

# BREAKING INTO THE ARENA

by Yasser Seirawan  
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I suppose the first time I wanted to travel abroad was the moment I became a chess enthusiast. Hearing of Spassky vs. Fischer in places like Reykjavik, Iceland, the International round robins and the dozens of U.S. swisses had me anxious to go abroad to test a skill I hadn't yet possessed.

After four and a half years of developing 'some skill' it seemed the opportunities should arrive. Yet, I hadn't received a single invitation to play abroad. When my skill had developed to a peak of 2400+ (1976 American Open-I had a 2550 performance; 1977 President's Open (Berkely) 2565, and Lone Pine 77 - a 2485 performance for 9 rounds!) I thought the invitations would flood the mailbox...

However, the USCF seemed to have no funds and programs such as sending juniors abroad were slashed. My choices for traveling outside the U.S. looked dismal: 1) Seek sponsorship, 2) Win the U.S. Junior Closed (the only tournament the USCF sponsored me for) and compete in the World Junior, or (3) Sponsor myself by winning major swisses.

While considering my choices, the USCF sent me a letter: The U.S. Junior Closed hasn't found a sponsor for 1977...The tournament is unlikely to take place... Since Michael Rohde's rating was 4 points higher than mine, I believe 2414, he would be the U.S. representative for the World Junior, first prize being the IM title, (Rohde already was an IM!) scratch choice number two! Coupled with this letter was an invitation to play in the Student Olympiads in Mexico City. Provided of course I could sponsor myself... My reply was, "I most certainly would accept if sponsored!"

Being a bit naive about seeking sponsorship, I began my tour of the U.S. and Canada in the summer of 77.

However, the USCF did receive funds and I missed a tremendous opportunity, to play in Mexico City... Being greatly disappointed and frustrated I openly criticized the USCF, the effects of which were very strange: I received an invitation to a Portugal Junior Swiss! Then a letter published by the USCF denounced my statements and seemed to challenge me to a public debate. Finally, a Northwest Tournament Organizer mentioned that he was upset about the way I criticized the USCF even though by his own admission he knew none of the facts!

Well, I declined the public debate so as not to alienate myself with the USCF! Alas, the Portugal invitation had me as usual: sponsoring myself, I had to decline...

During the time it took me to decline the invitation, the time allotted for me to make my decision had expired! It was hard to say "No!" The reason for the late reply was that I had been working with Mr. Angus Pitt, corresponding with the organizers of the Hastings Challengers - the reason which prompted me to play in the Hastings event was due to the American Junior successes: Mark Diesen's in 1975 and John Tisdall's in 1976.

The plan to storm England looked like this: First, win the Hastings Challengers, so that I would be sponsored to play in the Premier next year. Secondly, win what I thought to be the abundant swiss tournaments England offered. Finally, to force the organizers of the Birmingham International to extend me an invitation! Then to come home in time to win Lone Pine!

The readership has no idea how easy it was for myself and Mr. Pitt to paint this pretty picture. Using the latest June-December CHESSE magazines, we had it all figured out! When Mr. Martin Gray donated the latest six months of the BRITISH CHESS MAGAZINE, the pretty picture was confirmed...

At last! All that was necessary was for me to 'break into the arena'.

I left Seattle by Greyhound bus to Vancouver, B.C. at 7:00 am, Monday, December 26, 1977. The Challengers was due to start at 4:00 pm, Wednesday, December 28. Everything was going so well, aside of course from the Christmas Party hangover, I was sure something would hap-

pen... When we arrived in Vancouver the cute oriental girl I was sitting beside offered me a ride to the B.C. airport, which with gentlemanly candor, I accepted!

The plane was due to arrive at 10:00 am, December 27, at Gatwick Airport but a delay in Iceland cost two hours. As it turned out, it was a holiday and since there was no train service to Victoria Station, London, I had to take a bus which turned out to be a four hour delay, (I skipped a \$18 cab fare). When I finally boarded a bus, it turned out to be going to every station but Victoria! Whoops!

When I finally arrived at Victoria Station, I thought I had missed the last train since I walked right by the station in the rain with 50 lbs. of luggage! I never claimed to be bright! Eventually when I did purchase my ticket to Hastings, all that was necessary was a mad dash across the station which rivaled Jim Ryan as I caught the train pulling out!!

There were two train stops in connection with Hastings, and I had been advised by Mr. Pitt to catch the first one, or Warrior Square, Hastings. Having a mild case of total exhaustion, I missed it! But I awoke in time to realize I missed it! I began jumping up and down and jumped off at the second stop! I stepped from the station in the pouring rain at about 10:00 pm, with all my luggage. Believing I had made a crucial mistake, I trudged up the beach walkway. Why is there never a cab when you need one? About half a mile later I found a hotel room for two nights which included breakfast! I had to walk up 5 flights of stairs to get to my room, needless to say, no busboy! I thought I had rented a room on the third floor but apparently the hotel receptionist considered the third floor the first!

When I awoke it was about 2:00 pm, the round was due to start at 4:00 pm, so despite the fact I could've slept until New Year's Day, I got up. As it turned out, I was one block away from the Velton Hotel which was the location of the Premier and the heart of the tournament. The site of the Challengers was about another block and a half away. So it was a lucky thing I missed Warrior Square.

The Premier appeared to be competitive: IGM's: Tigran Petrosian 2645, Vlastimal Hort 2620, Roman Dzindzi (whew) hashvilli 2535, Evgeny Sveshnikoff 2520, James Tarjan 2495, Leonid Shamkovitch 2485. IM's: Shimon Kagan 2440, Jonathan Mestel 2420, John Nunn 2410, Simon Webb 2430. M's: Jonathan Spielman 2395, Jonathan Tisdall 2375, George Botterill 2350. However, GM Gudmunder Sigurjonsson 2520 had consented to play, but it seemed as though he wouldn't be able to make it...

This represented a problem to the organizers - Because of Gudmunder's rating 2520, it had placed the tournament in a high category. To have someone with a 2450+ rating simply replace him could reduce the category as to force the English players to score an extra point or a point and a half. In the hopes that Gudmunder could make it, a decision would be delayed until the end of round one.

The Challengers also was to be competitive: John Fedorowicz 2480, Peter Biyiasas IM 2440, M. Balashan 2435, Robert Gruchacz 2405, Yasser Seirawan 2400+ (provisional), L. Lucena, F. Trois 2385, D.E. Rumens 1976 Challengers Co-Champion, N.E. Povah 2375 and many others: total 76.

It became confirmed after round one that Gudmunder wouldn't make it...John Fedorowicz's rating outclassed Biyiasas' 2440, so John entered the Premier, after losing his round one game in the Challengers! The quote for this day was when Fedorowicz found out he had become a suitable alternate: "It's a lucky thing I got to play in this tournament before my rating hit the floor!" He had projected his new rating to be below 2380!

Still however, the Premier wasn't settled. The schedule drawn up would accommodate 16 players... But if Biyiasas was to be included (He was first reserve) it would drop the category... Which to the English players would

mean that out of the two newcomers, a half would be necessary to achieve a norm...

It was a relief when I found out I would be playing White in the first round. Banking on a quick win, I was hoping for an early night's sleep. I felt if I could get through the first three rounds unhampered, I would be at my best, however...

The first round was a round of surprises: Balashan drew an incredibly lost game... John Fedorowicz lost, and advanced to the Premier... Robert Gruchacz was easily drawn... Lucena and Trois, drew... Winners were Biyiasas, Povah, Rumens, etc.

33rd Hastings International Challengers Chess Congress

Round-1/10 Date-12/28/77 T/C-40/2½ 56/3½ 72/4½

White: Yasser Seirawan Black: R. A. Beach 198-2200

1. c4 :00 e5 :01  
2. Nc3 Nc6  
3. g3 g6  
4. Bg2 Bg7  
5. Nf3 :01 d6 :03  
6. 00 Nge7

A surprise. I had expected 6...f5.

7. Rb1 Rb8 ?  
Dubious. 7...Bd7 is more exact. If 8. b4 a6!  
9. a4 Qc8! 10. b5 ab 11. ab Nd8! with an interesting struggle, favoring Black! However, after 8...a6 White should play 9. Qc2! followed by Nd5!

8. b4 a6  
9. d3 ?

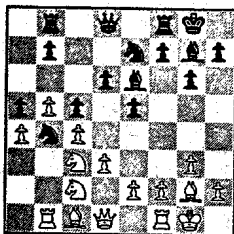
Far too simple. Better is 9. b5! ab 10. cb Nd4 11. a4! Nf3+ 12. B:f3 d5 13. Qc2! I favor White because of his play against Black's center with Ba3 and from the c-file.

9. ... 00  
Before playing my next move I seemed to have caught a tremendous cold and started sneezing all over the place. When I returned to the board I felt I better take quick care of this guy before I die, so...

10. a4? :14 a5! :15 =  
Suddenly I realized what I had done! I was going to get in a closed struggle which may take hours! Bad is 11. ba N:a5 followed by ...b6, ...Bb7 11. Ba3? loses the two Bishops.

11. b5 Nb4!  
12. Ne1!  
Playing to either force Black to trade N's on c2 or provoke ...c5 so White can play Ne3-d5.

12. ... Be6  
13. Nc2 c5  
This I think is forced. After 13...N:c2? 14. Q:c2 White has all the play. Threatened is 15. Nd5 and if 14...c6 15. bc bc 16. Ba3 (White now threatens 17. Ne4 which can be parried by 16...f5 or ...c5.) In either case 17. R:b8 Q:b8 18. Rb1 Q-any 19. Qb2 secures White a lasting edge.



14. bc ep!  
Improving White's KB by extending the diagonal (b7,a8). Black will still be forced to play c5 or to transpose into the variation above. You've got to give your opponents a chance to make a mistake! Another point of trading b-pawns is that White will have an opportunity to sink a piece onto b5, which would otherwise be occupied by a pawn.

14. ... bc  
15. Ba3! :34 c5  
Here I thought 5 min. wondering if I should offer a draw, since an adjournment is a likely occurrence.

16. Ne3!  
The White pieces are too precious to waste!  
16. ... Qd7  
17. Ned5

White would prefer to play 17. Ncd5. However a capture on d5 is not necessary and Black should continue 17...f5! On the other hand

17. ...  
18. cd!  
The reader should now reflect on the position to consider what plans each side has in mind...

White will want to play e4, put a N on e4 and finally play B:b4, establishing either a passed a-pawn or a half open c-file.

Black will want to checkmate White!

18. ... Bh3  
Worth considering is 18...Bg4 19. f3 Bh3 20. e4 Bh6! playing to sink a B on e3 followed by ...Bd4.

19. e4! h5  
Black has several options of attack: 19...B:g2 20. K:g2 f5 21. f3? h5! with the threat of 22...f4 23. g4 hg 24. fg f3+! with a winning edge. So 22. h3 may be necessary, conceding the dark squares after 22...h4 23. g4 Bh6.

20. Nb5 :1:40 Rh6? :35  
Hastily played, better was 20...B:g2 21. K:g2 f5 22. Bb2! In this position Black has choices (a) 22...f4, (b) 22...h4, or (c) 22...c4. (a) 22...f4 23. Bc3! f3+! 24. Kh1 Qh3? 25. Rg1 with advantage to White, or 23...h4 24. g4! f3+ 25. Kh1 Q:g4 26. Rg1 with advantage to White! Although 23. Bc3! gives Black problems, a few 'preparatory' moves may secure Black an advantage...

(b) 22...h4 23. Bc3! should transpose into lines of 22...f4. Black will also have to prepare ...hg3 as otherwise White has options of capturing with the h- or f-pawns, since at the moment White can mobilize the Rook to either h or f-files...

(c) 22...c4? 23. dc fe 24. Ba3!+ Nd3 25. Qe2 Qf5 26. N:d6+ or 25...Rf3 26. B:d6! R:b5 27. R:b5 Q:d6 28. Q:34+-.

