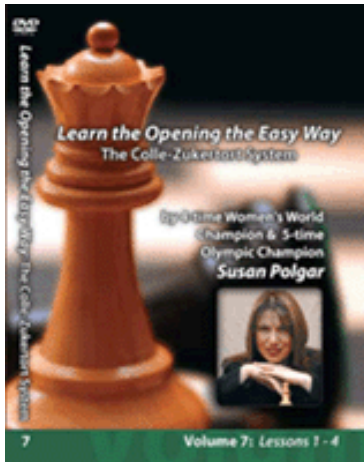




## COLUMNISTS

Scholastic  
Chess

Steve Goldberg



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

## Tatev and Alisa Continued

WFM Tatev Abrahamyan shares her thoughts about the recent World Junior Championship and World Youth Chess Championship (WYCC) tournaments she participated in, and Alisa Melekhina shares an annotated game from her section of the WYCC. We also have a different type of Everyman Quiz this month, and we conclude with a survey of some of our favorite websites, covering state and regional sites, blogs, instructional sites and places for online chess games. Best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful new year.

## 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 *The Easy Guide to the Classical Sicilian*, by GM Jouni Yrjola. Please note – winners within the last three months are ineligible for this month's contest. Send your answers to [scholasticchess@chesscafe.com](mailto: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 December 20, 2006.

Instead of tactical puzzles, I've chosen a chess logic puzzle, reproduced courtesy of Michael Stridsberg of the Vermont Chess Information website:

Five people named Ann, Bill, Chris, Dan and Ed meet regularly at a local chess club. They decided to hold a small tournament among themselves to determine which of them was the best player.

There were ten games, each person playing each other just once. Standard tournament scoring was used: One point to the winner of each game, no points to the loser, and half a point to each player in the case of a draw.

Can you figure out the result of each game, and what each person's final point total was, using the following clues?

- 1) Ed had the same result against Ann as he did against Chris.
- 2) Ann's only win came in her game against Bill.
- 3) Ed scored two points total.
- 4) Dan lost exactly two games.
- 5) Chris won her game against Bill.
- 6) At least four games were a draw.
- 7) The game between Dan and Bill was a draw.
- 8) Bill scored the same in his game against Ed, as Dan scored in his game against Ann.

So, who won the tournament, and what was each player's final score?

	Ann	Bill	Chris	Dan	Ed	Total
Ann						
Bill						
Chris						
Dan						
Ed						

### Tatev and Alisa Continued

WFM Tatev Abrahamyan was the only American player to compete in both the World Juniors event (in Yerevan, Armenia) and the World Youth Chess Championship (in Batumi, Georgia), in October of this year. I caught up with her after her whirlwind month of chess and here's what she had to say:

*Well the hellish tournament [WYCC] is finally over and I'm back now. There weren't any big problems and the conditions for the both events were good. If I could give an unbiased opinion, then I'd say that Batumi was nicer because it was quieter and more relaxed, nice weather and the Black Sea, but I enjoyed playing in Yerevan more.*



*First off, World Juniors. The competition was very tough, one of the strongest tournaments I ever played in. I think I played well in the tournament and the level of the games was decent, except the fact that I couldn't win from winning positions. Also the*

*preparation was really good, we guessed almost all the openings and I actually played lines that I'd never played before and got decent positions. The tournament gave me confidence and the willingness to try more openings. Besides that I really enjoyed the tournament, going home and spending some time with family and friends, whom I haven't seen for years.*

*World Youth was a whole other story. From the very beginning I could tell that I wasn't playing well and I was only winning because my opponents were weaker. I think the main reason might have been that I was playing to win every game, as opposed to the World Juniors where I was just playing and trying to do my best in every game and not worrying so much about the result. Well, of course, I was tired too. After my 5th round loss to Harika, all went downhill. I lost game after game, only getting 1½ out of 7 after I started with 4/4.*

*Now that I am back there is plenty of work to be done. First of all there is a lot of catching up to do at school. Chess-wise, I have many games to go over, openings problems to fix and of course, technique.*

Last month we reported that Alisa Melekhina finished in fourth place in her 54-player Girls Under 16 section at the recent World Youth Chess Championship. She was kind enough to annotate her final round game.



