

**CHESS**

MURRAY CHANDLER

# Miles in front

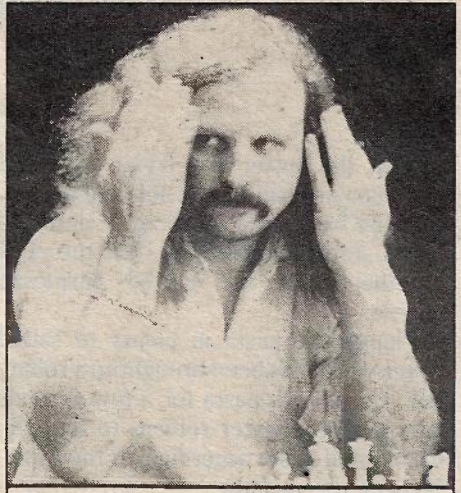
**T**ONY MILES is a determined but unpredictable player. For a decade he has been at the forefront of the remarkable English chess explosion: world junior champion in 1974; the first English grandmaster in 1975; crusher of the Russian world champion Anatoly Karpov at Skara 1980 (utilising the defence 1.e4 a6!). With many professionals, a mediocre string of results would bring on a few self-doubts, or at least a mild depression. To Tony such a period in the first half of 1984 seemed to act as a catalyst. The sensation, when it came this time, was a victory in the Tilburg super-tournament by a margin nearly as wide as the torso of former Soviet chess boss Viktor Baturinsky.

Miles, now 29, scored eight points from his 11 games, ahead of Ribli (Hungary), Hübner (West Germany), Belyavsky and Tukmakov (USSR) 6½; Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) 6; Portisch (Hungary), Timman (Holland) 5½; Andersson (Sweden) 5; Smyslov (USSR) 4½; Sosonko (Holland) 3; and van der Wiel (Holland) 2½. It was probably the best result ever by an English player; and it was certainly the best result ever seen at the town of Tilburg in Holland. In 1977, quintuple Tilburg winner Karpov also scored eight points, but his nearest rival reached seven... that was Tony Miles! The winners of eight years of Tilburg make interesting reading: in 1977 Karpov made 8 as mentioned; in 1978 Portisch got 7; in 1979 Karpov got 7½; in 1980 Karpov 7½; in 1981 Belyavsky 7½; in 1982 Karpov 7½; in 1983 Karpov 7; in 1984 Miles 8.

The domination of the mighty Karpov is even more complete than it appears, as the three times that he did not feature as winner he was absent defending his world title. As I write the 34-year-old Soviet star is five-one ahead against his young rival and compatriot Garri Kasparov, after a record string of draws before his fifth win in their Moscow championship match. If Kasparov ultimately loses the race to six wins by an overwhelming deficit, some experts believe his potential to challenge for the world crown again will be diminished. In that case Miles must rank as a potential candidate, although he himself laughs off any world championship aspirations. I suspect Tony, like most of his contemporaries from Tilburg, can visualise a path to the finals easily enough — but at Karpov the dreams shatter.

A victory from Tilburg illustrative of Miles's powerful but unconventional style:

ENGLISH OPENING	
<b>T. MILES</b>	<b>J. TIMMAN</b>
1. c4	e5
2. Nc3	Nf6
3. Nf3	Nc6
4. g3	d5
5. cxd5	Nxd5
6. Bg2	Nb6
7. 0-0	Be7
8. a3	Be6



Tony Miles: great victory after mediocre results.

9. d3 0-0  
10. b4

*Miles is effectively playing his favourite Sicilian Dragon defence with colours reversed, using the extra tempo to expand on the queen's wing.*

10. ... f6  
11. Ne4 Qd7  
12. Bb2 a6  
13. Qc2 Bh3?!

*To exchange the "Dragon bishop" — but can Black spare the time?*

14. Nc5 Bxc5  
15. Bxh3 Qxh3  
16. Qb3 ch! Kh8  
17. bxc5 Nd7  
18. d4!

*Much stronger than 18. Qxb7 Qe6 19. Qxc7 Nxc5.*

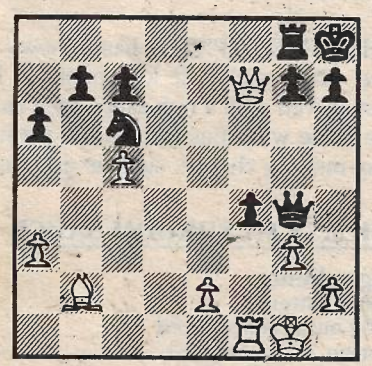
18. ... Rab8  
19. dxe5 Ndxe5  
20. Nxe5 fxe5  
21. Rad1 Rf6  
22. f4! Rxf4!

*Cleverly exploiting the unguarded White queen (23. gxf4? Qxb3) to temporarily win a pawn, but it is the a1-h8 diagonal leading to the Black king that proves the decisive factor.*

23. Rxf4 exf4  
24. Qf7 Rg8  
25. Rf1! Qg4

*Not 25. ... f×g3? 26. Qxg7 ch! R×g7 27. Rf8 checkmate.*

TIMMAN



MILES

26. Rxf4 Qg5  
27. Kg2 Qxc5  
28. Re4 Qf8  
29. Qh5 Ne7  
30. Qg5 Ng6?

*Timman, desperately trying to keep his knight near the defence of his king, blunders it away. After 30. ... Nc6 white still has to finish matters, eg 31. Rh4 Qf7 32. Qh6! Qf5 33. e4 and the Black queen cannot maintain her protection of the h7 square.*

31. Qxg6 Resigns

*White forces checkmate after 31. ... h×g6 32. Rh4.*