

Latin olympics

EVEN ON the day we left the Philippines for the 23rd Chess Olympiad in Argentina, nobody was really sure if the event would go ahead or not. Argentina's success at organising this international tournament has been mixed, and nowadays it is an immense event.

This year there were financial problems, and after a certain amount of friction between FIDE and the Argentine federation, it looked, at one stage, like the

whole event might be transferred — perhaps to Holland. Argentina last hosted the chess olympics in 1939 when World War II was declared, which left many top-class players stranded. The Argentine federation had never had it so good — Miguel Najdorf, Erich Eliskases, Mikhail Czerniak and Gideon Stalberg, were a few of those who settled permanently in the country, which greatly improved the quality of their local chess.

Things seemed pretty chaotic in Buenos Aires when we arrived. Some teams had to wait eight hours before they could get into a hotel room — and the Australian team ended up collapsing five to a bed, having just come off a long, exhausting plane flight.

The first round was delayed for over an hour because of a lengthy opening ceremony. New Zealand was pitted against the formidable West German team, and al-

though we lost by a disappointing 4-0 margin, they did not have it all their own way. They may have been playing cautiously if they remembered our first round 1½ to 2½ upset against England in the first round of the Haifa Olympiad, 1976.

WEST GERMANY

IGM Robert Hubner	ELO 2595
IGM Wolfgang Unzicker	2529
IGM Joaquin Hecht	2480
Otakar Borik	2400

NEW ZEALAND

IM Ortvn Sarapu	ELO 2250
IM Murray Chandler	2390
Vernon Small	2385
Peter Stuart	

23rd CHESS OLYMPIAD, BUENOS AIRES 1st Round

PIRC DEFENCE

UNZICKER (West Germany)	CHANDLER (New Zealand)
1. e4	d6
2. d4	Nf6
3. Nc3	g6
4. f4	Bg7
5. Nf3	0-0
6. e5!?	...

The main line is 6. Bd3.

6. ...	dxe5
7. fxe5	Nd5
8. Bc4	Be6

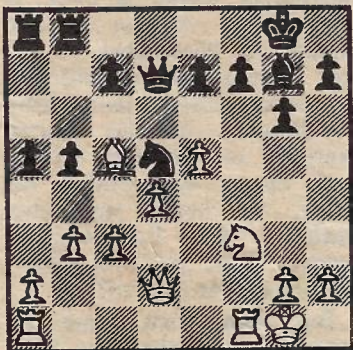
Unzicker is playing a variation for White that is largely unexplored and has few practical examples. Next move he could try 9. Qe2, but Black can counter 9... Nxc3 10. bxc3 Bxc4 11. Qxc4 Nd7 planning 12... Nb6, with good play on the White squares.

9. Nxd5	Bxd5
10. Bxd5	Qxd5
11. Qe2	b5!?

Unzicker suggested the line, 11... c5 12. c4 Qd7 13. d5 e6 14. d6 Nc6 is "unclear", but White has Bf4, and 0-0-0 coming.

12. 0-0	Nd7
13. c3	Nb6
14. b3	a5
15. Ba3	Qd7
16. Bc5	Nd5
17. Qd2	Rfb6

CHANDLER



UNZICKER

Perhaps 17... c6 is stronger. I was scared of 18. c4 Nc7 15. Bb6, but after 15... a4 16. Bxc7 Qxc7 17. Qb4 Unzicker thought White could probably not extract a win from his advantage.

18. Rac1	b4!?
19. c4	Nc3
20. Rfe1!	

But not 20. Rce1 to stop the threatened ... Ne4, as I could bust open the queenside with advantage with 20... a4, 21. Bxb4 Nxa2!

20. ...	a4
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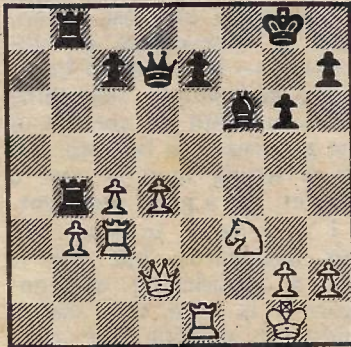
21. Rc2!	axb3
22. axb3	f5!

Again with the idea of ... Ne4.

23. exf6 ep	Bxf6
24. Bxb4	Rxb4
25. Rxc3	Rab8

For the pawn sacrifice Black has pressure on the white queenside pawns, and a bishop bearing down on the d-pawn — probably enough compensation for a draw. But I was under slight time pressure and Unzicker thought my next move was inaccurate.

CHANDLER



UNZICKER

26. R1e3	c5?!
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26... Bg7! aiming for 27... Bh6 probably keeps the balance

27. Rcd3	cxd4
28. Nxd4	Bxd4

I was itching to play 28... Bg5 trying to win rook for bishop, but the crafty West German has the resource 29. Nc2! snatching the exchange back again. As things stood, White's knight was too strong and had to be eliminated.

29. Rxd4	Qa7
30. Rd7	Qc5
31. Qd5 ch	Qxd5

32. cxd5	Rd4
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Time-trouble... but 32... Rxb3 33. R3xe7 is still futile for Black.

33. R3xe7	Rd2
34. Rg7 ch	Kf8
35. Rxh7	Ke8
36. Ra7	Resigns.

"Hmmm... interesting; and you play well!" said Unzicker. Yes, thank you, but next time I would rather be White, I think.

MURRAY CHANDLER