

Men Versus Chess Microcomputers in Paris

Short Human Victory 19 to 17

by Pierre Nolot

A Scheveniuque system tournament has been organized in Paris between six rated French players (from 1930 to 1400) and the six best commercial machines on the market in March and April 1982.

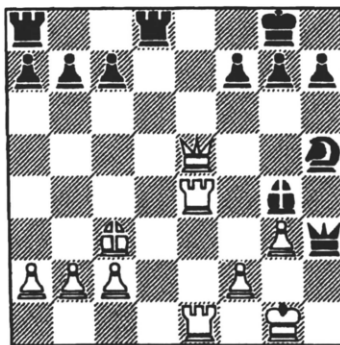
- Elite Challenger (USA) — Fidelity Electronics
- Champion Challenger (USA) — Fidelity Electronics
- Super System Mark V (Hong Kong) — SciSys
- Savant (Hong Kong) — Novag
- Mephisto 2 (West Germany) — Hegener-Glaser
- Great Game Machine (USA) — Applied Concepts

The principle of this tournament was that every player faced every machine in tournament conditions: 40 moves in two hours, but players did not play together, nor the machines.

	rate	perf	1	2	3	4	5	6	total
1 A. Ledoux	1930	1926	1	1	0	1	1	1	5-
2 Lamoureux	1790	1984	½	1	1	1	1	1	5½
3 Gare	1690	1751	0	½	1	1	1	½	4
4 Pilhes	1620	1633	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
5 Boulanger	1550	1453	0	½	0	0	0	1	1½
6 E. Katz	1400	1116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 Champion Challenger	0	1732	0	½	1	0	1	1	3½
2 Elite Challenger	0	1662	0	0	½	1	½	1	3
3 Mark V	0	1662	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
4 Savant	0	1662	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
5 Great Game Machine	0	1662	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
6 Mephisto 2	0	1434	0	0	½	0	0	1	1½

We can see, looking at the results, that the 36 games are quite logical, except the result of the strongest human player (1930 ELO) who lost to Super System Mark V, because after his first game with Great Game Machine he played a second game immediately versus Mark V and made a blunder. All of the machines won against the weakest player, rated 1400, but had big troubles versus the strongest players rated 1930 and 1790. All the programs seem to be quite equivalent between 1600 and 1700 ELO.

The results of Mephisto 2 is not normal, because of its game versus R. Boulanger, chief editor of *Scientific American*, french version. Mephisto was clearly winning the game in this position



Boulanger (1550) — Mephisto 2

Unfortunately, Mephisto played Qf3?? to checkmate on g2, but of course the human opponent gave checkmate first $\text{Wxe8+ Exe8 Exe8 Exe8 Exe8#}$.

This interesting tournament will be organized every year but with a larger number of players to insure a better validity of the results.