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94 NZ LISTENER, NOVEMBER 14, 1987

## CHESS

# The Polgar whiz-kids

by Murray Chandler

THE POLGARS do not live like your average Hungarian family, as I discovered on a visit to their apartment in Budapest. Walking through the door one sees chess boards, chess books, chess magazines and chess-playing Polgars everywhere. In the reception room Daddy Polgar was chopping up photocopied games for the massive card-index filing system stored in two of the seven rooms. In the study Zsuzsa (at 18 arguably the best woman in the world) was playing blitz with Judith (the best 11-year-old in the world). Sofia (12 years old) was looking on. She is ranked marginally behind her younger sister, but later she proved to be a whiz at solving some studies I set them.

A tour of the seven-room penthouse revealed yet more books, a video, several cordless telephones per square metre and a compact disc player. "One of Judith's birthday presents from a company in Biel," explained Sofia (all the family understand English). Back in the study my companion, grandmaster John Nunn, had been inveigled into some five-minute blitz games, starting with Zsuzsa. When he got to Judith, the current British speed-chess champion finished just one game ahead after a dozen or so games (and only by judiciously stopping at the right moment).

In a recent blitz tournament in San Bernadino, Judith came second ahead of top male grandmasters Kiril Georgiev, Vlastimil Hort and Eric Lobron.

The entire Polgar clan has now become a Western sponsor's dream, and Zsuzsa can already command fees comparable to Kasparov and Karpov in some cases. An Australian women's magazine is said to have paid \$25,000 for the girls to do a few exhibitions after the Adelaide tournament last Christmas. Zsuzsa does simul in Europe under contract to a chess computer company and the whole family has travelled extensively.

This remarkable Hungarian family is friendly, hospitable and fun-loving. They may be jet-setters but otherwise their feet are firmly on the ground.

Here is the Judith Polgar brilliancy which won the solid gold "Super-Torero" prize of the tournament in Biel, Switzerland, last July.

World Mixed Tournament, Biel 1987

### ENGLISH OPENING

J COSTA  
(Switzerland)

1. d4
2. c4
3. Nf3
4. Nxd4
5. Nb5
6. cxd5
7. N(5)c3
8. g3?

J POLGAR

- Nf6
- c5
- cxd4
- e5!?
- d5
- Bc5
- 0-0

The best counter to Black's gambit line is

8. ... Ng4!

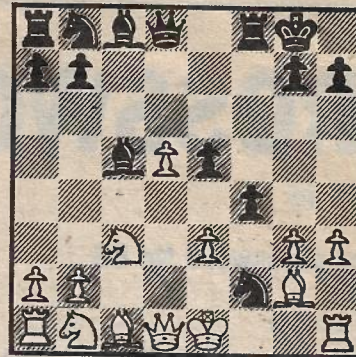


MURRAY CHANDLER

Judith Polgar: the best 11-year-old in the world and a formidable blitz player.

9. e3
10. Bg2
11. h3?

- f5
- f4
- Nxf2!



A dramatic and unexpected punishment for White's time-wasting. Black's knight sacrifice is especially bold considering her own queenside has yet to be developed.

12. Kxf2
13. Ke1
14. Rg1
15. Qd3

- fxc3ch
- Rf2
- Qf8!

15. Ne4 can be met by 15... Bd4, followed by queenside development. White must attack the cramping black pawn on e3 if he wishes to get his pieces out.

15. ...
16. a3
17. Be4
18. Qxe4

- Na6
- Bf5
- Bxe4
- Bd4!

Remarkably there is no defence to... Nc5. On 19. b4 Black has 19... Rc8. 20. Bxe3 21. Nxc3 (21. Bxd4 Rc1 mate) Bxc3ch 22. Kd1 Rf1ch winning.

19. Bxe3
20. Bxd4
21. Qxd4
22. Kd1
23. Resigns

- Nc5
- exd4!
- Re8ch
- Qf3ch

23. Kc1 Nb3 checkmate is one finish. Any takers for a Polgar v Polgar world championship match around 1993?