



The Check Is in the Mail
February 2010

US QUALIFIES FOR 17 OLYMPIC FINALS



Top to bottom: Bokar, Reinhart, Rodriguez, Rizzo, Millstone. Schakel

It's official (finally) -- the US Team has qualified for the 17th Olympic Finals to be played on the webserver. The lineup for the final has yet to be announced but the games from the qualifying round are now available.

GAME OF THE MONTH

Before playing over this game, first imagine yourself on a boat in the middle

of a stormy ocean. Picture yourself dangling off the bow just inches from terrifying waves, holding on by one wet hand. Lightning is striking all around you. OK ? Now you are ready to play over this game from Board 1 with Grandmaster Bokar.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C07)

White: Jason Bokar (2571)

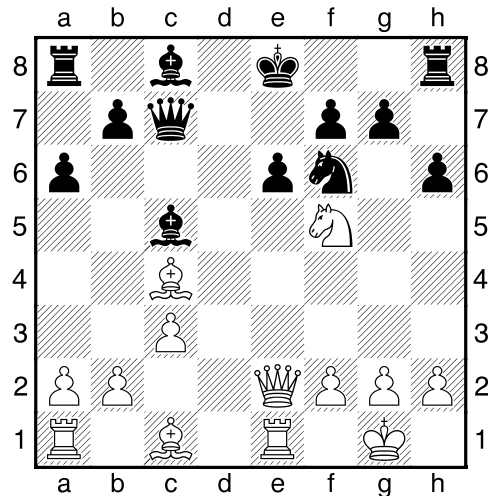
Black: Jon Halldórsson (2495)

17 Olympiad 2006

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 cxd4 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Re1

This is currently the most common move. Bokar faced 11. Bb3 in Ruben-Bokar, 10 NAICC 2005 and after 11...Qc7 12. Qf3 Bd6 13. h3 00 14. Bg5 Nd7 the game was drawn shortly.

11...Qc7 12.Qe2 Bc5 13.c3 h6 14.Nf5



This is new. Most common was 14. Bb3 as in Rosso-Grabner, 33 WCCC which continued 14...Bd6 15. Nf3 00 16. Ne5 b5 17. Ng4 and drawn shortly.

14...Kf8!?

Rather than just castling, Black intends to use his Rook aggressively, believing that his King is safe on f8. It's an aggressive plan, but objectively 14...00 seems better.

15.Ng3

Jones-Speelman, Staunton Mem 2007 retreated to d4 here.

15...b5 16.Bd3 h5!?

The winds begin to blow about the ship around here. Both sides will be attacking.

17.Be3 Bd6 18.a4 h4 19.Ne4!?

White, too, refrains from defense and seeks activity, and activity is what he gets!

19...Bxh2+ 20.Kh1 Bb7 21.Bc5+ Ke8 22.axb5 h3! 23.g3 Qxc5 24.bxa6 Bxe4+ 25.Bxe4 Nxe4 26.Qxe4 Ra7 27.Re2 Bxg3 28.fxg3 Rh5

Material is even but White's heavy pieces have more coordination. White is winning.

29.Qa4+ Kf8 30.Qa3 Ke8 31.Qxc5 Rxc5 32.b4!

Black will not be able to combat the advancing White Pawns.

32...Rxc3 33.Rb2 Rc6 34.b5 Rb6 35.Kh2 e5 36.Kxh3 Ke7 37.g4 Ke6 38.Kg3 f6 39.Kf3 g6 40.Ke3 f5 41.Kd3 Kd5 42.Ra4 fxg4 43.Kc3 e4 44.Kb4 1-0

Bokar finished with +2 =7 -0

Ken Reinhart demonstrates an eternal lesson: in the French Defense the bad Bishop is the one on c8.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C14)

White: Ken Reinhart (2463)

Black: Jose Soza d. Carrera (2455)

