

CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, January 2, 2006; C10

The year 2005 ended and what a year it was!

Three Kings

Three world chess champions made the news away from the chessboard. Bobby Fischer flew from Japan to Reykjavik, where he became an Icelandic citizen, and a quiet one, leaving eruptions to local volcanoes. Having second thoughts about bringing Kirsan Ilyumzhinov to FIDE in 1995, Anatoly Karpov decided to run for the FIDE presidency to dethrone him. Garry Kasparov retired from professional chess to enter Russian politics. Ironically, he was soon greeted by a chessboard, smashed over his head by a political opponent.

New Emperor

Veselin Topalov's rise to the top was the main achievement of the year 2005. He conquered the world with fascinating play and great fighting spirit. In March the Bulgarian grandmaster shared first place with Kasparov in Linares, Spain. In May he scored an amazing victory at the M-Tel Masters double-round elite tournament in his home capital, Sofia, despite being last after the first half. The greatest success of his career came in October at the FIDE world championship where he outpaced the competition and became the new world champion.

New FIDE Ratings

Kasparov has resided on top of the FIDE rating list for the last 20 years. This incredible feat is coming to an end. He is still first on the January 2006 list, but his rating of 2812 will be retired in April. Topalov leads the active players with 2801, followed by Vishy Anand, 2792; Peter Svidler, 2765; Levon Aronian, 2752; Vladimir Kramnik, 2741; Peter Leko, 2740; Vassily Ivanchuk, 2729; Boris Gelfand and Ruslan Ponomarev, 2723; and Alexander Morozevich 2721. The winner of last year's World Cup, Aronian, made a significant leap ahead of Kramnik.

Incredible Machines

Computers were not particularly nice to humans last year. In June, the remarkable machine Hydra smashed the top English grandmaster, Michael Adams, allowing one draw and winning five games. In November, Hydra teamed up with the computer programs Fritz and Junior and defeated three former FIDE world champions, Ponomarev, Alexander Khalifman and Rustam Kasimdzhanov, 8-4.

Books of the Year

Igor Khmel'nitsky's "Chess Exam and Training Guide" won the 2005 Cramer award. "Garry Kasparov on Fischer: My Great Predecessors, Part IV" won the 2005 British Chess Federation award.

Russian Championship

Sergei Rublevsky performed superbly at the Russian Superfinal and won the event convincingly last week. He scored 7 1/2 points in 11 games, finishing a full point ahead of Morozevich and Dmitry Jakovenko. It was the best result of Rublevsky's career. Kramnik, the classical world champion, ended with only 50 percent.

UMBC at the Top

The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) dominated U.S. collegiate chess in 2005. In April, the UMBC team won the President's Cup, the Final Four of chess. Last Friday the school triumphed at the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship in Miami. Led by GM Alexander Onischuk, the winning team drew one and won five matches, finishing ahead of its rivals, two teams from the University of Texas at Dallas. Some of the UMBC students also competed for the Baltimore Kingfishers, a team that won the 2005 U.S. Chess League competition played over the Internet.

Eastern Open

GM Alexander Ivanov won the 32nd Eastern Open, played Dec. 27-30 at the Wyndham Washington hotel. He overwhelmed the field, scoring 7 1/2 points in eight games. Carlos Tovar-Diaz and Alexander Ivanov and Robert Walker won the U2200 section with 6 1/2 points. Yakov Shlapentokh-Rothman clinched the U1900 section with 7 points. The U1600 section went to William Martin with 6 1/2 points. Henri Moon prevailed in the U1300 group with 7 points. The local Swiss event attracted 185 players.

A Personal Note

Washington chess life will not be the same without the writings of Joseph McLellan, a former music critic and chess writer for the Washington Post, who died last Monday at the age of 76. He loved chess passionately and was always amazed by its beauty and amused by those who played it. He was a keen observer, reporting on important chess tournaments and matches with grace and elegance. Creating powerful images and poetic metaphors, McLellan made chess accessible even to those who did not play it. He was a wonderful writer, editor and friend, always encouraging, kind and gentle. As a romantic chess player, he loved games where spirit prevailed over matter. He will be missed.

Solutions to today's problem by S. Loyd (White: Kg3,Rc2,Rg7,Bb1,Bh8; Black: Kd4,P:d5,d6,g4):1.Rb2 Ke3 2.Re7 mate; or 1 . . . Kc4 2.Rc7 mate; or 1 . . . Ke5 2.Re7 mate.

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22.*Bb4!* (The threat 23.*Nd6+* is unpleasant and white does not have to protect his b-pawn.) 22...*Ne7* (After 22...*Bxb2* 23.*Nd6+* *Kd7* 24.*Rc2 a5* 25.*Nxf7 axb4* 26.*Rxb2!* *Rh7* 27.*Rxb4*, white has a powerful attack. And after 22...*Rb8* 23.*Nd6+* *Kf8* 24.*Rc8+* *Rxc8* 25.*Nxc8+* *Be7* 26.*Nxe7* *Nxe7* 27.*Rd1*, white has tremendous pressure and black's a-pawns are vulnerable.) 23.*Nd6+* *Kf8* 24.*Nf5* (White prevented black from castling short. Black can't connect his rooks and the rook on h8 is out of play.) 24...*a5* 25.*Ba3 g6?* (Black's position falls apart after this move, but even the better 25...*Ke8* does not save him, for example 26.*Bxe7* *Bxe7* 27.*Rfe1* *Rd8* 28.*N3d4!* *Nxd4* 29.*Rxe7+* *Kf8* 30.*Rd7!* and white wins.) 26.*hxc6* *fxg6* 27.*Bxe7+* *Bxe7* (White's next move ends black's hopes.)

28.*Rfe1!* *gxf5* 29.*Rxe6* (The scattered black pawns are ripe to be picked up.) 29...*Bd8* 30.*Rc5* *Kf7* 31.*Rec6* *Bb6* 32.*Rxd5* *Rhc8* 33.*Ne5+* *Ke8* 34.*Re6+* *Kf8* 35.*Rxh6* (The pawn cleanup only begins and after 35...*Rc1+* 36.*Kh2* *Bxf2* 37.*Rd7!* *Kg8* 38.*Rhh7*, black gets mated soon.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's composition by Enrico Paoli (White: *Kf1,Bb2,P:b4,b6,c4,d6*; Black: *Kc6,Ra4,P:c5*): 1.*b5+*! *Kxb6!* (On 1...*Kxd6* 2.*Be5+*! wins.) 2.*Bf6* (Threatening 3.*d7*.) 2...*Ra7* 3.*Bd8+* *Kb7* 4.*d7* *Kb8* 5.*Bc7+*! *Kxc7* 6.*b6+*! wins. The Italian grandmaster Paoli was a well-known organizer of 47 traditional tournaments in Reggio Emilia. He died last December, one month short of his 98th birthday.

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(Chasing the bishop from g4 with 12.h3 has been played frequently, but there is no need for it.) 12...c6 13.b4 Nb7 14.dxc6 Qxc6 15.Bb2 Nd7?! (Black wants to control both squares, c4 and d5, by transferring the knight to the square b6. Bringing the other knight into play with 15...Nd8 was better.)

16.Bb3 Bxf3? (Surrendering the light bishop leads to trouble. The immediate 16...Nb6? fails to 17.Nxe5!, but opposing the Spanish bishop on b3 with 16...Be6 was better.) 17.Qxf3 Bg5 18.Nf1 Nb6 19.Qg4 Bf4 20.g3 Bh6 21.Bc1! Qc8 (After 21...Bxc1 22.Raxc1 Nc4 23.Ne3 Nxe3 24.Rxe3 the dominance of the bishop over the black knight is evident.) 22.Qf3 Bxc1 23.Raxc1 Ra7 24.Ne3 (Negi wins the strategic battle. He controls the central squares and can pressure the backward d-pawn.) 24...Nd8 25.Red1 Rd7 26.Qg4 (Preventing 26...Ne6 and threatening 27.Nf5. Black is clearly outplayed.) 26...Nc6 (After 26...Qc7 comes 27.c4!)

27.c4! (Giving up the square d4, but opening the c-file leads to an unpleasant pin.) 27...bxc4 28.Nxc4 Nxc4 29.Rxc4 h5? (Desperation, but after 29...Qb7 30.Ba4 Rc8 31.Rdc1 Rdc7 32.Bxc6 Rxc6 33.Qxc8+! wins.) 30.Qxh5 Qb7 31.Ba4 Rc7 32.Rxd6 Nxb4 33.Rxc7 Qxc7 34.Rd7! (White is aiming for the pawn on f7.) 34...Qc1+ 35.Kg2 Qc4 36.Bb3! Qxe4+ 37.f3 Qh7 (After 37...Qe2+ 38.Kh3 Qf1+ 39.Kh4 black can't protect the pawn on f7 anymore.) 38.Qxf7+! (A pretty finish. After 38...Rxf7 39.Rd8 mates.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's problem -- mate in three -- by J. Hane (White: Ka5,Ra1,Ra8; Black: Kb7): 1.Rd1! Kc7 2.Ka6 Kc6 3.Rc8 mate; or 1...Kc6 2.Ra7 Kc5 3.Rc7 mate; or 1...Kxa8 2.Kb6 Kb8 3.Rd8 mate.

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defense against 32.Rh4 mate; and after 29...Be7 30.Nf7 Qe8 31.Nd6 Qd8 32.Ba5! Qxd6 33.Rh4+ Bxh4 34.Qxd6, white's material advantage is decisive.) 27.Nxh6 Qg5 (27...d5 28.Qg4 is covered in the last note.)

28.Qf3! Qxh6 29.Bd2! (An unusual triple attack on the rook on a8, the bishop on f8 and indirectly on the queen on h6.) 29...Qxf4 (Black is forced to give up the queen because after 29...Be7 30.Qxa8+ Kh7 31.Rf8! Bxf8 32.Bxh6 wins; and after 29...Qh5 30.Qxa8 Qd1+ 31.Kh2 Qxd2 32.Rxf8+ Kh7 33.Rh8 mates.) 30.Bxf4 Re8 31.axb5 axb5 32.Qc6! (The queen can easily contain black's pawns.) 32...Kh7 (After 32...b4 33.Bxd6 Re6 34.Qc8 wins.) 33.Qxb5 d5 34.Qd7 d4 35.h4 Re4 36.Bg3 Be7 (Black brings the bishop out to help the passed d-pawn, but his pieces are not well coordinated and Karjakin strikes.)

37.h5!? Bxh5? (White now wins a piece and the game. But even after 37...Re1+ 38.Kh2, white is in charge, for example 38...Bxh5 39.Qh3 g6 40.Bf4 threatening g2-g4; or 38...Bb1 39.Bd6 Bxd6 40.Qxd6 d3 41.Qg6+ Kh8 42.h6 and white wins.) 38.f3 Re2 39.Kf1 Rxb2 (After 39...Re3 40.Bf4 the black rook cannot protect the bishop on e7 anymore.) 40.Qxe7 Rb1+ 41.Kf2 Black resigned.

Solution to today's composition by E. Paoli (White: Kd8,Nf2,P:c5,e5; Black: Kd4,Bd5):1.Nd3!! Kxd3 2.Kd7 Kd4 3.Kd6 Bg2 (or 3...Bb3 4.c6!) 4.e6 white wins.

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By Lubomir Kavalek
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With magnificent and dominant performances, the world champion Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria and Vishy Anand of India won the elite Corus tournament in the Dutch coastal town of Wijk aan Zee yesterday, both scoring 9 points in 13 games. The other grandmasters finished as follows: Michael Adams (England) and Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), 7 1/2 points; Boris Gelfand (Israel) and Sergei Karjakin (Ukraine), 7 points; Peter Leko (Hungary), Levon Aronian (Armenia) and Sergei Tiviakov (Netherlands), 6 1/2 points; Loek Van Wely (Netherlands), 6 points; Etienne Bacrot (France), 5 1/2 points; Gata Kamsky (U.S.) and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan), 4 1/2 points; Ivan Sokolov (Netherlands), 4 points.

Shedding the Rooks

The talk of the tournament was Topalov's double-exchange sacrifice against the last World Cup winner, Aronian, in the Queen's Indian defense. Interestingly, sacrificing both rooks for two light pieces is featured twice in the top seven games in Andrew Soltis's "The 100 Best Chess Games of the 20th Century, Ranked." In all those games the winners gained a few passed pawns for their rooks. The light pieces controlled the squares around the pawns, advancing them almost at will. Topalov's first exchange sacrifice has a human touch, making it difficult for computer programs to find it. It was prepared by the Bulgarian grandmaster for the FIDE world championship in San Luis, Argentina, last year, but Topalov was not able to use it there.

Topalov-Aronian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Bg2 c6 8.Bc3 d5 9.Ne5 Nfd7 10.Nxd7 Nxd7 11.Nd2 0-0 12.0-0 Nf6 (In San Luis, Anand tried to clear the center with 12...Rc8 13.e4 c5 14.exd5 exd5 15.dxc5 dxc4 16.c6 cxb3 17.Re1 b2 18.Bxb2 Nc5 19.Nc4 Bxc4 20.Qg4 Bg5 21.Qxc4 Nd3, but Topalov's improvement, 22.Ba3! Nxe1 23.Rxe1 Re8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Bd5!, left white with a strong pressure for the exchange. The game was eventually drawn, but not until Topalov tortured his opponent for 97 moves, missing a couple of wins on the way.) *13.e4 b5 14.exd5 exd5 15.Re1 Rb8 16.c5 Bc8 17.Nf3 Ne4* (In Dortmund in 2004, Vladimir Kramnik twice tried 18.Ne5 Nxc3 19.Qd3 against Leko, but after 19...Qc7! 20.Qxc3 both games were soon drawn.)

18.Rxe4!? (The key to this fascinating and intuitive exchange sacrifice is to win the weak black pawn on c6, attacking it with the knight and possibly with the light bishop from g2. Once the c6 pawn is gone, white's two passed pawns become dangerous. Somehow the computer programs could not pick it up and Topalov had to force them to analyze it.) *18...dxe4 19.Ne5 Qd5 20.Qe1!* (It is important to protect the bishop on c3. For example, after 20.Qe2 f5 21.f3? black has 21...Bxc5! 22.dxc5 Qxc5+ 23.Kh1 Qxc3 and wins.) *20...Bf5* (After 20...f5 white breaks through with 21.f3!)

21.g4! (The bishop is forced away from the play on the queenside and in the center.) *21...Bg6* (After 21...b4 22.gxf5 bxc3 23.Qxe4 Qxe4 24.Bxe4 Bf6 25.Nxc6, the pinning combination 25...Bxd4? 26.Nxd4 Rb4 27.Rd1 Rd8 is refuted by 28.c6! and white wins.) *22.f3 b4 23.fxe4* (White has a strong center and a pawn for the exchange.) *23...Qe6 24.Bb2 Bf6?* (Black would like to get rid of the annoying knight, but it plays into Topalov's hands. Also 24...f6? is wrong because it weakens the diagonal a2-g8 and after 25.Nxg6 hxg6 26.Qg3 Rbd8 27.Bf1!, the threat 28.Bc4 is hard to meet. A waiting move, such as 24...Rfe8, was better.)

25.Nxc6! (A little combination, creating two potential pawn monsters.) *25...Qxc6 26.e5 Qa6 27.exf6 Rfe8* (The strong passed pawns allow Topalov to exchange the queens, as is clear in the line 27...Qxf6 28.Qf2 Qg5 29.d5 Qxg4 30.Qd4 Bf5 31.Qxg4 Bxg4 32.c6! and white should win.) *28.Qf1*

Qe2 29.Qf2! (White needs to set his passed pawns into motion. Other pawns are less important.)
29...Qxg4 30.h3! (Driving the queen from the square e2.) *30...Qg5 31.Bc1!* (The bishop will support the advancing pawns better from the diagonal h2-b8.) *31...Qh5* (After *31...Qxf6 32.Qxf6 gxf6 33.Bf4 Rbd8 34.d5 Be4 35.d6* the pawns are too far to be stopped.) *32.Bf4 Rbd8 33.c6! Be4* (After *33...Re2 34.c7! Rde8 35.Qg3 Rc2 36.Re1* white wins.) *34.c7 Rc8 35.Re1 Qg6?!* (Exchanging *35...Bxg2 36.Rxe8+ Rxe8 37.Qxg2* and now *37...Qd1+* was better, although after *38.Kh2 g6 39.Qe4! Rc8 40.d5* white should prevail.)

36.Rxe4! (Icing on the cake! The light bishop is a better supporter of the passed pawns than the rook.) *36...Rxe4 37.d5* (Finally, white's passed pawns are rolling.) *37...Rce8* (After *37...Ree8 38.d6 Qf5 39.Bc6!* decides.) *38.d6 Re1+ 39.Kh2 Qf5* (Preventing *40.d7*, but not for long.) *40.Qg3 g6 41.Qg5!* (Forcing the queen exchange is preferable to *41.Qg4 Qc5*.) *41...Qxg5* (After *41...Qe6 42.d7 Qxd7 43.Qh6* white mates.) *42.Bxg5 Rd1 43.Bc6 Re2+ 44.Kg3* Black resigned.

In the Corus B-group, the 15-year-old Magnus Carlsen of Norway shared first place with Alexander Motylev of Russia, scoring 9 points in 13 games. Both should be invited to the top group next year.

Solution to today's two-mover by J. Pospisil (White: Kg2,Qf3,Re4,Nd7,P:b5; Black: Kd5,Bf2,Nc5,Nh8,P:a7,d4,d6):*1.Qc3! dxc3* (or *1...d3*) *2.Nf6* mate; *1...Kxe4 2.Qf3* mate; *1...Nxe4 2.Qb3* mate; *1...Nxd7 2.Qc6* mate; *1...Bh4 2.Qxd4* mate.

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anyway.) 20...Rxb2+! 21.Kg1 Qc5+! (Forcing white to take the rook: 22.Kxb2 Qh5+ 23.Kg1 Bc5+ 24.Kf1 Qh1 mate.) *White resigned.*

Spassky's Birthday

The legendary world champion Boris Spassky celebrated his 69th birthday last Monday in the Czech Republic. He was invited by the Prague Chess Society to give a lecture in Prague and a simultaneous exhibition in Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad). In the only loss, Spassky came under Vlastimil Chladek's vicious attack in the Nimzovich defense. Connoisseurs of this opening will enjoy this amazing win. The triumphant march of the h-pawn was inspired by Spassky's own smashing victory over Bent Larsen in Belgrade in 1970.

Spassky-Chladek

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5 Ne5 5.Bf4 Ng6 6.Bg3 a6 7.f3?! e5! (Pursuing a dark square strategy.) 8.fxe4 Nf6 [8...Bc5] 9.Bd3 Bc5! 10.Nf3 Nh5 11.Bf2 Bxf2+ 12.Kxf2 Qe7 13.Qd2 Nhf4 14.Rhe1 Bg4 15.g3 Nh3+ 16.Kg2 h5! (Black will pry open the h-file for a decisive attack.) 17.Ng1 h4! 18.Be2 (After 18.Nxh3 Bxh3+ 19.Kxh3 hxg3+ 20.Kxg3 Qh4+ 21.Kf3 Qh5+ 22.Ke3 Qg5+ black wins.) 18...hxg3! 19.hxg3 (After 19.Bxg4 Nf2 20.hxg3 Nxg4 black is clearly better.) 19...Ngf4+ 20.Kf1 (After 20.gxf4 Qh4 wins.) 20...Qc5! (Threatening 21...Qxg1 mate. After 21.Nxh3 Bxh3 mates.) *White resigned.*

Solution to today's study by A. Kakovin (White: Kc8,Ba1,P:a6,c7,d5; Black: Ka7,Rd1): 1.Kd7 Rxd5+ 2.Kc6 Rd2 3.Bd4+ Rxd4 4.Kb5 Rd8! (After 4...Rd5+ 5.Kb4 Rd4+ 6.Kb3 Rd3+ 7.Kc2 wins.) 5.cxd8N! wins. (Both 5.cxd8Q and 5.cxd8R are stalemates. And 5.cxd8B is a theoretical draw.)

