

BARCELONA

(Originally in www.endgame.nl, by Jan van Reek, 1945 – 2015, with own additions)

Several **Elite chess tournaments** happened in Barcelona (**in bold and yellow = world elite**): especially in **1929**, 1934, 1935, **1946**, 1952 as singulars, **1989** as part of GMA World Cup

Ciutat Vella – La Rambla invitation series

1990, 1991, **1992** (the year when the city of Barcelona hosted the Summer Olympics), 1993

Casino Masters / Magistral de Barcelona invitation series, **ongoing**, and **Sants Open**, **ongoing**

- **Barcelona 1929**

A great tournament was organized in Barcelona from 25 ix until 11 x 1929. The occasion was a *World Exhibition*. 14 men and one woman participated. Great star was former World Champion Jose Raul Capablanca from Cuba; the reigning World Championne, Menchik, participated too:



Colle and Capablanca in Barcelona 1929



Miss Vera Menchik

In 1929, **Capablanca** won easily ahead of Tartakower as runner-up and Colle as third (15 players): <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1003333>

- Barcelona 1934

In 1934, **Lilienthal**, **Koltanowski**, and **Tartakower** co-won the Condal Club tournament (all other players from Spain, in total ten players): <http://www.belgianchesshistory.be/tournament/ajedrez-condal-club-tournament-barcelona/>

- Barcelona 1935

In 1935, **Flohr** and **Koltanowski** shared first prize ahead of Grob as third, Thomas as fourth, and Reilly as fifth in an international tournament of ten players (among them four players from Spain): <http://www.belgianchesshistory.be/tournament/international-chess-tournament-barcelona/>



O'Kelly, Medina, Llorens, Wade, Pomar, Golmayo and Najdorf in Barcelona 1946 (by endgame.nl)

- **Barcelona 1946**

An international chess tournament happened in 1946 at the occasion of the *25th Anniversary of the Club Ajedrez Barcelona*. 14 contestants competed from 9 until 22 xi 1946. Najdorf was the big star, the public interest went to the 15-years young child prodigy Arturo Pomar Salamanca (born 1931). **Najdorf**, Argentina, won unbeaten ahead of young Yanofsky, Canada. Table Barcelona 1946:

nº	Jugadores	País	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Punt	Clas
1	O'Kelly	Bélgica		1	0	1	1	1	0	0,5	0,5	1	0	0	0,5	0	6,5	6º
2	Golmayo	España	0		0,5	0,5	1	0,5	0,5	1	0	0	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	6	9º
3	Guimard	Argentina	1	0,5		1	1	0,5	0	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	1	1	1	9	3º
4	Vilardebó	España	0	0,5	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1,5	14º
5	Pomar	España	0	0	0	1		0	0,5	0	0	0	0,5	1	0	0	3	13º
6	Wood	Inglaterra	0	0,5	0,5	1	1		1	0,5	0	0	0	1	0,5	0	6	10º
7	Albareda	España	1	0,5	1	1	0,5	0		0,5	0	0,5	1	1	1	0,5	8,5	5º
8	F.J.Pérez	España	0,5	0	0,5	1	1	0,5	0,5		0	0	1	0,5	1	0	6,5	8º
9	Najdorf	Argentina	0,5	1	0,5	1	1	1	1	1		1	0,5	1	1	1	11,5	1º
10	Medina	España	0	1	0,5	1	1	1	0,5	1	0		1	1	1	0	9	4º
11	Llorens	España	1	0,5	0,5	1	0,5	1	0	0	0,5	0		1	0,5	0	6,5	7º
12	Wade	N.Zelanda	1	0,5	0	0	0	0	0	0,5	0	0	0		1	0	3	12º
13	Cherta	España	0,5	0,5	0	1	1	0,5	0	0	0	0	0,5	0		0,5	4,5	11º
14	Yanofsky	Canadá	1	0,5	0	1	1	1	0,5	1	0	1	1	1	0,5		9,5	2º

<http://krugerewb.blogspot.ch/2012/07/ajedrez-torneo-internacional-de-ajedrez.html> (no longer existing)

- Barcelona 1952

In 1952, **Rossetto** (ARG) won, followed by Donner (NED) and Bernstein (FRA), then Toran (ESP).

