

Now Even
BIGGER
Issues!

California Chess Journal

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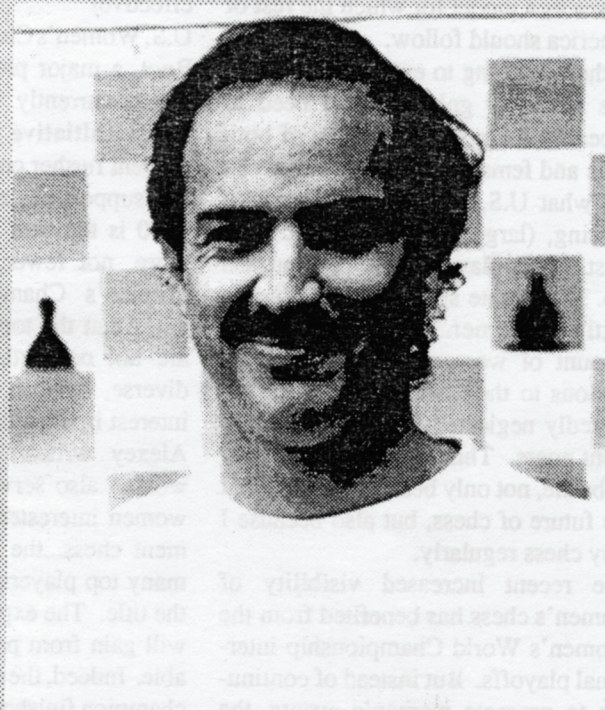
April/May 1990

\$2.50



GM Nick deFirmian

below: Brian Jew



IM Vince McCambridge



**deFirmian, McCambridge
Split at People's
Jew Wins Young People's**

**Also: IM Marc Leski on Opening
Theory, FM Craig Mar, and FM
David Glueck annotate**

1990 Women's Chess Initiative

Californians have always been trend-setters. From hip Hollywood fashions to high-tech Silicon chips, we Californians have consistently led the rest of the nation in mind and body. Which is no surprise when I say that California leads the country in women's chess. With more Top-50-in-the-U.S. women players than any other state, California serves as a model for which the rest of America should follow.

If chess is going to ever make it "big" like tennis or golf, we will need to appeal to a large constituency of both male and female players. Anyone can see what U.S. chess tournaments are missing, (large prizefunds? No they exist. Strong players? No they're around too. Corporate sponsorship? You're getting warmer...) an appropriate amount of women. Yet what is so obvious to the casual observer, is repeatedly neglected by regular tournament goers. This growing apathy disturbs me, not only because I care about the future of chess, but also because I play chess regularly.

The recent increased visibility of women's chess has benefited from the Women's World Championship interzonal playoffs. But instead of continuing to promote women's events, the USCF is currently thinking of cutting back on their support of women's chess. Specifically, the USCF is considering limiting the Women's Closed Championship to the top 3 rated women and the defending champion, instead of the tra-

ditional 10-12 player field. While the proposed reduction of the Championship's size may save some transportation expenses for USCF, we at the CCI believe it will cost supporters of women's chess and female players dearly. Even with a limited budget, USCF can find less detrimental ways to curb expenses just by being more cost-effective!

U.S. Women's Champion WIM Alexey Root, a major proponent of women's chess, currently leads the Women's Chess Initiative 1990 which seeks to prevent further cuts in women's chess. We support her efforts and agree that 1990 is the year USCF should invite more, not fewer, participants to the Women's Championships. Alexey notes that the top 10-12 rated women are not only ethnically and socially diverse, but can increase local press interest in the tournament.

Alexey writes: "The participating women also serve as role models for women interested in pursuing tournament chess...the field should give as many top players as possible a shot at the title. The experience those women will gain from participating is invaluable. Indeed, the current U.S. women's champion finished near the bottom of 3 championships before winning her first title in 1989. Getting to play against, learn from, and make friends with other women chessplayers makes the U.S. Women's Championship a valuable event for all who have the chance to

Contents

Volume 4, Number 2

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17th Annual People's.....	3
Nor Cal Scholastics.....	5
Berkeley Qualifier Pt. II by Ganesan.....	6
Innovative Openings by Ganesan.....	8
Switching to 1. d4 by FM Craig Mar.....	10
East Coast Connection by Joel Salman.....	11
Berkeley Wins ACUL.....	11
Chigorin's Defense Refuted by IM Marc Leski.....	12
NCCA Scholarship by Mike Goodall.....	14
Bay Area Splinters.....	15
GQM by NM Peter Yu.....	18
Letter to the Editor.....	22
Random Chess Positions by FM David Glueck.....	22
Club Directory.....	23
Tournament Calendar.....	back

participate. The U.S. Women's is key to nurturing women's chess in America. 1990 should be the year for the USCF to give more women a chance." Clearly, U.S. chess needs to expand, but presently USCF seems to market only to potential male players. There is still a relatively untapped population of potential female chess players out there, and USCF must find a way to reach those "customers".

We hope USCF's new marketing Di-
continued on p. 23

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17th Annual People's Draws Record Attendance

The People's Republic of Berkeley held its 17th national championship over the Presidents' Day Weekend in February. U.C. Berkeley alumni GM Nick deFirmian (2675) and IM Vince McCambridge (2591) each took home \$425, U.S. currency, for equal first at 5-1.

This annual six-round chess fiesta had 219 entrants in five sections, along with 25 kids in the youth tournament. The largest tournament in Northern California, People's featured a very strong field at the top, perhaps because the competing U.S. Amateur Team doesn't offer cash prizes.

A real spectator favorite was Australian IM Greg Hjorth (2448), whose funky positional style gained him clear third and \$200. Other top contenders included IM John Donaldson (2574), FM David Glueck (2451) and FM Paul Whitehead (2442).

The fourth round saw a Berkeley "Old-Timers" versus Berkeley "New-Timers" match on boards two and one as deFirmian beat Glueck to garner 3.5 points and McCambridge stopped Hjorth to emerge with the only perfect 4-0.

Round five was the crucial showdown between the two tournament leaders, deFirmian and McCambridge, as deFirmian with the White pieces was too much for McCambridge to handle. IM Donaldson gave up a third draw, while Dov Gorman (2411) was sneaking into contention with four out of five.

In the final round, Hjorth and deFirmian agreed to a very quick draw, and McCambridge earned a hard-fought win over Gorman to tie deFirmian. The very long Whitehead-Donaldson game ended in a draw, which left Hjorth in sole third with 4.5-1.5.

A huge 50-player expert section was won by Robert Kichinski (2185) with 5.5 points. Kichinski took a classic "Swiss gambit" by drawing the first round, and then going 5-0. Second expert Paul Gallegos (2199) also had five wins, losing only to Kichinski.

Top-rated Charles Wolff (1993) won the 'A' section with 5.5 points. The prudent Berkeley student took a quick draw in the last round making it impossible for anyone else to catch him.

Ivan Roa (1766) chipped in the only perfect result of the tournament, winning first in the B's with 6-0. Roa may now look forward to more challenging sections.

The 49 player "Reserve" section (U1600) saw a two-way tie for first between Tin Wu (1567) and George Waters (1459). A number of players joined USCF, helped by a reduced Unrated entry fee.

This year's Young People's Tournament was won by Brian Jew (1292) of San Francisco with 4.5 points out of 5. Brian was followed closely by ten year-old Damon Mosk-Aoyama (1258), Mark Mamakos (1381), and Eric Baudry (1386) tied for 2nd through 4th place with 4-1. As Damon and

Mark won second and third respectively, Eric received the "Top Under 13" trophy for his efforts. Rounding out the prize winners' list was eight year-old Micah Fisher-Kirshner (1337) who won "Top Under 11" honors.

The People's reunited the triumverate TD team of ANTD's Dr. Andrew Lazarus, Alan Glasscoe, and Senior TD Peter Yu. The rounds began promptly and many players took advantage of the chess books and equipment concession provided by the well-stocked American Chess Equipment.

The increased prize fund of \$3,000 guaranteed (up from last year) was a wise investment, as entries soared to an all-time record high of 244. Unfortunately, even with this increase in attendance, FIDE failed to declare the People's Berkeley's own Zonal. In retaliation, demands to rename the Bell Tower the "Campo-nile" were unanimously turned down.

Our report continues with games from the Open section, annotated by some of our top masters.

continued on p.4

OPEN			
1st/2nd	GM Nick deFirmian (2675)		5-1
	IM Vince McCambridge (2591)		
3rd	IM Greg Hjorth (2448)		4.5-1.5
U2300	Luis Busquets (2293)		4-1
	Aaron Stearns (2292)		
	Andy McManus (2215)		
EXPERT			
1st	Robert Kichinski (2185)		5.5-.5
2nd	Paul Gallegos (2199)		5-1
3rd/6th	John Barnard (2166)		4.5-1.5
	WIM Liz Neely (2134)		
	Leonard Loscutoff (2066)		
	Philip McCready (2037)		
A			
1st	Charles Wolff (1993)		5.5-.5
2nd/6th	Steven Bell (1968)		4.5-1.5
	Bryan Clair (1931)		
	Marc Weeks (1929)		
	James Stewart (1928)		
	Owen Overton (1786)		
B			
1st	Ivan Roa (1766)		6-0
2nd	Mike Mills (1713)		5-1
3rd/5th	Charles Casson (1725)		4.5-1.5
	Marc McNown (1696)		
	Diane Barnard (1601)		
RESERVE			
1st/2nd	Tin Wu (1567)		4.5-.5
	George Waters (1459)		
3rd/6th	Robert Drake (1593)		4-1
	Angus Lutan (1576)		
	Mischa Berlinski (1441)		
	Bruno Bier (Unr.)		
U1400	Richard DeNatale (1398)		3-2
	Henry Wong (1081)		

from p. 3

White: IM John Donaldson (2591)

Black: NM Tom Dorsch (2271)

Dutch Defense [A88]

1.Nf3 f5 2.g3

I really expected 2.e4, which, in my experience, is extremely popular with those who play 1.Nf3. Leski—Dorsch (Yountville, 1990) continued 2...fe 3.Ng5 Nf6 4.d3 e3 5.Be3 e5 6.c4?! Nc6 7.Nc3 Bb4! 8.Be2 and after 8...d5, Black is better (Leski). I love to enter the main lines of the Leningrad after 1.Nf3, because White is deprived of the option of playing Nh3, a line that has given me great difficulties, e.g. Lobo—Dorsch (American Open, 1989): 1.c4 f5 2.d4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.d5 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Nh3 c6 8.0-0 e5 9.de6 Be6 10.Qd3 Na6 11.Bf4, with a big plus. Both 11...Kh8 12.Ng5 Bg8 13.Bd6, and 11...Ne8 12.b3 Qe7 13.Rad1 Rd8 14.Qe3 produce short, ugly games.

2...Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.d5 c6 8.0-0 e5 9.de6 Be6

We have reached the main position of the main line of the Leningrad variation of the Dutch. White's most natural move is 10.Qd3. The text sets a subtle but well-known opening trap.

10.b3 Qe7

The tempting 10...Ne4? actually favors White after 11.Ne4 Ba1 12.Qd6!, when White's pieces quickly overrun Black's underdeveloped position.

11.Bb2 Na6 12.Rc1

This rather passive move allows Black to carry out the standard equalizing maneuver in the Leningrad and achieve equality.

12...d5! 13.cd Bd5 14.Nd5 Nd5 15.Bg7 Kg7 Black has no reason to fear the endgame, and welcomes exchanges. The objective is to reach a good knight vs. bad bishop (rook and) minor piece ending.

16.Qd4+ Of6 17.e3?!

And this permits Black to seize the initiative.

17...Nab4 18.a3 Na2! 19.Rc2 Nac3 20.Of6 Kf6 21.Nd4 Rfe8 22.Rfc1 Ne4 23.b4 Rad8 24.Nb3 Rd6 25.Nc5 Nc5 26.Rc5 Ne7 27.a4 Red8 28.Bf3 g5 29.Kf1 g4 30.Be2 Rd5

Here I offered John a draw, but I really didn't expect him to accept. In our last game, at the Capablanca 101 tourna-

ment in San Jose in November, a last-round draw had forced us to split first prize, and kept our lifetime score even (+1-1=1). I was sure he would try to outplay me in the endgame, and I was also sure that Black has most of the winning chances. My best practical chance is that he would overreach in an attempt to justify the rating differential of 300 points.

31.Ke1 Rc5 32.Rc5 Rd5 33.Rc1 Ng6! Now Black has real winning chances.

34.b5 Ne5 35.bc6 bc6 36.Rc3 Ke6 37.Bc4 Nc4 38.Rc4 Kd6 39.h3 gh3!? 40.Rh4 c5 41.Rh3 c4 42.Rh6 Kc5 43.Rh7 a5!

Going for the gusto. 43...c3 leads to an easy draw, but not more.

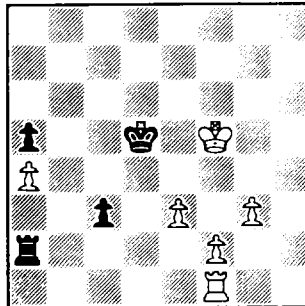
44.Rb7 Kc6 45.Rb1 Rd3 46.Ke2 Ra3 47.Kf3 Ra2! 48.Rf1 Kd5??

And this hasty move spoils a nice ending. 48...Kc5 saves a crucial tempo in the race toward the a-file, and a tempo is crucial. Now Black can only win if White makes a mistake—a real possibility in an ending that still requires precision from the white side.

49.Kf4 c3

White is starting to run short of time. The second time control is at move sixty-five, and, according to his scoresheet, White has twenty minutes left. By my recollection, he had about fifteen minutes left. At any rate, I will never know whether he could have unraveled the mysteries of this ending in the time remaining. It seems that the directors wanted to start the second round at the scheduled time, despite the fact that the second control was approaching and some of the games were at a critical stage. Donaldson was given the opportunity to seal...

50.Kf5



So I spent the rest of the day getting slowly dragged through the dirt

on the Black side of a closed Sicilian by David Glueck, while Donaldson polished off his opponent in a couple of hours and then spent the next several hours analyzing the adjourned position with Craig Mar. Every now and then one of my spies would come and tell me how I was doing (*in absentia*). According to Donaldson/Mar, Black was alternately winning or drawing. Donaldson was worried enough to offer me a draw while I was still playing. But I was losing to Glueck, and, although I was convinced that the adjourned position was a draw, it was *at least* a draw, so I rejected his offer and made him wait until Glueck finally polished me off, about 11 p.m. Since he had only four minutes left on his clock after sealing, the second session ended quickly.

50...Rd2 51.e4+ Kc4 52.e5 c2 53.Rc1 Rf2+ 54.Ke6 Kb3 55.g4 Ka4 56.g5 Kb3 57.g6 a4 58.g7 Rg2 59.Kf7 a3 60.g8(O) Rg8 61.Kg8 Kb2 1/2—1/2. (Dorsch)

White: NM Andy McManus (2205)

Black: NM Loal Davis (2337)

Sicilian Defense [B42]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cd 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Qc7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bg5

More usual is 0-0. White is aiming for an entirely different system of development here, involving 0-0-0.

7...Be7 8.Qe2!

The correct square for the Queen, preparing for an eventual e5.

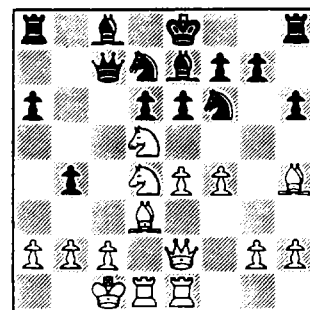
8...d6 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.Rhe1 b5?!

Black is flirting with danger here. Better is 10...0-0, removing the King to safety.

11.f4 h6 12.Bh4 b4?

Forcing White's next move. Black, being behind in development, cannot afford such active moves.

13.Nd5!



Continued on p. 16

McManus Repeats at Scholastics

Lee, Marom, and Surlow Also Victorious

This year's Northern California Scholastic Championships attracted 177 junior players in four sections. Organized by Ray Orwig to raise funds for the St. Mark's Elementary School team, the tournament was held on Mar. 11-12. The able directing staff oversaw a smooth tournament and consisted of ANTD Alan Glasscoe, Peter Yu, Ray Orwig, Trendell Ball, and John Easterling. Results are listed in order of tiebreaks.

PRIMARY DIVISION

Top rated William Surlow won on tiebreaks as defending champion Micah Fisher-Kirshner finished fifth. However, Micah's team Weibel dominated the team race with a 3.5 point victory.

Individual

1st/	William Surlow	(1384)	4.5
2nd	Todd Stansbury	(1336)	
3rd/	Tov Fisher-Kirshner	(965)	4
4th	Michael Askin	(Unr.)	
5th/	Micah Fisher-Kirshner	(1337)	3.5
9th	Joseph Lonsdale	(Unr.)	
	Andy Kleinman	(1243)	
	Harland Patajo	(Unr.)	
	Vanessa Reid	(Unr.)	
10th	Jordy Mont-Reynaud	(Unr.)	3

Team

1st	Weibel	14
2nd	St. Mark's	10.5

ELEMENTARY

Top rated Ohad Marom went undefeated and Town School of San Francisco defended its '89 crown with a narrow win over St. Mark's of San Rafael.

Individual

1st	Ohad Marom	(1569)	5
2nd/	Daniel Khersonsky	(1158)	4
5th	Damon Mosk-Aoyama	(1277)	
	Scott Baler	(1138)	
	Will Hutchinson	(1148)	
6th/	Jonathan Hoffman	(1249)	3.5
7th	Christian Archibald	(Unr.)	
8th/	Henry Hsieh	(1292)	3
10th	Roddy McCalley	(1205)	
	Michael Kennedy	(1304)	

Team

1st	Town	12.5
2nd	St. Marks	12
3rd	Ohlone	11.5
4th	Nueva	10

JUNIOR HIGH

Top rated Peter Lee cruised to an easy win. Defending champion St. Mark's secured a third straight title.

Individual

1st	Peter Lee	(1822)	5
2nd/	Brian Jew	(1391)	4
6th	John Mini	(1721)	
	Nader Alizadeh	(1435)	
	Jacob Gurwitz	(1420)	
	Hillel Heinstein	(1452)	
7th/	Sean Peisert	(1233)	3.5
10th	Mark Mamakos	(1384)	
	David Bunde	(1525)	
	Peter Swander	(1258)	

Team

1st	St. Mark's	14
2nd	Bartlett	10
3rd	Town	9.5
4th	Sunnyvale	8.5

HIGH SCHOOL

Lowell H.S. won mainly due to their two new Russian emigrés, as defending champs Bellarmine settled for second. Master-elect Andy McManus repeated as champion, again on tiebreaks, after Alan Stein upset top rated Sergey Iskotz.

Individual

1st/	Andy McManus	(2185)	4.5
3rd	Alan Stein	(2004)	
	Michael Rozler	(2113)	
4th/	Sergey Iskotz	(2307)	4
8th	Mike Chan	(1944)	
	Ky Dang	(1626)	
	Jeff Yang	(Unr.)	
	Walter Tu	(1677)	
9th/	Ariel DelaVega	(Unr.)	3.5
10th	Dan Trimbach	(1550)	

Team

1st	Lowell	14.5
2nd	Bellarmine	13
3rd	Independence	12.5
4th/	Live Oak	12
5th	Gunderson	

White: Alan Stein (2004)

Black: NM Sergey Iskotz (2307)

Queen's Pawn Opening[A46]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.c3

Unusual. I don't know if it is inferior to playing 3.d5 but I

BCC OPEN QUALIFIER: Part II

by Ganesan

This is the continuation of our 2-part coverage of the annual Berkeley Chess Club open Qualifier. For the first four rounds, please refer to the Feb./Mar. issue of the *CCJ*. —editor.

Round Five

On Board 1, Kaugars worked up a strong attack, won the exchange but could only draw against Barton. Weiss caused a sensation on Board 2 when Cross blundered in a won position.

White: S. Weiss (2077)

Black: S. Cross (2178)

Queen's Pawn Game [A46]

Annotations by Seggev Weiss [and Ganesan]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.c3

More thematic is 3.d5, but I wanted to avoid sharp continuations such as 3...e6 4.c4 b5 or 3...b5.

3...b6 4.g3

[Weiss likes to play the "boring" system, with Bf4-h2 (after h3). The text prevents this setup and White doesn't solve the problem of developing his Queen Bishop very well].

4...Bb7 5.Bg2 g6 6.0-0 Bg7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Re1 d6 9.e4 cd 10.Nd4 After 10.cd Nfd7, the center pawns might be vulnerable. The text threatens to win a piece by 11.e5!

10...Qc8 11.Qb3?

[The queen is misplaced here]

11...Na6! 12.e5?!

12.Qc2.

12...Nc5 13.Qc2 de 14.Re5 Bg2

15.Kg2 Ob7+ 16.Kg1

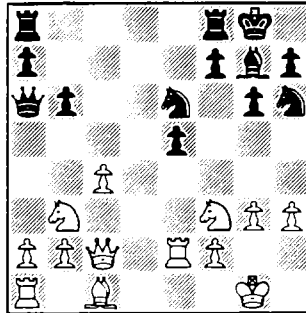
Forced. On 16.N2f3 Nfe4! traps the rook; 16.N4f3 Ng4! followed by ...Rfd8, ...Nd3; 16.f3 weakens e3

16...Ng4 17.Re2 e5 18.N4b3 Qa6 19.c4

[Giving up control of d4. Better 19.Nf3]

19...Ne6 20.h3 Nh6 21.Nf3

An experienced Local TD, Ganesan helps direct at the BCC regularly and often plays in their monthly tournaments.



21.g4 f5!

21...Nf5 22.g4?!

Better was 22.Be3 but after 22...Rac8 23.Rc1 Rfd8 Black is still better.

22...Nfd4 23.Nbd4 ed 24.Ne5

No better was 24.Qd3 Nc5 or 24.Rd2 Rac8, but even after 24.Re1 Rac8 25.Nd2 Nf4 26.Kh2 d3! Black is winning.

24...d3! 25.Qd3 Rad8 26.Qe4

26.Nd7? Qb7 27.Rd2 Bh6! 28.Rd1 Nf4 +-.

26...Nd4! 27.Nc6

The rook couldn't move as after 27...Be5 a knight fork at f3 or c2 follows.

27...Rfe8??

27...Ne2+ 28.Qe2 Rfe8 and Black wins!

28.Qe8+ Re8 29.Re8+ Bf8 30.Nd4

Even faster was 30.Bh6 Ne6 31.Ne7+ Kh8 32.Re1! Qa4 33.Rb8 or 33.Re6 Qe8 34.Ng6+.

30...Kg7 31.b3 Bc5 32.Bb2 f6 33.Ne6+ Kf7 34.Nc5 bc 35.Rae1 g5 36.Rle7+ Kg6 1-0

37.Rg8+ Kh6 38.Rgg7 will mate.

White: Ganesan (2112)

Black: R. Smith (1859)

Vienna Game [C30]

In our two previous encounters, I had reached lost positions against Smith.

1.e4!

A departure from my usual 1.d4.

1...e5

Afraid of a prepared variation, Smith in turn avoids his favorite Caro-Kann.

2.Nc3

Unprepared for 1...c5, I felt Smith might

be less at home in this unfashionable opening.

2...Nf6 3.f4

I toyed with 3.Bc4 but the mainline leads to an obscure position where White is a Rook up but cedes the initiative.

3...d6?!

White's psychological choice of opening proves accurate, as Smith avoids the best move, 3...d5.

4.Bc4!?

Better is 4.fe de 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 and White is a tempo up from a similar position from the King's Gambit.

4...Ne4

Otherwise White will play d3 with a favorable form of the King's Gambit.

5.Ne4

5.fe Nc3 6.dc de5? 7.Bf7+ is a fantasy variation, as 6...Qh4+ is much stronger.

5...d5 6.Nf3 dc4

During the game, I thought 6...ef was stronger.

7.Ne5

Looking at this position, Alan Glasscoe (a Vienna enthusiast) chided me for doubling knights on the open file. Actually, White has a comfortable edge—he is ahead in development and the knights occupy central squares.

7...Bd6

Or 7...Qd4 8.Qe2; 7...Be6 8.Qe2 or 8.Ng5.

8.Nc4 Bf4 9.0-0

White keeps developing.

9...Qd4+ 10.Kh1 Bh6

10...Qe4?? 11.Re1; 10...Qc4 11.Rf4 and Black must lose a tempo defending against Nf6+.

11.Qe2 0-0

(2) I was more worried about 11...Be6, but 12.d3 Bc1 13.Rac1 Bc4 14.Nd6+ Kd8 15.Nc4 keeps the initiative.

12.c3 Qd5 13.d4 Bc1 14.Rac1 Bf5

14...Re8? 15.Nf6+; 14...Be6 15.b3.

15.Rf4

The defensive nature of this move apparently concealed its threat.

15...Nd7??

Smith looked relieved after this move, feeling he had equalized. Necessary

was 15...Be4 or 15...Bg6, although White is still better.

16.Ne3

Once again, the knights double on the open file, winning material.

16...Qe4

The best practical chance, although Black is still lost.

17.Re4 Be4 18.Nc4 f5 19.Ne5 Ne5 20.de c6

The rest of the game is uninteresting. Smith was in time pressure by now.

21.Rd1 Rad8 22.Kg1 Rd1+ 23.Od1 Bd5 24.b3 Re8 25.c4 Be6 26.Qd4 a6 27.Qb6 Bc8

Less passive is 27...Re7.

28.Kf2 h6 29.Qc7 Kf8 30.e6! Kg8? 31.Of7+ 1-0

Leading scores at the end of Rd. 5: A. Kaugars 4½ pts., S. Weiss, Ganesan, D. Barton 4.

Round Six

Black won decisively on both top boards. For the winners, Weiss and myself, qualification was almost assured.

White: A. Kaugars (2125)

Black: S. Weiss (2077)

Sicilian Defense [B33]

Annotations by Seggev Weiss [and Ganesan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cd 4.Nd4 e5

This move order avoids the Bf6 gf continuations of the Pelikan but allows White to play c4.

5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 b5 8.Nd5 Nf6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bf6 Bf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 0-0 13.Bd3

[Kaugars appears to be unfamiliar with the subtleties of this position. Most popular is 13.a4 ba 14.Ra4 a5 15.Bc4 Rb8 with a complicated struggle. Another setup is 13.Be2, followed by 0-0, Qd3 and Rfd1, keeping the option of a4 open]

13...Ne7!?

Even though all the moves up to here are "book", my opponent was already on time-pressure pace, so I decided to mix things up a bit. [13...Be6 may be best.]

14.h4 Bh6 15.g4?

[I was surprised to see this ugly move,

creating a hole at f4 and was expecting 15.Nce3.]

15...Nd5 16.ed

After 16.g5 Bg5 17.ed Bf4 or 17.hg Nf4 White doesn't have much for the pawn.

16...Bf4 17.Of3 f5 18.Bf5?? Bf5??

A comedy of errors. 18...g6 wins the Bishop-if it moves, 19...Bd2+.

19.gf Of6 20.Ne3 Be3 21.fe

After 21.Qe3 Qf5 Black's pieces are more active.

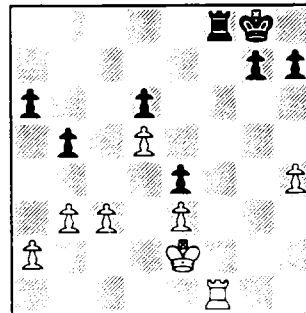
21...Of5 22.Of5 Rf5 23.Ke2 e4 24.Rad1 Rc8

24...Raf8 is probably better, but after 25.Rhf1 Rh5 26.Rf4! Rf4 27.ef Rh4 28.Ke3 Rh2 29.Rb1 it's not clear that Black can win; in a pawn endgame the black king will have difficulty penetrating.

25.Rhf1 Rcf8 26.b3

Hoping for c4 but never getting a chance!

26...Rf1 27.Rf1



Rc8! 28.Rf4

28.Rc1? Rc5. 28.Kd2? Rc5 29.Rf5 g6 30.Rg5 Kg7 followed by h6.

28...Rc3 29.Re4 Rc5!

Not 29...Rc2+ 30.Kf3 Ra2 31.Re6. This way, Black saves a tempo.

30.Rd4 Rc2+ 31.Rd2?

The pawn endgame is lost with best play, due to Black's outside passed pawn.

31...Rd2+ 32.Kd2 h6 33.Kd3

33.e4 g5 34.h5 Kf7 35.Ke3 gives better chances.

33...Kf7 34.Ke4 Kf6 35.Kf4?

35.b4 blocking the Queenside.

35...g5+ 36.hg hg+ 37.Ke4 b4 38.Kd4 Kf5 39.e4+ Kf6 40.e5+ de5 41.Kc5 Ke7 42.d6+ Kd7 43.Kd5 g4 0-1

White: D. Barton (2109)

Black: Ganesan (2112)

French Defense [C04]

1.d4 e6 2.e4

If 2.c4, besides 2...Nf6 and 2...f5, Black has 2...b6 and Keres' 2...Bb4+.

2...d5 3.Nd2 Nc6

The least popular of the respectable options.

4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Ne4

Hoping to catch my opponent off-guard. Sounder is 5...Nd7.

6.Bd3

Also good is 6.c3.

