

HARPER'S HORRORS

*** 3 ***

The next game was played in the Canadian Championship. (Calgary, 1975).

Bruce Harper -- Stephen Ball

I think a lot of you know Stephen -- he's a pretty aggressive player. I was in a fighting mood too.

1. e4 There you go -- that was at a time when I wasn't playing 1. e4. 1. ... e5, 2. Nf3 Nf6

We'll, I could give a whole lecture on this opening. In later games I've played 3. d4, which is the normal move, and a pretty good one -- it's not so easy to hold that position for Black. But, at this time I didn't know anything about it, so I played 3. d3 which is really ... it's not a chicken move ... although it can be [laughter] -- Keres played it against Dennis Allen in Vancouver, 1975 and wiped him out -- so I figured if Keres could play it, I could.

3. ... Nc6, 4. Be2 d5 That may be an overplay -- I don't know. 5. Nbd2 Bc5 What we have here is a Philidor's defence reversed, right? Actually, I've played Philidor's defence twice in my life, and both times I've won nice games with it -- well, the second one wasn't so nice, but I won it, so it was alright. And I've played this several times since with White and every time I play it I win a brilliancy, so watch out. Don't play the Petroff's against me ...

6. h3 This is the extra move, in essence. If you know the lines in the normal Philidor's, you'll know it's a good move to have in. You don't have to worry about ... Bf2, but White also has something else in mind. 6. ... 0-0, 7. c3 This threatens b4, which Black stops. 7. ... a5, 8. Qc2 A normal move. 8. ... Qe7 Now, one possibility is to castle and play conservatively, but that wasn't what I was intending when I played this line. 9. Nf1

"Is 9. g4 playable here?"

Well, I played g4 next move. It's probably better to delay it so as not to commit yourself. I would worry a bit about playing 9. g4, then taking two moves to get a Knight over there [to g3]. I don't think he could do anything, but you never know.

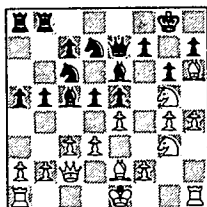
9. ... Be6, 10. g4 If you're going to try this sort of set-up, especially with Black, you've got to be sure that your e-pawn doesn't go. This can happen where your opponent has had time to fianchetto his Queen's Bishop. The e-pawn is the strong point. 10. ... Nd7 is not a bad move. It would be really

hard to try to explain what he's doing here, because I don't really know and it gets very complicated. It's not a bad move.

11. Ng3 g6 stopping my Knight from coming in. 12. Bh6 Rfb8 I would have to say this is a typical Ball move; he's not going to sit around and wait for something to happen, he's getting mad himself, and the game gets rather interesting. Neither side intends to give an inch.

13. Ng5 going after his Bishop, but if I had needed only half a point to get the IM title, instead of 4.5 out of 4 (or whatever it was), I would have played 13. a4, which is the rational move. Then 13. ... b5 is impossible, and he doesn't have much counterplay, so I guess I could just go ahead with what I was doing on the Kingside. But I was so hyped up I didn't want to make even a single defensive move.

13. ... b5, 14. h4 What can I say? White's at the point of no return here -- either he's going to mate Black or he's going to lose.



Position after 14. h4

At this point Black makes a mistake. Black played here 14. ... b4 which is logical, and he's really starting to get in the swing of things, because he's just trying to break through and wipe me out before I break through and wipe him out. I think he's falling into a psychological trap here. The right response was 14. ... d4, which would have led to a better position for Black, because if I continue with 15. h5 -- he takes on c3 [15. ... dc3], I take [16. bc3] and he plays 16. ... b4, which gives him the square d4 for his pieces. It's pretty hard to mate somebody when he has a Knight on d4 like that. His play should be in the centre, and there's another general principle or platitude, if you want to write it down, about what Nimzovich said -- an attack on the wing should be countered by action in the centre. He countered with action on his wing, which means it becomes a race he can't really win, because when I get through I get his King, and when he gets through it's not clear what he gets.

15. h5 bc3, 16. bc3 Ba3 So, his heart's in the right place, and he's starting to come up with concrete threats. I took on g6 17. hg6 and he took 17. ... hg6, 18. Nf5

This isn't a great sacrifice or anything, because it's pretty obvious that if he takes with the g-pawn [18. ... gf5], I just take back [19. gf5] and win the piece back right away and I've opened

every file, practically, that you can open. The point is, I have to get rid of his Bishop [on e6] and this Knight [on g3] is the right one to use. I could have taken here [18. Ne6] and he'd take [18. ... Qe6] but it's much better to do it this way. He took with the Bishop 18. ... Bf5 and I took 19. gf5 opening another file to his King.

