

### Chicago Industrial Chess League

Brian Smith

The CICL's 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of team chess competition in the greater Chicago-area was filled with many "firsts" and uniquely interesting moments. The League originated with chess teams representing companies, but teams from government agencies, colleges, chess clubs, and other organizations joined later. Indeed, the start of this season saw the first-ever CICL team fielded from a chess club: the St. Charles Chess Club. Also, for the first time in a number of years, a team representing a college, Northwestern University, joined the CICL. Altogether, 240 players participated, a 33% increase from just two seasons ago. Three new teams have already applied to join the CICL for its next season starting in the Fall. Surely this is evidence of a renewed interest in Chicago-area adult chess!

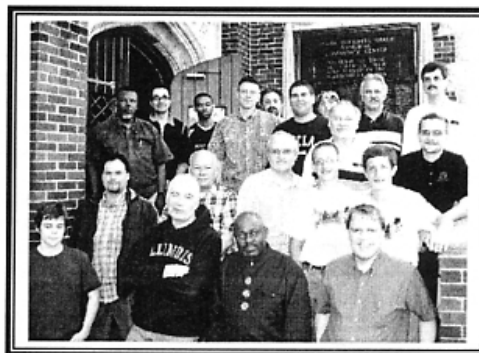
The CICL's regular season saw competition within each of the Leagues' four geography-based divisions. The East Division was won by the Alumni Aces with a perfect regular season match score; Getco was the runner-up. The Near West Division concluded play with Argonne National Labs in first place, and the Pawns in second. The North Division came down to the last match of the regular season, but was finally won by the Motorola Knights, with the Excaliburs finishing second. The Far West Division also came down to the last match, with the St. Charles Chess Club squeaking by the Lucent Tyros on tie-breaks.

The overall CICL champion was determined by a three-round, Swiss-system playoff tournament among each division's winner and runner-up. The first round saw, unusually, two of the four matches finishing with toughly fought draws. Going into the last round, the Aces were in lone first place with two match points, and their line-up was well-stocked with experts. Their opponents, the Lucent Tyros with 1.5 match points, were in a must-win situation. The first four games of the match split evenly, so the final two games of the Aces vs. Tyros match would determine the entire season's results. The tension was unnerving. In the very last minute of the five-hour time control, the Tyros clinched a match win. They thus became this season's co-champions with the St. Charles CC, as both achieved 2.5 match points. For the first time ever, two teams from the same division were crowned CICL co-champions! For two years in a row, the Aces were taken out of championship contention by the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers of the Far West division. A key playoff game from board one of both co-champion teams is included at the end of this article: F. Innumerable (Aces) vs. Peter Stein (Tyros), notes by Stein; and Yuri Fridman

(Knights) vs. Jeff Wiewel (St. Charles), notes by Wiewel.



The CICL co-champion Lucent Tyros team is pictured above. Front row is: Julian Guio, David Hahne, and team captain Pablo Diaz. Back row: is Peter Stein, Bob Buchner, and Brian Smith. Missing from the photo are Bob Stoltz, Joe Karpierz, and Wayne LaForge.

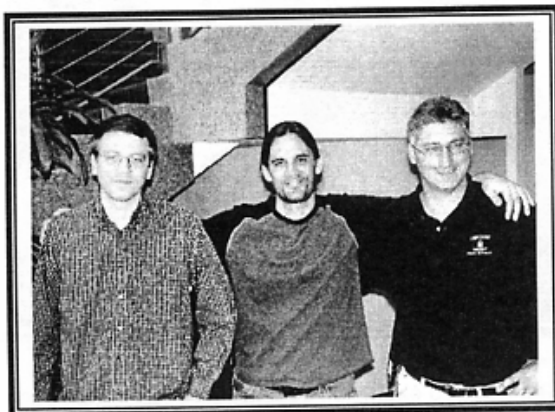


Pictured above is the CICL co-champion St. Charles Chess Club team. Team captain Jeff Wiewel is shown in the front row, to the far right.

On the same day and site as the last two rounds of the team champions, the CICL holds the G/60 CICL Open for individuals not competing in the team playoffs. The first three rounds saw the site-host of the playoffs, C-class rated Matt Vail, winning three in a row against higher-rated opponents, including an expert. He and master Gustavo Garzon faced off in the last round in a thrilling game. It saw Matt "David" Vail achieving a won position on the board against "Goliath" Garzon,

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only to lose on the clock. Matt and Gustavo's game is included at the end of this article, with notes by Gustavo. Gustavo won the CICL Open with a perfect 4-0 score, with Matt and Paul Raso finishing second with 3-1. Pictured below are Paul, Gustavo, and Matt.



