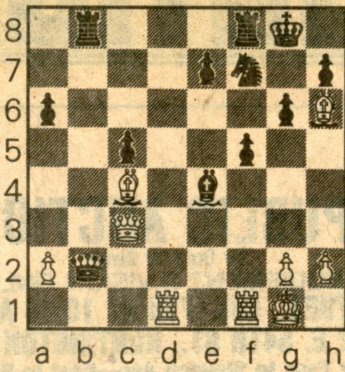


CHESS

BY JACK PETERS
INTERNATIONAL MASTER

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Position #4760: White to play and win. From the game Gurevich-Shirazi, 1984 U.S. Championship.
Solution to Position #4759: White wins a piece with 1 **Rxe4**, as 1... **dxe4** permits 2 **Bf6+** Kh5 (or 2... **Kh6**) 3 **Rh4** mate.



NATIONAL NEWS

The 1984 Men's and Women's United States Championships, the country's most prestigious invitational events, finished last Monday in Berkeley. Lev Alburt of New York won the 18-player men's tournament, and Diane Savereide of Santa Monica won the 12-player women's tournament.

Alburt led almost from the start, winning five games in a row in rounds four to eight. His final tally of nine wins and only one loss (to IM Nick de Firmian of Oakland), 12½-4½, represents a 2700 performance that would do credit to a world champion's reputation.

Second was de Firmian at 11-6. After a lackluster start of seven draws and a loss, de Firmian won six games in the second half of the tournament to secure one of the qualifying spots for next year's Interzonals.

The third U.S. representative will be determined by a playoff match between GM James Tarjan of Los Angeles, IM John Fedorowicz of Florida, and IM Max Dlugy of New York, who tied for third place with 10½-6½. Former U.S. champion Yasser Seirawan of Seattle, who also scored 10½-6½, has received word from the World Chess Federation (FIDE) that he will be seeded into the 1985 Interzonals because of his high FIDE ratings over the past two years.

Next were GM Larry Christiansen of Los Angeles and GM Lubos Kavalek of Virginia, 9½-7½, GM Roman Dzindzichashvili of New York, GM Ron Henley of New York, IM Joel Benjamin of New York, and IM Boris Kogan of Georgia, 9-8, GM Robert Byrne of New York, 8½-8½, GM Walter Browne of Berkeley, 7½-9½, GM Dmitry Gurevich of New York, 6½-10½, IM Jack Peters of Los Angeles, 6-11, IM Sergey Kudrin of Connecticut, 3½-13½, and IM Kamran Shirazi of Los Angeles, ½-16½.

The women's tournament was marred by the mid-tournament withdrawals of Betsy Smith of Georgia and Pam Ford of San Francisco. But this couldn't deter perennial women's champ Diane Savereide from rolling to victory with a fine 8-2 score.

Rachel Crotto of Venice took second prize and the other spot in the 1985 Women's Interzonals with 7½-2½, thanks to her last-round swindle against Inna Izrailov of New York. With only a Rook and a Knight against a Rook, Knight, and three pawns, Crotto conjured up mating threats and managed to win a lost game. The gift point vaulted her past Ivona Jezierska of Venice and Irene Aronoff of Pennsylvania, each 7-3, and relegated Izrailov to fifth place with 6-4.

The remaining scores were: Vera Frenkel of Georgia, 4½-5½, Alexey Rudolph of Washington, 4-6, Diana Lanni of New York, 3½-6½, Ford, 3-5 (and two forfeit losses), Ruth Donnelly of Virginia, 2½-7½, Shernaz Mistry-Kennedy of New York, 1½-8½, and Smith, 0-3 (and seven forfeit losses).

LOCAL NEWS

The PCN July Open attracted 26 players to the Players Chess Club in Los Angeles last weekend. With

a perfect 4-0 score, including wins over master John Hillery and Senior Masters Michael Brooks and Perry Youngworth, IM Vince McCambridge took first prize. Michael Walder had 3½-½, and Brooks and Adam Lief shared third at 3-1.

TODAY'S GAMES

Benjamin-Kogan, 1984 U.S. Championship: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bg5 The Richter-Rauzer variation of the Sicilian Defense. **e6 7 Qd2 Be7 8 0-0-0 Nxd4 9 Qxd4 0-0 10 f3 Qa5 11 Qd2 Rd8 12 Kb1** Contemplating 13 Nd5. **Qc7 13 Nb5 Qd7 14 g4 a6 15 Nd4 b5 16 h4** White is first to launch an attack. **Bb7 17 Be3 Qe8?** Possibly 17... **Bf8 18 h5** (after 18 g5 Nh5, White's attack stalls) **e5 19 Nf5 d5** improves. **18 h5 e5** Threatened by 19 g5 Nd7 20 g6, Black aims for counterplay in the center. **19 Nf5 d5 20 Nxe7!** The refutation. **Nxe4!** Not 20... **Kxg7** because 21 **Bh6+** Kh8 22 **Qg5 Qg8 23 Qxe5 Re8 24 g5** recovers the piece. **21 fxe4 Kxg7 22 Bh6+ Kg8 23 Qc3 dxe4 24 Be2 Qc6 25 Qxe5 Qxh6 26 Qxe7 Bd5 27 Rhf1** Material is even, but White's initiative is overwhelming. **Re8 28 Qc5 Be6 29 g5 Qf8 30 Qe3 Rac8 31 Rd4 Qc5 32 c3 a5 33 g6! hxg6 34 hxg6 fxe6 35 Qh6 Bf5 36 Bg4 Bf8 37 Qg5 Qg7 38 Bxf5 gxf5 39 Qxf5 Rc7 40 Qd5+ Rf7 41 Rdd1!** Threats come from every angle. **Qh7 42 Rg1+, Black Resigns.** White meets 42... **Kf8** by 43 **Qc5+ Rfe7 44 Rf1+** or 43... **Ree7 44 Rd8** mate.

