

 **Bolbochan Julio** (10.03.1920 - 28.06.1996)



Chess legend, IM (1950), GM Hon. (1977) and coach.

Born in Buenos Aires, he represented Argentina in seven Chess Olympiads from 1950 to 1970.

At the 9th Olympiad in Dubrovnik 1950 he was awarded a gold medal for the best score at board 2 with 11½ out of 14. With Argentina, he won three team Silver medals (1950, 1952, 1954, always on board 2, always unbeaten), a team Bronze plus an individual board Silver in 1954, as best player in the Final A-group.

In the 1950s, Bolbochan had 'the reputation of being the hardest player in the world to defeat' (Leonard Barden), he spent his first 50 Olympic games in a row without losing any game !

In 1954, Bolbochan played in the match USSR-Argentina on board two where he drew both games with Paul Keres. Other than this, most of his chess was in South America.

Julio Bolbochan won (sole or shared) the Zonal tournaments in Mar del Plata in 1951 – see below, Sao Paulo 1960, and in Rio Hondo in 1966 (quadruple tie, second on play-off behind Mecking).

He thus qualified three times for an Interzonal, but played only once, finishing in the **Stockholm Interzonal in 1962** in a strong field at 11.5/22 (+5-4=13), notably just half a point behind prodigy Pomar at 12/22 who got the GM title by FIDE for this result, and still ahead of several GMs.

Earlier, in the *Saltsjöbaden / Stockholm Interzonal in 1952*, after a draw in the round 2 game vs. Szabó, Bolbochan had a haemorrhage and withdrew from the tournament (and from the first round adjournment vs Geller). Later, Bolbochán qualified again to play in the *Sousse Interzonal in 1967* but didn't play due to the Argentine Chess Federation not having enough funds to send him.

He participated in ten Mar del Plata tournaments, **three times winning the Mar del Plata (closed)** on 1st-2nd in the Zonal 1951 (with Eliskases), in 1952 (with Rossetto) and in 1956 (with Najdorf).

He already tied for first with Fenoglio and Guimard at **Rio de Janeiro (9th Sulamericano) in 1938**. **Twice-winner of the South American Chess Championship** (“Torneo Sudamericano”), from the mentioned Mar del Plata / Buenos Aires in 1951 (shared with Eliskases), and Sao Paulo in 1960.

Julio Bolbochan was the **Argentine chess champion in 1946 and 1948**. (Note: His older brother, Jacobo Bolbochan, won the Argentine championship in 1932 and 1933).

Assistant of Oscar Panno at the Junior World Championship in 1953 (where Panno took the title) as well as of ie. Najdorf (Candidate's in Zurich 1953) or Quinteros (Interzonal in Leningrad 1973).

After 1976, Julio Bolbochan lived in Venezuela, working as a chess teacher at the Universidad Simon Bolivar in Caracas.

Highest historical ranking SONAS: 13th (several times in the 1950s), a **consecutive Top-25 player from May 1949 up to April 1957 in all monthly lists**, a peak historical rating of 2703 Elo (1954).



CNC / German Federation

Matanovic vs. J. Bolbochan (Panno behind), at Moscow Olympiad 1956

Here is his victory in Bolbochan vs. [Larry Evans](#) in the 1952 Olympiad in Helsinki:

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. Nf3 a6 4. e3 Nf6 5. Bxc4 e6 6. O-O c5 7. Qe2 Nc6 8. Nc3 b5 9. Bb3 cxd4 10. exd4 Nxd4 11. Nxd4 Qxd4 12. Nd5 Nxd5 13. Rd1 Nc3 14. bxc3 Qb6 15. Qe5 Bb7 16. Be3 Qc6 17. Bd5 Qc8 18. Bxb7 Qxb7 19. a4 Rc8 20. axb5 Qxb5 21. Qd4 e5 22. Qg4 Rd8 23. Rxd8+ Kxd8 24. Rd1+ Ke7 25. Qf5 **1-0** → Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1282939>

Bolbo Fete: Bolbochan vs. Gligoric 1-0 at Mar del Plata 1950:

→ <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1307820>

JULIO BOLBOCHAN (20.03.1920 -28.06.1996) by Roberto Alvarez

June 28th, 1996, will be remembered like a cloudy day for the Argentinian chess: Hon. Grand Master Julio Bolbochan, born on March 20th, 1920, died at 76 years of age, in Caracas (Venezuela) where he has lived for several years. He worked as a chess teacher in the "Universidad Simon Bolivar" in Caracas, and he was a very kind man, always favourably disposed to give advice to some of his pupils.

