

**WHIZ KIDS
TEACH
CHESS**

WHIZ KIDS TEACH CHESS

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Instructional material by Peter Kurzdorfer and Eric Schiller

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CARDOZA PUBLISHING

This book is dedicated to all of my present and former students. I hope chess continues to be fun and a refuge from a busy life.

Special thanks to Peter Kurzdorfer, whose previous work with me is the basis for the teaching materials in this book. Thanks to all of the young players who contributed to this book: Vinay Bhat, Jennie Frenklakh, Gabe Kahane, Irina Kush, Jordy Mont-Reynaud, Matthew Ho, Asuka and Hikaru Nakamura and Jennifer and Greg Shahade. All of their parents, too! The photographs in this book come courtesy of Elizabeth Karnazes (Front Cover and pages), Courtney Olson, (pages

Special mention must be made of Avery Cardoza, our publisher, whose generous sponsorship of the US Open gave all of the young masters valuable experience on an off the board in Hawaii! Saitek Industries' sponsorship of the US Masters made the experience doubly exciting. Many of the games in this book were played in these sponsored events, and would not exist otherwise.

Finally, thanks to all those who provided background information for the book, including Tom Dorsch, Ron Henley, Paul Hodges, Peter Kurzdorfer and others at the United States Chess Federation.

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INTRODUCTION

We will take you on a journey to the great world of chess through the eyes of the *Whiz Kids*, young chess prodigies who will share their greatest triumphs and failures, their exciting trips to tournaments around the world, and impart some knowledge on playing chess.

You'll meet FIDE Master Vinay Bhat, the 14-year old Pan American Champion and World Youth Championship Bronze Medallist. Woman FIDE Master Irina Krush is the same age, and holds the Pan American Girls Title. She's already played in the invitational U.S. Women's Championship, as have contributors Jennie Frenklakh and National Master Jennifer Shahade, both 17, who have all represented the United States at the World Youth Championships. So has National Master Jordy Mont-Reynaud, 14, who smashed Bobby Fischer's record to become the youngest National Master in America. He held that record only briefly, because Vinay beat it, but in turn lost it to Hikaru Nakamura, America's youngest National Master ever. At the age of 10, he is already a veteran of international competition, and his older brother Asuka has seen his own records fall!

Matthew Ho is the latest prodigy, and he'll be representing the United States at the World Under-10 Championship in Spain this year. Candidate Master Gabe Kahane, 17, a specialist in rapid chess, won the Calchess Scholastic Blitz title ahead of several of our other young stars, and tied for third at the 1997 National High School Championship.

These young stars are among the best examples of young chessplayers. They'll let you in on what it is like to be a citizen of the chess world. You don't need to know anything about chess to follow their exploits. From tournaments in Hawaii, to beating Grandmasters, you'll see what the world of chess has offered our young stars. You'll find information that will lead you to a local chess club, or anywhere in the world via the Internet.

We present the best games of each young star, their worst mistake, and some tales of joy, wonder, and horror on and off the chessboard. Eric, who has trained many of these players and other chess prodigies, adds the experiences of four decades at the chessboard to bring you the total experience of chess. Don't worry if you haven't yet even learned the rules of the game. A complete chess course is included, providing everything you need to know to follow the action. We've in-

cluded a complete explanation of the rules so that you can enjoy the sporting and artistic accomplishments of our young stars.

Is there life outside of chess for these prodigies? Surprisingly, the answer is yes! Most are involved with all of the usual activities you'd expect at their respective ages: music, sports and fairly typical school life (except for all the travelling!).

Chess is not a game played mostly by nerds and geeks. Okay, so the average IQ on the chess team usually beats that of the football team. That doesn't mean chessplayers spend all their time flexing their brains. Chess tournaments, especially those which involve a week or more at a nice resort, can be a lot of fun.

As you'll see, the life of a chess prodigy involves a lot of hard work, but the rewards are more than worth the effort, by far!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

If you are not familiar with the game of chess, then you should start by reading the chapter on the rules of the game. If you already know how to play chess, but don't know how to follow a chess game, skip to the section on chess notation. Then you can enjoy the chess games and positions in the book. More advanced players can dive right in to the discussion, but may wish to learn about the chess titles and rating system to understand the accomplishments of the young players. A chapter is dedicated to that topic.

Teachers can use the materials in this book as part of a complete chess course, starting with beginners but useful even for experienced players.

Everyone can follow the careers of the prodigies on the Internet. If you want to get involved with tournament chess, there is a chapter on chess resources, online and traditional, to help you along.

THE GAME OF CHESS!

Chess is a great game, with a history of entertaining and challenging players that date back over a thousand years, possibly even two thousand years! It is not difficult to learn to play, but requires concentration and practice to play well. Tens of thousands of books have been written on chess, but its mysteries still defy solution by mortal or computer brains.

Chess is a contest where two players take turns moving pieces on a board, trying to trap the most important piece, the king. There are different types of pieces, and each has its own set of rules. There is no element of luck in chess; a game can only be lost as a result of an error by one of the players. The game is so rich that there are opportunities to find a winning plan in most games.

Currently, 157 nations hold membership in the world chess organization, and the game is known to be played in many of the remaining countries. In fact, chess is the second most popular sport in the world behind soccer. You might think that chess does not qualify as a sport because it is not an *athletic* sport, however, the stars of the game must be in top physical condition for the grueling tournament pace of six to seven hours per day, often for almost two weeks with only a single rest day. Mind sports do not allow the neglect of the body!

The International Olympic Committee recognizes chess as administered by the World Chess Federation. They realize the need to have some Olympic sports which do not require the luck of being born with a healthy and exceptionally gifted body. Everyone can play chess despite physical disabilities. Competitive chess is played by many people who cannot even see the board!

When IBM put their most powerful machines to work serving up information on the first match between World Champion Garry Kasparov and their Deep Blue computer, the interest on the internet brought it crashing down. No one had anticipated the millions of hits it would generate.

There is big money involved for the professional players. The prize fund for the World Champion is \$3,000,000! Many tournaments have prize funds in excess of \$100,000, and even short matches can bring a nice paycheck of \$50,000 and more. Major open tournaments such as the National Open in Las Vegas draw over a thousand players. The best players have all of their expenses covered, and often get an “appearance” fee of \$10,000 or more just for showing up! Not bad.

