

OLYMPIA FIDE FUTURITY: NOV 22-30, 1986

Report by Joel J. Barnes, Organizer and TD

Getting Organized!

When writing the reports for tournaments and upper level events, I like to give the participants and non-participants a feel for the processes that lead to the event and affect its outcome.

The American Chess Foundation graciously co-sponsored the event, giving us \$400. The other funding was from an entry fee of \$75 each for the non-FIDE rated players. We had \$300 for 1st, \$200 for 2nd, and \$100 for 3rd. We spent \$225 on travel money and appearance fees and \$50 for administrative costs. The site was free, donated by Randy Dean of Dean Securities.

We were much more inspirational than systematic in our selection of the field. We knew that Clark Harmon would play and had a FIDE rating. Dave Rupel happened to be at the Oregon Open and talked to Dave Ross and Tom O'Donnell; they were interested. At first, we thought this gave us two of our three FIDE players but it turned out that O'Donnell had earned an estimated FIDE rating of 2290 but it couldn't be used because it hadn't been published. Ross, however, had a published FIDE rating.

We contacted Dr. Minev but he was unavailable. Eric Tangborn couldn't make it. Bobby Ferguson would love to play. Ralph Dubisch and Mike Spiegel seemed to have dropped out of chess. We all wanted to invite Alexey Rudolph but I was under the impression that the FIDE rating had to average 2250 and this eliminated Alexey. Later we learned I was mistaken.

Current WCF President John Braley happened to run into Magdy Assem in the University of Washington District and told him about the tournament. Magdy was interested; we contacted him and he agreed to play, our 4th FIDE.

Yet such illustrious personalities as Alex Kuznecov, Jonathan Berry, and others weren't contacted as FIDE players, although Jonathan sent us a letter after we were set.

The selection of non-FIDE players was equally eccentric. Neil Salmon was asked about a Futurity in September/October and said no. He was not recontacted about a November date. Randy Dean and Dave Rupel wanted to play and I chose to be TD and first alternate. Mike Montchalin sent a letter to the over-2000 rated players about our Futurity and sent us a check. I would like to see Oregon get enough players to have a FIDE championship so he was included. Viktor's Pupols is always fun and he wanted to play so we invited him. The Washington Co-Champions weren't available. Tom O'Donnell was coming. Until almost the last week our 10th participant was Jim Blackwood. He dropped out and was replaced by Mike Schemm. Bill McGeary didn't want to play. We were unable to contact Bill Phipps.

So the field was set, the average USCF rating was 2205, the average FIDE rating, 2255.

Preparation for Opponents

It is now Nov 17th, just five days until the Futurity starts. Clark Harmon, Randy Dean, Dave Rupel and I have met four times to examine their prospective opponents.

Tom O'Donnell and Dave Ross have received special scrutiny. Neither, it turns out, are particularly terrifying. Both are solid players who try for a spatial advantage and attempt to squeeze their opponents to death in the endgame. Ross seems solid, O'Donnell more enterprising. Neither seems to overwhelm their opponents in the opening.

Clark and Randy are pleased to have White against Ross who looks like the harder of the two to beat. Both have Black against O'Donnell while Rupel has White. All are amused by the way I self-destructed against Ross in the Oregon Open.

I have missed the analysis on Mike Montchalin. His game is a mystery to me. Clark says he plays like Clark, very aggressive with good endgame skill. I have another impression of Montchalin but no evidence to back it up.

Magdy Assem is a mystery to us; we can't find any games on him. Still, we must be something of a mystery to the others, particularly Randy, who has been very discrete in his play this decade. Clark has been playing mostly postal chess.

Viktor's Pupols worries no one. Yes, he is a very dangerous player. But he has a tendency to grandstand. Against Ferguson he had Bobby all tied up ready for dining and, instead of cutting the throat he cut the ropes. Viktor's only seems to be

happy after he has been pounded upon, when he can play attacking and defensive moves simultaneously. In the game against Clark Harmon he was positionally superior but maneuvered until Clark was provoked into accepting some good play. Viktor's won, but he let Clark get awfully close to equality. Yes, Viktor's is an extremely dangerous player, but he is a player who will force you to have play, will give it to you if you haven't got it. So the Olympia Noble Fellows are quite happy playing against him as either Black or White. They will have chances and that is all any player can ask or get against another.

Ferguson is another matter. As White he is an English player. Randy and Clark don't like to play against his English opening and its style because White just makes 15 book moves, the first moves that come to mind, and has a reasonable position. Black has to bust his brain to get interesting play. Fortunately, Clark and Randy have White against Bobby and they are ready. Randy would enjoy playing against Ferguson's ...NPxN variation of the Caro-Kann. Dave Rupel has an opening trap ready for Bobby. I have a formation I would like to try against the English.

Mike Schemm has been substituted for Jim Blackwood, but no games of his were discussed.

Looking over the Olympia team Clark seems to be the most ready. He has tuned his game tactically in our speed games and seems to have a good attitude. Randy seems to be more worried than I would like him to be. Randy can play 20 moves like a Grandmaster but he will take an hour and a half to do so. Dave Rupel seems the least centered and most off his game. He usually wins our speed tournaments but lately has been finishing at the bottom. He could go into playing for "no disgrace" as he did in the Washington Championship where he scored 50%. Much will depend on the results of the early games, too much will depend on tiredness but that's the way it goes.

Players' Meeting; Round 1

The Players' meeting starts at 10:30. The time control is agreed upon to be 40/2 as advertised, not 40/2 1/2 as I proposed. Secondary would be 20/1. The rounds would start at 6:30 as advertised, not 7:00 as proposed. The Players committee would be Mike Montchalin, Viktor's Pupols and Randy Dean. The assistant TD's would be Clark Harmon and Dave Rupel. Complete scoresheets without checkmarks would be required for claiming time forfeits. It was a swift and well run business meeting, now unto chess!

Dave Ross opens with a King Pawn game and plays the Bishop's Opening Bc4. The idea behind this move is to lure Black into placing his KB on c5 and then play a Ruy Lopez type pawn storm against the 'misplaced' Black Bishop. Vik Pupols develops aggressively but can pieces really hold back pawns supported by pieces? Ross begins his pawn storm with his King as yet uncastled but safe. Viktor's looks the situation over and, sacs a piece to open up d4 for his Knight! The Knight hop gains tempo against the Queen on e2 and we are wondering in the huddle of White pieces on c1,c2,d2,d1,e1 a mass or a target? Viktor's changes a Bishop for the Knight on f3 and Ross automatically recaptures, gxf3. And spends an hour considering his next move. Analysis indicates that the way to refute the attack was Nd2xf3. This will drop the Queen to Nb3, Bxb3, Rxd1, Bxd1, Qxb4 with a Queen and 2 pawns for the Rook and 2 Bishops. Still, here Black's attack is broken. Now, however, the game becomes a question of White's King's safety. Each side has 12 minutes to make 24 moves. Would you trade your King's safety for a piece in such time trouble? The game gets away from theoretical forcing moves as Vik turns his game into lasting pressure. Ross loses on time as he makes the losing Kf1-g1, allowing ...Nd4xf6+ with the discovered attack on the White Queen. Uncle Vik's time pressure looks like his best weapon.

Mike Schemm plays very well, making Bobby Ferguson's situation look desperate from the late opening. But as Bobby slips into time trouble, Mike begins to play poorly. As Mike slips into time pressure, he begins to play terribly. Neither side is keeping score but Bobby throws away a Rook which Mike doesn't see. Bobby checks Mike's King with his Queen once and again. On the second check, Bobby's Queen is attacked by Schemm's Rook. Mike misses it, Bobby take the Rook on a6 covering the unprotected Rook on c8. The skill, The art, The logic. Mike missed 3 winning moves: 34 BxP+, 39 QxR+, and 41 RxD.

Magdy Assem plays convincingly as Black and crushes Mike Montchalin in an endgame. The only logical game of the round.

Dave Rupel-Randy Dean is a draw. Randy might have some pressure but Dave's position is solid and he finds some good moves.

O'Donnell-Harmon walk down the main line of the Caro-Kann. O'Donnell sacrifices the exchange for 2 pawns. Clark has some pressure and play but misplays it and his flag falls.

Round 2

Ferguson(1)-O'Donnell(1) ends in an early 16-move draw. Ferguson plays the English; O'Donnell forces him into the QGD. Bobby plays the Exchange Variation and O'Donnell transposes into a Tarrasch Defense. O'Donnell liquidates his isolated QP and they call it a draw. Apparently, English players don't know how to play against the QGD and it is a good idea to force them into it. Both now have 1.5 points.

Harmon(0)-Ross(0) doesn't look good. In a Nimzo-Indian Clark's pieces are looking more and more like they are trapped behind his pawns. Clark doesn't lose his objectivity and pulls back, regrouping his pieces. The game levels out and Clark starts getting pressure on Ross' Kingside. He wins a pawn but then exchanges the QB for a Knight which weakens his e3 pawn. I can't tell who is winning. The pawn structure favors Black but Clark has an attack; game is adjourned.

Montchalin(0)-Schemm(0) is very lively. White castles Queenside while allowing Black's ...QPxBP that looks killing. Schemm plays for the attack instead of using the extra pawn and the game looks like it is leveling out. White has some pressure on the Kingside but Black's pressure forces him back. Black wins in a blaze of attack.

Assem(1)-Dean(.5) becomes a Maroczy Bind in the Sicilian by transposition. Magdy gets in Nd5 when ..Bxc6 is forced. White has the 2 Bishops but the position is blocked. But Assem finds a way to crash through.

Pupols(1)-Rupel(.5) becomes an obscure variation that theory promises to give equality. But I know Uncle Vik. It will lead to a dynamically tense position with chances for both sides. Vik is slowly building up a Kingside attack and it looks very tricky for Dave. Vik wins a pawn and the exchange and it is all over.

Round 3

This round will feature a TD's nightmare: three time scrambles occurring at once. Fortunately, Magdy Assem and Mike Schemm have finished and can watch 2 of the games while I watch the 3rd.

