~ En Passant ~

Newsletter of the North Penn Chess Club, Lansdale, PA – Summer 2021, Part 4

E. Olin Mastin, Editor

**This issue features Joe Mucerino's Games from the 121st U.S. Open
The purpose of these newsletters is to include as many games as possible by NPCC players irregardless of the strength of the participants.
Thanks to all for submitting games!**

Joe wrote:
*"This year's U.S. Open, held in Cherry Hill, NJ, was a tremendous success, with 515 players taking part in the main tournament (350-400 is the norm), and many more also playing in side events. It was the largest U.S. Open since 2013 in Middleton, WI, which only attracted four more players than this one. Nearly every state was repre-sented, and, no surprise, Pennsylvania was behind only host state New Jersey in partici-pation.
One very popular side event was the Week-end Swiss, with 109 players taking part in this five round, G/60 d5 event."*

Game from the 2021 US Open Weekend Swiss Tournament
Round: 4
Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments [shown thus].
**White: Joseph Mucerino [PA] (2150)
Black: Mathew Jiang [GA] (1769)
Date: 8/1/2021**
(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)
[D45: Semi-Slav: 5 e3] (Joe - I had 2.5 points entering this round, and just came off a draw against Pennsylvania's Vincent Tang. Jiang is 12 years old and looks even younger.) **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Bd3 [D]** *(Next col.)* **6…dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.0-0 0-0N** *[9...Nbd7 10.e4 c5 (10...b4 11.Na4 c5 12.Bf4 Bb7 13.e5 Nd5 14.Bg3 Rc8 15.Rc1 g5, etc... Szegedi,P (2315)-Kadar,G (2280) Kaposvar 1986 1–0 (41)) 11.e5 Nd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Qc2 cxd4 (Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 6.Bd3 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) 14.Bxh7 Nf8 15.Bd3 Qb6, etc... Mirzoev,A (2494)-Esquivel,L (2288) Linares 2002 1–0]* **10.e4 Bb7 11.e5 Nd5** *[White is slightly better.]* **12.Ne4 Nd7 13.Bg5 Rb8!? [D]**
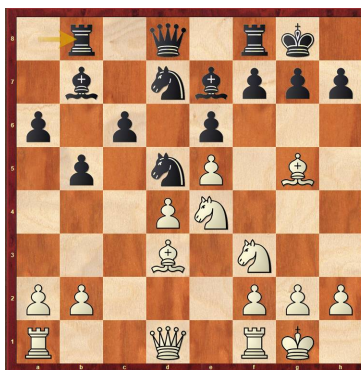
(Joe - Black wants to have his Bishop pro-tected in the event of Nd6.) **14.Rc1 h6** *[14...c5+=]* **15.Bxe7+- Qxe7 16.Nd6 N7b6 17.Bb1 Ba8?** (Joe - It was better to play 17...f5 now, anticipating 18.Qc2, because if 17...f5 now, then after 18.exf6, Black can play 18...Qxd6, which he would not be able to do with a Queen on c2 threating mate.) *[17...f5+=]* **18.Qc2 [D]**

18…g6 (Joe - 18...f5 is equally as strong.) *(Text cont. next col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **19.h4** *[Better is 19.Rfe1]* **19…Kh7?** (Joe - Putting the King on the same diagonal as the Queen and Bishop cannot be good.) *[19...f5+- was called for.]* **20.h5+- Rg8 21.g3** (Joe - Preventing 21...Nf4, which would help guard g6, and allowing Nh4, hitting g6, although after Nh4 Black could play ...Nf4 because the Pawn cannot capture on f4 and protect on h4 at the same time.) **21…Qf8** *[Better is 21...Nc4 22.Qe2 (22.Nxc4 bxc4 23.hxg6+ fxg6+-) 22...Nxd6]* **22.Ne4 Nd7** *[Better is 22...Rg7 23.Nc5 Re8 24.hxg6+ (24.Nxa6 Kg8+–) 24...Kg8]* **23.Nf6+? [D]**

(Joe - A bad plan. I sacrificed a Pawn and got nothing for it. I thought getting a Knight to e5 was going to be really strong, but it wasn't. I should have simply traded on g6.) *[Better is 23.hxg6+ fxg6 24.Kg2]* **23…N7xf6 24.exf6 Nxf6 25.hxg6+ fxg6 26.Ne5 Qe8 27.Qd2** (Joe - Slowly but surely I begin to lose the thread and all of my advantage, and eventually I am just a Pawn down for nothing. White has strong compensa-tion.) **27…Rd8 [D]**

28.Qf4 Nd5 29.Qh4 Qe7 *[29...Qf8+- 30.Qg4 Qf6]* **30.Qg4 Qf6 31.Rfe1 Rd6**

(Cont. from p.1) *[White should play 32.Qh5+-]* **32…Ne7+= 33.Rc5 [D]**

[33.Qh3!+= Nf5 34.f4 (34.Bxf5 gxf5 35.Rd2 Rgd8-+)] **33…Nf5= 34.Rd2 Rgd8 35.Bxf5 exf5 36.Qd1 Rd5 37.f4 Qe7** *[White must now prevent …Rxd4!]* *[37...Qd6!? 38.Qb3 Qe7 39.Rxd5 Rxd5=+]* **38.Kh2?? [D]**

[38.Rxd5= Rxd5 39.Re2] **38…R8d6??** (Joe - We both missed 38...Qxc5 with an instant win. The position is drawn now, despite the fact the Black is up a Pawn. However, it is not proper etiquette for the person down in material to offer a draw, so I did not make a draw offer.) *[38...Qxc5!-+ 39.Nf7 R8d7!]* **39.b4 Kg7 40.Rd3 Qd8** *[40...Qe6 keeps more tension. 41.Kg1 Bb7 42.Qd2 Rd8 43.Qc3 Kh7]* **41.Rxd5 Rxd5 42.a3** *[42.Qe2 is interesting. 42...Bb7 43.Nf3 Rd7 44.Re3 Kf8 45.Nh4]* **42…a5 43.Qa1 Bb7 44.Qc3 axb4 45.axb4 Qd6 [D]**

[45...g5=] **46.Kh3** *[46.Rd1+=]* **46…Kf6** *[Black should try 46...Qd8=]* **47.Kh2** *[47.Rd1+=]* **47…Qc7 [D]** (Next col.) *[47...Kg7= remains equal.]* **48.Kh3** *[48.Rd2!+-]* (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 47…Qc7 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **48…Rd8?** *[48...Qd6=]* **49.d5!+-** (Joe - In one move, White has established a passed Pawn, because Black's c-Pawn is pinned, and also has a discovered check.) Intending Nd7+ and mate.] **49…Rc8 50.d6 Qg7 51.d7 Ke7 52.dxc8Q** *[Better is 52.Qc5+ Kd8 53.Qb6+ Rc7 [D]*

Analysis Diagram
54.Qxc7+!! Ke7 55.d8Q+ Ke6 56.Qdd6#] **52…Bxc8 53.Nxc6+ [D]**

[Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/Black=0.54] **1–0**
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:
https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=wUI-uLLTM2ISm0IT1tRQINUp6JwFr2j6aoza0Xu+PK6IpmCZq/kuQxCBvaK91WT1t

Game from the 2021 U.S. Open Weekend Swiss Tournament

(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.)