Chess is a young person's game. The average age of professional chessplayers has been dropping steadily. The first World Champion Wilhelm Steinitz was 58 years, 10 days when he lost his title on May 26, 1894. The current World Champion, Garry Kasparov is the youngest. He won the title on Nov 9, 1985 at age 22 years, 210 days.

You might expect that powerful brains and computers would have figured out everything there is to know about the game, but in fact a "solution" for chess is not even being approached. Yes, a computer did defeat the World Champion in a short exhibition match, but the computer chickened out when challenged to a match under serious match conditions. Still, the search to create the perfect chess-playing machine continues. The task brings together a collection of specialists in mathematics, computer science, artificial intelligence, and others.

Just as we admire artistry in athletic sports, beauty in chess has always been highly regarded. It is difficult to describe chess beauty. Sometimes we admire a game for its bold sacrifices, other times for a fine strategy. In many cases, we are struck by a surprising move or piece formation.

Thus, it is not surprising that chess is often found in art. Indeed, many of the great artists and intellectuals have relaxed (or not!) with a game of chess for centuries. Entire books have been written on the subject of chess and the arts, so here is just a sample of books, films, television and musical connections to the Royal Game.

BOOKS

Many famous writers have a long had strong connection with the game of chess. As a matter of fact, William Caxton's *The Play of the Chesse* was one of the very first books printed in English, back in the 15th century! William Golding, author of *Lord of the Flies*, actually lost a correspondence game because the news of his Nobel Prize reached him just at a critical moment in the game.

We have all read or seen Lewis Carroll's, *Through the Looking Glass*, which has a hilarious chess game. Chess was a direct subject of famous books by Vladimir Nabokov (*The Defense*) and Walter Tevis (*The Queen's Gambit*). Short stories include Jorge Luis Borges' *Chess*, Poul Anderson's *The Immortal Game*. The great American master, O. Henry, loved to compete at the chessboard, and famous writers such as Samuel Beckett use chess frequently. His play *Murphy* contains an annotated chess game! Even old Shakespeare mentions the game a few times, and there is a painting showing him playing. The great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin was almost obsessed by chess.

When writers gather, a chess set is often put to use! For an excellent survey of chess in literature, check out Burt Hochberg's, *The 64-Square Looking Glass*. If you read a lot, you'll find chess mentioned all the time.

FILMS

No one has compiled a complete listing of films and actors, but it would be the size of a phone book, perhaps. Chess is ideally suited to the film industry, where often people have to wait around between scenes.

Chess is found throughout such classics as Begman's *Seventh Seal*, and modern films like *Searching for Bobby Fischer*. Famous chess scenes include Faye Dunaway and Steve McQueen in *The Thomas Crown Affair*. The chess scene in the beginning of *From Russia with Love* is taken from a real game played by World Champion Boris Spassky. The film version of Ilf and Petrov's *The Twelve Chairs*, with a comic chess scene, was directed by Mel Brooks, who also slipped chess into his more famous *Blazing Saddles*. Chess won't seem to die out in the future, to judge by such films as Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*.

Humphrey Bogart plays chess in *Casablanca*, but didn't need a stunt double for the scene — he played chess all the time, even for money at a chess café. A number of Bogarts games have been published. John Wayne played frequently, but was hardly in Bogie's class. Marlon Brando also amused himself during breaks by playing chess. Actresses such as Katherine Hepburn and Zsa Zsa Gabor are among the famous stars who played chess. Many directors, including Ingmar Bergman, Stanley Kubrick (*2001* has a famous scene with a human vs. computer) and Woody Allen play chess avidly. This is not surprising, since manipulating people is what they do for a living!

TELEVISION

Television moves at a faster pace, so there isn't as much time to play on the set. Chess has played a significant and more direct role in many television shows. It is a recurring theme in the classic show *The Prisoner*, and is featured in many episodes of *Dr. Who*, taking center stage in the conclusion of the episode *The Curse of Fenric*, where the game is revealed as a linking factor in many previous stories. Chess pops up in many sitcoms, probably because stars such as Alan Alda (*M.A.S.H.*), Bill Cosby (many shows), Patrick McGoochan (*The Prisoner*) and Stephen Fry (*Jeeves*) are fanatical players. Chess even turns up in a lot of commercials!

If you are spending too much time in front of a TV set, consider playing chess instead. At least you don't have to deal with the ads!

MUSIC

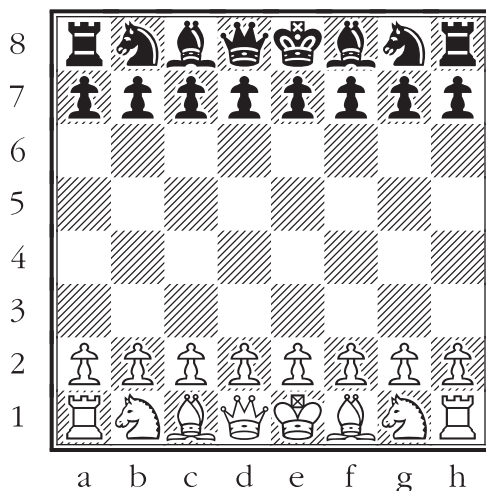
So many performers and composers have taken chess seriously that it might be easier to list those who never played at all! From Prokofiev to Frank Sinatra to Phish, even Johnny (Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer) Marks, chessboards travel with all sorts of musicians. There was even a hit musical about chess, called, inventively, *Chess*, as well as a ballet (Arthur Bliss wrote *Checkmate*). Chess is a favorite pastime of musicians everywhere.

CHESS NOTATION

Chessplayers like to record their games, and we have records of games from a thousand years ago! You never know when you will come up with a brilliant game that will be published all over the world, so it is best to keep a record of all of them, even the ones you lose, because those often contain valuable lessons. Almost all tournaments require you to write down the moves, so you may as well learn right away. If you are unfamiliar with the code used for reading and writing about chess, this section will explain it all and help you follow the games we present in this book.

Recording a game score isn't very hard at all, once you know how. The board is divided into a grid, with letters from a to h along the base and numbers from 1 to 8 along the side, so that files are lettered and ranks are numbered. Each square thus has a name, consisting of a letter and a number.

At the beginning of the game the pieces are in their original positions.



