



# Chess Barbs

by Jude Acers (US senior master)

DIAGRAM NO. 13: Examine this position carefully. You are White in the endgame. What move do you play? Allow ten minutes to work out all variations. Sorry, but if you omit even one variation your analysis is fishy. Chess master Prokes of Czechoslovakia gives a complete analysis of the position elsewhere in this issue.

NEWS: Fischer has been given an ultimatum by the chess federation to play Spassky in Reykjavik, Iceland on July 2, 1972 for \$125,000. Fischer has lost all rights for negotiations now and must accept the terms (he will probably have to post a huge appearance bond as well). Although Fischer flatly agreed in press statements to the dictated match terms, it is not known if he officially replied to world chess federation telegrams warning that noon, May 16th was the deadline for unconditional acceptance of the match. In my opinion, Robert Fischer does not want to play this match, probably due to the emotional strain and pressure a world title match represents. "It takes five years off of a man's life," said Botvinnik, who has played more world title matches than anyone. It is highly doubtful that the match will take place as scheduled now, and it seems more of a pipe dream than ever. Spassky will play Petrosian for the world title otherwise. That match would be very interesting, but not nearly as exciting or high priced. . .

Victor Pupols, veteran Washington master, has posted \$1,000 with the Washington Chess Federation for a ten-game match with Jude Acers in February 1973. Some details still must be worked out, but the sensational Pupols victory in a just completed ten-game match with top Canadian master Robert Zuk guarantees added interest in the match. Acers requires all expenses and \$500 fee to play the match, which the Washington Chess Federation is definitely prepared to meet. Pupols and Acers both have a highly theoretical, adventurous style, so the crowds at the games should be capacity in several Washington cities. Pupols defeated Zuk in a come-from-behind victory (5½-4½) in a match that covered several northwest cities. But the United States Chess Federation refuses to rate the proposed Acers-Pupols match, because USCF Executive Director Ed Edmondson feels that Acers (who is a full-time professional chess player) must compete in US

Open or Swiss system tournaments as well as match play. Jude has told Edmondson to drop dead unless he is prepared to pay the living expenses of such amateur events for Acers! Acers and Fischer are not the only US players not doing business with Edmondson—four top US masters flatly refuse even to talk about specific problems that the US Chess Federation and Edmondson present that prevent the international competition of many US masters. William Addison, of San Francisco has been invited to precious few international tournaments in the past ten years. He has "only" finished second in the 1970 US Championship (a half point behind Reshevsky), drawn two of his last three games against Fischer and carries an incredible international rating (US CF 2475)! But the US Chess Federation controls all international tournament invitations and carefully prevents the international play of most non-New York masters and young players who need experience against the best international opposition in order to play successfully on a US world team and to compete on even terms with the "privileged few"—the grandmasters that Edmondson sends to tournament after tournament, despite often mediocre results achieved by them... One thing is clear—whether it is his fault or not—Edmondson is now the most unpopular chess bureaucrat that ever lived in the United States. According to Acers, "Edmondson must go, because he does not care whether the nation's top 20 young masters starve or not. He considers chess masters Fritzing, Grefe, and (especially) me as strong Class "Z" players, and resents the fact that we do not worship Ficher!" (Politics and in-fighting within US chess thus is raging on all fronts, good readers!)

GAME: Here is the most outstanding game of 1971, selected from more than 2,000 match and tournament games last year. It is the struggle between three-time Soviet titleholder and top grandmaster Lev Polugaevsky and the new USSR champion Vladimir Savon. I hope readers will examine the game carefully along with the abridged notes of Paul Keres from "Chess Life & Review," March 1972.

White: Savon. Black: Polugaevsky. Leningrad, 1971-72 USSR Championship. Sicilian Defense.

Najdorf Variation 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3a6 6 Be2(A) e6(B) 7 f4 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Be3 Qc7(C) 10 a4 Nc6 11 Nb3(D) b6 12 Bd3(E) Bb7 13 Qf3 Nb4 14 Nd4 g6 15 Rad1 e5 16 N4e2 d5 17 fe de 18 Ne4 Qe5(F) 19 Qf6 20 Nd3(G) 20 Bd4 21 Bf6(H) 21 Nf6ch Kg7(I) 22 Nd7 23 Qd4ch 23 Nd4 Nb2(J) 24 Rb1 Rfd8 25 Ne5(K) Rd4 26 Rf7ch Kh6(L) 27 Rb7 Na47(M) 28 Rb3 29 Kf2 Rd2ch(N) 30 Kg3 Nc5 31 Ng4ch Kg5 32 Re7 Rg2ch(O) 33 Kg2 Nb3(P) 34 Kg3 Kf5 35 Re5 mate(Q).

(A) Deeply analyzed is 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4. (B) Usual is 6...e5. Polugaevsky switches to a Scheveningen setup, which he handles with great virtuosity. (C) If 9...b5 10 Bf3 Black prepares b5 now, but White halts the maneuver immediately. (D) The other plan would be Q-e1-g3. Both attack Black's kingside. (E) Or 12 Bf3 Rb8 with ...b5 in mind. (F) Bad, of course, is 18...Ne4 19 Be4 Be4 20 Qe4 Qc2 21 Qc2 Nc2 22 Bb6, with a good extra pawn for White. Now Black seems perfectly safe, but Savon finds a way to present a surprising solution to the complications. (G) On 19...Bf6 20 Nf6ch Kg7 21 Bd4 Qe6 and now White can force a draw with 22 Ne8ch or play to win with 22 Nf4. (H) Black plays to win in this dangerous position. With 20...Be4 21 Be5 Bf6 22 Bf6 Nc5 Black escapes with probably a little better endgame. (I) Not 21...Qf6 22 Rf6 and Black loses material. (J) White wins a whole rook on 23...Rfd8 24 Rd3 Rd7 25 Ne6ch, etc. (K) Forcing Black to abandon his "f" pawn (25...f5? 26 Ne6ch). (L) Risking danger unnecessarily. Though he must lose a pawn, 26...Kg8 27 Rb2 Rf8 28 Rf8! gives Black a chance to save the game. (M) In time pressure he misses 27...Nc4, with chances to escape with only superficial damage. (N) There seems to be no adequate defense: 29...Nc5 30 Rh3ch Kg5 31 Rf7 and wins. If 29...Rf8ch, then 30 Ke2 31 Rh3ch Kg5 32 Rg3ch Kf5 33 Rf3ch. (O) Otherwise White would checkmate or win a rook. (P) Better, but still losing for Black is 33...Kg4. (Q) It is not everyday that one sees a grandmaster get checkmated!

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS: Berkeley YMCA, Fri., 7:30 pm... Hardcastle Coffee Shop, 2516 Telegraph, all hours...S.F. Mechanics' Institute Chess Room, 57 Post, 4th floor, all hours...In Oakland: the East Asia Book & Game Center, 5897 College, 6 pm to midnight.

## ANSWER

Solution to Diagram no. 13 (to be placed elsewhere in this issue): White wins as follows (analysis by Proker)—1 e7! (threatening 2 Re2 and queening next move). And now 1...Rclch 2 Kf4 and (a) 2...Kh3 3 Rg3ch K-moves 4 Re3 wins; (b) 2...Kh5 3 Rg5ch K-moves 4 Re5 g5ch K Kf5 kills; (c) 2...g5ch 3 Kf3! g4ch 4 Rg4ch Kh5 5 Re4 bombs.