- **Barcelona (GMA) 1989**

Barcelona World Cup 1989

Compiled by [suenteus po 147](#).
Thanks go to [<Chessdreamer>](#)

The fourth international chess tournament in a series of six organized by the GMA from 1988 to 1989 as a World Cup was held in Barcelona, Spain from March 20th to April 20th, 1989.

Twenty-four of the world's best grandmasters, including the world champion and world vice-champion, were invited to participate in the World Cup, seventeen of them appearing in Barcelona's category XV event along with one national grandmaster to represent Spain as host.

The complete list of participants was (in order of ELO): Garry Kasparov (2775), Nigel Short (2650), Alexander Beliavsky (2640), Jonathan Speelman (2640), Valery Salov (2630), Zoltan Ribli (2625), Johann Hjartarson (2615), Viktor Korchnoi (2610), Yasser Seirawan (2610), Artur Yusupov (2610), Predrag Nikolic (2605), Robert Huebner (2600), Rafael Vaganian (2600), Ljubomir Ljubojevic (2580), Boris Spassky (2580), Jesus Nogueiras (2575), and Miguel Illescas-Cordoba (2525).

This tournament was Kasparov's third consecutive victory in the World Cup, although this time he shared his first place with Ljubojevic, the only player to remain undefeated! The final standings and crosstable are as follows:

1-2 Kasparov 11/16 * = 1 1 = 1 = = 0 = 1 1 1 = = 1 =

1-2 Ljubojevic 11/16 = * = = = = = 1 = = = 1 1 1 1 = 1

3 Salov 10/16 0 = * = 1 1 = 0 1 = = = 1 0 1 1 1

4 Korchnoi 9.5/16 0 = = * 0 = 1 = = 1 = 1 1 1 1 0 =

5-6 Huebner 9/16 = = 0 1 * = 1 = = = = = = 1 = = =

5-6 Short 9/16 0 = 0 = = * = 1 1 1 = = 0 0 1 1 1

7 Nikolic 8/16 = = = 0 0 = * = = = = = = = = 1 1

8-12 Vaganian 7.5/16 = 0 1 = = 0 = * 1 = = = = 0 = 0 1

8-12 Yusupov 7.5/16 1 = 0 = = 0 = 0 * = = = = = = 1 =

8-12 Ribli 7.5/16 = = = 0 = 0 = = = * = 1 = = = = =

8-12 **Spassky** 7.5/16 0 = = = = = = = = * 0 = = = 1 =

8-12 Beliavsky 7.5/16 0 0 = 0 = = = = = 0 1 * 1 1 1 = 0

13 Speelman 7/16 0 0 0 0 = 1 = = = = = 0 * = = 1 1

14-15 Hjartarson 6.5/16 = 0 1 0 0 1 = 1 = = = 0 = * 0 = 0

14-15 Seirawan 6.5/16 = 0 0 0 = 0 = = = = = 0 = 1 * = 1

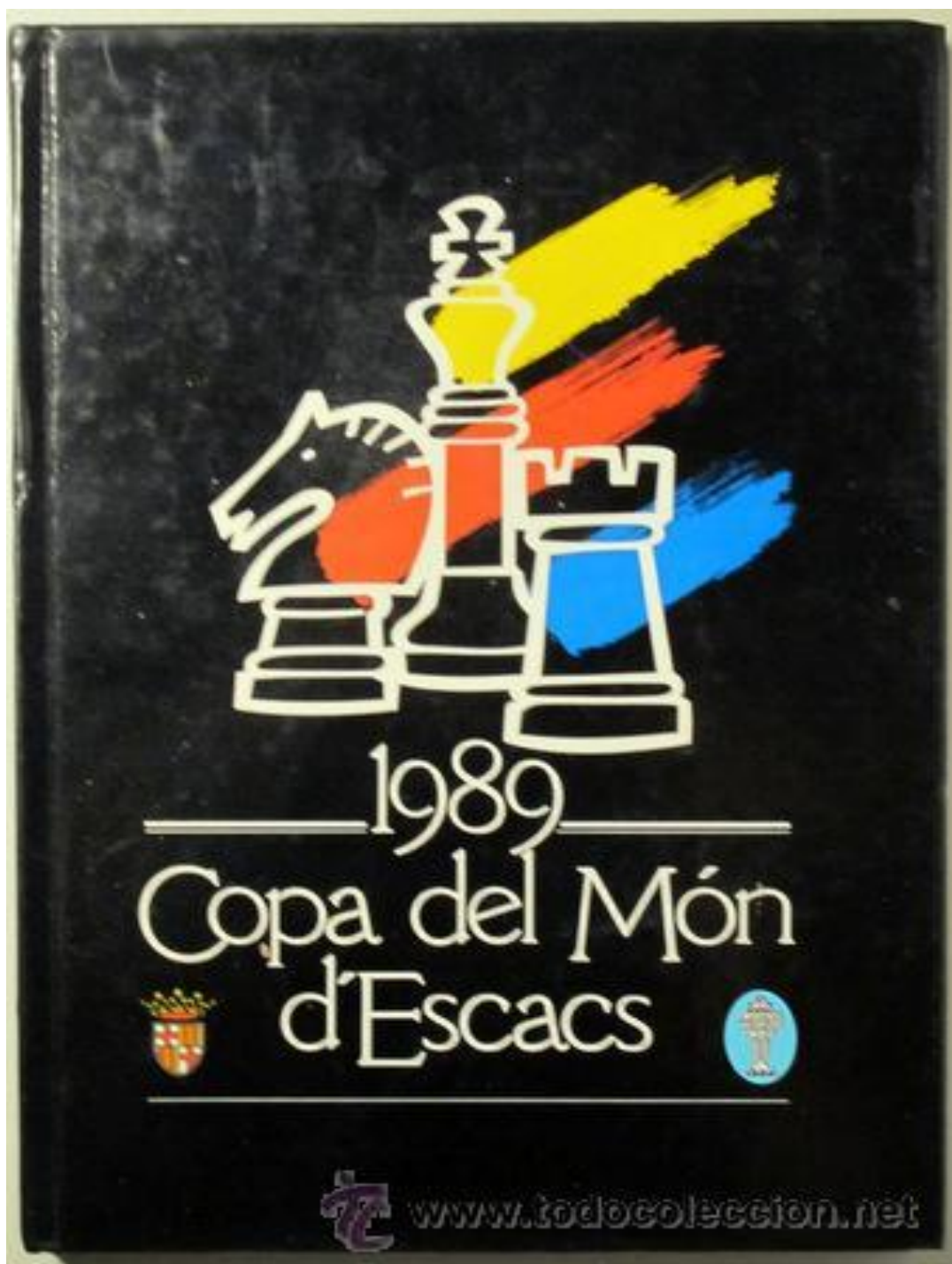
16-17 Illescas-Cordoba 5.5/16 0 = 0 1 = 0 0 1 0 = 0 = 0 = = * =

16-17 Nogueiras 5.5/16 = 0 0 = = 0 0 0 = = = 1 0 1 0 = *

Source: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chesscollection?cid=1015954>

GMA World Cup 1989 (continuation):

A series of six tournaments was organised by the Grand Masters Association (GMA) in 1988/1989. **Barcelona 1989** was the fourth installment in that *GMA World Cup series*. A list of 25 top players had been made. Sixteen men from that list participated in Barcelona from 20 iii to 20 iv 1989, plus Illescas Cordoba added as the local hero. **Ljubomir Ljubojevic** took the lead. **Garry Kasparov** caught up in the last round, they won the tournament jointly ahead of Salov, veteran Korchnoi (58) finished clear fourth, Hübner and Short shared fifth place; former WC Spassky (52) in the midfield.



Poster: <http://www.endgame.nl/Barca.html> (inactive)











At Barcelona tournaments, **Capablanca** in 1929 as former World Chess Champion, and **Kasparov** in 1989 as reigning Champion, did play and win. The former World Champions **Spassky** in 1989, **Smyslov** in 1990, and **Tal** in 1992 participated in Barcelona in their late career too, but did not win.

Ciutat Vella – La Rambla series

Ciutat Vella (Catalan pronunciation: [siw'tad 'beʎə], meaning in [English](#) "Old City") is a [district of Barcelona](#), numbered **District 1**. The name means "old city" in [Catalan](#) and refers to the oldest neighborhoods in the city of [Barcelona](#), [Catalonia](#), [Spain](#). *Ciutat Vella* is nestled between the [Mediterranean Sea](#) and the neighborhood called *l'Eixample* ("the Extension"). It is considered the centre of the city; the [Plaça Catalunya](#) is one of the most popular [meeting points](#) in all of Catalonia.

Barcelona 1990: I. Ciutat Vella – La Rambla (cat. 10, gm-norm 6 points)











Date	Type	Elo	Average	Games	Rounds
Sep, 1990	Tourn	2490		45	9

Name	ELO	Points
 GM Granda Zuniga, Julio E	2485	6.5
 GM Illescas Cordoba, Miguel	2535	6.0
 IM Bass, Leonid	2480	5.5
 GM De La Villa Garcia, Jesus Maria	2475	5.0
 GM Smyslov, Vassily	2570	4.5
 GM Magem Badals, Jordi	2470	4.5
 IM Ochoa de Echaguen, F Javier	2400	4.0
 GM Franco Ocampos, Zenon	2495	3.5
 GM Vera Gonzalez Quevedo, Reynaldo	2485	3.0
 GM Fernandez Garcia, Jose Luis	2500	2.5

Barcelona 1991: II. Ciutat Vella – La Rambla

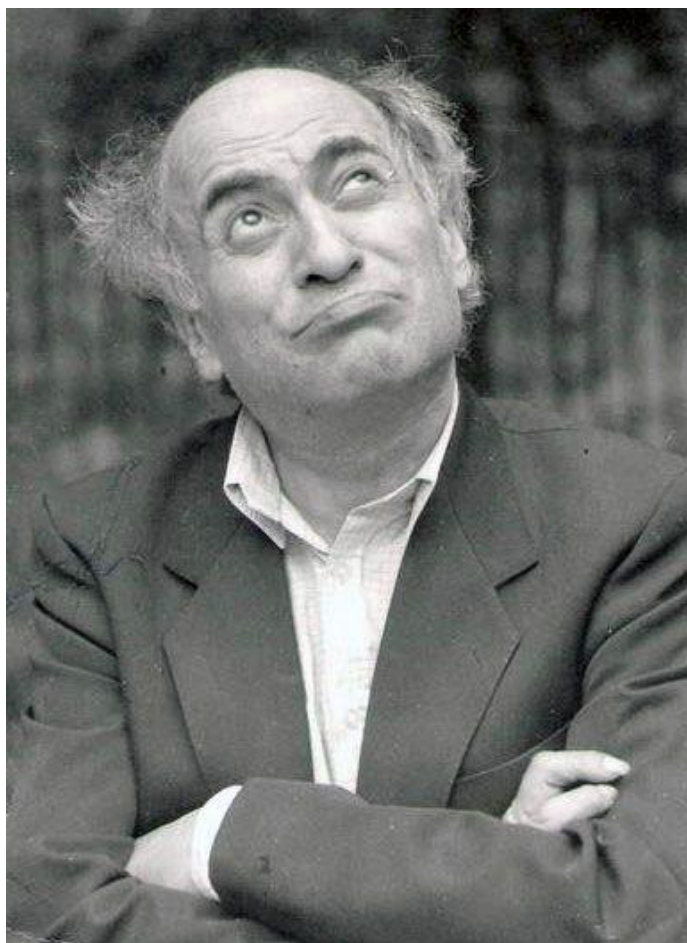
Date	Type	Elo	Average	Games	Rounds
Jun, 1991	Tourn	2456		45	9

(no 'big name' in this edition)

Name	ELO	Points
 GM Winants, Luc	2505	6.5
 GM Campos Moreno, Javier B	2480	5.0
 GM Cramling, Pia	2470	5.0
 GM Rodriguez Vargas, Orestes	2470	5.0
 IM Martin Gonzalez, Angel	2445	5.0
 GM Comas Fabrego, Lluís	2375	5.0
 GM Dizdar, Goran	2535	4.0
 GM Bellon Lopez, Juan Manuel	2495	3.5
 IM Vehi Bach, Victor Manuel	2420	3.5
 GM De la Riva Aguado, Oscar	2360	2.5

Barcelona saw the last invitation tournament in classical chess of great Mikhail Tal!

