

WVCA Chess Bulletin

May 2000 Vol #235
Editor: Tom LaBue

George Koltanowski and the Growth of West Virginia Chess in the 40s by Tom LaBue

I'm sure most of you were saddened to hear about the passing of GM George Koltanowski in early February. Koltanowski did as much as anyone to help the fledgling USCF gain a footing with the chess players of the US during the 1940s. He toured the country endlessly promoting chess by giving simulms, blindfold exhibitions and demonstrating the Knights Tour. There are many stories about how he touched and inspired the rank and file chess players to continue in their endeavors. Here is our story: How Kolty aided the infant West Virginia Chess Association by helping them to gain membership by infusing his passion and zeal for the game of chess to the West Virginia players.

Shortly after Kolty emigrated to the United States in 1940, he engaged in touring the country to promote chess. His first recorded appearance in West Virginia has him giving an exhibition in Clarksburg during that year. At this time, Kolty was billed as the World Blindfold Chess Champion having set the record in 1937 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He contested 34 games not losing any with a tally of 24 wins and 10 draws. In the three game blindfold exhibition in Clarksburg, he actually lost one of the three - to a combined team of Thomas Frye (Clarksburg) and James Rhawn (Catiwissa, PA). It was at here that he likely met with Gene Collett, one of the founders of the West Virginia Chess Association. They corresponded frequently over the course of the 1940s about many items pertaining to the chess world.

Even though some organized chess existed in West Virginia since the 1930s (Charleston began its City Championship in 1932), the West Virginia Chess Association was not founded until 1941. Some of those involved in the birth of the organization were Gene Collett, Ed Foy, John Hurt and William Hartling.

Likely, they were turned onto this idea by Koltanowski during his 1940 tour; he made a habit of trying to help organize the local players into city clubs and state associations.

Collett, who worked for the Associated Press had edited the Clarksburg Chess Magazine for a few years, decided to edit the West Virginia Chess Bulletin and distribute it to members to make them aware of chess happenings locally as well as around the globe. Initially, the WVCA Bulletin was a monthly publication that included many comments and contributions from the membership.

In WVCA Bulletin #3 (August 1942) Collett tells the members that Koltanowski has agreed to annotate games for the 1942 West Virginia Chess Yearbook. Collett immediately followed with, "*And just to make it legal, we are hereby designating Mr. Koltanowski, subject to the will of the membership, an honorary member of the West Virginia Chess Association. Do I hear any no's? It is so ordered!*" Koltanowski continued to annotate games from the State Championship for the WVCA Bulletin over the next several years. Kolty was still a member of the WVCA until the time of his death, having been a member for nearly 58 years.

Here are some of those annotations Kolty presented to the membership. These are games that were contested during the 1941 and 1942 West Virginia State Championships.

John Hurt, Jr. - Walt Crede

Four Knights Game

1941 WV State Championship

Notes by George Koltanowski

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bb5 Bc5 *The usual*

Continued on page 4

Upcoming Events in West Virginia

May 6, 2000: Harrison Co. May Open

Sections: Open and Scholastic (K-2, K-5, K-8, K-12)
Open: 4/SS; G/75 (G/70 w/5-sec delay) \$\$: b/entries
Scholastic: 4/SS; G/30 (G/15 for K-2) \$\$ trophies
Site: Nutter Fort Elementary School, Rt. 20, Nutter Fort
EF: \$8 if entries by 4/29; \$10 at site
Entries to: Robert Jordan, 523 Penn. Ave.,
Bridgeport, WV 26330-1232 Phone: (304)842-4771
e-mail: RobAJordan@aol.com
Checks to: Norwood Elementary School Chess Club

May 26, 2000: Quick Chess at the USAS

Site: Holiday Inn, 600 Kanawha Blvd. E.,
Charleston, WV 25303
USCF rated G/10; EF: \$15 at site; Round 1 at 7:30pm

May 27-28, 2000: U.S. Amateur South

Sections: Open (Open to U2200) and Reserve (U1800)
5-SS, Time Control: G/135; NS, NC, W
West Virginia Grand Prix Event (no bonus points)
Site: Holiday Inn, 600 Kanawha Blvd. East,
Charleston, WV 25303
*The Amateur Championship is open to all players rated
2199 and below.*
EF: before 5/24, \$25, Scholastic \$15; at site \$10 more,
Rounds: Sat. May 27: 10-3-8; Sunday, May 28: 10-3;
Registration: 8:00-9:45am
*Winner of each section participates in their respective
National Amateur Championship match.*
Hotel Phone Number: (304) 344-4092
Hotel Rates: \$79; 1-4 per room
Info: Rev. John Kay, (740) 987-2571
e-mail: jkumpire@netpluscom.com
Entries to: USCF, Attn: 2000 U. S. Amateur South
3054 Route 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553

July 22, 2000: Taylor Books Charleston Open

4-SS, G/80; or G/75 w/5-sec. delay;
WV Grand Prix; NS, NC, W
Site: Taylor Books, 226 Capitol Street, Charleston, WV
EF: \$20, \$10 under 18
\$\$ Prizes b/entry
Reg. 9-9:45am. Rounds: 10-1-4-7
Ent: Jim Olson, 1541 Quarrier St,
Charleston, WV 25311. 304-342-6472,
e-mail: olson@zoomnet.net

August 20, 2000: 8th Parkersburg Homecoming

4-SS, West Virginia Grand Prix
Sections: Open and Unrated
Site: Parkersburg Municipal Building,
2nd and Market Streets, Parkersburg, WV
EF (rated): \$12 by 8/15; \$15 at site, Unrated tourney: \$7
Reg: 9:00-9:45am Rounds: 10-12:45-3-5:15
Info: Pat Kelly, 104 Iroquios Drive, Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: (740) 374-0538 *More info to come!*

September 2-4, 2000: 62nd WV State Championship

Site: Charleston, WV
More details next issue

A plea to all WVCA members

As I tally the number of bulletins I need to mail out to the membership, the number strikes me as low. It was only few years ago when we had well over a hundred members in the WVCA. Now, I can only count 74, of which fourteen are out of state. All of us need to make a better effort to promote membership in our state organization.

On a similar note, while we are updating the WVCA Constitution, I am thinking of adding to the Grand Prix eligibility requirements for tournaments. This clause would obligate all West Virginia players in such events to have a WVCA membership or at least impose some premium on players who choose not to join. For example, the entry fee might be \$15 for WVCA members and \$20 for in-state players who are not current members. There are other states that currently have similar rules, one that I can think of quickly is Tennessee. If you have any comments about this, please contact me. I am certainly eager to hear some other opinions on this subject.

We are planning on printing a draft version of the updated Constitution in the next issue of the bulletin. We wish to give the membership some time to look it over before we vote on it at the Business meeting, which will be held September 2 in Charleston before the State Championship.

Send all tourney announcements, results, and comments:
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1999-2000 West Virginia Grand Prix Standings/WV Top 25 Active Ratings

Donald Griffith has expanded his lead in this year's West Virginia Grand Prix standings over Robert Canary. Donald finished first and Robert second at the Kanawha Valley Open. Mark Hathaway remains in third place based upon his 1999 State Championship performance. Joe Meadows and David Saville round out the top five.

