

NEWS, INFORMATION, TOURNAMENTS AND REPORTS

DEEP THOUGHT vs. JUDIT POLGAR

Feng-hsiung Hsu

IBM T.J. Watson Research Center
Yorktown Heights, NY

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Danny Edelman of USCF contacted us back in March about a potential match with Judit Polgar. The original idea was for a big formal match, but due to various circumstances, the final decision was for a simple, informal, one-day, invitation-only event on Aug. 20, 1993.

The participants included the Hungarian Consul-General and his wife, Judit and her mother Klara, several of the private sponsors for the recent US tour by the Polgars, a very small contingent of journalists, and a Hungarian TV crew. The rest were mostly IBMers. Bob Rice, the commissioner of the Professional Chess Association, was present as well. I asked Bob Rice about how the PCA Interzonal arrangements were coming along. Even though the deadline was still about a month away, over 30 of the 50 or so Interzonal invitees had already confirmed their participation. Timman had declined the invitation as expected, but Karpov had not made up his mind. I later heard from a second source that even Salov might play if some of his demands are met.

Judit and her entourage arrived in a Rolls Royce around noon at the T. J. Watson Research Center. I had seen Judit during the US Chess Festival in Manhattan, but this was the first time I got to talk to her. Judit was firmly silent about anything related to Fischer, other than the match proposal itself. Fischer is demanding \$5,000,000 to play a match with her. The match is to be played until 15 (I am not sure about this number) wins by one of the players. The games are to be played with the "shuffle chess" format (I believe this is the same as the wild-1 format on ICS). Time control is the same as in the last Fischer-Spassky match or something similar. Personally, I think Fischer can only get that kind of money if he is playing Kasparov, Karpov and maybe Anand. I was a little bit surprised that Judit seemed to think that Fischer did get all of his money from his last match.

An animated face

Judit is quite different from the other two Champions that I had the chance to sit across the chess-board from. Kasparov is also charming and charismatic in public appearance, but one can sense a very strong will in his presence: a smoldering fire below the surface. Judit is more personable, and more easy-going. After all, she just turned 17 at the Biel Interzonal. Karpov is blander in public, but from what I heard, he can be quite charming in private too. Karpov when at the chess-board kept a poker face, while Kasparov and Judit were both more animated. Kasparov's expression, over the board, could be almost threatening.

The match was held in a design lab that we had cleaned out the week before. The design area seated about 25 people, while the adjoining vacated machine room was used as the playing area. The time control was 'Action', 30 minutes per player per game. It is unclear whether this time control favors the human or the machine. The search extensions in the Deep Blue Prototype do not really take effect until the deeper plies, and at the Action time control, the search depth is not quite deep enough. The machine that played was essentially the same one that played in Denmark with a few additional software modifications and fixes. A PS/2 running GIICS was used to communicate with the real machine downstairs. An RS/6000 with two chess processors was used in the spectator area to provide machine commentary. IM-elect Danny Edelman provided the running human commentary with inputs from GM Robert Byrne and a few others.

She came prepared

Judit apparently came prepared for the match. She squashed Fritz-2 without any difficulty in blitz games and earlier spent one week with Boris Gulko, who happened to have some success against DT-1. She was probably better prepared against the machine than Karpov was, but not as well as the Danish players and certainly not as well as Kasparov, Mr. Prepared himself.

Judit looked outwardly calm before the match. Her comments before the match, however, showed a bit of nervousness. When she talked about the machine, she mentioned that "I can't confuse it.". One of the photographers stated that she did not look nervous. She quipped, "I don't look nervous?". The Polgars do use the computers a lot in their chess preparations, but playing a computer of this caliber would still be a first for Judit.

Judit drew black for the first game and played the Sicilian defence against Deep Blue Prototype's e4. After much shuffling, the machine played a weird combination and won the exchange for a Pawn. Judit managed to entangle the machine's pieces for a while, but missed a second tactical shot, which was overlooked by the commentators in the spectator room as well [can you locate it?]. The game finished soon afterwards in the machine's favor.