Perhaps it is good karma to host the playoffs site, as Matt would go on not only to finish second in the CICL Open, but was awarded the "Most Improved Player" trophy in the League. Matt's trophy as well as the league championship, division leaders, and other trophies were awarded at the CICL's annual Awards Banquet. Also recognized at this time were 11 officers and team captains for the 21 teams who (on a completely volunteer basis) keep the League running so smoothly. Notable among the officers are League President Jim Thomson, Art Olsen (Ratings Chairman, Playoff TD, and North Division Chairman), and Tom Friske (Bulletin Editor, Games Editor, and Webmaster). The Banquet included a country clubhouse feast, GM lecture and speed tourney.

This CICL season will long be remembered for its unique and interesting happenings. The league's next season starts in the Fall. If you might be interested in joining, more info about the CICL can be found at our website: [www.chicagochessleague.org](http://www.chicagochessleague.org) or by contacting Brian Smith with email to [Publicity@chicagochessleague.org](mailto:Publicity@chicagochessleague.org) or by phone on (630)983-9316.

## CICL 2004/2005 Playoff Results

	Team	Total Pts.	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3
1	Lucent Tyros	2.5	D 5	W 4	W 3
2	St. Charles Chess Club	2.5	D 4	W 5	W 6
3	Alumni Aces	2	W 6	W 7	L 1
4	Motorola Knights	1.5	D 2	L 1	W 7
5	Getco	1.5	D 1	L 2	W 8
6	Argonne Rooks	1	L 3	W 8	L 2
7	Pawns	1	W 8	L 3	L 4
8	Excaliburs	0	L 7	L 6	L 5

**(1) Inumerable,F (2206) – Stein,P (2186) [E98]**CICL 04/05 Playoffs Rnd 3 Brd 1 (3.1), 14.05.2005  
[Stein,P]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Ne8 A very flexible setup which modern GM play has shown to be superior to the old Nd7. Black's strategy is to keep this N on e8 to watch d6 & c7. This N typically enters the fray via f6 or g7 when black's kingside attack is well under way. 10.Nd3 f5 11.f3?! I don't like this move for white and it has scored quite poorly in my huge Chessbase database. If white is going to develop the queen B to d2 then he should do so now. Black's inattentive f4 before Nf6 would be a positional blunder on account of 12.Bg4!. 11...f4 12.c5 g5 13.Bd2 Ng6 14.Rc1 Rf7 15.Be1? A serious strategic error. White needed to play cxd immediately as GM John Nunn has demonstrated on several occasions that Bf8 followed by Bxd6 solves the Indian bishop problem in a most satisfactory way. 15...Bf8 16.cxd6 Bxd6 17.Nb5 h5 18.Bf2 a6 19.Nxd6 cxd6 20.Rc3 Rh7 Rg7 might actually be better since black's Q would rather go to h4 eventually rather than g5 where attention must be given to a white R on the g file. 21.Qd2 g4 22.Rfc1 Bd7 23.b3?! This takes away too many options for pressuring black's queenside. 23...Qg5 Amazingly enough Fritz 8 evaluates this position as plus for white. An obviously absurd evaluation since any master strength Kings Indian player dreams of reaching positions like this. 24.Nb2?! In light of the threats against white's king perhaps the N was better placed on e1. 24...Nh4! A standard KI attack schema. Suddenly ole Fritz isn't so enthusiastic about white's position anymore. 25.g3? It's usually not wise to push the pawns in front of your king when faced with an onslaught. White is trying to make something out of the pinned f pawn, but just accelerates the opening of the h file. 25...Ng6 [25...Nxf3+ 26.Bxf3 gxf3 27.Rxf3 h4? Is a murkier path to a plus

