

Volume 2, Issue 4
December 29, 2017

MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Kidding Aside...

1	Kaplan	195	56	56	35	48
4	Berk	91	24	27	27	13
2	Rockoff	91	43	15	33	0
3	Wei	213	32	67	54	60

**U26
USA1
Semi Final**

U26 USA2 Round of 16

VPs Total	#	TEAM	VPs Match	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
29.74	5	Dhir	15.66	111	25	24	27	35
	6	Kompa	4.34	67	25	18	1	23
16.07	6	Kompa	11.73	87	13	15	42	17
	7	Baumel	8.27	76	26	35	1	14
14.19	7	Baumel	5.92	42	15	20	5	2
	5	Dhir	14.08	71	37	24	2	8

U21 Round Robin

Team Name	Total	3	1	2	6	5	4
3. Wan	76.57		12.21	15.72	13.07	15.57	20.00
1. Stephani	69.84	7.79		16.02	11.75	14.93	19.35
2. Xiao	58.27	4.28	3.98		14.76	15.25	20.00
6. Xu	57.94	6.93	8.25	5.24		19.85	17.67
5. Koppel	24.93	4.43	5.07	4.75	.15		10.53
4. Chai	12.45	0.00	.65	0.00	2.33	9.47	

U16 Semi-Final

VPs Total	#	TEAM	VPs Match	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
2.98	1	Schireson	0.47	23	0	8	0	15
	2	Xiao	19.53	124	0	87	12	25
34.89	2	Xiao	15.36	84	0	29	49	6
	3	Xie	4.64	43	0	37	1	5
22.13	3	Xie	17.49	107	0	53	26	28
	1	Schireson	2.51	41	0	9	16	16

Ed Note:

For those who are unaware, these Bulletins are being produced off site in Chicago. Co-operation from the tournament staff and parents is really important to bring you live, up to date photos and stories. See photos throughout ... thanks to everyone for their help!

Suzi

Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important.

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Fred Gitelman

Bob Hamman

Geoff Hampson

Chip Martel

Beth Palmer

Pepsi Pszczola

Debbie Rosenberg

Michael Rosenberg

Kerri Sanborn

Aaron Silverstein

Adam Wildavsky

VuGraph Organizer

Jan Martel

Bulletin Editor

Suzi Subeck

Photographer

Peg Kaplan

USBF Website & Software

Al Hollander

Teams Entered...

U26:

Kompa	Benjamin Kompa, Capt Brandon Harper	David Yoon Jeffrey Schwartz
Rockoff	Kyle Rockoff, Capt Daniel Sonner	Ilan Wolff Cyrus Hettle
Kaplan	Adam Kaplan, Capt Kevin Rosenberg Oren Kriegel	Christian Jolly Benjamin Kristensen Zachary Grossack
Berk	Hakan Berk, Capt Samuel Goldberg	David Soukup Matthew Weingarten
Baumel	Jonathan Baumel, Capt Ninad More	Gianni Hsieh Alexander Frieden
Wei	Hongji Wei, Capt Nian Si Chang Liu	Yewen Fan Yichen Yin Che Shen
Dhir	Arjun Dhir Samuel Amer Burke Snowden	William Zhu Gregory Herman

U21:

Stephani	Isaac Stephani, Capt John Taylor	Julian Kurtzman Victor Xu
Xiao	Brent Xiao, Capt Cornelius Duffie Richard Jeng	Kevin Huang Sarah Youngquist
Wan	Stella (Qinqin) Wan, Capt Jacob Williams	David Zheng Luke Williams
Chai	Eric Chai, Capt Vincent Zhu	Kyle Lui Michael Zheng
Koppel	Reese Koppel, Capt Jack Donaghue Cooper Smith	Kunal Vohra Hunter McClain Caleb Colburn
Xu	Yuchen Xu, Capt Di Wu	Dian Qi Lingyi Ma

U16:

Schireson	Olivia Schireson, Capt Jerry Xia Calix Tang	Miranda Schuyler Aman Desai
Xiao	Rory Xiao, Capt Michael Hu Harrison Luba	Jonathan Yue Arthur Zhou
Xie	Ethan Xie, Capt Marley Cedrone	Michael Xu Zacharia Posternak

RONA (GIRLS):

Fashingbauer	Ellie Fashingbauer, Capt Emma Kolesnik Helena Hsieh	Emma Miller Lauren Liu Morgan Johnstone
Thapa	Isha Thapa, Capt Lucy Zhang	Amber Lin Sophia Chang

Children who fail their coloring exams always need a shoulder to crayon.

