

The Chess Column: 12-Year-Old Girls New USSR Prodigy

By R.E. Fauber
with

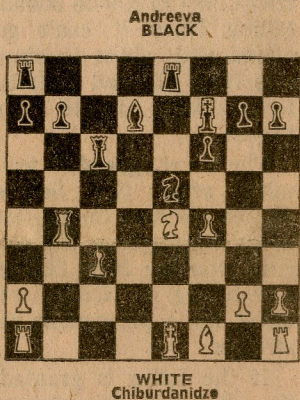
Frank J. Garosi
Special To The Bee

Chess attracts people with strange sounding names. Ron Abplanalp was a familiar chess playing figure long before that other Abplanalp titillated the fancies of political reporters. Even more baroque is the name of a Soviet player from Georgia, Dzhindzhikhashvili.

Perhaps the reason this should be so is that chess is the consoler of the disappointed. Strange sounding names do not succeed. People resist leaders with names such as Dzbugashvili, another Georgian who did become something of a success when he adopted the name Stalin.

And it is a statistical fact that you have a better chance of being a good chess player if you belong to an ethnic minority in your country. Even in the 16th century, when Spain dominated chess and Europe, Spain's best chess players were natives of her Italian possessions.

In the 19th century the Jews dominated European chess, and America's finest flower was Paul Morphy, a Creole. During the Soviet Union's era of chess dominance, its world champions have either been Jewish, or from national minorities: Tal is a Latvian, Petrosian is an Armenian, even



Spassky is half Jewish.

A possible explanation is that talented minds seek success in chess as compensation for the lack of opportunities available to them in the majority-dominated society.

The Soviet Union has a new child prodigy who will be a typesetter's nightmare for decades to come. A Georgian, the new sensation is a 12-year-old girl Maia Chiburdanidze.

In her first women's international tournament she managed to defeat the Russian women's champion and achieve a performance rating of 2100. This is a better showing than Robert Fischer made at the same age. Among male players in the United States only 12-year-old Lewis Cohen can compare, and his rating is marginally lower.

Perhaps chess equality between the sexes is coming sooner than anyone suspected and, as in this country, the women will elbow

out the minorities in the race for the goodies.

Chiburdanidze also won the tournament's brilliancy prize by defeating an international woman master in this sharp game:

Sicilian Defense
M. Chiburdanidze vs. Andreeva

1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. P-QB3. (Already White departs from the almost reflex 2. N-KB3 and 3. P-Q4. Black must counterattack the center or become cramped after a following 3. P-Q4.)

2. ... N-KB3; 3. P-K5, N-Q4; 4. P-Q4, PXP; 5. PXP, P-Q3; 6. N-KB3, N-QB3; 7. N-B3, NXN?

(This innocuous looking exchange plunges Black into trouble. Better was 7. ... PXP; 8. PXP, NXN; 9. QXQch, although White has chances to win this ending too.)

8. PXN, PXP; 9. P-Q5! (This P now threatens to constrict Black's game and prevent the smooth mobilization of her K-side.)

9. ... P-K5; 10. N-N5, N-K4; 11. NXP, Q-B2.

(This superficial move allows White to build a venomous attack without risk. Black had to wade into complications with 11. ... P-K3.)

12. Q-Q4, B-Q2; 13. B-R3.

(Black is now helpless against the threat of 14. P-Q6. 13. ... N-N3 looks relatively best.)

13. ... P-B3; 14. P-Q6, Q-B3; 15. PXP, BXP; 16. BXB, KXB; 17. Q-N4ch,

K-B2; 18. P-KB4, KR-K1. See diagram.

(Black thinks she can defend now since 19. N-Q6ch,

QXN; 20. QXQ, N-B5 disch.)

19. PXN, RXP; 20. 0-0-0, RXN; 21. RXBch, K-K1.

(With Q and R hanging what does White have?)

22. R-K7ch!, Resigns. (Since 22. ... RXR; 23. B-N5 wins the Q.)

The Davis Chess Club will host another in its reg-

ular series of tournaments open to all. It will start at 7 PM June 25 in the South Patio Room of the UC Davis Memorial Union. Details next week.