

Volume 4, Issue 9
June 25, 2010

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

SemiFinals										
#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
1	Nickell	110	20	26	34	30				
4	Fleisher	140	21	40	38	41				
2	Diamond	181	25	85	29	42				
3	Weinstein	110	32	17	30	31				

Parking Info: Parking in the hotel lot is \$18 for 8+ hours; \$12 for 8 or less hours; BUT there is a free parking garage behind the hotel. It can be accessed from the hotel driveway or off of Zemke Road which is just South of the hotel. To park for free, push the speaker button and explain that you are a guest of the hotel. You will be allowed to enter and park. To leave the garage, simply push the exit button at the gate.

Schedule
For
The
U21
Tournament
Starting
Tomorrow

Welcome
Kids!!

Semi-Finals		
Saturday June 26th	10:00 - 12:10	Segment 1 Boards 1-16
	12:25 - 2:35	Segment 2 Boards 17-32
	2:35 - 3:45	1 Hour 10 minute break
USA1 Finals & USA2 Semi-Finals		
Saturday June 26th	3:45 - 5:55	Segment 1 Boards 1-16
	6:10 - 8:20	Segment 2 Boards 17-32
Sunday 6/27	10:00 - 12:10	Segment 3 Boards 33-48
USA2 Finals		
Sunday June 27th	12:25 - 2:35	Segment 1 Boards 1-16
	2:35 - 3:45	1 Hour 10 minute break
	3:45 - 5:55	Segment 2 Boards 17-32
	6:10 - 8:20	Segment 3 Boards 33-48

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On to the Semi-Finals ...

Board 9 ♠ JT83
 E/W Vul. ♥ 7
 Dealer: N ♦ JT96
 ♣ J954

♠ AKQ92 ♠ 64
 ♥ QJ952 ♥ AKT6
 ♦ A85 ♦ K43
 ♣ ♣ AQ72

♠ 75
 ♥ 843
 ♦ Q72
 ♣ KT863



West	North	East	South
Diamond	Sher	Platnick	Jackson
Katz	Levin	Nickell	Weinstein
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥ (transfer)	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

Diamond/Platnick and Katz/Nickell had identical auctions to get to the grand. Etter and Kolesnik got there too but their auction is not known. North could lead anything but there was nothing to the play.

For some reason, Fleisher and Kamil stopped short in six.

It was a push in the Diamond/Weinstein match... and a 13 IMP swing for Nickell in the Nickell/Fleisher match.

Barbara Nudelman is planning to close the hospitality suite on Sunday after the lunch break. Please plan accordingly.

Thank you!

FRIDAY JUNE 25TH	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
	12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
	2:35 - 3:45	1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105
	6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120

Hospitality Information From Barbara Nudelman

Hospitality for the 2010 USBC is in Suite 1100. Players, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament.

Please join us for:

Breakfast each day from 8:30-10:00 am

Lunch will be served from 2:35-3:45 the first Sunday and thereafter.

Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks at any other time, except from 4:00-5:30 each afternoon, when the suite will be closed for refreshing.

There is free internet available in the lobby with free printing. If you use the internet in your room there is a charge.

If you need a few items from the store, please let Barbara know and she will pick them up for you.

Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life.
- Brooke Shields

It is wonderful to be here in the great state of Chicago. - Dan Quayle

Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity.

Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Everyone has a right to be stupid; some people just abuse the privilege.

The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt. - Bertrand Russell

Early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I intend to live forever - so far, so good.

The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret. - Henny Youngman

Everything that can be invented has been invented. - 1899, Charles Duell, U.S. Office of Patents

Life is very important to Americans. - Bob Dole

Fiction writing is great, you can make up almost anything. - Ivana Trump

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever. - Chinese Proverbs

I've never really wanted to go to Japan. Simply because I don't like eating fish. And I know that's very popular out there in Africa. - Britney Spears

Facts are stupid things. - Ronald Reagan

Sometimes you just have to be in the right match at the right time. Everyone is playing the same hands today, but what you score depends on who you play. Here is an example of how lucky Diamond and Weinstein are to be playing each other:

Board 2	♠ K9	♠ 87543	West	North	East	South
N/S Vul.	♥ 96	♥ 87	Katz	Levin	Nickell	Weinstein
Dealer: E	♦ QJ	♦ A9753			Pass	2NT
	♣ T987542	♣ 3	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
	♠ AT62	♠ 87543	All Pass			
	♥ QT52	♥ 87	Fleisher	Hamman	Kamil	Zia
	♦ T86	♦ A9753			Pass	2NT
	♣ A6	♣ 3	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
	♠ QJ		Diamond	Sher	Platnick	Jackson
	♥ AKJ43				Pass	2NT
	♦ K42		Pass	3NT	All Pass	
	♣ KQJ		Etter	Greco	Kolesnik	Hampson
					Pass	2NT
			Pass	3NT	All Pass	

You see three identical auctions and one analogous auction. For all intents and purposes, the opening leaders all have the same information.