ICCF Olympiad 17 2006

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 Nb6 8.Nf3 Bd7 9.Qd2 c5 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.Bd3 a6 12.Qf2 Qxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Nc6 14.a4 Nc8 15.a5 N8e7 16.Na4 Nb4 17.Nb6 Rd8 18.Nd4 Nec6 19.Nb3 Ke7 20.Nc5 Bc8 21.Rhc1 f6 22.Bf1 d4 23.exf6+ gxf6 24.Bc4 Kd6 25.Nb3 Rhe8 26.c3 Nd5 27.Bxd5 exd5 28.Nxd4 Re4 29.Kf3 Nxd4+ 30.cxd4 Bf5 31.Rc5 Rxd4 32.Rxd5+ Rxd5 33.Nxd5 Ke6 34.Nc3 Rd2 35.Rd1 Rxd1 36.Nxd1 Bc2 37.Ne3 Bd3 38.g4 Kd6 39.h4 h6 40.Nd1 Bc2 41.Nc3 Ke6 42.Ke3 Kf7 43.Kd4 Kg7 44.Kc5 h5 45.g5 Kg6 46.Kb6 Kf5 47.Kxb7 fxg5 48.fxg5 Bd3 49.b4 1-0

Reinhart finished +3 =5 -1

There has been a lot of analysis lately (Edwards, Moody) claiming that White wins against the two Knights Defense. Here is further evidence.

TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE (C59)

White: Keith Rodriguez (2446)

Black: Pavel Eiben (2504)

17 Olympiad 2006

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nf3 e4 10.Ne5 Bd6 11.d4 exd3 12.Nxd3 Qc7 13.b3 0-0 14.Bb2 Ne4 15.Nc3 f5 16.h3 Ba6 17.0-0 Rad8 18.Qe1 c5 19.Nxe4 fxe4 20.Nf4 Bxe2 21.Nxe2 Nc6 22.Nc3 Nd4 23.Rd1 e3 24.Qxe3 Bf4 25.Qe4 Rfe8 26.Qg6 Re6 27.Qg4 Qf7 28.Rd3 Rde8 29.Qd1 Qb7

30.Bc1 Rg6 31.f3 Bb8 32.Re1 Rxe1+
33.Qxe1 Kh7 34.Qd1 Qe7 35.f4 Re6
36.Kf1 Qf7 37.Nd5 Ra6 38.Rxd4 cxd4
39.Qd3+ Rg6 40.Qxd4 Qf5 41.Qc4 Rd6
42.Ne7 Qe6 43.Qxe6 Rxe6 44.Nd5 g5
45.f5 Re5 46.Ne3 Rc5 47.b4 Rc3 48.a4
Bf4 49.Ke2 h5 50.Bd2 Rc8 51.c3 Kg7
52.Nd5 Re8+ 53.Kd3 Bxd2 54.Kxd2
Re5 55.f6+ Kf7 56.c4 g4 57.hxg4 h4
58.Kd3 Rg5 59.Ne3 Kxf6 60.b5 Ke6
61.Kd4 Rg8 62.c5 Rd8+ 63.Kc4 Rd2
64.a5 Ra2 65.a6 Ra4+ 66.Kb3 Re4
67.Nf5 Rxg4 68.b6 Rg8 69.b7 1-0

Keith Rodriguez finished +3 =6 -0

Robert Rizzo's Dragon proves superior in the endgame against his Nicaraguan opponent.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B70)

White: Alonzo Allen (2200)

Black: Robert Rizzo,(2419)

17 Olympiad 2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Qe2
a6 9.Bxd7+ Nbx7 10.f4 Nh5 11.0-0-0
h6 12.g4 hxg5 13.gxh5 Rxh5 14.f5 Rh6
15.Qe3 Nb6 16.Qxg5 e5 17.Nf3 Qxg5+
18.Nxg5 gxf5 19.exf5 Rd8 20.Nge4 d5
21.Nc5 e4 22.Nxb7 Rb8 23.Nc5 Bxc3
24.bxc3 Rc8 25.Nxa6 Na4 26.Nb4 Nxc3
27.Rd2 d4 28.Kb2 Rd6 29.h4 e3 30.Rg2
Ke7 31.h5 Rb6 32.a3 Nd5 33.Kb3 Rc3+
34.Ka4 Nc7 35.Rb1 Kd6 36.Rg4 Nb5
37.Ka5 Rb8 38.a4 Na3 0-1

