



• Master Class • ALL-ROUND TRAINING • Jacob Aagaard •

AMERICAN CHESS MAGAZINE

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WHERE GREAT MINDS MEET

STATE AND LOCAL CHESS

Sarkar wins
Wyoming Open

Alex Fishbein

AN OUTRIGHT WINNER IN CHARLOTTE GM INVITATIONAL

Arthur Guo

A DOUBLE CLEAN SWEEP IN VIRGINIA

Paul Swaney

ILLIA NYZHNYK 3rd Colonial Open

All 9 games
annotated by
the winner!

Mr. 9-0!

UKRAINIAN GRANDMASTER IN AMERICA TRIUMPHS WITH A
REMARKABLE PERFECT SCORE IN A NINE-ROUND TOURNAMENT

AMERICAN CUP IN SAINT LOUIS

Champion meets
12-year old in final
showdown!

Irina Krush





03 | CALCULATION

CRITICAL MOMENT

Justus Williams	2417
Aleksandr Ostrovskiy	2397

CCC May Invitational GM-A, Charlotte 2022

Black is lost after **24...♖f5?** **25.♖c1** **25.♖c3** was also strong.

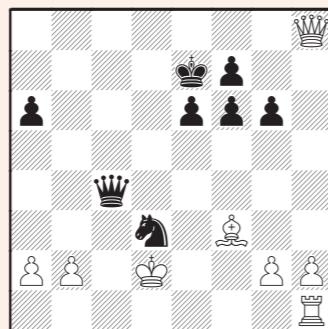
25...♔e7 26.♖c3 ♘a4 27.♖xc8 ♖xc8 28.♖xf5 ♖xc1+ 29.♔xc1 exf5 30.b4 The endgame is completely winning, and only a sad blunder prevented Williams from winning the game, which ended in a **draw** on move 55.

SOLUTION

Black had to commit to a double rook sac to draw the game.

24...♔xd3!! 25.♖xc8+ ♔e7 26.♖xh8 26.♖xa6 ♖d8 gives Black enough counterplay.

26...♖b4 27.♔c2 ♖c4+ 28.♔d2



28...♖d4! Black has counterplay against the king, and the white pieces are not helping. **28...♔xb2** also works, but is rather weird.

29.♖b8 ♔b4+ 29...♔f2+!?

30.♔e1 ♖e3+ Black draws. Notice that **31.♔f1? ♔d3** would get White into trouble.

04 | STRATEGIC DECISIONS

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Aleksandr Ostrovskiy	2397
Alexander Kalikshteyn	2371

CCC May Invitational GM-A, Charlotte 2022

There were a few events on the way. We shall pay special attention to the first of them. The game ended a draw after **19...♖xe5 20.♔xh7 ♔c6 21.♖g5! ♖xh2 22.♔xg8 f6 23.♖gg1 ♖xh5 24.♖h1 24.♖d3!** with equality was safer.

24...♖xh1 25.♖xh1 ♔xh1 26.♔h7 ♔c6 27.♔g6+ 1/2-1/2

SOLUTION

Black had a much better continuation that made perfect use of all the pieces. **19...♖xe5!** Nothing wrong with the exchange sacrifice.

20.♔xh7 ♖d8! But it is necessary to bring in the rook. If White takes on g8, Black has **21...♖xh5**. And after **21.♖g5 ♖f6 22.♔xg8**, he has the important **22...♔e4!!**, that activates the bishop, as well as makes a future target out of the silly bishop on g8. Black is doing exceedingly well.



THE LARGEST TOURNAMENT IN WYOMING CHESS HISTORY

REBIRTH OF
HIGH-LEVEL
CHESS IN
WYOMING

By GM Alex Fishbein

When you spend important years of your life at a certain place – you cherish that place forever in your heart and treat memories of it with special care. Alex Fishbein was the first grandmaster from Wyoming (!), so he was only too glad to accept an invitation to give a simul there and play in a tournament organized by a group of chess enthusiasts who have recently established the Sheridan Chess Association. And it was another memorable experience...

In March, while browsing the schedule of upcoming tournaments, I noticed a Grand Prix tournament in Wyoming. Wyoming?! Really?