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By Lubomir Kavalek
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A combination of youthful energy and experience from elite tournaments helped former FIDE world champion Ruslan Ponomarev of Ukraine, 22, and the Spanish grandmaster Francisco Vallejo Pons, 23, to win the Young Masters tournament in Cuernavaca, Mexico, on Saturday. They scored 6 1/2 points in nine games.

U.S. champion Hikaru Nakamura, 18, fought valiantly and ended third, a half-point behind the winners. The other players finished as follows: Leinier Dominguez (Cuba) 5 1/2 , Lazaro Bruzon (Cuba) 5, Andrei Volokitin (Ukraine) 4 1/2 , Ivan Cheparinov (Bulgaria) 4, Sergei Karjakin (Ukraine) 3 1/2 , Manuel Leon (Mexico) 2, Ruben Felgaer (Argentina) 1 1/2 points.

Working Like a Charm

Vallejo Pons as black defeated Karjakin, 16, in a mysterious variation of the Open Spanish. It originated at the 1923 tournament in the Czech spa Carlsbad. The American Oscar Chajes, playing it with the white pieces, lost two games against Siegbert Tarrasch of Germany and the British champion, Sir George Thomas, despite having a clear opening advantage. Ever since, the variation haunted white players and did not spare even the great ones.

Karjakin-Vallejo Pons

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 0-0 11.Bc2 f5 12.Nb3 Qd7 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 c5 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.f3 Ng5 (White is slightly better, but the position has its pitfalls. Even the world champions Boris Spassky, Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov stumbled with the white pieces and lost.)

17.a4! (Chajes's improvement on his game against Tarrasch. White is trying to open the game for his bishop pair and seize the a-file. The Chajes-Tarrasch game set the tone for future games: White attacks on the kingside, black breaks through in the center. It went 17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.f4 Bd8 19.Qf3 Bb6 20.Rad1 Rad8 21.Kh1 Rd7 22.h3 c4 23.g4 g6 24.gxf5 gxf5 25.Rd2 d4 26.cxd4 Rxd4 27.Rg2+ and white was slightly better, but managed to lose.) 17... Rad8 (Black is giving up the a-file for a break in the center. Viktor Korchnoi as black blundered a pawn against Florin Gheorghiu in a team match in Romania in 1968 with 17... c4? 18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.f4 Be7 22.Bxf5!, but the black magic worked and Korchnoi was still able to make a draw.

Fortifying the pawn on f5 with 17... g6 was played in the Chajes-Thomas game. It went 18.Re1 Qc6 19.Be3 Ne6 20.f4 Rfd8 21.Qf3 c4 22.g4 fxg4 23.Qxg4 Ng7 24.f5 gxf5 25.Bxf5 Kh8 26.axb5 axb5 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 28.Bd7 Qc7 29.Bd4 Bc5 and after 30.e6! Chajes had a winning advantage, but misplayed it and lost. In the game Huebner-Korchnoi, Cologne 1989, white tried to break black's kingside blockade quickly with 18.Bxc5 Bxc5 19.f4 Be7 20.axb5 axb5 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.g4!?, but black was able to defend with 22... fxg4 23.f5 gxf5 24.Rxf5 Ra6! and a draw was soon agreed. Last month at Wijk aan Zee, Karjakin played the more subtle 18.Kh1 against Ivan Sokolov, and after

decide. After 24...Qd8 25.Bxf8 Qxf8 26.Nxe6 Bxe6 27.Rxc6 white should win.) 25.Qe4 f5 (Fatally weakening her king, but after 25...Rd8 26.Nxe6 wins easily.) 26.Qe1 Rd8 (After 26...Rf6 27.Bxg5 Rg6 28.Bxd5 wins.)

27.Nb7! (A pretty deflection, although the prosaic 27.Nxe6 wins too, e.g. 27...Rd6 28.Nd4 Rxe6 29.Nxc6 etc.) 27...Bxb7 (After 27...Qb6 28.Nxd8 white is a rook up.) 28.Qxe6+ Kh8 29.Bxd5 (After 29...Qxd5 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Qg7 mates.) *Black resigned.*

Reflecting on History

Two important books dealing with chess history were published recently. Gino Di Felice, an Italian author, continues his exhaustive historical work with another volume. His "Chess Results, 1901-1920: A Comprehensive Record with 860 Tournament Crosstables and 375 Match Scores" was issued by McFarland (<http://www.mcfarlandpub.com>). Di Felice plans to reach the year 1940 in the next three volumes. His work is indispensable to chess historians, writers and all those who are curious about the glorious chess past.

Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam's "The Day Kasparov Quit and Other Chess Interviews," issued by the Dutch publisher New in Chess, is a wonderful historical document of our time. The Dutch author is a master interviewer, able to make some of the best players open up and reveal their innermost thoughts. The talks with Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik are central to the book, but other grandmasters, such as Miguel Najdorf, Vishy Anand and Vassily Ivanchuk, give the work additional flair. It is fascinating reading, highly recommended.

Solution to study by F.M. Teed (White: Ke6,P:g4,h3; Black: Kh7,P:g5,h6): 1.Kf7! h5! 2.h4!! (Not 2.Kf6? hxg4 3.hxg4 Kh6 4.Kf5 Kh7! 5.Kxg5 Kg7 and black draws.) 2...Kh6 3.Kf6! gxh4 4.g5+ Kh7 5.Kf7! h3 6.g6+ wins; or 2...gxh4 3.g5 h3 4.g6+ Kh6 5.g7 h2 6.g8Q h1Q 7.Qg6 mate.

Ivanchuk-Svidler

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Bh4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 Be6 8.Qb1 c5?!

(Svidler is giving back the pawn, activating his pieces, but it is risky.) 9.Qxb7 Bd5 10.Qb5+ Nd7 11.Nf3 Rb8 12.Qa4 (The siege of the pawn on c4 begins.) 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Qc8 14.Rc1 e6 (Black is unable to hold the c-pawn.)

15.Bxc4! (A well-calculated capture. Ivanchuk has to find a few accurate moves to keep the pawn.) 15...Rb4 16.Qa6! Bb7 (After 16...Qc7 comes 17.Ne5.) 17.Qa5! (Indirectly protecting the bishop on c4, since after 17...Rxc4 18.Rxc4 Qxc4 19.Qd8 mates.) 17...f6 18.Nd2! Bxg2 19.Rg1! (More precise than 19.Bxf6 Bxh1 20.Bxh8 Qc6 and black is still breathing.) 19...Qc6 (A double-rook sacrifice 19...Bd5 20.Bxf6 Rg8 21.Bxd5!! Qxc1+ 22.Ke2 Qxg1 leads to a mate after 23.Qd8+ Kf7 24.Qxd7+ Kxf6 25.Ne4+ Kf5 26.Qxe6 mate.)

20.Rxg2! (A splendid exchange sacrifice, leaving the black king vulnerable.) 20...Qxg2 21.Bxe6 Bd6 (Svidler could not find anything better. The retreat 21...Qb7 is met by 22.Rc7!; and after 21...Rb6 22.Bxd7+ Kxd7 23.Qa4+! Rc6 24.Rc4 Bd6 25.e4 Rhc8 26.d5 wins.) 22.Rc8+ Ke7 23.Rxh8 Kxe6 24.Qd8 Qg1+ (Ivanchuk deserved to win the game brilliantly with a magnificent king's hunt after 24...Qh1+ 25.Ke2 Qc6 26.Qg8+ Kf5 27.e4+ Kg4 28.Qxg6+!! hxg6 29.h3+ Kxh3 30.Bg3+ Kg2 31.Rh2+ Kg1 32.Nf3 mate.) 25.Ke2 (After 25...Qg4+ 26.f3 Qxh4 [After 26...Qg2+ 27.Kd3 or 27.Bf2 wins.] 27.Re8+ Kd5 [27...Kf5 28.Qxd7+ wins.] 28.Qa8+ and white mates.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's problem by A. Grunenwald (White: Ke7,Qg6,Nh7;
Black:Kg8,Qh8,Ne8,P:g7):1.Kd7! Nc7 (Or 1...Nd6 2.Kxd6 Qxh7 3.Qe8 mate.) 2.Kxc7 Qxh7 3.Qe8 mate.

On Korchnoi and Karpov

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, March 6, 2006; C12

Two major chess events clash this week: the elite tournament in Linares, Spain, and the U.S. championship in San Diego. Both competitions conclude next Sunday.

In Linares, world champion Veselin Topalov coped well with jet lag, winning the first three games of the second half, after the players arrived from Mexico. Peter Leko was still in the lead after yesterday's round with 6 1/2 points in 10 games, a point ahead of Topalov, Levon Aronian and Teimur Radjabov.

The \$250,000 U.S. championship has a new format this year. The America's Foundation for Chess, organizing the event, has split 64 players into two groups, creating de facto two U.S. championships. Both groups play a nine-round Swiss system. The winners of each group will play two rapid games for the overall title. But before that happens, the best woman from each group will play two rapid games for the U.S. women's title. If the score is tied after the rapid games, a blitz play decides the championship.

It could get confusing. For example, a woman player could win one group and proceed to lose the U.S. women's title match. But she still has to play the winner of the other group. If she wins that match, she becomes the overall U.S. champion.

You can watch the real story unfold on the U.S. championship's excellent Web site: <http://www.uschesschampionship.com/>. The games start at 1 p.m. in San Diego and can be followed live. The defending U.S. champion, Hikaru Nakamura, has a lot of catching up to do. He lost to Joshua Friedel of New Hampshire in the first round and drew with Jake Kleiman of Tennessee in the second round.

On Korchnoi and Karpov

Garry Kasparov's "On My Great Predecessors, Part V," recently issued by Everyman Chess, deals with two grandmasters that influenced his career the most. Viktor Korchnoi allowed him to reenter the Candidates matches in 1983 after Kasparov was forfeited and out of the world championship cycle. This noble gesture speeded up Kasparov's ascent to the world crown. Anatoly Karpov's career is examined in the second part of the book. Kasparov engaged several former Soviet coaches to prepare this remarkable volume.

To present all Karpov's important games is not easy, and some are missing. For example, Kasparov covers Karpov's phenomenal triumph in Linares in 1994 with only one game: Karpov's win against the 18-year-old Vladimir Kramnik. The brilliant victory against Topalov should have been included as well. Did Karpov's double-exchange sacrifice inspire Topalov to do the same against Aronian last January in Wijk aan Zee?

Karpov-Topalov

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Bc5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 d6 10.Bf4 Nh5 11.e3!? Nxf4 12.exf4 Bd7 13.Qd2 Qb8 14.Rfe1 g6 15.h4 a6 16.h5 b5?! 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Nc5! dxc5 (After 18...Be8 the Hungarian GM Zoltan Ribli suggested the spectacular 19.Nxe6! fxe6 20.Rxe6 Bf7 21.Rae1! and white has a decisive pressure.) 19.Qxd7 Rc8 (Topalov is prepared to meet 20.Bxc6 with 20...Ra7, but Karpov begins to have fun.)

20.Rxe6!! (An astonishing rook sacrifice, allowing white to dance on the light squares.) 20...Ra7

(After 20...fxe6 21.Qxe6+ Kg7 22.Bxc6 Ra7 23.Be4 Bf6 24.Qg4 g5 25.Qf5! white wins.) 21.Rxg6+! fxg6 (After 21...Kf8 22.Qh3 fxg6 23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Bd5 mates. After 21...Kh7, white does not have to show off with 22.Rg4! because black can make it more difficult with 22...Rxd7 23.Be4+ Kh8! 24.Kg2 Bg5!. Instead, 22.Qh3+! leads to a mating attack, for example 22...Kxg6 23.Be4+ f5! 24.Qxf5+ Kg7 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Qh8+! Kf7 27.Bd5+ Kg6 28.f5+ Kxf5 29.Qh7+ Ke5 30.Qh6 Kf5 31.g4+ Kxg4 32.Be6+ Kf3 33.Qe3 mate.) 22.Qe6+ Kg7 23.Bxc6 (White has enough material for the exchange and dominates on the light squares.) 23...Rd8 24.cxb5 Bf6 25.Ne4 Bd4 26.bxa6! (After 26.Rd1 axb5 27.b4 Qc8 28.Nxc5 Bxc5 29.Qe5+ Kh7 30.Rxd8 black counters with 30...Bxf2+!) 26...Qb6 27.Rd1 Qxa6 (After 27...Rxa6 28.Qe7+ Kh8 29.Rxd4! cxd4 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Qxg6+ Kf8 32.Qf5+! Kg7 33.Ng5 Ra7 34.Qh7+ Kf6 [34...Kf8 35.Ne6 mate.] 35.Ne4+ Ke6 36.f5+ Ke5 37.f4 mates.)

28.Rxd4!! (With the second exchange sacrifice Karpov eliminates the defender of the dark squares.) 28...Rxd4 29.Qf6+ Kg8 (Neither 29...Kh6 30.f5 Rd1+ 31.Kh2; nor 29...Kh7 30.Ng5+ Kg8 31.Qxg6+ Kf8 32.Qe8+ Kg7 33.Ne6+ Kf6 34.Nxd4 is better for black.) 30.Qxg6+ Kf8 31.Qe8+?! (Karpov misses a faster ending, 31.Qh6+ Kg8 32.Nf6+ Kf7 33.Nh5!, winning outright.) 31...Kg7 32.Qe5+ Kg8 33.Nf6+ Kf7 34.Be8+ Kf8 35.Qxc5+ Qd6 36.Qxa7 (Black is left without pawns.) 36...Qxf6 37.Bh5 Rd2 38.b3 Rb2 39.Kg2 Black resigned.

Book of the Year

Romanian grandmaster Mihail Marin won the prestigious Chess Cafe.com Book of the Year Award for his work "Learn From the Legends: Chess Champions at Their Best." In addition to the contributions of several world champions and Korchnoi, Marin also presents Akiba Rubinstein's crafty rook endgames.

Solution to today's problem -- mate in three -- by L. Borgstom (White: Kd6,Qh8,P:f2,f3,h3; Black: Kf4,Qh5,P:f5,g6): 1.Qc3! Kg5 (or 1...Qxf3 2.Qc1+!) 2.f4+! Kh6 3.Qh8 mate; or 2...Kxf4 3.Qe3 mate; or 2...Kh4 3.Qg3 mate.

13...Kh8!/? (Black is preparing f7-f5.) 14.h3 (After 14.d4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.Qxd4 Rd8 17.Ne3 c5 18.Qd3 d5, black equalizes.) 14...Ng8 15.c3 bxc3 16.bxc3 f5! 17.Ba4?! (The transaction that follows is in black's favor. Leko should have played 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.Be3, to counter 18...d5?! with 19.Ba4!) 17...fxe4 18.Bxc6 exf3 19.Bxe7 Nxe7 20.Bxf3 Ng6 21.Bg4 Nf4! (Dark clouds are surrounding white's king.) 22.Ra2 (Leko covers the second rank because black can strike there quickly, for example 22.Ne3 Bxg4 23.hxg4 Rb2 24.d4 Nxg2!! 25.Nxg2 Rxf2 26.Ne3 Qf8 27.Nf5 g6 and black wins. But preventing a direct attack on the kingside makes Leko's pawns on the queenside vulnerable. Aronian finds a decisive queen's maneuver.) 22...Qb7! 23.Bf3 (Black should win after 23.f3 Bd5! [threatening 25...h5] 24.g3 h5! 25.gxf4 hxg4 26.hxg4 Bxf3 27.Rh2+ Kg8 28.Qc2 Rxf4.) 23...Qb3! (Black wins a pawn, and the game is basically over.) 24.Rc2 Nxd3!/? (The simple 24...Bxc4 25.dxc4 Qxc4 was also possible.) 25.Qxd3 Qxc4 26.Qxc4 Bxc4 27.Bc6 Rb3 28.g3 g5! (Preventing any counter-play with f2-f4.) 29.Re3 Ra3 30.Be4 Rxa5 (White is two pawns down and can resign.) 31.g4 Bd5 32.f3 Bxe4 33.fxe4 Ra1+ 34.Kg2 Rff1 35.Ree2 Rg1+ 36.Kh2 Rh1+ 37.Kg3 Rag1+ 38.Rg2 Re1 39.Rgf2 Re3+ 40.Kg2 Rexh3 White resigned.

Final standings in Linares: Aronian 8 1/2 points in 14 games, Veselin Topalov and Teimur Radjabov 8 points, Leko 7 1/2 points, Peter Svidler and Vassily Ivanchuk 6 1/2 points, Etienne Bacrot 6 points, Francisco Vallejo Pons 5 points.

Solution to today's two-mover by K. Gavrilov (White: Kd1,Qc1,Rd6,Ne3,Nh3; Black: Kh5,P:e7):
1.Qc7! exd6 (or 1...e5 or 1...e6) 2.Qh7 mate; or 1...Kh4 2.Rh6 mate.

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an astonishing combination. For better or worse, he should have tried 19...b4 20.axb4 Rxb4.) 20.b3! Rc6 (After he forced the black rook to retreat to a bad square, Ivanchuk leaps into a powerful attack.)

21.Nd5!! (The knight sacrifice works because both black's rooks are misplaced and white can open the g-file at will.) 21...exd5 (After 21...Qc8 or 21...Qd8 white wins with 22.Nf6+!) 22.exd5 (Black does not have a good defense against 23.g6!) 22...Rxc2 (After 22...Rc5 white knocks the black king down with a decisive punch 23.g6!, for example 23...hxg6 24.hxg6 Rf8 25.gxf7+ Rxf7 26.Rxg7+! Rxg7 27.Qe6+ Rf7 28.Rh1! with mate on h8; or 23...fxg6 24.hxg6 h6 25.Qe6+ Kh8 26.Rh1 with the threat 27.Rxh6 mate; or 23...f6 24.Qe6+ Kh8 25.Bxf6!, exploiting the pin on the e-file and threatening 26.Bxg7+!)

23.g6! (The pin along the e-file freezes black's dark bishop, and Van Wely can't properly defend the square g7.) 23...hxg6 (After 23...fxg6 24.hxg6, black is defenseless against either 25.gxh7+ or 25.Qe6+ Kh8 26.Bxg7+ Kxg7 27.Qf7+ Kh6 28.Qxh7 mate. After 23...f6 24.Qe6+ Kh8 25.h6! hxg6 26.hxg7+ Kxg7 27.Rxg6+! Kxg6 28.Rg1+ Kh7 29.Qh3 mates.) 24.hxg6 Rf8 25.gxf7+ (White can also finish the game with 25.Rh1!, for example 25...fxg6 26.Qe6+ Rf7 27.Qxg6; or 25...Bxd5 26.Rh8+ Kxh8 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.Qxg7 mate; or 25...Bf6 26.Bxf6 fxg6 [26...gxf6 27.Rh8+! mates soon.] 27.Bxg7! Qxg7 28.Kxc2 winning.) 25...Rxf7 (After 25...Kxf7 26.Rxg7+ Ke8 27.Re1 Rf7 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Qe6+ Ke8 30.Rh1 or 30.Rg1 decides.) 26.Bxg7! (Another way to go was 26.Rxg7+! Rxg7 27.Qe6+! Rf7 28.Qh6! Bf6 29.Bxf6 Rxf6 30.Rg1+ and white mates soon.) 26...Rxg7 27.Qe6+ Kh8 28.Rxg7 Kxg7 (After 28...Rb2+ 29.Kxb2 Bf6+ 30.Kb1! Kxg7 31.Rg1+ and white mates.) 29.Rg1+ (After 29...Kh7 30.Qh3+ Bh4 31.Qxh4 mates.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's two-mover by P. Markkola (White: Kf4,Qa6,Bf8,P:b2,g6; Black: Kd5,P:c4,c6): 1.Qa4! Kd4 2.Qd1 mate; or 1...c5 2.Qd7 mate; or 1...Ke6 2.Qxc6 mate; 1...c3 2.Qe4 mate.

