

Richard Shorman

Chess

FIRST MICROCOMPUTER CHESS TOURNAMENT

The Second West Coast Computer Faire hosted the first microcomputer chess tournament, directed by Larry Wagner, at the San Jose Convention Center, March 3-5. "Sargon," a program developed by Dan and Kathe Spracklen of San Diego, finished ahead of ten other entrants with a perfect 5-0 score.

Persons desiring to keep abreast of advances in computer chess may contact Doug Penrod, editor of "Computer Chess Newsletter," 1445 La Cima Rd., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101.

Although the quality of the games played between computers at the Faire was quite low by human standards, Alan Benson's simultaneous performance against the machines after the competition was of a much higher order.

White: Alan Benson Black: "Commodore Chessmate"
Simultaneous Exhibition, San Jose Computer Faire, March 5, 1978

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4	P-K4	12 B-K3ch	K-K4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	13 O-O-O(g)	P-Q4(h)
3 B-N5	P-Qr3	14 NxQP	Q-Q2(i)
4 B-R4	P-QN4	15 P-B4ch(j)	KxP
5 B-N3	N-R4+A)	16 R-Q4ch	K-B4
6 BxPch(b)	KxB	17 P-N4ch	KxP
7 NxPch	K-K2	18 R-N1ch	K-B6(k)
8 Q-R5(c)	N-KB3(d)	19 R-N3ch	K-K7
9 Q-B7ch	K-Q3	20 R-Q2ch	K-B8
10 N-QB3(e)	KxN	21	R-N1mate(l)
11 PQ4ch	KxP(f)		

(Annotations by International Correspondence Chess Federation master Alan Benson, Berkeley)

(a) This defense is known as the Taimanov variation. It was once played by former world champion Bobby Fischer against Bill Addison in the 1963-64 U.S. Championship. Fischer created a world-wide sensation at the time by winning the tournament with a score of 11-0!

(b) Not rentirely sound, but I wished to test the computer's defensive powers against such an onslaught. Another idea is to play 6 B-Q5 first, in order to tanswer 6 . . . P-QB3 with 7 BxPch. If Black wants to avoid this sacrifice, Then 6 . . . B-N2 is possible (after 6 B-Q5), but after 7 BxB NxB 8 0-0 White has the advantage. Normal for White is either 6 0-0 or 6 P-Q4.

(c) The books give 8 P-Q4, but I wanted to continue with a direct threat.

(d) Not the best. Instead, 8 . . . Q-K1! solves all of Black's opening problems, e.g., 9 Q-N5ch N-B3 10 P-QN4 N-B3 (Playable, too, is 10 . . . N-N2.) 11 NxNch PxN 12 P-K5 K-Q1 (Also possible may be 12 . . . K-B2, for if 13 Q-B4, then 13 . . . K-N1 or 13 0-0 N-Q4 14 B-N2 B-K3 15 P-KB4 P-N3 15 P-QR3 B-K2 17 Q-N3 R-KB1, and Black castles "by hand" in time.) 13 0-0 (And not 13 B-N2 because of 13 . . . Q-K2!) B-K2!, and White cannot risk 14 QxP on account of 14 . . . RPKN1 15 Q-R6 N-N5 16 Q-B4 (Better than 16 Q-R3 NxKP! or 16 QxRP R-R1!) Q-R4, with an attack. Another try is 10 N-QB3 :in place of 10 PQN4) K-Q1 11 N-Q5 B-K2 12 Q-B4, and now both 12 . . . P-Q3 and 12 . . . B-Q3 13 P-Q4 R-B1 are sufficient. Best under the circumstances is to continue mobilizing the pieces with 10 P-KB4 P-Q3 11 N-KB3 K-Q1 12 P-Q3. However, against correct play (4.6!) White should lose.

(e) Very strong here is 10 PQ4, threatening 11 B-B4. But I wanted to continue with sacrifices to see just how much material Black would take.

(f) Much better would have been 11 . . . K-Q3 12 P-K5ch K-B3 13 PxN, and White's threats of 14 Q-Q5ch and 14 PxP are enough to retain the edge, e.g., 13 . . . B-N2 14 PxP Q-K1ch 15 B-K3! Q-Q 16 PxR(Q) B-Q3 17 QxP!! or 13 . . . QxP 14 Q-Q5ch K-N3 15 QxR B-N2 16 Q-K8 BxP 17 R-KN1.

(g) White is very happy with all his pieces developed and the poor black king struck in the center of the board. The immediate threat is 14 P-B4 mate.

(h) Best.

