

Wilshire Chess Society Newsletter

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Video Review: Not Just a Game

Wendy van Wilgenburg's 52 minute documentary, **Not Just a Game** (©2001, \$29.95, New In Chess) follows Hungarian GM Peter Leko at the 2001 Corus Tournament in Wijk aan Zee. Back in 1994, at age 14, Leko became the youngest GM in history. Since then, he has gone on to become one of the top 10 GM's in the world. When I first saw this video advertised in *New in Chess* magazine, I quickly placed my order as I am a big fan of these "bio" type videos, and the idea of following around a super GM at a major tournament certainly peaked my interest. Unfortunately, they were out of stock and it wasn't until several months later that it finally arrived. Was it worth the wait? Hmmmmm. Believe it or not, the video opens with a shot of a table filled with cakes and pies all decorated with chess boards and pieces!?



I assume this is the dessert table of the 2001 Corus opening night banquet. The first thing that struck me about the video tape is how amateurish it looks; both in quality and content. Rather than a professional documentary, it looks more like something a tourist would film to show their friends back home! Next we are shown the opening ceremony where the 14 Grandmasters are drawing for lots. Actually, only Kasparov and Leko are shown walking up to the stage and choosing their pairing number. Then Peter Leko is interviewed. Unfortunately, his voice is so high pitched and feminine sounding, that I found it quite annoying. Indeed, he and his wife sound almost exactly alike! I'm not joking! After Leko tells us how he got a late start in chess by not learning to play until he was seven (apparently if you haven't achieved an IM norm by five, you may already have missed the boat), we get to see him play Fedorov (draw), and Adams (yep, draw). Next, his trainer GM Yusupov is interviewed. He tells us that Leko has potential because he still has lot to learn (cool). We also meet Carsten Hensel, Leko's manager. He informs us that Leko approached *him* for representation (interesting). Also, Leko's wife is interviewed. She reveals to us that being the

wife of a top GM can be difficult (yeah, traveling all over the world staying in nice hotels all expenses paid is rough). One piece of footage that looked very interesting showed Leko using Chessbase on his laptop to look up some of Adam's games before they played. Unfortunately, this scene is completely ruined by loud (and bad) pop music that comes blaring out of the background while he answers the interviewer's questions. Why she didn't ask him to turn the music off is beyond me. There is also an excerpt of two unknown guys playing some really bad blitz chess. Needless to say, I am quite disappointed with this effort by van Wilgenburg. What could have been a worthwhile documentary is nothing more than a hodgepodge of video clips slapped together. The title, **Not Just a Game**, implies that we are going to see how seriously top GM's take their games. That we are going to see drama, intensity, and heart. Unfortunately, this video is so lightweight, that we don't feel any emotion while watching it. I'm sure there was great fighting spirit at the Corus tournament in 2001, but you couldn't tell that by watching this dry presentation. On a scale of 1-10, **Not Just a Game** gets a 3.

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- Congratulations to the winners of our January 26 Tournament. 1st: **IM Tim Taylor**; 2nd: **Rich Henderson & Jack O'Donell** (tie).
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☛ There is a free lecture by SM Mick Bighamian on Feb. 23 at 10:30 am (see back for details) -Michael

Next W.C.S. G/45 Tournament February 23, 2003 - Sunday

Westside Pavilion, Community Room "C"
10850 W. Pico Blvd., West Los Angeles
(3rd Flr., West of Barnes & Noble, next to the SPCA pet adoption center)
Registration/lecture: 10:30 am
Games from: 11:15 am - 4:45 pm, 3-rounds
Round robin quads (groups of 4) by rating
Time control: G/45 mins. Entry fee: \$20.00
Prizes: \$50.00 per quad (35.00 1st, 15.00 2nd)
WCS Membership required (\$15.00/year) as well as U.S.C.F. Membership (\$49.00/year).

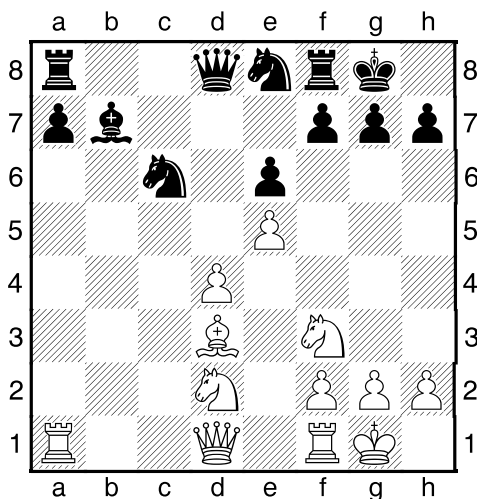
Game of The Month

One of my favorite chess books is Chess Master vs. Chess Amateur by Max Euwe (Now if they'd only release it in algebraic I would really be happy!) The reason I like it is it shows how a master punishes mistakes by lower rated players. The problem with going over GM vs. GM games is that they rarely resemble my games! Anyway, the following game is instructive as it shows how a strong player patiently waits for his much lower rated opponent to make a mistake.

IM Taylor, Tim (2429) – Con, Alfredo (1800)

Wilshire Chess Society, 1.26.2003 (Slav Defense)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 dxc4 4.e4 b5 5.a4 e6 6.axb5 cxb5 7.b3 White immediately goes about destroying Black's queenside **7...Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Nbxd2 Nf6 10.bxc4 bxc4 11.Bxc4 0-0 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Bd3 Nc6 14.e5 Ne8** Diagram



White to move

15.Bxh7+! When I was watching this game, I thought for a second, "Wait Tim, you don't have the classic greek sac (with Ng5+, Qh5, etc.) Then I realized what he was up to. **15...Kxh7 16.Qb1+** I like the geometry of this check and can understand why Alfredo missed it. **16...g6 17.Qxb7** Yep, White has snagged a pawn.

17... Rc8 18.Rac1 Rc7 19.Qb2 Ne7 20.Qa3 Kg7 21.Ne4 Nf5 22.Rxc7 Qxc7 23.Nf6 Qd8 24.Nxe8+ Rxe8 25.Qxa7 Rh8 26.h3 Nh4 27.Nxh4 Rxh4 28.Rd1 Qg5 29.Qa3 Qh5 30.Qd3 g5 31.g4 Qh6 32.Kg2 Qg6 33.Qxg6+ Kxg6 34.d5 exd5 35.Rxd5 Rh8 36.Rd6+ Kg7 37.Kg3 Ra8 38.Rf6 Ra5 39.Rf5 Kg6 40.e6 Ra3+ 41.Rf3 Rxf3+ 42.Kxf3 fxe6 43.Ke4 Kf6 44.f4 1-0

(After 44...gxf4 45. Kxf4 the g and h pawns are too much for the Black king.)

Free Chess Lecture Feb. 23!

We are pleased to announce that before our tournament on February 23, at 10:30 am in community room C, SM Mick Bighamian will be giving a lecture titled, "*Unusual Endings.*" The lecture is free to all



SM Mick Bighamian

WCS members (\$5.00 to nonmembers). Please get there by 10:25 am, as the lecture will start at 10:30 am sharp, and go to 11:15 am. Our tournament will start immediately following the lecture. Bonus: Free set of lecture notes to the first 10 to arrive!