

A new Suba star

RUMANIAN Mikhail Suba has a reputation as an experienced but solid contender. Surprisingly, he very nearly qualified from the Las Palmas Interzonal last year, and perhaps this has stirred a spark of ambition in the middle-aged grandmaster from Bucharest. At the recent Dortmund tournament in West Germany he was in devastating form, streaking off with 7½ points from nine games. An upset penultimate-round loss to Sweden's Tom Wedberg meant only that Suba had to avoid losing his last game in order to collect-first.

This was no foregone conclusion, with Black against top Czech GM Vlastimil Hort. But Hort could make no progress against stubborn defence, and the draw was agreed in 29 moves. This put Hort and myself in second equal position, followed by Soviet women's world champion Maya Chiburdanidze. Maya's impressive showing in this tournament makes a mockery of her current Fide rating of 2355 — at least 100 points too low in my opinion. The 23-year-old Georgian is an alert and charismatic opponent, and she certainly convinced me that women will eventually compete on level terms with men.

Final scores of the 11th Dortmund International were: 1, Suba 8 points; 2-3, Hort and Chandler (England/New Zealand) 7½; 4, Chiburdanidze 7; 5, Kindermann (West Germany) 6; 6-8, Wedberg, Lobron (West Germany) and Csom (Hungary) 5½; 9, Gufeld (USSR) 5; 10-11, Short (England) and Grzesik (West Germany) 3; 12, Bischoff (West Germany) 2½. As the tournament just made Fide (World Chess Federation) category-10 status, my result was actually a grandmaster norm. Norms totalling 24 games are required to gain the title. So, combined with my previous norm from New York 1980, this makes me about 21/24ths of a Grandmaster!

In order to reach the required 7½ points I needed to win my last three games — starting with Soviet GM Eduard Gufeld, Chiburdanidze's trainer. Fortunately nerves had no chance to take over in this critical clash. Although Gufeld is a renowned theoretician and writer, I was able to prepare a trap for him in the opening which paid off in remarkable fashion.

SICILIAN DEFENCE

M. CHANDLER	E. GUFELD
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nx d4	Qb6!?

This offbeat variation of the Sicilian defence is a Gufeld — and Chiburdanidze — speciality.

5. Nb3	Nf6
6. Nc3	e6
7. Bd3	a6
8. 0-0	Be7
9. Be3	Qc7
10. f4	d6
11. Qf3	0-0
12. Rae1	b5
13. g4!?	Bb7
14. g5	Nd7
15. Qh5	Nb4

So far this is the same as the game Kuporosov-Gufeld, USSR 1982. In his notes in the Yugoslav publication Informator Gufeld here recommends the attacking variation I now choose, but concludes that Black emerges with good chances. Preparing for this game beforehand I spotted what appeared to be a hole in the analysis.

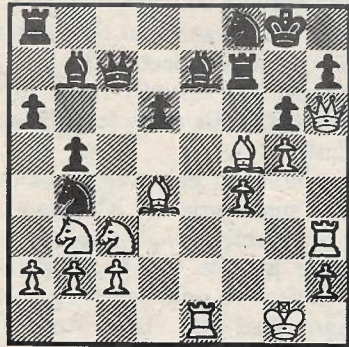
16. Rf3 g6
17. Qh6 f5

Gufeld assessed this position as "unclear".

18. exf5 exf5
19. Rh3 Rf7
20. Bd4

Threatening 21. Qxg6 ch hxg6 22. Rh8 mate.

20. ... Nf8
21. Bxf5!



This was the novelty I had found on my set back at the hotel. 21...gxf5 22.g6! Nxg6 23.Qxg6 ch Kf8 24.Rxh7 is very strong, and 21...Rx f5 is impossible due to 22.Qg7 mate.

At first 21...Bxg5 22.fxg5 Rx f5 looks like a defence, but 23.Bf6! (planning Re7) wins almost out of hand. I must admit, though, I was still a little apprehensive — Soviet analysis has a justly fearsome reputation. The worry receded when Gufeld thought for more than an hour before replying.

21. ... Qc6
22. Be4 d5
23. Bg2 Qd7
24. Re2 Qf5?

28...Re8 would leave Black a pawn down, but still in the game.

25. Re5! Qxc2
26. Rhe3 Bd6
27. Re2 Qd3
28. Rd2 Qc4
29. Na5

Completing the ejection of the Black queen.

29. ... Qc8
30. Nx b7 Rx b7

Or 30...Bxe5 31.Bxe5 Rx b7 32.a3! followed by Bxd5 ch is overwhelming.

31. a3! Ne6
32. axb4 Nx d4
33. Rx d4 Bxe5
34. fx e5 Kh8
35. Bxd5 Rd7
36. Be6 Rx d4
37. Bxc8 Rx c8
38. Qh3 Rf8
39. e6 h5
40. e7

The passed e-pawn cancels out all hopes of perpetual check by the Black rooks — 40...Rg4 ch loses to 41.Qxg4.

40. ... Re8
41. Qe6 Rg4 ch
42. Kh1 Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER