



White Knight Review

Chess Magazine

Online E-Magazine

Volume 1 • Issue 1

September October 2010

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS AND CHESS



The Fischer King:

The illusive life of Bobby Fischer Pt. 1

Sight Unseen-The Art of Blindfold Chess

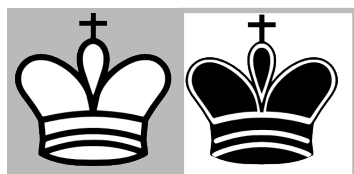
CHESS- theres an app for that!

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

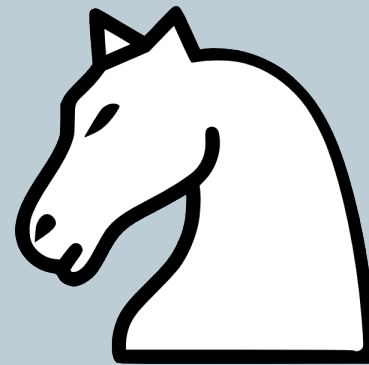
Street Players and Hustlers

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My Move

jerry_wall@comcast.net

editorial



Welcome to our inaugural Issue of White Knight Review. This chess magazine was the natural outcome of the vision of 3 brothers.

The unique corroboration and the divers talent of the "Wall boys" set in motion the idea of putting together this

online publication.

The oldest of the three is my brother Bill. He is by far the Chess expert of the group being the author of over 30 chess books, several websites on the internet and a highly respected player in the chess world. His books and articles have spanned the globe and have become a wellspring of knowledge for both beginners and masters alike.

Our younger brother is the entrepreneur who's initial idea of a marketable website and promoting resource material for chess players became the beginning focus on this endeavor. His sales and promotion experience is an integral part to the project.

My background has always been in printing, graphics, and publishing so I'm the hands on man. There are many great chess sites out there (including ours) as well as chess publications but what we wanted to do was bring the information to the visual forefront in a digital form. An e-magazine enables us to bring a quality product in the most affordable manner.

This Magazine is totally interactive. That means that you can click on e-mail addresses to open your e-mail program and send an e-mail. You can click on URL links and be sent to the website. You can even click on all ads and automatically be sent to their website. Please visit our ad sponsors because they enable this to be a free subscription. Also visit our own website and chess store at www.offthewallchess.com.

The world of Chess is rich with information to help players excel at any level. Hopefully this publication will serve to inform, enlighten, instruct and improve the reader in all things chess.

Gerald (Jerry) Wall
Editor



White Knight Review

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TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

by Bill Wall

Chess is played on the streets in New York, Atlanta, New Orleans, Boston, San Francisco and other major cities. Some are hustlers and some are strong masters. Technically, for most areas, playing chess for money on the streets is unlawful gambling, but not enforced very much. Some police officers and lawyers say that since hustlers were not taking a cut of the stakes, that it may not be illegal like gaming houses, who do take a cut at the stakes. It is also difficult to see any money changing hands. Don't flash the money. The cash is supposed to be inconspicuous. The winnings are usually exchanged in a handshake.

Hustlers say they have never had any problems with the police. And is it really hustling? After all, the opponent does not know the hustler's strength, and the hustler doesn't know the opponent's strength. Either one could be a master or grandmaster. Now that's hustling if it is some grandmaster, either as opponent or hustler.

During the Depression, actor Humphrey Bogart, perhaps an expert chess player, would hustle chess for 25 cents a game in Times Square and Coney Island.

Arnold Denker and Al Horwitz were also chess hustlers during the Depression. He seemed to have been a chess hustler on and off from 1929 through 1933.

In the 1960s, director Stanley Kubrick played lots of chess against many of the street chess hustlers in Washington Square Park in New York. He knew which ones were strong and which ones were weak. Kubrick was a fair chess player. Early in his career, Kubrick played chess for money in the New York parks.

In the mid 1960s, American composer, saxophonist, flutist musician Anthony Braxton was a chess hustler in Washington Square Park. He gave up chess and took up music and has released over 100 albums since 1968. He would start off hustling for a dollar or two and lose, then raise the stakes to \$5 a game, then try to win as much money as he could. He averaged making \$15 a day (minimum wage



was \$1 an hour),

On any given day, except for snow storms and rain outs, one is likely to see a table set up on a sidewalk or a park with four or five chess sets and clocks, each manned and ready for some blitz action. The boards are usually surrounded by a small crowd of spectators and gawking tourists who know nothing about the game (is it like checkers?).

In Boston, they play at Harvard Square. In San Francisco, they play at the corner of Market and Powell Streets.

In Washington, D.C., the play is at Dupont Circle, which has been going on for over 30 years. In New Orleans, you may be able to play a chess game with National Master

Jude Acers at the Gazebo, on the sidewalk of Canal Street between Baronne and S. Rampart. In Queens, there are usually park benches and chess players Forest Park on Woodhaven Blvd, near Myrtle Street.

In New York, a man known as Russian Paul (actually from the Ukraine) plays chess in Union Square Park in Lower Manhattan. He has been doing it for almost 20 years. He says he does not play for money, but does charge \$45 an hour for chess lessons.

Another hustler, Little Daddy (he is 5 feet 3 inches tall), has been playing street chess since 1976. He wins about 80% of his games in blitz. He says that you cannot hustle chess and have a girlfriend, "...because they

don't want you playing chess all night."

Another hustler is Junior, who always wears a baseball cap and talks trash as he chain-smokes is way through his chess games.

Master Rock (Leonard) is a part-time chess hustler in New York. His normal job is in the billing department at Manhattan Total Health.

For regular New York chess players in Union Square Park, Washington Square Park and St. Nicholas Avenue and 141st Street, the game of chess is fast and can be lucrative to some of the chess hustlers who thrive on blitz chess (mostly 5-minute games played with chess clocks). Some of the blitz chess players try to make a living, or at least pocket money, from hustling. Chess hustling is a city game, played with chess clocks (analog or digital), that is fast and gritty. On the street, the bets are usually \$5 a game, usually 5-minute chess. Good chess hustlers can make up to \$200 on a good day, but most hustlers make much less than that.

During the 1980s, Israel Zilber, a former Latvian chess champion (he once beat former world champion Mikhail Tal) in 1958, hustled chess in Washington Square Park. He was homeless (he slept on a bench in the park at night) and made his money hustling chess. To chess players and tourists, he offered a choice: for a dollar he would pose for a photograph (the man who beat Tal) or play you in a game of chess.

Sweet Pea (Bobby Plummer), who lives in Brooklyn, is another chess hustler in Washington Square Park or Bryant Park. He would stake out a good table early and bark out the offer of a game of chess to any passerby. He has been hustling chess for about 20 years. He plays about 25 games a day, making about \$75 on a good day. Sweet Pea was a short man who would sit on top of stacks of newspapers to make himself the same height as his opponent.

The southwest chess corner of the Washington Square Park was the setting for the 1993 film *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, a story based on the life of chess prodigy Joshua Waitzkin, who learned much of his chess from the chess hustlers of the park. Other notable chess players

who played at Washington Square Park include Joel Benjamin, Roman Dzindzichashvili, Kamaran Shirazi, Bruce Pandolfini, Hikaru Nakamura, Maurice Ashley, Asa Hoffman, William Morrison (known as the exterminator and became an International Master), and Bobby Fischer in the 1950s.

Josua Waitzkin wrote that he began playing at six years of age in Washington Square Park. His first opponents were chess hustles, ex-cons, drug dealers, foul-mouthed gamblers, big jokers, and crafty tactical players who tried to lure a passerby into a game of chess for 50 cents or a dollar.

In Washington D.C., "Jo-Jo" has been playing and hustling chess for over 20 years at Dupont Circle Park. He is homeless and spends most of his time at the park where he plays chess to make quick cash. When playing chess, the conversation is often loud, with a few mock insults thrown at each other. Jo-Jo estimates that he makes \$100 a week hustling chess, which he uses for food, cigarettes and brown-bagged beer.

In Toronto, the most famous chess hustler was Polish native Josef Smolij. He played chess on the sidewalk along Gould Street. He would lose a game maybe once every two week. He would unleash a barrage of Polish-accented bravado that infuriated his opponents, but entertained all those that stopped by to watch. When his opponent would make a blunder, Smolij would say, "In Russia they send you to Siberia for that one. Yes, is true. Player scared to make bad moof in Russia." The games provided Smolif his sole source of income.

His motto was, "I am poor in the pocket but rich in the mind. He played chess every single day on the streets from April 1979 to February 1985, when he was admitted to a hospital for hyperthermia and severe gall stones.

The beginning of a usual street chess conversation between hustler and future opponent (victim) is this. The passerby sees someone sitting at a table with a chess set. "Hey! You play chess?" "Yeah, I know how to play a little." "Care for a game? Five minute game? Ten-minute game? Any time you want, man." "Well...I don't know..." "Aw, c'mon, man. One

quick game. I've only been playing a year." "OK." "Five a game?" "Two." "Come on, man. That's not even minimum wage. Three."

Inexperienced chess opponents are easy to spot. They are the ones that fumble the pieces, or uses one had to move the pieces and the other hand to hit the clock, which is against the normal rules of chess.

For hustlers, a crucial part of the game is not to win too quickly, or get a losing position, but win on time. This allows the opponent to think he almost won, and will usually try to play another game. The games have to be close and hustlers do not want to crush their opponent. They try to leave their opponent's ego intact and try to convince the opponent that he almost won, because the hustler wants to keep his opponent coming back.

The returning opponents are known as regulars, or customers. Chess hustlers have their regulars and like to play the same people over and over again, inspiring their customers to feel that they are just on the verge of beating the street chess player.

Most customers lose \$10 to \$20 before quitting. Sometimes they get lucky and take a game from these chess hustlers. Some customers have admitted losing many or all their games to these hustlers, but also admitted that the hustlers helped improve their game, especially blitz chess.

To survive as a chess hustler, you have to be a fighter and play aggressive chess. Defensive chess is too slow. You also have to handle any kind of distraction, from boom boxes to trash talk. Chess hustlers usually never play in chess tournaments. Street players are generally good at blitz chess, but bad at chess with longer time controls where an opponent has time to set up a defense.

Street players learned their game from trial and error instead of instruction or study. Their openings are usually unsophisticated and full of gambits.

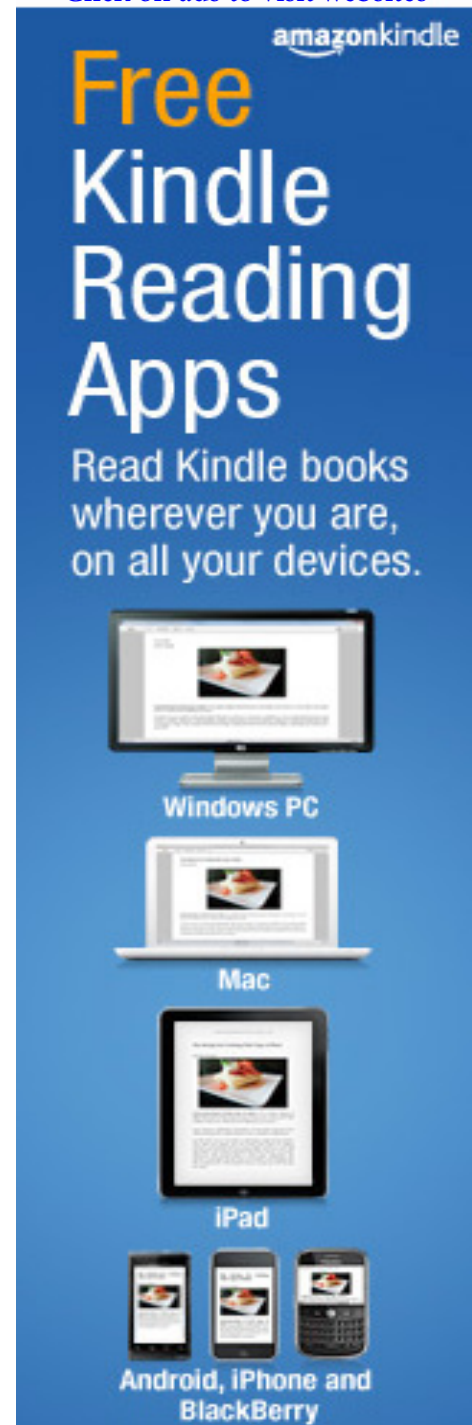
In the middle game, they play a sharp and aggressive style, relying on tactics, combinations, and swindles, but lacking strategical concepts. They usually know all the opening traps.



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When a chess hustler get out-hustled, the usual scam is that the hustler says he will be right back, that he needs to go to the bathroom.

He usually doesn't come back after that and his opponent is out \$5. Some will accept their losses and blame it on distractions and lack of coffee.

Another scam that hustlers may use is allowing their chess clock to be used that runs faster for the opponent or slower for the hustler.

Sometimes hustler rig their clock so as to win on time in most instances. To beat this scam, if you think the clock is rigged, ask the hustler to put the clock on the other side of the board. That way, you switch clocks that may now be in your favor. If the chess hustler refuses to put the clock on the side asked by his opponent, chances are the clock is defective. Usually Black has a choice of sides of where the clock should be placed. In most instances, the hustler chooses the white pieces, so the opponent should have the choice of which side to put the clock on.

Know the rules before start playing the hustler. Find out if it is touch-move (as in tournaments) or clock-move (more common in blitz games).

Touch-move means that if you touch a piece, you must move it if it is a legal move. Clock-move means that your move is not done until you punch the clock. Also expect the hustler to slam, slap, and pound the chess pieces on the chess board.

Keep track of the number of games that someone is up. Hustlers, if they are winning, will say they are up three games, when, in fact, they may only be up by two games.

Verify the amount of money you are playing for each game. You may have thought you were playing

\$2 a game, when, in fact, you were playing for \$5 a game. After 3 lost games, you owe \$15 and not \$6.

Some hustlers will lose a few games on purpose at \$5 a game, then raise the stakes to \$10 a game. They suddenly begin to win every game after that.

It is illegal for two chess pieces to occupy the same square simultaneously, nor can they ever be placed on the dividing lines between squares.

Chess hustlers usually often try to confuse their opponents into thinking a piece is on a neighboring square by moving close or partially over an intersection.

It's a good idea to hang out awhile first and study your prospective opponent in action. It's still hard to tell a street chess player's strength until you've played him a few times.

Don't assume that if some hustler plays a dubious opening (like 1.g4 or 1.h4), that he is no good. They are good at what they do and what they play. Chess hustlers use psychology and play

dubious moves to get you overconfident. They will usually play faster than you do, so if you slow down, you may be winning the game, but will lose on time. Hustlers usually try to win with just a few seconds left on their clock.

Some of the street chess players simply say they don't gamble, so the games are \$5 for two games, win or lose. Some will advertise they are a chess master, but most are not.

If street chess becomes too much hustling, gambling, swearing, etc, then it may not be a safe place to play chess, particularly for kids.

Find a good chess club or play on the Internet.



Book Review

Diary of a Chess Queen

by Bill Wall

Alexandra Kosteniuk (born April 23, 1984 in Perm, Russia)) became the European Women's Chess Champion in 2004 and the Russian Women's Chess Champion in 2005.

In 2008, she won the Women's World Championship. Alexandra chronicles her rise to the top of the women's chess world in this autobiographical work.

