

Richard Shorman

Chess

LASKER'S DEFENSE OF MASTER CHESS

If ever there was a "grand old man" of American chess today, it would have to be **Edward Lasker**, born Dec. 3, 1885 and now a living legend. His many books (e.g., "Chess Strategy", "Chess for Fun and Chess for Blood", "Chess Secrets I Learned from the Masters") have not only taught players how to better their game but also have provided rare personal insights into the nature of master chess.

Lasker's comments on master playing conditions (much abridged from an article in "Chess Review" more than 30 years ago) should be of considerable interest to the modern weekend Swiss system tournament warrior:

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The type of chess played by masters is fundamentally different from the type played by the majority of the other players, and the two types do not mix.

Play among masters who compete for a championship title requires putting forth a literally poisonous concentration of all mental faculties. The poisons of fatigue which are produced by the prolonged strain entailed in the continuous semi-blindfold play that makes up a game tell on the player after a very few hours. That is why, in master tournaments, never more than one game per day is scheduled, and usually two out of the seven days of the week are devoted to rest, unless adjourned games have to be played off.

When I was in my twenties I laughed at such considerations, just as young players do today. But we all find out in time. Tournament play is fascinating, but not worth sacrificing one's health for it.

Of course, the gentlemen who arrange tournaments are likely to consider a master's objection to playing eight hours a day something akin to the proverbial attitude of a prima donna. They cannot understand that, by insisting upon the heavy schedules by their laudable desire to let the near-master enjoy encounters with masters, they engage in a murderous exploitation compared with which the work in sweatshops of the worst kind could be considered humane. I know that if they did understand they would listen to what the masters tell them. Besides, they would realize that quantity and quality are as bad bedfellows in chess as in any other creative work.

I might close my argument with an example from the game I played with Denker and which, together with the ominous pressure in my head, caused me to withdraw from the tournament.

Denker had a winning ending against me, but overlooked the right move due to fatigue and time pressure. Fine pointed out the move after the game. I had seen the move and told Denker what I intended replying. This reply of mine, which I had carefully analyzed while Denker was thinking, left my queen en prise.

Well, that type of play, solely produced by absurd playing schedules, is not chess. A rank beginner can see a queen en prise. He is thus better suited for tournaments governed by rules in which the masters have no say.

MORE GAMES FROM THE CLAREMONT

Here are more games from the California Open (North), won by international master **James Tarjan**, held at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. The moves have been recorded in USCF approved coordinate chess notation (files lettered "a" to "h", ranks numbered "1" to "8", always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to play; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

White: William Kennedy (2029). Black: Sabu Subramaniam (2169). Cal-Open, Berkeley, Sept. 1, 1974. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 Bc4 Nc6 8 f3 0-0 9 Qd2 Bd7 10 0-0-0 Rc8 11 Bb3 Ne5 12 h4 Nc4 13 Bc4 Rc4 14 h5 Nh5 15 g4 Nf6 16 Nde2 Qa5 17 Bh6 Rfc8 18 Bg7 Kg7 19 Qh6 Kg8 20 Rd5 Qc7 21 Kb1 b5 22 g5 Nh5 23 Nf4 e6 24 Rh5 Be8 25 Qh7 Kf8 26 Ng6 fg 27 Qh8 Ke7 28 Qf6 Kd7 29 Rh7 Resigns.

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White: Laird Swanson (1900). Black: John Peterson (2176). Cal-Open, Berkeley, Aug. 31, 1974. Ruy Lopez 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 d6 5 0-0 Bd7 6 c3 Nge7 7 Bb3 h6 8 d4 Ng6 9 Nbd2 Be7 10 Re1 Bg5 11 Nc4 Qf6 12 Ne3 Be3 13 Be3 Bg4 14 h3 Bd7 15 Qd2 Bh3 16 Ng5 hg 17 Bg5 Bg2 18 Bf6 Bf3 19 Bf7 Kf7 20 Resigns.

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White: Robert Newbold (2244). Black: Bram Van Dyk (2100). Cal-Open, Berkeley, Sept. 1, 1974. French Defense 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 de 4 Ne4 Nd7 5 Bc4 Be7 6 Ne2 Ngf6 7 N4g3 0-0 8 0-0 c5 9 Re1 Nb6 10 Bd3 c4 11 Be4 Ne4 12 Ne4 Bd7 13 Bf4 Bc6 14 N2c3 Bf6 15 Qh5 Nd5 16 Be5 Be5 17 de Nf4 18 Qg4 Ng6 19 Ng5 Qe7 20 Re3 Rad8 21 Nh7 Rfe8 22 Ng5 Qb4 23 Nf7 Kf7 24 Rg3 Kg8 25 Qg6 Re7 26 h4 Rf8 27 h5 Qc5 28 Re3 Ref7 29 h6 Qe7 30 Rg3 Rf2 31 hg R8f7 32 Qh7 Resigns.

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White: Tom Dorsch (2165). Black: Lee Slavens (1874). Cal-Open, Berkeley, Aug. 31, 1974. Irregular Defense 1 e4 e5 2 d4 Bd6 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 Bc4 Nd4 5 Nd4 ed 6 0-0 Qf6 7 f4 Bc5 8 e5 d3 9 Kh1 dc 10 Qc2 Qe7 11 Nc3 c6 12 f5 d5 13 ed Qd6 14 Ne4 Qe5 15 Nc5 Qc5 16 Bf7 Resigns.

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White: Daniel Burkhard (2137). Black: Robert Moore (1909). Cal-Open, Berkeley, Sept. 2, 1974. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 ed Qd5 4 d4 cd 5 cd e6 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Nf3 Nf6 8 Bd2 Qa5 9 Bd3 Bd7 10 0-0 Nc6 11 Nb5 Bd2 12 Nd6 Ke7 13 Nd2 Qd5 14 Nb5 Rac8 15 Bf4 Qf5 16 Qb3 Ne8 17 Qa3 Kd8 18 Na7 Na7 19 Qa7 Bc6 20 Qb6 Kd7 21 f3 Nd6 22 Bb3 Bb5 23 Ne4 Rc6 24 Nd6 Kd6 25 Qb7 Bf1 26 Rf1 Rhc8 27 Ba4 R6c7 28 Qb4 Kd5 29 Bb3 Kc6 30 Rc1 Kd7 31 Ba4 Rc6 32 Bc6 Resigns.

BERKELEY EXHIBITION BY TARJAN

Chess Olympics gold medalist **Jim Tarjan** will conduct a simultaneous exhibition at the Berkeley Central YMCA (corner of Grove St. and Allston Way), Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Board fee for those who wish to take advantage of a chance to play a game of chess with the gifted 22-year-old international master is \$3. For advance registration, please contact **Ed Delgado**, 2380 Bryant St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, Palma Ceia Park (corner of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way), Monday and Friday, 8-12 p.m.

Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave., Hayward (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.), Evenings, 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The San Leandro Chess Club, 205 Dutton Ave. (Washington School cafeteria, between East 14th St. and Bancroft Ave.), Monday, 7-11 p.m.

The Fremont Chess Club, 40204 Paseo Padre Parkway (near City Hall at Lake Elizabeth), Wednesday, 7-11 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets, Friday, 8-12 p.m.