

CHESS BARBS

finally come up even with Korchnoi. Maybe he's saving himself for bigger fish...

Byrne has become an endless source of amazement: he downed the weakies (Ceullar, Torre, Radulov, etc.) with carelss abandon, thew in some big wins against some IGMs (Tuknakov, Taimanov, Larsen, etc.), split points with Karpov and Tal, among others, and lost only to Korchnoi.

The completed score-chart lists Korchnoi and Karpov, 13 1/2-3 1/2 (1st-2nd), Byrne, 12 1/2-4 1/2 (3rd). Smejkal, 11-6 (4th), Heubner and Larsen, 10-7 (5th-6th), Kuzmin, 9 1/2-7 1/2 (7th), Gligoric, Taimanov and Tal, 8 1/2-8 1/2 (8th-10th), Radulov and Quinteros, 7 1/2-9 1/2 (9 1/2 (7th), Gligoric, Taimanov and Tal, 8 1/2-8 1/2 (8th-10th), Radulov and Quinteros, 7 1/2-9 1/2

(11th-12th), Torre and Uhlmann, 7-10 (13th-14th), Rukavina, 6 1/2-10 1/2 (15th), Tukmakov, 6-11 (16th), Estevez, 4 1/2-12 1/2 (17th), and Cuellar in the cellar at 1 1/2-15 1/2 (18th) with no wins, 14 losses and 3 draws.

Larsen and Korchnoi fought a terrific campaign worthy of their reputations as uncompromising tournament warriors.

White; Bent Larsen. Black; Viktor Korchnoi. Leningrad, 1973. English Opening 1 c4 e5 2 g3 c6 3. Nf3 e4 4 Nd4 d5 5 cd Qd5 6 Nb3 Nf6 7 Bg2 Qh5 8 h3 Qg6 9 Nc3 Nbd7 10 Qc2(A) e3! 11 Qg6 efch 12 Kf2 hg 13 d4 Nb6 14 e4 Be7 19 Radl Rhf8 20 Ke2 Nc4!(E) 21 h4 Nh5 22 Bh3 Rf4! 23 Be6ch (F) Kc7 24 Bc4 Ng3ch 25 Ke3 Rdf8 26 Rhg1 Bh4 27 Kd3 Rf2(G) 28

Rd2 Bg5! 29 Rf2 Rf2 30 Ne2 Rf3ch 31 Kc2 Ne4 32 Ed3 Re3 33 Nc3 Ng3 34 d5 Bf6 35 Ndl Rf3 36 dc Kc6 37 Bg6 Kd6 38 Rel Nf5 39 Re8 Nd4ch 40 Kd2 Bg5ch 41 Kel Bh4ch 42 Kd2 Rg3 43 Be4(H) Bg5ch 44 White resigns (I).

(Notes by international grandmaster Semyon Furman, translated from "Sovetsky sport", June 15, 1973)

(A) This attack fails to achieve its objective. Trying to keep the queens on the board while taking over the center by 10 d3 ed 11 e4 should have been considered.

(B) With his pieces actively placed, Black has a comfortable game. White's control of the center means little at his point.

(C) Larsen's attempt to wring too much out of the position leads

to trouble. More promising was 16 Racl.

(D) Weakens the queen-side pawns. White could still have maintained the balance after 18 Radl Rhf8 19 Kgl Nh5 20 Ne2.

(E) Impressing new force into the battlefield, Korchnoi seizes the initiative. The more straightforward 20...Nh5 21 Bf3 Nf4ch 22 Bg4 would leave White relatively well off.

(F) Accepting the sacrifice by 23 gf Nf4ch 24 Kf3 Rf8 also makes White's defense difficult.

(G) Not only has Black obtained a clear advantage, he has also created mating threats against the White king.

(H) Results in further losses, but even after the better 43 Bd3 the win is only a matter of time.

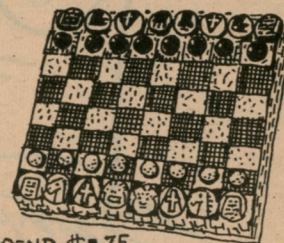
(I) White drops a knight after 44 Kel Rg1ch.

by Jude Acers (US senior master). The Leningrad Interzonal concluded with Korchnoi, Karpov and Byrne qualifying for the world championship candidates' series in 1974.

Korchnoi started slow, got lucky in a couple of early games, but warmed up fast and powered his way through the rest of the tournament. His victory over Larsen was one of the best of his career.

Soviet super-star Karpov, 22, played mostly low-profile chess without losing a single game to

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