By T. Harutyunyan

Melikset Khachiyan is an Armenian-American chess player, a grand master (GM), who currently resides in Los Angeles. He began playing chess at the age of 8. Among his early coaches was the 9th World Champion Tigran Petrosian. He became a Grand Master in 2006, after moving to the United States. He was the first coach of GM Levon Aronian who said in an interview to a Russian periodical: "In the childhood, I - like any other person - had a coach. His name was Melikset Khachiyan, he did a lot of good for me. He discerned a talent for com¬petition in me. He considered me a potential candidate for the national team. Apparently, girls are more emotional, women longer than men - they can be in a good mood, they usually play quite well. That’s why I was suited to be a coach. I accepted the proposal with pleasure.

- Please tell us about the achievements and failures after you began coaching the team.
- In 2010 our national team participated in the Olympiad. I was the coach of the women’s team; I think we competed quite successfully: we took fifth place. This is first of all the achievement of our female players, the team captain Mikhail Khodorkovsky has dealt with all organizational issues. The team of Armenia had a great result, they were the best on the continent.

Melikset Khachiyan is now a coach of the women’s chess team of the U.S. He gave an interview to Noyan Tapan.

- When did you begin to coach the U.S. chess team?
- In 2010 I was playing in the U.S. championship. One of the leading players of our team, Irina Krush approached me and asked if I wanted to coach the U.S. women’s team. She added it was outside her competence to decide who will be the coach. Such decisions are taken by the Federation Council and the team’s captain Mikhail Khodorkovsky who has dealt with all organizational issues for over ten years. They together with the team decide whether this or that candidate is a suitable coach for the national team. Apparently, taking into account my successes as a player and a coach, they decided I was suited to be a coach. I accepted the proposal with pleasure.

- What do you think about the potential of women’s national team of Armenia.
- It is much more balanced. The inclusion of Natasha Klimova in the team gave more confidence to the Armenian girls. They usually play quite well. That’s why I was suited to be a coach. I accepted the proposal with pleasure.

- Would you like to add anything else?
- Only one thing - I am very glad to coach the U.S. women’s team. I hope that thanks to the support of the Federation and the Kasparov Foundation it will stand a good chance of playing successfully.

The potential of the team players is huge and it is a united team so in the near future, I think, the U.S. women’s team will start displaying very good results.