

MINNESOTA CHESS JOURNAL

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Minnesota State Chess Association

The Minnesota State Chess Association (MSCA) is the designated state affiliate of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) and as such, awards the official Minnesota State Champion Titles as recognized by the USCF.

Current Minnesota State Champions

Open: Sean Nagle or
Samrug Narayanan
**Tiebreak Playoff Pending*

Senior: Tim Radermacher
Blitz: Jackson Wahl
K-12: Linden Lee
K-8: Troy Cavanah
K-5: Alan Xu
GK-12: Alice Lee

MSCA Board of Directors

Dane Zagar - President (2024)
David McNeil - VP (2023)
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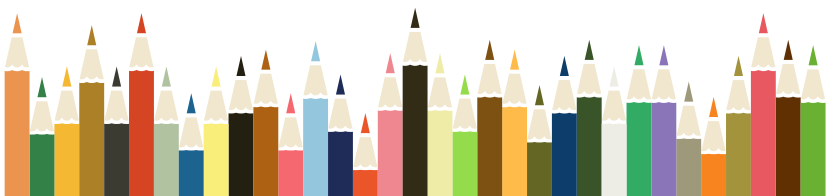
Nagle & Narayanan to Playoff for Overall 2022 MN State Championship!!

This year's edition of the State Championship Playoffs was anxiously awaited - primarily due to the *Rise of Narayanan!* Samrug (Sammy) Narayanan is one of the top junior players in Minnesota with a FIDE Master Title, a 2380 USCF rating, and an ongoing pursuit of IM Norms. This would mark Sammy's first playoff appearance. He would be up against the legendary Minnesota Chess Hall of Famer Sean Nagle who would be looking for his 11th State Championship. Other participants included playoff "regulars" Kevin Wasiluk, Okey Iwu and Tim Radermacher (playing in his 13th playoff and equaling Curt Brasket's record of a 38-year span between first/last playoff appearances....1984/2022). Also participating for the first time in the playoffs was emerging chess talent Andrew Sheehan.

Minnesota's #1 Chess super fan Joe Longen has once again provided his "play-by-play" analysis of the event. Many thanks to Joe for the endless hours he spent watching games to provide us with these highlights.

Round 1

Radermacher - Nagle



Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame Members

Original Inductees:

Curt Brasket
George Tiers
David Kuhns
Dan Voje
E.P. Elliot
Louis Uedemann

Class of 2018:

George Barnes
Eduard Zelkind
Larry Lampert

Class of 2019:

Sean Nagle
John Bartholomew
Victor Adler
Brian Ribnick

Class of 2020:

Nels Truelson
Ted Haugan
Alex Balandin
Ed Conway

Class of 2021:

Roger Rudolph
Milt Otteson
Russ Erickson
Jacob Harris

Class of 2022:

Roger Hale
Marv Mattson
Tim Radermacher
Mike Valvo

Against Sean's Caro-Kann, Tim played a rare 2.Bc4 followed by 3.Bb3, sacking the e-pawn. He did regain the pawn but at the price of giving up the bishop pair. Sean trained his bishops at Tim's king. Tim won the race to play c5 and blocked out one of Sean's bishops. Sean then prevented Tim from landing a knight in the great d6 hole which prompted a peace accord at 28 moves.

Wasiluk - Narayanan

Kevin met Sammy's classical French with aggression. Kevin sacked a pawn to get his knight to the super f4 square. Moves 12-18 brought more chaos. After the tactics cleared, Sammy was a pawn ahead going into the ending. Sammy demonstrated excellent technique to get the win.

Iwu - Sheehan

Queens Gambit Accepted. Okey plays an early g4 to secure the two bishops. Andrew's position remains solid. Okey unleashes a neat "quiet move" (Kf1) on move 15. Later on Okey's bishops stood on a2 and e1, yet he remained calm. Andrew tried to put more pressure on Okey's king. Then Andrew had to deal with 26.d5 and pressure in the center. The next knight move by Sheehan is critical. Okey timed his counter-attack perfectly, won the pawn, and everything fell in place. Point for Okey.

Round 2

Narayanan - Radermacher

Sammy begins with 1.e4 and Tim replies with 1...d6, leading to his line. 4. Nge2 is a rare, but solid line employed by Sammy. Then Sammy shows aggression with an early f4 aiming at Tim's King and when he later played g5 nearly all of his pieces were still on the back rank. Sammy showed great skill in using his two bishops vs. two knights edge to win.

Iwu - Wasiluk

1.d4 leads to a Catalan. A solid position is had by both players. Symmetrical pawns and pieces. Early on Kevin gains control of the c-file for a slight edge. After 36 moves a draw was agreed.

Sheehan - Nagle

1.d4 g6.

A modern opening has been enforced. Sean's 5....b5 creates a problem. How should white proceed? Soon Sean creates a pawn chain extending from e7 to b4. Andrew pushed his forces

toward the black king while Sean made inroads on the queenside. Sean timed his 21...Rc8 move perfectly. Should White exchange rooks and reduce pressure or should he refuse exchanges, play Re1 and “give up” his queenside to try and deliver mate? Only Tal knows! Anyway, Sean won a pawn and then won the game with flawless technique.

Round 3

Nagle - Narayanan

1. Nf3 d5
2. e3 Nf6
3. c4

Solid opening but Sean's 10. Rg1 signals aggression and he follows this move with g4—enhanced aggression. In turn, Sammy set up a great blockading theme: Bd5...Nb8...Nc6. Super cooperation! The queens came off and the period of subtle moves began. Sean won a pawn, but the opposite colored bishops ending seemed doomed to be drawn. Sean pressed, Sammy defended, point split.

Wasiluk - Sheehan

1. Nf3 d5
2. c4 c6

A Slav with an early ...a6. Soon Kevin gets in an early g4 for white. 2nd time a player has played an early g4 against Andrew. Boom! Kevin sacs a knight on f7 on move 9! Now he has two pawns and an attack for the piece sacrificed. Andrew tried to hold off the attack, but Kevin prevails.

Radermacher - Iwu

Both players battled in the 2022 MN Open with a French Defense. Today was the same. Tim sacked a pawn early and got a lot of play. Then Okey took on three isolated pawns. Tim thought for two seconds before putting his knight on d4. Soon Tim's two bishops were creating immense pressure from b2 and b3. Once Tim's rook moved to f5 the combined tactics of Rook, Knight, and two Bishops was too much.

Round 4

Wasiluk - Radermacher

1. d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 Nbd7

Kevin played as if facing the Kings Indian with an early Qc2. Then he made a surprising simplifying combo to allow his rook to reach the 7th rank. With a clever defensive maneuver of moving the king closer to the rook it helped Tim exchange the rook. Soon all rooks and queens vanished. This left a knight vs bishop ending and seven pawns for each side. Despite reduced material, Kevin pushed on. He took a risk putting a pawn on h5, which was impossible for each player to calculate the risks in the future of trying to capture it. After 5 hours, despite strong resistance by Tim, Kevin gained the full point.

Sheehan - Narayanan

Before this game Sammy had a half point lead over the field. That is a good thing, but can also add pressure as well. Andrew played 2. Bf4. Sammy brought out his Queen to b6 and soon took Andrew's b2 pawn. Quickly Andrew regained the pawn but was left with two isolated queenside pawns to worry about. Even after an exchange of queens the pressure remained. Sammy kept putting new tasks to Andrew, especially with his knight. This was amazing. Equally amazing was the calm response. The ending was reached with rooks and bishops of opposite colors. Draw.

