

The Bulletin of the International Go Federation

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RANKA

**YEARBOOK
1996**



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On the Publication of the 1996 Yearbook

The aim of this magazine, which was founded in 1985, is to present news about developments in international go to go fans around the world in order to popularize the game more widely and to strengthen the bonds of friendship among all those who love the game. Thanks to the generous cooperation of the members of the International Go Federation, we have since then published an issue every year and are now able to present our twelfth issue to our readers.

This issue features reports on two tournaments that have made important contributions to the internationalization of go and to increasing its popularity around the world: the 17th World Amateur Go Championship and the 6th International Amateur Pair Go Championship. The other main section of the magazine is devoted to in-depth reports from our members on go activities in their countries during 1993.

Go is a strange and wonderful game: even if the players do not understand each other's language, playing just a few games will enable them to understand each other and become friends. There are now around 50 countries that play go, and the go population of the world easily exceeds thirty million. Both in fact and in name, go has firmly established itself as one of the leading intellectual games of the world.

We will be very happy if this magazine can play a role in promoting such developments by serving as a source of information about go. The International Go Federation

will continue its efforts to promote international cultural exchange and contribute to world peace by helping to spread go around the world.

On the occasion of the publication of this issue, we would like to thank all members for your cooperation. We look forward to your continued assistance in the future.



Shizuo Asada
President
International Go Federation

10 March 1996

Editor's Foreword

Thanks to the generous cooperation of all our members, *Ranka*, the annual bulletin of the International Go Federation, has now reached its twelfth issue. Our second, fifth, eighth and eleventh issues took the form of comprehensive yearbooks presenting information about go from an international perspective, and were well received by our readers.

The main contents of this yearbook, which is of medium size, are as follows:

- A report on the 17th World Amateur Go Championship
- The 6th International Amateur Pair Go Championship
- Reports on recent developments in member countries
- Some updates on club and association addresses

go. We welcome suggestions and comments to help us improve *Ranka* further, so that it will serve as a bridge on a global scale linking go players everywhere. We also look forward to contributions from around the world.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to all the people around the world whose cooperation and assistance have made the publication of this bulletin possible.

Yusuke Oeda
Office Director
IGF

Compiler's Foreword

The IGF Office would like to thank all the contributors to this issue of *Ranka* for their generosity in responding to our requests for submissions. Thanks to your assistance, we have been able to present a comprehensive report on go activity around the world. Every year the range and variety of go activity are becoming greater, and that is reflected in the stimulating reports to be found in this issue.

We hope that readers will find this bulletin of interest and that it will serve to inform them of new developments in international go. In this issue we present our usual reports

on the amateur tournaments organized by the International Go Federation, together with a new international tournament for go-playing programs. We hope that these reports will be of interest to our readers.

I would like to thank Jim Davies and Jon Wood for invaluable help with proofreading. Needless to say, I am responsible for any errors, typographical or otherwise, that remain.

John Power

The 17th World Amateur Go Championship

Hirata finally realizes his ambition

At his sixth attempt and after four third-place finishes, the 68-year-old Hirata Hironori has finally managed to win the World Amateur Go Championship. This triumph caps the career of one of Japan's most successful amateur go players and came just three months after an operation for cancer.

There was a very dramatic finish to this year's championship. The star of the tournament was Kan Ying, the 23-year-old former Nihon Ki-in insei from Hong Kong. Kan looked like becoming the first woman to win the tournament when she had a marvellous third day, scoring decisive wins over two of the favourites, Korea and Japan, in rounds 5 and 6. After the sixth round, she was the only undefeated player remaining, and even after losing to China in the seventh round



Crowned, at long last, as the world's top amateur player: Hirata among his trophies.



*The place-getters in the 17th WAGC. Front row (L to R, 1st to 3rd): Hirata, Shi, Kan
Back row (L to R, 4th to 8th): Park, Lee, Wang, Chi, Rittner*



The end of a great day for Kan Ying on which she defeated two favourites: Park of Korea in the morning and Hirata of Japan (shown here) in the afternoon.

she still seemed to have the best chance of winning: there were four players on 6-1, but Kan had already played her most dangerous opponents and she had a good SOS.

That was when fate intervened. In the final round, Hirata beat Park Sung Kyun of Korea by half a point and Kan lost to Jong Moon Lee of the U.S.A. by the same margin. Hirata and Shi Yi Hong of China both ended on 7-1, but Hirata edged Shi on SOS. (The two didn't play because Shi fell behind the leading group when he lost to Park in the fourth round.) Kan had to be satisfied with third place, but this was a big improvement on her previous best of 6th.

At 68, Hirata of course set a record for the oldest champion (one year older than the age at which Fujisawa Shuko set the equivalent record for professionals). This would be a remarkable performance for someone enjoying normal health, but Hirata spent much of the early part of the year recovering from an operation for colon cancer in February. Before the tournament,

kept saying in press interviews that he regarded this as his last chance to win, and as part of his preparation he played through more than 200 professional games. After he lost to Kan, he thought that he was out of the running, which may have relieved the pressure in his remaining games. He showed great tenacity in his final game, recovering from a bad start to stage an upset. The end of the tournament could not have been more exciting. Shi finished playing first, then Lee beat Kan, so it was obvious that whoever won the Hirata-Park game would take first place. For Park, this loss meant the difference between coming first and fourth — yet again, there seemed to be a jinx on Korea in amateur international tournaments.

To comment briefly on some of the other placings, Lee equalled the previous best result for the U.S.A., which was Charles Huh's fifth place in the 7th WAGC; Chi of Australia put his country in the top eight for the first time; and Egbert Rittner won his second prize (he was sixth in the 10th WAGC). A



The tournament in full swing

noticeable absence from the prize list was Ronald Schlemper of Holland, who has twice taken third place in the WAGC. He came ninth on 5-3, but it may not be accu-

rate to say that he had a bad tournament. In his 4th-round game against Hirata, he had a won game, but Hirata managed to wipe out his lead in the endgame.



Hirata shows his tenacity by upsetting Ronald Schlemper's middle-game lead.



Takemiya Masaki (the Chief Referee) explains, Jim Davies waits to interpret, and Jostein Flood (Norway) ponders.

The top eight places were as follows:

1. Hirata Hironori (Japan): 7-1
2. Shi Hong Yi (China): 7-1
3. Kan Ying (Hong Kong): 6-2
4. Park Sung Kyun (Korea): 6-2
5. Jong Moon Lee (U.S.A.): 6-2
6. Wang Wen Heng (Ch. Taipei): 6-2
7. Bo Keun Chi (Australia): 5-3
8. Egbert Rittner (Germany): 5-3

The 1995 tournament was held from 23 to 6 May at the Nihon Ki-in in Tokyo, for the first time since 1988, and 42 countries participated, with Indonesia and Slovakia making their WAGC debut. In 1996, the tournament will be held in the town of Omachi in Nagano prefecture.

The International Go Federation

The 14th General Meeting of the International Go Federation was held on 22 May 1995. In addition to the usual items of business, an election was held on the expiration of the 7th term of office of the President of the IGF and Mr. Shizuo Asada was elected for another term.

17th World Amateur Go Championship

17th World Amateur Go Championship (Tokyo, 23—26 May 1995)

Place	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SOS	SOSOS
1	Hirata (Japan)	1 ¹⁶	2 ¹⁹	3 ⁵	4 ⁹	5 ⁷	5 ³	6 ⁶	7 ⁴	42	319
2	Shi (China)	1 ²⁷	2 ²²	3 ¹³	3 ⁴	4 ¹²	5 ⁵	6 ³	7 ⁹	41	300
3	Kan (Hong Kong)	1 ¹²	2 ²⁰	3 ⁸	4 ^{17B}	5 ⁴	6 ¹	6 ²	6 ⁵	44	313
4	Park (Korea)	1 ¹⁵	2 ²¹	3 ¹¹	4 ²	4 ³	5 ⁸	6 ¹⁰	6 ¹	44	306
5	Lee (U.S.A.)	1 ²³	2 ⁷	2 ¹	3 ³¹	4 ¹⁰	4 ²	5 ^{17A}	6 ³	41	304
6	Wang (Ch. Taipei)	1 ²⁶	1 ¹¹	2 ²⁴	3 ²⁵	4 ⁹	5 ¹⁶	5 ¹	6 ⁸	38	287
7	Chi (Australia)	1 ¹⁴	1 ⁵	2 ²²	3 ¹¹	3 ¹	4 ²⁰	5 ²⁴	5 ¹³	40	286
8	Rittner (Germany)	1 ²⁶	2 ^{17A}	2 ³	3 ³⁰	4 ¹³	4 ⁴	5 ¹⁵	5 ⁶	39	289
9	Schlemper (Neth.)	1 ²⁵	2 ³⁰	3 ³¹	3 ¹	3 ⁶	4 ²¹	5 ¹³	5 ²	39	285
10	Mateescu (Romania)	0 ^{17B}	1 ²⁶	2 ²¹	3 ^{17A}	3 ⁵	4 ¹⁴	4 ⁴	5 ²⁰	37	287
11	Laatikainen (Finland)	1 ³³	2 ⁶	2 ⁴	2 ⁷	2 ²⁴	3 ²⁵	4 ¹⁸	5 ^{17A}	36	287
12	Seailles (France)	0 ³	1 ²³	2 ³⁵	3 ¹⁵	3 ²	3 ^{17A}	4 ³⁰	5 ²¹	36	280
13	Saifullin (Russia)	1 ⁴⁰	2 ^{17B}	2 ²	3 ³²	3 ⁸	4 ²²	4 ⁹	5 ⁷	35	282
14	Gondor (Hungary)	0 ⁷	1 ²⁷	1 ^{17B}	2 ¹⁹	3 ²³	3 ¹⁰	4 ³⁴	4 ¹⁶	33	276
15	Hong (Canada)	0 ⁴	1 ⁴¹	2 ²⁰	2 ¹²	3 ¹⁶	4 ³⁴	4 ⁸	5 ²⁴	33	273
16	Flood (Norway)	0 ¹	1 ²⁸	2 ³⁷	3 ²⁴	3 ¹⁵	3 ⁶	4 ²³	4 ¹⁴	38	261
17A	Chow (South Africa)	1 ³⁸	1 ⁸	2 ¹⁹	2 ¹⁰	3 ³²	4 ¹²	4 ⁵	4 ¹¹	36	276
17B	Phease (N.Z.)	1 ¹⁰	1 ¹³	2 ¹⁴	2 ³	3 ³⁵	3 ²⁴	4 ²²	4 ¹⁹	36	276
19	Heshe (Denmark)	1 ²⁹	1 ¹	1 ^{17A}	1 ¹⁴	2 ³⁶	3 ³⁹	3 ¹¹	4 ^{17B}	35	253
20	Nechanicky (Czech)	1 ³⁷	1 ³	1 ¹⁵	2 ²⁹	3 ³¹	3 ⁷	4 ³³	4 ¹⁰	34	263
21	Huttler (Austria)	1 ³⁶	1 ⁴	1 ¹⁰	2 ³⁹	3 ³⁰	3 ⁹	4 ²⁶	4 ¹²	34	262
22	Kraszek (Poland)	1 ⁴³	1 ²	1 ⁷	2 ²⁷	3 ²⁵	3 ¹³	3 ^{17B}	4 ³²	33	266
23	Shaw (U.K.)	0 ⁵	0 ¹²	1 ²⁶	2 ³⁸	2 ¹⁴	3 ³⁵	3 ¹⁶	4 ³⁶	33	250
24	Mai (Singapore)	1 ⁴⁴	2 ³²	2 ⁶	2 ¹⁶	3 ¹¹	4 ^{17B}	4 ⁷	4 ¹⁵	32	271
25	Matoh (Slovenia)	0 ⁹	1 ⁴⁰	2 ²⁹	2 ⁶	2 ²²	2 ¹¹	3 ³⁵	4 ³⁴	32	251
26	Chairasmisak (Thai.)	0 ⁶	0 ¹⁰	0 ²³	1 ⁴³	2 ²⁹	3 ³²	3 ²¹	4 ⁴⁰	29	245
27	Pons Semelis (Spain)	0 ²	0 ¹⁴	1 ³⁶	1 ²²	1 ³³	2 ⁴³	3 ⁴²	4 ³¹	28	236
28	Zagorodny (Ukraine)	0 ⁸	0 ¹⁶	1 ³⁹	2 ³³	2 ³⁴	3 ³⁷	3 ³¹	4 ³⁰	27	243
29	Koch (Switz.)	0 ¹⁹	1 ⁴³	1 ²⁵	1 ²⁰	1 ²⁶	2 ⁴¹	3 ³⁸	4 ³³	25	227
30	Asato (Argentina)	1 ³⁹	1 ⁹	2 ³³	2 ⁸	2 ²¹	3 ³⁸	3 ¹²	3 ²⁸	32	248
31	Yeo (Malaysia)	1 ⁴¹	2 ³⁴	2 ⁹	2 ⁵	2 ²⁰	2 ³³	3 ²⁸	3 ²⁷	31	249
32	Jakubec (Slovakia)	1 ³⁵	1 ²⁴	2 ³⁴	2 ¹³	2 ^{17A}	2 ²⁶	3 ³⁹	3 ²²	30	242
33	Willfor (Sweden)	0 ¹¹	1 ³⁶	1 ³⁰	1 ²⁸	2 ²⁷	3 ³¹	3 ²⁰	3 ²⁹	30	237
34	Torres (Mexico)	1 ⁴²	1 ³¹	1 ³²	2 ³⁷	3 ²⁸	3 ¹⁵	3 ¹⁴	3 ²⁶	29	229
35	Dodinval (Belgium)	0 ³²	1 ³⁸	1 ¹²	2 ⁴⁰	2 ^{17B}	2 ²³	2 ²⁵	3 ⁴²	27	233
36	Djap (Indonesia)	0 ²¹	0 ³³	0 ²⁷	1 ⁴⁴	1 ¹⁹	2 ⁴⁰	3 ³⁷	3 ²³	24	227
37	Vitari (Italy)	0 ²⁰	1 ⁴²	1 ¹⁶	1 ³⁴	2 ⁴⁰	2 ²⁸	2 ³⁶	3 ⁴³	23	220
38	Karaerkek (Turkey)	0 ^{17A}	0 ³⁵	1 ⁴¹	1 ²³	2 ⁴²	2 ³⁰	2 ²⁹	3 ⁴⁴	22	214
39	Flinter (Ireland)	0 ³⁰	1 ⁴⁴	1 ²⁸	1 ²¹	2 ⁴³	2 ¹⁹	2 ³²	3 ⁴¹	21	223
40	Carrillo (Chile)	0 ¹³	0 ²⁵	1 ⁴²	1 ³⁵	1 ³⁷	1 ³⁶	2 ⁴⁴	2 ²⁶	24	210
41	Cymbalista (Brazil)	0 ³¹	0 ¹⁵	0 ³⁸	0 ⁴²	1 ⁴⁴	1 ²⁹	2 ⁴³	2 ³⁹	21	196
42	Schmit (Luxembourg)	0 ³⁴	0 ³⁷	0 ⁴⁰	1 ⁴¹	1 ³⁸	2 ⁴⁴	2 ²⁷	2 ³⁵	20	194
43	Fria (Portugal)	0 ²²	0 ²⁹	1 ⁴⁴	1 ²⁶	1 ³⁹	1 ²⁷	1 ⁴¹	1 ³⁷	24	200
44	Romero (Venezuela)	0 ²⁴	0 ³⁹	0 ⁴³	0 ³⁶	0 ⁴¹	0 ⁴²	0 ⁴⁰	0 ³⁸	20	188

The Game That Decided the Tournament Japan v. Korea (Round 8)



Korea meets Japan in the decisive game of the tournament.

White: Hirata Hironori (Japan)

Black: Park Sung Kyun (Korea)

Played on 26 May 1994.

Commentary by Ryu Shikun, Tengen.

Report by Oshima Masao.

Park Sung Kyun, aged 38, runs a go school for children in Seoul. He regularly takes first place in Korean amateur tournaments. Recently, in a tournament between Japanese and Korean amateur teams, he defeated the Japanese number one, Imamura Fumiaki, a three-time WAGC champion. For that reason, many observers regarded him as the favourite to win this championship. If he had won this game, as he looked like doing early on, he would have taken the championship by virtue of his superior SOS. (If Kan Ying had also won, however, she would have taken victory: same SOS as Park but a superior SOSOS, not to mention a win in their game with each other.)

Hirata Hironori is a professor of mathematics. As a child, he studied as an *insei* or apprentice professional at the Nihon Ki-in, but, according to his own account, he was so dismayed by the difference in talent between himself and a fellow *insei*, Yamabe Toshiro (later to become 9-dan and to challenge for a number of titles, including the 20th Honinbo) that he gave up all idea of becoming a professional. However, he has had an outstanding career as an amateur and perhaps has become better known than he would have as an average professional.

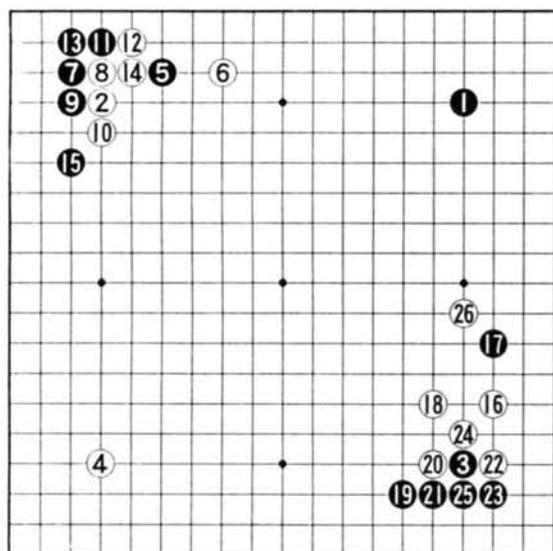


Figure 1 (1-26)

Figure 1 (1-26). Black takes the lead.

Hirata attached at 20 on impulse when Park played the low move of 19. However, White does not necessarily gain from the 'forcing' moves to 24. According to Ryu, he loses a lot by solidifying Black. Instead of 20, White should press at 26 immediately.

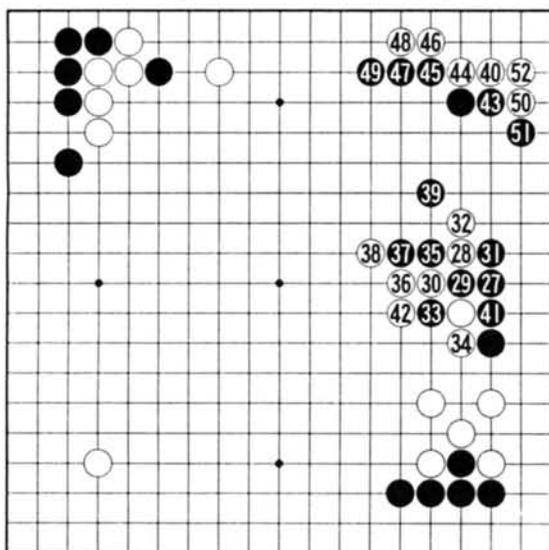


Figure 2 (27-52)

Figure 2 (27-52). Black takes the lead.

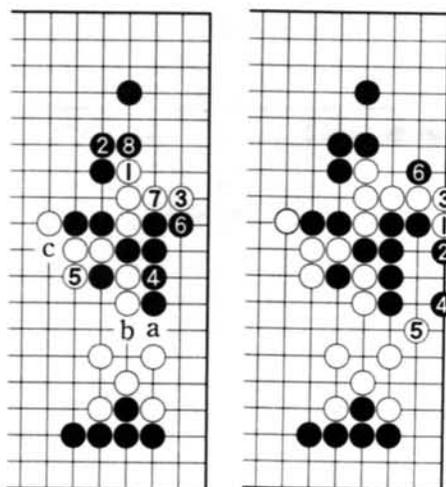
The result after 27 to 52 is clearly good for Black, according to Ryu — White has lost his key stones at 28 and 32.

Black can even improve on the result in

the figure, so the question is where did White go wrong. Answering it is very difficult.

Playing White 28 at 35 would be more peaceful. Black 35 to 39 are a very strong counterattack.

White 40 is a compromise. Playing instead at 1 and 3 in *Dia. 1* would initiate a frontal clash. After Black 2 and 4, White has three choices: 'a', 'b', and 5. If White 'a', Black is left with 'b'; if White gives way with 'b', then it's no longer clear he will win the *semeai* (capturing race). Even if we assume he does win it, giving Black the forcing moves beginning with 'c' is bad.



Dia. 1

Dia 2

Well, White 5 in *Dia. 1* is the shape move, but Black 6 and 8 make things awkward for White. For example —

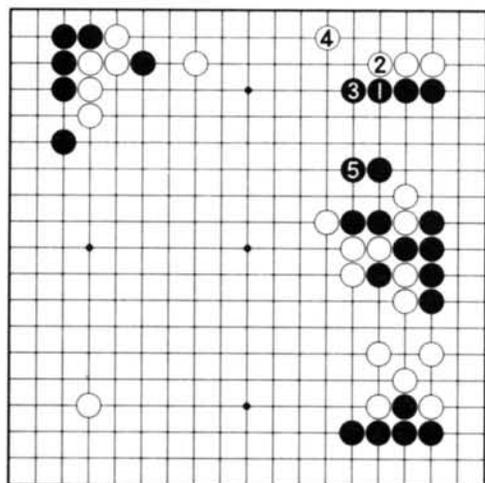
Dia. 2. If White plays 1 and 3, Black wins the *semeai* after 4.

Hirata dodged to 40 because he came to the conclusion that he would get a bad result even if he won the *semeai*, as Black would make an effective sacrifice.

Black 45. Black would get an even better result if he extended at 1 in *Dia. 3*, then secured his capture with 5. In the game he is left with bad *aji* that White can exploit.

