



Chess Chatter

Newsletter of the Port Huron Chess Club

Editor: Lon Rutkofske

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The **Port Huron Chess Club** meets Thursdays, except holidays, from 6:30-10:00 PM, at Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour Street, (NE corner of Garfield Street and Gratiot Ave...1 mile North of the Blue Water Bridge) Port Huron, Michigan. Everyone is welcome. All equipment provided. Email: PtHuronChessClub@aol.com or Website: <http://porthuronchessclub.yolasite.com>

Jude Acers Revisited:

One of the most memorable events marking the path toward the development and nurturing of the Port Huron Chess Club, especially prevalent during the Fischer years, turned out to be its first simultaneous exhibition with an aspiring master from San Francisco (*Later of New Orleans*) named Jude Acers.

Local Chess Buffs See How it's Done –

by Ron Bonnett, Reporter for the Port Huron Times Herald-1972

He moves very rapidly...round and round the circuit...when he steps in front of your chess board, you make your move...he makes his and moves on.

The big difference is that he deliberates mere seconds per board, while you are allowed to ponder your move until his next arrival. The only trouble is that he rarely makes the move you expect him to make, and "falls for" nothing. His name is Jude Acers (pronounced like the land measurement). At 29 years of age he is a senior chess master, (from San Francisco) and is currently, the holder of the world record for simultaneous play (a match in which one person plays many opponents at the same time).

Sunday night he was in Port Huron giving a rapid-fire lecture on chess and playing 32 enthusiasts at Port Huron Central High School. In the last several days Acers has played nearly 400 games in simultaneous exhibitions in two states. Needless to say, he has won nearly all of them. Sunday night he won 27, lost two and drew three. Most of the players were from the Chess Club, co-sponsor, along with the Port Huron Recreation Department, of Acers' appearance. He began his exhibition with a lecture on how, in his opinion, a player can greatly improve his game through study of four inexpensive books, all of which can be purchased for less than \$8 (Keep in mind this was in 1972! - ed.) Sunday's presentation included variations of a game Acers called the finest ever played. Working his way through the game on a large demonstration board, he explained the moves step by step so that even the weakest player could gain knowledge and enjoyment, more and more.

Following the 45-minute lecture, play began and lasted some four hours until the last man had been checkmated. Along the way Acers exemplified a spirit of play that has made him probably the most popular of the touring professionals. His love of the game shows. He does not play to see you squirm, as Bobby Fischer seemingly does, but plays a friendly, sportsmanlike game so that when the time to resign arrives, (for me, at the 38th move) the experience has been extremely worthwhile. Although Acers concedes that chess will someday make him a millionaire – he recently signed a television lecture contract that will bring him \$230,000 this year – he evidently does not play for money alone. Last year his nationwide tour of 132 exhibitions across the country included many gratis exhibitions in hospitals, prisons, and grade schools.

His greatest delight seems to be the promotion of chess as a pastime for all ages. Following Sunday's games, Acers kibitzed with players and spectators and signed autographs even though the hour was late. As far as his own game is concerned, Acers is determined to move into international prominence as soon as possible. He travels with suitcases full of chess books, including Russian chess magazines which he reads and translates easily, having studied the language while in college.

He has won more than 150 tournaments in his career, and in the past 100 games against grandmasters, masters and experts, Acers has lost only once. Included in his competition was a four-game match he drew with International Grandmaster Walter Browne of Australia. As Acers pointed out in his lecture, he is a good example that almost anyone can learn to play master chess.

An orphan, he decided in 1961, after losing several games, to devote his life to chess and become as proficient as possible. In only a few years he attained a master rating and in 1968 set the current world record for simultaneous play – he faced 114 players at one time and beat them all.

Ranked among the top 10 chess players in America, Acers is riding the crest of the current chess mania sweeping the country. From Port Huron, he was to travel to New York to begin taping his television series. Then it will be back on the road for more exhibitions. (*Ron Bonnett hosted Jude during his stay in Port Huron.*)



Who is this Man Fischer, Anyhow? – Article by Ron Bonnett, Times Herald Reporter.

Senior chess master, Jude Acers moves quickly from board to board Sunday at a simultaneous chess exhibition against 32 local enthusiasts at Port Huron Central High School. Ranked one of the top 10 players in the country (1972), Acers provided players and spectators with a presentation they will not soon forget. Players facing Acers on one of the four sides, left to right, **Norm McLeod, John Haacke, Dan Thomas, Ron Bonnett, Brian Wilson, Floyd Hoag** and **Lon Rutkofske**, all members of the Port Huron City Chess Club. Play lasted four hours. Acers won or drew all but two matches.

What rekindled interest in Jude Acers was the attached article in the April 2024 issue of *Chess Life*. As a founding member of the PHCC, a high school history teacher, and chess magazine editor always in search of newsworthy stories, this particular piece struck a nostalgic chord begging for release. **Thanks to Editor of Chess Life, John Hartman, who graciously granted me permission to reproduce the following article for our members.**

"If you are not already a US Chess member receiving Chess Life on a monthly basis, go to uschess.org and click on the "join" button."

Being Jude Acers

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LEGEND

BY MICHAEL TISSERAND

PHOTOS (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
BY JAMES CULLEN

PROFILE Jude Acers



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024
12:10 P.M.**

JUDE ACERS' RED BERET FLOATS ABOVE the food shelves at the Quarter Grocery & Deli on Burgundy Street in New Orleans' French Quarter. A round, open, improbably youthful face comes into view. Then a booming voice.

"Are you ready for your first lesson?"

There is no reaction behind the po-boy counter, where they're accustomed to Jude. This is his neighborhood grocer and it's where, when I asked Jude if I could join him for a full day at his World Chess Table, he agreed to meet.

