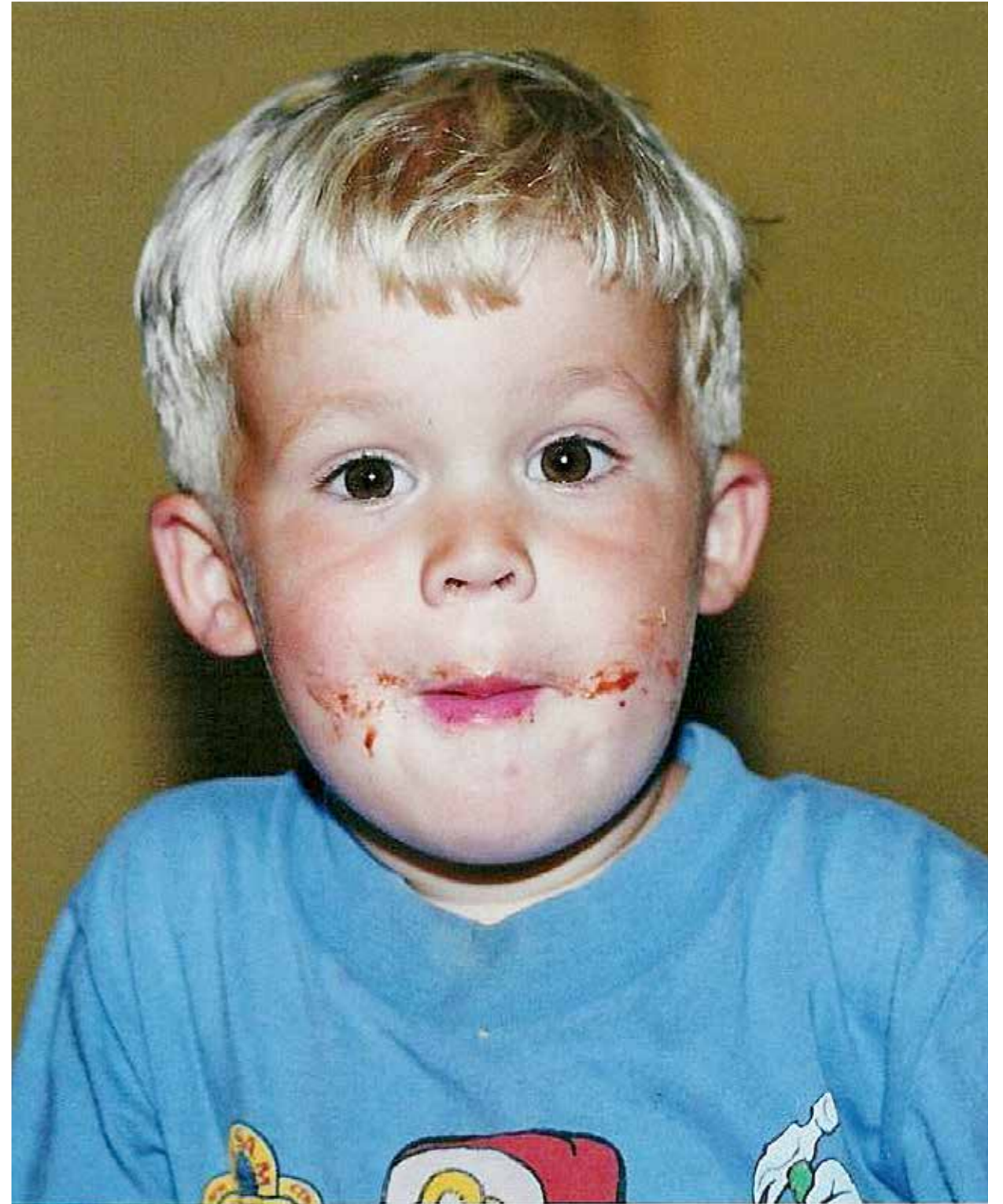




Magnus Carlsen

A Life in Pictures

NEW IN CHESS





A year off from school to travel to chess tournaments all over Europe with the entire family.



In 2002, Magnus finished second in the U12 Junior World Championship in Crete. Ian Nepomniachtchi (left) won and 19 years on the Russian is Magnus's Challenger in the World Championship match in Dubai.





