

Chess Olympics

Russia, U. S. in Preliminary Round; Koltanowski Enters the Play

By **GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI**

HELSINKI, Aug. 19 (By Mail)—The long-awaited match between Russia and the U. S. in the preliminary round of the Chess Olympics was played today, with the Russians winning 3-1.

However, the U. S. team had already assured itself of a place in the finals.

Sammy Reshevsky, No. 1 American player, didn't play, both because he wanted a rest and because it was good tactics for him to meet the Russians for the first time in the finals. Larry Evans, No. 2, would have liked a rest, too. But the non-playing team captain, Alex Bisno, was adamant, and Evans played and lost.

This correspondent played for the first time in the tournament, filling the vacancy left by Reshevsky, and drew an exciting game with A. Kotov.

Photographers and reporters made a field day of the U. S.-Russian match. When adjournment came, after five hours of play, one American had already gone down. Arthur Bisquier, on board three, lost a pawn to I. Boleslavsky on the tenth move, then fought on desparately but at last succumbed to the inevitable after 39 moves. Meanwhile Evans, the U. S. champion, was playing Vassily Smyslov on the first board. Paul Keres, the regular Russian number one, was taking a rest like Reshevsky. Evans equalized early and seemed to have the best of it in a queenless ending.

But after the pause (far from refreshing when you spend it working feverishly to find ways of saving the game) the Russian returned with some flawless analysis and beat Evans in 65 moves.

On board two Robert Byrne played solidly against J. Geller, who had won all his games so far. Geller tried all sorts of tricks to get an advantage, but Byrne just sat tight and a draw was agreed on the 57th move.

It was with a slight tingling of the heart that I sat down to play my first tournament game in more than six years—and against a grandmaster of the first caliber, at that. It might have been better if we alternates had been given a chance to play against Greece or Poland so that we would have been in form to meet the stronger teams.

After the third move I felt at home, and took my time—maybe too much here and there. It was like old times, an exuberant occasion and a glorious feeling.

The game took a sharp turn. On

my 13th move I decided to sacrifice a pawn. At my 15th move I took a long time—45 minutes, to be exact—trying to decide between two lines. One would give me a strongly placed knight on QB5, the other would mean control of squares. I just couldn't decide. Finally I chose the safe line—and the other would have won!

Later we analyzed for hours, and Kotov admitted the win was there.

Time difficulties soon set in. On the 19th move I should have played P-QN3 instead of the move I did play. From then on the game became very exciting, and the scramble that followed was in favor of Black. A pawn sacrifice helped me wriggle out of a dangerous position and in the ending we called it a draw, after Reshevsky gave his opinion it was no more than that.

Here is the game:

White: G. Koltanowski, San Francisco.
Black: A. Kotov, Moscow.

1.P-Q4	N-KB3	23.RxRch	QxR
2.N-KB3	P-KN3	24.N-Q3	Q-Q3
3.P-KN3	B-N2	25.R-B1	B-K3
4.B-N2	O-O	26.P-N3	RxRch
5.O-O	P-Q3	27.NxR	Q-Q8ch
6.P-B4	N1-Q2	28.K-R2	Q-B7
7.N-B3	P-K4	29.Q-Q2!	Q-xKP
8.P-KR3	P-B3	30.Q-Q8ch	B-B1
9.B-K3	P-KR3	31.N-Q3!	Q-Q4
10.Q-B2	Q-K2	32.QxQ	BxQ
11.QR-Q1	N-K1	33.NB3xP	N-B6
12.P-B5!	PxBP	34.N-B6	NxP
13.P-Q5!	N-Q3	35.NxP	B-KB4
14.PxP	PxP	36.B-B1	N-N5
15.N-QR4(a)	N-KB4	37.NxN	BxN
16.BxP	NxB	38.N-B6!	B-Q3
17.NxN	R-N1	39.B-N2	B-K3
18.P-K4	N-Q3	40.N-Q4	B-Q2
19.R-Q2?	R-N5!	41.BxP	B-QB4
20.Q-B3!	R-B5	42.N-B3!	BxP
21.Q-Q3	R-Q1	43.N-K5	B-KB4
22.Q-K3!	N-N4	Drawn	

(a) 15.N-KR4! is the move here.

The final round starts tomorrow. The pairings will be made today.

For the finals, the first group is composed of the U. S. S. R., U. S. A., Finland, Czechoslovakia, Argentina, West Germany, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Sweden. They are the contenders for the top prizes.

In the second group, runners-up, are England, Cuba, Denmark, East Germany, Brazil, Austria, Holland, Poland and Israel. In the last group are Iceland, Luxembourg, the Saar, Italy, Norway, Switzerland and Greece.