Rizzo finished +1 =7 -1

Checkmate is easy – just attack with more pieces than your opponent can defend with.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B52)

White: Michael Millstone (2402)

Black: Santiago Bermúdez (2200)

17 Olympiad 2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+
Qxd7 5.c4 Nc6 6.Nc3 g6 7.d4 cxd4
8.Nxd4 Bg7 9.Nde2 Nf6 10.f3 0-0 11.0-
0 e6 12.Bg5 Ne5 13.b3 Rfd8 14.Qd2 a6
15.f4 Nc6 16.f5 Rf8 17.Rad1 Rad8
18.Qf4 Qe7 19.Qh4 Ne5 20.Nf4 Ned7
21.Rd3 Rfe8 22.Rh3 Qf8 23.fxg6 fxg6
24.Nxg6 hxg6 25.e5 dxe5 26.Ne4 Qf7
27.Nxf6+ 1-0

Millstone ended with +5 =4 -0

Black engineers a cute endgame, first winning a Rook and then sacrificing all his remaining pieces to queen a Pawn.

DUTCH DEFENSE (A80)

White: Gerardo Avellán (2200)

Black: Corky Schakel (2386)

17 Olympiad 2006

1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 e6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7
5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Nc3 c5
9.Qe2 Ne4 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Rac1 Nxc3
12.bxc3 Nc6 13.d5 Na5 14.e4 Rae8
15.Qc2 fxe4 16.Bxe4 Nxc4 17.d6 Nxd6
18.Bxh7+ Kh8 19.Ne5 Qg5 20.Ng6+
Kxh7 21.Nxf8+ Kg8 22.f4 Qxg2+
23.Qxg2 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 Kxf8 25.Rf3
Nf5 26.Rh3 Kf7 27.Kf2 d5 28.Rg1 b5
29.Rd1 a5 30.Rb1 b4 31.a3 bxc3
32.Rxc3 c4 33.Rh3 d4 34.Ke2 Kf6
35.Kd2 Nd6 36.Kc1 d3 37.Rf3 Rd8
38.a4 Ne4 39.Rb5 c3 40.Rf1 Rd4
41.Rd1 Nf2 42.Rxd3 Nxd3+ 43.Kc2 Rc4
44.Kxd3 c2 45.Kxc4 c1Q+ 0-1

Corky scored +5 =3 -1

ICCF Olympiad 17 Preliminaries - Section 03										TD Hernández Fernández, Cecilio			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	%	Team results
1	Switzerland		3	4	3	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	6	37.5	69	16
2	United States	3		3	3.5	4	3.5	4	5	5	35	64	16
3	Portugal	2	3		3	4	3.5	4	3.5	5	31	57	13
4	England	2	2.5	3		3	4	2.5	3.5	4	29.5	54	10
5	Slovenia	3	2	3	3		2.5	3	3	4	4.5	28	51
6	Kazakhstan	2	2.5	2	2	3.5		3	3.5	3.5	5	27	50
7	Slovakia	1.5	2	2.5	3.5	3	3		3	3.5	5	27	50
8	Chile	1.5	1	2	2.5	3	2.5	3		2.5	5	23	42
9	Iceland	1.5	2	2.5	2	2	2.5	2.5	3.5		4	22.5	41
10	Nicaragua	0	1	1	1	1.5	1	1	1	2		9.5	17