Iwu - Nagle

A modern defense by Sean. Double Fianchetto with knights on both e7 and d7. Such a position is not easy to formulate a plan against. Soon Sean gained a slight edge on the queenside. This was his avenue into the white position using the power of the e6 bishop which watched over the key c4 and b3 squares. This pressure kept growing and Okey tried to counter-attack but Sean was able to avoid the threats against his bishop on g7 and win the ending.

Now Sean is tied for first with Sammy with one round to go!

Round 5

Sean and Sammy are in first place with 3 points and Kevin is close behind with 2.5 points.

Radermacher - Sheehan

Tim played the Wing Gambit (?) against Andrew's Sicilian defense. Tim gained some play despite the lost pawn but then I looked up and Tim was down a piece. Point to Andrew.

Nagle - Wasiluk

An English opening with both knights quickly developed. Kevin tries to sharpen the struggle with an early 4...d5. Really a solid game for each side. Dark squared bishops are traded. Kevin's knight gains a nice piece of real estate on b4 when supported by the pawn on a5. Sean's center is solid and retreats the knight to d3 to challenge the comfortable existence of the knight on b4. Kevin tries a neat tactic with his bishop on c4, but loses a pawn to an in-between move 21.Nxc6. Sean then shifts his forces to the kingside and wins.

Narayanan - Iwu

Sammy does battle with Okey's French Defense. After some maneuvers Sammy's knights were in attack mode by reaching e5 and f4. This is prime real estate when dealing with pawns on e6 and d5. Sammy also used his kingside pawns to help limit Okey's space. Okey was resourceful in defense but constant pressure is tough to combat. Okey does get some play on the c-file. Both players invade the back ranks of each other, yet Sammy's threats are too much. Point to Sammy.

Conclusion

Congratulations to Sammy Narayanan and Sean Nagle who finished tied for 1st place with 4/5 points. They will now face off in a tiebreaker match to determine who is the State Champion / Automatic Qualifier for the 2023 State Championship Playoffs. Sammy will be looking to join Andrew Tang, Milt Otteson and Tim Radermacher as teenagers who have won outright Minnesota State Championships.

2022 Minnesota State Championship Play-Offs: April 22-24, 2022 @ Plymouth Crowne Plaza Hotel

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1-2	Sean Nagle	2520	4.0	D6	W5	D2	W4	W3
	Samrug Narayanan	2380	4.0	W3	W6	D1	D5	W4
3	Kevin Wasiluk	2362	2.5	L2	D4	W5	W6	L1
4-6	Okey Iwu	2249	1.5	W5	D3	L6	L1	L2
	Andrew Sheehan	2151	1.5	L4	L1	L3	D2	W6
	Tim Radermacher	2129	1.5	D1	L2	W4	L3	L5

Results in Other Playoff Sections

The Under 2000 section was stocked with players who have been experiencing “chess momentum”. After all the smoke cleared it was Ethan Hunt, Cub Noble, & Puwit Moerlien finishing in a 3-way tie for 1st place with 3.5/5.0 points. There were many draws as 7 of the 15 games were “halved”. Eddie Wasserman avoided this draw fever and played in 5 of the 8 games that had a decisive result!! Cub Noble’s strong result pushed him over the 2000 mark (finally). Cub has been underrated for a long time...so let this result serve notice that Cub is indeed a chess expert.

The U2000 was dominated by Joel Nathe who will likely be making an appearance in the Championship Section within the next few years. Joel was the only player in the U2000 field to finish with a plus score (4.5/5.0 points) and also surpassed the 2000 watermark to land at 2012 USCF. Once again 7 of the 15 games in this section were “halved” with Andy Grube leading the way with 4 draws.

In the U1700 there were a number of emerging chess stars. Coming out in front was Alexander Augustine with 4.0/5.0 points. In a great demonstration of resilience, Alexander lost his 1st round game and then whistled off 4 wins to capture 1st place! 2nd went to Mitchell Mund (3.5/5.0) who lost a long game to Jack Bellingier in the final round. There was great fighting chess as only 4 of the 15 games ended in draws.

Many thanks to Dane Zagar for serving as the TD and chief organizer for the 2022 State Championship Playoffs!

Iwu & Wasiluk Share Minnesota Open Title

Dr. Okey Iwu continued his chess hot streak by sharing 1st place at the 129th Annual Minnesota Open with FIDE Master Kevin Wasiluk. Both scored 4.5/5.0 points in the 37-player open section that featured 14 masters. Iwu's chess hot streak started in December with a win at the Castle's FIDE Event, and continued with wins at the Hall of Fame Classic, the MLK Tournament, the February Castle FIDE Event and the Minnesota Open. Iwu's USCF rating has zoomed up to 2245 and he will look to add a state championship to his already impressive MN chess resume when the playoffs occur later in April. Wasiluk played his normal initiative-based style of chess and impressively scored wins against NMs Joe Longen and Leonard Johnson in games that seemingly were transitioning into even endgames.

The most outstanding performer in the open section was Andrew Sheehan who scored 4/5 points, gained 51 rating points, tied for 3rd place, and qualified for his first state championship playoff. Sheehan had draws with both Wasiluk and Iwu, and had wins against Sammy Narayanan, Jackson Wahl, and Ethan Hunt! That's right...Sheehan played 5 masters and scored 4 points!!! That means Andrew scored 4/5 points against what is effectively state championship playoff caliber competition. So he may be about to participate in his first playoff...but he will be an immediate threat based on the exponential growth in his chess game over the last few months.

Other excellent results were turned in by Vanel Sanchez and Adriel Agam who both finished with 3/5 points, gained 50 and 47 rating points respectively, and made the Expert rating level.

Other interesting stories from the Open section include Cub Noble's 3.5/5.0 point performance and 62-point rating gain. Cub's only loss was to Iwu in round 1 when he sacrificed material for the attack and made a strong push for a 1st round upset. Cub's been regularly driving up from Iowa for our Minnesota chess tournaments and it is good (for all of us) to see that his rating (now at 1982) is finally catching up to his strong chess game. The championship section of the playoffs is now set and will include Iwu, Wasiluk, Sheehan, and Tim Radermacher (tied for 3rd in the open section with 4/5 points). Joining them will be defending champ Sean Nagle, and November's class tournament champ Sammy Narayanan.

Many thanks to Chief TD Dane Zagar and Assistant TD Sarah Emmons for their excellent work with this well run event. Overall there were 179 players spread over 5 sections and the Plymouth hotel site was comfortable and spacious. It is noteworthy that this event was approximately the same size as the pre-pandemic 2020 Minnesota Open...making this the largest over-the-board MN Chess tournament since the pandemic began.