Explaining a game to the spectators at 'the Wimbledon of chess', the annual tournament in Wijk aan Zee, a small coastal village in the Netherlands.



One of the ways for Magnus to relax during his debut in Wijk aan Zee in 2004 was playing football in the morning on the village green with his father Henrik.

Magnus

The making of a champion

By Jonathan Tisdall

Magnus Carlsen has been in the public eye like no other chess player, and his life has indeed been immortalized in striking images. The feature film on his life – Magnus – not only captured the visceral experience of being caught up in a world title challenge, but it also contains some wonderful home movie moments. One of the most hilarious, and eloquent, is a very young Magnus playing an outdoor game involving the need to hop over a barrier stick. With a huge grin, Magnus prefers to run through it instead...

This setting of family fun would also define his chess development. Magnus showed signs of ‘braininess’ extremely early, assembling complex Lego models and memorizing huge chunks of geographical data before being attracted to chess. When his dedication and aptitude for the game became undeniable, this uniquely tight-knit family made a huge and pivotal decision. In the summer of 2003, they rented out their house, sold their car, put 12-year-old Magnus and his three sisters in a van, and took a year off centred around travel, education ... and chess events. The result would be a year of family memories and a teenaged grandmaster on his way to stardom.

Magnus Carlsen has been the top-rated player in the world for over ten years. He achieved the pinnacle remarkably young, in January 2010, just after turning 19. He jockeyed with then reigning world champion Vishy Anand for over a year after first ascending the peak, before ‘moving in’ at the top for what has been a permanent and unbroken stay since July 2011. Once established as the world number one, Magnus hit unparalleled peaks and demonstrated a Carlsen baseline that has only rarely been approachable by lesser mortals.

This numerical proof of superiority is arguably his most valued achievement, and in his early years of chart-topping, Magnus was audibly sceptical of the official title of world champion. Carlsen has had an enduringly complex relationship with the international chess federation FIDE’s official crown, though naturally enough, he would gradually become attached to wearing it.

It is easy to forget that his opposition to the title path in 2011 was so strong that he rejected the entire project, dropping out of the qualification cycle, preferring to let his rating speak for his status. The resulting changes to the organization of the world championship would eventually convince Magnus to mount a challenge and prove that his growing domination of the game, in general, could translate into completing the grueling, lengthy task of hunting down and defeating the reigning king.



At the age of 13, Magnus played the great Garry Kasparov in the Reykjavik Rapid, drawing one game and losing one.



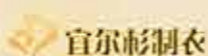
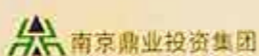
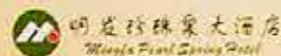
Enjoying Reykjavik together:
father Henrik, Ingrid, Magnus, Ellen, Signe and mother Sigrun.



“康缘药业杯”中国(南京)国际象棋超级大赛

“Kanion Cup” Nanjing Pearl Spring Chess Tournament

主办：南京市人民政府、国家体育总局棋牌运动管理中心、中国国际象棋协会
承办：南京市浦口区人民政府、南京市体育局



Magnus won the 2009 Pearl Spring tournament in Nanjing way ahead of the rest. His 3002 rating performance was one of the best results in chess history.



Moscow probably has the most knowledgeable and best informed chess crowds.



A memorable secret match.
At the end of three long days of the 2010 Blitz World Championship in Moscow, Hikaru Nakamura and Magnus still had not had enough. In Magnus's suite at the Ritz they played till the early hours. The score after 40 games: 23½-16½ in Magnus's favour.





Playing chess with the hustlers in Washington Square Park under the watchful eye of Liv Tyler.





Trophies come in all shapes and sizes, and if you win in Bilbao, you inevitably are 'crowned' with a 'txapela', a traditional Basque hat.

