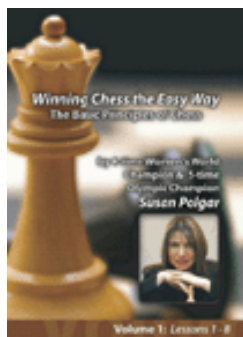




COLUMNISTS

Scholastic
Chess

Steve Goldberg



*Winning Chess
the Easy Way*
by Susan Polgar

2006 Junior Championships

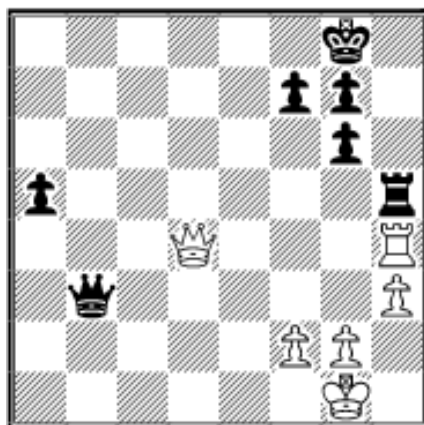
The middle of July saw many of the nation's top junior players gather in Dallas for the U.S. Junior Open, the U.S. Cadet (Under 16) Championship and the premier U.S. Junior Invitational Championship. There was fierce competition and last-round surprises. This month we interview several of the top players, and look at a sampling of games with tactical shots coming from all sides. I would also like to thank USCF Scholastic Director, Jerry Nash for his continued and efficient assistance.

Everyman Quiz of the Month

Each month Everyman Chess 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 either *It's Your Move* or *Starting Out in Chess* (at the discretion of **ChessCafe**). Please note – winners within the last three months are ineligible for this month's contest. Send your answers to scholasticchess@chesscafe.com. Good luck!



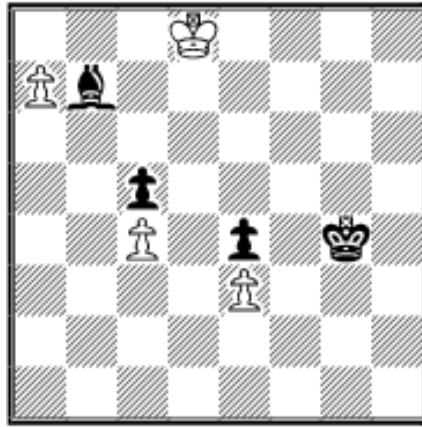
We will accept all contest answers for one week following the appearance of the column, then randomly select our three winners from this group. So please e-mail your responses to me by August 16, 2006.



Problem 1:

Both problems are from GM Yasser Seirawan's *Winning Chess Tactics* book.

Black plays 1...Rxh4 expecting 2.Qxh4 f6, followed by the advance of Black's a-pawn. How does White alter these plans, foiling Black's chance for victory?



Problem 2:

It is White to move. He may not be able to win, but how does he salvage a draw?

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

2006 Cadet Championship, July 15-21, 2006

After four rounds of the 2006 U.S. Cadet Championship in Dallas, two players stood tied for first with 3 points, and three others were a half-point back. That's when New Yorker Marc Tyler Arnold made his move in this annual under-16 invitational tournament. He swept his final three games to win clear first with 5½ points. Second place went to Parker Zhao, with FM Ray Robson finishing third.



Marc Tyler Arnold

Arnold didn't just ease into the championship – he had to beat Robson in round 6 and Zhao, the tournament leader, in round 7, both with the black pieces. The 13-year-old, however, is used to a high level of competition. He competed in the recent World Open, finishing with a score of 5½/9, including wins over IM Jay Bonin (2382) and Pascal Coupet (2390). He also had draws with GM Michael Rohde and three 2400+ players.

Marc has been playing chess since kindergarten and will be entering the 8th grade this fall at his Manhattan school, which he describes as “very

pro-chess.” His first trainer was John MacArthur, who then advised that he work with his current coach, GM John Federowicz. The Internet Chess Club (ICC) is also a frequent destination for the youngster, as well as the bricks-and-mortar Marshall Chess Club.

Marc is currently rated 2305 USCF and his past tournament highlights include victories over current U.S. Champion GM Alex Onischuk in the 2004 Atlantic Open and GM Walter Browne at the 2003 U.S. Open – when Marc was only ten-years-old. He credits the strong support of his parents for much of his success.

His FIDE rating stands at 2131. “I need to raise it!” Marc says. Asked if he has any specific short-term goals, he said he’d like to reach 2300 FIDE and obtain an FM title. However, chess is not his only interest. Like many teenage boys, he also enjoys baseball, football, basketball and soccer.

Here is the final round game of the 2006 U.S. Cadet tournament, which netted Marc his title:

Zhao, Parker (2203) – Arnold, Marc Tyler (2241)
2006 US Junior Cadet (7), 20.07.2006 [B52]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c4 Nf6
7.Nc3 e6 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Be7 10.b3 0-0 11.Be3 a6 12.f3 Rfd8
13.Rc1 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Rfd1 Rab8 17.e5 dxe5
18.Qxe5 Qe8 19.Rxd8 Qxd8 20.Rd1 Qe8 21.a4 bxa4 22.bxa4 Bb4
23.Bd4 Rd8 24.Nb5 Rd5 25.Qe2 Qd7 26.Rc1 Rxd4 27.Nxd4 Qxd4+
28.Qf2 Qd8 29.Qa7 g6 30.Rb1 Nd5 31.Qd4 Qa5 32.Rc1 Bc3 33.Qc4
Qb6+ 34.Kh1 Qe3 35.Rb1 Kg7 36.Qe4 Qd2 37.Qh4 Nf4 38.Qg3 Qd3
39.Re1 Bxe1 40.Qxe1 Qc2 0-1**

2006 Junior Open Championship, July 21-23, 2006

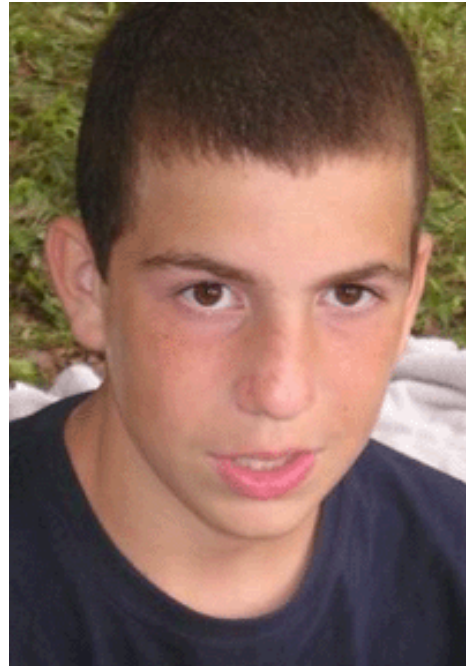
The top section of this six-round event ended in a three-way tie for first place. The co-winners were Peter Yeh, Ryan Milisits and Deepyaman Datta, who all finished with 5 points. Deepyaman had a busy week, as he simultaneously competed in the U.S. Cadet championship. Nine-year-old Darwin Yang from Texas continues to impress, finishing in the top third of the 48-player Under 21 section, with a score of 3½/6.

2006 Junior Invitational Championship, July 15-20, 2006

14-year-old Robert Hess is young enough to have played in the U.S. Cadet championship, but instead took part in the more grueling U.S. Junior Invitational championship for players under age 20.

As in the Cadet championship, the player leading the pack entering the final round was not the final winner. Jake Kleiman of Memphis, Tennessee had been having a superb tournament and was in clear first place through most of the first eight rounds. But in round 9, Kleiman

had the black pieces against FM Igor Schneider and lost in an open, attacking game. In the meantime, Hess sprinted to his fourth consecutive victory to win the event, entitling him to spots in the 2006 World Junior Championship in Armenia and the 2007 U.S. Championship.



Robert Hess

The new Junior Champion will be entering 9th grade at Manhattan's famous Stuyvesant High School, whose alumni include four Nobel laureates. Not surprisingly, Hess takes his academic work seriously. Trained by GM Miron Sher for the past seven years, he notes that "for many years I had chess homework and played almost every weekend in a tournament. Starting in 7th grade, because of school commitments, I play in fewer tournaments – but I still play on the ICC (Internet Chess Club)."

Hess has participated in a number of international tournaments, including two Pan-Am Youth tournaments, three World Youth Championships, the 2005 Paris Championship and, as noted above, in October he will be attending this year's World Junior Championship. However, the 2006 U.S. Junior Invitational was his first national scholastic tournament since his victory in the K-3 Championship five years ago.

The 2457-rated (USCF) youngster already has his FIDE Master title, and two norms toward an International Master title. He picked up his first IM norm at the 2005 Paris Championship, and his second norm at the 2006 Las Vegas Masters tournament. In addition to his work with GM Sher, he credits his chess success to his father, "for spending a lot of time traveling with me to tournaments," and to his mother "for making sure I did my chess homework."