6...Nd2 7.Bd2 Nb4 8.Be2 8...c5 9.c3 Nc6 10.0-0 Qb6

At first, I wanted to play ...Be7 and ...0-0 right away but felt the text had more nuisance value. This proved correct—White went into a long think.

11.Qc2

Also 11.dc or 11.Qb3.

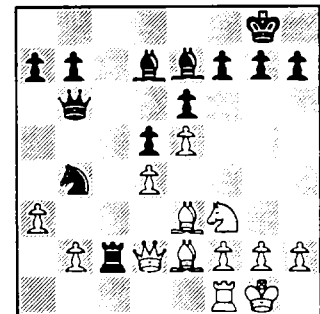
11...cd 12.cd Bd7

12...Nd4 13.Nd4 Qd4 14.Bb5+ looked too dangerous.

13.Be3 Rc8 14.Rac1 Be7 15.Qd2 0-0

Black has a solid position. I thought I would eventually have to play ...f6 to obtain counterplay but after White's passive play, I managed to get enough play on the queenside alone.

16.Rc2 Nb4 17.Rc8 Rc8 18.a3 Rc2!



A zwischenzug that allows Black to exchange his bad Bishop.

19.Qd1 Re2 20.Qe2 Bb5 21.Qd2 Bf1 22.Kf1 Nc6

White should still be able to hold, but now continues to play passively and also get short of time.

23.Qc2 a6

I wasn't sure if I could win after 23...Qb5+ 24.Ke1 Na5 25.Nd2 Nc4 26.Nc4 Qc4 27.Qc4 dc 28.a4 and decided to make a waiting move which allows ...b5 in some lines.

INNOVATIVE OPENINGS

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

The Reggio Emilia tournament, a strong Category 16 event that ended in January was won by Estonian Grandmaster Jaan Ehlevest. Both Lajos Portisch and the Bay Area's own Nick deFirmian finished with a slight minus score. Their individual encounter, however, was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the event. Portisch is certainly one of the hardest-working Grandmasters and has introduced many important opening novelties in his career. In this game, Portisch comes up with a new idea in a seemingly innocuous position. Soon, deFirmian finds himself facing a rampaging attack reminiscent of 19th century chess.

White: GM Lajos Portisch
Black: GM Nick deFirmian
**Queen's Indian
Defense [E14]**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6

The Queen's Indian truly came into its own in the 1980's. For a long time, it was assumed to be an inferior cousin to the Nimzoindian. White players would play 3.Nf3 only when they were satisfied with a solid but unambitious position. It was equally assumed that once Black played 3...b6, he could draw without difficulty. Bobby Fischer, to whom draws were anathema, always avoided the Queen's Indian, preferring to transpose to the Queen's Gambit (3...d5) or Benoni (3...c5).

In the 1970's, however, Hübner's blockading variation started causing problems for exponents of the White side of the Nimzoindian while other variations had also been analyzed to death. More and more players switched to 3.Nf3, finding that they could enter uncharted territory in the Queen's Indian as early as move four. For example, witness Vaganian's and Kasparov's successes with 4.a3 and Miles' with 4.Bf4. In turn, Black started

meeting 4.g3 by 4...Ba6 instead of the standard 4...Bb7.

4.e3

Although this system often leads to nearly symmetrical positions, it does require difficult strategic decisions to be made by both sides in the resulting middlegames. White usually winds up with an advantage in space and some attacking chances in return for hanging pawns or an isolated pawn. Portisch is one of the leading enthusiasts of this variation.

4...Bb7 5.Bd3 c5

Black can also adopt a more aggressive stance by playing ...d5, ...Bd6 and avoiding ...c5, as popularized by Dzindzichasvili and Miles. This can lead to spectacular Kingside crushes by Black, as exemplified by Supplementary Game 1.

6.0-0 Be7 7.Nc3

Another major subvariation occurs after 6.Nbd2, followed by b3. White can then play Ne5 and Ndf3, maintaining his strongpoint. See Supplementary Game 2.

7...d5

A popular choice. Also playable is 7...cd 8.ed d5 e.g. 9.cd Nd5 10.Nd5 (or 10.Bb5+ Bc6 11.Bc4 0-0 12.Qe2 Nc3 13.bc Bd5= Gurevich-Yudasin, USSR Ch. 1986) 10...Bd5 11.Ne5 0-0 12.Qh5 f5 13.Qe2, Speelman-Short, Hastings 1983/84 and now 13...Bf6 was better than the game continuation 13...Nd7 14.Nc6 Qe8 15.Bf4. Black can also play hedgehog fashion via 7...d6 as in Supplementary Game 3.

8.b3

In a game from their 1974 match, Korchnoi gave Mecking hanging pawns by 8.Qe2 0-0 9.dc bc 10.Rd1 Qb6 11.cd ed but Black maintained equality after 12.b3 Nbd7 13.Bb2 Rfe8. In a recent postal game, my opponent came up with an unusual plan: 8.Ne5 (this move is better when White has played Nbd2) 8...0-0 9.a4?! Nc6 = 10.Nc6 (10.cd) 10...Bc6 11.a5? (Consistent but pointless) 11...cd 12.ed dc 13.Bc4 ba (White

has little compensation for his weak d-pawn) 14.Be3 Qc7 (with ...Bg2 threatened) 15.d5? Rfd8 16.d6? (Losing another pawn) 16...Bd6 (threatening ...Bh2+ winning the Queen) 17.Qb3 Bh2+ 0-1 (18.Kh1 Ng4 intending ...Bg1 is tough to meet) Elrichs-Ganesan, Golden Knights' 1989.

8...0-0 9.Bb2 Nc6

A model game for both sides was Petrosian-Karpov, San Antonio 1972: 9...cd 10.Nd4 (10.ed is more enterprising) 10...dc 11.Bc4 a6 12.Be2 b5 13.Bf3 Ra7 14.Bb7 Rb7 15.Qf3 Rd7 16.a4 ba 17.Na4 Qc7 18.Rfc1 Qb7 19.Nc5 Qf3 20.gf Bc5 21.Rc5 h6 22.Kg2 Rb7 23.f4 Kh7 24.Rac1 Rd8 25.R1c2 Ne4 26.Rc7 Rd7 27.Rb7 Rb7 28.Ba3 g5 29.Kf3 Nf6 Drawn. This game was almost certainly agreed drawn beforehand, though, and should not be taken too seriously.

10.Re1

Another common setup is Qe2 followed by Rfd1. Portisch has something specific in mind.

10...Rc8 11.Rc1 cd 12.ed Re8

A useful move for Black, who intends to follow up by ...g6, ...Bf8-g7 to shore up his Kingside. In the famous Keres-Smyslov Zurich 1953 encounter (Supplementary Game 4), Black played 12...Nb4 13.Bf1 Ne4. Needing a win, Keres went on to offer a Rook sacrifice, which Smyslov declined, striking in the center instead. Keres was not averse to reaching the position after 12.ed later against Darga at Bled 1961 and presumably had an improvement ready. Darga responded with 12...Re8 as in our game.

13.cd

A Portisch improvement on 13.Ne5, which gave Keres only equality after 13...dc 14.Nc6 Bc6 15.bc against Darga.

13...Nd5 14.Nd5 Qd5

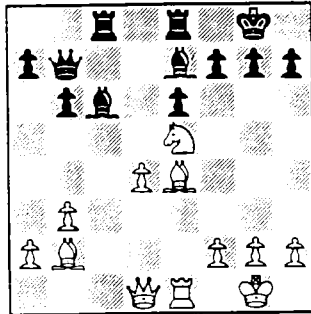
This recapture looks natural, but Black could have avoided the worst by 14...ed.

15.Be4 Qd7

And here, hindsight suggests 15...Qd6.

16.Rc6! Bc6 17.Ne5 Qb7

by Ganesan



18.Bh7+!

The point. deFirmian may have only been expecting piece exchanges after 18.Nc6.

18...Kf8

18...Kh7 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Qf7+ Kh7 21.Re3 Bh4 (or 21...Bg5 22.Rh3+ Bh6 23.Rh6+) 22.Qh5+ Kg8 23.Rh3 is gruesome.

19.Qh5 Bb4 20.Bd3!

Portisch continues to handle the attack vigorously. Now if 20...Be1 21.Ba3+

20...g6 21.Qh6+ Ke7

21...Kg8 also meets the same response.

22.d5! Be1

Black might as well take the Rook, as 22...Bd5 23.Qh4+ is a double attack.

23.Ba3+ Kd8 24.Qh4+ Kc7

Or 24...Re7 25.Nf7+ Ke8 (25...Kc7 26.Bd6+ Kd7 27.Qe7#) 26.Nd6+.

25.dc6 Oa8 26.Qf6

Commenting on this position in his New York Times' column, Robert Byrne said that "Black's predicament was so awful it was laughable."

26...b5 27.Bc5 Rcd8 28.Qf7+ Kc8 29.Bb5 a6 30.Qd7+ 1-0

A triumph of mind over matter. At the end, less accurate was 30.Bb6 Bf2+! 31.Bf2 ab5.

Supplementary Material

If you're interested in the Queen's Indian, BCO 2 provides a succinct coverage of recent praxis. A more detailed treatment can be found in Ribli and Kallai's "Winning with the Queen's Indian". Earlier monographs are avail-

able, but rather outdated.

Supplementary Game 1: Dizdarevic-Miles, Biel 1985

4.e3 Bb7 5.Bd3 d5 6.b3 (as an antidote to Black's system, Farago has suggested 6.0-0 Bd6 7.b4) **6...Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bb2 Nbd7 9.Nbd2** (interesting is 9.Ne5; another alternative is 9.Nc3 a6 e.g. 10.Rc1 Qe7 11.Bb1 c5 Hübner-Razuvaev, London 1984 or 10.Qe2 Ne4 Spassky-Miles, Bugojno 1984) **9...Ne4 10.Qc2** (10.Qe2 a6 11.Rad1 Qe7 12.Bb1 f5 13.Ne5 Nikolic-Dzindzichasvili, Amsterdam 1978) **10...f5 11.Rad1?? Nd2! 12.Nd2** (12.Qd2 dc 13.Bc4 Bf3 14.Be6+ Kh8 15.gf3 Bh2+ 16.Kh2 Qh4+ 17.Kg2 Qg5+ 18.Kh2 Rf6 -) **12...dc 13.Nc4 Bh2+! 14.Kh2 Oh4+ 15.Kg1 Bf3!!** (15...Bg2 16.f3) **16.Nd2** (16.Be2 Bg2; 16.Rfe1 Rf6 17.gf Qh3; 16.gf Qg5+ 17.Kh2 Rf6) **16...Bg2 17.f3** (17.Kg2 Qg4+ 18.Kh1 Rf6) **17...Rf6! 18.Nc4** (18.Ne4 fe 19.Qg2 ed) **18...Bh3! 0-1** (19.Qf2 Rg6+ 20.Kh2 Qh5 -+)

Supplementary Game 2: Keres-Taimanov, Tallinn 1975

4.e3 Bb7 5.Bd3 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.b3 c5 8.Bb2 cd 9.ed d5 10.Nbd2 Nc6 (10...Ne4! led to a quick draw in Karpov-Portisch, Malta 1980) **11.Rc1 Rc8 12.Qe2** (12.Re1 Re8 13.Ne5 Bf8 14.Ndf3, Karpov-Andersson, Tilburg 1980- Black might have improved by 13...Ne5 14.de Nd7; 13.a3 dc 14.bc g6 15.Bb1 Bf8= Torre-Gheorghiu, Wijk aan Zee 1981) **12...Re8 13.Rfd1 Bf8 14.Qe3** (preparing Ne5; 14.a3 -planning c5- 14...g6 15.h3 Bg7? -better was 15...dc 16.bc Bh6 17.Rc2 Nh5! - 16.c5! bc 17.dc e5 18.Bb5 with an advantage, Portisch-Helmers, Malta 1980) **14...g6 15.h3 Nh5?! (15...Ne7!?!; 15...Nd7 Portisch-Petrosian, Moscow 1981) 16.Nf1** (16.g4!?! Nf6 17.Ne5) **16...Qd6 17.N1h2 Bg7** (17...Qf4!?) **18.Ne5! dc 19.bc Ne5 20.de Qc5 21.Bd4 Qc6 22.Bf1 Red8 23.Ng4 Rd7 24.Rd2 Rcd8 25.Rcd1 Qe4 26.Qc3 Qc6 27.Be3 Bf8 28.Bg5 Rd2 29.Rd2 Rd7 30.Nh6+ Kg7** (30...Kh8 31.Rd6) **31.Ng4?! (31.Rd7!**

Qd7 32.Be2! Be7 33.Bc1 Kf8 34.Bh5 gh 35.Qg3 Qd1+ 36.Kh2 Ke8 37.Bg5 +-) **31...Kg8 32.Rd3 Rd3 33.Qd3 Qc7 34.Be2 Be7 35.Be7 Qe7 36.Qd6! Qf8** (36...Qd6 37.ed Kf8 38.Bd1!) **37.Qc7 Be4** (37...Qc8 38.Qe7) **38.Qa7 Qa8 39.Qe7!?** (39.Qa8+ Ba8 40.Nf6+) **39...Kg7** (39...Qa2 40.Nh6+ Kg7 41.Qf7+ Kh6 42.Qf8+) **40.Qg5?! (40.Nf6!) 40...Qa2 41.Kh2 Qb2?** (41...Kf8) **42.Qh6+ Kg8 43.Qe3 Bb1 44.Nh6+ Kf8** (44...Kg7 45.g4 Nf4 46.Qf4 Qe2 47.Qf7+ Kh6 48.Qf8+ Kg5 49.Kg3) **45.g4 (45.c5!) 45...Ng7 46.c5! b5** (46...bc 47.Qc5+ Ke8 48.Qc8+ Ke7 49.Ng8#) **47.c6 Ne8 48.Qf4 Bf5 49.gf ef 50.Qe3 Nc7 51.Bf3 b4 52.Kg2 Qc3 53.Qa7! Qe5 54.Qb8+ 1-0** (54...Kg7 55.Qh8+; 54...Ke7 55.Ng8+)

Supplementary Game 3: Ivkov-Romanishin, Moscow 1985

4.e3 c5 5.Bd3 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Nc3 g6 10.Qe2 a6 11.Rad1 Bb7 12.Bb1 Qc7 13.e4 Rfe8 14.Rfe1 cd 15.Nd4 Rad8 16.h3 Bf8 17.Qe3 Qb8 18.Kh1 Bg7 19.f4!?! Nh5!?! 20.Rf1 Qa8 21.g4!?! Nh6 22.Kg1 Nc5 23.Rde1 Qb8 24.Qf2 (24.e5 de 25.fe Nfd7 26.b4? Ne5! 27.bc Nc4) **24...Ba8 25.b4?! (25.e5? Qb7 26.Kh2 de 27.fe Rd4) 25...Ncd7 26.Nf3 Rf8 27.f5? (27.Bd3) 27...Rfe8! 28.g5?! Nh5 29.f6 Bf8 30.a3 Qc7 31.Nd2 Ne5 32.Rc1 Qb8 33.Ne2?! d5 34.cd ed 35.Ng3? Nd3! 36.Bd3 Ng3 37.e5 Nf1 38.Nf3 d4! 39.Nd4 Qe5 40.Bf1 Rd4! 0-1** (41.Qd4 Qg5+ 42.Kf2 Re4)

Supplementary Game 4: Keres-Smyslov, Zürich 1953

4.e3 Be7 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 c5 7.Nc3 cd 8.ed d5 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Rc1 Rc8 12.Re1 Nb4 13.Bf1 Ne4 14.a3 Nc3 15.Rc3 Nc6 16.Ne5?! (16.cd Qd5 17.Bc4 Qd6 -better 17...Qh5- 18.d5 Na5 19.Nd4 Zhidkov-Gulko, USSR 1971) 16...Ne5 17.Re5 (17.de) 17...Bf6 18.Rh5 g6 19.Rch3!?! dc! (19...gh 20.Qh5 Re8 21.a4!) 20.Rh7? (20.Qg4; 20.Rh6) 20...c3! 21.Qc1 Qd4 22.Qh6 Rfd8 23.Bc1 Bg7 24.Qg5 Qf6 25.Qg4 c2 26.Be2 Rd4 27.f4 Rd1+ 28.Bd1 Qd4+ 0-1

SWITCHING to 1. d4!

by FM Craig Mar

Sometime around 1984 I stopped opening with 1.e4. Why? It's hard to say, maybe I felt uncomfortable with the super-sharp lines White is often compelled to select against the Sicilian. In Los Angeles during this period I played 1.Nf3, 1.g3, or 1.c4 without regard to the opponent, and also in postal chess. These English-Reti systems could transpose to Queen's Gambits, Tarraschs, or King's Indians. In 1985 I stopped shadow boxing and played 1.d4 on the first move. At first I was confused with the new positions but as they became more familiar a certain understanding developed.