Jude agreed to this, like he does everything, in his own fashion. When away from his table, Jude's preferred mode of communication is email. And more than anyone I know, he has found a way to type an email that perfectly matches the way he speaks. Here's how he responded:

MR. MICHAEL TISSERAND BLOOD HOUND MEDIA REPORTER/ WORLD-WIDE MEDIA FEED reporter WHO WROTE THE monster 2500 word front paged JUDE ACERS MEMORIES NEW ORLEANS PICAYUNE ADVOCATE article "THE FISCHER KING',...WELCOME!.AT YOUR SERVICE KIND SIR! 12 NOON FRIDAY WE START QUARTER DELI ... 836 BURGUNDY STREET!! All will be revealed!

I've known Jude Acers (pronounced like "acres") for 20 years, ever since my daughter first played a simul with him in her elementary school cafeteria. He's given his time to scholastic chess events I've organized and, as he noted, I once wrote a story for the local newspaper about the time he drew Bobby Fischer during Fischer's visit to New Orleans in 1964, when Fischer was 21 and Jude was 20.

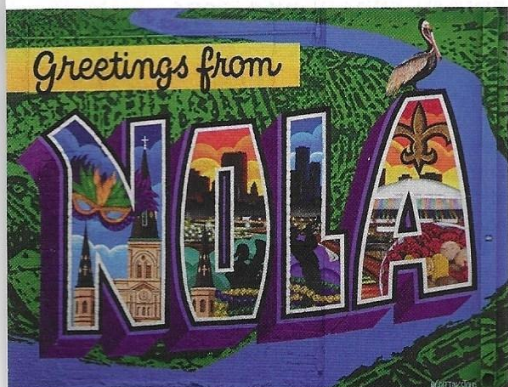
And now, walking out of a grocery store with Jude Acers into a bright New Orleans afternoon, I'm about to receive the day's first lesson. This one is in survival.

12:16 P.M.

Turning from Burgundy Street onto Duaine, Jude walks with short, quick steps on a brisk, zig-zag route toward Decatur Street, where the World Chess Table waits to be assembled. Then he quickly pivots. "Number one," he says, "have everything tied to your body. I needed this twice in the past 20 years."

He pulls out items from his pocket to display that each is attached by yarn. Then

USCHESS.ORG ■ APRIL 2024 1!



he lifts his coat. "At six or seven there could be wind chills. Body heat is tremendously important for a professional player."

He fixes me with his eyes. "For these lessons your readers will owe me for all time."

We keep walking. Jude turns 80 years old this month on April 6, and I am working hard to keep up with his pace. He is talking about the importance of vitamins and fish oil and resveratrol, and telling me where in New Orleans you can get the best deals for each. He raises a finger. Coffee, he says, is "absolutely mandatory."

But more than anything else, Jude says, walk everywhere. He hasn't been in a car in more than a year.

Long ago, Jude swore off drinking and narcotics. "I've been to parties where I was the only one with clothes on and everyone was doing heroin," Jude says without further elaboration.

As he says this, we pass two early Mardi Gras revelers. One is dressed as a Spanish matador and the other as a Southern plantation belle. They look at us curiously.

12:25 P.M.

Jude stops at Matassa's Market for *The New York Times* but there's a line and he doesn't have time for that. We move on to another shop, Jude directing us into the middle of Dauphine Street. This is another lesson. "Walk in the middle of the road. These sidewalks aren't made for walking. At my age I can't fall."

It is the only time today he will make any concession to his age, even if this particular concession is to walk down the middle of French Quarter streets.

"And never, ever cross at the crosswalks. That's where you die."

12:40 P.M.

Jude now stands in the middle of Ursulines Street, having stopped just a block short of

the World Chess Table. His booming voice cascades off the stucco walls of the centuries-old Old Ursulines Convent. Both the building and Jude seem made for this place, like they could not exist anywhere else. Jude points out a wooden doorway below an iron-laced balcony. Here is where he found Wi-Fi during the pandemic.

We make it to Decatur. Jude suddenly ducks into a store called Everything New Orleans, one of many shops here selling shirts, Hurricane drink mixes, stuffed alligators, and Mardi Gras beads. Buildings in the French Quarter can hold more secret passages than a haunted house, and Everything New Orleans is no exception. Jude strides in and heads straight to the back, where he vanishes into a hidden brick-lined alley. He reaches into a corner of the alley and pulls out wooden boards and bags of chess pieces, and strides out.

"I'm 42 years here," he says. "They also hold my mail."

A scuffed white folding table is waiting for us, fastened to a column with a bicycle lock. Before unlocking the table, Jude straightens and points to a seafood restaurant on the corner.

"The French Market Restaurant feeds me every time I walk in, which is 100,000 dollars."

Jude has a street hustler's habit of naming a price for everything, and an artist's habit of tossing numbers aside when they get in the way.

"I rolled the dice," he says, setting down his bags. "Look at me. I'm in the last years of my life in perfect health doing exactly what I want to do."

12:52 P.M.

On the way out of Everything New Orleans, I had offered to carry one of Jude's bags. He held up one hand as if to signal for a complete stop.

"Do not touch my set up," he said. "This is my exercise."

Now he effortlessly lifts his table and snaps it into place. I will hear later that he purchased it a few years ago at a Walmart and pushed it to Decatur Street on a luggage rack. I look up the distance. It's a two-and-a-half-mile walk.

"Notice three chairs at once." Jude lifts the plastic molded chairs and scatters them into their places. One for himself and another for his opponents. "Always have the sun shining in your opponent's eyes," he says like it's a secret, but it's something he'll tell his opponents about all day.

"And this," he announces, holding up the third chair, "is the Baylee chair."

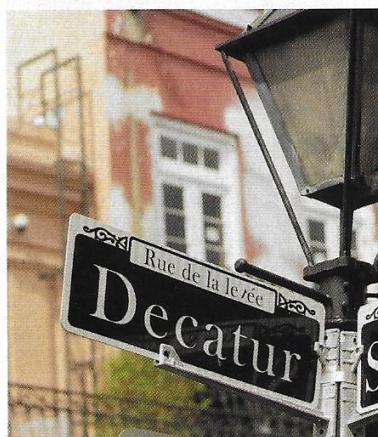
Baylee Badawy is a local promoter and social media whiz who has done work for the New Orleans Jazz Museum and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. She also has devoted herself to the continued well-being of Jude Acers, whom she met when she began visiting his table during the quiet days of the pandemic. Since then, she's improved Jude's living quarters as well as co-founded a nonprofit called "The Chess Cave," a surreal closet of a room set off a French Quarter street and decorated floor to ceiling like a chess board. There is room in The Chess Cave for a table and two chairs, and little else. She describes it as a safety net for Jude.