I was struggling to figure out how lightning works then it struck me.

I wondered why my geometry class was always tired. They were all out of shape.

A rule of grammar: double negatives are a no-no.

There are two skeleton teachers at school. One is humerus, but the other is very sternum.

I always prayed before my trigonometry tests. I was hoping for a sine from above.

After periodic doubts about his vocational calling, the young chemistry teacher concluded he was out of his element.

Decimals have a point.

Little Jimmy told his teacher he never saw a humming bird but he had watched a spelling bee.

I used to work as a high school ceramics teacher, but I got too close to the kiln and I was fired.

Only the squares are doing well in geometry class. It's their area.

I can never understand my trigonometry teacher because he always talks in sine language.

The high school music teacher was quite controversial. He told his students to read band books.

The English Teacher felt odd after being fired: it was post-grammatic stress disorder.

An English teacher, who was dreadfully afraid of insects, while on a picnic screamed like a little girl when he saw there was an antonym.

The man who bought too much graphing paper didn't know where to draw the line.

Tournament Schedule

U26 SCHEDULE			
DAY	DATE	TIME	BOARDS
WEDNESDAY	DEC. 27	11:15 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
<i>ROUND ROBIN</i>			
WEDNESDAY	DEC. 27	11:30 - 12:40 12:50 - 2:00 2:10 - 3:20 3:30 - 4:40 6:30 - 7:40 7:50 - 9:00 9:10 - 10:20	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-8 MATCH 2 - BOARDS 9-16 MATCH 3 - BOARDS 17-24 MATCH 4 - BOARDS 25-32 110 MINUTE BREAK MATCH 5 - BOARDS 1-8 MATCH 6 - BOARDS 9-16 MATCH 7 - BOARDS 17-24
EACH TEAM WILL SIT OUT ONE MATCH.			
<i>USA1 SEMIFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 16 (3-WAY)</i>			
THURSDAY	DEC. 28	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00 5:45 - 7:55 8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 (1-14 IN 3-WAY) SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 (15-28 IN 3-WAY) 105 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 (1-14 IN 3-WAY) SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30 (15-28 IN 3-WAY)
<i>USA1 FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL & SEMIFINAL</i>			
FRIDAY	DEC. 29	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 105 MINUTE BREAK
AND	&	5:45 - 7:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
SATURDAY	DEC. 30	8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
<i>USA2 FINAL</i>			
SUNDAY	DEC. 31	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00 5:45 - 7:55 8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 105 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
U21 SCHEDULE			
WEDNESDAY	DEC. 27	11:15 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
<i>ROUND ROBIN</i>			
DAY	DATE	TIME	BOARDS
WEDNESDAY	DEC. 27	11:30 - 1:05 1:15 - 2:50 3:00 - 4:35	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-11 MATCH 2 - BOARDS 12-22 MATCH 3 - BOARDS 23-33 115 MINUTE BREAK
AND	&		
THURSDAY	DEC. 28	6:30 - 8:05 8:15 - 9:50	MATCH 4 - BOARDS 1-11 MATCH 5 - BOARDS 12-22
<i>SEMIFINAL</i>			
FRIDAY	DEC. 29	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00 5:45 - 7:55 8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 105 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30

No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.

This applies to players AND kibitzers.

Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule.

Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door.

The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone entering the playing field.

Sports in Atlanta has a rich history, including the oldest on-campus NCAA Division I football stadium, Bobby Dodd Stadium, built in 1913 by the students of Georgia Tech. Atlanta also played host to the second intercollegiate football game in the South, played between the A&M College of Alabama (now Auburn University) and the University of Georgia in Piedmont Park in 1892; this game is now called the Deep South's Oldest Rivalry. The city hosts college football's annual Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl and the Peachtree Road Race, the world's largest 10 km race. Atlanta was the host city for the Centennial 1996 Summer Olympics, and Downtown Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park was built for and commemorates the games.

Atlanta is home to professional franchises for 5 major team sports: the Atlanta Braves of Major League Baseball, the Atlanta Hawks of the National Basketball Association, the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League, the Atlanta Dream of the Women's National Basketball Association, and new as of March 2017, Atlanta United FC of Major League Soccer.