Alisa Melekhina

**Zhorzholiani, Meri GEO (2099) – Melekhina, Alisa USA (2088)**  
 World Youth Chess Championship, Batumi, Georgia (11), 28.10.2006  
 [E81]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 c5 7.dxc5**

For this decisive game, we prepared about three hours for the Saemisch Declined, so I was very surprised to see her playing this variation.

**7...dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxc5 Nc6 10.Ba3 a5 11.Bc5**

My opening repertoire went as far as 11.Nd5, so this was the starting point of the game for me.

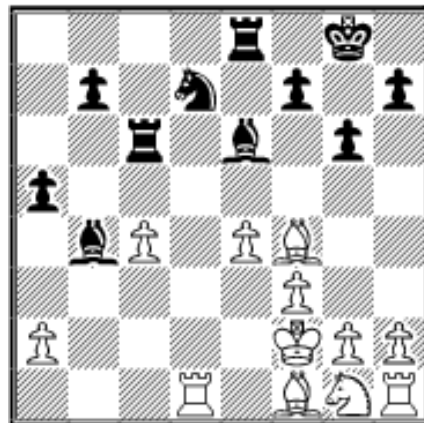
**11...Be6! 12.Nd5 Nd7 13.Nxe7+**

13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Nxe7+ Kf8 15.Nd5 Bxb2 16.Rb1 Bg7 17.Rxb7 Rab8 18.Rxb8 Rxb8 19.Ne2 Rb1+ 20.Kf2 Rb2 21.a4 Rc2 22.Ne3 Bd4.

**13...Nxe7 14.Bxe7 Bxb2 15.Rb1 Bc3+ 16.Kf2 Re8 17.Bd6 Ra6! 18.Bc7 Bb4! 19.Rd1**

19.a3 Bc5+ 20.Kg3 Rc8 21.Bf4 Rb6.

**19...Rc6 20.Bf4**



White is a pawn up, but has absolutely nothing. White's development is hideous. My opponent was in medal contention, so this was definitely not a wise opening choice for her.

**20...Nb6 21.Nh3 Nxc4!**

21...Bxh3 22.gxh3 Nxc4 23.Rd7=.

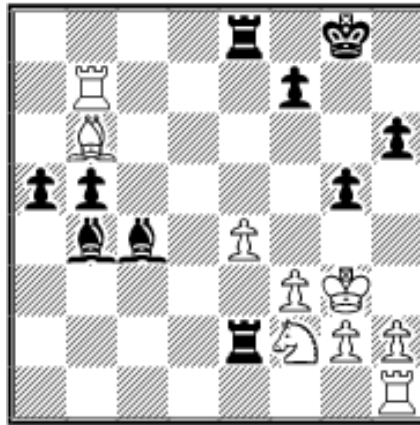
**22.Bxc4**

22.Rc1 Bc5+ 23.Kg3 Na3; 22.Ng5 Nb2 23.Ra1 Rc2+ 24.Kg3 Bd7.

**22...Rxc4 23.Ng5? Rc2+ 24.Kg3 Bxa2 25.Rd7 h6! 26.Nh3 g5!**

The idea behind my last two moves was to prevent e5 followed by Ne4.

**27.Be3 b5 28.Rb7 Bc4 29.Nf2 Re2 30.Bb6**

**30...Be1**

I have had “mixed reviews” about this move. I wanted to simply cutoff the rook and knight from the rest of the game and quietly promote the a-pawn, and I didn’t expect her to take the bishop. Others suggested that I shouldn’t have wasted my time with this move and just promoted my pawn. 30...a4 31.Rd1 (31.h4 Bd6+ 32.Kg4 Be6+ 33.Kh5 gxh4 34.Kxh4

b4) 31...Be1 32.Bd4 Ra8 33.f4 a3 34.Kf3 a2 35.Nh3 Bb4 36.fxg5 hxg5 37.Nxg5 Rd2 38.Rxd2 Bxd2 39.Nh3 b4.