Every West led a fourth best heart. So far, so normal! Every South won the lead with the jack and continued with high clubs until West took his ace. Every West won the club at some point and shifted to a spade.

Every declarer won the spade in hand, and cashed his remaining high clubs in hand. Every declarer exited his hand with a diamond toward the QJ in dummy. Every East won the diamond.

In the Diamond/Weinstein match, Kolesnik continued hearts allowing the contract to make with two overtricks while Platnick continued diamonds achieving the same result ... no swing there!

In the Nickell/Fleisher match, Nickell continued spades, successfully defeating the contract two tricks while Kamil did the same! No swing in that match either!

There were many ways to rearrange the E/W pairs to win or lose 13 IMPs!

West	North	East	South
Fleisher	Hamman	Kamil	Zia
1♣ (clubs or bal.)	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Rodwell	S. Weinstein	Meckstroth	Levin
1♦ (2+ diamonds)	3♥	Double	4♥
All Pass			

Board 40	♠ 952	♠ KT874
None Vul.	♥ AKT752	♥ 8
Dealer: W	♦ 6	♦ J842
	♣ 83	♣ AT5
	♠ AJ6	
	♥ Q9	
	♦ Q7	
	♣ K97642	
	♠ Q3	
	♥ J64	
	♦ AKT953	
	♣ QJ	

Sometimes there's a real value in bidding what you have. Against Hamman, Kamil led the suit his partner opened and defeated the hand one trick, collecting two clubs and two spades.

Against Weinstein, Meckstroth also led the suit his partner opened: diamonds!! Weinstein rose with the diamond ace and continued with the king to discard one of his losing clubs... contract making!

Board 41
 E/W Vul.
 Dealer: N

♠ AT763
 ♥ KQ7
 ♦ 742
 ♣ 73

♠ KQJ42
 ♥ 2
 ♦ AJT86
 ♣ K2



♠ AJ653
 ♥ 953
 ♣ A8654

♠ 985
 ♥ T984
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ QJT9

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	S. Weinstein	Meckstroth	Levin
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Fleisher	Hamman	Kamil	Zia
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	All Pass		

Meckwell is known to be one of the most aggressive pairs in the world and this hand is a perfect example of how successful that can be.

At Kamil's table, he didn't consider his hand an opening bid. After all, it is only a 5/5 nine count. Once he passed, Fleisher opened one spade and Kamil responded one no trump. Fleisher bid his four card diamond suit and Kamil happily passed, having a strong preference for diamonds over spades.

Meckstroth opened one heart on the nine count in second seat. Rodwell, looking at an opener in anyone's book, responded one spade and bid 3NT over Meck's two clubs. With the well placed red king/queens, there was no way to stop nine tricks from scoring. Weinstein led a fifth best spade and Rodwell won in hand. He played a club to the ace and a small diamond off dummy. When it went queen, ace, he led a second diamond, knocking out the king. Levin switched to a heart but Eric was able to collect an easy nine tricks and a 10 IMP swing for Nickell.

The Cat Came Back The Very Next Day...

A man absolutely hated his wife's cat and decided to get rid of him one day by driving him 20 blocks from his home and leaving him at the park.

As he was getting home, the cat was walking up the driveway.

The next day he decided to drive the cat 40 blocks away. He put the beast out and headed home.

Driving back up his driveway, there was the cat!

He kept taking the cat further and further and the cat would always beat him home. At last he decided to drive a few miles away, turn right, then left, past the bridge, then right again and another right until he reached what he thought was a safe distance from his home and left the cat there.

Hours later the man calls home to his wife: "Jen, is the cat there?"

"Yes," the wife answers, "why do you ask?"

Frustrated, the man answered, "Put that jerk on the phone, I'm lost and need directions!"

