

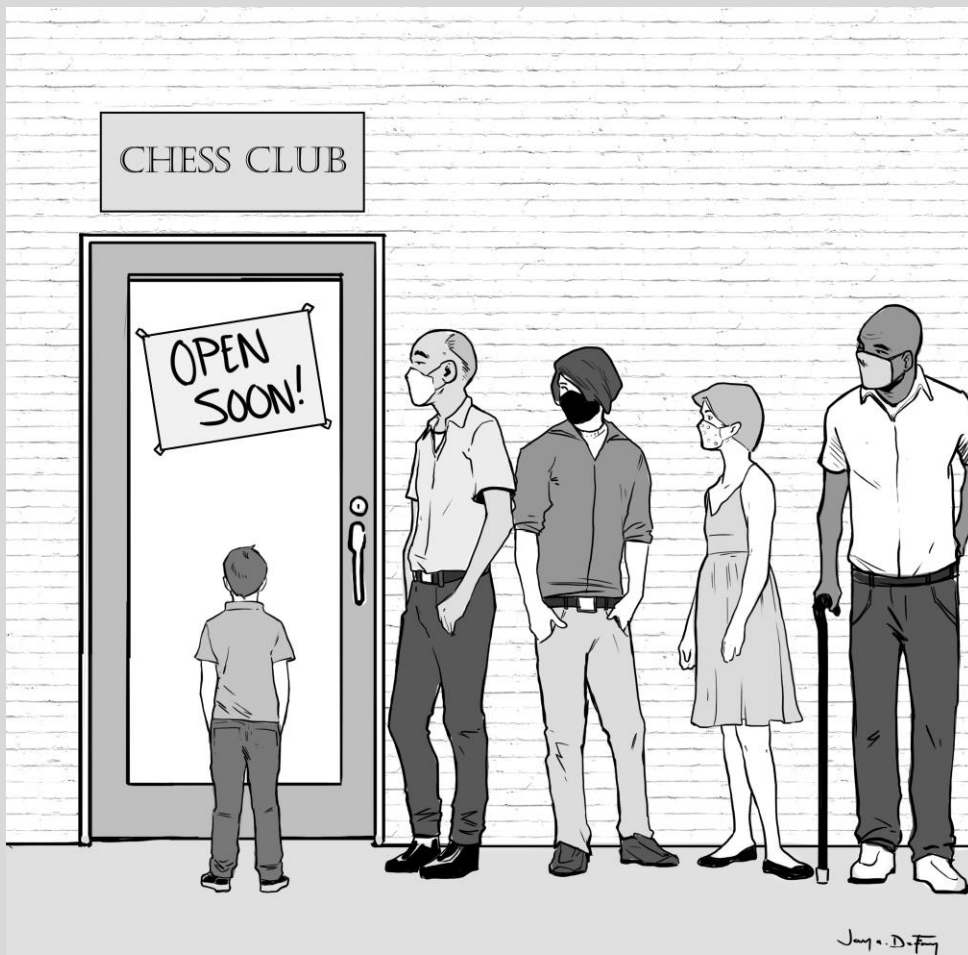


# MICHIGAN

# Chess

Price \$3.00

## Here's to Looking forward to 2021



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#### The Michigan Chess Association

is a non-profit organization, which promotes chess education for juniors and adults by publishing Michigan Chess. We also aid schools, chess clubs and local chess events with publicity, information and supplies; by organizing Michigan championship events.

*Be sure to check our website regularly so as not to miss out on any changes/additions/opportunities to access MCA activities!*

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 Editor: Lonnie Rutkofske

## Spring 2021



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Regular Membership without Magazine	\$10
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Family Membership	\$25
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Life Membership	\$300

If you choose, you can forward membership fees to : Jeff Aldrich P.O. Box 40 Flint, MI 48501.

Please make checks or money orders payable to

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Full page	7.5 x 9.75	\$110
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Quarter page	Flexible	\$45

### Rates for Michigan Chess tournament organizers

Full page	7.5 x 9.75	\$75
Half page	7.5 x 4.75	\$40
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These members have been designated Honorary Life Members of the Michigan Chess Association in recognition of their services and contributions to chess in Michigan. They have honored the MCA far more than the Association could honor them. (\* Deceased)

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Howard Gaba*	George Eastman
Andrew Palmi*	David Moody
Ron Finegold*	Harold Steen*
Paul Simmons*	H. Jay Carr*
Mike Skidmore	Peter C. Nixon
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Paul Grams*	Alan Kaufman
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Bright spots dot the chess horizon sometimes even at what may seem to be the worst of times. One of the major surprises of the latter half of 2020 was the appearance of the remarkable small screen debut on Netflix of ***The Queen's Gambit***. Chess took center stage in this amazingly accurate vignette starring Anya Taylor-Joy in the role of Beth Harmon, an orphaned chess prodigy based on a 1983 novel by Walter Tevis. The truly extraordinary aspect of this cinematic endeavor is that chess is not just a convenient backdrop to the story! For chess fanatics who enthusiastically embraced our super hero in "Searching for Bobby Fischer", finally chess becomes the centerpiece for a change, and with the relentless insistence on authenticity demanded by consultants Bruce Pandolfini and Garry Kasparov, the dusty relics of intellectual elitism and stogy prejudices almost universally embraced by the non-chess playing public are suddenly awakened and transformed with a fresh vigor inspired by this youthful phenom from the backwaters of Kentucky.

For those who have done so, Pandolfini's article: "Worth the Wait" in the November 2020 issue of ***ChessLife*** is worth the read!

- Lon Rutkofske - [michessmag@gmail.com](mailto:michessmag@gmail.com).

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- Game reconstruction and analysis: Chris Eagle; Alan Gregg.
- Mailing, tournament reports, photographs, advertising, publisher: Jeff Aldrich.
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## Chess Associations in Michigan

Michigan Chess Association [www.michess.org](http://www.michess.org)  
 West Michigan Chess [www.westmichiganchess.com](http://www.westmichiganchess.com)

*Websites for chess clubs in Michigan are listed in "Chess Clubs" near the back of the magazine.*

## National/International Chess Websites

United States Chess Federation [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)  
 World Chess Federation (FIDE) [www.fide.com](http://www.fide.com)  
 Chess Federation of Canada [www.chess.ca](http://www.chess.ca)  
 English Chess Federation [www.englishchess.org.uk](http://www.englishchess.org.uk)  
 German Chess Federation [www.schachbund.de](http://www.schachbund.de)  
 Russian Chess Federation [www.russiachess.org](http://www.russiachess.org)

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The schedule to the left indicates the timelines for production of ***Michigan Chess Magazine***. Should writers, advertisers and contributors adhere to these guidelines, it will ensure that a consistent, timely, high quality publication should be in the hands of members within a month after it goes to print. **Contributors are asked to submit text in MS Word and photos in JPEG formats to facilitate efficient production processes.**

2020 Publication Schedule	To Editor Deadline	To Printer
Spring- January thru March	Feb. 9th	Feb 15th
Summer - April thru June	May 9th	May 15th
Fall – July thru September	Aug 9th	Aug 15th
Winter - October thru December	Nov 9th	Nov 15th

## Crosstables for Online Chess Events — November 29, 2020 Thru January 9, 2021

**MCA OnLINE RATED QUICK SWISS**  
Chess.com, November 29, 2020

1	Ethan Lyu	1821	BYE	W2B	D3W	2.5
2	Aryan Achuthan	2073	W3B	L1W	W5B	2
3	Easwar Sekar	2034	L2W	W4B	D1B	1.5
4	Venkata Nachu	1582	U--	L3W	BYE	1
5	Nick Schwerin	2002	U--	U--	L2W	0

**MCA OnLINE RATED QUICK SWISS**  
Chess.com, December 13, 2020

1	Huso Avdic	2075	W2B	W4W	W5B	3
2	Zachary Smith	1928	L1W	W3W	BYE	2
3	Easwar Sekar	2034	W5W	L2B	W4B	2
4	Bryan Bentz	1317	BYE	L1B	L3W	1
5	Ethan Lyu	1821	L3B	BYE	L1W	1

**MCA OnLINE RATED QUICK SWISS**  
Chess.com, December 31, 2020

1	Alan Gregg	1893	W10B	W13W	D4B	W2W	W5W	4.5
2	Bradley Rogers	2028	W14W	W9B	W3W	L1B	W7W	4
3	Alex Strobehn	1902	W8W	W11B	L2B	W4W	W9B	4
4	Ethan Lyu	1821	W7B	W5B	D1W	L3B	W8W	3.5
5	Mulan Zhang	2082	W15B	L4W	W10B	W9W	L1B	3
6	Rahul Gururajan	798	L13W	L8B	BYE	W10W	W11B	3
7	Siddharth Menon	1079	L4W	W14B	W12W	W13B	L2B	3
8	Leon Ma	1090	L3B	W6W	L13B	W11W	L4B	2
9	Jonathan Byrd	1517	W12W	L2W	W11B	L5B	L3W	2
10	Varick Chen	924	L1W	W12B	L5W	L6B	BYE	2
11	Justin Macauley	445	BYE	L3W	L9W	L8B	L6W	1
12	Luka Jovanovic	869	L9B	L10W	L7B	U--	U--	0
13	Venkata Nachu	1582	W6B	L1B	W8W	L7W	U--	2
14	Avinoor Bal	1268	L2B	L7W	U--	U--	U--	0
15	Freyr Wang	1510	L5W	U--	U--	U--	U--	0

**MCA OnLINE RATED QUICK SWISS**  
Chess.com, January 9, 2021

1	James Dean	1839	W6B	W2W	W3B	3
2	Huso Avdic	2088	W7W	L1B	W5W	2
2	Ethan Lyu	1840	W5W	W7B	L1W	2
4	Bryan Bentz	1535	U--	BYE	W7W	2
5	Mulan Zhang	2044	L3B	W6W	L2B	1
6	Chuck Heinrich	1376	L1W	L5B	BYE	1
7	Lukas Krueger	1531	L2B	L3W	L4B	0

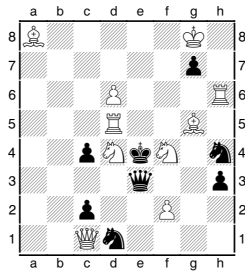


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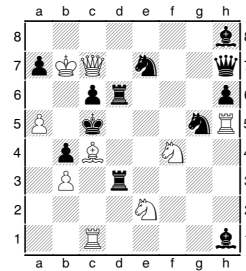
## The Perplexing Problems of Kenneth S. Howard!

### Quiz 9

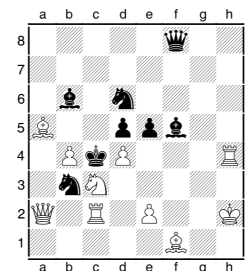
In each problem find White's key first move!  
Solutions can be found on page 26.



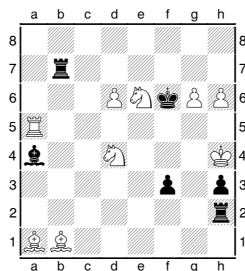
1. White to move and mate in two moves.



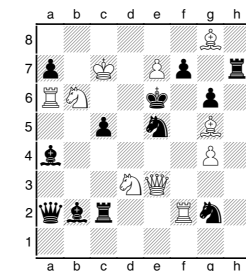
2. White to move and mate in two moves.



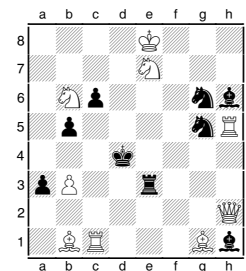
3. White to move and mate in two moves.



4. White to move and mate in two moves.



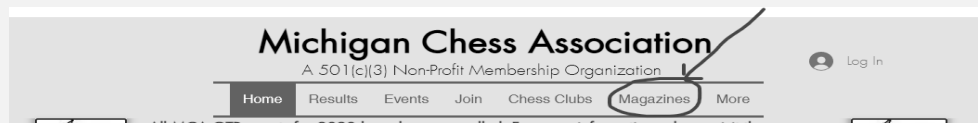
5. White to move and mate in two moves.



6. White to move and mate in two moves.

### Magazine Archives by Jeff Aldrich

We now have a *Michigan Chess Magazine Archive* on the website with older magazines that were scanned in. Check back often as we will be adding more issues on a regular basis at [www.michess.org](http://www.michess.org). Thanks to **Michael Zheng** for helping to set this up.



**Sidebar on Chess:** This space is reserved for chess-related information, items of interest, articles/stories from the internet.

<https://slate.com/culture/2020/11/queens-gambit-garry-kasparov-interview-netflix-chess-adviser.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/23/arts/television/chess-set-board-sales.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/10/arts/television/queens-gambit-netflix-chess.html>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/16/tip-according-to-a-female-grandmaster.html>

<https://towardsdatascience.com/why-you-should-play-chess-45098a735003>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-16/best-chess-clocks-a-history-and-the-queen-s-gambit-on-netflix>

<https://www.chess.com/news/view/lubomir-kavalek-1943-2021>

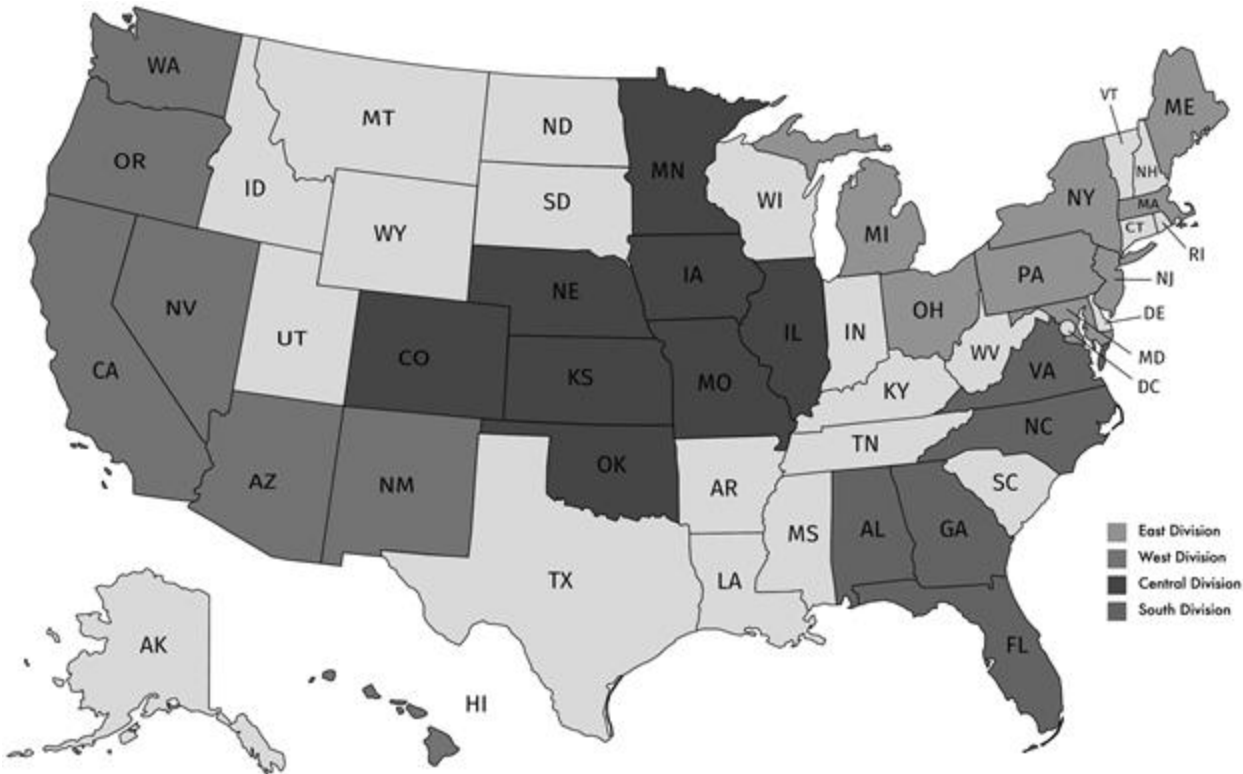
<https://www.chess.com/article/view/best-chess-time-control>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/22/us/lubomir-kavalek-dead.html>

# Michigan Monsters Finish Runner-Up in the Inaugural States' Cup

By Jeff Aldrich

This fall, a team of Michigan players competed against other states in a new online chess match competition. This event was the brainchild of **Saumik Narayanan** from Minnesota – he also provided reports to USCF ([www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)) which should still be available on their website. He contacted us in the late summer and set up a Discord server to plan the event. As MCA President, I stepped in as captain to recruit team members and decide who would play each week. In the end, there were 29 states that competed. These states were divided into four divisions as shown below. Michigan was in the East division. All matches were held online at lichess.org.



For each match, the state fielded a team of four players which had to have an average rating under 2200. Also, players rated under 1800 counted as 1800 for the purpose of the calculated average. In the regular season, we played a weekly round robin against the other seven teams in our division. The match format was based off the PRO Chess League, with each team presenting a lineup of four players. Each player played one rapid game (G/15+2) against each opposing player, for a total of 4 games per player, and 16 games per match. The games were held on **lichess.org** and we also had Zoom for captains to monitor the players from both teams.



The Michigan team was led by **FM Mark Heimann** and **NM James Canty**. To meet the U2200 average rating, we would pair them with one of our Experts (**Tony Nichols, Clara McGrew, Devin Camenares**) and then an A/B player. **Bryan Wilson** helped publicize our matches by live streaming them on our YouTube channel. Most of these videos are still available and the link will be included for each match if you are interested in viewing the replays. Bryan also helped us come up with a nickname/logo for our States Cup team – the **Michigan Monsters**

## Sep 11 Rd 1 MI vs NJ - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7p8DpRcnUH4>

Michigan					New Jersey				
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Ed Knesevitch				
James Canty	B	1	0	W	Sean Finn				
Clara McGrew	W	0	1	B	John Mullanaphy				
Ryan Wang	W	0	1	B	Mac Molner				
Mark Heimann	W	0	1	B	Sean Finn				
James Canty	W	1	0	B	Ed Knesevitch				
Clara McGrew	B	0	1	W	Mac Molner				
Ryan Wang	B	1	0	W	John Mullanaphy				
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	John Mullanaphy				
James Canty	W	1	0	B	Mac Molner				
Clara McGrew	B	0	1	W	Ed Knesevitch				
Ryan Wang	B	0.5	0.5	W	Sean Finn				
Mark Heimann	B	0	1	W	Mac Molner				
James Canty	B	1	0	W	John Mullanaphy				
Clara McGrew	W	0	1	B	Sean Finn				
Ryan Wang	W	0.5	0.5	B	Ed Knesevitch				
		8				8			

Our first match was against New Jersey, led by **GM Mackenie Molner**. This ended up being our closest regular season match. We drew our first two rounds with the help of **Ryan Wang's** Round 2 upset victory. Michigan then took the lead in round 3 with a Canty upset victory over GM Molner. New Jersey came back to even out the match in the final round with a GM Molner victory on board one.

## Sep 15 Rd 2 MI vs NY – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4bqfosWcCM>

We had a quick turn around the next week playing on Tuesday following our match the previous Friday. New York had a team full of young players under 18, despite our having a higher average rating for the week. Michigan took the early lead with the help of a **Jesse Ren** draw against the NY top board,

**FM Nico Chasin**. After drawing in round 2, we broke open the match by sweeping round 3, ending in a comfortable 11-5 victory.

