

1997: THE YEAR IN US GO

by Roy Laird, AGA Presiden

THE THIRD NORTH AMERICAN MASTERS TOURNAMENT

The Third North American Masters Tournament concluded on August 21, 1997 with Zhu-jiu Jiang 9-Dan successfully defending his Masters Title against Michael Redmond 8-Dan at the 1997 US Go Congress in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Mr. Jiang has now won the Masters title three times in a row.

The Masters Tournament is growing - nine professionals who are US residents or citizens competed this year. Due to the larger number of participants, the round robin format, which was used for the Challenger Rounds in 1995 and 1996, was not feasible. This year a Promotional Round was added before the Challenger Round. The participants were seeded from the previous year's results (new entrants at the bottom). The field was then split in half, with the top half paired against the bottom half for best-two-out-of-three matches. The winners of these matches were promoted to the Challenger Round. Yi-lun Yang 7-Dan of Los Angeles, CA, Xiaoren He 5-Dan of Montreal, Canada, and Ms. Liping Huang 4-Dan of Chicago bested Mr. James Kerwin 1-Dan of Minneapolis, MN, Janice Kim 1-Dan of New York City and Hui ren Yang 1-Dan of Somerville, MA, respectively. They then joined the top three seeds Nai-wei Rui 9-Dan, Michael Redmond 8-Dan, and Jimmy Cha 4-Dan from the second Masters Tournament in a Round Robin to determine the challenger. After fifteen exciting games, Mr. Redmond emerged as the winner in a tie-break with top contender Ms. Nai-wei Rui.

The Internet Go Server (IGS) provided the conduit and technical means that made this event possible. Our special thanks go to them. The IGS also houses all of the Masters' games that were played. It can be reached via telnet (telnet igs.nuri.net 6969).

The Masters Tournament was the first professional tournament held over the Internet. It is sponsored by the American Go Association with funding from the Ing Chang-Ki Weichi Educational Foundation of Taipei. Ing's rules of Weichi with *komi* of eight points were used in all games.

We owe our special gratitude to Mr. Ing, Chang-Ki, the Founder of the Ing Chang-Ki Weichi Educational Foundation, who passed away on August 2. Mr. Ing's vision for promoting this wondrous game internationally was unsurpassed.

Please join us in watching these exciting games on the internet in the future.

CHILDREN'S HANDICAP TOURNAMENT ON THE INTERNET

This year was the first year of a new youth tournament sponsored by the American Ing Foundation. This tournament has been specifically designed for kyu players aged 16 years or under. All the games take place on the Internet through the courtesy of the IGS. The tournament director was Sasha Orr. Thirty youngsters took part this year, many of whom also came to the Congress. The two winners were Pierre-Yves Lafleche and Michael Bolling who received books as their prizes. Runners-up received certificates.

Fliers have already been printed for next year's Redmond Cup Tournament and for the Redmond Handicap Tournament.

One of the things which has been so encouraging this year is the growing number of teachers in schools across America who have heard about go and want to have it taught in their classrooms. These schoolteachers are delighted to find that Ing go equipment can be supplied to their classrooms and that there is plenty of help available from the American Go Association. A great deal of work remains to be done, especially in some areas; but it is especially fortunate when it turns out that a new teacher happens to be situated so geographically near to an established go playing school that teaching help is readily available and interscholastic visiting and competition can be arranged.

MENTOR PROGRAM THRIVING

The AGA mentor program is alive and well. We currently have about 74 participants ranging from strong dan players down to beginners. Typically, these teaching games occur live on one of the internet go servers (igs, nngs). The dan players teach single-digit kyus, single-digit kyus teach double-digit kyus, and some of the beginners play "provisional ratings" matches with each other to get a better estimate of what their AGA rating might be. So far, several dan players have qualified for and taken advantage of the mentor award of a free lesson game with Yang Yi-lun 7-Dan. Pairings are sent out monthly. All the participants seem to be happy with the program.