Schemm(1) as White seems to be going berserk against Assem(2). The game has evolved to giving 2 Knights for a Rook and 2 pawns but Black has a Queen, Rook, 2 Bishops, 2 Knights to play with; an incredibly unbalanced game is occurring. Still, it does make sense for Schemm, his position is solid and simplifications could result in a superior endgame for him. Another dynamically unbalanced position, the type Schemm loves to play and how well will Magdy play in such a situation? The best practical chance for an imaginative player against a positional player. Assem's position seems to be disintegrating, pawns are falling like raindrops. A Black a-pawn has become passed though White has a h-, g-, f- and e-pawn passed. I can see how the White pawns will be stopped, but how will the Black pawns be stopped? They can't be, and Black wins.

Ross(0)-Ferguson(1.5) is discussing the Bogo-Indian. Dave has emerged with a solid 7-pawn chain while Bobby has 2 pawn islands, one of 5 and one of 2. Ross basically sits on Bobby, putting pressure on the a-pawn until Bobby cracks and drops a pawn. Bobby pushes his a-pawn to the 7th rank but, like the 5th game of the 3rd Karpov-Kasparov match, it is surrounded by White pieces and lost. Ferguson has gotten into what is his customary time pressure, having 3 minutes for 13 moves. Ferguson sacs a piece for the c- and d-pawns, which are sitting on his throat but also drops his d-pawn. Ross is up a piece and a pawn at adjournment. Ferguson has a few checks but is just dead!

O'Donnell(1.5)-Montchalin(0) has me very confused. I thought White was crushing with a huge spatial advantage but now it looks like a French without a bad Bishop. But how can it be a French with a Knight on e6 and a pawn on e7? Mike is finding inventive play. He sacs a pawn but slowly and surely White advances on the Queenside to bring the game to victory.

Rupel(.5)-Harmon(1) transpose from a KID into a Benoni. It is Clark's favorite position but Dave has some play. Dave gets some nasty looking pressure on Clark's game. But now Clark has won the exchange for a pawn; still, White has one large pawn chain with 5 pawns, 2 Knights, and a Rook against Clark's 4 pawns, 2 Rooks, and 1 Knight. Dave has lots of squares for his Knights: e6, c6, and f5. But Dave gets into time pressure and on the 40th move he drops a Knight onto c6 where it is ex-

changed and the d-pawn gets passed but is weak. The game is adjourned but it is clear that the c-pawn will fall. Dave, however, has constructed a fortress where a Knight and 4 pawns may hold off a Rook and 4 pawns.

Randy Dean(.5)-Viktors Pupols(2) has become the most theoretically crucial game of the round. Viktors loves to challenge and Randy usually accepts. A tense battle in a critical variation between two very good players is what the Futurity is all about. Technically, it is a Maroczy Bind against a Dragon with Black playing ...e5 to support the Knight on d4. Randy sacs the exchange for an extra passed a-pawn on the 6th rank. It looks grim for Vik and good for Randy who is finally getting and playing his game. The a6-pawn is now supported by a pawn on b5. Randy is playing well, Vik is in time trouble. Randy has three methods to win. First to play Rd3-d8-b8-b7, force the blockading Rook away and queen the a-pawn. Second, play Kc1-b1, chasing the 2nd Black Rook away from the a-file and then play Rd3-d7 chopping the Black Rook and queening the a-pawn. Or there seems to be a quicker win, just play Rd3-d7, which he does with 15 minutes left on his clock. Viktors trades and Randy realizes to his horror that after the Bishop captures on d7 it won't control a8 and it will require a move to get back to do this. Vik's Rook achieves the a-file and Randy is just lost. The game is adjourned but play follows expected lines. Randy does get to promote his a-pawn but the Rook covers the square so it is a Bishop and Viktors already has a Queen.

We have four adjournments: Ross-Ferguson, Harmon-Ross, Dean-Pupols and Rupel-Harmon. Ross and Ferguson agree to play it out later. This allows Ferguson to catch a ride to Seattle with Montchalin. The round ends at 3:00+. Ross, O'Donnell and Rupel go off to analyze Harmon-Ross. Clark goes home and catches a nap. Clark, Viktors and I had played with various continuations after the adjournment. All I know was that White seemed positionally busted after his attack stops, but I can't prove his attack stops or that it doesn't stop. Ross expresses the opinion that he is better, positionally it appears so, but what about Clark's attack?

Upon resumption Clark closes in on Black's King, winning a piece. It is amazing what a Rook, Knight and Queen are able to do to a Black King, Queen, Bishop and 2 Rooks plus a Knight that is usefully placed on c4.

Rupel-Harmon will be played off at a later time, paralleling the events of Ross-Ferguson. When drawing up the schedule I had assumed we would play off all rounds 1-3 adjournments in one session as had been done in the last two Washington Championships. However, players who had been in previous Futurities thought we would play off only one adjournment per playing day. We have fudged on this for this session; however, Rd 6 on Friday is followed by Rd 7 and Rd 8 on Saturday. A single player could have 3 adjournments plus a last game on Sunday. This will be announced at the start of round 4. There will be adjournment playoffs on Wednesday evening, a nonplaying day.

Taking Stock

With the Futurity 1/3 completed, it is time to take stock.

