



OSCAR PANNO

17/03/1935 born in Buenos Aires

03/1953 – Campeón – CAMPEONATO DE ARGENTINA JUVENIL.

1953 – Champion – II. CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD, YOUTHFUL in Copenhagen, first on tie-break, with Darga, above F. Olafsson, title defender Ivkov, Penrose, D. Keller, Sherwin, and Larsen.

Following winning the World Junior Championship in 1953, he was awarded the IM title in 1954.

Following the Gothenburg Interzonal 1955, third behind Bronstein and Keres, ahead of Petrosian, Geller, Szabo, Filip, Spassky, Pilnik, Ilivitsky, Pachman, Najdorf, Guimard and others (Panno beat Spassky in their individual game), **Panno was awarded subsequently the GM title in 1955 at the age of 20** (at that time an exceptional young grandmaster!), playing the Amsterdam Candidates 1956, coming in 8th/9th of the ten strongest chess players behind the reigning World Champion, resting his only Candidates tournament. Oscar Panno participated in five Interzonals.

Oscar Roberto Panno is the first top world chess player born in South America and the first ever Argentine-born Chess Grandmaster.

Panno has a plus lifetime-score against Boris Spassky, born in 1936 (+2=5-1, winning at the 1955 Gothenburg Interzonal and at the 1976 Manila Interzonal, losing at the inaugural World Team Chess Championship in Lucerne 1985). Against the other top stars from South America, Panno is even vs. Najdorf (+6=19-6, confirmed) and Mecking (+4=4-4, may be incomplete).

His highest historical ranking (according Sonas' chesmetrics) was on position 18 in the late 1955. His best FIDE ranking was also on position 18 in 1978 (full year list), with his peak rating in 1973 (on position 19=). Highest Sonas Elo: 2680, highest FIDE Elo rating: 2585.

He won the national Argentine Chess Championship on three occasions between 1953 and 1992:

1953 – Campeón – CAMPEONATO DE ARGENTINA ABSOLUTO.

1975 – Sub-Campeón – CAMPEONATO DE ARGENTINA ABSOLUTO.
(shared with Najdorf who took the title as first on SB tie-break)

1985 – Campeón – CAMPEONATO DE ARGENTINA ABSOLUTO.

1992 – Campeón – CAMPEONATO DE ARGENTINA ABSOLUTO.



Oscar Panno played eleven times for Argentina in Chess Olympiads (1954–58, 1962, 1966–70, 1976, 1986–88, and 1992). The 1954 Olympiad team won the Silver medal, while the 1958 & 1962 teams won the Bronze medal. **In 1966 (Habana), Panno won an individual gold medal for best score on board two.** Plus a gold medal for the individual best overall score at the Pan American Team Championship in 1985. He played board one for Argentina at the WTCC in 1985.

Winner 3rd Pan American Chess Championship at Bogota in 1958 (ahead of Lombardy / Najdorf)

Multiple South American champion; at *Mar del Plata*, zt 1954, at Rio de Janeiro, zt 1957, at Rio Hondo, zt 1966 (jointly, Mecking won the play-off) and at *Mar del Plata*, zt 1969 (jointly): thus taking **twice the traditional Mar del Plata closed international tournament series**, namely **Mar del Plata 1954**, also a Zonal (above Najdorf, Pilnik, Guimard, Eliskases, Rossetto, Sanguinetti), and **Mar del Plata 1969**, also a Zonal (shared with Najdorf, ahead of Mecking)

Three times winning the Mar del Plata Open: 1986, 1988, and at the 25th edition in 1994 as clear first (202 participants, a.o. GM Urday, Peru; GM Sunye Neto, Brazil, GM Najdorf, Argentina)

> Winner **Palma de Mallorca (1971)** (+7, =8) with Ljubojevic (best on tie-break); and again
> Winner **Palma de Mallorca (1972)** (+6, =8, -1) with Korchnoi, and Smejkal. Panno first on tie-break (this was the last edition of Palma de Mallorca), Panno's two biggest adult successes

Double-winner at **Torneo Internacional de (Santa Fé de) Bogotá** 1976 (1st edition) & 1977