NEW YORK TIMES COVERS GO IN DEPTH

The July 29, 1997 edition of *The New York Times* contained what may be the best press go has received yet in the West. Leading the weekly Science Section with a large photograph of Janice Kim and David Mechner playing a game, Times science reporter George Johnson delved in detail into the legendary problems computer programmers have encountered in their quest for the "Deep Blue" of go programs. Today's best programs seemed to be stalled at 4-5 kyu, and Johnson explained why further progress was not anticipated any time soon. Chess programs, he asserted, read out millions of variations until they find one that leads to a positional advantage, especially capturing one of opposing player's pieces. But with a board five times the size of a chess board, even the best computer's mind boggles at the number of possible variations - and positional advantages are not so easy to determine. Every go player knows the folly of capturing the wrong large group.

You can find this article at the Times' website (www.nytimes.com) or in regular periodical resources such as your local library. If you have trouble locating a copy, contact the AGA for help.

"GOTEACH" LISTSERV REACHES TEACHERS WORLDWIDE

Membership Secretary Evan Behre has organized a discussion group for teachers on the Internet. You can sign up by sending an e-mail message to majordomo@lists.io.com and saying in the title

and in the message, "subscribe goteach." Teachers from around the globe are signing in with their ideas and experiences. You don't have to be teacher to sign up!

THE 1997 US GO CONGRESS

Children Dominate in Lancaster

The 13th US GO Congress took place from August 16-24 on the campus of Millersville State University, just outside Lancaster, Pa. With almost 300 participants, it was the largest Congress to date. Participants braved rain, heat and the occasional delay with good humor as they played, studied and socialized from morning to night.

The Major Tournaments

In addition to the Masters pro-pro playoff and the Ing Cup Invitational for top amateurs, the prizes in four separate events at this year's Congress included the right to represent the US in international competition.

3rd North American Masters Championship (TD: Jeff Shaevel)

The current titleholder, Zhu-jiu Jiang, faced his third opponent in the tournament's three-year history, defeating Michael Redmond 8-Dan in two straight games and remaining the undefeated American Master. Redmond had won the right to challenge Jiang by defeating Jimmy Cha 4-Dan and Nai-wei Rui 9-Dan, among others, in the Challenger Round of the NAMT, conducted on the Internet Go Server.

7th Ing Cup Invitational Tournament (TD: Jeff Shaevel)

Kevin (Keun-young) Lee prevailed in this Swiss-style three round event featuring North America's top sixteen players.

US Open (TD: Chuck Robbins/Evan Behre)

Thomas Hsiang 6D of Rochester NY (nomad on igs) won the centerpiece of the Congress, the week-long US Open. Played one round per day with time limits of ninety minutes per player _ extended this year to two hours per player for 4D and up _ it's the most "serious" go most amateurs get to play.

Redmond Cup (Michael Bull and Noné Redmond)

Michael Redmond and his family would like to thank the US Go Congress for sponsoring the Redmond Cup Tournament this year and hosting the final games in both senior and junior divisions and to thank the American Go Foundation for covering some of the youths' expenses at the Congress. The tournament director was Mike Bull who once again patiently and carefully watched over the games - both those held on the IGS as well as the finals at the Congress. In the Junior division the two contestants were the same as last year. Eric Lui of Baltimore and Jesse Chao of Southern California battled it out again in three games, Jesse emerging the winner. In the Senior division, there was newcomer Edward Kao of Texas playing against an old friend of the Redmond Cup, Michael Hong of British Columbia. Edward took the title in 2 games.

Timothy Jeans of Vallejo, California has for the last 4 years provided the Redmond Cup prize money; both winners received \$300 checks and a trophy, the runners-up \$200 each. We are most grateful to Tim for his generosity.

Pairs Championship (TD: Don Wiener)

After four years, Don Wiener has become quite expert at making this just about the most fun-filled event at the Congress. But this year even he was overwhelmed when the field more than doubled to 36 teams! This sudden burgeoning of the field had mostly to do with the presence of so many children at the Congress, and brought to light a highly notable fact. Among adult go players, there are about ten male players for each female. But among children, the ratio seems to be about 50-50.

