

Montreal 1979

Tournament of Stars



M.TAL, V.CHEPIZHNY & A.ROSHAL

PERGAMON PRESS

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Montreal 1979

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Montreal 1979

TOURNAMENT OF STARS

by

M. TAL

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Translated by

KENNETH P. NEAT



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Foreword to the Russian Edition

by

V. I. Chepizhny

The present book acquaints the reader with one of the major events in the history of chess — the 'Tournament of Stars', which was held from 10th April to 7th May in Montreal (Canada).

The very strong composition of the tournament — ten top-class grandmasters from eight countries, headed by the World Champion — the great competitive intensity, and the equally high standard of play; all this makes one justified in assuming that the 'Tournament of Stars' will occupy an exceptional place in the annals of chess events.

The book contains all 90 games played in Montreal. They are presented in chronological order, round by round. Each round is preceded by a general summary, which is given by Ex-World Champion Mikhail Tal.

The 45 most interesting games from the tournament have been annotated in detail by some of the participants, Karpov, Tal, Hort and Kavalek, and by the leading Soviet players Aronin, Bronstein, Gufeld, Kholmov, Nikitin and Polugayevsky. [See also translator's foreword.] The remaining games are given without notes. Of course, not only one half, but the overwhelming majority of the games from the 'Tournament of Stars' deserve the most thorough analysis and detailed commentary. And such work will undoubtedly be carried out in the future. But we were faced with the task of publishing with some urgency the collected games from the 'Tournament of Stars', and we hope that it is in this light that the demanding reader will assess the present work. ♣

The events on the 64 squares are, of course, the most important in any chess event, especially in one as outstanding as this. But there is also much else which is of interest to chess enthusiasts: the atmosphere in the tournament and around it, relations between the participants during the tournament, the most important competitive moments, the reasons for the success or failure of this or that grandmaster, the organization of the event, and so on. All this the reader will find in the notes by chess journalist A. Roshal, who was present at the tournament in his capacity as special correspondent for the newspaper *Sovyet'sky Sport*. In his notes, use has been made of his reports from Montreal.

Chess enthusiasts will no doubt be attracted by the interviews which the winners of the 'Tournament of Stars', Anatoly Karpov and Mikhail Tal, gave to the editor especially for this book. The tournament in the eyes of the winners — what could

be more interesting?! Especially since on a number of questions these friendly rivals express completely opposite opinions. It is natural that the range of questions touched upon in the interviews is not restricted merely to the Montreal theme. The answers of these two great players reflect on the most varied aspects of chess at the highest level, and on many burning questions of modern-day chess.

On the pages of this book the reader will also find portraits of the players, information about the major tournament and match successes of the grandmasters, and extensive reference material, illustrating the course of the competitive struggle in the 'Tournament of Stars'.

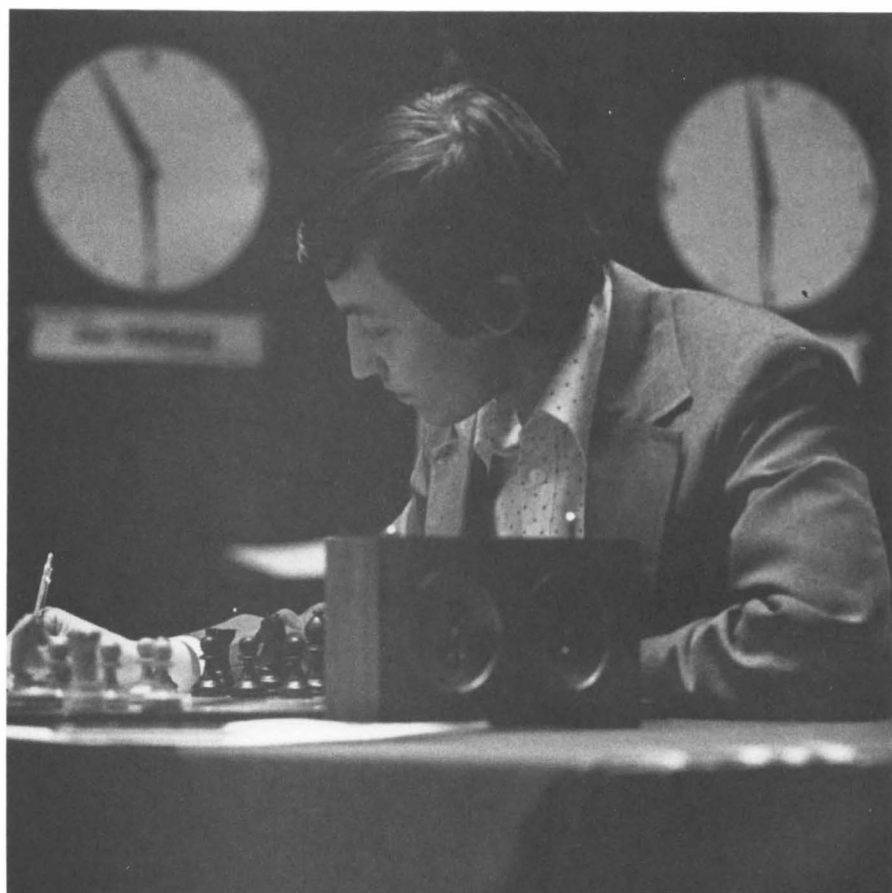
Publisher's Note

in order to make this book available as economically and as rapidly as possible the manuscript has been typed in a form suitable for direct photographic reproduction. This method has its typographical limitations, but it is hoped that they in no way distract the reader.

We are most grateful to Bill Allan for the photographs of Karpov, Tal, Portisch, Ljubojevic, Hort, Hübner and Kavalek, all of which were taken at the tournament. Thanks are also due to Hilary Coe for the photographs of Larsen and Timman (taken at the Phillips & Drew Kings Chess Tournament) and to Jenny Drummond for preparing the diagrams and typing the manuscript.

Martin J. Richardson
Executive Editor
Pergamon Chess Series

WHO'S WHO



Anatoly Karpov

USSR

Born 23rd May 1951
International grandmaster since 1970
World Champion since 1975
USSR Champion 1976

Victories in International Tournaments

1976 Trinec
1968 Groningen
1969 Stockholm, World Junior Championship
1971 Moscow
1972 Hastings
San Antonio
1973 Leningrad, Interzonal Tournament
Madrid
1975 Portoroz-Ljubljana
Milan
1976 Skopje
Amsterdam
Montilla
1977 Bad Lauterberg
Las Palmas
London
Tilburg
1978 Bogojno

Match Victories

1974 Polugayevsky
Spassky
Korchnoi
1975 Portisch
1978 Korchnoi



Mikhail Tal*USSR*

Born 9th November 1936
 International grandmaster since 1957
 World Champion 1960-1961
 USSR Champion 1957, 1958, 1967,
 1972, 1974, 1978

Victories in International Tournaments

1958 Portoroz, Interzonal Tournament
 1959 Zurich
 Yugoslavia, Candidates' Tournament
 1961 Stockholm
 Bled
 1963 Mishkolts
 1964 Hastings
 Reykjavik
 Amsterdam, Interzonal Tournament
 Kislovodsk
 1966 Sarajevo
 Palma de Mallorca
 1971 Tallinn
 1972 Sukhumi
 1973 Wijk aan Zee
 Tallinn
 Sochi
 Dubna
 1974 Hastings
 Ljublin
 Halle
 Novi Sad
 1977 Tallinn
 Leningrad
 Sochi

Match Victories

1954 Saigin
 1960 Botvinnik
 1965 Portisch
 Larsen
 1968 Cligoric
 1970 Bagirov
 Gufeld
 1976 Andersson



Lajos Portisch*Hungary*

Born 4th April 1935

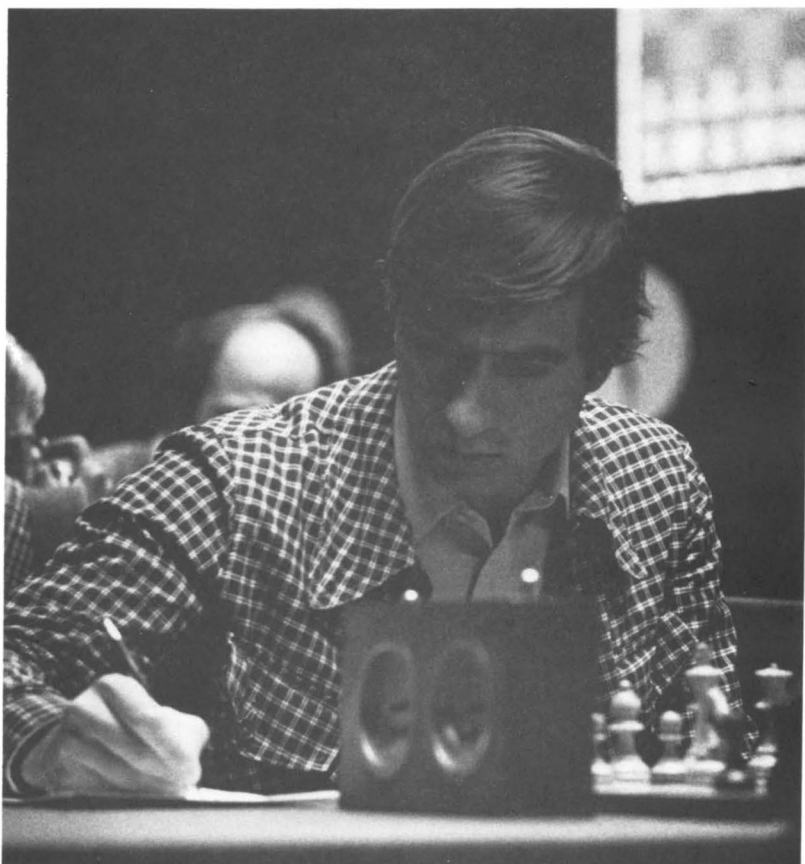
International grandmaster since 1961

Hungarian Champion 1957, 1958, 1960,
1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1971,
1975*Victories in International Tournaments*

1960 Madrid, Zonal Tournament
 1962 Sarajevo
 1963 Halle, Zonal Tournament
 Amsterdam
 Sarajevo
 1965 Beverwijk
 1966 Kecskemet
 1967 Halle, Zonal Tournament
 Amsterdam
 1968 Skopje-Ohrid
 1969 Monte Carlo
 Amsterdam
 1970 Hastings
 Prague
 1971 Hastings
 Adelaide
 1972 Wijk aan Zee
 Las Palmas
 San Antonio
 1973 Ljubljana-Portoroz
 Portoroz
 1975 Wijk aan Zee
 1978 Wijk aan Zee

Match Victories

1964 Reshevsky
 1970 Korchnoi
 1975 Ljubojevic
 1977 Larsen



Ljubomir Ljubojevic

Yugoslavia

Born 2nd November 1950

International grandmaster since 1971

Yugoslav Champion 1977

Victories in International Tournaments

1970	Saravejo
1971	Palma de Mallorca
1972	Olot
	Caorle
1974	Orense
	Las Palmas
1975	Las Palmas
	Amsterdam
	Manila
1976	Wijk aan Zee
1978	Titovo Uzice
1979	Sao Paulo

Match Victory

1979	Gligoric
------	----------

Boris Spassky*USSR*

Born 30th January 1937
 International grandmaster since 1956
 World Champion 1969-1972
 USSR Champion 1961, 1973

*Victories in International Tournaments*

1955 Antwerp, World Junior Championship
 1959 Moscow
 Riga
 1960 Mar del Plata
 1964 Amsterdam, Interzonal Tournament
 Belgrade
 1965 Sochi
 1966 Hastings
 Santa Monica
 1967 Beverwijk
 Sochi
 1969 San Juan
 1970 Leiden
 Amsterdam
 1971 Vancouver
 1978 Bogojno
 Montilla
 1979 Munich

Match Victories

1965 Keres
 Geller
 Tal
 1968 Geller
 Larsen
 Korchnoi
 1969 Petrosian
 1974 Byrne
 1977 Hübner
 Kavalek
 Hort
 Portisch
 Timman

Jan Timman

Holland

Born 14th December 1951

International grandmaster since 1974

Dutch Champion 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978

Victories in International Tournaments

1971 Wijk aan Zee

1972 Stockholm

1973 Stockholm

London

1974 Hastings

Sombor

1975 Netanya

1976 Reykjavik

1978 Niksic

Amsterdam

Amsterdam, Zonal Tournament





Vlastimil Hort

Czechoslovakia

Born 12th January 1944

International grandmaster since 1965

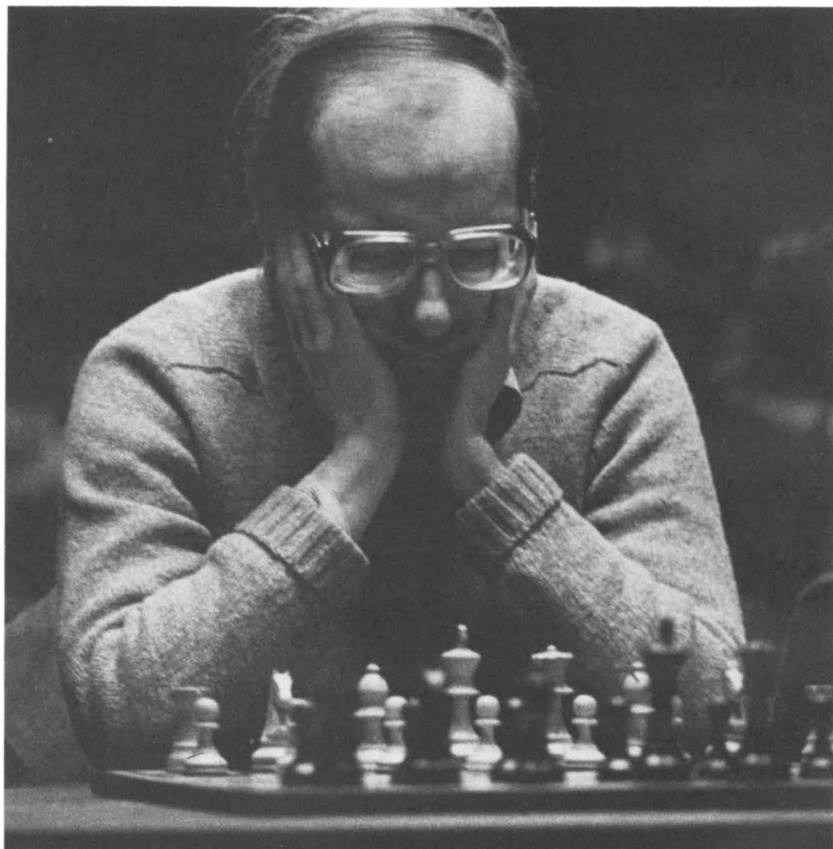
Czech Champion on several occasions

Victories in International Tournaments

- 1965 Marianske Lazne
Kecskemet
- 1968 Hastings
- 1969 Skopje
Venice
- 1971 Havana
Bad Luhahovice
Goterborg
Gloggnitz
Havirov
- 1972 Reykjavik
- 1973 Leipzig
- 1974 Slantchev Breag
- 1975 Hastings
Brno
- 1976 Hastings
Vinkovci
Banka Luka
- 1977 Poljanica Zdroj
London
Stip
- 1978 London

Match Victory

- 1970 Polugayevsky



Robert Hübner

West Germany

Born 6th November 1948

International grandmaster since 1971

West German Champion 1967

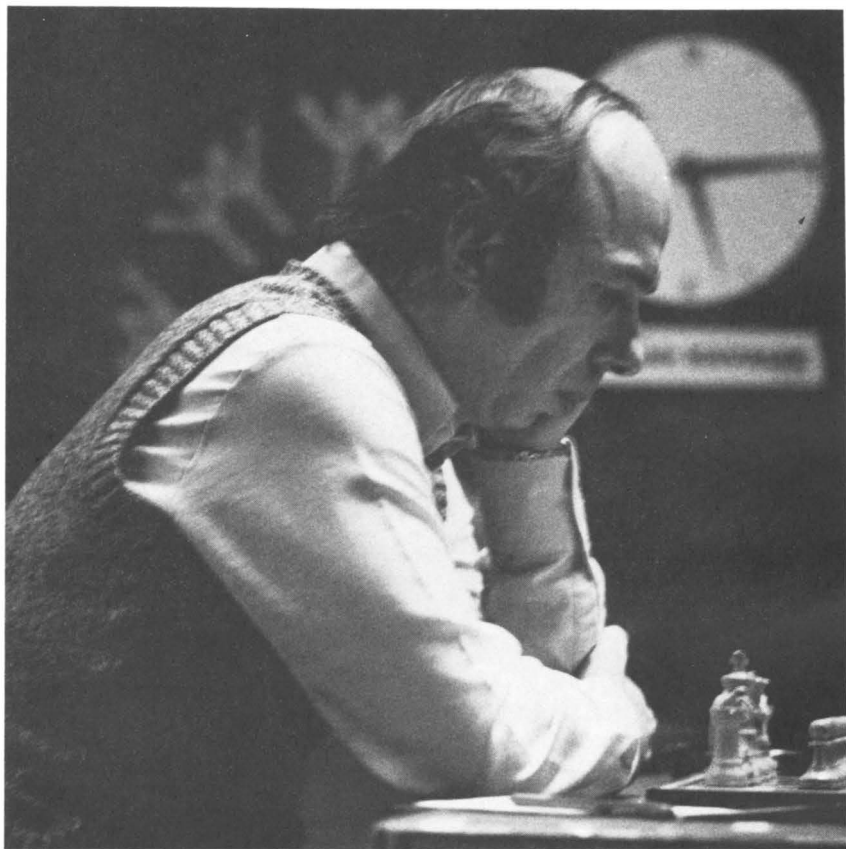
Victories in International Tournaments

1970 Sombor

1974 Oslo

Houston

1979 Munich



Ljubomir Kavalek*USA*

Born 9th August 1943

International grandmaster since 1965

USA Champion 1973, 1978

Victories in International Tournaments

1968 Wijk aan Zee

1970 Caracas

1971 Netanya

1973 Lanzarote

Netanya

Montilla

Bauang

1974 Solingen

Match Victory

1978 Andersson



Bent Larsen*Denmark*

Born 4th March 1935

International grandmaster since 1956

Danish Champion on several occasions

Victories in International Tournaments

- 1951 Trondheim
- 1952 Trondheim
- 1955 Oslo
- Zagreb
- 1957 Hastings
- Reykjavik
- 1958 Mar del Plata
- 1960 Beverwijk
- 1961 Beverwijk
- 1964 Amsterdam, Interzonal Tournament
- Amsterdam
- 1966 Le Havre
- 1967 Havana
- Winnipeg
- Sousse, Interzonal Tournament
- Palma de Mallorca
- 1968 Monte Carlo
- 1969 Busum
- Palma de Mallorca
- 1970 Lugano
- Vinkovci
- 1972 Teesside
- 1973 Hastings
- London
- Manila
- 1974 New York
- 1975 Orense
- 1976 Lanzarote
- Biel, Interzonal Tournament
- 1977 Geneva
- Portoroz-Ljubljana
- 1978 Lone Pine
- Esbjerg
- London

Match Victories

- 1965 Ivkov
- 1966 Geller
- 1968 Portisch
- 1969 Tal
- 1970 Kavalek
- 1971 Uhlmann

Montreal Diary

by

Aleksandr Roshal

CHESS STARS IN THE LAND OF ICE HOCKEY

The Meridien Hotel extends over a full block in the centre of Montreal. All around, in a confusion of tongues, are visitors from virtually every country of the world, but one group of guests draws particular attention. These are the participants in the international 'Tournament of Stars', and to them the proprietors are especially attentive. Among the mass of surrounding adverts, there is a predominance of posters divided into 64 squares of two colours. You feel the urge to reach out for one of the stylized pieces and make a first move. Incidentally, the paper boards are perhaps some of the few objects that you can touch here without caution: in this ultra-modern hotel it is risky to touch a whole series of things — your hand is struck instantly by an electric spark. This static electricity, for the moment dormant, has been as though transferred to the grandmasters — they are preoccupied, full of anticipation for the opening of the tournament that evening... .

But gradually the players become more lively and talkative, and tell one another about their adventures on the way to Montreal. Someone is already going back into history, attempting to recall tournaments comparable in strength with the present one. Larsen recalls the unrealized super-tournaments of Havana 1921 and Acapulco 1973, where meetings between top grandmasters were planned, but did not take place. And now at last a top-class tournament of this type has been organized.

In this two-cycle event it is indeed only outstanding players who are appearing — the tournament belongs to the unprecedently high, 15th FIDE category. The average rating exceeds the impressive figure of 2620. This number was increased by the 'return' to the tournament of Vlastimil Hort, who was going to withdraw in favour of the young Englishman Tony Miles. At the last moment the Czech grandmaster changed his mind, and, to the delight of the organizers, nevertheless flew in to Montreal from Lone Pine. Hort's decision to make this 'reverse substitution' was obviously influenced by his success at the tournament in this American town, where he shared first place, ahead of Larsen and 20 other grandmasters.

Even before the start of this event, much was said about how it would resemble a dress rehearsal prior to the decisive elimination battles in the current World Championship Cycle. It was indeed an appropriate comparison: Montreal brought together Ex-World Champion Spassky, who already had the right to participate in the Candidates matches, eight favourites for the coming Interzonal Tournaments, and the World Champion himself! A further three to four candidatures could perhaps have

been considered, but then the event would have suffered in its 'geographical imposingness', and also, most probably, in something else... . But the main thing is that there is no one here that one would like to see replaced. There are no participants who are at all markedly inferior to the others in standard, so that comparisons with even the outstanding Milan tournament of 1975 become inaccurate.

But even so, the author of these lines remembered that tournament in Italy, although for a quite different reason... . The group in which I was standing was approached by Lajos Portisch. He greeted us, and enquired as to who was staying in which room of the hotel. Along with the others, I automatically gave my number. Portisch raised his eyebrows, thought for a while, and then took Ljubomir Kavalek to one side. The grandmasters conferred about something, and then with apologetic smiles suggested that I change my room, since I had incautiously been accommodated exactly between them. Back in Malin, Portisch had complained that the Moscow correspondent had disturbed his relaxation, with his continuous and noisy conversations on the telephone. A typical detail, showing how seriously the leading players consider the slightest nuances of their everyday life when participating in important events.

Having settled down rather more comfortably in the hotel, before the drawing of lots the players expressed the wish to see the field of the coming battles. A cavalcade of cars set off for an island in the St Lawrence River. One can, incidentally, also get there by metro, since there is an entrance to it directly in the Meridien, and an exit on the territory of the formerly famous exhibition 'Expo-67', which is where the tournament is being held. Now there is another exhibition here, in constant operation - 'Man and his world', which is held each year under a new motto. Thus during the Olympic Games everything was devoted to sport, and at present - to the International Year of the Child... . But at the moment all is quiet, a blizzard is sweeping through the deserted avenues, there are none of the usual maple leaves, and the exhibition is waiting for warmer weather before coming alive. The numerous pavilions, as though orphaned, are devoid of their once fine apparel, and the wind batters at their boarded-up breasts and cools their brittle metal bones. But it is apparent that they were, and still will be, beautiful. The American pavilion, which has suffered a fire, is especially prominent - an enormous aluminium sphere, in the non-glassed cage of which stand toy-like empty blocks.

Only the Quebec Pavilion is open, and this is where the grandmasters will be playing. The Canadian Province of Quebec (which also includes Montreal - a major business and cultural centre) is noted for its aspiration towards isolation and autonomy. Here the greater part of the population speaks French, and not English, is proud of its customs, and haughtily looks down on the other inhabitants of this vast country. It is a notable fact that, at the international exhibition, the province had its own pavilion. This building is kept relatively 'habitable', although on first acquaintance it seemed unlikely that in one day the hosts would be able to make the premises suitable for the receiving of the distinguished chess guests, to say nothing of several hundred spectators.

It was a good thing that the grandmasters were able to visit the playing hall the day before the clocks were started: the proposed lighting for the stage, for example, was quite unsuitable, and it had to be urgently re-equipped. Other repairs were also still in the process of being completed.

The 'permit system', on the other hand, was from the very start worked out in every detail. All the grandmasters, journalists, and various types of officials, were assembled in a small building at the entrance to the exhibition, and were in turn seated on a chair opposite the barrel of a 'rapid-firing' camera. At this point the famous chess players, who are accustomed to posing under normal conditions, suddenly began to feel embarrassed, so that in the pictures, which were then

attached to special identity cards, they were barely recognizable. And when later they accidentally left their cards in the hotel, they would joke that it was embarrassing to have to show them.

There was, incidentally, one amusing episode connected with this 'forgetfulness' of the grandmasters. Karpov and Tal had left their permits behind, and the guard would not allow the car in which we were travelling into the grounds of the exhibition. I held out my card and carelessly stated that 'these gentlemen' were travelling with me. The guard bowed gallantly, and allowed our car to pass through. This greatly amused us... .

Yes, in the land of ice hockey it was some time before the famous chess players began to be recognized, although the papers began announcing their arrival long before the tournament. But later the popularity of the 'FIDE stars' rose extraordinarily, and in this respect they successfully rivalled the highly popular professionals of the National Hockey League. Very soon, the local journalists began to talk about the Montreal idol Guy Lefler having to compete not only with Trotter from 'New York Islanders' for the ice puck, but also with Karpov from Russia for the number of photographs in the press. To which the World Champion, after watching a game for the Stanley Cup between 'Montreal Canadiens' and a Washington team, remarked that all Lefler's fellow team members helped him to score goals, whereas he, Karpov, could only be hindered by his colleagues, Tal and Spassky.

FIVE CHESS SCREENS

The opening ceremony of the tournament, in one of the numerous halls of the Meridien Hotel, was held on the evening of 10th April, with spectators and journalists present. To the clicking and whirring of cine, photographic and television cameras, blinded from all sides by the flash-bulbs of jostling photographers, the chess stars climb up onto a specially constructed stage. The Mayor of the town, Jean Drapeau, presents each competitor with a valuable present — a box with a set of commemorative Soviet coins, issued for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.* The chief controller Svetozar Gligoric carries out the drawing of lots, calling out the names of the players in ascending order of their individual ratings, and taking account of the importance of their titles. Of course, their numbers in the starting table still depend on a random drawing of lots, but, contrary to the usual state of affairs, on this occasion no one is dissatisfied: in any case every player has to play every other one, not only with Black, but also with White.

...A reporter's jotter contains the most varied of notes. And, of course, a chess journalist, fulfilling the obligations of a newspaper correspondent, devotes particular attention to the development of events in games, and endeavours to understand and evaluate the grandmasters' moves. But in the present case, where these notes are included in a book in which the leading chess players themselves assess their own play and that of their colleagues, the journalist's purely chess observations must be put into the background. The reader will possibly already have noticed that the author is endeavouring to give an impression, in the first instance, of the atmosphere in which the tournament was held. Subsequently, too, I will adhere to this...

Before the start of the tournament there is an extraordinary bustle. The photographers are allowed to take photographs for only a few minutes, and the stage is literally flooded by flash lights. But now the clocks are started, everything goes quiet, and one of the greatest tournaments in the history of chess is under way.

*According to the report in the June 1979 issue of *Chess*, each player was presented with a set of the Montreal Olympic coins. (K.P.N.)

...In size, the tournament hall (which has places for four hundred) resembles the summer cinemas of our southern towns. But here was are a long way from the south, and at times it is very cool in the hall. The spectators sit in their coats, or sometimes remove them and hang them on the backs of the metal chairs with canvas seats, which completes still further the similarity with the cinema hall.

But now picture to yourself a cinema in which not one, but several films are simultaneously being shown, and each spectator is free to choose, according to taste, a fairy tale, drama, comedy, detective story, or a simple tale with a happy ending. And at the same time there is the chance of observing here and now how the production is created. Something like this occurs not only in performances of the popular Czech 'Magic Lanterns', but also during a chess tournament.

The Montreal 'Tournament of Stars'. Square chequered screens are lit up at the dark rear of the stage, while below, on the stage itself, at the tables sit five pairs of chess players, who in agonies of creativity and confrontation are forging their success. The actors (who are also the authors) are not alone on the chess stage, but each of their movements — and from this they experience a sense of pride and responsibility — is followed by the enthralled spectators. The youths alongside the screens merely implement the will of the skilful grandmasters, and communicate their ideas to the pieces on the luminous squares. The creators of chess games operate using highly complicated scripts, dictated by their human characters, their ability and knowledge, and by the sharpness of their rivalry, which depends on the final competitive aim which each one has set himself before the start of the tournament... . This is the content, but the form, as has already been stated, can be highly diverse. And while the grandmasters themselves want victory more than anything, for true lovers of chess — exactly according to the Olympic principle — more important is participation in the creative process. And they are ready to participate in a performance of any genre: for the spectators all genres are good, provided they are not tedious.

For the spectators at the 'Tournament of Stars', from the very first day, 11th April, things were interesting. Interesting but also difficult, since practically every day the attention of chess fans was drawn to all five chess screens. But it can be asserted that the tone was set by a quite specific game — the first round encounter between Tal and Spassky. They have already been competing with each other for a quarter of a century, although we all still regard them as young men. The Ex-World Champions themselves have occasionally begun to talk about their age, and they exchanged a few words on this 'delicate topic' on the bus taking the players to the 1st round. I even sensed a sad tone in the voice of Spassky, who looks a lot younger than his 42 years. Mikhail (who is older than his colleague by a few months, cheerfully reassured Boris: "You are the younger in our older generation". And at the board that evening they were both young, but success accompanied the more 'elderly' — Tal won a game which left even Spassky's supporters happy.

Talking about years, I recall how once Bent Larsen said to me: "I feel my age when I lose. But if I win, I forget that I am already in my fifth decade."

Already at the start of the Montreal tournament Larsen 'felt his age' — in 26 moves he was crushed by a representative of the 'new wave', Ljubomir Ljubojevic.

For fighting spirit the 2nd round was not inferior to the one preceding, but it exceeded it in stubbornness: three of the games were adjourned. On the following day Ljubojevic was unable to realize his advantage of an extra pawn against Portisch, a further defeat was suffered by Larsen — against Hübner, while Spassky, after brilliantly sacrificing a piece against Kavalek in normal time, succeeded in winning the game on resumption. As can be seen, 'multi-part' performances, even if they be on chess, are fashionable nowadays. The only 'short-length' game was

that between Hort and Tal, in which the latter was Black. Karpov subtly built up his game against Timman, both in the chess and the psychological sense. Having made a good study of his opponent, whom he knows from back in the 1967/68 European Junior Championship, the World Champion did not aim to force matters, but gradually increased the pressure. A manoeuvring struggle is not to the taste of the Dutchman, who prefers a tactical battle, and he was quite unable to find a clear plan. Before Karpov had achieved complete domination of his forces (as he sees it, this is the highest creative achievement), Timman had lost a pawn and was in time trouble. Karpov completed the gathering of his chess harvest to the applause of the spectators.

Evidence of the fascinating nature of the events taking place in the tournament is the behaviour not only of the spectators, but also of the players themselves, who, even after completing their games, do not leave the stage. True, they don't all behave in the same way. While Karpov and Tal, for example, participate actively in the analysis of other completed games, Larsen and Hübner more often remain in their seats, turning over the pages of some book, but still watching the demonstration screens. (I noticed Larsen carrying around a book that he himself had written: here on sale in the foyer there is an extensive display of chess literature, among the authors being the participants in the tournament).

Fears that, on the island where the 'Quebec Pavilion' is situated, the number of chess enthusiasts gathering would be insufficient, were confidently dispelled by the enterprising organizers. But before mentioning the virtues of the tournament organization, I should remark that it was by no means immediately that clock dials and move counters appeared under the demonstration boards, while in the auditorium no special places were reserved, as is customary, for representatives of the press, and it was by no means always that the imposing correspondent's identity card would enable a journalist covering the tournament to be suitably accommodated. However, all this can be readily put down to the inexperience of the organizers of such a major chess tournament as the 'Tournament of Stars'. On the other hand, there are things that we could learn from them.

I, for example, have never seen such a large number of chess publications at any one time. True, the reservation must be made that published abroad are a considerable number of aids of the type 'How to win', written by completely incompetent authors, but there is also an abundance of substantial (and expensive) books, including *Chess Informator* and collections of games from major events and by top grandmasters. It was suggested to Tal that he buy (at a discount!) a collection of his own games, while Karpov was constantly being asked to autograph books devoted to him. On display were numerous articles so sought after by chess players: clocks, chess sets of every possible size — travelling, pocket, or for tournaments — scorebooks for recording games, transfers of chess pieces for diagrams — the list is endless! In the foyer we are offered a simple problem to solve, so as to join in a simultaneous display. You can also do battle with a chess computer, and you yourself can switch the program to any one of the six levels of play of this, as yet, not very clever machine. In the foyer there are also TV monitors, to remind those who have come out to exchange opinions or simply to smoke, of the most interesting positions from the games still in progress on the stage. At certain times a verbal commentary is given. And spectators travel to the island where at the moment the 'Lunar-park' is closed, and nothing is open apart from the 'Chess pavilion'. They come, despite the bad weather, and at weekends altogether fill this pavilion. That which we sometimes call ironically the 'entertainment industry' is doing a great deal for chess, even in such an apparently non-chess country as Canada.

OLD SCORES

The cold spell which Montreal had experienced had also to some extent penetrated onto the stage of the hall where the tournament was being played. There was the sight of the famous grandmasters sitting at the chess tables in their coats, and knocking back one cup of coffee after another — not so as to reinforce their fighting spirit, but simply so as to get warm. These players do not engage in combat, but in the middle of the game some even remove their jackets: on the stage it gradually becomes hot — perhaps not in the direct sense, but figuratively. Of grandmaster peaceableness — and it must be owned that at times chess enthusiasts are very concerned about it — there is not even any suggestion here.

It is an amazingly fighting tournament! The readily explainable pride of the 'chess stars' is intensified by old scores. Two years before this, Timman lost a training match to Spassky, and here in the 3rd round their encounter ended in a draw. At the Milan tournament in 1975, Tal committed a highly vexing transposition of moves in a winning position against Ljubojevic, so that the latter, instead of the Ex-World Champion, went forward to the final pool. In Montreal Tal again had a marked advantage, but had to be satisfied with a draw. Larsen began the present event with two zeroes, and according to chess customs such players are especially dangerous. The thirst for victory was also increased by the defeat which the Dane suffered not long before in one of his meetings with Karpov. But here too revenge did not occur.

The 4th round began with an amusing coincidence of the games Hübner-Tal and Hort-Timman. A variation of the Modern Benoni was repeated move for move on two adjacent demonstration boards, and probably the only reason why the organizers did not release one of the demonstrators was because they were afraid of increasing the army of the unemployed. However, this young man nevertheless fairly soon left the stage, together with the players from the first of these games, who had concluded peace.

Not long before the conclusion of this game, Bent Larsen appeared on the stage... .

The Dane's habits are amazingly constant. With uncommon regularity he arrives late for each game by exactly 15 minutes — as though he has checked it on his watch. It could have been supposed that on that day he had lingered by the television, following a transmission from Moscow of the Czechoslovakia-Canada ice hockey match, or that he had simply overslept, since he has a habit of resting before a game. But during other events it is by no means always that ice hockey has been shown on television, and games have begun later than at 4 p.m. (as in Montreal), but even so, there too Larsen has remained true to himself. As a rule he was also late for the start of his games in the Candidates' Quarter-Final Match which he lost to Portisch. That same Portisch, who was now sitting on the stage awaiting his long-standing opponent... .

But, of course, it was not for this reason that the Danish grandmaster did not manage to make his 40th move, the last before the time control, in a position where his chances were by no means worse. Larsen could have given check to the black king, which would essentially not have changed anything, but he suddenly became inexplicably pensive. Well, such things happen. When the flag on Larsen's clock fell, even Portisch himself was taken aback, and, not wishing to accept such a generous present, nobly suggested that the point be shared. But a law is a law, and chief controller Gligoric, who was alongside, confirmed the overstepping of the time limit, and, consequently, Larsen's defeat. (I decided there and then to have a chat with Gligoric after the conclusion of the round.)

The unexpected result of this game merely caused a slight deterioration in the results of White at the 'Tournament of Stars'. Thus, after the 3rd round, those

holding the right of the first move were leading by the tennis score 6-1. By coincidence, this was exactly the result (draws not included) of the previous games between Karpov and Spassky: the present Champion is normally very successful against one of his predecessors on the chess throne. Again old scores? Yes, remembering them, chess enthusiasts awaited this new encounter with great interest. A spectator, hurrying to occupy the most convenient seat, asked me: "Tell me, at which table will they be playing?" The question was clear without explanation: he was talking about the Karpov-Spassky game. Their table was placed in the very centre of the stage, and for 5 hours hundreds of pairs of eyes stayed fixed on it.

Spassky copied the moves of ... Karpov, made by him in Baguio. With the difference that then the World Champion had used on them only a couple of minutes, whereas now Spassky spent more than an hour. It is true that later Black employed a new continuation, and obtained what seemed to be a satisfactory game. Then Karpov began playing more actively, while his opponent, in contrast, switched totally to the defence of his isolated queen's pawn. Running short of time, Spassky merely moved his pieces to and fro, sheltering behind the apparent impregnability of his fortifications. White subtly weakened the enemy K-side, and then struck a blow in the centre. After the fall of the long-suffering pawn, a simple but elegant combination by the World Champion brought him a healthy point in the tournament table.

After the round I went up to Svetozar Gligoric:

"You are the only grandmaster appearing in the 'Tournament of Stars' in the rôle of debutant...".

"That's true; this is the first time I have occupied the position of chief controller. But, wait a minute... . Yes, in 1949 I controlled a match between Najdorf and Trifunovic, but that was a friendly event. I had more than one job, as I even fulfilled the duties of second for my compatriot. Although the rôle of controller is an unusual one for me, I could not decline the invitation to take part in such an outstanding event, even if only in this capacity."

"Well, and how do you like your new work?"

"It suits me very well. The players treat me as an old colleague; there are no arguments, and I have assistants. One thing that tells, it is true, is the organizers' lack of experience in staging major chess events, but it will come with time... . There have been some conflicts to which I am unaccustomed. Take, for example, the moment when Larsen did not succeed in making his 40th move in his game with Portisch. The situation on the board was such that the dramatic outcome of the game provoked genuine sympathy for the Dane. But the controller has no right to be guided by feelings, and without hesitation I confirmed that Larsen had lost."

"Give an assessment, please, of the events at the start of the Montreal tournament from the point of view of an experienced player."

"Each day I take part in the preparation of the tournament bulletin, and so I have taken upon myself the obligation to follow not only the competitive side of the event, but also to analyze the games. I will risk drawing some initial conclusions. The growth of aggression, which has been noticeable in certain international tournaments of recent times, is continuing. As before, in meetings between opponents of equal standard, White continues to have a marked advantage. Black attempts to counter this by 'surprise tactics', but at times this results in a spectacular defeat for the experimenter. I do not wish by any means to appear such a conformist, but nevertheless I prefer the careful and considered preparation of an opening repertoire, such as we usually see with Portisch, although at times he lacks flexibility... .

"Anatoly Karpov — he is one who knows all about chess flexibility. Incidentally, I think that the most serious rival to the World Champion in the battle for victory in the 'Tournament of Stars' will be, apart from the two former World Champions, in particular the Hungarian grandmaster, who normally plays well in strong and evenly-balanced tournaments."

...After four rounds, in the lead with a fine result — $3\frac{1}{2}$ points — was Portisch, and half a point behind came Karpov, who in the following round had to meet his rival.

Karpov, with Black against Portisch, had to play accurately. But not without reason do they say that accuracy is the courtesy of kings (including chess kings). When the World Champion had accurately carried out all prophylactic measures, the Hungarian player offered a draw, and promptly explained to his opponent the reason for his peaceableness: "After the tournament in Bugojno, where I made several mistakes against you and lost as White, I for some reason did not wish to be too aggressive."

The theme of mutual chess scores, touched on earlier, can be continued. The stars gathered in Montreal are not only of the first rank, but are also very active, and have played each other on many occasions in the most varied events.

In the 5th round Hort had to do battle with Spassky, against whom in the last World Championship Cycle he lost a Quarter-Final Candidates' Match, and lost when with the scores level the battle was continued to the first victory. But here something unexpected occurred: with the board still full of pieces, Spassky, playing White, offered a draw. No doubt the Ex-World Champion required time to recover from his unsuccessful game with Karpov the day before, and so he decided to have a rest day.

To an even greater extent, such a break was required by Larsen, but he was not allowed it... . Twenty-two years ago Tal first played the Dane in a Student Olympiad. Since then Larsen has not once succeeded in winning against the Riga player in a tournament. In matches, on the other hand, the struggle between them has proceeded with alternating success: Tal was first the victor, and was then defeated. If in conversation with an erudite chess enthusiast you bring up the topic of meetings between Tal and Larsen, almost invariably you will get on to the famous piece sacrifice made by the Ex-World Champion in the first of the aforementioned matches. Now to this widely-published example was added another.

In the tournament there is a special prize 'for brilliancy', and, having possibly decided to try for it (or perhaps having been influenced by Tal), one of the unsuccessful players at the start, Kavalek, sacrificed against Hübner a whole rook. The West German grandmaster repelled the onslaught so coolly and exactly that now he himself may demand a prize — 'for the best defence'.

After 5 rounds Portisch still remains the leader, with 4 points. Still half a point behind are Karpov and Tal. But there is also a change: they have been joined by Ljubojevic, who has played a draw with Timman, and overcome Kavalek after an adjournment.

The 6th round, to judge by the number of draws — 4 out of 5 before the expiry of normal time — was an unsuccessful one. But this is only at first glance. The Ljubojevic-Spassky and Hübner-Timman clashes, full of cunning traps, ended in draws when it would have seemed simply improper to have continued play. Tal had Black against Portisch and outwitted him, except that to win against such an opponent one really requires more than the Ex-World Champion was able to achieve.

Perhaps only the World Champion could feel unhappy with himself. After the opening

it appeared that Hort was coming under a very strong attack; and that is what probably would have happened had Karpov pushed forward the other of his pair of pawns that was battering at the enemy king position. Then, evidently wishing to seize space also on the Q-side, he incorrectly sent his queen there, only to find it caught up in a crowd of enemy pieces. From the auditorium at this point it was apparent that the World Champion, whose turn it was to move, was looking studiously at his opponent. What was going on? After a handshake it all became clear: Hort had offered Karpov a draw, and the latter had been wondering whether or not to accept. One can understand the World Champion, reflecting with regret on the situation on the board a few moves earlier. Hort's peace initiative was interpreted by some as a result of lack of time and ambition. A subsequent joint analysis showed, however, that Karpov's inaccuracies had not worsened his position to the extent that his opponent could hope for more than half a point. Hort's satisfaction, however, is easily explained: this was only the second draw that he had achieved against Karpov as Black.

Before the start of the round the Soviet players suggested to Larsen, who was perpetually late, that he should travel with them. On the way the conversation got round to the coming Interzonal Tournament in the Soviet Union that autumn, and one gained the impression that the Dane had already given up as a bad job the present tournament, which was going so badly for him. But...

It would seem that this was the first time that our companion had arrived in the playing hall punctually for the start of the round, and although he compensated somewhat for this 'misunderstanding' by thinking for a long time over his very first move, he subsequently played with a good chess appetite. It appeared that in the adjourned position the never despondent Larsen would at last gain his first victory in the tournament, over Kavalek.

It must be admitted that the spectators did not expect that Tal and Karpov could have a genuine duel. We should not condemn the grandmasters for their quick draw, when they are still faced with much effort to gain a high place, and the return game between the same opponents is by no means bound to turn out to be so quiet. After all, among the eleven draws they have already played over their years of rivalry, there have been some that were far from peaceable, and one that even lasted more than 100 moves.

Spassky and Hübner also left the stage quickly. At first the Ex-World Champion appeared to have perplexed his opponent by choosing an opening that everyone had forgotten. The point is that Hübner, a specialist in classical philology, who can express himself freely in many languages (including some so-called dead languages), and who reads even ancient manuscripts, has no time left for the study of the chess classics. On his own admission, he knows only that which is played in modern tournaments, for appearing in which he nevertheless finds time. At any event, White gained a certain spatial advantage, then Spassky avoided the exchange of queens, but Hübner opened a file and exchanged off both pairs of rooks along it... .

Two games were adjourned. Against the Dutchman Timman, the gallant Larsen employed the Dutch Defence, and did not shelter behind the set-up known in theory as the 'stonewall', but opened up the game. This opening up was double-edged, and it appeared most likely that the Dane, who had picked up the sword, would himself perish by it after the adjournment. The tournament position, together with Hort's uncertain play, tempted Ljubojevic even as Black to seek complications. But this was no combinative storm, as frequently occurs in the talented Yugoslav's games, but an excellently conducted positional attack on the Q-side. However, this game could also have a mating finale, unless Hort were to resign it without resumption. So is Ljubojevic really joining in the battle for the leadership?

THE INTERMEDIATE FINISH

Despite the fierce rivalry, all the grandmasters appearing in the 'Tournament of Stars' are not only mutually courteous; they are all on excellent personal terms with one another. Perhaps the only exception is that directly before an important game they avoid the company of their opponent.

Virtually all of the players could be found alone, first before the 8th, and then the 9th round — the most fighting rounds of the tournament. As Hort ironically put it, a bitter struggle had developed for the top, and for the bottom places. It was agreeable to see Karpov and Tal energetically forging ahead, but Spassky was a disappointment, yielding far too easily to an onslaught by Larsen, who was endeavouring to rise off the bottom rung of the tournament table. The tactical oversight made by Spassky was yet another confirmation of his temporary loss of form, which not long before had been very good. While the indifferent form of one of the Ex-World Champions came as a surprise to everyone, to the extreme variations in Larsen's results they had long been accustomed. In addition, it would appear that nowadays he tires by the fifth hour of play. A supposition even more well-founded is that practicalities are completely alien to the Dane. For example, even during a round, when he himself is still playing, he joins without delay on the stage — there is no special room for this — in the analysis of completed games, and is prepared to play on to the bitter end in games adjourned in hopeless positions. Thus he, for some reason, has not yet resigned against Timman... .

Now Larsen was standing on the stage, admiring the final position in which Spassky had resigned to him. He was prevented from prolonging this pleasure by the spectators: Bent's large head was blocking their view of the demonstration board with the sign 'Tal-Kavalek'. Above the board itself, on which this game was being played, the smoke of battle was swirling in both the direct and the figurative sense.

Among the other organizers, the 'Tournament of Stars' was financed by the well known tobacco firm 'Rothmans', which was not sparing in the advertisement of its products, and which lavishly donated them to the players. But out of the ten participants in the tournament, only two are genuine (it would be more correct to say inveterate) smokers: Kavalek and Tal. A further couple permit themselves to indulge in a cigarette in the event of a small misfortune or a big success. And here in the tobacco smoke, Kavalek failed to keep an eye on the white queen, which was ready to emerge on a road leading to the black king's position... .

Ljubojevic plays badly against Karpov. The World Champion is stronger than the Yugoslav, but I would think there is also a purely psychological reason for Ljubojevic's defeats: he is openly very afraid of Karpov, and the latter is extremely well conversant with his opponent's disturbed frame of mind. And although here Ljubojevic did everything possible to conceal his condition: moved the pieces confidently, played almost as quickly, and even pressed the clock button with a certain style, he still gave himself away from time to time. On the stage it is not recommended that the competitors converse, but here Ljuba (this is what everyone calls this likeable and sociable young man) jumps up and, walking past the other tables, endeavours to glance into the eyes of his colleagues — he is interested to know what they think of his position.

The dramatic game in which Portisch gained a point against Larsen did the Hungarian grandmaster a bad service, and he is quite unable to win another game. However, Portisch has not exactly strained every effort to do this. With White against Karpov, he did not wish to risk his position as leader, and Portisch's tournament tactics were revealed even more clearly in the following round, when he played (again with White!) against Tal... . One half point after another has been added to Portisch's row in the tournament table, and if anything it is his opponents who

have been the more active. Thus Timman accepted a draw in a position which the other players quite justifiably assessed as highly promising for the Dutchman. But Portisch himself stated that his opponent could have played more strongly a little earlier, whereas now, he thought, he no longer had any advantage. But after all, the position in question was one resulting directly from a King's Indian set-up, in which, with White, the Hungarian player is usually highly successful.

On meeting Portisch by chance in the hotel foyer, I mentioned that the following day he had to do battle with Spassky, who up till then was playing badly, and from the reaction of my companion I realized that he was tense. "Spassky is an exceptionally strong player. He may be transformed at any moment", was Portisch's severe retort, and almost superstitiously he hastened to turn the conversation onto another topic. But during the 9th round Spassky did not endeavour to turn his tournament fate, while Portisch, with Black, certainly did not intend to stir up trouble. After gaining '+3' at the start — chess players often calculate the arithmetic difference between the number of victories and defeats — the Hungarian grandmaster was perfectly satisfied. He no doubt assumed that, on the results of the first half of the tournament, he could expect nothing worse than a share of first place. And what's more, both of his main rivals — Karpov and Tal — were Black in the final round of the first cycle: the World Champion against Kavalek, and the Ex-Champion against Timman.

The youngest competitor in the 'Tournament of Stars', Jan Timman, was born in December 1951. He made the acquaintance of Mikhail Tal at the chess board in 1968, when our grandmaster, after arriving for an international tournament in Holland, gave there some simultaneous displays. The talented youngster was unable to put up much of a resistance against the Ex-World Champion, but his brother, on the other hand, gained a draw. True, Tal now relates that he offered that draw to his attractive and long-haired opponent, thinking that it was a girl who was sitting at the board, and who might burst into tears on losing. The brothers were similar in appearance, but today on the Montreal stage it is no boy that we see, but a man. Jan acts resolutely and sensibly — an enviable combination for a chess player. After exchanging queens in the very opening, he, as it soon became clear, had no intention of playing a colourless draw with Tal. At the board the Riga player had to seek an antidote to a variation which his opponent had prepared at home. Masses of time went by on this, and when 15 opening moves had been made, Tal had only 15 minutes left to the time control. The speed and ingenuity with which Tal began playing literally captivated the audience. After the agreement of the draw and the burst of applause accompanying this, Tal still had 3 minutes left on his clock. I fancy that it was this draw in particular which convinced the Ex-World Champion that he was in good form.

The meeting between Kavalek and Karpov took no less tense a course. Playing White, the USA Champion decided that a strategical battle would most likely be won by his opponent, and therefore he switched to tactics. He made a tempting bishop sacrifice, assuming that he was guaranteed at least a draw by perpetual check. But Karpov had been further: his king did not run away in confusion, but retreated with dignity, since a guard of honour appeared in time, and escorted its monarch to a safe spot. My neighbour in the auditorium pointed to the board reading 0-1, prepared by a far-sighted demonstrator; but Kavalek nevertheless adjourned the game.

One of the ice hockey matches broadcast from Toronto was being watched with pleasure by Karpov and Tal, preparing in their hotel for the adjournment session. This pleasure was dictated not only by the performance of the ice hockey players, but to a greater extent by their evaluation of the adjourned positions. The telephone rang. Tal joked: "If Kavalek resigns against you first, I will be offended". Karpov managed to catch the tone of his friend, with whom, due to their difference in age, they still alternate between formal and familiar forms of address: "Yes,

Misha, I have rarely seen an adjourned position such as the one he has against you, and, fortunately, not in my own games." It was Gligoric who had phoned, to inform them of the order of play in the adjournment session the following day, and at the same time that Hort had already resigned to Ljubojevic in an earlier adjourned game. It turned out that the first, apart from Portisch, to gain the celebrated '+3' was the Yugoslav grandmaster.

Kavalek resigned against the World Champion the following morning, after which the resumption of the Karpov-Ljubojevic game became particularly significant. It is quite possible that Ljubojevic had a draw. The position was not a theoretical one, where it is possible to give a faultless diagnosis, but was exclusively practical in nature. Up to a certain point the Yugoslav player defended successfully. The position was repeated... Ljubojevic was unable to suppress a contented smile, and some laughter was even heard from the hall. Karpov touchily frowned, and fixed his eyes on the board, seeking new resources. The reader will note that the last exchange occurred on move 27, and then on move 38 a white pawn advanced. This factor could have played a fatal rôle on the adjournment, since there was a possibility that the '50-move rule' could come into force: irrespective of the position, it is a draw if in the course of 50 moves there has been no capture and no pawn move. But Ljubojevic's position deteriorated, and, being unable to stand the pressure, he nevertheless advanced his central pawn on... the 71st move, but it was here that a trap awaited him.

The burst of applause was the loudest there had been. Karpov calmly explained to his opponent that Black's difficulties had been greater than the Yugoslav had imagined. Then Karpov went out into the foyer, followed by a crowd of spectators. Everyone wanted his autograph, and Anatoly refused no one. He had captivated the spectators! And at the same time had become sole leader after the first cycle with 6½ out of 9, a fine result in such an outstanding tournament.

...Fairness demands that I should mention the severe schedule of this lengthy two-cycle event. Judge for yourself: two rounds, adjournments, three rounds, adjournments, four rounds, adjournments, a free day... And then — all over again. And only two days completely free of chess, since during the long intervals between adjournment sessions many unfinished games accumulate. But for some players even the first free day was taken up with chess. Gligoric did not exercise his right as chief controller to organize the adjournments after the conclusion of the first cycle according to the principle of which players were the busiest. While two (instead of the possible three or four) pairs were sitting on the stage, the remainder were wearily awaiting their turn.

Gligoric here is the 'jack of all trades'. Sometimes the grandmaster himself even sets out the chess pieces for the players, and takes away the clocks after the conclusion of the games. Together with his 'deputy' Kevin O'Connell and Kavalek, he has joined very actively in the publication of a special bulletin, and the very next morning (or at worst within a day) after a round the players observe that under the door of their hotel room have been pushed several duplicated sheets stapled together, with the latest games and even short commentaries on them. When does that Gligoric find time to sleep!

In short, we should not judge too harshly the chief controller, who preferred to resume games in the order that they were adjourned, so that some had to be played even on the free day. However, there is also a reason for this: spectators and especially journalists want to know exactly who, after which round, was in this or that place. It is on the basis of this, chronological, principle that I too will endeavour to write my account.

On the 'basic', planned adjournment day Tal did not succeed in catching Portisch... While Larsen was playing Kavalek, and, in the foyer, Hort, with the only set not

being used in a simultaneous display, was analyzing his position against the Dane, Tal was working through in his head the variations of his final attack on Kavalek's king. But since Larsen released Kavalek from his 'torment' only on the following day, it was on this, supposedly free, day that some of the pairs had to meet, since the queue had been seriously delayed the day before. It was a good thing that this new adjournment day was held not on the island, but in one of the rooms of the Meridien.

The game between Tal and Kavalek might well not have been resumed. In the evening Ljubomir appeared to be prepared to resign, and even half-jokingly 'hinted' about this to Tal, but for the latter it was embarrassing to convince Kavalek of the futility of his resistance, and he turned the conversation onto another topic. In the end Kavalek did not wish to spoil the general tone of the tournament, where one resigns only under the threat of inevitable mate, and Tal had to mate Kavalek's king on the free day. With this task he easily coped.

Looking at the order in which the competitors were arranged after the intermediate finish — a perfectly lawful name for the end of the first cycle — one notices a very unusual difference in results. Too many points separate the leader from those at the bottom. In Karpov's opinion, this was highly unexpected over such a short distance, and in a tournament of such even and strong composition. The World Champion puts this difference down to the serious losses of form which occur, as we see, even with top-class grandmasters. We should add that at the moment Karpov himself does not suffer from such a shortcoming. Competition to the present leader can probably be provided only by Portisch and Tal, who, like him, are as yet undefeated. However, we will not start guessing — the second cycle is already beginning.

THEY'RE OFF ON THE SECOND LAP...

The Montreal newspapers do not lose sight of the World Champion even outside the tournament hall. They gave a detailed account of how, at the wheel of a 'Corvetta' sports car, he completed lap after lap at an auto-track not far from the Quebec pavilion. But meanwhile, at the chess tournament, the second lap was just beginning... .

It was natural that those who had failed at the start should aspire to begin a 'new life', and to attempt to gain revenge over their previous conquerors, and this appeared perfectly well-founded for a tournament of such even composition. And even the outward appearance of some of the grandmasters before the games of the 10th (the 1st of the second cycle) round indicated their thirst for revenge.

However, not all were able to improve their results in the mini-matches of two games, and, of course, not completely. True, the bottom-placed Kavalek gained his first victory — and straight away a brilliant one! — over Timman. But Larsen and Hort, who had earlier lost respectively to Ljubojevic and Portisch, were now, although they gained an advantage, forced to settle for draws. Karpov could have won his mini-match against Hübner, but missed an opportunity.

Ambitious intentions were most markedly noticeable in Spassky, with White against Tal, and obviously intent on revenge. Appearances can of course be deceptive, but here the choice of an aggressive opening set-up harmonized with the way that Spassky was making his moves, how he was sitting at the board, and how he was looking at it. Tal quickly sensed his opponent's mood, and tuned himself up for a decisive battle. What Spassky lacked on this occasion was circumspection. Realizing that against the numerous mating threats there was no defence, Spassky said 'okay' — and held out his hand to Tal.

In the 11th round there was only one game with a decisive result, but on the other hand, what a game! In the opening, Karpov as Black employed an improvement which he had prepared for the match in Baguio. A blast of fearful strength literally swept away the defences of White's castled position, and the Dutchman's king was forced to run to the opposite flank, but there too it did not find any shelter.

Readily noticeable is a similarity in the technical appearance of the victories by Tal over Spassky, and by Karpov over Timman. Even the initial piece sacrifices by Tal and Karpov occurred on the same square. Which of these games is the more brilliant? An answer to this difficult question will have to be given by the competent jury which will be awarding the prize 'for brilliancy'.

After the first two rounds of the second cycle — adjournments. Karpov has a fairly clear position. But let us nevertheless try to give some idea of what sometimes happens on such 'easy' days to the World Champion. An indeed easy day for Karpov was planned, since his adjourned position with Hübner was very close to a draw. Thus, first a meeting — perhaps not very official, but even so, with the editor of the large (circulation 200,000, and at weekends 300,000) Montreal newspaper *La Presse*, which meant that one had to be, so to speak, up to the mark. Then a meeting at the request of a Dutch journalist, who was flying back to Amsterdam, and a chat with him. The resumption of the game did not indeed last very long. But after it there was a joint analysis with the West-German grandmaster, and a not altogether pleasant return to the position where Karpov could, during normal time, have gained a decisive advantage. The players analyzed the game for so long that one or the spectators attempted a joke: "They are probably hoping that for this they will each be given an extra half point".

But the analysis nevertheless came to an end. And then, straight onto the tennis court — Karpov looks after his physical condition during a chess event. He returned to the hotel, only so as to change, and promptly rushed off to the 'Forum' sports pavilion — it was difficult to avoid the temptation to watch a semi-final match for the Stanley Cup between the famous professional ice hockey teams 'Montreal Canadiens' and 'Boston Bruins'.

The tournament table was a curious picture when all the games had been completed after 11 rounds. No one was sharing a place with anyone else, and all were stretched out in a line: at the head, Karpov — '+5'; at the tail, Kavalek — '-5'; immediate neighbours were each separated by half a point, and only between the first five and the second five lay a 'watershed' of one point, and no one had 50 per cent. A highly unusual occurrence!

One gained the impression that, following their prolonged spurts (3½ and 3 points out of 4 respectively) and successful play in the creative sense, Karpov's and Tal's vigilance had become a little dulled. Ljubojevic, for instance, with White played against Tal the outwardly harmless exchange variation of the Ruy Lopez, but in it there proved to be much more poison than in all the cigarettes smoked by the Ex-World Champion during a round. Tal, sensing the danger, sank into thought for a whole hour. The prescription he wrote down on this sheet was, fortunately, the correct one, and the Riga player's nerves did not suffer — a draw due to the three-fold repetition of the position was agreed. Spassky, playing as though he had given up his tournament position as a bad job, also joined in the battle for the most brilliant game. But chess creations are made not by one player, but by two, and Timman was not at all interested in awarding a prize to his opponent. He declined the sacrifice of a queen, and went into a roughly equal ending. Out of inertia, Spassky continued playing for a win, and now in the adjourned position has to find a way to draw.

The problem facing Karpov, when his game with Larsen is resumed, is probably even more difficult. But even if he should be unable to avert a sensation, which is

what the possible defeat of the World Champion would be, Karpov remains leader of the 'Tournament of Stars' — apart from one adjourned game, he already has 8 points. Tal has the same number. Portisch has half a point less, and a further half a point behind is Ljubojevic.

In duration, chess tournaments and matches usually surpass events in other types of sport. And when only a few rounds remain to the end of a tournament, everyone begins to think about the proximity of the finish. It is at this time that the leaders and tail-enders become particularly active. Thus Kavalek, after gaining during the entire first cycle only $1\frac{1}{2}$ points, has at the moment the best result in the second half of the 'Tournament of Stars' — 4 out of 5. And last place — before the event no one would have believed this — is shared by Larsen and Spassky. They each have only 5 points, and each in succession has met the World Champion. Karpov did in fact suffer his first defeat in the tournament — and in general his first against Larsen — in their adjourned game from the 12th round. On the other hand, in his meeting with Spassky the Champion was at his best.

As Black, Karpov gained an excellent game right from the opening, and, increasing his positional advantage step by step, confidently converted it into a win.

Afterwards the players analyzed the concluded game for a long time, and Spassky incidentally admitted that back in the opening he had wanted to offer Karpov a draw. "But then", said Boris, who had not lost his sense of humour, "I thought that this was embarrassing: I, after all, had lost to Tal, and did not have the right to prevent you from trying to repeat the result of your rival".

Karpov and Tal help each other in every way, but each endeavours to end up at the head of the 'Tournament of Stars', and to play as interestingly as possible. Essentially their only rival is Portisch. After defeating the West German grandmaster in the 13th round, Tal remarked with satisfaction: "Hübner kept putting up the shutters, but I managed to find a way through. Now it would seem that Tolya and I have at last drawn away from Portisch". At that point the Hungarian player had a dubious position against Larsen, but the Dane made a hash of things, and after the adjournment Portisch again reduced the gap to the minimum.

From the morning of 29th April, all the players had been warned that on this Sunday in Canada all clocks are altered by one hour, so that they would have to arrive in the tournament hall an hour earlier than usual. But even so, for the 14th round Karpov and Tal were slightly late: they were delayed in their hotel by the effusive greetings of Mona Karff, seven times USA Lady Chess Champion. When the grandmasters rushed 'in step' into the playing hall, on the stage they were already awaited respectively by Portisch and Larsen (contrary to his usual habit, on this occasion the Danish grandmaster had arrived on time). The game Larsen-Tal, for which White had prepared excellently, after lively skirmishes in the centre ended relatively quickly in a draw, whereas the Karpov-Portisch encounter continued much longer, and was even adjourned. All this time Lajos's wife was fidgety, and she admitted: "I don't understand anything about chess, and therefore I find it particularly worrying". I answered that today she appeared to have no particular cause for concern, but Madam Portisch retorted: (in the words of her husband, it must be assumed): "It frequently happens that at first Karpov appears to have nothing, but then he wins". And so as to divert herself from this thought, she picked up her needles and got on with her customary knitting. It is said that one who behaved at tournaments in exactly the same way was Frau Lasker — wife of the second of the twelve World Champions. By the way, here in Montreal we were able to meet his very well known namesake.

Edward Lasker, a close friend of the legendary Emanuel, flew in for a day from New York, although he is already 93 years old. This most elderly of distinguished chess players animatedly — his eyes were simply sparkling, and he would very energetically

slap his companion on the back — told of his friendship not only with World Champions, but also with other prominent people: Albert Einstein, Sergey Prokofiev ... Edward Lasker emphasized that Soviet grandmasters, for whom he had always had the greatest respect, were also at the 'Tournament of Stars' confirming their very high class.

Now, it would seem, I can at last confess one sin — 'mortal' for a newspaper correspondent! — which I committed: I did not see with my own eyes the 15th round of the 'Tournament of Stars'. This round was played on the occasion of our great May-day festival, and in the USSR General Consulate I was asked to give a simultaneous display for the employees and foreign guests of this, the chief Soviet establishment in Montreal. Since the hosts knew that I hold the titles of master and honoured trainer, there was no possibility of my declining. My newspaper report had to be written from the words of others: from the words of eye-witnesses and of the most direct participants in the events which took place that day in the tournament.

...On the evening of 1st May, employees and guests of the Soviet Consulate greeted Mikhail Tal with loud applause. Someone cheerfully remarked, having chess players in mind: "Working days are holidays for them". The Ex-World Champion had just won an excellent game against Portisch, and immediately after his 'working day' had hurried to the May-day party. After a few minutes, on the insistence of the assembled company, the grandmaster demonstrated the moves of his game, and commented briefly on the other events of the 15th round.

Yes, Portisch had probably too submissively avoided a fight in the first cycle, when he had White. But now the right of the first move was with Tal, who was playing exceptionally successfully with this colour (in addition, the 'black Portisch' is markedly inferior to the 'white', and even more so to the 'white Tal').

After winning the exchange on the 25th move, the Ex-World Champion was still faced with the difficult work of realizing this advantage. But Portisch, evidently fearing Tal's combinative 'grandmastery', endeavoured to exchange the queens. It was here that White gained a decisive advantage, and the remainder immediately became, as they say, a matter of technique, and the times when the Riga player himself used to ridicule his technique have long since passed.

This victory over a rival, who was literally 'sitting on the wheel' of the break-away Karpov and Tal, was exceptionally important from the competitive point of view. After this defeat for Portisch, the only player who had not yet lost a game was Tal. To a question, as to how his rivalry with Karpov would conclude, the Ex-World Champion remarked: "However the game between us tomorrow finishes, this will not affect my relations with Anatoly". And he added that his victory that day had essentially not just one author, since the variation of the French Defence which occurred had been worked out with Karpov long before the present tournament.

The World Champion himself was already there with his compatriots, since his game with Vlastimil Hort (our player was Black) was agreed drawn very quickly. On arriving at the Soviet Consulate, Karpov related that Spassky was playing very well in the 15th round, and would probably defeat Ljubojevic, who was then in fourth place. And totally amazing things were being achieved by Kavalek. On this occasion the USA Champion had crushed Larsen, and now had 5 out of 6 possible points in the second cycle. In addition, the game was a contender for the title of 'Miss Tournament of Stars'. This victory, added to his 1½ points from the first cycle, enabled Kavalek to move up to the middle of the tournament table.

Prior to the finish, all the players were established in this 'middle', with the exception of Tal, who had seized the leadership, Karpov, who was half a point behind, Portisch, still retaining the 'bronze rung', and Larsen, bringing up the rear.

The Danish grandmaster even changed his habit of being late for the start of play by 'only' 15 minutes. And in the following round he arrived 40 minutes after the clocks had been started. At one point, 15 moves had been made on four of the boards, and eight of the grandmasters each had exactly an hour remaining on their clocks. The persistence of neighbours in the tournament table promised time scrambles, and an exciting end to the round. Larsen alone again played differently, and by that time had managed to make a number of poor moves against Timman. True, then the Dutchman mistakenly yielded to the tempo set by the Dane, and in the adjourned position White had drawing chances.

Overall, by the break only one game was finished. Karpov, with White, initially declined Tal's offer of a draw, but in an ending he himself suggested that peace be concluded.

3rd May — the 17th round, and only then will all the unfinished games be played off. At the finish the following encounters are of the most interest: first Kavalek-Tal and Ljubojevic-Karpov, and then Karpov-Kavalek and Tal-Timman. On the same days Portisch plays Timman, and then has White against Spassky. There is not long to go before the show-down.

WHEN THE CHAIRS BEGIN TO SHAKE

The most comfortable seats in this hall, which, I will state frankly, was not particularly suitable for a chess spectacle, were in the front row. At the service of a journalist was the front of the stage, which could be used as a writing desk, and although one or two of the pairs playing might be obscured by the board requesting silence, one could use a small monitor of the closed-circuit television. One had an excellent view of how the players cast anxious, contented or questioning glances at each other, and of how they were experiencing each move. A great deal can be sensed even without looking at the stage: the canvas seats, stretched out over an iron frame, transmit every movement of one's neighbour. And this is no small matter if you know who is sitting alongside, and whom he supports.

In the 17th, penultimate, round of the 'Tournament of Stars' my neighbour was Miguel Quinteros. This grandmaster gets on very well with Karpov, but he and Ljubojevic have long been firm friends. Miguel and Ljuba, two young and very likeable lads, once visited the Philippines for the first time, and together thought of getting married there to local beauties. But this plan was fulfilled only by Quinteros: he returned to Manila two years later, when his chosen one had at last reached the age of 17, and she became his companion for life. Mrs Quinteros (and one of her sisters, incidentally, was 'Miss Universe') speaks Serbian quite well — together with her husband she has stayed in Yugoslavia, the land of their friend Ljubojevic... .

To write down the moves made in the game between the World Champion and the Yugoslav player was extremely difficult — my pen kept bobbing up and down. And this occurred each time that Ljubojevic leapt up from his chair and looked around. At almost the same time my neighbour would begin to fidget, and his movements were transmitted along the canvas 'conductor' to my pen. Probably I too was not very restrained in my emotions — like, however, all those present... .

For a certain time even the World Champion's customary coolness deserted him, and probably for this reason Karpov in the opening simply forgot to make a move which immediately seizes the initiative, and instead fell into a cramped position. However, this did not unduly concern him; on the contrary, Karpov began drawing the opponent's fire even more: he needed to win — essentially only this would enable him to hope for first place. At the time when in the central game the most exciting developments were happening, the encounter between Kavalek and Tal had

already finished. It repeated 20 moves from the Kavalek-Karpov game, then the players made one new move each, and Tal, with Black, having at any rate 'tested' his opponent, offered him a draw. Kavalek thought and thought, and then accepted. And now, so as to catch the leader, Karpov had to win against Ljubojevic.

After equalizing the position, the World Champion was a little hasty, and the initiative again returned to White. And here, strangely enough, Ljubojevic began to get nervous. "He's afraid of Karpov, he's afraid..." whispered Quinteros beside me. On the stage, grandmasters who were not thinking over their moves began to stop more and more frequently beside this board. The situation was regarded in different ways by Tal and Portisch: the first, although a rival, wanted Karpov to win, while the other — since he could still catch the Champion — looked hopefully at Ljubojevic. Karpov, meanwhile, had provoked complications, and his black knights were displaying wonderful bravery in their battle against two bishops. Gradually play went into an ending, where the one remaining knight proved to be simply a head above the white bishop.

When the normal time of this exciting encounter had expired, I remembered one of the games — also the 17th — from the match in Baguio. Typically, Karpov was thinking about the same thing: "Don't my knights work well in 17th games?", he asked with a smile, and I realized that there could no longer be any doubt about the Champion's ultimate success. After adjourning the game, Ljubojevic exclaimed heatedly: "I simply can't play against Karpov; I lose every sort of position against him!"

The adjournment analysis carried out by Karpov together with Tal did nothing to spoil our good mood, and at the same time showed how sincere relations can be between friendly rivals (the concept in the given case is by no means a formal one).

In the penultimate round Hort and Hübner played a 'grandmaster' draw, while Spassky easily defeated Larsen, who once again played quite unlike a top-class grandmaster. Then the Dane, together with everyone else, became absorbed in the Ljubojevic-Karpov and Timman-Portisch games. The second of these was no less tense than the first — everything kept changing, as in a kaleidoscope, the demonstrators began to get confused, and Larsen (who was standing beside them and showing his cheerful nature, despite his failures!) calmly helped them to restore the correct course of events. Draws, similar to the one which occurred between Timman and Portisch, are published quite often in chess literature, but in tournaments, I, for instance, have seen such games extremely rarely. Here there were deep sacrifices and superficial oversights, long meditations and rapid-fire moves in time trouble, and the game concluded in a beautiful perpetual check; it was a shame that it was 'perpetual' only on the grandmasters' scoresheets, and was not repeated over and over again on the demonstration board... .

...The bus taking the players to the adjournment session before the last round was delayed. On the bridge leading to the island where the Quebec Pavilion was situated, the gate was closed. The passengers joked that probably for the first time in his life Larsen would appear in the tournament hall earlier than everyone (the Dane used the metro, whereas all the rest took a roundabout route). Spassky, perhaps the most athletic of the players, forced a way through the barrier, which was a fence with barbed wire. Towards the finish the Ex-World Champion showed in general an enviable determination to overcome all obstacles: including adjournment results, he had won in turn against Ljubojevic, Hübner and, as has already been stated, Larsen. Now Spassky, who at one time had even been last, was in line for a reasonable place in the final tournament table.

AN EQUATION WITH TWO KNOWN VARIABLES

The adjournment session before the last round was expected to be lengthy. A number of unfinished games had accumulated, and in the main it was the same players who were involved. Employees of the Soviet Consulate were particularly concerned, since they had arranged a reception in honour of the players, and the heads of a number of diplomatic missions, as well as the Soviet Ambassador in Canada, A. N. Yakoblev, had already arrived for it from Ottawa. But the grandmasters, people experienced in chess matters, predicted a swift 'lessening of tension'.

Karpov, for example, planned his arrival in the tournament hall for an hour after the start of the adjournments, although he was 'third in the queue' to sit down at the board against Ljubojevic — the Yugoslav first had to conclude his games with Spassky and Hort. Of course, for safety's sake the World Champion asked Gligoric to phone him at the hotel if any unforeseen circumstances should demand Karpov's presence earlier. However, this was hardly likely, since between the adjournments of different games a player is allowed a quarter of an hour to relax (this 15 minutes was normally sufficient for the bus ride from the hotel to the island). The World Champion appeared in the hall when Hort was already losing to Ljubojevic. I noticed how Gligoric made for the telephone, and how Karpov, stopping the controller half-way, thanked him, answering politeness with politeness: "It is nice to have as controller a person who can always evaluate a position correctly". Then Karpov confidently and accurately exploited the 'off-side' position of the enemy queen, and, under the threat of mate or the loss of a piece, Ljubojevic resigned.

Of course, Portisch against Kavalek, Hübner against Timman, and Timman against Larsen, all correctly assessed their positions as superior. But perhaps only Portisch had an advantage sufficient for victory. However, the Hungarian grandmaster was clearly disconcerted, and played without his customary accuracy. He allowed Kavalek to give up his knight for one of the white pawns, and thus obtain a theoretically drawn position. In almost study-like fashion Timman gained a draw against Hübner in an ending the exchange down, as did Larsen, whose lone pawn in a rook ending proved to be no weaker than Timman's two connected infantrymen.

The speed with which the many previously unfinished games were concluded allowed practically all of the competitors in the tournament to attend the reception. After mentioning the excellent standard of play in the tournament, the Soviet Ambassador congratulated Karpov and Tal on their big success: one round before the 'finishing tape', it was already certain that one of them, or else both together, would be first. Portisch was already $1\frac{1}{2}$ points behind.

Not all the latecomers to the start of the last round could squeeze into the playing hall — there were already no seats, and those sitting in the aisles between the rows hissed at anyone who stopped in front of them. It should not, of course, be assumed that the popularity of chess here had risen so sharply during the time that the 'Tournament of Stars' was held, although a contribution was made by the grandmasters from other countries (among the players there was not one Canadian). A non-working day, sunny weather, the opportunity to see the chess stars and then tell others what these stars look like on closer examination... But, of course, some of the spectators were linked by a further human weakness — these people genuinely loved chess, and for nearly a month had travelled here almost every day, whatever the weather.

The people packed into the hall were chess enthusiasts and spectators of various categories, but all were united in a desire to learn who would be the winner — Anatoly Karpov or Mikhail Tal, or both. There was no third solution to this equation with two known variables.

When the press photographers had dashed off to develop their films, it became

possible to breathe and even to play chess. The clocks were started for the last, 18th round.

I will permit myself, however, to express a possibly rather 'seditious' thought regarding the games of the last round. The numerous spectators were present, in effect, merely at the legalization of the rights of the players to those places which they had previously gained during the course of almost a month of tense tournament battle. The exception was that Hort caught two grandmasters who would otherwise have finished ahead of him, which made Larsen's final result completely bad. When I expressed my surprise at the play of the Danish grandmaster, I heard this from Hort:

"He has always played in this style, and it has proved very fruitful. But now, at the age of 44, Larsen evidently no longer has sufficient strength for such actions at the board, and he has no wish to re-organize himself."

Hübner normally plays well as White against Ljubojevic. And here it seemed at first that the West German grandmaster would defeat the Yugoslav, and that in the final table there would be a tie for 4th place between four players. But, as often happens in such grandmaster encounters of equal standard, where one is happy to draw, and the other needs to win, in the end cool defence triumphed. Ljubojevic agreed to a draw, which guaranteed him sole 4th place, when he already had a clearly superior position. Portisch, who was already certain of 3rd place, and Spassky, who as it was had done much to improve his tournament position, very quickly concluded peace negotiations.

And then Karpov, after glancing at the position in the Tal-Timman game, offered Kavalek a draw. The USA Champion was happy with such an outcome to this game - a draw enabled him to become winner of the second cycle with an excellent result (which was matched only by Karpov in the first half of the event). Thus at this point Tal was faced with the question: should he attempt as White to gain an advantage against Timman, or force a series of exchanges? Only for one instant did the Ex-World Champion hesitate. One could even say that the applauses in honour of the two tournament winners practically coincided in time... . And, I suppose, any other solution to the aforementioned equation with two known variables would have been inexact.

The hall immediately emptied - everyone wanted autographs, and Karpov and Tal did not refuse anyone.

The approximately equal standard of all the competitors in the 'Tournament of Stars' has been mentioned repeatedly by the specialists. So much the more agreeable for the winners were the words of Hort: "This indeed applies to all of us... with the exception of Karpov and Tal". Such a brilliant success for the prize-winners was put down by the Czech grandmaster to two factors - good form, and the further universalization of their chess styles.

...For the World Champion any defeat is particularly wounding - since someone will immediately build it up into a sensation. Sport is similar in many of its manifestations. Thus spectators sometimes applaud only the athlete who has won the race, the weight-lifter who has managed the heaviest load, or the striker who has hit the opponent's goal... . But, on hearing the conversation that Tal had with Karpov after the latter had lost to Larsen, I for some reason remembered an ice hockey match, in which the entire team skated out onto the ice to encourage their goalminder, who had let in a soft goal... .

An absolute analogy should perhaps not be carried out, only on the very next day Karpov won an excellent game. And so as to continue this theme of mutual support, I will repeat Tal's words after his victory over Portisch: "This success also

belongs to Anatoly, since the opening variation was worked out a long time ago in our common laboratory".

But it would be wrong to assert that determination after a misfortune, or tenacity in difficult positions, was demonstrated only by the two first prize-winners. Also worthy of recognition is the composure of Spassky, who suddenly found himself in last place, and then won three games in a row. Kavalek, who was bringing up the rear after the first cycle, made an amazingly fine score in the second half of the event. And virtually all the competitors have the right to lay claim to a medal for resourcefulness!

Karpov gained the greatest number of wins, while Tal did not lose a single game.

An acknowledged positional grandmaster, the World Champion intentionally chose an 'away venue', and outplayed his opponents tactically, operating in their own manner. Or possibly, in the manner of Tal? But then in what style did the Riga player conduct a series of games, built up on a strictly positional basis? Perhaps in the style of Karpov?

It would appear that both of these suggestions are correct, just as it is correct to say that the tournament winners retained their individuality. Since apart from good form and chess universality, there is a third component in the formula for tournament success — the ability to remain you yourself. It is agreeable that this formula was found at the 'Tournament of Stars' by two Soviet players at once.

The organization of the tournament did not match up to the level of play, and to the overall standard of the chess players competing. But we should not be too severe with the organizers, who did not have any great experience, but should rather thank them for arranging such an outstanding event as the 'Tournament of Stars'. It remains for me to surmise as to why, at the relatively hum-drum 'Closing Ceremony', only one cup (one divided by two!) was awarded to the winners: was it due to an organizational oversight, or to the fact that it had been decided to make it a challenge cup for a new traditional tournament? But will it be possible to assemble again such a strong set of players... ?

Interviews with the Winners

ANATOLY KARPOV: "EVERY TIME I AIM ONLY FOR FIRST PLACE!"

Could you please discuss the place occupied by the 'Tournament of Stars' in the major events of chess history, and in your direct tournament experience?

It is difficult to compare the strengths of individual tournaments, especially when they are separated by a large interval of time, say 40-50 years, if one draws analogies with the AVRO Tournament of 1938, or the New York International Tournament of 1927. Too much time has passed, and too much has changed in chess. But one thing is beyond question: the tournament in Montreal will go down in history as one of the major chess events of the 20th century.

None of the tournaments in which I have played has been as strong as this one, although there are some which approach it in strength. Among these I would include the Alekhine Memorial (Moscow 1971), and then the International Tournament in Milan (1975), although it is true that this was held on a quite different formula. Also, although it was markedly weaker, there was the tournament in San Antonio (1973), which was composed of ten leading grandmasters and six who were not so strong.

Were all the strongest players in the world at Montreal?

Which of the strongest were missing? First of all, Fischer. The American grandmaster has not played at all now for some seven years, and it would have been too much to expect that he would take part in this tournament in particular.

Korchnoi was missing. Why? Since the time that he defected, Korchnoi has attempted to use every appearance in a tournament for all sorts of political pronouncements, and for creating scandals. I love playing chess, but not in that sort of hostile atmosphere. Look at the competitors in the Montreal tournament: they are all grandmasters who are friendly and correct in their behaviour. If Korchnoi had been playing, there would not have been that same atmosphere, conducive to creativity. And since I am completely convinced about this, and since recently Korchnoi has given further confirmation of it, I no longer wish to meet with him in the same event. This, as I regard it, is my personal right. I met him in a match for the World Championship, but that was an official event, where I was not able to choose my opponent. But in an unofficial tournament the organizers are free to choose for themselves whom they want to invite. I do not intend playing in any event with Korchnoi, as long as his attitude to Soviet chess players remains unchanged.

...Who else was missing from Montreal? There was Mecking. There were rumours that he was ill. Or possibly, he was simply preparing for the Interzonal Tournament.

Also missing out of the strongest players were, perhaps, Petrosian and Polugayevsky. But one can understand the organizers, who, of course, were not attracted by the idea of holding in Canada an open Championship of the USSR. As it was, there were three Soviet grandmasters in the 'Tournament of Stars'.

I think that the tournament was as strong as it possibly could have been.

So, the strongest tournament to date in your chess career. Was it also the most difficult for you?

In the first cycle I played easily, and with enthusiasm. If one also includes the game from the 10th round, in which I missed a win in two moves, then, to all appearances, I should have achieved an excellent result. But after missing a win against Hort, and then against Hübner, an appreciable depression in my mood and in my play set in. Something had cracked, and to force myself to play as I had been doing, with the same enthusiasm, the same thirst for battle and thirst for victory, was extremely difficult. If everything had gone normally, as at first, then most probably this tournament, the strongest in which I have yet competed, would have proceeded for me without any great anxiety.

What was the cause of this depression?

For me personally it was not the deterioration in my play in the second half of the tournament that was unexpected, but rather the good form in which I began and which I maintained during the first cycle. This was because I was unable to prepare specially for the tournament. I had hoped to, but life dictated otherwise. The death of my father was a very severe blow... Had I not agreed beforehand to play in the 'Tournament of Stars', had I not given my word, and had it not been such a top-class tournament, I would of course have withdrawn. But I realized that my withdrawal would threaten the very constitution of the event, and therefore I went to Canada.

In a number of games you made annoying errors. Were these mistakes related to those which occurred in Baguio?

Only if they are regarded as a consequence of fatigue. But these mistakes cannot be called similar; that which I committed in Baguio was not repeated here. Except perhaps for the game with Larsen, where I over-reached myself. At a certain point I should have forced a draw, and I realized this perfectly well. But, on the other hand, I very much wanted to win, so as to consolidate still further my position as leader. Such mistakes occurred in my matches with Korchnoi, not so much in the second, in Baguio, but mainly in the first, when I played for a win in equal positions, avoided drawing continuations, and in the end created difficulties for myself, which I then had difficulty in overcoming.

Did the Montreal tournament justify the hopes placed in it?

I think so. The tournament turned out to be exceptionally interesting, and the number of decisive results was very high. It is true that this number dropped off slightly in the second cycle, but this is perfectly understandable. The players were tired, and in addition, each had, apart from his initial high ambitions, a specific goal to aim at, and each was playing in conformity with his tournament position. And even so, the number of decisive results remained very high—two games out of every five ended in victory for one of the sides.

The tournament was interesting not only from the competitive, but also the creative

point of view. As a rule, victories were not the result of obvious mistakes, as often occurs, but were the logical outcome of the deep play of one of the opponents. Many of the games from the Montreal tournament are fine examples of chess.

One gains the impression that 'open' chess was played in Montreal. Didn't the coming Interzonals have the effect of 'restricting' the creativity of the grandmasters?

I think that at some point they all forgot about the Interzonals, such was the sharpness of the situation that developed in the 'Tournament of Stars'. The players became divided into two groups. In the one, the smaller, there was a tenacious battle for first place, while in the second there was a no less fierce struggle to avoid being last. I think that it was precisely this that urged Spassky on, when he suddenly found himself in last place, which, it would appear, had never happened before in his career. It was then that Spassky won three games in a row.

As confirmation of the fact that the 'Interzonals' forgot about their coming elimination tournaments, I can remind you that during the course of the Montreal event the players employed theoretical innovations quite lavishly!

Would you name for us, please, the most interesting games from the theoretical point of view.

It is difficult to recall them straight away, especially since I have not yet analyzed the games. From my own, my game with Ljubojevic in the first cycle was interesting, as were both games with Spassky. In my game with Larsen I did not succeed in gaining a big opening advantage, although the idea which I employed was fairly new. My game with Timman contained possibly the most important innovation of the tournament. It had been prepared for Korchnoi, but he had deftly avoided it. And now, quite unexpectedly, it was at Timman that the variation 'fired'.

Yet another preparation against Korchnoi, in the French Defence, operated in the Tal-Portisch game. In Baguio, Korchnoi diverged a few moves earlier, although it is true that he also did not equalize (this was the 22nd game of the match). But here Portisch went directly along the 'planned' path, and Tal effectively made some twenty moves, without expending any particular effort.

There is no point in listing all the games that were valuable from the theoretical point of view; a special article may be written about this.

Was Portisch's prolonged series of draws evidence of his intention to conserve his strength?

I don't think that this is so. At some point it appeared to me that Portisch was played out, and he probably sensed this himself. He began playing draws quite deliberately, realizing that if he were to continue playing with his earlier intensity, he could lose control. And the Hungarian grandmaster sensibly re-organized himself, and began playing accurately, reservedly.

If initially anyone had thoughts of husbanding his strength before the Interzonal Tournaments, they were then pushed into the background.

Thus in principle it is possible that grandmasters belonging to the World's élite can forget, if only for a short time, about the current elimination cycle, and 'simply' play chess?

It is very difficult to do this, of course, but it is possible. And the tournament in Canada is confirmation of this.

Every tournament confirms some things, and casts doubts on others. For all the tournament competitors, were there lessons to be learned from Montreal?

For myself I have not yet drawn conclusions; there has not been time for calm analysis of the games, my own and my opponents'. But for Spassky, for instance, the tournament was very useful. He must realize that there is not a great deal of time before the Candidates cycle will be beginning. And with regard to the openings, Spassky is manifestly unprepared, while his form also leaves much to be desired. He must learn the lessons of Montreal, and begin serious preparations for the Candidates Matches.

The tournament was also useful, I think, for Timman. The Dutch grandmaster could have hoped for more in this event, but there were evidently problems in his preparations, and he was not able to contend for the top places.

The tournament demonstrated Portisch's customarily high level of preparation, especially in the openings. He played confidently. True, the second half of the tournament did not go very well for him; perhaps he could not stand the strain of being in the lead... .

For Tal the Montreal tournament was a success. I hope that this will serve as a stimulus for successful appearances by him in the events of the elimination cycle.

Do you expect that in the present cycle the Candidates for the World Championship will 'grow younger'?

Back in the last cycle I predicted that there would be new faces among the Candidates. But as it turned out, only one young player got through to the Candidates — Mecking. It is true that, in the Interzonal Tournaments, there were a number of surprises. Thus, only at the last moment did Hübner miss his chance of going through—he failed to see a forced mate in his game with Petrosian. In Manila Ljubojevic played really badly, although he was expected to do well in the Interzonal. Timman too was unable to demonstrate his best form. Our young grandmasters Tseshkovsky and Balashov also did not play as well as they might have done. And now they are all once again participants in the Interzonal Tournaments, and all have a right to contend for the highest places.

Which of the foreign players has recently made the most noticeable progress?

Out of the participants in the Interzonal Tournaments, obvious progress has been made by Jan Timman, both in the creative, and the competitive sense. He was always an interesting player, but now the quality of his play has shot up. He is a very energetic grandmaster, with good aspirations, who is always playing to win. In Montreal Timman demonstrated a number of very interesting ideas.

I must also mention Ljubomir Ljubojevic. A long time ago, the young Yugoslav grandmaster moved up into the ranks of the leading players in the world. But then he suffered a serious decline. During his army service, his appearances in International tournaments were curtailed. This had an effect, since Ljubojevic is more of a practical player than a theorist. After the army he began playing two orders of magnitude weaker.

But now, it seems to me, Ljubomir has regained his class, and in Montreal he played well to take 4th place on his own. To some extent this result is unique: fifty per cent of the possible points, and—clear 4th place.

And before Montreal, Ljubojevic came first in a fairly strong tournament in Brazil. I have not yet seen the games from this tournament, but I have been told by Andersson that the Yugoslav grandmaster played splendidly there.

It is amusing that it was precisely these players, as well as Spassky, whom you defeated in both games in Montreal.

I hope that it will not be suspected that it was for this reason that I singled out Timman and Ljubojevic among the young foreign grandmasters. Simply that's the way it happened in this tournament... . How did it happen?

Ljubojevic traditionally finds it difficult playing against me. This is also the case with Spassky. Against both of them I have a pretty big score. Against Spassky, I think that it is 8-1, not counting draws. Against Ljubojevic—altogether 'clean'—5-0, with roughly the same number of draws. I don't know what the reason is; perhaps there is something about my style that they don't like.

But against Timman I have always had a tenacious battle, with a slight advantage, it is true, on my side. But then in Bugojno, before the match for the World Championship, I lost to him. I do not want to try to vindicate myself, since Timman played splendidly, but that day I felt unwell and was simply unable to think—this is evident even from the game. I played the opening terribly, got into a difficult position, and it was only when I sensed that defeat was inevitable that I began, so to speak, to dig my heels in. At one point drawing chances even appeared, but they were slight, and Timman succeeded in finally 'squeezing' me. As yet, this is the only game that the Dutchman has won against me. But, evidently, I recall it just as well as certain foreign journalists.

There can be no doubt that nowadays the technique of defence is on a higher level than, say, during the time of Alekhine, or even of the 'early' Tal. But from time to time one grandmaster will give another a regular drubbing in the good old style. This occurs even at the very highest level. How does it happen?

In various ways. It may happen that a player decides to take a risk (or circumstances force him to), he goes too far, and is deservedly punished. Days occur when even a player of the highest rank is all fingers and thumbs, and he cannot control his nerves, or cope with his condition. And whatever he does, nothing works out. And he realizes this, after making only six or seven moves in a game. Thus, for example, Hort played against Ljubojevic the White side of a Sicilian. Just like a beginner. How do you explain this? Hort was in general off form in Montreal. A player of great practical strength, but off form and—that's it! In addition, he is also a pessimist by nature, and merely spreads his hands: "Nothing works!"

But Kavalek, it would seem, succeeded in mastering himself? In the second cycle he played splendidly, and made the best score.

To some extent that is so. But Kavalek also had other reasons for playing badly in the first half of the tournament.

The basic idea of such a super-tournament belongs to Kavalek, and he was also one of the chief organizers. Even during the tournament he carried out a great deal of organizational work: he was the players' representative on the organizing committee, and also carried out certain technical functions. It was difficult for him to be everywhere, and Kavalek simply could not stand it.

But then in the second cycle he regained that fervour and sharpness which normally accompanies his play, and things went well for Kavalek. His best years were 1968-73, when in many international tournaments he emerged the winner. Then Kavalek became somehow indifferent to his results, and he began writing books and did a lot of work for newspapers. His tournament successes declined. In those years you could offer Kavalek a draw, and he would agree both with White and with Black—taking account, of course, of the strength of the opponent. But in Montreal, on finding himself in last place, he unexpectedly showed himself to be a fighter. His pride was stirred, and in the second cycle Kavalek gained 6½ points.

What have you got to say about Hübner's performance in Canada?

Hübner frequently keeps in the background, then pushes forward and makes a good score. In my opinion, this grandmaster has already reached a level, such that he simply cannot play badly. He is a highly tenacious player, who always battles to the end, with the same desire and persistence. Everything depends on his form at a given moment. He has his successes, and also his failures, but he is always at least half way up the table.

Hübner has been called the strongest chess enthusiast... .

This is because, along with chess, the German grandmaster also studies science (or vice versa). Nevertheless, he is in the know as regards all the opening problems, and as regards the creative results of all previous tournaments. Science, of course, also demands much effort and time, and in it too he has already achieved much. He has to work every day, but not just for 2 hours, but 8-10 hours. As far as I know, Hübner selflessly studies both the one and the other. Although he is saying, not for the first time, that he will give up chess, his love for it is so great that I hope that he will never do this.

Larsen's last place was probably the biggest surprise of the tournament?

On the one hand it was a surprise, on the other—not altogether, since Larsen, as it seems to me, plays in identical fashion both with players of average strength, and with players of the very highest class. He is equally confident of his powers, and of his ultimate victory, and does not introduce any corrections into his play, depending either on the position, or on his form. Even when he finds himself in a lost position, the Dane believes that he will win the game. An incomparable optimist.

But Larsen's poor form in Montreal does not mean anything. In my opinion, he will be one of the main contenders in the battle for a place in the Candidates.

In any tournament, someone is fated to occupy last place, and in Canada it was Larsen who was left behind. But I can confidently state that, whoever was last in Montreal, in the majority of other international tournaments this grandmaster would, most probably, be the winner. Because the Montreal tournament did indeed gather together all the chess stars of FIDE.

How do you assess your own results?

In general, it was a good competitive result: '+6' in such strong company is quite a lot. Of course, I was not completely satisfied—various hitches and oversights occurred, but this is already on the creative side. In the competitive sense, I think that I could also have achieved more. But if it were suggested that in the future I would always share first place with Tal, I would agree to that in any event.

Tal's success has inspired new hopes in the hearts of his numerous supporters. Moreover, Tal's victory is perhaps one of the most striking in the Ex-World Champion's career.

Well, Tal has had so many brilliant appearances, so many wonderful victories in tournaments...! Again, how do you compare this tournament with, say, the 1959 Candidates Tournament!? A different time, different players... .

And a different Tal? If, for example, one compares the present-day Tal with the Tal of the Botvinnik era.

Tal has changed, completely changed. While he was able to defeat Botvinnik literally by his sparkling combinations alone, he then had to re-organize himself. In his time Tal, as they say, "came, saw, and conquered". He staggered everyone by his combinative talent, his exceptional intuition, the practical sharpness of his intellect, and his phenomenal memory. But gradually players became accustomed to his attacks; it could be said that Tal taught them to defend. In turn, having found the key to his attacking style, they forced Tal himself to re-learn. At that time he played the endgame indifferently, and in a positional struggle too he did not feel at home. All this has to be assimilated. But, evidently, it always happens that, in acquiring one thing, you involuntarily lose another, in which you were particularly strong. And that is what happened with Tal, although it has not reflected greatly on his results. As before, Tal is one of the strongest players in the world, but his style has changed completely in comparison with his style of the sixties, and has become more universal.

How would you assess Tal's play in Montreal in the creative sense?

Tal played very interestingly, versatily, and produced a number of memorable games. Incidentally, one of them—against Spassky—was awarded the brilliancy prize. He battled in every game, exploiting every chance to gain victory. At the same time he played very accurately. Thus he was the only competitor not to suffer a single defeat in the tournament. Even in the first round, in which he has quite often lost, he won here. Perhaps it was something to do with my influence?

Did you help each other during the tournament?

Yes, of course. We prepared for the games together, analyzed adjourned positions together, and sincerely wished each other success. This was when I was ahead, and when we had an identical number of points, and when he went ahead. However, the result itself speaks for this.

Immediately after you had gained the highest chess title, it became apparent to the whole world that you were an active Champion. It should be particularly emphasized that you are constantly joining battle with the other strongest players.

I have long since made it a rule to play only in strong events, because it is only in them that it is possible to maintain good form. From approximately 1972 onwards, I have been mainly playing only in very strong tournaments. In tournaments such as Montreal, you play seriously, with a heightened sense of responsibility; you play real chess.

Here you can't expect to make progress simply because someone fails to put up a proper resistance against you. In order to win a game, you have to produce something new, or go in for some sharp continuation entailing a risk. Without a struggle, as a rule, no one gains any points. But that, alas, is what frequently happens in tournaments of uneven composition.

But the stronger the tournaments, the more probable it is that on some occasion you will fail to win. Evidently, in contrast to Fischer, the fear of defeat does not trouble you?

A genuine competitor should possess a staunch immunity to defeat. After all, it is not possible all the time to take only first places in tournaments! Since 1971 I have the following statistics: 2nd place in the international tournament in Budapest (1973) and in the fourth match-tournament in the Philippines (1976), 2nd-6th place in the 41st USSR Championship (1973) and 4th-5th place in the international tournament in Leningrad (1977). In all other tournaments I have either shared, or have taken clear first place.

And how many such victories have you gained?

Including matches, about twenty-five.

This would perfectly suffice for an entire chess career, and a brilliant one at that. Don't you sometimes have the feeling of a surfeit of victories, and an indifference to results?

No. In each new tournament it is interesting for me to play. Again and again I try to prove to myself and to others that I am worth something, and each time I aim to take only first place.

If one recalls the events of recent years in which you have participated, one is struck by the fact that they have been held on the most varied of formulae.

Apart from the Swiss system!

This system is clearly not to your liking!

I can never resign myself to it. I consider that it completely fails to give the relative practical strengths of the players. It is practically a lottery. All the remaining forms for holding events I find perfectly suitable.

But even so, there is evidently some sort of purposefulness in the fact that, on the basis of your own experience, you try out all the merits and defects of each system?

I do indeed wish to try out everything that is possible in chess, so as to see from my own experience the advantages or drawbacks of a particular system, or a particular way of staging an event.

For example, the formula under which the 'Tournament of Stars' was held seems to me to be the fairest and most desirable for the competitors. Here every player plays every other one both with White, and with Black, and here there can be no complaints about an unlucky draw, or an unfortunate apportioning of 'colours'. Possibly it is by this formula that the strongest tournaments should be held. Thus the tournament in Milan (1975) was not very successful, for the reason that the organizers chose a formula for it that was not the best. At first 12 grandmasters played an all-play-all tournament, and then the top four met in semi-final and final matches. The matches were short — 4 games in the semi-finals, and 6 in the final. This, on the one hand, promised a sharp struggle, but on the other hand dictated caution. And caution, alas, predominated, since in a short match the most important thing is, after all, not to lose.

But you can give a confident judgement on all this, only when you have tried it yourself.

At the start of our conversation it was said that at least two other Soviet grandmasters were of the class to have competed in the 'Tournament of Stars'. In other words, the Soviet chess school still dominates in the international arena. If a match was held today between the USSR and the Rest of the World, what, in your opinion, would be the result?

I think that even today the Soviet team would be able to beat the Rest of the World in a match on ten (but not more) boards. However, even on ten boards the result would possibly be in doubt. But even so, in my opinion, at the moment the advantage would be on our side.

Of course, at the time that the 'Match of the Century' was organized, we had a

clear advantage. For some inexplicable reason we declined to play in the return match 'USSR v. Rest of the World', which they were prepared to organize and stage in Holland. This was a serious mistake, since both for the propaganda of chess in the whole world, and for the prestige of the Soviet chess school, it would have played a major rôle. Indeed, in what other form of sport can a team from one country take on the rest of the world, and not only take on, but even defeat... ?

MIKHAIL TAL: "THE 'TOURNAMENT OF STARS' IS FINE, BUT A MATCH WITH KARPOV IS BETTER!"

Chess history, which is rich in events of the most varied type, cannot boast of a large number of such grandmaster super-tournaments. How was it possible in our era of continuous 'elimination' to organize an unofficial event at such a high level?

When, during the match for the World Championship in Baguio, the American grandmaster Kavalek arrived and suggested to Karpov that he take part in a super-tournament that was being planned far in advance, but planned very approximately, it at first seemed something of a hair-brained scheme. Yes, of course, it would be very interesting, very attractive. But how do you organize such a tournament? You need funds, time, you need a great deal of organizational work... .

Kavalek flew to the USA, and then came back. Then telephone negotiations began, and exchanges of letters. In short, even a month before the opening of the tournament, there was no complete guarantee that it would actually begin. In March a group of grandmasters — and the composition of the event was ninety per cent known beforehand — received letters from the organizers. Yes, the tournament was on, and it would be held in Montreal. The letter even contained an unusual point: if, for some unforeseen reason the tournament did not take place, and the players, after accepting the invitation, were thus 'unemployed' in April to May, the organizers would be obliged to pay them compensation. I, of course, don't think that it was the threat of bankruptcy which influenced the organizers, but, at all events, the tournament began: ten leading grandmasters arrived in Canada, so as to begin there a fierce struggle.

In your chess career there have been a number of events of the highest rank. With which of these could you compare the 'Tournament of Stars'?

During a quarter of a century of 'big-time' chess I have played in very many tournaments, but not with any one of them should I like to compare Montreal 1979. If only for the reason that, in at least one aspect, it was in a more favourable position: here no one had to demonstrate anything. Playing here were only those who had already demonstrated something! In Montreal it was the stars who assembled (or comets, enjoying the reputation of stars).

Surely in the history of chess there have been other similar events?

Simply I have not played in such a tournament. As for tournaments apart from 'my own', it is difficult for me to compare. As they say, it is better to see once... .

Of the comparisons — and there was no lack of them — I liked the one made by Larsen. The witty Dane, speaking at a reception after the opening of the tournament, said: "This tournament can be compared with the one in Havana 1921, or in Acapulco 1973, with the one slight difference that they did not in fact take place, whereas this one, it would appear, is about to begin".

But seriously... . In my opinion, there can be no analogies. Each tournament in which a player is competing today, for him it is the only one!

In order that the tournament should be a success, both in the competitive and the creative sense, it was evidently insufficient merely to assemble the strongest possible group of players?

Without a doubt. And it was for this reason that certain of the strongest grandmasters were not in Montreal. Regarding Soviet players, I am in complete agreement with Karpov. Petrosian and Polugayevsky are top-class players, and by their presence could have enhanced the 'Tournament of Stars'. This is without saying anything about our young players. Thus, in my opinion, today Tseshkovsky is no weaker than Timman.

As for Mecking and Korchnoi... .

The tournament in Montreal was possible unique in the sense that, as is shown by the results table, it was composed of fighting players, and, as is shown by the course of the tournament, of likeable people. At any rate, the fact that the person invited to be chief controller was Svetozar Gligoric, who is highly respected in the chess world, but who has absolutely no experience of controlling (although he has been playing chess for more than 40 years), and the fact that he coped irreproachably with his duties, does honour not only to him, but also to the tournament competitors. The tournament gathered people of various characters, some highly ambitious—Karpov, Portisch and Tal, some outwardly phlegmatic—Hort, Spassky and Kavalek... . But, as it seems to me (I trust this will not be taken as some form of self-advertisement), it comprised not simply strong players, but also amicable people. With Mecking, and especially Korchnoi, it would have been a different matter. No one denies that these are both outstanding players. But in recent times I simply cannot recall an instance when a tournament, in which one or the other was playing, went off without some scandal or squabble. Yes, without them the tournament lost a little in 'scale of difficulty' (average rating). But at the same time it avoided difficulties of another sort. The micro-climate was ideal. And this, I think, was a colossal success for the organizers.

A few words about the organization of the tournament.

The organization was Canadian! The strongest group of players, the largest prize fund, the stars of FIDE! Gigantism, but gigantism in a fairly attractive form. Canada is by no means a chess country. It is true that in the last Olympiad the Canadians performed very successfully — they finished in the first ten. Nevertheless, the popularity of chess in the country is not very great, and major international tournaments are held very, very rarely. Thus the organizers had ample desire to do everything as well as possible. At times they were perhaps lacking in experience, or specific knowledge. If this tournament becomes traditional, as the organizers plan, I think that certain lessons will be learned.

Canada is the land of ice hockey. And I expect that we have gleaned much from the Canadians as regards the organization of ice hockey tournaments. If they borrow a little of our chess experience, this will be yet another confirmation of the FIDE motto "We are all one family".

However, I must say that the players can have no complaints about the organizers. That it was thanks to them that 18 rounds of fierce struggle passed without the least suspicion of an argument or misunderstanding, is beyond all question.

The ideal micro-climate of the tournament no doubt told favourably on the creative state of the players, and promoted a good frame of mind for play. But this became clear a little later. What about initially? Was it confidently expected that there would be 'no holds barred'?

Initially, indeed, there was much that was unclear. How would the players perform;

would the experienced 'long-distance runners' play short draws at the start, so as to then attempt to build up their success? Or scorning danger, would they from the very first rounds play 'open' chess?

The first round was an amazing one. Now, when many talk about the problem of draws, the problem of 'bloodless' draws, when the suggestion is raised that chess be put on a par with football — restrict the number of draws in each event, and in the remaining games have penalties or a drawing of lots, in Montreal from the very first day it became clear that draws were not to be feared.

It is true that two games ended fairly quickly in draws: Timman-Kavalek and Hübner-Karpov. It will be recalled that at the Interzonal in Manila, Timman was Kavalek's second. Each knows the strong and weak points of the other, and in the first round they decided not to cross swords. The second draw was by no means a peaceable one, and caused us some anxiety. The comparatively new continuation introduced by the West German grandmaster gave Karpov a slightly inferior position, but when the danger had already become fairly tangible, he switched to tactics, sacrificed a pawn, and obtained a perpetual attack on the opposing queen.

In three games 'blood was shed'!

I did not have the most desirable of opponents. Spassky and I played our first tournament game some twenty-five years ago. Despite the 'silver' anniversary, our 'love' has always been rather one-sided (Spassky has won the overwhelming majority of our meetings — he won the first one, since when I have been attempting to get even with him, tenaciously, but unsuccessfully). Perhaps it was for this reason, or perhaps because Spassky used some rather obsolete information, to the effect that Tal always loses in the first round (and I myself always happily write about this!), that he changed his usual opening repertoire and chose the King's Indian Defence. As an opening there is nothing wrong with it, but one gains the impression that it just doesn't suit Spassky.

Portisch played in his favourite manner, and right from the opening gained an advantage. Hort defended resourcefully, but on resumption Portisch won.

And finally, the game between the two acknowledged 'filibusters', Larsen and Ljubojevic, where a draw would have been a surprise.

Three decisive results out of five games. And it was like that practically throughout the tournament!

In Montreal there was indeed a high percentage of decisive results. Evidently, in the first instance this was because the competitors played 'open' chess?

Without a doubt. And the instigator was Karpov. I cannot recall a single game (apart from one, perhaps—with me in the first cycle) to which the World Champion went along with the intention of drawing. He played with a great will to win, and infected all the other players with this thirst for battle! After all, in chess too fashion reigns. How is the Champion playing? He is the legislator of fashion.

Every major tournament, and its results, give answers to various burning questions. What answers, in your opinion, should this tournament have given?

The tournament in Montreal should have provided answers to a number of interesting questions.

In effect, this was the first tournament appearance by Karpov after the match in Baguio. He began the tournament in Munich, but the death of his father did not allow him to finish the event. How had he endured this every severe loss? Could

he demonstrate his genuine Champion-like play? At first it appeared that Karpov was in wonderful form: with Black—draw, with White—win. But then in the 6th round, in the game with Hort, came the first misfire. Then he missed a simple win in his game with Hübner. A decline set in... . In general, for Karpov this was by no means his best tournament. Whatever may be said, to the effect that the match for the World Championship was a long time ago, nevertheless the colossal chess strain, and, what is more important, the colossal nervous strain during the match, are still having their effect. I recall the astonishment that was provoked by Korchnoi's result at the Olympiad in Buenos Aires (the best score on board one, 9 points out of 11). Karpov was tired, Tal was tired, but Korchnoi went and played, and played well. In my opinion, there is nothing paradoxical here. After all, Korchnoi lost the match! The malice which had accumulated during the entire match was seeking an outlet, was seeking a way to discharge. It was on this malice that he continued to play, and he made a good score. Time passed, the malice was 'conserved', but the results of the match, and the consequences of the nervous strain, remained. Just before the 'Tournament of Stars' a tournament concluded in the American town of Lone Pine. Quite a good tournament, but by no means top-class. 11th to 22nd places in it were shared by a group of players which included Korchnoi (with a very modest result $-5\frac{1}{2}$ points: $+4-2=3$). In addition, he markedly lowered his individual rating. This result might appear unexpected, were it not for that gigantic strain, were it not for the remnants of that enormous fatigue in Baguio.

I repeat, this was not the best tournament in Karpov's career, and yet he played better than anyone! He gained more wins than anyone else. Add to that the game with Hort, where he could have won in two moves, and the one with Hübner, where he had a win in one move. Nine wins out of 18 were literally there on the plate. In such a tournament to win half of the games... !

About myself I can say that somewhere I missed a win against Ljubojevic, and somewhere against Hort. Somewhere! But I am unable to point to a specific variation. That is quite a different thing! I say with absolute sincerity: "Karpov played better than anyone!" And, paradoxical though this may sound with regard to the World Champion, he still indeed has reserves and time to improve his play still further.

What can you say about your own play?

After Baguio I had a fairly lengthy break. In Tbilisi I was completely out of form, and I played really badly. I feel terribly pained, not for myself, but for the USSR Championship. If it is possible to play like this, and still be the winner (this has nothing to do with Tseshkovsky, his was a strong performance)... !

In Tallin I did not play badly. But Petrosian played better, and quite deservedly took first place. The most paradoxical thing is that in each of these tournaments I improved my individual rating.

Then came Montreal. I was indeed very pleased about how I played here. Tolya's company was pleasant, and it's quite a nice place. But even more so I was satisfied with my play.

Many — and, I must admit, myself included — consider that something of an evolution has occurred with Tal's style. Your play has become more positional, more universal. Is this so?

I'd be glad to get to heaven, but my sins won't allow it! Today the squares d5, f5 and e6 (my visiting cards, so to speak) are so well covered! Have a poke in there — there are four defenders! Now, Rantanen, a young player, he didn't know that I had become 'positional', and played 'open' chess against me in Tallinn. I succeeded

in carrying out an interesting combination. To work it out was probably not very complicated, but... . He made a move, I replied, and he should have resigned, but preferred to be mated: in making his last move, he thought that he was winning!

No, it's nothing to do with me — it's my opponents!

You mean that your style is just how it used to be?

My style — yes. Perhaps I have become a little older, and see a little more for my opponents, and a little less for myself. I am convinced that, protected by all this armour, I would simply tear to pieces that Candidate of the sixties!

In this tournament you succeeded in winning several games in good old Tal style. I recall that in one of your recent interviews you said that today spectacular combinations are possible only against weak opponents. Is this exactly what you meant?

Very well, you can add — weak or forgetful. Spassky and I have been meeting now for a quarter of a century. And all these years in my games with him I have been setting my sights on the square h2 (h7). And in Montreal Boris simply provoked me into a combination. To open yourself up to such an extent you have to be in excellent form, and that is just what Spassky wasn't in this tournament. For me it was both unexpected and simple to win this game.

And yet your opponent was a former World Champion!

I know myself that at times I play quite wretchedly!

There were also other games!

I beg your pardon, but in Montreal it would seem that I did indeed play quite well! The game I like most of all is the one with Hübner. This was probably my best game. The combination was not difficult to work out, but it wasn't self-evident. These are the sort that are possible nowadays! Straight-forward combinations don't work: B×h7+, Ng5+, Qh5 — everyone knows this! But in this game R×d6, and then instead of taking the rook with the bishop (a move or two later), you block the diagonal — Ne5! It is this sort of thing that can be overlooked. It is on such moves that tactics are based today!

On moves that aren't obvious?

When such a move occurs to you, then everything is highly simple! But it is possible to overlook it! It wasn't immediately before the sacrifice, but a move or two earlier, that I thought for some forty minutes. The idea came fairly quickly. Perhaps because I have a penchant for the paradoxical. Hübner sank into thought only after Ne5, but it was already too late! But ...Kb8 he played automatically.

It would seem that you are unhappy about the decision of the jury, which awarded the brilliancy prize to your game with Spassky?

Yes, it wasn't the best of decisions. It once again indicates that Canada is not a chess country. ...B×h2! — this is what created an impression. For me personally, the move ...B×h2 and the prize for the most brilliant game are concepts which are completely incompatible!

Who did the judging?

Well, Gligoric assisted. But what was he to do? The public liked it! Karpov's combination against Timman was much more beautiful! If it had to be one of mine,

the combination in the game with Hübner was much more original. But against Spassky it was simply a variation on the B×h2 theme.

All that has been said also relates to the Karpov-Larsen game. Larsen played well, it goes without saying. But it would have been possible to award a prize for a victory over the World Champion. Such a prize would have every right to exist (without risk of ruin to the founders of such prizes: as is known, Karpov loses extremely rarely). But not a prize 'for brilliancy'!

What if you had to award the prize for the most brilliant game... ?

I would think about the game Spassky-Larsen. I would think about the game Kavalek-Hübner, although the sacrifice turned out to be incorrect. But the idea! The idea was quite fantastic! The game Portisch-Hübner was brilliant, quite brilliant. Yes, there were very many good games. In Montreal the grandmasters played good chess, played themselves and allowed their opponents to play!

So there was no lack of 'prize' games?

Definitely not! And yet the decision was made quite simply. One Ex-Champion defeated another, what's more, with Black, and with a 'stroke' on h2! When I won, everyone congratulated me. But I realized that it wasn't Spassky I had played!

He was in totally bad form?

In this game — you can't imagine any worse!

What about his 0-4 against you and Karpov?

If it hadn't been for that 0-4, Spassky would have been up among the winners. Why 0-4? In the first cycle he had Black against us, and in the second — tried to get even! And what's more: Karpov had Tal as his second, and Tal had Karpov as his second. Boris had no one.

This mutual help — was it one of the factors in your victory?

Yes, I am quite convinced that Tolya helped me, just as I am convinced that I also helped him! While in Baguio the help was of something of a one-sided nature, which is perfectly natural, in Montreal it was definitely two-sided! If I had an adjourned game, Tolya would look at it. If Tolya was adjourned, I would look. I can guarantee that we looked equally benevolently, equally carefully! I am convinced that, if I had been half a point behind, Anatoly would have helped me in the same way that I helped him!

Portisch began the tournament very strongly. How do you explain the subsequent decline in his play?

The tournament in Montreal was regarded by many as one of the stages of preparation for the Interzonal Tournaments. Karpov will join the battle for the World Championship in 1981, Spassky a year earlier, and all the others are faced with the Interzonals. For this reason, many of the competitors endeavoured to avoid disclosing their cards. This was especially noticeable in Portisch's play. For quite a long time now he has been called the 'Hungarian Botvinnik'. I know that neither grandmaster is exactly pleased by this comparison. Botvinnik says that Portisch is more similar to Petrosian. Be that as it may, Lajos does indeed remind me of Botvinnik: with his asceticism, and the strict subordination of his entire life style to the achievement of the chosen goal. And in addition, deep preparation. I gained the impression that Portisch was obviously saving himself for the Interzonal. To play Black against him is always rather less than a pleasure. But in Montreal, in his

games with Karpov and with me he did not display any particular ambition, and allowed us to equalize without trouble. Portisch began the tournament very well. But then... . Perhaps a certain episode told on his result. In his game with Larsen, which had taken a very tense course, the Dane sacrificed a pawn. To the control there remained one move and two minutes. There was a draw, but was there a win? Larsen thought. He thought, thought and — suddenly his flag fell. Portisch, a genuine sportsman, even requested the controller not to record the loss on time. But the judge must uphold the law... . It was exactly a whole cycle before Portisch gained his next victory.

At any event, Portisch's good technique and sound play enabled him, without demonstrating anything very new (an exception being his game with Hübner from the second cycle, where he employed a highly interesting opening innovation), easily to take 3rd place, and during the course of the tournament he was challenging for an even higher one.

This means we had 'open' play, and even opening innovations, but the Interzonals constantly in mind?

Of course. Everyone wanted to play, and played well. But everyone, myself included, kept something in reserve. The 'Tournament of Stars' is fine, but a match with Karpov is better!

What can you say about the results of the other players?

Initially it was thought that the results in the tournament would be very even, but in fact, if you look at the final table, you see 'islands' of players. Our duo finished $1\frac{1}{2}$ points ahead of Portisch, while Portisch was the same amount head of Ljubojevic, who had fifty per cent and fourth place alone. I have a very high regard for this player. He plays boldly, actively, and constantly improves his results. First 1st-2nd place in Brazil, then a win in a friendly, but undoubtedly prestige match against Gligoric. And now — Montreal.

Then comes a very large, very compact group within an interval of half a point. 5th-6th place was shared by Spassky and Hübner. Hübner is very interesting both as a person and a chess player. He gives the impression of being aloof. During a game, for example, he sometimes reads 'The Iliad' in the original, while his opponent is considering his move (none of your trashy reading-matter!). In this tournament he demonstrated technique, and tenacity in defence, but played without sparkle.

Spassky's result was a surprise. Not long before, he had won the tournament in Munich. Here in the first half of the tournament, even longer, he did not play 'his own' game. And then, having decided that everything was finished, and after forgetting his tournament position, Spassky began playing 'his' chess. At the finish he gained three wins in a row, and improved his position. Of course, this was not a success, but equally not a failure!

Three players performed poorly in the competitive sense, but interestingly from the creative point of view.

Hort displayed great skill in defence.

In some games Timman played simply excellently. While with Hübner and Hort in this tournament there was a fault somewhere in the 'arbitrary routine', Timman was at times helpless in 'school'. In a number of games he had a colossal advantage, but was unable to realize it.

Kavalek's overall result of 8 points is made up of $1\frac{1}{2}$ points in the first cycle, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ in the second!

Larsen sometimes plays well, and sometimes very well. But if he plays badly, it is really very badly. Someone has to take last place! Larsen managed to do this as cheerfully as possible.

With my own performance, as I have already said, I am very happy. I should like to say thank you very much to my friend, my colleague, my rival Anatoly Karpov. Because it has turned out that he trains me no worse than I train him.

Your opinion on the need to revive the 'Match of the Century'?

It is simply absurd that there is no such match! The very formula, the very idea of the match – the Soviet Union against the Rest of the World – it proclaims the strength of the Soviet chess school.

What in your opinion would be the result?

The result is not important. Not so important! After we have permitted ourselves to lose the Olympiad... ! Yes, permitted! To finish in 2nd place with such a team is simply improper. Take the boards in turn – every one of our players was stronger than his opponent, well, almost every one!

Which of the Soviet grandmasters, in your opinion, could now participate in a 'Match of the Century'?

The first board I definitely know. I also know definitely that Petrosian, Polugayevsky, Spassky, Geller and Smyslov should be there. This is perfectly clear. I think that a place might also be found for me.

THE GAMES

ROUND 1

11th April

Hübner	½	-	½	Karpov
Larsen	0	-	1	Ljubojevic
Portisch	1	-	0	Hort
Tal	1	-	0	Spassky
Kavalek	½	-	½	Timman

Standings after one round: Ljubojevic, Portisch, Tal - 1; Hübner, Karpov, Kavalek, Timman - ½; Hort, Larsen, Spassky - 0.

The start of the tournament in Montreal demonstrated straight away that the fears of certain sceptics, regarding the relatively 'aristocratic' nature of the struggle, were groundless. Free of elimination 'restrictions', the strongest grandmasters in the world showed themselves to be in a genuinely fighting mood.

If one disregards the comparatively 'planned' draw in the Kavalek-Timman game (it may be recalled that the Dutch grandmaster was the USA Champion's second at the Interzonal Tournament in Manila), although even this game has a certain theoretical interest, in all the other encounters there was a dogged struggle.

The first result was recorded in the Hübner-Karpov game. From the opening, the grandmaster from Cologne appeared to have acquired certain positional gains. But at the right time the World Champion took the play into tactical lines, sacrificed a pawn, and when Hübner captured this pawn, it became clear that his queen was unable to escape the pursuit of the hostile pieces. Therefore a draw by repetition of moves.

Previous meetings between Larsen and Ljubojevic had more often gone in favour of the Yugoslav grandmaster. And on this occasion his opening escapade as Black went unpunished. The enterprising but risky set-up adopted by Ljubojevic in the English Opening should probably have been refuted by 'surgical' methods. The attempt at unhurried, positional manoeuvring to which Larsen resorted was unsuccessful. Soon Black dominated the position, and a series of spectacular moves completed the total rout of White's position.

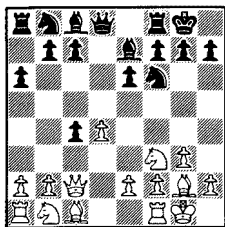
The duel between two old friends and rivals, Tal and Spassky, took an unusual course from the very start. Spassky chose the King's Indian Defence, an opening he rarely adopts, and played it in far from the best way. White soon gained a gigantic positional advantage. To avoid 'death from asphyxia', Spassky sacrificed the exchange. Objectively, this should have led to a rapid finish, but White made a serious mistake on his 21st move (21 Rael would have won quickly), and the battle became double-edged. The final result was influenced by the very serious time shortage experienced by my opponent, and he missed some good opportunities for creating counter-play.

Portisch, as usual, acted as White in accordance with the latest recommendations of theory, obtained the superior position against Hort, and gradually increased the pressure. The Czech grandmaster defended tenaciously. It is difficult to say how the game would have gone, but in time trouble Hort made an oversight, which turned into a burst of tactics. Portisch sealed a precise move (and there were numerous other temptations), and adjournment analysis confirmed the evaluation of the majority of specialists — Black was lost.

Game No. 1 Catalan Opening

Hübner Karpov
(Notes by Tal)

- | | | |
|---|-----|------|
| 1 | d4 | Nf6 |
| 2 | c4 | e6 |
| 3 | g3 | d5 |
| 4 | Bg2 | Be7 |
| 5 | Nf3 | O-O |
| 6 | O-O | dxc4 |
| 7 | Qc2 | a6 |



- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 8 | a4 | Bd7 |
| 9 | Qxc4 | Bc6 |
| 10 | Bg5 | a5 |
| 11 | Nc3 | Na6 |
| 12 | Rac1 | |

Black's position appears cramped, and Karpov carries out a far-sighted tactical operation.

- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 12 | ... | Bd5 |
| 13 | Nxd5 | |

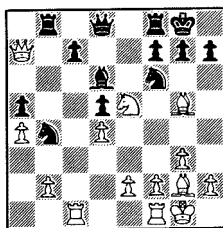
13 Qd3 would probably have led to a more complicated game, but it would seem that the West German grandmaster underestimated Black's pawn sacrifice.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 13 | ... | exd5! |
| 14 | Qb5 | Nb4 |
| 15 | Qxb7 | Bd6 |

It turns out that the 'visiting' white queen is stuck. The main variation worked out by Karpov was roughly as follows: 16 Bxf6 Qxf6 17 Qb5 c6 18 Qb7 (the exchange sacrifice 18 Rxc6

Nxc6 19 Qxc6 Rad8 promises White little) 18...Qe6, with an attack on e2 and the threat of 19...Rfb8. Therefore Hübner decides not to retreat his queen.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 16 | Ne5 | Rb8 |
| 17 | Qa7 | |



Drawn.

Game No. 2 Reti Opening

Larsen Ljubojevic
(Notes by Tal)

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1 | Nf3 | c5 |
| 2 | g3 | d5 |
| 3 | c4 | dx c4 |
| 4 | Na3 | Nc6 |
| 5 | Nxc4 | f6 |

This move looks rather provocative, but since White has not been very active in the centre, it is justifiable.

- | | | |
|---|-----|--|
| 6 | Bg2 | |
|---|-----|--|

The immediate 6 e3 deserved consideration, aiming to open up the game in the centre as quickly as possible by d2-d4.

- | | | |
|---|-----|------|
| 6 | ... | e5 |
| 7 | O-O | Nge7 |
| 8 | d3 | |

Insufficiently active to give any hope of refuting the system chosen by Black. Here too, what Black probably had to fear most was the immediate opening of

the centre.

8	...	Be6
9	Nfd2	Nd5
10	Ne4	Be7

Now Black is fully mobilized, and his position is not at all inferior. Larsen, however, does not agree with this.

11 f4

The start of a risky operation, which unexpectedly quickly leads to great difficulties for White.

11 ... f5!

Considerably more exact than 11...e×f4 12 g×f4 f5, when White can retreat his knight to g3.

12 Ng5

Original, but hardly good. Either 12 Nf2 or 12 Nc3 would have been preferable.

12	...	B×g5
13	f×g5	O-O
14	e4	

Perhaps this is what White was counting on, although now in view of the threat of ...f5-f4 it is difficult to suggest anything better.

14 ... Ndb4

White's weakness in the centre is exploited very energetically by Ljubojevic.

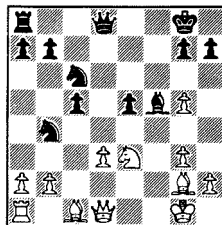
15 e×f5 R×f5!

Not allowing the exchange sacrifice, which was a very real possibility, after 15...B×f5 16 R×f5! R×f5 17 Be4.

16 R×f5

There is no longer time for 16 Be4, since it is met by 16... R×f1+ 17 Q×f1 B×c4 and 18...Qd4+, winning a piece.

16	...	B×f5
17	Ne3	



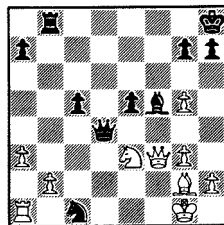
Ljubojevic is a very dangerous player, but when he holds the initiative he is doubly dangerous. Out of a multitude of continuations the Yugoslav normally finds the most active, and the most effective. And here, refusing to be diverted by the capture of the doomed pawn at d3, he intensifies the pressure.

17	...	Qd4!
18	a3	N×d3
19	Qb3+	Kh8
20	Q×b7	

20 Bd2 might possibly have been more tenacious, but this is obviously not what White was aiming for.

20	...	Rb8
21	Q×c6	N×c1
22	Qf3	

Hoping for some complications after 22...Q×b2 23 N×f5 Ne2+ 24 Kh1 Q×a1+ 25 Bf1, but Ljubojevic reacts very strongly.



22	...	Bg4!
23	Qf2	Nd3
24	Qd2	R×b2

Just at the right time.

25	Rf1	g6
26	Bd5	

Amusing, but that's all.

26 ... Bf5
White resigns

Game No. 3 King's Indian Defence

Portisch Hort
(Notes by Chandler & Keene)

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7
4 e4 d6
5 f3

The Sämisch variation introduced with this move is probably the most severe test of Black's resources in the King's Indian Defence.

5 ... O-O
6 Be3 c6

Black plans to expand on the Q-side to counter White's solid centre. Alternatives are 6...e5 and 6...Nc6.

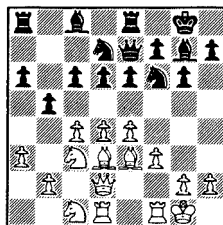
7 Bd3 a6
8 Nge2 Nbd7
9 O-O b5
10 Qd2 Re8

An alternative is to release the tension immediately with 10...bxc4 11 Bxc4 Nb6, e.g. 12 Bd3! a5 13 Bh6! Nfd7 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 15 f4 d5 16 f5, and White stands slightly better (Portisch-Jansa, Budapest 1970).

11 Rad1 e6

Hort is borrowing an idea from his game with Yugoslav grandmaster Albin Planinc (Madrid 1973) which had gone 10 b3 (instead of 10 Qd2) Re8 11 Qd2 e6 12 Rad1 Qe7 13 Bg5 Qf8! with equality. Afterwards Hort suggested 13 Bh6!? with a possible edge for White, but the ever-innovative Portisch has a more powerful plan.

12 a3 Qe7
13 Nc1!



White intends to attack on the Q-side, and the knight is repositioned. The ironic drawback to Black's own Q-side expansion is that his pawn advances have weakened the square a5, and this is the post White intends to occupy with his king's knight.

13 ... bxc4
14 Bxc4 Nb6
15 Be2

The correct square — Portisch wants his knight on b3, which would not be possible after 15 Ba2, as White's c4 square would be unprotected.

15 ... Nfd7
16 b4

Although Black can promptly eliminate his 'a' pawn, which represents a possible future weakness, this move still serves to fix the a5 square as a permanent knight outpost.

16 ... a5
17 Nb3 axb4
18 axb4 Ba6
19 Na5 Rec8
20 Rb1 Bxe2
21 Nxe2 c5!?

White has a clear advantage in view of Black's backward pawn on c6, but Hort fights back. Now 22 dxc5 dxc5 23 bxc5?! Rxc5! would liquidate all of the Q-side pawns (24 Bxc5 Qxc5+ wins White's knight on a5). Portisch chooses the most double-edged continuation, allowing Black the possibility of a protected passed pawn in return for a considerable initiative.

22 b5 c4
23 Nc6 Qe8
24 Bf4 d5
25 Nc3 Qf8

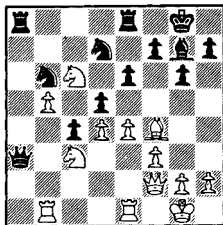
26 Rfe1 Re8

White threatened 27 exd5 exd5 28 Ne7+.

27 Qf2?!

An inaccuracy — the adrenalin of time-trouble starts to flow for both sides. Whilst this move does prevent an immediate ...e5 (because of the queen's potential threat on b6), Hort could now have complicated matters with 27...Ra3!, and if 28.Re3 e5 29 dxe5 Nxe5! But Hort reciprocates the error by using his queen instead, which is promptly driven back.

27 ... Qa3?



