

Individual results of the New Zealand men's team at the 23rd Chess Olympiad, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Matches played over four boards.

Board	Round	WEST GERMANY	SRI LANKA	LUXEMBOURG	AUSTRIA	INDONESIA	BRAZIL	MALAYSIA	ARGENTINA "B"	FINLAND	TUNISIA	ECUADOR	JAPAN	PERU	PHILIPPINES	%
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1. SARAPU		0	1	-	½	½	-	1	1	½	½	-	1	½	½	63.3
2. CHANDLER		0	-	1	1	½	1	1	-	0	0	-	1	1	1	68.2
3. SMALL		0	0	-	0	-	0	½	-	½	-	1	1	½	½	40
4. STUART		0	-	1	-	½	½	-	0	0	-	0	½	-	-	31
5. ANDERSON		-	1	1	1	0	-	1	0	-	1	0	-	-	0	55.5
6. WEIR		-	1	½	-	-	0	-	0	-	1	0	-	1	-	50

Chess

Clipping the Kiwis' wings

I'LL ADMIT we did do rather well! The New Zealand chess team in Buenos Aires recorded what is probably its best result ever in an Olympiad, finishing 25th out of 65 countries. For a country seeded 37th that's not bad — we came ahead of everyone seeded below us, too, except for China which has no accurate ratings anyway.

We played a surprisingly strong field, much to my delight, and our great win over Austria and our nearly great

win over the Philippines were highlights of some pretty good chess. On 29½ points (compared with winners Hungary on 37) we finished happily above Iceland (with two grandmasters), Australia, Scotland, France, Wales, Paraguay and so on.

Ortvin Sarapu on top board played well, losing only one game, but drawing many. On board two I was more erratic, but beat more people for the highest score of 7½/11. On three, Vernon

Small decided that only his last six games counted, but we couldn't disguise his four losses at the start. Of the remaining boards only Bruce Anderson really showed any class, which left me wondering — could we have done even better?

When I write about the New Zealand Chess Association I often seem to end up criticising the various team selection policies, but for certain there are problems when New Zealand teams are sent abroad.

For a start, we don't "send" them. Players send themselves by paying virtually the entire air fare, which is an appalling situation.

I believe we have incredible potential but we have to face facts; at the Haifa Olympiad and in Buenos Aires we suffered badly on the bottom boards. We just haven't got sufficient depth of really good players to be able to leave Paul Garbett or Ewen Green behind, be the reason financial or otherwise.

However, in the final round, so important in a Swiss system event where an extra half-point can mean an improvement of five to 10 places, we had Asian champions, the Philippines, squirming in their chairs. Big Daddy Florencio Campomanes had had a chat with them beforehand, so they were squirming even then, but at one stage we were on course for a crushing 3-1 win. Grandmaster Torre scraped a draw against Sarapu, while a quivering IM, Rodrigues, rolled over and died for me. Small just fell short of exploiting an extra pawn while playing another scared looking Filipino, IM Mascarinas, while Bordonada also looked unhappy until he found a win against Anderson.

After Austria had slaughtered Australia 4-0 (!!), certain New Zealand team members offered rather shameless condolences to an unhappy Australian delegation: "Well, what could you expect? New Zealand beat them only 2½/1½, so they must be pretty strong!"

I reached an interesting position in my game with Hoelzl, where White holds a slight advantage in position, but I was not sure how to proceed. After some thought I decided on a positional pawn sacrifice.

Black rooks are too active. Instead let's just hop the knight over to c4 . . .

6. Ne3 Bg7
7. g4 Qd7
8. Nc4 Nd5
9. Qf3 . . .

Not 9.Nxa5 Nxc3! or 9.Bxc5 Bxc3! is dangerous.

9. . . . Rbc8

And now I should simply take my pawn back with 10.Nxa5 Nf6 11.Rc4! Qxd3 12.Qxd3 Rxd3 13.Rxc5 with a big advantage, but I was running short of time and mis-

calculated with . . .

10. Bh4 Rf8
11. Be7

thinking 11 . . . Rfe8 12.Nd6! winning in all variations. But Hoelzl found a move that left me struggling to keep the initiative.

11. . . . f5!
12. gx15 Rx15
13. Qg3 Bf8
14. Bg5 a4
15. Qg2 Nf6
16. Ne5 Nxe4

Liquidating down to an end game. Still White is a pawn down, but Black's broken

queenside pawns can be easily picked off.

17. Nxd7 Rxg5
18. Rxe4 Rxg2 ch
19. Kxg2 Bg7 ?

Of course 19 . . . Rd8 evens down to a drawn rook and pawn endgame. As things stand Black expects 20.Rxa4 Rc7 21.Nb8 Rb7 etc, but I want two pawns, not none!

20. Rc4! Rc7
21. Nxc5 a3

Since I was going to win it anyway . . .

22. bxa3 Bf8

23. d4 Kf7
24. Kf3 g5?

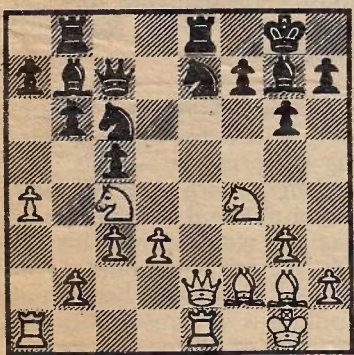
His last chance was 24 . . . Bxc5, but I suspect White can take with his rook and win the pawn ending with precise play.

25. Nd3! Resigns

His sealed move was 25 . . . Rxc4, but 26.Ne5 ch Ke6 27.Nxc4 Kd5 28.Ne3 ch leaves White with a pawn more and two connected passed pawns in the centre.

MURRAY CHANDLER

HOELZL



CHANDLER

1. a5! Nxa5
2. Nxa5 Bxg2
3. Nxc4 bxa5
4. Ra4

The rook prepares to swing into action in the centre. Black's extra material is ineffectual here because of his ruined pawn formation, and White's knight is headed for the c4-square when, pawn or no pawn, my position should be winning.

4. . . . Bf6
5. Re4 Red8

Tempting White to win two pieces for a rook with 6.Rxe7 Bxe7 7.Qxe7 Qxe7 8.Rxe7 but then 8 . . . Rxd3 and the