

Dutch double

JAN TIMMAN'S convincing victory in the recent Clarin tournament in Mar Del Plata, Argentina, makes him a great favourite in the forthcoming world championship elimination series. It was the second tournament in a row in which the Dutch national hero had ousted current world titleholder Anatoly Karpov from first place, and this time Timman even beat his Soviet rival. There is no doubt that an on-form Timman should qualify from the interzonal stage to the eight-man world championship candidates matches, and what happens there depends on the reserves of energy and skill this talented all-rounder can summon.

In his younger days Timman had a wild reputation on the circuit, with his long hair and all-night parties. But now the playboy has settled down. In between looking after his wife and child, and tending chickens in the back yard, Timman devotes himself to studying all aspects of chess. He also writes extensively, and is of a pleasant, talkative disposition. It is only over the board that his will to win — and indeed the touch of arrogance so necessary in any very strong player — comes to the fore.

This unwavering certainty may have contributed to his disastrous result in Wijk aan Zee in January, where, for one reason or another, he was playing very poorly. Most players just try to salvage what they can during a "bad" tournament, but Timman continued to try new ideas with apparent confidence — and soon found himself down the bottom of the score-table.

Here are the final results of Mar Del Plata: 1, Timman (Holland) 9½; 2, Portisch (Hungary) 8; 3-5, Karpov (USSR), Seirawan (USA) and Polugayevsky (USSR) 7½; 6, Andersson (Sweden) 7; 7, Larsen (Denmark) 6½; 8-9, Najdorf and P. Garcia (both Argentina) 6; 10-11, Panno and Braga (both Argentina) 5½; 12-13, Quinteros (Argentina) and Franco (Paraguay) 5; 14, Giadelli (Argentina) 4½.

The following entertaining encounter comes from the 11th round of the Clarin tournament, and features Timman held to a draw in unusual fashion — thus ending his streak of eight wins in succession.

CARO KANN DEFENCE

F. BRAGA	J. TIMMAN
1. e4	c6
2. d4	d5
3. e5	Bf5
4. Nc3	e6
5. g4	

This sharp line of the advance Caro Kann must have brought back mixed memories for Jan — it is the same variation that van der Wiel used to beat him at Wijk aan Zee.

5. ...	Bg6
6. Nge2	c5
7. Be3	Nc6
8. dxc5	Nxe5
9. Nd4	Nf6

The van der Wiel game had gone 9...a6? 10.f4 Nc4 11.Bxc4 dxc4 12.f5!

exf5 13.gxf5 Qe7 14.Kd2! and the black bishop on g6 was doomed.

9...Nf6 is presumably Timman's after-the-game improvement, but it is an extremely risky one, as the course of the game will show.

10. f4!	NeXg4
11. Bb5 ch	Ke7

Braga has achieved a great deal with his sacrifice of the g4 pawn. Black has been forced to move his king — cancelling out the option of castling into safety at any stage — and on e7 the monarch seriously impedes the development of the bishop on f8.

12. Bg1	Qc7
13. c6	b6
14. Qe2	

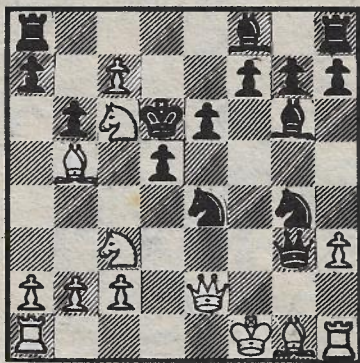
14.Qf3 is possibly stronger, but will Timman really chance taking a second pawn?

14. ...	Qx14!?
15. c7!	Ne4

Not 15...Qxc7 16.Nc6 ch Kd6 17.h3 Nh6 Bh2 ch winning the house.

16. Nc6 ch	Kd6
17. h3	Qg3 ch
18. Kf1	Qf4 ch
19. Ke1	Qg3 ch
20. Kf1	

We must remember that Braga, a fairly low-ranked Argentinian, would be quite satisfied to share the point.



20. ...	Qxc3!
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Playing for the win! Now on 21.bxc3 Ng3 ch 22.Kel Nxe2 23.Kxe2 Black has 23...Kxc7 (not 23...Nh6 when 24.Bh2 ch is strong) 24.hxg4 a6! 25.Ba4 b5 regaining his piece with a winning advantage.

The exposed position of the Black king, however, calls for White to keep queens on — at almost any cost.

21. Qxg4!	Qxb2
22. a4!	Qxa1 ch
23. Kg2	

White is one rook and three pawns down, but has immediate threats of winning Black's queen by the discovered attack 24.Bh2 ch as well as perennial threats of advancing his c-pawn and gaining for himself a second queen.

23. ...	f5!
24. Qh4	Qf6
25. Bh2 ch	Kc5

The king comes out even further to star in a rare middlegame perpetual check.

26. Nb8!	Qxh4
27. c8=Q ch	Kb4
28. Rb1 ch	Ka3!
29. Ra1 ch	Kb4

Not 29...Kb2 30.Be5 ch and mates.

30. Rb1 ch	Ka3
31. Ra1 ch	Kb4

Draw agreed

White cannot mate — 32.Nc6 ch Kc3 33.Be5 ch Kd2 34.Qxa8 Qf2 ch 35.Kh1 f4! and Black wins — while Timman has no choice but to oscillate his king between a3 and b4!

MURRAY CHANDLER