129th Annual MN OPEN: February 25-27, 2022 @ Plymouth Crowne Plaza Hotel

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Total Pts</u>	<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2</u>	<u>Round 3</u>	<u>Round 4</u>	<u>Round 5</u>
1-2	Kevin Wasiluk*	2353	4.5	W7	W24	W21	D3	W9
	Okey Iwu*	2232	4.5	W8	W30	W4	W11	D3
3-4	Andrew Sheehan*	2100	4.0	W32	W35	W15	D1	D2
	T. Radermacher*	2122	4.0	W31	W26	L2	W25	W15
5-8	Troy Cavanah	2207	3.5	W19	D12	D6	W24	D7
	John Talghader	2202	3.5	D18	W28	D5	W23	D8
	Vincent Rancour	2000	3.5	L1	W34	W35	W21	D5
	Cub Noble	1920	3.5	L2	W20	W33	W28	D6
9-13	Leonard Johnson	2305	3.0	W17	D11	D12	W22	L1
	Ionatan Giurgiu	2139	3.0	L12	W19	L25	W26	W24
	Vanel Sanchez	1963	3.0	W27	D9	W18	L2	H
	Adriel Agam	1953	3.0	W10	D5	D9	H	H
	Puwit Moerlien	1938	3.0	H	L14	D17	W18	W23
14-20	Dane Mattson	2208	2.5	H	W13	H	D15	U
	Ethan Hunt	2190	2.5	W26	W23	L3	D14	L4
	Nate Hoover	2114	2.5	L25	D17	L28	W35	W29
	Bill Murray	2009	2.5	L9	D16	D13	D29	W28
	E. Wasserman	1993	2.5	D6	W27	L11	L13	W30
	Ben Vanorny	1965	2.5	L5	L10	D31	W36	W25
	Judson Girton	1700	2.5	L24	L8	D36	W31	W35
21-26	Joe Longen	2135	2.0	W34	W25	L1	L7	U
	Nastassja Matus	2107	2.0	L30	W31	W29	L9	U
	Jordan Timm	2021	2.0	W33	L15	W30	L6	L13
	Yuval Shemesh	1999	2.0	W20	L1	W26	L5	L10
	Isaac Traynor	1859	2.0	W16	L21	W10	L4	L19
	Vihaan Pendse	1711	2.0	Bye	L4	L24	L10	W36
27-31	Nels Truelson	2200	1.5	L11	L18	W34	D30	U

	Gauri Menon	1933	1.5	H	L6	W16	L8	L17
	Casey Schmidt	1842	1.5	W37	L32	L22	D17	L16
	Elijah Tramm	1804	1.5	W22	L2	L23	D27	L18
	Jason Wagner	1841	1.5	L4	L22	D19	L20	Bye
32-35	Samr. Narayanan	2401	1.0	L3	W29	U	U	U
	Jackson Wahl	2248	1.0	L23	W36	L8	U	U
	Glenn Carnahan	1884	1.0	L21	L7	L27	Bye	U
	Sofia Doroshenko	1251P	1.0	Bye	L3	L7	L16	L20
36	Mike Schecter	2003	0.5	L15	L33	D20	L19	L26
37	David McNeil	2049	0.0	L29	U	U	U	U

** Denotes qualified for State Championship Playoffs*

Results in Other Sections at the 2022 MN Open

Joel Nathe dominated the U2000 section by scoring 4.5/5.0 points. In the last round Joel had a draw with runner-up Michael Hentges (4.0/5.0 points). This result was not unexpected after Joel's very strong showing in the master/expert section of the November class tournament. There were 27 participants in the 2000 section.

In the U1700 it was Gurulakshmi Kaliappan going undefeated with 5/5 points to zoom his first post-provisional rating up to 1694. Mitchell Mund came second with 4/5 points. There were 30 players in the U1700 section.

The U1400 had 27 participants with John Blomer having an excellent tournament and perfect 5/5 score. Blomer's rating vaulted from 1275 to 1420. In his string of 5 wins, Blomer was able to defeat both of the runner-ups (Zach McDonald and Mason Pederson who finished with 4/5 points).

The U1100 was the largest section at the event and featured 57 chess players!! Jacob Peters and Nirav Singhal both won all 5 of their games to share the top U1100 prize.

2022 State Scholastic Championships

After going online for 2021, the always exciting state scholastic championships returned to the traditional over-the-board format on March 12-13 at the University of St. Thomas with almost 200 chess players participating! This new site was wonderful and received many compliments from the players & parents for the spacious tournament hall, ample skittle space, and on site food options. Congratulations to MSCA Board Members David McNeil and Jenny Bourne on their excellent planning for this event. Many thanks to Jackson Wahl, Sarah Emmons, Jenny Bourne, David McNeil and Dane Zagar on TD'ing this organized and well executed chess event.

K-12 Section

Another year...another last round match-up between NM Linden Lee and FM Samrug Narayanan on Board 1 for the K-12 State Championship. In 2021 it was Sammy getting the last round win to claim the title. This year Linden was able to turn the tables and complete his perfect 6-0 run to the State Championship. This writer had the opportunity to watch much of Linden's two Sunday games with Ethan Li in Round 5 and Sammy in Round 6. Noteworthy was the observation of Linden's overall calculation prowess as well as the perception that he seems to factor in the probability of certain move responses by his opponents. In Round 5, Ethan Li appeared to have a draw by repetition option...but Linden carefully enticed him to pursue a different idea that backfired and resulted in Linden winning the game. In Round 6, Sammy had white and appeared to have the edge into the early middle game. However, Linden created some interesting (and ultimately successful) complications with the kings castled on opposite sides of the board. Linden's calculation prowess prevailed at the chess board on Sunday March 13th...and then again at the math table on Monday March 14th as he won the State's Annual Math Bowl Championship the very next day! Congratulations Linden!

The other top 6 finishers, all scoring 5/6 points, were NM Ashton Jin, NM Nastassja Matus, Ben Vanorny, Isaac Traynor, and Jordan Timm. All of these top finishers have been "regulars" on the Minnesota chess scene for many years. These 5 players will be invited to join Linden Lee in a late March round-robin playoff at the Castle Chess Club to determine the qualifier for the prestigious Denker National Tournament of High School Champions.

In the team competition, Wayzata won their 6th consecutive championship by scoring 19/24 possible points. Of particular note was the astonishing game played by Nastassja Matus in the last round. In immense time pressure with only a 5-second delay time control...Nastassja defended a piece down against her opponent's Queen and 2 bishops on an open board. Not only did Nastassja not get mated...and not lose on time...but she parlayed her extra pawns into a win! Wayzata ended up winning the title by 1.5 points...but there were moments during Nastassja's pressure-filled time scramble where it appeared this game would decide the team championship. Congratulations to Coach James Titus and the Wayzata Team on yet another State Championship! Eastview finished 2nd on tiebreaks and Mounds View was 3rd (both scoring 17.5/24.0 points).

K-8 Section

NM Troy Cavanah dominated with a perfect 6-0 score to win the K-8 State Championship. Troy's key match-up was with Arvind Thiagarajan (USCF 1924) in round 5. Troy had the white pieces and quickly created an attacking formation with maximum piece activity. Arvind put up staunch defense as long as he could - but eventually Troy's position was overwhelming and the ensuing tactics resulted in a winning advantage.

Arvind was one of 8 players to finish tied for 2nd-9th place with 4.5/6.0 points. Top finishers in the K-8 on tiebreaks were Arvind Thiagarajan, Bami Olofinboba, Joshua Rajadurai, Joshini Sudhakar, and Rynaldo Mejia. These players will have the first invitation to join Troy for the K-8 Barber Invitational Playoff in late March.

In the Team Competition it was Brian Ribnick's Nicollet coming out on top with 16.5 /24.0 points. Nicollet entered an impressive 18 players in the K-8 section. It is an absolute privilege to watch Brian work with his teams year in and year out to produce championship results. Did you know that this represents Brian's 36th Minnesota Middle School Team Championship!! Mr. Ribnick is an institution within the Minnesota Chess Community and very deserving of being the first scholastic coach inducted into the Minnesota Chess Hall of Fame back in 2019. 2nd place with 14.0/24.0 points was Dakota Hills.

