

# California Chess Journal

Opening Theory:  
Sicilian and  
Caro-Kann!

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Senior Master Vladimir Strugatsky

## Strugatsky Tops International Field at NCCA Masters



IM Igor Ivanov

IM John Donaldson

IM Doug Root

FM Craig Mar

**Also: Complete Interzonal Playoffs Coverage,  
IM Greg Hjorth, FM Craig Mar annotate**

# Letters to the Editor

Peter,  
I just received your April/May 1990 issue of California Chess Journal and wanted to relay my congratulations; it's wonderful!! The improvements you've instituted are clearly evident, and your outstanding ensemble of contributors makes for terrific reading! Keep it up! Also enclosed is some analysis I've done on the Leningrad Dutch which I would like you to forward to Tom Dorsch. I, like him, am an ardent fan, and would like to share some analysis and games.  
Regards,  
Alan L. Watson  
Bolingbrook, IL

*Thank you for writing in, Alan. It's nice to hear that our out-of-state subscribers are enjoying the CCJ too! I will forward your correspondence to Tom Dorsch. I should also say that if any of our other readers would like to contact one of our columnists, contributors or staff, feel free to write to them in care of the California Chess Journal, 2724 Channing Way #103, Berkeley, CA 94704. We're always glad to be of help!*

Dear Peter:  
The CCJ seems to be a very worthwhile investment. I was impressed with the latest (Apr/May) issue, particularly IM Leski's "Opening Refutation." I also like the "Innovative Openings" article. I hope the CCJ runs articles like these two in every issue for those of us who can't afford the \$ and/or time to keep up with latest Informants or New In Chess Yearbooks but still want to update our ECOs. One criticism of IM Leski's

article—the bibliography—what good is knowing that Chess Life and NIC (or Informants #1-47?) have pertinent material? Is the reader supposed to sift through years and years of back issues to find 1 or 2 games or articles? Also, I'm sorry to say I thought "GQM" was a waste of space that could've been devoted to book reviews or an endgame article, etc.

Freundliche Grube - Shalom - Venlig  
Hilsen,  
Roy Henock  
Eureka, CA.

*You're right Roy, it was unnecessary to include just Chess Life and NIC without any specific issue numbers in the bibliography. But I think Leski's justification for being so comprehensive (i.e. Informants #1-47) was to acknowledge these wonderful publications for their valuable help in developing opening theory over the years. I'm sorry to hear you didn't like GQM, and if more readers feel the way you do, we will discontinue it.*

Dear Peter:  
The new issue of CCJ is outstanding, your win at ACUI is splendid and your new cartoon strip is great!! You are a very talented man and our only disagreement is that after 26 years of observing many attempts to get more women active in chess, I don't think it will happen (but then I've been wrong many times about many things).

Best regards,  
Don Lieberman, M.D.

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Santa Clara, CA.

*Thanks for the thumbs-up, Don! I really hope our readers enjoyed last issue's cartoon as much as you did. The purpose of "GQM" is to poke fun at the all-too-apparent "drags" with tournament chess sometimes (i.e. conflicts with your night-life, chess players' hygiene, getting to the round on time, etc.). Hopefully, laughing at these problems through a satire will not only be a refreshing break from traditional chess journalism, but will also help us deal with such problems. As for getting more women interested in chess, let's all make an effort, and not lose our patience or optimism.*

<p><u>California Chess Journal</u> is published bi-monthly. <b>Advertising</b> 1/4 page \$15 (camera-ready) 1/2 page \$25 Full page \$50 Full flyer inserts also available. <b>Subscriptions</b> \$12/year, \$22/two yrs.</p>	<p><b>Columnists</b> Ganesan FM David Glueck IM Greg Hjorth FM Craig Mar NM Matt Ng Joel Salman</p>	<p><b>Contributors</b> Peter Dahl NM Tom Dorsch Mike Goodall IM Marc Leski NM Andy McManus Ray Orwig Richard Shorman NM Dan Switkes Bill Wall</p>	<p><b>Staff</b> Winston Chiang Alan Glasscoe <b>Send all advertisements and subscriptions to (make checks to CCJ):</b>  California Chess Journal c/o Peter Yu 2724 Channing Wy #103 Berkeley, CA 94704</p>	<p>Celia Lee Alex Rapoport Don Shennum</p>
<p><b>EDITOR IN CHIEF</b> NM Peter Yu</p>		<p><b>MANAGING EDITOR</b> Carolyn Withgitt</p>		



## Strugatsky Wins NCCA Masters to Become Northern California Champion

Vladimir Strugatsky (2543) of San Francisco outdistanced a field of forty-one masters, including six International Masters, to win the N.C.C.A. Masters Open and 1990 State Championship. \$1,000 was awarded to Strugatsky, who is now our new Northern California Champion, for his 4.5-.5 effort. This exclusive five-round swiss, was held over the weekend of March 30-April 1 at the Student Union of U.C. Berkeley.

International Masters John Donaldson (2578) of Washington, Igor Ivanov (2593) of Dominguez Hills, Doug Root (2555) of Los Angeles, and FIDE Master Craig Mar (2544) of San Jose all tied for second through fifth with 4-1 scores. Tying for Best Under 2400 with 3.5 points were NM Philipp Frenkel (2335) of Marina and NM Gjon Feinstein (2297) of Santa Cruz. NM Mike Arne (2262) of Palo Alto and NM Mark Pinto (2205) of New Jersey rounded out the prize winners by tying for Best Under 2300 with three points each. The prizes paid out totaled \$3,200.00, the largest guaranteed prizefund in Northern California this decade (so far).

The tournament was sponsored by the Northern California Chess Association, patron Parker Montgomery of Santa Barbara, Games of Berkeley, patron and IM Julio Kaplan of Heuristic Software, patron Max Wilkerson of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, and longtime patron Richard Fauber, Sacramento Bee Chess Columnist. Special thanks go to ASUC SUPERB and the American Chess Foundation for their patronage, and the *California Chess Journal* for its promotional support.

One of the few FIDE rated events in Northern California, almost half of the field, 19 players, had FIDE ratings going into the event. Curiously, the winner has neither a FIDE title nor even a FIDE rating. We asked Strugatsky about this, pointing out that he is clearly International Master Strength. He said he didn't care, indicating the title is unimportant. However, when reminded that IMs usually get a free entry into tournaments, he agreed the title has value.

A documentary film was made about the tournament by Patrick W. Herbers, a freelance writer from San Francisco. His film crew and equipment were an inobtrusive presence during rounds one, three and five, when he caught some of the action, and conducted interviews with the players on film. He said he expects to have completed the ten-minute film, showing what a chess tournament is really like, some time in June.

The Masters Open was directed by National TD and International Arbiter Mike Goodall with the able assistance of Alan Glasscoe, Don Shennum and NM Peter Yu, who took a bye in the last round to catch the concurrent Paul McCartney Concert. After a layoff of several years from tournament directing, Chief TD Goodall was just a tad bit rusty. Nonethe-

less, Goodall did offer to direct this tournament free of charge, and his help in making the Masters Open a reality was greatly appreciated.

A crosstable and an abbreviated selection of games, compiled by Frisco Del Rosario, is available from Mike Goodall, 2420 Atherton St. #6, Berkeley, CA 94704. Enclose a self-addressed-stamped-envelope and one dollar for printing charges.

Our report continues with selected games annotated by some of the area's strongest masters. We start off with NM Daniel Switkes' upset victory over IM Greg Hjorth (for the game Hjorth-Koepcke, see "Chess Down Under" on p.18).

**White:** NM Daniel Switkes (2206)

**Black:** IM Greg Hjorth (2482)

**Benoni Defense [A70]**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 ed5 5.cd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 Bg7 8.Bb5?!**

I had expected 3...b6, leading to Queen's Indian systems, and instead found myself in a quiet Benoni structure (the sharp f2-f4 is blocked). 8.Bb5+, which I noticed over the board, is an attempt to muddy the waters. Forintosh—Vaganian, Kirkovan 1978, went 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 ed 5.cd d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bb5 Nbd7 8.a4 a6 9.Be2 Bg7 10.Nf3 0—0 11.0—0 Re8=. In this game, White simply lost a move (Bf1-b5-e2). Knishenko—Zakharov, USSR 1964, continued 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 ed 5.cd d6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Bb5 Nbd7 9.0—0 a6 10.Bd7 Nd7 11.Bf4 Qe7 12.a4 0—0 and "Black's position is preferable" (Hartston). Note that if Zakharov played 12...b6 (instead of 12...0—0), then 13.Bg5! f6 14.e5!? and 14...0—0 or 14...fg are met by 15.ed, with a strong attack for White.

After 12...0—0, as played by Zakharov, 13.Bg5 again seems to obtain at least even chances, probably a slight advantage, e.g. 13...Nf6 14.h3; 13...f6 14.Bh4; 13...Qe8 14.Qd3.

At the board, I reasoned that White's lead in development, the exchange of his "Bad" Bishop for a Knight, Black's problem developing his white-square bishop, and the positional threat of a5 would more than compensate for the passive White pawn structure (lack of f4) and the apparently solid Black control of e5.

**8...Bd7?**

A mistake because this Bishop blocks the development of Black's Queen's Knight.

**9.Bd3! Bg4**

After 9...b5, 10.e5 is strong, e.g. 10...Ng4 11.e6!

**10.h3 Bf3 11.Of3 0-0 12.Bf4 a6 13.a4 Qe7 14.g4!?**

This is double-edged, since the position of the White King is not entirely secure, f4 and h4 are weakened, and f2 is vulnerable—continued on p.4

from p.3

able if Black can play ...f5. But it is difficult for Black to prepare ...f5, and White still has options about where to place his King.

**14...Nbd7 15.Og3 Ne5**

On 15...Ne8, White could have played 0—0, Re1, Bc1 and f4, with a strong attacking position.

**16.Be5 de5 17.a5! Bh6**

If 17...h5, then a) 18.f3 h4!? 19.Qh4 Nd5 20.Qe7 Ne7±, or b) 18.f4!? ef 19.Qf4 followed by 0—0—0 with a complicated position that seems promising for White.

**18.h4**

If 18.g5, then 18...Nh5.

**18...Bf4 19.Qh3**

The best square for the Queen. It threatens a mating attack on the h-file and defends the ideally-placed knight on c3, which guards White's center and controls a2 and b1 for White's Rooks—thus a Queen foray by Black to b2 only wins a pawn, no more, while White can prepare a kingside attack.

The Knight on c3 can also enter d5 (after d6). White's Queen also operates on the h3-c8 diagonal, controls the light squares f5, e6, and d7, and it blocks the black pawn on c4.

The best square now for the White King will be f1, allowing the Rook on h1 to threaten mate, and the Q-Rook to dispel Black's Queen.

The Bishops seem to be roughly equally limited, so the trade of a Bishop for Black's Knight will be to White's advantage. Black's queenside attack may come first, but White's kingside attack is more dangerous.

**19...c4! 20.Be2 Ob4 21.Kf1! Ob2**

**22.Ra2 Ob3 23.Bd1**

If 23.Kg2 then 23...Ne4.

**23...Ob4 24.g5**

If 24.h5, then 24...g5.

**24...Nh5!?**

If 24...Ne8, then 25.h5 Bg5 26.hg h6 27.f4 ef (or 27...Bf4) 28.Rg2. If now 28...f6, then 29.Rg5 fg 30.Qh6 with mate to follow. If instead 28...Qe7, then 29.Rg5 (29.d6!? is less clear) Qg5 30.Rg1 Qe7 31.gf Kf7 32.Bh5 Kf6 33.Qf5 mate.

**25.Bh5 gh5 26.Kg2 b5!**

Else Rh1—b1—b6.

**27.ab6 Ob6 28.Rb1 Od4**

If 28...Qd6 29.Rab2, then 29...Rab8 30.Rb8 Rb8 31.Rb8 Rb8 32.Qd7! +-; if instead 29...f6, then 30.Rb6 Qb8 31.Qe6 Rf7 32.gf Qc8 33.Rb7 Qe6 (33...Qf8 34.d6 Re8 35.Re7) 34.de Rf6 35.c7! Re6 36.Nd5 +-.

**29.Rd1 Oc5 30.d6 f6?!?**

A desperate try that hastens the end.

**31.Oe6 Kh8 32.d7!**

If 32...fg 33. d8Q! +-.

**32...Rad8 33.gf6 Bh6**

If 33...Rg8 then 34.Kf1 Bg3 35.fg Qe3 36.f7 Qf3 37.Rf2

**34.f7 Bg7 35.Ra6 Ob4 36.Nd5 Ob2**

**37.Nf6 Bh6 38.Ne8 Rf7 39.Of7 Qe2**

**40.Of6 Kg8 41.Oe6 Kh8 42.Oe5 Kg8**

**43.Nf6 1—0 (Switkes)**

We now continue with annotations by *CCJ* columnist FM Craig Mar, who will cover some of the final round action.

**APPLYING THE SQUEEZE**

*annotations by FM Craig Mar*

Playing the better side of a positional game is like milking a cow, according to a Mr. David Bronstein. Players below master can learn a lot about positional strategy and what to do once they've achieved a dominating position. Play is more subtle, sometimes you're building it, sometimes you're waiting, sometimes you are surgically exchanging key pieces. It's not simply sacrificing and announcing mate. Patience is needed to accumulate small advantages such as control of the only open file, gaining a strong Knight which cannot be driven away, more aggressive pawns (space), good Knight versus bad Bishop, pressure on a backward pawn on an open file, etc. The classical strategy, when cramped, is to exchange pieces. The one with space, therefore, should avoid exchanges. The one with the superior position can often set the pace, decide which wing to operate on, whether an endgame would suit him, and sometimes which pieces can be exchanged. Petrosian would often adopt a waiting strategy, subtly probing the position to create weaknesses. Waiting moves are harder to meet, as they often don't involve a direct threat. The defense often cracks under the pressure.

Defending the squeeze is a tedious task. At best you might draw, can do nothing active, and can only try to trade

off your opponent's good pieces. When Before I became a Senior Master, GM Tarjan showed me that passive resistance was best in certain positions, while anything aggressive would lose. In the featured game, I tied up my opponent's pieces. Without justification, he sacrificed to free himself, leading to a swift conclusion.

**White:** FM David Glueck (2458)

**Black:** FM Craig Mar (2535)

**King's Indian Attack [A07]**

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3**

The King's Indian Attack can arise from a French, Sicillian, Caro-Kann, and many other openings.

**2...d5 3.Bg2 c6!?**

Black's intention is not to play the Black side of a Catalan game! This Slav-like move prevents ideas based on c4 immediately.

**4.0-0 Bf5 5.d3 h6!**

Black appears to be moving too many pawns in the opening, but can get away with it because the lines are closed.

**6.b3**

The lines with 6. Nbd2 e6 7. Qe1 Be7 8. e4 contain more bite.

**6...e6 7. Bb2 Be7 8. Nbd2 0-0 9. c4 Nbd7**

We are now following Seirawan-Biyiasas, 1980 Lone Pine, but with colors reversed!

**10. Oc2 a5**

A standard plan; Black would like to advance a4, and maybe a3 and gain control of the dark squares.

**11.a3!**

Now 11...a4 12. b4 leads to nothing for Black.

**11...Ob8!?**

The first really tough move to find, all of Black's pieces are developed, so now what?

**12. Bc3 Rc8**

Black selects a clumsy looking piece arrangement designed to get in b5.

**13. Ob2?**

Better is 13. e4 Bh7 14. b4! with a sharp positional game. As the game goes, White never challenges the center with a pawn.

**13...b5!**

Black is already better.

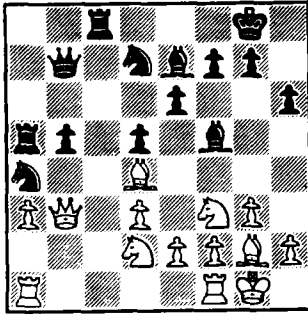
**14. cd5 cd5 15. b4 Nb6**

Also good is 15...a4 but the position could become too blocked to win.



**16. Be5 Ob7 17. ba?**

Slowly White is giving ground. Better is 17. Nb3! with equality.

**17...Na4 18. Ob3 Nd7 19. Bd4 Ra5**

Black has space and White is cramped, therefore White should strive to trade pieces, hence 20. Rfc1 deserves consideration.

**20. Rfb1**

White's small concessions are adding to Black's growing pull.

**20...Oa6**

A waiting and building move, Black's Queen gets off the B(g2)'s dangerous diagonal and prepares pressure on the a-pawn.

**21. Ra2**

White begins a Ghandi-like huddle.