Baylee is the latest in a line of people who fulfill this role for him. Jude often sponsors matches with cash prizes provided by someone he only identifies as an "anonymous benefactor." He travels overseas for tournaments with the same unnamed assistance.

But Baylee's not in town, Jude says. She's off in Las Vegas with her grandfather. She's helping him gamble or they're seeing the Super Bowl. I can't quite get the story straight. In the meantime, he allows me to sit in the Baylee chair.

1 P.M.

It's now one o'clock sharp and Jude is in position for the day. I ask if he always starts



PHOTOS: UNSPLASH (THIS PAGE), FREEPIK (BEADS THROUGHOUT)

at one. "If I feel like it," he says.

Jude notates his games but not his days, making the exact origins of the World Chess Table unclear. Derek Bridges, the director of the new Jude Acers documentary *The Man in the Red Beret*, believes that Jude first set up his table in the summer of 1981, making this summer its 43rd year.

Derek's movie is as intimate a portrait of Jude as anyone is likely going to be able to make. It follows him through a painful childhood with an alcoholic father and a mother who, suffering from mental illness, died when Jude was young. "Chess saved me," Jude says, and in this, he does not seem to be exaggerating. As a student at Louisiana State University, chess gave him celebrity status. He moved to northern California and traveled the country giving exhibitions. In the mid-1970s, he twice held the world record for most games played simultaneously — 117 in Oregon and 179 in New York.

By 1978, Jude had returned to New Orleans. The newspapers reported that he was threatened with a knife in the French Quarter's Pere Antoine Alley. Jude held off the robber, who escaped empty-handed.

That year, Jude played with a chess team based out of the city's Maple Leaf Bar, a legendary music club. Soon, Jude was appearing in more music clubs than many musicians, including nights on stage at Tipitina's to play blindfold matches. In 1979, the local newspaper caught up with Acers at another storied club, the Dream Palace. Reported the newspaper: "Acers is a fixture at the Dream Palace, where the owners allow him to come and go as he pleases. They have adopted him, much as he has adopted them."

In 1983, Jude was listed as an attraction at a French Market festival, along with a balloon artist, a mime, and a troupe of Hellenic Dancers. He appears to have chosen his Decatur location both for the visibility and for an overhanging roof in case of rain.

It was around this time that Jude heard himself pointing out a local chef as a man in a black beret. Inspired, he seized on the idea of wearing a bright red beret, distinguishing himself in the most colorful of crowds.

Why did he pick this spot for the World Chess Table? In 1981, Jude said in an interview with television reporter Eric Paulsen that he likes to play chess in unusual places. "In addition to being a great, great, great player," Jude told Paulsen, "I also have the ability to create magic in the middle of the desert."

1:10 P.M.

A woman from a nearby praline shop comes to the table with two large plastic cups filled

with vanilla ice cream. It is the first of many sudden food appearances at the World Chess Table.

Photographer James Cullen has also shown up to take pictures for *Chess Life*. "Shoot as many as you want," Jude instructs. "Shoot for your private collection. They'll be worth millions of dollars when I'm gone."

1:29 P.M.

Mardi Gras traffic is well underway on Decatur Street. For the rest of the day, a steady line of cars slowly proceeds by Jude's table. Some drivers wave. A few shout out. Nearly all stare.

A vendor walks by Jude, pushing a cart of hot tamales. "I love you forever," Jude calls out to him.

Then he offers another life lesson: Always tip. In 1989, Jude says, someone showed up at the table with a suitcase filled with 100 dollar bills. They played chess all day. Jude received a 100 dollar tip each game. When the suitcase was empty, the man left.

2:03 P.M.

The World Chess Table is slow to start today. Nearby, a woman is holding a small ladder on which seven parakeets are perched for pictures and tips. It's a slow afternoon for parakeet pictures, too. She comes over to the table and plays a game with Jude, balancing the parakeet ladder on the table. Jude quickly wins but enthusiastically talks her up — as he talks up all his friends — saying the parakeet lady is usually a very strong player.

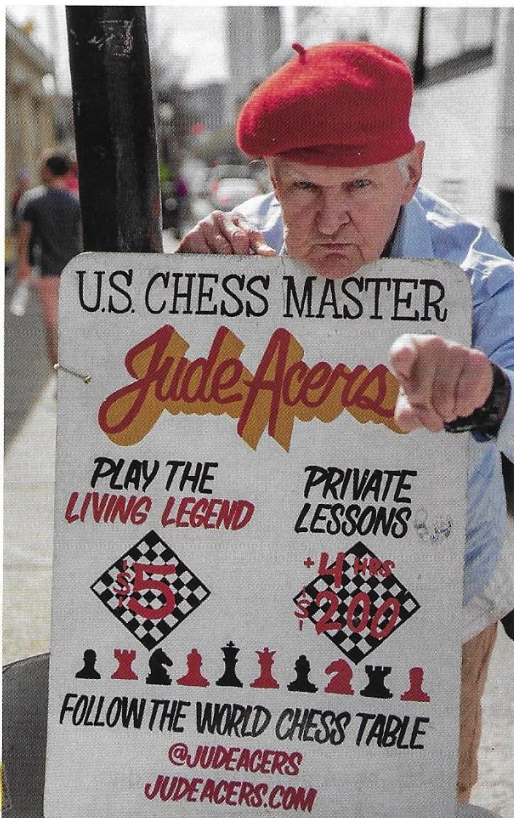
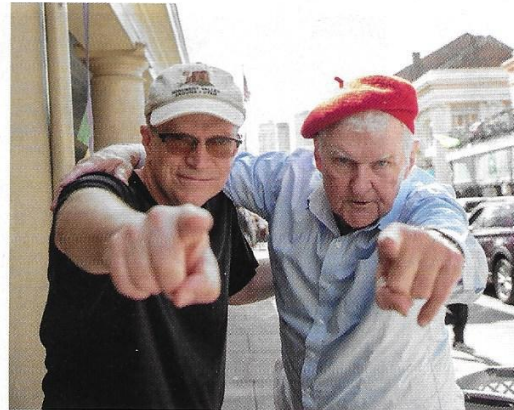
2:17 P.M.