FIDE Master Magdy Assem (3-0) is emerging as the man to beat. He hasn't emerged much in the pages of this commentary because he has won in a logical manner. His game against Montchalin was quite easy. I was shocked by how easily he defeated Randy Dean. His game against Mike Schemm was wildly irrational but again Magdy won. It is impossible so say that he has stood worse in 3 rounds. His manner of play is the surest indication that he is the man to beat. He is rusty but he is playing quickly and well, taking the shortest amount of time per game. In postgame analysis he has quick, convincing answers to all reasonable lines of play.

Counterbalancing his assets is the emergence of his player's profile. He seems to be a power positional player, logical and strong. His future opponents know that Ralph Dubisch defeated him by playing for extreme activity. Pupols, Harmon, Montchalin and Rupel will probably test him in combinational play. Ross and O'Donnell will probably go for positional pressure souped up for the biggest challenge.

Viktors Pupols (also 3-0) makes it a pleasure to anticipate his earning a FIDE rating after all these years. Uncle Vik's play, however, has not been as convincing as Assem's. Time trouble has occurred in two games and he was clearly lost against Randy Dean. While Uncle Vik uses his time pressure as a weapon, Assem seems to be proof against that sort of tactic. They play each other next round. On the other hand, Uncle Vik is the player who keeps beating IM John Donaldson rated 2400+. With Uncle Vik anything can happen!

Tom O'Donnell (2.5) is playing well, applying steady positional pressure in his games. The 1-2 point was as Black against Ferguson in a position that was dead equal; trying to make play in that sort of position tends to rebound. He sacrificed an exchange against Clark for 2 pawns, then Clark overpressed his counterattack and beat himself. Simple play, not very impressive in conception, but sound and technically skillful. I don't yet feel he has been tested but we shall see.

Clark Harmon may have 2 or 1.5 depending on his adjournment against Dave Rupel. He had hoped for 1 point against O'Donnell and Ross and got it. He is better against Dave Rupel. I feel he beat himself in an 'even' position against O'Donnell. I have some sense of him shaking off the rust with his victory over Ross. I expect him to maintain his FIDE rating and perhaps add to it.

Bobby Ferguson (1.5) stole his point from Schemm, giving his game away thrice but Schemm was too confused to accept. But Bobby steals points every tournament. The draw with O'Donnell reveals huge holes in his opening preparation. Ross played a classical positional game against Bobby's dubious opening and killed Bobby in the style of Karpov. I always predict doom for Bobby and he always refutes me. I fear I underestimate his practical strength and talent. He has yet to face the positional pressure of Assem and Dean. I don't want to imagine what could happen between Ferguson and Montchalin, Rupel, Pupols or Harmon. I expect that Bobby will score 3 more points and maintain his rating; more is possible.

Dave Ross has 1 point. Mostly, the result of travelling from 2 pm until 2 am Friday to get here. He just collapsed against Pupols' sacri- fice. Against Clark he stood well most of the game but drifted into trouble. Both are signs of weariness. After a good night's sleep he has bounced back with a win over Ferguson. We shall see, certainly Ross and O'Donnell have the best sporting circum- stances of the 10 participants, staying at local player's homes without working.

Mike Schemm (1) had 3 won games against Ferguson but didn't win them. He played well against Montchalin and was outplayed by Magdy. He seems wildly imaginatively able to beat anyone or lose to anyone. I find it impossible to predict his result though Ferguson thinks he will score 4 points.

Dave Rupel has .5, 1, or 1.5 depending on the adjournment with Clark Harmon. Dave has started slowly, even rustily. But I am getting some sense that he is finding his stride and will play more confidently in the coming rounds. He had to play against two players, Clark and Randy, who know his style forwards and backwards. He drew with Randy and has a difficult adjournment against Clark. He lost to Vik Pupols. If he begins to play confidently, he could beat anyone. He could earn a FIDE rating though the 3 FIDE players: Ross, Assem and Ferguson await him as does Montchalin, Schemm and O'Donnell.

Randy Dean (.5) drew with Dave and then lost to the front leaders Assem and Pupols. He must now score 4.5 or 5 points from the next 6 to earn a FIDE rating. He could do it; then again his loss to Pupols was from a won position and Randy could become obsessed by the lack of logic or justice in this. It is also unfortunate for his start that he had 2 Blacks in a row. His play with White against Pupols showed enormous promise. If he puts the past behind him, he could do well or...

Mike Montchalin (0) has shown imagination, ingenuity and courage. He has also shown wild impulsiveness, castling Queen-side as White in the Slav Defense against Schemm is asking for it. Assem outclassed him in an endgame and he put O'Donnell under enormous pressure but couldn't crack him. He seems to be trying too hard, particularly as White. He needs to calm down and relax; he needs 5 of 6 for a FIDE rating or 4.5 of 6 depending on how he scores against the FIDE-rated players.

As one of the organizers of this event, things are going well. We are trying to increase the number of FIDE players in the Northwest. It looks like we will succeed. Pupols has 3, is playing well and should score the 2 needed in the next 6 rounds, though Uncle Vik is capable of collapsing entirely. O'Donnell has earned a FIDE rating of 2290 that is not yet published but he will, it looks like, at least maintain his rating.