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and his pawn mass stop the black queen?) 15...h5 16.Bb3 Ng4 17.h3 Qf4!/? (Playing Shirov is not easy. Just as you think you put out one fire, he starts another one somewhere else. Most of the time, however, he is looking toward the enemy king.) 18.g3 (White can't accept the knight sacrifice. After 18.hxg4 hxg4 19.Rfe1 Rh1+!! 20.Kxh1 Qxf2 21.Nxg4 Rh8+ 22.Nh2 Qg3 23.Kg1 Rxh2 24.Re2 Qh4! black mates soon.) 18...Qf6?! (Was Shirov trying to lure his opponent to take the knight? The more direct 18...Qf3!/? seems better, for example 19.Ng2 h4! 20.Ne1 Qf6 21.hxg4 hxg3 22.Ng2 gxf2+ 23.Rxf2 Rh1+ 24.Kxh1 Qxf2 and black wins.)

19.Ncd5!/? (After 19.hxg4?! Qf3! 20.g5 [or 20.Ng2 hxg4 21.Nh4 Rxh4 22.gxh4 Rh8 wins] 20...h4 21.g4 h3 22.Kh2 Rh4, threatening 23...Rxc4 and black wins.) 19...Qh6 (Now after 19...Qf3 20.Nf5 Nxf2 21.Nde3 Nxh3+ 22.Kh2 Nf2 23.Kg1 white draws.) 20.Nf5 Qh7 21.Kg2 Nh6 (Black is driven back and has to find new ways to invade white's position.) 22.Nfe3 Rhe8 23.Rde1 Qg6 24.f4 Qd6 25.Nc4 Qc5 26.Nde3 g5 27.f5 h4 28.g4 b5 29.Nd2 Qe5 (A double-attack that wins a pawn.) 30.Rf3 Qxb2 31.Re2 c6 32.Nd1 Qa1 (Shirov ties up white's pieces, threatening to march with his a-pawn.) 33.Rf1 a5 34.a4 bxa4 35.Bc4 a3 (It was time to come back with 35...Qe5 celebrating the gains on the queenside and preparing to use the open b-file.) 36.Nf3?! (Closing the exit for the black queen with 36.c3 was preferable.) 36...Kc7 37.Ne3 Qb2 38.Bb3 a2 39.Ree1 Rxd3! (White's position collapses.) 40.Nc4 Qc3 41.cxd3 Qxb3 42.Rc1 Qxd3 43.Nxa5 Rxe4 44.Rxc6+ Kb8 White resigned.

Solution to today's composition by Y. Afek (White: Kb2,Rb6,Bf1,Nc4,P:a3,g4; Black: Kc5,Rf8,Bf3,P:a5,b5,g5): 1.Rxb5+! Kxb5 2.Ne5+ Ka4 3.Nd7 Be2! 4.Bxe2 Rb8+ 5.Bb5+!! (5.Nxb8 stalemates and 5.Ka2 Rb2+! draws.) 5...Rxb5+ 6.Ka2 and black has to lose the rook. Astonishing finale!

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wins.] 37.Qxc4 Qxf7 38.Qxe6 white wins.) *Black resigned.*

Blehm's win over UTD's Magesh Chandran Panchanathan was important for the final victory in the event. The Indian International Master with plenty of grandmaster norms chose a passive line in the Petroff defense. Blehm generated a powerful attack with a piece sacrifice.

Blehm-Panchanathan

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nf6 (This passive retreat, conceding space to white, is also a specialty of India's top woman, Humpy Koneru.) *6.d4 Be7 7.Bg5 0-0 8.Qd2 c6 9.Bd3 a5* (A new attempt. In Wijk aan Zee this year, Koneru played 9...Na6, but lost to Alexander Motylev and Zoltan Almasi.) *10.0-0-0 Na6 11.a3 b5 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Ne4 Nc7* (White has a small edge after 13...d5 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Rde1.)

14.h4!? (Preparing a knight landing on g5.) *14...Be7 15.Rde1 h6 16.Neg5! hxg5?!* (Giving white too much play. Better was 16...b4, for example 17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.Qd3? Ba6 19.Qe4 Nd5! and black beats the attack.) *17.hxg5 g6?* (Loses. Black should have tried 17...f5!? with complications. After 17...Ne6 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Rh5! g6 20.Bxg6+ Kg7 21.Be4 white has a powerful attack, e.g. 21...d5? 22.Reh1 dxe4 23.Rh7+ Kg8 24.Rh8+ Kg7 25.R1h7+ Kg6 26.Nh4 mate.) *18.Qf4!* (White's heavy pieces are ready to deliver the final blow along the h-file.) *18...Kg7* (After 18...Ne6 19.Rxe6! fxe6 20.Qh4 Kf7 21.Bxg6+ Kxg6 22.Qh7 mates.) *19.Rxe7! Nd5* (19...Qxe7 allows 20.Qh4 and white mates.) *20.Rh7+ Kxh7 21.Qh4+* (After 21...Kg8 22.Bxg6! the white queen gets to h7 one way or another.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to study by L. Prokes (White: Kf3,Rb3,Bb8,Bg2; Black: Ka8,Qa6,Bd7,P:a7): 1.Kg3+ (1.Bc7 Bc6+ 2.Kg3 transposes) 1...Bc6 2.Bc7 Bb7 3.Be4! Bxe4 4.Rb8 mate.

CHESS: Lubomir Kavalek

Monday, April 17, 2006; C12

Will the chess world have finally only one world champion?

Last Friday FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov announced a world championship match, between Veselin Topalov and Vladimir Kramnik, that would finally unite the two titles in international chess that have existed since 1993. The winner of the 12-game match, to be held Sept. 21 to Oct. 13 in Elista, Russia, will be recognized as world champion, though the players will split the \$1 million prize fund equally. The winner will participate in the 2007 double round-robin world championship tournament, envisioned for Mexico City, while the loser will have to wait to join the world championship cycle after 2007.

Ilyumzhinov is facing a strong challenge for the next FIDE presidency by the Dutch businessman Bessel Kok. The elections will take place in June during the chess olympiad in Turin, Italy. With this announcement, Ilyumzhinov clearly wants to tip the scales in his favor. But how serious is it? In the past, Ilyumzhinov declared matches that never took place. For example, Garry Kasparov and Ruslan Ponomarev went from Argentina to Yalta and to nowhere in their match three years ago. Ilyumzhinov announced, but never organized, another Kasparov match against Rustam Kasimjanov. When in the fall of 2004 Ali Nihat Yazici, who runs on the Right Move ticket with Kok, proposed to save that match, FIDE squashed his efforts.

So far neither Kramnik nor Topalov spoke about the prospective match publicly. Topalov recently won 3-1 against the 2005 European champion and the top Romanian grandmaster Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu in Bucharest. Because of a collision of dates, Nisipeanu was unable to defend his title at the European championship in Kusadasi, Turkey. That event, organized by Yazici, finished Saturday with a victory by the Croatian grandmaster Zdenko Kozul. He scored 8 1/2 points in 11 games, a half-point ahead of Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine. Ekaterina Atalik of Turkey won the European women's title with 8 1/2 points in 11 games.

A Jolt at the Bundesliga

Many grandmasters make a living by playing in team events, mostly in Europe. For several decades, the German Bundesliga was regarded as the strongest national team competition in the world. Its 2005-06 season ended this month with a victory by the OSC Baden-Baden team, with world class players such as Vishy Anand, Peter Svidler, Alexei Shirov, Etienne Bacrot and Robert Huebner in the lineup. Defending champion Werder Bremen finished second. The third place was shared between SG Cologne Porz and SG Alekhine Solingen, but Porz won the bronze with a better tiebreak. Sergei Movsesian, the top Slovakian grandmaster playing for the winning team, likes sharp and unusual variations. A good example is his game against the German International Master Martin Borriss. In the Petroff defense, Movsesian got a vigorous attack in a line resurrected in the 1980s by the Hungarian grandmaster Gyula Sax.

Movsesian-Borriss

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 (These days approaching the Petroff defense with this central advance lies in the shadow of 3.Nxe5.) 3... Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7 6.Nc3 (A challenging knight move, tailored by Sax. It is a welcome change of pace from the overanalyzed 6.Nxd7.)

6... Nxe5 7.dxe5 Bb4 (The pin looks natural. After 7... Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Qh5! Be6 10.f4 white has a slight pull, according to Sax.)

8.0-0! (A sound pawn sacrifice, leaving white with plenty of play. Grabbing the pawn is risky.) 8...

Nxc3 (The other way to take the pawn is 8 . . . *Bxc3*, but after 9.*bx3* *Nxc3* 10.*Qe1* *d4* 11.*f4* *g6* 12.*Bb2* *Na4* 13.*Ba3* Sax believed that the bishop pair gives white better game.) 9.*bx3* *Bxc3* 10.*Rb1* *Be6* (The game Sax-Nunn, Brussels 1985, continued 10 . . . *Qe7* 11.*Rb3* and after the blunder 11 . . . *Bxe5*? [11 . . . *Bb4* is better] the punishment was swift: 12.*Re1!* 0-0 13.*Qh5!* *f5* 14.*Bf4* and black resigned.) 11.*Rxb7* *Bxe5* (Swapping the pawns is in white's favor. Black runs into several unpleasant hits.) 12.*Qh5!* (White creates a new threat with every move.) 12 . . . *Bf6?!* (After 12 . . . *Bd4* 13.*Ba3!* black can't castle.) 13.*Re1!* (Threatening 14.*Rxe6+*. The black king is vulnerable in the middle, but black would still be under great pressure.) 13...*g6* (Weakening the dark squares. Moving away the king immediately with 13...*Kf8* was better.) 14.*Qh6* (Threatening 15.*Bb5+*.) 14...*a6* 15.*Bf4* (Targeting the pawn on c7.) 15...*Bc3?* (A blunder, helping white shatter black's defensive wall. Black can protect his light bishop on e6 with 15...*Qe7*, but white has the simple 16.*Rxc7* *Qb4* 17.*Kf1!*, or he can choose a surprising way to attack the black king from the diagonal a4-e8: 16.*c4!* *dxc4* 17.*Bc2!* with a decisive attack either after 17...0-0-0 18.*Reb1* *Rd5* 19.*Rb8+* *Kd7* 20.*Ba4+* *Rb5* 21.*R1xb5!* *axb5* 22.*Bxb5+* *c6* 23.*Rb7+*; or after 17...*Bc3* 18.*Ba4+* *Kd8* 19.*Rd1+* *Kc8* 20.*Rxc7+* and white wins.) 16.*Rxe6+!* *fxe6* 17.*Bxg6+* *hxg6* (After 17...*Kd7* 18.*Bf7* *Kc6* 19.*Rxc7+* *Qxc7* 20.*Qxe6+* *Kb7* 21.*Bxc7* *Kxc7* 22.*Qxd5* white should win.) 18.*Qxg6+* *Kf8* (On 18...*Kd7* comes 19.*Rxc7+* *Qxc7* 20.*Qf7+* and white wins.) 19.*Bxc7* (After 19...*Qe7* 20.*Bd6* white mates soon.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's composition by O. Duras and L. Prokes (White: *Kf1*, *Qe3*, *P:d5*, *f2*, *f3* Black: *Kh3*, *Qf7*, *P:d3*, *d7*, *e5*, *e7*, *g6*, *g7*): 1.*f4+* *Kg4* 2.*Qg3+* *Kf5* 3.*Qg5+* *Ke4* 4.*Qxe5+* *Kf3* 5.*Qe3+* *Kg4* 6.*Qg3+* *Kf5* 7.*f3!* *Qxd5* 8.*Qg5+* *Ke6* 9.*Qxg6* mate.

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CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, April 24, 2006; C12

The Foxwoods Open, one of America's premier open tournaments, finished in a three-way tie among grandmaster Loek Van Wely of the Netherlands, GM Ilya Smirin of Israel and International Master Eugene Perelshteyn of Massachusetts. They scored seven points in nine games, but Van Wely won the title in a blitz playoff.

Staged April 12-16 in Ledyard, Conn., the tournament attracted more than 500 players. Perelshteyn made his final grandmaster norm and should get the GM title at the FIDE Congress in Turin in June. He also qualified for the next U.S. championship along with grandmasters Alex Stripunsky, Alexander Ivanov and Alexander Shabalov.

Reckless Warrior

The Dutch champion Van Wely loves fast cars. He also crashes them. Miraculously, he always walks away from the wreckage relatively unharmed. His driving style is reflected on the chessboard, where he often treats his pieces recklessly, choosing sharp and risky variations and grabbing material others would not dare touch. It worked for him in Foxwoods in the game against international master Ali Frhat of Egypt. Van Wely had to overcome a dangerous fury of sacrifices that Frhat introduced with a thematic pawn sacrifice in the Kan Sicilian. Pawn sacrifices in the opening work in mysterious ways. For example, the sacrifice (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.Be3 b5 8.e5!?) was played in the 1960s. But a slightly modified version (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 b5 8.e5!?), used by Frhat, came to light some 30 years later. Why such a big time span?

Frhat-Van Wely

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bd3 Qc7 7.0-0 (After 7.Be3 Nf6 8.e5!? we would reach the game Kavalek-Khodos, Sinaia, Romania, 1965, that continued *8...Qxe5 9.Qf3 d5 10.0-0-0 Bd6? 11.g4! Bb7 12.Qh3 Be7 13.f4 Qc7 14.g5 Ne4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.g6!* and the black position collapsed.) *7...Nf6 8.e5!?* (Frhat played previously the lame 8.a3. Obviously he did his homework, finding games from 1996-97. In comparison with my game against Khodos, his sacrifice is more difficult to play because white is also forced to give up his knight to keep the attack going.) *8...Qxe5 9.Qf3* (Taking away the diagonal a8-h1.) *9...d5* (After *9...Bd6 10.g3 Ra7 11.Nf5!* is strong, e.g. *11...exf5?! 12.Bf4 Qc5 13.Bxd6 Qxd6 14.Qe3+ and 15.Qxa7.*)

10.Nf5!? (The knight sacrifice is hardly surprising. It accelerates white's attack by opening the e-file against the black king. White threatens to win the black queen with *12.Bf4*.) *10...exf5!* (Accepting white's gifts is the only way to refute white's play. After *10...Qc7 11.Re1!* white's attack gains momentum for a mere pawn, for example *11...Bb7 12.Bf4 Qd8 13.Bxb5+! axb5 14.Nxb5* with powerful threats; or *11...Qc6 12.Bh6! gxh6 13.Nd4 Qb7 14.Qxf6 Rg8 15.Nxd5!* and white should prevail either after *15...Qxd5 16.Be4* or after *15...Bg7 16.Nxe6! Bxf6 17.Bxb5+ axb5 18.Nxf6+ Ke7 19.Nxg8+ Kd6 20.Rad1+* winning the black queen by force.) *11.Bf4 Qd4!* (Playing for the win, since staying on the e-file is worse, for example: *11...Qe6? 12.Rfe1 Ne4 13.Nxe4 fxe4 14.Bxe4! dxe4 15.Rxe4* wins the queen; or *11...Qe7 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Bb7 14.Qxf5* and black does not have a good defense against the white rooks attacking on both central files, e.g. *14...Qd8 15.Be4! Nc6 16.Rfe1 Be7 17.Rad1 Qc8 18.Qxc8+ Rxc8 19.Bd6!*; or *14...Qd7 15.Rfe1+ Be7 16.Qxd7+! Kxd7 17.Rad1* and white wins.)

12.Rad1?! (A sigh of relief for Van Wely. The dangerous *12.Rfe1+* would make it difficult for black, for example *12...Be6!* [*12...Be7 13.Be5!* is worse for black.] *13.Bxf5* and since *13...Be7?*

14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Rxe6 Kf7 16.Be5 Qc5 17.b4 Qa7 18.Re1! loses, black has to play 13...Nbd7 and after 14.Rad1! he comes to a perilous crossroads: A) 14...Qc5? gives white a tremendous attack after 15.Nxd5 Rc8 16.Bg5! and resembles Gioacchino Greco's 17th-century work after 16...Nxd5 17.Rxe6+ Ne7 [or 17...fxe6 18.Qh5+ g6 19.Qxg6+ hxg6 20.Bxg6 mate.] 18.Rxd7! fxe6 19.Bxe6 and white wins. B) The correct way is 14...Qc4! 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Rxd5 Qc6! 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Bd6 Nf6! forcing a draw by perpetual check after 19.Rxe6+ Kf7 20.Rxf6+ gxf6 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Qg4+ Kf7 23.Qh5+ etc.) *12...Qc5 13.Rfe1+ Be7!* (But not 13...Be6 14.Bxf5 Qc6 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Be4! with white's advantage.)

14.Qg3 (Threatening 15.Bd6, 15.Bxb8 and 15.Qxg7, but black has an adequate reply.) *14...0-0! 15.Bxb8 Rxb8 16.Rxe7* (Black gets a powerful attack after 16.Qxb8 Bd6 17.Qa8 Bxh2+!, for example 18.Kxh2 Ng4+ 19.Kh1 Nxf2+ 20.Kh2 Ng4+ 21.Kh1 Qd6 and wins.) *16...Be6* (The rook on e7 is in trouble and black should win. But diverting the white queen with 16...f4 is more precise, for example 17.Qxf4 Qxe7 18.Qxb8 Bg4 wins; or 17.Qh4 Be6! [Not 17...Qxe7 18.Nxd5!] 18.Re1 h6! and the rook on e7 is trapped.) *17.Rc7 Qb6 18.b4* (After 18.Ne2 comes 18...d4, threatening 19...Nd5.) *18...d4 19.Ne2 Nd5 20.Rc5 Nxb4 21.Qe5 Rfe8 22.Qxd4 Nxd3 23.cxd3 Bxa2 24.Nf4 Rbd8 25.Qb4 Re4!* (The weakness of the first rank decides. After 26.Nd5 Rxb4 27.Nxb6 Be6 28.Kf1 a5 black wins easily.) *White resigned.*

Solution to today's three-mover by K. Laue (White: Kf1,Ra8,Bb8; Black: Kh1): 1.Bh2 Kxh2 2.Ra3 Kh1 3.Rh3 mate.

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One of the best German grandmasters in history, Wolfgang Unzicker, died on April 20 at the age of 80. As a presiding judge of an administrative court in Munich, he did not have much time to play chess, but his achievements were remarkable. Anatoly Karpov called him "the world champion among amateurs." Unzicker won the West German championship seven times and played for his country in 13 chess olympiads, mostly on the top board. Influenced by Siegbert Tarrasch, he aimed for logical and precise play. At the 1961 European team championship in Oberhausen, he defeated the world champion Mikhail Botvinnik in a fine performance against the Winawer variation of the French defense.

Unzicker-Botvinnik

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Nf3 (Choosing the quiet line, since Botvinnik was ready for the sharp *7.Qg4*.) *7...Ne7 8.Bd3 Bd7 9.a4 Nbc6 10.Qd2 h6 11.0-0 c4 12.Be2 a5 13.Ba3 Na7 14.g3 Nac8 15.Nh4 Qd8?* (A decisive mistake, according to Botvinnik. *15...Nf5* was necessary.) *16.f4! Nf5 17.Nxf5 exf5 18.Bf3 Be6 19.Rfb1 b6 20.Qg2!* (Targeting the pawn on d5 and preparing *g3-g4*.) *20...Ra7* (After *20...h5 21.Rb5 Na7 22.Rxd5! Bxd5 23.Bxd5 Rc8 24.e6!* white's attack breaks through.) *21.Rb5 Rd7 22.g4 Ne7 23.Bxe7 Kxe7 24.Kh1!* (Threatening *25.gxf5* and *26.Qxg7*.) *24...g6 25.Rab1 Kf8 26.gxf5 [26.Rxb6] 26...Bxf5* (Or *26...gxf5 27.Rg1 Ke7 28.Qg7 Rb7 29.Rg6* and white wins.) *27.Bxd5 Qh4 28.Be4 Qxf4 29.Bxf5 gxf5* (After *29...Qxf5 30.Rxb6 Kg7 31.Rf6 Qg5 32.Qf3* black's position is hopeless.) *30.Rxb6 Ke7 31.e6!* (After *31.e6 Rd6 32.Qb7+! Kxe6 33.Rxd6+ Qxd6 34.Rb6* wins.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's study by L. Kubbel (White: Kh4,Qh1,P:b3,d2; Black: Kf4,Qa5,P:f7,e5,e6,c5,c7):
1.Qg2! f5 2.Qe2! e4 3.Qe1! Ke5 4.d4+! wins the black queen.

