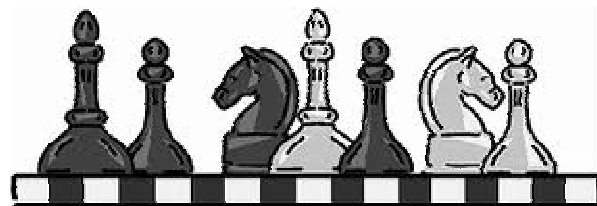


Chess in the



Antelope Valley

Chess E-Newsletter of the Antelope Valley

Vol VI No 10

Editor: Daa (day) Mahowald

daa@mahowald.org

http://chess4.us

1 October, 2015



No One . Won Yet **\$200 Gift Card!**



We want your input!

Simply email daa@mahowald.org with 2-3 sentences on your opinion of this newsletter. That will automatically enter you into a drawing for a **\$200 Gift Card** good towards any combination of non-City of Lancaster chess clubs, camps, classes*, workshops, activities, or events provided by the **AV Chess House** or its non-profit **Say Yes to Chess**.

Entries must be received on-or-before August 20, 2015.

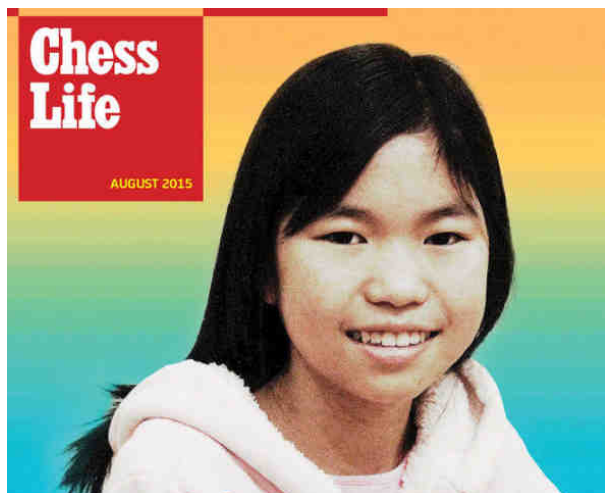
The winner will be announced at 5:30pm, August 21 at the **AV Chess House**.

Need not be present to win.

If less than 20 people enter this contest, the drawing will be canceled and no one will win the gift card.

* This gift card can also be used towards private chess lessons from Ms. Daa (\$200 = ten 45-minute lessons)

Contest deadline extended through October 1 since only 3 have entered so far!



Look what's in this issue!

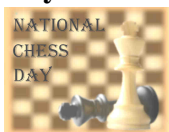
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- Interview of International Master Jack Peters pg 16

At 11, Carissa Yip is the youngest female USCF Chess Master EVER. This newsletter has been given permission from the national magazine, Chess Life, to reprint the article about her gaining that impressive title. See page 13.

A TWO-STEP **K-8** CHESS EVENT! *Participate in one or both!*



Day 1 9am – 2pm, **Saturday, October 10, 2015** *National Chess Day!* Mini-Game[®] Tournament!



Learn or review how each of the 6 chess pieces move, one piece at a time. With each piece, you will be introduced to a Chess Mini-Game[®] which uses that piece so that you can have immediate, hands-on fun and compete for trophies while playing that Chess Mini-Game[®]!

Day 2 9am – 2pm, **Saturday, October 24, 2015** *MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY* Chess Spectacular Tournament!



Learn or review check, checkmate & draw. Then compete for Grade Level trophies by playing **full** games of chess!

WHO	K-8 (parents/guardians welcome to observe or volunteer)	
WHAT	Day 1: Chess Mini-Game [®] Tournament	Day 2: Chess Spectacular!
WHERE	Stanley Kleiner Activity Center @ Lancaster City Park (43011 10 th St West)	
COST/DAY	\$13/child if pre-registered; \$20/child at the door Parents participate for free!	
REGISTER	Lancaster City Hall, 44933 Fern Ave or 723-6077 or www.cityoflancaster.org (FALL 2015)	

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY! **High School** **Chess Tournament**

Saturday, October 24

9am – 3pm

Stanley Kleiner Activity Center
43011 10th St West, Lancaster



Compete in an un-rated NON-ELIMINATION High School Chess Tournament.

- 8:30am: Check-in & help set up chess sets
- 9:00am: 1st Round Pairings posted
- 9:15am: 1st Round Begins
- 10:55am: Snack Time - bring your own
- 12 pm: Lunch Time – bring your own
- 1:45pm: Awards Ceremony

TROPHIES
1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Place Individual
1 st and 2 nd Place Team
Good Sportspeopleship

Cost: \$13 (\$20 Lancaster non-resident) For more information email daa@mahowald.org
Pre-Register: City of Lancaster, 44933 Fern Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534 or (661) 723-6077





Join the AV-Wide Homeschool Chess Club!