There is a particular stance that new arrivals to the World Chess Table assume when they are hoping to play Jude. It is polite and expectant and a little unsure about what they are getting into. I've seen the same stance from people waiting to go into a confession booth.

Currently assuming the stance is a young man who just parked a Segway near the table. He wears dark sunglasses and has long sandy hair flowing out the back of a San Diego cap, and he's holding a 16-ounce can of Pabst Blue Ribbon. He introduces himself as Sam, and he used to run Segway tours in New Orleans. Now he's working to start his own company in California.

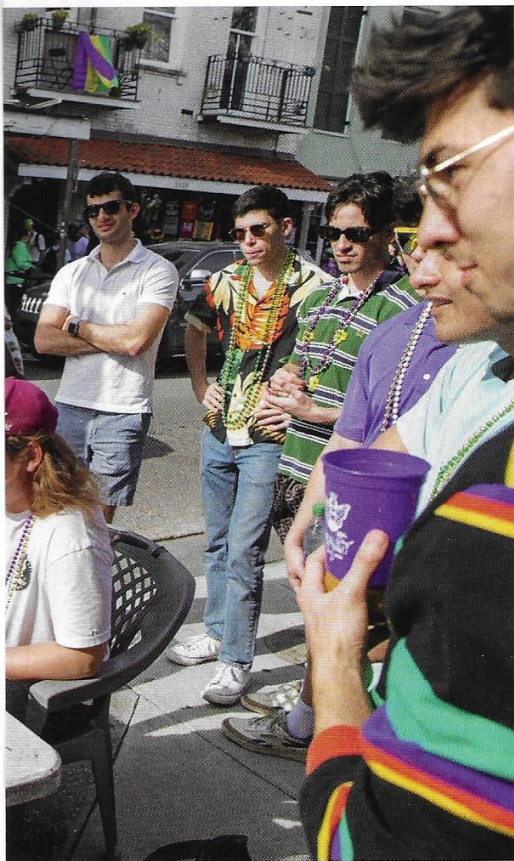
For years, Sam would wheel his tours past Jude's table. A couple years ago, inspired by "The Queen's Gambit," he started playing

Top: Tisserand and Acers, after ice cream. Middle: Tia "the bird whisperer" drops by for a game. Bottom: Acers in his trademark pose.





"Young Upstart" matches wits with a legend.



chess more seriously. Now he's back in New Orleans for Mardi Gras and to play Jude, but not in that order.

"I had a customer take a lesson from you," Sam says, eagerly taking his seat. "He said you're a really smart guy."

The Louisiana sun beats down on Sam's face as he reaches into his pocket for a crumpled five-dollar bill.

"I know I'm dealing with an expert player here because he brought sunglasses and a billed cap," Jude says. "Double protection."

2:25 P.M.

Jude starts to narrate his own play, letting Sam know what he's doing and why he's

doing it. The game continues until Sam looks down at his position. "Tripled pawns," he says, already sensing defeat.

Jude builds him up by giving him one of his highest compliments: a new nickname. For the rest of the day, Sam will be Young Upstart.

2:32 P.M.

A group of Vanderbilt University students clusters around the table. They start peppering Jude with questions.

"Do you take Venmo?"

"Would you mind telling us your rating?"

"Who's the best player you ever played?"

Jude answers that last one. "Bobby Fischer."



Here and left, Acers entertains and instructs.

"You played Fischer? Holy s---!"

Jude looks away from them. Now into his second game with Young Upstart, he recites a list of chess books. Young Upstart writes them all down. The students keep watching. One says he started playing because of "The Queen's Gambit." The other is a fan of GothamChess on YouTube. They are all at college together but aren't on a chess team. They mostly play online.

"Only one in 100 people play a real person," Jude says. "So I'm actually a novelty."

"Has anyone ever beaten you here?" the student asks.

"Sir!" Jude springs up and walks around the table. "How are people with high breeding asking a question like this!"

He resumes his game with Young Upstart. The students watch for a while longer, then fade away.

"People talk themselves out of playing every day," Jude says.

2:47 P.M.

A man crosses the street and walks up to the table. He drops off a bag of shrimp po-boys and walks back across the street with no explanation.

2:48 P.M.

I've always considered Jude Acers to be doubly renowned: first as a chess player and, second, as a French Quarter icon.

Like the late sousaphone player Tuba Fats in Jackson Square, or the alive-and-swinging clarinet player Doreen Ketchens on Royal Street, Jude has staked out a spot of French Quarter property that he doesn't own legally, but owns in every other sense of the word.

Like those musicians, Jude is larger than life. But as a character, he seems to me to rival the legendary Ruthie the Duck Girl, who was known for roller skating through the Quarter accompanied by a varying number of ducks.

I'm not sure how Jude will like the comparison, but I ask him. His eyes light up.

"I am Ruthie!" he says. "I consider her to be the greatest feature attraction of the French Quarter in the past two hundred years. Not even Paul Morphy could compare!"

2:50 P.M.

Jude is now giving Young Upstart package deals on games. He announces that his next opening will be the Richter-Veresov. It's one of his favorites and he quickly gains a pawn.

"I'm not like Morphy. I don't give pawn odds," Jude says, placing the pawn on his side of the board.

Eighteen moves later, Young Upstart drops a queen. He stares at the board.

"I was looking at that queen the entire f--- time," he says. "But this is what I came back to New Orleans for." He reaches into his pocket for another five-dollar bill.

