



## SHULMAN US CHAMP

By **ANDY SOLTIS**

May 25, 2008 -- YURY Shulman, who came to America nine years ago thanks to a chess scholarship in Texas, dominated the 2008 US Championship with a 7-2 winning score on Wednesday.

Shulman, the third-highest-rated player in the 24-man field in Tulsa, Okla., took command at the midway point when he defeated three grandmasters - Sergey Kudrin, Julio Becerra and Gregory Kaidanov - in a row. He earned \$8,000, and a Caribbean cruise, by clinching clear first place with a last-round draw.

The 33-year-old former champion of Belarus was recruited in 1999 by the **University of Texas at Dallas**, which has become one of the powerhouses of intercollegiate chess by offering scholarships to foreign and US masters.

Unlike some other hired guns in college chess, Shulman graduated, with a business and computer science degree. He continued his chess as a player and teacher after settling in the Chicago area. Shulman lost a two-game playoff for the championship in 2006 and tied for third in his two other appearances, in 2004 and 2007.

In this week's game, 20 . . . Nxb3 would allow 21 Rxf8+ Bxf8 22 Bf6+ and mates.