> Winner at the famous **Lone Pine Open (7th Louis D. Statham Tournament) in 1977** (four-way tie at the top shared with Balashov, surprising Sahovic and Nona Gaprindashvili)

Winner **Buenos Aires 1968** (strong National) (+8, =2, -1), ahead of 2. Najdorf, followed by 3./4. Schweber, Rossetto, 5. Quinteros, including Guimard, Rubinetti, Foguelman, 12 players)
Co-Winner **Buenos Aires WOBRON 1971** (National), together with Quinteros (six players)
Winner **Buenos Aires San Miguel International Open 1980:** alongside with Browne (first on tie-break), Smyslov, and IM Jaime Emma at 7.5/9 (184 players, including Taimanov, Quinteros)

Panno won several regional Open events, eg. at Ushuaia (Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego) 1987 (clear first, beating also the Mephisto Amsterdam Computer), Fortaleza Open 1994, or Mendoza (Manuel Pereyra Puebla Memorial (biography: <http://www.inforchess.com/pereyra/MPereyra.htm>) Open 2003, further tournament wins in Rosario 1975, in Quito 1976, amongst others.

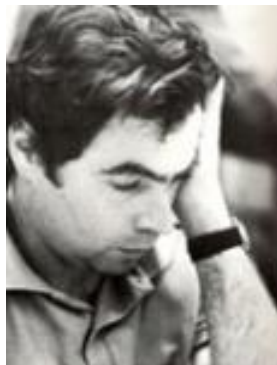
He was shared second, above Karpov, in Caracas 1970 (Stein won), in Biel GM 1977 (Miles won), in Buenos Aires Clarin 1978 (Andersson won), and joint second in the Lone Pine Open 1976 (Petrosian clear first), he shared third place in Las Palmas 1973 (Stein and Petrosian won).

In matches, **Panno beat Quinteros twice**, 1970 and 1990 (with the same result of 5.5 – 3.5).

Panno helped Korchnoi as an assistant during the 1978 WCC match against Karpov.

Note: During the decade from 1958 to 1968, Panno actively pursued his civil engineering career and played very rarely. He never devoted himself entirely to the game.

 Panno Oscar Roberto (17.03.1935)



First Argentinian born Chess Grandmaster (1955). Civil Engineer.

World Junior Champion in 1953, Argentine champion in 1953, 1985, and 1992. Finished sole third at the Interzonal's Tournament in 1955, and shared eighth at the Candidates' Tournament in 1956.

Oscar Panno won or shared first prizes at Mar del Plata Zonal 1954, Rio de Janeiro Zonal 1957, **Bogota (1st Torneo de las Americas, Pan American Ch) 1958**, Rio Hondo 1966 Zonal (Mecking won the play-off), Mar del Plata Zonal 1969 (shared with Najdorf, ahead of Mecking), **Palma de Mallorca 1971 & 1972** (supertournament series, shared with Ljubojevic in 1971, and shared as best on tie-break with Korchnoi and Smejkal in 1972), **Lone Pine op 1977** (shared), **Santa Fé de Bogotá International 1976 & 1977**, plus thrice at the traditional **Mar del Plata Open: 1986, 1988 & 1994.**

Aug-14-07 **Fusilli** (Prof. Mariano Sana): In an interview (posted on an Argentine website: (<http://www.ajedrezmutante2.galeon.com>) Panno remembers the 1953 World Junior Championship that he won in Copenhagen. He was at a disadvantage when it came to opening theory and novelties, as all chess magazines arrived in Argentina way too late from Europe.



So he and **his coach, Julio Bolbochan**, worked intensively on opening ideas and plans trying to guess what novelties the European players might have already come up with. At that time, the World Junior Championship (it was the 2nd, with Ivkov having won the first) was organized with limited resources, and Panno and Bolbochan were assigned rooms with hosting families.

Bolbochan wanted to be with Panno, so they took a room in a rather cheap hotel instead. They would go to sleep at 3am but their hotel room had no thick curtains and the sun would rise at that time in the Copenhagen summer, so they hang a spare bed cover to cover the window.

When he returned to Buenos Aires as a world champion, Panno was a celebrity. Perón's government had already scheduled a number of commitments, exhibitions, simuls, etc., around the country for him. It took a while for his life to return to its normal pace.