3:10 P.M.

Young Upstart runs across the street for another 16-ounce Pabst Blue Ribbon.

3:14 P.M.

After Jude wins the next game, he shows Young Upstart an exchange that would have equalized it. Then he dramatically pushes all the pieces off the board, with a flourish equal to Ben Kingsley in his portrayal of Bruce Pandolfini in the movie *Searching for Bobby Fischer*. Jude noisily slaps pieces on the board and sets up checkmate puzzles.

"A lesson for the Young Upstart!" he announces.

This goes on for the next half hour. At one point, I can't contain myself and I blurt out an answer. Jude holds up a hand. "Reporter Found Strangled in Alley," he narrates. "With Chess Piece in Mouth."

One of Jude's lessons includes a *zugzwang* position. Young Upstart is unfamiliar with the idea. Jude shouts.

"Zugzwang!"

Young Upstart shouts back. "Zugzwang!"

Jude, louder: "Zugzwang!"

Young Upstart, louder still: "Zugzwang!"

They keep at it. Faces peer from the slowly passing cars.

"You just got a 50-dollar lesson!" Jude says.

"I'm so glad I came down here!"

3:47 P.M.

Jude asks Young Upstart how he started playing chess. He says he started as a child with his grandfather, who had a handmade chess set that dated back to his days as a colonel in Vietnam.

"Where do you get your confidence? Did you always like yourself?" Jude asks.

"I've always had self-doubt. It's always been a thing for me."

"But you don't care if nobody else does it. You're going to do it."

"One hundred percent."

Young Upstart stands up. "We don't have guys like you in San Diego," he says. "We have chess clubs. But nobody like you."

They shake hands. Young Upstart then gets on his Segway and glides off.

4:06 P.M.

"Put this in your notebook," Jude says to me. "605 million people are playing chess. That's

a United Nations survey." He waits for me to write it down.

One of these 605 million, Stephen, now approaches the table. He's holding hands with his wife, Nikki. They're from Houston. He's a mechanical engineer and she's a nurse practitioner. He's been wanting to play Jude ever since seeing him in a YouTube video.

"As you see, I get to meet dynamite women," Jude says, directing his comment to Nikki.

Nikki and Stephen hold hands the entire time they sit at the table. As he plays Stephen, Jude quizzes Nikki about their marriage. How did you meet? Did he make his move fast? How did he propose? Did he chase after you?

This is not the conversation that Nikki expected. "He never had to. He's a very nice person."

Then Jude looks hard at the board. "I have given you all my positional traps," he says to Stephen. "You have avoided them all."

He looks some more. "You're doing tremendously well."

He pauses. "The reason I'm taking my time is I don't have a clear plan and it does bother me."

Jude goes back to Nikki.

"When you were a kid, when did you realize you had a lot of confidence?"

"I don't know if I ever did."

Jude returns to the board. He has a knight and a rook while Stephen has two bishops. Jude has also gained a pawn.

But Jude isn't sure where to take it from here. The game slows to a crawl. Stephen checks his watch in the manner of someone who has dinner reservations on a Friday night in New Orleans and whose wife is patiently waiting for a chess game to end.

Jude puts on his jacket. Body temperature is important for a professional player.

4:27 P.M.

The game goes on. Jude narrates his thoughts.

"I would like my pawns to go down the board, but I still have to work." He looks at Stephen. "I'm very proud of you."

Stephen asks how he could have protected the lost pawn. "Just protect it," Jude says.

Jude now seems to be mainly talking to himself as he tries to finish the game. "Keep it simple," he says. "Don't try to be a hero."

4:40 P.M.

Stephen checks his watch again.

4:49 P.M.

Another cluster of college students has

arrived. They are holding drinks and are more wobbly than the Vanderbilt students. The one in front is wearing a pink shirt, a few Mardi Gras beads, and has "Proverbs 33:6" tattooed up his arm.

"Do you take Venmo?"

"Cash only."

"I only have three dollars and 75 cents."

Jude goes back to his pawns.

The challenger sways a bit more, "Dude. How about if I win, I don't pay. If you win, I'll pay."

Jude ignores him.

"Just tell me what your first move would be."

Silence.

The would-be challenger drifts to the side of the table and watches for a while. Then he tries again.

"What's your first move?"

I can't take it any longer. "His first move is to be paid five dollars," I say quietly.

The challenger looks puzzled, as if seeing

me for the first time. He and his friends soon lose themselves in a growing Mardi Gras crowd.

5:09 P.M.

Jude finally advances his pawns, ending the game. Somehow, Jude convinces Nikki to stand on top of his table for a photo. We all help her up and then down.

"Those photos are for World Wide Media!" Jude tells her.

Stephen and Nikki depart, Nikki likely wondering what just happened, Stephen possibly still thinking about that lost pawn.

5:20 P.M.

Jude abruptly disappears across Decatur.

5:30 P.M.

"Dinner is served!"

Jude walks confidently through the slow line of cars on Decatur Street, carrying two plastic shopping bags. He takes out Styro-

foam containers of gumbo, macaroni and cheese, and fried potatoes.

Jude says his relationship with French Market Seafood really took off in the days that followed Hurricane Katrina and the city's levee breaks. Along with other journalists across the country, I had covered the story of Jude's days in the French Quarter as water rose in nearby neighborhoods. He narrates the events that followed, slipping into third person:

"Jude is all alone, pulls his table out, the only people around were Red Cross workers. Mr. Marullo is passing out menus. Jude, with his beginner kitchen skills, started to help him clean up. Says Mr. Marullo: 'You really helped us out. You're eating in my restaurant free.'"

A man leans out his car window. "There's the champ for life!" he shouts.

Jude waves his arm.

"With the food, the people, where I am," he says. "I know I am a millionaire."

5:57 P.M.

The street lamp over the World Chess Table turns on for the night.

5:58 P.M.