28 Re3! Qf8
29 Rbe1 dxe4

Naturally, Black does not want to clarify matters in this way, since his 'c' pawn loses its support, but White was threatening to capture on d5 and follow up with Ne7, while 29...e5 narrowly fails to 30 dxe5 Bxe5! 31 Bxe5! (31 Nxe5 d4!) Nxe5 32 exd5 Nd3 33 Rxe8 Rxe8 34 Rxe8 Qxe8 35 Qe2, which leaves White a clear pawn up. 32 Nxe5 d4!? 33 R3e2 dxc3 34 Nxg6 followed by 35 Qxb6 also wins material, although the resulting heavy piece endgame could be difficult.

30 Nxe4 Nf6
31 Qh4 ...

On 31 Bd6 Black has the resource 31... Nxe4.

31 ... Nxe4
32 fxe4 Nd7
33 Rh3 h5
34 Bd2 Ra4?

Stronger is 34...Ra2, as the apparent

killer 35 Bb4 would meet the riposte 35...Bxd4+! White's best would be 35 Bc3, maintaining the initiative.

35 Rf3 f5??!

In time trouble players often take risks they would normally avoid. The over-sharp text creates some problems for White, but is very loosening.

36 Qg3 Kh7
37 Qc7 Nf6
38 Bg5 Rc8

Naturally not 38...Nxe4 39 Rxe4, or 38...fxe4 39 Rxf6.

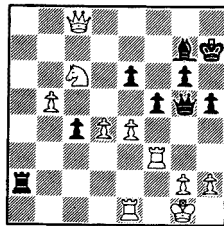
39 Qb7 Ra2??

A combination of time trouble and sustained pressure takes its toll, and Hort drops a rook. However, the shaky white king position means precision play is still required. Better is 39...Rca8, planning ...Ra1.

40 Bxf6! Qxf6

Of course, the bishop is pinned!

41 Qxc8 Qg5



42 Rf2

The sealed, best, and possibly only move to win. 42 Rg3 meets 42...Qd2 43 Rf1 f4! 44 Rxg6 Kxg6 45 Qxe6+ Kh7 46 Qf5+ Kh6 47 Qxf4+ Qxf4 48 Rxf4 c3 49 Rf1 Rd2, with highly obscure complications. A sample line might run 50 e5 Bf8! (50...c2 51 Nb4) 51 b6 c2 52 Na5 Rxd4 53 b7? Bc5! and Black wins!!

42 ... Rxf2
43 Kxf2 Qf4+
44 Kg1 Qd2
45 Rf1 Qe3+

46 Kh1 Qe2
47 Ral c3

The point of putting the rook on the 'a' file would be revealed after 47...f4
48 Ne5! Bxe5 49 dxe5 f3 50 Ra7+, winning.

48 exf5 exf5

Or 48...c2 49 Qxe6 Qd1+ 50 Qel.

49 Rgl! f4
50 Ne5 c2
51 Nf3 Resigns

A real heavyweight positional encounter.

Game No. 4 King's Indian Defence

Tal Spassky
(Notes by Tal)

1 Nf3 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7
4 e4 d6
5 d4 0-0
6 Be2 e5
7 0-0 exd4
8 Nxd4 Re8
9 f3 c6
10 Kh1 d5
11 cxd5 cxd5

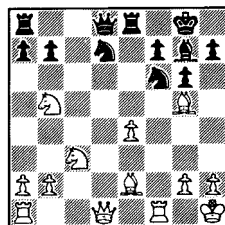
The plan chosen by Spassky is not very new, and also not particularly impressive. Possibly he under-estimated White's next move, although it has been played before.

12 Bg5 dxe4

I think that the lesser evil was 12...Nc6, intending to sacrifice the exchange in the variation 13 Bb5 Qb6 14 Nxc6 bxc6 15 Bxf6 Bxf6 16 Nxd5 cxd5 17 Bxe8 Bb7. We both assessed this position as favourable for White. The move played is even less attractive, since the 'f' file is opened.

13 fxe4 Nbd7
14 Ndb5

(See next diagram)



perhaps the only chance to hold on, one which almost proves successful.

14 ... Re5
15 Bf4 Nxe4!?

I had considered this possibility, but not in great detail, since I thought that it should be possible to find a win here. And that's how it proved.

16 Bxe5 Bxe5
17 Nxe4 Qh4
18 h3 Qxe4

After this 'compulsory program' (however, 18 g3 Qxe4+ 19 Bf3 was also good) I thought for a long time, trying to choose between two tempting continuations. It appeared that 19 Nd6 would win immediately. But the variation 19...Bxd6 20 Qxd6 Qxe2 21 Rael Qc4 (it is easy to see that this is the only square for the queen, since other moves are decisively met by 22 Re8+ and 23 Rxf7+) 22 b3 Qc5 23 Re8+ Kg7 24 Qxc5 Nxc5 25 Rcl, where White wins a piece, did not appeal to me, because of 25...b6 26 b4 Nd3 27 Rxc8 Rxc8 28 Rxc8 Nxb4, and in the resulting ending it is not easy for White to realize his advantage. However, the other continuation, which I in fact chose, also appeared very, very tempting.

19 Qb3

The bishop is obviously taboo: after 19...Qxe2 there are several ways to win. I was considering the following:
20 Rael Qxb2 21 Qxf7+ Kh8 22 Nd6.

19 ... Nf6

If 19...Bf6, then 20 Qxf7+ is possible, or, even stronger, 20 Bc4.

20 Bc4 Qh4!

There are serious doubts concerning the safety of Black's f7, and Spassky finds

To be frank, in my preliminary calculations I had overlooked this move, which upset me, although it is clear that the only alternative to the queen move is resignation, since there is no other defence against 21 Rael.

21 Bxf7+

I felt that this move could not be good, and wrote down on my score-sheet another, as it later turned out, winning, continuation, but my customary starting difficulties nevertheless made themselves known.

21 Rael, as initially intended, would have won the game. The point is that 21...Ne4 is decisively met by 22 Rxf7!, while in the event of 21...Bg3 22 Re3 Bxh3 White does not capture the bishop immediately, 23 Rxc3, in view of 23...Be6+ 24 Rh3 Bxc4 or 24...Qxc4, with an unclear position, but includes the intermediate check 23 Bxf7+! Kg7 24 Rxc3 Be6+ 25 Rh3, and it is not difficult to see that in all variations White remains with a material advantage sufficient for victory.

21 ... Kh8
22 Rf3

Earlier I had intended playing 22 Qe3 here, so as to answer 22...Ne4 with 23 Bd5, winning, but then noticed the possibility of 22...Ng4, with unclear consequences. I had to concern myself with prophylaxis.

22 ... Bf5

It should be said that, after spending much time on his badly-played opening, Spassky was at this point already in time trouble. Therefore he began to choose the soundest and most solid moves, but White's task would have been much more difficult after either 22...Bg4, or 22...Bd7. The outwardly active placing of Black's pieces in the direction of the centre allows White to consolidate the position, and remain the exchange up.

23 Nc3 Ne4
24 Nxe4 Bxe4
25 Qc4

Thanks to this tactical nuance, White succeeds in consolidating his position.

25 ... Rd8

Again in the same spirit — faced by time trouble, Black positions his pieces soundly, but 25...g5 would have been more unpleasant for White, aiming to provoke a crisis by the threat of 26...Bxf3.

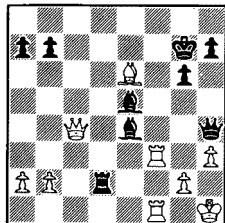
26 Rxf1

With each move White strengthens his ranks.

26 ... Kg7
27 Be6

It can now be said that Black's attack is practically played out. In time trouble, Spassky blunders and loses quickly, but Black's defeat was already merely a question of time.

27 ... Rd2?



28 Qc5!

White's first active move essentially decides the game. Mate is threatened at f8, and after 28...Bd6 the rook is lost.

28 ... Bxf3
29 Qxe5+ Qf6
30 Qxf6+ Kxf6
31 Bg4

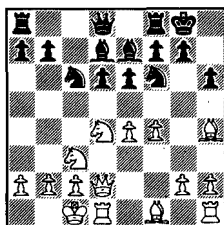
What for? 31 Bb3 was perfectly good.

31 ... Rxb2
32 Rxf3+ Resigns

Game No. 5 Sicilian Defence

Kavalek *Timman*

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 1 | e4 | c5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3 | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 | Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5 | Nc3 | d6 |
| 6 | Bg5 | e6 |
| 7 | Qd2 | Be7 |
| 8 | O-O-O | O-O |
| 9 | f4 | h6 |
| 10 | Bh4 | Bd7 |



- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 11 | Ndb5 | Nxe4 |
| 12 | Bxe7 | Nxd2 |
| 13 | Bxd8 | Nxf1 |
| 14 | Rhxf1 | Rfxd8 |
| 15 | Nxd6 | Rab8 |
| 16 | Rd2 | Ne7 |
| 17 | Rfd1 | Bc6 |
| 18 | Nf5 | Re8 |
| 19 | Nd4 | |

Drawn.

ROUND 2

12th April

Karpov	(½)	1	-	0	Timman (½)
Spassky	(0)	½	-	0	Kavalek (½)
Hort	(0)	½	-	½	Tal (1)
Ljubojevic	(1)	½	-	½	Portisch (1)
Hübner	(½)	1	-	0	Larsen (0)

Standings after two rounds: Hübner, Karpov, Ljubojevic, Portisch, Tal - 1½;
Spassky - 1; Hort, Kavalek, Timman - ½; Larsen - 0.

Chess players, as a rule, are an unforgiving people, and for this reason the clash between Karpov and Timman was eagerly awaited. After all, it was the Dutch grandmaster who had inflicted the last tournament defeat on the World Champion. It could be expected that Karpov would be out for revenge, and in this he succeeded brilliantly.

In a Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence, Karpov avoided fashionable continuations and chose an outwardly unpretentious, but highly venomous system, for which Timman was unprepared. At any rate, the set-up which he employed is unlikely to find any followers. The entire game was conducted by Karpov in one breath: he consistently restricted his opponent's counter-play, seized space inch by inch, and then (after Timman had opened up very slightly) switched to positive action.

Spassky played very precisely against Kavalek. After obtaining an advantage in space, he gradually prepared an offensive on the K-side, and then sacrificed a knight. To avoid the worst, the American Champion was forced to return the sacrificed material with interest. He possibly did not defend as well as he might have done, but the defence of such positions is a most unpromising business, and the Ex-World Champion played very convincingly.

Larsen permitted himself a number of strategic liberties against Hübner. However, the position was of a blocked nature, and had it not been for Larsen's excessive optimism (note his sealed move - 41...Rc3), relative equilibrium would probably have been maintained. Hübner exploited very exactly the strategic advantages he obtained.

Ljubojevic, after original play in the first part of the game, obtained a marked advantage against Portisch. Then the experienced grandmaster defended resourcefully, whereas his young colleague's attacking play was rather disorderly, and amazingly, Black was able to save the game.

The short game Hort-Tal was not without interest. The opening variation has already occurred at a pretty high level. Hort made a new attempt to refute it, but it turned out that Black's position was perfectly viable. Repetition of moves was probably the most logical outcome of the game.

Game No. 6 Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence

Karpov Timman
(Notes by Karpov)

1 e4 d6

When I was preparing for this game, I had practically no doubt that there would be a theoretical discussion in one of the variations of the Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence. In reply to 1 e4, this is the opening set-up that Timman chooses in the overwhelming majority of cases.

2 d4 Nf6
3 Nc3 g6
4 g3

During the period of preparation for the match the previous year in Baguio, I devoted much time to fashionable variations of the Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence, and despite the fact that the Dutch grandmaster is regarded as one of the acknowledged experts on this opening, I had, as it seems to me, every justification for entering into an analytical discussion with him. But, on that particular day, I for some reason had no wish to repeat lengthy variations that had been prepared at home. I felt like experimenting a little, trying something new... And I played in accordance with my mood.

4 ... Bg7

The undermining 4...c5 is premature: 5 dxc5 Qa5 6 cxd6 Nxe4 7 Qd5!, and Black loses material.

5 Bg2 0-0
6 Nge2

On several occasions I had already heard from many players that the system with the flank development of White's bishop is not at all bad. But in practice it occurs rather rarely, for which there is a perfectly convincing explanation. Since the time that it came to prominence in chess theory, the Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence has acquired the reputation of being a not altogether correct opening. In that period, so as to confirm this opinion, all possible attacking schemes have been intensively worked out for White. It is in this direction that the theory of this, as yet 'young', opening

has developed. Years have been required to get away from such an incorrect approach, but even now, many unhurried strategic plans are, from inertia, still in the background... I have perhaps digressed slightly from the course of the game, but sometimes it is useful to carry out such a 'psychoanalysis' of the development of an opening, so as to get away from routine and generally-accepted ways of treating it.

Instead of this last move, Spassky, also against Timman (Tilburg 1978) continued 6 Nf3, and after 6...Ng4 (Timman justifiably thinks that 6...c5 7 dxc5 Qa5 8 cxd6 Nxe4 9 dxe7 Re8 10 0-0 Nxc3 11 bxc3 Bxc3 12 Rb1 Nc6 gives Black roughly equal changes) 7 Be3 Nc6 8 h3 Bxf3 9 Qxf3 e5 10 dxe5 dxe5 11 0-0 Nd4 12 Qd1 Qe7 13 Nb1 h5! Black seized the initiative.

6 ... e5
7 0-0 Na6

To all appearances, not the best solution. Now any attempt to bring this knight into play will involve either giving up the centre (the exchange ...exd4), or a considerable loss of time. For the moment these considerations may seem rather too general, and even abstract in nature. But as the middlegame approaches, and particularly in the middlegame itself, the scattered state of Black's forces will cause him much inconvenience.

The 'theoretical' continuations 7...c6 8 a4 a5 9 h3 Re8 10 Bg5 Nbd7 11 Qd2 Qc7 12 Rad1 Nb6 13 b3, or 7...Nc6 8 dxe5 (8 h3? exd4 9 Nx4 Nxe4!) 8...dxe5 9 Bg5 (9 Qxd8 Rxd8 10 Bg5 Be6 11 Nd5 Bxd5 12 exd5 Nd4 allows Black to equalize) 9...Be6 10 Nd5 Bxd5 11 exd5 Ne7 12 c4 also gives White slightly the better game.

However, leading grandmasters (and Timman is certainly one of them) are obliged to have — and usually do have — their own opinion regarding this or that book variation. This enables evaluations to be made more precise, and promotes the development of theory.

8 Re1 c6
9 h3

A typical prophylactic move in such situations. White restricts the opponent's bishop, and at the same time creates on the K-side a 'no-go area' also for the remaining minor pieces.

9 ... Re8

All Black's hopes of obtaining counterplay are associated with pressure on the e4 pawn.

10 Bg5

Again a typical device, which pursues the same aim — the accumulation of small advantages. Then all these imperceptible factors merge together to form that superiority of one set of pieces over another, which is customarily called a positional advantage. When Black has the given pawn formation in the centre, this bishop move is frequently played both in the King's Indian Defence, and in the Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence. On the one hand, the pin on the knight is highly unpleasant, especially since by 11 Qd2 White threatens to enforce it for a long time, and in general restrain the development of Black's entire K-side. And on the other hand, Black has constantly to reckon with the possibility of Bh6. It was evidently all these considerations which forced my opponent to make his next move.

10 ... h6

After 10...Qb6 White could have gained an advantage by the simple 11 Rb1, since 11... exd4 12 Nxd4 Nc5 13 b4 Nxe4 is clearly unsatisfactory in view of 14 Bxe4! Nxe4 15 Nxe4 Bxd4 16 Nf6+.

It might appear that Black can attain a favourable change in the position by 10...exd4 11 Nxd4, and only here 11...h6. Indeed, after 12 Be3 Nc5 13 f3 Black's pieces come to life, but by 12 Bf4 g5 13 Bcl I think that White maintains a highly attractive position.

11 Be3

Now for the mobilization of his forces White has economized on one tempo (Qd2 will involve an attack). and, despite its apparent insignificance, this will also play a certain rôle in the general

offensive.

11 ... Qc7

Black is quite unable to attend to the off-side position of his knight. Thus on 11... exd4 there follows 12 Bxd4 (if 12 Nxd4 Nc5 13 Bf4, then by 13...Nh5 Black throws back the white pieces) 12...Nc5 (probably best here is the manoeuvre ...Nc7-e6, operating in the spirit of the game Sveshnikov-Tseshkovsky, Chigorin Memorial Tournament, 1976, although this also does not give Black equal chances) 13 e5! Nh7 (it is easy to see that this is the only move by which Black maintains material equality) 14 exd6 Qxd6 15 b4 (also possible is the immediate 15 Bxg7 Qxd1 16 Raxd1 Kxg7 17 b4 Na6 18 b5, with an advantage in the endgame) 15...Na6 16 b5 cxb5 17 Nxb5, with clearly the better chances for White.

One thing that is indisputable (with regard to the move ...Qc7) is that the movement of this powerful piece always reflects markedly on the position, and therefore a post for it must be sought with particular care. If there is no necessity, as, for example, in the present case, this should in general not be hurried. It follows that Black should perhaps have restricted himself to the prophylactic 11...Kh7 — since all the same this move will have to be made sooner or later! After 11...Kh7 12 Qd2 Black can reply 12...exd4 13 Bxd4 Nc5, since the standard breakthrough 14 e5 is not now possible. 13 Nxd4 is again well met by 13...Nc5 14 f3 d5! 15 Nxc6 Nxe4 16 fxe4 (16 Nxd8 Nxd2 17 Nxf7 Rxe3! 18 Rxe3 d4 can hardly satisfy White) 16...bxc6, and Black has a good game.

12 Qd2 Kh7

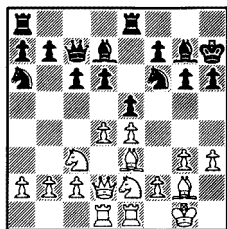
Now on 12...exd4 White would reply 13 Nxd4, since all the same Black has to waste a tempo on the defence of his h6 pawn.

13 Rad1

Thus White has emerged from the opening with a lead in development and a more expedient arrangement of his forces.

13 ... Bd7

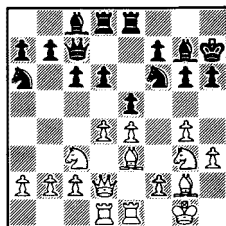
If 13...Be6, then by 14 g4 Rad8 15 f4 Bc4 16 Ng3 White retains an equally promising position as in the game.



On the threshold of the middlegame it is always useful to weigh up the resources of both sides, and to make adjustments to one's initial plans. Here I sank into thought, and soon came to the conclusion that straight-forward play in the centre would not get me anywhere. Now, with the aim of seizing fresh territory, the K-side pawns must be advanced. But I did not wish to play 14 f4 immediately. It would be illogical to increase the tension straight away — all the same White will subsequently have to play g3-g4, so why not first utilize a resource for strengthening the position, such as g3-g4 and Ng3. At the same time White also solves an important strategic problem — he reinforces his e4 pawn.

14 g4 Rad8
15 Ng3 Bc8

The advance f2-f4 can be radically prevented only by ...g6-g5, but Black's position is not yet so bad for him to decide on such a desperate measure.



16 f4

While Black has been completing the opening mobilization of his forces, White has succeeded in carrying out in full his projected plan. Black has some

highly unpleasant problems to solve. He can prevent the further advance of the K-side pawns only by opening the centre, but this will lead to a further increase of White's spatial advantage. In the end Timman made a move which I most expected of him in this situation.

16 ... b5

One of Timman's favourite moves, but here, since White is not yet weakened on the Q-side, it is very easy for him to neutralize his opponent's threats.

17 a3 b4?!

Having lost the battle on the K-side, the Dutch grandmaster wishes at any price to initiate complications on the other parts of the board. It would have been more sensible not to break up his pawns, but to stick to waiting tactics, since now White can advantageously transpose into any endgame. In the game, it is true, things do not come to that... .

18 axb4 Nx d4
19 Nce2

Black's idea was to somehow bring his pieces together, by playing ...a7-a5, ...Ba6, ...exd4 and ...c6-c5. But, as the reader can see, this is a lengthy process, and White succeeds in hindering his opponent's plan.

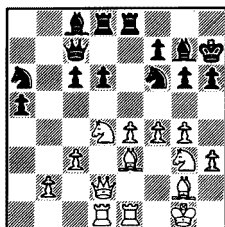
19 ... exd4

In the event of 19...a5 Black was justifiably afraid of the consolidating reply 20 c3. But his last move signifies something even more. By surrendering the centre, Black as though acknowledges that he has lost the opening battle. The strategic initiative is now totally on White's side. Also pretty cheerless was 19...c5 20 fx e5 dxe5 (20...cxd4 loses a piece) 21 d5.

20 Nx d4 a5

White's subsequent play essentially reduces to preventing the opponent's pieces from coming into play.

21 c3 Na6



22 Qc2!

A subtle move, which, firstly, prevents the black knight from moving to c5 (in view of the reply b2-b4!), and secondly, continues the previous strategic policy — strengthening of the e4 pawn.

22 ... Bd7

Intending nevertheless to play ...Nc5, for which the c6 pawn must be defended in advance (23...Nc5 24 b4 cxb4 25 cxb4 Ne6).

23 Nf3 Re7

23...Nc5 no longer works because of 24 e5. Perhaps Black should have decided on 23...c5, although it is true that in this case the knight at a6 has the appearance of a 'living reproach'.

24 Bf2

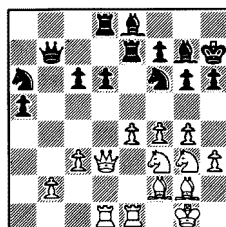
One of the last prophylactic moves. Prior to his decisive offensive, White places his pieces in the most harmonious way possible, and... once again reinforces his forepost at e4! 24 Qd3 is premature in view of 24...Bc8.

24 ... Be8

A tactical mistake. However, Black's position was so bad, and was so disliked by my opponent, that I sensed that the show-down was imminent.

25 Qd3! Qb7

In the event of 25...Nb8 Black suffers heavy loss of material after 26 e5.



26 Ra1!

Another subtle move, which essentially concludes the game. Black is unable to defend his Q-side weaknesses, while 26...Qxb2 clearly fails to 27 Reb1, trapping the queen.

26 ... Nc7
27 Rxa5 Rdd7
28 b4 Ne6
29 Be3

The position is completely won for White, but even so a certain accuracy is required. Thus after 29 Qd2 d5!? Black could have obtained something resembling counter-play: 30 e5 Ne4 31 Nxe4 dxe4 32 Nd4 c5, with complications.

29 ... c5
30 f5 Nd8
31 b5

For 'complete happiness', it remains for White to play c3-c4, so as to achieve domination over the whole board.

31 ... Kh8
32 Bf2 Qc7
33 Ra4 Qb8
34 c4

White's pieces have completed their great work. All that remains is for him to shoot gently, but accurately, at the goal.

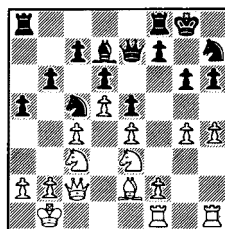
34 ... Ra7
35 Rxa7 Rxa7
36 e5 dxe5
37 Nxe5 Ra2
38 Bxc5 Resigns

Game No. 7 Old Indian Defence

Spassky Kavalek
(Notes by Bronstein)

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	d6
3	Nc3	Nbd7
4	e4	e5
5	d5	

19	Rdfl	Bd7
20	Kb1	Qe7



The technical mastery of the best grandmasters in the world has today reached such a high level of perfection, that this modest crossing of the equator by a single pawn enables Spassky to create an irresistible attack. Let us not, however, precipitate events.

5	...	Be7
6	Nf3	O-O
7	Be2	Nc5
8	Qc2	a5
9	Be3	b6
10	h3	h6
11	O-O-O	Nh7
12	g4	Ng5

Kavalek has chosen a difficult opening variation. Black's Q-side pawns occupy openly defensive positions, and this has allowed Spassky calmly to castle long, since no opening of lines in this region is foreseeable.

It turns out, however, that there is much more to Black's plan than this — he has not only decided to take up a passive position on the Q-side, but the black pieces are ready for all-round defence over his entire territory. Now the American grandmaster offers the exchange of knights, after which the windows and doors in Black's fortress would be so solidly boarded-up, that a draw could be agreed. Having the white pieces, Spassky naturally considers himself obliged to continue his searches for a break-through point. "Seek, and ye shall find".

13	Nd2	Nh7
14	Nf3	Ng5

A tacit offer of a draw. White tries a new plan.

15	Ne1	Nh7
16	Ng2	Bg5
17	h4	Bxe3+
18	Nxe3	g6

After White avoided exchanging knights, he was forced to agree to the exchange of the black-squared bishops.

In the resulting position White is faced with two problems. The first is not to allow Black to break out with ...f7-f5. The second is to find a way to break through Black's chain of pawns. Spassky fulfils his task with enormous will-to-win, exceptional imagination, and enviable technical mastery. And even so, enthusiasts will no doubt be found, who will want to try out for themselves this fire-resistant 'Kavalek wall'.

21	f3	Kg7
22	Rf2	Nf6
23	Qd2	Rae8
24	Bd1	

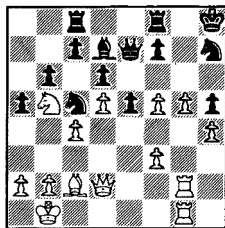
The two players calmly manoeuvre, strengthening to the maximum the placing of their forces. White, it is true, has more space, and in Black's position it is cramped. This crowded state is aggravated by the white 'd' pawn, which back in the opening drove a wedge into the black position. It not only restrains the d6 pawn, but also controls the important squares c6 and e6.

24	...	Nh7
25	Bc2	Rb8
26	Nb5	Rbc8
27	Rfh2	Rh8
28	Rg1	Rhf8

While White skilfully concentrates his forces for the decisive break-through, Black not only does not evacuate his king to the Q-side, but as though invites his opponent to come at him.

29	g5	h5
----	----	----

30 Nf5+ gxf5
 31 exf5 Kh8
 32 Rhg2



This is the point of the Ex-World Champion's plan. By sacrificing a knight, Spassky has prepared the irresistible advance of his king's knight's pawn. Now Kavalek's customary composure deserts him, and he hastens to organize active counter-measures.

32 ... e4
 33 fxe4 Qe5
 34 g6 fxg6
 35 fxg6 Rf4
 36 gxh7

In order to halt the attack, Kavalek has made a counter-sacrifice of a minor piece, and for the time being has retarded White's offensive.

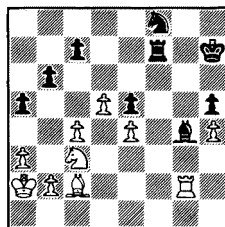
36 ... Bg4
 37 a3

Reminding his opponent that, apart from a K-side, in chess there is also a Q-side. Since his direct attack on the black king has been repulsed, Spassky prepares an offensive in the centre.

37 ... Rcf8
 38 Qd4 R8f7
 39 Qxe5+ dxe5
 40 Nc3 Kxh7
 41 Ka2 Nd7
 42 Rd2 Rf2
 43 Rgg2 Rxg2
 44 Rxg2 Nf8

(see next diagram)

Black is defending quite splendidly. Now he intends to eliminate the h4 pawn with his knight, and then push through his 'h' pawn to the queening square. White has to hurry.



45 b4 axb4
 46 axb4 Kg7
 47 c5 bxc5
 48 bxc5 Ng6
 49 Rh2 Kf8
 50 Ba4 Rf6
 51 Kb3 Rf3
 52 Kc4 Ke7
 53 Rb2

White abandons his 'h' pawn to its fate, since he has accurately calculated that his attack on the c7 pawn will lead to victory more quickly than the black pawn will promote to a queen.

53 ... Rf7
 54 d6+ cxd6
 55 cxd6+ Kf8
 56 Rd2 Bd7
 57 Bxd7 Rxd7
 58 Kd5

The place of the d5 pawn is taken by the king.

58 ... Ke8

Without waiting for Spassky's reply, Kavalek conceded defeat.

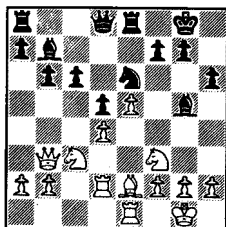
An excellently played game by both players. If only in the chess world there were more such strong tournaments, and such uncompromising duels!

Game No. 8 Queen's Gambit

Hort Tal

1 d4 Nf6
 2 c4 e6
 3 Nf3 d5
 4 Nc3 Be7
 5 Bg5 h6
 6 Bh4 0-0

7	e3	b6
8	Qb3	Bb7
9	Bxf6	Bxf6
10	cxd5	exd5
11	Be2	c6
12	O-O	Nd7
13	Rfe1	Re8
14	e4	Nf8
15	Rad1	Ne6
16	e5	Be7
17	Rd2	Bg5



18	Rdd1	Be7
19	Rd2	Bg5

Drawn.

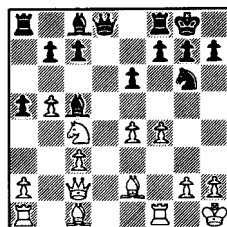
Game No. 9 French Defence

Ljubojevic *Portisch*

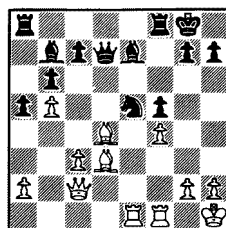
1	e4	e6
2	d3	d5
3	Nd2	Nf6
4	Ngf3	Nc6
5	c3	Bd6
6	b4	a5
7	b5	dxe4
8	dxe4	Ne5
9	Nxe5	Bxe5
10	Qc2	Nd7
11	Nc4	Bf6
12	Be2	Ne5
13	Ne3	Be7
14	f4	Ng6
15	O-O	Bc5
16	Kh1	O-O
17	Nc4	

(see next diagram)

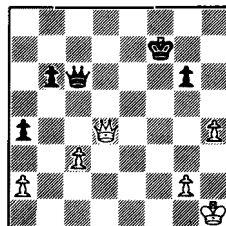
17	...	f5
18	Bd3	Qe7
19	Bd2	b6
20	Rae1	Qd7
21	Be3	Be7
22	Bd4	Bb7



23	exf5	exf5
24	Ne5	Nxe5



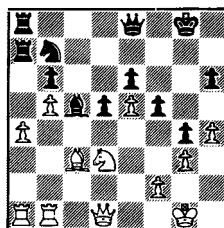
25	Rxe5	Be4
26	Bxe4	fxe4
27	Qxe4	Bf6
28	Rh5	g6
29	Rd5	Qe8
30	Qd3	c6
31	bxc6	Qxc6
32	Bxf6	Rxf6
33	h3	Raf8
34	Qd4	Rxf4
35	Rxf4	Rxf4
36	Rd8+	Rf8
37	Rxf8+	Kxf8
38	Qh8+	Kf7
39	Qxh7+	Kf6
40	Qh4+	Ke6
41	Qg4+	Ke7
42	Qd4	Kf7
43	h4	a4



44	c4	Qe6
45	Kh2	Qe7
46	Qf2+	Kg7

47 Qf4 a3
 48 Qd4+ Kf7
 49 Kg3 Qb4
 50 Qf2+ Kg7
 51 Qd4+ Kf7

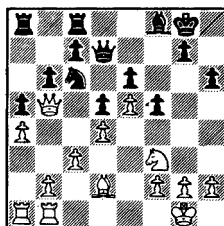
Drawn.



Game No. 10 French Defence

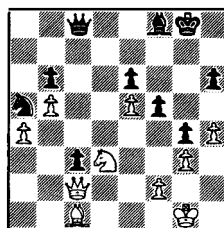
Hübner Larsen

1 d4 e6
 2 e4 d5
 3 Nd2 Nc6
 4 Ngf3 Nf6
 5 e5 Nd7
 6 Nb3 a5
 7 a4 b6
 8 c3 Be7
 9 Bd3 Ba6
 10 Bxa6 Rxa6
 11 O-O Ra8
 12 Re1 Nf8
 13 Nbd2 Ng6
 14 Nf1 Qd7
 15 Qe2 O-O
 16 Ng3 Rae8
 17 Nh5 f6
 18 Nf4 Nxf4
 19 Bxf4 f5
 20 Reb1 Ra8
 21 Qb5 Rfc8
 22 Bg5 Bf8
 23 Bd2 h6



24 b4 g5
 25 h4 g4
 26 Ne1 Qe8
 27 Qd3 axb4
 28 cxb4 Ra7
 29 Bc3 Rca8
 30 Qd1 Nd8
 31 b5 c5
 32 dxc5 Bxc5
 33 Nd3 Nb7
 34 g3

34 ... d4
 35 Bd2 Bf8
 36 Qb3 Rc8
 37 Rc1 Raa8
 38 Ra2 Rxc1+
 39 Bxc1 Na5
 40 Qd1 Rc8
 41 Rc2 Rc3
 42 Rxc3 dxc3
 43 Qc2 Qc8



44 Be3 Qc4
 45 Bxb6 Nb3
 46 Be3 Na1
 47 Qe2 Qxa4
 48 b6 Nb3
 49 Qc2 Qc4
 50 Qa2 Qd5
 51 Nf4 Qd1+
 52 Kh2 c2
 53 Qxb3 Resigns

ROUND 3

13th April

Larsen	(0)	½	-	½	Karpov (1 ½)
Portisch	(1 ½)	1	-	0	Hübner (1 ½)
Tal	(1 ½)	½	-	½	Ljubojevic (1 ½)
Kavalek	(½)	½	-	½	Hort (½)
Timman	(½)	½	-	½	Spassky (1)

Standings after three rounds: Portisch - 2½; Karpov, Ljubojevic, Tal - 2; Hübner, Spassky - 1½; Hort, Kavalek, Timman - 1; Larsen - ½.

In this round the Hungarian grandmaster played what was probably his best game at Montreal. I don't know whether his tenth move was a discovery found at the board, or whether he had already reached this position in his study in Budapest, but in either event, it seems to me that the system which Black adopts from time to time in the hope of a relatively quiet draw has been refuted by Portisch 'for good'. His move 10 Bc3 significantly, perhaps even decisively, improves the variation in comparison with the recent game Korchnoi-Ljubojevic, where Black almost equalized.

Portisch conducted the entire game brilliantly. He strategically outplayed Hübner, by tactical means gained a decisive material advantage, and realized it with impeccable technique.

The Larsen-Karpov game took a very interesting course. Remembering that the World Champion is unwilling to part with chess material, in the opening Larsen began holding on to a pawn he had captured on the third move. Subsequently Karpov had to solve some very difficult problems. He played very actively, enterprisingly, sacrificing the exchange at the right time, and although he did not succeed in tipping the balance his way, there was nevertheless no question of a serious advantage for Larsen. The game was adjourned, but probably only so that the papers could point out that Larsen was the exchange ahead. On the following day the game was agreed drawn without being resumed.

In the Timman-Spassky game there was a topical variation of the Ruy Lopez, activity by White on the K-side, and counter-play by Black in the centre. The play of both sides was grandmaster-like, in the best sense of this word. And only when there was no point in playing on did they agree to a draw.

As usual, Ljubojevic played the opening in original fashion against Tal. White gained a positional advantage, but probably did not choose the best plan for realizing it. However, I am not convinced that after the alternative continuation Ljubojevic's tactical resourcefulness would not have told. The Yugoslav grandmaster found several difficult moves, and after simplification it became clear that for White to continue playing for a win entailed serious risks. I therefore forced perpetual check.

Perhaps the first genuine 'grandmaster' (not in the best sense of this word) draw was agreed in the Kavalek-Hort game. A Queen's Gambit, a theoretical position and — a handshake.

Game No. 11 Caro-Kann Defence

Larsen Karpov
(Notes by Chandler)

1	e4	c6
2	c4!?	d5
3	exd5	cxd5
4	cx d5	Nf6

4...Qxd5 gives a typical isolated QP position at the expense of tempi with the queen. White could then try an interesting finesse to gain good attacking prospects with 5 Nc3 Qd8 6 d4 Nf6 7 Nf3 e6 8 Bd3!? (instead of 8 Bc4) Be7 9 O-O 0-0 10 Bc2 Nc6 11 a3 b6 12 Qd3 Bb7 13 Re1! and now Black is forced to weaken his kingside with 13...g6, as 13...Rc8 allows the killer 14 d5! exd5 15 Bg5 g6 16 Rxe7!, winning.

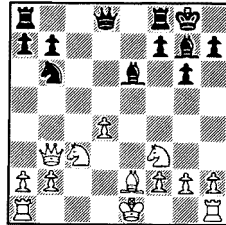
5	Qa4+	Nbd7
6	Nc3	g6
7	d4	

A new move, emphasising the scope for innovation available in this whole, generally underestimated, variation. Previously played was 7 g3 Bg7 8 Bg2 O-O 9 Nge2 as in Suetin-Georgadze (Kislovodsk 1972), where Black could now try 9...Nc5!? 10 Qc4 b6 11 d4 Ba6 12 Nb5 Rc8!

7	...	Bg7
8	Qb3	O-O
9	Bg5	Nb6
10	Bxf6	Bxf6
11	Nf3	Bg7

A difficult decision — 11...Bf5 develops a piece but does not solve Black's basic problem of the cramping extra pawn on d5. Karpov intends to eliminate this pawn by ...e6, but 11...e6 immediately would have allowed 12 d6! Qxd6 13 Ne4 Qe7 14 Nxf6+ with dark-square control, e.g. 14...Qxf6 15 Bb5!? a6 16 Bd3 Nd5 17 Be4 Nf4 18 O-O followed by g2-g3 and Ne5.

12	Be2	e6
13	dx e6	Bxe6



14 Qb5

By gambiting the 'e' pawn Karpov has gained considerable pressure on the central files. White must be careful — 14 Qd1 Nc4 15 Rb1 Rc8 is better for Black.

Larsen's idea with the game continuation (instead of Qb4 immediately) is that after Black's reply the 'a' pawn can later be captured on a6.

14 ... a6

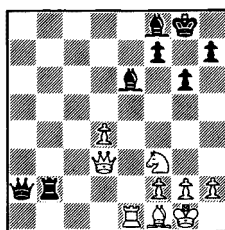
14...Bxd4 15 Nxd4 Qxd4 16 Rd1 would cede White the initiative due to his well-posted queen and the weakened dark squares around the black king. Now Larsen must continue to play accurately — 15 Qa5? Nd5 16 Qxd8 Rfxd8 17 O-O Rac8 and Black will not have a material deficit much longer.

15	Qb4	Nd5
16	Qxb7!?	...

Larsen evidently subscribes to the theory that the more you take the more you can give back to survive. Karpov's reply seems correct — both 16...Nf4 17 O-O and 16...Qa5 17 O-O Rfb8 18 Qc6 leave White material up with defensive possibilities.

16	...	Rb8
17	Qxa6	Rxb2
18	Nxd5	Qxd5
19	O-O	Ra8
20	Qd3	Raxa2
21	Rxa2	Qxa2

22 Re1 Bf8
23 Bf1!



Better than 23 Kf1 Rc2, or 23 Qa6? Bb4
24 Qxa2 Bxa2.

23 ... Bb4

The mousetrap, as Larsen calls it, would
snap shut after 23...Rxf2 24 Be2!

24 Rc1

24 Re2 Rxe2 25 Bxe2 saves the 'f' pawn,
but Black should be able to liquidate to
a drawn opposite-coloured bishop ending
with 25...Bd5 followed by capturing on
f3.

24 ... Rxf2!?
25 d5! Rxf1+!

On 25...Bxd5 26 Qd4 would threaten Qxf2
and Rc8+. 25...Bf5 covers the c8 square,
but nevertheless 26 Qd4 Rb2 27 d6, and
the advance of the passed pawn will be
decisive. A third alternative was
25...Qa7 26 Qd4 Qxd4 27 Nxd4 Rxf1+
28 Kxf1 Bxd5 with a similar situation to
that in the game, but White could try
26 Khl.

Karpov in fact offered a draw here, but
naturally Larsen plays on a little longer.

26 Qxf1 Qxd5
27 Khl Be7
28 Rd1 Qb7
29 Rbl Qa7
30 Ral Qc5

With pawns on just one side of the board,
losing chances are minimal — indeed it
is not so clear who is better! Black's
bishop pair and extra pawn should keep
the rook at bay.

31 Nd2 Kg7

32 Re1 Qd4
33 Qe2 Bf6
34 Ne4 Bh4
35 Rd1 Qe5
36 Qf3 h5
37 Qc3 Qxc3
38 Nxc3 Bf6
39 Ne4 Be5
40 Kg1 Bf5
41 Nc5 Bc7
42 Na6 Bf4
43 Nb4 Be6

Drawn.

Game No. 12 English Opening

Portisch Hübner
(Notes by Tal)

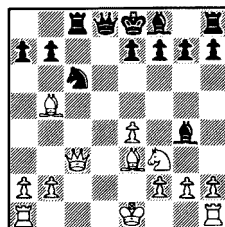
1 c4 Nf6
2 Nc3 c5
3 Nf3 d5
4 cxd5 Nxd5
5 d4 cxd4

This continuation has been played before,
but I would think that after this game
it is unlikely to be adopted at grand-
master level. A much tenser game re-
sults after 5...Nxc3, 5...e6 or 5...Nc6.

6 Qxd4 Nxc3
7 Qxc3 Nc6
8 e4 Bg4

In a game with me at Sochi (1977),
Zhuravlev continued here 8...Qa5, but
the resulting ending was highly attrac-
tive even for me, and I am no great
lover of this stage of the game.

9 Bb5 Rc8
10 Be3!



Up to this point the game has taken the
identical course of Korchnoi-Ljubojevic
(Belgrade, 1979). Here Korchnoi contin-

ued 10 0-0 a6 11 Bxc6+ Rxc6 12 Qe3 Bxf3 13 Qxf3 g6, and Black succeeded in almost equalizing. Portisch's continuation is much more effective. White is not at all bothered about the doubling of his pawns on the 'f' file — time is much more important!

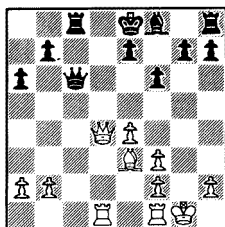
10 ... Bxf3
11 gxf3 a6

Black still cannot develop — his a7 pawn is under attack.

12 Rd1! Qc7
13 Bxc6+ Qxc6
14 Qd4!

It would appear that the outcome of the game is decided.

14 ... f6
15 0-0



15 ... e5

It is difficult to imagine that 15...Qe6 would have been more tenacious. White could have continued, say, 16 Kg2, and as before Black has no normal way of developing.

16 Qa7!

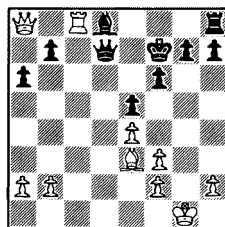
From here the queen disorganizes the opponent's entire defence. After the inevitable exchange of one pair of rooks, the difference in strength of the remaining forces becomes too appreciable.

16 ... Be7
17 Rc1 Qd7
18 Rxc8+ Qxc8
19 Rc1 Qd7
20 Qa8+!

A small, but important tactical nuance. If 20 Qb8+ Bd8 21 Rc8 Ke7 22 Bc5+ Ke6

23 Bb6, then 23...Bc7!, and unexpectedly it is Black who wins!

20 ... Bd8
21 Rc8 Kf7



22 Bb6

Now in the variation given above the white queen is not threatened.

22 ... Bxb6
23 Rxh8

Portisch has accurately calculated that Black has no time to create counterplay, in view of the deadly threat of 24 Qg8+.

23 ... Kg6

No better is 23...Bxf2+ 24 Kg2.

24 Qe8+

The remainder, as it is customary to say, is a matter of technique. The fact that this technique comes naturally to Portisch is readily demonstrated by the Hungarian grandmaster.

24 ... Qxe8

25 Rxe8 Bd4

26 b4 Bc3

27 a3 Bb2

28 a4 Ba3

29 Rb8 Bxb4

30 Rxb7 Bc3

31 Kf1 h5

32 Ke2 a5

33 f4 exf4

34 Kf3 f5

35 Rb6+ Kg5

36 Rb5 g6

37 e5 Bd2

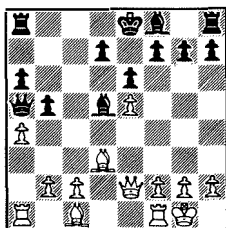
38 h4+ Kh6

39 Rb7 Resigns

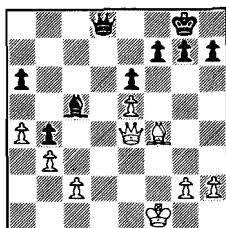
Game No. 13 Sicilian Defence

Tal Ljubojevic

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | e4 | c5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | e6 |
| 3 | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 | Nxd4 | a6 |
| 5 | Nc3 | b5 |
| 6 | Bd3 | Bb7 |
| 7 | O-O | Nc6 |
| 8 | Nxc6 | Bxc6 |
| 9 | Qe2 | Nf6 |
| 10 | e5 | Nd5 |
| 11 | Nxd5 | Bxd5 |
| 12 | a4 | Qa5 |



- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 13 | Rd1 | b4 |
| 14 | Bf4 | Qb6 |
| 15 | Be4 | Bxe4 |
| 16 | Qxe4 | Rc8 |
| 17 | Rd2 | Bc5 |
| 18 | Rad1 | O-O |
| 19 | Rxd7 | Bxf2+ |
| 20 | Kf1 | Bc5 |
| 21 | Rb7 | Qa5 |
| 22 | b3 | Rcd8 |
| 23 | Rdd7 | Rxd7 |
| 24 | Rxd7 | Rd8 |
| 25 | Rxd8+ | Qxd8 |



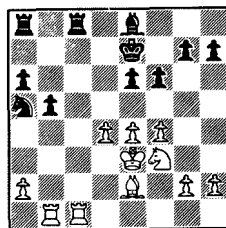
- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 26 | Ke2 | h6 |
| 27 | Bd2 | Qc7 |
| 28 | g4 | a5 |
| 29 | h4 | Be7 |
| 30 | h5 | Bg5 |
| 31 | Qa8+ | |

Drawn.

Game No. 14 Queen's Gambit

Kavalek Hort

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 1 | c4 | Nf6 |
| 2 | Nc3 | e6 |
| 3 | Nf3 | d5 |
| 4 | d4 | c5 |
| 5 | cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 6 | e4 | Nxc3 |
| 7 | bxc3 | cxd4 |
| 8 | cxd4 | Nc6 |
| 9 | Bc4 | b5 |
| 10 | Be2 | Bb4+ |
| 11 | Bd2 | Qa5 |
| 12 | Rb1 | Bxd2+ |
| 13 | Qxd2 | a6 |
| 14 | Qxa5 | Nxa5 |
| 15 | Kd2 | Ke7 |
| 16 | Rhc1 | Bd7 |
| 17 | Ke3 | Rhc8 |
| 18 | Ne5 | Be8 |
| 19 | f4 | f6 |
| 20 | Nf3 | |



Drawn.

Game No. 15 Ruy Lopez

Timman Spassky
(Notes by Tal)

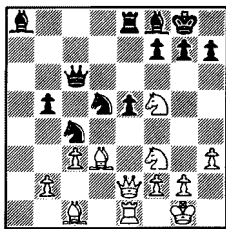
- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | e4 | e5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3 | Bb5 | a6 |
| 4 | Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5 | O-O | Be7 |
| 6 | Re1 | b5 |
| 7 | Bb3 | d6 |
| 8 | c3 | O-O |
| 9 | d4 | Bg4 |
| 10 | d5 | Na5 |
| 11 | Bc2 | c6 |
| 12 | h3 | Bc8 |
| 13 | dxc6 | Qc7 |
| 14 | Nbd2 | Qxc6 |
| 15 | Nf1 | Nc4 |
| 16 | Ng3 | |

Here Gligoric considers that the immediate 16 a4 may be more dangerous for Black.

16	...	Re8
17	a4	Bb7
18	Bd3	Bf8
19	Qe2	d5!

This thematic break immediately relieves Black of any difficulties he might have had, and soon it is White who has to worry about maintaining the balance as exactly as possible.

20	a×b5	a×b5
21	R×a8	B×a8
22	e×d5	N×d5
23	Nf5	



23 ... e4!

Radically nipping in the bud all White's possibilities on the K-side, and transposing into an advantageous ending, although it is true that this advantage is purely theoretical.

24	B×e4	N×c3
25	b×c3	R×e4
26	Q×e4	Q×e4
27	R×e4	B×e4
28	N5d4	b4
29	Nd2	

The most accurate.

29	...	N×d2
30	B×d2	b×c3
31	B×c3	

Drawn.

ROUND 4

14th April

Karpov	(2)	1	-	0	Spassky (1 ½)
Hort	(1)	½	-	½	Timman (1)
Ljubojevic	(2)	1	-	0	Kavalek (1)
Hübner	(1 ½)	½	-	½	Tal (2)
Larsen	(½)	0	-	1	Portisch (2½)

Standings after four rounds: Portisch - 3½; Karpov, Ljubojevic -3; Tal - 2½; Hübner - 2; Hort, Spassky, Timman - 1½; Kavalek - 1; Larsen - ½.

In Montreal the World Champion seemed to be aiming to worry his future match opponents. In the Karpov-Spassky game there occurred a variation of the Queen's Gambit which had been examined in detail by Anatoly prior to and during the match in Baguio.

Then Karpov had been faced with the problem of neutralizing White's opening advantage. It cannot be said that he and his seconds solved this problem completely. But, in all probability, the position is not so inoffensive for Black. On this occasion Karpov was in command of the white pieces. The duel took on particular interest, since Spassky had frequently demonstrated the viability of this position for Black. In his game with Karpov he did not succeed in doing this.

It is difficult to say what the Ex-World Champion feared, in avoiding the generally accepted theoretical continuations. He no doubt had some justification for doing so. But the continuation chosen by him did not bring Black any significant relief. Karpov conducted the game in the best traditions of Capablanca (I'm sorry, to compare the play of two World Champions is not done, and it is also against my principles, but it's a fact!).

The win by the tournament leader Portisch over Larsen turned out to be indeed a Pyrrhic victory. The opening was a copy of the beginning of their game from the Interzonal Tournament in Biel (1976). Portisch played actively, and Larsen defended resourcefully. An interesting struggle, not without its mistakes, turned in favour of the Dane. A time trouble mistake by Portisch could probably have led to a decisive advantage for White, had he played 39 Be2. But Larsen overlooked this continuation, and then in searching for the win that was no longer there he used up his last few seconds and overstepped the time limit. Everyone was unhappy with the result of the game: Portisch's rivals, and Larsen, and Portisch himself, a true sportsman, who does not like gifts of fate. The Hungarian grandmaster even made a request to the controller, but ... a law is a law, and the result had to stand. It would appear that this game had a strong effect on Portisch's mood; at any rate, the next game he won was only after a further 9 rounds.

An interesting opening duel in the Ljubojevic-Kavalek game led to a position with a slight positional advantage for White. The Yugoslav grandmaster found an original

way to increase his advantage. Kavalek defended resourcefully, but the opening sins he had committed nevertheless told deep into the endgame.

Hort and Timman demonstrated clearly their strongest sides in their meeting with each other. After some opening inaccuracies by White, Timman seized the initiative by some original manoeuvres. After conducting the first part of the game quite splendidly, he obtained an overwhelming advantage. But in a winning position the Dutchman allowed himself to relax — this happens with him — and Hort's devilish ingenuity enabled him to save what had seemed to be an absolutely hopeless position.

The Hübner-Tal game was rather overshadowed by these clashes. The opening — a Modern Benoni — promised a sharp battle. This is what I thought when I declined a draw offered on the 15th move. But Hübner's very next move convinced me that the German grandmaster had offered the draw, as they say, from a position of strength. I repented, and my opponent did not try to punish me for this.

Game No. 16 Queen's Gambit

Karpov Spassky
(Notes by Karpov)

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	d5

During the last few decades opening theory has made great strides forward. A thorough study has been made not only of all possible opening schemes, but, and this is particularly important, the order in which they are played. Often during the first few minutes of play grandmasters hold a sort of silent dialogue with each other. And that is the case here. Only three moves have been made, and already much of importance has been said. Schematically this appears as follows:

B. Spassky (2...e6): "A Nimzo-Indian Defence would suit me".

A. Karpov (3 Nf3): "There is probably not much point in allowing Spassky to play the Nimzo-Indian — he has too much experience in this opening. I'll suggest a Queen's Indian".

B. Spassky (3...d5): "I'd prefer a Queen's Gambit or a Catalan Opening".

4	Nc3	Be7
5	Bf4	

In Baguio this continuation was frequently played, and, quite naturally, I had to analyse it a great deal. But

when for a long time you examine in detail some variation from one side, in the end the desire inevitably arises to try playing it with the other colour too. Incidentally, Spassky once played this opening in a game with Portisch (Havana 1966), which was rather important in the theoretical sense. Then he had to uphold this system in his matches for the World Championship with Petrosian and Fischer. Of course, in the intervening years this variation had changed in some ways, and I was extremely curious to see what Boris had thought up here.

5	...	0-0
6	e3	c5

Recently Black has also quite frequently resorted to 6...b6. In a game with Larsen (Palma de Mallorca 1968) Spassky once played 6...c6 here. Larsen did not play the best, and Black obtained a good game.

7	dxc5	Nc6
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In his match with Petrosian (Moscow 1969), Spassky tried 7...Na6, but did not succeed in equalizing.

8	Qc2	
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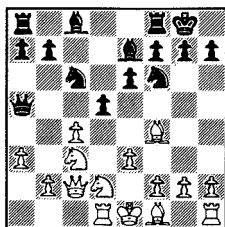
8 cxd5, as played by Fischer against Spassky (Rekjavik 1972), has not found any followers.

8	...	Qa5
9	a3	Bxc5
10	Rd1	Be7

In the 21st game of the match in Baguio, under the influence of the score (4-1 in my favour), I made a highly risky attempt to 'refute' White's opening system: 10...Re8?! 11 Nd2 e5 12 Bg5 Nd4 13 Qb1! Bf5 14 Bd3 e4 15 Bc2 Nxc2 16 Qxc2, and Black's initiative evaporated, whereas his pawn wounds began to bleed.

11 Nd2

Now after 11...dxc4 12 Bxc4! an almost symmetric, outwardly very deceptive, position is reached, in which Black is faced with an exhausting battle for a draw.



11 ... Bd7

An innovation at grandmaster level. Spassky made this move after fairly lengthy reflection. To follow the well-trodden path, 11...e5 12 Bg5 d4 13 Nb3 Qb6 14 Bxf6 Bxf6 15 Nd5 Qd8 16 Bd3 g6 17 exd4 Nxd4 18 Nxd4 exd4 19 Nxf6+ Qxf6, as in the 23rd game of the match in Baguio, he evidently did not wish, and he recalled the aforementioned game with Portisch, where there followed 11...e5 12 Bg5 d4 13 Nb3 Qd8 14 Be2 Ng4!? 15 Bxe7 Qxe7 16 exd4 Qh4!?, with great complications.

12 Be2

On general grounds I made this move fairly quickly, whereas Spassky had to calculate the consequences of the pawn sacrifice 12 Nb3 Qb6 13 cxd5 Nxd5 14 Nxd5 exd5 15 Rxd5. And although the direct threat of 15...Be6 can be parried by 16 Rb5, all the same I did not want to subject my king to unnecessary risk. And the fact that there was such a risk can be judged from replies of the type 15...Bb4+ 16 Nd2 (16 axb4 Nxb4 17 Qd2 Nxd5 18 Qxd5 Be6, and Black wins)

16...Rac8, and it is difficult to guess how all these complications will end.

12 ... Rfc8

The d8 square has to be reserved for the queen. Therefore 12...Rfd8 is unsatisfactory; after 13 O-O the black queen has no good post. The immediate attempt to gain material by 13 Nb3 Qb6 14 c5?! meets with a fitting rejoinder: 14...Bxc5 15 Na4 Nb4! 16 axb4 (16 Nxb6 Nxc2+ 17 Kd2 axb6, or 16 Qxc5 Bxa4) 16...Bxa4. On the other hand, after 15 Na4 Bb4+ White continues simply 16 Kf1, but not 16 axb4 Nxb4 17 Nxb6 Nxc2+ 18 Kd2 axb6 19 Kxc2 Ba4! 20 Rd3 (20 Be5 Rdc8+ 21 Bc3 b5) 20...Ne4, and Black has an excellent game.

13 O-O Qd8

Black's basic idea is, after evacuating his queen from the danger zone, to then advance ...d5-d4. White strives to prevent this plan.

14 cxd5

All the same White cannot get by without this exchange.

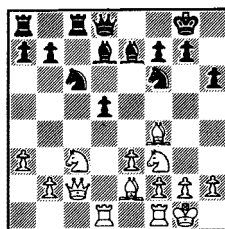
14 ... exd5

After capturing with the knight, Black did not like the variation 15 Nxd5 exd5 16 Qb3, with an attack on two pawns (16...Qb6?! 17 Qxd5 Be6 18 Qb5).

15 Nf3!

It is essential to take control of d4, and to halt the isolated pawn 'for good'.

15 ... h6



16 Ne5

White's plans include the exchange of at least one pair of knights. In this case it is much easier to keep control of d4. In addition, the vacated post at f3 can immediately be occupied by the bishop, which will exert strong pressure on the d5 pawn. In principle this is a fairly typical stratagem for this type of position. The only distinctive feature is that these exchanging operations are usually carried out via the square d4.

16 ... Be6

16...Qe8 deserved consideration, so as after 17 Nxc6 Bxc6 19 Qb3 Rd8 19 Bf3 to continue 19...Ne4, with the idea of 20 Nxd5 Ba4.

17 Nxc6! Rxc6

Now the d5 pawn will cause Black endless trouble, and will require constant surveillance on the part of all of his pieces. Note that 17...bxc6 fails to 18 Ba6, when Black loses the exchange.

18 Bf3 Qb6
19 Be5!

White's advantage is of course considerable, but it is not at all easy to increase it. For the moment White provokes the exchange of the last pair of knights. After all, it is for the long-range bishops and heavy pieces that an isolated pawn is the most convenient target for attack.

19 ... Ne4
20 Qe2

On 20 Bd4 there follows 20...Bc5, and after 21 Bxc5 Rxc5 22 Bxe4 dxe4 23 Qxe4 Qxb2 24 Na4 Black appears to be in an unenviable position, but he extricates himself by 24...Re5 25 Qf4 Qb5. The straightforward 20 Bxe4 dxe4 21 Qxe4 Qxb2 22 Nd5, on the other hand, meets with an equally simple refutation — 22...Bxd5.

20 ... Nxc3
21 Bxc3

The complete absence of counter-play for the opponent allows White's position to be assessed as strategically won.

But to convert it into a win, much technical effort is still required.

21 ... Rd8

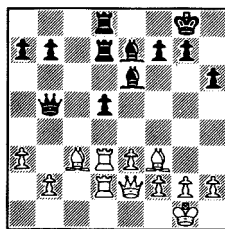
Of course, not 21...Bxa3, in view of 22 Bxg7! But apart from 'total defence', Black could have considered a highly enterprising exchange sacrifice: 21...Rxc3!? 22 bxc3 Qa5.

22 Rd3! Rcd6
23 Rfd1 R6d7
24 Rld2

Remembering the advice of Alekhine, that, with this type of concentration of heavy pieces on a half-open file, the queen should be placed at the rear.

After missing the possibility of active defence on his 21st move, Spassky has ended up in a psychologically highly unfavourable situation. He is clearly not in the habit of conducting such an exhausting, and more important, cheerless defence.

24 ... Qb5



25 Qd1

After deploying all his pieces as well as possible, White must soon turn to the next stage of his plan, which is to break up the opponent's position. In principle this can be effected in two ways. Firstly, he can attempt to provoke an advance of one (or both) of the Q-side pawns, and then exploit this weakening. The second way is to advance his K-side pawns.

25 ... b6
26 g3

However improbable the prospect of the intrusion of one of Black's heavy pieces

on the first rank, precautionary measures do not do any harm. Especially since White has time, and there is no reason for him to hurry.

26 ... Bf8
27 Bg2 Be7

Black is forced to mark time, and passively wait to see how events develop.

28 Qh5! a6

Black takes measures against the threatened advance e3-e4, but now his Q-side pawns have been moved, and, in turn, have become an additional target for attack. The b7 pawn, which was under the surveillance of the rook at d7, has now been left to its own resources, and for a time I wondered whether I shouldn't play simply Qd1, then Bd4 (with the threat of Rb3). In this case the white-squared bishop could also have been included in the co-ordinated action of the pieces via f1. But in the end, after weighing up everything 'for' and 'against', I decided that the planned pawn offensive on the K-side would be even more unpleasant for Black.

29 h3 Qc6
30 Kh2 a5
31 f4 f6

The only move, since f4-f5 was threatened. 31...Qb5 (so as to answer 32 f5 with 32...d4) does not work. White continues 32 a4, if there is nothing better, and this immediately decides the game. Also unsatisfactory is 31...f5 32 Qg6 Bf8 33 Be5 followed by g3-g4.

32 Qd1 Qb5

Rather more tenacious was 32...Rd6, placing the rook on a three-times defended square (which is necessary in the event of e3-e4). However, at this point Spassky was already short of time. After 32...Rd6 I think that White should win by combining threats on the Q-side (Bd4, Rb3) with threats of a pawn breakthrough on the K-side.

33 g4 g5

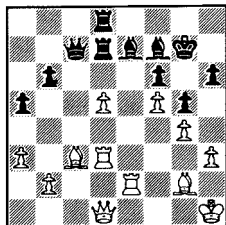
Hoping for 34 f5 Bf7 35 e4 d4! Essential, evidently, was 33...Bd6 34 Kh1 Bc7,

restraining the white pawns.

34 Kh1 Qc6
35 f5 Bf7
36 e4

Winning a pawn, and with it the game.

36 ... Kg7
37 exd5 Qc7
38 Re2



10 Nd2 Nbd7
11 a4 a6
12 e4

This is rarely played, and can hardly be the strongest move. Subsequently the weakening of the d3 square may tell.

12 ... Qc7
13 Qe2

Adter 13 Qc2 Rb8 Black is all ready to advance ...b7-b5. Now, however, White has placed his queen opposite the black rook.

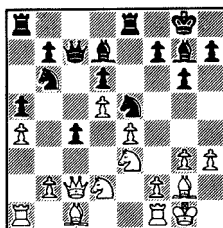
13 ... Nb6

The threat of capturing on d5 forces White to lose time.

14 Qd3 Ng4
15 h3 Ne5
16 Qc2 c4
17 Nd1 a5!

The advance ...b7-b5 is not now essential, and Black consolidates the position of his knight at b6, at the same time avoiding a trap: 17...Nd3? 18 a5 Nb4 19 axb6 Nxc2 20 bxc7 Nxa1 21 Nxc4.

18 Ne3 Bd7



19 Rd1

Too slow. The critical position is reached after 19 f4 Qc5 20 fxe5 Qxe3+ 21 Kh2. Both players thought that here after 21...Bxe5 White would gain excellent counter-play by 22 Nf3 Qd3 23 Qf2, and assessed the position after 21...Qd3 22 Qxd3 cxd3 23 exd6 Nxa4 to be in Black's favour. But even so, White should have gone in for this variation, since now he ends up in a bad position without any counter-play.

19 ... Qc5
20 Nb1 Nd3
21 Nc3 Rac8
22 Bd2 f5!

In the best traditions of Benoni set-ups. In addition to his troubles on the Q-side, White now has to worry about the defence of his f2 square.

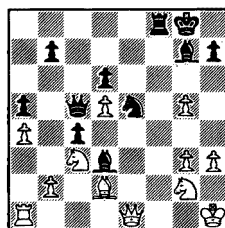
23 exf5 Bxf5
24 Rf1 Ne1
25 Qd1 N×g2
26 K×g2 Bd3

It appears that the end of the game is merely a question of a few moves.

27 Re1 Rf8
28 f4 Rce8
29 Kh2 g5
30 f×g5 Nd7
31 Ng2 R×e1
32 Q×e1

No better is 32 B×e1 Rf1.

32 ... Ne5
33 Kh1



33 ... Rf1+

Black incorrectly decides to rely on his technique. He could have continued his attack by 33...Qc8. Timman explains that during the game he saw this move, but erroneously thought that after 34 g4 Rf3 35 Nf4 he had to play 35...Ng6 36 Ne6, overlooking that 35...Qf8 wins instantly.

34 Q×f1 B×f1
35 R×f1 Nd3
36 Ne3 Qd4
37 Nf5!

At last White gains the right to say something.

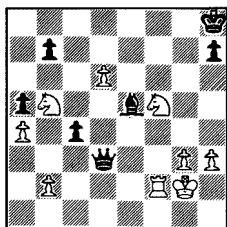
37 ... Nf2+
 38 Kg2 Qxd2
 39 Rxf2 Qxg5
 40 Ne4 Qd8
 41 Nfxd6 Qd7

Here the game was adjourned.

42 Nf5 Kh8

In the event of 42...Qxa4 43 Ne7+ Kh8
 44 Ng5 a draw is inevitable.

43 d6 Qe6
 44 Nc3 Be5
 45 Nb5 Qd5+
 46 Kh2 Qd3
 47 Kg2



47 ... h5

As Timman points out, Black still has winning chances after 47...Qd5+ 48 Kh2 h5 49 h4 Qd3. But now it turns out that White is by no means forced to play h3-h4.

