



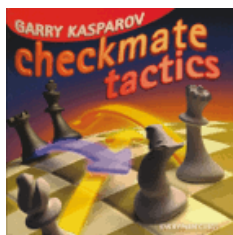
## COLUMNISTS

### Scholastic Chess

Steve Goldberg

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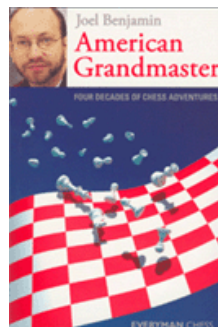
## Pan Am, World Juniors, and Denker

From Brazil to Poland to California, American youngsters were busy with exciting chess, before trotting back to school for the fall. A number of these games are shared below.

### 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 *American Grandmaster*, by GM Joel Benjamin.

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 September 22, 2010. Send your answers to [scholasticchess@chesscafe.com](mailto:scholasticchess@chesscafe.com). Good luck!



### Problem #1



[FEN "2kr3r/pp1q1ppp/5n2/1Nb5/2Pp1B2/7Q/P4PPP/1R3RK1 w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move. What do you suggest?

### Problem #2



[FEN "rnnqr1k1/p3bp1p/1pp3pB/2PQPp2/3P4/2N5/PP2BP1P/R4RK1 w - - 0 1"]

It is Black to move. What should he do?

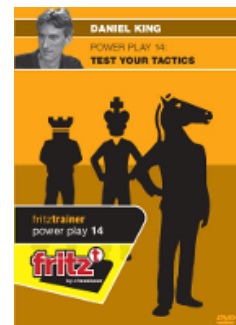
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*Tricks & Traps Vol. 1*  
by Nigel Davies



*The Secret to Chess*  
by Maurice Ashley



*Test Your Tactics*  
by Daniel King

## Pan American Youth Championship

Brazil hosted the 2010 Pan American Youth Championship, August 1-8. A contingent of thirteen U.S. players attended, accompanied by coaches FM Aviv Friedman and IM Armen Ambartsoumian. Every American competitor scored in excess of fifty percent, and three players medaled. Tommy He won the gold medal in the Open Under 10 section, Jonathan Chiang took the bronze medal in the same section, and Evan Xiang tied for first in the Girls Under 12 division, winning the silver medal on tiebreak points. In the Open Under 16 section, Adarsh Jayakumar just missed out on a medal, tying for third-sixth place, and ending up in fourth place on tiebreaks.



Other U.S. players were Vignesh Panchanatham, Hannah Liu, Justus Williams, John Hughes, Sarah Chiang, Ellen Xiang, Stuart Finney, Christopher Heung and Dai Yang.

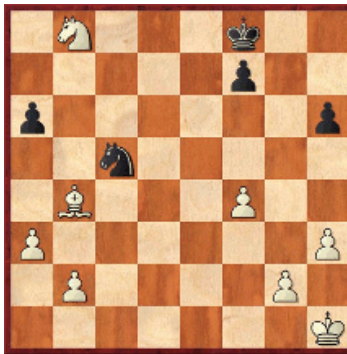
Here are two games showcasing Tommy He's tactical prowess:

### He, Tommy (1822) – Gomez, Harika

Pan American Youth Festival, 2010

Sicilian Defense [B45]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.exd5 exd5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 h6 12.Kh1 Ne5 13.Be2 Bg4 14.f3 Bf5 15.f4 Nc6 16.Bf3 d4 17.Ne2 d3 18.cxd3 Qxd3 19.Ng3 Qxd1 20.Bxd1 Bd3 21.Re1 Rfe8 22.Rxe8+ Rxe8 23.Bd2 Nd5 24.Bf3 Nb6 25.h3 Nc4 26.Bc3 N6a5 27.Rd1 Bc2 28.Rd7 Ba4 29.Rc7 Bc6 30.Bxc6 Nxc6 31.Rxb7 Re7 32.Rb5 Nb6 33.Nf5 Re6 34.Nxg7 Re3 35.Nf5 Re6 36.Rc5 Na4 37.Rxc6 Rxc6 38.Ne7+ Kf8 39.Nxc6 a6 40.Nb8 Nc5 41.Bb4 1-0



[FEN "1N3k2/5p2/p6p/2n5/1B3P2/P6P/1P4P1/7K b - - 0 41"]

