

From: Brian Wall <BrianWallChess3@taom.com>
Subject: [BrianWall-ChessList] Life Master Brian Wall loses to 10 year old expert in Reno, Nevada
To: BrianWallChess@Yahoogroups.com, Chess_Improvement@Yahoogroups.com, "Brian Wall Chesslist" <brianwall-chesslist@lists.taom.com>
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 10:42 AM

Top 10 list -

The Top 10 scariest things in the world

- 10 - Friday the 13th
- 9 - My Bloody Valentine
- 8 - Obama's Heath Care Plan
- 7 - Splice
- 6 - Drag Me to Hell
- 5 - Magnus Carlsen's opening repertoire
- 4 - Jennifer's Body
- 3 - Final Destination: Death Trip 3D
- 2 - Saw 7
- 1 - a 10 year old boy from Boise, ID

In Reno I managed to by lose a slow game to a 10 year old expert named Luke Harmon-Vellotti

I have already reaped many rewards from my embarrassing debacle, winning 3 consecutive games with lessons learned from losing to Luke. That positioned me to play a GM on Board 8 in the final round for some decent money but there my luck ran out. So I lost to 2 GMs and a 10 year

old in Reno.

My big lesson from Luke is what I call the Vellotti moment - in every Chessgame you reach a position you don't like - something doesn't appeal to you - it will take you half an hour to reclimate yourself to the position. Against Harmon-Vellotti I failed in my task - I told Danielle Rice I actually hated Chess after pouring so much energy into my Round 1 loss to GM Eugene Perelshteyn -

Danielle -
" C'mon Brian "

That night I couldn't speak so I poured my energy into an email about the Perelshteyn game, very instructive.

Another mistake I made is you should always add 200-300 points to any kid. I wasn't prepared for a Lemmiwinks game. I realized later Luke's approach was just to play safely, he wrote his move down before playing it. He didn't try to kill me, I killed myself. I do that countless times on ICC against Lemmiwinks, I just publish my wins but I lose thousands of games when I face boring systems.

In my games after Luke I handled Vellotti moments much better, I spent the necessary time when I didn't know what was going on. I also rushed my central pawns down my Round 3 opponent's throat just the way that Luke did in Round 2.

I was numb that night from the shock and horror and trauma after my painful defeat and could barely talk to my roommate but the next morning I decided the best way to achieve 4 wins is to lose the first two games. I tried my damndest to win the rest of my games and almost succeeded.

There was something very strange in the defeat in that I saw his winning move many times in many variations for 6 minutes yet ignored it anyway.

Round 1 -
a painful blunder loss to GM Eugene Perelshteyn after playing my heart out and reaching an equal ending.

Round 2 -
after barely surviving Ryan Swerdlin the week before,
I lose to Luke Harmon-Vellotti,
failing miserably in my Vellotti moment

Round 3 -

After encountering a Vellotti moment I found a good move and rolled my opponent. I even rolled my pawns forward in the center like the brat did to me.

Round 4 -

Severe Vellotti moment which is when you don't like or understand your position and it takes you half an hour to reorient yourself. Often a Vellotti moment occurs in an even position where you have no winning plan. In this case I went from winning to even, I learned from the Luke Harmon-Vellotti game to calm down and just do what is necessary before it gets worse. So I accepted my fate, made my move and my opponent immediately blundered.

Round 5 -

My Vellotti moment - I hated my position for 20 minutes. I went to the other side of the board, immediately recognized the problem and knew what I had to do. I won.

Round 6 -

I played an opening I always do poorly with against a Grandmaster and lost. I felt uncomfortable all game. The GM played well. I was proud just to be on stage for a shot at the money after losing my first two games, one to a child.

I have not replayed or analyzed this game before this email except in my nightmares. I have thought about the game a lot and tried to use it constructively. I have succeeded in that.

Sometimes when I am losing I create new goals - here I decided to try to last 40 moves, not an easy task.

I tried to give this game to Super TD Randall Hough for the USChess.Org Chess Life online Reno report but he wasn't interested. I guess 10 year olds beating Chessmasters is commonplace nowadays. I gave Randall copies of my 3 victories and told him they were all masterpieces. Let's see if he prints any.

Nikita Zanichkowsky told me she doesn't like playing kids. Danielle Rice told me the same thing. I prefer playing kids to old people because I like to see how good the kids get and I don't have to watch them die. The nice thing about old people is they know what I'm talking about most of the time. I remember Les Haynes didn't like giving rating points to young Wyoming Champion Andrew Smith, now replaced by Dan Tanner.

I teased IM Joe Fang mercilessly when he lost to 12 year old Jorge Sammour - Hasbun 20 years ago. I always called him Hor-hay Zamorra. I told Joe he should have bribed him with a milk carton. My turn for the comedy rack.