The table is quiet. It's littered with newspapers, gumbo containers, and Young Upstart's beer cans. No more players arrive. Jude begins a new story, then stops himself. He waves his arms around like propellers. "Yes! Yes!" he shouts.

Baylee Badawy leans in and sets a Mardi Gras king cake on the table. She doesn't leave for Las Vegas until tomorrow, she explains. The two catch up on the latest news. They talk about the table and how it is still standing after five years of street play, which makes it a miracle table. They talk about when Hikaru Nakamura visited the Chess Cave, and they talk about the viral Jude Acers posts that Baylee has made. They talk about everything and nothing, the way only best friends can talk.

"No funeral when I die," Jude says. "I want to be buried in the Louisiana swamp with a big party where people are telling Jude Acers stories."

On the other side of Canal Street, parades are lining up, kicking off the start of the last weekend of Carnival. But Baylee, who also lives in the French Quarter, is on her way home. "Jude always walks me back," she says.

The table not yet locked down, they disappear down Decatur, keeping to the center of streets, never crossing at crosswalks, walking arm and arm into a perfect French Quarter night. ⬇️



Members' Games



Please send me what you consider your best games, annotated or not, so that I might be able to showcase them. The following games represent contests that were available at the time of this printing. Email them to me or give them to me personally if you wish. The majority of analyses is done by Fritz 12, unless otherwise indicated. [This a reminder of the change in policy in the PHCC Challenge rules: # 14 - Games can be rated by the USCF, provided both players are members in good standing with the USCF and agree to have it rated by paying in advance to the TD (Lon Rutkofske, or other club official with a valid TD certification card.) of \$1.50@ to cover rating costs.] Updated Challenge rules will follow below:

Format and rules for PHCC Challenge System

- I. Purpose: to provide club members the opportunity to challenge higher rated players on a regular basis to improve and test their skills in over-the-board non-tournament competition.
- II. Regulations: (Effective 11-8-2018)
 - a. Challenges may be made by any club member on the PHCC rating list under the following circumstances:
 1. Can only be made by a lower rated player only.
 2. Can only be made during club hours and cannot be made after 8:00PM.
 3. Must be played on the same day as the challenge was made, so there can be no advanced challenges.
 4. Both players must be present.
 5. Only one challenge may be made per meeting.
 6. Challenger can only challenge a player that is rated less than 400 points above him on the rating list.
 7. All challenges must be accepted.
 8. No challenge may be made while a participant is involved in a tournament or challenge game.
 9. A clock must be used with the time control of G/60 with 5 second delay; must be recorded by both players and submitted to the rating director upon completion of the game. *(See Sample Score Sheet on page 2)*
 10. All challenge games must comply with current tournament rules of chess as established by the US Chess Federation.
 11. No challenge game may be adjourned, but if an unusual circumstance arises, the club rating director may adjudicate.
 12. No member may be challenged more than one consecutive time by the same challenger. This means that the lower rated player cannot challenge the same player two times in a row. He/she must play another match before this can take place, but this also means that the higher rated player may be challenged by the same rated player consecutively if he has not participated in a match in between challenges within a six- week period. Abuse (I.E: Constant challenges and re-challenges or other annoying or inconsiderate behavior) must be reported to the Director and he has the option of suspending the violator indefinitely from participation in the Challenge system. Disputes will be adjudicated by the ratings director, with the advice of other players as he so wishes.
 13. Challenges can take place on the first Thursday of each month, or at any time there is no other tournament or event scheduled.
 14. **Games can be rated by the USCF**, provided both players are members in good standing with the USCF and agree to have it rated by paying in advance to the TD (Lon Rutkofske, or other club official with a valid TD certification card.) of \$1.50@ to cover rating costs.
 15. Results will be rated by the PHCC (*Using the USCF rating system.*) using current PHCC ratings posted at the club and will be adjusted as necessary by the club rating director. Changes will also be posted on the club website.

Huso Avdic Games from the Michigan Senior - April 13-14,2024

Haakonstad ,Olaf - Avdic,Huso (1964) [B23] Closed Sicilian

2024 MI Senior Champs Troy (1), 13.04.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb5 Nf6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.d3 Be7 8.0-0 Ba6 9.Qe1 c4 10.e5 Nd7 11.d4 g6 12.g4 c5 13.Be3 Qc7 14.f5 gxf5 15.gxf5 0-0-0 16.f6 Bf8 17.Kh1 cxd4 18.Bxd4 Bc5 19.Rd1

Rhg8 20.Rg1 Bxd4 21.Rxg8 Rxg8 22.Rxd4 Qb6 23.Na4 Qb5 24.b3 cxb3 25.Qc3+ Kd8 26.Rd3 Qxa4 27.Qxb3 Qxb3 28.Rxb3 Bf1 29.Nd2 Bg2+ 30.Kg1 Be4+ 31.Kf2 Rg2+ 32.Ke3 Bxc2 33.Ra3 d4+ 34.Kxd4 Rxd2+ 35.Ke3 Rxh2 36.Rxa7 Nxe5 37.Kf4 Nd7 38.Ra8+ Kc7 39.Re8 Rf2+ 40.Kg5 Rf5+ 41.Kh6 Rxf6+ 0–1

Avdic,Huso (1964) - Bailey,Gregory (1900) [A80] Dutch Defense

2024 MI Senior Champs Troy (2), 13.04.2024

1.d4 f5 2.h3 Nf6 3.g4 d5 4.g5 Ne4 5.c4 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4+ 7.Nbd2 Nxc5 8.Ne5 0–0 9.a3 Bd6 10.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 11.Nxf3 c6 12.Qd3 Nd7 13.Rg1 Kh8 14.Bg5 Be7 15.0–0–0 Nf6 16.Ne5 Ne4 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qf3 Bd7 19.e3 Be8 20.Bd3 Qh4 21.Bxe4 Qxe4 22.Qg3 g6 23.f4 dxc4 24.h4 Rc8 25.h5 Rc7 26.hxg6 Rg7 27.Qh3 Rf6 28.gxh7 Rxh7 29.Qg3 Rf8 30.Rd2 Bh5 (*Funny moment...Greg offered draw after 30.Bh5.?and I declined. Greg won his first game against Thomas Sloan 2134!*) 31.Rh2 Bg4 32.Rxh7+ Kxh7 33.Qh4+ Kg7 34.Qg5+ Kh7 35.Qg6+ Kh8 36.Nxc4 1–0