Drawing from her personal diaries kept during her youth, Alexandra takes the reader from the very beginning of her chess career in Russia to the pinnacle of success in women's chess.

The book is broken up into 11 chapters. Chapter 1 is entitled "Those Wonderful Childhood Years." Chapter 2 describes Elista, the City of Chess. Chapter 3 is entitled "School Days." Chapter 4 is "Kremlin Breakdown." Chapter 5 is called "After the Applause Died Down." Chapter 6 is "The Conquest of Europe," Chapter 7 is "Russian Gold." Chapter 8 is entitled "Career and Family." Chapter 9 is called "Return." Chapter 10 is entitled "Nalchik - The Ascent of Olympus." Chapter 11 is "Being World Champion." An introduction by 12th world chess champion Anatoly Karpov is also included.

Alexandra describes her first acquaintance with chess. On April 23, 1989, she received a chess set and pieces for her 5th birthday. Her dad, Konstantin Vladimirovich Kosteniuk, then began to teach her how to play chess. She played in her first tournament in the fall of 1990, only scoring 2 out of 8.

The next year, in 1991, she scored 6 out of 8, and was awarded the title of Moscow Champion among girls under 10.

In 1992, she scored a perfect 9 out of 9 in the Moscow Championship for girls under 10.

It is interesting to note the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice the family made for Alexandra to play chess.

Her dad gave her his full support, including resigning his Army commission to spend more time supporting her daughter and looking for financial assistance. They were able to find people who supported and aided Alexandra and her family. She has a little sister, Oxana, who is a FIDE master herself.

Reading through the chapters, you can see the evolution of a small, shy girl who sometimes had to hustle chess to earn enough money for her chess tournaments, to an international star - a chess queen.

In 1998, at the age of 14, she was awarded the title of Woman Grandmaster.

In 2000, at the age of 16, she was awarded the title of International Master.

In 2001, at the age of 17, she reached the final of the World Women's Chess Championship, but was defeated by Zhu Chen of China.



In 2004, Alexandra won the European women's championship by winning the tournament in Dresden, Germany. She was also awarded the International Grandmaster title, becoming the 10th woman to be awarded the World Chess Federation's (FIDE) highest title.

In 2005, she won the Russian Women's Championship with 7 wins, 4 draws, and no losses.

In 2006, she became the first Chess960 (Fischer random) women's world champion. She defended her title and won it again in 2008.

In September 2008, she won the Women's World Chess Championship after defeating Hou Yifan of China by the score of 2.5 to 1.5. She is the 14th Women's World Chess Champion.

The book should be of great interest to any chess player, especially the girl chess players interested in how world class chess players start out and how hard they have to work. Alexandra brings new insights in how to go about studying chess and what chess training and practices works or not. At the very beginning, there was an emphasis on blindfold training, playing over many of the elementary positions and solving problems blindfolded.

Alexandra's writing is easily accessible to players of every skill level. Her annotations to her games are good, with the right amount of variations and explanations per game. Alexandra does a good job of promoting chess and making it fun, not boring.

What's interesting is that she is able to balance chess with family, health and fitness and a hectic travel schedule.

In her simuls, she is easily accessible for autographs and pictures. She has appeared in a Russian film, has done product promotions, and has appeared in several fashion magazines.

The book contains over 100 pictures of Alexandra, from the days playing in the Under-10 Moscow Championship to winning the world women's championship title. There are also 64 annotated games and dozens and dozens of diagrams to go along with the games.

A complete tournament and match record is included at the end of the book. A list of opponents and list of openings is also included for all the games that appear in the book. There is also a collection of color photos that occupy an insert in the center of the book.



The book was published in January, 2010 in paperback from MongOOSE Press. There are 244 pages, About 1/3 of the book is text, mostly from here diaries. The remaining 2/3 of the book is devoted to her 64 games and analysis. The book sells for \$24.95.

Alexandra has her own web site, maintained by her husband, at www.kosteniuk.com.

History

Sight Unseen-The History of Blindfold Chess

by Bill Wall

Blindfold chess refers to regular chess, but played without seeing the chess board. The blindfold player (not really blindfolded, just out of sight of the boards) is told the opponent's move, then announces his own, usually to a referee, who makes the move on the opponent's board.

HISTORY

Perhaps the first blindfold game was played by Sa'id bin Jubair (665-714) who was to play one game of chess without site of board, and not feel the pieces while playing, in the Middle East.

In 1265 the Muslim player Buzecca was playing chess blindfolded. It was said that he played two games blindfolded in Florence in 1265.

In 1744 Philidor played 2 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Paris. This was the first time blindfold play against two opponents was recorded. He said he had learned how to play blindfold chess when he could not sleep at night, so he played chess in his head without site of a chess board.

In 1751 Philidor played 3 opponents blindfold simultaneously while in Berlin. He won all three games. He was actually blindfolded in the exhibition.

In 1783 Philidor again played 3 opponents blindfold simultaneously.

In 1795 Philidor played his list blindfold exhibition. In London, at the age of 68, he played two games blindfolded and a third game with sight of the board. Philidor died two months later.

In 1857 Louis Paulsen played 4 opponents blindfold simultaneously.

In early 1858 Morphy played 6 opponents blindfold simultaneously in New Orleans.

In 1858 Paul Morphy played 8 opponents blindfold simultaneously. The 8 players were the strongest players in Paris. The games were played in the Cafe de la Regence. The players were Baucher, Bierwith, Guibert, Lequesne, Morneman, Potier, Pret, and Seguin. The exhibition lasted 10 hours. Morphy won 6 and drew 2.

In 1861 Paulsen played 10 opponents blindfold simultaneously in London. He won 9 and lost 1 after six hours of play.

In 1876 Zukertort played 16 opponents blindfold simultaneously.

In the late 19th century, Pillsbury was playing 15 games of chess and 15 games of checkers blindfold simultaneously. The world record for the number of checker games played blindfolded simultaneously is 28.

In 1900 Pillsbury played 17 (New Orleans) then 20 (Philadelphia) opponents blindfold simultaneously.

In 1916 Kostic played 20 opponents blindfold simultaneously in New York.

On August 6, 1919 Reti played 24 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Haarlem, the Netherlands.

In 1921 Gyula played 25 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Berlin. He won



15, drew 7, and lost 3 games. On April 27, 1924 Alekhine played 26 opponents blindfold simultaneously in New York. Alekhine learned how to play blindfold chess when he was confined in a hospital in World War II after a spine injury.

In February 1925, Alekhine played 28 opponents blindfold simultaneously. He won 22, drew 3, and lost 3.

In 1925 Reti played 29 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Sao Paulo. After the exhibition, he was going home and forgot his suitcase. When somebody reminded him about it, Reti said, "Thank you very much. My memory is so bad..."

In 1930 blindfold chess exhibitions were banned in the USSR because it was considered a health hazard on the brain.

In 1933 Alexander Alekhine played 32 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Chicago. He won 19, drew 9, and lost 4 games.

In 1937, George Koltanowski (1903-2000) played 34 opponents simultaneously without sight of board in Edinburgh, Scotland. He won 24 games and drew 10

games. The exhibition lasted 13 1/2 hours.

In 1943 Najdorf played 40 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Rosario, Argentina. He was trying to gain publicity to let his family members in Europe know that he was still alive.

In 1947 Miguel Najdorf broke the world record for blindfold chess by taking on 45 opponents simultaneously at Sao Paolo, Brazil. The display started at 8 pm on January 24, 1947 and finished at 7:30 pm on January 25. He won 39 games, drew 4 games, and only lost 2 games.

In 1955, George Koltanowski, age 51, played 12 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Vancouver, British Columbia. This was the record for the most games blindfolded for a player that reached 50.

In October 1960 Janos Flesch of Hungary played 52 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Budapest. He won 31 games, drew 3 games, and lost 18 games in 12 hours play.

In December 1960 Koltanowski played 56 opponents blindfold consecutive (not simultaneously) in San Francisco. He won 50 games and drew 6 games. The exhibition lasted 9 hours. The moves were made at 10 seconds a move. As soon as a game was over, another person took his place.

In 1986 Leo Williams played 27 opponents blindfold simultaneously in 18 hours and 45 minutes in Montreal. This is a record for a Canadian player. He won 21, drew 3, and lost 1.

In 2004 Jonathan Barry, age 51, played 12 opponents blindfold simultaneously in Iowa. This tied the record for most games played blindfolded for a player over 50.



Humor

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

Every chess player makes up excuses for every situation. Here are some excuses that players say -- and what they really mean.

| EXCUSE | TRUTH |
|---|---|
| Mind if we use my set and board? It's my favorite set and, besides, Larry Christiansen liked it. | My only set is this green and red plastic Florentine set. Christiansen was playing blindfold. |
| Interesting game. Your 12th move must be a theoretical novelty. I have never seen it before. | I was out of book on move three. I seem to be losing after that 12th move that I overlooked. |
| I played this game in a postal match and I crushed my opponent in 15 moves. | This has been played against me in a postal game and I was mated in 15 moves. |
| I unconsciously thought I was playing the guys at work; they don't know en passant so I don't use it. | Not that again. I keep forgetting how the en passant rule works. I forgot the pawn could be captured. |
| Yes, I said "J'adoube" before I touched my Queen. I wasn't going to move it. I'm just adjusting it. Try to listen better next time. | I'm not going to move my Queen now. It would have been trapped. I'll move another piece. Besides, he needs witnesses that I touched it. |
| Fischer played that against Evans in 1963. It's a little known line. I should have played the improvement. | Little known all right. Johnny Fischer lost to Danny Evans the same way back in the elementary school championship |
| Wow! I just played this exact opening in a tournament last week and creamed my opponent. | Actually I was playing a homeless guy in the park who thought he was playing checkers. |
| Yeah, I like to play aggressively on this opening. | Man I knew I should of castled early in the game. |
| Yeah I saw that my knight was forked but thought I saw a way out. | #\$@!*\$! *^#\$@ |
| Yeah sometimes sacrifices just don't work! | Especially when you sacrifice your King. |

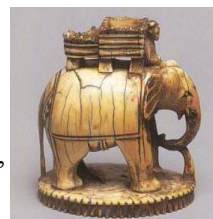


Chessmen

Picking up the Pieces

by Bill Wall

The earliest Indian chess pieces were called shah (king), wazir (counsellor), fil (bishop), asp (knight), rukh



(rook), and piyade (pawn). The earliest Persian names were shah, farzin, pil, asp, rukh, and piyada. In Arabic they were shah, firzan, fil, faras, rukhkh, and baidaq. Countries of the western world translated the earliest names as closely as possible.

In July 2002, an ivory piece less than 2 inches in size was discovered in Butrint, an ancient Mediterranean city in southern Albania. The piece is dated to 465 AD. If this is really a chess piece, then it is the oldest chess piece found anywhere in the world. It even pushes back the date of chess. The piece has a cross on top of it and was found in an old Byzantine or Roman palace.

The earliest known chess pieces (chatrang) were found at Afrasiab, near Samarkand in Uzbekistan. What was found were seven pieces consisting of a king, chariot, vizier, horse, elephant, and 2 soldiers made of ivory. It is dated about 760 AD. A coin, dated 761 was found with the chess pieces.

The Mozarab chess pieces, also known as the pieces of Saint



Genadio, may be as old as the beginning of the 10th century. The four small pieces were made of ivory and preserved in the Mozarabic monastery in Leon, Spain.

The oldest European chessmen may be some Italian chess pieces made of bone with ivory topping. It was found at Venafrò, Italy and is dated about 980 AD. It is displayed in the Museo archeologico di Napoli. The pieces were discovered in a Roman tomb in 1932. The controversy is how to explain how it was possible that chess pieces of Arabic shape were discovered in a tomb of Roman age. Radiocarbon measurements yielded a date of 885 to 1017 AD.

One of the earliest authentic European chess pieces are the Lewis chess pieces, which are now in the British Museum and the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. 67 Lewis chess pieces are in the British Museum, the other 11 in the National Museum. The pieces come from four different chess sets. The set contains the oldest known ecclesiastical bishop.

The Lewis pieces were found in March, 1831 in an underground chamber on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis (Uig Bay) in the Outer Hebrides islands of Scotland. A local peasant, Calum nan Sprot, who was looking for his cow found a small chamber 15

feet below the top of a sandbank that had been partly washed away. The pieces, perhaps made in 1150 by the Norse, were made of walrus tusk and believed to be of Icelandic in origin. The shepherd was terrified by the expressions on the pieces and fled from the spot. He told his minister, Alexander MacLeod, who returned to the sight and exorcised the site, then sold the pieces (67 chessmen and 14 plain draughts men) to the British Museum for 84 British pounds.

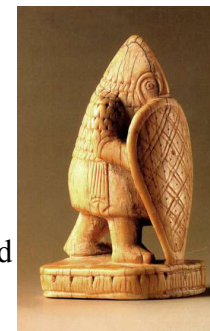
Another early chess set is the so-called Charlemagne chessmen, which is in the Cabinet des Medailles, Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. It is a massive elephant ivory carving. Charlemagne probably never played chess. The so-called Charlemagne chessmen



was at the Saint Denis Abbey near Naples since the end of the 13th century. The pieces are dated around 1100 and were probably made in Salerne, Italy. The pieces may have come to Paris as a gift to French King Philip II or Phillip III. Both kings stopped in Salerne. In 1598 there were 30 pieces. In 1794, after the French Revolution, there were 16 pieces. The set consists of 2 kings, 2 queens, 4 elephants, 4 knights, 3 chariots, and 1 foot soldier.

A piece that is part of the Charlemagne set is a King Elephant. It carries an Arab (Kufic) inscription which

translates as "made by Yusuf al-Bahilis." Its origin is India and it may not even be a chess piece. It has an Eastern leader being carried by an elephant, surrounded by a row of horsemen acting as supporters.



One of the first chessmen designs came from John Calvert in 1790. The king and queen had openwork crowns, the bishop had a deep clefted mitre, and the rook was a tower on a pedestal. He produced his chess sets from 1790 to 1841.

In the early 19th century the most common chess design was the St. George chessmen.

In early 1849 Nathaniel Cook designed the Staunton set at a time when players were refusing to play with each other's pieces because of the difficulty in distinguishing the various chess

pieces. The main patterns prior to the Staunton pattern were the Lund, Merrifield, Calvert, Barleycorn, Selenius and St George patterns. Cook used symbols in their plainest form. The king had a crown, the queen had a coronet, the bishop had a mitre, the knight was a horse's head, the rook was a castle, and the pawn was a ball. The horses' heads were based on the Elgin Marbles. These were designs found in the Parthenon frieze and taken to England by Thoms Bruce, 7th Lord of Elgin, in 1806. The pawns were developed from the Freemason's square and compass. Every symbol was supported on a plain stem rising from a heavy, wide base which gave stability.

The design impressed John Jaques, leading wood carver, that he immediately suggested making the pieces on a commercial basis.

Nathaniel Cook was Staunton's editor at the Illustrated London Times.

Jaques was a friend of the

English chess master, Howard Staunton, who sanctioned the request that the design be called the Staunton chessmen. John Jaques was also the brother-in-law of Nathaniel Cook. Jaques obtained a copyright for the design, registering the design under the Ornamental Designs Act of 1842, and began manufacturing the set in London. The wooden pieces were turned from ebony and boxwood and very heavily weighted. Some ivory sets were made from African ivory. King sizes were 3.5 inches or 4.5 inches (for match or tournament play). The first Staunton Pattern chess pieces from Jaques was offered to the public on September 29, 1849.