WHO Open to any homeschool learner in the Antelope Valley
Your Chess Coach: Ms. Daa (pronounced day), has been teaching chess for almost 30 years and she's frequently ranked one of the top 100 Women Quick Chess players in the nation.

WHAT Chess Club for all skill levels, from Beginner through Advanced!

WHERE AV Chess House

WHEN 2 – 3:30 p.m., Fridays, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11

WHY The club is a fun, hands-on way to gain academic skills listed in the *Benefits of Chess* box below

HOW Only \$42/learner for 10, 90-minute sessions!

OR

AV Chess House is a homeschool vendor with iLEAD and Excel Academy

REGISTRATION FORM Available at http://chess4.us/?page_id=79

The Benefits of Chess


daa@mahowald.org

Math Development	Sportspeopleship
Science Achievement	Dealing With
English Skills	Undesirable Situations
Communication Abilities	Learning from Mistakes
Creativity	Responsibility for Actions
Concentration	Discipline
Logical Reasoning	Measurable Individual
Critical Thinking	Accomplishments
Memory	Team Spirit
Problem Solving	Commitment
Intellectual Maturity	Academic Competition for All
Self Esteem	Belonging to a Good
Analyzing Actions	and Diverse Crowd
& Consequences	Cultural Enrichment
Planning Ahead	Social Skills
Complex Decision Making	Empathetic Awareness
Pattern Recognition	Improved Attendance

AV Chess House wins AV Fair Parade trophy!

The *AV Chess House* participated in its first parade, the 2015 Antelope Valley Fair Parade on August 22, and won a 1st Place trophy! The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce sponsored and judged the event.



Above, the 1st Place trophy won by the *AV Chess House* at the 2015 AV Fair Parade.

At right, Ms. Daa drives the *AV Chess House* parade entry, highlighting the new decals on the van windows and the HUGE chess set inside the van.

AV Fair Parade Winners

SWEEPSTAKES: AV Little Miss Community Queens

THEME: Teen Miss AV

PRESIDENT: Junior Miss AV

JUDGES: AV Queens

AUTOMOBILE, SINGLE: 1st, *AV Chess House*, 2nd, RC Affordable Limousine.

AUTOMOBILE, GROUP: 1st, Rusty Relics Branch 30; 2nd, AV Mercedes.

AUTOMOBILE, CLUB: 1st, Antelope Valley Mopar; 2nd, AV Region Car Club "High Desert Classic."

CHEERLEADERS/DANCE GROUP: 1st, International Dance Fitness Academy; 2nd, Highland High School Cheer.

MARCHING DRILL TEAM: 1st, Evo Tae Kwon Do.

COMMUNITY QUEENS: 1st, Young Miss AV 2014-2015; 2nd, Tiny Miss Tehachapi Alexis Tyner.

FLOAT UNDER 30': 1st, Rosamond Princesses; 2nd, University of Antelope Valley.

FLOAT OVER 30': 1st, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Troth, Realtors; 2nd, Desert Christian Schools.

EQUESTRIAN: 1st, Los Charros Del Antelope Valley; 2nd, Leona Valley Gymkhana Queens.

MISC: 1st, High Desert obedience Club; 2nd, After Hours Lock and Key.

AV CHESS OPPORTUNITIES

FOR ALL AGES

USCF-rated Monthly 4 RD SWISS Tournament 10am – 3pm, 2nd Sunday-of-every-month USCF-rated, LOC *AV Chess House* PZ 1st Place 50% of combined entry fee, 2nd Place 25% FEE \$10 if pd at least 10 days prior; \$15 if email registered 3 days prior, \$20 if email registered at least 1 hour prior. RDs 10:10; 11:20; 12:30; 2:00 USCF req. CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org

AV Checkmate Sunday Tournaments 2pm – 7pm 1st & 3rd Sundays PZ TBA REG at door RDs TBA. USCF req. CONTACT: knightblitz@verizon.net 661-917-7628

Unrated Monthly 3 RD Chess Tournament 10am – 2pm, 1st-Saturday-of-every-month. LOC *AV Chess House* FEE \$7. PZ 1st Place \$15, 2nd Place \$10. RDs 10:15, 11:30, 12:45. CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org

Improve Your Chess Play with Private Lessons Individual and small-group private chess lessons for Beginners, Beyond Beginners, and Intermediates of all ages. LOC *AV Chess House*. CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org

Bring Chess to Your Client Base Whether you work with seniors, preschoolers, families, special-needs populations, etc. *The AV Chess House* can provide a chess program tailored to your needs. CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org

Get Your “Chess Match” USCF-rated Only \$1/person/game. CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org

FOR KIDS

Kids Chess Club –Summer 2015 Any AV K-8. Still Accepting Registrations

National Chess Day Mini-Game Tournament (K-8) October 10th...Details on pg 2!

