

# The Kentucky Chess Newsletter

## The summer in chess

### **Kentucky Shines**

By *Derrick Neese*

The summer of 2008 was a great success for Kentucky Chess. Many area players have begun to shed their Amateur Classes, only to reach new floors and aim for greater heights. The origins of this steady gain in points takes root in the foundation that Kentucky goliaths such as Steve Dillard, Jerry Baker, and Allen Priest have provided for many years. Without these organizers, many Kentucky players may have never

found chess beyond a coffee shop.

With the rise of many fantastic players will come higher standards and new goals for younger players, which will only help chess in Kentucky. If you see or play young talents such as Erik Patchell or Davis Whaley, thank them for their commitment to Kentucky Chess; one day they will be feared competition; not for their fellow Kentuckians, but for the entire country, and

we will all gain from their mastery of the game.

Congratulations to all Kentucky players who reached a new class, higher rating floor, or even achieved a spectacular win over the past summer. Below are the top performances from in-state players at the 2008 Kentucky Open, and the cross-tables of the Kentucky Closed and Junior Closed; enjoy.

#### Ky Open

Davis Whaley 4.5/5

Glen Johnstone, Mark Wagner 3.5/5

Hank Rothgerber, Erik Patchell, Jerry Baker,

Jesse Boulard, Shray Kapoor, Randas Burns  
3.0/5

#### Kentucky Closed

1. Glen Johnstone 3.5/5 W6 D4 D3 D2 W5
2. Davis Whaley 3.5/5 W5 W6 L4 D1 W3
3. Hank Rothgerber 3.0/5 W4 D5 D1 W6 L2
4. Bobby Walker 2.5/5 L3 D1 W2 L5 W6
5. Mark Wagner 2.5/5 L2 D3 W6 W4 L1
6. Jesse Boulard 0/5 L1 L2 L5 L3 L4

Davis Whaley Beat Glenn Johnstone in the tie-break to win the automatic bid for the 2009 Ky. Closed.

#### Junior Closed

1. Erik Patchell 4.0/5 W5 D2 W4 D3 W6
2. Davis Whaley 3.5/5 W6 D1 W5 D4 D3
3. Derrick Neese 3.0/5 W4 W5 L6 D1 D2
4. Shray Kapoor 2.5/5 L3 W6 L1 D2 W5
5. Alex Hamilton 1.0/5 L1 L3 L2 W6 L4
6. Vinay Raj 1.0/5 L2 L4 W3 L5 L1

## Regional Highlights

### **Elizabethtown Chess Club**

*By Steve Parsons*

Elizabethtown Chess Club began as John Hardin High School Chess Club in 2002 – 2004. The top players of John Hardin High School, lead by Justin Burg, decided they needed new challenges and better competition. So they advertised for a meeting inviting any chess players in Elizabethtown area regardless of age, thus the Elizabethtown Chess Club was born. Justin and his classmates have since moved on to college, the military, or just out of town; but the chess club they founded has endured.

Currently the Elizabethtown Chess Club is lead by president Ernie Weaver, tournament director and three time defending

club champion Johnny Owens, and the glue that holds the club together secretary/treasurer Jerry “the man” Weldin. We have approximately 24 active members, and work closely with Nelson County Chess Club since a majority of our members frequent their chess club in Bardstown. Our club has a diverse membership with members ranging from a 10 year old to senior citizens. Broken down by class we currently have 1 A class player, 7 B class players, 4 C class players, 4 D class players, and about 8 E class and below.

Membership is free, and anyone is welcome to join our club. We do

encourage membership in USCF. The club holds a USCF rated tournament the second Tuesday of each month which requires USCF membership at 7PM in the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, Occupational Technical Building, Room 108A. We are also considering more frequent Saturday tournaments. We would love to hear from Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green, and Owensboro/Evansville area wood pushers on what would encourage you to drive to Elizabethtown on a Saturday for chess. Please send your suggestion to Johnny Owens at [chessnut@insightbb.com](mailto:chessnut@insightbb.com).

