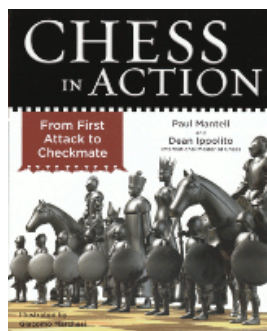




## COLUMNISTS

### Scholastic Chess

Steve Goldberg



#### CHESSTHEATRE

Play through and download the games from [ChessCafe.com](#) in the [DGT Game Viewer](#).



## Tanuj Vasudeva and Fred Goldhirsch

Tanuj Vasudeva is eight years old and should have a wonderful future ahead of him. Fred Goldhirsch was in his mid-eighties and had an accomplished past to be proud of. We hear a little about both of them this month.

### 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 version of *Starting Out: The Sicilian Dragon*, by IM Andrew Martin.



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 June 23, 2010. Send your answers to [scholasticchess@chesscafe.com](mailto:scholasticchess@chesscafe.com). Good luck!

### Problem #1



[FEN "k1r4r/1pp4p/p1p1QP1n/4P1b1/3B2pq/1R6/PPP2PPP/R5K1 w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move. What do you suggest?

### Problem #2



[FEN "r7/4k1Pp/2n1p2P/q2pp1N1/1p4P1/1P6/P4R2/1K1R4 w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move. What should he do?

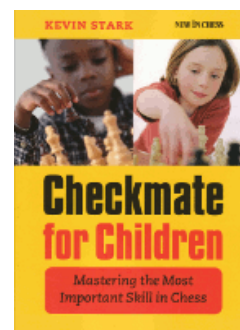
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*Checkmate for Children*  
by Kevin Stark

## Tanuj Vasudeva

At the age of five, Tanuj Vasudeva took up the game of chess, and he was quickly hooked. As Tanuj describes, "My grandpa got me an old chess set that belonged to my mom. He taught me for a couple of days and then my dad took over. I started attending some beginner classes from Success Chess in September that year at the community center. In November, they shifted me to advanced section. In March the following year, they recommended me to go another school that has a strong chess program (Weibel). By summer, I was the highest rated kid in the entire school."



Tanuj Vasudeva

His first rated tournament was the Weibel Fall Scholastic Quads in October 2006. "I got a trophy there and it inspired me go for more chess tournaments," Tanuj said. He began training with coaches Ted Castro and Richard Shorman, and his chess flourished. In quick succession, Tanuj accomplished the following:

- 2007 Calchess state kindergarten champion (with a score of 5/5)
- Bronze medal at 2007 North American Under-8 championship, as the youngest player in the tournament
- 2008 Calchess state K-3 champion, while in first grade
- 2008 U.S. K-1 champion (with a score of 7/7)
- 2009 Calchess K-5 co-champion, while in second grade
- 2009 Pan-Am Youth gold medalist in Under-8 section, with a perfect 9/9 score
- 2009 World Youth silver medalist in Under-8 section
- 2010 Calchess K-6 co-champion, while in third grade

In addition to the international tournaments in Mexico, Argentina and Turkey, Tanuj's father Tarun noted that he has also participated in events in Houston, Pittsburgh, Las Vegas, Reno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Agoura Hills (California), and Tucson. How many eight-year olds can boast of such a travel itinerary?

His former coach Ted Castro spoke glowingly of Tanuj:

"I was Tanuj's first private coach. He was barely five-years old then. Two years ago was the most crucial part of our training. At that point, he really wanted to qualify for the World Youth and be ranked number 1 in his age group. The kid is really talented although I had to emphasize to him the importance of hard work and what he has to do on his end in order to achieve his goal. Talent can only bring you to a certain point. I prepared a curriculum for him to make sure everything will go smoothly. We were doing eight to ten hours of training every week. I asked helped from several coaches as well. Tanuj had the privilege of spending some time with IM Ricardo de Guzman, IM Enrico Sevillano, IM Matikosyan, GM Yuri Shulman and GM Kaidanov (camps), and Richard Shorman. What differentiates him from my other students is his will to win. When everything's on the line, he will give it his best shot no matter what. He will sacrifice pieces ala Morphy (please check

his last game in the World Youth that won him the silver medal).

"His impressive 9.0/9.0 win at Pan-Am in Argentina last year was how he got the FM title. FIDE awarded him with the FM title, making him the youngest FM in the world. I'm not sure though but when we checked it, he's the youngest ever. GM Etienne Bacrot got his title when he was ten-years old.

