

The Chicago Chess Player

The Official Bulletin of the Chicago Industrial Chess League



CICL Team Goes Undefeated in the 2010 U.S. Amateur Team North Championship in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Details inside this issue.

Pictured left to right: NM Mariano Acosta, WFM Anastasia Antipova, NM Len Weber (team captain), Dmitri Sergatskov, NM Dr. Steven Tennant (photograph courtesy of Anna Varentsova)

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Mark Your Calendars with These Key League Dates:

Spring Business Meeting	3.5 Weeks Before Playoffs (April 14, 2010)
Season Playoffs	Second Saturday of May (May 8, 2010)
CICL Open	Second Saturday of May (May 8, 2010)
League Awards Banquet	First Friday of June (June 4, 2010)

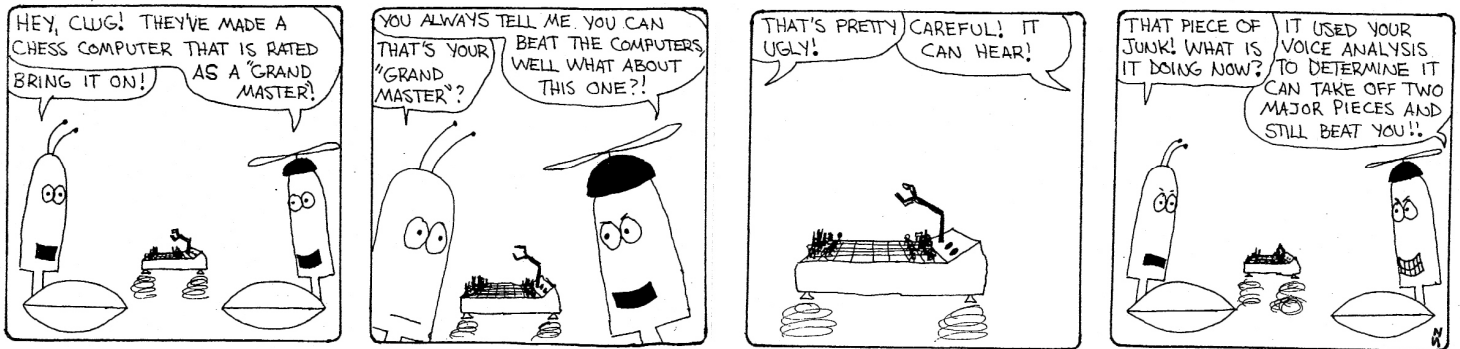
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Reminder – Next CICL event: Spring Business Meeting – April 14, 2010, 7 PM at Molex in Lisle, IL.

Note the change in venue! The building is located at 2201 Wellington Ave. It is a one-story building in the Molex complex of buildings. To get there, you turn South on Indiana Ave off of Ogden and go about 150 yards. You turn right onto Wellington Ave and the one story building we meet in is on the East side of a visitors parking lot on your left.

CICL members are invited to submit items for the agenda now. Please inform CICL President Tony Jasaitis if you are planning to attend. Our thanks to Vic Zaderej and Dan McGowan for obtaining the use of their facility for this meeting.

MR. CLUGSMIRK



Anonymous

Annotated Games From Robert Eaman and Mariano Acosta

This issue's games are from CICL match competition and the U.S. Amateur Team North Championship.

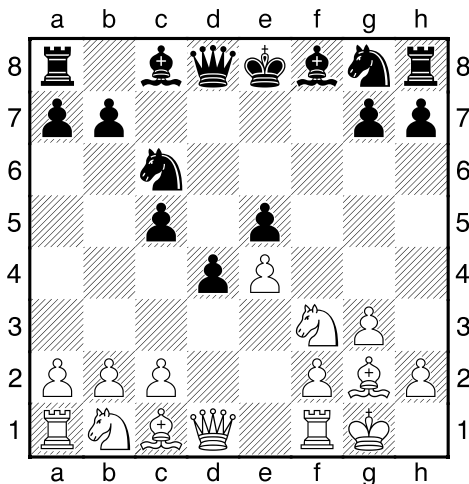
(1) Shepardson, Tom (1586) – Eaman, Robert (1749) [A06]

Hedgehogs at AMARS (7), 02.02.2010

[Robert Eaman]