**21...Bd6!?**

An aggressive pass, threatening e5 and d4 with a powerful queen-side attack.

**22. Ba1 e5!**

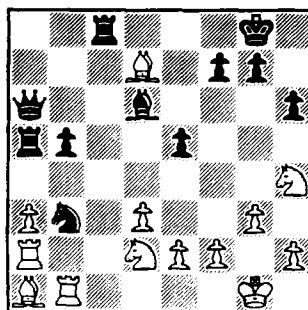
Anyway! Now if 23. Qxd5 23...Be6 forks the Queen and Rook.

**23. Nh4 Be6 24. Bxd5?**

White strives desperately to escape the bind but the position does not justify such a course. Mandatory is 24. d4 e4 25. f3 Nab6! where Black still maintains a slight edge.

**24...Nac5!**

White is now forced to sack his Queen but complications now arise.

**25. Bxe6 Nxb3 26. Bxd7**

A complex position has arisen. I faced the unpleasant task of finding the best practical move, not the best move which might entail refuting a dangerous attack, but leading to a faster win. Fortunately, I had 25 minutes to consider the obvious 26...Rc1+?! which at first glance looks great, but after 27. Rxc1 Nxc1 28. Rc2! the Knight is trapped and Rc6 is threatened, continuing 28...Ne2+ 29. Kf1 Qa7! 30. Rc8+ Kh7 31. Bf5+ g6 32. Ne4! White draws because all of Black's pieces are caught offside. Of course I did not see all this but "felt" it was bad. As Lasker once said, "Long variation, wrong variation!" It is bad, practically speaking, to dive into an unclear line which you cannot work out to a finite conclusion. Black has a much simpler alternative.

**26...Nxd2! 27. Bxc8 Oxc8 28. Rxd2 Rxa3**

The smoke clears. Black is up a Queen versus Rook and Knight, but with an outside passer. In addition, White's Bishop and Knight are clumsy and targets for attack. Quite an improvement over the variations which could have occurred from 26...Rc1+?! Also, Black has the initiative.

**29. Nf3 Oe6 30. R2b2 Ra2!?**

The alternative is 30...b4 31. Nd2 and White establishes an unpleasant beach head at c4.

**31. Nd2**

31. Rxb5 is relatively best, but ...Rxe2 maintains the initiative. White's problem would mainly be trying to find outposts for his exposed minor pieces, and protecting the d-pawn. Black can now penetrate with the Queen and harass White's unprotected men.

**31...Rxb2 32. Rxb2 Qc8**

I had about eight minutes left while Glueck had about three. White's pieces are clumsy. On 33. Nb3 Qc3! continues the harassment. It's a lost cause.

**33. Kg2 Qa8+ 34. Resigns 0-1****MATERIAL IMBALANCE**

annotations by FM Craig Mar

The term "imbalance" is IM Silman's favorite word to describe advantages and disadvantages over the battle front of chess. A common imbalance is Bishop versus Knight, two pieces which

move so differently but are considered equal in value. The Knight is like a "hit" man, lowly, doing dirty work, busy, usually the piece you can maneuver the most in the middlegame, your battering ram and sacrificial lamb in many attacks. The Bishop is like a radar or laser beam, never fully displaying its latent deadliness until obstructions are removed.

Rook and two pawns versus two Bishops often leads to sharp endings. Even rarer is three minor pieces versus two Rooks with each side having an outside passed pawn. Play is dynamic and tactical, especially if the minor pieces get stripped of their pawns. Rooks tend to work better with open line (files) while pieces work better with pawn support. In our featured game, a static ending suddenly erupts into mayhem as White sacks two minor pieces for a Rook and pawn.

White: NM Vladimir Strugatsky (2543)

Black: IM Vince McCambridge (2595)

**French Tarrasch [C05]****1. d4 e6 2. e4 d5 3. Nd2**

A good alternative to 3. Nc3, this was Karpov's patent for many years.

**3...Nf6 4. Bd3!?**

Normal is 4. e5

**4...Nc6?!?**

A surprise in answer to a surprise! Both players are already measuring each other psychologically.

**5. e5 Ng8 6. c3 f6**

Consistent, but risky.

**7. Oh5+ Kd7**

A strange place for the King so early in the game.

**8. Nh3?!?**

Masters love to develop Knights on unusual squares. Why not 8. f4, strengthening the center?

**8...Nh6 9. exf6 Oxf6 10. Nf3 g6!**

Black forces the trade of Queens. The middlegame would otherwise be difficult.

**11. Og5 Oxe5 12. Nhxg5 Ke7 13. Bf4**

Black's disadvantage takes a new form, a weak pawn and weak dark squares, particularly e5.

**13...Nf5!**

Black gives up a pawn to get some play.

**14. Bxc7!?**

The positional approach 14. Bxf5 ef 15. continued on p.20

# St. Mark's Wins National Team Title, Patel and Shore Co-Champs

The National Chess Junior High Championship tournament was held May 4th, 5th and 6th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Thirty-three states were represented by almost 500 players. The Saint Mark's Knights won first place in the team championship in the junior varsity division with 24 1/2 points out of a possible 28. Divisions are determined by national ratings of individual players.

Two Saint Mark's players also tied for first place in this division. Top honors went to Ketal Patel of San Rafael and Stephen Shore of Mill Valley. Both players had a score of 6 1/2 out of 7 points. Other Knights to place were Sean Peisert of San Rafael (fifth place), Peter Swander of Ross (sixth place), Charles Hodges of Fairfax (eighth place), and Matt Murphy of San Anselmo (twenty-third place). Trophies went to the top twenty-five finishers. Other participants include: Piers Barry of Ross, Mac Hume of Corte Madera, Judd Rubinstein of Kentfield, and Robbie Thorpe of Napa.

In the varsity division the Knights also competed and placed nineteenth in the nation. The players in this division were: Nader Alizadeh of Larkspur, Kevin Vote, Andy Hecht, and Michael Kennedy, all of Novato. Michael, as a sixth grader, will play in the National Elementary School Championships in Florida.

The St. Mark's teams were led by coach Ray Orwig, whose great dedication to scholastic chess is well known.

Here are some more facts about this year's Jr. High J.V. Champions: St. Mark's established a record for the largest winning margin. Five points replaces the previous record of 3.5. They are the only school ever to have two players tie for first and win the team title. They have the first ever Bay Area Individual Champions. This was the first time two teammates ever tied for first. St. Mark's is the third Bay Area

team to win a national team title. They placed five players in the top eight, also a new record. They led by 4.5 points going into the last round.

Although some people may feel that this was only a "Junior Varsity" Championship, it is nonetheless an established national title and everyone should be proud of these Bay Area future stars. We continue with a couple of games from our young champions whose potential and talent are clearly evident.

**White:** Ketal Patel (1195)

**Black:** Lloyd Allen (1161)

1990 National Jr. High Championship Sicilian Defense[B53]

1. e4 c5 2. Bc4 e6 3. Nf3 d6 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. d4 cd 6. Qd4 Nc6 7. Qd2 Bd7 8. 0-0 Be7 9. h3 0-0 10. b3 a6 11. Bb2

White has developed his pieces with one purpose in mind: targeting Black's King.

11...Na5 12. Qe2 Rb8 13. b4

Allowing the "bad" Bishop to be exchanged.

13...Nc4 14. Qc4 b5 15. Qd3 Nh5 16. e5!?

Although White's moves have not been the most efficient, at least he has a clear plan. While Black is merely shuffling his pieces aimlessly, White takes the first step towards Black's King-side. Notice also that an open d-file would only help White, since he gets the initiative, can double faster and will open up the a1-h8 long diagonal.

16...d5 17. Ne2 Bb4 18. Bc1!

Most non-masters would not gambit a pawn and then de-develop their own Bishop, but as we will soon see "the end justifies the means."

18...Bc5

Perhaps Black is trying to prevent Ne2-Ng3 with ...Nxg3, but White already has enough pieces on the King-side to start an attack without this maneuver.

19. Ng5 g6 20. Nf3

Now that the Knight has accomplished

his mission of provoking dark-squared weaknesses, it calmly returns home, clearing the path for greater forces.

20...Kg7?! 21. Qd2! b4?

Two weak moves in a row deserve a quick death!

22. Qh6+ Kg8 23. Ng5 Re8 24. Qh7+ Kf8 25. Of7 mate 1-0 (Yu)

**White:** Gustavo Sosa (1209)

**Black:** Stephen Shore (1184)

1990 National Jr. High Championship French Defense[C00]

1. e4 e6 2. Nf3 d5 3. e5 Nc6

Better is 3...c5, the text avoids the infamous Dorsch Wing Gambit with 4. b4!?

4. d4 Nge7 5. Nc3 g6 6. Bd3 Bg7 7. a3 a5 8. Bd2 Bd7 9. h3 b6 10. Qe2 0-0 11. 0-0 f6!

If Black didn't break with c7-c5, he must now play the less popular but just as dangerous f7-f6 French pawn break.

12. Rad1 fe 13. Ne5 Nd4

Black's fianchettoed Bishop now comes alive.

14. Qe3 Ndc6 15. Nc6 Nc6 16. Nb5 Na7 17. Nd4

White tries to stake a claim to the long diagonal by posting on d4.

17...Of6 18. c3 c5! 19. Nf3 Bc6 20. Rde1 Rfe8 21. Re2 d4!

There is now no question as to who controls the dark-squared diagonal.

22. cd Bf3 23. Of3 Of3 24. gf cd

Black has succeeded in doubling White's pawns and getting a passer on the d-file.

25. Rfe1 e5 26. f4 Nc6 27. Be4 Rac8 28. Bc6 Rc6 29. fe Rce6 30. Bf4 d3 31. Re3 d2 32. Rd1 Be5 33. Be5 Re5 34. Re5 Re5 35. Rd2 Re1+ 36. Ke2 Rb1 37. h4 Ke7 38. Ke3 Rg1+ 39. Kh2 Rg4 40. Kh3 Ra4 41. Rd6 b5 42. Rd5 b4 43. Rd4 ba and Black eventually won on move sixty 0-1 (Yu)

As with most scholastic tournaments, the time controls end in sudden death. Unfortunately, this deprives us of the rest of the gamescore.

## Lowell Places Second at National High School Championship

The Lowell Chess Team took second place at the 1990 National High School Chess Championship held in Kansas City, Mo., from April 27th to April 29th.

The scoring members were (point total out of 7 in parentheses): NM Sergey Iskotz (5.5), Michael Rozler (5), Alan Tse (5), and Wayne Yeung (4); also competing were Steve Ho (3.5), Dima Shubov (3), Henry Wong (3), and Tony Quang (2.5). The final team point totals were: Stuyvesant 22, Lowell 19.5, Cherry Hill East (New Jersey) 18, Burnsville (Minnesota) 18, etc. Other schools represented included Bronx High School of Science and Boston Latin School.

Iskotz received a trophy for finishing 15th and Rozler, Tse, Yeung, and Wong each won medals in the individual competition.

The 3rd Annual National Scholar-Chessplayer Award was also given

during the awards presentation, and Alan Tse of Lowell won the \$1,000 scholarship/award.

An interesting fact about the team is that seven of the eight are immigrants to the United States. Iskotz, Rozler, and Shubov immigrated from the U.S.S.R.; the others (except for Ho) came to the U.S. from Hong Kong, Taiwan, or Vietnam.

The annual event is sponsored by the United States Chess Federation. A total of 918 students from 180 schools in 27 states competed in three divisions, making it the largest scholastic chess tournament ever held in the United States.

Funding for the trip came from the BSCS (\$500), the Lowell Alumni Association (\$500), and from six one-day chess tournaments run by Mr. Peter Dahl (\$1600).

**White:** Alan Tse (1977)

**Black:** Ryan Porter (1806)

1990 National H.S. Championship King's-Indian Defense [A48]

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. e3 Bg7 4. Be2 0-0 5. 0-0 d6 6. c4 Nbd7 7. b4 e5 8. a4

8. Bb2 develops faster.

8... Ne8 9. Nc3 f5 10. Ob3 Kh8 11. Ba3 f4 12. b5 g5 13. de Ne5

An automatic move that overlooks the attack generated by 13...g4!

14. Ne5 Be5 15. ef gf 16. Nd5 Oh4 17. Bb2 Rg8 18. Be5+ de 19. Bf3 Nf6 20. Nf6 Of6 21. Oc3! Rb8?

Too slow! Black should have played Bh3 hoping for 22. Bxb7 Bxg2 23. Bxg2 f3 winning. However White had 22. Kh1, winning.

22. Rae1 Re8? 23. Re2 b6 24. Rfe1 Bb7 25. Bb7 Rb7 26. Rc5 Re5?? 27. Re5

Now there are no good moves. The discovered pin/check is irresistible.

27... Kg7 28. Re7+ Kg6 29. Qd3+ Kg5 30. Qd5+ Kg4 31. h3+ Kh4 32. Rh7+ Resigns 1-0 (Tse, Dahl)

## Lowell Senior Alan Tse Wins National Scholar-Chessplayer Scholarship

The 1990 National Scholar-Chessplayer Achievement Award, a \$1,000 cash scholarship sponsored by the United States Chess Federation and the U.S. Chess Trust, was awarded to 18-year-old Alan Tse, a senior at Lowell High School in San Francisco, California.

Carrying a 3.95 grade average, Alan is a member of the National Honor Society as a National Merit Commended Student. Although he maintains a high Class A rating at the national level, Alan's main accomplishments in chess are at the organizational level. Through his efforts, Lowell High School has been able to attend the National High School Championship for the past three years. To secure funding, Alan directed numerous weekend tournaments in the San Francisco area, and raised the thou-

sands of dollars necessary for the team to participate. He recently volunteered to be the chess coach at the West Portal Lutheran Middle School. As he put it:

"Over the years, chess has played an important role in my life. Playing chess has provided hours of joy, while being a chess organizer and promoter has helped me grow as a person. That is why this year I decided to give something back to the game I love. I have recently started coaching the West Portal Lutheran Middle School Chess Team; I hope to make chess as enjoyable for them as it has been for me."

Diane Thomson, a senior at University High School in Tucson, Arizona, placed second in the competition and was granted a \$400 scholarship. Backed by excellent S.A.T. scores, 18 individ-

ual and team awards in the state-wide Academic Decathlon, and augmented by similar state and national chess accomplishments at the individual and team levels, Diane was an outstanding candidate in this competition. She also represented the United States in the World Youth Chess Festivals of 1988 and 1989.

The winner of the \$200 scholarship, Jessica Ambats, a junior at Hunter College High School in New York City, is well-known throughout the chess world. She tied for 1st place in the World Youth Chess Festival of 1987 in the Under Age 16 category. She sports an Expert's rating, which places her amongst the top 10% of the competitive players in the United States. She was continued on p.18



# Miles, deFirmian Advance to Interzonals

## by Mike Goodall

The U.S. Championship last fall was a zonal tournament for the World Championship. This means it qualified the leaders to the next step in determining a challenger for the world title in 1993. That next step is the interzonal, to be held in Bagio City, Philippines, beginning June 28th. Both GMs Yasser Seirawan and Boris Gulko are qualified to play in the interzonal on the basis of their ratings. The U.S., a one-country zone, qualifies four more players with its zonal tournament. In addition to GM Roman Dzinzichashvili and IM Stuart Rachels, only two of the three players who tied for fifth through seventh in last year's championship could advance to the interzonal. Therefore a playoff was necessary between GMs Joel Benjamin of New York, Nick deFirmian of Berkeley, and Anthony Miles of Los Angeles to determine which one was to be eliminated. This playoff, a double round-robin, was held at the Mechanics Institute Chess Club in San Francisco from May 10th through May 15th. After five close rounds, Joel Benjamin was eliminated. Annotations are by NM Peter Yu and Ganesan.

**White:** GM Nick deFirmian (2694)  
**Black:** GM Anthony Miles (2681)  
Interzonal Playoffs, Round 1

**Ruy Lopez [C67]**

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. 0-0 Ne4 5. d4 Nd6 6. Bc6 dc 7. de Nf5 8. Qd8 Kd8 9. b3 Ke8 10. Bb2 h5 11. Nbd2 Be7 12. c4 Be6 13. Ne4 Rd8 14. Rad1 Rd1 15. Rd1 Rh6 16. Kf1 Rg6 17. h3 1/2-1/2

Both Nick deFirmian and Tony Miles had better tie-breaks than Joel Benjamin in the Championship. Therefore, in the event of a tie, Joel would be eliminated.

**White:** GM Joel Benjamin (2682)  
**Black:** GM Nick deFirmian (2694)  
Round 2  
**English Opening [A34]**

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. g3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. 0-0 e6 7. e4 d6

The Hedgehog-like positions are a good way to handle the English Opening.

