

Our State Representatives at the Invitationals

Our four Kansas representatives to the annual invitational tournaments put in an excellent showing in Orlando in 2019. WCM Sheena Zeng played in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, scoring four points out of six with no losses, and earned her National Master title. Cael Province earned two points in the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions against very strong competition, and scored a huge victory in round one paired up over 500 points. Logan Camarda competed in the Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions, and outperformed her rating in scoring two points out of six games. David Blair represented Kansas in the National Senior Tournament of Champions, scoring 2.5 points out of six games. I'd like to congratulate all of them on their performances. Some of their best games are listed below. Enjoy!

W: Cael Province (1874)

B: Jason Wang (2388)

Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Round 1

Notes by Kyle Camarda

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 e5 4. Bxc4 exd4 5. Nf3

In Karpov – Timman, Amsterdam 1991, White simply recaptured with exd4. But here White will risk losing a pawn to get play. If 5...dxe3, 6. Bxf7+ can be played, with tricky complications.

5...Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Bxd2+ 7. Qxd2 exd4 Nf6

White now has a comfortable position, and a slight advantage.

9. Ne5 O-O 10.Nxc6 bxc6

The Black pawn structure has just been damaged. White's advantage is slowly growing.

11.O-O Qd6 12. f3 Bf5 13. Nc3 Rad8 14. Rad1 Rd7 15. Qg5

Driving the Black light-squared bishop to a weaker square.

15...Bc2 16. Rd2 Qb4

Allowing White to play a desperado tactic. This won't win a pawn, since the d-pawn will be lost, but it does help White attack the weak doubled c-pawns.

17. Bxf7+ Rxf7 18. Rxc2 Qxd4+ 19.Rcf2

Here one would have expected 19. Kh1, rather than moving into a pin. The c2-rook was undefended, however, and is safer on f2. And if the f-file ever opens...

19...Rfe7 20. Qc1 Re3 21. Ne4!

Setting a brilliant trap. This looks superficially to just lose material, since the Rf2 will be pinned to the king.

21..... Rxe4??

Black could have avoided the worst with 21. Nxe4 fe4 22. h6, but White is still better in that case.

22. fxe4 Nxe4

Black doesn't sense the weakness of the bank rank. He needed to just give up the exchange with 22...h6. Now White uncorks the stunner!

23.Qc4+!! 1-0

All four of Black's legal moves allow Rf8++ or leave him down a full queen. Always look at all checks and captures, no matter how ridiculous they may seem!

Link for game at uschess.org <https://new.uschess.org/news/five-barber-bishop-brehaha/>

W: Andrew Titus (2349)

B: Sheena Zeng (2195)

Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Round 6.

French Tarrasch Variation

Notes by Sheena Zeng, lightly edited by Kyle Camarda.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. cxd4 f6 9. Nf4

I was kind of glad that he played this line, because I will have decent winning and drawing chances. But I was not too happy, because I knew I could lose in this line, and I was initially aiming to draw this game so I could break 2200 USCF.

9... Nxd4 10. Qh5+ Ke7 11. exf6+ Nxf6 12. Ng6+ hxg6 13. Qxh8 Kf7 14. Qh4 e5 15. Nf3 Nxf3+ 16. gxf3 Bf5 17. Bxf5 gxf5 18. Bg5 Be7

I forgot theory here, and I think 18... Qa5+ is the theoretical move.

KC: John Watson recommends two other possibilities as well, 18...Bc5 and 18...d4.

19. Rc1 Qd6

I wanted to go Rd8, Qb8, and Rh8 with some attack on White's king. However, this plan is actually bad, and 19... d4 was preferable.

20. O-O Rd8 21. Rc2 Qb8

I followed my plan, but White is much better now. 21... d4, with the idea of Nd5 here, is stronger for Black.

22. Rfc1 Rh8

This move just gives White a big advantage. 22... Ke6 was a better idea.

23. Qa4 Bd6

Preventing Rc7. I thought I could hold this, but it is actually +2 for White.

24. Qb3

I expected 24. h4 and I wanted to go Ke6 after this. Now White is losing.

24... e4

I think this move isn't really that threatening, but at least there are some threats.

KC: When you are behind, look for counterattack!

25. Bxf6?

With this move, Black loses all of his advantage. I was fairly confident that I could hold this position now. 25. h4 is what I expected, as it keeps the h-file closed. If 25. fxe4, then 25...Bxh2+ 26. Kf1 Nxe4 was my plan, but I think this is just lost for Black now, since after 27. Qxd5+ Kg6 28. Be3 there isn't any attack for Black.

