

GMs galore

AS I WRITE from here in Central Java, Indonesia, a quite remarkable event is just beginning. It is a 26-player all-play-all tournament and includes 17 grandmasters and five international masters. Unquestionably it is the biggest tournament of modern times and the historians are racking their brains to find if there has ever been an equal to it.

The closest found so far is Vienna 1898, which contained only 18 participants but was a double-round event. In that contest Tarrasch and Pillsbury tied for first, and then had to have a play-off match — immediately. I hope that won't happen here. In the first days of this five-week marathon, the heat and humidity is already affecting some of the more senior European players.

The first half of the Ibu Tien Soeharto Cup, as the tournament is properly named, after the first lady of Indonesia, is being played in a former palace in Surakarta. Then we transfer



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Hort: top contender.

to Bali for the final rounds which will also decide the ultimate destination of the promised \$US100,000 prize fund.

The most serious contenders for first look to be Vlastimil Hort from Czechoslovakia, Zoltan Ribli from Hungary, Walter Browne and Larry Christiansen (both USA) and Gennadi Sosonko from Holland. Factors unique to this tournament will test their versatility and endurance though.

My own feeling is that brisk and attacking play is called for, avoiding long adjournments and strenuous defensive tasks as much as possible. The following game, played in the first round, is a good example of such strategy. With the white pieces is Zoltan Ribli, a leading grandmaster who very narrowly failed to make the final eight of the world championship candidates series in the previous cycle. His opponent is international master H. Ardiansyah, who has long been one of Indonesia's strongest players.

ENGLISH OPENING

Z. RIBLI	H. ARDIANSYAH
1. c4	Nf6
2. Nc3	e6
3. Nf3	Bb4
4. g3	0-0
5. Bg2	d6?

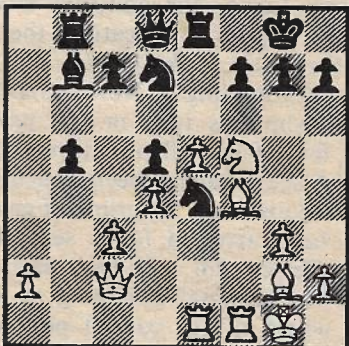
Too passive — better is d5 or c5.

6. 0-0	Nbd7
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7. d4	Rb8
8. Qc2	a6
9. e4	Bxc3
10. bxc3	e5
11. Nh4	Re8
12. f4	exf4
13. Bxf4	b5
14. cxb5	axb5
15. Rae1	

White's last undeveloped piece takes up its natural post.

15. ...	Bb7
16. Nf5	d5
17. e5	Ne4



18. Bh6!

A fine bishop offer to force black-square weaknesses. If Black captures with 18...g×h6 Ribli had planned 19.B×e4! d×e4 20.N×h6 ch Kg7 (20...Kf8 21.R×f7 mate or 20...Kh8 21.N×f7 ch) 21.R×f7 ch K×h6 22.R×e4! B×e4 23.Q×e4 when it is doubtful if Black can ward off the threats to his king, notwithstanding his huge material advantage.

18. ...	g6
19. Ne3	c5
20. N×d5!	

Black had no means of preventing this two-move combination winning a pawn.

20. ...	B×d5
21. B×e4	Bc4
22. Qf2!	

Energetic play — not only does Ribli ignore the attacked rook, he hems it in so Ardiansyah can take it at his leisure. The basis of the offer is that the black bishop actually performs an important defensive function, guarding f7 and the a2-g8 diagonal.

22. ...	Qe7
23. Bc6	Red8
24. Qf4	B×f1

Probably Ardiansyah's reasoning went: "I'm a pawn down and being attacked anyway — at least if I take the rook he has to mate me."

25. R×f1	c×d4
26. c×d4	Nf8
27. d5	Rdc8
28. e6!	

Another thrust at Black's critically ill Kingside. Now 28...f×e6 fails to 29.d6! Qa7 ch 30.Kh1 with overwhelming threats, and 30...R×c6 loses to 31.Q×f8 mating.

28. ...	f5
29. Qe5	Rd8
30. B×f8!	R×f8

There was little choice: 30...K×f8 31.Qh8 is mate or 30...Q×f8 31.e7.

31. d6 Resigns

On 31...Qa7 ch 32.Kh1 Qb6 33.Bd5 is crushing.

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