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Biography

The Fischer King: The illusive life of Bobby Fischer Pt. 1

Bobby Fischer (1943-1958)

Editors Note: The life of Bobby Fischer was a enigma to say the least but his incredible talent and influence on chess is undeniable. He went from chess prodigy at 14, the youngest U.S. champion ever to the vanquisher of the famed Boris Spasky in 1972 in a match followed around the world, to a fugitive from the United States on charges of violating a trade embargo against Yugoslavia, to an increasingly odd recluse, one who denounced Jews and praised the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. In this 2 part series Bill Wall examines his early life and prolific rise in the world of chess.

Robert James (Bobby) Fischer was born at 2:39 pm on March 9, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois (Michael Reese Hospital) to Regina Wender Fischer (born in Switzerland of Polish-Jewish parents on March 31, 1913 and raised in St. Louis, Missouri). For the father, the birth certificate said it was Hans-Gerhardt Fischer (born in Berlin on September 28, 1908). Hans-Gerhardt was a German biophysicist from Berlin. Hans and Regina married on November 4, 1933 in Moscow where Regina was studying medicine at the First Moscow Medical Institute.

Regina started out in medical school in Moscow, but did not graduate. She then became a riveter at a Soviet defense plant. She later became a grade school teacher, a registered nurse, a physician (she first entered medical school in Moscow in 1933 but did not complete her medical degree), and completed a PhD in hematology. She went on to doing pro bono medical work for the poor in Central America and South America. She could speak English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese fluently.

Regina Fischer returned to the United States in 1939. The FBI claims that Hans-Gerhardt Fischer never entered the United States, having been refused admission by US immigration officials because of his alleged Communist sympathies.

Regina had worked as a



1955 Prodigy Fischer astounds his observers at the age of 12

stenographer, a typist, and a shipyard welder in Portland, Oregon, during World War II.

In 1945 Hans-Gerhardt Fischer left the Fischer family and divorced Regina. He was born in Berlin in 1908. He moved to Santiago, Chile. Hans never lived with Regina in the United States. Bobby Fischer never met his father. Regina had custody of Bobby and his older sister, Joan Fischer Targ (born in Moscow in 1938 and died on June 2, 1998 in Portola Valley, California of a cerebral hemorrhage).

In 1948 they moved to Mobile, Arizona where Regina taught in an elementary school.

In 1949 they moved to Brooklyn, New York where Regina worked as an elementary school teacher and a registered nurse at Prospect Heights Hospital in Brooklyn. Regina moved to Brooklyn (Apt Q, 560 Lincoln Place) to get her master's degree in Nursing Education at New York University.

The Fischer family first lived in an apartment at 1059 Union Street in Brooklyn. Later, they moved to a four room apartment on Lincoln Place the corner of Lincoln and Franklin), in a four-story brick building. On the first floor was a

candy store. Regina bought games for her daughter, Joan, and her son, Bobby to keep them amused.

In May 1949, Bobby (age 6) and Joan (age 11) learned how to play chess from instructions found in a chess set that Joan bought at a candy store below their apartment. Bobby recalled later, "At first it [chess] was just a game like any other, only a little more complicated."

Bobby saw his first chess book a month later. He found a book of old chess games while vacationing at Patchogue, Long Island. He spent most of his vacation time poring over this book.

For over a year Bobby played chess by himself. He was so thoroughly absorbed by chess that his mother became worried. She then tried to use chess as a means to get Bobby into contact with other children. Regina Fischer recalled, "Bobby isn't interested in anybody unless they play chess - and there just aren't many children who like it."

On November 14, 1950, Regina Fischer attempted to place an ad in the *Brooklyn Eagle*, looking for chess opponents for her son. The ad, written on a postcard, was never

published because the editorial staff could not decide under what category to place it. The paper then forwarded the ad to Hermann Helms (1870-1963), their chess columnist from 1893 to 1955. He replied on January 13, 1951, and suggested that Bobby go to a chess exhibition at the Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn Public Library at 8 pm to find someone his own age that plays chess. He could also take a board and play Max Pavey (1918-1957), who was giving a simultaneous exhibition. Helms also suggested that Bobby come by the Brooklyn Chess and Checkers Club and talk to Henry Spinner, secretary of the Brooklyn Chess and Checkers Club. It met at the Brooklyn Academy of Music every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday evening.

On January 17, 1951 Bobby, age 7, played a game against Senior Master Dr. Max Pavey, who was giving a simultaneous exhibition at the Grand Army Plaza Library in Brooklyn. Bobby lost in 15 minutes (he lost a Queen) and burst into tears when he lost the game. Another player, Edmar Mednis (1937-2002), age 14, also participated in this simul and drew. Edmar's family fled Riga, Latvia in 1944 and arrived in the U.S. in 1950.

Max Pavey's 1950 USCF rating was 2442 (#15 in the US and about #90 in the world). Five years later, Fischer would draw his game against Pavey in the 3rd Lessing J. Rosenwald and lose to him in the 1956 Manhattan Chess Club semi-finals. Pavey was a medical doctor. In 1939, he won the Scottish championship. In 1947, he was the U.S. Lightning Champion. In 1949, he was the New York State champion. He died of leukemia at the age of 39.

Watching in the crowd was Carmine Domenico Nigro (1910-2001), President of the YMCA chess club in Brooklyn (Frank Brady wrote that he was the President of the Brooklyn Chess Club). Carmine was a musician who played under the title Tommy Little, calling his 7-piece band *Tommy Little and his Orchestra*.

After the game, Carmine (rated 2028) went up to Bobby and invited him to join his club. Carmine Nigro (pronounced NIGH-grow) had been an accomplished band leader in the 1940s and was a stockbroker before

becoming a teaching golf pro.

At the time, Nigro was teaching chess to his son, Billy (Brady wrote that Carmine Nigro's son was named Tommy), and offered to tutor Bobby Fischer as well. Billy was uninterested in chess, and Carmine increased Billy's allowance if Billy agreed to take a lesson in chess. Bobby couldn't wait to have a lesson every Saturday and became absorbed in the game. Nigro tutored Fischer from January 1952 to July 1956, when Nigro moved to Miami.

A few weeks later Bobby joined the Brooklyn Chess Club. Bobby showed up and played chess at the Brooklyn Chess Club almost every Friday night. Bobby later started playing chess at Nigro's house on the weekends and often went with him to play chess at Washington Square Park in Manhattan (Greenwich Village), usually on Sundays. Carmine Nigro was Bobby Fischer's only chess instructor. Fischer spent every weekend at the Nigro house for several years. Bill Nigro wrote, "He [Fischer] was an eccentric kid - he so much loved to win, he would throw the pieces across the room if he lost. I would play a game or two with Fischer, then I was ready to go play outside. He stayed with Dad the whole day."

Regina was worried about her son's obsession with chess and took him to the Children's Psychiatric Division of the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. Bobby was seen by Dr. Harold Kline who told Regina that there were worse preoccupations, and not to worry about it.

Fischer's mother wrote to Paul Nemenyi that the family was too poor to even afford to patch Bobby's torn shoes. Paul Nemenyi may have been Bobby Fischer's real father. He died in 1952 of a heart attack in Washington, DC at the age of 56. He had been paying child support to Regina Fischer until his death.

Bobby Fischer's talent in chess probably helped him obtain a scholarship at Community-Woodward, a private school, when he was in the fourth grade. (Brady, page 7).

Carmine Nigro formed an unofficial chess team with Bobby Fischer, Billy Nigro, and two other boys. They played a match against another team of kids coached by Dr. Harold Sussman (1911-2004), a

chess master in Brooklyn. The teams played two matches. Nigro's team won the first match with a 5-3 score. Bobby drew the first game and won the second game against Raymond Sussman. The score of the 2nd match has been forgotten.

Fischer was a fairly good player. One chess master said of him: "I was impressed with his intuitive sense of the game and his swift thinking. His enthusiasm never flagged and he showed unusual concentration and willpower. He had chess fever early! His main tactic was to challenge me, which showed his strong will and ego view even then (I was rated among the top twenty players in the U.S. at the time). Although amused by the boy's tenacity, I did play him from time to time and while his talent was obvious, I did not realize that I was playing against a future world champion."

So who was this unidentified master? As of December 31, 1950, the top twenty players were Fine, Reshevsky, Dake, Horowitz, Kashdan, Evans, Seidman, Pavey, Shainswit, Denker, Pinkus, Bisguier, Kramer, D. Byrne, Adams, Steiner, R. Byrne, Hesse, DiCamillio, and Hearst.

As of December 31, 1951, the top 20 players were Reshevsky, Dake, Denker, Evans, Fine, Horowitz, Pavey, Bisguier, D. Byrne, R. Byrne, Kashdan, Kevitz, Kramer, Seidman, Shainswit, Steiner, Pinkus, Adams, Hesse, and DiCamillio.

Bobby also spent time playing against his grandfather's cousin, Jacob Schonberg, who also lived in Brooklyn. When Jacob's health was failing, Regina Fischer took care of him almost every day. She brought along Bobby to play chess with the older gentleman. Another person who played chess in the family was Bobby's great uncle, Jack Wender's brother, who was a strong tournament player in Switzerland.

In 1952, Regina had trouble controlling Bobby and his chess mania. She once called Dr. Ariel Mengarini (1919-1998), a chess master and psychiatrist, and asked him what he could suggest to curb Bobby's obsession with chess. He recalled later, "I told her I could think of a lot worse things than chess that a person could devote himself to and that she should let him find his own way."

In 1957, Mengarini played and

drew Bobby Fischer in the New Jersey Open.

In 1953 Bobby was playing at the Brooklyn Central YMCA at 357 9th Street in Brooklyn.

In February 1953, Bobby played in his first organized tournament, the Brooklyn Chess Club championship, and took 5th place. If this was the Napier Memorial tournament, then it was won by Henry Spinner with an 11-0 score.

Here is Fischer’s earliest known game. Dan Mayers was the 1939 New York City High School chess champion and worked at Los Alamos during World War II.

Dan E. Mayers – Bobby Fischer, Brooklyn Chess Club, 1953 (blitz game)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 Bb4 6.e5 Ne4 7.Qh5?! 0-0 8.Nge2 d5 9.Bb3 g6 10.Qh6 Bg4 11.Bd2 Nxd2 12.Kxd2 g5?! 13.h4 gxh4? 14.Rxh4 Bf5 15.Rah1 Be7?? 16.Rg4+! Bg6 17.Qxh7# 1-0

In 1954 Bobby, age 11, was playing a lot of chess at the Brooklyn Chess Club and Brooklyn YMCA. Fischer, in his chess column in Boy’s Life in 1966, wrote, “One of the biggest thrills of my life was when I won first prize at the YMCA children’s championship. One critical game, incidentally, was against my teacher’s son, Bill Nigro. I was nervous in that game, but the training I got from my early games was important to me and gave me confidence. I still have that medal at home.”

He was exposed to international chess when Nigro took Fischer to watch the USA-USSR chess match every day at the Hotel Roosevelt in Manhattan. It was held June 16-24, 1954.

In December, 1954 he took 3rd-5th place at the Brooklyn Chess Club championship. It was during this period that Fischer later said “just got good” when describing when his chess improved.

Bobby Fischer - Jacob Altusky, Brooklyn, NY, December 1954 (offhand game)

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Bg5 d6 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.e5 dxe5 8.dxe5 Ng4 9.Nd5 Ngxe5? 10.Nxe7+ Kh8 11.Nxg6+ hxg6 12.Bxd8 [12...Rxd8 13.Nxe5 Bxe5] 1-0

Jacob Altusky - Bobby Fischer, Brooklyn, NY, December 1954 (offhand

game)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 Bg4 7.Bxf7+? Kxf7 8.Ng5+ Qxg5 [9.Bxg5 Bxd1 10.Kxd1 Nxd4] 0-1

Fischer played a lot of skittles games at the Marshall Chess Club. A man once asked Fischer why he made a certain move and Fischer responded, “Please, this is a chess



game. This is brain surgery. Don’t ask me that.”

In early 1955 Fischer was playing in a Chess Review correspondence tournament (section 54-P prize tournament). He was mentioned as a new postalite in the May, 1955 issue of Chess Review in the Class B at 1200 section. He had an 1198 postal rating in the August, 1955 list of Chess Review and a 1082 postal rating in the March, 1956 issue of Chess Review. He remained at 1082 in the August, 1956 issue if Chess Review. He lost his only known postal game in 12 moves (A. Wayne Conger (1418 postal)-Fischer, corr. 1955). Donald Reithel recalls that he played Fischer in a correspondence game in 1955. Fischer wrote to Reithel that he was a Brooklyn Dodger fan. Fischer did not finish the correspondence game with Reithel because he was starting to play in over-the-board tournaments. He may have also played in 54-C section (class tournament). There is a Fischer in 54-C, tourney 41, in which he

forfeits (Chess Review, April 1956, page 120).

Donald Reithel said, “In 1955 I played Bobby in postal chess - a prize tourney in Chess Review. I remember him as a typical American kid: Brooklyn Dodger fan, somewhat opinionated about school and somewhat desirous to exchange ideas and thoughts. He

also liked listening to the radio and religiously was reading and studying the Bible.” (Donaldson, A Legend on the Road, page 12)

On May 21-23 (Memorial Day weekend), 1955, Fischer played in his first US Chess Federation tournament. He scored 2.5 points (out of 6) in the U.S. Amateur Championship in Lake Mohegan, New York (played at the Mohegan Country Club). His post-tournament provisional USCF rating was 1826. Carmine Nigro took him to the event. Fischer, age 12, only wanted to watch, but was persuaded to play by Nigro. The only known Fischer game from this event was Humphrey-Fischer in round 6. Fischer drew that game. Fischer won 2, drew 1, and lost 3. He tied for 33rd place. The event was won by Clinton L. Parmalee of New Jersey and organized by Kenneth Harkness. There were 75 entrants. The event was open to anyone except rated masters (masters were anyone rated 2300 or over). The event was covered in the

June 5, 1955 issue of CHESS LIFE.

A. Humphrey – Fischer, US Amateur, Lake Mohegan, NY, May 22, 1955

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.h3 Nbd7 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 a5 9.Be2 b6?! 10.0-0 Ne8 11.Qc2 .Nc5 12.Nh2 .f5 13.f3 .f4 14.Bf2 Qg5 15.Kh1 Bd7 16.Rg1 16...Nf6 17.g4? fxg3 18.Rxg3 Qh6 19.Nd1 19...Nh5 20.Rg1 Bxh3 21.Be3 Nf4 22.Nf2 22...Bf6 23.Rg3 Bd7 24.Nfg4 Bxg4 25.Rxg4 Qg7 26.Rag1 Be7 27.Qd2 Rf7 28.R1g3 Raf8 29.Bxf4 29...Rxf4 30.Rh3 Qf7 31.Rgg3 Bh4 32.Rg4 Bf2 33.Bd1 [33...Bd4 34.Be2 Na4; 33.Rg2] 1/2-1/2

In June, 1955, Bobby scored 4.5-3.5 in a Washington Square Park, New York, 8-round Swiss tournament with 32 players. He tied for 15th place.