### He, Tommy (1822) – Maggiori, Luciano

Pan American Youth Festival, 2010

French Defense [C10]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7 5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.0-0 Ngf6 8.Ng3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 c6 10.b3 Bd6 11.Bb2 0-0 12.c4 Qc7 13.Rfe1 Rad8 14.Rad1 Rfe8 15.Kh1 e5 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.Bb1 exd4 18.Bxd4 Bb4 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.h3 Ne5 21.Nh6+ Kf8 22.Qf4 Ba3 23.Re1 1-0



[FEN "4rk2/ppq2ppp/2p2n1N/4n3/2PB1Q2  
/bP5P/P4PP1/1B2R2K b - - 0 23"]

## World Junior and Girls Championship

The 2010 World Junior and Girls championships were held in Poland August 3-16. The U.S. had two representatives: IM Marc Arnold in the open section, and WIM Alisa Melekhina in the girls division.



Marc Arnold

Marc started a bit slowly, obtaining a score of 2/5 after the fifth round, but added another 5½ points in the final eight rounds, for a total of 7½/13. Against the three GMs he faced, he won one game and drew the other two. Here is his second round victory, with comments from Fritz:

**Arnold, Marc Tyler (2432) – Pecha, Tomas (2187)**

World Junior U20 Championship Czarna (2), 04.08.2010

King's Indian [E63]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 a6 8.Re1  
Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nd7 11.e3 e5 12.d5 Na5 13.Be2 b6 14.e4 Nb7 15.h4  
f5 16.Kg2 f4 17.h5 g5 18.Bg4**

The bishop aims for Be2-g4-e6-f5.

**18...h6 19.Rb1 Qe7 20.Be6+ Kh8 21.g4 Ndc5 22.Bf5**



[FEN "r4r1k/1np1q1b1/pp1p3p/2nPPbPp/2P1PpP1/2N5/PP3PK1/1RBQR3 b - - 0 22"]

22...a5 23.f3 Rfb8 24.b3 Bf6 25.Re2 Qd8 26.Bd2 Kg7 27.Be1 Be7 28.Bf2 Kf8 29.Qc2 Kf7 30.Nd1 Kf8 31.Nb2 Qe8 32.Qc3 Kg7 33.Rc2 Kf6 34.a3 Ra6 35.b4 Na4 36.Nxa4 axb4 37.axb4

37.Qxb4?! Rxa4 38.Qc3 Rba8=.

37...Rxa4 38.Ra1 Rba8 39.Rcc1 Bf8 40.Qb2 Be7 41.Be1 R8a7 42.Bc3 Bf8 43.Rxa4 Rxa4 44.Ra1 Bg7 45.Rxa4 Qxa4 46.Bc8 Qa8 47.Bd7 Ke7 48.Bc6 Qa6 49.Bb5 Qa7 50.Qa1 Qxa1 51.Bxa1 Kd8 52.Kf2 Kc8 53.Ke2 Kb8 54.Kd3 Nd8 55.Bc6 Kc8 56.Kc2 Kb8 57.Kb3 Ka7 58.Ka4 Ka6

58...Nxc6!? 59.dxc6 Ka6+/-.

59.Bd7 Bf6 60.Bc8+ Nb7 61.Bc3 Bg7 62.c5



[FEN "2B5/1np3b1/kp1p3p/2PPp1pP/KP2PpP1/2B2P2/8/8 b - - 0 62"]

Better is 62.Bd7+/-.

62...b5+??

Better is 62...bxc5 63.bxc5 Ka7 64.Bxb7 Kxb7+/-.

63.Kb3+- Ka7

63...dxc5 There is nothing better in the position. 64.bxc5 Ka7+/-.

64.c6 Nd8

64...Nc5+ doesn't improve anything. 65.bxc5 dxc5 66.d6+/-.

65.Be1 Bf6

65...Nxc6 doesn't get the cat off the tree. 66.dxc6 d5 67.exd5+/-.

66.Bf2+ Kb8 67.Ba6 Nf7 68.Bxb5 Be7 69.Ka4 Bf6 70.Ba6 Nd8 71.Ka5 Be7 72.b5 1-0



Alisa Melekhina

In the girls section, Alisa Melekhina's score of 8½/13 was sufficient to yield her a tie for sixth-thirteenth place. Tiebreak considerations placed her in ninth place overall. Five years ago, Alisa, Abby Marshall, and Anya Corke all tied for first place in the 2005 Polgar Invitational tournament. In Poland, Melekhina and Corke met again, and produced the following wild game, in which Alisa makes excellent use of her knights (annotations by Fritz):

**Melekhina, Alisa (2265) – Corke, Anya (2257)**

World Girls U20 Championship Czarna (11), 14.08.2010  
Sicilian Defense [B40]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.e5 d4 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Re1 Ng6 8.g3 Qc7 9.Qe2 b6 10.h4 Be7 11.h5 Nf8 12.Na3 dxc3 13.dxc3+/- a6 14.Bg5 b5 15. Rad1 Nd7 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.h6 gxh6 18.Qe4 Bb7**

18...Rb8 19.Qh4+ Ke8 20.Qxh6+-.