(i) Black no longer has a defense: a) 14 . . . NxP 15 B-B4mate; b) 14 . . . KxP 15 P-B3ch K-K4 (or 15 . . . K-B4 16 P-Nch, transposing) 16 B-B4ch K-B4 17 P-N4mate; c) 14 . . . QxN 15 PxQ, with mate soon to follow, and d) 14 . . . NxN 15 RxNch QxR (not 15 . . . KxP 16 Q-B3mate) 16 B-B4ch! KxP (16 . . . K-Q5 17 QxQmate) 17 R-K1ch K-Q5 18 R-Q1ch K-B4 (more resistant than either 18 . . . K-K5 19 QxQch KxB 20 R-Q4 mate or 18 . . . K-B5 19 QxQch K-N5 10 B-Qch K-R5 21 Q-N3ch! Nx Q 22 BPxNmate) 19 RxQch K-B3! (19 . . . K-B5 20 R-K5ch K-N5 21 B-Q2ch K-R5 22 Q-N3ch!, etc., or 19 . . . K-N5 20 B-Q2ch K-R5 21 Q-B4ch N-B5 22 QxNch! PxQ 23 R-R5mate. If, in this latter line, 21 . . . P-N5, then 22 QxBP wins out of hand.) 20 R-Q8, and in view of the mate threat on his QB2 square Black must lose more material.

(j) At this point, White could play the forcing variation 15 B-B4ch KxP 16 KR-K1ch K-B4 17 R-K5ch K-N5 18 P-B3ch K-R5 19 B-N3mate. Being human, it is nice to have a choice of playing a longer, more pleasing combination. Besides, I overlooked the mate-in-five during the game.

(k) Had "Commodore Chessmate" chosen 18 . . . K-R6, he would have disintegrated in a blaze of glory after 19 P-B5! B-Q3 (The alternatives are 19 . . . QxQ 20 N-B4ch KxP 21 R-N2ch K-R1 22 R-Q1mate and 20 . . . K-R5 21 N-N6ch K-R6 22 R-R5mate.) 20 B-B2! (Again preventing 20 . . . QxQ, this time because of 21 R-R5mate.) P-N4 21 RxP, followed by mate intwo.

(l) A game in the style of the "romantic" period of chess!

PETROSIAN EXHIBITION RESULTS

Former world champion Tigran Petrosian visited San Francisco with his wife, Ronā, as honored guests of famous chess writer Irving Chernev and past editor of the "California Chess Reporter," Guthrie McClain, following the prestigious Louis D. Statham tournament in Lone Pine, April 16.

During his brief stay Petrosian faced 22 opponents in simultaneous exhibition at the Mechancis' Institute Chess Club, winning 16 games, losing two (to Neil Falconer and Leon Miller) and drawing four with Gary Berry, Michael Gonsalves, Roger Hofmann and Edward Syrett).

WHITE: Tigran Petrosian (2620). Black: Neil Falconer (1990). Simultaneous Exhibition, San Francisco, April 16, 1978. Queen's Indian Defense 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 4 Nc3 Bb4 5 e3 Bb7 6 Bd3 O-O 7 O-O Bc3 8 bc Ne4 9 Ne1 f5 10 F3 Nf6 11 Nc2 d6 13 Qe2 Nbd7 13 e4 fe 14 fe e5 15 Bg5 Qe8 16 Rae1 Qg6 17 Bh4 Nh5 18 d5 Nf4 19 Qd2 Nc5 20 Rf4 ef 21 Nd4 f3 22 Bg3 fg 23 Nf5 Rae8 24 Bc2 Bc8 25 Bb1 Ne4 26 Re4 Bf5 27 Resigns.

White: Tigran Petrosian (2620). Black: Roger Hofmann (1755). Simultaneous Exhibition, San Francisco, April 16, 1978. Grunfeld Defense 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cd Nd5 5 e4 Nc3 6 bc Bg7 7 Bc4 O-O 8 Ne2 b6 9 h4 Nc6 10 Bd5 Bb7 11 H5 e6 12 Bc6 Bc6 13 Qd3 e5 14 hg hg 15 Qh3 f5 16 Qh7 Kf7 17 ef Qf6 18 Qg6 Qg6 10 fg Kg6 20 de Rh8 21 Rg1 Be5 22 g3 Rhe8 23 Be3 Rad8 24 Rac1 Rd3 25 Nd4 Bd4 26 cd Bf3 27 g4 c5 28 Rg3 cd 29 Rf3 de 30 Re3 Ree3 31 fe Drawn.

WHITE White: Tigran Petrosian (2620). Black: Barry Kraft (2005). Simultaneous Exhibition, San Francisco, April 16, 1978. Albin Counter Gambit 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e5 3 de d4 4 e4 Nc6 5 f4 f6 6 ef Nf6 7 Bd3 Bb4 8 Bd2 O-O 9 Ne2 Qe7 10 e5 Ng4 11 O-O Ne3 12 Be3 de 13 Nbc3 Bg4 14 Nd5 Qh4 15 h3 Be6 16 Nc7 Bh3 17 gh Qh3 18 Be4 Rad8 19 Nd5 Qg4 20 Bg2 Ne5 21 fe Rf2 22 Nf6 gf 23 Qd8 Kg7 24 Qf6 Rf6 25 ef Kf8 26 Rf3 a5 27 f7 a4 28 Rg3 Qe2 29 Rf1 Resigns.