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Chess

TAL WINS RIGA INTERZONAL TOURNAMENT

Former world champion Mikhail Tal took first place by a two-and-a-half point margin at an interzonal tournament in Riga, Latvia designed to produce three qualifiers for subsequent elimination matches leading to the chess summit. Tal was the only undefeated player among 18 participants, 13 of whom were grandmasters, scoring 11 wins and six draws.

Veteran grandmaster Lev Polugaevsky earned the second berth, while relative newcomers Zoltan Ribli and Andras Adorjan, both of Hungary, must arrange a play-off match to break their tie for third spot. Complete results:

1st, Mikhail Tal (2615), USSR, 14-3; 2nd, Lev Polugaevsky (2625), USSR, 11½-5½; 3rd-4th, Andras Adorjan (2525), Hungary, and Zoltan Ribli (2595), Hungary, 11-6; 5th-6th, Florin Gheorghiu (2540), Rumania, and Oleg Romanishin (2560), USSR, 10½-6½; 7th, Bent Larsen (2620), Denmark, 10-7; 8th-10th, Gennady Kuzmin (2565), USSR, Anthony Miles (2460), England, and Vitaly Tseshkovsky (2560), USSR, 9-8; 11th, James Tarjan (2525), USA, 8-9; 12th, Yehudah Gruenfeld (2430), Israel, 7½-9½; 13th, Ljubomir Ljuboevic (259;), Yugoslavia, 6½-10½; 14th-16th, Slim Bouziz (2420), Tunisia, Edmar Mednis (2510), USA, and Herman van Riemsdyk (2435), Brazil, 5½-11½; 17th, Francisco Trois (2415), Brazil, 5-12; 18th, Ruben Rodriguez (2370), Philippines, 4-13.

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One of the finest games by the tournament winner was his important victory over Polugaevsky in round two. Until now, Tal had never defeated him playing the black pieces and had a poor record with White.

White: Lev Polugaevsky. Black: Mikhail Tal.

Interzonal Tournament, Riga, 1979.

English Opening

1	Nf3(a)	c5!(b)	16	Rb1	Bg7
2	c4	Nf6	17	Nb5(n)	Qc4(o)
3	Nc3	d5	18	Qe3	Rhf8
4	cd	Nd5	19	Rf1(p)	g4(q)
5	e4(c)	Nb4	20	Nh4	Nf2!
6	Bc4(d)	Be6	21	Ng6	Rd3!(r)
7	Be6	Nd3	22	Na3(s)	Qa4
8	Kf1	fe	23	Qe1	Rdf3
9	Ng5(e)	Qb6!?(f)	24	Nf8	Nd3
10	Qe2(g)	c4	25	Qd1	Qe4
11	b3(h)	h6(i)	26	Rf3	gf
12	Nf3(j)	Nc6	27	Kf1	Qf5
13	bc	0-0-0	28	Kg1	Bd4
14	g3(k)	g5	29	Resigns	
15	Kg2(l)	Qc5!(m)			

(Annotations by Mikhail Tal and his second, Soviet master Albert Kapengut, translated from "64", No. 38, Sept. 20-26, 1979, pg 6).

(a) Ten years ago exactly, in Sept. 1969, Tal lost to Polugaevsky for the first time during the second round of the 38th USSR Championship. The game was widely publicized and, it seems, has found its way into all the theory books. For the decade, Polugaevsky's lead has grown to 5-1. Naturally, such an association was not very helpful to have in mind, but such was the luck of the draw . . .

(b) So that there will be no Queen's Gambit and the memory of that ill-fated loss.

(c) The move 5 e4 (not to be confused with 1 e4!) has had its ebb and flow. The latest theoretical pronouncement has this variation placing the 3 . . . d5 system in doubt, as was the case, for example, in Timman — Tal at Montreal. Black played 5 . . . Nc3 in that game, and after 6 dc obtained a very unpleasant position. In his comments to the game ("64," No. 17) Tal admitted that 6 dc came as a complete surprise, and that the offer to trade queens was not at all synonymous with a draw offer. We examined the variation during our preparations for the interzonal. It may be added that this appears to be the first time this continuation has been played by Polugaevsky.

(d) Both Poutiaynen (Tallin, 1977) and Tukmakov (USSR Championship, Leningrad, 1977) chose 6 Bb5 versus Tal, and both games proceeded to favor Black.

(e) Known in this position are the moves 9 . . . Qd7 and 9 . . . Nc6. In a recently played encounter, Sekey — Palatnik (Frunze, 1979), Black continued with 9 . . . Na6.

(f) Defends the pawn at e6 and draws a bead on the f2 square. The unprotected knight at d3 is only temporary (c5-c4).

(g) This move was suggested during pre-game analysis by Alexandr Koblents.

(h) White's intent is plain: smoke out the knight at d3 and Black will not have even a remotely well placed piece left. Black's task is also crystal clear: hold the outpost at any price.

(i) It is essential to drive off White's only active piece so far, in order to have the option of completing queen-side development.

(j) Unsatisfactory would be 12 Na4 Qd4 13 Ne6 in view of 13 . . . Qa1 14 Qh5 g6 15 Qg6 Kd7, or simply 13 . . . Qe5. Perhaps it makes sense for White to cover his f2 square with Nh3, either now or following 12 Qh5.