Deep Blue Prototype - Judit Polgar [2630 FIDE], 30/SD

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cd4 4. Nd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be2 a6 7. 0-0 Bb4 8. Nc6 bc6 9. Qd4 Bd6 10. Qg7 Bh2 11. Kh1 Be5 12. Bf4 Bg7 13. Bc7 d5 14. Rad1 Ne7 15. Na4 Ra7 16. Bb6 Ra8 17. c3 Ng6 18. Bc7 Ra7 19. Bb8 Rb7 20. Bg3 0-0 21. ed5 cd5 22. Rfe1 f5 23. Bd6 Rd8 24. Ba3 Rc7 25. Bb4 Rc6 26. Ba5 Rf8 27. Bb6 Rf7 28. Kg1 Bf8 29. b3 Bb7 30. Bh5 Re7 31. Kf1 Kf7 32. c4 Rc8 33. Ba5 dc4 34. Nb6 Rb8 35. Nd7 Rc8 36. Bb4 cb3 37. Nf8 Rf8 38. ab3 Rb8 39. Be7 Ke7 40. Rd4 a5 41. Ra4 Bc6 42. Ra5 Rb3 43. Ra7 Kf6 44. Rh7 Nf4 45. g3 Bb5 46. Kg1 Nh3 47. Kg2 Ng5 48. Rh6 Ke7 49. Re5 Bc6 50. Kf1 Rb1 51. Re1 Rb2 52. Be2 Ne4 53. Rd1 Bd5 54. Rc1 Nd2 55. Ke1 Ne4 56. Ra1 Nc3 57. Bd3 Na2 58. Kf1 Nb4 [challenge: What is White's shot here?] 59. Bf5 Nc6 60. Rd1 Bc4 61. Bd3 Bb3 62. Rb1 Rb1 63. Bb1 Bd5 64. Rh7 Kf6 65. Rh4 Ne5 66. Ke2 Bf3 67. Ke3 Bc6 68. f4 Nf7 69. g4 e5 70. g5 Kg7 71. Rh7 Kg8 72. g6 ef4 73. Kf4 1-0

Judit wanted to avenge the loss immediately, but the spectators wanted a break. Judit was overheard talking to her mother Klara during the break that she would like to have a copy of the program! After the break, Judit stated that 'it was hopeless against the machine once you were down'. The second game proved otherwise. Judit opened the second game with Nf3 instead of her usual e4. Gulko bested DT-1 with the King's Indian attack. Was Judit trying to repeat the same idea? In retrospect, maybe she should have stuck with her normal opening repertoire. 17. c3 might be questionable, although White does have some compensation for the material deficit. At move 49, the machine had a completely winning position, but 49. ... Ra4? gave Judit some counter-chances and 50. ... Ra2?? surrendered the win. It needed 10 seconds of thinking time, which it did not have, to avoid the draw.

Judit Polgar [2630 FIDE] - Deep Blue Prototype, 30/SD

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d5 3. d3 Nbd7 4. Nbd2 e5 5. Bg2 c6 6. 0-0 Bd6 7. Nh4 0-0 8. e4 Nc5 9. Re1 Bg4 10. f3 Be6 11. Nf1 Qb6 12. Kh1 de4 13. de4 Rfd8 14. Qe2 Na4 15. g4 Bc5 16. Ne3 Bd4 17. c3 Nc3 18. bc3 Bc3 19. Nc2 Qa5 20. Bg5 h6 21. Be3 b6 22. Nf5 Qa4 23. g5 hg5 24. Bg5 Be1 25. Re1 Bf5 26. ef5 Rd6 27. Ne3 Re8 28. Rg1 Nh7 29. Bf1 Ng5 30. Rg5 Qf4 31. Rg4 Qh6 32. Rg1 Kf8 33. Qe1 Rd4 34. Bg2 Qf4 35. Ng4 Qf5 36. Qh4 Qg6 37. Qh8 Ke7 38. Qh4 Kd6 39. Qf2 c5 40. Ne3 Kc7 41. f4 ef4 42. Nd5 Kd8 43. Nc3 Qd3 44. Qb2 Re3 45. Nb5 Rb4 46. Qg7 Qb5 47. Qf6 Kc7 48. Qf7 Qd7 49. Qf8 Ra4 50. Qa8 Ra2 51. Qb7 Kd8 52. Qb8 Ke7 53. Qf4 Qd4 54. Qc7 Kf6 55. Rf1 Kg5 56. Qf7 Ra1 57. Qf5 Kh6 58. Qf8 Kh5 59. Qf5 Kh4 60. Qh7 Kg5 61. Qf5 1/2-1/2

Judit was probably a little shaken but showed her fighting spirit after the games. "I need some practice, then I will kill it." Well, she did better than Anand in her first two games against it, and Anand did get the edge in the end during his visit.