



# check is in the mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

## patience

Michael Millstone is a man of the first rank who prefers to work behind the scenes. His accomplishments in correspondence play are outstanding, but Michael prefers to direct correspondence events rather than play. And yet it is in the play of the game that Michael stands out. A second-place finish in the First NAPZ E-mail championship (10-4) and an undefeated 5-1 score in the preliminaries are two recent successes.

Though he would prefer to have the spotlight on someone else, this month The Check is in the Mail features the newly crowned International Correspondence Chess Master Michael Millstone. Currently, Michael is playing fifth board on the U.S. Olympiad Team.

### GAME OF THE MONTH

#### DUTCH DEFENSE

[A81]

W: Italo Monteverde (2412)  
B: Michael Millstone (2350)

ICCF e-mail, 1998

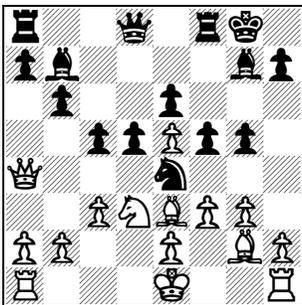
1. d4 f5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 g6 4. c3 Bg7 5. Qb3 d5 6. Nh3 c6 7. Nd2 0-0 8. Nf4 e6 9. Nf3 Ne4 10. Nd3 Nd7 11. Bf4 g5!?

A surprise commando raid. Black signifies an uncompromising attitude.

#### 12. Be3

And the raid works. White has set up all his forces for conquering e5, and now he backtracks. He needs to justify his strategy with 12. Be5, when White is better after 12. ... g4 13. Bxg7 gxf3 14. exf3 Kxg7 15. fxe4 fxe4 16. Nf4 Nf6.

12. ... b6 13. Qa4 Bb7 14. Nfe5 Nxe5 15. dxe5 c5 16. f3



#### 16. ... f4! 17. Bg1?

White misses his last chance with 17. gxf4 gxf4 18. fxe4 fxe3 19. exd5 Bxd5 20. Bxd5 Qxd5 21. 0-0-0 with a fight.

17. ... c4 18. fxe4 cxd3 19. exd3 f3 20. Bh3 dxe4 21. Bxe6+ Kh8 22. dxe4

After 22. 0-0-0 Qe7 23. Qd7 Qxd7 24.

Bxd7 f2 wins.

22. ... Qd3 23. Qc4 Qc2 24. Bf2 b5, **White resigns.**

After 25. Qxb5 Bc6! 26. Qc4 Rab8 White lacks an adequate defense to 27. ... Bb5 and 27. ... Rxb2.

- The Fred Miller Chess Group has absorbed the NOST. A friendly agreement between the two clubs has resulted in the merger.

- Congratulations to Edward Duliba who has won his section in an ICCF World Cup semifinals with an undefeated 7½-2½.

- "For sustained and lasting improvement, correspondence chess is unquestionably the most valuable method known." — Fred Reinfeld, *Chess Mastery by Question and Answer*.

- Pal Benko celebrated his 75th birthday in July. Most readers know of his illustrious OTB successes, but few per-

haps realize that Pal was a correspondence player at the beginning of his career. Here is a postal game from his early days. Belated Happy Birthday, Pal!

#### CATALAN OPENING

[E04]

W: Pal Benko  
B: M. Ziembinski

Hungary-Poland, 1954

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Bg2 dxc4 5. Nf3 c5 6. 0-0 cxd4 7. Nxd4 Be7 8. Qa4+ Nbd7 9. Qxc4 0-0 10. Rd1 a6 11. Nc3 Nb6 12. Qb3 Qc7 13. Be3 Nc4 14. Bg5 Na5 15. Qc2 h6 16. Bxf6 Bxf6 17. Nd5 Qxc2 18. Nxf6+ gxf6 19. Nxc2 e5 20. Ne3 Be6 21. Rac1 Rac8 22. b3 Nc6 23. Bxc6 Rxc6 24. Rxc6 bxc6 25. f4 exf4 26. gxf4 f5 27. Rc1 Bd7 28. Rc5 Rb8 29. Nxf5 Rb5 30. Rxb5 axb5 31. Nd6 Kf8 32. Kf2 Ke7 33. Ne4 Bf5 34. Ke3 Ke6 35. Kd4 Bxe4 36. Kxe4 c5 37. Kd3 f5 38. a4 c4+ 39. Kc3 cxb3 40. axb5, **Black resigns.**

- Currently rated Number 6 in the U.S., Rene duCret shows why in this game

### CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS

#### 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. Entry fee: \$10. 1st place winner receives a trophy.

#### VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS

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

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Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate.

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

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

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

### USCF's 56th ANNUAL

2003 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, 2003.**

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.