New York					Michigan				
Nico Chasin	B	0.5	0.5	W	Jesse Ren				
Brewington Hardaway	B	1	0	W	Devin Camenares				
Jack Levine	W	0	1	B	James Canty				
Jed Sloan	W	0	1	B	Mark Heimann				
Nico Chasin	W	1	0	B	Devin Camenares				
Brewington Hardaway	W	1	0	B	Jesse Ren				
Jack Levine	B	0	1	W	Mark Heimann				
Jed Sloan	B	0	1	W	James Canty				
Nico Chasin	W	0	1	B	James Canty				
Brewington Hardaway	W	0	1	B	Mark Heimann				
Jack Levine	B	0	1	W	Jesse Ren				
Jed Sloan	w*	0	1	b	Devin Camenares				
Nico Chasin	B	0	1	W	Mark Heimann				
Brewington Hardaway	B	1	0	W	James Canty				
Jack Levine	W	0.5	0.5	B	Devin Camenares				
Jed Sloan	W	0	1	B	Jesse Ren				
		5				11			

## Sep 21 Rd 3 MI vs OH -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ntl1VQhSEs&t=6s>

After 2 weeks, the East division was led by Ohio which had won its first 2 matches with us trailing a half point behind. With the typical

Michigan					OH				
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Emma Cheng				
James Canty	B	1	0	W	Constantine Ananidis				
Tony Nichols	W	0	1	B	Joel Jaffe				
Abhinav Rajanish	W	0	1	B	Justin Storn				
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Constantine Ananidis				
James Canty	W	1	0	B	Emma Cheng				
Tony Nichols	B	1	0	W	Justin Storn				
Abhinav Rajanish	B	0	1	W	Joel Jaffe				
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Joel Jaffe				
James Canty	W	1	0	B	Justin Storn				
Tony Nichols	B	1	0	W	Emma Cheng				
Abhinav Rajanish	B	1	0	W	Constantine Ananidis				
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Justin Storn				
James Canty	B	1	0	W	Joel Jaffe				
Tony Nichols	W	1	0	B	Constantine Ananidis				
Abhinav Rajanish	W	0	1	B	Emma Cheng				
		12				4			

rivalry between Michigan and Ohio, we wanted to make sure to put a good lineup to go against them. For this stream, **Bryan Wilson** held a join stream with **Bryan Fleischman** from Ohio to give the perspective from both sides. The first round was a draw, but we pulled away by taking at least three points each of the next rounds including another round 3 sweep.

## Sep 30 Rd 4 MI vs ME – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5-GQ5ganSU&t=27s>

The win over Ohio put us in first place, so we planned to give our top players a chance for a break and let others a chance to play. Maine was one of the bottom teams in our division, so we played without top board, Mark

Heimann. Despite having a higher average rating by about 80 points, Maine gave us a run for our money. The match stayed even throughout with neither team being able to get a lead of more than one point.

Maine					Michigan				
Matthew Fishbein	B	1	0	W	Adhvaith Rajanish				
Aaron Spencer	B	1	0	W	Clara McGrew				
Ben Amar	W	0	1	B	Tony Nichols				
Wyatt Hendrix	W	0	1	B	James Canty				
Matthew Fishbein	W	1	0	B	Clara McGrew				
Aaron Spencer	W	0	1	B	Adhvaith Rajanish				
Ben Amar	B	0	1	W	James Canty				
Wyatt Hendrix	B	0.5	0.5	W	Tony Nichols				
Matthew Fishbein	W	1	0	B	Tony Nichols				
Aaron Spencer	W	0	1	B	James Canty				
Ben Amar	B	0.5	0.5	W	Adhvaith Rajanish				
Wyatt Hendrix	B	1	0	W	Clara McGrew				
Matthew Fishbein	B	1	0	W	James Canty				
Aaron Spencer	B	1	0	W	Tony Nichols				
Ben Amar	W	0	1	B	Clara McGrew				
Wyatt Hendrix	W	0	1	B	Adhvaith Rajanish				
		8				8			

## Oct 5 Rd 5 MI vs MD – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOMqbtq2yX0&t=20s>

Maryland was another of the weaker teams in our division, so we gave NM James Canty the week off this time. We paired FM Mark Heimann with our top three experts, Tony Nichols, Clara McGrew, and Devin Camenares. This was a solid win, and the result was never in doubt.

Michigan					MD				
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Vishnu Sreekumar				
Tony Nichols	B	1	0	W	Douglas Malcolm				
Clara McGrew	W	1	0	B	Maor Locker				
Devin Camenares	W	0	1	B	Josh Downey				
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Douglas Malcolm				
Tony Nichols	W	1	0	B	Vishnu Sreekumar				
Clara McGrew	B	0	1	W	Josh Downey				
Devin Camenares	B	0	1	W	Maor Locker				
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Maor Locker				
Tony Nichols	W	0.5	0.5	B	Josh Downey				
Clara McGrew	B	1	0	W	Vishnu Sreekumar				
Devin Camenares	B	0.5	0.5	W	Douglas Malcolm				
Mark Heimann	B	0.5	0.5	W	Josh Downey				
Tony Nichols	B	0.5	0.5	W	Maor Locker				
Clara McGrew	W	0.5	0.5	B	Douglas Malcolm				
Devin Camenares	W	1	0	B	Vishnu Sreekumar				
		10.5	5.5						

## Oct 15 Rd 6 MI vs MA –

Massachusetts					Michigan				
Nathan Solon	B	1	0	W	Zach Smith				
Kelsey Liu	B	0.5	0.5	W	Adhvaith Rajanish				
Santhosh Ayyappan	W	0	1	B	James Canty				
Kavin Sundaram	W	0	1	B	Mark Heimann				
Nathan Solon	W	1	0	B	Adhvaith Rajanish				
Kelsey Liu	W	0	1	B	Zach Smith				
Santhosh Ayyappan	B	0	1	W	Mark Heimann				
Kavin Sundaram	B	0	1	W	James Canty				
Nathan Solon	W	0.5	0.5	B	James Canty				
Kelsey Liu	W	0	1	B	Mark Heimann				
Santhosh Ayyappan	B	0.5	0.5	W	Zach Smith				
Kavin Sundaram	B	0	1	W	Adhvaith Rajanish				
Nathan Solon	B	0	1	W	Mark Heimann				
Kelsey Liu	B	0	1	W	James Canty				
Santhosh Ayyappan	W	0	1	B	Adhvaith Rajanish				
Kavin Sundaram	W	0	1	B	Zach Smith				
		3.5	12.5						

There were some issues with the live-stream for this match, so the replay videos are spread over three different videos.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1fY\\_AiELiA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1fY_AiELiA)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ8arU2ErVM>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7gEolpFH8l>

Massachusetts was led by **FM Nathan Solon** who grew up in Michigan, but the remaining team members were all under 2000. This ended up being our largest victory of the season including a clean sweep in the last round of the match.

## Oct 19 Rd 7 MI vs PA –

Michigan					PA				
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Sriman Goli				
James Canty	B	0.5	0.5	W	Brian Gerra				
Tony Nichols	W	1	0	B	Karl Dehmelt				
Ryan Wang	W	0	1	B	Tom Bartell				
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Brian Gerra				
James Canty	W	1	0	B	Sriman Goli				
Tony Nichols	B	0	1	W	Tom Bartell				
Ryan Wang	B	0	1	W	Karl Dehmelt				
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Karl Dehmelt				
James Canty	W	0.5	0.5	B	Tom Bartell				
Tony Nichols	B	1	0	W	Sriman Goli				
Ryan Wang	B	1	0	W	Brian Gerra				
Mark Heimann	B	0	1	W	Tom Bartell				
James Canty	B	1	0	W	Karl Dehmelt				
Tony Nichols	W	0.5	0.5	B	Brian Gerra				
Ryan Wang	W	0.5	0.5	B	Sriman Goli				
		10	6						

Our final regular season match was against Pennsylvania which still had a chance to catch us if they could score an upset victory. PA was led by **IM Tom Bartell** and had an average rating only 5 points less than we had. We took an early lead in round 1. Another strong round 3 from the Michigan Monsters gave us a solid lead that we held to win the match.

### Regular Season Final Standings – East Division

Michigan finished first place in the East Division with 6 points (5 wins and 2 draws). Our first round opponent, New Jersey, finished in second place.

#	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Match	USAT	Game
4	Michigan	8	11	12	8	10.5	12.5	10	6	219	72
5	New Jersey	8	8.5	7	10.5	8.5	10.5	11	5.5	194.5	64
6	New York	15	5	9	11.5	8	12	6.5	4.5	191	67
8	Pennsylvania	8.5	7.5	9	4.5	11.5	10.5	6	4	174	57.5
7	Ohio	9.5	11.5	4	5.5	8	5.5	8.5	3.5	153.5	52.5
2	Maryland	6.5	10.5	7	13	5.5	5.5	9.5	3	172.5	57.5
1	Maine	7.5	5.5	12	8	7.5	4	7.5	1.5	180	52
3	Massachusetts	1	4.5	4	3	4.5	3.5	5	0	101.75	25.5



**Nov 1 Playoff Divisional - MI vs NJ – [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz\\_XpiZnsLc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz_XpiZnsLc)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29etU2gBEtA>**

		Michigan	
			11/1 2:00 PM
		New Jersey	
Wild Card 1			
Virginia	10/24 8:00 PM	Virginia	
Minnesota			11/1 8:00 PM
Wild Card 2			
Georgia	10/24 5:00 PM	California-S	
California-S			
		Iowa	
			10/31 5:00 PM
		Illinois	
		California-N	
			10/31 7:30 PM
		Washington	

Because the South Division had a couple states drop out right when the event started, it was decided that they would need to face Wild Card teams: the top teams remaining after taking out the top 2 from each of the other divisions. Virginia held against Minnesota, but Georgia was defeated by California-South. These 2 teams faced off as the top from the “South” division.

Michigan				New Jersey	
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Arrik Leman
Tony Nichols	B	0.5	0.5	W	Jason Lu
Clara McGrew	W	1	0	B	David Grasso
Devin Camenares	W	0	1	B	Mac Molner
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Jason Lu
Tony Nichols	W	1	0	B	Arrik Leman
Clara McGrew	B	0	1	W	Mac Molner
Devin Camenares	B	1	0	W	David Grasso
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	David Grasso
Tony Nichols	W	0	1	B	Mac Molner
Clara McGrew	B	1	0	W	Arrik Leman
Devin Camenares	B	0	1	W	Jason Lu
Mark Heimann	B	0.5	0.5	W	Mac Molner
Tony Nichols	B	0	1	W	David Grasso
Clara McGrew	W	0	1	B	Jason Lu
Devin Camenares	W	0	1	B	Arrik Leman
		8	8		

For the East Championship, we had to face New Jersey once again. The rules for the Divisional round were set up so that the first-place team had draw odds. So, we needed to do no worse than a draw.

The match fell on a weekend when NM James Canty was not available so used our balanced line up with FM Mark Heimann and our top three experts. Michigan got off to a quick start by taking a 2.5-1.5 lead in the first round, followed by a solid 3-1 round 2. Things were looking good after an even split in round 3. We only needed a half point to secure the draw and advance to the next round. Things took a turn in the last round as we were in worse positions on all boards and eventually lost on 2-4. Fortunately, FM Mark Heimann found a resource to take the draw – check out his annotations for the game.

**Molner, Mackzie (2531) - Heimann, Mark (2485) [B81] Scheveningen Sicilian : Keres Attack**

Div States Cup MI vs NJ <https://lichess.org/study/whPp>, 01.11.2020 [Mark Heimann]

**[This was the last round of the match. Our team was up 7.5–4.5 and had draw odds, as the tiebreaks. The division championships were based on the regular season standings in which we would come out ahead. Thus, to advance in the playoffs, all we had to do in this round was not get swept.]**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6** [As a little joke, I faked Mac out a bit with the move order (I played 5...Bb4 when we played in the first round of the States Chess Cup.) before transposing into a Scheveningen Sicilian. Lately I've been having some fun playing some "forgotten" Sicilian variations, as at rapid time controls, they can lead to enjoyable positions.]  
**6.g4** [The Keres Attack is the big reason why the Scheveningen is no longer in favor, and players who wish to play similar positions usually angle for them from a Najdorf move order. However, that doesn't mean that White is automatically winning, or that the resulting positions can't be interesting for both sides to play, particularly at fast time controls when there isn't time to work through all the details.]  
**6...h6 7.h4 Nc6 8.Rg1 h5 9.gxh5 Nxh5** [According to the last time I checked the theory, more years ago than I care to admit, but I imagine it was the same for Mac. Like I said, this is not considered to be a critical Sicilian line these

days. This is main line.] **10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Ndb5 a6 12.Nxd6+?** [Knowing that inviting the Keres is a very provocative way to play, Mac chooses an aggressive sacrificial continuation. There are certainly ways for Black to get checkmated quickly, but with best play I believe he can take the material and hunker down successfully...note that the operative phrase is "best play"!]

**12...Bxd6 13.Qxd6 Qxb2 14.Kd2 Qxa1 15.Bb5** [15. Nb5 looks dangerous, with the idea that 15...axb5 16. Bxb5 discovers an attack on the queen and, by pinning the knight on c6, threatens mate on e7/d8 while also stopping the Black queen from coming back to defend with 16...Qd4+. However, 15...f6 and the Black king will hide safely on f7 and leave White with too little to show for the heavy sacrifices he has made.]

**15...Qxc3+ 16.Kxc3 axb5** [Black has a rook and two pieces for the queen, plus a pawn and some damage done to White's pawn structure. It is worth noting that White has good control of the dark squares, and it is hard to break White's grip securely: ... f6 is possible, but then the knight on h5 is precarious and the g-pawn becomes weak. While Black should be much better, it is worth noting that he has nontrivial problems to solve. In a rapid game, this opens up significant practical possibilities for White and pitfalls for Black...as we shall see!]

**17.Kb2 f6 18.Be3 Ne5 19.Kb1 Nc4 20.Qc7 Nxe3 21.fxe3** [Black has further damaged White's pawn structure and left him with only two pieces left to attack...unfortunately, those two pieces can still do some serious damage if Black isn't careful!]

**21...0-0?** [I should have played something like 21...e5 to stop White's own advance first. I thought my pieces could patch up my kingside, but a few moves later would show what I missed.]

**22.e5 fxe5 23.Qxe5 Rf5 24.Qc7 e5??** [Now the looseness of my knight and fragility of my little remaining king cover should prove fatal.]

**25.e4** [25. Qe7, threatening Qe8+ and winning the knight after the rook is forced away by a subsequent e4, is actually decisive. Technically, I can save myself by retreating to f8, but the above line showed what I was missing the whole time...]

**25...Rf7 26.Qd8+ Kh7 27.Qe8** [The play on the e8 square by the White Q now wins material and Black's king remains hopelessly exposed, giving White what should be a decisive advantage. When Mac and I played at the beginning of the season, our game had a similar finish: I had an objectively great opening from another obscure Sicilian variation, but some lingering coordination problems of mine and resourceful attacking possibilities conjured up by Mac eventually provoked a decisive blunder from me. I thought this was going to be a repeat of that game, and at the worst possible of times. I was laughing darkly inside.]

**27...Be6** [At this point, White can just take my rook on a8 which is likely objectively best, but I assumed that White would... a) know that he should be winning whichever free material he takes..., and b) not want to worry about various "fortress-y" constructions with a bishop on c4, knight on f4, etc. So I figured he'd take on e6, and I'd rather give up the bishop than the knight that helps hold my kingside together.]

**28.Qxe6 Rf6 29.Qxe5** [The engine says >+7 to White here. But we know that funny things can happen in rapid games, and from here on, sheer will to not lose kept me hanging on long enough for funny things to start happening.]

**29...Nf4 30.h5 Raf8 31.Qxb5 b6 32.Qg5 Ne6 33.Qg4 Rh6 34.e5 Rf4** [At this point, Mac has won seemingly a million extra pawns to go with his queen vs rook and knight, and of course my king remains exposed. However, White doesn't have a clear breakthrough. It's hard to create a passed pawn on the queenside - the e-pawn is blockaded, and my "janky" third-rank rook and knight barrier actually keep the checkmates at bay well enough. While the engine still proclaims a huge advantage to White, it can be a bit frustrating to play, and Mac was getting low on time!]

**35.Qe2 Rh4 36.Rg6 Rxc6** [36...Rhxh5?? 37. Rxe6! Rh1+ 38. Kb2 Rxe6 39. Qe4+ would have been a nifty way for White to finally put me out of my misery. I have no doubt this was Mac's plan, so I'm glad I saw this and picked a "non-blundery" way to recoup one of the many pawns I was down.]

**37.hxc6 Kxc6 38.Qb5 Kf5 39.Qxb6 g5** [So now White has his goal--two queenside passed pawns--but Black has a dangerous passed pawn of his own. I was starting to feel like I'd actually have a chance, particularly in light of the upcoming time scramble.]

**40.a4** [A gift!! Time trouble hits right away.]

**40...Rxa4** [Now the engine doesn't even say White is appreciably better. Of course there's still time for me to conveniently fork away my rook!]

**41.Qf2+ Rf4 42.Qg2 Kxe5** [Got 'em all back!]

**43.Kc1 g4 44.Kd2 Nc5 45.Ke3 Rf3+ 46.Ke2 Rf4 47.Qh2** [Given the match situation, where every NJ player needed to win for their team to advance, of course Mac can't take a repetition. With just four seconds left on his clock, (I had 21) he needs to find a way to play for a win!]

**47...Ne4??** [...and I give it to him!]

**48.Qh5+** [48. Ke3! g3 (of course my intention behind 47...Ne4), but now White has 49. Qh5+ Rf5 50. Qe8+, winning the knight by skewer. Of course, to be fair to Mac (and myself), this is some fancy queen footwork to see in split seconds.]

**48...Rf5 49.Qh8+** [He should have just taken the g4 pawn, but I'm sure we both had the lingering feeling that White should have had been able to force something crazy with some crazy queen footwork, and Mac's intuition was probably leading him to try to find it.]

**49...Kf4 50.Qb8+ Kg5 51.Qg8+ Kf4 52.Qb8+ Kg5 53.Ke3** [Again, I was fine with a repetition, but under the circumstances, it was unacceptable for Mac.]

**53...Nf6 54.Qd8 g3 55.Qd6 Kg4** [But now, if either side is making progress, it is Black.]

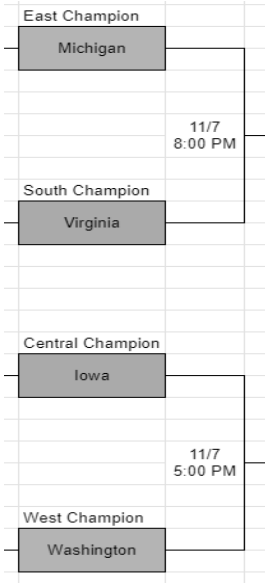
**56.Qd4+ Kh3 57.Qd1 g2** [Black's pieces ended up being chased into position to support the g-pawn and somehow, Black should be winning.]

**58.Ke2 Re5+** [If I really \*just\* wanted the draw, 58...Rf1 nets it immediately (...via the immediate 59. Qxf1 or 59. Qd3+ Kh2 60. Qd6+ Kh1 61. Qc6 Kh2).]

**59.Kf2 Ng4+ 60.Kf3 Re3+ 61.Kf4 Rg3 62.Qg1 Nh2 63.c4 Rf3+ 64.Ke4 Rf1 65.Qe3+ Nf3 66.Qh6+ Kg3?** [66...Nh4 and the checks will soon run out, whereupon Black will promote and win. But I too was practically out of time, and I knew that all we needed was a draw. So under the circumstances, while I wish I were a stronger chess player capable of quickly seeing the right moves, I'm glad I went for the practical decision and didn't somehow find a weird way to checkmate myself or something while trying to play for a needless win.]