I had just as much chance to gain the initiative as with my old move but with fewer quick and deadly attacks such as with Sozin Sicilians, King's Gambits, or Max Langes. But I had a feeling of greater control. Black couldn't launch the Schliemann Attack (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5!), Marshall Gambit, or Polugaevsky Najdorf, openings where Black can be aggressive and open up the game. Openings like the King's Indian, Benko, and Benoni are no less aggressive but White can close the game with d5 and keep the lid on Black's play. By playing d4 as White, I learned how to face 1.d4 as Black.

Against Gorman at the '88 Bagby, my opening studies paid off. The mistakes make it all the more exciting in the following game.

White: FM Craig Mar (2509)

Black: FM Dov Gorman (2465)

Benoni [A67]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6?!

Considered dubious by theory thanks to Kasparov's vigorous treatment. Black generally plays 2...e6 first then 3...c5.

4.Nc3 ed5 5.cd5 g6 6.e4 d6 7.f4!

**The Taimanov system. By first insert-
FM Craig Mar consistently ranks
among the nation's top 50 chess
players, and is currently applying to
Law School.**

ing 2...e6 and waiting for 3.Nf3 black precludes 7.f4! because the N(f3) blocks the f pawn.

7...Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4!

A modern refinement attributed to Kasparov. 9.Bd3, Taimanov's move, is also good.

9...0-0 10.Nf3 Na6 11.0-0 Nc7 12.Be2?

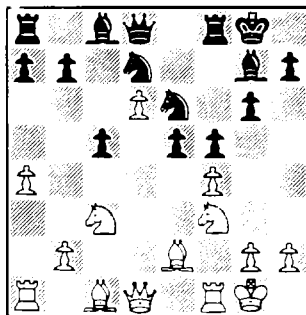
White faithfully follows Kasparov's method in Kasparov-Kuipers at the World Junior in 1980, but it reflects my misunderstanding of the position. Instead, 12.Bd7! followed by f5 a la Kasparov-Nunn; Lucerne 1982, would lead to a strong attack.

12...f5?!

This wreckless sally leads to chaotic play.

13.e5! de5 14.d6 Ne6!

The alternative, 14...Ne8, leaves black bottled up after 15.fe5 and if 15...Ne5?, then 16.Ne5 Be5 17.Qd5+! winning.



15.Qb3?

I thought I was better, but Black's major resource is the murkiness of the position. Instead, 15.Bc4! busts Black. a) 15...Nb6 16.Ba2 e4 17.Ng5 Bd4 18.Kh1 Qd6 19.a5 winning, or b) 16...Kh8 17.a5 ef5 18.ab Qb6 and Black's three pawns don't quite add up to the piece.

15...c4! 16.Bc4 Ndc5 17.Qa2 ef4

An active defense.

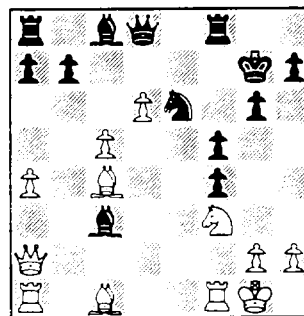
18.b4!? Bc3

Solid, but 18...Ne4!? continues the descent into the "Twilight Zone." I quickly dismissed 18...Ne4 because 19.Be6 is check, but after 19...Kh8 20.Ne4 fe4 21.Ng5! Qg5 22.d7 Bd7 23.Bd7 Black

has practical chances with connected passed pawns.

19.bc Kg7!

Gorman refuses to take the exchange. The pawn structure is now well-defined and positional play takes place.



20.Ba3!

Again White offers the Greek gift, but if Black accepts it, White will have a winning attack. It's quite simple, and there's no calculation involved. If 19...Ba1 20.Qa1 Kh6 White is down a clear exchange. But in this case the "boxing ring" has shrunk, as violent action takes place around Black's King. Black's R(a8) spectates, and White's superior force in the attacking zone should prevail.

20...Re8

Dov agrees.

21.Qb3 Bf6 22.Rad1

White now has a winning position.

22...Bd7 23.Qb7 Played quickly.

23...Qc8 24.Qc8?

But this lemon was played instantly. 24.Bd5! was indicated.

24...Rac8 25.Bb5?

White gives up most of his advantage but the refutation takes time to find.

25...Red8?

Black could have equalized with 24...Nc5! 26.Bc5 Bb5 27.d7 Rc5!, a tricky resource I originally missed, and both passed pawns are eliminated.

26.Rd5?!

At this point I just started hanging things!

continued on p. 22

East Coast Connection

by Joel Salman

White: IM Walter Shipman (2412)
Black: Joel Salman (2125)
 Manhattan Chess Club 2/3/90
Queen's Gambit, Tarrasch [E06]
1.d4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 c5
5.c4

(For some reason I expected 5.c3.) Now it is a Tarrasch, which I know even less about from the Black side than I do from the White. I resolved to do a few things here:

1. Let him make the pawn exchanges. I would accept the isolani in order to get my pieces out quickly.
2. All I do know about the Tarrasch is that Black is supposed to play actively with his pieces, so this is what I would strive to do.

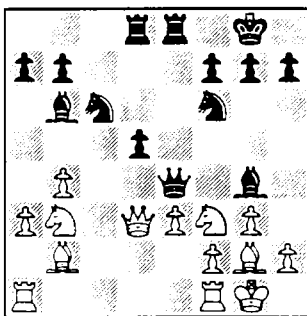
5...Nc6 6.0-0 Be7 7.cd ed 8.dc Bc5
9.a3 0-0 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb2 Re8
12.Nbd2

ECO gives 12.Nc3 followed by Na4. Shipman aims to blockade at d4, which may be OK but it is a slow plan.

12...Qc7 13.e3?!

If 13.Re1?? then Bf2! 14.Kf2 Qe3 15.Kf1 Ng4 mates for Black. The text allows Black to equalize by threatening to push ...d5-d4.

13...Bg4 14.Nb3 Rad8 15.Qd3 Qe4!



Not fearing the ending, and threatening the knight on f3,

16.Qe4 de 17.Nfd2 Bf5

Former Assistant Editor Joel Salman now resides in Long Island, N.Y. and is the editor of an East Coast-based online medical journal.

I considered 17...Be2 18.Re1 Bd3 but was worried about 19.Nc5 or 19.Rc1 followed by Nc4 or Nc5. I could not make work 17...Rd3 and 17...Be6 due to tactical considerations revolving around Bxf6 and then either Bxc6 or Nxe4-f6+ xg4.

18.Bf6 gf 19.b5 Na5 20.Na5 Ba5
21.Nc4 Bc7!

The bishop holds the knight at bay, and can control c7 from several different vantage points. Black has good chances on the d-file and would be winning if it were not for his weak K-side pawns.

22.Rfd1 Be6 23.Bf1 Bg4 24. Rd2
 I wondered about 24.Rdc1, but Shipman's move is clever. 24...Rd2
25.Nd2 Ba5 26.Nc4 Bc7 27.Ra2! Rd8
28.Rd2 Rd2 29.Nd2 f5 30.f3!?

A good attempt to confuse me, as this is the last move of the first control and I only had a few minutes left. I decided here to not yield the two bishops, even if my light Bishop will be out of play for

a while. 30...ef31.Kf2 Kg7 32.h3 Bh5
33.Bc4! Kf6!

Better than ...f6, when the f5 pawn become harder to defend.

34.Bd5

Allowing a shot to strengthen Black's Q-side. A look at the position reveals that while the ...Bh5 is out of play, sooner or later White must recapture on f3, which will release the bishop.

34...a6!

Much better than ...b6.

35.b6

Another try was 35.ba ba 36.Bb7 a5 37.Nc4 when the dark bishop is less active. In this line note that 36...Bd6? is met by 37.Nc4. If 36.Bc4?! Bd6! and now if 37.a4 a5, 37.Ba6 Ba3 and 37.Nb1? either ...a5 or ...Bg6 followed by ...f4. Also possible was the straight-forward 35.Bb7 ab 36.Bc6 Bd6.

35...Bb6 36.Bb7 Bc5 37.Nc4 a5 38.a4
Bb4 39.Bc8 Bg6

continued on p. 22

Berkeley Wins Regionals Yu and Ganesan Co-Champs

What do billiards, bowling, table tennis, foos ball, and chess all have in common? They are games people play, specifically college students. Yes, just when you thought you had heard the last of collegiate chess, Pan-American Intercollegiate champs U.C. Berkeley has won another chess team tournament. On March 3 to 4, the 1990 Regional Recreation Tournament, sponsored by the Association of College Unions-International, was held at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. The festivities included a twelve-man collegiate chess tournament with teams from U.C. Berkeley, Fresno State, San Jose State University, as well as individual participants from Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Fullerton, De Anza Col-

lege and CSU Sacramento.

After four rounds, co-champs Peter Yu (2237) and Ganesan (2092) both emerged with perfect scores because team members could not be paired against each other. The rest of the individual placers were Vladimir Caruz (1808) of San Jose and Benjamin Chong (Unr.) of Fresno, each tied for third place. Needless to say, U.C. Berkeley "A" won first, followed by Fresno State and San Jose State in equal second, and U.C. Berkeley "B" in fourth. ACUI Region 15 includes colleges from California, Nevada, and Hawaii, and ACUI Chess Tournament Director Peter Yu expects next year's regionals to be at U.C. Irvine.

OPENING REFUTATION:

Death of the Chigorin's Defense

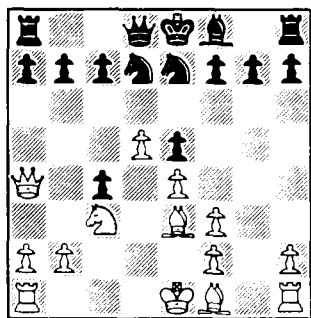
White: Vladimir Strugatsky (2531)

Black: IM Marc Leski (2551)

Palo Alto City Championship, January 21, 1990

Chigorin's Defense [D07]

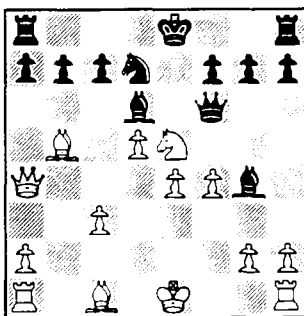
1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6? The death of my pet line is a sad story. It has completely disappeared from the international chess scene. In Reykjavik, 1986, the first deadly blow was delivered by the Dutch IM Gert Ligterink in his game vs. G. Halldarsson (Iceland) **3.Nc3! Nf6! 3...dc 4.Nf3!** transposes back into the text, but **4.d5** is also strong. **4.Nf3! dc 5.e4! Bg4 6.Be3 Bf3 6...c6!?** is the last hope for Chigorin devotees. **7.gf e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Qa4! Nd7!**



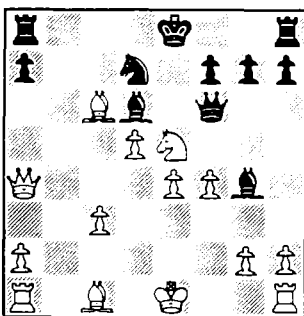
Black plans to set up a dream-like blockade on the dark squares with ...Ng6, ...a6, ...Bd6, ...Qe7, and ...Nf4! But Ligterink comes up with a crushing theoretical novelty (TN)... **10.d6!! cd 11.Bc4** The threat is **12.Qb3**, highlighting the weakness of the light squares in the Black position. **11...d5!** Black must obstruct the diagonal a2-g8. If instead **11...a6? 12.Qb3 d5 13.Nd5 b5 14.Nf6!! +- 12.Nd5 Nc6 13.Rg1! Rc8!** If **13...a6?, 14.0-0-0 b5 15.Bb5! ab 16.Qa8! +- 14.Rd1! Qa5 15.Qa5 Na5 16.Bf1!** With the unstoppable threat **17.Bh3!** Of course, no one dared to play the Black side of this lost queenless middlegame

IM Marc Leski, originally from France, now resides in Berkeley and works for a chess computer company. Leski enjoys teaching chess

anymore, and after this massacre Chigorin fans switched back to the discredited... **4...Bg4!?** The main line runs: **5.cd Nd5 6.e4 Nc3! 7.bc e5! 8.d5 Nb8 9.Qa4! Nd7 10.Ne5 Qf6 11.f4(?)** As **11.Ng4!?** **Qc3 12.Kd1 Qa1 13.Bb5! 0-0-0! 14.Bd7 Rd7 15.Qa7 c6!** is fine for Black, **11.f4** looks like the only move, but more about this later. **11...Bd6 12.Bb5!**

