

## Virginia Senior Open, June 10-11, 2014

I was very tired at this tournament. I've been playing at our local club on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 7 pm for 30 minute quads specifically to test how I play when I'm tired. That 5 months of training paid off!! I was so tired I couldn't stay awake at times even when it was my move. The 2 things I noticed the most was it became more and more difficult to correctly attack with the knights, and 2, I had to calculate the variations again and again because I could not correctly assess the positions in my head even when I was sure of where everything was. I'm most proud of my 3rd round game. It took me nearly 30 minutes to see that combo and it's master level in, "my" opinion. Of course the opening in every game is the Philidor.

### (253) mike callaham (1864) - gary coulter (1294) [A04]

va senior (1), 10.06.2014

[RCI]

**1.Nf3 g6 2.c3 Bg7 3.d3 b6 4.Nbd2 Bb7 5.e4** The Hedgehog. This was the 1st time I'd played against the double fianchetto in a tournament. I knew the center pawns would be moving very late. I was very surprised by the 0-0-0!? **5...c5 6.Be2 Nc6 7.Qc2 e6 8.Nf1 Nge7 9.Ng3 Qc7 10.Bd2 0-0-0=** [10...0-0 11.h4 h5 12.0-0™ Black get's the initiative on all the other moves! Fritz is showing = for the 1st 12 lines. ] **11.Ng5 Rdf8 12.f4!?** I just felt that black was going to take a shot in the center and I wanted some pawn control over e5. 0-0 is not as good in my opinion. Black has the ability to push his, "h" or "f" pawns with good affect. These pawns seem more hazardous with me castled k than if I'm castled q. [12.0-0?!] **12...h6 13.Nf3 d6?!=** [13...d5!? This gets just a pinch more and gains space 14.e5™] **14.Be3 f5** [14...h5 15.h4 Kb8 16.0-0-0 d5 17.Kb1 Rd8 18.Ng5 d4= (18...Rhf8 19.e5=) ] **15.0-0 fxe4 16.dxe4 h5?!** too late now **17.Ng5 Nd8 18.Rad1 h4?** Finally, some aggression! **19.Nh1 Ng8 20.Bg4 Qe7 21.Qb3 Nf6 22.Bf3 e5 23.Nf2 Nh5 24.Bg4+ Kb8 25.f5 gxf5 26.Bxf5 Nf4 27.Bxf4 exf4 28.Nfh3 Bh6 29.Nf3 Rhg8 30.Rd2 Nf7 31.Qd1 Rd8 ½-½**

### (255) joseph sackey (1402) - mike callaham (1864) [A54]

va seniors (2), 10.06.2014

[,theone]

159MB, Fritz11.ctg **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 e5 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.e4 Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.Qc2 Qc7= 10.Bg5 Re8 11.Nh4 h6 12.Be3 Nf8 13.Nf5 Bb4 14.Rac1 Ng6 15.Rfd1 Be6 16.a3 Bf8??** [16...Bxc3 17.bxc3 Nf4 18.Bf1 Ng6 19.g3 Rad8=] **17.b4?** [17.g3 Red8 18.Na4 b6 19.c5 b5 20.Nc3 a5 21.b3²] **17...Kh7 18.Kh1 Nf4 19.Bc5?** [19.Bxf4 Bxf5 20.Bxe5 Qxe5 21.exf5 a5 22.c5 axb4 23.axb4 Qf4 24.Qb3= Qxf2 25.Qxf7 Rxe2 26.Nxe2 Qxe2 27.Qxb7 Ra2 28.Qxc6 Ng4 29.Re1 Nf2+ 30.Kg1 Nh3+ 31.Kh1] **19...Bxc5 20.bxc5 Bxf5 21.exf5 e4! 22.g3** [22.Bf1 Ng4 23.Rd6 Nd3 24.Bxd3 exd3 25.Qd2 Qa5 26.Rxd3 Qxc5 27.Kg1 Qe5 28.g3 Qxf5+] **22...Nxe2 23.Qxe2 Qe5+ 24.Rd6 Qxf5 25.Rxf6 gxf6 26.Qe3 Rad8 27.Re1 Rd3 28.Qxd3 exd3 29.Rxe8 d2 30.Kg2 Qc2 31.Ne4 d1Q 32.Nxf6+ Kg7 33.Ne4 Qxc4 34.h4 Qcf1+ 35.Kh2 Qh1# 0-1**

