

Although Fischer was twenty-five minutes late for the second session, he still had forty-five extra minutes for the second time control, which ended on move fifty-six. Bobby played the first eighteen moves of the next adjournment quite rapidly, until Spassky's 60. Be7 which caused him to consume thirty-eight minutes on his clock in finding a reply, his longest think of the match. Bobby spent an additional twenty-one minutes on the previous move that allowed his rook to be imprisoned, which makes it likely that the fifty-nine minutes he spent on moves fifty-nine and sixty was the longest for any two-move sequence in his career. All told the game ran five hours and twenty-four minutes long.

WHO WAS BOBBY'S SECOND?

Mark Wieder wrote:¹

When the musical *Chess* was playing on Broadway in New York in the mid-'80s, I attended with Bill. The show is (very) loosely based on the Fischer-Spassky match. The American player is abrasive and self-centered, the Russian polite and sympathetic. The American's second is also his girlfriend, who in the course of the play falls in love with the Russian (I did say *very* loosely). When the show ended, a man sitting right in front of us turned and asked, "Who was Bobby's second in Iceland?" to which Lombardy answered, "I was."

For William Lombardy the answer was simple, as he stated in his memoir:²

I was the only person on the intimate inside during that Match of the Century, I choose to say very little because I do not delight in satisfying idle curiosity! As for my "uselessness" on the technical side of chess at Reykjavik, let me point out that there were fourteen adjourned games. Bobby and I worked together on those adjourned positions without making a technical error! Beyond that I bested the Soviet team psychology, even though the team had a so-called professional psychologist. For little remuneration, I dedicated my services in the Icelandic capital to guarantee that Bobby followed through and finished the match victoriously.

Frank Brady wrote in *Endgame* that Lombardy was not Bobby's only second, and that Argentinian Grandmaster Miguel Quinteros was also part of the team. Other say Quinteros was only present for part of the match and was in Iceland solely as Bobby's friend and supporter.

On another note, Tony Saidy quipped, "...Bobby never had seconds, he would consider the ideas of whomever [referring to grandmasters] walked into the room."

¹ Mark Wieder, "In Memoriam, for Better and for Worse: Bill Lombardy (1937–2017)," *New In Chess*, 2017 #8, (p. 64–69).

² William Lombardy, *Understanding Chess: My System, My Games, My Life*. In association with Russell Enterprises, 2011, (p. 218–219).

To complicate matters further in 2012, Lubos Kavalek stated in the pages of *New In Chess* that he was Fischer's second from the adjournment of game 13 until the end of the match:¹

In Reykjavík Bobby had two seconds: first it was Lombardy (the official one). I took over during the adjournment of game thirteen (Alekhine's Defense) and stayed with him till the end. I came to Reykjavík as a reporter for the Voice of America and reported on the games till the end. I came late to the match, game eight was the first I reported on from Iceland. Bobby listened to my broadcasts in Reykjavík and I got the first lengthy interview from him after he won (a small part is in the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame). Somehow it didn't bother him to ask me to analyze with him at the same time

Brady is mistaken when he describes Miguel Quinteros as one of Bobby's seconds. The funny thing is Brady claims he was in our hotel all the time and yet Quinteros only came near the end of the match. He never took part in our analysis. He flew with Bobby to New York. I believed Quinteros was just Bobby's friend in 1971.

We talk about Bill Lombardy. It was difficult for him to accept he was not what he was in 1960. It led to many unpleasant situations in the tournaments he played at the end of his playing career. I had no problem with him, although he probably didn't like being pushed away during the match.

I thought the reason for the Bobby and Ed Edmondson split was the attention Ed was receiving and the implication that he was responsible for Bobby's success.

Throughout his career, in stark contrast to the Soviets, Bobby was known for not having seconds—preferring to do his own opening preparation and adjournment analysis. There were exceptions: Lombardy accompanied Bobby to the Portorož Interzonal in 1958; Bent Larsen seconded him a year later at the 1959 Candidates; and Arthur Bisguier helped Fischer and Pal Benko at the 1962 Candidates. In the first two instances the seconds doubled as chaperons as Bobby was still a minor.

Fischer did not have a second for his Candidates matches with Taimanov, Larsen, nor Petrosian, and for a long time there was a question of who would accompany him to Reykjavík. Correspondence between Fischer and Ed Edmondson (before he was removed from his duties) indicates that Fischer's first choice was Svetozar Gligorić with Larry Evans the backup, but they declined. Both had made previous commitments to do books on the match (and in Evans case, also television work for *ABC's Wide World of Sports*).

The U.S. Chess Federation had budgeted for the position and was paying the second directly, so it was not money out of Bobby's pocket, but up to the

¹ *New In Chess*, 2012 #6, (p. 60–68).

beginning of the match the position was not filled, as Lombardy wrote in *Sports Illustrated*:¹

There were no long-range plans for me to serve as Bobby's second in Iceland. At the time the subject came up he had already missed the opening ceremonies in Reykjavik and nearly everyone was pessimistic about the chances of his appearing at the championship. I received a message to phone Dr. Anthony Saidy, a chess friend of Bobby's and son of the co-author of *Finian's Rainbow*. I guessed that Fischer might be holed up with the Saidys, and he was—he came to the telephone. I tried to convince him to go to Iceland, but he was noncommittal. "What about you? Can you come?" he asked. I told him I was committed to covering the event on cable TV. "You haven't signed anything, have you?" I had not.

Lombardy would prove to be a wise choice. While he was no longer the world-class talent he had been from 1958–1960, when he was one of the top fifteen players in the world, Lombardy was still a strong grandmaster with a deep understanding of the game.

The years in the priesthood had limited Lombardy's time to study chess and keep up on opening theory, and in that respect, Kavalek would have been more helpful—although in truth Bobby never needed help with openings. In 1972 Kavalek's rating of 2555 was only slightly higher, than Lombardy's 2520. However, Kavalek was a professional player who was improving quickly and by January 1974 he was number ten in the world with a FIDE rating of 2625.

Still, Lombardy had plenty to offer. The role of a second is not only to convey chess information. Often it's just as important to make sure the player is feeling confident and at ease. Lombardy, who had known Fischer for close to twenty years and watched him climb the mountain to the World Championship match, knew Bobby and his moods well. If he did nothing more than persuade Bobby to play game three Lombardy would have earned his keep and more.

In the end, what it comes down to is William Lombardy was paid by the USCF, put in long hours of work with Fischer, and should be considered Bobby's "official" second. It's clear that Lubos Kavalek helped Fischer in many critical adjournments in the second half of the match and therefore has claiming rights to be called one of Fischer's seconds. Miguel Quinteros has never spoken on the subject so it's a matter of hearsay as to how much input or influence he had.

¹ William Lombardy, *Sports Illustrated*, "A Mystery Wrapped in an Enigma," January 21, 1974.