

Germany goes west

WEST GERMANY won both matches against England and Wales in their qualifying group for the European Championship finals — and still missed out on a place.

It was England who gained the highest number of game points, due to a crushing 14-2 victory over Wales. On their home ground the Germans

managed only a 12½-3½ win. The crucial last-round clash saw West Germany winning 8½-7½, a moral victory over England but one that left them a vital half-point short. They were thus eliminated, and England proceeds to the European finals.

Final scores: England 21½, West Germany 21, Wales 5½.

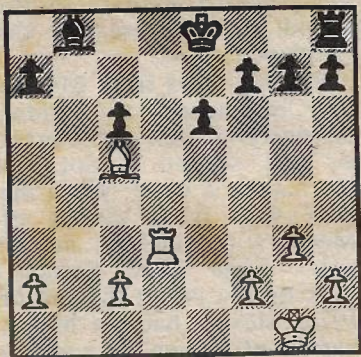
when Black plays next... Bb4 followed by 0-0.

Mestel's new move is not particularly startling, but effectively prevents both equalising plans for Black.

- 15. Rd3! Be5
- 16. Ba3

And no longer has Black... a5 and... Bb4, and Lobron experiences difficulties in getting his pieces untangled.

- 16. ... Rb8
- 17. Rxb8 ch Bxb8
- 18. Bc5!

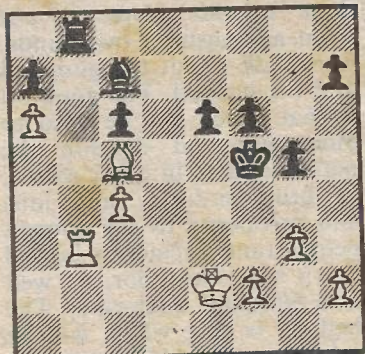


This single rook and bishop endgame holds extraordinary problems for Black, which he cannot satisfactorily solve even by returning his extra pawn, viz. 18... a5 19.Bb6 Ke7 20.Ra3! (20.Bxa5 Bd6 may hold for Black), 20... Bd6 21.Rxa5 Rb8 22.Ra7ch Kf6 23.Be3 and now White's passed a-pawn is a danger.

- 18. ... f6
- 19. Kf1 g5
- 20. Rb3 Kf7
- 21. a4

Shunning the chance to regain his material with 21.Rb7 ch, Mestel instead continues to apply the pressure.

- 21. ... Rd8
- 22. c4 Kg6
- 23. Ke2 Kf5
- 24. a5 Bc7
- 25. a6 Rb8



- 26. Rb7!

Brilliantly liquidating Black for a won bishop ending.

- 26. ... Rxb7
- 27. axb7 Bb8
- 28. Bf8! c5

The threat was to win immediately with 29.c5! and 30.Bd6.

Black's rather resigned pawn offer merely delays Mestel's scheme.

- 29. Bxc5 e5
- 30. Bf8! Ke6
- 31. c5 Kd7
- 32. Bd6 Bc7
- 33. b8=Q! Resigns.

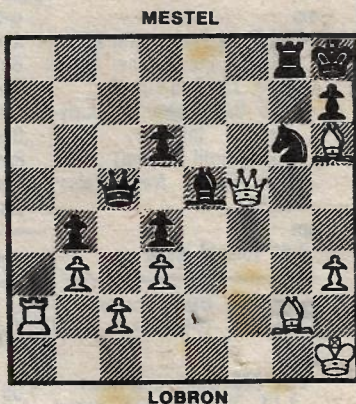
A concise and easy to follow game, and at the same time a masterpiece of positional strategy.

MURRAY CHANDLER

With a run-down of four Grandmasters England might have been expected to score well on the top boards. But on Board 1 Tony Miles, just returned from an exhibition match in Vienna against defeated challenger Victor Korchnoi, lost ½-1½ against German ace Robert Hubner.

And on Board 3 it seemed Korchnoi might also be having an effect from afar — Raymond Keene, still apparently suffering from post-Baguio withdrawal symptoms, lost both games.

It was left to the lower boards to bail out the team by a whisker. But they too had their share of misfortune, as in the following example, where young England prospect Jonathan Mestel built up a reasonable position with Black, only to fall into a devilish trap.



Black to play.

1. ... Nh4?? 2.Qf7! Qc3 (or 2... Nxg2 3.Ra7) 3.Qxg8 ch! Kxg8 4.Bd5 ch Resigns. Mate with 5.Ra8 is unpreventable. Not dispirited however, Mestel fought back brilliantly in round two, and after an innovation in the opening he found a subtle endgame ploy to win the best game of the match.

Anglo — German Match
England 1979

SICILIAN DEFENCE

J. MESTEL (England)	E. LOBRON (West Germany)
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxg2	e6
5. Nc3	Nf6
6. g3	d5
7. Bg2	Bb4
8. exd5	Nxd5
9. 0-0	Nxc3
10. bxc3	Bxc3
11. Nxc6	Qxd1
12. Rxd1	Bd7

This is all known theory. Black's last move was forced because of the threat of 13.Rd8.

- 13. Rb1 Bxc6
- 14. Bxc6 bxc6

In the books this position is considered to be "equals". White's control of the open files and lead in development are thought to be compensated for by the extra Black pawn, and theory gives the two lines 15.Rb7 0-0, and 15.Ba3 a5!.