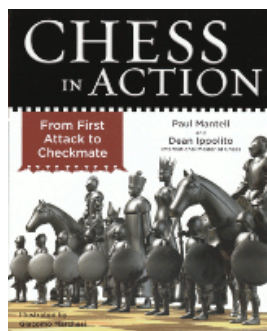




COLUMNISTS

Scholastic Chess

Steve Goldberg



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Conrad Holt

A couple of months ago, FM Conrad Holt had no international master norms. Now he has two – one from the 2010 Copper State International and the other from the 2010 World Open. He shares a few of his games with our readers 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 book *Starting Out: The Queen's Indian*, by GM John Emms.

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 July 28, 2010. Send your answers to scholasticchess@chesscafe.com. Good luck!

Problem #1



[FEN "6r1/2r2ppk/3p1P2/4p1QP/1p6/p4P2/PPq5/K5RR w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move, with Black threatening checkmate. What do you suggest?

Problem #2



[FEN "8/ppp1rqnk/6R1/5pQP/3Np3/2P5/PPP5/1K6 w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move. What should he do?

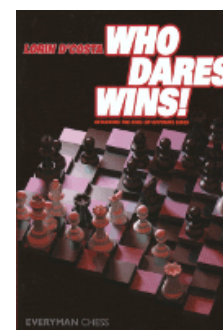
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Who Dares Wins
by Lorin D'Costa

FIDE Master Conrad Holt, rated 2400+, has seen his rating continually climb, but he's especially been on a tear lately. The Wichita, Kansas native turns seventeen-years old this month and obtained his first international master norm at the 2010 Copper State International tournament in Arizona, going 2-2-2 against his six grandmaster opponents.

Conrad followed that up by achieving another IM norm at the World Open, again defeating two GMs and drawing two, in his seven games with GM opponents. As this column goes to press, he is participating as an invited player in the 2010 U.S. Junior Closed Championship.



FM Conrad Holt

He previously won the 2008 U.S. Cadet (under 16) championship, the 2008 National High School Blitz championship, and tied for first place in the 2008 World Open Under 2200 section.

According to the United States Chess Federation online records as of June 2010, Conrad ranks as the third highest rated sixteen-year old in the U.S., behind only Michael Lee and Steven Zierk. He is the top rated player of any age in the state of Kansas, by a margin of over 200 points.

Surprisingly, Conrad has no current coach or trainer, a relative rarity among top junior players. He does subscribe to the daily *Chess Today* newsletter and utilizes the Internet Chess Club for practice. This fall, Conrad will enter his senior year at Andover High School in Wichita.

He especially enjoyed his victory over GM Nikola Sedlak at the Copper State tournament. Conrad graciously annotated that game for our readers:

Holt, Conrad (2375) – Sedlak, Nikola (2567)

2010 Copper St. International Mesa, Arizona (3), 05.06.2010
Nimzo-Indian Defense [E35]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 c5

At first, I had only a distant memory of studying this opening.

7.dxc5 Nc6 8.e3 Be6 9.Nge2

Now I erroneously began to believe that I was recalling a good line for White, where I can win the d5-pawn.

9...h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.a3 Bxc5 12.Rd1



[FEN "r3k2r/pp3pp1/2n1bq1p/2bp4/8/P1N1P3/1PQ1NPPP/3RKB1R b Kkq - 0 12"]

This was all going according to plan for me, but in the line I remembered, Black had actually played 0–0 instead of Nc6.

12...Bb6?

12...Rd8 13.Nf4 Qe5 simply protects the pawn in this position.

13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Rxd5 0–0 15.Nc3 Ne7 16.Rb5 a6 17.Rb3

There was probably a better way for the rook to go than b5-b3, but I felt the safest with this one.

17...Ba5 18.Be2 b5 19.0–0 Qe6?!

19...Rac8 would keep some chances for Black because of the badly placed rook on b3.

20.a4! b4 21.Nb1



[FEN "r4rk1/4npp1/p3q2p/b7/Pp6/1R2P3/1PQ1BPPP/1N3RK1 b - - 0 21"]

Now I have a clear way to reorganize my pieces to excellent locations, plus an extra pawn, while Black has a weak queenside.