Round: 5
Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus]*.
White: Kai Shah [NJ] (2054)
**Black: Joseph Mucerino [PA] (2150)**
Date: 8/1/2021
*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)
[B01: Scandinavian Defense] (Joe - 17–year-old Shah was 4–0 going into this, the final round. After board–1 ended in a hard-fought draw, he could have won the tournament outright with a win.) **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Nf3 Qxd5 5.Be2 e6 6.c4** *[6.Bf4 c6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.h3 Bh5 9.c4 Qd8 10.Qb3 Qc8 11.0–0 0–0 12.Rfe1 Rd8, etc... Xheladini,M (2280)-Rogers,I (2618) Baden 1999 0–1 (55)]* **6…Bb4+ 7.Bd2N [D]**

(Joe - 7.Nc3 is the normal move here.) *[7.Nc3+= is superior. 7...Qa5 8.Bd2 c6 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nbd7 11.a3 Bxc3 12.Bxc3 Qc7 13.Qe2 0–0 14.0–0 Rfe8 15.Rfe1 Rad8, etc... Nigmatov,O (2452)-Sadovsky,A (2408) Tula 2018 1–0 (50)]* **7…Bxd2+= 8.Nbxd2** *[The position is equal.]* **8…Qa5** (Joe - The computer suggests 8...Qd6.) **9.0–0 0–0 10.a3 Rd8 11.b4 Qf5 12.Qb3 Nc6 13.Qe3 a6 [D]**
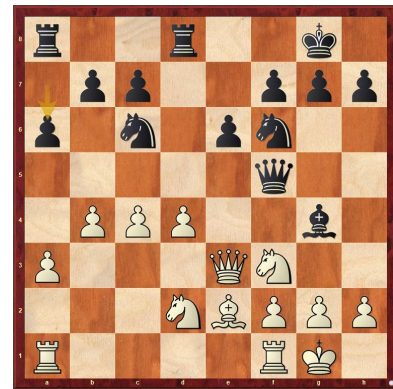
(Joe - The computer found a draw with 13...Bxf3 14.Nxf3 Ng4 15.Qc3 Qe4 16.Rad1 Qxe2 *(Text cont. p.3)*

(Cont. from p.2) 17.Rde1 Qa2 and the Rook continually harasses the Queen. I wasn't looking for a draw, and I doubt White was either.) *[Black should play 13...Bxf3= 14.Nxf3 Ng4]* **14.Bd3 Qh5 15.h3** *[Initiative] [White is more active.]* **15…Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Nh2 Qh4 [D]**

(Joe - The computer found the clever 17...Qxe3 18.fxe3 Nxd4! and White loses a piece if there is a trade on d4.) *[17...Qxe3+= 18.fxe3 Nxd4]* **18.Ndf3+– Qh3 19.Rfd1** (Joe - In similar lines, Black wins the Pawn on d4, but that's not going to happen now. Black is in trouble.) **19…Ng4 [D]**

[19...h6+– is a better defense. 20.Bc2 Rac8] **20.Nxg4! Qxg4+ 21.Kf1 Kf8 22.Qe4 Qh3+ 23.Ke2?! [D]**

(Joe - 23.Ke1 was a bit better, because, as we will see, I get a pin in later.) *[Threatens to win with Rh1.]* **23…f5 24.Qe3** *[Strongly threatening Rh1.]* **24…Qg4 25.Bc2?!** (Joe - Breaking the pin was better.) **25…e5** (Joe - After the game, Shah told me that he *(Text cont. next col.)*
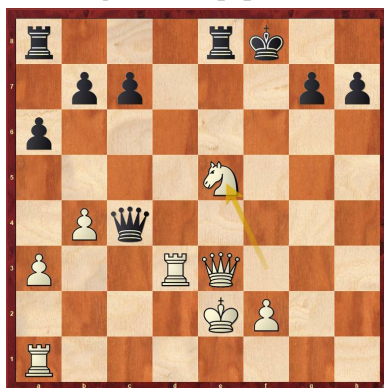

(Cont. from prev. col.) missed this move. White is still winning, though.) **26.dxe5 Nxe5 [D]**

27.Bxf5! Qxc4+ 28.Bd3?? (Joe - The computer evaluation went from about +2 to –1.6 on this one move. Again, White's King needed to get out of Dodge with 28.Ke1.) *[28.Ke1+– and all is fine. 28...Nxf3+ 29.Qxf3]* **28…Nxd3+ 29.Rxd3 [D]**
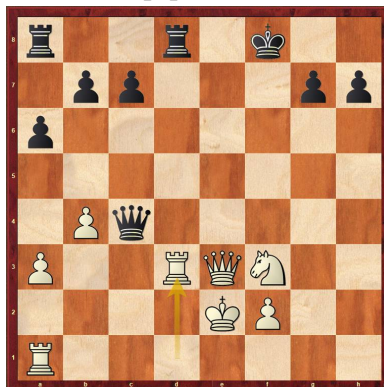

[Ne5 is the strong threat.] **29…Re8** *[Inferior is 29...Rxd3 30.Qxd3 Re8+ 31.Kd2+-]* **30.Ne5 [D]**


30…Rxe5 31.Qxe5 Re8 32.Qxe8+ Kxe8 *[Endgame KQ-KRR]* **33.Rad1** (Joe - White has two Rooks for the Queen, but Black has two extra Pawns, and the h-Pawn is an outside passed Pawn, which will decide the game.) **33…h5 34.Ke1 Kf7** (Joe - I did not want to allow 35.Rd7 and have my King trapped on the back rank.) **35.Rf3+ Kg6 36.Rdd3 h4 [D]** *(Next col.)* *(Text cont. next col.)*
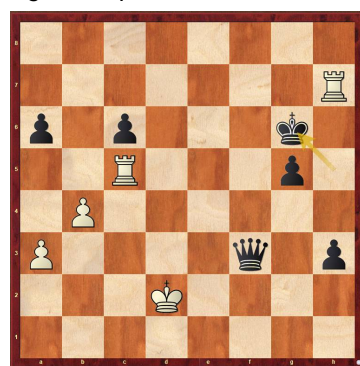

Position after 36…h4 *(From prev. col.)*
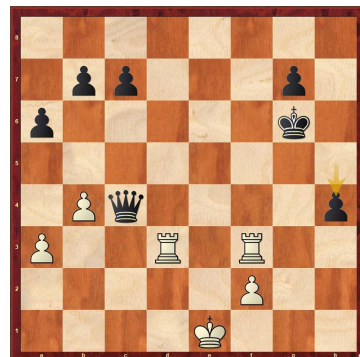
(Cont. from prev. col.) (Joe - Notice the Pawn prevents Rg3+.) **37.Rc3 Qd4 38.Rfd3 Qe5+ 39.Re3 Qh2** (Joe - Also notice that the Queen defends c7.) **40.Rc4** *[Better is 40.Ke2]* **40…Kh5 41.Re7 c6** (Joe - This move is not strictly necessary in this position. Black wants to prevent White from coordinating his Rooks. But after 41...h3 42.Rcxc7 Qxc7! 43.Rxc7 h2 44.Rxg7 Black queens with check. With time running down, I did not want to take any chances.) (Joe - Also note that after the text move White cannot capture on g7 because of 42...Qe5+.) **42.Rc5+** *[Better is 42.Ke2]* **42…g5 43.Rxb7? [D]**
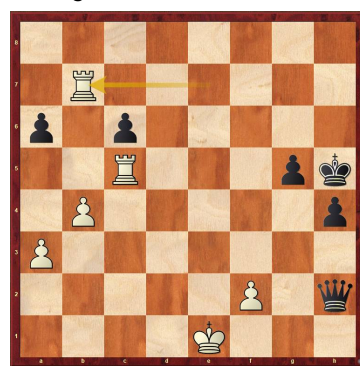
(Joe - This wastes time and does not coordinate the Rooks.) *[Better is 43.Ke2 Qg2 44.Rc3]* **43…Qg1+ 44.Ke2 Qg4+ 45.Ke1?** *[45.f3 Qe6+ 46.Kf2 Qa2+ 47.Kf1 Qxa3 48.Kf2 Qa2+ 49.Kf1]* **45…Qe4+** *[Black is clearly winning.]* **46.Kd2 h3** *[And now ...h2 would win.]* **47.f3 Qxf3 48.Rh7+ Kg6 [D]** *(p.4)*

(Text cont. p.4)

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=sBTPXNESd/3U/xfuc/xRzx9F81VcNyt3lz+k69Oiv2nWoZ7rkr0d2RDLp59j7fa

Game from the 2021 - 121st U.S. Open Tournament
Round: 1

Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus].*

White: Maxwell Yang (FL) (1741) (Age 9)
Black: Joseph Mucerino (PA) (2150)
**Date: 8/3/2021**

(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[D48: Semi-Slav: Meran System: 7...b5 8 Bd3 a6] (Joe - I entered the 6–day schedule, which had the same slow 40/80 SD/30 +30 second time control as the 9-day schedule but played two games a day on three days. The four-day schedule played six G/60 d/5 games. My tournament started out with a blunder. My opponent and I played with the wrong colors! To make a long story short, the section was repaired, and that led to some confusion. Yang did not notice it either. He represented Florida in the 2nd Annual Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary School Champions. He is also ranked 12th in the country for all 9-year-olds.) **1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 c6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 [D]**

6…dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.a3 c5 (Joe - If Black had allowed 10.b4, his Queenside would be cramped forever.) **10.dxc5 Nxc5 11.Bc2N [D]** *(Next col.)* (Joe - Here I had a think. I want to avoid the exchange of Queens, because I think that makes winning difficult for Black. But if I make a move like 11...Qb6, White will play 12.b4 and I will have to make an undesirable move with my Knight. After thinking a bit, *(Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 11.Bc2N *(From prev. col.)*
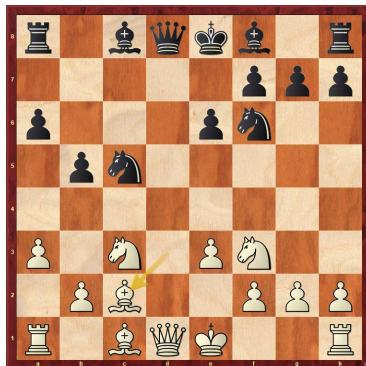
(Cont. from prev. col.) I played what I thought was the best move in the position, even if it did allow the exchange of Queens. By the way, the computer says I should exchange Queens with 11...Qxd1+.) *[11.Be2 Bb7 12.0–0 Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Nb3 14.Rb1 b4 15.axb4 Bxb4 16.Nd4 Nxd4, etc... Cerveny,M (2320)-Petr,M (2452) Litomysl 2009 0–1 (48)]* **11…Bb7** *[Black is slightly better.]* **12.b4 Nce4** (Joe - Because of 11...Bb7, my Knight can now go to a good square.) **13.Nxe4 [D]**

[Hoping for Qxd8+.] **13…Nxe4 14.Bb2** (Joe - Here we go again. I still do not want to trade Queens, but if I play 14...Qb6, White has 15.Bd4, or if 14...Qc7 White can play 15.Rc1. So, I thought about developing my dark squared Bishop. If I try to avoid Queens with 14...Bd6, 15.Qd4 hits the Knight and g7 and will probably be followed by Rd1. So, what about 14...Be7? Well, if 15.Bxg7 Rg8 I thought the Rook may become trapped if 16.Be5 Rxg2 17.Bg3 happened. If 17...Nxg3 18.hxg3 Qd1 19.Bxd1 holds the Knight on f3. But wait! At the board, I missed in my analysis that after 17.Bg3 Black has the simple winning move 17...Nc3.) **4…Qxd1+** (Joe - Why did I decide to trade Queens? Because now, in all likelihood, White will play...) **15.Rxd1** (Joe - ...and now the Knight on f3 will not be protected by *(Text cont. next col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) the light squared Bishop. First, I threw in...) **15…Rc8** (Joe - ...because White cannot protect the Bishop with 16.Rd2.) **16.Bb3 Bd6** (Joe - Now that White's light squared Bishop is not Attacking the Knight, I can safely play my Bishop here without fear of a removal of the guard tactic with 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.Rxd6. Putting my Bishop on d6 allows my King to stay in the center with ...Ke7. There is no need to castle because Black's King will not come under attack, especially with the Queens off the board.) **17.Nd2** *[Of course not 17.Bxg7 Rg8-+]* **17…Ke7 18.0-0?** (Joe - White should have exchanged. Now White's position begins to head south.) *[18.Nxe4= remains equal. 18...Bxe4 19.0–0 (19.Bxg7? Rhg8–+)]* **18…Nc3-+ [D]**


(Joe - White's Rook is attacked, and b1 and c1 ((because of ...Ne2+)) are not safe squares, leaving only a1 and e1. If White moves his Rook to one of those squares, then Black has an advantage after 19...Be5.) **19.Bxc3** *[Better is 19.Rde1]* **19…Rxc3** (Joe - The computer preferred a Rook move instead.) **20.Rc1 Rhc8 21.Rxc3 Rxc3 22.Rb1 Bd5** (Joe - This was a difficult decision, and perhaps not the best one. Normally, when you have the bishop pair, you want to keep it. I wanted to try to find a way to attack the Pawn on a3. The computer said that throwing all of the kingside Pawns down the board was the best option.) *[22...f5–+ 23.h3 g5]* **23.Bxd5 exd5** *[Endgame KRB-KRN]* **24.Rb3?** (Joe - This was played very quickly and loses a Pawn.) **24…Rc1+ 25.Nf1 [D]** *(p.5)* **25…Bxh2+! 26.Kxh2** *[Aiming for Nd2.]* **26…Rxf1** *[KR-KR]* **27.Kg3 Rc1** (Joe - Simply Taking control of the only open file.) **28.Rd3 Ke6 29.a4?** *[29.f4-+]* **29…Rc4-+ [D]** *(p.5)* (Joe - Now White's Rook will become passive *(Text cont. p.5)*