The following upcoming events have been included in the current 1999-2000 WV Grand Prix standings:

- 1- 1999 West Virginia Chess Championship
- 2- Harrison County October Open
- 3- Taylor Books Kanawha Valley Open

The following upcoming events have concluded and are awaiting official USCF crosstables:

- 1- Harrison County March Open
- 2- Harrison County April Open

These upcoming events meet WV Grand Prix requirements:

- 1- Harrison County May Open
- 2- Taylor Books Charleston Open
- 3- Parkersburg Homecoming

Current WV Grand Prix Top 20

1. Don Griffith	24.50
2. Robert Canary	19.00
3. Mark Hathaway	15.00
4. Joe Meadows	11.17
5. David Saville	10.50
6. Gary Cummings	8.00
7. Dave Bitler	7.00
Markle Butcher	7.00
9. Jose Sandoval	6.00
James Fuller	6.00
John Roush	6.00
12. Thomas Hamilton	5.50
13. Jon Karraker	5.00
14. Tom LaBue	4.50
15. Ben Good	4.17
Jim Olson	4.17
17. Marc Abraham	3.50
Scott Carmichael	3.50
Mark Kislingbury	3.50
- David Olson	3.50
Jim Walker	3.50

Regular (Over-the-Board)

updated April 2000

1. Bob Bukovac	2284
2. Mark Kislingbury	2132
3. Joe Barker	2130
4. Feliachi Nabil	2123
5. Don Griffith	2101
6. Mark Hathaway	2083
7. John Roush	2055
8. Jim Walker	2034
9. Andy Katz	2025
10. David Saville	2007
11. Neil Markovitz	2003
12. Ed Garner	2000
13. Bernard Kiernan	1951
14. Randy Bierce	1904
15. Jeff Hohn	1892
16. Robert Canary	1876
17. Harold Mitchell	1867
18. Jim Gikas	1855
19. Palle Reddy	1817
20. Anastas Popov	1815
21. Jason Rihel	1805
22. Jon Karraker	1804
23. Mike Richardson	1782
24. Gary Cummings	1775
25. Jim Kirkpatrick	1773

Quick Chess Ratings

updated April 2000

1. Bob Bukovac	2269
2. John Roush	2204
3. Mark Hathaway	2158
4. Andy Katz	2152
5. Jim Walker	2130
6. David Saville	2089
7. Donald Griffith	2068
8. Randy Bierce	2042
9. Joe Barker	2027
10. Jim Gikas	1931
11. Ed Garner	1925
12. Robert Canary	1857
13. Dan O'Hanlon	1844
14. John Brewster	1824
15. Jerry Skeen	1805
16. Gary Cummings	1800
17. Michael Turner	1798
18. Feliachi Nabil	1787
19. Byron Funkhouser	1774
20. Joe Ancrile	1749
21. Allen Mullins	1741
22. Markle Butcher	1732
23. Sefus Ellis	1718
24. Jason Rihel	1702
25. Mike Richardson	1700

Correspondence Ratings

updated March 2000

1. Scott Carmichael	2237 S
2. Jeffrey Jackson	2138 Q
3. Don Maddox	2080 P
4. John Roush	2030 Q
5. Stephen Sutherland	2030
6. Jason Rihel	2012/15
7. Charles Hubbard	1988/24
8. Markle Butcher	1934 P
9. Tom LaBue	1923 O
10. Dan O'Hanlon	1893 N
11. Jerry Gogol	1884 O
12. Terry Riley	1874 O
13. Sefus Ellis	1853/18
14. John Simmons	1820 N
15. Randy Harper	1807 O
16. Gilbert Stone	1804 M
17. Johan Tran	1797 N
18. Scott Antes	1794/17
19. Tim Cross	1756
20. Byron Funkhouser	1755 P
21. Mike McAlister	1746 R
22. Mike Baker	1735/13
23. David Hill	1734 P
24. Tim Goan	1712 M
25. Richard Shaver	1678 M

Koltanowski and West Virginia Chess (Cont)

line is 4...Bb4. Following the leader is not always advisable, especially in chess--as when your opponents mates you first...you are too late to mate him...but in Four Knights, it's all right for some moves more! 5. O-O a6 Why not d6? The loss of a pawn should mean loss of a game. 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7. Nxe5 There's no use to regain the pawn with 7...Bd4 8. Nf3 Bxc3 9. Bxc3 (or dxc3) Nxe4? 10. Re1 and it looks bad for Black. 7...O-O 8. d3 Re8 9. Nf3 Bg4 10. Re1 10. h3 Bh4 11. g4 is better as it takes the initiative immediately. 10...Qd6 11. Be3 Rad8 12. h3 Bxf3 13. Qxf3 Bxe3 14. Rxe3 Qb4 15. Rb1 Qd4 16. Ne2 Qd7 17. Ng3 The game is going along on good lines. White is slowly developing his pieces on better places--and Black is just groping around. 17...Re6 18. Kh2 18. Nf5 is more to the point. 18...Ne8 19. Rbe1 Rf6 20. Qe2 g6 21. c3 c5 22. e5 Re6 23. Ne4 I'd prefer 23. f4 followed by f5. If 23...Ng2, then 24. Ne4 with much more effect. 23...Qd5 24. Ng5 Re7 25. f4 Ng7 26. Ne4 Ne8 27. Nf6+ I don't like this move at all. 27. Rf1, followed by f5, or R1f3 and Rg3 gives more play. The text move gives Black plenty of play...again. 27...Nxf6 28. exf6 Rxe3 29. Qxe3 h5 30. Rd1 b6 31. Qe5 Qd6 32. d4 Kf8 33. Qe7+ Why that? Now White gives his pawn away for no reason at all. 33. Qf5! threatening Qh6+; if 33...Kg8, then 34. dxc5! Qxd1 and 36. Qh6+! and wins! Now it should be a draw! 33...Qxe7 34. fxe7+ Kxe7 35. Re1+ Kd6 36. d5 c6 37. dxc6 Kxc6 38. Re7 Rd7 39. Rxd7 Kxd7 40. Kg3 Ke6 41. Kh4? No good-- and loses the game! Now 41. Kf3 followed by g4 is an easy draw. 41...Kf5 Black at least takes the initiative. 42. g3 f6! 43. b3 b5 44. b4 c4 45. a3 Ke4 46. g4 Kxf4 47. gxh5 gxh5? Can imagine the spectators almost falling over; but then masters blunder, too! 47...g5++. 48. Kxh5 Kg3 49. h4 f5 50. Kg5 f4 51. h5 f3 52. h6 f2 53. h7 f1=Q 54. h8=Q Qc1+ 55. Kf5 Kf2 56. Qh2+ Ke1 57. Qg1+ Kd2 58. Qd4+ Kc2 59. a4 Qf1+ 60. Kg4 And now it is lost much sooner (or later). 60. Ke5 was better. 60...Qd1+ 61. Kf5 Qd3+ 62. Kg5 Qxc3 63. Qf2+ Kb3 64. axb5 axb5 65. Qf1 Kxb4 66. Qb1+ Qb3 67. Qe4 Qd3 68. Qe7+ Kb3 69. Qe6 b4 70. Kf4 Kb2 71. Qb6 b3 72. Qf6+ c3 73. Qe5 Qd2+ 74. Kg4 Kb1 75. Qe4+ c2 76. Qe1+ c1=Q 77. Qe4+ Ka1 78. Qa8+ Qa2 79. Qh8+ b2 80. White resigns It's hard to resign a game that was once won, then an easy draw. The moral is: When a pawn up, don't sit back and wait--play as if you have no pawn up--and you get somewhere.