Rising Stars will get rating points somewhere, why not from me?
I pride myself as the final examiner in Colorado, blocking everyone from their next underserved rating class.

As far as personality goes I talked to both father and son before the game and they were very pleasant and cheerful.

[Event "2009 Reno Western States Open"]
[Site "Sands Regency, Reno, Nevada"]
[Date "2009.10.25"]
[Round "5"]
[White "Luke Harmon-Vellotti, age 10"]
[Black "B-Wall"]
[Result "1-0"]
[ICCRresult "Black resigns"]
[WhiteElo "2059"]
[BlackElo "2204 both FIDE and USCF"]
[Opening "Ruy Lopez: Berlin defense"]
[ECO "C65"]
[NIC "RL.07"]
[Time "01:30:50"]
[TimeControl "300+0"]

Chessmaster loses to 10 year old

October 22, 2009

Round 2

2009 Western States Open

40/2, 20/1, Game/30, 5 second delay.
Some people put the delay on the final time control,
some had it going all game.

Friday evening

Open section

Board 24

This game put me next to last board next round, Froggy Hollow

White -

Luke Harmon-Vellotti, just learned to skateboard

I had the Black pieces, Thank God, one more excuse.

I chatted with Father and son and we began.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. Qe2

It's funny how openings are linked with emotions,
The Fishing Pole or Beefeater make me ecstatic,
The Nimzo-Indian or Closed Lopez fill me with horror.
I don't know what demon book recommends this approach
but it is very common on ICC. It seems better than
facing a Berlin endgame. Yucchh from the White side.
I publish blitz victories over joy-sucking soul-destroying Death-Eater
Lemmiwinks openings like the d3 English, the d3-Guicco Piano,
the d3 Ruy Lopez, the Colle, the London System but I don't publish
the thousands of losses I suffer from sheer boredom and frustration.
I had a nice game as Black against this against Richard Wagner
in the 2008 North American Open, December, Las Vegas, Bally's Casino.
I played a wild attack, reached a +5 position, messed it up, tried
to grind out an endgame win and ended up creating a beautiful mating
net with virtually no material. Against Richard I had worried about
my hanging e-pawn for 10 minutes per opening move and I finally
decided to just ignore that issue and develop my pieces. I copied
that approach this game and played my first 7 moves almost instantly.

4 ... Bc5! 5. O-O! O-O! 6. c3

To promote d4 and to stop ... Nd4 I presume

6 ... d6

Fritz 11 recommends 6 ... d5 or 6 ... Re8 7 d3 d5
I kind of knew that but never handle the Closed
Ruy that way for some prejudiced reason.
The next worse move after mine is 6 ... h5!?
which is too Fishing pole even for me.

7. d3 h6 8. Be3 Bxe3!

Fritz approved but dreaded by humans.
My Knights have no central outposts now
and the f-file is opened for attack.
I was just tired of being further hassled
after 8 ... Bb6 with moves like

Nd2-c4 or b4, a4

9. fxe3

Fritz likes 9 Q:e3
but I dreaded those doubled pawns.

9 ... Nh7

Steinitz once said those doubled central pawns are unexploitable
and the best strategy is to undouble them so I aim for that.

10. Nbd2 Kh8 11. Rad1

Luke wastes a lot of time with his Rooks before doubling on the f-file.

11 ... f5?

Fritz 11 hates this move.
I thought 11 .. Ng5!! was pointless because of 12 Nh4-f5 but now I see
11 ... Ng5!! 12 Nh4?? Nh3+!! or ... N:e4! easily.
My brain just wasn't working that day.

12. exf5?

I just don't understand these positions.
Fritz thinks Luke is already winning after
12 d4 ed 13 ed a6 14 Bd3
World Champions Capablanca, Bobby Fischer and Vishy Anand
were deadly on the White side of the Ruy Lopez. GM Julio
Becerra seems to win every game with it.

12 ... Bxf5! 13. e4 Bg4! 14. Qe3!!

My very first email 10 years ago talked about complementation,
Queen on dark squares, Bishop on light squares.
Good instincts for a 10 year old. 5 minutes spent on the move.

14 ... Qe7

Humans hate pins, computer seems to embrace them.
Fritz 11 prefers 14 ... Qe8 to my move.

15. Rde1!

Fritz approved.

This is kind of embarrassing.

I feared doubled Rooks on the f-file BEFORE

8 ... B:e3 which took me 13 minutes.

The embarrassing part is that even with two extra tempi I came nowhere close to handling it.

15 ... Nd8

Fritz offers many suggestions but nothing to assuage my permanent disadvantage.

16. d4!!

Winning - Fritz 11

Do not disconnect your Rooks without a very good reason - Alekhine

16 ... Nf7 17. Bc4!!

I have a rotten position against a 10 year old.