for black.] 26.Nc4 h4 27.fxc4? [27.gxh4 Nxh4 28.fxc4 Bxc4?] 27...hxc3 28.Rxc3 Rxc3? Almost squandering the win. I had a gut feeling that both b5 and Nf6 were superior, but with the clock ticking couldn't thread my way through the complications. [28...Nf6! 29.Bf3 (29.Rg2 Nxe4 30.Qc2 Nxf2 31.Rxf2 Rc8 32.Qb1 e4 33.Nxd6 Rxc1+ 34.Qxc1 e3 35.Rg2 Nh4 36.Ne4 Qe7+) 29...Nh4 30.Bh1 Nxc4 31.h3 Qg6 32.Rgc3 Ne3+ 33.Kh2 Nf3+ 34.Bxf3 Rxc3#; 28...b5!! 29.Nb6 Rxc2 30.Rgc3 Qh6 31.Bf3 Bxc4+] 29.Kxh2 fxc3+ 30.Bxc3 Nf4 31.Ne3? [31.Bxf4 exf4 32.Kg1 Bxc4 33.Bxc4 Nf6 34.Rf1 Qxc4+ 35.Qg2 Qxc2+ 36.Kxc2 Nxe4 37.Rxf4 Nc3 38.Nxd6 Rd8 39.Nxb7 Rxd5+] 31...Nf6! 32.Bf3 Bxc4 33.Nxc4 Nxc4+ 34.Kh1 Kf7! 35.Bxc4 Rh8+ 36.Bh2 Qxc4 37.Qf2 [37.Rf1 Ke8+] 37...Qg6? [37...Ke7! The white R cannot leave the back rank on account of Qd1+ followed by Qf3+ mating.] 38.Qf3?? [38.Re1 Ke8+ 39.Qc2 Qg4!-] 38...Rh3 39.Qxh3 Qxe4+ 40.Kg1 Nxh3+ 0-1

**(2) Fridman,Y (2294) – Wiewel,J (2085) [E70]**CICL 04/05 playoffs Rnd 1 Brd 1 MyTown, 14.05.2005  
[Jeff Wiewel]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.f3 [5.e5 is interesting and different] 5...c6 6.Be3 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.e5 Ne8 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Rc1 f6 11.exf6 Bxf6 [11...Nxf6 is better. I overlooked his next move.] 12.Nxd5 Bxd4 complications to keep material parity 13.Bxd4 Nxd4 14.Bc4 b5 15.Qxd4 bxc4 16.Ne2 [16.Qxc4 Be6] 16...Be6 17.Ne3 Qa5+ 18.Nc3 Nd6 19.0-0 Qb6 20.Qe5 Nf5 21.Rfe1 Rf6 preparing for Bf7 and Re6 22.Ne4 Bf7 I thought N+2P for the R and isolating my e-pawn was okay 23.Nxf6+ exf6 24.Qc3 Re8 25.Kf2 Nxe3 26.Rxe3 Rxe3 27.Qxe3 Qxb2+ 28.Kg1 Qxa2 29.Qc3 Qa6 30.Ra1 Qd6 31.Qe3 a6 32.Qa7 c3 the pressure from pushing this pawn is worth the a-pawn 33.Qxa6 Qd4+ 34.Kh1 c2 35.Qf1

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Bc4 36.Qe1 Be2 I made multiple sac offers to improve my piece position 37.h3 Qd1 38.Qg1 Qd5 39.Qe3 Qd1+ 40.Qg1 Kg7 41.Kh2 Qd6+ 42.Kh1 Qd2 43.Kh2 a time pressure blunder by white 43...Bxf3 44.Qa7+ Kh6 45.Qg1 Bd1 46.Qc5 Bf3 47.Qf8+ Kh5 48.Qc5+ f5 49.Qg1 Be4 50.Qf1 f4 51.Kg1 Qe3+ 52.Kh2 Qg3+ 53.Kg1 f3 54.Ra5+ the rook is better on the first rank 54...g5 55.Rc5 Qxg2+ 56.Qxg2 fxe2 57.Rc4 Kg6 heading to d2 0-1

### (3) Vail,M (1487) – Otero y Garzon,G (2244) [A48]

CICL Open 2005 Chicago (4), 14.05.2005

[Gustavo]

