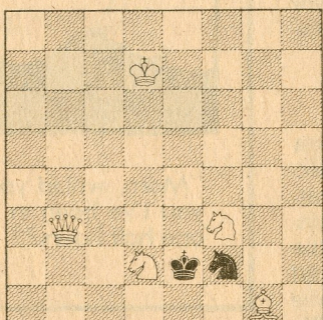


# Chess

By George Koltanowski

## PROBLEM

By P. Ruzscinski, Poland



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White to play and mate in two moves.

Paul Keres 1916-75.

Miro Radojic, Yugoslavia, tells:

"I shall never forget one episode from Zurich in 1953 . . . This was one of those candidates' tournaments in which he again finished second. I was reporting the event for my paper and almost every morning, together with Gligoric, his second Trifunovic, and Keres, I used to go to a beautiful tennis court on the outskirts of the city to enjoy an hour or two of 'white sport,' in which the Estonian chess hero was also quite a master — in his younger days he was very high on the tennis ranking list of his country.

"This particular morning that I remember so well, I went to the courts more out of sheer habit than any conviction that I would find our Estonian partner there. The night before Keres had lost again to one of his direct rivals, but not only that; it was one of those losses that can really be called undeserved, more a caprice of bad luck than the result of his opponent's good play. What was more natural, I pondered than to feel disappointed and even frustrated, and after a bad night, to miss a tennis game in the early morning.

"To my surprise, he was already there when I arrived. I could not resist the temptation to ask him, even before saying 'good morning,' how he could think of tennis after the misfortune of the night before. Instantly his face was covered with that half-smile that is so engaging. He answered my question very simply, as is the case when one is telling the pure truth, 'Ah, if that could be the only game I would lose in this tournament! It is true that I didn't deserve to lose last night, but the night before I didn't deserve to save a lost position with Najdorf. It all comes out the same in the end and the final score is always just.' " I have always felt that this was a beautiful philosophy of chess and life, "the final score is always just."

Do svidaniya, Paul Petrovich, the chess world will miss you!

