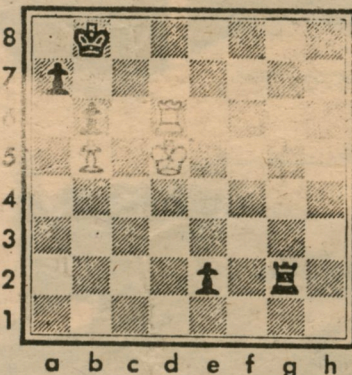


Chess Barbs

by Jude Acers
(US senior masters)

Special prizewinner for beauty, Schachmatny 1934. Analysis by R. N. Alexandroff, No. 495 in 1,234 Modern Chess Endings by Sutherland and Lommer. White to move and draw (??)

Readers are challenged to find the error in the solution, overlooked for four decades! (If you find the hole, please send it to me on a postcard.)



The famous solution is 1 Kd5-c6 Kb8-c8 (1...Rg8 2 Rd8ch! and draw by stalemate) 2 Rd6-e6 Kc8-d8 3 Re6-e5! Rg2-g6ch 4 Kc6-b7 Rg6-g7ch 5 Kb7-a6 Rg7-e7 6 Re5-d5ch Re7-d7 7 Rd5-e5 Rd7-d2 8 Ka6-b7 Rd2-a2 9 Kb7-c6 Ra2-c2ch 10 Kc6-b7 Rc2-c7ch 11 Kb7-a6 Rc7-e7 12 Re5-d5ch, and the original position is obtained, draw by repetition at move 20 or draw by perpetual check after 12 ... Ke8 13 Rd8ch! Kf7 14 Rf8ch Ke6 15 Rf6ch, and Black shall not get away. Draw.

What's the mistake in this analysis? I found it when I was 14 years old in Harahan, Louisiana and couldn't believe my eyes

or my own analysis then.

NEWS: USSR 1974-75 champs are nuclear bomb Mikhail Tal and total unknown kid Alexander Belyavsky, with 9-1/2 out of 15 games.

The Soviet Union's school training program and tradition of great respect to elderly chess teacher-master chess players is beginning to pay off. As fast as Anatoly Karpov rolled off the assembly line, little known players have flashed to prominence: Vaganian was third with 9 points and he's already a grandmaster. Great oldies like Vasjukov (10th), Savon (12th) and Taimanov (15th) gave good training for the new players.

And what are United States players and chess organizers doing to combat the seemingly unending Soviet chess programs? Nothing, save believing in the power of prayer and inspiration. ...And the USSR has Spassky, Petrosian, Korchnoi, Geller, Smyslov in reserve. (They only have Botvinnik for advice.)

In interviews after the tournament, Belyavsky publicly thanked "with all my heart Mikhail Botvinnik for all that he has shown me already." A curious note worth mentioning was the emergence of a 14-year-old Soviet chess historian that Belyavsky claimed had the most important role in his fantastic performance: "Viktor Emanuelovich Kart, whose great knowledge, playing strength and training methods helped me very much."

The thought of a teenage helper making or breaking the toughest tournament played anywhere is something that press could only mention in small print! What was the youngster tipping Belyavsky on? And, my God, what's going to happen when Karty gets old enough to play with the grown

ups? Will Fischer someday be on board 5, you know, first alternate for the American chess team? It simply boggles the mind....

DECISIVE GAME: USSR 1974-75 Championship, 40 moves in 2-1/2 hours, Leningrad, Dec. 21, 1974, Round 14.

White: Mikhail Tal. Black: Alexander Belyavsky. Queen's Gambit Declined (Tarrasch Defense) 1 Pc2-c4 Pc7-c5 2 Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6 3 Nb1-c3 Nb8-c6 4 Pe2-e3 Pe7-e6 5 Pd2-d4 Pd7-d5 6 Pa2-a3 Pa7-a6 7 Pb2-b3 Bf8-d6 8 Bf1-d3 0-0 9 0-0 Pb7-b6 10 Bc1-b2 Pc5xd4 11 Pe3xd4 Bc8-b7 12 Rf1-e1 Ra8-c8 13 Pe4xd5 Pe5xd5 14 Nf3-e5 Nc5xd4 15 Bf2-d3 Nf6xb7 16 Qd1xc4 Bb6-c5 17 Qd4-d3 Pd5-d4 18 Nc3-e2?! (A lemon. Right is 18 Ne4 Ng5!... and equal, quoth Karty.) Rf8-e8! 19 Ne2-g3 (if 19 Ne2xd4 Qd8-d5! 20 Ne5-f3 Nh7-g5) Qd8-d5 20 Ne5-f3 Nh7-g5 21 Pb3-b4 Bc5-f8 22 Nf3-h4 (Not 22 Bb2xd4 Re8-d8) Re8xch 23 Raxel Ng5-e6 (Possible was 23...Qd5xg2ch 24 Nh4xg2 Ng5-h3ch 25 Kgl-f1 Bb7xg2ch 26 Kf1-e2, and Black regains the queen with a small advantage.) 24 Re1-d1 (Better is Nh4-f3.) Pa6-a5! 25 Pb4xa5 26 Ng3-e2? (A serious error in a bad position.) Qd5-h5 27 Nh3-f3 Bb7xf3 28 Pg2xf3 (If 28 Qf3 Qf3 29 gf, then 29...Rc2 wins.) Ne6-g5 29 Ne2-g3 (Not 29 Nd4 Nh3ch-f4) Ng5xf3ch 30 Kgl-g2 Nf3-h4ch 31 Kg2-h3 (On 31 Kg2-g1 Qh5-g4!) Qh5-h6 32 Qd3-e4 Nh4-g6ch 33 Kh3-g2 Pd4-d3! 34 Bd2-d4 Rc8-c4! 35 Bd4xg7!???) Qh6-f4! 36 Qe4-a8 Qf4-g4! 37 Ph2-h3 Qg4xd1 38 Bg7xf8 Ng6xf8 (This wins, but better is 38 ... Nh4ch 39 Kh2 Qf3!, which forces immediate resignation -- Karty.) 39 Qa8-d5 Rc4-c1 40 Qd5-g5ch Nf8-g6, and, the time control being met, Tal resigns without resuming play.