

# NM Chess Champions – Jack Shaw

This is the first in my series of games by New Mexico Champions. Jack Shaw is the earliest New Mexico Champion for whom I have some games. He won in 1957, 1958, 1964 and 1970. Unfortunately, Mr. Shaw did not win any of the twelve games of his I have in my database. I picked out this game because of his illustrious opponent, future Grandmaster and six time U.S. Chess Champion Walter Browne. Browne won the U.S. Junior Championship in 1966 and was already a formidable player.

As Black, Mr. Shaw equalizes in the opening, but a miscalculation at move eleven quickly snowballs into a lost position.

**Walter Browne W. – Jack Shaw, 1-0**  
**U.S. Open Chess Championship – Round 5**  
**Atlanta, Georgia, 1967**

## French Defense

**1. e4 e6 2. d3!?** Browne avoids normal French Defense lines where White's space gives him a slight edge. Instead he plays for the King's Indian Attack.

[2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 (3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7) 3... Bb4 (3... Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. Bxe7 Qxe7) 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3 6. bxc3 Ne7]

**2... d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. g3 dxe4 5. dxe4 e5 6. Bg2 Bc5 7. Ngf3 Nc6 8. Qe2 O-O 9. O-O Bg4** I would prefer to delay developing the bishop and see what Black does. It might be better placed on e6. Black's "threat" of Nd4 is easily stopped by c3, a move White wants to play anyway.

[9... Qe7 10. c3 a5 11. Nb3 Bb6 12. Bg5 Now that White has developed his queen bishop to g5, Black is safe developing his queen bishop to e6. Black no longer has Ng5. 12... Be6=]

**10. h3 Bh5**

[Not 10... Nd4!? 11. Qc4 Bxf3 12. Nxf3 White has a slight edge due to the bishop pair; I would still prefer 10... Be6 11. c3 a5=]

**11. c3 Bb6?!** This is simply a waste of time. Evidently he anticipated the threat of b4, but missed the threat of Nc4. The logical continuation is a5, immediately preventing b4 and threatening to further restrain White's queenside by playing a4.

[11... a5 12. Nc4 Re8 13. Qc2 Bg6 14. Nh4 h6 15. Ne3 Ne7 16. Nxc6 Nxc6 17. Rd1 Qb8 18. Nf5 Qa7 19. Be3 Bxe3 20. Nxe3 Rad8 21. Qb3 Nf8 22. h4 Ne6 23. Qc4 Qc5 24. Qxc5 Nxc5 25. f3 b6 26. Bf1 Kf8 27. Bb5 Rxd1 28. Rxd1 Rc8 29. Bc6 Ke7 30. g4 Ne8 31. Rd5 g6 32. Rxe5 Ne6 33. Rd5 Nf6 34. Rd2 Rd8 35. Rxd8 Nxd8 36. Bd5 c6 37. Bb3 Nb7 38. Nc4 Nd7 39. Kf2 a4 40. Bc2 b5 41. Ne3 Nd6 42. f4 f6 43. Kf3 g5 44. h5 Nc5 45. fxg5 fxg5 46. Nf5 Nxf5 47. exf5 Kd6 48. Ke3 Nd7 49. Bd1 Nb6 50. Ke4 Nd5 51. f6 Nxf6 52. Kf5 Nd5 53. Kg6 Ke5 54. Kxh6 Kf6 55. Kh7 Kf7 56. Bf3 Ne7 57. a3 Kf6 58.

c4 Kf7 59. cxb5 cxb5 60. Be4 Kf6 61. Bd3 1-0, Belkhodja Slim (TUN) 2456 - Romero Holmes Alfonso (ESP) 2515, Amsterdam (Netherlands) 1987]



**12. Nc4N!** Of course! White simultaneously threatens Nxb6 and g4 followed by N(f)xe5. What a move ago was an equal position for Black is suddenly very awkward. **12... Qe7**

[12... Bc5?! 13. g4 Bg6 14. Nfxe5 White wins a pawn]

**13. a4 Bc5!?** He tries to avoid doubled pawns, but wastes more time in the process.

[13... a6 14. Nxb6 cxb6 White is clearly better due to his bishop pair and Black's doubled b-pawns]

**14. b4 Bd6 15. Ba3 Bg6?!** He fails to see the point of White's last move.

[15... Nd8 16. Rad1 Ne6 Black's position is awkward, but he is still in the game]



**16. b5!** The pawn on e5 drops. **16... Nd8 17. Nfxe5 Bxa3 18. Rxa3 Ne6 19. f4 Nh5?** He makes a desperate bid for counter play that just gets him into more trouble.

[A sly attempt is 19... a6! 20. bxa6 (20. f5? axb5 21. Nxc6 hxg6 22. fxe6 bxc4 23. exf7 Rxf7 24. Ra2 Qc5=) 20... Rxa6 21. Rb1 Bh5 22. Qb2 But Black still ends up a pawn down with nothing to show for it]

**20. Kh2 f5?** This is the only way to avoid the immediate loss of a piece, but it further scrambles his position.

[Better is 20... a6 21. Ra2 axb5 22. axb5 Nhx f4 There is no longer any answer to the threat of f5, so he gets what he can for the piece. 23. gxf4 Bh5 24. Qb2 Black is down a

knight with little to show for it]

**21. exf5 Rxf5 22. Bxb7** He is down two pawns and his position is falling apart. Mr. Shaw decides he has seen enough. [1:0]

Matt Grinberg, 2/6/2016