

Chess: Bright Young Men Answer The Question: Bobby Who?

By ROBERT BYRNE

The third annual World Open tournament, July 2-6 at the Roosevelt Hotel, established a new record of 815 entrants for Swiss system events, thus indicating that the shock of Bobby Fischer's refusal to defend his title and its consequence—the decline in player turnouts—is at an end.

The current rapid scramble to the top by young players in the United States reached a pinnacle in the World Open when 19-year-old Alan Trefler of Brookline, Mass., ranked 115th at the start, blasted his way through to tie for first with a seasoned grandmaster, Pal Benko.

Trefler, a student at Dartmouth College, lost to Orest Popovych in the first round, but then won eight games in a row to earn \$2,250. Benko, who also received \$2,250, went through undefeated, winning seven games and drawing two.

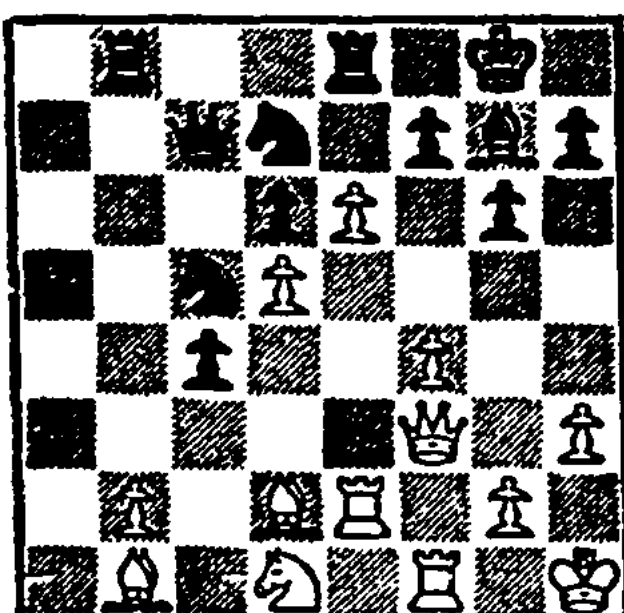
Another veteran grandmaster, Nicolas Rossolimo, also of New York, helped to dam the youthful tide at the tournament. Playing serious chess for the first time in five years, Rossolimo ran up 7½ points to nail third prize and collect \$1,600.

Walter Browne, the 1975 United States champion and the pre-tourney favorite, was knocked out of the running by 15-year-old Michael Rohde of New Jersey, a brilliant former national high school champion, in the eighth round.

In the last round, Trefler assured himself of his first-place tie by beating Rohde, who went astray early in a Benoni Defense and was given no chance to recover.

Trefler's 8 B-N5ch is an invention of Mark Taimanov, the Soviet theoretician, that is designed to cross up Black's development, since both 3 . . . QN-Q2 and 8 . . . B-Q2 would prove vulnerable to 9 P-K5. Still, Rohde obtained a reasonable position by returning his king knight to KB3 at move 11 and by exchanging 13 . . . BxN; 14

TREFLER/BLACK



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Position after . . . 25 P-K6

QxB to hamper Trefler in breaking through with P-K5.

Whereas 17 . . . Q-N3ch; 18 B-K3, QxP; 19 B-Q4, Q-N5; 20 P-K5 would have given Trefler too strong an attack, Rohde's 17 . . . P-QN4 correctly began the thematic Black counterattack on the queenside. However, Rohde erred with 18 . . . KR-K1? when 18 . . . P-N5 was necessary. Trefler thus got away with a pawn by 20 NxP and Rohde could not have gotten it back by 20 . . . Q-N3 because of 21 N-R3, QxP; 22 NxP.

Trefler sped to the attack with 24 P-K6!, a sacrifice that could not have been accepted because 24 . . . PxP; 25 PxP, RxKP; 26 B-B4 would have cost the exchange. He sharply offered that pawn again with 25P-K6! and, though it could not be refused this time, its capture allowed Trefler to smash open attacking lines for his king bishop with 27 P-B5!

After 32 B-K4! and 33 N-K3, it became impossible for Rohde to handle the threatened invasion 34 B-Q5ch, followed by 35 R-B7. His 33 . . . R-K2 cost him the exchange and, when Trefler picked up the queen and a knight for two rooks after 37 RxNch, Rohde had to resign.

Because of damaged type, two moves in the game that appeared in last Thursday's column were illegible. They were White's 29th move, P-B4, and White's 30th, B-N6.

BENONI DEFENSE

White Trefler	Black Rohde	White Trefler	Black Rohde	White Trefler	Black Rohde
1 P-Q4	N-KB3	14 QxB	QN-Q2	27 P-B5	PxP
2 P-QB4	P-B4	15 B-Q2	Q-B2	28 BxP	N-K4
3 P-Q5	P-K3	16 QR-K1	P-B5	29 Q-R5	N-B1
4 N-QB3	PxP	17 B-N1	P-QN4	30 B-B3	N/4-N3
5 PxP	P-Q3	18 K-R1	KR-K1	31 R/2-KB2	B-K4
6 P-K4	P-KN3	19 PxP	PxP	32 B-K4	R-N4
7 P-B4	B-N2	20 NxP	Q-B4	33 N-K3	R-K2
8 B-N5ch	KN-Q2	21 N-B3	QR-N1	34 N-Q5	Q-Q1
9 B-Q3	O-O	22 R-K2	Q-B2	35 NxRch	QxN
10 N-B3	P-QR3	23 N-Q1	N-B4	36 Q-N4	BxB
11 P-QR4	N-KB3	24 P-K5	KN-Q2	37 RxNch	QxR
12 O-O	B-N5	25 P-K6	PxP	38 RxQch	KxR
13 P-R3	BxN	26 PxP	NxP	39 PxB	Resigns

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