K-5 Section

Alan Xu went 5-0 to win the Elementary section of the event. Alan defeated defending champion Ahmed Ilyasov in Round 4 and then outlasted emerging talent Vihaan Pendse in a time scramble in Round 5 to claim the title of Minnesota's K-5 State Champion. There is no playoff for the K-5 so Alan will represent Minnesota in the Rockefeller Tournament of National K-5 State Champions. Overall the Top 5 finishers were Alan Xu with 5 points, Ahmed Ilyasov & Katie Lu with 4 points, and Vihaan Pendse & Vivian Yang with 3.5 points. In the team event it was Eagle Ridge Academy edging out Normandale Elementary by 1/2 point to claim first.

K-3 Section

Following in the footsteps of her older sister Nastassja's chess success, Ksenija Matus went 4-0 in the Primary Section to claim top prize. There were 15 players who competed in the one day K-3 Section.

Haring Qualifier Tournament

On April 2nd ten of the best female chess players in grades K-12 competed in the 2022 Haring Qualifier Tournament. Alice Lee defeated Nastassja Matus in a critical round 3 match-up in route to a perfect 4-0 score. Alice will now represent MN in the Haring Nat'l Tournament of K-12 Girls State Champions.

2022 State Scholastic Playoffs

This year a new format was introduced to bring more excitement and clarity to Minnesota's process for determining the qualifiers for the USCF's National Scholastic Invitational Events. The top 6 finishers from the K-12 and K-8 state championship tournament were invited to participate in a playoff for the K-12 Denker & K-8 Barber. No playoff was held for the K-5 section (by design) and Alan Xu will be the representative from Minnesota for the K-5 Rockefeller.

The playoff was exciting and a good addition to the Minnesota chess calendar. It did bring clarity to the process. However, it did not change the outcome as the two state champions, Linden Lee in K-12 and Troy Cavanah in K-8, also prevailed in the playoffs. Congratulations to Linden who will represent Minnesota in the K-12 Denker and Troy who will represent Minnesota in the K-8 Barber. The USCF National Invitational Events will be held in conjunction with the US Open in California in late July.

2022 Minnesota State K-12 Playoff: March 26-27, 2022 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	Linden Lee	2250	4.0	D2	W3	W5	D6	W4
2	Ashton Jin	2287	3.5	D1	L5	W6	W4	W3
3	Jordan Timm	2009	3.0	W6	L1	W4	W5	L2
4	John Talghader	2191	2.0	W5	W6	L3	L2	L1
5	Ben Vanorny	1971	1.5	L4	W2	L1	L3	D6
6	Nastassja Matus	2093	1.0	L3	L4	L2	D1	D5

2022 Minnesota State K-8 Playoff: March 26-27, 2022 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	Troy Cavanah	2183	5.0	W3	W5	W2	W4	W6
2	Joshua Rajadurai	1356	3.5	D5	W4	L1	W6	W3
3	Arvind Thiagarajan	1919	3.0	L1	W6	W4	W5	L2
4	Bami Olofinboba	1359	2.0	W6	L2	L3	L1	W5
5	Arjun Venkatakrisnan	1161	1.0	D2	L1	D6	L3	L4
6	Milind Murthy	1114	0.5	L4	L3	D5	L2	L1

Troy Cavanah Wins 2022 Chess Castle Club Championship!!

The 2022 Chess Castle Club Championship was held on the first two days of the new year. The event attracted 22 participants and followed the traditional 7-round format, with 4 games played on Saturday and 3 games on Sunday. The time control was 60 minutes with a 15-second delay. Absent from the roster of players was the defending champion Linden Lee and his sister Alice whose family encountered travel delays as they raced back to the Twin Cities from a late December out-of-state chess tournament.

Troy Cavanah won this event scoring 6.0/7.0 points. Troy's play was excellent throughout the weekend. He won all 3 games on Sunday against tough competition to overcome his Saturday 3rd round loss to the ever-dangerous John Talghader. Talghader was tied for first going into Sunday but then lost an interesting game to Jackson Wahl on Sunday morning. This catapulted Jackson into first place...but only temporarily...as Troy beat Jackson in Round 6 to take over first place. Troy then closed out Jordan Timm in short order in Round 7 to win the Championship and enable his name to be engraved on the famous Castle Chess Club Champions Trophy. Wahl and Talghader tied for 2nd-3rd prize with 5.5/7.0 points.

Sarah Emmons served as Chief TD for the event with assistance from Jackson Wahl and Jenny Bourne.

2022 Chess Castle Championship: Jan 1-2, 2022 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Total Pts</u>	<u>RD 1</u>	<u>RD 2</u>	<u>RD 3</u>	<u>RD 4</u>	<u>RD 5</u>	<u>RD 6</u>	<u>RD 7</u>
1	Troy Cavanah	2192	6.0	W6	W19	L3	W11	W4	W2	W5
2-3	Jackson Wahl	2235	5.5	W13	D4	W5	W9	W3	L1	W8
	J. Talghader	2150	5.5	W16	W11	W1	H	L2	W5	W4
4-7	T. Radermacher	2123	4.0	W17	D2	D12	W19	L1	W7	L3
	Jordan Timm	1936	4.0	W22	W18	L2	W12	W9	L3	L1
	Ryan Shiroma	1662	4.0	L1	W21	L19	W17	D12	W9	D7
	Aidan Ghylin	1577	4.0	D8	L12	W10	W18	X19	L4	D6
8-10	Dane Zagar	2100	3.5	D7	W14	L9	H	W11	D12	L2
	Tony Schlaeger	2036	3.5	H	W10	W8	L2	L5	L6	W21
	John Blomer	1051	3.5	D12	L9	L7	W20	L18	W15	W16

11-15	Dan Voje	1976	3.0	W20	L3	W15	L1	L8	W16	U
	Bill Murray	1971	3.0	D10	W7	D4	L5	D6	D8	U
	Adriel Agam	1880	3.0	L2	W17	W18	H	H	U	U
	Ivan Wijetunge	1818	3.0	H	L8	W16	H	U	W17	U
	Michael Tobler	1605	3.0	L18	W22	L11	W21	L16	L10	W20
16-17	Leonardo Segal	1601	2.5	L3	W20	L14	H	W15	L11	L10
	Joshua Rajadurai	1161	2.5	L4	L13	W20	L6	W21	L14	H
18-20	David McNeil	2125	2.0	W15	L5	L13	L7	W10	U	U
	E. Wasserman	1956	2.0	W21	L1	W6	L4	F7	U	U
	Tor Anderbeck	523P9	2.0	L11	L16	L17	L10	W22	W21	L15
21	Daniel Bachhuber	868P20	1.0	L19	L6	W22	L15	L17	L20	L9
22	Jenny Bourne	327	0.0	L5	L15	L21	U	L20	U	U

Youth Dominates at the 2022 Winter Open

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, a Minnesota over-the-board chess tournament was held with more than 100 participants in attendance. The 2022 edition of the Winter Open was held at the comfortable Roseville Skating Center site and featured 105 chess players spread over 3 sections. 8 NMs and 1 WIM competed in the 30-player Open Section with middle schoolers Alice Lee and Troy Cavanah sharing 1st prize with 4/5 points. 5 players tied for 3rd place with 3.5/5.0 points including John Talghader (+21 rating points) and Bill Murray (+19) who turned in particularly strong tournaments. Murray's training-fueled 2021/2022 surge continues and Talghader is now just 6 points shy of reaching the 2200 master level.