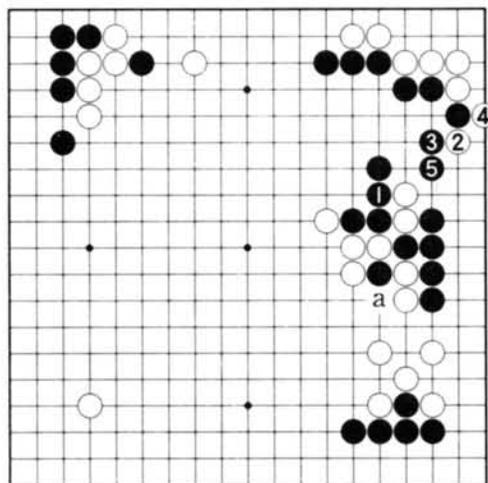
Figure 3 (53-75). Success for Park's overplay

Black 53. Pulling out his solitary stone is a strong move, typical of Park, but it's a bit of an overplay. Instead —



Dia. 3

Black took a firm grip on the two stones with 67 and 69, his lead became tangible. Instead of 64 —



Dia. 4

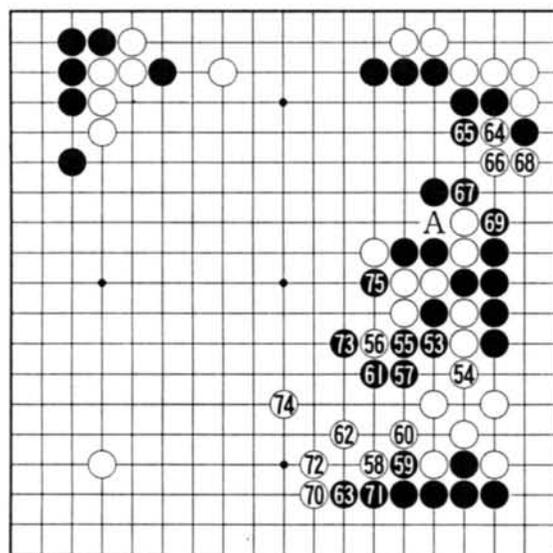
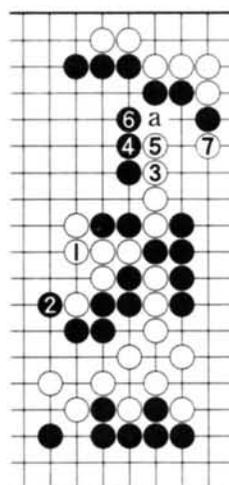


Figure 3 (53-75)

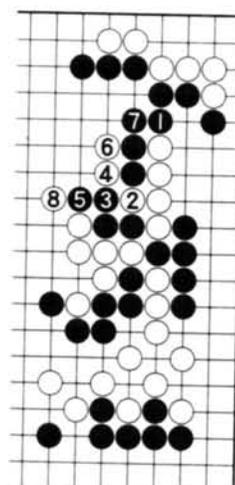
Dia. 4. Taking a firm grip on the two white stones with 1 is good enough, according to Ryu. Park probably played 53 because the prospect of 2 and 4 in the diagram irked him, but Black should have been content to play patiently at 5, then aim next at 'a'. The reason is that without a reinforcement at 1 Black has terrible *aji*.

The moves from 58 to 62 are more or less inevitable. Even with 63, Black should defend at A.

However, Hirata cut at 64, failing to capitalize on his opponent's mistake. When



Dia. 5



Dia. 6

Dia. 5. White should exchange 1 for Black 2, then seize the vital points of 3 and 5. If Black 6, White links up with 7 — Black's forces have been split up. But —

Dia. 6. If Black plays 6 in Dia. 5 at 1 here, White cuts and sets up a ladder.

In the end, White finds himself left with no good way to pull out his centre stones, so he switches to 70-74. Black secures the capture of the centre stones with 75, and it becomes even more obvious that White is behind.

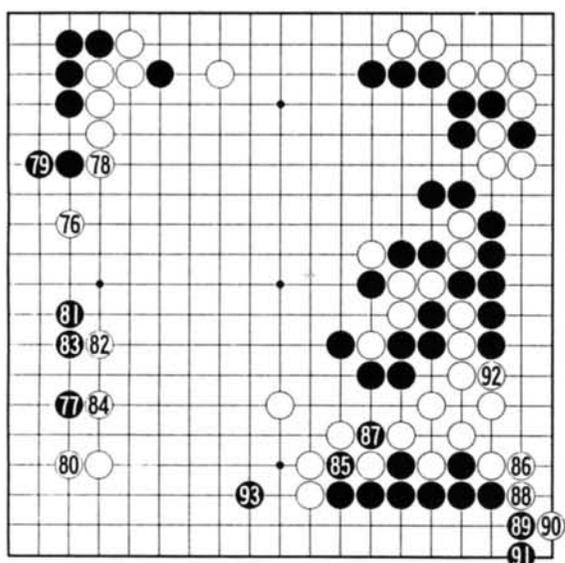
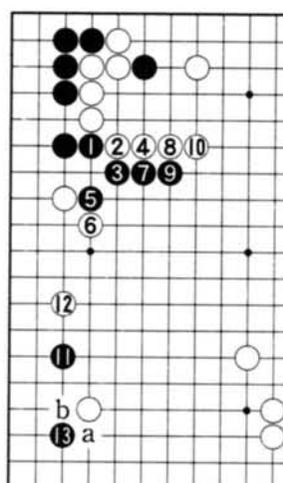


Figure 4 (76-93)



Dia. 7

Figure 4 (76-93). Black misses a decisive move.

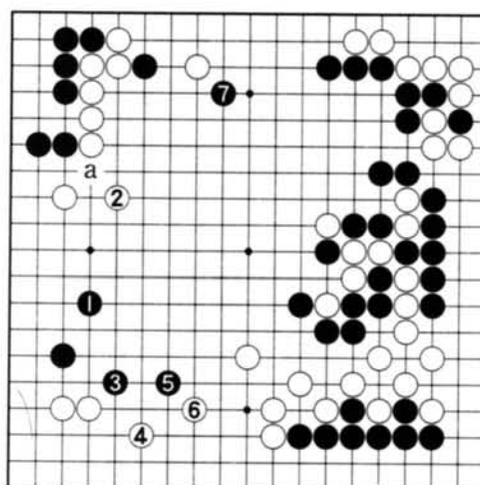
Professionals and amateurs are alike in their susceptibility to emotional influences during a game. In this figure, victory was within sight for Park, and that led him into making compromises and retreats. He became a different player from the one in the previous figures.

First, look at Black 77 in response to White 76. Permitting White to seal him in in sente with 78 is painful. Next, his low move at 81 is dubious: White needs no second invitation to force with 82 and 84.

Actually, Park was following a consistent strategy of his own: he was preparing to play his trump card of 93, an invasion that he expected to decide the game. Even so, this strategy is a little risky, with a high probability of complications. Park, however, believed that this was the surest way of wrapping up a win.

The question, then, is how should Black have played with 77 or 81. Ryu's suggestions:

Dia. 7. Instead of 77, poking his head out into the centre with 1 to 5 would simplify the position much more than in the game. Black forces up to 9, then switches to 11. Making a pincer at 12 is White's only move, so Black enters the corner at 13. Whether White answered at 'a' or 'b', Black would have the lead.



Dia. 8

Instead of 81 —

Dia. 8. Black should take up position with 1. Black 'a' next would be severe, so White 2 looks advisable. Black next forces with 3 and 5, letting White take the bottom area, then switches to the shoulder hit of 7. This is a model way of winning a won game.

Figure 5 (93-140). Hirata pulls off an upset.

Park's 93 was a sharp invasion, but if he thought that he would be able to get *sabaki* easily, then the seeds of the upset had already been planted. Instead of 95 —

Dia. 9. Black should challenge White to a frontal clash with 1 and 3. White will naturally resist with 4, whereupon, according to

Ryu, Black can resort to the *sabaki* tesuji of 5. If next White 'a', Black 'b', and vice versa.

No doubt Park saw this tesuji but thought that attaching at 95 would be safer. He presumably concluded that it made *shinogi* certain. Already in the previous figure it was apparent that Black was looking for a safe way to win.

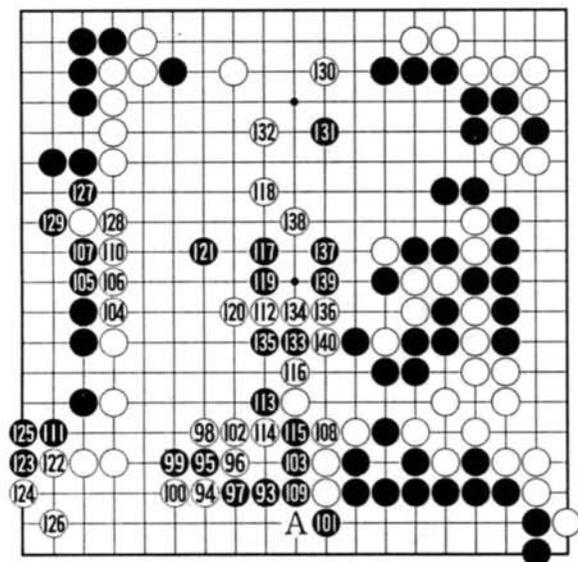
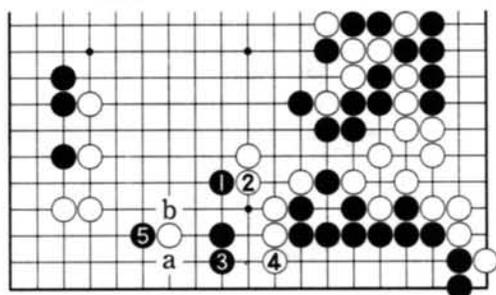


Figure 5 (93-140)



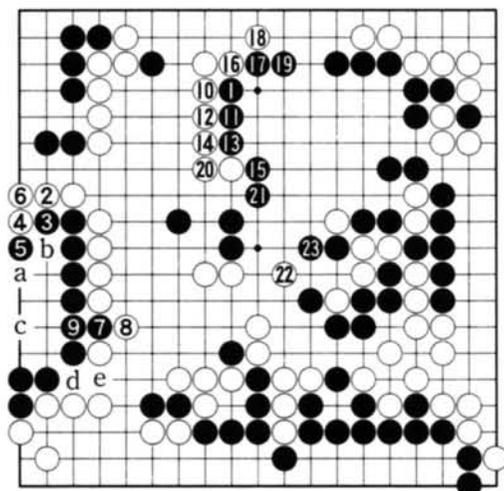
Dia. 9

Hirata seized his chance with the hane of 96.

White 102. If at A, Black plays 102, so White secures the capture of the two stones with 102 and solidifies his centre. By 112, Black's lead has been greatly reduced.

The exchange of Black 115 for White 116 eliminates a worry for White. Black 115 will be absolute sente at any point; if Black kept it in reserve, he would also have the threat of Black 116, so White's position would remain thin.

Black 127 and 129 are close to being the losing moves, according to Ryu. Instead of 127 —



Dia. 10

Dia. 10. Black should play the shoulder hit of 1 or at 11. White's sente endgame sequence of 2 to 6 may be big, but Black can be content to answer patiently with 7 and 9. White is left with a gote seki with White 'a' through 'e', but Black will solidify his territory on the top right with 11 to 23. This is a win for Black.

With Black's *mochikomi* (loss without compensation) of 133 and 135, the game, though very close, has tilted the other way. With Park's help, Hirata has staged an upset.

(According to *Go Weekly*, Hirata missed a chance with 28: he could have descended at 29. If Black cuts at 28, White cuts [right of 27]; if Black extends [Black 76 in Figure 6], White has the 'nose contact play' [72 in Figure 6].)



Park: so near yet so far

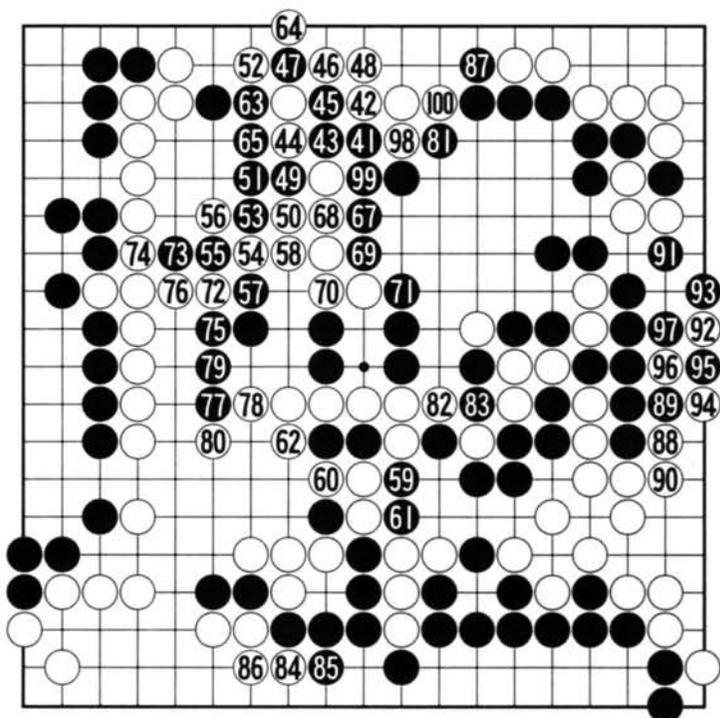


Figure 6 (141-200)
66: connects (at 47)

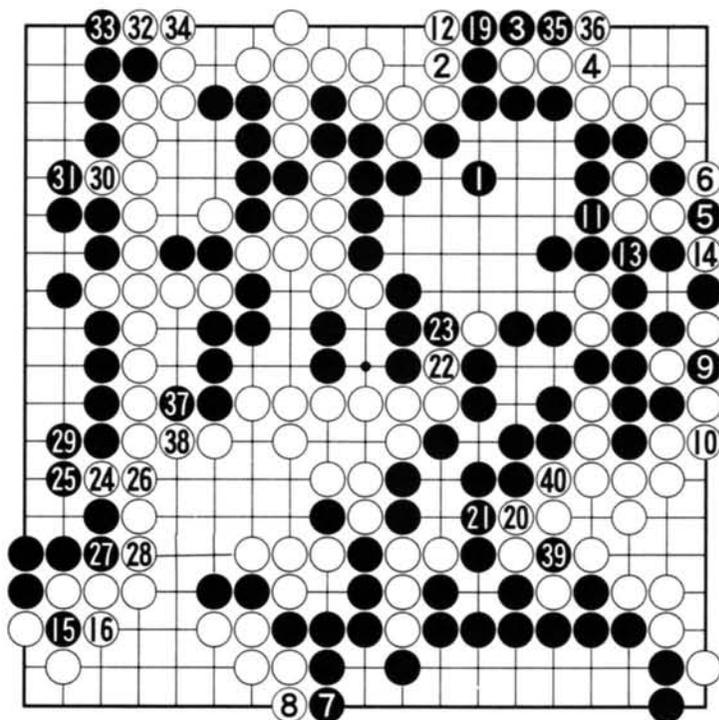


Figure 7 (201-241)
17: ko (at 5); 18: connects (left of 6); 41: connects (below 39)

Figure 6 (141–200)

Figure 7 (201–241)

The game is close, but White's lead is secure. According to Hirata, he lost a point with the endgame moves of 92 and 94 on the right side in Figure 6. That whittled his final margin down to half a point.

After the tournament, we asked Hirata how he was able to play so strongly at his age.

Hirata: I can still handle two games a day. But it's really exhausting when one loses. The last two or three years I've been playing as if the present were everything, as if there were no next year.

Igo Club: A 68-year-old world champion is unprecedented and probably won't happen again.

Hirata: Not so. Kikuchi and Murakami are still stronger than me. I expect my record to be broken.

Hirata was not being modest. Nor did I get the impression that he was implying that he would break his own record. However, Hirata's is a presence on the amateur scene we would do well not to forget.

White wins by ½ point.

(Igo Club, August 1995)

The 6th International Amateur Pair Go Championship



The top amateur pair of 1995: Lee Kwong Ho and Kwun Hyo Jin of Korea

Seventeen countries and territories from around the world participated in the 6th International Amateur Pair Go Championship, held at the Hotel Edmont in Iidabashi, Tokyo, on 11 and 12 November 1995. This is a new record, testifying to the growing popularity of this unique form of competition.

The tournament was also notable for Korea's first victory in an international amateur go tournament. Korea's failure in the amateur arena had been a marked contrast to its recent dominance in international professional go. The Korean team of Kwun Hyo Jin and Lee Kwong Ho redressed this anomaly by winning the pair tournament. Their opponents in the final were the Chinese Taipei pair of Chang Kai Sim and Lin Chih Han.

Incidentally, this was the first time that no Japanese team reached the final — Japan had won four of the previous finals, with the other one going to China. (The host country has an advantage because 32 teams play in the main tournament: one each from the overseas countries, the remainder from Japan.)

On the Saturday, a draw was held to decide the pairings in the first round of the Main Tournament, which was then held in the evening. The 16 overseas teams joined 16 teams representing different parts of Japan. Five visiting teams survived into the second round: China, Korea, Chinese Taipei, the U.S.A., and Russia. The opening round was followed by a welcome party.



Kwon looks fierce, Lee looks happy at the moment of victory.

On the Sunday, the remaining rounds of the Main Tournament were held, together with the Special Handicap tournament and a large-scale handicap tournament open to the

general public. Losers in the main tournament moved sideways into the Special Handicap tournament, and one of them, the U.K. team of Matthew Macfadyen and



Some hard thinking by the Hungarian team of Veronika Varga and Tiborn Pocsai

Kirsty Healey, took second place. Meanwhile, 176 teams competed in the three blocks of the open handicap tournament. The last was so popular that for the first time it had been necessary to hold qualifying rounds.

In a handicap tournament, you would expect that players closely matched in strength would make the best team, as they would understand their partners' moves, but that was not borne out by the results. In C Block in the open handicap tournament, the winning team consisted of a 7-dan and a 9-kyu. Other statistics: the youngest team consisted of 13-year-old and 15-year-old junior high school pupils, and the oldest team of players 58 and 83 years old; the lowest ranked team was a 5-kyu and an 8-kyu. Two teams were fielded by the family of O Rissei 9-dan, who had just won the Oza title. Both his son and his daughter play, but they quarrel when teamed together, so O's wife and son made up one team and his daughter played with a family friend.

Apart from Korea and Chinese Taipei, the best performance by an overseas team was posted by Lee Anne Bowie 5-kyu and James Chien 6-dan of the U.S.A., who reached the quarterfinals. The skill of their partnership was outstanding, and there was no way a spectator could tell that Lee Anne was a kyu player.

In the afternoon of the second day of the tournament, TV monitors at the hotel showed the first international pair go game played on the Internet which matched four players in different countries. A public commentary was given by Ishida Yoshio 9-dan and Ogawa Tomoko 6-dan, the Chief Referees of the tournament. They also gave a commentary on the final of the Main Tournament.

The tournament concluded with the usual lavish party and numerous prizes, including those for best-dressed teams.

Below, we present the record of the final game. Unfortunately, there is no commentary available.

Final: Korea v. Chinese Taipei

Black: Chang Kai Sim 4-dan (1, 5, etc.)

Lin Chih Han 6-dan (3, 7, etc.)

White: Kwun Hyo Jin 5-dan (2, 6, etc.)

Lee Kyong Bo 6-dan (4, 8, etc.)

Komi: 5½. Played on 12 November 1995.

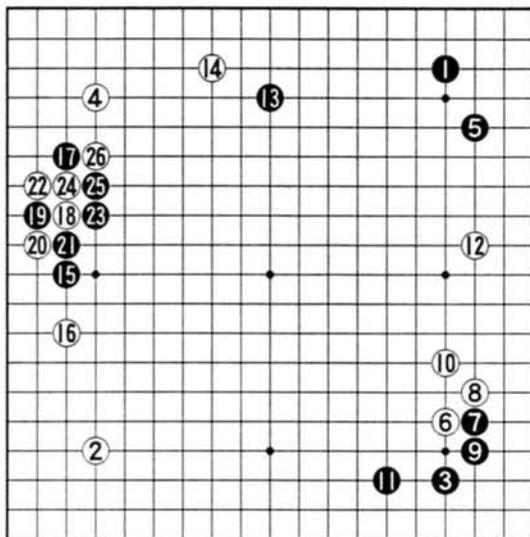


Figure 1 (1-26)

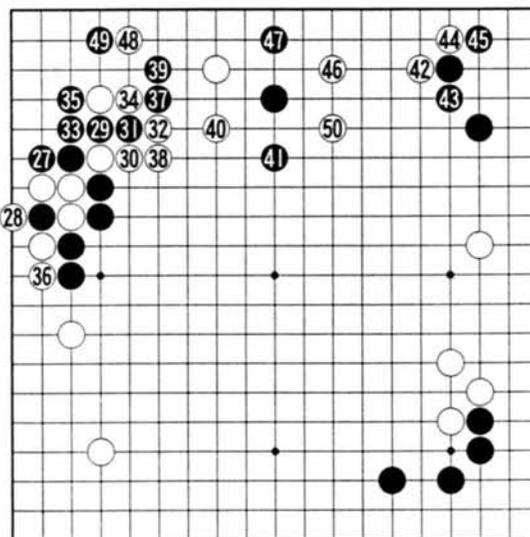


Figure 2 (27-50)

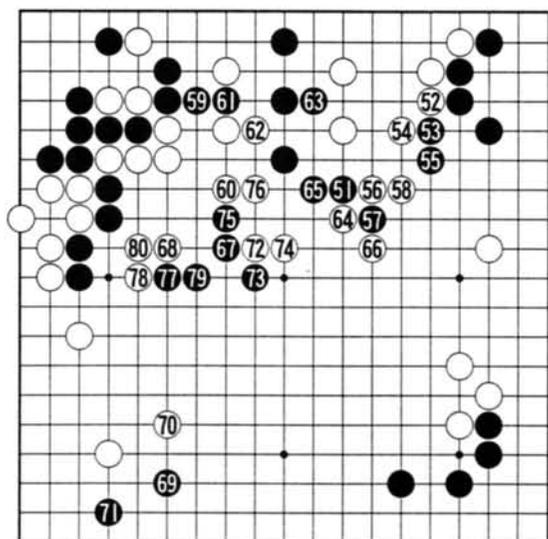


Figure 3 (51-80)

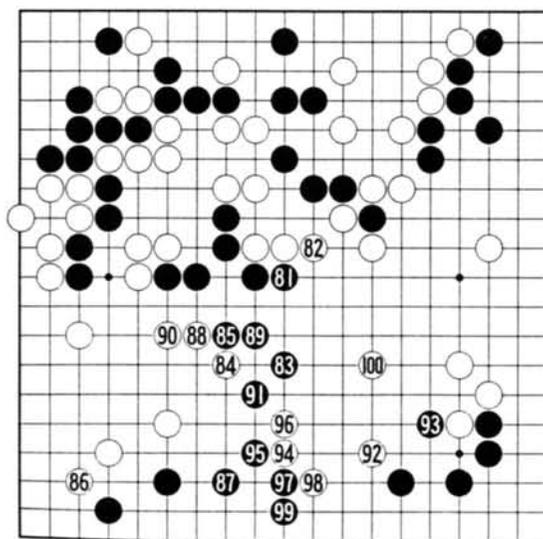


Figure 4 (81-100)
 Moves after 100 omitted.
 White wins by half a point.

Lee: After we qualified for this tournament, we spent a week on intensive training. We were aiming at victory.

Kwun: We have different go styles, so playing as a team was difficult. We were lucky to win by half a point in the final. At the end of the month, I'm going to become a professional.

The 1st FOST Cup World Open Computer Go Championship



Prizewinners at the Awards Ceremony

The 1st FOST Cup World Open Computer Go Championship was held in the main hall of the Nihon Ki-in at Ichigaya, Tokyo, on September 29 and 30, 1995. Fourteen programs from the U.S.A., U.K., China, Chinese Taipei, and Japan competed, and more than 120 people came to participate and watch, making the inaugural tournament a great success. First prize went to the program Handtalk, written by Chen Zhixing of China.

The sponsor of the tournament, the Foundation for the Fusion of Science and Technology (FOST), is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 to sponsor research on simulation and games and to organize projects that bring together basic science and technology. The computer go championship was sponsored by FOST in cooperation with the Japan Computer Go Association (JCGA) and with the support of the Nihon Ki-in, Apple Computer, IBM Japan, NEC, Fujitsu, and the Yomiuri newspaper.

Games were played using Japanese rules, with 5½ points komi. Each program was allowed one hour, and games were played by computer communication using a modem protocol. The modem protocol made the tournament run very quickly: all the games in the seven rounds were completed within ten hours. The results are given in the charts on page 22.