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with 20...Rf6, because after 21.Rad1 Nf7 22.Rfe1 he has no good moves, for example 22...Rd8? 23.Qxd8+! Nxd8 24.Re8+ Kf7 25.Rf8 mate.)

21.f6! (Opening the scope of the light bishop, white threatens 22.Bxh7+! Kxh7 23.Qh4+ Kg8 25.Bxd6 Qxd6 26.f7+ Kf8 27.Rae1!, mating soon. White's bishop pair is leaving the black knights without a chance.) *21...Nc6 22.Bxh7+!?* (The prosaic 22.Qf4! gxf6 23.Qg3+ Kh8 24.Rxf6 also gives white a decisive attack.) *22...Kxh7 23.Qh4+ Kg8* (After 23...Kg6 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.Qg4+ Kh6 26.Rf5 white wins.) *24.Bxd6 Qxd6 25.f7+ Kf8 26.Qh8+* (Limiting the black king with 26.Rae1 is more stylish, e.g. 26...Qh6 27.Qe4 g5 28.Qe8+! and the game is over.) *26...Ke7 27.Rae1+ Kd7 28.f8Q!* (After 28...Rxf8 29.Qxg7+ wins the exchange.) *Black resigned .*

New Endgame Books

The revised, updated and enlarged second edition of Mark Dvoretsky's popular "Endgame Manual" has been recently published by Russell Enterprises. The Russian star coach's important new discoveries in the rook endgame are included in the new volume. G.C. van Perlo's "Endgame Tactics" presents more than 1,000 endgame fragments from actual games. The author collected the material for some 30 years, and his selection proves that all chess players are human and ready to make mistakes. In this respect, it resembles Dvoretsky's "Tragicomedies," from his "Endgame Manual." Issued by New In Chess, van Perlo's work is indexed, but you can open it on any page to enjoy the tactical endgame twists. One of the gems from this enjoyable book is presented in today's diagram (White: Kh5,Qf2,P:g3,h4; Black: Kh8,Qg7,Rg6,P:g4). White draws with the remarkable 1.Qf6!

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17...Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Bf6 19.Rd1! Rac8 20.c4 Ne5 21.Qg3, white's pressure on the kingside is unbearable, e.g. 21...Ng6 22.Bg5! Bxg5 23.Bxf7+ wins.) 18.Qxe7! Bxf3 19.Rxf3 (Threatening to win with 20.Be3.) 19...Nf6 (Svidler tries to defend the pawn d6 and block the attack on the pawn f7 at the same time, but runs into a simple refutation. After 19...Nc5 20.Rg3! white has a decisive attack, for example 20...Rd7 21.Rxg7+! Kxg7 22.Bh6+! Kxh6 23.Qf6+ Kh5 24.g4+ Kxg4 25.Rg1+ and white mates. After 19...Qd4 20.Qxf7+! Kxf7 21.Be5+ and 22.Bxd4 black's prospects are hopeless.)

20.Be3! (Preparing the exchange sacrifice on f6 that leaves the black king without any defender.) 20...Qa5 (After 20...Re8 21.Qxe8+ Rxe8 22.Bxb6 black is an exchange down.) 21.Rxf6! (Exposing the weak dark squares near the black king.) 21...gxf6 22.Qxf6 Re8 (After 22...Qxd5 23.Bd4! [Not 23.Bh6? Qe5!] 23...Kf8 24.Re1! threatens 25.Qh8 mate.) 23.Qg5+ (Avoiding black's last trick: 23.Bh6? Re1+ and black wins!) 23...Kf8 24.Bd2! (Pushing the black queen from the diagonal e1-a5 before finishing off the black king. After either 24...Qc5 25.Qf6 Re2 26.Qh8+ Ke7 27.Bg5+ Kd7 28.Qxa8; or 24...Qd8 25.Qh6+ Kg8 26.Bc3 Re5 27.Bxe5 dxe5 28.c4 white should win.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's problem -- mate in eight -- by S. Limbach (White: Kh8,Qf3,P;h7; Black: Kh1,Rg2,P;b2,e5,h2): 1.Qe4! b1Q 2.Qxb1+ Rg1 3.Qb7+ e4 (3...Rg2 4.Qe4!) 4.Qxe4+ Rg2 5.Qb1+ Rg1 6.Qb7+ Rg2 7.Qe4 Kg1 8.Qe1 mate.

unable to cope with 34.Bb1!, threatening 35.Qxh7 mate or 35.Rxa5 winning the black queen. Black's answer is forced, leading to white's material advantage.) 33...Qxa2 34.Rxa2 Nxd4 35.b4! (Winning the game is still not easy, but breaking black's connected passed pawns helps.) 35...Ne6 (After 35...cxb4 36.Be5! wins the knight.) 36.Be5 Bg7 37.bxc5 Rc8 (White ends up with a strong passed pawn since after 37...Nxc5? 38.Bxg7+ Kxg7 39.Qg4+ Kh6 40.Qf4+ Kg6 41.Qg3+ Kh6 [or 41...Kh5 42.Rf2 f5 43.Rf4 and mates] 42.Qe3+ black loses the knight.) 38.Bd6 Rfd8 39.Ra5 Kg8 40.Rxa6 Rd7 (After 40...Nxc5 41.Ra7! wins.) 41.Qxd5 Bf8 42.Qf3 Bxd6+ (After 42...Nxc5? 43.Bxc5 Bxc5 44.Qg4+ wins.) 43.cxd6 Rcd8 44.Qd5 Ng7 45.Ra8 Ne6 46.Rxd8+ Rxd8 47.g4 h6 48.h4 Rb8 49.Kg3 Re8 50.Kf3 Nf8 51.Qd2 (Black's only hope is to give up the knight for the d-pawn and create a fortress, for example 51...Ng6 52.Qxh6 Rd8 and now after 53.h5? Rxd6 54.hxg6 Rxg6 black draws. But after 53.Qd2! Nxh4+ 54.Ke4 Ng6 55.d7 white wins.) 51...Kg7 52.Qd4+ Kg8 53.Qf6 Re6 54.Qe7! (Disturbing black's defensive coordination.) 54...Kg7 55.Qc7 Kg8 56.d7 Nxd7 57.Qxd7 Kg7 58.Qd4+ Kg8 59.Kf4 Rg6 60.Kf5 Re6 61.Qd7 Rg6 62.h5 Rg5+ 63.Kf6 Kh8 64.Qe8+ Rg8 65.Kxf7 (The pawn endgame is lost.) *Black resigned.*

Burt Hochberg (1933-2006)

A brilliant editor and prolific writer, Burt Hochberg died on May 13 in New York at the age of 72. He edited the monthly periodical Chess Life during the golden age of American chess journalism from 1966 to 1979. His work "Title Chess," covering the 1972 U.S. championship, is one of the best tournament books. Hochberg edited "The 64-Square Looking Glass," a comprehensive anthology of chess in literature. He was also senior editor at the RHM Press chess publishing house and at Games magazine. He will be missed.

Solution to today's problem by W. Speckmann (White: Ke6, Nd8,P:e7; Black: Ke8,Nb2,P:b5):
1.Nb7 Nc4 2.Nc5 Nd6 3.Na6! b4 4.Nc7 mate

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center 17...Nb4 18.Bb1 d5?! gives white a more attractive position after 19.Nf5!) 18.Qd2!/? (The queen controls the square b4 and white plans 19.d5, followed by 20.a4.) 18...Bf8 19.Nd5!/? (Navara is changing plans on the fly. Smirin probably would not mind to have the center closed, although after 19.d5 Ne7 20.a4 Bh6 21.Bd3 white's pressure on the queenside is noticeable.) 19...Nxd5 20.exd5 Nxd4? (This natural move is a decisive mistake. Black's only chance to stay in the game is 20...Ne7, although defending after 21.dxe5 is not easy.)

For example, after 21...dxe5 22.Nxe5 Bg7 Navara contemplated spectacular sacrifices 23.Nxf7! Bxb2 24.Rxe7 Bxa1 25.d6!! [25.Nxd8 Rxd8 26.Qh6 Bxd5 27.Qxh7+ Kf8 28.Rc7 Qf6 29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.Qh7+ only leads to a draw.] and retreating black's dark bishop fails either after 25...Bf6 26.Nh6+ Kh8 27.Bxg6! hxc6 28.Nf5! g5 29.Qe2!, threatening 30.Qh5+; or after 25...Bg7 26.b4! Rdc8 [After 26...Qc6 27.Be4! Qxe4 28.Rxe4 Bxe4 29.Nxd8 Rxd8 30.Qe3 Bf5 31.g4 white should win.] 27.Bb3 Rc4 28.Bxc4 bxc4 29.Nh6+ Kh8 30.d7 and white wins. After 25.d6!! black would have to defend with 25...Re8! 26.Nh6+ Kh8 27.Qe1 Rxe7 28.dxe7 Kg7 29.Ng4 Bd4 30.e8Q Rxe8 31.Qxe8 Qc7! with some chances to equalize.)

21.Nxd4 exd4 22.Bxd4 Qc7 23.Rac1! Qb8 (The black queen does not have a good square to hide on. After 23...Qd7 24.Qg5!, threatening 26.Qf6, decides either after 24...Bg7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Re7; or after 24...f5 25.Qf6 Bg7 26.Qxg7+ Qxg7 27.Bxg7 Kxg7 28.Re7+ winning a piece.) 24.Qf4! Bg7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Re7 Rf8 27.Be4 (Threatening 28.Rcc7, to get the hogs on the seventh rank.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's problem -- mate in three -- by V. Novikov (White: Kg8,Rd5,P:d7; Black: Ke6): 1.d8R! Ke7 2.R8d6 Ke8 3.Re6 mate; or 1...Kf6 2.Re8 Kg6 3.Re6 mate.

grandmaster was a brilliant, amusing, provoking and self-mocking author, a master of verbal hyperboles and shortcuts. Summing up Boris Spassky's predicament during the 1972 world championship match against Bobby Fischer, Donner simply wrote: "Last night, I dreamt I was Spassky and I woke up bathed in sweat." The line "Fighting has flared up once again between the Soviet Union and Ludek Pachman" immediately evokes a powerful image about a courageous and hopeless fight of a Czech grandmaster against a totalitarian regime. Donner had great influence on many Dutch chess writers, and two of them, Tim Krabbe and Max Pam, selected articles from Donner's writing for this magnificent volume.

A chapter on Donner is the finest piece in Genna Sosonko's new work "Smart Chip From St. Petersburg." Sosonko calls it "Hein." "You know all the great men in history were known by just their first name -- Rembrandt, Leonardo, Michelangelo," Donner told him and added with laughter: "When I die, they'll call me Hein, just Hein, and everyone will know who they mean." Sosonko expands his writing with remarkable essays on fame, sleep and religion. Both books are a wonderful read.

Delaune Honored

The Delaune Memorial, a five-round Swiss event in memory of International Master and four-time Virginia champion Richard Delaune, was played June 16-18 in Springfield. GM Joel Benjamin, IM Larry Kaufman, FM Thomas Bartell, FM Dov Gorman and Boris Privman shared first place, scoring four points. Benjamin, Delaune's good friend, had the best tiebreak. William Marcelino won the Under 2200 section with 4 1/2 points.

Solution to today's study by H. Rinck (White: Kf6, Ra2,Rf1; Black: Kg8,Qe8): 1.Rg2+ Kf8 2.Kg5+ Kg7 3.Kf4+ Kf6 4.Kg3+ Kg5 5.Kf2+ Kf4 6.Kg1+ Ke3 7.Re1+ wins.

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CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, July 3, 2006; C12

Sergei Rublevsky has been undergoing an unbelievable metamorphosis -- from a terrible team player, largely blamed for Russia's failure at the 37th Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy, to a spectacular winner of the elite Aerosvit tournament in Foros, Ukraine, which finished last week. The Russian champion scored 7 1/2 points in 11 games, edging out the top-rated Ukrainian veteran Vassily Ivanchuk by half a point. Other grandmasters finished as follows: Viktor Bologan of Moldova, 6 1/2 points;

Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan, Alexei Shirov of Spain and Alexander Grischuk of Russia, 6 points; Ukraine's Alexander Areshchenko and Romania's Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu, 5 points; Ruslan Ponomariov and Sergei Karjakin, both of Ukraine, 4 1/2 points; Ukraine's Andrei Volokitin and India's Pentala Harikrishna, 4 points.

Creative Force

The tournament in Foros did not start well for Rublevsky. He was smashed in the first round by the two-time world junior champion Mamedyarov, 21, one of the most creative young grandmasters in the world. Rublevsky has a narrow but well-prepared opening repertoire, hard to rattle. Mamedyarov enjoys razor-sharp openings where his skill in creating spectacular combinations flourishes. The Azerbaijani won the theoretical skirmish in the Four Knights opening and took down the Russian champion with aggressive play. His fine victory was awarded the best game of the tournament.

Rublevsky-Mamedyarov

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Ba4 c6 (Developing the bishop 5...Bc5 has been the main line in the Rubinstein variation of the Four Knights. Mamedyarov's move, preparing a central strike, has some venom. It was first played a century ago by the American champion Frank Marshall. A few years later, the move appeared in the game Abonyi-Hromadka, Prague 1908, bringing black swift victory after 5...c6 6.0-0?! Bc5 7.Nxe5 d6 8.Nd3 Bg4 9.Qe1 Nf3+! 10.gxf3 Bxf3 11.e5 0-0 12.exd6 Ng4 13.Qe7 Bxd6 and white resigned, since he is mated.) *6.Nxe5 d5!?* (Rubinstein, who did not mind shedding both central pawns in this opening, would be delighted with this choice, accelerating the assault on white's center. It is more aggressive than 6...d6 7.Nf3 Bg4.) *7.d3* (White has to be careful not to open the game for black. For example, in the game Osman-Glodeanu, Bucharest 2001, after 7.exd5? Bd6 8.Nc4 b5 9.Nxd6+ Qxd6 10.Bb3 0-0 11.0-0 Re8! 12.d3, black quickly created decisive threats with 12...Ng4 13.g3 Ne5! and after 14.f4 Nef3+ 15.Rxf3 Re1+ ! soon won.) *7...Bd6 8.f4?!* (Weakening the diagonal g1-a7. Retreating with 8.Nf3 is safer, although after 8...Nxf3+ 9.gxf3 [9.Qxf3 d4! wins for black] 0-0, black has a good play for the pawn.)

8...Bc5!? (Preventing white's castling, black makes sure the white king stays in the middle.) *9.exd5 0-0 10.Ne4!?* (White is trying desperately to plug the holes in his position. After grabbing more pawns 10.dxc6 bxc6 11.Nxc6 Nxc6 12.Bxc6 Bg4 13.Qd2 Rc8 14.Bb5 Nd5! the white king is in trouble.) *10...Nxe4 11.dxe4 Qh4+!* (Sending the queen on a rampage.) *12.g3* (Forced, since 12.Kf1 can be met by 12...Nb3!?) *13.Nd3 Nxa1 14.Nxc5 cxd5* with black's advantage.) *12...Qh3 13.Be3*

(Allowing the queen to walk in to do some damage. Preventing it with 13.Qd2 runs into 13...f6 14.c3 fxe5 15.cxd4 exf4!! with a dangerous attack, e.g. 16.gxf4 Qf3!; or 16.dxc5 fxg3 wins for black.) 13...Qg2 14.Rg1 Qxe4 15.Kf2 (The tide is turning against white, and Mamedyarov increases the pressure with his next move.)

15...Re8! (Black is preparing an exchange sacrifice, threatening to eliminate the knight on e5 to gain control of the light squares, for example after 16.c3 Rxe5! 17.fxe5 Bg4!) 16.Qd3 (After 16.dxc6 black simply plays 16...bxc6, keeping his threats intact. The next 10 moves are rather forced, leading to a winning position for black.) 16...Rxe5! 17.fxe5 Qf3+ 18.Ke1 Bf5 (Black develops with tempo. White is in dire straits.) 19.Rf1 Bb4+! 20.c3 Bxd3 21.Rxf3 Nxf3+ 22.Kf2 Nxf2 23.cxb4 Ng4+ 24.Kf3 Nxe5+ 25.Kf4 Ng6+ 26.Kf3 cxd5 (The smoke clears and black is two pawns up.) 27.Rc1 Ne5+ 28.Kf4 Ng6+ 29.Kf3 b5 30.Bb3 Bc4 31.Bc2 Ne5+ 32.Kf4 f6 33.Rd1 (White could have peacefully resigned. Mamedyarov brings the point home easily.) 33...Bxa2!? (Snatching another pawn leaves white hopeless. Another way to win was 33...g5+! 34.Kf5 Re8, threatening 35...Be2.) 34.b3 Rc8 35.Bc5 a5! 36.Bf5 Bxb3 37.Rb1 Bc2! (A beautiful deflection.) 38.Be6+ (After 38.Bxc2 axb4, black wins one of the bishops.) 38...Kh8 39.Ra1 Re8 40.bxa5 Nd3+ 41.Kf3 Nxc5 42.Bxd5 b4 43.a6 Nxa6 (After 44.Rxa6 Rb8 the b-pawn runs for the touchdown.) *White resigned.*

Kamsky Wins

The Mayor's Cup, a six-grandmaster double-round rapid event, finished last week at the New York Athletic Club with Gata Kamsky's victory. The top-rated American scored 6 1/2 points in 10 games. Susan Polgar was second with 6 points. The U.S. champion Alexander Onischuk ended with 5 1/2 points. The last three players were Boris Gulko with 5 points, Ildar Ibragimov with 4 points and Alex Stripunsky with 3 points.

Solution to today's two-mover by Z. Mach (White: Ke1,Qe8,Rf4,Rh6,Be3; Black: Kd5,Rf6): 1.Bb6! Rxh6 (or 1...Kd6) 2.Rd4 mate; or 1...Rxf4 2.Qe6 mate; or 1...Rxb6 2.Qh5 mate.

CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By [Lubomir Kavalek](#)

Monday, July 10, 2006; Page C10

Gata Kamsky won the 34th World Open in Philadelphia on Independence Day.

The premier American open tournament attracted nearly 1,500 players, participating in several sections. The open section, with 235 players, ended in a massive nine-way tie for first place among grandmasters Kamsky, Vadim Milov, Ildar Ibragimov, Jaan Ehlvest, Leonid Yudasin, Alexander Ivanov, Giorgi Kacheishvili, Aleks Wojtkiewicz and Joel Benjamin. They scored seven points in nine games, but Kamsky and Milov had the best tiebreakers. Their playoff blitz game ended in Kamsky's victory.

Testing the Legends

Nearly half a century ago, the legendary American grandmaster Sammy Reshevsky came up with a new plan for black in the Dragon Sicilian. He left his king in the center, expanded on the queenside and prevented white's usual activities on the opposite wing. The world champion Mikhail Botvinnik took note of his former rival's idea and a few years later tried to improve on it. It turned out that Reshevsky read the position better.

