

Olimpiade degli Scacchi Torino 2006, #3

Today was a gorgeous day weather-wise. About 80 degrees, sunny, and much of the constant haze cleared out enough to be able to catch sight of some of the snow-covered southern Alps. Northern Italy, at the base of the mountains, has always been an area that traps haze and, seasonally, fog. Although rain had been predicted for some of the previous days not a drop has fallen although it's been overcast the past few days.

As I mentioned earlier, the Village is on the near side of a network of train tracks from the section of Torino called Linghotti, where our current tournament hall previously featured the Olympic skating events. It's called the Olympic Oval and offers a spacious playing site. Linghotti was the industrial area and directly across the foot bridge from the Village is the really huge, long expanse of the original Fiat factory, built in 1917. Torino has long been famous as the Home of Fiat. The factory was rebuilt elsewhere and one floor of the old one has been converted to a huge indoor shopping mall featuring just about everything you can imagine. Several blocks on the other side is the famous Po River bordered by a large, green park.

After descending from the bridge on the Linghotti side we walk through an extensive series of parking lots to get to the Oval. The organizers have transportation available for those too handicapped to make the trip on foot. Fortunately, it hasn't rained yet.

We who know him are happy to have another American chess player here. Mark Pinto (CA) is taking his Dad on a 2 week trip around northwestern Italy and has decided to play in the Open that begins daily about 6 pm. After 2 rounds he is 1 - 1. Now that's a bit of news you are unlikely to read anywhere else.

After riling up the organization on Monday trying to find a mini frig for Sunil Weeramantry's insulin, and being told by everyone it was impossible, I found just the thing right in the offices of the Organizing Committee. Mission accomplished after more than two hours of tramping around and following leads. Now they have announced that anyone who needs a small frig for storing medication--no, not beer and soda--should contact the chief arbiter.

They have solved the up-to-one-hour cafeteria-waits. They've also opened access for the players to more bathrooms, so things are getting better organized. I've always found that trying to convince a new set of managers and playing establishments of the needs of chess players is always met with resistance. Diane Reese knows this all too well as we fight with big hotels and convention centers hosting the enormous scholastic events. They invariably think they know our needs better than we do and it often causes some hectic scrambling at the beginning of the tournaments.

It's 9 pm here and time to head off to dinner.

Carol Jarecki, IA at the Olympiad