Tournament results were determined by:

1. Number of wins
2. SOS
3. SODOS
4. Head-to-head competition

The top four programs were much stronger than the others, so they were the heavy favourites. Among these four, Handtalk prevailed because it was strong at capturing races. The game between Handtalk and Go4++ is given on pages 24 and 25.



Handtalk plays an elementary-school girl.

After the tournament, the top four programs played exhibition games against amateur human opponents. Handtalk played a 6-kyu elementary-school girl on even and won (see photo). Go4++ played a 2-dan female university student on a 9-stone handicap and lost. Many Faces of Go played a 1-dan female university student and won by resignation on move 136. Kojima Takaho 9-dan took over white at that point and within 30 moves made the game even, but then he made some overplays trying to kill a big group and his own group died, so he also resigned (see the game record). Go Intellect played against a 1-dan female university student on a 9-stone handicap and won.

There were many computers in the tournament venue to give spectators a chance to test their wits. Some professionals, including Mr. Kojima, played against the programs and observed the games of the top programs, after which they assessed their strength. Handtalk was awarded a formal 5-kyu diploma, Go4++ a 7-kyu diploma, and Many Faces of Go an 8-kyu diploma by the

Nihon Ki-in.

The prizes for first place in the competition were 2 million yen, a certificate of merit, a trophy, a plaque, and an NEC personal computer; second place earned ¥500,000, a certificate of merit and an Apple personal computer; the third-place prizes were ¥200,000, a certificate of merit, and a Fujitsu personal computer. Also, the JCGA awarded Tabuchi Takuo the 'new face' prize and ¥100,000.

During the championship, Chen Zhixing usually had a free and easy manner like the Yellow River. Michael Reiss was cheerful and stimulating. David Fotland was calm and composed, like the professional programmer he is. Ken Chen became nervous about his slow computer, which he had brought with him.

Since the championship was using computer communications, the programmers had a lot of free time during games, so spectators could talk to the authors and ask them questions. Many of the program authors generously enlightened the spectators about

	Author	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Ken Chen	-	0	0	1	0	1	1				1			
2	David Fotland	1	-	0	1	0	1		1		1				
3	Michael Reiss	1	1	-		0	1	1		1		1			
4	Yan Shi-Jin	0	0		-		0	1			1			0	1
5	Chen Zhixing	1	1	1		-	1	1				1		1	
6	Oishi Yasuo	0	0	0	1	0	-						1	1	
7	Yoshida Takenao	0		0	0	0		-		1	1				1
8	Saito Koichi		0						-		0	0	0	0	0
9	Horii Tsuneo			0				0		-	1	0	1	0	1
10	Yoshikawa Takeshiro		0		0			0	1	0	-		1		0
11	Sato Toshikazu	0		0		0			1	1		-	1	1	
12	Gary Boos						0		1	0	0	0	-		1
13	Tabuchi Takuo				1	0	0		1	1		0		-	1
14	Miyagawa Masami				0			0	1	0	1		0	0	-

Place	(1)	(2)	(3)	Player	Program name	Country
1	7			Chen Zhixing	Handtalk	China
2	6			Michael Reiss	Go4++	England
3	5			David Fotland	Many Faces of Go	USA
4	4	13		Ken Chen	Go Intellect	USA
5	4	9		Sato Toshikazu	TY '96	Japan
6	4	8		Tabuchi Takuo	Takuchan	Japan
7	3	9		Oishi Yasuo	Goro	Japan
8	3	7	27	Yoshida Takenao	Taikyoku Igo Mituki	Japan
9	3	7	23	Yan Shi-Jin	Jimmy	Ch. Taipei
10	3	6		Horii Tsuneo	Utoro	Japan
11	2	2	18	Yoshikawa Takeshiro	Dai Honinbo	Japan
12	2	2	17	Miyagawa Masami	Ijo Kankaku	Japan
13	2	2	14	Gary Boos	Teamgo	USA
14	0			Saito Yoichi	Igo Meijin	Japan

computer go, and some of the latter took photos and made inquiries about where to buy the programs. As the tournament proceeded, it became very clear that the top programs were much stronger than the rest of the field. When there were games between two of the top programs, large crowds of spectators gathered.

After the championship, a prize-giving ceremony and a banquet were held. Each

player declared that he would come back with a stronger program for next year's tournament. For example, Go Intellect is still running on a slow, 68040-based Macintosh, so Ken plans to port it to a Pentium machine for next year. Utoro was written in just three months, and its author, Horii Tsuneo, said: 'If I can weave all my ideas into my program, it will of course be much stronger next time.' Yoshida Takenao discovered many

weak points in his program during play and plans to correct them. After the banquet, the authors promised to have a reunion next year.

If the reader is interested in seeing copies of game records, please contact the FOST office. The records will be supplied free of charge for non-profit purposes.

2nd FOST Cup World Open Computer Go Championship

FOST plans to stage this event every year. The 2nd FOST Cup will be held on 13 and 14 September 1996 at the Nihon Ki-in in Tokyo. Prizes will be the same as in the 1st cup. The deadline for entry is 15 July 1996. For details, contact:

Mr. Maruyama
FOST Office
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Kohoku-ku
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Kanagawa Prefecture
Japan 223

Tel. +81-45-562-5432, fax 562-6132
E-mail: kys01311@niftyserve.or.jp

3rd FOST Cup

The 3rd FOST Cup will be held on 26-28 August 1997 in Nagoya, Japan. At the same time and in the same venue, the 15th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) will be held. IJCAI is the biggest international conference on AI, so more than 30,000 participants are expected. In 1991, a demonstration game of chess was played against a top Australian player. Recently many AI researchers have become interested in go because of its difficulty, which is why the Computer Go Championship has been planned to coincide with this conference.

(Report by Okasaki Masahiro)

Game Records

The first four figures below show the game between Many Faces of Go and the 1-dan university student, the next five the game between Go4++ and Handtalk.

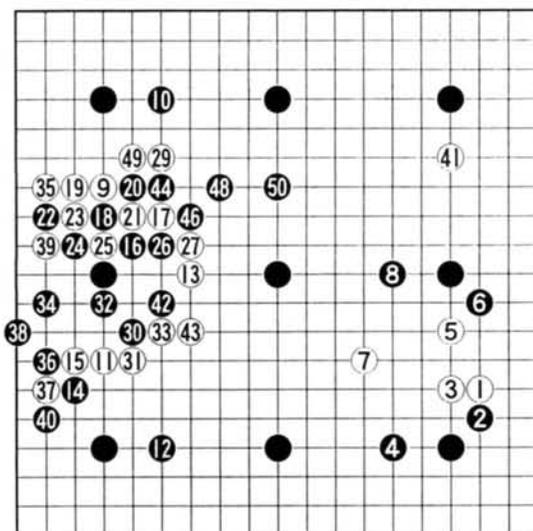


Figure 1 (1-50)

28: ko; 45: ko; 47: connects

White: Yoshizawa Junko (and Kojima Takaho 9-dan from 138)

Black: Many Faces of Go

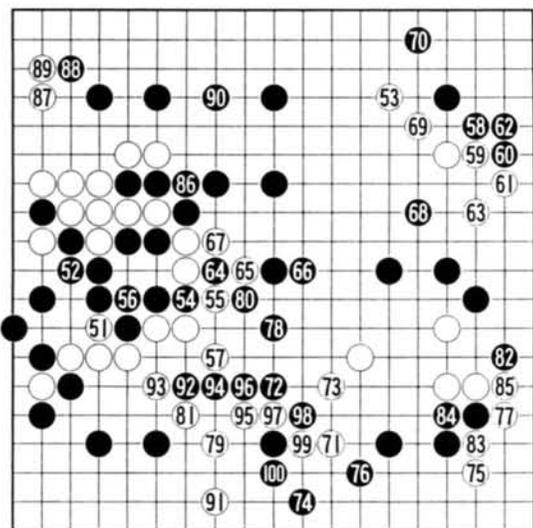


Figure 2 (51-100)

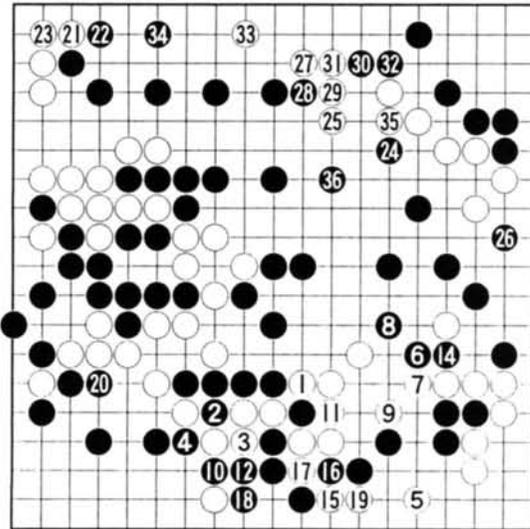


Figure 3 (101-136)
13: connects

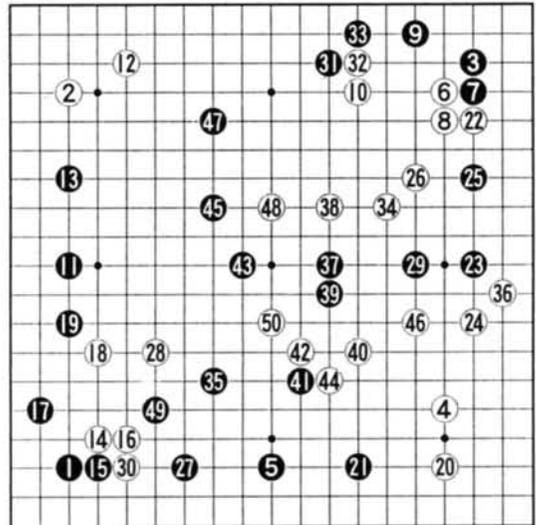


Figure 1 (1-50)
White: Hand Talk
Black: Go4++

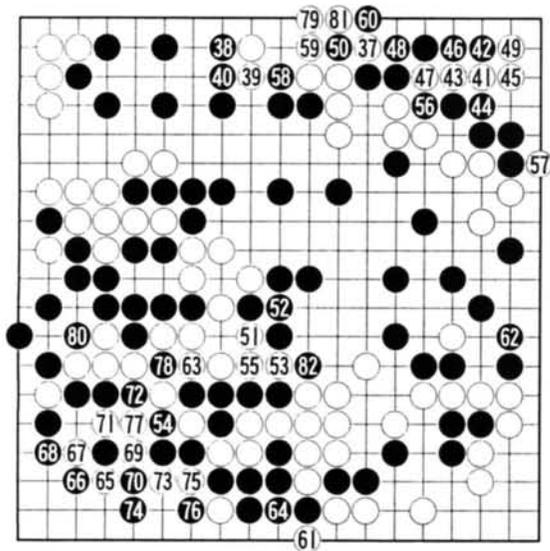


Figure 4 (137-182)

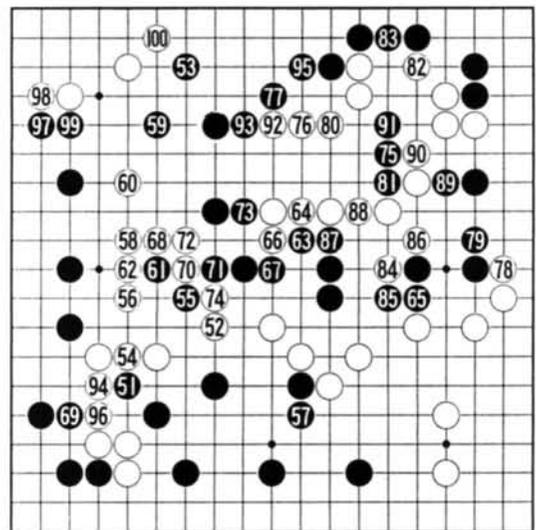


Figure 2 (51-100)

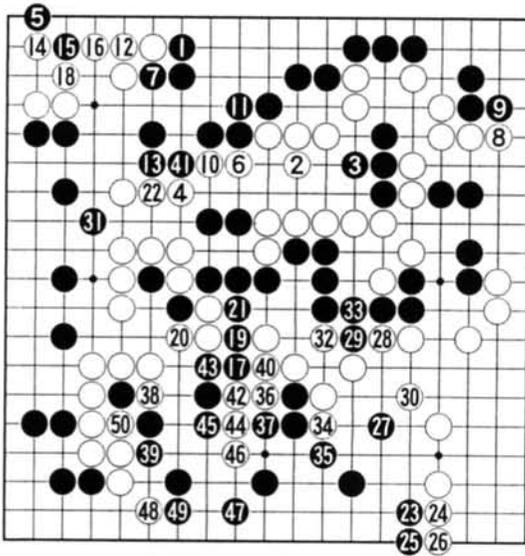


Figure 3 (101-150)

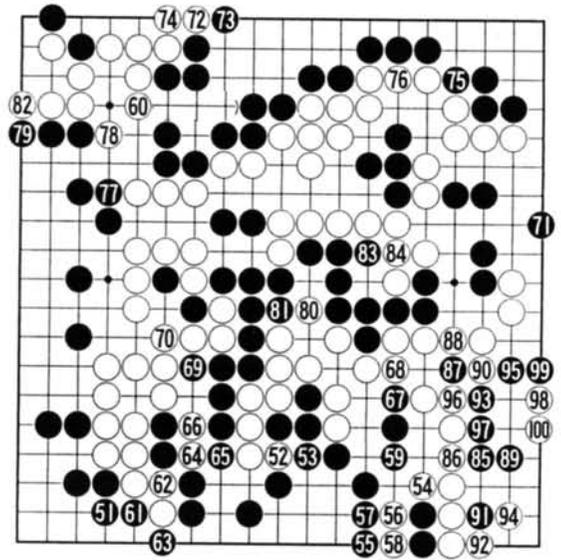


Figure 4 (151-200)

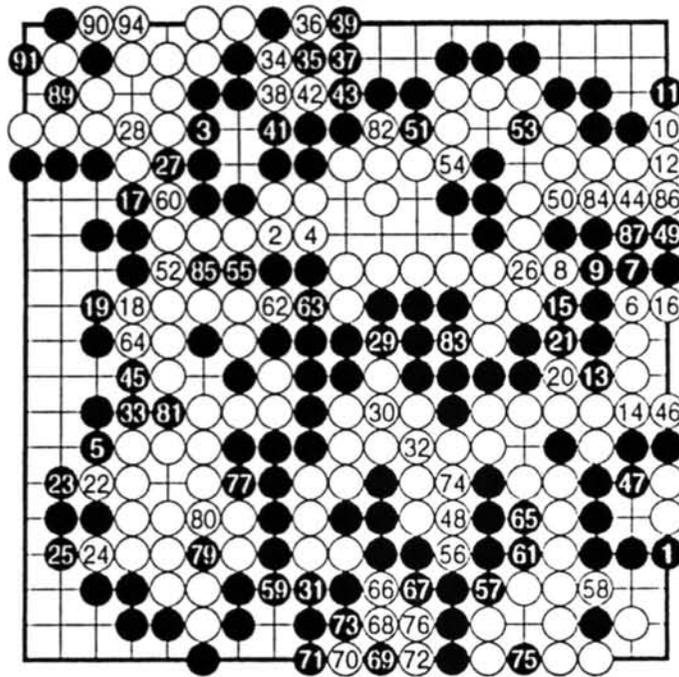


Figure 5 (201-296)

40: left of 36; 78: at 69; 88: pass
 92: pass; 93: below 90; 95: pass; 96: pass

1995 Calendar of Western Go Tournaments

This calendar of Western go is an attempt to give an idea of the range of tournament activity in the West by listing the tournament results of which the IGF Office has received notification. The name of the tournament is given in italics, and in most cases we have not given the full name (omitting 'Tournament' or 'Go Tournament'). (Main sources: European Go Journal, AGA Newsletter.)

January

30 Dec.–3 Jan.: *Hitachi 21st London Open*: Guo Juan 7-dan (Netherlands) 8–0; *Youth*: David King 2-kyu; *Lightning*: Zhao Pei.
5–8: *Romanian Ing Cup Qualifying Tournament*: Cristian Pop 4-dan 6–1.
5: *5th Leuven* (Belgium): Pierre Sevenants 1-dan.
7, 8: *New Year's Tournament, Heerlen* (Netherlands) David Schoffel 6-dan (Germany) 5–0.
14, 15: *German Open, Essen*: Shen Guanji (China) 5–0.
14–19: *11th Russian Ch'ship, Moscow*: Alexei Lazarev 8–1.
21: *Furze Platt* (UK): T. Mark Hall 4-dan (UK) 3–0.
21, 22: *Leuven* (Belgium): Pierre Sevenants 1-dan (Belgium) 4–1.

February

4: *Wanstead*: Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan (UK).
4, 5: *Dutch Championship*: Gilles van Eeden 5-dan 7–1.
11, 12: *Ingolstadt* (Germany): Christian Haberbosch 2-dan 4–1.
11, 12: *National Dutch Team Championship*: Koning een oog (King One Eye, i.e., Cyclops) from the European Go Centre, Amstelveen (Janssen/Nijhuis/Willems) 5–0.
11, 12: *Belgian Championship Preliminary*: Guy Dusausoy 6–1.
17, 18: *Göttingen San-Ren-Sei* (Germany): Zhang Gefei 4-dan (China/Hannover) 5–0.
24–26: *Kazan Grand Prix*: Viktor Bogdanov 6-dan (Russia) 6–0.
25, 26: *Bonn*: Christoph Gerlach 5-dan (Germany) 6–0. *German Women's Ch'ship*: Zou Hao-Jiang 4-dan 5–0.
25, 26: *Dresden*: Radek Nechanicky 5-dan (Czech) 5–0.
26: *Cambridge*: Matthew Cocke 4-dan 3–0.
26: *16th Winter, Quebec*: Stanley Chang 5-dan.

March

3, 4: *European Ing Cup*: Catalin Taranu 6-dan (Romania) 5–1 (won on SOS); 2nd: Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan (UK) 5–1; 3rd: John Lee 6-dan (USA) 5–1; 4th: Shen Guanji 6-dan (China) 5–1.
Ing Cup Side Tournament: Peter Zandveld (Netherlands)
4, 5: *Ascona Handicap* (Switzerland): Nihan Philip 17-kyu (Switzerland) 5–0.
10–12: *Linz Grand Prix*: Cristian Pop 4-dan (Romania) 5–0. *European Youth Ch'ship, Senior Section (under 18)*: Dmitry Lysyuk 2-dan (Kiev) 5–0; *Junior Section (under 12)*: Antoine Fenech (Strasbourg).
11, 12: *Castrop Rauxel* (Germany): Marco Meyenschein 3-dan 5–0.
11, 12: *Belgian Ch'ship finals*: Alain Wettach 2-dan 8–0.
11, 12: *15th Toronto Open*: Zhi-Qi Yu 6-dan.
17–19: *Dublin Grand Prix*: Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan (UK) 5–0.
18: *South London (haya-go)*: Alastair Wall 4-dan.
18, 19: *9th Erlangen* (Germany): Gerd Mex 2-dan 4–1.
18, 19: *'Keizer Karel'* (Nymegen, Netherlands): Gilles van Eeden 5-dan (Netherlands) 5–0.
25: *Coventry (haya-go)*: Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan (UK).

April

- 1: *Rapid Tournament*, Amsterdam: Robert Rehm 5-dan (Netherlands).
1, 2: *Hannover*: Zhao Pei 5-dan 5-0.
8: *Düsseldorf*: David Schoffel 6-dan (Germany).
7-9: *Bled Grand Prix (7th Lado Omejc Memorial)* (Slovenia): Shen Guanji 6-dan (China) 5-1.
7-9: *British Go Congress*: Ulf Olsson (Sweden) 5-1.
15, 16: *Leiden*: Robert Rehm 5-dan (Netherlands) 9-0.
15-17: *Paris Grand Prix*: Shutai Zhang 7-dan (China): 5-1.
15-17: *Nordic Championship* (Helsinki): Olli Lounela 3-dan (Finland) 5-1.
17: *Thames Valley Team*: Royal Standard (Beaconsfield: Jones, Hawdon, Jones).
22: *North East (haya-go)* (UK): Simon Shiu 6-0.
22: *1994 British Ch'ship*: Shutai Zhang beat Matthew Macfadyen 3-0.
22, 23: *Liberec* (Czech): Radek Nechanicky (Czech) 5-0.
22, 23: *Maastricht*: Rudi Verhagen 4-dan (Netherlands) 5-0.
29, 30: *Milan Grand Prix*: Martin Mueller 5-dan (Austria) 4-1.

May

- 5-7: *Wageningen* (Netherlands): Rudi Verhagen 4-dan (Netherlands) 4-1.
6: *4th Slovenian Team Ch'ship* (Novo mesto): Kranj (Zakotnik, Rupel, Mrak, Pogacnik).
6, 7: *Sprendlingen* (Germany): Shen Guanji 7-dan 5-0.
6-8: *British Candidates: Qualifiers for Challengers League*: Cann, Hall, Rix, Shepperson, Chetwynd.
8, 9: *7th Tian Yuan (Tengen)* (Siegen, Germany): Zhao Pei 5-dan 5-0.
12-14: *Danish Ch'ship*: Thomas Heshe.
12-14: *Budapest Grand Prix*: Tibor Pocsai 5-dan (Hungary) 4-1.
13: *Bracknell*: T. Mark Hall (UK) 3-0.
13, 14: *Tilburg* (Netherlands): Willem Koen Pomstra 3-dan 5-0.
13, 14: *Rostock* (Germany): Lutz Franke 4-dan.
20, 21: *Nymburk* (Czech): Mariusz Ferenc (Poland).
20, 21: *17th Quebec Open*: Ming-Liang Dong 5-dan.
21: *Dutch Pair Go Ch'ship*: Liesbeth van Galen 5-kyu & Frank Janssen 6-dan.
25-28: *Amsterdam Grand Prix*: Guo Juan 7-0; *Pair Go*: Sylvia Kalisch 2-dan & Martin Müller 5-dan; *Lightning*: Franz-Josef Dickhut 6-dan (Germany).
27, 28: *Scottish Open*: Francis Roads 4-dan (UK).
27-29: *British Challengers League*: Matthew Macfadyen 6-1.
29, 30: *Milan Grand Prix*: Martin Müller 5-dan (Austria) 4-1.
Irish Championship: Steven Flinter beat Noel Mitchell 2-0.

June

- 3-5: *Hamburg Grand Prix*: Shen Guanji 7-dan (China) 6-0.
9-11: *German Ch'ship Prelim.*: Franz-Josef Dickhut 6-0. (Jürgen Mattern came 3rd with 5-1 in his last tournament.)
10: *British Youth/Schools, Under 16*: David King 1-kyu (Brakenhale); *Under 14*: Emma Marchant; *Under 12*: Tom Blockley; *Under 10*: Sophia Ellul.
10, 11: *Cotsen Open & AGTC*: Danning Jiang 6-dan.
10-12: *Helsinki Grand Prix*: Viktor Bogdanov 6-dan (Russia) 6-0.
11: *British Small Board Ch'ship (13x13)* (Cambridge): Francis Roads.
16-18: *Warsaw Grand Prix*: Leszek Soldan 5-dan (Poland) 5-1.
17: *Leicester*: Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan 3-0.
24, 25: *Kiel*: Christoph Gerlach.

25, 26: 12th Ottawa Chinese Go Cup: Ming-Liang Dong 5-dan.

July

1, 2: Welsh Open (Barmouth): Matthew Macfadyen 5-0.