We refer to the horizontal rows as **ranks** and the vertical columns as **files**. The ranks are numbered 1-8, from White's point of view. The files are designated by letters, from a-h. After you get used to playing out chess games from the notation, you won't need any help in remembering them. For this introduction, however, we'll add the letters and numbers to help you follow the discussion.

In order to keep track of a game, you'll need a scoresheet. On it, there are spaces for White and Black moves, and they are all numbered. You start by filling

out the names of the players and the date. A White move and a Black move make up one move. White moves are written on the left hand side and Black moves are written on the right hand side.

THE MOVES

Each move on the board can be described with six pieces of information:

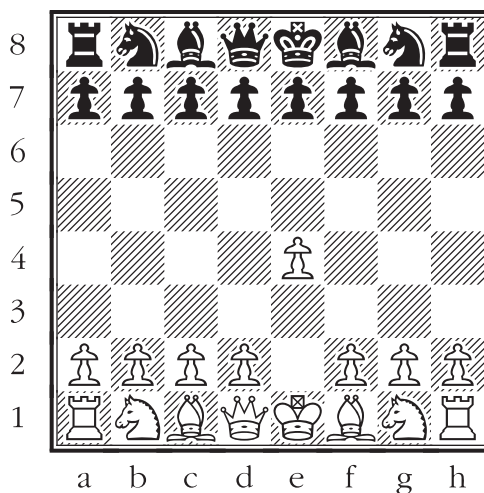
1. The name of the piece being moved.
2. The square the piece is moving from.
3. The square the piece is moving to.
4. Whether or not the move captures an enemy piece.
5. Whether or not the enemy king is placed in check.
6. The place in the game where the move was played.

The most common form of notation is the *American style*. We start by indicating the number of the move. We use a number followed by a period. Then we add an abbreviation for the piece being moved.

The pieces have the following abbreviations: king is **K**; queen is **Q**; rook is **R**; bishop is **B**; knight is **N** (not K, because that is reserved for the king). The pawn has no abbreviation. Don't ask why it's not "P." It may be to make the notation more "efficient," though in reality it just makes it more complicated! The lowly pawn gets left out, but as long as there is no other capital letter indicated, then we understand that it must be a pawn move.

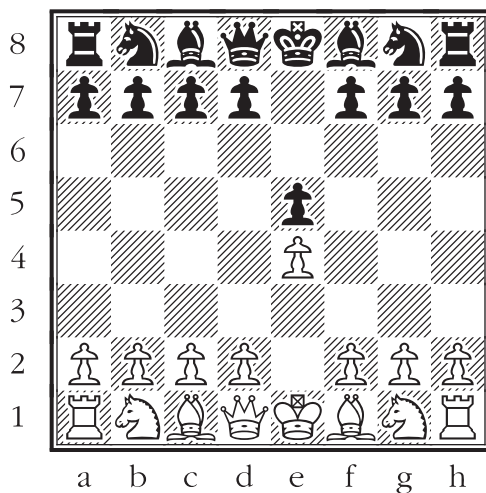
After the abbreviation for the piece, the square the piece lands on is usually indicated next. However, we can give some information about the square that the piece is moving from, but only if we have to. We will skip this for the moment, but return to it soon.

We'll make our first move, with the king pawn moving two squares forward. We write, **1.e4**. The position after the move is shown in the diagram:



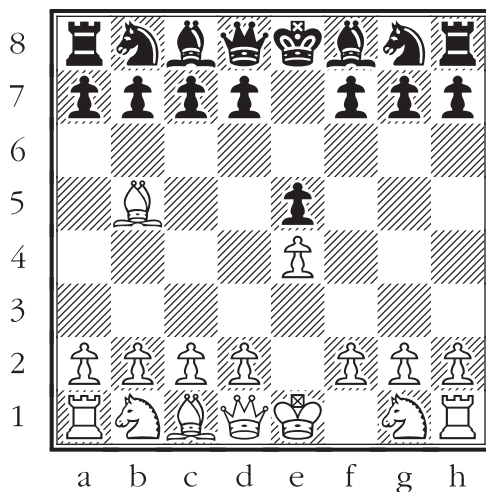
Now the pawn rests on the 4th square of the e-file. If you need to, count the letters from the left edge of the diagram (a, b, c, d, e) and count up from the bottom (1, 2, 3, 4). It will take a little time for you to master the chessboard in your mind, but you will find that it comes easily enough over time.

Now suppose we want to describe Black's reply, also moving the pawn on the kingside to a position two squares in front of the king.



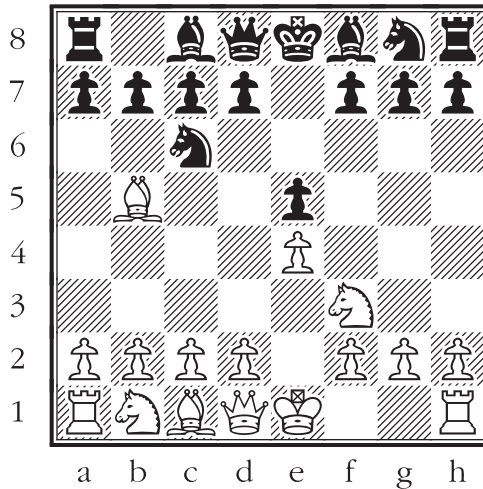
This move would be written **1...e5**. We use an ellipsis (...) to indicate that it is not White's move, but Black's. If we want to describe the entire game so far, we write simply **1.e4 e5**. In this instance, we didn't use the ellipsis, since the White and Black moves are represented together. As you can see, the White move is always shown first, then the Black move after.

Now let's say that White brings the bishop to b5.

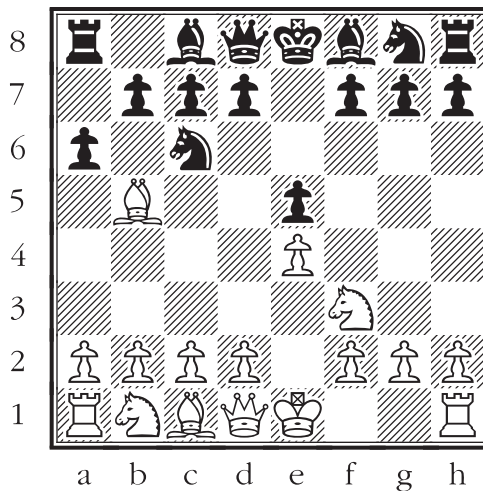


That move is written **2.Bb5**. The “2” indicates White’s second move, the Bb5 shows that a bishop has moved to the b5 square. The game now reads **1.e4 e5; 2.Bb5**.

