Richard Shorman

Chess

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Regional Golden Bear Chess Tournament drew 103 players to the University of California at Berkeley, Feb. 12-14. Martin Morrison and Elwin Meyers directed the USCF-CCCA event.

Premier Championship

1. Charles Pardini, San Francisco, 2½-½, "Chess Digest" $10 gift certificate.
2. Takashi Kurosaki, San Francisco, 2-1, "Chess Digest" $10 gift certificate.

Class A

1-2. Craig Barnes, Berkeley, and Stephen Quen, Alameda, 4-0, $45 each.

Class B

1-2. Lawrence Hughes, Berkeley, and Bruce Keeney, Berkeley, 4-0, $45 each.

Class C

1-2. Michael Maloney, Berkeley, and Michael Tomey, Sunnyvale, 3½-½, $45 each.

Class D-E

1. Matthew Hubbard, Alameda, 3½-½, $20.

One of five simultaneous blindfold exhibition games played and won by 28-year-old chess expert Alan Benson, who also supplied the notes to his impressive feat of sightless wizardry.

White: Alan Benson (Oakland). Black: Robert Caradien (San Francisco). Tracy, California, January 31, 1971. Sicilian Defense.

1	P-K4	P-QB4	16	P-N4	P-R3
2	N-KB3	P-Q3	17	O-O-O	QR-B1
3	P-Q4	PxP	18	Q-B2	N-B5(f)
4	NxP	N-KB3	19	B-Q4	Q-Q1
5	N-QB3	P-QR3	20	KR-N1	P-QN4
6	B-QB4(a)	P-K3	21	P-KR4	N-R2
7	B-N3	B-K2(b)	22	N-Q5	R-K5
8	P-B4	O-O	23	Q-B3	Q-K1
9	Q-B3!(c)	Q-B2	24	P-N5	RxP
10	P-B5	N-B3(d)	25	PxP	RxP
11	B-K3	N-K4	26	BxN(g)	RxB(h)
12	Q-K2(e)	PxP	27	BxP	BxB
13	NxP	BxN	28	P-B6	NxP(i)
14	PxB	KR-K1	29	NxNch	RxN
15	P-KR3	B-B1	30	QxR	Resigns (j)

(a) The Najdorf Variation. The move 6 B-QB4 is stronger with Black's pawn on QR3 than it is with 5. . .N-QB3.

(b) To be considered was 7. . . .P-QN4 8 P-B4 B-N2 9 P-B5 P-K4 10 N/4-K2 QN-Q2 11 B-N5! B-K2 12 BxN NxB 13 Q-Q3 R-QB1, with equality.

(c) The best move. If 9 P-B5, then Black could play 9. . .PxP! 10 PxP (or 10 NxP BxN 11 PxB Q-N3!) P-Q4.

(d) Black has a choice of two other moves, i.e., 10. . .P-K4 11 N/4-K2 P-QN4 12 P-N4 (Robert Fischer gives 12 P-QR3, which is also good.) P-N5 13 P-N5 PxN 14 NxP! (Soltis—Maeder, Dresden, 1969) and 10. . .PxP 11 NxP BxN 12 QxB N-B3, a suggestion of Tal's "Shakmaty" (Riga). In both cases White stands better.

(e) The best. If instead 12 Q-R3, then 12. . .N-B5 13 PxP NxNP.

(f) At first glance it seems that Black could have played 18. . .N-4xP, but 19 PxN NxP 20 Q-N1! NxB 21 RxRP! costs him the game: (1) 21. . .NxR 22 Q-N6; (2) 21. . .NxKBP 22 R-B6; (3) 21. . .N-B5 22 N-Q5; and (4) 21. . .P-Q4 22 R-R4! NxKBP 23 NxP Q-Q1 (23. . .NxR 24 NxQ RxN 25 Q-N3 or 23. . .Q-N6 24 N-B6ch KxN 25 R-N4ch!) 24 R-R5.

(g) A precaution due to the variation 26 BxP BxB 27 P-B6 N-K4!, and the game is quite complicated.

(h) Variations with 26. . .PxB are discussed below.

(i) Black has no good reply, e.g., 28. . .K-R1 29 PxBch K-N1 30 N-K7ch. White also wins after 28. . .Q-K4 29 N-K7ch K-B1 (29. . .K-R1 30 PxBch) 30 Q-R8ch. If Black had played 26 . . . PxB instead of 26 . . . RxB, then 27 BxP BxB 28 P-B6 K-R1 (28 . . . K-B1 29 RxB is simplest) 29 QR-K1 NxP 30 RxQch RxR 31 N-K3. Or 26 . . . PxB 27 BxP BxB 28 P-B6 Q-K4 (on 28 . . . R-N3, either with 26 . . . RxB or 26 . . . PxB, then 29 N-K7ch wins.) 29 N-K7ch K-B1 30 PxBch KxN 31 Q-N7ch K-B3 32 QR-B1ch and Black must give up.

(j) White wins the enemy queen after 30. . .Q-KB1 31 RxBch QxR 32 Q-Q8ch. Even worse would have been 26 . . . PxB 27 BxP BxB 28 P-B6 NxP 29 NxNch RxN 30 QxR Q-B1 31 R-N5! K-R2 (31. . .R-B4 32 RxBch) 32 R-R1ch B-R3 33 K-N1! R-B4 (What else? White's threat of 34 R/5-R5 must be met.) 34 RxBch QxR 35 QxPch K-R 1 36 R-N8mate.

CHECK THIS OUT

The very first edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica (Edinburgh, 1771, vol. II, pp. 181-82) describes chess as "an ingenious game . . . in which chance has so small a share that it may be doubted whether a person ever lost but by his own fault."