(k) The interloper at d3 paralyzes White's movements to a considerable extent, and as soon as Black succeeds in deploying his bishop on f8, thereby opening the "f"-file, his initiative will probably become decisive. Therefore, Polugaevsky's quiet treatment of the position cannot be condoned. Important for an evaluation is the variation 14 Nd5?! ed 15 Qd3 Nb4!, and no matter where the queen goes Black retains the better chances, e.g., 16 Qb1 dc or 16 Qd4 Qd4 17 Nd4 de or 16 Qc3 de 17 Ne5 g5 18 Nf7 Bg7! 19 Qg7 Nd3 (another knight!). Also considered was 14 Ba3, and if 14 . . . Qa5, then 15 Nb5 a6 16 Nd6 ed 17 Qd3 Ne5 18 Qb3 Nf3 19 Qd2 20 Rb1, with an excellent game. In response to 14 Ba3, Black had planned 14 . . . g5. It may even be that White's best practical chance is to sacrifice a piece by 14 Nd5 ed 15 ed.

(l) Now the exchange operation, 15 Nd5 ed 16 Qd3 Bg7! 17 e5 (17 Rb1 dc!) Rhf8, offers little solace for White.

(m) White had intended 16 Ne1, which no longer has any point. Polugaevsky's position is probably lost already.

(n) A desperate attempt at counterattack in case Black should slip with 17 . . . a6? 18 Ba3 Qc4 19 Na7! Na7 20 Rhcl.

(o) Threatening 18 . . . Nf4.

(p) The threat was 19 . . . Rf3 or 19 . . . g4. Hopeless for White is 19 Na7 Na7 20 Qa7 Qe4.

(q) Also good enough would be 19 . . . a6, but the move played is more convincing.

(r) Much stronger than 21 . . . Rf3 22 Na7 Na7 23 Qa7 Qe4 (without a check!) 24 Ne7 Kc7 25 Qb6 Kd7 26 Qb7.

(s) After 22 Qe1 Rdf3 the positions are analogous to those occurring in the game.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

White: Miroljub Lazic (Yugoslavia). Black: Saeed Ahmad (United Arab Emirates). Under 14 World Championship, Durango, 1979. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 ed Qd5 4 d4 e6 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 Be2 Nc6 7 Be3 Be7 8 dc Qd1 9 Bd1 Ng4 10 b4 Ne3 11 fe a5 12 Ba4 ab 13 Bc6 bc 14 cb Bf6 15 Nd4 e5 16 Nf3 Bf5 17 Nc3 Ra3 18 Rc1 Kd7 19 b5 Kc7 20 0-0 Rd8 21 b6 Kb7 22 g4 Bd3 23 Rf2 e4 24 Nd4 Rd7 25 Ncb5 Bb5 26 Nb5 Re3 27 Nd6 Kb8 28 Rc4 Be5 29 Rf7 Rf7 30 Nf7 Bf4 31 Nd8 Re1 32 Kf2 Ra1 33 Re4 Ra2 34 Kf3 Bh2 35 Nc6 Kb7 36 Nb4 Resigns.

White: Aaron Roura (Mexico). Black: Saeed Ahmad (United Arab Emirates). Under 14 World Championship, Durango, 1979. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Bd3 Nc6 6 Nb3 d5 7 ed Nd5 8 a3 Bd6 9 Bd2 Ne5 10 Bb5 Bd7 11 Bd7 Qd7 12 Nc3 Nf6 13 Qe2 a6 14 0-0-0 Qc6 15 Kb1 0-0-0 16 f3 Nc4 17 Be3 Na3 18 ba Qc3 19 Bd2 Nd5 20 Qf2 Ba3 21 Bc3 Nc3 22 Ka1 Rd1 23 Rd1 Bb2 24 Resigns.

White: Kenny Fong (USA). Black: Carlos Casique (Venezuela). Under 14 World Championship, Durango, 1979. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nf6 3 e5 Nd5 4 d4 cd 5 cd d6 6 Nf3 7 Bc4 Nb6 8 Bb5 d5 9 Nc3 g6 10 Be3 Bg7 11 Qd2 a6 12 Bc6 bc 13 Bh6 Nc4 14 Qg5 0-0 15 b3 Nb6 16 h4 e6 17 Qe3 Ra7 18 h5 a5 19 Bg7 Kg7 20 Ng5 Kg8 21 Nh7 Kh7 22 hg Kg8 23 Rh8 Resigns.

White: Kenny Fong (USA). Black: David Batres (Guatemala). Under 14 World Championship, Durango, 1979. Caro-Kann Defense 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ed cd 4 Bd3 Nc6 5 c3 e6 6 Bf4 Bd6 7 Bd6 Qd6 8 Nf3 Nf6 9 0-0 0-0 10 Re1 Re8 11 Ne5 Ne7 12 Nd2 Ng6 13 Ndf3 Nd7 14 Qc2 Qe7 15 Re3 Nde5 16 Ne5 Rf8 17 Rg3 Bd7 18 Rg4 Be8 19 f4 f5 20 Ng6 hg 21 Rg5 Kf7 22 Re1 Qd6 23 Re5 Bd7 24 g4 Rh8 25 Qg2 Rh7 26 Rg6 Rh2 27 Kh2 Kg6 28 gf Kf7 29 Qg6 Ke7 30 fe Kd8 31 Qg5 Kc7 32 ed Rd8 33 Rd5 Qb6 34 Qe5 Resigns.