The tournament also led to an exciting result with a kyu-level player winning a trip to Japan for the second time. AGA Treasurer Polly Pohl 2K and her partner Ted Ning 6D upset Ned (6D) and Joanne (3D) Phipps in the final match and represented the US at the World Pairs Championship later this year. AGA Membership Secretary Evan Behre will attend as a guest official.

Women's Championship (TD: Polly Pohl)

This event has had an uneven history and did not take place in three of the past four years. However, thanks to new Korean sponsorship, the World Women's Amateur Go Championship is back. Canadian 4D Stella Chang prevailed in a field of twenty players, and Debbie Siemen earned the right to represent the US.

The Usual Fun and Games

While these six important tournaments were being decided, other attendees found time to enjoy the usual Congress events. The Self-Paired Handicap Tournament (TD: Clyde Steadman) offered any two players the chance for on-the-spot tournament competition for awards such as "Straight Shooter" (victories over the longest string of consecutively ranked players) and the Philanthropist (losing the most games). In the Die-Hard (Day Off) Tournament (TD: Evan Behre/Chuck Robbins), 56 players battled in a three-round tournament while they were supposed to be taking it easy! Each evening featured a special event: the Lightning Championship (TD: Keith Arnold):

Small Board Tournaments (9x9 and 13x13) (TD's Jim Menegay and Fred Hansen respectively); Team Go (TD: Reid Augustin) featuring three-person teams; Crazy Go (TD: Terry Benson) featuring variants like three-and four-player go, "Electric Go," "Pineapple Go" (a new variant brought back from the European Go Congress by Ed Downes) and rengo kriegspiel; and entrants competed in the Second US GO Congress Children's Handicap Tournament (TDs: Piotr Rzepcki and Bill Cobb).

Computer Go (David Fotland)

This year the Go Congress conflicted with the FOST (Fusion of Science and Technology) world open computer go workshop and championship, held on August 23 and 24 and August 27 and 28

respectively. Most of the US programmers chose to go to FOST and not participate in the US competition. Several new programmers expressed interest, but were not ready in time. Two programs showed up - *The Many Faces of Go* by David Fotland, and *TeamGo* by a team led by Gary Boos. Two games were played, and *The Many Faces of Go* won them both. First place was a prize of \$1,000, second was \$500. \$700 in prizes for third, fourth, fifth and "best new program" went unclaimed.

Are 73 Simultaneous Games a Record?

Hankuk Kiwon professional Janice Kim 1-Dan of New York City may have set a world record on Sunday afternoon, when she played 73 simultaneous 9x9 games. Dan players took Black; single-digit kyu players got two stones; double-digit players got three stones. She won approximately one-third of the game.

Children's Classes (Susan Weir/Noné Redmond)

This year it was a delight to find so many young people attending the US Go Congress in Lancaster. Encouraged by the generous support of the Ing Foundation - which subsidized both playing fees and living expenses, and the AGF - which underwrote the cost of professional training, 45 children, nearly triple last year, added their energy and enthusiasm to the largest US Congress ever.

The children were all anxious to play go and to learn, and for the first time they had a room of their own. It seemed as though there were always some of them working on go problems or playing go on the boards which were kept in the room for their use.

Every afternoon they had a session with one of the pros. James Kerwin gave the first lesson on Sunday and came again later in the week to talk to the kyu players. Jimmy Cha and Zhu-jiu Jiang both came and taught the dan players. Janice Kim was there with James Chien talking about the solutions to the daily problems, and Michael Redmond came and had a riotous time with three tables of team go.

Each day Lou Weir put up problems suitable for kyu players. James Chien posted several problems for the dan players and graded the young people's answers. After they had finished their games in the Open tournament upstairs, the children would remember there were fresh problems waiting for them downstairs and run down to work on them.

These afternoons would not have been as much fun nor so easily organized without the support of several dedicated teachers. Clyde Steadman was often found with the children after the Open, playing several of them at once and all having a great time. Jim Benthem came one afternoon to help, as did Sasha Orr. Constant helpers in the young people's program were Peter Rzepecki, Bill Cobb, and Susan and Lou Weir without whom the program could not have been arranged. Their practical knowledge was a tremendous benefit and they gave their time generously and caringly.