Position after 25.Nf1 *(From p.4)*

Position after 29…Rc4–+ *(From p.4)*
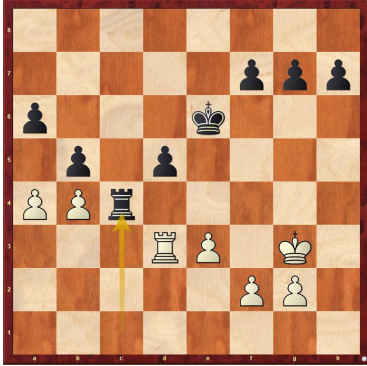
(Cont. from p.4) because nothing else is guarding the Pawn on b4.) *[Resist 29...bxa4 30.Ra3-+]* **30.axb5 axb5 31.Rd4??** (Joe - As Inspector Gadget says, "Wowzers!" White trades into a pure King and Pawn ending a Pawn down, which is virtually winning in all cases unless Black had doubled Pawns.) *[31.Rb3]* **31…Rxd4 32.exd4** *[KP-KP]* **32…Kf5** (Joe - Improving the King's position, which is always important in endings.) **33.Kf3 h5** (Joe - Preventing 34.g4+, pushing Black's King back, and also trying to establish an outside passed Pawn.)**34.Ke3 g5 35.Kf3 g4+ 36.Ke3 h4 [D]**
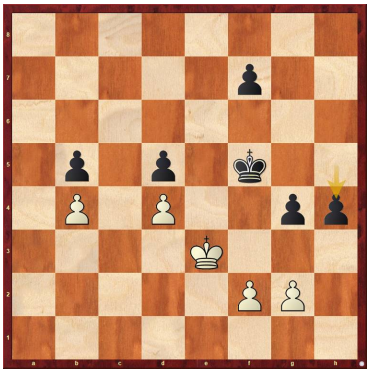
[Black mates.] **37.f3 gxf3** (Joe - Of course, any reasonable move wins.) **38.Kxf3 f6** (Joe - Gaining the opposition.) **39.Ke3 Kg4 40.Kf2 Kf4 41.Ke2 Ke4 42.Kf2 f5 43.Ke2 Kxd4 [D]** *(Next col.)* **44.Kf3 Kc3 45.Kf4 d4 46.Kxf5** *[K3P-KPP]* **46…d3 47.Kg4 d2 48.Kxh4 d1Q [D]** *(Next col.)* **49.g4 Qd8+ 50.g5 Qg8 51.Kh5 Kxb4 52.Kh6 Kc3 53.g6 b4 54.g7 b3 [D]** *(Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)*
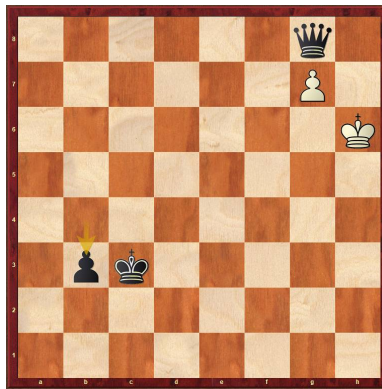
Position after 43…Kxd4 *(From prev. col.)*

Position after 48…d1Q *(From prev. col.)*

Position after 54…b3 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) [Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/Black=0.05] **0-1**
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:
https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=/6eeCsh6Vwir26eAehi6F/JEYUScCPjywzdQZSmvS4SUfcdO0mkJQvPijr6PmEcW

Game from the 2021 - 121st U.S. Open Tournament
Round: 5
Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus]*.
(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.)
White: Joseph Mucerino (PA) (2150)
Black: Nathaniel Zhang (CA) (2117)
Date: 8/5/2021
*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)
[D05: Colle System with ...e6] **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nbd2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 [D]**

8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 h6 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.Bc2 Bb6 12.a4 *[12.Kh1 Bd7 13.h3 Nh5 14.Nb3 dxe4 15.Qxe4 f5 16.Qh4 Be8 17.Qc4 Bf7 18.Qe2 Nf4 19.Bxf4 Qxf4 20.Qd2 Qc7, etc... Rodrigues,E (2303)-Barbosa,E (2449) Pocos de Caldas 2014 0–1 (41)]* **12…a6 13.a5N [D]**

(Joe - Some people may annotate this with a "?!". There are two points to this move. First, I want to distract Black from the center. Second, I want to lift the Rook up and over ((what Jennifer Shahade would call a "rover")) to the Kingside.) *[13.h3=; 13.g3 Bd7 14.Kg2 Rad8 15.h3 e5 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Nc4 Qc8 18.Rh1 Bc7 19.Qe4 Nf6, etc... Mamedyarov,S (2660)-Volokitin,A (2652) Mallorca 2004 ½–½ (38)]* **13…Ba7 14.e5 Ng4 15.Qd3** *[15.Nb3=+]* **15…g6** (Joe - The computer thought 15...f5 was a better way to defend.) **16.Ra4 Ncxe5** (Joe - The wrong Knight. After...) *[16...Ngxe5=+ 17.Nxe5 Qxe5]* **17.Nxe5=** (Joe - ...if would be better to recapture with the Queen, but that is not possible now, because the *(Text cont. p.6)*

(Cont. from p.5) Knight on g4 hangs.)
17…Nxe5 18.Qh3 (Joe - I had trouble deciding between this and the more natural looking 18.Qg3, but I chose this since it attacks h6. Stockfish prefers 18.Qg3.) *[White should try 18.Qg3=]* **18…Kg7?!** (Joe - 18…h5 was better.) *[Black should play 18…Bd7=+ 19.Rh4 h5]* **19.Rh4 h5** *[Initiative]* **[D]**

[Black fights for an advantage.] [19…Qxa5? 20.Nb3+−] **20.Bd1** (Joe - I'm trying to build up an attack, but White doesn't have anything going for him. The position is simply equal. The computer recommends 20.Qg3 again.)
[20.Qg3= Bb8 21.Rxh5 Nf3+ 22.Nxf3 (22.Qxf3 gxh5 23.Qxh5 Rh8=+) 22…Qxg3 23.Bh6+ Kg8 24.hxg3 (24.fxg3 gxh5 25.Bxf8 Kxf8=) 24…gxh5 25.Bxf8 Kxf8 26.Ra1]
20…f5? (Joe - This allows White to safely sacrifice on h5. Better moves were 20…Rh8 and 20…Qd8.) *[20…Rh8−+ 21.Qg3 Bb8]*
21.Nf3?? (Joe - I didn't sacrifice on h5 because I didn't think it would work. After 21.Bxh5 g5 ((this is the move I really feared)) 22.Qg3 Nf3+ 23.Qxf3 gxh4 I didn't think I had too much. The computer says White has a slight advantage.) (Joe - I had a plan with 21…Ng4 but I had a massive hallucination.) *[21.Qg3= Qb8 22.Bxh5]*
**21…Ng4−+** (Joe - Black is winning. I wanted to play 22.Bf4, but I missed that the Rook is no longer protecting the Bishop. If White could safely play 22.Bf4, after 22…e5 23.Nxe5! gives White some advantage.)(Joe - So now my planned was ruined and I had to go back to the drawing board. After staring at my lost position for a while, I came up with…) **22.Nd4?** *[22.Ng5 e5 23.Bxg4 fxg4 24.Qd3]* **22…e5** (Joe - This wins, but even better is 22…Bxd4 23.cxd4 Qxc1 24.Bxg4 fxg4 25.Rxc1 gxh3.)
[22…Qxa5 23.Bxg4 fxg4 24.Qe3+=]
23.Bxg4 fxg4 24.Qe3 *[Black should prevent Qh6+.]* **24…Rh8 [D]** *(Next col.) [Not 24…exd4 25.Qh6+ Kg8 26.Qxg6+ Qg7 27.Qxh5-+]* **25.f3?** (Joe - Everything loses, but at least I'm trying to open up f-file *(Text cont. next col.)*