"At any rate, he has yet to reach his potential. He has so much room for improvement and we're looking forward to more achievements this year. I have two other seven-year old kids who qualified for the World Youth this year. Hopefully, we can get the gold this time."



Tanuj is also scheduled to represent the U.S. at the 2010 World Youth championships, to take place in October, in Greece. He turns nine years old shortly after this column appears, and presently trains weekly with IM Andranik Matikozhyan.

Asked which is his favorite chess book, the youngster says that he doesn't actually spend much time with chess books. "I spend time talking to my coaches, and I get information from them," he explained. Tanuj now typically spends about ninety minutes daily with chess, primarily working on puzzles and studying grandmaster games. In the summer, he may devote three to four hours per day on his chess study.

Tanuj annotated the following game for our readers, which is the kind of attacking game most players dream of:

**Vasudeva, Tanuj (1908) - Manvelyan, Hovik (2005)**

Hans Poschman Memorial 30/90 G/60 Fremont, CA (2), 15.05.2010

French Defense [C16]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Qd7**

I couldn't understand his move. It's probably playable.

4...c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 dxc3 13.Nxc3 a6 This is much more popular, and therefore I expected him to do this.

**5.a3 Be7?!**

After Qg4, he'll have to move his bishop back to f8.

5...Bf8 6.Nf3 b6 7.Bb5 c6 8.Ba4 Ba6 9.Ne2 with White slightly better. This has been played before. Better is 5...Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 b6 7.a4 An interesting idea. 7...Ne7 8.Nf3 Waiting to play Bb5 until his knight goes to c6. 8...Nbc6 9.Bb5=.

**6.Qg4!? Bf8 7.Bd3**

I felt comfortable knowing I was better.

**7...f5 8.Qf3?!**

Better is 8.Qh3 b6 9.Nge2 Nc6 10.Nf4 Qf7 11.Be2+/-.

8...b6 9.Nge2 Nc6

In the game, I thought my queen would have been better on h3 than f3.

10.Be3 Bb7 11.Nf4 0-0-0?



[FEN "2kr1bnr/pbpq2pp/1pn1p3/3pPp2/3P1N2/P1NBBQ2/1PP2PPP/R3K2R w KQ - 0 12"]

Better is 11...Nge7 12.Qh5+ g6 13.Qg5 Bg7 14.h4+/-.

12.Nxe6!

I missed Nxe5 in my calculations.

12...Nxe5

Here I tried to come up with something and found a nice tactic at move fourteen.

12...Re8 13.Bxf5 Nge7 14.Nxg7 Nxf5 15.Nxe8 Qxe8 16.Qxf5+/-.

13.dxe5

13.Qxf5? Nxd3+ 14.cxd3 Re8— winning the knight.

13...d4



[FEN "2kr1bnr/pbpq2pp/1p2N3/4Pp2/3p4/P1NBBQ2/1PP2PPP/R3K2R w KQ - 0 14"]

14.Ba6!!

I was smiling and could smell victory here.

14.Qxf5 dxc3 { 14...Ne7 15.Qh3 dxc3 16.Nxd8 Kxd8 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Bb5 + c6 19.0-0-0+ Kc7 20.Bd3 cxb2+ 21.Kxb2+- } 15.Nxf8 Qxf5 16.Bxf5+ Kb8 17.Nd7+ Ka8 18.Bg5 Re8 19.bxc3 Bxg2 20.Rg1 Bb7 21.0-0-0+/-.

14...Qxe6

14...c6 15.Bxb7+ Kxb7 16.Nxd8+ Qxd8 17.0-0-0+/-.

15.Qxb7+ Kd7 16.Bb5+ Ke7 17.Bg5+

17.Qxc7+ Rd7 18.Bg5+ Ke8 (18...Kf7 19.Bxd7 Qg6 20.e6+ Qxe6+ 21.Bxe6+ Kxe6 22.0-0+-; 18...Nf6 19.Bxd7 Qxd7 20.exf6+ gxf6 21.Nd5+ Ke6 22.Nf4+ Ke7 23.Bxf6+ Kxf6 24.Qxd7+-) 19.Qc8+ Kf7 20.Bc4+-.

### 17...Kf7

17...Nf6 18.Qxc7+ Rd7 19.Bxd7 Qxd7 20.exf6+ gxf6 21.Nd5+ Ke6 22.Nf4+ Ke7 23.Bxf6+-.