**31.h4 g4**

The only way to stop her from gaining control of the h-file.

**32.fxg4 R2xe4 33.Rxe1 Rxe1 34.Bxa5 R1e3+ 35.Kf4 Re2 36.Kg3 R2e7 37.Rb6 Re3+ 38.Kh2 Re2 39.Nh3 R2e6 40.Rb7 Ra6 41.Bc3 Ra3 42.Bd4 Raa8 43.Rb6 Re6 44.Rb7 Re2**

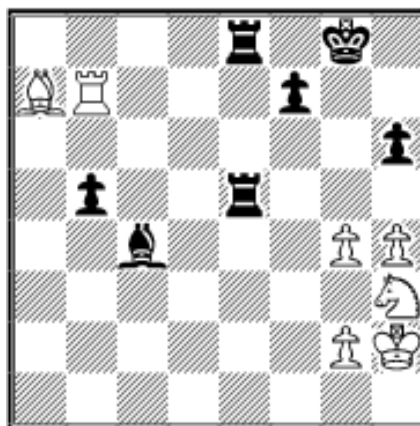
I was so keen on trying to capture the g2-pawn with my rook and then going Bd5+ to exchange the rooks, that I missed this winning opportunity: 44...Re4! 45.Bc5 Rxc4 46.g3 Ra2+ 47.Nf2 Kg7.

**45.Nf2 Rd8 46.Bb6 Rdd2 47.Kg3 Re8**

47...b4 48.g5 hxg5 49.hxg5 b3 50.Ng4 b2 51.Be3 Rd1.

**48.Bc5 Rd5 49.Ba7 Rde5 50.Bd4**

She offered a draw in this position with two minutes left on her clock!

**50...R5e6 51.Nh3 Rd6 52.Bc5 Rd3+ 53.Kh2 Rd5 54.Ba7 Rde5****55.Nf4??**

55.Bf2! f5 56.g5 hxg5 57.Nxg5

**55...R5e7**

Finally! After all of the maneuvering, she cracked and I get to exchange the annoying rook that is preventing my pawn from promoting.

**56.Rxe7 Rxe7 57.Bc5 Rc7 58.Bb4 f6!**

To prevent any Nf6+ ideas.

**59.Nh5 Kf7 60.Bd2 Be6 61.Kg3 Rc4 62.g5?? fxg5! 63.hxg5 hxg5  
64.Kh2??**

64.Kf2 b4 65.Bxg5 b3

**64...Rh4+ 0-1**

Alisa's proud father noted that "Only iron will, tremendous concentration based on long preparation and good technique allowed Alisa to take 5 out of 5 in the last rounds."

### **National Chess Congress, November 24-26, 2006**

The National Chess Congress was held in Philadelphia from November 24-26. It included a field of 5 international masters and 11 grandmasters. But that didn't stop 12-year-old FM Ray Robson, with his 2258 rating, from finishing tied for 5th-9th place (8th place on tiebreak points). He finished ahead of five GMs and four IMs. The final standings of the event can be found [here](#).

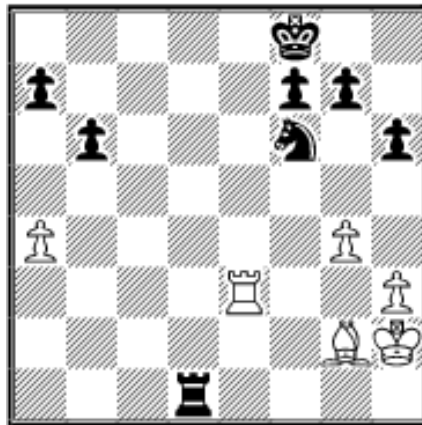
For a nice tournament report from IM Jennifer Shahade, including two of Ray's games, visit the [USCF online](#).

### **Survey of Interesting Websites**

There is a seeming endless supply of quality internet websites. [Here](#) are but a few, with my brief comments.

