

CHESS BARBS

by Jude Acers (U.S senior master)

by Jude Acers (US senior master)

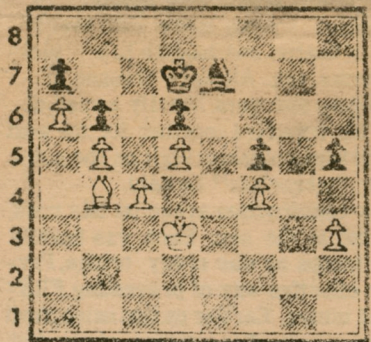
QUARTER-FINAL UPDATE: Soviet players now lead all four quarter-final candidates' matches. At long last, Petrosian broke Portisch's jinx, winning the fifth game in 35 moves with the White pieces versus a Queen's Indian after four hours and 29 minutes of play.

Korchnoi is now two up on Mecking following the seventh game of their match in Augusta, Georgia. At adjournment it looked like Mecking should hold, but Korchnoi demonstrated superior pawn savvy and forced a resignation on move 63.

In Moscow, Polugaevsky succumbed to Karpov's "Fischerian" bishop to lose a closely contested fourth round battle. The Spassky-Byrne match still stands at 20-, as Byrne hangs in there one more time in the fourth game.

White: Robert Byrne. Black: Boris Spassky. San Juan, 1974, 5th Match Game. Sicilian Defense
 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5ch Bd7 4 Bd7ch Qd7 5 c4 e5 6 Nc3 Nc6 7 d3 g6 8 a3 Bg7 9 Rb1 Nge7 10 b4 b6 11 0-0 0- 12 Nd5 Nd5 13 cd Nd4 14 Nd4 cd 15 Bd2 Rac8 16 Qb3 Rc7 17 Rbcl Rfc8 18 b5 Rcl 19 Rcl Rclch 20 Bcl Qc7 21 Qc4 Qc4 22 dc f6 23 Kf1 Bf8 24 a4 Be7 25 Ke2 Kf7 26 Bd2 f6 27 ef gf 28 Kd3 Bf6 29 f3 h5 30 a5 Ke8 31 a6 Kd7 32 g3 Kc7 33 h3 Kd7 34 Ba5 Kc8 35 Bel Kd7 36 Bf2 Ke8 37 Bel Kf7 38 Bb4 Be7 39 f4 ef 40 gf Ke8 41 Kd4 Kd7 42 Kd3, and Byrne sealed his 42nd move.

Spassky



Byrne
 Black to play,
 what result?!

White: Anatoly Karpov. Black: Lev Polugaevsky. Moscow, 1974, 4th Match Game. Sicilian Defense
 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4

Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 0-0 Be6 9 f4 Qc7 10 a4 Nbd7 11 Kh1 0-0 12 Be3 ef 13 Rf4 Ne5 14 Nd4 Rad8 15 Qg1 (A) Rd7 16 Rd1 Re8 17 Nf5 Bd8 (B) 18 Nd4 Ng6 19 Rff1 Ne5 20 Bf4(C) Qc5 21 Ne6 Qg1ch 22 Rg1 Re6(D) 23 Bf3 Neg4 24 Rgf1 Bb6 25 Rd2 Be3 26 Be3 Ne3 27 Rb1 Kf8 28 Kgl Rc7 29 Kf2 Nc4 30 Rd3 g5(E) 31 h3 h5 32 Nd5 Nd5(F) 33 Rd5 Ne5 (G) 34 c3 h4 35 Rbd1 Ke7 36 Rld4 f6?(H) 37 a5 Rc6 38 Be2 Kd8 39 c4 Kc7 40 b4 Ng6 (I) 41 b5(J) ab(K) 43 cb Rc2 43 b6ch Kd7 44 Rd2 Rd2 45 Rd2 Re5 46 a6 Kc6 (L) 47 Rb2 Nf4 48 a7 Ra5 49 Bc4 Black resigns.

(Condensed notes by international grandmaster Salo Flohr, translated from "Sovetsky sport" Jan. 26, 1974, pg.3)

(A) With the obvious threat of 12 Ne6 and 17 Bb6.

(B) Really well played, a la Steinitz. Black prepares to break in the center with 17...d5.

(C) Note that neither player intends to offer a draw by repeating moves. Worthy of consideration was 20 h3.

(D) He could have re-taken on e6 with the pawn, but from this moment on Polugaevsky was probably playing for a win.



(E) It is a rare occurrence to see Karpov in an inferior position with the White pieces.

(F) Black had an excellent move here: 32....Rc5!

(G) Everyone in the press room agreed that Black had a positional advantage, and some reporters predicted that the game would be adjourned with winning chances for Black as well.

(H) Polugaevsky loses the thread of play, and in the next few minutes (in time trouble) transforms a good position into a hopeless one. The square f6 should have been reserved for the rook.

(I) Typical time pressure moves. As frequently happens, the last move before time control ruins the game beyond salvation. The

king should have rushed to d7. (J) Here the game was adjourned. The picture has completely changed in favor of White, as the once "bad" bishop now plays a decisive role during the final phase of the game.

(K) Clearly, 41...Rc5 would be followed by 42 b6ch Kc6 43 Bg4.

GAMBIT GAME STORE: Don't forget to check out the Gambit Game Store, 625 Kearny St., in S.F. Like the East Asia Book & Game Center in Berkeley, the place is full of chess. Phone Bob Hamilton at 788-2066 for exact info.

BAY AREA OPEN: A \$1,000 tournament will get under way Feb. 2-3 at the Oakland YMCA, 21st and Telegraph, directed by Sherwyn Powers and David Smith. Entry for the USCF event ranges from \$10 to \$20, depending on playing category (Novice, Booster or Open). Final registration from 9-10 a.m., Sat., Feb. 2. First round starts at 10:30 a.m. Please bring sets and clocks.

SUPER-TOURNAMENT: The \$5,000 People's Chess Festival, born and bred by current U.S. titleholder John Grefe of Berkeley, is set to go Feb. 16-18 at



Chabot College, Hayward. Not only is Grefe himself expected to play in the Open Division, but big guns like Walter Browne, Dennis Fritzinger, James McCormick, Craig Barnes, Dennis Waterman, Andy Sachs, Duana Clark and Harry Radke, among others, are also slated to show. Check last week's CHESS BARBS for the complete prize list and entry schedule. For further inquires call 843-2875.

FLASH FROM SAN JUAN! SPASSKY SAC'ED A PAWN AGAINST BYRNE ON THE 50TH MOVE AFTER THEIR SIXTH MATCH GAME RESUMED IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, OBTAINED

A POSITIONAL ADVANTAGE AND SQUEEZED IT INTO A WIN. THUS, SPASSKY IS THE FIRST TO WIN AT THE QUARTER-FINAL LEVEL ON THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

FINAL MOVES TO BYRNE-SPASSKY SIXTH MATCH GAME: 42. . .Kc7 (sealed) 43 Ke3 Bf6 44 Kf3 h4 45 Ke3 Bg7 46 Kd3 Bf6 47 Bd2 Kd7 48 Be3 Kc7 49 Bf2 Kc8 50 c5! dc 51 d6 Kd7 52 Bc5! Bd8 53 Bb4 Ke6 54Kc4 Bf6 55 Bc5 Bd8 56 Bd4 Kd6 57 Be5 ch Ke6 58 Bb8 Kd7 59 Kd5! black resigns.