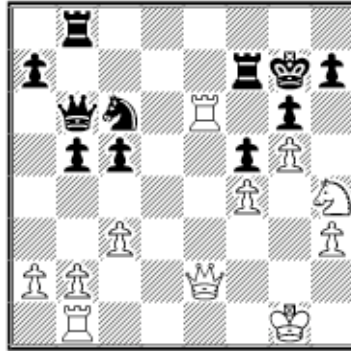


2004 National Elementary Chess Championship, Round 5

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e6 7.Nf3
 Nge7 8.O-O O-O 9.Be3 b6 10.h3 f5 11.Nh4 Rb8 12.g4 Qe8
 13.Re1 Bf6 14.g5 Bg7 15.Bd2 Qd8 16.Rb1 b5 17.exf5 exf5
 18.Nd5 Kh8 19.Bc3 Nxd5 20.Bxg7+ Kxg7 21.Bxd5 Ne7 22.Bg2
 Rf7 23.d4 Qb6 24.c3 Bb7 25.Bxb7 Qxb7 26.dxc5 dxc5 27.Re5
 Qb6 28.Qe2 Nc6 29.Re6



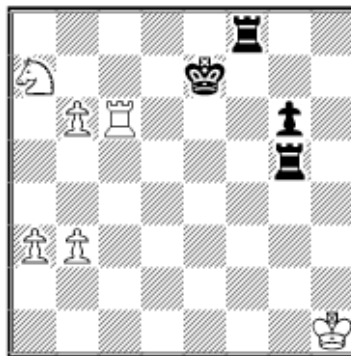
29...Qc7?

Missing the threat of 30.Rxc6 Qxc6
 31.Qe5+ forking the king and rook
 at b8.

30.Rxc6 Qxf4 31.Nf3 Rbb7
 32.Qe5+ Qxe5 33.Nxe5 Rfe7
 34.Rxc5 b4 35.Nc6 Re3 36.cxb4
 Rxh3 37.Rc3 Rh4 38.Kf2 Rd7
 39.Rf3 Rd2+ 40.Kg3 Rg4+
 41.Kh3 Rxg5 42.Nxa7 Rd4 43.a3
 Rdg4

Michael is still a piece down but his rooks are more active,
 menacing the white king.

44.Kh2 Rg2+ 45.Kh1 R2g4 46.Rh3 f4 47.Rh2 f3 48.Rf1 h5
 49.b3 Rg2 50.b5 h4 51.b6 h3 52.Rxh3 f2 53.Rxf2 Rxf2 54.Rc3
 Rf4 55.Rc4 Rf8 56.Rc7+ Kf6 57.Rc6+ Ke7



58. Rc7+

Fritz much prefers 58.Rc2.

Ke6 59.Rc6+ Kd5 60.Rc8 Rxc8
 61.Nxc8 Kc6 62.a4 Kb7 63.Nd6+
 Kxb6 64.b4 Rg4 65.a5+ Ka6
 66.Ne8 Rxb4 67.Nc7+ Kxa5
 68.Nd5 Rd4 69.Ne3 Kb5 70.Kg2
 Kc5 71.Kf3 Kd6 72.Ng4 g5
 73.Ne3 Rf4+ 74.Kg3 Ke5 75.Ng4+
 Ke4 76.Nf2+ Kf5

76...Rxf2 77.Kxf2 Kf4 is an easy win with correct play.

77.Nh3 Ra4 78.Nf2 Ra3+ 79.Kg2 g4 80.Nd1 Kf4 81.Nf2 Ra2
 82.Kg1 Kf3 83.Nd3 Ra1+ 84.Kh2 g3+ 85.Kh3 Rh1#

Alex and Mark Heimann, the dynamic duo from Wexford, Pennsylvania, finished with a combined twelve wins, one draw and one loss in the 7th Grade section of the recent National K-12 tournament. Mark took clear first place with his 6½ points in the seven-round event, and Alex was one of three players tied for 2nd-4th place a mere half-point back. The home-schooled twins

have been playing chess since age 6, with their father as their only coach, and have met with considerable success.



