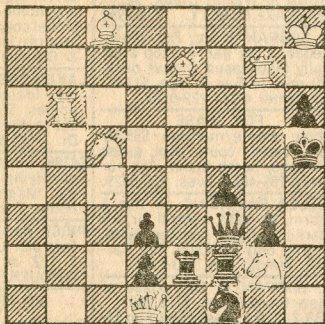


PROBLEM

By M. Barulin, USSR



White to play and mate in two moves.

U.S. CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP (2)

The fourth man to tie for the eventual third place in this event is Maxim Dlugy who is 18 years old and has a 2469 rating. He was the sensation of the tournament, scoring $4\frac{1}{2}$ out of 5 points. In the sixth round he lost to Alburt, and from then on he was a consistent second, until the 16th round when he lost to deFirmian. One more win instead of a draw and he would have been definitely alone in third place.

Maxim was born in Russia and now lives in Kew Gardens, New York. But what happened to the three co-champions of last year's tournament? They were considered favorites to occupy one of the three top places and battle in the Candidates' matches in the next two years.

GM Larry Christiansen of Los Angeles, 28, with a rating of 2641, drew too many games. Roman Dzindzichashvili, 40, of Corona, N. Y., 2581, somehow did not have his heart in this event. He carried his backgammon set constantly, looking for opponents willing to play for stakes. And Walter Browne, 35, of Berkeley, 2628, was completely out of form for reasons unknown. He was even playing on home grounds.

Of the others: Lubomir Kavalek, 41, of Reston, Va., has a rating of 2559 and was the only player who did not lose a game . . . but he drew too many. Joel Benjamin of Brooklyn, was the only non-professional in this year's championship. He won the U.S. Junior title in 1980 and 1982 and deserves some watching. In the next few years we will see if he will rise to be the U.S. Champion.

Solution to Problem: 1.R-N5.