Mar-17-11 **talisman**: happy birthday Oscar! the only man to have Bobby Fischer come to him, and ask him not to forfeit!

Mar-17-11 **Penguincw**: < talisman: happy bithday Oscar! the only man to have Bobby Fischer come to him, and ask him not to forfeit! > Oh yah. Now I remember. He resigned to Fischer in one move. Thanks talisman. [Fischer vs Panno, 1970](#)

The respected statistician Jeff Sonas (www.chessmetrics.com), ranks Oscar Panno as the # 18 player of the world in 1955. His best ranking in the FIDE ELO list was the # 18 player in the world in 1978, Oscar Panno remained a top forty player (today regarded as Super GM from the mid fifties until the mid / late seventies (during the decade from 1958 to 1968, Panno actively pursued his civil engineering career and played rarely).

His highest ELO rating was 2585 (FIDE), his highest historical ELO 2680 (SONAS).



Oscar Panno crowned as World Junior Chess Champion 1953: Klaus Darga (from whom Panno won the title on tie-break score) and, to Panno's left, Friðrik Ólafsson. Photo: skaksogufelagid.is



Still going strong: Darga, Panno, Olafsson in Dresden at the Pegasus Chess Summit 2015 (incl. also Korchnoi, Taimanov, Uhlmann), more than sixty years later. Photo: organiser

Magistral Oscar Panno



To honour his lifetime achievements, in 2012 the first **Magistral Oscar Panno** was organized. <http://ajedrezfaogba.com.ar/web/cronicas-del-magistral-oscar-panno-12-210512/> (inactive)

Panno King's Indian variation

The 3rd Magistral Internacional Marcel Duchamp 2011, taking place 14-23rd December at the Club Argentino de Ajedrez, Paraguay 1858, Buenos Aires. The 13th FIDE category event will be played as a double-round robin with six players.

This tournament featured thematic opening to honour the legendary Argentine Grandmaster Panno:

All games will have to be opened with the Panno King's Indian variation –
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.0-0 a6.

Panno tournament director at age of 82 in the year 2017

The closed International **Magistral Memorial Jorge Szmetan** was held from 16-27th April 2017 at the Néstor Kirchner Cultural Centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Jorge Guillermo Szmetan (1950-2015) was International Master from Argentina. He was the national champion in 1976 and represented his country in three Chess Olympiads (1974 – 1978).

The event was organized by Dr. Ricardo Costianosky and **the tournament director was legendary GM Oscar Panno.**

Diego Flores (ARG) emerged clear winner with 7,5/11 points, leaving a pretty strong group of followers behind, including 2.-4. Sandro Mareco (ARG), Alan Pichot (ARG), and Julio Ernesto Granda Zuniga (PER), 5. Ivan Morovic Fernandez (CHI), 6.= Axel Bachmann (PAR), as well as veteran Herman C. van Riemsdijk (BRA), or Argentine-Italian GM Carlos Garcia Palermo, still the only Argentine player to have beat a reigning world champion under classic time controls.

memorialjorgeszmetan.wordpress.com

<http://www.4semanas.com/oscar-panno-director-del-torneo-magistral-internacional-ajedrez-memorial-jorge-szmetan/>
(Oscar Panno: director del torneo magistral internacional de ajedrez 'Memorial Jorge Szmetan' 2017)

Congratulations & Testimonials (2013):

Dear Mr. Panno,

On behalf of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) let me express my sincere congratulations on the special occasion - the 60th anniversary of winning the title of World Junior Chess Champion and Argentine Chess Champion.

This anniversary is a great date, not only for you, but for all of us – those who love you, your colleagues and friends. You have created your own fate and have achieved a lot in your life. You are known as an open person of a principle, who has a lot to offer and to learn from. You are actively sharing your rich life and sportive experience to younger chess players and serve as a true model of an International Chess Grandmaster!

Your professionalism and great experience have secured you respect and indisputable authority among your colleagues.

Let me on this wonderful day wish you the best of health, all the success, new opportunities, victories, optimism and endurance in any life situations, well-being and all the best. Always stay a winner and reach your aims!

