A course in draughts

Part II
A course in draughts part II

- A course in 10x10 draughts for slightly and more advanced players
- Written with the goal of draughts promotion
The diagram shows a composition of *Vuurboom*: White plays and wins!
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Young draughts players from the Dutch team, participating at the European championship 2009 in Beilen (the Netherlands)
I am going to begin with a warning: this is not an easy course! The game of draughts is very hard to play without making major mistakes. You have to know a lot to be able to play at a higher level. In the first part of this course we showed many tactical ways to win a game. Beginners need to focus on tactics first, before they can play long-term-plans, or, in other words, successfully perform a strategy. In this second part we will study the many positional aspects of the game. First we will learn how to judge positions. Without judging positions correctly it is not possible to make effective calculations in your game. You should now what aspects of a position are favourable and which are not. Once you know what kind of positions you want to reach you can make plans in your game. For every type of position we show the major strategies. We won’t neglect tactical aspects of positions, because tactics remain dominant in the game of draughts, even at the highest level. Without considering tactics it is not possible to play a correct strategy.

If the exercises in this course are to difficult to solve, you can check the solutions. You can try to solve the same exercises later. Maybe this time you do see the solution!

We use some symbols in the text of this course, which I will explain now:

- **W+** means white wins.
- **B+** means black wins.
- **32 – 28!** means that the move 32 – 28 is a strong move.
- **32 – 28?** means that the move 32 – 28 is a weak move, a mistake.
- **<14>** means square 14, **<39>** means square 39.
- **Dirod** means difference in rate of development (which will be explained later on)

My hope is that you learn a lot of this course, improving your game. But my greatest hope is that you will enjoy the rich possibilities of our game of draughts. I wish that the game will bring you pleasure and you will be inspired by its beauty. This is the corrected version of the second course.

MN Tjalling Goedemoed
Leeuwarden, 20-09-2011
I want to thank the people who helped me writing this course. Edwin Twiest checked on the technical part of the course, while Martijn van der Klis checked the English text. Frits Luteijn's generosity made the issue of this course financially possible. Being a member of the FMJD-board Frits has done a good job to promote our game! With the help of a Chinese translator of the course, Zhangyisen, I have corrected some errors in the first version.

Sources:

Turbo Dambase
TRUUS
DamMentor
Damclub Huizum 75 jaar
Kombineren op een randschijf
15/36 Een verzameling Combinaties waarin de hoge randschijf een actieve rol speelt
Strategiekompas
De eerste stap naar het Wereldkampioenschap
Trainingsmateriaal

K. Bor
S. Keetman
Tj. Goedemoed
R. van der Pal en S. Nagel
H. Hylkema
L.J. koops
M. Kats
I. Koeperman (translation F. Luteijn)
Tj. Goedemoed

You can watch draughts games at http://toernooibase.kndb.nl/
Tjalling Goedemoed is an experienced trainer in the game of draughts, who worked with many talented young players. Among his pupils were Klaas Hendrik Leijenaar, Gerlof Kolk, Saskia Veltman, the brothers Maikel, Zainal and Joel Palmans, Mei-Jhi Wu, Boudewijn Derkx, Stijn Tuytel and many others. Goedemoed also used to train many groups of players, both young players and experienced club players. In the course of years he produced a lot of material, which he was able to use for writing this course. Earlier Goedemoed (meaning good courage) productions are:

**Dam Mentor** 5 cd-roms at different levels with theory and exercises – in Dutch

**Oom Jan leert zijn neefje dammen** Issued by Tirion, a book for young, beginning draughts players – in Dutch

**De Keller-opening** More than 30 articles about the famous Keller-opening in draughts magazine *Hoofdlijn* (issued by Herman van Westerloo from Amsterdam)

**Friesch Dagblad** Since 1994 Goedemoed has written a weekly column about draughts.

**Het Damspel** Goedemoed published many articles about the endgame and other issues aimed at beginning players in this magazine issued by KNDB (Royal Dutch Draughts Federation).

More of his publications you can find at:


Goedemoed is not only interested in playing games and studying games of top-players, he also likes compositions, especially compositions resembling game situations. In the last chapter (Epilogue) some of his compositions are shown. Goedemoed also likes to play many draughts variations like dameo, killer draughts and Frisian draughts.
Goedemoed won the Frisian championship 3 times and 7 times the Frisian blitz-title. His best result in a game was his victory over Ton Sijbrands in 2001.

Goedemoed has his own weblog: http://damwereld.web-log.nl/

A new website for draughts-promotion is being created: http://promo.draughts.nl/

Special hint: A website on the history of draughts by dr. Arie van der Stoep:
http://www.draughtshistory.nl/

/ion This site is in English!!!

Strategic play

This course is aimed at strategic play.

Part II of the Course in draughts is aimed at strategic play.
Don't forget to open your heart to feel the beauty of the game, for the eyes can't see what's essential, only the heart can. (according to the Fox from Le petit prince)