To Enter: 800•388•KING (5464) Fax 845•561•CHES (2437)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
USCF ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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Credit card # (Visa, MC, Discover, AMEX) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

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: 3054 US Rt. 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553



from the third round of the world championship. At the end there is no defense to 33. Bf4.

## CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT UPDATES FOR JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2003

### GRUENFELD DEFENSE [D99]

W: Réne duCret (2601)  
B: Sven Teichmeister (2552)

*19th World CC Championship, 1999*

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Qb3 dxc4 6. Qxc4 0-0 7. e4 Bg4 8. Be3 Nfd7 9. Qb3 Nb6 10. Rd1 Nc6 11. d5 Ne5 12. Be2 Nxf3+ 13. gxf3 Bh5 14. Rg1 Qd7 15. Rg3 Kh8 16. a4 f5 17. exf5 Qxf5 18. Nb5 Qd7 19. a5 a6 20. Nc3 Nc8 21. Ne4 b6 22. Ng5 Nd6 23. Ne6 Rfc8 24. Nxc7 Kxg7 25. Qc3+ Kf7 26. Bf1 Nf5 27. Bh3 Rg8 28. axb6 cxb6 29. d6 exd6 30. Rd5 Qe6 31. Qd3 Ke7 32. Kd2, Black resigns.**

• Edward Duliba borrows an idea from the Sicilian Defense and it returns maximum interest in this struggle.

### QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED [D29]

W: Edward Duliba  
B: David Heap (2485)

*13th U.S. CC Championship, 1996*

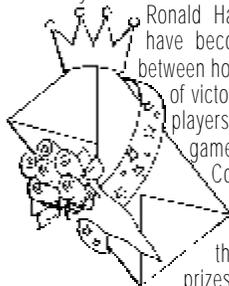
**1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Bxc4 c5 6. 0-0 a6 7. Qe2 b5 8. Bb3 Bb7 9. Rd1 Nbd7 10. Nc3 Qc7 11. e4 cxd4 12. Nxd4 Be7 13. Bxe6 fxe6 14. Nxe6 Qe5 15. Nxc7+ Kf7 16. Nf5 Bc5 17. Be3 b4 18. Bxc5 Nxc5 19. Qc4+ Kg6 20. Nd5 Ne6 21. Nxf6 Kxf6 22. Nd6 Rab8 23. Rac1 Rhd8 24. f4 Qxb2 25. e5+, Black resigns.** ♘

Correspondence chess players are invited to send their 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 your letters to: Alex Dunne • Chess Life • 3054 US Route 9W • New Windsor, NY 12553

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 in the Mail during a given year. What better reason, then, to send your postal brilliancies to Alex Dunne?



### ABSOLUTE WINNERS

David J. Novak  
1999 Tournament Winner 9½ - 3½

### PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2002 ABSOLUTE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

David J. Novak, Corky Schakel, Richard Title, Wesley T. Brandhorst, Peter Evans, Hugo J. Concha, Ciaran O'Hare, Gary M. Shure, Kristo Mieltinen, Lawrence J. Coplin, Eric N. Pederser, Robert Merton Jacobs, Chris Quimby

### JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

NAME	TOURNAMENT #	SCORE
Steven Fairbairn	01CM50	3½ - 2½
Dan Easley	01CM50	3½ - 2½
Donald Gittin	01CB49	4 - 2
Robert Spain	01CCD78	6 - 0
Kenneth North	00CD93	6 - 0
Jack E. Maxfield	01CM52	4½ - 1½
Jeffrey J. Hertel	02CCMA20	6 - 0
Steve E. Smercak	02CC45	5½ - ½
Steve L. Baer	02CAB17	4 - 2
Steve Frick	01CCD74	5 - 1
Steve Frick	01CCD62	6 - 0
Gerard Sullivan	02CD35	6 - 0
Gregory Phillips	02CCD62	5½ - ½
Matthew Wingate	02CC29	5½ - ½
Jack Maxfield	01CM83	5 - 1
Richard Rogers Jr.	03CD19	5 - 1
Timothy A. Burritt	01CCD81	6 - 0
Vladimir Pashkov	01CAB71	4½ - 1½
Jeffrey D. Bulington	01CAB71	4½ - 1½
Cesar F. Angel	00CC108	5½ - ½
Micah Rudisill	01CCD82	6 - 0
Ricardo Ruiz	01CC40	4½ - 1½
Richard Desch	02CA42	5 - 1
Charles Clark	01CA75	5 - 1
Roselie Estey	01CA2	3½ - 2½
Anthony Yolkowski	01CA2	3½ - 2½
Peter Landauer	01CA2	3½ - 2½
Tam C. Nguyen	01CC41	5 - 1
Ricardo R. Ruiz	01CC41	5 - 1
Steven A. Raszewski	02CD18	5 - 1
Jeremy Wiseley	02CD18	5 - 1
Joe Crews-Erjavac	02CCD21	6 - 0
Gregory Phillips	01CC28	5 - 1
William Koosman	02CAB03	5 - 1
Ricardo R. Ruiz	03CCD20	5 - 1
Willis Ferguson	03CCD20	5 - 1
Cory C. Bryant	02CC73	6 - 0
Dawn Rideout	02CAB13	6 - 0
Frank Arizpe	02CAB07	6 - 0
Frank Spooner	02CC46	6 - 0

