

# NM Chess Champions

## Mark Schwarman

Mark Schwarman shared the New Mexico Chess Championship with Andrew Flores at the New Mexico Open this September. This performance brought his rating to a recent high of 2141. He has maintained a rating over 2100 for many years. In the 1990's Mark lived and played chess in the Northwest where he was a frequent player at major tournaments. In the late nineties Mark returned to New Mexico Tech in Socorro, his Alma Mater. Mark is always a threat in New Mexico tournaments, but as of this year's New Mexico Open he has joined the ranks of New Mexico Champions.

The following is definitely the most brilliant game I have had the pleasure to analyze in this series. The game well illustrates Mark's aggressive style. Mark completely befuddles his higher rated opponent, Jonathan Berry. From the fifth move on, Mark plays for the attack and never lets up. After Berry's decisive mistake at move 11, Mark plays one brilliant move after another until he brings Berry to his knees!

Mark's opponent is the Canadian FIDE Master, Jonathan Berry. In addition to his over the board FIDE Master title, Berry is an International Correspondence Grandmaster and an International Arbiter.

**Schwarman, Mark - Berry, Jonathan, 1-0**  
**Washington Open, Round 1**  
**Seattle, Washington, 5/22/1992**

### English Opening

1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. e4 White immediately goes for a bind on d5.

[More common lines include 4. g3 Bb4 5. Bg2 O-O 6. O-O=;

4. e3 Bb4 5. Qc2 Bxc3 6. Qxc3 Qe7=;

4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Bb4 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bh4 Bxc3 8. bxc3 Ne5 9. e3 Ng6 10. Bg3 Ne4=]

4... Bc5 5. Nxe5 This is like the line, 1. e4 e5, 2. Nf3 Nc6, 3. Nc3 Nf6, 4. Bc4 Nxe4 in the Four Knights Opening, but with colors reversed. The question is, "Does White's extra move here, 1. c4, help or hurt." The pawn on c4 solidifies White's hold on d5 and it has opened the d1-a4 diagonal for the queen. On the other hand, White no longer has any potential pawn protection for d4 and the pawn on c4 blocks his king bishop. 5... O-O!? Black plays it safe.

[Not 5... Bxf2? 6. Kxf2 Nxe5 7. d4 Neg4 8. Kg1 d6 9. h3 Nh6 10. Bg5 White has lost his castling privilege, but he has a dominating pawn center and the bishop pair in an open position. White is better;

Best is simply taking the knight. 5... Nxe5 6. d4 Bb4 7. dxe5 Nxe4 8. Qd4 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Be7 10. Qg4 Kf8 11. Qf3 d6 12. Bf4 h5 13. Bd3 g5 14. exd6 Bf6 15. Bd2 Qxd6 16. O-O Bg4 17. c5 Bxf3 18. cxd6 Bc6 19. dxc7 Rc8 20. Be3 b6 21. a4 Rxc7 22. a5 Bd5 23. axb6

axb6 24. Ra6 Rxc3 25. Rxb6 Rxd3 26. Rxf6 g4 27. Rh6 1/2-1/2, Ljubojevic, Ljubomir (SRB) 2568 - Kramnik, Vladimir (RUS) 2807 , Monaco 2002 It "Melody Amber" (active)]

6. Nf3! This strategic retreat retains an advantage for White.

[Not 6. Nxc6!? which opens up the position for Black's pieces. 6... dxc6 7. f3 (7. Be2!? Qd4 8. O-O Nxe4 9. Nxe4 Qxe4 Black has regained the pawn and is better because of his active pieces) 7... Qd4 8. Qe2 White retains the pawn, but his position is very awkward]

6... Re8 Black figures that if he just keeps his lead in development, he has compensation for the pawn.

[Immediately trying to grab back the pawn looks better, but it is not clear that it works. 6... Nxe4 7. Nxe4 Re8 8. d3 f5 9. Be2 fxe4 10. dxe4 Qe7 (10... Rxe4?? 11. Qd5 White wins) 11. O-O d6 Black still has to settle for pressure against the e4 pawn and more active pieces, hoping that is enough for the pawn. (Again, grabbing the pawn is bad. 11... Qxe4? 12. Bd3 Qg4 (12... Qe7 13. Bxh7! Kxh7 14. Ng5 Kg6 15. Qd3 Kf6 16. Nh7 Kf7 17. Qf5 Kg8 18. Ng5 White has a winning attack) 13. Bxh7 Kh8 (13... Kxh7? 14. Ng5 Qxg5 15. Bxg5 White wins) 14. Qd5 Nd4 (14... Kxh7 15. Ng5 Kh8 16. h3 Qh4 17. Qxc5 White has regained the material and Black's king is still exposed to attack) 15. Ne5 c6 16. Qf7 Qe6 17. Bg6 Rf8 18. Qxe6 Nxe6 White still holds the extra pawn)]

7. d3 Ng4 8. d4 Bb4 9. Bd3 Mark is determined hold onto his extra pawn and play all out for the win.

