

chess

by richard shorman



The Golden Bear Open chess tournament, held April 19-21 in the Student Union of the University of California, attracted 38 entries including world junior champion Julio Kaplan. First prize of \$150 and an invitation to the California State Closed Championship went to Kaplan with five straight wins. Prizes of \$50 each were awarded to John Blackstone; David Blohm, S. Subramaniam and George Kane, and best Class "A", "B" and "C" performance received \$50, \$40 and \$30 respectively.

Here is a lively game from this event annotated especially for this paper by Richard Fauber, USCF expert and lucid chess analyst.

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Anyone who wants to play the Sicilian must be constantly aware that one cannot afford to play routinely. Each move must aim at establishing aggressive formations.

The Sicilian is a declaration that Black is going to cede a little space so as to usurp the initiative. Careful thought about tactical lines is absolutely necessary. The penalty is a King hounded off the board.

In this game Black plays his pieces out without much thought. He had heard a rumor that development was good for the soul, but now must make his confession.

White: Alan Pollard. Black: Richard Fauber.
Berkeley, April 20, 1968.
Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	12 NxN	QxN
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	13 BxN	BxB (c)
3 P-Q4	PxP	14 P-K5! (d)	PxP
4 NxP	N-B3	15 PxP	B-N2
5 N-QB3	P-Q3	16 N-Q5 (e)	BxP (f)
6 B-QB4	P-K3	17 Q-R5	B-B3
7 0-0	P-QR3	18 QR-K1!(g)	K-B1
8 B-KN5	B-K2 (a)	19 RxB	PxR
9 K-R1	Q-B2	20 Q-R6ch	K-K1
10 B-N3	P-N4	21 QxBP (h)	Resigns
11 P-B4	Q-N3 (b)		

(a) This move is all right, but it goes with a line of play quite different from that Black had in mind. Janosevich — Udovich, Yugoslavian Championships, 1957, continued 9 K-R1 B-Q2 10 B-N3 0-0 11 P-B4 P-R3 12 B-R4 NxP. Black equalized here by diminishing the pressure of White's center Pawns.

One of the criminal features of Black's thinking at this point was that he had no more profound plan than to hope White would at once play 9 P-B4, allowing a very strong 9 ... Q-N3. From move to move Black promised himself that he would start thinking soon. Instead he simply played good — looking moves, the purpose of which White had already invalidated.

(b) After 28 minutes of fevered thought Black concluded that he had a miserable position. He had thought he threatened the KP, but 11 ... **P-N5 12 NxN** and 12 ... **QxN 13 B-QR4** or 12 ... **PxN 13 NxB QxN 14 P-K5**. Also ghastly is 11 ... **B-N2 12 BxP PxB 13 NxKP Q-N3 14 NxPch K-B2 15 N-R5**, and **P-K5** looms unstoppably on the horizon.

(c) Striving for counterplay. 13 ... **PxB 14 P-B5** is the miseries for sure. Black decided against such a continuation because even if White's attack were not decisive he would come up with a fine ending against Black's weakened pawn mass. In this sort of position Black must have the initiative to live.

(d) White opens lines for his Rook. 14 ... **B-K2** is no move: it is masochism after 15 **P-B5 PxBP 16 B-Q5**. On other fifteenth moves Black's pawn wall crumbles.

(e) After 16 ... **PxN 17 PxB** wins brutally.

(f) 16 ... **B-K2** was the best chance to survive. Black saw the storm coming, but chose to analyze the most obvious and most violent variation. That failed, but Black neglected that the simple continuation does not. Otherwise he would never have snatched this Pawn and so presented White with tempo and initiative. Actually Black gets more play from the Bishop's modest retreat. If 17 **Q-R5 PxN 18 QxPch K-Q1 19 QR-Q1 R-KB1** and Black will win it all. 20 **RxPch K-B1** and his Rook hangs behind his Queen. Better for White is the simple 17 **N-K3 0-0**. Black's two Bishops then find excellent diagonals against the White King. White still commands better Rook placement, but the openness of both Kings ought to portend a draw. As things go now Black only acquires a Pawn on short term lease.

(g) Another fine move. If 18 ... **P-KR3, 19 RxPch QxR 20 N-B7ch**. If 18 ... **0-0-0, 19 RxB** and the KP is pinned (19 ... **PxR 20 N-K7ch**). White's attack is particularly attractive because he turns simple developing moves into forceful continuations that give Black no pause.

(h) Double attack, Reuben Fine once noted, is the essence of combination. Here both Rook and mate hang. White conceived a game as fresh and bubbly as sparkling Rhine wine.