Make A Difference Day Chess Spectacular (K-8) October 24th...Details on pg 2!

High School Chess Tournament October 24th...Details on pg 2!

Kids Chess Club –Fall 2015 Any AV K-8. Fridays, Oct 2-Dec 18. To preregister email daa@mahowald.org

Homeschool Chess Club Any AV Homeschooler. Fridays, Oct 2-Dec 11. Details on pg 3!

Winter Break 2015 SAT Prep Camp Those who are in Grades 10-12. 1:30-5:30pm, Dec 21-23 & 28-29, daa@mahowald.org

Girl Power Chess Camp Chess learning experience for K-8 girls, all skill levels Details coming soon!

Have a Chess Match with Another School Several Scholastic Chess Clubs in the Antelope Valley are eager to hold a Chess Match with other Scholastic Chess Clubs in the AV. If your school is looking for a Chess Match, CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org

Boy Scout Chess Merit Badge To earn a Boy Scout Chess Merit Badge or Cub Scout belt with Ms. Daa, CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org

Start a Chess Club at Your Child’s School Students who participate in a once-a-week Chess Club reap numerous benefits, especially improvement in math and reading skills. See pg 10 & 20

FOR ADULTS

Check Chess Club for ages 15 and up 5pm – 8:30pm Every Friday except holidays, \$1 per Friday to Play. LOC *AV Chess House* CONTACT: daa@mahowald.org 661-466-6907

No Stress Basic Chess for Seniors I Wednesdays, 2:30-3:15pm Oct 7-Nov 11. To register; daa@mahowald.org

Save the Date

Chess Hangout’s – 9am-1pm, Saturday, December 12 and/or 19, 2015
Annual AV Chess House Holiday Party – 1pm-6pm on Wednesday, December 30, 2015
All-day Chess Event @ Palmdale Library - 11am-4pm on Saturday, January 23, 2016

Wondering what to do with the kids while Holiday Shopping?

**Watch for info in the next newsletter about
4-hour Chess Hangouts which solve that dilemma.**

9am-1pm Saturday, December 12 and/or 19.



27 of 43

Lessons from Total Chess

by John Herron



From the book, "TOTAL CHESS: Learn, Teach and Play the Easy 1-2-3 Way," by John Herron, copyright 2011, reprinted with permission from the publisher.

King & Pawn vs. King (Intermediate Lesson)

This endgame might seem simple, but it is not. There is a lot of strategy. If you have the pawn and you can promote it to a queen, then you will win. If the opponent has the pawn and you can stop it from promoting to a queen, then you will draw. Often, the deciding factor here is who has the *opposition*.

The opposition occurs when the two kings are aligned one row apart. Whoever has the move must step aside with their king, allowing the other player's king to advance. It is like a standoff. It is better *not* to move first, so that your king can hold its ground and the other player's king must move and give ground. When the opponent has the move, then you have the opposition. When you have the move, then the opponent has the opposition.

Now you are ready to learn the three strategies for this endgame.

1) Lead with your king: Keep your king in front of your pawn. If your king moves next to or behind your pawn, and the

opponent's king can move in front of your pawn, then it is only a draw.

2) Keep the opposition: When the kings are aligned one row apart, it must be the opponent's turn to move. If it is your turn to move, you may be able to take the opposition by moving your pawn. Once you have the opposition, you must keep it to win.

3) Take the key square: The key square is the sixth row in front of your pawn. If you get your king to the key square, regardless of whose turn it is to move or who has the opposition, you can win.

The game may change back and forth between a win and a draw in one move. If you know the three strategies and the opponent does not, you can usually win with the pawn and draw without the pawn. There is one more important thing to remember. You can only win with a non-rook pawn (b-pawn to g-pawn). If you have a rook pawn (a-pawn or h-pawn) and the opponent can get his king into the corner or near the corner, then it is only a draw.



lancaster
it's positively clear.



K-8 Kids Chess Club

WHO: Open to all students grades K-8. Parents are welcome to observe and volunteer!

WHAT: A fun and intellectually challenging club and team.

WHEN: Fridays, 4:00 – 5:30pm

10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

WHERE: AV Chess House, 3710 Neola Way, Lancaster

WHY:

- To learn chess and/or to improve your chess skills
- To compete for trophies and other awards
- To challenge your mind, as well as your friends
- To make new friends/hand out with old ones
- To have FUN!