### **Progress: Chess in Louisville**

*By Steve Dillard*

What is your USCF membership worth? In Louisville if you are an adult, you have the ability to play USCF rated chess on average of 1 and 1/2 days per week. So you have the potential of about 200 rated games in a year for membership. That is

pretty good bang for 41 bucks.

Louisville has a great community of players. Our City Council has a rated member (James Peden). He keeps a watchful eye for chess and has come through for us in many ways. He was

the key to our awesome bid for USCF National Headquarters when it became available. While that bid was unsuccessful, it did a great deal to raise the profile of chess in our city. He helped us to host a booth at the Kentucky State Fair. He

has contributed thousands of dollars towards worthy chess projects.

Within our community we have Josh Snyder. Josh is a member of the Tournament Director Certification Committee. He is working toward a National TD certification. He has been steadfast in producing idea after idea for statewide and local chess. He founded Barnes and Noble chess and it is a lasting positive in this area.

Within our community we are lucky to have one of the most successful CPA's in the state, Allen Priest. Allen is also working to become a National Tournament Director. His name is being mentioned as a candidate for USCF policy board. His good sense has helped to keep the many diverse ideas in the city working in harmony.

There is a strong scholastic community in Louisville. It is anchored by a Chess League that is operated by the Jefferson County Public Schools. This League is over 40 years old. It provides weekly matches for teams at the High School and Middle School level. These are unrated and free to all. It

is a developmental hotbed that pumps out the bulk of our older scholastic champions.

The community has an elementary league that Rick Kincaid has been faithful to operate for several years now. So it is possible to play chess from literally the cradle to the grave.

Our community has volunteers. In the twilight of Dr. John Demos' chess career, after his stroke, and before his death, Alex Hamilton faithfully went to his nursing home and played hours of chess with this grand gentleman of the game. Alex has dedicated himself to becoming a TD and has offered his help many times in many ways. Melvin Person is the first to help when Monday Night chess needs tables set up. He volunteers to play in prisons. He always is open to making chess better. Ken McDonald helped to make one Kentucky Open very special as he offered hotel accommodations to several of the Grand Masters who attended. Because of his donations we have had success after success with that event. These are only some who give their time.

This paragraph can extend to Ron Lipman who is the key person at Kentucky Country Day. He makes chess better in so many ways. It can extend to Sarah Weaver the chess coach at Jeffersontown High School. She is such an unsung hero. She coached a State Championship team and her own school did not even recognize the kids. But Mrs. Weaver did not give up. She continues to produce a great team year after year. It can include David Hernandez who opens Atherton High School year after year for chess events. It can include .....

Louisville is a wonderful place to play chess. At least that is what I assess. The game, I love it, I confess. When I play it relieves stress.

And I would play it on a train. Yes I would play it in the rain.

I would play it on a boat.  
I would play it with a goat.

I would play it in a house.  
I could play it with a mouse.  
I would play it here or there.  
I would play it anywhere.

Sorry Dr. Seuss.

## Annotated Games

By Anton Taylor

Positional Chess is not the absence of tactical themes ... it's two tactical ideas clashing and being forced to a standstill while both players work around those features. Take the following example:

[Event "Don't Let Your Flag Fall"]  
 [Site "Lexington, Kentucky"]  
 [Date "9-20-2008"]  
 [Round "2"]  
 [White "Anton Taylor"]  
 [Black "NM Davis Whaley"]  
 [Result "0-1"]

Note: these annotations are my own without Fritz to help ... if my analysis is flawed please make a post to the KCA message board.