Atlanta United FC has called the Mercedes Benz Stadium home along with the Atlanta Falcons starting in July 2017. Atlanta has also recently added a professional lacrosse team, the Atlanta Blaze.

(Schedule continued on page 4)

FINAL & PLAYOFF FOR THIRD PLACE			
SATURDAY	DEC. 30	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00 5:45 - 7:55 8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 105 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
RONA SCHEDULE			
FRIDAY	DEC. 29	11:15 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
FINAL			
FRIDAY	DEC. 29	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00 5:45 - 7:55 8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 105 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
AND	&		
SATURDAY	DEC. 30		
U16 SCHEDULE			
THURSDAY	DEC. 28	11:15 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
ROUND ROBIN			
THURSDAY	DEC. 28	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00 5:45 - 7:55 8:05 - 10:15	BOARDS 1-14 BOARDS 15-28 110 MINUTE BREAK BOARDS 1-14 BOARDS 15-28
&	&		
FRIDAY	DEC. 29		
FINAL			
SATURDAY	DEC. 30	11:30 - 1:40 1:50 - 4:00 5:45 - 7:55 8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 105 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30

Swedish Junior Bridge Camp and Tournament...

March 28-April 1, 2018

The grandparents of one of our Juniors (Marley Cedrone) are going to be in Sweden in the spring and plan to take him to this event. For others who may be interested in attending, please go online to:

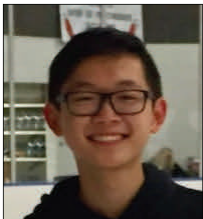
<http://www.eurobridge.org/events/2018-nordic-junior-pair-championship-junior-camp/>

The camp + tournament costs 3800 Swedish Kroners (about \$455), which includes room & board for 5 days as well as the cost of the camp and tournament.

Random Trivia (aka filling space) ...

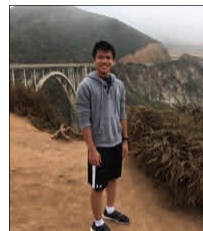
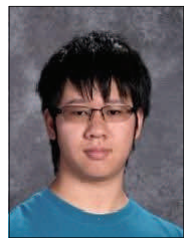
Chile shares the majority of its border with which other South American country? Argentina
 Who was the oldest member of the rock band The Beatles? Ringo Starr
 In which country did cheddar cheese originate? England
 Siddhartha Gautama is believed to be the founder of what religion? Buddhism
 Before the introduction of the euro, what was the name for the basic monetary unit used in the Netherlands? Guilder

Meet the Players



Eric Chai is 16 years old and a Junior at High Technology High School in Lincroft, NJ, where he started a bridge club. Eric has been playing bridge for about 4 years now. He also plays chess for his school, and enjoys playing soccer.

Michael Zheng is currently a junior at Lynbrook high school. Michael's favorite subjects are biology and history. He enjoys playing chess, playing bridge, and sailing in his free time. Michael started playing bridge in 9th grade, and continues to enjoy the game. Michael has recently won the YNABC pairs event.



Kyle Lui is currently a junior at High Technology High School living in Marlboro, New Jersey. He has been playing bridge for 3 years now. Besides bridge, he swims and plays volleyball for the Marlboro high school varsity team. He takes part in many STEM related competitions at High Technology High School. In his spare time, he enjoys playing piano and coding.

Vincent Zhu, a 15-year-old from Atlanta, Georgia, is currently a sophomore at Northview High School. Vincent has been playing bridge for around 5 years now. He also plays tennis in his free time.

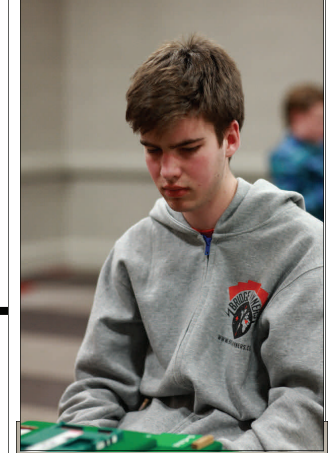
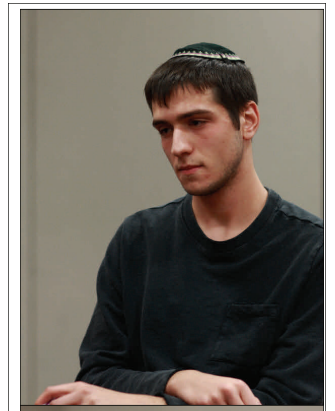


Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10.00	10.00	21	14.04	5.96	42	16.83	3.17	63	18.77	1.23
1	10.23	9.77	22	14.20	5.80	43	16.94	3.06	64	18.85	1.15
2	10.45	9.55	23	14.35	5.65	44	17.05	2.95	65	18.92	1.08
3	10.67	9.33	24	14.50	5.50	45	17.16	2.84	66	18.99	1.01
4	10.89	9.11	25	14.65	5.35	46	17.26	2.74	67	19.06	0.94
5	11.10	8.90	26	14.80	5.20	47	17.36	2.64	68	19.13	0.87
6	11.31	8.69	27	14.95	5.05	48	17.46	2.54	69	19.20	0.80
7	11.52	8.48	28	15.09	4.91	49	17.56	2.44	70	19.27	0.73
8	11.72	8.28	29	15.23	4.77	50	17.66	2.34	71	19.34	0.66
9	11.92	8.08	30	15.37	4.63	51	17.75	2.25	72	19.41	0.59
10	12.11	7.89	31	15.50	4.50	52	17.84	2.16	73	19.47	0.53
11	12.30	7.70	32	15.63	4.37	53	17.93	2.07	74	19.53	0.47
12	12.49	7.51	33	15.76	4.24	54	18.02	1.98	75	19.59	0.41
13	12.67	7.33	34	15.89	4.11	55	18.11	1.89	76	19.65	0.35
14	12.85	7.15	35	16.02	3.98	56	18.20	1.80	77	19.71	0.29
15	13.03	6.97	36	16.14	3.86	57	18.29	1.71	78	19.77	0.23
16	13.21	6.79	37	16.26	3.74	58	18.37	1.63	79	19.83	0.17
17	13.38	6.62	38	16.38	3.62	59	18.45	1.55	80	19.89	0.11
18	13.55	6.45	39	16.50	3.50	60	18.53	1.47	81	19.94	0.06
19	13.72	6.28	40	16.61	3.39	61	8.61	1.39	82	19.99	0.01
20	13.88	6.12	41	16.72	3.28	62	18.69	1.31	83	20.00	0.00

USBF 22 Board VP Scale

Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10.00	10.00	30	14.20	5.80	60	17.04	2.96	90	18.98	1.02
1	10.17	9.83	31	14.31	5.69	61	17.12	2.88	91	19.03	0.97
2	10.34	9.66	32	14.42	5.58	62	17.20	2.80	92	19.08	0.92
3	10.50	9.50	33	14.53	5.47	63	17.28	2.72	93	19.13	0.87
4	10.66	9.34	34	14.64	5.36	64	17.35	2.65	94	19.18	0.82
5	10.82	9.18	35	14.75	5.25	65	17.42	2.58	95	19.23	0.77
6	10.98	9.02	36	14.86	5.14	66	17.49	2.51	96	19.28	0.72
7	11.13	8.87	37	14.96	5.04	67	17.56	2.44	97	19.33	0.67
8	11.28	8.72	38	15.06	4.94	68	17.63	2.37	98	19.38	0.62
9	11.43	8.57	39	15.16	4.84	69	17.70	2.30	99	19.43	0.57
10	11.58	8.42	40	15.26	4.74	70	17.77	2.23	100	19.48	0.52
11	11.73	8.27	41	15.36	4.64	71	17.84	2.16	101	19.53	0.47
12	11.88	8.12	42	15.46	4.54	72	17.91	2.09	102	19.58	0.42
13	12.02	7.98	43	15.56	4.44	73	17.98	2.02	103	19.63	0.37
14	12.16	7.84	44	15.66	4.34	74	18.05	1.95	104	19.67	0.33
15	12.30	7.70	45	15.76	4.24	75	18.11	1.89	105	19.71	0.29
16	12.44	7.56	46	15.85	4.15	76	18.17	1.83	106	19.75	0.25
17	12.58	7.42	47	15.94	4.06	77	18.23	1.77	107	19.79	0.21
18	12.71	7.29	48	16.03	3.97	78	18.29	1.71	108	19.83	0.17
19	12.84	7.16	49	16.12	3.88	79	18.35	1.65	109	19.87	0.13
20	12.97	7.03	50	16.21	3.79	80	18.41	1.59	110	19.91	0.09
21	13.10	6.90	51	16.30	3.70	81	18.47	1.53	111	19.95	0.05
22	13.23	6.77	52	16.39	3.61	82	18.53	1.47	112	19.99	0.01
23	13.36	6.64	53	16.48	3.52	83	18.59	1.41	113	20.00	0.00
24	13.48	6.52	54	16.56	3.44	84	18.65	1.35			
25	13.60	6.40	55	16.64	3.36	85	18.71	1.29			
26	13.72	6.28	56	16.72	3.28	86	18.77	1.23			
27	13.84	6.16	57	16.80	3.20	87	18.83	1.17			
28	13.96	6.04	58	16.88	3.12	88	18.88	1.12			
29	14.08	5.92	59	16.96	3.04	89	18.93	1.07			

