



# Alabama Chess Antics



ACF  
MEMBERSHIP  
REQUIRED

Accepted With Regrets  
A Note From Eddie

Dear Richard,

Here is the article that Jack Gwin mailed to me. If anyone sends anything else, I will mail them as soon as I get them. I am going to start playing chess again now instead of trying to promote it. It is a lot more fun and you do not answer to anyone but yourself when you lose.

Yours for Chess,

Eddie Kemp

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 1989 / 90

President	Richard w. Ellis
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## NEW EDITOR

Editor Mark Walton

**ALABAMA CHESS ANTICS** is the official publication of the Alabama Chess Federation and is published quarterly from [redacted] Mark Walton editor. Annual memberships for adults is \$8.00, junior membership (Scholastic) is \$4.00, payable to A.C.F., Treasurer Dick Phea, [redacted]. All memberships expire on last day of August each year. Quarterly memberships are \$2.00 for each remaining quarter. The Alabama Chess Federation appreciates your financial support.

# A. C. F. TRANSACTIONS, 1990

D. Rhea

1	deposit			
d001	02/13	00	776.91	776.91
2	deposit			
d002	02/09	00	60.00	836.91
3	deposit			
d003	02/11	00	6.00	842.91
4	C.F. of Alabama			
114	02/10	07	50.00	792.91 <b>outstanding</b>
5	deposit (USCF)			
d004	02/15	00	265.21	1058.12
6	Walter Schaetzle			
115	03/20	07	265.21	792.91
7	A & B Printing			
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8	deposit			
d005	04/10	00	4.00	524.66
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d006	05/04	00	53.50	578.16
10	deposit			
d007	06/04	00	4.00	582.16
11	deposit			
d008	06/22	00	126.00	708.16
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12 RECORDS PRINTED

# A Message from Dick Rhea

## ACF PROGRESS ANALYSIS

We have seen several areas of progress in the last two or three years.

- 1 A reasonably complete record of the memberships.
- 2 Movement toward unification and cooperation over the entire state of Alabama.
- 3 Genuine progress on the "Chess Foundation of Alabama."
- 4 True involvement in the fast growing Scholastic Chess programs, from the Tennessee border to the Gulf of Mexico.
- 5 Printing four issues of "Chess Antics" in the last two years.

However, there are many ways to improve the efficiency and completeness of some, or all, of the above.

Many records are submitted with incomplete or inaccurate data. There are changes of address not made known, resulting in failure to receive "Chess Antics." Care in submissions would be helpful.

Eddie Kemp has done a great job of getting the Antics out, but he has had too little support from the general membership. All chess news would be appreciated, no matter the source. YOU could add much to YOUR Antics.....

There is a great need of volunteers in the Scholastic area. The chances are good that chess exists in the schools of YOUR area. If there is someone already working on this, ask if you can be of help; if not, get something going .....

HELP IS NEEDED, HOW ABOUT YOU

*Dick Rhea*

# MASTERS CORNER

Vulcan Open, round 5

White: Kyle Therrell

Black: Boris Roytman

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 (The "Smyslov Defense" in the Ruy Lopez) 4. d4 (A sharp response motivated by my need to win the game, but 4. c3 may be better, as played for example in Karpov-Spassky, Bugojno 1986) ed 5. Bg5 (Trying to interfere with Black's normal development. 5. Nxd4 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Nc3 0-0 is peachy for Black) f6 (5...Be7 is perhaps better, e.g., 6. Bxe7 Ngxe7 7. Nxd4 d5 8. Nc3 de 9. Bxc6+ Nxc6 10. Nxc6 Qxd1+ 11. Rxd1 bc =) 6. Bf4 (And here 6. Bh4 is more promising, according to my sources) d6 (Weak, as White just regains the pawn with a better position. In 1898 the great American master Pillsbury played here 6...Bb4+, but stood worse after 7. Nbd2 a6 8. Bc4 d6 9. 0-0 Qe7 10. Bd5 Bg4 11. c3 dc 12. bc. Best is 6...Bg7 as then 7. Nxd4 runs into 7...f5, and White has failed to get an advantage with other lines) 7. Nxd4 Bd7 8. Nc3 Nxd4 9. Qxd4 Bxb5 10. Nxb5 Qd7 (Better was 10...a6. White now induces Black to "unprotect" his a-pawn and to weaken his d-pawn) 11. Qd5 Rb8 12. Qc4 c6 13. Nc3 (13. Nxa7 is ridiculous, but Stuart Rachels suggested 13. Nd4. I wanted to keep the d-file clear for pressure on his d-pawn) Nh6 (This drops a pawn, but it's hard to see how Black can complete development without doing so) 14. Qd4 Nf7 15. Qxf6 Be7 16. Qd4 0-0 17. 0-0 (Why not 17. Qxa7? At the time I thought 17...Bf6 might create counterplay, but now I don't, e.g., 18. 0-0 Bxc3 19. bc Qg4 20. Qe3) Qg4 18. Bg3 a6 19. Rad1 h5 (This weakens Black's kingside and adds force to White's subsequent advance, but here and later Black tries to play aggressively, perhaps motivated by the fact that both players were, amazingly, beginning to run short of time) 20. h3 Qe6 21. Qd3 Rae8 22. f4 Bf6 (Leads to a forced sequence which isn't good for Black, but neither are alternatives) 23. f5 gf 24. ef Qe3+ (24... Qd7 25. Qf3) 25. Qxe3 Rxe3 26. Bf4 Re7 27. Bxd6 (Trying to make up for missing a meal on move 17) Nxd6 28. Rxd6 h4 (One might expect 28...Bxc3 29. bc Re2, but the text was harder for me to meet under the circumstances) 29. Rfd1 (White inadvertently regurgitates his last feast...okay, I'll drop the metaphor) Bxc3 30. bc Rxf5 31. Rld4 Re1+ 32. Kh2 Rg5 33. Rd8+ Kg7 34. R8d7+ Kg8 (He had to try 34...Kf6 or ...Kg6, when he might still have some hope. Now the constant mate threat dooms him) 35. Rxb7 Re8 36. Rd6 a5 37. Rxc6 Rd8 38. Rc4 Re8 39. Ra7 Rd8 40. Rxb4 Rd2 41. Rg4 Rxb4 42. hg Rxc2 43. Rxa5 Rxc3 44. Ra7 Rd3 45. a4 Ra3 46. a5 Ra4 47. Kg3 Kf8 48. g5 Ra2 49. Kf3 Ra1 50. Kf4 Rf1 51. Ke4 Rg1 52. a6 Rxb2 53. Rb7 1-0. (K. Therrell)

# MASTERS CORNER

Position after Blacks 22nd move White: Therrell, Black: Foyman



1990 SPACE CITY OPEN

MARK WALTON - GEORGE HOLTON

## GRUNFELD

1) d4, Nf6 2) c4, g6 3) Nc3, d5 4) Nf3, Bg7 5) Bb5, Ne4  
6) cd, Nxc3 7) bc, Qxd5 8) e3, c5 9) Qb3

This is not mentioned in ECO, but it seems to be as good as anything else. I wasn't trying to be Mr. TN, I just didn't know the line.

9) Qxb3 10) ab, Nc6 11) Bb5

With the idea of forcing some concession by pressuring e7.

11) Bd7 12) O-O, a6 13) Rfd1, h6 14) Bh4, g5 15) Bg3, Rcf  
16) Bc4, Bf5

This runs into trouble. Correct is 16) Bg4, giving the knight on c6 access to e5 after white pushes d5.

17) d5, Na7 18) Ne5, Bxe5

The Bishop on g7 is too good to give up - at least not yet. Perhaps black should castle.

# MASTERS CORNER

White Mark Walton - George Holton Black

19) Bxe5, 0-0 20) f3: I was reluctant to play 20) d6 because I felt white could improve his position a little more first.  
( 20) Bxa6?, ba 21) Rxa6, Nb5 22) Pxf6, f6 just lets black's Knight escape, whereas white's Rook will soon be wishing that Scotty would beam him up).

20) Bd7 21) d6, e6 22) Bf6, Rc6 23) f4

The opening of lines on the Kingside would put black's King in grave danger, e.g. 23) g4 24) ef followed by 25) Rd3 and black will be hard pressed to keep him from getting mated.

23) g4 24) Be2, h5 25) h3

There is really no way to keep the lines closed on the Kingside.

25) gh 26) gh, Kh7 27) Bd3,

The attack on black's King is more important than the pawn.

27) Kh6 28) Be4, Rb6 29) Kh2, Bc6 30) Bc2, Rg8 31) Rg1, Rg6

This is necessary to avoid mate.

32) Bxg6, fg 33) d7, Bxd7 34) Rad1, Resigns

If the Bishop moves, then 35) Rd8 will mate on h8.



# ANOTHER THRILLER IN MANILA

A Personal Look at the 1990 Interzonal

I have just returned from playing in the Interzonal chess tournament in Manila, The Philippines, from which 11 players advanced further towards becoming the champion of the world. The world champion in 1993 will now be one of seventeen players, eleven of whom qualified from this tournament and six of whom are seeded from the last cycle.

I had a modestly successful tournament, scoring six points out of thirteen versus the likes of Grandmasters Short, Chandler, Torre, Spraggett, Dzindzihashvili, Adams, Petursson, and so on, which should have raised my FIDE rating five points, to a respectable 2485. If you want to see games from this tournament, they will be hard to miss if you subscribe to "Chess Life," "Inside Chess," "New in Chess," "Chess Horizons," etc. In this article I offer you something more personal: my perspective on being an interzonalist and a few stories about the legends of the chess world.

## Glory Days

As an introduction to this article, and because I like to think back to my Glory Days, my road to the Interzonal began in 1988, when Patrick Wolff walked into the basement of the student center of Amherst College "overconfident and unshaven" (as Alexander Fishbein put it) for his final game of the U.S. Junior Championship with the now-IM Alex Sherzer. The fact that Wolff was amiable enough to lose this game with the white pieces (to a player he usually crushed) allowed me to move past him on the wallchart and become the 1988-89 U.S. Junior Champion.

From there I was invited to play in the 1989 U.S. Championship, an invitation I almost declined, as the tournament came in the heart of my semester at college. Nevertheless in the end I accepted the invitation, because sometimes it is difficult to respect yourself when you have been playing chess all your life and at 8 o'clock in the morning you are dragging yourself off to be one of a hundred students hearing a lecture when you could be preparing to play Yasser Seirawan in a few hours -- perhaps on the white side of a Pirc. At any rate, it made sense to me, so I accepted my invitation and began preparing for the tournament Bobby Fischer won at age fourteen.

My brother David made jokes before the tournament about how fortunate I was that this year's U.S. Championship was a "zonal year" (i.e., the top finishers qualify to play in the Interzonal)-- the implication being that I was flying off to the slaughter. Lamar Daniel, my loyal fan and friend, suggested to Kyle Therrell that I would finish in the middle of the field. Kyle, my training partner before the tournament, was a bit more pessimistic.

When I tied for first with an undefeated score of 9.5--5.5, I knew that I was now eligible to play in the Interzonal, a tournament which (like Fischer and Kasparov) approaches larger than life. I was certain, though, that I could not accept this new invitation, because I figured that the tournament would be in the fall and would conflict with my schoolwork again.

When the tournament was scheduled for the summer, as Bart Simpson would say -- I'm outta here! And I was on a plane to Manila, The Philippines, to play in the most momentous tournament of my life, wondering if I would have instead been ringing up orders in McDonalds had Wolff bothered to shave that morning in 1988. But he hadn't, and I was on my way.

I figured to be spending much of the time in Manila with the other Americans who would be there: Yasser Seirawan, Boris Gulko, Roman Dzindzihashvili, Nick deFirmian, Tony Miles, Gata kamsky, and the trainers John Donaldson, John Federowicz and Vince McCambdidge.

Vince was a last minute replacement for Larry Christiansen, who decided at the last minute not to be part of the team because he reared for his life-- really. A minority of Philipinos, the communist insurgents, are hostile to Americans (military personnel, mainly) -- but enough about this. The people I met were quite hospitable.

#### "Nyet Pepsi!"

Several of the American players (Seirawan, deFirmian and Gulko) had just returned from an important tournament in Moscow -- top finishers in this tournament qualified to play in the World Cup events of the next two years.

Each had his own stories. For Gulko, the tournament was a nightmare --having to return to the country where he was so presecuted that his friends were risking their jobs by visiting his apartment (KGB agents record these things and don't like them) and that he eventually held three hunger strikes, one which lasted 39 days. "On the fourtieth day," Gulko told me in his charming, broken English, "they say that your brain starts to lose some things, so I decided to eat."

In Moscow Boris said he saw again his "old friend"-- the KGB agent who used to watch him night and day. "It was my mistake," said Boris. "I will not go back to Moscow again."

Yasser Seirawan's stories were a bit more comic. The Soviet Union, Yaz explained, is now so poor that to get anything from anybody -- desk clerks, waiters, tournament organizers-- even things you're owed, you have to start screaming.

Every day, Yasser said, he would eat in the dining hall for the players. First there was the "choice" of meals: May I have this? No, we are out. How 'bout this? No, we are out of that. How about this? No. Well, what do you

have? "Only this," would be the reply, though usually in Russian, and the player's decision was made for him.

That was food. As for drinks, Yasser said, pepsi was on the menu, and every day he would try to order pepsi. Every day his waiter -- a big, belligerent Russian, would howl back at him, "Nyet, pepsi!" Every day: Nyet, Pepsi! Nyet this! Nyet that! Here was a restaurant lacking in supplies: it had nothing on its own menu!

Or so Yasser thought. Until one day the tournament's dining hall had a guest: the World Champion Gary Kasparov, one of the most powerful people in Moscow. "Come, sit with me," said Gary, ushering Seirawan over to a corner of the room. "From that very same kitchen," said Yaz, "that had been feeding me bean soup all week, out came caviar, and steak, and gourmet delights your eyes have never seen..."

"And Pepsi?" I asked.

"Yes, Pepsi," he said.

"But Mr. Campomanes, What about the Toilets?"

After a few unusual days in which I was recovering from jetlag, the opening ceremonies had arrived. The man in charge was Florencio Campomanes, the controversial, sweet-talking figure who made himself (in?) famous by halting the 1985 World Championship match while it was in progress. I arrived in the small room suitably adorned in coat and tie, surrounded by the likes of Tal, Smyslov, Portisch, Ljubojevic, Korchnoi, Ivanchuk, not to mention such unknowns as Kavalek, Short, Gelfand, Sax, Hjartarsson, Hubner, Seirawan, Torre, and so forth.

Campomanes spoke in a grave manner about the details of the tournament. "There are two hotels for the players: the Sheraton and the Manila Pavilion. The tournament site is within walking distance for those staying at the Sheraton, but those staying at the Pavilion will have to ride the bus. Therefore adjourned games will be played off at the Pavilion, so those at the Sheraton will be the ones to travel. How do you say? Even Steven" said the FIDE president.

At this time Grandmaster Lubomir Ftacnik of Czechoslovakia rose to ask a question. "Mr. Ftacnik," recognized the master of ceremonies. "I'm afraid I must now bring up something which is not very pleasant," said the Czech Grandmaster: "The conditions of the toilets at the playing hall. I visited one by random today and ....well... I did not like what I saw."

In his usual slippery manner, Campo replied, "Let me assure you and all the players that during the round only the players will have access to the bathrooms. No spectators will be allowed."

Campomanes tried to change the subject at this point, but Ftacnik was insistent. "If the bathrooms continue to be in the shape they were in today, said the Czech GM, "it will not matter who is allowed into them."

"We will look into it," Campo said.

### 100 Million Birds

On the whole the conditions for the players were nice. There were some drawbacks, however. Take the tournament site. All 32 games each round were played in the Ninoy Akino Sports Stadium-- basically we played on a basketball court. The lighting was good, there were several hundred spectators each day, but then there were the birds.

About 100 million of them. Living in the roof of the building. The chirping was as loud and as constant as the arena's air conditioning unit. I never knew that Asia had so many birds in it.

And the flies. There were only about 50,000 of them, but they were all on the chess boards on which the games were being played. "Stupid creatures," said Short, removing a fly from a7 during our game.

The opening of my game with Short was a french defense. Short played a slightly inaccurate move order, allowing me a strong move I had played once before. When I played the move the room turned pitch black. The power in the building shut off. A few lanterns were lighted, and for fifteen minutes the players milled around in the darkness.

Later in the game I offered Short a repetition of moves. I thought he was slightly better or at least not worse and therefore wouldn't take it. He took it. "The problem," said Short, "is that if I don't repeat moves I'm worse." "Of course," I lied, happy to get the draw. Against Murray Chandler I took a draw in a better position because the air conditioner was not working: the temperature in the playing hall was at least 90 degrees, and humid. "Do you think I'm much better?" I asked, dismayed that a factor like the possibility of passing out had affected my decision. "I think that whoever faints first loses," the English Grandmaster replied.

### The Green Light

At the beginning of the tournament everyone's eyes were on Gata Kamsky, the young Soviet-American (and who knows where next) who just gained over 100 rating points to make himself the number 8 player in the world.

In the first round of the tournament the top-ranked players, Boris Gelfand and Vassily Ivancuk, could only together muster a half-point against their opponents. Gata, on the other hand, won his first game against Ftacnik, who perhaps lost time off his clock walking to some faraway toilet. Rustam Kamsky, Gata's stern trainer/father, told his son: "Today Ivancuk and Gelfand drew-- now you have green light!" -- hardly a mature attitude after one round of a thirteen round tournament. At the end of the tournament Gelfand and Ivancuk emerged with nine points, while Gata had but five and a half-- the lowest of any of the Americans.

Perhaps the Kamskys learned that when you have to play thirteen games against the world's strongest players, the light may turn yellow, but it never turns green.

#### What Happened to the Old Guard

"Never has there been a player like Viktor Korchnoi! 59 years old, and look how he plays chess!" said American Grandmaster Nick deFirmian. What about Lasker? somebody said. Didn't he have a great result in his sixties? "Chess was not the same back then," said Nick. "Now it is much more grueling, much more competitive." And Smyslov? I asked. Wasn't Smyslov a Candidates finalist at 63? "Smyslov had many years where he did not play well. But Korchnoi-- never! He has always played well!"

Yes, Korchnoi still has it. In the Interzonal +3 was the magic score -- three more losses than wins and you're in the Candidates matches. Korchnoi played fighting chess, declining draws, taking risks, and studying games from the bulletins at night while other players were taking advantage of the hotel's 24-hour message service. And in he was, tallying a score of B-5.

Mikhail Tal still has much of his old fire left. Not enough left to qualify, but enough to win some beautiful games along the way. Tal's health seems very bad: he looks very thin and beaten down, and it does not make a good impression that he still likes to have a smoke or two during the game. ("He looks like a poster for the American Heart and Lung Association," one unkind GM remarked.) But he can still play.

The rest of the older players were not quite so successful. Smyslov was probably a bit embarrassed by his performance-- let us just say that his play left him plenty of time in the evenings to go shopping with his wife. But, of course, I hope to still be receiving prestigious invitations when I turn 69.

Portisch, too, may finally have seen his better days. After a good start the Hungarian GM who finished second numerous times in the Candidates matches began to lose game after game in miserable fashion. He ended with one more loss than win, while his compatriot Sax (with whom he has a long and bitter dispute running) cruised in to glory at plus 3. I did not bother trying to console Portisch by telling him that he made as many points as I did.

#### "Oh, a Bomb has Exploded," Said Short, and Went Back to Sleep

Before talking about the young players in the tournament, it is time I discussed the bomb. One night at 1:56 A.M. just after I turned off the light to catch some Zs I heard an earthshaking

UUGOOOOOHHHHHH !!!

coming from the street fourteen stories below my window. It was tough to know how to react; I was an unarmed chessplayer trying to catch some Zs. I looked out of my window to the street below and it did not appear that the Revolution was happening, or that the hotel was on fire. I called the operator of the hotel.

"Hello?"

"Hello, this is Mr. Rachels in room 1422. What was that that loud noise I just heard?"

"Let me connect you to the general manager, sir."

"Hello?"

"Hello, this is Mr. Rachels in room 1422. What was that that loud noise I just heard?"

"We do not know, sir, but we are investigating it."

"You do not know.....?"

"No sir, but everything is all right."

"All right?"

"Yes, all right."

And the conversation ended, with a man from the Sheraton hotel, like a surrogate mother, telling me that everything was all right, despite the fact that a bomb had just exploded fifteen yards away and he didn't know why.

The next day we read in the papers that seven bombs had gone off the night before in different locations around Manila, perhaps to scare Western investors, perhaps set off by groups on the political far Left, perhaps on the far Right -- the government, like the employees at the Sheraton hotel, didn't know why bombs were exploding but were quick to point out that everything was all right.

The next day at breakfast Nigel Short and I talked about our night's sleeps. "I woke up," said Short, "and as if in a movie I said to myself, 'Oh, A bomb has exploded and I went back to sleep.'"

### The Under 30 Crowd

The tournament's official program made a bold prediction: of the youngest players, only Kamsky has a chance to qualify; for Anand and Dreev, the Soviet and Indian stars, there is no chance.

Naturally Anand and Dreev both qualified and Kamsky did not.

Halfway through the tournament Viswanathan Anand, Asia's strongest player, lost a game and told me unhappily, "Oh, I wanted to qualify so badly! I wanted it too much!"

"You still have a chance," I told him. "Thank you Mr. Rachels," he told me with mock formality. "but I am not good enough. I am basically a rabbit-basher. I win some games with white against weaker players and I lose with black."

In the penultimate round, the rabbit Anand beat was Mikhail Gurevich, one of the top ten players in the world. When Gurevich resigned the crowd cheered for the young

Indian with enthusiasm they usually reserved for local favorite Eugene Torre. Perhaps Vishy will work on his openings with black before he plays in the Candidates.

Nigel Short was the only player who looked as though he would not qualify on plus three: his tie breaks were awful, and there were probably going to be eleven people with his score and better. In the last round he needed to beat Mikhail Gurevich with black: an improbable task.

The morning of this game I spoke with Short and the usually cheerful Brit was looking quite unhappy. "You're looking philosophical today, Nigel," I said, trying to sound upbeat about things. "Well," he said, "I realize now that I'm not going to qualify and complain complain complain complain." "But you will win a lot of money for score," I said. "Frankly I don't care," he said, because complain complain complain complain." I broke off the conversation, as I could not seem to find a subject which would not remind him that if he were to win the world championship he would have to wait at least six years.

To make things worse, Gurevich played the move 3.exd5 against Short's trench: the most drawish variation in chess. The end of the story, of course, is that Short crushed Gurevich like the Capablanca of the early 20s and that afterwards you could not pry the smile off his face. Another Westerner had made the Candidates.

But no Americans did, which was disappointing to our team.

Of course, the tournament winners, Gelfand and Ivancuk, are the players to watch. Who will be the Champ in 93? I say: 55% chance to Kasparov, 18% Ivancuk, 15% Gelfand and 12% Karpov. No one else has even a percentage point or a prayer.

### "Poor Ljubjo"

Perhaps the most disappointed player of all was Ljubomir Ljubojevic, the Yugoslavian GM who has always been in contention but has never made it to the Candidates. In the penultimate round he adjourned against the Bulgarian GM Kiril Gorgiev in a winning position. A win would have put Ljubjo at +3 and in good position to coast in with a draw.

But Ljubjo could not seem to win, and his game was dragging on throughout the entire free day before the last round. What would happen?

As Kavalek, Donaldson, deFirmian and I were having dinner that evening, a delighted Viktor Korchnoi came up to our table.

"Did you hear the news?" Korchnoi asks.

No, we say.

"Ljubojevic tried for 193 moves to win against Gorgiev, but had to make a draw."

Korchnoi was beaming at this fact, and we smiled, too. When Viktor left I asked, "Does Viktor have something against Ljubjo?"

"No," said Lubosh Kavaler.  
"Then why is he so happy?" I asked.  
"Because life is unfair," said Kavaler, and I think he  
was right.

An Autograph for Lamar, Who Thought I'd Do Well in the U.S.  
Championship

Before I left for Manila, Lamar Daniel asked me to get him  
Tal's autograph. After some negotiations I agreed, but  
later Lamar told me not to, because it might hurt my  
fighting spirit.

Well, when it came down to it I didn't mind, so up I  
went to talk to Tal, the man who once played a bad move in a  
World Championship match because he said that he and his  
wife should go to the theater instead of the movies. (He  
won that game.)

"Write your name big on the sheet," I asked him.

"Name is too short," said Tal, signing the piece of  
paper modestly.

\*\*\*\*\*

I boarded my flight early on the morning of July 16th, a  
mere seven hours before a terrible earthquake was to strike  
the Philippines. On the plane ride home I carried a pocket  
set to analyze some of the more interesting games of the  
tournament.

Stuart Rachels

LATE BREAKING NEWS: FIRST ROUND PAIRINGS FOR THE CANDIDATES:

Timman-Hubner  
Ivancuk-Yudasin  
Gelrand-Nikolic  
Korchnoi-Sax  
Short-Speelman  
Dolmatov-rusupov  
Dreev-Anand

# Scholastics On The Move

ALABAMA SCHOLASTIC CHESS

By Walter J. Schaetzle

Near the end of July, an organizational meeting was held for scholastic chess for the 1990-91 school year. Attendees included the ACF President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, a county school superintendent, school principals, teachers from a dozen schools, and a few others interested in scholastic chess. The primary topics discussed were:

1. A Statement of Purpose for Scholastic Chess is needed in Alabama.
2. We need a better organization for decision making for scholastic chess in Alabama, especially regarding tournaments and State Championship Tournament in particular.
3. It was requested that there be a teacher liaison to the ACF Board.
4. It was suggested that we have a USCF Trust representative for Alabama, Region 8.
5. Richard Ellis reported on progress for a Chess Foundation of Alabama.
6. A preliminary schedule (subject to change) for the main scholastic tournaments in Alabama was made up. It is:

Nov. 17	Fall Tournament, Holy Spirit School, Tuscaloosa
Dec. 15	Holiday Classic, Attalla
Jan. 5	Saitek Scholastic, Mobile
Feb. 9	Marshall County Invitational, either Boaz or Guntersville
Mar. 15	State Scholastic Championship, site to be determined by bid.*
Mar. 30	Huntsville Rocket City Open with scholastic section (Could have scholastic at a later date)
Apr. 12-14	National Jr. High School Championships, Dearborn, Michigan
Apr. 26-28	National Elementary Championships, Rye, NY
May 3-6	National High School Championships, Atlanta, GA

\*The bids for the Alabama State Championship must be delivered to the ACF annual business meeting at 9:00 A.M., Sept. 2, 1990, Snead Jr. College. A representative must be present at the meeting and present the proposal to the ACF board. Bids should include information on facilities, trophies, TD, etc.

A good year is expected for Scholastic Chess in Alabama. The State Championships are expected to have over 300 participants and all participants will be required to be ACF members. We might need to look at a \$2.00 junior membership fee good for 5 months.

# Scholastics On The Move

## HUNTSVILLE'S KIDS REDISCOVER CHESS



1989 saw a new development in scholastic chess for North Alabama's largest metropolis. Indeed, the last few years had seen a decline in chess clubs throughout the county, to the point that only one private school, Madison Academy had a chess club. But during the past school year four new programs have been started: Stone Middle, Weatherly Elementary, Grissom High, and the Academy for Sciences and Foreign Languages. By the end of the school year, an estimated 130 kids were involved with these chess clubs and Huntsville decided to celebrate this renaissance by holding the 1st annual Huntsville Scholastic Chess Tournament (on May 19, 1990). We wanted to make this tournament special, so we decided to invite the U.S. Chess Champion - Stuart Rachels as our guest. At the tournament things were hectic at first, but after everyone got settled down, all 119 kids really had some fun. [P.S. Stuart Rachels ought to be appointed as lifetime ambassador for American chess; as he: delighted, enlightened, and enthralled all the kids, news media, parents, and chess enthusiasts with his wit, intelligence, candor and charm.] Not only did Huntsville's students participate, but kids from all over Alabama came, as well as a few kids from Georgia and Tennessee. The biggest hit with the kids (beside Stuart) was the nintendo parlor, where donated games were used to entertain and amuse those in-between rounds. With the corporate donations and support from several P.T.A.s, there was lots of food and fun for all, which helped this tournament to be a great success. Look for us next year to team up with the Rocket City Chess Tournament as their scholastic section in late March/ early April.

Special thanks to the Marshall County Board of Education/ schools, the Square 64 Chess Club, and most particularly Dick Rhee, whose leadership and fine examples have inspired us, here in Huntsville to jump on the A.C.F. scholastic bandwagon.

Thanks Again A.C.F.

*Bud Martin*  
Scholastic coordinator

# LINES FROM ERNIE COCKRELL

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## BRAD KING'S GAMBIT GAMBRELL

I WAS VERY FORTUNATE TO BECOME A GOOD "CHESS BUDDY" WITH BRAD; IT'S VERY UNUSUAL TO FIND A STRONG PLAYER (CLASS A/EXPERT) THAT WOULD CONDESCEND TO PLAY SKITTLES WITH A 1650 PLAYER. WE PLAYED MOSTLY AT BRAD'S HOME, SOMETIMES, AT MINE.

THE UNWRITTEN RULES FOR OUR SKITTLES GAMES WERE; NEVER TAKE MUCH MORE THAN A MINUTE TO MOVE; KEEP EVERYTHING ON A GOOD HUMOR, FUN BASIS; NEVER GO BACK AND ANALYZE ANY POSITION; IF I LOST OVER ONE PAWN, WITHOUT COMPENSATION, START A NEW GAME. THE RATE THAT BRAD AND I PLAYED AT, WAS, LIKE "GAME IN 13 MINUTES." I HAD TO COME UP WITH ENOUGH "DECENT" MOVES TO KEEP HIS INTEREST UP. OF COURSE, ON CHESS CLUB NITE, HE HAD A STRONG OPPONENT HE PLAYED WITH.

BRAD LOVED TACTICS AND THE "KING'S GAMBIT" WAS MADE TO ORDER FOR HIM.

I TRIED ACCEPTING THE GAMBIT PAWN, PROTECTING MY KING'S PAWN, FIANCHETTOING THE KING'S BISHOP, BUT DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LUCK WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS.

SOMETIMES HE PLAYED THE GAMBIT IN A TOURNAMENT, AGAINST A LOWER RATED PLAYER. SOMETIMES, IN OUR SKITTLES GAMES, BRAD PLAYED THE KING'S BISHOP OPENING, SACKING HIS BISHOP ON F7 FOR TWO PAWNS, AND WE WOULD HAVE A WILD GAME. I STUDIED THIS VARIATION SOME, FROM PRINTED ANALYSIS, AND BLACK HAD TO MAKE 7 OR 8 KEY MOVES TO SURVIVE.

BRAD HAD A HECTIC JOB IN U. S. STEEL'S TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT, AND ONE NITE, AFTER A FEW FRIENDLY SIPS OF WINE, THE COMBINATION OF FATIGUE AND WINE, ENABLED ME TO WIN THREE AND DRAW ONE, OUT OF ABOUT A DOZEN GAMES. THAT WAS THE BEST I EVER DID AGAINST BRAD, BUT IT WASN'T DUE TO ANY ESPECIALLY STRONG PLAY ON MY PART. ONE NITE, IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE ABOVE, I HAD AN UNGUARDED PAWN ON H2, AND BRAD HAD A ROOK ON A1, AND HE CAPTURED MY PAWN ON H2. WHEN I POINTED OUT THE MISTAKE, HE JOKINGLY SAID, "THAT WAS ONE OF MY 'LONG MOVES'", PUT EVERYTHING BACK ON THE PROPER SQUARES, AND WE GOT A GOOD LAUGH OUT OF IT.

BRAD'S STRONG OPPONENT WAS NAMED GORDON BATES. THEY WERE PRETTY CLOSELY MATCHED IN CHESS-PLAYING STRENGTH, AND PLAYED A CERTAIN OPENING, AND VARIATION, MANY TIMES IN THEIR SKITTLES GAMES. THE WORD GOT AROUND THAT GORDON HAD FOUND A REAL GOOD MOVE IN THEIR VARIATION, AND WAS SAVING IT FOR TOURNAMENT TIME. THE UPSHOT WAS, THAT BRAD FOUND OUT ABOUT IT, AND THE SURPRISE WAS ALL GONE. GORDON GOT NO ADVANTAGE FROM THE MOVE.

CONTINUED



# Birmingham Chess Club

MAY 16 CITY OPEN  
1990

USCF Rated 5-Round Swiss System

December 8th and 9th, 1990

at

School of Education Building  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
901 - 13th Street, South  
Birmingham, Alabama

2 Sections - Time Control: 50/2 and 15/30

\$835 b(45)

5 Grand Prix Points

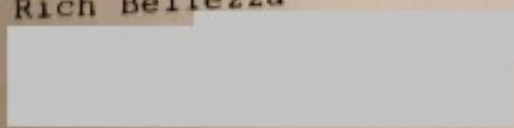
<u>OPEN</u> EP: \$20 if received by	*	<u>RESERVE</u> EP: \$20 if received by	
December 2, 1990	*	(Under 1800) December 2, 1990	
\$25 at site	*	\$25 at site	
	*		
Guaranteed (First	\$180 *	First	\$130
(Second	\$115 *	Second	\$ 80
Exp.	\$ 70 *	C	\$ 70
A	\$ 70 *	D & E	\$ 70
	*	Unrated	\$ 50

USCF required, and ACF for Alabama residents.  
No smoking in the tournament room  
Wheelchair accessible

Registration: 8:00-8:50 A.M. the 8th

	<u>Rounds</u>	
<u>Saturday</u>		<u>Sunday</u>
9:00		9:30
2:30		2:30
7:30		

ADVANCE ENTRIES TO: Rich Bellezza



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BIRMINGHAM CHESS CLUB



# THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAYED

MARK THE MASTER  
BY JACK GWIN

Mark Walton has been a big asset to chess in Birmingham, and I have seen his growth in the mastery of chess from the beginning. In fact, I played him in his first tournament game, round one, November 13, 1982 in a Birmingham 'Tornado'. He was checkmated on the 17th move. Another 'Tornado', November 18th, 1983, 7 years ago, Mark was rated 1363, and I was a modest 2041. Mark resigned on the 18th move, and I thought that was great because he did not drag it out. It was an Albin-Counter Gambit, and I figured he would not have seen one before.

By 1989, Mark was holding me to draws, but I do not think that he ever won a game against me in tournaments. Two of his big chess goals had been reached (he had put in hours of study and even taken lessons from Stuart Rachels I believe). He had won the Birmingham City Championship (which I held for three years in the 70's) and won at Oak Mountain (worked on so hard by Richard Ellis), the State Championship ( I only came in third a couple of times).

His new chess goal was simply to become a chess master, that is to break 2200 in rating points.

He now had 2182 on September 2, 1989, in the first round of the State Championship in Montgomery, Auburn Campus. The Open had 35 in it and Mark was ranked 5th and myself 22nd. I was 1930 and had only two goals: to have fun and to move back toward 2063 my highest rating after Anniston.

Mark was not interested in the title, that had been accomplished, now it was a few points and over the 2200 mark ( for which a frameable certificate is sent one).

I was standing there when he found he had to play me in the first round, and he said "darn". Why?, since he now outranked me, etc. The reason is, I think, he never won a tournament game from me. He did have white, and I messed up the opening. I was trying to get into a pattern of a chess game I had seen in Chess Life, but as it turned out, it turned out to be a Slav Defense.

# THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAYED

## MARK THE MASTER

In time taken, he stayed about the same through the 14th move. Then, he took 21 minutes on the 15th move. I took 5 minutes. He then took 17 more on the 16th move. It appeared that I had come out okay, but I had big structural cracks. I was now feeling that I had to do something like Nd5 to stop that Bishop, but on move 21, it was too late and in 4 minutes, Mark uncorked Bxe6 which was a sound sac because of the Re4 follow-up. Help! Nd5 (too late) and Oxa6, check, and I should resign, but what I call "Chess Momentum" kept me going to the 26th move. 26. Kq8 and it is mate in 7.

Mark moved toward 2200, but did not make it in that tournament. It was to happen when he won over Charles Meidinger in the Magic City Open, December 10, 1989. He was 2189, and now he was over the top! The fact of Meidinger's "flag fallino" is another story. Also, Mark was not interested in winning this tournament since he did not want to risk losing and rating points now and he did not show to play Bill Melvin (2187), knowing a game not played cannot take rating points away from one.

What is Mark's next goal? 2300? Win the U.S. Open? Who knows? 2300 is a difficult goal if one only plays tournaments in Alabama. Whatever, I wish Mark the best, and may he beat Lev Alburt again!

Here is Mark's first tournament game:

BIRMINGHAM WINDY TORNADO: November 13, 1982 - FRENCH

Gwin, J.P. - Walton, Mark  
(1965) (Unrated)

1) e4, e6 2) d4, d5 3) Nd2, c5 4) c3?, Nf6 5) e5, Nfd  
6) Qa4, b5 7) Ndf3, a6 8) Ne2, Be7 9) Bh6, Qb6 10) Rb1, Bf8  
11) BXB, NXB 12) a3, h5 13) Qf4, Bd7 14) Na5, Nc6 15) Nxf7,  
Rh7 16) Nd6 (ck), Ke7 17) Qa5 (ckmate).

## THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAYED

### MARK THE MASTER

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - MONTGOMERY - AUBURN CAMPUS  
FIRST ROUND: September 2, 1989 - SLAV DEFENSE.

Walton, Mark - Gwin, J.P.  
(2182) (1930)  
Ranked 5th Ranked 22nd

1) d4, d5 2) Nf3, Nf6 3) c4, e6 4) e3, e6? 5) Nc3, Bg7  
6) Bd3, 0-0 7) 0-0, dxc 8) Bxc4, Nbd7 9) e4, Nb6 10) Bb3,  
Bg4 11) Be3, e6 12) h3, Bxf3 13) Oxf3, Oe7 14) Rfel, Ob6  
15) Rad1, h6? 16) Bxh6, Bxh6 17) Qfx6, Bg7 18) Qg5, Bxd4  
19) e5, Bxc3 20) bxc3, Oxc3 21) Bxc6, Nd5 22) Oxc6 (ck), Kh8  
23) Oh6 (ck), Kq8 24) Bf5, Rfd8 25) Bh7 (ck) 26) Ba6 (ck),  
Resigning.

### HOW TO WIN VS. A 2019 BY JACK P. GWIN

On December 9, 1989, in The Magic City Open in Birmingham, I was paired with Rory Cahoon, who placed 5th in the tournament. He drew two games (Jeff Story and Neil Greg Jarrett), then me, then won his last two games versus Martin Moore and Robert Pruitt. (2033). He dropped 16 points in the tournament.

Anyway, I have black and play my favorite Center-Counter Gambit. I was now 1868, having dropped slowly from a high of 2063. Could I play at a 2000 level this game? I finally had a one pawn down, (my usual situation), but a passed pawn it was and I was lost. But how to win this game was to throw some complications at him, he being in near time trouble. 41. Nd2, Fe2 mate. Question, why would one with a 2019 rating point play into a one move mate? Maybe because he had less than three minutes to make ten moves, while I had eighteen minutes left. Kvie would say that three minutes is plenty of time, yet if one had made the 25th move in three minutes, one knows that it is possible to make only one move in three minutes, and he has ten to make in that three minutes. A feeling of panic. He had to average 18 seconds per move. How about 41.g3 or g4?

I was immediately congratulated by two onlookers who said, "You were lost". My feeling, it ain't over til it's over.

The nine minutes he took on move 7 came back to haunt him. I used 'no' time through move 7.

# THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAYED

GAME SCORE BELOW:

- 1) e4, d5 2) exd, Nf6 3) d4, Nxd5 4) c4, Nb6 5) Nc3, a6  
 6) Nf3, Bg7 7) Be3, O-O 8) Qd2, Nc6 9) Be2, e5 10) d5, Ne7  
 11) O-O, Nf5 12) Rad1, Nxe3 13) Qxe3, Oe7 14) c5, Nd7  
 15) Ne4, Kh8 16) Bc4, a6 17) b4, b5 18) d6, cxd 19) Bd5, Pb8  
 20) Nxd6, Nf6 21) Nxe5, Nxd5 22) Rxe5, Be6 23) Pd2, Of4  
 24) Rd4, Qf6 25) Nc6, Ra8 26) Rd2, Oc3 27) Qxc3, Bxc3  
 28) Rc2, Bg7 29) Rd1, f5 30) Nd4, Bxd4 31) Pxd4, a5  
 32) Nxb5, axb 33) Rxb4, Bxa2 34) f3, Be6 35) c6, f4  
 36) Nd4, Bc8 37) Ne2, g5 38) Nc3, Re8 39) Kf2, Ra1  
 40) Ne4, Ba6 41) Nd2, Re2.



## THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAYED

This game took place in the final round of the Coney Island State Warmup and gave a share of first place in the D/E/Unr. section.

White: Vickers

Black: Habshey

Sicilian Defense - Najdorf Variation

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Bd3 Be7 8. Qd2 b5 9. O-O-O Bb7 10. f3 (f4 was probably better) h6 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. Nde2 (to prevent the Bishop from pinning the Queen) O-O 13. Kb1 Qc7 14. Rc1 Nd7 (White's last two moves did little to improve his position and allow Black to start an attack) 15. Rhf1 Nb6 16. f4 Nc4 17. Bxc4 Qxc4 18. g3 b4 19. Na4 Qb5 20. b3 Bxe4 (Notice how the two Bishops bear down on the White King) 21. Nd4 Qb7 22. Nb2 Rfc8? 23. Nc4 Rd8 24. Rfe1 d5 25. Ne3 a5 26. Ng4 Be7 27. Ne5 Rdc8 28. Rf1 a4 29. Ng4 Qa6 30. Qe2 Qxe2 31. Nxe2 axb3 32. axb3 h5 33. Nf2?? (Ne5 averted the immediate disaster, but after 33. ... Ra6 34. Kb2 Rca8 35. Ra1 Rxa1 36. Rxa1 Rxa1 37. Kxa1 Bxc2, White is two pawns down with two Knights against two Bishops) 33. ... Bf6 34. Resigns in the face of Ra1 mate. 0-1

Joseph Habshey

**ALABAMA CHESS ANTICS**  
**MARK WALTON: EDITOR**