However, his plan suffered a setback last week at the World Open in the game between the Brazilian grandmaster Giovanni Vescovi and the American grandmaster Sergei Kudrin. White moved his heavy pieces on the central files, threatening to bust the game open and forcing the black king to hide on the kingside. The Brazilian finished the game with a powerful attack.

Vescovi-Kudrin

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 a6 8.Bc4 b5 9.Bb3 Bb7 10.Qd2 h5!? (Killing two birds with one stone, black prevents white's bayonet attack g2-g4 and the exchange of the dark bishops with Be3-h6. It was played by Reshevsky in his match against Arthur Bisguier in New York in 1957. Botvinnik later tried 10...Nbd7?!, allowing the unpleasant 11.Bh6! that weakens black's dark squares on the kingside.) *11.0-0-0* (Bisguier chose 11.a4 and later castled short, but moving the king to the other wing is more logical.) *11...Nbd7 12.a3!?* (White tries to preserve his light bishop: After 12...Nc5 he simply moves away with 13.Ba2.) *12...Rc8 13.Kb1 Ne5 14.Rhe1* (Preparing 15.f4, white is ready to open the central files on the black king.) *14...0-0* (The king escapes the central assault but is not safe on the kingside either. After 14...Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 white has 16.e5 dxe5 17.Ne6!? Qxd2 18.Nxg7+ Kf8 19.Ne6+ fxe6 20.Rxd2 with a slight edge.)

15.Bh6! (Shifting the battle to the kingside.) *15...Bxh6 16.Qxh6 Rxc3?!* (The threat 17.f4 was looming, and Kudrin did not hesitate to give up an exchange. It is a typical sacrifice in the Dragon to get counterplay, but it does not quite work in this position because the black king is too vulnerable.) *17.bxc3* (Simple and good. The fancy leap 17.Ne6!? seems to favor white after 17...fxe6 18.Bxe6+ Rf7 [or 18...Nf7 19.e5!] 19.f4!, for example 19...Qf8 20.Qxf8+ Kxf8 21.fxe5 Nxe4 22.exd6 exd6 23.Bxf7 Kxf7 24.Rxe4 Bxe4 25.bxc3 and white wins.) *17...Qc8 18.f4 Nc4 19.f5!* (Threatening to dismantle black's kingside.) *19...g5* (Black sheds a pawn, trying to avert an immediate disaster. After 19...Ng4 20.Qg5 Nf2 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.Ne6! Nxd1 23.Qh6! fxe6 24.fgxg6 white wins.)

20.Bxc4 (Vescovi missed a spectacular way to continue the attack: 20.Rd3 g4 21.Rh3!! gxh3 22.gxh3 and black does not have a good defense against 23.Rg1+.) *20...Qxc4 21.Rd3* (White is

lifting the rook for kingside action, but attacking the black king through the center with 21.e5! was more to the point, for example 21...dxe5 22.Rxe5 Bd5 23.Nb3 Re8 24.Rxe7! Rxe7 25.Qxf6 Rd7 26.Qxg5+ Kf8 27.f6 and white wins.) 21...b4 (After 21...Nxe4 22.f6! Nxf6 23.Nf5 white wins.)

22.Rg3 (Both 22.e5! dxe5 23.Rxe5 Bd5 24.Rxd5! Qxd5 25.Ne6 and 22.Ne6! fxe6 23.Qxg5+ Kh8 24.Qh6+ Nh7 25.Rg3 Rg8 26.Rxg8+ Kxg8 27.Qg6+ Kf8 28.fxe6 also win for white.) 22...g4 23.axb4 Rb8 24.h3! (White opens the h-file for the final blow.) 24...Bxe4 (After 24...h4 25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.Qxh4 wins.) 25.hxg4 h4 26.g5! Ng4 (After 26...hxg3 27.gxf6 Rxb4+ 28.Kc1! exf6 29.Rh1 white mates.) 27.Qxh4 Nf2 28.g6! Rxb4+ 29.Kc1 fxg6 (White could have played 30.Rxg6+ Kf7 31.Qh8 and mate, but his move is good enough.) 30.fxg6 (After 30...Kg7 31.Nf5+! Bxf5 32.Rxe7+ white mates soon.) *Black resigned.*

Topalov on Top

The FIDE world champion Veselin Topalov leads the July rating list with 2813 points. The next four grandmasters are Vishy Anand, 2779 points; Levon Aronian, 2761 points; Vladimir Kramnik, 2743 points; and Peter Svidler, 2742 points.

Women's Cup Victory

Susan Polgar, representing the United States, won the Women's Chess Cup on Saturday in the German city of Dresden. Based on the formula from the soccer World Cup, the organizers invited 32 women from the same countries that participated in the soccer event. Polgar, the top-rated player and a clear favorite, made it to the final, where she defeated Germany's Elisabeth Paehtz 1 1/2 - 1/2 .

Solution to today's study by H. Rinck (White: Kc3,Bb5,Bc7,P:a4,f4; Black: Kc5,P:a5,g3,h3): 1.Bf1! g2 (Or 1...h2 2.Bg2 h1Q 3.Bxh1 g2 4.Bd6+! Kxd6 5.Bxg2 wins.) 2.Bxg2 hxg2 3.Bb8! Kb6 (Or 3...g1Q 4.Ba7+ wins.) 4.Be5! g1Q 5.Bd4+ white wins.

Rg8 (After 17...Bf6 18.Qxe6+ Qe7 19.Qxe7+ Bxe7 20.Bg5 white should win.) 18.Qxe6 Rf8 19.Bg5 (Exploiting the pin leads to a winning position. Another way was 19.Bxg6+!? hxg6 20.Qxg6+ Kd7 21.Qe6+ Ke8 22.Na4!, for example 22...Bc8 23.Qg6+ Kd7 24.Nb6+ Qxb6 25.Bxf8 and white wins.) 19...Rf7 20.Bxg6! hxg6 21.Qxg6 Qd7 (After 21...Kf8 22.Bh6+ Ke8 23.Qg8+ wins the rook.) 22.Rxe7+ Qxe7 23.Bxe7 Kxe7 24.Na4! (The knight comes quickly into play through the dark squares to help the queen harass the black king. Black can't coordinate his forces.) 24...Rf6 (After 24...Re8 25.Nc5 Ba8 26.g4 black's bishop is out of play and white's kingside pawns roll forward.) 25.Qg7+ Rf7 26.Qe5+ Kf8 27.Nc5 Kg8 28.Ne6 Re7 29.Qg5+ Kf7 30.Qf5+ Ke8 (After 30...Kg8 31.Qg6+ Kh8 32.Qf6+ wins quickly, but now black loses the house.) 31.Qf8+ Kd7 32.Nc5+ Black resigned .

Aleksander Wojtkiewicz, 1963-2006

The Maryland grandmaster died Friday at the age of 43. One of the busiest American players, Wojtkiewicz successfully competed in nearly 650 open tournaments in this country since 1991, finishing first in six annual Grand Prix competitions. Recently he shared first place in two major U.S. tournaments -- the National and World opens. Wojtkiewicz won the Polish championship twice and was a member of the University of Maryland Baltimore County championship team. He lived in the Soviet Union and Poland before coming to the United States.

Solution to today's problem -- mate in three -- by J. Fritz (White: Ka6,Qe1,Rf2,Ne3; Black: Kh1,Bg1,Nh4,P:e4,f3,g5,g6.h2): 1.Ka5! Ng2 2.Nf1!! Nxe1 (or 2...Bxf2) 3.Ng3 mate; or 1...Nf5 2.Ng4 Ng3 3.Rxh2 mate; or 1...g4 2.Rxh2+ Kxh2 3.Qxh4 mate.

16.e6! (Opening the roads to the black king.) *16...Qxe6* (After *16...Kxe6 17.Qxg7 Re8 18.Rfe1* black is in trouble on the e-file.) *17.Rfe1 Kf8 18.Bd2 Qd7* (The weakness of the last rank allows white two final jabs.) *19.Rxc7! Qd8* (After *19...Qxc7 20.Qb4+ Kg8 21.Re8* mates.) *20.Bh6!* (After *20...f6 21.Qb4+* white mates soon.) *Black resigned.*

Kasparov Is Back

Garry Kasparov will take part in the Lichthof Chess Champions Day. The four-player rapid tournament - with Anatoly Karpov, Viktor Korchnoi and Judit Polgar -- will take place in Zurich on Aug. 22. Korchnoi recently finished second in the Swiss championship in Lenzerheide, half a point behind Florian Jenni, who scored seven points in nine games. Korchnoi had the title in sight, but blundered badly against GM Joe Gallagher.

Gallagher-Korchnoi

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nce2 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Qb6 8.Ngf3 Nc6 9.c3 Nc5 10.Qc2 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Bd7 12.Be3 Rc8 13.Nf3 Bb5? (A great strategic idea, exchanging the bad bishop, but a terrible tactical oversight.) *14.b4* (After *14...Nd3+ 15.Kd2!* black will be a piece down.) *Black resigned.*

Young Champions

Two New Yorkers won important junior events in Dallas this month. Robert Hess triumphed at the U.S. junior invitational (under 21) championship with seven points in nine games. Marc Tyler Arnold won the U.S. Cadet (under 16) championship and a four-year scholarship from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. His winning score was 5 1/2 -1 1/2 .

Solution to today's problem -- mate in three -- by J. Chocholous (White: Kg1,Qe7,Ba5,Nc5,P:b3; Black: Kb5,Rh6,P:c6,c7,f6,g4,h5,h7): 1.Qd8! f5 2.Qxc7 Kxc5 3.Qe5 mate; or 1...Kxc5 2.Qd3! and 3.b4 mate; or 1...Kxa5 2.Qb8 and 3.b4 mate; or 1...Rg6 2.b4 and 3.Qd3 mate.

washingtonpost.com

CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek

Monday, August 7, 2006; C10

Imagine one particular opening novelty being discovered independently, almost at the same time, in two different parts of the world more than 40 years ago.

Was it a remarkable coincidence or an attempt to steal an idea created in the Closed Sicilian on move 3? Jeroen Bosch and his Dutch friends, preparing the fifth volume of "Secrets of Opening Surprises," were not sure and began to ask around.

They discovered that Duncan Suttles played this variation in June 1965 at the Canadian championship and thought that he was the inventor. They also found out that Michael Janata and I played the line one month later at the Student Olympiad in Sinaia, Romania.

Because news about new chess ideas was not traveling as fast as it does today, the Dutchmen assumed that we worked it out separately, but Suttles beat us by a month. We knew differently.

The Vinohrady Variation

The spiritual father of the variation was Jaromir Kubicek, a romantic player with a passion for the King's and other gambits and for various unusual openings. He was also a member of our school team, on which Janata was the leading player. Together we won several school championships in Prague. Janata became an exceptional player, sharing first place at the 1963 World Junior championship with Florin Gheorghiu of Romania.

At the 1965 Student Olympiad in Sinaia, Janata and I decided to introduce Kubicek's variation to the international scene.

We played it on the same day in the match against Sweden and it caused a huge stir in the tournament hall.

The Soviet captain, grandmaster Alexander Konstantinopolsky, later called it "the Czech Double-Punch."

We named the line "the Vinohrady variation," after a district in Prague where we went to school. Here is my game from Sinaia against Jan-Erik Westman.

white has a slight edge.) 21.*Bxd6 Ka7* 22.*Bxc5+* (22.b3 is more precise.) 22...*b6*
23.*Be3 Bb7* 24.*Qf6 Qc7* 25.*a4 a5* 26.*b4!* *Rg8* 27.*Nf3 axb4* 28.*a5* and whites later won.

Solution to today's study by H. Rinck (White: *Kh5,Qf1*; Black: *Kh7,Rg6,Bg8*): 1.*Qf5*
Kh8! 2.*Qe5+!* (Not 2.*Qxg6? Bf7* 3.*Qxf7*; nor 2.*Kxg6? Bh7+* and black draws.) 2...*Kh7*
3.*Qe7+ Rg7* 4.*Qe4+ Kh8* 5.*Qe5 Kh7* 6.*Qf5+ Kh8* 7.*Qf6* (Threatening 8.*Kh6.*) 7...*Kh7*
8.*Qh6* mate.

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CHESSE Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek

Monday, August 14, 2006; C10

Garry Kasparov has not always been playing the dynamic Sicilian with the black pieces. Early in his career he also defended with the Caro-Kann. In his first Soviet championship in 1978 in Tbilisi, he lost two Scheveningen Sicilians, while his Caro-Kann was holding up pretty well, until he was defeated by Vitaly Tseshkovsky towards the end. At the party after the championship, the colorful grandmaster Eduard Gufeld called him a coward for even playing the Caro-Kann. "Look at you, shining eyes, such dark hair, you must be a Sicilian Mafioso! You must play the Sicilian!" Kasparov quoted Gufeld in one of his regular columns in *New in Chess*.

In the same article Kasparov explained the perils of playing the Scheveningen, arguing that allowing white the central advance e4-e5 is not wise. Permitting it is like "treading on the thinnest possible ice," he thought. "The power of the e5 pawn was taught to my generation by [Mikhail] Tal," Kasparov explained. The winner of last month's Pardubice Open, Stanislav Novikov, demonstrated Kasparov's Scheveningen theory against the young talented Polish grandmaster Radoslaw Wojtaszek. It was an impressive and powerful victory by the Russian grandmaster.

Novikov-Wojtaszek

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 (The Scheveningen variation.) *7.f4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Kh1 Qc7 10.a4 b6?!* (Allowing white the central advance with the e-pawn is asking for trouble. In the game Balashov-Kavalek, Manila Interzonal 1976, I played the solid *10...Nc6 11.Be3 Re8 12.Bf3* and now came the novelty *12...Rb8*. It is a flexible waiting move, getting the rook off the diagonal a8-h1 and preparing counterplay on the queenside. It also keeps the square d7 free for the knight. The logic behind it was simple: Black previously played *12...Bd7* and after *13.Nb3 b6 14.g4*, his best move was *14...Bc8*, leaving the black knight the square d7 after *15.g5*. The game was drawn after a dramatic play in 36 moves.

Balashov and his coach Vladimir Yurkov were impressed by the *12...Rb8* move and tried to find something against it. A few months later at the Dubai olympiad, another Yurkov protege, Andrei Sokolov, showed the fruits of their work and defeated the Czech Vlastimil Jansa by playing, after *12...Rb8*, the sharp *13.g4!?*. It is still a troublesome move for black today. Still, the move *12...Rb8* was an important

discovery at that time. Kasparov soon began playing it, using it for his decisive victory in the last game of the 1985 world championship match against Anatoly Karpov.

11.e5! dxe5 12.fxe5 Nfd7 (Black can't take the pawn: After 12...Qxe5? 13.Bf4 Qc5 14.Bf3 he is in trouble.) *13.Bf4 Bb7* (After 13...Nxe5?! 14.Bf3 Ra7 15.Ndb5 axb5 16.Nxb5, white is better.) *14.Bd3!* (The bishop is looking at the black pawn on h7 with great interest.) *14...Nc5 15.Qg4 Nxd3* (Eliminating the perilous bishop. After the immediate 15...Rd8 comes 16.Bg3! and black does not have time for 16...Nxd3? because of 17.Rxf7! Kxf7 18.Rf1+! Ke8 19.Nxe6 and white wins; and 16...Nc6 is refuted by 17.Bxh7+! Kxh7 18.Rxf7.

In the game Volokitin-Rublevsky, Budva 2004, black tried 15...Nc6, allowing the brilliant 16.Nd5! exd5 17.e6! Qc8 18.Bh6 g6 19.Bxf8 Bxf8 21.Bf5 Qc7 22.Bxg6! and white's attack succeeded after 22...Ne5 23.Qg3 Bg7 24.Bxh7! Kxh7 25.Qh3+ Bh6 26.Rf6 Nxf7 27.Raf1 Rf8 28.Qh5 Kg8 29.Qg6+ Bg7 30.Nf5 Ne6 31.Rxe6 and black resigned.) *16.cxd3 Rd8* (The open c-file helps white.)

17.Rac1! (A spectacular way of defending the knight on d4. White brings his rook into action with a tempo.) *17...Rxd4?!* (This capture leads to a worse position for black. 17...Nc6 is more cautious and black should not worry about 18.Nxe6?! fxe6 19.Qxe6+ Kh8 20.Nd5 Rxd5 21.Qxd5 because 21...Qd8 gives him a good counterplay. Another way to defend is 17...Qd7 18.Bh6 Bf8 19.Be3 Qe8 20.Ne4 Nd7, but it looks rather passive.) *18.Ne2 Qd8 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Rc7 Ra7 21.Rxe7 Bxg2+ 22.Qxg2 Rxe7 23.Bh6! g6* (Black weakens the dark squares around his king. Exchanging the queens with 23...Qd5 does not help. After 24.Qxd5 exd5 25.Rg1! g6 [After 25...Rxe5? 26.Bxg7 Re8 27.Bc3+ Kf8 28.Bb4+ white wins.] 26.Rc1! Re8 27.Rc7 black is tied up.) *24.Qf3 Qh4* (Trying to dislodge the unpleasant bishop on h6. Again 24...Qd5 25.Qxd5 exd5 26.Rc1 transposes to the previous note.)

25.Rc1! (Another rook moves to the c-file, stressing the weakness of the last rank.) *25...Rd7* (After 25...Re8 26.Rc7! white attacks another weak point -- the pawn on f7 -- and meets the tricky 26...Kh8 with 27.Bg5! Qxg5 28.Qxf7 and wins.) *26.Qf4 Qe7* (Black is having a hard time. White wins either after 26...Qd8 27.Rc8! Qxc8 28.Qf6; or after 26...Qxf4 27.Rc8+ mating.) *27.Bg5 Qf8 28.Bh6 Qe7 29.Bg5 Qf8 30.Qf6!* (White finally makes the winning move. Black can't find any suitable defense against the mating threats on the square g7 or on the last rank.) *30...Rxd3 31.Bh6! Nd7* (After 31...Qxh6 32.Rc8+ Qf8 33.Rxf8+ Kxf8 34.Qh8+ wins.) *32.Rc8 !* (A splendid finale. Black is getting mated.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's study by R. Bianchetti (White: Kg1, Qh1, Be2; Black: Ke1, Qc2, Bb2, P:d2): 1.Bd1!! Qxd1 (or 1...Kxd1 2.Kf2 mate.) 2.Kg2+ Ke2 3.Qh5+ Ke1 4.Qh4+ Ke2 5.Qe4 mate.

Monday, August 21, 2006; C10

One of the most potent and popular attacking schemes -- the classic bishop sacrifice -- appeared in the writings of two famous Italian chess masters, Giulio Cesare Polerio and Gioacchino Greco. Polerio, a leading 16th-century player who defeated the famous Spanish player Ruy Lopez in the 1570s, performed pioneering work in many important openings of his time. Greco wrote about the bishop sacrifice in the manuscript for a wealthy Roman patron in 1619.

Recently, I came across a game played in Milan in 1881 at the third Italian national championship. Edoardo Crespi Pozzi gave the bishop sacrifice a new twist in the French defense, brilliantly defeating the last finisher of the event, Mattia Cavallotti.