Harold Liggett - H. Landis Marks

Four Knights Game

1942 WV State Championship

Notes by George Koltanowski

1. e4 Nc6 Introduced by Nimzovitch, the idea being to play on 2. d4 d5, but if White continues normally as in this game, there is nothing wrong with the first move as it will turn out to be a normal second move. Is that clear? I wonder! 2. Nf3 e5 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 To get to the real Max Lange attack, it is best for White to play 4. O-O Bc5 5. d4. 4...Nxe4 5. Bd5 Nf6 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7. dxe5 This is weak. Why not simply 7. Nxe5 c5 8. c3 cxd4 9. cxd4 c5 10. Qa4+ Bd7 11. Qb3 or even 11. Nxd7 with a good game? The pawn on d4 for White is not weak. 7...Qxd1+ 8. Kxd1 Ng4 9. Ke1 9. Ke2 is more to the point as it leaves the line free for the rooks, and also because... 9...Bc5 10. Rf1 h5 11. h3 Nh6 12. b3 White could now have played 12. Be3 Bxe3 13. Kxe3 which with the K on e1 is not possible. 12...Bf5 13. c4 O-O-O Black's position is now by far superior. 14. Bg5 14. Bg5 loses time and gets the bishop out of play. 14. Bb2 is better; otherwise, why have played b3? 14...Rd7 15. Nbd2 Ba3 16. Ke2 This loses the exchange -- but good advice is now very difficult to give as Bb2, Rd8, and Bc7 were threatened. There is no cohesion among White's pieces and that is his downfall. 16...Bd3+ 17. Ke3 f6! 18. exf6 Finita la comedia. He should have tried 18. Bxh6 gxh6 19. Nd4. Now he loses a piece...the King not counted. 18...Re8+ 19. Kf4 Bd6+ 20. Ne5 Rxe5 21. Bxh6 Rf5+ 22. Ke3 Bc5 mate Almost a mirror mate. Ask the problemist about that. He will take off his hat every time he sees one, so let us do the same to Mr. Marks for his fine intravene in this game.

Koltanowski was able to make one more pass through West Virginia before the second World War reached it height, bringing with it the rationing of gasoline. He visited Clarksburg on November 4, 1942 drawing 33 visitors. He finished the evening 11-0-1 in simultaneous play and 3-0 in blindfold exhibition. Bill Challinor earned the lone draw off Kolty that evening. He then showed them another variant of chess to play for some amusement. This variation was played like regular chess, except that a die roll selected the piece to be moved. The game ends when the King is captured as the King could be in "check" for several moves.

Koltanowski and West Virginia Chess (Cont)

The war was a difficult time for West Virginia Chess. Many of the best players were either called into the services (Ed Foy, Reid Holt, and John Hurt among others) or were forced to move for employment reasons (Landis Marks went to Virginia and Collett found himself transferred to Pittsburgh by the AP). Collett decided to continue to edit the Bulletin from Pittsburgh rather than to try to find a new editor among the remaining members in WV. The membership which had been steadily increasing from the original figure of nineteen in 1941-42, held steady around 50 mark during most of the war. From time to time Koltanowski would write articles exclusively for the West Virginia Chess Bulletin, such as the one devoted a news report that Michael Najdorf had bettered his simultaneous blindfold record in 1943.

The Swiss system first appeared in West Virginia at the 1944 West Virginia State Championship and it is no surprise that Koltanowski had a hand in it. He had displayed it at the Pennsylvania tourney a year earlier and Collett had picked it up at that occasion. The players immediately liked the new system of pairings and the "Kolti-Collett Swiss" system took hold in WV.

After the war ended, Kolti resumed his travels around the country drumming up support for the still-fledgling USCF. He visited Morgantown on November 26, 1945 and Huntington three days later. He registered a 22-0 mark during the simul and 3-0 during the blindfold exhibition. He also gave his Knights Tour and a lecture. Bill Schaeffer wrote that Kolti signed up 13 new USCF memberships that evening and Dr. Claude Spiker added, "*Mr. Koltanowski's visit has considerably stimulated chess here, evident in larger attendance at Thursday's chess club meeting.*" Here is a game from the Morgantown simul against Dr. Victor Lemke, one of the stronger players in the Morgantown area.

George Koltanowski - Dr. Victor Lemke
Colle System

Simul Exhibition, 11/26/45

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. e3 e6 4. Bd3 Bd6 5. Nbd2 Nbd7
6. O-O O-O 7. e4 dxe4 8. Nxe4 Nxe4 9. Bxe4 f5 10.
Bd3 e5 11. Bc4+ Kh8 12. Ng5 Qe8 13. dxe5 Nxe5 14.
Re1 Qg6 15. Rxe5 Bxe5 16. Nf7+ Black resigns

The Huntington reception was similar, 13-time WV state champ Dr. Siegfried Werthammer wrote this to Collett about the event: "*Kolti was a big success here. He arrived Tuesday night and could not get a hotel room. Finally he called up so I could tell him the hotel where I'd made reservations for him..Wednesday afternoon Kolti and I played 8 quick games of which he won seven and I one. That night we showed him Huntington's night life and went to the Club Continental for dancing. I learned that his real hobby is collecting and telling jokes. We really had a nice evening...Of my chess ability, he thinks very little. He insulted me for my bad playing in at least three languages. So came Thursday afternoon and we played two quick games, which I won...Thursday evening he gave his exhibition. There were 40 players and spectators, a record for Huntington. Kolti's visit unearthed several strong young players who subsequently joined our club. That was one of the reasons for having Kolti and our expectations were fulfilled. He played ten simultaneous and three blindfold games winning all (including from me) and gave an excellent lecture, besides a N tour. Everybody was very much impressed, and everyone thinks Kolti is awfully nice.*" Sam Abrahams added this snippet, "*Kolti won his first blindfold game by announcing mate in three and received a hearty applause. The show will result in renewed activity for our club.*"

With this helpful boost from Koltanowski, Dr. Werthammer and the other members of the Huntington Club were able to attract many new members to the club. Some of the best young players in West Virginia in the 1950s (Don Burdick, Charles Morgan, Tom Bergquist and Paul Sayre) all came from the Huntington Club.

From the end of the war, membership in the WVCA sharply increased: 85 members in 44-45, 125 in 45-46 and 101 in 46-47. Surely, the tours by Koltanowski aided in the growth of the WVCA. Out of state members of the WVCA around this time period included Bill Byland, one of the top chessplayers from Pittsburgh, chess book collector Dr. Albrecht Buschke from NY City as well as adventurer/chess master Albert Pinkus.

It was at this time that he promoted the USCF to the masses. Many of the West Virginia chessplayers signed

Koltanowski and West Virginia Chess (Cont)

up to join the national organization. Membership in the USCF across the country skyrocketed during this period after World War II ended; many were signed up at Kolti's tour appearances.

West Virginians were interested in Koltanowski's activities as well, with frequent articles and references in the Bulletin as to his doings. He had not played much competitive chess since emigrating to the US, Koltanowski made an effort to start playing more, perhaps tuning up for the 1946 US Open. Collett reported about Kolti's win at Havana, Cuba early in that year, including a win over the Cuban Champion M. Colon and a 11-0 result in the Puerto Rico Rapid Transit (Quick Chess) Championship.