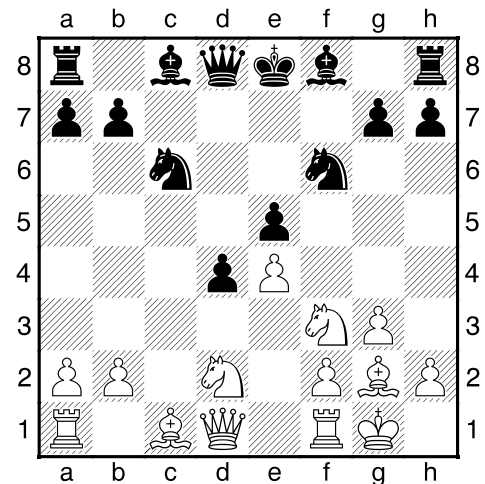
1.Nf3 d5 2.d3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 e5 5.0-0

Now the first serious "planning" question for black: to play f5 and attempt to establish center control, or to play Nf6 (or Be7) and develop? 5...f5?! f5 here makes it difficult for black to castle later. 6.e4 [6.c4?! dxc4 7.dxc4 Be7] 6...fxe4 7.dxe4 d4

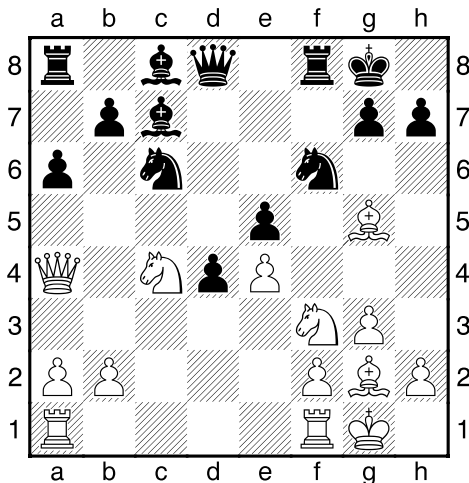


White is now obligated to come up with a plan against black's strong center. Typically white's plan in this type of situation would be to attack the weak e5 anchor pawn with an eventual f4. Additionally, knowing that black will require time to coordinate pieces for castling, white needs to mix it up quickly with accurate forcing moves. [7...dxe4? 8.Qxd8+ Nxd8 9.Nxe5+–] 8.c3?! Useful for freeing the queen to arrive at b3 or a4, and for countering black's strong center, but

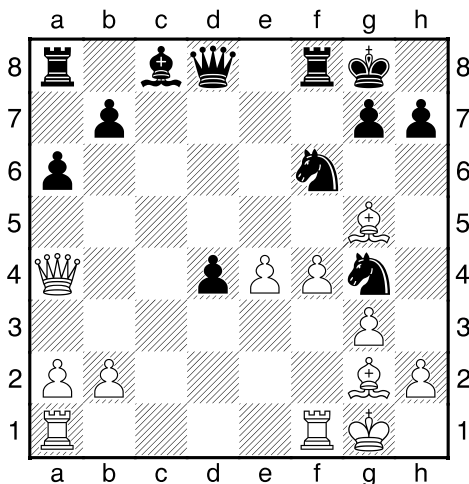
also blocking white's own development. [8.Na3 Nf6 9.Bg5 Develops pieces more seamlessly, and better prepares for c3. 9...Bd6 10.c3 0-0 11.Qb3+ Kh8±] 8...Nf6 9.cxd4 cxd4 10.Nbd2



Good developing move, though Qb3 here would be better. Black cannot take the e4 pawn anyway without major consequences. 10...Bd6!? Knowing full well that white is likely to play Nc4, but black wants to protect e5 against the future threat of f4. If not here, where else does black's bishop belong? 11.Nc4 Bc7 12.Qa4?! Qb3 better, as it prevents black from castling. [12.Qb3! Rb8 13.Bg5 Qe7 14.Rfe1 Be6 15.Nfd2±] 12...0-0 13.Bg5 a6 Diagram follows

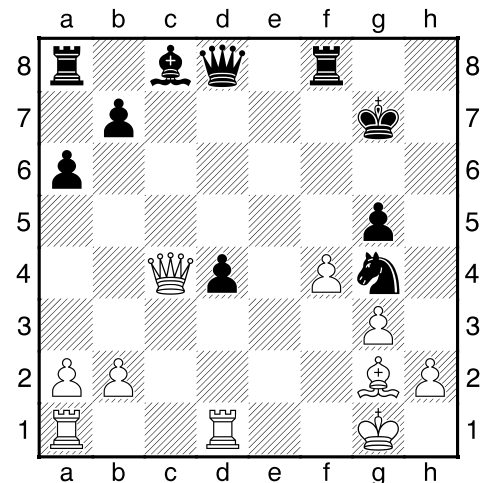


The disadvantage of Qa4 is now exploited. White's best plan at this point is probably to re-coordinate his pieces, though any development advantage is now lost. **14.Ncxe5!?** A daring sacrifice given the idea that f4 and e5 will make black work hard to keep his advantage. [14.Qb3? Be6!! And white is in trouble. 15.Qd3 Nb4!!] **14...Bxe5** [14...Nxe5?! Allows white more options to claim pawns as compensation. 15.Nxd4 Nf7 16.f4 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6-+] **15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.f4 Neg4!!**

