

*****CHESS BARBS*****

James Tarjan, 21, wows 'em at church (photo: Ron Chan)



course, overall Korchnoi is a highly original chessplayer who really loves to play hard and win. He abounds with ambition in the best sense of the word.

Q.: Hardest of all for you would probably be to assess Petrosian, would it not?

A.: Quite the reverse; it's easy. What he was, he still is: a stable grandmaster whose games contain nothing new. Many players reveal their personalities at chess. I would say that Petrosian is a solid chessplayer.

Q.: Was it difficult for Mecking to qualify for the candidates' matches?

A.: I don't know why we tend to underestimate him. Perhaps we are not used to him being successful. In fact, Mecking has clearly increased in ability. From what I can see from his games, the Brazilian has definitely grown stronger. At any rate, his games from the interzonal leave a good impression. He has a lucid style, puts a lot into each game and displays a flair for tactics. His games against Smyslov and Reshevsky are notable in this respect.

Q.: Portisch is often referred to as the West's number two player, after Fischer. Do you agree?

A.: It's hard to say for sure without a close examination of his games, but I would say so. Larsen's results have declined lately, maybe because he has been playing so much, but he is fully capable of bouncing back.

Q.: You have always said that like Fischer. What do you think about Fischer now?

A.: I would not like to dwell on this subject. I will say only that I have a steadfast attitude toward him; the match showed me nothing new. I still think well of Fischer today.

Q.: Are you anxious for a rematch?

A.: Right now, I am concerned with my quarter-final match with Robert Byrne. I do not regard it as accidental that he qualified for the candidates' series. One does not accidentally win one good game after another, at a tournament like the Leningrad interzonal.

(Freely translated and abridged from "64", No. 44, Nov. 2-8, 1973, pp. 8-9)

TARJAN TERRIFIC AT SIMUL: USCF senior master James Tarjan took on 19 opponents simultaneously at the First Church of Universal Life in Berkeley, Nov. 13, and beat them all in 3-1/2 hours of play. Frances and Jim Malamuth kindly donated the use of the excellent playing areas (going \$25 in the red on that account), provided snack-bar service for the participants and spectators, and offered to help find permanent quarters for Berkeley's thriving chess community. Really good people, these ...

White: James Tarjan (in exhibition). Black: Gary Stearns. Berkeley, Nov. 13, 1973. English Opening 1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0-0 5 e4 d6 6 Nge2 c5 7 d3 Nc6 8 0-0 Ne8 9 Be3 Nd4 10 Qd2 Rb8 11 Rb1 Bd7 12 b4 e5 13 f4 b5(A) 14 cb(B) cb 15 Rb4 a5 16 Rd4! ed 17 Nd4 Bd4 18 Bd4 Bd5 19 f5(C) Bc6 20 Qh6(D) Nf6(E) 21 Rf4 Rb4 22 Be3(F) Qe7 23 a3! Rb3 24 Bd4 Ra3 25 g4 Rc8(G) 26 fg fg 27 Rf6 Be8(H) 28 Nd5 Qg7 29 Rg6! Black resigns.

(Notes exclusively for CHESS BARBS by USCF senior master James Tarjan)

- (A) Too risky...
- (B) Also strong is 14 bc.
- (C) White has a pawn for the exchange and the bishop is a tower of power on d4.
- (D) Maybe 20 a3 immediately is better.
- (E) He should try 20...Rb4.
- (F) Black has more counterplay after 21 Ne2.
- (G) Otherwise, g5 will win for white, e.g., 25...Ne8 26 f6 Qb7 27 g5, followed by 28 Rh4.
- (H) Better 27...Bb7 28 Qd2 (threatening to trap the rook with 29 Qb2), but white is winning anyway.

According to Tarjan, his game with Turnbull was the hardest fought of the exhibition.

White: James Tarjan. Black: Murray Turnbull. Berkeley, Nov. 13, 1973. Benoni Defense 1 e4 e6 2 d3 c5 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 g3 g6 5 d4 Bg7 6 d5 Nd4 7 Nd4 cd 8 c3 Qb6 9 Bg2 Ne7 10 0-0 0-0 11 cd ed 12 ed Nf5 13 Nc3 d6 14 Qa4 Bd4 15 Qb3 Qb3 16 ab Bd7 17 Bf4 f6 18 g4 g5 19 Bd2 Nh4 20 h3 Ng6 21 Be3 Be5 22 Ba7 Rfc8 23 Be3 Ra1 24 Ra1 Bc3 25 bc Rc3 26 Bd4 Rb3 27 Bf6 h6 28 Be4 Kf7 29 Bd8 Nf4 30 f3 Bb5 31 h4 Rb2 32 hg hg 33 Rb1 Rb1 34 Bb1 Bc4 35 Kh2 Bd5 36 Bf5 Ne6 37 Bd2 Bf3 38 Kg3 Bd5 39 g5 Nc5 40 Kf4 Bc4 41 g6ch Kg7 42 Bc3 Kh6 43 Kf5 b5 44 Kf6 Bd3 45 Bd3 Nd3 46 g7 Black resigns.

TOURNAMENT THIS WEEK AT CHABOT: Chabot Jr. College, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, will host a \$1,600 five-round Swiss system tournament, Nov. 17 - 18. First prize is \$350, second \$250 and third \$150, plus \$100 and \$50 awards (based on 155 entries) in Expert, A, B, C and D-E. Unrated wins \$75 and \$25 respectively. Entry fee is \$12, with registration from 9 to 10 a.m., Sat., Nov. 17; round one begins at 11. Alan Benson, assisted by Rebecca Oliver, will direct the USCF rated tournament. Please bring sets and clocks; call East Asia Book & Game Center, 848-8018, for more information.

RARE INTERVIEW BY SPASSKY: Winner of this year's USSR Championship, Boris Spassky grants a rare interview in which he gives his personal opinions about the players competing in the world championship candidates' circle.

Question: Are you satisfied with your play in this year's USSR Championship?

Answer: Naturally, I am more pleased with the way I played in this tournament than before. Some of the games were quite good from a creative standpoint, and I am not referring only to those that I won well. My last, hard-fought games with Korchnoi, Grigorian and Petrosian come to mind.

Q.: Does that mean that your beautiful game with Rashkovasky was less interesting to you?

A.: That game was also very intense, due to the great amount of calculation of variations required, and since I am not an especially calculative player, this particular game demanded much expenditure of energy from me.

Q.: What do you think of Kuzmin? Do you think he has now become one of the world's leading players?

A.: I would not go so far as that yet, but he does exhibit stability, precision and conscientiousness

in his play. He is also persistent, able to endure the entire five-hour session, which may be explained by his good physical condition and his relative youth.

Q.: Who impresses you most among the newcomers?

A.: I like Karpov best, most of all because he plays a tight-knit game. His games have character and excellent fighting qualities, in addition to polish. Deep...very intense mental processes at chess. Some stars brighten and dim, but his light shines strong and steady.

Q.: You know Polugaevsky very well. To what do you attribute his recent success, to development as a chessplayer or as a personality?

A.: It's a mystery to me. Earlier, I could only imagine Lev as a world championship contender with great difficulty, but now I really don't know how he will do. He usually becomes nervous at the end of a competition and too emotional when tired. It is entirely possible that he has simply grown as a person.

Q.: What do you think of Korchnoi's chances?

A.: Before the Leningrad interzonal I would not necessarily have picked him to qualify. Viktor's games are more dependent upon his mood and form than on consistent application. However, he put a great deal of himself into every game at Leningrad and, of