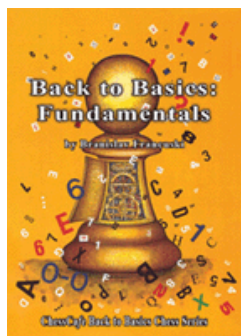




COLUMNISTS

Scholastic
Chess

Steve Goldberg



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2008 Grade Nationals and Pan Am
Intercollegiate

I had the opportunity to visit the Coronado Springs Resort, a Disney World property, just after the conclusion of the 2008 National K-12 Championships. It's a beautiful place for a tournament, especially if the players have an opportunity to visit the nearby Disney parks.

In Texas, meanwhile, a couple dozen college teams were locking horns at the annual Pan American Intercollegiate Championships. Historically, teams from either the University of Texas-Dallas or the University of Maryland-Baltimore County have captured first place. Other teams appear to be closing the gap, but the trend remains as these two schools shared the top spot.

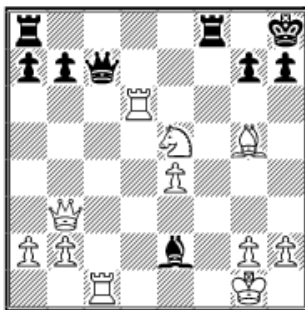
Everyman Quiz of the Month

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 CD *Starting Out: The King's Indian*, by GM Joseph Gallagher. Please note – winners within the last three months are ineligible for this month's contest.



We will accept all contest answers for *two weeks* following the appearance of this column, then randomly select our three winners from this group. In order to meet the two-week deadline, please e-mail your responses to me by January 28, 2009. Send your answers to scholasticchess@chesscafe.com. Good luck!

Problem #1



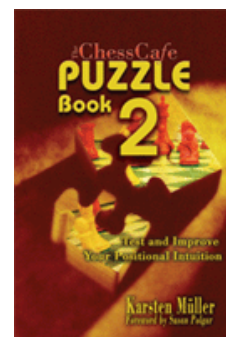
It is White to move. He is a piece and a pawn ahead, but both of his rooks are attacked and undefended. How can he save them?

Problem #2

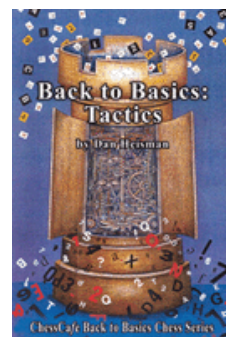
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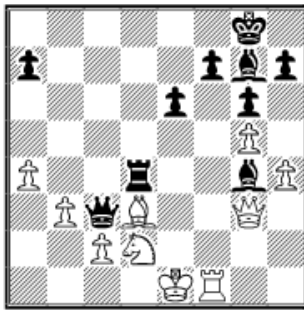
by Bruce Alberston

[ChessCafe](#)[Puzzle Book 2](#)

by Karsten Müller

[Back to Basics: Tactics](#)

by Dan Heisman



It is Black to move. How did he bring the game to an immediate end?

2008 National K-12 Scholastic Championships, Dec. 12-14, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

The annual “grade nationals” tournament brought 1,235 players to Disney’s beautiful Coronado Springs Resort near Orlando, Florida in mid-December. Each section is composed entirely of students within a given grade, with the sections ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade. The tournament was a seven-round event, with a game/90 time control. The top finishers in each section included:

- Kindergarten: Awonder Liang, Arun Khemani, Zane Ice (all 6/7)
- 1st Grade: Benjamin Lu (7/7)
- 2nd Grade: Winston Zeng, William Radak, Albert Lu, Richard Qi, Kevin Zhou, Sam Ferguson, Sam Witwer (6/7)
- 3rd Grade: William Graif (6½/7)
- 4th Grade: Matthew Zeitlin (7/7)
- 5th Grade: Kyle Shin (6½/7)
- 6th Grade: Michael Bodek (6½/7)
- 7th Grade: Andy Wang, John Hughes, Nicholas Rosenthal (6/7)
- 8th Grade: Hengyi Wu (6½/7)
- 9th Grade: Bob Shao (6½/7)
- 10th Grade: Marc Arnold, Alexander Heimann (6½/7)
- 11th Grade: Abby Marshall, Jeffrey Haskel (6/7)
- 12th Grade: Toby Boas (6/7)

“It definitely was a surprise when I won nationals,” beamed Abby Marshall. “I couldn’t believe it when I lost in the second round because I had dropped a piece. It was funny, too, that my co-champ [Jeffrey Haskel] had lost in the first round; goes to show that tenacity is very important in a long tournament like this one. After I had lost, I talked to Fed [coach GM John Fedorowicz] and he told me not to do anything crazy, which I thought was kind of funny. And good advice!”