Crespi Pozzi-Cavallotti

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Bd3 b6 8.h4!?
(Preparing the classic bishop sacrifice.) *8...Bb7? 9.e5 Be7 10.Bxh7+!* (The sacrifice works well in this position.) *10...Kxh7 11.Ng5+ Kg6* (The king has to move up. After *11...Kg8 12.Qh5 Bxg5 13.hxg5 f5 14.g6* white mates. After *11...Kh6 12.Qd2! Bxg5 13.hxg5+ Kg6 14.Qd3+ f5 15.gxf6+ Kf7 16.Qh7 Rg8 17.Qh5+ Kf8 18.f7*, white wins. Finally, after *11...Bxg5 12.hxg5+ Kg6 13.Qh5+ Kf5 14.Rh3! Qxg5 15.Rf3* mates.) *12.Ne2 Kh6* (In the game Fritz-Mason, Nuremberg 1883, black played *12...Bxg5 13.hxg5 f5* [After *12...Bxg5 13.hxg5 Qxg5 14.Nf4+! Kf5 15.Qd3+ Kg4 16.Qh3+ Kxf4 17.Qf3* mates.] *14.gxf6 Rh8 15.Nf4+ Kf7 16.Qg4!!* [Amazing!] *16...Rxh1+ 17.Kd2 gxf6 18.Qg6+ Ke7 19.Qg7+ Ke8 20.Qg8+ Ke7 21.Qxe6+ Kf8 22.Rxh1* and white won.) *13.Nf4 g6 14.h5!* (The old maestros knew how to open up the files against the enemy king.) *14...Bxg5* (It seems that *14...Bb4+ 15.c3 Qxg5* was the way out, but white can strike with *16.hxg6+ Kg7 17.Nh5+ Kxg6 18.Nf6! Rc8 19.Rh5 Qxg2 20.Qd2!! Qg1+ 21.Ke2 Ba6+ 22.Kf3* and mates soon.) *15.hxg6+ Kg7 16.Rh7+ Kg8 17.Qh5 Bf6 18.Rh8+* (After *18...Bxh8 19.Qh7* mates.) *Black resigned.*

Grandmaster Valeri Beim uses the classic bishop sacrifice to explain some of the important ideas in his new book, "How to Calculate Chess Tactics." Beim gives the impression that the sacrifice is fairly obvious. He gives the following example from a 1965 candidates game played in Riga between legends Boris Spassky and Efim Geller.

Spassky-Geller

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 Nd7

10.d4 Nb6 11.Nbd2 Bf6 12.Nf1 Re8 13.N1h2 exd4 14.cxd4 Na5 15.Bc2 c5 16.Ng4 Bxg4 17.hxg4 cxd4 18.g5 Be7? (Geller should have played 18...Be5, preventing Spassky from opening the dangerous Spanish bishop.) 19.e5! Bf8? ("The combinative motif present in this position is clear to any player, even one with little experience. It is probably the best-known of all tactical motifs -- the bishop sacrifice on h7. The calculation of the variations is also not terribly difficult in this case," writes Beim.)

20.Bxh7+! Kxh7 21.g6+!! (Beim is silent here, but without this brilliant move, freeing the square g5 for the knight, the bishop sacrifice would not make sense.) 21...Kg8 (After 21...Kxg6 22.Qd3+ f5 23.exf6+ Kf7 24.Ng5+ Kxf6 25.Qf3+ Kg6 26.Qf7+ Kh6 27.Re6+ white wins by force.) 22.Ng5 fxg6 23.Qf3 Qxg5 (The queen sacrifice is the only chance to prolong the struggle. White wins either after 23...Qd7 24.e6; or after 23...Be7 24.Qf7+ Kh8 25.Ne6.) 24.Bxg5 Black resisted stubbornly, but lost in 44 moves.

In the duel between two former world champions, Spassky was on the losing end of the classic bishop sacrifice against Mikhail Tal. The Queen's Indian game was played at the memorable Montreal tournament in 1979. Beim uses it to show how to work out the follow-up.

Spassky-Tal

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.Bd3 d5 6.b3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bb2 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 Qe7 10.Rc1 Rad8 11.Qc2 c5 12.cxd5 exd5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Qc3 Rfe8 15.Rfd1 d4 16.exd4 cxd4 17.Qa5?! Ne5 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Nc4 Rd5 20.Qd2 (Spassky's queen expedition to the queenside gave Tal a chance to execute the classic bishop sacrifice.)

20...Bxh2+! 21.Kxh2 (A crossroad that interests Beim.) 21...Rh5+! (This move gives white fewer defensive options. Beim shows that 21...Ng4+ leads to a complicated position after 22.Kg3! and requires precise calculations. Black still wins after 22...Rg5 23.f4 Ne3+ 24.fxg5 Qc7+!, for example 25.Nd6 Qxd6+ 26.Kh3 Bxg2+ 27.Qxg2 Qd7+ 28.Kh2 Nxc2 29.Kxc2 Re3! and white is done.) 22.Kg1 (Now after 22.Kg3 the problem is solved by 22...Ne4+ 23.Bxe4 Qh4+ 24.Kf3 Qxe4+ 25.Kg3 Qh4 mate.) 22...Ng4 (Black wins. For example, after 23.Re1 Rh1+ 24.Kxh1 Qh4+ 25.Kg1 Qh2+ 26.Kf1 Qh1 mate.) *White resigned.*

Beim's new book, issued by Gambit Publications, combines well-selected games and fragments with instructive problems and studies -- a trademark of Beim's previous excellent books. It also includes 100 positions for the reader to solve.

Solution to today's composition by M. Camorani (White: Kc3,Rc8,Nd5,P:c4,e2,g2; Black: Kf5,P:e3,e6,f6,h2,h5): 1.Rh8! h1Q 2.Rxh5+ Qxh5 3.g4+ Qxg4 (or 3...Kxg4 4.Nxf6+ wins.) 4.Nxe3+ Kf4 5.Nxg4 Kxg4 6.c5 wins.

Germany

Monday, August 28, 2006; C10

August was a busy month, with several spectacular chess events taking place, mostly in Europe. Let's see where some of the world's best players went and what they have done.

Germany

Vladimir Kramnik and his Russian compatriot Peter Svidler shared first place at the elite tournament in Dortmund. It was a successful tuneup for Kramnik before his world championship match against Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria, scheduled to begin Sept. 23 in Elista, Russia. In Mainz, Vishy Anand of India defended his status as the world's best player in rapid play, defeating the young Azerbaijani Teimur Radjabov 5-3.

Switzerland

The formidable former world champions Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov tied for first in a four-player blitz event in Zurich, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Credit Suisse. Judit Polgar was third. The 75-year-old Viktor Korchnoi, drawing with Kasparov and losing all other games, finished last. Earlier in the month, the Muscovite Alexander Morozevich won the traditional tournament in Biel, scoring 7 1/2 points in 10 games. But Morozevich lost both games to the talented Norwegian Magnus Carlsen, who shared second place with Radjabov.

In Davos, Serbia's Borislav Ivkov, 73, won the sixth European senior championship, scoring eight points in nine games.

Czech Republic

At the CEZ Chess Trophy in Prague, the Israeli Boris Gelfand and the top Czech male, David Navara, played to a 2-2 tie. Their blitz match ended with the same score. In another match, the top Czech female, Jana Jackova, defeated the veteran grandmaster Vlastimil Hort 2 1/2 - 1 1/2 . Jackova also won the blitz event with a 3 1/2 - 1/2 score.

Great Britain

Ivan Sokolov of the Netherlands won the fourth Staunton Memorial on Friday with a 9-2 score, a half point ahead of England's Michael Adams and another Dutchman, Jan Timman. The event began at the famous Simpsons in the Strand in London. The

British championship at Swansea, Wales, went for the third year in a row to Jonathan Rowson of Scotland. He scored 8 1/2 points in 11 games.

U.S. Open

Yuri Shulman, the runner-up of this year's U.S. championship, won the 107th annual U.S. Open in Chicago, scoring eight points in nine games. In one of the key games of the event, Shulman defeated the fun-loving grandmaster Alexander Shabalov in the Slav defense.

Shulman-Shabalov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 e6 (Shabalov is turning the Slav defense into the Semi-Slav, hoping that the inclusion of the rook-pawn moves is in his favor.)
6.Bg5 h6 (The French GM Etienne Bacrot has been successful against Kramnik and Gelfand with 6...a5, fixing the queenside and gaining control of the square b4.) *7.Bh4 dxc4* (True to his style, Shabalov is unbalancing the position by giving up the center. More common is 7...Nbd7.) *8.a5!?* (Shulman makes good use of his a-pawn, preventing black from supporting the pawn on c4 with b7-b5.) *8...c5* (Shabalov wants to clarify the situation in the center. After 8...Bb4 9.Qa4 Qe7 10.e3, white has the edge.) *9.Bxf6! Qxf6 10.d5 Qd8?!* (Too many queen moves. 10...Nd7 was preferable.)
11.Ne5 Nd7 12.Nxc4 Be7 13.dxe6 fxe6 (The pawn on e6 gives white a clear target.)
14.g3!? (Threatening to attack the isolated pawn on e6 with 15.Bh3.) *14...b5 15.axb6 Bb7* (Shabalov often likes to shed material to activate his pieces. After 15...Nxb6 16.Qxd8+ Bxd8 17.Nd6+ Ke7 18.Nxc8+ Nxc8 19.Ne4, white is clearly better.) *16.e4 0-0* (Black can't recapture the b-pawn: After 16...Nxb6? 17.Qxd8+ Bxd8 18.Nd6+ white wins.) *17.Bh3 Rf6 18.Qb3!* (Shulman calmly protects the pawn on b6. His queen is also X-raying the pawn on e6.) *18...Nb8* (Shabalov is trying to reach the square d4 with his knight. After either 18...Nf8 19.0-0; or 18...Qb8 19.f4, white has the edge.)
19.Rd1 Qf8 20.Ne5! (The pawn on e6 is in crossfire.) *20...Rxf2 21.Qxe6+ Kh7 22.Qg6+* (White dominates the light squares.) *22...Kh8 23.Qg4* (The threat of 24.Ng6 is sufficient to win, but 23.Rf1! is more to the point, for example 23...Rxf1+ 24.Bxf1 Qf6 and white's light bishop delivers the final blow from a different diagonal with 25.Bc4!) *23...Kh7 24.Ng6 Qf6 25.Nxe7* (White is a piece up and the game is over.)
25...Nc6 (After 25...Qxe7 26.Kxf2 wins.) *26.Ned5 Qf7 27.Nf4 Bc8* (After 27...Rxb2 28.Rd7 decides.) *28.Rd7!* (A beautiful interpolation, although 28.b7 was adequate.) *28...Bxd7 29.Qxd7 Qxd7 30.Bxd7* (After 30...Rxf4 31.Bxc6 wins.) *Black resigned.*

Chess Journalists Awards

The Chess Journalists of America selected this column, together with David Sand's chess column in the Washington Times, as the 2006 best regular newspaper columns. They also voted George Koltanowski, Irving Chernev, Glenn Peterson and myself to the "Gallery of Distinguished Chess Journalists." Koltanowski was one of the finest chess promoters and wrote more than 19,000 columns for the San Francisco Chronicle.

Solution to today's puzzle -- mate in three -- by P. Stamma (White:
Kf7,Rd1,Rf1,Nf2,P:g3; Black: Ke5,Ra6,Rg6,Nh7,P:d6,e4): 1.Ng4+! Rxc4 2.Rf5+!!
Kxf5 3.Rd5 mate.

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D.C.'s Atlantic Open

Monday, September 4, 2006; C12

Can experience match youthful energy? The NH Chess Tournament, played last month in the Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam, provided the answer. The team of "Rising Stars" beat the team of "Experience" 28-22, in a double-round Scheveningen system event with five grandmasters on each team.

Fifteen-year-old Magnus Carlsen of Norway led the young team, composed mostly of the world's top teenagers, with 6 1/2 points in 10 games. His teammate Sergei Karjakin of Ukraine added six points. Alexander Beliavsky of Slovenia, age 52, was the only veteran with more than 50 percent, scoring 6 1/2 points. Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Serbia, 55, had 4 1/2 points. But the most brilliant victory was delivered by the English veteran John Nunn, 51, against the 21-year-old Dutchman Jan Smeets in the Spanish opening.

Nunn-Smeets

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 (Not allowing the Berlin defense 4. 0-0 Nxe4. In the 1990s Nunn enjoyed 4.Nc3, the Four Knights Game.) *4 . . . Bc5 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 0-0 7.Nbd2 Bd7* (In the memorable Eurotel rapid event in Prague in 2002, world champion Vladimir Kramnik played against Czech GM Zbynek Hracek *7 . . . a6* and after *8.Bxc6?!* the power of two bishops helped launch a surprisingly powerful attack on the kingside after *8 . . . bxc6 9.Nc4 h6 10.b4 Ba7 11.Qe2 c5 12.Na5 cxb4 13.cxb4 Bd7 14.Bd2 Rb8 15.a3 c5 16.h3 cxb4 17.Bxb4 Nh5 18.Qd2 Qf6 19.Kh2 Nf4 20.Ng1 Qg6 21.f3 Be3 22.Qc2 d5!* and white resigned, since after *23.exd5 Rxc4!* decides. But after *7 . . . a6*, the formidable computer Hydra kept the pressure on against the young Karjakin, in Bilbao in 2004, with *8.Ba4!?* and won after a long battle in 59 moves.) *8.h3 a6 9.Ba4 Ba7 10.Re1 Ne7* (A computer suggested the aggressive *10 . . . Nh5* and after either *11.d4* or *11.Nf1* to follow with *11 . . . Qf6*, preparing *Nh5-f4*.) *11.Bb3 Ng6 12.Nf1 h6 13.Ng3 c6 14.d4* (Controlling more squares in the center, the opening advantage goes to white.) *14 . . . Qc7 15.Be3 Rfe8* (Hoping to neutralize the Spanish bishop with *Bd7-e6*.)

16.Qd2! (A simple developing move with a powerful threat *17.Bxh6!*, destroying the kingside.) *16 . . . exd4* (It is too late for *16 . . . Be6* because white wins with a kaleidoscope of beautiful sacrifices: *17.Bxh6! Bxb3 18.Bxg7! Nh7* [After *18 . . . Kxg7 19.Nf5+ Kg8 20.Qh6 Nh5 21.g4* or *21.Qxh5* wins.] *19.axb3 Kxg7 20.Qh6+!! Kh8* [On

CHESS

By Lubomir Kavalek

Monday, September 18, 2006; C12

Alexander Grischuk won the World Blitz championship in the Israeli town of Rishon Le Zion this month. He defeated Peter Svidler in a playoff game after both Russian grandmasters shared first place in the 16-player round-robin final with 10 1/2 points. They edged India's Vishy Anand and Teimur Radjabov of Azerbaijan by half a point. Hungary's Judit Polgar and Boris Gelfand of Israel finished with 9 1/2 points. These six players outclassed the rest of the field.

The championship was decided among the top four finishers. Anand and Radjabov beat Svidler, but both lost to Grischuk. Anand, one of the fastest players, dominates the other world-class players in rapid games with roughly a 30-minute-per-game time limit. The Indian grandmaster is more vulnerable in the five-minute blitz games. Still, had he beaten Grischuk in their individual game, Anand would have won the championship. But the Moscow grandmaster dictated the tempo of the game from the beginning, unveiling a surprising novelty in the Spanish opening by Move 10. Grischuk's enterprising piece sacrifice five moves later threw the game into turmoil.

Grischuk-Anand

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5

(The modern Moller variation is a popular choice of the current U.S. champion Alexander Onischuk and the FIDE world champion Veselin Topalov. We can only speculate that this was one of the reasons why Onischuk was added to Topalov's team for the world championship match against Vladimir Kramnik that begins next Saturday.) *7.a4 Rb8 8.c3 0-0 9.d4 Bb6* (Grischuk now comes up with a surprise that is well suited for a blitz game.)

10.a5!? (White tries either to push the black pieces back or to divert them from the center. Grischuk was obviously familiar with the game T. Kosintseva- Skripchenko from this year's olympiad in Turin, where white played *10.dxe5 Ng4* and only now *11.a5*. By playing *10.a5* immediately, Grischuk eliminates *10...Bxa5?*, since after *11.d5* white wins a piece.) *10...Ba7* (After this retreat white fortifies his center. Grabbing the a-pawn with *10...Nxa5* is crucial, but tough to calculate with a limited time. It is not clear what Grischuk intended, but even the exchange sacrifice *11.Rxa5 Bxa5 12.dxe5 Ng4 [12...Nxe4? 13.Bd5 Nc5 14.b4 loses a piece.] 13.h3 Nh6 14.Bg5*

CHESSE Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, September 25, 2006; C11

Vladimir Kramnik of Russia began the world championship match against Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria with two stunning victories in the first two games. The 12-game reunification match in Elista, Russia, scheduled to finish on Oct. 12, will establish the ultimate world champion. Topalov is already in a big hole and despite his ability to win several games in a row in tournaments, overcoming such a large deficit in a short match will be difficult.

Objectively, Topalov created enough chances with his aggressive, imaginative play to lead 1 1/2 to 1/2. Still, Kramnik was somehow able to deflect everything Topalov threw at him, from little pawns to heavy queens. In the first game, Topalov sacrificed a pawn, tied up Kramnik's pieces and was in command in the endgame before blundering and losing in 75 moves. Yesterday, in one of the most dramatic games in the history of world championships, Topalov tackled Kramnik's Slav defense by launching a promising attack against the black king. Kramnik tried to stand tall, but was quickly outnumbered by the white forces. He was kept in the game by Topalov's slips. First, the Bulgarian missed a few wins and later did not manage to hold draws. Kramnik won in 63 moves.

The third game of the match will be played tomorrow.

World Champion Korchnoi

The legendary Viktor Korchnoi, 75, won the 16th World Senior Championship Friday in Arvier, Italy. He scored nine points in 11 games, edging the Czech grandmaster Vlastimil Jansa by half a point. The best American players were Stuart Wagman, at 87 the oldest participant, and the local Silver Spring master Bill Hook, both finishing with 6 points. Ludmila Saunina won the World Senior Women's championship with 8 1/2 points.

Jansa secured the second place with a last-round win, a positional masterpiece in the Spanish opening, against the Latvian grandmaster Janis Klovans. After locking up the center with a dominating knight, white launched a devastating attack on the kingside.

Jansa-Klovans

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.d5!? (One of the most unpleasant variations against the Zaitsev Spanish.) 12...Nb8 13.Nf1 Nbd7 14.N3h2 Nc5 15.Bc2 c6!? (Undermining the center is the best alternative. The fight for control of the square d5 begins.) 16.b4 Ncd7 17.dxc6 Bxc6 18.Bg5!? (Kasparov once played 18.Ng4, but Jansa's move is more to the point: White has better chances to exchange more black pieces that can control the square d5.)

18...Qc7 (Breaking the unpleasant pin with 18...h6 leaves black without counterplay after 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Ng4 Nxc4 21.Qxc4, since the freeing attempt 21...d5?! backfires. For instance, the game McShane-Stefansson, Reykjavik 2003, continued 22.exd5 Qxd5 23.Bb3 Qd7 24.Qh5 a5 25.bxa5 Qe7 26.Ne3 Rxa5 27.Ng4 Rd8 28.Nxe5 and black resigned.

(The clever alternative 18...Qc8 from the game Almasi-Bacrot, Szeged 2000, netted black a pawn after 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Ng4 Nxc4 21.hxc4 Bd7 22.Ne3 Qxc3, but after 23.Nd5 Qc6 24.Bb3 Qb7 25.g5 Be6 26.Re3 Rec8 27.Qh5, white got a powerful attack and won in 34 moves.

(In a 2002 Czech game, Jansa-Stocek, black fought for freedom with 18...Be7 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Ng4 d5?! But after 21.Nxe5 Bb7, Jansa found a winning combination, 22.Nxf7! Kxf7 23.e5 Ne4 24.Rxe4! dxe4 25.Bb3+ Kg6 26.Qg4+ Kh6, and now instead of 27.Ng3, he could have played 27.Rd1 Qc7 28.Ne3! with a decisive attack: for example, 28...Bc8 29.Qxe4 Rb8 30.e6 g6 31.Ng4+ Kg7 32.Qd4+ and white mates; or 28...g6 29.Qe6! Kg7 [After 29...Bc8 30.Nf5+ white wins soon.] 30.Rd7 Qc6 31.Rxe7+ Rxe7 32.Qxe7+ Kh8 33.Be6! wins.)