FEE: \$63 (\$70 non-Lancaster residents)

Plus, each Chess Club Member's adult must volunteer at least once

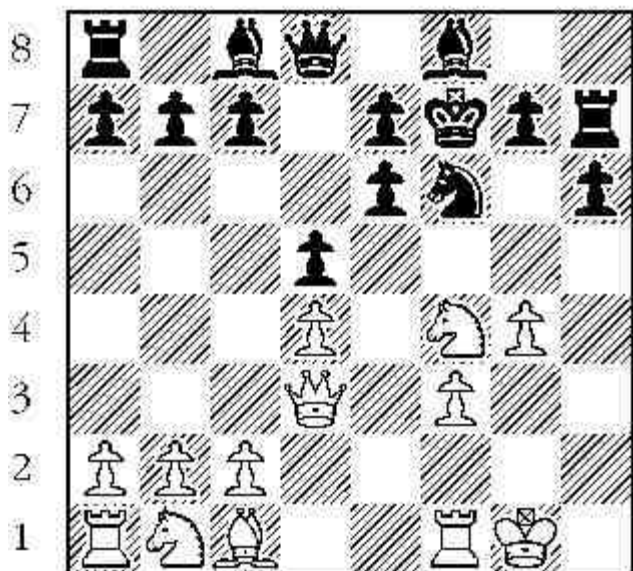
REGISTER: Lancaster City Hall
44933 Fern Avenue, Lancaster
(661) 723-6077
www.cityoflancasterca.org

CHess FUNNIES

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"Would you mind terribly if I took back my last three moves?"



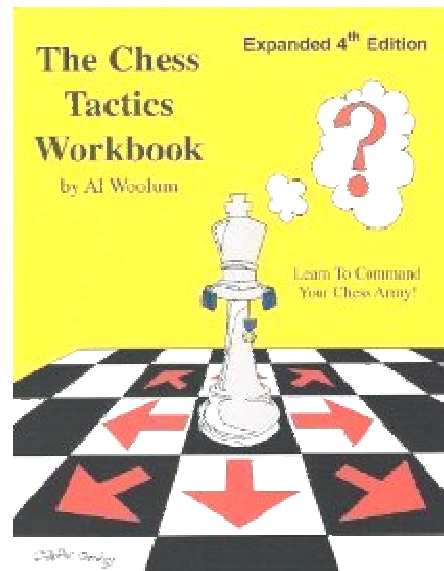
BLACK'S WORST MOVE?



Chess Tactics Workbook

(4th edition)

by Al Woolum



Retail Price \$15

Bulk Price \$13

Sale Price at the *AV Chess House* \$10

Contact daa@mahowald.org for more information.



<https://www.facebook.com/daa.mahowald>

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Because this monthly e-newsletter has over **3000** subscribers, it's a great outlet to advertise your products or services, whether or not they're chess related!

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8th Annual Dinner & Fundraiser!
DAY OF THE DEAD 2015
 Thursday, October 29th 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM
 Elegant Affairs
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 A Magical Celebration Benefitting
 Friendship Bridge - www.friendshipbridge.org
 Buy Your Tickets Online: \$50.00 per guest
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Chess @ the Fandom Verse Expo



The FandomVerse Expo was a three day, September 4-6, multi-fandom convention held at the PEC (Pioneer Event Center, 45000 Valley Central Way in Lancaster).

The AV Chess House provided a free chess activity where many in costume (or not) enjoyed a few games.



NO STRESS BASIC CHESS FOR SENIORS I

Through fun and easy Chess Mini Game[®], learn basic chess concepts. Prior knowledge of the game of chess is not needed. This course is designed as a no-stress, slow-paced, pleasant experience. Expect lots of fun!

Wednesdays: 2:30pm-3:15pm
10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11



Location: AV Chess House
Fee: \$53 for six 45-min classes
To register: daa@mahowald.org

AV Chess House @ Heritage Festival & Celebrate America

Right and below: the AV Chess House and its non-profit, Say Yes to Chess, provided free chess activities at the 2015 Annual Heritage Festival at Potcitlan Square in Palmdale 10am – 3pm, Saturday, September 12.



Below: the AV Chess House and its non-profit, Say Yes to Chess, provided free chess activities at the 2015 Celebrate America on the BLVD in Lancaster 5pm – 8pm, Saturday, September 12.



Antelope Valley's NM Ruben Ondangan's Chess Corner



AV Labor Day Open

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1	RUBEN ONDANGAN CA 12724876 / R: 2230 ->2236 Q: 2128 ->2136	4.0	1W	2 W	4 W	3 W 8
2	CHRIS STYCHINSKY CA 12593455 / R: 1854 ->1897 Q: 1698 ->1770	3.0	1L	1 W	9 W	5 W 4
3	MARLON CIFUENTES CA 15269180 / R: 1856 ->1865 Q: 1740 ->1753	3.0	1W	7 W	6 L	1 W 9
4	ERIC TIANXIONG CHEN CA 14508811 / R: 1920 ->1909 Q: 1800 ->1790	2.0	1W	9 L	1 W	6 L 2
5	ARTHUR THOMAS WILLIAMS CA 14194341 / R: 1944 ->1907 Q: 1885 ->1843	1.5	1L	6 W	7 L	2 H
6	JERRY STONE II CA 13414444 / R: 1599 ->1619 Q: 1533 ->1551	1.5	1W	5 L	3 L	4 H
7	WILLIAM URBANO BRITO CA 14550232 / R: 1420 ->1441 Q: 1303 ->1333	1.5	1L	3 L	5 W	9 H
8	KEVIN CHEN CA 14799207 / R: 1386 ->1385 Q: 1270 ->1269	1.0	1U	1H	1H	1L 1
9	DR CHITTA THIAGARAJAH CA 12477426 / R: 1590P6 ->1507P10 Q: 1590P6 ->1462P10	10.0	1L	4 L	2 L	7 L 3

Round 3 of the 4 round AV Labor Day Open held at the Masonic Lodge, 44702 Cedar Avenue in Lancaster. Chris Stychinsky of Pasadena squeezed out a win from dangerous Expert Arthur Williams, Eric Chen stops Jerry Stone's winning streak and Dr. Chitta Thiagarajah succumbed to Dr. William Brito's ferocious attack. Top board not in picture was Ondangan vs. Cifuentes which finished early. Also shown is observer Keven Chen.



Private Chess Lessons

Instructor	Skill Levels Taught	Fee (for one-on-one lessons)
Ms. Daa	Beginners, Beyond Beginners, Intermediates	\$200 for 10 45-minute lessons
NM Matt Mahowald	Intermediates, Beyond Intermediates, Advanced	\$50 for each 60-minute lesson
NM Ruben Ondangan	Intermediates, Beyond Intermediates, Advanced	\$65 for each 90-minute lesson

Chess at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon



This is another in the occasional series of chess in interesting locations. Here, USCF National Chess Master Matt Mahowald has a chess game with his offspring, Morgan, on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon

You too can have your photo in the monthly newsletter, *Chess in the Antelope Valley*.

1. The photo must include at least one Antelope Valleyan playing chess
2. Or the photo must be a chess-related photo taken in the Antelope Valley
3. Submission deadline: the 10th of any month



Carissa Yip sets the record for youngest female master.

By **CARISSA YIP**

AFTER WINNING 7-0 IN THE WACHUSETT CHESS CLUB championship and reaching my new high of 2174 on June 2014, I was thinking the master's title should be achievable during the summer, some time before I turned 11. When I play well, I am able to beat very strong masters without any difficulties. I now recall Yusupov's advice on the correct psychological attitude—**if we have an advantage, we must raise our level of concentration.** This applies to my path to becoming a master too!

However, I overestimated my chess ability and underestimated my opponents. When I played a lower-rated opponent, I thought I could beat them easily. When I lost, I thought it was just due to some careless mistakes. I didn't pay too much attention to those games. But in reality, my concentration was low when facing a lower-rated opponent. I didn't have the correct attitude while playing those games.

My rating dropped down to almost 2100. There were not a lot of tournaments with many strong masters near home. It would take many months to get back up to the new high! My confidence sank too and I was afraid of losing my rating points.

At the end of 2014, my rating was just 2139. I was very frustrated. People kept telling my dad, Percy Yip, that I was not as good as I was earlier in my chess career.

"When will she become master?"

"Will she be able to break the record?"

"Girls will never be as good as boys."

My dad was very stressed when going to chess tournaments with me. Sometimes, he used statistics to prove that they were wrong. Sometimes, he pretended that he didn't care!

We were being attacked, and a new defense plan, a counter-attack, was necessary. The new plan was to prove that they were wrong by becoming a master as soon as possible.

Dad is very good in data analysis. He is a math genius. He analyzed my games and results. He found out my weakness (but I am not going to disclose the secret!). We came out with a new plan to reach master by the end of March. We started playing "guess the moves" over the Internet. He showed a position in his computer and the game appeared in mine. I had to analyze and find the correct move. He used a lot of fun methods in our studies. I recorded my video

analyzing grandmaster games. It was fun studying with dad, my best coach—but also my lowest-rated coach.

I started playing a lot of tournaments, especially at the Wachusett Chess Club which I hadn't been to in about six months. However, I lost my first game against Dave Couture. I hadn't lost any game at the chess club for over a year! I lost another 20 rating points. What a struggle!

We revised the plan to start playing at the Boylston Chess Club on Thursday nights and the Billerica Chess Club on Friday nights. The 20 rating points should be regained within a month according to the new plan.

