

## Hitech Update

Hans J. Berliner  
Computer Science Department  
Carnegie-Mellon University

In the first quarter of 1986, Hitech has played in 3 more tournaments. Its overall score in rated games is now 34 wins, 8 draws, and 7 losses. Its current rating on the US Chess Federation scale is 2352. Since September 1985, when the last major hardware change was made, Hitech has beaten every player rated below 2250 that it has played, a total of 21 games. It continues to never have achieved worse than a 68% score in any event it has played in. Hitech now is about the 200th ranked player in the US, well inside the top 1% of all tournament players.

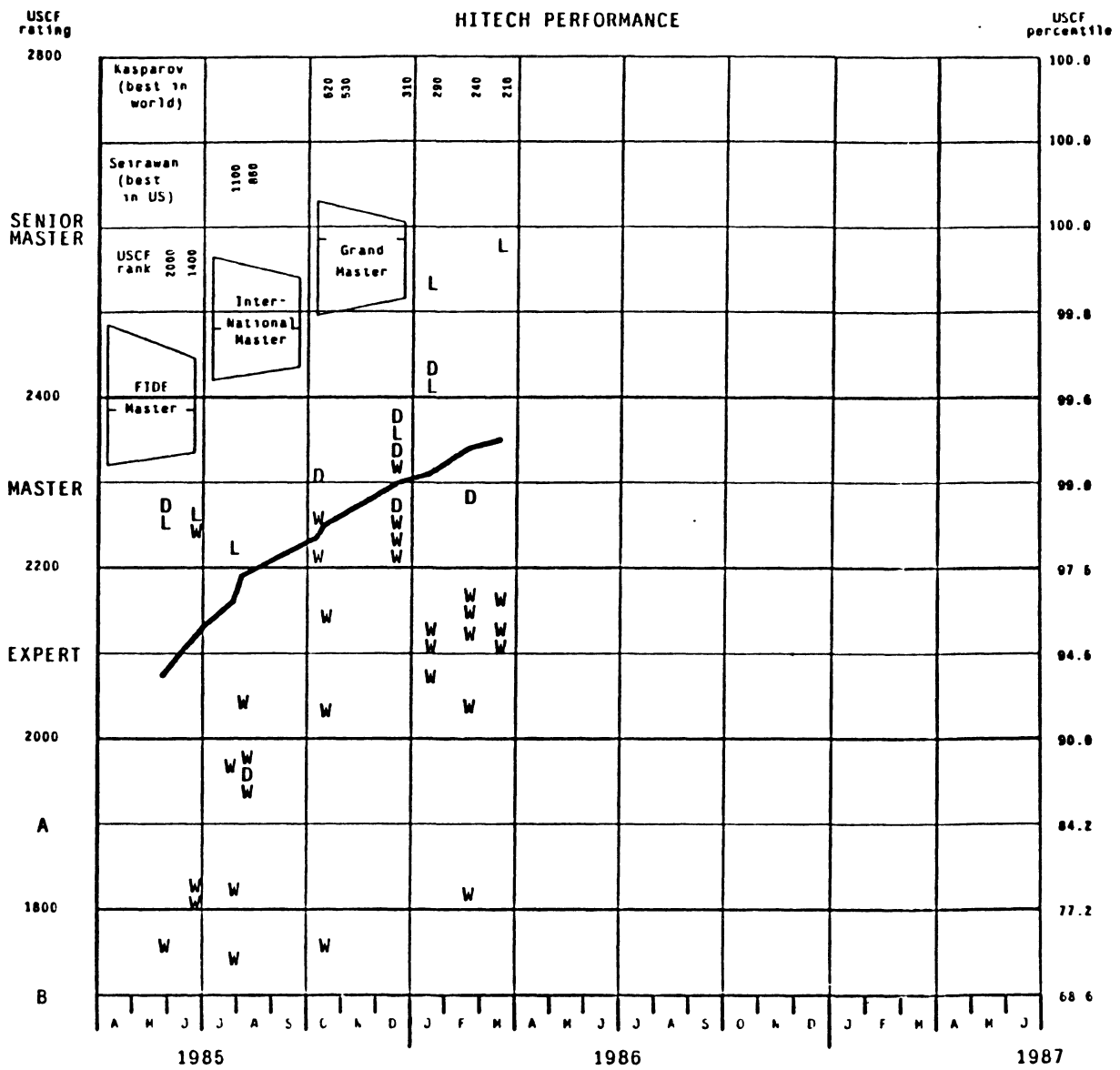
Here are the most recent results. In the Cardinal Open (Columbus, Ohio), a very strong event in which 7 of the top 25 players in the US participated, Hitech scored 3.5 - 1.5 finishing tied for 9th. It played one of the top 7 and lost.

The US Team Championships are an event for 4-person teams, with the proviso that the average rating of the team must be 2200 or lower. In this year's event in Somerset, NJ, Hitech played on 2nd board for a team that achieved a 4.5 - 1.5 result in matches. Its score was 5.5 - 0.5. It is interesting to note that the team that won the event is from Pittsburgh. This team consisted of Nowe, Nedved, Eidemiller, and Hughes, and nosed out a heavily favored team consisting of 3 players that had an average rating of over 2500 and a very low rated 4th board player. Against the winning team, Hitech has accumulated a record of 5.5 - 2.5 in Pittsburgh events.

In the Blue and Gold tourney (Pittsburgh), Hitech scored 3 - 1, losing to perfect-score winner Ivanov (rated 2580) and tying for 2nd place. All the above results are included in the graph below, which shows Hitech results against players rated 1800 or over, and also its change in rating.

I now have occasion to refer to a remark made by Mr. Bakker (P. 260 in the December 1985 issue), that he feels he does not have "much to fear from a chess computer for the next five years". I find it conceivable that this statement is wrong, and could possibly be attributed to a common failing I have observed in chess players in thinking that all computers play alike. If Mr. Bakker is inclined to believe that he **really** has nothing to fear from computers in the next five years, I am prepared to wager \$10,000 US that he is wrong, and that one will beat him in a 6 game match before the end of 1990. It is probably unnecessary to point out that Hitech's present rating of 2352, allowing for an inflation of about 100 points in US ratings, is already quite comparable to Mr. Bakker's.

To give some idea of the chess that Hitech is playing at present, I enclose the game below played in the first round of the Blue and Gold event. It is worth paying attention to the play just before the 15th move of White.



Date : 15 March 86

White : HITECH

Black : Alex Milson (2169)

Time : 50/120 + 15/30

1	e4	c6	11	0-0-0	e6	21	Qa8+	Qb8
2	d4	d5	12	Ne4	Be7	22	Q:b8+	K:b8
3	Nc3	d:e4	13	N:f6+	B:f6	23	N:f7	g:h4
4	N:e4	Bf5	14	g4	O-O-O	24	N:d8	R:d8
5	Ng3	Bg6	15	Qa3	Nb6	25	Rf7	Bf6
6	Nf3	Nd7	16	Q:a7	Nc4	26	Rf1	Rh8
7	h4	h6	17	g5	N:e3	27	c3	h3
8	Bd3	B:d3	18	f:e3	Be7	28	e4	e5
9	Q:d3	Qc7	19	Ne5	Rhf8	29	d5	Rh4
10	Be3	Ngf6	20	Rhf1	h:g5	30	d6	R:e4
						31	Rf8+	Ka7
						32	R8:f6	resigns