He joined the Manhattan Chess Club in June, 1955. At the time, the club was located at 100 Central Park South. Fischer soon won the class C championship (1400-1600 rated) and the class B championship (1600-1800 rated). At age 12, he was the youngest member of the Manhattan Chess Club.

Often it would reach midnight and Bobby Fischer was still playing chess at the Manhattan Chess Club. His mother would have to take the subway or use the old, unreliable car to drive from Brooklyn to Manhattan to get Bobby. She once said, “For four years I tried everything I knew to discourage him, but it was hopeless.” She was certain he would be world chess



12 year old Bobby Fischer playing 12 members in New York chess club (he won all 12 games).

champion one day. She said, “The sooner the better. Then he can get down to some real work.”

Mrs. Fischer also said that the Manhattan Chess Club was his favorite hangout. She was interviewed by the New Yorker magazine and said, “Sometimes I have to go over there at midnight and haul him out of the place.”

Sometimes Fischer would read chess books 12 to 14 hours a day and would memorize numerous chess games. He usually went to the New York Public Library and studied the games of the old chess masters.

On July 3, 1955, Regina Fischer sent a postcard to Alexander Liepnieks (1910-1973) and asked if he could make any arrangements for Bobby Fischer to play in the US Junior Championship in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lipeniek was the Nebraska State Champion at the time and organizer for the US Junior Championship.

In July of 1955, Fischer ,age 12, and Charles Kalme (1939-2002), age 15, took a train from Philadelphia to Lincoln, Nebraska to play in the 10th annual US Junior Championship, organized by Alexander Liepnieks. The event was held July 15-24, 1955. Fischer won 2 games, drew 6 games, and lost 2 games at the U.S. Junior Championship in Lincoln, Nebraska (held at the local YMCA). Fischer (rated 1830) took 20th place out of 25. Kalme (rated 2186) won the

event at age 15. Fischer stayed with the Liepnieks family. Fischer’s USCF rating was 1625 after this event.

In round 1 of the US Junior Championship, Fischer lost to Kenneth Warner (1550) of Bakersfield, California. In round 2 he drew with William Whisler (unrated) of Concord, California. In round 3 he beat Jimmy Thomason (1600) of Fort Worth, Texas. In round 4 he drew with David Ames (unrated) of Quincy, Massachusetts. In round 5 he drew with Kenneth Stone (1600) of Los Angeles. In round 6 he drew with John Briska (unrated) of Albany, New York. In round 7 he lost to Viktors Pupols (2027) of Tacoma, Washington on time. In round 8, he drew with Robert Blair (1650) of Midwest City, Oklahoma. In round 9 he drew with John Winkelman (1650) of Lincoln, Nebraska. In round 10 he beat Franklin Saksena (1600) of Ft. Worth, Texas. His total score was 5-5.

During the event, Fischer wore a large military-style dog tag around his neck. His mother had given it to him that had his name, address, and phone number on it. When Fischer was losing, he would twist the dog tag nervously.

Fischer won a trophy for best player 12 or under (he was the only 12 year old in it and the youngest player in the event). His name first appeared in Chess Life, Aug 5, 1955 in an article about the US Junior Championship.

On July 17, 1955, he took 3rd place in the U.S. Junior Rapid Transit Championship preliminaries, behind Robert Cross and Ronald Gross. Every move was 10 seconds a move with a warning buzzer at 8 seconds and a bell at 10 seconds.

In late autumn of 1955, Bobby played in a chess tournament at Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village. There were 66 players. It was an elimination tournament. Fischer lost to Harry

Fajans and was eliminated.

On November 26, 1955, Fischer, age 12, gave his first simultaneous exhibition. He played 12 members of the Youth Group (age 7 to 12) of the Yorktown Chess Club (Yorktown Heights, New York) youth at the Manhattan Chess Club. Fischer won all 12 games, eliminating the first player in 50 minutes and the last player in 2 hours and 20 minutes. Fischer had White in all his games. Most of the games went 1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5. He received a watch from the Manhattan Chess Club and a check from the Yorktown Chess Club. Fischer was mentioned in the December 20, 1955 issue of *Chess Life* (*Chess Life in New York* by Allen Kaufman) for his simul exhibition. The January 1956 issue of *Chess Review* had him on the cover ("Small Time Big time") with another picture of him playing chess in the article. His opponents were Stuart Siepser, Peter Foley, Walter Nitz, Billy David, Henry Brooks, Jimmy Rice, Marc Budwig, Leonard Bergstein, Evanna Nelson, Linda Villator, Eric Myntinen, and Michael Foley. His exhibition was also covered by the *New York Times*.

In 1955, Dick Schaap (1934-2001) befriended Bobby Fischer. At the end of the 1955, Fischer two USCF ratings, 1826 and 1625, were averaged. So at the end of 1955, Bobby Fischer's USCF rating was published at 1726. It was around this period, when Fischer started to get real good. He is quoted as saying, "When I was eleven, I just got good". The January 1956 issue of *Chess Review* had Fischer on the cover giving a simul at the Manhattan Chess Club against the Yorktown Chess Club youth group. In January 1956, Bobby won the class B prize of the first Greater New York City Open (January 21-26,

1956). It was held at the Churchill Chess and Bridge Club in Manhattan. The event was won by Bill Lombardy on tie-breaks over Dr. Ariel Mengarini. Fischer won 5 games and lost 2 games. There were 52 players in this event. Fischer tied for 5th-7th (shared with Anthony Sady). The event was listed in the Feb, 1956 issue of *Chess Review*. His USCF rating for the event was 2157. Fischer was a member of the West Orange, New Jersey Log Cabin Chess Club. The club was founded and run by Forry Laucks (1897-1965).

In February 1956, Bobby traveled with the Log Cabin Chess Club to Cuba and even gave a simultaneous exhibition at the Capablanca Chess Club (winning 10 and drawing 2). His mother accompanied him and served as photographer for *Chess Review*. The Log Cabin Chess Club lost to the Capablanca Chess Club by a score of 2 - 5.

The Log Cabin Chess Club and Fischer also visited Philadelphia; St. Petersburg, Florida; Hollywood, Florida; Miami, Florida; Tampa, Florida;

and Clinton, NC for simultaneous exhibitions. Norman Whitaker played board 1 for the Log Cabin Chess Club and Fischer played board 2. Fischer won 5, lost 1, and drew 1 during this exhibition match as board 2. The event was covered in the April, 1956 issue of *Chess Review*. It included a picture of Fischer playing Mr. Weeks, a retired engraver for the U.S. Treasury, in St. Petersburg. The photo was taken by Regina Fischer. Another photo shows Fischer playing at the Capablanca Chess Club in Havana. A third photo shows Fischer playing in Hollywood, Florida.

In March 1956, Fischer turned 13. He gave a simul at the Jersey YMCA and won 19 out of the 21 opponents.

In April 1956, he won the class A (1800-2000 rated) championship at the Manhattan Chess Club. He won

8, drew 1, and lost 2.

He also was the top scorer in the Metropolitan League A team with 4 wins and 1 draw. At the end of April, his USCF rating was 2168.

On May 20, 1956, the U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) published its 10th national rating list. Fischer's first published rating for over-the-board play was 1726.

In May of 1956, he played in the U.S. Amateur Championship in Asbury Park, New Jersey (held on May 25-27, 1956), winning 3 games, drawing 2, and losing 1 game. At 13, he was the youngest player in the 88-player event (won by Hudson, Cotter, and Lyman). He tied for 21st place. His USCF rating after this event was 2003.

In round 1 of the 1956 US Amateur Championship, Fischer drew with Michael Tilles. In round 2 he beat J. Bacardi. In round 3 he drew with Norman Hurltlen. In round 4 he beat S. Klaroff. In round 5 he lost to Edmund Nash. In round 6 he beat R. Riggler.

In June 1956, he joined the "Hawthorne Chess Club," which met at the home of John (Jack) W. Collins (1912-2001) twice a week in Flatbush. Collins was 1952 New York state champion. Fischer's chess instructor, Carmine Nigro, moved to Miami to become a professional golf instructor. Fischer took advantage of Collins' extensive chess library and read almost every chess book and magazine he had. Collins was also tutoring the Byrne brothers and Bill Lombardy.

On June 13, 1956, Bobby Fischer appeared with Arlene Francis (1908-2001) on the "Home" show (1954-1957) on NBC.

In July 1956, he took first place at the 11th Annual U.S. Junior Championship (July 1-7) in Philadelphia with 8 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss. The event was held at the Franklin Mercantile Chess Club with Bill Ruth as tournament director, assisted by D. A. Gianguilio. Fischer's USCF rating after this event was 2321, making him a master at age 13 years, 3 months, 29 days and ranked #33 in the nation. The rating was not published until August of 1956. There were 28 participants.

His opponents were Arthur Feuerstein (2150), Carl Grossguth (2022), William Whisler (1882), Sydney Geller (2150), George

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Baylor (2014), Charles Henin (2265), Charles Weldon (1927), Steven Friedman, Kenneth Blake (1877), and David Kerman (1927). Fischer drew with Feurestein, lost to Henin, and won the rest. Fischer won his last game versus David Kerman on an adjudication which took more than two hours of analysis by a panel of three referees. (Chess Review, August, 1956, page 227). Feurestein and Henin took 2nd-3rd. Geller took 4th. Baylor and Levine took 5th-6th. The crosstable of the event appeared in the July 20 issue of Chess Life, page 3.

At 13 years and 4 months, Fischer was the youngest player to win the U.S. Junior Championship. He won a typewriter for his efforts. The record still stands for youngest-ever junior champion.

Fischer took 2nd place in the blitz championship with a 4-1 score (won by Arthur Feuerstein with 4.5-0.5 score). William Lombardy took 3rd.

A few weeks later (July 17-28, 1956) he played in the 57th U.S. Open in Oklahoma City (102 players), winning 5 games, drawing 7 games, losing none (scoring 8.5 out of 12), and tied for 4th-8th place (won by Bisguier and Sherwin). Fischer set some kind of record by going undefeated through all 12 rounds of a USCF Open at the age of 13 (Chess Review, September, 1956, page 260). His USCF rating was 2349 after this event, #25 in the

nation. His game with Dr. Peter Lapiken was the first to appear in a chess magazine. It appeared in the August 5, 1956 issue of Chess Life and the September issue of Chess Review. During this event, he was interviewed on television for the first time.

In the US Open, he defeated A. M. Swank in the first round (the oldest player vs. the youngest player), drew with Henry Gross (2181), drew with Fred Tears (2123), beat Dr. Peter Lapiken (2173), drew Brian Owens (1800), drew Anthony Santasiere (2236), drew Ken Smith (2193), drew W. E. Stevens (1824), beat Dale Ruth (1754), beat Orest Popovych (2055), beat Stephen Popel (2000), and drew Jerry Donovan (2175).

Fischer's USCF rating was published in August 1957 as 2349. He was 13 years, 5 months old, the youngest US master ever. The record stood until July, 1977, when Joel Benjamin became a master at 13 years, 3 months.

In September, 1956, he tied for 8th-12th place at the first Canadian Open (August 25-September 2) in Montreal (88 players). The event was won by Larry Evans and Bill Lombardy. His score was 7-3.

After the Canadian Open, he asked for a ride home from Larry Evans. Evans said, "He asked if I would drive him back to New York. I had no inkling that my passenger would become the most famous and phenomenal player in the history of

chess. On that long drive home he barely glanced at the scenery. All he wanted to do was talk about chess, chess, and more chess. While my eyes were glued to the road he plied me with technical questions and we discussed complicated variations blindfold, calling out the moves without the sight of the board. His total dedication and relentless quest for excellence were apparent even then."

In October, 1956, he was invited to play in the Rosenwald tournament, limited to the 12 best players in the country. In October he took 8th-9th place (with Abe Turner) in the 3rd Lessing J. Rosenwald Trophy Tournament in New York. His score was 4.5-6.5. The event was won by Reshevsky. His win against Donald Byrne in round 8 won the first brilliancy prize and has been called the game of the century (named by Hans Kmoch, Manhattan Chess Club Director). The tournament was held at both the Manhattan Chess Club on Central Park South and the Marshall Chess Club. His USCF rating after the event was 2321.

A few weeks later, Fischer gave a simul at the Jamaica Chess Club in Long Island. He won 11 and drew one.

Fischer usually played blitz or skittles chess for twenty cents a game. One day, at the Marshall Chess Club, he was playing for 20 cents a game when Hans Kmoch had an appointment with the cellist Gregor Piatagorsky. Kmoch wanted Fischer to show Piatagorsky his brilliant win over Donald Byrne. Fischer was interrupted and lost the skittle game to Ron Gross. Fischer angrily flipped two dimes to Gross while Kmoch tried to get Fischer to show his famous "Game of the Century." Fischer got mad and replied, "I don't care. I don't have to show anybody my games just because he is a big shot!" Fischer then stormed out of the club.

In November (Thanksgiving Day weekend), 1956, he tied for 2nd-5th place (with Rossolimo, Lombardy, and Feurestein) in the Eastern States Open, played at the Central YMCA in Washington, D.C. The winner was Hans Berliner. There were 56 players in the event. A picture of Fischer playing in the event appeared in the Washington Post on November 24, 1956. The

tourney was sponsored by the Log Cabin Chess Club in New Jersey and the district of Columbia Chess League. The tourney was organized and directed by Norman Whitaker.

In December Bobby won the rapid transit play at the Manhattan Chess Club and took 4th place in the Manhattan Chess Club Championship.

At the end of 1956, Fischer's USCF ratings were averaged for the year and were published at 2231. He appeared on the cover of the December, 1956 issue of *Chess Review*, titled Game of the Century.

In 1957 Regina wrote directly to Nikita Khrushchev, requesting an invitation for Bobby to participate in the World Youth and Student Festival. Khrushchev replied that he could play in the event, but the invitation came too late.

Regina also wrote to Soviet Grandmaster Alexander Kotov, "I would like you to publish a collection of my son's games. Bobby would like to have an account in a Russian bank."

In February, 1957, he took 6th-14th in the Log Cabin Open. His USCF rating after the event was 2222.

In March 1957, Bobby played two games against former world champion Max Euwe in New York, drawing one and losing one.

At the end of March, 1957, Bobby played in the Log Cabin 50-50 tournament. He won 2 games, drew two games, and lost one game (to James Sherwin).