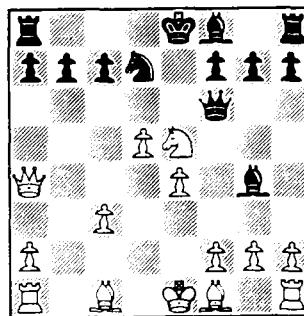


in ECO vol. D (first edition), Mineev only gave **12...Be5 13.fe Qe5 14.0-0** intending **15.Bf4** or **15.Ba3** with a clear advantage for White. **12...c6!!** A great move by FM J. Boey (Belgium). **13.dc bc 14.Bc6**



It appears that Black is lost, but... **14...0-0!!** The idea of **12...c6!!** is revealed. **15.Bd7!** White should not lose his way in the complications, e.g. A. **15.Ng4!?** **Qc3 16.Ke2 Nb6 17.Qb3 Qc6** with compensation for the sacrificed material. B. **15.Ba8!?** **Ne5 16.fe Be5 17.Bd2 Bc3** and Black has a strong initiative. **15...Be5 16.fe Qh4 17.g3!**

White should not play the greedy **17.Kf1? Bd7 18.Qd7 Rad8 19.Qa4 Rd3!** when Black has a winning attack, e.g. **20.Qc2 Rfd8 +-**, or **20.g3 Qg4! +-**. **17...Bd7 18.gh Ba4** The endgame is dead drawn, as in the games Paltro-Boey, Postal 1985; Fedorowicz-Leski, Montpellier 1987; and Gulko-Andruet, New York 1987. But once more Black had to come back to reality! In the summer of 1987, WGM Pia Cramling (Sweden) came up with the complete demolition of this line against FM C. Landenbergue (Switzerland) in Biel:



Instead of **11.f4(?)** or **11.Ng4!?**, Pia played **11.Be2!!** The point that everyone had missed was that if **11...Qe5 12.Bg4 Qc3? 13.Bd2 Qa1 14.Ke2** and Black can safely resign. Landenbergue played **11...Bd6** and quickly lost after **12.Bg4(!)** At the Pan-American Pacific tournament in San Francisco, 1987, a few months later, IM Guillermo Rey caught me with **11.Be2!!** After forty minutes, I realized that my dream was destroyed. I could not find anything better than **11...c6**, when Rey played the simple **12.dc! Qe5 13.cd Bd7 14.Qd4** with a pawn up and the initiative. Black has also tried **11...b5**, but suffered the same misfortune!

SUMMARY:

A. After **3. Nc3 Nf6! 4.Nf3 dc 5.e4 Bg4 6.Be3 Bf3 7.gf e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.Qa4 Nd7 10.d6!!** and Black is lost.

B. If Black varies with **4...Bg4 5.cd Nd5 6.e4 Nc3 7.bc e5 8.d5 Nb8 9.Qa4**

by International Master Marc Leski

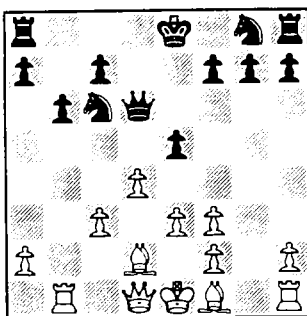
Nd7 10.Ne5 Qf6 11.Be2!!, White wins.

Black's only hope is to play, in Line A, the less-analyzed 6...e6.

If 3.Nc3! is so strong, you may wonder why I am writing an article on this game, with 3.Nf3. There are two main reasons: 1) This position can be reached through different move orders, 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c4 or 1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nc6 3.c4, etc. 2) Strugatsky demonstrates that 3.Nf3! is at least as dangerous for Black as 3.Nc3!

After this long digression, back to my game with Strugatsky!

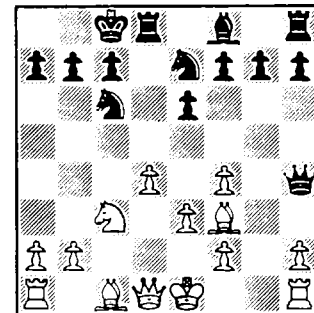
3.Nf3! Bg4 4.cd! Bf3 If instead 4...Qd5?, then 5.Nc3 Qa5 6. d5 0—0—07.Bd2 with a clear advantage for White. **5.gf!** If 5.dc Bc6 6.Nc3 e6! 7. e4 Bb4 8.f3 Qh4 9.g3 and now both 9...Qh5 or 9...Qf6 followed by 10...0—0—0! give Black the initiative in a very sharp middlegame. **5...Qd5 6.e3 e6!?** An idea of Yugoslavian GM Dragutin Sahovic. Kasparov—Smyslov, Candidates' Match, 11th game, Vilnius 1984, continued 6...e5 7.Nc3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Bc3 9.bc Qd6!? 10.Rb1 b6



The future world champion played the energetic 11.f4!!, a key move in this variation, and after 11...ef 12.e4, White had a strong initiative. Smyslov miraculously escaped with a draw, but did not wish to repeat the experience (see Informant 37/405)! In Botterill-Flear, British Championship 1984, Black tried to improve on 9...Qd6 with 9...ed 10.cd

Nge7 11.Be2 0-0 (I tried 11...0—0—0! against Flear in Geneva, 1985, but after 12.Qb3! Rhe8 13.Rb1! Qb3 14.Rb3, the fight between the bishop pair and the two knights turned to White's advantage) 12.Qc2 Rad8 13.Rb1 Qg5? "Start of the attack..." 14.Kf1! Qh4 15.h3! b6 16.f4! "...and end of the attack!" as Tarrasch used to say. White threatened Rb5 followed by Rh5, and the pressure of his bishops could already be felt. Flear quickly lost. Back to the game! **7.Nc3 Qh5!?** Black can also try 7...Bb4!?, as in Polugayevsky-Ye Ronggeing, Lucerne 1985 (Informant 40/453). **8.Be2!!** White plans to put his bishop on the diagonal h1-a8 without trading the queens off. Of course, Strugatsky plays for a win (This was the fourth and final round. Strugatsky, Mar and I were 3—0, and Mar looked like he had a good game against Renard Anderson). Our previous game from the Continental Action (San Mateo 1989) ended in a draw, as in the stem game Gligoric-Sahovic, Bled/Portoroz 1979. After 8.f4 (Sahovic voluntarily exchanged queens on the assumption that his better pawn structure—and slightly faster development—would balance the bishop pair.) 8...Qd1!? 9.Kd1 0—0—0 10.Ke2 (In Karpov-Miles, Tilburg 1986, White got a slight edge after 10. Bd2 Nf6 11.Bb5 Ne7 12.Ke2 Nf5 13.Rac1 Be7(?) 14. Bd3 Kb8 15. Rhg1 g6(?)—Informant 41/425, but by following Sahovic's example, Black can easily improve.) 10...Nf6! (An instructive idea. Instead of bringing the KN to e7 and f5/g6, Black anticipates the desirability of Nce7-f5, providing for ...c6 if necessary to neutralize the c-file. Also, he retains the option of ...g5. With the same idea, the direct 10...Ne7 is interesting, as in Saily-Leski, Mazatlan 1988. See Chess Life, April, 1989) 11.Bg2 Ne7 12.Bd2 Nf5 13.Rhc1 (13.Rac1 is a definite improvement) 13...Kb8 14.Na4 h6! and Black soon played ...g5 with a good game. So,

after this last theoretical escape, back to the game! **8...0—0—0!?** Logical, as the white king will have to stay in the center. **9.f4 Qh4** The black king is not a bad target either, as Strugatsky now demonstrates. **10.Bf3! Nge7** Unfortunately, Black would leave his monarch too isolated after the optimistic 10...Nce7? (with the queens on the board, I can't copy Sahovic any more). Strugatsky understands this nuance, as his next move shows:



11.b4!! Very strong, as Black misses his white-squared bishop to defend his king. **11...g5!** Black opts for active defense. The alternatives are quite uninspiring:

A. 11...Nb4? 12.Bb7! Kb7 13.Qb3 Nd5 (13...Nc6? 14.a3 a5 15.ab Bb4 16.Ra5! +- or 15...ab 16.Qa4! +-) 14.Nd5 Rd5 15.a3 gives White a strong attack.

B. 11...Nd5? 12.Nd5 ed 13.b5 Ne7 14.Qb3! with the unpleasant threat 15.Ba3!, pressuring d5, is deadly.

12.fg? I expected 12.b5! (this should transpose to the game after 12...Nb4! 13.fg Bg7!), but Strugatsky decides to give me the choice of unsound (?) sacrifices on d4! **12...Bg7!** Pointing out the weakness of the diagonal a1-h8. **13.b5** "Please take me!" says the pawn on d4. **13...Nb4?** Strugatsky thought for more than an hour (!) on his two previous moves. So, I trusted him and continued on p. 14

from p. 13

played the pragmatic 13...Nb4? immediately. It appears that we were both (!) wrong in our assessment of 13...Nd4, as after 14.ed Black has 14...Rd4! (suggested by IM Julio Kaplan), threatening ...Rc4. (I must confess that during the game I only considered the weak 14...Bd4? 15.Qc2 +-) 15.Qc2! (15.Qb3? Rd3 —+, or 15.Bd2 Rhd8 —+) 15...Rc4, and now:

A. 16.Bd2 Rd8 17.Rc1 Nf5 gives Black a winning attack.

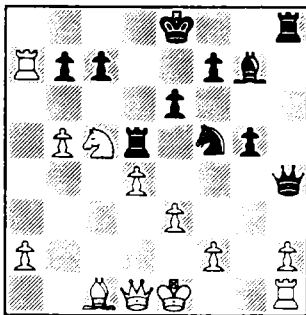
B. 16.Bb2 Nf5 looks difficult, too, for White, as 17.0—0—0? loses to 17...Qf4.

Any suggestions, improvements? Readers, help me!

14.Ne4! White covers the pawns g5, f2 and clears the dangerous a1-h8 diagonal—not bad for a single move!

14...Nf5 If 14...Bd4? 15.ed Rd4, hoping for 16.Qd4?? Nc2 —+ or 16.Bd2?? Re4 —+ or 16.Nd2?? Nd3 —+; but after the simple 16.Qe2 Nd3 17.Kf1, Black does not have enough compensation for the sacrificed piece.

15.Rab1 White can now resume the attack initiated by 11.b4!! **15...Nd5** Threatening to take on e3. If instead 15...Bd4? 16.ed Rd4 17.Qe2, I still could not find a decent follow-up, and if 15...Na2?? 16.Bd2, the knight is trapped. **16.Rb3** The pawn e3 is well-guarded and White threatens 17.Ra3. However, all these strong moves cost Strugatsky a lot of time. He now faced the difficult task of playing 29(!) moves in five minutes (the time control was 45/2). **16...h6!** If 16...e5? 17.Ng3!, the white squares are too weak. I now hoped for 17.gh? Bh6, when Black keeps the initiative. **17.Ra3! hg 18.Ra7! Kd7** The black king must now look for shelter on the kingside as 18...Kb8 is suicidal after 19.Qa4 Nb6 20.Rb7!! Kb7 21.Qa6 Kb8 22.Nc5 Nd6 23.Nb7! (threatening both 24.Nd6 and 24.Na5) 23...Qh3! 24.Na5! Qf3 25.Nc6 Qc6 26.bc, when Black cannot meet the deadly threat 27.Ba3. Also, if 18...Nde3 or 18...Nfe3??, then 19.Be3 Ne3 20.Nc5! c6 21.b6 Be5 22.Ra8 Bb8 23.Qa4!, and Black can safely resign. **19.Nc5 Ke8 20.Bd5 Rd5**



21.Ra8?? In the postmortem, Strugatsky explained that since he was a pawn up, and under heavy time pressure, it seemed that trading off material was the simplest way to victory. Alas, by doing so White trades his most active piece for Black's most passive!

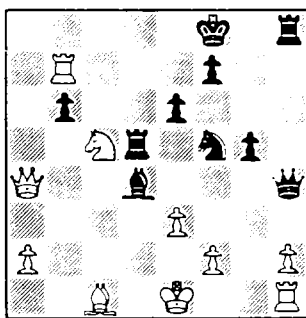
White's task after 20...Rd5 is by no means easy, as Black threatens to take on d4, e.g.:

A. 21.Nb7?? Nd4 22.Ra8 Kd7 23.Rh8 Bh8 and 24.ed loses to 24...Qe4 (a recurrent theme in this game).

B. 21.Rb7?? Nd4 22.ed Bd4 23.Nd3 Bc3!, followed by ...Qe4 —+.

But White missed a beautiful win with a line-clearing combination.

C. 21.b6!! cb 22.Rb7! (Not 22.Qa4? Ke7 23.Rb7 Kf6 24.Nd7—24.Rb6 Rc5—Kg6, and once more, Black is all set to sacrifice on d4 as White's pieces have deserted their king.) 22...Bd4 (If 22...bc 23.Qa4 mates) 23.Qa4 Kf8



24.Ne6!! and White wins. **21...Ke7 22.Rh8 Bh8 23.Qf3** White can't find a defense against 23...Bd4, after his unfortunate 21st move. 23.0—0? loses to 23...Be5 and 23.Ba3? leads White nowhere, after the simple 23...b6. **23...Bd4 24.Nd3?** If 24.ed Nd4 25.Qd3! (keeping an eye on the square e4) Qg4! —+. Stronger is 24.Ne4! Be3!

NCCA Scholarship by Mike Goodall

Damon Mosk-Aoyama, age 10 of Berkeley and Micah Fisher-Kirshner, age 8 of Fremont, split the \$200 Scholarship offered by the Northern California Chess Association to youngsters under age eighteen.

Damon was nominated by Elizabeth Shaughnessy of Berkeley. He is an excellent student of NM Peter Yu at Longfellow elementary school in Berkeley. He combines a serious and pleasant disposition with a willingness to work hard.

Micah was nominated by Ray Orwig of Richmond. He is a good student at Fremont-Ohlone Elementary school in Fremont, where he also plays soccer. He has elected to spend his \$100 on chess books.

The NCCA will very likely offer the same \$200 scholarship again next year to some deserving young chess player in Northern California. If anyone has a particular youngster in mind as a deserving recipient, don't hesitate to contact the NCCA, c/o Mike Goodall, 2420 Atherton St. #6, Berkeley, CA 94704.

25.Be3 Ne3 26.Qe3 Re5 27.Qa3! Kd7! 28.0—0! Qe4, however the heavy-piece endgame should not present Black with much difficulty. **24...Bc3 25.Ke2 Qa4! 26.Rd1 Qc2.** White resigns.

Bibliography:

ECO volume D

Informant series, vols. 1-47

Chess Life

New In Chess

Queen's Gambit; Tchigorin Defense by John Watson.

