

THE FRAMINGHAM CHESS CLUB

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FORMER WORLD CHAMPION MIKHAIL TAL TO APPEAR IN FRAMINGHAM

On Tuesday, March 8, Grandmaster Mikhail Tal will give a 30-board simultaneous exhibition at the Framingham Chess Club. Tal, World Champion 1960-1961, remains today one of the world's foremost Grandmasters and one of the ten highest rated players of all time. Possessing a genius for daring, bold play equalled only by Alekhine, Tal demonstrated again his attacking elan only a week ago, decisively winning the World Blitz Championship, ending February 20 in New Brunswick.

Tal's appearance in Framingham will include a brief lecture at 7 p.m. on his games with Bobby Fischer, followed by a Q&A period, and a 30-board simultaneous exhibition at 8 p.m. The board fee will be \$50. Boards will be available on a first-come-first-served basis; it is probable that all boards will be reserved before March 8. There will be a lecture/spectator admission charge of \$10 (\$5 for Framingham Chess Club members, free admission to exhibition participants and accredited members of the media).

The other American appearances by Tal in this tour will include an appearance at the Boylston Chess Club in Boston (details still unsettled; for more information contact Bill Lukowiak, 617-628-5860), and then after Framingham on March 8, on to New York March 9, southern New Jersey March 10, Los Angeles March 11, Chicago March 14-17, the National Open in Chicago March 18-20, and Milwaukee March 21, before returning to the Soviet Union.

Born in 1936, Tal became an International Grandmaster in 1957, and won the USSR Championship in 1957 and again in 1958. He established himself as one of the world's premier players with victories in the Portoroz Interzonal and the Bled-Belgrade-Zurich Candidates Tournament in 1959. In 1960 he defeated Mikhail Botvinnik (+6-2=13) to become the youngest World Champion up to that time. Tal has been plagued by ill health ever since; he lost the World Championship after only an 11-month reign, though he rebounded to win the great Bled International

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in 1961, ahead of Fischer. Tal tied for first in the 1964 Amsterdam Interzonal and advanced to the Candidates' Final before being ousted by Spassky. He tied for first in the 1967 USSR Championship, and advanced to the Candidates' Semi-Final before losing to Kortchnoi. His brilliance and elan burst forth at irregular intervals during the 1970s: he won or tied for the Soviet Championship three more times, in 1972, 1974, and 1977 (his six titles ties Botvinnik's record), and won four major Internationals in a 10-month period during 1973-4. In 1979 Tal scored two of his greatest tournament victories, the Montreal super-tournament (equal first with Karpov) and the Riga Interzonal. However, Tal was defeated by Polugaevsky in the Candidates' Quarter-Final. Tal continued to win Internationals in the 1980s, to bring his career total to almost 50 major firsts, and last month added the World Blitz Championship to his laurels. By any standard, Tal stands as one of the greatest players in the history of the game.