

Dinars for three

IN A WAY it was no surprise that three non-Yugoslavs — Gyula Sax of Hungary, Jan Smejkal of Czechoslovakia and Tigran Petrosian of the USSR — carried off the dinars at the recent Boris Kostic Memorial in Vrsac. For one reason or another, Yugoslavia's position in the world rankings has been slightly but significantly eroded over the past five to six years. Having lost their number two slot (behind only the Soviets) maintained for much of the 50s and 60s, they must now jockey with several countries for anything from third to 15th place in Olympiads.

This relative decline is in itself strange as Yugoslavia continues to be one of the great centres of chess literature and activity. At category 10 the Vrsac tournament was the strongest of several internationals held in 1981, and the hosts were well represented by the old guard (Kurajica, Velimirovic and Matulovic) as well as two of their younger hopes in Predrag Nikolic and Petar Popovic.

It was to no avail. Sax was in devastating form. Spurred on by Smejkal snapping at his heels, the talented 30-year-old grandmaster from Budapest utilised such aggressive openings as the Dragon variation to score an outstanding total of seven draws and eight wins.

Petrosian, the 52-year-old Soviet former world champion, was in a more genial mood — perhaps saving energy for the Tilburg super-tournament that was to follow immediately after. Each day he would stroll in with his Russian newspaper, sit down and decide whether he felt like agreeing a quick draw or grinding someone down over five hours.

He did, however, suffer a sensational loss to Jan Smejkal, a player whose sound but deadly accurate positional style sometimes belies his great fighting spirit.

ited by his own pawns, and the white pawn on c5 exerts a severe cramping effect. But Petrosian did not earn his old nickname of "the iron tiger" by psychologically conceding in such positions, and it takes a dramatic piece sacrifice by Smejkal to break through.

- 15. b4 Qc7
- 16. a4 Rfd8
- 17. Be3 Nd7
- 18. Qb3 Nf8

Heading for e6 and d4. Smejkal doesn't give him time.

- 19. a×b5 a×b5
- 20. Nd5!!



A superb knight sacrifice based more on positional factors than precise calculation. After 20...c×d5 21.e×d5 the two connected passed pawns will be invincible as they steamroll their way down the centre.

Realising this, Petrosian delays acceptance until the power radiated by White's knight on d5 becomes unbearable.

- 20. ... Qd7
- 21. Red1! Qe6
- 22. Bg5 Re8

22...f6? 23.N×f6 ch B×f6 24.Q×e6 ch N×e6 25.B×f6 wins White a pawn. 22...Rd7!? could be tried.

- 23. Qe3! c×d5
- 24. e×d5 Qc8
- 25. c6 Ba8
- 26. Ra7 h5

There is little Black can do to check the advance of White's pawns. They remind me of aliens about to land in a Space Invaders game.

- 27. d6! B×c6
- 28. Rc7 Qf5
- 29. B×c6 Ne6
- 30. B×e8 N×g5

Although one "alien" has been eliminated (at the cost of a bishop), the other still remains, and on 30...N×c7 31.d×c7 R×e8 White forces a decisive promotion by 32.Rd8.

- 31. Bd7 Qf6
- 32. Kg2 Bf8
- 33. h4 Ne6
- 34. B×e6 Q×e6
- 35. d7 Rd8
- 36. Qe4 Kg7
- 37. Qd5 B×b4
- 38. Rc8 Be7
- 39. Q×e6 f×e6
- 40. R×d8 B×d8
- 41. Rb1 Kf6
- 42. R×b5 Resigns

A rook for bishop ahead, Smejkal has an easy win, for example 42...Ke7 43.Rb7 Kd6 44.Kf3 Ke7 45.Ke4 Kd6 46.Ra7 Bf6 47.Ra8 K×d7 48.Rg8 and Black's kingside pawns fall.

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KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE

J. SMEJKAL (Czechoslovakia)	T. PETROSIAN (USSR)
1. c4	e5
2. Nc3	d6
3. d4	g6
4. Nf3	Nd7
5. g3	Bg7
6. Bg2	Ngf6
7. 0-0	0-0
8. e4	a6

It says much for Smejkal's reputation as an opening specialist that Petrosian felt compelled to deviate from the normal line of 8...c6.

9. Re1 Rb8? There was still time for ...c6.

- 10. h3 b5
- 11. c5!

An energetic riposte and an effective refutation of Black's strategy. Now 11...e×d4 12.N×d4 and Nc6 is threatened, or 11...d×c5 12.d×e5 Ne8 13.Bg5 and White is on the offensive.

- 11. ... Bb7
- 12. d×e5 N×e5
- 13. N×e5 d×e5
- 14. Qc2 c6

Black's position is clearly inferior. The scope of his queen's bishop is limited