

CHESS BARBS

by Jude Acers (U.S senior master)

4/19-25/74

QUESTIONS YOU ASK JUDE ACERS: Q. Do you believe Fischer will play the next world championship match to completion? I'm worried that the Russian contestant will be able to use the enormous problems Fischer has in any competition, to get Fischer to forfeit the world chess championship.

A. No, I don't believe there is any chance that Fischer can survive the next match. But I believe he will, both regain and lose the world title several times in the next 20 years. Just wondering whether Bobby Fischer will play at all, is quite taxing for officials, players and the public.

Q. Do you think Fischer really knows what he's doing?

A. Yes.

Q. Fischer has not played for years, after the world championship. Will this hurt him in a world title match?

A. No. Fischer has a fierce ego-driven study capacity, and he's watching the whole professional chess world carefully, to the tune of a Sony cassette radio in a closet. He can afford a tape deck now. And good lighting. And food. And remember, if Fischer isn't totally informed, "Zuckerbook" Zucker-man is!

Q. Is it possible Fischer could forfeit the world title match, while leading?!

A. Yes. Fischer must feel reasonably secure during a match. Otherwise he's gone with the wind, as in Sousse, Africa and the Reshevsky match. He will not postpone. He splits.

Q. Do you think money really means that much to Fischer, other than its power play?

A. If it comes down to money, breathing or chess study, I believe Fischer would opt for 64. The man is an enthusiast.

Q. Will the world chess championship start on time next year?

A. Certainly not. There will be international match bids, econo-

mic, political and promotional negotiations. Finally, the Soviet Chess Federation could destroy the whole match, by demanding that Fischer post an appearance bond, play in the US and the USSR for "little" money, etc. Also, Fischer may allow television cameras for their enormous revenue and try to pull them out after round one. Or he may demand television cameras be kept out at first, then allowed in when Fischer is more secure. The Soviet players would always say no to his desires and certainly cause Fischer to withdraw immediately. Or he may demand a private room, etc., etc., etc., etc.

Q. But isn't Fischer aware of this game that's on? He must be aware of the forfeit chances.

A. He'd better be. The life of a world chess champion is far from easy, as Spassky pointed out in a marvelous interview in Harper's Magazine. You are the bad gunslinger and your climb is over. Other fresh climbers with enthusiasm are coming down the trail. And Dr. Emanuel Lasker's appraisal of a chess match as solely a struggle between two human beings (chess having little or nothing to do with it) certainly bears the test of praxis and time. Fischer will have to have everything going for him, including cooperation of the opponent to play.

Q. Do you think Fischer could make 10 million dollars if he would only let the closed circuit T.V. market open during a world match?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you believe Fischer is the best chess player ever to live?

A. No. But he's by far the most important and successful, and that's a hell of a lot more important. Rule: eating first and rating second.

Q. Who is the best player in your book?

A. Botvinnik, with Tal, Alekhine, Fischer, Spassky, Lasker and

Petrosian close behind. Botvinnik was a paced, balanced player who worked harder than the others.

Q. How does Fischer stack up as an open game, chess opening analyst?

A. The best in history. I believe that Fischer was playing prepared variations at the age of two. He knows what he plays.

Q. Is Fischer the strongest endgame player in history?

A. Hardly. Most of Fischer's opponents never survive to the endgame. He doesn't get half the practice Korchnoi and Petrosian do and Rubinstein and Lasker did in their international games. Botvinnik was hard to believe in endings, really studied them to minute depths.

Q. Concerning his famous article on the ten best players of all time, do you consider it significant that Fischer left out Emanuel Lasker and Mikhail Botvinnik? My God, many people think those two were the best that ever played, and Fischer didn't even mention them in his ten best of all time article. Take Staunton. Can you imagine what would have happened to Staunton in a match with Botvinnik?

A. Yes, I believe the omissions are very significant. Surely Fischer would list them in a similar article today.

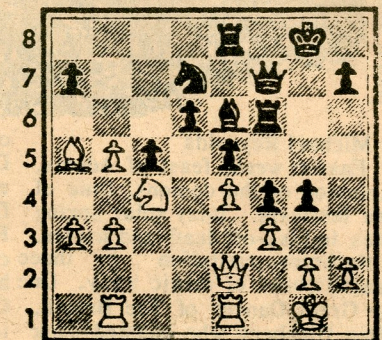
GHEORGHIU LEADS AT EAGLE ROCK: After eight (out of 11) rounds Rumanian grandmaster Florin Gheorghiu holds a half-point lead (5-1/2) over second-place veteran, IGM Svetozar Gligoric (5) and former world junior champion, IM Julio Kaplan (5). Bunched together at 4-1/2, are James Tarjan (Berkeley), Edmar Mednis and Anthony Saidy.