21. Bb2!  
White wants to recycle the N to c4 and then trade B for N, but if the B went to c1, it can't play to d2 because the d3 pawn hangs.

21. ... Bh6!

I think lines with f4 and h4 for Black go to show he is trying to open lines. It can be shown that lines can be opened yet it is also seen that when the lines are opened too soon Black can't take adv. Therefore moves like Bh6 are necessary preparing to open lines and at the same time better the mobility of the Black pieces.

22. Na3!

The rook on b6(?) will provide white with a nice tempo. Black has been outplayed and is now slightly worse.

The placing of the N on c4 can be better understood when looked in this light: 1) The N directly hits a5, d6 and e5, 2) When white plays f3 it will prevent the B entry to e3, 3) The N will also assist in the pushing of the a pawn. I had envisioned this possible position occurring at move 16.Ne3...

22. ... h4  
23. Nc4 Ra6

The N and Black Rook on a6 are worthy each other...

24. Bc3! f6

Black is beginning to feel awkward and plays slowly for Rf7-h7.

25. f3 :1:34 hg :1:45  
26. hg3 Rf7  
27. Rb2!

Bringing the QR to the defense of the King!

27. Rh7  
28. B:b3  
29. Bg2

White is now as solid as a rock and Black must now play for tricks.

29. Kf7??

A pleasant surprise. Black wants to play Ke7 and Ra8. But he must be content with the fact the QR is a defensive piece. This move will cost Black several tempi, better was f5, Bg5 and play for f4.

30. Kf2! 1:48 Bg5 ;1:57  
31. R2g1 Qh2+  
32. Bg2 Qh3  
33. B:b4

Upon reflection this move can be both criticized and complimented. Complimented in the sense it completes a plan devised 17 moves ago, but criticized because it prevents Black from carrying out a poor idea of Ke7 and Ra8...

33. ab

Best. Worse is 33...c:b4 34. d4! and Black's King will be left in a poor position after a eventual Qd3 and Rcl...

34. a5!

I thought I now had a winning game since 35.Qa4 is threatened, and if 34...Qd7 35. Rhl ! ±

34. f5!

A strong move. If now 35.Qa4? f4! ± So, instead of 33. B:b4 ?! 33.Rlg1! Black would then have continued Ke7? (following up on a bad idea) 34.B:b4 ab 35.a5! ±

35. Rlg1 2:03 Kf8! 2:09

This is the move I had overlooked when playing 33.B:b4 I was still sneezing all over the place, and time trouble was sneaking up so I figured a few quick moves would confuse him...

36. Qa4 Rb7!  
37. Qa1

Playing for CHEAPO. If 37...Rh7 (to prevent 38.Rhl) 38.N:d6 R:d6 39.Q:e5 Rhd7 ± 38.Ke2! Allowing Black the decision of changing the character of the game. Since white will place the K on b3 and play for f4, if Black adopts Whites 'sit and wait' strategy...

37. b3!

A nasty shock! Unfortunately I had outplayed myself. I was so worked up about my good N and his Bad B... I had overlooked that after 38.Rhl? b2! 39.N:b2 R:b2+ 40.Q:b2 Q:h1 41.Qb8+ Kg7! 42.Qb7+ Kh6! 43.Q:a6 Bd2!! So that after 44.Rg1 Black can take the draw Qh2+ 45.Rg2 Qh1 or play for the win with 44...Be3+!

38. Qb1 Pe

A little modest. If now 38...b2 39.Rcl was what both my opponent and I thought refuted it. But this is not true after 39.Rcl!± Thus 38...b2 39.e:f5 g:f5 (39...Q:f5 Rhl is unclear) 40.g4 When I think white is better, though I wouldnt wager 50 rating points...

39. de Rd4!?

Time Pressure. Better is 39...b2! with advantage to black!

40. Rhl 2:28 Rc4! = 2:29  
41. R:h3 Rc2+  
42. Kel 2:39

The sealed move. Adjournment, just what I wanted to avoid. Playoffs were at 9:00am. So I grabbed a quick bite and lots of sleep...

42. Rcl+ 2:39  
43. Q:c1 B:c1  
44. Rh7! R:a5  
45. Rb7

White has played the best moves allowed him, Yet with correct play the game should probably be drawn!

45. c4?? 3:00

After I saw this move I knew that there is a God. I thought I had played so well and had sacrificed a good night's sleep for the full point. But, I realized while looking at the board Black can play: 45...Ral1= 46.R:b3 Be3+! 47.Ke2 Ra2+ 48.Kf1 Ral+ 49.Ke2 Ra2+ 50.K:e3 R:g2= 51.Rb8+ Ke7 52.Rb7+ Ke8! 53.g4 c4! = 54.Rc7 Rc2 55.Rg7 Rc3+ 56.Ke2 Rc2+ 57.Ke3 Rc3+ 58.Kf2 Rc2+ 59.Kg3 c3! 60.Rc7 g5= If 60.R:g6?? Rg2+ 61.K:g2 c2 62.Rg8+ Kd7 63.Rg7+ Kd8 64.Rg8+ Kc7 65.Rg7+ Kb6+!

46. Rh2+ Kg8  
47. Rhh7 Ral  
48. Rhg7+!

Preventing possible defensive tries of Bb6+ and Bf8

48. Kf8  
49. Rge7 Bg5+  
50. Ke2 2:45 Ra2+ 3:16  
51. Kf1 Bd8  
52. R:c4 b2  
53. Rcb4 Ra3  
54. Kg2 Res1

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I thought, aside from Lone Pine, the first round of a swiss was supposed to be easy! Eating dinner with John Tisdall, I asked, "How could you lose to Petrosian?" Answer, "simple, you make a few moves, he make's a few moves, then you resign."

After a good night's rest I decided to get a look of Hastings which turned out to be a bad idea as it compounded my cold... Hastings is a nice English coastal town, with a rich history. The English claim that it marks the last time England was under control by a foreign power...

Today I searched for better quarters. I eventually found a mini-motel, where for \$6.50 you receive a room and breakfast or a B&B (Bed and Breakfast).

I should interject here to say that the conditions of the tournament were very poor. But above this was the extremely high noise level... Talking with Tisdall about the noise level he cheered me up by assuring me that it get's worse... Apparently the site of the Challengers is also the site of several class tournaments that start and end during the playing time of the Challengers. So you have about 100 people at all times either discussing the games openly, having a post-mortem within ear-shot or playing speed chess. About every ten or twenty minutes some poor patz would strain his lungs with a "QUIET!!!"

Today the game would be important, for starters I would be black and I thought after three days my cold would be gone. As it turned out my cold was to keep me company my whole visit! My opponent turned out to be a junior of 18 years so I thought I'd avoid getting 'booked off' and positionally do him in...

### 53rd Hastings International Challengers Chess Congress

Round-2/10 Date-12/29/77 T/C-40/2½ 56/3½ 72/4½

White: G. C. Flear Black: Yasser Seirawan

1. d4 :00

7. B:f3!

Hmm, this stopped me short I was certain I would see 1.e4.

Black did'nt like 7...Nce7 8.Nd2! Where a quick b4-c5-Nc4 insures White a large advantage on the QS.

1. g6 :04  
2. c4 Bg7  
3. Nc3 d5  
4. Nf3 Bg4

8. B:f3 Nce7  
9. Qa4+? Kf8!

Now the WQ interferes with a queen side pawn storm!

This is better than 4...e5 which I played against Tisdall in the 77 Junior X-Ship 5.e4 Nc6 6.d:e5 d:e5 7.Q:d8+ K:d8 8.Bg5+ f6 9.000+ Bd7 10.Be3 Bh6 11.B:h6 N:h6 12.c5\*

10. e4 :19 b6! :11  
11. b4?

A bad positional mistake, brought about by inexperience...

5. e3 :05 Nc6 :04  
6. Be2 e5  
7. d5

11. a5!  
12. 00

Interesting and worth testing is 7.N:e5 d:e5 (7...B:e2?? 8.N:c6 B:d1 9.N:d8 Bg4 10.N:b7 a5 11.Nb5! Kd7 12.Bd2+!) 8.B:g4 e:d4 9.e:d4 N:d4 10.00 The two Bishops are offset by the N on d4, but this is still unclear...

This is inaccurate but does not deserve a question mark because Black did'nt realize the inaccuracy. If he had 12.00 would deserve a ? White should of played 12.b:a5 R:a5 13.Qc2 Where black is better but

white would play as in the game...

12. Bh6

The same note as above applies to this move. Black, should've played 12...a:b4! 13.Q:b4 when black has a large + as the WQ is in a bad position. While Black dominates strong Q5 points, namely c5&a5.

13. Bb2!

Best. White cannot afford the trade of B's since he would lose all control of the QS. While 13.Ba3?? impedes the progress of the a pawn.

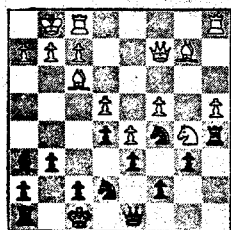
13. Nf6

Again black misplays, best was 13...a:b4

14. b:a5! R:a5  
15. Qc2! :33

Because of white's ambitious QS play he is slightly worse...

15. Nd7 :22  
16. a4! Nc5!  
17. Nb5!



17. Nb7?

Now it is black's turn to play too ambitiously. 18.Bc3 Ra8 and 19.a5 are threatened but I liked the position of my QR having a poor idea of playing Qd7 and R on h to a8. Best is 17...Ra8! This subtle point changes the whole course of the game. If then 18.Bc3 Nb7! With a + to Black!

18. Be2

White now hits on a good idea of attacking Black on the h8-a1 diagonal! Better would have been 18.Bg4! saving several tempi on the game and giving white a large +.

18. f6!

Better would have been 18...g5! In an attempt to keep the KS closed. Black would then develop the plan of playing Kg7-Ng6-Qe7-Rha8-Nc5... It should also be mentioned that 18...Kg7 is a mistake because in that case white need not calculate 19.f4 whereas my opponent now spent 15 min. concerning himself with a exchange sac. on f4...

19. f4! Kg7

Played instantly. I could see that Mr. Fleer was annoyed at himself for spending 15 minutes!

20. f:e5 :54 f:e5 :34

Not 20...d:e5?? 21.R:f6 K:f6 22.B:e5+ -

21. Ra3!!

A fine move, far better than Rf3 which would prevent the B from going to g4. It prevents a possible Be3+

there are also lines when white may play Rh3! while keeping control of the F file.

Now if you were to suppose the moves Bc3 and Ra8 had been taken along black would be better! As it is I think black may be lost!

21. Rf8

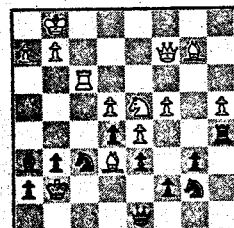
Forced, otherwise black get's killed on the F file!

22. R:f8 K:f8  
23. Bg4! Ng8!  
24. Be6 Nf6  
25. Rf3! :1:12 Kg7 :1:06

White has played very well and at this moment has a won game, both my opponent and myself thought black was slightly better! It appears as though white's attack has been repulsed and black is threatening too play Nc5...

As my opponent sat staring at the board contemplating a list of poor choices he saw before him... He suddenly as he put it, "I started to think of all the move's my bit's and pieces could make then suddenly WHAM!!

26. Nd4?!



This move set my career and thinking back about 2 years!

I had better explain this statement in the following way: I had in this game got a typical "Seirawan position" in which I had disillusioned my opponent into thinking his two B's are better than my N+B, but since I had control of a strong N outpost on c5 the N is stronger than the White KB. So if I were to trade of the black squared B's I would be much better. Anyway all this is leading up to the fact I have played dozen's of similar position's as I have described, white having the 2 B's etc. Yet now I'm about to get "fried off" by a player who is barely master status! Meaning I can lose to anyone!