Dean (.5), Rupel (.5), Schemm (1) and even Montchalin (0) are all within striking distance of a FIDE rating. Each has the ability to make it with the breaks, but who will get the breaks? Ross after losing 2 games the first day, will play with a vengeance but this could backfire.

Assem, Ross and Dean seem to be the best analyzers. Pupols, Ferguson and Rupel seem to be the best tacticians. Harmon seems to be the best sustained attacker. Montchalin seems to be the most Nimzovitchian, maneuvering his pieces to odd

squares, keeping the position closed. Schemm seems wildly imaginative in attack, less so in defense and not very interested in the endgame. O'Donnell seems to be the most practical of the players.

Well, enough theory; now onto the games!

Round 4

Assem(3)-Pupols(3) is a Queen's Gambit Declined, Vienna system. It gets real crazy real early; which means that Uncle Vik is dictating the course of the game. Assem wins a pawn but it is a weak, isolated c-pawn. Pupols has activity and a solid position. They fence about exchanging some pieces. Assem looks like he is closing in on Pupols' King but Uncle Vik is able to close in on Assem's King with tempo, so Assem sacs a Rook and forces perpetual check. This is a bit of a setback for Assem as he used one of his 4 Whites to 'only' get a draw. Pupols is well satisfied with Black. Both are 1 point ahead of the field.

Schemm(1)-O'Donnell(2.5) is a slow, closed game, very complex. Tom looks like he has a spacial advantage in the center and is closing in on Schemm's King. He plays a combination but it has a hole in it. Few combinations can survive dropping the Queen with check. Schemm has scored 50% and is in striking distance of his FIDE rating. O'Donnell is now a full point off the leaders.

Montchalin(0)-Ross(1) is all over in one move, Nh3 which may be theoretically significant. By winning Mike relieves a major worry of mine: if any player doesn't score .5 point their score isn't counted. Ross had dropped 3 of 4. He has vowed that all his games will end decisively. But this sort of tone doesn't fit his safe and sane positional style... This could be the beginning of a slide.

Harmon(2)-Dean(.5) is a real mess. Clark gets pressure, wins a pawn but Dean bounces back. They adjourn. Dean is a pawn down with Bishops of opposite color, each side having 2 Rooks. Both have lots of play. It may be a draw, it could end in the mate of either King. Intuitively, I feel it is equal but anything can happen. Clark could have 3 points or he could have 2, depending on adjournments.

Ferguson(1.5)-Rupel(.5) starts out even. Dave misses a shot 11...d5 that would result in a ruined pawn structure for White, an isolated c-pawn. The game is more or less even. Bobby has questions but Dave has answers. Rupel offers a draw, Bobby refuses and Dave goes nuts, giving away a pawn and what looks like the game. Dave ends up with a Bad Bishop with a protected passed pawn against a Knight and 2 passed pawns. The Knight is too good and it is adjourned in a position where Black looks lost. Ferguson will now have 2.5, tied for 3rd-4th with O'Donnell.

Round 5

It looks like a fiasco for Olympia and the Canadians.

Randy Dean (.5) is lost in 12 moves against Bobby Ferguson (2.5) in a Sicilian Defense.

Dave Rupel (.5) looks like he is outplaying Mike Montchalin, but surprise! - Montchalin defeats him. The taste of victory for Mike twice in a row.

Viktors Pupols(3.5)-Clark Harmon(3) discuss a King's Indian. Vik puts on a bind. By adjournment, Clark's position is looking very dubious indeed. Clark's profile as a very dangerous attacking player has caused Vik to be cautious and play his 2400 positional game. It is his most convincing game so far. Clark never has a chance for counterplay and it is looking grim indeed.

Dave Ross (1) isolates Mike Schemm's (2) 5 pawns into 4 islands and is a pawn up. He trades off the pieces and wins. Ross looks like he is recovering from his slow start.

Tom O'Donnell (2.5) plays an Exchange Variation of the Ruy Lopez against Assem (3.5) but he is steadily outplayed in the endgame.

Another Quick Evaluation

Assem is leading 4.5; he has shown he can survive Canadian positional pressure.

Pupols has 3.5 plus a favorable adjournment. It seems certain Uncle Vik will qualify, adding another FIDE player to the NW pool.

Ferguson has 1.5 plus 2 very favorable adjournments and 1 lost adjournment, but he has yet to play Assem and Pupols. Perhaps I should say he has the opportunity to play Assem and Pupols. If he can beat them both he could assume the lead as he did when Edwards and Pupols were leading in the last Washington Championship.

Clark Harmon has 1 point and 3 adjournments, 2 favorable though not easily won against Rupel and Dean (fellow Olympians, noble Fellows indeed) and an inferior position against Pupols.

O'Donnell has 2.5 out of 5; he will have to put on the pressure to catch up 2 points behind the leaders.

Ross, Montchalin and Schemm each have 2 points out of 5. Montchalin and Schemm are within striking distance of the FIDE rating though they need 3 out of 4.

Dean and Rupel have .5 point. Both have adjournments that look lost against Bobby Ferguson and adjournments against Clark Harmon which are unfavorable but not clearly lost. If they can squeeze a draw out against Harmon or Ferguson they could earn a FIDE rating, but they need perfect scores.

