

Richard Shorman

Chess

BYRNE HOLDS SPASSKY TO DRAWS

In what must be regarded as a surprising turn of events, U.S. champion **Robert Byrne** was still unbeaten by U.S.S.R. champion **Boris Spassky** after two games of their quarter-final elimination match in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The opening round was agreed drawn on move 44, when, according to expert opinion, the former world champion had "ruined his previous fine play...and also let slip an important psychological advantage."

White: Robert Byrne. Black: Boris Spassky. San Juan, 1974, 1st Match Game. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 g4 a6 7 a4 Nc6 8 g5 Nd7 9 Be3 Nde5 10 Be2 Nd4 11 Qd4 Nc6 12 Qb6 Qb6 13 Bb6 h6 14 gh Rh6 15 0-0-0 Bd7 16 Bc7 Rc8 17 Bd6 Bd6 18 Rd6 Ke7 19 Rd3 Rch8 20 h3 g5 21 Rhd1 Ne5 22 Rg3 f6 23 Bf1 Rh4 24 Kd2 Rc8 25 Ke3 Rc3 26 bc Ba4 27 Rb1 Bc6 28 f3 Rh8 29 Rg1 Kd6 30 Rb4 Ng6 31 Rg2 a5 32 Rd2 Kc7 33 Rb1 a4 34 c4 Ne5 35 Rf2 Kd6 36 f4 gf 37 Rf4 Kc5 38 Rf6 Nc4 39 Bc4 Rh3 40 Kf4 Kc4 41 Re6 Kc3 42 Rb6 Kc2 43 Rec6 bc 44 Rc6 Drawn.

Game two was adjourned on move 40 with Spassky favored to score a routine win upon resumption of play next day. But Byrne defended very precisely against Spassky's overly sharp continuation and the game finally ended in a draw on move 72.

Radio station KQED-FM (88.5) is broadcasting weekday summaries of all four quarter-final matches (Spassky-Byrne, Korchnoi-Mecking, Karpov-Polugaevsky and Petrosian-Portisch) by international arbiter Frank Brady. The program, which airs at 5 p.m., is called "All Things Considered".

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Jennie Kiesling directed the Los Altos Winter Open, a five-round, Swiss system tourney with 140 (USCF) entries, Jan. 5-6.

Overall Winners

1st-2nd, Ruben Rodriguez (FIDE 2410), the Phillipines, and Alan LaVergne (USCF 2158), Palo Alto, 5-0, \$47.50 each.

Class A

1st-5th, Bill Chesney, Robert Tomkins, Robert Sferra and Gabriel Sanchez, 4-1, \$19 each.

Class B

1st-5th, Clifford Kull, Michael Donald, Raymond Musselman, Paul Grad and Michael Willemsen, 4-1, \$36 each.

Class C

1st-2nd, Wayne McClintock and Charles Bass, 4-1, \$92.50 each; **3rd-4th**, Norman Johnson and Brad Diller, 3½-1½ \$17.50 each.

Class D-E

1st-3rd, William McDougall, Kenneth Fisher and Gary Evans, 3-2, \$70 each.

Unrated Section

1st, Steffen Lauritzen, 4-1, \$70; **2nd-4th**, Gary Luke, Frank Parker and Richard McCoullough, 3-2, \$21.67 each.

★ ★ ★

A hotly contested duel between expert **Richard Gordon** and class B player **Dennis Meyers** resulted in a breathless stand-off by perpetual check.

White: Richard Gordon (2008). Black: Dennis Meyers (1680). Los Altos, Jan. 5, 1974. King's Indian Attack 1 e4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 Nd2 Nf6 4 Ngf3 c5 5 g3 b5 6 Bg2 Nc6 7 0-0 Be7 8 e5 Nd7 9 Re1 Qc7 10 Qe2 Nb6 11 Nf1 Bb7 12 Bf4 h6 13 h4 a5 14 Rac1 b4 15 h5 Ba6 16 c4 bc 17 bc c4 18 d4 a4 19 Qc2 Kd7 20 Ne3 Qa7 21 Rb1 Rab8 22 Bh3 Bb7 23 Rb6 Qb6 24 Nd5 Qa5 25 Ne7 Ne7 26 Nd2 Nd5 27 Ne4 Nf4 28 gf Bd5 29 f5 ef 30 Nc5 Ke7 31 Qf5 Rbd8 32 e6 f6 33 Qg6 Qc3 34 Rb1 Qh3 35 Qf7 Kd6 36 Rb6 Bc6 37 Nb7 Kd5 38 Nd8 Qg4 39 Drawn.

FOUR-WAY TIE AT HASTINGS

The traditional Hastings Premier competition finished Jan. 13 in a quadruple tie for first after 15 rounds of play.

