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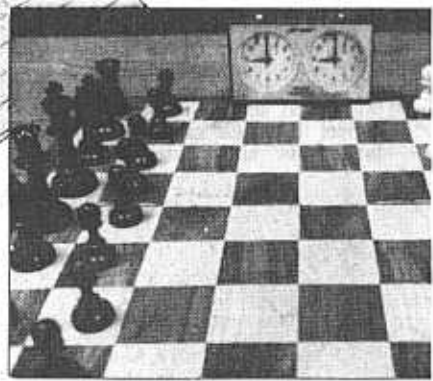
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Curdo Simultaneous Fr...
 5/13/83 Okon Club
 White Silivart
 Silivart
 White Champion (1982)

19 boards	WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1	P-K4	P-QB4	21	
2	N-KB3	N-QB3	22	
3	B-Q45	P-KN3	23	
4	Q-O	B-KN2	24	
5	P-B3	P-QB7	25	
6	N-QB3	N-KB3	26	
7	B-QB4	P-KP	27	
8	P-Q4	Q-O	28	
9	P-KP	Q-B2	29	
10	N-QB4		30	
11			31	
12			32	
13			33	
14			34	
15			35	
16			36	
17			37	
18			38	
19			39	
20			40	



—TC

Picking up the

A mind reader entering the American Legion Hall on May 3 would have heard a cacaphony of shrieks, groans and moans.

Nineteen area residents took on current state chess co-champion John Curdo in a simultaneous exhibition that night, matching wits with the second-ranked player in the state.

Playing the white pieces on each board, Curdo started quickly, pushing the King's pawn two squares forward on each. As both sides varied moves, the games became more complex.

Curdo slowed.

So did his opponents. Some buried their heads their hands, deep in thought. Others leaned back and sighed as their position crumbled at the master's hand.

Each player had the advantage of time. While the master took 10 to 15 seconds at each board, his opponents had the time of one Curdo revolution to pick a move. Curdo's advantage was being state champion or co-champion 16 times, a living legend of New England chess.

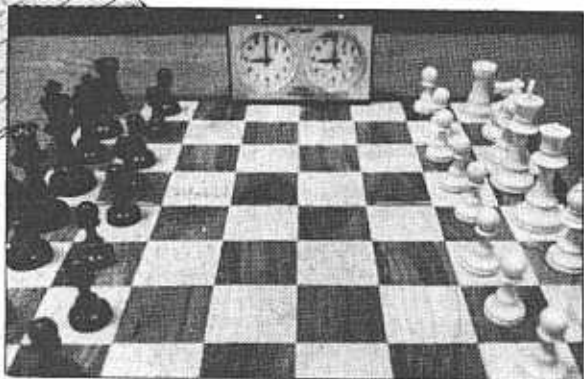
When the dust settled, the North Billerica resident mowed down 16 of his 19 adversaries. Only two, Julius Varga of Harvard and Bill Wheeler of Cochituate, held Curdo to draws. Larry Pratt of Natick, who moved here recently from Washington state, was the lone player to push home a win.

The exhibition was not only a display of Curdo's talent, but was the highlight of opening night for the new Framingham Chess Club, which meets Tuesdays at the hall.

—TOM ZUPPA



David Leahy of Framingham (right) takes a good look at his position before the John Curdo exhibition. Bill Priestman of Framingham (top left) are deep in thought before Bill Wheeler of Cochituate (top left) moves his way around the square playing area as his opponent moves and check out the other action.



ing up the Pieces



David Leahy of Framingham (right) takes a good look at his position in a warm-up game before the John Curdo exhibition. Bill Priestman of Framingham and Bill Wheeler of Cochituate (top left) are deep in thought between moves. Wheeler escaped with one of the two draws Curdo allowed. Curdo (bottom left) moves his way around the square playing area as his opponents study their moves and check out the other action.

News Photos by George Martell