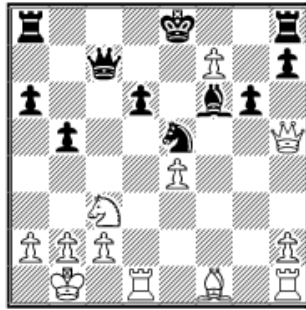
Asked how she enjoyed the tournament environment, Abby replied, “All in all, I definitely liked Coronado Springs. However, there were two things that drove me crazy: 1) Prices – beyond absurd. I had trouble spending less than \$40 a day on food. The pizza is good, but the kids’ menu became a necessity because of cheaper prices. 2) Distances – not a big deal, just kind of annoying. The rooms are spread out into apartment style buildings, so I had to walk outside for about ten minutes from the convention center to get to my room. When it’s late at night and you’re tired from a game, it’s a little annoying. Everything else is fantastic. The resort is beautiful.” She especially enjoyed the multiple pools and waterslides.

Abby is a high school junior in Virginia, and has her sights set on Columbia, Brown or Yale as her top college choices. She kindly annotated her sixth round game for our readers:

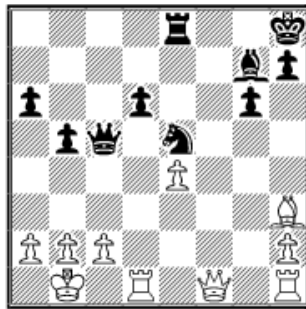
Abby Marshall (2151) – Grant Ho (2006)

2008 National K-12 Scholastic Championship (6), 14.12.2008 [B99]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8. Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Bxg5+ 14.Kb1 Ne5 15.Qh5 Bf6 All theory up to this point. I don't think the text is so good because the bishop is exposed on f6. 15...Qe7 is the main line. 16.Nxe6 Black must trade off his light-squared bishop, ceding the light squares, which makes me think this is strongest. 16.fxe6 Bb7 17.Nd5 (17. Bxb5+!? axb5 18.Ndx5 Qe7 19.Nxd6+ Kf8 20.Rhf1 Bc8! 21.Rxf6 (21. Qxe5 Bxe5 22.Rxf7+ Qxf7 23.Nxf7 Bxc3 24.Rd8+ Ke7 25.Rxh8 Rb8 with Black better) 21...Qxf6 22.Nc4 Nxc4 23.Qc5+ Kg8 24.e5 Nxe5 25. Nd5 Bxe6 26.Nxf6+ gxf6 27.Rg1+ Ng6 28.c4 Kg7 After this crazy mess I think Black is better.) 17...Bxd5 18.exd5 0-0 19.Bh3 Black has less problems than in the game. 16...Bxe6 17.fxe6 g6?! 17...0-0 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Bh3 White is better but this is preferable than the game I think. 18.exf7 +

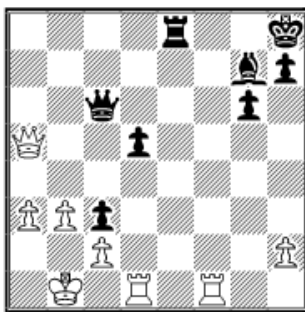


18...Kxf7?! I think there is a line where Black wants to take on f7 with the king, but this is not it, since the king is very exposed and more importantly, the knight will gain a tempo on d5. This sort of thing of mixing ideas up is called conceptual blend. I know this because this confusion seems to happen to me all the time. In chess, this is not so good. 18...Qxf7 19.Qh3 0-0 20.Rxd6 Rfd8 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Nd5 Bg7 23.Be2 White is better, but I think this offers Black easier play. 19.Qe2 19.Qh6! Way stronger since the h8-rook is tied down now and Black can't get organized. 19...Qc5 20.Nd5 Bg7? Much too slow and dangerous. 20...Rh8 21.h4 Nc4 22.c3 Kg8 23.Bh3 White is better because of control over the influential white squares and the weak black king. 21.Bh3 Rhe8? 21...Rh8 22.Nf4 Rfe8 23.Rhf1 Kg8 24.Ne6+/-, 22. Qf1+! Kg8 23.Nf6+ Kh8! The best chance for counterplay. 23...Bxf6 24. Qxf6 Ra7 25.Be6+ Nf7 26.Rxd6. 24.Nxe8 Rxe8