Black responds by bringing a knight to c6. We notate that as **2...Nc6**. We don’t have to say which knight, because only one of the Black knights can move to c6. Let’s try a few more moves. We’ll let the game continue with White bringing a knight to f3, transposing, by the way, into the Spanish Game.

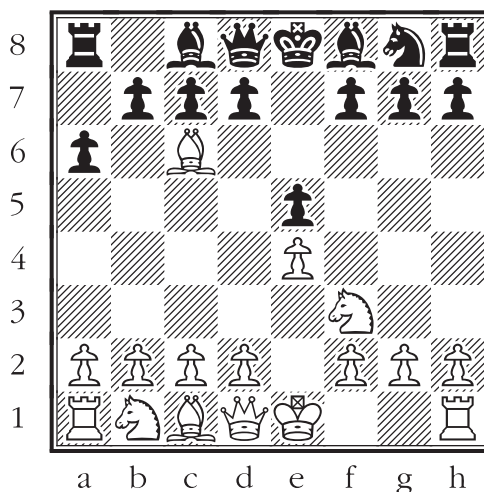


That’s **3.Nf3**, giving us **1.e4 e5; 2.Bb5 Nc6; 3.Nf3**. Black responds by moving the a-pawn forward one square, attacking the White bishop. **3...a6**.

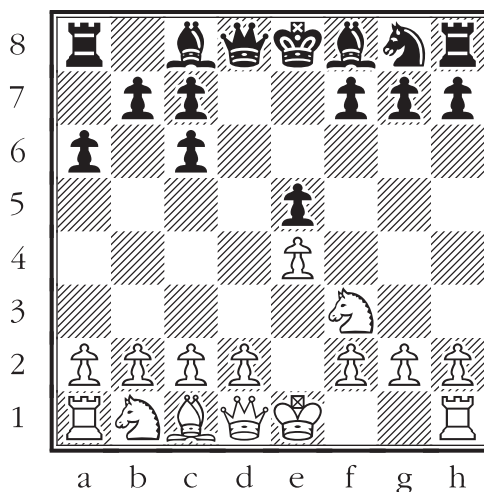


Now let us introduce a new element. We will capture the knight with our bishop. Because we are capturing an enemy piece, we add an “x” between the piece and a capture.

We represent the move with **4.Bxc6**. Annotation of the game so far would be as follows: **1.e4 e5; 2.Bb5 Nc6; 3.Nf3 a6; 4.Bxc6**.

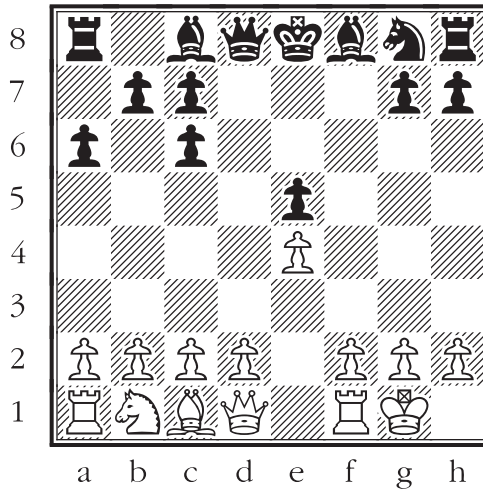


Earlier we said that we'll only mention the square the piece is leaving from if we have to. Now we have to. We can't just write **4...xc6** because that would not tell us which of the two possible pawn captures are possible.



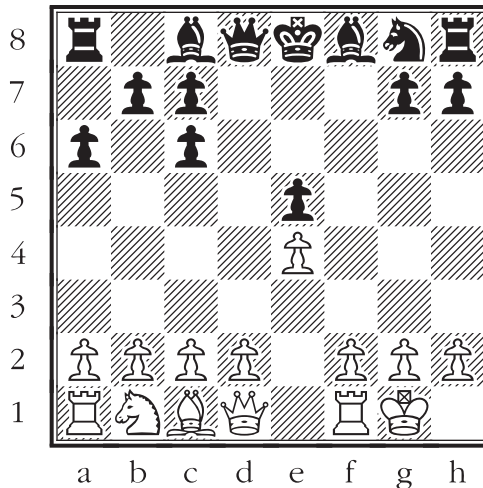
Because we need to clarify the situation, we add the file that the pawn is leaving from: **4...dxc6**. We see that it is the pawn on the *d-file* that is making the capture, not the pawn on the *b-file*.

Now it is White's turn, and let's suppose that the sensible move of castling takes place.

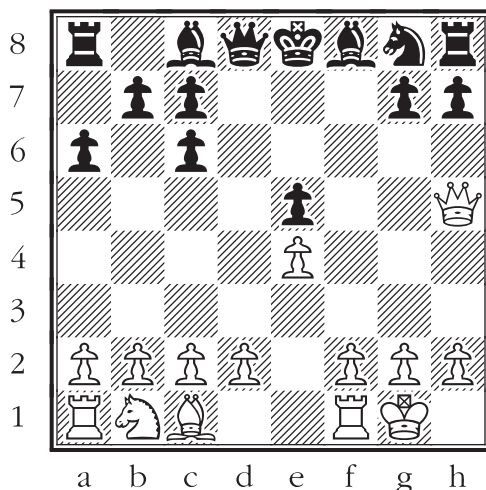


Our system has no easy way of combining the king and rook moves, so instead there is a simple convention. We use two zeros separated by a hyphen to indicate castling on the kingside (castling short): **5.0-0**. For queenside castling, we would add another hyphen and another zero “0-0-0”.

Our game so far is **1.e4 e5; 2.Bb5 Nc6; 3.Nf3 a6; 4.Bxc6 dxc6; 5.0-0**. Let’s try a few more moves, without commentary. **5...f6; 6.Nxe5 fxe5**. These moves should be easy to spot. We have now reached the following position:



I have chosen these moves just to illustrate the last important part of the notation. If White now plays the queen to h5, the enemy king will be in check. We indicate this by appending a suffix in the form of a plus “+” sign. We are at move seven, so the notation is **7.Qh5+**. Our entire game can be described as **1.e4 e5; 2.Bb5 Nc6; 3.Nf3 a6; 4.Bxc6 dxc6; 5.0-0 f6; 6.Nxe5 fxe5;. 7.Qh5+**.



