

## TUESDAY NIGHT BULLETIN

Vol. II, No. 2: PCC championship 2009, Round 2

(edited by Federico Garcia)

## The openings

A preeminence of e4, and a lot of French this round—even over the Sicilians.

**1 e4: 9 games**

↳ Double King's Pawn: 4 games

↳ Ruy López (Chigorin): 1 game (1-0)

↳ King's Gambit: 1 game (1-0)

↳ Italian Game (4...d6): 1 game (1-0)

↳ Philidor Defense : 1 game (0-1)

↳ Sicilian: 2 games

↳ Dragon: 1 game (1-0)\*

↳ Closed Sicilian: 1 game (0-1)\*

↳ French: 3 games

↳ Tarrasch: 1 game (1-0)

↳ 3 ♖c3 ♗b4 4 exd5: 1 game (0-1)

↳ 3 ♖c3 ♗b4 4 e5: 1 game (½)\*

**1 d4: 4 games**

↳ Double Queen's Pawn: 2 games (1-1)

↳ Indian Defenses: 1 game

↳ Nimzoindian (4 ♗d2): 1 game (0-1)

↳ Modern Defense: 1 game (1-0)

**1 c4: 1 games**

↳ Black plays ...e5: 1 game (0-1)

Opening statistics after 2 rounds			
Class	<i>n</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>H : L</i>
DKP	7	71% (+5-2)	5:2
KP defenses	8	56% (+4-3=1)	5:3
DQP	4	37.5% (+1-2=1)	2:2
Indian defenses	2	0%	0:2
KBF/English	4	37.5% (+1-2=1)	1:3
Others	1	100%	1:0

**DKP** Double King's Pawn

**KP defenses** Defenses to 1 e4

**DQP** Double Queen's Pawn

**KBF** King's Bishop Fianchetto

*n* number of games

*P* performance for White

*H : L* rating ratio: number of games where White was higher rated to number of games where Black was. ½ when the two contenders were within 50 rating points of each other.

## The upsets

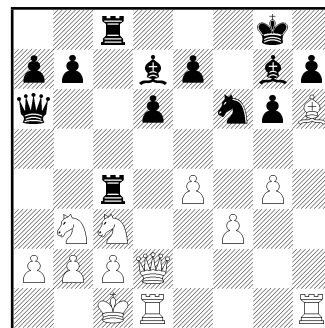
Several surprises in the second round of the PCC championship. I was the victim of a huge upset by mating myself; Dan Gordon, a strong candidate to the tournament in view of late Tuesday night results, fell on first board to Vassil Prokhov's successful defense; and Mike Holsinger held Gary Reinhart to a draw.

In the following game, Black enters a standard-looking attack in a typically double-edged Dragon position. But the combination turns out to be unsound.

□ **Prokhov, V.** (1800) Pittsburgh 2009  
 ■ **Gordon, D.** (1967) Sicilian-Dragon – **B79**

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♗f6 5 ♖c3 g6 6 ♗e3 ♗g7 7 f3 0-0 8 ♖d2 ♖c6 9 ♗c4 ♗d7 10 0-0-0 ♗e5 11 ♗b3 ♖a5 12 h4 ♖fc8 13 g4 ♗c4 14 ♗xc4 ♖xc4 15 h5 ♖ac8 16 h×g6 f×g6 17 ♗b3 ♖a6 18 ♗h6 (*D*)

Prokhov, V.–Gordon, D.



18 ♗h6

Theory here recommends 18 e5, which closes the long diagonal with tempo and removes the defender of h7. The queen will then move to h2, keeping the initiative along the h-file and supporting e5. But the alternative chosen in the game gives Black many a chance to go wrong: 18... ♖xc3? is too ambitious.

- 18... ♗h6!? 19 ♖h6?! is not to be feared (the ♗f6 is enough to defend for the moment), and White cannot afford removing his queen from the castle. So after 19 ♖h6 b5 the attacks are alive on both wings.

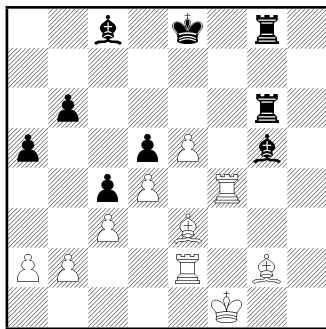
- 18... ♖h8! is best, giving White back the turn to decide, but with a new obstacle on the h-file.

19 bxc3 ♖a3+ 20 ♘b1 ♗xe4? 21 fxe4 [21 ♖d5+! e6 22 ♖xe4 ♖xc3 23 ♖c1 is even more clear] 21... ♖xc3 and the mate threat does not pay back for the material investment. 22 ♖c1 ♖b4 23 ♖d2 ♖xg4 24 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 25 ♖d3 ♖c4 26 ♖d4 ♖c3 27 ♖d2 ♖f3 28 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 29 ♖h3 ♖e3 30 ♗d2 ♖e1+ 31 ♘b2 ♖g4 32 ♖g3 h5 33 ♗c4 ♘f7 34 ♖e3, and forcing the rook trade White leaves Black with no resources. He won on move 46. 1:0

### O Horror

The position below was reached in my game against Greg Galanter. After having finally squeezed a clear advantage in a slow positional game, I was ‘shocked and awed’ with the awakening black bishops.

Garcia, F.–Galanter, G.



I will lose an exchange here, but since I can take the d5 and keep the initiative, I still have a large advantage. Looking for the best way of carrying this out, I found: 40 ♖f2 [40 ♖xd5 ♖xf4 41 ♖xf4 ♖f8 42 ♖f2±] 40... ♖h4 41 ♖xd5?? ♗f7+ Rg1#

### Contributions

The third upset game (a draw) was played by Mike Holsinger, who provided the annotations accompanying it. I only changed ‘??’ to ‘?’ on White’s—his own—move 28. In my view, the move is not a blunder, but simply an omission as any other. I agree with Mike that the resulting position (in the diagram) is a wonderful middle-game puzzle.

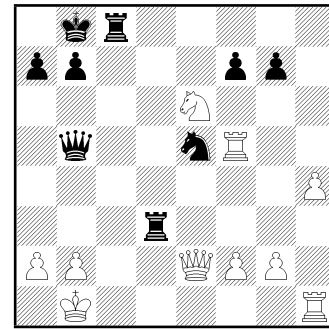
□ Holsinger, M. (1654) Pittsburgh 2009  
 ■ Reinhart, G. (1821) French – C17

Annotations by Mike Holsinger

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 ♖b4 4 e5 c5 5 ♖d2 ♖xc3 6 ♖xc3 cxd4 7 ♖xd4 ♗e7 8 ♗f3 ♗bc6

9 ♖g4 ♗g6 10 h4 h5 11 ♖g3 ♖d7 12 ♖d3 ♗ce7 13 ♗g5 ♖b6 14 ♖f3 ♖f8 15 0–0–0 ♖b5 16 ♖xb5+ ♖xb5 17 ♖xh5 0–0–0 18 ♖d4 What good was that move? 18 ♖g4 is better, preparing h4-h5, preventing ♗g6-f4, and activating the queen along the fourth rank. 18... ♗f4 19 ♖f3 ♗e2+ 20 ♘b1 ♗xd4 21 ♖xd4 ♗c6 22 ♖c3 ♘b8 23 ♖f4 d4 24 ♖d2 d3 [24... ♗xe5 would cover f7, denying White the choice in the next note] 25 cxd3 [25 ♗xf7 would protect white’s e5 pawn, for example: 25... dxc2+ 26 ♖xc2 ♖c8] 25... ♖xd3 26 ♖e2 ♗xe5 27 ♗xe6 ♖c8 28 ♖f5? (D)

Holsinger, M.–Reinhart, G.



28 ♖f5?

This move is a rook losing blunder, but it requires a beautiful tactic by black. If I had seen it, I would have played something else like 28 ♗d4. Fortunately Gary didn’t see the combination either, or he would have played it. This position could be a puzzle labelled “Black to move and win” 28... ♖xe6? 29 ♖xe5 ♖d7 30 ♖xe6 [30 ♖c1 would help White simplify a pawn up and avoid the coming complications] 30... ♖d2 31 ♖e7 [31 ♖e5+ ♘a8 32 a3 might be better for White—I considered the queen check, but didn’t see the a3 follow-up, so I was afraid of moving my queen away from defense of the back rank] 31... ♖f5+ [31... ♖xe2 32 ♖xd7 ♖cc2 doubles Black’s rooks on the key second rank faster, for example: 33 ♖e1 ♖xb2+ 34 ♘c1 ♖ec2+ 35 ♘d1 a5] 32 ♖e4 ♖xe4+ 33 ♖xe4 ♖xf2 34 ♖g4 [34 g4 would get the kingside pawns moving and delay Black’s doubled rooks on the second rank: 34... ♖cc2 35 ♖e8+ ♖c8 (35... ♘c7 36 ♖c1)] 34... ♖cc2 Now 35 ♖b4 (35 ♖xg7 trying to win on the kingside leaves White a pawn down: 35... ♖xb2+ 36 ♘c1 ♖xa2 37 ♘b1 ♖fb2+ 38 ♘c1 ♖xg2 39 ♖xg2 ♖a1!) 35... ♖xg2 36 ♖f1 might be about even. Black has powerful rooks, but he was also down 3 minutes to 30 minutes, so he offered. 1/2:1/2