

## Richard Shorman

# Chess

### COMPUTER ENCOUNTERS OF THE CHESS KIND By FRISCO DEL ROSARIO

In 1976, Chess 4.5 swept the Paul Masson "B" section. And now it's back in 1978 striking terror into the hearts of experts! This year Control Data Corporation's Chess 4.7 was clobbered in the first round by Rich Dost, who seemed to sense its every weakness. But then the program took its revenge on the human race by defeating USCF expert Mike Arne in round two. Drawing its last two games gave it an even score for the tournament and confirmed its rating (2009).

After its tournament games were over, 4.7 was taking on all comers at blitz chess, and I was up next. I had followed 4.7's career since it finished second behind KAISSA, the Soviet program, in the 1974 World Computer Chess Championship. I was better prepared for 4.7 than for my human opponents!

And now it's my turn. The operator, Dr. Cahlander, took my name and (low) rating. And 4.7 got my (teen) age. It was not impressed

**White: Chess 4.7. \_\_\_\_\_ Black: Frisco Del Rosario.**  
**Paul Masson, Saratoga, Speed Game, July 22, 1978.**  
**Ruy Lopez**

|         |        |           |         |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 1 e4(a) | e5(b)  | 8 Ne5     | Na5?(i) |
| 2 Nf3   | Nc6(c) | 9 Nf7!(j) | Kf7     |
| 3 Bb5   | a6(d)  | 10 Qh5(k) | g6      |
| 4 Ba4   | Nf6(e) | 11 Qd5    | Qd5     |
| d4(f)   | Ne4(g) | 12 Bd5(1) | Kg7     |
| 6 O-O   | b5     | 13 Ba8(m) | Resigns |
| 7 Bb3   | d5(h)  |           |         |

(a) After Mike Arne (2012) had lost to the program's Bird's Opening, I was ready to shoot back a From's Gambit. Chess 4.7 is strong tactically and stronger at blitz, but I wasn't scared. No lousy computer program is gonna beat me in a tactical scramble!

(b) I hate to play this because White gets to offer all the gambits instead of me. And I can't defend worth a darn.

(c) I've studied the Marshall Counter Gambit versus the Ruy Lopez a little, and I like it. But 4.7 might not play into it

(d) In another blitz game, Arne tried the Schliemann variation and won. But he's an expert!

(e) "Please don't play the Center Attack," I thought.

(f) Drats, the Center Attack! And the Marshall is the only line I've ever studied.

(g) I was counting on 6 0-0 b5, transposing into the Open Defense.

(h) Now I got hopeful. The position has become real sharp.

(i) Correct is 8 . . . Ne59 de Bb7 (not 9 . . . Be6 on account of 10 f4, followed by f5). I thought this move exchanges my knight for White's good bishop. However . . .

(j) "Be careful!" warned 4.7 (too late!) on its printout.

(k) "Be careful!" it printed again (way too late!).

(l) "Be careful!" quoth the printer, evermore . . .

(m) The running score from the program now reads "-7", meaning that 4.7 judges its position to be the equivalent of seven pawns up.

**White: Mike Runyon (1872). Black: Victor Baja (2129). Paul Masson, Saratoga, July 22, 1978.**

**Sicilian Defense**

|        |        |            |         |
|--------|--------|------------|---------|
| 1 e4   | c5     | 16 Bd4     | Rc1     |
| 2 Nf3  | d6     | 17 Qc1     | ab      |
| 3 Bb5  | Bd7    | 18 Nc3     | Rc8     |
| 4 Bd7  | Qd7    | 19 Qb2     | Qa5     |
| 5 c4   | Nc6(a) | 20 a4      | ba      |
| 6 d4   | cd     | 21 Ral(b)  | Qg5l(c) |
| 7 Nd4  | g6     | 22 Na4     | Ne4!    |
| 8 Nc3  | Bg7    | 23 fe(d)   | Rc2!!   |
| 9 Be3  | Nf6    | 24 Qc2     | Bd4     |
| 10 f3  | O-O    | 25 Kh1     | Bal     |
| 11 O-O | Rfc8   | 26 Nb6(e)  | Qf4     |
| 12 b3  | a6     | 27 Qc4     | Be5     |
| 13 Na4 | Qd8    | 28 Kgl     | Qe3     |
| 14 Rc1 | b5     | 29 Kfl     | Qb6     |
| 15 cb  | Nd4    | 30 Resigns |         |

(Notes contributed by the winner)

(A) Interesting is 5... Qg4 6 O-O Qe4 7 d4 cd 8 Re1 Qc6 9 Qd4, but White has compensation for the pawn.