25... Kxf6 26. Qxd5 Bxh2+ 27. Kg2?

This move allows me to equalize completely. If White tries 27. Kf1, then I was going to play 27... Bf4. The position is slightly better for White, but it is much better than before for me.

27... Qf4

Even though the engine evaluates this as equally good as 27...Rd8, I think this move is better because I am putting more pressure on his king.

28. Qd4+?

Now White is losing. I didn't realize I was winning after this move, but I thought I would be winning if he played Qe3. A better line for White is 28. Rc3 Qg5+ 29. Kf1 Re8.

28... Kg6 29. Qe3

29. fxe4 loses to 29...Qg4+ 30. Kf1 Bf4 although I didn't realize this, and I just thought it was drawn.

29...Qh4!

I am glad I saw this move and didn't play 29...exf3+ as in my original plan.

30. fxe4 Qg4+

Qh4 would have been pointless if I had not seen this move. I saw during the game that playing Bf4 immediately is much worse for Black, i.e. 30... Bf4 31. exf5+ Kh7 32. Qh3 (better than

32. Rh1 Qxh1+ 33. Kxh1 Bxe3 34. fe3) 32...Qxh3+ 33. Kxh3 Bxc1 34. Rxc1.

31. Kf1 Bf4 32. exf5+ Qxf5 33. Qc3 Rh1+ 34. Kg2 Rxc1

The engine says 34... Rh2+ 35. Kf1 Rh3 is better than what I played, but I think Rxc1 is a simpler way to win.

35. Rxc1 Qg5+ 36. Kf1 Bxc1 37. Qd3+ Qf5 38. Qd6+ Kh7 39. Qc7 Qb5+ 40. Kg1 Qxb2

41. Qh2+ Bh6 White resigns.

Although I was losing for most of this game, I kept a positive mindset and eventually found a win. This win allowed me to earn the National Master title, as well as \$500 for the U16 (years old) prize. I definitely need to study this line more because I always seem to make a mistake after theory ends. 0-1

KC: But generating a counterattack when one is losing is a great skill, and Sheena showed it here!

And article on Sheena appeared in Hays Newspaper- Link

https://www.hdnews.net/news/20190815/enersys-good-news-hays-teen-earns-chess-national-master-title-at-prestigious-tournament?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GHM_Daily_Newsletter&utm_content=NOMX_HDN&utm_term=081719

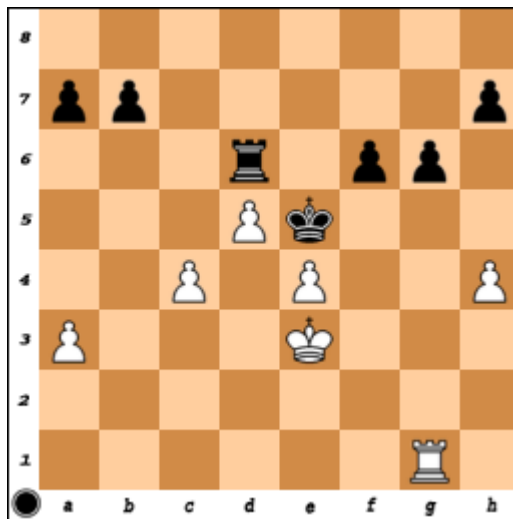
And here's an interesting endgame from Logan Camarda in Rd. 4:

W: Kaleigh King (874)

B: Logan Camarda (1034)

Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions, Round 4.

Position after 32. h4:



Move by white

32...Ra6 33. Ra1

Now Black's rook is active, and White's is passive.

33...Ra4 34. c5 Rc4 35. d6

If 35. Rd1, 35...Rxc5 36. d6 Rc8 stops the pawns.

35...Rxe4+ 36. Kd3? Rd4+ 37. Kd5 38. Rb1 Kxc5 39. Rxb7 Rxd6

Now the dangerous White passed pawns are eliminated.

40. Rxh7

Perhaps 40. Rxa7, to create a passed pawn, was better here.

40...a6 41. Kb3 f5 42. Ka4? Rf6!

Now that Black is behind the passed f-pawn, she is winning.

43. Ka5 f4 44. Rc7+ Kd6 45. Rc1 Ke5 46. Kb4 f3 47. Re1+ Kf4 48. Rf1 Kg3 49. Kc3 Kg2 50. Rd1 f2
51. Rd2 Kg1 52. Rd1+ f1/Q 53. Rxf1+ Rxf1

And Black won in a few moves. 0-1

I am quite proud of our Kansas representatives, and I look forward to seeing our promising junior players compete next year in the invitationals in St. Louis.