**67.Qf4+ Kh3 68.Qh6+ Kg3 69.Qf4+ Kh3 70.Qh6+** [Draw by repetition.] ½-½

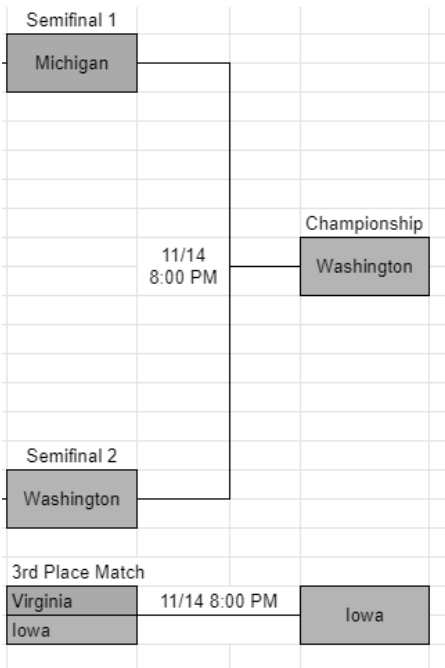
## Nov 7 Playoff Semifinal – MI vs VA - <https://www.twitch.tv/videos/795551091>



Michigan				Virginia			
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Isaac Spence		
James Canty	B	1	0	W	William Marcelino		
Clara McGrew	W	0	1	B	Andrew Samuelson		
Ryan Wang	W	1	0	B	Jason Morefield		
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	William Marcelino		
James Canty	W	1	0	B	Isaac Spence		
Clara McGrew	B	0	1	W	Jason Morefield		
Ryan Wang	B	0	1	W	Andrew Samuelson		
Mark Heimann	W	1	0	B	Andrew Samuelson		
James Canty	W	0	1	B	Jason Morefield		
Clara McGrew	B	0	1	W	Isaac Spence		
Ryan Wang	B	1	0	W	William Marcelino		
Mark Heimann	B	1	0	W	Jason Morefield		
James Canty	B	1	0	W	Andrew Samuelson		
Clara McGrew	W	0	1	B	William Marcelino		
Ryan Wang	W	0.5	0.5	B	Isaac Spence		
		9.5	6.5				

We got off to a great start against Virginia when board 4, Ryan Wang scored a huge upset against FM Jason Morefield. That was basically the difference in the match as Virginia was never able to make up any ground and we coasted to an easy win to head to the States Cup Championship match.

## Nov 14 Playoff Finals – MI vs WA - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_GSbXJ3yio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_GSbXJ3yio)



We played Washington state in the finals. This was an interesting matchup since their lineup consisted of three masters and an expert. The match started off even as we split in the first round, but things went south in round 2 as we lost the round 3.5-0.5. Endgame mistakes in likely drawn positions cost at least one point.

We made up some ground in round 3, by going 3-1 which put us down one point (6.5-5.5) with one round to go. Unfortunately, we were not able to make any progress due to a couple key mistakes and Washington became the inaugural States Cup Champion.

Washington				Michigan			
NM Kyle Haining	B	1	0	W	Ryan Wang		
NM Derek Zhang	B	1	0	W	NM Tony Nichols		
NM Rushaan Mahajan	W	0	1	B	NM James Canty		
Advaith Vijayakumar	W	0	1	B	FM Mark Heimann		
NM Kyle Haining	W	0.5	0.5	B	NM Tony Nichols		
NM Derek Zhang	W	1	0	B	Ryan Wang		
NM Rushaan Mahajan	B	1	0	W	FM Mark Heimann		
Advaith Vijayakumar	B	1	0	W	NM James Canty		
NM Kyle Haining	W	0	1	B	NM James Canty		
NM Derek Zhang	W	0	1	B	FM Mark Heimann		
NM Rushaan Mahajan	B	1	0	W	Ryan Wang		
Advaith Vijayakumar	B	0	1	W	NM Tony Nichols		
NM Kyle Haining	B	0.5	0.5	W	FM Mark Heimann		
NM Derek Zhang	B	0.5	0.5	W	NM James Canty		
NM Rushaan Mahajan	W	1	0	B	NM Tony Nichols		
Advaith Vijayakumar	W	1	0	B	Ryan Wang		
		9.5	6.5				

It was a fun season and plans are being made for a new season in 2021. If you would be interested in joining the Michigan team in the future, please contact team captain, Jeff Aldrich at [jeffchess64@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchess64@gmail.com). Based on the way the rules work, players over 1800 are preferred. We could especially use some players in the 2200-2299 range to give more flexibility in setting up our lineup. There was a couple of lineup combinations where we were just over the 2200 rating limit.

## Games from the States Cup Tournament

**Canty,James (2317) - Molner,Mac (2531)**

**[C44] Two Knight's game**

Rd1 States Cup MI vs NJ

<https://lichess.org/aYvXj4Om>, 12.09.2020

[See James Canty's analysis video of this game here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usjrEiXTv9g>]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 Ne4 6.Qe2 Nc5 7.c3 d3 8.Qe3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.b4 Ne6 11.Bxd3 d6 12.Rd1 Bd7 13.Bc2 Re8 14.Na3 Nf8 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Qg5 Qxg5 17.Nxg5 Be5 18.Bb2 h6 19.Ne4 Nxb4 20.Bb3 Na6 21.f3 b5 22.Rab1 Rab8 23.Nc2 Be6 24.Nd4 Bxd4+ 25.Rxd4 Bxb3 26.axb3 Ne6 27.Rd5 c6 28.Rd6 Nac5 29.Nxc5 Nxc5 30.Ba3 Ne6 31.Rxc6 Rec8 32.Rxc8+ Rxc8 33.Rc1 Nd4 34.cxd4 1-0

**Mullanaphy,John (2083) - Ryan,Wang (1841) [B31] Sicilian Defense**

Rd1 States Cup MI vs NJ

<https://lichess.org/GvMgJva9>,

11.09.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.Re1 e5 6.Na3 Nge7 7.Nc4 0-0 8.Nd6 Qc7 9.Nxc8 Raxc8 10.c3 a6 11.Bf1 d5 12.d3 Rcd8 13.exd5 Rxd5 14.Qc2 Rfd8 15.Bg5 f6 16.Be3 Nf5 17.Bd2 Kh8 18.Rad1 R8d7 19.a3 a5 20.Bc1 Qd8 21.Nd2 b5 22.Be2 Nce7 23.c4 Nd4 24.Qb1 Nxe2+ 25.Rxe2 Rxd3 26.Rf1 b4 27.Ne4 Qc7 28.Be3 R3d4 29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.axb4 axb4 31.Qd3 f5 32.Ng3 e4 33.Qb3 Qc5 34.Ra1 Rd8 35.Nf1 Nc6 36.h3 Na5 37.Qa4 Nxc4 38.Rc2 d3 39.Rcc1 Bxb2 40.Qa2 Bxc1 41.Rxc1 d2 42.Nxd2 Rxd2 43.Qxd2 Nxd2 44.Rxc5 b3 45.Rc8+ Kg7 46.Rb8 Kf6 47.Rb5 Ke6 48.g4 f4 49.Kg2 h6 50.h4 Kd6 51.h5 g5 52.Rb8 Kc5 53.Rd8 b2 54.Rxd2 b1Q 55.Rd7 f3+ 56.Kh2 Qf1 57.Rc7+ Kd6 58.Rc2 Qg2# 0-1

**Solon,Nathan (2430) - Canty,James (2317) [A49] Anti-KI System**

Rd6 States Cup MI vs MA

<https://lichess.org/Tozo89HK>,

16.10.2020

[See James Canty's analysis video of this game here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qORC8Jcj6Eg>]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g3 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.b3 c5 7.c4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 d5 9.Bb2 dxc4 10.bxc4 Qb6 11.Qb3 Nfd7 12.Rd1 Nc6 13.e3 Nc5 14.Qa3 Bg4 15.Nc3 Be6 16.Nxe6 Nxe6 17.Rab1 Qc5 18.Qxc5 Nxc5 19.Nd5 Bxb2 20.Rxb2 Kg7 21.Nc3 Rfd8 22.Rd5 Rxd5 23.cxd5 Ne5 24.Ne4 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 b6 26.Rc2 Rd8 27.Kg2 Rd7 28.Kf1 f5 29.Bg2 Ng4 30.Ke2 Nf6 31.Rd2 Rd6 32.Rd4 Nd7 33.f3 a5 34.Kd3 b5 35.f4 Kf6 36.Kc3 Nc5 37.a3 e5 38.dxe6 Kxe6 39.Rxd6+ Kxd6 40.Kd4 Ne6+ 41.Kc3 Kc5 42.e4 fxe4 43.Bxe4 b4+ 44.axb4+ axb4+ 45.Kd2 Nd4 46.g4 Ne6 47.f5 Ng5 48.Bb1 Nf3+ 49.Ke3 Nxh2 50.fxg6 hxg6 51.Bxg6 Nxg4+ 52.Kd2 Kc4 53.Bf7+ Kd4 54.Kc2 Ne5 55.Bg8 Kc5 56.Kb3 Nc6 57.Kb2 Na5 58.Bf7 Kd4 59.Bg8 Kc5 60.Bf7 Kb5 61.Bg8 Nb7 62.Bf7 Nc5 63.Bg8 Na4+ 64.Kb3 Nc5+ 65.Kb2 Ne4 66.Bf7 Nc3 67.Bg8 Kc5 68.Bf7 Nd1+ 69.Kb3 Nf2 70.Kb2 Nd3+ 71.Kb3 Ne5 72.Bg8 Nc6 73.Kb2 Ne7 74.Bf7 Nf5 75.Bg8 Nh6 76.Be6 Kd6 77.Bb3 Nf5 78.Bg8 ½-½

**McGrew,Clara (2102) - Grasso,David (2252) [C44] Two Knights Game**

Div States Cup MI vs NJ

<https://lichess.org/Z58mSNVS>,

01.11.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.0-0 Bc5 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Be3 Bb6 11.f3 Ng5 12.f4 Ne4 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 c5 15.Nf3 Bf5 16.Rad1 d4 17.Bf2 0-0 18.h3 Qd5 19.b3 a5 20.Nh4 Be4 21.Qe2 f5 22.exf6 Rxf6 23.c4 Qc6 24.Qg4 Raf8 25.Bg3 Bf5 26.Nxf5 Rxf5 27.Rfe1 a4 28.Re7 Qg6 29.Rde1 axb3 30.axb3 Ba5 31.R1e6 Qxg4 32.hxg4 R5f7 33.f5 Bd2 34.Bxc7 h5 35.gxh5 Rxe7 36.Rxe7 Rxf5 37.g4 Be3+ 38.Kg2 Rf2+ 39.Kg3 Rf1 40.Be5 Kf8 41.Rd7 Bh6 42.Rd5 Rg1+ 43.Kf3 Rb1 44.Ke4 Rxb3 45.Bd6+ Kf7 46.Bxc5 Rg3 47.Rxd4 Rxg4+ 48.Kd3 Rg3+ 49.Kc2 Rh3 50.Rd5 Ke6 51.Bb4 Rh4 52.Kb3 Rh3+ 53.Bc3 Rh1 54.Kb4 Rb1+ 55.Kc5 Be3+ 56.Kc6 Rc1 57.Rd3 Bh6 58.c5 Kf5 59.Kd7 g6 60.hxg6 Kxg6 61.c6 Bf4 62.c7 Bxc7 63.Kxc7 Kf5 64.Kd6 Ke4 65.Rh3 Rd1+ 66.Kc5 Rd7 67.Kb4 Rb7+ 68.Ka3 Kd5 69.Rh4 Kc5 70.Bb4+ Kd5 71.Kb3 Rb8 72.Kc3 Rc8+ 73.Kd3 Ke5 74.Bc3+ Kf5 75.Rb4 Rc6 76.Bd4 Re6 77.Rb5+ Kf4 78.Rb8 Kf5 79.Rf8+ Kg6 80.Be3 Kg7

81.Rf1 Kg6 82.Ke2 Re8 83.Rf4 Re6 84.Kf3 Kg7 85.Bd4+ Kg6 86.Kg4 Re2 87.Rf6+ Kh7 88.Bc3 Re4+ 89.Kf3 Rc4 90.Be5 Kg8 91.Bf4 Kg7 92.Rf5 Kg6 93.Kg4 Ra4 94.Rb5 Kf6 95.Rb6+ Ke7 96.Kf5 Kd7 97.Be5 Rc4 98.Rh6 Ra4 99.Rg6 Rc4 100.Rd6+ Ke7 101.Ra6 Rb4 102.Ra7+ Ke8 103.Ke6 Rb6+ 104.Bd6 Kd8 105.Ra8+ 1-0

**Wang,Ryan (1841) - Morefield,Jason (2337) [B09] Schmid Benoni**

Semi States Cup MI vs VA lichess.org,

08.11.2020 [Ryan Wang]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 [5.a3!? this was a move employed by Van Foreest just recently 5...Nc6 (5...c5? 6.dxc5! Qa5 the normal reply for Black doesn't work now, and this is the point of the a3 move (6...dxc5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Be3 b6 9.0-0-0+ and this is an unplayable structure for Black, he will either have to play e6, which makes f7 a target after Nf3-e5 or risk getting steamrolled in the center.) 7.b4 Qc7 8.Bb2 dxc5 (8...0-0 9.cxd6 exd6 10.Bd3 Re8 11.Nge2)] 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Be2 d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Bd3 f5 10.0-0 (10.h4! was an improvement 10...h5 11.Ne2 e6 12.Be3) 10...e6 11.Be3 b6 12.Ng5 Nxg5 13.fxg5 f4 14.Rxf4 Rxf4 15.Bxf4 Nxd4 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Qxd4 Ba6 18.Qa4 Bb7 19.Bg3 Qxg5 20.Qd7 Qg4 21.Nb5 Rf8 22.Nxc7 Bc8 23.Qe7 Qf5 24.Qd6 Bh6 25.h3 Be3+ 26.Kh2 Bc5 27.Qc6 Qxc2 28.Qb5 Be7 29.Na6 d4 30.Nb4 Bxb4 31.Qxb4 Bb7 32.Rg1 d3 33.Qg4 d2 34.Qxe6+ Kg7 35.Qd7+ Rf7 36.Qd4 Kg8 37.e6 Rf8 38.e7 Re8 39.Rd1 Qc6 40.Rxd2 Rxe7 41.Qg4 Qe4 42.Qg5 Rd7 43.Rf2 Rf7 44.Qd8+ Kg7 45.Bf4 Qd5 46.Qb8 1-0 (46) Van Foreest,J (2612)-Fedoseev,V (2724) Wijk aan Zee 2019]5...c5 6.d5 [This is a relatively rare move, but I didn't really have anything prepared against the Pirc and was just improvising at this point.][6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.e5 Ng4 8.e6 (8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.d5 dxe5 10.h3 e4 11.hxg4 exf3 12.Qxf3 Na6 13.Bd2 0-0-0 14.0-0-0 is a nice alternative if White wants to avoid an immediate draw.) 8...fxe6 9.Ng5 Bxb5 10.Nxe6 Bxd4 11.Nxd8 Bf2+ 12.Kd2 Be3+ is a well-known draw; 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Bd3 Qxc5...This is how Black avoids a pawn-structure deficit in the main line.] 6...0-0 7.Bd3 e6 8.dxe6 [8.0-0 leads to more

*Benoni-type positions that I would rather avoid 8...exd5 9.exd5 Na6 10.f5 Nb4 11.fxg6 fxg6 12.Be2 Bf5?] 8...fxe6 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Kh1 d5? [This was a bit premature. 10...a6 11.a4 (11.Qe1 Bd7 12.Be3 Ng4 13.Bd2 b5 14.a3 Nd4 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Ne2 e5=) 11...b6 12.f5!? gxf5 13.exf5 d5 14.fxe6 Bxe6 15.Ne2 with an interesting game in store.] 11.e5 Nd7 12.Ng5 [12.Nb5! This is actually even stronger than the logical Ng5 12...c4 13.Be2 Nc5 14.Be3 Ne4 15.Nd2 a6 16.Nxe4 axb5 17.Nd6 b4 18.c3 with a very nice knight on d6 and a very solid position.] 12...Qe7 13.Nxh7!? [The most aggressive but not surprisingly most engines give the following evaluation: 0.00/0...but13.Nb5! again is still strong 13...c4 14.Be2 Nc5 15.Nd6 Bd7 16.Be3?] 13...Kxh7 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Qxg6 Rf7 16.Qh7+ Kf8 17.Bg6?? [17.Bd2!!... it's usually really hard to find quiet moves when you're attacking, and this is no exception 17...b6 18.Rae1 Bb7 19.Nb5 Nd8 20.Nd6 and now we see the point that Black cannot actually move anything - in zugzwang with so many pieces!] 17...Nxc5 18.Bxf7 Qxf7? [18...Nxf7 the queen needs to stay on e7 to cover h4 19.Qd3 b6 20.f5 Nde5 21.Qh3 exf5 22.Nxd5 Qd7 23.Nf4 Ba6 24.Re1?] 19.f5 Nf6 20.fxe6 Bxe6 21.Qh4 Ng6 22.Qg3 Ne7 23.Qd6? ["Funnily" enough, Bg5 actually doesn't do anything!] 23...d4? [23...Kg8 24.Bg5 Nf5 25.Rxf5 (25.Qxc5 Ng4 26.Ne2 Rc8 27.Qb4 Qh5 and now it's White's king that's in danger!) 25...Bxf5 26.Rf1 Re8 27.Bxf6 Qxf6 28.Qxd5+ Be6 29.Qd3-+] 24.Ne4 Nxe4 25.Rxf7+ Bxf7 26.Qf4 Nf6?[Time is of the essence here! [26...Re8 27.Kg1 (27.Qxe4? Ng6 28.Qxe8+ Kxe8 29.Bd2 and Black is better in this uncommon material imbalance.) 27...Nd5 28.Qf3 Re6 and White cannot develop easily 29.h4 Be5 30.Bg5 Ne3 31.Re1 Nxc5 32.hxg5 Rg6 33.Re2?] 27.Bd2 Kg8 28.c3? [28.Re1 Ng6 29.Qg3 c4 30.Bg5 Rd8 31.Qf3 Rd6 32.Qxb7 and Black's position collapses.] 28...Ned5 29.Qf3 Re8 30.Re1 Rxe1+ 31.Bxe1 Ne3 32.cxd4? [32.Qxb7 this avoids a tactic Black has 32...Bd5 33.Qb8+ Kh7 34.Kg1 Nxc2 35.Bf2 d3 36.Qg3-+] 32...cxd4 [32...Nxc2! 33.Bf2 Bd5 34.Qa3 and this guarantees Black a draw, though*

*given the rating difference it's not surprising if he was looking for more 34...cxd4 35.Kg1 Nf4 36.Qxa7 Nh3+ 37.Kf1 Nxf2 38.Kxf2 d3 39.Ke1 Bh6?] 33.Qxb7 Bd5 34.Qb8+ Kh7 35.Kg1 Nxc2 36.Bd2? [(Choosing the wrong square for the bishop.) 36.Bf2! d3 37.Qg3 Be4 38.Qg5 this is a cute maneuver to stop the pawn 38...Kg8 39.Kf1 Kf7 40.Bd4 d2 41.Qxd2+!] 36...Nh4 37.Bc1 Nf3+ 38.Kf2 Ng4+ 39.Ke2 Nge5 40.Qxa7 d3+ 41.Kd1 Ng4? [...and now time trouble gets the best of both of us! 41...Nhx2 42.Bf4 Nhf3 43.Qa6 Bc6 44.b4 Be4 45.b5 Ng4 46.Qb6 Bd4 47.Qd6 Nf6 and it looks scary but white is holding.] 42.Be3?? [42.b4 passed pawns must be pushed 42...Nd4 43.h3 Nf2+ 44.Kd2 Kg6 45.Qa6+ Bf6 46.Ke3 and Black cannot maintain this limbo much longer.] 42...Bxa2 [42...Nxe3+ 43.Qxe3 Ne5 44.Qg5 Bxa2 was an automatic draw.] 43.Bd2 Bb3+ 44.Kc1 Nge5 45.Qb7 Bc2? [A seemingly logical move, restricting the king, is actually a blunder! 45...Bf7! 46.Ba5 Bh6+ 47.Kd1 Kg6 48.Bc3 Kg5 49.h3 Kf5 50.Qc8+-.] 46.Qe4+? [46.Be3! Nhx2 47.Qe4+ Kg8 48.Qd5+ Kh7 49.b4 Nhg4 50.Qe4+ Kg8 51.Bd2+- with perfect play, Black has a draw. but against a human, White can win, but it's a long and tedious one! 51...Bf8 52.Qd5+ Kh7 53.Qd8 Kg7 54.Qg5+ Kf7 55.Qf5+ Kg7 56.Qe6 Kh7 57.Qc8 Kg7 58.Qe6 Kh7 59.Qc8 Bh6 60.Qc7+ Bg7 61.b5 Bb3 62.b6 Bd5 63.b7 Bxb7 64.Qxb7 Kg6 65.Qe7 Bf6 66.Qe6 Kh7 67.Bf4 Bg7 68.Qc8 Bh6 69.Qc7+ Bg7 70.Qd8 Bf6 71.Qe8 Bg7 72.Qe6 Bh8 73.Kb1 Bg7 74.Bd2 Bf6 75.Qf5+ Kg8 76.Qe6+ Kh7 77.Kc1 Bg7 78.Bf4 Kh8 79.Qf5 Kg8 80.Kb1 Kh8 81.Kc1 Kg8 82.Qe6+ Kh7 and Black has successfully set up a fortress, and will be painfully defending for about 30 more moves until the 50 move rule makes this a draw!] 46...Kg8 47.Qa8+ Bf8?? 48.Qd5+? [At this point, I'm happy with a draw!...48.Bb4 would win on the spot!] 48...Kg7 49.Bc3 Kf6?? [Black tries too hard to win and commits a tactical blunder! 49...Kh7 and the knight is untouchable because of Bh6!] 50.Qxf3+ Ke7 51.Bxe5 Bh6+ 52.Bf4 1-0*

