



The United States Chess Federation

Getting Ready for Vietnam

September 4, 2008



Luke Harmon-Vellotti, preparing to give a chess lesson to a local sponsor.

The motivated, rising 9-year-old star Luke Harmon-Vellotti (currently 1960 USCF) was featured this summer in the Idaho Statesman, Chess Life 4 Kids and a CLO article on the San Diego U.S. Chess School. You can also follow Luke's progress on his website, sponsorluke.com as he prepares for top flight competition including, pending funds, the World Youth in Vietnam (October 19-31.)

Even if he doesn't make it to Vietnam, watch out for Luke in major American Opens such as the Western States (Reno), the Washington Class Champs (Seattle) and the North American Open Vegas.)

There are few major tournaments in Luke's hometown, Boise, Idaho, so he'll need to travel to improve.

Luke's disciplined approach has allowed him to do something few so young can: coach! Luke gave a private lesson to a local sponsor and the 4th grader structured the hour carefully.

Ava said, "The one-hour lesson consisted of two G/5 games, two analyses of his student's recent tournament games, and a challenge where Luke printed out a game featuring his student's favorite opening and had him guess the best moves. He even got a candy bowl together to give out when the student made a good move, although I suspect that he ate some of the candy himself. And he loved it- you have never seen a happier chess instructor giving a lesson!"

Play through two of Luke's victories over National Masters. For analysis of these games, check out Jerry Hanken's CL4K article on Luke.

(over)

National Open, 2008

White: Harmon-Vellotti, Luke

Black: Hanken, Jerry



Position after 40. Rb2-b7

[Enlarge board](#)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c6 4.Nc3 d5
5.e5 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 e6 8.Bd3
h5 9.Be3 Nh6 10.O-O a6 11.Ne2 c5
12.c3 Nc6 13.a3 c4 14.Bc2 Nf5
15.Ng3 h4 16.Nxf5 gxf5 17.b3 cxb3
18.Bxb3 Bf8 19.c4 dxc4 20.Bxc4 Nxd4
21.Qxb7 Qc8 22.Qxc8+ Rxc8 23.Bxa6
Ra8 24.Bb7 Rb8 25.Bxd4 Rxb7 26.a4
Rb4 27.Rfd1 Be7 28.Ra2 Rc4 29.a5
O-O 30.a6 Ra8 31.a7 Kh7 32.Rb2
Kg6 33.Bb6 f6 34.Rd7 Bf8 35.Rb7
fxe5 36.Rb8 Rc8 37.Rxc8 Rxc8
38.Bc7 Ra8 39.Bb8 Bc5 40.Rb7 (1-0)



Position after 21. ... Na5-b3

[Enlarge board](#)

National Open, 2008

White: Weeramantry, Sunil

Black: Harmon-Vellotti, Luke

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2
Ne7 6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 O-O 8.c3 Nbc6
9.f4 f6 10.Nf3 Bd7 11.Nd6 Qb6 12.Rd1
cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc8 14.Nxc8 Raxc8 15.Bd3
Nb4 16.Bb1 f5 17.O-O Rc7 18.Rc1 Rfc8
19.a3 Nc6 20.Rc3 Na5 21.Rfc1 Nb3 (0-1)