

Grandmaster event cracks down on quick-draw artists

By JACK PETERS
International Master

The MTEL Masters, a double round robin featuring six of the world's best grandmasters, concludes today in Sofia, Bulgaria. Michael Adams of England and world champion Vladimir Kramnik of Russia led with 3-2 scores after the first cycle.

The tournament is using a new rule prohibiting draw offers. Players must continue playing drawish positions until an impartial grandmaster concludes that neither side has winning prospects. The most obvious effect of the new rule is that games last longer. However, it's clear that some players still rely on a "don't lose" philosophy that minimizes risk and makes victories rare. Only four of the first 15 games ended decisively.

Allan Troy

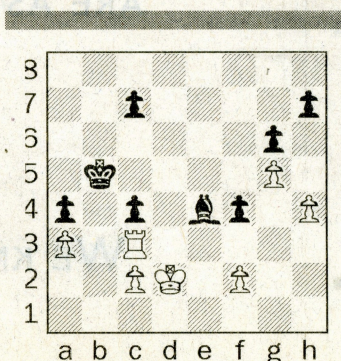
Chess master Allan Troy, 73, died May 12 in Tubac, Ariz. He and his family ran Troy's Chess Shoppe at the Old Towne Mall in Torrance in the 1960s and 1970s. His store was a popular gathering spot for those who wanted to buy chess books or play speed chess.

Troy, who was born in Tucson but grew up in El Segundo, worked as a manager for Hughes Aircraft and considered chess his side business. His real love was speed chess, at which he won the California championship in the mid-'60s. He used to sit at a board outside his shop, puffing on a pipe and chuckling softly, as he trounced passersby in fast games.

Troy entertained thousands of players and made countless friends. Although he closed his shop and moved to Arizona a quarter of a century ago, he remains a memorable part of local chess lore.

Memorial Day Classic

The Lina Grumette Memorial Day Classic takes place Saturday through Memorial Day at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport, 5711 W. Century Blvd. in Los Angeles. The main event is a six-round tournament with five sections based on ratings. There are also five side events: a quick chess (10-minute games) tournament at 7:15 p.m. Friday, a scholastic tournament at 9:30 a.m. next Sunday, a five-minute tournament at 10 p.m. next Sunday, a 30-minute tournament at 10:15 a.m. May 30 and 90-minute



May 22, 2005

Position No. 5847: Black to play and win. From the game Andrei Sokolov-Zoltan Varga, Lenk 2005.

Solution to Position No. 5846:

White wins spectacularly with 1 Ne7+! Kh7 (or 1... Bxe7 2 Bxe5+, mating) 2 Qg6+! fxe6 3 hxg6+ Kxg7 4 Rh7 mate.

Hexes at 10:45 a.m. May 30. Complete details are posted at www.westernchess.com.

Super States Scholastic

The Super States tournament, held two weekends ago in Costa Mesa, awarded state championship titles to all levels of scholastic players. The High School section featured an outstanding performance by ninth-grader Francis Chen, who defeated four experts and master Tatev Abrahamyan. Chen finished with 7-0, a point ahead of Abrahamyan. Kaitlin Kirk and experts Harut Keshishian, Julian Landaw, Anthony Ong and Jeremy Stein tied for third place at 5-2.

Chen will represent Southern California in the Denker Tournament of High School Champions in Phoenix in August. Abrahamyan will be invited to the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls.

Jared Tan led the Junior High section with 7-0. Allan Sung was second at 6-1, and his Central Valley Lions won the team prize.

Michael Yee won the Elementary Championship (grades K-6) with another 7-0 score. Vincent Huang took second prize with 6-1.

Brendyn Estolas and Danil Fedunov tied for first place in the Primary (grades K-3) sections with 6-1 scores. Fedunov won his first six games before losing to Estolas. Omar Wiseman had 5½-1½. All three prizewinners

compete for the AAA Chess Club, which earned team titles in the Primary, Elementary and High School sections.

Maadhav Shah led the K-1 section, a one-day event, with 5-0. The K-3 under-550 section ended in a tie at 6-1 among Christian Borao, Orion Burl and Liam Fairweather. Each defeated one of his rivals and lost to the other.

