

April 16 1977

# Chess

## Chasing the king

THIS GAME was judged to be the finest played between July 1 and December 31 last year. Skopje, 1976.

FRENCH DEFENCE  
S. Reshevsky (US) R. Vaganian (USSR)

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| 1. e4   | e6   |
| 2. d4   | d5   |
| 3. Nd2  | Nf6  |
| 4. e5   | Nfd7 |
| 5. f4   | c5   |
| 6. c3   | Nc6  |
| 7. Ndf3 | Qa5  |
| 8. Kf2  |      |

Escaping from the pin. Dur-

ing the game White's king wanders further, but it requires excellent play on Vaganian's part to exploit this.

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| 8. . . . | Be7  |
| 9. Bd3   | Qb6  |
| 10. Ne2  | f6   |
| 11. exf6 | Bxf6 |
| 12. Kg3  |      |

Reshevsky's king appears reasonably safe in this unusual position but . . .

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| 12. . . . | cxd4 |
| 13. cxd4  | 0-0  |
| 14. Re1   |      |



14. . . . e5!!  
Vaganian must have seen several sacrifices in advance before prising the position open so violently.

15. fxe5 Ndxe5  
16. dxe5 Bh4 ch  
Previously, the White king advanced voluntarily, but now he has no choice as 17.Nxh4 allows 17. . . . Qf2 mate.

17. Kxh4 Rxf3!  
17. . . . Qf2 ch 18.Ng3 is nothing; now White must decline the rook because 18. . . . Qf2 ch would send the king to

its doom on about g6. But Reshevsky has plenty of pieces to return.

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| 18. Rf1 | Qb4 ch |
| 19. Bf4 | Qe7 ch |
| 20. Bg5 | Qe6    |
| 21. Bf5 |        |

Forced, for on 21.h3 Rxh3 ch is curtains. The point of 21.Bf5 is that 21. . . . Qxf5 is impossible because of 22.Qxd5 ch and Qxf3, but Black has now won back his two sacrificed pieces and the attack is still raging.

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| 21. . . . | Rxf5 |
| 22. Nf4   | Qxe5 |
| 23. Qg4   | Rf7  |
| 24. Qh5   | Ne7  |

By joining the assault, Vaganian's knight also prevents the ingenious threat of 25.Qxf7 ch! Kxf7 26.Nd3 ch which now fails to 26. . . . Nf5 ch!, blocking the check with a check and thus saving his queen.

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| 25. g4  | Ng6 ch |
| 26. Kg3 |        |

26. Nxg6 Qxh2 mate was the last of the harsh threats, and now delightfully simple play forces the American's resignation.

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| 26. . . .   | Bd7  |
| 27. Rael    | Qd6  |
| 28. Bh6     | Raf8 |
| 29. Resigns |      |

A slashing king-hunt with a quiet aftermath . . .

Solutions to last week's problems:

1. No 5, Paulsen v Metger. Nuremberg, 1888. (8/Bpk5/8/Psk4/8/8/8/8)

White intends to march to b6, win the pawn and prevent the black king from occupying a8. This he does by 1,Kd4!! (1,Kc5 b6 ch! any victims? Paulsen succumbed to 1,Kc4 b5 ch! draw). 1. . . . Kc6 (1. . . . b6 2, a6 Kc6 3, Kc4 Kd6 4, Kb4 Kc6 5, Bb8 b5 6, Ba7! Kc7 7, Kxb5 and wins) 2. Bb6 (Not 2,Kc3 b6 3.a6 Kb5 1/2-1/2) 2. . . . Kd6 3. Kc4 Kc6 4, Kb4 Kd6 5, Kb5 Kd7 6, Kc5 Kc1 7, Ba7 Kc7 8, Kb5 Kd7 9, Bb8 Kc8 10, Bf4 Kd7 11, Kb6 Kc8 12, Bg3 etc.

2. No 6, Sam Lloyd.

(8/p1p5/3p4/p3p3/k4p2/2K3p B/7p/8)

This one was a little more comical, still, full marks if you found that 1,Bd7 ch! Ka3 2, Bc6 immobilizes all eight of Black's pawns! 2. . . . Ka2 3, Kc2 and the position is drawn due to Black's inability to assist his pawns. Averbakh's comment: "a real victory for the blockade!"

MURRAY CHANDLER