

CHESS

Soviet squeeze

by Murray Chandler

AS I WRITE, two of the three World Championship Qualifying Interzonal tournaments have ended, with quite sensational results in both. In the modest Yugoslav town of Subotica the Soviets were squeezed out completely when England's Nigel Short and Jonathan Speelman were joined by Hungary's Gyula Sax in a tie for first place. In Szirak in Hungary, the young grandmaster Johann Hjartason has become a hero of his native Iceland by tying for first with Valery Salov of the USSR. The third qualifying spot from Szirak was tied between Hungary's Lajos Portisch and England's John Nunn. A play-off will have to be held to decide which of these two will join the 14-player Candidates Series in Saint John, Canada, next January and February. The Candidates will be the centrepiece of a Canadian \$400,000 World Chess Festival which will include two \$50,000 tournaments open to all.

The Subotica Interzonal was, of course, a mighty triumph for England. Despite the announcement of Tony Miles (now a tax exile) that he will no longer be playing for the national team, the English squad is going from strength to strength. Both Short and Speelman cruised home with draws, while Sax had to win his last four games to pip former world titleholder Mikhail Tal. Tal's loss to an outsider, an Indian bank clerk, Amed Prasad, shows on what narrow margins these vital and important events can hinge. Short too was fortunate to win one appalling position against the Egyptian tailender Hamid.

Each Interzonal is supposed to contain 18 representatives from the various FIDE geographical zones, but Subotica started with 17 and only just finished with 16. Robert Hubner from West Germany was absent, America's Lubosh Kavalek withdrew ill after seven rounds and another sick American, Lev Alburt, played some games from his hotel bed.

Final results of the two completed Interzonals are:

Subotica: 1-3, Short, Speelman, Sax 10½ points; 4-5, Ribli (Hungary) and Tal 10; 6, Rodrigues (Cuba) 8½; 7, Marjanovic (Yug) 8; 8-9, Smyslov and Chernin (both USSR) 7½; 10, Popovic (Yug) 7; 11, Zapata (Colombia) 6½; 12, Ernst (Sweden) 6; 13, Alburt (US) 5½; 14, Xu (China) 5; 15, Prasad (India) 4; 16, Hamid (Egypt) 3.

Szirak: 1-2, Salov and Hjartason 12½ points; 3-4, Nunn and Portisch 12; 5, Belyavsky (USSR) 11; 6, Andersson (Sweden) 10½; 7, Ljubojevic (Yug) 10; 8, Christiansen (US) 9; 9-10, Benjamin (US) and Todorovic (Monaco) 8½; 11-12, Velimirovic (Yug) and Marin (Romania) 7½; 13-14, Adorjan (Hungary) and Milos (Brazil) 7; 15, Flear (England) 6; 16, Villa (Spain) 5½; 17, Bouaziz (Tunisia) 4½; 18, Allan (Canada) 1½.

This week's game features a decisive battle between two of the eventual victors.

RUY LOPEZ

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| G SAX | N SHORT |
| 1. e4 | e5 |
| 2. Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3. Bb5 | a6 |
| 4. Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5. 0-0 | Be7 |
| 6. Re1 | b5 |
| 7. Bb3 | d6 |
| 8. c3 | 0-0 |
| 9. h3 | Bb7 |
| 10. d4 | Re8 |

Maybe you would like a nice draw today with 11. Ng5 Rf8 12. Nf3 Re8?

11. a4

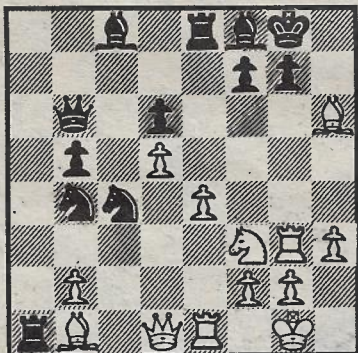
No thank you. I have a feeling I might need an extra half point later in this tournament.

- | | |
|------------|------|
| 11. ... | h6 |
| 12. Nbd2 | Bf8 |
| 13. Bc2 | e×d4 |
| 14. c×d4 | Nb4 |
| 15. Bb1 | c5 |
| 16. d5 | Nd7 |
| 17. Ra3 | c4 |
| 18. Nd4 | Ne5 |
| 19. a×b5 | Qb6 |
| 20. N×c4!? | |

This remarkable and bold knight sacrifice varies from the normal 20. N2f3 as played in Sokolov-Psakhis, USSR 1985. But can it really be correct?

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 20. ... | N×c4 |
| 21. Rg3 | Bc8 |
| 22. B×h6 | a×b5 |
| 23. Nf3 | Ra1 |
| 24. Ng5 | |

Although White has two pawns for his piece and some kingside chances, it is not at all clear his attack will succeed. Short's decision to return material looks unnecessary.



- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| 24. ... | R×b1 |
| 25. Q×b1 | g×h6 |
| 26. Ne6 dis. ch | Kh8 |
| 27. N×f8 | R×f8 |
| 28. Qc1 | Kh7 |
| 29. Qc3! | |

Using a mate threat on g7 Sax picks up the loose Black knight. White keeps an edge with rook and two pawns v bishop and knight.

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 29. ... | Ne5 |
| 30. Q×b4 | Bd7 |
| 31. Qd2 | Nc4 |
| 32. Qd1 | b4 |
| 33. b3 | Ne5 |
| 34. Kh2? | |

But this is an unsound pawn sacrifice — which wins Sax the game in four more moves! Both sides were now in severe time trouble.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 34. ... | Q×f2 |
| 35. Rf1 | Qb2 |
| 36. Qh5 | f6 |
| 37. Rf4 | Qd2? |

37. ... Be8! would have prevented White's following queen sacrifice.

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| 38. Q×h6 ch! | Resigns |
|--------------|---------|

Black is checkmated after 38. ... K×h6 39. Rh4.

Throughout your home, Nilodor takes the nastiness clean out of smells.



Unlike other aerosols or wick-type deodorisers, Nilodor doesn't just cover one smell with another. Nilodor chemically merges with the odour-carrying gases in the air and neutralises them.

So all your nose is left to enjoy is freshness.

Nilodor is safe and easy to use throughout your home. Because it's concentrated and more efficient, Nilodor is the most economical deodoriser you can buy.

nilodor®

Available through pharmacies New Zealand wide.

N84/2

Paracetamol Sugar free!

(well, well, well!)



PHARMACY-ONLY MEDICINE: Each 5ml of liquid and each tablet contains 120mg Paracetamol. Use only as directed.

Reckitt & Colman Pharmaceuticals

Division of Reckitt & Colman (New Zealand) Limited, Avondale, Auckland.

RC87/25 Haines