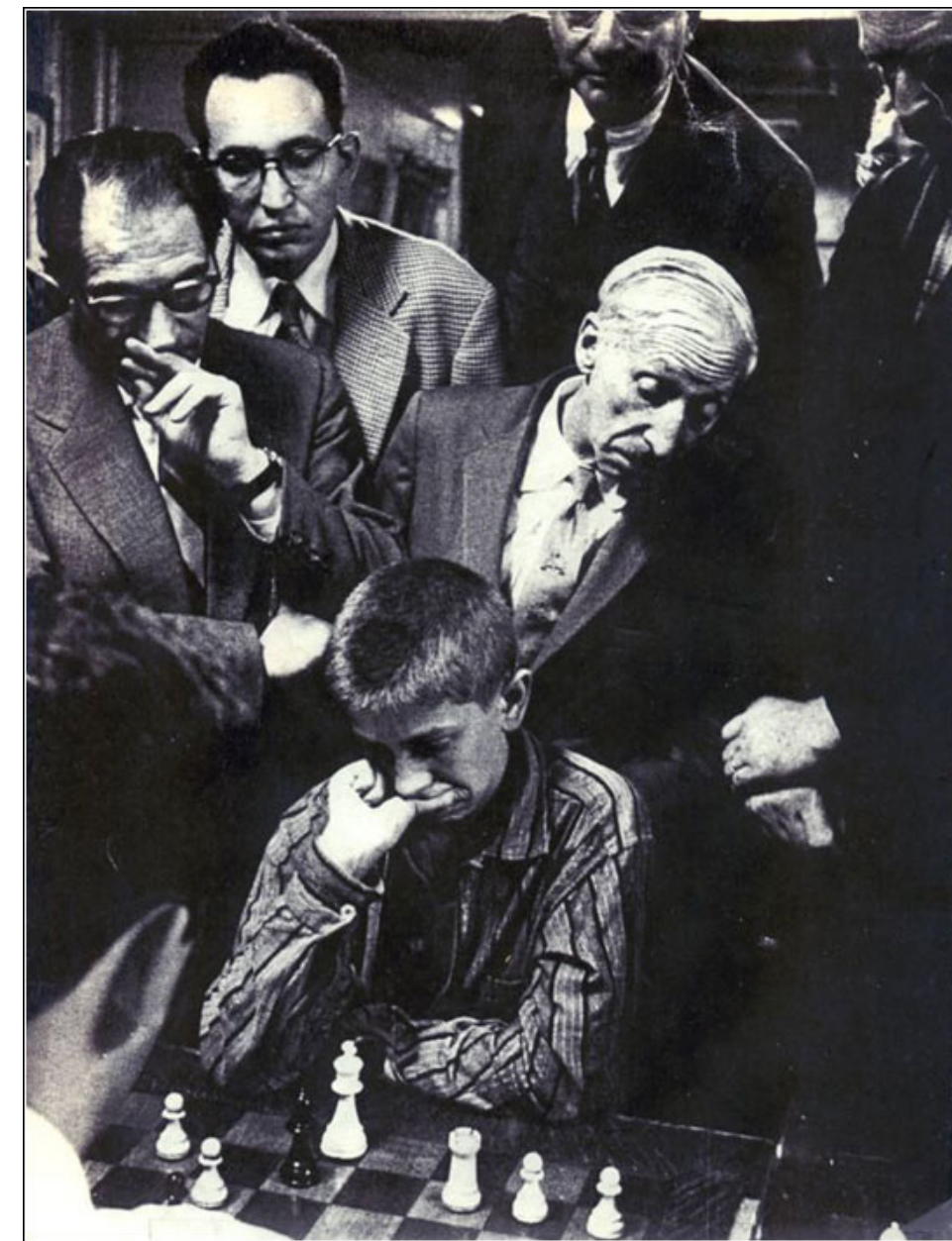
In April he won the New York Metropolitan Chess League.

In the May 5, 1957, issue of *Chess Life*, appeared the 11th annual USCF national rating list (National Chess Ratings - Spring 1957). Fischer's rating was 2231, which was over 500 point higher than his rating before, in 1956. This made him at the time, the youngest U.S. master ever.

On June 13, 1957, Reshevsky played 10 players, including Fischer, at 10 seconds per move. Reshevsky was blindfolded and Bobby won the game. Reshevsky won 5 games and lost 4. (*Chess Review*, August 1957, pg. 241).

In July he tied for 6th place at the New Western Open in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His USCF rating at the end of the tournament was 2103.

In July, 1957, the U.S. Chess



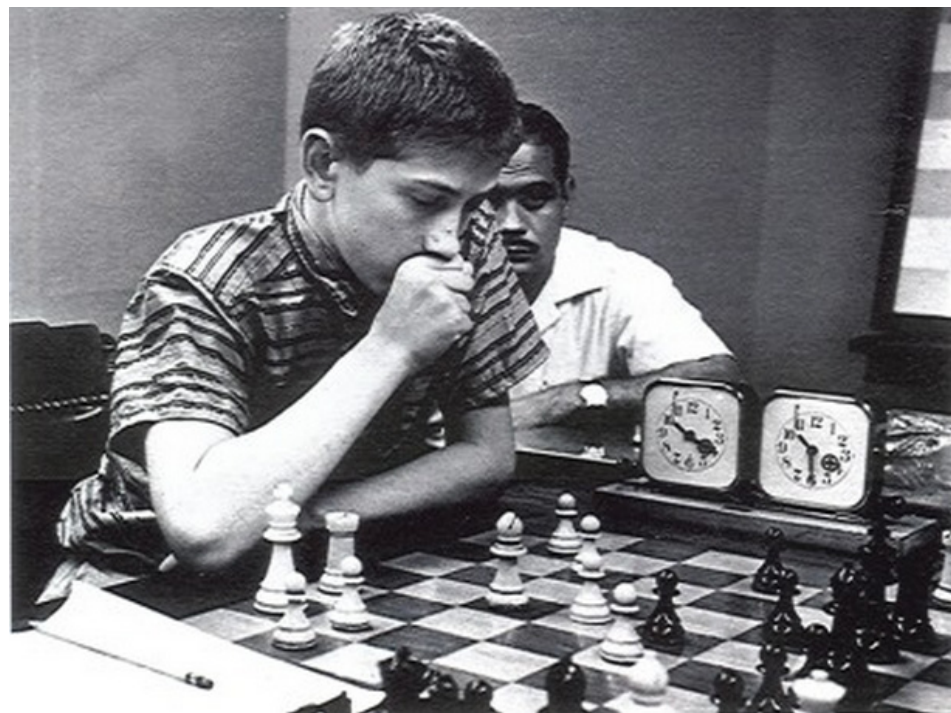
Federation received an official invitation for Bobby Fischer to visit the Soviet Union.

A few days later he played in the U.S. Junior Championship in San Francisco and took first place and another typewriter. The event was held at the Spreckels Dairy Company. He also won the U.S. Junior Speed Championship. His prize for that was a copy of the 1956 Candidates Tournament book by Euwe and Muhring. His USCF rating at the end of the US Junior Championship was 2298. The event was covered in the August 5th, 1957 issue of *Chess Life*.

Fischer left San Francisco and headed for Long Beach, California with some friends. Bill Addison drove Fischer, Gil Ramirez, and

William Rebold to Cleveland for the US Open in Guthrie McClain's old car. Along the way, Fischer and Ramirez got in a fist fight with each other over a pillow. Ramirez was left with bite marks, which can be seen to this day. Fischer was left with a black eye.

On August 5-16, 1957, Fischer tied for 1st-2nd with Arthur Bisguier at the 58th U.S. Open in Cleveland, scoring 10-2, and won \$750. His rating after the event was 2264. Bisguier said, "Who could have seen in the early stages, by not winning against Fischer, I created a Frankenstein!" The tournament was covered in the August 20, 1957 and September 5, 1957 issue of *Chess Life*. Fischer became the youngest player to win the U.S.



Open, at age 14.

In August-September he won the New Jersey Open championship with 8 wins and 1 draw (to Dr. Ariel Mengarini), no losses. His USCF rating after the event was 2605. The tournament was covered in the September 20, 1957 issue of *Chess Life*.

In September, 1957, he was a student at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn. Barry Munitz, President of the Erasmus High School Chess Club, tried to get Bobby to join the club. Bobby wasn't interested. One of his teachers said, "He never seems to be listening in class. He must always be thinking about chess."

Janice Wolfson Epstein was Fischer's geometry teacher and remembered him as a poor student who was also antisocial. Fischer was good in Spanish class. Bobby made sketches of monsters, elaborate doodles, and wrote lyrics. In one interview, Fischer said he had an interest in astronomy, prehistoric animals, and hypnotism. He was also an avid reader of comic books, especially horror types. Frank Brady talked to someone in the Grade Advisor's Office at Erasmus Hall while Bobby was a student there. This person said, "His I.Q. was in the 180s, give or take a point or two. He was definitely a high genius, but with no interest or capacity for schoolwork."

In September, 1957, the Pepsi-Cola Company sponsored a match with 19 year-old Philippine Junior Champion, L. Rodolfo Tan Cardoso (1937-) and Fischer. Fischer won 6-2 and \$325. Cardoso was awarded the International Master (IM) title in 1957, making him the first Asian IM. The match was covered in the November 5, 1957 issue of *Chess Life*.

In November-December he took 6th in the North Central Open in Milwaukee. His USCF rating after the event was 2552.

Fischer then played a match with Dr. Daniel J. Benninon, a strong Argentine player. He was a scientist with the Committee on the effects of Atomic Radiation for the United Nations. The match was played at the Marshall Chess Club, and Fischer won. Benninon later became head of Argentina's Atomic Energy Commission.

The *New York Times* wrote an

essay on Fischer, claiming that all Fischer does and all Fischer knows is chess, and that he kept a chess set by his bedside. An article by Aben Rudy in the Dec 5, 1957 issue of *Chess Life* said the Fischer was proficient at tennis and table-tennis. Fischer was also an avid hockey fan and sees as many "Ranger" games as his crowded schedule will allow. The article also mentioned that Fischer was a quite promising ventriloquist.

Just before the Centennial U.S. championship in 1957/58, Bisguier said: "Bobby Fischer should finish slightly over the center mark in this tournament. He is quite possibly the most gifted of all players in the tournament; still he has had no experience in tournaments of such consistently even strength."

On January 8, 1958 Bobby Fischer at age 14 years and 9 months won the 1957/58 U.S. Championship (the Lessing J. Rosenwald Trophy) and Zonal with 8 wins, 5 draws and no losses. The event was played at the Manhattan Chess Club and Marshall Chess Club from December 17, 1957 through January 8, 1958. The tournament was covered in the January 20, 1958 issue of *Chess Life*.

His USCF rating after the event was 2722. His USCF rating average for 1957 was 2626, and #2 in the USCF (behind Samuel Reshevsky at 2713). Players over 2600 were considered American Grandmasters, so Reshevsky and Fischer were the only grandmasters with the USCF. He now qualified for



Bobby Fischer Plays Svetozar Gligoric -1958

the 1958 Interzonal in Portoroz. Since this was a Zonal event, he qualified for the Interzonal and was given the International Master title by FIDE at the age of 14 years, 10 months. Except for Santa Monica 1966, Bobby Fischer would win every U.S. tournament he played in.

A reporter asked Bobby whether he now considered himself the best chess player in the United States. Fischer responded, "No. One tournament doesn't mean that much. Maybe Reshevsky is better!"

After winning the US Championship, the famed resort Grossinger's in the Catskill Mountains invited Fischer for a 10-day all-expenses-paid stay at the resort. It was here that he learned to ski.

The American Chess Foundation mailed a check for \$250 to Fischer in recognition for his chess achievements.

Around this time, Bobby spent his time preparing a book of his games. He dictated his annotations into a tape recorder and his mother transcribed them. When the book was finished, he first took it to the World Publishing Company to see if they would publish it. The company eventually declined the manuscript, but Joan Fischer, who accompanied Bobby when he went there, met Russell Targ, the son of the chief editor of the company (William Targ, 1907-1999). Russell and Joan later married. In 1963, the company was sold to Times Mirror. William Targ later published Mario Puzo's

novel *The Godfather*.

The February 5, 1958 issue of *Chess Life* reported that FIDE awarded the International Master title to Fischer, based on the fact that Fischer placed 1st in the Zonal tournament (US Championship).

In February, 1958 he played a 30 board simul at the Marshall Chess Club, winning 29 and drawing one. He was seeded in the Manhattan Chess Club Championship, but withdrew the day before it was to start.

In early 1958, Mrs. Fischer wrote to the Yugoslav Chess Federation and asked them to find room and board for Bobby. She wrote that Bobby would not give any simultaneous exhibitions or interviews, and did not like journalists who asked non-chess questions. She also said that Bobby did not smoke, drink, or date girls. She said that Bobby did not know how to dance but liked to swim, play tennis, ski, and skate.

The March 5, 1958 issue of *Chess Life* published its second 1957 supplementary rating list. Fischer was rated 2626, just behind Reshevsky at 2713. It also listed Fischer as a Grandmaster, along with Reshevsky.

On March 26, 1958 he was interviewed by Garry Moore for a special television broadcast geared for teenagers (I've Got a Teenage Secret). He talked about his winning the US championship and being awarded the IM title.

In April, 1958, he gave interviews to *Time*, *New York Post*, *New York Times* and the *Voice of America*.

In May, 1958 Bobby, age 15, appeared on the television show I'VE GOT A SECRET and stumped the panel, which included Dick Clark (his secret was that he was U.S. chess champion). The made-up newspaper headline for Bobby was "Teen-Ager's Strategy Defeats all

Newcomers." Dick Clark asked if what he did made people happy. Fischer responded, "It made me happy." Garry Moore asked him how

long he had been playing chess. Fischer responded that he had been playing since he was six, but that he had not been playing seriously until age 9.

For stumping the panel on I'VE GOT A SECRET, Sabena Airlines provided two complimentary round trip airline tickets for Bobby and his sister, Joan, already a registered nurse at age 20, to travel to Europe. At the end of the show, Fischer almost tripped and fell as

he was leaving the stage.

In June, 1958 he was invited to Moscow and he spent almost all his time at the Moscow Central Chess Club. He played a few speed games of chess with Tigran Petrosian, Yeggeny Vasiukov, and Alexander Nikitin.

In July, 1958, he played a match with Dragoljub Janosevic. On July 20-26, he played a match with and Milan Matulovic at the Slavia chess club in Belgrade. Fischer won the match 2.5-1.5. The Fischer-Matulovic event was a public training match held to help Fischer get ready for the upcoming Interzonal at Portoroz.

In August-September 1958, he took 5th-6th at the Portoroz Interzonal (won by Tal) in Yugoslavia and gained the Grandmaster title after winning 6 games, drawing 12, and losing 2 games. At the same time he became the world's youngest World Championship Candidate and Grandmaster for the world championship at age 15 years, 6 months. Pal Benko was in the Interzonal as a result of his 1957 victory at the Dublin Zonal. Sherwin was in the Interzonal after taking 3rd place in the U.S. championship. Reshevsky had qualified for taking 2nd place, but

he refused to play in the Interzonal. Cardoso of the Philippines was in the Interzonal. He wanted revenge after he lost to Fischer during the Pepsi-Cola sponsored match. Cardoso told everyone that he was going to beat Fischer. When they sat down at the board, Cardoso said, "Would you like to resign now and save time?" Fischer laughed and beat him. The event was covered in the September 20, 1958 issue of *Chess Life*.

During the Portoroz Interzonal, Fischer would analyze in his hotel room until late at night, and then sleep until noon. He rarely left his room except to play chess.

In one game, Fischer took an early draw with Yuri Averbakh. When Larry Evans asked why Bobby agreed to a premature draw, Fischer said, "I was afraid of losing to a Russian grandmaster and he was afraid of losing to a kid." (Evans On Chess, July 22, 1994)

By qualifying for the Candidates (Challengers) matches, Fischer, Benko, and Olafsson automatically became Grandmasters.

In 1958, with the help of John W. Collins, Bobby wrote *Bobby Fischer's Games of Chess*. It was published by Simon and Schuster in 1959. It included 34 of his games, including the "game of the century" D. Byrne vs. Fischer.

In late 1958, Fischer refused to play in the Chess Olympiad unless he, rather than Sam Reshevsky, plays first board for the USA.

