

Al Pena's Most Memorable Games at Alondra Park Chess Club



In his career as a chess player Al played 650 USCF- rated games, 427 of them at the Alondra Park Chess Club. These numbers only consider games played after November 1991 when cross tables are available on the USCF website.

His record of all his USCF rated games was 326 wins, 69 draws and 255 losses, for a total %score of 55.5. At Alondra Park his record was 228 wins, 52 draws and 147 losses, for a total %score of 58.9

Al reached his peak rating of 1935 early in his career, when he finished with 5.0/6 in the Reserve section of the 1993 National Open in Las Vegas. Going into the last round Al still had a perfect record.



Al played his first game at Alondra Park in February of 2005 as a house player. It took another 4 years before he joined the club permanently. From June 2009 to 2023 he played in 91 tournaments at Alondra Park.

His best win came in the fifth round of the Club Championship in 2017, where he beat 2154-rated Dmitry Kuzmenko. In the final round of this tournament he played for the Club Champion title against 2119 rated Wan Kim, who was a half point ahead. Al drew that game and finished as shared 2. - 4. This was also his best tournament performance, increasing his rating by 98 points.

The following table lists all the players he played 10 or more times at the Alondra Park Chess Club.

Name	G	W	D	L
Matt Robertson	21	3	9	9
Howard Lefevre	19	2	3	14
Harold Valery	18	12	2	4
Edwin Engelhaupt	17	9	4	4
Nathan Shankaran	17	14	1	2
Richard Meller	14	6	1	7
Guy Hocker Jr.	14	12	0	2
Robert Gibilterra	12	12	0	0
Ted Roth	10	0	1	9
Matt Trass	10	1	5	4
Alireza Fallahi	10	4	0	6



	Meller, Richard	1862
	Pena, AI	1737
Alondra Park Chess Club		26.09.2017
[Richard Meller]		

AI's lifetime record against Richard Meller was 6 wins, 1 draws, and 7 loses.

This is a game I played against AI in 2017. It highlights AI's style of playing: relentlessly attacking. This mindset never stopped AI from continuing his attack even after some missteps and caused errors on the side of his opponent. Both will be obvious in this game.

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 c6 6.Nf3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qb3 Bc7
[8...Nxc3= 9.dxc3 Nd7]

9.d3

Looking back at the game, I was wondering why I did not play d4. Maybe it was to discourage the opening of the diagonal for the black bishop towards my king.

9...Na6 10.Ne4

White has an edge.

10...Kh8

We all know what AI is planning.

11.Rd1 f5 12.Nc3 f4

[12...Nf6=]

13.Ne4

[13.d4! B6]

13...b6

[Black should play 13...Rb8=]

14.a3

[14.d4!]

14...Qe8 15.Qa4 Qg6 16.b4 b5 17.Qc2 Rf5

Here is the aforementioned misstep, ...

18.Nh4!+- Qh6 19.Nxf5 Bxf5

... but at least he he gets a piece developed and can potentially bring the other rook into the attack.

20.Nc5

[20.Bd2]

20...Nxc5 21.Qxc5

The computer points out here that taking the knight with the bishop first is better, but would you want to be without the light-squared bishop in this situation?

[21.Bxd5 cxd5 22.Qxc5]

21...Bb6= 22.Qc2 Bd4

[22...Rc8=]

23.Bb2

The tactical fireworks are now beginning. AI is in his element.

23...fxg3

[Better is 23...Bxf2+! 24.Kxf2 Qxh2 25.Qxc6 Rd8 26.gxf4]

24.hxg3



And now Bxd5 would win.

24...Bxf2+!

A bishop sacrifice to expose the white king and open the f-file completely.

25.Kxf2 Qe3+ 26.Kf1 26...Rf8?

Typical AI. Bringing in another attacker and threatening a devastating discover check, but overlooking that White has Qc5, essentially stopping Black's attack.

[26...Bh3!= Qc5 27.Bxh3? Qxg3
28.Qc5 Ne3+ 29.Qxe3 Qxe3-+]
27.Qxg3]

27.Bf3??