The West Virginia Bulletin printed a large piece on the 1946 US Open in Pittsburgh which included many games score and all the flight results. Collett's residence in Pittsburgh and Koltanowski's presence at the event made this a newsworthy item for the WV faithful.. Koltanowski finished the qualifying round with a 5-3 score which turned out to be a half point shy of qualifying for the Championship Flight.

Kolti continued to tour the US during '46 and '47 with WV as one of his destinations. He visited South Charleston on November 20, 1946, taking on thirty-four opponents. He won 31 and drew three. Those that nicked him for draws were Harold Liggett, John Hurt, Jr. (both were past WV state champs) and Mrs. Esther Snyder (the unofficial women's champion of WV).

In 1947, Kolti again found himself in West Virginia, this time in Clarksburg on November 12 and in Wheeling November 13. All tolled, he played 54 games, including four blindfold exhibitions. He won every game. Bill Cuthbert reported from the Wheeling affair, *"The Wheeling chessers didn't give him much of a workout--two or three near draws, but they went pffft--25 played, 25 lost. After the simultaneous, Kolti took on Tom Sweeney and Maynard Wallace in simultaneous blindfold games, winning both without raising a sweat. He then talked for about an hour, told stories, answered questions and so forth, and a good time was had by all. The audience numbered about 60...I believe the exhibition raised chess interest here. We have several*

new members and some hot prospects. Attendance has been better ever since the exhibition."

Membership in the WVCA topped a hundred members again during the 1947-48 business year. But, in 1948 Gene Collett decided it was time to give up the editorial reins on the bulletin. He felt that someone living in West Virginia could now take over these activities. The bulletin became a quarterly as it was impossible to keep churning out the bulletins as often as Collett did.

Unfortunately, membership in the association dipped to 50 members in '49-'50. With Collett the central spokesman of the WVCA for so long now gone, the organization struggled to achieve membership heights that were reached during the mid-forties.

WVCA Bulletin records show one more appearance of Koltanowski in West Virginia. He was the tournament director of both the Championship Section and the Open Tournament of the Tri-State Championship at Huntington in 1957. The Tri-State Championship pitted the top two finishers of the Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia State Championships in a 6 player round-robin contest. If one of the invited players declined the play, his state association could fill the slot with another top finisher from the State Championship or a past contestant in the Tri-State Championship.

Kolti again put on an simultaneous exhibition of 12 boards, scoring 10 wins and 2 draws (Paul Sayre and Charles Morgan, both WV players) as well as demonstrating the Knights Tour. Don Burdick, the co-champ of West Virginia took the Championship title with a 4-1 mark. Jerry Hanken was the winner in the Open Section, noted by an unusually low turnout of only 19 players. Dr. V. S. Hayward, the WVCA bulletin editor at the time, noted Koltanowski's reaction, *"A kind-hearted person, his disappointment over the small house was as keen as anyone else's."* WVCA Bulletin #122 (Dec. 1957),

The growth of the West Virginia Chess Association in the forties was a result of much work by many folks including George Koltanowski. He will always be remembered by the chess players in WV for the encouragement and enthusiasm he demonstrated.

Donald Griffith victorious at 2000 Kanawha Valley Open

Donald Griffith has been unstoppable since he tied for first place at the 1999 West Virginia State Championship last September. This tourney was no different; Donald beat Tom LaBue, Jim Fuller and Gary Cummings in the first three rounds to build a half point advantage over Robert Canary. Donald and Robert then drew their final round encounter; with that result Donald claimed the 2000 Kanawha Valley Open title. Donald had previously won this event in 1992 and 1996.

Canary and Gary Cummings tied for second with 3 points. Gary upended expert David Saville with a nice rook and pawn endgame to secure his share of second. William Moore from Maryland played well all day, beating Jim Kirkpatrick and drawing three higher rated players: Saville, Cummings, and Paul Homer. William tied with Joe Meadows and Markle Butcher for the U1700 prize.

Chuck Waugh was the tourney director again at this event which took place at Taylor Books in Charleston. This is a real good site for tournaments and can fit a many more entrants than have shown up the past few events.

John Roush (X) - Markle Butcher (B), Round 1
French Defense, Advance Variation
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 b6 4. c3 Qd7 5. Nf3 Ba6 6. Bxa6 Nxa6 7. O-O Ne7 8. Qe2 Nb8 9. Be3 Nf5 10. Nbd2 c5 11. g4 Nxe3 12. fxe3 Be7 13. Rf2 Nc6 14. a3 O-O-O 15. b4 c4 16. e4 h5 17. g5 h4 18. h3 Rh5 19. Rg2 Rdh8 20. Kh2 f6 21. gxf6 gxf6 22. exf6 Bxf6 23. e5 Bd8 24. Rag1 Qf7 25. Rg4 Ne7 26. Ng5 Rxc5 27. Rxc5 Qf4+ 28. Kh1 Nf5 29. R5g4 Qh6 30. Nf1 Qc1 31. Qd2 Qxa3 32. Rg8 Ng3+ 33. R1xc3 hxc3 34. Rxh8 Qa1 35. Kg2 Qb1 36. Qg5 and White soon won

Tom LaBue (C) - Donald Griffith (X), Round 1
Queen's Gambit, Semi-Slav Defense
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. e3 a6 6. Bd3 dxc4 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3 Bb7 9. O-O c5 10. dxc5 Bxc5 11. b3 O-O 12. Bb2 Nbd7 13. Rc1 Qe7 14. Qe2 Rfd8 15. Rfd1 Rac8 16. Ng5 Ne5 17. Be4 Bxe4 18. Nxc4 Rxd1+ 19. Rxd1 Nxe4 20. Nxe4 Ng6 21. Qd3 Bb4 22. Qd4 f6 23. Bc3 Bxc3 24. Nxc3 Ne5 25. f3 Qc7 26. Rc1 Rd8 27. Qe4 f5 28. Qc2 Qc5 29. Qe2 Rd3 30. Qe1 Rxe3 31. Qf2 Nd3 32. Ne2 Nxc1 33. White resigns

Daniel Brenneman (D) - Gary Cummings (B), Round 1
French Defense, Advance Variation
1. e4 e6 2. d4 c5 3. c3 d5 4. e5 Nc6 5. Nf3 Bd7 6. Be2 Qb6 7. O-O h5 8. Ng5 g6 9. f4 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qxd4+ 11. Kh1 Rc8 12. a3 Qxd1 13. Rxd1 Na5 14. Nc3 Nb3 15. Rb1 Nh6 16. h3 Nf5 17. Nf3 a6 18. Nd2 Nxc1 19. Rbxc1 Ng3+ 20. Kh2 Rxc3 21. Rxc3 Nxe2 22. Rc7 Bc6 23. Nb3 Be7 24. Rc8+ Bd8 25. Nd4 Nxd4 26. Rxd4 Kd7 27. Ra8 h4 28. g4 hxg3+ 29. Kg2 Rg8 30. Rd3 a5 31. Rxc3 Kc7 32. Rc3 d4+ and Black won.