8. d4 cd 9. Nd4 Nd4 10. Qd4 Be7 11. b3 0-0 12. Ba3 Oc7 13. Rad1 Rfd8 14. Rd2 a6 15. Bb4 Bc6 16. a4 h6 17. Rfd1 Ne8 18. Qe3 Bf6 19. Ne2 Rac8 20. Nd4 Ba8 21. Rd3 Rb8 22. h4 Be7 23. Qe2 1/2-1/2

The games were played in a small room off to the side of the Chess Club. Moves were relayed to a demonstration board in the main room.

**White:** Miles

**Black:** Benjamin

Round 3

**English Opening [A30]**

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. d4 cd 4. Nd4 e5  
A Theoretical Novelty, more common is 4...Nf6, d5, Qb6 or even e6. Black's position is similar to the Lowenthal variation of the Sicilian, except that White's pawn is on c4 instead of e4. This difference should favor White if he continued 5. Nb5 a6 6. Nd6+ Bxd6 7. Qxd6 Qf6 8. Qd1! and now the normal 8...Qg6 is less effective because there is no target on e4. Perhaps Benjamin is trying to steer Miles into transposing to a pseudo-Pelikan Sicilian after 5. Nb5 d6 6. e4. In any case, Miles avoids the question by avoiding these Sicilian variations in which Benjamin is very knowledgeable.

5. Nc2 Oh4 6. Nc3 Nf6

Black can try 6...Qxc4, but after 7.e4 the position is unclear.

7. Nb5 Rb8 8. Nc7+ Kd8 9. Nd5 Oc4 10. Nf6 gf 11. e3 Qe6 12. Bd3 f5 13. 0-0 Rg8 14. f4 Bd6

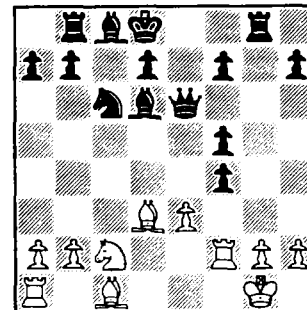
Hoping for 15. fe Qxe5 followed by an eventual ...Qh2 mate.

15. Rf2

Protecting Nc2 and threatening 16. Bxf5 Qxf5 17. Qxd6.

15...ef

Missing White's shot. Much better was 15...e4, after which Black equalizes.



16. Bf5! Of5 17. Od6 Qe5 18. Oh6

White has nothing after Queen takes Queen.

18...Od5 19. Bd2!

19. Qxh7 was also playable, but Miles would rather develop and go for mate.

19...Ne5?

The power of White's last move becomes evident, as Black really didn't have much better. For example, 19...b6 20. Qf6+ Ne7 21. Bb4 Qe6 22. Qf4 Nc6 23. Nd4! +-.

20. Of6+ Kc7 21. Rc1 1-0

The threat is 21...Nc6 22. e4!

This was the only decisive game. To qualify, Joel had to win the next two games, and he gave it his best shot.

**White:** Benjamin

**Black:** Miles

Round 4

**Ruy Lopez [C65]**

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d3

This passive move deviates from round one's game which featured the main line after 4. 0-0.

4...d6 5. c3 Bd7 6. Nbd2 g6 7. 0-0 Bg7 8. Re1 0-0 9. Ba4 h6 10. Nf1 Re8 11. Ng3 d5

Black's game seems fine.

12. h3 de 13. de Na5 14. Bc2 Bb5 15. b3 Qd1 16. Rd1 Bd7 17. Be3 Nc6 18. b4 a6 19. a4 Rad8 20. Nd2 Be6 21. Nb3 Rd1 22. Rd1 Rd8 23. Nc5 Rd1 24. Bd1 Bc8 25. Bb3 b6 26. Nd3 Nd7 27. Nf1 Ne7 28. Nd2 Bb7 29. f3 Kf8 30. Kf1 Ke8 31. Ke2 Nc8 32. Nc4 Ke7 33. Bc1

continued on p.20

# LERA BRILLIANCIES

by NM Tom Dorsch

The 22nd LERA Peninsula Class Championships, the Bay Area's oldest continuous event, was held March 17-18, 1990, in Sunnyvale. A highlight of this popular tournament is the "brilliance" competition with cash prizes. Games submitted by the players are judged and winners selected by local docent Richard Shorman. The annotations are by NM Tom Dorsch.

## Open Section Brilliance

**White:** Mark Drury (1983)

**Black:** Tom Stevens (2131)

**Irregular [A04]**

**1.Nf3 Nh6**

Tom's "system." If he becomes a great player, they will doubtless name this opening after him, but if he continues to play this opening, he may never become a great player. It appeals to Tom because it directly challenges the reigning orthodoxy that each player should dedicate the initial phase of the game to a fight for control of the center. It is playable, like other marginal openings, because objective positional defects can be balanced by experience ("book"). Tom has an extremely narrow repertoire; he plays a couple of hundred rated games a year, and invariably plays 1...Nh6, whereas the only time his opponents see this line is against him. Of course, as one moves up, the opposition is less surprised by offbeat lines, which explains the inverse relationship between the frequency of gambits/irregulars and playing strength; masters have to go where the points are, and oddities lose much of their hitting power against good preparation.

But Tom's originality doesn't stop at move one, and his games are some of the most exciting and interesting played in Northern California. It is never surprising to see him on either side of a brilliance submission.

**2.b3g6 3.Bb2 f6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Bc4 a6 6.0-0 b5 7.Bd5!?**

Already intending the piece sac.

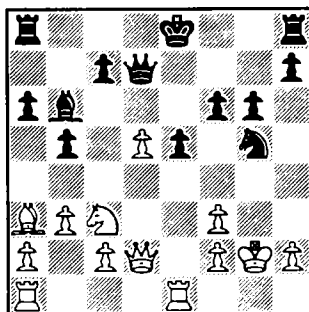
**7...e6 8.Re1! Bc5**

Since acceptance of the piece, e.g. 8...ed 9.ed Ne7 10.Bf6 Rg8 11.Ng5, gives White a winning attack, Black develops a piece. Either 8...Bg7 or 8...Bb7 are safer. The text permits further expansion with tempo, and buries an important defender on the queenside. The weak pawn structure and lagging development are the seeds that reap the whirlwind.

**9.d4 Bb6 10.Bc6 dc6 11.Od2 Nf7 12.d5! cd5 13.ed5 e5 14.Ba3!**

It is important that the black king remain homeless.

**14...Bg4 15.Nc3 Bf3 16.gf3 Ng5 17.Kg2 Od7**



**18.Re5! fe5 19.Og5 Kf7**

Black is unable to simultaneously defend all of his weak points.

**20.Ne4 Rhe8**

20...Qd5? 21.Qe7 Kg8 22.Nf6.

**21.Of6!**

Better than 21.Nf6, winning the exchange back. With two pieces and a pawn for a rook, White has a won ending.

**21...Kg8 22.Qb6! Od5?**

More prolonged resistance was possible after 22...cb. Now Black winds up a full piece down.

**23.Nf6 Kf7 24.Nd5 cb6 25.Nc7 Rac8**

**26.Ne8 Re8 27.Rd1 Rc8 28.Rd2 a5**

**29.Bb2 Ke6 30.Re2 Rc5 31.f4 e4**

**32.Re4 Kf5 33.Kf3**

Even 33...Rc2 fails to 34.Re5 and 35.Re2, winning the rook. 1—0

## Expert Section Brilliance Game

**White:** Milfo Fredenburgh (2130)

**Black:** Jesse Jestadt (2066)

**Reti (Reverse Benkő gambit) [A09]**

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 d4**

**5.b4 cb4 6.a3 ba3 7.Ba3 Nc6 8.d3 e5**

Black has three principal ways to develop his kingside. Best is 8...g6, 9...Bg7, 10...0-0; Less effective is 8...e5 9.Bf8 Kf8 10.0-0 h6. Least advantageous is the one in the text (10...g6).

**9.Bf8 Kf8 10.0-0 g6 11.Nbd2 Kg7 12.Ng5 Bd7?!**

12...Qc7!?

**13.Qb3 Ng4 14.Nge4**

If 14.Qb7?, not 14...Qg5 15.Qd7 but first 14...Rb8.

**14...b6 15.h3 Nh6?!**

15...Nf6.

**16.c5! f5?**

Black must make a developing move, not create another structural weakness. Best was 16...Rb8.

**17.Nd6 bc?**

17...Rf8; 17...Rb8; 17...Qc7.

**18.N2c4 Rf8 19.Qb5!**

Now the floodgates are opened wide.

**19...e4**

19...Ne7 20.Qc5 Rb8 21.Qe5 allows White to scoop up several pawns and retain a dominant position.

**20.Qc5 ed 21.ed**

21.Bc6 is less convincing after 21...de 22.Rfe1 Bc6 23.Qc6 d3.

**21...Oc7 22.Rfe1 Rac8**

There was no way to reinforce the pinned knight on c6.

**23.Nc8 Rc8 24.Nd6 Rf8 25.Re7**

Now 25...Kg8 is met by 26.Bd5 Kh8 27.Bc6 Qc6 28.Qd4 with mate to follow, and 25...Nf7 loses a piece to 26.Bd5 or 26.Rc1. 1—0

## "A" Section Brilliance Game

**White:** Roderic McCalley (1952)

**Black:** Owen R. Overton (1829)

**French Winawer [C18]**

continued on p.19

# INNOVATIVE OPENINGS

## THE CARO CAN BE CRUSHED

At the amateur level, it is usually sufficient to play the opening by intuition. Keeping up with theory, however, is necessary if you're playing a fashionable opening whose assessment may change radically from one game to another. Failure to do so was responsible for Black's defeat in our feature game - he was dead lost before he realized what hit him.

**White:** Ganesan

**Black:** J. Babkes

Golden Knights' 1989

Caro-Kann Defense [B17]

### 1. e4 c6

The Caro-Kann is a very sound opening for Black, if a little stodgy ("It is so difficult to tempt one's opponent into a risky attack with it."-Botvinnik). Every 20th century World Champion, except Fischer, has included it in his repertoire. The normally stubborn Fischer tried practically every system against it, suggesting he could not find a "best" line.

### 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2

This is believed to be the most flexible move-order. After the classical 3. Nc3, besides 3...de4, Black has two alternatives in 3...b5!? and 3...g6. The latter idea came to popular attention after Black equalized easily in Fischer-Petrosian, Belgrade 1970: 3...g6 4. e5 (4. h3-Fischer) 4... Bg7 (4...h5!?) 5. f4 h6 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. h3 Bf3 8. Qf3 e6 9. g3 (9. Be3) 9...Qb6. With 3. Nd2, White can meet 3...g6 by 4. Bd3 Bg7 5. c3, when the Black Bishop is biting on granite, while 3... b5 is now meaningless. Even after 3. Nc3, it is debatable whether 3...b5 or 3...g6 is any better for Black than 3...de4.

### 3...de4

Nikitin has suggested an interesting idea to take advantage of 3.Nd2 by 3...Qb6, continuing 4. c3 de4 5. Ne4 Bf5 6. Ng3 Bg6 7. Nf3 Nd7 8. h4 h6, when Black's Queen is more actively placed than in

the regular 4... Bf5 variation.

### 4. Ne4 Nd7

The most popular subvariation at present, largely due to the efforts of Speelman. Black will play ...Ngf6 next, without allowing doubled pawns should White capture the Knight. 4...Bf5 is another thematic continuation, but it then seems harder to coax White into creating losing chances for himself.

### 5. Bc4

Speelman once said that after 4...Nd7 White could either aim for a minimal but enduring positional advantage or try to blow his opponent's brains out. The text, hoping for the latter, seemed more appropriate in a postal game. There is a lot of theory about 5. Nf3 too, but that's another story. In his Chess Life column, Soltis had recently noted some of the pitfalls for Black after the new idea 5. Ng5 (Supplementary Game 1), which thus lost the element of surprise. I also chose 5. Bc4 because of Gerd Pieterse's excellent survey in *New in Chess Yearbook* #8. By the way, an amusing trap is 5. Qe2!? Ngf6?? (consistent) 6. Nd6#, but everybody knows that 5...Ndf6 is correct.

### 5...Ngf6 6. Ng5 e6 7. Oe2

If you haven't seen this position before, note that White is now threatening Nxf7.

### 7...Nb6 8. Bd3

Placing the Bishop on the sensitive b1-h7 diagonal looks best, although 8. Bb3 (Supplementary Game 2) is also playable.

### 8...h6

8...Qd4 is too dangerous, as was confirmed in Arnason-Helmers, Reykjavik 1982: 9. N1f3 Qd5 10. Ne5 Qg2 11. Rf1 Be7 12. Nef3 Qg4 13. Nf7. 8...c5 9. dc5 Bc5 10. N1f3 Qc7 11. Bb5+ Bd7 12. Bd7+ Nbd7 13. Nf7, Bednarski-Kholmov, Balaisa 1977, is also sub-optimal. Possible is 8 ...Be7 9. N1f3 h6 10. Ne4 Ne4 11. Be4 Nd5, Murey-Chistiakov, Moscow 1972, when Pieterse suggests 12. c4 Nf6 13. Bc2 with an edge.

### 9. N5f3 c5

White was better after 9...Nbd5 10. a3 b5 11. Ne5 Bb7 12. Bd2 Qc7 13. f4, deFirmian-Hort, Tunis 1985 or 9...Be7 10. Bd2 Nbd5 11. 0-0-0 Kupreichik-Smyslov, USSR 1972.

### 10. dc5

Of the alternatives mentioned by Pieterse, 10. Be3 looks the most interesting.

### 10...Bc5

Black can also play 10...Nbd7 (Supplementary Game 3), but this may involve a gambit.

### 11. Ne5

A truly amazing opening position! White moves his Queen Knight for the 5th time and Black replies by moving *his* Queen Knight for the 3rd time. As penance, these wandering Knights will be exchanged against each other.

### 10... Nbd7

White had a strong attack after 11...0-0 12. Ngf3 Nbd5 13. a3 b6 14. g4 Bb7 15. Rg1 Darga-Filip, Tel Aviv 1964.

### 12. Nef3

Possible is 12. f4 a6 13. Bd2 Qc7 14. 0-0-b5 15. Ngf3 Westerinen-Erlingsson, Reykjavik 1982.

### 12...Ne5!?

I was quite relieved to receive this move, which marks the first critical point after 5. Bc4. The text allows White to steer the game into one of the sharpest Caro bashing systems. Personally, I feel that anyone who plays 1...c6 would be happier in a more solid, positional middlegame. This could have been achieved by the safer 12...Qc7, which bears Karpov's seal of approval: 13. 0-0 (White can't continue as in our game- 13. Bd2? Ne5 14. Ne5 Bf2+!, Suetin-Kholmov, Budapest 1976; 13. Bf4 Bb4+! 14. Kf1 [14. c3? Bc3+] 14... Bd6 15. Bg3 0-0 16. Rd1 Ne5 17. Ne5 Rd8 gave Black no problems, Timman-Karpov, Amsterdam EOE 1988) 13... 0-0 14. Bd2 Bd6 15. Nd7 Bd7 16. Rael Rfd8 = Sokolov-Karpov, 7th match game 1987.



## by Ganesan

### 13. Ne5 0-0

13. ... a6 14. Bd2 Qc7 15. 0-0-0 b5 16. f4 Bd6 17. Rhe1 Bb7 18. Kb1 with good attacking chances, Am. Rodriguez-Campora, Medina del Campo 1986.

### 14. Bd2 Qd5

Black must play actively if he is not to be snowed under, for example 14...Bd4 15. 0-0-0 Qd5 16. f4 Qa2 17. c3 Bc5 (the manoeuvre ...Bd4-c5 has cost two valuable tempi) 18. g4 Nd5 19. g5 Qa1+ 20. Bb1 g6 21. gh6 b5 22. Qd3 Ba3 23. Qc2! Bb7 24. Rhg1 Rfc8 25. Rg6+! Kirpichnikov-Lein, USSR 1974.

### 15. 0-0-0 Qa2 16. c3 b5

Pieterse mentions the untried suggestion 16...Rd8, while 16...Ba3!? 17. Be3 (if 17. ba3, Black has perpetual check) 17...Qa1+ 18. Bb1 Be7 Trois-Chaves, Sao Paulo 1977 is best met by Gaprindashvili and Ubilava's suggestion 19. g4 or 19. Qc2. White had a winning attack after 16...Qa1+ 17. Kc2 Qa4+ 18. Kb1 Rb8 19. Bc2 Qa6 20. Qf3 b5 21. Bh6 b4 22. Bg7, Gaprindashvili-Zaitseva, USSR 1979.