BAY AREA SPLINTERS

BERKELEY

2/16/90

UCB CHESS CLUB BLITZ TOURNAMENT

Don Shennum and Peter Yu directed the evening "warm-up" for the People's the next day. FM Craig Mar (2536) and IM Greg Hjorth (2447) topped this 22-player field with 8 points apiece out of a potential 10 points. Class prizes in this WBCA 5-rd double Swiss also went to U2100: Clarence Lehman (2002) 6-4, U2000: Mark Racine (1950) 5.5-4.5, U1700: Robert Drake (1597) 4.5-5.5.

BERKELEY

2/17/90 - 2/19/90

PEOPLE'S TOURNAMENT

See page 3 for full tournament report.

WALNUT CREEK

2/25/90

JCC QUADS

Thirty-four players competed in this event. Dr. Pascal Baudry directed the sections and reported the following results: Section I: NM Tom Dorsch (2260) 3-0; Section II: Tom Stevens (2126) 2.5-0.5; Section III: Tie between Mike Fitzgerald (2020) and Donald Lieberman (2010) 2-1; Section IV: Mike Labins (2001) 2.5-0.5; Section V: Stephen Rose (1780) 3-0; Section VI: Marvin Gilbert (1613) 3-0; Section VII: Rex deAsis (1343) 2.5-0.5; Section VIII (Juniors): 1st Don Sprenkel (1235); 2nd-3rd Ankur Varma (1337) and James Clark (1186).

WALNUT CREEK

2/27/90

WC CHESS CLUB BLITZ

The monthly WBCA five minute tournament for February was won by NM Tom Dorsch (2260), NM Richard Kel-

son (2330) was second, and NM Daniel Switkes (2241) was third. Clarence Lehman directed.

BERKELEY

3/10/90

UCB QUADS

Don Shennum directed the first Golden Bear Quads, 16 players attended this U.C. Berkeley tournament and the winners are as follows: Section I: Robert Christopher (2082) 2.5-.5; Section II: Alex Rapoport (1976) 2.5-.5; Section III: Tin Wu (1567) 2.5-.5; Section IV: Race Jones (1433) and Ken White (Unr.) 2.5-.5.

SAN RAFAEL

3/10/90 - 3/11/90

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP

See page 5 for full tournament report.

WALNUT CREEK

3/11/90

JCC QUADS

Twenty-four players competed in six sections. Dr. Pascal Baudry directed the event and gave the following report: Section I: 1st and 2nd place tie, NM John Barnard (2200) and Tom Stevens (2131) 2-1; Section II: Mark Gagnon (2036) 3-0; Section III: Donald Lieberman (2010) 2.5-0.5; Section IV: 3-way tie for first: John Brooke (1937), Gary Smith (1936) and Ursula Foster (1761) 2-1 each; Section V: Charles Casson (1725) 3-0; Section VI: Kenneth White (1257) 3-0.

SUNNYVALE

3/17/90 - 3/18/90

LERA TOURNAMENT

Organizer and Chief Director Jim Hurt with the assistance of Directors Ted and

Kathy Yudacufski managed this big event. Two hundred and four players competed in six sections. The "based on" of 160 players was easily surpassed and the prizes were increased. Brilliancy prizes were also dispensed for each section. (See the next issue for Brilliancy game scores.) The winners were as follows: OPEN: 1st-2nd FM Renard Anderson (2364) and NM Filipp Frenkel (2335) 3.5-0.5, \$475 each; 3rd-6th FM Craig Mar (2535), NM Bill Chesney (2429), Paul Cornelius (2328) and NM Daniel Switkes (2206) 3-1, \$65 each; EXPERT: 1st-6th Romulo C. Fuentes (2162), Kash Patel (2158), David Barnett (2152), Milford Fredenburgh (2150), Tom Thrush (2103), and Brian Zavodnik (2012) 3.5-0.5, \$170 each; "A": 1st-4th Dennis Elrod (1924), Mark Racine (1923), Virgilio Fuentes (1914), and Harold Edelstein (1906) 3.5-0.5, \$200 each; "B": 1st Peter McKone (1775) 4-0, \$350; 2nd-3rd Cliff Roberson (1766) and Ron Chestnut (1686) 3.5-0.5, \$175 each; "C": 1st David Lankford (1513) 4-0, \$230; 2nd-3rd Keith Hesteande (1587) and Exequiel Magat (1300) 3.5-0.5, \$110 each; "D/UNR": 1st Stephen Ramsey (1119) 4-0, \$100; 2nd Craig S. Smith (1333) 3.5-0.5, \$70.

RICHMOND

3/24/90

RICHMOND QUADS

John Easterling directed the first Richmond tournament of the year. This "Action" event had four sections and the winners were as follows: Section I: 1st-2nd Tom Dorsch (2271) and Peter Yu (2237) 2-1; Section II: 1st-2nd Alex Rapoport (1976) and Edward Wilson Jr. (2030) 2.5-.5; Section III: 1st Don Shennum (1930) 2.5-0.5; Section IV: 1st Diane Barnard (1602) 3-0.

February 16 to March 24, 1990

People's

from p.4

13...ed 14.ed 0-0

If 14...Ne5 then 15.fe Bg4 16.ef Be2 17.Re2 +.

15.Qe7 Re8 16.Qe8+ Ne8 17.Re8+ Nf8 18.Rde1 Bb7 19.Ra8 Ba8 20.Re8 Bd5 21.Nf5

All forced. 21.Be7 is also playable then 21...g6 22.Bf8 Qd7 23.Rb8 Qc7 24.Bd6+, +/-.

21...f6 22.Ne7+ Kf7 23.Nd5 Qc5 24.Re7+ Kg8 25.Ne3 d5 26.Nf5 Qg1+ 27.Re1

Consolidating. The two bishops will eventually make the difference.

27...Qh2 28.Bf2 Qf4+ 29.Be3 Qc7 30.Bd2 Ng6?!

Losing a pawn, but Black cannot otherwise parry the threat of Re7.

31.Nh6+ gh 32.Bg6 Kg7 33.Bd3 a5 34.g4

Constricting the King-side pawns. White wants to win the f and h pawns, while keeping his g pawn.

34...Qc5 35.Rh1 a4 36.Bh6+ Kf7 37.Kb1 Qd4

Still searching for activity, White has just too many pieces.

38.Bf5 a3 39.Bc1 ab?!

Opening up a critical diagonal and eliminating any pressure that Black had.

40.Bb2 Qb6 41.Rf1 Qe3 42.Bd3 Qg3

Or 42...d4 43.Bc1 intending g5 +-

43.Rf6+ Ke7 44.Rg6 Kf7 45.g5 Kf8 46.Bc1 Qg1 47.Rf6+ Ke7 48.Rf1 Qg2 49.g6 Ke6 50.Bb2 Kd7 51.g7 Ke7 52.Bd4 Resigns. 1-0

The threat of Rg1 and g8=Q is unstoppable. (McManus)

White: NM Cliff Hart (2320)

Black: NM Aaron Stearns (2292)

Nimzo-Indian [E32]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5?! 5.dc Nc6!?

I did not have much theoretical knowledge in the 4.Qc2 system so I decided to putter around in the opening.

6.Nf3 Bc5 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 a6 9.e3 Be7 10.Be2 b6 11.a3 Bb7

At this point I thought I had emerged from the opening with a playable game.

I expected play to continue along nor-

mal "hedgehog" lines with White developing pressure down the d-file against d6 and trying to increase his space advantage, while Black plays for the freeing breaks ...b5 and ...d5.

12.0-0-0?

Suddenly I was very happy with my game. White's king will be a big target on the queenside.

12...b5! 13.cb ab 14.Bb5 0-0 15.Nd2!?

This is too passive. The immediate 15.Kb1 is better.

15...Nd5! 16.Be7 Ne7 17.Nd5 Bd5 18.Kb1 Qb8 19.Qd3 Ra7!

When I had made the pawn sac I thought it was good, but I was not confident about my attack until this move.

20.Rc1!

This is the beginning of a clever defensive maneuver that liquidates a couple of Black's attacking pieces and eases the pressure.

20...Rb7 21.a4 Bc6 22.Rc3 Bb5 23.ab Rb5 24.Rb3 Rb3 25.Qb3

The material is now even but the position is imbalanced. Because of the passed b-pawn, the position with the queens off favors White. However, with the queens on, the position favors Black because of White's exposed king.

25...Qa8!

Fortunately for me, I have the initiative and I now gain a tempo with a threat on the kingside.

26.f3 Rb8 27.Qa2

This is a very passive position for the queen, but it is difficult to find better. For example, 27.Qc4 Qa3 28.b3 Nd5.

27...Qb7 28.Rc1 Nd5 29.Nc4 Kh7

I wanted to play 29...Ra8 but 30.Nd6! is a strong response since the endgame is worse for Black after 30...Qb8 31.Rc8+ Qc8 32.Nc8 Ra2 33.Ka2 Ne3 34.b4.

30.e4 Nf4

I could try 30...Ra8 here because 31.Nd6 Qb8 32.Rc8 is refuted by 32...Nc3+! Unfortunately, White seems to have other continuations that are adequate such as 31.Na5 Qb5 32.ed Ra5 33.Qc4.

31.Rc2 d5 32.ed ed 33.Nd6

After more passive continuations like 33.Nd2 Black traps White's queen with 33...Ra8.

33...Qb4

Now I trap his knight instead.

34.Nf7 Qe1+ 35.Rc1 Qe7 36.Nh6 Nd3!

The knight was only a distraction and I now return to my original target—the king. White is now lost.

37.b3 Nc1 0-1 (Stearns)

White: GM N. deFirmian (2657)

Black: IM V. McCambridge (2590)

Ruy Lopez [C67]

1.e4 e5

What to play? Against most standard openings deFirmian is heavily booked.

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Ne4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bc6 dc 7.de Nf5

The main line of the exchange variation of the Berlin Defense. Black has had few good results with it and must defend unerringly. Bisguier selected it against Bobby in the last round of the 1962 U.S. Closed. It is similar to the exchange variation of the Ruy Lopez but Black does not get to castle.

8.Qd8+ Kd8 9.b3

This plan has become quite popular. Many moons ago Bobby tried 9.Nc3 against Bisguier continuing 9...Ke8 10.Ne2 Be6 11.Nf4 Bd5 12.Nd5 cd 13.g4 Ne7 14.Bf4 c6 15.Rfe1 Ng6 16.Bg3 Bc5 17.c3 Nf8 18.b4 Bb6 19.Kg2 Ne6 20.Nh4 h5 21.h3 hg 22.hg g6 23.Rh1 Bd8 24.Nf5! Rh1 25.Nd6+ Kf8 26.Rh1 and with a clear advantage Fischer won in thirty-seven moves.

9...h6 10.Bb2 Be6 11.Nc3 Kc8 12.h3!

A strong standard plan in the Berlin. The purpose is not to create luft (air) for the King but to get the K-side pawns rolling with g4-Nd4-f4.

12...g5!?

Black prevents the expansion but gives up several key squares.

13.Rad1 Bg7 14.Ne4 b6 15.Nf6 c5?!

Better is 15...Bf6 16.ef with only a slight edge for White, after 16...Kb7 17.Ne5 h5 White has a powerful knight, but Black has play with 17...Rh6.

16.Nh5!

Black doesn't get a second chance. Now 17.g4 is a threat.

16...Bf8 17.c4 Kb7 18.g4!

With a fixed porous pawn structure, the knights can maneuver better than the bishops.

18...Ne7 19.Ne1 Ng6 20.Ng2

White has maneuvered himself into a winning position.

20...Be7

Black has been defending and taking a lot of time, while White has been cruising. Defense takes twice as much out of a player in worry and effort.

21.Kh2 Rad8 22.Kg3 Rd1 23.Rd1

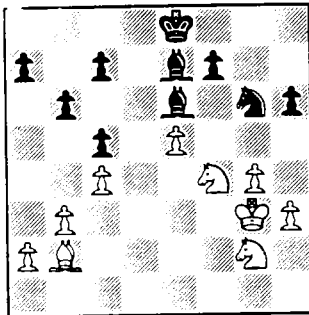
White has achieved an ideal position in the exchange variation of the Lopez. The game will flow only through the K-side gate. White's 4-3 pawn majority will eventually create a passed pawn. Almost any bishop, rook, king or knight ending is won for White. Black should aim for opposite colored bishops.

23...Kc8

If it's any consolation, Black's defense cannot be improved.

24.f4! gf 25.Nhf4 Rd8 26.Rd8+ Kd8

White can choose 27.Ne6+ fe 28.h4 but the bad white bishop limits White's winning chances. The text should lead to a winning position.



27.Ng6! fg 28.Nf4 Bf7 29.e6 Be8?!

29...Bg8 may be a little better, though White's initiative continues with 30.Ng6 Be6 31.Bc1 h5 32.Bf4.

30.Bg7 h5 31.Nd5

Numerous critical positions eventually cause the defense to crack under threats which may or may not exist. American masters sometimes have trouble with defense if they play weaker opponents habitually as they seldom have to defend bad positions. Time pressure also added to Black's worries.

31...c6!?

Panic naturally sets in when all your moves lose! How do you select? Well, this loss takes longer or he may not see it; This strategy is known as "hope" chess.

32.Nf6!

White should win by force but there's a slip.

32...Bf6 33.Bf6+ Kc7 34.Be5+?!

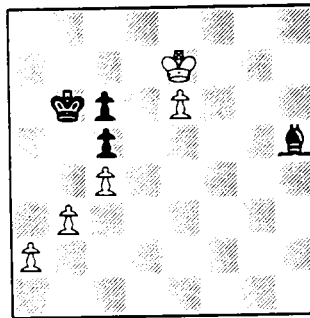
The wrong concept. 34.Be7! g5(best) 35.Bg5 wins for White.

34...Kd8 35.Bb8

Black is in time trouble but is faced with several choices, 35...a6, 35...g5, 35...Ke7, or 35...hg. Which is the simplest draw?

35...g5?

A complex move hoping to trap the bishop but 35...Ke7! draws, 36.Ba7 b5 37.a4 ba4 38.ba4 Ke6 39.a5 Bd7 and Black hangs on. McCambridge spent the rest of his five minutes on this crucial move and perhaps had one minute left. Now White wins.



36.gh!

deFirmian was half an hour ahead on the clock, but began playing faster, maybe to induce a blunder.

36...Bh5 37.Ba7 Kc7 38.h4

White wins no matter how Black responds.

38...gh?! Better is 38...g4! but after 39.Kf4 Kb7 40.Bb6 Kb6 41.a4 Ka5 42.e7 Kb4 43.Kg5! g3 44.Kh5 g2 45.e8(Q) g1(Q) White should win the queen and pawn ending.

39.Kh4 Be8

Now White's king walks in.

40.Kg5 Kd6

Time control with Black's flag still standing.

41.Kf6 Kc7

White threatened mate with 42.Bb8!

42.Ke7 Bh5 43.Bb6! Kb6 44.Kd8

Black Resigns White will eventually queen the pawn and win the king and pawn ending. (Mar)

Scholastics

from p. 5

seem to have good success with it.