Yours sincerely,
Kirsan Ilyumzhinov , FIDE President

It is a great honor for me to congratulate one of the greatest players from the era that always will be remembered as the golden age of chess. Exactly 60 years ago Mr. Oscar Panno proved that chess has a universal language, and you don't have to be born in Europe to win a prestigious tournament, such as the World Cadet Championship!

Continuing to play on the highest level and by winning many events during his active career, Mr. Panno did not just became of the strategical wizards of the game, but also greatly contributed to a rise of interest towards chess in the world and especially in his native Argentina and Latin America.

Dear Mr. Panno! I want to sincerely wish you good health, and many wonderful moments for you to see in the future!

With great respect,

Levon Aronian

I'm very pleased to be able to send an affectionate greeting to GM Oscar Panno commemorating the heroic deeds that managed to win 60 years ago the world youth championship chess. I had the great satisfaction of playing against him some times and receive live his master classes, which were full of his deep understanding of chess. Once occurred the happy circumstances of be I in Buenos Aires, training with the master, and the imprint of his legacy endures forever. It is worth the occasion to publicly express my gratitude for all his teachings not only taught on the Board but in the great space of life.

Julio Granda Zúñiga

I congratulate to GM Oscar Panno - my successor - 60th anniversary of winning the Second Junior chess championship of the world in Copenhagen 1953.

If I remember well the last time we met was in Puerto Rico 1984. It was only as if yesterday that both Copenhagen and Puerto Rico days have passed.

Dear Pannito, in my virtual life in the last 20 years, traveling in the time machine, I visited the places of our meetings multiple times: Copenhagen 1953, Mar del Plata 1955, Buenos Aires 1955, Moscow (olimpiada) 1956, Palma de Mallorca (international) 1972, Sao Paolo 1973, Buenos Aires 1979, Puerto Rico 1984..

In the first Olympic Games after Second World War in Dubrovnik 1950 Argentina had a fearsome team: Najdorf, Bolbochan, Guimard, Rosseto, Pilnic, and it is a miracle that Yugoslavia won those Olympic Games.

The next two Olympic Games in Helsinki 1952 and Amsterdam 1954 (your first ol), Argentina, led by great Najdorf, won the second place both times behind unparalleled pleiad of Soviet Grand masters: Botvinnik, Keres, Bronstein, Smyslov, Boleslavski, Kotov, Taimanov, Geller...

Argentina was, as Yugoslavia, (the country which doesn't exist any more), leading chess force of the world for decades.

In my memory Najdorf, Bolbochan, Eliskases, Pilnic, Rosseto, Guimard, Sanguineti and many more live on, and are still marching proudly.

Dear Oscar shaking your hand I send you sincere wishes that you remain in good health for a very, very long time.

Hasta siempre.

Boris Ivkov

Hi Oscar, I already would like to be there to give you a hug and congratulate you personally, but as the distance does not allow it, I send you a few lines through Marina. My greeting is not only for your sporting success which is historic and impressive, but for everything that you mean as a teacher and as a person, as my teacher and my friend. A big hug, which you can enjoy the tribute and I hope we meet soon. Alejandro

**Alejandro Hoffman,
Chess Grandmaster**

Source: <http://www.fide.com/component/content/article/4-tournaments/7418-tribute-to-gm-oscar-panno.html>



Nace en Buenos Aires el 17 de marzo de 1935. De profesión Ingeniero Civil, la carrera ajedrecística de Panno comienza en 1951 con su triunfo en el Torneo Nacional de Segunda Categoría, y luego al año siguiente ganar el Torneo Mayor.

En 1953 los triunfos se suceden. Primero gana el Campeonato Nacional Juvenil, luego el Torneo Magistral del Club Argentino, sigue su memorable triunfo en el Campeonato Mundial Juvenil en Klampenborg, Dinamarca, gana el Campeonato Argentino por primera vez y obtiene el título de campeón del Club Argentino en un match contra Luis Piazzini. Este último título lo retendrá hasta 1992!

En 1954 gana el Segundo Torneo Zonal Sudamericano y al año siguiente compite en el Interzonal de Gotemburgo donde termina tercero y se clasifica para el torneo de Candidatos en Amsterdam donde termina octavo.