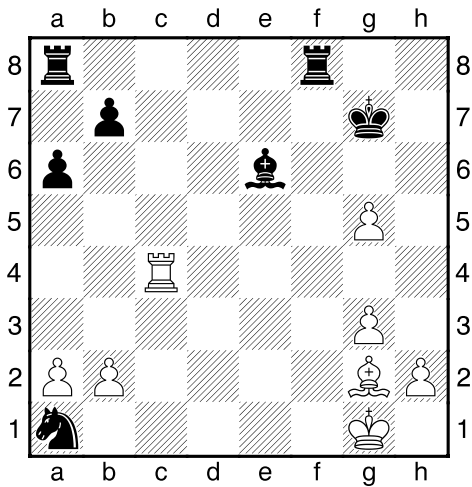


Threatening at the very least to eventually remove the powerful light-squared bishop on g2. [16...Nf7! Also a good possibility,

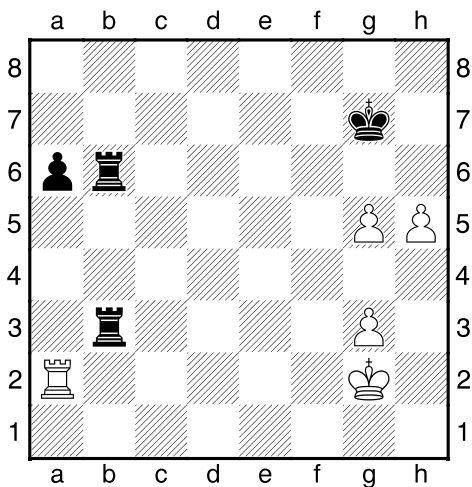
and maybe an improvement. 17.Bh4 h6 18.e5 g5 19.fxg5 hxg5 20.Bxg5 Nxc5 21.exf6 Rxf6-+] **17.e5 h6 18.exf6!?** [18.Bh4 g5 19.fxg5 Nd7 (19...Nd5? 20.gxh6 And black cannot protect the d5 knight.) 20.gxh6 Qb6 21.Qc4+ Kh8 And white's advantage in development may very well nullify black's material advantage.; 18.Bxh6!?! gxh6 19.exf6 Ne3 20.Rf2 Nxc2-+] **18...hxc5** [18...gxf6?! 19.Bh4 Ne3 20.Rfe1 Nxc2 21.Kxc2 Be6+ 22.Rad1 (22.Rxe6?? Qd5+ 23.Kg1 Qxe6+) 22...Bd5+ 23.Kg1 Bc6 24.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 25.Rxd4±] **19.Qc4+?** Knowing that black's knight will reach e3, this is a mistake. Better is Qb3+. **19...Kh8 20.fxc5+?!** [20.f7 Interesting if white can keep that pawn. 20...Qb6 (20...gxf4? 21.Rxf4 With mate threats on h4.) 21.Kh1 Qxb2 22.fxc5 Is white's counterplay enough? An interesting continuation at the very least, but very tough to calculate.] **20...Kxc5 21.Rfd1??**



[21.fxc5 Ne3 22.Rxf8 Qxf8-+; 21.Bd5! gxf4 22.Qxd4+ Kh6 23.Rxf4 Rxf4 24.Qxf4+ Qg5 25.Qf8+ Qg7 26.Qb4 Qe5±] **21...Ne3!!** **22.Qxd4+ Qxd4 23.Rxd4 Nc2!!** [23...Nxc2 24.Kxc2 gxf4-+ Also good for black.]

24.Rc4?? Nxa1 25.fxg5 Be6?

[25...Bf5 Saves the knight. 26.Bxb7 Rab8 27.Bxa6 Rxb2-+] **26.Rc1 Rac8! 27.Rxa1 Bxa2?!** Clever move, but it leaves white with too many chances for counter play. [27...Rc2 Better.; 27...Rc7 Also better.] **28.Bxb7** [28.Rxa2?? Rc1+ 29.Bf1 Rcx1+ 30.Kg2-+] **28...Rb8 29.Rxa2 Rxb7 30.Kg2??** White's best chance to hold on is to grab the a6 pawn, but black has this game won regardless. [30.Rxa6 Rxb2 31.Re6-+] **30...Rb6 31.h4 Rd8 32.b3 Rd3 33.h5 Rdx3**



