

Chess

Chinese checkers



AMONG ALL the highly rated Grandmasters and International Masters competing in the "Clarín" GM tournament after the Olympiad in Buenos Aires was a player almost unknown in South America and Europe, Chi Ching-Hsuan of China. Chi had just finished playing

board one for China in the Olympics when he received an invitation to compete in his first-ever Grandmaster event. In fact, it is the first time any Chinese representative has played in an individual tournament.

The name of Chi is not unknown in New Zealand or in

Asia. The Chinese made their first international appearance over the chessboard in the Philips Asian Teams Championships at Auckland in 1977 and, encouraged by their results, they have since played a couple of friendly matches against the Philippines and Malaysia.

But they have not even played enough to get ratings, and here was Chi playing with some of the top players of Europe!

From the beginning the diminutive Chi was the centre of attention. He played each game with an amusing air of "Chinese inscrutability" and showed little emotion on his face. During time-trouble, however, he would get quite excited, bouncing on his chair. A crowd favourite who received loud applause whenever he won, Chi turned 31 midway through the event and was presented with a birthday cake by the organizers. A sign in the tournament room that day announced "Happy birthday Chi!" in Spanish and Chinese.

Making his debut in such a class he could not be expected to score highly, but his play was praised by his opponents. Since Chi does not speak English I commented to his interpreter, Chang Cheng Seng, that it was remarkable that he had reached such a level with so little international exposure, and received a very Chinese-type reply, — "Yes, we don't play so many games in China"(!).

Against Quinteros, he falls into a bad position and seems headed for defeat. But though it looks terrible for Black, the appearance is deceptive and the crafty Chinese has some hidden resources.

Torneo Magistral
Internationale
de Ajedrez "Clarín"
BUENOS AIRES 1978
ENGLISH OPENING

Miguel Quinteros (Argentina) Chi Ching-Hsuan (China)

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| 1. c4 | Nf6 |
| 2. Nc3 | e6 |
| 3. Nf3 | ... |

Me and Korchnoi sometimes try 3...e4.

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| 3. ... | c5 |
| 4. g3 | Nc6 |
| 5. Bg2 | Be7 |
| 6. 0-0 | 0-0 |

I prefer 6...d5, freeing Black's game. As things go, Quinteros inflicts a standard sort of bind on the position and controls the play.

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| 7. d4 | cxd4 |
| 8. Nxd4 | Qa5 |
| 9. Nc2 | a6 |
| 10. Bd2 | Qc7 |
| 11. e4 | d6 |

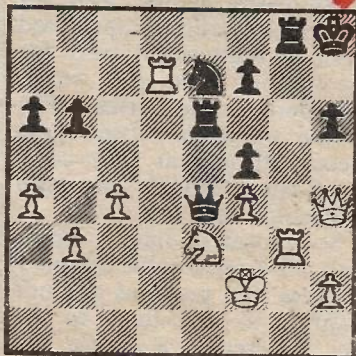
This is a well-known type of position in which White controls tons of space and Black must play a waiting game, positioning his forces defensively and waiting for an opportune moment to spring out,

Chi (right) and Quinteros exploring postmortem moves.

particularly if White should over-extend himself

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| 12. b3 | Rb8 |
| 13. a4 | b6 |
| 14. f4 | Re8 |
| 15. Rc1 | Bb7 |
| 16. g4!? | d5? |

CHI



QUINTEROS

Very thematic — countering an attack on the flank with an advance in the centre — but you shouldn't self-destruct in the process.

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| 17. exd5 | exd5 |
| 18. g5!? | |

18. Nxd5! Nxd5 19. exd5 Bc5 ch 20. Kh1 Ne7 21. b4 Bd6 22. Ne3 with an extra pawn and a huge advantage in the game Quinteros heads for an enticing position that turns out to have a few exceptional characteristics.

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| 18. ... | d4 |
| 19. gxh6 | dxh6 |
| 20. Bxc3 | Bxc3 |
| 21. Bxh6 | gxh6 |

This looks awful for Black, but it is not so clear. Admittedly his pawns are smashed and he will lose any endgame that arises, but is the middle-game as bad as it seems for him?

His K-side pawn formation is no worse than White's! It just looks worse because the Black king has little protection at the moment, whereas White has a bishop on g2. But that bishop is well opposed by Black's bishop on b7, and in fact the long diagonal discourages White from trying to sieze the g-file through ...khl.

In addition, Chi controls — temporarily at least — the open e-file and his knight is better placed than Quinteros's.

So is White even much better in this position? Certainly Quinteros's forthright assault on the Black king was convincingly repelled.

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| 22. Qg4 ch | Kh8 |
| 23. Qh4 | ... |

Or 23. Qf5 Qd6 24. Rcd1 (Black had ... Ne7 in mind) 24. ... Qc5 ch 25. Qxc5 bxc5 26. Rd7 Na5!

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| 23. ... | Re6 |
| 24. Rf3 | f5 |
| 25. Rh3 | h6 |

OK buster, what's your next trick!

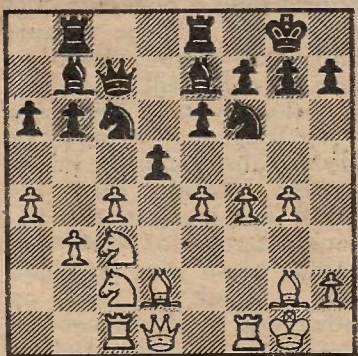
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| 26. Re1 | Rg6 |
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Nasty threats loom on the g-file.

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| 27. Rg3 | Rbg8 |
| 28. Rd1 | Ne7 |
| 29. Bxb7 | Qxb7 |

And suddenly White is desperate for moves; the most immediate problem threatening him is 30... Qf3!

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| 30. Kf2 | Qe4 |
| 31. Ne3 | Re6 |
| 32. Rd7 | ... |



Things were clouding a little, but the following thunderbolt must have caught Quinteros completely un-awares.

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| 32. ... | Rg4!! |
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Obviously the rook cannot be captured because of mate etc, but the move is aesthetically pleasing, apart from being completely crushing.

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| 33. Qh5 | |
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| 33. Qh3 | Rxf4 ch |
| 34. Ke1 | |

Rh4! with ... f4 forking everything to follow.

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| 33. ... | Rxg3 |
| 34. hxg3 | Qxe3 ch |
| 35. Kg2 | Qe4 ch |
| 36. Kh2 | Qe1 |
| 37. Rxh7 | Rxe7 |
| 38. Qxh6 ch | Kg8 |
| 39. Qg5 ch | Kf8 |
| 40. Qh6 ch | Ke8 |
| Resigns | |

Scores after nine rounds: Rafael Vaganian (USSR) 6½; Ulf Andersson (Sweden) and

Vasily Smyslov (USSR) 6; Walter Browne (US), Florin Gheorghiu (Rumania) and Oscar Panno (Argentina) all 5½; Raymond Keene (England) and Roman Dzindzichashvili (Israel) 5; Miguel Najdorf (Argentina) 4½; Chi Ching-Hsuan (China) 4; Eugene Torre (Philippines) 3½; Garcia Palermo (Argentina) 3; and Miguel Quinteros and Jorge Smetan (both Argentina) 2½.

MURRAY CHANDLER