1, 2: 2nd Richard Gump Memorial (Vienna): Radek Nechanicky (Czech).

8, 9: Greater Austin Go League: Guangjoing Chen 6-dan.

12-16: World Youth Go Ch'ship, Junior (under 12): Lee Yong-Soo (Korea) 5-0; Senior (under 19): Huang Yizhong (China) 5-0.

15: Congress Tune-up: Hal Small 4-dan.

16: Massachusetts Go Assoc. Summer Handicap: Andreu Cabre 2-dan & Paul Mitchell 5-kyu (tied).

19-26: 3rd Isle of Man Go Week, main tournament: Andrew Jones 3-dan.

22: 1st Devon: Alastair Wall 4-dan 3-0.

22-August 6: Hitachi European Go Congress. 39th European Go Ch'ship.: Guo Juan 7-dan (China)

10-0; Weekend Tournament: Kai Naoyuki; Rapid: Sumikura Yasuyuki 16-0; 13x13: Dick Riedeman 3-dan (Netherlands); 9x9: Thomas Schmid 2-dan (Germany); Lightning: Lucian Deaconu 5-dan (Romania); Town Team: Little Gonzo (Enschede); Pair Go: Guo Juan & Rob Kok; Computer: Star of Poland (Janusz Kraszek)

August

12-13: US Go Congress, 1st North American Masters: Zhu-Jiu Jiang (beat Jimmy Cha 2-1 in final);

Ing Invitational: Thomas Hsiang; US Open, 6-dan: Danning Jiang; 5-dan: Takuya Sano; 4-dan:

Klaus Pulverer; 3-dan: Steven Plate; 2-dan: Enzo Pedrini; 1-dan: Jeff Shaevel; 1-kyu: Joseph

Isenbergh; 2-kyu: Bellamy Liu; 3-kyu: Allen Blue; 4-kyu: Ping-Lei Wang; 5/6-kyu: Robert Sloan; 7-

kyu: Larry Bartles; 8-kyu: Richard Brown; 9-27-kyu: Allan Mak; 9x9, dan: Sunichi Hyodo 6-dan;

kyu: Eileen Hvalka; 13x13, Upper: Sunichi Hyodo; Middle: Gordon Marsh, David Bieberle; Lower:

Jesse Chow; Lightning, dan: Danning Jiang; kyu: Steve Barberi; Computer Go: Many Faces of Go;

Pair Go: Harumi Takeshi & Sunichi Hyodo; Redmond Cup: James Chien; Die Hard: Guangjiong

Chen; Self-paired: Keith Arnold.

20-25: Isle of Man Go Week, Main: Andrew Jones 3-dan 4-1; Afternoon: Francis Roads.

September

2, 3: Obayashi Cup: Guo Juan.

2, 3: Northern Tournament (Manchester): T. Mark Hall 4-dan.

2-4: 18th Canadian Open Go Ch'ship, Toronto: Zhi-Qi Yu 7-dan; Canadian Women's Go Ch'ship:

Selina Chang 3-dan; Pair Go: Lei Hui Hua 3-dan & Zhen-gong Chang 5-dan.

15-17: Austrian Open (Vienna): Dong Yinkui 6-dan (China).

16, 17: Brabant (Netherlands): Rudi Verhagen 4-dan

16, 17: La Chaux-de-Fonds (Switzerland): François Borloz 2-dan.

16, 17: Copenhagen Grand Prix: Christoph Gerlach 5-dan (Germany) 5-0.

17: Milton Keynes: Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan.

23, 24: Düsseldorf: Jan Schröer 4-dan.

24: British Pair Go: Kirsty Healey & Matthew Macfadyen.

24, 25: 8th Maribor Open: Leon Matoh.

29-1 October: Bucharest Grand Prix: Sorin Gherman 6-dan (Romania) 6-0.

30-1 October: Leipzig: Christoph Gerlach.

October

1: Shrewsbury: Matthew Macfadyen.

7: International Team Go (UK): Nippon Club.

7, 8: Swiss Ch'ship (La Chaux-de-Fonds): François Borloz 4-1.

- 7, 8: *Tilburg* (Netherlands): Robert Rehm.
7, 8: *1st Toronto Korean Cup*: Zhi-Qi Yu 7-dan.
8: *Massachusetts Go Association Fall*: Robert Ursiny 13-kyu.
13–15: *Finnish Ch'ship* (Vantaa): Vessa Laatikainen, Matti Siivola, Olli Lounela 4–1 (3-way tie — playoff to be held).
14: *Third Pumpkin Classic* (Arlington, Virginia): *Upper dan*: I-Han Lui 7-dan; *Lower dan*: Scott Smith 2-dan; *High kyu*: Even Johnson 4-kyu; *Mid kyu*: Eric Lui 11-kyu; *Lower kyu*: Dan Amodeo 16-kyu.
14, 15: *'Bochumer Bambus'* (Germany): Oh Hee-Cheon 5-dan (Korea).
14, 15: *Bratislava Grand Prix*: Vladimir Danek 6-dan (Czech) 5–0.
14, 15: *Houston Fall, Handicap I*: Jeff Shaevel 2-dan; *Handicap II*: Che Cho Yun 3-kyu; *Handicap III*: Jim Hou 27-kyu; *Open*: Lianzhou Yu 6-dan.
14, 15: *Dutch Ch'ship Qualifying*: Walther Warnaar 7–1. Stijn van Dongen, Erik Henselmans, and Filip Vanderstappen, all on 6–2, also qualified for the January 1996 finals.
19–22: *27th Slovenian Ch'ship*: Leon Matoh.
20–22: *Belgrade Grand Prix*: Viktor Bogdanov 6-dan (Russia) 6–0.
21: *Seattle Korea Times, A Section*: dong Baek Kim 6-dan; *B Section*: Hosun Chang 3-dan; *C Section*: Dae Oh Kim 4-kyu.
22: *26th Wessex*: T. Mark Hall 4-dan 4–0.
26: *3rd Swindon*: Francis Roads 4-dan 3–0.
28: *I Saw A Man He Played Go With His Wife* (Chicago): Huang Liping, Huang Yong Ji, Rodney Quiriconi (3-way tie).
28, 29: *Brussels Grand Prix*: Guo Juan 7-dan (Netherlands) 5–0.
28, 29: *Empty Sky Open* (Rochester, NY): Terry Tozer 16-kyu.

November

- 3–5: *Kharkov Grand Prix* (Ukraine): Dimtri Bogatskiy 5-dan (Ukraine) 4–1.
4: *Dutch Youth* (Eindhoven): Emil Nijhuis 4-dan 5–0.
4, 5: *French Ch'ship*: Pierre Colmez (beat Jeff Séailles 2–1).
4, 5: *Finnish Ch'ship*: Vesa Laatikainen (beat Matti Siivola 2–0).
4, 5: *Three Peaks* (UK): John Rickard 4-dan 5–0.
4, 5: *1995 Ing World Computer Go Ch'ship* (Seoul): Handtalk (Chen Xhixing)
11, 12: *Göteborg Grand Prix*: Vladimir Danek 5-dan (Czech) 5–0.
11, 12: *German Ch'ship*: Felix von Arnim 5-dan 6–1.
11, 12: *Hans de Jong Memorial (22nd Martinicup)* (Groningen, Netherlands): Gilles van Eeden.
Dutch Open 9×9: Ruurd Wiersma 3-dan.
26: *British Ch'ship*: Shutai Zhang defeats Matthew Macfadyen 3–2.

December

- 3: *West Surrey Handicap*: Jay Rastall 2-dan 4–0.

Go Around the World

Australia

1995 has been the busiest year yet for go in Australia. There have been more than ten tournaments held around the country, as well as a week-long exhibition as part of Melbourne's art festival, all of which is helping to raise public awareness of our game. The inaugural Four Nations competition, which is a team event between Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Australian residents, turned out to be a great success and will become a permanent feature on our go calendar. The Sydney Korean Association held three tournaments with help from the Ho Ju Dong newspaper and the Korean Veterans Association. Add to this the annual Po Hung Cup in Melbourne and the five state championships per year and we have quite a respectable brace of competitions for ever-hungry go addicts.

In addition to this, a Go Academy was opened in Sydney with a full-time 7-dan tutor. At present, approximately 20 students of various ages are attending.



Konagai 6-dan playing simuls in Brisbane

An exciting event to take place in 1996 will be the tour of Australia by the Managing Director of the Nihon Ki-in Kansai headquarters, Kawamura Masamichi, and about 25 go players and their partners. The tour was cancelled last year due to the tragic Kobe earthquake. As a footnote to this, the following story may be of interest.

North Martha Primary School, a local school in Melbourne, folded 1,000 paper cranes and sent them to a school in Kobe after the earthquake, as a symbol of hope and encouragement from our country. The gesture was featured in our local newspaper, and a copy of the article was sent to our friends at the Nihon Ki-in. Go is now being taught at North Martha Primary School directly because of an increased interest in Japanese culture through this exchange. Three other schools have since included go in their curriculum.



At the Australian Ch'ships: Neville Smythe (left) on his way to becoming the 1996 WAGC rep.

The main event each year is, of course, our National Championships, held this year in Brisbane with an excellent turn-out, con-

sidering the distance to be travelled by people from the southern states. This year we were again honoured to welcome back our friend Konagai Masaru 6-dan (since promoted to 7-dan), accompanied by Kirimoto Kazuo 3-dan, who both gave generously of their time and expertise. Their presence added greatly to the overall pleasure and benefit derived by all who attended.

In a very exciting tournament that was to decide our next representative at the WAGC, Andrew Chi, the 1995 representative, managed to emerge undefeated and therefore became the Australian Open Champion. However, in a tight tussle on the credit points table, he came a very close second to Neville Smythe, who will play for Australia in 1996. Andrew put in a very strong performance at the 1995 WAGC, his seventh place being the best result ever by an Australian.

Clubs across the country continue to grow. If you are ever in our part of the world and looking for a game, you will get a warm welcome at every one of them.

(Report by Brad Melki)

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President: Hank Sato
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Secretary: Neville Smythe
Treasurer: Patrick Culshaw
IGF Director: Brad Melki
Editor: Peter Johnson
Committee Members: Paul Clay, Mark Bell,
Jim Bates

1996 Club Addresses

Sydney Go Club

Meets: Friday evenings

At: 15 Francis St, East Sydney
Contact: Devon Bailey, 02-584-9124

Sydney Kiwon

Meets: Every day
At: 269 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury
Contact: Hae Taek Choi, 02-872-3986

Melbourne Go Club

Meets: Tuesday evenings
At: The Old Church
297 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley
Contact: Brad Melki, 03-9528-1149

Canberra Go Club

Meets: Wednesday evenings
At: Mathematics Common Room
Australian National University
Contact: Neville Smythe, 06-273-3108

Brisbane Go Club

Meets: Tuesday evenings
At: 16 Charlotte St, Brisbane
Contact: Mark Bell, 07-266-6435

Adelaide Go Club

Meets: Wednesday evenings
At: Citizens Centre, Arthur St, Unley
Contact: Jim Bates, 08-272-0915

Perth Go Club

Contact: Paul Clay, 09-528-2068

Belgium

History of Go in Belgium from 1992 to 1995

In the *8th Ranka Yearbook* (1992), we traced the history of go in Belgium from the founding of the Belgian Go Association in 1982 to the end of 1991. In this issue, we would like to describe the main events in Belgian go life between 1992 and 1995.

Summary of Belgian go history from 1981 to the end of 1991

Late '70s: first mention of contact addresses in Belgium.

1980-81: some pioneers used to meet in a café in Brussels.

1982: foundation of the Belgian Go Association.

1984: birth of the first official go club (in Waterloo, 20 km south of Brussels); founding of two university go clubs.

1985: organization of the first Belgian Championship; first publication of our quarterly magazine *Belgo*; first holding of the Brussels International Tournament (86 participants); visit by two Chinese professional players (one of whom was Guo Juan, who now lives in the Netherlands).

1986 on: birth of two new go clubs and a regular increase in the number of affiliated members (from 40 to 80), mainly due to the development of go in Flanders (until then, go had mainly been a French-speaking game in Belgium).

1991: founding of a club in Antwerp, the second town of Belgium; organization of the 1991 European Go Congress in Namur, with a total of 315 participants (in the main tournament and the weekend tournament). The final winner was Zhang Shutai.

1992

Balance sheet of the European Go Congress in Namur (1991)

1992 was the right year for establishing the balance sheet of the European Congress we organized the previous year in Namur.

Positive results: thanks to the Congress, we were able to buy enough go boards, sets of stones, and clocks to equip all five Belgian clubs and we also printed 5,000 pamphlets in both national languages (French and Dutch).

The disappointing side was that the Congress did not bring us many new contacts. We received only a dozen letters, despite the big press campaign that accompanied the Congress (at least one article was published in every important Belgian newspaper and the president of the BGA was interviewed in the TV news on one of the national TV channels).

As a result, the Congress did not have the hoped-for impact on the number of members belonging to the BGA, which remained

more or less unchanged. (To give one concrete example, our attempt to found a club in Namur ended in failure.)

Appendix: Results of 1992 tournaments

Of course, Belgian go life did not stop after Namur. Below is a quick summary of all go activities in 1992.

January: 2nd Leuven Tournament (34 participants). The winner was Dave De Vos 1-dan (Netherlands) on 5/5, followed by his fellow countryman Remko Popma 2-dan on 4/5.

February: The 8th Belgian Championship was won by Cy-Yiu Wong 1-dan with eight wins out of nine games.

September: A special Belgium—China match, played between seven local players and seven resident Chinese players, was inaugurated. The match is organized along the same lines at the NEC Japan—China Super Go series. The first match was won by the Belgian team.

October: 7th Brussels Tournament: 89 players, of whom 16 competed in the top section (4-dan and stronger). The total was not as high as the previous year, when there were 112 competitors (28 in the top section). The decrease was probably due to the increasing number of tournaments in Europe. This trend was to continue more or less throughout Europe as a whole in subsequent years.

The result was the second victory in a row for the Chinese player Shen Guanji 7-dan. Ex-pro Gou Juan took second place, and third — and top European — was David Schoffel 6-dan of Germany.

1993

Visits by professionals

The most important events in 1993 were various visits made by well-known professionals.

• In March it was a great honour for us to welcome Nagahara 6-dan, author of some go 'best sellers'. He played countless simultaneous games and commented on some games



Participants in the final of the 1993 Belgian Championship

from the finals of the Belgian championship.

•In September we were honoured with a visit by five Japanese professionals. Three were of high rank: Kano 9-dan, Abe 9-dan, and Ms. Sugiuchi 8-dan, the highest-ranked woman professional in Japan. The other two were young professionals: Ms. Nakamura 1-dan and Ms. Inoue 2-dan. The group was accompanied by M. Saheki of the Overseas Department of the Nihon Ki-in. They spent three days in our small country, playing simultaneous games, most of which they won, with about 40 local players.

•Finally, in November, on the occasion of the Brussels Tournament, we welcomed Jiang Mingjiu 7-dan, a professional from China, for a few days.

We would like to thank them all for their lessons, their kindness and for their . . . indulgence!

Appendix: Results of 1993 tournaments

January: The 3rd Leuven Tournament was held, with 32 competitors in the main tournament and another seven in a special 'side tournament' reserved for players weaker

than 14-kyu. This side tournament was played with a shorter time allowance, handicaps, and more rounds than in the main tournament. The winner of the latter was the Belgian-Dutch player Filip Vanderstappen 4-dan, despite a surprising loss to our president Pierre Sevenants 1-dan.

February: 1st Louvain-la-Neuve Tournament. 1993 saw the birth of the third Belgian tournament in Louvain-la-Neuve, the French-speaking 'twin town' of Leuven.

March: The 9th Belgian Championship. The winner this year was a dark horse, Olivier Dodinval, with nine victories in nine games!

Spring: the second interclub competition was held — seven years after the first. Four clubs participated, with the following results: 1. Le Pantin (Brussels), 2. University of Brussels, 3. University of Louvain-la-Neuve, 4. University of Leuven.

Summer: European Go Championship in Prague. Sixteen Belgian players (20% of our total membership!) take part in the champi-



Multiple Belgian champion Alain Wettach plays simultaneous games in Leuven.

onship and obtain excellent results: their high percentage of wins (56%) seems to confirm the strictness of Belgian grades in comparison with other European ratings.

The great Belgian 'hero' in Prague is Alain Wettach 1-dan, who scores 7/10 in the main tournament. He manages to defeat one 3-dan, one 4-dan, and . . . three 5-dans! (Moreover, he had a winning position against Vladimir Danek 6-dan before collapsing in the yose, a victim of byo-yomi.) Needless to say, he is promptly promoted to 2-dan.

September: 2nd Belgium–China match. This was again won, but only through luck, by the Belgian team (7–5).

October: 8th Brussels tournament. There are 100 participants, with 15 in the top section. For the third time in a row, the winner is Sheng, with Guo second. The surprise comes from the Frenchman Jean-François Séailles 5-dan, who manages to take third place, ahead of one of the favourites, Zhang Shutai (4th).

1994

Foundation of two new clubs in Liège and Gent

The best news of this year was the simultaneous foundation of two new clubs: one in the number three town of Belgium, Liège (thanks to the efforts of Vincent Croisier), the other in the number four town, Gent (under the dynamic guidance of Dieter Verhoftadt and Stefaan Verstaeten). This created two new 'development poles' in new regions of our country.

Appendix: Results of 1994 tournaments

January: 4th Leuven Tournament

There are 31 competitors and the winner is the Dutchman Ron Polak 4-dan, with five straight victories, ahead of the 1993 winner, Filip Vanderstappen 4-dan. Ron's participation was a big surprise because some years ago he had stopped playing in tournaments. We Belgians were particularly pleased with his victory because Ron acted as our national trainer for some months in 1988.



View of the Leuven tournament

February: 10th Belgian Championship

The new Belgian Champion is Alain Wetch with 7/8. This success followed second places in 1987, 1989, 1992, and 1993, and a first place in 1991.

April: 2nd Louvain-la-Neuve tournament (22 participants). The winner is Pierre Sevenants 1-dan, BGA president from 1990 to 1994; second is the present president (1995 on), Jan Bogaerts 1-dan. Both scored 4/5.

May: A milestone in Belgian go history: a victory by a Belgian player in an international tournament. Jan Bogaerts 1-dan established this 'grande première' by winning the tournament at Tilburg (in south Holland) despite competition from two 3-dans and six 2-dans.

October: 9th Brussels tournament (90 participants, but only 12 in the top section). The top three are exactly the same, in the same order, as the year before. It has been the same top duo for . . . four times in a row!

1995

A new president for the BGA

After five years, from 1990 to 1994, of doing a terrific job (in particular, acting as the driving force behind the organization of the European Go Congress in Namur in 1991), our president, Pierre Sevenants, decided to resign. The reason was that he was getting too busy with his many other activities. During his brilliant presidency, the number of members increased from 60 to 90, our federation got a solid financial basis and bought enough material to equip all the clubs.

Elected as the new president was Jan Bogaerts, a strong chess player (about 2350 ELO), who decided abandon high-level chess competition to devote himself to the promotion of go!

Jan's policy is to have the BGA concentrate on its main tasks, that is:

- the organization of the Belgian championship, the Brussels tournament, and the interclub competition
- publication of the quarterly review (which celebrated its tenth birthday in 1995)



Another view of the Leuven tournament. On the left is the Belgian champion, Alain Wettach.

- the establishment of a reliable and regular national rating (to be published at least every three months)

- general administration
- last, but certainly not least: the human and material support of local initiatives aimed at teaching the game to beginners (this task being the role of the clubs).

Concerning this last point, some good news was —

Teaching session with the European trainer Frank Janssen

In September, the BGA was the first association in Europe to organize a 'Teacher Day' in the context of the 1994-97 promotion campaign of the European Go Federation, which has developed a promotion flyer, together with teaching material consisting of two manuals — one for the teacher, one for the beginner. The purpose of this 'Teaching Day' was to explain how to make full use of this material, that is to say, how to attract new people to the clubs and how to organize a beginners' course. Our teacher was one of the European Trainers, the Dutchman Frank Janssen 6-dan.

Every Belgian club sent one or more delegates to this special meeting. In all, there were 20 representatives (about 20% of our total membership!).

Their attention was rewarded in the afternoon with a game commentary and simultaneous games played by Frank.

Revival of the interclubs

The interclub competition was definitively 'revived' by the BGA. All Belgian clubs participated. This success can probably be attributed to the system, which is very flexible. A team is made up of four players, who can alternate freely among the members of the same club but who cannot change to another club during the competition. The composition of the team can thus vary from one match to another, and we even encourage this to allow the maximum number of players to participate. The games are played with full handicap, and there is one match a month.

This competition will end in January 1996, so at the time of writing the final result is still unknown.

Appendix: results of 1995 tournaments

January: 5th Leuven tournament (only 21 competitors, with no strong Dutch players present). The winner is former president Pierre Sevenants 1-dan.

March: 10th Belgian Championship

This tournament once again falls prey to Alain Wettach, ahead of C.Y. Wong and Olivier Dodinval.

April: 3rd Louvain-la-Neuve tournament (27 participants). Winner: Pierre Sevenants 1-dan.

September: 1st (!) Liège tournament (32 participants!). Winner: Ruurd Wiersma 3-dan (Netherlands).

October: 10th Brussels tournament (84 participants, only 10 in the top section). In the absence of Sheng, Guo did not let slip the opportunity to win our tournament for the second time (her first win, in 1990, was her first big success in Europe), despite competition from Zhang Shutai and Miyakawa Wataru, who ended fraternally tied for second.

November: 1st (!) Antwerpen tournament (semi-rapid games: 30 minutes time allowance). Winner: Alain Wettach 2-dan.

1966 (objectives)

At present, there are about 100 affiliated members of the BGA, including a dozen dan players (see list below).

Our main goal for 1996 is to increase the number of go players in Belgium by using the promotional material of the EGF and by having beginners' courses organized by the clubs.

We also intend to publish a special review to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Brussels tournament, with games with commentary taken from the tournament.

Finally, we will organize a small Belgian go congress during a weekend in spring to enable people to improve their strength at go and (what is probably even more impor-

tant) to have a lot of fun.

Historial data update

Belgian Championship

1985: Guy Dusausoy 4-kyu
1986: Vincent Lemaître 3-kyu
1987: Marc Ginoux 2-kyu
1988: Vincent Lemaître 1-kyu
1989: Vincent Lemaître 1-dan
1990: Vincent Lemaître 1-dan
1991: Alain Wettach 1-dan
1992: Chi-Yiu Wong 1-dan
1993: Olivier Dodinval 1-dan
1994: Alain Wettach 2-dan
1995: Alain Wettach 2-dan

Brussels tournament

1985: Pierre Colmez 5-dan
1986: Frank Janssen 5-dan
1987: Pierre Colmez 5-dan
1988: Yoo Jong-Su 6-dan
1989: not held
1990: Guo Juan 7-dan
1991: Sheng Guanji 6-dan
1992: Sheng Guanji 6-dan
1993: Sheng Guanji 6-dan
1994: Sheng Guanji 6-dan
1995: Guo Juan 7-dan

Best-ranked members (as of 1 October 1995)

2-dan: Alain Wettach
1-dan: Olivier Dodinval, Michel Wettach, Jan Bogaerts, Pierre Sevenants, Ruan Zihang (China), Vincent Lemaître, Yoon-Sup Kang (Korea), Marc Ginoux, Chi-Yu Wong, Fan Heng (China), Zhang Yuan (China), Zhou Lin (China)

Information about the Belgian Go Association

1. Address

Belgian Go Association
c/o Jan Bogaerts (President)
Jan Mulsstraat, 110
1853 Strombeek-Bever
Tel. 02-267.98.97

2. Addresses of board members

Louvain-la-Neuve

President: Jan Bogaerts (see above)

Treasurer: Jean-Denis Hennebert
Avenue du Jonc, 15
1180 Brussels

Tel. (evening) 00-32-2-232.04.69

Secretary: Ingrid De Doncker

Jan Mulsstraat, 110
1853 Strombeek-Bever

Tel. (evening) 00-32-2-267.98.97

Board member: Alain Wettach

Drève de l'Hermitte, 95
1640 Rhode-Saint-Genèse

Tel. (evening) 00-32-2-380.20.90

3. Addresses of Belgian go clubs

Brussels

Café 'Le Pantin'

Chaussée d'Ixelles, 355
1050 Brussels (Bruxelles)

Saturday from 15:00 to 19:00.