**Sloan, Jed (1968) - Camenares, Devin (2041) [C53] Italian Game**  
 Rd2 States Cup MI vs NY  
<https://lichess.org/aUlyXKEb>, 16.09.2020  
**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.c3 d6 6.0-0 Be6** [Inviting the trade, with the hope that it would bolster my center, despite creating some light square targets.] **7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Qb3 Qc8 9.Ng5 Nd8 10.Rd1 0-0 11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 Bb6 13.Qc2 h6 14.Nf3 Nc6** [14...Nf7 This might have been better considering what happened in the game. Still, Black was OK after Nc6, if followed up properly...15.e5 Nd5 16.exd6 cxd6 17.Qxc8 Raxc8.] **15.e5 Nd5 16.Bxh6 gxh6** [Not believing in White's play - I thought I would hold with Qd7. The analysis shows that this is more foolish than brave. 16...Qxe8 is apparently a more sober alternative.] **17.Qg6+ Kh8 18.Qxh6+ Kg8 19.Ng5 Qd7 20.Rd3** [I was happy to see this move - It looks scary, but in fact Black's active pieces just hold the balance...20.Nxe6! This was a better attempt, but White probably thought he had a winning attack.] **20...Qh7 (20...Rf7 I had considered this as a defense, but now Black becomes pretty tied up. White currently has three pawns for the piece, and most variations here have Black give up an Exchange or some other material.) 21.Nc3 Nxc3 22.bxc3 Re8 23.Rd3 Rxe6 24.Rg3+ Rg7 25.Rxg7+ Qxg7 26.Qxe6+ Qf7 27.Qc8+ Kg7 28.Qxb7!** White is crushing here - Black is simply down too many pawns. **21.Qxh7+ [21.Rg3 Ne2+! 22.Kh1 Nxc3+] Kxh7 22.Nxf8+ Rxf8] 20...Nf4 21.Rf3 [21.Rg3 Ne2+! 22.Kh1 Nxc3+] Nxd4** [No safe haven for the Rook! It never got a chance to deliver the final blow to Black, and now a Queen trade will be forced.] **22.Nd2 Nf5 23.Qh7+ Qxh7 24.Nxh7 Kxh7 25.Rxf4 dxe5 26.Re4 Rad8 27.Nf3 Rd5 28.Ng5+ Kg6 29.Nxe6 Rf6 30.Rg4+ Kh5 31.Rg5+ Kh6 32.Re1 Ng7** [Threatening the Ne6 and indirectly the Rg5) and the pawn on f2. White's position collapses.] **33.Nf4 [33.Rxg7 Bxf2+ 34.Kh1 Bxe1] Rxf4 0-1**

*When you are lonely, when you feel yourself an alien in the world, play chess. This will raise your spirits and be your counselor in war. – Aristotle*

# MCA Online Chess League

It appears that the caliber of the competition has heated up with the late addition of **Team CK** following the inaugural round of play. Comprised of **IM Justin Liang, Nathan Ouyang, Justin Song and Larrance Xing**, this group of youngsters remains relatively unscathed after 5 rounds touting an undefeated team record since joining the league in the second round November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sporting a league leading average of 1907, **Team CK** appears to have a lock on the championship as the tournament moves into its final phase of what TD Jeff Aldrich calls the positioning round to take place on March 12, 2021. Teams from the **Port Huron Chess Club** and **Ford Chess Club** hold the second and third place positions respectively, but it appears that it will take a monumental stumble by the front runner in the closing rounds to overtake the leaders.

## Round 5 Results – February 12, 2021

Color	Port Huron Chess Club		Chess.com	Result	Result	Color	Independents		Chess.com
W	Huso	Avdic	REDCAPA63	1.0	0.0	B	Lydia	Aldrich	ninja500
B	Alan	Gregg	alanmike75	1.0	0.0	W	Brian L	Morris	Honeybrook
W	Lonnie	Rutkofske	ishking	0.0	0.0	B	Jan	Burdzinski	jaybyrd56
B	William	Wingrove	williamwingrove	1.0	0.0	W	Aloke	Hede	ahede85w
				<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>				
Color	Ford Chess Club		Chess.com	Result	Result	Color	Rampaging Rooks		Chess.com
W	Clenio	Oliveira	clenio0	1.0	0.0	B	Evan	Morgan	explodingmacaroni
B	Norman	Haygood	nhaygoodjr	1.0	0.0	W	Joseph	Brumley	El_Gringo12
W	Alonzo	Long	killzone82	1.0	0.0	B	Ryan	Morgan	honeybadgerer
B	Dennis	Greggio	dgreggio	1.0	0.0	W	Daniel	Brumley	Paratrooper104
				<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>				
Color	Kellogg Chess Club		Chess.com	Result	Result	Color	CK		Chess.com
W	Eric	Kellogg	ericmk96	0.0	1.0	B	Justin	Liang	agent-JL
B	Alexander	Kellogg	MrShakes	0.0	1.0	W	Nathan	Ouyang	ergnedstrgfw
W	David	Dumke	NE-rdnase	0.0	1.0	B	Justin	Song	jiawen5
B	Christopher	Bousho	TahmRamsay	0.0	1.0	W	Larrance	Xing	gb2084
				<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>				

## Standings after Round 5

Place	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	Points
1	Port Huron Chess Club	X	0.5	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	3.5
2	Ford Chess Club	0.5	X	0.5	0.0	1.0	1.0	3.0
3	Kellogg Chess Club	0.0	0.5	X	0.0	1.0	0.5	2.0
4	CK	1.0	1.0	1.0	X		1.0	4.0
5	Rampaging Rooks	0.0	0.0	0.0		X	0.0	0.0
6	Independents	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.0	X	1.5

**Games from the MCA  
Chess League**

**Round 2 Games**

**Liang, Justin – Avdic, Huso [D53] Queen's Gambit Declined** MCA Chess League: Chess.com Rd.2 CK vs PHCC  
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Qc2 b6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 h6 10.Nge2 c5 11.Nxd5 Bb7 12.Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.0-0 Nd7 14.Bf5 Rfd8 15.Bxd7 Rxd7 16.dxc5 bxc5 17.Qxc5 Qxb2 18.Nd4 Qb6 19.Qxb6 axb6 20.Rfb1 Ra6 21.Rb2 Bd5 22.a4 Rda7 23.Rb4 Ra5 24.Nb5 Re7 25.Nc3 Be6 26.Rxb6 Rc7 27.Rb5 Raa7 28.Ra3 Bd7 29.Rb4 Rc5 30.h3 Rca5 31.f3 g6 32.e4 Kg7 33.Kf2 f5 34.Ke3 g5 35.Kd4 fxe4 36.fxe4 Kf7 37.Rb6 Kg7 38.Kc4 h5 39.Kb4 h4 40.Rd6 Be8 41.Rd5 Rxd5 42.exd5 Kf6 43.Kc5 Rc7+ 44.Kb6 Rc4 45.a5 Rb4+ 46.Kc5 Rb8 47.a6 Bd7 48.a7 Ra8 49.Kd6 Be8 50.Kc7 Ke5 51.Kb7 Rd8 52.a8Q 1-0

**Rutkofske, Lonnie (1604) - Ouyang, Nathan (1335) [A30] Symmetrical English**  
 MCA Chess League: Chess.com Rd.2 CK vs PHCC (2), 20.11.2020  
 1.c4 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 Bd7 7.0-0 Be7 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 a6 10.Be3 0-0 11.a4 Rc8 12.Rb1 Ne5 13.b3 Neg4 14.Bd2 Qb6 15.Nf3 Bc6 16.h3 Ne5 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Qe2 Bb4 20.Rfc1 Rfd8 21.Rc2 Qa5 22.Na2 Nxe4 23.Nxb4 Qxb4 24.Qe1 Qxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Rd3 26.Bf1 Rxb3 27.a5 Rd8 28.Bb6 Rd7 29.Bg2 Nf6 30.Bxc6 bxc6 31.Rxe5 Rb1+ 32.Kg2 Rdd1 33.Rc5 Nd7 34.Rxc6 Rg1+ 35.Kf3 Ne5+ 36.Kf4 Nxc6 37.Rd2 h6 38.Rd6 Nb4 39.c5 Nd5+ 40.Kf3 Rgc1 41.Ba7 Rb3+ 42.Kg2 Rb5 43.Rxa6 Ra1 44.Rd6 Raxa5 45.Rd7 Ra6 46.c6 Rxc6 47.Rd8+ Kh7 48.Bd4 Rc4 49.Ba1 Rc2 50.Bd4 Rb4 51.Ba7 Rd2 52.Rc8 Rbb2

53.Rf8 Kg6 54.h4 e5 55.h5+ Kf6 56.Bc5 e4 57.Rc8 e3 58.Rc6+ Kg5 59.Rd6 exf2 0-1

**Wingrove, William - Song, Justin [B80] Sicilian Schevenigen**  
 MCA Chess League: Rd.2 CK vs PHCC Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020  
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 Be7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0 b5 10.g4 Bb7 11.h4 Nc6 12.h5 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Qc7 14.g5 e5 15.Qd2 Nd7 16.g6 Rac8 17.h6 fxe6 18.hxe6 Rxf3 19.Bg1 b4 20.Nb1 Bxe4 21.c3 Bxb1 22.Kxb1 bxc3 23.Qc2 cxb2 24.Qxc7 Rxc7 25.Bg2 Rc1+ 26.Rxc1 bxc1Q+ 27.Kxc1 Rg3 28.Bd5+ Kxe7 29.Bf2 Bg5+ 30.Kb2 Rd3 31.Be6 Nf8 32.Kc2 Rd2+ 33.Kb1 Nxe6 34.Ba7 d5 35.Bb8 Bf4 36.Re1 e4 37.Bxf4 Nxf4 38.a4 Ng2 39.Rc1 e3 0-1

**Bedy, Noel - Xing, Larrance [B07] Pirc Defense**  
 MCA Chess League: Rd.2 CK vs PHCC Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020  
 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nbd2 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.c3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.Re1 Nh5 9.Nf1 c5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Bc4 Nf6 13.f3 a6 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Ne3 Be6 17.Nd5 b5 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Qe2 b4 21.c4 a5 22.Red1 a4 23.Rd7 Rf7 24.Rad1 Ra7 25.Rxf7 Kxf7 26.Rd2 Bg5 27.Rd3 Bh4 28.Qd1 b3 29.a3 g5 30.g3 Kg6 31.gxh4 gxh4 32.Rd6 Kh5 33.Rd7 Ra8 34.Rh7 Rg8+ 35.Kf2 h3 36.Qg1 Rf8 37.Qg4# 1-0

**Haygood Jr, Norman (1408) - Aldrich, Lydia (1226) [C45] Scotch Game**  
 MCA Chess League: Rd.2 Ford CC vs Ind Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020  
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Bxd4 6.Bxd4 Nf6 7.Nc3 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 Rg8 9.Nxe4 Rxe7 10.Qf3 Nd4 11.Qc3 c5 12.Qxc5 Ne6 13.Nd6+ Ke7 14.Nxc8+ Ke8 1-0

**Morris, Brian L - Castleberry, Larry [C24] Bishop's Opening**  
 MCA Chess League: Rd.2 Ford CC vs Ind Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020  
 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.dxe5 Nxf2 5.Qf3 d5 6.Bxd5 Qd7 7.Kxf2 Bc5+ 8.Ke1 0-0 9.Nc3 Qe7 10.Qg3 c6 11.Bb3 Re8 12.Nf3 Nd7 13.Bg5 Qf8 14.Kd2 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qd6+ 16.Nd3 Qg6 17.Nxc5 b6 18.Nd3 Be6 19.Rhe1 Bxb3 20.Rxe8+ Rxe8 21.axb3 h6 22.Be3 Qe6 23.Re1 Qf5 24.Bxh6 Rxe1 25.Qxe7# 1-0

Long-Burdzinski : game not submitted 1-0  
 MCA Chess League: Rd.2 Ford CC vs Ind Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020

**Aloke, Hede (1270) - Greggio, Dennis (1152) [C23] Bishop's Opening**  
 MCA Chess League: Rd.2 Ford CC vs Ind Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020  
 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Be7 3.Qf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 0-0 5.Nge2 c6 6.a3 Bc5 7.b4 Bb6 8.d3 d6 9.h3 Be6 10.a4 d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.Bb3 d4 13.Ne4 Nc6 14.Ba3 Nd5 15.b5 Nce7 16.Nc5 Ba5+ 17.Kd1 Qc7 18.Rc1 b6 19.Ne4 Nc3+ 20.N2xc3 Bxc3 21.Bd6 Qd8 22.Bxe5 Ng6 23.Bd6 Re8 24.Qg3 Bxb3 25.cxb3 f5 26.Nxc3 dxc3 27.Rxc3 f4 28.Qf3 Qxd6 29.Rc6 Qb4 30.Qd5+ Kh8 31.Re6 Rad8 32.Rxe8+ Rxe8 33.Qc4 Qe7 34.d4 Nh4 35.g3 fxe3 36.fxe3 Nf5 37.Qd3 Qd7 38.g4 Qxd4 39.Qxd4 Nxd4 40.b4 h5 41.g5 Kh7 42.Rf1 Kg6 43.h4 Nf5 44.Rf4 Ne3+ 45.Kd2 Nd5 46.Rd4 Nc7 47.Rd6+ Kf7 48.Rd7+ Re7 49.g6+ Ke8 50.Rxe7+ Kxe7 51.Ke3 Kf6 52.Kf4 Ne6+ 53.Ke4 Kxe6 54.Ke5 Nf8 55.Kd6 Kf5 56.Kc6 Ne6 57.Kb7 Kg4 58.Kxa7 Kxh4 59.Kxb6 Kg4 60.a5 h4 61.a6 h3 62.a7 Nf4 63.a8Q h2 64.Qc8+ Kg3 65.Qc3+ Kg4 66.Qxe7+ Kf3 67.Qb7+ Kg3 68.Kc5 Ng2 69.Qg7+ Kf2 70.Qf6+ Kg3 71.Qg5+ Kf2 72.Qf5+ Ke2 73.Qe4+ Ne3 0-1

**Kellogg, Eric - Morgan, Evan [A00]**

**Irregular Opening**

MCA Chess League: Rd.2 KCC vs Ramp Rooks Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020

1.a3 e5 2.h3 d5 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nd2 Nf6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.e3 0-0 8.Ne2 Be6 9.0-0 Qd7 10.Kh2 Rad8 11.Nb3 b6 12.e4 d4 13.f4 Rfe8 14.fxe5 Nxe5 15.Nbxd4 Nc6 16.Nxe6 Rxe6 17.Bg5 Rde8 18.Qd2 Nd4 19.Rad1 Nxe2 20.Qxe2 Qb5 21.Bc1 Nxe4 22.c4 Nxc3 23.Qxe6 Nxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Rxe6 25.cxb5 Be5+ 26.Bf4 Bxf4+ 27.Rxf4 Re2 28.Rc4 Rxb2 29.Rxc7 Rb3 30.Rxa7 Rxd3 31.Bc6 Rd2+ 32.Kg3 Rd3+ 33.Bf3 Rb3 34.a4 h5 35.h4 Kg7 36.Rb7 Ra3 37.Rxb6 Rxa4 38.Rb8 Ra3 39.b6 f5 40.b7 Rb3 41.Rc8 f4+ 42.Kxf4 g5+ 43.hxg5 Rb4+ 44.Be4 h4 45.b8Q Rxb8 46.Rxb8 h3 47.Kg3 h2 48.Kxh2 Kf7 49.Kg3 Kg7 50.Kf4 Kf7 51.Kf5 Kg7 52.Rb7+ Kg8 53.Kf6 Kh8 54.Kg6 Kg8 55.Rb8# 1-0

**Kellogg, Alexander (398) -**

**Brumley, Joseph (1525) [C77] Ruy Lopez**

MCA Chess League: Rd.2 KCC vs Ramp Rooks Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.Nd5 Nxe4 8.0-0 9.d3 Nd6 10.Bg5 f6 11.Bh4 Kh8 12.Re1 Nd4 13.c3 Nxb3 14.Qxb3 Nf5 15.h3 Nxb4 16.Nxb4 c6 17.Qb4 Bxb4 18.cxb4 cxd5 19.Rac1 Bb7 20.Nf5 Rc8 21.Nd6 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Bc6 23.a3 Qe7 24.Nf5 Qe6 25.Ng3 Rc8 26.b3 Bb7 27.Rxc8+ Bxc8 28.h4 d4 29.Ne2 Qxb3 30.Nc1 Qd1+ 31.Kh2 Qxc1 32.h5 Qxa3 33.h6 g6 34.f3 Qxb4 35.g4 a5 36.Kh3 a4 37.Kg3 a3 38.Kf2 a2 39.Ke2 a1Q 40.Kf2 Qbb2+ 41.Kg3 Qg1+ 42.Kh3 Qbh2# 0-1

**Dumke, David (1101) - Morgan, Ryan (771) [C57] Two Knights**

MCA Chess League: Rd.2 KC vs Ramp Rooks Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Nxf7 Qe7 6.Nxh8 Nxe4 7.Qf3 Nxf2 8.0-0 e4 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Nxc6 hxg6 11.Qxg6+ Kd8 12.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Qf8+ 14.Ke1 d6 15.Qg5+ Ke8 16.Nc3 Nd4 17.Qg6+ Kd8 18.Qxe4 Nc6 19.d4 Nb4 20.Bg5+ Kd7 21.Bb5+ c6 22.Qh7+ Ke8 23.Be2 Bf5 24.Bh5+ Bg6 25.Bxg6+ Qf7 26.Qxf7# 1-0

**Busho, Christopher (393) -**

**Ramsay, Tahm (1261) [B08] Classical Pirc Defense**

MCA Chess League: Rd.2 KCC vs Ramp Rooks Chess.com (2), 20.11.2020

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.Nf3 b6 6.0-0 Bb7 7.Bg5 Nxe4 8.Qe1 Nxc3 9.Nxc3 0-0 10.Bd5 Nc6 11.Qe4 e6 12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.Qxc6 Qxc6 14.Ne4 Qd5 15.Qxc7 Qxe4 16.Rfe1 Qxd4 17.Rac1 Qxb2 18.Qxd6 Bh6 19.Qe5 Qxe5 20.Rxe5 Bxc1 21.h3 Rad8 22.Re1 Bb2 23.Re4 Rd4 24.Re5 Rd1+ 25.Kh2 Bxe5+ 26.g3 Rd2 27.c4 Rxf2+ 28.Kg1 Bxg3 29.c5 bxc5 30.h4 Rb8 31.h5 Rb1# 0-1

