

Little orphan Andronico makes good

SUCCESSFUL tournaments on this year's second Asian Grandmasters Circuit have already concluded in Indonesia and the Philippines, with the third leg in Brisbane soon to begin. In Indonesia, which has an estimated two million active chess players, the 11-player field was topped by Soviet Grandmasters Yosef Dorfman and Yuri Averbakh, along with Filipino GM Eugene Torre, on 6½/10. In fourth place, half a point back, was English GM Raymond Keene.

The second leg in Manila was expanded and strengthened by the addition of Ruben Rodrigues of the Philippines and Fridrik Olafsson, the new president of Fide (the international chess federation). He took the opportunity to play while in the country to do some post-mortem checking on the positioning of assorted gurus during last year's Karpov-Korchnoi world championship encounter. This may not be entirely unconnected with Viktor Korchnoi's present court case against Fide, in which a Dutch court has now said it has the right to decide whether Korchnoi was being disturbed by a Soviet psychologist during the match.

Few gurus turned up at this Manila tournament however, and Torre scored a fine victory on 10/13 in front of his home crowd, a point clear of Keene, Dorfman and Averbakh. But the most amazing performance came from a 17-year-old Filipino, Andronico Yap, an orphan who lives with Florencio Campomanes, the tournament organiser and deputy president of Fide. Yap was meant to be a steward helping with the demonstration boards, but was suddenly thrown into the grandmaster tournament when one participant did not arrive. He proceeded to score six wins — including one over Dorfman! — six losses and only one draw.

My recollection of Yap from playing him both in the Asian junior championship in Baguio and in the world junior championship in Innsbruck was of a trappy tactical player. It seems from the following game that he hasn't changed a bit!

NIMZOVICH-LARSEN ATTACK

A. YAP Y. DORFMAN

- 1. b3 d5
- 2. Bb2 Bg4

An interesting attempt to inhibit White's standard development scheme.

- 3. h3 Bh5
- 4. Nf3 Bx13
- 5. exf3

Capturing towards the centre with 5.gxf3 also leads to a novel position. I have always believed that these situations with a glut of pawns in the centre, or on the wing, give more dangerous attacking prospects than is generally recognised.

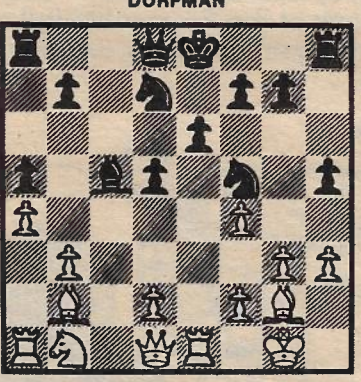
- 5. . . . e6
- 6. g3 a5
- 7. a4

White can avoid weakening his b4 square with 7.a3 and if 7 . . . a4 then 8.b4. However, Dorfman now embarks on a rather curious development with his knights.

- 7. . . . Ne7 (?)
- 8. f4 Nd7
- 9. Bg2 h5?

An inexplicable weakening of Black's king position, as becomes apparent later on. Strangely Raymond Keene in the Icelandic chess magazine does not query Dorfman's opening play at all, considering that he makes his fatal mistake later on. But surely it is illogical to play this weakening pawn move and follow it up by castling king-side.

- 10. 0-0 Nf5
- 11. c4 c6
- 12. cxd5 cxd5
- 13. Re1 Bc5



- 14. d4
- 14. Bxd5!? is highly unclear, eg 14 . . . Qb6 15.Qf3, protecting f2 and stopping . . . Nxg3. If then 15 . . . 0-0-0 16.Be4 and White is a pawn up with Black's king more exposed.

Perhaps instead of 14. . . . Qb6, 14 . . . Nf6!? is the move. But after 15.Bxb7 Bxf2 ch 16. Kxf2 Qb6ch 17. Kg2! Qxb7ch 18. Qf3 White seems to have wriggled out with his extra material, even if he has to go into contortions to hold it after 18 . . . Qxf3 ch 19.Kxf3 Rb8 20.Ra3!?

