

# Richard Shorman

# Chess

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Over 100 chess players competed in the CCCA's sixth annual San Francisco Bay Area Amateur Open, held at the Oakland Central YMCA, Dec. 18-19. Only USCF members with below Expert ratings were eligible to play. Martin Morrison and Elwin Meyers directed the five-round open Swiss system event.

**1st overall (tie):** Roger Gabrielson, Berkeley, and Lester Schonbrun, El Cerrito, 5-0, \$87.50 each.

**2nd overall:** Donald Clapp, Lafayette, 4½-½, \$50.

**1st class B:** Peter Stokes, Berkeley, 4½-½, \$50.

**1st class C:** Martin Sullivan, San Leandro, 4-1, \$50.

## ALEKHINE MEMORIAL

Former world junior champion Anatoly Karpov won his last game of the tournament to share top honors with Leonid Stein, who drew his final encounter after a hard fight. Complete results:

Anatoly Karpov and Leonid Stein, 11 points out of 17; Vasily Smyslov, 10½; Tigran Petrosian and Vladimir Tukmakov 10; Boris Spassky and Mikhail Tal, 9½; David Bronstein, Robert Byrne and Vlastimil Hort, 9; Viktor Korchnoi, 8½; Florin Gheorghiu, Fridrik Olafsson and Vladimir Savon, 7½; Yuri Balashov and Wolfgang Uhlmann, 6½; Bruno Parma, 6; and Levente Lengyel, 4½.

Tal's sixth-round gem against Uhlmann carried special significance for both of the combatants. For Tal it meant receiving the brilliancy-prize award from "Sovetsky sport" and "64." As for Uhlmann, he broke Korchnoi's modern record of deliberating 90 minutes over a single move. Without losing on time, the East German grandmaster plunged deep into thought for an hour and 50 minutes trying to find an acceptable reply to Tal's elegant twelfth move.

White: Mikhail Tal.

Black: Wolfgang Uhlmann.

Moscow, 1971.

French Defense

- 1 P-K4(a)
- 2 P-Q4
- 3 N-Q2
- 4 KN-B3
- 5 B-N5(b)
- 6 NxP
- 7 B-N5!(d)
- 8 N-B3
- 9 NxP(g)
- 10 O-O
- P-K3
- P-Q4
- P-QB4
- N-QB4
- N-QB3
- PxKP(c)
- B-Q2
- Q-R4ch(e)
- PxP(f)
- B-N5(h)

- BxN
- 11 PxB
- 12 N-B5!(j)
- 13 R-K1ch(1)
- 14 Q-Q6
- 15 B-Q2!(n)
- 16 B-N4!(o)
- 17 Q-B8ch
- 18 KR-Q1ch!(p)
- 19 QxR
- QxBP(i)
- PxN(k)
- B-K3
- P-QR3(m)
- QxP
- QxP
- PxB
- K-Q2
- K-B2
- Resigns(q)

(Annotated by Mikhail Tal and Vladimir Kirillov, trans.)

(Annotated by Mikhail Ta and Vladimir Kirillov, translated from "64," No. 50, Dec. 10/16, 1971, Pp. 4-5)

(a) Thinking over my first move took a lot of time, but not at the board. I very much wanted to surprise my opponent, but after testing a few opening patterns it turned out to be nearly impossible. Therefore I settled on 1 P-K4 in hopes of producing a psychological impact with White's fifth move, which gives the game less of a "French" flair.

(b) This line (once recommended, incidentally, by Alekhine) was tried twice in the last USSR Championship. Tsytlin versus Vaganyan continued 5 . . . PxQP 6 NxP B-Q2 7 NxN BxN 8 BxBch PxB 9 P-QB4 N-B3? 10 Q-R4 Q-Q2 11 P-K5 with advantage to White. During my pre-game analysis I also liked White's position after Black's best (according to the annotator) moves, 9 . . . P-Q5. 10 O-O P-QB4 11 P-B4. Q-K4ch 14 K-B1 K-K2 and, secondly, Black can decline the makes his opening moves quickly. That he pondered his fifth move more than 20 minutes told me that my psychological warfare was working.

(d) Development! The open nature of the position confers extra value on every tempo.

(e) On 7 . . . Q-N3 White would continue 8 Q-K2 PxP 9 O-O-O.

(f) This capture is practically forced in view of White's threatened P-Q5.

(g) I really wanted to sacrifice a piece here: 9 BxN BxB 10 QxP BxN 11 PxB, but, in the first place, White has nothing concrete after 11 . . . QxB 12 Q-R4ch P-N4! 13 NxP Q-K4ch 14 K-B1 K-K2 and, secondly, Black can decline the offer at no particular risk to himself by 11 . . . Q-N5, for example. This last consideration prompted me to abandon the entire idea.

(h) During the game, 9 . . . B-K2 looked better, to which I had planned 10 Q-Q2 N-B3 (of course not 10 . . . BxB 11 QxB NxN 12 BxBch) 11 O-O-O with sharp play in any event.

(i) The whole concept of parting with this black-squared bishop is probably wrong, since too many lines and diagonals open as a consequence. But taking the QBP just makes White attack immediately. The German grandmaster undoubtedly overlooked something as he examined 12 N-B5. Following the game, 11 . . . P-QR3 was suggested, which could be answered by 12 BxN BxB 13 NxB QxB 14 Q-Q6 N-K2 15 KR-Q1! NxN 16 Q-Q7ch K-B1 17 QxNP with White for choice.

(j) "Here is the 'historic position,' over which Uhlmann spent nearly two hours searching for a way to save his game. To take the horse or not to take? Either way, Black's lot is unappetizing" (Salo Flohr).

(k) Obviously, opening yet another line must win for White, but it is even plainer that refusing the sacrifice also loses.

(l) One must beware of pressing too hard. Still, an immediate 13 Q-Q6 might have led to something.

(m) There is nothing better. White's primary threat consists not so much in 15 QR-Q1 as in re-deploying the bishop along the vacated QR3-KB8 diagonal, and Black has no means to parry the maneuver. If 14 . . . N-B3, by the way, then White would play 15 QR-Q1 anyhow, as 15 B-Q2 N-K5 is not so clear.

(n) Stronger than 15 B-QR4 P-N4 16 B-Q2 Q-B5 17 B-N3 R-Q1! 18 Q-B7 R-Q2.

(o) Avoiding the false trail of 16 QR-B1 QxR 17 RxQ PxB 18 RxN R-Q1!

(p) Accurate to the end. Black gets some counterplay after 18 QR-Q1ch K-B2 19 QxR N-B3 20 B-Q6ch K-N3 21 QxR N-K5.

(q) Now, however, 19 . . . N-B3 20 QxR N-K5 can be met with the simple 21 B-K1, so Uhlmann signified resignation by stopping his clock, which had only a couple of minutes left before expiration of the time limit.