Now it starts to get kind of exciting, because we were both already getting short of time. 19. ... Rb2, 20. Qa4 This was the move I was counting on -- it gains a tempo on his Knight [on c6], and gets out of the way. He went 20. ... Qc5 defending the Knight on c6, and threatening 21. ... Qc3. He's starting to get things here, and of course I don't have any defence, but that's alright. I took on g6. 21. fg6

If he takes the pawn [21. ... fg6], I take on d5 [22. ed5], and what he has to worry about is a kind of gross mate, if I ever get to play Bg4, threatening his Knight on d7 and also Be6. He didn't want to allow that, and another problem he has is that all that need happen for the roof to cave in is for this Queen [on a4] to be able to attack this pawn [on g6]. Not only would it be a pretty bad tempo -- if I got it, it could be mate immediately. So, he played 21. ... f5 The other move was 21. ... f6, but I think he was worried about this diagonal [h3-c8] -- that must have been what was bothering him. How can you analyze a position like this? It's impossible, really -- especially during the game when we had about ten minutes each.

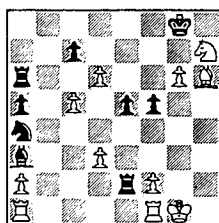
I took on d5. 22. ed5 If he recaptures [22. ... Qd5], I have several moves that are pretty good. I can either trade Queens [23. Qc4], which is the chicken way out, but it would leave me a pawn ahead, and he would be in some trouble, because I still have something going on here [the Kingside]. I can also play 23. Bf3 which is kind of ... I don't know. Also possible is 23. Qh4, although again it's going to take me another move to do something, so I don't know if I have time for that [Qh4]. I think 23. Bf3 is pretty strong, but I probably would have traded Queens. He had an idea here -- I have to hand it to him.

22. ... Nb4 Now, I'll tell you a secret -- I can take that. I have it all figured out here -- if I take it, the way it has to go is 23. cb4 Qc3+, 24. Kf1 Re2, 25. Ke2 Qb2, 26. Kf1 Qa1+, 27. Kg2 and that's it. His Queen's attacked, his Knight's attacked, his Bishop's attacked ... It [22. ... Nb4] wasn't sound, but it's a neat move, and it really deserved a better fate than what happened to it.

I didn't take it -- I never accept sacrifices unless I have to ... I shouldn't give that away ... I only had a few minutes and was getting short of time, so I castled. 23. 0-0 You know, you've got to keep the King safe, right? I figured this would freak him out, which it kind of did. I'm threatening to take it [N on b4], and I'm threatening this too [B on a3]. It's bad for Black now, be-

cause his counterattack against my King, which was his whole idea, is suddenly over, so ... he played 23. ... Nb6 which gave White the opportunity for a really nice finish. It's kind of complicated, I don't know ... but I found a very nice, very fast way to win.

Here's what I did: 24. cb4 He might have been relieved to see that, but he didn't have time to think about much at all ... 24. ... Na4, 25. bc5 Count 'em up -- I'm a piece ahead at the moment. 25. ... Re2 Otherwise, he's a piece down for nothing. 26. Nh7 and that's it. He played 26. ... Ra6 and I went 27. d6 cutting him off, and the Black army is suddenly not where it has to be, because the threat of Nf6 and g7 mate can't be stopped.



Position after 27. d6

This is the billiard pocket mate. I saw that in a Suttles game once [Suttles-Potter, 1965 Canadian Closed]. Sometimes it's good to know these things. (1-0).

SEATTLE CHESS CLUB

The weather was beautiful and the site at Golden Gardens Park was perfect for the Chess Picnic which the Seattle Chess Club sponsored on July 31st in conjunction with the Washington State Speed Championship. Look for a similar event next summer, and make plans early to attend.

Twelve contestants met to take part in the Octagonal on August 20th. The field was divided into an eight-player Swiss and a four-player quad. Paul Zurybida took first place in the Swiss. Victories over Terry Hsu, Joe McCleve, and Vince Campos gave him a perfect 3-0 result. In the quad, Dick Phillips and Kevin Haining shared 1st-2nd with 2½ points each.

Paul Zurybida's best game in this tournament was the following victory in the second round against Joe McCleve, who shared 2nd-4th with Chuck Powrie and Vince Campos.