Jim Fuller (B) - Bobby Carnage (E), Round 1
Queen's Indian Defense
1. d4 b6 2. Nf3 Bb7 3. g3 e6 4. c4 c6 5. Bg2 d6 6. O-O Nf6 7. Nc3 Be7 8. e4 Nbd7 9. Be3 c5 10. d5 e5 11. Nd2 Bc8 12. h3 Nf8 13. f4 Ng6 14. f5 Nf8 15. b4 N8d7 16. bxc5 bxc5 17. Qa4 Bb7 18. Rab1 Qc7 19. Rb2 O-O 20. g4 Nb6 21. Qd1 Ba6 22. Qe2 Rab8 23. Nb5 Bxb5 24. Rxb5 Na4 25. Rb3 Rb4 26. g5 Rxb3 27. axb3 Nc3 28. Qd3 Ncxe4 29. Nxe4 Nxe4 30. Bxe4 Qb7 31. f6 g6 32. fxe7 Qxe7 and White won.

Donald Griffith (X) - Jim Fuller (B), Round 2
Pirc Defense, Austrian Attack
1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d6 3. d4 g6 4. f4 Bg7 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. h3 Bxf3 7. Qxf3 c6 8. Bd3 Qc7 9. O-O h6 10. e5 Nh7 11. Bd2 e6 12. Rae1 Nf8 13. Ne4 d5 14. Nd6+ Kd8 15. g4 f5 16. gxf5 exf5 17. c4 dxc4 18. Bxc4 Rh7 19. Bb4 a5 20. Bc5 b6 21. e6 bxc5 22. e7+ Qxe7 23. Rxe7 Kxe7 24. dxc5 Bd4+ 25. Kg2 Bxc5 26. Nb7 Kd7 27. Nxc5+ and White eventually won.

Robert Canary (A) - John Roush (X), Round 2
Dutch Defense, Leningrad Variation
1. c4 f5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. g3 d6 4. d4 g6 5. Bg2 Bg7 6. Nh3 O-O 7. f4 c6 8. O-O Na6 9. a3 Ng4 10. Nf2 Nxf2 11. Rxf2 Qb6 12. Be3 e5 13. Na4 Qc7 14. d5 e4 15. Bd4 c5 16. Bxg7 Qxg7 17. e3 Bd7 18. Nc3 Nc7 19. Bf1 Rab8 20. a4 a6 21. Qd2 b6 22. Rb1 b5 23. a5 bxc4 24. Bxc4 Rb4 25. b3 Rfb8 26. Rb2 R4b7 27. Kg2 Bb5 28. Qc1 g5 29. Kh1 gxf4 30. gxf4 Kf7 31. Rg2 Qf6 32. Qd1 Ne8 33. Qh5+ Kf8 34. Rg5 Ng7 *This game ended in a time scramble in which White prevailed on time.*

Gary Cummings (B) - Paul Homer (A), Round 2
Sicilian Defense, Dragon Variation
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6.

Donald Griffith victorious at 2000 Kanawha Valley Open

f3 Bg7 7. Be3 Nc6 8. Qd2 a6 9. Rd1 Bd7 10. a4 Rc8
11. Nb3 h5 12. Qf2 Rb8 13. Bb6 Qc8 14. Be2 Nb4 15.
O-O Be6 16. e5 Nfd5 17. exd6 exd6 18. Bd4 f6 19.
Nxd5 Bxd5 20. c4 Bxc4 21. Rc1 d5 22. Bxc4 O-O 23.
Bxd5+ Nxd5 24. Rxc8 Rbxc8 25. Nc5 and White won

Joe Meadows (C) - Daniel Brenneman (D), Round 2
Scotch Defense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 d6 4. dxe5 dxe5 5. Qxd8+
Kxd8 6. Nc3 h6 7. Be3 Be6 8. O-O-O+ Bd6 9. Nb5
Ke7 10. Nxd6 cxd6 11. a3 Nf6 12. Nd2 Rhd8 13. f3
Rac8 14. Bb5 a6 15. Bd3 d5 16. Bc5+ Ke8 17. exd5
Nxd5 18. Nc4 f5 19. Nd6+ Kd7 20. Nxf5 Bxf5 21.
Bxf5+ Kc7 22. Bxc8 Kxc8 23. c4 Nf4 24. Rxd8+ Nxd8
25. Kc2 Nde6 26. Bd6 Nd4+ 27. Kb1 Nc6 28. g3 Nd3
29. Kc2 Nf2 30. Re1 Nd4+ 31. Kc3 Nxf3 32. Rxe5
Nxe5 33. Bxe5 g6 34. h4 h5 35. Kd4 Kd7 36. Kd5 b6
37. b4 Nd3 38. Bd4 b5 39. Draw agreed

Gary Cummings (B) - Donald Griffith (X), Round 3
Sicilian Defense, Sozin Variation

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6
6. Bc4 Bd7 7. O-O g6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. Bg5 Bg7 10.
Bb3 O-O 11. Qd2 Rc8 12. Rad1 Qb6 13. e5 Ne8 14.
Bxe7 Bxe5 15. Bxf8 Kxf8 16. Qh6+ Kg8 17. Ne4 d5
18. Ng5 Nf6 19. c4 Be6 20. cxd5 cxd5 21. Nxe6 fxe6
22. Qg5 Bxb2 23. Rb1 Ne4 24. Qe7 Bf6 25. Bxd5 Bxe7
26. Rxb6 exd5 27. Rb5 Bc5 28. g3 Nc3 29. Rb2 d4 30.
Rd2 Rd8 31. Kg2 d3 32. Re1 Ne2 33. Red1 Rf8 34. f3
Nc3 35. Rc1 Be3 36. Rxd3 Bxc1 37. Rxc3 Bb2 38. Rd3
Rf7 39. f4 Rc7 40. h4 Kg7 41. Kf3 Rc3 42. Rxc3 Bxc3
43. Kg4 Kf6 44. h5 gxh5+ 45. Kxh5 Kf5 46. Kh6 Be1
47. Kxh7 Bxg3 48. Kg7 Bxf4 49. Kf7 Ke5 50. Ke7
Kd5 51. Kd7 a5 52. White resigns

David Saville (X) - Jim Fuller (B), Round 3
Bogo-Indian Defense

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4+ 4. Bd2 Bxd2+ 5. Qxd2
d5 6. e3 b6 7. Nc3 dxc4 8. Bxc4 Ba6 9. Bxa6 Nxa6 10.
Qd3 Nb8 11. O-O O-O 12. Rfd1 c6 13. Rac1 Qe7 14.
a3 Nbd7 15. Ne2 Rac8 16. Rc2 e5 17. dxe5 Nxe5 18.
Nxe5 Qxe5 19. h3 h6 20. Nc3 Red8 21. Qe2 Ne4 22.
Nxe4 Qxe4 23. Rcd2 Qe7 24. Qc4 Rxd2 25. Rxd2 Rc8
26. Qd4 Rc7 27. Kf1 e5 28. Qd5 Qe8 29. Qd8 Qxd8
30. Rxd8+ Kh7 31. Ke2 Kg6 32. Kd3 Kf6 33. Kc4 Ke7
34. Rd2 a6 35. a4 Rc6 36. Rd5 f6 37. e4 g5 38. f3 Rc8
39. g4 Ke6 40. h4 h5 41. gxh5 gxh4 42. h6 h3 43. Rh5

h2 44. Rxh2 Ke5 45. Rh5+ Ke6 46. h7 Rh8 47. f4 Kf7
48. a5 Kg6 49. Rh1 f5 50. exf5+ Kxf5 51. axb6 Kxf4
52. b7 Ke5 53. Kxc5 Ke6 54. Kc6 Kf7 55. Kc7 Kg7 56.
b8=Q Rxh7 57. Rxh7+ Kxh7 58. Qb6 and White won.