BACKGROUND

Well, for me, Wyoming is a special place. I lived in Casper from 1980 until 1983 and again from 1990 through 1992. I reached the rank of USCF Master by winning the Wyoming state championship

when I was 14, and I lived in Wyoming when I was awarded the grandmaster title. I still keep the letter I received from Senator Alan Simpson, congratulating me on becoming the first (and so far, only) Wyoming GM.

So, when I found out that this tournament in Sheridan, WY offered good prizes, my first thoughts were: 1) how do I not already know about this?, and 2) missing this tournament is not an option for me.



2022

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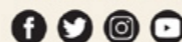
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THE VICTORY OF ENTHUSIASM AND HARD WORK

It turns out that the Sheridan Chess Association was only formed in December 2021. I hadn't heard of them before, and neither had many other people. But in a short time, they have generated amazing interest in chess in the community. About 30 kids attend their weekly lessons. This is in a town of fewer than 20,000 people, with the nearest 500,000+ metro area more than 400 miles away!

The Sheridan Chess Association has raised sponsorship from many local business and foundations. It's a remarkable story.

Brian Kuehl, Treasurer of the association, organized a simul at the local YMCA on the evening before the tournament. There were signs all over the town advertising this simul, and it helped generate significant media attention all over the state. I was interviewed by the *Casper Star-Tribune* and Wyoming Public Radio. For us chess players, a simul is nothing extraordinary. For the general population, it's hard to understand how it's even possible to play many games at the same time.

Of my 26 opponents, very few were beginners. Still, I only allowed one draw. My play wasn't as accurate in the actual tournament, as we shall see! But promoting chess in Wyoming was the most important thing for me.



THE SHERIDAN WYOMING OPEN

The 76-player, five-round tournament was held at the Sheridan College on April 30 and May 1. I don't think I will invite the ire of fact-checkers when I state that this was the largest tournament in Wyoming history. I knew I would have tough competition. The No.2 seed was IM Justin Sarkar. He is familiar to ACM readers from, among other articles, the story "Excellence in the Face of Adversity," (ACM issue #14-15, page 74), in which Justin detailed his unique journey in chess. He has been on a major upswing recently, but more on that later. Several strong masters played. The Colorado contingent included players of all generations. Sullivan McConnell and his brother Griffin are now both masters. 17-year-old Griffin crossed 2200 USCF

just weeks before the tournament, and he has an inspiring story, as he has had to undergo four brain surgeries to treat seizures. Approaching the other side of the age spectrum is legendary Life Master Brian Wall, whom I have known for more than 40 years. Richard Shtivelband from Colorado, Joel Johnson from Arizona, and Wyoming's own James Neal II rounded out the field of NMs that I knew would pose a challenge.

SARKAR'S IMPRESSIVE FORM

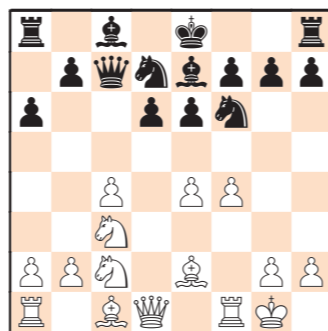
Justin Sarkar, the tournament winner, played nothing short of brilliant chess. Justin was coming off a few good results, including 6½ out of 9 (6th place tie) in the Reykjavik Open. He brought that excellent form to Wyoming as well, as we can see in the following game.

B44

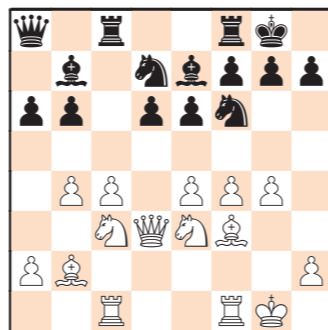
Justin Sarkar	2325
Daniel Herman	1968

Wyoming Open, Sheridan 2022

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6 5.c4 ♘f6 6.♗c3 ♖c7 7.♗e2 ♗b4 8.♗c2! ♗e7 9.f4 d6 10.0-0 ♗bd7



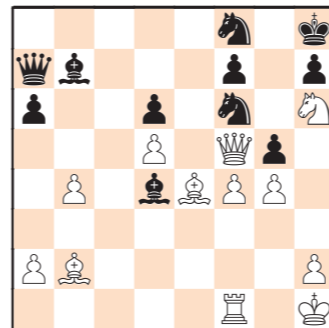
11.♖d3 b6 12.b4 Active, powerful play against the hedgehog. The bishop has a bright future at b2.
12...♗b7 13.♗b2 ♖c8 14.♖ac1 0-0 15.♗e3 ♖b8 16.♗f3 ♖a8 17.g4!



17...g5!? I was on the board next to this game, and I am sure if this move were played against me, I would be in shock initially. Justin seemed concerned too. If you take on g5, you don't lose immediately after 18...♗e5 19.♖d4!, but after 19...♗fd7 Black has very good play with the e5 square and possible threats against the open white king. But after a little thought, White finds the refutation. 18.♗cd5!! When the king is the target, it's not the number of pieces on the board that counts, but the number, and power, of the pieces near that king. If Black takes the knight, the board is divided into two parts, and White is unstoppable on the kingside.

18...exd5 18...♗d8 was the only chance, but 19.fxg5 ♗e8 20.♗g2 ♗xg5 21.♖c3 is still winning for White.

19.♗f5! ♗d8 20.exd5 Most of Black's pieces are far away and need a lifetime to come to the aid of their monarch. 20...b5 21.♗h6+ ♗h8 22.♖f5! bxc4 23.♗e4 Threatening mate in one. 23...c3 24.♖xc3 ♗b6+ 25.♗h1 ♗d4 26.♖xc8 ♖a7 27.♖xf8+ ♗xf8



28.♖xf6+! ♗xf6 29.♗xf6 The mate was delivered on the board.

SHERIDAN, WY

April 30 - May 1, 2022

SHERIDAN WYOMING OPEN (5 rounds)

1. Justin SARKAR	4½
2-4. Alexander FISHBEIN, Sullivan McConnell, James NEAL II	4
5-7. Richard SHTIVELBAND, Brian WALL, Griffin McConnell	3½
8-15. Daniel HERMAN, Sara HERMAN, Anthony WHITT, Christopher MOTLEY, Timothy BRENNAN, Caleb KIRCHER, Daniel MATTONSON, Andrew RANKIN	3

The round 4 game between Sarkar and Sullivan McConnell eventually decided first place.

C03

Justin Sarkar	2325
Sullivan McConnell	1992

Wyoming Open, Sheridan 2022

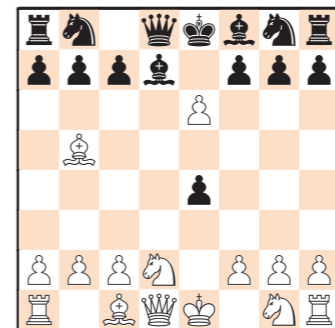
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗d2 e5!? A rare, but not very bad move! Justin, however, is not the player to play rare and dubious openings against, because his knowledge is literally encyclopedic.



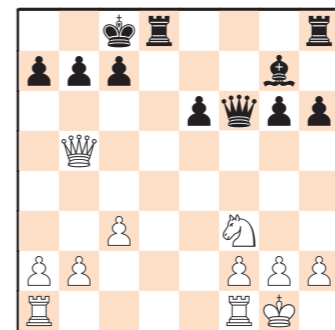
▲ Justin Sarkar - Sullivan McConnell.

Photo by Larry Mooney

4.dxe5 dxe4 5.♗b5+ ♗d7 6.e6!

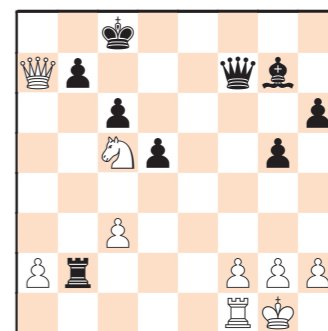


Guarantees White at least a stable positional advantage, playing against the weak pawn on e6. Black cannot win the bishop because of exf7+ and ♖h5+. 6...fxe6 7.♗xe4! ♖e7 8.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 9.♖h5+ g6 10.♖b5 0-0-0 11.♗g5 Leads to too many trades. White retains a small plus, but only that. 11...♗df6 12.♗f3 h6 13.♗xf6 ♗xf6 14.♗xf6 ♖xf6 15.0-0 ♗g7 16.c3

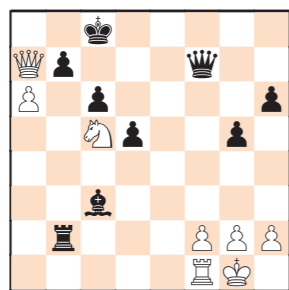


White has a long-term advantage. The knight will have a nice square on e4. Black needs to defend carefully.

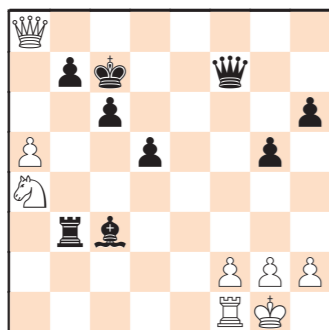
16...g5 17.♖ae1 ♖f5 18.♖e2 ♗d6 19.♗d2 ♗hd8 Here a good choice was 19...♖b6! 20.♗e4 ♖b5, trading queens and even generating some activity for the rook. 20.♗e4 ♖c6 21.♗d1 ♗d5 22.♖xd5! Transfer of advantages! From a positional advantage, White goes on the attack! 22...exd5 23.♗c5! ♖f7 24.♖b5 ♗b6 25.♖a4 Justin's intuition told him, correctly, that it was worth straightening out the opponent's pawn structure for this attack. Sully now makes a move that looks totally impossible: totally ignoring the attack on a7! 25...♖xb2 26.♖xa7 c6



Sarkar seemed pretty surprised that this was halfway playable. And he found the only winning sequence: 27.♗d3! ♖b5 27...♗d2 28.♖a8+ ♗c7 29.♖b1 is game over. 28.a4! ♖b3 29.♗c5! ♖b2 30.a5 The addition of the pawn to the attack decides the outcome. 30...♗xc3! A good try! 31.♗a4! Not 31.a6??



31...xf2+! 32...xf2 Bb1+ 33...f1 d4+
34...h1 Bxf1 mate.
31...Bb3 32...a8+ c7



33...xc3! Precise again! 33.a6 was also
good on the previous move, but here it
would lose to 33...d4!
33...d6 33...xc3 34.a6 is hopeless.
34...a4 Bxa3 35.a6 bxa6 35...Bxa4
36.axb7+-.
36...b8+ e6 37...e1+

Black resigned

A tremendous display of both positional
and attacking play.

In the last round, Sarkar had signed
up for a half-point bye. Why? Because
he had to catch a flight to another
tournament! And not just any tournament
– he went to the American Continental
Championship in El Salvador.

It was clear that if Justin could maintain
anything close to this kind of form, he
would be destined for a good result at the
Continental. And I told Justin that after the
tournament. Luckily, it didn't jinx him, as
he proceeded to play at a very high level
there against a strong field, finishing with
8 out of 11 and tied for second place!
He missed World Cup qualification just
because of worse tiebreaks.

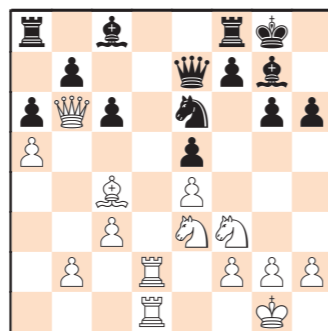
IM Sarkar's 4½ points out of 5 were
good for clear first place and \$1600,
the highest prize ever awarded in a
Wyoming chess tournament!

UNSUNG HEROES

The early hero of the tournament
was none of the players named in my
introductory paragraph! Colorado expert
Rhett Langseth unseated me from my
customary top board with a scorching
attack.

Rhett Langseth	1842
Alexander Fishbein	2428

Wyoming Open, Sheridan 2022



White has a big, probably decisive
advantage here. I have long-term
weaknesses on the queenside and no
counterplay, and I have lost the d-file.
Having recently exchanged his e3
bishop for a knight didn't improve
my position because, in the long run,
the knights pose more danger to my
b7 pawn. Here, the e3 knight can at
some point reach d6, so 22...a2 is
good. White can also play 22.h4 to
gain more squares on the kingside.
But I evaluated my position too
optimistically. In general, losing
objectivity is a sure way to lose the
game, because oversights then start to
snowball.

But first, my opponent gives me a
chance, the kind of chance I was hoping
to get:

22...g4? d5! A double attack against
the pawn and the knight.

23...d6! Seeing a potential loss of a
pawn, Rhett responds courageously and
introduces an exchange sacrifice.

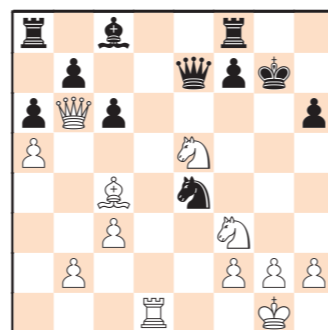
23...xe4 If I had realized how bad my
position had been, I might have chosen
23...xg4 24...xc5 Bxd8 I felt that a
draw would be likely here.

24...xg6 h7 25...xg7+!? The other
way to sacrifice was 25...Bxh6+ Bxh6
26...Bxh6 and after 26...d6 (26...Bxh6

27...e3+ c7 28...xe4 is better for
White: he will earn a second pawn for
the exchange.) 27...c5 the following is
forced for both sides: 27...d8 28...xf7
dxc4 29...d3g5+ c6g6



30...h8+!! h6 31...hf7+ g6=, a
fantastic draw!
25...xg7 26...dxe5



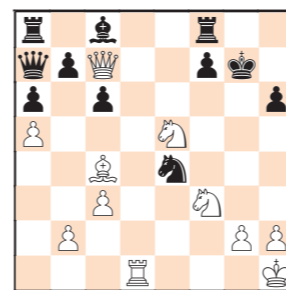
I got this far in my calculation on move
23, evaluating this position as unclear.
Indeed, White has compensation for the
exchange, as my king is not safe.

26...c5 This is not the only move, but
objectively it is perfectly fine. However,
it was a result of a funny hallucination,
which then proceeded to affect my
future reasoning (see the snowball effect
mentioned above).

27...c7! Bxf2+?! A critical alternative
was 27...a7! 28...d4 b5 29...xc6 Bxc6
30...dxc6 d7, with good chances in the
ending, where the exchange can be more
valuable than two pawns.

28...h1 Bxe3? I had imagined that the
white queen would be on e7 and not on
c7 (perhaps because my queen came
from there), and then 28...c5 would
easily extinguish the attack. But here
28...c5 fails against 29...d4!

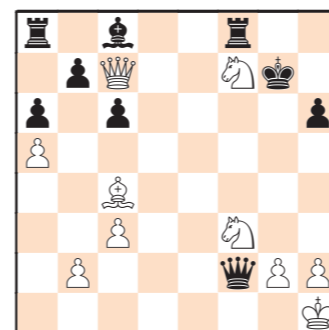
I saw this and spent a lot of
my remaining time trying to find a
defense, but failed to see the only move
28...a7!!



Now, 29...d4 is met by 29...b5! An
example of the use of the rule that you
can only capture en passant the first
time. After 30...xa7 Bxa7 White can no
longer take the pawn. Finally, 30.axb6
Bxc7 31.bxc7 d6 32...dxc6 de8 leaves
Black still up the exchange, although a
draw is likely.

29...f1! Defending against the
smothered mate. White's attack is now
decisive.

29...d2+ 30...Bxf2! Bxf2 31...dxf7



My extra two exchanges are useless
against White's onslaught. Rhett has
four attackers against my one defender.

31...e6 32...d7g5+ f7 33...dxf7
Bac8 34...e5+ g6 35...e6+ g7
36...Bxh6+ g8 37...Bh8 mate.

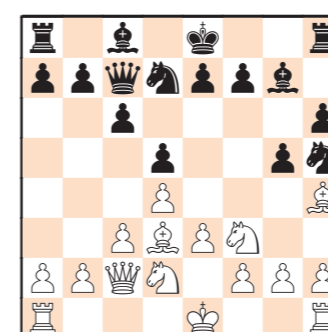
However, Rhett couldn't keep up
this pace in the following rounds. His
misfortunes began with this see-saw
game against "Sully".

D02

Rhett Langseth	1842
Sullivan McConnell	1992

Wyoming Open, Sheridan 2022

1...d3 d5 2...c3 d6 3...d4 g6 4...f4
g7 5...e3 d5 6...g5 h6 7...h4 c6
We are already in uncharted territory.
8...d3 d7 9...bd2 c7 10...c2 g5

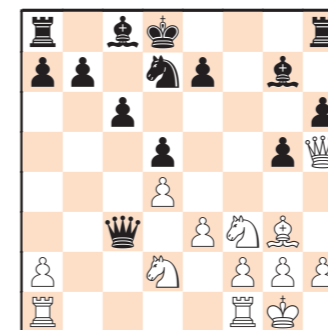


11...g6!? Now that's a move! To
be fair, the best move was another
unusual move, 11.g4! But let's see
what happens.

11...fxg6 12...xg6+ d8? Wrong
way! After 12...f8 13...xh5 gxh4
14...xh4 d6 15...d6g6+ g8 16...e5
d8 17...d8h8 Bxh8 Black's two
bishops are better in the middlegame
than White's rook and two pawns.

13...g3 Now White has a winning
advantage! The problem is that if
Black takes on g3, White takes the
bishop with tempo.

13...b6 14...xh5 Bxb2 15.0-0 Bxc3



Black's king is hopelessly stranded
in the center, unable to cross the river
(h2-b8). Now 16.e4 is very strong.
White's move is also not bad.

16...f7 f6 17...e4! f8 18...h5 g4!
The best try to confuse things.

19...e5 h8 20...e6! gxf3 21...dxf3?
Here the simple 21...xh6 fxg2 22...Bf1!
Bxd4 23...exd7 Bxd7 24...Bxf8 would be
decisive.

21...d6 22...Bxh6 Bg8 Black is back
in the game, a piece up for now!

23...d5 Bxg5! 24...xg5 Bxe6? Black
allows a battery on the aforementioned
diagonal. He should have taken the other
pawn.

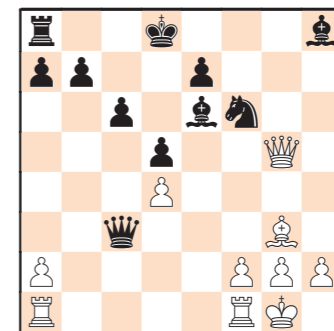
**BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS!**

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preferences of America's top
young talent.



25...Bae1? I imagine both sides were
in big time trouble. After 25...e5! d7
26...ab1! softens up the queenside,
so that after 26...b6 27...Bbc1! White's
attack prevails.

25...d4! The decisive block of the



e-file, which was also possible after 25...♗d7 26.♖e5.

26.♖h6 ♕d7! Now Black's king is fully comfortable! And he is totally winning. A lot of mistakes, but what an interesting game!

27.f3 ♕xd4+ 28.♔h1 ♖xg3+ 29.hxg3 ♖h8 **White resigned**

That win put Sully at 3-0, and facing Justin Sarkar next (we have already seen that game). Griffin McConnell was also playing well, with 2½, but he now had to face an old dog that could still teach some tricks.

B10

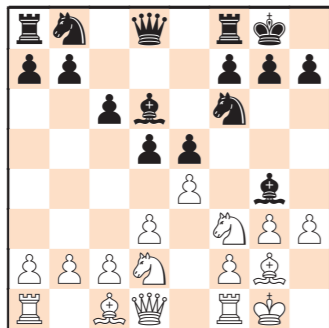
Alexander Fishbein	2428
Griffin McConnell	2020

Wyoming Open, Sheridan 2022

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.♖d2 e5 4.♖gf3 ♕d6 5.g3 ♖f6 6.♕g2 0-0 7.0-0 I was hoping that Griffin would not be too familiar with this rare line, and as luck would have it, I was right.

7...♕g4 7...♖e8 is normal.

8.h3



8...♕e6?! The question to the bishop is best answered by 8...♕h5. In the game, White can take advantage of some clumsy black pieces.

9.d4! ♖bd7 9...dxe4 10.dxe5 exf3 11.♖xf3 ♕e7 12.exf6 ♕xf6 13.♖e1 and White has a lead in development, but it's not too serious.

10.exd5 ♕xd5 Not an easy decision. The isolated pawn position after 10...cxd5 11.dxe5 ♖xe5 12.♖xe5 ♕xe5 might have been the lesser evil.

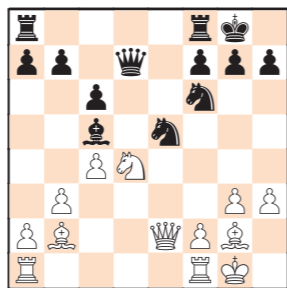
11.c4 ♕xf3 On 11...♕e6 I intended 12.♖e1, but 12...exd4 13.♖xd4 ♖c5 14.♖xe6 ♖xe6 is not terrible for Black. In the game, he tries to simplify, but my pieces get very active.



▲ Griffin McConnell - Alexander Fishbein.

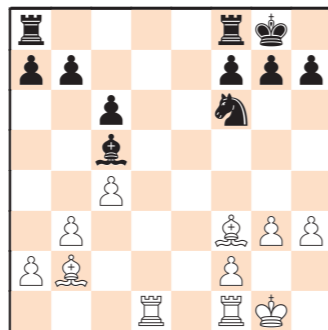
Photo by Larry Mooney

12.♖xf3 exd4 13.♖xd4 ♖e5 14.b3 ♖d7 15.♕b2 ♕c5 16.♖f3 Now I am overeager to trade pieces. 16.♖e2! was much better; with the bishop on the a1-h8 diagonal I have attacking chances.



If 16...♕xd4? 17.♖ad1 is very bad for Black.

16...♖xd1 17.♖axd1 ♖xf3+ 18.♕xf3

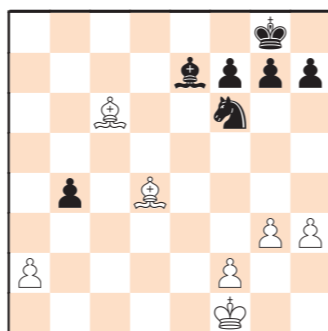


18...♖ad8?! The key positional idea here is that Black needs to solidify his c5 square with ...a7-a5. The immediate 18...a5, however, is dangerous because 19.♕xf6 gxf6 20.♖d7 ♖ab8 21.♕h5! leaves Black tied up.

But if first 18...♖fe8! then after, for example, 19.♕c3 a5 20.♕xf6 gxf6

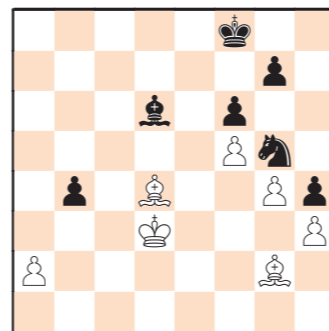
21.♖d7 ♖e7 is quite defensible for Black. **19.♕c3!** A big move, stopping ...a7-a5 and preparing my own queenside advance. **19...♕b6 20.b4 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1 ♖d8 22.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 23.♕d4 a6?!** Too nonchalant. Black needs to keep the position as closed as possible; that means keep at least a pair of queenside pawns, so it's harder for White to break through. After 23...♕e7! 24.b5 cxb5 25.cxb5 b6 it would be much harder for White to penetrate with the king. **24.b5! axb5 25.cxb5 cxb5 26.♕xb7 ♕e7?** Now it's mathematically lost. The only chance was 26...♖e8 27.♕c6 ♖d6, but I think White would win here too, with play on both wings.

27.♕c6! b4 28.♖f1



The two white bishops rule the board. The black knight is strangled, his king also can't get out very far, and the white king easily finds the path to the b4 pawn.

28...h5 29.♖e2 h4 30.g4 ♖f8 31.♖d3 ♖h7 32.f4 ♕d6 33.f5 All my pawns are on light squares, so there is no chance any of them become vulnerable. **33...♖g5 34.♕g2 f6**



35.♕f2! No need to rush, so White just picks off the h-pawn.

35...♖f7 36.♕xh4 ♖e5+ 37.♖d4 ♕b8 38.♕e1 ♕a7+ 39.♖e4 ♕c5 40.♖d5 ♕e7 41.♕e4 ♖e8 42.♕f2 ♕d8 43.♕c5 ♕a5 44.♖e6 ♖d8 45.♕f8 ♖d7 46.♕xg7 ♖c5+ 47.♖d5 ♖xe4 48.♖xe4 ♖e7 49.♕h6 ♖f7 50.♖d5 **Black resigned**

This win, followed by a last-round win over Shtivelband, enabled me to finish with a respectable second-place tie. Sullivan McConnell also reached 4 points. The third person in the tie for second was NM James Neal, who has recently moved from Iowa to Wyoming.

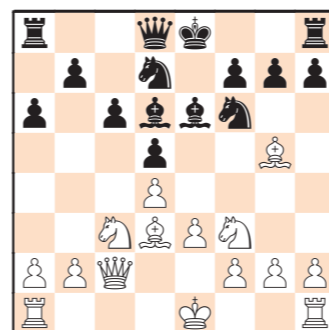
D37

James Kulbacki	
James Neal	2050

Wyoming Open, Sheridan 2022

1.c4 e6 2.♖c3 d5 3.d4 a6 This little move has been popular lately in the Queen's Gambit Declined.

4.cxd5 exd5 5.♖f3 ♖f6 6.♕g5 ♕e6 7.♖c2 ♖bd7 8.e3 ♕d6 9.♕d3 c6



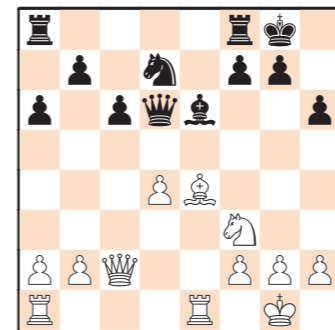
10.e4?! Black's pieces are too well developed for the isolated pawn to be a good thing here.



▲ Playing Hall.

Photo by Larry Mooney

10...dxe4 11.♖xe4 ♕e7 12.0-0 h6 Much stronger than 12...0-0? **13.♕xf6 ♕xf6+ ♖xf6 15.♖g5. 13.♕h4 ♖xe4 14.♕xe7 ♖xe7 15.♕xe4 0-0 16.♖fe1 ♖d6**

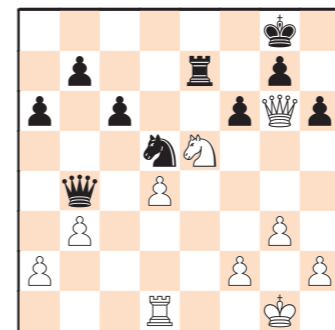


Black has a normal advantage against the IQP and exploits it masterfully.

17.♖ad1 ♖f6 18.♕f5 ♖fe8 19.b3 ♖d5 20.♕xe6 ♖xe6 21.♖xe6 ♖xe6 22.♖e1 ♖d6 23.♖e5 ♖b4! 24.♖d1?!

It's hard to take a move back, but 24.♖f3 was correct, keeping the e-file. White is by no means condemned to defeat yet.

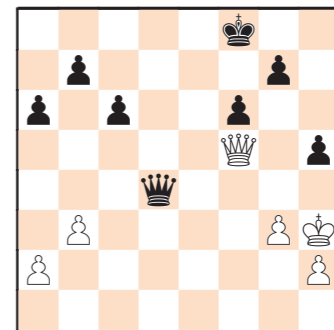
24...♖e8 25.g3 f6 26.♖g6 ♖e7



27.♖g4? Only optically aggressive. The knight has no future here.

27...♖f8! 28.♖c2 h5 29.♖e3 ♖xe3 Of course, not 29...♖xe3?? **30.fxe3 ♖xe3 31.♖d2.**

30.fxe3 ♖xe3 31.♖f5 ♖e1+! Excellent calculation. James sees that White has no counterplay in the queen ending. **32.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 33.♖g2 ♖d2+ 34.♖h3 ♖xd4**



35.♖xh5 35.♖c8+ ♖e7! 36.♖xb7+ ♖d7+.

35...♖d7+ 36.g4 ♖d3+ 37.♖g2 ♖d5+ 38.♖xd5 cxd5 39.♖f2 ♖e7 40.♖e3 g5 **White resigned**

It is my great pleasure to report that this rebirth of high-level chess in Wyoming was a resounding success, and I am glad to have played a part. It could only have happened thanks to tireless work by the Sheridan Chess Association organizing team and the directing team.

Earle Wickle, the chief TD, ran the tournament flawlessly, assisted by Bradley Fick and Peter Barlay. Brian Kuehl was the face of the organizing committee but many thanks go to Larry Mooney, Dan Alsup, Mac MacLaughlin, SCA President Tim Lawson and Secretary Dan Casey, and Jay McGinnis and Chris Walton among others.

And I already know what I will be doing in early May next year. The 2023 Sheridan Wyoming Open is scheduled for May 5-7, 2023, FIDE-rated and with an even higher prize fund!