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FOR RELEASE

CONTACT
Randy Hough (914) 562-8350

Born 19 November 1905
in N.Y.C.

ISAAC KASHDAN

1905 - 1985

The oldest Grandmaster in the world, Isaac Kashdan, died February 20 in Los Angeles. He was a major figure in the chess world for 55 years as a player, organizer, arbiter, and journalist.

Born in New York, Kashdan first attracted notice in 1924 when he won the problem-solving competition at the New York international tournament. In 1928, he made his first appearance overseas, scoring 13-2 on first board in the Olympiad at The Hague.

Throughout the Thirties, Kashdan was a feared contender in international play. His results included first place in tournaments in Stockholm and Berlin (both 1930), and second place behind Capablanca at New York in 1931 and behind Alekhine at Pasadena in 1932. He also played a major role in the U.S. successes in several Olympiads, scoring 14-2 on third board at Stockholm in 1937. His endgame play earned him the sobriquet "der kleine Capablanca."

Kashdan was also regarded as the best player in the United States during much of this period, but in the depths of the Depression he was unable to arrange a match with Champion Frank Marshall. By 1936, when Marshall relinquished his title, two other young players, Samuel Reshevsky and Reuben Fine, had surpassed Kashdan, and Reshevsky won the championship that was organized. He and Kashdan subsequently tied for first in the 1942 tournament, but Reshevsky won the playoff match.

Kashdan was the founder of Chess Review magazine in 1933, but soon sold it to Al Horowitz. He later returned to journalism, serving as the popular chess editor of the Los Angeles Times from 1955 until he was disabled by a stroke in 1982. He also was editor of The Chess Correspondent magazine for several years.

As an organizer and arbiter, Kashdan was the driving force behind the success of the Piatigorsky Cup tournaments in Los Angeles (1963

and 1966), and the string of Louis Statham tournaments which attracted dozens of the world's leading players to Lone Pine, California between 1971 and 1981. Among the many other major events he directed were the U.S. Championship (1978), U.S. Open Championship (1955 and 1971), and the Fischer-Reshevsky match in 1961. (After one of the games in this event, Kashdan demonstrated his quick sight of the board by showing Fischer a winning sequence he had missed.)

Kashdan was also active in U.S. Chess Federation affairs, serving as National Vice President from 1966 to 1969 and holding the title of Life Voting Member. He was a recipient of USCF's Distinguished Service Award in 1980. USCF Executive Director Gerard Dullea commented, "Kashdan was an original, a grandmaster player, director, organizer, promoter, and journalist. The variety of his contributions to chess is simply staggering. The chess world is much diminished by his passing."

Isaac Kashdan is survived by his wife Helen and their two sons.

KASHDAN - MILAN VIDMAR (Yugoslavia). Sicilian Defense. Prague Olympiad, 1931
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Ndb5 a6 7. Nd6+ Bxd6 8. Qxd6 Qe7 9. Bf4 Nh5 10. Qxe7+ Kxe7 11. Be3 b5 12. 0-0-0 d6 13. Be2 Nf6 14. f3 Bb7 15. Rd2 Rhc8 16. Rhd1 Ne8 17. Bf4 Rd8 18. b3 Rac8 19. Kb2 Nb8 20. a4 b4 21. Na2 Nc6 22. Bg5+ f6 23. Be3 Nc7 24. Bb6 Rd7 25. Bc5 Ne8 26. Nxb4 Ne5 27. Bb6 Ra8 28. a5 g6 29. Nd3 Black Resigns.

N. MANNHEIMER (Germany) - KASHDAN. Queen's Gambit Accepted. Frankfurt, 1930.
1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Bf4 dxc4 5. e3 Bb4+ 6. Nfd2 b5 7. a4 c6 8. axb5 cxb5 9. Bxb8 Rxb8 10. Rxa7 Ba5 11. Qf3 Qb6 12. Ra8 Rxa8 13. Qxa8 0-0 14. Qf3 Bb7 15. Qf4 Ne4 16. f3 Nxd2 17. Nxd2 Re8 18. Qh4 e5 19. Qf2 exd4 20. e4 f5 21. Kd1 Bxd2 22. Kxd2 fxe4 23. fxe4 Qa5+ White Resigns.

KASHDAN - LAJOS STEINER (Hungary). Queen's Gambit Declined. Match, 1930.
1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. Bg5 Nbd7 6. e3 Qa5 7. Qb3 Ne4 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Bd3 Bb4 10. Rcl Nxc5 11. Nxc5 h6 12. Nf3 0-0 13. 0-0 Re8 14. a3 Bxc3 15. Qxc3 Qxc3 16. Rxc3 Nf6 17. b4 Be6 18. Rfcl Ne4 19. Bxe4 dxe4 20. Nd2 Bd5 21. Rc5 b6 22. R5c3 a5 23. Nc4 axb4 24. axb4 Ra6 25. Ne5 Re6 26. b5 cxb5 27. Rc8+ Kh7 28. Rd8 Bc4 29. Nd7 Kg6 30. d5 Re7 31. d6 Rxd7 32. Rxd7 Bd3 33. Rb7 Kf6 34. f3 Black Resigns.

For further information on the above or the U.S. Chess Federation, please contact U.S. Chess at 186 Route 9W, New Windsor, New York 12550.

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