Joe McCleve - Paul Zurybida Benko Gambit

- 1) d4, Nf6 2) c4, c5 3) d5, b5 4) cxb5, a6
- 5) e3, g6 6) Nc3, d6 7) bxa6, Bg7 8) Nf3, 0-0 9) Be2, Bxa6 10) 0-0, Nbd7 11) e4, Qb6
- 12) Nd2, Rfb8 13) Nc4, Qc7 14) f3, Ne8
- 15) Qc2, Ne5 16) b3, Nxc4 17) Bxc4, Bxc4
- 18) bxc4, Qa5 19) Bd2, Qa6 20) Qd3, Qa3
- 21) f4, Rb2 22) Rf3, Bd4+ 23) Khl, Rab8
- 24) Bcl, Qxc3 25) Qxc3, Bxc3, 26) Bxb2, Bxb2
- 27) Rbl, Rb4 28) Rf2, Ba3 29) Rxb4, cxb4
- 30) e5, Kg7 31) g3, Nc7 32) Re2, Na6
- 33) exd6, exd6 34) Kg2, Ne5 35) Kf3, Na4
- 36) Rc2, Kf6 37) Ke4, Ke7 38) f5, Bb2
- 39) fxc6, hxc6 40) Kf4, Bd4 41) Ke4, Bc3
- 42) Kf4, Nb6 43) Ke4, Nxc4 44) Kd3, Nb6
- 45) Re2+, Be5 46) Re4, Nxd5 47) Kc2, Nc3
- 48) Rxb4, Nxa2 49) Rb7+, Ke6 50) Ra7, Nc3
- 51) Ra6, Kf5 52) Ra7, f6 53) h3, Ne4
- 54) g4+, Kg5 55) Ra3, Kh4 56) Rf3, Ng3 0-1

NEWS

A.R. in Mexico

Alexey Rudolph had to cancel her scheduled Sept. 2 Simul at the Seattle Chess Club. The reason? She received an invitation to play in the Women's World Under-Age-20 Championship. This FIDE event takes place August 26-September 10 in Mexico City and will make an interesting side trip for her on her way to the Berkeley School of Law.

J.D. In Chicago

Our Editor-in-Chief, John Donaldson, is presently in Chicago playing on the US team in the World Youth Team Championship. This event was for many years the World Student Team Championship but the abundance of 34-year-old Rumanian horticulture grad students--not quite in the original spirit of the thing--caused a change in the rules. Now you needn't be a student; but you need be under 26.

Despite the Candidates Matches forfeitures, the Soviets have entered a team--heavily favored, of course. And so has China about whom there was some question due to the strained cultural relations with the US over the tennis star who recently defected. The Chinese players are gaining in chess strength at an astonishing pace.

As hosts this year, the US is allowed two teams and Donaldson, by USCF rating, is 1st alternate (board 5 in effect) on the second team and should see some heavy action. Heavy action? Here's an example: the Soviet team consists of GM's Artur Yusupov, Lev Psakhis, and Sergey Dolmatov; IM's Leonid Yudasin and Gennadi Zaitshik; National Master Azmayparashvili (whose win vs. Karpov appeared on the back cover of the June NWC).

Donaldson promises a report on his performance in this event and he has already sent us his "Chess Theory" for October: a tough last round draw with R. Costigan in the Philadelphia Open (1st R. Costigan 3½/4; =2 J.D., Kaner, Albertson and others).

U.S. OPEN

Late News Report

Viktor Korchnoi found he had some free time on his hands after Gari Kasparov's forfeit of their Semi-Final Candidates match so he won the US Open. He scored 10½ out of 12, drawing with Benjamin, Ivanov and Christiansen. His round 11 piece sac and subsequent attack against Christiansen was considered the most exciting moment of the tournament. Larry Christiansen also got a share of first. A 1st round bye, a mid-tournament draw with a master, a draw with Viktor, and the rest, wins, left him with 10½.

Yasser Seirawan, the intended commentator of the Kasparov-Korchnoi match, scored 9 points. He was held back by a Rd 7 split with Perry Youngworth (who is right behind Donaldson on the #2 US student team), a Rd 8 loss to John Fedorowicz, a Rd 10 draw with Arthur Bisquier and a last round loss to Korchnoi.

The big news for the Northwest is Dave Rupel's clear first in Class A. His 8 pts. was good enough to net him \$800.

Bobby Ferguson (8 pts.) was the leading expert until near the end. He played 8 masters and against the 6 who had 2,300 or more he scored +2, -1, =3.

Bill McGeary with 8½ won some expert money. He won against the well-known Jerry Hanken. Larry Musa won some A money; he was paired up 11 out of the 12 games. Carl Haessler had a crushing position against GM Peter Biyiasas but lost. Ralph Dubisch, Peter Stefurak, Glen Osslander and Marvin Hayami also were among the record-breaking 836 contestants. Hanniegn Pitre not only played but also collected game scores from NW players with the intention, I understand, of doing an article. This US Open scoop comes courtesy of Bobby Ferguson (and USCF).