He frequently plays at the Marshall Chess Club and has been invited to play for the New York Knights in the U.S. Chess League. Hess said that his short-term chess goals were “to get my last IM norm and play well in the 2007 U.S. Championship.”

His advice to aspiring players is simple: “Play up a section.” It certainly worked for Hess in this year’s U.S. Junior Championship. Here is his final round game:

Hess, Robert (2395) – Maltese, Adam (2308)

2006 U.S. Junior Invitational (9), 20.07.2006 [C10]

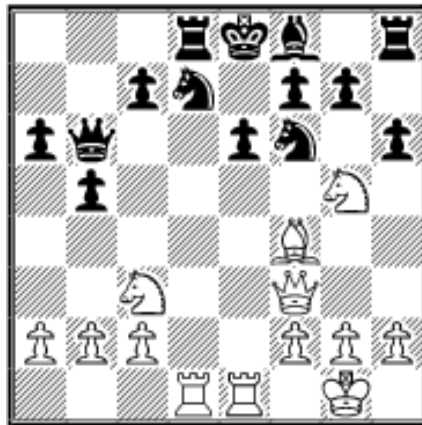
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7 5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.0–0 Ngf6 8.Ned2 Be7 9.Nc4 0–0 10.Na5 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 c6 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Nb3 c5 14.Ba5 Qc6 15.Qxc6 bxc6 16.Ba6 Bd8 17.Bxd8 Rfxd8 18.dxc5 Rab8 19.Rfe1 Nd5 20.c3 Nc7 21.Be2 a5 22.Nxa5 Rxb2 23.Nxc6 Ra8 24.Bf3 Rxa2 25.Rxa2 Rxa2 26.Rd1 Nd5 27.Nb4 Ra7 28.Nxd5 exd5 29.Rxd5 Kf8 30.g3 Ke7 31.c6 Nf6 32.Rb5 Ra3 33.Rc5 Ra1+ 34.Kg2 Ra8 35.c7 Rc8 36.Bb7 1–0

Another game that Hess is particularly proud of is this victory from the 2004 World Youth Chess Championships, in which he converts a lead in development into a devastating attack that nets his opponent’s queen.

Hess, Robert (2214) – Spoelman, Wouter (2357)

World Youth Chess Championships 2004 (8.5), 10.11.2004 [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.0–0 b5 9.Ng5 Bb7 10.Bf3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Rd8 12.Rfe1 h6 13.Bf4 Qxd4 14.Rad1 Qb6



15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Nxf7 Kxf7 17.Bxc7+ Kg8 18.Bxb6 N7xb6 19.Rxe6 Nf4 20.Rxb6 Rxd1+ 21.Qxd1 Rh7 22.Qf3 Bc5 1–0

Second place finisher Jake Kleiman was naturally disappointed in the final outcome of the tournament, but he has been playing excellent chess. In fact, the only loss that winner Robert Hess endured at the U.S. Junior Invitational was to Kleiman in

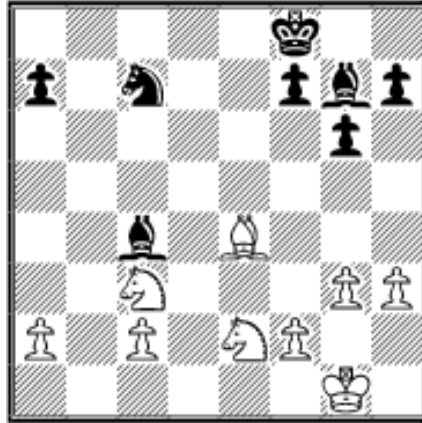
round 2, which featured a long king march:

Hess, Robert (2395) – Kleiman, Jake (2300)

2006 US Junior (2), 16.07.2006 [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 g6 6.Nge2 Bg7 7.b4

Qh5 8.h3 0–0 9.d4 e5 10.dxe5 Qxe5 11.Bf4 Qe7 12.0–0 Rd8 13.Qc1 Qxb4 14.Rb1 Qc4 15.Rd1 Rxd1+ 16.Qxd1 Nc6 17.Bxc7 Ne8 18.Qd5 Be6 19.Qxc4 Bxc4 20.Rxb7 Rc8 21.Bxc6 Rxc7 22.Rxc7 Nxc7 23.Be4 Kf8



The black king now begins his march to the other side of the board.

