

In Retrospect: The Long, Influential Career Of Max Euwe

Dr. Max Euwe, world champion from 1935-37 and president of the International Chess Federation from 1970-78, died Nov. 26. He was 80 years of age.

The Netherlands, where Euwe grew up, was deeply attached to chess, and Euwe's rise to prominence further fueled the Dutch chess fren-

Chess

by R. E. Fauber with Frank Garosi

zy. Ironically the opportunity to play for the world championship against Alexander Alekhine came not because of his numerous tournament and match successes but because of matches he lost. Alekhine, never eager to lose his crown, figured that Euwe was good enough to put up a fight but not good enough to win a match.

The rest of the world shared this opinion, but in 1935 Euwe began his deep researches into the openings, which for more than a quarter of a century made him a walking encyclopedia of that phase of the game. He noticed that Alekhine played impatiently when he came out of the opening with an even game. Euwe geared his own repertoire to produce exactly that situation, and won by 9-8 with 13 draws.

He granted a rematch in 1937, when all the world expected him to win again. "I became impatient after the fifth game because I was not far enough ahead, precisely the fault I exploited

in Alekhine in 1935," Euwe told me a few years back.

A working mathematician all his life, Euwe became one of the leading experts on computer chess development as a result of his researches with Euratom. Throughout the developments of the past decade, he remained firm that a chess computer could never develop into a grandmaster. In 1976 he said: "I doubt whether a computer in the future can reach master strength because the computer has no judgment. Intuition is important. The principles of chess are often contradictory. You have to sense which one is important in each individual situation."

Among Euwe's many fine games none is any more exciting than this from Neuhausen-Zurich, 1953.

Benoni

M. Euwe vs. M. Najdorf

1. P-Q4, N-KB3; 2. P-QB4, P-KN3; 3. P-KN3, B-N2; 4. B-N2, 0-0; 5. N-QB3, P-B4; 6. P-Q5, P-K4; 7. B-N5, P-Kr3; 8. BXN, QXB; 9. P-Q6, N-B3; 10. P-K3!, P-N3; 11. B-Q5, K-R1; 12. N-K4, Q-Q1; 13. P-KR4!, P-B4; 14. N-N5, B-N2.

(Now winning the exchange by N-B7, RXN; 16. BXR, N-N5 yields Black the at-

tack.)
15. P-KN4, P-K5; 16. N-K2, BXP; 17. N-B4, Q-B3; 18. PXP, BXR.

(The N's now go on a rampage.)

19. NXPch, K-N2; 20. NXP, B-B6ch.

(Not 20. . . . QXBP; 21. QXBch, KXN; 22. R-N1ch.)

21. K-B1, QXBP; 22. N-B4, K-R1!; 23. NXB, QR-K1.

(Black's last chance was 23. . . . N-Q1; 24. BXB, NXB; 25. N/3-Q5, although White is happier.)

24. N/3-K2, R-KN1; 25. P-R5, R-N4; 26. N-N3, RXN; 27. PXR, RXP; 28. K-B2, R-K1; 29. R-K1, RXR; 30. QXR, K-N2; 31. Q-K8, Q-B7ch; 32. K-N1, Q-Q8ch; 33. K-R2, Q-B7ch; 34. N-N2, Q-B4; 35. Q-N8ch, K-B3; 36. Q-R8ch, K-N4; 37. Q-N7ch, resigns.



Dr. Max Euwe

TOURNAMENT NEWS: John Fedorowicz won the Thessaloniki International in Greece by a full point over grandmaster Nikolai Spiridonov. This triumph by the 23-year-old New Yorker is only the second clear first place by an American in international play this year.

The Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Team Championships, held in November in Monterey, resulted in a narrow victory by California State University, Fullerton (aka "Cal State Disneyland"), which scored 3½-½ in match points to nudge the defending champion, U.C. Berkeley, at 3-1. Sonoma State University came third with 2½-1½. Sonoma State drew Fullerton in the final round after losing earlier to Berkeley.