

Richard Shorman

Chess

BENKO, TREFLER TIE IN WORLD OPEN

The third annual World Open chess tournament, played July 2-6 in New York, had 815 entries (372 in the Open Division and 443 in the Booster Classes), awarding \$20,000 in prize money, the most ever offered in this type of open event.

An astonishing number of upsets occurred in the master section, perhaps more than in any previous U.S. chess competition: 19-year-old Alan Trefler of Brookline, Mass., a Dartmouth College student, was ranked 115th at the start of the tournament, with a USCF rating of 2045. Losing his first game (the "swiss Gambit") to Orest Popovych (2292), Trefler then won eight in a row to tie for first with IGM Pal Benko (2504)! In the last five rounds, he defeated Lipking (2223), Frankle (2194), Wachtel (2308), Kaplan (2462) and Rohde (2296) to send his rating zooming up to about 2300 and capture a \$2,250 share of the prize fund.

International grandmaster Benko, recovering from his poor showing in the U.S. Championship, won his first five games, drew with IGM Walter Browne in round 6 and with Houston master Ronald Henley in round 7, then beat Continental Open winner Danny Kopec and expert Robert Gruchacz for an unbeaten 8-1 score. Benko took the title of World Open Champion on tiebreak points and won \$2,250 for his performance.

Youngest U.S. player since Fischer to achieve a 2300 rating was 15-year-old Michael Rohde, former National Junior High and National High School Champion. His triumph of a lifetime came in round 8, when he upset U.S. Champion Walter Browne in beautiful style.

Veteran grandmaster Nicolas Rossolimo finished clear third with 7½-1½, winning \$1,000 in his first serious tournament in five years. But even Rossolimo felt the sting of the new generation when Alan Cabot (1954), a junior from Massachusetts, executed a brilliancy against him in round 3.

Chief tournament director for the record-breaking event, sponsored by the Continental Chess Association, was Bill Goichberg. Complete Open results:

1st. Pal Benko, New Jersey, 8-1, \$2,250 plus title; **2nd,** Alan Trefler, Mass., 8-1, \$2,250; **3rd.,** Nicolas Rossolimo, New York, 7½-1½, \$1,000; **4th-13th,** Walter Browne, Calif., Bernard Zuckerman, New York, Arnold Denker, Florida, Eugene Meyer, New York, Robert Wachtel, Canada, Leslie Leow, Singapore, Michael Rohde, New Jersey, Orest Popovych, New Jersey, Leonid Balmazi, New York, and Ronald Henley, Texas, 7-2, \$170 each.

1st-5th Expert, Charles Koplik, Mass., Sidney Berstein, New York, Robert Gruchacz, New York, Jerald Meyers, New York, and Michael Tomey, Calif., 7-2, \$420 each.

1st-2nd. A. Roy Mallett, New York, and Richard Costigan, Penn., 7-2, \$750 each; **3rd-4th A,** Thomas Martin, New Jersey, and Douglas Locke, Mass., 6½-2½, \$250 each; **5th-11th A,** Richard Moran, New York, Eric Kohlmar, New York, Brian Early, New York, Stephen Tarin, New York, Dean Arvidson, Calif., Ilan Kreitner, New York, and Raul Serrano, New York, 6-3, \$42,86 each.

1st B-E, Dave Kelly, New Jersey, 5½-3½, \$300; **2nd-6th B-E,** Tyler Cowen, New Jersey, Peter Lerner, Conn., Harold Katcher New York, John Hayes, Ohio, and William Adam, New York, 5-4, \$100 each.

