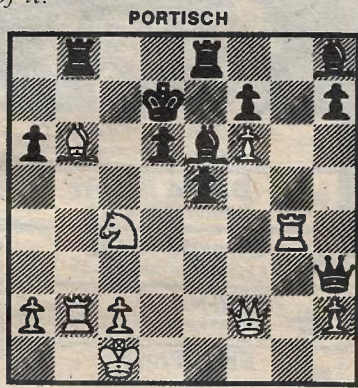


The trapper trapped

ROBERT HUBNER from West Germany has qualified for the final of the candidates match series with his surprise win in Albano Terme, Italy, over the world's fourth-rated player, Lajos Portisch of Hungary. Hubner, at 31 considerably less experienced than his dedicated 43-year-old rival, won games nine and 10, then successfully held the draw in game 11 to take the match 6½ points to 4½.

When we spoke by telephone at the match's conclusion, Hubner confessed he had fallen into an opening trap in the ninth game, but had managed to win anyway. In game 10 he had played what he called "a nice positional game — by my standards".

In the time scramble Portisch overlooks a devastating combination. Instead 30...Qxb2 ch! followed by ...Bxg4 still gives Black much the better of it.



31. Nxe5 ch! dxe5
32. Rd4 ch!

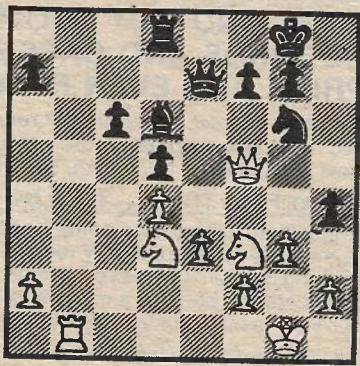
A crushing sequel to the knight sacrifice last move. Now 32...exd4 33.Qxd4 ch leads to mate, as does 32...Kc6 33.Rd6 ch! Kxd6 34.Qc5 ch or 32...Kd8 33.Rd8 ch! Rxd8 34.Qc5 ch Kd7 35.Qc7 ch.

32. ... Bd5
33. Rxd5 ch Ke6
34. Rc5 Qh6 ch
35. Kb1 Qf4
36. Rc6 ch Kf5
37. Qe2 h6

Trying to escape via h7.

38. Rb3 Kg6
39. Rf3 Qd4
40. Rb3 Qd5
and Black resigned

The game was actually adjourned, with Hubner sealing his 41st move. Portisch resigned without resuming as his position is quite hopeless, eg 41.Qg4 ch Kh7 42.Qf5 ch Kg8 43.Qh5! (threatening Rg3 ch) Kh7 44.Rc7 Rb7 45.Rxb7 Qxb7 46.Qf5 ch Kg8 47.Bc5 Qh1 ch 48.Kb2 Qxh2 49.Qd7! Ra8 50.Qg4 ch Kh7 51.Qe4 ch picking up the rook on a8.



Black to play.

E. Green v A. Carpinter, Waitakere Trust Open 1980. Following general principles without thinking can be dangerous. Here White has just played the positional move R(f1) to b1, to control the open file. Can you spot the move that forced the 1980 joint New Zealand champion's immediate resignation? (Solution upside down below.)

SOLUTION: 1... Qe4 2. Resigns. Black wins a piece — on 2.g4 Ne7 forces 3.Qxe4 dxe4 and the White knights are forked.

MURRAY CHANDLER

SICILIAN DEFENCE

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| R. HUBNER | L. PORTISCH |
| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | d6 |
| 3. d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5. Nc3 | a6 |
| 6. Be3 | e6 |
| 7. f4 | b5 |
| 8. Qf3 | Bb7 |
| 9. Bd3 | Nbd7 |
| 10. g4? | |

The "trap" Hubner was referring to.

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| 10. ... | Nc5 |
| 11. g5 | b4! |
| 12. gx6 | bxc3 |
| 13. fxg7 | Bxg7 |
| 14. bxc3 | Qc7 |

For the insignificant cost of an extra, doubled c-pawn, Portisch has made it impossible for White's king to seek shelter on either side of the board.

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| 15. Rb1 | 0-0-0 |
| 16. Ke2 | Rhe8 |
| 17. Rhg1 | Bh8 |

Portisch must have been scarcely able to believe his good fortune at this point. After 17 moves, as Black, he has a dream position — his own forces harmoniously centralised, and the White king stuck in the centre.

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| 18. f5 | e5?! |
|--------|------|

Seizing a chance to win White's e-pawn, which may not be the best course. After 18...d5! instead, the centre is prised open and White's survival for much longer is doubtful.

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| 19. Nb3 | Nxe4 |
| 20. Bxe4 | Qc4 ch |
| 21. Kd2 | Bxe4 |
| 22. Qf2 | Kd7 |
| 23. Bb6 | Rb8 |
| 24. Kc1 | Ba8 |
| 25. Nd2 | Qa4 |
| 26. f6 | |

White's game is still critical, but this scrappy position with both kings exposed is not to Portisch's liking and Hubner begins to fight back.

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| 26. ... | Bd5 |
| 27. c4 | |

Finally sacrificing the c-pawn to get his king's rook into action. Both sides were now under severe time pressure, and what follows must rank as one of the greatest disasters of Portisch's career.

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|---------|--------|
| 27. ... | Bxc4 |
| 28. Rg4 | Qa3 ch |
| 29. Rb2 | Be6 |
| 30. Nc4 | Qh3?? |