

CHESS

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NEW PROPOSAL FOR PREMATURE DRAWS

Last week we published a summary of a report sent us by Jerry Spann of Oklahoma City on the congress of the International Chess Federation in Basel, Switzerland. One of the chief topics was the problem of early agreed draws in tournament play.

This has been a problem for years for players, directors and promoters of chess tournaments. It is clearly unfair to spectators, particularly where an admission fee is charged, for masters to sit down, run through a few moves and then agree to a draw.

True, each player loses half a point, as compared to the one who wins his game. Then there are, of course, such things as legitimate draws. The question is whether a rule can be enforced, depending on 30 moves or any particular number, that must be played before a draw is declared.

If two masters are paired, and each believes that it is to his best interest not to lose, then they will draw, whether it requires 20, 30 or 50 moves to satisfy any arbitrary rule. The director can hardly forfeit both players in such circumstances.

We have given this matter considerable thought and believe there is another approach that promises greater success. This is to provide additional incentive to play for a win, by a change in the scoring procedure.

Our proposal is that in each game played to a finish, the winner receive four points and the loser one point. In a drawn game each player will receive two points.

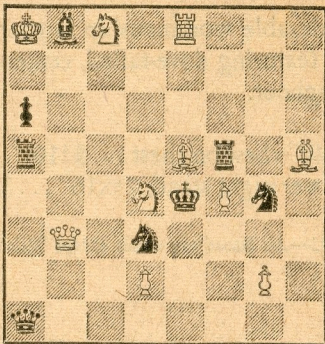
The present universal scoring is one point for a win, nothing for a draw, and zero for a loss.

Oct. 27, 1963

TIMES PROBLEM 3531

By J. G. Martin

BLACK 8



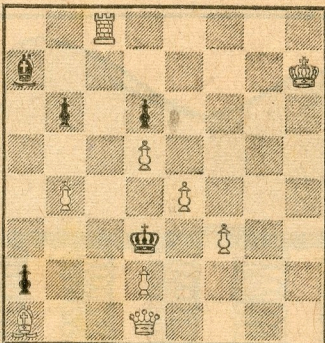
WHITE 10

White mates in two.

TIMES PROBLEM 3532

By J. C. Morra

BLACK 5



WHITE 9

White mates in three.

Black captures bishop, and White mates, which is the multiple theme in 3531. There is less variety in 3532, but the moves must be accurate, and one mate is a surprise.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 3525: RXP

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 3526: R-Q4

If KxB, 2 R-Q7; if K-R2, 2 R-QN4; if K else, 2 QxN(ch); if N any, 2 R-Q8ch.

SOLVERS' LIST

Five points—F. Aks, M. Chutorian, K. Draper, G. Leon-Martin, L. G. Marcus, J. R. Martinez, F. J. Munson. Two points—J. E. Gersch.

One point—J. E. Conway, R. J. Dorus, K. L. Finkle, J. T. Haag, Dr. J. A. Healy, M. F. Kohler, M. Lucas, M. Roth.

for a draw. The new proposal would still allot twice as much for a win as for a draw, but a win and loss would earn a total of five points, whereas two draws would total only four points.

What would happen in practice? Suppose a player had a certain draw, perhaps by perpetual check. This would net him two points. He has good prospects for a win, but may overlook something and lose. He can gain two points by a win as against a draw, and he risks only one point should he finally lose the game.

Frequently players agree to a draw when both are in time pressure, for fear of a blunder. With twice as much to gain as to lose, the tendency will be to continue such games, and many more wins will result.

Should a player be unable to play for any reason and be forfeited, the winner will still receive four points, but the loser will not score. The one point would be awarded for games actually played and lost.

We went through the scores of the recent Piatigorsky Cup Tournament to see what effect this proposal might have had. The following table shows the actual number of wins, losses and draws for each player, and the final score on the present system (Old Points) and the above proposal (New Points).

	W	L	D	OP	NP
Keres	6	3	5	8½	37
Petrosian	4	1	9	8½	35
Olafsson	4	3	7	7½	33
Najdorf	3	2	9	7½	31
Reshevsky	3	3	8	7	32
Gligoric	2	4	8	6	28
Benko	4	7	3	5½	29
Panno	2	5	7	5½	27

Note first, for what it is worth, that there would not have been a single tie under our proposal, instead of the three sets of ties in the actual result. Paul Keres would have been a clear winner, instead of sharing honors with world champion Tigran Petrosian.

The result would be based on Keres' winning more games than anyone else. Despite a siege of illness, there is no question that Keres played the most aggressive and exciting chess of the tournament.

An interesting result would be Benko finishing in sixth place instead of a tie for seventh and eighth. This too could be readily justified on the basis of fighting qualities.

We are interested in the views of our readers on this proposal. Write to Chess Editor, Los Angeles Times. We shall publish any newsworthy comments.

WORLD JUNIOR TOURNEY

The World Junior Championship Tournament, in which 30 players from nearly as many countries participated, resulted in a tie between Florin Georghiu of Rumania and Michael Janata of Czechoslovakia.

Georghiu was undefeated in the final Group A round-robin, winning six and drawing three for a score of 7½-1½. Janata lost to his chief rival, otherwise won seven and drew one to arrive at the same tally.

The tie will be played off in a match next month. Both play-

ers are 19 years old, but Georghiu is considerably more experienced and already has the title of international master.

