

CHESS

by Jude Acers
(US senior master)

US CHAMPIONSHIP: John Grefe, Walter Browne and James Tarjan will all be coming back to Berkeley after the US Championship, and it is just possible that Grefe will return as the victor. With only one round to go, he and Lubomir Kavalek both have 8½ points (no adjournments), while Browne and Tarjan at 7 points each still have a shot at third. Larry Evans has already flown home to Reno, leaving his 6½ points behind for whatever worth it may hold.

Pairings for the final round are Benko-Grefe, Karklins-Kavalek, Kane-Tarjan, Gilden-Byrne, Bisguier-Browne, Mednis-Martz and Evans-bye.

White: John Grefe. Black: Walter Browne. El Paso, 1973 US Championship. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 h6 8 Bh4 Be7 9 Qf3 Nbd7 10 0-0-0 Qc7 11 Be2 Rb8 12 Qg3 Rg8 13 Rhf1 g5 14 fg Ne5 15 Nf3 b5 16 Ne5 b4 17 Nf7 bc 18 gf Rg3 19 fe Rg5 20 Bg5 hg 21 Nd6† Black resigns.

White: John Grefe. Black: Larry Gilden. El Paso, 1973 US Championship. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2 Nbd7 9 0-0-0 Qc5 10 Bf6 Nf6 11 e5 de 12 Nf3 Nd7 13 fe Qa5 14 Qg5 h6 15 Qg3 g5 16 h4 g4 17 Qg4 h5 18 Qg3 b5 19 Kb1 Bb7 20 Bd3 Rc8 21 Ng5 b4 22 Qf4 Ne5 23 Rhe1 Bg7 24 Re5 Qc7 25 Re6† Black resigns.

White: Arthur Bisguier. Black: John Grefe. El Paso, 1973 US Championship. English Opening 1 c4 g6 2 e4 Bg7 3 d4 d6 4 Nc3 e5 5 Nf3 Nd7 6 g3 Ngf6 7 Bg2 0-0 8 0-0 c6 9 b3 Re8 10 Bb2 ed 11 Nd4 Nc5 12 Qc2 a5 13 Rad1 Qb6 14 Nde2 a4 15 Na4 Na4 16 ba Qb4 17 a3 Qa4 18 Qc1 Qb3 19 Nf4 Ra4 20 Qa1 Nh5 21 Bg7 Ng7 22 Rd6 Ra3 23 Rd3 Ra1 24 Rb3 Ra4 25 Rcl Rd8 26 Bfl Kf8 27 f3 Ke7 28 Rd3 Rd3 29 Nd3 Ne6 30 Ba3 Ra3 31 Ne1 Nd4 32 Rd1 Ne2 33 Kg2 Ra2 34 Bc8 Nc3† 35 Kg1 Nd1 36 Bb7 Kd7 37 White resigns.

White: Andrew Karklins. Black: Larry Evans. El Paso, 1973 US Championship. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 a6 3 Nc3 e6 4 d4 cd 5 Nd4 b5 6 Bd3 Bb7 7 0-0 Nc6 8 Nc6 Bc6 9 Qe2 d6 10 a4 b4 11 Nd5 a5 12 Bb5 a5 13 c3 bc 14 Ra3 Ne7 15 Rc3 ed 16 Rc6 Nc6 17 Bc6† Rc6 18 ed† Be7 19 dc 0-0 20 Bd2 Bf6 21 Qb5 Qa8 22 Rcl Rc8 23 Qb7 Bd4 24 Qa8 Ra8 25 c7 Rc8 26 Ba5 Kf8 27 Rc4 Black resigns.

White: James Tarjan. Black: Larry Gilden. El Paso, 1973 US Championship. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Nc3 a6 4 d4 cd 5 Nd4 Nf6 6 f4 e5 7 Nf3 Qc7 8 Bd3 Be7 9 0-0 0-0 10 Qel b5 11 Kh1 Bb7 12 fe de 13 Nh4 b4 14 Nd1 Kh8 15

Nf5 Ng8 16 Nde3 Bc5 17 Nd5 Bd5 18 ed Nd7 19 Ng7 Kg7 20 Qg3† Kh8 21 Bh7 f5 22 Bg8 f4 23 Qg6 Nf6 24 Rf3 Rg8 25 Qf6† Rg7 26 Bd2 Rf8 27 Rh3 Kg8 28 Qe6† Rff7 29 Rel Bd6 30 Rh6 Qc2 31 Rcl Qf5 32 Rc8† Bf8 33 Rf8† Kf8 34 Rh8† Rg8 35 Bb4† Black resigns.

INTERZONAL PLAYOFF AND CANDIDATES' PAIRINGS: Lajos Portisch was the first to emerge from the interzonal playoff match at Portorozh, Yugoslavia with a ticket to the world championship candidates' matches in 1974. His score of 4 1/2 points after the third-round mathematically guaranteed his success, regardless of how the remaining three games of the fourth round turned out. Lev Polugaevsky had a more difficult time of it, however, repeating his crucial-game performance in the final contest to edge out Efim Geller.

Now, with all the eight participants known, the World Chess Federation (FIDE) has assembled the initial quarter-final pairings for the candidates' series: Donald Byrne (USA) gets his wish to play Boris Spassky (USSR); Lajos Portisch (Hungary) meets Tigran Petrosian (USSR); Henrique Mecking (Brazil) crosses swords with Viktor Korchnoi (USSR); and Anatoly Karpov (USSR) matches wits with Lev Polugaevsky (USSR).

