

# Chess: Two American Grandmasters Share Laurels at Toronto

Oct. 4, 1971





A field of 248, a record, participated in the Canadian Exhibition Open at Toronto last month. The event, a six-round Swiss system tournament, saw two American grandmasters, Robert Byrne of Ossining, N. Y., and Pal Benko of New York tie for first place at 6-0.

Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union, the world champion, shared third place at 5½-½.

A young Canadian player, Lawrence Day, held Spassky to a draw in a hard-fought closed Sicilian Defense and the loss of this half-point enabled Leslie Witt to tie Spassky for third.

Arthur Bisguler, a grandmaster from Hartsdale, N. Y., and Walter Browne, an Australian grandmaster who is now a resident of the United States, were never in contention after being upset by lower-rated players. The Manhattan Chess Club champion, Arthur Feuerstein, also played.

The description and appended games were submitted by Byrne, who was married five days after the tournament.

The Caro-Kann, Byrne against Eugene Martinowsky, began on an unorthodox note with 3 ... P-KN3 when Black attempted an accelerated fianchetto deployment.

White's 4 P-KR3 was comparatively dull. Had White continued his development, his king-bishop would have been at QB4 one move sooner. Then Black could not afford to go along as he had, for White would have at his disposal a powerful combination.

Position after 15...B-K3

If 7... KN-B3, with White's king-bishop out, White would have 8 BxPch, followed by N/3-N5ch and N-K6 and Black would be embarrassed. The simultaneous fork of queen and bishop would be fatal.

Also, it is not clear, why not 15 RxP, instead of 15 P-B4. After 27 R/3xQ, the medial pressure leaves Black in trouble. But Black's 29 is a blunder. After that, a piece goes.

The Pirc Defense, W. Allen against Byrne shows not too much ingenuity on White's part. The first player manages to lose an exchange and then swaps down without protest into a losing ending. Finally, White accommodates Black by walking into a mating net.