**Position after 24…Rh8** *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) for my Rook.)
[25.Qg3] **25…exd4 26.cxd4 Bf5** *[Aiming for …Rae8.]* **27.fxg4 hxg4 28.Rxf5 [D]**
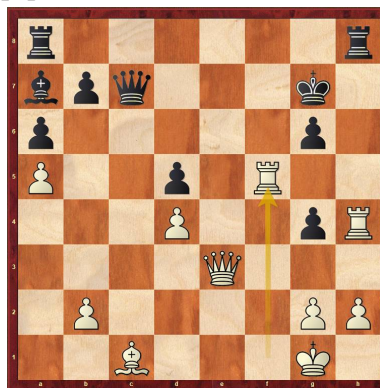

(Joe - Why not? The best chance I have is to complicate matters and keep the pressure on.) *[Better is 28.Rxh8 Kxh8 29.Bd2]* **28…Rxh4 29.Re5** (Joe - This looks dangerous, but Black is perfectly fine after 29…Kg8 or 29…Qc4.)
29…Bxd4?? (Joe - This costs Black most of his advantage. A better way to simplify was 29…Qxc1+ 30.Qxc1 Bxd4+ 31.Re3 Re8.) **30.Qxd4-+ [D]**
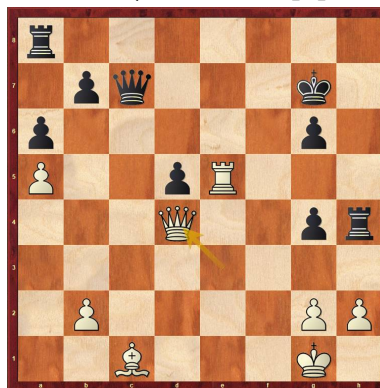

(Joe - Now Zhang reached for the Bishop, and only now realized that 30…Qxc1?? lost to 31.Re1+.) Re7+ would kill now.]
30…Kh7?? (Joe - The decisive mistake. Black is still better, but no longer winning, after 30…Kg8.) *[30…Kg8-+ and life is bright. 31.Qxd5+ Qf7]* **31.Bg5+−** *(Text cont. next col.)*

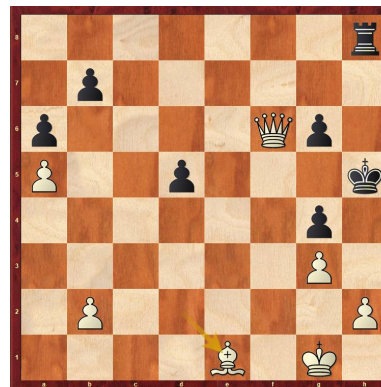*(Cont. from prev. col.)* (Joe - Now White is winning. There are too many threats.) **31…Rh5** *[Better is 31…Re8 32.Rxe8 Qxh2+ 33.Kf1 Qh1+ 34.Qg1 (34.Kf2? g3+ 35.Kxg3 Rxd4−+) 34…Qxg1+ 35.Kxg1 Rh5]* **32.Re7+ [D]**
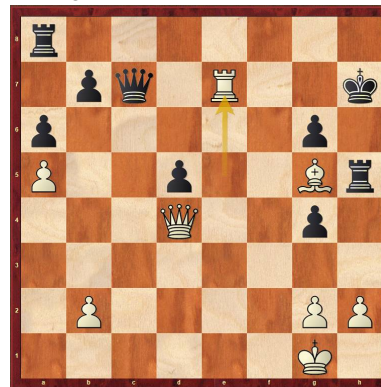
32…Qxe7 33.Bxe7 Re8 34.Bb4 (Joe - Note that the Bishop guards the e1 square.) **34…Rf5 35.Bc3 [D]**
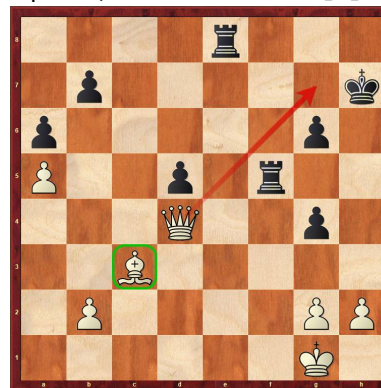
35…Kh6 36.Qg7+ Kh5 37.g3 *(Joe - 37.Bd2 leads to an even faster mate.)* **37…Rff8 38.Bd2 Rh8 39.Qf6 Re1+ 40.Bxe1 [D]**

[Weighted Error Value: White=0.83/Black=1.08] [Better is 40.Kf2 Rf8 41.Qxf8 Re3 42.Bxe3 g5 43.Qg7 b5 44.Qxg5#] **1–0**
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

Game from the 2021 121st U.S. Open Tournament

Round: 6

Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus]*.

White: IM Viktor Matviishen (UKR) (2575)
Black: Joseph Mucerino (PA) (2150)
Date: 8/6/2021

(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[E01: Catalan: Early deviations]

(Joe - With a +3 score, I got paired up. This game was played on board 12, which was separated from the main body of players. Matviishen is a two-time European U12 Champion, which he won in 2013 and 2014.) (Joe - This game took the longest to play, at 5 hours and 20 minutes.)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.Qc2 Nf6 5.g3 Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Nbd2 Re8 9.Rd1 Qe7 10.e4 [D]

**10...dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qxe4 e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 [D]**

[Hoping for ...Bg4.] **14.Ng5** *[14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bf4 (15.Be3 g6 16.Bd4 Bf5 17.Qxe5 Qxe5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Bf3 a5 20.Kg2 h5 21.h4 Kf8 22.Rd4 Ke7, etc... Sanchez,L (2290)-Bilguun,S (2490) Paris 2018 0–1 (42)) 15...Bg4 16.Re1 Bf6 17.Qxe7 Rxe7 18.Rxe7 Bxe7 19.Be3 a5 20.Rc1 a4 21.Be4 Bf6, etc... Skembris,S (2530)-Antonio,R (2500) Manila 1992 0–1 (47)]* **14...f5?!**
(Joe - The computer recommends 14...g6 15.Qh4 h5, for which I did not care too much.)
(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) *[14...g6 looks sharper. 15.Qh4 h5 16.h3 Bf5 17.Be3 Bc5]* **15.Qc2 h6 16.Nh3** *[The position is equal.]* **16...Ng6N** (Joe - Looks a bit odd, but I did not want the Knight to re-enter the game via f4.) *[16...Bc5 17.Bd2 Qf7 18.b4 Bf8 19.Re1 Bd7 20.Rac1 Rad8 21.c5 Bc8 22.Bc3 Ng6 23.Rxe8 Rxe8, etc... ½–½ (28) Pigusov,E (2575)-Tunik,G (2450) Kolontaevo 1994]* **17.b3 Be5 18.Re1 Qf7 [D]**


(Joe - Capturing on a1 and having two Rooks against a Queen is playable. I decided against that because it would take a while for me to coordinate my Rooks.)

