

Area chess fans watching Iceland

By EARL BIEDERMAN

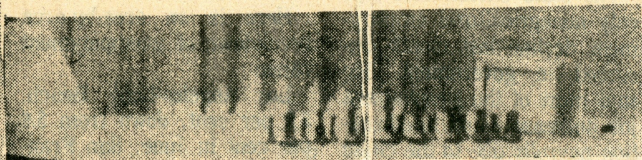
"At last begin the great match in Iceland! But what makes (does) Fischer? In that manner (he) be able not to win," writes Guenther Zill of Schoeneck, East Germany, to his chess-by-mail partner, Hal Barnett of Livermore.

In another postcard from a foreign chess opponent, Barnett also received both the next move in his game and comments on Bobby Fischer.

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"DEAR CHESS friend, 'Boby' inspired, brilliant, MONSTER! New Champion by chess," writes Raf Francisco Nunez from South America.

Barnett, 677 Caliente St., gathered fellow chess players at his home Thursday night to examine the adjourned posi-



SPASSKY, UPPER LEFT, AND FISCHER BELOW, FROM RUSSIAN MAGAZINE "64"
Soviets stopped reporting players' names when Spassky fell behind

tion of the 10th game in the World Championship Chess Series now under way in Reykjavik, Iceland, between Champion Boris Spassky of the USSR and the U.S.'s Bobby Fischer.

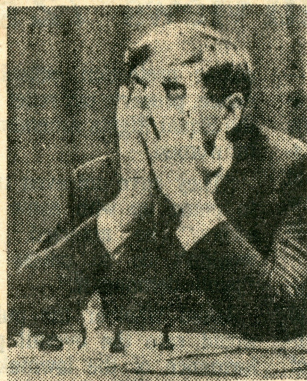
Fischer had left his first move for the next day in a sealed envelope when the game was adjourned after 40 moves.

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THE GROUP at Barnett's house was trying to work out what that secret move was—based on their knowledge of chess and the position of the pieces at adjournment.

Dave Peltier of Pleasanton noted increased interest in chess among fellow passengers on his daily commute bus trip to San Francisco.

"I've played for years on the bus," he said, "and no one



Fischer wins another game

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (UPI) — Bobby Fischer took a commanding three-point lead in his \$250,000 world chess championship battle with Boris Spassky of Russia Friday with a 10th game win that left the experts convinced he had clinched America's first world title in the game.

Fischer's win came when Spassky resigned after the 56th move. It was the fifth victory for the 29-year-old American and gave him a 6.5 to 3.5 point lead over Spassky, who has managed only one clear win, one forfeit point and three draws in the competition.

The official Soviet News Agency Tass said former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik "believes that if Spassky had played on the 25th move C-4 instead of Queen takes A-5, Fischer would have been faced with a task he would have found difficult to solve. Unfortunately Spassky's 40th move made just before the adjournment was a blunder which had led to the defeat of black in the playoff."

Fischer needs 12.5 points to win the championship, while Spassky needs 12 to retain it. Fischer could win the title with six more victories or 12 draws, which give each player half a point.

"That's the clincher," said

the Rev. William Lombardy, a grandmaster and Fischer second, when the game ended. "He'll (Spassky) never come back."

TURNING POINT

Spassky spoke briefly with judge Lothar Schmid of West Germany following the game and later Schmid said the Russian champion told him the turning point came on the 40th move Thursday.

"He (Spassky) told me, 'I made a blunder,' Schmid said. 'He was not too happy about his game. He said, 'I blundered badly.'"

"Now Spassky has lost his crown," said Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen. "He is three points down and playing badly. I was just about his last supporter but I have to join Bobby's wagon now."

The game started Thursday, but was adjourned after 40 moves with most grandmasters agreed that Fischer was in the stronger position, and that the best Spassky could hope for was a draw.

The Russian spent all night closeted with his seconds trying to figure a way to avoid another loss.

He arrived 12 minutes late for the resumption of the game Friday in an apparent attempt to unnerve the temperamental Fischer, who has been late for every game of the match.



WES NELSON, LEFT, MAKES THE K-K2 MOVE HE DECIDED CORRECTLY FISCHER WOULD MAKE THURSDAY Others, from left, Paul Robinson, Hal Barnett, Dave Herndon, Dave Peltier

Area chess fans watch Iceland match

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noticed. Now they come and ask me about chess. It's easy to tell people are interested."

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"SPASSKY MUST tie now," Peltier said Thursday night as the five worked out all the possibilities of the coming days' play. "Spassky can't lose now. He must tie to maintain his equilibrium."

Results Friday from Iceland confirmed the bad-for-Spassky consensus that emerged Thursday night over Barnett's dining room table.