Michael Acevedo, Nahum Delgado and Matthew Mullen shared first place in the K-6 under-900 section, all with 6-1 scores.

Joe Hanley of Chess4Children organized and directed the 241-player tournament.

Today's games

Allan Troy - Art Spiller, California 1969: 1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0-0 5 d4 c6 6 e4 d6 7 Nf3 Nbd7 8 0-0 e5 A popular variation of the King's Indian Defense. 9 dxe5 The main line begins with 9 h3. dxe5 10 Qc2 Qc7 11 b3 Nc5 12 Ba3 Nfd7 13 Rad1 Re8 14 Ne1 Ne6 Allowing infiltration. Simply 14... Bf8 maintains equality. 15 Bd6 Qd8 16 Ne2 Nd4? Premature. Not 16... Bf8? 17 Bxe5, but 16... c5 and 16... a5 are playable. 17 Nxd4 exd4 18 f4 Nf8?! Now Black gets squashed. He had to try 18... c5, although 19 b4! Qb6 (Black can hardly move after 19... cxb4 20 e5 a5 21 c5) 20 e5 Qxb4 21 Rxd4 favors White. 19 e5 Bf5 20 Qf2 Ne6 21 h3 Bh6!? Worth a try, as 21... h5 22 Nf3 c5 23 Nh4 gives Black no hope. 22 g4!? The prelude to a Queen sacrifice. Simply 22 Nf3 c5 23 Nh4 works too. Bxf4 23 gx15 Be3 24 fxe6 Rxe6 25 c5 f5 26 Rxd4 Bxf2+ 27 Rxf2 White has three pieces and a bind for the Queen. Black's Rooks are particularly helpless. Kg7 28 b4 a6 29 Nf3 h6 30 Bf1 g5 31 Rg2 Rg6 32 e6! Inviting 32... Rxe6? 33 Be5+. Qe8 33 e7 Re6 34 Bd3 Qh5 If 34... f4, most emphatic is 35 Nxe5! hxg5 36 Rxe5+ Kh6 (neither 36... Kh8 37 Rxf4 nor 36... Kf6 37 Rg4 holds out long) 37 Bxf4 Qxe7 38 Rd6!, gaining material. 35 Kf2 Kf6 36 Bc4 Rxe7 After 36... Re4 37 Rxe4 fxe4 38 Ne5 Qxh3, White's pieces swarm with 39 Kg1! (intending 40 Rf2+) e3 40 Ng4+ Kg7 41 Rg3. 37 Bxe7+ Kxe7 38 Rg1 Qxh3 39 Re1+ Kf8 40 Rd7 Qe4 If 40... g4 41 Ne5 Qh2+, White evades checks by 42 Kf1 Qh3+ 43 Ke2 Qc3 44 Kd1! (threatening 45 Ng6 mate) Qa1+ 45 Kd2 Qb2+ 46 Kd3. 41 Bb3 Qh5 42 Ree7 g4 Or 42... Rd8 43 Rf7+. 43 Rh7, Black Resigns.

Allan Troy - Art Spiller, California 1969: 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 a3 Avoiding the Nimzo-Indian, 3 Nc3 Bb4. b6 4 Nc3 Bb7 5 Qc2 d5 6 cxd5 exd5 7 Nf3 This position usually arises from the Queen's Indian Defense. Be7 8 Bg5 0-0 9 e3 Nbd7 10 Bd3 h6 Both 10... Ne4 and 10... c5 are acceptable. 11 Bh4 Ne4?? 12 Nxd5! Cleverly gaining a pawn, as 12... Bxd5 13 Bxe4 Bxe4 14 Qxe4 protects the Bishop at h4. Bxh4 13 Bxe4 f5?! Even the sounder 13... c5 14 Rd1 gives Black no compensation. 14 Nf6+ Bxf6 15 Bxb7 Rb8 16 Bc6 Also 16 Qxf5 wins. Be7 17 Rc1 Bd6 18 Qc4+ Kh8 19 Qe6! The rest is brutal. Nf6 20 Nh4 Kh7 21 Qf5+ Kg8 22 Ba4 c6 23 Rxc6 Rf7 24 Bb3 Bf8 25 Ng6 Qd7 26 Rxf6!, Black Resigns.