**19.Bb2 Bxb2 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Qxb2 Be6 22.Re1 Qd7 23.f4 Rd8 24.Nf2 Kf7 25.Bf3 [D]**
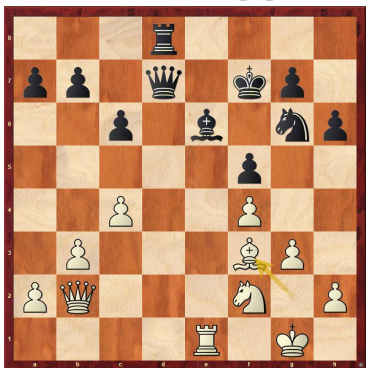
[And now Bh5 would win.] **25...Qd2 26.Qa1 Qd4 27.Qxd4** *[27.Qb1 seems wilder. 27...Nf8 28.Rd1 Qb6 29.Kg2 Kg8 30.Rxd8 Qxd8 31.Qe1]* **27...Rxd4 28.Bh5 Bd7** (Joe - Of course, White was threatening 29.Bxg6+ Kxg6 30.Rxe6+.)
**29.Re3 Kf6 30.Bxg6 Kxg6 31.Rd3 Rxd3 32.Nxd3= [D]**
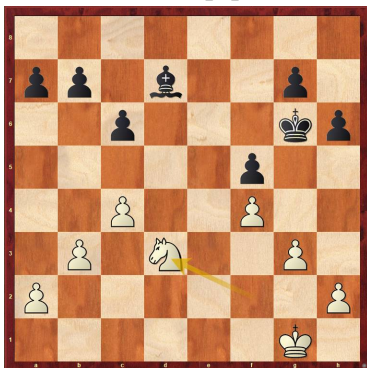
(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) (Joe - This is dead equal. Black must keep White's King out of the position.) *[Endgame KB-KN]* **32...Kf7 33.Kf2 Ke7 34.Ke3 Kd6?!** (Joe - The computer says 34...b6 should be played, and we will see why soon. One thing I did not want to do in this endgame was to push Pawns unless I had too.) **35.Kd4 Bc8? [D]**
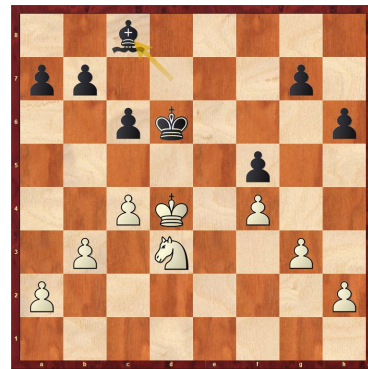

(Joe - Now the computer says 35...b5 had to be played.) *[35...b5+=]* **36.a4?** (Joe - White missed a golden opportunity to play 36.c5+ Ke6 37.Ne5 Ke7 38.Nc4 heading to d6.) *[36.c5++- Ke6 37.Ne5]* **36...b6+= 37.b4 Ba6 38.c5+ bxc5+ 39.bxc5+ Ke6** *[...Bxd3 is the strong threat.]* **40.Ne5 Bb7 41.a5 a6! [D]**
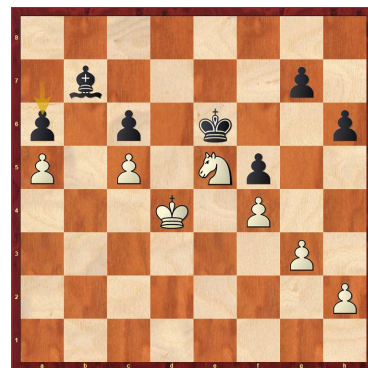

42.Nc4 *[Threatens to win with Nd6.]*
42...Bc8 (Joe - Necessary, because after 42...Kf6 43.Ne6 the Bishop would have to go to a8.) **43.Nb6 Bb7** (Joe - If 43...Bd7?? 44.Nxd7 Kxd7 45.Ke5, White's King enters the position and wins easily.)
44.Ke3 Ke7 45.Kf3 Ke6 46.Kf2
[46.Nc4 keeps more tension. 46...Bc8 47.Ke3 Ke7 48.Ne5 Bb7 49.Kd2]
46...Ke7 47.Kg2 Ke6 48.Kh3 g5 (Joe - The computer says that 48...Kf6 49.Kh4 g6 is equally as good. I was hoping to trade off White's f4 Pawn so my King can come to e5 someday.) **49.fxg5** *[White should try 49.Kg2+-]* **49...hxg5= 50.Kg2 g4! [D]** *(p.8)* (Joe - Talking the f3 square away from White's King, but more importantly, preventing White from creating a passed Pawn with 51.h4.) *(Text cont. p.8)*
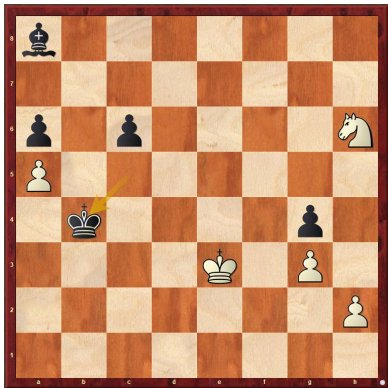
Position after 50...g4! *(From p.7.)*
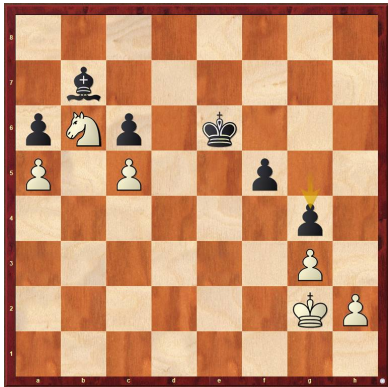
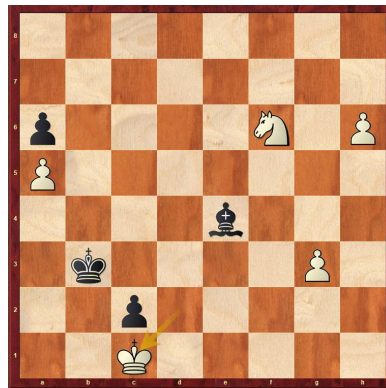*(Cont. from p. 7)* **51.Kf2 Kf6 52.Ke2 Ke6 53.Ke3 [D]**
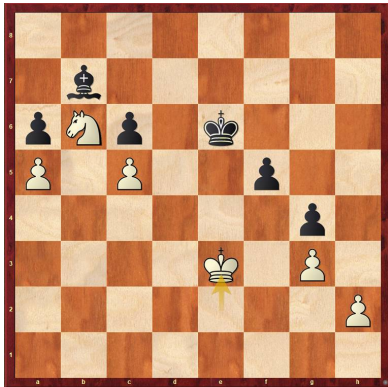
(Joe - This is a good place for a diagram, Mr. Editor.) (Joe - Black to move and draw. One move draws, everything else loses.)