The young people had an opportunity to play team go on both 9x9 as well as 13 x 13 boards and the highlight of the week was their Youth Tournament. The AGA greatly appreciates the generosity of Samarkand, Kansai Ki'in, David Fotland and Yutopian, who gave so many prizes that all of the young people received one.

Several children won in their Open Tournament divisions. When the Pairs Tournament came along, the 9 or 10 girls amongst the younger players were in great demand. One redoubtable grown-up playing in the Pairs Tournament was heard to remark proudly that his two and a half foot high partner had not made ANY mistakes in her game - that he had made them all. The American Go Association and in particular Sam Zimmerman have earned our thanks for hosting these young people so generously and making their week at the Congress such a success. Others who have generously supported the youth program are of course Terry Benson, President of the American Go Foundation, Larry Gross and Roy Laird.

National Board Slashes Member Fees for Children

At this year's National Board meeting a proposal was approved to reduce the cost of full membership to \$10 for anyone under the age of 18. The positive impact the many children at the Congress had on everyone became evident when this measure passed overwhelmingly.

New President

AGA President Phil Straus announced that he would retire on January 1, 1998 after five years as AGA President. To fulfill the unexpired remaining year of his term, he also announced the appointment of AGA Publications Coordinator Roy Laird. "I'm not planning any major changes for the time being," said Laird. "We're moving in a lot of good directions, and if we all keep pursuing these objectives go can grow a great deal in this country."

Chen-dao Lin Returns as East Coast VP; Others Will Stay On

The two-year terms of the three regional Vice-Presidents ended this year. East Coast VP Keith Arnold announced his retirement, and Chen-dao Lin was the only candidate nominated to succeed him. Lin served as East Coast VP for many years before himself "retiring" in 1993. He will also continue as AGA International Relations Liaison as well as the US Director to the International Go Federation.

Central VP Jeff Shaevel and West Coast VP Larry Gross will continue in their posts.

American Go Foundation Meeting

The American Go Foundation is a tax-deductible charitable organization for education and the promotion of go. The Foundation typically funds small projects, referring larger applicants to the AGA for possible use of Ing funds. Donations to the AGF declined this year, but a large surplus from last year's Congress in Cleveland was added to the Congress reserve, and an account was established for the Cleveland Club's future use. AGA President-Elect Roy Laird joined the Board as Vice President, and current President Phil Straus resigned.

This year the AGF's activities including awarding the second Teacher of the Year Award to Piotr Rzepecki; publishing 4000 copies of The Way To Go, a beginner's pamphlet included with the AGA Starter Pack produced with Ing funds; and providing funds to cover the fees of pros that worked with the children and several other small grants.

Each year surplus funds from the US Go Congress account go on deposit with the AGF when the Congress account is closed out. Half the amount goes into the AGF General Fund, while the other half is earmarked for use by the organizers of each Congress.

1998 Congress in Santa Fe

The 1998 US Go Congress will be held from August 2-8 at St. John's College in Santa Fe New Mexico. Santa Fe is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the American Southwest. Founded in 1610, the city is the second oldest in the United States, and it is proud of its historic legacy from the Indian, Spanish and American cultures that have met and mixed there. Most of the downtown area preserves the image of Spanish-colonial adobe architecture. Santa Fe has a dozen museums and hundreds of commercial art galleries, shops and restaurants. The city is an outstanding center for trade in fine arts and Native American crafts and jewelry.

St. John's College, site of the Congress, perches on the slopes of Monte Sol just over a mile (less than two kilometers) from the center of the city, where it commands spectacular views of the city and of the Rio Grande Valley. Guests may enjoy hikes up into the mountainous forests that adjoin the college campus.

Santa Fe is not at all the scorching desert community that some people mistakenly expect when they think of the American Southwest. At seven thousand feet (2,100 meters) above sea level in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the city's thin, dry air is comfortable in its moderately warm summer days. At night, temperatures almost always drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 degrees Celsius).

Day trips can also be arranged to a number of nearby points of interest, including several local Indian pueblos, the Santa Fe National Forest, Bandelier National Monument (site of ancient Anasazi Indian ruins) or Los Alamos where the first atomic bombs were designed and built. Congress Director Grant Franks has offered to help the professional players make the necessary arrangements to attend the U.S. Go Congress.