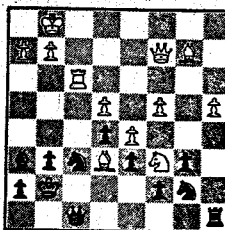
This game set my thinking back about 2 years in the sense I had begun too think of myself as a decent player, and was seriously deliberating the question of becoming a chess pro... Then it suddenly hit me as if to say "Well you ai'nt so good are you?" If this move cost me the game... It very well could cost me the tournament and if it cost me the tournament it might be two years before I play in the Hastings's Premiere, hence the statement. At any rate the time it has taken me to analyse this single game has been three weeks! Not that it has taken three weeks of scrutinizing study but rather after Nd4!! It has taken me three weeks to get up the nerve to continue the annotations!!

26. Qf8

This move cost me 30 minutes and from this point on black's moves are semi-blitzed. Once again mention of the moves Ra8 and Bc3 should be made... (Since they haunted me they might as well haunt you!)

27. Nc6 Ra8

My opponent now took a while to reply this game me reason to gain confidence. I now began to analyse the position and brought myself to the conclusion, "Hey Man! I may not be busted!"



I unfortunately had been analysing 28.g4? Bg5! When white has suddenly thrown away his attack and Black would be better! Ex... 29.Qf2 Nc5 30.h4 Nc:e4 with a large + for black!

28.N:e5? d:e5 29.B:e5 Qc5+ followed by Rf8 and black is better.

28.Kh1 is not so good as it poses only one threat of N:e5 (it's a good threat) However this afford's black time... 28.Kh1? Nc5 29.N:e5 d:e5 30.B:e5 Bg5! When again white must afford time with 31.g3 when the pos. could become unclear after 31...N:e6 32.h4 (32.d:e6 Qe7 33.h4 Q:e6 34.h:g5 Q:e5 35.g:f6+ Kf7 36.Qd3 Qe6 37.Qd5 c6! With decent drawing chances.) 32...Bf4! With a tremendously unclear pos. 33.g:f4 Nc5 34.f5?! Re8! =

28. h4!!

The move took me by complete surprise and so I now had to spend a good deal of precious time trying to find a def. The move presents tremendous difficulties for black. Lines in which white sacrificed a piece on e5 to open up the h8-a1 diagonal, black had the move Bg5 as a nice defensive move this is no longer available. Also white now threaten's 29.g4 too which 29...g5 is'nt playable because of 30.Qc1! In time time trouble: 28. Nc5

It is hard to suggest a defense, if 28...Na5 29.N:a5 b:a5 30.g4 g5 31.Bc1 +- 28...Nd8 29.g4 N:c6 30.g5 Nd4 31.B:d4 e:d4 32.R:f6+-

29. N:e5!

This is now possible since black has so cleverly already occupied c5!

29. d:e5  
30. B:e5

Black can now resign but he had'nt the time!

30. N:e6  
31. B:f6+ Kg8  
32. d:e6 Qc5+  
33. Kh1 Bf8  
34. Qd1 Qd6

Forced otherwise, 35.Qd7 if 34...Bd6 35.e5!+-

35. Qd5 Q:d5

White: Yasser Seirawan Black: P. A. Hoogendoorn Holland



36. c:d5 Bc5  
37. Be5 Ria4  
38. Rf4

My opponent spent some time considering 38.B:c7 R:e4 39.d6 R:h4+ 40.Rh3 Re4 41.d7 Be7 42.d8=Q B:d8 43.B:d8 R:e6=

38. Rc4

Played instantly, stting a cunning trap or so I thought!

39. B:c7!

The quickest way of winning is to fall into the trap!

39. Rc1+  
40. Kh2 Bf1+  
41. Kh3!

I was praying for Kg3??? R:c7 42.d6 Rc3+ 43Kg4 (if 43.Rf3 R:f3+ 44.Kf3 Ke8 Stop's the pawns!-) 43...Bh2! and black win's because of the threat Rg3 mate! 44.Rf3 R:f3 45.gif3 B:d6+ It was when I was considering my 41. move when the T.D. gave me a adjournment envelope. I asked my opponent would he care to play 2or 3 more moves too which he replied, "you want to see whether or not after R:c7 d6 Rc3+ i'll play g3? That answered my question so:

41. REST

1 0  
This game compounded my cold and I really began to feel ill!! I could not get a wink of sleep the whole night even though I knew that in the past scores of 8-2 had won the tournament clear. Before round#2 I had changed residents so I attributed the new surrounding's as to the reason of my insomnia... Reviewing the day's events I rememberd what the new lady-manager had said when I inquired about the bath. "Don't worry duck, you can take a bath any time you like. You see my other tenants don't take bath's!  
I started laughing so hard I decided that I might as well take a bath. Arriving in the bathroom I prepared myself for a nice warm soaking. Turning on the hot water I waited in the shivering cold for about 5 min. while the hot water continued to spit out ice water! Eventually I figured out that the oblong box hanging above the bath was a gas heater to which I had to put in 5 New Pence pieces to get it to work! Unfortunately I had used those in getting the gas heater in my room to work!  
Resigning myself against the world, I went back to bed (not to sleep). In a few hours it would be 8 AM and time for breakfast...  
I was in a sad state of affairs when I arrived for the third round I had had no sleep. I had a chesty cold a whopping headache not to mention for some reason I had developed a cough...  
In short I felt like a truck had hit me, put itself in reverse and hit me again! My opponent turned out to be a rather old looking man from Holland so I felt cheere up thinking, "I'll blitz this poor putz of the board!"...

1. c4:00 e6 :00  
2. Nc3 c5  
3. g3 Nc6  
4. Bg2 Nf6  
5. d3 :03 d5 :08

I should interject here to say that although this may be theroy and a recognised defense, I have, I do believe won every game that this particular defense has been employed against me! In practice it is very difficult for black to defend...

6. c:d5 N:d5

Generally, my opponents have replied 6...e:d5 7.Bg5! Be7 8.Nh3! Be6 9.Nf4 00 10.00+

7. Nh3! N:c3

Black did'nt want to leave white the option of of playing N:d5 and Nf4. However with the exchange of N's black loses his central control and strengthen's white's.

8. b:c3 Bd7

This move as explained by Mr. Hoogendoorn was to prevent B's queenside development from being hindered after a possible Rb1-Qa4.

9. 00 Be7  
10. d4! :16 00 :46

10...c:d4 11.c:d4 N:d4? 12.Bb2! with a large +.

The readership should notice the amount of time consumed by each player, on the one hand we have white playing quickly and building up a strong central advantage. While black has consumed 46 minutes in building up a flexible defensive position. Thus in practice, between players of equal strength's Black's opening choice would be a poor one.

11. e4 Na5!

A good move played with the idea of Bb5. In which case Black could find good squares in which to place his pieces.

12. Rb1! b6

This is'nt bad but it is'nt the best. Better would be 12...b5 so as to secure c4.

13. Nf4!

White now has the better position. The plans are very flexible. 1)play d5 and capture with the N 2)play Nh5 and Qg4 to weaken f6 3)sit on the position and continue to build by playing Qe2-Rfd1 etc.

13. c:d4!

This is very important for black too have counterplay down the C file.

14. c:d4 Rc8

My idea for this game was to blitz my opponent off, so I started cluttering my head with ideas of attack! So without a pause of thought:

15. e5!?

The idea behind the move was to play 16.Qg4 without fear of e5. However serious attention should have been given to 15.d5! if e:d5 16.N:d5 Bc5 white has secured a strong outpost for the N and after 17.Qh5 has a promising attack. Also 15...e5 16.d6! e:f4 17.d:e7 Q:e7 18.B:f4 +

15. d5! Bc6  
16. d5! e:d5

At this moment I was planing to continue 16.B:d5 B:d5 17.N:d5 Bc5 18.h4! with a big plus. But then my head became cluttered with the positions arising from 17.e6 d4 18.e:f7+ (18.Bh3? f5! =) R:f7 19.Bh3 Bd7 20.Ne6 Qe8 21.Q:d4 Bf6 22.Qd5 Bc6 When I was'nt sure the position's arising for me would be as advantageous for me as the position with 18.h4... Annoyed by this 'lack of conclusion' my attention once again focused to the "real" position on the board. But then it occurred to me, "why trade light squared B's I'll just play N:d5.

17. N:d5? B:d5!

Whoops! I just lost a pawn!

18. B:d5 Rc5  
19. Bf3!

Who know's there might come a time that if I got checked on the back rank I don't want to play Bf1!

19. R:e5

Black may be better. It is'nt clear. Black is a pawn up but as compensation white has 2 strong B's. As well as the fact that white will soon control the center files with the rooks at which point white will be better!

20. Bf4 :1:30 Rc5 :1:41

21. Qe2!  
White is now threatening too win the game immediately by 22.Rbd1. Blacks move is therefore forced.

21. Bf6  
22. Qa6 Nc6  
23. Rfd1!

I wanted more than a mere pawn!

23. Qc8  
24. Qa4 Nc5  
25. Bd5!

With this move White hopes too cut off the N's support and drive it back to aless active position

25. Rd8  
26. Qe4

At the moment my opponent had less than 5 minutes for his remaining moves... Which hopefully explains my forth coming cheap play...

26. Ng6  
27. Be3 Rc8  
28. Qa4 Ra5  
29. Qb3 Re7

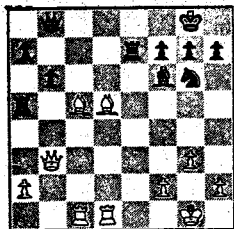
At this moment white has a wining game... Although Black's move's since his R captured the e pawn, seem to be reasonable he now has a

Worse game! Where was the mistake?

30. Rbcl Qb8

30...Rc7? 31.B:f7+ +-  
30...Qf8 31.Bd2 Rc5 32.Bb4+-

31. Bc3!



A terrible move too have to face in time trouble!

31. Rd7  
32. Bb4 Rxd5

This is best. If 32...Ra6? 33.B:f7+ R:f7 34.Qe6+- 34...Nf8 35.B:f8 followed by Rc8.

33. R:d5 R:d5  
34. Q:d5 +- h6  
35. Re1 ?! a3!

A good move for time pressure!

36. Ba3 Qc8!  
37. Qb5? Qg4!

This old geezer was really out-playing me and his flag was hanging from the skin of it's teeth. Now not only is Qe8+ Kh7 39. Q:f7 bad but after Nh4 Black may be winning! So I thought to myself, "how to prevent the N from moving?"

38. Qb1

Threatening 39.Qe4.

38. Nh4???  
39. Re8

SHATMAT !!

Good game. Good game. Boy, glad that was't adjourned! Since my game had not been adjourned I hurried down to the Yelton Hotel, to watch the "big boy's" in the Premiere play. They had finished (which might have something to do with the fact that they are the big boy's), and the "little one's", were adjourning.

At the Yelton dining room I somehow managed to get in on the pretense of being a guest and so nabbed a free dinner.

After the dinner I learned some juicy gossip... Apparently someone had asked Petrosian to sign their book which Petrosian had done. But in fact Petrosian's



signature had not landed on the book cover... But on a letter of good luck addressed to Korchnoi! The letter may or may not have been sent to Korchnoi, and nothing more was mentioned...

In the lower basement of the Yelton all the big boys were to be found. Fedorowicz was being mopped off the speed chess board by Sveshnikov. Hort, was being an anxious spectator of the "Gin-Gin" "Bobo" Backgammon Match. That's Dzinzhashvili vs Biyiasas! Petrosian was becoming more and more miserable every day, as he would continue to plug more coins in a slot machine to see no return on the lost money... Tarzan (that's Tarjan), Tisdall and your writer were enjoying a good beer. While the English players were trying to figure out American pool... It was about the time I had finished my drink when Petrosian entered the room to which he nodded his head as if in greetings. (I once played a speed chess match against Petrosian in Lone Pine 77. He won 4-2.) Sveshnikov had just "waxed" Fedorowicz in their speed match. But "Sveshy" wasn't satisfied and after a suggestion by Tigran I was challenged to a speed match!

It was set, I would play 5min. to 5min. for a pound a point. (What was

it that made me think that Soviet's didn't gamble?) I figured I would lose about 10 pound's and quit but by the time I lost I would've played about 20 game's or so... The price of experience so to speak. As it turned out the American's were't about to cheer for me as "Sveshy" was their hero. The only person not against me was Tarzan who remained quiet.