USBF 56 Board VP Scale



			6	9			1	2
6	9			5		4		
				7	4			
2		8				6		
1	3		9					
					3		7	6
9						1		
	2			8				

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

		2				9		
		9		4		3	6	
3			6		1			
	3		5	8				
4			7				2	
			3		6			
8	1			7				
					5	6	4	

Answers to Puzzles No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

9	2	7	1	3	5	6	4	8
8	1	6	4	7	2	5	3	9
5	4	3	9	6	8	1	7	2
7	9	8	3	2	6	4	5	1
4	6	5	7	1	9	8	2	3
2	3	1	5	8	4	7	9	6
3	5	4	6	9	1	2	8	7
1	8	9	2	4	7	3	6	5
6	7	2	8	5	3	9	1	4

Sudoku 1 Solution

7	2	6	1	8	9	3	4	5
9	5	3	7	4	6	1	2	8
4	8	1	5	2	3	9	7	6
5	6	9	8	1	7	2	3	4
1	3	4	9	6	2	8	5	7
2	7	8	4	3	5	6	9	1
8	1	2	3	7	4	5	6	9
6	9	7	2	5	1	4	8	3
3	4	5	6	9	8	7	1	2

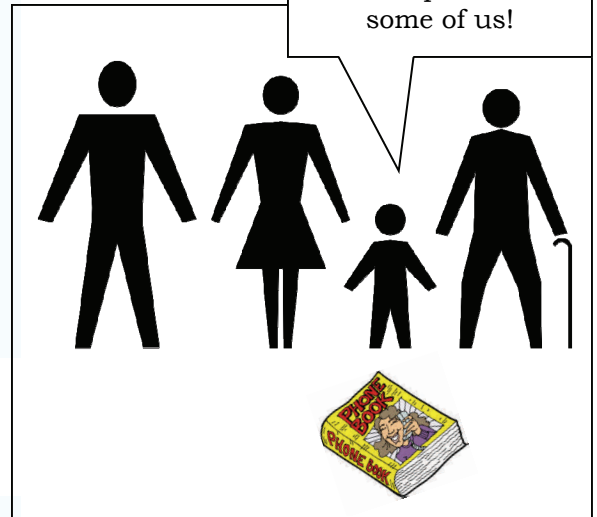
Puzzle Page

Spring is in the air and four garden enthusiasts are eagerly making their plans for their spring planting. Each gardener is planning one large garden planned for vegetables and several smaller gardens for flowers. This year's planting will include one more vegetable and one more flower than last year's gardens had. As it happens, each gardener also plans to break ground on the garden on a different day. Use the clues to determine the full name of each gardener, what new vegetable and flower will be grown, and which day each plans to break ground.

- Mr. Heart didn't plan to break ground on Monday. Patrick's last name isn't Lamb.
- Marge didn't plant peas. The gardener, whose first name isn't Patrick, breaking ground on Thursday is planting corn and daffodils.
- Toby Garick plans to break ground on Friday but he's not planting corn or azaleas.
- The gardener planning on roses isn't planting on Thursday. Sharon Adler is planting peas, but not daffodils, and she isn't planting on Saturday.
- The gardener planting on Friday isn't planting beans.
- The gardener planting carrots will break ground after the gardener planting azaleas but before the gardener planting tulips and beans.

	Adler	Garick	Heart	Lamb	beans	carrots	corn	peas	azaleas	daffodils	roses	tulips	Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Marge																
Patrick																
Sharon																
Toby																
Monday																
Thursday																
Friday																
Saturday																
azaleas																
daffodils																
roses																
tulips																
beans																
carrots																
corn																
peas																

With four in the family, there's always enough for a game of bridge... so long as someone remembers my phonebook!
Just sayin...
Seeing over the table can be a problem for some of us!