**Round 3 Games:**

**Liang, Justin (2363) - Oliveira, Clenio (1650) [D37] QGD**

MCA Chess League KC vs Ford CC; Chess.com, 11.12.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Ne5 0-0 7.e3 a6 8.c5 Bxe5 9.Bxe5 Nfd7 10.Bg3 Nc6 11.Bd3 f5 12.h4 Nf6 13.f3 Bd7 14.a3 Rc8 15.b4 Nh5 16.Bf2 Ne7 17.a4 Ra8 18.Ne2 Qe8 19.Qb3 Bc6 20.Nf4 Nxf4 21.exf4 Ng6 22.g3 Ne7 23.Be3 Qg6 24.Kf2 Qe8 25.Ra2 Kh8 26.Rha1 Bd7 27.b5 axb5 28.axb5 Rxa2+ 29.Rxa2 c6 30.b6 Ng8 31.Ra7 Bc8 32.Ra8 Nf6 33.Kg2 Qg6 34.Kh3 Nh5 35.Bf2 Nf6 36.Ba6 Qf7 37.Be2 Kg8 38.Qe3 Kh8 39.Qe5 Qd7 40.Qb8 Kg8 41.Ra7 h6 42.Ba6 Re8 43.Bxb7 Bxb7 44.Qxb7 Qxb7 45.Rxb7 Rc8 46.Rc7 Rb8 47.Rxc6 1-0

**Song, Justin (1350) - Long, Alonzo (1214) [B43] Sicilian Defense: Kan**

MCA Chess League KC vs Ford CC; Chess. Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.a3 Bb7 7.Be3 d5 8.exd5 e5 9.Nb3 Nf6 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Be2 h6 12.Be3 Bd6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Bf3 e4 15.Bg4 Ne5 16.Bf5 Nc4 17.h3 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bd4 Bb7 20.Qg4 Be5 21.Bxe5 Nxe5 22.Qf4 Ng6 23.Qe3 Re8 24.Rad1 Qf6 25.Bd7 Re7 26.Nc5 Rb8 27.Bg4 Bc6 28.Nxa6 Rbe8 29.Nc5 Ne5 30.Be2 Nc4 31.Bxc4 bxc4 32.Qd4 Qxd4 33.Rxd4 e3 34.fxe3 Rxe3 35.Rf2 Re1+ 36.Kh2 R1e2 37.Rd2 Re1 38.Rd6 Ba8 39.Rd4 c3 40.bxc3 f6 41.Rfd2 Kh7 42.Rd8 Bc6 43.Rxe8 Rxe8 44.Rd6 Bb5 45.a4 Bc4 46.Rd4 Bg8 47.a5 Rc8 48.Na4 Rc5 49.Nxc5 1-0

**Castleberry, Larry (1354) -**

**Quyang, Nathan (1335) [B21]**

**Sicilian-Smith Morra Gambit**

MCA Chess League KC vs Ford CC; Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020

1.e4 c5 2.f4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.d3 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Bd2 0-0 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bc3 Bf6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.c3 Qxf4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Kh1 Qd6 16.Qd2 Rfe8 17.Rae1 Bg6 18.Nh4 Ne5 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Qd1 Rad8 21.Bh5 Qb6 22.d4 cxd4 23.cxd4 Ng6 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Qa4 Re4 26.Qd7 Qe6 27.Qxb7 h6 28.Qxa7 Nf4 29.Qb8+ Kh7 30.Rxf4 Re1+ 31.Kh2 Qe3 32.Qc7 Qg1+ 33.Kg3 Qe3+ 34.Rf3 Qg5+ 35.Bg4 h5 36.Qxf7 hxg4 37.hxg4 Re4 38.Rf4 Re3+ 39.Kf2 Rd3 40.Ke2 Rg3 41.Qf5+ Qxf5 42.gxf5 Rxc2+ 43.Kd3 Rxb2 44.f6 gxf6 45.Rxf6 Rxa2 46.Rd6 Ra3+ 47.Kc2 Ra5 48.Kb3 Kg7 49.Kb4 Ra1 50.Rxd5 Kf6 51.Kc5 Rc1+ 52.Kd6 Rc4 53.Kd7 Kf7 54.Rd6 Rc3 55.d5 Rc5 56.Kd8 Kf8 57.Rd7 Rc1 58.d6 Rd1 59.Kc8 Ke8 60.Re7+ Kf8 61.Kd7 Rd2 62.Kd8 Rxd6+ 63.Rd7 Rxd7+ 64.Kxd7 ½-½



**Greggio,Dennis (1015) - Xing,Larrance (1178) [C00] French Exchange Var.**  
MCA Chess League KC vs Ford CC;  
Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020  
1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 Bd6 6.Be2 Nf6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 0-0 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Nd2 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Re8 13.Qd3 Nbd7 14.Rae1 Qb6 15.Nf3 Bb4 16.a3 Bxc3 17.Qxc3 Ne4 18.Qb3 Qxb3 19.cxb3 g5 20.Bg3 h5 21.Rd1 f5 22.Nd2 Ndf6 23.Bh2 Re6 24.f3 Nxd2 25.Rxd2 Rae8 26.Bg3 h4 27.Bf2 Re2 28.Rxe2 Rxe2 29.Be3 Rxe3 30.f4 Ne4 31.fgx5 Ng3 32.Rd1 Rxb3 33.Kf2 Rxb2+ 34.Kf3 Rb3+ 35.Kf4 Rxa3 36.Ke5 Kf7 37.Kd6 Re3 38.Kc7 Re7+ 39.Kb8 a6 40.Rb1 Ne2 41.Rxb7 Rxb7+ 42.Kxb7 Nxd4 43.Kxa6 Ne6 44.Kb6 c5 45.Kb5 d4 46.Kc4 Kg6 47.Kd3 Kxg5 48.Ke2 c4 49.Kd2 Nc5 50.Kc2 Kf4 51.Kd2 c3+ 52.Kc2 Ke3 53.Kd1 d3 54.Kc1 d2+ 55.Kd1 Nd3 56.Kc2 Ne1+ 57.Kd1 c2# 0-1

**Burdzinski,Jan (1166) - Morgan,Ryan (750) [C51]Evans Gambit**  
MCA Chess League Independents vs Ramp Rooks; Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020  
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 Bb4 9.e5 Ne4 10.d5 Nc3 11.Nxc3 Bxc3 12.Rb1 Bxe5 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Nxe5 c5 15.Bxf7+ Kf8 16.Qf3 d6 17.Qxa8 Qg5 18.Qxc8+ Ke7 19.Bxg5# 1-0

**Aldrich,Lydia (1269) - Morgan,Evan (1188) [A40] QP Opening**  
MCA Chess League Independents vs Ramp Rooks Chess.com (3), 13.12.2020  
1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Bf4 Qe7 4.Nf3 Qb4+ 5.Nbd2 Qxf4 6.e3 Qf5 7.Bd3 Qe6 8.Bc4 Qe7 9.Ne4 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Qxe5 11.Qf3 Nf6 12.Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.Qe4+ Be7 14.0-0-0 0-0 15.h4 Bd6 16.Bd3 Qg6 17.Qf3 f5 18.h5 Qg5 19.Qd5+ Rf7 20.Bc4 Qf6 21.h6 g6

22.Qf3 Be5 23.g4 Kf8 24.Bxf7 Kxf7 25.gxf5 Bxb2+ 26.Kb1 Ba3 27.Qd5+ Ke7 28.Qb3 Bc5 29.fgx6 Qxg6 30.Rd5 d6 31.Rh4 Qg1+ 32.Kb2 Qxf2 33.Re4+ Kd7 34.Qc3 Qg1 35.Qxc5 b6 36.Qb5+ c6 37.Rxd6+ Kxd6 38.Qe5+ Kd7 39.Qe7# 1-0

**Brumley,Joseph (952) - Morris,Brian L (1380) [B07] Pirc Defense**  
MCA Chess League Independents vs Ramp Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020  
1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 g6 4.e5 dxe5 5.Nxe5 e6 6.0-0 Qd4 7.Bb5+ c6 8.Ba4 Qxe5 9.Re1 Qc7 10.b3 Bg7 11.Bb2 b5 12.Nc3 bxa4 13.Nxa4 0-0 14.Be5 Qe7 15.Qf3 Bb7 16.Bd4 c5 17.Bxc5 Qd7 18.Qh3 Rd8 19.Bb6 Rc8 20.Bxa7 Bxg2 21.Qxg2 Qxa7 22.Nb6 Qxb6 23.Qxa8 Nfd7 24.Qg2 Bxa1 25.Rxa1 Rxc2 26.Qf1 Rxd2 27.Qe1 Rd5 28.Rc1 Rg5+ 29.Kf1 Qb5+ 30.Rc4 Qf5 31.Qc3 Qf6 32.Rc8+ Kg7 33.Qe3 Qa1+ 34.Rc1 Qe5 35.Qf3 Rf5 36.Qh3 Nf6 37.Re1 Qf4 38.Re3 Qxf2# 0-1

**Avdic,Huso (2023) - Kellogg,Eric (1825) [A10] English Opening**  
MCA Chess League PHCC vs KCC; Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020  
1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 d6 6.d4 e6 7.0-0 Nd7 8.e4 Ne7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qd2 Kh7 12.Rad1 a6 13.Ne1 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.b3 Ng4 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 Nc6 18.Qd2 Qd7 19.Bh3 f5 20.f3 Nge5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.Nd5 Ne7 23.Ng2 Nxd5 24.cxd5 Rae8 25.Qc2 Bc8 26.f4 Ng6 27.Rfe1 Qf7 28.Qd3 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Ne7 30.Ne3 Bb7 31.Bg2 Qf6 32.Rc1 Rc8 33.g4 Qb2 34.Rc2 Qa1+ 35.Kf2 Qg7 36.Nxf5 Nxf5 37.Qxf5+ Kh8 38.Kg3 Rf8 39.Qe4 h5 40.h3 Bc8 41.Qf3 h4+ 42.Kxh4 Qh7+ 43.Kg3 Qxc2 44.f5 Qb2 45.h4 Qe5+ 46.Kh3 Re8 47.Qd1 Qc3+ 48.Kh2 Qe1 49.Qd4+ Qe5+ 50.Qxe5+ Rxe5 51.Kg3 Re2 52.Bf3 Rxa2 53.Kf4 Kg7 54.g5 Bxf5 55.Kxf5 Rb2 56.h5 Rxb3 57.h6+ Kg8 58.Be4 Rh3 59.Kf6 Rh4 60.Bf5

Rf4 61.g6 Rh4 62.Be6+ Kh8 63.g7+ 1-0

**Kellogg,Alexander (1490) - Rutkofske,Lonnie (1691) [C02] French Advance**  
MCA Chess League PHCC vs KCC; Chess. C Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020  
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bd7 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.a3 Nge7 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Bb2 a6 10.Be2 Rc8 11.0-0 a5 12.b5 Na7 13.a4 Be7 14.Nbd2 0-0 15.Nb3 b6 16.Bd3 Bb4 17.Bxf5 exf5 18.Rc1 Qe7 19.Qd3 Be6 20.Bc3 Ba3 21.Rc2 Rc4 22.Bb2 Rfc8 23.Bxa3 Qxa3 24.Rfc1 Qxa4 25.Nfd2 Rxc2 26.Rxc2 Qxb5 27.Rxc8+ Bxc8 28.Qc3 h6 29.Qc7 Qa6 30.Qd8+ Kh7 31.Qxd5 Be6 32.Qf3 a4 33.d5 axb3 34.dxe6 fxe6 35.Qxb3 b5 36.f4 Qc6 37.Qa3 Nc8 38.Nb3 Qc3 39.Qa2 Qe1# 0-1

**Wingrove,William (1335) - Dumke,David (1103) [C45] Scotch Opening**  
MCA Chess League PHCC vs KCC; Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020  
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.Qf3 d5 7.Be3 d4 8.Bf4 Nf6 9.c3 0-0 10.cxd4 Qxd4 11.Nc3 Bg4 12.Qe3 Qb4 13.Qd2 Rad8 14.Qc2 Nxe4 15.Be3 Rd2 16.Qxe4 Rd4 17.Qc2 Re8 18.Be2 Bxe2 19.Qxe2 Bb6 20.0-0 Rd6 21.Qc2 Bxe3 22.fxe3 Rxe3 23.Qf5 f6 24.Qc8+ Kf7 25.Qxc7+ Re7 26.Qc8 Rd2 27.Qxc6 Qxb2 28.Qc4+ Re6 29.Qc7+ Ke8 30.Qg3 g6 31.Rad1 Rc2 32.Nd5 Kf7 33.Nf4 Re5 34.Nd3 Qb6+ 35.Kh1 Rg5 36.Qf3 f5 37.Rf2 Rc3 38.Ne5+ Kf6 39.Nd7+ 1-0

**Bousho,Christopher (1263) - Noel,Bedy (1276) [B01] Scandinavian Defense**  
MCA Chess League PHCC vs KCC; Chess.com (3), 11.12.2020  
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ Nbd7 4.Nc3 a6 5.Ba4 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7 7.Nf3 Nc5 8.0-0 Nxb3 9.axb3 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.d3 Qf5 12.Qe2 Bxf3 13.gxf3

e6 14.c4 c6 15.f4 Bd6 16.Qf3 0–0  
17.Qxc6 Bxf4 18.Bxf4 Qxf4 19.cxb5  
Rfc8 20.Rxa6 Rab8 21.Qd7 Qg4+  
22.Kh1 Qf3+ 23.Kg1 Qg4+ 24.Kh1 ½–  
½

#### Round 4 Games

**Gregg, Alan (1863) – Brumley,  
Joseph (1034) [C44] Ponziani  
Opening**

Live Chess Chess.com, (4) 15.01.2021  
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d3 Bd6 4.Be2 0–0  
5.0–0 Nc6 6.c3 Be7 7.c4 d6 8.h3 b6  
9.Be3 Ba6 10.Nc3 Rb8 11.a3 b5 12.b4  
bxc4 13.dxc4 Qd7 14.b5 d5 15.bxc6  
Qxc6 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bxc4  
18.Nxe7+ Kh8 19.Nxc6 Bxe2 20.Qxe2  
Rb6 21.Bxb6 cxb6 22.Nfxe5 Re8  
23.Nxf7+ Kg8 24.Qxe8# 1–0

**Morgan, Evan (1193) – Avdic, Huso  
(2073) [B01] Scandinavian Opening**

Live Chess Chess.com, (4) 15.01.2021  
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6  
4.Bb5+ c6 5.Bc4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.0–0  
e6 8.d4 Nbd7 9.Be3 Be7 10.Qd2 Bxf3  
11.gxf3 Qc7 12.Bf4 Bd6 13.Bxd6  
Qxd6 14.Rfe1 Nb6 15.b3 Rd8 16.Rad1  
0–0 17.Ne4 Qe7 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6  
19.Qe3 Nd5 20.Bxd5 Rxd5 21.Rd2  
Rfd8 22.Red1 Qh4 23.c4 Rh5 24.Kf1  
Qxh2 25.d5 Re5 26.Qc5 Qh1# 0–1

**Bedy, Noel (1278) – Brumley, Daniel  
(346) [D02] QP Game**

Live Chess Chess.com, (4) 15.01.2021  
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 Bb4+ 4.c3 Bd6  
5.Bd3 f5 6.Nbd2 Bxh2 7.Rxh2 Nf6  
8.Ne5 Qd6 9.Ndf3 0–0 10.a4 Nc6  
11.b3 h6 12.Ba3 Qd8 13.Bxf8 Qxf8  
14.Rh1 a5 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Ne5 Ra6  
17.Bxa6 Bxa6 18.Nxc6 Qd6 19.Ne5  
Ne4 20.Qc2 Nc5 21.b4 Nd3+ 22.Nxd3  
Bxd3 23.Qxd3 axb4 24.cxb4 Qxb4+  
25.Qd2 Qb3 26.a5 Qc4 27.a6 Qc6  
28.a7 Qa8 29.Qb2 c6 30.Qb8+ Qxb8  
31.axb8Q+ Kf7 32.Ra7+ Kg6 33.Qg8  
Kg5 34.Qxg7# 1–0

**Oliveira, Clenio (1634) – Kellogg, Eric  
(1867) [D10] QGD**

Live Chess Chess.com, (4) 15.01.2021  
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 e6  
5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Bd3 dxc4  
8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.0–0 a6 11.a3  
c5 12.Re1 0–0 13.Rc1 Rc8 14.e4 h6  
15.Be3 b4 16.Na4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4  
18.Nxc5 Nxc5 19.dxc5 Qxd1  
20.Rexd1 bxa3 21.bxa3 Bxf3 22.gxf3  
Rc6 23.Rd7 Bf6 24.Rc2 Rfc8 25.f4 Kf8  
26.Ra7 Be7 27.Kf1 Bxc5 28.Bxc5+  
Rxc5 29.Rb2 R8c7 30.Rxc7 Rxc7  
31.Rb6 Ra7 32.Ke2 Ke7 33.Kd3 Kf6  
34.Ke4 a5 35.a4 Ke7 36.Kd4 Rd7+  
37.Ke3 Rd5 38.Rb7+ Kf6 39.Rb5 Rxb5  
40.axb5 Ke7 41.Kd4 Kd6 42.h4 a4  
43.Kc4 a3 44.Kb3 Kc5 45.b6 Kxb6  
46.Kxa3 Kc5 47.Kb3 Kd4 48.Kc2 Ke4  
49.Kd2 Kf3 0–1

**Ouyang, Nathan – Morris, Brian  
[B07] Pirc Defense Live Chess**

Chess.com, (4) 15.01.2021  
1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7  
5.h3 0–0 6.0–0 Nxe4 7.Nxe4 d5  
8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Re1 Nc6 10.d3 b6  
11.c3 Bb7 12.d4 e6 13.Bf4 Rac8  
14.Qb3 Qxb3 15.axb3 f5 16.Neg5 Na5  
17.b4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nc6 19.Nxe6 Rfe8  
20.d5 Ne7 21.Nxc7 1–0

**Burdzinski, Jan(1124) – Song, Justin  
(1398) [A37] English Opening**

Live Chess Chess.com, (4) 15.01.2021  
1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7  
5.Nf3 e6 6.0–0 Nge7 7.d3 0–0 8.Bd2  
b6 9.Qc1 Bb7 10.Bh6 Rb8 11.Bxg7  
Kxg7 12.Rd1 d5 13.d4 Qc8 14.cxd5  
exd5 15.dxc5 bxc5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5  
17.Rxd5 Nd4 18.Nxd4 Bxd5 19.Bxd5  
cxd4 20.Qf4 Qc5 21.Qe5+ f6 22.Qe4  
Rfe8 23.Be6 Qe5 24.Qxe5 fxe5  
25.Bb3 e4 26.Rc1 Re7 27.f3 exf3  
28.exf3 Re2 29.Rc7+ Kh6 30.Rxa7  
Rxb2 31.Rd7 Re8 32.Kf1 Rd2 33.h3 d3  
34.h4 Re3 35.h5 Rxf3+ 36.Ke1 Re2+  
37.Kd1 Rf1# 0–1

**Bousho, Christopher (1290) –  
Greggio, Dennis (1054) [C28] King’s  
Gambit Declined**

Live Chess Chess.com, (4) 15.01.2021  
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bc5  
5.Nf3 d6 6.Ng5 0–0 7.d3 h6 8.Nf3 Re8  
9.Qe2 Bg4 10.Be3 exf4 11.Bxc5 dxc5  
12.0–0–0 Nd4 13.Qf2 b5 14.Nxb5  
Nxb5 15.Bxb5 Re5 16.Nxe5 Bxd1  
17.Rxd1 Qe7 18.Nc4 g5 19.h3 Rb8  
20.Ba4 Nh5 21.Bb3 Ng3 22.Na5 Rb6  
23.Bd5 Kg7 24.h4 f6 25.Re1 Ra6  
26.Nc6 Qd6 27.a3 Rxc6 28.Bxc6 Qxc6  
29.hxg5 hxg5 30.e5 fxe5 31.Rxe5 Kf6  
32.Rxc5 Qb6 33.Qd4+ Kg6 34.Qe5 Kf7  
35.Rxc7+ Kg6 36.Qg7+ Kf5 37.Qh7+  
Ke5 38.d4+ Kxd4 39.Qg7+ Ke3  
40.Qe5+ Ne4 41.Rc3+ Kf2 42.Qxe4  
Qe3+ 43.Rxe3 fxe3 44.Qf3+ Kg1  
45.Qxe3+ Kxg2 46.Qxg5+ Kf3 47.c4 1–  
0

