

# Chess book clarifies middle game strategy

By IAN MULGREW (chess) by Paul Keres and Alexander Kotov is a praise-worthy at The Art of the Middle Game (in

## Blues top Yeomen, again

The York hockey Yeomen were outstuffed, outskated, and outscored by the arch-rival Varsity Blues Wednesday night, and thus lost their third straight game of the season by a score of 6-2.

The loss was a crucial one for the team and it brings their early season record to 1-3; their only victory coming against the Ottawa Gee-Gees, perhaps a weak link in the otherwise strong Eastern division of the OUAA hockey league.

York have 16 games left in which to turn their disappointing record into a respectable one.

The Blues combined good positional play with relentless checking to keep the Yeomen off balance in the game; they also scored three first period goals to put York behind the eight ball right from the start.

York had several defensive lapses in the match, most of which were dangerously close to their own net, and most of which resulted in goals for the Blues.

The Yeomen forwards appeared flat-footed most of the time, and seemed unable to mount any type of a consistent attack.

Team captain Al Avery, and Winger Aidan Flately scored the goals for York.

The game was characterized by plenty of hard hitting, a feature which has come to be expected whenever the two teams meet. Undoubtedly, the Yeomen would have loved to win the game and revenge their 8-5 loss to the Blues two weeks ago, but the pesky Varsity forwards again proved to be their nemesis.

York has not won a game against Varsity since last year during the regular season.

Only four games into the season the Yeomen are by no means out of contention, however, their defensive errors of the past few games will have to be erased promptly before they fall too far behind.

tempt by two of the world's finest grandmasters to clear some of the fog away from the game's cloudiest region.

There are few books on the market today which deal with the middle game. Due to the complexity of the problems found here, few authors are willing to try and clarify the issues. Keres and Kotov tried.

Their background establish their credentials for attempting. Keres had a brilliant career in the chess arena and was one of the most brilliant attacking players to play the game. Kotov is one on the leading chess organizers and writers in the Soviet Union today. Together they project an awesome amount of chess experience and knowledge.

The book deals with several aspects of the middle game, including discussions on strategy, defence, attacking methods, pawn positions and what they can mean, and analysis. There is a short discourse by the translator, H. Golombek, on the need for planning in the game. This section should be skipped by all except the beginner.

The content of the book is well presented and the analysis is

deep. The authors go to great pains to bring out every nuance in the positions for the beginner. While this is great for the beginner, the better players are apt to consider the book to be too simple.

The book is too short to deal with all the problems surrounding the middle game — the authors acknowledge this. What it does cover, however, it covers well and in plain terms for the beginner.

However, I would recommend the book only for beginners (anyone who is rated below 1500 CFC), all others are advised to bypass it and go straight to the new Informator, from Belgrad, which includes all the best games from the last six months of 1974.

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