

chess

by richard shorman

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The second annual Concord Open Chess Championships, held Feb. 24-25, 1968 at the Concord Recreation Center, were won by Mark Watson, whose lucid annotations and personal comments appear in today's game. Complete results:

Class A—Mark Watson, Berkeley, 4-1, \$20 plus trophy; Randy Hough, Oakland, 4, \$20; Roy McCullough, Pittsburg, 3½, \$10.

Class B—David Glanville, Oakland, 4½, \$25 plus trophy; Jim Fosaaen, Concord, 3½, \$8.33; Royal Robbins, Modesto, 3½, \$8.33; Bill Clipson, Concord, 3½, \$8.34.

Class C—Jon Hale, Oakland, 4½, \$25 plus trophy; James Shearer, Livermore, 4, \$8.33; John Gluck, Concord, 4, \$8.33; Everett McNally, Hayward, 4, \$8.34.

Junior Division trophies were awarded in three age groups:

Sec. I (14-16 yrs. old)—Bill Earl, Walnut Creek, 4-0; Stan Ewy, Walnut Creek, 3-1.

Sec. II (11-13)—Nancy Zimmerman, Milpitas, 3-2; Greg Riehl, Lafayette, 3-2; Jack Stevens, Concord, 3-2.

Sec. III (10 and under)—Terry Garnett, Concord, 4½-1½; David Mitchell, Concord, 3½-2½.

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The following Smyslov variation of the Ruy Lopez illustrates the power of mobility. Black's Queen-side development gives him no play, and, as a result, he creates a fatal weakness in his position in search of liquidation and counterplay. White's handling of the attack is precise and forceful.

Technically the points to be considered include Black's placement of his QB and a possible maneuver on the Queen side with his Knight. (See note "e.")

For theoretical interest the game might be viewed with the Black Bishop on his Q2. Even so, White's advantage in mobility (space) is clear, and since the center becomes blocked he might undertake an attack on either wing.

White: Mark Watson. Black: Mark McNown.

Concord Open, Feb. 24, 1968.

Ruy Lopez

1	P-K4	P-K4	17	B-N2	QR-B1 (d)
2	N-KB3	N-QB3	18	B-Q3	N-Q2
3	B-N5	P-QR3	19	N-B1	P-B4 (e)
4	B-R4	N-B3	20	N-K3	PxP (f)
5	0-0	B-K2	21	BxP/4	N-KB3
6	R-K1	P-QN4	22	Q-Q3	NxB
7	B-N3	P-Q3	23	QxN	Q-Q2
8	P-B3	0-0	24	QR-Q1 (g)	P-N3 (h)
9	P-KR3	P-R3	25	N-R4	K-R2
10	P-Q4	R-K1	26	P-B4! (i)	PxP
11	QN-Q2	B-B1	27	QxP	NxP
12	B-B2 (a)	B-N2 (b)	28	NxN	RxRch
13	P-Q5	N-K2	29	RxR	BxN
14	P-QN3 (c)	P-B3	30	Q-B6	Q-KN2
15	P-B4	PxQP	31	R-K7!	Resigns
16	BPxQP	Q-B2			

(Introductory remarks and notes by the winner)

(a) White's alternatives are 12 P-QR4, 12 P-Q5, and 12 N-B1 (Black cannot capture the KP because of the reply B-Q5). All in all, 12 B-B2 seems the most flexible move, as I was not sure during the game what play results from a Breyer-type continuation for Black. For example, 12 N-B1 B-N2 13 P-Q5 N-N1 14 P-B4 P-B3 15 PxBP BxP 16 N-N3 QN-Q2, followed by 17...N-B4.

(b) After White's move the Black Bishop is better placed on Q2.

(c) The point of the flexible 12 B-B2.

(d) Better is 17...N-B1, 18...N-N3, and 19...KR-B1.

(e) Black still has no play on the QB file after 19...N-B4 20 N-K3 NxB 21 QxN. The text is very weak.

(f) Better but still bad is 20...P-B5, which allows White to open a file.

(g) Development and overprotection, freeing the Queen. White is now ready to try to take advantage of Black's weak white squares on the King side.

(h) Weak, played possibly with the idea of liquidation on his KB4.

(i) Cracks the position wide open with the obvious threat of P-B5, but Black chooses to free White's Bishop on the long diagonal. The finish is pretty.