US TEAM WINS WORLD PAIRS HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

Ted Ning 6D of Honolulu and AGA Treasurer Polly Pohl 2K of Chicago traveled to Japan together in November to play for the US in World Pairs Championship. They had won the qualifying tournament for this event by playing as a team at the Lancaster Go Congress. Now they would face male-female pairs from around the world.

An unfortunate first-round loss on time moved Ning and Pohl into a special runner's up tournament, where the other first round losers mixed in with special invited guests. "If we had won the first game, we would have been paired against South Korea in round two, so maybe it was a lucky break to lose round one," said Pohl. She and Ning racked up victories against a Japanese team, a pair from Slovenia and the New Zealand team which consisted of a Chinese woman and a Polish man. Facing a pair of Japanese 7-Dans in the final round, Ning and Pohl won the runner's up tournament. The Japanese 7D team of Kamasaki, Mizuyo and Kihara, Koji came in second, and the Canadian team of 7-year-old Katherine Whang 3D and her 10-year-old brother, Joe, 4D came in third.

A dramatic first-round matchup occurred when North and South Korea found themselves paired against each other by the luck of the draw in the first round. South Korea won, with good sportsmanship at all times on all sides.

Cheng, Shu-Chin and Huang, Hsiang-Jen from Chinese Taipei (a.k.a. Taiwan) won first place in the open tournament. One of the fourteen Japanese pairs, Fu, Kobai and Sato, Kuniki came in second. Lee, Min-Jin and Lee, Hak-Yong from South Korea came in third in the open tournament.

Argentina and New Zealand participated for the first time this year. The Argentine pair seemed thrilled to be involved despite having to endure a 36-hour trip to Tokyo. The New Zealand pair lost their only game in the Special Handicap tournament to Ning and Pohl, and that was a very close game. Yucong Phese, the female New Zealand player, told Pohl she had nightmares about their losing move. But Polly reports, "In spite of that defeat, we spent the day after the tournament sightseeing together in the Imperial Palace gardens.

"We enjoyed shopping in the Nihon-Kiin gift shop. We were like kids in a toy store. They have what looks like an aquarium with Japanese koi fish in it, but in reality it is a T.V. screen with water and bubbles in front of it. It looks unbelievably realistic. There were a few go books in English there, including Whole Board Thinking in Joseki by our own Phil Straus and Yi-lun Yang. I felt very proud for them. My husband and I also visited an upscale go equipment shop on the Ginza strip. There wasn't much available for less than \$1000 there, but their inventory of go-bans was impressive."

Ted, Polly and the AGA are very grateful to the Japan Pair Go Association and especially to Mr. and Mrs. Taki, the originating and sustaining force behind this event. The JPGA has taken on another ambitious project - to have go recognized as a sport by the International Olympic Committee. Judging from their success with this event, perhaps we'll see go being played under the Five Rings soon.

WORLD COMPUTER GO CONGRESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Ing Foundation's yearly world championship for go-playing computer programs was held November 21-23 in San Francisco, with sponsorship from the Ing Educational Goe Foundation, Everex Computers and Asanté Technologies. Organized by Ernest Brown of American Ing Goe, the Congress featured a tournament among ten computer programs, with \$8000 in prizes. The winning program would then face human opponents for a prize that could come to \$15 million. The Congress also featured various panels and speakers on the subject of computer go. Brown, interviewed before the event by *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*, commented on the usual use of militaristic comparisons to explain go to the novice, then offered a different simile:

"Go is a game based upon the metaphor of sharing space," said Brown. "The game pieces are seen as a fence, partitioning off the players' respective spaces. If you have more knowledge of the game, you must give the other player a head start so they have an equal opportunity to attain the same amount of space as you. Go forces you to confront your own internal demons - things like greed, laziness, or disrespect for other people that force you to make mistakes. As long as you just do what you know is right, you are able to stay even and the game progresses."

