

Champion performances

JONATHAN SARFATI'S outstanding performance in coming first equal in the Australian junior championship was more than just an accidental success. It was the pay-off for a dedicated approach to chess that has involved study and tuition over several years.

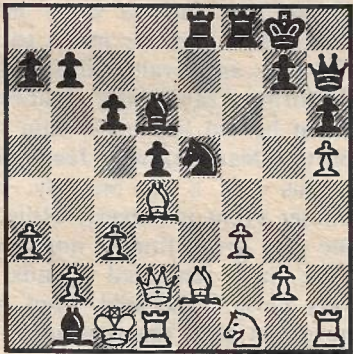
Sarfati, the only New Zealander in the 37-player event, trailed Roy Casse by half a point going into the final game. The South Australian played every single one of his moves "under-arm" but could only draw while Jonathan won, thus tying on 8½ points out of 11.

Australia's youth can generally boast of having had more international exposure than their New Zealand counterparts. But, significantly, Sarfati has also had his share of close contact with leading masters, particularly during the 1978 Burroughs grandmaster tournament in Wellington.

Our 14- to 16-year-old age group are a very promising generation in general, and several bright talents are already shining through. Leading young players and child prodigies often progress far — as has been vividly demonstrated by past winners of the world junior championships.

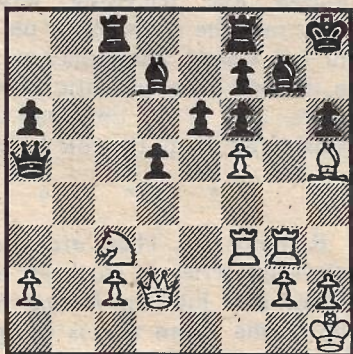
So here is a brief selection of combinations played by former winners of this premier youth event, all of whom are now full-time professionals.

Gheorghiu v Uhlmann, Sofia 1967. Rumanian Florin Gheorghiu has risen to Grandmaster and globe-trotting professional status since his world junior victory in Yugoslavia, 1963. The theme here is discovered attack — how did he now force his East German Grandmaster opponent to resign?



(3) Black to play.

Siaperas v Hug, Lugano Olympiad 1968. Werner Hug is one of the few players not to have gone beyond the international master title after being top junior, but since his title at Athens 1971 he has remained one of Switzerland's leading representatives. Here, as Black, he would have an instant checkmate on the c2 square — if only the White queen could be deflected.



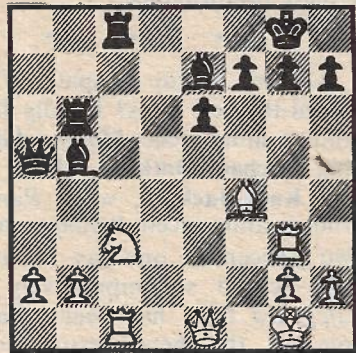
(4) White to play.

Parma v Ramirez, Malaga 1973. Yugoslav Bruno Parma could even have aimed higher than Grandmaster after his world junior win at the Hague, 1961, but lacked ambition. Essentially a positional player, he can still combine when provoked — the sacrifice on g7 is obvious but the precise finish is neat.

Solutions upside down below.

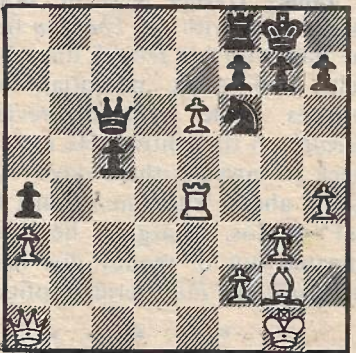
SOLUTIONS:
 1. Spassky found 1.Bc7! Rxc7 2.Qe5 resigns.
 2. 1.Qxf6! gxf6 (or 1...Qxe4 2.Qxf7 ch) 2.Rg4 ch resigns.
 3. 1...Nxf3! 2.Bxf3 Bf4 3.Be3 Rxe3 (as on 4.Nxe3 Bxe3 5.Qxe3 Qc2 mate) 4. Resigns.
 4. 1.Rxg7! Kxg7 2.Rg3 ch Kh7 3.Bg6 ch Kg7 (3...fxg6 4.Rxg6) 4.Bh7 ch! (the point — White gets rid of the obstructing bishop) 4...Resigns. On 4...Kxh7 5.Rh3.

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(1) White to play.

Spassky v Averkin, USSR 1973. From winning the junior title in Antwerp in 1955, Russian Boris Spassky finally stormed his way to the supreme honour of world champion in 1969 — only to be dethroned amid a blaze of publicity by Bobby Fischer three years later. Can you spot how he won material from this position using the theme of double attack?



(2) White to play.