Spassky lost.

But the first move Friday was the K-K2 move predicted Thursday night by Livermore's Wes Nelson.

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INTEREST IN chess among Livermore - Amador Valley residents is keeping pace with the wave of chess enthusiasm reported throughout the country since the Spassky - Fischer match began.

Only four chess books were available Friday among five valley libraries—two at Walnut Creek library and two at the Danville Library.

All librarians asked reported brisk traffic in chess materials since the Iceland match started.

All libraries except Danville.

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A LIBRARIAN there said Friday there was no rush for chess books at all.

"I guess people ride horses or something up here," she said.

Livermore Librarian Don Nolte said, "We're having trouble keeping any in. We bought eight or ten yesterday and they are checked out now."

Pleasanton Library reported "nothing in on chess," Dublin Library spokesmen reported their "pretty good collection" all checked out and Walnut Creek said chess books are "going out like mad."

The same was true of merchants.

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NONE, OR VERY few, chess sets anywhere.

Except at Mervyn's in Dublin where a spokesman reported nothing unusual, "probably because no one knows we have chess sets."

Other valley businesses reported chess sets moving at about 40 to 50 per cent above normal.

Bob Morris at Livermore's Value Giant said it's hard to keep chess sets in stock now.

"It's almost an every week thing reordering them back into the store," he said.

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A RHODESWAY spokesman in Dublin reported that company had been successfully advertising and displaying chess sets to get in on the wave of interest.

Livermore's Barnett reported several phone calls for persons interested in joining the Livermore Chess Club.

The club's next meeting is scheduled Aug. 18 at the Carnegie Library in Livermore.

Current plans include setting up a demonstration board at that meeting to replay one of the more important or exciting games of the Spassky-Fischer match, Barnett said.

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ASKED HOW he personally viewed the possible outcome of the Icelandic match Barnett said, "If it was anybody but Fischer, I'd say he'd win. But Bobby is just as likely to be leading by 10 points and get up and walk out."

"That match is the only case I know of where dog bites man," Barnett laughed.

"Bobby's doing what even Nixon and Agnew can't do.

"They ask for an apology from the media and . . . nothing!"

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"BUT BOBBY got one. He may be crazy. He sure gets what he wants," he said.

"It's hard to know when Fischer is being obnoxious and when he's doing something to work on Spassky," said Dave Herndon.

Barnett observed that Fischer's preparations seemed to be having effects.

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"FISCHER HAS thrown all the months of Russian preparation out the window," he said.

"There's something new in every game."

Barnett also reported meeting one of Fischer's closest companions just before Fischer went to Iceland.

"I asked him why he wasn't with Bobby," Barnett remembered, "and he said he didn't think Bobby was going to go."

FISCHER (W)	SPASSKY (B)	29. R(K11)-Q	R-K2
1. P-K4	PIK4	30 BxPCH	RxB
2. K1-KB3	K1-QB3	31. QxRCH	QxQ
3. B-K15	P-QR3	32. K1xQ	BxP
4. B-R4	K1-B3	33. RxB	KxK1
5. O-O (Castle)	B-K2	34. R-Q7CH	K-B3
6. R-K1	P-QK14	35. R-K17	R-R8CH
7. B-K13	P-Q3	36. K-R2	B-Q3CH
8. P-B3	O-O (Castle)	37. P-K13	P-K15
9. P-KR3	K1-K11	38. K-K12	P-R4
10. P-Q4	QK1-Q2	39. R-K6	R-Q8
11. QK1-Q2	B-K12	40. K-B3	K-B2
12. B-B2	R-K1	Adjournd	R-Q4
13. P-QK14	B-KB1	41. K-K2	P-N3
14. P-QR4	K1-K13	42. P-B4	PxP
15. P-R5	QK1-Q2	43. P-N4	P-N4
16. B-K12	K-K11	44. QxP	B-K4
17. R-K11	P-B4	45. P-B5	K-B3
18. K1PxP	QPxP	46. R-N5	B-Q5
19. PxKP	K1(Q2)xP	47. R-4xP	K-K4
20. K1xK1	QxK1	48. R-N6ch	R-Q1
21. P-QB4	Q-B5	49. K-B3	R-Q2
22. BxK1	QxB	50. R-N8	R-Q3
23. PxB	KR-Q1	51. R-4-N7	R-Q2
24. Q-B1	Q-QB6	52. R-N6	K-Q4
25. K1-B3	QxP	53. R-N6	B-K4
26. B-K13	PxP	54. RxB	K-Q5
27. Q-KB4	R-Q2	55. P-B6	
28. K1-K5	Q-B2	56. F-N1	Resign