48 Nc3! Bxd6
 49 Rf3

On the 'd' file the black queen has only one square. And so...

49 ... Qd2+
 50 Rf2 Qd3
 51 Rf3 Qd2+
 52 Rf2

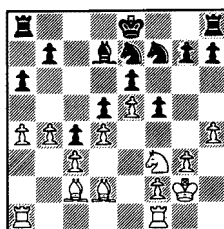
Drawn.

Game No. 18 French Defence

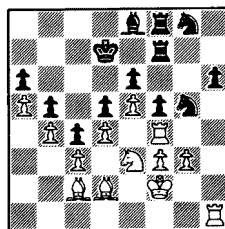
Ljubojevic Kavalik

1 e4 e6
 2 d4 d5
 3 Nc3 Bb4

4 e5 c5
 5 a3 Bxc3+
 6 bxc3 Qa5
 7 Bd2 Qa4
 8 Qb1 a6
 9 Nf3 Ne7
 10 Qb3 Qxb3
 11 cxb3 Nbc6
 12 Bd3 Na5
 13 Bc2 c4
 14 b4 Nac6
 15 0-0 f5
 16 h4 Bd7
 17 a4 Nd8
 18 g3 Nf7
 19 Kg2

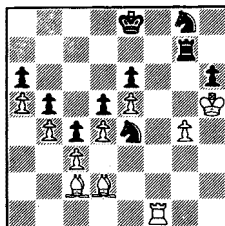


19 ... h6
 20 h5 Kd8
 21 Rh1 Kc7
 22 Rag1 Rag8
 23 Kf1 g5
 24 hxc6 Rxc6
 25 Nh4 Rg7
 26 f3 Ng5
 27 Kf2 Rf8
 28 Ng2 Ng8
 29 Rh4 Be8
 30 Rgh1 b5
 31 a5 Kd7
 32 Rf4 Rgf7
 33 Ne3



33 ... Kc6
 34 Ke2 Bd7
 35 Ng2 Be8
 36 g4 fxg4

37	f×g4	Kd7
38	Kf2	Ke7
39	Kg3	Rg7
40	R×f8	K×f8
41	Nf4	Bf7
42	Rf1	Ke7
43	Kh4	Ke8
44	Nh5	B×h5
45	K×h5	Ne4



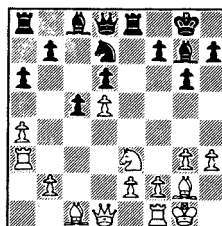
46	B×e4	d×e4
47	Rf4	Rf7
48	Kg6	Ne7+
49	K×h6	R×f4
50	B×f4	Nd5
51	Bc1	e3
52	Kg7	Ke7
53	g5	e2
54	Bd2	Ne3
55	g6	Nf5+
56	Kg8	Ke8
57	g7	Ne7+
58	Kh7	Kf7
59	Be1	Resigns

Game No. 19 Benoni Defence

Hübner	Tal
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1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	g3	c5
4	d5	e×d5
5	c×d5	d6
6	Nc3	g6
7	Nf3	Bg7
8	Bg2	O-O
9	O-O	Re8
10	h3	a6
11	a4	Ne4
12	Ra3	Nd7
13	N×e4	R×e4
14	Nd2	Re8
15	Nc4	Ne5
16	Ne3	Nd7

Drawn.

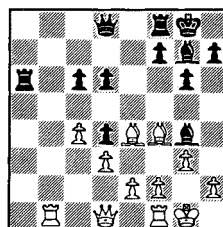


Game No. 20 English Opening

Larsen	Portisch
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(Notes by Tal)

1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	Nf3	Nc6
4	d3	d6
5	g3	g6
6	Bg2	Bg7
7	Rb1	a5
8	a3	Nd4
9	b4	a×b4
10	a×b4	c6
11	b5	O-O
12	b×c6	b×c6
13	N×d4	e×d4
14	Ne4	N×e4
15	B×e4	Ra6
16	O-O	Bg4
17	Bf4	



17 ... f5

Black begins immediate active play against the white king.

18	Bg2	g5
19	Bd2	f4
20	Rb7	Qc8
21	Qb1	

An active defensive reaction. An unclear position results after 21... B×e2 22 Re1 f3 (22... B×d3 fails to 23 R×g7+) 23 B×g5. The Hungarian

player chooses a sounder continuation.

21	...	Be5
22	gxf4	gxf4
23	Khl	

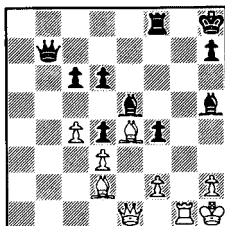
It is difficult to evaluate this position, in which both kings are in a certain amount of danger. For the moment Black plays solidly.

23	...	Ral
24	Qxa1	Qxb7
25	Be4	Kh8
26	Rgl	Bxe2
27	Qel	

27 f3 is not dangerous for Black, in view of 27...d5 28 cxd5 cxd5 29 Qa5 Bg7, when 30 Bxd5 fails to 30...Bxf3+.

27	...	Bh5
----	-----	-----

27...f3 was probably stronger.



28 c5!

Now, despite being a pawn down, White is justified in playing for a win.

28	...	Rg8
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The pawn clearly could not be taken, because of 29 Rg5.

29	Rxg8+	Kxg8
30	cxd6	Bxd6
31	Qc1	f3
32	Bxc6	Qc7
33	Qc4+	Bf7
34	Qb5	Bf4
35	Bb4	

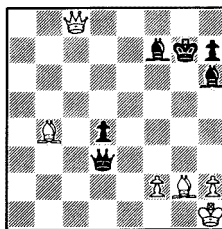
Subsequent events took place in time trouble, rather more serious for Larsen.

35	...	Qc8
36	Qc5	Bh6

37	Bxf3	Qh3
38	Bg2	

White still had good winning chances after 38 Be2. It would appear that Larsen over-estimated his attack.

38	...	Qxd3
39	Qc8+	Kg7



Here something unexpected occurred. Evidently the Dane had assumed that the capture of the d3 pawn was not possible, but now, working through the variations, he saw that neither 40 Bf8+ Kf6! 41 Qd8+ Kf5, nor 40 Qf8+ Kg6 41 Qd6+ Kg7 led to a win. Unable to find a win, Larsen failed to make his fortieth move, and lost on time.

ROUND 5

16th April

Portisch	(3½)	½	-	½	Karpov (3)
Tal	(2½)	1	-	0	Larsen (½)
Kavalek	(1)	0	-	1	Hübner (2)
Timman	(1½)	½	-	½	Ljubojevic (3)
Spassky	(1½)	½	-	½	Hort (1½)

Standings after five rounds: Portisch - 4; Karpov, Ljubojevic, Tal - 3½; Hübner - 3; Hort, Spassky, Timman - 2; Kavalek - 1; Larsen - ½.

In the tournament a prize had been put up for the most brilliant game. The first claim to it, and a very serious one at that, was made by Kavalek. While still in the opening he sacrificed a pawn against Hübner, and then a rook. Subsequent analysis showed that, while the first sacrifice was one hundred per cent correct, the second was unjustified. But in order to demonstrate this, Hübner had to find about ten specific and far from obvious moves. He coped with this task, White's initiative gradually evaporated, and although the material advantage was reduced somewhat, it remained sufficient for victory.

As Black, Larsen played the Sicilian Defence in provocative style against Tal. The e4-e5 breakthrough is normally a drastic measure, and in the given situation too it proved highly effective. The Dane should probably have reconciled himself to a cheerless rook ending. Passing this opportunity by, Black continued play in the middlegame. But with his pieces undeveloped, and his king in the centre, his position soon became hopeless. I could probably have given mate, but the arithmetically calculated win of a piece also proved sufficient for victory.

A short, but interesting duel between Portisch and Karpov ended in a draw. From the opening White gained a slight advantage. But, remembering his recent games with Karpov, which had gone in favour of the World Champion, Portisch was restrained and did not seek ways of increasing his advantage. One gained the impression that he was aiming for an advantage with White, just so that the offer of a draw should appear perfectly appropriate.

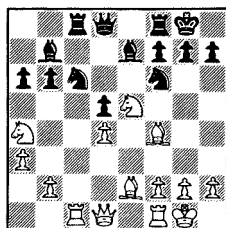
In his game with Timman, Ljubojevic parried in highly original fashion White's apparently threatening initiative, and even obtained a better ending. However, technique is not the strongest side of either Ljubojevic or Timman. As a result - a draw.

That day Spassky, it would seem, was not in the mood. It was probably the effect of his defeat in the previous round. At any rate, after obtaining with White an attractive position, he offered Hort a draw as early as the 12th move.

Game No. 21 Queen's Indian Defence

Portisch Karpov

1 d4 Nf6
 2 c4 e6
 3 Nf3 b6
 4 Nc3 Bb7
 5 a3 d5
 6 cxd5 exd5
 7 Bf4 Be7
 8 e3 O-O
 9 Be2 c5
 10 Ne5 Nc6
 11 O-O cxd4
 12 exd4 a6
 13 Rcl Rc8
 14 Na4



14 ... Nxe5
 15 Rxc8 Bxc8
 16 Bxe5 Nd7
 17 Bg3

Drawn.

Game No. 22 Sicilian Defence

Tal Larsen
(Notes by Tal)

1 e4

Preparing for a game with Larsen is a matter which is either too complicated, or too simple. The Dane's repertoire contains practically all opening systems, and one's chances of guessing the variation are no better than in a lottery. Therefore at home it was decided to begin the game with the advance of the king's pawn. At that the preparation came to an end...

1 ... c5
 2 Nf3 Nc6
 3 d4 cxd4
 4 Nxd4 Nf6

5 Nc3 d6
 6 Bg5 e6
 7 Qd2 Be7
 8 O-O-O a6

In our 1969 match Larsen twice won against me with Black, by continuing 8...O-O 9 Nb3 (in the 4th game) and 9 f4 (in the 6th). However, in view of my form at the time, Larsen could have felt quite confident in choosing any variation.

9 f4 Qc7

9...Bd7 is usually played. The move made by Larsen is frowned upon by theory, in view of the possible reply 10 Bxf6 gxf6 11 f5, as occurred, for example, in the game Bronstein-Suetin (Moscow 1978). I, however, did not wish to give my opponent the possibility of establishing his favourite 'pawn hedgehog'.

10 Be2

In principle, this continuation does not pretend to be a refutation of the variation. However, Black's reply proves to be most unfortunate. The normal reply was 10...Bd7, on which I was planning 11 Nb3 O-O-O 12 Bxf6 (nevertheless!) 12...gxf6 13 Bh5, occupying an important square with the bishop.

10 ... Nxd4
 11 Qxd4 b5
 12 e5

The thematic advance in such positions — after all, the black king is still in the centre!

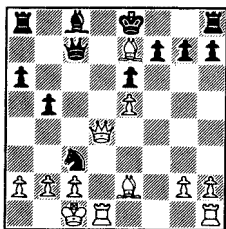
12 ... dxe5
 13 fxe5 Nd5
 14 Bxe7 Nxc3

Of course, Larsen had reckoned on this possibility. There is no other way, since 14...Nxe7 loses instantly to 15 Nxb5.

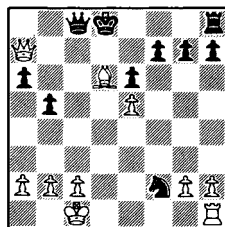
(See next diagram)

15 Bf3!

A very important intermediate move,



22 Qa7



after which White gains a clear advantage. It would seem that Larsen had intended playing 15...Bb7, but on closer examination it turns out that after 16 Bd6 Bxf3 17 bxc3! White comes out a piece ahead. Extremely dangerous for Black is 15...Kxe7 16 Qh4+ f6 (16...Ke8? 17 Bc6+) 17 exf6+ gxf6 18 Qb4+ Kf7 19 bxc3, and it is improbable that Black can save the game. The strongest was 15...Ne2+. In their calculations both players reached a rook ending: 16 Bxe2 Qxe7 17 Bf3 Rb7 18 Bxb7 Qxb7 19 Qd6 Rc8 20 Rd2 Qc6 21 Rhd1 Qxd6 22 Rxd6 Ra8 23 Rb6 (or 23 Rld3). The ending is very difficult for Black, but perhaps not altogether hopeless in view of the possibility of counter-play by ...h7-h5-h4 followed by ...Rh5. The move made by Larsen loses rapidly.

15 ... Nxd1
16 Bd6 Qc4

On 16...Qa7, 17 Bc5 is decisive.

17 Qb6!

Much more convincing than 17 Qxc4 bxc4 18 Bxa8 Ne3.

17 ... Nf2

In reply to 17...Ne3 White would have been 'satisfied' with 18 Qxe3. Now it is not worth taking the knight: 18 Qxf2 Qf4+ 19 Kbl Bd7, and Black can hold on.

18 Bc6+

18 Bxa8 is equally good.

18 ... Bd7
19 Bxd7+ Kxd7
20 Qb7+ Kd8
21 Qxa8+ Qc8

It is impossible to defend e7 and f2 simultaneously. Black resigns.

Game No. 23 Caro-Kann Defence

Kavalek Hübner
(Notes by Nikitin)

1 e4 c6
2 d4 d5
3 Nd2

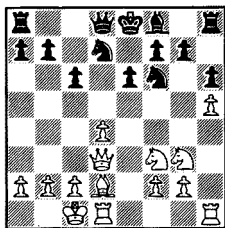
A rather inelegant, but currently fashionable way of transposing into familiar positions of the Caro-Kann, by which White avoids set-ups of the type 3 Nc3 b5 4 exd5 b4, or 3 Nc3 g6. If Black conceives the idea of fianchettoing his bishop with the knight at d2, the d4 pawn can be supported by the 'c' pawn.

In my opinion, Black can attempt to exploit the slight drawbacks to the move 3 Nd2, by playing 3...Qb6, for example: 4 c3 dxe4 5 Nxe4 Bf5 6 Ng3 Bg6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h4 h6, etc. In this case the inclusion of the moves 3...Qb6 4 c3 creates a problem over the defence of the b2 pawn.

3 ... dxe4
4 Nxe4 Bf5
5 Ng3 Bg6
6 h4 h6
7 Nf3 Nd7
8 h5 Bh7
9 Bd3 Bxd3
10 Qxd3 Ngf6
11 Bd2 e6
12 0-0-0

On the board is a familiar opening position, which is at present experiencing another revival. The most common

plan here is 12...Qc7 and the transfer of the king to the Q-side, while 12...Be7 is sometimes played, choosing a place for the king according to circumstances. Hübner carries out a plan which has rarely been tried: with his development hardly begun, and forgetting about the safety of his king, he opens up the position in the centre.



12 ... c5

Why did the German grandmaster break the basic rules of chess strategy? Evidently he planned to eliminate the d4 pawn before White plays c2-c4, which enables him to advance d4-d5.

13 Rhe1

Strengthening the concentration of pieces in the centre. Unexpectedly rapidly, a threat to break up the black position by d4-d5 has arisen, while the elimination of the d4 pawn — 13...cxd4 — opens up the game still further, and leads to an immediate debacle after 14 Rxe6!, for example: 14...fxe6 15 Qg6+ Ke7 16 Bb4+, or 14...Be7 15 Nf5! fxe6 16 Nxc7+. But Hübner must certainly have been prepared for this move, and his reply appears both natural, and planned beforehand.

13 ... Be7

It only remains for Black to castle, and his position will be perfectly satisfactory. Alas, it is just that one chess instant that he is lacking...

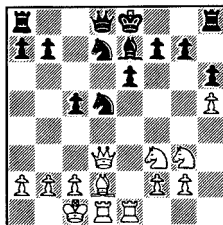
Incidentally, the attempt to run away to the Q-side is unsuccessful — 13...Qc7 14 d5 c4. White has a choice between 15 Qd4 and 15 Rxe6+.

14 d5

Excellent! White clears the second central file, and diverts the knight from f6.

14 ... Nxd5

Black loses immediately after 14...0-0 15 d6, or 14...exd5 15 Nf5. There is also little joy in the variation 14...c4 15 Qxc4 Nxd5 16 Nf5!



15 Rxe6!?

The first mark is a tribute of delight to Kavalek's resoluteness. The last two indicate the annotator's doubts. Black has of course taken risks in the opening, but surely not to the extent that his position, which is outwardly solid, can be wrecked immediately? It seems to me that White's attempt to decide the game by this one blow is also his undoing. Meanwhile 15 Nf5! suggests itself, after which Black's defence is difficult. It is extremely dangerous for his king to remain in the centre — 15...N7f6 16 Rxe6 fxe6 17 Nxc7+ Kd7 18 Ne5+ Kc8 19 Nxe6 Qd6 20 Qb5 Kb8 21 Nf7 or 21 Bf4, but castling similarly fails to solve his problems — 15...0-0 16 Nxe7+ (16 Nxc7 is also interesting, but not 16 Bxh6 Bf6!) 16...Nxe7 (16...Qxe7 17 Qxd5!) 17 Bxh6 Nf6 18 Qa3 Qc7 19 Be3 b6 20 h6. After the rook sacrifice, events are forced.

15 ... fxe6
16 Qg6+ Kf8
17 Qxe6 Nc7

The knight is forced to move away from the king, since neither 17...N7f6 18 Ne5, nor 17...N5f6 18 Nh4, is possible.

18 Qf5+ Nf6

Black has to give up control of e5, since otherwise the pin on the 'd' file is decisive (remember 14 d5!).

19 Ne5 Qc8

Without doubt, the critical point of the game. For the moment Black's material advantage is not noticeable, and the success of White's attack depends upon how effectively the remaining pieces can support his queen and knight. White should have retreated temporarily — 20 Qf3, vacating the square for his other knight to leap in at f5. In my opinion, the attack would have remained strong. Instead, White reduces the material deficit, exchanging the pride of his position — his knight at e5 — for a helpless rook.

20 Ng6+ Kf7
21 Nxh8+ Qxh8
22 Re1

With the disappearance of his knight, White's attacking potential has been markedly weakened. Only the passivity of the black rook, and the poor position of the queen at h8, make the outcome of the game uncertain, and make it depend upon who can bring his reserves up the more quickly.

By playing 22 Ne3 here, White could have created the threat of intruding with his rook on d7 — 22...Qh7? 23 Qxh7 Nxh7 24 Rd7, while after 22...Rd8 the move 23 Re1 would gain considerably in strength — 23...Qh7? 24 Rxe7+ and 25 Bxf6+. But Kavalek has planned a different scheme of attack.

22 ... Re8

Now it only remains to extract the queen from the corner, and the attack will be repulsed.

23 Qd3

After 23 Qf3 Black can simplify favourably by 23...Bd6 24 Nf5 Rxe1+ 25 Bxe1 Qd8, when 26 Qxb7 fails to 26...Bf4+. By retreating to d3, White retains the threat of invading with his queen at g6, which is particularly unpleasant in combination with the manoeuvre Nf5xh6 — it is for this reason that the bishop

must stand at d2.

23 ... b5

The re-grouping 23...Kf8 24 Nf5 Qg8 deserved serious consideration, not fearing either 25 c4 Qf7, or 25 Nxh6 Qxa2 (or 25...gxh6).

24 Nf5

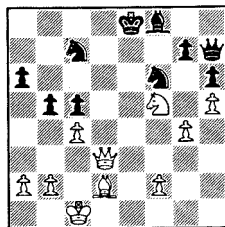
Another piece comes into play, and once again the attack flares up. 24...Kf8 fails to the capture on e7, while f8 cannot be occupied by queen or bishop in view of 25 Nxh6+. All that remains is to wait.

24 ... Qh7
25 g4 a6

Black's poor 23rd move has again worsened his position. In order to exchange rooks he has to waste a tempo, since 25...Bf8 is unpleasantly met by 26 Rxe8 Kxe8 27 Ba5 c4 28 Qe3+.

26 c4 Bf8
27 Rxe8 Kxe8

It is bad to capture with one of the knights — 27...Nfxe8 28 Nxh6+, or 27...Ncxe8 28 cxb5 axb5 29 Qxb5 Nd6 30 Qb3+! c4 31 Nx6+.



Due to his queen being out of play, Black's position is still difficult. After 28 Ba5! the removal of the knight from c7 leads not only to the collapse of his Q-side, but also to the activation of the white queen, for example: 28...bxc4 29 Qxc4 Ncd5 (29...Nfd5 30 Bxc7 Nxc7 31 Qe4+ Kd7 32 Qd3+!, winning the queen) 30 Qxa6 Qg8 31 Qc6+ Kf7 32 Bd2 Be7? 33 Bxh6, or 28...Ne6 29 cxb5 axb5 30 Qxb5+ Kf7 31 Qb7+.

Instead of this, Kavalek 'strengthens' his threat...

28 Qf3 Qg8
29 Qc6+ Kd8
30 Ba5 Qxc4+
31 Kb1 Qe4+
32 Qxe4 Nxe4

White resigns.

An extremely tense game. Kavalek 'made all the running', while Hübner made only the move 28...Qg8!, and... won.

Game No. 24 Queen's Gambit

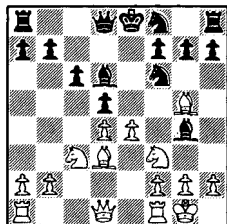
Timman Ljubojevic
(Notes by Tal)

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 d5
4 Nc3 c6
5 Bg5 Nbd7
6 cxd5 exd5
7 e3

The variation has the reputation of being fairly quiet, but in this game there was considerable excitement.

7 ... Bd6
8 Bd3 Nf8
9 0-0 Bg4
10 e4

It is natural that White should want to punish his opponent for his provocative play. Black's king is in the centre, and the opening of lines would appear to be the best policy, but the subsequent complications have been excellently worked out by Ljubojevic.



10 ... Ne6!
11 Bxf6 Qxf6
12 e5 Bxf3

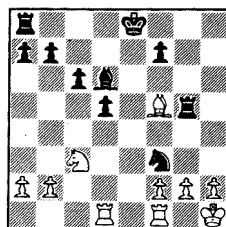
13 exf6 Bxdl
14 fxg7 Rg8
15 Raxdl Nxd4
16 Bxh7 Nf3+

Very tempting, but not the best move. Black has the better endgame after 16...R×g7.

17 Kh1 R×g7
18 Bf5!

It is dangerous for Black to take on h2 — his knight may be lost.

18 ... Rg5



19 Bh3 N×h2
20 Rfel+ Kf8
21 Ne4 d×e4
22 Rxd6 Ng4
23 B×g4 R×g4

Drawn.

It is very difficult to condemn such a grandmaster draw.

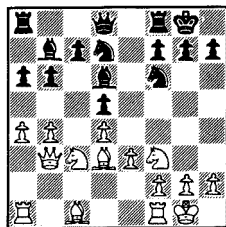
Game No. 25 Nimzo-Indian Defence

Spassky Hort

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 e3 0-0
5 Bd3 d5
6 Nf3 b6
7 0-0 Bb7
8 cxd5 exd5
9 a3 Bd6
10 b4 Nbd7
11 Qb3 a6
12 a4

(See next diagram)

Drawn.



ROUND 6

18th April

Karpov	(3½)	½	-	½	Hort (2)
Ljubojevic	(3½)	½	-	½	Spassky (2)
Hübner	(3)	½	-	½	Timman (2)
Larsen	(½)	1	-	0	Kavalek (1)
Portisch	(4)	½	-	½	Tal (3½)

Standings after six rounds: Portisch - 4½; Karpov, Ljubojevic, Tal - 4; Hübner - 3½; Hort, Spassky, Timman - 2½; Larsen - 1½; Kavalek - 1.

Previous meetings between Karpov and Hort have normally gone very favourably for the World Champion, especially when he has had the right of the first move. It appeared that this game too would be no exception. In the Rauzer Attack Hort played most unconvincingly, and Karpov succeeded in quickly obtaining an ideal arrangement of his forces, with possibilities both of a tactical, and a technical solution of the position. His decision to switch to tactics (20 g6 instead of the obvious 20 f6) was perhaps a mistake. Karpov retained the initiative, but Hort gained some counter-play, which subsequently became more and more dangerous. In the final position I would by then have given preference to Black. However, Hort himself did not conceal his satisfaction at the drawn result of the game.

It was the fate of the pairings that after the game Portisch-Karpov came Portisch-Tal, and by that time these three players were leading the tournament table. The Hungarian grandmaster repeated the opening variation which had occurred in the previous round. But in our hotel room the previous evening a slight improvement for Black had been found, and I employed it. Portisch was unable to gain even that slight advantage which he attained in the 5th round. Moreover, he had to find his strong 20th move, so that Black should not have any pretensions. Portisch found it, and a draw was agreed.

The ancient Scotch Game occurred in Ljubojevic's game with Spassky. One gained the impression that both players acted intuitively. Spassky did not play the best (according to theory), while Ljubojevic's attempt at refutation was also not 'theoretical'. The game turned out to be very lively. The 'set' of black pawns on the 'c' file, although weak, proved to be viable. During the time which Ljubojevic required to regain the material given up in the opening, Spassky had managed to gain sufficient counter-play. An interesting draw!

The Hübner-Timman game was equally tense. The Dutchman exploited White's rather passive play in the opening, and from as early as the 10th move Hübner had to defend. He successfully coped with this task, and when the position became simplified the players concluded peace.

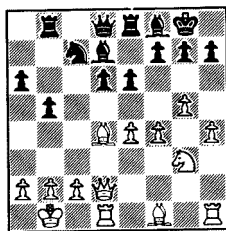
The longest and perhaps most exciting duel was that between the two who had started unsuccessfully, Kavalek and Larsen. A quiet opening, the gradual accumulation by

Larsen of minimal positional gains, and by the adjournment the Dane had an extra pawn and good winning chances. But on resumption, to the surprise of everyone, the game dragged out. However, up to a certain point Larsen played irreproachably, but when there was just one more step to be overcome, he ran into the only trap that his opponent had been able to set. The position became clearly drawish, but the last mistake in this game was made by Kavalek.

Game No. 26 Sicilian Defence

Karpov Hort
(Notes by Tal)

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qd2	a6
8	O-O-O	Bd7
9	f3	Rc8
10	Kb1	Be7
11	g4	O-O
12	Be3	Nxd4
13	Bxd4	b5
14	g5	Ne8
15	h4	Nc7
16	Ne2	Rb8
17	Ng3	Re8
18	f4	Bf8



White has clearly been more successful in the development of his attack. His following move is perfectly natural.

19 f5 d5

No alternative is apparent.

20 g6

This gives Black counter-play. The attack develops much more simply and straightforwardly after the obvious 20 f6 e5 21 f×g7 B×g7 22 Bc5, when the knight reaches without hindrance either h5 or f5. But now both sides

have an attack.

20	...	f×g6
21	f×g6	e5!
22	g×h7+	Kh8
23	Bf2	Be6

Black has unexpectedly 'disentangled himself'.

24 Qa5

At the cost of shutting his queen in, White prevents the counter-play on the Q-side, but this is a highly risky plan. I think that after 24 Bd3 White retains a certain advantage.

24	...	Qd7
25	Bd3	d4
26	Ne2	b4
27	Nc1	

Only with this move does White finally lose his advantage. Much more active was 27 Rdg1 with the idea of 28 Rg5 and h4-h5-h6.

27 ... Qc6

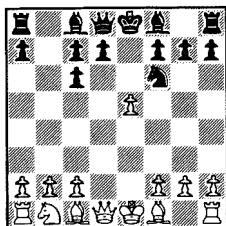
The white queen is in danger — there is the possible threat of ...Rb5 and ...Bc5-b6.

There is a highly interesting battle in prospect, and after the game the players spent a long time analysing the final position, reaching the conclusion that White had sufficient defensive resources. In addition, Hort had 15 minutes left for his remaining moves. But there was an unexpected outcome: the Czech grandmaster offered a draw, which the World Champion accepted.

Game No. 27 Scotch Game

Ljubojevic Spassky
(Notes by Kholmov)

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	exd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nxc6	bxc6
6	e5	



6 ... Nd5?!

Anything that has been well enough forgotten is new! Spassky attempts to revive a continuation which enjoys a bad reputation, and has consequently practically disappeared from practice. The usual move is 6...Qe7, luring the white queen to e2, where it blocks the development of the bishop.

7 c4

7 Bd3 is also pretty good, as was shown back in game Kopayev-Polyak (Kiev 1946). After 7...Qh4 (unsatisfactory is 7...d6 8 0-0 Be7 9 exd6 cxd6 10 Be4!, or 7...Bc5 8 Qg4!) 8 0-0 Bc5 9 Nd2 0-0 10 Ne4! Be7 11 Re1 d6 12 c4 Nb4 White won the queen and the game with a spectacular stroke: 13 Nf6+! Bxf6 14 Re4 Nxd3 15 Rxh4 Bxh4 16 Qxd3 dxe4 17 Qe4 Bf6 18 Qxc6.

7 ... Nb6
8 Nc3?

After this Black succeeds in emerging unscathed! Theory recommends the more flexible 8 Bd3!, when the bishop's development is not obstructed. In the game Chortkov-Utyatsky (Moscow 1962) White gained a strong attack after 8...Ba6 9 Qe2 Be7 10 0-0 0-0 11 Nc3 Re8 12 Qg4 d5 13 e6 fxe6 14 Qxe6+ Kh8 15 Qh3. In the game Padevsky-Vitkovsky (1955) White did not even

bother to waste time on the defence of his pawn, and by 9 0-0 Bxc4 10 Bxc4 Nxc4 11 Qg4 Nb6 12 Nc3 Nd5 13 Nxd5 cxd5 14 Bg5 Qb8 15 Rad1 Qb5 16 Rfe1 developed a strong initiative.

In view of the 'expiry of the legal prescription' it is quite understandable that Ljubojevic should not be familiar with these variations.

8	...	Qe7
9	Qe2	Ba6
10	Qe4	Qe6

10...Qb4?! is of course risky in view of 11 a3 Qb3 12 Bd3!, when 12...Bxc4 is refuted by 13 Bc2!, while after 12...Nxc4 Black ends up in an unpleasant pin.

11	b3	Bb4
12	Bd2	Bxc3
13	Bxc3	d5
14	Qf3	

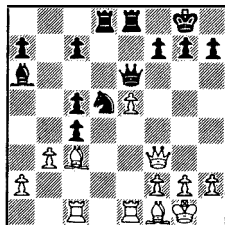
White temporarily gives up a pawn, since 14 cxd5 cxd5 15 Qb4 Bxf1 16 Rxf1 Nd7 17 0-0-0 c5 18 Qb7 Nb6 is unpromising for him.

14	...	dxc4
15	Be2	0-0
16	0-0	Rad8
17	Rfe1	Rfe8

The consequences of the sacrifice 17...Rd3?! are unclear. It is true that a weak pawn is transformed into a strong one, but the exchange is the exchange!

18	Rac1	c5
19	Bf1	Nd5

Now the situation clarifies, and the game quickly becomes drawish.



20 bxc4 Nb4!

Not 20...Nxc3? in view of 21 Qxc3 Rd4
22 Qa3!

21 Bxb4

21 a3 could have been met by 21...Na2!

21 ... cxb4

22 Qe3

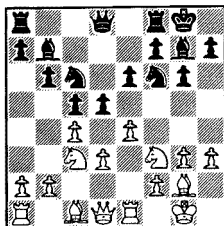
Drawn.

After 22...Qb6 23 Qxb6 axb6 24 c5 Bxf1
25 Kxf1 Rd2 a draw is inevitable. No
different is 23 c5 Qc6, again with an
equal position.

Game No. 28 English Opening

Hübner Timman

1	Nf3	g6
2	c4	Bg7
3	g3	c5
4	Nc3	b6
5	Bg2	Bb7
6	O-O	Nf6
7	d3	O-O
8	e4	Nc6
9	Re1	e6
10	h3	d5



11	exd5	exd5
12	Bg5	dx c4
13	dx c4	h6
14	Be3	Ne7
15	Qxd8	Rxd8
16	Rad1	Nf5
17	Bc1	Ne4
18	Rxd8	Rxd8
19	Rd1	Rxd1+
20	Nxd1	Ned6
21	b3	

Drawn.

Game No. 29 King's Indian Defence
(by transposition)*Larsen Kavalek*
(Notes by Whiteley)

1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	g3	d6
4	Bg2	g6
5	e4	Bg7
6	Nge2	O-O
7	O-O	c6
8	d4	Nbd7
9	h3	a6

9...Qb6 and 9...Qa5, which are popular
moves in analogous positions with
White's knight on f3, not e2, are
inappropriate here, as after, for
example, 10 Be3 Qb4, White can play
simply 11 b3 as his knight on c3 is
defended. However, 9...Re8 or 9...a5
were reasonable alternatives.

10 dxe5

With White's knight on f3 a good plan
is 10 Be3, and if 10...b5 11 c5 dxc5
12 dxe5. In the present position
White's king's knight does not attack
e5, and so he chooses a different plan.

10	...	dxe5
11	Be3	Qe7

(11...b5!?)

12 Qc2 Ne8

(Again 12...b5!?)

13 Rad1 f5

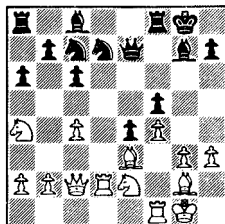
This aggressive plan is probably too
ambitious.

14	exf5	gxf5
15	Na4	Nc7
16	f4	e4

It is well known that the resulting
K-side pawn formation is slightly better
for White, who has the long-term
strategic plan of g3-g4. However, the
alternative of allowing the exchange of
White's 'f' pawn for Black's 'e' pawn
would leave Black with a weak pawn on
f5 and White with a strong square on f4.
It is doubtful whether Black's active

piece play would provide adequate compensation.

17 Rd2



17 ... b5

If 17...Ne6 (intending ...Nc5-d3) 18 c5 would leave White with a considerable positional advantage. So Black tries to solve his problems by tactical means.

18	cxb5	axb5
19	Qxc6	Nb8
20	Qc5	Qxc5
21	Nxc5	

Not 21 Bxc5? bxa4 22 Bxf8 Bxf8 23 Rc1 Nba6 and Black's position just holds together.

21 ... Rxa2

Black has freed his position to some extent, but White still has the better pawn formation and superior mobility.

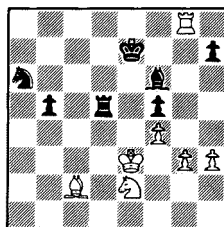
22	Rc1	Rxb2
23	Nxe4	Nba6

23...Nd5 would allow the amazing riposte 24 Nf6+!

24	Nc5	Re8
25	Nxa6	Nxa6
26	Bd5+	Kf8
27	Kf2	Rxd2
28	Bxd2	Rd8
29	Bb3	Rxd2?

Better was 29...Ke7 intending 30...Be6.

30	Rxc8+	Ke7
31	Ke3	Rd6
32	Bc2	Rd5
33	Rg8	Bf6



34 g4!

This thematic advance is now very strong.

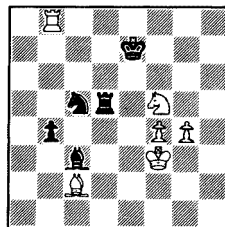
34	...	f×g4
35	h×g4	h6
36	Rg6	Nc5

If 36...h5, 37 g5 wins a piece.

37 Ng3

Black's 'h' pawn cannot run away.

37	...	Bd4+
38	Kf3	b4
39	Nf5+	Kf8
40	Rb6	Bc3
41	Rb8+	Kf7
42	N×h6+	Ke7
43	Nf5+	



The sealed move. The endgame requires careful handling, but it should be won for White, who can gradually advance his united passed pawns whilst restraining Black's solitary passed pawn.

43	...	Kd7
44	Ne3	Rd4
45	Bf5+	Kc6
46	g5	Nd3
47	Ng2	Rd5
48	Be4	Kc7
49	Rg8	

Exchanging rooks would make White's task more difficult.

49 ... Rd4
50 Rg6

50 g6(?) Nc5 51 g7 Rxe4 52 Rc8+ Kxc8
53 g8=Q+ would leave White with a very difficult technical ending.

50 ... Kd7
51 Rb6 Nc5
52 Bf5+ Kc7
53 Rb5 Kc6
54 Rb8 Nd7
55 Re8 Nc5
56 g6 Rd2
57 Ne3 Nd3
58 Ng4 Rd1
59 Rc8+ Kb7
60 Ke2 Rd2+
61 Ke3 Ne1
62 Rc4 Ng2+
63 Ke4 Nh4
64 Bc8+ Kb8
65 f5 Re2+
66 Kd5

If 66 Kd3 Re8 draws since White's bishop has no satisfactory retreat, e.g. 67 Ba6 Nxf5 or 67 Be6 N×g6! In the tournament bulletin (which uses a slightly different form of English algebraic notation) Larsen commented: "Even worse is 66 Kf4 Bd2+ 67 Kg3 Belch 68 Kh3?? Nf3 and Black wins!!" Larsen has a colourful style of writing, and I did not at first realize that his intrusive eructation on move 67 was merely intended to represent Be1+.

66 ... Rd2+

Now 66...Re8 can be met by 67 Be6.

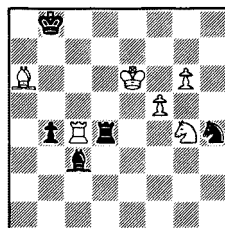
67 Ke6 Rd4
68 Ba6?

White has an easy win by 68 Rxd4 Bxd4 69 Nf6, e.g. 69...b3 70 Ba6 b2 71 Bd3, and White's 'g' pawn queens, but Black's 'b' pawn doesn't.

(See next diagram)

68 ... Nxf5!!

An amazing resource. Black wins both White's remaining pawns for the knight.



69 Kxf5 Rd5+
70 Ke4

If 70 Ke6 Rg5 71 Kf7 Rf5+ 72 Kg8 Rg5
73 Kh7 Rh5+ 74 Nh6 Bd2, or 70 Kf4 Rd6.

70 ... Rg5
71 Bc8 R×g6

The ending, though difficult, should be drawn. All Black has to do is prevent White from working up a mating attack, and avoid getting his pieces in a tangle. His own 'b' pawn does not help him in either of these tasks, and it may in fact be a psychological disadvantage as it distracts him from tackling them.

72 Ne3 Rh6
73 Kd5 Bd2
74 Nf5 Rb6
75 Nd6 b3
76 Bf5 Bb4
77 Nf7 b2
78 Bb1 Ba3
79 Rc3 Rb7
80 Ne5 Rb5+
81 Ke6 Bb4
82 Rb3 Kc7??

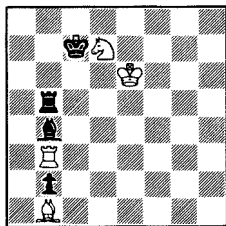
Black's position has deteriorated a little since move 71, but he could still draw by 82...Rb6+.

83 Nd7!

Suddenly Black is helpless. He cannot prevent White from driving his rook away from the protection of the bishop at b4.

(See next diagram)

A curious configuration of pieces. Kavalek suggested there ought to be a piece on b6 to make a letter J — for joke. I prefer the idea of moving



Black's pawn from b2 to b6 to make a sort of drunken question mark.

83 ... Kd8

83...Kc6 84 Be4+ Kc7 85 Bf3 transposes into the next note.

84 Be4 Ra5

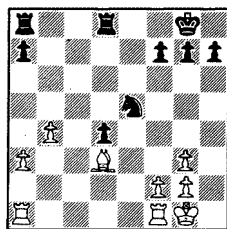
The threat was 85 Bc6, and if 84...Kc7, 85 Bf3 puts Black in *zugzwang*.

85 Ne5

85 Rxb4 Ra6+ 86 Rb6 was also good enough.

85 ... Ra6+
86 Nc6+ Kc7
87 Rxb4 Rb6
88 Rxb6 Kxb6
89 Kd5 Kb5
90 Bc2 Resigns

18 Qxd5 Ne5
19 Qxd8 Rexd8



20 Rad1 Kf8
Drawn.

Game No. 30 Queen's Indian Defence

Portisch *Tal*

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	a3	Bb7
5	Nc3	d5
6	cxd5	exd5
7	Bf4	Bd6
8	Bg3	O-O
9	e3	Re8
10	Bd3	c5
11	O-O	Bxg3
12	h×g3	Nbd7
13	d×c5	b×c5
14	b4	d4
15	e×d4	Bxf3
16	Q×f3	c×d4
17	Nd5	N×d5

ROUND 7

19th April

Tal	(4)	½	-	½	Karpov (4)
Kavalek	(1)	½	-	½	Portisch (4½)
Timman	(2½)	1	-	0	Larsen (1½)
Spassky	(2½)	½	-	½	Hübner (3½)
Hort	(2½)	0	-	1	Ljubojevic (4)

Standings after seven rounds: Ljubojevic, Portisch - 5; Karpov, Tal - 4½; Hübner - 4; Timman - 3½; Spassky - 3; Hort - 2½; Kavalek, Larsen - 1½.

In games between strong grandmasters it is not often that one comes across a textbook example, but this is what happened in the Hort-Ljubojevic encounter. Both players were in an aggressive mood. But while the Yugoslav grandmaster's pretensions after the opening appeared well-founded, Hort's aggressive intentions seemed more emotional in nature. It was hardly correct for him to play for a win, while agreeing to the exchange of the black-squared bishops (17 Bg4). At any event, the game is a striking example of how Black can win in the Sicilian Defence, if White is not successful early on. In this game Ljubojevic showed himself in a comparatively new rôle - in his mastery of conducting a strategic, strictly positional struggle.

The innovation employed by Kavalek against Portisch (10 0-0 instead of the usual 10 Bd3), was very accurately neutralized. Black's unexpected, at least for the American grandmaster, 17th move changed the evaluation of the position in the eyes, it would seem to me, of both players. At any rate, on the very next move Kavalek offered a draw, but Portisch declined it, and the situation developed clearly in his favour. But the unexpected tactical resource found by the USA Champion on the 27th move enabled him to maintain the balance.

The Timman-Larsen encounter was an interesting one. The Dane, as usual, was the one who disturbed the peace. Timman played accurately, but actively, and all the time maintained an advantage, although it would hardly have been enough to win, had not Larsen gone wrong after the time control. After 42...Nc7 White won a pawn, and confidently realized his material advantage.

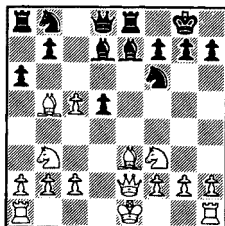
Spassky did not achieve anything with White against Hübner. Moreover, I would say that the final position, where a draw was agreed, was more favourable for Black.

Regarding the Tal-Karpov game, I should like to use Kavalek's words: "It would have been very difficult to contemplate that Tal and Karpov, in such a favourable tournament position, would have a serious 'go' at one another".

Game No. 31 French Defence

Tal Karpov

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | d4 | e6 |
| 2 | e4 | d5 |
| 3 | Nd2 | c5 |
| 4 | e×d5 | e×d5 |
| 5 | Bb5+ | Bd7 |
| 6 | Qe2+ | Be7 |
| 7 | d×c5 | Nf6 |
| 8 | Nb3 | O-O |
| 9 | Be3 | Re8 |
| 10 | Nf3 | a6 |



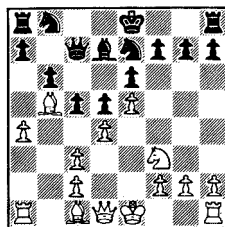
- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 11 | B×d7 | Nb×d7 |
| 12 | O-O | N×c5 |
| 13 | Nfd4 | |

Drawn.

Game No. 32 French Defence

Kavalek Portisch
(Notes by Tal)

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1 | e4 | e6 |
| 2 | d4 | d5 |
| 3 | Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 4 | e5 | c5 |
| 5 | a3 | B×c3+ |
| 6 | b×c3 | Qc7 |
| 7 | Nf3 | Ne7 |
| 8 | a4 | b6 |
| 9 | Bb5+ | Bd7 |



- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 10 | O-O | B×b5 |
| 11 | a×b5 | Nd7 |

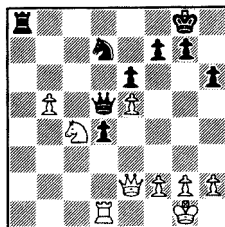
- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 12 | Qd3 | h6 |
| 13 | Ba3 | O-O |
| 14 | c4 | d×c4 |
| 15 | Q×c4 | Rfc8 |
| 16 | Qe2 | Qb7 |
| 17 | d×c5 | |

Kavalek took an optimistic view of the position after this move, but Portisch's reply came as a surprise to him.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 17 | ... | b×c5 |
|----|-----|------|

Now White is unable to activate his black-squared bishop, which frequently causes him much concern in the French Defence (if his attack does not succeed). The difference in the moods of the two players was emphasized by the fact that after his next move Kavalek offered a draw, but Portisch declined.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 18 | c4 | a6 |
| 19 | Rab1 | a×b5 |
| 20 | R×b5 | Qc6 |
| 21 | Bb2 | Rcb8 |
| 22 | Nd2 | R×b5 |
| 23 | c×b5 | Qd5 |
| 24 | Rd1 | Nf5 |
| 25 | Nc4 | Nd4 |
| 26 | B×d4 | c×d4 |



Black's position appears the more promising — in the very near future he can hope to exploit the white weaknesses at b5 and e5. But, fortunately for White, he finds a tactical resource which saves the position

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 27 | Qf3! | |
|----|------|--|

Exploiting the undefended state of the rook at a8, White forces favourable simplification.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 27 | ... | Ra4 |
| 28 | Q×d5 | e×d5 |
| 29 | Nb2 | Rb4 |

Draw agreed on Black's proposal: after
20 Nd3 Rxb5 31 f4 his material advantage is worthless.

Game No. 33 Dutch Defence

Timman *Larsen*
(Notes by Whiteley)

1	c4	f5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	g3	e6
4	Bg2	Be7
5	O-O	O-O
6	b3	c6
7	Bb2	a5?!

The Dane has played a Dutch defence against the Dutchman's English opening. Both players are reluctant to commit their 'd' pawns. If Black plays ...d6, White will reply d2-d4, but against ...d5, d2-d3 is better. Since Black runs out of non-committal moves first, it would probably have been better for him to play 7...d6 or 7...d5 at once, deferring the decision whether to advance the 'a' pawn.

8 Nc3

By ruling out ...a4 for the immediate future, White shows 7...a5 to be a little dubious.

8	...	d5
9	d3	

More ambitious than 9 d4. White has the long-term plan of chipping away at Black's stonewall formation by e2-e4.

9	...	Na6
10	a3	Bd7
11	e3	Be8
12	Ne2	Bh5

By this manoeuvre (sometimes called 'Uhlmannisation' after the East German grandmaster's frequent adoption of it in the French Defence) Black 'solves' the problem of his bad queen's bishop. But he has to pay the price of surrendering the bishop pair.

13	Qc2	Bd6
14	Nf4	Bxf3

15	Bxf3	Qe7
16	cxd5	

Black threatened 16...e5.

16	...	exd5
----	-----	------

16...cxd5 was safer, but still a little better for White.

17	Rfe1	Nc7
18	Bg2	

18 e4? would lead to the ruination of White's pawn formation after 18...dxe4 19 dxe4 Bxf4 20 exf5 Qf7 21 gxf4.

18	...	Nb5
----	-----	-----

One of these days somebody with nothing better to do may carry out a survey on the squares most commonly occupied by black knights. I doubt if b5 will come high on the list. The point of Black's eccentric deployment is to induce White to play a3-a4, leaving Black with a fine outpost on b4. But White does not oblige.

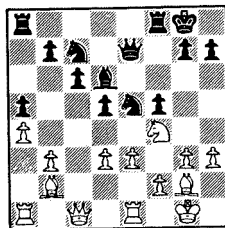
19 Qc1!

19 e4 dxe4 20 dxe4 Bxf4 21 Qc4+ Qf7 22 e5 is unclear.

19	...	Ng4
20	h3	Ne5
21	a4	

Now this move is justified on tactical grounds as a preparation for e3-e4. The immediate 21 e4 would fail to 21...fxe4 22 dxe4 d4!, and if 23 a4 Nc3!

21	...	Nc7
----	-----	-----



22 e4!

This thematic advance opens the position

up to White's advantage.

22 ... fxe4
23 dxe4 Rxf4!

Comparatively best. This combination ultimately leads to the elimination of White's bishop pair.

24 Qxf4 Nd3
25 Qd2 Nxe1
26 Rxe1 Bb4
27 Bc3 Re8
28 Kf1

If 28 e5? Qc5 followed by ...Ne6, and Black's knight becomes powerful.

28 ... dxe4
29 Rxe4 Bxc3
30 Qxc3

Not 30 Rxe7? Bxd2 31 Rxc7 Re1 mate.

30 ... Qf7
31 Rxe8+ Nxe8
32 Qe5

White now stands better, since his bishop is more effective than Black's knight in the open position with play on both sides of the board. Nevertheless Black's position is defensible.

32 ... h6?

Better 32...Kf8, avoiding the weakening of his white squares.

33 Be4 Kf8
34 Qxa5 Qxb3
35 Qc5+ Kf7
36 Bc2 Qd5
37 Qb4 Qd7
38 Bb3+ Kg6

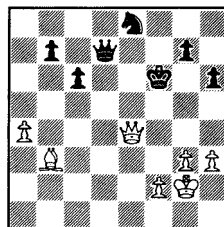
Black's king is precariously placed, e.g. 38...Kf6? 39 Qf8+, mating.

39 Qe4+ Kf6
40 Qh4+ Kg6
41 Qe4+ Kf6
42 Kg2

(See next diagram)

42 ... Nc7?

A serious blunder. Now White annexes

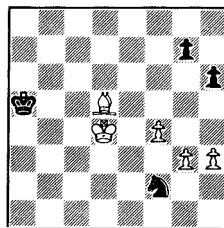


the 'b' pawn, and the win becomes a fairly simple matter of technique. Black could probably still have held on by 42...g5.

43 Qf4+ Ke7
44 Qb4+ Kd8
45 Qxb7 Qd3
46 Qb4 c5
47 Qc4 Qxc4
48 Bxc4 Ne8
49 Kf3 Kc7
50 a5

The sealed move. White has many ways of winning, all involving using his 'a' pawn to decoy Black's king, and marching his own king over to the K-side. White must ensure that Black is given no chance to sacrifice his knight and leave White with bishop and blockaded the wrong-coloured rook's pawn, but it is easy to avoid this.

50 ... Nd6
51 Bd5 Kb8
52 Kf4 Ka7
53 Ke5 Nb5
54 Bc4 Ka6
55 Kd5 Kxa5
56 Kxc5 Nc3
57 Bd5 Nd1
58 f4 Nf2
59 Kd4



59 ... Kb4
60 Bf3 Nxh3

61 Ke3 g5
 62 f5 g4
 63 Bxg4 Ng5
 64 Kd4 Kb3
 65 Bh5 Kc2
 66 f6 Kd2
 67 f7 Ne6+
 68 Ke5 Nf8
 69 Kd6 Resigns

2 Nf3 d6
 3 d4 Nf6
 4 Nc3 cxd4
 5 Nxd4 a6
 6 Be2

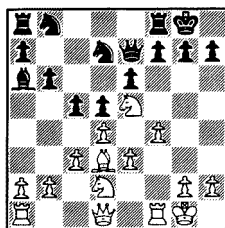
6 Bg5 is more often played, although
 6 Be2 is also popular with many grand-
 masters.

6 ... e5
 7 Nb3 Be7
 8 a4

Game No. 34 Queen's Pawn Opening

Spassky Hübner

1 d4 Nf6
 2 Nf3 e6
 3 Bg5 c5
 4 e3 Be7
 5 Nbd2 b6
 6 Bd3 Bb7
 7 c3 d5
 8 O-O O-O
 9 Ne5 Nfd7
 10 Bxe7 Qxe7
 11 f4 Ba6



12 Bxa6 Nxa6
 13 Qa4 Nab8
 14 b4 Nxe5
 15 fxe5 Qd7
 16 Qb3 cxb4
 17 cxb4 Nc6
 18 Rac1 Rac8
 19 b5 Ne7
 20 Qd3 Rc7
 21 Nb3 Rfc8
 22 Rxc7 Rxc7
 23 Rc1

Drawn.

Game No. 35 Sicilian Defence

Hort Ljubojevic
(Notes by Aronin)

1 e4 c5

The preparatory 8 O-O usually leads to
 an insignificant transposition of moves
 after 8...O-O 9 a4.

8 ... Be6

This is a more promising plan of devel-
 opment than 8...Nbd7 followed by
 ...b7-b6 and ...Bb7.

9 O-O O-O
 10 f4 exf4

The well-known game Tal-Fischer (Candi-
 dates' Tournament, Curacao 1962) went
 10...Qc7 11 f5 Bc4 12 a5, with a
 slight advantage for White. Ljubojevic
 prefers to exchange on f4, vacating the
 square e5 for his knight. In return
 the opponent is given the no less
 important square d4.

11 Bxf4 Nc6
 12 Kh1 Rc8

Advancing 12...d5 does not give equality:
 13 e5 Ne4 14 Nxe4 dxe4 15 Nd2 Bf5
 16 c3, and after following up with
 17 Nc4 or 17 Bc4, White stands better.

13 Bf3 Ne5
 14 Nd5

Centralizing the knight by 14 Nd4 would
 have been good, but Hort has a different
 plan. He is aiming to create a pawn
 majority on the Q-side.

14 ... Bxd5
 15 exd5

White's occupation of d5 has led to
 his white-squared bishop being devalued
 somewhat. However, it cannot be called
 'bad' — it has prospects on other

diagonals.

15 ... Nfd7
16 c3 Bg5

Black naturally strives to exchange the black-squared bishops, so as to increase the effectiveness of his outpost at e5. Possibly White should have avoided the exchange, by continuing 17 Bg3.

17 Bg4 Bxf4
18 Rxf4 Rc4
19 Rxc4 Nxc4
20 Qd4

The chances of the two sides can be regarded as roughly equal. White has no reason to exchange on d7.

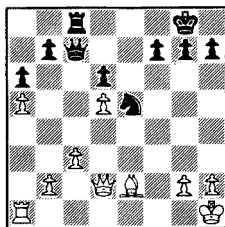
20 ... Nde5
21 Be2 Qc7
22 a5

Fixing the pawns at a6 and b7. Black cannot capture on b2, of course, because of 23 c4 Nbxc4 24 Rcl.

22 ... Rc8
23 Nd2 Nxd2

Both 23...Nxb2 24 c4, and 23...Nxa5 24 Qb4, are unfavourable for Black.

24 Qxd2



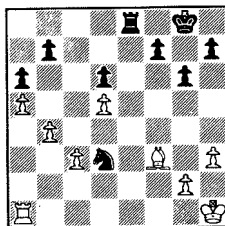
Thus, the material balance is designated: White has a bishop, and Black a 'proud' knight at e5. However, this is not yet sufficient to give him an advantage. But if Black should also succeed in controlling c5, his advantage will become real. White, in his turn, is basing his hopes on advancing c3-c4 and b2-b4, with the prospect of following up with c4-c5.

24 ... Re8

25 h3

A necessary move. On 25 c4? there can follow 25...Nxc4 26 Qc2 Qe7!

25 ... g6
26 Qd4 Nd7
27 Bf3 Qc5
28 Qxc5 Nxc5
29 b4 Nd3



Here White should have directed his king towards the centre. After 30 Kg1 Rc8 32 Ra3 Ne5 32 Kf2 Nc4 33 Ra2 Ne5 34 Ra3 the game should have ended in a draw.

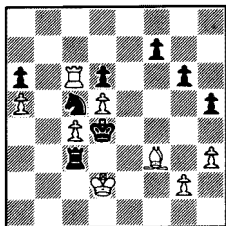
30 c4? Nxb4
31 Rb1 Nd3
32 Rxb7 Nc5
33 Rc7 h5
34 Kgl Kf8

Black's position can be assessed as won.

35 Kf2 Rb8
36 Rc6 Ke7
37 Rc7+ Kf6
38 Ke3 Rb3+
39 Kd2 Rb7
40 Rc8 Ke5
41 Kc3 Rb3+
42 Kc2 Kd4
43 Rc6 Rc3+
44 Kd2

44 Kbl was more tenacious. In this case, if Black plays for mate, he may fail to win: 44...Nd3 45 Rb6! (the only defence against 45...Rcl+ 46 Ka2 Kc3, with the decisive threat of 47...Nb4+). How should Black continue the attack? 45...h4 suggests itself, so as, after advancing the K-side pawns, to then play ...Ne5 with a won rook ending. But on 45...h4 White replies 46 Ka2!, and probably saves the game (46...Rc2+ 47 Kb3! Rb2+ 48 Ka3).

On 44 Kb1 Black can and must play 44...
 Ke5 45 Rc7 Kf6 46 Rc6 Ke7 47 Rc7+
 Ke8 48 Rc6 Kd7, and White loses one of
 his pawns — 'a' or 'c'.



44	...	Ra3
45	Kc2	Ra2+

Here the game was adjourned, and Hort
 resigned it without resuming. After
 46 Kb1 Rf2 there is no defence against
 47...Kc3.

ROUND 8

20th April

Karpov	(4½)	1	-	0	Ljubojevic (5)
Hübner	(4)	½	-	½	Hort (2½)
Larsen	(1½)	1	-	0	Spassky (3)
Portisch	(5)	½	-	½	Timman (3½)
Tal	(4½)	1	-	0	Kavalek (1½)

Standings after eight rounds: Karpov, Portisch, Tal - 5½; Ljubojevic - 5; Hübner - 4½; Timman - 4; Hort, Spassky - 3; Larsen - 2½; Kavalek - 1½.

Before the start of this round the Yugoslav grandmaster was at the head of the tournament table. But, remembering the character of previous meetings with the World Champion, it could be expected that the task facing him today would be very difficult. Indeed, both this game, and, jumping ahead, the game from the second cycle, showed that Ljubojevic has a definite 'Karpov complex'. From the very first moves Black did not conceal his peaceable intentions. Karpov did not avoid exchanges, since he saw that they gave him certain positional gains. However, it would appear that they were clearly insufficient. The game was adjourned in a position, the evaluation of which was not in doubt: objectively it was a draw. But the path to it was both lengthy and long. The adjournment session resembled a duel between two wrestlers, where one was constantly on his knees. Karpov needed a 'clean' win, but only a mistake by Ljubojevic enabled him to achieve it.

Montreal saw a meeting of old acquaintances, grandmasters who have long been moving in the same circles. But it so happened that Tal and Kavalek were meeting in a tournament for the first time. In an English Opening the American played boldly and riskily, trying to seize the initiative. I sacrificed a pawn. The sacrifice was one hundred per cent justified, but should not have brought a decisive advantage. At any event, I achieved my aim, which was to force my opponent to defend. And Kavalek does not particularly like defending. Fearing some mythical threats, he overlooked a real one, and when all the white pieces came into play his position became really difficult. A time trouble error on the 39th move settled matters.

Larsen once again lived up to his reputation as a chess 'gladiator'. His previous failures had failed to unsettle him. Meeting his traditionally difficult opponent - Spassky, he played for a win. It is true that his aggression was veiled by the quiet way that he played the opening. Black obtained a comfortable game, but, when the Ex-World Champion decided that his position was more than comfortable, Larsen quickly succeeded in refuting this opinion. On the 21st move Spassky could have gone into an objectively defensible, but highly unpleasant ending. His continuing optimism led to an oversight. Larsen won his queen, and although formally Black had adequate compensation, the attack, carried out most elegantly by the Dane, nevertheless proved decisive.

Yet another opening innovation by Portisch, introduced in his game with Timman,

turned out on this occasion to be ineffective. The Dutch grandmaster appeared to be prepared for this continuation, for he found a good reply and soon seized the initiative. But it would seem that he himself did not really believe that one can play for a win against Portisch with Black, otherwise it is difficult to explain his offer of a draw in a highly attractive position.

The result (draw) and duration (12 moves) of the Hübner-Hort game speak sufficiently eloquently for themselves.

Game No. 36 Grünfeld Defence
(by transposition)

Karpov Ljubojevic
(Notes by Whiteley & Keene)

1	c4	c5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	d4	Nxc3

Portisch-Hübner in round 2 continued

5...cxd4 6 Qxd4 Nxc3 7 Qxc3 Nc6 8 e4,
and Black failed to equalize.

6 bxc3 g6

6...e6 would lead to a variation of the Semi-Tarrasch Defence which is generally considered to be good for White.

7 e4

One would have expected the solid 7 e3 from Karpov. The text leads to a currently fashionable variation of the Grünfeld in which White is more or less committed to an exchange sacrifice.

7 ... Bg7
8 Be2

Another popular idea here is 8 Bb5+ Bd7 (8...Nc6!?) 9 Bxd7+ (9 Be2!?) 9...Qxd7, but it is an interesting comment on the memory of modern theory that this was, in fact, an old main line, which had simply been forgotten! Flores-Czerniak, (Buenos Aires Olympiad, 1939) continued: 10 0-0 cxd4 11 cxd4 Nc6 12 Be3 0-0 13 d5! Ne5 14 Nxe5 Bxe5 15 Rb1 b5 16 f4 Bc3 17 Qd3 b4 18 f5 Rfc8 19 Rf3!? (1-0 36). Alekhine suggested 19 h4 (planning h4-h5) as stronger.

8 ... 0-0?

Now White obtains a slight advantage to

which he tenaciously clings for the rest of the game. Correct was 8...Bg4! (9...Bg4 is also correct if White plays the finesse 8 Bb5+ Bd7 9 Be2) 9 Be3 Bxf3 10 Bxf3 Nc6, when White must either play the strategically dubious 11 e5, or the tactically dubious 11 d5 Bxc3+ 12 Kf1 Bxa1 13 Qxa1 Nd4 14 Bxd4 cxd4 15 Qxd4.

9 0-0 Bg4
10 Be3 Qa5

It is too late for a direct assault on White's centre, e.g. 10...cxd4 11 cxd4 Nc6 12 d5! Rxa1 13 Qxa1, threatening both 14 Bh6 and 14 dxc6, or 10...Bxf3 11 Bxf3 Nc6 12 d5 Bxc3 (no longer check) 13 dxc6, winning two pieces for a rook.

11 Qb3 cxd4
12 cxd4 Nc6
13 Rad1 Qb4
14 h3 Bxf3
15 Bxf3 Rfc8
16 Qxb4 Nxb4
17 e5!

Not a strategic mistake in this position, since Black hasn't time to blockade d5.

17 ... Rc7
18 Rc1 Rac8
19 Rxc7

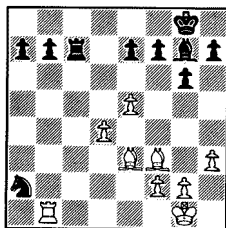
After 19 Bxb7 Rxc1 20 Rxc1 Rxc1+ 21 Bxc1 Nxa2 22 Bd2 Black can rescue the knight by ...e6 and ...Bf8.

19 ... Rxc7
20 Rb1 Nxa2

(See next diagram)

21 Ral!

21 Rxb7 Rxb7 22 Bxb7 offered no real winning chances.



21 ... Nb4
22 Rxa7 h5?

(22...h6!)

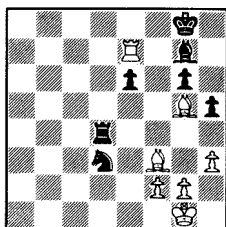
23 Bf4!

White could win a pawn by 23 Rxb7 Rxb7 24 Bxb7, but the position would be dead drawn after 24...Nc2, forcing bishops of opposite colours.

23 ... Nd3
24 Bg5

22...h6! would have prevented this.

24 ... Rd7
25 Rxb7 Rxd4
26 e6 fxe6
27 Rxe7



Despite the fact that material is equal and all the pawns are on the same side of the board, Black still has considerable practical defensive difficulties. White has an active position, the bishop pair and two weak pawns to attack. Nonetheless the position should be drawn and it requires two clear mistakes by Black before White is able to win it.

27 ... Rd6
28 Be4 e5

The only way to protect g6, but now his

remaining bishop lacks scope.

29 Rc7 Bf8
30 Be3 Nf4
31 Rc8 Kg7
32 g3 Ne6
33 Kg2 Be7
34 Rb8 Bg5

Of course, Black strives to exchange one of White's bishops.

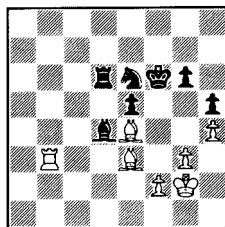
35 Rb7+ Kf6
36 Ba7 Bd2?

So far Black has defended well and achieved good co-ordination for his pieces. But now he misses the chance to play 36...h4, which forces the exchange of another pair of pawns, since 37 g4 would seriously weaken f4.

37 Rb3 Ba5
38 h4

Preventing ...h4.

38 ... Nd4
39 Rb7 Ne6
40 Be3 Bc3
41 Rb3 Bd4!



The sealed move. After the game Karpov made the obscure comment that he had not analysed this obvious move at all, because he had not expected Black to make an unnecessarily committed decision offering to exchange bishops. This seems strange, since Black, as mentioned above, has been in relentless pursuit of a bishop exchange for some time!

42 Bh6 Ng7
43 Bg5+ Kf7
44 Rb7+?!

More forceful was 44 Rf3+, e.g. 44...