#### Round 5 Games

**Oliveira, Clenio (1686) - Morgan, Evan  
(1186) [A40] QP Game**

Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.Nc3  
Nxe5 5.Nxe5 Qxe5 6.Qd5 Qxd5  
7.Nxd5 Bd6 8.Bg5 c6 9.Nc3 h6 10.Bh4  
g5 11.Bg3 Bxg3 12.hxg3 Nf6 13.e3 d5  
14.Bd3 Be6 15.a3 0–0–0 16.0–0–0  
Bg4 17.Rde1 a6 18.Na4 Kc7 19.b3  
Ne4 20.Rhf1 b5 21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.Nc3  
Rhe8 23.b4 Re6 24.f3 exf3 25.gxf3  
Bh3 26.Rf2 Rde8 27.e4 f6 28.g4 f5  
29.gxf5 Bxf5 30.Rh1 Bh7 31.Rfh2 Bg8  
32.Rxh6 Rxh6 33.Rxh6 Bc4 34.Rg6  
Re5 35.Kd2 Bf7 36.Rg7 Re7 37.Rxg5  
Bc4 38.e5 Bd5 39.f4 Bc4 40.Ne4 Bd5  
41.Nc5 Kb6 42.Nd3 Be4 43.Ke3 Bxd3  
44.Kxd3 c5 45.Rg6+ Kc7 46.bxc5 Rd7+  
47.Kc3 Rd5 48.Rxa6 Rxc5+ 49.Kd3  
Rd5+ 50.Ke3 Kd7 51.Rd6+ Rxd6  
52.exd6 Kxd6 53.Kd4 Kc6 54.f5 Kd7  
55.Kd5 Ke7 56.Kc5 Kf6 57.Kxb5 Kxf5  
58.a4 Ke6 59.Kc6 Ke7 60.a5 Kd8  
61.Kb7 Kd7 62.a6 Kd6 63.a7 Kd5  
64.a8Q Kc4 65.Qd8 Kc3 66.Qd5 Kxc2  
67.Qf3 Kb1 68.Qe2 Ka1 69.Kb6 Kb1

70.Kb5 Kc1 71.Kc4 Kb1 72.Kb3 Kc1  
73.Qc2# 1–0

Brumley,Joseph (1108) - Haygood  
Jr.,Norman (1438) [B10] Caro-Kann  
Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.e4 c6 2.Bc4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bb5+  
Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0–0  
Nf6 8.Nc3 e6 9.d4 Bd6 10.Bg5 Ne4  
11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5  
Bxe5 14.Qxd7+ Kxd7 15.Rad1+ Kc6  
16.f3 Bxb2 17.fxe4 f6 18.Bf4 Rhd8  
19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.Re1 Bc3 21.Re2 e5  
22.Bc1 Rd1+ 23.Kf2 Rxc1 24.Ke3 Rd1  
25.g3 Kc5 26.a4 Kb4 27.h4 Re1 28.Kf2  
Rxe2+ 29.Kxe2 Kxa4 30.Kd3 Kb4  
31.g4 a5 32.h5 a4 33.Ke2 a3 34.Kf3 a2  
35.Kg3 a1Q 36.Kh4 Qh1+ 37.Kg3  
Be1# 0–1

Ouyang,Nathan - Kellogg,Alexander  
[C02] French: Advance Var.  
Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3  
Qb6 6.Bd3 Bd7 7.Bc2 Rc8 8.0–0 c4  
9.b3 cxb3 10.axb3 g6 11.Ng5 Bh6  
12.f4 Bxg5 13.fxg5 Nxe5 14.Bf4 Nc6  
15.Nd2 Nge7 16.Nf3 Nf5 17.Bxf5 exf5  
18.Bd6 Nd8 19.Bc5 Qc6 20.Ne5 Qb5  
21.c4 Rxc5 22.cxb5 Rxb5 23.Nxd7  
Kxd7 24.Rxa7 Nc6 25.Ra1 Re8 26.Qd3  
Rb4 27.Rf4 Re4 28.Rxe4 fxe4  
29.Qh3+ Kc7 30.Qxh7 Rxd4 31.Qxf7+  
Kb6 32.Qxg6 e3 33.Qe6 Rd3 34.g6  
Kc5 35.g7 Nd4 36.Qe7+ Kb5  
37.Qxb7+ Kc5 38.Rc1+ Kd6 39.g8Q e2  
40.Qbxd5+ Ke7 41.Qgf7# 1–0

Kellogg,Eric (1852) - Liang,Justin  
(2280) [E15] Nimzo-Indian  
Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb4+  
5.Nc3 Ba6 6.e3 c5 7.d5 Ne4 8.Qc2  
Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 f5 10.Bd3 Qf6 11.Bb2  
Nd6 12.dxe6 dxe6 13.Qe2 e5 14.Nd2  
e4 15.Bc2 0–0 16.Ba4 Qe6 17.Bb5  
Bb7 18.0–0 Nc6 19.Rad1 Ne5 20.f4  
exf3 21.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 22.Rxf3 Bxf3  
23.Qxf3 Nxb5 24.cxb5 Qxa2 25.Bc1  
Rad8 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Qf1 Qc2 0–1

Song,Justin (1506) -  
Bousho,Christopher (1180) [B07]  
Pirc  
Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f3 a6  
5.Be3 b5 6.a3 Bg7 7.Qd2 Nc6 8.0–0–0  
0–0 9.Bh6 e5 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.d5 Nd4  
12.Nge2 Nxe2+ 13.Bxe2 Bd7 14.g4  
Rb8 15.Na2 c6 16.dxc6 Bxc6 17.Qxd6  
Qb6 18.Nb4 Qd4 19.Qxd4 exd4  
20.Nxc6 Rbc8 21.Nxd4 Rc5 22.Nb3  
Rc6 23.Rd4 Rfc8 24.c3 Ra8 25.Rhd1  
Rcc8 26.f4 Re8 27.e5 Ng8 28.Rd7 h6  
29.Nc5 Rec8 30.Ne6+ Kh7 31.Rxf7+  
Kh8 32.Rdd7 1–0

Morris,Brian L. (1404) - Gregg,Alan  
(1915) [C23] Philidor  
Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Be7  
5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 0–0 7.0–0 a6 8.Re1  
b5 9.Bb3 c5 10.Bxf7+ Rxf7 11.Nf5  
Bxf5 12.exf5 Nbd7 13.Qf3 Ne5  
14.Qe2 Bf8 15.Bg5 Qd7 16.Bxf6 gxf6

17.Nd5 Qxf5 18.f4 Ng6 19.Qe6 Qxe6  
20.Rxe6 Kg7 21.f5 Ne5 22.Nf4 Kh6  
23.Re1 Kg5 24.g3 Nf3+ 0–1

Avdic,Huso (2063) - Aldrich,Lydia  
(1268) [D30] Dutch: Stonewall  
Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 f5 4.g3 Nf6  
5.Bg2 c6 6.0–0 Bd6 7.b3 0–0 8.Bb2  
Ne4 9.Ne5 Nd7 10.f3 Nef6 11.Nd2  
Qc7 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.e4 fxe4 14.fxe4  
Qe7 15.e5 Ng4 16.Qxg4 Bb4 17.Rxf8+  
Qxf8 18.Rf1 Qe7 19.Nf3 Bd7 20.Bc1  
Be8 21.Ng5 Bd7 22.Rf7 Qxg5 23.Bxg5  
Kxf7 24.Bf1 Bc3 25.Qf3+ Kg8 26.Qxc3  
Rf8 27.Bh3 h6 28.Be7 Rf7 29.Bd6 1–0

Hede,Aloke (1373) -  
Wingrove,William (1474) [B23]  
Closed Sicilian  
Live Chess Chess.com (5), 12.02.2021  
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.h3 Nc6 4.d3 g6  
5.Be3 Bg7 6.Nge2 e6 7.g3 Nge7 8.Bg2  
0–0 9.Qd2 a6 10.0–0 Rb8 11.a3 b5  
12.Rfd1 Bb7 13.d4 cxd4 14.Bxd4  
Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qc7 16.b4 Rfd8 17.a4  
bxa4 18.Rxa4 d5 19.Qf4 Qxc3 20.Qe3  
Qxe3 21.fxe3 dxe4 22.c3 Nf5 23.Kf2  
Rbc8 24.Ra3 Nxd4 25.exd4 Rc7  
26.Re1 f5 27.Bf1 Rdc8 28.Re3 Bh6  
29.Re1 Rxc3 30.Rxc3 Rxc3 31.b5 axb5  
32.Bxb5 Rc2+ 33.Kf1 Rb2 34.Bc4 Bd5  
35.Ba6 Rc2 36.Rb1 Rc1+ 37.Rxc1 Bxc1  
38.Ke2 Kf7 39.h4 h6 40.Kf2 g5 41.h5  
f4 42.g4 Be3+ 43.Ke2 Bxd4 44.Bb5  
f3+ 45.Kf1 e3 46.Bd3 Kf6 47.Bg6 e2+  
48.Ke1 Bc3+ 49.Kf2 e1Q# 0–1

The first principle of  
attack – Don't let your  
opponent develop! –  
*Reuben Fine*

Set up your attacks  
that when the fires is  
out, it isn't out! –  
Pillsbury

[Cramped positions]  
bear the germs of  
defeat! –  
Tarrasch

# Business as Unusual

## Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions 2020 - My Final Barber Experience By Michael Zheng

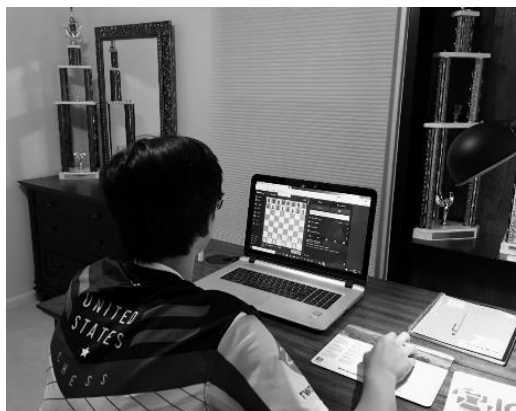
Canceled! Canceled! Canceled! Since the pandemic started, tournament after tournament has experienced the same fate thanks to COVID. Of course, no exception was made to the in-person Barber invitational either.

Usually, the tournament was part of the U.S. Invitationals, held alongside Denker (high school), Haring (girls), and Senior. This year the Rockefeller (elementary) was introduced for the first time. These invitational events are all super prestigious, with only the state champions of each state competing. That's why they are often called "Champion of the Champions" tournament. These would all be concurrent with the U.S. Open in a usual year, and this year it would have been held in St. Louis, the U.S. chess capital. I was very disappointed, like many others, when we learned that U.S. Chess Federation had to cancel them for this year due to Coronavirus.

However, in July, USCF decided to hold these traditional events online on **chess.com**. I was very excited to know that I would have the honor to represent our state once again to compete with other top players across the nation! For the first time in history, the tenth **Barber Tournament of Middle School State Champions** was held online. The time control was game 70 minutes, with a 10-second increment for each move. The six rounds took place from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, three rounds per day. To battle 8 to 9 hours a day on the board was not only brain-crushing but also physically exhausting.

To assure fair play, pages-long rules were put into action. A week before the tournament, players were required to check-in for quality controls with the camera settings. During the tournament, we had to join a Zoom meeting with two cameras on two different devices - one angled, to show the game

screen as well as the player as shown in the picture,



and the other showing our face. The speaker on our computers had to be on so tournament directors

could hear everything. No other person was allowed in the room while a player's game was ongoing. Players couldn't be off the two cameras during the games. If one had to go to the bathroom during the game, the player could leave, as long as it was not the player's turn to move. However, the player must announce in the Zoom chat to the TD every time and report back upon return, so the break was time stamped in the Zoom chat history for possible "fair play" violation review. The pairing was based on the USCF regular ratings. TD's manually started each game, board by board. The event was live-streamed with thousands of people watching online. Since many states didn't have a chance to hold their state championships due to the pandemic, each just sent their highest-rated player as its state representative. The Barber turned out to be a very strong tournament with 2 IMs, 3 FMs, and 5 NMs competing.

In any scholastic tournament, round 1 upsets are never a rare thing. I was relieved to find my way through and win despite being on the verge of defeat at the hands of an upset-minded much lower-rated opponent, the representative of DC. To his credit, he was playing very well and put on all the pressure until we reached a critical position requiring lots of accurate calculations. That's where I managed to dig my way through.

In round 2, I was paired against the representative from Utah who had upset a strong national master in round 1. Based on that result, I was fully expecting a tough game even though he was a good 350 points lower rated than I. Inaccurate opening play on my part left me with lots of

calculations in a losing position. I wasn't able to save the game and was handed my first loss of the tournament. I had to do my best to shake off that tough loss and collect myself. After a quick break, it was time to be ready for round 3. It is worth mentioning that during round 2, **WGM Tatev** and **IM Kassa**, the commentators for day one, interviewed Mr. Barber while they were live-streaming. Mr. Barber is the sponsor of this invitational event. He is a person



with humor who usually wears all kinds of unique hats during this event as you can see in the above picture. He talked about his book "*Humor in Chess*" during the interview.

Entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, I was playing the representative of South Carolina, a player whom I had played before in the 2019 Barber tournament in Florida. In that game, which ended in a draw, I pressed and pressed but could not find a breakthrough. I was determined to turn my tournament around from the 2<sup>nd</sup> round loss and meanwhile get my "revenge" you could say. After gaining a dominant position from the very beginning, I continued to put some fireworks on the board. I got more excited as the game proceeded, every now and then checking the time because I was trying to win fast. I set a rather unprofessional, but fun, goal to win as quickly as possible. This is not what a good player should do during a game. Focusing on the position and making sure to convert the winning position to a full score is more appropriate than to pay attention to how fast you can win a game. My victory was declared in less than 30 minutes making me incredibly happy. It was just my opponent's opening choice that gave me a good advantage. I was nothing but clinical after. [See *game 1 analysis*]. I was feeling good and in top form after that quick win. The first day

ended with a great recovery from my second round loss. Meanwhile, the Utah player had upset another master in round 3.

The next day started with round 4 at 11 am EST to accommodate the fellow players on the west coast.



**GM Daniel Naroditsky** and **NM William Aramil** were the live commentators for the day. It was expected that I would be paired with stronger opponents on paper than my previous foes. My 4<sup>th</sup> round opponent, the representative from Minnesota, was at a similar rating strength. I found myself in a tough situation out of the opening, but I managed to "swindle" myself back into the game. During the live-stream commentary which I briefly checked out afterward, GM Daniel Naroditsky specifically said that I played the opening imprecisely and that my position was permanently damaged as shown in the picture. Both commentators agreed that I had a very tough situation to handle. However, Daniel did also add, "These young strong players these days are very resilient and their capabilities to defend to reach a balance are just phenomenal. Let's see how Michael would get out of this tough situation." I realized that I was in trouble over the board and I had to do something creative to hold on and gradually make a comeback. I successfully did so and won. I was feeling much better about my tournament at this point. This comeback victory was even more satisfying than the earlier night's quick win. At the time, the only person I lost to was tied for first place! It gave me at least some level of comfort that he had four consecutive upsets. Lots of people, including me, were getting suspicious of him.

I finished my round 4 game while lots of other players were still battling on their boards. Unexpectedly, the **chess.com** server went down, which caused chaos. Those who already finished their games were permitted to leave and relax. But for those whose games were still playing, each had to stay in their rooms in the Zoom meeting anxiously waiting for how to resume. After an hour or so of confusion, the server came back. The next round had to be delayed by one hour.

In the next round, I played the eventual co-champion of this tournament, a FM from NY. I have played him twice before with an even score, once getting crushed and once grinding out a win in a 6-hour long fight in a major tournament. I knew a tough game was waiting for me. I didn't play so accurately in the earlier stages and I was left defending a slightly worse ending. I felt like I defended very well as the game dragged on. I managed to fully equalize the position for a good portion of moves but my opponent was pushing hard. He tricked me and found a breakthrough, but the position was still objectively even. I missed my first chance, but nearly found my second chance, a study-like pawn ending draw. Considering the time pressure, I don't think I would ever have found that draw during the game. It was a beautiful backward king move in a knight ending to lose a tempo on purpose, transposing into a drawn pawn ending. It was a 70 move grueling game that can often be cruel to the losing side. You feel like you did everything you could but fell short to something simple towards the end. Overall, looking back at it, I'm satisfied with the way I defended. A draw in this round would have made it a near perfect tournament though!

Finally, entering the last round I was at 3.5/5 playing Roshen Nair, the representative from Oregon. You might be wondering how I got 3.5 after losing 2 games. The player from Utah I lost to in the second round got expelled from the tournament due to violation of the fair play rules after he made another upset. I had the chance for my best Barber result. In the earlier two years, I got 4 and 3.5 points, respectively. This time, there was a chance for me to tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and win some cash if the top board of

the last round resulted in a decisive win. Usually, there were prizes for 5 places in Barber, but this year it was reduced to 3. The prizes were \$2000, \$1500, \$1000 with the first place on tie-break getting an additional \$5000 college scholarship. A win under the usual circumstances would have guaranteed a prize and a plaque which I would have loved. With or without a prize, the best I would do was to fight for a win in the spirit of the sport. Confidently, I played a solid and convincing game, making few mistakes causing my opponent to crack first [*See game 2 analysis.*]. This wrapped up my final Barber game of the three times I have competed in this prestigious event to represent state Michigan. I was absolutely thrilled to finish with 4.5/6 and tied for the 4<sup>th</sup> place in such a strong tournament!!

After all the rounds finished around 10 pm, we were gathered in a Zoom meeting for a group photo. Lots of us looked very tired after the intensive competition of the two long days. Mr. Barber remarked: "Congratulations! You all made history today. Chess is more than just a game, just a rating. It could be a vehicle to enrich the lives of young people." During this unprecedented pandemic, studying chess, playing the game I love, utilizing my chess skills to help those in need made a difference in me to cope with this difficult and uncertain time.

Although the experience would have been much more exciting in person: enjoying a very formal opening ceremony; participating in a very fun closing ceremony; taking part in a pizza party that would have permitted me to mingle with my old friends and some new; playing in games with the state flag posted next to each player's board; checking out other fellows' boards during the games; and socializing between the rounds. U.S. Chess did its best to host these events online given the challenging situation. For that, I'm truly thankful. Hopefully, we can return to the normal over the board tournaments soon. **Team Michigan** did well and congratulations to the other Michigan representatives in the **Denker, Rockefeller, Haring, and Senior Tournament of Champions**. I'm looking forward to the success of this event in the future and hopefully, I can represent Michigan once again in **Denker** as a high-schooler.

**Zheng,Michael (2178) - Moore,Eli (1884) [B03] Alekhine's Def. 4 Pawns attack**

Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions Chess.com (3), 01.08.2020 [Zheng,M]

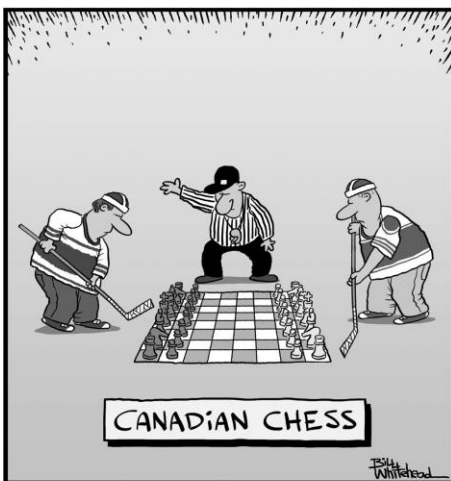
[After that unfair loss in round 2, I was looking to bounce back. I kept my calm and played convincingly.]