(b) On 21 Na4 Black plays 21... Rb8, and 21 ba? loses a piece after 21... e5!

(c) Wins a pawn by force! If now 22 Ra4, then 22... Ng4! 23 fg (or 23 Bg7 Qe3 mates) Bd4 24 Rd4 Qe3 25 Qf2 Qc3, and the "b" pawn is next. Even worse would be 22 ba Ng4! 23 Bg7 Qe3 24 Kf1 Nh2mate!

(d) The logical alternative, 23 Bg7, fails against 23... Qe3 24 Kf1 (equally, 24 Kh1 Nf2, followed by discovered check, winning the queen) Nd2. Also, 23 Nb6 Bd4 24 Qd4 Qc1 25 Rc1 Rc1 and mate next move.

(e) White could have tried 26 Qb1 Be5 27 h3 Qe3 28 b4, but after 28... Qd4! he is in zugzwang.

**White: Randall Feliciano (1808). Black: Richard Reid (1892). Paul Masson, Saratoga, July 23, 1978.**

**Sicilian Defense**

|             |        |         |         |
|-------------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1 e4        | c5     | 16 Rhel | h5l(f)  |
| 2 Nf3       | d6     | 17 Qb4  | Qc5     |
| 3 d4        | cd     | 18 Qh4  | g5(g)   |
| 4 Nd4       | Nf6    | 19 Qg3  | Rf8(h)  |
| 5 Nc3       | a6     | 20 Be4! | Be4?(i) |
| 6 Bg5(a)    | e6     | 21 Ne4  | Qe5(j)  |
| 7 4         | b5(b)  | 22 Qa3! | Nc5     |
| 8 e5        | de     | 23 Nc5  | Qf4     |
| 9 fe        | Qc7    | 24 Kbl  | b4      |
| 10 Qe2(c)   | Nfd7   | 25 Re6  | Kf7     |
| 11 O-O-O    | Bb7    | 26 Qd3! | Kg7(k)  |
| 12 Ne6l?(d) | fe     | 27 Qg6  | Kh8     |
| 13 Qg4      | Qe5    | 28 Qh6  | Kg8     |
| 14 Bd3      | Be7(e) | 29 Rg6  | Kf7     |
| 15 Be7      | Ke7    | 30 Qg7  | Resigns |

(Notes contributed by the winner)

(a) Leads to sharper lines than 6 Be2.

(b) The ultra-sharp Polugaevsky variation. Black seeks to activate his queenside without delay, ignoring the central attack.

(c) The other main line, 10 ef Qe5 and 11... Qg5, seems to give Black fewer problems.

(d) A modern-day version of the Fried Liver Attack, sacrificing a piece to keep the black king stranded in the center under relentless assault.

(e) The only defense against White's threatened Rhel. Of course, 14... h5?? loses in one.

(f) Black forces the play in an attempt to develop his rook as quickly as possible.

(g) The latest theoretical wrinkle. At the 1978 Reykjavik International, Polugaevsky tried 18... Nf6 against Fridrik Olafsson, surrendering an important tempo after 19 Qg3 Rg8! 20 Re5! Qb6 21 Bf5, although the game ended in a draw.

(h) Probably best is 19... Rc8, preventing 20 Be4.

(i) Verduga of Ecuador played 20... h4 21 Qh3 Ra7 against Paul Whitehead at Lone Pine '78, and after 22 Bb7 Rb7 23 Qe6 Kd8 Black's king escaped immediate loss.

(j) This logical move loses by force, but other queen moves also appear unsatisfactory. White now gets his piece back...and more!

(k) Faced with loss of his queen by 27 Rfl, Black walks into an announced mate in five.