Julio Bolbochan was a very strong chess player, and he certainly deserved the GM Hon. title on 1977.

Between 1950-1970, he played 7 FIDE Olympiads, with great results.

Argentina Chess Champion twice: 1946 and 1948, but his even better results were at Mar del Plata International tournaments 1951 (Zonal), 1952 and 1956 were he joined the first place.

When living in Argentina, he was the trainer of GM Oscar Panno, and taught him all his positional play secrets.

His brother, Jacobo Bolbochan, was too a chessplayer and IM. Your games are now eternal.

JULIO BOLBOCHAN by Mark Crowther

Bolbochan won the closed Mar del Plata international series three times:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Mar del Plata (also Zonal) | 1951 | 1st= (with Eliskases) |
| Mar del Plata | 1952 | 1st= (with Rossetto) |
| Mar del Plata | 1956 | 1st= (with Najdorf) |

He qualified for three Interzonals but played full only in one: Stockholm Interzonal 1962, finishing in a strong field 13th at 11.5/22.

He withdrew from the Saltsjobaden Interzonal in 1952 after a few rounds due to ill health and could not travel to Sousse Interzonal in 1967.



Julio Bolbochán en 1939, a los 19 años

Bolbochan played in 7 Olympiads from 1950-1970:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Dubrovnik 1950 | Board 2 (Najdorf, Bolbochan, Eliskases, Pilnik, Rossetto) |
| Helsinki 1952 | Board 2 (Najdorf, Bolbochan, Eliskases, Pilnik, Rossetto) |
| Amsterdam 1954 | Board 2 (Najdorf, Bolbochan, Panno, Guimard, Rossetto, Pilnik) |
| Moscow 1956 | Board 2 (Najdorf, Bolbochan, Panno, Pilnik, Sanguinetti, ...) |
| Varna 1962 | Board 2 (Najdorf, Bolbochan, Panno, Sanguinetti, Rossetto, ...) |
| Havana 1966 | Board 3 (Najdorf, Panno, Bolbochan, Sanguinetti, ..., ...) |
| Siegen 1970 | Board 3 (Najdorf, Panno, Bolbochan, Quinteros, ..., ...) |

Julio Bolbochan got the board 2 individual **gold medal** in 1950 with +9=5, plus an individual board 2 silver medal in 1954.

Argentina came second in 1950, 1952 & 1954, and third in 1958 (without Najdorf and Bolbochan), and in 1962, their last olympian podium place!

Argentinian Chess Grandmasters:

Najdorf 1950 Eliskases & Pilnik 1952 Panno 1955 Guimard & Rossetto 1960

Forgotten Julio Bolbochan was among the first four players worldwide to be awarded the GM Honorary by FIDE in the year 1977.

In choosing some games, the overwhelming impression was that this was a solid player who drew many games, including against some of the World's absolute best players when he got the opportunity to play them. I hope that I have managed to choose games of his, and not his brother Jacabo was also a strong player (1906-84) but their careers rarely overlapped with most of Julio's games being post-WWII and Jacabo's pre-WWII.

Apr-20-04 **fred lennox**: Bolbochan "has the reputation of being the hardest player in the world to defeat." - Barden. This is in the 50's when Petrosian is developing his defensive skills. The two played each other in the 60's three times, all drawn.

May-19-03 **fred lennox**: I love the way Bolbochan plays the rook. What a flair he has to handle these unweildy beasts! It is like the other pieces are servants to the rook. Nothing like a rook to set matters straight!

May-19-03 **Ribeiro**: Bolbochán was a very strong player. For instance, when a match Argentina vs. USSR took place in 1954, he was the second player of his country (Najdorf was the first). His opponent was Paul Keres, and they tied (2-2).

Argentina had several strong players, and obtained good results in international team competitions.