53…Ke5?? (Joe - I picked the wrong move. Obviously, I did not have the luxury of knowing for sure that there was a draw in the position.) (Joe - The correct move is 53...Ke7! There is no way for White to make progress. After 54.Kf4 Kf6 55.Nd7+ Ke6 57.Nd3 Bc8 Nb4 Bb7.) (Joe - Since I thought I was in trouble; I went after White's c-Pawn. It still looks like Black had a chance to hang on, but he was a tempo behind.) *[53...Ke7!=]* **54.Nc4++- Kd5 55.Nd6 Ba8 56.Nxf5 Kxc5 57.Nh6 Kb4? [D]**

[57...Bb7 58.Nxg4 Bc8] **58.Nxg4 c5 59.h4 c4 60.h5 c3 61.h6 c2 62.Kd2 Be4 63.Nf6 Kb3 64.Kc1 [D]** *(Next col.)* *[Weighted Error Value: White=0.09/Black=0.42] [Not 64.Nxe4? Kb2−+]* **1-0** *(Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 64.Kc1 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) Copy and paste the link below into your browser: https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=G/U80ZrFFx2rCd3NV+z7or3KUi3+ZBpBCDsghoUHY/eLjT/C/jy8HOlen1ef91sV
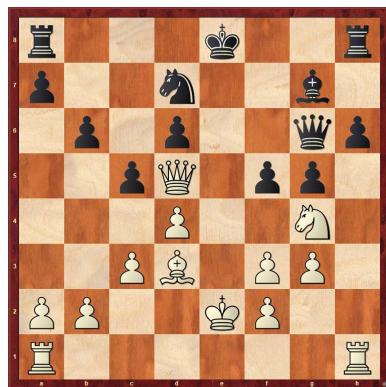
Game from the 2021 - 121st US Open Tournament
Round: 7

Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus].*

White: Joseph Mucerino (PA) (2150)
Black: Theodore Witt (NY) (1964)
Date: 8/7/2021

(Joe - In round 7, my opponent literally castled into mate!)

1…0-0-0? [D]

[1...Rd8+− 2.Bxf5 Qf7] **2.Ba6+ Kc7 3.Qb7# [D]** *(Next col.)*
(Text cont. next col.)

Position after 3.Qb7# *(From prev. col.)*

1-0

Game from the 2021 - 121st U.S. Open Tournament
Round: 8

Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus].*

White: GM Emilio Cordova Daza (PER) (2637)
Black: Joseph Mucerino (PA) (2150)
Date: 8/7/2021

(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[D30: Queen's Gambit Declined: Systems without Nc3]

(Joe - In the penultimate round, I was either going to get paired way up or way down ((meaning about a 1650)). It was up.)

(Joe - GM Cordova is one of the top players from Peru and has represented that country in six chess Olympiads: 2004, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2016, and 2018. He lost to World Champion Magnus Carlsen in the 2016 Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan.)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.e3 c6 5.Nbd2 Nbd7 6.b3 Be7 7.Bd3 b6 8.0-0 Bb7 [D]

(Text cont. p.9)

(Cont. from p.8) [White is slightly better.]
9.Bb2 c5 [9...Qc7 10.Qe2 0–0 11.Rac1 Rad8 12.Rfd1 Qb8 13.e4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 c5 15.dxc5 Nxc5, etc... Braun,V (2403)-Kroeze,F (2405) Germany 2014 ½–½ (37)] **10.cxd5N** [10.Qe2 0–0 ½–½ (10) Veingold,A (2459)- Liiva,R (2439) Finland 2007] **10...exd5** (Joe - GM Cordova is one of the top players from Peru, and has represented that country in six chess Olympiads: 2004, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2016, and 2018. He lost to World Champion Magnus Carlsen in the 2016 Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan.) **11.Ne5 0-0 12.Qf3 Rc8 13.Qh3 [D]**

(Joe - White is threatening 14.Nxd7, and Black cannot capture back with the Knight because of 15.Qxh7 mate. If 14...Qxd7, 15.Bxh7+ and White will with the Queen with either 15...Nxh7 16.Qxd7 or 15...Kh8 16.Bf5+.) [Black must now prevent Nxd7.] **13...g6 14.Rad1 cxd4! 15.exd4 Qc7?! [D]**

(Joe - Things start to go wrong for Black, although I thought I was in trouble before this. The computer recommends 15...Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nh5 17.f4 f5.) [15...Bb4+= should be considered.] **16.f4+- Kg7??** [D] *(Next col.)* (Joe - The game loser. I still had to play 16...Nxe5. The rest of the game is a slaughter.) [Better is 16...Nxe5 17.fxe5 Nh5] **17.f5 Bd6?** [17...g5+- 18.Rc1 Qd6] **18.Ndf3+- Rce8** [18...a6 was worth a try. 19.Rc1 Qd8] **19.Rc1** [White is clearly winning.] **19...Qd8 20.Bb5 Re7 21.Bxd7 [D]** (Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 16...Kg7?? *(From prev. col.)*

Position after 21.Bxd7 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) [Threatens to win with Ng5.] **21...Rxd7** [Better is 21...Ba6 22.Ng5 Bxf1 23.Rxf1 Rxd7 24.fxg6 (24.Nxd7 Qxd7 25.Bc1 Rc8=) 24...hxg6 25.Rxf6 (25.Nxd7 Qxd7 26.Qxd7 Nxd7=) 25...Kxf6] **22.Ng5 [D]**

[Weighted Error Value: White=0.02/Black=0.42] **1-0**
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:
https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=WUB-dmL4jreYzVJv2Kr24rgfQqvnqH8jEglYIn8HV ZwFEGIxKkvvzOlakzuNspJSv

Game from the 2021 - 121st U.S. Open Tournament Round: 9
Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus].*
White: Joseph Mucerino (PA) (2150)
Black: Danni Chen (NY) (2008)
Date: 8/8/2021
(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)
[D05: Colle System with ...e6]
(Joe - I was surprised to find out later that my opponent was 30. She looked younger, although we were wearing masks. You still do not see too many adult women playing chess.) **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nbd2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Qc7 7.0-0 Be7 [D]**

8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 [9.b4!? Be7 10.Bb2=] **9...dxe4 10.Nxe4** [White is slightly better.] **10...Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Bd7 12.b4N [D]**

