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Tal's 100 Best Games 1961-1973

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CONTENTS

Introduction	7
Foreword	8
Tal — A Pen Portrait	9
A Candid View of Himself	21
A Few Anecdotes	27
A Young Head on Young Shoulders	33
Appointment with Destiny	61
The Slow Decline	113
Painful Rehabilitation	165
Recent Events	225
Find the Winning Continuation	237
Solutions	243
Tal and Elo	247
Index of Players	249
Index of Openings	251

INTRODUCTION

There can be no doubt that although Botvinnik may be the strongest player of the post-war period the two most interesting and dynamic players of the last two decades are the present world champion Robert Fischer, and the Latvian former world champion Mikhail (Misha) Tal (born Riga, 9 November 1936).

There have been a number of books covering Tal's meteoric rise to fame culminating in his victory over Botvinnik in the 1960 world title match. The best of them is the well known work by my colleague Peter Clarke ['Mikhail Tal's Best Games of Chess' 1961]. Unfortunately they are all now badly out of date as they cover the period 1951-60, whereas Tal has been very active in the last thirteen years and has produced a wealth of sparkling games during that period. At the time of writing it is possible that in 1975 the world title match could be between Fischer and Tal since the Riga player is once again on the crest of a wave with first prizes in the last four events in which he has competed. (For the record Tal has a plus score against the American of +4=5 -2, but they last played against each other as long ago as 1962 at Curacao in the Candidates' Tournament which was so much a blow to their hopes.)

I therefore take great pleasure in presenting to the English speaking chess world a selection of Tal's most interesting hundred games since he won the title from Botvinnik.

Given Tal's style of play it is inevitable that this selection should be lop-sided in the sense that there are many more games with Tal playing White rather than Black, and that the Ruy Lopez and Sicilian Defence should predominate in the openings. After all, that is the way Tal plays!

I must acknowledge my indebtedness to Tal himself and to a large number of Soviet sources for the raw material of the book. Thanks are also due to The Chess Player for suggesting that I undertake this work.

B. Cafferty
Birmingham, March 1973

FOREWORD

A note on Transliteration and Abbreviations

A book on chess as played in international competitions is bound to contain a lot of Russian and German names. In the more internationally-minded world in which we live I feel that readers would appreciate some information on the basis for transliterating Russian names, and on the rendering of foreign words generally.

Here are my ideas on the subject.

1. I much prefer writing 'Botvinnik' and 'Chigorin'. To use a 'w' in the first, and 'tch' or 'tsch' in the second is to follow French and German patterns, and smacks of 19th century conditions when translations of the Russian classics came mainly from the Continent.

Similarly the 'jot' sound heard at the end of 'boy' and the beginning of 'year' is best rendered in English by 'y' and not 'j'. Hence Yudovich, not Judovitch.

Admittedly a problem arises in the case of the emigre Bogulyubov, who on becoming Germanised wrote his name as Bogoljubow. In such cases tradition and politeness demand that the name should be written in the second way.

In Capablanca's book 'My Chess Career' the name Alekhine (a French version) is written Aljechin (a German version) which gives the English speaking reader a better idea of its correct pronunciation. The English version would be Alyekhin, but here again decades of tradition are too strong to be ignored. There is, moreover, the complication that the champion himself pronounced the stressed middle syllable as 'ye', whereas nearly all Russians pronounce it 'yo' (a sort of Smythe/Smith distinction!).

2. I use 'kh' for the strongly breathed Russian 'h' sound as in Averbakh, except in initial positions where English eyes now well used to looking at the Serbo-Croat 'Informator' will be prepared to tolerate Holmov, Hasin, Henkin and so on.

3. I use 'sh' for the simple Russian 'sh' sound. When the sound is softened and lengthened I use 'sch' as in Scherbakov.

4. Limitations of English type face sometimes mean that it is not possible to print accents, umlauts and diacritic marks. I must therefore apologise to knowledgeable readers for melee, Hubner and Gligoric being robbed of their native super-structure!

The scientific study of chess and the demands of economy have led to the widespread use of abbreviations such as QP for queen's pawn, Sicilian for Sicilian Defence and so on. Even the purists seem reconciled to this.

Tal — A Pen Portrait

The Paganini of Chess

In 1972 when the negotiations were in progress for the epic world title match Fischer-Spassky there was high hope in Yugoslavia, where the American was very popular, that the match would take place there. After it became clear that this was not to be there was a reaction against the challenger. A popular way of criticising Fischer was to hark back to a favourite of earlier times, and to say, "Oh yes, there was a player who was just as devastating in his own way as Fischer, just as popular with the Yugoslav public, but one who did not claim any special privileges, who was thoroughly sociable, and ready to demonstrate his games to all and sundry."

This of course was Tal who gained the right to challenge Botvinnik for the world crown by winning the Candidates Tournament held in Bled, Zagreb and Belgrade in 1959.

How time flies in the chess world! It seems only a few years ago that the chess public was discussing the chances of the new young star against the experienced Botvinnik. To many people it still seems a mystery that after his convincing win in 1960 Tal should lose the return match a year later by an even more convincing score.

A great deal of light is shed on this point, as well as on Tal's personality generally by an article "The Paganini of Chess" written in 1964 by the veteran Soviet grandmaster Kotov. The article appeared in a fascinating book of jottings and reminiscences first published in 1965 and called *'In Joke and In Earnest'*. Here is a slightly shortened translation of the article.

He is loved all over the world, his games are diligently analysed by chess fans in their search for beauty and fantasy. Go into the tournament hall and if you see a crowd round one board entranced by the struggle taking place there, if you hear an admiring whisper, "What a remarkable sacrifice, what a beautiful game." then the odds are you are watching Mikhail Tal at work.

There is no other grandmaster who can so entrance the spectators, or inspire them to understand the hidden secrets of the game. Tal's own unbounded love for chess induces a similar feeling towards himself on the part of those who hold the game in high esteem. And what genuine sadness there is on the part of these same supporters of chess when they hear

that there is no other player who is so careless about his health and well-being.

Tal's many bouts of illness, visits to hospitals, operations, fill all true lovers of the game with great sadness and fear for the future. What is the reason for his proneness to illness? It is no secret that he is far from being a Goliath, but it is even clearer that he does not pay much attention to the advice of doctors on how to look after himself. Moreover he suffers from the rather unusual way he was brought up.

When I was in charge of the Soviet Student team for the 1956 IUS World Tournament I was phoned by an uncle of his who asked me to watch over him carefully, "Misha has very bad health. Every time he has a meal he feels unwell, and we give him injections every night and morning." (Tal's father is a doctor — B.C.) As a result I watched him carefully for the six weeks we spent together in Sweden, and then in Norway. In fact I never found anything to confirm his uncle's fears, and Misha was always glad to join in any form of game or sport, including throwing snowballs!

On our return from Norway I was met by another uncle of Tal's at the airport. "How was his health on the trip?" was the first question he asked. I got angry at this, and told him that as far as I could see the lad was quite fit, nothing had gone wrong on the trip, and they should stop being so over-anxious about him. In particular I said that I felt that constant injections were likely to be doing more harm than good.

It was during this trip that I noticed that Misha was not properly adjusted to mundane day to day affairs. One got the feeling that at home he was surrounded by loving guardians who had not taught him how to cope with everyday life. Yet at that time he was already twenty and had finished his university course!

At the aerodrome before we flew back to Moscow Misha asked me to take his passport, because otherwise he would lose it. Then I took charge of his money as well. Nor shall I ever forget the scene in his hotel room just before we were due to leave for Norway. He hadn't properly finished packing, but into the one suitcase which he had seen to he had thrust a number of vases and statuettes of crystal and porcelain, which as a result were nearly all shattered to bits.

Tal started his education at school not in the first class as is usual, but straight away in the third class, and had finished his secondary education by the time he was fifteen. At such an early age people are normally not admitted to university, but in his case an exception was made, and by the age of twenty he had already gained his diploma. (University courses for a first degree at Soviet institutes of higher education last five years, not three as is normal in many cases in Britain — B.C.) The theme of his thesis for a diploma of the Faculty of Philology of Riga University was 'Satire in the novel 'The Twelve Chairs' by Ilf and Petrov'.

Hence his quick rise to fame in the chess world was already partly anticipated by the ease with which he completed his education. There were amazing scenes in his native city when he took the world crown away from Botvinnik. When he returned from Moscow by train a huge crowd awaited him at the station and he was lifted bodily from the train by his fans. The critics were equally impressed, and forecast a long reign by the new King of Chess. There was but one exception, just one man who still dared to look at the sun when at its zenith, and found that there were spots on its surface. Yes, one critic from his bird's eye view had noticed some flaws in the new champion, had noticed that his strategic arsenal was not too solid, that his unexpected and risky sacrifices did not always arise from the logical demands of the position. That critic merely waited his chance to prove what he knew — and his name was Mikhail Botvinnik.

If only Tal had for a moment doubted his superiority, and carried out a sober analysis of the impending danger then things might have been different. I tried to make my own feeble contribution. When Tal and I played in the Stockholm tournament in January 1961 I tried to warn him that Botvinnik had played weaker than usual in the first match, and was the outstanding exponent of preparation based on past experience. Misha heard me out, nodded his head in agreement, but I could see that this was just out of politeness.

Misfortune was already on its way for Tal. Two months before the return match was scheduled to begin we got the news from Riga that the champion was ill. The Soviet Chess Federation was prepared to defer the start, and Botvinnik was also agreeable to this despite the harm that it would do to his own carefully mapped out scheme of preparation. However when Tal heard of these plans he showed little interest. Apparently he could not face the prospect of having to wait some months longer for such an interesting match. I am convinced that for him the chance to play twenty four games with Botvinnik was just as important as retaining his title. So with little care about the state of his health he entered the field of battle.

Botvinnik duly exploited Tal's 'guerilla raids' this time, and in solid openings found it possible to parry unfounded sacrifices. The match showed clearly that in Tal's great and rare talent there were still defects which could be removed only by time and hard effort. True, to remove these defects one also needed the rare objectivity and learning capacity of a Botvinnik. As the new/old champion expressed himself after the match, "If Tal could learn to programme himself properly, then it would become impossible to play with him."

After the match Tal's mother sent a remarkable telegram to Botvinnik in which she wrote, "You have remained true to yourself. I am full of admiration, but not surprise. I will be happy if my little Misha will

follow in the footsteps of big Misha.”

Thus the world crown was retained in Riga for only a year, but Tal had the consolation that he still kept the unique record of having been world champion at the age of twenty five (Lasker was twenty six when he beat Steinitz in 1894 — B.C.)

Tal's supporters were full of grief, just as Alekhine must have been in 1935, and Capablanca in 1927, yet the loss of the title was not such a blow to Tal himself. After all, he put it to himself, the loss of the title had not robbed him of his greatest happiness, the chance to carry on with his art, the chance to play chess.

Moreover Tal could also console himself with the thought that he was still young, that there was still time...

In fact only a few months after the loss of the title he achieved a remarkable come-back at Bled where a very strong collection of grandmasters could not stop him from taking first place. Hence hopes quickly rose that with the 1962 Candidates Tournament Tal would complete his rehabilitation. Alas suddenly all this was to be put in jeopardy by a recurrence of illness and hospitalisation. Alekhine once said that a chessmaster must not allow his body to hinder him during play. Tal's body in fact is his worst enemy, and when he had an operation only a short time before Curacao started it was clear that his hopes of a 1963 match with Botvinnik were shattered. Yet he still went to the West Indies and took part. What a pitiful impression his play there made. A series of blunders, some painful defeats and then to cap it all further hospitalisation with the tournament still unfinished. However, even while seriously ill Tal remains Tal. Who else would carry on explaining about chess to the doctors while the anaesthetist was slipping the oxygen mask over his face just before an operation!

Yes, Tal remains Tal. Who else would be prepared to play day and night, to go in for blitz games even during top class tournaments? When the Soviet participants in the 1964 Amsterdam Interzonal Tournament breathed a sigh of relief at the end of the marathon and boarded a TU 104 to return to Moscow there was a characteristic episode. A young man boarded the plane holding a portable board and set under his arm. He examined the passengers carefully, obviously looking for the youngest one there. Finally he came over to Tal and said, “Do you play chess?” The grandmaster was a little flustered and replied, “Well, yes, a little.” Soon they were engaged in a game. Tal won the first game. “You play well,” was the stranger's comment. After the second game the stranger asked, “And what is your profession?” “A journalist,” came the reply, “and ... a grandmaster.” “Ah, then you are Tal! I thought your face was familiar. So it was in the papers that I've seen the face before. Let me introduce myself. I am the pianist Mogilevsky, and I'm returning from the music competition in Brussels.” That was the way that the

winner of the Interzonal met the winner of the piano competition!

One summer day Tal appeared with a suitcase in his hands in the chess pavilion of the CHSA (Central House of the Soviet Army) in Moscow. When his colleagues asked him where he had come from he explained that he had just come from the airport and was hurrying to take part in the Moscow Lightning Championship. When they pointed out that he was not a Muscovite, he was quick with his answer, "Ah, yes, but I'm playing hors de concours."

Indeed he is a welcome guest wherever he goes!

His health has improved recently, and his fans are confident that he will delight the chess world many a year yet with his fireworks at the board. So go into the tournament hall, and if you see a crowd round one board, if you hear an admiring whisper, "What a remarkable sacrifice, What a game," then the odds are that you are watching Mikhail Tal at work.

Unruly Genius

From my own personal observations I can confirm what Kotov says. During the 1963/4 Hastings Congress I was amazed to see Tal play all and sundry at lightning chess in the morning, even though he had a round scheduled that afternoon. Then a few days later I acted as his host and translator when he came to Birmingham to give a simultaneous display. He was put on the train at Paddington by Harry Golombek, and I met him at Birmingham Snow Hill station. When we came to the ticket barrier it turned out that he had mislaid his ticket. Tal commented that his ticket had been checked once already, he didn't think that he would need it again. So I was reduced to explaining that the small swarthy gentleman was a distinguished foreign visitor who did not know our railway system too well. The ticket collector was duly impressed by this and was prepared to let us through the barrier once I had furnished Tal's English address as the Soviet Embassy in London. Before the simultaneous I accompanied him to the buttery of a local hotel, but he was not at all hungry, and seemed much more interested in local chess life. He was particularly interested in the news that Botvinnik had given a simul here the year before. He wanted to know his score, and I gained the impression that he was keen to better it! The other impression I gained was of an exceptionally intelligent and observant person. As we rode to the Birmingham Chess Club from the hotel he noticed through the window that it was located on Paradise Street (his command of written English naturally being superior to his command of spoken English). He was

greatly delighted to have my confirmation in Russian that it was true that the place where we played chess was indeed 'Raiskaya Ulitsa' — Paradise Street. The first word was clearly in his opinion a most apt description of the place where one should play chess.

His actual play in the simul was rather patchy — two or three brilliancies, but rather laboured otherwise, and half way through he seemed slightly unwell, and asked for a short break to visit the washroom and douse his face in cold water. Still, at the end he expressed himself as satisfied, since he had played better than the day before in London. I gained the impression that he was pretty tired, and he confirmed that he had slept most of the way on the train.

Much the same story is told by the Moscow master Estrin in his account of Tal's visit to Moscow University in 1967 for his by now traditional participation in the lightning tournament there. Writing in *CHESS* he says: This year there was a delay between the preliminaries and the final. Tal had to go yet again to hospital, and was kept there for quite some time. Not a single participant wanted to win by default against him. One and all said they would wait until the doctors said he was fit to play.

He was a troublesome patient. He would slip away and head straight for the Central Chess Club, where he would sit down to play blitz games with anybody there, until forcibly collected and taken back to hospital again. He cannot live without chess and unfortunately pays little attention indeed to his health.

At last he was back among the students again, gave them a talk and fully gripped their attention. He writes and lectures with the same lively inspiration with which he plays. In Tbilisi during the last Soviet Championship he was called up by a newspaper editor from Moscow: "Could you write us an article about the first half of the event. Could you do it in three days?" "Yes, three days would be quite enough," replied Tal, and promptly forgot all about it. Three days later, early in the morning, the phone rings in his hotel room. The newspaper wanted to know if the article was ready. Tal was still in bed, surrounded as usual by a dozen friends, journalists and fellow-competitors. It was rather embarrassing, but he replied after only a moment's hesitation: "Oh, yes, it is ready!" ... "Quick, lads, show me the score table," and perusing it without any preparation whatsoever, he dictated a description of the play to a shorthand typist, a description which thrilled those present and was to enthrall a million more next day.

The table at which Tal played his games was up against a window with a wall of living bodies opposite composed of students clambering up onto chairs, desks, even each other to watch. Tal finally won the tournament, and was awarded the champion's badge. Then we learn that for the last two rounds he has been feeling very poorly. He couldn't drag

himself away from the games. Lying down in the medical room with a hot water bottle after being given a pain-killing injection, he dictates to eager journalists from memory the scores of his fifteen games.

The Journalist and Editor

At this point it seems appropriate to mention a strange paradox. Spassky, who was trained in the Faculty of Journalism of Leningrad University, hardly ever writes articles nowadays, while Tal, whose training was in the field of Russian Language and Literature, is the most popular and prolific Soviet chess journalist. Estrin is quite right above when he draws attention to Tal's phenomenal memory and journalistic ability. Thus at the Hastings tournament after he had finished one game and analysed it in the side room for post-mortems he came back into the main hall, sat at the table where he had been playing, and then took out a small notebook. He gazed into the distance for a time, and then, without referring to any notes, proceeded to scribble away at great speed. I took it that he was writing some article for the fortnightly chess magazine *Sahs*, which he edited in Riga from 1959 to 1970. (A Russian version of the magazine has been published since 1960, and though Gipslis is now editor it is still popularly referred to as 'Tal's magazine.')

Kotov too makes a similar observation in the article we have drawn upon above. He writes: During the Munich Olympiad of 1958 I was captain of the Soviet side, and since the adjourned games are played off in the mornings I had to be present in the area of play both morning and evening. Yet I could be sure that whenever I was there Tal would be there too. He was a correspondent for the Riga newspapers. I had to marvel at the ability which he showed in this direction, especially at his memory. The rest of us journalists kept records in sizeable notebooks, as it was hard to orientate oneself properly in the hurly burly of the play — forty teams, eight hundred games, several groups, a semi-final then the final. Add to this the morning adjourned sessions, reserves coming in for some matches and so on.

Yet Misha kept all his records in a crumpled little notebook which was smaller than the size of his fist. While his opponent was thinking Tal would do a quick tour of the hall, make a few jottings, and that was all. How could he cover it all in this way? Yet when he was called up by Riga in the afternoons he was not only able to let them know the results of all the matches and individual games, but also to dictate from his notes the scores of several games!

In recent years, especially since the weekly chess newspaper '64' was restored in 1968, Tal has been in great demand as a chess journalist and commentator. Perhaps the most striking features of his style of work are his wit and his objectivity, both very much in evidence even when he is

writing about events in which he has done badly.

Tal Redivivus Yet Again!

The same persistent pattern of illness, poor results, hospitalisation, recovery and disregard for doctor's advice shows up yet again in recent years. In 1969 Tal lost the play-off match with Larsen for third place in the 1968 Candidates Matches by the decisive score of four losses to one win with three drawn. Then in the autumn he came as low as 14th equal in the XXXVII USSR Championship at Moscow. His play in both events made a pitiful impression, and the significance of his double failure was that he thereby had closed to him both routes for qualifying for the 1970 Palma Interzonal. Yet his objectivity and optimism came through clearly in an interview published in '64' at the very beginning of 1970. In October 1969 only a couple of days after the above mentioned Soviet Championship, he went into hospital in Tbilisi, capital of Georgia. There he had a kidney removed, and yet only three weeks after the operation and only days after leaving hospital he took part in the Tbilisi international tournament devoted to the memory of the outstanding Georgian player and trainer Viktor Goglidze. His play was redolent of the old Tal right from the start, so the interview in '64' was eagerly read by the chess public for signs of Tal's prospects with only one kidney. (Tal can hardly be allowed to forget about the preoccupation of the public with his health. He regularly gives talks on the latest chess events, and at the question and answer session which follows he is always asked, "How is your health?")

In the interview the Latvian commented that 1969 had been the unhappiest of his whole life from the chess point of view. Not one decent tournament performance, "and I prefer not even to mention my match with Larsen. Not even a really decent game apart from several in the MGU (Moscow State University) blitz event. However, things have now improved. My operation was a success and I must say that I'm glad to be rid of the faulty kidney which has caused me so much unpleasantness. In the new year I intend to play a lot. I am very keen to play in the forthcoming Rovinj-Zagreb tournament. It seems that the climate of Jugoslavia and Georgia is good for me." Then, three issues later, Tal commented in another interview that it was quite likely that he would change his permanent residence from Riga to Tbilisi. The move would be a wrench, but the doctors had strongly recommended that he should live in a warm climate.

In fact neither of his plans came to fruition. The Soviet participants in the great Zagreb tournament were chosen mainly on the board order and form shown in the historic Match of the Century USSR versus Rest

of the World played in Belgrade at Easter, 1970. Tal was as low as board nine in the ten board match but could only achieve a fifty percent score against the veteran Najdorf. I well remember how Tal looked when I had dinner in the Metropole Hotel after the second round of the match. Tal had adjourned with a lost game and his gloom seemed to communicate itself to all the other members of the team in the dining room, yet over the other side Larsen, who had just lost a 17 move game to Spassky, seemed in a much more cheerful frame of mind!

So, after all, he did not play at Zagreb, where Fischer scored a convincing victory and so further undermined the once unchallenged position of the Soviet School of Chess.

Then in November of that year I met Gufeld, the Ukrainian grandmaster, at the Palma Interzonal. Here he was second to Geller, another Ukrainian by birth. However Geller was now resident in the Moscow area, and Gufeld, after marrying a Georgian wife, had recently settled in Tbilisi. He confirmed that Tal was still living in Georgia, and that there were hopes that he would stay there and soon qualify to play for Georgia instead of Latvia in the regular Soviet team championships. I decided that it would probably be indiscreet to ask Gufeld for confirmation of persistent rumours that Tal was staying in Georgia not just for his health, but also because of a romantic attachment.

Something must have gone wrong, however, since in 1971, contrary to medical advice, he returned to Latvia, and from March onwards was officially described as 'consultant' on the cover of the magazine *Sahs* which has always been associated with his name. Since then he has not played in a Georgian tournament and his activity has been mainly confined to the northern and central parts of the Soviet Union.

However his health still continues to give grounds for concern. He was announced as one of the three Soviet competitors for the Wijk aan Zee grandmaster tournament in January 1972, but withdrew at the last moment because of ill-health. Then he was announced as one of the two Soviet participants for the Teesside grandmaster tournament in April/May of 1972. Again, at the very last moment he was withdrawn, on this occasion with no official explanation being given, though ill health seems very likely.

