

Richard Shorman

Chess

Lubomir Kavalek was the odd man out at the U.S. Championship Playoff, held in Chicago, Feb. 3-10. Thus, Robert Byrne, chess columnist for the New York Times, and 61-year-old veteran Samuel Reshevsky will move on to the interzonal stage of the world championship candidates' cycle to determine a challenger for Bobby Fischer's title in 1975.

Only two places have been allocated to the United States by the International Chess Federation for interzonal purposes, so when the last U.S. Championship (a zonal competition) resulted in a three-way tie for first, a playoff among the leaders had to be arranged.

Eight-time past champion Samuel Reshevsky started the six-round series with a built-in handicap, since his tie break points from the U.S. Championship were lower than those of both Byrne and Kavalek. If the playoff match were to finish in another dead heat, therefore, Byrne and Kavalek automatically would advance to the interzonals on the strength of their superior tie breaking coefficients.

International Judge George Koltanowski of San Francisco directed the all-grandmaster event. Final scores: Byrne, 3, Reshevsky, 2, and Kavalek, 1.

White: Samuel Reshevsky. Black: Lubomir Kavalek. U.S. Championship Playoff, Chicago, Feb. 7, 1973.

Sicilian Defense

1 N-KB3(a)	P-KN3	20 B-Q2	NxB
2 P-B4	B-N2	21 NxN	BxQNP?(g)
3 N-B3	P-B4	22 R-N1	B-K4(h)
4 P-Q4	PxP	23 RxP	K-B2
5 NxP	N-QB3	24 N-B3	R-R1
6 N-B2	P-Q3	25 N-N5ch	K-B3
7 P-K4	N-R3(b)	26 NxB	R-R8ch
8 B-K2	P-B4	27 K-N2	R-R7ch
9 P-KR4(c)	PxP	28 K-B3	R-R6ch
10 P-R5(d)	B-B4	29 K-K4	KxN
11 PxP	PxP	30 Q-Q5ch	QxQch
12 N-K3	N-B2	31 NxQ(i)	K-B2
13 RxRch	BxR(e)	32 RxPch	K-B1
14 P-KN4	B-K3(f)	33 P-B5	R-R6
15 Q-B2!?	N-N4	34 P-B6	R-R5ch
16 NxP	N-Q5	35 K-B3	R-QB5
17 Q-Q3	N-4-B6ch	36 P-B7	B-B3
18 K-B1	Q-R4	37 R-Q7	Resigns(j)
19 BxN	NxB		

(Notes by international master George Koltanowski and Richard Verber, General Chairman of the Chicago Chess Club)

(a) Reshevsky knew that it was now or never. He had to win to stay alive in this championship playoff. After this game, both he and Kavalek would have to play Byrne. If he could beat Kavalek and then do as well against Byrne as Kavalek did, he would be one of the two United States representatives in the interzonals in Rio de Janeiro in June (G.K.).

(b) Byrne afterward commented that this is already a slight error by Kavalek, preferring instead an immediate 7... P-B4 (R.V.).

(c) Having lost to Byrne the previous round, Sammy is forced to go all-out for the win. Who would recognize the wildly aggressive and seemingly anti-positional text as a Reshevsky move (R.V.)?

(d) White proceeds with his plan to damage Black's king side (R.V.).

(e) Both players had consumed an hour and forty minutes at this move (G.K.)

(f) Byrne regards this as the lesser evil, suggesting that after 14... BxNch 15 PxP B-K3 16 Q-B2 Q-R4 17 R-N1 White's queenside play is very dangerous (R.V.).

(g) Permitting White to regain his lost pawn with powerful counterplay. It is a battle now of two knights versus two bishops (G.K.) Byrne thought 21... B-B2 better, but regarded White's position slightly more promising nonetheless (R.V.).

(h) Another error, after which Kavalek is lost. Black's only hope was 22... B-B3 (R.V.).

(i) The knights prevail (G.K.)

(j) Reshevsky, who has really been playing excellent chess in this event, finished the game in forceful style (G.K.).

TAL FORGES AHEAD

Recently recovered from a long-term kidney ailment, former world champion Mikhail Tal took first place in his fourth successive tournament, without losing a single game in any of them.

Scoring 10½ points out of a possible 15, Tal headed the Soviet "troika" composed of himself, Yuri Balashov (10 points) and Yevgeni Vasyukov (9).

White: Tal. Black: Zuidema. Wijk Aan Zee, 1973.
Queen's Gambit Declined 1 P-QB4 N-KB3 2 N-QB3 P-K3 3 N-B3 P-Q4 4 P-Q4 B-K2 5 B-B4 0-0 6 P-K3 P-B4 7 PxBP Q-R4 8 P-QR3 PxP 9 BxP QxBP 10 Q-K2 P-QR3 11 P-QN4 Q-KR4 12 0-0 P-QN4 13 B-Q3 B-N2 14 P-K4 QN-Q2 15 P-R3 QR-B1 16 QR-B1 N-N3 17 Q-K3 KN-Q2 18 N-K2 P-B3 19 B-B7 N-R1 20 B-R5 N-K4 21 NxN QxN-4 22 B-N1 B-Q3 23 P-B4 Q-N7 24 QR-Q1 B-N1 25 K-R2 P-B4 26 R-Q2 B-R2 27 N-Q4 BxN 28 QxB QxQ 29 RxQ PxP 30 BxP BxB 31 RxB R-KB3 32 R-1-K1 R-B3 33 B-Q8 R-KB1 34 B-K7 ? R-K1 35 B-B5 N-B2 36 R-Q4 R-QB1 37 R-Q7 N-Q4 38 P-B5 N-B5 39 R-K4 N-R4 40 RxKP Black lost on time.

KOLTANOWSKI "WITH THE CHESS MASTERS"

World blindfold champion George Koltanowski's latest contribution to chess literature, entitled "With the Chess Masters", ranks with his classic "Adventures of a Chess Master" as one of the most readable biographies in all of chessdom.

In Kolty's own words, "Here you will find stories from the early years of my chess adventures written from my very personal point of view, plus some encounters with chess champions such as Alekhine and Capablanca—and even Bobby Fischer. For by being born at the right time . . . I have had the pleasure of talking to and playing against the great men of chess of the last 50 years—along with the near-great and fine amateurs of all nationalities."

White: A. Cenni (Italy). Black: G. Koltanowski (Belgium). I Chess Olympics, Paris, 1924. Philidor Defense 1 P-K4 P-K4 2 N-KB3 P-Q3 3 P-Q4 PxP 4 QxP N-KB3 5 B-KN5 B-K2 6 N-B3 B-Q2 7 0-0-0 N-B3 8 Q-Q2 P-KR3 9 BxN BxB 10 K-N1 B-K3 11 N-Q5 P-QR4 12 B-N5 0-0 13 P-KR3 N-R2 14 B-K2 BxN 15 PxP PB4 16 P-KN4 P-R5 17 P-B3 Q-N3 18 P-R4 KR-K1 19 B-Q3 N-N4 20 BxN QxB 21 P-N5 R-K7! 22 Q-B1 P-R6! 23 R-Q2 RxR 24 QxR R-K1! 25 R-K1 RxRch 26 NxR PxKNP 27 P-R5 PxP 28 QxQNP Q-B8 29 Q-Q2 Q-R6 30 K-B2 QxRP 31 Q-K3 P-N5 32 P-QB4 BQ5 33 Q-K8ch K-R2 34 N-Q3 Q-B4 35 Q-K2 P-QN4! 36 PxP P-B5 37 Resigns.