Around this time, Fischer changed his dress habits from sweaters and sneakers to suit and tie. He told Ralph Ginzburg, "I used to dress badly until I was about 16. But people just didn't seem to have enough respect for me, you know. And I didn't like that, so I decided I'd have to show them they weren't any better than me, you know? They were sort of priding themselves. They would say he beat us at chess, but he's still just an uncouth kid. So I decided to dress up."

To be continued in the next issue of White Knight Review.

Fischer's early games - 1953-1958
<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Lab/7378/fischer3.htm>



Nobel Prize Winners Who Played Chess

By Bill Wall

Jane Addams (1860-1935). She won the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize. She grew up playing chess.

Zhores Ivanovich Alferov (1930-). He won the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physics for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in electronics. He invented the heterotransistor. He is a good friend of Boris Spassky.

Samuel Beckett (1906-1989). He won the 1969 Nobel Prize in Literature. He was an Irish writer, dramatist and poet. In 1948, he wrote his most famous play, *Waiting for Godot*. In 1957, he wrote a one-act play called *Endgame*, which uses chess as a controlling metaphor. He may have played chess with Marcel Duchamp, but Teen Duchamp, the artist's widow, denied that Marcel ever played chess with Beckett. In *Murphy*, written in 1938, Beckett's protagonist is a male nurse in a mental hospital where he plays chess with one of the patients, Mr. Endon.

Menachem Begin (1913-1992). He won the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize together with Anwar Sadat. He was the sixth prime minister of the State of Israel. In 1944 he was playing a game of chess with his wife when Russian soldiers burst into his home to arrest him. As they dragged him away, he shouted to Mrs Begin, "I resign." In 1979, Presidential advisor Zbigniew Brezezinski invited Begin to play chess while they were at Camp David. As they sat down, Begin said, "I haven't played chess in 40 years. Not since the day the Nazis kicked my door and dragged me and my family off to Auschwitz." After the game started, Mrs. Begin came in and said, "Oh, I see you are playing chess. It's Menachem's favorite. He never stops playing!"

Emil von Behring (1854-1917). He won the first Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1901. Behring was the discoverer of diphtheria antitoxin and developed a serum therapy against diphtheria and tetanus. He played chess to help with his depression. During the last months of his life, when he was bedridden with a

broken thighbone, he had surgeon play chess with him to keep his mind off the severe pains he was having. **William Henry Bragg (1862-1942).** He won the 1915 Nobel Prize in Physics with his son, William Lawrence Bragg. They were awarded for their work in X-rays and crystal structure. W.H. Bragg was the secretary of his school's chess club at the University of Adelaide in Australia.

William Lawrence Bragg (1890-1971). He won the 1915 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in X-rays and crystal structure. He is the son of William Henry Bragg, who also won the 1915 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Willy Brandt (1913-1992). He won the 1971 Nobel Peace Prize. He was Chancellor of West Germany from 1969 to 1974.

Percy Williams Bridgman (1882-1961). He won the 1946 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the physics of high pressures. He played on the Harvard varsity chess team and represented his school in many college events and the beginning of the 20th century.

Santiago Cajal (1852-1934). He won the 1906 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his work in neuroscience. His hobbies were chess, drawing, and photography. Early in his career he spent many hours in the Geneva cafes playing chess, including blindfold simultaneous games. He taught his children to play chess.

Elias Canetti (1905-1994). He won the 1981 Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1935, he wrote *Auto da Fe (Die Blendung or The Tower of Babel)*. One of the characters is a chess player named Fischerle (Fischer), who longs to be world chess champion. He later becomes a famous and wealthy chess champion.

Jimmy Carter (1924-). He won the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. He was 39th President of the United States. He wanted to become a chess expert after he left the White House. He bought numerous chess books and a computer chess program. He finally gave up on chess around 1997, saying: "I found that I don't have any particular talent for chess. I hate to admit it, but that's



a fact." In 2005, Jimmy Carter was invited to play chess against former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, but the meeting never materialized. At his home in Plains, Georgia, Carter, an avid woodworker, designed and built his chess table and chess pieces.



Austen Chamberlain (1863-1937). He won the 1925 Nobel Peace Prize.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965). He won the 1953 Nobel Prize in Literature. He served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945, and from 1951 to 1955. He was taught chess by his father, Lord Randolph Churchill (1849-1895), who was vice-president of the British Chess Association.

John Cockroft (1897-1967). He won the 1951 Nobel Prize in Physics for splitting the atomic nucleus.

Elias James Corey (1928-). He won the 1990 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on organic synthesis. He compared his work with creating and making a chess problem.

John Cornforth (1917-). He won the 1975 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on the stereo chemistry of enzyme-catalyzed reactions. He has played chess all his life. In 1938, he set an Australian simultaneous blindfold exhibition record of 12 games, winning 8, drawing 2, and losing 2. The record still stands. He often played chess with Sir Robert Robin-

son, another Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry.

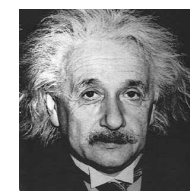
Paul Crutzen (1933-). He won the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. In his younger days, he was a good chess player.

Gerard Debreu (1921-2004). He won the 1983 Nobel Prize in Economics.

Max Delbrueck (1905-1981). He shared the 1969 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Salvador Luria for their work in bacterial resistance to virus infection. He liked to play blitz chess.

Paul Dirac (1902-1984). He won the 1933 Nobel Prize in physics for the discovery of new productive forms of atomic theory. He was interested in chess problems and usually discussed chess with Heisenberg. He served for many years as president of the chess club at St. John's College.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955). He won the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect. He was good friends with Emanuel Lasker. Einstein was an amateur chess player who played with neighbors and friends. He always had a chessboard set up at his home. He was probably most active in chess in the late 1920s and early 1930s. There is an alleged game of his playing Robert Oppenheimer.



T.S. Eliot (1888-1965). He won the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature. He authored *The Waste Land* which has a chapter called "A Game of Chess."

William Faulkner (1897-1962). He won the 1949 Nobel Prize in Literature. He wrote a story called "Knight's Gambit."

Enrico Fermi (1901-1954). He won the 1938 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on induced radioactivity. He was a poor chess player, but he did play chess, and was a stronger tennis player.

Richard Feynman (1918-1988). He won the 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on quantum electrodynamics. He also discovered superfluidity and developed the first quark theory. He used rules of chess to illustrate the laws of physics. He was a

member of his high school chess club.

Milton Friedman (1912-2006). He won the 1976 Nobel Prize in Economics. He played chess on the chess team during high school in Rahway, New Jersey.

Ivar Giaever (1929-). In 1973 he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with Leo Esaki and Brian Josephson for their discoveries regarding tunneling phenomena in solids. He learned chess from his father at the age of four. He uses chess to illustrate the science of Nature.

Andre Gide (1869-1951). He won the 1947 Nobel Prize in Literature. He played chess with his friends and wrote about chess in his journals.

William Golding (1911-1993). He won the 1983 Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1954, he wrote *Lord of the Flies*. One of the quotes from that novel is "The only trouble was that he would never be a very good chess player." Golding listed chess as one of his hobbies.

Mikhail Gorbachev (1931-). He won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize. He was the last General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, serving from 1985 to 1991. He has been involved with the *Chess for Peace* initiative with former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov.



Al Gore (1948-). He won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He was the 45th Vice President of the United States from 1993 to 2001.

Paul Greengard (1925-). In 2000, Greengard, Arvid Carlsson and Eric Kandel were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries concerning signal transduction in the nervous system. In high school he spent a lot of time studying and playing chess.

Fritz Haber (1868-1934). He won the Nobel prize in chemistry in 1918 for his development for synthesizing ammonia. He was a German-Jew. He played chess in Berlin with Einstein. (*Fritz Haber* by Dietrich Stoltzenberg)

John Harsanyi (1920-2001). He won the 1994 Nobel Prize in Economics. Chess was once his passion but gave it

up later in life. He said, "At one point I lost most of my chess games. Then I realized many of my competitors were memorizing the best moves and I was unwilling to do this."

James Heckman (1944-). He won the 2000 Nobel Prize in Economics. He is an economics professor at the University of Chicago. His son, Jonathan, also plays chess.

Werner Heisenberg (1901-1976). He won the 1932 Nobel Prize in Physics. In his spare time he played chess. He often discussed chess problems with Paul Dirac. Wolfgang Pauli once told Heisenberg to give up chess and save whatever intellectual effort he could muster for physics.

Dudley Herschbach (1932-). He won the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work concerning the dynamics of chemical elementary processes.

Gerhard Herzberg (1904-1999). He won the 1971 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on molecular spectroscopy. At home in the evenings, Herzog would relax by playing chess with friends.

Hermann Hesse (1877-1962). He won the 1946 Nobel Prize in Literature. His best known works include *Steppenwolf*, *Siddhartha*, and *The Glass Bead Game*. One of the chapters in *Steppenwolf* is "The Chess Player."

H. Robert Horvitz (1947-). He won the 2002 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for apoptosis research. He played chess as a child.

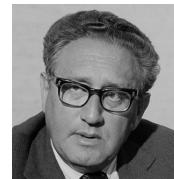
Peter Kapitza (1894-1984). He won the 1978 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in superfluidity. When he was living in Paris at one time, he used to make a living by playing chess in the small cafes for some stake. He pretended he was just a beginner and, in the end, he would usually win. He was frequently Stalin's chess partner.

Bernard Katz (1911-2003). He shared the 1970 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Julius Axelrod and Ulf von Euler for their work on neurophysiology of the synapse. He was born in Leipzig. He chose to learn Latin and Greek rather than mathematics because, he said, it gave him more time to play chess in the cafes of Leipzig. He developed a lifelong passion for chess.

Edward Kendall (1886-1972). He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He discovered the hormone cortisone. He was a doctor at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and an ardent chess player.

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936). He won the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature. He is the author of *The Jungle Book*.

Henry Kissinger (1923-). He shared the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize with Le Duc Tho. He served as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State in the Richard Nixon administration. Kissinger called Bobby Fischer several times during the 1972 World Chess Championship match to encourage Fischer to play on and defeat Spassky. After calling Fischer, he said, "this is the worst player in the world calling the best player in the world."



Robert Koch (1843-1910). He won the 1905 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his tuberculosis findings. He is considered one of the founders of microbiology. He was an enthusiastic chess player and followed the chess world through chess periodicals and books. He was chess champion of his high school in Germany.

Tjalling Koopmans (1910-1985). In 1975 he was the joint winner, with Leonid Kantorovich, of the Nobel Prize in Economics. He was a chess enthusiast.

Hans Krebs (1900-1981). He won the 1953 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his identification of metabolic cycles. He studied chess as a child, but did not become a strong player.

Richard Kuhn (1900-1967). He won the 1938 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work on carotenoids and vitamins.

Willis Eugene Lamb (1913-2008). He won the 1955 Nobel Prize in Physics for his discoveries concerning the fine structure of the hydrogen spectrum. He played in a few chess tournaments in California.

Paul Lauterbur (1929-2007). He shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Peter Mansfield. Lauterbur made the develop-

ment of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) possible. He played chess in high school.



Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951). He won the 1930 Nobel Prize in Literature. He wrote *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, *Arrowsmith*, *Elmer Gantry*, and *Cass Timberlane*. During the last period of his life, he would hire secretaries to play chess with him and keep him company. He would pay them a month to learn the game, then paid them as his secretary to play chess. His secretaries included San Francisco writer Barnaby Conrad and John Hershey. Other friends that visited Sinclair Lewis to play chess included Bennett Cerf, Carl Van Doren, and John Gunther.

Nelson Mandela (1918-). He shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with F.W. de Klerk. He played chess while in prison and it became his favorite game.



Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1927-). He won the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature and is the author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. He mentioned chess in several of his works, such as *Love in the Time of Cholera* where the doctor's chess partner commits suicide.

Albert Michelson (1852-1931). He won the 1907 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the measurement of the speed of light. He listed chess, bridge, billiards, and tennis as his interests outside of physics. He participated in several chess tournaments in California.

Robert Mundell (1932-). He won the 1999 Nobel Prize in Economics. He laid the groundwork for the introduction of the euro. He sponsored a major chess tournament in China (Pearl Spring in Nanjing), saying that the best way for Chinese cities to show openness to the outside world is to host world-class chess tournaments. For relaxation, he plays chess. He made the first move of the 5th game of the 2010 World Championship match between Anand and Topalov, held in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Ferid Murad (1936-). He was a co-winner, with Robert Furchgott and Louis Ignarro, of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work on the cardiovascular system. He played chess in his younger days.

Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930). He won the 1922 Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a League of Nations High Commissioner. He played chess during his arctic expeditions.

John Forbes Nash (1928-). He won the 1994 Nobel Prize in Economics for his work in game theory, where he called chess a "zero-sum" game. He played chess in his younger years.

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973). He won the 1971 Nobel Prize in Literature. He once said, "To me [chess] is poetry, the poetry of fight, intelligence and will."

Douglass North (1920-). He was the co-recipient, with Robert Fogel, of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Economics. At his first job at the University of Washington, he played chess every day for three years with Don Gordon, who taught him economic theory.

Barack Obama (1961-). He won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. He is a chess player, learning the game as a child.

Heike Onnes (1853-1926). He won the 1913 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the properties of matter at low temperatures and to the production of liquid helium.

Boris Pasternak (1890-1960). He won the 1958 Nobel Prize in Literature. He wrote Dr. Zhivago. His parents and other relatives were also chess players.

Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936). He won the 1904 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research pertaining to the digestive system.

Max Planck (1858-1947). He won the 1918 Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of energy quanta. Max Planck played chess with Emanuel Lasker.

Edward Prescott (1940-). He won the 2004 Nobel Prize in Economics. He learned chess from his father and taught his son to play chess.

Isidor Rabi (1898-1988). He won the 1944 Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of nuclear magnetic resonance.

Charles Robert Richet (1850-1935). He won the 1913 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for understanding allergic reactions.

Richard J. Roberts (1943-). He was awarded the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Phillip Sharp for the discovery of introns in DNA and the mechanism of gene-splicing. He played chess in high school.

Robert Robinson (1886-1975). He won the 1947 Nobel Prize on Chemistry. He was president of the British Chess Federation (1950-1953) and played correspondence chess while in his 80s. He co-wrote a book called *The Art and Science of Chess*. He and fellow Nobel Prize winner Sir John Cornforth used to play chess together.

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919). He won the 1906 Peace Prize. He was the 26th U.S. President from 1901 to 1909. He once played a game against the automaton Ajeeb, and lost. He played chess during his hunting trips. In 1906, he invited the chess players that played at Cambridge Springs to the White House. He kept a chess set at the White House.



Bertrand Russell (1872-1970). He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature. He played chess with his family and said he lost friends to one of three addictions: alcohol or religion or chess.

Anwar Sadat (1918-1981). He won the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize. He was the third President of Egypt, serving from 1970 until his assassination in 1981.



Andrei Sakharov (1921-1989). He won the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize. He was an eminent Soviet nuclear physicist, dissident and human rights activist. He relaxed with chess, which he learned from his parents.

Abdus Salam (1926-1996). He shared the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics with Sheldon Glashow and Steven Weinberg for their work in Electro-Weak Theory. He discovered chess in college and spent many hours playing chess before being reprimanded by his father for wasting valuable study time.

Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980). He won the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature. He was probably a weak chess player. Sartre used chess as an analo-

gy in his paper *The Search for Method*.