Mark Heimann (L), Alex Heimann (R)

Mark has now been a champion or co-champion of his grade level four times in National K-12 tournaments. To put this in perspective, there were 141 players this past December in the Grade 7 section alone. He has also done exceptionally well in past National Elementary and National Junior High championships. One of his favorite moments occurred this past Labor Day when he defeated GM Aleks Wojtkiewicz with the black pieces.

Aleks Wojtkiewicz (2611) – Mark Heimann (2092)

2005 Ohio Chess Congress

Annotations by Mark Heimann

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 Bb7 4.Bg2 e6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Nc3 c5 7.Re1 0-0

Black should first complete the Hedgehog set-up with d6, a6 and Qc7 before castling.

8.e4 d6 9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qc8



A sad necessity, as 10...Nbd7 allows 11.e5 after which White gains a huge advantage. No better is 10...Qc7 because 11.Nbd5 is annoying.

11.Be3 Nc6 12.Rc1 Nxd4

Avoiding the trap of 12...Re8 (or 12...Rd8) 13.Nd5 taking advantage

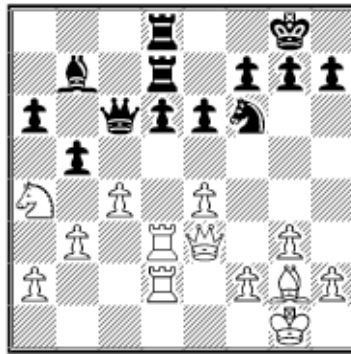


of the pin along the c-file.

**13.Bxd4 Rd8 14.b3 Nd7 15.Re2 a6 16.Rd2 Qc7 17.Qg4 Bf6
18.Bxf6 Nxf6**

Black has managed to untangle himself and exchange off two sets of minor pieces. White's advantage is fading.

**19.Qe2 Rac8 20.Rcd1 Rd7 21.Rd3 Rcd8 22.R1d2 Qc5 23.Na4
Qc6 24.Qe3 b5**



Black is starting to gain the initiative. White is in real danger of being worse.

25.cxb5 axb5 26.Nc3?!

Better is 26.Rc3 Qa6 27.Nb6 Ng4 28.Qg5.

26...b4 27.Na4

Allows Black to win material.

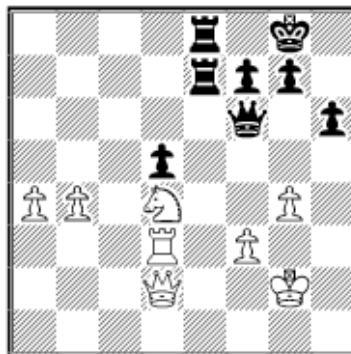
27...Ba6 28.Qb6

28.Rd4 e5 wins even more material for Black. 28.e5 Qc1+ 29.Rd1 Qxe3 30.Rxe3 dxe5 limits White's losses.

28...Qc8 29.Qxb4 Bxd3 30.Rxd3 Qc1+

Post-mortem analysis showed that 30...Qc2 31.Rd2 Qb1+ 32.Bf1 Qxe4 wins another pawn for Black and was simpler.

**31.Bf1 Ng4 32.Nb6 Nxh2 33.Kxh2 Qxf1 34.Qd2 Rb7 35.Nc4
Rb5 36.g4 d5 37.Ne3 Qa1 38.exd5 Qe5+ 39.Kg2 exd5 40.Nf5
h6 41.a4 Rb7 42.Re3 Qf6 43.Nd4 Qg5 44.f3 Re7 45.Rd3 Qf6
46.b4 Rde8**



Taking control over the e-file so Black can build threats against the white king.

**47.a5 Re1 48.Qf2 h5 49.Rd2 hxg4
50.fxg4 Qg5 51.Kg3 R8e4 0-1**

Alex Heimann also has a number of championships to boast of, including sharing the National K-12 Grade 4 championship three years ago with his brother Mark. At the spring 2004 National Elementary

Championship he scored a perfect 7-0 in the K-5 Championship section, which was especially nice since the tournament took place

in nearby Pittsburgh, with many friends present. He has also been a state scholastic champion or co-champion since second grade.