First Name	Last Name	Vegetable	Flower	Day

Marge	Adler	beans	azaleas	Monday
Patrick	Garick	carrots	daffodils	Thursday
Sharon	Heart	corn	roses	Friday
Toby	Lamb	peas	tulips	Saturday

Answer to Puzzle

Friday	roses	carrots	Garick	Toby
Monday	azaleas	peas	Adler	Sharon
Saturday	tulips	beans	Heart	Patrick
Thursday	daffodils	corn	Lamb	Marge
Day	Flower	Vegetable	Last Name	First Name

Day Two... USA 1 U26 Headups

Board 3

Rockoff
 ♠ J1092
 ♥ 96
 ♦ A
 ♣ J76543

Yin
 ♠ 85
 ♥ A542
 ♦ 10962
 ♣ 1092

Shen
 ♠ A76
 ♥ KQ10873
 ♦ J7
 ♣ A8

Wolff
 ♠ KQ43
 ♥ J
 ♦ KQ8543
 ♣ KQ

NS: 0
EW: 0

Yin	Rockoff	Shen	Wolff
			1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On Board 3 in the Rockoff/Wei match, Ilan Wolff, a student at the University of Chicago, took an aggressive view that paid off well in IMPs. Ilan opened 1D; his partner, Kyle Rockoff, a very successful tournament player in the Chicago area, heralding from Northwestern University, responded 1S. Ilan saw this as a chance for a game swing. Backing up his thinking, he bid 4S over Shen's 2H overcall. One first round control from partner, and Ilan knew the game would have a play.

Shen led the HK followed by a small heart. Rockoff showed good technique by ruffing with the SQ... after all, he did have all the spots down to the nine. He played SK; Shen ducked. He played S3 to the jack and Shen won the ace. Shen was helpless. Rockoff only needed to knockout the CA and he was home free with ten tricks.

At the other table, (see below), Wei and Liu had a very different auction ending in 4D (probably intended to show 6 good diamonds and 4 spades). The poor diamond split resulted in down one and a 10 IMP swing for Rockoff.

Hettle	Wei	Sonner	Liu
			1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Interestingly, this Board produced a swing in the Berk/Kaplan match as well.

Z Gross	Berk	Kriegel	Soukup
			1♦
Pass	1♠	2♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Berk and Soukup had the same auction as Wei and Liu... up to Liu's 4D call. Soukup took the more expected approach of jump raising partner's suit with four card support and a 16 count. Unfortunately for him, on this hand, Berk did not have an acceptance and they played in the part score taking ten tricks.

At the other table, where Kaplan and Jolly held the North/South cards respectively, they duplicated Berk/Soukup's auction until North's final bid. Kaplan, never known for his shy bidding, took the push and bid the game. Again, Kaplan brought home ten tricks and 6 IMP pickup for his team.

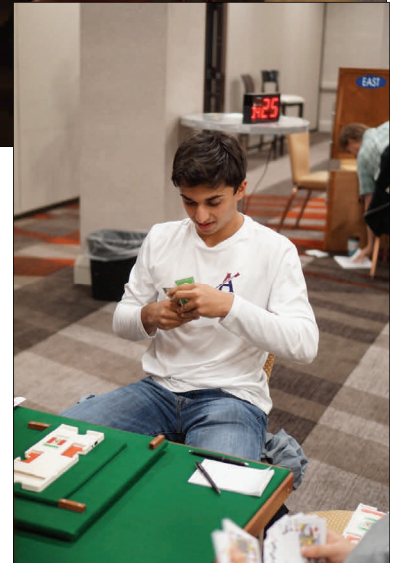
S Goldbl	Kaplan	Weingar	Jolly
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			



Kaplan, left
Jolly, right



Good luck to all!
Be focused!
Be ethical!
Be kind!





**Special thanks to Bo Xiao and Sylvia Shi
for their awesome photos!**

Board 5

Wei
 ♠ 54
 ♥ 65
 ♦ K10864
 ♣ Q765

Hettle
 ♠ KJ9
 ♥ A84
 ♦ 752
 ♣ 9843

Sonner
 ♠ Q83
 ♥ QJ9732
 ♦ Q3
 ♣ J10

Liu
 ♠ A10762
 ♥ K10
 ♦ AJ9
 ♣ AK2

NS: 0
 EW: 0

Hettle	Wei	Sonner	Liu
	Pass	2♥	Dbl
2♠	Pass	3♥	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Yin	Rockoff	Shen	Wolff
	Pass	2♦*	Dbl
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* multi

Board 5 produced game swings in both matches of the U26 event.