To make the statistics work, I had to play a lot of games. I wanted to play in the U.S. Amateur Team East tournament in New Jersey. I played there two years ago and it was fun. My dad was busy at work so we didn't go there last year, but in order to achieve the

"Queen's" goal, the "King" must sacrifice! We were going.

With seemingly non-stop snow storms this winter in Massachusetts, schools was cancelled for much of February. I had a lot of time to play in tournaments. I could therefore play Thursday and Friday nights without affecting my school activities.

Thank you, Carissa. I know it was you making this record snow so that I could show the world that girls are as good as boys in chess!

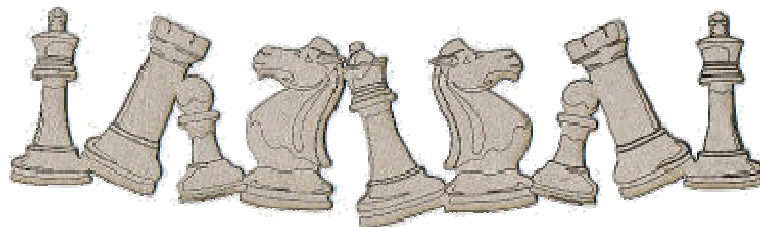
After three long days of playing 10 hours each day at the Amateur Team East, I returned home exhausted on February 17. It was a good and fun tournament. I learned some magic tricks from a magician in the tournament and earned five wins and a draw and gained another 19 points.

I played Jeffrey Corus (1855) in the first round of the Billerica (February) Swiss. My dad reminded me to concentrate, and I did. I won the game easily. Psychologically it was tough. When you win, you gain very few points, but when you lose, you lose a lot!

I didn't play the second round since it conflicted with my traveling to the team tournament. It was a rainy Friday night. I sat down to play against Tim Bromley. This was a monthly tournament, playing one game every Friday night at the Billerica Senior Center. It is around a 30-minute drive from my home, but it is the chess club closest to me. Here is some of the chess I played:

Thank you, Carissa. I know it was you making this record snow so that I could show the world that girls are as good as boys in chess!

This article, reprinted with permission from the national magazine, Chess Life, is continued on page 14.



Clarissa Yip (continued from page 13)

French Defense, Tarrasch Variation (C06)

Clarissa Yip (2194)
Timothy Brantley (2010)
Billerica February Swiss 2015 (3),
Camport, Massachusetts,
02.20.2015

1. e4 e6

Tim played his usual French Defense against me.

2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. cxd4 f5 9. exd5

This was all theory, but then came a surprise ...

9. ... Qxf6



I had expected 9. ... Nxd6 which was the main line and I would have responded with 10. Ne1 Bd6 11. 0-0 0-0.

10. Nf3 h6 11. e3?

This was a bad move because it didn't do anything but protect the b4-square. However, the b4-square didn't need any protection! It also gave Black a chance to play ... e6-e5. The main move is 11. Ng3, followed by 0-0, Re1, Nh5, and Ne5.

11. ... Bd6 12. Bd2



Black can play ... e6-e5 here too.

12. ... 0-0

12. ... e5 13. dxe5 Nf5e5 14. Nxe5 Nxe5 15. Bb5+ Nc6 16. Bc3 Qf7 17. 0-0 0-0 18. Rcl Black is definitely equal here.

13. 0-0 Rd8 14. Bc3

Mixing up my lines a bit, I heard of this idea and wanted to try it out. He couldn't punish me and went on with Black's theory against the regular moves.

14. ... Nf8 15. Re1

Trying to take control of the e5-square.

15. ... Bd7 16. Ng3 Be8!

A typical idea to try to exchange the light-square bishops with ... Bg6 and covering h5 at the same time.

17. Ne5

Just in time to stop ... Bg6.

17. ... Bxe5 18. dxe5 Qh4 19. b4

Trying to get in b4-b5 and kicking the knight away from c6 where it attacks e5.

19. ... Bg6

Not a great move. Black should try to stop b5 with ... e7-e6.

20. b5



20. ... Ne7 21. Bb4 Rac8

Trying to make use of the c4-square.

22. Nf1

I was afraid that I was going to lose the e5-pawn, so I created a back-up plan. My idea was g2-g3 and f2-f4, supporting the pawn on e5.

22. ... Bxd3 23. Qxd3 Nfg5 24. Nd2

Keeping control over c4 and the possible idea of Nc3.

24. ... Rf8?

This was an error because now the knight on e7 cannot move because of the pin and also because of the knight on e6.

25. Nf3 Qg4 26. h3

Some of you might think that it is a mistake because of the ... Qxg2+ ideas but they do not work.