This was a strange situation for me and I began to fear the worse, but a victory in the first game relaxed me... Then another in the second game and I began to wonder as to who would be collecting the "bucks". But then after two draw's it started to become clear that I missed that night's sleep and after a tremendous shift in the momentum "Sveshy" thoroughly dominated the match. Out of the next 26 games, I won 3, drew 10 and lost 15. The final score was +5 -10 -15! This was at the time quite an embarrassment, as it was as though a B player vs a Senior Master... A cheering word was offered by Tisdall who said, "You're lucky it happened too you at the speed board, this stuff is happening too me at the tournament board!!" When I was talking to Gin-Gin (a 2535 rated GM) he confided too me Sveshy had bested him at 5-3 minutest

As the tournament continued my respect for Sveshy's speed ability increased as I saw him defeat Petrosian 12 speed games's in a row! I should interject to say, as Petrosian settled down at the board he announced, "when I play positionally, I allway's beat you! Now I shall beat you tactically!! Like I said Tigran lost 12 in a row...

The next day, about a hour or so before the start of the 4th round. I was watching a John Wayne Flick in the lobby at the Yelton. I was soon joined by Hort, who is the most soft-spoken person I have ever met in my life. At any rate the movie was nearing it's end, when suddenly this indian who had snuck around John Wayne and was about to nail the star with a arrow. When, suddenly up jumped Hort saying, "Shoooot him! You must shoooot him quickly!" However the arrow hit Wayne in the arm, where upon he promptly shot the indian. Hort exclaimed, "Yes... But you were too late! Now, look what has happened! Hort really seemed to be dejected so I had to cheer him up by stating, "Don't worry, I'm sure he'll live!" "Yes, I hope you are right!" This little occurance brightened my spirit's tremendously and in spite of my illness I played a decent game...

# BREAKING INTO THE ARENA

by Yasser Seirawan  
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CONTINUED FROM MARCH ISSUE, PAGE 68

53rd Hastings International Challengers Chess Congress

Round 4/10 Date-12/30/77 T/C-40/2½ 56/3½ 72/4½

White: Yasser Seirawan Black: G.P. Grun West Germany

1. d4 :00 Nf6 :00

As I have mentioned before the Hastings tournament is a tournament split into sections. Each section begins and finishes at different times. So while the Challenger's started the "Major" and "Minor" sections would be ending... These sections would be primarily composed of A, B, C, and D class player's.

The level of noise was extremely high and in short the condition's were absolutely intolerable! Thus when my opponent practically screamed for silence before I had made my move, Rather than being annoyed that he did it on my time I was thankful!

2. Nc3 e5  
3. Nf3 Nc6  
4. a3!

The exclamation point is not for the reason that it is the best move... On the contrary it may be a bad one. But it was clearly written all across my opponent's face he had wanted too play lines with 4...Bb4. Having thrown him of his game so to speak. He spent several minute's accustoming himself to a unfamiliar position...

4. g6

If 4...e4?! 5.Ng5 Qe7 6.f3! (6.Qc2? Nd4!) e:f3 7.N:f3 g6 8.d4 00 9.e3 d6 10.Bd3 With a better position for W.

5. g3 :01 Bg7 :08  
6. Bg2 00  
7. d3! d6  
8. 00 b6?!

This is slightly premature. A better idea is Symlov's: 8...Ng4 or 8...Nh5 preparing 9...f5.

9. Nd2!

Preparing b4 which is'nt playable immediately because of 9...e4.

9. Be6  
10. b4 :03

White now has the better position. I will be able to continue a thematic attack on the QS and center. While Black's KS prospect's are much more futuristic. Black's 8th h6?! explains the difference.

10. Qd7 :15

A good reply. White was threatening b5 which is now answered by Nd8. Also Bh3 is now a possibility. 10...d5 would be a mistake, Ex: 11.c:d5 N:d5 12.Bb2! in which case Black has weakened c5 and 12...e4? 13.Nd:e4 f5 14.Nc5 +-.

11. Re1

So as to answer 11...Bh3 with 12.Bh1.

11. a6? :31

It took 15 minute's to find this mistake. For 1)It insure's upon a eventual b5 line's will be opened 2)It delay's the KS attack another move. Black did'nt like 11...Rae8

12.b5 Nd8 13.Qa4! With advantage. A better idea was 11...Nh7! to continue with f5 or N-g5-h3+

12. Bb2!

During the game I was thinking if I had say 5 move's. They would be Rc1, Nd5, e4, Nb3, and either d4 or c5. The problem with black's game is that he can't prevent this!

12. Nh5  
13. Rc1 f5  
14. Nd5

Black now reflected deeply and began to realize 14...f4 to be a mistake after 15.Ne4. Since the Non d5 or e4 can't be removed by Nc6-d8 and by c6 since b6 is fatally weak. Another reason of 11...a6?

14. Nf6  
15. e4! :41

any exchange on d5 would now improve white's position because of c:d5 followed by Nc4-a5.

15. Rae8 :1:03

Black can only sit passively, while white build's up his position...

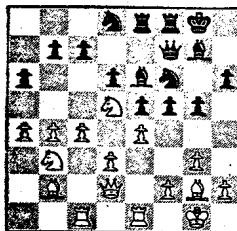
16. Nb3 e5  
17. Qd2!

Encouraging black to play 17...f4? 18.d4! In which case W would have pawn's on e4, d4, c4, and b4! The text also prepares a4,b5 as well as defending f2 and the QB on b2.

17. Qf7

A good reply idea's of playing Qh5-Ng4 or exchanging pawn's and playing on the F file should allow Black counterplay.

18. a4 Nd8



19. N:f6+ B:f6  
20. e:f5! 1:17

Extending the Bishop's diagonal (g2) With this move and the next white weaken's black's center control and isolate's the e pawn.

20. B:f5 1:38  
21. d4! e4

Semi-forced, black can't play 21...e:d4 22.N:d4 when the threat's of N:f5 and Bd5 are too hard to meet.

22. d5! B:b2  
23. Q:b2 Re5

Black is beginning to fear the worse

concerning his e pawn. White is threatening Re3, Rce1, Qc2, and either Nd2 or Nd4.

24. Nd4 R8e8  
25. Re3 1:22 c6 :1:57

Black has visualized the possibility of playing d5, and does'nt care to sit passively by. Yet this now allow's white more threat's.

26. d:c6 b:c6  
27. a5!

Now that the Black b pawn is missing white will create a passed a pawn.

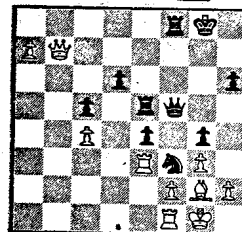
27. c5  
28. N:f5 Q:f5  
29. b5! a:b5  
30. Q:b5 1:35

Not 30.c:b5? d5! Whereupon Black's central pawn's have a little more punch than white's QS. Ex. 31.R:c5 Nb7 32. Ron c any N:a5 followed by Nc4.

30. Rf8  
31. Rf1 e4!

A good move preparing to sink the N on f3. 31...Ne6? 32.Qb7!+-

32. a6 Ne6  
33. Qb7 Ng5  
34. a7 Nf3+



35. Kh1! 2:01

Not 35.B:f3? g:f3 36.a8-Q Qh3! With good drawing chances after 37.R:f3 e:f3 38.Q:f8+ K:f8 39.Q:f3+ Qf5...

35. Ree8

If 35...Qh5 36.h3! Not 36.h4?? N:h4 37.g:h4 Q:h4 38.Rg1 Rh5 +-! 36.B:f3?? g:f3 37.a8-Q Qh3 +-Since 38.R:f3 the Rf1 hang's and if 38.Rg1 Q:h2+ +-

36. Ra1 Ra8

36...Qh5? 37.h3! g:h3 38.B:f3 R:f3 39.R:e4 +-.

37. R:e4!

It has taken white 17 move's to capture the pawn isolated on #20. Now black's game fall's apart...

37. Qh5  
38. B:f3 a:f3  
39. Rf4! Qe5?  
40. R:f8+ Re5?

1

0

It was now possible to celebrate New Year's Day, which the American's did in style through a old tradition of Bar-Hopping! None of the American's were able to get up the next day to listen to the Huskies beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl. This really drove me frantic since in the next month and a half I could'nt lay my hand's on any American Sport's magazines...



During the time I had lost my second game up too the fifth I had'nt looked to see who the leader's were. As it turned out with a score of 3-1 I had

the 4th best score! Biyiasas with 4-0 was paired with M. Balashan  $3\frac{1}{2}/\frac{1}{2}$ . D. Werner with  $3\frac{1}{2}/\frac{1}{2}$  was being paired with N. Fovah 3-1 and I was playing on board #3!

### 53rd Hasting's International Challenger's Chess Congress

Round-5/10 1/2/78 T/C-40/2 $\frac{1}{2}$  56/3 $\frac{1}{2}$  Board #3

White: C. W. Baker England Black: Yasser Seirawan

1. Nf3 :03      Nf6 :02  
2. e3            d5  
3. Bg2           c6  
4. 00            b6!

A immediate 4...Bf5 can be answered by 5.Nh4! as in Panno-Sunye Lone Pine 77.

5. d3 :08      Bf5 :03  
6. Nbd2        e6  
7. e3?

A bad move which seriously endanger's white's game! The move weaken's the d3 square so that after a probable e4, Bh7, e5 the square d3 will be a target for the Bishop on h7! Also the WQB cannot be affectively posted on b2.

7.              a5! =

After this Black has a QS spatial advantage and will try to place a Non c5. White can't then answer with b4...

8. Re1?

After this white only has problem's. White now has a bad game!

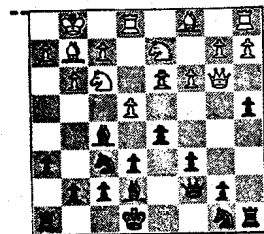
8.              Be7

Preventing: 9.e4? d:e4 10.d:e4 N:e4 11.N:e4 Q:d1 12.R:d1 B:e4 →

9. Qb3?        Qc7

Played, too prevent the above continuation. But the problem with white's game is not getting too play e4, but after e4, is played it is bad. The reason for this stem's from 7.c3? Also the Q on b3 allow's black to pick up a tempo when playing Nc5 or a4.

10. e4 :43      a4! :35  
11. Qc2        Bh7



Black now has a big +. Maybe enough to demonstrate a win!!

12. e:d5

The only way to find counterplay. Bad is 12.e5? Nfd7 whereupon after c5 White will have to worry about c4 as well as the e pawn after Nc6 and Qe7...

12.              c:d5  
13. Ne5        00  
14. Ndf3       Bd6  
15. Qe2 :1:13   Nc6 :46  
16. Bf4        a3!

Undermining the c pawn and in effect forcing white into a totally passive position. Bad is 17.b3? N:e5 18.B:e5 B:e5 19.Q:e5 Rac8 winning a pawn...

17. Nic6        a:b2!  
18. Q:b2       b:c6!  
19. B:d6       Q:d6  
20. Ne5 :1:33   Nd7 :1:07  
21. N:d7       Q:d7  
22. Qd2

White has now been reduced to sit passively by and be a "spectator". Where is white's mistake since the diagramed position?

22.              Ra3 →  
23. Reb1       Qa7  
24. Rb2       Qa5  
25. Rc1 :1:53   Ra8 :1:16

This position is the reason white didn't play 22.d4 since now white should play Rcc2...

26. Qf4?

White decide's to have a last fling since after 26.Rcc2 c5 27.Bf1 is the sort of position no one want's to play!

26.              B:d3 →

Black had begun the attack on d3 since move #5 and the fall of d3 signal's the end...