### (247) mike callaham (1959) - harry cohen (1864) [A04]

va senior (3), 10.06.2014

[,theone]

This game is from round 3 of the Va Senior Open held on the 7th and 8th of June 2014. The time control is 2 hrs game, d5. I don't get a chance to play across the board as often as I'd like and for this tournament I was probably more fatigued than I'd ever been. I literally fell asleep at every game. This is my best game of the tournament. I think it's my best game because the sacrifice I make on move 16 is in the true nature of the Philidor reversed and is winning in all variations. Rust on the at the board calculation gears made it unrealistic for me to finish my opponent off before the time control. By adding this to my arsenal, I have added even more depth to both sides of my Philidor

game. Also It really makes me feel good when I play courageous moves at the board instead of wimping out. **1.Nf3 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.d3 d5 4.Nbd2 Nc6 5.e4 e5 6.Be2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 b6 9.Re1 h6 10.Nf1 Bb7 11.h3 Ne7 12.Ng3 Rc8 13.Bd1 Qc7 14.Nh4 c4 15.dxc4 Qxc4** I had expected 15. ...de. I immediately plunged deep into thought. My original idea is to attack the bishop on d6 and fork the queen and rook. How can I gain time for that? Then I started looking at 16. Bh6!! If my opponent tries to protect the h pawn by Kh7 then doubling the knights in at f5 threatening mate gains the time. Then finally, if he moves the rook away, every one in my camp gets into the attack. I knew and could just tell that with all that, I was gonna get more material than I could shake a stick at or maybe even a mate if he slipped. My opponent never saw this coming. Fritz takes more than 3 minutes to move 16.Bh6!! to the top of the move list. The Philidor is full of computer blind spots. If the machine can't see it, your opponent will usually miss it as well! **16.Bxh6!! gxf6** [16...Bc5 17.Qd2 (17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qd2 Kh8 19.Bb3 Qb5 20.exd5 Rg8 21.c4 Qb4 22.Qh6+ Nh7 23.Bc2 f5 24.Ngxf5 Bxf2+ 25.Kxf2 Qxc4 26.Rac1 Nxf5 27.Nxf5 Qxd5 28.Be4 Qf7+-) 17...gxf6 18.Bb3 Qa6 19.Qxh6 b5 20.Ngf5 Nxf5 21.Nxf5 Ne8 22.Bxd5?] **17.Qc1** [=17.Qd2 Qc6 18.Qxh6 Bc5 19.Qg5+ Ng6 20.Ngf5 Nh7 21.Qg3=] **17...Rfd8** [17...Nxe4 18.Rxe4! dxe4 19.Qxh6 e3 20.Qg5+ Ng6 21.Nxg6 exf2+ 22.Kh2 f1N+ 23.Nxf1 e4+ 24.Ne5+ Kh7=; 17...Kh7? 18.Ngf5 Neg8 19.Nxd6 Qc7 20.Nxc8 Rxc8+-] **18.Qxh6 Ne8 19.Re3 d4 20.Ngf5?** For some reason, I thought that 20.Rf3 would be answered by 20. ...Bf3. Like I said, I was very tired and now very short on time! [20.Rf3! Qe6 21.Qg5+ Kf8 22.Bb3 Rc4 23.Bxc4 Qxc4 24.Qh6+ Ng7 25.Qh8+ Ng8 26.Ng6+ Ke8 27.Qxg8+ Kd7 28.Rxf7+ Kc8 29.Qxg7+-] **20...dxe3 21.Qg5+ Kf8 22.Bb3 exf2+ 23.Kh2 f1Q 24.Qh6+** [24.Rxf1! Qxf1?? (24...Bxe4!! 25.Qh6+ Kg8 26.Bxc4 Rxc4 27.Qg5+ Kf8 28.Ng6+ Nxg6 29.Qxd8 Bxf5 30.Rxf5 e4+ 31.g3 Rc7 32.Qg5± but it would take way more than 15 minutes to finish this off!!) 25.Ng6+ Nxg6 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Qxg6+ Kh8 28.Qh5+ Kg8 29.Qxf7+ Kh8 30.Qh5#] **24...Kg8** [24...Ng7 25.Rxf1 Nexf5 26.Nxf5 Ke8 27.Nxg7+ Kd7 28.Bxc4 Rxc4 29.Rxf7+ Kc6+-] **25.Qg5+ Kf8** Here my opponent offered a draw. with less than 15 minutes left and him having over 35 minutes I took the draw. ½-½