The best games to date have got to be Kaplan's fine attacking win over Gligoric and Gheorghiu's intricate performance versus Mednis, both from round four.

White: Svetozar Gligoric. Black: Julio Kaplan. Eagle Rock, 1974.

Nimzo-Indian Defense 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 b6 5 Bd3 Bb7 6 Nf3 0-0 7 0-0 c5 8 Bd2 d6 9 a3 Bc3 10 Bc3 Ne4 11 Be4 Bc4 12 Nd2 Bb7 13 Qg4 f5 14 Qg3 Qe7 15 Rfe1 Nd7 16 f3 Rae8 17 Rad1 e5 18 d5 b5 19 cb Bd5 20 e4 Be6 21 b3 f4 22 Qf2 Rf6 23 Ba5 Qf7 24 Rb1 g5 25. Qe2 g4 26 Nc4.

Kaplan



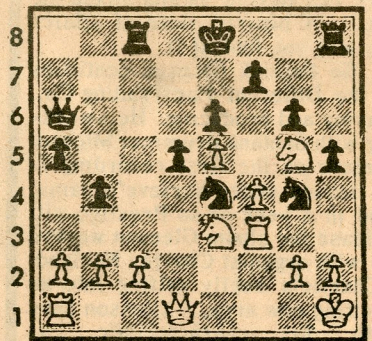
Gligoric

26...Qh5 27 Nd6 Rh6 28 h3 gh 29 Ne8 hg 30 Qg2 Rg6 31 Rb2 Bh3 32 Qg6 Qg6 33 Kh1 Qe8 34 Rg1 Kf8 35 Rh2 Qh5 36 Rf1 Nf6 37 Bc7 Ke7 38 Rff2 Ne4 39 Re2 Ng3 40 Kg1 Ne2 41 Re2 Qg5 42 White resigns.

White: Edmar Mednis. Black: Florin Gheorghiu. Eagle Rock, 1974. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e6 7 0-0 Nbd7 8 f4 b5 9 Bf3 Bb7 10 Bf3 11 Nf3 Ng4 12 Qe2 b4 13 Ne4 d5 14 Ng3 Bc5 15 Kh1 h5 16 Ng5 Qb6 17 Nh3 g6 18 Rf3 a5 19 Nf1 Qa6 20 Qd1 Rc8 21 Be3 Be3 22 Ne3 Nc5 23 Ng5 Ne4.

24 Ng4 hg 25 Ne4 gf 26 Nd6 kd7 27 Nc8 fg 28 Kg2 Rc8 29 b3 Qc6 30 Rc1 Qc3 31 Qe2 Rc6 32 h4 Kc7 33 Qf2 Kb7 34 Qe2 Kb6 35 Qf2 Rc5 36 Qe2 d4 37 Rd1 Qc2 38 Rd2 d3 39 Qd3 Qd3 40 Rd3 Rc2 41 Kf3 Ra2 42 Ke4 a4 43 ba Ra4 44 Kd4 Kb5 45 Rh3 Ra8 46 h5 Rd8 47 Ke4 gh 48 f5 Kc4 49 fe fe 50 Rh5 b3 51 Rh7 Rc8 52 Kf4 b2 53 Rb7 Kc3 54

Gheorghiu



Mednis

Kg5 Kc2 55 Kf6 Rc6 56 White resigns.

BERKELEY CHESS TMT.: All classes of players from master to beginner, are invited to participate in the U.C. Chess Club's first 5-round Swiss, non-rated tournament in Heller Lounge of the Student Union Bldg., Apr. 20-21. Money prizes, based on 100 entries, to winners: 1st, \$100; 2nd, \$75; 3rd, \$50; 4th, \$25; 5th, \$15; Best U.C. Student, \$10; Best U.C. Faculty, \$10; Best U.C. Staff, \$10. Entry fee is a low, low \$3, no memberships required. All entry fees will be returned to the players in prizes.

Time control for first three rounds is 40 moves in 90 minutes, for last two rounds 40 moves in two hours. Registration takes place from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Sat., Apr. 20; round one starts 11 a.m. sharp! Please bring your chess sets and clocks.

