



CHESS BARBS

by Jude Acers (US senior master)

DIAGRAM: White mates in three. How? Remember, Black can knight his "g" pawn!

GAME: Great chess masters throughout the world are playing chess by mail. The most famous correspondence players are Paul Keres and A. Khasin of the USSR, Lothar Schmid of West Germany, who was the referee for the Spassky--Fischer match last year in Iceland, and the great American theorist Hans Berliner of Pennsylvania, who won the correspondence chess championship of the world four years ago.

Now there is a great new correspondence chess grandmaster: Fritz Baumbach of Berlin, Germany. Baumbach gained the coveted honor with his second place finish in the Lenin Memorial tournament, 1970-72. The event was probably the strongest international correspondence competi-

tion ever held, and was won by Khasin with a tremendous score of 12½ points from 15 games.

Here is the interesting and theoretically crucial game that made Baumbach an International Correspondence Grandmaster. (Berliner is the only American ever to achieve this rank.)

White: Baumbach (Germany). Black: Novchich (USSR). Lenin Memorial Chess-by-Mail Tournament, 1970-72. Queen's Gambit Declined (Slav Defense, Reynolds Variation).

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c6
4 Nf3 Nf6 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Bd3 cd
7 Bc4 b5 8 Bd3 a6(A) 8 e4 c5
9 d5! e5(B) 10 b3 Bd6 11 0-0 0-0
12 a4! c4?! 13 bc b4 14 Ne2 Nc5
15 Ng3 Qc7 16 Be3 a5 17 Bc5!(C)
Bc5 18 Nd2 g6(D) 19 Nb3 Nd7
20 Khl Bd6 21 Ne2 Nc5 22 Nc5 Bc5
23 Ncl1 f5 24 ef gf 25 f4 e4
26 Be2 Bd7 27 Nb3 Qd6 28 Qel(E)
Rf6 29 Bh5 Rh6 30 Qe2 Be8
31 Be8 Re8 32 g4 Rh3 33 Nc5 Qc5
34 gf Kf7(F) 35 Qg4 Rc3 36 f6!
Kf6 37 Qh4ch Kf7(G) 38 Qh7ch Kf6
39 Rgl Black resigns.

(Notes by the winner with additional comments by Acers)

(A) Acers note: Black heads for the controversial pawn sac in the Reynolds variation. I will never forget the games Addison won in the 1969 U.S. Championship with this defense. Then Addison retired. Did he take his secrets with him? Is the line really playable? You decide: my lips are sealed. Baumbach: Here Black is able to

give the opening a sharp twist with 8...Bb7.

(B) If 9...c4, then 10 del is strong.

(C) First played by international grandmaster Wolfgang Uhlmann in a game against Fuchs for the East German championship.

(D) If 18...Ne8, then 19 Nb3 Nd6 20 Khl Bd7 21 f4.

(E) Better is 28 g4.

(F) On 34...Qe3 White plays 35 Qg2ch Kf7 36 Rael Qd3 37 Rf2 with the idea of 38 Rgl.

(G) Acers note: Novchich is hoping that Baumbach will die before the transmission of the remaining moves takes place. Fortunately, all tournament participants are required to use air mail, or else the losers in such games would return moves by canoe, steamship, pony express or Icelandic yak.

NEWS: Tal the Magnificent is wrapping up his fifth straight tournament success without loss of a game in Tallinn, Estonia. Spassky looks like a clear second, with Polugaevsky close behind. Bore later...

Steve Sawyer, editor of the California Chess Tournament Bulletin, reports on the Fifth annual Cherry Tree Open, held at the Casa Alvarado Chess Center in Monterey:

"The 1973 edition of the Cherry Tree was the strongest yet, with four Masters and a number of Experts in attendance. The Masters were John Grefe and Jim McCormick, both of Berkeley, Romeo Rodriguez of San Francisco and Jeff Kent of Northridge.

"John Grefe was clear winner with a 5-0 score. He played well throughout, and was never really in danger. ...

"In a three-way tie for second with 4½ points were Kent and Rodriguez and Phillip Simonds of San Francisco."

For a copy of Sawyer's tournament bulletin of this event, containing the full results and 45 selected games, send 50 cents (Cheap!) plus 25 cents mailing cost to 340 Jones St., Apt. 448, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The East Asia Book & Game Center, 5897 College Ave., Oakland (near Dreyer's), operates a chess club on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to midnight. Complete shock of chess books, sets and equipment on hand

in the store... Call 654-7313.

Also check out the Sleepy Hollow Ches Parlor, 1825 Union St., in San Francisco. A good place for chess and the ladies are especially welcome: 3-round women's tourney Saturday with hand-carved wood chess sets for top two winners. Entry fee, \$2; round one starts at 11 a.m. Try it, you'll really like it!! Phone 922-1970 and sign up NOW!