

Richard Shorman

Chess

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR JUNIORS UNDER 14

Miroljub Lazic of Yugoslavia won the first world championship for juniors under 14 on Sonneborn-Berger tie-break points over **Saeed Ahmad**, representing the United Arab Emirates, at a FIDE sanctioned round-robin tournament held in Durango, Mexico from Sept. 29 to Oct. 13. Both players scored nine points out of 11 games, with Lazic emerging as the only undefeated participant, while Ahmad lost to the Yugoslav in round two and was beaten by Kenny Fong, USA, in the last round.

In addition to his title, the winner was presented with a championship trophy and an olympic style gold medal, plus a specially designed gold and silver chess set, by the governor of the State of Durango, Dr. Hector Mayagoitia Dominguez, and by his wife, Maria Luisa Prado de Mayagoitia, in an elaborate closing ceremony. The second-place silver medal went to Ahmad, U.A.E., with the bronze third-place medallion going to **Dibyendu Barva** of India.

Mexican hospitality exceeded all expectations for players and delegates alike, the organizers being backed by the full weight of federal, state and local government offices sponsoring the tournament as part of the United Nations celebration of the "Year of the Child."

Tournament organization included an international arbiter, Willebaldo Roura Pech, as chief director, several assistant T.D.'s, a recorder seated at each game taking down the moves, hostesses who provided the players with a constant supply of soft drinks, monitors to enforce spectator silence in the tournament hall and a time control of 40 moves in 2½ hours, which, surprisingly enough, did not prevent players from falling into time trouble.

The only untoward incident of the championship occurred in the final round, when the Yugoslav second filed a protest against the Chilean-born trainer for the United Arab Emirates, alleging possible illegal communication with his player by means of hand signals. The issue was resolved by temporarily removing Ahmad's trainer from the playing area and by close observation of the crucial last-round games by tournament officials.

Complete results (in Sonneborn-Berger tie-break order):

1st, Miroljub Lazic, Yugoslavia, 9-2 (7 wins, 4 draws, 0 losses); 2nd, Saeed Ahmad, United Arab Emirates, 9-2 (9,0,2); 3rd, Dibyendu Barva, India, 8½-2½ (8,1,2); 4th, Alejandro Maass, Mexico, 7-4 (6,2,3); 5th, Kenny Fong, USA, 6½-4½ (6,1,4); 6th, Aaron Roura Pech, Mexico, 6-5 (4,4,3); 7th, Asad Rizvi, Pakistan, 6-5 (4,4,3); 8th, Carlos Casique, Venezuela, 3½-7½ (2,3,6); 9th, Romulo Zubieta, Bolivia, 3-8 (2,2,7); 10th, Misael Dominguez, Mexico, 3-8 (1,4,6); 11th, David Batres, Guatemala, 2½-8½ (1,3,7); 12th, Yogendra Atheray, Sri Lanka, 2-9 (0,4,7).

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By far the best fought game of the championship was won by Kenny Fong, USA, in an exciting last-round finish versus Saeed Ahmad, U.A.E., recorded here 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), with introductory comments and annotations by the winner.

This game is the last of 11 played in the first under 14 world championship. Miroljub Lazic (from Yugoslavia) and I were friends after a tough fourth round draw. He was a half-point behind my opponent, Saeed Ahmad (from the United Arab Emirates). I wanted Lazic to win the championship, which was an extra incentive to win this game, and Lazic knew I was his only hope.

Before the game, my seconds, Mr. Shorman, Mr. Pellerin and my brother Randy, went over all of Ahmad's games with me. Mr. Shorman showed me that he was a very good player and that I would have to give my best effort against him. We knew what opening he plays for White, so we looked it up in ECO and saw a profound line (as far as I'm concerned) listed there. The line went to move 13, and our game followed "book" all the way, which meant that I was playing into my opponent's prepared opening.

All of the players and most spectators knew that the outcome of my game would affect the placings in the tournament. If Ahmad won, he would be champion. If he lost, he probably would take second, so he was quite nervous, and I was a little nervous, too. Almost everybody at the tournament (including the governor and his wife) was watching our game.

