

Richard Shorman**Chess****SILMAN'S EXHIBITION DISASTER**

In what can only be described as a disaster, USCF master Jeremy Silman suffered 14 losses and 4 draws mixed with 13 wins in his Berkeley Chess Club simultaneous exhibition, Feb. 20. Fortunately, the knowledge that he had just recently played Arnold Denker to a draw in a national league telephone match and played well in the Berkeley "People's Tournament," winning one of the finest games of the event against Roy Ervin in the process, served to mollify Silman's anguish.

The happy winners were Barton Bolmen (1380), who defeated an opponent rated 951 points higher (2331) than his own, Rich Dost (1602), Mike Dyslin (1676), Stanley Eng (1556), Robert Fojt (1956), Terry Godat (1406), R.O. Hansen (1799), Richard Hobbs (1488), Bruce Kessinger (1721), Leonard Petty (1723), Alan Piper (2139), Stephen Skirpan (1460), Paul Stainthorpe, 14 (1546), the youngest player to win, and Tom Tedrick (1797). Draws were scored by Michael Arne (1553), Scott McCargar (1709), Thomas Pastusak (1761) and James Stewart (1659).

Here are two of the most worthy games from the exhibition, recorded in USCF endorsed 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 move; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

White: Jeremy Silman (2331). Black: Michael Dyslin (1676). Simultaneous Exhibition, Berkeley, Feb. 20, 1976. English Opening 1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e5 3 d3 Bb4 4 Bd2 0-0 5 g3 Re8 6 Bg2 c6 7 Nf3 d5 8 cd cd 9 0-0 Nc6 10 Rc1 d4 11 Ne4 Ne4 12 de Bd2 13 Nd2 Be6 14 a3 Rc8 15 b4 b6 16 Qa4 Qd7 17 f4 f6 18 Nf3 Re8 19 Rfd1 Nb8 20 Qd7 Nd7 21 Kf2 Rc3 22 Rc3 dc 23 Rc1 Rc8 24 Ke3 Kf8 25 Kd3 Bc4 26 Kc3 Be2 27 Kd2 Rc1 28 Kc1 Ke7 29 Kd2 Bc4 30 Ke3 Kd6 31 Bh3 Be6 32 Be6 Ke6 33 Kd3 b5 34 Nd2 ef 35 gf g5 36 fg fg 37 Kd4 g4 38 Nf1 Kd6 39 Ne3 Ne5 40 Nf5 Ke6 41 Ke3 Nc4 42 Kf4 a6 43 Kg4 Ke5 44 Ng3 Na3 45 Kg5 Nc2 46 Kh6 Nb4 47 Kh7 Nd3 48 Kg7 Nf4 49 h4 b4 50 Nf1 Ke4 51 Nd2 Kd3 52 Nb3 Kc3 53 Nc5 b3 54 Kf6 b2 55 Na4 Kc2 56 Nb2 Kb2 57 Kf5 Nh5 58 Kg5 a5 59 Kh5 a4 60 Kg6 a3 61 h5 a2 62 h6 a1(Q) 63 Kg7 Kb3 65 Kg8 Qa8 65 Kg7 Qb7 66 Kg8 Qd5 67 Kh7 Qg5 68 Resigns.

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White: Jeremy Silman (2331). Black: Terry Godat (1406). Simultaneous Exhibition, Berkeley, Feb. 20, 1976. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 h6 9 Bh4 g5 10 fg Nfd7 11 Ne6 fe 12 Qh5 Kf8 13 Bb5 Rh7 14 0-0 Kg8 15 g6 Rg7 16 Bg3 Qe8 17 Bc4 Qg6 18 Qe2 Nc6 19 e5 Nde5 20 Bb3 Nd4 21 Qd1 Nb3 22 ab Bh4 23 Qd6 Bg3 24 hg Qg3 25 Rf8 Kh7 26 Qd2 Nf3 27 Rf3 Qf3 28 Rf1 Qg4 29 Rf8 Rd7 30 Qf2 Qd4 31 Rf7 Kg6 32 Resigns.