In Rockoff/Wei, Wei and Liu bid to 3NT from South while Rockoff and Wolff stopped in 3S from South.

Yin led the HA and switched to the C9, Wolff winning the CA. Wolff played a small trump from his ace to Yin's nine, and Yin led another small club and declarer played the trump ace followed by a small trump, happy to see the 3-3 split. The defense played a small heart to the jack and king, and Wolff properly tested clubs to see if they divided 3-3 for a diamond pitch.

When clubs proved 4-2, Wolff played a diamond to the ace and took the now losing diamond finesse for the queen. Being in the partscore was wise since he lost two spades, one heart and one diamond to take nine tricks. +140

3NT was more challenging in the other room. Hettle led a small heart from his Axx. Liu won his king, played three rounds of clubs, and was at the moment of truth. He needed to guess correctly in diamonds in order to come to nine tricks since the hearts were set up.

As so often happens in bridge, only the specs knew the situation. Liu took the technically correct play of a diamond to the ace, then finessing West for the DQ. After all, Liu could only handle the 4-1 one way. Also, East was known to hold eight cards in hearts and clubs making the finesse through West more likely.

Sonner could have cashed the hearts and defeated 3NT, however, he believed Liu had the suit double stopped... and perhaps he was confused by his partner's 2S asking bid. It likely does not come up too often, and maybe was not discussed over doubles?

Since it seemed unlikely that Hettle held the HA, Sonner took what he thought was his best shot to kill the contract. He switched to a spade. Liu won his ace and happily cashed nine tricks, taking back the 10 IMPs his team lost on board 3!

It is interesting to note that since Yin bid 3H over Shen's 2D, he showed at least 3 spades and a willingness to play in 3S, South is correct to proceed with caution since when Lefty is willing to play 3 of either major, it might not be your hand in game.

Open Room Board 5

Kaplan: 6 IMPs
 Berk: 23 IMPs

5465Q765K10864
 ♠ 54 ♥ 65 ♦ K10864 ♣ Q765

N North: Kaplan

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2NT
	Pass	3NT	Pass
	Pass	Pass	Pass

W West: S Goldberg
 E East: Weingarten

Closed Room: 3NT S -2 -200

A10762K10AK2AJ9
 ♠ A10762 ♥ K10 ♦ AJ9 ♣ AK2

S South: Jolly

3NT South NS 0 EW 0

In the other match, both North/Souths bid to 3NT.

Where Soukup was declarer, Grossack led a small heart and Soukup immediately won Dummy's ace, played a diamond to his ace and took the losing finesse... contract failing two tricks for -200.

Where Jolly was declarer and Weingarten had failed to show a weak two in hearts, Goldberg led a fourth best club. Jolly, having no information at his disposal, played off three rounds of clubs and took a successful finesse to his diamond jack.

When the smoke cleared, Jolly had ten tricks, +630 and 13 IMPs to Kaplan.

Grossack Berk Soukup Kriegel

West	North	East	South
	Pass	2♥	Dbl
3♥	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

29

Yin
 ♠ J952
 ♥ AKJ7
 ♦ A96
 ♣ J7

Rockoff
 ♠ A104
 ♥ 10962
 ♦ J84
 ♣ Q93

Wolff
 ♠ Q873
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q1052
 ♣ K1082

Shen
 ♠ K6
 ♥ Q543
 ♦ K73
 ♣ A654

NS: 0
EW: 0

Rockoff	Yin	Wolff	Shen
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Si	Sonner	fan	Hettle
	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Yin showed excellent technique playing Board 29. He received the favorable lead of the S7 against 4H and took advantage of that plus a small defensive slip to score ten tricks.

Yin ducked the lead in dummy and Rockoff inserted the ST. Yin won his jack. He continued spades to the king and ace. Rockoff switched to a low heart, Yin winning his ace. Yin ruffed a spade, played a heart to the king, noting the poor break... and noting the play of the NINE! from West. Yin played his last spade and pitched a diamond from dummy leaving Wolff in with his SQ.

Wolff led a diamond, won by Dummy's king. Yin left Dummy with a small club to his jack and Wolff's king. Wolff led another diamond; Yin won in hand and ruffed a diamond with Dummy's last heart.