19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Ng4 Nxc4 21.hxc4 (This position was tested in a few correspondence games with acceptable results for black. The aggressive 21...Bb7 22.Qf3 Rac8 23.Bb3 [23.Re3!?!] 23...d5!?! looks the best, for example 24.Bxd5 Bxd5 25.exd5 Qxc3 and black is without problems.) 21...Rac8 22.Bb3 Bd7?! (This retreat is passive, and Klovans will soon be smothered. He should have considered a flamboyant pawn sacrifice 22...d5!?! 23.exd5 Bd7, increasing the range of his dark bishop.) 23.Rc1 Be7 24.Ne3 Bg5 25.Nd5 Qb8 26.Rc2 (With a dominant knight on d5, white can switch his attention to the black king.) 26...Rc6 27.g3 Qc8 28.f3 Be6 29.Qd3 Bd8 30.Kg2 Qb7 31.Rh1 Be7 32.Kf1 (Preparing to double the rooks on the h-file.) 32...Rec8 33.Rch2 h6 (Stopping the attack only temporarily.)

34.Qe3! (An excellent way to break through the black defense, threatening 35.Rxh6!) 34...Kf8 (After 34...Bg5 35.Qxg5! wins.) 35.g5! h5 (Loses outright and so does 35...Bxg5 36.Qxg5! Black can only prolong the game with 35...Kg8 36.gxh6 g6 37.h7+ Kh8, but after 38.f4! white should win.) 36.Rxh5 (White has a pawn more and the attack.) 36...Ke8 37.Rh8+ Kd7 38.Rxc8 Kxc8 39.Rh8+ Kd7 40.g6 fxg6 41.Nxe7 (After 41...Kxe7 42.Qg5+ black is mated soon; and 41...Bxb3 42.Nxc6 is hopeless for black.) Black resigned.

Today's puzzle (White: Kg1,Rf1,P:c7,h2; Black: Kh7,Ra2,Nf2,P:f3) was inspired by a side variation from the first game between Kramnik and Topalov. Black mates in four moves: 1...Nh3+ 2.Kh1 Rg2! 3.c8Q Rg1+! 4.Rxg1 Nf2 mate.

CHESSE Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, October 2, 2006; C10

The World Chess Championship match between Russia's Vladimir Kramnik and Bulgaria's Veselin Topalov in Elista, Russia, turned into a farce last Thursday. With Kramnik leading 3-1, Topalov's manager, Silvio Danailov, moved the battle outside of the chessboard. He protested Kramnik's frequent toilet visits during the games, implying cheating. Without any proof, the appeals committee, consisting mostly of Danailov's friends, ordered Kramnik's toilet room closed. Kramnik considered it a breach of the rules and a baseless invasion of his privacy. He did not play Game 5 on Friday and was forfeited. But the Bulgarian Toilet Gambit did not quite work. Yesterday, the appeals committee resigned and the rest areas were returned to the status quo ante. The \$1 million 12-game match should resume, in our opinion, with the score 3-1 in Kramnik's favor.

Magnificent Flaws

The second game between Topalov and Kramnik could be the most important game of the match because all three results -- a win, loss and draw -- were possible. The mistakes made in the highly entertaining Slav defense game added to the drama.

Topalov-Kramnik

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 (The Czech system of the Slav defense.) 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qe2 Bg6 10.e4!? (Played 60 years ago by Cenek Kottnauer against Vassily Smyslov in the match Prague-Moscow, the pawn sacrifice has enough venom after 10...Bxc3 11.bxc3 Nxe4 12.Ba3. Today it is often declined.) 10...0-0 11.Bd3 Bh5 12.e5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Qe3 Bg6 15.Ng5 Re8 16.f4 (White has a simple plan to roll on the kingside with g2-g4 and f4-f5. Kramnik finds a new way to stop it.) 16...Bxd3 17.Qxd3 f5 (Blocking the kingside, but not for long.) 18.Be3 Nf8 19.Kh1 Rc8 (Heavily criticized, but perhaps unjustly. After the recommended 19...Be7, white opens the g-file anyway after 20.Nf3 Rc8 21.Rg1 Qd7 22.g4.)

20.g4! (Speeding up the attack along the g-file since 20...fxg4 allows 21.f5!; and 20...h6 can be met by 21.Nxe6!? Rxe6 22.gxf5 Re7 23.Rg1 with a strong pressure along the g-file.) 20...Qd7 21.Rg1 Be7 22.Nf3 Rc4 23.Rg2! (A pawn sacrifice, preparing the doubling of the rooks.) 23...fxg4 (Kramnik decides to win a pawn. After 23...Rec8 24.h4! Kh8 25.Rag1 g6 26.h5 is dangerous for black.) 24.Rxg4 Rxa4 25.Rag1 g6 (This forced move gives white an excellent target. After 25...Ng6 26.h4 Bf8 27.Ng5 h6 [or 27...Rb4 28.Nxh7!]) 28.Qxg6 hxg5 29.Rxg5 Qf7 30.Qh6 Qc7 31.f5, white's attack breaks through.) 26.h4 Rb4 27.h5 Qb5 (Desperately trying to take the queens off the board to slow white's assault. After 27...Rxb2 28.hxg6 h5 29.R4g3 Kg7 30.f5! exf5 31.Bh6+! Kxh6 32.g7 white wins.) 28.Qc2! Rxb2? (Allowing Topalov to sacrifice his queen. Kramnik based this move on a

miscalculation. It looks like black can defend with 28...Rb3 29.hxg6 h5 30.g7 hxg4 31.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 32.Qh7 Qd3!, but white can improve with 30.R4g2!, for example 30...Qd3 31.g7 Nd7 32.Qxd3 Rxd3 33.Rh2! Kf7 [or 33...Rxe3 34.Rxh5 Kf7 35.Nh2! wins] 34.Re2! Kg8 Rg8 35.f5!, punching through. Kramnik suggested after the game 28...Qc4, but after 29.Qh2 Qd3 30.hxg6 Nxc6 31.Qh5!, threatening 32.Rxc6+ white wins.)

29.hxg6!! h5 (Accepting the queen 29...Rxc2 loses to 30.gxh7+ Kxh7 31.Rg7+ Kh8 32.Rg8+ Kh7 33.R1g7+ Kh6 34.f5+ Bg5 35.Rxg5 and the black king is in a mating net. Kramnik thought that after 29...Nxc6 30.Rxc6+? Kh8! black wins. Only at the last moment he saw the queen sacrifice 30.Qxc6+!! hxg6 31.Rxc6+ Kh7 32.R6g3 and black does not have a good defense against 33.Rh3 mate.) 30.g7!! hxg4 (After 30...Rxc2 31.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 32.Rg8+ Kf7 33.R1g7 mates. And after 30...Nh7 31.Qg6 hxg4 32.Qxe6+ Kxg7 33.Qxg4+ Ng5 34.Nxc5 white wins.) 31.gxf8Q+ Bxf8? (A careless move that should have been punished. Topalov saw 31...Kxf8 32.Qg6 Qe2 and thought that he should take a draw with 33.Qh6+, because after 33.Qxg4 black defends with the incredible 33...Bg5!, blunting white's attack. The Bulgarian was happy that Kramnik played something else and moved quickly.)

32.Qg6+? (Both sides overlooked that after 32.Rxc6+ Bg7 the queen delivers the fatal blow from the other wing along the seventh rank: 33.Qc7! threatening 34.Qxc7 mate; and after 33...Qf1+ 34.Ng1 the game is over.) 32...Bg7 33.f5! (Missed by Kramnik.) 33...Re7 (After 33...exf5 34.Ng5 Qc6 35.Qf7+ Kh8 36.e6 Re2 37.Rc1 white wins.) 34.f6 Qe2 35.Qxg4 Rf7 36.Rc1? (The computers show that white could win with 36.Qh5!, for example 36...Qxe3 37.Ng5; or 36...Rb3 37.Rxc6+ Rxc6 38.fxc6 Rb1+ 39.Bg1 white wins. After a waiting move, say 36...a5, white lifts the rook to the third rank 37.Rg3! with the idea 37...a4 [after 37...Qxe3 38.fxc6 wins]. 38.fxc6 Rxc6 39.Qe8+ Kh7 40.Rh3 mate.) 36...Rc2 37.Rxc2 (Heading to the endgame. We will look at the rest of the game next week. Here it is without comments.) 37...Qd1+ 38.Kg2 Qxc2+ 39.Kg3 Qe4 40.Bf4 Qf5 41.Qxf5 exf5 42.Bg5 a5 43.Kf4 a4 44.Kxf5 a3 45.Bc1 Bf8 46.e6 Rc7 47.Bxa3 Bxa3 48.Ke5 Rc1 49.Ng5 Rf1 50.e7 Re1+ 51.Kxd5 Bxe7 52.fxe7 Rxe7 53.Kd6 Re1 54.d5 Kf8 55.Ne6+ Ke8 56.Nc7+ Kd8 57.Ne6+ Kc8 58.Ke7 Rh1 59.Ng5 b5 60.d6 Rd1 61.Ne6 b4 62.Nc5 Re1+ 63.Kf6 Re3 White resigned .

Solution to today's two-mover by B. Pustovoy (White: Kg3,Rf6,Ne6,P:g5; Black: Kh5,Ng6): 1.Rf5! and 2.Nf4 mate.

CHESSE Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, October 9, 2006; C12

The World Chess Championship between Veselin Topalov and Vladimir Kramnik in Elista, Russia, is tied 5-5. With two games remaining in the match, Kramnik's victory yesterday in the tenth game is huge. If the match ends with a 6-6 tie, a tiebreak for the world title is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 13.

The Agony of Forfeit

The legendary world champion Boris Spassky was recently in San Francisco, giving a series of lectures and playing a simultaneous exhibition at the Mechanics Institute. On Oct. 1, Spassky suffered a mild stroke, but recovered well. He flew home to France Saturday.

Spassky was the last player to win a world championship game by forfeit. During the 1972 world championship in Reykjavik, Iceland, Bobby Fischer protested the filming of the match and forfeited the second game. Spassky could have walked away with the match victory, but gave in to Fischer's demands and continued to play. After 10 games Fischer led 6½-3½ and won the world title in 21 games with the score 12½ to 8½.

Topalov's protests in Elista over Kramnik's restroom visits were clearly aimed to disturb his opponent. Forfeiting Kramnik in the fifth game underscores Topalov's unsportsmanlike behavior and the unprofessional conduct of the FIDE officials. Last week, we expected the match to resume with the score 3-1 in Kramnik's favor, but the FIDE president, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, awarded the forfeit point to Topalov. Suddenly the score was 3-2. Many leading grandmasters, including the notorious rivals Viktor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov, believed that Kramnik should not have continued the match. Instead, Kramnik played and drew two games before suffering two consecutive losses. It looked as if Topalov was going to coast to a match victory, but Kramnik bounced back and tied the match yesterday.

The Endgame

Today we will continue the analysis of Game 2 between Topalov and Kramnik. After surviving the rollercoaster in the first 36 moves, the players headed for the endgame.

Topalov-Kramnik

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qe2 Bg6 10.e4 0-0 11.Bd3 Bh5 12.e5 Nd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Qe3 Bg6 15.Ng5 Re8 16.f4 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 f5 18.Be3 Nf8 19.Kh1 Rc8 20.g4 Qd7 21.Rg1 Be7 22.Nf3 Rc4 23.Rg2 fxg4 24.Rxg4 Rxa4 25.Rag1 g6 26.h4 Rb4 27.h5 Qb5 28.Qc2 Rxb2 29.hxg6 h5 30.g7 hxg4 31.gxf8Q+ Bxf8 32.Qg6+ Bg7 33.f5 Re7 34.f6 Qe2 35.Qxg4 Rf7 36.Rc1 Rc2 37.Rxc2 (This is the position we abandoned last week. In order to survive,

Kramnik has to exchange the queens. But when and how shall he do it? The players still had a few moves to make the time control.)

37...Qd1+ (Kramnik picks up the rook with a check. The immediate 37...Qxc2 was worth trying, for example 38.Ng5 Qb1+ 39.Kh2 Qc2+ 40.Kh3 Qd3 41.Qf3 Bh6! 42.Nxf7 Qxe3 43.Qxe3 Bxe3 44.Nd8 b5! is fine for black.) 38.Kg2 Qxc2+ 39.Kg3 Qe4 (Another choice was 39...Qf5, but hard to calculate after 40.Qxf5 exf5 41.fxc7 f4+ 42.Bxf4 Rxc7+ 43.Kf2 a5.) 40.Bf4 (Swapping the queens 40.Qxe4 dxe4 and playing 41.Ng5 was recommended. After 41...Bh6 42.Nxf7 Bxe3 43.Nd8 a5 44.d5! white breaks through and wins; and after 41...Bf8 42.Nxe6 white's pawn avalanche is dangerous. But is white winning easily after 41...Rxf6 42.exf6 Bxf6 or after 41...Bxf6 42.Nxf7 Kxf7 43.exf6 a5 44.Kf4 Kxf6?) 40...Qf5 41.Qxf5?! (The time control was over and Topalov was probably still thinking about a win, since he had a forced draw after 41.Ng5 Rc7 42.Nxe6! Rc3+ 43.Kh4 Qh7+ 44.Kg5 Qh6+ 45.Kf5 Qh7+ etc.)

41...exf5 42.Bg5?! (Topalov decided to protect his f-pawn, but he was now fighting for a draw. After 42.Ng5 the play is forced: 42...Rc7 43.Ne6 [43.fxc7 a5!] 43...Rc3+ 44.Kh4 Bxf6+ 45.exf6 Kf7 46.Nc7 a5! [not 46...Kxf6? 47.Nxd5+ winning] and black is fine.) 42...a5! 43.Kf4 (After 43.fxc7 Rxc7 44.Kf4 a4 black is better.) 43...a4 44.Kxf5 a3 45.Bc1! (Stopping the a-pawn with the knight is worse, for example 45.Nd2 Rc7 46.Nb3 a2 47.e6 Bxf6 48.Kxf6 Kf8 49.Ke5 Rc2 50.Kxd5 Rb2 51.Bh6+ Ke8 52.Na1 Rb1 53.Nc2 b5 54.Ke5 b4 55.d5 b3 56.d6 Rd1 and black wins.) 45...Bf8 46.e6 Rc7 47.Bxa3 (After 47.e7 Bxe7 48.fxe7 Rxe7 49.Bxa3 the fork 49...Re3 decides.) 47...Bxa3 48.Ke5 Rc1 49.Ng5 Rf1?! (Missing 49...Rg1 and only after 50.Nf7 Rf1!, winning easily.) 50.e7 Re1+ 51.Kxd5 Bxe7 52.fxe7 Rxe7 53.Kd6 Re1? (Using computer endgame tables, John Nunn pointed out a win: 53...Re3! 54.d5 Kf8 55.Kd7 b5 56.Ne6+ Kg8 57.d6 b4 58.Nc5 Kf7 59.Kc6 Rc3 60.Kb5 b3 61.Na4 Rc2 62.d7 Ke7 followed by 63...b2. Kramnik's move gets the rook out of the knight's range. Nunn's move limits the knight and supports the advance of the b-pawn.)

54.d5 Kf8 55.Ne6+? (Elbowing the black king with 55.Kd7! draws, for example 55...b5 56.Ne6+ Kf7 57.Nd8+ Kf6 58.Nc6 Rb1 59.Kd6! b4 60.Kc5! b3 61.Kb4 the white king chases the b-pawn and wins it.) 55...Ke8 56.Nc7+ Kd8 57.Ne6+ Kc8 58.Ke7 Rh1! 59.Ng5?! (After 59.Nf8 Rh8! 60.d6 Rxf8! 61.Kxf8 Kd7 black wins, but 59.Kd6 would have made it more difficult for black.) 59...b5 60.d6 Rd1 61.Ne6 b4 62.Nc5 Re1+ 63.Kf6 Re3 White resigned.

Solution to today's two-mover by L. Kubbel (White: Kb7,Qf4,Bf8,P:c2; Black: Kb5,P:a5,c5): 1.Qe3 Kc4(or 2...a4) 2.Qxc5 mate; or 1...c4 2.Qe8 mate; or 1...Kb4 2.Qb3 mate.

CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek

Monday, October 16, 2006; C12

Vladimir Kramnik of Russia is the undisputed chess champion of the world. He defeated Bulgaria's Veselin Topalov on Friday in the \$1 million World Chess Championship in Elista, Russia. After the regular 12 games finished in a 6-6 tie Thursday between the 31-year-old players, Kramnik won the rapid-game tiebreak 2 1/2 -1 1/2. The match unified the world title and ended the schism in the chess world that began in my kitchen 13 years ago.

The Kitchen Debacle

On Feb. 23, 1993, FIDE President Florencio Campomanes announced Manchester, England, as the venue for the world championship match between Nigel Short and Garry Kasparov. That day Short was unavailable, crossing on a ferry from Italy to Greece. Instead of Manchester, the English grandmaster preferred two bids from London. By not consulting Short, Campomanes broke FIDE rules. Suddenly, Short had a reason to pursue the bids from London even at the cost of breaking up with FIDE -- provided Kasparov agreed. When Short contemplated how to reach Kasparov, I pointed to the phone in my kitchen and said: "Call Kasparov in Linares directly." Kasparov answered Short's call in Spain shortly after midnight on March 3. In a 13-minute conversation they discussed for the first time playing their match outside FIDE. Kasparov later called it one of the biggest mistakes of his chess career. Not only did they get less money in London, but they began the 13-year split of the world titles that ended only last Friday with Kramnik's victory.

The Clincher

For the first time in the history of the world championship, the outcome was decided in rapid games (roughly 30 minutes per game). With the score tied 1 1/2 -1 1/2 after three games, Kramnik clinched the championship by winning the last rapid game. He gradually outplayed Topalov in the Meran defense. In a difficult position, the Bulgarian blundered the game away.

Kramnik-Topalov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.e4 b4 11.e5 bxc3 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.bxc3 c5 14.dxc5 Nxc5 (The usual answer is 14...0-0 and it worked out well for black. Topalov borrowed the knight capture from computer games played in 2004 and 2005.) *15.Bb5+* (This is a logical check, forcing the black king to move. In a 2004 Internet game between two computer programs, Deep Fritz 8 vs. Shredder 8, white tried 15.Ba3 and after 15...Qc7 16.Rb1 Rd8 17.Qc1 Ne4? 18.Bb5+ Bc6 came up with a brilliant queen sacrifice 19.Qf4!! with the idea of 19...Qxf4 20.Bxc6+ Rd7 20.Rd7 with a powerful attack. Black declined the offer with 19...Qb7, but after 20.Nd4! Bxd4 21.Bxc6+ Qxc6 22.cxd4 g5 23.Qf3 Qc3 24.Qxe4 Qxa3 25.Qe5 Rg8 26.Rb8 Ke7 27.Rb7+ Rd7 28.Rxd7+ Kxd7 29.d5 the black king was in trouble and white won in 60 moves.) *15...Kf8* (The only good move. Retreating with 15...Nd7 is dangerous after 16.Ba3!?, depriving black of the short castling. For example, after 16...Bxc3? 17.Rb1 Bd5?!, white wins with a spectacular 18.Qxd5!! exd5 19.Rfe1+! Bxe1 20.Rxe1+ Qe7 21.Rxe7+ Kf8 22.Bxd7 etc.)

16.Qxd8+ (Having an excellent endgame technique, Kramnik does not mind getting the queens off the board.) *16...Rxd8 17.Ba3 Rc8 18.Nd4!* (Kramnik improves on a computer move 18.Rab1, played last

year.) 18...Be7! (Allowing his knight to move from the square c5, Topalov could have done the same thing with 18...Kg8.) 19.Rfd1? (Seemingly preventing the knight move from c5.) 19...a6? (Kramnik gets away with a possible miscalculation. Topalov should have played 19...Ne4! because after 20.Nxe6+? fxe6 21.Bxe7+ Kxe7 22.Rd7+ Kf6 23.Rxb7 Nd6, black wins the exchange. White would have to try surviving with 20.Bb4 Bxb4 21.cxb4 Nc3 22.Re1.) 20.Bf1 Na4 (Topalov goes after the pawn on c3 and is hoping to bring his king into play after 21.Bxe7+ Kxe7. But Kramnik finds a great counterattack and slowly turns the table.)

