Richard Shorman

Chess

Following his participation in the U.S. Open at Ventura, (won by Walter Browne and Larry Evans), international grandmaster Florin Gheorghiu visited the Bay Area for two simultaneous exhibitions.

No one could win against the Rumanian ace at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in San Francisco, Aug. 23, when he posted the excellent score of 20 wins and 4 draws (with Alan Benson, Oakland, Fred Demanuele, Toronto, Canada, Roger Gabrielson, Berkeley, and John Peterson, San Jose.)

Gheorghiu took on 27 more opponents at the LERA auditorium in Sunnyvale, Aug. 25, vanquishing 25 of them while conceding a draw to 15-year-old Keith Dow of Sunnyvale.

Only USCF expert Gene Lee, chess editor for the Davis Enterprise, played well enough to defeat the grandmaster at his own game.

White: Florin Gheorghiu. Black: Gene Lee.

Sunnyvale ,LERA), Aug. 25, 1971. Sicilian Defense

1	P-K4	P-QB4	16	K-N2	R-B1
2	N-KB3	P-Q3	17	Q-Q2	Q-B4(h)
3	P-Q4	PxP	18	R-R1(i)	P-QN4
4	NxP	N-KB3	19	P-R3	P-Q4!
5	N-QB3	P-KN3	20	PxP(j)	NxQP
6	B-K3	B-N2	21	KR-K1	NxQBP
7	P-B3	N-B3	22	R-K3	N-R5ch
8	B-QB4	0-0(a)	23	K-B1(k)	N-B5
9	B-N3	B-Q2	24	BxN/B4	PxB(1)
10	Q-Q2	R-B1(b)	25	N-K2	B-B4
11	0-0-0(c)	N-K4	26	Q-Q4(m)	Q-R4
12	P-KR4(d)	P-KR4(e)	27	N-B3	R-Q1
13	B-R6(f)	BxB!	28	QxBP	Q-N3!
14	QxB	RxN!	29	Resigns	
15	PxR	Q-R4(g)			

(a) For the variation Black has in mind (with 12 . . . P-KR4 to stop the advance of White's KRP), Gufeld and Lazarev contend that castling should be deferred or abandoned altogether, so that White's contemplated pawn storm on the king side finds no strategic target there ("Sitsilianskaya zashchita," Moscow, 1970, pp. 65-66).

(b) The lines featuring KR-B1 for Black have received many punishing blows in both tournament practice and analysis during the past few years, although in the welter of complications presented to prove White's case the impression remains that Black will discover eventual improvements.

(c) If White wants to exploit Black's "loss of tempo" (from castling), then 11 P-KR-4 must be pushed immediately in order to answer 11 . . . N-K4 with 12 P-R5!, e.g., 12 . . . N-B5 13 BxN RxB 14 0-0-0 Q-B2 (forestalling 15 B-R6 because of 15 . . . RxN/4) 15 PxP BPxP 16 B-R6 R-B2 (16 . . . NxP 17 Q-K3!) 17 BxB (Gufeld, pp. 62-63). Incidentally, 11 . . . P-KR4 here did not succeed in the game Markovic — Bryus, 1966, after 12 0-0-0 N-K4 13 B-R6 N-B5 14 BxN RxB 15 BxB KxB 16 P-KN4 P-QR3 17 PxP NxRP 18 N-B5ch!

(d) Another possibility is 12 P-N4 P-QN4 13 P-N5 N-R4 14 P-B4 N-N5 (Glauzer — Soltis, 1970 Student Chess Olympics.)

(e) The Dragon Variation has suffered so much at the expense of the open KR file that anti-positional as it may appear, this move has been argued as the only one capable of staving off White's threats to break through on the king side.

(f) Lee instantly seizes his chance to prove the inferiority of the text as compared with 13 K-N1, which Gheorghiu actually played against Steve Sawyer (rated 1989) in an exhibition game just two days earlier: 13 . . . N-B5 14 BxN RxB 15 N-N3! P-R4 16 P-K5! N-K1 17 B-R6.

(g) Black's counterplay starts to assume menacing proportions as more force rolls over toward White's wounded king sector.

(h) Preparing to pry open White's citadel by bringing up the queen-side pawns.

(i) Intended, in conjunction with the next move, to aid in the defense, but 18 N-K2 followed by Q-Q4 (or Q-Q3) offers more resistance, e.g., 18 N-K2 N-B5ch 19 BxN QxB 20 Q-Q3.

(j) White can still fight back with 20 KR-K1, denying the enemy KN free access to the battlefield.

(k) Best, since both 23 K-R2 and 23 K-N1 leave the king more exposed than after the game continuation.

(l) Much stronger than letting White escape the noose with 24 . . . QxB 25 Q-Q3.

(m) Even 26 N-N3 P-B6! 27 Q-K1 R-N1 28 NxB fails against 28 . . . Q-N4! (Lee), e.g., 29 NxPch K-R2 30 K-Q1 N-N7ch 31 K-B1 R-Q1!