[12.Ng5 Nd8 13.Nxh7 Bc6 14.Bxc6+ Nxc6 15.Qh5 0–0–0 16.Qxc5 Rxh7 ½–½ (16) Turner,J (2324)-Vokac,M (2454) Ostrava 2010] **12...Be7 13.Qb3 Rc8 14.Be3 0-0 15.Rfd1 Bf6 16.Rac1 Ne5 [D]**
(p.10) **17.Bxa7?!** [Better is 17.c4+=] **17...Nxf3+?** (Joe - It would have been better to play 17...Ra8 now; therefore, after the exchange of Knights, Black is hitting h2. Black's move gives White a tactic, *(Text cont. p.10)*
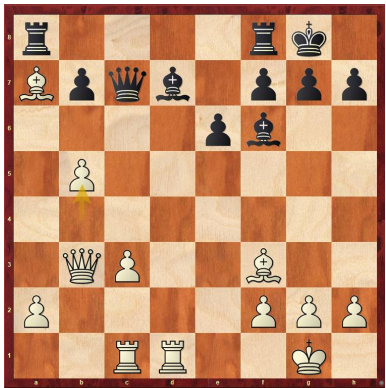
Position after 16...Ne5 *(From p.9)*

(Cont. from p.9) but I missed it.)
*[17...Ra8!= remains equal. 18.b5 Bxb5!
19.Qxb5 Rxa7]* **18.Bxf3+- Ra8 [D]**

[Better is 18...Bg5] **19.b5! [D]**

(Joe - White is much better after 19.Bb6!
Qxb6 20.Rxd7.) **19…Bxb5!= 20.Qxb5
Rxa7 21.Rd7 Qf4 22.Rcd1?!** (Joe - Bet-
ter is 22.Rc2, protecting a2.) **22…Be5?!**
(Joe - Black should have captured on a2
while she had the chance.) *[Don't blunder
22...Bxc3? 23.Qc5+−; 22...Rxa2-+ Hoping
for ...Be5. 23.Qb3 Qa4 24.Qxa4 Rxa4]*
23.g3? [D] *(Next col.)* (Joe - This loses a
Pawn. White should have played 23.a4! If
23...Rxa4? then 24.g3, and Black will lose
some material. Now, after 23.a4 Black has
23...Qxh2+ 24.Kf1 g6 25.g3 Bf6 26.Rxb7.)
23…Qxf3-+ 24.Qxe5 Rxa2 25.Qc5
*[Threatens to win with Rd8.(Joe - Threaten-
ing 26.Rd8.)]* **25…h6 26.R7d3 Qe2
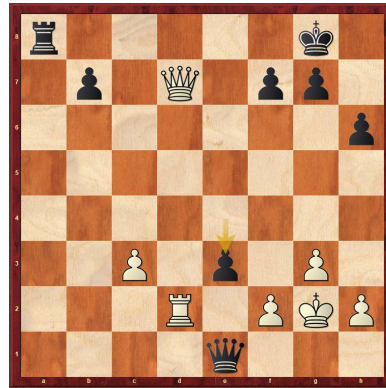27.Qd4 [D]** *(Next col.)* (Text cont. next
col.)

Position after 23.g3? *(From prev. col.)*
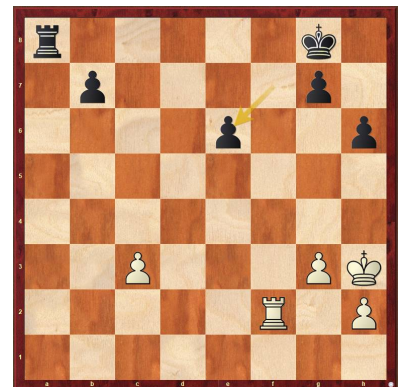
Position after 27.Qd4 *(From prev.
col.)*
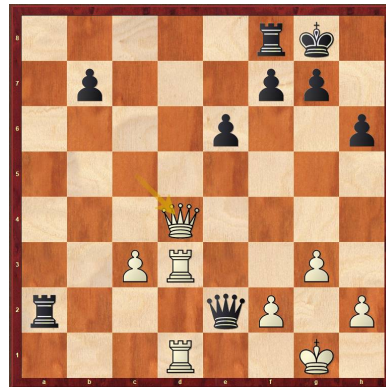
(Cont. from prev. col.) (Joe - Another
Alekhine's Gun! But this one is not as
powerful as the one I had in the Hargrove
game.) **27…Rc8 28.R3d2 Rxd2
29.Rxd2** *[Endgame KQR-KQR]*
29…Qe1+ 30.Kg2 e5 *[30...b5-+ 31.Rd3
Qa1]* **31.Qd3 e4 32.Qd4 Ra8 33.Qd7
e3 [D]**

(Joe - Not bad, but this opens up some
lines for White's Rook.) **34.fxe3 Qxe3
35.Rf2 Qe4+ 36.Kh3 Qe6+** *[36...f6 is
interesting. 37.Rb2 Rb8 38.Qg4 Qe7
39.Qc4+ Kh8]* **37.Qxe6 fxe6+ [D]**
(Next col.) *[KR-KR]* (Joe - Black is up a
Pawn, but only has a slight advantage.)
**38.Rb2 Ra7 39.Rb6 Kf7 40.Kg4 Kf6
41.Kf4 Ra3 42.Rxb7 Rxc3 [D]** *(Next
col.)* (Joe - This is easier to draw now since
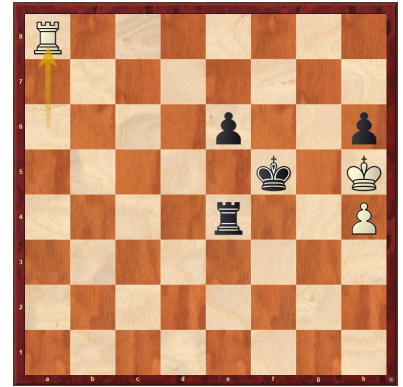all of the Pawns are closer to White's
King.) *(Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 37...fxe6=+ *(From prev.
col.)*

Position after 42...Rxc3 *(From prev.
col.)*
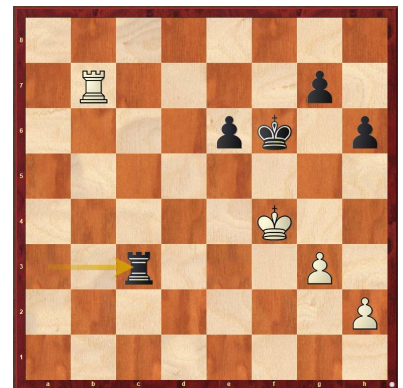
(Cont. from prev. col.) **43.Rb6 g5+**
*[43...h5-+ Strongly threatening ...g5+.
44.Rb2 g5+ 45.Ke4 Rc4+ 46.Ke3 Ra4]*
44.Kg4! Rc2 45.h4 Rc4+ 46.Kh5! *[The posi-
tion is equal.]* **46…gxh4 47.gxh4 Re4
48.Ra6 Kf5 49.Ra8 [D]**

(Joe - Here, Chen simply offered a draw,
which obviously I accepted. The computer
evaluates the position as 0.00.) *[Weighted
Error Value: White=0.26/Black=0.19]* **½–½**
Copy and paste the link below into your
browser:
https://share.chess-
base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=5v5N1i
XmbMrE8F1ifBhx50mxvgqA-
saiuwb5VECsM+W0g8o5KpaoE0+KXjjZ2uh
vb
**This concludes this issue. More games
in next issue.**