**(250) Mike Callaham (1864) - Neal Goldberg (2100) [A05]**  
va senior (4), 11.06.2014

[,theone]

159MB, Fritz11.ctg **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c3 g6 3.d3 d5 4.Nbd2 Bg7 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.Qc2 Nc6 8.Nf1?** [8.0-0 Qc7 9.h3 Rd8 10.Re1 From this position black gets a small but nagging edge. The culprit is his refusal to move his e pawn. He will eventually play ...b6 even if he never puts the bishop in the hole. The only good part is that because they are in new territory the small edge is hard to perceive!; 8.h3 b6 9.0-0 Qc7 10.Re1 Bb7 11.Nf1 Nd8 12.Bg5] **8...c4 9.Ng3 cxd3 10.Bxd3 Bg4 11.Be2 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 d4 13.cxd4 Nxd4 14.Qd3**[14.Qd1 Qa5+ 15.Bd2 Qb6] **14...Nd7 15.Bd1 Ne5 16.Qa3 Nb5 17.Qb3 Nd3+ 18.Kf1 Rc8 19.Be3 Bxb2 20.Rb1 Nc3 21.Rxb2 Nxb2 22.Be2 Nbd1 23.Bxa7 Qd2 24.Bg4 Qc1 25.Bxd1 Rfd8 0-1**

**(256) todd hammer (1688) - mike callaham (1864) [C41]**  
va senior (5), 11.06.2014

[,theone]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 Nbd7 7.Re1 c6 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.a4 Qc7 10.Nh4 Nb6** notice that in this position, Nh4 has no value. **11.Bb3 Bg4 12.Qd3 Nbd7 13.Qg3 Bb4?!** [13...Nc5 14.Ba2 Kh8 15.Be3 Be6 16.Nf5 Nh5 17.Qf3 g6,,] **14.h3 Be6™ 15.Bxe6??** [15.Bh6 Ne8 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Kh8 18.Bd2?] **15...fxe6 16.Kh1?? Nc5 17.Re3?? Bxc3 18.bxc3 Nfxe4 19.Qh2 Rxf2?! 20.Ba3 Raf8?** [20...Rxc2 21.Bxc5 Nxc5 22.Nf3 Rf8 23.Qg3 Rf4 24.Nxe5 Rff2-+] **21.Kg1 Nd2 22.Ree1??** [22.Qxe5 Qxe5 23.Rxe5 Rf1+ 24.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 25.Kh2 Nxa4 26.Rxe6 c5 27.Re8+ Kf7 28.Rd8 Nc4-+] **22...Qb6??** [22...Nce4! 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 (23...Rxf8 24.Kh1 Qa5 25.Nf3 Qxc3 26.Qxe5 Rxf3 27.Qxe6+ Kf8! 28.Kh2 Rf2 29.Kh1 Qg3 30.Qc8+ Kf7 31.Qg4 Nf3 32.Qxf3+ Rxf3) 24.a5 Qd6 25.Rxe4 Nxe4-+] **23.Qxe5 Nce4 24.Qxe6+?? Kh8 25.Kh1 Ng3+??** [25...Rf1+ 26.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Ng3+ 28.Kh2 Ndx1#] **26.Kh2 Ndf1+ 27.Rxf1 Nxf1+ 28.Kh1 R2f6 29.Qe5 Rg8 30.Nf3 Rxf3 31.gxf3 Qf2 32.Bd6 Qxf3+ 33.Kg1 Ne3 34.Qh2 Rd8 35.Bf4 Rd1+ 36.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 37.Kf2 Nf5 38.Be5**

**Qxc2+ 39.Kf3 Qxh2 40.Bxh2 b5 41.Ke4 g6 42.axb5 cxb5 43.Kd5 a5 44.Kc5 b4  
45.cxb4 axb4 46.Kxb4 Kg7 47.Kc4 Kh6 48.Kd5 Kg5 49.Bg1 Kh4 50.Ke5 Kxh3  
51.Kf4 h6 0-1**