John Roush (X) - Jim Kirkpatrick (B), Round 3
Ruy Lopez, Cordel's Defense

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Bc5 4. O-O d6 5. c3 Bd7 6.
d4 exd4 7. cxd4 Bb6 8. a4 a6 9. Bc4 Nf6 10. Nc3 O-O
11. Bg5 h6 12. Bh4 Re8 13. Bxf6 Qxf6 14. Nd5 Qg6
15. Nxb6 cxb6 16. Bd5 Bg4 17. Kh1 Qf6 18. Rc1 Rac8
19. Rc3 Nxd4 20. Qxd4 Bxf3 21. Qxf6 Bxg2+ 22.
Kxg2 gxf6 23. Rfcl Rc5 24. Rxc5 dxc5 25. Bxb7 a5
26. Kf3 Re7 27. Bc6 Re6 28. Bd5 Rd6 29. Kf4 Black
resigns

Paul Homer (A) - Markle Butcher (B), Round 3
Slav Defense, Exchange Variation

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. g3 Bf5 6.
Bg2 Nf6 7. O-O e6 8. Nh4 Be4 9. Bxe4 Nxe4 10. Nc3
Nxc3 11. bxc3 Be7 12. Nf3 O-O 13. Qc2 Rc8 14. Rb1
b6 15. Re1 h6 16. Bd2 Re8 17. e4 Bf8 18. e5 Re7 19.
Qd3 Rec7 20. Re2 Na5 21. Nh4 Be7 22. Ng2 Nc4 23.
Be1 Na5 24. Rc2 Nc4 25. Ne3 Nxe3 26. Bxe3 Rc4 27.
Drawn

Tom LaBue (C) - Sefus Ellis (B), Round 3
Queen's Gambit, Semi-Slav Defense

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bf5 5. Bf4 e6 6. e3
Nbd7 7. Be2 Be7 8. a3 dxc4 9. Bxc4 Nb6 10. Be2
Nbd5 11. Nxd5 exd5 12. O-O O-O 13. b4 Nh5 14. Bg3
Nxc3 15. hxg3 Re8 16. Ne5 Bd6 17. Nd3 Qg5 18. Nf4
g6 19. Bf3 h5 20. Re1 h4 21. g4 Be4 22. Nh3 Qf6 23.
Bxe4 Rxe4 24. Qf3 Qe6 25. Ng5 Qxg4?? 26. Nxe4??
26. Qxf7+!! 26...Qxe4 27. Qxe4 dxe4 28. Re2 f5 29. f4
exf3 30. gxf3 Re8 31. Rae1 Bg3 32. Rd1 Kf7 33. Rd3
Re7 34. Kg2 g5 35. d5 g4 36. fxc4 fxc4 37. dxc6 bxc6
38. Rd4 Re5 39. Rxc4 a5 40. Rc4 axb4 41. axb4 Rb5
42. Rxc6 42. Rb2 Rg5 43. Rbc2 Bd6+ 44. Kh3 Rg3+
45. Kxh4 Rxe3 46. Rxc6 Bxb4 47. Rf2+ *This game
ended with White having 2 R's vs R+B and was Drawn.*

Donald Griffith (X) - Robert Canary (A), Round 4
French Defense, Winawer Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 e5 5. Bd2 cxd4 6.
Nb5 Bf8 7. Nxd4 Bd7 8. f4 Nc6 9. Ngf3 Bc5 10. Bc3
Nge7 11. Bd3 Qb6 12. Nxc6 Bf2+ 13. Kf1 Nxc6 14.

Donald Griffith victorious at 2000 Kanawha Valley Open

Ng5 Be3 15. b3 Bxf4 16. Qg4 Bxe5 17. Bxe5 Nxe5 18. Qf4 Nxd3 19. Qxf7+ Kd8 20. cxd3 Qd6 21. Qxg7 Rf8+ 22. Ke2 Qf4 23. Nf3 Rc8 24. Rac1 Rxc1 25. Rxc1 Qxc1 26. Qxf8+ Kc7 27. Qb4 Draw agreed¹

David Saville (X) - Gary Cummings (B), Round 4
Torre Attack

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bg5 Bg7 4. Bxf6 Bxf6 5. e4 d6 6. c3 O-O 7. N1d2 Nd7 8. Bc4 c6 9. O-O a5 10. Re1 Qc7 11. Nf1 b5 12. Bd3 Ba6 13. Qe2 e5 14. Ne3 Qb6 15. dxe5 Nxe5 16. Nxe5 dxe5 17. Rad1 Bb7 18. Bc2 Rfd8 19. Ng4 Bg7 20. Qe3 Qxe3 21. Nxe3 h5 22. f3 Bf8 23. Kf2 Bc5 24. b3 Kf8 25. Ke2 Ke7 26. g3 Rxd1 27. Rxd1 Rd8 28. Bd3 Bc8 29. Nc2 Be6 30. Rd2 Bg1 31. Ke1 Bxh2 32. Kf2 h4 33. gxh4 Bf4 34. Rd1 Rh8 35. Rh1 g5 36. h5 Rh6 37. Ne3 Bxe3+ 38. Kxe3 f6 39. c4 b4 40. c5 Bf7 41. Bc4 Rxh5 42. Rd1 Bxc4 43. bxc4 Rh2 44. a3 b3 45. a4 Ra2 46. Rb1 b2 47. Kd3 Ra3+ 48. Ke2 Rb3 49. Kf2 Ke6 50. Kg3 f5 51. Kf2 fxe4 52. fxe4 g4 53. Ke2 Kf6 54. Kd2 Kg5 55. Kc2 Rb4 56. Kc3 Kf4 57. Rf1+ Kxe4 58. Re1+ Kf3 59. Rb1 g3 60. White resigns

Jim Fuller (B) - Jim Kirkpatrick (B), Round 4
Albin Counter Gambit

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 d4 4. a3 Nc6 5. f4 Be6 6. b3 f6 7. Nf3 fxe5 8. Nxe5 Nxe5 9. fxe5 c5 10. g3 Qc7 11. Bf4 Ne7 12. e3 O-O-O 13. Qf3 dxe3 14. Qxe3 Nf5 15. Qe4 Rd4 16. Qe2 Be7 17. Nd2 Rhd8 18. O-O-O g5 19. g4

Qa5 20. Be3 Qc3+ 21. Kb1 Nxe3 22. Rc1 Qxd2 23. Qf3 Bxg4 24. Bh3 Qd3+ 25. Ka2 Rf8 26. Bxg4+ Rxg4 27. Qh3 and White resigned

Markle Butcher (B) - Daniel Brenneman (D), Round 4
Slav Defense, Exchange Variation

1. d4 d5 2. e4 c6 3. Nc3 Bf5 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Qb3 Nc6 6. e3 e6 7. a3 b6 8. Bb5 Qc7 9. Nf3 f6 10. Bd2 Bd6 11. Rc1 Ne7 12. Nxd5 exd5 13. O-O a5 14. Rc3 Rc8 15. Rfc1 Bd7 16. h3 O-O 17. e4 Qb7 18. exd5 Nxd4 19. Nxd4 Be5 20. Bxd7 Qxd7 21. Rxc8 Rxc8 22. Rxc8+ Qxc8 23. d6+ Black resigns

Donald Griffith is the 2000 West Virginia Action Champ

For the third time in the five years this event has been held, Donald Griffith has won the West Virginia Action Championship. He won previously the action chess title in 1996 and 1998 (tied with Jim Walker). This year, Donald finished with a score of six (out of seven), drawing only Jim Walker and Markle Butcher. Jim Walker finished second with 5½. A three way tie for third ensued with Markle, Jerry Skeen and Jim Fuller at 4½ points.