Ke8 45 Bh6!, or 44...Kg8 45 Be7!, intending 46 Rf8+ and 47 Bf6. Perhaps Karpov feared 44...Nf5 45 Bxf5 gxf5 46 Rxf5+, when it is doubtful whether White's extra pawn is good enough to win. For the next 14 moves White makes no progress. Had Karpov underestimated the strength of Rf3, or was he trying to lull his opponent into a false sense of security by delaying the critical continuation? Certainly, one of Karpov's main strengths is the ability to keep positions 'on the boil' for long periods, without precipitating a premature crisis. Opponents often crack by sheer fatigue under this kind of pressure.

44	..	Kg8
45	Be7	Ra6
46	Bd5+	Kh7
47	Bg5	Rd6
48	Be4	Kg8
49	Rb8+	Kf7

Not 49...Kh7 50 Rf8 and 51 Bf6.

50	Rc8	Ne6
51	Bh6	Bc5
52	Ra8	Rd8
53	Ra5	

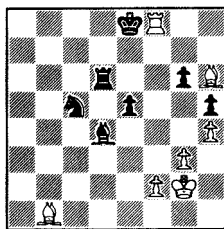
The exchange of rooks would leave White with no winning chances.

53	...	Rd6
54	Bb1	Bd4
55	Ra8	Bc5
56	Ba2	Kf6
57	Rc8	Bd4
58	Re8	Ra6
59	Bc4	Rc6
60	Bd3	Kf7
61	Ra8	Rd6
62	Be4	Bc5
63	Kf1	Rd1+
64	Kg2	Rd6
65	Bb1	Bd4

Also tempting was 65...Rb6 66 Ba2 Rb2 67 Ra6 Rxf2+ 68 Kh3 Rxa2 69 Rxa2 Kf6 70 Kg2 e4 with good drawing chances. But the text probably ought to draw more easily.

66	Ra3	Nc7
67	Ba2+	Ke8
68	Rf3!	

68	...	Ne6
69	Bb1	Nc5
70	Rf8+	



70	...	Ke7?
----	-----	------

Correct was 70...Kd7, e.g. 71 Rg8 e4 72 Bf8 Rf6 73 Bxc5 Bxc5 74 Bxe4 Rxf2+ 75 Kh3 Bd6, and it is doubtful whether White can prevent Black from drawing by exchanging rooks and sacrificing his bishop for White's 'g' pawn, leaving White with bishop and wrong-coloured rook's pawn. For example, 76 Bxg6? Rf3 77 Bxh5 Rxg3+ draws at once.

71	Rg8!	
----	------	--

Now White threatens both Black's 'g' pawn, and the exchange.

71	...	e4
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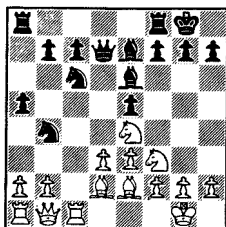
Equally hopeless were 71...Kf7 72 Ba2+, or 71...Rb6 72 Bxg6 Rb2 73 Bg5+ Ke6 74 Rf8.

72	Bf8+	Resigns
----	------	---------

Game No. 37 English Opening

	<i>Hübner</i>	<i>Hort</i>
1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	Nf3	Nc6
4	d3	d5
5	cxd5	Nxd5
6	e3	Be6
7	Be2	Be7
8	O-O	O-O
9	Bd2	Ndb4
10	Qb1	a5
11	Rc1	Qd7
12	Ne4	

The correct plan at last.



Drawn.

Game No. 38 Queen's Gambit

Larsen Spassky
(Notes by Tal)

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| 1 | c4 | e6 |
| 2 | Nc3 | d5 |
| 3 | d4 | Be7 |
| 4 | cxd5 | exd5 |
| 5 | Bf4 | c6 |
| 6 | e3 | Bf5 |
| 7 | Bd3 | |

This is not a sign of caution, but a move which is in keeping with the style of the Dane, who normally avoids advances of the type g2-g4 (and it is this move that theory recommends in the given position). The exchange of white-squared bishops by no means signifies a lessening of tension on the board.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 7 | ... | Bxd3 |
| 8 | Qxd3 | Nf6 |
| 9 | Nf3 | Nbd7 |
| 10 | O-O | O-O |
| 11 | Rab1 | a5 |
| 12 | h3 | Re8 |
| 13 | a3 | a4 |

I am not convinced that Black should have so openly fallen in with his opponent's provocation (by 13 a3 White clearly provoked the black pawn into occupying what is, on general grounds, a favourable square).

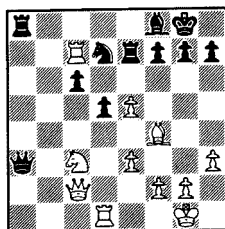
- | | | |
|----|-------|-----|
| 14 | Qc2 | Qa5 |
| 15 | Rfd1! | |

White's plans include play in the centre.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 15 | ... | Bf8 |
| 16 | Ne5 | Re7 |

A move which shows that Spassky's form at the start of the tournament was far from ideal. The rook is awkwardly placed on this square, and the attack on a3 is lifted.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 17 | b4 | axb3 |
| 18 | Rxb3 | Nxe5 |
| 19 | dxe5 | Nd7 |
| 20 | Rxb7 | Qxa3 |
| 21 | Rc7 | |



It is interesting that, for all its extravagance, Larsen's play is highly technical. Now the Dane has nothing against the simple position resulting after 21...Nxe5 22 Bxe5 Rxe5 23 Rxc6, when Black has an isolated pawn at d5. It is difficult to assert that Larsen would have won this position, but of the fact that he would have tormented Spassky long and thoroughly there can be no doubt. Obviously such a prospect did not appeal to the Ex-World Champion, but his next move involves an oversight.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 21 | ... | Qc5? |
|----|-----|------|

Larsen's comment at this point is interesting: "I spent 20 minutes on my next move. For the first ten Spassky sat quietly at the board, but then he suddenly stood up, and I realized that he had overlooked something. The continuation 22 Qb2 Nb6 is all right for Black, and therefore I have to win the queen".

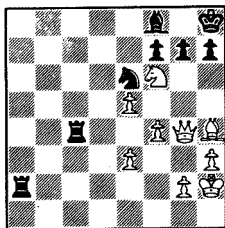
- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 22 | Rxd5! | cxd5 |
| 23 | Rxc5 | Nxc5 |
| 24 | Nxd5 | |

White's material advantage is not so formidable, but his pawn mass on the K-side, which threatens to advance, is highly imposing. The game has an elegant finale.

24 ... Rea7
 25 Bg5 Ral+
 26 Kh2 R8a2
 27 Qf5 Ne6
 28 Bh4 Rf1
 29 f4 Rc1
 30 Qg4 Rc4

The game would have lasted longer after
 30...Rcc2 31 f5 R×g2+.

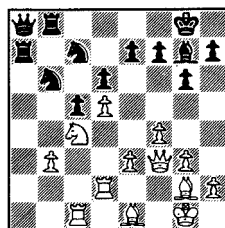
31 Nf6+ Kh8



32 Qh5!

In view of the inevitable 32...g×f6
 33 Q×f7, Black resigned.

13 Bd2 b5
 14 Rc1 a5
 15 c×b5 a4
 16 Nc4 N×b5
 17 f4 Qc7
 18 e3 Ra6
 19 Rf2 Qa7
 20 Bf1 Rb8
 21 Be1 Qa8
 22 Rd2 Ra7
 23 Qf3 Nc7
 24 Bg2 Nb6
 25 b3 a×b3
 26 a×b3

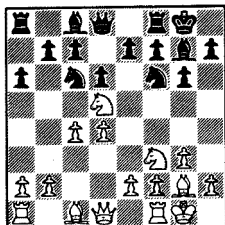


Drawn.

Game No. 39 King's Indian Defence

Portisch Timman

1 Nf3 g6
 2 c4 Bg7
 3 d4 Nf6
 4 g3 O-O
 5 Bg2 d6
 6 Nc3 Nc6
 7 O-O a6
 8 Nd5

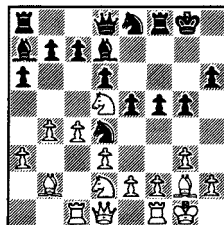


8 ... Bg4
 9 Ne3 B×f3
 10 B×f3 Nd7
 11 d5 Nd4
 12 Bg2 c5

Game No. 40 English Opening

Tal Kavalek
 (Notes by Tal)

1 c4 e5
 2 Nc3 Nf6
 3 Nf3 Nc6
 4 g3 Bc5
 5 Bg2 d6
 6 O-O O-O
 7 d3 h6
 8 a3 a6
 9 b4 Ba7
 10 Bb2 Bf5
 11 Nh4 Bd7
 12 Rc1 Ne8
 13 Nd5 g5
 14 Nf3 f5
 15 Nd2 Nd4



The critical point of the game. The position is somewhat in the spirit of the Closed Variation of the Sicilian Defence, with the difference that Black's bishop, instead of being in its 'agreed' place (g7), has been shifted to the other side of the board. White has played the opening restrainedly; Black, as can be seen, has played fairly expansively, and if he should succeed in driving away the knight from d5 and then playing ...f5-f4, his attack, supported by his black-squared bishop, may become dangerous. I considered myself obliged to fight for the initiative, and this dictated the following decision.

16 c5 c6
17 Nb6!?

On 17 Ne3 I did not care for 17...f4 18 Nec4 Bg4. At the cost of a pawn White eliminates the most dangerous enemy piece, and hopes to be the first to begin an attack. The pawn sacrifice is probably correct, but no more.

17 ... Bxb6
18 cxb6 Qxb6
19 Nc4 Qa7

The first concession — the queen is badly placed at a7, but after any other move, 20 e3 and then f2-f4 is highly unpleasant.

20 e3 Ne6
21 d4

The threat of opening the long diagonal forces Black to weaken his position.

21 ... exd4
22 exd4 d5
23 Ne5 Nf6
24 Re1 Ng7

In order to enliven the game, White also begins to threaten his opponent on the Q-side.

25 a4 Qb6
26 Ba3 Rfe8
27 Qd3 Qd8
28 Re2

All in the same unhurried manner. White plans to double rooks, then to move his knight, and perhaps play h2-h4 followed

by Bc1, but all this is to a high degree abstract. Kavalek, who was short of time, began to grow nervous here. His following move leads to serious difficulties.

28 ... Ng4
29 b5 axb5
30 axb5 Nxe5
31 dxe5

Now White has not only a strong pawn at e5, but suddenly his powerful black-squared bishop comes into play.

31 ... f4
32 bxc6 bxc6
33 Bd6 Ra4
34 Rb2 Qa8
35 Bf1

The bishop is switched to the highly attractive b1-h7 diagonal.

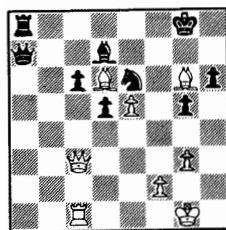
35 ... Ra2
36 Rxa2 Qxa2
37 Qc3

Threatening 38 Ra1.

37 ... fxg3
38 hxg3 Qa7
39 Bd3

Black's position is already difficult, and the following time trouble blunder makes it simply hopeless.

39 ... Ne6
40 Bg6 Ra8



In this position the game was adjourned, but it did not last long on resumption.

41 Qf3 Be8
42 Qf6 Bxg6
43 Qxg6+ Ng7
44 e6

From the a3-f8 diagonal, the bishop
threatens to switch to the long diagonal.

44	...	Qd4
45	Qf7+	Kh7
46	Bf8	Resigns

ROUND 9

21st April

Kavalek	(1 ½)	0	-	1	Karpov (5½)
Timman	(4)	½	-	½	Tal (5½)
Spassky	(3)	½	-	½	Portisch (5½)
Hort	(3)	1	-	0	Larsen (2½)
Ljubojevic	(5)	½	-	½	Hübner (4½)

Standings after nine rounds: Karpov - 6½; Portisch, Tal - 6; Ljubojevic - 5½; Hübner - 5; Timman - 4½; Hort - 4; Spassky - 3½; Larsen - 2½; Kavalek - 1½.

The most interesting encounter of the round was that between Kavalek and Karpov. Here everything attracted attention - both an unexpected opening (for the first time in his career the World Champion played the Open Variation of the Ruy Lopez as Black), and an erudite reply by Kavalek (as was later revealed, he had studied this variation a good ten years ago). It would appear that White was more happy with the outcome of the opening stage, but his desire to extract more from the position than was warranted led to a tactical outburst, where Karpov proved to be the more far-seeing. Under heavy fire, his king had to make a lengthy, wearisome, but in the end successful journey. After sheltering in the centre behind a screen of pieces, it reached safety, and Black's material advantage soon told.

I must admit that, before the 9th round, although my tournament position gave cause for optimism, I was not especially happy with the content of my games. I think that it was after the game with Timman that I began to believe in the possibility of success in the tournament, although I did not win this game, and at no point did I think that I would. Black, as happens with him from time to time, played the opening carelessly, and went wrong, as it later turned out, as early as the 5th move. I had simply not considered my opponent's reply. Timman gained an advantage, a decisive one, it would seem (however, neither during the game, nor after it, was a specific way to realize it found). But with a difficult defensive task I succeeded in coping. Here to my assistance came an old weapon - my ability to 'twist and turn'. It was pleasing that, in an encounter with a young and highly resourceful opponent, this weapon did not let me down.

Ljubojevic held an advantage throughout his game with Hübner. He could have won a pawn (9 Bxc6 bxc6 10 Na5), but either did not notice this, or else avoided it in view of Black's counter-play. At any event, Hübner had to defend 'all the way'. Probably at some point White failed to extract the maximum possible, and the adjourned position already looked highly drawish.

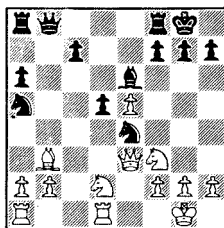
For a long time the heavy strategic duel between Hort and Larsen was relatively evenly balanced. It was only just before the time control that the Dane, overestimating his chances, incautiously penetrated with his bishop into the enemy position. He was unable to save the bishop, and on resumption Hort accurately realized his material advantage.

The Spassky-Portisch game took a fairly quiet course, and ended in a draw after Black had, without particular difficulty, neutralized White's advantage in a variation of the Caro-Kann Defence, where Spassky had played unpretentiously.

Game No. 41 Ruy Lopez

Kavalek Karpov
(Notes by Kholmov)

- | | | |
|---|-----|------|
| 1 | e4 | e5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3 | Bb5 | a6 |
| 4 | Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5 | O-O | Nxe4 |



A new opening, it would seem, in the World Champion's repertoire! Before this, as Black, he appears to have adhered to the Closed Variations of the Ruy Lopez. Possibly his choice of opening was influenced by the fact that, during the match in Baguio, he had to go through an extensive practical course on the study of this variation. Karpov had evidently come to the conclusion that the Open Variation was not as bad as its reputation, as is also confirmed by the present game.

- | | | |
|---|------|-----|
| 6 | d4 | b5 |
| 7 | Bb3 | d5 |
| 8 | dxe5 | Be6 |
| 9 | Qe2 | |

This continuation was employed by the World Champion in the 12th game of the match in Baguio.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 9 | ... | Be7 |
| 10 | Rd1 | O-O |
| 11 | c4 | bxc4 |
| 12 | Bxc4 | Bc5 |
| 13 | Be3 | Bxe3 |
| 14 | Qxe3 | Qb8 |
| 15 | Bb3 | Na5 |

A position from the 12th game of the match in Baguio has been reached. True, in that encounter Karpov was playing White.

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 16 | Nbd2 | |
|----|------|--|

(See next diagram)

This, it turns out, is what Kavalek had decided to try! In the aforementioned game White played 16 Ne1, and the final result was a draw. Commenting on the

game, grandmaster Filip, one of the match controllers, suggested that 16 Nbd2 might be stronger. The American Champion follows this advice, but as we will see, his hopes are not justified. Black is able to put into effect his main strategic plan — that of seizing the centre with pawns.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 16 | ... | Qa7 |
| 17 | Nd4 | |

This move too was advised by the Czech grandmaster. It is unlikely that Kavalek, in view of his poor tournament position, could have been satisfied with the variation 17 Qxa7 Rxa7 18 Nxe4 Nxb3 19 axb3 dxe4 20 Nd4, with a probable draw.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 17 | ... | Nxd2 |
| 18 | Qxd2 | Qb6! |

18...Nxb3 is less good, since then White achieves certain strategic gains: 19 Nxb3 c5 20 Rac1 Rfc8 21 Qa5, and Black is obliged to advance his pawn. After 21...c4 22 Nd4 Qb8 23 f4 it turns out that 23...Qxb2 fails to 24 Rb1!

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 19 | Bc2 | c5! |
|----|-----|-----|

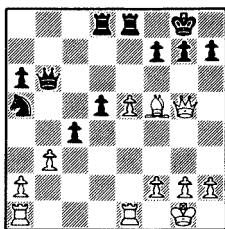
One of Karpov's characteristic peculiarities is the fact that he rejects without regret various tactical 'mirages', and consistently carries out his strategic plan. After 19...Nc4? 20 Qe2! both 20...Nxb2 21 Rab1 Rab8 22 Rd2!, and 20...Qxb2 21 Rab1 Qa3 22 Nxe6 fxe6 23 Qh5, are bad for Black.

20 Nf5 Bxf5

20...Qxb2? is dangerous, in view of
21 Rb1 Qa3 22 N×g7! K×g7 23 Qg5+ Kh8
24 Qf6+ Kg8 25 Rd3, etc. If here
21...Qxe5, then 22 Ne7+ and then
23 Qxa5.

21 Bxf5 Rad8
22 b3 Rfe8
23 Re1 c4
24 Qg5

White thinks only of attack. Quieter
play results after 24 bxc4 dxc4 25 Qc3
Qc5 26 Re3 Rd5 27 Rael, with an
unclear position.



24 ... Qc7!

The World Champion displays extreme
caution. After 24...xb3 25 axb3 Nxb3
26 Rb1 a5 (26...Qa5? 27 Re3 Nd2
28 Bxh7+ Kxh7 29 Rg3!, or 27...Nc5
28 Rh3 h6 29 Rxh6 Rxe5 30 Bh7+ Kf8
31 Qxe5 gxh6 32 Qf6!, in both cases
with advantage to White) White has to
play very accurately so as himself not
to end up in an unpleasant position.
The most natural — 27 Re3? — for example,
is highly unclear: after 27...a4!
(27...h6? 28 Qg4 a4 29 Qxa4 Nc5
30 Qxe8+, and White wins) the following
variation leads to an advantage for
Black: 28 Bxh7+ Kxh7 29 Rh3+ Kg8
30 Qh4 Qh6! 31 Qxa4 Nc5 32 Qc2 Qg6!
Here White similarly achieves nothing
by 29 Qh4 Qh6 30 Qxa4 Nc5 31 Qc2 Qg6!
etc. (or 29 Rg3 Qg6 30 Qh4+ Qh6
31 Qxa4 Nd2). Therefore White does best
to play 28 Qh4! immediately: 28...g6
29 Qxa4 gxh6 30 Rxb3. It appears that
White could have improved this variation
by 29 Rh3, but here too after 29...gxh6!
30 Qxh7+ Kf8 31 Qh8+ Ke7 32 Qh4+ Kf8
33 Qxa4 Rxe5 nothing definite is
apparent.

However, after 27 e6! Black could have
come under a strong attack. If now
27...f6, then 28 Qh5, and Black is
defenceless, but meanwhile the threat
of 28 Bxh7! is highly unpleasant. After
27...fxe6 28 Rxe6! Rxe6 29 Bxe6+ Kh8
30 Rxb3! White wins easily, while 27...
g6 is unpleasantly met by 28 Qf6!

25 e6

Possibly White should not have been in
a hurry to make this move, but should
first have improved the position of his
rook — 25 Rael.

25 ... f6
26 Qh4 g6
27 e7

27 Qxf6? is answered by 27...Rf8!

27 ... Rd6!

27...Rxe7? is bad in view of 28 Qxf6
Rxe1+ 29 Rxe1 gxf5 30 Re7!

28 Qg3?

White over-estimates his chances. By
28 Re6! he could still have maintained
the balance. Most probably Kavalek
avoided it because of the variation
28...Rxe6 29 Bxe6+ Kg7 20 Bxd5 Qe5
31 Rd1 Rxe7 32 Bxc4 g5!, but perhaps
he overlooked that White has a perfectly
adequate reply — 33 f4!

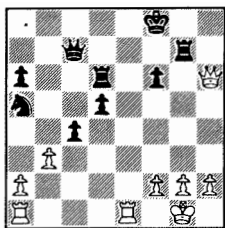
28 ... Rxe7
29 Bxg6

Having made his bed, White is obliged
to lie in it. 29 Re6 is too late in
view of 29...Rc6!, when White has
nothing for the pawn.

29 ... hxg6
30 Qxg6+ Kf8
31 Qh6+ Rg7!

(See next diagram)

It would have been a mistake to attempt
to slip away with the king: 31...Ke8?
32 Qh8+ Kd7 33 Rxe7+ Kxe7 34 Re1+ Re6
35 Qg7+, and it is White who wins.



32 Re3 f5!

Accuracy to the end! If 32...d4, then 33 Rg3, with the threat of 34 Qh8+.

33 Qh8+ Rg8
34 Qe5 Qd7
35 Rf3 Qe6
36 Rxf5+ Ke7
37 Qf4 Nc6!

The cavalry hurries to the assistance of its king!

38 bxc4 dxc4
39 Rb1 Rb8
40 Rc1 Nd4!

White adjourned the game, after sealing

41 Re5

but resigned without resuming, in view of the obvious 41...Ne2+.

Game No. 42 English Opening

Timman Tal
(Notes by Tal)

1 c4 c5
2 Nf3 Nf6
3 Nc3 d5
4 cxd5 Nx d5
5 e4

This ancient continuation has now acquired a second youth. Until recently it was thought that Black gained a highly comfortable game by continuing 5...Nb4 6 Bc4 (or 6 Bb5+ N8c6! 7 0-0 a6) 6... Be6 7 Bxe6 Nd3+ 8 Kf1 fxe6 9 Ng5 Nc6.

However, in the first place, White has the possibility of an interesting gambit — 6 Bb5+ N8c6 7 d4!? cxd4 8 a3, and secondly, in a recent Zonal Tournament Timman made a successful attempt to revive a different variation: his game with Stean went 6 Bc4 Be6 7 Bxe6 Nd3+ 8 Kf1 fxe6 9 Ng5 Nc6 10 Nxe6 Qd7 11 Nxc5! (an innovation!). I am not convinced that White's improvement changes the evaluation of the variation to such a great extent, but, be that as it may, on that day I did not feel in the mood to embark on a theoretical discussion.*

Black's 5th move is a serious mistake. I completely failed to consider my opponent's reply, and was counting only on 6 bxc3 — Black's position, which occurred in the game Karpov-Ljubojevic from the previous round, would have suited me.

5 ... Nx c3
6 dxc3 Qxd1+

6...Qc7 was perhaps the lesser evil, although even then after 8 g3 White's chances are markedly better. The 'placid' exchange of queens condemns Black to a most unpromising defence.

7 Kxd1 Nc6
8 Be3 e6
9 a4!

The positional threat of a4-a5, restricting completely Black's Q-side, forces his reply, after which a whole complex of squares on the Q-side is markedly weakened.

9 ... b6
10 Nd2 Bb7
11 Nc4

This move could well have been delayed. 11 Be2 or 11 Kc2 looks not at all bad.

11 ... 0-0-0+
12 Kc1

If 12 Kc2, then 12...Na5, exchanging knights.

*It is perhaps worth mentioning that, in the Riga Interzonal Tournament later that year, Tal introduced the innovation 9...Qb6 against Polugayevsky, and quickly built up a crushing attack. (K.P.N.)

12 ... Be7
13 f3 f5

Black must provoke a crisis as quickly as possible, while the white pieces are not yet completely ready for decisive action.

14 e×f5 e×f5
15 Kc2

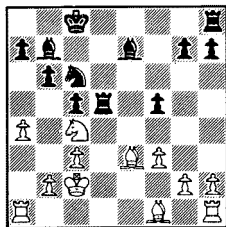
Timman gives the interesting possibility of 15 a5 b5 16 a6 Ba8 17 Na3 (17 Na5 c4) 17...Na5 18 Kc2 b4 19 c×b4 c×b4 20 Nb5 b3+ 21 Kc3 Bf6+ 22 Kb4 Nc6+ 23 K×b3 Rhe8, with highly unclear complications.

To this variation I can merely add that in the event of 15 a5 b5 16 a6 Ba8 17 Na3 Na5 18 Kc2 b4 it is unfavourable for White to play 19 Nb5 b3+ 20 Kc1 Rhe8! 21 R×a5 Bg5!, when unexpectedly the white king is in danger.

15 ... Rd5

As Timman points out, after 15...Rhe8 16 Bd3 Black has great difficulties, since in the event of 16...R×d3 17 K×d3 Ba6 18 b3 Na5 19 Kc2 B×c4 20 b×c4 he has inadequate compensation for the exchange (20...Bh4 21 Bf4). The move in the game defends not only the f5 pawn, but also (subsequently) the square b5.

At this point Black had some fifteen minutes left on his clock.



16 Be2

If 16 a5, then 16...b5 17 a6 Ba8 18 Na3 c4, and Black is all right. A similar result follows from the continuation 18 Na5 N×a5 19 R×a5 c4 20 B×a7 Re8! 21 Be3 Bb4 (variations by Timman).

16 ... Rhd8
17 Rhd1 R×d1

Probably not the best. However, this exchange was made with the secret hope that White had given up his ambitious intentions. Alas, Timman's reply dispelled my illusions.

18 B×d1 h6

Again with the idea of forcing events. The threat of 19...Bg5 obliges the opponent to take active measures.

19 a5 b5

The continuation 19...Ba6 is interesting. Timman was intending 20 Be2 b5 21 Nd2 c4 22 b3, and White has a slight advantage, but the play becomes more complicated.

20 a6 b×c4

After 20...Ba8 21 Na3 White has the advantage.

21 a×b7+ K×b7
22 Be2 Ne5

I must confess that, when I considered this position beforehand, I thought that Black could force a draw instantly by playing 22...Nd4+. Alas, you only have to extend this variation by three moves — 23 c×d4 c×d4 24 Bf2 d3+ 25 Kb1! — and it is clear that he simply comes out a piece down. I had hastily to think again. However, the poor position of the bishop at d1 gives Black time to set up a fortress.

23 f4 Nd3
24 g3

As Timman points out, 24 Bh5 is pretty, but unconvincing: after 24...g6 25 B×g6 Rg8 Black has adequate counterplay. In the event of 24 Rd1 White retains only a slight advantage, insufficient to win.

24 ... Bf6
25 Bh5

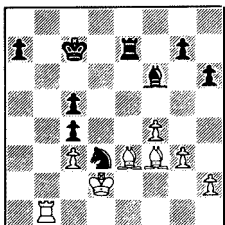
A highly unpleasant continuation, by which White parries the threat of

25...Re8, and himself threatens 26 Bf7 or 26 Bg6. Fortunately for Black, his defensive resources prove adequate.

25 ... Rd7
26 Bg6 Re7
27 Kd2 Kc6
28 Bxf5

For 28 Rb1 there is no time: 28...a5 (but not 28...Rb7 29 b3, and Black has difficulties over his knight) 29 Bxf5 a4, with a good game for Black.

28 ... Nxb2
29 Bg4 Nd3
30 Bf3+ Kb6
31 Rb1+ Kc7



32 Bd5

Here White overlooked something (cf. the note to White's 36th move). 32 Bg1 was possible, but after 32...g5 Black probably has sufficient counter-play.

32 ... Bxc3+
33 Kxc3 Rxe3
34 Rb7+ Kd6
35 Kxc4 Nb4
36 Rxa7

White thought that he could play 36 Rxc7, but it turns out that then there follows 36...Nxd5 37 Rg6+ Re6.

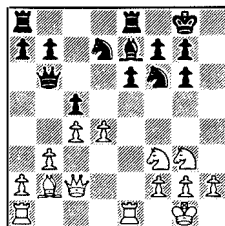
36 ... Nxd5
37 Ra6+ Ke7
38 Kxd5 Re2
Drawn.

Game No. 43 Caro-Kann Defence

Spassky Portisch

1 e4 c6
2 d4 d5

3 Nc3 dxe4
4 Nxe4 Bf5
5 Ng3 Bg6
6 Nf3 Nd7
7 Bd3 Ngf6
8 Bxg6 hxg6
9 O-O e6
10 c4 Be7
11 b3 O-O
12 Bb2 Qb6
13 Re1 Rfe8
14 Qc2 c5



15 a3 a5
16 dxc5 Nxc5
17 Rab1 Nxd8
18 Bd4 Qc6
19 Qe2 Ncd7
20 Bb2 Nc5
21 Ne5 Qe8
22 b4 axb4
23 axb4 Ncd7
24 Nd3 Rac8
25 Rec1 Nb8
26 h3 Nc6
27 Ba1 Qd7
28 Rd1 Qc7

Drawn.

Game No. 44 Queen's Indian Defence

Hort Larsen
(Notes by Hort)

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 b6
4 g3 Bb4+
5 Bd2 Bxd2+
6 Nxd2

I know, of course, that it is better to take with the queen, but I wanted to try a new idea.

6 ... Bb7
7 Bg2 O-O

8 O-O c5
9 Rc1 d6

White has achieved very little, and decides to transfer his knight to a better post.

10 Nb1 Qe7
11 Nc3 Nc6
12 e3

To be considered was 12 Re1 followed by e2-e4.

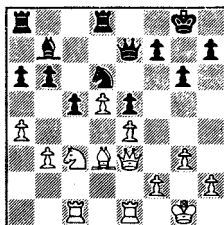
12 ... Rfd8
13 Re1 Rac8
14 b3

The position is roughly equal, but in typical fashion Larsen begins to seek complications.

14 ... Nb4?!
15 a3 Nc6
16 d5 exd5
17 cxd5 Ne5
18 Nxe5 dxe5
19 e4

White has gained an advantage in space, but Black is pinning his hopes on his strong blockading knight.

19 ... Ne8
20 Bf1 Nd6
21 a4 a6
22 Bd3 g6
23 Qe2 Ra8
24 Qe3!



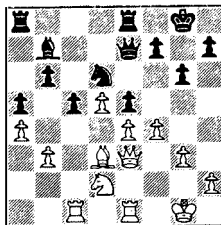
A strong positional move. The standard 25 a5 is threatened, undermining Black's Q-side pawns.

24 ... Rdc8
25 Nb1

White is insistent!

25 ... a5
26 Nd2 Re8
27 f4?!

This move is possibly premature. White could have played 27 Nc4 Nxc4 28 bxc4, with subsequent pressure down the 'b' file.



27 ... Rad8!
28 Nc4 exf4
29 Qxf4

On this move White spent a great deal of time. In the event of 29 gxf4 Black has the strange reply 29...Nc8!?, when the threat of ...f7-f5 seriously complicates White's task.

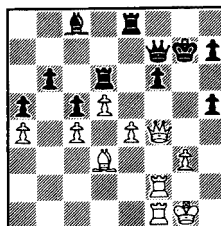
29 ... Nxc4
30 bxc4 f6
31 Rf1 Rd6
32 Rf2 Bc8

Black has defended successfully, and the game should now end in a draw.

33 h4 Qd7
34 Rcf1 Kg7
35 h5! gxh5

If 35...g5, then, of course, 36 h6+ Kxh6 37 Qxd6 Qxd6 38 Rxf6+, and White wins.

36 Qh4 Qf7!
37 Qf4



37 ... Qe7?

Larsen, as always, is over-optimistic. He should have played 37...Qd7, when it is not clear that White has anything better than to repeat moves.

38 Be2!

This leads to an advantage for White. After the correct 37...Qd7! it would not have achieved anything - 38 Be2 Re5.

38 ... Bh3?!

Better nevertheless was 38...Qe5
39 Bxh5 Qxf4 40 Rxf4 Re5 41 Bg4, with a difficult ending for Black.

39 Re1! Qd7

If 39...Qe5, then again 40 Bxh5, when White now has a decisive advantage.

40 Bxh5 Re5
41 g4 Qxa4
42 Kh2 h6

There is no time for 42...Qxc4 because of 43 g5!, when White wins.

43 Qc1!

The most convincing move, which wins the most quickly. The bishop will not run away.

43 ... b5
44 Kxh3 Qxc4
45 Qxc4 bxc4
46 Ra2

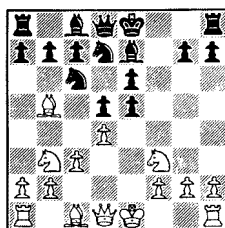
A piece down, Black is unable to save the ending, and the remainder is, as they say, a matter of technique.

46 ... Rdxd5
47 Rxa5 Rd7
48 Kg3 c3
49 Kf4 c2
50 Rc1 Rd4
51 Ra7+ Kg8
52 Bf7+ Kh8
53 Bg6 Resigns

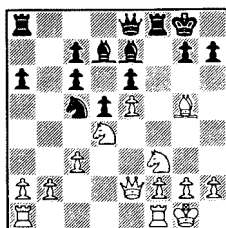
Game No. 45 French Defence

Ljubojevic *Hübner*

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nd2 Nc6
4 Ngf3 Nf6
5 e5 Nd7
6 Nb3 Be7
7 c3 f6
8 Bb5 fxe5

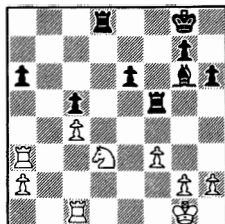


9 dxe5 0-0
10 Qe2 Qe8
11 Nbd4 Nc5
12 0-0 a6
13 Bxc6 bxc6
14 Bg5 Bd7



15 Rac1 Na4
16 Bxe7 Qxe7
17 b4 Rfc8
18 Rfe1 h6
19 Qc2 c5
20 bxc5 Nxc5
21 c4 c6
22 Nd2 Rab8
23 Re3 Qh4
24 N4f3 Qf4
25 Rc3 Ne4
26 Nxe4 dxe4
27 Nd2 Qxe5
28 Qxe4 Qf5
29 Rf3 Qg5
30 Qc2 c5
31 Rg3 Qe5
32 Qg6 Rf8

33	Nf3	Qf6
34	Qxf6	Rxf6
35	Ne5	Be8
36	Ra3	Rf5
37	Nd3	Rd8
38	f3	Bg6



39	Rd1	Rf7
40	Nb2	Rxd1+
41	Nxd1	Rd7
42	Ne3	Rd3
43	Rxd3	Bxd3
44	Kf2	

Drawn.

ROUND 10

24th April

Karpov	(6½)	½	-	½	Hübner (5)
Ljubojevic	(5½)	½	-	½	Larsen (2½)
Hort	(4)	½	-	½	Portisch (6)
Spassky	(3½)	0	-	1	Tal (6)
Timman	(4½)	0	-	1	Kavalek (1½)

Standings after ten rounds: Karpov, Tal - 7; Portisch - 6½; Ljubojevic - 6; Hübner - 5½; Hort, Timman - 4½; Spassky - 3½; Larsen - 3; Kavalek - 2½.

The character of a two-cycle event still remains an enigma. What is it - a tournament or a match? Outward signs point to a tournament, but match indications are also present.

From the 10th round the time for revenge began. However, on this day no one succeeded in getting even. Moreover, playing too defiantly for a win as White, Spassky over-reached himself. Black's attack, although outwardly spectacular, was of a very technical nature. And for this reason I can in no way agree with the decision of the jury to award this game the prize 'for brilliancy'.

Karpov outplayed Hübner, but quite unexpectedly missed an elementary win (39 Rg8+ Kh7 40 R×g6). In the adjourned position Black's resources proved sufficient to save the game.

Kavalek's earlier failures appeared to have excited his opponent, especially as from the opening Timman gained a certain advantage. Under-estimating his opponent's chances, he first made the game double-edged, and then, in searching for his lost advantage, allowed Kavalek very dangerous counter-play. However, even here not everything was clear. Even after the adjournment, instead of the losing 46 Rf4, 46 f4 deserved serious consideration, when Black would still have been faced with considerable problems.

By tradition the Ljubojevic-Larsen encounter was interesting, by tradition it was a sharp struggle, but, contrary to tradition, on this occasion attack and defence balanced each other.

For the whole game Hort retained a theoretical advantage against Portisch (in the variation of the French Defence with an isolated pawn at d5), but, as most often happens, this advantage did not extend beyond the bounds of the theoretical.

Game No. 46 English Opening

Karpov Hübner
 (Notes by Chandler & Keene)

1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	Nf3	Nc6
4	g3	Bb4
5	Nd5	Bc5

5...Nxd5 6 cxd5 Nd4 7 Nxd4 exd4
 8 Qc2 gives White a slight advantage, as was demonstrated by the opening of the 27th game of the 1978 World Championship.

6 Bg2

White can switch move orders with 6 d3 h6 7 Bg2, but there is no reason to fear 6...e4 7 Nh4, e.g. 7...0-0 8 0-0 Re8 9 d3 exd3 10 Qxd3 Ne5 11 Qc2 c6 12 Be3! with advantage to White (Smejkal-Mecking, Rio Interzonal, 1979).

6	...	d6
7	0-0	0-0
8	d3	h6
9	e3	a5
10	Nc3	

Karpov covers the e4 square and prevents the simplifying ...Nxd5. The opening now resolves itself into an interesting struggle for central control, Karpov using the strategy of observation by pawns, while Hübner, in classical style, manoeuvres with pieces.

10 ... Ne7??

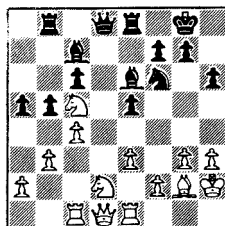
Hübner's idea is to control d5 and cut down the scope of White's fianchettoed bishop by playing ...c6. Additionally, by transferring the knight to the king's wing Black might hope for attacking prospects there, but in the game this plan appears too long-winded and we prefer 10...Ba7 11 a3 Nh7 12 Khl Bg4 with ...f5 to follow, as in Korchnoi-Petrosian, 11 Ciocco (match), 1977.

11	h3	c6
12	b3	Re8
13	Bb2	Bb6
14	Re1	Bd7
15	Kh2	Ng6
16	Nd2	Be6
17	Na4	Bc7
18	d4	Rb8

19 Rcl

This slow, positional build-up is in typical Karpov style, and is deceptively difficult to meet. Black is cramped, and Hübner's following unthematic Q-side break is foiled by a neat *zwischenzug*.

19	...	b5!?
20	dxe5!	Nxe5
21	Bxe5	dxe5
22	Nc5	



The knight takes up an excellent post at c5. This, combined with White's raking king's bishop, potential control of the c-file and Black's weakened Q-side pawns, gives Karpov a considerable positional advantage.

22	...	Bd6
23	cxb5	cxb5
24	Qe2	

There is no doubt that White's proud knight at c5 will soon be forced to shift ground, but the most likely turn of events is that the knight will exchange off for Black's queen's bishop, this leaving Black with a large number of sensitive light squares to nurse, such as e4, d5, c6. These squares present potentially excellent bases for White pieces. Black could only avoid this with the retrograde 24...Bc8. Note, however, that White cannot draw more profit from the knight at c5, since the escapade 24 Nb7 Qb6 25 Rc6 Qxb7 26 Rxd6 Qe7 holds for Black.

24	...	Qe7
25	Nxe6	Qxe6
26	Rc6	Rec8
27	Rd1	

White wants to force ...b4. On 27 Rec1 Black could complicate with 27...Rxc6

28 Bxc6?! Ba3! 29 Rc2 Rc8, and 29 Qxb5 is met by 29...Qf5, forking the rook on c2 and the pawn on f2.

27 ... Rxc6
28 Bxc6 b4

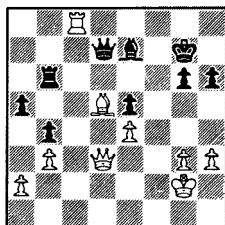
Now extra light squares (b5 and c4) beckon to occupation by White's pieces.

29 Rc1 Be7
30 Qc4 Qd6
31 Ne4 Nxe4
32 Bxe4 g6
33 Kg2 Kg7
34 Bd5

In some positions the presence of opposite coloured bishops would give good drawing chances for Black, but here they prove a potent attacking force for White in conjunction with his queen and rook. Karpov's bishop radiates power over the whole board from d5, while Hübner's bishop lies hemmed in by his own pawns.

34 ... f5
35 e4 f4
36 Qd3 Rb6
37 Rc8 f×g3
38 f×g3 Qd7?

A blunder under moderate time-pressure. The idea is to transfer the rook to the K-side for defence, and in my opinion if Black cannot do that he is probably lost in the long term anyway. White would have a choice of strong plans in Qc4 (threatening Rg8+ and Qc8), or the slower h3-h4 followed by Qe3 with pressure on both flanks (with possibilities of Rh8!).



39 Qc4?

An astonishing oversight from Karpov, with almost thirty minutes on his clock.

39 Rg8+ Kh7 40 R×g6 is one way to win (40...R×g6 41 Bg8+, or 40...K×g6 41 Bf7+) — but even quicker is 40 Qe3! Bd8 41 Rh8+!, mating in all variations.

39 ... Rf6!

Karpov had expected 39...Qb5, allowing 40 Rc7 Kf8 41 Rxe7! Kxe7 42 Qc7+ Ke8 43 Bf7+ Kf8 44 Bc4, winning a whole rook back.

40 Rc7 Qd6
41 h4 Rf8
42 Ra7 h5
43 Qc6

Swapping queens, as Black may soon start to get threats of his own with ...Qf6. However, here Hübner has a finesse to avoid material loss.

43 ... Qxc6
44 Bxc6 Rc8!
45 Ra6

On 45 Rxe7+ Kf6 46 Ra7 Rxc6 47 Rxa5 Rc2+ Black's rook should be active enough to hold the draw. After the game continuation Hübner's pieces penetrate the white position, and there is no reason he should stand worse.

45 ... Bc5
46 g4 h×g4
47 Kg3 Rf8
48 Rxa5 Bf2+
49 K×g4 Rf4+
50 Kh3 R×h4+
51 Kg2 Bd4
52 a4 b×a3
53 Rxa3 Rg4+

Drawn.

Karpov's horrible 39th move spoilt a delicate positional masterpiece, quite in the best style of Capablanca or Botvinnik. Unfortunately, with the vastly increased number of tournaments in contemporary chess, and the greater emphasis laid on practical performances, such lapses tend to be more frequent. In former times, when the leading grandmasters needed to play less, and could reflect more, chess approximated more closely to an art than a tough sport, but under modern conditions all this has changed. The more intensive pressure produces more mistakes.

Game No. 47 Irregular Opening

Ljubojevic Larsen
(Notes by Gufeld)

1 e4 e6

Is Larsen planning to play the French Defence?

2 d3 b5!?

As was related by an eye-witness, the grandmasters who at this point came up to the board on which the game was being played were unable to suppress a smile. This is understandable. In their place I too would have smiled, recalling at the same time an instance from a women's tournament, when after 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 the player with White asked indignantly: "Excuse me, I'm playing the Italian Game, but what about you?" A similar question could have been asked here by Ljubojevic. The aforementioned witness went on to relate that he had then asked Larsen whether he could name the move 2...b5 after him, and the Dane replied: "At any rate, this move is not in the books". This may indeed be so. But in every move (good or bad) there is an idea (good or bad). There is also an idea in Black's move here, and what's more, the author's rights to it certainly do not belong to Larsen. Back in the last century the move b2-b4 at such an early stage was employed by the Russian player Nikolai Bugayev (there is a well known game which he won with it in a simultaneous display against the great Steinitz!), and by the Austrian masters Berthold Englisch and Karl Schlechter (Schlechter-Tarrasch, Nuremberg 1896). And in our century this idea has been elaborated upon by Savielly Tartakower (it was he who suggested the humorous name 'The Orang-outang Opening'), Richard Reti (who won a brilliant game against Capablanca at New York in 1924), and Aleksey Sokolsky, who developed this opening into an elegant system.

All right, but here we are talking about the move b2-b4, and not ...b7-b5, you will say. Well, what of it? The idea is the same: to seize space on the Q-side, in combination with piece pressure on the centre using the fianchettoed queen's bishop. Remember the Petrosian-

Spassky Match for the World Championship (1966): 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 g3 b5! (14th game); 1 d4 b5! (22nd game). Thus Larsen's idea is not new. But even so, we must give him his due: in the given position he is the first to think of employing the aforementioned idea, so as to neutralize White's plan involving the fianchetto of his king's bishop, by opposing it with his bishop at b7 without playing ...d7-d5. At the same time Black immediately lays the foundation of his future counter-play on the Q-side.

Thus there is absolutely no justification for speaking ironically about Larsen regarding the given move. On the contrary, we should give this inquisitive searcher his due!

3 d4

But here I am in full agreement with those who smiled at Ljubojevic's reaction. Of course, by losing a precious tempo in the opening, and, essentially, handing over the 'colour', one cannot hope not only to refute Black's plan (although it may in general not be possible), but even to gain that lawful minimal advantage, offered by the right of the first move.

Let us nevertheless attempt to understand Ljubojevic. He was not prepared for the variation employed by Larsen, and, not wishing to do battle along the lines of his opponent's preparations, he preferred to answer with any surprise move, so that the position should be unfamiliar not only to him, but also to his opponent.

There is another question: what was White's best reply? We will make use of information on the variation 1 b4 e5 2 Bb2 d6 3 e3, where, with change of colours and an extra tempo for White, a similar situation is reached. The game Sokolsky-Lilienthal (21st USSR Championship, 1954) continued 3...Nf6 4 c4 g6 5 Nf3 Bg7 6 d4 0-0 7 Be2 exd4!, and Black equalized. Here, thanks to the extra tempo. Lilienthal's plan would have given White the advantage, and so Larsen would have had to restrict himself to modest development, for example: 3 Nf3 Bb7 4 g3 d6 5 Bg2 Nf6, etc.

Another move to deserve consideration was 3 f4!

3 ... Bb7
4 Nd2

If Ljubojevic and Larsen thought that this position was occurring for the first time in tournament practice, they are in for a disappointment. A game between M. Novitsky (Kiev) and Yu. Muivid (Minsk), played in a thematic tournament on the Sokolsky Opening (1965-67), organized by the Ukrainian Chess Federation, went 1 b4 d5 2 Bb2 Nd7 3 e3 e5, and exactly the same position was reached as in the present game (true, with colours reversed, but with the same turn to move, since Black's queen's pawn has advanced two squares in one go, and not in two, as with Ljubojevic). The game continued: 4 c4 c6 5 Nf3 Bd6 6 cxd5 cxd5 7 Nc3 Ngf6 8 Qb3 Nb6 9 Nb5, with the initiative for White. On the pattern of this game, Larsen could have continued 4...c5, but he chooses a more risky plan.

4 ... Nf6
5 e5

The timid 5 Bd3 would not have stopped Black developing his forces in a desirable way.

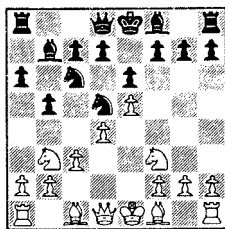
5 ... Nd5
6 Ngf3

6 Bxb5 achieves nothing after 6...Nf4!, for example: 7 Ndf3 Nxf2+ 8 Kf1 Nh4 9 Bg5 Be7, and Black's position is certainly no worse.

6 ... a6?

In the spirit of Black's set-up was 6...b4! This active idea lies at the basis of all the variations of the Sokolsky Opening (there, of course, it has the form of the move b4-b5). I suspect that in the present game Larsen employed this opening system according to his mood, rather than after making a deep study of its details.

7 Nb3 Nc6
8 c3!



Seizing on Black's opening inaccuracy. Now the threat is 9 a4 b4 10 c4!, driving the knight from the centre, and beginning an offensive over the entire front. In the event of 6...b4 White would not have had this possibility.

8 ... Nb6

This voluntary demobilization is an essentially forced, although unpleasant, measure. There is apparently nothing better.

9 Bd3 Be7
10 Qe2

One of those instances when a good move is associated with a plan which is not the best. It turns out that, in reply to Black's planned ...d7-d6xe5, Ljubojevic has decided to recapture on e5 with pieces, which in the end loses his entire positional advantage. Although the move played does not in itself yet spoil anything, it was not necessary. An equally good continuation was 10 O-O d6 11 Re1 (or 11 Qc2) 11...dxe5 12 dxe5, and Black has insufficient counter-play.

10 ... d6
11 O-O dxe5
12 Nxe5?

An error in the evaluation of the position. After 12 dxe5! O-O 13 Be3 Black has to do something against the threat of an invasion on c5. The following appears inadequate: 13...Na4 14 Rad1 Qc8 (or 14...Qe8) 15 Qc2 h6 (15...g6 16 h4) 16 Qc1, with the threat of a sacrifice on h6. If 13...Nd5 (parrying the threat of 14 Bc5? by 14...Nf4), then 14 a4! b4 15 c4 Nxe3 16 Qxe3, or 14...Nxe3 15 Qxe3 Qd5 16 Bc2, with advantage to White in both cases.

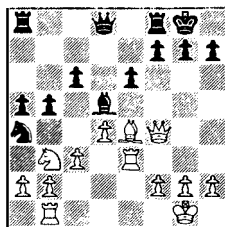
12 ... Nxe5
13 Qxe5

Now White has, so to speak, 'missed the boat' — after 13 dxe5 0-0 14 Be3 Na4 15 Rad1 Qc8 16 Qc2 g6 Black succeeds in creating counter-play, thanks to the possibility of ...c7-c5!

13 ... 0-0
14 Qg3 Bd6
15 Bf4 Na4

Now, with justification, it is Black who begins to play actively. As a result of White's mistake on his 12th move, Larsen now has a slight initiative, so that he must have been happy with the result of his opening experiment. Ljubojevic makes a timely switch to defence.

16 Rab1 Bxf4
17 Qxf4 Bd5
18 Be4 c6
19 Rfe1 a5
20 Re3!



An excellent move — with both aggressive and defensive functions. Already at this point, Ljubojevic foresaw that he would have to defend a weak pawn at c3.

20 ... Qf6
21 Qg4 g6
22 Qe2 Rfb8
23 Nc1

Threatening to drive back the black pieces by 24 b3 Nb6 25 Nd3, when 25... a4 can be met by 26 Nb4. Again, as on his 8th move, Larsen has to retreat his knight voluntarily from an active position.

23 ... Nb6

So as to answer 24 b3 with 24...a4!, not letting the white knight out from c1.

On the other hand 24...Nc4 is threatened, and this has to be allowed.

24 Bxd5 cxd5

We now have (with colours reversed) a 'minority attack' situation from the Exchange Variation of the Queen's Gambit. After the inevitable ...b5-b4 White will be left with a pawn weakness — at c3 or d4. But he has planned to send his knight forward to e5, from where it will attack the whole of Black's position.

25 Nd3 Nc4
26 Rf3 Qg5
27 a3?

A two-fold error! Firstly, White in no way prevents the ...b5-b4 break, and therefore wastes a tempo in vain. Secondly, he allows the black queen into the heart of his position. After the possible (but not obligatory) 27 Rd1 b4 28 b3 Nd6 29 Ne5 White maintains the dynamic equilibrium. On 29...Rc8, even 30 c4 is possible. In all these cases White is saved by his outpost at e5.

Now, however, the situation becomes more complicated.

27 ... Qd2!
28 Qf1

Reluctantly, White has to retreat his strongest piece. On 28 Re1, for example, there could follow 28...Qxe2 29 Rxe2 b4! 30 cxb4 axb4, when neither 31 Nxb4? Rxb4, nor 31 axb4 Nxb2!, is possible.

28 ... b4

Larsen is seized with impatience — let's make the break-through quickly, while it is still possible! This is understandable to anyone who for a long time has endured the boredom of a war of manoeuvre, in the expectation of exciting events! It turns out, however, that the break-through leads merely to a premature reduction of forces after a short skirmish. And after all, this break-through would not have run away, and it could have been prepared more carefully. For example, by 28...Rb6, depriving in advance the white knight

of the square c6, which is now available to it, to Ljubovejic's joy.

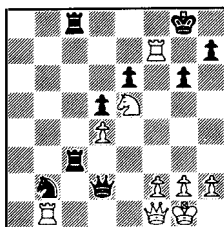
29 a×b4 a×b4
30 N×b4 N×b2
31 Nc6!

By a circular route the white knight nevertheless reaches the desired square e5, and this neutralizes all Black's efforts.

31 ... Rb3
32 Ne5 R×c3

In the event of 32...Ra7 or 32...f5, even 33 c4! is sufficient, when White successfully gets rid of his weakness at c3.

33 R×f7 Rac8



34 Re7!

Parrying the threat of 34...Rc1, on which there follows 35 Re8+!

34 ... Q×d4
35 R×e6 Qf4
36 Re1 d4

Black's last hope is his passed pawn, but the white pieces have become too active. In the first place, the mighty queen breaks out at last from its tedious exile into the 'open field'.

37 Qb5! Rc1

Reconciling himself to the inevitable; White now gives perpetual check.

38 Re8+ R×e8
39 Q×e8+ Kg7
40 Qe7+ Kg8

After 40...Kh6 Black could even have lost: 41 Ng4+! Kh5 (41...Q×g4 42 R×c1)

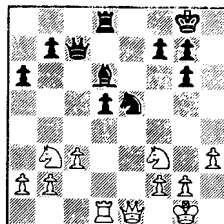
42 Q×h7+! K×g4 43 Q×g6+, and mates.

41 Qe8+ Kg7
42 Qd7+
Drawn.

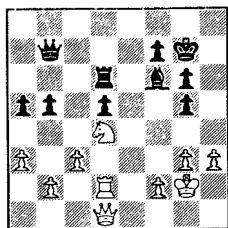
Game No. 48 French Defence

Hort Portisch

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nd2 c5
4 Ngf3 Nc6
5 exd5 exd5
6 Bb5 Bd6
7 d×c5 B×c5
8 0-0 Nge7
9 Nb3 Bd6
10 Bg5 0-0
11 Re1 Qc7
12 c3 a6
13 Bd3 Bg4
14 h3 Bh5
15 Be2 Rfe8
16 B×e7 N×e7
17 Nfd4 Bg6
18 Bd3 Nc6
19 B×g6 R×e1+
20 Q×e1 h×g6
21 Nf3 Rd8
22 Rd1 Ne5



23 N×e5 B×e5
24 Rd3 Bf6
25 Qd1 Qc4
26 g3 g5
27 a3 Qb5
28 Rd2 g6
29 Nc1 Kg7
30 Ne2 Re8
31 Kg2 a5
32 Ng1 Rd8
33 Nf3 Rd6
34 Nh2 Qc6
35 Nf3 b5
36 Nd4 Qb7



37 b4 axb4
 38 axb4 Rd8
 39 Qe2 Rb8
 40 Qd3 Qb6
 41 Qf3 Rd8
 42 Rd3 Rd6
 43 Kh2 Rd8
 44 Qe3 Rb8
 45 Qf3 Rd8
 46 Kg1 Qb7
 47 Kg2 Qb6
 48 Nc2 Qc7

Drawn.

Game No. 49 Queen's Indian Defence

Spassky Tal
(Notes by Tal)

That day it was perfectly obvious that Boris would be very aggressively inclined. And the variation chosen by him emphasized unequivocally his desire for a full-scale battle.

1 d4 Nf6
 2 c4 e6
 3 Nf3 b6
 4 e3

The Queen's Indian Defence is an opening which until recently had a very quiet reputation. Sometimes in newspaper reports one would even read phrases of the type: "The players used the Queen's Indian Defence for peaceful aims". However, at present a certain revaluation of values is taking place. In particular, this opening is frequently and highly successfully employed by Karpov.

There is no denying that White, if he wishes, can play with a high degree of solidity (the move which best answers this aim is 4 g3). But, I repeat, peaceableness on the part of my opponent was the last thing I expected in this game.

4 ... Bb7
 5 Bd3 d5
 6 b3

This move is no better and no worse than 6 0-0. The only slight nuance, perhaps, is that White does not allow his opponent the possibility of carrying out relieving operations such as 6... dxc4 and 7...c5.

6 ... Bd6
 7 0-0 0-0
 8 Bb2 Nbd7
 9 Nbd2 Qe7
 10 Rc1 Rad8

Up to this point the moves have been more or less obligatory. Both sides deploy their forces as well as possible prior to the impending battle. 10... Ne4 was the alternative. However, I did not particularly care for the position after 11 Qc2 f5 12 Ne5. With his last, consolidating move, Black invites the opponent to determine the position of his queen. In reply to 11 Qe2 I was now planning to play 11... Ne4, while after the continuation chosen by Spassky, I thought that the advance of the 'c' pawn would gain in strength.

11 Qc2 c5
 12 cxd5

The other, approximately equivalent possibility was 12 Rfd1. Against it I had prepared 12...cxd4 13 exd4 Rc8. In such situations the loss of a tempo is not particularly significant.

12 ... exd5
 13 dxc5

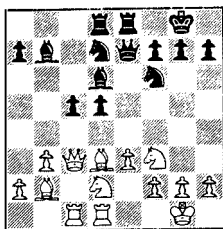
But this exchange, I think, is bad. The weakness of the hanging pawns is not apparent at all, and Black's pieces operate together most harmoniously. Stronger, in my opinion, was 13 Bb5 or 13 Bf5.

13 ... bxc5
 14 Qc3

And this is simply a challenge... . When after the game I asked Spassky about the motives which prompted him to make this move, he spread his hands: "A beggar isn't afraid of being robbed".

The idea of a pawn break-through now becomes very possible. I spent some time examining the immediate 14...d4, and came to the conclusion that for the moment it did not promise anything real, and so, guided by general considerations, I brought into play my last 'sleeping' piece.

14 ... Rfe8
15 Rfd1



That day it would seem that Boris was betrayed by his sense of danger. I expected 15 Rfe1, in reply to which I was planning to consider seriously 15...c4 (16 bxc4 Bb4 17 Qc2 dxc4). But now White himself provokes the break-through in the centre, and Black's pieces are so ideally placed that there is no sense in delaying it.

15 ... d4
16 exd4 cxd4
17 Qa5

Whether it was good or bad, White should have accepted the pawn sacrifice. It is true that 17 Qxd4 loses material after 17...Nc5, but in the event of 17 Nxd4 I saw no forced way for developing the attack. For the sake of my conscience, so to speak, I had prepared a reserve possibility — 17...Qe5 18 N4f3 Qh5, with full compensation for the pawn, but even so I would probably not have been able to resist the temptation — it is not often that the possibility occurs of sacrificing a bishop at h2 in meetings at grandmaster level. But here things are not completely clear. After 17...Bxh2+ 18 Kxh2 Ng4+ 19 Kg3 (bad is 19 Kg1 Qh4 20 N4f3 Qxf2+ 21 Kh1 Re5! 22 Bf5 Ne3) 19...Qe5+ 20 f4 (after 30 Kxg4 Nf6+ White is mated) 20...Qe3+ 21 N4f3 Ndf6 Black's attack is very dangerous, but White is by no means doomed (there is the possi-

bility of 22 Bxh7+, for instance).

At any event, the continuation chosen by Spassky is bad. Firstly, because the 'condemned' pawn is for the moment still alive, and in addition, the position of the queen on the 5th rank shortly gives Black the opportunity to decisively include, with gain of tempo, his rook in the attack.

17 ... Ne5
18 Nxe5

18 Re1 was perhaps slightly more tenacious, although Black has a very attractive choice between 18...Bxf3 and 18...Nxd3!?

18 ... Bxe5
19 Nc4

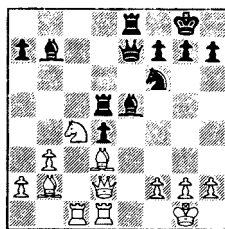
Black's attack develops a little more slowly, but probably just as effectively, after 19 Nf1 Nd5 20 Ng3 Nf4 21 Bf1 h5.

19 ... Rd5

Here it is, the decisive tempo. For the bishop sacrifice everything is ready.

20 Qd2

I was expecting 20 Ba3 (with the idea of driving the queen from the d8-h4 diagonal), which is decisively met by 20...Qe6 21 Qd2 Bxh2+! 22 Kxh2 Rh5+ 23 Kg1 Rh1+!, with mate in two moves.



20 ... Bxh2+

A familiar theme in a slightly new setting.

21 Kxh2 Rh5+!

Evidently White was counting only on

21...Ng4+ 22 Kg3, but now the way forward for the king is blocked. In reply to 22 Kg3, immediately decisive is 22...Ne4+ (however, 22...Rg5+ is also good) 23 Bxe4 Qh4+.

22 Kg1 Ng4

Against the two threats — the prosaic 23...Qh4 and the elegant 23...Rh1+ (in reply to, say, 23 Re1) — there is no defence.

White resigns.

Game No. 50 Queen's Indian Defence

Timman Kavalek
(Notes by Gufeld)

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	g3	Ba6
5	b3	

Opening theory is unanimous in considering the best reaction to Black's audacious bishop move to be the equally aggressive queen sortie — 5 Qa4. But in practice it is sometimes more advantageous to make a less committing move, so as to avoid immediately any possible 'mine' prepared by the opponent in the main line of the variation.

5 ... Bb4+

The books recommend 5...d5, although in this case too it is not so easy for Black to equalize. There comes to mind a game of mine played in 1969 against B. Katalimov (Black), where after 6 Bg2 Bb4+ 7 Bd2 Bd6 8 Nc3 c6 9 0-0 dxc4 10 bxc4 Bxc4 11 Ne5 White gained a considerable positional advantage.

6	Bd2	Be7
7	Nc3	

After 7 Bg2 an interesting variation is possible, disclosing one of the subtleties of Black's plan associated with the manoeuvre ...Bb4-e7: 7...d5 8 Ne5 0-0 9 0-0 c6!, and White is unable to make the vitally necessary move 10 Nc3, since after 10...dxc4 the d4 pawn is attacked. This, in particular, is why Black has to

lure the white bishop to d2 — so that it obstructs there its own queen. Similarly, nothing is achieved by 10 Bc3 Nfd7!

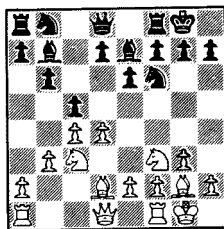
Therefore White brings out his queen's knight straight away.

7 ... Bb7

While the 'shuttle' development of the king's bishop to e7 via b4 was well-founded, analogous play with the queen's bishop in the given situation is unjustified. Especially since Black has at his disposal an exact plan, one of the important links of which is in fact the position of the bishop at a6 — 7...c6 8 Bg2 (nothing is achieved by 8 d5 cxd5 9 cxd5 exd5 followed by ...Nc6!, or 8 e4 d5 9 e5 Ne4!) 8...d5 9 0-0 0-0 10 Bf4 Nbd7, and a position is reached from the Catalan Opening, where Black manages to develop his forces successfully. For example, 11 cxd5 can even be met by 11...Nxd5! 12 Bd2 Rc8, and Black has no cause for complaint (Popov-Taimanov, 1976).

It should be mentioned that this particular move order — first ...c7-c6 and then ...d7-d5 — is necessary, since the immediate 7...d5 can be met by 8 cxd5! exd5 9 Bg2 0-0 10 0-0 Nbd7 11 Ne5!, and the resulting position is favourable to White, as was shown by one of the games from the Petrosian-Korchnoi Candidates' Quarter-Final Match (Ciocco 1977).

8	Bg2	0-0
9	0-0	c5



10	d5!	exd5
11	Ng5	

A typical strategem, which consolidates White's opening gains. In view of the positional threat of Nh3-f4xd5, Black must force his opponent to capture on

d5 with the pawn, but to achieve this he has to develop his pieces on not altogether convenient squares.

11 ... Na6

This illustrates what was said above. Black would have been happier to post his knight at d7, but after 11...d6 12 Nh3 Nd7 13 Nf4 White would seize d5 with a piece. Now this commanding height will be guarded by the knight from c7. Alas, on this square the queen's knight will be restricted to rear-guard service...

12 cxd5 d6
13 e4 Nd7
14 h4

This optimistic advance provokes conflicting feelings. On the one hand, White consolidates his spatial gains, and threatens in some cases to advance this pawn further. But on the other — was there the necessity for such a 'front line spurt', creating certain weaknesses in White's position (for example, in the event of f2-f4), when he could have managed without it, while carrying out the same plan as in the game?

14 ... Nc7
15 a4 h6
16 Nf3 Bf6
17 Rcl Ne5
18 Bf4 Ng6
19 Be3 Re8

White's positional advantage is obvious. Both Black's knights and his queen's bishop are extremely badly placed, and he has not even a glimmer of counter-play on the Q-side. But White's advantage is, apparently, not yet decisive. Whatever aggressive plan he chooses, Black should always be able to find a defence. For example, the standard transfer of the knight to c4 suggests itself, but achieves nothing: 20 Nd2 Ba6 21 Nc4 (21 Re1 Ne5!) 21...Ne5 22 Nxe5 Bxe5 23 Re1 b5!, and Black's position is enlivened.

20 h5

This plan possibly creates for Black the greatest difficulties in defence. But

chess is a paradoxical game. Many moves later it turns out that this pawn is confidently heading to meet its doom. It has long been noticed that it is impossible to gain winning chances against an opponent who plays correctly, without allowing him counter-chances. Do you want to win? Take risks!