27. Rb7        Bg6  
28. c4        R:a2  
29. c:d5       c:d5  
30. h4 2:24    Qd2 :1:28  
31. Rb8+      R:b8  
32. Q:b8+     Kh7  
33. Rf1       Bd3!  
34. REST

0              1

A nice victory which became aptly label a typical "Seirawan Roll." My opponent complained of being lost after move 2! "Why move 2?" "Because I'm sure about move 1"!!!

Talking to John Tisdall concerning his 3rd straight loss in as many attempt's I commented, "How do you expect too make a Norm losing to these guy's?" "What da ya mean? I am making my norm! So far I'm playing in a tournament where a score of minus three, give's me a Norm! Tisdall's three losses had been to: Sax, Petrosian and Dzind-zhashvili!

I was now begining to feel a lot better! Especially after I was told Biyiasas had lost. So I was only a half a point behind the leader's. Who were: D. Werner of West Germany  $4\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$  and Balshan of Israel  $4\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ .

Biyiasas since the start of the tournament had been playing Gin-Gin every night till 11am, at Back Gammon. So it appeared to me as though I should look past

Biyiasas as a threat, until the next morning when I found out he was my opponent! Whoops! I protested to the tournament director pointing out the pairing was wrong on two count's: 1) The first being that it would be "Brotherhood pairing's" in the sense we had played fifteen time's and live a mere 160 miles from each other. Before the tournament I had also put in a request that they should avoid the pairing for reason's mentioned. 2) In a swiss tournament you don't pair the #1 man against the #2 man unless forced!

There were 4 men with 4 point's: Biyiasas, myself, Robert Gruchacz, and G.C. Flear's. I appealed for the pairing's of Biyiasas vs Flear's and myself vs Gruchacz.

The tournament director explained to me that the pairing's were made by drawing name's from a hat?! So he had no control over the pairings...

After a lengthy discussion I somehow managed to argue him into a corner which he got out of by going ahead to handle the situation extremely poorly: "The pairing's are posted and cannot be changed." "But, But...." "You are welcome to withdraw!"

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



USSR RATINGS - Here is a list of the top Soviet players, current as of the end of the last USSR Championship.

1.	Karpov.	2713
2.	Tal	2636
3.	Polugaevsky	2633
4.	Spassky	2629
5.	Petrosian	2615
6.	Balashov.	2596
7.	Tsheshkovsky.	2594
8.	Beliavsky	2589
9.	Vaganian.	2580
10.	Smyslov	2577
11.	Romanishin.	2576
12.	Tukmakov.	2573
13.	Guljko.	2568
14.	Geller.	2558
15.	Vasiukov.	2546
16.	Sveshnikov.	2545
17.	Savon	2542
18.	Dorfman	2534
19.	Georgadze	2533
20.	Bagirov	2532



**White:** Yasser Seirawan **Black:** Peter Biyiasas Canadian Champion

1. c4!

The English seem's to be Peter's nemesis. In my last 4 encounter's with Peter, 3 I had white and won all 3! The 4th encounter I was black and the game was drawn.

1. Nf6 :08  
2. Ne3 :06

Peter spent 12 minutes making his first 2 moves. His favorite systems had taken a beating and so he plays into position's he isn't familiar with...

3. e4 :04  
4. f4 :04  
5. g3 :04  
6. Bg2 :00  
7. Nf3 :00  
8. 00 :05?  
9. d3!

Exchanging of pawn's would activate the Black QB. While any exchange of pawn's by Black opens the position to white's advantage.

9. Ne2 :23  
10. Ne2 :23

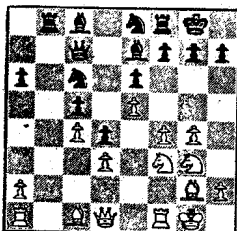
With the center closed, Black must be able to answer White's KS attack with a QS attack...

11. e5

White has a good flexible position and ideas of attack might be:

- 1) h3-g4-f5-Nf4
- 2) h3-g4-Ng3-g5-f5
- or as in the game
- 3) e5-g4-Ng3-Ne4-Qe1-g5-Nf6+

11. Ne8  
12. g4 :34  
13. Ng3 :34  
14. b3 :34  
15. bxc4 :34



White's position 'looks' nice but how to continue?

16. f5 right away may be a mistake after e:f5 17.g:f5 f6! 18.e6 Bd6! When Black has blockaded white's attack...

After a long think I was getting annoyed at having found nothing forcing. So I decided too simply put my piece's on good squares...

16. Qe2?

This move is in fact a good waste of tempo. In the post-mortem it was decided that 16.Nfd2! was best followed by Nde4-Nh5-g5-Nhf6-and Rf3-Rh3...

16. Kh8!  
17. Nd2

The Q on e2 as opposed to d1, does nothing to improve the attack. The Q more than likely will be played to

f2 and h4. On d1 the Q would ply to e1 and then h4.

17. Bb7! =  
18. Nde4 :Ba8!  
19. g5?

Another mistake caused by planless play. The move gives up f5. Now the N on e8 which otherwise remains passive now has a square.

The best move which simply continues the attack is 19.Nh5! followed by Rf3-h3 and only then g5 to clear the way for the Q...

19. Ng7! :1:14  
20. Nf6 :1:11

Once again white appears to have a impressive position... But this just is not true!

20. Ng7! :1:14

Finding a square for the N, connecting the rook's and generally making it easier to "breathe".

21. Be4 ?!

White is continuing to float around. Sitting at the board I thought a Q excursion to h3 would cost me the d pawn and so decided to prepare myself...

21. Nf5  
22. Qg4

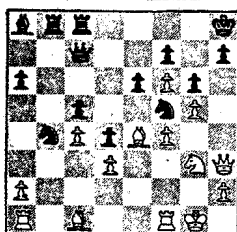
The Q has stuttered to get to g4 by Qd1-e2-g4. The tempo should prove costly and Black is better!

22. Bxf6!  
23. exf6 :Nb4!  
24. Qh3

At the time I played this move I felt fully confident of a win! I was sure Peter would play 24...Nc2?? when 25.N:f5? g:f5 26.Qh6 Rg8 27.Rf3 loses to Rg6! followed by h6 (when forced). But 25.Rf3! and white win's since the threat of 26.N:f5 g:f5 27.Qh6 Rg8 28.Q:h7+ K:h7 29.Rh3+ Kg6 30.Rh6++ can't be answered by 25...Rg8 26.N:f5 g:f5 27.Q:h7+ K:h7 28.Rh3+ followed by h6 mate! So, what can Black do to prevent mate?

24...Nc2?? 25.Rf3? Nel! and Black holds. But... 24...Nc2?? 25N:f5! g:f5 26.Rf3! Nel 27.Rg3! +-

24. Rfc8!!



My first impression when I saw this move was what's that?? Does't 25.N:f5 g:f5 26.Rf3 win? Since 26. f:e4 loses to 27.Qh6 Rg8 28.Rf3+- (Not 28.Q:h7+?? K:h7 29.Rh3+ Kg6 30. Rh6+ Kf5! --) If however 25.N:f5?? is played g:f5 26.Rf3 Qd6! and Black win's! So reach-

ing down into a bag of trick's I picked out:

25. a3! :2:18

Since I have a bad QB and Nc2 being a serious threat....

25. Nc2 :1:40  
26. Ra2 :Nce3  
27. Bxe3

Bobo up to this point has played very well considering his poor opening. He should now continue 27...B:e4! 28.N:e4 N:e3 where black is better. Since 29.Qh6 Rg8 30.Rf3?? Rb1+ 31. Kf2 Ng4+ --

During the game I had intended to play after 28...N:e3 29.Raf2! The only good cheap move! (29...N:f1?? 30.Qh6 Rg8 31.Rf3! +-) 29...Qd8! 30.Qh6 Qf8 31.Q:f8 R:f8 32.Ral Rfc8 33.Rd2 Rh3 34.Raa2 When black should have the better ending... 27. N:e3??

Peter played this move hastily. I was in a mild time pressure having 15 moves to make in 12 minutes...

Generally speaking when I get into time-pressure against Peter he gets more nervous than myself and begins to play quickly as well...

28. Qh6 :Rg8  
29. B:a8!

Overlooked by Peter. He had expected 29.Rel? Q:f4 -/+ 30.R:f2?? Q:f2+ --

29. N:f1

If 29...R:a8 30.Ne4! +/-

30...N:f1 31.Rf2 +-  
30...Qb7 31.Nd6 Qc7 32.Rf3 +-  
30...Qc8 31.Nd6 Qf8 33.Rf3 +-  
30...Ne5 31.Qh3 Qb8 32.Raf2 and black will have to be wary of Rf3 and threat's of Q:h7+...

Thus the only move's are 30...Qb8 and 30...Rb8

30...Qb8 31.Raf2! Ng4 32.Qh4 N:f2 (Not 32...h5? 33.g:h6 N:f2 34.h7! +-) 33.R:f2 Qb1+ --  
30...Qb8 31.Rg2? N:g2 (31...N:f1??? Rg4 +-) 32.K:g2 Qb2+ 33.Rf2 Q:a3 34. Rf3 Qb2+ 35.Nf2 Qb7 = (comment's welcome)  
30... 30...Qb8 31.Raf2 Ng4 32.Qh3! N:f2 33.R:f2 Even with the sensitive difference of having the Q on h3 as opposed to h4, I don't think White has a win.

30...Rb8 I won't discuss, because I believe Qb8 to be the better move.

Peter had'nt considered these tries and after 30.Ne4 considered himself to be lost...

30. N:f1! :2:20 Qd8 ? :1:52  
30...R:a8? 31.Rf2 Qb7 32.Nd2 +-

Best was simply 30...Q:f4 (Biyiasas complained of a hallucination, "Jeez it's not protected?") 31.Bg2 Rb3 32.Rf2 Qg4 33.Ng3! R:d3 (33...Qd1+ 34.Bf1 R:d3 35.Rf4 +-) 34.Bf1! and the threat of Be2 won, but then some D player pointed out that Rd1 35.Kg2 d3 win's for black! Which all goes to show that it would still be a tough game....

31. Be4 +- :Qf8  
32. Qh4 :Rb1

33. Rf2  
34. Rf3?

Qd6

Time Pressure. 34.Kg2! Rgb8 35.Nd2  
Rlb2 36.Nf3 R:f2+ 37.K:g2 Rb2+ 38.  
Kg3 Qf8Q39.Ne5 Qg8 (forced 40.B:g6  
is threatened and 39...Kg8? is answer-  
ed by 40.Nd7 followed by Qh6) 40.  
Qh6! followed by h4-h5 when Black  
will be forced to play g:h5 N:f7+  
Q:f7 and g6 +.

34. Rf2! :2:25  
35. Rf3  
36. Kg2  
37. Nd2  
38. Nf3

Rgb8!  
Qf8 :1:53  
Rb2  
Ra1  
Rbb1

A exchange of Rook's would trans-

53 rd Hasting's International Challenger's Chess Congress

Round-7/10 1/4/78 T/C-40/2 56/3 1/2 Board #1

White: M. Balashan (Israel) 5 1/2 Black: Yasser Seirawan 5-1

1. e4 :00  
2. d4  
3. Nf3  
4. Nc3  
5. h3 :03  
6. Be2

g6 :02  
Bg7  
d6  
Nf6  
00 :05  
Nc6!

This move was suggested to me by  
Miles in Lone Pine 76. The exclamation  
point does not mean -in this  
case- that its the best move in the  
position. But, Balashan was known  
to be a good tactical player, 6...  
Nc6 neutralizes white's tactics.

7. d5  
8. 00  
9. Be3  
10. a4 :19

Nb8!  
c6  
a5!

Best. White shouldnt afford black  
the opportunity to continue a4 and  
Qa5.

10. Qc7 :46

I spent 40 minutes on this move  
wondering if I could play 10...Na6

10...Na6?! 11.d:c6 b:c6 12.e5!  
black now has 2 choices: 12...d:e5  
or 12...Nd5. 12...d:e5 13.N:e5 Nb4  
14.Bc4! +/-  
14...Ba6? 15.Q:d8 Ra:d8 16.B:a6 +-  
14...Nf:d5? 15.N:c6 +-  
14...Q:d1 15.Ra:d1 N:c2 16.Bc5 +/-

12...Nd5 13.Nd5 c:d5 14.Q:d5 Rb8!  
15.e:d6 e:d6! With a unclear  
positon, though black should have  
compensation enough for a pawn...