An actual checkmate will be indicated by “++” or “#”.

One final point. If you are lucky enough to promote a pawn into a queen, it is written by marking the square that the pawn promotes onto, affixing an equal “=” sign, and then indicating the piece the pawn is promoted to. For example, e8=Q means that the pawn moves to the e8 square and is replaced by a queen.

THE SYMBOLS

There are many special symbols used in specialist chess literature, but in this book, words are generally used instead for easier comprehension. Still, we use a few symbols to point out moves of special, or doubtful, merit.

! = a good move

? = a bad move

!? = an interesting move

?! = a dubious move

!! = a brilliant move

?? = a really stupid move

These symbols are not to be used while playing the game. You add them later when studying, or, if you are playing against a human opponent, during the “post-mortem” which is what we call post-game analysis.

MEET THE STARS

Let's meet the young stars who will be accompanying us on our journey through the world of chess. They come from all over the United States, and range in age from 10 to 19. We'll look briefly at their careers to date and some of the things they like to do when not playing chess.

All of these players have competed in national and international competitions. Most have participated in the Pan American or World Youth Championships, two of the most prestigious tournaments for young chessplayers. You might find it strange to compare their ages at the time with the official age classifications but the trick is that it is the age of the player on January 1 that usually determines eligibility.

The World Youth Championship is held every year. There are competitions for every even-numbered age group from 10 to 18. All players who have not reached the age of 10 on January 1 of the year of the competition are eligible for the Under-10. There are 5 age groups at the World Youth, and there is also a World Junior Championship for those under 20. Each competition has a boys section and a girls section. Each country can send one representative, not counting players who qualify from special events such as the Pan American Championship.

The Pan American Championship is second in importance only to the World Youth Championship. Only players from North, South, and Central America can compete. Winners of each section earn the title of FIDE Master from the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

The United States holds a bewildering variety of scholastic events. The most important are the US Junior (Under-21) and US Cadet (Under-16). There are also National High School, Junior High School and Elementary Championships, and a separate National Grade School Championship which awards titles for each school grade from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Each state also holds scholastic championships, but often the best players miss these because they conflict with other important national and international events. The biggest incentive to playing is a potential invitation to the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, held in conjunction with the US Open each year. In some states, such as New York and California, our young stars must compete against each other for the one spot each state gets.

VINAY Bhat

14 YEARS OLD

Born in California, June 4, 1984



At the age of 14, Vinay Bhat of San Jose, California, has already won the Pan American Championship (Under-14), US Cadet Championship (Under-16) and earned a Bronze Medal in the World Boys Under-12 Championship in 1996.

He is the United States representative at the 1998 World

Boys Under-14 Championship which will be held in Spain later this year.

Vinay came to the attention of the chess world back in 1991, when he won the National 2nd Grade Championship at the age of seven. The next year he won the 3rd Grade Championship, and in 1993 was the overall winner of the National Elementary Schools Speed Chess Championship. That year he also became the youngest National Master in American chess history. He made his international debut in 1994, tying for 6th place at the World Boys Under-10 Championship in Szeged, Hungary. The following year he improved significantly, and tied for second at the World Boys Under-12 Championship in Brazil. He also won the Aspis Award as the best chess player under-13 in the US.

In 1995 television cameras recorded Vinay's victory in the Chessmaster Youth Challenge, where he and fellow whiz kids Jordy Mont-Reynaud and Jennie Frenklakh competed against each other and the Chessmaster computer program at the Pan Pacific International. 1996 saw Vinay harvest a bumper crop, include the bronze medal in Spain, the US Open Master Blitz Championship, and the National Junior High School Championship. The medal was especially welcome, since in 1995 Bhat tied for second place, losing the medal on tie-breaks.

He also set a record by becoming the youngest American ever to win an official

*Vinay is in the Guinness
Book of World Records!*

game against a Grandmaster (the highest level of chess player). He also tied for second at the World Rapid Chess (Boys Under-12) Championship in France. In 1997, Vinay started his adjustment to professional chess, competing in the Hawaii International and winning the Inland Empire Open. He represented the US in the World Boys Under-14 Championship but did not bring home a medal in this very tough competition. This year he won the Pan American Boys Under-14 and finished second in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, even though he just enters high school in the fall!

For his victory in the Pan American Championship he was awarded the title of FIDE Master. He now sets his sights on the title of International Master, for which he must earn about 200 ranking points and also meet qualification requirements in at least three events. He has achieved his success without a great deal of training. His mother, Vijaya, has been the major chess influence and she is a pretty good player herself. Usually it is the father who provides early chess instruction, but Vinay's dad is the only non-chessplayer in the family!

Chess is not the only area in which Vinay excels. He has won awards for science, story writing and sports. In fact, he doesn't even train regularly in chess. Vinay prefers to learn from his mistakes, and doesn't put in the hours of study which are a normal part of most top young player's days. When it comes to opening theory, he admits to being a little lazy. Fortunately, his ability has carried him so far that it is hard to argue with his success!

There are many different kinds of prizes in chess. Sometimes money is the reward, sometimes trophies, sometimes just honor and glory. At the World Youth Festival in Menorca, Spain, in 1996, Vinay got a special reward for winning the Bronze Medal in the World Boys Under-12 Championship. He got to push his coach (your author) into the swimming pool fully clothed! A photographer was on hand to capture the moment.



Eric takes a dip, courtesy of Vinay Bhat

It only rained on the left side of the photo

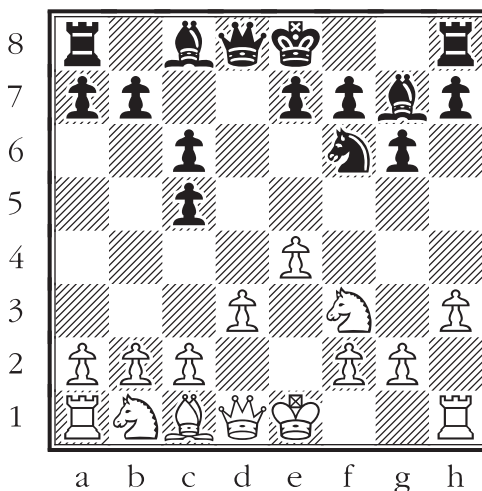


ONE OF MY BEST GAMES SO FAR

Vinay has played many exciting games, and selected this as among his best. It was played in one of the most important American tournaments, the New York Open. Every year over a thousand chessplayers congregate in New York to compete for over \$150,000. The large cash prizes lead to no mercy on the part of the strongest players, and most games are long battles. Many young players, including Irina, opted for the section restricted to players rated under-2400, but Vinay (and your author) boldly stepped into the top section. Against Colombia's Carlos Perdomo, who is playing in his national championship as this is being written, Vinay showed he was up to the competition.