### 17. Bb1

A refinement on the older 17. Bh6 Bb7! (17...gh6? 18. Qf3 b4 19. Bb1 Qa1 20. Qg3+ Kh8 21. Rd8 Ne4 22. Nf7+ Kh7 23. Qg4 Bb7 24. Rd7 Bc6 25. Ng5++ Kh8 26. Rh7+ Kg8 27. Qe6+ Resigns, Bielczyk-Szabolcsi, Kikinda 1983) 18. Nd7 (18. Bb1 transposes to our game. On 18. Ng4, Pieterse gives 18...Qa1+ 19. Bb1 Qa4!, although this seems to lose to 20. Nf6+ gf6 21. Rd4 to me. Instead, Black has counterplay after 19...Ne4.) 18...Nd7 19. Qg4 Qa1+ 20. Bb1 g6 21. Rd7 Ba3 22. ba3 Qc3+ 23. Kd1 Rfd8 24. Rd2 Qa1! 25. Ke2 Qe5+ 26. Kd1 Qa1 27. Ke2 Qe5+ 28. Kd1 Draw, Chandler-Speelman, Brighton 1984. As the game continuation shows, Black's "book" had now run out and he quickly collapses.

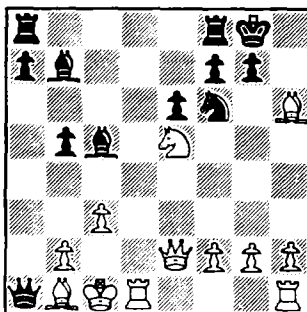
### 17... Qa1?

The second, and final, critical juncture. This is known to be inferior to 17...Qa4, although Black has yet to demonstrate a

clear path to equality: 17...Qa4 18. Qf3 (18. Bh6 or 18. Qd3 are met by 18...Qh4) 18...Nd5 19. Qg3 Kh8 20. Rhe1! (an improvement on 20. Ng6, which Oll analyzed to a draw) 20...Nf6 (20...Bb7 21. Re4! Nc3 22. bc3 +- Camacho) 21. Bh6 gh6 22. Rd8! Ng4 23. Nf7 Kg7 24. Re4 Resigns Diaz- Sieiro Gonzalez, Camaguey 1987. I was curious to see if Black could improve on this in a postal game, which is why I had gone into the whole line beginning with 5. Bc4.

### 18. Bh6 Bb7

Compared to 17...Qa4, the Black Queen can no longer aid in the defense. 18...gh6 19. Qf3 Nd5 20. Qg4+ Kh8 21. Qh5 Kg7 22. Rd3 is winning- if 22...Bf2, 23. Rg3+! anyway.



### 19. Nd7! Nd7

Or 19...Be7 20. Bg5- less clear is 20. Nf8 Be4.

### 20. Rd7

White, still reeling the moves off Pieterse's article, had spent a total of only 2 days reflection time so far.

### 20...Ba6

Pieterse gives 20...Bd5 21. Qe5 +- . Later, I found that this was Bielczyk-Zelic, Bugojno 1985, which continued 21...gh6 22. Qg3+ Kh8 23. Qd3 f5 24. Qg3 Bd4 25. Qg6 Resigns. Babkes' move is no improvement, while 20. ... Bc6 can be met in several ways, including 21. Qd3 g6 22. Bxf8.

### 21. Qe5! g6??

Babkes actually spent 5 days reflection on this move! Of course, after 21...gh6,

White continues according to Bielczyk. **22. Qg7 Checkmate.**

It may be embarrassing to win such games where nothing original happened, but it's much worse to be on the receiving end.

### Supplementary Game 1

#### Khalifman-Sokolov, Leningrad 1988

5. Ng5 Ngf6 6. Bd3 e6 (5...Ngf6 followed by ...e6 looks like Black's most sensible counter to 5. Ng5, but in practice, he still has problems. This position has also been reached by 5. Bd3 Ngf6 6. Ng5 e6.) 7. N1f3 (Possible is 7. Qe2 Bd6 8. Bd2!? with a similar attacking setup to our main game) 7...Be7 ( A major alternative is 7...Bd6 8. Qe2 h6 9. Ne4 Ne4 10. Qe4 Nf6 [10...c5?! 11. Bd2 Nf6 - 11...Qc7 12. Qg4!- 12. Bb5+! Bd7 -12...Ke7- 13. Qb7 Rb8 14. Bd7+ Nd7 15. Qa6! Rb6 16. Qa4 Rb2 17. dc5 Bc5 18. Bc3 Rb7 19. Qg4 +- Psakhis-Meduna, Trnava 1988] 11. Qe2 [11. Qh4!?] 11...b6 12. Bd2 Bb7 13. 0-0-0 Qc7 14. Rhe1 0-0-0 15. Ba6 [15. Ne5 Kb8 16. Kb1 Rhe8 17. f3 Gelfand-Adams, Sydney 1988, 17...Ka8 18. a3 with an edge, Gelfand] 15...Ba6 16. Qa6+ Kb8 17. Qe2 Nd5 and White won after a heavyweight struggle, Sokolov-Karpov, Belfort 1988; 8. 0-0 h6 9. Ne4 Ne4 10. Be4 0-0 [10...Nf6 11. Bd3 Qc7 12. Re1 b6 13. Ne5 Bb7 14. c3 Nd7 15. Qe2 Rd8 16. Bf4 Ulibin-Dzhandzhgava, Yurmala 1989, when 16...0-0 17. Nd7 Qd7 18. Bd6 Qd6 19. Qe4 g6 20. h4 would have limited White's initiative according to Ulibin] 11. c3 e5 12. Bc2 Re8 13. Re1 ed4 14. Re8+ Qe8 15. Qd4 Qe7 16. Bf4 looks defensible, but White went on to win in Kasparov-Karpov, Amsterdam EOE 1988 and Ulibin-G. Georgadze, Simferopol 1988 ) 8. 0-0 (After 8. Qe2 h6 9. Ne4 Ne4 10. Qe4 Nf6 11. Qe2 c5 12. dc5 Bc5 13. Bd2 0-0 14. 0-0-0 White had good attacking chances, Benjamin-Arkell, Reykjavik 1990. Black was able to equalize in continued on p.21

## OPENINGS SPOTLIGHT:

# The Sicilian Schevenigen

White: A. Belyavsky

Black: G. Kasparov

Barcelona, 1989

Sicilian Defense [B85]

(Scheveningen Variation 10.a4 Qc7 11.Kh1 Re8)

**1.e4 c5**

Black prevents d4 while keeping the pawn structure asymmetrical.

**2.Nf3 e6**

When playing the Scheveningen, both the d- and e-pawns are moved to the sixth rank, establishing the "little center" and controlling the c5, d5, e5, and f5 squares. Therefore, 2...d6 can also be played. However, by moving 2...e6, Kasparov avoids a number of variations that seek to exploit the opening of the a4-e8, e.g. 2...d6 3.Bb5+; 2...d6 3.d4 cd4 4.Qd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Nf6 6.c4; and 2...d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Be2 Ne4?? 5.Qa4+ and 6.Qe4.

**3.d4**

Some early critics believed this to be a mistake, exchanging a center pawn (d4), for a flank pawn (c5). However, it is now well-established that this advance is White's best chance for an advantage. He posts a knight strongly in the center and gains space, taking the first four ranks and leaving Black with the last three. The fifth rank becomes a no-man's land, over which the battle will be fought.

**3...cd 4.Nd4**

4.Qd4? Nc6 develops a piece with tempo. 4.c3 is playable, offering a gambit (Smith-Morra).

**4...Nf6**

The purpose of this move is to provoke 5.Nc3, blocking the c-pawn. If 4...d6, 5.c4! increases White's space advantage, making it very difficult for Black to get the b- or d-pawn to the fifth rank. Note that 4...Nc6 is also playable since

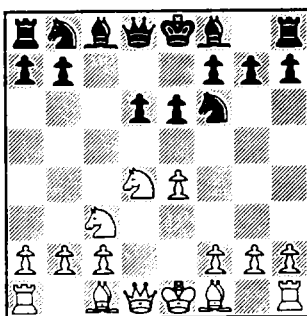
5.c4?! allows Black to quickly complete his development by 5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Nc6 bc6 8.Bd3 e5 with an equal position. However, 4...Nc6 allows White to achieve c4 by 5.Nb5 threatening 6.Nd6, so 5...d6 6.c4 Nf6 7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 when although White has achieved the c4 (Maroczy) bind, he has a poorly-placed knight on a3. Praxis has shown this position offers chances for both sides.

**5.Nc3**

Naturally not 5.e5?? Qa5+ and ...Qc5.

**5...d6**

Now 6.e5 was a possibility, and 5...Nc6 allowed 6.Ndb5, leading to other variations, so Kasparov plays ...d6, preventing e5 and entering the Scheveningen.



**6.Be2**

Of course, White may choose from a number of plans. 6.g4, the Keres Attack, can be a formidable weapon for White, immediately threatening to chase the black knight and initiating a king-side pawn storm. Additionally, without a knight on f6, Black will find it difficult to achieve the freeing move ...d5. 6.Bc4 was popularized by Fischer. In a modern treatment, the Velimirovic attack, White proceeds with Be3, Qe2, Bb3, and O-O-O. Posting the bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal supports the king-side pawn storm, since if White can play f5, or sac a pawn on g6 (after g5 and h5), the e6 pawn will be very weak. This is an important pawn for Black, preventing

Nd5. On the immediate 6.f4, threatening e5 and allowing the development of the queen to f3, Black usually plays ...Nc6, when White proceeds with Be3, Qf3, and O-O-O. Now the bishop can go straight to d3, and the queen supports the g4 advance. 6.Bd3 is not recommended. By playing the bishop to d3 too early, White blocks the queen's protection of the knight on d4 and control over d5. This allows Black to play Nc6 with gain of tempo (Nxc6 bxc6 strengthens Black's center), and eventually d5. Belyavsky's 6.Be2 develops a piece, prepares king-side castling, and awaits further developments before going on adventures.

**6...Be7 7.O-O O-O 8.f4**

White prepares for an eventual e5 or f5 and takes control of e5. Of course, Black allows f4 when playing 1...c5 instead of 1...e5. Belyavsky could also have waited and played Be3 or Kh1 first, avoiding checks on the a7-g1 diagonal.

**8...a6**

An important move. The pawn on a6 supports the advance of the b-pawn, which allows ...Bb7, and also threatens ...b4 and ...Ne4. Defensively, the pawn guards against Ndb5, thereby helping to safeguard the d6 pawn and allowing the development ...Qc7 (also protecting d6 by preparing ...Rd8 if necessary). Of course, Black could also play 8...Nc6, finishing his development and guarding against e5, but Kasparov prefers an early ...a6 according to the principle "the sooner the better." Kasparov rightly does not fear the e5 advance with the white king on the a7-g1 diagonal, e.g. 9.e5 de 10.fe Bc5! 11.Be3 (11.ef? Bd4+ 12.Kh1 Bf6 drops a pawn.) 11...Nfd7 12.Bf4 Nc6/Qb6 wins a pawn for Black.

**9.Kh1**

preparing e5 in earnest, and safeguarding the king from checks. Belyavsky could also try simple development, e.g. 9.Be3 Nc6 10.a4 Qc7 11.Kh1 transposing, or 10.Qe1 Qc7 11.Qg3 Nd4 12.Bd4

*Seth played board three for the recently crowned U.S. Amateur Team Champions "Walk Your Dog III". His 3-0 score in the playoffs is especially noteworthy.*

## by Seth Rothman

b5 with a double-edged game.

### 9...Qc7

Best. Kasparov prevents e5 and prepares d8 for a rook. Note that 9...Nc6?! is a mistake allowing 10.Nc6! bc 11.e5 with advantage. The recent game Van Der Wiel—Ehlvest, Rotterdam 1989, continued 11...Ne8 12. Bd3 g6 13. Qe2 Qc7 14. b3 c5 15. ed (15. Bb2 allows 15...d5!, equalizing) Nd6 16. Bb2 Rb8? (better was 16...Bf6, when White still retains a small edge by 17. Na4 Bb2 18. Nb2) 17. f5! c4 (Van Der Wiel suggests Nf5, but Black is already in trouble; he can never play ef because of Nd5 and Ne7 mate) 18. fg cd 19. gh [19. Qh5 also works as the best defense, suggested by John Nunn, 19...hg 20. Qh7 Bg5! 21. Qg5 Nc4!, aiming to eliminate the deadly bishop, is busted by John Speelman's shot 22. Nd5!! ed 23. Bd4! (23. Bf6 allows the defense 23...Rb6 and 24...Rf6)] 19...Kh8 20. Nd5 f6 21. Qg4! e5 [if 21...ed 22. Rf6! Bg4 (22...Bf6 23. Bf6 wins) 23. Rf7! wins] 22. Qg8! Rg8 23. hgQ Kg8 24. Nc7 with a won game.

### 10. a4

Belyavsky clamps down on the ...b5 break, hoping to stymie Kasparov's queenside counterplay. Of course, he could also choose to ignore the queenside, saving a tempo for his eventual kingside attack. The prophylactic a4 and Kh1, preventing counterplay associated with a7-g1 checks and ...b5, was popularized by Karpov in his 1985 unsuccessful defense against Kasparov.

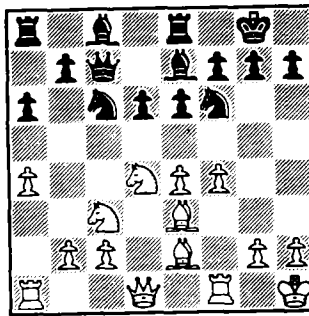
### 10...Re8

There is no reason to avoid Nc6 with the queen on c7, but Re8 has been Kasparov's choice in the position with Be3 Nc6 inserted. Re8 is a typical move for the Scheveningen, serving several purposes. First, it opens f8 for the bishop, which can then be actively redeployed by ...g6, ...Bg7. The fianchetto of this piece is safer in the middlegame, where White is already castled kingside, than in the opening when White can

castle queenside and pry open the h-file by h4-h5 as in the Sicilian Dragon, Yugoslav attack. Secondly, Kasparov prepares the blockading thrust ...e5. If White replies fe de, the rook on e8 protects ef by Black, the rook on e8 will pressure White's e4 pawn. In his book on the Scheveningen, Kasparov recommended ...Rd8, which is very strange. Although 10...Rd8 works well against 11. Be3 Nc6 12. Bf3 Ne5!, White does not have to be so kind. After 12. Bd3 or 12. Qe1, it becomes clear that Black usually cannot play ...d5 without allowing White to play e5, chasing the knight with advantage. Therefore e5 is much more likely, when ef will open the e-file. Also, Kasparov consistently favors ...Re8, using it successfully against Karpov in their championship matches, and ...Rd8 has all but disappeared from praxis, despite Kasparov's recommendation. So why did Kasparov recommend ...Rd8? I honestly don't know. Now, after

### 11. Be3 Nc6

We reach a crossroads in the variation. Before proceeding further, it may be worthwhile to examine some of the features and plans associated with this position.



White has a definite space advantage. He has undisputed control of the first four ranks, including e4 and d4, while Black is confined to only three ranks. This space advantage confers freedom

of movement on White, allowing him to easily feed pieces to the kingside, especially the queen. Compare this with the black queen, who only has access to the queenside. Since a space advantage loses its value as the pieces are exchanged, making it less likely that the defender will incur difficulties of movement, White must be careful not to allow exchanges without receiving other compensation.

Black, however cramped, holds several positional trumps. One, he has a central pawn majority (e and d pawns vs. e pawn), which, if he can get moving, may allow him to take over the center. Two, he has the c-file. The c-file is more important than the d-file since d5 is closed to White, but Black may invade by ...Nc4. Although the ...d6 pawn looks weak, it is more than adequately defended by the ...Be7 and ...Qc7. Finally, Black has no kingside weaknesses. The unmoved kingside pawns are very resilient and able to withstand all but the most carefully prepared attacks.

White's plans involve a kingside demonstration based on either e5, f5, or g4-g5. Additionally, if he can achieve a5, he may invade on the weak b6 square (Be3-b6), disrupting Black's queenside and the protection of the d-pawn. Of White's three kingside plans, e5 is the most dangerous for Black, and if correctly achieved is usually decisive. E4-e5 forces the Nf6 from protection of the h7 square, and opens the b1-h7 diagonal for a white bishop. Chasing the Nf6 also allows ...Qh4 and prevents ...d5 by Black. Finally, de, fe, opens the f-file for White's Rf1, and since Black has played ...Re8, f7 can be very weak. However, timing is crucial. If White advances e5 too soon, he may lose a pawn (e.g., 12. e5? de 13. fe Ne5 14. Bf4 Bd6), allow the counterstroke ...d5, or simply wind up in an ending where the isolated pawn on e5 (after de fe) is very continued on p. 14



from p.13

weak.