24.f4 Ke7 25.Kf2 Kd6 26.Bd3 Be6 27.g4 a5 28.Ne4+ Kc6 29.a4 Kb6 30.Ng5 Bd7 31.Nxf7 Bxa4 32.Nd6 Kc5 33.Ne4+ Kb4 34.c3+ Ka3 35.f5 gxf5 36.gxf5 Kb2 37.f6 Bf8 38.Nd2 Bb3 39.Nxb3 Kxb3 40.Bxh7 Ne8 41.f7 Nd6 42.Ke3 a4 43.Be4 Nxe4 44.Kxe4 Kc4 45.Nc1 Kxc3 46.Ke3 a3 47.h4 Kc2 0–1

Jake also put on quite a performance at the recent World Open. Starting in round 2, he faced five consecutive grandmasters, winning two games and drawing one. He was then matched with IM Dean Ippolito and drew that game. For his outstanding efforts, he achieved his first IM norm.

Kleiman also played in the 2004 and 2006 U.S. Championships, although he describes them as “the worst tournaments of my life!” He had to deal with the rigors and requirements of schoolwork that had to be completed while he was trying to compete against the best chessplayers in the country. His mother, Arlene Kleiman, told me that he was e-mailing in homework between rounds. She suggests that a student almost needs to take a semester off from school if he or she expects to do well in such a competitive tournament. But Jake clearly stated that “chess will always be secondary to my academia.” He is preparing to enter his junior year at Rhodes College in Memphis and is planning on attending law school afterwards, although he adds, “I have considered taking some time off between Rhodes and law school to pursue chess. Time will tell on this matter.”



Jake Kleiman

I was curious about the social interaction among players at an event such as the Junior Invitational, and the pressure of facing strong masters round after round. Jake explained that “the players get along well. I view the camaraderie like a corporate office: one will get along with certain individuals more than others. To continue with the analogy, I would view myself as a part-time worker because I live in a chess isolated area. I don’t feel any particular pressure when playing strong players round after round. It’s a nice challenge.”

In addition to playing in tournaments, Kleiman began instructing the Rhodes College chess team when he was a high school junior and has operated a chess camp there with GM Alex Stripunsky for the last five years, typically three times annually. Upcoming camps are scheduled to include current U.S. champion GM Alex Onischuk and popular WGM Jennifer Shahade. Kleiman hints that close friend GM Hikaru Nakamura may make an appearance as well.

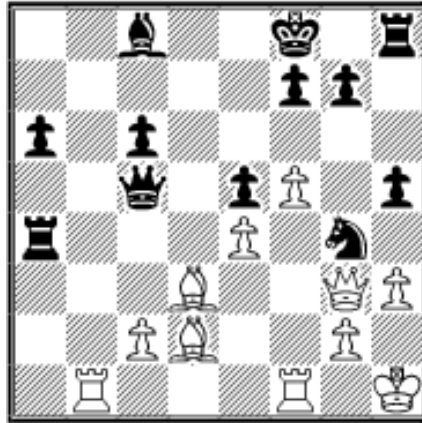
Asked to offer advice to young players who may be a bit nervous during tournament competition, he suggests to “just remember that chess is a very narrow facet of life and that one can always play a new game tomorrow.” It’s also helpful to have a supportive family. Kleiman expressed special thanks to his parents and uncle “for their undying support in all my endeavors.”

Going into the final round of this year’s U.S. Junior Invitational Championship, Jake needed only a draw to win the tournament. I asked him to share his thoughts at the time. “Prior to the game I knew that I would have to fight with the black pieces,” he said, “and that Schneider would not want to draw. I just tried to play chess regardless of the result.” Although Kleiman lost the game, it was a battle, not an attempt at a quick draw. Here it is, with annotations courtesy of Fritz9:

Schneider, Igor (2423) – Kleiman, Jake (2300)

2006 US Junior (9), 20.07.2006 [B43]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Nxc6 dxc6 9.f4 e5 10.Kh1 Bd6 11.f5 The last book move.
11...h5 12.Qf3 Ng4 13.a4 (13.Qg3 Qe7) **13...Bc5** (13...Qe7 14.Qg3=) **14.Nd1 Qe7 15.Bd2 Bd7 16.Rb1 Rd8** (16...Bb4 17.c3 Bc5 18.b4) **17.Qg3 Kf8** (17...Qf6!?) **18.b4± Bd4 19.Nc3** White prepares b5.
19...Bc8 20.Ne2 Ba7 21.b5 Bc5 22.Nc1 Rd4 23.bxa6 bxa6 Better is 23...Rxa4!? 24.axb7 Bxb7±. **24.Nb3+– Rxa4 25.Nxc5 Qxc5 26.h3** Better is 26.Rb8 Ke7 27.h3+–.