25.Qg1! I like this move, gaining a tempo and opening the f1-square for the bishop to cover c4 and get back in the game. 25...Qb4 25...Qc6 is what worried me most. 26.Bf1 Rc8 (26...Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.Qe3 Qb7 29.c3 d5 30.Rhe1 dxe4 31.Rd6 a5 32.Qb6 Qe7 33.Qc6 e3 34.Rd7 Qf8 35. Qxc4 Qf5+ 36.Qd3 Black's pawns are starting to fall) 27.Qg2 Ng4 28. Qd2 Ne3 29.Rc1 Qxe4 30.Bd3 Qf3 31.Rhe1 Bh6 32.Qb4 White has solidified and is winning. 26.a3? 26.Qe1 Qa4 27.Rxd6 Nc4 28.Re6 Rxe6 29.Bxe6 Nxb2 30.Qg3 It's sloppy but White is winning. 26...Qxe4 26... Qa4! 27.Bf1 b4 28.Qb6 (28.Qd4 is what I planned, but it is losing! 28... Rc8 29.Bd3 Nc4) 28...bxa3 29.Qb3 Qxe4 30.Bxa6 axb2 31.Rhe1 Qa8 32. Qb7 Qxb7 33.Bxb7 Rd8=. 27.Bg2 Qa4 28.Bd5 Nc4 28...Rc8 29.Bb3 Qf4 30.Qb6. 29.Bxc4 bxc4 30.Qb6 c3 31.Qb4 Qc6 32.b3?! Allows Black one last chance. 32.Qxd6 Qxd6 33.Rxd6 cxb2 34.Rxa6 easily winning. 32...d5

33.Rhf1 a5 Desperation. 33...d4!? is interesting, with a possible ...d3 if the rook moves from the d-file. 34.Rxd4 (34.Rfe1 Playing normally surprisingly is not so simple for White 34...Rd8 35.Re7 Qf3 36.Rde1 Bf8 37.Re8 Kg7 38.Qa4 Rxe8 39.Qxe8 Kh6 White is much better of course, but at least Black has chances.) 34...Bxd4 35.Rf8+ Kg7 36.Rxe8 Qxe8 37.Qxd4+ Kf7 38.Qxc3+- **34.Qxa5 1-0**



Black resigned. I thought this was a bit premature, since I mess up all the time so it's not over. After this game, I played the seventh round for the title and won, becoming the 11th grade national champion despite losing the second round. Funnily enough my co-champ Jeff Haskel had lost in the first round. That first day must have been a curse for the top boards.

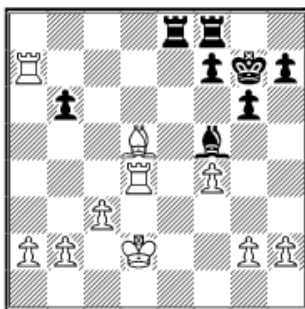
If you'd like to hear Abby discussing this tournament, listen in on her [interview](#) at World Chess Live.

Another interesting game was the third round encounter between Marc Arnold and John Williams, in the strong 10th grade section:

Marc Tyler Arnold (2424) – John Williams (1985)

2008 National K–12 Scholastic Championship (3), 13.12.2008 [B34]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bb5 0-0 8.Qd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Nxd4 11.Bc4 e6 12.Bxd4 Bxd4 13.0-0-0 exd5 14.Qxd4 Qc7 15.Bxd5 Bf5 16.c3 Rad8 17.Qc4 Qe7 18.Rhe1 Qg5 + 19.f4 Qf6 20.Qd4 Qxd4 21.Rxd4 b6 22.Re7 Kg7 23.Rxa7 Rde8 24.Kd2



Down two pawns and with little chance for counterplay, Black resigned.

2008 Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championships, Dec. 27-30, Fort Worth, Texas

For the previous eight years, only two teams have won the Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Championships – the University of Texas-Dallas (UTD) and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC). The 2008 edition continued the trend, with these two schools finishing in a tie for first in the six-round team event. The first-place trophy was awarded to UTD based on better tiebreak points.