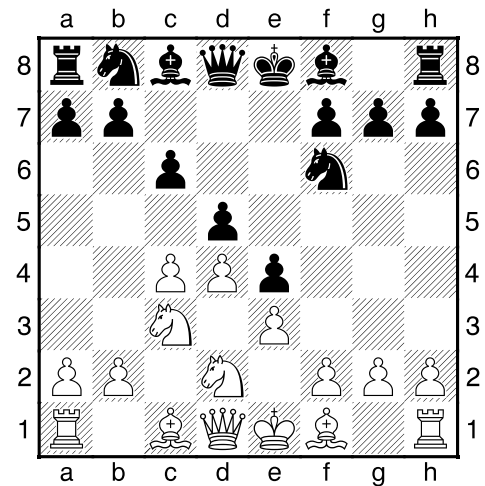
White could comfortably resign at any

point from here on out. **34.Rc2 Rb2 35.Rxb2 Rxb2+ 36.Kf3 a5 37.Ke4 a4 38.Kd3 a3 39.h6+ Kg6 40.Kc3 Rb7 0-1**

FM Betaneli,Alex (2334) - NM Acosta,Mariano (2227)

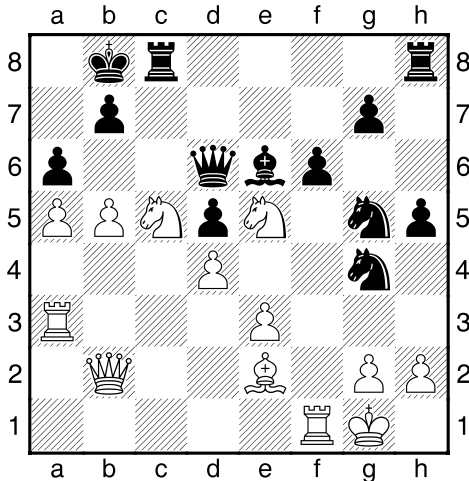
U.S. Amateur Team Championship North, Milwaukee, WI. (5) Board 2. CICL vs. Peasants of the Midwest 14.02.2010 [Mariano Acosta]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 (the Budapest Gambit) 3.Nf3 e4 4.Nfd2 c6 5.e3 (or 5. Nc3) 5...d5 6.Nc3

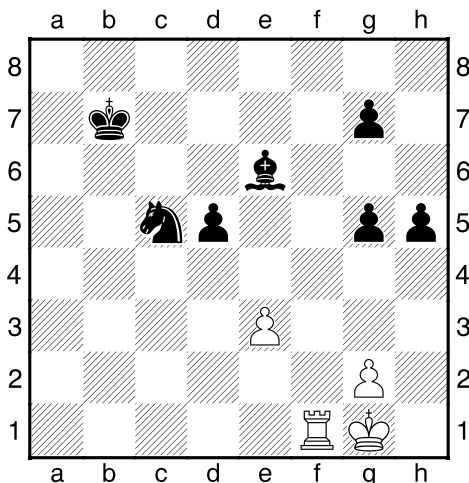


6...a6 (with the idea of 7. ... b5) **7.a4 Be7 8.Be2 Be6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.b3 h5** The die is cast! Black does not intend to castle short. **11.f3! exf3 12.Nxf3 Qc7 13.Qd3** (Entertaining a possible 14. e4) **13...0-0-0** In opposite-side castling (0-0 vs 0-0-0) the one who advances his pawns first against the opposing king usually wins, unless there is a staunch defense. **14.Ba3** (Good is 14. c5 followed by 15. b4-b5.) **14...Bxa3 15.Rxa3 Ng4 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Qd2** (with a possible 18. Rc1.) **17...Kb8 18.b4 Qd6! 19.a5 Rc8 20.Na4 Ndf6** Black had enough time to regroup his pieces, expecting a Q-side onslaught. **21.Nc5 Ne4 22.Qb2 Ng5**

(with the idea of 23. ... N:f3 exposing the vulnerability of the h-pawn.) **23.Ne5 f6 24.b5**

