

About MACA

The Massachusetts Chess Association is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



Providing at least four major tournaments each year:

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship
Greater Boston Open
Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

Quarterly publication of the award winning *Chess Horizons*, a journal of regional, national and international chess news and features.

Promotion and development of chess in correctional institutions through our Prison Chess program.

We hope you will chose to join MACA and enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that you are helping to promote chess throughout Massachusetts.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

(Includes Subscription to Chess Horizons unless otherwise noted.)

Adult: \$12.00; Life: \$175.00; Life (age 65 or older): \$100.00; Junior (under age 18): \$6.00.

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Love & Hate in New Jersey or, ChessCafe at the USATE

Taylor Kingston

This year, I resumed my love-hate relationship with the country's biggest tournament, the US Amateur Team East. Each Presidents' Day weekend, the USATE attracts more players than any other American chess event. The 2004 edition, held 2/14-16 at New Jersey's Parsippany Hilton, was the biggest ever, with a record 276 teams, a total of 1,163 players, ranging from beginners to veteran GMs.

For this writer, the USATE is both a pleasure and an ordeal. Its enjoyable perquisites include joining with spirited comrades, meeting new and old friends, and hobnobbing with VIPs. However, the noise and confusion of a large crowd of chess nuts, many of them manic young boys, severely taxes not only the hotel staff but my own middle-aged nerves, long accustomed to the tranquility of Vermont.

The madness is especially thick in areas such as the pool, which between rounds is like a cage full of rabid howler monkeys, no relief from the sharks prowling the playing hall. Each round starts with endless announcements on a PA system that's like a drill in the ear. There's not a single decent beer on tap, and the hotel gouges shamelessly, charging micro-brew prices for Bud Light.

Overcoming my ambivalence (and packing earplugs and my own beer), I joined the ChessCafe team, representing Hanon Russell's website www.chesscafe.com, to which this writer contributes. At first board was another ChessCafe writer, Danish FM Carsten Hansen, while Boston-area NMs Chris Chase and Charles Riordan manned 2nd and 3rd board, respectively.

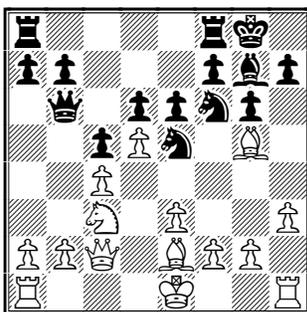
Hanon himself often plays, but this year was busy with book sales. The USATE restricts teams to an average rating under 2200. Thus a team with, say, two 2600-rated GMs (which has happened) would require two sub-1800

woodpushers to balance out. In the past such luminaries as Yasser Seirawan, Lev Alburt, and even Anatoly Karpov have played. Our team, at 2194, was one of the top seeds, and we had high hopes.

A Fast 4-0 Start

We started fast, sweeping all games in round one and taking our first four matches by a combined 12-4 score. Some sample games, with light notes:

C. Hansen (2336) - Brian Katz (NJ, 1947), USATE 2004 (1): 1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♟g7 4.♟g5 d6 5.e3 0-0 6.♟f3 c5 7.d5 ♟g4 8.♟e2 ♟bd7 9.h3 ♟x3 10.♟x3 ♟e5 11.♟e2 ♟b6 12.♟c2 e6?



Strategically, the losing move! Black's d-pawn becomes backward on

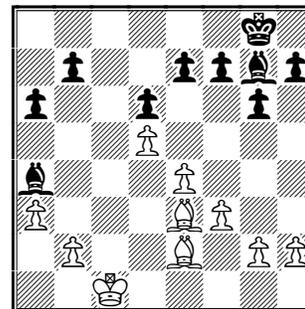
an open file, a serious weakness he can't defend. By odd coincidence, the theme of weak d-pawns figured in several of our games.

13.0-0 ♟ed7 If 13...e×d5 14.♟x6 ♟x6 15.♟x5 with a strategically won game. Now White captures on e6 to prevent closing of the file by 14...e×d5 15.♟x6 ♟x6 16.♟x5 ♟x5 17.c×d5. Then he takes aim at the d-pawn. **14.d×e6 f×e6 15.♟ad1 ♟e5 16.♟d2 ♟f7 17.♟h4 g5 18.♟g3 ♟ad8 19.♟fd1 ♟d7 20.♟e4**

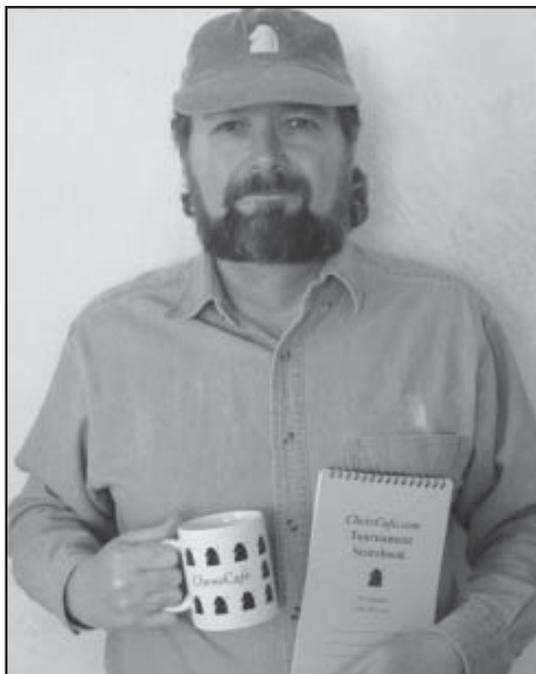
With maximum pressure on d6, Black must lose a pawn. **20...♟x4 21.♟x4 d5 22.c×d5 ♟x5 23.♟c4** A perhaps unnecessary finesse. The direct 23.♟x5 e×d5 24.♟x5 was plenty good, since if 24...♟/♟x2? 25.♟d3!+- **23...♟x2 24.♟x2 ♟d8 25.♟x2+ ♟x2 26.♟d3?! (♟ 26.b3 or 26.♟e5) ♟f6?! (26...♟x2!±) 27.b3 ♟g7 28.♟d7+ ♟g8 29.♟d3!** Much better than 29.♟c7?! ♟c6 30.♟c6 b×c6 31.♟x8 ♟x8 32.♟xe6+, with problematic opposite-color ♟s. Now White wins more pawns. **29...♟f7 (29...♟g7?? 30.♟d6+-) 30.♟xh7+ ♟g7 31.♟e4 ♟d8 32.♟x6 1-0.**

In round 2 Carsten played an interesting endgame, which he annotates here:

Dale Sharp (NY, 2200) - Hansen, USATE 2004 (2) (notes by Carsten Hansen):



We enter the game after White's 21st move. White has been playing unambitiously, rather obviously aiming for a draw in this endgame with seven pawns and bishop pair to each side. This should be a draw, but two things speak in Black's fa-



The author, in full ChessCafe regalia

vor: White's king is temporarily tied to defense of the b-pawn, severely limiting his options. Just as importantly, White thinks drawing will be easy. It is not; I have won similar games several times for the same reason.

21...♖b3! Fixing the b-pawn on the long diagonal. **22.h4 ♖f8 23.g4 e6**

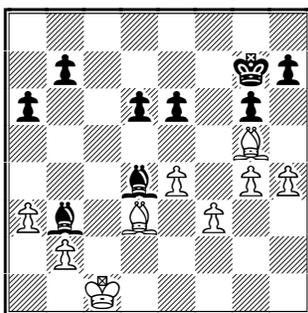
The first structural imbalance now appears; Black will eventually be able to create a passed d-pawn. Not enough to claim Black is winning, but nonetheless he has a slight edge already.

24.d×e6 f×e6 25.♗d2 ♗d4 26.♗c3

This makes a lot of sense. White has noticed the problem on the a1-h8 diagonal and therefore tries to evict the black bishop. Now Black could have exchanged on c3 with a small advantage, but I couldn't see exactly how I could win, e.g. 26...♗xc3 27.b×c3 e5 28.c4 h6 29.g5 h5 30.♖d2 ♖e7 31.♖e3 b6, and the way forward is hard to find. Also, the more pieces on the board, the bigger the chance my opponent will misplace one.

26...♗e3+ 27.♗d2 ♗f2 28.♗g5 ♗d4 Back to the long diagonal. **29.♗d3 ♖g7**

With his 29th move White offered a draw, which I declined for several reasons: 1) Black is slightly better, and 2) if White plays systematically for a draw from the start, he should be forced to fight for it for a really long time.



30.f4?? A big blunder that immediately rewards Black for declining the draw. I have found that in games where your opponent plays to draw, his biggest errors usually come when he offers a draw, or the move after when he is annoyed you didn't accept it. White now drops a pawn and should be lost, but converting the advantage isn't entirely easy. **30...h6 31.♗e7 ♗e3+ 32.♖b1 ♗×f4 33.♗e2 ♖f7 34.♗d8 ♗e5**

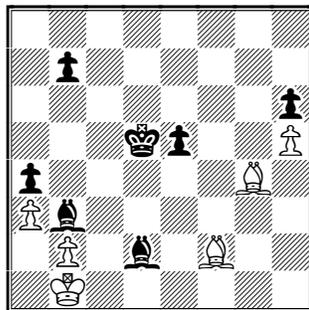
Back to the diagonal again. It's far easier for Black if he can keep White's king on b1 or c1. **35.♗b6 ♗g3 36.h5 ♗f4 37.♗d4 g×h5 38.g×h5**

Here I determined there is no good way to break through with the king on the kingside. This makes Black's plan rather simple: the king must go to the queenside and either sneak in unnoticed or assist in opening the center and creating a passed e-pawn.

38...♖e7 39.♗g4 ♖d7 40.♗e2 ♖c6 41.♗f3 ♖b5 42.♗e2+ ♖c6

I knew I would have to play this if he checked, as 42...♗c4 would lose a piece to 43.a4+ ♖b4 44.♗c3+ ♖c5 45.b4+. But if White didn't check I might be able to play ...♖c4, and repeating the position doesn't hurt Black. **43 ♗f3 ♖c7?!** A bit artificial and played too quickly. The idea was ...♖c7-d7-c6 losing a tempo, but since White can do the same with ♗e2-g4-f3, it doesn't work. Therefore on my next move I switch plan.

44.♗e2 e5 45.♗f2 ♖c6 46.♗g4 ♗d2 47.♗f5 a5! Black is in no hurry and fixes White's queenside. Black could try to do without this, but since White has no active counterplay, why not just continue to improve my position? **48.♗g4 a4! 49.♗e2 d5** Finally Black opens the center, and starts forcing events. **50.e×d5+ ♖×d5 51.♗g4**

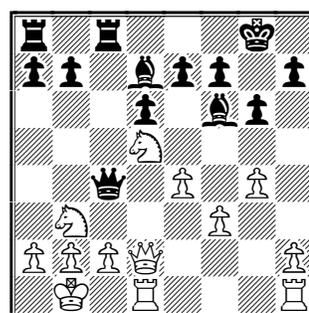


51...♖e4!? One of my harder decisions. I saw that both this and 51...e4 would give Black good winning chances. I'm still not entirely sure which is better, but after some thought, I preferred bringing the king up. However, a sample line after 51...e4 could be 52.♗b6 ♗f4 53.♗a5 ♖d4 54.♗c8 b5 55.♗d7 ♗c4 56.♖c2 e3 57.♗c3+ ♖d5 58.♗e1 ♖e4 59.♗e8 ♖f3 60.♗c6+ ♖e2 61.♗h4 ♗d3+ 62.♖c3 ♗e5+ +-.

52.♗c8 ♖f3 53.♗b6 ♗d5 54.♖c2 ♗e3 55.♗a5 ♗d4 My computer prefers 55...e4!? 56.♗b4 ♗g5. This might be a bit better, but I had seen a winning continuation, which was good enough for me. **56.♗d2 ♗e4+ 57.♖d1** On 57.♖c1 ♗e3 also wins rather easily. **57...♗e3 58.♗c3 ♗f4 59.♗e6 b5 60.b3 ♗c6 61.♗f7 e4 62.b×a4 b×a4 63.♗c4 e3 64.♗e2+ ♖g2!** Simpler than 64...♖f2 65.♗e1+, though it too wins. **65.♗f6 ♗f3 66.♗c3 ♗d6! 67.♗g7 ♖f2** Now the e-pawn cannot be stopped. **68.♗×f3 ♖×f3 69.♗×h6 e2+ 0-1.**

Carsten, whom I met for the first time, proved not only a good player but a good teammate, an extroverted, engaging conversationalist with a charming accent, who shared both his chess knowledge and some amusing stories from his extensive tournament experience. 3rd board Charles Riordan, on the other hand, was quiet and soft-spoken, but loud on the board, scoring +4 =2.

Riordan (2287) – Frederick Kurrasch (MD, 2111), USATE 2004 (3): 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♗×d4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♖d2 ♗c6 9.0-0 10.♗d7 10.♖b1 ♖a5 11.♗b3 ♖c7 12.g4 ♖fc8 13.♗e2 ♗e5 14.♗d4 ♗c4 15.♗×c4 ♖×c4 16.♗×f6 ♗×f6 17.♗d5



Black has misplayed his Dragon, and faces serious problems. Getting the ♗ off f6 does not work, viz. 17...♗h4 (17...♗g7?? 18.♗×e7+) 18.g5! ♖e8 19.♖f4 ♗f2 20.h4 and (A) 20...♗e6 21.♖h2 ♗×d5 22.e×d5 ♗e3 23.h5 ♗f4 (23...♗×g5 24.h×g6 h6 25.g×f7+ ♖×f7 26.f4 ♗f6 27.♖h5+ ♖f8 28.♖×h6+ +-) 24.♖h4 ♖ac8 25.h×g6! ♖×c2+ 26.♖a1 ♖×g6 27.♖×f4+-, or (B) 20...♖ac8 21.♗d2 ♗c5 22.h5 g×h5 23.♖h4+-.



17...♙a4 18.♗xg6+

Missing 18.g5! winning straight away, e.g. 18...♙g7 19.♗xe7+ ♖h8 20.♗xc8+-, or 18...♙xg5 19.♗xg5 ♗xc2+ 20.♖a1 f6 (20...♙xb3 21.♗xe7+) 21.♗xe7+ ♖f7 22.♗h4 ♖xe7 23.♗xh7+-+. Though not best the text is not bad; as in Hansen-Katz, it creates a terminally weak d-pawn, around which play now centers.

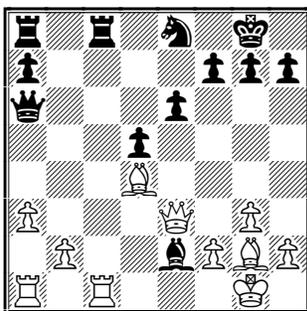
20...exf6 19.♗d4 ♙d7 20.♗f4 ♙e6 21.b3 ♗c3 22.♙d3 ♗c5 23.♗xf6 a5 24.♙c1 ♙e8 25.♗xe6 ♙xe6 26.♗d4 ♗c6 27.♙c3 ♗b5 28.♙c4 ♗a6 29.♗c3 b5 30.♙c6 ♗a7 31.♙c8+ ♙xc8 32.♗xc8+ ♖g7 33.♗c3+ ♖g8 34.♗c8+ ♖g7 35.♗c3+ ♖g8 36.♙d1 a4 37.♗c8+ ♖g7 38.♗c3+ ♖g8 39.♗d4 ♗b7 40.h4 axb3 41.cxb3 ♗e7 42.g5 f6 43.♙c1 ♙e5?

It would have made no long-term difference, but 43...♗g7 was slightly better. Now White creates an unanswerable threat on the 7th rank. **44.♙c8+ ♖g7 45.f4 ♙e6 46.♙a8 1-0**

Joel Salman (NY, 2200) – Riordan, USATE 2004 (4): 1.c4 b6 2.d4 e6 3.♗f3 ♗f6 4.♗c3 ♙b4 5.g3 ♙a6 6.♗b3 c5 7.a3

What began as an English Defense has become a Queen's Indian line going back at least to Pflieger-Bilek, Den Haag 1966. White is probably correct to kick the ♙; after 7.♙g2 ♗c6 8.a3 ♗a5 9.♗c2 ♙xc3 10.♗xc3 ♗xc4 he lost a pawn and eventually the game in Hermansson-Tisdall, Reykjavik 1988 (0-1, 34).

7...♙xc3+ 8.♗xc3 0-0 9.♙g2 ♗c6 10.0-0 d5 11.dxc5 ♙xc4 12.cxb6 ♗xb6 13.♙e3 ♗a6 14.♗d4 ♙fc8 15.♙fc1 ♗xd4 16.♙xd4 ♙xe2 17.♗e3 ♗e8



Losing back the newly won pawn plus. The awkward pressure on a7 might have been withstood with 17...♙xc1+ 18.♙xc1 ♗e8, though Black still must be careful, e.g. 19.h3 ♙b5 20.b4 ♗d6? 21.♗e5! ♗f5 22.♙xd5!. Now an unusual imbalance results, where Black has a central majority but White has passed a- and b-pawns. **18.♙xc8 ♙xc8 19.♙a7 ♗d6 20.♙e1 ♙b5 21.♗b6** White is eager to exchange queens, but has a hard time making his queenside pawns an endgame factor, due to Black's command of the c-file and his ability to blockade the pawns with his bishop. **21...♗xb6 22.♙xb6 ♙a4 23.♙b1 ♙b3 24.♙f3?**

One move too soon; correct was 24.♙d4 ♙c2 25.♙f3 ♙d1, with a chance to break the blockade. The text, allowing Black to advance his center pawns with gain of time, is probably the losing move. **24...♗c4 25.♙e3 d4! 26.♙c1** If 26.♙xd4? ♗d2+-+. The ♙ has no good square on the c1-h6 diagonal. Advance of Black's d-pawn now forces the win of a piece.

What do the following tournaments have in common?



- 2003 U.S. Closed Championship**, Seattle, WA
- 2003 National Elementary Championships**, Nashville, TN
- 2002 U.S. Open**, Cherry Hill, NJ
- 2002 & 2003 U.S. Amateur Team East**, Parsippany, NJ
- 2002 Connecticut State Championship**, Greenwich, CT
- 2003 Albany Winter Open**, Albany, NY

ChessCafe.com was at each tournament selling books and equipment.

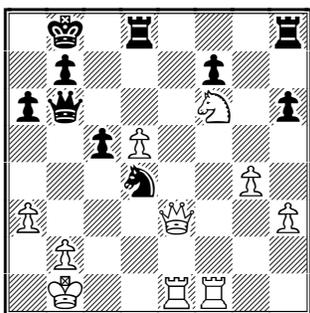
If you have a tournament in which you expect at least 75 players to attend, we have the experience and know-how to run a professional chess book and equipment sales operation, and put extra money into your pocket.

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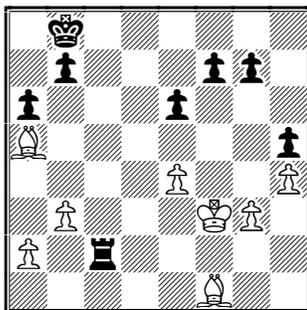
26...d3 27.♙f4 e5 28.♘g5 h6
29.♙e3 ♖×e3 30.f×e3 d2 31.♗f1
♗c1 32.♗f2 ♗f8 33.e4 ♗e7
34.♙e2 ♗×f1+ 35.♗×f1 ♙c4
36.♗f2 ♙b3 37.♗e3 d1 ♗
38.♙×d1 ♙×d1 39.♗d2 ♙a4
40.♗c3 ♗d6 41.b3 ♙c6 42.♗d3
h5 43.♗e3 ♗c5 44.♗d3 g6, 0-1.

Our fast start involved some luck. Carsten won two games that might have yielded only a ½-point. First was this against Paul Fielding (PA, 2233) in round 3:



33.♙d7+?! A seductive *petite combinaison* that wins the Exchange, but allows a draw. Objectively better was 33.♗g3+ ♗a7 34.♗e7 ♗hf8±. 33...♗×d7 34.♗e5+ ♗a7 35.♗×h8 ♗b3 36.♗h7 ♗×d5? In *Zeitnot* the draw vanishes, which he still could have had by 36...♙b5! 37.♗a1/♗c1 ♙×a3! 38.b×a3 ♗×a3+ with perpetual check. The game ended 37.♗×f7 ♙f3? 38.♗×b7+! ♗×b7 39.♗e7 1-0

Hansen's other Houdini act came against Daniel Josenhans (NY, 2259) in round 4. Rook-vs.-minor-pieces endgames are tricky. The conventional wisdom is that two minor pieces are better in the middle game, but the rook can be superior in the endgame, *unless*, as here, it's up against two bishops:



However, with a little help from time pressure, Carsten confounded conventional wisdom. 30.♙d3 — 30.a4 doesn't save the pawn, viz. 30...♗b2 31.♙c4 b5 32. a×b5 a×b5 33. ♙×b5?? ♗×b3+.

30...♗×a2 31. ♙c3 g6 32.♗f4 ♗c8 33.g4 h×g4 34.♗×g4 ♗d7 35.e5 b5 36.♙e4 ♗e2 37.♙b7?

Greed here is not good. Better 37.♗f3 with approximate equality. 37...♗e3 38.♙a5 The ♙ has no good square. 38...♗×b3 39.♙×a6? Drops a piece, but otherwise Black has two connected passed pawns. 39...♗c6! 40.♙d8 ♗a3 41.♙c8 ♗a8 42.♙×e6 f×e6 43.♙e7 ♗d7 0-1

A unique feature of the Amateur Team tournaments is that GMs play alongside average Joes. This year's GMs were Joel Benjamin, Ildar Ibragimov, Alexander Stripunsky, Michael Rohde, and the Energizer Bunny of chess, Arthur Bisguier. Still going strong at 74, Bisguier rarely misses this event.

He was kind enough to autograph his new book, *The Art of Bisguier*, and in return I gave him the 2004 International Chess Calendar, which commemorates his victory in the US Championship 50 years ago. Schmoozing with VIPs, I shamelessly plugged another of my editing efforts, *Heroic Tales*, a "best of ChessCafe.com" collection.

Back in Black

Unfortunately for me, the first four rounds featured an inverse correlation between team and personal success. While ChessCafe was 4-0, your humble correspondent felt especially humble at 1-3, my lone point being the result of a first-round forfeit. That lousy no-show seemed to take the wind out of my sails, or perhaps playing up an average 157 points since then explained it. However, I did not despair, and though the underdog again and playing Black in round 5, I resolved to come out swinging.

Shirley Ben-Dak (NY, 1950) – Kingston (1808), USATE 2004 (5):

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♙c3 c5 4.c×d5 c×d4! The Von Hennig-Schara Gambit is particularly good if playing to win against 1.d4. It's rare among both amateurs and GMs today, though Alekhine won brilliantly with it against Pirc at Bled 1931. White proves unfamiliar with it. 5.♗×d4 ♙c6 6.♗d1 e×d5 7.e3?! White declines the gambit entirely. Normal is 7.♗×d5, when Black can keep queens on by 7...♙d7, or play the tricky and surprisingly strong "endgame gambit" 7...♙e6 8.♗×d8+ ♗×d8, threatening 9...♙b4/♙d4 and 10...♙c2+.

7...♙f6 8.♙f3 ♙c5 9.♙d3 ♗e7 10.0-0 0-0 11.♙b1 Starting a dubious plan, laboriously setting up a threat to h7 that proves impotent. Meanwhile Black simply develops naturally.



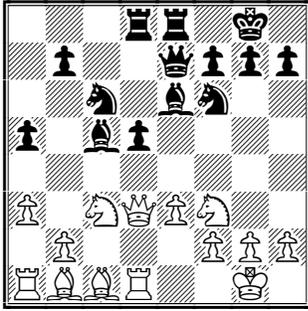
3/4 of the ChessCafe team. Front to rear: Carsten Hansen, Chris Chase, Charles Riordan

Name Games

The USATE is noted for creative team names. There were several inspired by the Super Bowl halftime fiasco, e.g. *Exposing One of Janet Jackson's Two Bs*. However, in the best-name finals this year, family values prevailed with *USCF: UnStable Cash Flow* edging Joel Benjamin's *Hair Club for Men*.



11...♖d8 12.♗e2 ♜e8 13.♖d1
♙e6 14.a3 a5 15.♗d3 ♜ad8



Black's opening has been a dramatic success. Normally he sacs a pawn for development tempi, but here he is fully developed, while White is about three tempi behind. Black has pressure on the central files and against e3, just waiting to be unveiled by ♗e6-g4 and d5-d4. White needs to blunt this with ♗d4, or remove the ♖ from danger by 16.♗c2. Instead she continues with her plan against h7, but it backfires.

16.♗g5? ♜g4! Not fearing 17.♗xh7 ♙xd1 18.♗xf6+ ♗xf6, since 19.♗h7+ is not mate. If instead 17.♜f1 d4 18.♗ce4 dxe3 19.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 20.♗xh7+ ♖f8 21.♗xe3 ♗xe3 22.♗e4 (22.fxe3 ♗xg5) ♗h6+. Also 16...d4 should win, but the text seemed clearer.

17.f3 d4!

The decisive blow. White is lost in all lines, e.g. 18.fxg4 dxc3 19.♗e2 ♗xe3+ 20.♗xe3 ♜xd1+ 21.♗xd1 ♗xe3+. Now her ♗ tries to get out of Dodge, but it's too late. **18.♗e2 dxc3 19.♜xd8 ♗xd8 20.fxg4 cxb2 21.♗xb2 ♗xe3+ 22.♗xc3 ♗xe3+ 23.♖f1 ♗xg5** The dust has settled with Black a piece up. **24.♗f5 ♗c6 25.♖d1 g6 26.♗b1 ♗xg4 0-1**

Not exactly Alekhine, but after three losses, very satisfying.

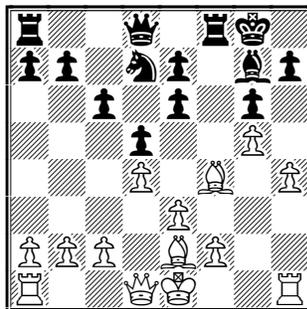
Fumble, Blood Lust Rebound

As if playing a cruel joke, fate decreed that my victory coincided with the team's defeat. Against "The Contenders," a team rated 2198, on Table 1 in round 5, we finally fumbled. Chris Chase, who despite a bad cold had started +3 =1, finally played like a sick man and lost quickly, Riordan let a win slip to a perpetual check draw, and Hansen lost to Adnan Kobas, an IM who has played in the Yugoslavian Championship.

However, we rebounded in the last round. My blood-lust aroused from my previous game, I planned again to be aggressive in the opening. Again my opponent obliged.

Kingston – K. Birkedahl (TX, 1720), USATE 2004 (6): 1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♗f4 c6 White's move order usually steers Black into either a Pirc with 3...d6, or this, the Barry Attack, like the VHSG an under-used but potentially very nasty line. The basic plan is brutally simple: post a ♗ at e5, open the h-file, and shove a mating attack down it. To counter this Black needs to organize central pressure quickly. With 4...c6 and the next few moves he does not, giving White a free hand. **5.e3 ♗g7 6.♗e2 0-0 7.h4 ♗f5?! 8.♗e5 ♗bd7?!**

Black's last two moves only serve to accelerate White's kingside advance. **9.g4 ♗e6 10.g5 ♗e4 11.♗xe4 ♗xe5?** Better simply 11...dxe4. The text allows White to inflict a serious positional weakness, which proves tactically fatal. **12.♗c5! ♗d7 13.♗xe6 fxe6**



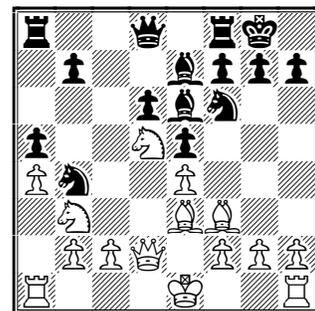
14.h5? Adhering too closely to the original plan. Instead, 14.♗g4! is practically winning, viz.: 14...e5 15.♗e6+ ♜f7 (15...♖h8?? 16.h5! exf4 17.hxg6+-) 16.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 17.dxe5±/+-, or 14...♖f7 15.♗f3 ♗a5+ 16.c3 ♗b5 17.0-0±. However, the idea didn't hit me until next move. Though the text looks strong and natural, it actually allows Black time to organize a defense.

14...e5! 15.♗g4 ♖f7? Mesmerized by the threat of 16.♗e6+ and 17.hxg6, Black misses 15...exf4! 16.♗e6+ ♜f7!±, giving up the ♜ to eliminate both white ♗s. **16.hxg6+ hxg6 17.♗xd7 exf4?** For the second time, Black chooses the wrong capture; after

17...♗xd7 18.dxe5 White's advantage would be small. Now he wins by force. **18.♗g4! ♜h8 19.♗xf4+ ♗f6** (19...♖g8 20.♗e6#) **20.♜xh8 ♗xh8 21.0-0-e6 22.gxf6 ♗xf6 23.♗c7 ♗e7 24.♗xb7 1-0**

Riordan too was helped by superior opening knowledge:

K. Roberts-Hoffman (CO, 1895) – Riordan, USATE 2004 (6): 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♗e3 e5 7.♗b3 ♗e7 8.♗e2 0-0 9.♗d2 ♗e6 10.♗f3 a5 11.a4 ♗b4 12.♗d5?



While the 6.♗e3 line has a long heritage going back to Lange-Paulsen, Nuremberg 1883, White's subsequent play has been rather undynamic, and is capped by a serious mistake. Better was 12.♖d1.

12...♗xd5 13.exd5 e4 14.♗e2 ♗bxd5 15.♗g5 h6 16.♗h4 ♗b6 17.0-0 ♜fc8 18.♗d4?

Dropping a second pawn. Better was 18.♗b5, keeping the ♗ out of trouble. **18...♜xc2 19.♗xf6 ♗xf6 20.♗xd5 ♜xe2 21.♜ad1 e3 22.fxe3 ♜xe3 23.♗d4 ♜e5 24.♗f3 ♜g5 25.♗f2 ♗xd4 26.♗xd4 ♗xd4+ 27.♜xd4 d5**

And with a two-pawn advantage Black won the endgame (0-1, 61).

With these wins and a draw by Hansen, the team won the match, giving us a final score of 5-1, tying for 5th place, only ½-point behind the winners.

After tie-breaks, ChessCafe stood 8th, interestingly right where our 2194 team rating predicted. Not bad out of 276 teams, but we have sworn a blood oath to wreak havoc next year. Squeamish spectators are advised to avoid our table in 2005.