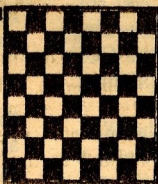


chess

by richard shorman



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Chess masters Koit Tullus and John Blackstone sponsored this year's Central California Open Championship and Qualifier, held October 25-27 in the LERA auditorium, Sunnyvale.

Tournament winner Rex Wilcox displays his defensive skill in an action packed game that illustrates how deeply some players follow chess theory. Fully one half of this game represents prepared analysis!

White: John Grefe. Black: Rex Wilcox
Sunnyvale, October 26, 1968.
Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	21 QR-Q1 (g)	R-R2
2 N-KB3	P-Q3	22 Q-R6	B-Q2
3 P-Q4	PxP	23 B-R7	R-B1
4 NxP	N-KB3	24 Q-N6ch	K-Q1
5 N-QB3	P-QR3	25 RxRch	BxR
6 B-KN5	P-K3	26 QxKP	Q-Q2
7 P-B4	Q-N3 (a)	27 Q-N3	K-B1
8 Q-Q2	QxP	28 R-KB1	R-N2
9 R-QN1 (b)	Q-R6	29 Q-N8	K-B2
10 P-B5 (c)	N-B3	30 B-Q3 (h)	B-R3
11 PxP	PxP	31 BxP	R-N1
12 NxN	PxN	32 Q-KN3	B-B5
13 P-K5	PxP (d)	33 Q-K1 (i)	Q-B4
14 BxN	PxB	34 Q-R4	R-N7
15 N-K4	B-K2	35 B-Q3	RxRP
16 B-K2	P-KR4	36 QxP	Q-Q5
17 O-O (e)	P-KB4	37 Q-Q1 (j)	P-K5
18 B-B3	PxN	38 B-K2	QxQ
19 BxP	Q-B4ch (f)	39 Resigns	
20 K-R1	R-KN1		

(a) With White's cooperation, Black offers to accept a gambit Pawn. The ensuing complications are among the sharpest in modern tournament chess.

(b) Also popular is 9 N-N3 (threatening 10 P-QR3 and 11 R-R2), e.g., 9 ... QN-Q2 10 BxN PxBI 11 B-K2 Q-R6 12 O-O P-KR4 13 K-R1 B-K2 14 QR-Q1 N-B4 15 P-B5 B-Q2 16 PxP PxP 17 P-K5 NxN 18 RPxN BPxP 19 N-K4 P-Q4 20 Q-B3 Q-N5 21 N-B6ch K-Q1 22 QxP Q-Q3 23 QxQ BxQ Kuzmin-Platonov, XXXV USSR, Championship, 1967), with some advantage to White, although the game was eventually drawn.

(c) This move has now replaced 10 P-K5 in top-flight competition, the authoritative line being 10 ... PxP 11 PxP KN-Q2 12 B-QB4 Q-R4! 13 NxP PxN 14 BxKP QxPch 15 Q-K3 QxQch 16 BxQ N-QB3 17 N-Q5 B-Q3 18 O-O N-B3! 19 NxNch PxN 20 RxBP K-K2 21 BxB KxR 22 BxP N-K4 (Mazzoni-Fisher, Monaco, 1967), and Black wins the ending. Attempts to strengthen White's play with 13 BxKP and 13 O-O have not met with much success.

(d) Tal-Bogdanovic, Match USSR-Yugoslavia, 1967, continued 13 ... N-Q4 14 NxN BPxN 15 B-K2 PxP 16 O-O B-B4ch 17 K-R1 R-B1 18 P-B4 RxRch 19 RxR B-N2 (Un-tested is 10 ... P-KR3.) 20 Q-B2 (Also promising is Liliental's 20 B-Q1½ with the double edged threat of 21 R-B3 and 22 B-R4ch.), and now 20 ... P-N3 (instead of 20 ... P-K5? 21 B-N4 B-K2 22 Q-B2! as in the game) 21 B-N4 leaves White with the superior position.

(e) The latest wrinkle, avoiding the drawing line, 17 P-B4 P-KB4 18 R-N3 Q-R5 19 O-O PxN 20 Q-B3 QxRP 20 B-Q1 R-B1 22 BxPch K-Q1 23 R-Q1ch B-Q2 24 Q-K3 Q-R4 25 Q-N7 B-B4 26 R/1xBch K-B1 27 R/Q-B7ch Drawn (Kavalek-Fischer, Sousse, 1967).

(f) Departing at last from published analysis, Black tries to improve on 19 ... B-Q2 20 R-B3 QxP 21 R-Q1 O-O-O 22 R-QN3 B-B4ch 23 K-R1 K-B2 24 Q-B3 B-Q5 25 RxBI Q-R (25 PxR? Q-N3ch!) 26 PxQ PxR 27 QxP (Shakhmatny byulleten, No. 1, 1968, p. 4), with a probable draw.

(g) A faulty re-grouping of force that is already well deployed. After 21 B-B3! White develops strong pressure. If, for instance, 21 ... B-Q2?, then Black bows to 22 BxPch K-Q1 23 KR-Q1 Q-R2 (23 ... R-R2 24 R-N8ch) 24 B-B7 R-KB1 25 BxP. Or 21 ... R-R1 22 KR-Q1 and Black is in zugzwang. Best appears to be 21 ... P-K5 22 BxP B-Q2 23 Q-B4 R-KB1 24 R-N8ch RxR (24 ... B-Q1 25 B-N6ch K-K2 26 QxRmate) 25 QxQRch B-Q1 26 B-N6ch K-K2 27 RxR KxR 28 QxBch K-N2 29 B-Q3 (White wins a Pawn after 29 QxBch KxB 30 QxPch, but with Queens on the board Black has drawing chances), and now 29 ... Q-Q4 looks good enough for a draw.

(h) Of course not 30 QxB QxQ 31 RxQ R-N8ch and mate next move.

(i) Vainly struggling to break through Black's defensive perimeter.

(j) Loses fast, but Black's extra piece must win in the long run.