Yet in the summer he rehabilitated himself once more by winning the Sukhumi tournament ahead of Taimanov, Savon, Holmov and Hubner among others, and so regained a place in the Soviet Olympiad side. At Skopje too he showed wonderful form on board four, and made the best individual result of the 444 participants.

As a Soviet observer commented, his games showed the characteristics of his best years. It was as if he were saying to each opponent, "Let us play the sort of game in which both sides make mistakes, but in which you make more than I do." In fact this attitude has always been typical of

Tal. He does not fear defeat, does not try to reduce the risk of losing, by careful play, but rather is quite reconciled to the prospect of some defeats. More than once he has commented before taking part in Candidates Matches that it was clear to him that he would lose games and his whole problem was merely to ensure that he would win more than he would lose!

The Great Improviser

It seems appropriate to end this pen portrait with another Soviet assessment, this time by one of Tal's greatest admirers Lev Abramov, a strong master in his own right, but also long time secretary of the Soviet Chess Federation who has had to deal with Tal within the framework of Soviet officialdom. The two conflicting strands come out very clearly in the resulting account published in the booklet '*10 World Champions*' (Moscow 1972.):

No other world champion has been loved as Tal has been. People loved his shining chess talent, his modesty, his clever inventiveness, his rather apologetic smile, his gentleness and good nature. Yes, people loved him, though they also realised that all these were not the signs of an angelic character. People came to realise that unfortunately Tal has no real 'character' at all.

There would be no great harm if it were only the people around him who suffered from this. All right, he would come out late, would let somebody down, would not fulfill his latest promise, but after all it is as difficult to become angry at Tal as it is to be angry at a child. Alas — this lack of character seems to have induced him to undermine his own talent, and to hinder the normal process of creative development.

Let us take just one example. Tal's health is not particularly good, yet he smokes, and smokes to excess. No wonder Botvinnik wrote specially about this with Tal in mind, yet it made no difference at all.

Botvinnik also commented that the great players of the 19th century were nearly all improvisers, while the 20th century has been marked by the scientific or research work approach to the game. As Botvinnik also commented he, Botvinnik, might be considered the most outstanding example of this approach, just as Tal is the outstanding example of improvisation. (A very back-handed compliment this in Soviet terms, in view of their esteem of all that is scientific, even to the extent that Marxism-Leninism is called a science, and Communism is often described as Scientific Communism! B.C.)

An improviser makes a strong impression, it is not always easy to spot what he is aiming for, and so he is surrounded by a mystical charm, his efforts even seem to smack of magic (yes, one cannot deny that these things have been said about Tal). To improvise however on

the same high level in two tournaments in a row, or even in a number of consecutive games, is a hard business, and one's abilities in this direction tend to fade early, even while one is still improving as an analyst. This then is the second harm that Tal has caused himself, for he is just an improviser and has never been able to develop within himself any other approach to the game.

In 1969, his really grim year, Tal himself started talking and writing about his oversights at the board, admitting that they "are giving rise to a lack of confidence in his own chances, and a fear of blundering." Yet even here between the lines one could discern that he considered such things as accidental and temporary.

At the end of 1969 he bucked up again, and admitted that he now had a lot to make up for. He even admitted that there were quite a lot of drawbacks in the play of the 'good old Tal' so that his aim must not be simply to get back to his former self, but in fact to become an improved version of that self.

Nobody can say what lies in store for him. It is up to him, and as he himself has often remarked you make your own luck at chess. Perhaps he has been written off too early by the chess world. In any event it is impossible to overestimate the contribution which he has made to chess culture.

Tal — A Candid View of Himself

In 1969 Tal gave a long interview for the correspondent of the Latvian young people's paper 'Padomju Jaunatne' which was later reproduced in the Latvian chess magazine. It is so candid and enlightening about Tal, and also about the attitudes which many other players share with him that we quote extensively from it here.

Q. Tell us about your personal background.

A. I was born 9th November 1936 in Riga in a doctor's family. During the Great Fatherland War (ie 1941-45) I was evacuated to Yurla (central Ural region). I first went to school at seven and was soon put into the third class. I returned to Riga as soon as it was freed in November 1944. In 1958 I graduated from the Faculty of Philology of the Latvian State University.

Q. How did you learn to play?

A. I got to know how the pieces moved while we were still in Central Russia. The patients who came to see my father often played chess while they were waiting in the queue. I liked to watch them. My father played at about the strength of a present-day first category player. In 1946 a cousin came from Tula to visit us. I boasted to him that I could play, and challenged him to a match. In the very first game I suffered Scholar's Mate. This pained me. I got to know that there was a chess circle in the Pioneer palace where you learn how to play chess properly, so I made my way there in order to take my revenge on my cousin.

Q. If you had the chance to start all over again from scratch would you choose chess again?

A. If I knew what lay in store for me I would, yes. The chess virus is very infectious. Nowadays young people are busy with things like physics, electronics, cybernetics, the cosmos. There are probably fewer who are keen on chess. In those days the range of possible interests was narrower.

Q. What were your first competitions and successes?

A. I started playing in class and school championships when I was about eleven. As a result I became a fourth category player and then in the Riga schoolchildren's team championship to my great surprise won second category status. That was when I almost came to believe that I could beat anybody. I heard that Mikhail Botvinnik was taking a

holiday at the seaside near Riga, and I was taken with the idea that I should match my strength with him. At home I pestered the life out of the family until they got to know his address for me. Then, with a chess board under my arm (possibly he's forgotten to pack one), I set off to the holiday resort. When I knocked the door was opened to me by his wife who said that Mikhail Moiseyevich was asleep. I was too proud to ask to come round a second time.

Q. Who is an example for you in chess and in life?

A. Various people to different degrees. First of all I must mention Botvinnik who did so much for the development of world chess and particularly Soviet chess. Up to now nobody has been able to resolve the dispute about whether chess is a sport, a science or an art. If it is a science then Botvinnik is the model to take. If it is a sport, then Lasker. He was the one who showed that it is not the pieces that play chess, but live human beings. Alekhine's best games are close to the realms of art. I also like the ease and elegance of Capablanca's play.

Q. What do you appreciate most in people?

A. Comradship, cordiality and honesty. These qualities are a lot harder to acquire than will power and determination. For example Spassky and I are great friends and always have been. Even the dramatic game we played in the 1958 Soviet Championship here in Riga did not affect our relationship. He had to win at all costs to qualify for the Interzonal. During play we are opponents. There can be no other way. If you sit down thinking that it is your friend who is sitting opposite there will be no real struggle. In that game Boris lost, but he found the strength of mind not to take offence and our friendship became even firmer. Yes, during a game we are 'enemies', but after the game is over we can go to a cafe or to the cinema together. Not for nothing is the motto of FIDE 'Gens una sumus' — We are all one family.

Q. What sort of literature do you prefer?

A. Every player setting off to a long tournament takes something to read with him. There are differences however. I am not such a voracious reader as some. Today I might like adventure stories, tomorrow something from Flaubert or Maupassant. The main thing is what mood you are in. Most frequently however I come back to the satire of Ilf and Petrov. My university thesis was to do with them. I like thoughts to be expressed in an elegant form, just as I prefer books in smart bindings. My favourite authors are Chekhov and Shaw.

The same state of affairs applies in music. Sometimes I will want to listen to the classics such as Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Verdi, sometimes I prefer light melodic tunes. Naturally they must be good quality. Generally speaking I take in best through the sense of hearing. Art and sculpture are a closed book to me.

Q. Does chess demand sacrifices?

A. In Gorky's play *'The Lower Depths'* there is a line, "If you like your work then life is fine." If you come to feel during a game that you are sacrificing something, that you could be doing something useful somewhere else then you lose your taste for the game. If I felt like giving the game up I would do it straight away, otherwise you risk becoming a hack.

However I do not believe that a player should restrict himself entirely to the 64 squares. I am quite keen on journalism, as well as the psychology of chess and the general psychological aspects of the creative process.

Q. How many hours a day do you devote to chess?

A. I am not a great lover of sitting down for a long time in one place. I like improvisation and quick games with friends. However, once I get really interested I can forget all about meal times, appointments or even going to bed. On the other hand I can go days without looking at the board.

Q. Do you have one particularly close friend?

A. I am reluctant to name one because then dozens of others will feel offended. The reasons for liking a person can be very different. Friendship is like love in this respect, and chess has really nothing to do with it.

Q. What is your very first reaction when you have won?

A. A feeling of disappointment that it is all over. During the 1957 USSR Championship in Moscow I had to play Tolush in the last round, and if I won I would take the title. Before the game began I thought that after that I would really be happy — Soviet champion and grandmaster. I won, yet on the way home I suddenly felt sad.

Before a tournament begins I can think what I might become if I win. A second Botvinnik, or world champion. But then the game starts and you forget all about this. After all the finest thing of all is the actual struggle. Defeats are of different kinds and produce different reactions. If I lose not because of the strength of my opponent or because of hasty play then I am angry at myself. A beautiful win by the opponent cheers one up, and normally after this I start playing better.

Q. How do you feel when you see that you have made a bad move?

A. Terrible. I boil up inside. However I must be cold-blooded because usually neither my opponent nor my friends can spot it. In my first match with Larsen when we stood 1½ all I got a position which cried out for a piece sacrifice. The offer was so tempting that I began to suspect that it was a provocation on Larsen's part. Surely he must have analysed this position beforehand and had worked out how to repulse the attack. I tried to establish the truth of it for a whole hour, but couldn't work it out. In the end I dissuaded myself from making the sacrifice, and played another move. It was only later that I found a move that would have smashed his position. I shouldn't have spent so long

over it, wasting time in that way. As a result of all this I was as it were playing two separate games — the one actually in front of me on the board and the one which would have resulted from the sacrifice. It took a miracle for me to save that particular game.

Later on in the final game of the match as soon as I saw a good chance to sacrifice I played it straight away. You mustn't tempt fate. It turned out that the sacrifice was correct, and I won.

Q. What is a chess player's luck?

A. If you wait for luck to turn up life becomes very boring. Luck favours the active person (but not the one who believes in going head first through a brick wall).

Q. How do new ideas turn up? In analysis done at home, or in the actual game?

A. More often than not in actual play. In preparing for my match with Portisch I found two new ideas, but didn't manage to play them, and I'm still keeping them up my sleeve.

Q. Is it true that you remember all your games?

A. Nonsense. People think up all sorts of legends. I've played more than a thousand match and tournament games. I know no-one who could keep them all in his mind. Sometimes when I'm giving a lecture, or in chatting with friends I mention some game played long ago. The 25th move was such and such and I could have played such a move. The point is that this game was particularly interesting to me and so has found a niche in my memory.

People find different things to interest them in chess. Those who like sharp struggles come only to watch quick games in which the advantage sways to and fro from move to move. Others rejoice in seeing how Averbakh analyses an ending in thoroughly scientific fashion. Lovers of statistics will come armed with their tables, and without having to think hard will tell what place a certain player took in some tournament of long ago. There are those whose only memory of the XXXVI USSR Championship is that Averbakh and Bondarevsky had a very interesting ending in their game. Tastes and the memory are selective.

Spectators at tournaments tend to vary a lot, and show their support for this or that player in different ways. Sometimes they are noisy, but this doesn't bother me. Even the reverse is the case. I always enjoy it when I can sense that it is interesting for the spectators. However there are players for whom noise is a hindrance to concentration. Hence there is no reason to criticise Fischer for the fact that he demands special conditions from the organisers (a separate room for play etc.).

Q. Does popularity and fame help you in life or hinder you?

A. They help as long as you don't notice them. When you have to start thinking about how you should speak, how you should behave, then they start to play on your nerves. Sometimes they can be a definite

hindrance. After all there comes a time for everyone when he does not want to be in the limelight.

Q. Are chess players influenced by laudatory or critical articles in the press?

A. Some yes, some no. In order to remain completely unaffected by praise you have to be a Botvinnik. During tournaments he doesn't read anything in the papers about it. He reads the papers of course, but before he starts looking at them his family cuts out the appropriate parts.

On the other hand I read everything and even discuss things with the correspondents. You just have to be able to distinguish the truth from journalistic invention. If you believe everything you read then you would come to think that I play chess very well.

Q. What don't you like in chess?

A. I don't like tournaments which are qualifying events for another competition. Then before the event even begins you have to start reckoning up how many points you will have to make. For example it might have to be plus three, that is you have to win three games more than you lose. Then you have to start working out who you will have to beat, who you will draw with ...

Q. Do you have a dream which you have not been able to make come true?

A. It is probably a bad thing, but I have no such special dream. There are only unfulfilled desires.

Q. Sometimes we get reports from tournaments that you are ill. Is this some sort of misunderstanding, or is it the old trouble?

A. It is my kidneys which from time to time play me up. However the journalists in taking pity on me are wrong to talk about the kidneys. It is my head that aches, not my kidneys.

Q. Will your son grow up to be a chess player?

A. One player in the family is enough. I don't intend making any special efforts to try and inspire him with a love of the game. If he does want to take it up I shall have to be his second. At the moment Georgy and I are only at the primary school stage in this respect.

Q. Which player do you like to come up against, and which do you not like to play against?

A. Bronstein is the most interesting opponent as you can never foresee what he is going to think up. There are no unpleasant opponents, only easy and hard ones. The hardest for me is Korchnoy (Who has a very impressive record against Tal —+13=18 -2 after Korchnoy's win in the 1971 Alekhine Memorial Tournament).

Q. I have always read your interviews and witty answers to questions with great interest. I have accumulated a great deal of material on you and on reading through it all before coming here to interview you I became rather puzzled. The startling aphorisms and

witty comments combine to give an impression of an armour plated barrier by means of which you defend yourself from questioners. Are you defending something intimate, something sacred into which other people have no right to enquire? Possibly I've got it all wrong?

A. Many people have got used to the idea that I am always coming out with witticisms. The point is that I like thoughts expressed in fine form. However my journalistic colleagues sometimes deliberately and sometimes unintentionally try a bit too hard, or else don't understand me fully. I never say what I don't think, but sometimes I do not say what I do think. (An aphorism that calls to mind the reply of the author Ilya Ehrenburg. When asked how it was that he, a Jewish writer, could carry on working through the whole Stalin epoch, keep his integrity and still remain alive he replied, "Ya skazal pravdu, no nye vsyu pravdu" (I told the truth, but not the whole truth).)

A Few Anecdotes

Tal in the hands of the police!

Tal's careless attitude to sleep and looking after himself properly is normally treated fairly discreetly in Soviet sources. For a detailed description of one episode we are indebted to Viktor Vasiliev, a chess journalist, who in 1963 published his book "The Seventh Veil." This is nothing to do with customs in the harem but is a pretty frank description of the life of eight leading Soviet players.

Here is an extract from the chapter on Tal:

In the 12th round of the XXIV USSR Championship, 1957, Tal adjourned his game with Boleslavsky in a very difficult position. Tal however was not too put out. In fact this evening, or more accurately this night, he showed himself to be still very careless.

Straight after play he went off to a date with a girl! While the other players were enjoying their sleep Tal spent the time walking round the streets of Moscow. Next to the Bielorussky railway station they crossed the road in the wrong place. When the policeman on duty started giving the customary warning Tal proudly refused to admit that he was at fault. Then, as the practice is, he was asked to produce his documents. Alas, his passport was at the hotel. [Vasiliev has in mind the internal passport — a form of identity card issued to everyone over the age of sixteen except for workers on collective farms. The passport is stamped by local police with a 'propiska' authorising the holder to reside in a certain area, and must be produced when registering at hotels etc. — B.C.]

Then, accompanied by the girl who did not want to leave him in the lurch, Misha had to go along to the police station. The young lieutenant who was on duty turned to look at them with some dissatisfaction and then returned to the task he had had to break off — he was sitting with a chess board in front of him.

Tal glanced at the board and couldn't suppress a smile. The police officer was analysing the adjourned game with Boleslavsky. Obviously the adjourned position had been dictated in the evening sports bulletin on the radio. Tal was unable to restrain himself and commented on a move made on the board. Instead of replying the lieutenant pushed the board away from him with a sigh and in a bored

voice asked, "Name?" "Tal." "What, another one?" "You'll laugh, I know," said Misha, "but I'm not another one, but the very man himself."

A minute later they were analysing the position together. Tal went home only at 7 am. Despite the help of the police the game was still lost on resumption.

A Knight's Move and the Barber's Shop

The cordon sanitaire imposed by the West on Cuba in the sixties made life complicated for chess masters visiting the homeland of Capablanca. I remember Bob Wade telling me how his first step in getting to Cuba for a Havana Memorial Tournament was to fly from London to Prague!

Mikhail Tal too found himself doing a Knight's tour of part of the globe at the end of the 1966 Olympiad in Havana.

He had been invited to the tournament beginning in the middle of November in Palma de Majorca, and agreed despite the gap of only a few days between this event and the closing of the Olympiad.

Since he was not required for the last round in Havana he immediately flew home, but because of the foggy weather he found himself marooned for most of his 'holiday from chess' at Murmansk airport (just inside the Arctic Circle!) Then the passengers managed to get as far as Leningrad. Here Tal visited the barber's shop for a shave and found that the barber was a keen chess fan who was able to give him all the details of the final round in Havana. When the shave was over the barber extracted a promise that when Tal was next in Leningrad, sometime in 1967, he would call in again for a shave and a chat on chess.

Then the passengers were transferred by express train to Moscow since the airport in the capital was still fog bound.

The next day (presumably after collecting his documents — there are very few Soviet travellers to Spain) Tal was scheduled to fly to Palma from Moscow. The airport was still not working, so Tal had to take back his move of the previous day, travel to Leningrad by train, thence to the airport, and finding his face quite bristly called in for another shave. 1967 had come round quicker than expected! However this time, smartly shaved, Tal had no further transport problems and flew to Paris and then on to Palma to find the temperature nearly 40 degrees higher than in Leningrad. The vicissitudes of a chess master on the international circuit...

Genius

In the middle sixties the Yugoslav grandmaster Ivkov was asked to give an assessment of Tal, Fischer, Korchnoy and Spassky. After long deliberation he replied, "The greatest genius is Tal, the most talented is Tal, the wittiest and most cheerful is Tal, the most comprehensive in style is Tal." When asked to elaborate his reasons for this assessment he said, "I feel this way after every game with Tal. I myself have no marked style in chess but Tal simply fills me with enthusiasm."

Amongst other games Ivkov may well have been thinking back to Ivkov-Tal, Bled 1961, which opened 1 P-Q4 N-KB3 2 P-QB4 P-KN3 3 N-QB3 B-N2 4 P-K4 P-Q3 5 N-B3 0-0 6 B-K2 P-K4 7 PxP PxP 8 QxQ RxQ 9 N-Q5. Ivkov clearly thought that 9 ... NxN was now forced when after 10 BPxN Black could hardly hope to complicate a nice sedate position. Tal replied 9 ... R-Q2!?

After an hour and a half (!) Ivkov finally convinced himself that 10 NxKP NxN 11 NxR N-N5! 12 NxN N-B7+ 13 K-Q1 NxR 14 B-B4 BxP! 15 BxP P-QR4 and then P-R5 and N-N6 was all right for Black. Hence he played in the end 10 NxN+ BxN 11 P-B5 still with a fairly level game, but the opening shock and the time deficit proved too much for him and he lost in the end.

"Tal is Tal"

On various occasions when Tal has been facing a tough task abroad e.g. before his 1965 match with Gligoric and his 1969 match with Larsen, Soviet grandmasters have been asked to comment on his chances. The invariable pattern of these comments (e.g. by Petrosian and Bronstein among others) has been that, yes, the Latvian faces a stiff hurdle, maybe his form has not been too good, we all know his health is doubtful, but ... the interviews always finish up with this statement of faith: "but, Tal is Tal." The Russian text is "Tal ohtayotsa Tal" i.e. Tal remains Tal, Tal remains himself, Tal is Tal!

Korchnoy Demurs

Just one discordant note has been sounded in this hymn of praise for Tal's play, and characteristically it came from the hard man of Soviet chess, the man who calls a spade a spade — Viktor Korchnoy.

Korchnoy was the first Russian player to admit in cold print (December 1972) that Fischer had won on merit against Spassky, "R. Fischer won the match because he was stronger and those who work through the games played at Reykjavik can see this for themselves. There was no real surprise in the result."

After his 1968 match victory over Tal Korchnoy wrote an article called "Confidentially Speaking." Although he confessed that the games had been hard fought he also commented, "I always had a pretty good idea of the play of grandmaster Mikhail Tal, but only after our match has his chess profile become fully clear to me. Most of all (though this might sound paradoxical to people not so much in the know) Tal is a player of great stereotype. His strategic plans are not marked by either originality or innovation. But the combination of sound stereotype and immense tactical talents, unlimited optimism and outstanding competitive qualities have often brought him great tournament successes. I say tournament successes, not match successes, for in matches between equally matched opponents the decisive role is played by an arsenal of new strategic ideas." This was sufficiently sharp comment to bring criticism in another Soviet source which called the Korchnoy views "facile, sensational, but not just and not true." Korchnoy was unmoved however and claimed that he had a right to his opinion. One must remember too what Fischer once said, "Tal thinks he can win every game with one dazzling shot."

My own comment is that I am sure most of us would be only too glad to master Tal's particular sort of stereotype.

In 1959 before becoming a chess journalist Tal taught for a time in a secondary school in Riga. His subject was Russian language and literature. In one of his first lessons he came into the classroom after a break to find a small chess board with a middle game position set up on the window sill. Ignoring this he wrote out an exercise on the board, then turned round to the class and in a flash saw that the position had changed slightly; moreover the move made was not a very good one. He could not ignore this infraction of discipline and said sternly, "Even during lesson time it's disgraceful to make such a bad move." Then he continued the lesson as if nothing had happened! There was no further need to refer to the incident and the pieces were not touched again.

Tal was a well thought of teacher, but his stock with his colleagues and headmaster was not so high — too often he was called away to take part in various chess events. Tal himself came to realise that the life of an active player could not be combined with the work of teaching with its strict programme of term time and vacations, and he gave up the work of his own volition.

Tal is not only hard on his opponents, he is also hard on his helpers as Koblents his long time second (now replaced by the younger Riga player Kirillov) knows to his cost. Many is the time Tal has agreed to play a certain line, or not push things too hard and then deviated from this at the board, so making his second pretty nervous.

A notable case in point came before the last round of the 1959 Candidates Tournament in Yugoslavia. Tal led Keres by a point and so only needed a half point in the last game against Benko to qualify for the title match with Botvinnik. Averbakh and Koblents were briefing Tal before this last game, and Averbakh told him "Play quietly, don't get excited." Tal answered with a straight face that he had thought it all out and knew what to do. He would play the Kings Gambit in which he had recently discovered a marvellous knight sacrifice. He then played over on the board in their hotel room a wild variation which had occurred in a recent simultaneous of his! Averbakh didn't see it was a joke and started trying to analyse the line. Koblents perhaps more wisely lay down on his bed, complaining of utter fatigue!

After this little 'trial' of his helpers Tal finally promised to offer a draw on move fourteen no matter what the position was like. In fact the game was a sharp variation of the Sicilian in which Tal got some advantage. However he kept his word only to be surprised by Benko's refusal to agree a draw at move fourteen!

Tal needed only another half dozen moves or so to get a won game, but then he thought that having promised to draw the game it was now a matter of honour. Hence he surprised his seconds yet again. They were now anticipating that he would win, but instead he suddenly forced a draw by perpetual check. (To be fair to Koblents one must admit that he claimed in an indignant letter to '64' that a great deal of imagination has gone into the telling of such incidents, all with the aim of denigrating the seconds and glorifying Tal).

Returning from his match with Gligoric in Belgrade 1968 Tal landed at Sheremietievo airport within minutes of the landing of an Amsterdam-Moscow plane carrying Korchnoy back from his victorious match with Reshevsky.

The two grandmasters travelled to their Moscow hotel together and in the taxi quickly came to an agreement on the conditions of their Candidates semi-final match. What a contrast with the prolonged negotiations over some other important post war matches!

In March 1969 the USSR Chess Federation drew up for the very first time a rating list of their best players, without however publishing the absolute figures. Tal found himself in an honourable fifth place behind Petrosian, Spassky, Korchnoy and Botvinnik. By a twist of fate the list came out just as he was in the process of losing badly to Larsen in the play-off match for third place in the 1968 Candidates.

1960-62

A YOUNG HEAD ON YOUNG SHOULDERS

After his convincing win over Botvinnik in the late spring Tal showed excellent form on top board for the USSR in the friendly match against West Germany in Hamburg in July and August.

Then in the autumn he was in Germany again, this time in the East at the Leipzig Olympiad where his games showed the same dashing style that had brought him the world title. Typical of the carefree attitude he brought to the ancient game was his reply to Najdorf when the ebullient Argentinian top board at lunch before their game joked, "I shall accept all your sacrifices. Remember that I have done well against both Capablanca and Alekhine." Tal came back with, "I shall certainly sacrifice something, and I hope you will keep your promise." As the reader can see from game 2 each player kept his side of the bargain. Tal lost only one game — his last one against British Champion Jonathan Penrose.

The ominous thing for Tal however was that Botvinnik on second board showed no sign of the lack of confidence that generally affects ex-champions after their loss of the crown.

Another successful outing this time in Scandinavia at the turn of the year, showed that Tal still had the knack of disposing of strong opposition in summary fashion (see game 3 against one of the soundest players in the world).

Then disaster struck. Kidney disease put the start of his return match with Botvinnik in doubt. On March 1st a medical commission stated that his health was not good enough to enable it to start on time on March 15th, and the official proposal was to put back the start by a month. This was a fairly well kept secret. Certainly in the West nothing was known of this at the time (or, if it was, nothing was published). Tal however would not hear of it, the match was started promptly and it was immediately apparent that the Latvian was in poor form. In fact he lost the match by the biggest margin of any of the post-war matches for the title.

In the European Team Championship his play showed no great improvement, but then came rehabilitation when he won the great Bled tournament ahead of Fischer, Keres, Petrosian, Geller and the

best Yugoslavs. His play in the Soviet Championship at the end of the year was not so impressive despite his high placing. He was freely criticised by Yudovich for his "adventurism," lack of patience and for tiring himself out with work for press, radio and TV during the event.

Now came the second body blow. The Candidates Tournament was to be held on the sub tropical island of Curacao off the coast of South America, starting in May 1962. Shortly before the tournament began Tal underwent a serious operation. He was advised that the marathon event in the Dutch West Indies would be too trying an experience for him, once again he disregarded doctors' advice and insisted on playing.

He fell behind right at the start with losses to Petrosian, Keres and Benko and scored only two points out of the first eight rounds. By a miracle he managed to play through the first twenty one rounds, but then had to withdraw for the last eight as he was forcibly hospitalised. The writer of these lines must have had more sympathy than most for Tal since he (the author) had a spell in hospital for kidney trouble in May 1962 and so knows by personal experience just what harm this can do one's chess. Not a single game from Curacao seems worth reproducing in this book.

However in the autumn Tal was back at board six for the Varna Olympiad and scored well in the style of his best years. His game against Hecht (No. 10) is particularly brilliant. In the subsequent Soviet Championship his play was of a much higher quality than a year before but Korchnoy beat him in a thrilling encounter and so took the title.

Nevertheless it was at about this time that one started hearing rumours that Tal's health was so bad that his doctors feared for the future. Subsequent events have shown, *Slava Bogy* (Thank God) that it is not only at the chess board that Tal demonstrates the triumph of mind over matter!

1 West Germany v USSR, Hamburg 1960

White: Unzicker

Ruy Lopez

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 1 P-K4 | P-K4 |
| 2 N-KB3 | N-QB3 |
| 3 B-N5 | P-QR3 |
| 4 B-R4 | N-B3 |
| 5 0-0 | B-K2 |
| 6 R-K1 | P-QN4 |
| 7 B-N3 | 0-0 |
| 8 P-B3 | P-Q3 |
| 9 P-KR3 | N-N1 |

Tal rarely defends the Lopez nowadays, being a firm believer in the Sicilian, but at the time he was experimenting with his opening repertoire. Thus six rounds before this game he chose a Philidor Defence (!) against Mohrlock and still won after a hard fight lasting 71 moves. However, the actual opening sequence in that game was 1 P-K4 P-Q3 2 N-KB3 P-K4 3 P-Q4 PxP 4 QxP N-QB3 5 B-QN5 B-Q2 which can also be considered to be an old Steinitz Defence to the Lopez. The text, an old idea of Breyer, was a comparative innovation at the time in the sense that it had been "rediscovered" and much played in the middle fifties.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 10 P-Q4 | QN-Q2 |
| 11 QN-Q2 | |

Typical of the careful style of the West German champion. 11 P-B4, played by Tal a year later against Unzicker, is the most energetic while 11 B-N5 is also good.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 11 | B-N2 |
|---------|------|

One of the points of the system. White must now guard his KP before he can play the typical Lopez manoeuvre N-B1-N3(K3).

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 12 B-B2 | R-K1 |
|---------|------|

With the enemy bishop still at

QN3 this would have been met by 13 N-N5.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 13 N-B1 | B-KB1 |
| 14 N-N3 | P-N3 |
| 15 P-N3 | |

The pin 15 B-N5 seems more energetic, though after 15 ... P-R3! (15 ... B-N2 16 Q-B1 intending N-R2-N4) 16 B-Q2 P-Q4! Black has a good game.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 15 ... | B-N2 |
| 16 P-Q5 | |

Black was threatening to play 16 ... PxP 17 PxP P-B4 with good counter chances, so White argues that the text is timely, since 16 ... P-B3? 17 PxP wins a pawn (the QP is no longer guarded by the KB).

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 16 ... | N-N3 |
| 17 Q-K2? | |

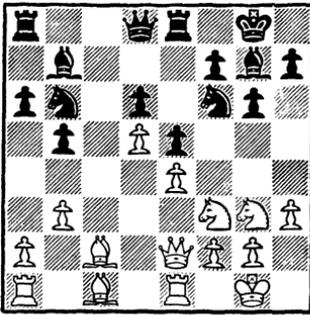
Black clearly intended undermining the centre by P-B3, so White had to play 17 B-Q3 or 17 R-N1 P-B3 18 P-B4 with a level game. After the text Black opens the centre and the comparison between his strongly posted bishops and White's limping prelates becomes very obvious.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 17 ... | P-B3! |
| 18 P-B4 | |

The lesser evil was 18 PxP allowing Black to follow up with an early P-Q4 (18 ... BxP 19 P-B4 PxP 20 PxP Q-B2 and the defence of the QBP against B-Q2-K3 will involve White in great difficulties). Unzicker after the game said he had anticipated the following complications but failed to spot the strength of Black's 23rd move.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 18 ... | BPxP |
| 19 BPxP | |

Or 19 KPxP P-K5 and 20 ... KNxP discovering an attack on the loose rook in the corner.



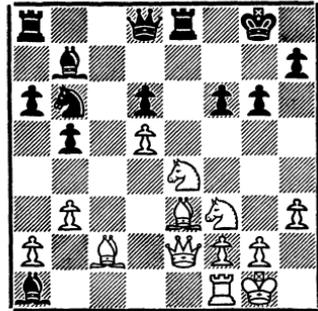
- 19 ... KNxQP!
 20 PxN P-K5
 21 NxP BxR

Not 21 ... P-B4 22 R-N1 PxN 23 N-N5 BxP 24 Q-N4! and White has some compensation for the slight material which he has lost.

- 22 B-N5 P-B3
 23 B-K3

Clearly not 23 NxP? BxN 24 QxR+ QxQ 25 RxQ+ RxR 26 BxB NxP with a won ending. White was now hoping for 23 ... B-K4 24 NxB followed by 25 BxN and 26 NxP+ or 23 ... P-B4 24 QN-N5 B-KB3 25 N-K6 with a temporary initiative. Tal's

answer however quickly liquidates all White's hopes, so White should have tried 23 B-R4 when, since the QN is now pinned, Black has 23 ... B-B6 24 Q-Q3 P-N5 25 NxB RxR+ 26 NxR PxN 27 QxBP K-B2 and White has no compensation for the exchange.



- 23 ... NxP!
 24 RxB NxB
 25 QxN BxN
 26 BxB P-Q4

Shattering White's last hope of 26 ... P-B4?? 27 B-Q5+ or even 27 BxR RxQ 28 B-Q5+, whereas now the pin 27 R-Q1 is inadequate because of simply 27 ... RxB

Resigns.

2 Leipzig Olympiad 1960

Black: Najdorf

Sicilian Defence

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-QB4 | 4 | NxP | N-KB3 |
| 2 | N-KB3 | P-Q3 | 5 | N-QB3 | P-K3 |
| 3 | P-Q4 | PxP | 6 | B-K3 | |

Rather a tame move from Tal. 6 P-KN4 looks much more his style.

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| 6 ... | P—QR3 |
| 7 P—B4 | P—QN4 |
| 8 Q—B3 | B—N2 |
| 9 B—Q3 | QN—Q2 |

A modern form of the Scheveningen in which Black keeps up the tension by not allowing White to exchange knights on QB6.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 10 0—0 | B—K2 |
|--------|------|

A slight inaccuracy with considerable consequences. All Black's counterplay is based on attacking the enemy KP, so 10 ... P—N5 to drive away one of the defending pieces is correct. Then White could not so easily move his queen away after 11 N—R4 B—K2 etc.

- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| 11 P—QR3! | 0—0 |
| 12 Q—R3! | |

White immediately takes up an attacking position with the threat 13 P—K5 PxP 14 PxP NxP 15 RxN.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 12 ... | Q—B2 |
| 13 QR—K1 | N—B4 |

The correct idea, but now that White has mobilised his QR the attack on the KP has much less effect than on move ten.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 14 B—B2 | P—Q4 |
|---------|------|

Najdorf was presumably quite happy at this stage as 15 P—K5 KN—K5 16 BxN NxB 17 NxN PxN leaves White with nothing. The following few moves however indicate that Black should have tried 14 ... NxB 15 PxN KR—Q1 followed by a later N—K1.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 15 PxP! | NxB |
|---------|-----|

Not 15 ... PxP 16 RxB! QxR 17 N—B5 Q—B2 18 B—Q4 with a decisive attack, e.g. 18 ... NxB 19 BxN! Q—N3+ 20 B—Q4 or 18 ... QN—K5 19 KBxN NxB 20 BxP or 18 ... QN—Q2 19 N—K7+ K—R1 20 KNxP BxN 21 NxB Q—Q3 22 BxN NxB 23 NxN with two pieces for a rook.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 16 PxN | BxB |
|--------|-----|

Since he cannot keep the long white diagonal open (16 ... NxP? 17 NxKP! winning material) Black decides to get rid of his QB in return for an active enemy minor piece.

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 17 NxB | PxN |
|--------|-----|

Again not 17 ... NxN because of the knight sacrifice on K6.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 18 N—B5 | B—B4 |
|---------|------|

Or 18 ... B—K1 19 B—R4 threatening 20 BxN or 20 RxB with a decisive weakening of the enemy king position, or 18 ... B—Q3 19 R—B1! Q—N1 20 B—Q4 N—K1 21 BxP NxB 22 Q—N3. 19 Q—N3 is also good for White.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 19 P—Q4! | |
|----------|--|

From the formal point of view White now has a poor bishop with a fixed centre pawn on the same colour as itself. At the same time Black enjoys a fine white square outpost but these considerations take second place to the fact that White has considerable local piece superiority on the part of the board that Tal is always interested in — the area near to the enemy king!

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 19 ... | B—R2 |
|--------|------|

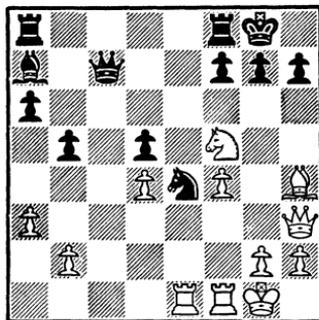
Reserving QN3 for his queen.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 20 B—R4! | |
|----------|--|

Much more decisive than 20 R—K7.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 20 ... | N—K5 |
|--------|------|

Or 20 ... N—Q2 21 R—K7 threatening 22 RxN QxR 23 N—R6+. 20 ...



Q-N3 is the best defence, but after 21 R-K5 White wins in the long run.

21 R×N!

Tal played this and his next move almost at once. After 21 Q-N4 P-B3 Black hangs on.

21 ... P×R

22 B-B6! Q-N3

Before the game Najdorf had said jokingly to his opponent: "I'll accept all the sacrifices you make," but here he cannot keep his word because of mate in two.

23 B×P KR-K1

24 B-K5 Q-N3

Prepared by his last move, eli-

minating N-K7+ but Tal is not to be denied. After 24 ... Q-K3 25 N-R6+ K-B1 26 N-N4 White wins without much trouble (26 ... P-R3 27 P-B5! or 26 ... P-B4 27 N-B6)

25 N-R6+ K-B1

26 P-B5! Resigns

At first sight a little premature, but 26 ... Q-QB3 is met by 27 Q-KN3 Q×N 28 B-Q6+ R-K2 29 B×R+ K×B 30 Q-K5+ winning the rook, while 27 Q-R5 Q-B5 28 B-Q6+ R-K2 29 R-Q1! also wins. Finally 26 ... Q-N4 27 N×P! K×N 28 Q×P+ K-B1 29 B-Q6+ R-K2 30 P-B6 B×P+ 31 K-R1 B×BP 32 B×R+ is decisive.

3 Stockholm 1960-61

Black: Unzicker

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4 P-K4

2 N-KB3 N-QB3

3 B-N5 P-QR3

4 B-R4 N-B3

5 0-0 B-K2

6 R-K1 P-QN4

7 B-N3 P-Q3

8 P-B3 0-0

9 P-KR3

Tal has always had faith in this quiet move, building up the tension, rather than in the quicker 9 P-Q4 B-N5 when the tension can soon be dissipated. (See game 20.)

9 ... N-N1

Breyer's move, revived in the Fifties by the Leningrad players Furman and Borisenko. Black argues that the fashionable 9 ... N-QR4 10 B-B2 P-B4 leaves his knight rather misplaced, whereas the text will bring it to a better square at Q2. Recent

praxis has tended to give preference to Smyslov's system beginning 9 ... P-KR3.

10 P-Q4

The restrained 10 P-Q3 is also quite acceptable, and indeed despite his sharp reverse in this game that is what Unzicker played in two key Olympiad games three and a half years later against Reshevsky and Padevsky.

10 ... QN-Q2

11 P-B4

With the double aim of developing his QN at QB3 and of undermining Black's centre by P-B5. The main alternative is Simagin's pawn sacrifice 11 N-R4 N×P 12 N-B5 QN-B3 13 Q-B3, which Black can refuse by 11 ... N-N3 12 N-Q2 P-B4 13 P×BP P×P 14 N-B5 (Fischer-Benko, USA Championship 1965/66).

11 ... P—B3

The safest move and therefore in accordance with Unzicker's style of play. Great complications arise after 11 ... P-N5 12 P-B5! B-N2 13 Q-B2 KPxP 14 P-B6 P-Q6 15 Q-B4 N-N3 16 PxN! when White seems to get the better of it after 16 ... NxQ 17 PxR(Q) QxQ 18 BxN NxP 19 BxQP. Geller-Filip. Amsterdam 1956. 11 ... B-N2 is also playable.

12 P—B5 Q—B2

Not 12 ... PxBP 13 PxKP N-K1 14 P-K6 PxP 15 BxP+ K-R1 16 N-B3 N-B2 17 N-B5 (Averbakh-Furman, Moscow 1961) nor 12 ... KPxP 13 PxP BxP 14 NxP with the threat 15 Nx either P.

13 BPxP BxP

14 B—N5 P—B4?

A weakening of his Q4 which soon proves very awkward. The correct defence was discovered by Petrosian who went 14 ... PxP! 15 BxN PxB! 16 NxP N-B4 17 N-B5 BxN 18 PxB QR-Q1 19 Q-R5 B-K4 with active piece play to compensate for his broken pawns (Gligoric-Petrosian, Piatigorsky Cup 1963).

15 PxBP BxP

Or 15 ... NxBP 16 BxN NxB 17 QxN PxB 18 N-B3 and in view of Black's rigid pawn formation and weakened K side his two bishops are not a powerful force.

16 N—B3 B—N2

17 QR—B1

Before playing N-Q5 White extracts the most he can from the open lines on the Q side, inducing Black to move his queen from its present good defensive post.

17 ... Q—N3

18 R—K2!

After Black's last move the enemy QN is insufficiently guarded, hence the text rather than 18 Q-K2.

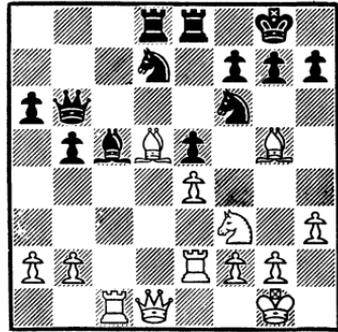
18 ... KR—K1

Preparing P-KR3 which if played at once would be met by 19 BxN when Black loses the KP. However KB2 is thereby badly weakened so 18 ... QR-Q1 19 N-Q5 BxN 20 BxB B-K2 looks a slightly better chance.

19 N—Q5! BxN

Not 19 ... NxN 20 BxN BxB? 21 QxB B-Q3 22 R-Q2 winning material (22 ... R-K3 23 QxR+ an argument for moving his QR last move). Black does better by 20 ... QR-B1 (20 ... N-B1 21 BxB when the enemy queen is overloaded) restricting his losses to a pawn after 21 BxP+ KxB 22 QxN+.

20 BxB QR—Q1



Black has thus been driven into this self pin after all. Tal now feints to come in on the Q side and then explodes his 'bomb' on KB7.

21 KR—B2 B—K2

Not 21 ... R-QB1? 22 P-QN4, while 21 ... B-N5 22 P-QR3 forces in essence a transposition to the game (22 ... B-Q3? 23 R-B6 Q-N1 24 RxB QxR 25 BxP+) quite apart from the alternative win by 22 R-B6 Q-R2 23 BxP+ KxB 24 Q-N3+.

22 R—B6 Q—R1

The alternative method of guarding the QRP 22 ... Q-R2 involves the queen being driven from

pillar to post by 23 R-B7 Q-N1? 24 R-N7 Q-R1 25 R×N! N×B 26 R×N and wins a piece, while after 22 ... Q-N1 Tal was looking forward to the finish 23 B×N N×B (23 ... B×B 24 R×P is the lesser evil) 24 B×P+! K×B 25 Q-N3+ K-N3 (25 K-B1 26 N-N5) 26 N-R4+ K-R4 (26 ... K-R3 27 N-B5+ K-N3 28 Q-N3+) 27 Q-KB3+! K×N 28 Q-B5 P-N4 29 Q×RP+!! N×Q 30 R-R6 mate.

23 B—Q2

In the last variation White freed KN5 for his knight by B×N. This way

he is able to free the square while still keeping his QB, so the enemy king is put to the sword even more quickly being denied the squares KR3 and KN4.

23 ... P—N5

24 B×P+! K×B

25 Q—N3+ Resigns

The finish would be 25 ... K-B1 26 N-N5 N-Q4 27 N-K6+ K-N1 28 N×R and 29 P×N or 25 ... K-N3 26 N-R4+ K-R4 27 Q-KB3+ K×N 28 P-KN3+ K×RP 29 Q-B5+ N-N5 30 Q-R5+ and mate next move.

4 8th Game, World Championship 1961

Black: Botvinnik

Caro-Kann Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB3

2 P—Q4 P—Q4

3 P—K5

Over the years Tal has been unsure how to meet the Caro-Kann and only in recent years has he chosen to play the variation which would appear to suit his style best — the Panov-Botvinnik attack 3 P×P P×P 4 P-QB4 (see for example game number 42). At the time Tal was keen on throwing forward all his K-side pawns against this defence.

3 ... P—QB4

Agreeing to go into a French Defence type formation a tempo down, but with his QB as yet not restricted by P-K3. However Botvinnik seemed to have faith in the move up to this game after which he returned to the book 3 ... B-B4 not fearing the pawn rush variation of which an extreme example is Tal-Bagirov.

XXIX USSR Championship played some months after the title match and which went 3 ... B-B4 4 P-KR4 P-KR3 (4 ... P-KR4!) 5 P-KN4 B-Q2 (5 ... B-N3 6 P-K6!) 6 P-R5 P-QB4 7 P-QB3 P-K3 8 P-KB4! Q-N3 9 N-B3 followed by 10 B-R3. White soon got a clear space advantage.

4 P×P!

Opening the game and pressing on the QP is the clearest way for White to try and exploit the tempo lost by Black.

4 ... P—K3

After 4 ... N-QB3 5 B-QN5 Black cannot avoid disadvantage e.g. 5 ... P-K3 6 B-K3 Q-R4+ 7 N-QB3 B-Q2 and now either 8 B×N B×B 9 N-B3 B×P 10 B×B Q×B 11 Q-Q4! or a more typical Tal line 8 N-B3 N×P 9 N×N B×B 10 Q-R5 P-KN3 11 N×NP! BP×N 12 Q-K5 etc.

5 Q—N4

White has various possibilities here such as 5 B-K3 N-K2 6 P-QB3 N-B4 7 B-Q4 trying to keep his grip on the black squares, or simply 5 N-KB3 BxP 6 B-Q3 as in a similar French Defence line but a tempo up. However the aggressive text is fully in keeping with Tal's style.

5 ... N-QB3

Trying to improve on the 6th game which had gone 5 ... N-Q2 6 N-KB3 N-K2 7 B-KN5 P-KR3 8 BxN QxB 9 N-B3 QxP 10 0-0-0 with an aggressive position for White though the game was agreed drawn fifteen moves later.

6 N-KB3 Q-B2

7 B-QN5 B-Q2

8 BxN QxB

Or 8 ... BxB 9 0-0 and Black will find it hard to win back the sacrificed pawn after B-K3-Q4.

9 B-K3 N-R3

A rather artificial idea, but after Black's last move it was hardly logical to try the orthodox 9 ... N-K2 and then N-N3 e.g. 10 QN-Q2 N-N3 11 P-KR4 P-KR4 12 Q-N4 and then N-N3 and KN-Q4 or 10 ... N-B4 11 N-N3 NxB 12 PxN and Black is badly cramped. 9 ... P-KR4 first would avoid the doubled pawn but after 10 Q-R3! N-R3! 11 N-Q4! (better than taking the RP at once) 11 ... QxP 12 QxP P-KN3 13 Q-KN5 B-K2 14 Q-N3 Black still has grave difficulties.

10 BxN! PxB

11 QN-Q2 QxP

Or 11 ... BxP 12 Q-R5 with pressure.

12 P-B4!

Just when Black was envisaging 0-0-0 followed by B-K2 and KR-N1 Tal comes up with a typical dynamic move opening the QB file or gaining K4 for his knight. Botvinnik decides to defer a decision for the moment but the bold 12 ... PxP may be his best

chance, e.g. 13 0-0 (13 N-K4 Q-N5+ 14 K-B1 0-0-0 15 R-B1 B-N4 or 14 KN-Q2 0-0-0) 13 ... 0-0-0 14 QR-B1 P-QN4 15 P-QN3 K-N1 16 PxP P-N5.

12 ... 0-0-0

13 0-0 K-N1

13 ... PxP is met by 14 NxP and then a rook to the QB file so the text is certainly well advised especially as B-K2 can always be met by Q-N7.

14 KR-Q1 Q-N3

Preparing B-B4 but after White's next move Black's position looks precarious so 14 ... B-K2 15 Q-N7 QR-B1 may be Black's best chance.

15 Q-R4!

Now 15 ... B-B4 can be met by 16 PxP PxP 17 N-N3 so Botvinnik suddenly loses patience and voluntarily weakens his Q-side. The patient 15 ... R-B1 is his best chance when 16 PxP PxP 17 N-N3 B-K3 18 KN-Q4 leaves White with the advantage.

15 ... P-QR4?

16 QR-B1 R-N1

17 N-N3

A notable feature of the position is the strong impression made by the knights, whereas the bishops provide only a limp imitation of "the power of the two bishops." Is a semantic element involved here? (The Russian word for knight is 'steed', for bishop 'elephant' so Botvinnik must have been wondering why two horses could be more powerful than two elephants!)

17 ... P-R5

Preferring to force a crisis rather than try to hang on by 17 ... B-B3 18 KN-Q4 P-R5 19 NxB+ when his Q-side steadily crumbles.

18 P-B5! Q-B2

19 QN-Q4! R-B1

Accepting the pawn sacrifice allows White to open nearly all the lines on the Q-side — 19 ... BxP 20 P-QN4 PxP e.p. 21 NxNP P-N3 22 P-

R4 and 23 P-R5.

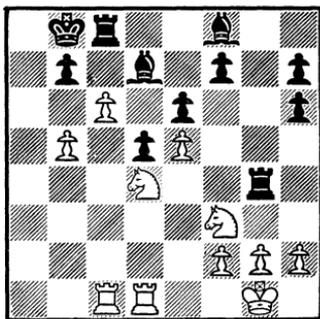
20 P-QN4 Pxp e.p.
21 Pxp Q-Q1

The exchange of queens does not ease Black's problems.

22 QxQ RxQ
23 P-QN4

Now the bishops are even more clearly restricted in their scope.

23 ... R-N5
24 P-N5 R-B1
25 P-B6!



25 ... B-K1

Trying to restrict the line opening to a minimum. 25 ... Pxp 26 Pxp B-K1 loses after 27 R-N1+ K-B2 (27 ... K-R2 28 R-Q2 and 29 R-R2+) 28 R-N7+ K-Q1 29 R-QB1.

26 R-B2

Retaining his grip on the QBP while preparing to double on the QR file.

26 ... B-N2

At last the bishop makes its first move of the game, and with a threat of winning a pawn, but White's Q-side offensive is so far advanced that he can ignore it. 26 ... B-K2 27 R-R1 and then 28 P-N6 or 28 R2-R2 according to circumstances gives White a winning attack along the QR-file.

27 R-R1 BxKP

28 NxB RxN

29 N-Q7+ Resigns

29 ... K-B2 30 P-N6+ K-Q1 31 Pxp PxB White also gets a new queen since if 30 ... R-Q1 then 31 R-B8+ RxR 32 R-R8+! KxR 33 Pxr(Q)+ K-R2 34 Q-B5+ and 35 QxR.

5 Oberhausen 1961

White: Toran English Opening

1 P-QB4 P-K4

Tal rarely plays this, believing as he does in the king's fianchetto defences to the QP and especially in the Modern Benoni.

2 N-QB3 P-Q3

3 P-KN3

After 3 N-B3 Black can create a lively opening struggle by Smyslov's move 3 ... B-N5.

3 ... P-KB4

Again Smyslov, who has produced many fine opening ideas over the years, has a good alternative for Black here, namely 3 ... B-K3 4 B-N2 P-QB3 playing for an early P-Q4. However the Dutch formation of the text is also playable and shows Black's aggressive intentions.

4 P-Q4

A good move hoping to break the coherence of Black's centre pawns since the tempo gain by 4 ... Pxp? 5 QxP N-QB3 is quite outweighed by White's easy development after 6 Q-K3+ and then N-R3-B4.

- 4 ... P-K5
- 5 P-B3 N-KB3
- 6 B-N2

After 6 PxP NxP! 7 NxN PxN 8 B-N2 B-B4 9 Q-B2 P-Q4! threatening B-N5+ the exchange of knights is shown to favour Black whereas after the text Black must surrender his outpost.

- 6 ... PxP
- 7 NxP

This leaves a slight weakness at K4 which would not arise after the more elastic 7 PxP when White could aim for N-R3-B4 and always meet a check on the K-file by K-B2.

- 7 ... P-KN3
- 8 0-0 B-N2
- 9 P-K4

Presumably the idea behind White's 7th move but though it gets rid of his backward KP it also gives more scope for Black's QB. 9 B-N5 first seems a preferable alternative, and 9 P-Q5 intending N-Q4 is double-edged, but stronger than the text.

- 9 ... PxP
- 10 N-KN5 0-0
- 11 KNxP NxN
- 12 RxR+ QxR
- 13 NxN

Here 13 BxN certainly looks better pressing on QN7 and retaining the option of a subsequent N-Q5 or even N-N5.

- 13 ... N-B3
- 14 B-K3

14 P-Q5 would leave White with a thoroughly 'dead' position.

- 14 ... B-B4

Black already has a nice game with

convenient objects to attack along the K-file not to speak of the enemy QP.

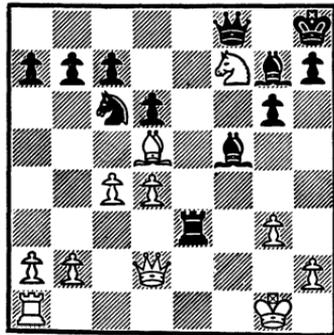
- 15 Q-Q2 R-K1
- 16 N-N5

Perhaps White had seen so far and thought that his threats of B-Q5+ or R-KB1 gave him a clear initiative. However he is rudely disturbed by a typical Tal "bomb."

- 16 ... RxB!
- 17 B-Q5+

If 17 BxN R-Q6! 18 B-Q5+ K-R1 19 QxR?! BxQ 20 N-B7+ QxN 21 BxQ BxP+ 22 K-N2 BxNP and Black's two bishops and two extra pawns give him a superior ending.

- 17 ... K-R1
- 18 N-B7+



- 18 ... QxN!!

This is the real "bombshell" destroying White's preconception that the game was about to end in a draw by perpetual check.

- 19 BxQ R-Q6

Black has given up the queen for just two minor pieces, but his raking bishops decide the issue before White can get his rook going or his bishop back to the centre.

- 20 Q-K2

Or 20 Q-N2 to prevent Black

attacking the queen with rook subsequently. Then comes 20... BxP+ 21 K-R1 (21 K-B1 N-K4 22 B-Q5 N-N5 23 R-K1 N-K6+ 24 RxN RxR and 25 ... B-Q6+) 21 ... N-K4 22 B-Q5 P-B3 23 B-K4 R-Q7!! 24 BxB RxQ with two minor pieces and a pawn for a rook.

20 ... BxP+

21 K-N2

Not 21 K-B1 B-R6+ 22 K-K1 R-K6, nor 21 K-R1 R-K6 and 22 ... B-K5+.

21 ... N-K4

22 R-Q1

22 B-Q5 fails to 22 ... P-B3 23 B-K4 R-K6! 24 QxR BxQ 25 BxB PxB with B+N+P for rook.

22 ... R-K6

The key move in so many variations.

23 Q-B1

This lets Black gain a vital tempo by attacking queen with rook later, but 23 Q-Q2 B-K5+ 24 K-R3 N-B6 25 Q-R5 B-B4+ 26 K-N2 (26 P-KN4 N-

K8+ 27 K-R4 B-B3+ 28 P-N5 N-N7 or R-R6 mate) 26 ... R-K7+! 27 KxN R-KB7 mate is a pretty finish showing the power of the centralized Black forces.

23 ... B-K5+

24 K-R3

Or 24 K-N1 R-Q6+ winning the queen.

24 ... R-KB6

25 Q-K2

25 QxR BxQ (also 25 ... NxQ) 26 RxB NxB 27 R-B4 K-N2 28 RxB N-N4+ is a simple K+P ending. 25 Q-K1 B-B4+ 26 K-N2 R-B7+ 27 K-R1 N-B6 28 Q-K8+ K-N2 29 Q-B8+ B-N2 also wins.

25 ... B-B4+

26 Resigns

Material is lost after 26 K-N2 R-B7+ 27 QxR BxQ 28 KxB NxB or 26 K-R4 P-N4+ 27 K-R5 B-N5+ 28 KxP? R-B4+ concluding with 29 K-R4 N-B6+ 30 QxN B-B3 mate.

6 USSR Team Championship Semi-final 1961

Black: Averbakh

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4	P-K4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3
3 B-N5	P-QR3
4 B-R4	N-B3
5 0-0	B-K2
6 R-K1	P-QN4
7 B-N3	P-Q3
8 P-B3	0-0
9 P-KR3	N-QR4
10 B-B2	P-B4
11 P-Q4	Q-B2
12 QN-Q2	N-B3

One of the many moves at Black's

disposal. White too now has many choices such as the old fashioned 13 P-Q5 or Suetin's mysterious 13 P-QR3 (see game No. 61 against Cherepkov).

Tal actually chooses the well-favoured Rauzer system based upon N-Q5.

13 PxBP PxP

14 N-B1 R-Q1

The main line is 14 ... B-K3 with the same idea as the text — defence of the weak square at his Q4.

15 Q—K2 R—N1
 16 N—K3 P—N3

Averbakh had successfully defended this position in an earlier game against Polugaevsky who now played 17 N-R2 intended to remove a defender of Black's Q4 by 18 N-N4. After long thought Tal played a better move.

17 N—N5!

Black's KB2 is also a weak square. Thus if now 17 ... P-KR3 then 18 N-Q5! NxN 19 PxN PxN (not 19 ... RxP 20 Q-B3) 20 PxN QxP 21 QxKP B-QN2 22 Q-N3! defending against mate at KN2 and threatening 23 RxB and 23 QBxP.

17 ... B—B1

In a later game Averbakh tried against Suetin the "improvement" 17 ... B-N2. Now 18 N-Q5 is not good because of 18 ... NxN 19 PxN RxP 20 Q-B3 N-Q1 defending both his rook and his KB2. However Suetin played the superior 18 B-N3! and only then, as Averbakh relates, did Black remember that in the post-mortem with Tal after the present game was it established that 18 ... P-B5 allows 19 NxQBP! PxN 20 QxP and White wins.

The Suetin-Averbakh game actually went 18 ... R-KB1 and after this confession of failure 19 N-Q5 gave White much the better of it.

18 Q—B3 B—KN2
 19 N—Q5! Q—Q3

Black now seems to have consolidated and threatens simply 20 ... P-R3 winning a knight. However Tal shows that it is nothing like so simple.

20 B—K3! P—KR3?

An error in analysis that loses the game. Moreover it is an error not at the end of a series of moves but on the very next move. Black merely expected 21 BxP QxB 22 NxN+ BxN 23

QxB PxN 24 B-N3 when the finesse 24 ... K-R2 saves him. If 25 QxBP+ then 25 ... K-R3, or 25 BxP Q-Q3 and in both cases Black is safe.

21 NxN+!

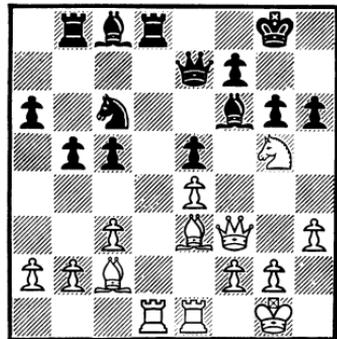
This was the move Black had underestimated in his previous analysis — it does not transpose into the previous line as White's queen finishes up on a much more threatening square KB6.

21 ... BxN

21 ... QxN 22 QxQ BxQ 23 N-B3 would lose Black a pawn with no compensation as both his QBP and KRP are *en prise*.

22 QR—Q1 Q—K2

The only move. 22 ... N-Q5 looks an ingenious way out of his difficulties but then 23 PxN BPxP (23 ... KPxP 24 P-K5! QxP 25 BxQP wins) 24 BxP! PxB (24 ... BxN 25 B-R7 wins the exchange) 25 P-K5! Q-B2 26 QxB PxN 27 P-K6! (27 QxP 5 is also good) BxP 28 BxP! and Black's king position is weak beyond repair.



23 BxP! RxR!
 24 RxR

Not 24 BxQ RxR+ 25 K-R2 BxN and Black gets too much for the queen.

24 ... QxB
 25 QxB PxN

26 B—N3

The culminating move of the combination. White threatens both 26 QxBP+ and 26 QxNP+ while the previously sound defence of 26 ... K-R2 now fails to 27 BxP N-K2 28 R-Q6 threatening 29 BxP+.

27 ... R—N2

28 QxNP+ K—B1

Or 28 ... K-R1 29 Q-R6+ K-N1 30 R-Q6 threatening 31 R-N6 mate, and then if 31 ... N-K2 32 R-Q8+ mate. next move.

29 Q—R6+ K—K1

29 ... K-N1 30 R-Q6, or 29 ... K-K2 30 QxP+ K-B1 (30 ... P-B3 31 Q-N7+ K-K1! 32 Q-N6+! K-B1 33 Q-N8+ and mate next move) 31 Q-R6+ K-K2 32

R-Q5! Q-N3 33 R-Q6 R-B2 34 Q-B6+ and 35 R-Q8+ winning the queen.

30 R—Q5 Q—N3

31 Q—R8+ K—K2

32 QxB Resigns

Note that the Black QB never moved until it was re-moved!

In the late A. Sokolsky's book "*The Game of Chess and its Development*" (1966) which appeared in an English translation in 1972 as "The Modern Openings in Theory and Practice" it is claimed that the game ended when Black resigned on move 28. The final moves as given above emanate from Averbakh and so seem a more reliable version of the actual score.

7 Bled 1961

Black: Parma

Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4

2 N—KB3 N—QB3

3 P—Q4 PxP

4 NxP P—KN3

5 P—QB4 N—B3

6 N—QB3 NxN

7 QxN P—Q3

A defensive system that has proved very popular for many years, especially as it was soon realised that 8 P-B5 B-N2 9 B-N5+ B-Q2 was quite all right for Black, e.g. 10 BxB+ QxB 11 PxP 0-0 12 0-0 N-K1! Keres-Gurgenidze XXVI USSR 1959, while the more ambitious 10 PxP 0-0 11 P-K5? BxB 12 NxN N-Q2 13 P-B4? rebounds on White after 13 ... Q-R4+ 14 N-B3 PxP 15 QxQP NxP! 16 PxN BxP 17 Q-Q3 QR-Q1 Shianovsky-

Gufeld USSR Team Championship 1966. Hence 8 P-B3 B-N2 9 B-K3 0-0 10 Q-Q2 is the latest idea for White.

8 B—K2 B—N2

9 B—K3 0—0

10 Q—Q2

The point of Black's play is that he threatens 10 ... N-N5 or 10 ... B-K3 and 11 ... N-Q4, while after 10 Q-Q1 preventing the knight sortie Black has a reasonable game after 10 ... B-Q2 11 0-0 B-B3 12 P-B3 N-Q2 (Fischer-Reshevsky, match 1961) since the exchange of knights has robbed White's Maroczy bind of some of its point.

10 ... B—K3

Black can also go 10 ... N-N5 11 B-Q4 P-K4! 12 B-K3 NxN 13 QxN P-B4

with good counterplay (Tal-Ghitecu, Leipzig Olympiad 1960) so that Tal subsequently suggested 11 BxN BxB 12 B-Q4 which was successfully adopted in Botvinnik-Toran, Palma 1967 (12 ... B-K3 13 BxB KxB 14 0-0 K-N1 15 P-QN3 Q-R4 16 P-B4 P-B3 17 R-B3 with advantage).

- 11 R—QB1 Q—R4
12 P—QN3 KR—B1

Tal points out in his notes that this leaves the K-side rather bare, whereas Black's usual Q-side play could be initiated at once by 12 ... P-QR3 and 13 ... P-QN4.

- 13 0—0 P—QR3
14 P—B4!

In earlier games Parma had only had to meet the tame 14 B-B3 whereas now the absence of the KR from the defence of KB2 will soon tell.

- 14 ... P—QN4

In the 1962 Fischer-Reshevsky match Black tried to take the sting out of Tal's idea by 14 ... B-N5 15 B-Q3 B-Q2 when the White queen no longer 'works' along the Q file, but after 16 P-KR3 B-B3 17 Q-KB2! N-Q2 18 N-Q5 BxN 19 KPxB P-QN4 20 KR-K1 White had the pressure.

- 15 P—KB5 B—Q2

15 ... KNPxP? 16 PxP B-Q2 17 B-R6 is hardly to be contemplated.

- 16 KBPxP RPxP

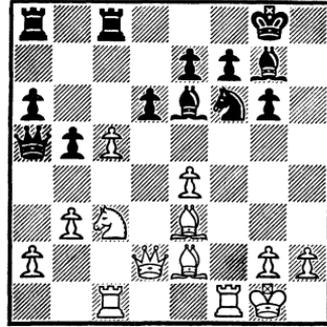
- 17 P—B5!

After 17 P-K5 P-N5! 18 PxN PxN 19 RxP BxP 20 RxB PxR 21 B-Q4 Q-KN4 22 QxQ PxQ 23 B-B6 R-K1 White had compensation for the lost exchange, but the removal of queens made this variation unattractive to Tal.

- 17 ... B—K3

Not 17 ... P-N5 18 N-Q5! NxN 19 PxN PxP 20 B-QB4 with a powerful attacking position, nor 17 ... B-N5 18 P-K5! PxKP 19 RxN BxB 20 R-N6

cutting off the queen. After 17 ... PxP 18 P-K5 N-N5 19 N-Q5. QxQ 20 BxQ Black loses the exchange for little compensation.



- 18 B—B3

Not 18 PxP PxP 19 B-Q4? NxP! and Black wins.

- 18 ... PxP

Black must accept the pawn as now 18 ... QR-N1 19 PxP PxP 20 B-Q4! gives White a dominating position.

- 19 P—K5 N—N5

Or 19 ... R-Q1 20 Q-KB2 N-Q4? 21 NxN BxN? 22 BxB RxB 23 QxP+.

- 20 BxR BxKP

Or 20 ... RxB 21 BxP BxKP 22 P-KR3. Hence Black goes for a counter attack which fails only because of the chronic weakness at his KB2.

- 21 B—Q5! NxB

Playing for the fork B-Q5. 21 ... BxP+ 22 K-R1 leaves him a rook down with no compensation while after 21 ... R-Q1 White has no need to go for complications (22 BxB RxQ 23 BxP+ K-N2 24 BxR Q-B2. with good chances) but has the simple 22 Q-K2 NxB 23 BxB PxB 24 N-N1! B-Q5! (24 ... NxR 25 QxB N-Q7 26 QxP+ with a powerful attack) 25 R-KB3 and White should win, though not as quickly as in the game.

22 BxB R—Q1

After 22 ... B-Q5 23 RxP! N-B5+ 24 QxB PxQ 25 N-Q5 White mates or wins much material (25 ... Q-Q1 26 NxP+ K-R1? 27 NxP+ K-N1 28 R-K7 mate, or 25 ... R-B3 26 NxP+ K-R1 27 NxP+ K-N1 28 N-K7+ K-R1 29 QR-B1! RxB? 30 R-B8+ K-R2 31 QR-B7+ K-R3 32 R-R8+ K-N4 33 R-B5+ and mates) while 22 ... NxR 23 BxP+ K-N2! (23 ... KxB 24 Q-Q5+ wins) 24 Q-N5 BxP+ 25 KxN! KxB 26 P-N3 P-N5 27 N-Q5 is also a win.

23 Q—KB2

The clearest win. 23 BxP+ K-N2 24 QxN B-Q5 25 QxB PxQ 26 N-K4 Q-N3 27 N-N5 P-Q6+ 28 K-R1 P-Q7 29 N-K6+ K-R3 favours Black.

23 ... N—B4

Black had high hopes of this move which threatens the queen by 24 ... B-

Q5 as well as leaving both minor pieces *en prise*.

24 Q—K2!

This finally clarifies the position as 24 ... BxN 25 BxN PxB 26 QxKP is hopeless for Black.

24 ... B—Q5+

25 K—R1 PxB

26 QxP+ K—N2

27 N—K4!

Once 27 ... N-N6+ is ruled out White has finally consolidated.

27 ... Q—B2

Not 27 ... QxP 28 RxN PxR 29 QxP+.

28 N—N5 R—KB1?

A time trouble blunder, but if 28 ... R-KR1 then 29 Q-B7+ K-R3 30 RxN PxB 31 QxBP and Black cannot resist for long.

29 QxN Resigns

8 29th USSR Championship 1961

Black: Gurgnidze

Ruy Lopez

1	P—K4	P—K4
2	N—KB3	N—QB3
3	B—N5	P—QR3
4	B—R4	N—B3
5	0—0	B—K2
6	R—K1	P—QN4
7	B—N3	P—Q3
8	P—B3	0—0
9	P—KR3	N—QR4
10	B—B2	P—B4
11	P—Q4	Q—B2
12	QN—Q2	R—K1

A line that was popular in the Fifties, when after the banal 13 N-B1 B-B1 14 N-K3 P-N3 Black got a sound position. The following

dynamic move is much more promising for White.

13 P—QN4! PxNP

Or 13 ... N-B3 14 NPxP QPxP 15 P-Q5 N-QR4 16 P-B4 with the freer game for White.

14 PxNP N—B3

Not as good as 14 ... N-B5 15 NxN PxN when White plays 16 P-QR4 or 16 R-K3.

15 B—N2

This is the most aggressive, but White can also get a nice game by 15 P-R3 B-B1 16 B-N2 and 17 QR-B1.

15 ... NxNP

16 B—N3 N—Q6?

Rather naive. Black could hardly have thought that Tal would allow this if it were good. In view of the double threat of 17 N-N5 and 17 PxP Black should try 16 ... N-Q2 17 R-QB1 Q-N2 or 16 ... Pxp 17 N-N5 R-B1 18 QN-B3 P-Q6 with unclear complications (19 NxBP?, RxN 20 N-N5 P-Q4!).

17 BxP+ K-B1

Black could put up a better fight by 17 ... KxB 18 Q-N3+ K-B1 (18 ... P-Q4? 19 QPxP N3xP 20 NxN NxB 21 QxP+ B-K3 22 QN-N5+ BxN 23 NxB+ and wins) 19 N-N5 B-Q1 20 QxN Pxp 21 R-QB1 and White has plenty of compensation for the pawn, but no clear winning line.

18 BxR NxQB

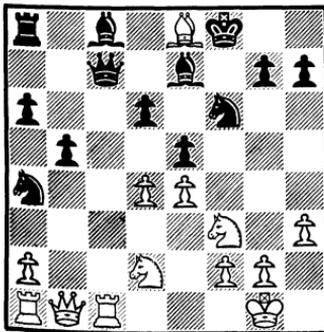
Now Black loses too much material, but after 18 ... NxR 19 QxN NxB 20 Pxp White is a sound pawn up.

19 Q-N1 N-R5

Hoping to trap the bishop whereas 19 ... N-B5 20 NxN QxN (20 ... Pxn 21 B-R4, 21 R-QB1 lets it out at once.

20 R-QB1

Decisive, as if the attacked queen retreats 21 B-B6 wins on material, while 20 ... N-B6 21 Q-N3 threatens mate and the wandering knight.



20 ... N-B4

21 Pxn NxB

Or 21 ... Pxp 22 Bxp R-N1 23 P-QR4 B-Q2 24 Q-N2 B-Q3 25 N-B4 and White wins without much trouble.

22 Pxp Qxp
23 Q-N2 B-B3
24 P-QR4

Although the exchange up the game will not win itself so Tal continues his vigorous play to gain QB4 for his knight.

24 ... R-N1
25 QR-N1 B-K3
26 N-B4!

Not 26 Pxp since it is in White's interest to keep pawns on both sides of the board — after 26 ... BxN 27 RxB Pxr 28 Qxr QxQ (28 ... Q-Q6 29 Q-N4+) 29 RxQ White's QRP will prove a quick winning factor.

26 ... Q-Q6
27 Q-N4+

Guarding the KP before taking more material.

27 ... B-K2
28 QNxP BxQ

Or 28 ... Q-K7 29 Q-R5 P-N5 30 N-Q4 with decisive effect.

29 NxQ B-R6
30 R-B6 B-N1

Or 30 ... B-B2 31 KN-K5 and the threat of 32 N-Q7+ forces more piece exchanges.

31 RxRP R-Q1
32 Pxp!

The quickest way to win.

32 ... RxN
33 P-N6 B-Q3
34 P-N7 B-N1
35 R-R8 Resigns

Black could well have played 35 ... R-Q1 in order to produce a genuine Steinitzian position with all the pieces on the back rank. Then after 36 N-K5 White forces resignation by 37 N-B6 or 37 N-Q7+.

9 Varna Olympiad 1962

Black: Mohrlock

Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4
 2 N—KB3 N—QB3
 3 P—Q4 PxP
 4 NxP N—B3
 5 N—QB3 P—Q3
 6 B—KN5 P—K3
 7 Q—Q2 B—K2
 8 0—0—0 0—0
 9 N—N3

A move suggested by Alekhine and often played by Tal, especially in a number of five minute games against his second Koblents. The point is to press along the Q file, while the retreated knight is a useful defender of the Q-side.

9 ... Q—N3

After 9 ... P-QR3 10 BxN BxB 11 QxP BxN 12 PxB Q-B3 13 Q-N3 P-K4 14 B-B4 B-K3 15 B-Q5 Black has inadequate compensation for his pawn, while 9 ... P-QR4 10 P-QR4! Q-N3 11 Q-K3! (hoping to get his N to QN5 in an ending) 11 ... Q-N5 12 P-B3 P-R3 13 P-R4! P-Q4 14 PxP NxP 15 RxN! Alexander-Gligoric, Staunton Memorial 1951 leaves White with excellent attacking chances.

10 P—B3

Now 10 BxN BxB 11 QxP QxP is a different story. The text prepares a standard K-side pawn storm.

10 ... P—QR3

Better 10 ... R-Q1 11 B-K3 Q-B2 12 Q-B2 P-Q4 13 PxP NxP 14 NxN PxN 15 P-N4 B-K3 16 N-Q4 QR-B1 17 K-N1 Q-R4 18 P-N5 NxN 19 BxN B-KB4 Tal-Savon XXX USSR 1962 when Black has more counter chances than in the game.

11 P—N4 R—Q1

12 B—K3 Q—B2

13 P—N5 N—Q2

14 P—KR4 P—N4

15 P—N6!

The quickest way to open lines on the K-side. Refusal of the sacrifice by 15 ... N-B4 16 PxBP+ KxP 17 B-R3. Tal-Stoltz telegraph game 1959-60, still leaves White with pressure, while 15 ... RPxP 16 P-R5 PxP 17 RxP N-B3 18 R-R1 P-Q4 19 P-K5. Tal-Koblentz, training game Riga 1958 also leaves White with a strong attack.

15 ... BPxP

16 P—R5 PxP

Not 16 ... P-N5 17 N-Q5! PxN 18 QxP+ K-B1 (18 ... K-R1 19 PxP N-B3 20 RxP+! or 19 ... P-R3 20 RxP+ PxR 21 Q-B7) 19 PxP and wins.

17 RxP N—B3

It is still too early for 17 ... P-N5 because of 18 N-Q5 PxN 19 QxP+ K-R1 (19 ... K-B1 20 RxP B-B3 21 Q-K6!) 20 RxP+ KxR 21 Q-R5+ K-N1 22 B-B4+ mating.

18 R—N5 N—K4

According to Tal the best defence is 18 ... P-N5 19 N-R4 R-N1 and White still has to prove the worth of his sacrifice.

19 Q—N2 B—B1

20 B—K2!

An improvement on 20 P-B4 N-B5 21 BxN PxB 22 N-Q4 R-N1 23 R-N1 R-N2 24 NxP?! BxN 25 B-Q4 P-Q4 and Black succeeded in proving the sacrifice unsound though the game was finally drawn. Spassky-Boleslavsky XXV USSR 1958.

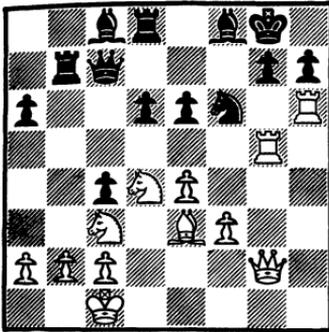
20 ... N—B5

He cannot close the file by 20 ... N-N3 because of 21 P-B4 and 22 P-B5.

21 BxN PxP

- 22 N-Q4 R-N1
 23 R-R1 R-N2
 24 R-R6!

An original method of attack since the various ways of guarding against 25 RxN involve Black in intercepting the lines of communication of the defending pieces.



- 24 ... K-B2

White wins quickly against other moves e.g. 24 ... B-K2? 25 RxP+ or 24 ... N-Q2? 25 NxP or 24 ... N-K1 25 NxP BxN 26 RxB and 27 N-Q5 or 24 ... Q-B2 25 P-K5 N-K1 (25 ... PxP 26 N-B6 R-K1 27 NxP Q-K2 28 N-B6 Q-KB2 29 B-Q4) 26 N-K4. etc or finally 24 ... P-N3 25 R5xP+ PxR 26 RxP+ K-B2 (26 ... B-N2 27 RxN or 26 ... K-R2 27 RxN) 27 Q-N5 N-R2 28 Q-R5 N-B3 29 RxN+ KxR 30 N-B5! PxN 31 N-Q5+ K-N2 32 B-Q4+ K-N1 33 N-B6+.

25 R-R4 Q-N3
 Or 25 ... K-N1 26 R-B4 with great pressure.

26 N-Q1 Q-B2
 The threat was 27 NxP so Black

retires and invites 27 N-B3 with repetition.

- 27 P-B4! P-R3

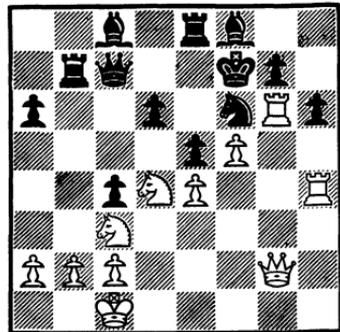
This leaves a gaping hole on KN3 where the enemy queen will soon appear in many variations but the KRP was threatened by 28 P-K5, and if Black tries 27 ... P-K4 then 28 N-B5 BxN 29 PxB K-K1 30 N-B3 and Black has few prospects of emerging alive.

- 28 R-N6 R-K1

- 29 P-B5 P-K4

Or 29 ... PxP 30 PxP and N-QB3 to give a queen check on Q5.

- 30 N-QB3



White square domination now tells as 30 ... PxN loses to 31 RxN+ PxR (31 ... KxR 32 N-Q5+ K-B2 33 Q-N6+ K-N1 34 N-B6+) 32 N-Q5 mating.

- 30 ... Q-Q1

- 31 N-B6 Resigns

The queen is lost as 31 ... Q-Q2 32 RxN+ K-N1 33 R6xRP QxN 34 Q-N6 forces mate.

10 Varna Olympiad 1962

Black: Hecht

Queens Indian Defence

1 P—Q4 N—KB3
 2 P—QB4 P—K3
 3 N—KB3

Tal had had a number of draws in the games immediately preceding this, but resisting the temptation to try and overrun his young West German opponent he plays a sedate opening.

3 ... P—QN3
 4 N—B3 B—N5
 5 B—N5

This classical line has rather more bite in it than 4 P-KN3 which is one of the most drawish opening variations in the modern repertoire.

5 ... B—N2
 6 P—K3 P—KR3
 7 B—R4 BxN+

A modern way of treating the opening, 7 ... P-KN4 8 B-N3 N-K5 looks more thematic but after 9 Q-B2 BxN+ 10 PxB P-Q3 11 B-Q3 Black is in trouble after the consistent 11 ... P-KB4 12 P-Q5! (Tal-Duckstein Zurich 1959) and has to settle for the more modest 11 ... NxB.

8 PxB P—Q3

Black waits to see on which side his opponent will castle. If 9 B-Q3 and 10 0-0 then the advance P-KN4, P-KR4 etc is appropriate.

9 N—Q2

Fighting for the key square K4 and preparing P-B3 so that the enemy bishop is restricted in scope.

9 ... P—K4

Black shows his hand too early, 9 ... QN-Q2 intending Q-K2 and 0-0-0 in more flexible.

10 P—B3 Q—K2
 11 P—K4 QN—Q2

12 B—Q3 N—B1

After 12 ... P-KN4 13 B-KB2 N-R4 14 N-B1! PxP?! 15 PxP P-KB4 16 N-K3 PxP Black is shown to have opened himself up too much on the K-side by the continuation 17 N-B5 Q-B2 18 PxP N-B5 19 0-0 NxB 20 QxN 0-0-0 21 B-N3! threatening 22 BxP or 22 NxP+ (Tal-Mnatsakanian XXX USSR 1962).

13 P—B5!?

A bold concept. Lesser mortals would continue manoeuvring by 13 B-KB2 N-K3 14 P-N3 gradually robbing Black of good squares and preparing the breakthrough P-B4. Tal effects an immediate breakthrough by the cost of a pawn.

13 ... QPxP

Best. After 13 ... NPxP 14 R-QN1 Black has no good square for his bishop.

14 PxKP QxP
 15 Q—R4+ P—B3

The sort of error which Tal seems to hypnotise opponents into committing. As it weakens Q3 and invites N-B4 later on the pawn move should have been replaced by 15 ... KN-Q2 when Black can defend successfully e.g. 16 R-QB1 Q-K3 17 0-0 B-B3 18 Q-R6 N-K4 19 B-QB2 P-KN4 with a playable game. (Garcia-O'Kelly Havana 1963).

16 0—0!

Now it's a real gambit as White invites 16 ... QxBP 17 N-B4! QxB 18 KR-Q1 P-QN4 19 RxQ PxQ 20 N-Q6+ K-K2 21 N-B5+ K-K1 22 NxP+ K-K2 23 N-B5+ or in this 20 ... K-Q2 21 NxB+ K-B2 22 R-N1 threatening 23 B-N3+. Moreover the more sedate

17 B-R6 is also strong.

16 ... N-N3

Or 16 ... 0-0-0 17 QxRP QxBP (17 ... RxB 18 B-N3 and 19 Q-N8+ etc) 18 B-R6 with a powerful attack.

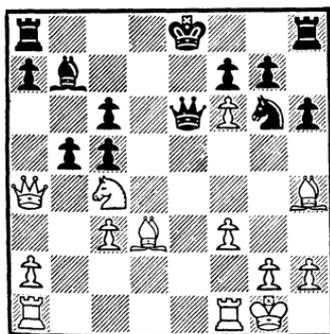
17 N-B4 Q-K3

18 P-K5!

From now on Tal simply never stops — an object lesson that once one is attacking the utmost vigour is called for. The text clears the fourth rank so that 18 ... NxB does not win a piece, but merely lets White's queen get away from its slightly exposed position after 19 N-Q6+ K-B1 20 QxN (20 QR-K1 may well be even stronger) and now if 20 ... QxKP then 21 NxB R-QN1 22 B-R6 retaining the extra material. Hence Black is forced to accept the further complications.

18 ... P-N4

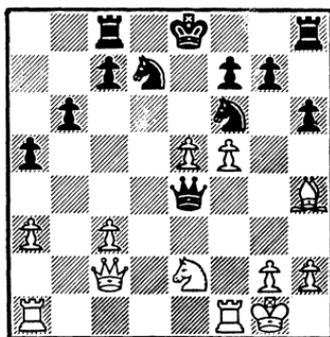
19 PxN!!



Since 19 N-Q6+! QxN is the end of the attack it is clear that Tal foresaw this several moves ago. The queen sacrifice is reminiscent of Lilienthal's famous effort against Capablanca (Hastings 1934 35).

19 ... PxQ

Or 19 ... 0-0 20 QR-K1! Q-Q4 21 Q-B2 NxN 22 N-K5 with a strong attack or 20 ... QxR 21 RxQ PxQ 22 BxN PxB 23 R-K7 R-B2? 24 N-Q6!



Here Lilienthal played 20 PxN! QxQ 21 PxP R-KN1 22 N-Q4 Q-K5 (22 ... Q-Q7 23 QR-K1+ N-K4 24 RxN+ K-Q2 25 R-Q5+ K-K1 26 R-K1+) 23 QR-K1 N-B4 24 RxQ+ NxR 25 R-K1 etc. Tal's concept is incomparably finer as Capablanca had comparatively little choice but to give the queen back at once.

20 PxP R-KN1

21 B-B5!!

Not 21 QR-K1 RxP or even 21 ... NxB and White remains material down. The text puts the bishop *en prise* as well as the knight, yet neither piece can be captured (21 ... QxB 22 N-Q6+ K-Q2 23 NxQ NxB 24 NxN RxP 25 QR-Q1+ with a continuing attack, or 21 ... QxN 22 KR-K1+ Q-K3 23 RxQ+! PxR 24 BxN+ K-Q2 25 R-Q1+ K-B2 — 25 ... K-B1 26 B-B6 etc — 26 B-N3+ K-N3 27 R-N1+ K-R3 28 B-Q3+ and a two bishop mate in two). Hence Black must take the third piece which is *en prise*.

21 ... NxB

22 BxQ B-R3!

Better than 22 ... PxN 23 N-Q6+ and 24 NxB when the knight gathers a harvest of pawns and the KP will also be another object of attack.

23 N-Q6+ K-K2

24 B-B4 RxP

25 P-N3

An entrancing position. Black has weathered the storm and come out a pawn ahead but his quadruple island of weak pawns are a losing factor in either a knight or BvN ending in the long run.

25 ... KxN
26 BxB N-B4?

Illogical. The objection to 25 ... BxB 26 NxB would have been that Black cannot easily activate his QR by getting it to QN7 or Q7. Hence having removed this feature he must play 26 ... R-QN1 27 QR-N1 R-N3! with good defensive chances.

27 QR-N1! P-B3
Defending his QN2 as best he can.
28 KR-Q1+ K-K2
29 R-K1+ K-Q3
30 K-B2 P-B5

Sacrificing a pawn for a little air. The threat was 31 P-N4 followed by 32 B-B4. Tal decides to defer taking the pawn for a move as 31 BxP K-B4 wins Q3 for the knight.

31 P-N4 N-K2
Or 31 ... N-R5 32 BxP K-B4 (32 ... R-K2? 33 QR-Q1+) 33 B-Q3 and 34 B-B2.

32 R-N7 QR-KN1
33 BxP N-Q4
34 BxN PxB

It is no better to take with the king. The text at least has the merit of allowing some initiative against the QBP.

35 R-N4 R-QB1

There was also the attempt to unsettle White by 35 ... P-KR4 but after 36 P-KR3 PxP 37 RPxP P-B4 38 R-KN1 PxP 39 R1xP! forcing the exchange of one pair of rooks White's passed pawn supported by the king

should win in the long run.

36 RxP!

When feasible it is always preferable in rook endings to have the initiative rather than just be tied down to the defence of a sickly pawn.

36 ... RxBP
37 R-R6+ K-B4
38 RxBP P-KR4
39 P-KR3!

Keeping two united pawns is much better than gaining another pawn by 39 PxP when the three split pawns cannot easily advance beyond blockading points.

39 ... PxP
40 RPxP R-R2
41 P-N5! R-R4

Not 41 ... R-R7+ 42 K-N3 RxP 43 P-N6 R-N7 44 P-N7 R-N1 45 R-B8.
42 R-B5

The sealed move and more accurate than 43 P-N6 R-N4 with an ideal rook position for Black behind the pawn.

42 ... R-B7+
43 K-N3 K-B5
44 R1-K5 P-Q5
45 P-N6 R-R8

Exchanging rooks and then pushing the pawn is no good as White queens with check which is also the case after 45 ... RxR 46 RxR R-B8 47 R-KN5! R-N8+ 48 K-B4 etc.

46 R-B5+ K-Q6
47 RxR KxR
48 K-B4 R-KN8
49 R-KN5 Resigns

Both sides queen after the exchange of rooks but White plays Q-N3+, exchanges queens and then queens on KB8 while the QRP is still three squares from home.

11 30th USSR Championship, 1962

Black: Taimanov

Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4
 2 N—KB3 N—QB3
 3 P—Q4 PxP
 4 NxP P—K3

Taimanov almost invariably chooses the Sicilian, but in his long career he has never liked the Dragon and always plays to develop the KB on its original diagonal, normally leaving the QP unmoved for a long time.

5 N—QB3 P—QR3
 6 B—K3

White has many alternatives, even 6 P—QR3 has been tried, but Tal never fears the pin B—QN5 so the text which rules out 6 ... B—B4 is nicely suited to his style.

6 ... Q—B2
 7 B—K2

It is a moot point whether the text or 7 B—Q3 is preferable. In the latter case the KN may not be sufficiently guarded forcing White to play a subsequent NxN or N—N3.

7 ... N—B3

A more discreet move than 7 ... P—QN4 which Taimanov might have played against some opponents, but not against Tal, especially after the game Bronstein-Taimanov XXIX USSR which went 7 ... P—QN4 8 NxN QxN 9 P—QR3 B—B4 10 B—Q4! P—B3? 11 BxNP! winning a pawn by 12 Q—R5+.

8 P—QR3

Here the move proves useful, since Tal does not want to castle until he sees Black's disposition, though there is in fact nothing wrong with 8 0-0 B—N5 since White then has the tricky pawn sacrifice 9 N—R4 aiming

to penetrate to QN6 with a minor piece.

8 ... NxN

The main line is 8 ... B—Q3 which Tal himself has played though after 9 Q—Q2 B—K4? (9 ... NxN! 10 BxN!) 10 P—B4! offering a pawn by 10 ... BxN 11 BxB NxN 12 QxN QxP? 13 P—KN3 Q—B2 14 P—K5! White has an excellent game. Nezhmetdinov-Tal XXVI USSR 1959 continued 14 ... N—Q4 15 NxN PxN 16 0-0-0 with great pressure.

9 QxN! B—Q3

10 Q—Q2

Preparing to vary from the game mentioned above, possibly because of the line 10 P—B4 P—K4 when White's best is not 11 PxP but 11 Q—N6 exchanging queens, which is a method that rarely enters into Tal's scheme of things.

10 ... B—K4

11 B—Q4 BxB

Too complaisant in exchanging his better bishop without exacting any concessions from White in return. 11 ... B—B5 is better and only by 12 B—K3 BxB 13 PxN! can White play to gain an advantage.

12 QxB P—K4

Black only had a choice of evils in view of the threat 13 P—K5, but in view of Taimanov's love of paradoxical lines in the Sicilian he might have considered 12 ... P—Q3 13 0-0-0 K—K2 followed by R—Q1 and K—B1.

13 Q—N4

Much stronger than the banal 13 Q—Q2. White prevents castling and casts an eye at all the weak black squares in the enemy camp.

13 ... P—QN3

Not 13 ... P-QR4? 14 N-N5 Q-N1 (14 ... Q-Q1? 15 Q-Q6 wins) 15 Q-B4 (guarding the KP) 15 ... 0-0 16 0-0-0 P-QN3! 17 Q-B7! with a bind on the Q-side. 13 ... P-Q3 is even weaker than 14 on the previous move as then 14 0-0-0 K-K2 15 P-B4 PxP? 16 P-K5! wins material. 15 ... P-QR4 in this would hang on but White has a far superior ending after 16 N-N5 PxQ 17 NxQR-QN1 (17 ... PxRP? 18 NxR P-R7 19 K-Q2) 18 B PxP Q PxP 19 P xP N xP 20 KR-K1.

