

Who Is Fairest Of All? And Who Cares?

By R. E. Fauber with

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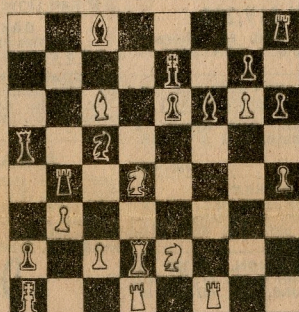
Frankly, I am totally tired of all the wrangling that is going on about the world chess championship. I am bored by the conditions each contender wants, bored by the legalities which FIDE can use to make world champions by fiat, and most bored by the prospect that this kind of tiddledy-winks is going to continue ad infinitum in a contest between Robert Fischer and the Soviet government. No matter how the dispute comes out the Soviet government and its people will be the loser. If the Praesidium lets the match go on, Karpov will lose. If they do not, they will be branded before the world as narrow bourgeois legalists with Charles Atlas socialist muscles.

Whatever happens, I do not much care. It is not very important for chess players — who get into a game to see what their own minds can create — to know who the mirror says is the fairest chess player of all.

If it is Karpov, OK. If it is Fischer, OK. Korchnoi is worthy too. We apologized some years ago to a local A player for printing nothing

Vacaville

The annual Spring Art and Crafts Show of the California Medical Facility in Vacaville will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 4, 5 and 6. More than 300 items are being prepared by the inmates. The work will be juried by Donald Uhlin, professor of art at Sacramento State University and secretary general of the American Society of Psychopathology of Expression. Visitors to the show may not wear blue jeans or carry large hand bags.



but his losing games. He told us frankly and intelligently, "I don't mind. They still have to beat me over the board."

Given the trouble and the horrendous politics involved in having a world championship, it might be the most politic choice to have no world champion at all. The Soviets are adamant that the world chess champion is only the first among equals. They said it of their own champions, and now they are saying it of Fischer. Why not eliminate the title — and so all dispute?

In 10 matches since World War II there has not been a single brilliant game. To appreciate the matches properly you have both to be a grandmaster and to be able to make the appropriate excuses for the slips of your colleagues playing for the big title.

The world champion is simply the person who comes out least scathed by the meat-grinder of competition. The FIDE has varied the terms for the challengers' matches. Now it is varying the terms for the championship match. Many of Fischer's conditions are too onerous, but all of FIDE's objections are silly. The Soviet Chess Federation, an arm of the Soviet government, has offered nothing but frivolous complaints and self-serving carping. Real socialists would not want to have such an elitist title as world

champion. Maybe Chairman Mao can convince the antagonists of the rightness of this proposition. In the meantime, all the publicity is on non-chess matters. This detracts from the hard work and beautiful creations which lesser chess players bring forth from their competitive exertions.

Recently Tom Dorsch, unquestionably the Sacramento area's premier competitor, produced a fine win over respected master, C. Bill Jones. Before that becomes neglected we offer his hair-raising triumph.

Sicilian Defense

T. Dorsch vs. C. Jones

1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. N-KB3, P-Q3; 3. P-Q4, PXP; 4. NXP, N-KB3; 5. N-QB3, P-QR3; 6. B-KN5, QN-Q2; 7. P-B4, Q-N3; 8. N-N3, P-KR3; 9. B-XN, NXB.

(On the rare occasions I play Dorsch, I suppose him to be booked to the eyeballs. I would have played 8. . . . , Q-K6ch, but Jones, evidently, thought that pusillanimous. A melee is brewing, and it seems to be because each player is searching for a sharp position.)

10. Q-Q2, P-K3; 11. B-K2, B-K2; 12. 0-0-0, Q-B2; 13. B-B3, R-QN1. (Black is still very solid, but he suffers because he does not get both rooks into play. Perhaps his mistake was trying to make a virtuoso attack on the Q-side with his P's.)

14. P-N4, N-Q2; 15. P-KR4, P-QN4; 16. P-N5, P-N5; 17. N-K2, P-QR4; 18. N/3-Q4, N-B4; 19. P-K5, P-N6?!

(Now after 20. PXQP, PXR is very embarrassing, but this and related threats do not compensate for the unconnected state of Black's rooks.)

20. RPXP, PXP; 21. PXP, P-R5; 22. B-B6ch, K-B1; 23. P-N4, RXP; 24. K-N1, Q-R4; 25. P-N6!, P-R6; 26. P-N3, P-R7ch; 27. K-R1, P-B4; 28. KPXP e.p., BXP; 29. KR-B1, K-K2.

See diagram.

(Black tries to protect against the hurricane, but Dorsch brilliantly huffs to bring the Black house down without a puff.)

30. RXB!, PXR; 31. N-

B5ch, Resigns.

(31. . . . , P-XN; 32. Q-Q6 mate is embarrassing, but Q-Q6ch is devastating anyway.)