20 ... Ne5
21 Nxe5 dxe5

A debatable decision. As a matter of principle, I would find it unpleasant to make a move which blocked the a1-h8 diagonal for my black-squared bishop. I would possibly have begun assiduously calculating the sharp variations after 21...Bxe5 22 f4 Bf6 23 e5 dxe5 24 d6 exf4!?, or 24 f5 Bg5, etc. I think that Black ought not to lose. But now his position seems to be very difficult. The powerful passed pawn at d5 cuts Black's forces in two. His Q-side pawns, deprived of their fundamental support — the d6 pawn, have been transformed from a strength into a weakness. The blockading square for the knight at d6 is inadequate compensation for these defects. And only the fact that White's K-side has been weakened by the advance of his 'h' pawn makes it at all difficult for him to realize his big advantage.

22 Na2!

Threatening 23 b4, which forces Black to weaken his position still further.

22 ... a5

Now Black's Q-side is altogether crippled.

23 Nc3 Rf8

Black's one counter-chance is by ...f7-f5 to undermine the opposing K-side, which, in view of the weakness at h5, requires constant attention on White's part. But the Dutch grandmaster appears to be not even looking in that direction.

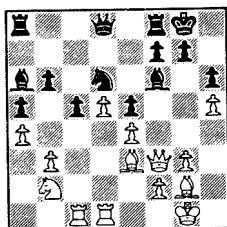
24 Qf3?

Vacating the 'd' file for a rook, and the square d1 for the knight manoeuvre

Nd1-b2-c4. But the immediate Nb1-d2(a3)-c4 deserved consideration, saving a tempo. Now Black is just in time to create counter-play.

24	...	Ne8
25	Nd1	Nd6
26	Nb2	Ba6
27	Rfd1	

The logical continuation appeared to be 27 Nc4?, tying Black to the defence of his weaknesses. But after 27...Bxc4 28 bxc4 Bg5!, White's weaknesses are also revealed.



27 ... Bg5!

Black's remaining minor pieces will be stronger than their white opponents. Therefore White should have immediately begun exchanging them by 28 Bf1!, and after the inevitable disappearance of the bishops he could at last bring his knight to c4. After 28...f5 29 exf5 Rxf5 30 Qg4 a double-edged battle would flare up.

28 Bxc5?

This allows the black queen to dominate the position on the K-side. One senses that White has imperceptibly lost the thread of the game, and that the sharp change in the situation on the board has caused him to become dismayed.

28	...	Qxg5
29	Bh3	

It is already impossible to forestall the break-through. For example, 29 g4 g6!, and White's K-side is completely compromised. He attempts at any rate to activate his passed d5 pawn.

29	...	f5
30	exf5	Nxf5

31	Bxf5	Rxf5
32	Qe4	Raf8
33	Rc2	Qxh5

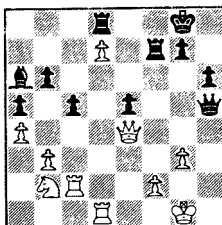
White has no compensation for the pawn, and more important — his knight cannot come into play from b2, to where it went in vain so long ago. All that remains is to advance the passed pawn.

34	d6	R5f7
----	----	------

Defending and attacking (35...Bb7! is threatened).

35	d7	Rd8
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The passed pawn is halted, and must soon fall.



36	Rcd2	Qf3!
37	Qxf3	Rxf3
38	Nc4	

Now all that White achieves by this move is that he prolongs the inevitable by some ten moves.

38	...	Bxc4
39	bxc4	Rc3
40	Re1	Rxc4
41	Rxe5	Kf7

The sealed move. On resumption Black easily realized his material and positional advantage.

42	Rd3	Rxa4
43	Rf3+	Kg6
44	Re7	Rd4
45	Rff7	Rg8
46	Rf4	Rxf4
47	gxf4	

Or 47 Re8 Rd4! It would have been simpler for White to resign.

47	...	Rd8
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48 Re6+ Kf5
White resigns

ROUND 11

25th April

Timman	(4½)	0	-	1	Karpov (7)
Kavalek	(2½)	½	-	½	Spassky (3½)
Tal	(7)	½	-	½	Hort (4½)
Portisch	(6½)	½	-	½	Ljubojevic (6)
Larsen	(3)	½	-	½	Hübner (5½)

Standings after eleven rounds: Karpov - 8; Tal - 7½; Portisch - 7; Ljubojevic - 6½; Hübner - 6; Hort - 5; Timman - 4½; Spassky - 4; Larsen - 3½; Kavalek - 3.

Who would have thought that Karpov would be so 'unforgiving': he also won his second game against Timman. However, in the given case the Dutchman was an innocent victim - he was caught on the rebound by an opening variation which had been prepared by the World Champion for the match in Baguio. Opening books of recent years unanimously evaluate the position after 11 Bb2 with the sign '+'. Karpov's simple but paradoxical reply forces this evaluation to be radically changed. Right to the end of the tournament the grandmasters analysed this continuation, seeking equality for White. Perhaps someone managed to do this, but during the game Timman did not succeed in equalizing. On the 14th move he tacitly offered a draw, and his opponent equally tacitly declined the offer, by making the quiet move 14...Re8 (instead of 14...N×h2). Then, instead of an unpromising game in a difficult position, Timman preferred a short tactical skirmish (having probably under-estimated Black's 17th move). When the 'smoke had cleared', it turned out that Black had both a material advantage and a decisive attack.

The tournament in Montreal was intended to be a distinguished and, so to speak, exhibition event. But at any event it was also one of the steps in the preparations of all the competitors, without exception, in the battle for the World Championship. It was probably this that Portisch was thinking about when, in his meeting with Ljubojevic, he untypically avoided a theoretical discussion. Instead of 15 Re1, he chose 15 Rd1, which assured him merely of a comfortable existence. Knowing the character of the Hungarian grandmaster, it can be expected that in Brazil he will choose something more topical.

The Czech grandmaster again showed his great mastery in defence. At first his game with Tal was roughly equal, but an inaccuracy by Black on his 17th move (he should have played 17...exf4) led to Tal seizing the initiative completely. It would seem that in his preliminary calculations Hort under-estimated the move 23 Nh5!, but subsequently he succeeded in demonstrating miracles of resourcefulness. He was possibly also helped to some extent by his opponent. Instead of 37 Ke3, much more dangerous for Black would have been 37 Kg3. The adjourned position appeared very difficult for Hort, but on resumption I was unable to demonstrate the advantages of my position.

Throughout his game with Hübner, Larsen played sharply for a win. I think that at

some point, shortly after the opening, Black incorrectly settled for the rôle of defender. Having set himself a limited goal — that of gradually equalizing — Hübner succeeded in achieving it.

As often happens, one of the variations of the Ruy Lopez, played in the game between two experts on it — Spassky and Kavalek, led to a highly complicated strategic struggle. The Ex-World Champion successfully parried White's threats on the K-side, and by the interval had gained a slight advantage. It would appear that Spassky's sealed move was not an altogether happy one. Instead of 41...g5, 41...Bf5 deserved serious consideration. The draw was agreed in a very sharp position.

Game No. 51 English Opening

Timman Karpov
(Notes by Karpov)

1 c4 Nf6
2 Nc3 e5
3 Nf3 Nc6
4 e3

The continuation 4 g3 Bb4 underwent an intensive testing in Baguio, and so Timman chooses a different variation of the English Opening.

4 ... Be7

The move 4...Bb4 is very popular here, and now 5 Qc2 0-0 6 Nd5 Re8 (in a game from the Amsterdam tournament the previous year, Timman himself, with Black against Adorjan, continued 6...a5 7 a3 Bc5 8 Ng5 g6 9 Nxf6+ Qxf6 10 Ne4 Qe7 11 Be2 d6 12 b3 Ba7 13 0-0 f5 14 Nc3 f4 15 Nd5 Qg5 16 Kh1 Bh3 17 gxh3 f3 18 Bxf3 Rxf3 19 Qe4 Raf8, but after 20 Qg4 White retained a slight advantage) 7 Qf5. It is in this direction that theoretical searchings have developed in recent times. Thus Romanishin, as Black against Kasparov (46th USSR Championship, Premier League, 1978), employed here an interesting, but hardly correct pawn sacrifice: 7...Be7?! 8 Nxe5 Nb4 9 Nxb4 Bxb4 10 a3!? d5?! (White also has the advantage after 10...d6 11 Qc2 Bxd2+ 12 Bxd2 dxe5) 11 Qc2 Rxe5 12 axb4 Bf5 13 d3 Qe7 14 Bd2 d4 15 Be2 dxe3 16 fxe3 Bg4 17 Bf3!, and in the end the complications proved favourable for White.

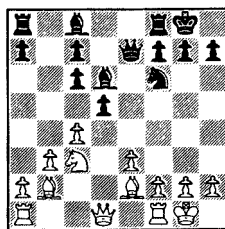
5 d4 exd4
6 Nxd4 0-0
7 Nxc6

Also possible is 7 Be2, delaying the exchange on c6. Thus after 7...Re8 8 0-0 Bf8 9 b3 d6 10 Bb2 Bd7 11 Rc1 Nxd4 12 Qxd4 c6 13 Rfd1 (Stein-Garcia, Lone Pine, 1978), White retained an opening advantage.

7 ... bxc6
8 Be2 d5
9 0-0 Bd6

All the indications are that Black is well placed both in the centre, and on both of the flanks. It is important for him merely to co-ordinate the action of his pieces.

10 b3 Qe7
11 Bb2



11 ... dxc4!

This idea was suggested by I. Zaitsev during preparations for the World Championship Match. On general grounds it may seem rather dubious, but from the specific, tactical point of view it is completely justified.

Black's main problem is to expand to the maximum extent the scope of his well placed pieces, and to direct them towards an attack on the K-side. It should be said that a K-side pawn structure, such as White has in the

present game, is always a favourable one against which to mount a piece attack.

The earlier continuation here was 11...Rd8 12 cxd5 Qe5 13 g3 Bh3 14 Re1 Bb4 15 Qc2 Bf5 15 Qc1 cxd5 17 Bf3 Qe7 18 a3 Ba5 19 b4 Bb6 20 Nxd5!, which led to an undisputed advantage for White (Keene-Jansson, Haifa Olympiad, 1976).

12 bxc4

After the capture with the bishop, Black, in view of the weakening of White's control of g4, acquires all sorts of attacking possibilities, such as 12...Qe5 13 g3 Bh3, 12...Ng4 13 g3 Nxh2, or even 12...Bxh2! But now the queen's rook comes into play with gain of tempo.

12 ... Rb8!

White already has to be on his guard: double attacks are in the air. For example, 13 Rb1? Rxb2 14 Rxb2 Qe5, etc.

13 Qc1 Ng4

Black's attack develops easily and spontaneously. White has not even a trace of an advantage left; on the contrary, he has to follow with anxiety the development of events on the K-side.

14 g3

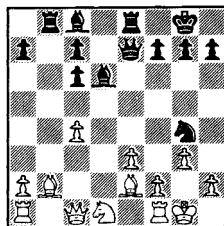
As Kholmov correctly points out in his notes to this game, after 14 Bxg4 Bxg4 15 Re1 Black can increase the pressure by 15...Rb4!

14 ... Re8

Of course, 14...Nxh2 15 Kxh2 Qh4+ could have been played immediately, forcing a draw, but I already had every justification for playing for a win. After 14...Re8 the combination with the knight sacrifice on h2 will not be so inoffensive, since the rook can be brought up with decisive effect onto the 6th rank (15...Nxh2 16 Kxh2 Qh4+ 17 Kg2 Qh3+ 18 Kgl Bxg3 19 fxg3 Qxg3+ 20 Kh1 Re6, etc.).

15 Nd1

I think that White is also in trouble after 15 Bf3, as recommended by certain commentators. For example: 15...Qf6 (15...Ne5 16 Be2 Bh3 17 Rd1 is less clear) 16 Bxg4 (bad is 16 Bg2 Qh6 17 h3 Ne5, etc.) 16...Bxg4 17 f3 Bh3 18 Rf2 Qg6, with a strong initiative for Black.



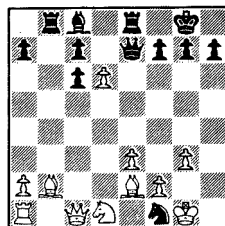
15 ... Nxh2!

A sacrifice, by which Black increases his advantage. Timman foresaw this move, of course, but was pinning his hopes on the strength of his answering intermediate move. However, before beginning the combination I had taken account of all the possible tactical nuances.

16 c5

Of course, not 16 Kxh2 Qh4+ 17 Kg2 Qh3+ 18 Kgl Bxg3 19 fxg3 Qxg3+ 20 Kh1 Re4! (20...Re6 21 Bf6) 21 Rf4 Bh3, and it is all over for White.

16 ... Nxfl!
17 cxd6



17 ... Nxg3!

It was this blow, completing the destruction of White's K-side, which my opponent did not foresee in his calculations. The black knight acts with unusual energy. Since 18 dxe7

Nxe2+ 19 Kf1 Nxc1 is completely hopeless for White, he has no choice.

18 f×g3 Qxd6
19 Kf2

Equally cheerless is 19 Kg2 Qh6 20 g4 Qg5 (or 20...Rb4).

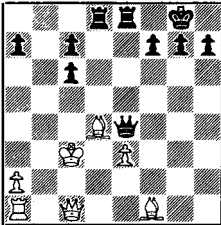
19 ... Qh6
20 Bd4

Or 20 Qc3 Re6, bringing up new reserves into the attack.

20 ... Qh2+
21 Ke1 Q×g3+

White's days are numbered. Black has a very strong initiative and a big material advantage.

22 Kd2 Qg2
23 Nb2 Ba6
24 Nd3 B×d3
25 K×d3 Rbd8
26 Bf1 Qe4+
27 Kc3



27 ... c5!

Clearing the final approaches to the white king. This is the quickest way to win.

28 B×c5 Qc6
29 Kb3 Rb8+
30 Ka3 Re5
31 Bb4 Qb6

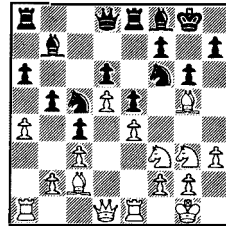
White resigns

Game No. 52 Ruy Lopez

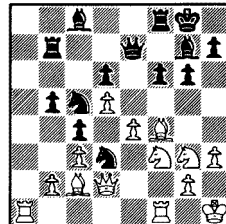
Kavalek Spassky

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6

3 Bb5 a6
4 Ba4 Nf6
5 O-O Be7
6 Re1 b5
7 Bb3 d6
8 c3 O-O
9 h3 Nb8
10 d4 Nbd7
11 Nbd2 Bb7
12 Bc2 Re8
13 Nf1 Bf8
14 Ng3 g6
15 a4 c5
16 d5 c4
17 Bg5 Nc5

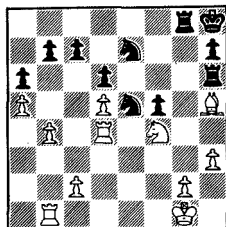


18 Qd2 Be7
19 Bh6 Nfd7
20 Nh2 Rb8
21 Rf1 Bc8
22 a×b5 a×b5
23 Kh1 Bf8
24 Bg5 Be7
25 Be3 Bf8
26 Ng4 Qe7
27 Bg5 f6
28 Be3 Bg7
29 Nh2 Rb7
30 Ra5 Qd8
31 Ra2 Qe7
32 Ne2 Nb6
33 Ng3 Rf8
34 f4 e×f4
35 B×f4 Nbd7
36 Nf3 Ne5
37 Raa1 Ned3



38 b4 Nxe4
 39 Nxe4 Qxe4
 40 Bxd3 cxd3
 41 Rad1 g5
 42 Bg3 Bf5
 43 Qa2

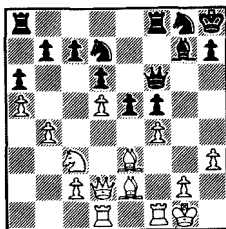
Drawn.



Game No. 53 Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence

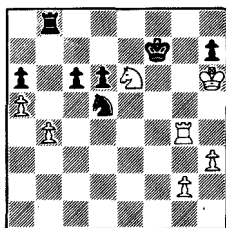
Tal *Hort*

1 e4 d6
 2 d2 Nf6
 3 Nc3 g6
 4 Nf3 Bg7
 5 Be2 O-O
 6 O-O Bg4
 7 Be3 Nc6
 8 Qd2 e5
 9 d5 Nb8
 10 Rad1 Nbd7
 11 h3 Bxf3
 12 Bxf3 Kh8
 13 a4 Ng8
 14 Be2 a6
 15 a5 Qe7
 16 b4 f5
 17 exf5 gxf5
 18 f4 Qf6



19 fxe5 Qxe5
 20 Bd4 Qxd4+
 21 Qxd4 Bxd4+
 22 Rxd4 Ne5
 23 Bh5 Ne7
 24 Ne2 Rf6
 25 Nf4 Rg8
 26 Rb1 Rh6

27 Kf2 N7g6
 28 Bxg6 Nxg6
 29 Ne6 Ne5
 30 b5 Rhg6
 31 Nf4 Rg3
 32 bxa6 bxa6
 33 Rb3 Rxb3
 34 cxb3 Rb8
 35 b4 Rc8
 36 Ne6 Kg8
 37 Ke3 c6
 38 Kf4 Ng6+
 39 Kxf5 Ne7+
 40 Kg5 Nxd5
 41 Kh6 Rb8
 42 Rg4+ Kf7



43 Re4 Ke7
 44 Nd4+ Kd7
 45 Rg4 Ne7
 46 Rg7 Re8
 47 Kxh7 c5
 48 bxc5 dxc5
 49 Nf3 Kc6
 50 Rg5 Nd5
 51 Ne5+ Kb5
 52 Nf7 Re7
 53 Kg6 Rd7
 54 Ne5 Rd6+
 55 Kf5 Ne7+
 56 Ke4 Rd4+
 57 Kf3 Nd5
 58 Nd7

Drawn.

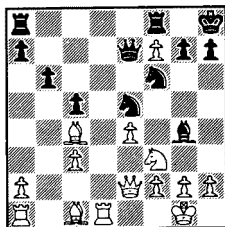
Game No. 54 Nimzo-Indian Defence

Portisch Ljubojevic
(Notes by Tal)

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	e3	O-O
5	Bd3	d5
6	Nf3	c5
7	O-O	dxc4
8	Bxc4	Nbd7
9	Qe2	b6
10	d5	Bxc3
11	dxe6	Ne5
12	exf7+	Kh8
13	bxc3	Bg4
14	e4	Qe7

All this is well known, and it is considered that White does not gain any advantage after 15 Re1 b5 16 Bxb5 Nh5.

15 Rd1



It turns out that this is not a particularly important improvement, since after a few moves White quickly loses his extra material.

15	...	Nxc4
16	Qxc4	Qxe4
17	Qxe4	Nxe4
18	Rd3	

This move ensures White against any danger.

18	...	Bxf3
19	Rxf3	Nf6
20	Bg5	Rxf7
21	Rd1	Re8
22	Kf1	Kg8
23	Bxf6	gxf6
24	Rd6	Kg7
25	Rf4	Rfe7
26	g3	Re6

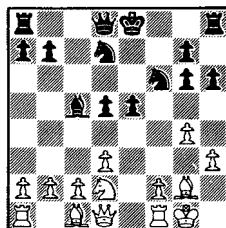
White had declined a draw somewhere in the region of the 20th move, but now he himself offered one.

Drawn.

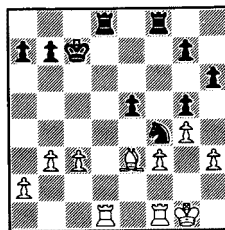
Game No. 55 Reti Opening

Larsen Hübner

1	g3	d5
2	Bg2	Nf6
3	Nf3	c6
4	d3	Bg4
5	Nbd2	Nbd7
6	h3	Bh5
7	e4	e5
8	exd5	cxd5
9	g4	Bg6
10	Nh4	h6
11	Nxg6	fxc6
12	O-O	Bc5



13	d4	Bxd4
14	Nb3	Qb6
15	c3	Bc5
16	Bxd5	Nxd5
17	Qxd5	O-O-O
18	Nxc5	Nxc5
19	Qc4	Qc7
20	Be3	Nd3
21	Qxc7+	Kxc7
22	b3	g5
23	Rad1	Rhf8
24	f3	Nf4



25	Bxf4	gxf4
26	Kf2	b5
27	h4	Rd6
28	Rfe1	g5
29	Rh1	Rxd1
30	Rxd1	Kc6
31	h×g5	h×g5
32	c4	b×c4
33	b×c4	Rh8
34	Rd5	Rh2+
35	Ke1	Rxa2
36	Rxe5	Ra1+
37	Ke2	Ra2+
38	Kd3	Ra3+
39	Kd4	Rxf3
40	R×g5	Rg3
41	Rg8	a5
42	g5	a4
43	Ra8	

Drawn.

ROUND 12

27th April

Karpov	(8)	0	-	1	Larsen (3½)
Hübner	(6)	½	-	½	Portisch (7)
Ljubojevic	(6½)	½	-	½	Tal (7½)
Hort	(5)	½	-	½	Kavalek (3)
Spassky	(4)	½	-	½	Timman (4½)

Standings after twelve rounds: Karpov, Tal - 8; Portisch - 7½; Ljubojevic - 7; Hübner - 6½; Hort - 5½; Timman - 5; Larsen, Spassky - 4½; Kavalek - 3½.

Every defeat of a World Champion is taken to be a sensation, and the Canadians were no exception. Otherwise it is difficult to explain the decision of the jury to award Larsen the second prize 'for brilliancy'. It appears that the winner himself was surprised.

The Danish grandmaster chose the Scandinavian Defence*, and this was by no means just to demonstrate his nationality. The World Champion handled the opening in original fashion, and gained a spatial advantage, but to find the key to Black's position was not easy. Karpov's sense of danger seemed to be dulled, and weaknesses began to appear in his position. However, had he played 31 h×g5, I think that his position would have remained the more promising. After this error came another one. White's 36th move was a mistake, whereas after 36 Qe2 he would have retained quite good chances. The counter-attack was handled irreproachably by Larsen.

Spassky-Timman was a sharp, genuinely fighting game. The players continued their dispute on the theme of 'The Grünfeld Defence'. Spassky has frequently, and very successfully, refuted the system chosen by Black, by straightforwardly occupying the centre with pawns. One recalls his brilliant victory over Fischer at the Siegen Olympiad (1970). Timman, on the other hand, has repeatedly upheld the viability of this system for Black. For a long time both players were at their best; White's attack and Black's defence balanced each other out. The game should have ended in a draw. But the Ex-World Champion over-rated his chances, riskily sacrificed a pawn, and only after the adjournment, by practically the only way possible, saved the draw.

The peaceful (in the opinion of the chess public) variation of the Ruy Lopez, chosen by Ljubojevic against Tal, came as a surprise to Black. He decided that his opponent wanted a draw, but he was mistaken. This psychological mistake was followed by a purely chess one (12...B×f3?). Soon Ljubojevic too made a mistake: 16 g3, instead of 16 h3 as played, would have given White a substantial advantage, despite the apparent simplicity of the position. Tactical complications began, the white pieces were left hanging in the centre, and Ljubojevic was unable to avoid a repetition of moves.

*Another name for the Centre Counter Game (K.P.N.)

A drawn result was reached without any great excitement in the games Hübner-Portisch and Hort-Kavalek.

Game No. 56 Centre Counter Game

Karpov Larsen
(Notes by Hartston)

1 e4 d5
2 exd5 Qxd5!?

This move has been frowned upon for many years. For some time 2...Nf6 was fashionable, but the whole defence is now considered rather dubious. The pawn formation obtained is similar to that of the Caro-Kann, but Black loses time with his queen.

3 Nc3 Qa5
4 d4 Nf6
5 Bd2

An unpretentious move, but still enough to keep the advantage. The usual continuation is 5 Nf3 Bg4 when Black usually finds himself conceding the bishop pair and remaining with a somewhat passive position.

5 ... Bg4
6 Be2 Bxe2
7 Ncxe2!?

White's strategy is based on his pawn on d4 giving him more space. His intention is a general advance of Q-side pawns. This move facilitates that advance, but it is still surprising to see Karpov playing the middlegame before finishing the opening.

7 ... Qb6
8 Nf3 Nbd7
9 O-O e6
10 c4 Be7

Black's development could not stand his taking the 'b' pawn; 10...Qxb2 11 Nc3 gives White too easy a game to play.

11 b4! O-O

11...Bxb4? 12 Rb1 wins a piece for White. Now, however, White has a clear advantage in space.

12 a4 c6

13 Qc2 Qc7
14 Rfe1 b6

Black does not like to open the position with 14...e5?! 15 dxe5 Nxe5 16 Nxe5 Qxe5 17 Ng3 Qc7 18 Nf5 with a powerful attacking position.

15 a5 Rfb8
16 a6?!

This is consistent with his previous move, but the whole plan seems suspect. Black has no real weaknesses in his position, so Karpov is content just to gain space. As a result, however, he lets his pawns become fixed on the same colour squares as his bishop.

16 ... b5!

Well signalled by his previous move and ensuring that the d4 and b4 pawns stay put.

17 c5 Nd5
18 Nc1 Re8
19 Nd3 Rad8
20 g3 Bf6
21 Re4 Nf8

The position is now perhaps slightly in White's favour. His bishop is bad, but his extra space is a big plus. Black will find it hard to play actively from such a cramped position. White must seek to restrict him further by advancing the centre pawns, but, with the benefit of hindsight, we may say that this is not a policy without risk, since the advancing pawns leave weaknesses behind themselves.

22 h4 Rd7
23 Kg2 Red8
24 g4 Re8

As long as Black has no weaknesses he is content. All the time he retains his better bishop and is ready for any opening of the position,

25 g5 Bd8
26 Nfe5 Rde7

27 Bf4 Qc8

36 ... Bxh4!

37 Qe2

Of course Black does not take the bishop; if White had no bad bishop Black would have nothing to play for.

37 Bxh4 Rxd3 38 Qxd3 Nf4+ forks king and queen. Also 37 Rxd5 does not help since 37...exd5 38 Bxh4 Qh3+ wins for Black.

28 Bg3 f6!

37 ... Bxg3

The White advance has continued for long enough; it is time to fight back.

It is a wonderful sign for Black that he can even happily now exchange White's problem piece.

29 Nf3 Rf7
30 Qd2 fxg5!

38 fxg3 Qd7!

39 Qxf3

A surprising move, giving back the e5 square in return for f5. Nonetheless the move is good since it removes most of the dynamism from the white position, leaving him with a rather rigid pawn structure and still nursing the bad (if active) bishop.

This does not help, but something must be done before Black can dominate the position with 39...Qf7. 39 Rxe6 would have lost to 39...Rxd3.

31 Nxg5?

39 ... Rxf3

40 Kxf3 Nxh4!

Why this recapture? 31 hxg5 is more natural and must be better.

This puts a final touch on the destruction of White's carefully constructed empire. 41 Nxh4 Qxd4 leaves Black with queen and far too many pawns for the rooks.

31 ... Rf5
32 Ra3 Ng6

Suddenly Black has the initiative. His control of e5 prevents White from making great use of this square, while Black's own pressure is growing on the f-file.

41 Rd1 Qxd4

41...Nxh4 might have given White even less hope.

33 Nf3 Ref3
34 Nfe5 Nxe5
35 Rxe5

42 Re4 Qd5

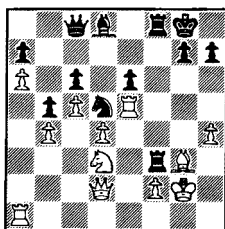
43 Nf2

After 35 Nxe5 Bc7! Black threatens to capture on e5 and leave himself with a dominating knight against the poor bishop.

Here the game was adjourned. With queen and three pawns for two rooks, Black needs only take care to ensure that he scores the full point.

35 ... Rf3
36 Ra1?

43 ... Qh5+



43...Qxc5 is the simplest path, but perhaps it is best not to seal the objectively strongest move when they all win anyway.

44 Kg2 Nd5

45 Rxe6 h6

This meets the threat of Nxh4, but overlooks something even more serious.

Larsen ensures the safety of his king before queening his 'b' pawn.

46 Rd3 Kh7

47 Rf3 b4!

48 g4

48 Rxc6 would have lost to 48...Ne3+!

49 Rxe3 Qd5+.

48 ... Qg5

49 Kg3

49 Rxc6 Nf4+ gives White the choice between 50 Kg3 Ne2+ followed by Nd4, or any other king move, met by 50...Qd5.

49 ... Qc1

50 Nh3

After 50 Rxc6 now, Black plays 50...Qg1+ 51 Kh3 b3 and White is hopelessly dis-coordinated.

50 ... Qc4

51 g5 h5!

At a stroke dealing with the problems created by White's laboriously constructed mating net.

52 Re8 h4+

53 Kg2 b3

54 Rb8 Qe2+

55 Nf2

Or 55 Rf2 Qg4+ 56 Kh2 Qg3+ winning everything.

55 ... Ne3+

White resigned

A strange game, in which Larsen's control in a passive position seemed to bemuse the World Champion into a totally false sense of security. Nonetheless a good game by the Dane who thereby equalized his personal score with Karpov.

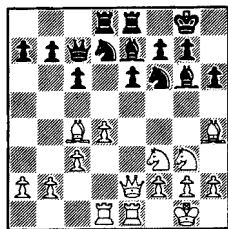
10 Re1 0-0

11 c3 Qc7

12 Bg5 h6

13 Bh4 Rad8

14 Rad1 Rfe8



15 Rd2 Bh7

16 Nf1 Ne4

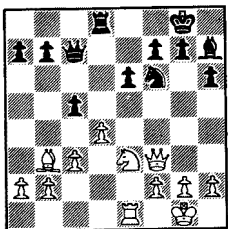
17 Bxe7 Nxd2

18 Bxd8 Nxf3+

19 Qxf3 Rxd8

20 Ne3 Nf6

21 Bb3 c5



22 dxc5 Be4

23 Qe2 Bd3

24 Qf3 Be4

25 Qe2 Bd3

Drawn.

Game No. 58 Ruy Lopez

Ljubojevic Tal

1 e4 e5

2 Nf3 Nc6

3 Bb5 a6

4 Bxc6 dxc6

5 0-0 f6

6 d4 Bg4

7 dxe5 Qxd1

8 Rxd1 fxe5

9 Rd3 Bd6

10 Nbd2 Nf6

11 b3 0-0-0

12 Bb2 Bxf3

Game No. 57 Caro-Kann Defence

Hübner Portisch

1 e4 c6

2 d4 d5

3 Nc3 dxe4

4 Nxe4 Bf5

5 Ng3 Bg6

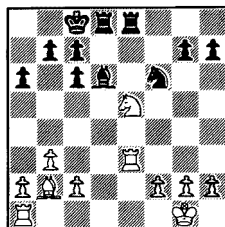
6 Nf3 Nd7

7 Bc4 e6

8 0-0 Be7

9 Qe2 Ngf6

13 Nxf3 Nxe4
 14 Re3 Nf6
 15 Nxe5 Rhe8



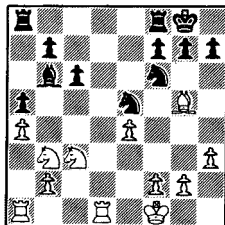
16 h3 Nd5
 17 Re4 Re6
 18 Rael Rde8
 19 a3 Nf6
 20 R4e3 Nd5
 21 Re4 Nf6
 22 R4e3 Nd5

Drawn.

Game No. 59 Queen's Gambit Accepted

Hort *Kavalek*

1 Nf3 d5
 2 d4 Nf6
 3 c4 dxc4
 4 e3 Bg4
 5 Bxc4 e6
 6 h3 Bh5
 7 Nc3 Nbd7
 8 Be2 Bd6
 9 O-O O-O
 10 e4 e5
 11 dxe5 Nxe5
 12 Nd4 Bc5
 13 Nb3 Qxd1
 14 Bxd1 Bb6
 15 a4 Bxd1
 16 Rxd1 a5
 17 Bg5 c6
 18 Kf1



Drawn.

Game No. 60 Grünfeld Defence

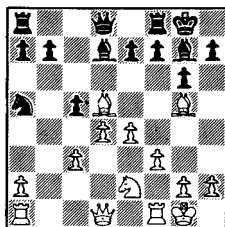
Spassky *Timman*
 (Notes by Polugayevsky)

1 d4 Nf6
 2 c4 g6
 3 Nc3 d5
 4 cxd5 Nxd5
 5 e4 Nxc3
 6 bxc3 Bg7
 7 Bc4 c5
 8 Ne2 O-O
 9 O-O Nc6
 10 Be3 Bg4
 11 f3 Na5

Normally Black resorts to this manoeuvre after first exchanging pawns on d4. But in this case, apart from the main continuation 13 Bd3, White can choose 13 Bd5, and after 13...Bd7 continue 14 Rb1. Then it is not good for Black to defend the pawn by 14...Qc8, since it is unpleasantly answered by 14 Rcl, or 15 Qd3 followed by 15 Rfc1.

By avoiding the exchange of pawns in the centre, Timman reserves for himself this possibility of ...Qc8.

12 Bd5 Bd7
 13 Bg5



Since the fact that Black has retained his pawn at c5 affords him additional chances, in the form of the threat of ...c5-c4, trapping the white bishop at d5 (after 13 Rb1 Qc8), Spassky adopts a new move. However, the idea of it is not altogether clear to me. After all, if Black had now exchanged, 13...cxd4 14 cxd4, and played 14...Bb5, a position well known to theory would have been reached, which is justifiably considered favourable for Black in view of the weakening of White's d4. And, of course, only Spassky himself can answer the question: was it improvisation at

the board, or a prepared variation?

13 ... Bb5

This indicates that Timman is already thinking of more than complete equality.

14 Rb1 Ba6!

A very strong move. One gains the impression that after 14...Qd7 White can sacrifice the exchange - 15 Rxb5 Qxb5 16 Bxe7, while in the event of 14...Bxe2 15 Qxe2 cxd4 16 cxd4 Bxd4+ 17 Khl he gains some compensation for the pawn (perhaps it was this continuation that Spassky had in mind, in making his 13th move?!). But now Black intends, without forcing matters, to drive away the bishop by ...h7-h6 and ...g6-g5, and then increase the pressure on d4.

15 f4

White, having played Bg5, is now forced to pin his hopes on attack. However, the resulting double-edged position appears to me to be more promising for Black.

15 ... Qd7

As becomes apparent a little later, the preliminary exchange 15...cxd4 16 cxd4 deserved consideration, and only then 16...Qd7.

16 f5 gxf5
17 Rf3 fxe4

17...e6 is unpleasantly met by 18 Rg3 Kh8 19 exf5!, but 17...h6 was very interesting. After 18 Qd2 hxg5 19 Qxg5 Bxe2 20 Rd3 Bg4 White has an attack, but even so it is hardly worth the two sacrificed pieces, since nothing decisive is apparent. In this case Timman was probably more afraid of the retreat 18 Bf4, and he decided to clarify the situation immediately.

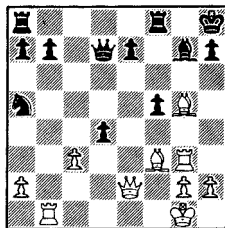
18 Rg3 Bxe2
19 Qxe2

It is easy to see that the queen sacrifice - 19 Bh6 - does not work.

19 ... Kh8

20 Bxe4 f5
21 Bf3 cxd4

Had this exchange been made earlier, on the 15th move, Black would have simply captured on d4 with check, and would have had two extra pawns, for which his opponent would have had insufficient compensation. But here White finds a brilliant and saving continuation.



22 Bxe7! d3

It turns out that after 22...Rfe8 23 Rxe7 White wins - 23...Kxg7 24 Qe5+ Kg8 25 Bd5+. On 22...Rf7 there all the same follows 23 Rxe7, and if 23...Kxg7, then 24 Qe5+ with a very strong attack, while after 23...Rxe7 White has the continuation 24 Bf6 d3 (on 24...dxc3 the simple 25 Bxc3 is good) 25 Bxg7+ Qxg7 (25...Kxg7 is bad because of 26 Qe5+ and 27 Qxa5) 26 Qxd3, with a slight positional advantage.

23 Bxf8 dxe2

23...Rxf8, counting on the strong passed pawn at d3, is parried by the same 24 Rxe7!

24 Bxg7+ Qxg7

Otherwise it is Black who would have to 'beg' for a draw.

25 Rxe7 Kxg7
26 Kf2

An equal ending has been reached, and what's more, in my opinion it should have ended in a draw sooner than in fact occurred in the game. But...

26 ... Rc8

A trap! In the event of 27 Bxb7? Rb8 28 Be4 e1=Q+! White loses a piece.

27 Kxe2

42 Kf3

An elementary draw results from 27 Rb5
b6 28 Rxf5 Rxc3 29 Kxe2 Rc2+ 30 Kd3
Rxa2 31 Bd5.

27 ... b6
28 Rd1

White has certain difficulties, although
he should still be able to draw, after
28 Kd3 Rd8+ 29 Ke2 Nc4. He evidently
wanted to activate his pieces to the
maximum, hence the move played.

28 ... Rxc3
29 Rd7+ Kg6
30 Rxa7

A significant inaccuracy. White could
have achieved his goal by 30 Bd5, when
Black cannot bring his knight into play
without sacrificing material

30 ... Rc2+
31 Kd3 Rxa2
32 Rd7

With the threat of 33 Rd6+. The
restricted amount of material on the
board allows White, despite being a
pawn down, nevertheless to avoid defeat.

32 ... b5
33 Rd6+ Kg5
34 Rb6

Evidently a time trouble move. 35 Rd5,
with the threat of g2-g4, would have
led to an immediate draw.

34 ... Rb2
35 g3 Rb3+
36 Ke2 f4
37 Rd6 f×g3
38 h×g3 Nc4
39 Rd5+ Kf6
40 Kf2 Rb2+
41 Be2 b4

The sealed move. Adjournment analysis
could not have failed to show that
Black had no chance of advancing his
pawn, so that the further moves were
evidently made by the players on the
principle of 'just in case'.

42 ... Ne5+
43 Ke3 Rc2
44 Rb5 Nc4+
45 Kd3 Rd2+
46 Kxc4 Rxe2
47 Rh5

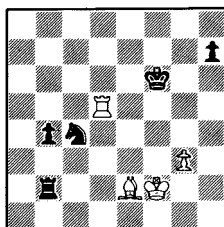
It was still not too late to lose the
pawn ending 'by means of' either capture
on b4.

47 ... Kg6
48 Rh4 Rg2

Or 48...Rb2 49 Rg4+ Kf5 50 Rh4.

49 Rg4+ Kf5
50 Rh4 b3
51 R×h7 b2
52 Rb7

Drawn.



ROUND 13

28th April

Spassky	(4½)	0	-	1	Karpov (8)
Timman	(5)	1	-	0	Hort (5½)
Kavalek	(3½)	1	-	0	Ljubojevic (7)
Tal	(8)	1	-	0	Hübner (6½)
Portisch	(7½)	1	-	0	Larsen (4½)

Standings after thirteen rounds: Karpov, Tal - 9; Portisch - 8½; Ljubojevic - 7; Hübner - 6½; Timman - 6; Hort - 5½; Kavalek, Larsen, Spassky - 4½.

After the comparative calm of the previous day, this round proved to be an exceptionally decisive one - not a single draw! Spassky, with White against Karpov, tried out a system which had twice in the last year been successfully employed against him by the English grandmaster Miles. Apparently Spassky had not studied very carefully the resulting opening conflicts. Otherwise it is hard to explain his highly amorphous move 10 h3, after which the initiative was completely seized by Black. I think that from this point it was only Karpov who was playing for a win. For some time Spassky maintained the tension, and then decided to provoke a crisis. This proved an unfortunate decision. The position quickly stabilized, Karpov's advantage became clear, and technique is not something in which the World Champion is lacking.

I think that on that day I succeeded in playing my best game in the tournament (of course, as often happens, with the help of my opponent). The opposition of many pieces on a diagonal, along which a white bishop was 'raiding', created the pre-conditions for a fairly simple, but, I would think, relatively new combinative idea. Instead of 19...Kb8, it was essential to play 19...Qe7. After the continuation in the game, a camouflaged tactical blow gave White a simple win.

The fourth, and, as it turned out, last victory in the tournament was gained by Portisch. Larsen in this game again played very riskily, whereas, on the contrary, his opponent was very restrained. After gaining the initiative, Portisch was in no hurry to force events. I think that at some point he could have played more energetically. At any event, the Dane gained the chance of obtaining real drawing chances by sacrificing his queen (30...Bxe5 31 f4 Qxg3+). But, it would seem, at that point Larsen was already (or still) playing for a win. The result was just the opposite.

In Montreal it happened several times that Timman, after conducting splendidly the first half of a game, would gain a big advantage, but then would not succeed in realizing it. In this respect Hort was unlucky: he played the opening badly (the initial cause of Black's difficulties was 9...Qd7), after which Timman acted confidently. An imposing positional advantage was transformed into a material one, and then everything was decided by accurate technique.

Kavalek was beginning to get into his stride. From inertia, so to speak, Ljubojevic wanted to improve his affairs. But his desire to seek complications in a fairly quiet opening boomeranged. The impulsive 13...c4 led Black into difficulties, and the attempt to provoke a tactical crisis met with a more than convincing refutation on the part of Kavalek, who played splendidly that day. White's attack was irresistible.

Game No. 61 Queen's Indian Defence

Spassky Karpov
(Notes by Karpov)

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 b6
4 Bf4

A surprise. Spassky adopts a system which has been brought into tournament practice by Miles. It is a comparatively new plan, and as yet it is difficult to judge as to its true merits. At any rate, playing Black against Miles, Spassky has twice lost in this variation.

In the first game (Montilla 1978), after 4...Bb7 5 e3 Be7 6 h3 O-O 7 Nc3 d5 8 cxd5 exd5 9 Bd3 c5 10 O-O Nc6 11 Ne5 c4 (11...cxd4 12 Nxc6 Bxc6 13 exd4±) 12 Bc2 a6 13 g4 b5 14 g5 Ne8 15 Qg4 g6 16 Rad1 Ng7 17 h4 the English grandmaster held the initiative.

In the second game (Buenos-Aires 1978) Spassky varied on the 11th move: 11...a6 12 Qf3 Re8 13 Rad1 cxd4 14 Nxc6 (14 exd4!? Nxd4 15 Bxh7+ Nxh7 16 Rxd4 Nf6 leads to complications) 14...Bxc6 15 exd4 b5 16 a3 Ne4! 17 Bb1! but again was unable to equalize fully. The many hours of analysis spent on these games had evidently suggested to Spassky the idea of himself trying this system for White, but in somewhat modified form.

4 ... Bb7
5 e3 Be7
6 Nc3

The inventor of the variation, Miles, always makes the prophylactic move 6 h3, preserving his black-squared bishop from exchange. The continuation chosen by Spassky appears more energetic, but is less flexible. As a result, the advantage of the first move is dissipated.

6 ... Nh5

7 Bg3 d6

Perhaps the most tricky aspect of playing in this position is to take timely prophylactic measures against a possible attack, and only then to plan active operations.

8 Bd3

White is obviously inclining towards K-side castling. In my opinion, the plan involving Q-side castling is more promising, operating in the spirit of similar variations of the Queen's Gambit.

8 ... Nd7

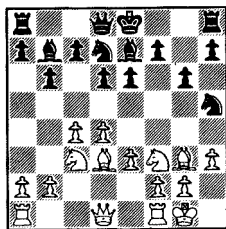
Black delays evacuating his king from the centre, so as to avoid castling on opposite sides, and the consequent sharpening of the play.

9 O-O g6

A move which is useful in all respects. All the same, the black-squared bishop will sooner or later be transferred to g7; in addition the d3-h7 diagonal is blocked. At the same time, Black lets it be known that he is ready to exchange knight for bishop only after further pawn concessions on the part of White.

10 h3

I took this move to be a small moral victory for me. Indeed, wouldn't it have been simpler to spend this tempo on the 6th move? Knowing how much Spassky values time in chess, I sensed that at the present moment he could not see for himself a definite plan. Only for this reason could the move 10 h3 be conceived.

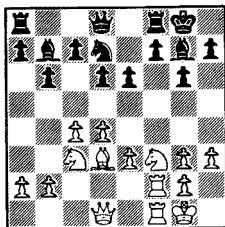


10 ... N×g3

A knight can hardly dream of a better fate. It eliminates a bishop, and at the same time spoils the opponent's pawn chain. And these defects in White's pawn formation will tell sooner or later.

11 f×g3 O-O
12 Rc1 Bf6
13 Rc2 Bg7
14 Rcf2

One of Spassky's favourite stratagems — the doubling of rooks on a half-open file. But in the given instance this increasing of the pressure has no practical strength, since Black's position is very elastic. Only as a result of inaccurate and careless play by his opponent can White hope to steal up on the square f7.



14 ... Qe7

An insignificant, but highly useful move, which is one of the links in the overall plan of developing an offensive in the centre.

15 Kh2

A chronic drawback to White's position is the fact that, in the absence of his black-squared bishop, it is extremely

dangerous for him to begin an advance of his central pawns. Therefore, although his forces are fully mobilized, his position at the same time creates a rather featureless impression. He has to await the development of events, like an army preparing to endure a prolonged siege... .

15 ... a6

Defending against a possible Nb5.

16 Qe2 Rae8
17 Bb1

Here Black has at his disposal a number of interesting plans. One of them is associated with ...c7-c5, another with ...f7-f5. The position may still be level, but White has to stick to waiting tactics. Black thus has a strategic initiative. Afraid of losing such an insignificant advantage, I decided to delay making a definite choice, while retaining all the numerous possibilities.

17 ... c6
18 a3!

This move forced me to change my mind, and to hasten to begin positive action. The planned advance ...b6-b5 is now altogether pointless, since after 19 Ba2 the bishop is very favourably placed. White then plays b2-b4 and obtains an altogether splendid position. In short, Black can no longer delay.

18 ... f5

After this move several white pieces (the rooks on the 'f' file and the bishop at b1) begin to feel uncomfortable.

At this point I noticed that Spassky, who himself plays so masterfully in positions where there is pawn tension, was enviously looking at my half of the board.

19 e4

At last White nevertheless decides on energetic measures, but the keystone of his position — the d4 pawn — is now weakened, and Black promptly attacks it with his 'c' pawn.

19 ... c5
20 exf5

I think that Spassky should have maintained the tension in the centre. But he evidently decided that he had to play for a draw, and so he went in for simplification, without evaluating sufficiently accurately its consequences.

20 ... exf5

Black has to agree to the exchange of queens, since after 20...gxf5 needless weaknesses are created in his position.

21 Qxe7 Rxe7
22 dxc5

22 d5 is unfavourable, since Black takes undisputed possession of the 'e' file, and gains clearly the better chances.

22 ... bxc5!

The strongest of the three possible continuations. After the plausible 22...dxc5 White develops pressure on the 'd' file. Then the exchange on c3 would not be dangerous for him, and he could even go after the pawn at b6. 22...Nxc5 looks sensible, since ...Bxc3 is then a strong threat, but after 23 Nd5 Bxd5 24 cxd5 I thought it doubtful that Black would be able to win.

23 Rd1

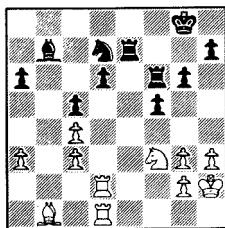
If 23 Nd5, then after 23 Bxd5 24 cxd5 Rb8 Black has an excellent position. It remains for him to play ...Nb6, when it will be strategically won. Therefore Spassky seeks a target to attack.

23 ... Bxc3
24 bxc3 Rf6!

I had this position in mind much earlier, and I am very happy about the fact that my evaluation of the given endgame proved to be correct and accurate.

25 Rfd2

Pressure on the 'd' file is White's only counter-chance.



How should Black proceed further?

After the apparently natural 25...Bxf3 26 gxf3 Re6 the white king moves across to f2, and then White himself can prepare an invasion on the 'b' file. The immediate 25...Ne5 is also possible, but then 26 Ng1 Rd7 27 Ne2, and all the time the capture on c4 is not possible because of the pin Ba2.

After looking deeply into the position, I came to the conclusion that it was necessary to activate my rook straight away.

25 ... Re3!
26 Ng1

After 26 Rxd6 Rxd6 27 Rxd6 Bxf3 28 gxf3 Ne5 the rook, co-ordinating with the knight, quickly makes short work of White's scattered forces. For example: 29 f4 Nf3+ 30 Kg2 Rxc3 31 Rd5 Nd4 32 Rxc5 Rb3 33 Rd5 Rb2+ etc.

26 ... Kf7!
27 Rxd6 Rxd6
28 Rxd6 Ke7

Strangely enough, despite the fact that White has an extra pawn, Black wins the ending practically by force.

29 Rd3 Re1
30 Ba2

Again the only move, since 30 Bc2 Ne5 31 Rd2 Nxc4 makes the white pawns easy booty for the black pieces.

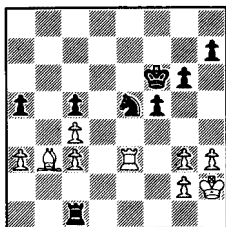
30 ... Rc1!

Perhaps one of the most exact moves in the game. So as to use the full power of the black bishop, the rook heads for c2.

31 Nf3

If 31 Bb3, then 31...Ne5 32 Re3 Kf6 with the irresistible threat of 33...Rb1, after which the c4 pawn falls, but even so, this was possibly White's best chance. Now White clings on to his material, but it is difficult to imagine that within a few moves he will end up in complete *zugzwang*.

31 ... Bxf3!
32 Rxf3 Ne5
33 Re3 Kf6
34 Bb3 a5



A picturesque *zugzwang* position. Any move by White leads to the loss of several pawns.

35 Ba4 Nxc4
36 Re8

Totally bad is 37 Rd3 Nb2.

36 ... Rxc3
37 Rc8

At this point an amusing incident occurred. When recording the game, I had mistakenly missed five lines on my score sheet (from the 16th to the 20th move). Therefore I thought that I now had to make my 42nd move, and after some thought I decided that it would be best to adjourn. When I expressed my desire to Spassky (who, as it turns out, was in time trouble), he spread his hands in astonishment, and said that I had no right to, since the forty moves had not yet been made. This absent-mindedness could have cost me dearly! It was a good thing that I still had ten minutes in reserve.

37 ... Ne3
38 Bb5 c4

The unusual occurrence just described had rather unsettled me, and I missed the quickest win — 38...Rc2 39 Bc6 Nf1+ 40 Kg1 Nxg3 and then ...f5-f4, creating a mating net. But, despite the fact that Black gives the white king slightly more freedom, the win is still just a matter of time and simple technique.

39 Kg1 Rc2
40 Bc6 c3
41 Bf3 g5
42 g4 f4
White resigns

Game No. 62 English Opening

Timman Hort
(Notes by Polugayevsky)

1 c4 Nf6
2 Nc3 c5
3 Nf3 Nc6

In reply to the usual 3...d5 4 cxd5 Nx d5 the Dutch grandmaster frequently plays 5 e4, which he has studied in detail, and in the event of 5...Nb4 — 6 Bc4. In a game from this same tournament, Tal played against Timman 5... Nx c3 6 dxc3 Qxd1+, but was forced to conduct a difficult defence in the endgame.

4 g3

The crucial continuation is considered to be 4 d4 cxd4 5 Nx d4 e6. But Timman likes to adopt variations which he himself has tested thoroughly in practice, and which he often 'enlivens' with regular improvements.

4 ... d5
5 cxd5 Nx d5
6 Bg2 Nc7

The alternative is 6...g6, which is frequently played now. After the move in the game, a position is reached from the classical Rubinstein variation, which has been studied, it would seem, through and through. But...

7 0-0 e5
8 d3 Be7

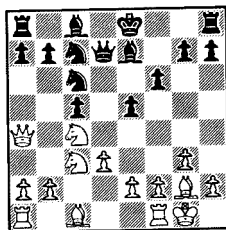
Black does not need to hurry with this natural move, but can play 8...Bd7 immediately, with the possible follow-up 9 Nd2 Ne6 10 Nc4 f6 and then ...a7-a6, ...b7-b5 and ...Bd6.

9 Nd2 Qd7

Clearly not the strongest continuation. The bishop at c8 now remains locked in, and Black does not succeed in fianchettoing it. In practice therefore 9...Bd7 is more often played, and on 10 Nc4, not 10...f6, which after 11 f4! gave White the advantage in the game Ree-Polugayevsky (Amsterdam 1972), since in the event of 11...b5 he has the manoeuvre 12 Ne3 exf4 13 gxf4 0-0 14 Nd5, when the weaknesses in Black's position become apparent, but 10...0-0. In the first game when this occurred (Espig-Polugayevsky, Sochi 1975), after 11 Bxc6 Bxc6 12 Nxe5 Be8 Black gained some compensation for the pawn in the form of the two bishops and the weakened white squares in the white king's position. But later it was found that White can hope to retain an advantage.

Nevertheless Black should have chosen 9...Bd7.

10 Nc4 f6
11 Qa4



A highly unpleasant continuation. Now on 11...0-0 White has an agreeable choice between the immediate 12 Bxc6 and the preliminary 12 f4, when after 12...Ne6 13 f5 Nc7 14 Bxc6 bxc6 15 Be3 White has very strong pressure on the 'c' file. But even so this was the lesser evil for Black.

11 ... Nd8

Black keeps his pawn chain intact, but does nothing to solve his problems.

Without the queens it is more difficult for him to defend his Q-side.

12 Qxd7+ Bxd7
13 f4 exf4
14 Bxf4 Rc8

14...Nce6 15 Nd5 deserved consideration, followed by 15...Nxf4 16 Nc7+ Kf8 17 Nxa8 Nxg2 18 Kxg2 Bc6+ and 19...b5. But White would have continued 16 Rxf4, and on 16...Ne6 - 17 Re4, with threats such as Bh3, and on 16...Rc8 - 17 Re4 Be6 18 Bh3 Bxd5 19 Nd6+ Kf8 20 Rxe7 Kxe7 21 Nxc8+ and 22 Nxa7, emerging a pawn up.

Black can also delay capturing on f4, and play 15...Rc8 immediately. But then 16 Bd6! (if 16 Nxe7 Kxe7 17 Nd6, then after 17...Ra8 it is not apparent that White can gain a significant advantage, since on 18 Nx b7 Black replies 18...Nxf4 19 Rxf4 Nx b7 20 Bxb7 Rb8; 18 Bxb7 also does not work, because of 18...Nxf4 19 Bxa8 Nh3+) 16...Bf8 (the only move!) 17 Bf3! gives White a decisive attack, since Black has no adequate defence against the check at h5. For example: 17...b5 18 Bh5+ Nf7 19 Ne5 fxe5 20 Bxf7+ and 21 Bxe5, or 17...Kf7 18 Ne5+, and after 18...fxe5 - an elegant mate by 19 Bh5++ Kg8 20 Rxf8+ Nxf8 21 Ne7 mate, and on 18...Kg8 - 19 Bxf8 fxe5 20 Bh5 or 20 Ne7+.

15 a4!

I think that after this Black's position is beyond saving.

15 ... b6

The best chance was 15...Nce6 16 Nb5 (here after 16 Nd5, in comparison with the variations given above, Black has an extra tempo, which enables him to find a defence) 16...Bxb5 17 axb5 Nd4, and now on 18 Kf2 Nxb5 19 Ra5 a6 20 Nb6 Black can obtain a pawn for the exchange by 20...Rc6. It is true that by 18 Rxa7 Nxe2+ 19 Kf2 White can nevertheless set up unpleasant pressure on the opponent's Q-side.

16 Bxc7 Rxc7
17 Nb5 Bxb5
18 axb5 Nf7

Unless Black can dislodge the white knight from c4, the a7 and b6 pawns are doomed.

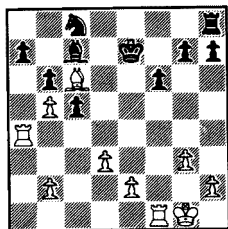
19 Bc6+ Kd8
20 Ne3 Nd6

Black could have attempted to give up the exchange in a different way: 20... Ne5 21 Nd5 Nxc6 (21...Rxc6 22 bxc6 Nxc6 23 Nxb6!), and if 22 Nxc7, then 22...Kxc7 23 bxc6 a5, with good drawing chances. But White would have satisfied himself with a positional advantage — 22 bxc6 Rxc6 (22...a5 23.Nxb6 Rxc6 24 Rxa5) 23 Rxa7, which is sufficient for a win.

21 Nd5 Nc8
22 Nf4

The exchange will not run away from White, and the threat of 23 Ne6 mate drives the black king away from the Q-side.

22 ... Bd6
23 Ne6+ Ke7
24 Nxc7 Bxc7
25 Ra4



Combined play on both flanks, further pawn weaknesses in Black's position, a gradual opening of lines — this is Timman's plan. Black has no way of opposing it.

25 ... Rd8
26 Rh4 h6
27 Kg2 Be5
28 b3 Kd6
29 Rg4 g5
30 b4 Kc7

On 30...cxb4 White wins immediately by 31 d4.

31 bxc5 bxc5

32 Ra4 Kb8
33 Rc4 Bd4
34 Rxd4

Now that all the black pawns are weak, White considers the return of the exchange to be the quickest way to win, although 34 e3 was also sufficient.

34 ... cxd4
35 Rxf6 Nd6

35...Rd6 is answered by 36 Rf7.

36 Rxf6 Kc7
37 Rg6 a5
38 Rg5 a4
39 Rd5 a3
40 Rxd4

After 'consuming' four (!) successive black pawns, the white rook prepares to deal with the fifth and last by 41 Ra4.

40 ... Nxb5
41 Rc4 Kb6

Or 41...a2 42 Bxb5+ and 43 Rc1.

42 Bxb5

The sealed move.

42 ... Kxb5
43 g4 Re8
44 h4

It is no longer necessary for White to defend his pawns.

44 ... Rxe2+
45 Kf3 a2
46 Rc1 Rb2
47 Ra1 Kc5
48 h5 Kd5
49 h6 Rh2
50 Kg3 Resigns.

Game No. 63 Queen's Indian Defence

Kavalek Ljubojevic
(Notes by Kavalek).

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 b6
4 g3 Bb7

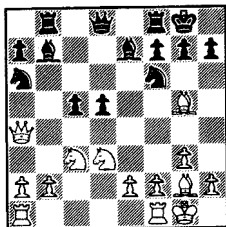
5 Bg2 d5
6 O-O Be7
7 Ne5 O-O
8 Nc3 Nab

A new way of handling the Queen's Indian Defence, which was introduced in 1976. Black's basic idea is to play ...c7-c5, and, if necessary, ...Nc7.

9 cxd5 exd5
10 Nd3

Directed mainly against 10...c5, but Ljubojevic nevertheless considers this move possible.

10 ... c5
11 dxc5 bxc5
12 Bg5 Rb8
13 Qa4



13 ... c4

Too active. 13...Qe8 was preferable.

14 Bxf6 Bxf6
15 Nf4 Nc5

After the game Ljubojevic suggested that 15...Qd6 would have been better, but then 16 Nfxd5! Bxd5 17 Nxd5 Bxb2 18 Rad1 leads to an advantage for White.

16 Qxa7

This move required accurate calculation, to make sure that the queen would not be trapped.

16 ... Qd6
17 Ncxd5

At the worst the queen can escape via b6.

17 ... Bxb2
18 Rad1 Nd7

An unfortunate choice in a difficult position. Black should have tried for a draw in the ending after 18...Ra8 19 Qb6 Qxb6 20 Nxb6 Bxg2 21 Kxg2 Rxa2 (21...c3 loses to 22 Nxa8 Rxa8 23 Rd4 followed by 24 Rc4) 22 Nxc4, when all the remaining pawns are on the same wing.

19 Ne3 Qb6
20 Qa4 Nc5
21 Qxc4 Ba6
22 Qc2 Rfc8

It looks as though Black has some counter-play, but the white pieces make an effective switch to the opposite wing.

23 Qf5 g6
24 Qg4 Re8

I think that 24...Bg7 was stronger.

25 Rb1

Now it is apparent that one pair of rooks will be exchanged.

25 ... Qa7
26 Bd5

This centralized bishop, attacking f7 and defending the pawn at a2, is a significant factor.

26 ... Kh8
27 Nc4

Bad, of course, is 27 Nxg6+ fxg6 28 Rxb2 Rxb2 29 Qd4+ in view of 29...Qg7.

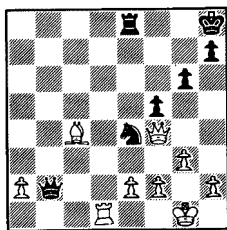
27 ... Bxc4

More or less forced. If the bishop moves from b2 (for example, 27...Bg7), then 28 Nd6.

28 Bxc4 Ne4
29 Nd3 f5
30 Qf4 Qd4

Black is unable to avoid further simplification.

31 Rxb2 Rxb2
32 Nxb2 Qxb2
33 Rd1



A strong move. White intends to invade the 7th rank with his rook, and 33...Qc2 is bad in view of 34 Rd8.

33 ... Qb6
34 Rd7

The rook reaches the 7th rank, and the threat of Qh6 is in the air.

34 ... Qc5
35 Rc7 Qd4
36 Bd3 Qa1+

Black is in severe time trouble, and in addition his position is hopeless.

37 Kg2 Qf6
38 Bxe4 Rxe4
39 Qh6 Resigns

Game No. 64 Caro-Kann Defence

Tal Hübnér
(Notes by Tal)

1 e4 c6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc3 dxe4
4 Nxe4 Bf5
5 Ng3 Bg6
6 h4 h6
7 Nf3 Nd7
8 h5 Bh7
9 Bd3 Bxd3
10 Qxd3 Ngf6
11 Bf4 Qa5+
12 Bd2 Qc7
13 0-0-0

The choice between this move and 13 c4 is a matter of mood. In the present game White chooses a fairly dangerous plan, which was brought into practice, if my memory does not betray me, by Geller.

13 ... e6
14 Ne4 0-0-0
15 g3

The point of the previous move is disclosed. White intends to occupy a convenient post with his bishop.

The variation was tested several times in the USSR Championship at Tbilisi (1978), and on each occasion Black did not succeed in completely solving his opening problems.

15 ... Nxe4

The other moves that have been tried here are 15...Nc5 16 Nxc5 Bxc5 (Tseshkovsky-Bagirov), and 15...c5 16 Bf4 c4 17 Qe2 Qc6 18 Nxf6 gxf6 19 d5! (Tseshkovsky-Kasparov).

16 Qxe4 Nf6

It is possibly wrong to leave e5 open for the enemy knight. In my opinion, 16...Be7 was more accurate.

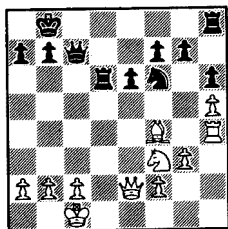
17 Qe2 c5

This advance, which is thematic in the Caro-Kann Defence, in the given situation turns out to be risky. White's king rook bursts into play by an effective, but not altogether usual route.

18 dxc5 Bxc5
19 Rh4!

The threats of 20 Rc4 and 20 b4 force Black to remove his pieces from the 'c' file. I managed to find the combinative idea, which occurred in the game, fairly easily. Nevertheless, I spent a considerable amount of time on the move 19 Rh4. It was difficult to find the correct path after the best defence — 19...Qe7. Now 20 Rc4 Kb8 21 Bf4+ achieves nothing after the simple 21...Ka8. In the end I decided that I would continue 20 Rc4 Kb8 21 Ne5 Rd5 (the threat was 22 Nxf7) 22 Bf4 Bd6 23 Rc6!?, with the highly unpleasant threat of 24 Rxd6.

19 ... Kb8
20 Bf4 Bd6
21 Rxd6 Rxd6



22 Ne5!

White temporarily blocks the key diagonal, but brings his knight into play with decisive effect. Against the two threats — 23 Nxf7 and 23 Nc4, there is no satisfactory defence. Thus 22...Nd5 fails to 23 Nxf7 Nxf4 24 Rxf4 Rf8 25 Nxd6 Rxf4 26 Nb5 Qc4 27 Qe5+. Equally hopeless is 22...Rhd8 23 Nc4 Ne8 24 Nxd6 Nxd6 25 Rg4.

Hübner finds what is probably the only possibility.

22 ... Ka8
23 Nc4!

I didn't want to allow my opponent counter-play after 23 Nxf7 e5! But now Black has to return the exchange, since 23...e5 loses quickly to 24 Bxe5 Re6 25 Bxc7! Rxe2 26 Nb6+.

23 ... Ne8
24 Rg4

The immediate 24 Nxd6 is also not bad, but the move played is 'cleaner'.

24 ... Qe7
25 Nxd6 Nxd6
26 Rxe7

An important pawn has been won, and in the time that it takes White to return his rook, Black does not succeed in creating any serious counter-play.

26 ... Nf5
27 Rg4 Rd8
28 Be5

Probably the most exact plan. White intends to consolidate securely his king's position, and then concern himself 'seriously' with the h6 pawn.

Obviously any endgame will be easily won for him.