In the **Hamilton Russell Cup (1954)**, the team was: Najdorf, Bolbochán, Panno, Eliskases, Pilnik, Rossetto and Guimard. They took second place. The USSR won (with Botvinnik, Smyslov, Bronstein, Keres, Kotov and Geller). Yugoslavia was third (with Pirc, Gligoric, Trifunovic, Fuderer, Matanovic and Rabar).

This indicates how strong has been chess in Argentina.

Jul-04-14 **zanzibar**: From an online obit about him:

<http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impre...> (ES) [...]

The Argentine chess and had a strong chess tradition before 1939, highlighting the disputed world championship between Capablanca and Alekhine in 1927.

After the outbreak of World War II, many of the best teachers in the world remained in Argentina after Buenos Aires Olympiad 1939, some forever, and Argentine chess environment was strengthened by the concentration of large players; some, like Miguel Najdorf and Erich Eliskases, came to represent Argentina.

The permanence of Najdorf was momentous for Argentina achieved the Olympic runners in Dubrovnik (1950), Helsinki (1952) and Amsterdam (1954), and third places in Munich (1958) and Varna (1962)

At the individual level achieved two Argentinian World Youth Championship, Oscar Panno in 1953 and in 1959 Carlos Bielicki.

The result of this chess boiling emerged (or were upgraded), several great teachers, one of them was Julio Bolbochán (Buenos Aires, March 10, 1920 Caracas, June 28, 1996), whose death is now serving 15 years.

<Let's do a brief summary of his career: He started moving the pieces after five years; He taught his older brother, James, who was Argentine chess champion in 1932 and 1933.

Julio Bolbochan was Argentine champion in 1946 and 1948, with Erich Eliskases shared first place in the South American Championship in 1951, a title he repeated in 1960.

He received the gold medal on board two of the Olympiad in Dubrovnik 1950, for his 11 ½ points out of 14, and the silver medal on the second board in the 1954 Amsterdam Olympics with 11 ½ out of 15.

He spent three consecutive Olympics (1950, 1952 and 1954), without losing any game, and only fell after being defeated unbeaten his first 50 Olympic games, which is a record among Hispanic players.

On his style of play in many places emphasizes its solidity, it was very difficult to beat even the best in the world.

When I searched for material for a book of 1,001 problems that I wrote, I watched many games Bolbochán, what caught my attention in his game were not the virtues already assumed, as being very good tactician, and very good runner, which I was amazed that he was upfront about his South American contemporaries in the types of positions he practiced. He played almost all classical positions of isolated pawn, hanging pawns, etc., Sharp Sicilian line, Indian defenses, etc.

From 1957 developed the skills as a journalist, writer, took care of the "Front Panel" column in the Buenos Aires newspaper La Nación.

He wrote several books and in 1953 was Oscar Panno analyst when youth was proclaimed world champion in Copenhagen, then went over Argentine representatives analyst.

His great capacity for work was also reflected in the many places where he taught while living in Argentina, for example in the Banfield Club, Buenos Aires Province, which he represented club on many occasions. He also served his teaching in the San Lorenzo de Almagro Club in the Club ADISYC, in the Maccabi Club, and many more.

At 56 years old, and he retired early at the National Meat Board, made a decision that stunned many, as it was hard to change routine went Argentina's May 13, 1976, shortly after the military seized power.

He was hired by the Venezuelan Foundation for Chess Development, settled in Caracas (Venezuela), and went on to teach countless children and organize tournaments in Capablanca Academy in Caracas and Colegio Emil Friedman.

He was awarded the Grand Cordon Order of Venezuela in recognition of his 20 years of public service teaching chess at the Simon Bolivar University.

Continued to play until his later years, and represented Venezuela in the Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv in 1977, 1981, 1985 and 1989.>

They also give the Bolbochan vs. Pachman (1956) game (1st in cg notable games):

[Julio Bolbochan vs Pachman, 1956](#)

Interesting that he taught his older brother (and future ARG ch) the game.

Sources:**[HISTORIA DEL AJEDREZ EN VENEZUELA](#):**

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Photos:

Ajedrecito (**HISTORIA DEL AJEDREZ EN VENEZUELA**) by Rafael Santander,
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