

## **Richard Shorman**

# Chess

Young Vladimir Tukmakov surprised the chess world by achieving a grandmaster result and taking second place behind Robert Fischer at a strong international tournament held recently in Argentina. An interview with him conducted by a Soviet sports reporter (translated and condensed from "Sovetsky sport," Sept. 1, 1970, pg. 4) sheds some light on Tukmakov's personality while furnishing interesting details about the tournament.

**Question: How were you received in Argentina?**

Answer: Rather skeptically. The organizers were easy to understand. Naturally, they wanted as many grandmasters as possible in their tournament. And here I was a mere national master.

**Q.: Weren't you disturbed by this?**

A.: I was prepared for it. Besides, their attitude soon changed. After winning my game with Argentine chess hero, grandmaster Panno, I was "accepted." Even newspapers began writing about "the unexpected favorite."

**Q.: Then everything went smoothly from the start.**

A.: Oh, no. I was supposed to have played Fischer in the first round, but he did not arrive until round three. We met during the day set aside for playing off adjourned games. It was my worst game of the tournament. I was unable to adjust to the atmosphere of Fischer's "personality cult" that reigned during the tournament. The turning point was my game with Panno in the sixth round. I hit my stride and felt confident in my powers. I won three more games in a row and realized that I was playing well.

**Q.: What goal did you set for yourself before the tournament?**

A.: To score 8½ points for an international master rating. But I reached this goal five rounds early. Then I succeeded in taking second place and "just in case" fulfilled a grandmaster norm of 11½ points.

**Q.: Why "just in case"?**

A.: The fact is that FIDE had assigned me an "achievement level" of international master for the duration of this tournament. Whether I am entitled to a grandmaster title I do not know.

**Q.: How did you prepare for the tournament?**

A.: I learned about the trip to Argentina three days before my final exams at Odessa Technological Institute. I passed and then felt like relaxing.

**Q.: A few words about the tournament winner.**

A.: Fischer's play creates a strong impression. He works at peak efficiency all five hours (of every game). Never is he in time trouble. Not only are his openings thoroughly researched but his detailed studies have also encompassed typical midgame positions. At the chessboard he is a well-mannered, friendly partner. After the game he willingly analyzes it with his opponenet.

**Q.: What impression did Mecking produce?**

A.: At first glance he seems to play like any ordinary master. Further insight into the game of this "chess Pele," as he is called in Brazil, changes your mind. He has real strategic talent. His technique is good and he executes original plans. It is a pity that mathematics take up so much of his time or he "could become world champion in a few years time."

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### 1970 SUNNYVALE OPEN

The fifth annual Sunnyvale Open Chess Championship takes place at the LERA Main Auditorium on the weekend of September 26-27. A total of \$500 plus 10 trophies will be awarded in three divisions: USCF Open, CFNC "B", and CFNC "C". Entry fees are \$10 plus USCF and CFNC membership for the USCF Open and \$7 plus CFNC membership for the "B" and "C" divisions. Round one of this five-round Swiss system event begins at 11 a.m., Saturday, September 26 for USCF entrants and at noon for CFNC divisions. Please bring sets and clocks.