14 0-0-0 B-N2

Black could force queens off by 14 ... Q-B4 but after 15 QxQ PxQ 16 N-R4 NxP 17 B-B3 or even 16 N-Q5 K-Q1! 17 N-N6 R-R2 18 N-B4! R-K1 19 N-Q6 White stands clearly better.

15 R-Q6! B-B3

16 KR-Q1 0-0

17 P-N4! KR-B1

Hoping to tie down White's knight by the masked mating threat at QB7.

18 P-N5 N-K1

19 R6-Q2 P-QN4

Not 19 ... P-Q3 20 B-N4, but 19 ... Q-Q1 to prevent Q-K7 seems the best defence. White would continue 20 P-KR4 followed by B-B4-Q5 trying to gain Q5 as an unchallenged outpost for his knight, whereas now events develop more quickly.

20 B-N4 P-QR4

21 Q-K7 P-N5

There is no time for a preparatory 21 ... R-N1 but the loss of the QP is decisive, so Black should try 21 ... P-Q3 though White gets a much superior ending by 22 N-Q5! BxN 23 QxQ RxQ 24 RxB P-N5 25 P-QR4 and then B-K2-N5. Black cannot improve by 23 ... NxQ since after 24 BxR BxP 25 B-Q7! the QP is lost.

22 RxP! BxR

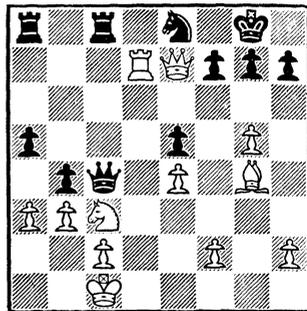
23 RxB Q-B5

24 P-N3!

Not 24 B-K2 Q-K3!

24 ... Q-B8+

25 N-Q1 N-Q3



The only defence against mate, but now White has a material advantage.

26 QxN Q-N7

White already threatened 27 RxP! mating or winning the queen.

27 Q-Q5 K-R1

Or 27 ... R-B1 28 RxP! RxR 29 QxQR+ R-B1 30 B-K6+.

28 QxBP R-KN1

29 Q-R5! QxKP

Otherwise 30 B-B5.

30 B-B3 Q-B5+

31 N-K3 R-R3

Taimanov optimistically playing on prevents P-N6 (e.g. 31 ... PxP 32 P-N6 P-R3 33 R-KB7 Q-Q5 34 QxP+! mating).

32 B-Q5 R-N1

33 R-KB7 Q-Q5

34 Q-B3! Q-R8+

35 K-Q2 Q-Q5

36 K-k2 Q-B4

37 P-QR4 R-R2

Resignation seems in order.

38 P-N6 R-R3

39 RxP RxP

39 ... KxR allows mate in four.

40 RxR PxR

41 Q-B6+ Resigns

Not waiting for 41 ... K-R2 42 B-B7 R-N3 43 BxP+ and mate in two, or else 42 B-K4 R-KN1 43 N-B5!

12 30th USSR Championship 1962

Black: Bannik

Ruy Lopez

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P—K4 | P—K4 |
| 2 | N—KB3 | N—QB3 |
| 3 | B—N5 | P—QR3 |
| 4 | B—R4 | N—B3 |
| 5 | 0—0 | B—K2 |
| 6 | R—K1 | P—Q3 |

Going for a Steinitz Defence Deferred after making as if to defend by the Chigorin closed system. The move order is so unusual that the resulting position is not analysed anywhere in the 1969 edition of "*Spanisch bis Franzosisch*" by Keres!

- | | | |
|---|------|-----|
| 7 | BxN+ | PxB |
| 8 | P—Q4 | PxP |

Against Tal I feel Black would do better to erect a central barrier by 8 ... N-Q2, a manoeuvre favoured by Chigorin. Then after 9 PxP PxP 10 N-Q2 and N-B4 White has pressure on the KP and on the Q-side (N-R5 or B-Q2-R5) but the game follows strictly positional lines in which it is difficult for White to get at the enemy king.

- 9 QxP

Tal considers this or 9 NxP purely a matter of taste. Simagin prefers the latter intending a subsequent N-B5.

- 9 ... 0—0

Not 9 ... B-Q2 10 P-K5! PxP 11 NxP P-B4 12 QxB+! NxQ 13 N-B6 forcing a superior ending.

- 10 N—B3 P—B4

Playing for pressure against the KP. After 10 ... B-K3 White could play 11 P-K5, or prepare that advance by 11 B-N5 and 12 QR-Q1 retaining the option of Q-QR4-R5 with pressure on the Q-side pawns. Simagin feels that 10 ... B-N5 intending BxN, N-Q2 and B-B3 is correct.

- 11 Q—Q3 B—N2

- 12 B—B4

In such positions Black normally plays to rearrange his minor pieces by N-Q2 and B-KB3, which is the right way to play here too. However the unguarded bishop gives Black the idea of gaining a tempo for B-B3. In fact Black merely leaves his knight in trouble.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 12 ... | N—R1? |
| 13 B—K3 | B—KB3 |
| 14 N—Q5! | |

Not 14 P-KN4? BxN making room for his knight.

- 14 ... BxP

Accepting the challenge after 80 minutes' thought, 14 ... BxN 15 QxB! is correct when after 15 ... P-N3 16 P-K5 PxP 17 QxQBP Black is left with no compensation for his weak pawns.

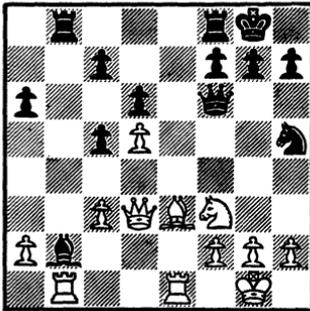
- | | |
|----------|------|
| 15 QR—N1 | BxN |
| 16 PxB | R—N1 |

Falling into a diabolical trap. His best chance was 16 ... B-B3 17 P-N4 Q-Q2! 18 P-KR3 (18 Q-B4 B-Q5!) 18 ... P-N3 19 PxN QxP and Black gains a third pawn for his piece with some slight drawing prospects.

- 17 P—B3 Q—B3

An interesting alternative is 17 ... R-N3 guarding the QRP and preparing Q-N1. However after 18 B-N5 N-B3 (18 ... Q-N1 19 P-N4 N-B3 20 BxN PxB 21 N-R4 and then N-B5 when White has a powerful attack, or 18 ... P-KB3 19 B-Q2 and P-N4 is once again a threat) 19 Q-B2 Q-N1 (19 ... B-R6? 20 RxR PxR 21 Q-N3 wins the bishop) 20 BxN PxB 21 N-Q2 White wins material by 22 N-B4 and can then return to pick off the weakened K-side.

17 ... B-R6 leaves the bishop badly cut off and after 18 QxRP R-R1 19 Q-B4 threatening B-N5 White has a fine game.



18 Q-K2!

Black had expected only 18 B-Q2 guarding the QBP when 18 ... Q-N3 leaves Black quite safe as his minor pieces are now reasonably safe. After the text however Black must lose material because B-N5 followed by mate by Q-K8+ figures in a number of variations.

18 ... BxP

Not 18 ... QxP 19 B-B1! BxB 20 RxR RxR 21 Q-K8+ mating, nor 18 ... B-R6 19 RxR RxR 20 B-N5 with similar effect.

19 RxR RxR

Or 19 ... BxR 20 RxR+ KxR 21 B-N5!

20 B-N5 BxR

Stubbornly deciding to prolong the game. Nobody likes to resign in under 25 moves!

21 BxQ NxB

Deciding that winning the QP is more important than the KBP by 21 ... BxP+. If 21 ... B-R4 then 22 B-N2.

22 QxB NxP

23 P-N3 P-R3

He must make a hole for the back row as 23 ... P-B5 at once loses to 24 Q-K4 P-B6!? (24 ... N-N3 25 N-N5 P-N3 26 Q-R4 P-KR4 27 P-N4 and soon mates) 25 QxN P-B7 26 Q-B6 R-N8+ 27 K-N2 P-B8(Q) 28 Q-K8 mate a neat echo of earlier variations.

24 Q-K4 N-B3

25 Q-B6 R-N8+

26 K-N2 R-N7

27 QxBP7

Setting a last trap, and avoiding 27 QxRP when 27 ... N-K5 gives some counterplay whereas after the text 27 ... N-K5 loses to 28 Q-B8+ K-R2 29 Q-B5+.

27 ... RxRP

28 Q-N8+ Resigns

At last he sees the light. 28 ... K-R2 29 Q-N1+ and the rook is lost. Former Ukrainian champion Bannik always had the reputation of being a stubborn fighter and late resigner. When I met him on board two of the USSR-England postal friendly match 1963-1965 he sent both unfinished games for adjudication. In one he was only a pawn down in a rook ending (but was given a loss). In the other however he was faced by unstoppable mate or loss of a whole rook for no compensation. It was his match captain who resigned the game on his behalf!

13 30th USSR Championship 1962

White: Hodos

Queens Gambit Accepted

1 P-Q4 P-Q4
2 P-QB4 PxP

A very rare example of Tal accepting the gambit, though he has played the Semi-Tarrasch Defence 2 ... P-K3 3 N-QB3 N-KB3 4 N-B3 P-B4 quite often, (normally not against the direct 1 P-Q4 but by transposition from 1 P-QB4 or 1 N-KB3).

3 N-KB3 N-KB3
4 P-K3 B-N5

The point of the opening choice. In comparison to a normal QGA the game becomes quite complicated, especially after White accepts the bait of the QNP.

5 BxP P-K3
6 Q-N3

Just what Tal was hoping for. The modern preference is for 6 P-KR3 B-R4 7 N-B3 emphasising development.

6 ... BxN
7 PxB QN-Q2
8 QxP

If White refuses the offer his last move turns out to be pointless, and after 8 N-B3 N-N3 9 B-K2 B-K2 followed by 0-0 and P-B4 Black has no particular problems — just as in the game White's king is a little more vulnerable than Black's in view of their respective pawn cover.

8 ... P-B4
9 R-N1

This game was one of the first in the variation, so White is not to be seriously criticised for his faulty play. Black is able to nullify the pressure on the KN file and then White has no compensation for his in-

ability to castle on that side. 9 PxP to avoid an isolated QP is not good either e.g. 9 ... BxP 10 P-B4 0-0 11 N-B3 (11 0-0 N-Q4! and then R-N1 and Q-R5 with a powerful attack, Foguelman-Bronstein, Amsterdam 1964) 11 ... R-N1 12 Q-B3 Q-B2 13 B-N3 B-N5 14 B-Q2 N-B4 15 B-B2 B-R4 (Tal-Shianovsky from this same tournament), and Black's initiative is well worth the pawn. The best move is either 9 N-B3 PxP 10 PxP B-Q3 11 N-K4, or else the attempt to seize the initiative by 9 0-0 PxP 10 R-Q1.

9 ... P-N3
10 N-B3

Formally speaking White has more development, but his exposed queen, slightly open king position and temporarily inactive QB are all factors which tell against him in the long run.

10 ... B-K2!

Not 10 ... PxP 11 PxP B-Q3 when White's 9th move would be justified after 12 B-KR6.

11 PxP

11 P-Q5 looks much more attractive if White is thinking in terms of an outright refutation, but this only boomerangs after 11 ... N-K4 12 B-N5+ K-B1 13 PxP R-QN1 when the queen can no longer guard against the fork at KB3. Hence 13 B-K2 is called for when Black just takes the QP for nothing.

11 ... NxP
12 Q-B6+

The queen becomes very exposed on this square, so 12 Q-N5+ was

better though after 12 ... K-B1 Black still has compensation for his pawn.

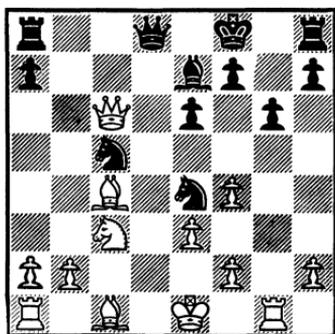
12 ... K-B1!

Infuriating for White who was hoping for 12 ... KN-Q2? 13 P-B4 when his queen (as in Tal-Shianovsky) has a bolt-hole at KB3 while N-Q6+ has also been prevented.

13 P-B4

After 13 P-K4 R-B1 14 B-R6+ K-N1 15 Q-N5 R-N1 16 Q-B6 R-N3 White loses his queen (or alternatively 15 ... P-QR3 16 Q-N4 N-Q6+).

13 ... KN-K5!



Now the queen remains in grave danger e.g. 14 NxN R-B1 15 Q-N5 P-QR3, while 15 QxR QxQ 16 NxN QxN 17 B-N3 B-B3 leaves White with inadequate material to make a long fight of it due to his development difficulties.

14 B-R6 R-QN1

A good alternative is 14 ... NxN 15 PxN R-QN1 16 B-R3? Q-R4 17 B-N4 QxKB or 17 BxN QxP+ 18 K-B1 BxB followed by R-N3 or R-N7.

15 NxN R-N3

16 Q-B8

This is what White had been relying on, but his deficient development plagues him even after the queen exchange. A better fighting chance was the sacrifice proposed by Shamkovich, namely 16 QxN BxQ 17 NxR RxB 18 NxR Q-R4+ 19 B-Q2 QxN 20 B-B3 R-N1 21 0-0-0 K-K2 22 B-N4+ and Black has considerable technical difficulties to face. Note that in this White meets 21 ... QxP not by 22 R-Q8+ K-K2 23 RxR Q-R8+! but by 22 B-B6! threatening 23 R-Q8 mate.

16 ... QxQ

17 BxQ NxN

18 P-QR4

Hoping for 19 P-R5 winning a vital escape square for his KB at QN7 or QR6. 18 B-Q7 N-B4! or 18 P-QR3 K-N2 19 B-Q7 N-B4! are no better.

18 ... B-N5+

19 K-K2 N-B4

This magic knight move is a winner here too because of the chance of going in at QN6.

20 R-N5

Hoping to get a chance of 21 RxN. 20 P-R5 R-B3 is hopeless.

20 ... P-B4!

21 P-K4 K-N2

22 Resigns

22 PxP RxB 23 PxNP PxP 24 B-K3 R-R3 is a clearly lost ending.

1963-65 APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY

Perusal of the detailed results of Tal's career shows that these years show an up turn in Tal's fortunes with first or second prizes in nearly all his tournaments as he began the long haul back to the form needed to make a bid for the world title now held by the ultra-sound Petrosian.

Nevertheless, 1963 began with a long lay off for illness, and so it was particularly impressive for Tal to take first place in the Asztalos Memorial event at the Hungarian coal mining centre of Miskolc, from where we quote two striking sacrificial wins.

This success guaranteed Tal a place in the massive Capablanca Memorial in Havana where only a loss to tail-ender Calero robbed him of first place which was taken by Korchnoy. His game against the strongest Chilean player was a veritable cascade of fireworks (No. 17). In the even stronger Moscow tournament Tal was second on his own this time, with just Smyslov ahead of him.

At the end of 1963 British fans got their first chance to see Tal in action. He won without much trouble at Hastings, but did not produce any startling games. From Hastings he went, after a few simul, straight to Iceland, where he was in devastating form.

The main test in 1964 was the Interzonal Tournament where the Soviet players suffered from the double handicap of having to play each other in the first few rounds and having a restriction placed on the number of players from any one country for the 1965 Candidates.

As a result Smyslov, Spassky and Tal tied with Larsen for first place but Shtein (4th) and Bronstein (5th) were replaced by Ivkov (6th) and Portisch (7th — after a play-off with Reshevsky).

The 1965 Candidates was to be played for the first time as a knock-out event instead of a double or quadruple round tournament. This change was held to be partly a response to Fischer's allegations of unfair Soviet domination particularly at Curacao. Since Tal had a poor individual record against some of his Soviet colleagues, especially Korchnoy, Spassky and Petrosian, it was felt that this type of event was not so favourable to him as a Candidates Tournament in which he would score heavily against the bottom half of the table.

Before this supposition was put to the test however another health scare arose. Half way through the USSR Championship at the end of

1964 Tal fell ill, was advised by doctors to withdraw from the event. Once again he refused, and played his last few games with a high temperature. In the circumstances his 3rd place behind Korchnoy and Bronstein was very creditable.

As training for the Candidates Matches Tal played in the Latvian Championship for the first time since 1958 and took first place without the loss of a game.

The match with Portisch was won without too much trouble as Tal's attacking skill carried too much weight for the still developing Hungarian.

Against Larsen however, Tal had a real scare and the ten game event (the only one apart from Spassky-Keres to go the whole distance) was one of the most interesting events of modern times. Amongst other things it confirmed Larsen's position as a serious threat to the Russians. Tal only won by virtue of a particularly controversial knight sacrifice in the last game. (No. 35.)

Then came the appointment with destiny — the match with Spassky played in Georgia in the autumn. Up to this point Spassky had a score of +5 =0 -1 against Tal, the one loss being in the last round of the Soviet Championship cum zonal, Riga 1958, when Tal had eliminated the Leningrad player from the 1958 Interzonal. Now it was the time for revenge.

I quote three shrewd comments from my book "Candidates Matches 1965": "We are going to see a struggle between opponents who are equal in age (this can be measured exactly) and in talent (though you cannot measure talent so exactly). They are not equally fit however; not equally strong. This is a contest between a player of exceptional ability in one direction and a player of universal style." (Botvinnik.)

"Tal is the stronger player, but I think Spassky will win! The decisive factor could well be their preparation from a physical point of view. Here the advantage lies with Spassky." (Euwe.)

"Spassky is favoured by the fact that his play is more diverse than Tal's, he has better health and finally that Spassky has been waiting his turn for ten years, whereas Tal has already been world champion." (Averbakh.)

So it turned out. Tal took the lead by winning the second game. Spassky immediately equalised, and then followed a series of five stamina-sapping draws. Tal could not break through, his patience broke and he lost the last three games, despite having the initiative in two of them.

The appointment with destiny had come and gone, Caissa once again had turned her face away from her former favourite and now there followed a period of slow decline.

14 Miskolc 1963

Black: Ghitescu

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4 P-K4
 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
 3 B-N5 P-QR3
 4 B-R4 N-B3
 5 0-0 B-K2
 6 R-K1 P-QN4
 7 B-N3 P-Q3
 8 P-B3 0-0
 9 P-KR3 P-KR3

Smyslov's invention, intending to hold the centre by R-K1 without being forced to retract that move by N-KN5.

10 P-Q4 R-K1
 11 QN-Q2 B-B1
 12 N-B1 B-Q2

Gligoric tried 12 ... B-N2 in his 1968 match with Tal, but after 13 N-N3 N-QR4 14 B-B2 N-B5 15 B-Q3 N-N3 16 B-Q2 White gradually got on top.

13 N-N3 N-QR4
 14 B-B2 P-B4

Reverting to a Chigorin formation. After 14 ... N-B5 15 P-N3 N-N3 16 B-N2 P-B4 17 PxKP PxP 18 P-B4! Tal-I Zaitsev, Alma-Ata 1969, or 15 P-QR4 P-B4 16 P-N3 N-N3 17 P-R5 N-B1 18 P-N4, Tal-Minic, Budva 1967, White has the advantage.

15 P-N3 P-N3

It is not clear what is Black's best line here. 15 ... Q-B2 awaiting developments may be the most sensible. 15 ... B PxP 16 PxP N-B3 17 B-N2 P-N3 18 Q-Q2 B-N2 19 QR-Q1 Q-N3 20 N-B1 QR-Q1 21 N-K3 Q-N1 22 B-N1 Fischer-Spassky, Havana Olympiad 1966, is clearly in White's favour.

16 B-K3

This is more promising than closing the centre straight away by 16

P-Q5 N-N2 17 N-R2 B-N2 when Black has few problems, Kavalek-Reshevsky, Sousse 1967.

16 ... N-B3
 17 P-Q5 N-K2?

A very instructive mistake. From here the knight can only be re-deployed via QB1 or KN1 where it has few prospects anyway. On K2 it seriously affects the mobility of several Black pieces so 17 ... N-N1 was certainly better.

18 Q-Q2 K-R2
 19 BxBP!

An excellent positional sacrifice of piece for two pawns whose ultimate objective is to attack KB7 and KN6 by bringing his lurking Lopez bishop into play.

19 ... PxB
 20 NxP N-B1
 21 P-KB4

21 NxBP would lose the knight after 21 ... Q-K2.

21 ... Q-K2
 22 P-B4! B-N2
 23 N-B3

Rather hasty. White could afford to continue his unhurried preparations by 23 QR-Q1 N-N3 24 B-Q3.

23 ... PxP
 24 PxP N-Q3

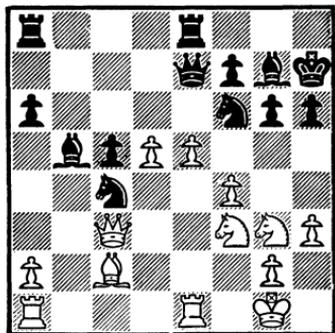
Black is prepared to give back material to break the force of the pawn centre. Tal's 23rd move had been based on the assumption that Black might well be very greedy here by 24 ... N-R4 25 NxN BxR when 26 P-K5! B-N7 27 P-B5 yields an overwhelming attack.

25 P-K5 NxBP
 26 Q-B3 B-N4

Or 26 ... NxQP 27 QxN B-K3 28 P-

64 Appointment with Destiny

B5 N-K6 29 P×P+ K-R1 (29 ... P×P 30 B×P+ K×B 31 Q-K4+ N-B4 32 N×N B×N 33 N-R4+) 30 Q-K4 N×B 31 Q×N P×P 32 Q×NP and White retains the advantage.



27 QR-Q1

Not 27 P×N Q×P when Black has a nice game.

27 ... QR-Q1

Or 27 ... N-Q2 28 P-QR4.

28 P-Q6 N×QP

The best defence breaking up White's centre pawns.

29 P×N(Q6) Q-N2

It was better to play 29 ... Q-B1 keeping an eye on the QP and having the queen near the soon to be beleaguered K-side, though after 30 Q×P White still has the advantage.

30 N-K5 N-Q2

31 N-R5! B-R1

32 Q-KN3

It was in order to play this attacking move that White refrained from the banal 30 Q×P.

32 ... N×N

There were threats of 33 N× either P. If 32 ... N-B1 then 33 P-QR4! B-QB3 34 P-Q7 B×QP 35 N×BP when N-Q6 becomes an additional threat.

33 P×N Q-Q2

34 N-B4!

This finally forces the break in at KN6 since 34 ... R-KN1 35 P-K6! is decisive.