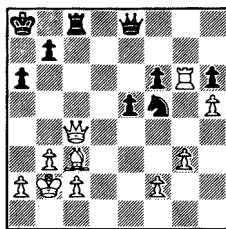
28 ... f6
29 Bc3 e5
30 b3

The final preparations.

30 ... a6
31 Kb2 Qe6
32 Qc4

Black cannot exchange queens, and this means that he has to concede key positions.

32 ... Qe8
33 Rg6 Rc8



34 Qa4!

A highly important gain of tempo!

34 ... Qd8
35 Qe4!

The immediate 35 g4 Nd6 36 Rxh6 Nb5 would have led to great complications, which are quite unnecessary for White.

35 ... Nd6
36 Qd3 Qc7

In reply to 36...e4, the most convincing is 37 Qd4 Qc7 38 a4.

37 Bb4

The f6 pawn will not run away.

37 Rxf6 Nb5 would have allowed Black chances of resisting.

37 ... Nb5

Black's attack after 37...e4 38 Qxd6 (but not 38 Bxd6?? exd3 39 Bxc7 d2) is sufficient only for two checks.

38 Rxf6 a5

To crown everything, 38...Nd4 fails to 39 Rxa6+!

39 Bd6

This hard-working bishop goes off for a deserved rest. The remainder is clear.

39 ... Nxd6
40 Rxd6 e4
41 Qd2 Resigns

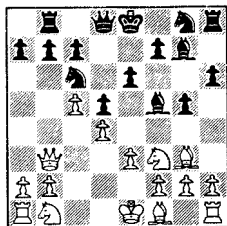
Game No. 65 Queen's Gambit

Portisch *Larsen*
(Notes by Keene)

1 Nf3 d5
2 d4 Bf5!
3 c4 e6
4 Qb3 Nc6
5 c5

In this not very theoretical opening both 5 c5 and 5 Bd2 are considered main possibilities. 5 Qxb7? Nb4 6 Na3 Rb8 7 Qxa7 Ra8! is not playable, though.

5 ... Rb8
6 Bf4 h6
7 e3 g5
8 Bg3 Bg7



There are many sides to Bent Larsen; one is the iron-hard positional player who employs rational openings. Another is the buccaneer (perhaps Viking raider is more appropriate) who takes all sorts of risks in pursuit of obscure advantages. The former was seen in action at the 1979 Clarin tournament, where Larsen won first prize by a margin of three points, against opponents such as Miles, Petrosian, Spassky, Najdorf... and the latter at Montreal. However,

Larsen usually judges his opponents more carefully. The risky openings he was employing at Montreal would have been suited to a tournament of mixed strength rather than a contest where the average rating exceeding Larsen's own.

Doubtless, ...Bf5 is possible as a defence to the Queen's Gambit, if White has committed himself to an early Nf3, and Larsen has performed a service to theory by demonstrating its viability. However, in the practical struggle such pioneering effort can prove a terrible strain, and it was a sad blow to Larsen's supports, amongst whom I number myself, to see Larsen getting into unaccustomed time-trouble at Montreal, and scoring far less well than should have been his due.

9 Nc3 a6?!

There is not much point in preventing Nb5, which can be met by ...Rc8, so 9...Nge7! must be correct; since this also provides a convenient defence to Bb5, ...Nge7 would have vindicated Black's opening.

10 h4 g4
11 Ne5 Nge7
12 Nxc6 Nxc6
13 Be2 0-0
14 Qd1

White could have played more sharply, e.g. 14 0-0-0, but Portisch obviously believes that if he castles K-side Black's fortifications in that area will prove more feeble. In view of this, there is no necessity to castle on opposite wings and present Black with a target.

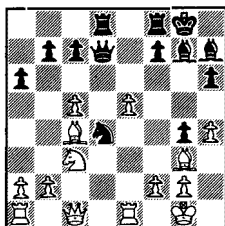
14 ... e5?

Larsen gets impatient. Perhaps he was beginning to regret his wasted ninth move and wanted to justify his strategy, but the text should lead to a clear White plus. A more solid alternative is 14...h5, leaving the central thrust ...e5 for a more propitious moment, e.g. after 15 f3!?

15 dxe5 d4
16 exd4 Nxd4

16...Qxd4 17 Qxd4 Nxd4 18 0-0-0 is $\pm$.

17 0-0 Qd7
18 Bc4 Bc2
19 Qc1 Rbd8
20 Re1 Bh7



21 Bd5?!

This gives Black some chances to resist. Portisch's idea is to eliminate Black's QB, which is useful both for defence and offence, but much stronger is 21 Nd5! en route inevitably to f6. After that Black would be forced to exchange his KB, when his split K-side would be a decisive handicap.

21 ... Qe7
22 Be4 Qxc5
23 Bxh7+ Kxh7
24 Qf4 Qb6
25 Rad1 Qxb2
26 Rxd4 Qxc3
27 Rde4 Kh8
28 Qxg4

The protective shield around Black's king is slowly disappearing in any case.

28 ... Rd4
29 Rxd4 Qxe1+
30 Kh2 Qa1

Larsen wants to create a diversion by establishing some passed pawns; rather a bleak alternative is 30...Bxe5 31 f4 Qxg3+ 32 Qxg3 Bxd4 33 f5, when White should eventually win by technique. At least the text allows margin for error.

31 Rd7 Qxa2
32 Rxc7 b5

32...Qd5 33 Rd7 Qb5 34 f4 a5 35 e6 h5! survives for Black, but 35 h5! creates nasty threats.

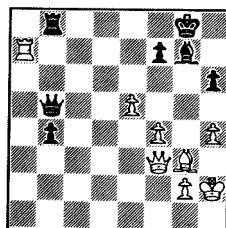
33 f4 Qd5
34 Rd7 Qe4
35 Qh5 Kg8

If 35...b4 36 f5 b3 37 f6 b2 38 e6 b1=Q 39 fxg7+ Kxg7 40 Be5+, and wins.

36 Re7 Qb4

If 36...b4 37 f5 b3 38 e6, or 36...Qd5 37 f5 Qc5 38 Qg4 Qxe7 39 f6+-. Larsen tries to decoy White's rook away from the 7th rank, but it costs a valuable pawn.

37 Ra7 Qc5
38 Rxa6 b4
39 Qf3 Qb5
40 Ra7 Rb8



41 f5

The sealed move, which took Portisch 35 minutes of thinking time. Less precise alternatives are 41 Qb3 and 41 e6, but the move chosen finishes things off crisply. It is ironic and sad for Larsen's interesting opening that he is eventually crushed on the wing where he introduced his new ideas - 6...h6 - 7...g5, etc... .

41 ... Bxe5
42 f6 Kh8
43 Rxf7 Re8
44 Qg4 Bxg3+
45 Kh3! Resigns

(45...Rg8 46 Qe4).

ROUND 14

29th April

Karpov	(9)	½	-	½	Portisch (8½)
Larsen	(4½)	½	-	½	Tal (9)
Hübner	(6½)	0	-	1	Kavalek (4½)
Ljubojevic	(7)	½	-	½	Timman (6)
Hort	(5½)	½	-	½	Spassky (4½)

Standings after fourteen rounds: Karpov, Tal - 9½; Portisch - 9; Ljubojevic - 7½; Timman, Hübner - 6½; Hort - 6; Kavalek - 5½; Larsen, Spassky - 5.

This day both leaders were obliged to settle for a semi-success. But while Karpov for practically the whole game maintained a not especially significant, but nevertheless persistent initiative, and Portisch was all the time under pressure, with Tal the situation was more complicated. An attempt at an opening experiment led Black in an English Opening into a difficult position. Knowing that Larsen very much likes to be material ahead, I sacrificed a pawn and gained counter-play. Subsequently both sides made errors in turn. I deliberately avoided a wearisome struggle for a draw, but in my preliminary calculations overlooked the move 23 Nd4. It was also overlooked by Larsen.

A very sharp variation of the Grünfeld Defence - in the opening itself Kavalek sacrificed a pawn against Hübner - promised a highly tense battle. But a serious mistake made by the German grandmaster decided the outcome of the game as early as the 12th move. Black gained both a material and a positional advantage. The remainder was not difficult. As early as the 25th move White resigned in view of the absence of any useful moves.

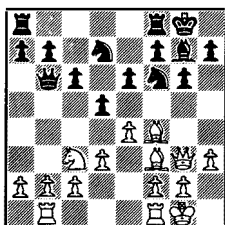
The Ljubojevic-Timman duel was rich in conflicts, and is annotated in detail by Gufeld. I will only add that after the game both players were slightly unhappy with the result. Ljubojevic reckoned that the exchange sacrifice on his part had been premature, while Timman was convinced that somewhere he could have realized his material advantage more exactly (it seems to me that he had the greater cause for dissatisfaction). It is curious that both players evaluated the final position pessimistically.

Hort gained a big advantage against Spassky, but acted insufficiently energetically, and by resourceful defence the Ex-World Champion was able to save half a point.

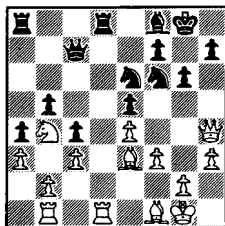
Game No. 66 Caro-Kann Defence

Karpov Portisch

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | e4 | c6 |
| 2 | Nc3 | d5 |
| 3 | Nf3 | Bg4 |
| 4 | h3 | Bxf3 |
| 5 | Qxf3 | Nf6 |
| 6 | d3 | e6 |
| 7 | Be2 | Nbd7 |
| 8 | Qg3 | g6 |
| 9 | O-O | Bg7 |
| 10 | Bf4 | Qb6 |
| 11 | Rab1 | O-O |
| 12 | Bf3 | |



- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 12 | ... | e5 |
| 13 | Bd2 | dxe4 |
| 14 | dxe4 | a5 |
| 15 | Rfd1 | a4 |
| 16 | Qh4 | Qc5 |
| 17 | Be3 | Qe7 |
| 18 | a3 | Rfd8 |
| 19 | Be2 | Nc5 |
| 20 | Bf1 | Ne6 |
| 21 | f3 | b5 |
| 22 | Na2 | Qb7 |
| 23 | Nb4 | c5 |
| 24 | Nd3 | Qc7 |
| 25 | c3 | c4 |
| 26 | Nb4 | Bf8 |



- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 27 | Qf2 | Bc5 |
| 28 | Bxc5 | Nxc5 |
| 29 | Be2 | Kg7 |
| 30 | g3 | h6 |
| 31 | h4 | h5 |

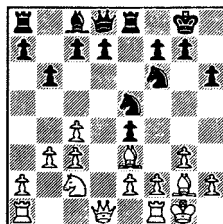
- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 32 | Qe3 | Rac8 |
| 33 | Kf1 | Ra8 |
| 34 | Ke1 | Rac8 |
| 35 | Bf1 | Ra8 |
| 36 | Bh3 | Nb3 |
| 37 | Ke2 | Rxd1 |
| 38 | Rxd1 | Rd8 |
| 39 | Na6 | Qa5 |
| 40 | Nb4 | Rxd1 |
| 41 | Kxd1 | Qd8+ |
| 42 | Ke2 | |

Drawn.

Game No. 67 English Opening

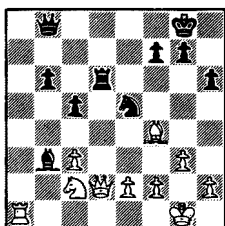
Larsen Tal

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | c4 | Nf6 |
| 2 | Nc3 | e5 |
| 3 | g3 | Bb4 |
| 4 | Bg2 | O-O |
| 5 | Nf3 | e4 |
| 6 | Nd4 | Re8 |
| 7 | O-O | Nc6 |
| 8 | Nc2 | Bxc3 |
| 9 | dxc3 | Ne5 |
| 10 | b3 | h6 |
| 11 | Be3 | b6 |



- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 12 | a4 | Bb7 |
| 13 | a5 | c5 |
| 14 | axb6 | axb6 |
| 15 | Qd6 | Re6 |
| 16 | Qd2 | d5 |
| 17 | Rxa8 | Qxa8 |
| 18 | Ra1 | Qb8 |
| 19 | cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 20 | Bxe4 | Rd6 |
| 21 | Bxd5 | Bxd5 |
| 22 | Bf4 | Bxb3 |

(see next diagram)



23 Qe3 Qd8
 24 Qxe5 Rd1+
 25 Kg2 Rxa1
 26 Nxa1 Qa8+
 27 f3 Qxa1
 28 h4 Qe1
 29 h5 Bd1
 30 Qe8+ Kh7

Drawn.

Game No. 68 Grünfeld Defence

Hübner Kavalek
(Notes by Tal)

1 d4 Nf6
 2 c4 g6
 3 Nc3 d5
 4 Nf3 Bg7
 5 Bg5 Ne4
 6 cxd5 Nxg5
 7 Nxg5 c6

This move occurs much more rarely than the approved 7...e6. Hübner decides to accept the challenge.

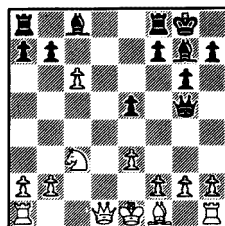
8 dxc6 Nxc6
 9 e3

Present-day theory considers that White beats off the attack, retaining his material advantage, after 9 d5.

9 ... e5
 10 d5 Qxg5
 11 dxc6 0-0

(see next diagram)

The critical position, which a move later essentially becomes the final one, since Hübner makes a highly unfortunate move. The question of the correctness of the pawn sacrifice in this particular form depends on the move 12 c7. At any



rate, that is definitely what White should have played.

12 Be2?

White completely overlooks his opponent's simple reply.

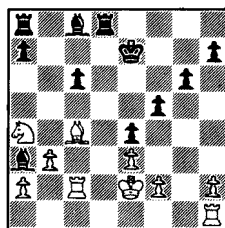
12 ... Rd8!

The game is decided. White's queen is driven from d1, and the capture on g2 becomes possible.

13 Qa4 Qxg2
 14 Qe4 Qxe4
 15 Nxex4 bxc6
 16 Bc4 Kf8

An extra pawn, two bishops, the opposing king in the centre — this is more than sufficient for the winning of one game. The remaining moves do not require any commentary.

17 Rc1 Ke7
 18 Ke2 f5
 19 Nc5 e4
 20 b3 Bb2
 21 Rc2 Ba3
 22 Na4



22 ... f4
 23 exf4 Bg4+
 24 Ke3 Bd1
 25 Rd2 Bf3
 White resigns

Game No. 69 Sicilian Defence

Ljubojevic Timman
(Notes by Polugayevsky)

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	g4	h6

A perfectly reasonable way of handling the Keres variation: Black wishes to retain his knight at f6.

7 h4

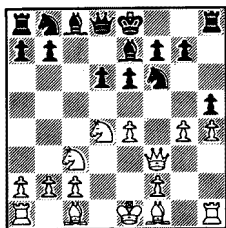
I think that in this way it is difficult for White to attain an opening advantage. The most critical is 7 g5 hxg5 8 Bxg5, and, in comparison with the Rauzer variation, this exchange favours White, since the black king can only castle on the Q-side.

7	...	Be7
8	Qf3	

Black parries the usual 8 Rg1 by the counter-blow 8...d5, and the time lost by White on the advance of his pawns, and also the undefended state of the h4 pawn, begin to tell. For example: 9 Bb5+ Kf8 10 e5 Nfd7 11 Nf3 Nc6 12 Bxc6 bxc6 13 Bf4 (incorrect is 13 g5? hxg5 14 Bxg5 Bxg5 15 hxg5 Rb8, and the white king has nowhere to shelter, Matulovic-Tukmakov, Bath 1973) 13...Rb8, and the advantages of Black's position are already apparent.

The move played is directed against the counter-blow in the centre, but allows one in the place where White himself has begun an attack.

8 ... h5!?



9 gxh5

After this White is left with nothing but weaknesses. More crucial is 9 g5 Ng4 10 Bh3 Qb6 11 Nb3 Nc6, with a double-edged position.

9	...	Nxh5
10	Bg5	Nc6
11	0-0-0	

As often happens, one inaccuracy leads to another. Better, in my opinion, is 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 Bxe7, since all the same White gains no initiative for the sacrificed pawn. What's more, Black can obtain a good position by purely positional means.

11	...	Bxg5+
12	hxg5	Qxg5+
13	Kb1	Nxd4
14	Rxd4	Bd7!

Rather than cling on to his material advantage, Black completes the mobilization of his forces, and under the secure protection of his pawns his king will feel perfectly comfortable in the centre — at e7 or f8.

15	Rxd6	Bc6
16	Rxc6	

White attempts to change the course of events, which are going against him. But the preliminary 16 Be2 deserved consideration, provoking the weakening 16...g6.

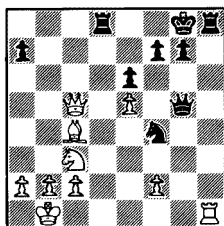
16	...	bxc6
17	e5	Rd8!

17...Qxe5 allows White a very strong attack after 18 Qxc6+ Ke7 19 Qb7+ Kf6 20 Ne4+, while on 17...Rc8 White had prepared 18 Ba6 Rc7 19 Nb5 cxb5 20 Bxb5+!, winning after 20...Kf8 21 Qa8+, and with at least a draw after 20...Ke7 21 Qa3+ Kd8 22 Rd1+ Kc8 23 Ba6+ Kb8 24 Qb4+ Ka8 25 Qe4+.

18	Qxc6+	Kf8
19	Qc5+	

Otherwise the e5 pawn is lost.

19	...	Kg8
20	Bc4	Nf4



21 Re1

An unhappy decision. Better was 21 R×h8+ K×h8 22 a4, immediately setting in motion his Q-side pawns. There might follow 22...Ng6 23 Q×a7 N×e5 24 Be2, and in this very sharp position both sides have their trumps.

But now it turns out that the preserved white rook is markedly less active than the liberated black rook at h8.

21 ... Ng2

I think that it was this move, which spells doom for the e5 pawn, that White under-estimated.

22 Rf1 Rh5
23 Qc7 Rf8
24 Q×a7 Q×e5
25 a4 Nf4

The presence of Black's rook on his 4th rank makes the further advance of the white pawns (and what is especially important — the 'a' pawn) highly problematic. At the same time Black can hope for an attack, and in connection with this 25...Rc8 deserved consideration, and only on 26 Bb3 — 26...Nf4, with the threat of 27...R×c3 28 b×c3 Ne2. In this case his advantage would be undisputed.

But now White succeeds in including his rook in the defence, and the worst for him is behind.

26 Rd1 Rc8
27 Rd4 Rh1+

In the slightly changed situation, Black deviates from the correct path. Firstly, he drives the white king to a more favourable position, and secondly,

his rook gets bogged down in the enemy rearguard. 26...Rf5 was better, setting his sights on the f2 pawn.

28 Ka2 Re1
29 Qd7 Rb8
30 Qd6

The exchange of queens is now unavoidable, Black's rook is no longer on his 4th rank, and the white pawns acquire enormous strength. It is now Timman who has to seek a way of neutralizing the growing danger.

30 ... Nd5!
31 Q×e5 N×c3+
32 b×c3 R×e5
33 Bb5 Rf5
34 Rd2

After the impulsive 34 f4, Black would have immediately obtained two irrepressible passed pawns by 34...e5 or 34...g5.

34 ... Rc5

A waste of time. More logical, in my opinion, was 34...Kf8, or 34...g5, or even 34...R×b5.

35 Kb3 Rc7
36 Kb4 Kf8
37 a5

Black has reverted to defence, and Ljubojevic could well have 'risked' 37 c4. Then on 37...Ke7 38 a5 Rd8 there could have followed 39 R×d8 K×d8 40 a6, with a very sharp ending, despite its apparent simplicity.

The move played allows Black to clarify the situation immediately.

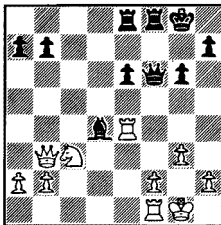
37 ... R×c3
38 K×c3 R×b5
39 Rd8+ Ke7
40 Ra8 Kd6

The black king arrives at just the right time.

Drawn.

Game No. 70 English Opening

	<i>Hort</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
1	c4	c5
2	Nc3	Nc6
3	g3	g6
4	Bg2	Bg7
5	e3	e6
6	Nge2	Nge7
7	O-O	d5
8	cxd5	exd5
9	d4	cxd4
10	Nxd4	Nxd4
11	exd4	O-O
12	Bg5	Be6
13	Qb3	Qd7
14	Bxe7	Qxe7
15	Bxd5	Bxd4
16	Rae1	Rae8
17	Re4	Qf6
18	Bxe6	fxe6



19	Nb5	Bb6
20	Nd6	Re7
21	Rf4	Qg7
22	Rxf8+	Qxf8
23	Kg2	Kg7
24	Qd3	e5
25	Qe2	

Drawn.

ROUND 15

1st May

Hort	(6)	½	-	½	Karpov (9½)
Spassky	(5)	1	-	0	Ljubojevic (7½)
Timman	(6½)	½	-	½	Hübner (6½)
Kavalek	(5½)	1	-	0	Larsen (5)
Tal	(9½)	1	-	0	Portisch (9)

Standings after fifteen rounds: Tal - 10½; Karpov - 10; Portisch - 9; Ljubojevic - 7½; Hübner, Timman - 7; Hort, Kavalek - 6½; Spassky - 6; Larsen - 5.

This round finally 'stratified' the competitors. In a French Defence I was fortunate to be able to try out in practice an improvement prepared for the match in Baguio. On this occasion Portisch, and this happens with him extremely rarely, came off second best in a theoretical duel. White gained a positional advantage, and then won the exchange. The resulting position was not to the taste of the Hungarian grandmaster, and his decision to provoke the exchange of queens proved the decisive mistake. After this game Portisch was 1½ points behind the leader - a gap which was almost impossible to reduce in the remaining three rounds.

Karpov practically equalized in his game with Hort. His opponent did not insist on trying to make something of his micro-advantage, and suggested a draw.

Spasky, who appeared to have given up hope of any competitive success in the tournament, began playing freely and unrestrainedly, and this immediately told. In this round he conducted his game with Ljubojevic in excellent style. Without insisting on an opening advantage, the Ex-World Champion freely deployed his pieces, and when his opponent 'on general grounds' began playing for the so-called 'bad' bishop, it turned out that it was in fact this bishop which had a decisive influence. The game was adjourned, but there was essentially no resumption.

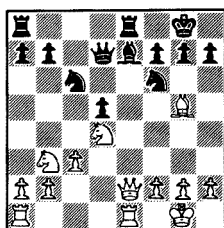
Kavalek again played an excellent attack. It is not known what Larsen had prepared, in repeating the variation which had occurred in his 6th round game with Tal - the American grandmaster deviated first. A tactical battle began, in which White's pieces and pawns proved to be much the more efficient.

An interesting theoretical innovation in the Timman-Hübner game led to the play being constantly dictated by Black, despite being a pawn down. Only tenacious defence in both the first and the second session (the game was adjourned) enabled Timman to maintain the balance.

Game No. 71 Sicilian Defence

Hort Karpov

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 1 | e4 | c5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | e6 |
| 3 | c3 | d5 |
| 4 | exd5 | exd5 |
| 5 | d4 | Nf6 |
| 6 | Be2 | Be7 |
| 7 | O-O | O-O |
| 8 | dx c5 | Bxc5 |
| 9 | Bg5 | Be7 |
| 10 | Nbd2 | Nc6 |
| 11 | Nb3 | Re8 |
| 12 | Re1 | Bg4 |
| 13 | Nfd4 | Bxe2 |
| 14 | Qxe2 | Qd7 |



Drawn.

Game No. 72 Sicilian Defence

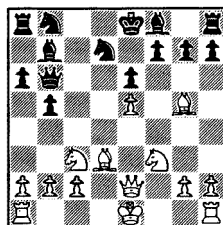
Spassky Ljubojevic
(Notes by Bronstein)

- | | | |
|---|------|------|
| 1 | e4 | c5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | d6 |
| 3 | d4 | Nf6 |
| 4 | Nc3 | cxd4 |
| 5 | Nxd4 | a6 |
| 6 | Bg5 | e6 |
| 7 | f4 | b5 |
| 8 | Bd3 | |

With this quiet move, Spassky shows his opponent his desire to play chess, rather than test the strength of their respective memories in the sharp but exhaustively analysed lines after 8 e5 dxe5 9 fxe5 Qc7 10 Qe2 Nfd7 11 O-O-O Bb7 12 Nx e6 fxe6 13 Qh5+ g6 14 Qg4 Qxe5 15 Bd3 Be7 16 Bxe7 Kxe7 17 Rhe1 h5 18 Qxg6 Qf6 19 Qg3 Rf8 20 Be4 Bxe4 21 Rxe4, with a strong attack for White (analysis by Lepeshkin).

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 8 | ... | Qb6 |
|---|-----|-----|

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 9 | e5 | dxe5 |
| 10 | fxe5 | Nfd7 |
| 11 | Nf3 | Bb7 |
| 12 | Qe2 | |

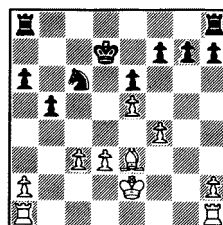


Having obtained the open 'd' and 'f' files for his rooks, White can castle on either side with good prospects of an attack. So as to delay the Ex-World Champion's offensive, Ljubojevic chooses a curious plan of mass exchanges, by which both of the open files become 'gummed up' with pawns. But as a result of this operation White obtains a highly compact group of pawns in the centre, which it is difficult for Black to oppose.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 12 | ... | Bb4 |
| 13 | Bd2 | Nc5 |
| 14 | Be3 | Nxd3+ |
| 16 | cxd3 | Bxf3 |
| 16 | Qxf3 | Qc6 |
| 17 | Ke2 | |

A strong move. Forseeing the coming ending, White carefully leaves his king in the centre.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 17 | ... | Qxf3+ |
| 18 | gxf3 | Bxc3 |
| 19 | bxc3 | Nc6 |
| 20 | f4 | Kd7 |



By-passing the middlegame, the players have proceeded directly from the opening to the endgame. It is not easy to

give an exact assessment of the situation. Those who like manoeuvring with knights will probably prefer Black's position. Those whose preference is always on the side of bishops will undoubtedly speak in favour of White. The truth, as it seems to me, lies exactly halfway between. The position in the diagram is equally favourable for the knight and for the bishop. Only what is to be done against the menacing white pawns in the centre?

21 Rhb1

Spassky conducts the game in classical style. In order to activate his pawn pair at c3 and d3, it is useful to clear the b5 pawn out of the way. White now threatens the breakthrough 22 a4 bxa4 23 Rb7+ Ke8 24 Rc7 Ne7 25 c4. Therefore, as a defensive measure, Black should have been the first to attack his opponent's pawn chain by 21...f6.

Without a doubt, Ljubojevic was over-optimistic in his evaluation of the resulting ending. This conjecture is confirmed by Black's next move. By allowing the white bishop in at d6, the Yugoslav grandmaster sharply reduces the potential of his defensive resources. Black would also have had certain difficulties after the tempting continuation 21...Rhc8 22 a4 Ne7 23 Bd2 Nd5 24 Rb3 f6, since it is difficult to find a reasonable reply to 25 Rg1.

21	...	Rab8
22	Bc5	Rhc8
23	Bd6	Rb7
24	a4	Nd8
25	axb5	axb5
26	Kd2	f6

After some delay Black succeeds in provoking the move d3-d4. However, he does not manage to utilize the squares d5 and c4 either for a rook, or for his knight. The point is that, while Ljubojevic has been dawdling, Spassky has managed to create in the black position a weak pawn at b5, and has seized the important open 'a' file with his rook.

27	d4	Nf7
28	Bb4	fxe5
29	fxe5	Nh6
30	Ra5	Nf5

One has to give Black's resourcefulness its due. After finding himself in a difficult position, he strains every effort to erect an impregnable barrier in front of the advancing white forces. Now Spassky again has to display a certain amount of inventiveness, in order to break through the opposing defences.

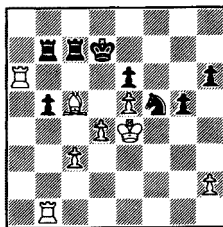
It is interesting to observe how at the very finish the main attacking piece becomes the white king itself.

31	Kd3	g6
32	Bc5	Rcb8
33	Ra6	Rc8
34	Ke4	Rcc7
35	Kf4	

With the intention of personally proceeding to the important f6 square.

35	...	h6
36	Ke4	g5

Black is in *zugzwang*, and he does not have a single useful move. For example, if 36...Rc8, then 37 d5 exd5+ 38 Kxd5 Ne7+ 39 Bxe7 Kxe7 40 Re6+ Kf7 41 Rf1+ Kg7 42 Rff6, etc.



37	Rba1	Rc8
38	Rxe6	

The long-awaited breakthrough. The black knight has not coped with its entrusted task of blockading White's pawn centre, and now it perishes ingloriously, whereupon White's pawn avalanche moves irresistibly forward.

38	...	Rxc5
39	Kxf5	Rxc3
40	Rxh6	Kc7
41	Rh7+	Kb6
42	Rxb7+	Kxb7
43	e6	Kc7

44 Ra7+ Kb6
45 Ra8 Resigns

Game No. 73 Nimzo-Indian Defence

Timman Hübner
(Notes by Keene)

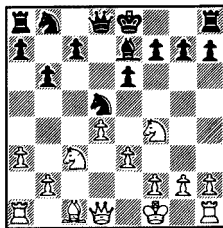
1 c4 Nf6
2 d4 e6
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 e3 b6
5 Ne2 Ba6
6 a3!?

I firmly believe that 6 Ng3! is the move here which gives White most chances of an enduring attack, e.g. 6 Ng3! 0-0 7 e4 Nc6 8 Bd3 e5 (8...Nxd4? 9 Qa4! wins material) 9 a3 Bxc3+ 10 bxc3 exd4 11 cxd4 Nxd4 12 0-0 and White has excellent compensation for his pawn. Another possibility is 9 d5!? Na5 10 Qe2 Bxc3 as in Spassky-Hübner, Munich 1979 (before Montreal).

6 ... Be7!

6...Bxc3+ gives White the bishop-pair free of charge. The text has been under a cloud since the 1954 Botvinnik-Smyslov match, but I played a part in its rehabilitation by publishing some new analysis in the opening theory magazine (*Modern Chess Theory*). In fact, Timman and Hübner now follow my analysis (which appeared in October 1978) for some time.

7 Nf4 d5
8 cxd5 Bxf1
9 Kxf1 Nxd5!



This is the move which has been underestimated. Botvinnik-Smyslov, 2nd World Championship match game (Moscow 1954) had gone: 9...exd5 10 g4! with a

serious threat to uproot Black's knight on f6, and follow up with a swift demolition of Black's central barricades. After 10...c6 11 g5 Nfd7 12 h4 Bd6 13 e4 dxe4 14 Nxe4 Bxf4 15 Bxf4 0-0 16 h5 Re8 17 Nd6 Re6 18 d5! Black was in deep trouble. One point of recapturing on d5 with the knight is to deprive the thrust g4-g5 of its force.

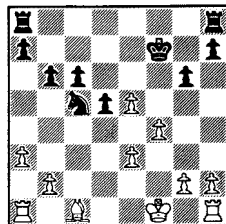
10 Ncxd5 exd5
11 Qh5

As recommended by Botvinnik in his notes to his win against Smyslov.

11 ... c6
12 Ne6 g6
13 Qe5 Bf6
14 Nxd8 Bxe5
15 Nxf7

This is where Botvinnik's analysis stopped, concluding that the position was advantageous for White, in fact "±". On examining this, I decided that Black could obtain a full equivalent for his lost pawn, in terms of the activity of his knight, control of the light squares and mobility of his pawns on both sides of the board. True, White gets one extra pawn, but on e5, f4 and e3, the squares White's centre pawns are doomed to occupy, they are static and easily blockaded. Indeed, White might do better to renounce the goods of this world with 15 Nxc6 Nxc6 16 dxe5 Nxe5 17 Bd2, concentrating, instead, on the spiritually uplifting establishment of a bishop on the fine diocese, c3.

15 ... Kxf7
16 dxe5 Nd7
17 f4 Nc5



18 b4

A new move. In my MCT analysis I had

given: 18 Ke2 Ne4 19 Bd2 h5, intending ...Ke6 ...g5 and ...Rag8 (??) Black's knight on e4 would have done credit to a Valkyrie, let alone a German chess Grandmaster!

18	...	Ne4
19	Bb2	Ke6
20	Ke2	h5
21	Rhc1	c5
22	Rab1	

White is trying to get some play on the 'b' file, and sets the positional trap 22...c4? 23 b5 followed by Bd4, when White's bishop emerges from the swamp.

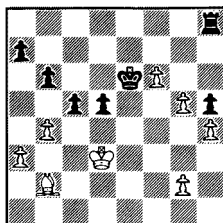
22	...	g5
23	Rf1	

White has to defend carefully on the K-side. If 23 f×g5 Rhg8 24 h4 Raf8 White collapses.

23	...	Raf8
24	f×g5	Rfg8
25	h4	

Timman sacrifices the exchange to create a massive K-side peasant army, but events prove his decision incorrect. Much better is 25 Rf4 R×g5 26 g3 h4 which looks quite unclear to me. As Botvinnik once said, "a defence that offers counterchances adequately cancels out the advantages of the first move", and in this opening variation Black certainly has plenty of counterchances.

25	...	Ng3+
26	Kd3	N×f1
27	R×f1	Rf8
28	Rf6+	R×f6
29	e×f6	



Black can now win by using his king to blockade White's passed pawns, while his rook penetrates White's camp, via the

'b' or 'e' files, in the latter case, using e4 as a springboard. Hübner gives the following variations in *Informator* 27: 29...Kf7! 30 b×c5 b×c5 31 e4 Rb8 32 Bc1 c4+ 33 Kd4 d×e4 34 K×e4 Rd8 35 g4 h×g4 36 Kf5 Rd5+ 37 K×g4 c3-+, or without opening the 'b' file: 29...Kf7! 30 e4 c4+ 31 Kd4 d×e4 32 K×e4 Kg6-+. Black threatens ...Rd8, cutting off White's king, and if 33 Kd4 b5 followed by ...Rd8+ and invasion of White's unprotected hinterland by the black rook.

29	...	Kf5?
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But this is the wrong way of heading for g6, the ideal blockade square. The point is that Black temporarily gives up the surveillance of White's 'f' pawn, which could suddenly be free to advance in awkward circumstances.

30	b×c5	b×c5
31	a4!	Rc8

31...Kg6 32 Ba3 Rc8 transposes, while 31...Rb8 32 Ba3!! Rb3+ 33 Kc2 R×a3 34 f7+- demonstrates the unwisdom of 29...Kf5? instead of 29...Kf7!

32	Ba3	Kg6
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The black king has reached its desired destination, but his rook is now passive. Struggle as he might, Hübner can no longer restore his winning position, and even has to play a couple of accurate moves himself at the end, in order not to lose.

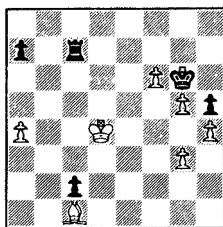
33	e4	c4+
34	Kd4	d×e4
35	K×e4	c3
36	Kd3	c2
37	Bc1	Rc6
38	g3	Rc7
39	Kd4	Rd7+
40	Kc3	Rc7+
41	Kd4	

Simpler is 41 Kb2 followed by Bd2=.

(See next diagram)

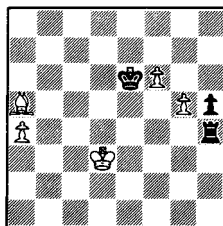
41	...	Kf7
42	Kd3	a5

42...a6 causes White some difficulties



after 43 Kd4 Rc8 44 a5 Rc7 45 Kd3 Rc5
46 Kd2 Rxa5 47 Kxc2 Rb5 48 Bd2 a5
49 Bc1 a4 50 Be3 Rb3, but 51 Bd6 holds
the draw. The problem for Black is
that his rook and passed pawn cannot
make progress on their own against the
defensive configuration of White's king
and bishop. In addition, Black has no
completely safe square on the 6th rank
for his rook. If he did, White would
be lost.

43	Kd4	Rc8
44	Kd3	Rc5
45	Kd4	Rf5
46	Kd3	Rf3+
47	Kxc2	Rxcg3
48	Bd2	Rg2
49	Kc3	Ke6
50	Kd3	Rg4
51	Bxa5	Rxa5



52	g6	Rh3+
53	Kc4	Kxf6
54	Bd8+	Kxcg6
55	a5	Kf7
56	a6	Ke6
57	a7	Ra3
58	Bb6	Kd7
59	Kb4	Rxa7

Drawn.

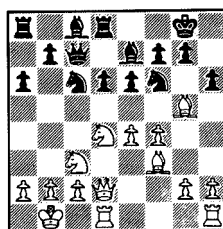
Game No. 74 Sicilian Defence

Kavalek Larsen
(Notes by Tal)

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qd2	a6
8	O-O-O	Qc7
9	f4	Be7
10	Kb1	

Larsen repeats the moves from his game
with Tal from the first cycle, but
Kavalek is the first to deviate. Tal
played here 10 Be2.

10	...	O-O
11	Be2	Rd8
12	Bf3	h6



13 h4

White could not play 13 Bh4 because of
13...Nxe4, but he is by no means obliged
to retreat.

13	...	Nxd4
14	Qxd4	b5
15	Qf2	Bb7
16	g4	b4

The preparatory 16...Rac8 deserved
consideration.

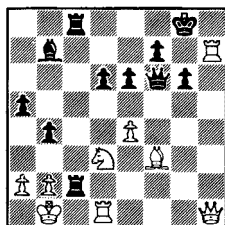
17	Bxf6	Bxf6
18	Ne2	Qc5
19	Qg2	g6
20	g5	hxcg5
21	hxcg5	Bg7
22	Rh3	Rac8
23	Nc1	Rc7
24	Nd3	Qd4
25	f5	Rdc8

Equally bad is 25...exf5 26 exf5 Bxf3
27 Rxf3 gxf5 28 Rf4.

26 f6 Rxc2
27 Qh1

Both attacking and defending.

27 ... a5
28 Rh7 Bxf6
29 gxf6 Qxf6



30 e5! dxe5

Mate results from 30...Qxf3 31 Rh8+ Kg7
32 Qh6 mate, or 30...Bxf3 31 exf6 Bxh1
21 Rdxh1.

31 Bxb7 e4
32 Rf1 Resigns

Game No. 75 French Defence

Tal Portisch
(Notes by Tal)

During preparations for the 1978 World Championship Match, considerable attention was of course devoted to searches for an effective answer to the French Defence, which earlier the challenger had frequently adopted. It may be recalled that, in the 1974 Karpov-Korchnoi match, White did not succeed in achieving anything substantial in this opening. One of the variations prepared occurred in the present game.

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nd2 c5
4 exd5 exd5
5 Bb5+

This move now seems to be gradually displacing 5 Ngf3.

5 ... Bd7
6 Qe2+ Be7

Of course, the position after 6...Qe7 can also be defended (this, in particular, is how the 16th game of the match in Baguio developed), but the ending is definitely more promising for White.

7 dxc5 Nf6
8 Nb3 O-O
9 Nf3 Re8
10 Be3 a6

In the 22nd Karpov-Korchnoi game Black continued 10...Bxc5 11 Nxc5 Qa5+ 12 Qd2 Qxb5 13 O-O-O, and soon encountered serious difficulties. It is curious that, in Baguio, Korchnoi avoided 10...a6, although he had played it earlier, and had recommended it on the pages of the *Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings*.*

11 Bd3

Without doubt, a more dangerous move than the exchange on d7, which relieves Black of all his difficulties.

11 ... Ba4

In *E.C.O.** Korchnoi cuts short his analysis at this position, assessing it as more favourable for Black. Portisch has also had this position (against Larsen at Tilburg, I think). The Dane chose the plan involving K-side castling, and did not achieve anything of significance. The plan with Q-side castling may possibly cause the evaluation of this variation to be reconsidered.

12 Nfd4 Nbd7
13 O-O-O Nxc5
14 Nf5

White is not afraid of either capture on b3, since he considers that Black will not be able to exploit the slight vulnerability of his Q-side.

* In *E.C.O.* Volume C (1974) the author of the section in question is not Korchnoi, but Parma. (K.P.N.)

14 ... Bf8
15 Nxc5

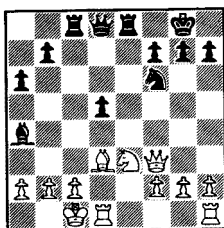
The alternative, roughly equivalent continuation was the immediate 15 Qf3.

15 ... Bxc5
16 Qf3 Bxe3+
17 Nxe3

I avoided 17 fxe3 because of 17...Bd7 18 g4 Re5, or even 18...Bxf5 19 Bxf5 Qe7.

17 ... Rc8

Black's wish to create play on the 'c' file is natural, but unexpectedly his rook turns out to be in danger. The alternative - 17...Bc6, would have allowed White a not very big, but persistent advantage after 18 Nf5.



18 Bf5 Rc5
19 Rd4

The tournament situation favoured White's intention of going in for complications. Much quieter was 19 Qf4, after which 19...Bc6 leads to the loss of the exchange (20 b4), with essentially no compensation. What I didn't like, however, was the fact that Black could retreat his bishop to d7, exploiting the fact that the attack on the d5 pawn has temporarily been lifted.

19 ... Bc6
20 b4

The continuation of the projected plan. However, White decided on this move only after lengthy deliberation.

20 ... Rb5

Much stronger than 20...Rc3 21 Kb2.

21 a4

Otherwise White's previous play has no point - 21...a5 was already threatened.

21 ... Rb6

To be honest, this move surprised me somewhat. It was not easy to evaluate the position resulting after 21...Rxb4 22 Rxb4 d4 23 Qd1 (with the queens on, Black's initiative is very dangerous) 23...dxe3 24 Qxd8 Rxd8 25 fxe3 Bxg2. Only by means of the manoeuvre 26 Rd1 Re8 27 Bd7! Rxe3 28 Bc8 could White hope for any advantage. But the Hungarian grandmaster was evidently hoping to give up the exchange in a more favourable situation.

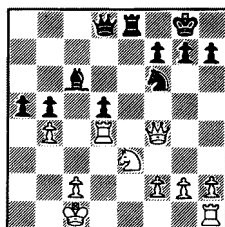
22 a5 Rb5
23 Qf4!

Black's calculations were based on the immediate 23 Bd3, after which the capture on b4 gains markedly in strength. White, however, has no reason to hurry, since the threat of 24 Bd3 cannot be averted (23...Ne4? 24 Bxe4 Rxe4 25 Qxe4).

23 ... b6

There is nothing better.

24 Bd3 bxa5
25 Bxb5 axb5



26 Rhd1!

White provokes the capture on b4, assuming that the open lines will be useful for his rooks.

26 ... axb4
27 Kb2

Much weaker is 27 Rxb4 Qa5.

27 ... Qc8
 28 Rxb4 Ne4
 29 Rd3!

38 Rc3 Bd7
 39 Rxe5 Resigns

The Achilles heel of White's position is his c3 square. Here it would have been premature to switch onto tactical lines. The following variation is interesting:
 29 Nf5 Bd7! 30 Rxe4 Rxe4 31 Qxe4 Bxf5
 32 Qe2 b4! 33 Qd2 d4, and Black has real chances of saving the game.

29 ... Nc5
 30 Ra3 Na4+

I don't think that 30...Ne6 was any better. White has the very strong reply
 31 Qd6 (31...Rd8 32 Qe5).

31 Kc1 Bd7

31...h6 was perhaps more accurate, when it would have been rather difficult for White to realize his slight material advantage. Portisch hopes to create counter-play, but he has no time for this.

32 Qd6 Bc6

Alas, 32...Bf5 fails to 33 Rxb5! Rxe3
 34 Rb8.

33 Rd3 h6
 34 Rf4! Qe6

Black's desire to avoid a possible attack on his king, at the same time improving his pawn chain, is understandable. But... this is what White was hoping for.

35 Qxe6 fxe6
 36 Ng4!

It would appear that Portisch underestimated this move. It turns out that, without the queens, White's attack is doubly dangerous. Now the positional threat of 37 Ne5 forces Black to advance his central pawn, after which he subsequently can no longer defend it.

36 ... e5
 37 Rf5 Nc5

37...e4 is certainly no better, in view of 38 Rg3.

ROUND 16

2nd May

Karpov	(10)	½	-	½	Tal (10½)
Portisch	(9)	½	-	½	Kavalek (6½)
Larsen	(5)	½	-	½	Timman (7)
Hübner	(7)	0	-	1	Spassky (6)
Ljubojevic	(7½)	1	-	0	Hort (6½)

Standings after sixteen rounds: Tal - 11; Karpov - 10½; Portisch - 9½; Ljubojevic - 8½; Timman - 7½; Hübner, Kavalek, Spassky - 7; Hort - 6½; Larsen - 5½.

Karpov, in his meeting with the leader, whom he was trailing by half a point, played for a win. This is indicated by, if nothing else, the fact that he declined the draw offered on the 20th move. However, Black's defensive resources proved to be sufficient. I did not risk playing 22...g5, although I think that objectively it was a good continuation. At any event, the ending with a minimal positional plus for White did not give him any substantial advantage.

For the greater part of the game, Portisch played brilliantly against Kavalek. By the adjournment he had gained a decisive advantage, but on resumption a piece of carelessness, extremely unusual for him, allowed his opponent to take play into a theoretically drawn ending.

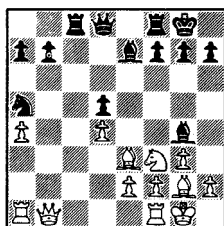
Ljubojevic attacked Hort with great inventiveness, and a spectacular combination enabled him to win the exchange. Hort could possibly have put up a more orderly defence, but time trouble prevented him from carefully devising one, and the endgame turned out to be hopeless.

Spassky conducted his game against Hübner in his best traditions: a complicated struggle, a pawn sacrifice with unclear consequences, and a systematic development of the initiative. Here too the crisis was reached in the time scramble. The picturesquely placed, but static white knights were helpless witnesses to the drama on the K-side, and the exchange sacrifice made by White was the one possibility of averting a mating finish. Spassky carried out the concluding attack most convincingly.

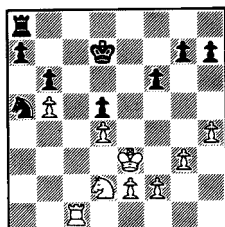
Timman was again let down by his technique. The Dutchman refuted in excellent style Larsen's risky handling of the opening. With Black after only ten moves he had gained a probably decisive advantage. Perhaps a pawn was too small a debt for White's opening sins. However, I think that subsequently too Larsen would not have been able to defend the position, had his opponent played more accurately. As it was, White's one trump - a passed pawn - unexpectedly enabled him to hold the position.

Game No. 76 Catalan Opening

<i>Karpov</i>	<i>Tal</i>
1 c4	Nf6
2 Nc3	c5
3 Nf3	e6
4 g3	d5
5 cxd5	Nxd5
6 Bg2	Nc6
7 O-O	Be7
8 d4	O-O
9 Nxd5	exd5
10 Be3	c4
11 b3	cxb3
12 Qxb3	Na5
13 Qb1	Bg4
14 a4	Rc8



15 Qa2	Nc4
16 Bf4	Qd7
17 Rfb1	f6
18 Qb3	b6
19 h4	Bf5
20 Rc1	Be4
21 Nd2	Bxg2
22 Kxg2	Na5
23 Qb5	Qxb5
24 axb5	Bb4
25 Nf1	Kf7
26 Bd2	Bxd2
27 Nxd2	Ke6
28 Kf3	Kd7
29 Ke3	Rxc1
30 Rxc1	Ra8



31 Kd3	a6
32 bxa6	Rxa6

Drawn.

Game No. 77 Modern Defence

Portisch Kavalek
(Notes by Kholmov)

1 Nf3	g6
2 c4	Bg7
3 d4	d6
4 Nc3	Bg4

It subsequently turns out that this is a loss of time. In the game Portisch-Keene (Teesside 1972) Black played 4... e5 immediately, and after 5 dxe5 dxe5 6 Qxd8+ Kxd8 7 Bg5+ f6 8 O-O-O+ Nd7 9 Bd2 Nh6 10 Rgl Nf7 11 g4 c6 12 Ne4 Kc7 13 e3 Bf8 14 Bc3 Be7 15 Be2 Re8 16 h4 Nc5 17 Nxc5 Bxc5 he obtained a satisfactory game.

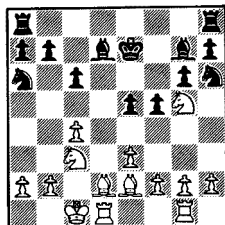
5 e3	e5
6 dxe5	dxe5
7 Qxd8+	Kxd8
8 Ng5	Nh6
9 Be2!	Bd7

After 9...Bxe2 10 Kxe2 Black looks to have made an important concession — he has developed his opponent's king and rook.

10 Bd2	c6
11 O-O-O	Na6
12 Rhg1	

The usual plan in this variation. By the advance of his 'g' pawn White attempts to seize the initiative.

12 ...	f6
13 Nge4	f5
14 Ng5	Ke7



It would appear that Black has successfully solved all his opening problems. For 'complete satisfaction' he only needs to make the moves ...Rad8 and ...Bc8, completing the mobilization of his forces. Therefore White has to

hurry, to attempt to exploit the not altogether happy position of the black king in the centre, otherwise it may be too late! It is precisely this aim that his following move pursues.

15 e4 f4

The natural reaction! Opening lines in the centre would have been playing into White's hands.

16 g3 f×g3

There was some point in playing 16... Raf8, so as after 17 g×f4 to open the diagonal for the bishop.

17 h×g3 Ng4
18 Be1 Bc8

White was threatening 19 Rxd7+!

19 Kb1 h6
20 Nf3 g5

The threat of 21 Nh4 was highly unpleasant.

21 Nd2 Rf8
22 f3 Nf6

22...Ne3!? deserved consideration. Strangely enough, the knight would have felt not at all unhappy in the very thick of the enemy troops! After 23 Rc1 g4 24 f4 e×f4 25 g×f4 R×f4 26 Rg3 Bd4 27 Nb3 B×c3! 28 R×c3 Nf1 29 Rg1 Nh2 30 Bg3 Nf3 31 Rh1 R×e4 an approximately level position is reached.

23 Nf1!

White has discovered a vulnerable square in Black's position — f5. Now the knight embarks on the manoeuvre f1-e3-f5.

23 ... g4
24 Ne3

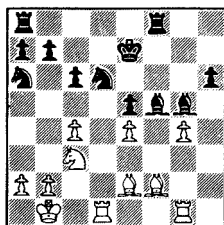
White consistently carries out his plan. 24 f4 could have been answered by 24... Nc5 25 Nd2 Rd8 26 f×e5 Nf×e4 27 Nd×e4 Bf5, with unclear complications.

24 ... g×f3
25 B×f3 Ne8

Black is already encountering consider-

able problems, and normal methods of development are hampered. 25...Be6 is unpleasantly answered by 26 Nf5+ B×f5 27 e×f5 Rad8 28 Bf2, and moving the king in this line is no better: 26... Kf7 27 Nd6+ Kg8 28 N×b7 B×c4 29 Na5.

26 Be2 Nd6
27 g4 Bf6
28 Bf2 Bg5
29 Nf5+ B×f5



30 e×f5!

White increases his advantage, which lies not only in the two strong bishops, but also in the prospect of an attack on the e5 pawn, whose weakness has again become apparent.

30 ... b6
31 Bg3 Bf6
32 Bf3 Rac8
33 Rge1 Nf7

Not, of course, 33...N×c4?, because of 34 Be2 b5 35 B×c4 b×c4 36 B×e5, when Black loses.

34 Ne4 Rfd8
35 N×f6 K×f6
36 a3

After 36 Rxd8 Rxd8 37 Bxc6 Kg5 38 B×e5 Nb4 the black pieces become very active. White similarly achieves nothing by 38 Bd5 K×g4 39 B×f7 K×g3 40 R×e5 Kf4 41 Re7 Nb4, or 37 Bh4+ Ng5 38 Bxc6 Rd4 39 Bf3 Nc5, when the loss of the pawn is immaterial.

36 ... Nc5
37 Kc2 e4
38 Be2!

If 38 Rxd8, then 38...Rxd8 39 B×e4 Rd4!, with sufficient counter-play.

38 ... a5?

Simply essential was first 38...Rxd1!
39 Rxd1, and only then 39...a5. In this case little is achieved by 40 b4 axb4 41 axb4 Nd3! (41...Na6? 42 Kc3 c5 43 b5 Nb4 44 Ral!, with advantage to White) 42 Bxd3 exd3+ 43 Rxd3 Kg5 44 Rd4 c5 45 bxc5 Rxc5, when Black should be able to draw. After the move played White gains a big advantage.

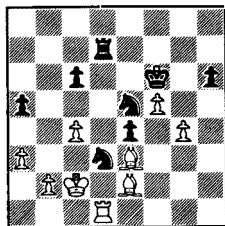
39 Rxd8! Rxd8

39...Nxd8? is even worse. After 40 b4 axb4 41 axb4 Na6 42 Kc3 Nf7 43 Bd1 Ng5 44 Bc2 Re8 45 Bf4! (45 Bh4? e3!) 45...c5 46 b5 Nb4 47 Bxg5+ Kxg5 48 Rxe4 Black is lost.

40 Bc7 Rd7
41 Bxb6 Nd3
42 Rd1

Less good is 42 Bxd3? exd3+ 43 Kc3 Ne5 44 Bd4? Rxd4!, etc.

42 ... Nfe5
43 Be3



This move was sealed by Portisch at the adjournment. It is possible that the subsequent mistakes can be explained by severe time trouble at the second control.* Instead of the move sealed, White could have captured a pawn — 43 Bxa5, but after 43...Nxc4 44 Bc3+ Kg5 45 Bd2+ Nx2 46 Rxd2 Rh7! 47 Bxd3 exd3+ 48 Rxd3 Kxg4, despite his extra pawn, it is doubtful whether he can win.

43 ... h5

Clearly, Kavalek did not wish to give his opponent two connected passed pawns

after 43...Nxc4 44 Bxh6. True, after 44...Ncxb2 45 Rf1 Nc4 46 g5+ Ke5 47 g6 Nxa3+ 48 Kb3 Nb5 49 g7 a rather wild and unclear position is reached, where Black has the possibility of an attack by 49...a4+ or 49...Nd4+. After the move played, the white 'h' pawn in the end has its important say.

44 gxh5 Nxc4
45 Bcl Nce5
46 Bxd3

46 Rf1 could have been answered by 46...Rg7!, with the threat of 47...Rg2.

46 ... Nxd3

If 46...exd3+, then 47 Kc3 Kxf5 48 Rf1+ Ke6 49 Bd2!

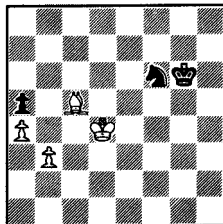
47 Be3 Kxf5
48 Rf1+ Ke6
49 h6 c5
50 b3 Rf7
51 Rxf7 Kxf7
52 Kc3 Ne5
53 Bxc5 Ng4

53...Kg6 fails to 54 Be3.

54 h7 Kg7
55 a4 Kxh7
56 Kd4 Kg6

On 56...Nf6 or 56...e3 there would have followed 57 Bb6! Now Black tries to transfer his king to the Q-side, give up his knight for the 'b' pawn, and, making use of the 'lucky' corner, achieve a draw even though a piece down.

57 Kxe4 Nf6+
58 Kd4?



An inaccuracy! After 58 Ke5! Kf7

*Surely this would have been at move 56? (K.P.N.)

59 Kd6! (59 Be3? Ng4+ 60 Kf4 Nxe3
61 Kxe3 Ke7!, and Black gains a draw)
59...Ne4+ 60 Kd5 Nd2 61 b4 axb4 62
a5! (62 Bxb4? Nb3! 63 Kc4 Ke6!, with
a draw) 62...Nb3 63 a6 Nxc5 64 a7 Nd7
65 Kc6 White wins. No better is 59...
Ke8 60 Kc6 Ne4 61 Bb6 Nd2 62 b4! axb4
63 a5 b3 64 Bd4.

58 ... Nd7
59 Bd6 Kf5
60 Bc7?

Better here was 60 Kd5! Nf6+ 61 Kc6 Ke4
62 Bc7 Kd3 63 Bxa5 Kc2 64 Bd8!, and
White wins. This is similarly the case
after 61...Ne4 62 Bb4!! axb4 63 a5 Nd2
64 a6 Nxb3 65 a7.

60 ... Ke6
61 Bxa5?

Preferable was 61 Kc4!

61 ... Kd6
62 b4??

A blunder, after which Black gains a
draw by force. White should have played
62 Bd8! Nb8 63 Kc4 Nc6 64 Bb6, when he
must win.

62 ... Nb8!

Now it turns out that White is unable
to prevent the 'self-sacrifice' of the
black knight.

63 Kc4 Nc6

63 b5 would have been answered by the
same move!

64 Kb5 Nxb4!
65 Kb6

If 65 Bxb4+, then 65...Kc7 66 Bd6+ Kb7!,
reaching the drawing zone!

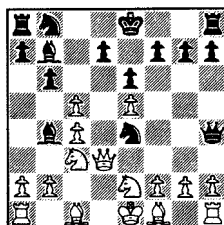
65 ... Nd3
Draw!

Game No. 78 Nimzo-Indian Defence

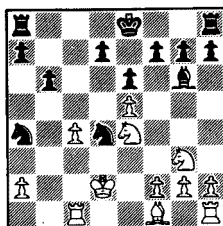
Larsen Timman

1 c4 e6
2 Nc3 b6

3 d4 Bb4
4 Qd3 Nf6
5 e4 c5
6 dxc5 Bb7
7 e5 Ne4
8 Nge2 Qh4

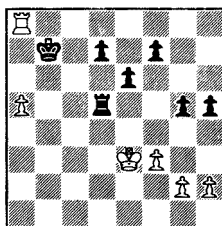


9 Be3 Nxc5
10 Qd4 Be4
11 Ng3 Nc6
12 Qd2 Ng6
13 Ng5 Qd4
14 Qxd4 Nxd4
15 Rc1 Na4
16 Bd2 Nxb2
17 Nce4 Bxd2+
18 Kxd2 Na4

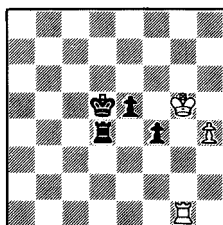


19 c5 Nxc5
20 Nxc5 bxc5
21 Rxc5 Ke7
22 Kc3 Nf5
23 Nxf5+ Bxf5
24 Ba6 Be4
25 Kd4 Bd5
26 Bc4 Bxc4
27 Rxc4 Rhc8
28 Rhc1 Rxc4+
29 Rxc4 Rb8
30 Ra4 Rb2
31 Ke3 Rb5
32 Rxa7 Rxe5+
33 Kd2 Rd5+
34 Ke3 h5
35 a4 Kd6
36 Ra8 g5
37 a5 Kc7

38 f3 Kb7



39 Rd8 g4
 40 f×g4 h×g4
 41 Kf4 f5
 42 h4 g×h3
 43 g×h3 R×a5
 44 R×d7+ Kc6
 45 Rd1 Rd5
 46 Ra1 Rd4+
 47 Kg5 Kd5
 48 Rg1 f4
 49 h4 e5



50 h5 Ke6
 51 h6 Rd8
 52 h7 Rh8
 53 Kh6 f3
 54 Rg8 R×h7+
 55 K×h7 Kf5
 56 Kh6 Kf4
 57 Kh5 f2
 58 Rf8+ Kg3
 59 Rg8+ Kf3
 60 Rf8+ Kg2
 61 Rg8+ Kh2

Drawn.

Game No. 79 English Opening

Hübner Spassky
 (Notes by Gufeld)

1 c4 e5
 2 Nc3 d6

This move order for Black does not yet determine his plan of play, but nevertheless in literature it bears the name of the 'Chigorin Variation', in honour of its discoverer. It has particularly frequently been played by Smyslov, and in recent years he has been joined by Tseshkovsky, and, as we see, Spassky.

3 g3

A solid continuation, retaining for White a minimal opening advantage. A more forceful plan has also shown itself to quite good advantage: 3 d4!, for example 3...e×d4 4 Q×d4 Nc6 5 Qd2!, and White's pressure in the centre compensates for the lost tempo. Possible continuations are 5...Nf6 6 b3 Be6 7 e4 a5 8 Bd3 a4 9 Rb1 (Polugayevsky-Tseshkovsky, 42nd USSR Championship, 1974), or 5...g6 6 b3 Bg7 7 Bb2 Nf6 8 g3 0-0 9 Bg2 Ne5 10 Nf3 (Stahlberg-Smyslov, Stockholm 1964).

3 ... g6

In the game Olafsson-Smyslov (Bled 1959) an unusual idea was employed for the first time: 3...Be6!?, with the idea of playing ...d6-d5. Despite frequent attempts to refute it, it is still played.

4 Bg2 Bg7
 5 d3

The alternative is 5 e3 followed by 6 Nge2.

5 ... f5

This is regarded as Black's most energetic reply. But objectively this plan is rather risky here, since it creates certain weaknesses in his position, and practically obliges him to gamble on a subsequent K-side attack, while frequently leaving the centre and the Q-side at the mercy of fate. But Spassky's tournament position did not leave him a great deal of choice as regards his playing tactics. And the main thing is that, with colours reversed, he gets into his favourite scheme: how often has he played as White the closed variation of the Sicilian Defence, and how many times has he lost the battle on the Q-side and won it on the K-side! True,

here this system has to be played with the loss of a very important tempo ...

6 e4

A highly effective measure against Black's plan: in the centre White opposes force with force! In the closed variation of the Sicilian Defence with colours reversed, this method was successfully employed by Botvinnik. The other ways of developing are by 6 e3 Nf6 7 Nge2 0-0 8 0-0, preparing b2-b4-b5, or f4, halting in advance Black's pawn phalanx.

6 ... Nc6

It is essential to take control of the d4 square. In the event of 6...Nf6 7 Nge2 0-0 8 0-0 c6 White can advantageously continue 9 exf5 Bxf5 10 d4!, as in the game Kovacevic-Ostojic (Yugoslavia 1969).

7 Nge2 Nh6

A continuation of the same risky plan, chosen by Spassky. After castling K-side Black wants to play ...g6-g5 as soon as possible, and so he does not develop his knight at e7 or f6, where it would block the queen's diagonal. But at the same time the knight is decentralized.

8 Nd5 0-0
9 0-0

When the knight is developed at h6, one very much feels the urge to play h2-h4-h5! But Hübner restricts himself to quiet development, which retains all the advantages of his position.

9 ... Be6
10 b3

10 Rb1 followed by b2-b4 looks more active (later White has all the same to return to this plan), as does 10 f4. But White's position is so rich in possibilities that even the modest move in the game does not lose him his advantage.

10 ... g5
11 exf5

But on the other hand the bishop at g2 is activated.

11 ... Nxf5
12 Bb2 Qd7
13 Qd2 h6
14 Rae1?

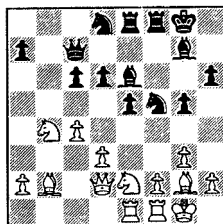
This is characteristic of the style of many German players, whereby they aim for a sound, expedient development and for 'solid' moves, without going deeply into the tactical details of the situation. It soon turns out that this rook has nothing to do at e1, and that its proper place is at b1. Therefore 14 b4 looks more logical, and if 14... Rae8 15 b5 Nd8, then White can even play 16 Qa5 c6 17 bxc6 bxc6 (17... Nxc6 reinforces the white knight on its dominating post at d5) 18 Nb4, with a more favourable position than in the game.

Now it is easier for Black to equalize.

14 ... Rae8
15 b4

It is clear that, thanks to the slight delay in the making of this move, Black should be able to consolidate his forces.

15 ... Nd8
16 b5 c6
17 bxc6 bxc6
18 Nb4 Qc7!



Black would not have had this possibility, if White had played b3-b4 a move earlier. The regrouping of his pieces enables Black to bring his knight into play from d8.

19 Nc1 Bd7
20 Nb3 Ne6
21 Nc2

Forced, in view of the threat of 11...f4.

It turns out that White's entire set-up is directed towards the preparation of d3-d4. But Black has a means of preventing this.

21 ... Qb6
22 Bb3 Qd8

The queen's wanderings have some point. Since the white bishop has been diverted from d4, the black queen too can lift its control of that square, so as to approach nearer to the longed-for K-side. It is true that White could have returned with his bishop to b2, when Black also would have nothing better than to repeat moves - 23...Qb6. But after all, that would have meant a draw, and the players were in a fighting mood. Especially Spassky. Therefore Hübner should perhaps have permitted himself the luxury of repeating moves once, so as to test how his opponent would react. This practical device would also have been useful in view of the approaching time trouble, which has never been a friend of the West German grandmaster, but merely a source of trouble in the most crucial games of the most important tournaments... But Hübner continues to play straightforwardly.

23 Rb1

Courageously admitting (with a delay of 9 moves) his inaccuracy. 23 h3! also deserved consideration.

23 ... g4!

Black's counter-play begins to take shape.