11. Qd2  
12. Ba6?  
13. Rab1?

Na6  
R:a6=

A hard move to understand. White  
is playing for Bh6. Which is bad  
immediately. 13.Bh6? Rb6! (B:h6!?)  
14.B:g7 K:g7 15.Rab1 Rb4!-/+

13. Bd7! -/+

Better than 13...c:d5 14.N:d5 N:d5  
15.e:d5 Bf5 16.Bfcl When white will  
play for Bd4 and a eventual c4...

Now after c:d5 white can't answer  
Nd5 because the A pawn hang's.

14. Rfel Re8?

In annotating this game I find it  
hard to believe I played this move.  
Black's strategy up to this point  
has been to force white to capture  
on d5 after 14...c:d5 with 15.e:d5  
this would 'fix' a target for the  
Black QB. Insuring Black of good  
QS pressure as well.

pose into a line like the one above.

39. Ne5 Rg1+  
40. Kh3 :2:28 R:a3 :2:03

Setting a decent cheapo, if 41.B:g6??  
f:g6! 42.N:g6+ Kg8 43.N:f8 R:d3+ -+

41. Rb2!

The threat of N:f7+ is indefensible.

41. N:f7+ h5  
42. N:f7+ REST  
42...Q:f7 43.Rb8+ Kh7 44.Q:h5+++

This game was quite a encourage-  
ment, doing wonders for my health...

14...c:d5 15.e:d5 Qc4! (15...Re8!?  
B6:Bh6 Bh8) 16.Bb6 Re8 17.B:g7  
K:g7 -/+

15. Bd4! :58

The advantage now switches hands.  
Black can no longer play 15...c:d5  
16.B:f6! e:f6 17.N:d5 +/-

Black would have the 2 Bishops and  
good chances but I was so upset at  
my previous blunder that I blundered  
again!

15. e5? :1:23

A terrible move, for several rea-  
sons 1)It saddles black with a  
glaring weakness on d6. 2)It al-  
lows white's otherwise dormant  
central control to suddenly become  
active. 3)It makes Blacks QB bad  
since it no longer can attack any-  
thing (a4). 4)Finally it points  
out that blacks QR is out of the  
game!

16. dre6! +/- B:e6

About this time Paul Simon's "Slip  
Sliding Away" entered my thoughts  
and I couldnt stop singing the  
song in my mind! Imagine what good  
that did for my game!

17. Rbd1 Qe7  
18. Be3!

White can't win a pawn by 18.B:f6?  
B:f6 19.Q:d6 Q:d6 20.R:d6 Rb6! -/+

18. Nd4! Nd7!

Again the grabbing of the d pawn is  
bad: 19.Qed6? Q:d6 20.R:d6 Nb6 -/+

19. Ne5

White was threatening f4-f5. With  
the move played white must now put  
a pawn on a white square making  
blacks QB better?? Balashan was  
duely impressed...

20. b3! :1:38 Bc8 :1:40  
21. f4 Nd7

It is quite clear that white has a  
large advantage. But in positions  
such as these when white tries to  
"force" the desired result he fre-  
quently finds the teeth of blacks  
position instead.

22. Nf3?

A waste of 2 tempi. Since move 17  
I had been moving very fast. This  
I believe had a influence on my  
oponent because after 21...Nd7 was  
played white answered 22.Nf3? in-  
stantly...

Best was 22.Nde2! Bf8 forcing  
blacks Bishop of a strong diagonal.

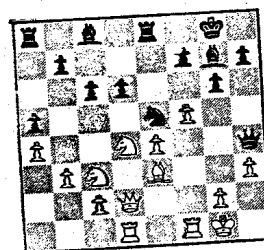
22. Ra8!  
23. f5??

This move in my opinion was brought  
about for 2 reasons: 1) In a poor  
position I put up the best resistance  
the position offered. (Compare this  
to my annotated game versus Wolf)  
2) The tactics of the position ap-  
pear from whites point of view to  
be in his favor. The reason they  
appear to be in his favor, is be-  
cause black has a cramped position.  
All the move does is give up e5  
and gives the QB a target. In  
short relieving black of his cramped  
position and activating the QB by  
giving it a target...

Sp, the tactics may shift in blacks  
favor...

23. Ne5! -!  
24. Nd4 Qh4!  
25. Rf1 :1:55

If, 25.Bg5 Qh5 26.Nee2 f6 27.Bf4 g5  
(27...g:f5) 28.Ng3 Qf7 29.Be3 h5  
30.Nf3 h4 31.Ne2 d5! Is unclear!  
Unclear because none of the moves  
in the variation are forced. It  
was however what I calculated dur-  
ing the game...



25. g:f5!  
26. e:f5

26.N:f5 allows the exchange of the  
bad QB, but the pressure on the F  
file is a strong consideration...  
26. d5!  
27. f6?

Playing for cheapos. This should  
cost white the game! It allows the  
QB into the game and gives up the g6  
square, the ideal square for the QB.

27. Bf8! -/+

27...B:f6?? 28.Rf4 Qh6 29.Rg4+ +-

28. Rdel Bd7!

I unfortunately spent 10 minutes  
analysing 28...e5? 29.N:d5! c:d4  
30.Bg5 Qh5 31.Ne7+ B:e7 32.R:e5 +-

I still couldnt get Slip Sliding  
Away out of my mind. A attempt to  
explain why 10 minutes was spent in  
analysing such a dumb variation.

29. Nde2

I suppose Balashan thought he was  
winning my Q. There was no post-  
mortem.

29. Bb5 :2:15 Ng6! -+  
30. Qb4! :2:16

The fatal moment. I had calculated this position since 30...Qb4 and had fully intended to play 35...Rae8! Activating black's last piece!

But then I got to thinking... Why not play 35...B:c2? Which of his Pieces can attack the Bishop? The Rook's? Yes. But then I simply retreat the Bishop. The Knight's? Takes to long. The Bishop? Wrong colors. The Queen? No. She can't attack the Bishop diagonally, and the white bishop is on the same rank preventing that attack. So let's grab a pawn!

This is without a doubt one of the most poor way's of analysing a position, and this marks a second time I felt its effects.

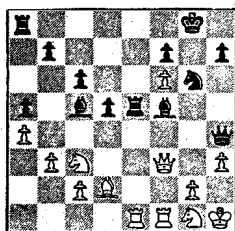
The first time was after about a year after beginning to play chess. The position is still very vivid in my mind: I was just about to make a tremendous move of Nd6+!! The N could be captured with a pawn on c7 a B on e7 and a R on d8. Any capture would net black a lost game so he hesitated the capture and played Kd7! Too which I should've retreated the N and be content with preventing my opponent from castling...

But prior too my playing Nd6+ I said too myself: He can't capture with the R or the B or the pawn. Thus he can't capture the Nat all! Needless to say my opponent's next move was Kxd6! After which I promptly lost a won game...

Thus by thinking in the manner I did, I closed my 'instincts' and thoughts concerning the capture of my Bishop because I had placed it 'above' the rules of chess!

The only thing I can suggest to the reader is too: 1) Recognize the fact that the above manner of analysing a position a poor one and The comment I made earlier regarding the tactics of the position is beginning to show itself true...

31. Kh1	Bc5!
32. Qd3	Re5!
33. Bd2	Qh4!
34. Ng1 :2:23	Bf5! :2:25
35. Qf3	



2) To concern one-self with concrete lines and concrete analysis...

35. B:c2

The move is not bad, as can be demonstrated, its the thinking behind the move that's bad...

36. R:e5 N:e5

Firstly I didn't think white could play 37.Qe2 because of 37...Bd3 38.Qe5 B:f1 but then I saw 39.Nf3 and I thought I would have to resign. So because of my manner of thinking prior to 35...B:c2 I calmly played

37. Ng6??

Suspecting no treachery. Especially not against my B on c2 because it had been placed 'above capture'. In the above diagramed position I would normally expect myself as well as the reader to find: 37...Bd3 38.Q:e5 B:f1 39.Nf3 B:g2+ 40.K:g2 Qf2+ +- in a minute or so... But because I'm a pawn up I didn't have to force myself to find this continuation...

38. Be1! +-

OH NOOOOOOO...

38.	Qg5
39. Q:c2	Bd6
40. Qe2!	h5

Adjourned. Black can simply resign but I decided to play on to see my opponent's wining technique...

I showed up a minute or so late for the adjournment and expected my clock to be ticking away. But neither the T.D. nor my opponent were to be found.

Finally I located the T.D. and asked for the Adjournment to be started. He inquired, "who sealed?" I stated, "white". He then started white's clock, without making the sealed move on the board. Fifteen minutes later my opponent came sauntering through the door and wanted to know "Why's my clock runing?"

The T.D. suddenly started Apologizing profusely and chuckling began giving my opponent his 15 minutes back. He started this action by stating "Sorry, sir. Thought you were white. I did. Since a illegality has been comitted the position has to be reinstated at the point the illegality took place!" (The T.D. was setting back the hands of time?) "But its your fault!" "Sorry!"

41. Nd1!

A high class sealed move. White will have to undergo some regrouping and the sacrifice of the f6 pawn is quite unneccessary.

41. d4?

Giving up e4. But at this point black had no taste for battle at the chess board and so quietly melted away...

42. Qe4!	c5
43. Nb2!	Ne5
44. Nc4!	Nic4
45. b:c4	Qc1Cd.
46. Qd5	Rd8
47. Nf3!	Qf4
48. Bd2	Qg3
49. Re1!	b6
50. Q:h5	REST

1

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The tournament was now over for me and unfortunately my games reflected this attitude...

The next morning I woke with a tremendous foot injury (after my loss I had kicked every lamp-post in the vicinity of the site), and had to seek medical treatment...

Suddenly it ocured to me that I didn't know where I would be playing next so I decided to find out. Asking the English tournament organizers such as Leonard Barden: I found out the next tournament worth playing in would be Feb. 3-5 and then after that EASTER!!! What happened to the pretty picture??? Somebody deserves to be strangled!!! As it turns out the absolute best months for chess players in England are September through November, Hasting's being a exception in December. (Leave it to me to study the magazine's reflecting the tournaments available from Sep. to Nov.) The reason for this is the National Bank of Dubai sponsors a large Congress (swiss) with about \$1900 for first! There is also a Aarnson Congress with a similar prize fund and similar sponsorship... Inspired by this wonderful bit of news (choke), I present:

53rd Hasting's International Challenger's Chess Congress

Round-8/10 1/5/78 T/C-40/2½ 56/3½ Board #11

White: Yasser Seirawan Black: W. Wolf (West Germany)

1. c4 :00	Nf6 :00
2. Nc3	g6
3. g3	Bg7
4. Bg2	00
5. d3 :01	d6 :02
6. Nf3	e5
7. 00	Nc6
8. Rb1!	a5

I have seen this move often in such positions, but I have strong reservations about it: 1) It insures that lines will be opened on the QS. 2) Since lines will be opened it naturally induces a struggle in which white will be favored. This will do a lot psychologically to dissuade my opponent from a all out attack on the KS...

9. a3 Bd7!

Black has a interesting variety of strategical ideas:

9...Bf5 10.e4 Bg4 11.h3 B:f3 12.B:f3 Nd4 13.Bg2 +/-

9...Bg4 10.b4 (10.h3 Bd7-) a:b4 11.a:b4 Qd7 12.Re1 +/-

10. b4 :03 a:b4 :18  
11. a:b4 h6?

A terrible move. The only reason black should play h6 is to prevent a possible Ng5 (the only reason to play Ng5 is if there's a B on e6).

If black had wanted to play h6 he should've played 9...h6?! 10.b4 a:b4 11.a:b4 Be6. White would have a +, but black would'nt have as cramped a game as he now get's.

