

Richard Shorman

Chess

OUR MAN IN LENINGRAD

In an astounding feat, which even he could not expect to last, American grandmaster Robert Byrne held the lead in the Leningrad Interzonal after eight rounds of play.

His games thus far have been distinguished by a winning blend of logic and combativeness that is beyond praise.

Byrne was responsible for a genuine rarity in modern tournament competition, when he drove his opponent's king into a mating net clear across the board.

The moves are recorded 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).

1 g3	f5	22 Rg3	Rd5
2 Bg2	Nf6	23 Rg1 (g)	Re5!(h)
3 c4	e6	24 fe	Qe5
4 b3	Be7	25 gf	Rf5
5 Bb2	0-0	26 Kel	Rf7
6 f4	d5	27 Qc2(i)	g6
7 Nf3	c5(a)	28 e4	Ba6
8 0-0	b6	29 Rlg2(j)	Qal
9 e3	Bb7	30 Ke2	Rf1
10 Qe2	Nc6(b)	31 Qd2	Rbl
11 Nc3	Qd7(c)	32 Qg5(k)	Rel
12 Nd1	Rad8(d)	33 Kf3	Qdl
13 Nf2	Ne4	34 Kf4	Rf1
14 d3	Nf2	35 Ke5	Qa1
15 Kf2(e)	Bf6	36 Ke6(l)	Bc8
16 Bf6	Rf6	37 Kd6	Rf6!(m)
17 cd	Qd5	38 Kc7	Be6(n)
18 Ne5	Qd6	39 d4(o)	Qd4
19 Bc6(f)	Bc6	40 Rd2	Rf7
20 Rgl	Bb7	41 Kb8	Qe4(p)
21 g4	Qc7	42 Resigns	

(Notes based on Robert Byrne's commentary in the New York Times, June 10, 1973.)

(a) This pawn usually completes Black's "stonewall" formation at c6, but White has neglected to play d4 in the opening. Byrne therefore plans to solve the problem of his bad white-squared bishop with a fianchetto on the long diagonal, in addition to gaining increased influence in the center.

(b) Again, a more active post for this knight than d7, made possible by the two-step advance of the "c" pawn.

(c) A third consequence of Black's unorthodox Dutch Defense: the queen normally must take up a station on the flank via e8 and g6 or h5.

(d) Finishing his development unencumbered grants Black at least equality.

(e) The first move of an energetic attack involving placement of his knight on e5, the advance of the "g" pawn to pry open a file and the doubling of rooks opposite the enemy king.

(f) Parting with his long-range bishop to secure the pivotal strong-point knight against exchange. White banks on his initiative compensating for his weakness on the white squares.

(g) Wrongly ignoring Black's intent. Larsen suggested 23 Qb2 fg 24 Ng4 Rg6 25 Ne5 Rg3 26 hg as best.

(h) A powerful sacrifice that deprives White's offensive of crucial minor piece support, accentuates his white-square weakness (especially on d3), impairs the efficiency of White's rooks and, most importantly, leaves his king dangerously exposed in the center.

(i) Parrying the threat of 27 . . . Qal and 28 . . . Qa2.

(j) Lets the black queen in to start the king on an ill-starred trek to oblivion, but White no longer has any good moves.

(k) Sad necessity.

(l) On 36 Kd6 Black concludes with 36 . . . Qd4, e.g., 37 Kc6 Rf7 and mate next.

(m) The entire chase scene is being executed faultlessly by Byrne, as White's pieces, tripled and helpless, stand stranded on the sidelines.

(n) Not only saving the bishop but also preventing 39 Qd5.

(o) Returning a pawn to bring one of his rooks to life along the "d" file. Predictably, escape attempts by the white king are dealt with summarily, e.g., 39 Kb7 Rf7 40 Ka6 Qc3. etc.

(p) Setting up an unanswerable mate threat on b7.

....TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Nearly 60 players took part in the first "All-Comers" Community Chess Tournament sponsored by the South Hayward Parish at the Weekes Community Center, Hayward, June 9-10.

Participation ribbons were received by all who finished their five-round schedule, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards were presented in four divisions. Complete results:

Children (to 10 years)

1st, David Temple, Hayward; 2nd, Brandon Wong, Hayward; 3rd, Bill Olds, Fremont, all with scores of 4-1. Honorary awards went to Sean Tayco and Kenny Fong (both Hayward) for matching the leaders at 4-1, but losing out on tie breakers. Anne Emerson and Cheri Ho (both Hayward) won prizes for highest scoring girls (2-3).

Youths (to 15)

1st, Ernest Curto, Fremont, 4½-½; 2nd, Alfred Adams, Hayward; 3rd, Neil Harvey, San Lorenzo, 4-1 each. Lisa Middleton, Hayward, won the best girl prize (2-3).

Young Adult (to 21)

1st, Marty Reardon; 2nd, Steve Bell (both Hayward), 4½-½ each; 3rd, Matrin Currie, Hayward, 2-3.

Adult (over 21)

1st, Jerry Rogers, Hayward, 4-1; 2nd, Dick Cooley; 3rd, Dave Mahoney (both Hayward), 3-2 each.

US JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The eighth annual invitational US Junior Championship will be held at the Sheraton Palace Hotel (corner of Market and New Montgomery) in San Francisco, June 22-28, from 1 p.m.

Spectator tickets for all seven days (including tournament book) are on sale for \$5, or daily at \$1 (jrs. 50 cents).