Here are two of the most exciting contests from the 1975 World Open, 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).

j **White: Michael Rohde (2296). Black: Walter Browne (2580). World Open, New York, July 6, 1975. Sicilian Defense** 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 g3 e5 7 Nde2 Be7 8 Bg2 Nbd7 9 a4 b6 10 0-0 Bb7 11 Nd5 Nd5 12 ed b5 13 Be3 0-0 14 ab ab 15 Qd3 Ba6 16 Ra3 Qc7 17 Rfa1 Qb7 18 b4 Nb6 19 Bb6 Qb6 20 Qe3 Qb7 21 Rla2 f5 22 Qc3 f4 23 Qc6 f3 24 Bf3 Rac8 25 Qa6 26 Ra6 Rf3 27 Ra8 Rff8 28 Rc8 Rc8 29 c3 e4 30 Ra6 Kf7 31 Rb6 Bf6 32 Rd6 Bc3 33 Rc6 Rc6 34 dc Be5 35 Nd4 Ke7 36 Nb5 Bb2 37 Kf1 Kd8 38 Ke2 Bc1 39 Kd1 Bg5 40 Kc2 h5 41 Nd6 Be7 42 Ne4 Bb4 43 Kb3 Be1 44 Kc4 Kc7 45 Kd5 g6 46 h3 Bb4 47 f4 Be1 48 g4 hg 49 hg Bb4 50 f5 gf 51 gf Resigns.

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White: Alan Cabot (1954). Black: Nicolas Rossolimo (2404). World Open, New York, July 3, 1975. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 d3 Nf6 6 f4 d6 7 Nf3 0-0 8 0-0 Rb8 9 h3 b5 10 g4 b4 11 Ne2 c4 12 f5 cd 13 cd Qb6 14 Kh1 Ba6 15 Nf4 Qb5 16 Ng5 e5 17 fg hg 18 Nd5 Nd5 19 ed Nd8 20 Be4 Bb7 21 Qe1 Bd5 22 Qh4 Be4 23 Kh2 Re8 24 Qh7 Kf8 25 Ne4 Qd3 26 Bh6 Qe4 27 Qg7 Ke7 28 Rac1 Kd7 29 Bg5 Qd5 30 Bd8 Kd8 31 Rcd1 Qc6 32 Rf7 Rb5 33 Ra7 Rc5 34 Ra8 Qa8 35 Rd6 Kc8 36 Qd7 Kb8 37 Rb6 Resigns.

CHRISTIANSEN WINS THIRD CONSECUTIVE U.S. JUNIOR

The U.S. Chess Federation reports that Larry Christiansen, who celebrated his 19th birthday during the tournament, won the U.S. Junior Chess Championship for the third consecutive year, thus tying the record set by Kenneth Rogoff in 1969-71. Christiansen did not lose a single game, drawing only to second and third place finishers Mark Diesen and Jonathan Tisdall, who trailed by a full point.

Christiansen has previously won the National High School Championship twice, once at 14 in 1971 and again in 1973. He also scored first at the 1972 International Youth Festival in Belgium. In his last attempt at the World Junior title, in 1973, he placed equal third.

Christiansen's victory entitles him to an all-expenses-paid trip to the World Junior Championship in Ponce, Puerto Rico, scheduled for Aug. 3-24. The runners-up will receive a similar trip either to the U.S. Open Championship in Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 10-22, or to an international tournament.

The U.S. Junior Championship was held in Norristown, Penn., June 24-30, and included the eight highest rated American players who had not yet reached their 20th birthday. All of the participants were rated masters by the USCF. William Lukowiak of Boston was chief arbiter. For information on how to obtain a book of the tournament, write Richard Jones, K143 Pricewood, Harleysville, Penn. 19438. Complete results: **1st**, Larry Christiansen (2368), 19, Riverside, Calif., 6-1; **2nd-3rd**, Mark Diesen (2309), 17, Potomac, Maryland, and Jonathan Tisdall (2245), 16, Syracuse, New York, 5-2; **4th**, Michael Rohde (2328), 15, South Orange, New Jersey, 4½-2½; **5th-6th**, Ronald Henley (2260), 19, Houston, Texas, and David Berry (2252), 19, Los Angeles, Calif., 2½-4½; **7th**, Kenneth Regan (2293), 15, Paramus, New Jersey, 2-5; **8th**, Peter Winston (2224), 17, New York, New York, ½-6½.

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 Meekland Ave., Hayward (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.). Evenings, except Monday and Tuesday, 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). Wednesday, 7-11 p.m.

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