2000 Kanawha Valley Open, Charleston, WV, January 29, 2000

PLR #	NAME	ST	PreRate	PostRate	1	2	3	4	Total
1	Donald Griffith	WV	2103	2101	W--11	W--13	W---3	D---2	3.5
2	Robert Canary	WV	1829	1854	W--15	W---7	D---6	D---1	3.0
3	Gary Cummings	WV	1774	1820	W--12	W---9	L---1	W---8	3.0
4	Markle Butcher	WV	1638	1653	L---7	W--15	D---9	W--12	2.5
5	Joe Meadows	WV	1553	1557	L---9	D--12	W--15	W--11	2.5
6	William Moore	MD	1430	1499	W--10	D---8	D---2	D---9	2.5
7	John Roush	WV	2073	2055	W---4	L---2	W--10	U---0	2.0
8	David Saville	WV	2059	2007	D--14	D---6	W--13	L---3	2.0
9	Paul Homer	MD	1934	1889	W---5	L---3	D---4	D---6	2.0
10	Jim Kirkpatrick	WV	1826/05	1773/09	L---6	W--14	L---7	W--13	2.0
11	Tom LaBue	WV	1506	1499	L---1	W--16	D--14	L---5	1.5
12	Dan Brenneman	WV	1120	1144	L---3	D---5	W--16	L---4	1.5
13	Jim Fuller	OH	1675	1658	W--16	L---1	L---8	L--10	1.0
14	Sefus Ellis	WV	1645	1642	D---8	L--10	D--11	U---0	1.0
15	David Hundley	WV	1342	1317	L---2	L---4	L---5	D--16	0.5
16	Bobby Carnage	WV	1054/13	1067/17	L--13	L--11	L--12	D--15	0.5

TD: Chuck Waugh

**Joe Meadows is the 2000 West Virginia HS Champ;
Jefferson HS repeats as top High School by John Homer**

The 32nd Annual WV Scholastic Chess Championship was held on April 7-9, 2000 at the Nutter Fort Primary/Elementary Complex. This was an exceptional site for a chess tournament with plenty of parking, gyms for the larger sections and carpeted rooms for the smallest section. It was a very quiet place with extremely good lighting and loads of room for skittles and special activities.

John Homer and Charles Szasz were ably assisted by David Bitler, John Strovers and Michelle Leonard from the co-sponsoring Harrison County and Norwood School Chess Clubs. Robert Jordan was particularly helpful as site coordinator. There were 153 players from 46 schools, including five home schools. The Norwood Chess Club supplied the snack concession and R. F. Holt sold many specially priced chess supplies and books.

The 2000 individual champions by section were:

Primary: Co-champions Christie Stuart, 2nd grade, Suncrest Elementary and Jacob Nixon, 3rd grade, Norwood Elementary. Both players had 4-0 scores.

Elementary: Truman Gore, 4th grade, Adamson Elementary, 5-0.

Middle School: Jason Young, 6th grade, Suncrest Middle School and Daniel Park, 8th grade, St. James Middle School were co-champions. Both players had 4-0 scores.

High School: Joe Meadows, 12th grade, Independence High, won with a 5-0 score.

The 2000 Team Champions by section were:

Primary: Norwood Elementary, 11-5.
Team members were Bethany Gaston, Joel Whiteman, Samantha Wodzinski, Talon Steadman, Samantha Connolly, Casey Nuzum, Danny Pumphrey and Andrew Blue.

Elementary: Norwood Elementary, 14-6.
Team members were Cory Leonard, Darrell Strovers, Nicholas Eddy, Ryan Butler, Peter Wodzinski, Joseph Waggamon, Jesse Blue and Mary Sparks.

Middle School: Elkins Middle School, 10-6.

Team members were Joel Whiteman, Andrew DeMotto, Emily Benjamin, Carl MacVean, Ashley Wyatt, Emily Lafayette, Tristan Plummer and Maya Godwin.

High School: Jefferson High, 13.5-6.5.

Team members were Joseph Reid, Michael Rogers, Tim Smith, Sen Lin and Jarod Brown.

On Saturday night Hannah Lubman, Mt. View Elementary and Mona Sivaneri, Cheat Lake Elementary won the Primary/Elementary Bughouse Tournament. Hannah is 32 on the USCF Top 50 list for players age 8 and under. The team of Joe Meadows, Independence High and Kevin Seachrist, John Marshall High won the Middle/High Bughouse Tournament.

Also on Friday night WV Master Bob Bukovac simultaneously played 15 players and coaches, winning 14 and losing one to Elkview Middle School coach Rick Varchetto.

U. S. Amateur South to be held in Charleston

Once again, Charleston, WV will be hosting the U. S. Amateur Championship, Southern regionals over the Memorial Day weekend. This time the event moves over to the Holiday Inn located at 600 Kanawha Blvd, East. Rev. John Kay is organizing this event as he has done the last three years. The tournament format will remain the same with an Open Section (open to all with ratings under 2200) and a Reserve Section (open to all with ratings under 1800). The winner of each section will be invited to participate in the U. S. Amateur Championship. There are plenty of trophies to be handed out for the prizewinners: Top 6 in each section as well as Top 3 in each class as well as Senior and Scholastic. See the enclosed flyer in the bulletin or the WVCA website: <http://www.wvchess.org> for more information on the 2000 USAS.

Last year over 100 players turned out which is the best attendance we have drawn so far for this event. Come out and enjoy all the fun of a National Chess Event right here in West Virginia!!

Harrison County Chess Tourney Results

Bob Jordan and Dave Bitler directed two events this spring for the Harrison County Chess Club. These tourneys took place at the Nutter Fort Elementary School in Nutter Fort, WV, located close to Clarksburg. Here are the results of the March and April Scholastic and Open Sections.

March Tourney

Open Section: The Open consisted mostly of scholastic players. Jeremy Green of Bridgeport Middle School won with a 4-0 mark defeating Jason Young (Suncrest Middle) in the final round. Mike Baker, from Clarksburg, and Jeff Reynolds tied with Jason for second with a 3-1 score. This tourney has 12 participants and was a West Virginia Grand Prix Tournament.

K-8 Section: 1st: Elias Stewart, Trinity Middle
2nd: Thomas Hoxie, Philippi Middle
Team: None

K-5 Section: 1st: Steven Shear, Berkeley
2nd: Sarah Hoxie, Home Schooled
Team: Norwood Elementary

K-2 Section: 1st: Sean Coffers, Morgantown LA
2nd: Casey Nuzum, Norwood Elem.
Team: Norwood Elementary

Elias, Steven and Sean each won their sections with perfect 4-0 marks. Both Thomas Hoxie and Sarah Hoxie finished with 3½ and were just a half point off the pace. There were 69 participants combined for the four

sections.

April Tourney

Open Section: This was a tightly contested section with John W. Malutich, a student at WVU, finishing with a 4-0 record including a win over Joe Barker. Jason Young (Suncrest Middle School) took second with a 3-1 score. Joe Barker tied for third with Steven Malutich and Jason Green at 2½.