3...b6 4.Bg5 e6 5.e3 Be7 6.Bb5

The bishop, placed here to put pressure on the a4-e8 diagonal after Black plays 6...d5 or 6...d6 After 6...a6 7.Ba4 b5 8.Bc2, is poised for attack on the kingside.

6...0-0 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Nbd2 d6 9.Qe2 h6

This move is usually bad for Black in Q-pawn openings, as it may weaken f7 and g6, but here he has a good reason.

10.Bb4 Ne4 11.Be7 Qe7 12.Ne4 Be4 13.Nd2 Bc6 14.Bd3

14.a4 may be better, but I wanted to keep the bishop.

14...Nd7 15.b4?!

White was hoping for a queenside attack, but he temporarily forgot about Black's reply.

15...e5 16.dc dc 17.b5 Bb7 18.Rfd1

Rad8 19.Nf1 e4 20.Bc2 Ne5

Since White mistakenly allowed ...e4, Black's knight exerts uncomfortable pressure on d3.

21.Ng3 Qh4 22.Nf5 Qf6 23.Ng3 Qg6

24.c4 Qe6 25.Qh5!

I am trying to make the best of the weak queenside by setting up pins, (see next move). After 25.Ne4 Nc4, Black's c-pawn is passed.

25...Nd3 26.Qh4 Qc4 27.Bb3 Ob5?!

27...Qc3 is probably better because of 28.Ne4 Be4 29.Qe4 Nb2. Now Black has to deal with several pins and discovered attacks.

28.Ne4 Be4 29.Qe4 Rfe8 30.Of5 Od7

Well, White had uncomfortable pressure anyway...

31.Od7 Rd7 32.Ba4 Red8 33.Bd7 Rd7

34.a4 c4 35.Kf1 Kf8?! 36.Rc1 Rb7

37.Rc4 Nb2 38.Rc8+ Ke7 39.Rb1! Nd3

39...Na4 40.Rc4 wins the knight.

40.Ke2 Ne5

I had trouble reconstructing the moves past this point as the remaining moves were played in time pressure for both sides. At any rate, White did win after this position, but the end was close. Black, down an exchange and three pawns constructed a clever stalemate as his flag fell. Shortly afterwards, I called his flag with only thirty seconds remaining on my clock. (Stein)

BCC

from p. 7

24.Kg1?

A retrograde move that allows Black back rank possibilities. Not 24.Nd2Nd4 25.Qd3 Qb5, but better was 24.Qc3.

24...h6

Another useful waiting move.

25.Qc3 Qb5 26.Qc2 Na5 27.Qc8+ Kh7 28.Qc2+ g6 29.Qc8?

I was expecting 29.Qc7 Nc6—not 29...Qb2?? 30.Qa5—and Black is better. 29...Qb2 30.Bh6 Qa1+ Not 30...Kh6?? 31.Qh8+.

31.Qc1

31.Bc1 Nc6. 31...Qa3 32.Ng5+ Unsound, but otherwise he remains two pawns down.

32...Kh6 33.Nf7+ Kg7 34.Qh6+ Kf7 35.Qh7+ Ke8 0-1

With his time scramble over, White realized he was two pieces down.

White: R. Basich (2192)

Black: P. Liebhaber (2059)

Caro-Kann Defense [B10]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Qf3

This idea of Spielmann's is Basich's favorite anti Caro-Kann weapon.

3...d6

White's play is justified after 3...d4? 4.Bc4!

4.Ne4 Nf6

4...Nd7 is the most reliable defense.

5.Bc4 e6 6.Nf6+ Qf6 7.Qe2

7.Qf6 with a slight endgame edge.

7...Nd7

7...c5 is probably more accurate.

8.Nf3 Nb6 9.Bb3 Bd6 10.d4 0-0 11.c4

Watching the game, I expected 11.Bg5 Qg6 12.c3, which looks good.

11...Bb4+ 12.Kf1!? Qe7 13.Bf4 e5?!

Typical Liebhaber play.

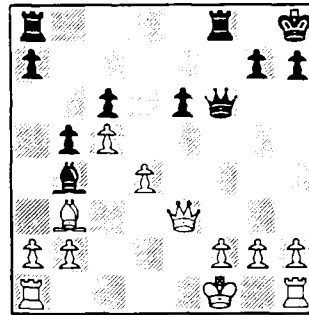
14.Qe5 Be6 15.c5

15.a3? Nc4; 15.Rac1!?

15...Nc4 16.Qe2 b5 17.Ng5?

This doesn't turn out well. White should simplify by 17.cb Nb6 18.Be6 with an easier defense.

17...Qf6 18.Ne6 fe 19.Be3 Ne3 20.Qe3 Kh8



Black now has a strong initiative for the pawn. White has difficulty completing his development while the opposite colored Bishops only aid Black's attack.

21.Rd1 Rae8 22.g4

Somewhat weakening. 22.g3 or immediately 22.a3.

22...e5! 23.d5 e4 24.a3?

Overlooking the reply.

24...Bc5! 25.Qc5 e3 26.f4 e2+?

Both sides were probably short of time. Even better is 26...Qf4+ 27.Ke2 Qf3+ 28.Kd3 e2+.

27.Kg2 ed10 28.Bd1 cd5

28...Qf4.

29.Qc2 d4 30.Be2 Re3 31.Rd1 Rfe8

32.Bb5 Qe7 33.Rd4 Qb7+ 34.Bc6

Re2+ 35.Kf1 Rc2

The time scramble is now over. Black has a won endgame.

36.Bb7 Rb2 37.Bc6 Rc8 38.g5 Kg8

39.Rd6 Kf8 40.Bf3 Rc3 41.Bd1 Ra3

42.h4 Rh3 0-1

White: J. Urquhart (2036)

Black: D. Moulton (2124)

English Opening [A32]

Joe Urquhart played enterprising chess as White and was unlucky to not qualify. This game was his best of the tournament.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.Nf3 cd

5.Nd4 d5 6.Bg2 e5 7.Nf3

Interesting is 7.Nc2 d4 8.f4, Short-Hartston, England 1976.

7...d4 8.0-0 Bd6?

This Bishop belongs on e7 or c5. Correct is 8...Nc6 9.e3 with a well-known book position.

9.e3 de 10.Be3 Qe7

Better is 10...0-0. Black was worried about the ending after 11.c5 Bc7 12.Qd8 but in the game he never gets to castle.

11.Nc3 Nbd7

Moulton didn't like 11...Nc6 12.Nd5. This was also his last chance to castle.

12.Nh4!

Also 12.Nb5.

12...Nb6 13.Bg5! Bb8

13...h6? 14.Bf6 Qf6 15.Ne4. Black is clearly in trouble.

14.c5! Qc5

14...Nbd7 15.c6.

15.Bf6 gf 16.Qh5 Qe7

16...0-0 17.Be4.

17.a4 a5 18.Qh6 Be6 19.Ne4 Nd7

20.Rfd1 Ra6

Planning ...Ba7-d4 to block the d-file. Black was down to a minute a move by now.

21.Bf1 Rc6?

21...Rb6 hinders his plan but he now loses his f6 pawn.

22.Bb5 Rc7 23.Nf6+ Kd8 24.Nd7 Bd7

25.Nf5 Qe6 26.Og7 Re8 27.Qh7 Of6

28.Nd6 Rf8 29.Qd3 Ba7 30.Ne4 Qe7

31.Qd2 Bb6 32.Rac1 Rc1 33.Qc1 1-0

(time)

Black is lost anyway.

White: E. Jimenez (1869)

Black: NM R. Kelson (2332)

Queen's Pawn Game [A47]

Kelson's chronic time trouble occasionally costs him a loss on time. This game is one of those rarities where he was also apparently lost on the board.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b6 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Bb7

5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Be7 7.Nbd2 d6 8.Qb3

Nbd7

8...0-0; 8...Nc6.

9.Nc4!? Bf3 10.gf d5 11.Nd6+

White falls into a tactical trap, but still wins the game!

11...Bd6 12.Bd6 c4 13.Bc4 dc 14.Qc4

Qc8

The two pawns should not be enough for the piece. According to Kelson, he now started drifting with a series of second-rate moves.

15.Qb5 Qb7 16.Ke2 Qd5 17.Qd5 ed

18.Rhg1 g6 19.Kd3 0-0-0 20.b3 Rhe8

21.Rac1 Re6 22.Bg3 Kb7

22...Rde8 threatening ...Nh5, ...f5.

23.c4 Rc8 24.cd Rc1 25.Rc1 Nd5 26.e4

Nb4+ 27.Kd2 Rc6 28.Rc6 Nc6

28...Kc6 may be better e.g. 29.a3

(29.d5+ Nd5!?) 29...Na6 30.d5+ Kc5.

29.Kc3 f6 30.f4 f5 31.d5 Ne7 32.Bh4

Ng8 33.e5 Kc7 34.b4 1-0 (time)

continued on p. 20

from p. 19

In the final position, after 34...Nf8, the pawn mass is probably too much for the Knights.

White: A. Kobernat (2204)

Black: W. Fugate (1741)

Sicilian Defense [B22]

The only game in which Will Fugate played really badly, falling into an opening trap.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bd3

4.dc Nc6 with active play.

4...cd 5.cd Nc6

Better is 5...g6.

6.Nf3 Bg4? 7.d5 Ne5 8.Ne5!

A point found in all the books.

8...de

8...Qa5+ 9.Qd2.

9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Qa4 a6 11.Bd7+ Qd7

12.Qd7+ Nd7

Kobernat now makes some natural moves, which cause Fugate's position to collapse rapidly.

13.Be3 Rc8 14.0-0 g6

14...Rc2 15.Nd2 Rb2 16.Rfc1.

15.Nd2 Bg7 16.Rac1 0-0 17.Nb3 Rfe8

18.Na5 Nf6 19.f3 b5 20.Nc6 h5

20...Rc7 was forced, although 21.Nb4 is unpleasant.

21.Ne7 1-0

Leading scores at the end of Round 6: S. Weiss 5½ pts., Ganesan 5, A. Kaugars, P. Liebhaber, J. Urquhart, D. Howard 4½.

Round Seven

Seggev Weiss and I have played hundreds of blitz games against each other and also together as a consultation team. It wasn't too surprising, then, that our encounter on top board was quickly drawn. In other key games, Kaugars salvaged a draw against Urquhart, while Cross defeated Kobernat and Dean Howard refuted Paul Liebhaber's Rook sacrifice.

White: J. Urquhart (2036)

Black: A. Kaugars (2125)

King's Indian Defense [E93]

Kaugars had a lucky escape in this game, which once again illustrates the importance of the fianchettoed KB in

the King's Indian.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6

5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.d5 Nbd7 8.0-0

8.Bg5

8...Nc5 9.Nd2 a5 10.b3 Ne8 11.Bb2 f5

12.a3 Bh6?!

12...f4.

13.ef Bd2

Black's king bishop is on a special price list in the King's Indian, but after 21 minutes' thought, Kaugars decides to part with it. 13...gf5.

14.Qd2 Nb3 15.Qh6 Bf5

15...Na1 16.fg with an attack.

16.f4 ef4

16...Na1 17.fe threatening g4.

17.Rf4 g5

This may be Black's chance to snatch the exchange: 17...Na1 18.Ba1 Qe7 or 18.g4 Qe7 19.gf Qe3+ 20.Kg2 Rf5 21.Rh4 Qh6 22.Rh6 Nb3. 17...Qe7 may also be a better defense.

18.Rf5! Rf5 19.Qe6+ Rf7 20.Bh5 Qe7

21.Bf7 Qf7 22.Re1 Qe6 23.Re6 Nc5

Black's extra pawn is meaningless as his pieces are too tangled up.

24.Re7 Nd3 25.Ba1 Nc5 26.Ne2 Rd8

26...c6. Kaugars was in time trouble.

27.Nd4 Rc8 28.Nf5 Kf8 29.Rh7 c6

30.Nh6 Rc7 31.Rh8+ Ke7 32.Nf5+

Kd7 33.Bc3 b6 34.Bd4 cd 35.cd Rb7?

35...Rc8.

36.Re8

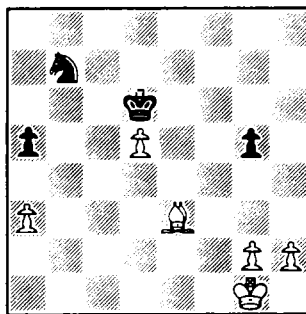
The right move order because of 36.Bc5 bc 37.Re8? Rb1+.

36...Ke8 37.Nd6+

37.Bc5 Rc7 38.Bd6.

37...Kd7 38.Nb7 Nb7 39.Bb6 Kd6

40.Be3?



I told Joe this move would probably cost him his place in the finals. After 40.g4 White wins e.g. 40...Kd5 41.Be3 Ke4 42.Bg5 Kf3 43.h3 Kg3 44.Be7! Kh3 45.g5.

40...g4 41.Kf2 Kd5 42.a4 4

2.Kg3 Ke4 threatening ...Kf5.

42...Ke4 43.Bb6

White still has chances after 43.Ke2.

43...Kf4 44.Bc7+ Kf5 45.Ke3 Nc5

46.Ba5 Na4 47.Kd4 Nb2 48.Bb6 Nd1

49.Kd3 Nb2+ 50.Kd4 Nd1 1/2-1/2

White: S. Cross (2178)

Black: A. Kobernat (2204)

Dutch Defense [A88]

This heavyweight battle between two past qualifiers resulted in a surprisingly quick victory for Cross.

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7

5.Bg2 d6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.e4

A dubious pawn sac in the main position of the Leningrad variation.

8...Ne4

8...fe!?

9.Ne4 fe 10.Ng5 d5 11.cd cd 12.f3 h6

Further weakening his pawns. Better is 12...Nc6.

13.Nh3 ef 14.Rf3 Bf5

14...Rf3 15.Qf3 threatening Nf4.

15.g4 Be6 16.Rf8+ Kf8

16...Qf8 17.Qb3.

17.g5

Also 17.Nf4.

17...h5 18.Nf4 Bf7 19.Of3 Kg8

Post-mortem didn't reveal a clear defense after 19...Bd4+ 20.Kh1.

20.Be3 Nc6 21.Rf1

With the strong threat of Nh5.

21...Nd4 22.Bd4 Bd4+ 23.Kh1 Qc8

24.Ne2 1-0

White: A. McManus (2126)

Black: D. Barton (2109)

King's Gambit [C30]

Andy McManus is particularly dangerous as White, as shown in this game. McManus had a 100% score for the tournament, but missed three rounds.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6?!

The books prefer 4...Nf6, as White can now favorably play 5.Bb5.

5.Na4!? Bb4?

Aiding White's queenside expansion. 5...Nf6 or 5...Bb6.