VINAY VS. PERDOMO
New York Open 1998

1.e4 c5; 2.Nf3 Nc6; 3.Bb5 g6; 4.Bxc6 dxc6; 5.h3 Bg7; 6.d3 Nf6.

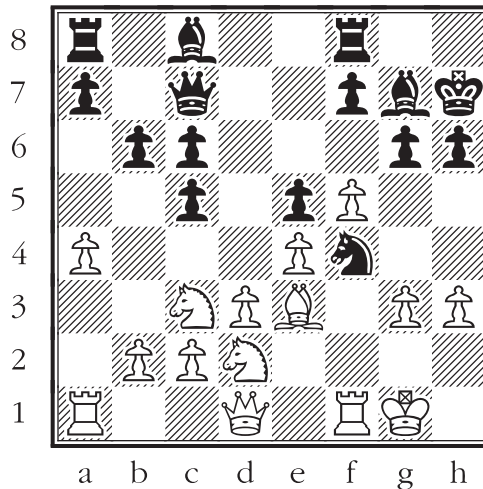


This was my first time facing this system where Black didn't advance the e-pawn to d5. So I had to improvise a bit. **7.Nc3 0-0; 8.0-0 b6; 9.Bg5!?** My bishop will be driven back, but my opponent must weaken his kingside to do so.

9...h6; 10.Be3 Kh7; 11.a4 Qc7; 12.Nd2 e5; 13.f4 Nh5? My opponent either had not seen my next move, or he had underestimated it. He should have taken my f-pawn instead, even though I might have been able to take advantage of an empty e5-square. **13...exf4; 14.Bxf4 Qe7; 15.Nc4 Ne8; 16.e5!?** Be6; **17.Ne4 Bxc4; 18.dxc4** is better for me, as I could attack on the kingside for example **18...Nc7?!; 19.Nf6+ Kh8; 20.Qd2 Rad8; 21.Qe3 h5; 22.Bg5** when Black has a lot to worry about.

14.f5 Nf4; 15.g3! I saw this move very quickly. I wanted to get rid of the knight

and alternatives didn't seem that good to me.



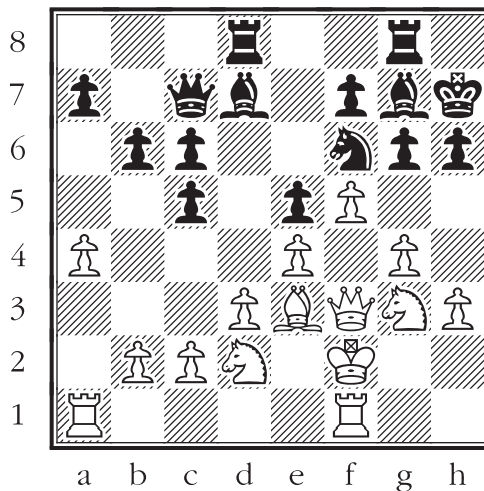
15...Nh5. The pawn at h3 could not be captured safely. 15...Nxh3+; 16.Kg2 Now the retreat 16...Ng5 loses to a complicated line. 17.Bxg5 hxg5; 18.f6 Bh6 (18...Bh8; 19.Rh1+ Kg8; 20.Rxh8+ Kxh8; 21.Qh1+ Kg8; 22.Qh6 forces checkmate.); 19.Rh1 Qd7 Here I have a number of winning plans, but one nice clean one is 20.Rh2 Rh8; 21.Qh1 Kg8; 22.Rxh6 Rxh6; 23.Qxh6 and Black must give up a piece with 23...Qh3+; 24.Qxh3 Bxh3+; 25.Kxh3 which is an easy win. No better is 16...gxf5; 17.exf5 (17.Kxh3?? would lose to 17...f4+) 17...Ng5 (17...Nf4+; 18.gxf4 Rg8; 19.Qh5 exf4 looks like it gives Black some chances, but after 20.Nde4! The threat is 21.Ng5+; 22.Nxc7+; 23.Qg6#).

Black can take my knight with discovered check, and then take my bishop, but even then I am better. 20...Bxc3+; 21.Kf3 fxe3; 22.Rh1. Threatens Qh6# but if Black defends by retreating the bishop I win with the plan mentioned above 22...Bg7; 23.Ng5+ Kh8; 24.Nxf7+ Black must sacrifice the queen because of the threat of mate at g6. 24...Qxf7; 25.Qxf7 Rf8; 26.Qc4 Bxf5; 27.Kxe3 gives me a queen for two bishops and a pawn which is pretty weak.); 18.Bxg5 hxg5; 19.Qh5+ Bh6 (19...Kg8 gets mated by 20.f6 Bh8; 21.Qxg5+ Kh7; 22.Rh1+ Bh3+; 23.Rxh3#); 20.Rh1 Qd6; 21.Nde4 I win.

So, my opponent chose the best plan. I have a small edge, but nothing much. **16.Qf3 Rg8; 17.Ne2.** I wanted to play g4, but didn't worry about Black sacrificing a pawn with Nf4 to get dark-square play.

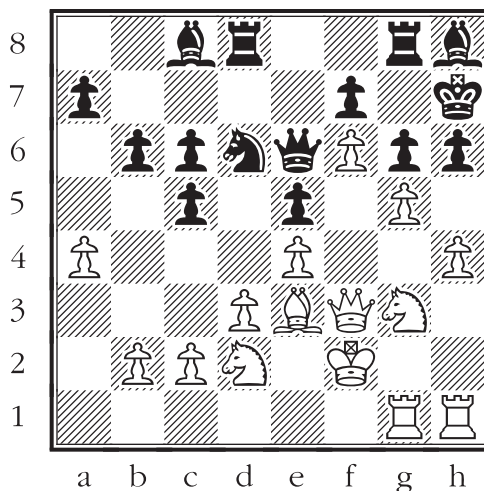
Vinay won the Aspis Award as the best chess player under-13 in the US, and followed that up by winning the Pan American Championship (Under-14).