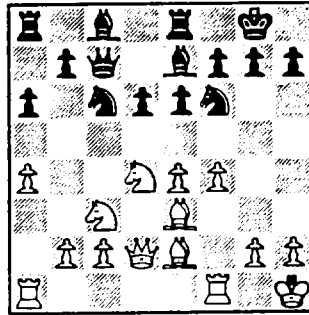
White's second kingside plan, f5, is usually an attempt to open the f-file by fe or gain control of d5 after ...ef,...e5 allowing Nd5. Again, timing is critical. If White's pieces are in the wrong place, he may simply be giving Black the e5 square for ...e6-e5 (especially good if White has a piece on d4) or ...Nce4. Finally, there is the play g4-g5, kicking the Nf6 and preparing the transfer of heavy pieces to the kingside, i.e. Qh4, Rf1-f3-h3 or Ra1-d1-d3-h3. This plan is usually White's choice after Black stops the more dangerous advances e5 and f5, however the time involved with moving the heavy pieces to the kingside gives Black a chance for counterplay. Black's counterplay is based on ...d5, ...e5, or the c-file. Additionally, if he can achieve ...b5 (despite a4), he can be assured of good queenside play. ...d5 is certainly best, destroying White's pawnhold on the center (e4), but virtually impossible to achieve if White plays well. The obvious problem with an early ...d5 is it allows e5 by White. Therefore, more usual is ...e5, with the idea of ef, reducing White's attacking chances. With ...e5, Black guarantees that White will not play e5. However, timing is crucial. First, White must have a piece on d4, otherwise he can play f5, followed by g4-g5, kicking the Nf6, and following with Nd5 with a huge edge. Secondly, the e5, ef plan leaves a position where both players have isolated pawns (e4 and d6). If Black has not prepared properly, the d6 pawn will almost always be weaker than the pawn on e4, since White usually responds to ef with Bf4, hitting the Pd6 and Qc7 (and sometimes Rb8). Finally, Black can seek play down the c-file. One plan is Rac8, Qc7-b8-a8, followed by the exchange sac ...Rc3 and ...Ne4; another is ...Na5-c4, forcing the Be3 to c1 to avoid exchange and protect b2. If the b2 pawn falls, the Nc3 usually follows. However, Black must be careful that Nc6-a5 does not allow e4-e5, and that Nc6-b4 does not allow a4-a5.

OK, now that everything is clear, I can only say that timing is everything in the Scheveningen! This is a very difficult

position to play for both sides, leading to very exciting chess, where the better player usually triumphs. This explains its popularity with Kasparov, a younger Spassky, Sokolov, Sax, Polugayevsky, and Hjartarson, to name a few.

Back to the game:

### 12.Qd2



Belyavsky prepares to bring the Ra1-e1 or -d1 where it can participate in the battle, and also prepares, after Bd3 or Bf3, to move the queen to f2, where it will pressure the weak b6 square and support a possible f5. Of course, there are many alternatives, which we will look at briefly:

#### A) Unusual moves:

Mikhail Tal once tried 12.Nf3, avoiding exchanges and preparing for e5, but Black can equalize by 12...b6 13.Qe1 Nb4 14.Rc1 Bb7 15.Bd3 Nd7, with the idea of Bf6, holding up e5, and then Nc5. 12.Qe1 allows the typical 12...Nd4 13.Bd4 e5 14.fe de 15.Qg3 (a usual tactic, more effective without the rook on e8) 15...Bd8! (15...Bd6 16.Rf6!) 16.Be3 Kh8 17.Bg5 Be6 =.

#### B) 12.Bd3

This aggressive move has a drawback. 12...Nb4! (12...Nd4 is not as good: 13.Bd4 e5 14.Be3 Bg4! 15.Qd2 ef 16.Rf4 Be6 17.Raf1 with advantage; 12...Bd7! is worth investigation, e.g. 13.Qf3 Nb4 14.Qg3 Bf8 15.Nf3 g6 16.e5 Nfd5 =) 13.a5! Bd7 (13...e5 is unclear but playable, e.g. 14.fe de 15.Nf5 Bf5 16. Rf5 Qd6!, Rodriguez—Arnason, Sochi 1988) 14.Qf3 (14.Nb3 Bc6 15.Qe2 Rac8 16.Bb6 Qb8 17.Na4, Zapata—Gavrikov, Tunis (izt) 1985, then 17...Nd7 18.Be3 e5 with mutual chances) 14...Bc6 15.Qg3! (15.g4?! Nd7 16. g5 Bf8 and 15.Qh3?! Bd8, Mortensen—Polugayevsky, Lucerne

(ol) 1982, both favor Black) 15...Nd3 16.cd Nd7 17.Nf3 Bf6 18.Qf2 g6 19.Nd2 Bg7 20.Nc4 Bb5 21.Nb5 ab 22.Nb6 Nb6 23.Bb6 drawn in Arnason—Polugayevsky, Haninge 1989. The exchange of pieces ruins White's space advantage.

#### C) 12.Bg1!?

A very interesting idea of Efim Geller. The retreat of the Be3 allows Qd3-h3 or Rf3-h3. In the first game featuring this line, Polugayevsky tried 12...e5 13.Nb3 ef (13...b6!?) 14.a5 Ne5 (14...g5!?) 15.Rf4 with a big advantage for White. More logical is to first exchange on d4, e.g. 12...Nd4 13.Qd4 (13.Bd4 concedes the tempo) e5 14.Qd2 (!4.Qd3!?) ef (consistent, but 14...Bd7 15.a5 Rac8 16.Bb6 Qc6 and on 17.Ra4 intending Rc4, Helmers rocked Maki with the queen sac 17...Qc3 18.bc Ba4 and eventually 1/2-1/2 in Maki—Helmers, Gjorik 1985) 15.Rf4 (Qf4!?) Be6 16.Nd5 Bd5 17.ed Nd7 18.Rc4 Qd8 19.Rb4 Qc7 20.Ra3 Bf6, with an edge to Black in Maki—Schmidt, Sofia 1985. 12...Bd7 is also playable (12...Bf8?! falls in with White's plan: 13.Qd3! Nd4 14.Bd4 e5 15.fe de 16.Qg3 Qc6 17.Be5 Ne4 18.Ne4 Qe4 19.Bh5 with advantage, Geller—Panchenko, Sochi 1983), with the idea of early occupation of the c-file, e.g. 13.Qd3 Rac8 14.Qg3 Bd8 15.Rad1 Nd4 16.Bd4 e5 17.fe de 18.Be3 Kh8 19.Bg5 Qc6 20.Bf6 Bf6 21.Nd5 Qc2 22.Nf6 gf 23.Qh4 Rc6 24.Rf2 Bc8 25.Rdf1 Qc5! = Liu Shelan—Alexandria, Poland 1986. On 13.Nb3 b6 14.Bf3 Rab8 transposes to 12.Bf3, but Black can also try 13...Nb4 14.a5 Bc6 15.Qd2 d5 16.e5 Ne4 17.Qd1 f5 18.ef Bf6, which is very unclear, but 1/2-1/2 in Karpov-Quinteros, Hanover 1983.

The one game I found where Kasparov faced 12.Bg1, he played 12...Rb8. Karpov (you were expecting maybe someone else?) innovated with 13.Qd2 [13.Bf3 transposes to 12.Bf3 Rb8 13.Bg1, and the more usual 13.Qd3 has given White excellent results, e.g. 13...Nd4 14.Bd4 e5 15.Ba7! (The problem with ...Rb8, White picks up a useful tempo) Ra8 16. Be3 ef 17.Bf4 Be6 18.Rad1 Red8 19. Qg3 Ne8 20. Bd3 Bf6 21. Nd5 Bd5 22.ed Bb2 23.c3 Qc3 24.Bg5 Qc7 25.Qh4 h6 26.Be7 Rd7 27.Qe4 with a decisive advantage for

White, Mokry—Gurnberg, 1985] 13...e5 (13...Nd4 14.Bd4 e5 15.Ba7 Ra8 16.Be3 again favors White) 14.Nb3 Na5 15. Na5 Qa5 16. Ba7 Ra8 17.Be3 Qb4?!, with an advantage to White, although 1/2-1/2 in Karpov—Kasparov, (m/10) 1985. After 17...ef, Kasparov claims that Black has a “reasonable game.” Both Karpov and I would rather be White.

D) 12.Bf3

The main line move, overprotecting e4. The Belyavsky—Kasparov game transposes after 12.Bf3 Rb8 13.Qd2 Bd7 14.Nb3 b6, the line explored in the 1985 world championship match. 12...Rb8 has become the sole Black reply, removing the rook from the line of the bishop. In early games 12...Na5 was tried, with the idea of a quick ...Nc4, forcing the Be3 to c1 and entombing the Ra1. This is an extremely good idea, but may be premature before Black is better developed, e.g., 13.Qd3 Nc4 14.Bc1 Bf8 (14...e5 15.Nde2 slightly favors White. Karpov—Martinovich, Amsterdam 1985) 15.b3! Na5 16.Bb2 Rb8 17.Rae1 Nd7 18.Rd1 Nc6 19. Qc4 Nb6 (19...Nc5 may be better) 20.Qe2 Nd4 (20...Bd7) 21.Rd4 Bd7 22.e5 with an edge, Plaskett—Bellon-Lopez, Hastings 1985/6. 12...Bf8!? is also interesting, awaiting further developments.

After 12.Bf3 Rb8, 13.Qd2 is the most accurate. White awaits ...Bd7 before retreating the Nd4 to b3, avoiding exchanges. If 13.Nb3 b6! (preventing a5), Black can arrange ...Bb7 right away. The chief alternative to 13.Qd2 is 13.Bg1, but the latest word favors Black, e.g. 13.Bg1 Bd7 14.Nb3 b6 15.g4 Bc8 16.g5 Nd7 17.Bg2 Bf8 18.Qf3 (18.Rf3) Na5 19.Nd2 Bb7 20.Qh5 g6 21.Qh3 Rbc8, with an edge to Black in Sokolov—Kasparov, Reykjavik 1988. Also interesting is 13.g4 Nd7 14.g5 Bf8 15.Bg2 g6 16.Rf3 Bg7 17.Rh3 Nb6 18.Nde2 Nc4 19.Bc1 d5 20.b3 d4? (20...N4a5 is unclear; now White is better) 21.bc dc 22.e5 Ne7 23.Ba3 Nf5 24.Nc3 Bd7 25.Ne4 Rbd8 26.Bd6 Qa5 27.c5!, with advantage to White. Fishbein—Dorfman, NY 1989.

After 13.Qd2, it is still too early for 13...Nd4 14.Bd4 e5 15.Ba7 Ra8 16.Be3 Bd7 (16...ef is even worse) 17.a5, with

a slight but enduring edge for White, Karpov—Kasparov, (m/45) 1984. The main line move is 13...Bd7, but very interesting is 13...Na5. the point is that with the queen on d2, ...Nc4 threatens ...Ne3, an exchange favoring Black. 14.Qf2 (14.b3!?) Nc4 15.Bc1 e5! (since the Ra1 cannot contribute, Black attacks the center) 16.Nde2 (16.Nf5 Bf5 17.ef ef favors Black) 16...Bd7 = Timoschenko—Ruban, Tbilisi 1989.

Proceeding with the main line, after 13.Qd2 Bd7, best is 14.Nb3, avoiding the exchange on d4. For example, 14.Qf2 Nd4 15.Bd4 e5 16.Be3, Karpov—Kasparov, (m/2) 1985, ...ef 17.Bf4 Be6, with ...Nd7 to follow gives Black easy equality. After 14.Nb3 b6 the position in Belyavsky—Kasparov has been reached.

Back to the main line game after 12.Qd2.

12...Bd7

Best, transposing to the 12.Bf3 variation. 12...Nd4 is premature. White retains an advantage after 13.Bd4 e5 14.Bg1 ef 15.a5 Be6 16.Qf4 Nd7 17.Rfd1 Rac8 18.Bd4 Ne5 19. Rd2 h6 20.Qg3 Bf8 21.Bb6 Qe7, Popov—Schinski, USSR 1988, and 13.Qd4 e5 14.Qd3 ef 15.Bf4 Be6 16.Rfd1 Red8 17.a5 Rac8 18.Ra4 g6 19.Rd2 Rd7 20.Nd5 Bd5 21.ed Rdd8 22.c4 Nd7 23.b4, Mencinger—Polajzer, Portoroz 1987. In both games, White takes advantage of the absence of the Nc6 by clamping down on the queenside with a5. This is the big drawback of a premature ...Nd4 by Black.

13.Nb3

Avoiding liberating exchanges and threatening 14.a5. Black's response is forced.

13...b6 14.Bf3 Rab8 15.g4

Best. In the eighteenth game of the 1985 match, Karpov played the quieter 15.Bf2. This gives Black a chance to activate the bishop on d7. The game continued 15...Bc8 16.Bg3 Nd7 (preventing e5) 17.Rae1 Bb7 18.e5 (White has achieved this at the cost of awkwardly-placed pieces. The Bg3 can hardly participate in an attack against the black king. Black has a solid position and nothing to worry about.) 18...Rbd8 19.Qf2 Rf8 20.Be4 de 21.fe Nc5 22.Nc5 bc! 23.Bf4 1/2-1/2, Karpov—Kasparov, (m/18) 1985. 23...Nd4

equalizes. A few days after this game, Sokolov improved with 14.g4 against Ribli, Montpellier 1985. Karpov adopted 15.g4 in game 24 of the match, and there has been no subsequent experience with 15.Bf2.

15...Bc8

Clearing d7 for the Nf6, and reorganizing.

16.g5 Nd7 17.Qf2

Excellent. In the original game featuring 15.g4, Sokolov played 17.Bg2, allowing 17...Na5, threatening ...Nc4 and ...Ne3. Sokolov played 18.Qf2 and Ribli erred with 18...Bf8, allowing the Ra1 to transfer to the center. After 19.Rad1 Nc4 20.Bc1 b5 21.abab 22.Rd3 g6 23.Rh3 Bg7 24.f5! Nce5! 25.Qh4 Nf8 26.f6, White had the edge. Sokolov—Ribli, Montpellier (ct) 1985. A later game confirmed that 18...Nc4 equalizes. 19.Bc1 b5 20.ab ab 21.Ra7 Qb6 22.Qb6 Rb6 23.Nd4 b4 24.Nd1 Nc5 =, Savon—Enders, Gyongyos 1987. Black is also OK after 17.Bg2 Bf8 18.Rf3 (18.Qf2 g6 19.Rad1 b5 20.ab ab 21.e5, Tcheskovsky—Jansa, Calcutta 1986, 21...d5! =) 18...g6 19. Rh3 Bb7 20.Qf2 Bg7 21.f5 Bc3 22.bc ef 23.ef Nce5 24.Bd4 Bg2 25.Kg2 Qc6 26.Kg1 Nf8 27.Rf1 Rb7 28.a5 b5 29.Qh4 gf 30.Rf5 Rbe7, Hübner—Hjartarson, Munich 1988.

17...Bf8

Preparing ...g6 and ...Bg7.

18.h4!

Belyavsky unveils an improvement on Karpov—Kasparov, (m/24) 1985. In this very famous game, Karpov played 18.Bg2, clearing the third rank for the heavy pieces. 18...Bd7 19.Rad1 g6 20.Bc1, preparing Rd3-h3. 20...Rbc8?! (Better was 20...Nc5, preventing 21.Rd3, and if 21.Nc5 bc 22.Rd3 Nd4 23.Rh3 Qe7!, Black is prepared to meet 24.Qh4 with ...h5) 21. Rd3 Nb4 22.Rh3 Bg7?! (More prudent was 22...f5 23.gf Nf6. The point is that 24.Qd4 e5! 25.Qb4 doesn't win a piece: 25...d5 26.Nd5 Nd5 27.Qe1 Nf4 favors Black, and 24.f5 ef 25. ef Bg7 is still unclear. Now Karpov could have broken through with 23.f5!, but blundered with 23.Be3, giving Black time to defend with 23...Re7! 24.Kg1 Rce8 25.Rd1 f5. Belyavsky's move appears to close the h-file to heavy

continued on p. 22

# Postal Mailbag:

## A DANISH TREAT

by Tony Ladd

White: Tony Ladd

Black: Andy Masters

Correspondence 1989-1990

Danish Gambit [C21]

**1. e4 e5 2. d4 ed 3. c3 dc 4. Bc4 cb 5. Bb2 d5 6. Bd5 Nf6**

The Schlechter Defense to the Danish Gambit; the main line leads to an equal ending after 7. Bf7+.