Adjournments

The adjournments are a problem. Ferguson and Harmon have 3 apiece. Bobby's are clearly won or lost and play will be quick. Harmon now has 3 positions that are much muddier. The position against Dean is extremely unclear. Bishops of opposite color with Dean and Rooks on the board, the exchange against Rupel. And against Pupols, Clark stands worse but is he clearly losing? Could he salvage the draw and slow Vik's momentum?

The adjournments are played out on November 26th with the exception of Pupols-Harmon which will be played at a later date.

Ross-Ferguson is played off and ends quickly, Ross has sealed a crusher. Ferguson-Rupel also ends quickly with a Ferguson win.

Rupel-Harmon ends in Clark's victory. Dave plays weakly and his Knight which belongs on f5 gets trapped.

Harmon-Dean is a mess. Clark gets fascinated by seeing Randy's King instead of going after a White a-pawn and the game equalizes. But Randy, trying to win, lets his King get on the back rank where it is trapped and just drops a Bishop in a position that, if he had played Ba6, would have held strong drawing chances. I think Randy is over-focussed on his errors and isn't playing freely.

After the adjournments are over the players stay up at Dean Securities to discuss the state of the Universe, the chess world, and whether or not they think. By 3:00 am they conclude they don't and spend an hour playing speed chess. The TD defeats Dean and Harmon but loses quite badly to Tom O'Donnell. One wonders if this extravagant use of time is responsible for any of the succeeding round results.

Round 6

Bobby Ferguson (3.5) has a lean and hungry look and grabs a pawn in the opening against Viktor's Pupols (4.5). But Uncle Vik gains the pawn back and saddles Bobby with hanging pawns. Poor Bobby, will Uncle Vik play like the 2400 positional player he showed against Clark Harmon? No, some inaccurate play allows Bobby's Knight to get to c5 where it shields his weaknesses on a3 and c3 and pressures Uncle Vik's weaknesses on e6 and a6. Uncle Vik presses on Young Bobby and tries to remove his weak e-pawn. Bobby is able to play a combination and win a pawn but once again Vik gets weak pawns to play against. He wins his pawn back and with 3 pawns apiece and Rooks on the board a draw is agreed.

Mike Montchalin (2) sacrifices a pawn in a d4 opening against Randy Dean (.5) in a Nimzovitch Defense. Somehow, Randy allows Mike to build up enormous pressure and gets crushed. I seem to remember this opening from an article by Arthur Bake in NORTHWEST CHESS. History repeats itself.

Tom O'Donnell (2.5), the Canadian Open Champion, again 1 of 4 and faces the Canadian Closed Champion Dave Ross' (2) Grand Ottawa Defense ...#6!! Tom builds a classical center and outplays Dave in the complications, aided by Dave's time pressure.

Magdy Assem (4.5) plays the Averbach Defense against Clark Harmon's (3) King's Indian. Clark exchanges a Knight and then Rooks. It looks like White's spatial advantage is useless because Black doesn't have enough pieces to be cramped. If the game remains static, Black will slowly expose the over extension of White's pawns. Magdy doesn't allow the game to remain

static; he trades his b-pawn for Black's d-pawn, giving him a passed d-pawn. Clark has to do some fancy dancing but the ensuing endgame play liquidates the position and a draw is agreed. Magdy has drawn twice with White, whereas Pupols draws have been with Black, not a good sign, particularly when you have only 4 Whites.

Mike Schemm (2) plays his English-Catalan against Dave Rupel's (.5) Queen's Indian. The game transposes into what looks like a Gruenfeld. White has a potential pawn center to play with and Black has counterplay against it, but Schemm's Queen goes wandering and drops the e-pawn. As Schemm tries to garner an attack on the Kingside, Rupel adds an exchange to his pawn then another pawn. And White's Rook is exchanged. Down the exchange and 2 pawns for nebulous Kingside pressure, White wisely resigns. In looking over Schemm's games, one finds him playing for an early crisis, perhaps so he won't have to play any adjournments?

Round 7

Ross (2) defeats Assem (5), Sicilian Defense or English by transposition. The game is very strange in that after winning a pawn all of Ross' minor pieces move over to the Queenside where they glare at Black's King on the Kingside.

Rupel (1.5) loses to O'Donnell (3.5). The opening transposes into a QGD. Rupel presses on the Queen file and the Queenside; O'Donnell on the King file and the Kingside. Opposite color Bishops appear, with all other minor pieces exchanged. Rooks disappear and O'Donnell gets a lasting attack with his Queen and white-squared Bishop.

Randy Dean (.5) favors an early endgame transition against Mike Schemm (2). Randy has lots of play in the center but Mike is holding on. Then Randy overreaches and lets Mike get counterplay. The middlegame without Queens simplifies into a pawn race: Randy has 3 and Mike has only 2 but they look faster. Randy has a choice: drop his King back to help hold the pawns or play for the win-loss. He plays for the win-loss and surprise! - he is able to win Mike's Knight with a mate threat. This puts him in a position to sacrifice his Rook and Knight for Schemm's 2 pawns, but then Queen his 5rd. An exciting game decided by tactical sacrifices.