17...Nf6; 18.g4 Bd7; 19.Kf2 Rad8; 20.Ng3.



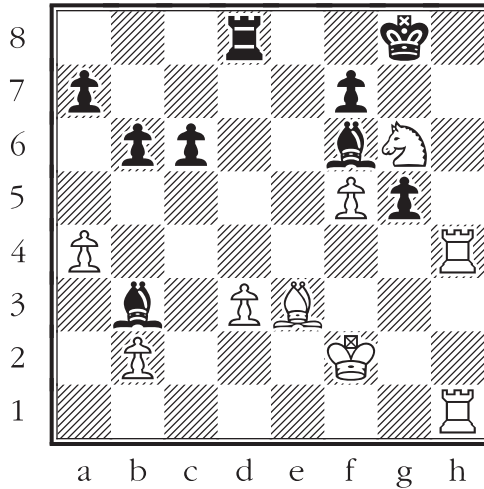
20...Bc8. 20...gxf5; 21.Nxf5 Bxf5; 22.Qxf5+ Kh8; 23.Bxh6 Bxh6; 24.Qxf6+ Kh7; 25.Qf5+ is very bad for Black. **21.Rh1 Bh8; 22.Rag1.** White slowly prepares the breakthrough on the kingside as there is no counterplay for Black in the center.

22...Qe7; 23.h4 Ne8. 23...Nxc4+?; 24.Qxc4 gxf5 threatens to play ...f4 and win back the piece, but I have a counterstrike. 25.Nxf5! Rxc4; 26.Nxe7 keeps the extra piece. 23...gxf5 doesn't work either. 24.Nxf5 Bxf5; 25.Qxf5+ Kg7; 26.Bxh6+ Kxh6; 27.g5+ Kg7; 28.gxf6+ Kf8; 29.Rxc4+ Kxc4; 30.fxe7 wins. **24.g5 Nd6.** 24...h5 lets me play 25.Nxh5 since 25...gxh5 gets mated by 26.Qxh5+ Kg7; 27.Qh6#; **25.f6 Qe6.**



Black has no counterplay. **26.h5.** The pawns crash through no matter what Black does. **26...Qg4; 27.hxc6+ Rxc6; 28.Qxc6 Bxc6; 29.Rh4 Be6; 30.Nf3 c4.** Black can't guard the e-pawn. **31.Nxe5 cxd3.** 31...Rgg8?? would have ended the game instantly

with 32.Rxh6#; 32.cxd3 Kg8; 33.Rgh1 Bb3; 34.Nf5 Bxf6. My idea was 34...Bxa4; 35.Ne7+ Kf8; 36.N5xg6+ fxg6; 37.Nxg6+ Kf7; 38.Rxh6 winning the bishop. 35.Nxg6 Nxf5; 36.exf5 hxg5.



The end was amusing. 37.Rh8+! Black resigns. 37...Kg7 runs into 38.R1h7# but 37...Bxh8; 38.Rxh8+ Kg7; 39.Rxd8 fxg6; 40.Bd4+ Kf7; 41.f6 leaves me a whole rook up and I will win the enemy bishop, which will have to sacrifice itself to keep my f-pawn from promoting. Vinay wins!

JENNIE *Frenklakh* 16 YEARS OLD

Born on May 4, 1980 in Mozyr, Belarus.



Jennie has been involved with chess from an early age, even before she came to America. She enters Boston University this year as a 1998 Scholar Chessplayer, a scholarship awarded by the United States Chess Federation. As with most of the talented young players on the West Coast, she has not had intensive training with any one person, but has absorbed

knowledge from her father, a chess and Russian language teacher, and a number of tutors. Jennie has received a lot of attention, and made the front page of the San Francisco Examiner when she had a fantastic start at the 1995 US Open, accompanied by a stuffed bear that served as a good luck charm.

“My dad taught me the game when I was four years old. I played my first tournament when I was 6. It was held in the city of Minsk. I was too short to reach across the board, so I had to sit on a few large books and briefcases. I constantly forgot to press the clock, so my dad wrote “TIME” in big letters on my score sheet before the game. I got an even score of 2.5/5 and received a tiny chess set as a prize for being the youngest and most promising player of the tournament.

“I have been given the honor and privilege of representing the U.S. at six World Youth and Junior Championships. It has been a great learning experience, both in life and in chess. It has given me the opportunity to travel all around Europe, meet many fascinating people and learn chess from some of the greatest players in the world. I’ve been lucky enough to have played in many countries, including Russia, Belarus, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Spain, Poland and all over the United States.

Being invited to the U.S. Women’s Invitational Championship three times and earning the title of a national master are also some of my most significant accomplishments.

Jennie holds the prestigious title of National Master

“I enjoy playing volleyball and swimming. I also like spending time with my friends, going to the movies, amusement parks, bowling. I also spend time educating kids in chess. I’ve taught at elementary schools, camps, and have designed an interactive chess website called Chess Dominion (<http://library.advanced.org/10746>).

“Chess is a very unique game. Unlike most other games, no two chess games ever repeat themselves and the player is required to use his or her brain in order to outsmart the opponent. Chess teaches you patience, and to look both ways before crossing the street. It is a very just game, where mistakes are punished and hard work is rewarded. Chess allows me to travel to many exciting places, meet interesting people and make lifelong friendships. This is why I don’t see the day when I stop playing this game.”