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

Sudoku

"Don't you wish there was a knob on the TV to turn up the intelligence? There's one marked 'Brightness,' but it doesn't work." - Gallagher

Solution to today's Sudoku

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

Board 7
 All Vul.
 Dealer: E

♠ AJ92
 ♥ KJ9
 ♦ 84
 ♣ T862

♠ T764
 ♥ 86542
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ K3

♠ K83
 ♥ AQT
 ♦ AJ753
 ♣ J5

♠ Q5
 ♥ 73
 ♦ T962
 ♣ AQ974



West	North	East	South
Katz	Levin	Nickell	Weinstein
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

Fleisher	Hamman	Kamil	Zia
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ (transfer)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Diamond	Sher	Platnick	Jackson
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ (transfer)	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Etter	Greco	Kolesnik	Hampson
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ (transfer)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

This board produced a swing in both matches. Fleisher, Diamond, and Etter transferred to hearts on their 4-5 in the majors hand.

Katz decided to try Stayman followed by an invitation to game. This was a massive failure when Weinstein led his fifth best club won by Nickell's jack in hand, and Nick led a diamond to the king and queen in dummy, but disdained the heart finesse, leading instead to his ace. After cashing his diamonds, Nick exited his hand with a club and North/South was able to take four clubs, one spade and one heart for down one.

Diamond took a dim view of the hand and passed out two hearts making five.

Fleisher and Etter drove to game and were rewarded for their efforts when the king and jack of hearts were slotted and both black aces were onside. There was little to the play and both declarers made five. This resulted in 10 IMPs to Weinstein and 13 IMPs to Fleisher.

Board 37
 N/S Vul.
 Dealer: N

♠ KQ
 ♥ K32
 ♦ KJ5
 ♣ QJ653

♠ A74
 ♥ 6
 ♦ AT874
 ♣ AT98

♠ J98632
 ♥ Q754
 ♦ 9
 ♣ K4

♠ T5
 ♥ AJT98
 ♦ Q632
 ♣ 72




West	North	East	South
Fleisher	Hamman	Kamil	Zia
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦ (transfer)
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠ (artificial)
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Double	All Pass		

Zia bid an aggressive game based on a good heart suit and a bad second suit. Fleisher chose the right time to spec on a double.

He had three aces and knew that his partner probably had four trumps. He also knew that Zia had no better than a good invitational hand.

He was rewarded when Kamil led his singleton diamond and he was able to give him two ruffs to beat the hand three.

Board 39
 All Vul.
 Dealer: S

<p>♠ AQ6 ♥ AT92 ♦ JT ♣ AT92</p>		<p>♠ KT984 ♥ J5 ♦ Q962 ♣ Q8</p> <p>♠ J752 ♥ 7 ♦ AK874 ♣ J76</p>
--	---	---

♠ 3
 ♥ KQ8643
 ♦ 53
 ♣ K543

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Kolesnik	Greco	Etter
			2♥
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Bassegio	Gitelman	J. Weinstein	Moss
			2♥
2NT	Pass	3♦ (Stayman)	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Fleisher	Hamman	Kamil	Zia
			2♥
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Rodwell	S. Weinstein	Meckstroth	Levin
			2♥
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Board 39 of the semi-final match between the Nickell and Fleisher teams produced a 12 IMP gain for the Nickell team. In one room Fleisher-Kamil stumbled into an awkward 4-3 spade game. Fleisher apparently interpreted Kamil's three heart bid as a transfer. The four spade contract can be made if declarer guesses the club position and leads the jack of clubs rather than playing on trumps when in dummy with diamonds. As it were, Fleisher won the heart lead, floated the jack and led the ten of diamonds. Hamman covered and Fleisher won the trick in dummy. He played a spade and came up a trick short.

At the other table, Rodwell played in 3NT. He ducked Stevie Weinstein's opening heart lead and took a very long time to discard from dummy when a heart was played at trick two. This looks like a dummy squeeze where declarer must guess which suit is working. Double dummy, declarer can actually discard any card from dummy, including the ace of diamonds! and still make his contract. Rodwell discarded a spade and ran the ten (concealing the jack) of diamonds. Steve Weinstein didn't cover. Next the jack of diamonds was covered by the queen and won in dummy. Rodwell played a club to the nine, losing to the queen. Weinstein was helpless. He had to give declarer a dummy entry. He returned a club and Rodwell had nine tricks.

In the Diamond-Weinstein match Jeff Hampson declared 3NT and misguessed the hand position. Kolesnik led the jack of hearts and continued hearts. Hampson discarded a club on the second heart and led a spade toward dummy before playing diamonds. He won the jack of spades in dummy and played the jack of clubs (a good guess) covered by the king and won in hand. Hampson continued clubs to North's queen and Kolesnik made a nice play. He returned the queen! of diamonds, cutting declarer's communication and beating the contract.

In the other room, Baseggio also declared 3NT. There, too, it went jack of hearts and a heart continuation. Baseggio discarded a club at trick two and led the diamond ten, ducked around. He continued along the same line as Rodwell and made 3NT for a 12IMP swing to the Weinstein team.

