

# Women in the game? Just wait

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The Framingham Chess Club recently sponsored the New England Women's Chess Championship. Of the five percent of the region's tournament players that are women, only five attended the Framingham event.

They were, in order of strength, Vesna Dimitrijevic, an unrated player from Yugoslavia but probably of 1800-1900 strength; Linda Bourassa, rated 1798; Gail Lingner, 1635; Cristy Barsky, 1396; and Sharon Burtman, 1391.

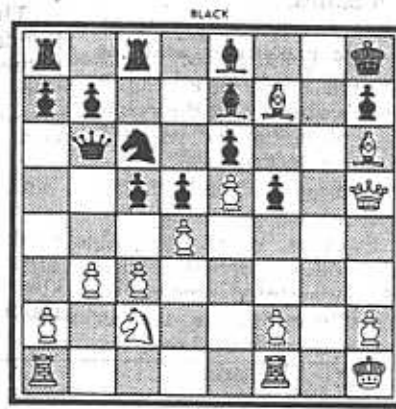
The tourney ended in a first-place tie between Dimitrijevic and Barsky, both of whom defeated Linda Bourassa, a good attacking and fast-improving player. Barsky surprised everyone with a win against Dimitrijevic.

Later, I talked with Barsky and put the inevitable question: Why aren't women playing in larger numbers? Barsky, who relates that she quit chess in her childhood due to her brother's frequent use of the "Thrown Piece Gambit," responded: "Women will play in large numbers, just you wait and see." Barsky said that many men have been actively supportive of her playing, but she painted as formidable the combination of the often solitary nature of chess education and play and the reality that women who choose to play today must enter nearly all-male settings to do so.

She further points out that women have recently swarmed into soccer, basketball, hockey, long-distance running and other highly competitive sports, with tre-

## CHES ANSWER

The nice finish of today's game from White's 20th move or the fast-er win in note (g).



Women's championship: White to move and win. Answer elsewhere on page.

mendous improvement in performance.

Below is the critical game by which Barsky earned her tie for first. In a French defense, Black hesitated on the Queen-side, and White found herself "on a roll" after she opened up lines on the other wing.

### FRENCH DEFENSE

Barsky	Dimitrijevic	Barsky	Dimitrijevic
White	Black	White	Black
1. P-K4	P-K3	14. NPxP	NPxP
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	15. B-KR6	KR-B1 (e)
3. P-K5	P-QB4	16. B-R5	P-B4
4. P-QB3	N-OB3	17. K-R1	K-R1
5. N-B3	Q-N3	18. B-B7	B-K1 ?
6. B-K2	KN-K2 ?	19. Q-R5	B-K2 (f)
7. N-R3 (a)	B-Q2 ?	20. B-N7 ch (g)	KxB
8. O-O ? (b)	N-B4	21. R-N1 ch	B-N4
9. N-B2	B-K2	22. RxB ch	K-B1
10. P-QN3	O-O	23. Q-R6 ch	K-K2
11. P-KN4 (c)	N-R5	24. QxP ch	K-Q1
12. NxN	BxN	25. Q-Q6 ch	Resigns
13. P-N5	P-B3 (d)		

- (a) Theory gives 7. PxP a solid white plus.
- (b) Now 8. PxP followed by 9. N-QN5 would be even stronger.
- (c) White decides to attack rather than await Black's Q-side action.
- (d) Necessary, else 14. B-Q3 and 15. Q-R5 (N4) wins the bishop.
- (e) Perhaps an exchange sacrifice (15. ... K-R1) along here?
- (f) Black is lost, e.g. 19. ... BxB 20. QxB/7 R-KN1 21. R-KN1 wins.
- (g) Winning, but faster would be 20. R-KN1 (Barsky).