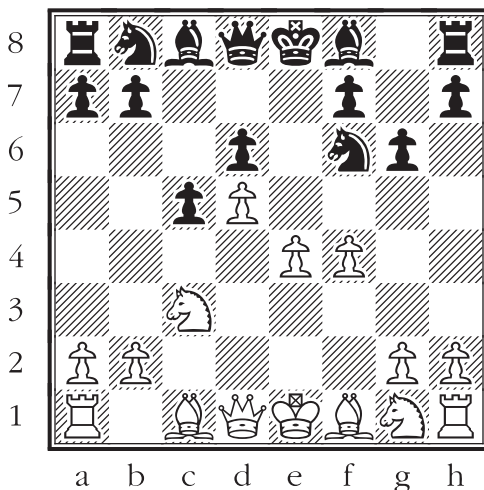
ONE OF MY BEST GAMES SO FAR

This game is characteristic of Jennie’s “new” style. In the past, she had played without much ambition in the opening, but starting in 1996 she adopted a much more aggressive set of openings. Where she used to timidly deploy her pieces in safe positions, she now hurls them at her opponent, even sacrificing pawns in the opening! In last year’s world championship for girls under 20, she faced strong opposition throughout. Here, her opponent selects the treacherous Modern Benoni Defense, and Jennie takes up the challenge, playing White’s most aggressive line.

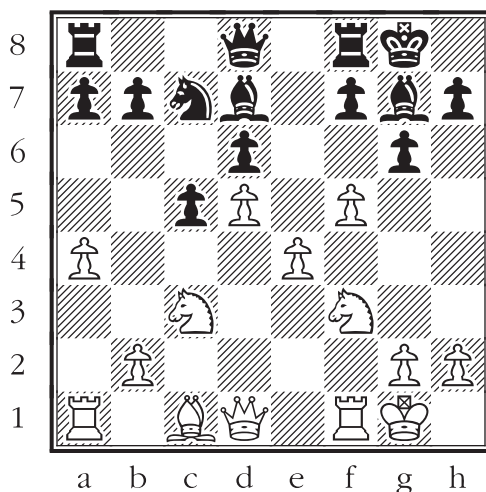
JENNIE VS. AROUCHE

World Junior Girls Championship, Zagan, Poland, 1997

1.d4 Nf6; 2.c4 c5; 3.d5 e6; 4.Nc3 exd5; 5.cxd5 d6; 6.e4 g6; 7.f4.



All this is well known theory, and both players were prepared. **7...Bg7; 8.Bb5+ Nfd7; 9.a4 0-0; 10.Nf3 Na6; 11.0-0 Nc7; 12.Bxd7.** White can retreat the bishop but that concedes an equal game. **12...Bxd7; 13.f5!?** A popular sacrifice, it seems, because it was repeated twice in 1998.



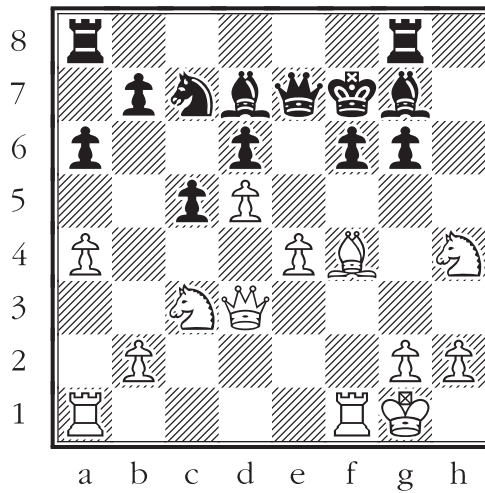
13...a6 My opponent decides to decline the gambit. **13...gxf5** leads to an interesting game after **14.Bg5 f6; 15.Bf4** where Black has not been able to equalize.

Jenny represented the U.S. at six World Youth and Junior Championships and earned a Scholar Chessplayer scholarship to Boston University!

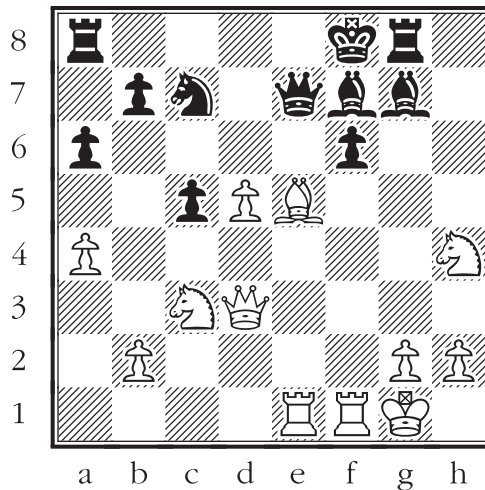
15...Ne8 (**15...Re8; 16.exf5 Bxf5; 17.Nh4** forces the bishop to retreat and the weakness of the kingside and passive Black knight at c7 give White more than enough compensation for the pawn in Houska vs. Tebb, Torquay 1998.); **16.Qd2 a6; 17.h3 b5; 18.axb5 axb5; 19.Rxa8 Qxa8; 20.exf5 Bxf5; 21.Nxb5** with Black suffering from poorly placed pieces in Giorgadze against Kovacevic, Ubeda 1998.

14.Bg5 f6. **14...Bf6** offers an exchange of bishops, but the strongest reply is **15.Bh6 Re8; 16.fxg6; 15.Bf4 Qe7; 16.fxg6 hxg6; 17.Nh4 Kf7.** **17...g5??** loses to **18.Ng6 Qf7; 19.Nxf8 gxf4; 20.Nxd7 Qxd7; 21.Rxf4** with an overwhelming advantage.

18.Qd3 Rg8.



Black has four pieces covering e5, so surely that square is safe. **19.e5!** This opens up a discovered attack on the weak pawn at g6. **19...dxe5; 20.Qxg6+ Kf8; 21.Qd3.** The queen retreats to a safer square. There is a threatened knight fork at g6. **21...Be8; 22.Rae1!** A successful attack needs all the pieces. This move also adds a direct threat of Bxe5. **22...Bf7.** Blocks the file, but there is a small tactical problem. **23.Bxe5!**



Black cannot capture the bishop with the pawn because of Ng6+; the bishop at f7 would be pinned by the rook at f1. **23...Qd8; 24.d6 Qd7.** The knight is taboo because the d-pawn is pinned to the queen at d3. White settles for the f-pawn, an important defender of the king. **25.Bxf6 Bxf6; 26.Rxf6 Ne8.** White is winning, and uses an efficient sacrifice to win more material. **27.Rxf7+! Qxf7; 28.Rf1 Nf6.** Forced, to protect the queen, which is pinned. **29.Ne4 Kg7; 30.Nxf6.** The rest is just mopping up. **30...Kh8; 31.Nxg8 Qxg8; 32.Qf5 Qg7; 33.Ng6+ Kg8; 34.Ne7+ Kh8; 35.Rf4.**