**19.Qh4+ Ke8**



[FEN "r3k2r/1bqn1p1p/p1n1p2p/1pp1P3/7Q/N1PB1NP1/PP3P2/3RR1K1 w - - 0 20"]

**20.Bxb5! Qd8 21.Qxh6 axb5**

21...Qe7 22.Bf1 Na5 23.Ng5+-.

**22.Nxb5 Na5 23.Ng5**

Better is 23.Nd6+ and White has reached her goal. 23...Ke7 24.Nxf7 Qc8+-.

**23...Qe7 24.Nd6+**





[FEN "r3k2r/1b1nqp1p/3Np2Q/n1p1P1N1/8/2P3P1/PP3P2/3RR1K1 b - - 0 24"]

**24...Kd8 25.Ndxf7+ Kc7 26.Nxe6+ Kb8 27.Nxh8 Ra6**

27...Nc4 28.Ng5 Ndx5 29.f4+-.

**28.Qg7 Qxe6 29.Rxd7 Bc8**

29...Rb6 30.Qe7 Qc6 31.Qd6+ Qxd6 32.Rxd6 Rxb2 33.e6+-.

**30.Rd8 Nc4**

30...Nb7 is not much help. 31.Rf8 Qh3 32.Nf7+-.

**31.Qg8 Nd2 32.Rxc8+**

Better is 32.Qf8 and White wins. 32...Nc4 33.Nf7 Ra7+-.

**32...Qxc8 33.Qxc8+ Kxc8 34.Kg2**

34.Re2 keeps an even firmer grip. 34...Nc4 35.b3 Na3+-.

**34...Re6**

34...Rxa2 a last effort to resist the inevitable. 35.Nf7 Kd7 36.e6+ Ke7+-.

**35.Nf7 Nc4 36.b3 1-0**



Denker tournament players; Photo: monroi.com

### Denker Tournament of High School Champions

Coming off a respectable fifty percent performance at the recent U.S. Junior Closed Championship, Steven Zierk entered the Denker Tournament of High School Champions as the highest-rated among the forty-nine participants. His 2426 rating was 133 points higher than his nearest competitor.



Denker winner Steven Zierk (L), with Bill Hall  
Photo: monroi.com

His strength proved decisive, with five victories in the six-round tournament. Only Iowa's Matt Anzis was able to nick Steven for a draw, in round four. In round three, Zierk was matched with Alex Guo, who ended up just half a point behind in the final standings. The two had a wild back-and-forth tactical game, until the board suddenly transposed to a quiet king-and-pawn ending. Here is that game, annotated by Fritz:

### Zierk, Steven – Guo, Alex

Jerry Hanken Memorial - 111th US Open, D Irvine (2), 01.08.2010  
French Defense [C01]

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.c3 Bd6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.  
Re1 Qd7 9.Nbd2 0-0-0 10.b4 Ng6 11.Qa4 Rhe8 12.b5 Nb8 13.Ba3 Bf4 14.  
Qxa7 Bxd2 15.Nxd2 Nf4 16.Bf1**

16.Bxh7 Re2 17.Nb3 b6 with Black better.

**16...Be2 17.b6 Qg4 18.g3 Bxf1**



[FEN "1nkrr3/Qpp2ppp/1P6/3p4/3P1nq1/  
B1P3P1/P2N1P1P/R3RbK1 w - - 0 19"]

**19.Rxf1??**

With this move White loses his initiative. Better is 19.bxc7 Kxc7 20.Rxe8 (20. Nxf1 Nc6 21.Qa4 Re2 22.Rxe2 Nxe2+ 23.Kg2 Nf4+ 24.Kg1 Re8+) 20... Rxe8 21.Qa5+ (21.Rxf1 Nc6 22.Qc5 Re2=; 21.Nxf1 the bishop is still invulnerable. 21...Nh3+ 22.Kg2 Nc6+) 21...Kc8 22.Rxf1+/- (22.Nxf1 Na6 23.Ne3 Nh3+ 24.Kg2 Rxe3+).