34 ... B×P

35 B×P+ K-R1

Or 35 ... P×B 36 Q×P+ K-R1 37 R×B R×R 38 Q-B6+ Q-N2 39 Q×R+ K-R2 40 P-Q7 R-K2 41 Q×R!

36 B×P!

The sacrifices continue in typical Tal style. Now 36 ... Q×B 37 N-N6+ K-R2 38 N×B Q-B4 39 N-B3 is a steady win for White.

36 ... B-Q5+

37 R×B!

The final prettiness.

37 ... R×R+

38 Q×R Q×B

Or 38 ... P×R 39 Q-K5+ K-R2 40 Q-K4+ K-R1 41 Q-N6 Q×QP 42 N-K6 winning the queen.

39 Q-K5+ Q-N2

40 Q×P

This prosaic move is much more convincing than the ending arising from 40 Q×Q+ K×Q 41 N-K6+.

40 ... B-B3

41 R-Q2 Resigns

15 Miskolc 1963

Black: Bilek

Modern Defence

1 P-K4 P-Q3

The game was played in the penultimate round when Tal was leading and a draw would maintain his position. However Bilek was sharing second place with Bronstein so Tal was glad to have an early sign that his opponent was not playing for a steady game.

2 P-Q4 P-KN3

3 N-QB3 B-N2

4 N-B3

The more ambitious 4 P B4 is the most popular move but Tal has always had a liking for the next two moves which provide confirmation that his style can be considered classical.

4 ... P-QB3

A semi waiting move giving scope to the queen and preparing N-Q4 in answer to P-K5. However 4 ... N-KB3 may well be more accurate.

5 B-QB4 N-B3

Black could already introduce complications by 5 ... P-QN4 and if 6 NxP?! then 6 ... P-Q4 (6 ... PxN? 7 B-Q5) 7 B-N3 PxP 8 N-N5 with unclear consequences.

6 P-K5

If Black had gone 4 ... N-KB3 and 5 ... 0-0 then this advance would not be very effective because of 6 ... PxP 7 NxP P-B4 or even 7 ... N-K1 intending N-Q3-B4 and in both cases White's centre may well become over-exposed. After 4 ... P-B3 however the advance is well timed since now if 6 ... N-Q4 as recommended in some sources then White gets a clear advantage by 7 BxN PxB 8 NxP! Q-R4+ 9 N-B3 PxP 10 NxP! BxN 11 PxB QxP+ 12 B-K3 threatening Q-Q5.

6 ... PxP

7 NxP 0-0

8 0-0 QN-Q2

9 P-B4?

Blocking his QB and weakening the centre despite the strengthening of his knight outpost. 9 B-KN5 is correct when if 9 ... NxN 10 PxN N-N5 11 P-K6! BxP 12 BxB QxQ 13 QRxQ PxB 14 R-Q7! or 9 ... P-B4 10 NxN BxN 11 PxP! Q-B2 12 BxN BxB 13 N-Q5 QxP 14 NxB+ PxN 15 QxB QxB 16 P-QB3 with slight advantage in both cases, (analysis by Holmov) though it must be admitted that such lines are not in Tal's style.

9 ... Q-B2

10 Q-B3 P-QR3

Preparing P-B4 which if played at once would be refuted by 11 N-N5 Q-N1 12 NxBP! RxN 13 Q-QN3.

11 R-K1 P-K3

Too passive. 11 ... P-QN4 12 B-N3 (12 NxQBP B-N2! 13 NxP+ K-R1 winning a piece) 12 ... B-N2 would leave Black with at least equal prospects.

12 B-N3 P-B4

13 B-K3

White gets nothing from 13 P-Q5 PxP 14 BxP N-N3!

13 ... PxP

Too early. 13 ... P-N3! was correct supporting the QB and inviting 14 QxR? B-N2 when the queen should prove more useful on a crowded board than the two rooks. White would have to go for 14 QR-Q1 B-N2 15 Q-R3 with a tense position.

14 BxQP NxN

15 PxN! N-Q2

16 N-K4!

When exchanging in the centre

Bilek must have thought he would force White to defend by 16 Q-N3. The text however shows that White has a much more promising plan of attacking the weakness at KB6.

16 ... BxP

Not 16 ... NxP 17 N-B6+ BxN 18 QxB mating or winning the knight.

17 BxB QxB

18 QR-Q1 K-N2

The threat was 19 RxN BxR 20 N-B6+.

19 N-Q6 Q-B4+

20 K-R1 N-K4

The knight was in some danger (20 ... P-K4 21 NxB QxN 22 Q-Q5) and if 20 ... N-B3 then 21 QxN+ and a knight fork.

21 Q-B4 P-B3

This lets Black consolidate for a while, but a new wave of the attack now comes in.

22 R-KB1 P-QR4

Played after long thought since 23 N-K8+ looks possible, but after 23 ... RxN 24 QxP+ K-N1 25 R-Q8 RxR! 26 QxR+ K-N2 White only has perpetual check while 25 QR-K1 P-R5! 26 RxN Q-B1 also hangs on as 27 RxP loses to 27 ... PxB.

23 P-KR4 R-R3

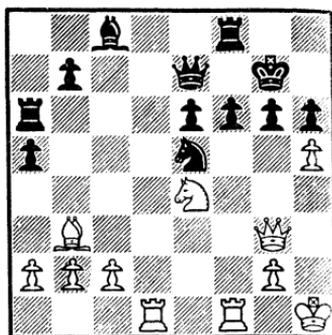
Now 23 ... P-R5 loses to 24 N-K8+ RxN 25 QxP+ K-N1 26 R-Q8 RxR 27 QxR+ K-N2 28 Q-B6+ K-N1 29 P-R5! PxP 30 Q-N5+ K-R1 31 R-B7 NxR 32 QxQ since the bishop is saved by the threat of 33 Q-B8 mate.

24 N-K4 Q-K2

25 P-R5 P-R3

Not 25 ... P-R5 26 P-R6+ K-R1 27 NxP! QxN 28 QxQ+ RxQ 29 R-Q8+ mating, or 26 ... K-N1 27 NxP+ QxN 28 QxQ RxQ 29 RxR threatening 30 R-Q8 mate. 25 ... PxP loses to 26 NxP! QxN 27 Q-N3+ Q-N3 28 QxN+ K-N1 29 RxR+ KxR 30 R-Q8+ so the correct defence was 25 ... P-KN4 26 Q-N3 N-Q2.

26 Q-N3!



White fastens on to the new weakness at KN6 and creates a new threat of 27 RxP followed by 28 QxN with a murderous pin.

26 ... P-R5

'Do your worst' says Black. 26 ... Q-QB2 to guard the knight more firmly loses to 27 PxP P-R5 28 NxP RxN 29 RxR KxR (29 ... PxB 30 R-B7+ wins the queen) 30 P-N7 and queens.

27 RxP!

The rook captures since thereby he frees KB1 for the other rook to intensify the pin.

27 ... RxR

27 ... PxB 28 QxN transposes into the game.

28 QxN PxB

29 QRPxP

The pin is so powerful that White can calmly take time to remove a pawn that was only two squares from queening. Now 29 ... K-B2 loses to 30 NxR QxN 31 Q-B7+ winning the bishop, while after 29 ... P-KN4 simply 30 R-KB1 R-R4 31 QxR+ yields an easily won ending. The best defence was 29 ... PxP 30 R-KB1 R-R1! since after 31 QxR+ QxQ 32 NxQ R-KB4! the ending is not too clearly in White's favour. 29 ... PxP is thus met best by 30 NxR QxN 31 Q-

B7 K-N3 32 QxB when White has clearly the better of it in view of his opponent's exposed king. Instead Bilek hopes to defend by R-R4.
 29 ... P-N3

30 P-QN4 Resigns
 After 30 ... K-B2 31 NxR Black loses quickly. The beginners books are right after all. "Get your pieces out!" Look at that unmoved bishop!

16 3rd Spartakiad 1963 Black: Hetman Sicilian Defence

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2 | N-KB3 | P-K3 |
| 3 | P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4 | NxP | P-QR3 |
| 5 | N-QB3 | Q-B2 |
| 6 | B-K2 | N-KB3 |

The riskier but more aggressive 6 ... B-N5 is also feasible.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 7 | 0-0 | B-K2 |
| 8 | P-B4 | P-Q3 |
| 9 | B-K3 | N-B3 |
| 10 | Q-K1 | B-Q2 |

After some transpositions the game has reached an old fashioned Scheveningen position. In recent years it has been held that Black can play this system without P-QR3 employing the tempo so gained by a quick NxN and B-QB3.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 11 | Q-N3 | P-KN3 |
|----|------|-------|

Tal's Moldavian opponent decides on the risky course of leaving his king in the centre while he tries to get black square play by the subsequent advance of the KRP.

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 12 | QR-Q1 | P-KR4 |
| 13 | P-KR3 | P-R5 |
| 14 | Q-B2 | N-KR4 |
| 15 | P-B5! | |

Tal better than anyone else knows that open lines are needed if one is to get at a king ensconced behind a

small pawn centre (i.e. pawns at K3 and Q3).

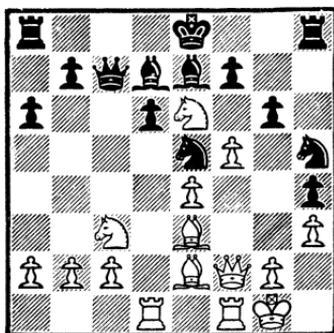
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|--------|------|
| 15 ... | N-K4 |
|--------|------|

Too dogmatic a move. Whereas White wishes to exchange pawns so as to open attacking lines Black should be seeking piece exchanges so 15 ... N-N6 is better. The pawn wedge resulting from P-B6 would not fit into White's plan while 16 PxKP BxP 17 NxB NxB+ 18 NxN PxN 19 Q-B7+ K-Q2 20 N-B4 N-Q1 21 QxNP QxP gives Black a chance of weathering the storm due to the maintenance of a defensive barrier around his king.

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 16 | NxP!? |
|----|-------|

Tal played this move only after long thought. It is a typical Tal sacrifice of his best pre-1960 days. It poses complicated problems for the opponent and cannot be analysed to any clear conclusion. The main line is 16 ... PxN 17 BxN PxB 18 P-B6 B-Q1 (18 ... R-KB1 19 QxP B-Q1 20 QxP+ N-B2 21 P-KN4 intending P-N5-N6, but not 18 ... B-KB1 19 P-B7+ K-Q1 20 B-N6 or 19 ... K-K2 20 B-N5 mate) 19 P-B7+ K-B1 20 Rxp! B-K2 and now 21 Q-B4 BxR 22 Q-R6+ RxQ 23 BxR+ K-K2 24 B-N5+ is perpetual check. 22 Q-B6 may look stronger,

but then 22 ... N-N3! 23 QxN B-B4! forces off a vital attacking piece. The main alternative is 20 ... B-K2 21 QR-Q1 R-KR2 when Koblenz gives 22 Q-B4 B-B4! 23 BxB QxB+ 24 K-R1 RxB 25 Q-R6+ K-N1 26 RxR KxR 27 R-B1+ K-K2 28 Q-B6+ K-Q3 29 N-Q5 R-K1 30 R-B5 Q-Q5 31 P-B3 Q-Q8+ 32 K-R2 N-B3 as proof that though White has a good attack Black may be able to defend successfully and make the extra piece tell.



16 ... BxN

This loses quickly. Black apparently trusted in his "impregnable" central knight to see him safe against the threat of Q-B7+ overlooking that this knight can be exchanged after which White's attack is decisive.

17 PxB PxB

18 BxN RxB

Or 18 ... PxB 19 B-Q4 R-KB1 20 Q-K2 R-R1? (20 ... 0-0-0 surrendering the pawn at once is essential) 21 BxN

PxB 22 Q-B3 B-B4+ 23 K-R1 Q-K2 24 N-K2 and Black is helpless against the threat of N-B1-Q3 since his developed pieces are all hamstrung by the need to prevent QxRP+ or Q-KB7 or Q-KB7+.

19 B-Q4! Q-B5

Not 19 ... 0-0-0? 20 B-N6.

20 BxN RxB

21 Q-B7+ K-Q2

22 Q-N7!

By comparison with the variation given after Black's 15th move one notes the absence of a defensive knight at Q1 so that White threatens not only 23 QxR but also 23 R-B7.

22 ... R-KN4

Or 22 ... Q-B4 23 N-R4 Q-R4 24 P-QN4 winning the exchange.

23 R-Q4 Q-B4

24 N-R4! Q-R2

Maintaining the pin. 24 ... QxP? 25 N-N6+ loses at once (25 ... K-B3 26 R-B4+ 25 ... K-Q1 26 Q-N8+ K-B2 27 NxR+ and then 28 R-B2) while 24 ... Q-B2 25 R-QB4 Q-Q1 26 Q-Q1 P-N4? 27 N-N6+ K-K1 28 Q-R8+ is decisive.

25 K-R1 R-K1

26 KR-Q1

Black has defended against R-B7, so pressure on the Q file is now the appropriate winning line.

26 ... K-B1

The threat was 27 RxP+ and 26 ... K-Q1 27 RxP+ BxR 28 RxB+ is a quick mate.

27 Q-B7 R-B1

28 QxB R-B8+

29 RxR QxR

30 R-B8 mate

17 Havana 1963 Black: Letelier Ruy Lopez

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P—K4 | P—K4 |
| 2 | N—KB3 | N—QB3 |
| 3 | B—N5 | P—QR3 |
| 4 | B—R4 | P—Q3 |
| 5 | P—B3 | B—Q2 |
| 6 | P—Q4 | KN—K2 |

A Steinitzian idea but if Black wishes to fianchetto his KB he should play 6 ... P-KN3 straight away without losing control of his KN4.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 7 | B—N3 | P—KR3 |
|---|------|-------|

Not 7 ... P-KN3 nor 7 ... N-N3 when White wins material by 8 N-N5.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 8 | N—R4 |
|---|------|

It is already a middle game before the opening is completed — a thoroughly modern phenomenon! White argues that after 8 0-0 Black can calmly reply 8 ... P-KN4 making a virtue out of the necessity of his last move. Then Black has a nice K-side attack in the making and the promising sacrifice 9 PxP PxP 10 BxNP?! PxB 11 NxB fails to H ... N-Q4! 12 QxN (12 NxP! KxN 13 QxN+ K-N2 14 P-KB4! is better with a wild position) 12 ... QxN 13 QxBP+ leaves Black with the more formidable attack on the king. (Geller-J. Szabo, Dresden 1959).

- | | | |
|---|-----|---------|
| 8 | ... | P—KN4?! |
|---|-----|---------|

Most players against Tal tend to play too 'soundly' and give him scope to do as he wants. The ingenious Chilean tactician decides that his approach will be different. However 8 ... N-R4 is best to drive the bishop away from its attacking diagonal. Play could then go 9 B-B2 P-KN4 10 N-B5 NxN 11 PxN N-B3! 12 0-0 B-N2 13 P-Q5 N-K2 14 Q-B3 P-QB3 15 P-B4 P-KR4 with chances for

both sides (Konstantinopolsky-Aratovsky postal game 1957) Letelier presumably knew of an early Tal game (against Bannik, USSR Championship 1956) in which the pawn snatch 8 ... PxP 9 PxP (9 0-0 is a good gambit) 9 ... NxP! 10 BxP+ KxB 11 QxN N-B3 12 Q-Q5+ B-K3 13 Q-R5+ K-N1 led to complicated play, but White seems to have unbalanced his game in the attempt to safeguard his offside KN.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 9 | Q-R5 | R—KR2 |
|---|------|-------|

- | | |
|----|------|
| 10 | BxNP |
|----|------|

10 N-B3 looks tempting but after 10 ... N-KN1! 11 NxBP N-B3 12 BxP+ K-K2 Black's tortuous Steinitzian knight manoeuvre has won him a piece for two pawns and White's attack is completely repulsed.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 10 | ... | PxP |
|----|-----|-----|

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 11 | P—KB4 |
|----|-------|

Not 11 0-0 N-K4 and White's queen is in danger.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 11 | ... | Q—B1 |
|----|-----|------|

Inviting White to carry on with his forceful tactics. Sokolsky's 11 ... B-N5 12 QxB PxB 13 N-B3 would still leave White with the initiative.

- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 12 | P—B5 | PxP |
|----|------|-----|

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 13 | NxP | N—K4 |
|----|-----|------|

Guarding the KB2 square so that castling either side to prevent a possible N-Q6+ would lose two attacking minor pieces for a defensive rook after 14 ... PxB 15 QxR PxN.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 14 | B—B6 | N—N1 |
|----|------|------|

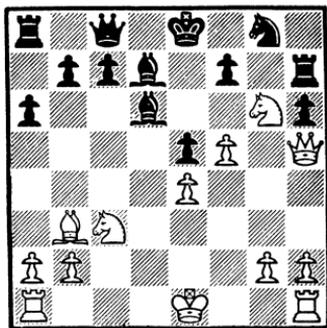
Too passive. 14 ... N-Q6+ 15 K-Q2 N-B4 and if 16 B-B4 then 16 ... P-QN4 preparing Q-N2 and 0-0-0 was correct.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 15 | BxN | PxB |
|----|-----|-----|

70 Appointment with Destiny

16 N-N6! B-Q3

Letelier must now have realised that he was on the losing end. His only active piece has been exchanged and the position looks much more full of open lines than three moves back. 16 ... PxN? loses the rook and 16 ... N-B3 17 Q-R4 PxN 18 QxN is certainly no improvement.



17 BxP+!

An inspired move since after 17 ... RxB 18 N-R8! the most unusual knight move on the board forces a quick win.

17 ... KxB
18 N-Q5!

The king must be robbed of retreat squares as 18 NxP+ K-B1 19 N-N6+ K-N2 20 P-K5 (20 0-0 N-B3) 20 ... BxBP 21 N-R4 BxP 22 NxB+ K-R1 leaves the king comparatively safe in the corner. The text is directed against 18 ... N-B3 while 18 ... P-B3? 19 N-N6 is in White's favour (19 ... N-B3 20 NxP+ K-B1 21 NxQ NxQ 22 NxKB or the more attractive 21 Q-R4 Q-Q1 22 QxN+! QxQ 23 N5xB+ winning much material).

18 ... K-N2
19 0-0 N-B3

The threat was 20 P-B6+.

20 NxN KxN
21 NxP!

Removing the vital centre pawn with impunity as both 21 ... BxN 22 Q-N6+ K-K2 23 P-B6+ followed by 24 P-B7 and 21 ... KxN 22 P-B6+ K-K3 (22 ... KxP 23 QR-Q1 and soon mates) 23 Q-Q5 mate show that the king is a poor blockader of a passed pawn.

21 ... Q-K1
22 NxB+ RxN

Getting the unguarded rook into some state of security as 22 ... QxN 23 P-K5+ BxP 24 Q-N6+ or 23 ... KxP 24 P-B6+ are immediate wins for White.

23 P-K5+!

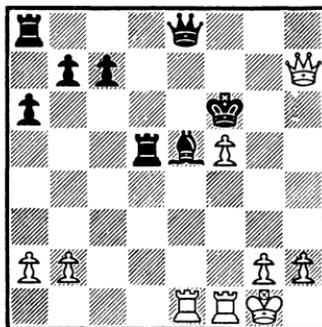
Opening the K file. 23 QxP+ K-B2 24 P-K5? QxP is much less convincing.

23 ... BxP

Again 23 ... KxP 24 QR-K1+ or 23 ... QxP 24 Q-N6+ K-K2 25 QR-K1 are immediate wins.

24 QxP+ K-B2
25 QR-K1 R-Q4
26 Q-R7+ K-B3

Going back is no safer — 26 ... K-B1 27 P-B6 Q-B2 28 Q-R6+! K-K1 (28 ... K-N1 29 R-K4 or 29 Q-N5+) 29 Q-R8+ Q-B1 30 RxB+ RxR 31 P-B7+ and 32 QxR.



At this point one would be very glad to know how the clocks stood. One assumes in view of the complex opening that both players were short of time. A clear argument in favour of Bronstein's view that a game can only be fully appreciated if it is 'chronometered' move by move.

Even at this late stage it is not clear whether White at first sight has a quick win. The immobile king would suggest P-KN4, P-KR4 etc but this is slow in view of Black's counters by Q-R1, BxP+ or B-Q5+. Tal finds a marvellous solution threatening amongs other things R-KN4 but giving up yet more

material.

27 R—K4! B—Q5+?

The right defence was 27 ... BxP+ when 28 KxB QxR 29 Q-N6+ K-K4 30 Q-K6+ K-Q5 31 R-Q1+ K-K6 32 R-K1+ K-B7 threatening R-R1 mate is not clear. The correct winning line is 28 K-R1! QxR 29 Q-N6+ K-K4 30 Q-K6+ K-Q5 31 R-Q1+ K-B4 32 P-QN4+ QxQNP 33 RxR+ K-B5 34 Q-K1+ K-B6 35 R-Q3+ K-B7 36 Q-K2+.

28 K—R1 Resigns

The faulty bishop move robs the king of a flight square after 28 ... QxR 29 Q-N6+ K-K4 30 Q-K6 mate, or 29 ... K-K2 30 P-B6+.

18 Moscow 1963

Black: Padevsky French Defence

1 P—K4 P—K3
2 P—Q4 P—Q4
3 N—QB3 B—N5
4 P—K5 P—QN3

A system popularised by Petrosian. Black prepares a spot for his QB and issues the challenge "come and get me."

5 Q—N4 B—B1
6 B—KN5 Q—Q2

Part of Black's hedgehog formation, 6 ... N-K2 falls into a trap since after 7 BxN Black must lose the right to castle, as 7 ... QxB loses to 8 NxP.

7 N—B3 N—QB3
8 P—QR3 B—N2

9 B—Q3 P—KR3
10 B—Q2

Rather tame for Tal. Black is clearly trying to castle long where his bad bishop would prove to be a useful defensive force. Hence 10 Q-R3 looks more aggressive.

10 ... 0—0—0
11 P—KR4 KN—K2
12 0—0—0 P—B4

This runs counter to Black's scheme of not challenging the centre by pawns. 12 ... N-B4 13 Q-B4 P-KR4 to deter P-KN4 and to keep the position closed seems best.

13 PxP e.p PxP
14 QR—K1

Pouncing on the weakness and leaving his other rook at home from where it can be deployed by R-R3 if necessary.

14 ... R-N1

Not 14 ... P-B4 15 Q-R5 R-N1 16 P-KN3 R-N5 17 Q-B7 when 17 ... NxP 18 N-K5! is very bad for Black.

15 QxP RxP

Exchanging queens would not ease his problems after 15 ... QxQ 16 RxQ RxP 17 B-K3 B-N2 18 B-B1 and 19 B-R3.

16 Q-K3 K-N1?

The only good defence was 16 ... R-N5 17 B-B1 N-B4 18 Q-Q3 KNxP 19 B-R3 NxN 20 QxN P-B4 with good compensation for the exchange.