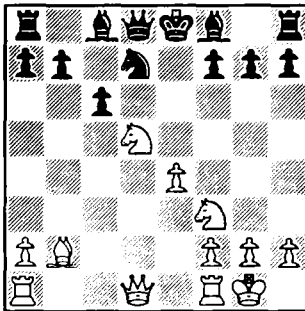
**7. Nc3 Nd5**

7...Be7 is safer.

**8. Nd5 Nd7**

8...c6?? 9. Nf6+ and White wins. ECO suggests 8...Nc6 leading to an unclear position. The text is from MCO 10.

**9. Nf3 c6 10. 0-0!**



White has no compensation for the pawn after 10. Nc3 Nc5 or 10...Bb4.

**10...cd 11. ed Be7**

This move is considered best by GM Christiansen in an old article in Players Chess News (Nov. 5, 1984). Also possible are 11...f6 and 11...Qb6.

**12. Bg7 Rg8 13. d6?**

Black could have played 13...Nc5 14. Re1 Ne6 15. Be5 Bf8 with fewer difficulties than in the game. Stronger therefore, was 13. Re1 transposing to the game after 13...Rg7 14. d6.

**13...Rg7 14. Re1 Nf6**

Christiansen gives only 14...f6 15. de Re7 16. Qd5 when "White has some

*Tony Ladd is a familiar face among regular tournament goers. He holds an expert rating and likes to play games, such as this one, over electronic mail.*

compensation for the piece." It is very difficult for Black to untangle himself; for instance 16...Re1+ loses after 17. Re1+ Kf8 18. Nd4; also no good is 17...Nf8? 18. Qh5+ Ng6 19. Qh7 Bf5 20. Nh4! Better is 16...Qb6 then 17.Re7+ Ke7 18. Re1+ Ne5 [18...Kd8 19. Rc1 or worse still 18...Kf8 19. Qh5] then White can at least draw with 19. Ne5 since 19...fe 20. Qe5+ Be6 21. Qg7+ Kd6 22. Qe5+ is perpetual and 19...Be6 20. Nd7 Qc6 [20...Qd6 21. Qb7] 21. Qc6 bc 22. Nc5 Kd6 23. Re6+ is better for White. However Black may be able to improve earlier with 15...Qa5 preventing the White Queen from reaching d5.

**15. Re7+ Kf8 16. Qd4 Ng8**

White is better after 16...Ne8 17. d7 Bd7 18. Rd7.

**17. Rael f6**

Other possible defenses to the threat of 18. Re8+ are 17...Bd7 and 17...Bh3 [17...Be6?? 18. R1e6]. With 17...Bb3 I intended 18.Qc5! threatening Re8+ again, i.e. 18...Bg2 [or 18...Rg2+ 19. Kh1 Rg6 22. Ng5 Rg5 23. Qg5 Qd6 24. R7e3 and 25. Rg3 is a threat; but worse is 18...Rc8 19. Re8+ Qe8 20. d7+ Ne7 21. de=Q+] 19. Re8+ Qe8 20. d7+ Ne7 [20...Qe7?? 21. Qc8+ is mate in three] 21. de=Q+ Re8 22. Ng5 Bh3 [22...h6 23. Nh7+ Rh7 24. Kg2] 23. Kh1 Bd7 24. h4.

**18. h4 Bf5**

This seems best, protecting h7 and preventing the intended 19. Ng5 because then 19...Qb6 wins for Black. Black cannot capture on e7 without giving up his Queen unfavorably: 18...Ne7 19. de+ Qe7 20. Re7 Ke7 21. Nd2 and after 22. Ne4 there are two nasty checks, at d6 and f6.

**19. h5 Qb6**

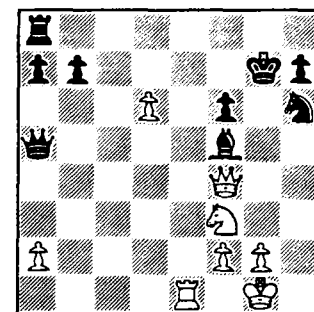
It is still not possible to capture on e7. For instance 19...Ne7 20. de+ Re7 21. Qf6+ Ke8 22. Qh8+ Kd7 [22...Kf7 23. Ng5#] 23. Rd1+ Kc7 24. Qc3+ Kb6 25. Rd8 Rd8 26. Qb4+; 19...Re7 is similar. The move played forces an exchange of

Rooks, but Black's game is still difficult. Possible alternatives at this stage were 19...Qa5 and 19...Qc8. In the first instance I planned 20. Rg7 Kg7 21. Rc1 with the dual threat of Rc5 and Rc7+. After 21...Rc8 [21...Bd7? 22. Rc7 Rd8 23. Qg4+] 22. Rc8 Bc8 23. d7, material is equal, but the White King is safer. Worse is 21...Qa2 22. c7+ Kh8 [22...Kf8 23. Qc5] 23. Ng5 Rf8 24. d7. 19...Qc8 looks bizarre but it threatens the rook on e7 and protects the Bishop; I would probably have retreated with R7e3 since Black will still be a while untangling himself. Less good for instance is 19...Rc8? 20. Nh4 Bd7 [20...Ne7 21. Qf6+ Kg8 22. de] 21. Ng6+! hg 22. h6 when 22...Rf7 is best, [22...Nh6 23. Qf6+ Rf7 24. Qg6 or 23...Nf7 24. Rf7+ Rf7+ 25. Qh8#] but after 23. h7 Rh7 24. Rh7 the threat of R1e7 looks decisive.

**20. Rg7 Kg7 21. Qf4 Qa5**

If 21...Bd7 22. h6+ Kh8 [22...Kf8 23. Ng5] 23. Ne5! Be6 24. Qg4! Nh6 25. Qe6 or 23...Be8 24. d7 Bg6 [24...Bh5 25. Qg4! Nh6 26. Qh5] 25. Ng6 hg 26. Re8 Rd8 27. Qc4.

**22. h6+! Nh6**



I don't believe Black can save himself by refusing the pawn. If 22...Kf8 (or Kf7) 23. Re5! fe 24. Qf5+ Ke8 25. Qe6+ Kf8 26. Ne5 wins. however Kh8 is a lot more difficult. 22...Kh8 23. Re5! fe 24. Qf5 Nh6. This is forced otherwise 25. Ng5! wins; except that after 24...Qd5, 25. Ng5 fails to 25...Qd1+ 26. Kh2

Qh5+ 27. Kg1 with perpetual [not 27. Kg3 Qg6 and Black wins], but 24...Qd5 25. Ne5 Qd1+ [25...Nh6 26. Ng6+] 26. Kh2 Nh6 27. Qf6+ Kg8 28. Qg5+ Kh8 29. Qh6 and White is winning. After 24...Nh6 25. Qf6+ Kg8 26. Qg5+ Kh8 [27...Kf7 28. Qh6 Qa2 29. Ng5+ Ke8 30. Qh7] 27. Qh6 Qd8 [27...Qa2 28. Qf6+ Kg8 29. Qg5+ Kh8 30. d7 Qd5 31. Ne5] 28. Ne5 Qe8 [28...Qf8?? 29. Ng6+] 29. Qf6+ Kg8 30. d7 Qd8 [30. Qf8? 31. Qg5+ Kh8 32. d8=Q] 31. Qf7+ Kh8 12. g4. Now nothing can usefully move and the idea is Kg2, then f4, g5-g6-g7#. The only active response I can see is 32...a5, whereupon 33. a4 b5 34. Nc6 Qf8 [34...Qg8 35. Qf6+] 35. Qf8+ Rf8 36. d8=QRd8 37. Nd8 wins [37...ba 17. Nb7 or b4 17. Nf7+ stopping the pawn in both cases].

### 23. Re7+ Nf7

23...Kg6 24. Nh4+ Kh5 looks dangerous but I cannot find a conclusive follow up. White's weak back rank is emphasized by the possibility of Ng4. Best for White might be 25. f3 Rg8 26. Kh2 with the threat of 27. Nf4 and 28. g4+. Here Black must be careful not to get mated; for instance 26. bg6?? g4+ 27. Kh4 Qg3+ 28. Kg5 f4#.

### 24. Nd4 Bg6?

This loses almost immediately. Better was 24...Bc8 [24...Kg6 25. Nf5 Qf5 26. Qf5+ Kf5 27. Rf7] 25. d7 Bd7 26. Rd7 Qe1+ 27. Kh2 Qe5 28. Nf5+ Kg6 29. Qe5 fe 30. Rb7 with a favorable ending. White could try for more, as my opponent pointed out, with 25. Qe4 [25. Re8? Qd5 26. Rc8 Rc8 27. Qg5+ goes nowhere] 25...Qg5 26. f4 Qh5 27. f5 Qd1+ 28. Kf2 Qd2+ 29. Kf3 Qc3+ 30. Kg4 with the threat of 31. Ne6+.

### 25. d7

This is better than 25. Ne6+ Kg8 since the obvious follow up 26. Qf6 fails to 26...Qe1+ 27. Kh2 Qe5+. The main threat is now mate in three, beginning with 26. Ne6+.

### 25...Bh5

There is nothing else; 25...Kf8 26. Qf6 or 25...f5 26. Ne6+ Kf6 27. Qh4+ Ke5 28. Qd4#.

### 26. Ne6+ Kg6 27. Re8 Ne5

Desperation; 27...Rd8 28. Qg3+ Ng5 29. Ng5 fg 30. Qd6+ Kf5 31. Qe6+ Kf4 32. g3+ Kf3 33. Qe4#.

### 28. Nf8+ Resigns 1-0 (Ladd)

## BAY AREA SPLINTERS

April 6, 1990 to May 26, 1990

### WALNUT CREEK

4/6/90

#### JCC CONTRA COSTA QUADS

Paul Gallegos (2179) won the top quad with 3-0. Paul Liebhaber (2034), Kevin Nomura (1652) and Emmanuel Perez (1437) all won their own respective quads with perfect scores. The last section saw Ray Seiple (1581), Jeffrey Lippmann (1388), and Eric Baudry (1384) split first with 2-1. Dr. Pascal Baudry organized and directed.

### SAN FRANCISCO

4/7/90

#### LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL SECTIONS

Veteran NM Charles Powell (2342) won the ten-player top section with 2.5 points, while Lowell student NM Sergey Iskotz (2307) took second with 2 points out of 3. Clifton Ford (1988) and young Peter Lee (1914) tied for first and second in section B with 2.5 points each. Finally, 7th grader Brian Jew (1414) won section C with a perfect 3-0, and Tony Quang (1403) of Lowell and Ken White (1304) tied for second place with 2 points. Results were reported by Lowell T.D. Peter Dahl.

### PALO ALTO

4/21/90-4/22/90

#### PALO ALTO CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP

Bill Wall directed the first Palo Alto Class Championship. Sixty players competed. The winners were as follows: OPEN: 1st FM Craig Mar (2544) 3.5-.5, 2nd/3rd NM Vladimir Strugatsky (2540) and NM John Bidwell (2305) 3-1; EXPERT: 1st/2nd David Barnett (2144) and Edward Syrett (2137) 2.5-1.5; "A": 1st Keith Wagstaff (1945) 3.5-.5, 2nd/5th Virgilio Fuentes (1954), Mark Drury (1938), Stephen Homan (1896) and William Morrison (1838) 3-1; "B": 1st Mikhail Berkichevsky (Unr.) 4-0, 2nd Harold

Parker (1676) 3.5-.5; "C": 1st Diane Barnard (1594) 4-0, 2nd/5th Lee Berg (1590), George Batis (1569), Gary Stratton (1525), and Brian Jew (1414) 3-1; "D/E": 1st/3rd Richard Maze (1326), Kenny Kong (1280), and Stephen Ramsey (1119) 2-2.

### WALNUT CREEK

5/6/90

#### JCC CONTRA COSTA QUADS

Tom Stevens (2131) scored 3-0 in Quad I, Jeff Serrandos (2074) won Quad II with 2.5-.5, Clarence Lehman (2032) got 3 points in Quad III, Ted Conard (1970) won Quad IV at 2-1. Pat Mead (1868) with 2.5-.5 took Quad V while John Easterling (1629), Chris Potts (1628) and Earle Deneau (1522) tied for first in Quad VI, each with 2-1. Finally, Ray Seiple (1416) won Quad VII with a perfect 3-0, and Eric Baudry cleaned up the Junior Section with 4-0. Special thanks to TD Dr. Pascal Baudry for hosting the NCCA meeting.

### RICHMOND

5/20/90

#### CHESS IN RICHMOND-QUADS

Ten players competed in two sections, with NM Peter Yu (2262) taking first in Quad I, and Don Shennum (1925) winning Section II. Both Cal students scored 3-0. John Easterling directed.

### SAN FRANCISCO

5/26/90

#### LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL SECTIONS

Peter Dahl directed this three round event. The winners are as follows: Section A, NM Sergey Iskotz (2307) and Michael Temkin (1976) tied with 2..5; Section B, Richard Portnoy (Unr.) won with 3-0, while Tom Burke (Unr.), Osmun Guner (1910) and Russell Wang (Unr.) tied for 2nd through 4th with 2-1; Section C, Russian emigres M. Berdichevsky (Unr.) and I. Margulis (Unr.) tied for first with 2.5-.5.



# Chess Down Under

by IM Greg Hjorth

White: IM Greg Hjorth (2482)

Black: NM Richard Koepcke (2295)  
NCCA Masters Open, Rd.4

Nimzo-Indian Defense [E46]

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 0-0 5. Ne2 d5 6. a3 Bd6?!

This was a surprise—the “normal” move is 6...Be7.

7. Ng3?!

Probably bad; the Knight ends up being misplaced for several moves. Saidy-Fischer, 1960/61 proceeded with 7. c5 Be7 8. b4 b6 9. Nf4!

7...Nbd7 8. b4 c6

I guess this is okay, but 8...dc4 9. Bc4 e5 is a painless equality.

9. c5 Be7?!

This is a bit passive—the Bishop would have had more future on c7.

10. Be2 Re8 11. f4 b6 12. 0-0 a5 13. Bd2

White has no advantage here, largely because of the silly Knight on g3.

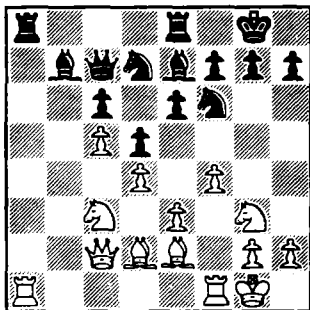
13...ab4?

Black should have kept the tension with 13...Ba6.

14. ab4 Bb7 15. Qc2 bc5?

Now White obtains further access on the queenside; the pawn at c6 will be a long term target.

16. bc5 Qc7



17. Nh1!

Finally reorganizing.

*A Berkeley grad student in Logic, Greg likes to play campus tournaments and supports the chess team.*

17...Nf8 18. Nf2 N6d7 19. Nd3 Ba6

20. Ra4

Preparing to double on the a-file.

20...Bd3 21. Bd3 Ra4 22. Qa4 Rb8 23. Na2 Rb7 24. Nb4 Nb8 25. Ra1 f6 26. e4 Ng6?

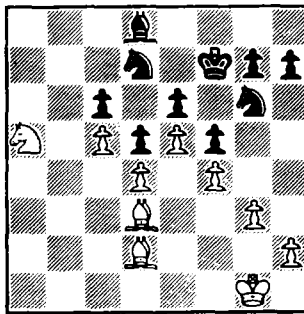
Black should have played 26...Nd7, since 27. e5 fe5 28. fe5 Nc5! gives Black real counterplay.

27. g3 Qd7 28. e5 f5?!

Passive.

29. Qc2 Ra7 30. Ra7 Qa7 31. Qa2 Qa2 32. Na2 Bd8 33. Nc1 Kf7 34. Nb3 Ne7

35. Na5



35...Ba5

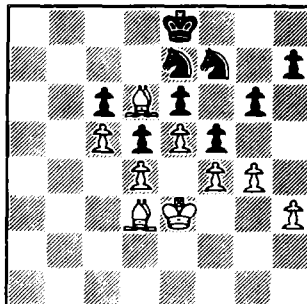
This was a difficult decision for Black; if he had not played this, the Knight would have ended up at d6.

36. Ba5 Ke8 37. Bc7

Just in time. The core of Black’s problems is that his King will never be able to get to b7.