### 18.Qxc7+ Kg6 19.Qxd8 Qxe5+ 20.Kf1

20.Ne2!? Qxb5 21.Qxf8 Kxg5 22.Qxg7+ Kh4 23.g3+ Kh5 24.Nf4#; 20.Kd1. A bit less mobility for the rook that is going to go to e1; Kf1 is safer. 20...Nf6 21.Re1 Qxh2 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Be8+ Kg5 24.Qxd4 Bc5 25.f4+ Kg4 26.Qd3 Rxe8 27.Qf3+ Kh4 28.g3+ Qxg3 29.Rh1+ Qh2 30.Rxh2#.

### 20...Nf6 21.Re1 Qc5 22.Bxf6 gxf6



[FEN "3Q1b1r/p6p/1p3pk1/1Bq2p2/3p4/P1N5/1PP2PPP/4RK1R w - - 0 23"]

### 23.Re6!

23.Be8+ Kg7 24.Qd7+ (24.Re6 Qc4+!) 24...Kh6 25.Re6 Qc4+ 26.Ne2 Bg7. Harder to win.

### 23...Bg7 24.Be8+ Kg5

24...Kh6 25.Rxf6+ Bxf6 26.Qxf6#.

### 25.h4+ 1-0

Black resigns because of 25...Kg4 {25...Kh6 26.Rxf6+ Bxf6 27.Qxf6#; 25...Kf4 26.Ne2+ Kg4 27.f3#} 26.f3+ followed by Ne2#.

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## Fred Goldhirsch: In Memoriam

Our [October 2007](#) Scholastic Chess column featured the Right Move Chess Foundation, a wonderfully generous organization dedicated to bringing chess to the youngsters of New York, absolutely free.

One of the co-founders of Right Move was Fred Goldhirsch, whose family fled their native Vienna after the horrors of Kristallnacht. Coming to the U.S., Fred couldn't wait to join the American military and served in the Army Corps of Engineers, in Europe.

As noted in that earlier column, "Goldhirsch insisted that all programs be available at no charge, and this remains a cornerstone of Right Move to this day. As such, they have always run a tight ship, with all officers serving in an unpaid capacity. There is no overhead and no paid staff, although chess teachers and tournament directors are paid for their services, primarily through the generosity of Goldhirsch himself."





Fred Goldhirsch (L)  
with Eliot Weiss

We are quite saddened to report that Mr. Goldhirsch passed away on the evening of Saturday, May 15, in his mid-eighties.

Longtime Edward R. Murrow High School chess coach Eliot Weiss was very close with Mr. Goldhirsch, and noted that "I played with Fred a great deal at his home. In fact, there is an interesting story about two weeks before he died.

"He was quite sick and slow (which was very obvious), and I did feel sorry beating him the first game. I took some unorthodox chances in the second game and third, which both ended in draws. I didn't blunder in the fourth game, but I didn't play as conservatively as I usually do. He won. I would never purposely lose a game. I was hoping that he didn't realize that I didn't give it my all. He said that it was a good four games, and he enjoyed playing.

"About a week later, I called his secretary (this is now about a week before he died) and told her that if he was up to it, I would come over and play some chess. He said to her, 'Oh, that Eliot. He's going to let me win again.' I was surprised to hear that he knew that I didn't play like I normally do, and that mentally he was fine. Two days before he passed away, he called to say good-bye. He seemed to know. He is missed."

Indeed, the children of New York have lost a very good friend.

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## 2010 U.S. Championship

We end this month's column with a few photos for your enjoyment from the recent U.S. Championship:





## Answers to Last Month's Quiz

### Problem #1



[FEN "3rr1k1/p1q2p1p/1p4p1/3Bn3/2PRQ3/2b4P/PB2RPP1/7K1 b - - 0 1"]

It is Black to move. What do you advise?

**Answer:** 1...Bxb2 2.Rxb2 Nf3! 3.gxf3 Rxe4 4.Rxe4 Rxd5! 0-1, from Karolyi-Honfi, Budapest 1980, as found in the book [Genius in the Background](#).

## Problem #2



[FEN "2r1brk1/pp2q1pp/1n2p3/4NpP1/1nP2P2/2N5/PP2Q1P1/1BKR3R w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move. How can he exploit the h-file?

**Answer:** 1.Rxh7! Kxh7 2.g6+! Bxg6 3.Rh1+ Kg8 4.Rh8+! After 4...Kxh8, 5. Nxg6+ brings down the house. From Afek-van Delft, Apeldoorn (rapid) 1999, in [Genius in the Background](#).

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