



THE CHESS EXCHANGE

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Ramaz Chess Team Flexes Muscles at Nationals

BY MARK KURTZMAN

Each year, thousands of scholastic players descend upon a different location in the U.S. to compete at the National Scholastic Chess Championships. This year's Grade School Nationals event was held at Lake Buena Vista, Florida (at Disneyworld) with 1350 students participating.

The tournament is divided by grades and produces a National Championship individual and team for each grade. Playing up into a higher grade is not allowed. Teams of at least 3 players from the same school must be in the same grade to create a team.

The Ramaz Chess Team has a great history of competing successfully at Nationals. This year was no exception. The 7th grade team from Ramaz captured the 2nd place team honors in the USA, by scoring brutal victories over some very powerful opponents.

--- Continued on page 3 ---



RAMAZ 7th Grade Champs

From left to right: Joshua Berman, Alex Eisenstein, Jacob Berman, Matthew Levy, Sarah Ascherman

**Horsemen
from the
Elgin
Marbles
atop the
Parthenon
In Athens,
Greece**



Staunton and the Elgin Marbles: How a Famous Ancient Greek Sculpture Became the Model for the Knight

BY DANIEL TAUBENBLAT

Imagine if you were playing in a tournament and your opponent sits down, takes out a bag of pieces and says "let's use my set".

You look at the pieces and you can't tell the difference between the queen, a bishop or a pawn. When you ask your partner for help and set up the pieces the king is so skinny it keeps falling over. This might have happened 200 years ago before chess pieces had the same design. --- Continued on page 3 ---

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(1)

The Illuminated Parthenon at Night in Athens, Greece

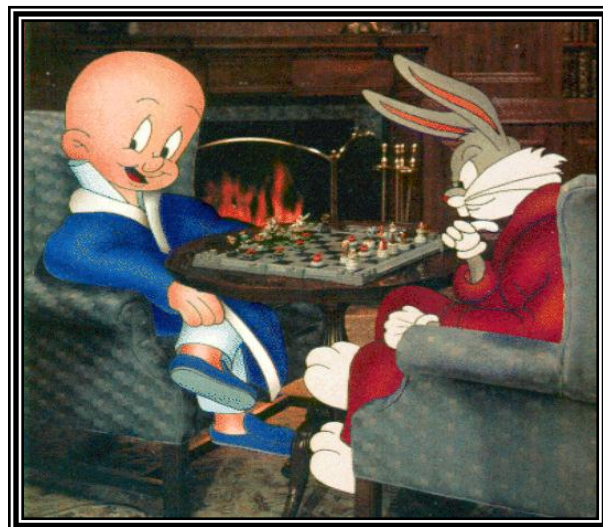
"Why Can't He Let Me Win?": Why Chess Teachers and Parents Should Always Do Their Best BY DANIEL TAUBENBLAT

When kids are in a class or chess club, eventually they come up to the instructor or club leader and in the true spirit of competition say to their teacher "I want to play you. Yeah, I want to crush you on the chess board!"

While their style and approach can be funny, both instructors and parents too, will soon be faced with having to play their kids. A question we often get from parents is "Should I let them win?"

The answer lies in both what is good for the child and what is in many ways an ethical and moral decision. Letting your child or our students win is not really an effective tool for learning and also is not really honest.

Kids must understand that a large part of chess is about winning and that if they play higher level peers or teachers or parents or grandparents . . .etc. they will learn from their mistakes and the excellence of the better opponent. Chess is not only about winning it is about losing too! --- *Continued on page 5* ---




Rivals Elmer Fudd and Bugs Bunny take a break from fighting and enjoy a friendly game of chess.

Chess Notation at Tournaments: How to Make Notation Your Friend and not your Enemy BY DANIEL TAUBENBLAT


Beginners see it getting in the way of the game every tournament. Some kids who just learned what chess notation is a few weeks ago are so involved with writing down and recording their game that they don't mind so much if they lose! Chess notation or the system for recording your game should help you as a tool and not become so difficult that you spend energy and focus on writing your moves rather than planning to checkmate your opponent and win.

Chess notation is optional in the Beginner and Novice sections at our tournaments, but is mandatory in all other sections. Notation often helps immediately with questions or issues players might have with the game. At a recent tournament at P.S. 9 in December, tournament directors noticed many students in the beginner section raising their hands with questions about the accuracy of their opponent's moves. In several cases the notation, usually from the student not raising the issue, showed precisely what had occurred and was evidence for how players moved, eliminating any argument!

--- *Continued on page 5* ---



THE CHESS EXCHANGE



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MKurtzman@TriStateChess.com



Kasparov Plays His Teacher: former world champion Botvinnik

Ramaz Chess Team Triumphs (Continued from the front page)

Team Superstar, Jacob Berman, who has continuously led his team to victory, came through once again with a staggering 5.5 out of 7 points. Berman, whose only loss was to an Expert rated player in round 3, improved his rating to 1852. As of December 2010, Jacob Berman is ranked 28th in the country for players aged 11 and under, rated at 1807!

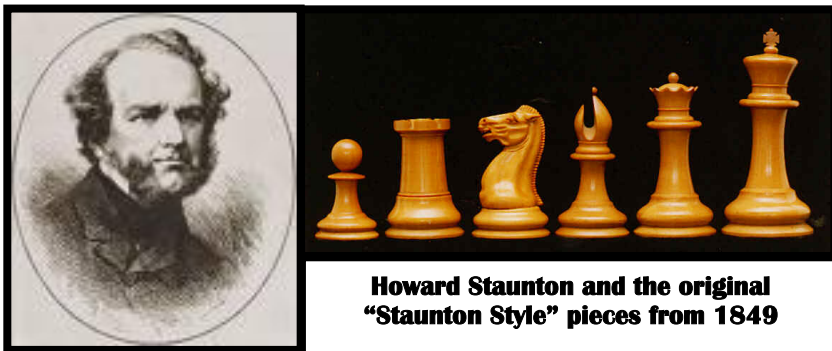
Of course it is not enough to have one great player to win as a team at Nationals. The team has 3 other players who have consistently played well and scored upsets over higher rated players. Sarah Ascherman is one of them, scoring 4.5 out of 7 and achieving a draw in round 4 against a player rated 1902! In addition, Alex Eisenstein got his rating back over 1500 by beating a 1758 in round 4 and finishing with 4 points. Alex has finished in the top 25 of his grade at the Nationals numerous times in the past! Matthew Levy, the final member of the winning Ramaz Team also finished strong with 4 points, including 2 victories over players rated in the high 15 and 1600's. After the tournament, Levy, Ascherman and Eisenstein had all raised their ratings to go above 1500. Joshua Berman and Daniel Levy also represented Ramaz with excellent results, but not in the same grade.

Two years ago when this same team competed in the 5th Grade Nationals, they tied for 1st place and earned the title of US Co-Champions for 5th grade in 2008! Congratulations to the Ramaz Chess Team!! 


Staunton and the Parthenon Marbles (Continued from the front page)

In 1849, John Jaques and his brother in law Nathaniel Cook of the games company John Jaques of London, realized this problem of different chess sets and decided to come up with a new chess set. They used a style based on the art and buildings of Ancient Greece that was very fashionable at the time.

Fifty years earlier Thomas Bruce, "The Lord of Elgin" who was England's ambassador to Turkey, decided to draw the magnificent sculpture built around the top of the Parthenon, the greatest remaining building of the Ancient Greeks located in Athens, the capital city. Greece at the time was under Turkey's rule so he had no problem getting access to the building. But he made a decision to take away the actual sculptures and bring them to England. Some people think he got permission from the Turkish government.



Staunton got a fee for each set sold. The design became so popular it spread around the world and the Staunton design remains the standard chess set we use at schools, tournaments, and sell at The Chess Exchange store.

The argument for returning the marbles is still continuing today. Despite whether Elgin, and the British government did the right thing, what remains in your hand, every time you move Nf3 at the start of a game, are mini-sculptures of amazing detail and beauty based on some of the greatest art of the ancient world. 

The "Elgin Marbles" were then in 1816 supposedly bought by the British government and placed in the British Museum where they still are today. Many argue that the marbles should be returned to Greece.

Even in 1849 this argument was going on. Cook, meanwhile, decided to base the knight from the new set on the horses from the marbles and Jacques decided to start making and producing the new chess sets. He had Howard Staunton, a famous chess player, attach his name to the set and help sell them.

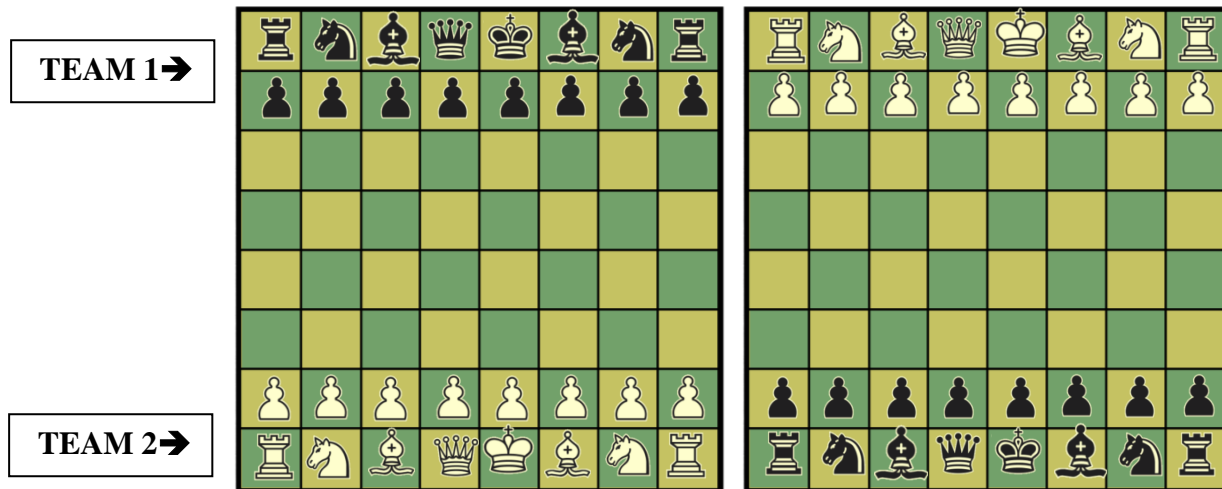


The Elgin Marbles at the British Museum

Bughouse: How to Play the Controversial Game BY DANIEL TAUBENBLAT

As students make progress in chess, especially at a higher level, they begin to experiment with pieces on the board and often ask if they can play with 4 queens in a different starting arrangement or with two full sets on a larger board. These changes to the standard game are called chess variants. "Bughouse" is by far the most popular variant and often, especially in a club atmosphere, more advanced kids when they hear the slangy name and learn how it is played, will soon ask their instructor "Hey, can we play bughouse?"

Bughouse is played by an even number of players, with the most popular version involving 4 players and two boards. The boards are set up side by side with one player of the first team using the black pieces and the other member of the team with white pieces, sitting next to his teammate.



During the game, the rules of chess apply but when a piece is captured it is passed to the team member next to you. Captured pieces are then either held in reserve or placed on the board of your team member. Placing a piece costs the player one move and pieces can be placed so they check the king or attack another piece. The game is over when checkmate is delivered on one board.

Other modifications to standard rules are that pawns cannot be placed on the first or last rank, that promoted pawns can revert back to pawns when captured, and pieces can be placed where they deliver check or checkmate. Also, bughouse is usually played with clocks.

Students love bughouse because of its catchy name, fast pace, and radically different rules that seem to go against some of the established rules of chess. But some chess educators are against allowing students to play the game because they feel it leads to bad habits and can destroy some of the intuitive ways chess players see the board. After playing lots of bughouse, players often forget that in regular chess, when they sacrifice, there isn't anyone to feed them more pieces for their attack.

A less severe approach that recognizes more gray than "black and white" might be to only allow the strongest clubs or classes to play and to offer it as a type of reward if students do exceptionally well in class/club. As long as it isn't played too often, as with many things, having a balanced amount of bughouse play in class or club, can be very fun for kids and lead to more interest in the game overall.



NEVER PLAY BUGHOUSE BEFORE A TOURNAMENT GAME!




Why Parents & Teachers Should not let you Win (Continued from page 2)

Even more than winning, how to lose is critical for kids to learn. How to learn from mistakes is a lifelong lesson we can help impart to them by playing a real game at the level you hope someday they will achieve.

It is also dishonest to fake losing in a serious way. Kids can be misled into thinking chess is so easy because they beat their dad right away and he has a 2200 level rating. Chess like most rewarding activities takes years of hard work but pays off big providing an unusual mix of fun and learning for the rest of your life.

Often I ask students in front of their parents "Oh do you play with Mom," they often answer "Yes, but I never win," -sometimes in a wavering, sad voice. "Well" we can answer, "you don't win NOW but you will eventually win against Mom and maybe beat me too!"

So keep in mind that though we want our kids to win, they want to win even more and can shy away from things when they lose. How to learn from losing and to push on despite losing and say "Lets play again", to stay determined in the face of adversity are very important ideas for kids to learn right away. By being honest with ourselves and our children we can better prepare them for a truthful and successful life. 




A son really beats his Dad at chess

Chess Notation (Continued from page 2))

Most importantly, notation can help you to figure out your mistakes and those of your opponent by reviewing the game afterwards with your coach or a higher level player.

As Garry Kasparov recently said, the only difference between him and other high level players is that he made fewer mistakes than those he played. For close to 20 years he was able to work especially hard to figure out his mistakes and then use that to correct his flaws. According to Kasparov and all high level players, "every game has mistakes!"

So practice notation in the safe setting of chess class or club first, till you are good enough to not have it take away from your game. Then, when a tournament comes around, you can also notate in a relaxed way, in the background of the game without it getting in the way of you playing your best. 



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CHess WORLD CHAMPIONS WORD FIND

BY DANIEL
TAUBENBLAT

Y	R	F	L	O	P	A	T	R	B	P	G	H	J	I	N	L	U	I	A
Q	P	O	M	E	Q	Q	N	R	J	X	K	V	V	M	V	W	Y	C	F
X	I	Z	N	A	S	Q	R	A	D	J	U	L	O	O	K	M	J	E	M
T	K	A	Y	C	Y	Q	E	O	N	N	K	S	P	A	S	S	K	Y	N
U	L	S	C	B	K	H	S	G	I	D	D	I	R	S	N	X	G	D	K
V	W	T	U	S	F	Z	M	N	S	V	R	T	A	O	N	L	M	Z	S
W	T	E	O	U	E	X	O	W	D	H	I	X	K	I	E	Y	S	I	V
B	V	I	U	H	B	L	A	J	A	O	W	M	U	N	P	N	Z	M	F
D	W	N	W	W	J	R	Q	D	F	L	C	Y	K	B	L	P	K	R	H
G	X	I	I	V	E	K	C	K	G	A	Z	O	N	W	F	R	N	A	J
F	R	T	U	B	T	D	H	N	J	Z	I	T	C	L	Q	G	S	A	B
S	T	Z	U	W	X	V	O	R	A	P	S	A	K	V	T	I	P	H	I
C	P	S	V	E	Y	Z	L	H	R	M	G	U	U	N	F	D	H	Z	T
E	K	P	X	M	K	G	A	W	F	J	L	E	D	X	V	O	N	R	C
H	Q	R	J	J	P	Y	L	K	B	B	Y	V	T	S	A	F	E	Y	B
I	E	I	A	O	N	M	G	D	E	F	O	E	C	P	Q	K	P	Q	G
H	I	Q	P	M	L	K	S	M	Y	S	L	O	V	V	S	Z	O	A	C
C	R	C	O	B	N	C	C	D	E	G	F	G	U	A	W	B	E	D	E
F	S	A	N	M	J	I	A	B	I	H	T	A	L	S	X	Y	Z	A	C
B	T	P	E	N	I	H	K	E	L	A	H	R	Q	T	A	D	X	R	T

CHess WORLD CHAMPIONS Queen & Knight WORD FIND

Find the following 15 world champions. 11 of the 15 shown in blue are "Queen" names and can be found as whole names arranged as the queen moves up and down, side to side, and diagonally forwards and backwards. These should be circled in one color. The 4 shown in red, are "Knight" names arranged in a more challenging way spread with space between each letter with the letters in the direction and spacing of a knight moving from letter to letter. Each letter of the "Knight" names can be connected with a straight line to the next letter in the name using a different color.

Anand

Capablanca

Karpov

Lasker

Spassky

Alekhine

Euwe

Kasparov

Petrosian

Steinitz

Botvinnik

Fischer

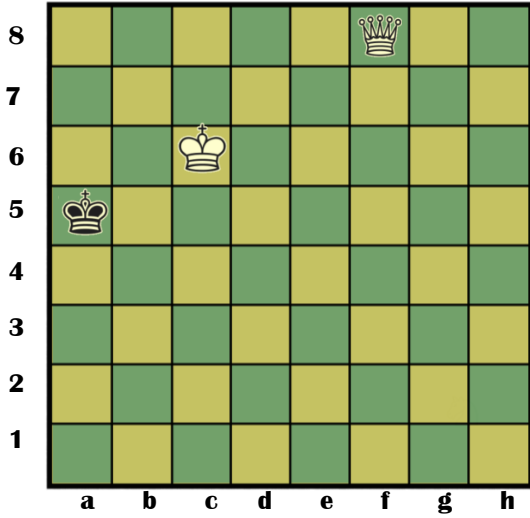
Kramnik

Smyslov

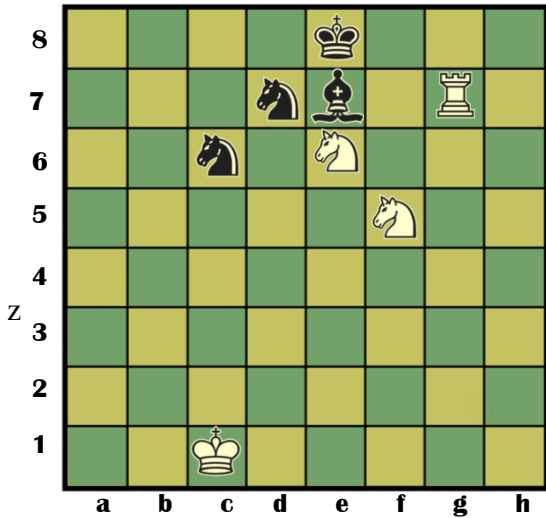
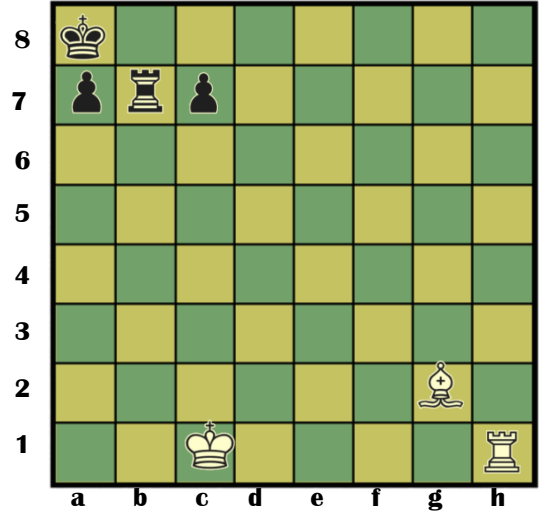
Tal

PUZZLERS

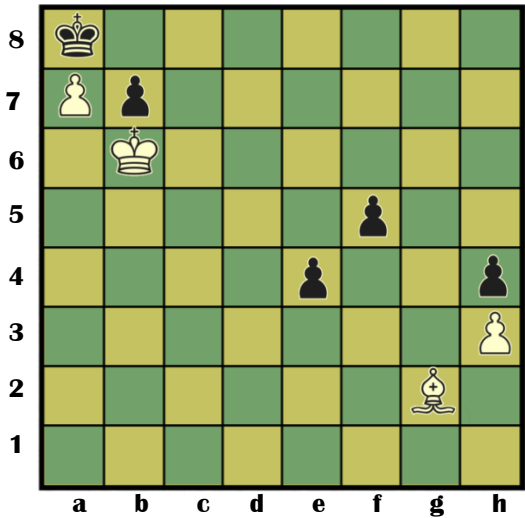
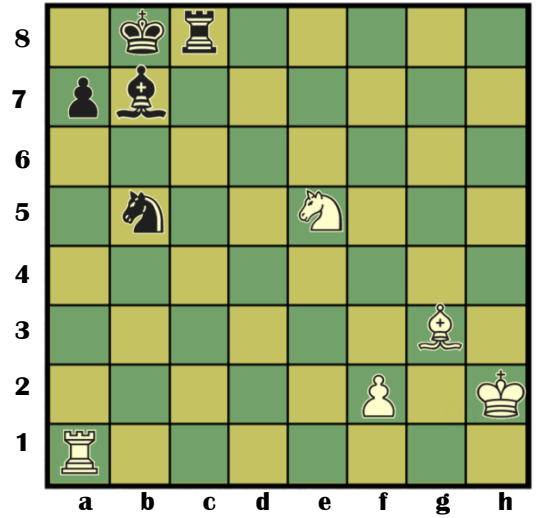
*White to Move for
all Puzzles*



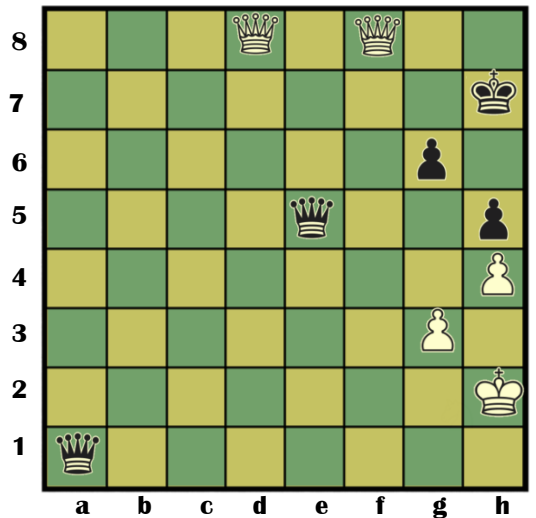
MATE
IN ONE



MATE
IN TWO



MATE IN
THREE



PUZZLER SOLUTIONS

To the Previous Issue's PUZZLERS
Vol. 2 Number 1, November 2010

Mate in One

① Ra5#

② Ne7#

Mate in Two

③ TWO SOLUTIONS

(1) c4 (no e.p.) Ka5
Qa7#

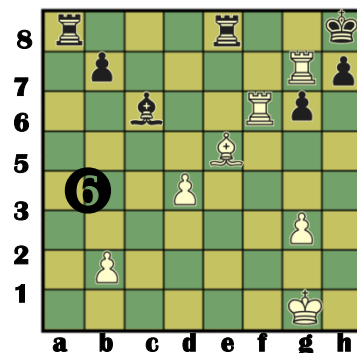
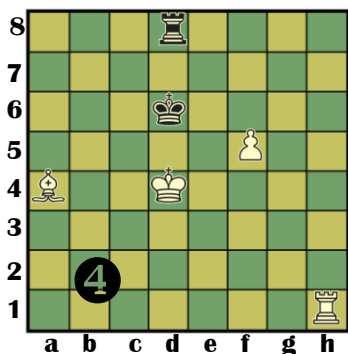
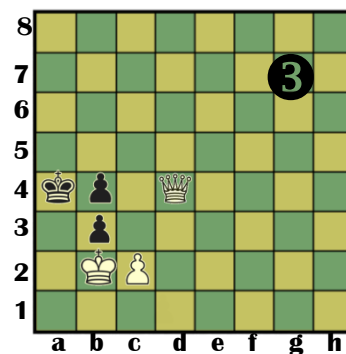
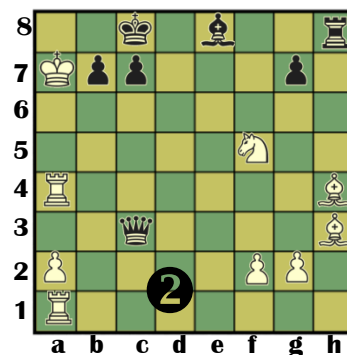
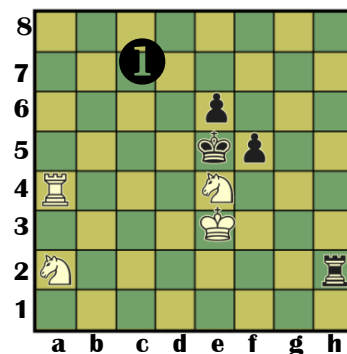
(2) Qb6 bxc2
Qa6#

④ Rh7 Rook moves
anywhere
Rd7#

Mate in Three

⑤ Nd6+ Kd8 (if Kf8 then Qf7#)
Qe8+ N or Rxe8
Nf7#

⑥ Rf8+ Rxf8
Rxg6+ Rf6(blocks)
Bxf6#



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TOURNAMENT RESULTS

HUNTER TOURNAMENT November 7, 2010 120 Players FM JONATHAN BACCAY 2.5 KAI KRONBERG 2.5 CHAMPIONSHIP LIAM S FLANAGAN 4.0 RESERVE DYLAN NAGEL 4.0 BOOSTER CHRISTIAN CHANDY 4.0 PRIMARY BRAM ELLANT 4.0 PHILIP HOOVER II 4.0	PS 77 TOURNAMENT November 15, 2010 97 Players CHAMPIONSHIP RAVEN M STURT 3.0 OPEN ETHAN S JOO 4.0 CLASSIC WILLIAM CHIN 4.0 RESERVE AUGGIE BHAVSAR 3.5 SAMUEL PADWA 3.5 DYLAN ZHANG 3.5 PRIMARY PHILIP HOOVER II 3.5 AKIRA NAKADA 3.5 K-1 COLIN MANDL-CIOLEK 3.5 CAROL CHEN 3.5	COLUMBIA GRAMMAR FRI TOURNAMENTS November 19, 2010 116 Players PREMIER ROBERT FRANTS 3.0 CLASSIC NOAH HARRISON RUBINSTEIN 4.0 RESERVE OWEN HIGGS 3.5 3rd GRADE INIGO RIVERA 4.0 2ND GRADE NICHOLAS RUDIN 4.0 1ST GRADE BLAKE MARGOLIS 4.0	PS 6 TOURNAMENT November 21, 2010 90 Players OPEN 3 MATTHEW MIYASAKA 3.0 OPEN 2 STEFAN JELENKOVIC 3.5 OPEN 1 SHAI SLAV 3.5 K-8 U1000 RYDER HENRY 3.5 ABIGAIL LEE ZHOU 3.5 K-8 U600 AILSA RACHEL CRAVEN 4.0 QUENTIN CHEN 4.0	PS 158 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP XIII November 14, 2010 154 Players OPEN ERICBERNE MARTINEZ 4.0 DANIEL MINTZ 4.0 PRIMARY CHRISION WYNAAR 4.0 ARMANDO NEGRON 4.0 RESERVE KENNETH RODRIGUEZ 4.0 DAVID GUBER 4.0 MICHAEL LEVINSON 4.0 NOVICE CAMERON COOPER 4.0 LIAM RUST 4.0 BEGINNER GAVRIEL GURGOV 3.5 DAVIDE MURILLO 3.5 DYLAN CHALLENGER 3.5
HUNTER TOURNAMENT DECEMBER 5, 2010 134 Players FM KIERNAN MCVAY 2.0 MAXWELL BEEM 2.0 MAX EVERETT 2.0 SARAH HUGUETTE ASCHERMAN 2.0 CHAMPIONSHIP TRISTAN SOLLECITO 4.0 RESERVE STEPHEN MOON 4.0 BOOSTER AUGUST ALEXANDER 2.0 MAUDE LECHNER 2.0 PRIMARY HARRIS LENCZ 4.0 JULIANA AVEDISIAN 4.0 QUAD 1 JULIE E FLAMMANG 3.0	Columbia Grammar FRI TOURNAMENTS December 17, 2010 74 Players PREMIER ZACHARY D MARTIN 2.0 STEPHEN MOON 2.0 NOAH HARRISON RUBINSTEIN 2.0 CLASSIC EITAN GENDER 3.5 RESERVE THEO GEORGE KOGAN 3.0 NATHANIEL CHIN 3.0 AARON CHIN 3.0 2ND GRADE JASON KURSMAN 4.0 1ST GRADE NICHOLAS DINGLE 4.0 K JULIAN DANIELS 4.0	PS 9 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP II December 19, 2010 198 Players OPEN SEAN SOOKRAM 4.0 PRIMARY JOHANN HATZIUS 4.0 RESERVE BOUBACAR BALDE 4.0 MICHAEL LEVINSON 4.0 NOVICE DANIEL JINLIN YIN 4.0 ETHAN RABI NILI 4.0 SHUBH KHANNA 4.0 BEGINNER RONALD PAUL ARVEY 4.0 MAX RABIN 4.0	PS 116 TOURNAMENT December 19, 2010 93 Players CHAMPIONSHIP RAVEN M STURT 3.0 ALEX SPINNELL 3.0 OPEN MATTHEW MIYASAKA 4.0 CLASSIC ALISA KIKUCHI 3.5 RESERVE NATHANIEL KUE 3.5 THOMAS PANNETT 3.5 BENJAMIN YAO 3.5 PRIMARY WYATT COLBURN 4.0 CHRISTOPHER C VINCENT 4.0 K-1 AARISH IDNANI 3.5	HUNTER TOURNAMENT JANUARY 9, 2011 114 Players QUAD 1 DMITRY LEVKOV 2.5 CHAMPIONSHIP GEORGE DAVIDSON CHACHKES 4.0 RESERVE INKO BOVENZI 4.0 BOOSTER COURTNEY L DENNISTON 4.0 PRIMARY JAMES Y LEE 4.0 GIL SONDHEIMER 4.0 QUAD 2 BRANDON HUANG 2.0 MAX EVERETT 2.0 QUAD 3 DANNY JIN 2.5

TRI-STATE Chess



LAST YEAR'S

Grand Prix Winners

2009 - 2010

STANDING	NAME	PRIZE	PTS
1st Place	BENJAMIN COLE	\$500	26.00
2nd Place	JAMARI LEE	\$350	18.53
3rd-4th Place	ADAM CROMAN	\$200	18.00
3rd-4th Place	ZACHARY YU	\$200	18.00
5th-6th Place	VANESSA CARRASQUILLO	\$50	16.00
5th-6th Place	ERICBERN MARTINEZ	\$50	16.00
7th Place	LEROY RIGBY	PLAQUE+ BOOK	13.68
8th Place	SHARIKA HASAN	PLAQUE+ BOOK	12.33
9th Place	ANGEL MEJIA	PLAQUE+ BOOK	10.43
10th Place	MAX KOHN	PLAQUE+ BOOK	10.20

CURRENT GRAND PRIX STANDINGS 2010-2011

NAME	PTS	NAME	PTS
MICHAEL LEVINSON	14.67	MAX RABIN	8.00
ERICBERN MARTINEZ	13.00	RONALD PAUL HARVEY	7.00
SEAN SOOKRAM	11.17	ANGEL MEJIA	6.67
JOHAN HATZIUS	10.00	DAVID GUBER	6.67
ARMANDO NEGRON	8.00	DAVIDE MURILLO	6.67
BOUBACAR BALDE	8.00	DYLAN CHALLENGER	6.67
CAMERON COOPER	8.00	GAVRIEL GURGOV	6.67
CHRISION WYNAAR	8.00	JACOB KADOE	6.67
DANIEL MINTZ	8.00	KENNETH RODRIGUEZ	6.67
LIAM RUST	8.00	MAX FEINGOLD	6.67

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Top Tournament Winners*

Top 25 Grand Prix point leaders will be listed in each newsletter. Grand Prix Point Standings can always be found online at our website. At the end of the season, the top five players with the most Grand Prix points will be presented with:

**GIANT \$\$-CASH-\$\$
certificates to be used at
Tri-State stores in the
amounts of:**

1st \$500 BONUS Certificate

2nd \$350 BONUS Certificate

3rd \$250 BONUS Certificate

4th \$150 BONUS Certificate

5th \$100 BONUS Certificate

PLUS:

**A SPECIAL
PERSONALIZED
GRAND PRIX
ENGRAVED PLAQUE
Plaques and a book prize of the
players choice also
will be awarded for 6th - 10th
place finishers**

**These awards will be presented
at the first 2011-12 tournament**

2011 SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

MARCH

13

**RODEPH SHOLOM
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP IV**
SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2011
(SEE DETAILS BELOW)

PS 6 CHESS TOURNAMENTS
45 EAST 81ST STREET (between Park & Madison)
Michael Poukchanski
Michael@chesskingdom.com

20

PS 116 CHESS TOURNAMENTS
210 EAST 33rd STREET
(between 2nd and 3rd Aves.)
Saudin Robovic
www.NYChesskids.com (315) 849-3332

27

**PS 77-LOWER LAB SCHOOL CHESS
TOURNAMENTS**
1700 3RD AVENUE
(between E95th & E96th)
Saudin Robovic
www.NYChesskids.com (315) 849-3332

APRIL

3

**HUNTER COLLEGE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
71 East 94th Street, NYC
Sunil Weeramantrv

5

ALL GIRLS NATIONALS
CLARKSVILLE, TN

10

PS9 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP III
SUNDAY APRIL 10, 2011 (SEE DETAILS BELOW)

PS 116 CHESS TOURNAMENTS
210 EAST 33rd STREET
(between 2nd and 3rd Aves.)
Saudin Robovic
www.NYChesskids.com (315) 849-3332

**NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH K-9
CHAMPIONSHIP**
Columbus, Ohio 4/15-17

29

**NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLK-12
CHAMPIONSHIP**
Nashville, TN 4/29-5/1

OUR UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

PARK EAST CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2011

163 East 67th Street
New York, NY

RODEPH SHOLOM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP IV

SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2011

7 West 83rd Street
(between Central Park West & Columbus)
New York, NY

PS 9 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP III

SUNDAY APRIL 10, 2011

100 West 84th Street
(between Columbus & Amsterdam)
New York, NY

PS 158 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP XIV

SUNDAY MAY 15, 2011

1458 York Ave
(between 77th & 78th)
New York, NY

REGISTRATION & CONTACT INFORMATION:

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