### **Answers to Last Month's Quiz**

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



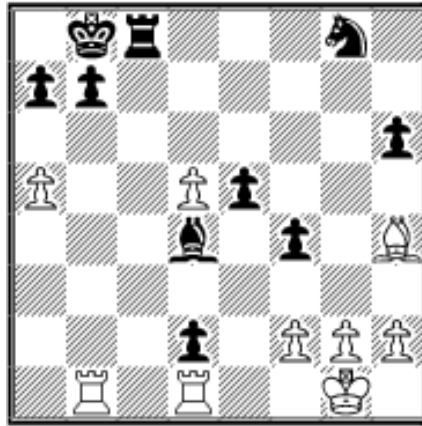
Problem 1:

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?

*Answer: This is from IM Vitiugov (2596) – IM Andriasian (2463) WJGCC (round 12), after 44.a4. Black put a quick end to the game with 44...Rd4 45.Bc6? Rxg4 0-1 (46.hxg4*

*Nxg4, forking the white king and rook).*



Problem 2:

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

*Answer: This position is from IM Andriasian (2463) – Alaverdyan (2202) WJGCC after 36...Bd4. White answered with 37.d6 e4 38.d7 1-0.*

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Have something newsworthy you'd like to share? E-mail me at [scholasticchess@chesscafe.com](mailto: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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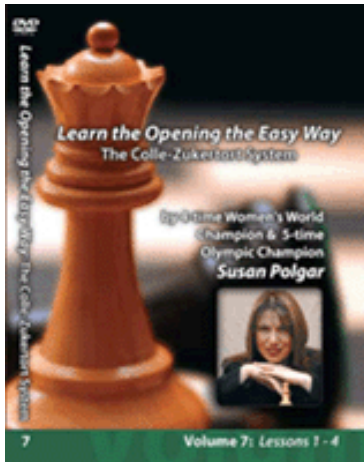
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## Survey of Interesting Websites

There is a seeming endless supply of quality internet websites available to the chess fan looking for free or inexpensive sources of chess news and instruction. Here are but a few, with my brief comments:

## State/Regional Sites

- [Northern California Chess Association](#) – The home page has nice recent information as well as an active online forum, current chess news and links to interesting chess videos.
- [Southern California Chess Federation](#) – Good online magazine *Rank & File*; also many good links to a variety of chess resources and recent tournament results with games available for download.
- [Colorado State Chess Association](#) – The scholastic page has an excellent FAQ section, and updated local/regional tournament info.
- [Hawaii Chess Federation](#) – Multiple links to scholastic events are available, as well as to a number of local clubs.
- [Chess in Chicago](#) – “The One Stop Resource for Scholastic/Junior Chess Clubs in Chicago”; links are included to a number of Chicagoland chess clubs; also has links to a number of helpful resources, both for the person entirely new to chess and to the more experienced player; contains links to a number of free sites in which to play chess online.
- [Georgia Chess Association](#) – Winner of the Chess Journalists of America award for Best State website.
- [Scholastic Chess of Indiana](#) – Includes information about upcoming scholastic events throughout Indiana; also has a nice Beginner’s Guide by Jon Edwards.
- [Iowa State Chess Association](#) – The scholastic page describes upcoming scholastic events; the main state site also has a number of helpful links and downloads.
- [Maryland Chess Association](#) – Contains information about a number of scholastic events, as well as a nice page with many tactical exercises and a “Virtual Web-Board” to enable two players to play each other via e-mail. There is also a nice calendar of upcoming events, *many* crosstables of events, a few articles with helpful information, and links to clubs statewide. An enjoyable and well-done site!

- [Massachusetts Chess Association](#) – Some scholastic info, crosstables; sample articles of the state magazine *Chess Horizons*; games archive and club listings.
- [Ohio Chess](#) – Nice site with many scholastic elements, tournament information and links to clubs throughout Ohio.
- [Pennsylvania Scholastic Chess](#) – Much useful information is available from several different sites accessible from the primary page.
- [Vermont Chess Information Website](#) – Some scholastic info, many clubs statewide listed; nice links and a fun chess tournament logic puzzle.
- [Virginia Chess Federation](#) – Helpful listing of upcoming tournaments and recent results, including a number of scholastic events; nice online *Virginia Chess Newsletter*.
- [Northwest Chess](#) – Chess news from Oregon and Washington State, with many nice links, club listings, and tournament information.