Speaking of overlooking, White returns the favor and allows a spectacular finish.

[27.Qc5+- Qxc5 28.bxc5]

27...Bh3+ 28.Ke1 Rxf3

White resigns here, since mate on f1 is unavoidable. So ended another game with AI where I had all the chances to win, but failed to do so. Losing previous games to his unrelenting attack, may have stopped me from playing more active moves (e.g. 9. d4 or 21. Bxd5) or looking for my attacking chances (27. Qc5). Congrats AI. Good Game.

0-1



☐	Engelhaupt, Edwin	1600
■	Pena, AI	1774
Alondra Park Chess Club		27.04.2022
[Matt Robertson]		

AI's lifetime record against Ed Engelhaupt at Alondra Park was 9 wins, 4 draws, and 4 losses.

This was AI's first game at the club after coming back from the COVID shutdown. He jumped right back where he left off.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5



AI loved playing the Benko Gambit!!

**4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 g6 7.g3
Bg7 8.Bg2 d6 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7
11.Re1 Ng4 12.e4 Nge5**



Black's position is very active, and therefore has more than enough compensation for the pawn.

**13.Bf1 c4! 14.Be3 Rb8 15.Nxe5 Nxe5
16.Rb1 Nd3! 17.Bxd3 cxd3 18.Qd2 f5!?
19.f3**

Better is 19.Bh6!

19...Qa5! 20.a3 Rxb2

[20...fxe4 21.fxe4 Rb3 22.Na2 Qxd2
23.Bxd2 Bxb2]

21.Rxb2??

[21.Qxb2! Bxc3 22.Bb6! d2 23.Red1
Bxb2 24.Bxa5 Bd4+ 25.Kg2 fxe4
26.fxe4 Rf2+ 27.Kh3 Be3]

**21...Bxc3!!-+ 22.Qc1 Bxb2 23.Qb1 Rc8
24.Rd1 Qxa3 25.Kg2 fxe4 26.fxe4 Qb4
27.Bh6 Qxe4+ 28.Kh3 Rc2**



White resigned here. Bc8 is a devastating threat. [29. Rg1 Bc8 30. g4 Bxg4+ 31. Rxg4 Qf3+ 32. Kh4 Rxh2+ 33. Kg5 Rh5#]

This game demonstrates AI's tremendous ability to play with the initiative. The Benko Gambit certainly suited AI's style!

0-1

□	Pena, AI	1704
■	Sherwood, Forest	1766
Alondra Park Chess Club		28.06.2023
[Matt Robertson]		

AI's lifetime record against Forest Sherwood at Alondra Park was 2 wins, 1 draw, and 0 losses, all played in the last 12 months.

This was AI Pena's last tournament chess game.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5

A favorite move of AI's.

**4...d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6
bxc6 8.Qf3 Be7 9.Bxc6+?!**

[9.Bd3 is considered best.]



9...Nxc6 10.Qxc6+ Bd7 11.Qc4 0-0

Black has sufficient compensation for the material deficit.



**12.Nc3 Rc8 13.Qe2 h6 14.Nge4 Nxe4
15.Nxe4 f5?!**

[15...Rxc2!? 16.Nc3 Bc6 17.Kd1
(17.0-0 Qd4 18.Qe3 Bc5)17...Rxc3
18.bxc3 Bxg2 19.Rg1 Qd5]

**16.Nc3 f4 17.d3 Bc6 18.Ne4 Qc7 19.c3
Rfd8 20.0-0 Rf8?**

[20...Qd7 21.Rd1 Bb5]

**21.f3 Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Rcd8 23.b4 Qb5
24.Rd1 a5? 25.a4!+- Qb6 26.b5 Bb7
27.c4 Rf5 28.Ba3 Bxa3 29.Rxa3 Rd4
30.c5!**



All is finding a lot of correct moves!

30...Qc7 31.Rc3 Bc8 32.Nd6?

but not this one! Best was [32.Rc4 Rd5
33.c6+-]

32...Rxd6 33.cxd6 Qxc3

White still has an edge, thanks to his
Queen side pawns.

