

Overcome by the heat

THINGS HOTTED UP as expected in the final rounds of the British championship in Brighton. Going into the last round "only" four players, instead of the earlier eight, shared the lead. Grandmaster John Nunn, International Master Bill Hartston, Michael Basman and I had seven out of 10 and with Nunn playing Basman, Hartston as White against Lee and myself Black against Rumens it was clear that only a win would do.

This both Nunn and Hartston managed to get, while I unfortunately succumbed to a Rumens piece sacrifice, after a wildly complicated struggle, and thus sank back to fifth equal.

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I have drawn this week's game from the "tournament of stars" in Montreal 1979, on which Pergamon have published a book (by Tal, Roshal and Chepizhny, £3.50 soft-cover) as part of their Russian translation series.

OLD INDIAN DEFENCE

B. SPASSKY (USSR)	L. KAVALEK (USA)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	d6
3. Nc3	Nbd7
4. e4	e5
5. d5	

Spassky wastes no time in establishing a pawn wedge into his opponent's half of the board.

5. ...	Be7
6. Nf3	O-O
7. Be2	Nc5
8. Qc2	a5
9. Be3	b6
10. h3	h6
11. O-O-O	

White castles queenside, indicating he will attack on the kingside. Frequently such castling on opposite sides would call for a counter-attack by Black, but here his queenside pawns occupy defensive positions and no opening of lines there is foreseeable.

11. ...	Nh7
12. g4	Ng5
13. Nd2	Nh7
14. Nf3	Ng5
15. Ne1	Nh7
16. Ng2	Bg5

Having refused the unspoken offer of a draw (by repetition), White must allow this exchange of bishops.

17. h4	Bxe3 ch
18. Nxe3	g6
19. Rdf1	Bd7
20. Kb1	Qe7

What follows from this position is extremely interesting. White's problem is how to break through Black's barrier of pawns in front of his king. How Spassky, one of the all-time attacking greats, proceeds is quite instructive.

21. f3	Kg7
22. Rf2	Nf6
23. Qd2	Rae8
24. Bd1	Nh7
25. Bc2	Rb8
26. Nb5	Rbc8
27. Rfh2	Rh8
28. Rg1	Rh8
29. g5	

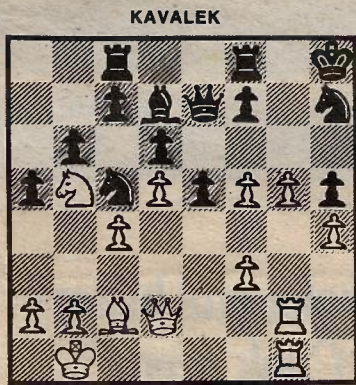
Spassky has prepared for this break with great skill, while Black has been playing wait and see. Kavalek makes

the automatic response, apparently blocking the kingside completely, but ...

29. ...	h5
30. Nf5 ch!	

With this knight sacrifice White levers open the position.

30. ...	gxf5
31. exf5	Kh8
32. Rhg2!	



A tactical finesse — g6 immediately would fail to 32...fxg6 33.fxg6 Qg7. White now regains his piece by force.

32. ...	e4
33. fxg6	Qe5
34. g6	fxg6
35. fxg6	Rf4

Of course, 35...Nf6 loses to 36.g7 ch.

36. gxh7	Bg4
37. a3	

White hints at queenside expansion now, making a useful cubby-hole for his king at the same time.

37. ...	Rcf8
38. Qd4	Rf7
39. Qxe5 ch	dxe5
40. Nc3	Kxh7
41. Ka2	Nd7
42. Rd2	Rf2
43. Rgg2	Rxg2
44. Rxg2	Nf8

The knight heads for g6 to harass the h-pawn. Meanwhile, back on the queenside, White is a pawn up. The policy in such endgames is straight-forward enough — create a passed pawn, then queen it.

45. b4	axb4
46. axb4	Kg7
47. c5	bxc5
48. bxc5	Ng6
49. Rh2	Kf8
50. Ba4	Rf6
51. Kb3	Rf3
52. Kc4	Ke7
53. Rb2!	Rf7

The rook scurries back to look after the c-pawn.

54. d6 ch	cxd6
55. cxd6 ch	Kf8

On 55...Kxd6, 56.Rb6 ch skewers king and knight.

56. Rd2	Bd7
57. Bxd7	Rxd7
58. Kd5	Ke8

and resigns. Black's situation is hopeless, eg 59.Ke6 Nxf4 60.Nd5 Rg7 61.Ra2.

SOLUTION

The answer to last week's mate in three problem is 1.Nf4 ch Kg4 2.Ne2 ch Kh5 3.Ng3 mate; 1...Kg5 2.Nd5 ch Kh5 3.Nf6 mate or 1...Kh6 2.Ne6 ch Kh5 3.Ng7 mate.

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