6.c3 Ba5 7.b4 Bb6 8.Nb6 ab 9.Bb5

Qe7 10.0-0 Nf6 11.fe de 12.d3 h6

13.Nh4 0-0

On 13...Ne4 14.Qf3 is unpleasant.

14.Nf5 Bf5 15.Rf5 Ne8 16.Qg4 Nd6

Black's "point", but McManus doesn't need to be invited to sac the exchange for a strong attack.

17.Bh6 Nf5 18.ef Qf6

Black had to try 18...f6 but after 19.Qg6 I couldn't prove a defense against McManus.

19.Bg5 Qd6 20.f6 e4 21.Rf1 Qe6 22.Qh4

threatening fg
1-0

Leading scores at the end of Round 7: S. Weiss 6 pts., Ganesan, D. Howard 5½; A. Kaugars, J. Urquhart, S. Cross 5. With the cumulative tiebreak used, the pairings for the last round and likely qualifiers could be worked out mathematically. Weiss, Howard and I would all qualify even if we lost. Kaugars needed at least a draw while the fifth spot would go to the winner of Urquhart-Cross (in the event of a draw, Cross would qualify).

Round Eight

White: D. Howard (2115)

Black: S. Weiss (2077)

Nimzovich-Larsen Opening [A01]

Ganesan-Kaugars was a quick draw, leaving Dean Howard the chance for clear first if he won.

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.e4 d6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 c5 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d3 0-0 9.f4 Ng4

Perhaps immediately 9...Nd4.

10.Qc1 Nd4 11.Nc3 Qb6 12.Nd4 ed? Furthering White's attacking ambitions. 12...cd.

13.Nd5 Qd8 14.Qd1 Be6

This might be the opportunity for 14...f5.

15.f5 Bd5 16.Qg4 Bc6 16.Rae1 Qd7

Black has no counterplay and has to defend patiently, which he does well-up to a point.

17.Rae1 Qd7 18.Qh4 f6 19.fg6 hg 20.Bh3 Qf7 21.Bc1 Bd7 22.Bg4 Bg4 23.Og4 Rad8 24.Re2 d5

Dean, in impending time trouble, probably doesn't make the most of his position.

25.ed Rd5 26.Rfe1 Re5 27.Bf4 Re2 28.Qe2 Qd7 29.Qe4 f5 30.Qe2 Kf7 31.Of3 Re8 32.Re8 Ke8 33.Kf2 Bf6 34.h3 Kf7 35.a4 g5??

The last move before time control!

36.Qh5+ Kg7 37.Bg5 Bg5 38.Qg5+ Kh8 39.g4 fg

Allowing a queen trade, but he's lost anyway.

40.Qh5+ 1-0

White: J. Urquhart (2036)

Black: S. Cross (2178)

English Opening [A21]

Urquhart, who needed a win, played too passively.

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 f5 3.g3

Interesting is 3.d4 ed 4.Qd4 Nc6 5.Qe3+ (also 5.Qd2 threatening b3) 5...Kf7 6.Nh3 Nf6 7.Qd2! threatening Nf4.

3...Nf6 4.Bg2 c6 5.d3

Again, 5.d4 e4 6.Nh3 Na6 7.0-0 Nc7 8.f3 d5.

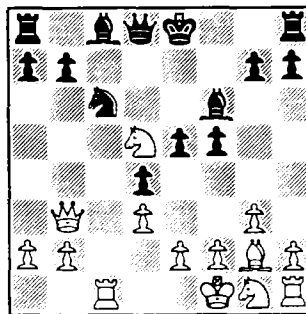
5...d5 6.cd cd 7.Bg5 d4 8.Nd5 Be7 9.Bf6

Also 9.Ne7 Qe7 10.Nh3.

9...Bf6 10.Rc1

10.f4 or 10.Nh3 planning f4. In the game, White never gets any influence in the center.

10...Nc6 11.Qb3 Qa5+ 12.Kf1 Qd8



13.a3

He should try 13.Nf6 Qf6 14.Qb5. White continues to play passively and will have a hard time coordinating his pieces.

13...Kf8 14.Qc4 Bd7 15.h4 Rc8 16.Qa4 Ne7 17.Qd1 Bc6 18.Nf6 gf 19.Qd2 Bg2+ 20.Kg2 Rc1 21.Qc1 Qd5+ 22.Kh2 Kg7 23.Qc7 Kf7 24.Qc4 Rc8 25.Qb4 Rc2 26.Qa4 Rb2 27.Qa7 e4 28.Nh3 Re2 29.de fe 30.Rd1 Nc6 31.Qb7+ Kg8 32.Qc8+ Kf7 33.Qh8 Qf5 34.Qa8 Ne7 35.Qa6 d3 36.Qc4+ Kg7 37.Qc7 Kf7 38.Qc4+ Qd5 39.Qa6 Qc6 40.Qc6 Nc6 41.Kg2 Ne5 42.Nf4 Ra2 43.Nd5 Ng4 44.Rb1 Rf2+ 45.Kg1 d2 46.a4 Rf3 47.a5 e3 48.Nc3 Rf2

Also winning was 48...Rg3+.

49.a6 e2 0-1 (time)

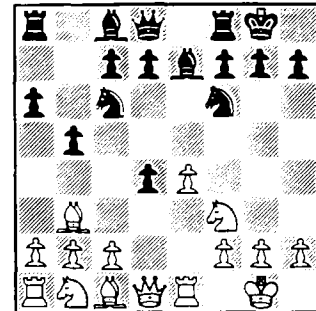
White: A. Estes (1827)

Black: N. Casares (1586)

Ruy Lopez [C88]

Finally, a matchup between the tournament's best "A" and "C" players.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 0-8.d4 ed?



8...Nd4 looks good, hoping for 9.Nd4 ed 10.Qd4?? c5 but is actually a pawn sacrifice after 9.Bf7+! Rf7 10.Ne5 Rf8 (or 10...Ne6 11.Nf7 Kf7 12.e5 winning, Penrose-Thomas, Wales 1961) 11.Qd4 c5 12.Qd1 Bb7 13.Nc3 Qc7 14.Ng4 Ng4 15.Qg4 Bd6 16.Qh3 Rae8 17.Bg5 Be5 18.Rad1 d6 19.Bh4 Qf7 Rantanen-Pinter, Helsinki 1983. Most sensible is 8...d6.

9.e5 Ne8 10.Nd4 Nd4 11.Od4 c5

Perhaps better were 11...Bb7 or 11...d6.

12.Qe4 Nc7

And here, 12...Rb8 is worth a try. But 12...Qb6? 13.Qa8 Bb7 14.Qb8 Bd8 15.e6 is unconvincing.

13.c3 c4?

Black should play 13...d5. After the text, White keeps a nagging edge in development and space.

14.Bc2 g6 15.Bh6 Re8 16.Nd2 d5 17.ed Bd6 18.Qd4 Bf8 19.Re8 Qe8 20.Bf8 Qf8 21.Qe5 Ne6 22.Ne4 Ng7

Estes said he started licking his chops after this move. 22...Qg7.

23.Rad1 Bb7 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Rd7 Bc8 26.Rd4 Be6 27.Rh4 h5 28.Og5 Nf5 29.Bf5 Bf5 30.g4 Bd3 31.gh Kg7 32.hg Bg6 33.Rh7+ 1-0

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Sometime after I submitted my "East Coast Connection" article (CCI, August-September 1989), I was reviewing the Rook ending in my head as I was driving home from work. In one of the notes, I claimed after 7.g4 Rc3+ that Black had a draw by continuing with flank checks and then pinning the pawn. However, this is erroneous: 8.Kf4 Rc4+ 9.Kg5 Rc5+ 10.Kh6 Rc4 11.Kh5 Rc5+ 12.g5 and White has a simple win. Hopefully the alert CCI readership was not fooled. Don't believe everything you read!

Sincerely,
Joel Salman
Long Island, NY

East Coast

from p. 11

Reiterating the point about White having to capture on f3. I wasn't too sure about things like Kg5 since it would allow the knight to roam.

40.Kf3 Bh5 41.Kf2 Bd1 42.Bd7 Bb3 43.Nb2 Bc2.

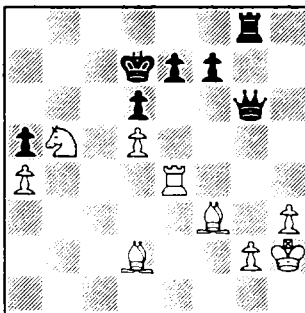
An interesting try was 43...Be6 when 44.Be6 fe looks nice for Black, but is it winning? For that matter, it is nice for Black, isn't it? It does look as if White's K-side pawns may all land on dark squares. If 44.Bb5 then f4 will liquidate Black's weak f5 pawn and he can try to grind with the two bishops. We were approaching the second control at move fifty-five, and I was not really looking for more than a draw as it would be a good result and my confidence was in need of a boost due to my poor play in recent games.

44.Bb5 Bc3 45.Nc4 Bb4 46.Ke2 Be4 47.h4 Bd5 48.Nb2 Bd6 49.Kf2 Be4 50.Nc4 Bb4 51.Ke2 Bd5 52.Nb6 Be4 53.Nd7 Ke7 54.Kf2 Bd6 55.Nb6 Bb4 56.Nc4 1/2 - 1/2

A Random Chess Position

by FM David Glueck

Here's how the 1989 Lloyd's Bank International Open tournament was won. The crucial round nine game between GM Hodgson (England) and Azmaiparashvili reached the absurd position shown below:



Settling down in front of the demo board I expected 1.Ba5 but instead Hodgson played **1.Nd4 Og3+ 2.Kh1 Qf2 3.Be1** (3.Ba5!?) **Of1+ 4.Kh2 Rg5 5.Bg3 Rd5**. Now the tempting 6.Re1 could be met with 6...Qe1 a7.Be1 Rd4 8.Ba5 Ra4 when I think Black is OK. I expected 6.Rf4 Qc4 and it's up for grabs. When I asked Zurab about this position all he would say is "I understand this position" but I'm not sure he understood the question!

Instead Hodgson went in for three pieces vs queen with **6.Re7+ Ke7 7.Bd5 Qd1 8.Nf5+ Kf6 9.Bf3 Oa4 10.Nd6 Qc2**. Now after 11.Bd5 with the idea of Bf7 and eventually Ba2 it will reach the ending queen vs. Bishop, Knight and two pawns and I'm not sure what will happen. Instead the game became a race with both players in mild time pressure.

11.Be4 Qb3 12.h4 a4 13.h5 a3 14.h6 Qd1! avoiding the hasty 14...a2? 15.h7 Qb8 16.Nf7 where Black is in trouble. **15.Bf3** if Nc4 then 15...Qh5+ 16.Kg1 Qh6 17.Na3 Qc1+. **15...Qc1 16.Ne4+ Kg6 17.Be5 Qh6+ 18.Kg3 a2 0-1**

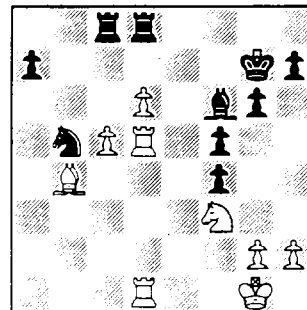
This game put Z.A. a full point ahead with one round to go.

Switching

from p. 10

26...Bb5 27.ab Nc7! 28.Rfd1! Nb5 29.Bb4

Gorman has won a pawn but the pressure of White's two connecteds remains.



29...Rg8?

Dov touched his rook, intending 29...Rd7, but saw 30.c6! and so had to move his rook. But the better 29...Bc3! may save Black: 30.d7! Bb4 (sacking the exchange gets rid of the passed pawn). 31.dc8 Rc8 and White's slight initiative is insufficient to win.

30.c6 a6 31.Rc1

Easy does it! If Black can sack his N for the passers he draws.

31...g5 32.c7

Gorman now had less than five minutes to my eight or nine minutes.

32...g4 33.Ne5 f3 34.Rc6

White's pawns are crushing but it's not over 'til it's over.

34...Be5 35.Re5 Nd4 36.Rc4

A rather safe move in time pressure.

36...Kf6! 37.Re1 g3!?

A last gasp, but I left myself with two to three extra minutes just in case.

38.hg! Rg3 39.Rd4 Rg2+ 40.Kf1 Rcg8
Time control at last! But instead of stopping and thinking, I blitzed out one more move.

41.d7 Rg1+ 42.Kf2 1-0

Black resigns.

EDITORIAL

from p. 2

rector Jim Jordan can successfully segregate the market between male and female players, then effectively market chess to women as well as men. Promoting chess to women will be no easy task, but having had such good ideas as USCF's feedback questionnaire, we are confident Jim can do a good job.

Meanwhile, what can we do to help support women's chess? We'll you can make a difference by writing to the USCF policy board members listed on p.8 of every Chess Life, or you can talk to your USCF Regional Vice-Presidents (Alan Glasscoe or myself) and we can pass on the message. But if you want to do something that's a little more fun,

then I suggest teaching chess to your wife, girlfriend, etc., because women should play chess too! This doesn't mean that they'll have to play in tournaments, it's just a good, healthy way for you and yours to spend some quality time together. In fact, if you really want to get radical, then teach chess not only to your sons and nephews, but also to your daughters and nieces; they are the future of chess.

Look, we've got to start doing something now. Today's society is becoming more and more egalitarian, and if chess refuses to adapt, then there will soon be no place for it in our ever-changing world. This is my challenge to you.

--Peter.

Well, I hope you'll enjoy our bigger format! Now here's some important information regarding the NCCA.

The Northern California Chess Association has voted to award a plaque valued at \$50 to one of the many deserving chess teachers in Northern California. If you know a chess teacher who deserves such recognition from the chess community, please contact the NCCA by August 15, 1990. The participants at the NCCA Annual Meeting at the Labor Day Tournament will vote on the nominees. Send your nomination to NCCA, for address see p. 14 of this issue.

The next meeting of the NCCA will be hosted by Dr. Pascal Baudry held on May 6, 1990 at 11:00 am at the J.C.C., 2071 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. All USCF members living in Northern California are automatically members of the NCCA and are encouraged to participate. If anyone has any questions or agenda items to be discussed at the meeting, don't hesitate to contact the NCCA.

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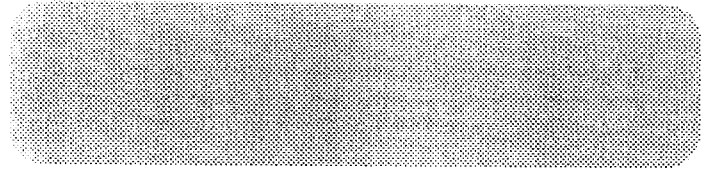
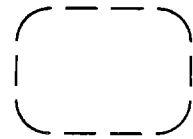
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