34.Qe4?

[34.Qa2+!! Kf8 35.Qc4 Qxc4 36.dxc4
was the way to go.]

34...Qc5?

[34...Qb3!! 35.Qc4+ Be6! 36.Qxb3
Bxb3 and black seizes control.]

35.Qc6?!

[35.Qc4+!! Qxc4 36.dxc4]

35...Qxc6 36.bxc6 Rf6 37.d7 Bxd7

38.cxd7 Rd6 39.g3?

[39.Re1! Rxd7 40.Rxe5 Rxd3 41.h4]

39...Rxd7 40.gxf4 exf4 41.d4 Kf7

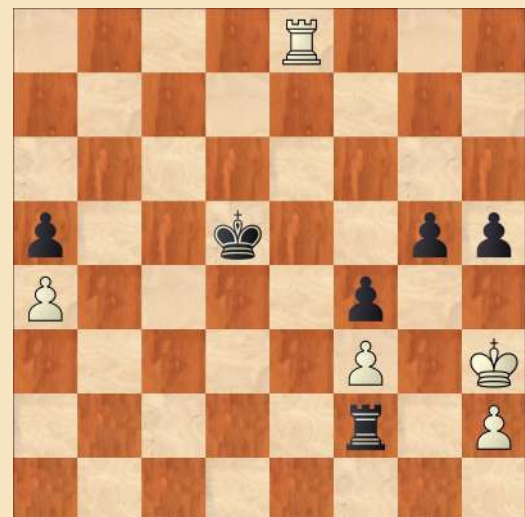
42.d5?!

[42.Kg2=]

42...Kf6 43.Rd4 g5 44.Kg2 Ke5 45.Re4+

Kxd5 46.Kh3 h5 47.Re1 Rb7 48.Re8

Rb3 49.Kg2 Rb2+ 50.Kh3 Rf2



White is now able to check the black king
indefinitely and can't be taken, since this
would result in a stalemate. According to
eye-witnesses, the game went well over
100 moves.

1/2-1/2

☐	Robertson, Matt	2027
☐	Pena, AI	1757
Alondra Park Chess Club		12.11.2019
[Matt Robertson]		

AI's lifetime record against Robertson at Alondra was 3 wins, 9 draws, and 9 loses, not counting the numerous blitz games played at the Manhattan Beach Library (circa 2010). AI and Matt also played several blitz sessions at AI's home in Redondo Beach, CA.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4



The Bird's variation of the Ruy Lopez, one of AI's favorites.

4.Nxd4 exd4 5.0-0 Bc5 6.b4?!

I believe I had prepared this specifically for this encounter.

[6.d3 c6 7.Bc4 d5 8.Bb3 h5 9.Nd2 Nf6 10.e5 Ng4 11.Nf3 Be6 12.c4 dxc4 13.Bxc4 Qd7 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.h3 Nh6 16.Ng5 Qg6 17.Ne4 Be7 18.Bxh6 Qxh6 19.Qb3 0-0 20.Qxb7 Qe6 21.Rac1 Rab8 22.Qxc6 Qxa2 23.Ra1 Qxb2 24.Rxa7 Rb6 25.Qc4 Re6 26.f4 Qb6 27.Rfa1 h4 28.Kh2 Rc6 29.Qd5 Rd8 30.Ra8 Rcc8 31.Nd6 Bxd6 32.exd6 Rxa8 33.Rxa8 g6 1-0 (33) Hammer, J (2625)-Tisdall, J (2402) Norway 2023]



6...Bb6

[6...Bxb4 7.Bb2 Bc5 8.c3 c6 9.cxd4 Be7 10.Ba4 d5 11.exd5 Qxd5 12.Nc3 Qxd4 13.Qf3 Qf6 14.Qg3 Bd6 15.Rae1+ Kf8 16.Qe3 Be6 17.Ne4 Qxb2 18.Nxd6 Qb4 19.Qe5 Qxa4 20.Nf5 Qg4 21.Qc5+ Ke8 22.Re4 Qg6 23.Rb1 Rb8 24.Qe5 Rd8 25.Rxb7 Nf6 26.Qc5 Nd5 27.Re7+ 1-0 (27) Naiditsch, A (2702)-Kula, R (2341) Trzcianka 2012]

7.Bb2 Qg5!?