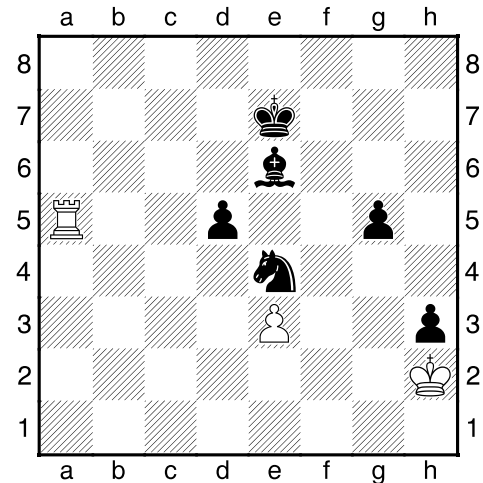


24...Rxc5! 25.dxc5 Interesting is 25. b:a6 Re7 26. Rb1 etc.) **25...Qxe5 26.Qxe5+ Nxe5 27.bxa6 bxa6 28.Rb3+ Kc7 29.Bxa6 Ra8! 30.Rb7+ Kd8 31.Rb6 Nd7 32.Rd6 Kc7 33.Bb5 Rxa5 34.h4 Rxb5 35.Ra6 Nxc5 36.Ra7+ Rb7 (or 36. ... Kb6) 37.Rxb7+ Kxb7 38.hxg5 fxc5**



The Q-side attack has fizzled and the dust has cleared. Now it's Black's turn to continue his K-side attack. "Tora!" **39.Rc1 Kc6 40.Kf2 h4! 41.Kf3 Kd6 42.Ra1 Ke5**

43.Ra7 g4+ 44.Kf2 g5 45.Rg7 Ne4+ 46.Kg1 h3 47.Rh7 Nf6 48.Rg7 Kf5 49.Ra7 Kg6 50.Ra6 Bf5 Which piece is better placed at e4? The knight, instead of the bishop, since it can control the dark squares, especially g3. **51.Kh2 Bd7 52.Kg3 Kf7 53.gxh3 gxh3 54.Ra7 Ke7 55.Ra5 Ne4+ 56.Kh2**



White resigns. The g pawn will advance to g3, making promotion to a Queen inevitable and/or making mating threats.

Strugnell, Neil (1801) -

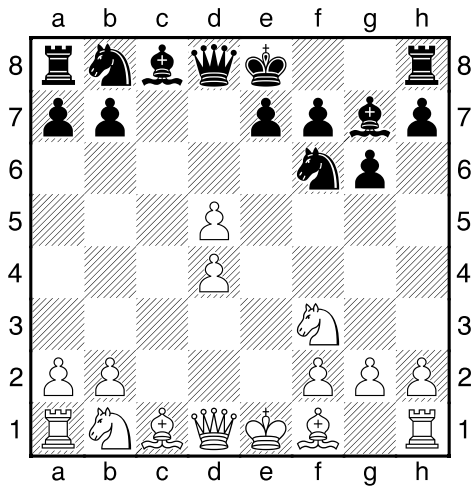
NM Acosta, Mariano (2227)

USAT North, Milwaukee, WI (1), Board 2.

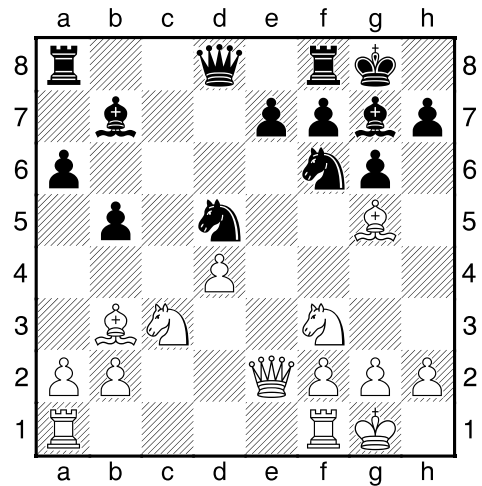
CICL vs PAN, 12.02.2010

[Mariano Acosta]

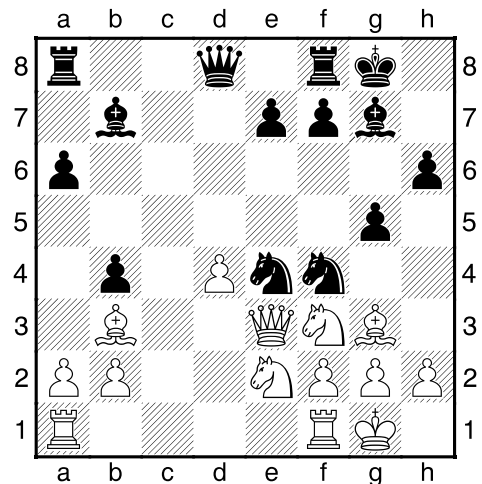
1.e4 c5 (the Sicilian Defense) **2.Nf3 g6** (the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon) **3.c3** (center building, with the idea of 4. d4 cd 5. cd) **3...Bg7 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d5** Challenging White's classic center, which he can close off Black's bishop with 6. e5, or try to open the position after 6.ed, as in the game. **6.exd5 Nf6** Diagram follows