Erwin Schroedinger (1887-1961). He won the 1933 Nobel Prize in Physics for his contributions to quantum mechanics. He once wrote "I do like chess but it has turned out to be not the appropriate relaxation from the work I am doing."

Julian Schwinger (1918-1994). He won the 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in quantum electrodynamics (QED). He often played chess with mathematician Morton Hamermesh while in college.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950). He won the 1925 Nobel Prize in Literature. Although he played chess, he wrote that "Chess is a foolish expedient for making idle people believe they are doing something very clever when they are only wasting their time."

William Shockley (1910-1989). He shared the 1956 Nobel Prize in Physics with John Bardeen and Walter Brattain for the invention of the transistor.

Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916). He won the 1905 Nobel Prize in Literature. He wrote about chess in several of his works, such as *The Knights of the Cross* and *With Fire and Sword*.

Herbert A. Simon (1916-2001). He won the 1978 Nobel Prize in Economics. He was an American psychologist and made a study of chess players. In 1957, he predicted a digital computer would beat the world chess champion by 1967. He developed a chess program in the 1950s and co-invented the alpha-beta algorithm in chess.

Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904-1991). He won the 1978 Nobel Prize in Literature. He had a chess prodigy character in his book *Shadows of the Hudson*.

Frederick Soddy (1877-1956). He won the 1921 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his research in radioactive decay and his formulation of the theory of isotopes. He was Captain of the Oxford University Chess Club in 1900 and participated in cable matches between Oxford and American universities.

John Steinbeck (1902-1968). He won the 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature. He wrote *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*.

John William Strutt (1842-1919), 3rd

Baron Rayleigh (Lord Rayleigh). He won the 1904 Nobel Prize for Physics for discovering the element argon. He was elected president of the Essex County Chess Association in 1898.

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1893-1986). He won the 1937 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering vitamin C. He was president of the Szeged chess circle in Hungary.

John Vane (1927-2004). He won the 1982 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work on aspirin. He played chess at his home near London or when visiting New York City.

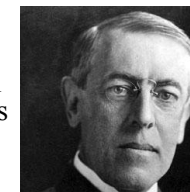
Julius Wagner-Jauregg (1857-1940). He won the 1927 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work on his treatment of mental diseases. He was addicted to chess in his early years while living in Vienna.

Alfred Werner (1866-1919). He won the 1913 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for proposing the octahedral configuration of transition metal complexes. His recreations were billiards, chess, and a Swiss card game.

George Hoyt Whipple (1878-1976). He shared the 1934 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with George Minot and William Murphy for their discoveries concerning liver therapy in cases of anemia.

Carl Wieman (1951-). He won the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the Bose-Einstein condensate. He was a strong chess player in his younger years.

Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924). He won the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize. He was the 28th President of the United States from 1913 to 1921. One of his chess sets is displayed at the Smithsonian.



William Yeats (1865-1939). He won the 1923 Nobel Prize in Literature. He was an Irish poet.

Milan Vukcevic (1937-2003). International Master and Grandmaster in Chess Problem Composition, was considered for a Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He was Chief Scientist at General Electric and professor of metallurgy.



CHESS!

There's an App for that!

By Jerry Wall

I love my iPhone and use it for just about everything. I have to admit I am not much of a game guy and have few games on my iPhone but when I do have some downtime I love to play chess on my iPhone. You would expect that the chess apps would be a bit timid or down right lame, but there are actually some very good chess apps out there that are surprisingly powerful for the diehard player as well as some that are equally simplistic and intuitive enough for the beginner. Some have been out for awhile and the debate is on as to the best because of personal choice. New chess apps hit the market monthly and I am sure will keep on coming. And now with the release of the iPad it makes it an even greater venue for these chess apps to hopefully spawn a renewed interest in chess.

There are some great advantages of iPhone apps:

- They are very inexpensive. Most of the top of the line chess apps are between \$3 and \$10 dollars which is often considerably less than the computer software counterpart. There are also many chess apps that are free.
- They are mobile. How awesome is it to be able to play chess on your cell phone. This means you can take it with you where ever you go and while you're waiting for a bus, or sitting at the airport or sitting in class pretending to take notes on your iPad you could be plunging your pawn into trepidacious territory.
- A player is always available. Chess apps enable you to play against your self, against the computer, against other iPhone players in real time or against online players. You can play with both players and computer at all kinds of levels.
- They are very resourceful. Some great advantages are the functionalities of these apps. Most let you take a move back without crying fowl! Some have level settings for beginners or grandmasters. Some rate your games. Many allow you to save the game and pick it up later or e-mail the game. Many even have built in chess clocks to play tournament chess.
- They are instructional. Many apps are perfect for the beginner showing how the piece moves or when your making illegal moves! Some have coach warnings to tell you that you are about to make a big blunder or to recommend possible or optional moves (hints). Some can analyze your game or show openings or book moves and even variations.

With all this being said, here are some of the top chess apps for the iPhone and iPad:



HIARCS CHESS– Applied Computer Concepts - \$9.99

This is one of the most expensive chess apps out there but also one of the strongest. It is a world champion program which actually won Grandmaster tournaments. But as powerful as it is, it equally has programmed weaker games for the beginner and has built in coach watching to help develop their games.



FRITZ CHESS- Gammick Entertainment - \$4.99

One of the most familiar computer chess programs has now released an iPhone version. It has one of the strongest chess engines as well as a great visual interface. Beginners have a help interface and stronger players have features like notation option, review mode, openings book, game analysis, 11 ELO playing levels and many more great features.



SHREDDER CHESS – Eiko Bleicher, Skizzix.com - \$7.99

This is one of the top rated chess apps on the iStore and probably one of the most popular. It is often favored by grandmasters for analyzing games giving you move options while showing success percentages. It has chess puzzles as well and is very fast with multiple ELO level options.



CHESS GENIUS – Lang Software Limited - \$9.99

Another expensive but goodie with 33 playing levels, chess clocks, opening names, PGN format for saving and importing, hints and move options. It is simple but powerful.



T CHESS PRO – Tom Kerrigan - \$7.99

This new chess app for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad is becoming very popular with its many features. It has an Opening Library, a position editor, PGN database, integrated “Learn Chess” e-book for beginners and an analysis mode in real time. It is a very good all around app for all levels.



CAISSA CHESS – Boris Loffe - \$2.99

For its price this is a great little chess program with some of the best graphics. It has one of my favorite interfaces with quick functionality like e-mail, undo, scrollable history, edit board and hint. And it actually shows the pieces you've taken (about time, people). You can play Human to human (2 player), Human to computer or human to server (online). It is not the strongest but still very challenging. If you want something stronger, for \$7.99 you can get Caissa Chess Pro.



CHESS WITH FRIENDS – Newtoy Inc - FREE

Here's a cool free application that lets you play chess with your friends. Very innovating, allowing simultaneous playing with up to 20 friends (online or on their iPhone) Use your contact list or do some social gaming online with a community of over 500,000 and growing. Online chat while your playing (lol after they move to psych them out) with push technology to let you know when it's your turn. A new kind of postal chess (postal what?)



GLAURUNG CHESS -

This is the best free chess application for iPhone hands down. You get a very strong engine and a great looking board. And it's free. It has various playing styles (Passive, Solid, Active, Aggressive and even Suicidal). It is not afraid of attacking or sacrificing with 100 strength levels. Choose from four piece sets and seven color schemes.



MAGNUS ONLINE CHESS

This free application connects you to the Free Internet Chess Server (FICS) where you can search for players by strengths (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert or Computer). With over 300,000 registered users and over 1000 people online any time of the day you can find your perfect match. This is free but for \$2.99 you can be rated as you play and they will keep track of your progress as you go.



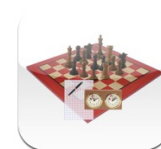
CHESS PROBLEMS – PsyGames - \$2.99

This is a library of Chess puzzles to help develop your chess skills. Over 300 chess problems and positions where you must find a checkmate in 2 or 3 moves. With 4 levels of difficulty, this is both fun and challenging.



CHESS OPENINGS – Arizona Software - \$.99

Hey for a buck you get a database of 2000+ openings. Can't beat that. Pick an opening and test variations. Comes with Hints and alternatives. You can't play full games with this program but this will really help you learn and master your opening game.



Chess Box App- Telxiom - \$1.99

This is a new chess app that consists of 3 programs. It has a chess timer with a classic chess clock with 3 modes. It has a Position program that allows you to create and save chess moves and send it to someone via sms or e-mail. You can also save a screenshot and upload the image to Facebook or Twitter. It also has a program called Notation allowing you to quickly notate your game and save to clipboard or device. You can even send to your friends or upload to Facebook or Twitter.

There are many other chess apps including *Cyber Chess*, *Deep Green*, *Chess Free*, *Chess online*, *chess Pro*, *3D Chess Classics* and dozens more. There are also many Chess puzzle apps, chess opening apps, chess clock app as well as many chess e-books you can download to your iPhone. Do the research and find out what is best for you. These are all just tools to help improve your game. Learn and enjoy!



EPIGRAMS OF CHESS

Epigrams are terse, witty sayings that sometimes have a meaning or moral. Chess has an abundance of epigrams from famous people and famous chess players. Here are a few example of chess epigrams.

“Chess is the art of analysis.” - Mikhail Botvinnik (1911-1995)

“The good player is always lucky.” - Jose Capablanca (1888-1942)

“Chess is not for the timid.” - Irving Chernev (1900-1981)

“Chess is a sport. A violent sport.” - Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)

“A man that will take back a move at chess will pick a pocket.” - Richard Fenton (1837-1916)

“You can only get good at chess if you love the game.” - Bobby Fischer (1943-)

“Life is a kind of chess, with struggle, competition, good and ill events.” - Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

“Excellence at chess is one mark of a scheming mind.” - Sherlock Holmes

“Never make a good move too soon.” - James Mason (1849-1905)

“The isolated pawn casts gloom over the entire chessboard.” - Aaron Nimzovich (1886-1935)

“Chess is beautiful enough to waste your life for.” - Hans Ree

“Chess is a game of bad moves.” - Andrew Soltis (1947-)

“Only the player with the initiative has the right to attack.” - William Steinitz (1836-1900)

“Between the opening and endgame the gods have placed the middlegame.” - Siegbert Tarrasch (1862-1934)

“When you don’t know what to do, wait for you opponent to get an idea; it is sure to be bad.” - Siegbert Tarrasch (1862-1934)

“Tactics is knowing what to do when there is something to do; strategy is knowing what to do when there is nothing to do.” - Savielly Tartakower (1887-1956)

“The winner of a game is the one who has made the next to last blunder.” - Savielly Tartakower (1887-1956)



Chess News

Chess news from Around the world

Abu Dhabi – The annual Abu Dhabi Chess Festival was held from August 12 through August 20, 2010. This event began in 1990, with all games starting at 10 pm, in keeping with the traditions of Ramadan. The event, which included 10 grandmasters, was won by Grandmaster Anton Korobov of the Ukraine.

Amsterdam – The 5th NH Chess Rising Stars vs. Experience took place at the NH Hotel in Amsterdam on August 12-22, 2010. The Rising Stars (youth) beat the Experience by the score of 26-24. The Rising Stars were Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Anish Giri and David Howell. The experienced players were Boris Gelfand, Peter Svidler, Peter-Heine Nielsen, Van Wely and Ljubojevic.

Baku – The Baku Open took place August 23 through August 31, 2010 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Gata Kamsky of the USA took 1st place.

Canterbury, England – The 97th British championship took place July 25 through August 7, 2010 in Canterbury, Kent, England. The event was won by top seed Michael Adams.

China – The annual match between China and Russia was won by the Chinese team by a score of 128-122. The match took place from August 4 through August 15, 2010, in Ningbo, China. Each team had 5 men and 5 women.

Florida – A man already incarcerated in the Indian River County Jail in Florida is facing felony charges after he attacked another inmate over a chess game. Deshaun O’Neal, age 23, followed a chess player back to his cell and began punching him after remarks were made during the chess game.

France – The French Championships took place in Belfort, France from August 9 through August 21, 2010. The men’s championship was won by Laurent Fressinet. The women’s championship was won by Almira Skripchenko. Fressinet and Skripchenko are married to each other, so this gave the event an unusual husband and wife win.

Iceland – DNA testing was done on tissue samples from Bobby Fischer’s grave in the Laugardaelir cemetery in Iceland. The DNA tests came back negative, proving that he did not father a 9-year-old daughter named Jinky Young. Jinky’s mother, Marilyn Young, claimed that Fischer was the father of her daughter, and could inherit \$2 million

from Fischer’s estate. It looks like the money will now go to Fischer’s nephews, Alexander and Nicholas Targ.

Irvine, California – The 111th United States Open Chess Championship was held in Irvine, California from July 31 through August 8, 2010. Alejandro Ramirez won the event with 8 out of 9 points.

Kalmykia – Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, President of the Russian Republic of Kalmykia since 1993 and President of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) since 1995, resigned as President of Kalmykia to devote more time to FIDE. He is running for re-election as FIDE President, but being challenged by former world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov.

Mainz – The 17th Chess Classic Mainz took place August 6 through August 8, 2010 in Mainz, Germany. The event was won by GM Gata Kamsky of the USA.



Norway – The Arctic Securities Chess Stars was held in Kristiansund, Norway August 28th-30th, 2010. The Double Round Robin, two-stage event, was won by the highest rated player in the world, 19-year-old Magnus Carlsen (rated 2826). He beat world champion Viswanathan Anand (rated 2800) in the second stage. John Ludwig Hammer (rated 2636) of Norway took 3rd place, followed by the highest rated female in the world, Judit Polgar (rated 2682).

Poland – The 49th World Junior Championship was held August 3 through August 16, 2010 in Chotowa, Poland. Top seed Dmitry Andreikin took 1st place on tie-break from fellow Russian Sanan Sjugirov. Anna Muzchuk of Slovenia won the World Championship for Girls.

Russia – The 39th chess Olympiad will be held in Khanty Mansiysk, Russia from September 19, 2010 through October 4th, 2010. It will be the biggest chess Olympiad ever, with 1,376 players from 158 countries.

Shanghai – GM Alexei Shirov won the Shanghai Masters to qualify for the Grand Slam final in Bilbao, Spain.

Siberia – The 63rd Russian Championship Higher League was held in Irkutsk, Siberia and won by Grandmaster Ian Nepomniachtchi, scoring 7 out of 10. There were 48 Grandmasters in the event. The final Russian championship will be played in December.



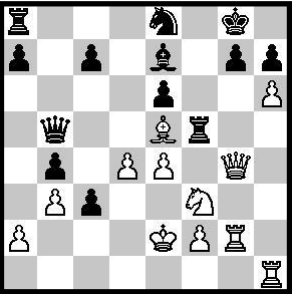
Annotated Game

In January 1961, Lev Polugaevsky swindled Boris Spassky in the 28th USSR championship. Spassky overlooked a check of his king and missed a forced win in time pressure. Polugaevsky found the winning combination in the rook-pawn endgame for victory.