Peters-Seirawan, 1984 U.S. Championship: 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 A first for Yasser, who usually prefers 4... **Bf5. 5 Nxf6+ gxf6 6 c3 Bf5 7 Ne2 Nd7 8 Ng3 Bg6 9 h4 h5** I recommended this pawn sac for Black in a chapter of a book I wrote three years ago. **10 Be2 Qa5 11 b4 Qc7 12 Nxh5** Also 12 **Bxh5 0-0-0 13 Bxg6 fxe6 14 Qg4 e5!** gives Black good compensation. **e5 13 Ng3 0-0-0 14 h5 Bh7 15 Qb3 Nb6 16 b5?** Too optimistic. White should take precautions against Black's brewing Kingside attack. **c5 17 dxc5 Bxc5 18 a4 Rhg8 19 a5 Nd5 20 b6** There's no time to lose. Black threatens 20... **e4** and either 21... **Bxf2** or 21... **e3**. Also, 20... **Qe7** will prevent White from opening Queenside lines. **axb6 21 a6 bxa6 22 Bxa6+ Kb8 23 Bc4 Nf4 24 Kf1** I had counted on 24 **Bxf4 exf4 25 Bd5**, but 25... **Bxf2+** 26 **Ke2 Qc5 27 Ra8+ Kc7 28 Ra7+ Kd6** wins for Black. **Qb7 25 Rh2 b5!** Foreseeing 26 **Qxb5? Rd1** mate and 26 **Bxb5? Bd3+**. **26 Be2 Nxe2** Now White's position collapses. **27 Nxe2 Be4 28 f3 Bd3** Threatening 29... **Qxf3+** 30 **gxf3 Rg1** mate. **29 Ke1 Bc4 30 Qc2 Rd3 31 h6 Qd5 32 h7 Rd8!** Setting up mate on d1. **33 Bg5 Bb3! 34 Qxd3 Qxd3 35 h8Q Rxh8 36 Rxh8+ Kb7 37 Bd2 Bc4 38 Ng3 e4! 39 Rh5 Bd6, White Resigns.**

Benjamin-Alburt, 1984 U.S. Championship: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 Alburt's beloved Benko Gambit. **4 cxb5 a6 5 e3 Bb7 6 Nc3 Qa5 7 Bd2 axb5 8 Bxb5 Qb6! 9 Qb3** White has trouble holding his d-pawn, as 9 **Bc4 e6 10 e4?** also runs into 10... **Nxe4!** 11 **Nxe4 exd5. e6 10 e4?** Can White survive 10 **dxe6!** **Bxg2 11 Bxd7+ Nbx7 12 exd7+ Nxd7 13 Qxb6 Nxb6 14 f3 Bxh1 15 Kf2**, when Black's Bishop may not escape? If so, then 10 **dxe6!** **fxe6 11 Nf3** is correct, with mutual chances. **Nxe4! 11 Nxe4 Bxd5 12 Qd3 f5 13 Ng5** Desperation. If 13 **f3 fxe4 14 fxe4**, then 14... **Rxa2!** snatches a pawn. **Bxg2 14 Qe2 Bxh1 15 f3 0-0 15 Nxe6 Be4 16 Nxf8 Kxf8**, and Black is safe. **Ra6 16 a4** Hopeless, but 16 **Bxa6 Qxa6 17 Qxa6 Nxa6 18 Kf2** doesn't work, as 18... **h6 19 N5h3 g5** frees the Bishop. **Be7 17 N1h3 h6 18 a5 Qb7 19 Nxe6 Rxe6 20 Qxe6 Qxb5 21 Qe2 Qxb2! 22 Rd1 Nc6** Threatening 23... **Nd4. 23 Kf2!** Or 23 **Be3 Qb4+** 24 **Kf1 Qh4. Qd4+** 24 **Be3 Qh4+** 25 **Kg1 Qxh3 26 Kxh1 Nxa5 27 Bxc5 Nc6 28 Bxe7 Nxe7 29 Rg1** After 29 **Re1 Qh4**, Black soon untangles. **Kf7 30 Rxe7+ Kxe7, White Resigns.**