In Seeding Order

"I am returning this otherwise good typing paper to you because someone has printed gibberish all over it and put your name at the top."
-An English Professor

Nickell	Bye to Rnd of 8	Frank Nickell, Capt Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth	Ralph Katz Zia Mahmood Eric Rodwell
Diamond	Bye to Rnd of 8	John Diamond, Capt Eric Greco Brad Moss	Brian Platnick Geoff Hampson Fred Gitelman
Fleisher	Bye to Rnd of 8	Martin Fleisher, Capt Bobby Levin Chip Martel	Michael Kamil Steve Weinstein Lew Stansby
Meltzer	Bye to Rnd of 16	Rose Meltzer, Capt Alan Sontag Michael Rosenberg	Kyle Larsen David Berkowitz Mark Feldman
Robinson	Bye to Rnd of 16	Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey Adam Wildavsky	Peter Boyd Fred Stewart Doug Doub
Schwartz		Richard Schwartz, Capt Russell Ekeblad Drew Casen	Matthew Granovetter Ron Rubin Jim Krekorian
Welland		Roy Welland, Capt Steve Garner Ron Smith	Chris Willenken Howard Weinstein Billy Cohen
Jacobs		George Jacobs, Capt Chris Compton Marc Jacobus	Steve Beatty Bart Bramley Eddie Wold
Mahaffey		Jim Mahaffey, Capt Peter Weichsel Sam Lev	Mike Passell Michael Seamon Jacek Pszczola
Gordon		Mark Gordon, Capt Curtis Cheek John Hurd	Pratap Rajadhyaksha Joe Grue Joel Wooldridge
Milner		Reese Milner, Capt John Mohan Robert Blanchard	Gary Cohler Roger Bates Shane Blanchard
Rogoff		Bruce Rogoff, Capt Doug Simson Xiaodong Shi	Josh Parker Walter Johnson Jiang Gu
Deutsch		Seymon Deutsch, Capt Justin Lall Kevin Bathurst	John Kranyak Hemant Lall
Harris		Martin Harris, Capt Stephen Landen V. Koneru	Jacob Morgan Dan Gerstman Ira Chorush
Chan		Lapt Chan, Capt Renee Mancuso	Christal Henner Sheri Winestock
Cohen		Mark Cohen, Capt Jeff Aker Greg DeFotis	Milt Rosenberg Brady Richter Harold Mouser
Miller		Jeffrey Miller, Capt Jeffrey Schuett David Yang	William Wickham Dick Bruno Greg Hinze
Demirev		Darina Demirev, Capt Will Engel Nik Demirev	Howard Liu Daniel Levin William Watson
Stauber		Allan Stauber, Capt Kerri Sanborn	Stephen Sanborn Lewis Finkel
Weinstein		Jonathan Weinstein, Capt Clement Jackson Bob Etter	Franco Baseggio Josh Sher Alex Kolesnik
Todd		Robert Todd, Capt Les Bart	McKenzie Myers Gloria Bart
Rosenfeld		Jason Rosenfeld, Capt Victor Chubukov	Drew Becker Eric Mayefsky
Zeller		Michael Zeller, Capt Matthew Meckstroth	Kelley Zeller Cameron Shunta

All About Kibitzing

WHEN CAN YOU KIBITZ IN THE PLAYING ROOMS?

You will be able to kibitz at any of the tables during this event. However, except in the Open Room during the Round Robin, you will be subject to the following regulations:

Kibitzers may enter the room **ONLY** at the start of play for a segment. Once play has started, the room will be closed. A kibitzer who leaves the room may not return until the start of the next session.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the playing rooms, even if they are turned off. Any kibitzer who is found with a cell phone will be evicted and not allowed to kibitz during the remainder of the tournament.

When a match is being shown on BBO Vugraph, no kibitzer may sit on the same side of the table as the Vugraph operator.

Screens

All of the USBC is played with screens. If you've never kibitzed at a table with screens before, you need to know that it is quite different from kibitzing at a regular table. You need to be seated at an "open" corner of the table (not next to the screen) in order to see much, and once there are 4 kibitzers at a table it will be very hard for additional kibitzers to see.

