

# Richard Shorman

# Chess

## TARJAN WINS INTERNATIONAL MASTER TITLE

Scoring his second international master result in two tries, **James Tarjan** of Berkeley has advanced in rank to become America's newest internationally titled player.

He is now in Malaga, Spain, striving to win even greater honors. The "New Confident Tarjan!" he calls himself exuberantly. And his games back him up...

Tarjan was the only player to defeat tournament winner Kurajica of Yugoslavia at Wijk aan Zee, Holland. Their sharp encounter is recorded here in USCF approved coordinate chess notation (files lettered "a" to "h", ranks numbered "1" to "8", always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to move; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

**White: Tarjan (USA). Black: Kurajica (Yugoslavia). Wijk aan Zee, 1974. Ruy Lopez** 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Bc6 dc 5 0-0 Qd6 6 c3 c5 7 d4 ed 8 cd cd 9 Nd4 Be7 10 Nc3 c6 11 Be3 Nf6 12 h3 0-0 13 f4 Qd8 14 Qf3 Ne8 15 Rfd1 Qc7 16 Rac1 Bc5 i7 b4 Ba7 18 b5 f5 19 bc Bd4 20 Bd4 fe 21 Qe4 Qc6 22 Nd5 Qe6 23 Qe5 Bd7 24 Nb6 Rd8 25 Bc5 Qa2 26 Nd7 Rf7 27 Nb6 Resigns.

Annotations to the following game have been contributed by international master James Tarjan especially for this column.

**White: James Tarjan (USA). Black: Silvino Garcia (Cuba). Wijk aan Zee, 1974.**

### Grunfeld Defense

|             |         |             |          |
|-------------|---------|-------------|----------|
| 1 P-Q4      | N-KB3   | 18 B-N1(f)  | PxP      |
| 2 P-QB4     | P-KN3   | 19 PxP      | KR-Q1(g) |
| 3 N-QB3     | P-Q4    | 20 P-K5     | P-B4(h)  |
| 4 PxP       | NxP     | 21 Q-N5     | K-R1     |
| 5 P-K4      | NxN     | 22 P-KR4    | Q-KB2    |
| 6 PxN       | B-N2    | 23 N-K2     | N-B3     |
| 7 B-QB4     | 0-0     | 24 P-Q5!(i) | RxP      |
| 8 N-K2      | N-B3    | 25 RxR      | PxR      |
| 9 0-0       | P-N3    | 26 N-B4     | N-K2?(j) |
| 10 B-K3     | B-N2    | 27 P-R5     | K-N1(k)  |
| 11 Q-Q2     | N-R4    | 28 P-K6     | Q-N2     |
| 12 B-Q3     | P-QB4   | 29 P-R6     | Q-B1(l)  |
| 13 B-KR6(a) | P-K3(b) | 30 N-R5     | K-R1     |
| 14 BxB      | KxB     | 31 N-B6     | N-N1(m)  |
| 15 QR-Q1    | R-B1    | 32 NxN      | KxN      |
| 16 KR-K1(c) | Q-Q2(d) | 33 P-K7     | Q-B2     |
| 17 N-N3     | P-B3(e) | 34 BxP      | Resigns  |

(a) With the exchange of bishops White lessens the pressure against his pawn center. Also, later Black's slightly exposed king position may become a factor.

(b) This serves to prevent a possible White P-Q5, but now sometimes the KB3 square can become weak.

(c) I decide that the advance P-KB4 is generally not dangerous for Black, as he can answer P-KB4, so I put my rook on the king file, where it supports play in the center.

(d) Also possible is 16...PxP 17 PxP N-B5, when I would play 18 Q-N4 Q-Q3 19 Q-N3.

(e) If 17...PxP, then 18 Q-N5! P-B3 (On 18...K-R1 White plays 19 P-K5!) 19 N-R5ch K-R1 20 N-B6 Q-N2 21 P-K5, and the knight on KB6 is too strong a piece, e.g., 21...PxP 22 R-K3 followed by R-R3 or 21...RxP 22 B-K4.

(f) The bishop moves out of the way of the major pieces on the queen file. Though QN1 may appear a passive square for the bishop, it serves several functions: guards the QRP, takes the QB2 square away from a Black rook, supports the center and has the potential to help in a king-side attack, as occurs in the game.