**1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Be3 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.Be2 0-0 10.Nf3 Bg4 11.0-0** [Up until now, everything was at least played in the database before.] **11...Bxf3** [11...Qd7 keeps the bishop pair and develops.] **12.Rxf3** [Gives me the bishop pair and the center for free.] **12...Qd7 13.Qd2 Rad8 14.Rd1 e6?** [This weakens the dark squares and surprisingly, ends the game.] [14...f6 looked more natural to me.] **15.Ne4** [Suddenly, Nf6+ followed by bringing the queen to h6 is almost unstoppable.] **15...Ne7 16.Bg5 Nf5** [I spotted Rxf5 and didn't even bother looking at Bxd8. This position is simply crushing for White.] **17.Rxf5! Qxd4+** [...prolongs the game but doesn't save it.] [17...exf5 18.Nf6+ Bxf6 19.Bxf6 Qxd4+ transposes.] **18.Qxd4 Rxd4 19.Rxd4 exf5 20.Nf6+ Kh8 21.Rh4 Bxf 22.Bxf6+ Kg8 23.Rd4 c6 24.b3 a5 25.a4 Nc8 26.c5** [26.g4] **26...b6 27.Bc4!** [27.Ba6 bxc5 28.Rd8 Rxd8 29.Bxd8 Na7 30.Bb6] **27...bxc5 28.Rd7 Nb6 29.e6!** [A tidy and fancy way to finish the game off.] **29...Nxc4** [29...fxe6 30.Bxe6+ Rf7 31.Rd8#] **30.bxc4** [This was a very simple game where I won quickly. The question towards the end wasn't whether I could win, but how fast I could win? The game shows perfectly why sticking the main lines and solid openings are better. After a normal-looking e6 move, Black was lost.] [30.bxc4 fxe6 31.Rg7+ Kh8 32.Rxg6+ Rxf6 33.Rxf6+-; 30.e7 kills but there's no reason for me to risk anything when I'm clearly winning either way.] **1-0**

**Nair,Roshen (2105) - Zheng,Michael (2178) [A34] Symmetrical English**

Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions Chess.com (6.5), 02.08.2020 [Zheng,M]

**1.c4 c5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nc7 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d3 Be7 9.Nd2 0-0** [9...Bd7 is more commonly played to stop the doubling of the pawns. I was comfortable with playing with doubled c-pawns. I thought I had enough compensation.] **10.Nc4 f6 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 Be6** [Up until now, everything was theory.] **13.Ne3** [13.Qb3 looks more logical. The a2-g8 diagonal looks loose for me.] **13...Bd6 14.Bxd6** [14.Bxc6 is worth considering now. 14...bxc6 15.Ne4 Be7] **14...Qxd6 15.Qc1 b6** [b4 ideas are annoying.] **16.Nf5?!** [16.b4! cxb4 17.Ne4 Qd4 18.Nf2 Ne5 is crazy computer stuff.] **16...Bxf5 17.Rxf5 Nd4** [17...Rad8 18.Rf4 Ne6 19.Bd5 Kh8] **18.Rf2 Rae8 19.Qd2 Re5 20.b3?!** [This seemed like a move where White didn't know what he was doing. e3 was logical and looked better.] [20.e3 Nde6 d3 is weak, but my knight has been kicked out.] **20...Rfe8 21.Re1 Nf5 22.Ne4** [I have good pressure here.] **22...Qd4?!** [22...Qe7] **23.e3 Qd8** [23...Nxe3!? 24.Rxe3 f5=] **24.Bh3** [24.b4 This challenges the c5 pawn while I'm not ready.] **24...Nd6 25.Nc3 Qe7 26.Rfe2 Ncb5 27.d4?!** [This move tactically fails.] [27.Nxb5 Nxb5 28.Bg4] **27...cxd4 28.exd4 Nxc3! 29.Rxe5** [29.dxe5 Nxe2+ 30.Rxe2 fxe5 is definitely a better defense.] **29...fxe5 30.Qxc3 exd4 31.Rxe7 dxc3 32.Rxe8+ Nxe8 33.Be6+ Kf8 34.Bf5 g6 35.Bd3 Ke7 36.Kf2 Kd6 37.b4 Nf6!** [Clean and tidy. Ng4 and Nd5 are problems for White.] **38.Ke2 Ke5 39.a3 Kd4 40.Bc2 Ng4 41.h3 Ne3 42.Bb3 Nc4 43.a4 a6 44.h4 b5 45.axb5 axb5 46.Bc2 Ne5 47.h5 gxh5 48.Bxh7 Kc4 49.Kd1 Kxb4 50.Kc2 Kc4 51.Bg8+ Kd4 52.Be6 b4 53.Ba2 Nc4** [A good finish to the 2020 Barber Tournament of Champions! I was satisfied with 4.5/6, but more importantly I liked the way I played.] **0-1**



# Annotators' Workshop

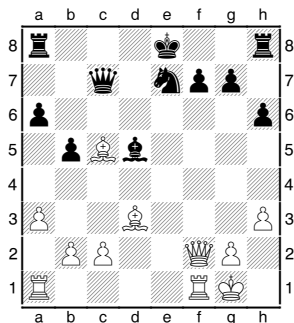


Michigan lost many chessplayers in 2020. Three of them were fellow experts and good friends when I played in the 80's and 90's. Over the years, I played dozens of games, mostly speed, against each of them - Tony Palmer at the Michigan League in Ann Arbor, Vester "Fats" Wilson at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit, and Rey Santiago at the cafe in Huron Towers in Ann Arbor. As strong experts, they all have many great games against master-level players. I chose one from each of them for this month's issue.

**Chris Eagle** played in tournaments from 1980 to 1996, with many top-10 finishes in the Michigan Open, Motor City Open, and Michigan Masters-Experts. He retired from tournament play with a USCF rating of 2146. Chris' chess highlights include winning the 1995 U.S. Amateur championship, tying for first at the 1991 USCF Region V championship, and beating GM Arthur Bisguier at the 1992 U.S. Open. Chris still follows chess, plays on [chess.com](http://chess.com), and occasionally coaches. To help with annotations, he uses *Chessbase* and *Stockfish*.

**Palmer, Tony - Czuhai, Kevin [B45] Sicilian Defense: 4 knights**  
Michigan Masters/Experts, 18.01.2009 [ceagl]  
*[This pretty win over life master Kevin Czuhai in the last round of the 2009 Michigan Masters/Experts gave Tony an undefeated 4 out of 5 points and Top Expert.]*

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 a6** [Pretty much everyone plays ...d5, in this popular line of the Taimanov Sicilian. My database has over 4000 games with ...d5 and no master games with ...a6. While ...a6 is a popular move in the Sicilian, it feels like a loss of time in this position. The two benefits of the move, supporting ...b5 and denying Nb5, are not usually important as Black plays in the center and forces the N backward with ...d4.] **9.Bd3** [This is a fine move, but the best way to try to punish ...a6 is to immediately attack the d-pawn and keep it backward.] [For instance, 9.Qd6 Qe7 10.Bf4 0-0 11.0-0-0 with a nice positional edge for White.] **9...Qc7 10.0-0 h6 11.f4** [Tony already has a comfortable game with lots of extra space and better development.] **11...d6 12.Be3 b6 13.h3** [Anticipating that he'll put his Q on f2 and preventing a future ...Ng4.] **13...Bb7 14.Qe2 e5?** [This is too optimistic. Opening the center before you've castled and are behind in development seldom turns out well.] **15.Qf2** [The immediate 15.Nd5 ( 15...Nxd5 16.exd5 Ne7 17.fxe5 ) is also very good.] **15...b5 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.fxe5 Bxd5 19.exd6 Qxd6** [The result of 14...e5 is that the position is completely open and Black's king is caught in the center.] **20.Bc5 Qc7** [Diagram]



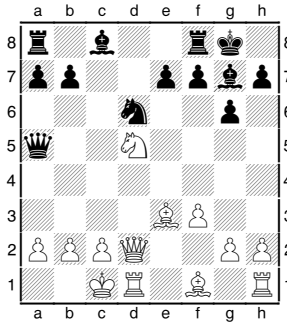
**21.Be4!** [When reviewing Tony's games for a good one to annotate, I chose this game in large part because of this beautiful move. Tony lightly annotated this game on chessgames.com and gave the move a '!' himself. Imagine my surprise when Stockfish ranked this the 8th best move in the position - Rae1 being the best. I guess it just goes to show that Stockfish can't see beauty; you'll seldom see a

cleaner deflection sacrifice.] **21...0-0** [Accepting the sac leads to 21...Bxe4 22.Qxf7+ Kd8 23.Rad1+ and White is winning a boatload of material: 23...Nd5 (23...Kc8 24.Qe6+ Kb8 25.Bd6) 24.Rxd5+ Bxd5 25.Qxd5+] **22.Bxd5 Nxd5 23.Bxf8 Rxf8** [...and Tony ends up a clear exchange with no compensation for Black. He now exhibits nice technique converting it to a win.] **24.Rad1 Nf6 25.Rd3 Ne4 26.Qf4 Qc6 27.Rd4 Ng5 28.Rf2** [Very patiently coordinating his pieces and denying Black any counterplay.] **28...Ne6 29.Rd6** [A Queen trade would leave White with an easy win, so Tony forces Black's Q backward through a series of trade offers.] **29...Qc5 30.Qb4 Qe3 31.Qd2 Qc5 32.b4 Qa7 33.Kf1 Qc7 34.Qd5 Ng5 35.Qc6 Qb8 36.Rfd2 Kh7 37.h4 Rc8 38.Qd5 Ne6 39.Qf5+ Kg8 40.Rd7 Rf8 41.Rf2 Qh2 42.Ke1** [Tony sidesteps a cheapo ( 42.Rxf7 Qh1+ 43.Ke2 Nd4+ ) but now has to be careful of counterplay with his K in the center.] **42...Qh1+ 43.Kd2 Qa1** [Better is picking up the h-pawn with 43...Qxh4 and White has to be very accurate to keep enough edge for a win. For instance, 44.Rxf7 loses for White as Black has a forced win with 44...Qd4+ 45.Ke2 (45.Kc1 Qa1+ 46.Kd2 Rd8+) 45...Re8 46.Kf3 Ng5+ 47.Kg3 Re3+ 48.Kh2 Qh4+ 49.Kg1 Re1+] **44.Qd3 Qe5 45.g3** [Restricting the Black N.] **45...a5 46.Rf5 Qb2 47.Qc3 Qb1 48.bxa5 g6 49.Re5 Qa2 50.Re1 Qc4** [Black finally allows a Q-trade.] **51.Qxc4 bxc4 52.Rxe6!** [Great technique. Tony gives back his material for a forced ending win.] **52...fxe6 53.a6 Rf3 54.a7 Rxa3 55.Rd8+ Kf7 56.a8Q c3+ 57.Kd3 Rxa8 58.Rxa8 Kf6 59.Kxc3 1-0**

**Wilson, Vester (2120) - Lindsay, Fred (2415) [B76] Sicilian Defense: Accelerated Dragon**  
East Detroit (EDO/4/3), 1989 [ceagl]  
*[This game, also against a Michigan Hall of Famer, shows the entire range of Fats Wilson's chess abilities. He accepts a piece sacrifice, defends against a furious attack, gives back some of his material to create his own mating net, but misses the mate and instead shows excellent endgame technique to secure the win.]*



1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 d5 9.0-0-0 Nxd4 10.Qxd4?! [Only Fats would play such a provocative move against a player 300 points above him.] 10...Nxe4 11.Qxd5 Nd6 12.Qd2 Qa5 13.Nd5 [Diagram]



13...Qxa2!? [13...Qxd2+ was the safer alternative, but this attack looks extremely good.] 14.Nxe7+ Kh8 15.Qxd6!?! [Fats scoops up the piece and prepares to hunker down with his K in the center.] 15...Qxb2+ 16.Kd2 Be6 17.Bd3 Bc4 18.Ke1 Rad8 19.Qc5 Bxd3 20.cxd3 Qxg2 21.Rf1 Rfe8 22.Rd2! [This creative maneuver, moving the R to e2, guards the N and protects his K at the same time.] 22...Qh3 23.Re2 b6 24.Qa3 Qd7 [A better try is 24...Bf6 25.Nc6 Bh4+ 26.Kd2 Qxf1 27.Nxd8 Rxd8 winning back his piece, but after 28.Qc3+ (not 28.Qxa7 because 28...Be1+! leads to a forced mate 29.Rxe1 Qxd3+) 28...f6 29.Qc7 Rg8 30.Bh6 Black's king safety is a problem.] 25.Bd2 f6 [...because now 25...Bf6 is met by 26.Bc3] 26.Kf2 Rf8 27.Rc1 [All of Fats' pieces are active and once he rescues his N, he'll have a clear edge.] 27...Qh3 28.Bf4 Rd4?! [28...Bh6 29.Bxh6 Qxh2+ followed by Qxh6 would at least give Black 3 pawns for the piece.] 29.Re4 Rxe4 30.dxe4 Qd7 31.Nd5 [and the N gets to safety after 16 moves stranded on e7.] 31...f5 32.Rc7 [Having completely weathered the storm and emerged with an extra piece, Fats immediately goes on the attack.] 32...Qb5 33.Rxg7! [This pretty move leads to a forced mate, but there was a queen sac available here too:] [33.Qxf8+!! Bxf8 34.Be5+ Kg8 (34...Bg7 35.Bxg7+ Kg8 36.Nf6#) 35.Nf6+ Kh8 36.Rxh7#] 33...Kxg7 34.Be5+ [34.Bh6+!] 34...Kg8 35.Qxa7 Rf7 36.Qa8+ Rf8 37.Qb7 Qc5+ 38.Kg2 Rf7 39.Qxb6? [Fats is unable

to find a continuation to his attack and bails out, giving up nearly all of his advantage. There were still several ways continue harassing the Black king:] [39.Qa8+ Rf8 40.Nf6+ Kf7 41.Qa2+ Ke7 flushes the K out and soon wins material.; 39.Nf6+ Kg7 40.Ne8+ Kg8 41.Qb8 Rf8 42.Bd6 Qc2+ 43.Kg3 is riskier but still winning material.] 39...Qxb6 40.Nxb6 fxe4 41.fxe4 Re7 [One of the hallmarks of Fats' play was his never-give-up attitude. Switching gears from a winning game to an equal one is notoriously hard to do. But Fats does it seamlessly, against a senior master, and ushers his e-pawn home.] 42.Nc4 Kf7 43.Kf3 Ke6 44.Ke3 Rb7 45.Bd6 Rb1 46.Bg3 g5 47.Nd2 Rb4 48.Nf3 h6? [48...Rb3+ forces the White K backwards and is the only way to hold the game. Once the N goes to d4, the pawn and advance and the White K gets safe haven behind it.] 49.Nd4+ Kf6 50.e5+ Kg6 51.Ke4 Ra4 52.e6 Kf6 53.Be5+ Ke7 54.Kf5 Ra2 55.Kg6 [Fats changes gears one last time. His pieces and pawn all work together, so he leaves them alone and captures Black's chance of counterplay.] [55.Nc6+ also wins, but Fats can't force a Q until the N can guard e8 and so this path is more complicated than just winning the Black pawns.] 55...Rg2 56.Kxh6 Rg4 57.Kg6 Re4 58.Bf6+ Ke8 59.Kxg5 [And now Fats can push his h-pawn too, so Black throws in the towel.] 1-0

Poschel,Paul (2255) - Santiago,Reynaldo (2000) [A42] Modern Defense: Averbakh Var.

Michigan Senior Ann Arbor, MI, 1998

[ceag/]

*[This game, against Michigan Hall of Famer Paul Poschel, is Rey through and through. It illustrates his unorthodox playing style and his patience and resilience, even in a lost position against a strong master.]*

1.c4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.e4 c6 4.Nc3 d6 5.Be3 Qc7 [Playing Rey was always like playing an early version of Sargon on an Apple II - like he was just making the first move that came to mind that didn't lose material.] 6.h3 h5 7.f4 e6 8.Nf3 a6 9.Rc1 Ne7 10.Be2 Bd7 11.0-0 [...and we've arrived at what appears to be one of those diagrams from a Fred Reinfeld book labeled: "White should try to develop like this." ] 11...Qa5

12.a3 b5 13.c5 d5 14.e5 Nf5 15.Bf2 Qd8 16.g4 hxg4 17.hxg4 Ne7 18.Kg2 a5 19.Rh1 Rg8 20.Bh4 [I cannot tell you how many times I walked by a game Rey was playing that looked like this, and walked away assuming he would lose only to see a '1' next to his name later on the crosstable. He was just more comfortable in positions like this than anyone else.] 20...Bc8 21.Ng5 Ba6 22.Nh7 Nd7 23.Qc2 Qc7 24.Bd3 Nf8 25.Nf6+ Bxf6 26.Bxf6 a4 27.Rh3 0-0-0? [A rare blunder on Rey's part. ...Kd7 is better and more in line with Rey's style] 28.Nxa4! bxa4 29.Bxa6+ Kd7 30.Qxa4 Ra8 [White is clearly winning, but he does have a challenge trying to extract his B from a6.] 31.b4 g5! [Rey jettisons a pawn to untangle his pieces.] 32.Bxg5 Nfg6 33.Kf3 Rgb8 [...and Rey has built a kind of blockade on the Q-side. There doesn't appear to be a way for him to build up on the B on a6, but there also doesn't appear to be any way for White to rescue it.] 34.b5?? [This was the way White expected to rescue his B but Rey has prepared for it.] [The right way to proceed was on the K-side with 34.Rh7 Ke8 35.Rch1 and Black is virtually in zugzwang. Even strong masters have a hard time playing on the K-side when their Q and B are trapped on the Q-side.] 34...Rxb5! [34...cxb5 35.Bxb5+ would have allowed White to keep the B. Now his best path is to take two rooks for the Q.] 35.Bxb5 Rxa4 36.Bxa4 Qa5 [Even though White has 2 R's and 2 pawns for the Q, his king is too open and he's liable to end up in a perpetual check.] 37.Ke2? [White needed to try to hang on to his material with 37.Bb3 Qxa3 38.Rc3 and he should be able to keep a draw. Giving up the piece leaves Rey with a winning position.] 37...Qxa4 38.Rd3 Nc8 [Rey immediately starts repositioning his N's to better squares.] 39.Rcc3 [Unfortunately for White, his exposed K prevents him from counterplay. 39.Rb1 Qc2+] 39...Na7 40.f5 exf5 41.gxf5 Nxe5! [and this N, which cost a pawn just to get off the back rank, solidifies the win. This is the very essence of a typical Santiago game - just be patient, and when the opportunity comes - seize it!] 42.dxe5 Qg4+ 43.Rf3 Nb5 44.e6+ Ke8 45.exf7+ Kxf7 46.Bd2 Nxc3+ 47.Bxc3 Qc4+ 48.Rd3 Qxc5 [Rey creates connected passed pawns and in one last display of patience,

methodically advances them over the last 15 moves of the game.] 49.f6 Qc4 50.Ke3 c5 51.Kd2 d4 52.Bb2 Kxf6 53.Rf3+ Ke5 54.Rd3 Kf4 55.Rh3 Kg4 56.Rd3 Qd5 57.Kc2 Qe4 58.Kd2 Qg2+ 59.Kc1 Qf1+ 60.Kc2 Qe2+ 61.Rd2 Qc4+ 62.Kb1 Kf3 63.Rc2 Qd3 64.Bc1 c4 65.Bd2 c3 66.Bxc3 dxc3 0-1

Guest Annotator: Charisse Woods



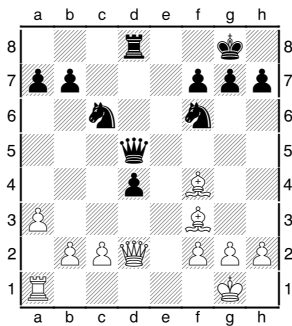
*[This game was played in October 2019 at the World Youth Chess Championships in Mumbai, India.*

*The environment was very welcoming, as all the staff were all very polite and friendly. We were there for almost 2 weeks, with 11 rounds over 10 days. I'd honestly love to play in this tournament a third time, since it always brings a new cultural experience for me.]*

**Woods, Charisse (1906) – De Rycke, Tyani (2000) [B45] Sicilian Defense ( 4 knights )**

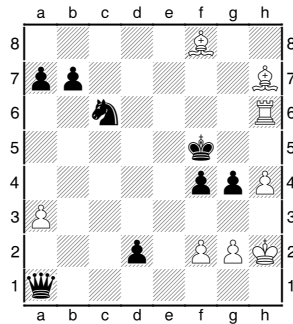
World Youth Chess Champs Mumbai, 10.2019 [C. Woods]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 [4...Nc6 is okay too.] 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.exd5 exd5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 d4 12.Ne2 Bg4 13.Bg5 Qd6 14.Re1 Rfe8 15.Qd2 Bxe2 16.Bf4! [Important in-between move.] 16...Qd5 17.Rxe2 Rxe2 18.Bxe2 Rd8 19.Bf3 [diagram]