TOP 40 RATED USCF CC PLAYERS

BLANCO, CESAR	2607/15
CULLUM, CHUCK	2486
DULIBA, EDWARD P	2480
O'HARE, CIARAN	2447
O'CONNELL, CHRIS	2436
VAN ENK, STEVEN	2433
BRANDHORST, WES	2432
GREENE, DAVID	2423
COOK, RANDY	2421
WILSON, ABE	2412
MIETTINEN, KRISTO	2403
ROSE, BLEYS	2395
CONCHA, HUGO	2391
TRACZ, JAMES	2385
BRACK, FRANK	2383
BROWER, WALTER	2379
LANGLAND, THOMAS	2373
DAVES, DANA	2369
SCHULTHEIS, DON	2365
LEVINE, JOEL	2361
KEATING, ROBERT	2358
BUSS, MICHAEL	2355
WALTERS, GARY	2352
SWAN, PETER	2349
FASS, ROBERT	2348
CORARETTI, BEN	2340/16
ADAMS, GARY R	2339
BAFFO, JEFFREY	2335
ANDERSON, L.	2320
SOGIN, DAVID	2315
MORAN, CORY	2310/8
RODRIGUEZ, KEITH	2310
SCHAKEL, CORKY	2310
BALLOW, JOHN	2309
WOODARD, DANIEL	2305
STUEBER, GUIDO	2304
RYAN, PATRICK	2300
GREENE, SANFORD	2289
PRIETO, ALBERTO	2287
INGERSOL, HARRY	2285

JANUARY RESULTS

John Collins

Charles Jacobs 08C31 5-1

Walter Muir

Inoel Cardenas 09W35 4 ½-1 ½

Swift Quad

Jesse Turner 09SQ08 4 ½ - 1 ½

**CHARLES JACOBS FIRST IN
COLLINS EVENT 08C31**

Jacobs	2259		1=	1=	11	5-1
Greene	2409	0=		11	11	4½-1½
Babcock	2092	0=	00		11	2 ½-3 ½
Therrien	2262	00	00	00		0-6

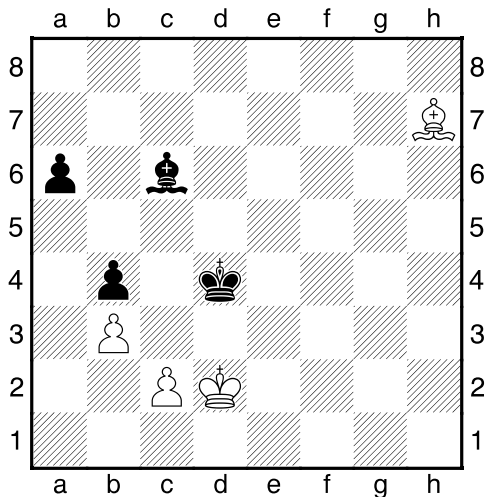
SICILIAN DEFENSE (B99)

White: Thomas Babcock (2092)

Black: David Greene (2409) [B99]

John Collins 2008

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7
9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6
12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5 14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6
Bf8 16.Rg1 h5 17.Rg7 Qa5 18.Kb1 Qb6
19.Bh3 b4 20.Nd5 Qb7 21.Re1 Bd7
22.Ne7 Bxg7 23.fxg7 Kxe7 24.Rf1 f5
25.gxh8Q Rxh8 26.Qg3 Kd8 27.Qxd6
Qc7 28.Qxc7+ Kxc7 29.exf5 e5
30.Ne6+ Nxe6 31.fxe6 Bb5 32.Rf7+
Kd6 33.Kc1 Rg8 34.Kd2 Rg1 35.Rf2
Ra1 36.b3 Rxa2 37.e7 Ra1 38.Rf6+
Kxe7 39.Re6+ Kd8 40.Rxe5 h4 41.Rd5+
Ke7 42.Rd4 Rh1 43.Rxh4 Rxh2+
44.Kc1 Kd6 45.Rh7 Kc5 46.Bf5 Rxh7
47.Bxh7 Kd4 48.Kd2 Bc6 Diagram



White resigned in this position rather than having to defend what he believed was a drawn position. What do you think, Armchair Analysts – any true winning chances for Black ?

