

## **Richard Shorman**

# *Chess*

### **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

The Walnut Creek Chess Club and the Central California Chess Association sponsored a USCF-rated tournament at the Walnut Creek Recreation Center, Jan. 2. Forty-eight players competed in four-man sections during the three round event. Prizes of \$5 and \$3 were awarded to the winners in each section.



A former world champion once brushed aside the opening trap presented below with the remark, "There are no variations, no problems." (Max Euwe, "Judgment and Planning in Chess," New York, 1955, pg. 1)

**White: Craig Barnes (1982).**

**Black: Robert J. Henry (1984).**

**Walnut Creek, Jan. 2, 1971.**

**Giucoco Piano**

1 P-K4	P-K4	10 PxB(f)	NxB
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	11 Q-Q4	QN-Q3(g)
3 B-B4	B-B4	12 QxNP	Q-B3(h)
4 P-B3(a)	N-B3	13 QxQ	NxQ
5 P-Q4	PxP	14 R-K1ch	K-B1(i)
6 PxP	B-N5ch	15 B-R6ch	K-N1
7 N-B3(b)	NxKP(c)	16 R-K5	QN-K5(j)
8 0-0	BxN(d)	17 N-N5!(k)	P-Q3
9 P-Q5!	N-R4(e)	18 NxN!	Resigns

(a) Koltanowski has scored countless blindfold exhibition victories with the Max Lange Attack, 4 0-0 N-B3 5 P-Q4, e.g., 5 . . . BxP 6 NxB NxN 7 P-B4 P-Q3 (forced, as 7 . . . N-B3? allows 8 BxPch KxB 9 PxP, etc.) 8 P-B3 (Kolyt's innovation) B-N5 (an instructive error; correct is 8 . . . N-B3) 9Q-Q2! NxP 10 Q-K3 N-QB7 11 QxN NxR 12 PxP B-K3 13 BxB PxB 14 QxNP P-KR3 15 PxP R-QB1 16 Q-N5ch Resigns (George Koltanowski, "Adventures of a Chess Master," New York, 1955, pp. 98-99).

(b) The enterprising line, offering the KP for a lasting initiative. White's main alternative plays out to equality after 7B-Q2 BxBch 8 QNxP P-Q4! 9 PXP KNxP 10 Q-N3! QN-K2 11 0-0 P-QB3 12 KR-K1 0-0 13 P-QR4 (Keres), e.g., 13 . . . Q-B2 14 QR-B1 Q-B5! (14 . . . N-B5? 15 N-N5 N2/N3 16 R-K8!, as in Schiffers — Harmonist, Frankfurt, 1887) 15 N-K4 B-B4 16 N-B5 P-QN3 17 N-Q3 BxN 18 BxB QR-Q1 (Schlechter — Breyer, Baden, 1914).

(c) Declining the gambit is both safer and simpler for Black: 7 . . . P-Q4 (!) 8 PxP KNxP 9 0-0 B-K3 10 B-KN5 B-K2 11 BxN B/3xB 12 NxB QxN 13 BxB NxB 14 R-K1 P-KB3 15 Q-K2 Q-Q2 16 Q-K4 (otherwise an immediate 16 . . . K-B2 defends solidly) P-B3 17 R-K2 K-B2 18 R/1-K1 N-Q4 19 Q-R4 Q-B4 (Paul Keres, "Dreispringerspiel bis Konigsgambit," Berlin, 1968, pg. 46).

(d) Considered best, although 8 . . . NxN 9 PxN P-Q4! is also playable.

(e) Temporarily retaining the KB with 9 . . . B-B3! in order to complete his development leads Black through tortuous complications to at least a draw. Other tries are worse: I., 9 . . . N-K2 10 PxB 0-0 11 R-K1 N-Q3 (and not 11 . . . N-KB3 12 P-Q6!) 12 B-N3 (Vasily Panov, "Kurs debyutov," Moscow, 1968, pg. 76); II., 9 . . . B-R4 10 PxN NPxP (Neither 10 . . . QPxP 11 Q-R4 B-N3 12 BxPch nor 10 . . . 0-0 11 Q-Q5 N-Q3 12 B-Q3 B-N3 13 BxPch makes life any easier.) 11 N-K5! N-Q3 12 Q-N4 Q-B3 13 P-N4!, with strong pressure for White (analysis by Moller); III., 9 . . . N-Q3 10 PxN NxB 11 Q-K2ch Q-K2 12 QxN B-R4 13 B-N5 P-B3 14 KR-K1 BxR 15 RxR QxRch 16 NxQ PxB 17 Q-K4ch K-B2 18 PxNP (Anton Ritzen, "Die Italienische Partie," Berlin, 1924, pp. 30-31); IV., 9 . . . N-K4, transposing into the game continuation.

(f) White exploits the awkwardly posted knight on Black's QR4 by 10 B-Q3! N-B4 11 PxB NxB 12 QxN 0-0 13 N-N5 P-KB4 (or 13 . . . P-KN3 14 Q-R3 P-R4 15 P-Q6!) 14 P-Q6! P-B3 15 R-K1 P-KR3 16 R-K7! PxN 17 BxP R-B2 18 R/1-K1 (Estrin—Zlatin, 1938), with decisive kingside threats.

(g) After 11 . . . P-KB4! 12 QxQN P-Q3 13 N-Q4 0-0 14 P-B3 N-B4! 15 R-K1 K-R1 16 B-R3 P-QN3 17 N-B6 B-R3 18 Q-Q4 (Romanov - Kotikov, correspondence, 1964) Q-B3! 19 QxQ RxQ 20 R-K7 B-B5! (Panov, pp. 82-84) the issue is still in doubt.

(h) Now Black loses by force to a fairly well-known opening trap. Not so well-known, however, is Evans's analysis showing that 12 . . . R-B1 (!) does **not** lose by force, viz., 13 R-K1 Q-K2 (13 . . . P-KB4? 14 B-N5!) 14 N-Q2 P-KB4 15 Q-Q4! (not 15 QxQch KxQ 16 P-B3 K-B3! 17 PxN R-K1, winning a pawn) Q-B3 16 QxQ (Black escapes with his piece up after 16 Q-Q3 K-Q1.) RxQ 17 P-B3 K-B2 18 PxN NxP 19 NxN PxN 20 RxP P-Q3 (" . . . if 21 B-N5, R-B4 holds by a hair."), with a probable draw (Larry Evans, "Chess Catechism," New York, 1970, pp. 35-37).

(i) On 14 . . . K-Q1 15 B-N5 N-K1 16 RxNch! KxR 17 R-K1ch K-B1 18 B-R6ch K-N1 19 R-K5 Black gets mated, but even the relatively best 14 . . . KN-K5 15 N-Q2 P-KB4 16 P-B3 0-0 (if 16 . . . K-B2, then PxN NxP 18 NxN PxN 19 RxP P-N3 20 B-K3! B-R3 21 P-B4, threatening 22 R-B1ch) 17 PxN NxP 18 NxN PxN 19 RxP P-Q3 20 B-R6 R-B3 (or 20 . . . B-B4 21 R-K7 R-B2 22 R/1-K1) 21 R-K8ch K-B2 22 R/1-K1! RxB 23 R/1-K7ch K-B3 24 RxBP sees White winning the ending.

(j) Less spectacular but just as convincing is 16 . . . KN-K5 17 R-K1 P-KB3 18 R-K7 P-N3 19 N-R4 (MCO-7, pg. 93).

(k) At this stage 17 N-Q2! does as well.