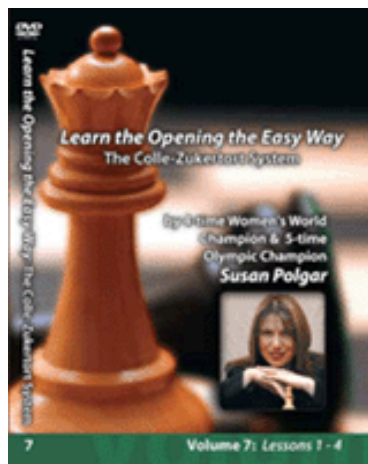




COLUMNISTS

Scholastic
Chess

Steve Goldberg



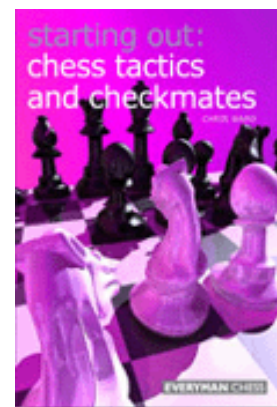
**Winning Chess
the Easy Way (DVDs)**
by Susan Polgar

World Junior Girls and World Youth
Championships

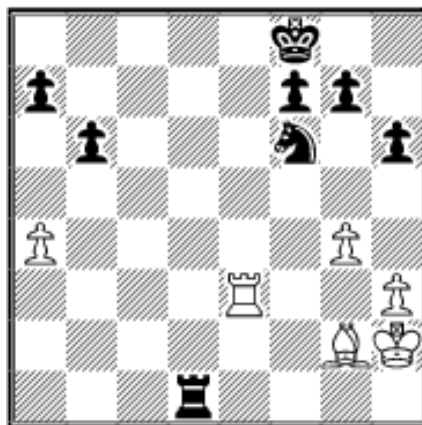
Two major international tournaments for junior players have just concluded. The 2006 World Junior and World Girls (Under 20) Chess Championships took place in Yerevan, Armenia, and the 2006 World Youth Chess Championship in Batumi, Georgia finished shortly before this column went to press. Preliminary reports appear below, with selected interesting games.

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 *Starting Out: Chess Tactics and Checkmates* by GM Chris Ward. Please note – winners within the last three months are ineligible for this month's contest. Send your answers to scholasticchess@chesscafe.com. Good luck!



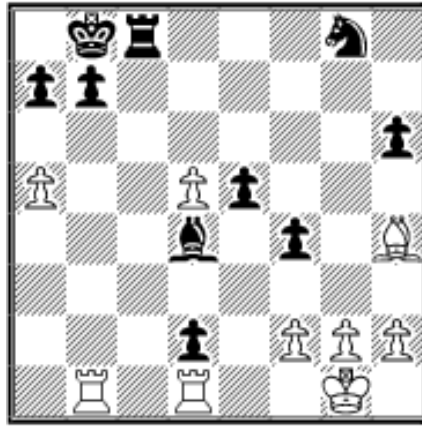
We will accept all contest answers for one week following the appearance of the column, then randomly select our three winners from this group. So please e-mail your responses to me by November 15, 2006.



Problem 1:

Both problems are from the games of 2006 World Junior Champion IM Zaven Andriasian.

In problem 1, he has the black pieces and is two pawns ahead. How did he put a quick end to the game?



Problem 2:

In problem 2, Andriasian is White.
How did he nail down the win?

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

Reader Survey

Here's your chance to have an impact on the type of stories we cover! The door to my office is open and all suggestions are welcome. What content would *you* like to see in this column? E-mail me at scholasticchess@chesscafe.com.

- Do you want to see more coverage of the European scholastic chess scene? Or more interviews with teenage GMs? Puzzles and problems? Analysis of what China and India are doing to produce so many fine young players? Or would you rather hear about regular, everyday chessplayers? Perhaps tips for new tournament players? Or how to start a chess club?
- For those of you who closely followed the recent Kramnik-Topalov world championship match, which website or blog did you primarily utilize to obtain up-to-the-minute information? Were you pleased with the coverage?