37...Nd7 38. Kf2 Nf8 39. Kf3 Nfg6 40. h3 Nh8 41. g4 Nf7 42. Bd6 g6?

Now it is finally lost. Black might have kept drawing chances after 42...Nh6.



43. g5!

The Knights at e7 and f7 are confined to the orbits c8-e7-g8 and d8-f7-h8 respectively. With no threats of counterplay against the Kingside pawns, White’s King can march over to the Queenside, eventually penetrating by zugzwang and winning the c-pawn.

43...Nc8 44. Bb8

Keeping the door locked.

44...Kd7 45. Ba6 Ne7 46. Ke3 Nd8 47. Kd3 Nc8 48. Kc3 Ne7 49. Kb4 Nc8 50. Ka5 Nf7 51. Bb7

After 51. Bd6 h6 52. h4 hg5 53. hg5 Na7!? 54. Kb6 Nb5 55. Bb5 cb5 56. c6+ Kc8 57. Kb5 Black gets tactical chances based on stalemate—i.e. 57...Kd8 58. c7+ Kc8 59. Kc6? Ng5.

51...Nd8 52. Ka6 Nf7 53. h3 h6 54. Bd6 hg5 55. hg5 Ng5

After 55...Nd8 56. Bc8+ Kc8 57. Be7 Nf7 (or 57...Nb7 58. Kb6) 58. Bf6 White wins as if it were a King and pawn ending.

56. fg5 f4 57. Ka5 Na7 58. Ba6 f3

Or 58...Nb5 59. Bb5 cb5 60. c6+ Kc6 61. Bb4 f3 62. Be1.

59. Kb6 Nb5 60. Bb5 cb5 61. Kb7 Resigns 1-0.

## Scholar-Chessplayer

from p.7

the first girl to qualify for the U.S. Cadet (Under Age 16) Championship. Her abilities as a student earned her a Reader’s Digest Scholarship in 1988, and she recently took part in the National Young Leaders Conference, a unique program distinguishing Jessica as one of the nation’s outstanding young leaders of tomorrow.

Other finalists from Northern California were expert Michael Rozler from Lowell, and Nikunj C. Oza from Gunderson H.S. of San Jose.

## Brilliances

from p.9

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bc3 6.bc3 Ne7 7.Og4 Qc7

Botvinnik introduced this line into grandmaster play fifty years ago, and it has since survived several "refutations." It is currently very much alive at the grandmaster level. Recently the intrepid have been playing 7...0-0, a line that flirts precariously with immediate disaster (Local masters Strugatsky and Iskutz play it). 7...Qc7 or 7...cd are still more popular, and in practice more successful.

8.Og7 Re8 9.Oh7 cd 10.Kd1

Euwe's suggestion; it did not achieve prominence until Tal used it to defeat Botvinnik in the first game of their 1960 match, whereupon Botvinnik switched to the Caro-Kann. Improvements were found for Black, and current theory revolves around 10.Ne2 Nc6 11.f4 dc 12.Qd3 Bd7, when White's tries (in order of attractiveness) are 13.Qc3, 13.Nc3, 13.Rb1, 13.h4.

10...dc3?!

It is more flexible, therefore more precise, to first play 10...Nbc6.

11.f4?

White should now play 11.Nf3 Nbc6 12.Bf4 or 12.Ng5 Ne5 13.f4 f6, in both cases with chances for both sides.

11...Nbc6 12.Nf3 d4 13.Ng5 Re5 14.fg5 Qe5 15.Bd3 Nd5 16.Rf1 Nd8 17.g6 1-0

"B" Section Brilliancy Game

White: Diane Barnard (1594)

Black: Wolfgang Pieb (1774)

Catalan (QGD Tarrasch) [E08]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 c5 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0-0 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.Bf4

It is unclear how White intended to answer 8...cd, when 9.Nd4? is met by 9...e5 and 9.cd is answered by 9...Nd5. ECO considers 8.cd, 8.dc, and 8.Rd1 as options. Because resolution of the central tension is inevitable, the bishop is not comfortable on f4.

8...Qb6?

And until the situation in the center is clarified, it is difficult for Black to make informed decisions about how to complete his development. As later events

make clear, this placement is erroneous.

9.dc5 Bc5

9...Nc5!?

10.Nbd2 Rd8 11.cd5

11.Rac1!?

Nd5 12.Nc4 Oa6 13.Bd2 Oc6 14.Ng5!

Suddenly, after a couple of dilatory moves by Black, White has an incredibly powerful attack.

N7f6 15.e4!

Not 15.Ne5? Bf2.

15...Nb4

White threatens e5, winning a piece, so Black has to operate with direct threats.

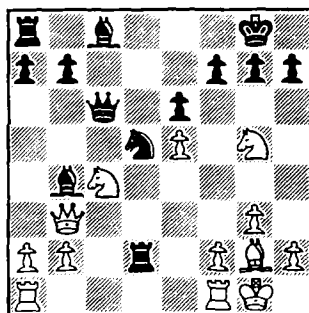
16.Bb4 Bb4 17.e5 Rd2!?

Otherwise, with his knight and queen both *en prise*, Black just loses a piece.

18.Ob3!

Best. After 18.Qb1, e.g. 18...Qc4 19.e4 Qc2 20.Qc2 Rc2 21.Rad1 Ba5 22.b4 Bb6 23.a4 e5, and Black has a playable position.

18...Nd5



19.Qb4!

If 19.Bd5, not 19...ed? 20. Nd2 (20.Qb4? Rd4) Bd2, and after 21.Nf3! (21.Nh7? Bf5) White has 'em, to paraphrase Chuck Colson, by the hearts and minds. 19...Rd4

After 19...Nb4 20.Bc6 Nc6 21.Nd2, White has an extra rook.

20.Qd6!

And with the threat of back-rank mate as the combination's *coup de grace*, White elegantly extricates herself, extra piece intact.

20...Qe8 21.Rac1

21...Nf4 22.Qc5 is good for White, e.g. 22...Ne2 23.Kh1 Nc1 (23...Rg4 24.Bf3 or 24.Nd6! +—) 24.Qd4 Na2 25.Qd3 (25.Nd6 Qe7 26.Ngf7 also wins) g6 26.Qb3

21...Bd7 22.Rfd1

22.Qc5 is good too.

Rd1 23.Rd1 Bc6 24.Oa3 Qd8

The threats were 25.Qd3 and 25.Nd6.

25.Ne4 h6 26.Ncd6 Of8 27.Rd3! a6

28.Ob3 Rb8 29.Rf3 f6

Hopeless, but Black has nothing better.

30.ef6 gf6 31.Nf6 Kh8 32.Nd5 Qd6

33.Oc3 e5

33...Kh7 34.Rf7 leads to mate, 33...Kg8 34.Nf6 (34.Qf6? Qd5 is less clear) forces a discovery that wins the queen.

34.Rf6 1-0

"C" Section Brilliancy Game

White: John Connell (1582)

Black: Benjamin Figueroa (1467)

Sicilian 2.c3 [B22]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 a6

This is probably quite playable, but the usual treatments are 2...d5, 2...Nf6, and 2...e6, all three leading to very different types of positions.

3.Nf3 b5 4.d4 cd4 5.cd4 Nf6!?

Black now transposes back into the 2...Nf6 lines, a couple of tempi down but with the important advantage that White cannot play Bc4, an important move in this line. But the loss of tempo requires additional precision.

6.e5 Nd5 7.Bd3 e6?

This natural-looking move is actually a positional mistake. In this type of position, Black should strive for an early ...d6, otherwise he has no hope of equality, and he should delay ...e6 until either the Bc8 can be developed or until the Nd5 needs protection.

8.Nc3 Bb4 9.0-0!

Already ahead in development, White offers a pawn for more tempi. Sensing a Trojan horse, Black declines. The situation suggests a scenario familiar to tournament players; after long contemplation of a continuation that is dangerous but attractive, and ultimately unclear, the player spends a short period of time making a "natural" move that, it soon becomes obvious, was a mistake.

9...0-0? 10.Bh7! Kh7 11.Ng5 Kg8?

This leads to mate in six. 11...Kg6 12.Qg4(d3) f5 complicates White's task, because there is then material gain but no quick mate.

12.Oh5 Re8 13.O7 Kh8 14.Oh5 Kg8

15.Oh7 Kf8 16.Oh8 1-0

continued on p.22

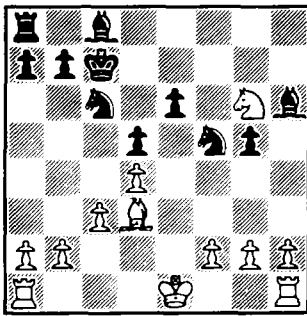
## NCCA Masters

from p.5

h4! doesn't allow Black to expand his King-side pawns. 14...h6 15. Ne5!?

A very unusual sacrifice which four out of five masters would reject. Though White loses 5% of his advantage, he lessens the drawishness of the position by 10%! In short, Strugatsky has turned an otherwise static position into a sharp imbalance.

14...h6 15.Ne5 15...hxg5 16. Ng6+ Kd7 17. Nxh8 Kxc7 18. Ng6 Bh6



The smoke clears. White has Rook and two pawns versus Bishop and Knight, a material advantage which can be exploited if pieces can be exchanged.

19. g4!

In this manner White maintains the initiative opening files while Black is undeveloped.

19...Nh4 20. f4!

The necessary follow-up.

20...Nxg6 21. Bxg6 gf

Black cannot back away from a fight.

22. h4

The two connected passed pawns run swiftly down the sideline.

22...e5!

Black breathes.

23. g5 Bg7!?

A tough decision. 23...e4! is also good, 24. Bxe4 de 25. gh Bf5 26. Rg1 Rh8 with equality, or 24. Bc2 Bg7 25. h5 Bf5 26. h6 Bh8 should be equal. Black's pawns are connected rather than split.

24. h5 ed 25. h6 Be5

White has little advantage, but he's kept Black defending and, consequently made Black's flag burn.

26.cd4 Bd4 27.0-0-0 Be3+ 28. Kb1 Bg4

So that if 29. Rd5? Bf3 forks the Rooks.

29. Rde1! Ne5 30. Bc2 d4! 31. h7 d3

A wise investment. Black sacks an exchange but gets rid of White's dangerous h-pawn.

32. h8(O) Rxh8 33. Rxh8 Bf5! 34. Bxd3 Bxd3+ 35. Ka1 Bd4

Black has consolidated a little, but White has a few tricks left.

36. Rf8 Nc4!

Surprise. Black bravely plays the sharpest line though it involves risk. The draw was to be had with 36...f3 37. Rxe5 Bxe5 38. Rxf3 etc.

37. a4 Bb2+ Ka2 Be5

Black has correctly gauged that the pawn on b2 is important and well worth going after. In situations where Black has Bishop and two pawns versus Rook, the extra pawn could be the deciding factor.

39. Rd1 Be4 40. Rc1 Bd5

Black will not be allowed to sit still and push his f-pawn. White's initiative is enough to even the chances, as Black is getting into severe time trouble.

41. g6 Kd6

Black is better if he can consolidate, but it will only be after the time control. White, meanwhile, has his share of tricks. It's sometimes easier to play simple positions with no advantage rather than critical ones where most of your moves win, but all others lose!

42. Rd8+ Ke6 43. Rg1!

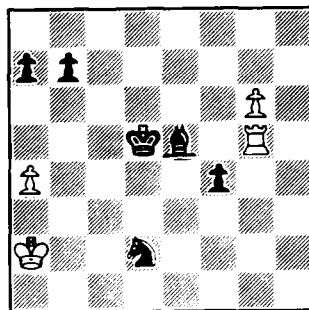
McCambridge is led to the brink of victory with his flag hanging.

43...Nd2+ 44. Rxd5!?

White tries his best practical chance, to swindle the IM in time trouble. Time is literally on his side.

44...Kxd5 45. Rg5!

Beautiful but ruthless! Strugatsky plays the trickiest move risking a loss because McCambridge has only 10-15 seconds to go before the last move of the time control. Well timed.



## Interzonal Playoffs

from p.8

f5 34. Nf2 Nd6 35. Nd6 Kd6 36. Bf7 Finally, a threat!

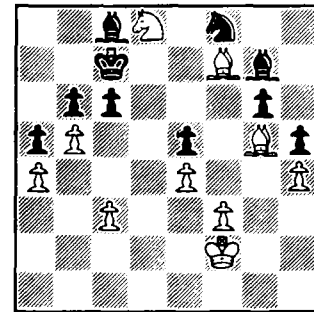
36...Nf8 37. g4 Ke7 38. Bc4 fg 39. Ng4 h5 40. Bg5+ Kd6 41. Nh6 Bc8 42. Nf7+ Kd7 43. Nd8

Threatening 44. Bd5.

43...c6 44. Bg8 Kc7 45. h4 Bd7 46. Be7 Bc8

Forced, because White is threatening 51. Bxf8, i.e. 50...Be8 51. Bf8 Bf8 52. Ne6+ or just 51. Bf8 followed by Bf7xg6.

47. a5 b5 48. Kf2 Kd7 49. Bg5 Kd6 50. Bf7 Kc7 51. Be7 Kd7 52. Bg5 Kc7



53. Be7 Kd7 1/2-1/2

If Joel were to win his last game, then Nick would have had to beat Tony on the last day. By only drawing, the last game became irrelevant.

**White:** deFirmian

**Black:** Benjamin

Round 5

c3-Sicilian [B22]

1. e4 c5 2. c3 Nf6 3. e5 Nd5 4. d4 cd 5.

What would you play here with your flag about to fall?

45...f3?

45...Ne4! is the only move which wins. For example, 46. g7 Nf6 47. Rf5 Ng8 48. Rf8 Nh6 49. g8(Q) Nxg8 50. Rxc8 f3 51. Rf8 Ke4 52. Rf7 b6! and wins. The time control is made, but they kept on blitzing.

46. g7 f2 47. g8(O)+ Kd4 48. Rg4+ Kd3 49. Qd5+ 1-0

Black resigns as 49...Kc2 50. Qc5+! picks up the f-pawn.

Nf3 Nc6 6. cd d6 7. Bc4 Nb6 8. Bb5 d5 9. 0-0 Bg4 10. h3 Bf3 11. Of3 e6 12. Qg4 Rc8 13. Bg5 Qd7 14. Rc1 a6 15. Bf1 Na4 16. b3 Nb6 17. Be3

A good choice of opening, considering deFirmian only needs a draw, and must avoid complications by Benjamin.

17...h5 18. Od1 Be7 19. a3 g6 20. Nd2 Kf8 21. Nf3 Kg7 22. Od2 Rc7 23. Bd3 Rhc8 24. Bh6 Kg8 25. Bg5 Bg5 26. Qg5 Qe7 27. Oh6 Of8 28. Od2 Kg7 29. Rc2 Nd7 30. Rcc1

deFirmian is trying to prove that Black can't do anything. Truly consistent with his style of "Joe solid".

30...Od8 31. Rc2 Qe7 32. Rcc1 Ndb8 33. b4 Nd7 34. b5 ab 35. Bb5 Nb6 36. a4 Na7 37. Rc7 Rc7 38. Bf1 Nc4 39. Of4 Nc6 40. g4 hg 41. hg Rc8 42. Kg2 Ra8 43. Rb1 N6a5 1/2-1/2

Even a double forfeit on the last day would not have changed things. Nick deFirmian and Tony Miles advance to the interzonal.

White: Miles

Black: deFirmian

Round 6

Irregular Opening [A00]

1. g3 h5 2. h4 Na6 3. Nh3 b5 4. Nf4 Rb8 5. e4 g6 6. Na3 c6 7. b3 Nh6 8. Bb2

1/2-1/2 Don't expect to see this in the next Informant!

The Playoffs were directed by International Arbiter Mike Goodall, with the assistance of Max Wilkerson, the Chess Club Director. Robert Haines and Ed Jimenez served as official scorekeepers. Tony Miles' fellow Englishman, John Brooke, helped run the demonstration board, while Peter Yu picked up Benjamin at the airport. Hopefully, San Francisco will again be the venue for important events in the future.

