

Secret games revealed

GAMES have just been released from two training matches — West German Robert Hubner against Vlastimil Hort of Czechoslovakia, and Dutchman Jan Timman against Russian Lev Polugayevsky — held shortly before the recent interzonal tournaments.

Hubner defeated Hort 3½-2½, and went on to take first equal in the interzonal tournament in Rio de Janeiro. Hort, scheduled to play in the parallel Riga interzonal, curiously withdrew before it started. Polugayevsky, despite losing to Timman 3½-4½, took clear second at Riga thus, like Hubner, qualifying through to the all-important candidates matches, the next stage in the world championship cycle.

Games scores of both matches were kept secret until the end of the interzonals, to prevent possible preparation by opponents on the openings played.

The Hubner-Hort match in Hamburg had a prize fund of 3000 marks for the winner, 2000 for the loser. In the fifth game, Hubner won a decisive encounter in a struggle which, according to Hort, "the experts will rack their brains over for years". Hort seemed to gain a winning position but blundered and lost.

SICILIAN DEFENCE

R. HUBNER	V. HORT
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	d6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nf6
5. Nc3	a6
6. Bg5	e6
7. f4	Qb6!?
8. Qd2	Qxb2!?

The notorious "poisoned pawn" variation of the Sicilian defence. Snatching the pawn is highly dangerous — frequently Black's queen gets snared by the White pieces.

9. Rb1	Qa3
10. f5!?	Nc6
11. fxex6	fxe6
12. Nxc6	bxc6
13. e5!	dxe5
14. Bxf6	gxf6
15. Ne4	

Preventing Black's queen from retreating to help with the defence. 15.Be2?! Qd6 has long been known to be bad for White — but surprisingly this is how Hubner proceeded against Portisch in the Rio interzonal.

Admittedly he then played a new move, 16.Qe3! (rather than 16.Bh5 ch Ke7 17:Qe2 Qd4 18.Nd1 a5 winning for Black, Petrešević-Marjanović, Yugoslavia 1973), but after 16... Qd4 17.Qf3 Bb4! 18.Qxc6 ch Ke7 19.Qxa8 Qxc3 ch 20.Kf1 Rd8 Portisch had good winning prospects for his sacrifice, although Hubner later drew by perpetual check.

15. . . .	Be7
16. Be2	h5
17. 0-0	f5
18. Rb3	Qa4
19. c4	

This knight sacrifice leaves Black's queen with no moves — although as yet

White is not threatening to spring the trap.

19. . . .	fxe4
20. Kh1!	Bd7
21. Qc3 (?)	

The first divergence from established theory — and possibly a fatal one. The recommended continuation is 21.Qc2 planning 22.Qxe4 with an unclear position.

21. . . .	Rf8
22. Bxh5ch	

If 22.Rd1 immediately then 22...Rf5 and Black is secure.

22. . . .	Kd8
23. Rd1	Kc8
24. h3	Qxa2
25. c5	

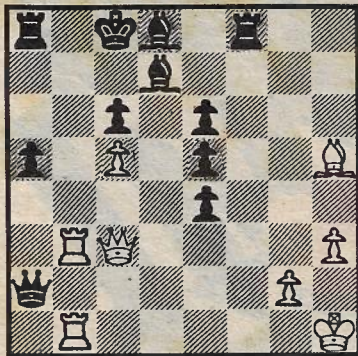
If White sacrifices rook for bishop with 25.Rxd7 Black escapes by 25...Kxd7 26.Rb7 ch Kc8 27.Rxe7 Qf2 with the resources of 28.Qxe5 Qf1 ch 29.Kh2 Qf4 ch swapping queens, or 28.Qa5 Ra7!

25. . . .	a5
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Hort could also have countered the threat of Qb4 with 25...Qa4!?, eg 26.Rb4 Qxd1 ch 27.Bxd1 Rf1 ch and 28...Rxd1 etc, or 26.Rxd7 Kxd7 27.Rb7 ch Kc8 28.Rxe7 Qd4.

26. Rdb1	Bd8??
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Correct is 26...Rf2! 27.Qc4 Kd8 28.Qxe4 Rf1 ch 29.Rxf1 Qxb3, and Black appears to just wriggle out with his extra piece: 30.Qxe5 Kc8 31.Rf7 Bd8 32.Rxd7 Kxd7 33.Qd6 ch Kc8 34.Qxc6 ch Kb8 and after 35.Bf3 he avoids a perpetual by the skin of his teeth with 35...Ra7 36.Qd6 ch Kc8!



27. Qc4!

Winning Black's queen — told you it happened frequently! There is no escape from the trap as 28.Qa6 ch!. Rxa6 29.Rb8 ch Kc7 30.R(1)b7 mate is an even more devastating threat to be dealt with.

27. . . .	Bc7
28. Rb8 ch	Rxb8
29. Qxa2	e3
30. Be2	Rf4

Somewhat better is 30...Rxb1 ch 31.Qxb1 Rf4 32.Qb3 Rb4 33.Qxe3 e4 34.g4 a4 35.Kg2.

31. Ba6 ch	Kd8
32. Rxb8 ch	Bxb8
33. Qxa5 ch	Bc7

Also hopeless is 33...Ke7 34.Qb6.

34. Qc3	Ra4
35. Be2	e4
36. g4	Kc8
37. g5	Bf4
38. g6	Kc7
39. g7	Ra8
40. Qb2	Resigns

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