Barcelona 1992: III Torneig Internacional d'Escacs – Ciutat Vella – La Rambla



Tal Maestro, a great and unforgettable chess genius. Photo ChessBase

Date Type Elo AverageGamesRounds
Apr, 1992Tourn2555 66 11

First ten players within one point !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name	ELO	Points
1. GM Dorfman, IossifD , winner on tie-break	2605	6.5
2. GM Magem Badals, Jordi , then as an IM !!	2515	6.5
3. GM Romanishin, Oleg M	2595	6.0
4. GM Akopian, Vladimir	2605	6.0
5. GM Sokolov, Ivan	2630	6.0
6. GM Lautier, Joel	2580	6.0
7. GM Rivas Pastor, Manuel	2520	6.0
8. GM Korchnoi, Viktor	2585	5.5
9. GM Tal, Mikhail , last tournament in classical chess	2525	5.5
10. GM Gurevich, Mikhail , the top-seeded player	2635	5.5
11. GM Rodriguez Vargas, Orestes	2455	4.5
12. IM Ochoa de Echaguen, F Javier	2410	2.0

Mikhail Tal, born in 1936, died in June 1992, after Barcelona La Rambla invitation in April 1992, Tal participated in a Blitz tournament in Moscow in May, beating the eventual winner Kasparov.

Tal's last normal time control game, played at Barcelona (1992), a win over GM Vladimir Akopian:
Tal vs. Akopian 1-0: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1141202&kpage=1#kibitzing>

Background anecdote:

May-17-06 **alexagnus**: This game has an interesting pre-history... The 1992 Barcelona tournament Tal began with a glance win over Lautier. But his health was very bad and he began to offer fightless draws with white and play almost without a fight (bad health, thinking could be fatal!) with black.



The pre-ultimate round. Tal already resigned his game, went to the table where Korchnoi played against Akopian. Akopian had advantage in the ending and Tal offered him a draw in the last round. Akopian agreed. But he couldn't win that ending against Korchnoi and the game ended in a draw. Since Akopian pretended on the first place in the tournament, he came to Tal again and said there will be no draw, he needs a win.

Tal was angry after this. He knew he has to fight - but he knew it will be hard with his health. It came to this wild and nice game (above). A few weeks later Tal died..

P.S. Korchnoi liked to tell this story to other people, most of them told: "Probably there, above, it was known that it is Tal's last game and he must win it". But one person, after hearing the story, said to Korchnoi "But this game would take place only if you managed to draw Akopian! So, who is the true God?" So, once in his life, Korchnoi felt himself as God..

(Partly quoted from: A.Karpov, E.Gik. Everything about chess)

Winning a GM tournament as an IM:

Jordi Magem Badals, was still an IM (!) when co-winning at that <Barcelona> invitation 1992, joint with Josif Dorfman, above M. Gurevich, Lautier, Akopian, Korchnoi, and Tal (12 players).

He also shared first place (twice with the best tie-break) at the <Pamplona> international invitation tournament series, and together with Sergei Tiviakov, he took the 7th edition of the <Najdorf Tournament in Buenos Aires> in 1996 (later becoming a Memorial series).

Magem Badals represented Spain in seven [Chess Olympiads](#): in Novi Sad 1990, Moscow 1994, Yerevan 1996, Elista 1998, Istanbul 2000, Bled 2002 and Khanty-Mansiysk 2010. He also represented Spain in the [European Team Chess Championship](#) three times, in Debrecen 1992, Pula 1997 and Batumi 1999. In 1990, he won the [Spanish Chess Championship](#). (Wikipedia)

The tournament of 1992, the year when the city of Barcelona hosted the Summer Olympics, was much stronger than the following and the previous editions of the La Rambla series.

🇪🇸 Barcelona 1993: IV. Ciutat Vella – La Rambla: **Viktor Gavrikov, Vladimir Tukmakov, and Evgeniy Solozhenkin** shared the win (ten players, including Spraggett, many players from Spain).

➔ **Casino de Barcelona Masters / Magistral Ciutat de Barcelona series: ongoing**

➔ **International Chess Open de Sants, Hostafrancs i La Bordeta: ongoing**

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