Pupols (5) defeats Montchalin (3), ending Mike's 3 game winning streak. It is a complex struggle but Mike sells his Queenside for Kingside chances that don't work and his flag falls on the 40th move.

Harmon (3.5) draws Schemm (4); Bobby's lean and hungry look is coming to naught. Clark gives Bobby too much in the opening and Bobby is looking better but he simplifies into an endgame and, instead of piling up on the isolated c-pawn, he allows the trade of Rooks which promotes Clark's c-pawn into an isolated, passed d-pawn. Then the other pair of Rooks is exchanged and the isolated d-pawn seems to be untouchable. A draw is agreed in a Knight against Bishop endgame.

Round 8

Assem (5) defeats Ferguson (3.5) using Larsen's Opening (1 b3). Ferguson gives up the 2 Bishops early and is slowly squeezed down. As Assem is checking in Ferguson sacs the exchange and a piece for some checks. Then Bobby drops his remaining Rook in time pressure.

Montchalin (3) loses to Schemm (4) undeservedly. This is the most interesting game of the round, with Montchalin trying to refute Harmon's ...Qc4 and going in for a sacrifice of a Queen and pawn for Rook and ... But it looks like he is winning!! He piles up the ... to develop his KR to support the QR on d8. The Rook is ... back, so Clark will get to develop his QB and ... compensation, Clark gives away the c-pawn so it is unclear if he will or can win. Then he drops the exchange but ... and Knight centralized in the center look like ... compensation. Then the game adjourned; after resuming Montchalin spends 40 minutes on a reply to Clark's ... It is no surprise then that Mike's flag drops ... Clark's King about in a ... position for Mike. An interesting game for the balance the play as the game ... White winning, but he gives it away, then Black is ... but he gives it away. Then the game is maybe equal but ... has the long term pressure. ... cinating.

Mike Schemm (2) loses to ... Pupols (6). Mike sacrifices a piece for 3 pawns. ... him a 4th but Mike walks ... the loss of the ... which he turns into the loss of a piece. Mike seems to ... brilliantly or not at an attitude which not ... will respond to.

Tom O'Donnell (4.5) draws with Randy Dean (1.5) in a Ruy Lopez. O'Donnell seems confused by Randy's 4...Nf6 and by move 10 Randy is better developed. Randy starts to get serious Kingside pressure as O'Donnell presses a bit on the Queenside but Randy runs short of time and O'Donnell never pushes too hard, returns his Queen to eliminate any attack. Randy draws respectably. At last Olympia shows its quality; now if we could just start the Futurity over again!

Dave Ross (3) draws with Dave Rupel (1.5). They trade three pieces and the resulting pawn formation requires Dave Ross to push the pawns in front of his King or to push pawns in front of Rupel's King. Neither can hope for any prize money and a draw is agreed in an even position.

Round 9

Rupel (2) draws with Assem (6) in the longest game of the round. It is a Benoni. Dave gives Magdy the opportunity to weaken his Kingside with ...h6, ...g5 and gain the 2 Bishops while having 2 weak squares near his King; f5, h5. Magdy accepts. Dave arranges to trade off the white bound Bishops and a set of Knights. This leaves Magdy with a black bound Bishop against a Knight and the traditional Benoni pawn majority. Dave will have to fight for a draw since his pawn majority is crippled and one of his pawns is hanging out at f5. Magdy makes all the right moves, pushing his pawns, etc. Dave decides to sac his f5-pawn to remove the Bishop for the Knight. Black controls the game, why isn't White losing? As Magdy is concluding his pressure he slips and emerges with 3 Kingside pawns against 2 with Rooks on the board. Dave knows how to draw such positions and proves it.

Dean (2) draws with Ross (3.5) in 16 moves.

Pupols (7) draws with Tom O'Donnell (5). Vik plays an exchange variation of the French, they trade blackbound Bishops and Queens by move 13. We know that O'Donnell likes endgames; now we'll find out how he plays the lesser half of the draw. O'Donnell holds his own and looks like he is getting some Kingside pressure but Vik develops Queenside pressure. All the pieces get exchanged off but a Knight each. The position is liquidated, Black has an extra f-pawn but Vik can always sac his Knight for the remaining Black pawn.

Harmon (5) defeats Schemm (2). The game looks equal but Mike blunders an exchange and Clark knows all about winning an exchange up.

Ferguson (4.5) defeats Mike Montchalin (3). Mike, as he has been doing all tournament, takes enormous risks as Black and is duly punished. Mike's style lends itself to decisive results, positive or negative.

Summary

	RATG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOT
1 Viktors Pupols	U 2280	x	=	1	=	=	1	1	1	1	1	7.5
2 Magdy Assem	F 2265	=	x	=	1	1	0	1	=	1	1	6.5
3 Clark Harmon	F 2235	0	=	x	=	0	1	1	1	1	1	6.0
4 Bobby Ferguson	F 2235	=	0	=	x	=	0	1	1	1	1	5.5
5 Tom O'Donnell	F 2290	=	0	1	=	x	1	1	1	=	0	5.5
6 David Ross	F 2285	0	1	0	1	0	x	0	=	=	1	4.0
7 Mike Montchalin	U 2200	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	1	0	3.0
8 David Rupel	U 2160	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	=	1	2.5
9 Randy Dean	U 2125	0	0	0	0	=	=	0	=	x	1	2.5
10 Mike Schemm	U 2095	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	x	2.0

Ratings codes: U-USCF, F-FIDE (Estimated for O'Donnell)
Joel J. Barnes TD, ties not broken.