## Ganesan

from p.11

Sokolov-Spraggett, 12th match game 1988 with 10. ... c5 11. 0-0 [12. dc5 Nc5] 11. ... cd4 12. Nd4 Nc5. An interesting idea is 8. Nf7!? Kf7 9. Ng5+ Kg8 10. Ne6 Bb4+ 11. Kf1! Qe7 12. Nc7 Nb6 13. Na8 Na8 14. c3 Bd6 unclear, Hergatt-Adams, British Ch. 1987) 8. ... h6 9. Ne4 Ne4 10. Be4 c5 (10. ... Nf6 11. Bd3 0-0 12. Bf4 [12. Ne5!? c5 13. dc5 Bc5 14. Re1 Nd7 15. Bf4 Bd4 16. Bh7+ Kh7 17. Qd4 Ne5 18. Qe5 Qf6 = Ulibin-Dautov, Tbilisi 1989] 12. ... Nd5 13. Bd2 c5 14. dc5 Bc5 15. Qe2 with some advantage, Khalifman-Arkell, Leningrad 1989) 11. c3 0-0 12. Be2 Nf6 13. Qd3 Qd5?! (13. ... cd4!?) 14. Re1! b6 15. Bf4 Bb7 16. c4 Qd8 17. Be5 g6 18. Rad1+ 18. ... Ng4 19. Bf4 Qd7 20. h3 Nf6 21. Ne5 Qd4 22. Ng6 Resigns (notes based on Khalifman's)

### Supplementary Game 2

M.S.Tseitlin-Lutz, Budapest 1989

8. Bb3 h6 9. N5f3 a5 (Speelman has been successful with 9. ... c5 10. Bf4 Nbd5 11. Be5 Qa5+ 12. Nd2 b5, for example 13. dc5 Bc5 14. Nf3 0-0 15. 0-0 Ba6 16. Bd5 Nd5 17. Nb3 Qb6 18. Nc5 Qc5 19. Bd4 Qc8 Draw, Nunn-Speelman, Reykjavik 1988) 10. a4 c5 11. Bf4 Bd6 (11. ... cd4 12. 0-0-0 Nbd5 13. Be5 Bd6 14. Nd4 0-0 15. Ngf3 b6 Watson-Adams, England 1989) 12. Bg3! (Tseitlin's improvement on 12. Be5 0-0 13. 0-0-0 c4 14. Be4 Na4 with good counterplay, Tal-Petrosian, USSR 1973) 12. ... 0-0 (12. ... Bg3 13. hg3 Qc7 [13. ... 0-0] 14. Ne5 cd4 15. Ngf3 0-0 16. g4 with an attack, M.S.Tseitlin-Spiridonov, Trnava 1985) 13. Rd1! (The real point to Tseitlin's novelty. On 13. 0-0-0, Black could play as in Tal-Petrosian) 13. ... Nbd5 (13. ... Qc7? 14. dc5!) 14. Ne5! cd4 15. Ngf3 Bb4+ 16. Kf1 Nd7 17. Nd4 Ne5 18. Be5 Bd7 19. h4! Qe8 20. Nb5 f6 21. Bg3 Rd8? (21. ... Rc8 22. h5) 22. Nc7! Qe7 (22. ... Nc7 23. Bc7 Rc8 24. Rd7! Qd7 25. Bc6) 23. Nd5 ed5 24. Qe7 Be7 25. Rd5 Kh8 26.

Bc7! Resigns (notes based on Tseitlin's)

### Supplementary Game 3

Am. Rodriguez-Tal, Subotica 1987

10. ... Nbd7 11. b4 (11. c6 also causes Black some problems) 11. ... Nd5 (11. ... b6 12. Nd4 Nc5 [12. ... Qc7!?) 13. Bb5+ Ncd7 14. a3 Bb7 15. Ngf3 Be7 16. Bb2 a6 17. Bd3 0-0 Kasparov-Bagirov, USSR Ch. 1978, and now 18. Ne6!; 11. ... a5 12. c3 also tends to favor White) 12. Bd2 Qf6 (12. ... g5!?) 13. c4 Nf4 14. Bf4 gf4 Geller-Speelman, Sochi 1982, 15. Rb1 Velickovic; 12. ... a5 13. c3 Qf6 14. Rc1 ab4 15. cb4 Nf4 16. Bf4 Qf4 17. Rb1 g5 18. Qc2 Ne5 19. Bb5+ Ke7 20. a4 with a big plus, Hübner-Lein, Chicago 1982) 13. Rb1 a5 14. a3 g5 15. Be4 (15. Qe4; 15. Bb5) 15. ... Nc3 16. Bc3 Qc3+ 17. Qd2 (Draw!, Sax-Speelman, Hastings 1983/84) 17. ... Qa3 (17. ... Bg7!?) 18. Qd4 (18. Ne2!?) 18. ... Rg8 (the latest word appears to be 18. ... c5!?) 19. Ne5 Bg7 20. Ra1 ab4 21. Ra3 ba3 22. Ngf3 0-0 23. Bd5 g4! 24. Bf7+ Rf7 25. Qd5 Mestel-Arkell, British Ch. 1989, when Black could have held by 25. ... gf3!) 19. Ra1 ab4 20. Ra3 ba3 21. Ne2 (21. Qa1!? Nc5 22. Nd2) 21. ... a2 22. Kd2! Bg7 23. Qb4! a1Q 24. Ra1 Ba1 25. c6 bc6 26. Bc6 Ra6 27. Ned4 Bd4 28. Nd4 Kd8 (28. ... e5 29. Nf5 Kd8 30. Nh6+-) 29. Bb5 (29. Qb5!?) 29. ... Rb6 30. e4 e5 31. Nc6+ Ke7 32. Ne7 Rd6+ 33. Nd5?! (33. Kc3!+-) 33. ... Rd5 34. cd5 Rg6 35. Qa5+ Nb6 36. Qa7+ Kd8 37. Bc6 Nc4+ 38. Kc3 Nd6 39. Kb4+- (39. Qa5+!+-) 39. ... Rf6 40. f3 g4 41. Qa1 gf3 42. Qe5 Rg6 43. gf3 Bd7! 44. Kc5 Ne8 45. Qb8+ Ke7 46. Qe5+ Kd8 47. h4 Rf6 48. Qb8+ Ke7 49. Qe5+ Kd8 50. h5 Rf5 51. Qb8+ Ke7 52. Bd7?! (52. Qb7! Nf6 53. Bd7! Rd5+ 54. Qd5 Nd5 55. Kd5 Kd7 56. Ke5 Ke7 57. Kf5 Ke8 58. Kf6 Kf8 59. f4 Kg8 60. Ke7 Kg7 61. f5+-) 52. ... Kd7 53. Qb7+ Kd8 54. Qb6+ Ke7 55. Qh6 Nf6! = 56. Kc6 Rd5 57. Qf4 Ke6 58. Qc4 Kf5 59. h6 Kg6 60. Qf4 Rf5 Draw (notes based on Bagirov's)

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## Rothman

from p.15

pieces, but since Black will eventually have to play ...g6 to develop the Bf8 and guard against f5, h5 and hg will open the file.

### 18...Bb7?!

Better was 18...g6 19.h5 Bg7 20. hg hg 21.Kg2 (clearing the h-file) Na5 22. Rae1 Nc4 23.Bc1 b5 (Nb2!?) 24.ab ab 25.Rh1, with an unclear battle ahead.

### 19.h5 Na5 20.Rad1

Belyavsky prefers to develop his last piece before being forced into Bc1. He avoids winning a pawn with 20.Bb6 Nb6 21.Na5, giving Kasparov threats on the b-file and queenside counterplay after 21...Ba8!

### 20...Nc4 21.Bc1 Rbc8?

Too slow! 21...g6 looks best, although Yasser Seirawan, annotating the game in Informant 47, also suggests 21...Ba8, with the idea of ...b5.

### 22.Bg2

Threatening Rd3-h3. Georgadze suggests 22.Qg2 g6 23.Qh3 Nc5 24.Nd4 d5 25.e5 Ne4 26.Nce2, but this does not look like an improvement for White.

### 22...Nc5

Preventing 23.Rd3.

### 23.Nd4

Still avoiding exchanges; furthermore, the f5 advance is threatened.

### 23...d5

Seirawan criticizes this move, claiming 23...e5 24.Nf5 (24.Nde2) Ne6! 25.fe de is unclear. But 23...d5 makes sense. By provoking Belyavsky into e5, Kasparov concedes his position is worse, but nevertheless makes f5 difficult. The placement of the heavy White pieces on the f-file makes f5 more dangerous than e5.

### 24.e5 Ne4

Passive play will not help Kasparov, so he seeks salvation in complicated counterplay.

### 25.Ne4 de 26.b3??

The beginning of a bad plan, since ...e3 is not a threat, e.g. 26.Qe2 e3 27.b3 wins a pawn. Also possible is the direct attack 26.g6, with unclear complications. In severe trouble, Belyavsky tries to shore up his position, preferring to delay attacking until after time control.

### 26...Na5 27.Be3?

Again, 27.Rfe1 Bc5 28.Be3 Bd4 favors White.

### 27...g6!

Preventing 28.g6, 28.f5.

### 28.Rd2 Red8 29.hg hg 30.Oh4

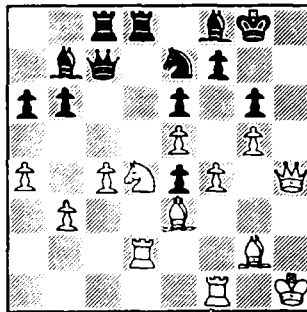
It's too little, too late. By waiting on moves 26 and 27, Belyavsky has given Kasparov a chance to take the offensive.

### 30...Nc6! 31.c3 Ne7!

Frustrated at c6, the knight heads for the outpost on d5.

### 32.c4

Preventing Nd4, but...



### 32...Rd4!

There is a reason this guy is 2800.

### 33.Bd4

Of course, 33.Rd4 Nf5 favors Black.

### 33...Nf5 34.Oh3

Probably forced. If 34.Qe1 Bb4, and 34.Qf2 Nd4 35.Qd4 Bc5 36.Qb2 (36.Qc3 a5!) Kg7.

### 34...Kg7!

threatening ...Bb4, ...Rh8.

### 35.Qc3 a5!

Still trying to move the bishop with tempo.

### 36.c5!

Forced, otherwise ...Bb4 and ...Rh8.

### 36...Nd4 37.Rd4 Bc5 38.Rc4 Rh8

### 39.Bh3 e3 40.Kh2 Qc8

Threatening mate at g2.

### 41.Qc2 Ba6

Winning back the exchange.

### 42.Kg3 Bc4 43.Qc4 Qd7 44.Bg4 Qd2

### 45.Be2 Rd8

The game is over. The combination of Kasparov's active pieces and the vulnerability of the white king forces the quick collapse of Belyavsky's position.

### 46.Rc1 Rd4 47.Qc2 Qb4 48.Qc3

48.Rf1 Rd2 49.Qc4 Qa3 with ...Rb2 to follow.

### 48...Rf4 49.Ob4 Rb4 50.Bc4 Be7!

Preparing to free the rook by ...b5.

### 51.Kf3

51.Kf4 b5 52.ab a4, sweeping up.

### 51...Bg5 52.Ra1 Kf8 53.Ra2 Ke7

### 54.Rg2 e2 55.Re2

If 55.Ke2 Bf4; 55.Be2? Rb3.

### 55...b5 56.Bb5

If 56.ab a4!

### 56...Rb3 57.Kg4 Be3 58.Rc2 Bd4

### 59.Kf4 Rh3 60.Rc8 Rh4 61.Ke3 Rh8!

After 62.Rh8 Be5 and ...Bh8, not even opposite-colored bishops will help. Also hopeless is 62.Rc2 Kf8 63.Rc8 Kg7 64.Rh8 Kh8 65.Kf4 Kg7.

**White resigns 0-1.**

## Brilliances

from p.19

D/E/UNR Section Brilliancy Game

White: Lippman (1388)

Black: Smith (1245)

Irregular KP [C20]

### 1.e4 e5 2.g4 Nf6

The immediate 2...d5 is better.

### 3.Nc3?!

Interesting is 3.f3 d5 (threatening ...Ng4(e4), ...Qh4, ...Bg4) 4.g5 Nh5 5.d4!?

### 3...d5 4.ed5 Bg4 5.f3 Bf5 6.a3?

6.Bc4

### Nd5 7.Nd5 Oh4! 8.Ke2 Qc4 9.d3 Qd5

### 10.Be3 Nc6 11.Nh3

11.Bh3

### 0-0-0 12.Nf2 Nd4 13.Bd4 Qd4 14.c3

### Oh4 15.Ob3 Bc5 16.Ne4 Rd3!! 17.Kd3

### Rd8 18.Kc2 Of2 19.Kb1 Of3 20.Ka2

### Be4

With the dust settled, Black emerges with three pawns for the exchange, and a still powerful attack.

### 21.Bc4 f5 22.Rhf1 Oh3 23.Be6 Kb8

### 24.Qc4?

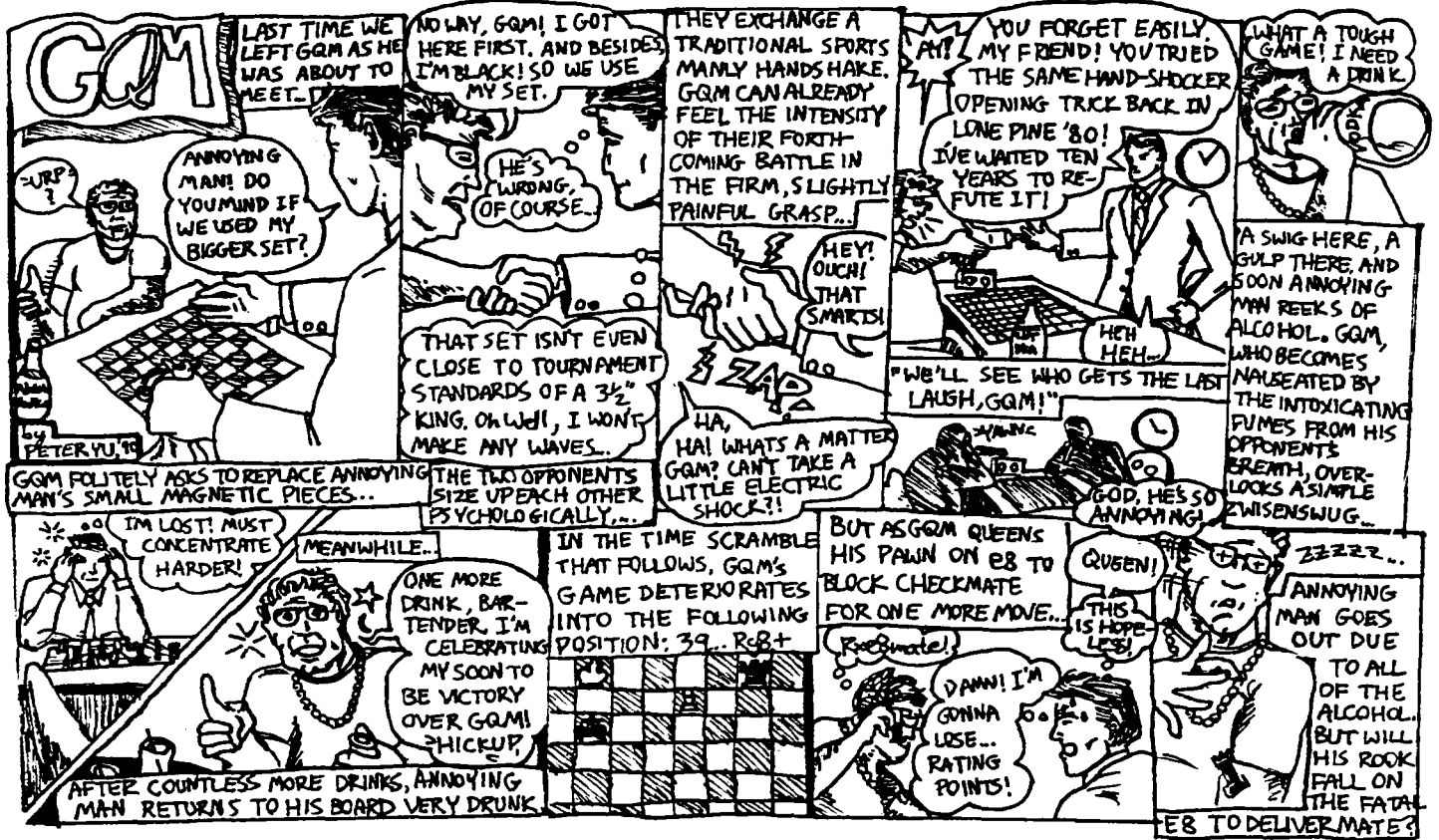
Better 24.Rae1 or 24.Rad1.

### 24...Bd3 25.Bf5?

Necessary was 25.Qc5 Bf1 26.Qe5.

### 25...Bc4 0-1





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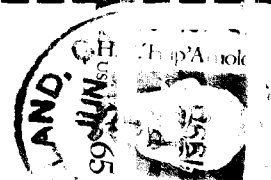
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