



Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

Will XIII Be Lucky for the U.S.?

After a six-year struggle that went right down to the very last games of the event, the U.S. Olympic team qualified for the finals of the XIII Olympiad. This is only the third U.S. team that has ever qualified for the finals, and I wish them much skill in the finals. The finals, incidentally, will probably be the last Olympiad played by mail; from now on e-mail will be the standard for Olympic play.

Olympiad XIII started on May 30, 1998. Forty-nine countries fielded six-man teams. There were four sections (Section 4, the U.S. team's section, had 13 teams, the others had 12). Russia took an early lead and took first place with 50 points. France finished in 2003 with 48 points. In January of 2003, the U.S. team had 44½ points with seven games remaining. Every point would be gold as all tie-breaks would go against us.

The U.S. Team, GM Joseph DeMauro, SIM Jon Edwards, SIM Gary Kubach, IM William Maillard, GM-elect John Timm, and SIM Daniel Fleetwood proceeded to claw their way toward the requisite point total. I was fortunate enough to be the U.S. Team Captain, but it was John Timm who assisted as Acting Team Captain when he was most needed. Besides lending moral support, John was top scorer on fifth board (10½-1½). In July 2004, Joe DeMauro won the next-to-the-last game in the Olympiad to clinch second place, a 49-point finish, and a berth in the finals for the U.S. team.

The final section will start November 1, 2004, with Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Czech Republic, Brazil, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, and Russia joining the U.S.

GAME OF THE MONTH

Joseph DeMauro shows the spark that led the team to qualification. White's exchange sacrifice proves too taxing for Black.

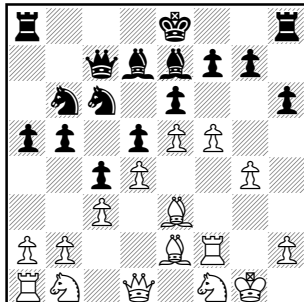
TROMPOWSKY ATTACK [A45]

W: GM Joseph DeMauro (2493)
B: GM Alexander Volchok, Ukr. (2566)
13 Olympiad 1998

1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 e6 3 e4 d5 4 e5 h6 5 Be3 Nfd7 6 f4 c5 7 c3 Nc6 8 Nf3 c4 Alexander Volchok is an experienced correspondence GM who tries a suspect line here. White's break on f5 will be more powerful

than Black's break on b4.

9 Be2 b5 10 O-O Nb6 11 Nfd2 Bd7 12 g4 Be7 13 Rf2 Qc7 14 Nf1 a5 15 f5



after 15 f5

15...Bh4 16 Ng3 Ne7 17 Qc2 exf5 18 gxf5 g6 Black continues in a provocative vein, opening up the f-file only to close it down next.

19 fxf6 fxf6 20 Nd2 Nf5 21 Rxf5! The investment of the exchange keeps the position wide open with Black's king at the center of the target.

21...gxf5 22 Nxf5 Bxf5 23 Qxf5 Ke7 24 Nf3 Raf8 25 Qh3 Rhg8+ 26 Kh1 Bg5 Black can't hold his position together.

27 Nxg5 hxg5 28 Rg1 Qd7 29 Qh6 Qf5 30 Qd6+ 1-0

• This seems to be the golden age of correspondence chess books. After years of very few books, the last few years have seen a boom in excellent books on cc. The latest arrival is Tim Harding's *50 Golden Chess Games*. This is a well-crafted book of 272 pages that offers all that correspondence players could want: excellent games, deeply analyzed, strong players, historically important, and just plain pleasurable. The games are as varied as postal chess itself—games by Olita Rause, Gert Timmerman, current world champion Tunc Hamarat, or past champions Baumbach, Zagorovsky, O'Kelly, de Galway, Sanakoev, Rittner, Berliner, and oh, yes, of course, some OTB world champions and GMs who at one time played correspondence chess. These are full-blooded fights and the notes reflect the depth of the battle. This book is available at around \$25 from www.chessmail.com/sales/golden50.html or by post at Chess Mail Ltd., at 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland. It is also available through ICCF/US and Chess Café. Buy this book!

• *That's what makes correspondence chess a good thing: It takes weeks getting mated.* —Attila Schneider

• Any participants in the fifth U.S. Correspondence Chess Championship, preliminary round, are asked to contact J. Franklin Campbell at franklin@cablespeed.com if you have games, assignment sheets, cross-tables, results—anything that will help complete information on the 5th USCCC.

• Black resigns before White can sacrifice his bishop, again, this time on g7.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE [B13]

W: IM William Maillard (2412)
B: Julio Luzardo, Uruguay (2174)
13 Olympiad 1998, Board 4

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 Bd3 Nc6 5 c3 Nf6 6 Bf4 Bg4 7 Qb3 Na5 8 Qa4+ Bd7 9 Qc2 e6 10 Nf3 Be7 11 Nbd2 O-O 12 O-O h6 13 Ne5 Nc6 14 Ndf3 Rc8 15 Qe2 Na5 16 Bd2 Nc6 17 Rfe1 Qc7 18 Rad1 a6 19 Bf4 Nh5 20 Nxc6 Qxc6 21 Bxh6 Qb6 22 Ne5 Nf6 23 Nxd7 1-0

• How are GM pawns different from others? On Move 17 White's d-pawn makes a dash for the border in three swift steps to score the point.

PIRC DEFENSE [B07]

W: GM-elect John Timm (2624)
B: SIM Ernest Sprenger, Neth. (2445)
12 Olympiad 1998, Board 5

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 c6 4 f4 Qa5 5 Bd3 e5 6 Nf3 Bg4 7 Be3 exf4 8 Bxf4 Qb6 9 Ne2 Qxb2 10 O-O Nbd7 11 Rb1 Qxa2 12 Rxb7 Bxf3 13 gxf3 Be7 14 Qd2 Rb8 15 Rxb8+ Nxb8 16 Qc3 Qe6 17 d5 Qc8 18 dxc6 O-O 19 c7 Na6 20 Bxa6 Qxa6 21 Nd4 Rc8 22 Rb1 1-0

• If a knight on e6 or d6 is a bone in the throat, how much are two such knights worth?

RUY LOPEZ [C95]

W: SIM Daniel Fleetwood (2495)
B: Sandor Dobsa, Hungary (2322)
13 Olympiad 1998, Board 6

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 O-O 9 h3 Nb8 10 d4 Nbd7 11 Nbd2 Bb7 12 Bc2 Re8 13 Nf1 Bf8 14 Ng3 g6 15 a4 c5 16 d5 Nb6 17 Qe2 Nxa4 18 Bxa4 bxa4 19 Rxa4 Bc8 20 Bg5 h6 21 Be3 Rb8 22 Qc2 Nd7 23 Nd2 Nb6 24 Ra3 Qc7 25 c4 Bg7 26 Rb1 Nd7 27 Nb3 Nf8 28 Nc1 Qd7 29 Bd2 f5 30 b4 f4 31 Nf1 cxb4 32 Rxb4 Qc7 33 Nd3 Nd7 34 Rxb8 Qxb8 35 Ba5 Qa7 36 Nd2 Bf8 37 Qa4 g5 38 c5 dxc5 39 Qc6 Bg7 40 Rb3 Rf8 41 Nc4 Bf6 42 Nd6 Nb8 43 Qxc5 Qxc5 44 Nxc5 Be7 45 Bc7 Nd7 46 Ne6 1-0

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT UPDATES FOR AUGUST 2004

CONGRATULATIONS!

SENIOR MASTER

Randy Schmidt 2404

JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS WINNERS

Thomas C. Chappellear	02CCD06	6-0
Ted A. McGinnis	02CB65	4-2
Jerry A. Moore	02CAB68	4-2
Frank Siewerdt	02CAB32	6-0
David A. Brownstein	03CB14	6-0

TROPHY QUAD WINNERS

Martin Leutschaf	02QC21	5½-½
Thomas J. O'Donnell	03QB8	6-0
Laurence A. Anderson	03QM25	6-0

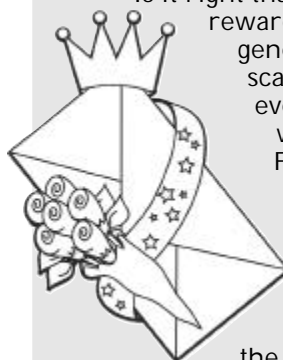
EXPRESS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Daniel Bell	04ETAO	11-1 co-winner
Thomas Greco	04ETAO	11-1 co-winner

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS PLAYERS

You are invited to send me your comments, questions and correspondence games (with or without annotation). Because of the volume of mail, submissions cannot be returned, and personal replies are not possible. Send letters to: Alex Dunne, *Chess Life*, 3068 US Route 9W, Suite 100, New Windsor, NY 12553 or e-mail: alex.dunne@cqservices.com

POSTAL BEAUTY CONTEST



Is it right that beauty is so often only its own reward? Surely not! And thanks to the generosity of Dr. Ronald Hames, the scales of justice have become more evenly balanced between how one wins and the hard fact of victory. For now in *Chess Life* the players who conduct scintillating games will receive the Hames Correspondence Game of the Year Awards. Resident postal editor Alex Dunne is the judge of a contest with prizes of \$100 for the best game by a master and \$100 for the best game by a non-master to appear in Check is in the Mail during a given year. What better reason, then, to send your postal brilliancies to Alex Dunne?

CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS

USCF's 57th ANNUAL

2004 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

\$1,500 First Prize

(plus title of USCF's Golden Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. **Entry fee: \$25.**

The entry deadline is November 30, 2004.

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those USCF members with an APO or FPO address. USCF members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to USCF Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: **Class A:** 1800-1999 (very strong); **Class B:** 1600-1799 (strong); **Class C:** 1400-1599 (intermediate); **Class D:** 1399 and below (beginner level). **Note:** Prize fund guaranteed (based on 400 entries) and will be increased or decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)

\$5 entry fee per person with two, four or six game options.

WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings. 1st place winner receives a trophy. **Entry fee: \$10.**

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. Players must have a USCF CC rating to enter. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. **Entry fee: \$25.**

JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENTS

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate. **Entry fee: \$7.**

E-MAIL RATED EVENTS (NEED E-MAIL ACCESS):

LIGHTNING MATCH Two players with two, four or six game option. **Entry fee \$5 per person.**

Swift Quads Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize merchandise credit of \$30. **Entry fee: \$10.**

Express Tournament

Seven-player events, one game with each of six opponents. Prizes: 1st place \$30 merchandise credit, 2nd place \$20 credit. **Entry fee: \$15.**

Please circle event(s) selected.



U.S. Chess Federation
www.uschess.org



USCF's 1st ANNUAL

2004 E-mail Correspondence Chess

Electronic Knights Championship

(Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.)

\$1,500 First Prize

(plus title of USCF's Electronic Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. **Entry fee: \$25.**

The entry deadline is November 30, 2004.

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members with e-mail access. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten.

Note: Prize fund guaranteed (based on 400 entries) and will be increased or decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads and Express Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

TO ENTER: 800-388-KING (5464) FAX 845-561-CHES (2437)

Name _____
 USCF ID# _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Credit card # (VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX) _____ Exp. date _____
 If using VISA, need V-code _____

Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated.

Sending a check? Make it payable to U.S. Chess and mail to:

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