

MARION TINSLEY: AN OBITUARY

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Marion Tinsley passed away quietly on April 3, 1995 after battling cancer for eight months. As recently as January, he thought he had won the hardest battle of his life, but a relapse revealed that the cancer had spread.

Tinsley was the greatest checker player who ever lived and, arguably, the most dominant champion in any competitive sport. Over the last 45 years of his career he remained undefeated, winning every match and tournament he played in. Of the thousands of games played in this period, he lost fewer than 10. He was as close to perfection as is possible in a human.

As a man, Tinsley was exceedingly kind and loved by everyone. He leaves behind many friends.

He was a great friend of the CHINOOK team. He could have said "no" when faced with the prospect of defending his World Championship title against a computer. Instead, he accepted the challenge, relishing the chance to face some tough opposition. We are grateful for the the opportunity he gave us, and the privilege of playing the very best.

We shall deeply miss him. May he rest in peace.

THE 8th WORLD COMPUTER-CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**REPORT ON THE TOURNAMENT**

[Below, we give two complementary reports on the exciting eighth World Computer-Chess Championship in Hong Kong. Dr. H.K. Tsang, the local organizer, concentrates on an overall view, whereas Don Beal provides a blow-by-blow, round-by-round description – Eds.]

A GLOBAL VIEW

H.K. Tsang²

Hong Kong, 25-30 May 1995

FRITZ is the new World Computer Chess Champion after winning the one-game playoff, played under standard time controls of 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 40 moves per hour. The colours in the playoff were decided by the toss of a coin and FRITZ had to start the game by defending with the black pieces. The playoff was a tense game in which FRITZ managed to obtain an opening advantage on the black side of the Ruy Lopez opening. The game started about 9 p.m. on Monday 29 May and lasted until about 3 a.m. on Monday 30 May, Hong Kong time.

By winning the Championship, FRITZ demonstrated that chess knowledge was at least as important as computing power - FRITZ was using one of the least powerful computers in the tournament (a standard Pentium 90MHz PC supplied by the Chinese University of Hong Kong). FRITZ's opponent in the playoff was STARSOCRATES, a powerful chess computer system developed by the MIT Laboratory for Computing Science. STARSOCRATES was using the Intel Paragon parallel supercomputer located at the Sandia National Laboratories, USA. The Paragon is 50 feet long, weighs 30,000 pounds, and has 1824 processors, each with 16 or 32 MByte of memory. The game was played at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with the STARSOCRATES program relaying its moves to Hong Kong via the Internet.

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