21.Rab1! Be4 22.Rb3 Bxa3 (After 22...Nxc3 the pin 23.Rc1! wins.) 23.Rxa3 Nc5 24.Nb3! (Kramnik immediately challenges black's best defender.) 24...Ke7 25.Rd4 Bg6 (After 25...Nxb3 26.axb3 Bb7 27.b4, black is left with a weak pawn on a6.) 26.c4 Rc6? (Topalov drops a pawn. Exchanging first 26...Nxb3 and only afterward 27.axb3 Rc6 was better.) 27.Nxc5 Rxc5 28.Rxa6 Rb8 29.Rd1! (Covering all threats and getting the rook behind the a-pawn.) 29...Rb2 30.Ra7+ Kf6 31.Ra1! Rf5 (31...Bb1!? with the idea 32.a4?! Ba2 was better.) 32.f3 Re5 33.Ra3! (Threatening 34.Rb3, to unleash the a-pawn.) 33...Rc2 34.Rb3 Ra5 35.a4 Ke7 36.Rb5 Ra7 37.a5 Kd6 38.a6 Kc7 39.c5 Rc3 40.Raa5 Rc1 (After 40...Bd3 41.Bxd3 Rxd3 42.Rb6 Rc3 43.Rab5 Ra8 44.Rb4! Rxc5 45.Rb7+ Kd6 46.R4b6+ and white cleans up the kingside.) 41.Rb3 Kc6 42.Rb6+ Kc7 43.Kf2 Rc2+ 44.Ke3 Rxc5?? (Losing outright, but Topalov's position is difficult to defend. White should win by picking up pawns on the kingside. For example: 44...Rc1 45.Be2 Rc3+ 46.Kd2 Rc2+ 47.Kd1 Rc3 48.Rab5 Ra8 49.Kd2 Ra3 [Or 49...Rxc5 50.Rb7+ Kc6 51.Rxc5+ Kxc5 52.f4! Kd4 53.a7 e5 54.fxe5 Kxe5 55.Bf3 wins.] 50.Rb3 Rxb3 51.Rxb3 Kc6 52.g4 Kxc5 53.h4 f5 54.Rb7 and white should win.) 45.Rb7+! (After 45...Rxb7 46.Rxc5+ Kb6 47.axb7 wins.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's two-mover by B. Pustovoy (White: Ke5, Qe8, Bb8, Bd7; Black: Kb7): 1.Ba4! Ka8 2.Bc6 mate; or 1...Kb6 2.Qb5 mate.

CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, October 23, 2006; C10

The Russian team Tomsk-400 won the 22nd European Club Cup, played Oct. 7-15 in the Austrian town of Fuegen. The team was led by the Moscow grandmaster Alexander Morozevich, who posted the best performance rating of 2916 in the event. Tomsk-400 shared first place with two other Russian teams, Ladya Kazan (with Teimour Radjabov and Rustam Kasimdzhanov) and the pre-tournament favorite Ural Sverdlovskaya (Peter Svidler, Alexei Shirov, Vladimir Akopian, Alexander Grischuk), all winning five and drawing two matches. Morozevich's team won the title on a superior tiebreak.

In 1976, I played in the first European Club Cup for the German team of Solingen. In a dramatic two-team final, we defeated the favored squad of Burevestnik Moscow, with the former world champion Vassily Smyslov at the helm, on a tiebreak. In 30 years the competition has become a popular event with 60 teams and 406 players, including 124 grandmasters, arriving in Fuegen. In addition, 14 teams competed in the 11th European Club Cup for Women. The team of Mika Yerevan with former women's world champion Maya Chiburdanidze won the title.

Vaganian's Turbulent Life

Rafael Vaganian has been always regarded as the best talent coming from Armenia after the late Tigran Petrosian, who was world champion in the 1960s. He is now being eclipsed by Levon Aronian, recently rated No. 3 in the world. Vaganian built his entire career on the French defense, specifically the Winawer variation. It brought him many important victories. But with the glory came setbacks. In Fuegen, three days before his 55th birthday, the veteran grandmaster faced a vicious attack against his king and succumbed to Viroel Bologan of Moldova in a mere 19 moves.

Bologan-Vaganian

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ (For several decades, Vaganian preferred *5...Ba5*.) *6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0* (In his excellent German book "Franzoesisch Winawer -- Band 1: 7.Qg4 0-0," the German grandmaster Stefan Kindermann calls it the Warsaw variation, since it was played for the first time by a Finnish master, Eero Book, at the 1935 chess olympiad in Warsaw. For many years it was downgraded as a dubious alternative to *7...Qc7*, but the line was resurrected in the 1990s.) *8.Bd3 Nbc6* (Blocking the position with *8...c4* runs into *9.Bh6! Ng6 10.Bxg6 fxc6 11.Be3*, followed by *h2-h4* and white has a powerful initiative on the kingside.) *9.Bg5!?* (Daring black to win a couple of pawns.)

9...Qa5 10.Ne2 Re8 (A new move, preparing *11...c4* or *11...Nxd4*. The immediate *10...c4* is met by *11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.Qh4+* and *14.Qxe7*. Picking up the pawns *10...cxd4 11.f4 dxc3* gives white a powerful attack after *12.0-0!* For example, several games proceeded with *12...Ng6 13.Qh5 Qc5+ 14.Kh1 Nce7 15.Rf3 f6 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Rh3 Rf7 18.Bxf6! Rxf6 19.Qxh7+ Kf8 20.Rg3 Qf2* and now in the game Petrosian-Mkrtchian, Yerevan 2006, white got a big advantage after *21.Ng1!* with the idea *21...Qxf4 22.Rf3 Qe5 23.Re1! Qd4 24.Ref1 Nf4 25.Ne2* winning. Black played *21...Bd7* and after *22.Qh6+ Kf7 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Rf1 Qd4 25.Qh6+ Ke8 26.Qg7 Rxf4 27.Bxg6+ Kd8 28.Qxd4 Rxd4 29.Rf8+ Kc7 30.Rxa8* white won in 42 moves. The most popular defense is *10...Ng6* to follow *11.0-0* with either *11...Qa4* or *11...c4*, but it was lately turning to white's advantage.)

11.h4! (A well-calculated sharp move, allowing the white rook to join the attack.) *11...Nxd4* (Taking

with the pawn 11...cxd4 is also inadequate after 12.Bf6! Ng6 13.Qg3 gxf6 14.exf6 Qd8 15.Qg5, for example 15...h6 16.Qxh6 Qxf6 17.h5 Qh8 18.hxg6 Qxh6 19.Rxh6 dxc3 20.0-0-0 fxc6 21.Rdh1; or after 15...dxc3 16.h5 h6 17.Qxh6 Qxf6 18.hxg6 Re7 19.Rh3! Ne5 20.Rg3 fxc6 21.Bxc6 Rg7 21.Nf4! with a strong initiative for white. After 11...c4 12.Bf6! white wins either after 12...Ng6 13.Bxc6 fxc6 14.h5 gxf6 15.hxg6 f5 16.Qh4 Qc7 17.gxh7+ Kh8 18.Nf4 Qf7 19.Qf6+ Qxf6 20.exf6 Ne7 21.fxe7; or after 12...g6 13.Bxc6 fxc6 14.h5 Nf5 15.hxg6 h6 16.Qxf5! exf5 17.Rxh6 white mates on h8.)

12.Rh3 (By lifting the rook, white threatens to create threats along the g-file.) *12...Nxe2?!* (Black is defending the wrong way. Vaganian should have helped his king with 12...Ndf5. On the other hand, after 12...Ndc6?! 13.Bf6 Ng6 14.Qg5! white's pressure is too strong, for example 14...h6 15.Qg3 gxf6 16.exf6 Qd8 17.h5 Qxf6 18.hxg6 Qg5 19.Qh2 Kg7 20.Rh5 and white wins.)

13.Kxe2 Ng6 (Winning a piece with 13...c4 loses to 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Bxe7, for example 15...Rxe7 16.Rg3 f5 17.exf6 Rf7 18.Qg6+ Kg8 19.fxc7 Bd7 20.Qh6 wins; or 15...Qa4 16.Rc1 Rxe7 17.Rg3 f5 [or 17...g6 18.h5!] 18.exf6 Rc7 19.fxc7 Kg8 20.Qg6 Bd7 21.h5! Qxa3 [or 21...Be8 22.Qh7+! Kxh7 23.g8Q+ Kh6 24.Rg6+ mates] 22.h6 and 23.h7 mate. After 13...Nf5 14.Bf6 Kf8 15.Bxc7+ Nxc7 16.Rg3 decides, e.g. 16...Nf5 17.Bxf5 exf5 18.Qg7+ Ke7 19.Qf6+ Kf8 20.Qh6+ Ke7 21.Qd6 mates.) *14.h5! Nxe5 15.Qg3 Nxd3 16.Bf6! Nf4+* (Black is trying to divert the white queen. After 16...g6 17.hxg6 fxc6 18.Rxh7! Kxh7 19.Qh2+ Kg8 20.Qh8+ Kf7 21.Qg7 mates.) *17.Kd2 Ng6 18.hxg6 fxc6 19.Rxh7!* (After 19...Kxh7 20.Rh1+ Kg8 21.Qxc6 wins.) *Black resigned.*

Solution to today's problem by L. Fayyuzhinsky (White: Kd7, Qg1, Bd1, Nc6; Black: Kd5, P:c5, e5):
1.Qg3 e4 2.Qg8 mate; or 1... Kc4 2.Qb3 mate; or 1...Ke4 2.Qf3 mate; or 1...c4 2.Qxe5 mate.

CHESS Lubomir Kavalek

By Lubomir Kavalek
Monday, October 30, 2006; C10

Seventeen-year-old International Master Zaven Andriasian of Armenia, playing before his home crowd in Yerevan, won the World Junior (under 20) Championship this month, scoring 9 1/2 points in 13 games. The top-finishing American, IM Robert Hungaski, ended in 46th place with 6 1/2 points.

Andriasian is progressing fast. Last year, he won the Boys' Under 16 European championship in Herceg-Novi, Montenegro. He was only the 29th seed in Yerevan but won the event convincingly. His victory against IM Maxim Rodshtein of Israel in the Tarrasch variation of the French defense reveals an outstanding opening preparation and maturity.

Andriasian-Rodshtein

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 a6 11.Re1 Bd7 12.Bg5! (The most aggressive approach.) *12...Qc7* (Black's position is already not easy to play. After *12...Be7* comes *13.Nf5! Qxd1 14.Nxg7+*, followed by *15.Raxd1* and white is better. Castling long *12...0-0-0* seems to be the safest, although in the game Asrian-Wang Hao, Taiyuan 2006, the rook lift *13.Re3* caused black problems after *13...Kb8 14.Rb3 Rc8 15.Qf3 Bc6 16.Nxc6+ Qxc6 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Qxf6 Rg8 19.Bf1 Rg6 20.Qxf7* and white later won. Andriasian was more likely aware of another queen move, *12...Qc5?!*, with a double-attack on white's bishops and control of the fifth rank. It can quickly draw fire: *13.Bxe6! fxe6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Nxe6 Bxe6 16.Rxe6+* with powerful pressure, for example *16...Be7 17.b4! Qxb4 [17...Qf5 18.Qe2!] 18.Rb1 Qc5 19.Rxb7*; or *16...Kf7 17.Qd7+* and now *17...Kg8 18.Rxf6 Qh5 19.Re1! h6 20.Re5!* wins; or *17...Kg6 18.Rae1 Qf5 19.R1e3 Bh6 20.g4!* wins; or *17...Be7 18.Rae1 Rae8 19.Qxb7*, threatening *20.b4*, white has a clear advantage.)

13.Bxe6! (The bishop sacrifice works also in this position. White is not risking anything, having a draw by perpetual check at hand.) *13...Bxe6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Rxe6+ Kf7* (After *16...Be7 17.Qh5+* white's attack is decisive either after *17...Kd8 18.Qf7 Bd6 19.Qxf6+ Kd7 20.Rd1*; or after *17...Kf8 18.Rae1 Re8 19.Rxf6+ Bxf6 20.Rxe8+ Kg7 21.Qg4+ Kf7 [or 21...Kh6 22.Re3!] 22.Qe6+ Kg7 23.Rxh8 Kxh8 24.Qxf6+* winning.) *17.Qd5! Kg7 18.Qf5 Qf7* (The point of black's 12th move: The black queen can help on the kingside. After *18...Be7 19.Rae1 Rae8 20.R1e3* white's heavy artillery outmaneuvers black's pieces, for example *20...Qd8 21.Rg3+ Kf7 22.Rd3 Qc7 23.Qh5+ Kf8 24.Rg3 Rd8 25.Qg4 Qc5 [or 25...Ke8 26.Rxe7+! Qxe7 27.Re3!] 26.Qg7+ Ke8 27.h3! Rf8 28.Rc3 Qb4 29.Rc4!* wins.) *19.Rd1 Be7* (After *19...Qg6 20.Rd7+ Kg8 21.Qd5!* wins.) *20.Rd7 Rhe8 21.g3* (Black is in a bind and does not have many useful moves. White simply improves his position and slowly creates a dangerous passed pawn on the queenside.) *21...Rab8 22.h4 h5 23.c4 b6 24.b4 Rbc8? 25.Rxe7 Rxe7 26.Rxe7 Qxe7 27.Qxc8* (White is winning easily.) *27...Qxb4 28.Qxa6 Qe1+ 29.Kg2 Qe4+ 30.Kh2 Qd4 31.Kg1 Kh6 32.Qa4 Kg7 33.Qb3 Kg6 34.a3 Kg7 35.Kg2 Qd6 36.Qb5 Kh6 37.a4 Qd4 38.Qd5 Qc3 39.Qd6* Black resigned.

The Chinese Wonder Girl

Remember the Chinese girl who dreamed of beating the best woman ever, Judit Polgar, and of buying real estate in Paris? Twelve-year-old Hou Yifan is on her way to fulfilling her dreams. She tied for first in the girls' section of the Junior World Championship in Yerevan with her countrywoman Shan Young, Salome Melia of Georgia and Mongontuul Bathuyag of Mongolia. They each scored nine points in 13 games, but the 18-year-old Shan won the title on a tiebreaker, just

zugzwang and has to give up a pawn, but with 47.Be7 [47.f5 Rg5] 47...Rxb2 48.Kg4 he can still pose some technical problems.) 44...Kxd6 45.Kh5 f5! 46.h7 Rh8 47.Kg6 Ke7 48.Kg7 Ke8!! (Deflecting the white king to the corner, where it suffocates. The idea can be found already in a composition by an 18th-century Italian master, Domenico Ercole del Rio [White: Ke1,Rc6,P:b4; Black: Kg3,P:a6,b5,h2]:1.Rg6+ Kf3! 2.Rf6+ Kg2 3.Rf2+ Kg3 4.Rf1 Kg2 5.Rh1!! Kxh1 6.Kf2 a5 7.bxa5 b4 8.a6 b3 9.a7 b2 10.a8Q mate.) 49.Kg6 (After 49.Kxh8 Kf7 white would eventually have to move his b-pawn, allowing black to capture it, promote a new queen and mate.) 49...Kf8 (The black king can triangulate on the squares f8,e7 and e8 until white runs out of moves with his h-pawn.) 50.h4 Ke7 51.Kg7 Ke8 52.Kg6 Kf8 53.h5 Ke7 54.Kg7 Ke8 55.Kg6 Kf8 56.h6 Ke8 57.Kf6 (After 57.Kg7 Ke7 58.Kg6 Kf8 59.Kxf5 Kf7 wins.) 57...Rxx7 58.Kg6 Rf7 (After 59.h7 Rf8 60.Kg7 Rh8! 61.Kxh8 Kf8 wins.) *White resigned.*

Aronian's idea was masterfully exploited in today's composition by an unknown author
(White:Kc4,Ra2,Ng3,P:e4; Black: Kd1,P:e5,f6,g2,h2,h3):1.Kd3 Ke1 (Or 1...Kc1 2.Ne2+ Kb1 3.Nc3+ Kc1 4.Rc2 mate.) 2.Nh1!! (Threatening 3.Ra1 mate.) 2...gxx1Q 3.Ra1+ Kf2 4.Rxx1 Kg2 5.Ke2!! Kxx1 6.Kf1! f5 7.exf5 e4 8.f6 e3 9.f7 e2+ 10.Kxe2 Kg2 11.f8Q h1Q 12.Qf2 mate.

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Local Chess Bonanza

Two major events will occur a few blocks apart in Washington Dec. 27-30. The 2006 Pan-American Championships, with teams from North, Central and South America, will take place at the Renaissance Hotel, 999 Ninth St. NW (at Massachusetts Avenue and K Street). It includes the Pan-Am intercollegiate team championship, called the World Series of College Chess, and the Pan-Am scholastic team individual and team championships for students in grades 1-12. The top individual scholastic winner will be offered a four-year scholarship at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. More information is at <http://www.umbc.edu/chess/Pan-Am2006>.

Also the 33rd annual Eastern Open, a traditional eight-round Swiss tournament, will be played at the Wyndham Washington hotel (1400 M St. NW). It is organized by the U.S. Chess Center, a top scholastic organization that promotes chess among D.C. area children. See <http://www.chessctr.org>.

*Solution to today's problem by J. Fritz (White: Kh1,Qc8,Rf7,Bf1,P:b7,c7; Black: Ka7,Bb8,P:a5,c6):
1.Qf8! Nxf8 or Kb6 2.c8N mate; or 1...Bxc7 2.b8Q mate.*

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9.0-0-0 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.e3 a5 12.h3 Re8 13.g4 Nd7 14.Nd2 Nc5 15.Ne4 (It looks as if white is winning the fight for control of the square e4 and the diagonal b1-h7, but Yermolinsky applies Spassky's idea, opening the a-file for a dangerous attack.)

15...Nb4!/? (The sacrifice is the best way out. After 15...Be6 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.Qe4 Rad8 18.Be2 white's position is more pleasant.) 16.axb4! (Rejecting the offer is not wise. After 16.Bxb4 axb4 17.Nxc5 Qxc5 18.a4 Qc6! 19.Bd3 Rxa4 black's attack is dangerous.) 16...axb4 17.Bg2? (White immediately blunders. He should have played 17.Bxb4! Ra1+ 18.Kd2 Nxe4+ 19.Ke2! instead. For example, after the obvious 19...Rxd1 20.Bxe7 Rd2+ 21.Qxd2 Nxd2 22.Kxd2 Rxe7, the bishop move 23.Bg2, followed by 24.Ra1, leads to a slightly better endgame for white. Black has to play 19...Qxb4 20.Rxa1 Rd8 and now after 21.Ra4?! a draw is possible after 21...Rd2+ 22.Ke1 Qd6! 23.Qxe4 Rd1+ 24.Ke2 Rd2+ 25.Ke1 [25.Kf3? loses to 25...Qf6+.] 25...Rd1+ repeating the moves. But instead of 21.Ra4?, white can play 21.Rd1!? Rxd1 22.Kxd1 Bd7 23.Ke2 Ba4 24.Qc1 Bb3 25.Kf3! with chances to win.) 17...Ra1+ 18.Kd2 b3! (The white queen is trapped.) 19.Rxa1 bxc2 20.Kxc2 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Be6 22.b3 b6 23.Rhd1 Qh4 24.Rd2 Qxh3 and black won in 29 moves.

Solution to today's study by L. Prokes (White: Kb1,Re7,Be3,Nc7,P:c2,c5,f3; Black: Kc6,Qf6,P:b4,b5,f7,g5): 1.Nd5! Kxd5 2.Rd7+ Kc4 3.Rd4+ Kc3 4.Bc1!!, threatening 5.Bb2 mate, wins.

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