This game was played under a lot of pressure and is probably the best in my life. It is poetic that it would come under these circumstances.

White: Saeed Ahmad, U.A.E. Black: Kenny Fong, USA.

Under 14 World Championship, Durango, Mexico, Oct. 12, 1979.

Two Knights' Defense

1	e4	e5	18	d5(u)	Bd7(v)
2	Nf3	Nc6	19	b4	cd
3	Bc4	Nf6	20	cd(w)	Rf7(x)
4	d3(a)	Be7(b)	21	Rg1	a6(y)
5	0-0	0-0(c)	22	Ne1(z)	Rg8
6	Nc3(d)	d6	23	Nc2	Qd8
7	h3(e)	Na5(f)	24	Ne3	Bf8
8	Bb3(g)	Nb3	25	Rac1	f5(aa)
9	ab	c6(h)	26	Bg7	Bg7
10	Ne2(i)	Ne8(j)	27	ef(bb)	Qh4
11	g4(k)	g6	28	Kh2(cc)	Bh6(dd)
12	Ng3	Ng7(l)	29	Qe2	gf
13	Bh6	Kh8(m)	30	gf(ee)	Bf4
14	Qd2(n)	f6(o)	31	Rc3(ff)	Rfg7
15	d4(p)	QC7(q)	32	Ng2	Rg3(gg)
16	Khl(r)	Be6	33	Nh4	Rg2
17	c4(s)	Qb6(t)	34	Resigns(hh)	

(a) Keeps the game fairly closed and makes his position solid (by having his "e"-pawn protected in case Black wants to break in the center). However, if Black plays correctly, he gets an equal game.

(b) Bad is 4 . . . Bc5, for in the middlegame the bishop is locked in and is inactive. Also, 4 . . . d5 is no good because of 5 ed Nd5 6 0-0 Bg4 7 h3 Bf3 (if 7 . . . Bh5, then 8 Re1) 8 Qf3 Nd4 9 Qd1 b5 10 Bb3 Nb3 11 ab Bc5 12 Nc3 (ECO).

(c) The move 5 . . . d5 is the same, except for the rook on e1.

(d) Transposes into ECO's main line.

(e) Stops . . . Bg4.

(f) Trading bishop for knight and relieving the pressure on the d5 square.

(g) Exchanging the bishop on a better spot (opens a file).

(h) Finally denying White's knight the d5 square.

(i) The knight is heading for the king side.

(j) Getting ready to play . . . f5.

(k) White prevents it.

(l) The end of the ECO line, so from now on I was on my own. With his next move he holds off . . . f5 again (13 . . . f5 14 gf gf 15 ef Bf5 16 Nf5 Rf5, and Black has some problems).

(m) Reserving the g8 square for the rook.

(n) To play Ng5.

(o) Now he doesn't have any squares leading to the king side.

(p) Gaining space.

(q) In case he took the "e"-pawn, I did not want to trade queens.

(r) He wants his king out of the way in case of . . . c5.

(s) Advancing and taking more space.

(t) But his pawns are a bit vulnerable.

(u) Gains more room in the center.

(v) I almost played 18 . . . Qb3?, which loses to 19 Ra3.

(w) The queen side is immobilized, so now I concentrate on the king side.

(x) Preparing for . . . f5.

(y) To make sure the queen side is safe.

(z) Maneuvering his knight to e3 to stop . . . f5.

(aa) Preparation ends and from now on the game becomes open, which works to my favor due to the two bishops and my active pieces.

(bb) Forced.

(cc) Better would be either 28 Rg2 or 28 f3.

(dd) Pinning his knight at e3 and threatening . . . Bf4.

(ee) If 30 Ngf5, then 30 . . . Bf4 31 Ng3 Rfg7, intending . . . Rg4 and . . . Bg4 next.

(ff) Indirectly protecting the knight on g3.

(gg) The fatal blow. Notice how all of White's pawns are isolated (two sets of doubled pawns) and that there are four pawn islands. Also, his pieces are uncoordinated.

(hh) On account of 34 Kh1 Rh2mate. Before move 25 my position looked cramped, and then it exploded. It's strange that my best game is positional, since I am known as a tactical player.