26. ... Qf4



White is better after 26. ... Nf4 27. hxg4 Nxd3 28. Bxe7 Nxe1 29. Nxe1 and 26. ... Qxe2+ 27. Kxg2 Nf4+ 28. Kg3 Nxd3 29. Bxe7 Nxe1 30. Rxe1 Rf7 31. Bb4.

27. Qd4

Offering an exchange of queens envisioning 27. ... Qxd4 28. Nxd4 attacking the pawn on e6.

27. ... b6 28. h4

Thinking of h4-h5 ideas.

28. ... h5

Black loses a piece with 28. ... Rxb4 29. Qxf4 Rxf4 30. Nxd4 Rxb4 31. Bae7.

29. Re3

With the idea of Rc3.

29. ... Qf7 30. Ree1



I was in desperate time trouble with just a minute left on the clock. I repeated moves to save time because if he thought I was going to play for a draw, then he would have to think about if he wanted a draw too. Unfortunately for me, he had a nice move at his disposal.

30. ... Rfe8

30. ... Re4! is crushing. After 31. Qd2, White just loses the h4-pawn: 31. Qd2 Nxd4 (31.

... Rg4 is also a strong idea).

31. Ng5 Qf5 32. Rac1

Now I have parried the ... Re4 threat.

32. ... Rxc1?

Giving me the c-file was a bad idea. I was hoping that he didn't see something I overlooked ...

33. Rxc1 Rc8??



Blunder alert!

34. Rxc8+ Nxc8

Now he was in time trouble.

35. Qc3 Nce7 36. Bd6



The move 36. Qc7 was completely winning. I thought so too during my extremely quick calculations, but I needed to hurry, and so hesitated when I saw that the e5-pawn was hanging. I don't like to have unprotected pieces so I played 36. Bd6.

36. ... Qb1+ 37. Kh2 Qxb5 38. Qc7 Qc6??



After 38. ... Qe8 39. g3 Black is tied up. 39. ... Qc8 if he tries to exchange queens, White just

Clarissa Yip (continued from page 14)

takes the pawn on a7. (39. ... Qc8 40. Qxa7 Qc2 41. Kg2).

A blunder! Black had back rank problems and he still could have defended with ... Qe8 instead of the horrible ... Qc6. But we were both in time pressure, so you can't fault anyone.

39. Qd8+ Nf8 40. Bxe7, Black resigned.



The next day I took a half-point bye in the first round of the Legends of Chess tournament in Cambridge because I played pretty late on Friday, so I made sure I got my beauty sleep. The third round of the tournament was against Andrew Hoy, a national master and a good friend of mine. We are racing to see who will reach 2300 first. We have an even score against each other so far. He knows a lot of openings and plays both 1. e4 and 1. d4, but he played 1. e4 against me this time. I went into my typical opening as Black and punished him when he didn't play the right moves. I got the initiative and won an exciting attacking game.

Sicilian Defense, Dragon Variation, Yugoslav Attack (B76)
Andrew Hoy (2181)
Clarissa Yip (2150)
Legends of Chess 131, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02.21.2015

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d5 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be3 Bg7 7. f3 0-0 8. Qd2 Nc6 9. 0-0-0 d5 10. exd5 Nxd5 11. Nxc6 bxc6 12. Nxd5 cxd5 13. Qxd5 Qc7 14. Qc5 Qb7 15. Bd4 Bf5 16. Qb5 Qc7 17. Qc5 Qb7 18. Qa5?

(see diagram top of next column)

Perhaps he should try 18. Qb5 and hope that I would repeat the position.

18. ... Rfc8 19. Bc3 Bxc3!

A nice line is 19. ... Bxc3 20. bxc3 (However, White has an unpleasant in-between move 20. Rd8+ here which equalizes) 20. ... Bh6+ 21. Rd2 Qd7 22. e4 Rd8 23. Bd3 Bxd3 24. cxd3 Qxd3 25. Rhd1.

20. bxc3 Rab8 21. Kd2 Qb2 22. Bd3 Bxd3 23. Kxd3 Rb5 24. Qa4 Qxc3+ 25. Ke2 Re5+ 26. Kf2 Qe3+ 27. Kg3 Rg5+ 28. Kh3 Qf2 29. g3 Qxf3 30. Rd4 Qxh1 31. Rf4 Rh5+ 32. Kg4 f5+ 33. Rxf5 Rxf5, White resigned.

The last game was against another master, Chris Williams, who was rated 2309, and I wasn't sure if I should play because I'd already defeated two strong players and was a little tired. If I lost to Chris, then I would lose all the points I got from Andrew. But my dad told me if I played and won, I would get more than 40 rating points and become a master. I decided to play because if you don't take a risk, your dream will never come true.