IM Zaven Andriasian

Photo: ChessBase

World Junior Championship and World Girls Chess Championship, Oct. 2-17, 2006, Yerevan, Armenia

Two concurrent tournaments took place in Armenia – the World Junior Championship for all players under age 20, and the World Girls Under 20 Championship. Armenian IM Zaven Andriasian placed clear first in the 83-player World Junior event, although he entered the tournament with only the 29th highest rating. He finished with 9½ points in 13 rounds. Three players tied for 2nd-4th place with 9 points. IM Nikita Vitiugov of Russia took second place on tiebreak, followed by GM Yuriy Kryvoruchko of Ukraine and GM Levan Pantsulaia of Georgia. This strong event featured 11 grandmasters and 22 international masters.



WGM Yang Shen

Photo: ChessBase

In the 57-player World Girls Championship, also 13 rounds, there was a four-way tie for first with 9 points. China's WGM Yang Shen was declared the winner on tiebreak, followed by 12-year-old WFM Yifan Hou, also of China, WGM Salome Melia of Georgia, and Mongolia's WGM Bathuyag Mongontuul. Titled players included 10 WGMs, 1 IM and 11 WIMs.



WGM Salome Melia

Photo: ChessBase

Two American players were in Armenia: WFM Tatev Abrahamyan returned to her roots and finished 14th in the World Girls event with a score of $7\frac{1}{2}/13$ (and a performance rating of 2389), while IM Robert Hungaski finished in the middle of the challenging World Junior with a final score of $6\frac{1}{2}/13$. Two Canadian players also participated in the World Junior event: Bindi Cheng ($6\frac{1}{2}$ points) and Nikita Krayushkin ($5\frac{1}{2}$).



2006 World Junior and World Girls Championships

I was able to touch base with Robert Hungaski, who enjoyed his time at the World Junior event. “The tournament was very well organized and the accommodations very comforting,” he said. When asked if he knew many of the other competitors, he replied “As a matter of fact, there were quite a few players who I had already met in previous international events, which made the experience even richer. From all over the world,

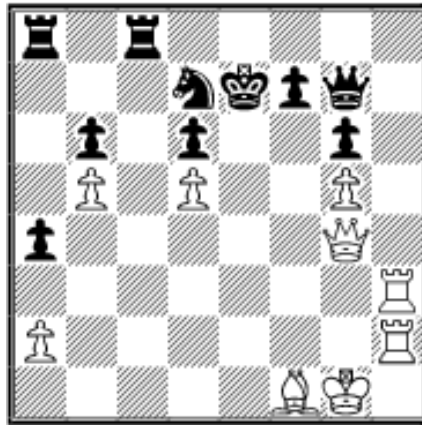
people from Australia, Cuba, Argentina, and Bolivia among others ... It was a great honor to represent my country in such a prestigious event and I hope that next year, my last year, I'll be presented again with this fantastic opportunity."

Here is one of Hungaski's favorite games from the event:

IM Robert Hungaski (2366) – IM Giorgi Margvelashvili (2456)

2006 World Junior Championship, Yerevan, Armenia (7) [B54]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.f3 Nc6 6.c4 Qb6 7.Nb3 a5 8.Qe2 a4 9.Be3 Qb4+ 10.Bd2 Qb6 11.Be3 Qb4+ 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Be3 Qd8 14.Nd4 g6 15.Nc3 Bg7 16.Ndb5 0–0 17.Qd2 Bd7 18.Be2 Qa5 19.0–0 Rfc8 20.Rac1 Ne5 21.Na3 Be8 22.Rfd1 Ned7 23.Bf1 Nc5 24.Qf2 h5 25.Rc2 Kf8 26.Kh1 Bd7 27.h3 Be8 28.Qh4 Ne6 29.Nd5 Nxd5 30.exd5 Bf6 31.Qf2 Nc5 32.g4 hxg4 33.hxg4 e5 34.Bh6+ Ke7 35.Bd2 Qa7 36.Re1 Bd7 37.g5 Bg7 38.Nb5 Bxb5 39.cxb5 Kf8 40.Bb4 b6 41.f4 exf4 42.Qxf4 Qd7 43.Bc3 Bxc3 44.bxc3 Qf5 45.Qh4 Qf3+ 46.Kg1 Kg8 47.Rh2 Qxc3 48.Rh3 Qg7 49.Re2 Nd7 50.Reh2 Kf8 51.Qg4 Ke7



Robert's heavy armor is ready to spring into action!