Best was 11...Qc8! So as to be able to continue after 12.b5 with Nd8! black will relocate the QN to e6-c5.

12. b5! +/- Ne7

The problem with black's game is that he is in a cramped position and has a problem QN...

13. Qb3! Qc8  
14. Ba3! Bh3?

Necessary was 14...Re8 or Ne5.  
14...Ne5 15.e4! Nd4 16.N:d4 e:d4  
17.Ne2! +/-  
14...Re8 15.Rfcl (Nd5) +/-

15. N:e5 :24 +/- B:g2 :42  
16. Kf3 Qe6  
17. Nf3 Ng4?

When losing, a player's first instinct is to retaliate! But this is the quickest way to lose a lost game. As the first instinct of a player who's winning is to consolidate everything and defend! So the chances of an attack being successful are very minute.

The best way of handling a losing position is to build up the strong points of your game and too straighten out the weakness's. Solid defense will do more to frustrate your opponent than any direct attack might do (compare this in my game with Balashan).

Therefore I would suggest for Black 17...g5 and Ng6 trying to activate Black's poorest piece.

18. e3!

White is trying not to commit his central pawns. Which will hold black's pieces at bay.

White will like to do 3 things:

- 1) Transfer the QN to the KS.
- 2) Trade B's.
- 3) Take over the A file

18. Ne5?

Black is digging his own grave by seeking an attack.

19. Nd5! +/- Rac8  
20. Bb2! :46 B:b2  
21. Q:b2!

Placing the Q on a strong diagonal and preparing a possible Nd4.

21. c6  
22. Nf4 Qe7  
23. Kg1!

Preparing the Fianchetto of the N and getting out of a possible N:e3+.

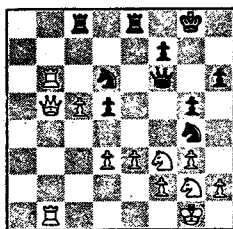
23. g5  
24. Ng2

White is now solid enough on the KS that he can become ambitious towards the QS.

24. Rfe8  
25. Ra1 :1:27 Qe6 :1:38  
26. Ra7 Rb8  
27. Rb1! d5  
28. e5! c:b5  
29. Q:b5 Qf6

Black is playing for desperate cheapos on the F file. This goes to show the poor strategy used by black since the loss of the E pawn.

30. R:b7 :1:46 Rbc8 :2:12  
31. Rb6! Nd6



In explaining my next move I claim to have been suffering from a disease known as laziness!

Because of my lackluster attitude about the tournament (I didn't want to 'waste' energy) I saw 31.R:d6 Q:f3 32.Rf1 white is a solid 2 pawns up so what's the problem?

I had vaguely considered 31.c:d6! Q:f3 32.d7 Q:f2+ 33.Kh1 Rc2 34.d:e8 =Q+KKh7 (34...Kg7?? 35.Qb2+ +/-) and unfortunately I simply failed to realize 35.Q:d5 win's.

I had been looking at 35.Q:f7+ Q:f7 36.Rb7 Nf2+ = 35.Rg1?? Qf5! Unclear!

32. R:d6? Qf3  
33. Rf1 Qe2

Now I simply failed to realize black had a threat. This is solely because of my previous thinking. "He don't have nothin, my position's too solid..."

Best is 34.Qb1 Rc5 35.Qd1 Q:d1 36.R:d1 Rc2 37.Rf1 +/-

34. R:d5??

I thought that Qe2 prepared 34.Ne5 which would be answered by 35.Ne1!

34. N:h2!

WHOOOOOPS

35. K:h2 :2:07

Forced. 35.Qb1?? Nf3+ 36.Kh1 Q:d2 -+

35.Rb1?? Nf3+ 36.Kh1 Q:f2 -+

35. Q:f1 :2:21  
36. Rf5 Rb8!  
37. Qc6

If 37.Qc4 Rf8! +/- 38.c6.Rb1 39.g4 Qh1+ 40.Kg3 Rg1 -+

41. Qd5 Qb4 42.Kf3 Qh3+ 43.Ke2 Qg4 -+ Or 37.Qd7 Rf8 and the line is similar as the one above.

37. Q:d3

My oponent now offered me a draw which shocked the spectators, even more so when I declined!

38. g4 Re6  
39. Qc7 Rf8  
40. Kg3 Qb5

Adjourned.

41. Ne1 :2:27

Sealed. My oponent again offered me a draw and I again declined. Black's R on f8 is as poor a piece as the N on e1. If white can mobilize his N on d4 with the Q's on the board white should win easily.

41. Rc6  
42. Qd7 Qb8+  
43. Kf3 Qa8 =

I was prepared after 43...Qc8 44.Q:c8 Rf:c8 45.Nd3. When the ending is rather unclear due to the fact white has a active King...

44. Kg3

44.Qd5?? R:c5 -+

44. Qb8  
45. Kg2 :2:39

If 45.Kh3 Qc8! and white will have to give ground with 46.Qd5 since I would be 2 tempi down in the end-game discussed...

45. Qb4! :2:53 =  
46. Kh3

Forced. 46.Kg3?? R:c5 47.Nd3 Qb8+ -+

46. Qa4  
47. Nf3?

This allows a draw right away. Best was 47. Kg3 Qe6 48.Qd4 Rf:c8 49.Nd3 Qe7 50.Ne5 Rf6 (50...R:c5? 51.N:f7 R:f5 52.N:h6+ +/-) 51.Nd7 R:f5 52.g:f5 with a unclear pos. Though I prefer white's chances.

47. Rc5! -/+  
48. N:g5! = h:g5  
49. R:c5 Qf3+  
50. Kh2 :3:01 Q:f2+ :3:28  
51. Kh1 DRAW

4 4

51...Q:e3 52.Qf5=

I couldnt believe that I hadnt won that game! It was worse than a nightmare because when I woke up I was'nt in bed!

Tarjan asked me to help him with an adjournment, which helped my bruised ego. The scores of the Premier at the half-way point (8th round) had Sax 7; Dzindzishashvili 6; Petrosian 5; Hort, Mestel, Tarjan 4.5; Speelman 4; Fedorowicz, Nunn, Sveshnikov, Webb 3; Botterill, Shamkovich 2.5; Tisdall 2; Kagan 1.5.

Rd 9, Jan 5, 1978, Board #10

White: Robert Gruchacz  
Black: Yasser Seirawan

1. e4 :00 e6 :00  
2. d4 d5  
3. e5!

When I played Kenneth Reggan in the 77 U.S. Junior Closed after he played 3.e5! He announced too Tisdall I was busted. Two weeks earlier in Mexico against 2435 avg. rating opposition he won all three games.

3. b6!

In my opinion this is the best way to handle the advanced French. 3...c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Nc6-6.a3! Gaurantees white a lasting adv.

4. c3

Momentarily preventing 4...Ba6? 5.B:a6 N:a6 6.Qa4+ =

4. Qd7  
5. a4? :15

A interesting attempt to disrupt

black's strategy. 5...Ba6? 6.B:a6  
N:a6 7.a5! +/-  
7...b5? 8.b4! +/-  
7...Ne7 8.a:b6 a:b6 9.Qd3 +/-  
5...c5? 6.Bb5 Nc6 7.a5 +/-

5. a5 Ne7! :21  
6. R:a5 b:a5!  
7. R:a5 c5! -/-

This came as a unpleasant shock for white as he was expecting 7.Nec6 8.Ra1 a5 9.Nf3 Ba6 10.B:a6 N:a6 11.00 +/- Since black has a tough time trying to get in c5. Because of the weakness on a5...

8. Ra1

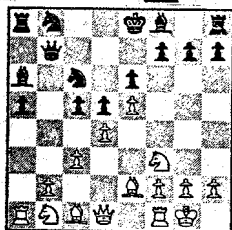
Not 8.Rxc5? Nec6 9.Rb5 Ba6 10.Rb3 (10.R:b8+ N:b8 the point of 5...Ne7) B:f1 11.K:f1 Na5 +-

8.d:c5 Nec6 9.Bb5 B:c5 10.Nf3 Qc7 -/-

8. Nec6! -/-  
9. Nf3 a5!

Despite white's efforts black gets in Ba6 and because of the open lines on the QS black will find good play.

10. Be2 :56 Ba6 :48  
11. 00 Qb7!



- 1) Placing the Q on the half-open file.
- 2) Preparing a recapture on a6 with the Q.
- 3) Preparing Nd7 which in turn will prepare.f6.

12. Na3

White spent a long time searching for a active plan, but could'nt and so decided to set up a defensive position...

12. c:d4!

This delay was to prevent white the possibility of playing Nc3.

13. c:d4 Be7  
14. Nc2 00  
15. Nfel

White is fishing for a plan, so without to much hesitation I decided to begin a creeping forward motion. However much was to be suggested for Nd7-Nb6-a4-Na5-Nb3 and Nc4.....

15. Qb6 :1:03

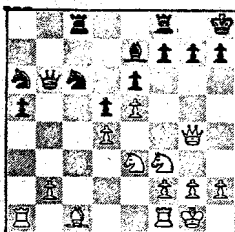
16. B:a6 N:a6  
17. Qa4 Kh8?

I had'nt realized that I would be taking over the KS as well. So I hastily played 17...Kh8?

17...f5! 18.e:f6 R:f6 I unfortunately had a illusion about the position and thought after 19.Bg5?! Rg6 20.h4 my rook would be dubiously placed.

This is bad judgement on my part, since on 20...Q:b2! 21.Rd1 (necassary too get out of the mess his pieces are in) Bg5! 22.H:g5 h6! 23.f4 Rf8! +/-

18. Nf3 Rac8  
19. Ne3



Though white looks as though he as a KS initiative in fact that would be a poor assessment since, whites weakness on d4 restricts the mobility of his pieces:

The N on e3 has access to only g4, (what good is it when it's there). This would neccitate a Q move which is tied to the defense of d4. This paralysis extends to the N on f3.

When one's pieces are paralysed its hard to attack. White won't be able to answer black's QS plus...

19. Nab4!

A useful move since 1) It ties the N on e3 to the defense of c2 and 2) It prepare's a intrusion on the light squares, d3, c2.

20. Rd1 :1:45 Qa6?! :1:30

Better was 20...Qb5 preparing a4-Na5-Nb3.

21. Nel f5!  
22. e:f6 R:f6  
23. N3c2 Rg6  
24. Qh5 N:c2?

Exchanges help white relieve the pressure. 24...Rf8! 25.N:b4 B:b4 26.NC2 Bd6! Placing the B on a more active diagonal.

25. N:c2 2:10 Qc4 :1:56  
26. Ne3 Qb5  
27. Nc2

White now offered a draw?

27. Rf8! -/+  
28. Nel

Black now misses the opportunity to force a immediate win: 28...Rf5 29.Qh3 Qe2 30.Be3 Rh6! -+ 31.Rd2 Q:d2 (not 31...N:d4?? 32.Q:f5! +-) 32.B:d2 R:h3 33.g:h3 N:d4 -+...

28. a4??

I had worked up such a confidence in my position that I felt I had time to locate my N on b3.

29. Rd3!

Now I realized 28...a4 to be a mistake since 29...Rf5 is answered by 30.Qd1! The reason for the double question mark. So I said to myself, "OK, I'll prepare Rf5c by playing Na5!

29. Na5???  
30. Rh3! -+ -

When I reappeared at the board I nearly choked. What happened too me? Two games ago I lost a won game. Last game I was two (2) pawns up and drew! Today after having a nice wining game I now was lost!?!

30. Kg8  
31. Q:h7+

Played with a zeal!

31. Kf7  
32. Qh5!

Wining a rook since my N on a5 can't even play to e7!

32. Rh8

What does a chessmaster think when giving up a rook without compensation? "Hmmm, well if I keep the R on g6 I have CHEAPOs!!

33. Rf3+ Bf6  
34. Q:h8 Qe2  
35. Be3 Q:b2  
36. Rc1 Nc4  
37. Qc8

37.Nd3 would've produced a immediate win.