Yin played a club to Dummy's ace and holding the H:J7 over the H:T6, Yin claimed ten tricks and scored his vulnerable game. +620

At the other table, where Sonner was declarer, Fan led the D5. Sonner won his ace and played a spade to the king and ace. Si exited a diamond to the king and Sonner played another spade to the nine and queen. Fan cashed the DQ and played a 13th diamond. Sonner trumped with the queen; Si shed his ST and dummy pitched a club.

A heart went to the ace and king, leaving no hope for success. Sonner had already lost two spades and a diamond and he still had a loser in trump. One down and 12 IMPs to Shen.

13

Kaplan
 ♠ 643
 ♥ K82
 ♦ J54
 ♣ Q875

S Goldberg
 ♠ AQ
 ♥ A64
 ♦ AQ10763
 ♣ 104

Weingarten
 ♠ KJ5
 ♥ QJ105
 ♦ 2
 ♣ AK632

Jolly
 ♠ 109872
 ♥ 973
 ♦ K98
 ♣ J9

NS: 0
EW: 0

Board 13 in the second segment was exciting in the Kaplan/Berk match. Goldberg and Weingarten bid to 6D on their 6-1 fit. Kaplan, unaware just how poor a contract this was, made the aggressive lead of a low heart from his king. Dummy's queen held and Goldberg successfully tried a diamond to the queen. Still holding his breath, he cashed the DA and led a third diamond. When trumps were 3-3, he knew (as most of us know too) that it was better to be lucky than good!

His heart loser would be discarded on the good spade in dummy.

At the other table, East/West played in 4NT on a spade lead from South. After winning the spade, East finessed the DK, cashed the DA and played a third diamond. He collected three spades, five diamonds, one heart and two clubs for 11 tricks...

13 IMPs to Berk

23

Weingarten
 ♠ AK7
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ J543
 ♣ QJ84

KRosenberg
 ♠ QJ1092
 ♥ 1092
 ♦ K72
 ♣ 75

Kristensen
 ♠ 654
 ♥ K643
 ♦ 86
 ♣ A932

S Goldberg
 ♠ 83
 ♥ AJ75
 ♦ AQ109
 ♣ K106

NS: 0
EW: 0

KRosent	Weingar	Kristens	S Goldbl
1 ♠	3NT	Pass	1 ♦
Pass			Pass

Kevin Rosenberg made a fine play on Board 23 from the fourth segment of the USA1 Semifinal. South opened 1D and Kevin overcalled 1S. North jumped to 3NT and Ben Kristensen, East, led a small spade. As specs, we can see that declarer needs to take the diamond finesse before driving out the club ace. Declarer can duck a spade and win the third round of spades. When he drives out the club ace, East will have no more spades to lead.

But, all is not what it seems, declarer led a diamond to the queen and Kevin DUCKED. Declarer led a high club. Ben won the ace and cleared the spade suit. Declarer can now count three clubs, two spades, two diamonds and the ace of hearts. He can take either red suit finesse for a ninth trick.

Of course, the diamond finesse had worked once, why not try it again? Backing up this thinking, Weingarten repeated the hook in diamonds.

When Kevin won the DK, he cashed two more spades to defeat 3NT. Declarer could have led the DJ at trick two in order to stay in his hand to repeat the finesse, however, that will give him communication problems if the ace of clubs is ducked twice.

At the other table, West did not overcall 1S. North, Zach Grossack, jumped to 3NT over 1D and East led a fourth-best heart. Zach won in hand and finessed the DQ. West did not duck. He won the DK and returned a spade. Too little, too late. Declarer took eleven tricks.

13 IMPs to Kaplan

Excellent Play by Kevin Rosenberg

Hettle	Yin	Sonner	Shen
			1NT
2 ♠	3NT	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	Pass

In the other semi-final match, Rockoff/Wolff bid and made 3NT on this board while, in their other room, Yin/Shen apparently had a Lebensohl misunderstanding. Shen opened 1NT and Hettle overcalled 2S. Yin jumped to 3NT and Shen (thinking this denied a spade stopper?) bid 4D.

Yin corrected to 4NT. Shen bid 5C and played in 5D. A spade was led and 5D was an easy make.

Notice that if West led the C7, East could duck, and West would have the communication to get a club ruff when he won the DK. Since South had first bid diamonds and then clubs, the duck is an easy play for East. But then again QJT9 is hard not to lead.

Push Board

Game Faces!