Asked about their training regimen, the boys responded, “It varies depending on upcoming tournaments so there is no strict schedule. We don’t spend a whole lot of time overall, but it depends on the day of the week and the time of year. In the summer we have a lot of other activities (like fishing and hunting for critters) that take most of our time.”

With Alex sporting a 2153 rating and Mark at 2138, I was curious how the boys have achieved such success without professional tutoring and with what seems to be a light training schedule. Their father Larry, a university professor at Carnegie Mellon, clarified the issue. “True that we don’t spend lots of time on it, but it is structured, focused and regular,” he explained. “We regularly review tactics and endgames. I have them do various visualization exercises (which have become more complex over the years) and I’ve made lots of flashcards (I’ve made 5 different sets – over 300 altogether) to help my students with quick pattern recognition and to reinforce principles (I have a little ‘Coach says...’ section on the back of cards that students learn in addition to the pattern. Learning what ‘Coach says’ helps them to sort of hear my voice in their heads during the game so they can remember and apply the principles). Before tournaments you usually see my team doing a quick flashcard review to make sure we are warmed up and thinking chess before the first round. So while we don’t spend lots of time on chess each day, we try to do a little bit (I’m guessing around 20 minutes a day on average) regularly and we focus on particular issues that I think are important or need to be addressed ... Overall chess is treated a lot like piano practice – you don’t have to do it for hours on end, but you need to do it for a little while most days and you need to have a clear plan/structure for doing it.” He adds that simply learning how to checkmate the opponent is not the only goal: “I do stress with the boys and with our homeschool team that character issues are far more important than winning games.”

The boys echoed these sentiments when I asked them how they account for their wonderful success in chess. Mark said, “My opinion is that God really blesses me – that’s the biggest reason. My dad gives us pretty good training and makes sure we have good attitudes before the round starts (we are respectful of opponents and not too cocky against weaker players or too intimidated by stronger opponents).” Alex added, “I agree that the biggest reason is that God blesses us. In addition to my dad, my brother is a good sparring partner.”

Professor Heimann made an interesting observation about his sons. In a typical Swiss tournament, a strong player in their section may well have to play both Mark and Alex, sometimes in successive rounds. “They do make a pretty tough one-two punch,” their father notes. “Sometimes an opponent may get by one with a win or draw only to have to face the other the following round, and

beating or drawing them both in the same tournament is tough.”

In the following game, Alex builds up a strong attack and quickly finishes the game.

Alex Heimann (2154) – Adarsh Jayakumar (1705)

2005 National K-12 Championship, Round 3

Annotations by Alex Heimann

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1

5.d4 is the main line, but 5.Re1 is a more aggressive alternative that fits my style of play.

5...Nd6 6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bd3 b6?!

The main line here is 7...0-0 and is Black's best choice. This line is dubious because it allows Qg4 or Qh5 without giving Black sufficient counterplay.

8.Nc3 Bb7?

Black should castle while he still can – otherwise White gets a fierce attack.

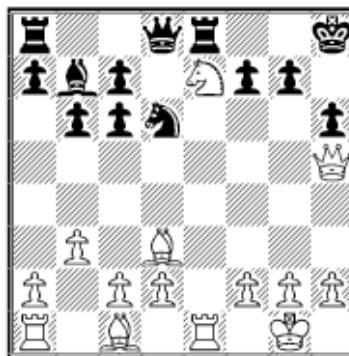
9.Qh5 h6 10.Nd5

Keeping the pressure on Black.

10...0-0?

Black's position is desperate, but castling now allows White to win a piece and still retain the initiative.

11.Nxc6 dxc6 12.Nxe7+ Kh8 13.b3 Re8



14.Bb2

14.Qxh6+ gxh6 15.Bb2+ mates a little faster than the text.

14...f6 15.Qxh6+

A queen sac wins the game quickly.

15...gxh6 16.Bxf6#

15-year-old **Daniel Ludwig** went undefeated in the 10th Grade section of the 2005 National K-12 tournament, yielding only a draw to go with his six victories. One of eight siblings, Daniel is home-schooled and according to his mother, didn't necessarily show much promise academically as a young child. He didn't