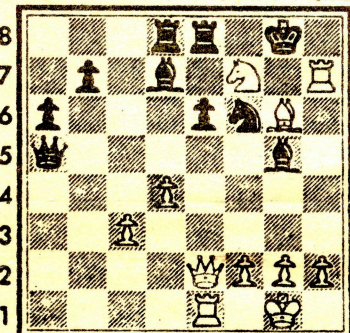


CHESS BARBS

by Jude Acers (U.S senior master)

Through the courtesy of local chess heavy Alan Benson (of East Asia Book & Game Center fame), one of the world's GREATS, international grandmaster WALTER BROWNE of Berkeley has been recorded live in a blow-by-blow description of his fantastic win over US master Bernard Zuckerman. Browne's Grande Combination rates as an anthologist's gem and will surely go down in print all over the world, but here, for the first time with verbal annotations by the Browne Bomber faithfully recorded for posterity (minus laughter, rock background music and the tinkling of champagne glasses), you are witness to the inner workings of a fun-loving chess mind.

White: Walter Browne. Black: Bernard Zuckerman. Atlantic City Open, Nov. 22-25, 1973. Queen's Gambit Declined 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Be7 4 Nf6 5 Bg5 0-0 6 e3 Nbd7 7 Bd3(A) dc 8 Bc4 c5 9 0-0 a6 10 a4(B) cd 11 ed Nb6 12 Bb3 Bd7(C) 13 Ne5(D) Bc6(E) 14 Bc2! Nbd5 15 Bb1!-(F) Nb4 16 Re1(G) g6(H) 17 Bh6 Re8 18 Ra3!(I) Qd6(J) 19 Ne2!(K) Rad8(L) 20 Rh3(M) Qd5-(N) 21 Nf3(O) Qa5(P) 22 Nc3(Q) Nbd5(R) 23 Ne5(S) Nc3 24 bc Ba4 25 Qe2!(T) Bd7 26 Bg5(U) Nd5(V) 27 Nf7!!(W) Bg5(X) 28 Rh7!!!(Y) Nf6 29 Bg6!!!!(Z)



29...Nh7 30 Qh5(AA) Qc3(BB) 31 Qh7ch Kf8(CC) 32 Rf1(DD) Qd4(EE) 33 Ne5!(FF) Qf4(GG) 34 Nd7ch Rd7 35 Qh8ch Ke7 36 Qe8ch Kg6(HH) 37 Qd7 Kg6 38 Qe6ch Bf6 39 Qe8ch Kh6 40 Re1 a5 41 g3 qb4 42 Re6 Qb2 43 Qf7 Kg5 44 h4ch Kg4 45 Qg6ch(II) Kh3 46 Qf5mate.
(Transcribed recorded annotations by international grandmaster Walter S. Browne)
(A) More normal is 7 Rcl.
(B) Best move in this position.
(C) Very interesting move.
(D) Possibly 13 a5 is better. After 14...Nbd5 15 Nd5 Nd5 16 Bd5 ed 17 Be7 Qe7 White stands clearly better, due to the fact that Black's bishop is very

weak...
(E) Very good move. If I take the bishop, he takes back with the pawn, gets play on the "b" file and sticks the knight into d5, which really anchors his game.

(F) Threatening 16 Qd3...so he's got to make a weakness on the king side. Then I can realize what my target is for future assaults.

Not 15 Re1, as Zuckerman so hopelessly pointed out, because of 15...Qb6, and Black has very good play, because after 16 Nc4 he can play 16...Qb4, exercising a lot of pressure on the queen side.

(G) It is necessary to have the rook on the "e" file for future threats.

(H) Voluntarily weakening his king side.

(I) Surprise! This rook is going to the king side, where the attack will be unstoppable.

(J) A reasonably good move, yet a little too tame for this position. Possibly 18...Bf8 was stronger, trying to trade off the dangerous bishop.

(K) A surprise which my opponent had underestimated.

(L) Putting pressure on the "d" pawn.

(M) At this point my opponent's hands began to tremble as he hovered over his queen.

(N) A good move, forcing White's reply.

(O) I had realized that I would have to play this move, but it didn't bother me, for I felt my king-side chances were excellent.