Now AI surprises me with a novelty!

8.a4 a6 9.Bd3 Ne7 10.f4 Qh6 11.Na3 d6 12.a5

[12.Nc4 Ba7 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Qf2 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 Nxb4 18.Be4 Nc6 19.Qc5]

12...Ba7 13.b5 0-0?! 14.f5?

[14.b6! cxb6 15.Nb5! Nc6 (15...axb5 16.axb6 Nc6 17.bxa7 Rxa7 18.Rxa7 Nxa7 19.Bxd4 Nc6 20.Be3+-) 16.Nxa7 Nxa7 17.axb6 Nc6 18.Ra4]

14...c5 15.Rf3?!

[15.bxc6 Nxc6 16.Nc4 Rd8 17.Ba3 Qf6 18.Rb1 Ne5 19.Nb6 Bxb6 20.Rxb6 Nc6 21.Bb2 Qe5 22.Qa1]

15...Bb8 16.c3

[16.Nc4]

16...d5!= 17.Rh3 Qg5 18.cxd4 dxe4

[18...c4 19.Bc2 dxe4 20.Bxe4 Nxf5=]

19.Bxe4 Nxf5 20.dxc5

[20.Rh5! Qf6 21.Nc4 g6 22.dxc5 Qe7
23.Bxf5 Qxc5+ 24.d4 Qxc4 25.Rc1 Qb4
26.Bxc8 gxh5 27.Qxh5 Qxb2 28.Qg5+
Kh8 29.Qf6+=]

20...Nh4! 21.Re3

[21.Rd3 axb5]

21...Bf4 22.Rd3?

[22.Qe2 Qxc5 23.d4 Qg5 24.Re1
Bxe3+ 25.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 26.Rxe3 Nf5-+]

22...Qxc5+

[22...Re8!! 23.Rd5 Bf5!! 24.Rxf5 Nxf5
25.Bxf5 Qxf5 26.c6 bxc6 27.bxa6
Qxa5-+]

23.Bd4 Qg5 24.Qe2

[24.g3 Re8 25.Bb6 h6 26.Qa4 axb5
27.Nxb5 Bf5 28.Nc3 Bxd2 29.Rxd2
Qxd2 30.gxh4 Re6 31.Bxf5 Rxb6
32.Ne4 Qe3+ 33.Nf2 Rf6-+]

24...Bg4

[24...Re8 25.bxa6 Bg4 26.Qf2
Rxe4 27.axb7 Rae8-+]

25.Qf2 Rfe8?

[25...Rae8 26.Bxb7 Re2 27.Qf1 Re7]

26.Re1?

[26.Bxb7!! Rad8 27.bxa6]



26...Bf5!! 27.Bxf5 Rxe1+



White resigned since 28...Qxg2# is unavoidable. A tremendous battle! This was indeed AI's best game ever against me! A wonderfully played game by AI, showing him at his absolute best.

0-1

☐	Pena, AI	1854
■	Kuzmenko, Alexander	1537
Alondra Park Chess Club		08.05.2018
[Dmitry Kuzmenko, Matt Robertson]		

AI's lifetime record against Alexander Kuzmenko at Alondra Park was 1 win, 0 draws, and 4 losses.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 Nxe4
8.0-0 Bxc3 9.d5 Bf6 10.Re1 Ne7 11.Rxe4
d6 12.Bg5 Bxg5 13.Nxg5 0-0 14.Nxh7!**



Amazingly, this is all book. I'm sure AI and Alexander were both familiar with this! AI is not afraid of sacrificing a piece for the attack.