Swell -

Clint Eastwood

17 ... a6

So I can move my QR without de and Q:a7

18. Rf2

The moment I've been dreading all game,

Luke thought 13 minutes on this, scary in itself.

That's an eternity at 10.

Most of them fall to the ground at bank lines.
Fritz likes 18 Qf2! for some reason

18 ... Rae8 19. Ref1!!

This is what I now call the Vellotti moment.
Without doing very much Luke has a winning position.
All moves lose and I hate my position but still I
should think for half an hour and try to hang on.
That's what we do. I wanted to play 19 ... g5?
to lock out his knight but I saw that lost to B:f7 and N:e5.
My position sucks but 19 ... Bh5, ... Nf6, ... Be6, ... Nhg5,
... Nd8, ... B:f3 or ed at least all deal with the immediate threat.
After I made my move I asked myself what was wrong, I allowed
Luke to execute a threat I had already clearly seen and analyzed
many times in my head. It was like I was too tired to think.
It already seemed too late to grovel for
a draw so I just quietly took my lumps.

19 ... c6??

Time to investigate nursing home facilities.

20. Bxf7! Qxf7! 21. Nxe5! Qh5?

The sickest part is I told myself I should at least
decide which is better, 21 ... Qe6! or ... Qh5?
and I couldn't even manage that.

22. Nf7+!!

I just stared at the knight like his move was illegal.
How is it possible not to see that?
Had Eugene Perelshteyn sucked every brain cell
out of my cerebellum with a Car Vac in Round 1?
It was an out of body, out of brain experience.
The rest was hell on earth. I couldn't look at anybody,
it felt like a public hanging or at least a flogging.
I don't remember anything outside of my 64 square death chamber.

22 ... Kg8! 23. Nxd6!!

Kasparov says he was told as a child that a Knight on e6 or d6 is worth a rook.

Am I then down a Rook? I did have one funny ICC blitz game where my opponent had Knights on e6 and d6 both protected by pawns. It still gives me chills.

23 ... Rxf2! 24. Rxf2! Re7 25. e5! Be6 26. b3 a5

Shameless desperation.

There is a certain freedom to lost positions,
things can't get worse.

27. Rf1 a4 28. c4 axb3 29. axb3! b5

Trying to abort future Queens from
appearing on stage like Chinese couples
mandated by the government to have one child.

30. N2e4 bxc4 31. bxc4! Ng5! 32. Nxc5 hxc5 33. Qe4!! Ra7 34. d5

As I played the game I wondered when the computer
would give Luke the High +5 and that moment is now.

34 ... cxd5! 35. cxd5!

The Pawn Wave Kid killing the Pawn Wave Guy

35 ... Bg4 36. e6!!

Can this be happening?
+8

36 ... Re7 37. Rc1

+15

37 ... Bxe6 38. dxe6!

mates

38 ... g6 39. Rc8+! Kh7!

40 Qd4, Qd3, Qa4, Qe1 or Qc2
all checkmate

40. Qe5 Rg7

40 ... Qd1+ lasts longer but I just wanted to complete the first time control.
40 Qe5 Rg7 41 Ne4 or Qa1 checkmates

1-0 I resign to the 10 year old

I wish Luke well. The higher his rating climbs, the less foolish I look.
Examples: latest ratings for GM Robert Hess, GM Ray Robson, Tyler Hughes,
FM Darwin Yang, Ryan Moon and Alexander Velikanov.
Everyone here is 11-18 years old.

Robert Hess	2655	beat me 2008	North American Open
Ray Robson	2616	beat me 2008	Florida Open
Tyler Hughes	2354	beat me several times	
Darwin Yang	2316	beat me 2008	North American Open
Ryan Moon	2188	beat me 2008	North American Open
Alexander Velikanov	2092	drew me by puking, 2008	North American Open

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8. Be3 Bxe3 9. fxe3 Nh7 10. Nbd2 Kh8 11. Rad1 f5 12. exf5 Bxf5 13. e4 Bg4
14. Qe3 Qe7 15. Rde1 Nd8 16. d4 Nf7 17. Bc4 a6 18. Rf2 Rae8 19. Ref1 c6
20. Bxf7 Qxf7 21. Nxe5 Qh5 22. Nf7+ Kg8 23. Nxd6 Rxf2 24. Rxf2 Re7
25. e5 Be6 26. b3 a5 27. Rf1 a4 28. c4 axb3 29. axb3 b5 30. N2e4 bxc4
31. bxc4 Ng5 32. Nxc5 hxg5 33. Qe4 Ra7 34. d5 cxd5 35. cxd5 Bg4
36. e6 Re7 37. Rc1 Bxe6 38. dxe6 g6 39. Rc8+ Kh7 40. Qe5 Rg7

1-0 I resign to the 10 year old

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