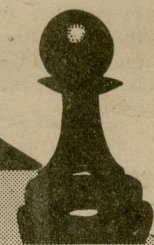




CHESS BARBS



Paul Masson Spectacular: A fantastic bitter-sweet event, held in the blazing hot sun at the Paul Masson Mountain Vineyards in Saratoga, May 25, 26, 27, with \$9,000 in cold cash on the line, payable on demand to 43 sweaty victors out of more than 650 (!) players...

Newly commissioned International Chess Arbiter Martin E. Morrison, Technical Director and National Secretary of the United States Chess Federation, spearheaded the organizing job for the six-round Swiss, assisted by a crew of able-bodied section leaders like Alan Benson, Jim Hurt, C. Bill Jones and Ted and Ruby Yudacufski.

Besides the normal flock of interested observers and chess reporters, KPIX-TV was on hand to film a video tape spot for use on the next day's 6 o'clock news. There were even "Chess Stress Pills" available to help ease the inevitable over-the-board headaches during play. As usual, Paul Masson provided much free wine tasting between rounds, which was consumed in crowd pleasing quantities and may have affected a number of game results subsequently.

But the big extra of the tournament was the fabulous George Koltanowski wowing a S.R.O. audience of gaping onlookers with his incredible Knight's Tour exhibi-

tion. You just have to see it to believe it: a huge demo board marked off into algebraic coordinates and all 64 squares containing the name of a person, place or number, with Kolty eyeballing same for a minute before turning away and rattling off 64 knight moves, never touching the same square twice and announcing what was written on each square as well, faster than the teller could keep up with him. Super swift, deadly accurate George K., a legend in his own time...

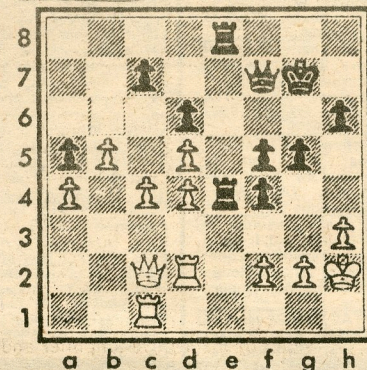
Winner and new Paul Masson champion is Canadian title-holder, international master Peter Biyiasas, who beat out last years champ, Kim Commons, in a spine-tingling-last-round marathon for \$2,350 table stakes. Four other masters had finished with 4 1/2-1 1/2 and were waiting on pins and needles for the outcome of the big money game between Commons and Biyiasas, either of whom could total 5 points only by defeating the other. Tension was so high that they had to be moved indoors in a separate room by themselves, with only assistant T.D.C. Bill Jones, an impartial witness and a pretty messenger girl to relay the moves and remaining clock times to the duplicate board outside. (She just happened to be Biyiasas' sweetheart and help-mate.)

After a prolonged maneuvering battle in the middle game, the struggle approached the moment

by Jude Acers, US Senior Master

of truth as both sides launched full-scale assaults on opposite wings. Spectators jammed the windows to watch Biyiasas' pawns advance on Commons' king-side black army ants; while White's queen was gobbling up pawns on the other flank. With only seconds to spare before time control, Commons "sacrificed" his queen in a now totally lost position, made one more move from inertia and turned down his king.

White: Kim Commons. Black: Peter Biyiasas. Paul Masson Class Championships, May 27, 1974. Bishop's Opening 1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nc6 3 d3 Nf6 4 Nf3 Be7 5 c3 0-0 6 Bg5 d6 7 b4 a5 8 b5 Nb8 9 Nbd2 Ng4 10 Be7 Qe7 11 0-0 Kh8 12 h3 Nh6 13 d4 f6 14 Re1 Nd7 15 Nf1 Nb6 16 Bd3 Be6 17 Ne3 Nf7 18 Qc2 Rae8 19 Rad1 g6 20 Kh2 Kg7 21 Qb2 Nc8 22 Bc4 b6 23 Qb3 Bd7 24 Nd2 Qd8 25 Kg1 Ng5 26 Nd5 Ne7 27 Re3 Nd5 28 Bd5 Ne6 29 Nf1 Re7 30 Ng3 Nf4 31 Bc4 Qe8 32 Rcel