Black can use this idea in his original line with 14 . . . Qb6 15.Qf3 Nf6!? but again 16.Bxb7 Bxf2ch 17.Qxf2 Qxb7 18.Qg2! defends successfully.

- 14. . . . Bb4
- 15. Bc3 Nf6
- 16. Qd3 0-0
- 17. Na3 Bxc3
- 18. Qxc3 Rc8
- 19. Qd3 Qb6
- 20. Nb5 Rc6

Dorfman intends to double rooks, claiming possession of the only open file. In what looks like a desperate attempt at counter-play Yap begins advancing his kingside pawns, but the attack is deceptively strong!

- 21. Bf3 Rfc8
- 22. g4 hxg4
- 23. hxg4 Nh4
- 24. Bh1! Qd8

24...Nxg4 would lose a knight to 25.Qg3.

- 25. g5 Ne8
- 26. Qg3

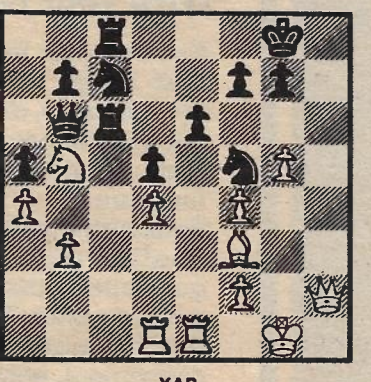
26.Na7, forking the two rooks, is of course met by 26...Rc3 attacking White's queen.

- 26. . . . Nf5
- 27. Qh2 Qb6 (?)

Keene considers this the turning point of the game and believes Black still to be winning after 27...Rc2, followed, if necessary, by ...g6, ...Neg7, and ...Nh5 "barricading the h-file".

However, after 27...Rc2 28.Bf3! the barricade will get the chop if ever it arrives on h5, and Black is hard pressed to stop White's mating machine of Bg4, Kg2 and Rh1.

- 28. Rad1 Nc7
- 29. Bf3!



A brilliant idea by young Yap. White offers his entire queenside in order to double up on the h-file with queen and rook. This is just the sort of dynamic way a youngster should face a Grandmaster.

- 29. . . . Nxh5
- 30. axb5 Qxb5
- 31. Bg4 Qxb3
- 32. Bx15 ex15
- 33. Kg2 Rc2
- 34. Qh4

Threatening 34.Rh1, which last move would have failed to 34...Rxf2ch 35.Kxf2 Rc2ch etc.

- 34. . . . Qb2
- 35. Rb1!

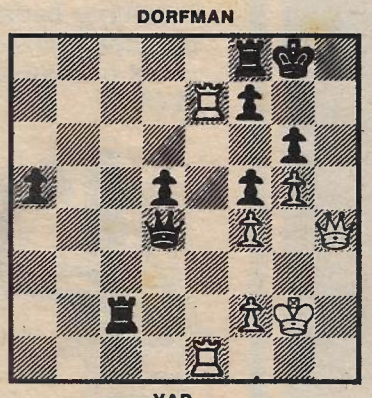
Again 35.Rh1 is too early due to 35...Rxf2ch 36.Rxf2 Rc2. Now Dorfman goes astray in the complications — it is imperative to maintain this threat by 35...Qa2. Yap's best might then well be 36.Ral Qb2 37.Rab1 with a draw by repetition.

- 35. . . . Qxd4?
- 36. Rxb7

No doubt Dorfman had calculated a long way in advance that 36.Rh1 loses to 36...Qe4 ch, but he must have underestimated the seriousness of White's other rook entering the fray. His attempted defence along the black squares is neatly quashed by Yap.

- 36. . . . g6
- 37. Rbe7! Rf8

Black had to prevent 38.Re8 mating, and now, with Yap's next move, Dorfman's vital defensive resource of ...Qg7 is eliminated.



- 38. R(7)e5!

Now there is no defence to 39.Rh1. Dorfman gives up his queen in desperation.

- 38. . . . Qxe5
- 39. fxh5 Rc4
- 40. Qh6 Rg4 ch
- 41. Kf3 Resigns

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