**14...Kxh7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Rh4 f5
17.Be2 Nxd5 18.Qh7+ Kf7 19.Bh5+ Ke6
20.Qxg7**

[20.Re1+ Kd7 21.Qxg7+ Ne7 22.Bf7 c5
23.Rh7 Kc6 24.Rxe7 a6 25.Bh5 Rg8
26.Qc3 Rb8 27.Qb3 b5 28.Rc7+ Kb6
29.Bf3 Rxc7 30.Kxg2 Qxc7 31.Rxc7
Kxc7 32.Qf7+ 1-0 (32) Nowarra,
W-Haensel, Leipzig 1960]

**20...Nf6 21.Re1+ Kd5 22.Bf3+ Kc5
23.Rc1+ Kb6 24.Rb4+**

AI is having fun chasing the king all over the board with 6 checks in a row.

Ka5 25.Rcc4 d5 26.Ra4+ Kb5

AI has a perpetual here, but of course he wants more.

**27.Rcb4+ Kc6 28.Qg5 b5 29.Ra3 Qe7
30.Qc1+ Kb6**



31.Rab3

AI misses a beautiful finish!

[31.Rxb5+!! Kxb5 32.Be2+ (32.Rb3+
Qb4 33.Be2+ Ka5 34.Qxc7+ Ka4
35.Rxb4+ Kxb4 36.Qc3+ Ka4 37.Qa3#)
32...Qxe2 33.Rb3+ Ka4 34.Qc6+ Ka5
35.Qc5+ Ka6 36.Qa3#]

31...c6 32.a4 a6

AI's attack runs out of steam and the game come to a quick end.

**33.Qd2 Re8 34.a5+ Kb7 35.Re3 Ne4
36.Qd4 Qc7 37.Ra3 Ng5 38.h3 Re1#
0-1**

☐	Matt Trass	1760
☑	Pena, AI	1744
Alondra Park Chess Club		01.12.2009
[Matt Robertson]		

AI's lifetime record against Matt Trass at Alondra Park was 1 win, 5 draws, and 4 losses.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5

AI essays his favorite Benko/Volga gambit.

4.Nd2 bxc4 5.e4 Qa5 6.Qc2 Na6 7.a3

[7.Bxc4 Nb4 8.Qb1 Ba6 9.Ngf3 Bxc4
10.Nxc4 Qb5 11.b3 e6]



7...Nb4!? 8.axb4!

An enterprising exchange sacrifice by Black.

8...Qxa1 9.bxc5 Ba6

[9...e6 10.Ngf3 Bxc5]

10.Bxc4 Bxc4

[10...e6]

11.Qxc4 Rc8 12.Ne2 Qa5 13.b4 Qc7

14.0-0 Ng4 15.Nf3 e6 16.Bf4

[16.h3 Nf6 17.Bf4+-]

16...Bd6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6



18.Ra1?!

[18.Qc3! Qf8 19.Ra1+-]

18...0-0 19.Rxa7

[19.Qd4 Qb8 20.h3 Nf6 21.Nc3]

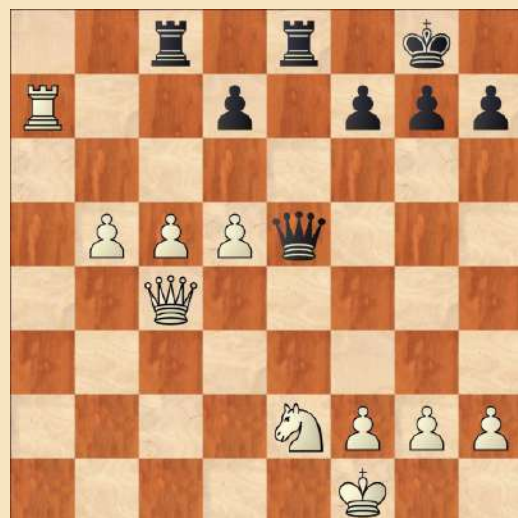
19...Ne5?!

[19...exd5 20.exd5 Qg6]

20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.b5?

[21.Rxd7 Qa1+ 22.Nc1]

21...exd5 22.exd5 Rfe8!= 23.Kf1?



23...Ra8?

AI misses the shot 23...Rxc5!!-+

24.f4?