If everything proceeds according to static expectations, with no surprises and no upsets, then Spassky will squash Byrne, Petrosian will suffocate Portisch, Korchnoi will overhaul Mecking and Karpov will outmaneuver Polugaevsky . . . which leaves a quartet of Soviet representatives to battle for the right to challenge Robert Fischer for his hard-won crown.

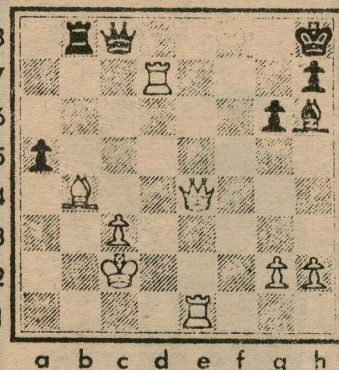
CHIGORIN MEMORIAL: A progress check on Tal and Spassky at the international grandmaster tournament in Sochi shows them tooth and nail right down to the wire in a probable photo finish. With one round left to play, Spassky stands at 9 points, Tal at 8 1/2 plus an adjourned game. A full point behind are Ulf Andersson and Yan Smejkai at 7 1/2 each.

White: Mikhail Tal. Black: Laszlo Szabo. Sochi, 1973.

Robatsch Defense 1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 f4 a6 5 Nf3 b5 6 Bd3 Bb7 7 Qe2 c5 8 dc dc 9 e5 Nc6 10 Be3 Nd4 11 Nd4 cd 12 0-0-0 b4 13 Ne4 Nh6 14 Bd4 0-0 15 Bc5 Qa5 16 Be7 Rfe8 17 Bd6 Qa2 18 Bb4 Be4 19 Qe4 Ng4 20 Bc4 Qa1† 21 Kd2 Qb2 22 Bf7† Kf7 23 Qd5† Re6 24 Qb7† Re7 25 Qe7† Kg8 26 Qe6† Kh8 27 Qc4 Ne5 28 fe Qe5 29 c3 a5 30 Qc6 Rb8 31 Rhe1 Bh6† 32 Kc2 Qf5† 33 Qe4 Qc8 34 Rd7 ab 35 Qe5† Kg8 36 Qe6† Black resigns.

BENSON BLINDFOLD SIMULTANEOUS: Berkeley mas-

Black: Szabo



White: Tal
Position after
34 Rd7!

ter Alan Benson displayed his rare talent for blindfold simultaneous play again by taking on 10 boards at once in a 10 1/2 hour marathon exhibition at Fort Ord, Sept. 23. His exhausting efforts were rewarded with a +6, =2, -2 score, highly creditable when placed alongside of Morphy's first try on eight boards, which produced a +6, -2 result. Ted Yudacufski, game host for the Monterey Chess Center, acted as teller, calling out the moves for the blindfold player. For the record, Benson opened with 1 g3 on board one, then started with three each of 1 e4, 1 d4 and 1 c4.

The best game of the event for complexity and fascination of variations and the one that yielded the most exciting chess, according to Benson, was his loss to potential expert Van VanDivirs.

White: Alan Benson (blindfold).

BARBS

Black: Van VanDivirs. Ft. Ord, Sept. 23, 1973. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 Bc4 Ng4 8 Bb5† Kf8 9 0-0 Ne3 10 fe Be5! 11 Bc4 f6 12 Bb3 Kg7 13 Nce2 Nc6 14 c3 Qb6 15 Kh1 g5 16 Ng3 Bg3 17 hg h5! 18 Nf3 Qe3 19 Qd5 Nd8 20 Rael Qc5 21 Qd2 h4 22 g4 h3 23 e5 de 24 Ng5 Bg4 25 gh Bh3 26 Nh3 Rh3† 27 Kg2 Qc8! 28 Rg1 Qg4† 29 Kf1 Rf3† 30 Qf2 Qg1† 31 Kg1 Rf2 32 Kf2, and White resigned without waiting for Black's reply (32 . . . Nf7).

HARDCASTLES RAPID TRANSIT NIGHT: Alan Benson directs a weekly 5-minute (clock) rapid transit tourney Friday nights from 7 p.m. at Hardcastles, 2516 Telegraph in Berkeley (located close to the East Asia Book & Game Center at the corner of Dwight Way and Telegraph). Entry is \$1, with all money returned to players in the ratio of 50% for first, 30% for second and 20% for third place. The round-robin contest draws upward of 20 competitors and is getting stronger by the week. Fritzinger, Sacks and Hammie, all of Berkeley, took a share of the spoils last Friday. Please bring sets and clocks.

PRISONERS' CHESS INSTITUTE: Kenneth Fong and Alan Benson proudly announce the creation of the Prisoners' Chess Institute . . . to provide chess services to

prisoners. PCI supplies books and chess equipment at substantial discounts to prisoners and conducts postal chess pairing service. A PCI Newsletter in pamphlet form has also been initiated with financial support from tireless benefactor (no cliché) James Schroeder, who has probably done more prison chess work and contributed more hard cash than all the chess organizers in this country combined.

The Sept. newsletter features a report on the world junior championship by Berkeley master Craig Barnes, a deeply annotated (3 pages) Spassky-Tal game by Alan Benson, the first of many contributions by Dennis Fritzinger and a complete summary of the US Junior Championship, held recently in San Francisco (with 8 selected games). James Tarjan is also on the contributing editor's list.

To support this worthwhile, nearly invisible venture, you can donate some spare change or better for copies of the newsletter and pass the word around, but you can get it free, too. Look for the Prisoners' Chess Institute publications at the East Asia Book & Game Center (Dwight Way & Telegraph), see Alan Benson at Hardcastles on Friday night (just down the street) or write Kenneth Fong, Editor PCI, 865 Rosemount Rd., Oakland, Calif. 94610. Do it!