K-8 Section: 1st: Nathan Hoxie, Philippi Middle
2nd: Darrell Strovers, Norwood Elem.
Team: Elkins Middle School

K-5 Section: 1st: Mona Sivaneri, Cheat Lake Elem.
2nd: Bethany Gaston, Norwood Elem.
Team: Norwood Elementary

K-2 Section: 1st: Stuart Christie, Suncrest Elem
2nd: Taylor Smith, Nutter Fort Elem.
Team: Nutter Fort Elementary

Nathan, Mona and Stuart each completed their day without a blemish at 4-0. There were 87 players that signed up to play in one of the four sections.

The number of participants has been steadily increasing this year and hopefully the Open Section will continue to get the stronger players to come play. There is a tourney scheduled for May 6. More tournaments will be scheduled after school resumes in the fall. For more information on the Harrison County Chess Club, visit their website: <http://sites.netscape.net/hcchess/homepage>

Harrison County April Open, WV, April 1, 2000

PLR #	NAME	ST	PreRate	PostRate	1	2	3	4	Total
1	John W. Malutich	WV	1527	1580	W---9	W--10	W---3	W---6	4.0
2	Jason Young	WV	1236	1248	L--10	W--11	W---9	W---7	3.5
3	Joe Barker	WV	2130	2095	W---5	W---7	L---1	D---4	2.5
4	Stephen Malutich	WV	1314	1352	W--12	W---6	L---7	D---3	2.5
5	Jeremy Green	WV	1141	1163	L---3	W---8	W--11	D--10	2.5
6	Michael Malutich	WV	1541	1506	W--13	L---4	W--10	L---1	2.0
7	John R. Malutich	WV	1420	1412	W---8	L---3	W---4	L---2	2.0
8	Jeff Reynolds	WV	1133/04	1097/07	L---7	L---5	W--13	B----	2.0
9	Sean Butler	WV	737	751	L---1	B----	L---6	D---5	1.5
10	Shih Houng Young	WV	Unrated	1261/04	W---2	L---1	L---6	D---5	1.5
11	John Hoxie	WV	807/08	761/11	B----	L---2	L---5	L---9	1.0
12	Ian McGraw	WV	Unrated	1149/02	L---4	W--13	U----	U----	1.0
13	Dallas Connolly	WV	1056/04	980/07	L---6	L--12	L---8	U----	0.0

The Postcard by Tom LaBue

O'Hanlon in CCLA Team Championship X (cont.)

As stated last issue, Huntington's Dan "the Judge" O'Hanlon, was a member of the winning team in the 1997 CCLA Team Championship. Dan finished the section with a 4-0-2 mark. We have a few more games from that event that Dan shared with us.

All annotations by Dan O'Hanlon

O'Hanlon, D (1870) - Simon, H (1593)

Torre Attack

CCLA Team Championship 1997-99

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 c5 4. c3 cxd4 5. cxd4 Be7 6. e3 Qb6 7. Qc2 Nc6 8. Nc3 d5 9. a3 h6 10. Bh4 Bd7 11. Bd3 0-0 12. Ne5 *The N cannot be taken on this move which is why I didn't just 0-0 or play Rc1 here.* 12...Rfd8 12...Nxe5? 13.dxe5+- winning a piece. 13. f4 Be8 14. 0-0 Rac8 15. Rac1 a6 16. Qe2 Qa7 17. f5 b5 18. fxe6 fxe6 19. Ng6 Bxg6 20. Bxg6 *Black now has a weak pawn on e6 and no light squared B to defend it.* 20...Qd7 21. a4 *Attacking again on the light squares.* 21...b4 22. Nb1 Nb8 23. b3 Rxc1 24. Rxc1 Rc8 25. Rf1 *The Rc8 has no entry squares on the c-file.* 25...Rc6 26. Bd3 *A further assault on a light square weakness.* 26...Qa7 27. Bg3 *Threatening to remove a defender of the light squares.* 27...Nbd7 28. Bf2 *To allow a further attack on the light squares in the center with e4.* 28...e5 29. e4!? exd4 29...dxe4 30. Bc4+ Kh8 31. d5 Rc5± 30. exd5 Nxd5 31. Bc4 *Light squares! Light squares!* 31...N7f6 32. Qe5 Qd7 33. Bxd4 Kh8 34. Nd2 Bc5 35. Bxc5 Rxc5 36. Bxa6 *W finally cashes in on a light square.* 36...Rc2 37. Qb8+± Ng8 38. Nc4 Qg4 39. Qg3 Qd4+ 39...Qxg3 40. hxg3 Rc3 41. Rf3+- 40. Kh1 Ngf6 41. Ne5 Ne3 42. Bd3!+- *The nice thing about postal is having the time to work out all the variations before making a move like this.* 42...Nxf1 43. Ng6+ Kg8 43...Kh7 44. Ne7+ Kh8 45. Qb8+ *and mate follows.* 44.Qb8+ *Here begins the long, forced variation I had*

worked out after 41...Ne3;44...Kf7 45. Qf8+ Ke6 46. Qe7+ Kd5 47. Qd8+ Kc5 48. Qc7+ Kd5 49. Nf4+ The end of a long King hunt. 49...Qxf4 50. Qxf4 Black resigns Black will lose another piece.

O'Hanlon, D (1870) - Stobbe, A (1824)

Torre Attack

CCLA Team Championship 1997-99

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 *I vary between the Torre and the London System (3. Bf4) in this position.* 3...h6 4. Bxf6 gxf6 4...Qxf6 5.e4 *is more common for Black.* 5. e4 d6 6. Nc3 c6 *With BOTH Bishops blocked by pawns and the N forced to go to d7, I felt this was NOT the opening system my opponent had wished to be in after 6 moves.* 7. Be2 Bg7 8. Qd2 b6 *A curious pawn formation. 6 of Black's first 8 moves have been pawn advances of only one square. The question is, how do I break through?* 9. Qf4 h5 9...Rg8 10.Qg3 Bh6 *To prevent my 0-0-0, but he has made yet another pawn move while his queenside pieces remain undeveloped.* 11. 0-0 e5 *Opening up lines for the Bc8, but it's the 8th pawn move out of 11 moves total, and the first time any pawns are engaged in the center.* 12. Rfd1 *Threatening to begin taking on e5 next.* 12...Bf4?! *Stops the e5 trades, but at a terrible cost, the Q now goes deep into the Black position and the K is stuck in the center for a long time to come.* 13. Qg7 Ke7 14. Nh4 Kd7+- *Capitulation after only 14 moves.* 14...Rg8 15. Ng6+ A) 15...Ke8 16. Qxg8+ Kd7 17. Qxf7+ Qe7 18. Qxe7#; B) 15...Ke6 16. d5+ cxd5 17. exd5+ Kf5 (17...Kd7 18. Qxf7+ Qe7 19. Qxe7++) 18. Nh4++; C) 15...Kd7 16. Qxf7+ Qe7 17. Qxe7++; or 14...Qg8 15. Ng6+ Kd7 16. Qxh8 Qxg6 17. Bxh5 Qg5 18.Bxf7+-; or 14...Rh6 15. g3! Bg5 16. dxe5+-] 15. Qxf7+ Qe7 16. Qxe7+ Kxe7 17. Ng6+ Kf7 18. Nxb8+ Kg7 19. g3 exd4 20. gxf4 dxc3 21. bxc3 Kh8 22. Rd6 *and White has an easy path to victory. White wins*

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