En el Zonal de 1958 no tiene una buena actuación y deja de jugar al ajedrez de manera activa por un período de casi 5 años donde se dedica a terminar sus estudios universitarios y de paso expresar su disconformidad con la Federación Argentina ante las exigencias de obligarlo a jugar instancias preliminares para el campeonato local a pesar de los logros obtenidos en el exterior.

En 1954 Sub Campeón Mundial por equipos, Olimpiada de Amsterdam. En 1962 vuelve a la competición activa y logra la Medalla de Oro al segundo tablero en la Olimpiada de la Habana en 1966, además vence en tres importantes torneos: Buenos Aires 1968 (+8=2-1) delante de Najdorf; Palma de Mallorca en 1971 (+7=8-0) junto a Ljubojevic y adelante de Portisch y Larsen; y nuevamente en Palma de Mallorca en 1972 (+6=8-1) empatado con Korchnoi y Smejkal delante de Ljubojevic y Polugaievsky. Otros buenos resultados en torneos internacionales son sus segundos puestos en Caracas 1970 detrás de Stein, en Buenos Aires Clarin 1978 (+4=9-0) detrás de Andersson e igualado con Smyslov y Vaganian, en Lone Pine 1976 compartido con otros ocho GM y a medio punto detrás de Petrosian, y en 1977 segundo puesto en el Torneo Internacional de Biel, Suiza, detrás de Miles.

Representante olímpico 11 veces: Amsterdam 1954, Moscú 1956, Munich 1958, Varna 1962, La Habana 1966 (medalla de oro en el segundo tablero), Lugano 1968, Siegen 1970, Haifa 1976, Dubai 1986, Tesalónica 1988 y Manila 1992.

Campeón argentino en tres oportunidades **1953, 1985 y 1992.**

<http://web.archive.org/web/20131019164528/http://www.ajedrezargentina.org/biografias/panno.html>

1953: Campeón Mundial Juvenil (Menores de 20 años) en Copenhague

1953: Campeón Argentino, Buenos Aires

1954: Campeón Sudamericano, Zona 9, en Mar del Plata

1957: Campeón Sudamericano, Zona 9, Río de Janeiro

1958: Campeón Panamericano en Bogotá

1965: Ganador del Torneo Aniversario Y.M.C.A.

1966: Segundo 3er Sudamericano Zona 9, en Río Hondo

1969: Co-Campeón Sudamericano, Zona 9, en Mar del Plata

1971: Co-Campeón Torneo Palma de Mallorca

1972: Co-Campeón Torneo Palma de Mallorca

1976 & 1977: Campeón Torneo de Santa Fé de Bogotá

1977: Co-Campeón Torneo de Lone Pine

1985: Campeón Argentino, Buenos Aires

1992: Campeón Argentino, La Plata

Famous game: [Panno vs Spassky, 1-0, Interzonal in Gothenburg 1955](#) to replay in Chessgames

Biography:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Panno (Wikipedia in english)

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Panno (Wikipedia in spanish)

<http://www.thechesspedia.com/panno-oscar-roberto/> (Chesspedia)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=14024> (Chessgames)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20131019164528/http://www.ajedrezargentina.org/biografias/panno.html>

<http://es.chessbase.com/post/oscar-panno-cumpli-70-aos-el-reino-del-maestro->

Oscar Panno, cumplió 70 años - El reino del maestro

[Oscar Panno zum 85sten Geburtstag | ChessBase](#) (in german language, zum 85. Geburtstag)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20100727142625/http://www.asterionxxi.com.ar/numero7/panno50.htm>

CINCUENTA AÑOS DEL PRIMER TITULO MUNDIAL

[OlimpBase: 2nd World Junior Chess Championship, Copenhagen 1953](#) (Olimpbase, with games)

<http://www.brasilbase.pro.br/w20b1953.htm> (Brasilbase, crosstable world junior-ch, all stages 1953)

<http://blogs.lanacion.com.ar/ajedrez/noticias/el-agora-del-maestro-oscar-panno/> (Portrait)

http://www.tabladeflandes.com/zenon2006/zenon_311.htm (Portrait by Franco Ocampos) +++++

<https://periodicoelbarrio.com.ar/tablas-con-oscar-panno/> (Tablas con Oscar Panno, El Barrio)

<https://chess24.com/es/informate/noticias/oscar-panno-el-legado-del-maestro>

(Oscar Panno. El legado del Maestro by Carlos A. Ilardo for Chess24)

<http://tartajubow.blogspot.com/2019/10/oscar-panno-living-legend.html> (Tartajubow on Oscar Panno)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxJ4-bhF-XI> (Entravista)

Youtube channel with lectures, launched by Oscar Panno in 2020 at age of 85!