USBF KIBITZING RULES

The USBF **General Conditions of Contest** contain specific rules about kibitzers. They are designed to promote security at the tournament and are set forth in the conditions of contest section labeled "Security." They are:

1. General Rules
 - a. During any use of duplicated boards across multiple matches, Kibitzers must select one table for kibitzing and may not move to any other table during a session or segment.
 - b. Kibitzers may not speak with players, must watch only one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see more than one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see a computer screen in use for Internet broadcast, must check communication devices with the Director, cannot call attention to irregularities other than a board being placed incorrectly on the table (arrow positioning), but may serve as witnesses to a possible irregularity.
2. In the Open Room:
 - a. If there is a live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room, kibitzers shall abide by the same rules as those applicable to the Closed Room.
 - b. If there is no live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room then kibitzers, media, and NPC's may enter and return until such time as any table from the closed room has finished the segment. Once any table in the Closed room has finished, no one may return to the Open room after leaving unless escorted while absent.
 - c. In either event, Open Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room and returning (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
3. In the Closed Room:
 - a. Kibitzers must enter the Closed Room before play commences. Kibitzers in the closed room are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Closed Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
 - b. Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.
 - c. No one other than the Internet broadcast personnel and Tournament Directors may watch any computer screen or any other mechanism for enabling the Internet broadcast at any time in either the Closed or the Open Room.

VuGraph Information

The 2010 USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Round of 16, in which we will probably cover 3 or 4 matches (there will be 5 matches in the Round of 16). The Round of 16 starts in the afternoon of Monday, June 21st. From the Quarterfinals on, we will cover all of the tables in play. To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website (www.bridgebase.com)** where you can either log on directly from your browser, go to "Vugraph" and choose which table to watch or download the BBO software to run BBO on your computer. If you choose the latter approach, after downloading, install the software on your computer, log on, follow the directions to become a BBO member and you'll be magically transported to the Lobby of the largest bridge club in the world. Click on the button labeled VUGRAPH THEATRE and you'll be able to choose which of the USBC matches you want to watch. For cell phone logon, go to **www.bridgebase.com/mobile**.

There will usually be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph Operators, who may not have time to respond to private messages. Thank you.

Each day's schedule is the same (these are Chicago times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site <http://www.bridgebase.com/vugraph/schedule.php>**)

10:00-12:10

12:25-2:35

3:45-5:55

6:10-8:20

During the Semifinals and Finals, all of the teams will play the same boards, unless one or more matches gets sufficiently far behind that they have to start later than the other match, in which case, for security reasons, they will play different boards.

During the Rounds of 32, 16 & 8, each team will play a different set of boards.

After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs, which show each hand played with a link to bidding and play records. Take a look at the older events currently available (under Archived Results) to see what we'll have for the 2010 USBC. Web Vugraphs are posted within about half an hour of completion of the Vugraph show.

You can usually find the hand records for Vugraph matches on the PSBRIDGE website at

<http://psbridge.gotdns.com/bbo/allvug/>, linked to the scorecards you can get to by clicking on 2010USBC under "Event Results" in the upper left of each page.

Don't Mess With Texas...

There once was a blind man who decided to visit Texas. When he arrived on the plane, he felt the seats and said, "Wow, these seats are big!" The person next to him answered, "Everything is big in Texas."

When he finally arrived in Texas, he decided to visit a bar. Upon arriving in the bar, he ordered a beer and got a mug placed between his hands. He exclaimed, "Wow these mugs are big!" The bartender replied, "Everything is big in Texas."

After a couple of beers, the blind man asked the bartender where the bathroom was located. The bartender replied, "Second door to the right." The blind man headed for the bathroom, but accidentally tripped over and skipped the second door. Instead, he entered the third door, which lead to the swimming pool and fell into the pool by accident.

Scared to death, the blind man started shouting, "Don't flush, don't flush!"

"In science, 'fact' can only mean 'confirmed to such a degree that it would be perverse to withhold provisional assent.' I suppose that apples might start to rise tomorrow, but the possibility does not merit equal time in physics classrooms."

-Stephen Jay Gould

The Greatest Baseball Player Ever...

A man walks into a bar with a dog. The bartender says, "You can't bring that dog in here."

"You don't understand," says the man. "This is no regular dog, he can talk."

"Listen, pal," says the bartender. "If that dog can talk, I'll give you a hundred bucks."

The man puts the dog on a stool, and asks him, "What's on top of a house?" "Roof!"

"Right. And what's on the outside of a tree?" "Bark!"

"And who's the greatest baseball player of all time?" "Ruth!"

"I guess you've heard enough," says the man. "I'll take the hundred in twenties."

The bartender is furious. "Listen, pal," he says, "get out of here before I belt you."

As soon as they're on the street, the dog turns to the man and says, "Do you think I should have said 'DiMaggio'?"

Thursday, June 24 & Friday, June 25: Semifinal (120 board matches)

Saturday, June 26 & Sunday, June 27: Final (120 board matches)