[24.Rxa8 Rxa8 25.g3+-]

24...Qb2

[24...Qe3!=]

**25.Rxa8! Rxa8 26.c6!! d6?! 27.c7! Qa1+
28.Kf2??**

[28.Qc1!+- Qxc1+ 29.Nxc1 Rc8 30.b6]



28...Qa7+!!

Finally turning the tables. AI does not miss his chance here.

**29.Kf3 Rc8 30.Qc6 Qxc7 31.Qxc7 Rxc7
32.Nd4 g6 33.Nc6 Rb7 34.Nd4 Kf8 35.f5
Ke7 36.g4 Kf6 37.fxg6 hxg6 38.h4 Ke5
39.h5??**

And White resigned on the spot.

0-1



□	Lefevre, Howard	1834
■	Pena, AI	1741
Alondra Park Chess Club		14.06.2022
[Howard Lefevre, Matt Robertson]		

AI's lifetime record against Howard Lefevre at Alondra Park was 2 wins, 3 draws, and 14 losses, making Howard AI's most difficult opponent at Alejandra Park.

In this game AI seized the opportunity after a somewhat dubious opening. His 9...g5! and 10...Ne4!! turned the tables. Alert play by AI!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5



Besides the Birds defense to the Ruy Lopez (3...Nd4), AI liked playing the classical setup with 3...Bc5, or the Schliemann 3...f5.

4.0-0 Nf6 5.c3 0-0 6.d4 exd4

[6...Bb6!? as played by Magnus Carlsen against A. Firouzja recently, is better.]

7.cxd4 Bb6

[7...Be7 8.d5 Nb8 9.e5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5]

8.Bg5

[8.e5!? Ne4 9.d5+-]

8...h6 9.Bh4 g5



10.Bg3?

[White lets it slip away. Better was 10.Nxg5 Nxe4 11.Nf3+- (11.Nxe4?! Qxh4 12.Nbc3 f5=)]

10...Nxe4 11.Kh1

[11.Nc3!? is worth considering since 11...Nxg3 12.hxg3]



11...d5! 12.Nc3 Nxg3+

[12...Bg4? 13.Bxc6 bxc6]

13.fxg3

Black is a pawn up, with the pair of bishops.

13...Bg4 14.Qb3??

[14.Bxc6 is the best bet to save the position bxc6 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Rxf3]

14...Bxf3+ 15.gxf3

[15.Bxc6 Bxg2+! a beautiful, forced end to the game 16.Kxg2 bxc6 17.Qa4-+]

15...Nxd4 16.Qxd5

[16.Qa4 hardly improves anything Nxb5 17.Qxb5-+]



16...c6?!

[16...Qxd5! finishes off white. 17.Nxd5 Nxb5-+]

17.Qxd8 Raxd8

[17...Bxd8?! 18.Bd3 Bc7 19.Ne4-+]

18.Bc4

[18.Bd3-+]

18...Nc2 19.Ne4

[19.Rac1 Ne3-+]

[19.Rad1 Ne3 20.Rxd8 Rxd8-+]

19...Nxa1 20.Rxa1 Rd4 21.Bb3

[21.Rc1 does not improve anything Kh8-+]

21...Rfd8 22.Kg2 Kg7 23.Kh3

[23.g4-+ praying for a miracle]

23...f5 24.Nc3 Rd2

[24...g4+!? might be the shorter path 25.fxg4 fxg4+ 26.Kg2 Rd2+ 27.Kh1-+]

25.Nd1

[25.Re1 what else? Rxb2 26.Re7+ Kh8
27.Re5-+]

25...R8d4

[25...h5 26.a3 g4+ 27.Kh4 Kh6 28.Nf2
Rxf2 29.h3 Rd4 30.Re1 Bd8+ 31.Re7
Bxe7#]



White resigned here in light of 26. Ne3
Kg6.

