

# Drawing with the giants

A CURIOUS thing about the early rounds of the Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires was that each time the Soviet Union scored an unimpressive result, it made them look even stronger.

The USSR have won every Olympiad they have played in, and in Argentina they seemed set to sweep the event yet again. Even though Karpov was too tired after his match with Korchnoi to participate, they had a team

boasting two former world champions, Boris Spassky and Tigran Petrosian, on boards one and two. They were followed by Lev Polugayevsky and Boris Gulko on three and four, the reserves being talented young grandmasters Oleg Romanishin and Rafael Vaganian.

But, despite their formidable line up of GMs, the Soviets suffered several indecisive results against countries they might have ex-

pected to beat more easily. They won against Wales by only 3 points to 1 in the first round, and later drew 2-2 with the recently strengthened English team. After scraping 2½-1½ victories over Hungary and Bulgaria, the Soviets were toppled in an upset by West Germany who drew three games and won the fourth — Pflieger beating Polugayevsky.

But still the Ruskiies led. It seemed a Soviet side, playing indifferently and conceding frequent half-points, was just so strong on all round playing strength that they could not relinquish the lead.

After the two-all draw

against England, the Soviets possibly consoled themselves with the fact that the English have quadrupled their number of grandmasters since the last Olympiad in Israel in 1976.

The round five duel ended with Michael Stean and William Hartston drawing against Petrosian and Romanishin respectively, while the newest GM addition, John Nunn, lost to Vaganian. But on board one Tony Miles played to a fine win against Spassky, to equalise the score when the Soviets resigned without resumption after an overnight adjournment.

Chess Olympiad  
Argentina 1978

## QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE

<b>A. J. MILES</b> IGM, England	<b>B. SPASSKY</b> IGM, USSR
1. d4	Nf6
2. Nf3	b6
3. c4	e6
4. Bf4?	

A rather unusual move. 4.g3 is normal.

4. . . .	Bb7
5. e3	Be7

This can't be bad, but a few rounds later Ulf Andersson rather squashed the unorthodox Miles variation with 5. . . Bd4 ch. After 6.Nfd2 0-0 7.Bd3 d5 8.0-0 c5 9.a3 Bxd2 10.Nxd2 cxd4 Ulf ended up giving White an isolated pawn, which he ruthlessly exploited to win in 31 moves.

6. h3	0-0
7. Nc3	d5
8. cxd5	exd5

But I feel Spassky should have recaptured on d5 with his knight. As things stand his queen's bishop is blocked, and Miles gets the advantage.

9. Bd3	c5
10. 0-0	Nc6
11. Ne5	a6
12. Qf3	Re8
13. Rad1	cxd4
14. Nxc6	Bxc6
15. exd4	b5
16. a3	Ne4

So that if 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxe4 19.Qxe4 Black regains his pawn with 19. . . Bxa3.

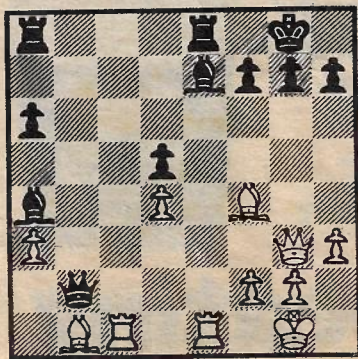
17. Bb1	Qb6
18. Rfe1	Nxc3
19. Qxc3	b4
20. Qg3	bxa3
21. bxa3	Ba4

Perhaps 21. . . Bf6!?

22. Rc1	Qb2
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22.Bf6 still gives Black a playable game. Now Miles embarks on a neat combination, which he felt gave him a winning position.

SPASSKY



MILES

23. Bxh7 chl	Kxh7
24. Rxe7	Rxe7
25. Qh4 ch	Kg8
26. Qxe7	Qxd4

So pieces and pawns are even, but Miles considered Spassky had not foreseen the strength of White's next move.

27. Be5!	Qb6
Or 27. . . . Qd2	28.Rc7 Be8
29.Rc3	with the devastating
30.Rg3	to follow.

28.Qg5	Qh6
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Forced, as 28. . . f6 meets 29.Bxf6 followed by 30.Qxd5 ch, snatching the rook in the corner.

29. Qxh6	gxf6
30. Rc3	Kf8
31. Rc5	Rd8
32. Bf6	Rd6
33. Rc8 ch	Be8
34. Bd4	

Spassky's position is probably hopeless; his pawns are too scattered and weak, apart from facing immediate White threats.

34. . . .	Re6
35. Rd8	Kg8
36. Rxd5	Re1 ch
37. Kh2	Rd1
38. Rd8	Kh7

Banking on the rook ending after 39.Rxe8 Rxd4 being

drawn. But Miles has other ideas.

39. g4	Rd3
40. f4	a5
41. f5!	Resigns

The game was adjourned, but Black has no moves . . . his bishop is tied down preventing mate by Rh8 and the Black rook must keep pressuring White's bishop.

Miles would simply move his king to attack Spassky's rook, forcing immediate capitulation.

MURRAY CHANDLER

### ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.