A48 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.c4 0-0 5.Nc3 d6 6.e4 With this pawn structure the bishop is not in its best square at f4. More common here is e3 to create a solid centre and limit the scope of the g7 bishop. 6...Nbd7 7.Bd3 e2 seems to be a better place for this bishop, it does not block the d file and will not be subject of the attack of black's knights. 7...c5 8.d5 Ng4 9.Bd2?! I do not understand this move. There were many better options: [9.h3; 9.0-0] 9...a6 10.h3 Nge5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Qe2 I would have preferred to retreat the bishop since white would reject the knight and fight for a solid space advantage. [12.Be2] 12...e6 13.Bf4 It is clear that the bishop had nothing to do at d2. 13...exd5 14.cxd5 [It was better: 14.Nxd5 Be6 15.0-0] 14...b5?! Until now white has neglected a bit his development and it was time for black to strike in the centre. Instead I kept on playing by general grounds, without the necessary focus. Much stronger would have been: [14...f5 15.exf5 (15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.0-0 fxe4 17.Nxe4 Qh4+ with attack.) 15...Nxd3+ 16.Qxd3 Bxf5 17.Qd2 Re8+ 18.Be3 b5+] 15.0-0 Re8 16.a3?! Seems to be somehow pointless. 16...Bd7 17.Rab1? Pointless again and gives black the possibility of obtaining a considerable advantage. [Better would have been: 17.Rfd1 ] 17...Nxd3+ 18.Qxd3 b4 19.Ne2 Bb5 20.Qe3 a5? So far black has played mechanically but given that white conceded time with the bishop and rook moves and gave up the light squares, the position is falling down for white. The pressure on the e column and the f1-h6 diagonal is difficult to handle. But I was disconnected of the game and played a horrible move instead of winning with: [20...f5 21.Bg5 (21.f3 fxe4 22.fxe4 Qe7+) 21...Qb6 22.f3 Bd4 23.Nxd4 cxd4+] 21.Rfe1 Now white solved the problems in both lines. 21...Ra7 22.Kh1 Qb6 23.Ng3 Rae7 24.f3 Rc7?! This is not a bad move in itself but it shows the lack of concentration and a weak play from my part. [Black may have manoeuvre patiently with: 24...h5 ] 25.Bh6 Bxh6 Not the most accurate since it brings white's pieces close to the king. [Preferable was: 25...Be5 26.f4 Bd4 27.Qd2 f6 and black is OK.] 26.Qxh6 f6 27.Nf5? Matt goes for a bold attack that is just a bluff. [A quiet option

would be: 27.Qe3 with a more or less leveled game.; A more ambitious plan would be: 27.h4 Bd3 28.Rbd1 c4 but white has to be careful. For example: 29.h5 Qf2 30.Kh2 Qxb2 31.axb4 axb4 32.hxg6 Rg7 33.Nf5 Rxc6+] 27...gxf5+ 28.exf5 Rf7 [Exchanging a pair of rooks was also a good option: 28...Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Rf7 30.Re6 bxa3 31.bxa3 Qd8+] 29.Re6 Qd8 [Another good option is to defend f6 and reject the rook at e6 later: 29...Ref8 30.Rbe1 bxa3 31.bxa3 Bd7 32.R1e4 Qb2 33.Rg4+ Kh8+] 30.Rbe1 Bd7 31.R1e4 Bxe6 32.Rg4+ Kh8 33.dxe6 Rb7 34.axb4 axb4 35.Rg6 Black is a rook up and has a passed pawn that should have decided the game. Instead I played in a very materialistic way. 35...Rf8 [It is hard to see how white will handle the advance of this pawn. 35...d5 36.Rxf6 d4 37.g4 d3+ White cannot progress and the d pawn gets promoted.] 36.g4 Ra7? I lost my composure, but it is not very surprising given that so far I have not made a single good move. We were both with a few minutes left, with the pressure of playing the decisive game of the tournament. [Black was winning with: 36...c4 37.g5 c3 38.bxc3 b3 now is this the pawn that promotes. 39.gxf6 b2 40.e7 b1Q+ 41.Kh2 Rxe7] 37.Kg2? The pressure goes both sides... [37.g5 was natural and much better since black has to admit a balanced game being a rook up. 37...Qa8 38.Kh2 Re8 39.gxf6 Qxf3 40.e7 Qe2+]=] 37...c4? Now black shouldn't win. [Black had another chance of finding the right plan: 37...Rg8 38.Rxf6 d5+] 38.g5 Rg8?! [Given the situation it was almost impossible to find the defense: 38...fxg5 39.f6 Rxf6 40.Rxf6 Kg8=] 39.Rxg8+= Kxg8 Here I took the decision of playing my chances with the few seconds Matt had left though white has winning chances. [39...Qxg8 40.Qxf6+ Qg7 41.Qd8+=] 40.gxf6± Qf8 41.Qg5+? [41.Qh4 Kh8 42.e7 Qg8+ 43.Kf2 Ra8 44.Qh5 and black has to return material in a worse position. 44...Rf8] 41...Kh8? The comedy goes on. It was not difficult to see that black wins instantly with: [41...Rg7 42.fxe7 Qxe7 43.Qxg7+ Kxg7 and the b pawn decides the game.] 42.e7 Now white has a clear win. 42...Qf7 43.Qg7+ Qxg7+ 44.fxe7+ Kxg7 45.e8Q c3 46.bxc3 bxc3 47.Qb5 Rc7 48.Qb6 Rf7 49.Qd4+ Kg8 50.Qxc3 Rxf5 white flagged. 0-1

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