Contact: Jean-Mare Van Roy, Avenue des
Anciens Combattants, 101/3, 1140 Brussels.

Tel. 32-2-726.15.76

Café 'Le Greenwich'

Rue des Chartreux, 7
1000 Brussels

Thursday from 20:00 to 23:00.

Contact: Jan Bogaerts

Jan Mulsstraat, 110, 1853 Strombeek-Bever
Tel. 32-2-267. 98.97

Leuven

Foyer China-Europa Insituut
Atrechtcollege, Naamsestraat, 63
3000 Leuven.

Tuesday from 19:30 to 23:00.

Contact: Bart Smeyers

Oude Baan, 77, 3370 Boutersem
Tel. 32-16-73.47.80

Café 'La Rive Blanche'

Rue des Wallons, 64
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve
Tuesday from 20:00 to 23:00

Contact: Michel Ghislain

rue des Wallons, 39 (box 109)
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve.

Tel. 32-10-41.03.03.

Antwerpen

Café 'Zurenborg'

Dageraadplaats, 4
2018 Antwerpen

Monday from 20:00 to 23:00

Contact: Marcel Van Herck

Brialmontei, 66, 2018 Antwerpen
Tel. 32-3-230.19.25

Gent

Kortrijkssteenweg, 1
9000 Gent

Thursday from 20:00 to 23:00

Contact: Stefan Verstaeten

Jozef Palingstraat, 18, 9041 Gent
Tel. 32-9-251.06.94

Liege

Le Charlemagne

Place de la République Française, 7
4000 Liège

Tel. 041/22.18.65

Wednesday from 19:30 to 23:00

Contact: Vincent Croisier

Rue des Acacias, 45, 4000 Liège
Tel. 32-41-52.08.25

Geel

No club.

Contact: Guy Belmans

Zwanenstraat, 23,
2440 Geel
Tel. 32-14-58.00.83

Canada

The 18th Canadian Open Go Championship

On the long Labour Day Weekend of September 2-4, Toronto was host to Canada's preeminent go event for the fourth time. Organized by the Toronto Korean Baduk Association and held at the venerable Hart House of the University of Toronto, this year's event attracted a total of 91 players from across Canada and from a few neighbouring American states.

Interest was heightened at this year's event when Zhi-Qi Yu from Toronto, Canada's only 7-dan player, slipped up in the last round, forcing a three-way tie for first place with Jong S. Choi from Vancouver and Chang Ha Kim from Toronto, both 6-dans. On the Monday of the long weekend, play-offs were held, and again Yu demonstrated that his reputation of being the country's strongest player was well-earned. Having recently obtained his Canadian citizenship, Yu will represent us at the 1996 WAGC.

Directed by Pat Thompson, this six-round event was divided into ten sections. The winners of the remaining sections were as follows:

Chun-Lei Qian 5-dan (Toronto), Soo Man Kang 4-dan (Toronto), Ho Il Lee 3-dan (Toronto), Dan Sonu 2-dan (Toronto), Shiziang Zhang 1-dan (Toronto), Ambrose Joo 3-kyu (Toronto), Jamie Chrones 7-kyu (Vancouver), Rolf Sander 13-kyu (Toronto), and Huck Loh 19-kyu (Ottawa).

The Canadian Women's Go Champion was Selina Chang 3-dan from Ottawa.

Finally, a separate event was held during the weekend to determine the selection of Canada's representative at the International Pair Go Championship. In a playoff held on Monday, Ms. Lei Hui Hua 3-dan and Zhengong Chang 5-dan, both from Toronto, defeated the team of Charles Chang and Selina Chang, both 3-dans from Ottawa, to win the right to go to Japan for this international event.

Next year (1996), the Canadian Open is slated to be held for the second time in Winnipeg, Manitoba, again over the Labour Day Weekend, August 31 and September 1.

Professionals visit Canada (1994)

Canada benefited from a second visit by Japanese professionals in 1994 (see last year's *Ranka* for details of the first visit) when Mr. Okubo Ichigen 9-dan and Miss Tsukuda Akiko 1-dan visited Winnipeg (November 17-19) and Ottawa (November 19-21) on a four-city North American tour. For Mr. Okubo, this was his second visit to Canada, his first being in September 1972, when he went to Montreal.

Ontario's major tournaments in 1994

The 15th Toronto Open was held on the weekend of March 11 and 12 at its traditional location, the second floor debating room of Hart House on the campus of the University of Toronto. Organized by the Toronto Go Club, with Pat Thompson as tournament director, this six-round event attracted a total of 52 players. The overall winner was Zhi-Qi Yu 6-dan (Toronto). The winners of the remaining six divisions were:

Shi Chen 4-dan (Toronto), Ho Il Lee 2-dan (Toronto), Luping Zhang 1-dan (Toronto), David Gibbs 4-kyu (Ottawa), Ambrose Joo 6-kyu (Toronto), and Ben Bueno 13-kyu (Ottawa).

The 11th Ottawa Meijin Tournament lasted from January to April and had a total participation of 27 players. Stanley Chang was successful in defeating his challenger, Steve Donaldson, and kept his title Ottawa Meijin. The best kyu player was Max Zhe, who was promoted to 7-kyu. This event was organized by Charles Chang and the Ottawa Chinese Go Club.

The 12th Ottawa Chinese Goe Cup was held on June 25 and 26. Organized by the Ottawa Chinese Go Club and sponsored by the Overseas Chinese Cultural Service Center and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, this six-round event attracted a total of 58 players. The tournament director was Isabel Chang. The top place-getters in the seven sections were:

Ming-Liang Dong 5-dan (Montreal), Pat Thompson 3-dan (Oshawa, Ont.), Paul Seto 1-dan (Ottawa), Jeff Catania 1-kyu

(Toronto), Jayson Law 8-kyu (Ajax, Ont.), Nan Chen 11-kyu (Ottawa), and Benjamin Garlock 15-kyu (Rochester, N.Y.).

The 1st Toronto Korean Cup is a new annual tournament that was inaugurated during the Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend of October 7 and 8. Organized by the strong Toronto Korean Baduk Association and generously sponsored by The Korean Times Daily newspaper (Toronto) and Sejong Restaurant, this six-round event attracted a total of 54 players. The tournament director was Pat Thompson. The winners of the nine sections were:

Zhi-Qi Yu 7-dan (Toronto), Ho-Il Lee 4-dan (Toronto), Tim Law 3-dan (Ajax, Ont.), Ohshik Shin 2-dan (Toronto), Jeon Il-Kyong 1-kyu (Cookstown, Ont.), Tafang Huang 2-kyu (Kingston, Ont.), Jayson Law 7-kyu (Ajax, Ont.), Joab Chen 9-kyu (Ajax, Ont.), and Jeffrey Li (14-kyu (Kingston, Ont.).

Quebec's major tournaments of 1994

The 14th Montreal Honinbo was held in February and March and was again won by Ming-Liang Dong 5-dan, who defeated his challenger and winner of the Honinbo League, Xenos Khan 4-dan. This annual event was organized by André Labelle and the Montreal Go Club.

The 16th Winter Tournament was held on February 26 and was won by Stanley Chang 5-dan from Ottawa for the second year in a row. This three-round event, sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan and organized by the Association Québécoise des joueurs de go, attracted 65 players, a record-breaking figure. The tournament director was André Labelle. The winners of the remaining seven sections were:

Khalid Benabdallah 4-dan (Montreal), Byong-Shik Kim 4-dan (Montreal), Charles Chang 3-dan (Ottawa), Claude Malette 2-dan (Montreal), Ma Ji 1-dan (Montreal), Runchang Ding 9-kyu (Montreal), and Alexandre Guyard 15-kyu (Quebec City).

The 17th Quebec Open, held on May 20 and 21, was on by Ming-Liang Dong 5-dan

from Montreal. This six-round event, which is organized by Association Québécoise des joueurs de go with Steven Mays as tournament director, drew a total participation of 52 players, another record. The first-place winners of the other four divisions were: Gerry Fung 3-dan (Ottawa), John Tromp 1-kyu (Waterloo, Ont.), Martin David 7-kyu (Montreal), and Jérôme Fournier 12-kyu (Montreal).

British Columbia's major tournaments of 1994

The 13th Hollyhock Workshop was held from August 6 to 12, the week before the start of the U.S. Go Congress in nearby Seattle. There were 26 participants this year, ranging in strength from total beginner to 4-dan, but mostly in the 1- to 3-dan range, and they came mostly from the United States and British Columbia. Almost all had come before, testifying to the quality of the Hollyhock experience: a very mellow group of friends, new and old; gourmet vegetarian cuisine; beach, forest, hot tub; and one of the best go teachers anywhere, James Kerwin, professional 1-dan from the Nihon Ki-in. The relaxed schedule of games, discussion and analysis provided students with many opportunities for both learning and laughter.

Located on Cortes Island in the wilds of British Columbia, about 160 kilometers north of Vancouver, the locale provides a wonderful setting for a relaxed yet concentrated attention to go. For information on attending next year's workshop, contact Rex Wyler, Box 85, Manson's Landing, Cortes Island, B.C., V0P 1K0. Tel. (604) 935-6736.

Canada's representatives at international events

17th World Amateur Go Championship: Sunghwa Hong 6-dan (Vancouver)

12th World Youth Goe Championship: Selina Chang 3-dan (Ottawa)

5th North American Ing Cup Tournament: Stanley Chang 5-dan (Ottawa), Zhi-Qi Yu 7-dan (Toronto), Shih Hyang 2-dan (Edmonton)

9th North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament: Brian Song 6-dan (Toronto),

Sunghwa Hong 6-dan (Vancouver)
6th International Amateur Pair Go
Championship: Zhengong Chang 5-dan
(Toronto), Hui Hua Lei 3-dan (Toronto)

List of CGA executives

President/International Liaison: David Erbach, 71 Brixford Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2N 1E1. Tel. (204) 256-2537

Vice President: Sunghwa Hong, 7033 204th St., Langley, B.C., V3R 4P7

Registrar/Treasurer: Carlos Carvalho, 71 St. Dunstan's Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 3H6. Tel. (204) 452-6472

Editor: Charles Chang, 917 Killeen Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, K2A 2Y1. Tel.: (613) 722-0603

Ratings Officer: Pat Thompson, 383 Mary St. North #1, Oshawa, Ontario, L1G 5C9. Tel. (905) 728-0669

Youth Co-ordinator: Isabel Chang, same address as Charles Chang

Club Co-ordinator: Michael Falk, 1591 Conrose Ave., Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4C4. Tel. (902) 422-5173

Executives at large: Corlos Costa (Vancouver), Orah Costello (Vancouver), Steven Mays (Montreal), Suhk Joo Yoon (Toronto)

(Report by Steven J.C. Mays)

Czech Republic

Go in Czechia 1995

Go life in the Czech Republic began to be stable and relatively quiet again, in contrast to the very busy year of 1993 when we hosted the European Go Congress. We had 16 tournaments belonging to the Czech Grand Prix, with more than 200 players participating, the Czech Championships (Open, Woman, and Youth), and some local tournaments.

We organized two training camps for strong players, both five days long, which were very popular. One was held in Prostějov in June, the other in Touzím in September. The trainers were the top players themselves, and we spent most of the time discussing various possibilities. But in the future we will invite top European players, and we are also thinking of inviting a professional from East Asia.

The tournaments began with the qualifying tournament for the European Ing's Cup, held in Nymburk, January 19-22. Vladimír Danek 6-dan won, Radek Nechanický 6-dan was second, and Petr Cipra 5-dan third. The next big event was the Prague International Tournament-Fujitsu Grand Prix d'Europe, attended by 170 players. Results: 1st Matthew Macfadyen, 2nd Tony Claasen, 3rd Guo Juan. The local player Danek took 4th place.

The Czech Go Championship was held from 23 to 27 August in the city of Pilsen. The two strongest players, V. Danek and R. Nechanický, didn't find anyone able to beat them, so the title was decided by their mutual encounter, which Nechanický won. Third was Petra Cipra. Of the young players, most successful was David Holeček, already 4-dan, with fifth place.

There is a group of young players whose strength is about 4-dan and steadily improving. Although they are only very rarely able to win against the two top players, they are very promising for the future. Let's name at least Jan Mechura (who often plays on the Internet Go Server), Zbyněk Dach, Karel Dach, Petr Valasek, Marek Prokop, and of course David Holeček. David belongs to the oldest go family in Czechia. His father is Jiri Holeček 4-dan, and his grandfather is Vladimír Holeček 5-kyu. His two sisters can also play go.

The ladies are also making progress. The best one is now Martina Simunková 3-dan, followed by Jana Hricová and Iva Prokopová, both 1-dan.

Vladimír Danek was the most successful Czech on the international go scene. He won several European Grand Prix tournaments and took second place in the final ranking.

After several years without a go journal

in Czech, there are now three different magazines. They are, however, issued rather irregularly, and the Czech Go Association is trying to persuade the writers and compilers to get together to make one team. A regular go journal would be a substantial help in popularizing go in the Czech Republic.

(Report by Vladimír Danek)

Changes in address list

Please note the following new telephone numbers.

Vladimír Danek, 42-2-683 2498, fax 684 2781
Jiri Holecek, 42-2-802 283.

Germany

As you may know, Germany consists of 16 federal states, most of which have their own go association. These 12 regional associations constitute the German Go Association (Deutscher Go-Bund). Besides giving a survey of German go life, we plan to introduce one of these associations each year in *Ranka*, starting with the biggest one, North-Rhine-Westfalia.

But let us start with the German Championship in 1995. Traditionally, it consists of a preliminary round (a six-round Swiss, in which any player 3-dan or stronger can take part) and the finals. Besides the top two of 1994, Egbert Rittner 6-dan and Felix von Arnim 5-dan, six people qualified for the finals: FJ Dickhut 6-dan, Jan Schröder 4-dan, Jürgen Mattern 5-dan, Dietmar Korb 4-dan, Malte Schuster 5-dan, and Stefan Lange 4-dan.

However, Jürgen Mattern died ten days after this preliminary round, on 21 June 1995. We lost the most successful go player Germany ever had. Having been eight times European champion and 14 times German champion, he was the dominating European player over decades. Even a few days before his death, he managed to win five out of six games in a strong field.

Since FJ Dickhut couldn't play the finals either (he was in Korea), two more players, Christoph Gerlach 5-dan and Stefan

Kaitschik 4-dan, were able to take part. Winning six out of seven, Felix von Arnim became the new German champion. Christoph Gerlach finished second, and last year's champion Egbert Rittner took third place.

In the women's championship, 12 players between 4-dan and 3-kyu took part. Zou Hao-Jiang 4-dan (she is not German but has lived in Germany for many years) is the new German champion, ahead of last year's champion Antje Rapmund 3-dan. Regina Quest 1-dan came third.

Every year there is also a German Pair Go championship. The 1995 champions are Sylvia Kalisch and Tobias Berben. This year's German lightning champion is Lutz Franke.

Besides the German championships, about 30 weekend tournaments take place each year. In 1995, the biggest ones were Hamburg, Hannover, and Essen, each with more than 100 participants. In January 1996 more than 200 go players will take part in Freiburg's new tournament.

As promised, we will now tell you something about go in North-Rhine-Westfalia (NRW), the biggest federal state in the west of Germany. The NRW Go Association has about 400 members (out of 1500 in all of Germany). There are about 20 local clubs where go is played once or twice a week.

The strongest players in NRW are FJ Dickhut (1995 NRW champion), Zhao Pei, David Schoffel, and Jan Schröder. Besides a single championship, there is also a team championship every year. Here the two best teams of each of the three regional leagues meet. The 1995 NRW champion is the team Go Vultures Lippstadt from eastern Westfalia.

The regional leagues are something special which only exist in North-Rhine-Westfalia. They are a good opportunity to visit neighbouring go clubs and play against different players. Since we play with handicaps in the leagues, many kyu players take part, too. By the way, the Rhine-Maas-League is the only international league, consisting of six teams from NRW and two from the Netherlands.

Of course, many players also meet at the weekend tournaments which are played

with five of six rounds McMahon system. Usually the weekend tournaments have between 50 and 100 participants between 6-dan and 20-kyu.

Each October there is a big fair with all kinds of games in Essen. The NRW Go Association is also present each year, trying to spread go further. Among the more than 100,000 visitors each year, several hundred people learn the rules of go there and are directed to local go clubs.

In many cities there are go clubs for beginners, mostly at universities. Indeed, most players learned go as students. Therefore, the cities with big universities usually have more go players. From time to time, there are also courses for stronger players, held by one of the top players mentioned above.

Despite our activities, the number of go players seems to be stagnating, and not only in NRW. We hope that this will change in the future.

(Report by Jens Vygen)

Ireland

1995 was a very successful year for go in Ireland, being the first year that the Irish Open was a European Grand Prix tournament. It was held in March, with a total attendance of 34, including 19 players of dan strength. The winner of this five-round event was Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan (UK), with Janusz Kraszek 5-dan (Poland) in second place and Tony Goddard 5-dan (Northern Ireland) third. There was a very large attendance from abroad, which we hope will continue in future years.

Stephen Flinter 1-dan won the Irish Championship and went to Japan to compete in the WAGC in May. He scored a very respectable three wins, which is becoming the standard result for the Irish participant. The Irish Open Handicap Tournament was held in November as usual, and the winner was Tony Goddard.

We are fortunate to be receiving good support from various embassies in Ireland, particularly the Embassy of Japan. However, despite our best efforts, recruitment of new players is deplorably slow. Hopefully 1996

will bring better results.

(Report by Noel Mitchell)

Club details

Regular meetings are held in The Pembroke, Pembroke St., Dublin 2, every Monday and Wednesday from 21:00.

Contact: Noel Mitchell +351-1-6081181.

Irish Go Association

c/o Noel Mitchell, Blackwood Lane, Malahide, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Officers

President/Secretary: Noel Mitchell

Treasurer/PRO: John Gibson

Newsletter: Stephen Flinter

Slovakia

History of go in Slovakia

Two men stood at the beginning of Slovak go. Milan Kolesari and Jan Popovyc, both from Bratislava, began to play go and established relations with Czech players in 1972. Together with Ivan Oravec, they founded a small go-playing group one year later. The official inception of go in Slovakia can be dated to 18 April 1974, when the first go club was established and, taking advantage of this, a city match between Bratislava and Prague was organized. International tournaments have been played in Bratislava since 1976. The Czechoslovak champions were Milan Jadron in 1976, Vladimir Lassak in 1977, and Miroslav Poliak in 1979 and 1980. Ladislav Palencar founded a go club in the town of Kosice in 1982. Kosice became the second go centre in Slovakia. International tournaments have been held there since 1984.

The Slovak Go Association was founded in 1991 and became a member of the Association of Sports Unions of Slovakia in 1993. It has taken care of the development of go in the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Go Association has more than 200 members of kyu level and 12 members of dan level. There are six clubs in Slovakia. Three of them are in Bratislava and one each in Kosice, Galanta, and Toporec. The SGA manages the Grand



*Saijo Masataka 8-dan plays against four young Slovak children in Tuchola.
Front left is the 15-year-old Peter Jadon 3-dan.*

Slovak Champions

Adult

1992: Xaver Gubas

1993: Stanislav Jakubec

1994: Stanislav Jakubec

1995: Miroslav Poliak

Youth

1992: Michal Sabo

1993: Slavomir Sabol

1994: Slavomir Sabol

School

1992: Peter Jadron

1993: Marek Cambal

1994: Marek Cambal

1995: Cyril Lassu

1995 Fujitsu Grand Prix

The 2nd Slovakian Fujitsu Grand Prix Tournament was held at the same place as the preceding year in the House of Sports in Bratislava on 14 and 15 October 1995. Sixty-one players from seven countries participated, of whom 29 had dan rankings and 14 were 4-dan or stronger. The tournament was won, as in 1994, by Vladimir Danek of Prague, who won all his games. Second place was shared by Radek Nechanicky and Csaba Mero, who both scored four points.

Good news: new sponsor

Before the tournament, we concluded a contract with a sponsor, Ceskoslovenska obchodna banka a.s., so the conditions for go promotion in Slovakia have become even more favourable.

(Report by Miroslav Poliak)

Prix Slovakia, which consists of six tournaments. The winners were Peter Jadron in 1993 and 1994 and Miroslav Poliak in 1995.

The SGA is a member of the European Go Federation (since 1993) and the International Go Federation (since 1994).

Contact address

Slovak Go Association
Junácka 6
832 80 Bratislava

Slovakian go clubs

Go klub Lokomotíva Bratislava

Contact: Martin Strelka, Majernikova 36, 841 05 Bratislava. Tel. (42) 7 729586.

Go klub Mladost Bratislava

Contact: Milan Jadron, Solivarska 7, 821 03 Bratislava. Tel. (42) 7 231998.

Go klub Matfyz Bratislava

Contact: Marian Hrdina, Studenohorska 87, 841 03 Bratislava. Tel. (42) 7 768661.

Go klub Kosice

Contact: Ing. Ladislav Palencar, Idanska 2, 040 01 Kosice. Tel. (42) 95 439793.

Go klub Tengen Galanta

Contact: Miroslav Poliak, Mladeznicka 571, 925 01 Matuskovo. Tel. (42) 7 2045024 (w).

Go klub Mides Toporec

Contact: Erika Jadronova, Mierova 10, 05 901 Spisská Bela. Tel. (42) 968 94137.

Slovenia

Go in Slovenia (1995)

The history of go in Slovenia can be found in the *Ranka Yearbook* No. 10, so in the following article we shall deal only with the events occurring in the last year. The 1995 go calendar in Slovenia was much the same as the previous year. The main events are listed below.

The 7th Lado Omejc Memorial

Since 1993, this tournament has had the status of a Grand Prix tournament. This year it was held in Bled on 7–9 April and 48 players from nine countries took part (33 had dan rankings and 15 of them were 4-dan or stronger). The 1993 and 1994 winner, Shen Guanji, won the tournament again to make it three in a row. Second was Nechanicky (Czechia) and third Danek (Czechia). The Slovenian players Matoh, Ekart, Cefarin, and Zakotnik also earned Grand Prix points.