1st-4th, Tal, Kuzmin, Szabo and Timman, 10-5; **5th**, Gligoric, 9½-5½; **6th**, Keene, 9-6; **7th**, Adorjan, 8½-6½; **8th-9th**, Benko and Hartston, 7½-7½; **10th**, Basman, 7-8; **11th**, Sut-tles, 6½-8½; **12th**, Pytel, 6-9; **13th**, Miles, 5½-9½; **14th-15th**, Garcia and Stean, 5-10; **16th**, Rellstab, 3-12.

BRONSTEIN'S BUDAPEST BRILLIANCY

Bronstein's best chess at Budapest, 1950 produced a host of magnificent attacking games that eventually propelled him into the challenger's spot for the world championship.

White: David Bronstein. Black: Alexandr Kotov. Candidates' Tournament, Budapest, 1950.

Semi-Slav Defense

1 P-Q4	P-Q4	17 N-K5	B-Q2(k)
2 P-QB4	P-K3	18 Q-R3ch	P-B4(l)
3 N-QB3	P-QB3	19 Q-KB3!(m)	QR-Q1
4 P-K4	PxKP	20 QxPch	K-Q3
5 NxP	B-N5ch	21 Q-B4(n)	QR-KB1
6 B-Q2!(a)	QxP(b)	22 N-B7ch	K-K2
7 BxB	QxNch	23 B-R5	B-B3
8 B-K2	N-QR3(c)	24 Q-Q6ch	K-B3
9 B-QB3	N-K2(d)	25 N-R6	R-N8ch
10 BxP!	R-KN1(e)	26 K-Q2	K-N2
11 B-QB3	QxNP	27 N-N4	RxN(o)
12 Q-Q2!(f)	QxR	28 Q-K7ch!	K-R3
13 0-0-0	N-Q4(g)	29 BxR	RxPch
14 N-B3	QxRch(h)	30 K-K3	R-B8
15 BxQ	NxB	31 P-KR4!	K-N3
16 QxN(i)	K-K2(j)	32 B-R5ch!	Resigns

Notes are by international grandmaster Gideon Barcza in "Chess" (England), June, 1950, pp. 181-82.

(a) Easier for Black is 6 N-B3 P-QB4! 7 B-K3 N-KB3 8 P-QR3 BxNch 9 PxB Q-R4 10 B-Q2 N-K5!

(b) Kotov as Black against Boleslavsky in the eighth round tried the sound and solid 6...BxBch, but he still had the worse of the opening: 7 QxB N-B3 8 NxNch QxN 9 N-B3 0-0 10 B-K2 P-B4 11 PxP! R-Q1 12 Q-K3! QxP 13 0-0. Black has not equalized.

(c) After 8...QxNP 9 B-KB3 Q-N3 White's better development is worth more than the two pawns.

(d) For some time 9...P-B3 was considered a good defense here, but Bronstein smashed it in his game against Szily, Budapest, 1949: 10 Q-Q6 B-Q2 11 0-0-0 0-0-0 12 Q-N3 Q-N3 13 Q-K3 gave White a winning position.

(e) After 10...QxNP 11 B-B6!! QxR 12 Q-Q6 0-0 13 Q-N3ch N-N3 14 B-KB3 Black's queen is lost.

(f) Playing 12 B-B3 would lose out of hand to 12...QxNch 13 RxQ RxRch, etc.

(g) Or 13...P-B3? 14 B-R5ch R-N3 15 BxP and wins. There is no other feasible way of guarding against the threatened mate.

(h) Black might have tried 14...Q-N7 15 PxN BPxP 16 R-N1 QxRch 17 NxQ etc. White's two bishops for two knights would have been the dominant feature of the endgame.

(i) Both players have been aiming at this position. Kotov had felt satisfied with it, feeling that with two rooks and a pawn for the queen he stood well enough. Bronstein had seen further: Black's pieces do not coordinate well.

(j) A critical move. Black has to do something against the threat of 17 Q-B6. The text-move proves quite inadequate. He should have given up his extra pawn to complete his development: 16...P-K4! 17 QxPch B-K3 18 N-Q4 0-0-0 19 NxB QR-K1, and how could White win this game now?

(k) If 17...P-B3, then 18 Q-KR3! PxN (not 18...R-N2 19 Q-R6) 19 QxRPch K-B1 20 B-R5 R-N2 21 Q-R8ch R-N1 22 Q-B6mate.

(l) If 18...K-K1, then 19 Q-Q6 R-Q1 20 B-R5 R-N2 21 NxKBP RxN 22 Q-B4 and wins.

(m) The strength of White's previous "interposed check" 18 Q-R3ch is now clear. Having tempted forward Black's QBP White threatens the QNP as well as the KBP now.

(n) Of course, 21 NxB R-N8 22 N-B6 K-K4 23 P-B4ch would also have won.

(o) There is really no defense against the threat of Q-K7ch. The attacked rook is lost if it is played anywhere along the KB file, and if it goes to QN1 White wins prettily by 28 Q-K7ch K-R1 29 B-N6!! PxB 30 N-B6, followed by mate.