

Richard Shorman

Chess

GREFE, KAVALEK NEW U.S. CHAMPS

John Grefe of Berkeley achieved national recognition at El Paso, Texas this week by sharing top honors in the U.S. Championship with Lubomir Kavalek of Washington, D.C. Both players scored 9½-2½ and won \$1,750 each, with Grefe picking up an extra \$50 as second brilliancy prize for his game against grandmaster Walter Browne. Complete results:

1-2, John Grefe, Berkeley, and Lubomir Kavalek, Washington, D.C., 9½-2½, \$1,750 each; 3, Walter Browne, Berkeley, 8½-3½, \$1,000; 4, James Tarjan, Berkeley, 7½-4½, \$750 plus \$100 first brilliancy prize; 5-6, Pal Benko, Jersey City, N.J., and Larry Evans, Reno, Nev., 6½-5½, \$500 each; 7, Andrew Karklins, Chicago, Ill., 6-6, \$350; 8, Edmar Mednis, New York, 5½-6½, \$200; 9, Arthur Bisguier, New York, 5-7, \$160; 10, Larry Gilden, Tacoma Park, Md., 4-8, \$125; 11, William Martz, Hartland, Wis., 3½-8½, \$115; 12-13, Donald Byrne, State College, Pa., and George Kane, New York, 3-9, \$100 each.

White: John Grefe. Black: Larry Gilden. El Paso, 1973 U.S. Championship. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2 Nbd7 9 0-0-0 Qc5 10 Bf6 Nf6 11 e5 de 12 Nf3 Nd7 13 fe Qa5 14 Qg5 h6 15 Qg3 g5 16 h4 g4 17 Qg4 h5 18 Qg3 b5 19 Kb1 Bb7 20 Bd3 Rc8 21 Ng5 b4 22 Qf4 Ne5 23 Rhe1 Bg7 24 Re5 Qc7 25 Re6 Resigns.

White: Arthur Bisguier. Black: John Grefe. El Paso, 1973 U.S. Championship. English Opening 1 c4 g6 2 e4 Bg7 3 d4 d6 4 Nc3 e5 5 Nf3 Nd7 6 g3 Ngf6 7 Bg2 0-0 8 0-0 c6 9 b3 Re8 10 Bb2 ed 11 Nd4 Nc5 12 Qc2 a5 13 Rad1 Qb6 14 Nde2 a4 15 Na4 Na4 16 ba Qb4 17 a3 Qa4 18 Qc1 Qb3 19 Nf4 Ra4 20 Qa1 Nh5 21 Bg7 Ng7 22 Rd6 Ra3 23 Rd3 Ra1 24 Rb3 Ra4 25 Rc1 Rd8 26 Bf1 Kf8 27 f3 Ke7 28 Rd3 Rd3 29 Nd3 Ne6 30 Bh3 Ra3 31 Ne1 Nd4 32 Rd1 Ne2 33 Kg2 Ra2 34 Bc8 Nc3 35 Kg1 Nd1 36 Bb7 Kd7 37 Resigns.

QUARTER-FINAL CANDIDATES' PAIRINGS

Lajos Portisch and Lev Polugaevsky won berths to the world championship candidates' series at Portoroz, Yugoslavia, thus filling the last of eight qualifying spots to produce a worthy challenger for Robert Fischer in 1975.

The FIDE has now announced pairings for the quarter-final elimination bouts: Boris Spassky (USSR) versus Robert Byrne (USA); Tigran Petrosian (USSR) versus Lajos Portisch (Hungary); Anatoly Karpov (USSR) versus Lev Polugaevsky (USSR); and Viktor Korchnoi (USSR) versus Henrique Mecking (Brazil).

BLINDFOLD EXHIBITION BY ALAN BENSON

Taking on ten opponents simultaneously and blindfolded, Alan Benson of Berkeley scored six wins, two draws and two losses in a ten-and-a-half hour session at Fort Ord, Sept. 23.

White: Alan Benson (blindfolded). Black: Myhand Solomon. Fort Ord, Sept. 23, 1973. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bc4 g6 7 f3 Bg7 8 Be3 Bd7 9 Qd2 Nc6 10 0-0 Ne5 11 Bb3 0-0 12 Kh1 e6 13 Nde2 Qc7 14 Rfd1 Ne8 15 Bd4 Bc6 16 f4 Ng4 17 h3 e5 18 Bg1 Nh6 19 Nd5 Bd5 20 Bd5 Nf6 21 c3 Nd5 22 Qd5 Rfd8 23 a4 Rac8 24 a5 Qc4 Rd2 Qd5 26 Rd5 ef 27 Nf4 Rc4 28 Bb6 Rd7 29 Re1 f5 30 Ne6 Bf6 31 Nc5 Re7 32 Rd6 Resigns.

TAL ON TOP AGAIN!

Former world champion Mikhail Tal seems to be back in business again, placing first at Sochi with 11-4, ahead of compatriot Boris Spassky, who finished at 10-5. Other grandmasters in this international event were Andersson, Balašov, Filip, Kholmov, Krogius, Smejkal, Suetin and Szabo.