(g) In my opinion, it would be better to play 19...N-B5, getting the knight into play, e.g., 20 Q-K2 N-R6, trading the bishop, as 21 B-Q3 QxP 22 B-R6 BxB 23 QxB Q-B4 is at least equal for Black. Or 20 Q-N4 Q-Q3 21 Q-N3 Q-R6 with trade of queens. Or 20 Q-B4, and one possibility is 20...N-N7 21 R-Q2 N-B5 22 R-Q3 N-N7.

(h) On 20...PxP, 21 Q-N5 is strong for White. But perhaps it would be better to play 20...Q-K2.

(i) With this sacrifice White takes the square Q5 away from Black's pieces and leaves a weak pawn there instead, creates a strong passed king pawn and strengthens the bishop's pressure against KB5 in conjunction with P-R5. On other moves Black consolidates with 24...N-K2.

(j) Black should try 26...Q-K2, and if 27 NxQP, then 27...QxQ 28 PxQ NxP 29 RxN BxN 30 RxN R-B8ch 31 K-R2 RxB 32 R-Q8ch K-N2 33 R-Q7ch K-N1 34 RxQRP P-B5, with a drawn rook and pawn ending, as pointed out by Garcia. But White could play 27 Q-N3 and maintain a strong initiative for the sacrificed pawn, e.g., 27...N-Q5 28 P-K6! (not 28 QxP N-B6ch) or 27...R-Q1 28 P-R5 P-KN4 29 N-R3 P-N5 30 N-B4.

(k) This loses, but it is hard to give Black good advice now anyway, e.g., 27...PxP 28 NxRP R-KN1 29 P-K6! Q-B1 (29...QxP 30 QxN or 29...RxQ 30 PxQ) 30 Q-K3, winning.

(l) On 29...Q-B6 White wins with 30 QxN QxRch 31 K-R2 Q-K4 32 Q-B7ch K-R1 33 P-N3 B-B3 (What else?) 34 N-R5! P-B5 (or 34...Q-N7 35 K-R3) 35 N-B6 PxPch 36 K-R3 Q-B2 37 P-K7 B-Q2ch 38 K-N2. For devotees of mating combinations I point out the possibility of 34 P-K7 R-KN1 35 N-K6 B-K1 (But 35...P-B5 is better.) 36 N-N5.

(m) Otherwise, 32 N-Q7; or 31...N-B3 32 P-K7 NxP 33 N-Q7.

#### WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY TOURNEY IN MONTEREY

The sixth annual Cherry Tree Open will take place at the Monterey Chess Center, 430 Alvarado St., Monterey, Feb. 23-24. The five-round USCF Swiss system tournament will host three separate divisions, each with its own prizes.

Overall winner in the Open Division will receive \$200 plus a live cherry tree (!). Second place earns \$100 and Best "A" will take away \$125.

The B-C Division prizes will be divided according to class: 1st B, \$125; 2nd B, \$75; 1st C, \$115; 2nd C, \$65.

In the D, E & Unrated Division \$100 will be awarded to the top scoring "D" or "E" player, with second prize set at \$65. Unrated players will be competing for first and second prizes of \$75 and \$35 respectively.

These cash awards are based on 35 entries in the Open division and 40 entries in the "B-C" and "D, E & Unrated" divisions.

Send advance entry postmarked on or before Feb. 19 and save \$5: Open Division, \$15; B-C Division, \$12.50; D, E & Unrated Division, \$10. Entry fee after Feb. 19 will be \$5 more in all playing categories. Address your advance entry to Cherry Tree Open, P.O. Box 1308, Monterey, Calif. 93940, stating your name, address, USCF rating with expiration date and division entered.

**Ted and Ruby Yudacufski** will direct this colorful event, which, in addition to the live cherry tree, will feature cherry pie and other cherry surprises for your enjoyment. Round one begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 23. Time control for the first two rounds is 40 moves in 90 minutes, with the final three rounds on Sunday played at the rate of 45 moves in 120 minutes. Please bring sets and clocks.

For any additional tournament information, write Cherry Tree Open (address above) or phone (408) 372-9790.

#### WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, Palma Ceia Park (corner of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way), Monday and Friday, 8-12 p.m.

Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meckland Ave., Hayward (corner of A St. and Meckland Ave.), Evenings, 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The San Leandro Chess Club, 205 Dutton Ave. (Washington School cafeteria, between East 14th St. and Bancroft Ave.), Monday, 7-11 p.m.

The Fremont Chess Club, 40204 Paseo Padre Parkway (near City Hall at Lake Elizabeth), Monday, 7-11 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets, Friday, 8-12 p.m.