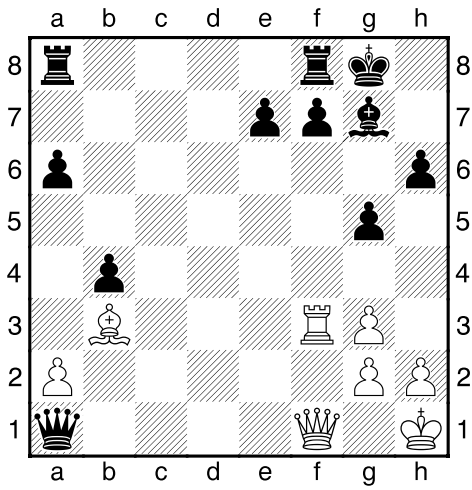
"This is a position that can be reached from the Caro-Kann, Panov-Botvinnik Attack (as well as from the Alapin Variation of the Sicilian): 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. ed cd 4. c4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 (one of the three main lines) 6. cd. In our case, however, White has developed his king's knight instead of his queen's knight. Because a knight on f3 does not support his d5 pawn, this difference favors Black." (From page 130 of "Chess Openings for Black, Explained", by GMs Alburk Dzindzi & Perelshteyn, 2009. **7.Qa4+** If 7. Nc3 N:d5 8. Bc4 (8. Bb5+ Bd7!) 8. ... Nb6 9. Bb3 0-0 transposes into the Panov-Botvinnik Attack of the Caro-Kann Defense, which is good for Black. If 7. Bb5+ Nbd7 8. d6 (8. Nc3 0-0 9. 0-0 Nb6 followed by ... Nf:d5, and Black is better due to White's isolated d-pawn) 8. ... ed 9. Qe2+, etc. **7...Nbd7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.Nc3 a6 10.Qc2** If 10. 0-0 b5 11. B:b5 or N:b5 then Nb6! **10...b5 11.Bb3 Bb7!** 11. ... Nb6 12. Ne5 Bb7! (Not 12. ... Nb:d5 13. Ncd Qd6 14. N:d5! or B:d5! wins a piece as there is the threat of N:e7+). **12.0-0 Nb6 13.Bg5 Nbx:d5** Now Black has the advantage. **14.Qe2**



Removing the Queen from the c-file before Black plays Rc8 and b4. How does one convert a better position into material gain of a pawn or piece? By a series of well-coordinated moves. **14...h6 15.Bh4** Better is 14. Bd2. **15...Nf4 16.Qd2 g5 17.Bg3 b4 18.Ne2** Not 18. B:f4, then 18. ... b:c3 wins. **18...Ne4 19.Qe3**



19...Nxe2+ Simplify! **20.Qxe2 Nxc3 21.fxg3** Or 21. h:g3 **21...Bxf3 22.Rxf3 Qxd4+ 23.Kh1 Qxb2 24.Qf1?? Qxa1** Diagram follows



White Resigns. If 25. R:f7 Kh8! wins. **0-1**

Chicago Industrial Chess League takes second at USATN!

by team captain Len Weber

"Chicago Industrial Chess League" took second place at the US Amateur Team North tournament this February 12th through 14th, 2010, in Milwaukee, with a score of 4-1 (three victories and two drawn matches.)

The team, consisting of NM Dr. Steven Tennant, NM Mariano Acosta, NM Len J. Weber, WFM Anastasia Antipova, and Dmitri Sergatskov, represented four different CICL teams, and was actually ranked #1 going into the event.

There was tough competition, however, in the form of two other very strong teams, those being "Pinoy of Chicago", the eventual champions, consisting of IM Angelo Young, FM Camilo Pangan, NM Floren Inumerable (himself a CICL player!), Expert Rene Ancheta and Virgillio Forro. The other highly ranked team was "Peasants of the Midwest", consisting of GM Alex ("the Yerminator") Yermolinsky, FM Alexander Betaneli, NM Erik Santarius, and Henry Van Der Hill.

"Chicago Industrial Chess League" reached 3-0 and was paired with the first of these two top rated teams, but was only able to draw the match with the eventual champions, "Pinoy of Chicago". That set up last round pairings with the two 3.5 point teams facing different opponents. "Chicago Industrial Chess League" wound up paired with "Peasants of the Midwest" (Yermo's team), and only drew the other top rated team, while "Pinoy of Chicago" was paired with the highest of the "rest" of the teams, "University of Chicago B", whom they defeated decisively to win the USAT North title outright.

