

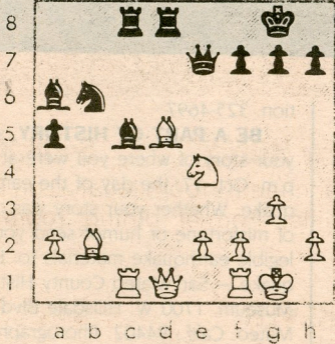
Chess



By Frisco Del Rosario

ALBURT-SVESHNIKOV

White to play and win.



FIVE TIED FOR U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD

Grandmasters Joel Benjamin, Roman Dzindzichashvili, Boris Gulko, Yasser Seirawan and FIDE master Stuart Rachels share the lead with 4½ points out of six at the U.S. championship being held in Long Beach, Calif. Rachels, who earned his invitation by winning the 1988 U.S. junior championship, is a surprise.

The U.S. championship is a FIDE (international chess federation) zonal tournament. The winner will earn the right to compete in the interzonals, which determine the candidates to challenge the world champion.

Long Beach 1989

White: Lev Alburt

Black: Dimitri Gurevich

Modern Benoni Defense

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|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | d4 ¹ Nf6 | 14. | Kg2 Re8 |
| 2. | c4 e6 | 15. | Re1 Qd7 |
| 3. | g3 c5 ² | 16. | e5 Ng4 |
| 4. | d5 ed | 17. | Ne4 Rad8 ⁷ |
| 5. | cd d6 | 18. | Rc1 b6 |
| 6. | Nc3 g6 | 19. | e6 ⁸ fe |
| 7. | Nf3 Bg7 | 20. | de Re6 |
| 8. | Bg2 O-O | 21. | Nfg5 ⁹ Nf2 ¹⁰ |
| 9. | O-O ³ Na6 ⁴ | 22. | Qb3! Ne4 |
| 10. | h3 ⁵ Bd7 | 23. | Re4 Qd6 |
| 11. | e4 Qc8 | 24. | Rd1! Bd4 ¹¹ |
| 12. | Bf4 Bh3? ⁶ | 25. | Ne6 Resigns |
| 13. | Bd6 Bg2 | | |

NOTES:

1. Grandmaster Alburt was U.S. champion in 1984 and 1985. He is not faring so well this year, with 2½ out of six.
2. The normal move order in the Modern Benoni is 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 e6 4. Nc3 ed 5. cd d6, etc., when White usually develops his king bishop to b5 or e2. It's more tempting to play the very sharp Benoni when White's bishop is stifled by the pawn on d5. For that reason, White might try 4. Nf3 instead of 4. d5.
3. Both sides have made their easy developing moves. White has an advantage in space and an extra center pawn. Black has a mobile queenside pawn majority to work with his effective black-squared bishop and a good e-file for a rook. Black's biggest problems are lack of space and his backwards d-pawn. White frequently chooses to pressure the d-pawn (the only thing preventing White from crushing with his central majority) with moves like Nd2-c4 and Bf4.
4. Black plans to move the knight to c7, where it is helpful in activating the queenside pawns. Black can also develop the knight to d7 and later try to post it on the excellent e5 square.
5. The piece Black has the most difficulty developing in this opening is the queen bishop. If the bishop goes to f5, it's too easy for White to play e4 (in most Benoni games, White has already played e4) and at d7, it interferes with the knights' route to e5. In most cases, Black plays ...Bg4 and gladly swaps it on f3 for the knight that protects the e5 square. Here White prevents that maneuver.
6. Black trades his crucial d-pawn for a worthless pawn on the wing. Black should defend his d-pawn, but 12...Ne8 is undeveloping and ...Qc7 would be admitting a mistake.
7. 17...Ne5 18. Ne5 Be5 19. Be5 Re5 20. Nf6.
8. A nifty pawn sacrifice to expose Black's weakness on the h2-g8 diagonal.
9. Attacking both knight and rook. Black can't play 21...R6e8 because of 22. Qd5 Kh8 23. Nf7.
10. Now Black thinks he can get away minus only the exchange with 22. Kf2 Rd6.
11. 24...Qd1 25. Qe6 Kh8 26. Nf7 Kg8 27. Nh6 Kh8 28. Qg8! Rg8 29. Nf7#.

SOLUTION: 1. Rc5 Rc5 2. Qd4 Qf8 3. Nf6! Kh8 (3...gf4. Qf6) 4. Qe4 wins (4...gf5 5. Bf6 Kg8 6. Qg4).

GOODWIN OPEN TOURNAMENT BOOK AVAILABLE

A book of 43 selected games from the Burlingame Chess Club Championship with annotations and diagrams is available for \$5 from Goodwin Open Tournament Book, 1605 Manzanita Ave., Belmont, CA 94002 (add \$1 for handling).