qg6+ Bg3 43.Bc2 h5 44.Qxh5 Rc4 45.Be4 Rd4 46.f4+ Rxe4 47.Qd5 Rfe2 48.Qxb7 Kg1 0-1

U.S. Chess School

Four of the “age 19 and under” U.S. Championship contenders are graduates of the first session of the U.S. Chess School, held this past January: Sal Bercys, Josh Friedel, Lev Milman and Igor Schneider.

The next group of students is meeting as this column appears, from April 10-14 in Lexington, Kentucky. As of press time, the following players, all between ten and twelve years of age, had accepted their invitations to the week-long program:

- *Ray Robson*
- *Parker Ziao*
- *Michael Lee*
- *Christian Tanaka*
- *Daniel Naroditsky*

2006 Kasparov All-Girls National Championship: March 17-19, 2006

A very successful third edition of this tournament was held in Chicago, with over 200 participants from a total of 22 states. The highlight of the event was the presence of long-time world champion Garry Kasparov, who treated attendees to photo opportunities, autograph signings and lectures. In addition he gave a 40-board simultaneous exhibition against the top players from the All-Girls National Championships from the previous two years. Surprise – no one beat Kasparov.

Chicagoan Brad Rosen had the opportunity to visit the tournament and noted in his popular [chess blog](#).

“The setting for this all girls event was magnificent. The 8-year-old and 10-year-old divisions were held in the beautiful and ornate Adams Ball Room. I arrived during the second round of play and spent a bit of time in the tourney room. I was struck that the atmosphere, both inside and out of the tournament room, was a little more civilized and a little less manic than a typical national scholastic championship. Maybe this had

to do with the participants, maybe the venue, or perhaps a bit of both...As the parent to a 12-year-old boy chess enthusiast, I have harbored some ambivalence for these girls-only tourneys in the past. In fact, some in the chess community are outright hostile towards these events as a form of 'gender apartheid.' However, yesterday I had the opportunity to speak to a number of parents of tournament participants. The overwhelming consensus is that a smattering of girl-only tournaments will keep girls involved in the game longer and foster a stronger connection with the game."

When Kasparov delivered his keynote speech, Rosen was in the audience and had this to say:

"While I have followed Kasparov's career, both on and off the chessboard over the years, in person I was impressed with the force of his personality and a commanding presence that filled the room. And Kasparov certainly has no fear challenging the status quo, as his recent post-retirement run-ins with the Kremlin and Vladimir Putin demonstrate. So when Garry Kasparov speaks, at the very least, people listen. Here is a summary of a few of Kasparov's comments from his keynote and the Q&A that followed:

There is no question of the benefits that chess can bring to young people. What is missing is a unified blueprint to convince educational policy makers that chess should be part of the curriculum of all schools, public and private. The Kasparov Chess Foundation is working on creating such a blueprint. The key in bringing chess into the schools, is to 'teach the teachers' how to teach chess. The Kasparov Chess Foundation will be publishing a chess instruction manual for teachers that will be available free of charge for the nation's teachers. That should be released sometime this summer.

A full and comprehensive university level study demonstrating the value and benefits of chess education is needed. The Kasparov Chess Foundation will be supporting such a study. The educational system in the US needs to change to address global competition and new technologies. Chess education offers perhaps the best return on investment and is a means to add value to the educational infrastructure.

Chess suffers from a serious image problem and that must change. There are many chess supporters in the closet, including the governor of a state who insists his children learn chess. The chess community needs to be more aggressive in communicating its message - 'stories don't need to be invented, just tell the truth.'

2006 Final Four

No, we're not talking here about Florida, UCLA, LSU and George Mason. Our own Final Four took place April 1-2, on the campus of the University of Texas - Dallas (UTD). The participating teams consisted

of the top four U.S. schools from the December 2005 Pan American Intercollegiate Championship - UTD, University of Maryland - Baltimore County (UMBC), Miami Dade College and Duke University.



Final Four teams in action

UTD and UMBC traditionally battle for the top spot in any collegiate tournament in which they both participate, and this event was no different. In the final game of the final round, pitting the top two teams against one another, UMBC needed a win to claim the 2006 Final Four championship; a tie or a UTD win would hand the championship to the UTD squad. In the end, with only seconds remaining for each player to complete 40 moves, Bruci Lopez of UMBC transformed what looked like a loss into a stunning victory over UTD's Dmitry Schneider, resulting in UMBC's 4th consecutive Final Four championship.