The others in Group A were far below the leaders, with Kurajica of Yugoslavia taking third place with a tally of 4½-4½. Tied at 4-5 were Adamski, Poland; Lee, England; Lian Ann Tan, Singapore; Zacharov, Russia, and Zweig, Norway. Trailing were Westerinen, Finland, 3-6, and Bokovic, Yugoslavia, 2½-6½.

Walt Cunningham of Arcadia, the American representative, did poorly in the preliminary rounds, winding up in Group C of the finals. He finished in third place with 6½-2½. Tied for first with 7-2 were Amado of Argentina and Kirilloff of Bulgaria.

The tournament, held in the resort town of Vrnjacka Banja in Yugoslavia, started with five preliminary sections of six each. The first two in each section advanced to Group A, the next two in Group B and the remaining two in Group C.

Following are games from the event.

BENONI DEFENSE			
Georghiu	Janata	Georghiu	Janata
Rumania	Czech.	Rumania	Czech.
White	Black	White	Black
1-P-Q4	N-KB3	17-NxR	NxP
2-P-QB4	P-B4	18-NxN	PxN
3-P-Q5	P-K4	19-B-N2	B-Q3
4-N-QB3	P-Q3	20-N-Q2	B-Q2
5-P-K4	B-K2	21-Q-R	P-B3
6-P-KN3	O-O	22-P-B4	R-K
7-B-N2	N-K	23-PxP	BxP
8-N-B3	N-Q2	24-BxB	PxB
9-O-O	P-QR3	25-Q-R3	Q-N4
10-P-QR4	R-N	26-N-B3	Q-K2
11-N-K	P-KN3	27-QxRP	B-N5
12-N-Q3	N-N2	28-QxRP	R-KB
13-R-N	P-N3	29-P-Q6	Q-B3
14-P-QN4	R-N2	30-Q-B6	R-Q
15-P-R5	PxRP	31-Q-Q5ch	Q-K3
16-PxBP	RxR	32-NxP	Resigns

RETI SYSTEM			
Janata	Bokovic	Janata	Bokovic
Czechoslovakia	Jugo-	Czechoslovakia	Jugo-
White	slav-	White	slav-
Black	slav-	Black	slav-
1-N-KB3	P-Q4	15-N-R4	B-R6
2-P-B4	P-QB3	16-N-B5	Q-B4
3-P-QN3	N-B3	17-R-Q2	P-R5
4-B-N2	B-B4	18-KR-Q	PxP
5-P-N3	QN-Q2	19-PxP	N-N3
6-B-N2	P-K3	20-R-Q6	N-K
7-O-O	B-Q3	21-R(6)-Q3	BxB
8-P-Q3	Q-K2	22-QxB	R-N
9-QN-Q2	O-O	23-B-R3	P-B3
10-Q-B2	P-KR3	24-Q-Q2	N-B2
11-QR-Q	P-QR4	25-R-Q6	N-K
12-P-K4	PxP	26-N-K7ch	K-B2
13-NxP	BxN	27-R-Q7	NxR
14-PxB	P-K4	28-QxN	Resigns

BENONI DEFENSE			
C'ningham	W'terinen	C'ningham	W'terinen
U.S.A.	Finland	U.S.A.	Finland
White	Black	White	Black
1-P-Q4	N-KB3	18-B-KN5	Q-N
2-P-QB4	P-B4	19-QR-N	R-K
3-P-Q5	P-K3	20-B-Q3	N-N4
4-N-QB3	PxP	21-N-B6	Q-N3
5-PxP	P-Q3	22-Q-R5	N-Q2
6-P-K4	P-KN3	23-QxQ	NxQ
7-N-B3	B-N2	24-KR-B	N-R5
8-B-K2	O-O	25-P-N4	N-R6
9-O-O	N-R3	26-R-N3	B-N7
10-N-Q2	N-B2	27-PxP!	PxP
11-P-QR4	P-QR3	28-RxN	BxQR
12-P-B3	B-Q2	29-R-R	P-B5
13-N-B4	BxP	30-RxB	N-N3
14-NxB	P-QN4	31-B-KB	K-N2
15-N-R5	PxN	32-B-K3	N-B
16-QxP	N-R4	33-B-B5	P-B3
17-P-KN4	N-B3	34-BxP	Resigns

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE			
Cun'ingham	Dietrich	Cun'ingham	Dietrich
U.S.A.	Luxemburg	U.S.A.	Luxemburg
White	Black	White	Black
1-P-Q4	N-KB3	19-NxN	RxN
2-P-QB4	P-KN3	20-K-R	R-R
3-N-QB3	B-N2	21-P-B5	P-QN4
4-P-K4	P-Q3	22-B-K2	K-R
5-P-B3	O-O	23-Q-N2	R-N2
6-B-K3	P-K4	24-Q-R3	R-QN
7-P-Q5	N-R4	25-P-B6	B-B
8-Q-Q2	P-KB4	26-BxP!	RxB
9-O-O-O	P-B5	27-NxR	PxN
10-B-B2	B-B3	28-B-R7	P-N4
11-KN-K2	B-R5	29-Q-R5	P-N5
12-B-N	P-QR3	30-KR-N	Q-Q
13-K-N	N-Q2	31-QxN	N-B3
14-N-B	R-B2	32-Q-K2	P-R4
15-N-Q3	P-N3	33-P-N5	N-R2
16-N-N4	B-N2	34-P-R4	N-N4
17-N-B6	Q-B3	35-P-R5	R-B2
18-P-QN4	N-N	36-R-N	Resigns