52.Qe2+ Ne5 53.Rh7 Qf8 54.Qf2 Rc3 55.Qf6+ Kd7 56.Rh8 Rg3+ 57.Bg2 Nf3+ 58.Qxf3 Rxf3 59.Rxf8 Rxf8 60.Bxf3 Re8 61.Bg4+ Kd8 62.Re2 Rh8 63.a3 Rf8 64.Rc2 f5 65.gxf6 Rxf6 66.Rf2 Ke7 67.Bd1 Rf5 68.Rxf5 gxf5 69.Bxa4 Kf6 70.Bb3 Ke5 71.a4 1–0

In last month's [column](#), we had the pleasure of interviewing WFM Tatev Abrahamyan (at right), who is currently the 6th-ranked woman player in the U.S. Take a look at her second round game at the World Junior Girls tournament against WGM Salome Melia, who finished the tournament as one of the four players tied for first. Tatev is relentless in her attack:



WGM Salome Melia (2395) – WFM Tatev Abrahamyan (2292)

2006 World Junior Girls Championship, Yerevan, Armenia (2) [B90]

**World Youth Chess
Championship, Oct. 19-28, 2006,
Batumi, Georgia**

A total of 794 players from 56 nations participated in this annual event. Naturally, the host nation had the most participants, with 174 players. The second most came from India, with a whopping 73 players, 13 of whom carry FIDE titles. The strong Indian contingent walked away with more medals than any country: 5 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals.



2006 WYCC Opening ceremony

Photo: Monroi.com

Thankfully, there were fewer of the maddening distractions that have characterized some recent international scholastic tournaments. However, for an entertaining insider's view, see Aviv Friedman's [article](#) at U.S. Chess. He discusses travel troubles and a small unwelcome visitor to his hotel room. The U.S. team was composed of the following players:

<i>Girls Under 18:</i>	<i>Boys Under 18:</i>
WFM Tatev Abrahamyan (5½/11)	Joel Banawa (6/11)
<i>Girls Under 16:</i>	<i>Boys Under 14:</i>
WFM Alisa Melekhina (7½/11)	Christian Tanaka (7/11)
<i>Girls Under 12:</i>	Victor Shen (6/11)
Lena Kuzniatsova (6/11)	<i>Boys Under 12:</i>
Darrian Robinson (5/11)	FM Ray Robson (7½/11)
<i>Girls Under 10:</i>	Daniel Naroditsky (6/11)
Eileen Dai (6/11)	<i>Boys Under 10:</i>
Ellen Xiang (6/11)	Eric Liao (5/11)
Sylvia Yang (6/11)	Atulya Shetty (6½/11)
Eve Zhurbinskiy (6/11)	Darwin Yang (6/11)
<i>Girls Under 8:</i>	Eric Zhang (6½/11)
Fei-Tzin Lee (5½/11)	<i>Boys Under 8:</i>
Evan Xiang (6½/11)	Nicholas Nip (6/11)
Jessica Zhu (6/11)	



2006 WYCC Canadian Team Photo: Monroi.com

Canada sent 12 representatives, including strong players Shiyam Thavandiran, Raja Panjwani, Jonathan Tayar and David Wang. All four sport FIDE ratings above 2200. Raja finished in 7th place in the Boys Under 16 section, ahead of two IMs and eight FMs, and achieved a powerful 2391 performance rating. Shiyam took 10th place in his Boys Under 14 division.

Two players in the tournament had performance ratings above 2600. Germany's IM Arik Braun won the Boys Under 18 division with 9 points and a performance rating of 2641, while FM Jacek Tomczak of Poland topped the Boys Under 16 section with the same score of 9 points and a performance rating of 2612. Ukraine's Vladimir Onischuk also had 9 points in the Boys Under 16 group, but took second place with his 2593 performance rating.

Among the women players, WGM Dronavalli Harika from India was tops with her performance rating of 2525. She won the Girls Under 18 division.



Susan Polgar (L) and Alisa Melekhina

Photo: Paul Truong

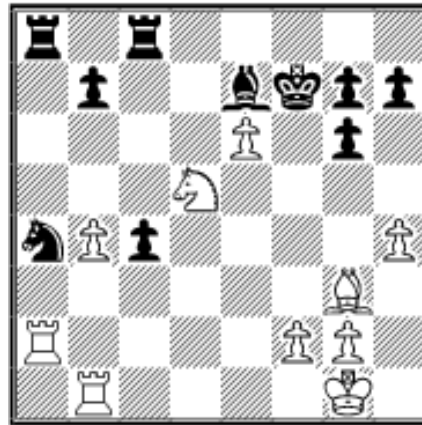
One of our favorite players in this column has been Alisa Melekhina.