Levi ,Ariel (2130) - Avdic ,Huso (1964) [E17] Queen's Indian Defense

2024 MI Senior Champs Troy (3), 14.04.2024

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0–0 0–0 6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.d4 Nbd7 10.Nc3 Ne4 11.Rc1 Nxc3 12.Bxc3 Bd6 13.Rc2 Re8 14.Qc1 Nf6 15.Rd1 Ne4 16.Bb2 Qe7 17.Ne5 c5 18.Nd3 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Rac8 20.Rxc8 Rxc8 21.Qb2 Ba3 22.Qa1 f6 23.Bb2 Bd6 24.Rc1 Rc7 25.Bh3 Nc5 26.Re1 Qe4 27.Bg2 Qe8 28.Qd1 Re7 29.Nxc5 Bxc5 30.Bxd5+ Kf8 31.Bxb7 Rxb7 32.Qd3 Rd7 33.Qxh7 Rd2 34.Qh8+ Kf7 35.Qh5+ Kf8 36.Qh8+ Kf7 37.Qh5+ Kf8 38.Qxe8+ Kxe8 39.Bc3 Rc2 40.Ba1 Rxa2 41.Kf1 a5 42.e3 Bb4 43.Rc1 Kd7 44.Bd4 b5 45.g4 a4 46.bxa4 bxa4 47.Rb1 Be7 48.Rb7+ Ke6 49.Ra7 g5 50.Ra6+ Kf7 51.Ra7 Ke6 52.Ra6+ Kf7 53.Kg2 a3 54.Ra7 Ke6 55.Ra6+ Kf7 56.Kg3 Rc2 57.Ra7 Ke6 58.Ra6+ Kf7 59.h3 a2 60.Ra7 Ke6 61.Kf3 Rd2 62.Bc3 Rc2 63.Bd4 Rd2 64.Bc3 Rc2 65.Bd4 Rd2 66.Ba1 Bd6 67.Ra6 Ke7 68.Ra7+ Ke6 69.Ra6 Ke7 70.Bc3 Rd3 71.Bd4 Rd2 72.Ra7+ Ke6 73.Ra6 Ke7 74.Ba1 Ke6 75.Bc3 Rd3 76.Bb2 Rd2 77.Rxa2 Rc2 78.Kg2 Rd2 79.Kf1 Rc2 80.Ke1 Bb4+ 81.Kf1 Bd6 82.Kg2 Rd2 83.Kf3 Rc2 84.Kg2 Rd2 85.Kf1 Rc2 86.Ke1 Bb4+ 87.Kd1 Rd2+ 88.Kc1 Rxf2 89.Ra6+ Ke7 90.Bd4 Bd6 91.Kd1 Rf3 92.Ke2 Rxh3 93.Bxf6+ Kxf6 94.Rxd6+ Ke5 95.Rg6 Ke4 96.Re6+ Kd5 97.Rg6 Ke4 98.Re6+ Kd5 99.Ra6 Rg3 100.Ra5+ Ke4 101.Ra4+ Ke5 102.Kf2 Rh3 103.Ra5+ Ke4 104.Ra4+ Ke5 105.Ke2 Rg3 106.Kd3 Rg1 107.Ra5+ Kf6 108.Ra6+ Ke5 109.Ra5+ Kf6 110.Ra4 Ke5 111.Rb4 Rg2 112.Rc4 Rg1 113.Re4+ Kd5 114.Rb4 Ke5 115.Ke2 Rg3 116.Kf2 Rh3 117.Ra4 Rh2+ 118.Kg3 Rh1 119.Ra5+ Kf6 120.Rf5+ Kg6 121.Rf2 Rg1+ 122.Rg2 Rf1 123.Rf2 Rg1+ 124.Kf3 Kf6 125.Ra2 Rb1 126.Rh2 Rf1+ 127.Rf2 Rg1 128.Rb2 Ke5 129.Rb5+ Kf6 130.Rf5+ Kg6 131.Rc5 Kf6 132.Rb5 Kg6 133.Rb6+ Kf7 134.Ra6 Kg7 135.Rd6 Kf7 136.Ra6 Kg7 137.Rb6 Kf7 138.Ke4 Rxg4+ 139.Kf5 Rc4 140.Kxg5 Re4 141.Rf6+ Ke7 142.Rf3 Ke6 143.Rh3 Ke5 144.Rf3 Ke6 145.Rg3 Ke5 146.Kg6 Rh4 147.Kg5 Re4 148.Rh3 Ke6 ½–½ (This contest lasted nearly 5 hours!)

Nichols,Anthony (2093) - Avdic,Huso (1964) [A58] Benko/Volga Gambit

2024 MI Senior Champs Troy (4), 13.04.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 d6 7.g3 g6 8.Bg2 Bg7 9.Nf3 0–0 10.0–0 Nbd7 11.Rb1 Qc7 12.b3 Rfb8 13.h3 Nb6 14.Re1 Bb7 15.e4 Ne8 16.Qc2 Bxc3 17.Qxc3 Rxa2 18.Bh6 Nd7 19.Nd2 f6 20.f4 Qa5 21.Qxa5 Rxa5 22.b4 Ra2 23.bxc5 Nxc5 24.Nc4 Rba8 25.e5 Rxg2+ [*I have 6–7 minutes on clock...so tired and offered a draw and Nichols accepted...*] ½–½

2024 Calendar of Events:

First Thursday of Each Month: Free Chess Clinics – 6:30 to 7:00 PM; **Private Lessons** can be arranged @ \$15/person per hour; **Open play:** 7:00 until 10:00 PM. Players wishing to play Challenge matches with longer time controls of G/60 with 5 sec delay can choose to play match games if they so desire. Participants will be required to follow the rules and regulations for **Challenge Play** (As outlined in **Chess Chatter**, our website under "Club Member Ratings Lists", or posted at the club.) and colors will be selected by lot. PHCC club ratings will be used. Players should turn their game scores into Lon, so he can adjust ratings appropriately and showcase the games in **Chess Chatter**. **Monthly Tournaments** will be held, **usually** on the third Thursday of the month - See the events schedule below for specifics!