1. Nf3  
 {1.Nf3 is by some analysts considered to be a lackluster first move. These same analysts extol the virtues of 1.d4 Nf6 ... I'll never understand chess analysts.}

1...c5 2.e3 Nf6 3.b3  
 {The Queen's Indian Defense with an extra move ... Davis is out of his element here ... but then again, so am I.}

3...e6 4.Nc3 d5 5.Ba3 Qa5  
 {Qa5 is an aggressive LOOKING move. In reality White is ahead in development and not looking to retreat.}

6. Qc1  
 {Qc1! I really liked this move

when I played it ... I saw b5 coming but any chance for Black to overextend his pawns gives white batter attacking prospects. }

6...a6 7.Be2 b5 8.Bb2  
 {Black has wasted two moves in making an attack that takes White one move to defend. What's worse ... White is almost fully developed and ready to unleash his pinned up fury. However, don't let my optimism fool you ... the open field that Black enjoys is a plus on his side too}

8...Bd6 9.O-O O-O 10.d4 c4 11.Nd1 Qc7  
 {Davis recognized that the queen was very far out of play so he brings her back in with some effect (namely, keeping my knight on f3).}

12. c3 Nc6 13.Qc2  
 {This may be viewed as a waste of move but I'm convinced it is the right approach. White needs to fight for the light squares and get his rooks into the game ... this move helps both plans. }

13...Bd7 14.h3 a5 15.Nd2 a4 16.f4  
 {I was tempted to play e4 here but f4 keeping the game closed keeps Black from getting much needed activity. }

16...Ra7 17.b4  
 {Ra7 planned two things: 1) double on the a-file and trade off pawns to control an open file and 2) protect the second rank from a future invasion there. c4 prevents the first but the second idea is a good one (albeit somewhat slow there is nothing I can see that's better).}

17...Ne8 18.a3 f5  
 {Black could have tried to play f6 and work toward challenging White's center but it entails more risk than Davis is willing to commit to here. }

19. Nf2 Kf7  
 {Kf7!! the right idea. A quick evaluation shows that White could safely play g4 and Kh1 and then Black will have a loose king. This move and the king moves to follow solve Black's problem and present White with a few of his own.}

20. Nf3 Ke7 21. Nh1  
 {This move looks goofy but it was the only place for the knight that allowed the king to move and prevented invasion by the knight on e8.}

21... Kd8 22.Kf2  
 {Davis jokingly exclaimed at this point "Stop copying my moves." Of course he realized I was getting forced to move away sooner or later or risk getting a loose king myself.}

22...Nf6 23.Ke1 Be8 24.Kd1  
 Bh5

{ I don't know that I agree with this idea. Trading off the Bishop for the knight would be a good trade if Black can close things up but White has the opportunity to force things open ... and that spells difficult endgame for Black missing a Bishop }

25. Bc1  
 {Ignoring Black's non-threatening strategy White forges on to improve his Bishop ... you'll see this guy move until he's one of White's better pieces }

25...Bxf3 26.Bxf3 Kc8 27.Qe2  
 Ne4 28.Bd2 Kb7 29.Kc2 Qe7  
 30.Be1 Raa8  
 31.h4 g6 32.g4 h6 33.Ng3  
 Qg7 34.Nxe4 fxe4 35.Bg2

{And this is where my notes end but after Bh3 and Bg3 White should have an advantage. unfortunately somewhere around here I got into time trouble and threw the game away. It's struggles like this that define positional chess and Davis showed that he can indeed play something other than a tactical shootout.}

### Boyd Bulldozes Me

By John Linton

In the arrogance of my (relative) youth, I thought I could experiment upon Boyd like a guinea pig, practicing my weakest style of play – i.e., closed positions with massive locked pawn chains – against him, and still win.

Alas by midgame it had become increasingly clear that I was the guinea pig, that Boyd was attaching the electrodes to me, and that I was squealing for life as Boyd slowly and methodically electrocuted me. The photos of the final board position would make Abu Garab look like child's play.

We opened simply enough. As white, I played the only good move, 1. e4.