The UTD-B team, L-R: Boskovic, Guadalupe, Bercys, Stopa, & Bartholomew; Photo: Dr. Alexey Root

Actually, UTD fielded not one, but four teams. The UTD-B team, with an average rating of 2510, was the school's first-place team. UTD-B players were IM Drasko Boskovic, IM Salvijus Bercys, IM Jacek Stopa, IM John Bartholomew and Francisco Guadalupe.



The UMBC team, front row, L-R: Foisor, Gareev, Erenburg, Kritz; back row: Associate Director GM Sam Palatnik & coach NM Igor Epshteyn; Photo: Dr. Alexey Root

The UMBC team which shared first place with UTD-B consisted of six players: GM Timur Gareev, GM Sergey Erenburg, GM Leonid Kritz, WGM Sabina Foisor, Zoltan Revesz and Aaron Kahn. With its strong GM-laden team, UMBC had the highest average rating, at 2596.

Just half a point behind UTD-B and UMBC, three teams finished tied for 3rd-5th places: the University of Texas-Brownsville (UTB), the UTD-A team and Stanford University.

The annual springtime "Final Four" of college chess consists of the top four U.S. schools in the Pan Am championship. This coming April will therefore see UTD, UMBC, UTB and Stanford competing for the next college team title.

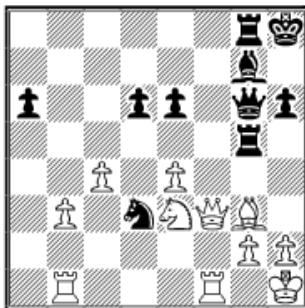
The top individual score in the entire tournament was achieved by IM Sal Bercys of the UTD-B team, with his 5½/6 result. Here is his exciting third-round game with Christopher De Sa of Stanford:

Salvijus Bercys (2493) – Christopher De Sa (2155)

2008 Pan-American Intercollegiate Champ Fort Worth (3), 28.12.2008
[A48]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 0–0 5.e3 a6 6.a4 d6 7.a5 Nbd7 8.
Be2 c5 9.0–0 Re8 10.c3 h6 11.Bh4 b5 12.axb6 Qxb6 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.
Nfd2 Rb8 15.Bg3 Bb7 16.Qc2 Nh5 17.Bxh5 gxh5 18.Qf5 cxd4 19.exd4
Nf6 20.Bh4 Be8 21.Qd3 Rb5 22.Rfe1 Kh8 23.Ne3 Rg8 24.b3 e6 25.c4
Ra5 26.Rad1 Bb7 27.f3 Nh7 28.d5 Ra2 29.Kh1 Nf8 30.Bg3 Ng6 31.
dxe6 Ne5 32.Qf5 fxe6 33.Qxh5 Nd3 34.Rf1 Nb2 35.Rb1 Ra5 36.Qh4**

Qf7 37.Ne4 Rh5 38.Qf4 Qg6 39.Qg4 Bxe4 40.fxe4 Rg5 41.Qf3 Nd3



42.Nf5 exf5 43.exf5 Qh5 44.Qxd3 Be5 45.Bxe5+ dxe5 46.Rb2 Rf8 47.
Rbf2 Qg4 48.h3 Qh4 49.Qd6 Rfg8 50.Qxe5+ Kh7 51.Qh2 Rg3 52.f6
Rf8 53.f7 Kg7 54.Rf4 Qg5 55.Qxg3 Qxg3 56.Rg4+ Qxg4 57.hxg4 1–0

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

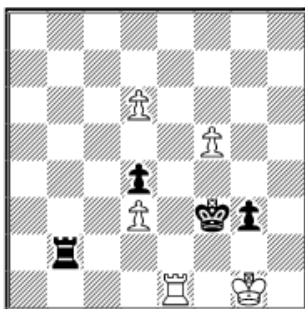
Problem #1



It is White to move. How did he cause Black's immediate resignation?

Answer: 19.Rxe7. Black resigned in light of 19...Kxe7 20.d6. From Darwin Yang – Pin-Hung Chen, 2008 World Youth Championships, Vung Tau, Vietnam.

Problem #2



Both sides have dangerous pawns. It is Black to move – what do you suggest?

Answer: This position is from Klinova-Krush, 2008 Women's Olympiad, Dresden, Germany. The game actually ended in a draw, but GM Susan Polgar, in her blog, pointed out a potential win for Black: 1...g2 2.d7 Rb8 3.Re8 (this loses immediately, but White is lost in any event) Rb1+ 4.Re1 Rxe1+ 5.Kh2 Rh1#.



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