

People's Chess Tournament Brings 216 Players To Berkeley

During the decade when Barry Goldwater was the conservative conscience and Richard Nixon made its tape recordings, Berkeley was a city where people frequently took to the streets to make their feelings known to the world. Today Berkeley's people still take to the streets but to sell sandals, pottery and handcrafted belt buckles.

The decade of protest has been commemorated by chess organizers. The Berkeley team in the National Chess League is called the Berkeley Riots, and the participatory democracy for which demonstration leaders called during the Vietnam War lingers in Berkeley's big open tournament — the annual People's Chess Tournament — held this year for the sixth consecutive February.

This year's aggregation of 216 players, great and small, drew luminaries such as Victor Frias, Chile's chess champion; Jack Peters, dubbed the world's strongest untitled player because — with an International Master's norm in hand — he still needs only one more norm to vault to grand-master status; and Jay Whitehead, the brash 17-

Buckley Vs. Beelby

Sacramento's Buckley-Beelby match, which has excited much local interest, is knotted at 3-3. The match will be resumed next weekend on the campus of California State University, Sacramento.

Chess

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year-old San Franciscan whose play makes many veterans turn gray with worry.

At tourney's end it was not they, but Eugene Meyer, a political scientist currently on assignment from Washington, D.C., to Sacramento, who captured the top honors by vanquishing Peters in the final round and scoring 5½-1½.

Taking clear second was University of California student Nick deFirmian, who defeated Frias in a sharply played final game to score 5-1. Peters, Frias, Whitehead, Richard Lobo and Dennis Fritzing shared the remaining prizes with 4½-1½ scores.

This was a tournament played to music. Every day there was a spontaneous drum concert on the Student Union plaza. On Saturday, the morning round was accompanied by free-form chanting on

the western side and Hare Krishna chanting to the east. Most players adjusted handily and simply tapped their clocks to the non-Western rhythms, but one player was determined to have his own music scene. He brought a set of headphones and a tape deck and listened to his own recorded concert during play.

The winner, Meyer, has been known for years for his fine feel for positional chess. He never needed this intuitive feel for the game more than against Peters and Los Angeles prodigy Perry Youngworth, in two games where he overcame material deficits. The force of his positional insights shone best, however, in this crucial win over master Richard Lobo.

King's Indian Defense R. Lobo vs. E. Meyer

1. P-Q4, N-KB3; 2. P-QB4, P-KN3; 3. N-KB3, B-N2; 4. P-KN3, 0-0; 5. B-N2, P-Q3; 6. N-B3, N-B3; 7. 0-0, P-QR3; 8. P-Q5, N-QR4.

(White looks to have a lot more space, but Black has a clear plan to expand on the Q-side. In subsequent play White will try to defend his space advantage while Black increases the tension in the center and open lines for Q-side attack.)

9. N-Q2, P-B4; 10. Q-B2, R-N1; 11. P-N3, P-QN4; 12. B-N2, P-K3.

(Here the opening theorists call for White to reduce his defensive burdens by 13. PXP, BXP; 14. PXP, PXP; 15. N/B-K4, when Black presents targets in the center and on the dark squares. Lobo tries to retain the tension, to his own misfortune.)

13. Q-R-N1, B-Q2; 14. P-K4, Q-B2; 15. KR-K1, NPXP; 16. NPXP, R-N5.

(Now White should not weaken himself along the QN file but play the immediate 17. N-Q1, KR-N1; 18. B-B3.)

17. P-QR3?, R-N3; 18. N-Q1, PXP; 19. BPXP, R/1-N1; 20. P-R3, N-N6; 21. N-KB3, P-B5; 22. B-B3.

(The position looks very quiet, but Black has a devastating shot against White's underprotected QR.)

22. N-Q5!; 23. BXN, RXR; 24. B-N2, P-B6!; 25. QXR, PXB.

26. N-K3, Q-B6; 27. Resigns.

There is nothing to be done about the threat of 27. R-N6 — RXRP — R-R8.