Up to this point this was all theory. The first 20 moves were exactly what I had prepared that morning.] 19...Qb5 20.Rb1 h6 21.h3 Nd5 22.Bg3 [22.Be2 is better preventing 22...Nc3+ and planning to relocate the B on c4.] 22...Nc3! 23.Re1 Qxb2 24.Bh4 Rf8 25.Kh1 Nb5 26.Bd5 [The

text doesn't really help remedy my cramped situation; better would be to play a4 to make the knight move and try to simplify the position a bit more.] 26...Qc3 27.Qe2?? Nc7 [27...Na3 28.Na3 was slightly better but there was no real coming back after Qe2??] 28.Be4 Re8 29.Bg3 f5 30.Bd5+ Kh7 31.Qxe8 Nxe8 32.Rxe8 g5 33.Bd6 Qxc2 34.Rc8 Qb1+ [34...d3] 35.Kh2 d3 36.Bf7 Kg7 37.Rc7 Kf6 38.Bg8 d2 39.Rf7+ Kg6 40.Bf8 Qa1?? [Promoting the d-pawn was much better. This blunder actually made the position equal!] 41.Rh7 g4 42.h4 f4 43.Rxh6+ Kf5 44.Bh7+



All I had to do was keep checking with Rh5 and I would have held the draw, but I didn't calculate correctly, and thought this drew as well.] 44...Ke5 45.Bg7+ Kd5 46.Bxa1 d1Q 47.Bg7 Kc5 48.Rg6 Qe2 49.h5 g3+ 50.fxg3 Qxh5+ 51.Kg1 Qxh7 52.Rg5+ Kc4 53.gxf4 Nd4 54.Bxd4 Kxd4 55.a4 Ke4 56.g3 Kf3 57.Rc5 Qb1+ 58.Kh2 Qb2+ 59.Kh3 Qh8+ 60.Rh5 Qxh5#

Of chess it has been said that life is not long enough for it – but that is the fault of life, not chess. -Napier

**The Perplexing Problems of Kenneth S. Howard from The American Two-Move Chess Problem; Dover Publications; 1962.**

- #1 Bf1 A.J. Fink - 1944
- #2 a6 J. Buchwald - 1948
- #3 Qa4 J. Buchwald - 1945
- #4 Nf8 E. Holiday - 1945
- #5 Qc5 V.L. Eaton - 1946
- #6 Qc7 J. Buchwald - 1946

*Chess... is a form of intellectual productiveness; therein lies its peculiar charm. Intellectual productiveness is one of the greatest joys – if not the greatest one – of human existence. It is not everyone who can write a play, or build a bridge, or even make a good joke. But in chess, everyone can, everyone must, be intellectually productive and so can share in this select delight. I have always a slight feeling of pity for the man who has no knowledge of chess, just as I would pity the man who remained ignorant of love. Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy. – Tarrasch*

*Chess originated from warfare. In olden times two armies opposed to each other took up their positions in nearly straight line, separated by a nearly level plane. A general, to make his plans clear to his officers, sketched the position and indicated movements of bodies of men. In this way military games such as chess were generated – Emanuel Lasker*

For club updates or new club listings, please contact Samantha Shaffer at [shaffer1022@gmail.com](mailto:shaffer1022@gmail.com). Club information must be confirmed yearly to remain active on the MCA Club listing page. Clubs will also be listed on the MCA website ([www.michess.org](http://www.michess.org))

**Contact your club to see when it will resume meeting!**

**Big Rapids Chess Club – Thurs 5-7:00 pm.;** Big Rapids Community Library; 426 South Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids Michigan 49307. Clifton Franklund, 231-349-3256, [cliftonfranklund@ferris.edu](mailto:cliftonfranklund@ferris.edu); Webstie: <https://bigrapidschess.com>

**Cultivate Chess Club – Wed: 6:00-11:00pm.;** Bring clocks for Blitz; Cultivate Coffee and Tap House; 307 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198. Justin Meek, 734-619-9433; [justinmeek81@gmail.com](mailto:justinmeek81@gmail.com)

**Dearborn, Ford Chess Club – Tue: 5:00-9:00pm.;** Ford Motor Co World Headquarters Cafe, 1 American Road, Dearborn MI 48126; North Entrance (far rear of building opposite Michigan Ave), Westbound side of Michigan Ave, just East of Southfield Fwy; Sign in at Security Desk upon entry. After 6pm doors locked so use phone located on left wall to gain entrance or call (313) 323-1133 or (313) 407-1989. ALL ARE WELCOME, no cost/fees! Contact: Norm Haygood (248) 366-0954 (H) or (313) 407-1989 (C); [nhaygoodjr@aol.com](mailto:nhaygoodjr@aol.com) or Larry Castleberry (313) 549-5259 - [lcastleb@ford.com](mailto:lcastleb@ford.com)

**Detroit City Chess Club – Fri: 4:00-8:00pm.;** Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202; e-mail: [detroitchess@gmail.com](mailto:detroitchess@gmail.com) Phone: 888-888-8141 <http://www.detroitchessclub.com>

**Flint Chess Academy - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat: 3:00-5:30pm.;** Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St, Flint, MI 48502; Check the Library website calendar to confirm dates: <http://www.fpl.info/>; Eric Earnest, 810-210-0517 / 810-965-6794; e-mail: [ericearnest@yahoo.com](mailto:ericearnest@yahoo.com)

**Flint, Genesee County Chess Club – Tue: 6:30-9:30pm.;** Eastside Senior Citizens Center Activity Room, 3065 N. Genesee Rd; Flint, MI 48506; Jeff Aldrich (810) 955-7271, e-mail: [jeffchess64@gmail.com](mailto:jeffchess64@gmail.com)

**Grand Rapids Chess Club -** <http://www.grandrapidschesscenter.org> Michael Brooks, G.R.C.C. Director; [michaelforwinterpromise@gmail.com](mailto:michaelforwinterpromise@gmail.com) Phone: 616-334-0220 (best by text)

**Grosse Pointe Chess Club – Wed: 6:00-8:00pm.;** Mandell Chess Club; 21539 Harper Ave.; St. Clair Shores, MI 48080; Tim Kuhn - 313.451.1071; e-mail: [timckuhn53@gmail.com](mailto:timckuhn53@gmail.com) - for more info check out "Grosse Pointe Chess" on Facebook.

**Jackson Chess Club – Thu: 7:00-12:00pm.;** Cottage Inn Pizza, 1208 W Michigan Ave, Jackson MI 49202; James Stockham email: [jimio73@comcast.net](mailto:jimio73@comcast.net); 517-395-4704

**Knights of the Square Table – Fri: 7:00-10:00 pm.;** Rough Draft/Hillsdale, MI, 42 Union St., Hillsdale, MI 49242; (To stay updated, join our public chess group on Facebook, Knights of the Square Table.) ; Hannah Stewart, (269)-275-9527, email: [hrstewart16@gmail.com](mailto:hrstewart16@gmail.com)

**Lansing Chess Club – Wed: 6:00-10:00pm.;** Room #312, 422 North Washington Square, Lansing MI 48933; Tony Nichols e-mail: [sensie48910@yahoo.com](mailto:sensie48910@yahoo.com); 517-763-6756.

**Linden Chess Club – Tues: 5:45-8:30 pm.;** Linde Faith Recreational Rm. 4518 Silver Lk Rd., Linden, MI 48451; Gus Samanigo [oc203998@gmail.com](mailto:oc203998@gmail.com); 810-923-3847 Website: [www.facebook.com/LindenChessClub/](http://www.facebook.com/LindenChessClub/)

**Livingston County Chess Club – Mon: 6:00-9:00pm.;** Hartland Senior Center, 9525 E. Highland Rd (M-59), Howell, MI 48843, ¼-mile west of US-23; Mike Nikitin 810-599-6770; Website: <http://www.livingstoncountychessclub.blogspot.com/> Email: [livingstoncountychessclub@hotmail.com](mailto:livingstoncountychessclub@hotmail.com)

**Novi Chess Club – Thu: 6:30-8:00pm.;** Novi Public Library, 45255 W 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48375 -1<sup>st</sup> floor kids activity rm. – Bring boards & pieces; Sundar Rajan; [chess.novi@gmail.com](mailto:chess.novi@gmail.com)

**Oakland County Chess Club – 6:00 PM, every 6 weeks or so ;** Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Highland Rd. (Near M59 & Pontiac Lake Rd.) Waterford MI 48328, schedule of meetings can be found on facebook: [facebook.com/oaklandcountychessclub](http://facebook.com/oaklandcountychessclub), Contact Matt Berg, 248-576-7754, [bergles@yahoo.com](mailto:bergles@yahoo.com)

**Okemos Chess Club – Thu: 3-5:00pm.;** Okemos H.S. ; 2800 Jolly Rd, Okemos, MI 48864; Contact: Chandan Aralikkatti; 517-775-0401; [chand4ara@gmail.com](mailto:chand4ara@gmail.com)

**Plymouth Library Chess Club - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thu: 3:30 -5:30pm.;** Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170. Casual games and light refreshments served; Tim Sherman : email: [tsherman@plymouthlibrary.org](mailto:tsherman@plymouthlibrary.org); Phone: 734-453-0750. Website: [plymouthlibrary.org](http://plymouthlibrary.org)

**Port Huron Chess Club – Thu: 6:30-10:00pm.;** (except holidays); Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour St, Port Huron, 48460; Lon Rutkofske (810) 388-9219 e-mail: [ishking@aol.com](mailto:ishking@aol.com); Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.yolasite.com>

**South Bend Chess Club (IN) – Thu: 7:00-10:00pm.;** Meijer Store, 5020 Grape Rd, Mishawaka, IN - 4 Miles south of State line. Grape Rd 1/4 Mile South of Douglas Rd. Roger Blaine (574) 257-9033; e-mail: [reblaine@hotmail.com](mailto:reblaine@hotmail.com)

**South Bend, Chicory Cafe Chess Club (IN.) - Mon: 6:00-9:00pm.;** Chicory Cafe, 105 E. Jefferson Blvd. at Michigan St., South Bend IN. Contact Roger Blaine, (574) 257-9033, e-mail: [zotshot@hotmail.com](mailto:zotshot@hotmail.com)

**South Haven Chess Club – Tues: 5:00-10:30pm.;** Burger King, 752 Lagrange, South Haven, MI 49090 (On Broadway US 43...south of downtown) Contact: David Carlson, (269)-637-1003; email: [dhcaow@gmail.com](mailto:dhcaow@gmail.com)

**Spencer Street Chess Club – Most Tues: 6:30-9:00pm.;** 214 Spencer St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI; (We are a thriving chess club offering casual or rated play with players of all strengths.) Contact: Michael Brooks – [michaelforwinterpromise@gmail.com](mailto:michaelforwinterpromise@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/spencerstchess](http://www.facebook.com/spencerstchess)

**St. Clair Chess Club – Sat: 10am.- 4:00pm.;** St. Clair Burger King - 205 Clinton Ave. – Tom Broyles 810-326-0121 ; e-mail: [tjbroyles@aol.com](mailto:tjbroyles@aol.com) ( All but major holidays/weekends.)

**Steeplechess Knights – Fridays: 3-4:30 pm.;** Tamarack District Library - 832 S. Lincoln Ave., Lakeview, MI 48850; Beginner chess lessons and mentoring available, K-12 scholastic tournaments; Everyone Welcome; Contact: Bethany Wheeler, (231)-354-6613, email: [mrspatrickwheeler@gmail.com](mailto:mrspatrickwheeler@gmail.com)

**Traverse City Chess Club – Wed. 7-10:00PM at Horizon Books and Sat. 1-5:00PM at Books a Million.;** Contact Andrew Beider 248-227-7236 for information or by email; [andybeider@gmail.com](mailto:andybeider@gmail.com)

**Troy Youth All-Star Chess Club - Sat: 3:00-5:00pm.;** Troy Community Center -3179 Livernois Rd, Troy, MI 48083. The club is open to any K-12 students who are interested in improving his/her chess skills. Come in and have fun! Club information: <http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/TYASCC/>. Feng Zhong, [xyzf99@yahoo.com](mailto:xyzf99@yahoo.com) (248)825-6192 Chris Hausner, [chausner\\_mi@yahoo.com](mailto:chausner_mi@yahoo.com) - (313) 575-5617.

**Universal Chess Club - Mon-Sat: 12:00-6:00pm, Sun 12:00-5:00pm.;** 5101 E. 9 mile Rd., Warren, MI. 48091-(between 9 mile & Mound Rd. on north side of 9 Mile); Ed Mandell (586) 558-4790 e-mail: [allthekingsmench@aol.com](mailto:allthekingsmench@aol.com); Website: [www.allthekingsmenchess.com](http://www.allthekingsmenchess.com); All Ages/strengths welcome! Sets provided; clocks for rent. Snacks & beverages are available for purchase.

**Young Bishops Kids Chess Club – Wed: 3:15-5:45pm.;** Fresh Wind Christian Community Church - 18201 Honor Highway Interlochen, MI. (The church is right on US31/Honor Hwy.) (This chess club is operated as a Christian ministry of Fresh Wind Christian Community Church, so Biblical teachings and community service are incorporated into the meetings as well.) Eric Haan (231)-383-1180; email: [erick.r.haan@gmail.com](mailto:erick.r.haan@gmail.com) website: [www.facebook.com/YoungBishopsChessClub](http://www.facebook.com/YoungBishopsChessClub)

**Ypsilanti Chess Club - Thurs: 6-9:00pm.;** St. Marks Lutheran Church -1515 S Harris Rd. Ypsilanti, MI 48198; (Short lecture for kids on fundamental chess principles. All skill levels are welcome. Boards are provided. If you like blitz, bring a clock.) Justin Meek; 734-619-9433; [Justinmeek81@gmail.com](mailto:Justinmeek81@gmail.com)

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**Michigan's Top 100**  
From USCF Website Rating List  
(Regular Rated as of January 1, 2021)

**Current Michigan Champions**

Rnk	Player	Rtng	Rnk	Player	Rtng
1	GM ROGELIO ANTONIO JR.	2574	51	DANIEL MOTOC	1887
2	IM ATULYA SHETTY	2570	52	ZACHARY SMITH	1885
3	IM EDWARD SONG	2490	53	MIKE MEI	1874
4	FM MARK HEIMANN	2485	54	MICHAEL D BROOKS	1865
5	IM BEN LI	2477	55	BRYAN WILSON	1865
6	FM JOSHUA POSTHUMA	2412	56	ROBERT BEMBEN	1862
7	JAMES CANTY III	2317	57	AYUSH DAS	1857
8	MAURO LOPEZ	2292	58	JESSE REN	1857
9	JUSTIN SUN LIANG	2250	59	RYAN R WANG	1841
10	MANIS DAVIDOVICH	2208	60	ETHAN LYU	1838
11	TIMOTHY MCGREW	2201	61	YULE XIE	1833
12	ERIC V FISCHVOGT	2200	62	FREDERICK LAHR	1832
13	KEVIN NOREN	2200	63	WILL BROOKS	1821
14	MICHAEL ZHENG	2178	64	DAVID SEYFERTH	1819
15	ANTHONY NICHOLS	2143	65	GARY T MORTON	1812
16	SURYA PARASURAMAN	2138	66	LONNIE RUTKOSKE	1807
17	ANDREW SCHREMSER	2119	67	MATTHEW MORABITO	1803
18	WILLIAM E FULLER	2104	68	MICHAEL SKIDMORE	1800
19	CLARA MCGREW	2102	69	DONALD MASON	1800
20	WFM SASHA KONOVALENKO	2096	70	THOMAS TRIPLETT	1800
21	AKASH NARAYANAN	2085	71	KRISHNA VENKATASUBBA	1793
22	GJERGJ DODAJ	2047	72	HUNTER REED	1792
23	BRADLEY K ROGERS	2044	73	SIDDHARTH JHA	1786
24	KAMERON LEE TOLLIVER	2043	74	LEYOU JIANG	1774
25	DEVIN J CAMENARES	2041	75	JUSTIN ALDRICH	1774
26	JUSTIN L BROWN	2039	76	ALEXANDER BEMBEN	1765
27	JASON MORRIS	2030	77	JEFFREY GUILFOYLE	1755
28	MANMOHAN DAS	2019	78	ALAN ZHENG	1744
29	JAMES SAWASKI	2017	79	JONATHAN SILVERSTEIN	1730
30	JOHN R DREXEL	2012	80	TOM A MANION	1729
31	HUGO JU NAM	2006	81	RAJESH ANAND	1722
32	MORGAN EVERETT	2000	82	LARRANCE XING	1711
33	ADHVAITH RAJANISH	1999	83	ALEX STROBEHN	1707
34	DOUG FICK II	1991	84	ANTHONY H BEE	1705
35	ALAN GREGG	1970	85	GABRIEL MAGUIRE	1705
36	MR. AIDEN SONG	1959	86	VICTOR PESOLA	1693
37	DANIEL SAJKOWSKI	1956	87	TORRANCE HENRY JR.	1690
38	DAN HRONCHEK	1947	88	BRANDON EELBODE	1682
39	STANLEY JAROSZ	1942	89	ALEXIS S TURKALO	1677
40	EDDIE BARBER	1942	90	DANIEL GARCIA	1677
41	HUSO AVDIC	1942	91	JOSHUA MUIR	1676
42	GREGORY BAILEY	1927	92	ALEX GUO	1673
43	JEFF ALDRICH	1921	93	MICHAEL ALDRICH	1668
44	H TIM RITTER	1913	94	TIMOTHY KUHN	1661
45	NICK SCHWERIN	1913	95	ALEX KONG	1661
46	MATTHEW TRUJILLO	1911	96	JAMES TRACZ	1660
47	CHARISSE WOODS	1905	97	KIRK MCCOLLINS	1660
48	NATHAN OUYANG	1902	98	ARJUN BAJAJ	1655
49	JAMES DEAN	1890	99	KALMAN VANDERHOEK	1654
50	HANSHI ZUO	1888	100	DAUT YAKUPOV	1651

2020 Michigan Open	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Open Reserve	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Open Booster	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Amateur	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Master/Expert	Mark Heiman
2020 Expert Champion	Sasha Konovalenko
2020 Class A Champion	Alan Gregg, Raymond Garrison
2020 Class B Champion	Patrick Kidwell, Hunter Reed, Waleed Yassine
2020 Class C Champion	Jonathan Silverstein, Zachary Johnson,
2020 Class D Champion	Kaylan Bhaumik
2020 Class E Champion	Marcus Zheng
2020 Novice Champion	Peter Bruder
2020 Michigan Action	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Speed	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Senior Champion	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Senior Reserve Champion	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Senior Novice Champion	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Women's	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Bottom-Half Class Open	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Bottom-Half Class U1900	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Bottom-Half Class U1700	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Bottom-Half Class U1500	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Bottom-Half Class U1300	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Bottom-Half Class U900/Unr	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Primary K-3 Team	Ann Arbor King Carlsen
2020 Elementary K-5 Team Reserve	Ann Arbor Dicken, Detroit Chrysler
2020 Elementary K-6 Team	Detroit Cornerstone Blue
2020 Junior High K-9 Team	Boulan Park MS A
2020 Junior High K-9 Team Reserve	Detroit Bates Gold
2020 High School 9-12 Team	Detroit Cass Tech HS Green
2020 High School K-12 Team Reserve	U of D Jesuit A, Detroit Renaissance HS A
2020 Michigan Junior	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Young Junior	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Young Junior Reserve	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Children's	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Children's Reserve	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Young Children's	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Michigan Young Children's Reserve	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-12 Team	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-12 Individual	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-8 Team	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-8 Individual	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-5 Team	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-5 Individual	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-3 Team	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Scholastic Club K-3 Individual	Canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic