



Check is in the Mail

BY FIDE MASTER ALEX DUNNE

First Olympiad Medal for U.S. Team

In mid-December, word came through about a drawn game on Board 3 of the Switzerland–France match in the XIV Olympiad. That draw clinched a bronze medal for the U.S. team as France could no longer equal the final tally of the U.S. For the first time, the U.S. Correspondence Team had earned a medal in the most prestigious correspondence team tournament finals.

It was a genuine team effort, which any medal-winning Olympic finish must be. The U.S. team, the first e-mail U.S. Olympiad team, had to qualify in the preliminary round. The original team was comprised of Board 1: SM Stephen Jones; Board 2: CIM Jeffrey Tilghman; Board 3: CIM Christopher Sergel; Board 4: Wayne Conover; Board 5: Anthony Albano; and Board 6: Stephen Smithers. Together they brought the United States to the finals where a decisive shift was made to strengthen the team. The final team was a mixture of old and new: Board 1: CGM Alik Zilberberg; Board 2: SM Stephen Jones; Board 3: SM Daniel Fleetwood; Board 4: CIM Gary Kubach; Board 5: CIM Sergel; and Board 6: CIM Jeffrey Tilghman.

CGM norms were achieved by Zilberberg, Fleetwood, and Sergel.

GAME OF THE MONTH

The last game finished by the U.S. team, a win that earned Daniel Fleetwood a CGM norm, was one of the longest in correspondence history. Fleetwood showed enormous strength in finishing an undefeated +4.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

[B92]

W: CGM Gustavo Echeguren (2536)

B: SM Daniel Fleetwood (2547)

14 Olympiad Final 2002

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Kh1 b6 10 Be3 Bb7 11 f3 Qc7 12 Qd2 Nbd7 13 Rfd1

This seems to be a new move. Later Thipsay-Zhang Jilin would see 13 a4.

Echeguren's 13th looks OK; it is his 16th that looks suspicious.

13 ... Rfe8 14 Qe1 b5 15 a3 Rac8 16 Rd2 Nb6 17 Qg1 Nc4 18 Bxc4 bxc4 19 Nc1

Black has two bishops and queen-side space; White has the d5-square. Chances are unbalanced and even.

19 ... Qb8 20 N1a2 a5 21 Rb1 h6 22 Qe1 Bc6 23 Qg3 Kh7 24 Qf2 Qa8 25 Qe2 d5 26 exd5 Nxd5 27 Nxd5 Bxd5 28 Nc3 Be6 29 Bb6 Qa6 30 Bf2 f6 31 Qe4+ Kg8 32 Be3 Rb8 33 Nd5

White initiates a series of forcing moves that leads to a better endgame for Black. Equal is 33 Rdd1.

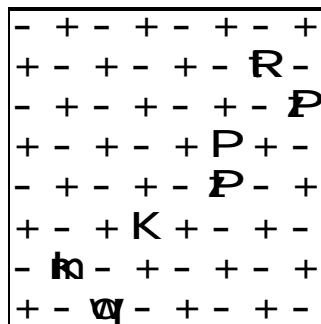
33 ... Bxd5 34 Rxd5 Bxa3 35 Qg6 Bf8 36 Bxh6 Red8 37 Rxe5 Rxb2 38 Rbe1 Qb7 39 Rxa5 Bb4 40 Re8+ Rxe8 41 Qxe8+ Bf8 42 Qe6+ Qf7 43 Qxf7+ Kxf7 44 Be3 Rb1+ 45 Bg1 Rc1 46 g3 Rxc2 47 Ra6 Bb4 48 Rb6 Ba5 49 Ra6 Bb4 50 Rb6 Ba3 51 h4 Ke7 52 Be3 Bd6 53 Rb7+ Kf8 54 f4 Re2 55 Bd4 Rd2 56 Bc3 Rd3 57 Bb4 Bxb4 58 Rxb4 c3 59 Kg2 Ke7

The king comes to help promote the c-pawn. Is the game over? Just half way!

60 Rc4 Ke6 61 g4 Kd5 62 Rc7 Kd4 63 h5 Rd2+ 64 Kf3 c2 65 Rd7+ Kc3 66 Rc7+ Kb2 67 Rb7+ Kc1 68 Rxf7 Rd3+ 69 Ke2 Kb2 70 Kxd3!

This is the way to make the win as difficult as possible. Black will soon enter an endgame of which Fine wrote, "Three or more pawns will usually draw," but White's three pawns will be hobbled.

70 ... c1=Q 71 h6 f5 72 gxf5



after 72 gxf5

72 ... Oh1! 73 Ke3

Not 73 h7? Qf3+ 74 Kd4 Qxf4+ and wins the rook soon after. Now Fleet-

wood wins this unusual ending by gaining tempos with the queen, forcing White to abandon each fortress that he sets up.

73 ... Qxh6 74 Rg6 Qh3+ 75 Ke4 Kc3 76 Rd6 Kc4 77 Rd4+ Kc5 78 Rd5+ Kc6 79 Re5 Qg2+ 80 Ke3 Qg3+ 81 Ke4 Kd6 82 f6 Qg6+ 83 Ke3 Qxf6

Fine gives this ending as a draw – "... BP on the fourth rank draw(s)" but Fleetwood shows the winning technique: The king will have to cross to the kingside to attack the white pawn.

84 Kf3 Qh4 85 Ke3 Qh1 86 Ke2 Qh3 87 Kf2 Kc6 88 Rg5 Kd7 89 Re5 Kd6 90 Rg5 Ke6 91 Re5+ Kf6 92 Rg5 Qh4+ 93 Kf3 Qh7 94 Re5 Qh3+ 95 Kf2 Qg4 96 Ke3 Qg3+ 97 Ke4 Qc3 98 Rf5+ Kg6 99 Rg5+ Kh6 100 Kf5 Qf3 101 Ke5 Qd3 102 Kf6 Qe4 103 Rf5 Qc6+ 104 Ke5 Qe8+ 105 Kd4 Qe2 106 Re5 Qf3 107 Re6+ Kh5 108 Ke5 Qe3+ 109 Kf5 Qd3+ 110 Re4 Qc2 111 Ke5 Qc5+ 112 Kf6 Kg4 113 f5+ Kf3 114 Re7 Qd6+ 115 Re6 Qf8+ 116 Kg5 Qd8+ 117 Kg6 Kf4 118 Re1 Qd3, White resigns.

The longest decisive correspondence game is sometimes given as Bedu–Lemaire, France cc 1989, 186 moves, but this game is so clearly played just to break the record that I would not accept it as an honest game. Instead, Hund–Namyslo, Germany cc 1987 at 155 moves would seem to be the legitimate title-holder.

In this next game, Black's 21st is too ambitious: Sergel's two pieces dominate the rook.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE

[E55]

W: Chris Sergel (2501)

B: Maurizio Sampieri (2514)

14 Olympiad Preliminary 2000

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 0-0 5 Bd3 c5 6 Nf3 d5 7 0-0 dxc4 8 Bxc4 Nbd7 9 Qe2 b6 10 d5 Bxc3 11 dxe6 Ba5 12 exd7 Qxd7 13 Rd1 Qg4 14 h3 Qh5 15 Bd2 Bxd2 16 Rxd2 Bb7 17 Rad1 a6 18 a4 Ne4 19 Rd7 Bc6 20 Bd5 Bxd7 21 Bxa8 Bxa4 22 Bxe4 Bxd1 23 Qxd1 Qh6 24 Qd3 b5 25 b3 b4 26 Qd5 Qb6 27 Ne5 Qe6 28 Qxc5 Rd8 29 Nc6 Rd1+ 30 Kh2 Qd6+ 31 Qxd6 Rxd6 32 Kg3 g6 33 Bf3 Kg7 34 Kf4 Rd3 35 Nxb4 Rxb3 36 Nxa6 Rb2 37 Kg3 f5 38 Nc5 Kf6 39 e4 Rd2 40

exf5 gxf5 41 Be4 Rd4 42 Bb1 Rb4
43 Nd7+ Ke6 44 Nf8+ Ke7 45 Bxf5
Kxf8 46 Bxh7 Kg7 47 Bc2 Rc4 48
Bd1 Rc1 49 Be2 Rc2 50 Kf3 Rc3+
51 Ke4 R2 52 Ke3 Rc8 53 f4 Rh8
54 Bf1, Black resigns.

Stephen Jones shows how one beats two — on Move 27, White has two armies, Black has one coordinated force.

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE [D47]
W: Timour Irzhanov (2402)
B: SM Stephen Jones (2504)
14 Olympiad 2000

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3
e6 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Bd3 dxc4 7 Bxc4
b5 8 Bd3 Bb7 9 0-0 a6 10 e4 c5 11
d5 Qc7 12 dxe6 fxe6 13 Bc2 Bd6
14 Ng5 Nf8 15 f4 0-0-0 16 Qe2 h6
17 Nh3 e5 18 a4 b4 19 Nd5 Nxd5
20 exd5 Kb8 21 Be3 exf4 22 Bxf4
Nd7 23 Bb3 Rhe8 24 Qc2 Ne5 25
Rac1 g5 26 Bg3 Ng4 27 Rf3 Nxb2
28 Kxh2 Bxg3+ 29 Rxb3 Re3 30
Qf2 Rxb3 31 Rxc5 Qd6 32 Rc4
Re8 33 Nf4 Rxb3 34 Qxg3 gxf4 35
Rxf4 a5 36 b3 Rd8, White resigns.

Anthony Albano shows his attacking technique in a King's Indian Attack by transposition.

SICILIAN DEFENSE [B24]
W: Anthony Albano (2439)
B: Khalid Benbachir (2011)
14 Olympiad 2000

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 e6 4 Bg2
Nf6 5 d3 d5 6 f4 d4 7 Nce2 e5 8
Nf3 Bd6 9 h3 0-0 10 Bd2 Bd7 11
0-0 Nh5 12 f5 h6 13 g4 Nf6 14 a3
c4 15 Ng3 cxd3 16 cxd3 Nh7 17 b4
b5 18 Qb3 Qe7 19 h4 Kh8 20 g5
Rg8 21 Qd5 a6 22 Nh5 hxg5 23
Nxb5 Nxb5 24 hxg5 Raf8 25 Rf3
g6 26 Rh3, Black resigns.

Author's Request
Stephan Gerzadowicz is planning to write a book or series of articles on chess in prison. Inmates who are willing to be interviewed by mail are asked to write to: Stephan Gerzadowicz, 103-10 Queens Boulevard, Apt. 6G, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

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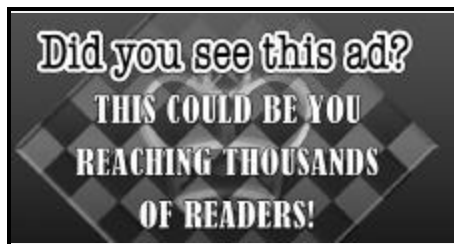
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(plus title of USCF's Golden Knights Champion and plaque)

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USCF's 3^d ANNUAL

2006 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship
(Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.)
\$1,500 First Prize

(plus title of USCF's Electronic Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. **Entry fee: \$25.**

The entry deadline is November 30, 2006.

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members with e-mail access. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten.

Note: Prize fund based on 400 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

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Seven-player events, one game with each of six opponents. Prizes: 1st place \$30 merchandise credit, 2nd place \$20 credit. **Entry fee: \$15.**

Please circle event(s) selected.

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