

# CHESS BARBS

by Jude Acers (US senior master). Here, briefly, is what happened to Canada's international master Duncan Suttles, Board 1 Canadian international chess team.

Suttles had played game after game for three solid weeks, representing Canada in a world team Olympiad, and his results (for a non-professional player, who was a full-time student of mathematics at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver) were phenomenal, unquestionably proving grandmaster class. Nobody, but nobody was beating Suttles in world team play, day after gruelling day. With one day left in world team play, Suttles had played the exact number of grandmasters, international masters and untitled players to qualify for the grandmaster ranking. His score was more than adequate to receive the honor. In other words, if Suttles now were to take a slow boat to China he would automatically become only the second international grandmaster in Canadian history! Needless to say, anyone else in the chess world would have taken a quick walk, understanding the international tournament invitations, prestige, journalistic and authorship revenue that the title inevitably confers.

But no, picture the unbelievable scene. Canada has to have Suttles on the final day. Suttles plays and WINS!! He is now a grandmaster many times over, you would say, right? Wrong. Suttles' last game was played against a player who did not have the international master title. Suttles beat him and in so doing was declared to have lost the grandmaster title, because now he had played one too many untitled players in the consideration of the Suttles performance. This insane FIDE decision by voice vote at a world congress angered the chess public intensely. It is exactly like saying to a weightlifting champion, who has lifted 2,000 pounds yesterday to become the titleholder, "You are not best 2,100 pounds, 100 better than yesterday!"

Of course, Suttles carefully considered his decision to play that unnecessary last game. He was naive to underestimate the indifference, impracticality and sheer stupidity of almost all bureaucrats

in sport. The older they are, the more senile, foolish the sporting ribbon holders are.

After this even, all of the world's major chess federations realized that Fischer's harsh criticism of the entire tournament and match arrangements by FIDE were dead on the issues.

I became so incensed after reading George Koltanowski's eye witness account of the voice vote refusal to give Suttles his well-earned world ranking that I made some very handy resolutions on the spot. It is difficult to exaggerate their importance and how useful these axioms were to me then. They virtually decided all of the good things in my chess career from that date on!

1/Don't ever trust a chess official or tournament official on any matter. Check everything yourself, no matter how paranoid it appears.

2/Never under any circumstances play in a chess tournament paid and pocket change PAID IN ADVANCE. Otherwise, chess officials are not going to try to take care of any difficulties; they are going to try to take care of and you are involved in it.

3/Never play in any international event without cash in advance (a must in writing) internationally required to gain world rankings. Many players never get second or third chances for world titles. Some, like Dr. Saily, have had more than 20 international events, while Tarjan and Grefe of Berkeley have never had one chance! Tarjan and Grefe are, in the opinion of three grandmasters, far stronger than Dr. Saily. The Soviets consider Tarjan the leading young master in the national lineup, a sure grandmaster. He has gone 10 years in this country with no honors. Grandmaster Averbakh of the USSR thinks the U.S. Chess Federation people are crazy!

4/ Avoid Ed Edmondson, U.S. Chess Federation Director, like the plague (Acer's Law). Do all exhibitions, lecturing, writing, and living totally outside Edmondson's realm. Mr. Edmondson's very existence is harmful to serious master chess and world class team discipline and morale. That he should decide who represents America on world teams and tourn-

aments is a national disgrace, a disgusting fact of chess players' lives in 50 states.

It would be hard to imagine a more careless, indifferent, uncreative leader of the US Chess Federation than Ed Edmondson. coming in, his salary stable and young chess masters can drop dead. The entire younger generation of players is being strangled before our eyes.

Does anybody care?

No, not really.

Just Jude Acers. But....Sometimes just one man is enough. Right?

**UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS-** Beginning May 25, ending May 28 in Fresno, the California State Chess Federation's 40th Annual Chess Congress (the official statewide event). Tournament site is the Vineyard Rooms and playing Tulare St., Fresno. Rooms and playing areas fully air-conditioned! All events except the California State Championship are OPEN ON

pen only to members of the CSCF (under 0 yrs. old, \$2.50; others \$5) and the USCF (\$4; \$8), Gordon Barrett, assisted by Elwin Meyers directing.

Event No. 1, Rapid Transit Tourney, Fri., May 25, 7 pm. Free and open to all. 5-minute games with trophy to overall winner.

Event No. 2, Calif. Class Championships, Sat., May 26-Mon., May 28. USCF rated, 6-round, Swiss system in two divisions (Open, all eligible, and Amateur, below 1600 USCF rating). Unrated players assigned provisional rating and eligible for a maximum of \$75 in prize money. Entry fee is \$10 for the Amateur and \$15 for the Open. Registration at 10 a.m., round one at noon. Time control is 40 moves in 2 hours. Guaranteed prize fund of \$1,000 plus trophies (1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes of \$150, \$50 and \$25 for Open in three divisions and \$100, \$50 and \$25 for Amateur classes "C" and "D/E").

Event No. 3, North-South Match, Sun., May 27, 1:30 P.M. USCF Scores of individual match will be combined with Rd. 4 of Class Championships.

Event No. 4, CSCF Banquet, Sun., May 27, 7 p.m. Price, \$4.20 complete.

Event No. 5, CSCF Annual Meeting, Sun., May 27, 7:45 p.m. Open to all.

Event No. 6, Invitational State Championship, Sat., May 26-Mon., May 28. California's top players, as determined by the Calpoint Championship.

For further information contact Elwin Meyers, Box 651, Berkeley CA 94701.

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The fourth annual Santa Clara Memorial Day Open Chess Championship will be held at the LERA Main Auditorium (corner of Mathilda Ave. & Java St., seven blocks north of the Bayshore Fwy, opposite Mathilda off-ramp), May 26-28. Ted Yudacufski will direct the three divisions.

USCF Open Division, open to all. 1st, \$300; 2nd, \$125; 3rd, \$75. Entry fee, \$10.

USCF B Division, open to players rated below 1600 or unrated. 1st C, \$100 plus trophy; 2nd C, \$50  
USCF B Division, open to players rated below 1800. 1st, \$200; 2nd, \$125; 3rd, \$75. Entry fee, \$10.

USCF C Division, open to players rated below 1600 or unrated. 1st C, \$100 plus trophy; 2nd C, \$50 plus trophy; 3rd C, \$25 plus

World Blindfold Chess Champion George Koltanowski of San Francisco will give a free demonstration of his phenomenal powers (simultaneous exhibition, lecture, blindfold game, the famous "knight's tour", etc.) at Cal State University in Hayward, Wed., May 30 from noon until 5 pm in the Student Union Bldg. (Drive up Harder Rd.; St. Un. Bldg. located to left of 2nd stop signal at top of hill.) Parking is a problem, but worth the effort.

rophy; 4th and 5th C, trophies; 1st D, \$75; 2nd D, \$25; 1st Unrated, \$75; 2nd Unrated, \$25. Entry, \$10.

Cash prizes based on 50 entries in each division. Registration at 8:30, round one at 10 am, Sat., May 26. Bring sets and chess clocks, if you have them.

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Don't miss this one! Koltanowski may well be the best exhibition player alive, bar none! He's 70 years old and won 22 straight in Chicago recently, 24 in a row at Burlingame a few weeks after and scored another 20 wins, no losses, no draws at Napa just last week! Not even the great Acers mows 'em down like that!!