## Blogs

- [64 Square Jungle](#) – ChessDad started this blog back in June 2004, making him a veritable veteran of the blog world. He reports on his experiences as the father of a prolific young chess player, as well as providing insight into various aspects of scholastic chess, particularly involving the Chicago area.
- [Boylston Chess Club Blog](#) – Maintains an extensive set of chess links.
- [ChessBase News](#) – Provides excellent international chess coverage, an extensive games database and player database, and valuable links.
- [Mig Greengard's Daily Dirt](#) – Good international coverage with an edge; Mig could be called “the Jim Rome of chess.”
- [Scholastic Chess Gateway](#) – One of the newest entries in the chess blogging world, this is my own blog. There are new posts daily (often multiple posts) covering current events in the scholastic chess world, interesting chess videos, chess puzzles and anything else that I think will be of interest to chess fans, scholastic or not. There are also extensive links to chess camps, various chess organizations and websites, and other blogs.
- [Susan Polgar's Blog](#) – Excellent blog updated multiple times daily, often with fascinating photographs. GM Susan Polgar's intent is to “provide chess fans and enthusiasts with updates on my activities and interests as well as important chess news from around the world.” Some of her posts have resulted in hundreds or even thousands of responses within days. This is a site I try to visit daily.
- [Chess Life Online](#) – USCF's relatively new site featuring regularly updated news items by multiple contributors, as well as

numerous links to other areas of the USCF website.

- [\*The Chess Drum\*](#) – Operated by Dr. Daaim Shabazz, this is a website emphasizing the accomplishments of Black players worldwide. It is updated regularly and has an impressive “Chess Academy” and game library, as well as an extensive list of audio interviews.

## Chess Instruction and Training

- [\*About: Chess\*](#) – Mark Weeks has put together a wonderful site full of instructional articles, news and game collections to keep you busy for hours at a time.
- [\*ChessDryad\*](#) – Contains dozens of flash movies explaining chess basics to the beginning player, as well as other articles and audio files intended for the intermediate player.
- [\*ChessGames.com\*](#) – Extensive database of games, easy and quick to use.
- [\*ChessLab\*](#) – Very large database of players and games.
- [\*Chessville\*](#) – Many tactical puzzles, annotated games, articles and links.
- [\*Mark Lowery’s Exciting World of Chess\*](#) – Very extensive instruction for beginning and intermediate players.
- [\*William Harvey’s Chess Puzzle Site\*](#) – Countless chess puzzles taken from the games of many of the world’s best players, past and present. *The* site for the puzzle fanatic.

## Play Chess Online

- [\*Chess Live\*](#)
- [\*ChessManiac\*](#)
- [\*Free Internet Chess Server\*](#)
- [\*Internet Chess Club\*](#)
- [\*MSN Chess\*](#)
- [\*PlayChess.com\*](#)
- [\*World Chess Network\*](#)
- [\*www.chess.4mg.com\*](#)
- [\*Yahoo Games\*](#)

In reviewing website after website, I was impressed with the terrific effort that so many people have put into producing something of value, but I also came across many of the same problems. As a web user, the things I would most like to see stressed include:

1) Please make sure that articles and tournament results are dated. There are times I’ll be looking at “State Championship Results” but it’s not clear whether the data is for the current year or earlier.

2) Please check your links periodically. I realize that in some cases this may be impractical, but it looks bad to find many outdated or broken links.

3) Above all, maintain regularly updated information. When I see a home page open with a tournament headline from three years ago, I tend to quickly move on elsewhere.

Of course, many chess sites are run by unpaid webmasters who simply may not be able to devote the time it takes to maintain an attractive, quality web presence. Perhaps some of you might be interested in volunteering an hour here or there to help out your favorite site?!



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