**US TEAM QUALIFIES FOR 16th
OLYMPIAD FINALS**

The final, which will be played by post, will have the following teams: Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Israel, Italy, Brazil, France, England, Ukraine, Finland, Sweden, Slovakia, and the USA.

This will be the last Olympiad played by post. There will be four boards per team and the event will start June 10, 2010.

KRISTO MIETTINEN == SIM

Kristo Miettinen will be awarded the title of Senior International Master at the ICCF Congress in Kemer, Antalya, Turkey, 2010. Two norms are needed for this title. Kristo earned his first in the Reg Gillman Memorial and his second in the 11th North American Invitational CC. For his showing there Kristo will be given a spot in the World Championship Finals. Go get ‘em, Kristo !



SICILIAN DEFENSE (B93)

White: Kristo Miettinen (2297)

Black: Richard Labonte (2399)

11th NAICCC 2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 e5 7.Nf3 Nbd7 8.Bd3 Be7
9.0-0 0-0 10.Kh1 b5 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5
Nxd5 13.exd5 Bb7 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.d6
Bf6 16.Bf5 g6 17.Bh3 e4 18.Nd4 Bg7
19.a5 Ne5 20.Nb3 Bc6 21.Bf4 f5 22.Nc5
Qe8 23.Qd4 Bb5 24.Rfd1 Nc4 25.Qd5+
Qf7 26.Qxf7+ Kxf7 27.b3 Ne5 28.d7
Rfd8 29.Rab1 Ra7 30.g4 Nxg4 31.Bxg4
fxg4 32.Bg5 Rxd7 33.Nxd7 Bxd7
34.Be3 Rc7 35.Bf4 Rb7 36.Rd6 Bb5
37.Rbd1 Re7 38.Be3 Rc7 39.Rb6 Bf6
40.Rd5 Rxc2 41.Rdd6 Bh4 42.Rb7+
Kg8 43.Rxb5 axb5 44.a6 Ra2 45.a7
Ra1+ 46.Kg2 Kf7 47.Rc6 Ra2+ 48.Kf1
Bf6 49.Bb6 Be5 50.Rc8 Bxh2 51.a8Q
Rxa8 52.Rxa8 Ke6 53.Ra5 Bf4 54.Rxb5
g3 55.Rxb4 Kf5 56.Rc4 h5 57.Bc7 g5
58.b4 h4 59.Kg2 Kg4 60.Bxf4 gxf4
61.Rxe4 ½-½

2010 ABSOLUTE

The 2010 Absolute has started. Participants are in order of rating: Abe Wilson (2412) Kristo Miettinen (2403) Dana Daves (2369) Gary Walters (2352) Keith Rodriguez (2310) John Ballow (2309) Sanford Greene (2289) Harry Ingersol (2285) Gordon Magat (2281) Barry Endsley (2272) Humberto Cruz (2259) Danny Horwitz (2256) James Rhodes (2248)

There is a \$500 prize fund thanks to the generosity of Corky Schakel, Keith Rodriguez, Robert Rizzo, Abe Wilson, Dave Sogin, and the USCF.

CLASSIFIED ADS

LEARN CHESS BY MAIL ! Lessons given by mail, telephone, ICC – many different ways. I specialize in players rated 800-2100 who would like to improve their game. Contact me for information. Alex Dunne, 324 West Lockhart St., Sayre, PA 18840 or chesskinetics@stny.rr.com

AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT

In a strong all-expert tournament one player became convinced another was using a computer to generate his moves. That player then wrote a letter to the other participants and to me accusing that player of illegally using a computer. That is NOT the way to handle the problem. The proper way is to inform only the CC Director. Openly accusing another is wrong for a variety of reasons. In this particular case the accuser was almost certainly wrong. Emotions can sometimes blind us and cause mistakes to be made.

ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS CHESS STAMP