0-1



☐	Pena, AI	1800
■	Challoner, Byron	1718
Alondra Park Chess Club		15.03.2023
[Byron Challoner, Matt Robertson]		

Here's a nice positional game won by AI. I thought I scored an easy pawn in the opening, but to my dismay I found myself in a positional bind. Try as I might to prove that the pawn worth grabbing, the bind proved to be more trouble than it was worth.

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5

The 4-pawn Attack of the Alekhine's Defense was also a favorite of AI's.

[4.d4 d6 5.f4]

4...Nd5 5.Bc4 e6 6.Nc3!?

An interesting pawn gambit!



6...Nxc3 7.dxc3 Bxc5 8.Qg4 Bf8?!

Black might try 8...g6, or 8...Kf8 or the more enterprising 8...0-0!? 9.Bh6 g6
10.Bxf8 Qxf8.

9.Bg5 f6 10.exf6 gxf6 11.Qh5+ Ke7



12.Bh4?

AI misses the cute 12.Bxf6+ Kxf6
13.Qh4+ ending the game quickly.

**12...Bg7 13.0-0-0 Qe8 14.Qc5+ Kd8
15.Nf3 Qe7 16.Qe3 Ke8 17.Rhe1 Nc6
18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 c6 20.Be2 Qf7
21.Rg4 d5 22.Kb1 Bd7**

[22...e5!]

23.Qg3 Rg8 24.Qc7 Bc8

[24...e5! 25.Qxb7 (25.Rxg7 Qxg7
26.Bh5+ Kf8-+) 25...Bf5+!-+]



**25.Qa5 e5 26.Rg3 Be6 27.f4 e4 28.Qb4
Qe7 29.Qd4 f5! 30.Bh5+ Bf7??**

[30...Kd7!]



31.Bxe7

[Actually, stronger is 31.Rxg7 Qxh4
32.Bxf7+ Kf8 33.Rxg8+ Kxf7 34.Qg7+
Ke6 35.Qe5+ Kf7 36.Rg7+]

31...Bxd4 32.Rxg8+!

Finally I was forced into tactical concessions and ended up with Bishops vs Rooks for a losing endgame. Good Game AI and RIP. (BC)

1-0



AI analyzing a game with occasional Alondra Park guest Tim Hanks.

Al was very active in the local chess scene. He liked to share stories from all the events he attended.

Here is one of his favorite stories about our former Club Champion Sid Rubin that took place at the 1994 US Amateur Team West tournament in his own words.

“Keith Fraser had been playing Brian Zavodnik on Board 1. They had finished their game already and were going over it on the board next to me and Sid. TD John Hillery asked them twice to move to the skittles room which they ignored. On the third time John swept their pieces over with his arm. This enraged Keith (a large man) who grabbed Hillery around the throat and started choking him. I was certain Keith would wind up in jail and we would be summarily kicked out. Sid was hard of hearing when we used to play at Santa Monica. I think by then, he was stone-deaf because he was completely oblivious to everything that has just transpired.”



Al and fellow “Shipin Mates” at 1994 US Amateur Team West winning Top Industrial Team.

Al was also our club photographer and reporter. For all the club championship tournament he brought his camera and took pictures of the players and arranged them to a final collage, but he never had a photo of himself in there.



Below is one of Al’s articles published in the Rank & File magazine from 2014 where he describes a dramatic finish to one of our tournaments.

“Alondra Park’s End of Summer tournament concluded August 26 with a bizarre five-way logjam at 4.5-1.5. The Club’s two experts, Matt Robertson and Ted Roth were playing the final round on Board One. Matt was beating Ted on the board and the clock when a dispute arose over the final resting place of a moved piece. Not satisfied with Ted’s explanation, Matt resigned the game. This enabled Ted, Howard Lefevre, Mike Bynum and newcomer (and unrated) Thu (Daniel) Hoang to share first place with Matt. However, Matt still took first on tie-breaks. Lefevre and Bynum were top A’s; Nathan Shankaran and Jose Milanez were top B and C respectively with three points.”

Special thanks to Matt Robertson for the idea and collecting the games,
all Alondra Park chess players, who submitted their games,
Tim Hanks and Mark Stewart for the photos
and Richard Meller for doing the rest.