### MASTERS CERTIFICATE WINNERS

NAME	CATEGORY
Robert Keating	Senior Master
Bradley Parker	Master
Henry Katzmarck	Candidate Master
Juan Abreu	Candidate Master
Rafael Camacho	Candidate Master
James Rhodes	Candidate Master
Victor Ying	Candidate Master
Solomon Leibowitz	Candidate Master
Larry E. Cox	Candidate Master
Lance Gill	Candidate Master
Lawrence Crittenton	Candidate Master

### PARTICIPANTS IN THE ICCF U.S. 15 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

SIM Edward Duliba, Kenneth M. Reinhart, IM

John Mousessian, Keith A. Rodriguez, David J. Novak, E.H. Fisher, Cork Schakel, Robert P. Chalker, Kurt H. Ehrgott, Michael S. Foust, Alex Dunne, John G. Dowling, Peter M. Link, J. Barry Noble, Thomas W. Halpap

### TROPHY QUAD WINNERS

NAME	TOURNAMENT #	SCORE
Steven Fairbairn	01CM50	3½ - 2½
Joseph Conklin	01QAB10	5½ - ½
Vulius A. Thompson	00QB6	4 - 2
Charlie Leach	01QM13	5 - 1
Michael J. Marshall	02QB03	6 - 0
Marshall Whitecotton	02QCD24	6 - 0
David Baker	01QCD16	4½ - 1½
Marshall Whitecotton	02QCD21	6 - 0
Frank R. Spooner	02QCD18	5½ - ½
Rocky Balducci	02QD2	6 - 0

### SWIFT QUAD WINNERS

NAME	TOURNAMENT #	SCORE
Dr. J.R. Fortune	03SQ3	6 - 0
Jon S. Leisner	03SQ5	5 - 1 tied
Gregory Hall	03SQ5	5 - 1 tied
Brendan Kennedy	03SQ10	5 - 1
Dr. Frank Lach	03SQ1	4 - 2
Victor Ying	02SQ20	6 - 0
Victor Ying	03SQ4	6 - 0
Willard Thrash	03SQ13	6 - 0
Matthew Tedesco	03SQ2	4½ - 1½
Brian Stewart	03SQ8	5½ - ½
Brian Stewart	03SQ6	5 - 1
Brian Stewart	03SQ11	6 - 0
Edward Laurin	03SQ22	6 - 0

### EXPRESS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

NAME	TOURNAMENT #	SCORE
Victor Ying	02ET7	6 - 0 1st
Edward Lupienski	02ET7	5 - 1 2nd
Jeffrey Jones	02ET8	5 - 1 2nd
Jon Leisner	03ET2	5 - 1 2nd
Derek Grimmell	03ET6	6 - 0 1st
Brian Stewart	03ET1	6 - 0 1st
Merrill Lyew	03ET1	3½ - 2½ 2nd
Mario F. Amodeo	03ET1	3½ - 2½ 2nd
Bose E. Agnew	03ET1	3½ - 2½ 2nd
Dennis Fees	03ET9	4½ - 1½

### HANS BERLINER TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Mike Bennett	01D06	7½ - ½
Robert Laux-Bachand	01D9	7 - 1

### VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENT

John Jankite	01UAB8	5 - 1
Crawford S. Daniels	02UAB6	6 - 0
John R. Menke	01UAB6	5½ - ½ co-winner
Robert Yuille	01UAB6	5½ - ½ co-winner
N. Eric Pedersen	01UM4	4½ - 2½ co-winner
Gordon T. Everitt	01UM4	4½ - 2½ co-winner

### THE U.S. CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPIONS

First	R. Anthony Cayford
Second	Dr. Eugene Martinovsky
Third	Dr. Victor Contoski
Fourth	Curtis W. Carlson
Fifth	Paul T. Fielding & Kiven J. Plesset
Sixth	Robert I. Reynolds & David C. Taylor
Seventh	Robert I. Reynolds & David C. Taylor
Eight	Marc J. Lonoff & Dr. Eugene Martinovsky
Ninth	Stephen Jones
Eleventh	Stephen Jones, Timothy Murray & Robin Smith
Twelfth	Craig Jones & Konstantin Dolgitsier
Thirteenth	Robin Smith