In the first phase the computers played off against one another, with the following result:

#	PROGRAM	AUTHOR	COUNTRY
1	Handtalk	Chen, Zhi-xing	China
2	Go4++	Michael Reiss	United Kingdom

3	Go Intellect	Ken Chen	USA
4	Silver Igo	N. Yamamoto for Sliver Star	Japan
5	Many Faces of Go	David Fotland	USA
6	MODGO	Alfred Kneopfle	Germany
7	FunGO	Park, Yong-goo	Korea
8.	Star of Poland	Janusz Kraszek	Poland
9.	Explorer	Martin Mueller	Austria
10.	Super Ego	Bruce Wilcox	USA

After the computer playoff, "Handtalk" faced a series of human opponents, taking an eleven-stone handicap. If it could win three games in a row, the handicap would drop to ten stones, and three victories at that handicap would earn the programmer \$20,000. Facing Lin, Ting-chao, a thirteen-year-old 2D from Taiwan, "Handtalk" squeezed out a three-point victory, then soundly defeated American 6D Jonathan Wang in the second eleven-stone game. But in the third game, even the high handicap could not prevent "Handtalk" from being soundly thrashed by Taiwanese 4D Hwang Yi-tsuu, age eleven. That's one handicap stone per year!

AGF SEEKS NOMINEES FOR "TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

The American Go Foundation is inviting nominations for the 1998 Teacher of the Year award. This annual honor is reserved for teachers of the highest merit who have demonstrated their love for children by teaching them the game of go. This prestigious award carries with it the prize of all expenses paid at this year's Congress in Santa Fe.

Requirements for this honor include that the applicant:

1. Teach in at least one school or class for at least two hours per school week
2. Have two years of go teaching experience
3. Have started an AGA-affiliated Youth Go Chapter for his/her students
4. Hold AGA membership
5. Have entered students in available local and regional tournaments, including if possible national youth tournaments on the Internet.

The committee will also consider the effect of the teacher's activities outside his/her go group. Has there been publicity of the teacher's activities? What has been the response from the community? The school administration? Other non-playing kids? Has the teacher developed materials others can use? Has the teacher taught other teachers to play and teach go or mentored others in teaching go?

What has been the teacher's success rate with her/his students? Of the children the teacher has taught, how many have continued to play after leaving the go class? Have the teacher's students shown an independent enthusiasm for the game?

The Teacher of the Year must be an example to other teachers both in teaching go and drawing young people into a love of the game.

THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

by Debbie Siemon

When we 28 "women of the world" arrived in Seoul for the WWC, many of us knew but one word of Korean - baduk! We soon learned another - "kumshamnida" ("thank you"), because we were treated so graciously. We all became great friends and were pleased at how well organized and generous the sponsors were in every detail.

We played in the 63 Building, named for its 63 floors which made it the tallest building in Seoul, and we stayed at the Tower Hotel, which commands a panoramic view of Seoul. It is especially stunning at night when one has hiked up a very, very long hill to get to it - Ms. Hong Kong in heels and Ms. Australia almost in tears!

Before I left for Korea I was worried because I had been asked to wear my "national costume" for the opening ceremony. Now, I am a "go-nerd," not a "dress-up girl." Moreover, I could think of no "national costume" unless it would be Nikes and Levis with an Atlanta Braves cap. My husband Tim and AGA President Phil Straus tried to talk me into a Scarlett O'Hara dress (I'm from Atlanta), and others advised on a cowgirl outfit. But I panicked and brought only a dress. (Maria Jesus Rodriguez of Spain won the contest hands-down dressed as a beautiful flamenco dancer.)

However, I was lucky because, like me, many others did not wear or have a national costume, so the sponsor decided to have us vote at the end for the "Best Mannered" to give us another prize. But you probably want to hear about the Baduk Matches - so let me begin!

The games began with an opening speech and instructions by the Chief Referee, Korea's Cho, Hun-hyun, Pro 9-Dan. It was a great honor to have him wandering around and looking at our games as they progressed. Other professional go players who attended were Korea's Yoon, Gi-hyun and Kwun, Gab-ryang as well as Japan's Oeda, Yusuke and Uto, Makato.