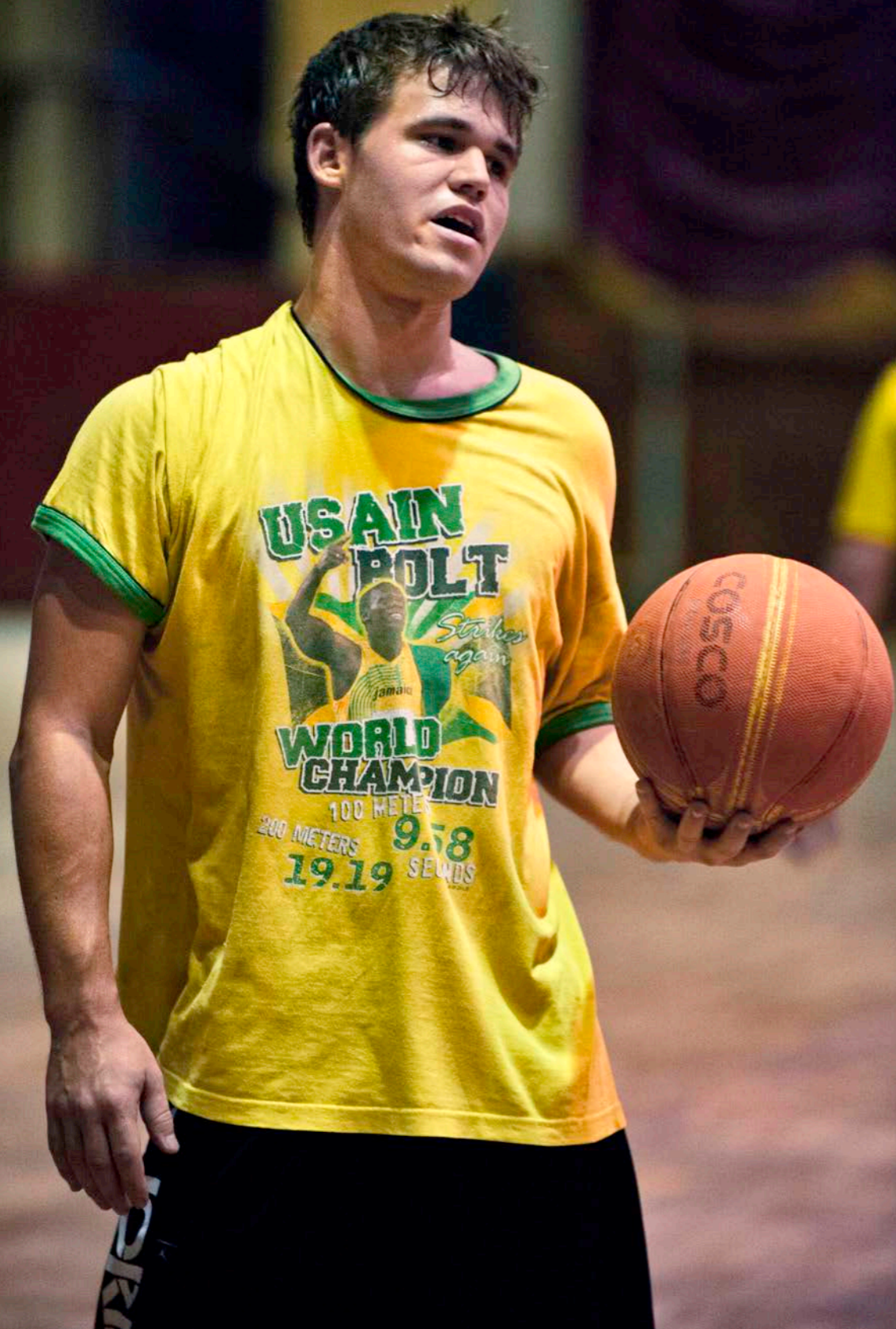






A career-defining moment. Magnus beats Teymour Radjabov and keeps his chances alive to win the 2013 Candidates tournament in London. The next day he became the World Championship Challenger.







An unforgettable moment for Real Madrid fan Magnus, taking the honorary kick-off in Bernabeu. Magnus loves to play football and thanks to his fabulous knowledge he even managed to reach the number one spot in the live Fantasy Premier League rankings.



This is what a club match looks like and it's not the environment where you expect to see a World Champion... In early 2014 the freshly crowned Champ decided to help out his old club Stavanger SK. Thanks to his win they beat Nordstrand and were promoted from the Norwegian First League to the Eliteserien, the top league.





The World Championship match against Sergey Karjakin from Russia in New York in 2016 was an unexpectedly close affair. The match went down to the wire, a rapid tiebreak, but there Magnus was merciless.

The photo above shows Magnus's distress after he almost was beaten for a second time and was close to losing the match in Game 9. The next day he equalled the score in Game 10.





In 2020 and 2021 the global lockdowns boosted online chess, with only a few over-the-board tournaments played.