Dane Zagar served as the Chief TD for this well run event and his primary assistant TD for the weekend was Sarah Emmons.

2022 Winter Open: Held January 22-23, 2022 @ Roseville Skating Center

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1-2	Alice Lee	2299	4.0	W29	L5	W20	W9	W8
	Troy Cavanah	2226	4.0	W17	W20	W23	D4	D3

3-7	Joseph Truelson	2231	3.5	W13	W7	D4	D5	D2
	Okey Iwu	2217	3.5	W19	W12	D3	D2	D5
	John Talghader	2173	3.5	W16	W1	H	D3	D4
	T. Radermacher	2113	3.5	L21	D25	W29	W17	W15
	Bill Murray	1951	3.5	W22	L3	W25	W21	D10
8-14	James Neal	2211	3.0	D15	D21	W19	W12	L1
	Nathan Hoover	2111	3.0	W24	D23	W15	L1	D11
	David McNeil	2100	3.0	H	H	W13	D11	D7
	Yuval Shemesh	2002	3.0	D25	W18	D21	D10	D9
	Puwit Moerlien	1955	3.0	W28	L4	W27	L8	W19
	Joel Nathe	1937	3.0	L3	W22	L10	W25	W20
	Dan Voje	1922	3.0	L23	D24	H	W22	W21
15-17	A. Gorantiwar	1934	2.5	D8	W26	L9	W24	L6
	Adriel Agam	1913	2.5	L5	D29	W18	H	H
	Glenn Carnahan	1883	2.5	L2	W30	D26	L6	W24
18-22	Nels Truelson	2200	2.0	D26	L11	L16	W29	D25
	Jordan Timm	2039	2.0	L4	W28	L8	W27	L12
	Cub Noble	1970	2.0	W30	L2	L1	W26	L13
	Casey Schmidt	1817	2.0	W6	D8	D11	L7	L14
	Irene Fei	1684	2.0	L7	L13	W30	L14	W27
23-25	Jackson Wahl	2244	1.5	W14	D9	L2	U	U
	Alan Xu	1726	1.5	L9	D14	W28	L15	L17
	Vihaan Pendse	1688	1.5	D11	D6	L7	L13	D18
26-28	Barry Lazarus	1915	1.0	D18	L15	D17	L20	U
	V. Wiśniewski	1609	1.0	H	H	L12	L19	L22
	Adarsh Girish	1576	1.0	L12	L19	L12	Bye	U
29	E. Wasserman	1933	0.5	L1	D16	L6	L18	U
30	A. Benson	502P16	0.0	L20	L17	L22	U	U

In the U1900 section there was a 3-way tie for 1st place between Eric Gahlon (1754), Ahmed Ilyasov (1669), and Theodore Su (1641) with 4.0/5.0 points. The U1400 section also featured a tie for top prize as Ismael Mendez-Perez (UNR) and Jack Bellinger (1279) both finished with 4.5/5.0 points. There was a total of 51 players competing in the U1400 section which was a fantastic turn-out and strong indicator of the growing interest in MN Chess!

Iwu repeats as Castle FIDE Champ at February Event

Dr. Okey Iwu recovered from a first round loss to win 4 consecutive games and 1st prize in the February FIDE Event at the Castle Chess Club. This was a repeat win for the good doctor as he also won clear 1st prize in the December FIDE Event. There were 14 players competing in the Premier Section which required a USCF rating of 1800+. The first round was indicative of the tournament's wild trajectory as the lower rated players scored 3.5 points on the 5 active boards!! Mike Schecter finished tied for 2nd with Eddie Wasserman at 3.0/5.0 points. Schecter upset Iwu in round 1 with a prolonged pressure attack and then also beat the very tough Gauri Menon in round 5. Wasserman won his last 3 games against Castle stalwarts Timm, Zagar and Voje to finish in the tie for 2nd place. Bill Murray had another excellent tournament with wins against Troy Cavanah and Schecter, and a draw with David McNeil. Murray's rating is all the way up to 2009 as he continues to show that experienced chess players don't just fade away...sometimes they get better! With it being Super Bowl weekend there were many byes taken by the field. Thus, of the 35 potential games among a 14-player 5 round field, only 25 games were actually played.

In the Open section, Aidan Sneller was the winner with 4/5 points and an impressive 152-point rating gain! 6 players competed in the Open section.

A special thanks to Dane Zagar who directed these FIDE weekend events.

2022 FIDE Event Premier Section: Held February 12-13, 2022 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	Okey Iwu	2225	4.0	L2	W14	W13	W6	W4
2	Mike Schecter	1996	3.0	W1	L6	L12	W14	W7
3	E. Wasserman	1933	3.0	L8	L10	W14	W13	W12
4	T. Radermacher	2127	2.5	D9	H	H	W5	L1
5	David McNeil	2051	2.5	H	W9	D6	L4	H
6	Bill Murray	1973	2.5	W10	W2	D5	L1	U
7	Gauri Menon	1907	2.5	W14	L8	D10	W12	L2
8	John Talghader	2194	2.0	W3	W7	U	U	U
9	Adriel Agam	1957	2.0	D4	L5	H	H	H
10	Troy Cavanah	2233	1.5	L6	W3	D7	U	U
11	Dane Mattson	2205	1.5	H	W12	U	U	U
12	Dan Voje	1959	1.5	H	L11	W2	L7	L3
13	Dane Zagar	2101	1.0	H	H	L1	L3	L14
14	Jordan Timm	2000	1.0	L7	L1	L3	L2	W13

Iwu repeats (again!) as Castle FIDE Champ at April Event

Dr. Okey Iwu won his 3rd consecutive FIDE Event at the Castle Chess Club on the weekend of April 9-10. This represents Okey's 6th tournament win over the last 5 months (3 FIDE Events, the Hall of Fame Classic, the MN Open, and the MLK Tournament). There were a total of 24 players competing in the event...11 in the Premier Section which required a USCF rating of 1800+ and 13 in the Open Section. Bill Murray continued his streak of excellent chess and finished clear 2nd with 3.5/5.0 points. Bill's rating has zoomed all the way up to 2033 and he is showing us every event that "experienced" chess players can in fact improve their chess game with hard work and steady study!!

In the Open Section there was a pile up for 1st place between 4 players who finished with 3.5/5.0 points (Steve Lockhart, Bjorn Helgoe, Christopher Merrill, and Adrian Glass-Moore).

A special thanks to Dane Zagar who directed the FIDE weekend event.

2022 FIDE Event Premier Section: Held April 9-10, 2022 @ Castle Chess Club in Bloomington

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	Okey Iwu	2245	4.0	W10	W3	W7	D6	D2
2	Bill Murray	2011	3.5	H	W8	D4	W5	D1
3-5	Charles Wynn	2068	3.0	W9	L1	L5	W11	W6
	Adriel Agam	2024	3.0	D8	W5	D2	H	H
	E. Wasserman	1936	3.0	W6	L4	W3	L2	W10
6-7	Troy Cavanah	2152	2.5	L5	W9	W10	D1	L3
	Dane Zagar	2065	2.5	W11	H	L1	H	H
8	Vihaan Pendse	1727	2.0	D4	L2	H	W10	L11
9-11	A. Hortillosa	1943	1.0	L3	L6	W11	U	U
	Dan Voje	1964	1.0	L1	W11	L6	L8	L5
	Elijah Tramm	1824	1.0	L7	L10	L9	L3	W8

TCCL Update

This year the Twin City Chess League (TCCL) is competing in its famous team match-ups for the 7th consecutive decade! The event features 7 rounds...1 each month starting in October 2021 and continuing through May 2022. A full TCCL season recap will be provided in the next edition of the MCJ which will be published in October 2022.