Sicilian Defense, Dragon Variation (B70)

Chris Williams (2309)
Clarissa Yip (2150)
Legends of Chess 146, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02.21.2015

1. e4 c5

Following my heart!

2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. Be2 Bg7 7. Nb3

A strange move, usually played when Black plays ... Nc6.

7. ... e6

Planning to attack the queenside.

19. ... 0-0!

Keeping my king safe and developing my rook. White's a-rook is not developed yet. Black has a huge advantage.

20. Qd2 Ne4!

This is a winning move. After the exchange, Black has a winning endgame.



21. Qxg5

No better is 21. Bxe4 Qh4+ 22. Bf2 Qxe4+ 23. Qe2 Qxh1+ or 21. Qd3 Bxd4 22. Qxe4 Bxb2 23. Rb1 Bc3+.

21. ... Ngg5 22. Bxg7 Nxf3+ 23. Kf2 Kg7 24. Kxf3 fxe6+ 25. Ke4 exd5+ 26. Kxd5



26. ... Rf2!

Game over.

27. Rac1 Rc8 28. c4 bxc3 e.g. 29. bxc3 Rxa2 30. Kxd6 Rd2+ 31. Ke7 Rc4 32. Rhe1 Rxd2 33. Re6 Rh3 34. Rxa6 Rxc3 35. Rca1 Rcd3 36. Re6 Rhe3 37. Re1 Rde1 38. Rxe1 Rf3 39. Ke6 g5 40. Ra1 Kg6 41. Ke5 Rf5+ 42. Ke4 h5 43. Ra8 Rf4+ 44. Ke3 h4 45. Rh8 Kf5 46. Ra8 h3 47. Ra1 Kg4, White resigned.

After the game, we knew I had become a master, so we celebrated with our friends GM Larry Christiansen and his wife Natasha, Andrew Hoy, and Marc Eisenman at a Korean barbecue restaurant. I don't know what tasted better—the food or my achievement. ♣

8. g4



8. ... b5

I continued with my plan as White seems to have weakened his kingside.

9. g5 Nfd7 10. f4 Bb7 11. Be3 b4 12. Nd5 Nc6 13. Nd4 e6 14. Nxc6 Bxc6 15. Bd4 e5 16. fxe5 Bxd5 17. exd5

Another continuation is: 17. exd6 Bxe4 18. Rsg7 Bxh1 19. Bxb8 Qxg5.

17. ... Qxg5 18. e6 Nf6 19. Bf3



After 19. exd7+ Kxf7 and I have connected my rooks and can castle by hand if I need to.

... if you don't take a risk, your dream will never come true.

In Conversation with International Master Jack Peters!

International Master Jack Peters is currently one of the top 200 players in the USA. Peters wrote the renowned LA Times chess column for nearly 30 years, and he is currently a professor at the University of Southern California as well as an adviser to its chess team. We spoke with Mr. Peters about his history with chess, how he's been able to promote the sport, and much more:

Could you tell me about how and when you began playing chess?

I learned how to play chess when I was eight years old. I really became hooked in high school when I saw a book about chess. I just kept playing after that!

Can you tell me about what you do with chess other than playing in tournaments? Along these lines, it would be great if you could also talk a little about the chess column you used to write for the LA Times.

I wrote the chess column until the end of 2010. I used to write it once a week for the paper on Sunday. I'd write about a couple of games, news about upcoming tournaments, and items of that nature—it was really an ordinary chess column in many ways. Ultimately, though, it was a lot of fun to do; I did it for 28 years! Other than that, I have written pretty regularly for other publications such as Chess Life and Rank & File, and co-authored a couple of books. However, I think that my biggest contributions have been as a chess teacher. I've been teaching privately since 1976, and I currently teach at two elementary schools and the University of Southern California. The courses I teach at USC are called "Chess and Critical Thinking" and "Chess – Advanced Thinking Techniques," and I've been teaching here since 2002. Through these courses, I hope to show students that they can be successful playing with any style, really.

What do you have to say about the benefits of chess in education and in life?

Well, I've met a lot of interesting people through chess! Also, I've been told by quite a few students that chess has helped them with their thought processes in other subjects and in thinking rationally.

Why is chess meaningful to you?

I like the competition. I'm also immensely fascinated by the game itself and by how one can win with only, initially, a tiny advantage. Other than that, I couldn't really explain why I've stuck with chess!

What is your favorite opening?

The Ruy Lopez!

Which chess players inspire you?

Any of the world champions.

Who is the strongest opponent you've ever played against?

Mikhail Tal. I've also played against Tigran Petrosian, Bent Larsen, and Viktor Korchnoi.

In your free time, what do you like doing besides playing chess?

I'm really hooked on chess! Other than chess, though, I like sports and cooking.



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