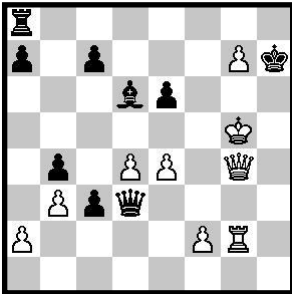
Boris Spassky - Lev Polugaevsky, Moscow (28th USSR Championship) 1961

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 the Queen's Indian Defense
4.Nc3 More common in the Queen's Indian Defense is 4.g3.
4...Bb7 4...Bb4 would transpose into a Nimzo-Indian Defense
5.Bg5 Also common is 5.a3
5...Be7 or 5...h6 6.Bh4 Bb4 or 6...g5. Another common reply is 5...Bb4, played by Alekhine and Euwe.
6.e3 Other moves are 6.Qc2, 6.Bxf6, 6.g3, and 6.Bf4
6...Ne4 Popularized by Capablanca. The most common alternative is 6...O-O 7.Bd3
7.Nxe4 or 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.Nxe4 Bxe4. White can also try 7.Bf4
7...Bxe4 8.Bf4 First played by Milan Vidmar at London 1922. White can also play 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Be2 as in Petrosian-Geller, Moscow 1961
8...O-O 9.Bd3 A new move at the time. Vidmar continued 9.Nd2 Bb7 10.Bd3 and won in 31 moves (Vidmar-Wahlutch, London 1922). Later, Polugaevsky, as White, adopted this move.
9...Bb4+ the alternative is 9...Bxd3 10.Qxd3 f5 (Polugaevsky-Najdorf, Havana 1962)
10.Kf1 If 10.Ke2, then 10...Bxf3+ 11.gxf3 (11.Kxf3 f5 12.h4 Bd6) Bd6 12.Bxd6 cxd6
10...Bxd3+ 10...f5 11.Bxe4 fxe4 12.Ng5 Bd6= Pollak-Neckar, Bad Pyrmont 1969
11.Qxd3 White now threatens 12.Ng5 and 13.Qxh7 mate
11...Be7 12.h4!? or 12.Rc1 d6 13.h4 Nd7 14.g4, winning in 23 moves (Korchnoi-Garcia, Bucharest 1966)
12...f5 later, Olafsson improved upon this line with 12...Nc6 13.Rc1 f5 14.a3 Bf6, winning in 33 moves (Korchnoi-Olafsson, Iceland 2000). Another ideas has been 12...d6 13.Ng5 g6 14.Nf3 h5= Atalik-Roozman, Berkeley 2005.
If 12...d5, the 13.Ng5
13.Ke2 White can also try 13.h5
13...d6 14.g4!? Nd7
If 14...fxg4? 15.Ng5 Bxg5 16.hxg5

g6 17.Qe4, threatening 18.Qxa8 and 18.Qxe6+
15.Rag1 or 15.gxf5 exf5 16.Kd1
15...fxg4 16.Rxg4 or 16.Ng5 Bxg5 17.hxg5 Rf5 18.Rxg4
16...Nf6 17.Rg5 of 17.Rg2 Nh5 18.Ng5 Bxg5 (18...Nxf4+?? 19.exf4 Bxg5 20.hxg5 g6 21.Qe4 Qd7 22.Rgh2 Rae8 23.Qxg6+! hxg6 24.Rh8+ Kg7 25.R1h7 mate)
19.hxg5 g6 20.Rxh5 gxh5 21.g6 Qf6 and Black should hold
17...Qd7 if 17...Qe8, then 18.h5 Rd8 19.h6 g6 20.Nh4 Kh8 21.Rxg6 e5 22.Rg7 exf4 23.Nf3 and 24.Ng5 wins for White
18.h5 Threatening 19.h6. 18.Rhg1 Rf7 19.h5 Kh8 20.h6 g6 21.Rxg6 hxg6 22.Qxg6 Raf8 23.Ng5 Qe8 should hold for Black
18...Ne8 19.Rg2 b5 20.c5 20.cxb5 Rb8 21.a4 a6
20...dxc5 21.h6 Rf5 21...g6? 22.Rxg6+! hxg6 23.Qxg6+ Kh8 24.Ne5 Qd5 25.Rg1 should win for White 21...c5? 22.Qxh7+! Kxh7 23.hxg7+ Kg8 24.Rh8+ Kf7 25.Ne5+ Kf6 26.Rxf8+ Bxf8 27.gxf8=Q+ Qf7 28.Qxf7 mate
22.Be5 threatening 23.Bxg7
22...c4 22...Rd8 23.hxg7
23.Qe4 threatening 24.Qxa8
23...Qd5 24.Qg4 or 24.Qxd5 exd5 25.hxg7 h5
24...c3 24...Qxf3+? 25.Qxf3 Rxf3 26.Kxf3 g5 27.Bf4
25.b3 25.bxc3 g6 and 26...Qxa2+
25...b4 25...Qxf3+ 26.Qxf3 Rxf3 27.Kxf3 g5 28.Bf4 Kf7 29.Bxg5 and White should hold
26.e4 26.Bxg7 Qxf3+ or 26...Qb5+
26...Qb5+ 27.Ke3! 27.Ke1? Qd3 28.Bxg7 Bg5 wins for Black; 27.Kd1? Qd3+ 28.Kc1 Qe2 wins for Black
27...Rf7 28.hxg7 threatening 29.Rxh7 Kxh7 30.Qh5+ Kg8 31.Qh8 mate
28...Nf6 28...c2 29.Qxe6 Nd6 30.Qh3
29.Bxf6 29.Qh3 c2 30.Bxf6 c1=Q+ 31.Rxc1 Rxf6 32.e5
Rxf6 30.Rxh7 or 30.e5 Rf7 31.Rxh7
30...Rxf3 31.Kxf3 31.Qxf3? Bg5+ 32.Rxg5 Qxg5+ and 33...Kxh7
31...Qd3+ 32.Kf4 Bd6



Black 26 ...Qb5+




Black 33 ...Kxh7

33.Kg5 33.e5? Qxd4+
33...Kxh7 33...Be7+ 34.Kg6; 33...Qb5+ 34.Kh6
34.Kh5? 34.Kf6! Qxd4+ (34...Kg8 35.Qxe6+ Kh7 36.g8=Q+ wins) 35.Kf7 Qf6+ 36.Kxf6 Be7+ 37.Kf7 Rf8+ 38.gxf8+ Bxf8 39.Qg6+ Kh8 40.Qg8 mate
34.Qxe6? Qxd4
34...Qb5+! White overlooked this check in time pressure, which lets Black into the game
35.Kh4 35.e5 Qe8+ 36.Kh4 Be7+
35...Be7+ 36.Kh3 36.Kg3? Qg5 37.f4 Qxg4+ 38.Kxg4 Kxg7 wins for Black
36...Qg5+! 36...Kg8 37.Qxe6+ wins for White; 36...Rg8 37.Qg6+ wins for White; 36...Bg5 37.Qh5+ wins for White
37.Qxg5 37.Qxe6?? Qh4 mate
Bxg5 38.Rxg5 Rd8 39.f4 39.Kg3 Kg8 40.Rc5 Rxd4 39.d5 exd5 40.g8=Q+ Rxg8 41.Rxd5
39...Kg8 39...Rxd4?? 40.g8=Q+ wins for White
40.Rc5 40.d5 exd5 41.exd5 Rd7 42.Re5 Rxg7 wins for Black
Rxd4 41.Rxc7 Rxe4 42.Kg4 42.Kg3 Re2 and 43...Rxa2 should win for Black
42...e5 43.a3? 43.Kf5 Rxf4+ 44.Kg6 Rg4+ 45.Kh6 e4 should draw
43...Rxf4+ or 43...bxa3 44.Kg5 exf4 45.Kf6 Re8 46.Rxc3 a2 47.Rc1 Rd8 wins for Black
44.Kg5 44.Kh5 Rf7
44...a5 or 44...bxa3 45.Kg6 Rg4+
45.axb4 axb4 46.Kg6 threatening 47.Rc8 mate
Rg4+ 47.Kf6?? The losing move.
47.Kh6! e4 48.Rc8+ Kf7 49.Rf8+ Ke6 50.g8=Q+ Rxg8 51.Rxg8 Kd5 should draw
47...Kh7! Now Black wins. 47...Rf4+ 48.Kg6
48.g8=Q+ 48.Kxe5 Rxg7 49.Rc4 Rg1 50.Kf6 Rf1+ 51.Kg5 Rb1 52.Rc7+ Kg8 53.Kg6 Kf8 wins for Black
48...Kxg8 49.Kxe5 49.Rv8+ Kh7 50.Kxe5 Rg1 51.Kf6 Rf1+ 52.Kg5 Rb1 wins for Black
49...Rg1 50.Kf6 50.Kd5 51.Ke4 Rb1 52.Kd3 Rxb3 wins for Black
50...Rf1+ 51.Ke5 Rb1 threatening 52...Rxb3 and White resigns 0-1

If you would like Bill to Annotate your Game contact him at bill_wall@bellsouth.net

Ask Bill



Bill Wall

ASK BILL: bill_wall@bellsouth.net

From Nikita White. *I am 12 and was wondering how do you get better at chess and what helpful sites do you know.*

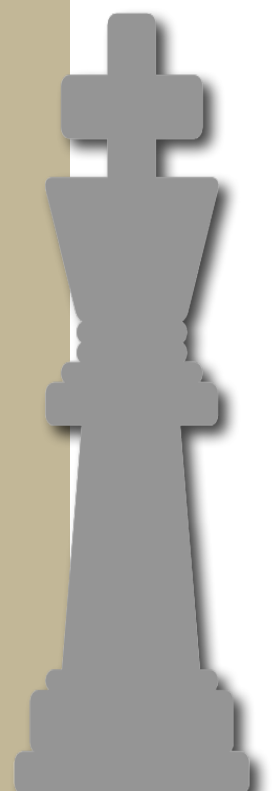
Nikita, the best way to get better at chess is to play more often. You need to see all kinds of chess patterns on what works and what doesn't. This is part of the pattern recognition that all strong chess players have. They recognize familiar positions and know what to do. One good idea is to study chess traps and miniatures. These are games that are won in 25 moves or less. These short games give you an idea of how to play (or mis-play) the opening, and they are good to show you tactical possibilities and combinations that could occur in future games. It is also a good idea to find someone stronger than you, or you a chess engine or computer, to go over your games and see where you or your opponent went wrong. Study your losses first and try to avoid the same mistake. You can download a collection of games from strong players and see how they play. Helpful sites would include sites where you can play chess and also get good advice on chess. One of my favorites sites is www.chess.com where you can play chess at any time, control and read chess forums, blogs and articles. You can also play chess for free at the Free Internet Chess Server (FICS) at www.freechess.org.

From Specter. *How do you analyze a game of chess that you just played? Have you ever lost a game and not sure where you went wrong?*

Specter, if I play in a tournament, I analyze my losses first to see where I went wrong. Before computers, I would follow all my opening books to see what had been played or what moves were recommended. That only helped the opening part of my game. For the rest of the game, I would try to find my losing move and recognize why that was a losing move. Then I would try alternative moves to improve from my losing position. If I had stronger chess players to go to, I would show them my game and see what they would recommend as better moves. Now, with chess computers and engines, I can put my games through some of the strongest programs, such as Fritz and Rybka, and it can tell me the evaluation of each position and recommend better moves and play. I try to analyze my game with lots of notes and variations and keep it in a database. If I have a chance, I will go over my game with my opponent to see what he thought were good and bad moves. I have lost lots of games where I am not sure where I went wrong. But chess computers always find better moves and variations that could have been played. I may not repeat the same moves in any game later, but I now have an idea of the position and how it should be played next time. I sometimes set up two chess boards, side by side. On one board, I play through the game actually played. On the other board, I try variations or play through games found in databases, to see how stronger players played the game from the same opening. If I have a new opening move I want to try, I usually try it in informal or blitz games before I try it in a tournament game.

From Pawn Magician. *Help! I am studying chess videos and doing tactics exercises on the computer and getting worse. I went from 1637 to 1440. What is wrong?*

Pawn Magician, maybe you are playing too much chess, or playing chess at a faster time control than you should be playing. You may be playing a poor opening, or running out of ideas after the opening. I would really have to look at your games to see how and why you are losing. I would have to see what openings you play and find the critical points in your game. You may be losing in the endgame. Lower-rated players are usually weaker in the endgame. Perhaps your



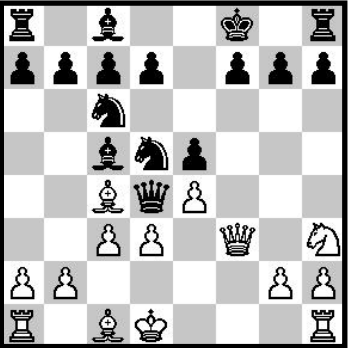
games are not even reaching the endgame. Perhaps you are losing to combinations and tactics because you were not defending before attacking. You may be playing too risky and missing you opponent's attack that may be winning a pawn or a piece. You need to defend before you can attack. You should have two opening ideas as White and two opening ideas as Black, then stick with these openings unless you feel the need to try another opening if you are not too successful on the openings you play now. Look at some opening books or online opening databases and restrict your openings to something you feel comfortable playing. Maybe you are playing too fast. Don't be playing blitz or 5-minute games. Slow down to 15 minutes or more for your games. Don't give up on tactics and tactics trainer programs. They are good for chess pattern recognition. Match the tactics you know with the openings you play. Experiment with gambits and see how your game goes when you have quick development at the expense of a pawn. Normal development moves should be your best plan for now. Control the center and castle early. Learn from your mistakes and losses and go over the games you lose with a stronger player or a chess program. Find that critical position that decides the game.

From Jorge Rivera-Herrens. *I have been studying your 700 Opening Traps. I happened to see the Vienna Opening and have been studying that opening because it can lead to many great traps. I hope I can use this opening against other opponents, or counter it if it is played against me. What is your opinion on the Vienna Opening?*

Jorge, the Vienna Opening (1.e4 e5 2.Nc3) has been around for a long time. It is less common that other openings, such as 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3. That could be an advantage, since your opponents may not be ready for the Vienna, or studied it more than other openings. It is sometimes good to surprise your opponent. The idea behind 2.Nc3 (instead of 2.Nf3) was to play a delayed King's Gambit with 3.f4. But if you are not a gambit player, you can try 3.g3 and 4.Bg2 or 3.Bc4. In the 1940s, a player named Weaver Adams thought that the Vienna Game won by force, and wrote a book on it, called White to Play and Win. Nowadays, most grandmasters think that the opening leads to equality with best play for both sides. It does not seem to be an opening you want to play if you are trying to win. But at the non-master level, the Vienna Opening is good and it does have a lot of traps. The Vienna Game has great flexibility, and you can choose between either tactical (usually 3.f4) or positional lines, depending on your style of play. Among grandmasters that play the Vienna include Boris Spassky, Nigel Short, and Michael Adams.

Here are a few of my chess miniatures with the Vienna.
Bill Wall – Bill Hatfield, Guam 1974 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 f5 3. Bc4 fxe4? 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Qxe5 Qe7 6.Qxh8 and Black resigns as he loses his rook.
Bill Wall – Bob Lovegren, Dayton, Ohio 1980 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Ng5 Na5? 6.Nxf7 Qc7 7.Nd5 Qc6 8.Bb5 Qxb5 9.Nc7 and Black resigns as he loses his queen.

And here is a well-known trap that many chess players have fallen into.
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qg4 Qf6 5.Nd5 Qxf2 6.Kd1 Kf8 7.Nh3 Qd4 8.d3 Nf6 9.Qf3 Nxd5 10.c3 (trapping the queen) Ne3+ 11.Bxe3 and White wins.



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