Castle Chess Club Report - January through April 2022

As we say good bye to the 5th rendition of the Castle Chess Club...many thanks to Jackson Wahl, Sarah Emmons, Jenny Bourne, Dane Zagar, Elijah Tramm, Nathan Hoover, and Norman Myrin for directing at this version of the Castle. In May the Castle will be moving on to a new location in Bloomington. Below is a summary of results during the January - April time period.

Monday Night Action Quad Win Leaders

Jordan Timm	6.5
Ahmed Ilysaov	5.0
Dane Zagar	5.0
Michael Tobler	3.5
Eddie Wasserman	3.0
Dan Voje	2.5

Wednesday Knighter Open Winners

January - Vincent Wisniewski
February - E.Wasserman, Kevin Landman, John Baker
March - Eddie Wasserman
April - Eddie Wasserman

Thursday Knighter Premier Winners

January - Nate Hoover & Mike Schecter
February - Ethan Hunt
March - Ethan Hunt
April - Eddie Wasserman

Saturday Exerciser Quad Win Leaders

Troy Cavanah	2.0
Many Others	1.0

Other Noteworthy Events @ Castle Chess Club:

January 2022 Club Championship - Troy Cavanah 1st prize (6.0/7.0)
January Frigid Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize (4.5/5.0)
February FIDE Event - Okey Iwu 1st prize (4.0/5.0)
February Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize (4.5/5.0)
March Old Guys Tournament - Dan Voje 1st prize (3.0/4.0)
March Snowmelt Rapid - Jackson Wahl 1st prize (5.0/5.0)
March Scholastic Playoffs - Linden Lee K-12 (4.0/5.0)
March Scholastic Playoffs - Troy Cavanah K-8 (5.0/5.0)
April Haring Qualifier - Alice Lee K-12 (4.0/4.0)
April Foolish Tornado - Jackson Wahl 1st prize (4.0/4.0)
April FIDE Event - Okey Iwu 1st prize (4.0/5.0)
April Farewell to Metro Parkway Rapid - Jackson Wahl (4.0/5.0)

Rochester Chess Report

Below is the crossable from one of Rochester's classic slow swiss events.

Rochester Swiss Event: Tuesdays in March/April 2022 @ Mayo Clinic Building

Place	Name	Rating	Total Pts	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5
1	Jesse Buss	1458P	4.5	H	W15	W9	W4	W5
2-3	Timothy Schimke	1487	4.0	H	D3	W25	W11	W7
	Isaac Sellon	1343P	4.0	H	D2	W23	W9	W13
4-6	Kevin Gaustad	1753	3.5	W17	W10	D5	L1	W14
	Erik Flynn	1308P	3.5	W18	W11	D4	W13	L1
	Paul Kinion	1327	3.5	W20	L13	H	W17	W18
7	George Paulik	1682	3.0	H	H	W19	W10	L2
8-16	Daniel Garrett	2023	2.5	H	H	H	W22	U
	Roy Knuth	1700	2.5	W21	W24	L1	L3	D10
	Steve Lange	1211	2.5	W14	L4	W24	L7	D9
	Jai Knuth	1202	2.5	W19	L5	W17	L2	D15
	Arya Murthy	1190P	2.5	L13	Bye	H	L14	W19
	David Atwell	988P	2.5	W12	W6	H	L5	L3
	Jake Hallstrom	UNR	2.5	L10	W20	D15	W12	L4
	Luke Sellon	698P	2.5	H	L1	D14	W23	D11
	Ethan Hahn	500P	2.5	H	F	L18	W25	W22
17-21	Shourya Toshniwal	UNR	2.0	L4	W18	L11	L6	W25
	Wilson Wang	850P	2.0	L5	L17	W16	W24	L6
	V. Bellamkonda	591P	2.0	L11	W21	L7	W20	L12
	Robert Richardson	642	2.0	L6	L14	W21	L19	W23
	Charles Wang	UNR	2.0	L9	L19	L20	Bye	Bye
22	Mark Tompkin	223P	1.5	L24	Bye	H	L8	L16
23-25	John Noseworthy	UNR	1.0	H	H	L3	L15	L20
	Samuel Kaspar	101P	1.0	W22	L9	L10	L18	F
	Claire Niu	187P	1.0	H	H	L2	L16	L17

Twin Ports Chess Club Report

The Duluth MN / Superior WI area has a long history of good chess!! Going all the way back to Hall of Fame Marv Mattson and his dedication to keep the Monday night club up and running for 30+ years...and then the tradition carried on by “the Danes” as Dane Zagar and Dane Mattson took over chess organizing and launched the successful summer Twin Ports Open. This club has done good work to bring chess to the far North and to extend a warm welcome to Twin Cities chess players who visit for the annual January MLK Event or the summer Twin Ports Open.

The Danes have since taken their chess organizing skills south and now reside in the South Metro and Missouri respectively. But the tradition continues as Brent Gudowski is now organizing events for the Twin Ports Chess Club.

This year the MLK Tournament was held on January 15/16 and featured 13 participants (7 from Minnesota, 5 from Wisconsin, and 1 from Michigan). Players making the drive up north from the Twin Cities were Dane Zagar, Dan Voje, and Chris Kalina. The good doctor Okey Iwu once again came out on top in Duluth chess. However, Dane Zagar and Chris Kalina were able to nick him for draws in rounds 3 and 5 respectively, and thus, Dr. Iwu finished with 4/5 points in a 3-way tie for 1st prize with Chris Kalina and Daniel Phipps. Leading performances were turned in by Phipps with a 16 point rating gain and also Andy Grube who jumped 24 rating points with an even score of 2.5/5.0 points. Grube had some really tough pairings as he played all three of the 1st place winners!

2022 Martin Luther King Tournament: Held January 15-16, 2022 in Duluth, MN

Place	Name	Rating	Tot Pts	RD1	RD2	RD3	RD4	RD5
1-3	Okey Iwu	2219	4.0	W5	W7	D4	W6	D2
	Chris Kalina	2067	4.0	W11	D6	W10	W4	D1
	Daniel Phipps	1925	4.0	W8	L4	W11	W7	W6
4	Dane Zagar	2064	3.5	W12	W3	D1	L2	W8
5	Brent Gudowski	1747	3.0	L1	H	W8	H	W13
6	Andy Grube	1771	2.5	W9	D2	W7	L1	L3
7-10	Dan Voje	1958	2.0	W13	L1	L6	L3	W9
	Cody Roberts	1419P	2.0	L3	W9	L5	W13	L4
	Allen Hawley	UNR	2.0	L6	L8	W13	W11	L7
	Brett Kozma	863P	2.0	H	W12	L2	H	U
11	Adam Graupe	1259	1.0	L2	W13	L3	L9	U
12-13	Josh Denton	1688	0.0	L4	L10	U	U	U
	Mark Paulson	1438	0.0	L7	L11	L9	L8	L5

STAT CORNER

This recurring feature in the MCJ is brought to you by MN Chess Hall of Fame Committee Member Joe Longen, who is the keeper of an impressive array of Minnesota chess history and statistics.