[Oscar Panno - YouTube](#) (lectures), [Las clases del Gran Maestro Panno](http://cariverplate.com.ar) (cariverplate.com.ar)

Remember the 1953 World Junior Championship held in Copenhagen: Oscar Panno born in 1935, was among the twenty players who competed in two sections of ten players, with the top four from each section advancing from the preliminaries (sometimes called semi-finals) to the championship final group of eight players (Panno beat the first Junior World Champion from 1951, Ivkov in their individual encounter in the qualification stage, but lost one game, against Swiss Dieter Keller).

Oscar Panno (Argentina) and Klaus Darga (West Germany) then tied in the final group for first place with undefeated 5.5-1.5 scores each, with Panno taking the title on superior Sonneborn-Berger points. Borislav Ivkov (then Yugoslavia), and Fridrik Olafsson (Iceland) were even for third and fourth place, with Ivkov finishing third on tie-break. Bent Larsen (Denmark) tied for fifth to eighth place with the remaining players Jonathan Penrose (England, fifth on tie-breaks), Dieter Keller (Switzerland, sixth), and James Sherwin (USA, seventh), all at 2.5-4.5, meanwhile Larsen was eight and last on tie-breaks.

Oscar Panno's successor as Junior World Champion in Antwerp in 1955 was Boris Spassky (USSR) against whom Panno has a plus lifetime record (+2=5-1, in classical chess, data may be incomplete).

Note: Ivkov, Olafsson, and Larsen already played in 1951, Keller also played in 1955, reaching again the final (consisting now of ten players), finishing sole sixth behind Boris Spassky, Edmar Mednis, Miguel Farré Mallofré as clear third, Lajos Portisch, and Georgi Tringov, above Joop Van Oosterom.

Great Chess Nations: All-time leading players from Argentina

[Roberto Grau](#), [Luis Palau](#), [Isaias Pleci](#), [Damian Reca](#),
[Miguel Najdorf](#), [Herman Pilnik](#), [Erich Eliskases](#),
[Jorge Pelikán](#), [Carlos Skalicka](#), [Movsas Feigins](#), [Paul Michel](#) (Pablo Michel), and other 'asilados'
[Julio Bolbochán](#), [Héctor Rossetto](#), [Carlos Guimard](#), [Raúl Sanguineti](#),
[Alberto Foguelman](#), [Bernardo Wexler](#) (born in Bucharest, beating Fischer at Buenos Aires 1960),
[Óscar Panno](#) (first Argentine born Grandmaster, *World Junior Chess Champion in 1953*),
[Miguel Quinteros](#) (maybe the best-looking player in the 1970s and the last big name of an era),
[Carlos Bielicki](#) (*World Junior Chess Champion in 1959*, retired soon from active chess, inactive)
[Pablo Zarnicki](#) (*World Junior Chess Champion in 1992*, as third Argentinian chess player, inactive, apparently, he has moved on into more lucrative enterprises such as poker events)
[Gerardo Barbero](#) (1961-2001), [Jorge Szmetan](#) (1950-2015),
[Carlos Garcia Palermo](#) (settled to Italy. Garcia Palermo is the first and only Argentine player to have beat a reigning world chess champion in classical chess, namely A. Karpov at Clarin in 1982), later: [Daniel Campora](#), [Pablo Ricardi](#), [Pablo Lafuente](#), [Rubén Felgaer](#), [Diego Flores](#), [Sandro Mareco](#), [Alan Pichot](#)

National Champions:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentine_Chess_Championship (English Wikipedia)

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Championnat_d%27Argentine_d%27échecs (French Wikipedia)