[White could just play for development and let Black have the pawn back. But, in the following game, Black escaped with a draw. 9. Be2 Rxe4 10. O-O Re8 11. Nd5 h6 12. h3 Nf6 13. Nxf6 Qxf6 14. c5 b6 15. a3 Ba5 16. b4 bxc5 17. bxa5 Nxd4 18. Nxd4 cxd4 19. Rb1 c5 20. Bf3 Ba6 21. Bxa8 Bxf1 22. Qxf1 Rxa8 23. Rb7 Qc6 24. Qb5 Re8 25. Bd2 c4 26. Qxc6 dxc6 27. Rb4 c3 28. Bxc3 dxc3 29. Rc4 Re1 30. Kh2 Rc1 31. Rxc6 c2 32. Kg3 Ra1 33. Rxc2 Rxa3 34. Kf4 Rxa5 35. Rc8 Kh7 36. Rc7 g5 37. Kg3 Kg6 38. h4 gxh4 39. Kxh4 Rh5 40. Kg4 a5 41. f4 Rb5 42. Ra7 f6 43. g3 h5 44. Kh3 Kf5 45. Ra6 Rc5 46. Kh4 Kg6 47. g4 hxg4 48. Kxg4 Rb5 49. Rc6 Kf7 50. f5 Kg7 51. Ra6 Re5 52. Rb6 Re1 53. Ra6 Rg1 54. Kh4 Ra1 55. Kh5 1/2-1/2, Bukal, Vladimir (CRO) 2403 – Kapengut, Albert Z (BLR) 2430, Reggio Emilia (Italy) 1992]

9... f5 10. Bg5 Nf6 11. Bxf6



11... Qxf6?! This seems obvious, but it misses two important points. First, taking with the queen leaves his rook undefended, the importance of which soon becomes apparent. Second, Black's

bid for equality is based on the attack on e4. If he takes with the g-pawn, that gives Black another f-pawn to throw at e4 and it prevents White from playing e5.

[11... gxf6! White has no way to hold the extra pawn. 12. Bc2 (12. O-O? as in the game loses a piece because the rook on e8 is defended. 12... Bxc3 13. bxc3 fxe4 14. Re1 exd3) 12... fxe4 13. Nh4 d6 14. O-O f5 White is better due to Black's damaged kingside, but Black has some compensation in the strong e-pawn and the bishop pair]

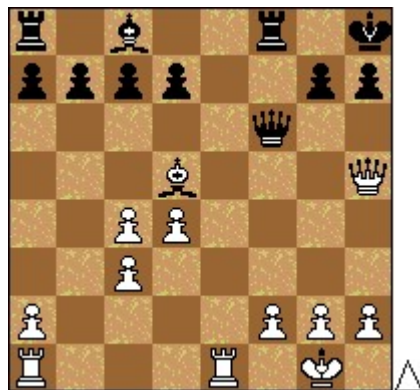
12. O-O Bxc3 13. bxc3 fxe4



14. Re1! White takes advantage of the undefended rook. This is why Black's 11th move was bad. White once again wins the pawn and takes the initiative as well. 14... Qg6 15. Nh4 Qg5 16. Bxe4! Qxh4 17. Bxc6! Rf8

[17... Rxe1 18. Qxe1 Because of the mate threat, Black can't take the bishop. 18... Kf8 19. Be4 d6 20. Qe3 With an extra pawn, more active pieces and Black's exposed king, White is winning]

18. Bd5 Kh8 19. Qf3! Once again he takes advantage of the hapless rook. 19... Qd8 Didn't we say this is where the queen belonged back at more 11? 20. Qh5 Qf6



21. Re8! Mark throws one devastating move after another at his opponent! 21... Qxf2? This certainly looks strong, but, other than the pawn, it gains nothing. Meanwhile it takes Black's queen away from the critical defense of his king.

[But Black is lost after 21... d6 anyway. 22. Be4 Bf5 (22... h6? 23. Qg6 Bf5 (23... Qxg6? 24. Rxf8 Kh7 25. Bxg6 Kxg6 26. Re1 b6 27. Ree8 White wins) 24. Bxf5 Qxg6 25. Rxf8

Rxf8 26. Bxg6 White wins; 22... g6? 23. Bxg6 Qxg6 24. Qxg6 hxg6 25. Rxf8 White wins) 23. Rxa8 Bxe4 24. Rxf8 Qxf8 White is an exchange and pawn up]

**22. Kh1 d6**

[Unfortunately 22... Qf1 23. Rxf1 doesn't work because Black's stupid rook is pinned!]

**23. Be4 h6 24. Qg6 Kg8**

[24... Bf5 25. Bxf5 Qxf5 26. Qxf5 White wins]

**25. Qh7 Kf7 26. Bg6** Black resigns. After 26... Kf6, 27. Rxf8 Black would lose his rook AND his queen. [1:0]

Matt Grinberg, 11/4/2016