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Chess

Beware the dragon slayers

THE NEW ZEALAND women's team found the going tougher than expected at the women's Olympiad in Haifa, Israel. But their last place was due mainly to lack of experience — certainly not to any shortage of keenness.

I can remember one of the team, having noticed her opponent fall into a well known trap — the *dragon* — studying the variation eagerly in the hope of a repeat performance! The trap, to save uninitiated players at home from female dragon slayers, goes like this:

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| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | d6 |
| 3. d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5. Nc3 | g6 |
| 6. f4 | Bg7 |
| 7. e5 | dxe5? |

7... Nh5 is playable.

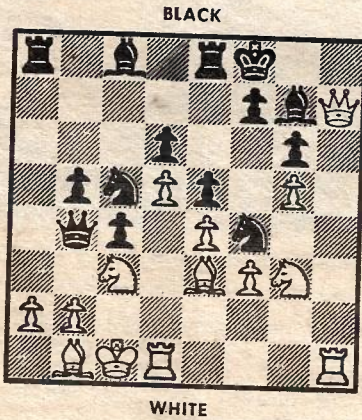
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| 8. fx e5 | Ng4? |
| 9. Bb5 ch | Kf8 |

On 9... Bd7. 10. Qxg4 wins a whole piece but what happens is just an economical end.

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| 10. Ne6 ch! |
| ... and wins everything. |

The team was: Board 1, L. Terry; board 2, W. Stretch; board 3, A. Hollis.

THE NEW ZEALAND men's team at Haifa was a little unlucky all round against Paraguay. Here our board six and very capable manager Wolf Leonhardt misses out on his chance. In time trouble, he gave his opponent, O. Ferreira, a vital opportunity in the double-edged attacking battle.



Leonhardt, playing white, found the correct way to pursue the assault with the temporary sacrifice 1, Nf5! Play continued:

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|----------|---------|
| 1. ... | gxf5 |
| 2. exf5 | Bxf5 |
| 3. Qxf5 | Ra3 |
| 4. Bxc5! | Rxc3 ch |
| 5. bxc3 | Qxc3 ch |
| 6. Bc2 | Ne2 ch |
| 7. Kb1 | e4? |

After 7... dxc5 the game is drawn by perpetual check, eg 8. g6 Qb4 ch. 9. Bb3 f6. 10. Qd7 Re7. 11. Qd8 ch Re8. 12. Qd7. Neither side can afford to break the repetition. 8. Bd4?

Both players missed 8. Bxd6 ch!, when 8... Kg8. 9. Qh7 is mate or 8... Re7. 9. Qc8 mate, as the rook on e7 is pinned and cannot interpose. White is, of course, lost and resigned a few moves later.

THE PAIRINGS for the candidates' matches were decided at the FIDE congress in Haifa. They are: Korchnoi v Petrosian, Fischer v Hort, Mecking v Polugayevsky, and Larsen v Portisch.

The Russians, who did not play in Haifa for political reasons, were not in attendance when the pairings were made either.

The women's Olympiad was won easily by Israel, its first gold ever. The silver went to England, but Spain was a close third.

New Zealand set two records at the Olympiad — we claimed the oldest participant in the women's and the youngest in the men's.

MURRAY CHANDLER