37. a3  
38. Qd7+ Kf8  
39. Qc8+ Kf7  
40. Qd7+ Kf8  
41. Qd8+ Kf7  
42. Nd3

Sealed. No comment. Except when your going to lose it's hard to enjoy your food.

42. R:g2+

42...Qe2 43.Ne5+ N:e5 44.Rc7+++

43. K:g2 N:e3+  
44. R:e3 Q:d4  
45. Rc7+ Ke6  
46. Qe8+ Kg5  
47. Rg3+ REST

1

0

After today's loss, I was beginning to wonder what else could go wrong??

When I started a conversation with Mr. Leonard Barden, who questioned me about my immediate future. I explained that I was planning to invite myself to the Birmingham International. He then floored me by saying, "There isn't going to be a Birmingham International!!"

I asked for it eh?

Mr. Barden went on to explain that even if there were to be a Birmingham International, I would be the most unattractive candidate that the organizers would have a choice of.

"Because you have a provisional FIDE rating, when you enter an international, for all purposes your rating would be a provisional rating of 2200. (It would be as though an unrated entered an international event.) But in essence you're a strong 2400; this, then, would place added strain on English players who are trying to make norms."

"I see. How many games do I need to have a non-provisional FIDE rating?"

"Twenty-four."

This lovely bit of news did wonders for my illness...

(To be concluded next issue)

# BREAKING INTO THE ARENA

by Yasser Seirawan  
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CONCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE. Two previous installments were published in the March 1979 issue on pages 63-68 and in the May 1979 issue on pages 141-147. To obtain these back issues, consult the advertisement in this issue on page 174.

So for the last round of play which began at 9 o'clock in the morning (a European tradition?) I was praying my opponent wanted a quick draw. Indeed, about 50% of the games ended in the first half hour!

Prior however to the game's start, people who I didn't know were warning me of how good my opponent was! This instantly prevented me from offering me a draw and I began to work myself up into the mood necessary for me to roll of a 'putz'.

## 33rd Hasting's International Challenger's Chess Congress

Round-10/10 1/6/78 T/C-40/2½ 56/3½ Board #15

White: Yasser Seirawan Black: F. Trois (Brazil) 2385

1. e4 :00 e5 :11  
2. Nc3 d6  
3. g3

3.d4!

3. Be6

A interesting system. Black will play for central control beginning with attempts to play d5. Black will set up hopefully in the following manner: g6-Bg7-c6-Nf6-00-Nbd7-d5.

The drawback about the variation is that if white is able to play d4, e4c4, N4d4 in which the B on e6 will be misplaced.

4. Nf3 c6

White now has several possibilities

- 1) 5.e4 c5! When the move Nf3 doesn't jell with white's pos.  
2) 5.d3? h6! 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.00 g6 +/-  
3) e3!? f5 6.d4 e4 7.d5! e:f3 8. d:e6 +/-

Another possibility for which I have a incling for is:

- 4) 5.e3 f5 6.d4 e4 7.Nh4?! g5? 8.Ng2

When white will probably after 9.h4 win the struggle for f4 and if so, he will have a large +.

5. b3?! :03 Nf6 :22  
6. d4 e4  
7. Ng5 Bf5  
8. d5?

The idea of white's play has been to force black to extend his e pawn, block it, then win it...

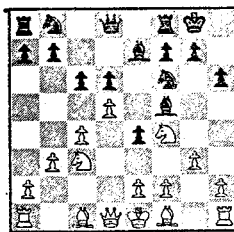
8. h6  
9. Nh3 Be7?

Black doesn't understand the danger to his position and does nothing to prevent white's strategy.

Best and forced is 9...g5! 10.Bb2 Bg7 11.d:c6 b:c6 12.Qd2 Qd7! 13.Ng1 00 14.Rd1 Rd8! Unclear.

In exchange for his weakness's Black gets a considerable lead in development.

10. Nf4! :15 00 :41



11. Ng2!

White's strategy can now be seen more clearly he will continue: Ne3-Bb2-Qd2-d:c6-Rd1-Bg2-00 with a large +.

11. Re8  
12. Ne3 +/-

White in the first 12 moves has moved the KN 6 times! And is better!

12. Bg6

Black can either place the Bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal for the defense of the e pawn. Or, place it aggressively on the h3-c8 diagonal, in which case his pieces will get tied up in the defense of the e pawn...

13. Bh3!

Another finesse of white's position. Black has put his forces into defending the e pawn. Therefore white begins a manuevre to work 'around' the e pawn.

13. Be8  
14. 00 Nbd7  
15. Qd2! :23

White has 2 choices of consideration 15.d:c6 or Qd2.

The drawback of 15.d:c6 b:c6 16.Qd2 (16.Ba3 Qa5 17.Qc1 Qh5!?) Ne5 17.Rd1 Qc7 18.Ba3 Rad8 when black has successfully coped with his weakness's and may very well be able to play d5 and unravel his pieces from the defense of the e pawn.

15.Qd2 on the other hand 'prepares' d:c6. Since the exchange of pawns is not a threat. I was planing to prepare the position to a point where it would be. Also if black responds to the threat he will never have the chance to play d5!



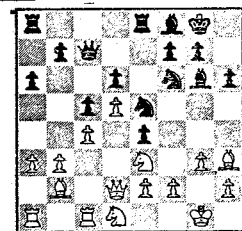
15. e5? :1:08

What a time for everything to start going well!

16. a3 a6  
17. Bb2 Ne5

Black correctly refrains from playing b5 which would be answered by white's b4, opening lines on the QS for white's pieces.

18. Rfc1! Qc7  
19. Ncd1!



This move reflects the flexibility of white's position. He can play with b4 for QS play. Or on the KS with Ng2-Nde3-Nf4...

19. Nh7

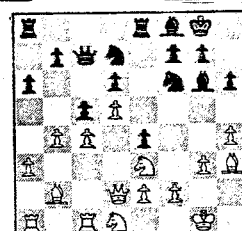
Black is fidgiting for a plan and wants to play for f5?!

20. b4! :28 Ng5 :1:22  
21. Bg2 Nd7!

Black must be able to capture on c5 with a N.

Bad would be 21...f5? 22.h4 Nh7 23.Bh3! Qd7 24.Ng2! +/-

22. h4 Nh7  
23. Bh3 Nhf6



24. Ng2!

Excellent! Black has been completely outplayed. White now threatens Nde3-Nf4-h5 Black will then be completely without counterplay...

24. e3!

The best move to generate counterplay.

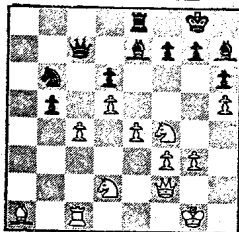
25. Nde3 Ne4  
26. Qe1 Ne5  
27. f3 Nf6  
28. Qe2

Not 28.Nf4 c:b4 29.a:b4 Qb6.

28. a:b4 c:b4  
29. b:a5 :1:26 a5 :1:52  
30. Nf4 R:a5  
31. Nf4 Bh7  
32. h5? Nf7  
33. B:d7 Nd7  
34. Nf1

The N will be located to d2 to neutralize the N on c5. It also prepares the center rush...

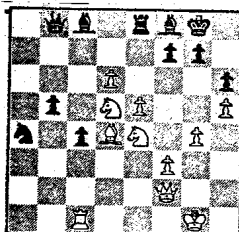
34. B:a1 :1:09 R:a1  
35. B:a1 :1:09 b5 :2:10  
36. Nd2 Be7  
37. e4 Nb6



38. c5! +- d:c5  
39. e5 Qa7!  
40. d6 :1:11 Bf8 :2:28  
41. Nb3! c4  
42. Nc5 Bf5?

Black's only chance to prolong the game is to play 42...f6...

43. g4! +- Bc8  
44. Bd4 Qb8  
45. Ne4 :1:17 Na4 :3:11  
46. Nd5



One of my favorite positions!

46. Bb7  
47. Ndf6?

I hastily played this move in view of 47...g:f6 48.N:g6 Kg7 49.Qc2 +-.

So I thought it didn't matter what N I use...

Something else about the move: As I was picking up the N I lost my grip, the N was going to fall on the board when I caught it and slamed it on f6!

This caused my opponent to give me a verbal tongue lashing in Spanish.

What could I say? "Sorry."

My opponent replied by SLAMING his K on h8!

47. Kh8!

After this I was further embarrassed as I had slamed down a bad move.

47.Nef6+ Kh8 48.Qc2 +-.

48. N:e8 Q:e8  
49. Qc3 Qa8  
50. e6!

Played weakly.

REST

1 0

American Grandmaster Leonid Shamkovitch would take on the next strongest batch of juniors.

Jonathan Mestel having recently won a second GM norm at Hastings the third strongest bunch.

The new European Junior Champion Shaun Taulbault the next group of juniors.

Finally, myself, with the last group of juniors. My score was +25 -1 =1.

Just before I left England I did play in a swiss but I suffered several sadness's which aren't worth mentioning...

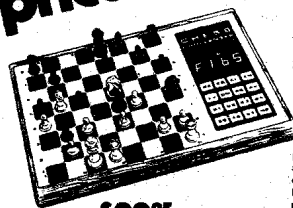
One, might deduce that my experience in Englan was't worth it. But, I assure the reader that if I had to do it again I most certainly would. I gained a great deal of knowledge about international events, I met a lot of organizer's who now know that I am looking for invitations. Most importantly I learned that a player can succeed without the help of the USCF to strictly control his actions...

Players interested in addresses of English organizers, or who would like to tell me their opinions of this article may write me at this address:  
Yasser Seirawan  
621 32nd Avenue E.  
Seattle, Washington 98102

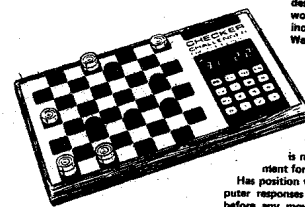
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WIK-AAN-ZEE, HOLLAND			
SICILIAN DEFENSE			
Caprindashvili	Heubner	14-P-QR3	B-K3 29-B-K4
USSR W. Germany	Black	15-P-R3	QR-QB1 31-B-B5
White	Black	16-K-R2	KR-Q1 32-B-K6
1-P-K4	P-QB4	17-P-B4	Bxb3 33-R-K3
2-N-KB3	P-K3	18-Qxb3	Q-B4 34-R-QN4
3-P-Q4	PxP	19-QxQ	RxQ 35-P-QN4
4-NxP	N-QB3	20-R-B2	KR-QB1 36-B-B5
5-N-QB3	Q-B2	21-KR-Q2	R(4)-B3 37-R-N3
6-P-KN3	P-QR3	22-PxP	PxP 38-P-Q3
7-B-N2	N-N3	23-N-Q5ch	BxN 39-P-R4
8-Q-O	P-K4	24-Pxb3	R-Q3 40-R-K2
9-QxN	B-B4	25-R-K1	N-Q2 Resigns
10-B-B4	P-Q3	26-P-KR4	P-B3
11-Q-Q2	P-R3	27-R-K3	P-QN4
12-QR-Q1	P-K4	28-P-N3	N-N3
SICILIAN DEFENSE			
Van Wigerden	Schellings	8-N-B3	N-K2 18-Q-N3
Holland	Holland	9-P-Q4	P-QR3 19-P-K6
White	Black	10-B-K3	P-B5 20-QR-Q1
1-P-K4	P-QB4	11-N-K3	N-KB3 21-P-B6
2-P-KB4	P-K3	12-P-B5	O-O 22-PxP
3-N-KB3	P-Q4	13-B-N5	N-K5 23-PxR
4-PxP	PxP	14-NxN	PxN 24-QxQ
5-B-N5ch	B-Q2	15-Q-N4	BxN 25-B-R6
6-BxCh	Nxb3	16-Pxb3	Q-Q5ch
7-O-O	B-Q3	17-R-R1	N-Q4
			KR-K1
			PxP
			Q-N3
			R-KB1
			RxRch
			Q-B2
			NxQ
			Resigns