Missing Elwyn

 "Go is the DNA of human intellectual civilization" - Elwyn Berlekamp

American genius mathematician Mr. Elwyn Berlekamp, ​​ was the youngest double major academician in the American scientific community of his day.

In the spring, my brother Ming Jiu in the United States sent a WeChat: Elwyn left on April 9. After listening to the news, I have been very sad.

Elwyn had been carrying an oxygen bottle every time we met in the recent US Jujo Cup Go Open. Although his body was already weak, he would still come to San Francisco to see us, eat and chat with us, and think about the combination of Go and mathematics and science.

I also recalled the incredibly happy years of our friendship. From the early 1990s, we met at UC Berkeley. Elwyn learned Go with me, and he invited us to participate in the American Mathematical Congress and the North American Human Intelligence Game Seminar.

Together we did a combination of Go and math in Korea - the game of math card games.

In 2010, with the strong support of the Chinese Go Association, a math card game was held in China.

It was difficult to arrange this event in China: mainly because of the special clearances that Elwyn held. During the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, Elwyn was appointed as the director of the Information and Intelligence Department of the US Department of Defense, mainly for coding and deciphering passwords. For a long time, the United States banned him from entering and leaving some countries. He had to wait until the decryption period had passed before he could come to China.

For Elwyn, conducting a social activity in the Beijing Go community, felt very wonderful. He told me that he was very happy to see the best players in the world study Go together every day.

One evening I accompanied Elwyn and his assistant mathematician Bill to Chongwen Gate. World champion Gu Li happened to be the first person to go in the same direction.

At dusk, after work hours, the street is crowded with people and traffic. Finally after waiting for a taxi Gu Li accepted our invitation to share a taxi, and the four big guys were tightly squeezed into a small car. Gu Li asked about the problem of math card games. Elwyn succinctly explained the close relationship between Go and mathematics.

This experience became one of Elwyn's most interesting memories in Beijing.

The conclusion was that in a limited space(the Go board) we can explore unlimited topics.

Elwyn likes Naiwei and says that she is one of the most intelligent people of our era: he said, "The average person will think she is just an ordinary person, but I knew from the beginning that she is not. There is a similar situation in the scientific community."

In 2015, Elwyn specially hosted Berkeley's school-level events and receptions for the Go playing Children who visited the United States. Elwyn personally gave a speech and communicated with the children. Elwyn played Go with Naiwei.

Elwyn also worked with Naiwei to study the math card game that he spent countless efforts on. CCTV sent a team to video the event and aired a program in China. At the subsequent reception, Elwyn carefully prepared delicious food for the children and presented a certificate, giving a T-shirt with a Go card game on it.

These days, I often wear this T-shirt from Elwyn, missing the brilliant scientist who so loved and respected Go.

With his status and influence, the high contribution to the popularization of Go in the scientific community cannot be overestimated.

I called Elwyn's wife and talked about how much we missed Elwyn. I wish I could continue to do Go mathematics research with him, I so regret this loss. . . Elwyn's wife said: "Elwyn often talks about Go, talking about things with you, he loves Go. This time after all aspects of the body fail, at home, in my arms. It is very peaceful. "When I heard this, I felt comfort when I shed tears."

Elwyn often said that Naiwei is very intelligent, just like his wife.

Searching online for articles about Elwyn I found many that I had written and felt like I was reliving a story that happened yesterday.

It's a pity that such wonderful and intelligent people have left. . .

In the middle of July, we took the children of the "Changjiu" to participate in the Japanese Go Conference in Kanazawa, the ancient city of Japan. Seeing the green T-shirt we wore with a Go pattern printed on both sides, many people ask who made such a beautiful shirt. I told them about Elwyn's card game in detail and his love and contribution to Go; everyone was amazed. Although Elwyn is gone, I believe that because of Go, Elwyn is connected to us in a certain dimension.

Elwyn, old friend, what do you think?