Lado Omejc Memorial Tournament winners

1989: Dusan Jukic (Slovenia)

1990: Zoran Mutabzija (Croatia)

1991: Milan Zakotnik (Slovenia)

1992: Milan Zakotnik (Slovenia)

1993–95: Shen Guanji (China)

The 4th Slovenian Team Championship

Four teams (with dan players) competed in this tournament, held in Novo mesto on 6 May and won by the team from Kranj (Zakotnik, Rupel, Mrak, and Pogacnik) with nine points. The Novo mesto team (Matoh, Bizjak, Cefarin, and Jukic) was second with eight points, followed by the Maribor team with four points and the Ljubljana team with three points.

The 8th Maribor Open Tournament

This handicap tournament was held on 24 and 25 September, with 29 players participating, of whom 19 had dan rankings and 9 were 4-dan or stronger. The winner was Leon Matoh with eight points, ahead of Milan Zakotnik and Zoran Mutabzija (Croatia), both of whom had seven points.

The 27th Slovenian Championship

This, the fifth championship since Slovenia became independent, was held in Zrece on 19–22 October. Eighteen players participated in the 7-round tournament. The winner and Slovenian champion was Leon Matoh with seven points, ahead of Igor Bizjak and Tamar Cefarin, both on five points.

Congress of the Slovenian Go Association

At the annual congress, held on 21 October, the current executive was re-elected. A new rating list was approved. The total number of dan players reached 51, including five 5-dans and seven 4-dans. The delegates to the congress also accepted the report of the Kranj go club about the preparations for the 8th Lado Omejc Memorial–The 4th Grand Prix Tournament Bled 1996 (12–14 April).

Publications

This year two books were published in Slovenian. Igor Bizjak 5-dan wrote a book with 151 problems and solutions called

Tsume Go, and Tamar Cefarin 5-dan published *Go za zacetnike* (Go for Beginners). The first Slovenian elementary go book was published as far back as 1960 with the title *Go igra* (The Game of Go), by Ervin Fink, followed in 1965 by *Kako se igra go* (How to Play Go), by Lovro Sturm. In 1980 Lojze Suc and Matjaz Chvatal wrote another book, *Go igra*.

At that time, a go journal was published, usually once a year, in Serbo-Croatian. As for Slovenian, we should mention some bulletins published on anniversaries: *Bulletin for the 20th Anniversary of the Ljubljana Go Club*, by Peter Gaspari and Andrej Flajs (1981); and *Bulletin for the 25th Anniversary of the Slovenian Go Association*, by Peter Gaspari and Edvard Ekart (1993).

(Report by Peter Gaspari)

Officials of the Go zveza Slovenije (Slovenian Go Association)

President: Peter Gaspari, Aleseva 3, 61210 Ljubljana – Sentvid. Tel. (386) 61-1521-370.

Vice President: Bojan Rojs, Gregorciceva 3, 62000 Maribor. Tel. (386) 62-27-286.

Secretary: Milan Zakotnik, Tavcarjeva 22, 64000 Kranj. Tel. (386) 64-221-240.

Treasurer: Mirko Rupel, Kvedrova 5, 61000 Ljubljana. Tel. (386) 61-443-130.

Go clubs

Go klub Kranj

c/o Rado Pintar, Benediciceva pot 11, 64000 Mlaka pri Kranju. Tel. (064) 217-994.

Go drustvo Ljubljana

c/o Jure Klemencic, Bratov Ucakar 68, 61000 Ljubljana. Tel. (061) 578-651.

Go drustvo Maribor

c/o Bojan Rojs, Gregorciceva 3, 62000 Maribor. Tel. (062) 27-286.

Go klub Murgle

c/o Milan Orel, Gerbiceva 16, 61000 Ljubljana.

Go drustvo Novo mesto

c/o Dusan Jukic, Cesta herojev 20, 68000 Novo mesto. Tel. (068) 25-448.

Switzerland

This year we had many changes inside the Swiss Go Federation's central committee: new and young president, vice-president, and secretary were elected in February by the clubs, representing the three language areas of our country (yes, it looks like a typical Swiss political compromise, but that's just the hazard).

In spite of the different mother tongues and countries separating us, another interesting novelty is the entry of Internet into our Federation: all committee members and almost all of the clubs are now connected through electronic mail (e-mail). This really simplified and accelerated communication within the Federation, and has already helped us very much for quick consultation, internal administration, and more.

This year we also had some news concerning the life and death of clubs, especially in Lausanne, where the club had great exchanges with students and assistants playing go in the Technical High School EPFL, building a young and very active team. Activity in Basle is reviving inside Ciba; in Geneva an old player coming back to the game after many years is revitalizing this city which has many players but which has lacked a good organization in recent years. S. Gallen also has a regular place to play, and there is now a regular evening on which people play go in Locarno. Something similar is also happening in Fribourg.

The other traditional clubs of Zürich and La Chaux-de-Fonds are doing well, organizing two major tournaments. The Lausanne tournament is also growing (this year 40 players participated, including some French and German players); the Ascona and Bern tournaments will be held for the fifth year in a row in '96 and Geneva for the second. Only Neuchatel isn't organizing any competitions this year.

Many thanks to Daniel Baumann for the beautiful training camp after Christmas: a great opportunity to learn a lot with Laurent Heiser, improve your skills in go, ski and relax! We will organize some more pedagogical weekends in this style next year.

What will the future look like? Impossi-

ble to know, but I think that the new generation will bring other new players and enthusiasm, ensuring a healthy growth for our young and small Federation.

(Report by Roberto Morrison)

Addresses and contacts for 1996:

Fédération Suisse de Go

President: Roberto Morrison, via al Cimitero, 6514 Sementina.

Vice President: Martin Durst, Rothstrasse 48, 8057 Zürich.

Treasurer: Bob Santschi, Terreaux 27, 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Secretary: Daniel Baumann, Cp 56, 1323 Romainmôtier.

Club de Genève

KO Go Club, 12 rue du parc, Tuesday: 19:30 to 24:00.

KO Go Club, Case postale 272, 1213 Petit Lançy 1.

President: Stéfan Safrasiantz, 6 rue del Vollandes, 1207 Genève.

Club de Lausanne

EPFL-Satellite, Tuesday 18:00 to 23:00.

Go Club, Case postale 276, 1000 Lausanne 17.

President: Nathalie Burri, Rue du Petit Valentin 2, 1004 Lausanne. Tel. (021) 311 17 89.

Club de la Chaux-de-Fonds

Café de Paris, Monday 20:00 to 23:00.

President: François Schilt, Rue des Crétêts 29, 2300 La Chaux-De-Fonds. Tel. (039) 23 40 58.

Club de Neuchâtel

Café le Baron, 2022 Bevaix, Thursday: 20:30 to 23:00.

President: Bernard Ribaux, vy d'Etra 12, 2022 Bevaix. Tel (038) 46 24 59.

Club de Locarno

Bar Pozzo, Piazza St Antonio, Tuesday 20:30 to 23:00.

President: Roberto Morrison, via al Cimitero, 6514 Sementina. Tel. (091) 857 89 59.

Club de Berne

Langass-Traff, Lerchenweg 33, Tuesday 19:00 to 23:00. Tel. (031) 302 40 60.

President: Alan Held, Bantigerstrasse 6, 3006 Berne. Tel. (031) 351 59 64.

Club de Zürich

Restaurant Plätzli, Pelikan platz, Wednesday 18:00 to 23:00. Tel. (01) 212 83 80.

Contact: Martin Durst, Rothstrasse 48, 8057 Zürich. Tel. (01) 361 63 69.

Fribourg

Contact: Philip Gampfer, Rte de Corbaroche 26, 1723 Marly. Tel. (037) 46 36 09.

Bâle

Contact: Qian Tang, Stallenmattstr. 12, 4104 Oberwil. Tel. (061) 401 09 75.

Thailand



Go discussion at the Cafe Society in the Club Erte at the Siam City Hotel on 'Modern Managers and the Game of Go'. Guest speakers: Mr. Korsak and Mr. Manus Kanokpaipipat, Marketing Division Manager, Fuji Photo Film (Thailand) Ltd.; moderator: Professor Thawon Sikkhakosol of Thammasat University.

1995 was yet another year of remarkable achievement for our Thai Go Association. Many important events took place, with the successful introduction of go to the official University Games in Thailand as the principal achievement.

With our president Mr. Korsak Chairasmisak's tireless efforts and strong determination in promoting go in Thailand, especially among young people, many activities and events were carried out throughout the year.



A lecture by Mr. Korsak on go tactics at the Bangkok Go Club



Talk on "Go and Human Resources Development" by Mr. Korsak at the Oriental Hotel, organized by the Personnel Management Club, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University.



Mr. Korsak gives an introduction to go for Huachiew Chalermprakiet University students.



In August we welcomed a visit by two lady professionals, Mrs. Kusunoki Teruko (centre) and Miss Chinen Kaori (second from left), accompanied by Mr. Saheki (left) of the Overseas Department of the Nihon Ki-in.



Mrs. Kusunoki playing simultaneous games at the Bangkok Go Club



Eight universities participated in a tournament organized by Kasetsart University Go Club in October.



Prize-winners in the Kasetsart University tournament

Contact addresses for Thailand:

The Go Association of Thailand

c/o C.P. Seven Eleven Co., Ltd.
Sriboonruang I Building, 6th Floor
283 Silom Road, Bangrak, , Bangkok 10500
Tel. (66) (2) 631-0320 (direct) or
631-0231, ext. 1622-3, 1628-9, 1658
Fax (2) 238-0930

President: Mr. Korsak Chairasmisak
Tel. (2) 2310161

Club Manager: Ms. Vanthanee Charnsirisak-
skul
Tel. (2) 631-0320

Bangkok

Thai Go Club

9th Floor, Amorn Thani Building, Soi Pikul
behind the Asia Bank (Robot Building)
South Sathorn Rd., Yannawa, Bangkok
10120
Tel. (2) 676-5005

Meets: Wednesday & Friday, 18:00-24:00
Saturday & Sunday, 13:00-24:00

(Report by Vanthanee Charnsirisaksul)

The Kasetsart University Go Club

The Department of Electrical Engineering
The Faculty of Engineering
50 Phaholyothin Road
Jatujak, Bangkok 10900

Lopburi (150 km from Bangkok)

Lopburi Go Club, The Artillery Center
Phaholyothin Camp
Tumbol Khao-Phrangam
Muang District
Lopburi 15160
Tel. (36) 486444

Contact: Mr. Kittisak Feemuchang, Section
Chief, Personnel Division

Chiangmai (northern Thailand)

Chiangmai Go Club
Chiang Inn Plaza, 4th Floor
100/1 Changklan Road
Muang District, Chiangmai 50100
Contact: Mr. Jenkit Swasdio
Tel. (53) 283085-7

United Kingdom

As usual, the new year started with the Hitachi London Open at Highbury Roundhouse. A third of the 129 players at the 21st tournament were from overseas and 13 countries were represented. The tournament was very successful, thanks to the hard work of Harold Lee as organizer and thanks to the generous sponsorship. The Managing Director of Hitachi Leasing Europe Ltd, Dr Motoki Shirasuka, was pleased to be able to present the prizes, including one to his son, who is a keen go player.

The main battles were to see if anyone could beat the two strong Chinese lady players: Guo Juan from the Netherlands and Zhao Pei from Germany. In the end, nobody could, Guo beating Zhao to win the tournament with a perfect score of eight. Third was Britain's Matthew Macfadyen (on six) and equal fourth were Mark Boon (Netherlands) and Matthew Cocke (Britain) on five.

In a youth tournament six youngsters fought for the right to challenge David King 2-kyu in the final. Guo Wang-zi (only seven years old and 15-kyu) played but lost, allowing David's Brakenhale School to claim the Hitachi television. Miss Zhao won the lightning, beating Eric Warkentin of France in the final. There was also a hastily organized renko tournament before the New Year's Eve Chinese restaurant trip; the list of prize winners had an international feel to match the feel of what is Britain's top international go event.

In Britain in 1994 the regional tournaments were shared around the top players, largely due to Matthew Macfadyen's spell in Japan. In 1995, however, Matthew dominated the prize list. He won at Wanstead in February, Coventry in March, Leicester in June, Barmouth in July, Milton Keynes in September, and Shrewsbury in October.



Groot-Lippman v. Wainwright at the British Go Congress, Felsted (9 April)

He failed to win at January's Hitachi-sponsored Furze Platt tournament, losing to T. Mark Hall. T. Mark's good year continued with wins at Bracknell in May, at the Northern in September, and the Wessex in October. John Rickard was second on tie-break at the Northern, but was clear first at the Three Peaks Tournament in November. This event went ahead in memory of founder Tim Hazelden (2-dan), who was tragically killed in a car crash at the end of September. Tim was landlord at the Marton Arms in the Yorkshire Dales, the location of the tournament and a place where go players were always welcome.

The Wanstead 4-dans picked up wins at some of the smaller competitions. Alastair Wall won South London in March and the new Devon Tournament at Totnes in July. Francis Roads won the Scottish Open in May, at Swindon in November, and at the resurrected Small Board championships at Cambridge in June. The other title winners were Matthew Cocke at the Cambridge Trigantius in February, Simon Shiu at his own North-East Tournament at Darlington in April, and Jay Rastall 2-dan at the West Surrey Handicap in December.

The 28th British Congress was hosted by

Wanstead Club at Felsted School in rural Essex. Seventy-five players attended to enjoy the go, the company, the annual general meeting of the British Go Association, and the delightful setting. Despite problems because of the stones arriving late, the lightning tournament started on the Friday evening. In the final on the Saturday, Mark Harrod 12-kyu beat Chris Dawson 1-dan to become the lowest-ranked and youngest ever winner, possible because of a change in the tournament system. In the Open, a visitor was declared the winner on 5/6: Ulf Olsson from Sweden. Equal second were Harold Lee and John Rickard. David Bennett 15-kyu was the only player to win all six games. Daniel Cox won the continuous small-board event. At the prize giving, Alastair Wall was awarded the Stacey Trophy for the most wins 1994-95, and David King won the Youth equivalent.

In the 1994 British Championship final, played early in 1995, Zhang Shutai, the Chinese doctor from London, saw off the challenge from Matthew Macfadyen 3-0. The first stage of the 1995 championship was held in London during the VE Weekend. A record 36 players competed. Despite disturbances from the fire bell, a parade of human



*Mark Harrod, the 1995 champion, plays Graham Brooks
in the British Lightning Championship, Felsted (7 April)*

insects, and aircraft flypasts, the survivors were Des Cann, T. Mark Hall, Alex Rix, Piers Shepperson, and Jonathan Chetwynd. They joined Matthew Macfadyen, Matthew Cocke, and Nick Webber for the all-play-all Challenger's League on the May Bank Holiday weekend. Britain's other top player, Edmund Shaw, was away coming 23rd at the World Amateur in Tokyo. In the League Macfadyen lost only to Cocke, Cocke lost to Shepperson and Cann, Cann lost to Macfadyen and Shepperson but had a jigo with Alex Rix, and Hall and Shepperson both lost three. So it was a rematch of the 1994 final. This time Shutai made it more exciting by losing game two through immediate ko recapture, by losing game three by defending an already alive group, and by playing an exciting fifth game at Swindon. It looked as if Matthew would win, but his lead slipped away, and Shutai was the champion for the third time.

The big event of the summer of 1995 was the third Isle of Man Go Week in August. Forty-eight players assembled on this delightful island in the Irish Sea to play go and

enjoy the atmosphere and sights. They were privileged to have along Saijo Masataka, the 8-dan professional from Japan, to give advice for the first few days. It was sad when his summer tour came to an end and he had to return to Japan.

The main event at the Isle of Man covers the mornings of five days. Previous champion Francis Roads lost to club-mate Andrew Jones and was placed second; Andrew went on to win the event despite losing to Tony Atkins in the last round. Francis did hang on to the afternoon-event title by beating Alison Jones in the last round. This prevented her from winning her first tournament two days before her husband. Alison did win her first five games in the handicap, but the weakest-player tie-break saw her placed behind Paul Donnelly, Mark Harrod, and winner Francis Weaver (22-kyu). A team event was won by the Wall of Paul 2 (Margetts, Donnelly, Hankin, and Barnard). Pair-go champions were Paul and Andrea Smith, ahead of Colin Adams and Paul Hankin. Jo Hampton lost the 13×13 to Mike Charles and lost the continuous lightning



Best-dressed pair go couple 1995: Paul and Andrea Smith

playoff to Mark Harrod. The other events, such as the music night, the various outings, and the dinner with prize giving, made the week very enjoyable, as usual.

Another big event was the British Pair Go Championships in September. The event was held at the renowned Compleat Angler Hotel by the Thames in Marlow, thanks to sponsorship by the International Amateur Pair Go Committee. A record 36 male-female pairs attended, some of whom had learnt go especially for the occasion. There were three sections: novice, handicap, and top. Kirsty Healey and Matthew Macfadyen won the last group and hence went to the World Championship in Japan. Runners-up were Jackie Chai and Francis Roads. In the handicap section, the strong team of Niu Feifei and Zhang Shutai were expected to win but lost their last game. Hence weaker teams won: Debbie Jones and Francis Weaver, Hannah and John Ellul. In the best Pair Go tradition, there were prizes for the best-dressed couples and also a prize for the most reluctant partner. In Japan, our pair lost narrowly to a strong couple from Osaka, but won a couple of games in the handicap section.

Other events in 1995 included Wanstead playing as the Royal Standard Beaconsfield to win the Thames Valley Team Tournament, a Teaching Day in Surrey run by National Trainer Matthew Macfadyen, an Anglo-Japanese match won by the Japanese, and two London International Team Matches (both won by the Central London Go Club). In February, Yun Feng, the well-known woman professional 8-dan, brought a delegation from the Pingding Mountain Coal Bureau Go Team that included Wang Dongliang, professional 4-dan. The team visited London, Edinburgh, and Plymouth. The 1994 Schools Champions were Brakenhale from Bracknell, who were also 1995 Champions unchallenged. Youth Champion for 1995 was David King 1-kyu. Under-14 champion was Emma Marchant, Under-12 was Thomas Blockley, and Under-10 was Sophia Ellul.

Our top players were active around Europe. Matthew Macfadyen was the strongest of the large British team to attend the Irish Open in Dublin. For the first time, it was a Grand Prix event, and Matthew made sure he came away with 15 points. Des Cann was second and Tony Goddard was third.



Final of the 1995 pair go final: Jackie Chai and Francis Roads (left) play Kirsty Healey and Matthew Macfadyen.

Matthew also took 15 points for winning Prague for the fifth time and won a share of the Ing Cup prize money. He was 7th in the European Championships in Poland, thus earning 6th place in the Grand Prix rankings. Zhang Shutai was first in Paris, second in Brussels, and lost the final of the Obayashi Cup to Guo Juan.

Dr. Michael Reiss of London University was second in the FOST World Computer Go Championship in Japan with his program Go4++. He had a similar result in another go event in Korea, both times losing to the program Handtalk.

(Report and photos by Tony Atkins)

U.S.A.

1995: The Year in American Go

by Roy Laird

1995 was a year of major developments for the American go community. In particular, through the exceptional philanthropy of Iwamoto Kaoru and the Nihon Ki-in, two international go centers were established, one in Seattle and the other in New York. In addition, the Ing Chang-ki Goe Foundation in Taipei granted the AGA a most generous \$100,000 for the purpose of developing go in the US and promoting Mr. Ing's 'SST Laws of Wei-ch'i.' We organized our first US Masters professional tournament, conducted an officially rated tournament on the Internet Go Server and hosted a Kisei title game. Our local and regional organizers conducted over 40 tournaments. This year also saw an explosive growth in go publishing in the US as well, with several new companies and more than a dozen new books, videos, and computer programs and updates on the scene.

Kisei title comes to Atlanta

The Nihon Ki-in and the Yomiuri Newspaper provided us with a spectacular international kickoff for the year, when the Kisei (Go Saint) tournament, featuring two top Japanese pros, came to Atlanta for three memorable days in January. Title holder Cho Chikun bested Kobayashi Satoru in a game played on the 20th floor of the lavish Nikko Hotel. Cho had the game pretty well wrapped up by the end of the first day (Sunday, January 18), but Kobayashi struggled on for another 90 moves on Monday, then resigned. The players were accompanied on their trip from Japan by other pros (including Michael Redmond), officials, sponsors, and a tour group.

In an amateur tournament held before the main event, the best prize went to the losers: teaching games with the pros, including Redmond. Organizers Debbie Siemon and Timothy Shands were accorded the unusual honor of simultaneous games with Kobayashi before the big game. Debbie was

interviewed live for 'the folks back home' by NHK and was shown playing on the Internet Go Server with AGA President Phil Straus in Philadelphia.

With a top prize of ¥32,000,000, the Kisei is the richest of all the major Japanese professional tournaments. Millions of enthusiasts in Japan and throughout the world follow the yearly playoffs the way American fans follow the World Series. Each year a challenger is selected in a two-stage league, and the current champion defends the title in a best-of-seven playoff with eight hours per player and five one-minute periods of *byo-yomi* (overtime).

The Atlanta organizers and the American Go Association are extremely grateful to the Yomiuri Newspaper, the Kisei's sponsor, through whose generosity the first major go event in the Southeast became possible.

Top Chinese pros visit California

Chen Zude, one of China's top professionals, visited California in February. Mr. Chen was the first mainland player to achieve good results against top Japanese players. He has served for many years as President of the China Weiqi Association and as a Vice President of the International Go Federation. For most of the 1980's he waged a long battle with cancer, but returned to active play a few years ago.

Mr. Chen visited a tournament at the Los Angeles Korean Go Club and traveled to San Francisco to visit Jujo Jiang's February tournament. Jimmy Cha, this year's North American Fujitsu winner, and Hak Soo Kim, another Korean pro living on the West Coast, accompanied Mr. Chen on his travels.

First AGA Internet tournament

The AGA got 1995 off to a brisk start by conducting its first official tournament on the Internet Go Server, a five-round AGA-rated tournament using the Accelerated Pairings program for fun and for ratings,

with no entry fee or prizes.

Players entered at their official AGA rating or other national go association rating, or best estimate, *not* their IGS rating. There is an approximate offset of 2.5 ranks when comparing IGS to AGA ranks in the dan through single-digit kyu range. For example, an AGA 3-dan would be an IGS 1-kyu or 1-dan. Similarly, European ranks are about one stone stronger than American ones, while Japanese amateur ranks are about one stone weaker.

AGA membership was required for US residents, while membership of the appropriate national organization was accepted for others who wished to play.

Time control was 60 15/25 (60 minutes per player, with 15-minute overtime cycles to play 25 stones). As in all AGA tournaments, rules specified that no player could obtain help from outside sources or play out sequences, then take them back. Participants were also forbidden to:

- Receive advice/comments/suggestions from others on or off the net.
- Refer to books or other printed material.
- Play out sequences ahead of actual play on a client, other program, or side board.
- Expect the opponent to undo a move.

After registration closed, each player was sent a complete list of entrants and their e-mail addresses. As each round of pairings was posted, players had to contact their opponents and complete their games before the posted deadline.

The Internet tournament was won by Nomad (Thomas Hsiang of Rochester, NY), who also won IGS's big tournament last year.

Ing \$\$ support Masters Tournament

This year the AGA responded to the increasing number of US residents with Asian professional certification by conducting the first US Masters Tournament, also with sponsorship by the Ing. Foundation and played under the 'SST Laws of Wei-ch'i'. Emulating the Asian tradition, the tournament paid playing fees to all participants for each round.