(P) Hoping to vitalize the pin on the "d" file and put pressure on the "a" pawn.

(Q) Protecting the pawn and threatening 23 Ne5.

(R) Again threatening the "b" pawn and the knight.

(S) A very strong move, forcing Black's hand.

(T) The first shock. What is Black to do? 26 Nf7 is threatened, after which 26...Kf7 27 Qe6 mates. If 25...Bf8, then 26 Bg5 Bg7 and 27 Rf3 pins the knight for a winning position.

Black has no choice: he has to move his bishop to d7. The only question is should he interpolate Bb5. 25...Bb5 is better, because after 26 c4 Bd7 Black has some threats, or should I say an eye on the rook at e1, so the queen is held back, although this would take away the square d5 from Black, and probably he is doomed anyway.

(U) Threatening 27 Qf3 among other tasty treats.



GRANDMASTER WALTER BROWN

(V) Trying to release the pressure. I could have played now 27 Qf3 and after 27...f5, 28 Qg3 White's game is between superior and winning. The only reason it's not winning is because I didn't figure out a clear win, although I feel it's probably a fairly easy win. The knight at e5 is like an octopus in the middle of the board, controlling eight points and the knight cannot be stopped.
(W) Now it's rather obvious that after 27...Kf7 28 Rh7ch Kg8, 29 Qe4 and the show is ovAH.
(X) Now we begin to understand the complexity of this combination. If 28 Ng5, then 28...Nf4 29 Qg4 e5 and White is lost! So, fans of chess, what was I to

do in this position, faced with almost expected defeat? The spectators were mumbling, "Jesus, we didn't get our money's worth. This game's over too fast."
(Y) Life anew! My opponent couldn't believe it. He thought I was mad, delirious. Of course, if you made a combination like this, you would have felt delirious, too.
Now we have to choose between four knight moves. After 28...Nf4 29 Qg4 Kh7 30 Ng5ch Kg7 31 Qf4 Rf8 32 Qh4 Rh8 33 Qg3 White has a winning position. But 28...Nc3 29 Qd3 Qf5 30 Qc3 and it's all ovah. Of course, 28...Kh7 29 Qh5ch Kg8 30 Qg6ch Kf8 31 Ng5 and it's all ovah. One of our more interesting variations

is 28...Ne7 29 Bg6 Ng6 30 Qh5 Qf5 31 Ng5 Re7 32 g4!, and now if 32...Qf6 33 Ne4 wins in a flash. Or 32...Qc2 33 Re7 Ne7 34 Qf7ch Kh8 25 Qe7 and wins.

So, after seeing all that, what is there left? Yes, it looks pretty bleak in Bloodville. What can the guy do? Yes, only 28...Nf6 remains. Isn't it funny that in this position, with Black having so many pieces, notably a piece ahead, and having a rook to bear, he can only move his knight to save his hair?

(Z) Take a picture! A position like this hasn't been reached in a hundred years. My opponent, as if coming out of shock treatment, reached for his hand and grabbed the rook... But I ask you, what would you have done, faced with three pieces chopping up your king side to ribbons and all your pieces being attacked. Yes, fans, you had to accept the rook. There's no way out.

(AA) And now if the knight moves, 31 Qh8mate.

(BB) The only move.

(CC) Forced.

(DD) There's no point in leaving the rook somewhere so it can get picked up.

(EE) My opponent started to grin. He thought the worst was over, but just hold on a second! If, instead of 32...Qd4, 32...Bf6 cute is 33 Nh6 (and now if 33...Re7 34 Qg8mate) Bg7 34 Qg8ch Ke7 35 Qg7ch Kd6 36 Qe5ch Kc6 (36...Ke7 37 Nf5ch and 38 Qg7-mate) 37 d5ch! I thought I'd throw that in.

(FF) My opponent divides his mind again.

(GG) The only move. And now in the time pressure I decided just to pick up all his pieces, but 34 Bh5! would have left him paralyzed. It would have been mate in a few moves, so he has to sac his queen. Of course, 34...Re7 35 Qh8mate.

(HH) If 36...Kd6 37 Rd1ch Kc6 38 Qd7ch.

(II) This Zuckerman is really something, isn't he, folks?! Plays down to mate!

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