Through six rounds of the WYCC, she amassed a total of 2½ points and was mired in the bottom half of her section. Unfazed, she proceeded to rattle off five consecutive victories in the final five rounds to finish in fourth place. No other American player finished higher in his or her section. Here is her 8th round game:

WFM Melekhina, Alisa (2088) – Babei, Angelica (1963)

World Youth Chess Championship, Batumi, Georgia (8), 25.10.2006
[A00]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Qb3
Qc8 8.Nd2 e6 9.Ngf3 Be7 10.0–0 Bh5 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7
13.Rfe1 0–0 14.Qc2 Bg6 15.Bxg6 fxg6 16.Bg3 Qc7 17.Nf3 Bc5
18.Qe2 Rae8 19.Rac1 Nb6 20.h4 Nc4 21.a4 a5 22.b3 Nb6 23.Qb5
Ba3 24.Rc2 Qc5 25.Qd3 Qe7 26.Ra2 Bc5 27.Qb5 Ra8 28.Rb1 Qc7
29.b4 axb4 30.cxb4 Be7 31.Nd4 Qc4 32.Qxc4 dxc4 33.Nxe6 Rfc8
34.Nf4 Nxa4 35.Nd5 Kf7 36.e6+



36...Kf8 37.Rba1 b5 38.Ra3 Ra6
39.Rf3+ Ke8 40.Re1 Rcc6 41.Rf7

It's a beautiful sight to see Alisa's pieces all coordinated toward a common goal.

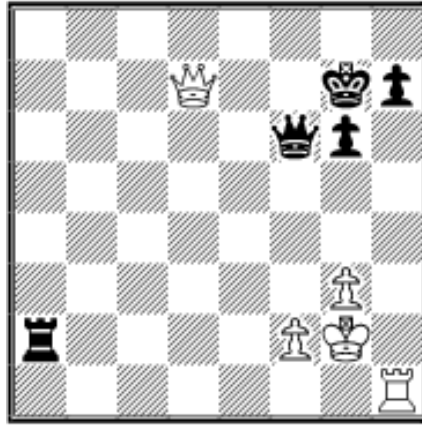
**41...Ra7 42.Rxg7 Kf8 43.Rf7+ Ke8
44.Rxh7 Kf8 45.Rh8+ Kg7
46.Be5+ 1-0**

On a side note, prior to the World Youth Chess Championship, GM Susan Polgar held a simultaneous exhibition in Philadelphia. Only one player managed as much as a draw: Alisa Melekhina.

Our congratulations go out to all of the young players who were able to participate in these challenging international tournaments.

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

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



Problem 1:

Both problems are from GM Yasser Seirawan's [Winning Chess Tactics](#).

Black is in check and has several possible moves. What is his best move and what is his worst move?

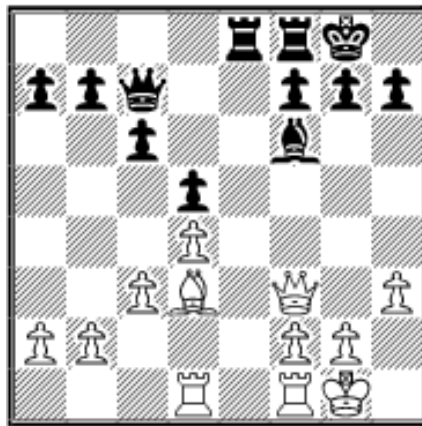
Answer: Black's best move is

1...Kf8. If 2.Rxh7 or 2.Qxh7, Black

answers with 2...Qxf2+. Black should not block White's check with

1...Qf7. Play would continue 2.Rxh7+ Kxh7 3.Qxf7+. However, several readers correctly pointed out that this indeed is not Black's worst move.

1...Kh8 allows immediate mate with 2.Qxh7# and thus deserves the title of worst move.



Problem 2:

It is White to move. What do you suggest?

Answer: 1.Qf5, forcing 1...g6. White then picks up a bishop with 2.Qxf6.

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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