

## CHESS

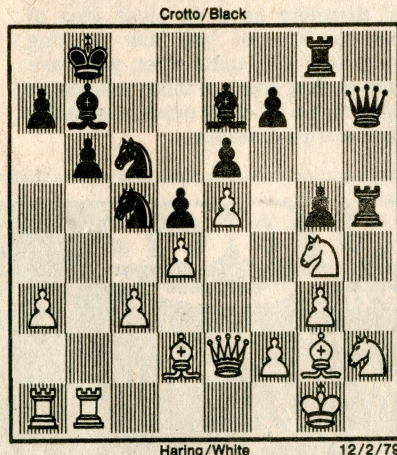
ROBERT BYRNE

# New Yorker Wins U.S. Women's Championship

**R**achel Croto of New York won the 1979 United States Women's Championship at the University of California at Los Angeles with an almost perfect score — 10½ points out of 11 games.

Ruth Haring of San Francisco, who had finished second in 1974 and 1975, once again came in second, with 8½-2½. Diane Savereide of Santa Monica, Calif., who held the championship from 1975 until last year — when she and Miss Croto were co-champions — was relegated to third place this time, with a 7½-3½ score.

Player	Final Standings			Points
	Won	Lost	Draw	
Croto	10	0	1	10½
Haring	7	1	3	8½
Savereide	7	3	1	7½
Street	5	4	2	6
Bert	4	4	3	5½
Gresser	2	3	6	5
Olsson	4	5	2	5
Ford	4	7	0	4
Lanni	4	7	0	4
Sterngold	3	6	2	4
Gasser	2	6	3	3½
Stolyarov	2	8	1	2½



Position After 23 P-Q4

Miss Croto earned her championship by a combination of determination and aggressiveness that had no place for flinching from risks. In the penultimate round, leading her closest rival, Miss Haring, by a full point, she spurned an early draw offer and

adopted a sharp line of play in an all-out effort to win.

The system beginning with 2 P-Q3 avoids the main lines of the French Defense for the sake of bringing about a King's Indian reversed formation. Its theoretical basis is that Black, already having played 1 ... P-K3, cannot set up any of the preferable anti-King's Indian variations.

Whereas the normal continuation of Black's defense would have been 10 ... 0-0, Miss Croto prepared for the risky 11 ... 0-0-0 by 10 ... Q-B2!? Apparently she had decided that White would gain nothing by 11 B-B4, P-KR3; 12 P-KR4, 0-0-0; 13 N-K3?! (threatening a breakthrough with 14 NxP!?, PxN; 15 P-K6), N-B1.

Miss Haring's kingside defensive alignment, culminating in the blockading move 16 N-N4, limited Black to one open line, the KR file, against her king, but the argument of this game is that Black needs no more.

On the other hand, White's mating attack was slow to materialize, and when it finally gathered momentum, Miss Haring spoiled it with the error 21 PxP?, yielding White only one unimportant half-open file against the black king and conceding Black heightened piece mobility after 21 ... NxBP. Instead, 21 P-R4 and 22 P-R5 to open two

files, would have made a fight of it.

Miss Haring's 22 N/3-R2? was a second error, trying to make a stand on the KR file where Black was just too strong, but it was already doubtful whether any defense would do.

After 22 ... Q-R2, the defense of 23 B-KB1, R-R1; 24 P-B3 collapses against 24 ... NxQP; 25 QxN, RxN. However, on 23 P-Q4, the black queenside pieces got into the attack by 23 ... B-R3!; 24 Q-B3, N-K5.

On 26 N-B1, Miss Croto would have struck with the deflection sacrifice 26 ... B-K7!; 27 QxB, R-R8ch; 28 BxR, QxBmate.

After 28 ... PxB, there was no defense against 29 ... B-B8mate or 29 ... Q-R6mate, and Miss Haring resigned.

## FRENCH DEFENSE

White Haring	Black Croto	White Haring	Black Croto
1 P-K4	P-K3	16 N-N4	Q-Q1
2 P-Q3	P-Q4	17 P-R3	K-N1
3 N-Q2	N-KB3	18 KR-N1	Q-KB1
4 KN-B3	P-B4	19 P-B3	Q-N2
5 P-KN3	N-B3	20 P-N4	R-R4
6 B-N2	B-K2	21 PxP	NxBP
7 0-0	P-QN3	22 N/3-R2	Q-R2
8 R-K1	B-N2	23 P-Q4	B-R3
9 P-K5	N-Q2	24 Q-B3	N-K5
10 N-B1	Q-B2	25 B-K1	R-R1
11 Q-K2	0-0-0	26 Q-K3	RxN
12 P-KR4	P-KR3	27 BxN	R-R8ch
13 N/1-R2	QR-N1	28 K-N2	PxB
14 B-Q2	P-KN4	29 Resigns	
15 PxP	PxP		