The Champions, "Pinoy of Chicago", represent the Touch Move Chess Center in Chicago, and were proud representatives of the chess playing Filipino community in Chicago. In addition to their tournament victory, their team also captured two board prizes, FM Camilo Pangan winning that honor on board 2, and Rene Ancheta capturing the glory on board 4.

Captain's Report:

Our own team's story starts about two months before the event, when the call to arms from CICL President Tony Jasaitis went out to mobilize a league team for the 2010 event. Our readers may recall that last year, the league sent a team, which performed very well and captured third place. We were originally hoping to recreate the 2009 team, but scheduling issues arose with a number of the participants, and we were forced to assemble a mostly new lineup.

In time, when the dust had settled, we were able to obtain the services of Steve Tennant and myself of the South Suburban Chess Club (YRKTN), Mariano Acosta of the St. Charles Chess Club (STCCC), Anastasia Antipova of Argonne National Labs (ARGON), and Dmitri Sergatskov of Fermilab (FERMI).

The President and team members appointed myself as captain. We also received logistical support from CICL Banquet Chairperson Katherine Zack, who also made the trip to Milwaukee.



Team Captain NM Len Weber

So we all headed out there in two cars on Friday, with everyone except Steve staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We were alerted by Dmitri that the "chess rate" offered by the hotel was not their best rate, and so we called and arranged rooms on our own, not mentioning chess, and got a slightly better rate!

After a nice dinner at the family restaurant across the street, we went into battle against our first round opponents.

Round 1

Chicago Industrial Chess League - Pan

Steven Tennant (2254) 0 - 1 Hongkai Pan (2018)
 Mariano Acosta (2227) 1 - 0 Neil Strugnell (1801)
 Anastasia Antipova (2081) ½ - ½ Suhas Kodali (1683)
 Dmitri Sergatskov (1879) 1 - 0 Timothy Broman (1476)

The match was hard fought, but our team secured the wins on 2 and 4, while Steve's game appeared double edged but favorable to us. Anastasia's opponent seemed to be playing very stubbornly and as captain I advised her that a draw would win the match for us. She offered one, and he refused! After some tactics the situation cleared up a bit and this time he offered the draw, which was accepted and the match thus secured. Which was a good thing, because a little bit later Steve's game suddenly took a nose dive and he actually lost! So a rough start but all was good as we were 1-0. This was not a given, because the number 2 team, "Peasants of the Midwest", led by GM Yermolinsky, drew their round 1 match after Yermo lost to up and coming expert Trevor Magness (who would earn his NM title in this event!) This unintentional Swiss gambit would later hurt our team!

So after this, we all called it a night and went to our respective abodes to be fresh for tomorrow.

Round 2

Chicago Industrial Chess League - Racine Chess Club

Steven Tennant (2254) ½ - ½ Matthew Waller (2065)
 Mariano Acosta (2227) ½ - ½ Nicole Niemi (1880)
 Anastasia Antipova (2081) 1 - 0 Stephen Callaghan (1767)
 Dmitri Sergatskov (1879) 1 - 0 Arthur Peel Jr. (1700)

So in round 2 we thought we'd see a battle of the two strongest women in the event, but the opponents' board two withdrew from the event and Nicole Niemi was moved up to board 2. In this match, Dmitri quickly

dispatched his opponent, and the match never seemed in doubt. Anastasia also won, and the fact that both our top boards were held to draws in hard fought games did not hurt us. The important thing is we were 2-0!



Dmitri Sergatskov (Fermilab)

Round 3

Chicago Industrial Chess League - (Leftover Salmon)

Steven Tennant (2254) ½ - ½ Alexander Velikanov (2086)
 Mariano Acosta (2227) 1 - 0 Nolan Hendrickson (1893)
 Len Weber (2201) 1 - 0 Jonathan Hildeman (1740)
 Dmitri Sergatskov (1879) 1 - 0 Yury Itskovich (1620)

Anastasia sat this round out, although she and her friend Anna were present to take many pictures! This match had some interesting matchups, with the veteran Steve Tennant, who has been playing rated chess since 1964, paired with a small 12 year old opponent - who drew him after a hard fought game! Mariano and I both won, but it looked like Dmitri was having difficulties against his opponent. I say LOOKED that way, because as the game progressed, Dmitri proceeded to advance his entire queenside, and in a queenless game, forced his opponent into a clever suffocating mate! This position

was immortalized in one of Anna's photos. Our team was now 3-0!



WFM Anastasia Antipova (Argonne Rooks)

Overnight we had a crisis! Mariano apparently had a food borne illness, and was ill all night. Since he was rooming with Dmitri, that meant essentially two of our players suffering! Originally we were going to repeat the same lineup as last match, but instead were had to move everybody up for this round whilst CICL Banquet Chairperson Kathy Zack served as medic and drove Mariano to the drug store. Since we were playing one of the other top rated teams, we needed some good performances.

Round 4

Chicago Industrial Chess League - Pinoy of Chicago
 NM Steven Tennant (2254) ½ - ½ IM Angelo Young (2385)
 NM Len Weber (2201) ½ - ½ FM Camilo Pangan (2241)
 WFM Anastasia Antipova (2081) 1 - 0 NM Florencio Inumerable (2019)
 Dmitri Sergatskov (1879) 0 - 1 Rene Ancheta (1987)

The match started ominously when the previously undefeated Dmitri was decisively taken down by Ancheta. However, Steve confidently drew IM Young, and then my game against FM Pangan, who some of you may recall terrorizing the Illinois tournament scene in the early 1990s, petered into a draw in the endgame. This just left Anastasia playing a hard game against Floren (of the CICL Walgreen Forks!), in order to save the match! With both players low on time, Floren overstepped and the match was tied 2-2. We would now go into the last round as one of the two 3.5 point teams, and the question was, which team would have to play the Yermo team and which would be paired "down"!



NM Steven Tennant (SSCC Yorktown Wildcats)

We pondered these possibilities as the entire team and supporters ate lunch together at the nearby Subway. Mariano had recovered and was ready to go, so it looked like it was finally Dmitri's turn to take a break.

It was a battle of inches for this, with many factors coming into play. Apparently a result somewhat unrelated to us factored in, in which NM Pete Karagianis had survived an attack from GM Yermolinsky. He explained to me that he felt he was winning, but he accepted a draw because he thought his own board 2 was winning. This did not happen and Pete's team drew the match. If he had won, his team (not one of the top three) would have faced our team.

Maybe the Pinoy team would have won anyway? They were after all having a great tournament. Ah but fate is what it is and here's what happened in round 5.

Round 5

Chicago Industrial Chess League - Peasants of the Midwest

NM Steven Tennant (2254) 0 - 1 GM Alex Yermolinsky (2590)
 NM Mariano Acosta (2227) 1 - 0 FM Alexander Betaneli (2334)
 NM Len Weber (2201) 0 - 1 NM Erik Santarius (2315)
 WFM Anastasia Antipova (2081) 1 - 0 Henry Van Der Hill (1516)

And so here it was! You know your team is doing well and playing strong opposition when a 2200 on board 3 plays UP. I thought I had made a good opening choice by playing a Queens Gambit exchange line against which I have done well against other masters, but found out that Erik is not "just" another master (he actually went 5-0 in this event). He basically just blew me off the board. Soon afterwards, Steve fell to the GM, and things started looking grim for our chances. But as the match progressed, Anastasia applied her master level chess weight to her C class opponent and eventually he broke, leaving Mariano to have to defeat FM Alex (undefeated to this point) to save the match! And this he did!



NM Mariano Acosta (St. Charles Chess Club)

Meanwhile the Pinoy Team of Chicago defeated University of Chicago B (their stronger team) and secured the title in fine style!

We congratulated the winners and waited for a few other results to finish to hear our own tiebreak, as one other team won in the last round to reach 4-1. "Chicago Industrial Chess League" was declared second place on the tiebreak.

Our individual results were as follows:

Steve Tennant: 3 draws (including IM Young) and 2 losses (including GM Yermolinsky).

Mariano Acosta: 3 wins (including one over FM Betaneli) and one draw.

Len Weber: 1 win, 1 draw (to FM Pangan), 1 loss (to NM Santarius).

Anastasia Antipova: 3 wins (including one over NM Innumerable) and 1 draw.

Dmitri Sergatskov: 3 wins and 1 loss (to Board 4 prize winner Ancheta).

It was an honor to be a member and captain of this team. The team played as one, with match score considerations taken into account every round and every game. We played the strongest competition and did not lose a match. Winning the title would have been nice, but this team should be proud of this result. The team and supporters were in good spirits throughout, and I would feel confident taking this team into battle anytime, and anywhere.

Our mission was to represent the Chicago Industrial Chess League, and I would declare that mission a success. The purpose was "publicity" for the league, and I believe this was accomplished, with gusto.

We would like to thank the league for sending us, we did our best to make you proud!

(You did indeed make us proud. Congratulations to all of you on an excellent result and fine team effort. —ed.)



Team CICL with their prizes (chess clocks for each member of the team): Pictured standing left to right: NM Dr. Steven Tennant, NM Len J. Weber (team captain), Dmitri Sergatskov, NM Mariano Acosta. Seated in front: WFM Anastasia Antipova

(All photographs provided by Anna Varentsova and Anastasia Antipova.)