First 25 Players to Reach Master in Minnesota

#	Player	Year	#	Player	Year
1	George Barnes	195X	14	John Greene	1982
2	Curt Brasket	195X	15	Mitch Weiss	1982
3	Milt Otteson	196X	16	Robert Weiss	1983
4	Norris Weaver	196X	17	David Levine	1983
5	Peter Thompson	1977	18	Ron Elmquist	1983
6	Roger Rudolph	1980	19	Keith Hayward	1983
7	Albert Cyrilin	1980	20	Yakov Dubrovsky	1983
8	Nels Truelson	1981	21	Tim Radermacher	1984
9	Ed Zelkind	1981	22	Kevin Toon	1985
10	Tom Unger	1982	23	Bryan Lange	1985
11	R.K. Johnson	1982	24	Ionut Buzbuchi	1985
12	Brian Campbell	1982	25	Joe Longen	1986
13	Bert Wilson	1982			

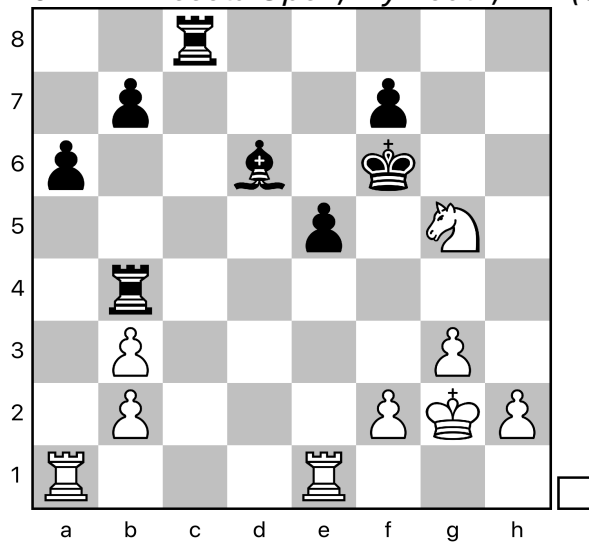
A very interesting list considering that MN now has 19 active players rated 2200+. In the “old days” the rating points were harder to come by in Minnesota chess and so it took several decades to build up this reservoir of chess masters.

BILL'S ENDGAME CORNER

This editor originally met Bill Murray at Thursday Night Chess in the North Suburban Chess League back in 1981 when it used to meet at North Hennepin Community College. Over the last 40 years that I have known Bill, it has been my observation that he has been a constant on the Minnesota chess scene and one of the most solid chess players I have encountered. In the last few years I have noticed Bill's unique talent for both getting into and succeeding with interesting endgames. This column features some of the interesting endgames Bill has encountered in recent chess events. Enjoy!

Bill Murray 2009 - Gauri Menon 1933 1-0

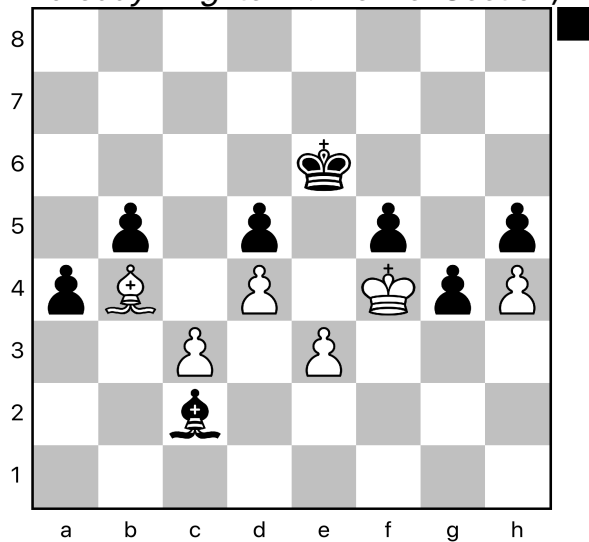
2022 Minnesota Open, Plymouth, MN (5), 2022.02.27



Notes by Bill Murray. After a very unbalanced opening and middle game we arrive at the transition stage to the endgame. White's first decision is to decide whether to trade knight for bishop...or to get Harry the H-pawn rolling. I chose to trade the minor pieces and enter the double rook ending. **25. ♖e4+ ♜e6 26. ♖xd6 ♜xd6 27. ♜e3 ♞c2** The engine seems to like my passed pawn and suggests that white push right away. I thought, do not hurry, and look for a single rook ending when the H-pawn could have more value and be harder to stop. **28. ♞b1 ♞d4 29. ♞c3 ♞e2 30. ♚f3 ♞ed2** Doubling on the 7th rank was better as 31. Rf1 Rb2, 32. h4 Ke6 is equal. **31.h4 f5 32.h5 ♜e6 33.h6 ♞d7 34. ♜e3 ♞2d4 35. ♞bc1** Inaccurate. I failed to stick with my strategy to get the H-pawn rolling and pursue a single rook ending. Stronger was 35. Rh1 Rh7, 36. Rc4 when it is black's turn to find the correct defense. **35... ♞h7 36. ♞c7 ♞dd7** The losing move. Endgames can be so subtle. Better was 36...Rh6, 37. Rb7 f4+, 38. gf Rh3+, 39. f3 Rf4 =. **37. ♞xd7 ♜xd7 38. ♞h1 ♜e6 39. ♜f3 ♜f6 40.g4 fxg4+ 41. ♜xg4 a5 42. ♜f3 ♜f5 43. ♜e3 b6 44. ♞h2 b5 45.f3 ♜g6 46. ♜e4 ♜f6 47. ♞h5 b4 48. ♞f5+ ♜g6 49. ♞xe5 ♜xh6 50. ♞xa5 ♞b7 51.f4 ♜g6 52. ♜d4 ♞f7 53.f5+ ♜g5 54. ♜c4 ♜f6 55. ♜xb4 ♞b7+ 56. ♜c4 ♞c7+ 57. ♞c5 ♞d7 58.b4 ♞d2 59.b3 ♞c2+ 60. ♜b5 ♞b2 61. ♜c6 ♞xb3 62.b5 ♜e7 63.b6 ♜d8 64.b7 ♞b1 65. ♞b5 ♞c1+ 66. ♜b6 1-0**

Dane Zagar 2040 - Arvind Thiagarajan 1924 ½-½

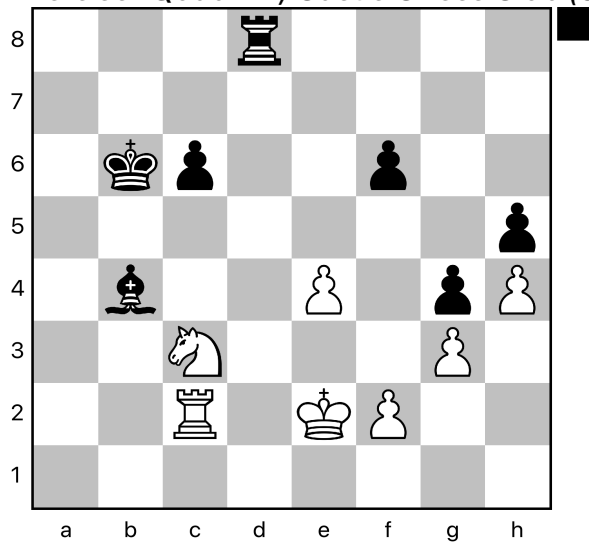
Thursday Knighter III: Premier Section, Bloomington, MN (3), 2022.03.17