The first round draw was completely random. There were no seeds. I won my first match against Sari Kohonen of Finland. We had met before, in the Pair Go Championship, but this was our first match in singles. Then I again drew Black again and played Monique Benelly of France. After building a huge moyo which she reduced smartly, giving me that "I've been had" feeling, I made an overplay which allowed her to seal her 2 1/2 point win.

The next morning in Round 3, I won against Claude Burvench of Belgium. Surely she was a top contender for Best-Mannered - she seemed to enjoy every second of the tournament. In Round 4 I played Katarzyna Koenig of Poland. I had Black and was overconfident and out-played.

Katarzyna, who lives in Dallas, Texas, certainly was happy when she won.

Since I was "two and two," I was expecting to finish close to the middle if I were lucky. I was a little upset with my concentration during the games, but decided 1) I would just do my best for the last two matches and 2) I was having such a good time, it didn't matter.

On the morning of the last day, I played a very solid game against Maria Jesus Rodriguez of Spain. Now I was "three and two." The pressure was off.

In the afternoon I won against a young friend, Tan Qin Yu of Singapore. Again, I had Black and was determined to play thick. I managed a 7 1/2-point win and was pleased to find that my four-and-two record put me in the seventh place. Stella Chang of Canada finished right in front of me in sixth place, and Japan's Yamashita Chifumi finished fifth.

The top four finalists - Korea, China, Russia and Hungary - had a play-off while the rest of us went sightseeing. In the final match, the friendly and eager Do Un Kyo of Korea defeated Hui, Yunan of China for the first prize of \$5,000. Ms. Hui is also a track star at her school.

The final night the generous sponsors and hosts, the First Korean Life Insurance Company, the Korea Economic Daily and the Korean Broadcasting System, threw a closing ceremony and party. The winner of the Best Mannered was announced to be Corina Tarina of Rumania. When I heard this I thought, "Oh, of course!" Indeed, she was the perfect choice. That night the Best Mannered and Best Dressed winners bought beer and wine for everyone. We sat around a big table talking, laughing, singing and drinking until 1:00 a.m. Everyone was wound up and both those with good and bad finishes were happy for the journey and experience. The happiest one of all - who knows? Maybe it was Miss USA.

YI-LUN YANG'S NEW LOCAL WORKSHOPS

Master Teacher Adds New Jersey, New York City and Pennsylvania to Annual Tour Schedule

It's been a busy year for Yi-lun Yang, the Los Angeles-based Pro 7-Dan who has taught go professionally in the US for more than ten years. Recently he has begun to specialize in the "Local Workshop," traveling to local groups of interested players for long weekends of intensive study. In the past few years he has refined his approach, traveling to western Massachusetts and Washington DC to give workshops that have become annual events.

"Mr. Yang and the participants usually show up on Wednesday night and we get started on Thursday morning," says Bill Saltman, the organizer of an annual mini-retreat in Western Massachusetts. "Mr. Yang divides the twelve of us into two groups by strength. One group plays while Mr. Yang comments on the other group's games. After both groups have played and received instruction, we break for lunch and do it again in the afternoon. After dinner we'll do something different, like maybe Mr. Yang will give a lecture."

More and more small groups of players are realizing how cost-effective this workshop format can be. For a few hundred dollars each they can get four days of top professional instruction. This year Mr. Yang more than doubled his tour schedule, adding workshops in three new locations - in New Jersey in June, New York City in July and Lancaster, PA in November. Like the others, these popular events sold out quickly and will repeat next year. New Jersey organizer Don De Courcelle reports:

"I was pleased to hold the first New Jersey Go Workshop at my home in Highland Park this summer. Attendees ranged in playing skill from 3D to about 12K. The time really flew! Mr. Yang used several instructional methods to drive home the concepts of good play. Mr. Yang started by reviewing several of his own professional games. Before he showed us each move, he described the concepts and thinking he used to "find" his next move. To our surprise we were able to not only locate the correct area to play, but to zero in on the correct move in many cases.

"The concepts we discussed in this analysis formed the basis of our playing strategy and style through the remainder of the workshop. We played and reviewed games against each other, and Mr. Yang gave 3-on-1 teaching games as well as stand-up lectures and written homework."