May 23 – PHCC Championships Rd. 1

June 13 – PHCC Championships Rd. 2

June 20th - PHCC Under 1800 Rated Only: Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/10 EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.)

July 11 – PHCC Championships Rd. 3

July 18th - USCF/PHCC Rated Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) G/25 with 3 sec. delay EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.)

August 1 – PHCC Championships Rd. 4

August 22 – PHCC Championships Rd. 5

September 19th – PHCC Rated Thematic tournament: G/25 with 3 sec. delay EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.) Players with the white pieces will be playing a game with a

October 17th PHCC Speed Championships - The Port Huron Chess Club's 41st Annual Speed Championship Tournament will be held on Thursday, October 19th beginning at 7:00 PM. Registrations will determine the number of rounds and prizes. PHCC membership required. Entry fee will be \$5.00. Please contact Lon if you plan to play. There will be no registrations on-site. If you intend to play, contact Lon before October 14th. (Will be USCF rated if all entrants are USCF members.)

November 16th – PHCC Rated Quick Tournament DRR Game/15 PHCC Rated Action Quads (or Mini-Swiss depending on registration) EF: \$5.00 ...Prizes based on entries. A minimum of 4 participants will be necessary to hold the event. Please contact Lon via phone or email if you plan to register. Onsite registration 6:30-7:00PM - Play begins at 7:00 PM. Prizes: if Quad: 1st = \$15; if Mini-Swiss: Based on entries! (Recording games is optional, for players that wish to keep score, neither player is required to keep score if either has 5 minutes or less on their clock.)

December 12 – Bughouse Christmas Tournament – Partners based on club ratings (ie: must be at least 400 rating points between them.)

PHCC Championships to begin on Thursday, May 23, 2024 – starting at 7:00 PM. Make sure you check your email and phone number information for accuracy before the tournament!

Ratings:

The following list represents only current members of the Port Huron Chess Club. Current USCF ratings were used for members that had them, to establish the initial club rating list. The USCF rating format is used as the basis for calculating our club rating list. Members that had no USCF ratings are *given* a provisional rating based on their performances against regular club members who had USCF ratings. Club rated events will use these ratings for pairing purposes.

PHCC Ratings as of 5/17/24

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruziewicz, Andy	2118
Avdic, Huso	2101
West, Tony	1976
Gregg, Alan	1930
Urick, Ryan	1844
Morabito, Matt	1830
Rood Eric	1822
Rutkofske, Lon	1763
Klaty, Braeden	1731
Webb, Austin	1729
Young, William	1640
Oriel, Paul	1569
Wingrove, Bill	1497
Kuhn, Timothy	1478
Klaty, Trenton	1444
Malburg, Drew	1400
Ledsworth, Brian	1400
Beneker, Gerrit	1380
Klaty, Brad	1332
Bryne, Brandon	1294
Schmidt, Mark	1216
Fisher, Sandi	1156
DePuey, Nathan	Unr
Douglas, Cameron	Unr
Gibson, William	Unr

PHCC Blitz Ratings as of 5/17/24

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruziewicz, Andy	2241
Avdic, Huso	2167
Gregg, Alan	1951
Urick, Ryan	1900
Rood Eric	1810
Morabito, Matt	1804
West, Tony	1774
Klaty, Braeden	1761
Webb, Austin	1729
Rutkofske, Lon	1686
Young, William	1640
Blunt, Stuart	1606
Wingrove, Bill	1519
Kuhn, Timothy	1500
Klaty, Trenton	1402
Bryne, Brandon	1365
Klaty, Brad	1361
Beneker, Gerrit	1354
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Schmidt, Mark	1216
Malburg, Drew	1021
Fisher, Sandi	1000
DePuey, Nathan	Unr
Douglas, Cameron	Unr
Gibson, William	Unr
Pasia, Quenton	Unr

USCF Ratings as of 5/17/24

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruziewicz, Andy	2054
Avdic, Huso	1988
West, Tony	1917
Alan Gregg	1893
Rutkofske, Lon	1800
Morabito, Matt	1780
Webb, Austin	1694
Rood, Eric	1585
Kuhn, Timothy	1500
Ledsworth, Brian	1314
Malburg, Drew	1277
Fisher, Sandi	791

USCF Quick/Action Ratings as of 5/17/24

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruziewicz, Andy	2027
Avdic, Huso	1968
Morabito, Matt	1908/P
Gregg, Alan	1852
Rutkofske, Lon	1720
West, Tony	1802
Kuhn, Timothy	1494
Webb, Austin	1363
Rood, Eric	1321
Ledsworth, Brian	1087
Fisher, Sandi	Unr

USCF Blitz Ratings as of 5/17/24

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Bruziewicz, Andy	2152
Avdic, Huso	2035
Gregg, Alan	1837
Morabito, Matt	1732
Rutkofske, Lon	1602
Rood, Eric	1579
Kuhn, Timothy	1429
Ledsworth, Brian	1317
Malburg, Drew	1203
West, Tony	Unr
Fisher, Sandi	Unr

Dues News:

While dues are not required for anyone interested in playing at the club, they are required for those competing in tournament play. Annual Dues are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for those under 19. Dues funds are used to offset miscellaneous expenses not funded by the Recreation Department. United States Chess Federation memberships are available through the club. **Memberships expiring in October 2023: Beneker, Gerrit** **Memberships expiring in November 2023: Schmidt, Mark.** **January 2024: Kuhn, Tim; Malburg, Drew; Morabito, Matt; Rood, Eric; West, Tony.**