

# Getting better

QUITE OFTEN I am asked the question: "What should a player do to improve his or her game?" My answer is quite simple: play through the games of the finest masters in the world. Dealing with the inevitable next query is quite simple as well — the best collection of the cream of current tournament play is contained in the international *Chess Informator*. In number 34, the latest volume, there are 745 annotated games from the latter half of last year, plus sections on combinations, endgame positions and Fide (World Chess Federation) information.

The fascination of playing through such master games is enhanced by knowing the characters of the protagonists, and sometimes the circumstances under which the encounter took place. This week's game comes from round eight of the 1982 Lucerne Olympiad, and is between the Hungarian Grandmaster Istvan Csom and the Russian Grandmaster Artur Yusupov. Now Yusupov is in his early 20s, knowledgeable, practical, and with a playing style that matches his powerful physique. No one underestimates him. Csom, on the other hand, has a deceptive style that can still lull the unwary despite the experienced 43-year-old's record and reputation.

Csom wins this clash in marvellously typical style, incidentally providing a much needed point for his team, which lost this match 2½-1½. He appears to potter around with his usual innocuous-looking moves, and invites Yusupov to seize the initiative on the kingside. This the Russian does, only to find his attack repelled, leaving his pieces awkwardly placed and his own king position airy. But when Csom neglects a chance to effectively end all resistance, Yusupov very nearly fights back into the struggle. Fortunately Csom's positional reputation belies his ability to take drastic action when called for. With a beautiful rook sacrifice he sets in motion a tidal wave of passed pawns which swamp all opposition for good.

## ENGLISH OPENING

<b>I. CSOM</b>	<b>A. YUSUPOV</b>
1. c4	e5
2. Nc3	Nc6
3. g3	g6
4. Bg2	Bg7
5. e3	Nh6
6. Nge2	0-0
7. 0-0	d6
8. d3	Be6
9. h3	Qd7
10. Kh2	f5
11. b3	Rae8
12. d4	f4?!

Yusupov intends to deal with the threatened pawn fork on d5 by tactical means, but safer is 12... Bf7.

13. d5	f3
14. dxe6	Rxe6
15. Bxf3	Rxf3
16. Ne4	

Now Ng5 is in the air and already Black must start retreating. Not, of course, 16.Nf4 exf4 17.Qxf3 Bxc3.

16. ...	Re8
17. Kg2	Rff8
18. Ba3	Nf5
19. Qd3	

On 19.N(2)c3 Yusupov could complicate matters by 19... Ncd4.

19. ...	Nce7
20. Rad1	h6
21. Ng1!	g5
22. Nf3	Rf7
23. g4	Nh4 ch
24. N×h4	g×h4
25. f3	Ref8
26. Bb4	Qe6
27. Be1	Bf6
28. f4!	Bg5
29. f5	

By a series of circumspect defensive moves Csom has disarmed the potential opposition assault, and now takes the initiative. The protected passed pawn on f5 exerts an enormous cramping effect on Black's game.

29. ...	Qd7
30. N×g5	h×g5

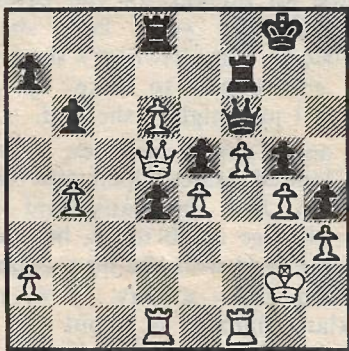
31. Bd2	Nc6
32. e4	Qe7
33. Qe3	Rg7
34. Bc3	Qf6
35. c5	Nd4
36. c×d6?	

An inaccuracy. No doubt Csom saw 36.R×d4! e×d4 37.B×d4 skewering the Black queen and rook, but thought he could continue with this same combination when Yusupov recaptured with 36... c×d6.

36. ...	c5!
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Instead the Russian cements his knight on d4. The question now is: can Black surround and win the White pawn on d6?

37. b4	b6
38. B×d4	c×d4
39. Qb3 ch	Rgf7
40. Qd5	Rd8



41. R×d4!!	
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A stunning sacrifice to mobilise the White central pawns.

41. ...	e×d4
42. e5	Qg7
43. e6	Qf6
44. e7!	d3

If 44... Re8 45.Rel with threats of 45.d7 and 45.Re6.

45. e×d8=Q ch	Q×d8
46. Rd1	Qe8
47. Q×d3	Qe5

Setting a last trap — 48.d7? R×d7 49.Q×d7 Qg3 ch draws by perpetual check.

48. Rd2	Kf8
49. Re2	Qf4
50. Re4	Qc1
51. d7	Qb2 ch
52. Kf3	Resigns

Informator 34 should be obtainable from the New Zealand Chess Association, PO Box 8802, Symonds St, Auckland, whose own magazine *NZ Chess* is still good value at \$6.50 per annum.

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