24 Na5 c5

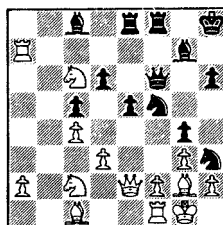
And this counter-play is so dangerous that the weakening of Black's Q-side is no longer so dangerous for him: the fate of the game will be decided on the opposite side of the board.

25 Nc6 Qf6
26 Rb7 Bc8
27 Rxa7 Ng5

White has won a pawn, but at c6 his knight is far away from the main events. He should have thought in terms of returning it 'home' immediately, but

Hübner continues to play with fire.

28 Qe2 Kh8
29 Bc1 Nh3+!



30 Bxh3?

The first of a series of slight errors, each of which plays into Black's hands. White parts with his powerful bishop, the white squares in his position are weakened, and Black acquires a menacing 'wedge' at h3. After the quiet 30 Kh1 the game would still have been level. For example: 30...Nd4 31 Nxd4 cxd4 32 f4!, with active counter-play.

30 ... g×h3
31 Qf3

Not the happiest square for the queen - under the 'X-ray' along the 'f' file, which later tells. It would have felt safer at h5 or e4. Now the initiative is completely seized by Black.

31 ... Rf7
32 Ne3 Ref8
33 Nd5 Qg6
34 Rxf7 Qxf7
35 Be3?

Probably the decisive error. After 35 Qe4! White can still put up a defence.

35 ... Qe8!

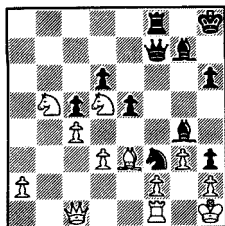
Vacating the 'f' file with gain of tempo. The entire white-square periphery of Hübner's position is 'on fire'.

36 Na7 Nd4
37 Qd1 Nf3+
38 Kh1 Bg4
39 Qc1 Qf7!

In this game the black queen does enough work for two. Its complex intermittent

manoeuvrings are highly elegant.

40 Nb5



40 ... Nd2!
41 f4 Nxfl

This move was sealed by Black. The game did not last long on resumption.

42 Qxf1 Qh5
43 Ndc3 exf4
44 Bxf4 Re8
45 Bd2 Be2
White resigns.

Game No. 80 French Defence

Ljubojević Hорт
(Notes by Aronin)

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 e5 c5
5 a3 Bxc3+
6 bxc3 Ne7
7 Nf3 b6
8 Rb1

An interesting idea. On 8...Ba6 there follows 9 Bb5+.

8 ... Qc7
9 Bd3 Ba6
10 O-O Bxd3
11 cxd3

Now White's control of c4 can be removed only by playing ...c5-c4.

11 ... h6

Directed against Ng5, which would allow White to take the initiative on the K-side.

12 a4 Nd7
13 Ba3 O-O
14 Re1 Rfe8

It might be assumed that Black is defending his knight in preparation for ...c5-c4. This was the correct plan, from which Hорт wrongly deviates.

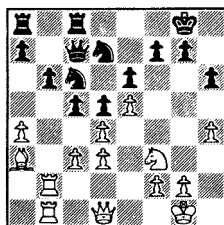
15 Re2 Rec8

The first of a series of tempi, which Black 'squanders' over the next few moves. Clearly, Hорт was unable to make a choice between the exchange on d4 and the advance ...c5-c4, and put off a decision on this question until the future. Meanwhile, after 15...c4 he would have gained an important strong-point for one of his knights.

16 Reb2

This also has no particular aim. Soon White has to return his rook to e2. It was better to begin an advance of the K-side pawns.

16 ... Nc6
17 h4



Since the centre is blocked, it is appropriate to advance the pawns in front of the king. Now Black should have hurried with his counter-attack.

17 ... Qd8
18 Re2 Kh8

More logical is 18...Na5, followed nevertheless by ...c5-c4. Instead of this, Hорт undertakes the erroneous plan of moving his queen into 'exile' at h7.

Even top-class players can play below their potential in individual games,

and this is true of both Hort's games against Ljubojevic in Montreal.

19 Re3 Ne7
20 g4 Rc7

Even here it was not too late to play ...c5-c4.

21 h5 Rac8
22 Bb2

Of course, this is a passive position for the bishop, but it is only a temporary one.

22 ... Qg8

Here comes this original but unfortunate idea.

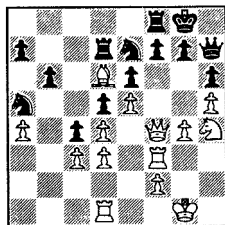
23 Ne1 Qh7
24 Ng2 Nb8
25 Rf3 Kg8
26 Qd2 Nbc6
27 Qf4 Rf8
28 Ba3 c4

At last, and perhaps still not too late.

29 Rd1 Na5

This finally ruins Black's game. The last possibility of defence was 29...Rd7, so as to answer 30 Nh4 with 30...f5.

30 Bd6 Rd7
31 Nh4



Against the threat of Ng6 there is no satisfactory defence.

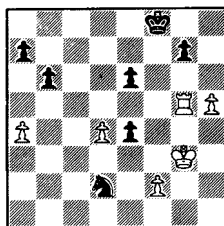
31 ... cxd3
32 Bxe7 Rxe7
33 Ng6 Re8
34 Nxf8 Rxf8
35 Rdxd3

After the win of the exchange it is merely a matter of technique.

35 ... Nc4
36 Rg3 f6
37 Rdf3 Qb1+
38 Kh2 Qe4

With the queens on, Black would have lost even more quickly.

39 Qxe4 dxe4
40 Rf4 fxe5
41 Rxf8+ Kxf8
42 g5 hxg5
43 Rxg5 exd4
44 cxd4 Nd2
45 Kg3



The sealed move. Black's position is of course hopeless.

45 ... Nf3
46 Rg4 Nxd4
47 Rxe4 Nf5+
48 Kf4 Ke7
49 Rc4 Kf6
50 Rc7 a5
51 Rc8 e5+
52 Kg4 Ne7
53 Rf8+ Ke6
54 Kg5 e4
55 Rb8 Resigns

On 55...Nd5 there follows 56 Kg6.

ROUND 17

3rd May

Ljubojevic	(8½)	0	-	1	Karpov (10½)
Hort	(6½)	½	-	½	Hübner (7)
Spassky	(7)	1	-	0	Larsen (5½)
Timman	(7½)	½	-	½	Portisch (9½)
Kavalek	(7)	½	-	½	Tal (11)

Standings after seventeen rounds: Karpov, Tal — 11½; Portisch — 10; Ljubojevic — 8½; Spassky, Timman — 8; Hübner, Kavalek — 7½; Hort — 7; Larsen — 5½.

The most dramatic game in this round was undoubtedly that between Ljubojevic and Karpov. Here there is much that is unclear. Why Ljubojevic played 5 Nf5, and why Karpov did not reply 5...d5, which has been known to theory for more than a century. At any event, White gained an advantage, but it would appear that Ljubojevic himself did not believe that the game, which was going so well for him, would conclude in the same way. 26 Qc3 instead of 26 Qa4 would have promised White a significant advantage, without any counter-play at all for his opponent. After the continuation in the game, Karpov, showing fantastic ingenuity, succeeded in creating counter-play. As soon as Ljubojevic sensed the threats to his king, it was as though a different player took over, and he conducted the entire second half of the game in far from the best way. At one point the World Champion could have forced a draw, but, it would seem, sensing the changed psychological situation, began playing for a win. And his calculations were completely justified. First several poor manoeuvres by White, then a weak sealed move — and Ljubojevic's position became hopeless.

A curious coincidence occurred in the Kavalek-Tal game, which up to the 22nd move repeated the one between Kavalek and Karpov from the first cycle. In their joint analysis the Soviet grandmasters had found that Black's position was excellent. And, it would seem, Kavalek agreed with this, by playing 22 Re1 instead of 22 b3. However, this analysis was not tested, since, after playing 22...Nc6, I offered a draw, which after some consideration Kavalek accepted.

A third successive win was gained by Spassky. Larsen again chose the Centre Counter Game, but on this occasion the effect of novelty was lacking. Spassky acted, as they say, in classical fashion. After harmoniously deploying his pieces in the centre, he prepared and then carried out a decisive blow. By resourceful defence the Dane was able merely to delay his defeat.

The Timman-Portisch encounter was extremely tense. For most of the time it was favourable for the Hungarian grandmaster, but he missed his chances, and just before the time control it appeared that Timman might have had hopes of winning.

The exception in this fighting round was the Hort-Hübner game, where a double-edged opening proved to be only for appearances' sake.

Game No. 81 Scotch Game

Ljubojevic Karpov
(Notes by Chandler)

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	e×d4
4	N×d4	Bc5
5	Nf5!?	

A weird alternative, favoured by Savon, to the usual lines of 5 Be3 and 5 Nb3.

5 ... Qf6!?

And an equally surprising reply. Savon-Ivkov (Wijk aan Zee 1972) went 5...g6?! 6 Ne3 Nf6 7 Nc3 0-0 8 Bd3 Re8 9. 0-0 with advantage to White, but an old analysis of Steinitz's runs 5...d5! 6 N×g7+ (6 e×d5? B×f5 7 d×c6 B×f2+) Kf8 7 Nh5 Qh4 8 Ng3 Nf6 9 Be2 Ne5 10 h3 Rg8 with a tremendous attack for Black. It would be interesting to know whether Ljubojevic was unaware of this line, or whether he had an improvement prepared — for example 6 Nc3!? (instead of 6 N×g7+) and if 6...d×e4 7 N×g7+ Kf8 8 Q×d8+ N×d8 9 N×e4! with the better endgame. In this line Black would do better to play 6...B×f5!, eliminating White's aggressive knight.

6	Nc3	Nge7
7	Ne3	0-0
8	g3	Ne5

Black's queen is extremely susceptible to attack on f6, and he must use his lead in development to probe weaknesses in White's position. Now on the routine 9 Bg2 would come 9...d5! 10 e×d5 B×e3 11 B×e3 Bg4 to be followed by ...Nf3+.

9	f4	N5g6
10	Bg2	c6
11	0-0	d5!
12	Khl	

12 e×d5 is also possible (12...N×d5 or 12...Nf5 meets 13 Ne4), but after 12...c×d5 13 Khl d4 14 Ne4 Qb6 15 Nc4 Qc7 White will start to feel a number of weak spots in his position. 12 e5? would lose to 12...N×e5 13 f×e5 Q×e5 14 Re1 d4 15 Ned5 d×c3+ 16 Khl c×b2!

12 ... B×e3

Black is forced to cede the bishop pair, and it is clear who has won the opening battle — it seems 5...Qf6 will probably not be repeated. Instead 12...d4 13 Na4, with e4-e5 to follow, would win for White.

13	B×e3	d×e4
14	Qc1!	

Covering the pawn on b2 so that N×e4 is possible.

14	...	Bf5
15	N×e4	B×e4?!

To be preferred was 15...Qe6 16 Nc5 Qc8 with a defensible game. Now White's two bishops are more than a match for the two knights.

16	B×e4	Rfe8
17	Re1	b6
18	c3	Nf5
19	Bf2	h5
20	Qc2	Nge7
21	Bf3	g6
22	Re5!	

White is clearly much better, and Karpov soon tries to exchange one of the powerful bishops with a pawn offer.

22	...	Nd5
23	Rae1	R×e5
24	R×e5	Ng7

As well as his threat on d5 White also had 25 B×h5 in mind, but Black could have tried to resist material loss with 24...Nde7.

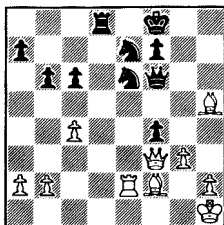
25 c4

Ljubojevic wants more than a clear pawn with 25 B×d5 c×d5 26 Qd3 Rd8 27 R×d5 Qc6 28 c4; possibly he is correct, but, given the World Champion's known wriggling potential, the most practical course would have been to take the pawn.

25	...	Ne7
26	Qa4	g5!
27	Qa3?!	

On 27 R×g5 Q×b2 with possibilities of ...f6 trapping the rook, but here best was 27 c5.

27 ... Ne6
 28 Bxh5 Rd8!
 29 Re2 gxf4
 30 Qf3 Kf8!



Black's randomization of the position has been a complete success — all of his pieces are working, and his king has found a shelter from where it protects the knight on e7.

31 Qe4 fxg3
 32 hxg3 Qh6
 33 Qh4 Rd1+

Sidestepping the trap 33...Nf5? 34 Rxe6! Qc1+ 35 Rel.

34 Kg2 Ng6
 35 Bxg6 Qxg6
 36 c5?

White is fast losing his grip — this move makes his own bishop bad and the black knight better.

36 ... b5
 37 Qh8+ Ke7
 38 Qe5 Rd5
 39 Qe3?!

Better is 39 Qe4 with drawing chances, but naturally not 39 Qc7+ Kf8 40 Qxc6 Nf4+.

39 ... Qb1

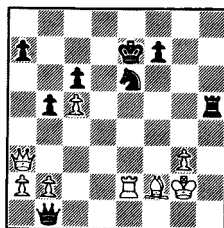
Also possible is 39...Kf8, simply freeing the knight from the pin.

40 Qa3 Rh5

(See next diagram)

41 Qxa7+?

The sealed move, after which White is certainly lost. It is wrong in principle



to place the queen offside; 41 Bel is more stubborn, e.g. 41...Qd1 42 Qf3!, or 41...Qf5 42 Qxa7+ Kf8 43 Qa8+ Kg7 44 Bc3+ f6 45 Qb7+ Kg6 46 Qxc6. After 41 Bel Black could continue to play for a win with 41...Qh7.

41 ... Kf6!
 42 Bg1 Rf5
 43 Rf2 Qe4+
 44 Kf1 Nd4!

With White's queen light-years out of play on a7, Black mops up with a mating attack.

45 Rxf5+ Qxf5+
 46 Bf2 Qd3+
 47 Kg1 Qd1+
 48 Kh2 Qe2
 49 Kg1 Nf3+
 50 Kg2 Nd2
 White resigns

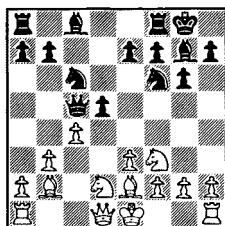
51...Qf1+ will win the bishop or check-mate.

Game No. 82 Queen's Pawn Opening

	<i>Hort</i>	<i>Hübner</i>
1	d4	c5
2	e3	Nf6
3	Nf3	g6
4	dx c5	Qa5+
5	Nbd2	Qxc5
6	c4	Bg7
7	b3	0-0
8	Bb2	Nc6
9	Be2	d5

(See next diagram)

10 0-0 dx c4
 11 Nxc4 Rd8
 12 Qc1 Be6



13 Nd4 Nxd4
 14 Bxd4 Qc7
 15 Be5 Qc5
 16 Bd4 Qc7
 17 Be5 Qc5
 18 Bd4

Drawn.

Game No. 83 Centre Counter Game

Spassky Larsen
 (Notes by Gufeld)

1 e4 d5

Obviously, even though he spends the greater part of his time on the Canary Islands, Larsen does not forget that he is a Scandinavian.* Incidentally, it was he who wrote the section on this opening in the *Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings*. But in the present game he is not fortunate enough to improve the reputation of this rarely-played system.

2 exd5 Qxd5
 3 Nc3 Qa5
 4 d4 Nf6
 5 Nf3 Bf5

Here 5...Bg4 is considered almost obligatory, since in the resulting situation White's king's knight is a source of constant danger for Black: for this reason the move in the game occurs exceptionally rarely in practice. In the afore-mentioned section of *E.C.O.*, Larsen himself recommends answering 5...Bf5 with 6 Ne5 (with the threat of 7 Nc4) 6...c6 7 g4 (in the game Suetin-Shvedchikov, 1971, White played less strongly: 7 Bc4 e6 8 g4 Bg6 9 h4 Nbd7 10 Nxd7 Nxd7 11 h5 Be4 12 Rh3 Bd5!, with an unclear game), and if now 7...

Bg6, then after 8 h4 Nbd7 9 Nc4! by a circuitous route we reach a position which was analysed back in the distant past by Emanuel Lasker (it is possible in the event of 5...Bg4 6 h3 Bh5? 7 g4! Bg6 8 Ne5 c6 9 h4 Nbd7 10 Nc4!), and which he assessed as favouring White, in view of 9...Qc7 10 h5 Be4 11 Nxe4 Nxe4 12 Qf3 followed by 13 Bf4! Could it be that Larsen wanted to refute this evaluation, which has stood for so long? It is difficult to say. Possibly he simply wanted to test 7...Be6!? (the marks are Larsen's), which he himself suggests in *E.C.O.*, but Spassky chooses a different plan, which also proves to be highly unpleasant for Black.

6 Bd2!

White delays advancing his knight to e5, and makes a sound half-defensive, half-attacking move, suggesting to Black that he disclose the point of playing his bishop to f5, where it defends nothing, and threatens nothing.

6 ... Nbd7

Since Black has to leave c6 free for his pawn, he has no better way of developing his queen's knight. But is its immediate development so necessary? All the same, Black cannot get by without the move ...c7-c6, and it would have been better to make it now, and then decide on which side to castle. It would appear that Larsen had not yet taken a decision on this score, and so he first makes the few remaining developing moves available.

7 Bc4 c6
 8 Qe2!

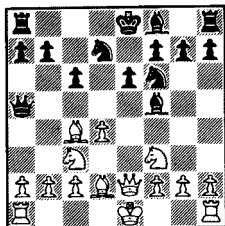
The most critical reply, typical of open games where one side has a lead in development. A 'trifle' such as the c2 pawn can simply be ignored.

8 ... e6?

This natural reaction turns out to be a decisive mistake, since it allows White to make an immediate break-through. But what advice can one give Black?

* As was mentioned earlier, another name for this opening is the Scandinavian Defence (K.P.N.).

8...Bxc2 is not even worth looking at, since 9 Ne5 is a more than adequate reply, when 9...e6 fails to 10 Nxf7. But what else is there? The lesser evil was 8...Qc7 9 Ne5 e6, when nothing is achieved by 10 g4 Nxe5 11 dxe5 Nxe4. White would therefore have had to satisfy himself with a positional advantage, while Black would have retained hopes of a tenacious defence.



9 d5!

In the romantic spirit of the last century! One cannot help recalling another encounter between Larsen and Spassky — from the 'Match of the Century' (1970), where the Danish grandmaster was also crushed swiftly in the style of the 'immortal' and 'evergreen' games. Here things do not get as far as spectacular sacrifices, but even so the definite similarity of these games suggests that Spassky is one of the severest critics of the 'Danish Viking'.

9 ... cxd5
10 Nxd5 Qc5

After 10...Qd8 11 0-0-0 (if there is nothing better) Black with a clear conscience could already resign — White's enormous lead in development ensures him a decisive attack. But now, by attacking the white knight, for an instant the black queen diverts the opponent from simple winning continuations, and forces him to calculate variations. After finding himself in a difficult situation, Larsen ingeniously seeks defensive resources, but he is no longer able to save the game.

11 b4

11 Bb4 also deserved consideration, not weakening the future refuge of the white king.

11 ... Qc8
12 Nxf6+ gxf6

Equally cheerless is 12...Nxf6 13 Bb5+ Ke7 14 Nd4 Bg6 15 0-0 followed by the simple f2-f4-f5.

13 Nd4 Bg6
14 h4 h5
15 f4

Here or on the previous move, many would have started calculating the consequences of the sacrifice on e6. But there is no necessity for it: Black's position is so disordered that solid attacking plans are more effective.

15 ... Be7
16 Rh3 Qc7

The following 'trap' was too naive: 16...0-0 17 f5 exf5 18 Qxe7?? Re8 19 Nxf5 Qxc4, etc. White would have won quickly by 18 Rg3! Kh7 19 Nxf5, with the threats of 20 Nxe7 and 20 Qe3!

17 0-0-0 Qb6

If 17...0-0-0, then 18 f5!, and Black's position collapses.

18 Be1 0-0-0
19 Nb5!

On the Q-side too, the black king has failed to find a safe shelter, and the black queen is also embarrassed — against the threat of Bf2 there appears to be no satisfactory defence.

19 ... Nb8
20 Rxd8+ Kxd8

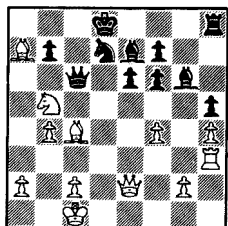
Capturing with rook or bishop would have led immediately to heavy loss of material, while in the event of 20...Qxd8 21 Nxa7+ Kc7 22 Rc3! White's attack becomes decisive.

21 Bf2 Qc6
22 Bxa7 Nd7

(See next diagram)

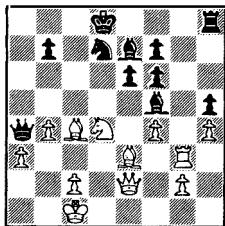
23 a3!

A highly instructive moment. The first success has been achieved, but condi-



ions are not yet ripe for the pursuit and finishing off of the decimated enemy forces. Therefore it is correct to switch for a time to the consolidation of what has been achieved. It is important that White does not have to fear ...b7-b6, since his 'beseiged' bishop cannot be threatened by any black piece. On the contrary, the bishop itself threatens the b6 pawn after 23...b6 23 Rc3 Qe4 25 Qf2. There can follow 25...Qb7 26 Be2, when Black can resign.

23 ... Qe4
24 Be3 Bf5
25 Rg3 Qc6
26 Nd4 Qa4



An unsuccessful attempt to confuse matters.

27 Nxf5!

The most exact solution. White allows into his position the uninvited guest, having prepared for her an appropriate reception ...

27 ... Qxa3+

White wins even more simply after 27... exf5 28 Bd4!

28 Kd1 Qa1+
29 Bc1

It turns out that Black has to give up a piece.

29 ... Bxb4

29...exf5 would have cost him even more dearly after 30 Ra3!

30 Bb5

Spassky does not bother to retreat his knight, but switches at last to a direct attack on the black king.

30 ... Nb6
31 Qe4 Qa5
32 Qxb7! Resigns

Perhaps never in the last quarter of a century has Larsen played as badly as he did in Montreal. True, one can also recall a match in Denver in 1971, when his opponent was Fischer... .

Game No. 84 English Opening

Timman Portisch
(Notes by Kholmov)

1 c4 Nf6
2 Nc3 e5
3 Nf3 Nc6
4 e3 Bb4
5 Qc2 O-O
6 Nd5 Re8

In the game Miles-Portisch (Wijk aan Zee 1978) Black continued 6...a5. After 7 a3 Be7 8 d4 exd4 9 exd4 Re8 10 Be3 Bf8 11 Bd3 h6 12 h4 Bd6 13 O-O-O Nx5 14 cxd5 Ne7 15 Bh7+ Kf8 16 Be4 White gained the more promising position.

7 Qf5

The English grandmaster Miles, with whom this opening is a great favourite, regularly employs 7 Bd3 here, but without particular success. By the move played, White aims to spoil the opponent's pawn formation on the K-side.

7 ... d6
8 Nxf6+ gxf6!?

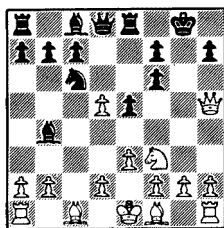
8...Qxf6 is more often played. In the resulting ending there are slight chances on White's side, but usually

Black is able to maintain the balance. By avoiding the exchange of queens, Black as though hints that he may have more ambitious intentions.

9 Qh5

It is interesting that in this game Timman has to fight against his own invention. In the game Keene-Timman (Bad Lauterberg 1977) White played 9 Qc2, but after 9...e4 10 Nh4 f5 11 g3 d5 12 cxd5 Ne5 13 Qb3 Be7 14 d4 exd3 15 Bxd3 Bxh4 16 gxh4 Nf3+ Black gained a strong attack. Moving the queen to h5 is more logical.

9 ... d5
10 cxd5?



The only way to attempt to exploit the defects of Black's 8th move is by 10 Bd3!?. True, in this case White must play pretty accurately. For example, after 10...e4 11 cxd5 Nb8 nothing is achieved by 12 Qh4? Qxd5 13 Bc2 Nc6, when Black has an excellent game. Better is 12 Bc2! exf3 13 Qxh7+! (13 Qh6? f5 14 gxh3 Bf8, and Black beats off the attack, retaining a material advantage) 13...Kf8 14 gxh3 Qxd5 15 Bb3 Qd7 16 Rg1, with a powerful attack for the piece. After the move played, Black has no troubles.

10 ... Qxd5
11 Be2 Be6
12 a3 Be7
13 d3 Kh8
14 O-O Rg8
15 Ne1 Na5
16 Bd2 Nb3
17 Rd1 Nxd2

Black must take this bishop, since if it were allowed to move to c3 it would begin to play a fairly active rôle, whereas the black knight would be away

from the main events.

18 Rxd2 f5
19 Nf3 Rad8
20 d4 e4
21 Ne5 b5

The threat was 22 Bc4, but instead of this committing advance, 21...Rg7 22 Bc4 Qd6 deserved consideration.

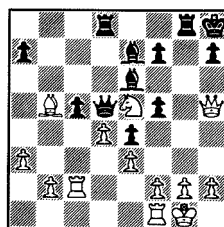
22 Rc2

It would appear more natural to attack the 'c' pawn with the undeveloped rook by 22 Rc1. But in this case after 22...c5 23 Bxb5 cxd4 24 Nc6 Qxb5 25 Nxe7 dxe3! the other rook is attacked.

22 ... c5!

If 22...Bd6?, then 23 Nc6 Ra8 24 Qh4!, with advantage to White.

23 Bxb5



23 ... Qb3

23...cxd4 looks more consistent. After 24 Nc6 Qxb5 25 Nxe7 d3 26 Rc7! (if 26 Rd2?, then 26...Rg7!, and the knight turns out to be in a highly precarious position, which gives Black the advantage; in passing, it should be mentioned that 26 Nxe8 fails to 26...dxc2 27 Nf6 Qxf1+!) 26...Rg7 27 Qh4! a very sharp and unclear position results.

24 Qe2 cxd4
25 exd4 Qh3

After 25...Rxd4 26 Rc3? Qd5 27 Nc6 e3 28 g3 exf2+ 29 Qxf2 Bf6 Black gains the advantage. White should play 26 Nc6! Rd7! (26...Qh3? 27 f3! Rd7 28 fxe4, with advantage to White) 27 Rc3 Qd5 28 Nxe7 Rxe7, with a roughly equal position. Black is

attracted by the possibility of exposing the white king, but, as it turns out, this does not give him any more than a draw.

26 f4!

26 g3 is dangerous in view of 26...f4!
27 Qxe4 (or 27 Rdl e3 with an attack)
27...Bd5 28 Nxf7+ Kg7, and Black wins.

26 ... R×g2+
27 Q×g2 Rg8
28 Bd7 Bd5

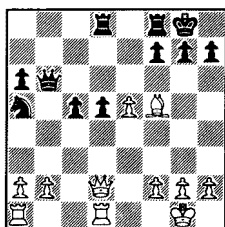
In the confusion it was possible to get mated: 28...B×d7?? 28 N×f7 mate.

29 Bc6 Qe3+
30 Kh1 R×g2
31 R×g2 Q×d4
32 B×d5 Q×d5
33 Rc1 h6
34 Rc7 e3

The white rooks have become too active, and so Black hastens to insure himself against defeat.

35 Rxe7 Qd1+
36 Rg1 Qd5+
37 Rg2 Qd1+
Drawn.

21 B×f5 Rad8



22 Re1 Nc6
Drawn.

Game No. 85 Ruy Lopez

Kavalek

Tal

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	O-O	Nxe4
6	d4	b5
7	Bb3	d5
8	d×e5	Be6
9	Qe2	Be7
10	Rdl	O-O
11	c4	b×c4
12	B×c4	Bc5
13	Be3	B×e3
14	Q×e3	Qb8
15	Bb3	Na5
16	Nbd2	Qa7
17	Nd4	N×d2
18	Q×d2	Qb6
19	Bc2	c5
20	Nf5	B×f5

ROUND 18

6th May

Karpov	(11½)	½	-	½	Kavalek (7½)
Tal	(11½)	½	-	½	Timman (8)
Portisch	(10)	½	-	½	Spassky (8)
Larsen	(5½)	0	-	1	Hort (7)
Hübner	(7½)	½	-	½	Ljubojevic (8½)

Final standings after eighteen rounds: Karpov, Tal — 12; Portisch — 10½; Ljubojevic — 9; Spassky, Timman — 8½; Hort, Hübner, Kavalek — 8; Larsen — 5½.

Since the preceding month had failed to disclose who was the stronger, I trust that the reader will understand the leaders, Karpov and Tal, who were unwilling to tempt fate. Both as White obtained slightly more favourable positions, for both playing for a win entailed some risk, and both almost synchronously preferred to conclude the tournament, against which their opponents, Kavalek and Timman respectively, did not object.

Even earlier a draw was agreed in the Portisch-Spassky game, which in no way affected Portisch's tournament position — he was already assured of 3rd prize. The Ex-World Champion, who had markedly improved his affairs, was also not inclined to take any risks.

Four players were left on the stage.

In the event of a win, Hübner would have caught his opponent, but Ljubojevic played extremely accurately. In the final position, I think that only he had any winning chances. But for sole fourth place a draw was sufficient, and so he did not persist.

Larsen all the time had the draw 'in hand' against Hort, but at the critical moment he had to decide either to force a draw, or... . He chose the second alternative, and the result was Hort's second win, and the only one in the final round.

Game No. 86 English Opening

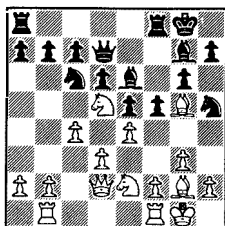
Karpov *Kavalek*

1 c4 e5
2 Nc3 d6
3 g3 g6
4 Bg2 Bg7
5 e4 Nc6
6 d3 Be6
7 Nge2 Qd7
8 Nd5 f5

9 Rb1 Nf6
10 Bg5 O-O
11 O-O Nh5
12 Qd2

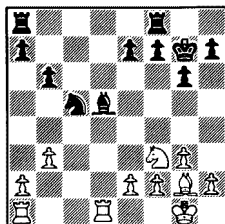
(see next diagram)

Drawn.



Game No. 87 Queen's Indian Defence

<i>Tal</i>	<i>Timman</i>
1 Nf3	Nf6
2 c4	b6
3 g3	Bb7
4 Bg2	c5
5 O-O	g6
6 b3	Bg7
7 Bb2	O-O
8 Nc3	Na6
9 d4	d5
10 dxc5	Nxc5
11 Nxd5	Nxd5
12 Bxg7	Kxg7
13 cxd5	Qxd5
14 Qxd5	Bxd5
15 Rfd1	

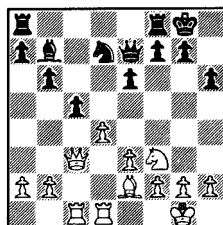


Drawn.

Game No. 88 Queen's Gambit

<i>Portisch</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
1 c4	e6
2 Nc3	d5
3 d4	Nf6
4 Nf3	Be7
5 Bg5	h6
6 Bh4	Ne4
7 Bxe7	Qxe7

8 Qc2	Nxc3
9 Qxc3	O-O
10 e3	c6
11 Bd3	dx c4
12 Bxc4	b6
13 O-O	Bb7
14 Be2	Nd7
15 Rac1	c5
16 Rfd1	



Drawn.

Game No. 89 Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence

Larsen Hort
(Notes by Kholmov)

1 e4	d6
2 f4	g6
3 Nf3	Bg7
4 d4	c5

4...c6 is also played. In the game Tatai-Hort (Sarajevo 1972) Black tried 4...Bg4, but the bishop move turned out to be premature. After 5 c3 Nf6 6 h3 Bd7 7 Bd3 d5 8 e5 Ne4 9 Bxe4 dxe4 10 Ng5 f6 11 Nxe4 Bc6 12 Qe2 O-O 13 O-O Black remained a pawn down, for which he had inadequate compensation.

5 d5

In the game Bird-Tal (21st Olympiad, Nice 1974) after 5 c3 cxd4 6 cxd4 Bg4 7 Be2 Qb6 8 e5 Nh6 9 Nbd2 O-O 10 Nc4 Qc7 11 Ne3 dxe5 12 fxe5 Rd8 13 O-O Nc6 White's centre began to 'creak'. The move chosen by Larsen, 5 d5, also does not set Black any serious problems. Perhaps the best for White is 5 dxc5.

5 ...	Nf6
6 Nc3	O-O
7 a4	

The rapid advance of White's central

pawns has led to the fact that now, on the natural 7 Be2, Black can initiate favourable complications by 7...b5! 8 Bxb5 Nxe4! True, the move played also allows him to obtain a comfortable game.

7 ... e6!
8 dxe6

Also, in the event of 8 Be2 exd5 9 exd5 Bf5 10 O-O Ne4! Black has a good game.

8 ... Bxe6
9 Be2

9 Ng5 would also not have averted the advance in the centre. After 9...Bg4 10 Be2 Bxe2 11 Qxe2 Nc6 12 Be3 h6 13 Nf3 Re8 White encounters certain difficulties.

9 ... d5!

This advance gives Black a fully equal game.

10 e5 Ne4
11 Nxe4 dxe4
12 Qxd8 Rxd8
13 Ng5 Bd5
14 Be3

Nothing is achieved by 14 c4 Bc6 15 e6? f6!, when the break-away white pawn is bound to fall.

14 ... h6
15 Nh3 Bf8
16 Nf2 Na6
17 O-O-O Nc7
18 b3

The following plan deserved consideration: 18 c4! Bc6 19 Rxd8 Rxd8 20 Rd1 Rxd1+ 21 Bxd1! followed by Bc2.

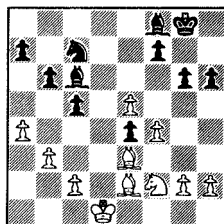
18 ... Bc6
19 Rxd8 Rxd8
20 Rd1 Rxd1+
21 Kxd1

Here too 21 Bxd1, followed by moving the bishop to c2, is good.

21 ... b6

(See next diagram)

A roughly equal position has been



reached, and logically the game should have ended in a draw. But Larsen is one of those players who is always stirring up trouble, and within a few moves he gets what he wants — the game becomes sharper. But in a complicated situation he fails to step back at the right time, and this leads to his defeat.

22 Kd2 Bg7
23 g3 f5
24 exf6 Bxf6
25 Ng4 Bg7
26 f5!?

White demonstrates his aggressive intentions! Also possible was the quieter 26 Ne5 Bxe5 27 fxex5 h5 28 g4, or 28 a5, with a roughly equal game. If Black plays 26...Be8, then after 27 a5! the initiative is with White.

26 ... Nd5
27 Bc4

After 27 fxg6 Bc3+ 28 Kc1 h5 29 Nh6+ Kg7 30 Nf5+ Kxg6 31 Nh4+ Kf6 32 Bd2 Bxd2+ 33 Kxd2 Kg5 34 Ng2! White has the advantage. Also in the event of 32...e3 33 Bxc3 Nxc3 34 Bxh5 it is not clear whether the activity of Black's pieces compensates for the lost pawn. However, 32...Bd4! 33 Bxh5 Bg1! evidently confronts White with certain difficulties.

27 ... Kh7
28 Bxd5 Bxd5
29 fxg6+

Better is 29 f6! Bh8 30 Bxh6 Be6 31 f7 Bxf7 32 Bg5!, and White has nothing to fear. If instead 29...Bf8, then 30 c4! Be6 31 Nf2 g5 32 Nxe4 Kg7 33 a5, with a probable draw. After the move played the black king becomes dangerously active.

29 ... Kxg6
30 c4

White could have set up an impregnable position by 30 Bf4 and then 31 Ne3. But he continues to aim for more!

30 ... h5
31 Nf2

It is obvious that after 31 cxd5? hxg4 White's pawns are completely impaired.

31 ... Bc6
32 Nh3 Kf5
33 Nf4 Kg4
34 Ke2

34 h3+ is dangerous in view of 34...Kf3
35 Nxh5 Bc3+!

34 ... Be5
35 Nd5!?

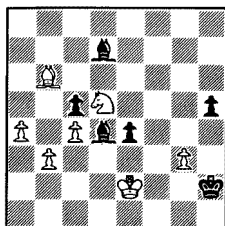
A risky undertaking! 35 Kf2! looks sounder, not allowing in the black king, and threatening h2-h3+.

35 ... Kh3
36 Bf4 Bd4
37 Bb8 Bd7
38 Bxa7

Also possible is 38 Nf4+ Kxh2 39 Nxh5 Bg4+ 40 Kf1 e3 41 Nf4 Kxg3 42 Ne2+ Kf3 43 Bxa7 Ke4 44 Bxb6 Kd3 45 Nxd4 cxd4 46 Ke1, with a draw.

38 ... Kxh2
39 Bxb6?

After the correct 39 Ne3! White maintains the balance. If 39...Kxg3, then Bxb6 h4 41 Bc7+! But now Black wins by force.



39 ... Bg4+!
40 Kf1

In the variation 40 Kd2 Kxg3 41 b4 h4 42 Bxc5 Bxc5 43 bxc5 h3 44 Ne3 h2! 45 Nf1+ Kf2 46 Nxh2 e3+ 47 Kc3 Bh5 Black also wins.

40 ... Kxg3
41 Bc7+ Kf3
42 Nf4 Bf2!
White resigns.

Against the threat of ...e4-e3 and ...Bh3+ there is no defence.

Game No. 90 English Opening

Hübner Ljubojevic
(Notes by Chandler)

1 c4 c5
2 Nf3 Nf6
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nx d4 b6

More ambitious is 4...e6. Now White sets up a Maroczy bind formation.

5 f3 Bb7
6 e4 d6
7 Nc3 Nbd7
8 Be2 e6
9 0-0 Be7

9...a6 could also be played, preventing White's next, as Black will have to play it eventually anyway.

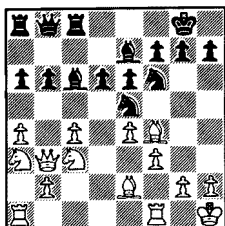
10 Ndb5!?

An interesting manoeuvre to place immediate pressure on Black's 'd' pawn. White could also opt for a slight advantage in space with the routine 10 Be3 0-0 11 Qd2 a6 12 Rfd1 Qc7 13 Rac1 Rac8 14 Bf1 Rfe8 15 Qf2 Qb8 16 Kh1 Bf8 17 Nc2 (Hort-Ljubojevic, Wijk aan Zee, 1973).

10 ... Qb8
11 Bf4 Ne5
12 a4 0-0
13 Kh1 Rc8
14 Qb3 a6
15 Na3 Bc6

(See next diagram)

A complex cat and mouse game is in progress; Black is trying to free him-

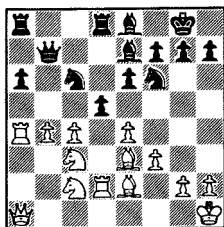


self by breaking with ...d5 or ...b5, while White seeks to prevent this and further increase his spacial plus.

16	Rfd1	Qb7
17	Rd2	Rab8
18	Qd1	Nh5
19	Be3	Ng6
20	Nc2	Rd8
21	Nd4	Be8
22	a5	bxa5
23	Rxa5	

Hübner looks to have created some chances for White by giving Black a second weak pawn, on a6. However, Ljubojevic's considerable experience in these 'universal systems' does not let him down, and he strikes back in the centre.

23	...	Nf6
24	Qa1	Ra8
25	Nc2	Ne5
26	b4	Nc6
27	Ra4	d5!



28 b5

On 28 cxd5 Nxb4 is very strong. Now White gains a passed 'b' pawn, but is forced to give Black a protected passed centre pawn in return.

28	...	axb5
29	cx b5	Nb4!

Virtually forcing White's reply, as 30 exd5 Nbxd5 31 Nxd5 Nxd5 gives Black a tremendous knight outpost on d5, probably resulting in the early demise of White's 'b' pawn.

30	e5	Nd7
31	Nxb4	Bxb4
32	Rda2	Rxa4
33	Nxa4	Ra8
34	f4?!	

I prefer 34 Bd4, preventing Black's next, and thus keeping Black's knight passive.

34	...	f6!
35	exf6	Nxf6
36	b6	Qc6
37	Nb2	Rxa2
38	Qxa2	Qc2

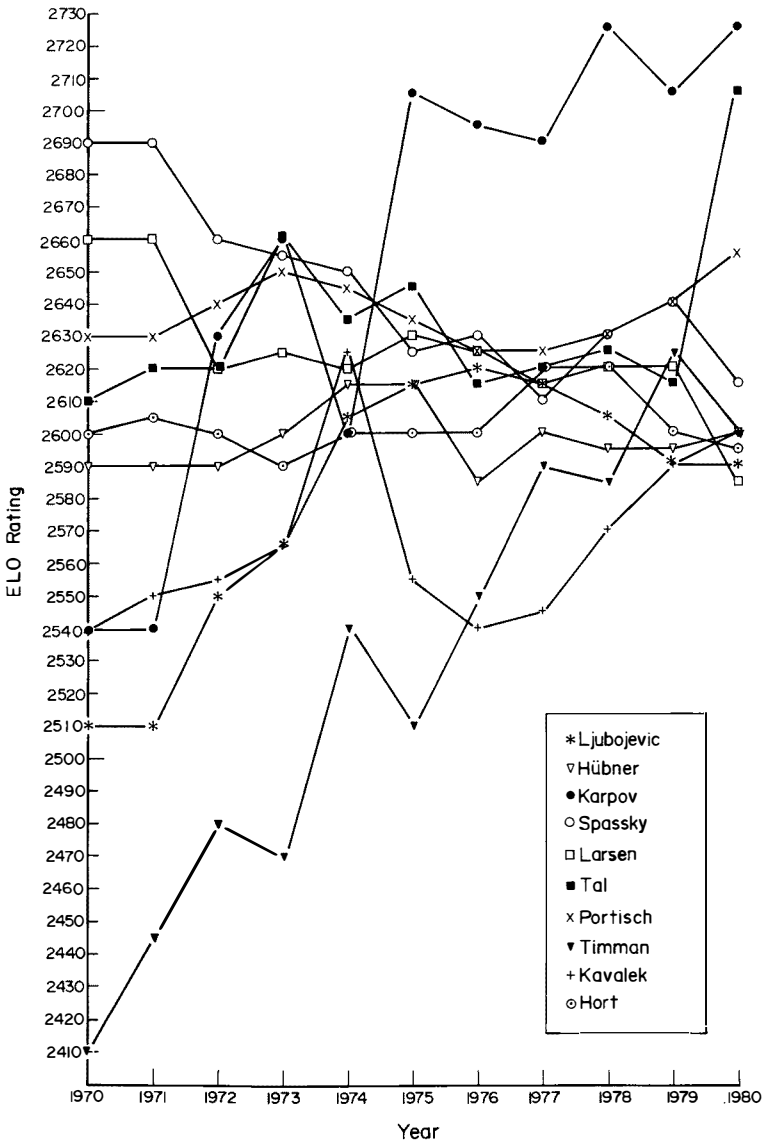
On 38...Qc3 immediately White plays 39 Nd3.

39	Bd3	Qc3
40	Qb1	Bd6
41	Qc1	

Drawn.

Black should have played on — e.g. 41...Qxc1+ 42 Bxc1 Bc6 43 Ba6 (43 Be3 Ng4 44 Bd4 Bxf4) 43...Nd7 44 Be3 Bc5! 45 Bxc5 Nxc5 46 Bc8 (or else ...Nd7 wins a pawn) 46...Kf7, and the black king marches over to the Q-side winning at least a pawn.

APPENDIXES



RATING LIST
(from FIDE data on 1st January 1979)

Karpov	2705	Tal	2615
Portisch	2640	Hort	2600
Spassky	2640	Hübner	2595
Timman	2625	Kavalek	2590
Larsen	2620	Ljubojevic	2590

Average rating 2622

TABLE OF RESULTS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Points	Place
1 Karpov	*	--	--	1 1	1 1	1 1	--	--	1 -	- 0	12	1-2
2 Tal	--	*	- 1	--	1 1	--	--	- 1	1 -	1 -	12	1-2
3 Portisch	--	- 0	*	--	--	--	1 -	1 -	--	1 1	10½	3
4 Ljubojevic	0 0	--	--	*	- 0	--	1 1	--	1 0	1 -	9	4
5 Spassky	0 0	0 0	--	- 1	*	--	--	- 1	1 -	0 1	8½	5-6
6 Timman	0 0	--	--	--	--	*	- 1	--	- 0	1 -	8½	5-6
7 Hort	--	--	0 -	0 0	--	- 0	*	--	--	1 1	8	7-9
8 Hübner	--	- 0	0 -	--	- 0	--	--	*	1 0	1 -	8	7-9
9 Kavalek	0 -	0 -	--	0 1	0 -	- 1	--	0 1	*	0 1	8	7-9
10 Larsen	- 1	0 -	0 0	0 -	1 0	0 -	0 0	0 -	1 0	*	5½	10

(N.B. For ease of reading, draws are signified by dashes)

ROUND-BY-ROUND SCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Karpov	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	8	8	9	$9\frac{1}{2}$	10	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	12
Tal	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	6	7	$7\frac{1}{2}$	8	9	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	11	$11\frac{1}{2}$	12
Portisch	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	6	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	9	9	$9\frac{1}{2}$	10	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Ljubojevic	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	5	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	6	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	7	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	9
Spassky	0	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	6	7	8	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Timman	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	6	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	$7\frac{1}{2}$	8	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Hort	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	6	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	8
Hübner	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	6	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	7	$7\frac{1}{2}$	8
Kavalek	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	$7\frac{1}{2}$	8
Larsen	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$

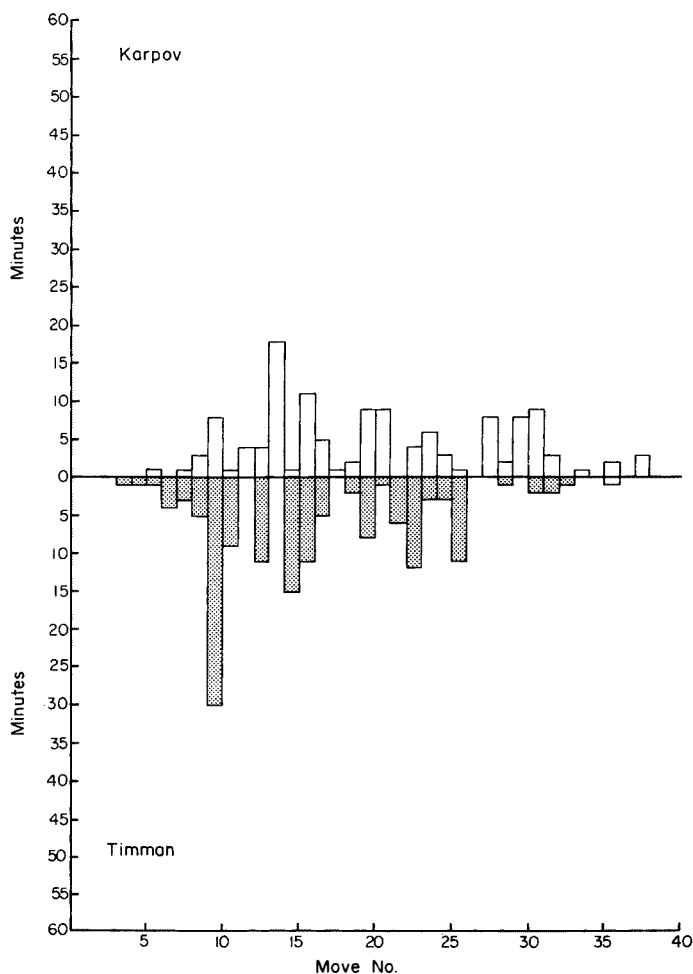
The Cardiogram of a Chess Game

Some twenty years ago grandmaster David Bronstein put forward the idea of systematically recording the time spent by the players on each move during a game. The collection of such information would, in his opinion, provide a rich source of material for research work.

What can we learn from this time chart, this distinctive cardiogram of a chess game? In the first instance one is struck by the nerve-centres of the duel, the critical points of the game, and the interaction between the rhythms of White and Black. The cardiogram can also tell us about many other things: at what point an original strategic plan or spectacular combination was conceived; what was the reaction to a difficult move by the opponent, especially if it was an opening innovation; about the speed of a chess player's thinking at various stages of the game, and so on.

Nowadays, in practically all major events, a time-study of the games is made. The 'Tournament of Stars' was no exception.

Below we give five games from the Montreal Tournament, with the cumulative times in minutes given in brackets, underneath each cardiogram.

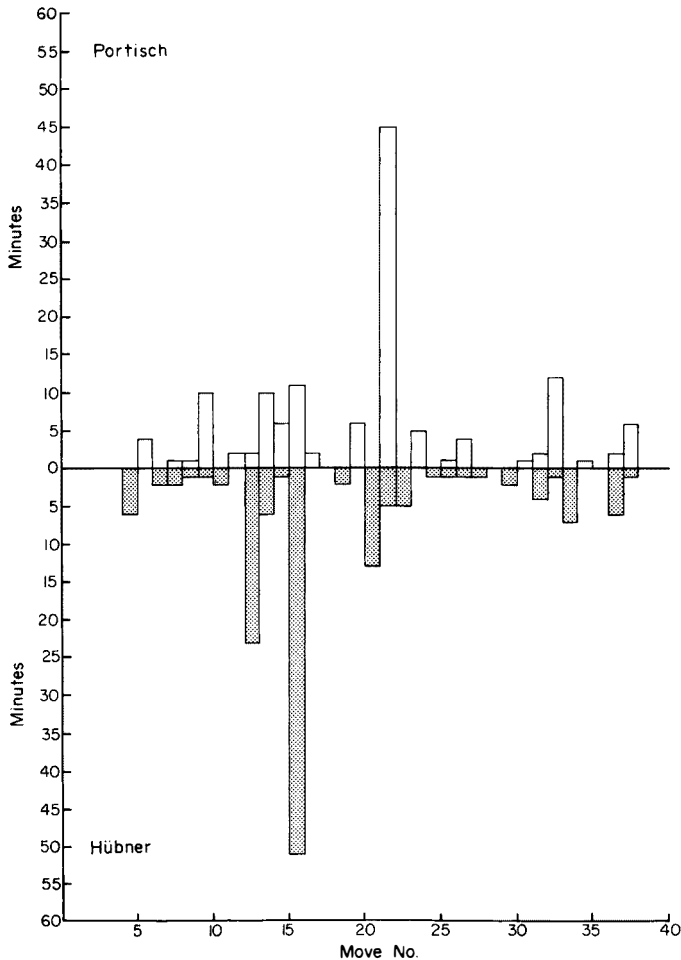


KARPOV TIMMAN

No.6

Pirc-Ufimtsev Defence

1 e4(0) d6(0) 2 d4(0) Nf6(0) 3 Nc3(0) g6(0) 4 g3(0) Bg7(1) 5 Bg2(0) 0-0(2)
 6 Nge2(1) e5(3) 7 0-0(1) Na6(7) 8 Re1(2) c6(10) 9 h3(5) Re8(15) 10 Bg5(13)
 h6(45) 11 Be3(14) Qc7(54) 12 Qd2(18) Kh7(54) 13 Rad1(22) Bd7(65) 14 g4(40)
 Rad8(65) 15 Ng3(41) Bc8(80) 16 f4(52) b5(91) 17 a3(57) b4(96) 18 axb4(58)
 Nxb4(96) 19 Nce2(60) exd4(98) 20 Nxd4(69) a5(106) 21 c3(78) Na6(107) 22 Qc2(78)
 Bd7(113) 23 Nf3(82) Re7(125) 24 Bf2(88) Be8(128) 25 Od3(91) Qb7(131) 26 Ral(92)
 Nc7(142) 27 Rxa5(92) Rdd7(142) 28 b4(100) Ne6(142) 29 Be3(104) c5(143) 30 f5(110)
 Nd8(143) 31 b5(119) Kh8(145) 32 Bf2(122) Qc7(147) 33 Ra4(122) Qb8(148)
 34 c4(123) Ra7(148) 35 Rxa7(123) Rxa7(148) 36 e5(125) dxe5(149) 37 Nxe5(125)
 Ra2(149) 38 Bxc5(128) Resigns

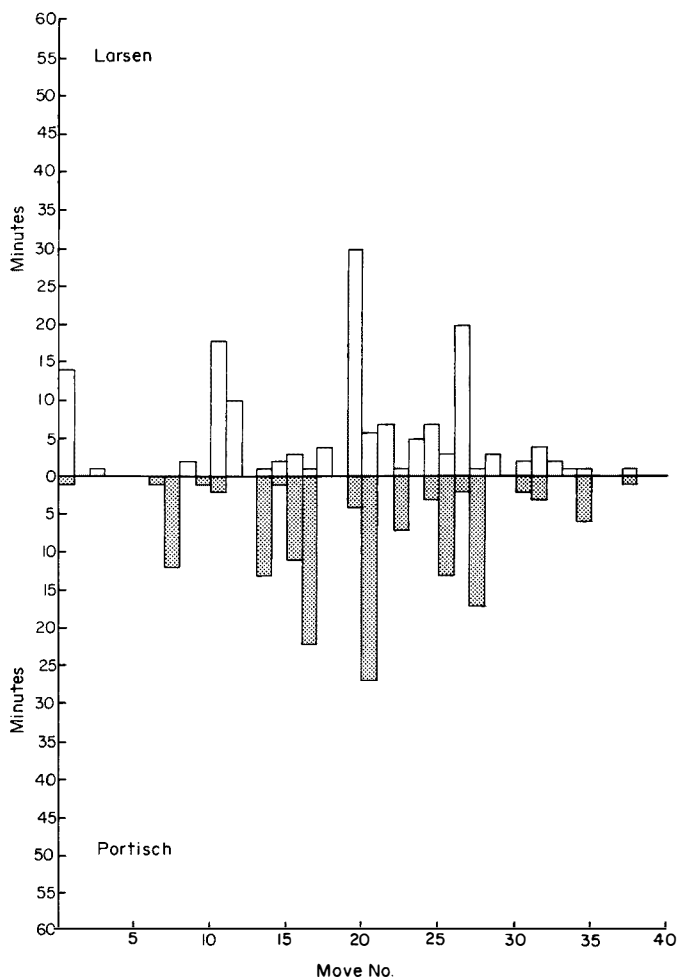


PORTISCH HÜBNER

No.12

English Opening

1 c4(0) Nf6(0) 2 Nc3(0) c5(0) 3 Nf3(0) d5(0) 4 cxd5(0) Nxd5(0) 5 d4(0)
 cxd4(6) 6 Qxd4(4) Nxc3(6) 7 Qxc3(4) Nc6(8) 8 e4(5) Bg4(10) 9 Bb5(6) Rc8(11)
 10 Be3(16) Bxf3(12) 11 gxf3(16) a6(14) 12 Rd1(18) Qc7(14) 13 Bxc6+(20) Qxc6(37)
 14 Qd4(30) f6(43) 15 0-0(36) e5(44) 16 Qa7(47) Be7(95) 17 Rc1(49) Qd7(95)
 18 Rxc8+(49) Qxc8(95) 19 Rc1(49) Qd7(97) 20 Qa8+(55) Bd8(97) 21 Rc8(85)
 Kf7(110) 22 Bb6(100) Bxb6(115) 23 Rxh8(100) Kg6(120) 24 Qe8+(105) Qxe8(120)
 25 Rxe8(105) Bd4(121) 26 b4(106) Bc3(122) 27 a3(110) Bb2(123) 28 a4(110)
 Ba3(124) 29 Rb8(110) Bxb4(124) 30 Rxb7(110) Bc3(126) 31 Kf1(111) h5(126)
 32 Ke2(113) a5(130) 33 f4(125) exf4(131) 34 Kf3(125) f5(138) 35 Rb6+(126)
 Kg5(138) 36 Rb5(126) g6(138) 37 e5(128) Bd2(144) 38 h4+(134) Kh6(145) 39 Rb7(134)
 Resigns

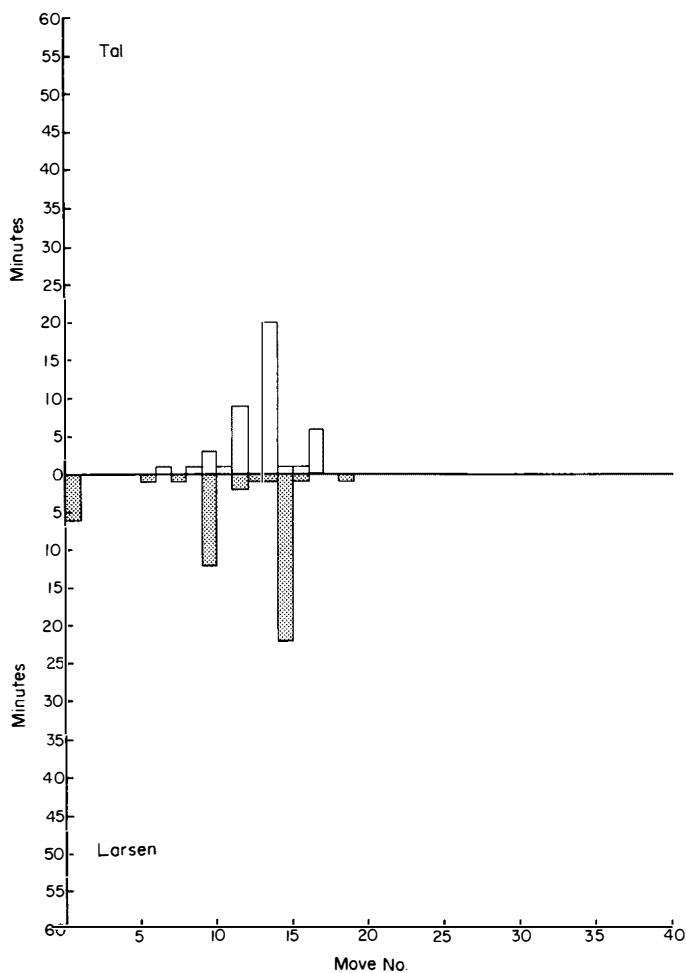


LARSEN PORTISCH

No.20

English Opening

1 c4(14) e5(1) 2 Nc3(14) Nf6(1) 3 Nf3(15) Nc6(1) 4 d3(15) d6(1) 5 g3(15) g6(1)
 6 Bg2(15) Bg7(1) 7 Rb1(15) a5(2) 8 a3(15) Nd4(14) 9 b4(17) axb4(14) 10 axb4(17)
 c6(15) 11 b5(35) 0-0(17) 12 bxc6(45) bxc6(17) 13 Nxd4(45) exd4(17) 14 Ne4(46)
 Nxe4(30) 15 Bxe4(48) Ra6(31) 16 0-0(51) Bg4(42) 17 Bf4(52) f5(64) 18 Bg2(56)
 g5(64) 19 Bd2(56) f4(64) 20 Rb7(86) Qc8(68) 21 Qb1(92) Be5(95) 22 gxf4(99)
 gxf4(95) 23 Kh1(100) Ral(102) 24 Qxa1(105) Qxb7(102) 25 Be4(112) Kh8(105)
 26 Rgl(115) Bxe2(118) 27 Qel(135) Bh5(120) 28 c5(136) Rg8(137) 29 Rxg8+(139)
 Kxg8(137) 30 cxd6(139) Bxd6(137) 31 Qcl(141) f3(139) 32 Bxc6(145) Qc7(142)
 33 Qc4+(147) Bf7(142) 34 Qb5(148) Bf4(142) 35 Bb4(149) Qc8(148) 36 Qc5(149)
 Bh6(148) 37 Bxf3(149) Qh3(148) 38 Bg2(150) Qxd3(149) 39 Qc8+(150) Kg7(149)
 White lost on time

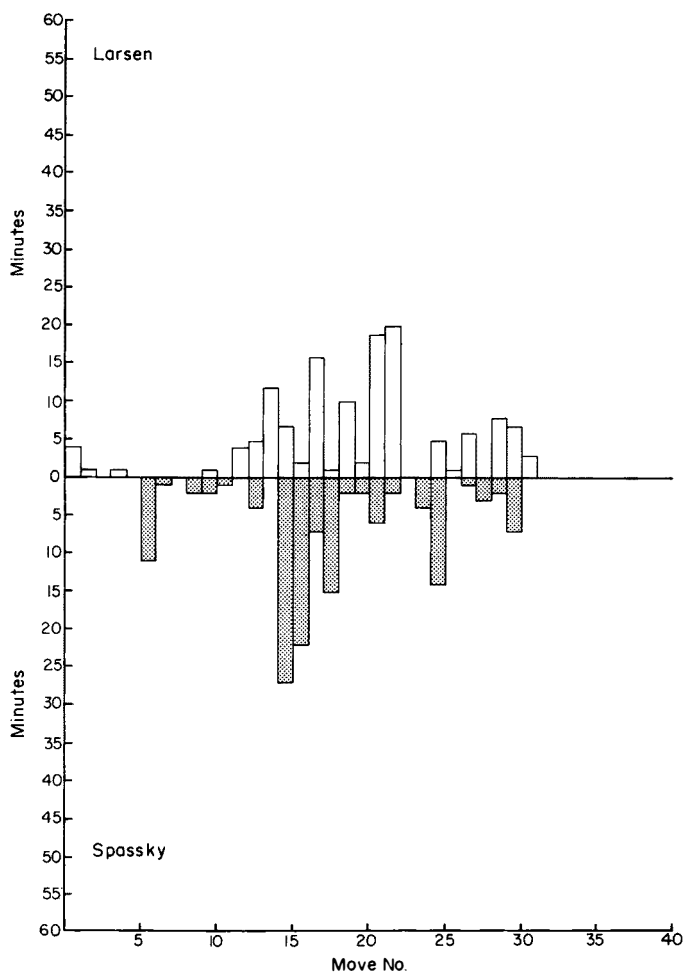


TAL LARSEN

No.22

Sicilian Defence

1 e4(0) c5(6) 2 Nf3(0) Nc6(6) 3 d4(0) cxd4(6) 4 Nxd4(0) Nf6(6) 5 Nc3(0)
 d6(6) 6 Bg5(0) e6(7) 7 Qd2(1) Be7(7) 8 0-0-0(1) a6(8) 9 f4(2) Qc7(8)
 10 Be2(5) Nxd4(20) 11 Qxd4(6) b5(20) 12 e5(15) dxe5(22) 13 fxe5(15) Nd5(23)
 14 Bxe7(35) Nxc3(25) 15 Bf3(36) Nxd1(47) 16 Bd6(40) Qc4(59) 17 Qb6(41)
 Nf2(60) 18 Bc6+(47) Bd7(60) 19 Bxd7+(47) Kxd7(60) 20 Qb7+(47) Kd8(61)
 21 Qxa8+(47) Qe8(61) 22 Qa7(47) Resigns



LARSEN SPASSKY

No.38

Queen's Gambit

1 c4(4) e6(0) 2 Nc3(5) d5(0) 3 d4(5) Be7(0) 4 cxd5(6) exd5(0) 5 Bf4(6)
 c6(0) 6 e3(6) Bf5(11) 7 Bd3(6) Bxd3(12) 8 Qxd3(6) Nf6(12) 9 Nf3(6) Nbd7(14)
 10 0-0(7) 0-0(16) 11 Rb1(7) a5(17) 12 h3(11) Re8(17) 13 a3(16) a4(21) 14 Qc2(28)
 Qa5(21) 15 Rfd1(35) Bf8(48) 16 Ne5(37) Re7(70) 17 b4(53) axb3(77) 18 Rxb3(54)
 Nxe5(92) 19 dxe5(64) Nd7(94) 20 Rxb7(66) Qxa3(96) 21 Rc7(85) Qc5(102)
 22 Rxd5(105) cxd5(104) 23 Rxc5(105) Nxc5(104) 24 Nxd5(105) Rea7(108) 25 Bg5(110)
 Ra1+(122) 26 Kh2(111) R8a2(122) 27 Qf3(117) Ne6(123) 28 Bh4(117) Rf1(126)
 29 f4(125) Rcl(128) 30 Qg4(132) Rc4(135) 31 Nf6+(135) Kh8(135) 32 Qh5(135)
 Resigns

NUMBER OF MOVES PER GAME

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1st Cycle
1 Karpov	*	13	17	72	41	38	27	17	41	43	309
2 Tal	32	*	21	31	32	38	20	16	46	22	239
3 Portisch	42	39	*	52	28	26	51	39	29	39	302
4 Ljubojevic	50	22	26	*	22	23	46	44	59	26	375
5 Spassky	42	22	16	45	*	31	12	23	58	32	279
6 Timman	31	15	37	40	52	*	52	21	19	69	317
7 Hort	14	58	48	55	25	50	*	12	20	53	293
8 Hübner	53	41	26	41	45	59	18	*	32	53	257
9 Kavalek	12	22	65	39	43	48	18	25	*	90	394
10 Larsen	55	31	45	42	32	61	42	43	32	*	427
2nd Cycle	331	282	344	360	322	393	328	351	304	383	3295
Total	640	521	646	735	601	710	621	608	698	810	

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Montreal 1979

Tournament of Stars

Montreal 1979 was one of the strongest tournaments in the history of chess, and it produced many absorbing games of the highest quality. This book contains all of the games played in the tournament, many of which have been annotated in great depth. Each round is introduced by Mikhail Tal, and the book also contains interviews with the winners, Karpov and Tal, as well as background information and photographs of the players.

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