BOTVANNIK'S FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

When he was only 12, Mikhail Botvinnik won his first championship of many that would later propel him to the summit of the chess world. His account of how it came about appears here in English translation for the first time ("Shakhmatnoe tvorchestvo Botvinnika," Moscow, 1965, Vol. 1, pp. 114-116).

"I first participated in a school tournament during the autumn of 1923, taking only about half the points for an unsuccessful showing. My memories of this tournament remain. I recall only that we played after school in the cafeteria and that the games taken as a whole left me with an uneasy feeling. In spite of my best efforts, I often lost to my more experienced and knowledgeable opponents.

Great changes were taking place in school then. A Komsomol cell group was organized, a school newspaper began publishing, meetings were held and social events were staged. Whereas pupils usually went straight home after school before these changes, now they often stayed after school and engaged in civic affairs, political studies, sports (mostly basketball) and chess.

It was during this period that chess grew very popular among Leningrad students. Nearly all schools held tournaments and inter-scholastic team matches were common. . . . I invariably played chess after school hours two or three times a week.

Soon, however, I could no longer satisfy myself with such play. I knew Chigorin's "Shakhmatny listok" for 1876-77 by heart and was defeating my opponents with ease. I bought a copy of Grekov's and Nenarokov's new opening manual; I diligently studied newspaper chess columns.

Also seized upon was the visit to Leningrad of former world champion Emanuel Lasker. I recorded all of Lasker's exhibition games and analyzed them for more information.

Gradually I began to surpass the older students, but I was unable to cope with Vitya Milyutin. I remember that as soon as I had "learned" the Ruy Lopez I tried it out as White against Milyutin. However, he mockingly deviated from the line given by Grekov and Nenarokov and quickly won the game.

Our school championship was drawing near and, unlike the previous competition in which some 14 players participated, this time it was decided to hold a four-man double round-robin event.

Round one of the championship began March 22, 1924. I had Black against Milyutin and I won, a great success. My first win over Milyutin! I grew confident in my powers, but I also developed a critical attitude toward myself and my opponents."

White: Vitya Milyutin. Black: Mikhail Botvinnik. Leningrad, March 22, 1924. Grunfeld Defense (notes in quotes from Botvinnik's school notebook) 1 P-Q4 N-KB3 2 P-QB4 P-KN3 3 P-KN3 B-N2 4 B-N2 P-Q4 (I wonder whether I knew I was playing the Grunfeld Defense?) 5 PxP NxP 6 P-K4 N-N3 7 N-K2 P-K4 8 B-K3 PxP 9 NxP? ("An incomprehensible blunder that loses the exchange and forfeits castling. White should have played 9 BxP 0-0 10 N-B3 with a good game.") P-QB4 10 N-N3QxQch 11 KxQ BxP 12 BxP BxR 13 NxB N-R5 14 B-QR3 B-K3 15 N-N3 N-B3 16 N-B1 ("An unnecessary and weak move that makes White's difficult position still worse. White clearly wanted to take his knight through K2 to QB3 to get rid of Black's knight on QR5, but his maneuver is ill timed. First and foremost White must bring all his pieces into play and find a safe place for his king.") 0-0-0ch 17 K-K1 R-Q2 ("Weak. Stronger is 17 . . . N-Q5, aiming to trade off the bishop on White's QR3 and drive the king into dangerous territory.") 18 P-B4 B-N5 19 K-B2 N-Q5 ("Now this move is no longer good. Black overlooked his opponent's subtle reply. Correct is 19 . . . KR-Q1.") 20 N-Q3 P-B3 ("If now 20 . . . N-N4, then 21 N-K5 NxR 22 NxR NxN 23 N-K5, winning back the exchange.") 21 N-Q2 ("This move costs a piece. It can only be accounted for by purely external conditions. Further resistance is useless." This note shows that I had not lost respect for my opponent in spite of the gross errors he had committed. What the words "purely external conditions" mean is unclear. Probably, it was very noisy.) N-N4 22 R-B1ch K-N1 23 N-B4 NxB 24 Resigns.