26...a5?? (26...Qa7!?) **27.Qh4** Better is 27.Rb8, which secures the win 27...Ke7 28.f6+ gxf6 29.Qh4+–. **27...Nf6 28.Qe1** (28.Rb8 Ke7 29.Qg5 h4+–) **28...Ng4??** (28...Kg8) **29.Qh4??** (29.Rb8!? Ke7+–) **29...Nf6 30.Rb3??** Better is 30.Rb8 with excellent chances for White 30...Ke7 31.Qg5+–. **30...Qd6 31.Be3** (31.Rfb1 Kg8 32.Qe1 c5) **31...Kg8= 32.Bg5 c5 33.Rbb1 c4** Black threatens to win material: c4xd3.

(33...Rd4!? 34.Rfe1 Nd5=) **34.Be2 c3 35.Rfd1** White threatens to win material: Rd1xd6. **35...Qe7??** 35...Rd4 would save the game. **36.Rb8+– Qc7** (36...Qf8 a last effort to resist the inevitable 37.Bxf6 gxf6+–) **37.Bxf6 gxf6 38.Qxf6 Rd4 39.Rxd4 exd4 40.Qg5+** (40.Ra8 Kh7 41.Bxh5 Rf8 42.Bg6+ fxg6 43.Qxf8 gxf5 44.Rxc8 Qxc8 45.Qxc8 fxe4 46.Qf5+ Kg8 47.Qxe4 a4+–) **40...Kf8 41.Ra8 Rg8** (41...Qc6 is still a small chance 42.Ra7 Bb7+–) **42.Qf6 Qb7 43.Bxh5 d3 44.Rxc8+!** A beautiful, forced end to the game. (44.Rxc8+ Qxc8 45.Qxf7#) **1-0**

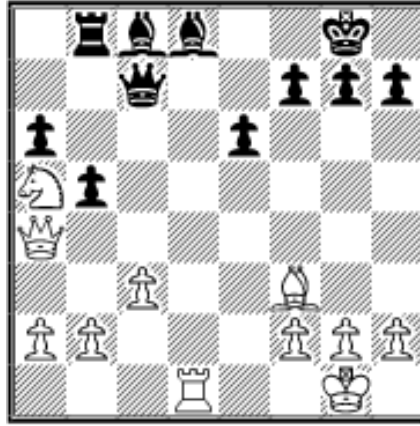
NorCal Juniors vs. Australian Juniors, July 15, 2006

In IM John Donaldson's Mechanics Institute Chess Room [newsletter](#), Michael Aigner provided coverage of the recent Internet match between 24 northern California players and 24 Australian youngsters. The event was split into two sections – Under 18 and Under 12, with 12 players per section on each team. The time control was Game/45, with a 5-second increment added per move.

The Under 12 Californians dominated their Australian counterparts, winning the section by a combined 20-4 score (everyone played one game as white and one as black). The Under 18 group was closer, with the NorCal team winning 13½-10½.

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

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



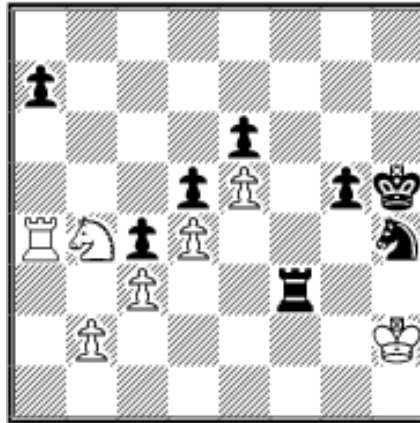
Problem 1:

Both problems are taken from Chimi's recent games.

In this position, it is her turn to move as White. How did she proceed?

Answer: Chimi continued: 24.Qf4! e5 (24...Qxf4 25.Rxd8 mates) 25.Qxe5!+- 25...Be6?? (25...Qxe5

26.Rxd8 mates) 26.Rxd8+ Qxd8 27.Nc6 1-0 (27.Nc6 Qb6 28.Nxb8+-) Tuvshintugs-Kreiman, U.S. Championship (3) 2006.



Problem 2:

Chimi has the black pieces in this game, what do you suggest for her?

Answer: The game proceeded 41... Kg4 42.Kg1 Kg3 43.Ra6 Rf2 0-1 Becerra-Tuvshintugs, U.S. Championship (5) 2006.

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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