Tal's deeply calculated combination against Szabo shows that he has not lost any of his magic powers.

White: Mikhail Tal.
Sochi,

Black: Laszlo Szabo.

Robatsch Defense

1 P-K4	P-KN3	19 QxB	N-N5(f)
2 P-Q4	B-N2	20 B-B4	Q-R8ch
3 N-QB3	P-Q3	21 K-Q2	QxP(g)
4 P-B4	P-QR3	22 BxPch!	KxB
5 N-B3	P-QN4(a)	23 Q-Q5ch	R-K3
6 B-Q3	B-N2	24 Q-N7ch	R-K2
7 Q-K2	P-QB4	25 QxRch(h)	K-N1
8 PxP	PxP	26 Q-K6ch	K-R1
9 P-K5	N-QB3	27 Q-B4	NxKP(i)
10 B-K3	NQ5(b)	28 PxN	QxKP(j)
11 NxN	PxN	29 P-B3	P-QR4
12 0-0(c)	P-N5	30 Q-B6(k)	R-QN1
13 N-K4	N-R3	31 KR-K1	B-R3ch
14 BxQP	0-0	32 K-B2	Q-B4ch
15 B-B5(d)	Q-R4	33 Q-K4	Q-QB1
16 BxKP	KR-K1	34 R-Q7!	PxB
17 B-Q6(e)	QxRP	35 Q-K5ch	K-N1
18 BxNP	BxN	36 Q-K6ch	Resigns

No. 38, Sept. 21-27, 1973, pp. 8-9) (a) An important game for the evaluation of Black's entire opening set-up that casts doubt on its former reputation. (b) Since 10...P-B5 11 K4 leaves White with a big positional advantage, Szabo must play this forcing continuation, even though it is dangerous for him. (c) Of course, simply 12 R-Q1 was also possible in order to pick off the QP next. But Tal, once again in form, was already caught up in a fascinating variation which he demonstrated later in post-game analysis. Black could, in fact, very easily have fallen for 12...P-N5 13 N-K4 Q-R4 14 BxQP QxRP, evoking 15 N-B6ch! K-B1 16 N-Q7ch K-K1 17 B-N5! PxB 18 QxP. Now, a rare smothered mate would greet 18...R-Q1: 19 N-B6ch K-B1 20 Q-K8ch! RxQ 21 N-Q7mate, while just as beautiful is 18...Q-R5 19 QxB R-Q1 20 B-N6 Q-R8ch 21 K-Q2 QxRch 22 RxQ RxNch 23 K-K2!., winning instantly. (d) Black obtains counterplay for his pawn after 15 B-B4 Q-B2 16 N-B5 N-B4. (e) Tal wavered quite some time before finally crossing 17 N-B6ch off his score sheet. The snag arises after 17...BxN 18 PxB QxP 19 Q-K 5, when Tal noticed that his opponent has the surprising rejoinder 19...QR-Q1!, refuting 20 Q-KN5 by 20...N-B4 21 BxR RxB, with the threat of 22... Q-R8ch followed by 23...QxP, and 20 P-QN3 by 20...N-N5! 21 Q-N2 QxQch 22 KxQ N-B7 23 BxR RxB. (f) Practically compulsory here is 19...QR-B1, which Tal would have answered with 20 K-Q2, intending to hold on to both enemy pawns (20...QxP 21 R-QN1 Q-R7 22 R-R1 Q-K3 23 RxP). The text move permits Tal to carry out a well calculated combination. (g) The main line of the combination appears only after 21...QR-Q1ch 22 K-K2 RxR 23 BxPch! (not 23 RxR QxRch and 24...N-B7ch) KxB (23...K-R1 24 RxR) 24 Q-B4ch R-K3 25 Q-B7ch K-N1 26 Q-B8ch and 27 RxR. (h) Probably, 25 P-K6ch is also good enough, e.g., 25...K-N1 26 QxRch B-B1 27 Q-K4 (Of course not 27 BxR? Q-Q5ch, and Black escapes with perpetual check.), but the game continuation at least has the merit of being more concrete. (i) Black's already large material deficit and poor queen position combine to force still another sacrifice. (j) On 28...B-R3ch the king would take matters into his own hands with 29 K-Q3 R-Q1ch 30 K-K4. (k) From here to the end White plays more for beauty than for efficiency.

RAPID TRANSIT TOURNEYS

Weekly rapid transit chess tournaments are conducted at "Hardcastles," 2516 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley on Friday evenings starting at 7 p.m. Entry fee is \$1, and all money is returned to the players in prizes of 50 per cent (1st), 30 per cent (2nd) and 20 per cent (3rd).

Alan Benson directs the round-robin events. Please bring sets and clocks. When Grefe, Browne and Tarjan return to Berkeley to join Fritzing, McCormick, Barnes et al, this is the place to look for them!