The tournament was designed in two phases. The first, a round robin, would select

two finalists who would battle it out in a best-of-three at the US Go Congress. The round robin was conducted among the following six competitors:

Jujo Jiang 9-dan: living in the San Francisco area; legendary veteran of Japan-China Super Go

Jimmy Cha: longtime Los Angeles resident; has played for the US in the Fujitsu Cup three times and will represent North America again in 1996

Yi-lun Yang 7-dan: this native of Shanghai was the first foreign professional to establish an active practice as a teacher in the US

Xiao-ren He 4-dan: Ms. He resides in Toronto and plays on the IGS

Jim Kerwin 1-dan: the only native-born American with Japanese pro credentials, lives in the Minneapolis area and teaches there, on the Internet, and at go conferences which he organizes around the country throughout the year, especially at Hollyhock Farm in July and in Saugerties, NY in January

Janice Kim 1-dan: living in New York and teaching at the newly formed New York Go Center, Ms. Kim is the author of *Learn to Play Go*, a brisk, attractive new introduction that has been leaping off the shelves at Barnes and Noble.



Jujo Jiang, the first American Master

When the round robin was over, Jiang had beaten everyone else and Cha has bested everyone but Jiang, so the two faced off in an exciting series that went the distance and in which Jiang ultimately prevailed.

Next year Jiang will face the winner of the 1996 Masters Tournament in another best-of-three at the US Go Congress in Seattle.

According to the proposal drafted by East Coast VP Chen-dao Lin, the first round included only professionals, who received playing fees as well as prizes. However, in the future, a three-tier qualifying process will make it theoretically possible for anyone to earn the right to play in one of three or four amateur slots. The 'Eligibility' tier will be the present tournament circuit, with the winners of major tournaments advancing to a round-robin 'Playoff' round in which they play each other. In later stages, pros will enter this field, and the winner will challenge the current title holder, as in most Asian tournaments.

How the Masters happened

The American Go Association had dreamed of organizing such a tournament ever since certified professionals began arriving from Asia in the early 1980's. Such a tournament could:

- provide a base for North American resident professional competitive activities
- cultivate a future American professional system
- raise the level of strength of top amateurs in the United States
- get more attention to and involvement in AGA activities and gain the attention of the general public.

Unfortunately, the few North American professionals are too widely dispersed to easily come together to compete. Furthermore, the necessary funding has not been available. A combination of recent events finally made it possible to overcome these obstacles and present the 1995 North American Masters Tournament.

The first real step toward an American Masters becoming a reality happened in October of 1993 when the Taipei-based Ing Goe

Educational Foundation sponsored the Ing Mingren Tournament in New York City. Mr. Zhu-jiu (Jujo) Jiang (9-dan, China) was invited as a guest. Chen-dao Lin, AGA Eastern VP, talked with Mr. Jiang about play on the Internet Go Server (IGS) and the future of American resident professionals. They agreed that there must be more opportunities for tournament play among professionals and between professionals and strong amateurs. They talked about the possibility of an American professional system, starting with certified Asian pros, with strong amateurs feeding into the system. Cash prizes would be an incentive for professional players.

The Ing Foundation grant, while generous, would not nearly be enough to bring professionals from all over to one location for the time it would take to run a tournament of this kind. Technology came to the rescue in the form of computers and the IGS. The owners of IGS (a Korean Internet provider, called I.NET), the IGS administration (known to most by their IGS login names: tweet, tim, fmc, and artemis), and the AGA joined forces to use this on-line go service as a kind of cyberspace convention center. Professional players across the country could play, while spectators from all over the world look on, learn, and enjoy!

After discussion with resident professionals, Lin drafted a proposed tournament structure, using the IGS as the playing theater so as to be able to apply most of the funds to prizes and playing fees for the participants. With the strong support of AGA President Phil Straus and the backing of the AGA Executive Committee, Lin received a budget of \$15,000 for prizes and playing fees, with a top prize of over \$3,200 for the winner.

The small number of people involved made it possible to create a playing schedule beforehand for the Challenger games. Lin, with help from two Assistant Tournament Directors, Jeff Shaevel and Clyde Steadman, along with the other regional AGA vice-presidents Larry Gross and Clay Smith, as well as Mike Bull in San Francisco, coordinated with referees and players to schedule the games as far in advance as possible.

1995 MASTERS RESULTS

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Jujo Jiang	-	x	x	x	x	x
2. Jimmy Cha	o	-	x	x	x	x
3. Yi-lun Yang	o	o	-	x	x	x
4. Xiao-ren He	o	o	o	-	x	o
5. Janice Kim	o	o	o	o	-	x
6. Jim Kerwin	o	o	o	x	o	-

(Note: x = a win; o = a loss)

Sometimes, however, players had to meet with only a few hours notice. Fortunately, e-mail, the newsgroup rec.games.go, and the IGS itself can spread announcements at the speed of light, allowing more than 200 spectators to attend a game presented on little notice.

Working out a smooth way of playing on IGS itself presented many challenges to the organizers. Some technical details required special programming for IGS. This was only possible thanks to the help and hard work of IGS administrators and programmers tweet and tim, and the people who write the go 'clients' (special programs used to connect remote computers to the IGS). Another problem is that some of the professionals are familiar with computers and the IGS, while others are not. Even some who are familiar prefer to play on a traditional board and not be concerned with the technical distractions. Yet another problem is 'net lag' — the time delay between when a move is entered, reaches the server in Korea, and gets processed and transmitted back to the opponents and spectators. As much as ten or 15 minutes per hour of play can be added to a game. To solve these problems, a system of scribes and referees was developed to make the games flow as smoothly as possible. Players make moves on a traditional board, and scribes enter these moves on the computer. The scribes then bring the opponent's moves from the computer back to the player's board. The referee is in charge locally, to coordinate activities and oversee the timing. Although the IGS is capable of timing games, the problem of 'net lag' is avoided by using local clocks which are running only when the player is thinking

about his or her move. The referee periodically reports the time remaining, and this information is passed on to the opponent and spectators. Even the weather posed special problems. One match was delayed because a local storm caused a blackout which briefly prevented one of the players from logging on. It may be the first time in professional go history that a game was almost called on account of rain.

In addition to Tournament Director Lin, two Assistant Tournament Directors, Jeff Shaevel and Clyde Steadman, coordinated discussion with the players and referees and ensured that the games progressed smoothly. Along with a few helpers (thanks, eaj!), they also answered dozens upon dozens of questions from the spectators about the players and the tournament itself.

Tweet, the IGS sysadmin, made available a number of help files on IGS to tell people about the tournament, the clients needed to watch the games, the players, and the schedule. How to obtain this information is displayed every time people sign on to IGS. There is also an official Masters Tournament webpage on the WWW at:

<http://www.io.com/~shaevel/GO/NoAmMT>.

Spectators from many countries gathered at the 'convention center' and exchanged ideas about the games. Stronger players gave their insights, while weaker ones asked questions, and everyone learned. If the pros were willing, they sometimes stayed afterwards to replay a portion of the game and offer their comments. Game records are available from the tournament webpage and by:

<ftp://ftp.io.com/pub/usr/shaevel/games>.

A playoff format, which may include a few top amateurs as well, is being worked

out for the coming year and will lead to the selection of a challenger who will meet Jiang next year at the 12th US Go Congress in Cleveland and try to strip him of the title. In the years to come, the AGA hopes to bring some strong amateur players into this and similar tournaments as a step in the creation of an American professional system. These professional games add excitement to learning, encourage players to participate more, and show what fine play really is. The first North American Masters Tournament is a giant step towards these important goals.

John Lee unbeaten in Europe's Ing Cup

John Lee, the US Ing Cup winner, attended the European Ing Cup tournament in early March by special invitation of the European Go Federation, which split his travel expenses with the AGA. En route, Lee encountered an incredible series of problems — mechanical problems on one plane and a bomb scare and diversion to Bangor, Maine on another. Happy just to be alive after a trip that stretched out to over three days, Lee turned in an outstanding performance, despite missing the first two rounds. He defeated seven opponents in a row, including former European Champions Shutai Zhang and Juan Guo. He was the only undefeated player in the tournament, but because of his forfeits ended up sharing first prize with Catalin Taranu of Romania.

San Francisco Go Club closed by city

One of the AGA's great historical treasures was lost when the San Francisco Go Club, in operation for more than 60 years in a quaint former synagogue at 1881 Bush St., was evicted for 'safety violations'. But within a month, the club had reopened for play at a new facility at 31st Ave. and Balboa. The club's new space totals 1300 square feet and is divided into one large and three smaller rooms. At the end of the year, the club was doing well at its new location, and the constant flow of professionals and dignitaries from the world of go did not seem to have even slowed down.

Return to the Emerald City Seattle hosts its second Congress

The 11th US Go Congress was held from August 11–18 on the grounds of Seattle University, located on a hilltop overlooking downtown Seattle and Puget Sound. Co-directors Chris Kirschner (who also directed the 1986 Seattle Congress) and Bill Camp get *big* kudos for choosing a site within walking distance of Pike Place Market and the downtown area, leading to more excursions than usual for the average site-bound Congress participant. On clear days, participants were treated to the bracing, awesome sight of Mt. Rainier looming in the distance.

Indoors at the playing site, they enjoyed the usual non-stop circus of events and camaraderie. Tickets to Japan to play in world championships were up for grabs in the US Open, the North American Pairs Elimination, and the Redmond Cup; serious cash prizes produced serious top-level amateur play in the Ing Championship as well as the US Open; and with the plethora of side events — the ongoing self-paired handicap tournament, and special evening events (lightning, small board, 'crazy go', friendship matches, team go, etc.) — no one was at a loss for what to do for even one minute. More than 40 people even signed up for Wednesday's 'Die Hard' tournament. Moreover, an unusually rich lecture schedule was offered. Tim Casey gave a brief history of the Internet Go Server; Beverly Corwin, a local player who has started a teaching program in a local high school, explained to interested organizers how to do it; and David Bogie gave tips on how to create an effective go video. In addition, AGA Archivist Craig Hutchinson gave presentations on the history of the AGA and displayed a number of interesting artifacts. He had also prepared a 200-page history of the AGA, which is available for \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling. This book also includes the most comprehensive bibliography of go-related books and articles ever published. Hutchinson has also compiled copies of most, if not all, of the articles about go that have appeared in the American press over the years. For copyright reasons, these cannot be made generally available, but serious scholars and

researchers should contact Hutchinson through the AGA for more information.

The US Open

Over 200 players crossed swords every morning in their big game of the day, in the national championship. All week long, there were rumors of a new player in the top section of the big tournament who was beating up on everybody and didn't look likely to lose any games. In the end, tall, slim, amiable Danning Jiang in fact won the US Open. Jiang, who managed the New York Go Institute on weekends last year, recently moved to Madison, Wisconsin. Since only citizens can represent the US in world competition, however, next year's WAGC representative will be Thomas Ko of Los Angeles.

The Ing Cup Invitational

For this event, 16 of the strongest players from throughout North America were invited to a showdown in which the prizes were actually larger than in the US Championship. Last year's top five players were seeded in, and the rest were selected by region, with two Canadian players. Thomas Hsiang of Rochester, who helped to negotiate the original funding of this event with Mr. Ing six years ago, scored the top prize this year with a hair-raising victory over Edward Kim of Seattle. IGS denizens know Hsiang as 'Nomad': he has won two major tournaments there.

An open section was added to the tournament this year, with six rounds scattered through the evenings and both weekends. Although nearly 100 people signed up, many found that participating in this event and the US Open left them too little time for other events and casual play. This event is likely to return to its invitational-only format next year.

The Michael Redmond Cup

James Chien, the male half of the winning Pairs team, also faced fellow Californian Timothy Law in the Senior Finals of the 2nd Michael Redmond Cup, giving him a chance to win a second trip to the Orient — and, sure enough, he won the Senior Division for

the third straight year. But this is not surprising, considering his results in the last two World Youth Go Championships, sponsored by the Ing Go Foundation. Two years ago, in San Francisco, he placed fourth, and he had just returned from this year's event in Amsterdam, where he improved on last year with a third-place finish. Stella Chang, who played in the 2nd Redmond Cup, also attended the 12th WYGC, representing Canada. Selina was the only player to beat Stanley in the 1995 IGS League.

This year the Junior Division was played in Menlo Park, CA in April. The finalists were Yinan Chan and Bellamy Liu. Liu lost the first game but came back to win the second and third and take the match.

North American Pairs Tournament

'Pair go,' declared one participant this year, 'must have been invented by divorce lawyers.' Yet most of the pairs were not married couples, and most of the intra-team sparring was good-natured as 20 teams set forth to win the trip to Japan. In the final round, the favorites, Ned and Joanne Phipps, were upset by the team of James Chien 6-dan and Lee Anne Bowie, a 5-kyu and one of the Congress organizers. Bowie became the first American kyu-level player ever to win the right to represent the US in international competition; she and Chien attended the International Amateur Pair Go Championship in Tokyo in November (see below).

Etc.

Of special note: Keith Arnold won the Keith Arnold Award in the self-paired handicap tournament for the fifth straight year. He is the only person ever to win this prize, given to the dan player who defeats the most kyu players. It was renamed to honor his domination of the prize after it was established as the Kyu Killer prize in 1987. Arnold, who emceed the banquet, commented: 'In keeping with Asian tradition, having won this title for five consecutive years, I now expect to be known as Keith Arnold, Honorary Keith Arnold.'

Pro events

West Coast events always attract more Asians, because of the proximity to the Orient, and this year two separate Japanese tour groups attended, one from the Nihon Ki-in and one from its friendly rival in Osaka, the Kansai Ki-in. There was also an especially large contingent of professional players from Asia, as well as our own five North American resident pros. Simultaneous games, lectures, master classes for top players, and private lessons abounded, as all these 18 players worked day and night — literally, with afternoon and evening sessions available — to help us improve our go skills.



Nakayama Noriyuki

Heading the list of attendees were two old friends, Nakayama Noriyuki 6-dan of Japan and Chun Sam Jho 7-dan of Korea. Both familiar figures at many Congresses, they could be seen reviewing games for attendees and renewing their acquaintance with old friends from previous Congresses throughout the week.

The Nihon Ki-in's representative this year was Abe Yoshiteru 9-dan, who is famous in Japan as a hard-working analyst with an encyclopedic knowledge of past famous matches and records and as the author of numerous go books. His daughter Yumiko is also a professional go player. Oyama Kunio 9-dan, a former Kansai Ki-in champion and a current director, visited from the Kansai

Ki-in in Osaka. He and a group of six dan-level Japanese amateurs were in the middle of quite a junket, having visited the European Go Congress in Poland, then England and San Francisco before arriving in Seattle. On holiday with Mr. Nakayama's tour group, Hisajima Kunio 9-dan also volunteered to play some simultaneous games. Earlier in the year he had reached the final to decide the 1995 Gosei challenger.



Chun Sam Jho

Two professionals visiting from China also gave yeoman service. Liao Guiyong 9-dan, from Szechuan province, had just won his 9-dan rating in July. He is an especially strong fighter in the middle game. Wang Yuan 8-dan from Canton also had just won his current rating in July of this year. Huang Yongji, a jolly older fellow who coached many of today's top Chinese pros in the days before the start of the current ranking system, is now living in Chicago and came to the Congress to offer teaching games.

This year's Korean contingent was one of the largest we have had. In addition to Mr. Chun, we were pleased to receive a visit from Hong Tai Sun 7-dan, a current director of the Han Kuk Kiwon (Korean Go Association). Kim Sung Yong, a teenage 4-dan who accompanied Mr. Hong, was at the time of his visit a finalist in five tournaments. He is considered by some Koreans to be among the strongest players in that country, despite his low rank.



Yi-lun Yang



James Kerwin

And then there were our resident pros, starting with Jujo Jiang, the Bay Area resident who won the first North American Masters Tournament. He could often be seen hanging out in the playing area, reviewing games with participants, and on the last night he challenged all comers to 9-stone handicap games. The only requirement: three seconds per move! Seldom has anyone collected so many resignations so quickly. As far as we know, only Joey Hung 6-dan of Fremont, California survived.

Yi-lun Yang 7-dan of Los Angeles was also in attendance, playing eight to ten games at a time, giving private lessons, commenting on amateur games in the morning and in general fueling the growth of American go in one way or another from morning to night. Jimmy Cha 4-dan, also of Los Angeles, was on hand as a finalist in the Masters Tournament. Always a dangerous man in a big game, Jimmy scored an upset by beating Jujo in the first game, but faltered as the series proceeded.



Jimmy Cha



Janice Kim

James Kerwin 1-dan also gave simuls, private lessons and lectures. His best line this year, while analyzing a beautiful professional game: 'This way of playing is so natural, I don't know why I don't play this way myself.' And Janice Kim 1-dan, on hand to promote her new book *Learn to Play Go*, gave simultaneous games and closed the Congress with a lecture on her own, 'Ten Commandments of Go', that was very well received. Sen Suzuki 3-dan, a teaching pro who resides in the Seattle area, did simultaneous play every day and offered private lessons. Special thanks also go to Kazunari Furuyama 6-dan, a young former Japanese insei now living in Oregon, who gave informal teaching games and game analyses and also acted as an interpreter for the Japanese pros, especially Mr. Abe, throughout the Congress.

Bob High Award

Bob High, the AGA's former Membership Secretary and President, was an inspiring figure to all who knew him, and so his memory has inspired an annual award. An organizer extraordinaire with wide interests, he wrote many articles for the *American Go Journal* on a variety of subjects related to go, covering nearly every topic from alternate games to play with go equipment to the statistical aspects of the *kadoban* system. Elwyn Berlekamp, the prominent game theorist and author of *Chilling Gets the Last Point*, a mathematical study of the endgame, was so impressed by High's contributions that he established an award in his memory. A prize of \$1000 is awarded each year to the author of the best non-technical article about the game. Special consideration is given to articles that explore unusual aspects of the game and to humorous pieces and parodies. Submissions can be sent to: Bob High Award, c/o AGA, PO Box 397, New York, NY 10113.

In past years winners have included Peter Shotwell (for his 'Go in the Snow' article in *Go World* 70) and Mike Ryan, the author of 'Go Culture in the Emerald City', maintaining that the Black Hole club at Citibank in New York was degrading the overall level of go play around the world.

This year the prize was won by William Cobb, the author of the 'Empty Board' series on the relationship of go to Asian philosophy.

World premiere concert

Among the perennial Congress attendees are two accomplished concert pianists: Haskell Small, the director of the first Congress in 1984, and Marvin Wolfthal, who gave a solo concert two years ago at the 1993 Congress in Massachusetts. Small has also performed at previous events; in particular, he premiered his composition *A Game of Go*, a two-piano interpretation of a famous game which is shown on the screen as the piece is played, at the 1987 Congress. Small and Wolfthal have given joint concerts as well, but the event that graced the first Saturday of the Congress was really special. Small began the program with a bit of Scarlatti, a placid interlude that gave no hint of the coming storm. It was followed by Small's *A Game of Go*. The second part was played by local pianist Robert Huw Morgan while Wolfthal operated the projector, using a new system developed by *Many Faces of Go* author Dave Fotland. Then Wolfthal played a new piece by renowned American composer Elliott Carter, a very short caprice entitled '90+'. Wolfthal played the piece twice because, as he noted, 'I may never get to play it again, you may never get to hear it again — and it saved me from having to learn another piece!' Then, after the break, came the highlight of the concert: the world premiere by Small and Wolfthal of Small's two-piano interpretation of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, to a standing ovation.

Next year in Ohio

Board members and attendees alike affirmed their gratitude and appreciation to the Seattle organizing team for a job well done: Chris Kirschner, Bill Camp, Lee Anne Bowie, Judith Debel, Jeff Horn, Eddie Lock, Michael Thomas, Clyde Steadman, Jared Roach, and David Wick.

The other job of the National Board was to confirm the site of the 1996 Congress, which will be held from July 20–27 on the campus of John Carroll University, in a sub-

urb near the downtown Cleveland area. (This will be only the second Congress held in the Central region — the first was in Denver in 1990.) Co-directors Duane Burns and Harold Lloyd, faithful attendees at every Congress, are already hard at work planning a super event which will include the second North American Masters playoff, in which Jujo Jiang will defend his new title. Their well-organized plan was adopted unanimously by the Board.

International go centers open in Seattle and New York: Mr. Iwamoto's dream comes true

In the culmination of a quest that has proceeded for more than 15 years, the Japan Go Association (Nihon Ki-in) has established international go centers on both coasts to promote go in the US. A star-studded group of over 30 Japanese visitors, including more than a dozen professionals, joined throngs of local players, observers and dignitaries at opening ceremonies in Seattle on September 16 and in New York on September 19.

Each site opened with a reception attended by a few hundred people, including a group of 30 visitors from Japan, among them Kobayashi Satoru 9-dan, who currently holds the Kisei and Gosei titles, and many other well-known pros. In Seattle, Mr. Iwamoto played a two-stone game with local strongman Charlie Huh. In New York, he played an exhibition opening with Kobayashi. Yoshinori Kano 9-dan, the author of the four-volume *Graded Go Problems for Beginners*, offered his comments. After the first few dozen moves he turned the microphone over to Shigeru Baba 9-dan, a director of the Central Japan (Chubu) branch of the Nihon Ki-in, and the other 9-dans in attendance, Yoji Ito from Chubu and Susumu Fukui. Other pros attending both events included Nihon Ki-in board member and longtime promoter of international go Yusuke Oeda 9-dan, Masaaki Fukui 8-dan, Suguru Umeki 7-dan, Yoshiaki Nagahara 6-dan (co-author of *Strategic Concepts of Go*), Kenji Kobayashi 6-dan, Ms. Toshiko Oyama 4-dan, Ms. Hiroko Shinkai 4-dan, and Yoshio Ito 3-dan.

In the eye of this particular hurricane was Kaoru Iwamoto, the 93-year-old author of



Iwamoto Kaoru

Go for Beginners, which, more than any other book, has popularized go in the West. Mr. Iwamoto has been visiting Western countries and teaching Western players for 35 years, and deserves much credit for the extent to which go has permeated Western culture. He donated the funds used to purchase both buildings.

Mr. Iwamoto made his first goodwill visit to the West in 1960, and has visited the West many times since then. For years it has been his fondest dream to make go a truly international game. He established go centers in Brazil and Holland. In the early 80's a center nearly came into being in New York, but the deal collapsed at the last minute. Now, with the simultaneous opening of two major centers in the US, Mr. Iwamoto has won perhaps his greatest victory. The elfin former Honinbo spoke briefly at both ceremonies and serenely surveyed the proceedings with a look of deep contentment.

The Seattle Go Center is open from 11 am to 11 pm every day, with a \$3 playing fee and various membership plans available. Business has been booming even in baseball season!

The New York Go Center, to be known as Iwamoto Hall, occupies three floors of a well-appointed townhouse at 323 East 52nd

St. on Manhattan's East Side. The main floor includes two spacious multi-use areas and a garden. The second floor includes a playing area large enough for about ten boards and a professional area across the hall with one board and observer seating. Another playing area with a dozen boards is found in the basement, where smoking is permitted. Iwamoto Hall will open at noon seven days a week. Beginners' classes and private lessons are available.

US places 7th in International Pairs Championship

The 6th International Amateur Pair Go Championship was held in Tokyo on November 11 and 12, 1995. The United States were well represented by the team of Lee Anne Bowie 5-kyu (Seattle) and James Chien 6-dan (San Francisco), with soon-to-be AGA Eastern VP Keith Arnold as guest official.

Sixteen Japanese and 16 international teams made up the field. The first round was paired randomly and when it ended only two Western teams remained. Ivan Detkov 6-dan and Svetlana Chikchina 4-dan of Russia prevailed over the Dutch team and the USA defeated Ukraine.

A sumptuous welcoming party followed, featuring Tournament Chief Referee Ogawa Tomoko 5-dan (author of *The Endgame*) with translation by James Davies. A personal highlight was meeting longtime *Go World* editor John Power and having Ms. Ogawa pour me a beer.

The next morning over 150 Japanese pairs joined the festivities. Many were intrigued by a live IGS hookup in the lobby. A pair match was played during the day by a woman at the tournament venue, a Korean gentleman, a Dutch woman, and our own Nomad, Thomas Hsiang 6-dan of Rochester, NY. A large crowd watched Ishida Yoshio 9-dan give a commentary and Pairs veteran Debbie Siemon 3-dan (Atlanta) made yet another appearance, albeit only in kibitz form.

In Round Two, Russia fell to a Japanese team featuring 1994 World Amateur Champion Hiraoka Satoshi. The USA, however, prevailed over another tough Japanese team. Lee Anne, who is the first kyu player

to represent the US in international competition, and James held their lucky white stones and won by two points on the board. Ishida Yoshio and Sam Jho Chun (pro 6-dan, Korea) took great interest in this upset, and Matthew Macfadyen 6-dan (UK), Jim Davies and John Power were highly complimentary of Lee Anne's play.

Although Lee Anne and James lost in the next round to Chinese Taipei, their 3-2, 7th-place finish is the best so far by a Western team in the tournament's history.

A lavish closing party featured dozens of pros, including 9-dans Kobayashi Satoru, Otake Hideo, Rin Kaiho, Ishida Yoshio, and Haruyama Isamu. Our own Jujo (Zhu-jiu Jiang) and his wife Rui Naiwei also made an appearance.

On Monday we were taken on a pleasant bus tour of Tokyo, with stops at the Diet building and City Hall. A beautiful Japanese lunch was provided at the Tokyu Capitol Hotel. This ended the official events, but games continued into the night at the hotel and in local bars.

The 1995 North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament

Tick went the clock; the flag fell; the players remained motionless, silent. Nearly a minute passed; a parrot bellowed, as if sounding the conclusion of the game. A flurry of hands and stones met the board, as the two players began to review — Jimmy Cha had won the North American Qualifying Tournament.

Through the cooperation of the Nihon Ki-in, Asociacion Mexicana de Go, Canadian go Association, and American Go Association, the premier go tournament in North America was held November 11-13, 1995 in the beautiful and good-natured city of Cuernavaca, Mexico. This year's tournament included two visitors from Japan, a representative of the Nihon Ki-in and a reporter from the Yomiuri Newspaper. The Fujitsu Corporation has generously supported go development in North America for many years.

One mountain pass south of Mexico City, the municipality of Cuernavaca boasts the former home of Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress. Traditional Japanese

architecture and style are reflected in her house, gardens, and the rest of the buildings in her extensive compound. In recent years, the compound has become the five star hotel named Camino Real Sumiya. This beautiful and tranquil spot was the site of this year's North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament.

The drive from Mexico City to Cuernavaca includes a striking view of the world's most populous city and an ancient volcano curiously placed on the eastern floor of the expansive Cuernavaca valley. In the small flats of the 12,000-foot mountains separating Mexico City and Cuernavaca, one can see hand-cut hay stacked and dried in the autumn sun. Despite being at a tropical latitude, the elevation of Cuernavaca was high enough (about 5,000 feet) to give pleasant temperatures during our November visit. Pleasant enough to enjoyably permit breakfast, lunch, and dinner on the Camino Real outdoor dining porches.

Two of last year's seeds, Jong Moon Lee and Hak Soo Kim, were unavailable to attend this year's tournament, but the next two eligible candidates, Dong Soo Kim and John JS Lee, were sturdy alternates. John was particularly happy to participate, as he has applied to become an insei (apprentice professional) at the Nihon Ki-in. For this tournament, he set the objective of 'making no inconsistent moves' so that he could supplement his application for insei with his game records. His plan worked well: his result was 3-1, earning him an invitation to next year's North American Fujitsu. Good luck to John on becoming an insei.

Since we were in Mexico, we conducted the draw with the numbers spelled out in Spanish. In the first round Janice Kim was upset by Dong Soo Kim, yet she went on to retain an invitational position for next year by winning the next three rounds.

The second round saw this year's USA representative to the World Amateur Go Championship, Thomas Ko, upset by Ned Phipps in a close game. Dong Soo Kim had strong pairings in all four rounds, playing the first, third, fourth, and fifth place finishers. This included a win against John Lee in the second round.

In addition to Jimmy Cha and Michael Redmond, the Houston Kims, Dong Soo and Moon Chong, won the promotion to the semifinal round. As one might expect, Texas go was not quite powerful enough to prevail against Cha and Redmond. In the third round, Seattle strongman Charles Huh was stymied by John Lee's decision to make 'no inconsistent moves.'

The final round brought victory to Jimmy Cha in an exciting back-and-forth game. This event was the first encounter between professional go players in Mexico. All eight games in each round were broadcast by closed circuit video cameras to a separate viewing area, lessening distraction to the contenders from spectators in the playing area.

After the last round, the players and spectators met for awards presentation and dinner at Las Manantias (translates as 'The Springs' or 'The Source'). Apparently attracted by the natural springs, various species of pheasant make their evening roost in trees beside the dining porches. Each contender received a plaque with a joseki that had been played during the tournament, chosen on the basis of artistic interpretation and esthetics. The joseki on the plaque given to Jimmy Cha was one played in his game with Redmond.

The tortoise is regarded by Central Americans as exceptionally smart, having much time (while waiting for its next meal to come to it) to practice deep thinking. A locally crafted wooden tortoise was awarded to Jimmy Cha as a symbol of his deep thinking and smartly played tournament.

Following the tournament, I had a wee bit of time to explore the region. The countryside is a bit like central Colorado. Beautiful. Mexico is not a land of marauding bands of bandits, which I recollect from the spaghetti Westerns as a teenager. The Nihon Ki-in and Fujitsu did North American go a huge service by giving us the North American Fujitsu Qualifier. It generates fierce competition for the places in the tournament. Each year the collective strength of the contenders seems the strongest yet. The North American Fujitsu continues to motivate North American go development. Each

1995 North American Fujitsu Qualifying Tournament

Name	Rank/Slot	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Place
Jimmy Cha	4D/pro	Snyder +	Zhou +	DS Kim +	Redmond +	1
Thomas Ko	6D/seed	Redmond -	Song +	Phipps -	Zeng +	10
Michael Redmond	7D/pro	Ko +	Huh +	MC Kim +	Cha -	2
James Kerwin	1D/pro	Hong -	Phipps -	Song -	Chacon +	15
Janice Kim	1D/pro	DS Kim -	Chacon +	Zeng +	Phipps +	5
Sunghwa Hong	6D/Canada	Kerwin +	MC Kim -	Huh -	Zhou -	13
Brian Song	5D/Canada	Huh -	Ko -	Kerwin +	Snyder -	14
Jose Chacon	4D/Mexico	Lee -	J Kim -	Snyder -	Kerwin -	16
Ron Snyder	6D/East	Cha -	Zeng -	Chacon +	Song +	11
Yuan Zhou	6D/East	Zeng +	Cha -	Lee -	Hung +	8
Moon Chong Kim	6D/Central	Phipps +	Hong +	Redmond -	DS Kim +	3
Michael Zeng	6D/Central	Zhou -	Snyder +	J Kim -	Ko -	12
Charles S Huh	6D/West	Song +	Redmond -	Hong +	Lee -	9
Ned Phipps	6D/West	MC Kim -	Kerwin +	Ko +	J Kim -	7
Dong Soo Kim	6D/At-large	J Kim +	Lee +	Cha -	MC Kim -	6
John JS Lee	6D/At-large	Chacon +	DS Kim -	Zhou +	Huh +	4

superstar is deeply proud of his or her contribution to go development. Likewise, and in due course, North America will contribute new steps toward perfecting go art, and that new superstar will be deeply proud of his or her contribution. The North American go community is unreservedly grateful to the Nihon Ki-in and the Fujitsu Corporation for their significant and continuing support of North American go.

The year in go books

Before the end of the year, there will probably be half a dozen new English-language go titles on the market, from a variety of publishers.

Ishi Press founder Richard Bozulich has begun publication of a new set of books, a series entitled *Get Strong at Go*. The first volume, *Get Strong at Invading*, is available now through Kiseido Publishing Company. It is being followed by a three-volume series on joseki [two volumes of which have appeared as we go to press]. During 1996 Bozulich intends to complete the series with works on fuseki, handicap go, the endgame, and an entire volume on ko [being written by former European champion Rob van Zeijst]. Seems like a higher level continuation of the *Elementary Go* series. Reprints of two out-of-print titles in that series, *In the Beginning* and *Tesuji*, are also available now in the Kiseido edition.

Another new Kiseido title is *Go: An Asian Paradigm for Business Strategy*, written by Yasuyuki Miura, a Japanese businessman who has built a chain of hotels in the US. When former President Bush returned from a hard-nosed trip to Japan a few years ago, *The New York Times* admonished him to 'play go instead of chess' in his dealings with the Japanese government. This book would have clued him in.

Yutopian Enterprises of Fremont, CA plans to bring out four new titles by year's end. This young, rapidly growing company burst on the publishing scene last year with *Killer of Go*, a memoir/commentary by Sakata, who won more titles in his career than any other Japanese player. The second volume of this series, *Tesuji and Anti-Suji of Go*, appeared in December. Yutopian's new release is *Compendium of Trick Plays*, with chapters by various Japanese pros on how to engage in, and avoid, trickery. Later this year, the first book in a three-volume series, *A Pro View of Amateur Games*, will appear. And Yutopian founder Sidney Yuan has himself translated three volumes from the vast untapped wealth of Chinese go literature. Leading off the series is *Nie Weiping on Go: The Art of Positional Judgment*.

Published by Good Move Press, *Learn to Play Go*, by Jeong Soo-hyun 8-dan and Janice Kim 1-dan, is the first go book ever translated from Korean into English. It is also the

latest of the 'how to play go' books and perhaps the easiest to understand. Kim, the only Westerner ever to earn credentials as a Korean pro, has adapted the first volume of a three-volume series by Mr. Jeong, who was her teacher. Mr. Jeong is known in Korea as 'the Professor' for his popularity as a teacher on TV and for his books and magazine articles.

The 7×10 format, larger than Ishi Press books, gave graphic designers Paul Agresti and Michael Simon lots of room to experiment. They came up with a layout that uses big, visually friendly diagrams, quirky artwork, and lots of space to break up the density of the material. Sidebars on subjects such as 'The History of Go', 'Go and Computers', etc. also contribute to a light feeling. Kim plans to translate all three volumes in the series. The book has already sold out at the popular national book chain Borders and is selling quickly at Barnes and Nobles stores around the country. Aimed at the complete beginner, the book has a punch-out playing set inside.

Yi-lun Yang and AGA President Phil Straus have written a book on how to choose joseki to match the whole-board position. Tentatively titled *How to Choose 3-4 Joseki*, it will be available from Fourth Line Press.

New shareware releases

Igosup, a teaching supplement to the popular *Igo* shareware computer program, has just been released by the AGA. It contains a 113-move game on a full-sized board, with each move extensively commented on a beginner's level. The project was coordinated by Roger White, with help from Dewey Cornell, Fred Hansen, Joel Sanet, Shai Simonson, Haskell Small, Norman Whiteley, Larry Gross, and Anton Dovydaitis.

Igo, which includes a 9×9 version of the go-playing computer program *Many Faces of Go* by Dave Fotland, is the most popular go-related shareware out there. (By the way, we hear that the new MFOG upgrade is stronger than ever.) We estimate that thousands of copies have been downloaded from the scores of bulletin boards where it is available. Now all those users can supple-

ment *Igo* with a comprehensive teaching program.

EGO, the new go-playing computer program by Bruce Wilcox, is now available in shareware form as EZGO on bsdserver and at other sites. This new entry in the computer go market by the author of NEMESIS comes with nine different 'personalities' or playing styles, two of which are available in the shareware: 'Psycho', which plays a zesty Great Wall-style opening, and 'Leaper', which loves to tenuki. A \$25 upgrade brings the user the other seven 'personalities'. The 'Samurai' personality is reportedly making steady progress on the IGS Computer Go Ladder.

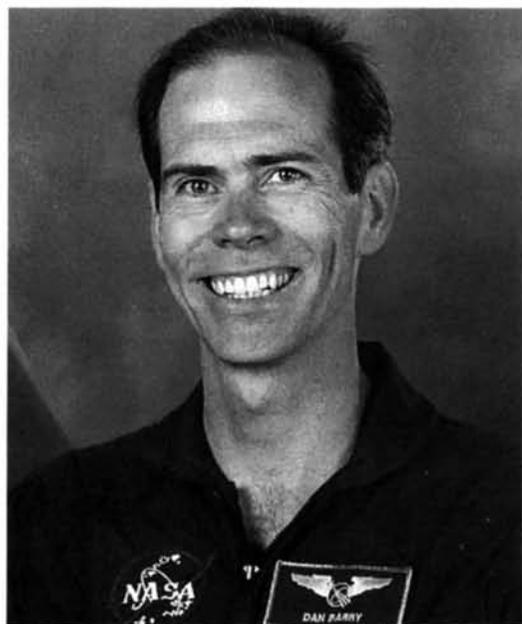
Go videos, even!

The American Go Institute in San Francisco has produced a 15-minute video for kids entitled 'Go basics.' To a sprightly musical accompaniment, two narrators explain the rules. This video is available from the American Go Institute, c/o Ernest Brown, 3848 Cesar Chavez Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Haskell Small, the Washington-based pianist/composer, has produced a new, vastly improved video of his composition for two pianos, *A Game of Go*. As the music unfolds on the soundtrack, played by Small and Paul Hoffman, a handsome board appears on the screen, suspended over a background suggesting rough slate. Shell and slate-looking stones mark off the moves in the game for which the piece was written, a Shusaku masterpiece. (The board is actually created using graphics from Dave Fotland's *Many Faces of Go*.) Available for \$25 from Haskell Small, 3220 44th St. NW, Washington DC 20016.

Go in space

Americans ended the year looking forward to another historical event, scheduled for early 1996 — the first go game in space! Dan Barry, AGA 1-kyu, a member of the Houston Go Club, will be one of the first two humans to play go in space in January of 1996. Dan has trained as an astronaut since 1992 in Houston. During the flight, he and fellow crew member Koichi Wakata will replay a famous game from go history. Al-



Dan Barry

though other Japanese astronauts have flown as payload specialists, Mr. Wakata is the first to fly as a NASA mission specialist. Dan will carry a small, light go set in his personal kit, the total weight of which can be no more than 1.5 pounds. On this mission, Barry will also conduct two six-hour-long space walks to retrieve a Japanese satellite from space. They will bring the satellite back to earth on the return trip.

This event has inspired the Houston Go Club to sponsor a series of contests, to design Barry's set (which cannot be magnetic!), and for students to express the meaning of this event in an essay or picture. As the AGA looks forward to 1996, we hope to see this kind of excitement and community spirit in more clubs and chapters throughout the US!

(Chen-dao Lin, Jeff Shaevel, Clay Smith, Evan Behre, Keith Arnold, Peilung M. 'Mike' Peng and others contributed to this article.)

Venezuela

1994-95 Activities

In October 1994, the Venezuelan Go Association gave a lecture on go for AVEXJA. In February 1995 we organized a match with teachers at the Japanese school in Caracas, and in March we held a lecture at Simón Bolívar University. Next year we will hold the same program.

Contact addresses

Asociación Venezolana de Go

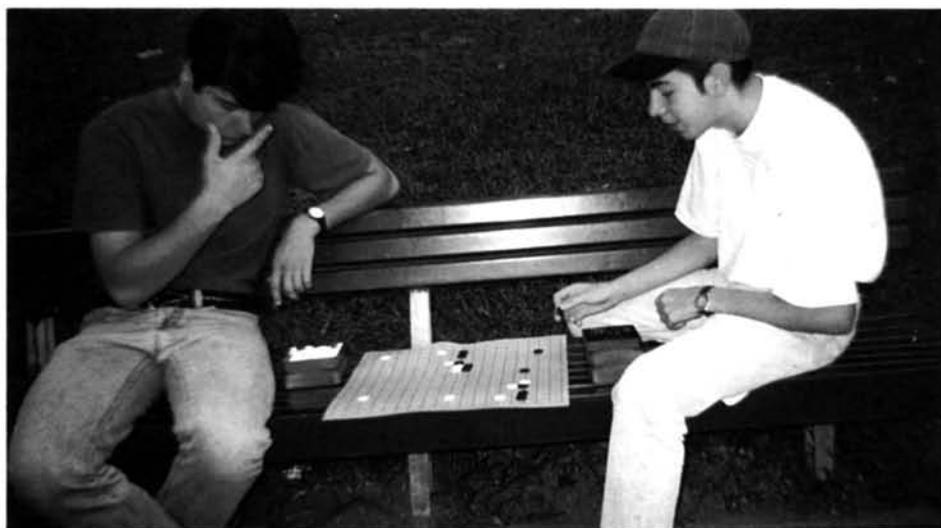
President: Susana Romero

Calle Sorbona – Colinas de Bello Monte

Edf.Sorbona – Apt. 112 B

Caracas 1050

Tel. (58.2) 752.34.78



Venezuelan players enjoying a game outdoors

Treasurer: Maria Dolores Puerta
3ª Avenida Los Palos Grandes/1ª Trvsal.
Edf. Cayaurima – Apt. 145
Caracas 1062
Tel. (58.2) 283.73.96 Fax (58.2) 283.78.94

Club meets:

•15:00 to 18:00 on 2nd Saturday of each month at:

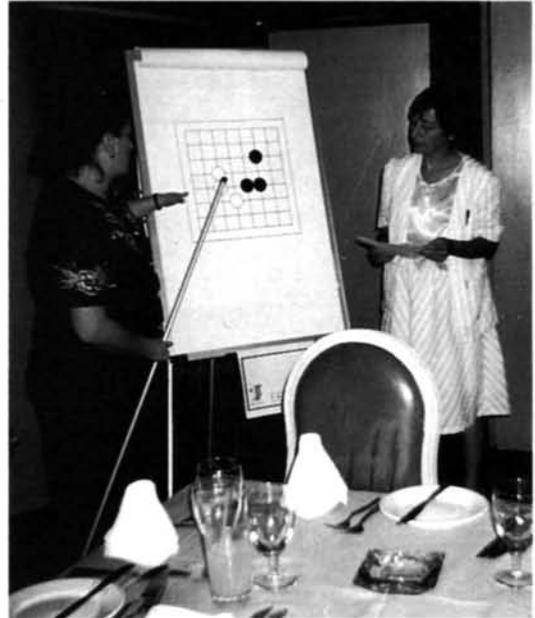
Asociación Venezolana-Japonesa
Coliseo a Salvador de León
Edf.La Galería – Torre Oeste
Piso 12 – Ofic.D
Caracas

•10:00 to 13:00 every Sunday at:

Calle Sorbona – Colinas de Bello Monte
Edf.Sorbona – Apt. 112 B
Caracas

Mail address:

Asociación Venezolana de Go
c/o Mª Dolores Puerta
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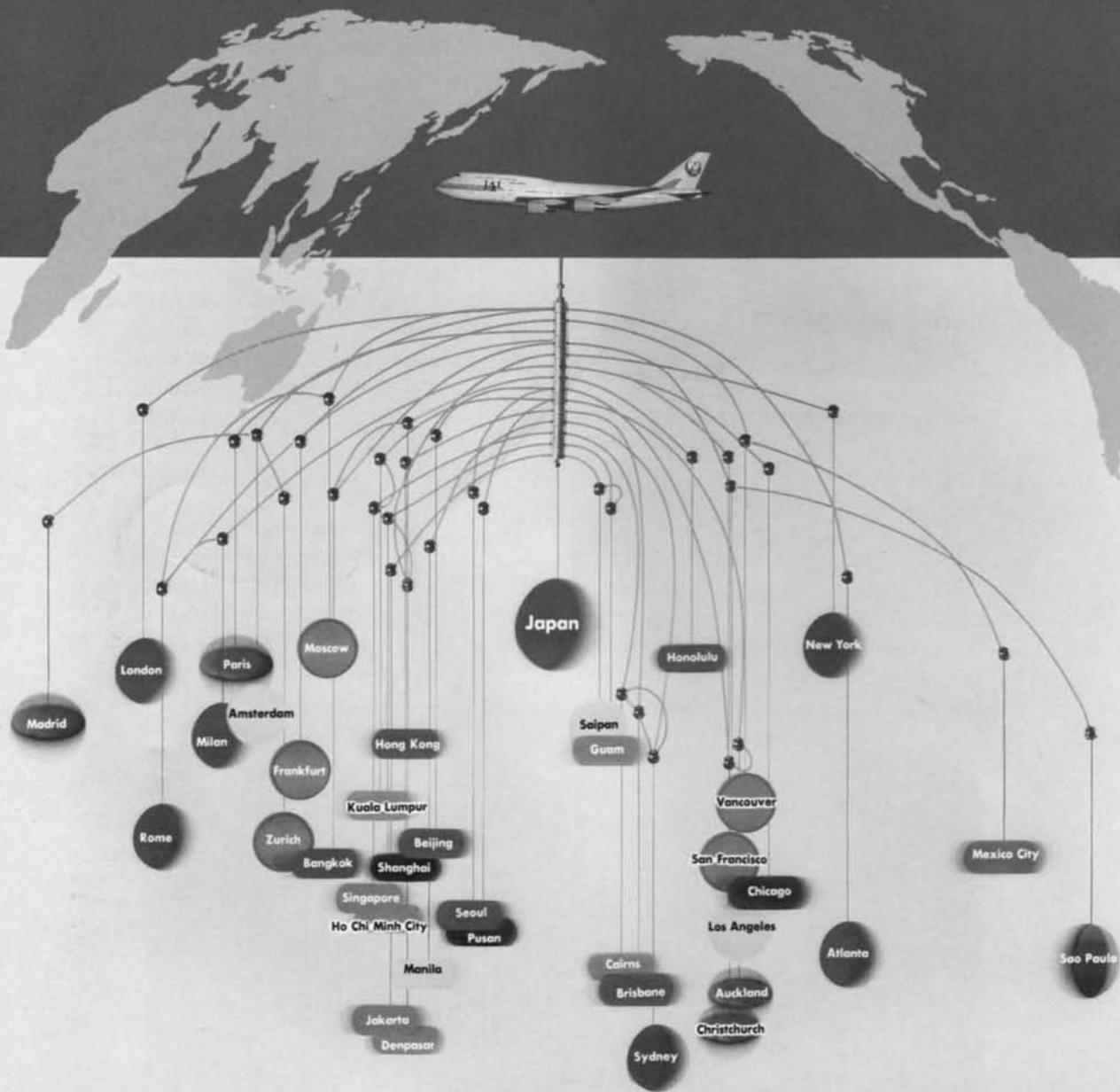
Susana Romero giving a lecture



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