21...Rac8 22.Qd1 Rc5 23.Rd3 Rfc8 24.Nd2 Bc7

24...Rc2? 25.Nb3 Bb6 26.a5! Ba7 27.Rd8+ Kh7 28.Bd3+.

25.Nb3 Rg5 26.g3 Qf6?

Loses the exchange, but there weren't any good ideas.

27.f4 Rg6 28.Bh5 Bb6 29.a5 Ba7 30.Rd8+ Kh7 31.Rxc8 Bxe3+ 32.Kh1 Nxc8 33.Qf3 Ba7 34.Nd2 Ne7 35.f5 Rg5 36.Ne4 1–0



Conrad's favorite game to date was his victory against GM Eugene Perelshteyn at the 2010 Chicago Open. Here are Fritz's notes from that game, in which both players bring their kings out early, into somewhat precarious positions:

Perelshteyn, Eugene (2534) – Holt, Conrad (2375)

19th Annual Chicago Open Wheeling, Illinois (7), 30.05.20100

Slav Defense [D10]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 e5 5.Nf3 e4 6.Ne5 f6 7.Qa4+ Nd7 8.Ng4

8.Nxd7 Bxd7 9.Qb3 Bc6 and White is slightly better.

8...Kf7 9.Ne3

Weaker is 9.Nxd5 Nb6 10.Nxb6 Qxb6 with Black better.

9...Nb6 10.Qb3 Be6 11.g3 h5 12.h4 Ne7



[FEN "r2q1b1r/pp2nkp1/1n2bp2/3p3p/3Pp2P/1QN1N1P1/PP2PP2/R1B1KB1R w KQ - 0 13"]

Begins the maneuver Ng8-e7-c6-b4.

13.a4 a5 14.Nb5

An ideal square for the white knight. 14.Bg2 Nc6 15.Nc2 Rc8=.

14...Nc6 15.f3 Rc8 16.Kf2 Nb4 17.Bg2 f5 18.Bd2

18.Na7 Ra8 19.Nb5 Nc4=.

18...Be7

18...Nc4 19.Nxc4 dxc4 20.Qd1 exf3 21.Bxf3 with Black is slightly better.

19.Bh3 g6 20.Ng2 Nc4 21.Bf4

21.Bc3!? is worth looking at.

21...Qb6 22.Rhd1 Bf6

Better is 22...exf3 23.Qxf3 Nxb2, with Black better.

23.Rac1?

23.Kg1 exf3 24.exf3 Bd7—+.

23...Bd7??

Better is 23...exf3 24.exf3 Bd7—+.

24.fxe4 Bxb5 25.axb5 Bxd4+ 26.Kf1??

26.e3 this is the best way to fight back 26...Bxb2 27.Rxc4 Rxc4 28.Kg1 with Black slightly better.

26...Bg1—+ 27.e3



[FEN "2r4r/1p3k2/1q4p1/pP1p1p1p/1nn1PB1P/1Q2P1PB/1P4N1/2RR1Kb1 b - - 0 27"]

27...Nd2+!! 28.Rxd2 Rxc1+ 29.Ne1

29.Rd1 a4 30.Rxc1 axb3 31.Rc7+ Ke6 32.exf5+ gxf5 33.Kxg1—+.

29...Qxb5+ 30.Kxg1 Rxe1+

30...a4 and Black can already relax. 31.Qa3 Rxe1+ 32.Kh2 Rc8— (32...fxe4 33.Qc3 Re2+ 34.Kg1 Re1+ 35.Kf2 Nd3+ 36.Rxd3 Re2+ 37.Kxe2+; 32...dxe4?! is no comparison 33.Qc3 Re2+ 34.Rxe2 Qxe2+ 35.Kg1=).

31.Kf2 Re2+ 32.Rxe2



[FEN "7r/1p3k2/6p1/pq1p1p1p/1n2PB1P/1Q2P1PB/1P2RK2/8 b - - 0 32"]

32...Nd3+ 33.Qxd3 Qxd3 34.exd5

34.exf5 does not solve anything: 34...gxf5 35.Be5 Re8—+.

34...Rc8 35.d6

35.Be5 is no improvement: 35...Rc2 36.Bf1 Rxe2+ 37.Bxe2 Qxd5—+.

35...Rc2 36.Bf1 a4 37.Rxc2 Qxc2+ 38.Kf3 Qc6+

38...Ke6 and Black can celebrate victory. 39.Bb5 Qxb2 40.Bc4+ Kd7 41.Bf7—+.

39.Kf2 Ke6 40.Bd3 Qd5

40...Qb6!? might be the shorter path. 41.Bc4+ Kd7 42.Be5—+.

41.Be2 b5 42.e4 Qd4+ 0–1



Another nice game of Conrad's was his win against GM Giorgi Kacheishvili from the Copper State event. Interestingly, Kacheishvili moves his king's knight four times within the initial eight moves of the game. Here is that game, with notes from Fritz:

Kacheishvili, Giorgi (2580) - Holt, Conrad (2375)

2010 Copper St. International Mesa, Arizona (4), 06.06.2010
Slav Defense [D17]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Nb6 8.Ne5 a5 9.e3 g6 10.Bd3 Be6 11.0–0 Bg7



[FEN "r2qk2r/1p2ppbp/1np1bnp1/p3N3/P2P4/2NBP3/1P3PPP/R1BQ1RK1 w kq - 0 12"]

12.h3N 0–0 13.Qe2 Nfd5 14.Nxd5 Bxd5 15.e4 Be6 16.Be3 f5 17.f3 Qd6 18.Rfd1 fxe4 19.fxe4 Qb4 20.Nf3 Bb3

20...Nc4 21.Bf2 Nxb2 22.Rab1 Rxf3 23.gxf3 (23.Qxf3 Rf8 24.Qe2 Bxd4 25.Rxb2 Qxb2 26.Qxb2 Bxb2—+) 23...Bxd4 24.Kg2.

21.Bc2

21.Rdc1 Bf7= (21...Nxa4 22.Ra3 Kh8 23.Qe1 Nxb2 24.Qxb4 axb4 25.Rxb3 Nxd3 26.Rxd3+–; 21...Bxa4?! 22.Bd2 Qd6 23.e5=).

21...Bxa4

Not 21...Nxa4 22.Bd2 Qb6 23.Bg5 Bxc2 24.Qxc2 Nxb2 25.Rab1 Rxf3 26.gxf3 Bxd4+ 27.Kg2+/-.

22.Bxa4 Nxa4 23.Bd2 Qb5

23...Bxd4+ 24.Kh2 Qb5 25.Qxb5 cxb5 26.Nxd4+-.

24.Qxb5 cxb5 25.b3?

25.Rdb1= would be a reprieve.



[FEN "r4rk1/1p2p1bp/6p1/pp6/n2PP3/1P3N1P/3B2P1/R2R2K1 b - - 0 25"]

25...Rxf3! 26.gxf3 Bxd4+ 27.Kf1 Bxa1 28.Rxa1 Nc5 29.Rxa5 Rxa5 30. Bxa5 Nxb3 31.Bc3 Kf7 32.Ke2 g5 33.Ke3 Nc5 34.f4 gxf4+ 35.Kxf4 b4! 36. Bh8 Ne6+ 37.Ke3 Ng7 0-1

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

Problem #1



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

It is White to move. What do you suggest?

Answer: 1.Rxb7!! Kxb7 2.Qb3+ Ka8 3.Qc4! Kb7 (if 3...Rcd8, then 4.Qxa6+ Kb8 5.Ba7+ Ka8 6.Bb6+ Kb8 7.Qa7+ Kc8 8.Qxc7#) 4.Qb4+ Ka8 5.Qc5 with mate coming on a7. From Howell-Stativkin, Kuala Lumpur 2002, in the book [Who Dares Wins!](#) (in this game, David Howell was a mere eleven-years old!).

Problem #2



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

It is White to move. What should he do?

Answer: White forces mate with 1.Rf7+. If 1...Kd6, 2.Ne4#. If 1...Kd8 or 1...Ke8, White has 2.g8=Q#. From Akopian-Zvjaginsev, Rijeka 2010.

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