Once again I would like to thank the American Chess Foundation for their \$400 sponsorship of our Futurity. It was an enjoyable event for all concerned. Beautiful playing site, few disputes, and good chess.

The Northwest has benefited from having this event played. Viktors Pupols has at last gained the FIDE rating that he has so long deserved. He had a performance rating of 2400+ and will probably earn a FIDE rating of 2290-2310. It was an outstanding victory for Viktors; he worked during this extravaganza, drove down from Bremerton and played bold, enterprising chess. Congratulations, Uncle Vik, the check (\$300) is in the mail.

Magdy Assem should hold or improve his rating. Magdy is earning a Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Washington. He is an excellent player, \$200.

Clark Harmon should raise his USCF rating to over 2200, making him the highest ranked of Olympia's Noble Fellows. And 6 points should improve his FIDE rating to over 2250, and he picked up \$100.

Tom O'Donnell should be pleased; he got a good vacation in the USA and may have earned or lost a few FIDE rating points. If he hadn't already earned a FIDE rating, he would have with his score.

Bobby Ferguson has once again refuted me. My predictions of disaster have come to naught. I simply fail to appreciate the enormous middlegame strength of Ferguson. Perhaps we shall be able to test our different approaches to chess at the Christmas Congress?

Dave Ross has reason to be disappointed as the highest rated FIDE player, he would expect to win the event. But apparently Dave did not travel well on Friday and dropped 2 games at the start. A bit of bad luck. He will lose some FIDE points but not his FIDE rating. Basically, he and O'Donnell seem to be chessed out and should take some time off from tournament play. One needs to be hungry to play well.

Randy Dean was my most likely candidate to earn a new FIDE rating. I could make excuses: work, playing at the workplace, bad color pairings the first 2 rounds. Still, Randy's opponents did play better. Next time we will have to see if we can't spread the games out over a longer period of time. I don't regard it as an accident that after Randy got a day of rest Thanksgiving, he was able to score 50%.

Dave's result also puzzles me. If you look at his games we find again and again Dave playing well, holding his own, only to blow up: against Montchalin, against Ferguson, and against Harmon. He was outplayed by Pupols and O'Donnell. Yet Dave held Assem to a draw. I don't know what the source of the errors was for Dave. Working, just a general down slump? Lack of confidence?

Mike Montchalin played erratically, winning and losing in wild style. Yet he won and lost in streaks of three games. He seems awfully impulsive and needs to find the consistency to make his strength tell.

Mike Schemm can be well satisfied with playing some of the most interesting chess. I hope he enjoys his style.

The final scores are shown in the preceding crosstable. Before the event I thought that everyone would score 2 points and lose 2 points.

In writing my tournament report I have tried to give you a bird's eye view of the happenings as they occurred. At different points I have suggested quite different things but that is what I thought or felt at the time. If I have been too critical, you may be sure that my subjects will take me to task on the chessboard.

We in Olympia enjoy hosting this sort of event and we are already planning some more.

We put in a bid for the Washington State Championship with a \$1,000 prize fund and 10 players in a FIDE Futurity; unfortunately, the Washington Chess Federation has chosen to leave it at 8 players and not make the Championship a FIDE event. A shame: a \$500 first prize would make the Championship most interesting.

We also have a proposal in for a Regional FIDE Championship in June-July as a warmup for the U.S. OPEN in Portland in August. The WCF has \$725 in the USCF States Affiliate Support Program and we have asked for that money. We are conceptualizing a 12-player FIDE round robin, 4 FIDE players, and 2 unrated from Washington and 6 unrated from Oregon, to include the 1987 champions from Oregon and Washington. It would be an extremely interesting event. If you like the idea, please write to the WCF President John Braley.

(Editor's note: Joel asked if I could wait until the games were annotated before publishing his report, and I wanted to. But with only 16 pages available, and with the games upcoming for the Washington State Closed, I felt I better publish now, even if incomplete. We expect to get some Futurity games soon, perhaps the first few rounds by the next issue. Too, thanks to the computer/laser printer interface, once inputted, the entire report can be rearranged with the narrative sections preceding the correct set of games, some last minute corrections and/or additions made and...Voila! We would have a new, fully assembled Tournament Booklet of the 1986 Olympia Futurity!)

WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

Christmas Chess Festival

Report by David K. Surratt

A Christmas Chess Festival at the Eastgate Mall in Walla Walla proved to be a success, although bad weather kept attendance down. Two events were held in succession on Saturday, December 13th, 1986. In the morning a dozen warriors battled through five rounds of speed chess in pursuit of \$230 in merchandise prizes. Then in the afternoon National Master Mike Montchalin Jr conducted a simultaneous exhibition.