

# The best for Louis D.

NINE YEARS ago American millionaire Louis D. Statham called a chess organiser to his home in the tiny town of Lone Pine, California, and said he wanted to hold a chess tournament. "Who do you want to play?" asked Isaac Kashdan, the organiser. "The best," replied Statham. "Since that day the annual

masters-plus tournament in Lone Pine has built a reputation as one of the great events of the chess world. This year a record 27 Grandmasters and 22 International Masters flew in from 18 countries to battle for more than \$45,000 in prize-money put up by Statham. This gathering of top play-

ers has only been bettered by Olympiads and has never been equalled by any other individual Swiss-system tournament.

Viktor Korchnoi, Bent Larsen, Vlastimil Hort, Walter Browne — everybody was there. Well almost everybody — the Soviet Union authorities cancelled their entries, Oleg Romanishin and Vitaly Tseshkovsky, in a last-minute boycott because Korchnoi was playing.

Last year's event attracted 68 entrants, and this year

organiser Kashdan decided to make entry requirements even tighter to cut the size down. Unfortunately, as he commented at the prize-giving, this apparently had the reverse effect as it seemed almost everyone in the world who was eligible decided to play! Only Masters and master-strength players rated above 2400 were eligible, with exceptions being made for juniors who had to be above 2300. The final tally — 73 participants with an average Elo rating of 2440.

Top seeds Korchnoi and Larsen both suffered setback early on and ultimately Korchnoi finished with only 5½/9 in 11th equal position! At the top the lead changed dramatically almost every round, and in a tense finish a four-way tie for first resulted between Florin Gheorghiu of Rumania, Svetozar Gligoric of Yugoslavia, Vlastimil Hort of Czechoslovakia and Vladimir Liberzon of Israel. Each won \$8875 while, because of a single tragic oversight, Dutchman Hans Ree missed a chance to join them and received just \$1008 along with William Lombardy (USA), Gennadi Sosonko (Holland), Bent Larsen (Denmark), Yehuda Grunfeld (Israel) and Dragutin Sahovic (Yugoslavia).

I finally made a personal breakthrough when I scored 3/4 in the early rounds against Grandmasters — drawing with Americans Pal Benko and Larry Christiansen and defeating Yugoslavs Dusan Rajkovic and Stanimir Nikolic. Alas my good fortune did not last against the other five international masters I played and I finished with 4½/9, but still a comfortable 2460-plus rating.

Grandmaster "failures" at Lone Pine were far too numerous to list here (!) but included Miguel Quinteros of Argentina on 4½, Tony Miles of England, Walter Browne of the USA, Gudmundur Sigurjonsson of Iceland and many more, all on five points.

The American junior star, 19-year-old Yasser Seirawan, played an incredibly strong field of Grandmasters, which included all four winners. He beat Larsen and Miles as well, and was the only person apart from the winners to score a grandmaster rating for the tourney of 2601-plus.

After all that it seems a little unfair to give his only loss, but it is an attractive/overwhelming example of what can happen if you waste time in the opening.

### FRENCH DEFENCE

HORT (Czechoslovakia)	SEIRAWAN (USA)
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nd2	Nc6?
4. Ngf3	Nf6
5. e5	Nd7
6. Be2	Ncb8?

In fashion is 3... c5, but there is not much wrong with 3... Nf6 either.

This apparently silly waste of time is not representative of Seirawan's style. He may have been avoiding a recent discovery in the main line of this variation which runs 6... f6 7.exf6 Qxf6 8.Nf1 e5!? 9.Ne3 e4 10.Nxd5 Qd6 11.Bc4! (instead of 11.c4) as in the game Dolmatov — Sisiniega, Graz 1978, where White gained an advantage.

Seirawan's idea with 6... Ncb8 is to try to take advan-

tage of White's already having committed himself with Ngf3. In similar lines with 3... Nf6, for example, after 4.e5 Nfd7 White has a choice of 5.f4 or 5.Bd3 followed by Nge2.

Also Seirawan's move gives him the possibility of playing ... b6 followed by ... Ba6 exchanging white-square bishops.

But of course 6... Ncb8 is a serious waste of time. Instructively, Hort simply rolls his h-pawn down the board to create kingside weaknesses in Black's position.

7. h4! b6?!  
In view of what happens 7... c5 8.c3 Nc6 9.h5 h6! is preferable.

8. h5 c5  
9. c3 cxd4  
10. cxd4 Ba6

If 10... h6 then 11.Nh4!? is a strong possibility. However now Black must submit to a ghastly weakening of his black squares.

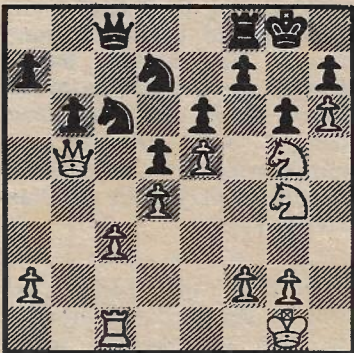
11. h6 g6  
12. Nf1!

Setting off for the hole on f6.

12. ... Be7  
13. Bd2 Bxe2  
14. Qxe2 Nc6  
15. Rc1 Rc8  
16. N1h2 Qc7  
17. 0-0 0-0  
18. Ng4 Qb7  
19. Rc3 Ncb8

Black has only passive resistance and not much of that.

20. Bg5 Bxg5  
21. Nxg5 Rxc3  
22. bxc3 Qc8  
23. Rc1 Nc6  
24. Qb5!



The mighty queen enters the fray. A pretty point is that 24... Nx d4 fails to 25.Qxd7! Qxd7 26.Nf6 ch Kh8 27.Nxd7 and now 27... Ne2 ch is ineffectual because White is attacking Black's rook on f8 as well. And in this line 25... Ne2 ch 26.Kh2 Nx c1 loses to 27.Nf6 ch Kh8 28.Nxf7 ch.

24. ... Kh8  
25. Qa4 Na5  
26. Qa3

The master scheme — control of the dark squares...

26. ... Qd8  
27. f4 Kg8  
28. Qd6 Kh8

If 28... Nc4 or 28... Nb7 then again 29.Qxd7! winning a knight.

29. Nf6 Nx f6  
30. Nx f7 ch

Of course everything wins now, and Black should end the agony by resigning.

30. ... Rx f7.

31. Qxd8 ch Ng8  
32. Qe8 Re7  
33. Qf8 Nc4  
34. Kf2 Nd2  
35. Ke3 Nc4 ch  
36. Ke2 b5  
37. Rb1 a6  
38. a4 Rd7  
39. axb5 axb5  
40. Rxb5 Ra7  
41. Rb8 Ra2 ch  
42. Ke1

Setting up the pieces for the next game!?

42. ... Resigns.

MURRAY CHANDLER