

U.S. team: disappointing finish in chess battle

The United States fielded a powerful team headed by international grandmaster Larry Christiansen for the 1980 World Youth Team Championship in Mexico City. With Christiansen on Board 1, IM Mark Diesen on Board 2, Ronald Henley on Board 3 (whose prize-winning score of 9-2 earned him an IM title to be presented at the next World Chess Federation Congress), plus California champion Jay Whitehead, Calvin Blocker and Vincent McCambridge, captained by Arnold Denker, expectations were high.

Disaster was the result. Out of 10 finalists the U.S. team finished ninth, ahead of only the Dominican Republic (with whom we could only draw).

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
USSR	*	2½	2½	3	3½	2½	3½	3½	3½	27	
England	1½	*	3	3½	3	1	2	2½	1½	3½	21.5
Argentina	1½	1	*	3	1½	2½	3	3	1½	3	29
Columbia	1½	½	1	*	2½	2½	2	2½	3	3½	19
Brazil	1	1	2½	1½	*	2	2½	2	2½	3	18
Cuba	½	3	1½	1½	2	*	1½	2	2½	2½	17
Scotland	1½	2	1	2	1½	2½	*	2	1	3½	17
China	½	1½	1	1½	2	2	2	*	2½	3½	16.5
USA	½	2½	2½	1	1½	1½	3	1½	*	2	16
Domin. Rep.	½	½	1	½	1	1½	½	½	2	*	8

Defeating England, the defending champion, represented our finest moment, but losing to China was sensational. That individual battles were not as one-sided as a final score might indicate may be seen from this top-board clash between the Soviet and American teams.

White: Artur Yusupov (USSR). Black: Larry Christiansen (USA).

World Youth Team Championship, 1980.

Benoni Defense

1 d4	Nf6	20 Bg3	Qf3
2 c4	c5	21 h4(e)	Re4!
3 d5	e6	22 d6	Qf6
4 Nc3	ed	23 Rd2	Rae8
5 cd	d6	24 hg	hg
6 Nf3	g6	25 Qd3	a6
7 Nd2	Bg7	26 Rc2!(f)	Rg4
8 Nc4	0-0	27 Rd1	Ree4
9 Bg5	Qe7!(a)	28 Rdd2!(g)	Qf3(h)
10 e3	b6	29 Kb1	Qh1
11 Be2(b)	Ba6	30 Rd1	Qh5
12 a4	h6	31 Bd5!(i)	Rd4(j)
13 Bh4	g5	32 ed	Rd4
14 Bg3	Bc4	33 Bf3!	g4
15 Bc4	Ne4!(c)	34 Qa6	gf
16 Ne4	Qe4	35 Rd4	Bd4
17 Qb3	Nd2(d)	36 Qc8	Nf8
18 Bd6	Qg2	37 d7	Resigns (k)
19 0-0-0	Rfe8		



Richard Shorman

(Notes by international master Artur Yusupov, translated from "Shakhmaty v SSSR", No. 11, 1980, pg. 2)

- (a) Recommended by the "Encyclopedia".
- (b) Evidently, a loss of tempo. Better is 11 a4 Ba6 12 Qc2.
- (c) In this way Black easily equalizes the game.
- (d) Black cannot play 17 . . . Bb2, because of 18 f3, winning a piece for White, but neither should he part with the pawn at d6. Correct is 17 . . . Qe7 18 0-0 Nd7, with a good position.

(e) White's attempt to engage forces on the king side is understandable, but this move must be regarded as dubious. The refutation of Black's risky tactics lay in the push, 21 d6!, creating the threat of 22 Bd5.

(f) In this exceptionally sharp position White coolly carries out a precision regrouping of his forces, after which Black's pieces are left hanging.

(g) White has covered all his weaknesses, and Black finds it far from easy to continue pursuing his initiative.

(h) An ineffective move. Black sets the trap, 29 Bd5? Ba4, but White's natural reply leaves Black's queen entangled among her own pieces.

(i) The decisive blow! Now Black cannot escape material loss.

(j) A desperate try at complications, easily rebuffed by White.

(k) Black actually played 37 . . . Qh1 and then resigned without waiting for his opponent's response.

Here are some more interesting games from the World Youth Team Championship.

White: A. Mikhalchishin (USSR). Black: G. Fleer (England). World Youth Team Championship, 1980.

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 Nf3	d5	18 f4	Qf6
2 d4	Nf6	19 f5!	b6(d)
3 c4	e6	20 Bc2	Qh4
4 Nc3	c6	21 Kb1	c5(e)
5 e3	Nbd7	22 Bg5	Qf2
6 Qc2	Bd6	23 fg	hg
7 e4	de	24 Rdf1	Qd4
8 Ne4	Ne4	25 Be7	a5
9 Qe4	e5(a)	26 h4	Bg4
10 de	0-0(b)	27 Bf6!(f)	Qc4
11 ed!	Re8	28 h5!	gh
12 Qe8	Qe8	29 d7	Qf1(g)
13 Be3	Ne5	30 Rf1	Bd7
14 0-0-0	Nf3	31 Bd1	Bg4

15 gf(c)	Bd7	32 Bg4	hg
16 Bd3	Qe5	33 Rh1	Resigns
17 Rhg1	g6		

White: H. Armas (Cuba). Black: Tang Hong-Yun (China). World Youth Team Championship, 1980.

Sicilian Defense

1 e4	c5	12 Qg3	b5
2 Nc3	e6	13 Rae1	Nd4
3 Nf3	a6	14 Bd4	b4(a)
4 d4	cd	15 e5!(b)	Ne8
5 Nd4	Qc7	16 Qh3	h6
6 Bd3	Nf6	17 Ne4	Bb5
7 0-0	Be7	18 Nf6!(c)	gf
8 Kh1	0-0	19 Qh6	Bd3
9 f4	d6	20 Re3	Qc2
10 Qe1	Nc6	21 Rh3	Bh7
11 Be3	Bd7	22 f5!	Resigns (d)