Boyd responded with the wicked French (1...e6) – which is incidentally the opening both myself and Fischer hate the most for white to face. (Fischer and I share a lot in common, though I'm still alive and like Jews. O yeah, and I thought 9/11 was a *bad* thing.) The French is an evil opening, because beneath its humble genesis lay the bodies of many fallen masters. GM's who have won with it include Korchnoi, Karpov, and Church.

Play continued:

2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 Be7  
 5.Bd3 0–0 6.0–0 d5? (This move was a positional mistake that invited my

response. Black needs to develop some more pieces here, not weaken his center.)

7.e5 Nfd7 8.Ne2 c5 9.c3 f6  
 10.Qc2 f5 (The pawn-lock is growing, and my bishop is in jeopardy. Interestingly, I could have interposed with 11.Nf4, but I'm not that fancy.)

11.Qd1 c4 12.Bb1 Nc6 13.Nf4  
 Nb6 14.h3 g6

At this point the queenside was calling out, "Play with me" like an intern in the Clinton White House with some pizza. But, blinded by my lust for the kingside, (not that I'm gay, not that there's anything wrong with that) I played:

15.Nh2 Qe8 16.Qf3 (16. a4! or 16. b4! were warranted instead) ... Bd7

17.Qg3 Kh8 18.Qe3 (now I get cold feet) ... Qf7

19.Ne2 (what the hell am I doing? no offense to Daniel, who's an excellent player generally, but I'm pulling a Daniel here.) ... Rg8

20.f4 (superb: close in my most powerful pieces) ... Rg7

21.g4 (my logic here was to open the g-file since his rook is aligned with my king) ... Rag8

(Believe it or not, at this point Shredder gives me a small plus. It must have been drunk.)

22.g5 (why not lock up all the files; wouldn't that be cool?) ... Qe8

23.h4 Rf7 24.Qf3 Bf8 25.Ng3 h6 26.Kf2 (you'll never guess where my king is heading) ... Rh7

27.Rh1 hxg5 28.hxg5 Kg7 29.Nhf1 Rgh8 30.b3 (wrong time to play this move) ... Be7

31.Bc2 Kf7 32.a4 a5 33.Nd2 (This suggests I was on meth; I see his knight coming to c4 as a larger threat than the kingside nuclear bomb being dropped. It's a bit like us all taking our shoes off at airports while we raise the speed limit on our highways.) ... Rxh1!

34.Nxh1 Rh2+

And now for my Kodak moment. Bear in mind that 35. Kg1 would have left black only half a point ahead. But no, courage was called for. I've always wanted an active king, protected by a battery of pawns that can't be broken, right? My king must attack! Like W says, if we fight them over there, we don't have to fight them here. Impeccable logic.

35.Ke3!! (This move truly deserves two exclamation marks) ... Qh8

36.Ng3 Rh3 37.Bb2 Qh4 38.Rg1

Now Boyd plays a brilliant sac, and the fact that it was on the board (unseen by me to be sure) for two moves

before does not diminish his overall accomplishment. If I'd played the less-retarded 37.Ke2 or 38.Ndf1, I would have perhaps survived. Though unlikely, given that Boyd was playing like a 1600 and I was playing like a 400.

38. ... Nxe5!!! Boyd's courage will soon pay dividends, and the game will end painfully.

39.fxe5 Bxg5+ 40.Ke2 Bf4 41.Ndf1 cxb3 42.Bxb3 Nxa4 43.Bxa4 Bxa4 44.Ba3 Bb5+ 45.Ke1 Bxf1 46.Kxf1 Bxg3 47.Qg2 Qf4+ 48.Ke2 Rh2... This defeat was so total that it nearly rivals the epic *Linton v Church Marshall Attack Chainsaw Massacre*, when I lost four limbs in something like ten moves. That night, children ran from the room, there was so much blood on the board.

Boyd simply outplayed me – on nearly every move after the opening. Beware of Boyd. Beneath that soft-spoken UK-fan demeanor lies a black mamba just waiting to slither into your hut and paralyze you with his venom.