Bruci Lopez (L) and Dmitry Schneider at the start of their game

FM Bruci Lopez (2438) - IM Dmitry Schneider (2525)

2006 College Final Four, round 3

April 2, 2006

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.Be3 d6 6.Nge2 Nd4 7.Bxd4 exd4 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 c6 10.Bb3 0-0 11.0-0 a5 12.c3 Qf6 13.Kh1 Kh8 14.a4 Bd7 15.Qd2 Be6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.f4 g6 18.g4 Qg7 19.g5 Rf7



20.Rf3 dxc3 21.bxc3 d5 22.e5 b5
 23.Qc2 Rb7 24.c4 bxc4 25.dxc4
 Ba7 26.cxd5 cxd5 27.Rc3 Qd7
 28.Rc6 Rb2 29.Qxb2 Qxc6 30.Rc1
 Qxa4 31.Ng3 Qxf4 32.Rf1 Qb4
 33.Qc2 Rf8 34.Rf6 Qc5 35.Qb1 a4
 36.Kg2 a3 37.Qb7 Kg8 38.Qd7
 Qb6 39.Rxe6 Qb2+ 40.Kh3 Qb8
 41.Re7 1-0

In the round-robin format, each team fielded four players in each of the three rounds. Final point totals were as follows:

UMBC	9.0
UTD	8.0
Miami Dade	5.0
Duke	2.0

I want to thank Jim Stallings, Associate Director for Chess and Education at the University of Texas-Dallas for his helpful information and photos.

2006 Virginia State Scholastic Championship, March 11-12

Lest anyone think that it takes a girls-only tournament to produce a female tournament champion, we received this report from Jeff Seiken, father of chess star Abby Marshall:

...at the Virginia State Scholastic Chess Championship in Roanoke, female players pulled off a remarkable trifecta by capturing a share of first-place honors in the high school, middle school, and elementary school sections! In fact, the elementary school section saw two girls battling it out on the top board in the final round of the tournament. They drew, thus producing a pair of female co-champions in that section.

According to the [crosstable](#) posted at the USCF website, the various co-winners of the seven-round sections were:

High School Section (with 89 players):

- Adithya Balasubramanian
- Abby Marshall
- Edward Lu
- Tyler Cook

Middle School Section (with 138 players):

- Aryan Khojandi
- Yang Dai

Elementary School Section (with 110 players):

- Kun Liu
- Ashley Xue
- Saroja Erabelli
- Kevin Huo

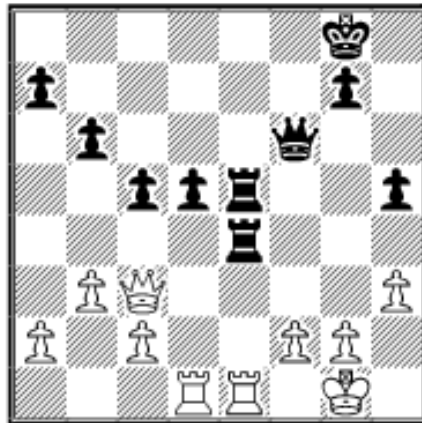
2006 Elementary, Junior High, High School Championships

Look for coverage of these national scholastic tournaments in upcoming Scholastic Chess columns:

- 2006 National Junior High School (K-9) Championship, April 7-9, Louisville, KY
- 2006 National High School (K-12) Championship, April 21-23, Milwaukee, WI
- 2006 National Elementary School (K-6) Championship, May 12-14, Denver, CO

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

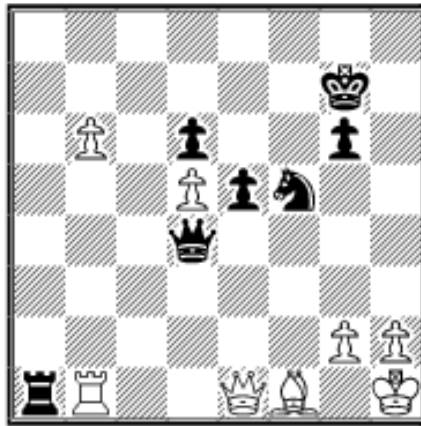
Below are the questions and answers from last month's quiz:



Problem 1:

This is taken from *Think Like A King: More Tactical Thinking*, with Black to move. How would you proceed?

Answer: 1...Rxe1 2.Rxe1 Re2!



Problem 2:

Also from Think Like A King: More Tactical Thinking, it is again Black's turn to move. What do you suggest?

Answer: 1...Ng3+ 2.hxg3 Ra8, with 3...Rh8# to follow.

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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