**19...Qh3 20.gxf4 Re6 21.f5??**

The position was bad, and this mistake simply hastens the end. Better is 21. Be7 Rh6 22.Rfe1 Qxh2+ 23.Kf1 Qh3+ 24.Ke2 Re6+ 25.Kd1 Rxe1+ 26.Kxe1, with Black better.

**21...Rh6+ 22.Rfe1 Qxh2+ 23.Kf1 Qh1+**

Better would be 23...Qh3+ and Black has prevailed. 24.Ke2 Re8+ (24... Rxb6?! is a weaker possibility 25.Kd1=) 25.Kd1 Rxe1+ 26.Kc2 Qxf5+ 27.

Kb3 Rxa1 28.bxc7 Nd7—+.

**24.Ke2 Re8+ 25.Kd3 Rxe1 26.bxc7**



[FEN "1nk5/QpP2ppp/7r/3p1P2/3P4/  
B1PK4/P2N1P2/R3r2q b - - 0 26"]

26.Rxe1 Qxe1 27.bxc7 with Black better.

**26...Kxc7??**

Black king safety dropped. Stumbles just before the finish line. Better is 26... Nc6 and Black can celebrate victory. 27.Qa8+ Kxc7 28.Rxe1 Qxe1—+.

**27.Qa5+= Kc8 28.Rxe1 Qxe1 29.Qxd5 Qxf2 30.Qxf7 Rc6??**

Black loses the upper hand. Better is 30...Rf6 and Black is still in the game. 31.Qe8+ Kc7 32.Qe5+ Kc8 33.Qe8+ Kc7 34.Qe5+ Kc8 35.Qe8+=.

**31.Qf8++- Kc7**



[FEN "1n3Q2/1pk3pp/2r5/5P2/3P4/  
B1PK4/P2N1q2/8 w - - 0 32"]

**32.Bd6+! Rxd6 33.Qxd6+! Kxd6 34.Ne4+ Ke7 35.Nxf2 Kf6 36.Ke4 Nd7**

36...b5 37.Ng4+ Kg5 38.Ne5+/-.

**37.Kf4**

37.c4 Nb6 38.c5 Na4+-.

**37...Nb6**

37...b5!+/-.

**38.Ng4++- Ke7 39.Ne3 Na4 40.c4 Nc3 41.a3 Kd6 42.c5+ Kc6 43.Ke5 h5 44.  
d5+ Kxc5 45.d6 Kc6 46.Ke6 Ne4 47.Nc4 h4**

Better is 47...Nc5+ 48.Ke7 Kd5+-.

**48.Ne5+ Kb5 49.d7 Nc5+ 50.Ke7 Nxd7 51.Kxd7**

51.Nxd7?? h3 52.Kf7 h2 53.Kxg7 h1Q—+.



**51...Kc5??**

A blunder in a bad position. 51...h3 52.Ng4 Kc5+-.

**52.Ke6 Kd4**

52...h3 is one last hope. 53.Nf3 b6+-.

**53.Nf3+ Kc3 54.Kf7 Kb3 55.Kxg7 Kxa3 56.f6 1-0**



Girls Junior Open competitors; Photo: monroi.com

### **Girls Junior Open**

Accompanying the U.S. Open, the inaugural Girls Junior Open attracted twenty-five competitors, sixteen of them from California. But the winner was Indiana's sole player, Emily Tallo, with a score of 5½/6.



Girls Junior Open Champion Emily Tallo  
Photo: monroi.com

A half-point behind was up-and-coming Margaret Hua, a fixture at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis. Emily and Margaret were paired in round five, with their game ending in a draw.

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

#### **Problem #1**



[FEN "2kr3r/pp1q1ppp/5n2/1Nb5/  
2Pp1B2/7Q/P4PPP/1R3RK1 w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move. What do you suggest?

**Answer:** 1.Nxa7+ (not 1.Qa3?? because of 1...Qxb5) 1...Bxa7 2.Qa3 b6 3. Rxb6 Bxb6 4.Qa8#. From Mikenas-Flohr, Folkestone 1933.

## Problem #2



[FEN "rnnqr1k1/p3bp1p/1pp3pB/2PQPp2/  
3P4/2N5/PP2BP1P/R4RK1 w - - 0 1"]

It is White to move. What should he do?

**Answer:** 1.Qxf7+! Kxf7 2.Bc4+ Qd5 3.Nxd5 b5 4.Bb3 1-0. From Dietrich-Kindl 1991. Both problems contained in [The Mammoth Book of Chess](#), by Graham Burgess.

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