We arrive at this position with white 2 pawns down in an opposite colored bishops endgame. White appears to have crafted a drawn position, and in fact a draw was agreed to in this position. However, upon further review black has a brilliant winning strategy available based on the sacrifice of the f5 AND b5 pawns! Let's review what could have been... **57... ♖d3 58. ♗g3 f4+ 59. ♗xf4 ♕c4 60. ♕f8 b4 61. ♕xb4 ♕d3 62. ♕a3 ♕c4 63. ♕c1 ♗d6 64. e4 dxe4 65. ♗xe4 ♕b3 66. ♕e3 ♕c2+ 67. ♗f4 ♗d5 68. ♕c1 ♕d1 69. ♕b2 ♕f3 70. ♕c1 ♗c4 71. ♗g3 ♗xc3 72. ♕a3 ♗b3 73. ♕d6 ♕d5 74. ♗f4 a3 75. ♗e5 ♕b7 76. ♕xa3 ♗xa3 77. ♗f4 ♗b3 ...and black wins...endgames are amazing! ½-½**

Jordan Timm - Bill Murray 1/2-1/2

Exerciser Quad #2, Castle Chess Club (3), 2022.02.05



Notes by Bill Murray. What kind of an endgame should black look for? Playing for what result? I thought the c-pawn would be a plus in a rook ending. Not fully appreciating that white can also push his pawns! **30... ♕xc3 31. ♖xc3 c5 32.f4 ♔b5 33. ♖d3 ♖e8 33....Rd3, 34. Kd3 Kb4, 35. e5 c4+, 36. Kc2 fe, 37. fe Kc5, 38. Kc3 =. 34. ♕e3 f5 34...Kb4 was better and maintained the equality. Allowing white to get a connected passed pawn gives him some slight winning chances. 35.e5 c4 36. ♖d7 ♔b4 This move throws away the draw. White's king is now able to activate. With white's connected passed pawn black should be looking for drawing lines such as 36....Kc5. 37. ♕d4 ♖b8 38.e6 c3 39.e7 Better was the subtle rook move 39. Rc7 Rd8+, 40. Ke5 which is easily winning. 39...c2 40. ♖d8 40. Rc7 Re8, 41. Rc2 Re7, 42. Rc4+ Kb3, 43. Rc5 is another winning technique that takes advantage of black's king being badly out of position. 40... ♖xd8+ 41.exd8= ♔c1= ♔ 42. ♔b6+ ♔a4 Black needs to be careful about where his king goes as trading queens wins for white. For example, if 42....Ka3? then white wins with 43. Qc5+. Now the game should end in a draw as any pause from checks by white to capture a pawn should result in black perpetually checking the white king. 1/2-1/2**

Top 20 Active MN Players by Over-the-Board USCF Rating as of May 1, 2022

Rank	Player	Rating
1	Wesley So - GM	2855
2	Andrew Tang - GM	2569
3	John Bartholomew - IM	2534
4	Sean Nagle - IM	2519
5	Samrug Narayanan - FM	2392
6	Alice Lee - WIM	2371
7	Frank Johnson - NM	2357
8	Kevin Wasiluk - FM	2355
9	Andrew Titus - NM	2336
10	Leonard Johnson - NM	2294
11	Ashton Jin - NM	2285
12	Linden Lee - NM	2261
13	Matthew Jensen - NM	2250
14	Jackson Wahl - NM	2243
15	Okey Iwu - NM	2238
16	Joseph Truelson - NM	2236
17	Dexter Thompson - NM	2200
17	Nels Truelson - NM	2200
19	Ethan Hunt - NM	2197
20	Troy Cavanah - NM	2180

Alice Lee Takes The American Cup by Storm in St. Louis!!

Alice Lee had a tremendous showing at the The American Cup in St. Louis during April. Entering as the 6th seed in a field of 8 women, Alice was up against 1 GM, 2 IMs, and 3 WGM!! Alice produced an inspiring performance that no doubt changed the trajectory of her climb towards the top of the US Chess World. In a scintillating format that included classical time controls, accelerated time controls, and even the potential for an “Armageddon” format, Alice played outstanding chess. Her final tally was 7 wins, 4 losses, and 4 draws across all of these various time control formats. Alice finished in 2nd place and only the legendary GM Irina Krush got the best of her. Excluding the games against GM Krush, Alice had a record of +7, -2, =2!!

Alice wowed the GM's doing the play-by-play commentary in St. Louis, as well as the viewing audience, with her brand of “Alice Chess” that all of us in Minnesota have come to know so well. Alice now sports a USCF rating of 2371 and is rated #6 on the overall list of Top MN active chess players. All those in front of her are so famous in Minnesota they can be referred to by simply their first name (Wesley, Andrew, John, Sean, Sammy...and now Alice).

Troy Cavanah is Co-Champion at K-8 Nationals in Texas!!

Troy Cavanah scored 6/7 points to finish in a 5-way tie at the K-8 National Tournament held in Grapevine, Texas the last weekend of April. Troy lost a tough round 6 match-up with Brewington Hardaway of New York. Hardaway was the top-rated player in the tournament at 2345. Troy rebounded in the 7th round with a victory to pull him even at 6 points with 4 other Co-Champions.

This editor is most impressed with Troy's consistently excellent play this spring in the series of scholastic tournaments. Troy went undefeated in the Minnesota K-8 State Championship open format (6-0)...as well as in the K-8 closed format (5-0). Adding in Troy's result in the Nationals he has a spring scholastic record of 17 wins, 1 loss, and 0 draws! An incredible display of “fighting chess”. This editor, having been a Minnesota scholastic player, is familiar with the dynamic that every win must be earned...perhaps more so when you are the favorite. Troy has been working hard at his chess and earned many great wins this spring.

2022/2023 MSCA Event Calendar

Date	Event	Site	Status
January 7	TCCL Round #3	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
January 22-23	Winter Open	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
February 11	TCCL Round #4	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
February 25-27	Minnesota Open	Plymouth Crowne Plaza	Complete
March 11	TCCL Round #5	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
March 12-13	State Scholastics	University of St. Thomas	Complete
March 26-27	State Scholastic Playoffs	Castle Chess Club	Complete
April 2	Haring Qualifier	Castle Chess Club	Complete
April 8	TCCL Round #6	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
April 22-24	State Champ. Playoff	Plymouth Crowne Plaza	Complete
May 6	TCCL Round #7	Roseville Skating Center	Complete
June 25-26	US Amateur North	Bloomington Cambria	Scheduled
July 9-10	Rochester Open*	Mayo Civic Center	Scheduled
July 22-24	Catfish Days*	Franklin Community Ctr.	Scheduled
August 13	State Blitz Championship	Plymouth Community Ctr	Scheduled
September 17-18	Northern Open	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
October 14	TCCL Round #1	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
October 22-23	Senior State Champ.	TBD	Planning in Process
November 12-13	Class Championships	TBD	Planning in Process
November 18	TCCL Round #2	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
December 9	TCCL Round #3	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
December 17-18	Hall of Fame Classic	TBD	Planning in Process
January 13, 2023	TCCL Round #4	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
January 21-22, 2023	Winter Open	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
February 10-12, 2023	Minnesota Open	Plymouth Crowne Plaza	Scheduled
February 17, 2023	TCCL Round #5	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
March 4-5, 2023	State Scholastics	University of St. Thomas	Planning in Process
March 10, 2023	TCCL Round #6	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled
April 7, 2023	TCCL Round #7	Roseville Skating Center	Scheduled

**Sponsored by local chess organization; not an MSCA event*