Qc8 33 Ne2 Rfe8 34 Qb1 Ne6 35 Bd5 Fr8 36 Rf1 Qe8 37 a4 Nf4 38 Nf4 ef 39 Fr3 g5 40 Qb3 Be6 41 c4 Bd5 42 ed Re4 43 Rd3 Qe7 44 Rd2 Re8 45 Oc2 h6 46 Kh? Qf7 47 Rcl f5. (see diagram)

48 c5 R4e7 49 cd cd 50 Qc6 Qg6 51 Qb6 g4 52 Rd3 f3 53 Rgl Kh8 54 gf Re2 55 f4 Rf2 56 Kh1 h5 57 Qa5 Ree2 58 Qd8 Kh7 59 Qe7 Re7 60 Rc3 Ree2 61 White resigns.

Sharing second through fifth places (4 1/2 points) were international grandmaster Walter Browne, Berkeley, US co-champion John Grefe, also from Berkeley, USCF master Dennis Waterman, San Francisco (fresh from his recent 6-0 triumph at Sunnyvale), and USCF master Roy Ervin, Santa Monica, splitting \$500 four ways.

Larry Hughes of Berkeley earned \$600 1st Expert prize for scoring 4-2 in the combined Master-Expert division. Class A money was divided among Walter Dorne, San Francisco, Gene Lee, Mt. View, Randy Hough, Riverside, and Paul Markowitz, Berkeley (5-1, \$268.75 each). Neal Walters of Davis took Class B with a perfect 6-0 sweep (\$600).

Even the bottom classes featured record prize awards, with Roger Crosier (Seattle), David Kittinger (Vallejo) and Marty Reardon (Hayward) carting off \$333.33 apiece in the C's for tallies of 5 1/2 each. The same score brought Charles Clement (Los Angeles), Jim Manley (Railroad Flat), Michael Pace (Campbell) and Richard

Sarsfield (San Jose) \$268.75, while the Unrated Division's \$300 first prize was pocketed by John Pack of Ukia (6-0).

* * *

White: Walter Browne. Black: Boris Siff. Paul Masson Class Championships, May 26, 1974. Robatsch Defense 1 e4 d6 2 d4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 Nf3 Bg4 5 Be2 Nd7 6 Be3 Bf3 7 Bf3 e5 8 de de 9 Qe2 c6 10 0-0-0 Ngf6 11 g4 h5 12 gf Nh5 13 Bg4 Nhf6 14 Rd7 Nd7 15 Rd1 f5 16 ef Qa5 17 gf Nf8 18 Qc4 Ng6 19 Qe6 Ne7. 20 Rd7 Black resigns.

White: Keith Nelson. Black: James McCormick. Paul Masson Class Championships, May 26, 1974 Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 f3 Bg7 7 Be3 Nc6 8 Qd2 0-0 9 Bc4 Bd7 10 h4 Rc8 11 Bb3 Ne5 12 0-0-0 h5 13 Nd5 Nd5 14 Bd5 Nc4 15 Bc4 Rc4 16 g4 hg1 h5 g5 18 b3 Rc5 19 h6 Be5 20 Bg5 Qa5 21 Qa5 Ra5 22 h7 Kh8 23 f4 Bg7 24 Be7 Re8 25 Bd6 Re4 26 c3 Ra2 27 Nc2 Re2 28 Be5 Rac2 29 Kbl Rb2 30 Ra1 Ra2 31 Kbl Bf5 White resigns.

White: Rick Shepard. Black: Paul Markowitz. Paul Masson Class Championships, May 26, 1974 French Defense 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 Ngf3 c5 6 c3 Nc6 7 Be2 Qb6 8 Nb3 cd 9 cd a5 10 a4 Bb4 11 Kfl 0-0 12 g3 f6 13 Be3 fe 14 de Qc7 15 Rcl Nde5 16 Bf4 Bd6 17 Nbd4 Nf3 18 Nb5 Qb6 19 Bd6 Nd2 20 Kg2 Rf2 21 Kh3 Qe3 22 Bc5 e5 23 Kh4 Qh6 24 Bh5 g5mate!