17 B-B1 R-N1

18 B-R3 P-B4

It is not nice to leave a gaping hole at his K4 but 18 ... N-B4 19 Q-Q3 B-B1 20 P-R5 would leave White with the winning threat of 21 N-KR4.

19 Q-Q3

Simply 19 KR-N1 was a good line but the text enables White to build up pressure against the enemy king.

19 ... B-B1

20 P-R5

Ruling out N-N3 and preparing a possible N-KR4. Black decides he cannot sit idly by, plays to win a pawn but finds that his queen is thereby distracted from important defensive tasks.

20 ... Q-K1

21 B-B4 QxP

Before White can guard it, e.g. after 21 ... P-R3 22 B-B1.

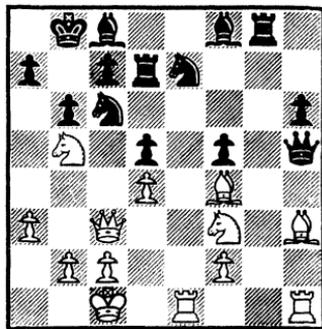
22 N-QN5 R-Q2

23 Q-B3

See diagram next column

The threat is 24 N-K5 e.g. 23 ... B-R3 24 N-K5 NxN 25 NxBP! with decisive effect.

23 ... P-QR3 24 N-K5 NxN 25 NxP



N4-N3! would be perfectly adequate defence as the double or discovered check gets nowhere. However the different move order 24 NxP RxN 25 RxN BxR 26 QxN would leave White a pawn up with an attack. Yet this may well have been the best defence.

23 ... B-QN2

24 N-K5 NxN

25 PxN!

The pawn threatens to advance with decisive effect.

25 ... P-Q5

Or 25 ... B-N2 26 N-Q4 renewing the pawn push threat.

26 P-K6! PxQ

27 PxR B-N2

28 NxP(B7)

The simplest way to play. Black now resigned as he had only one minute left for his next twelve moves and could see no way to counter the passed pawn in view of the threat 29 N-K8+ followed by queening. 28 ... N-B3 loses to 29 R-K8+ so his only chance to play on was 28 ... Q-B6 hoping for a swindle such as 29 B-Q6 PxP+ 30 K-N1 B-K5 31 N-K8+ K-N2 32 P-Q8(Q)? BxP+! 33 KxB Q-B6+ 34 K-N1 Q-Q6+ 35 K-R2 P-N8(Q)+ and mate in two. However White has the neat winning manoeuvre 29 N-Q5 K-R1 30 B-N2! QxKB and now that the queen has been diverted comes 31 N-B7+ K-N1 32 N-K8+ etc.

19 Moscow 1963
Black: Matanovic
Ruy Lopez

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-K4 |
| 2 | N-KB3 | N-QB3 |
| 3 | B-N5 | P-QR3 |
| 4 | B-R4 | N-B3 |
| 5 | 0-0 | B-K2 |
| 6 | R-K1 | P-QN4 |
| 7 | B-N3 | P-Q3 |
| 8 | P-B3 | 0-0 |
| 9 | P-KR3 | N-QR4 |
| 10 | B-B2 | P-B4 |
| 11 | P-Q4 | Q-B2 |
| 12 | QN-Q2 | B-Q2 |

It's doubtless very nice to get all these moves in quickly in a minute or two on the clock but I can't help recalling Tarrasch's sour joke "One might say that both sides stand badly." If 12 ... R-K1 then 13 P-QN4! (see game 8).

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 13 | N-B1 | KR-K1 |
| 14 | P-QN3 | |

An important innovation introduced by Geller a few months before this tournament in his game against Ivkov (Havana 1963): The text leaves the enemy QN out on a limb since N-B5-N3 is no longer on, while the QB may be usefully played to QN2 e.g. 14 ... BPxP 15 PxP N-B3 16 B-N2! NxQP 17 NxN PxN 18 R-QB1! Q-Q1 19 QxP with advantage (Tal-Gligoric, Reykjavik 1964).

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 14 | ... | P-N3 |
| 15 | B-N5! | |

Now Black cannot play the consolidating B-KB1-N2 and so his black squares around the king remain weak. This line shows that 14 P-QN3 was also a high class waiting move, as after the usual 14 N-K3 P-N3 Black successfully gets in B-KB1-N2.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 15 | ... | N-R4 |
|----|-----|------|
- Or 15 ... K-N2 16 N-K3 B-K3 17 Q-Q2 with continuing pressure.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 16 | BxB | RxB |
| 17 | N-K3 | N-KB3 |

Not 17 ... N-KB5 18 P-N3! NxP+ 19 K-N2 and the double threat of N-Q5 and R-R1 is hard to meet (19 ... Q-B1 20 N-Q5 N-B5+? 21 PxN B-R6+ 22 K-R2 Q-N5 23 R-KN1).

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 18 | N-N5! | BPxP |
|----|-------|------|

Hurrying to get some play on the QB file before White goes 19 Q-B3 K-N2 20 QxN+ and 21 N-Q5+. However 18 ... B-K3 defending against N-Q5 is a sounder defence.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-------|
| 19 | PxP | R-QB1 |
|----|-----|-------|

Ravinsky suggests 19 ... N-B3 20 PxP PxP 21 N-Q5 NxN 22 PxN N-Q5! with complications as Black's best choice in his uncomfortable position.

- | | | |
|----|-------|-----|
| 20 | PxP | PxP |
| 21 | QR-B1 | |

Keres in his 1969 German book on the Lopez gives 21 N-Q5! here, overlooking that it loses a piece after 21 ... NxN.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-------|
| 21 | ... | P-KR3 |
|----|-----|-------|

Losing patience. The discreet retreat 21 ... Q-Q1 is correct.

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 22 | N-Q5! | |
|----|-------|--|

Presumably Matanovic underestimated the power of this move thinking that it merely left White with a temporary threat with his newly born QP.

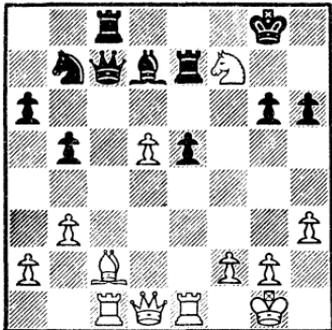
- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 22 | ... | NxN |
| 23 | PxN | N-N2 |

Or 23 ... Q-Q3 24 N-K4 Q-N3 (24 ... Q-N1 25 Q-Q2) 25 Q-Q2 with the

better game due to the offside knight. Still this was a better chance than the text move.

24 NxP!

Exploiting the vis-a-vis of queen and rook masked by the bishop.



24 ... RxB

Or 24 ... KxN 25 BxP+ KxB 26 RxQ RxR 27 P-Q6 forking with effect as after 27 ... NxB? White takes the

knight with check and then a rook.
25 BxP Q-Q3

Too late, but 25 ... QxR 26 BxR-KxB (26 ... K-B1 27 QxQ RxQ 28 RxB KxB 29 R-B7) 27 Q-R5+ K-N1 28 Q-N6+ K-B1 29 RxQ RxR+ 30 K-R2 leaves little hope of resisting in view of the loss of the KRP and the uncoordinated Black pieces.

26 BxR+ KxB

27 RxR BxR

28 Q-B2!

Black has near material equality but his minor pieces skulk at one end of the board while the mobile queen and rook get at the king at the other end.

28 ... B-Q2

29 Q-R7+ K-B1

30 R-K3! Resigns

White's last move was much better than going to win the KP as the chief threat now is 31 R-N3 and 32 R-N7 or 32 R-N8 while 30 ... QxP 31 R-Q3! involves the immediate loss of the bishop.

20 Hastings 1963-64

White: N. Littlewood

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4 P-K4

For a regrettably short period in the Sixties Norman Littlewood (not to be confused with his elder brother John E.) raised his game to a high level and had some remarkable successes with his tactically orientated play. His reputation had gone sufficiently far before him for Tal to choose a discreet Lopez rather than his usual Sicilian.

2 N-KB3 N-QB3

3 B-N5 P-QR3

4 B-R1 N-B3

5 0-0 B-K2

6 R-K1 P-QN4

7 B-N3 0-0

Facing White with a dilemma that Tal himself has often had to resolve — allow Black the initiative by 8 P-B3 P-Q4 or play an objectively probably weaker move such as 8 P-QR4!

so as to continue dictating the game for a few moves.

8 P—Q4

A characteristic decision from the Sheffield player!

8 ... P—Q3

9 P—B3 B—N5

10 B—K3

Again, characteristically, the tricky text rather than the tame 10 P-Q5 N-QR4 11 B-B2 P-B3 when Black has no difficulties.

10 ... P x P

Not 10 ... NxKP 11 B-Q5 Q-Q2 12 BxKN P-Q4 13 BxP+! KxB 14 P x P with some advantage for White.

11 P x P N—QR4

12 B—B2 P—B4!

The older sequence 12 ... N-B5 13 B-B1 P-B4 has suffered some significant blows recently, e.g. 14 P-QN3! N-QR4 15 P-Q5. N-Q2 16 QN-Q2 B-B3 17 R-N1 P-B5 18 P-KR3! Fischer-Korchnoy, Stockholm Interzonal 1962, or 17 ... B-B6 18 P-KR3 B5xN 19 QxB Q-B3 20 R-K3 B-Q5 21 QxQ NxQ 22 R-K2 Korchnoy-Portisch, Sousse Interzonal 1967.

13 P—KR3

This lets Black take the initiative. 13 QN-Q2, or 13 P-QN3 to stop Black's next move seems best.

13 ... BxN

14 QxB N—B5

15 B—B1

A dubious pawn sacrifice since the pawn at Q4 soon cramps White in a most significant way. 15 P-QN3 is bad because of 15 ... NxB 16 QxN PxP 17 QxP N-Q2 and 18 B-B3, so White should try 15 N-Q2 and if 15 ... NxNP then 16 P-K5 PxKP 17 PxKP N-Q2 18 Q-K4 P-N3 19 QR-N1 with a reasonable game. Black would probably reply 15 ... NxN 16 BxN PxP but after 17 Q-Q3 Q-N3 18 P-K5 PxP 19 R x P White has more attacking chances than in the game since he

can develop his QR.

15 ... P x P

16 Q—Q3

Or 16 P-QN3 N-K4 17 Q-K2 Q-N3 18 P-B4? P-Q6+ 19 B-K3 Q-N2 with clear advantage.

16 ... Q—N3

17 P—B4

Otherwise 17 ... N-K4.

17 ... P—Q4!

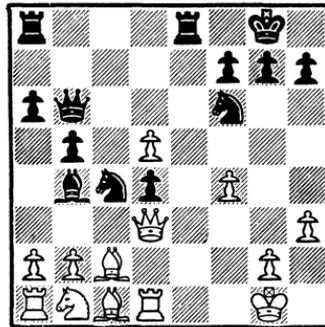
A much more effective defence against the threat of 18 P-K5, than a purely defensive measure since Black's bishop now comes into effective play, e.g. 18 P-K5 N-K5 19 N-Q2 B-N5 20 NxKN PxN 21 QxKP P-Q6+ 22 B-K3 NxB winning material.

18 P x P B—N5

19 R—Q1

White eats humble pie and restricts himself to trying to win back the QP. 19 R-K5!? would enable him to carry on with attacking gestures for a while, though they could hardly come to much in view of his backward development. As an eye-witness of the game (which had been eagerly looked forward to by the British public on the grounds "that the fur will really fly") I well remember how quickly and confidently Tal played from this point on.

19 ... KR—K1!



20 P—R3

20 QxP? R-K8+! would win at once.

20 ... B-Q3

21 K-R2

Out of the frying pan into the fire! However White has no good move, e.g. 21 N-Q2 N-K6 winning material.

21 ... N-K6

22 BxN

Or 22 R-Q2 QR-B1 and White is in a terrible mess.

22 ... RxB

23 Q-B5

After 23 QxQP Black wins the queen by 23 ... N-N5+! 24 PxN (24 K-N1 R-K8+) 24 ... B-B4 threatening 25 ... Q-R3+ and 26 ... R-K8 mate. The other move order 23 ... B-B4 24 Q-Q2 N-N5+ 25 K-R1 N-B7+ winning the exchange is also feasible.

23 ... B-B2

Preparing to harass the queen further by P-N3, which, if played at once, gives away a knight for nothing.

24 N-Q2 P-N3

25 Q-N5 P-Q6!

26 B-N3 N-R4

27 R-KB1 Q-Q5!

A decisive centralising move.

28 QR-B1

Not 28 P-KN3 R-K7+, nor 28 P-Q6 BxP 29 N-B3 BxP+ 30 K-R1 N-N3 31 BxP+ K-R1!

28 ... BxP+

29 RxB QxR+

30 QxQ NxQ

31 P-Q6 R-Q1

32 R-B7 N-K3

33 Resigns

21 Reykjavik 1964 White: Thorbergsson King's Indian Defence

1 P-Q4 N-KB3

2 P-QB4 P-KN3

3 N-QB3 B-N2

4 P-K4 0-0

5 P-B4

After 5 P-K5 N-K1 Black will successfully undermine the enemy centre pawns by P-QB4 in conjunction with P-Q3.

5 ... P-Q3

6 N-B3 P-B4

7 P-Q5

7 B-K2 is a sound alternative. 7 PxP used to be played quite a lot but Tal dealt a heavy blow to that line in a game Johannessen-Tal from the same tournament. Black played 7 ... Q-R4 8 B-Q3 KN-Q2! (a powerful

innovation instead of 8 ... QxBP 9 Q-K2 N-B3 10 B-K3 Q-KR4 or 10 ... Q-QR4 =) 9 B-Q2 NxP 10 B-B2 (or 10 Q-B2 N-B3 11 N-Q5 Q-Q1 12 B-B3 BxB+ 13 NxB B-N5 = Kavaljek-Bednarski Bucharest 1966) 10 ... Q-N5! 11 B-N3 Q-N3 12 Q-K2? (12 B-K3 is essential) 12 ... NxB 13 N-Q5? (refusing to restrict his losses to a pawn or two!) 13 ... Q-R3! 14 R-Q1 (14 N-B7 Q-R5 15 Q-Q1 QxBP and Black will remain a piece up) 14 ... QxRP 15 N-B7 N-R3 16 Resigns as a piece is lost after 16 NxR B-N5.

7 ... P-K3

8 B-K2 PxP

9 KPxP

This is supposed to be the queen!

of the two possible recaptures. After 9 B-PxP the unsymmetrical pawn formation allows Black to complicate matters by 9 ... P-QN4.

9 ... P-QN4!?

Black has many possible moves here such as 9 ... R-K1 or 9 ... B-B4 but the text has considerable surprise effect. It is not original to Tal, since he admitted he had already seen the move in a womens match in the III Spartakiad, Honour then to the Amazons!

10 NxP

White goes wrong straight away. His extra pawn now is hardly felt whereas after 10 PxP P-QR3 11 0-0 PxP 12 BxP Black would have to work hard to prove that the open lines on the Q-side justify the sacrifice of a pawn.

10 ... N-K5!

11 0-0 P-QR3

12 N-R3

Tal prefers 12 N-B3 giving back the pawn in order to get rid of the powerful enemy knight, but after 12 ... NxN 13 PxN BxP 14 R-N1 B-B4 15 B-Q3 Q-Q2 Black has no problems.

12 ... R-R2

Now with the knight out of play at QR3, and a tactical weakness as well (13 B-K3? BxP) Black can calmly intensify his pressure on the K file.

13 B-Q3 R-K2

14 N-B2 KR-K1

15 R-K1

Or 15 R-N1 Q-R4 and the QB is still a problem child.

15 ... N-Q2

16 N-K3

The knight proves a tactical weakness here because it can be pinned by a subsequent B-Q5. The square K3 should be retained for the QB so 16 R-N1 Q-R4 17 P-QR3 looks White's best chance.

16 ... QN-B3

17 Q-B2 N-R4!

Just when White was hoping to move (I won't use the word develop) his QB he finds that his 16th has left him with another weak point to defend.

18 P-KN3

A horrible weakening move but if 18 N-B1 then 18 ... N-N4 19 RxR (or 19 B-Q2) 19 ... NxN+ and the doubled KBP will be a serious weakness too.

18 ... B-Q5

Black now forces matters on the K file with the threat 19 ... N5xP.

19 NxB PxN

20 N-N2 N-N4!

Just as effective as in the previous note but one, and an illustration of Kotov's claim (in his book "Think like a Grandmaster") that a candidate move from an earlier stage of the game can turn up later as the right move to make.

21 RxR N-R6+

22 K-B1

Not 22 K-R1 QxR 22 B-Q2 N-B3 24 R-K1 N-N5! with the threat of mate by 25 ... N5-B7+.

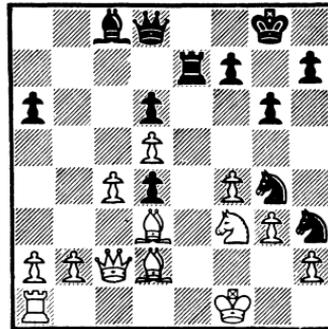
22 ... RxR

Now this is the right way to recapture as the queen has no prospect of penetrating on K8.

23 B-Q2 N-B3

24 N-R4 N-N5

25 N-B3



Or 25 K-N2 Q-K1 with the awkward threat of 26 ... R-K7+ 27 BxR QxR+ 28 KxN P-KR4 29 R-R1 N-B7+ 30 K-N2 NxR+ and wins.

25 ... R-K6!
26 K-N2 Q-K2

Tal in his element! The threat is 27 ... R-K7+ and 27 KxN loses to 27 ... RxN threatening 28 ... N-K6 mate.

27 R-K1 NxP+!

More convincing than the plausible 27 ... RxR 28 NxR B-B4 29 N-B3 Q-K6! since White does better to play 29 Q-Q1.

28 PxN RxR
29 NxR Q-R5
30 B-QB1

The only square as if 30 B-R5 then 30 ... N-K6+.

30 ... QxN
31 P-KR3

Driving the knight to where it

wants to go. 31 P-KB5 is a better attempt but after 31 ... N-K4 Black once again makes his bishop an effective piece.

31 ... N-R3
32 P-KB5

Now desperation but 32 ... Q-R5 was a nasty threat.

32 ... NxP
33 B-B4 N-R5+
34 K-R2 N-B6+
35 K-N2 BxP+

A final blow. If 36 KxB 36 ... Q-R5+ 37 K-N2 N-K8+.

36 KxN Q-KN8!

A mating net. If 37 B-R6 then 37 ... B-N5+ 38 K-B4 B-R4 with decisive effect.

37 BxNP Q-N5+
38 K-B2 QxB+
39 K-N1 RPxB
40 Resigns

22 Amsterdam 1964

Black: Bilek

Sicilian Defence

1 P-K1 P-QB4
2 N-KB3 P-Q3
3 P-Q1 PxP
4 NxP N-KB3
5 N-QB3 P-QR3
6 B-KN5

One of the most popular opening sequences in modern chess.

6 ... QN-Q2

Black normally plays 6 ... P-K3 to avoid a doubled pawn after 7 BxN, but then he has self pinned his knight. The text hopes to induce the normal attacking move 7 P-B1 when 7 ... Q-N3 follows with a genuine

threat to take the QNP. Moreover after the text it is not so easy for White to achieve a P-K5 breakthrough as it is in the 6 ... P-K3 variation.

7 B-QB1 P-R3

It is better to try 7 ... Q-R4 8 Q-Q2 P-K3, but not 7 ... P-K3 8 0-0 Q-B2 when 9 BxKP PxB 10 NxP is very strong (Keres-Sajtar, Olympiad 1964).

8 BxN!

Positions sometimes arise in the sharper opening lines of modern chess which in former times would

be attributed to "beginners' games." Thus here Black has moved both RP's one square, and is badly behind in development. Tal is always happy to play against such modern refinements!

8 ... NxB
9 Q-K2

Already envisaging a breakthrough on the centre files.

9 ... P-K3

9 ... P-K4 is an important alternative, but after 10 N-B5 B-K3 11 R-Q1, or 10 N-B3 B-K2 11 R-Q1 Q-B2 12 0-0 0-0 13 B-N3 (Bronstein-Milic, Belgrade 1955) Black has no compensation for his weak Q4 square.

10 0-0-0 Q-B2

10 ... B-K2 seems better.

11 P-B4 P-K4

This is not good, but 11 ... B-K2 is no improvement as then comes 12 P-K5 PxP 13 PxP N-Q2 14 NxP! PxN 15 Q-R5+, while 11 ... B-Q2! 12 P-K5 PxP 13 PxP N-R2 leaves White with all the play after 14 KR-B1.

12 N-Q5!

Perhaps Bilek had an improvement in mind on 12 N-B5 B-K3 13 BxB PxP 14 N-R4 with some advantage (Matanovic-Korchnoy, Yugoslavia-USSR 1963). The text is much stronger.

12 ... NxB

Or 12 ... Q-Q4 13 PxP PxP 14 N-B3 with threats of NxP and KR-B1.

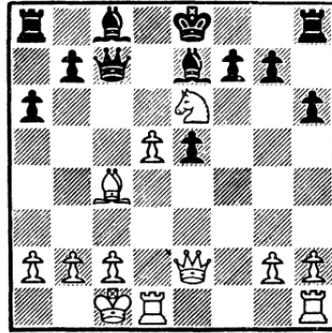
13 PxN B-K2

This simple development move is inferior to 13 ... P-KN3 anticipating White's threat of a subsequent Q-R5+.

14 PxP PxP

15 N-K6!

A typical Tal move. 15 ... PxN loses to 16 Q-R5+ K-B1 (16 ... K-Q1 17 PxP+ B-Q3 18 RxP+ QxR 19 R-Q1; 16 ... K-Q2 is the best practical chance when Tal intended 17 Q-N4



with a fierce attack) 17 PxP B-B3 (17 ... K-N1 18 Q-B7+ and 19 B-Q3 mating or 17 ... B-N4+ 18 K-N1 K-N1 19 Q-K8+ and 20 B-Q3+) 18 KR-B1 and Black has no good defence to the threatened 19 R-Q8+ (18 ... K-N1 19 P-K7+ or 19 RxP).

15 ... Q-Q3

16 NxP+ K-B1

17 N-K6+

The cheeky knight comes out by the same route by which he made his unpleasant entrance. 17 ... PxN 18 PxP B-N4+ 19 K-N1 Q-K2 20 KR-B1+ K-N1 (20 ... B-B3 21 QxP K-N2 22 Q-N3+ K-B1 23 Q-N6) 21 QxP threatening 21 R-Q8+ is a quick win for White.

17 ... K-K1

18 KR-B1 B-N4+

19 K-N1!

Why exchange one's monster knight for a feeble bishop which can soon be harassed by P-KR4 and Q-R5?

19 ... P-N4

19 ... PxN 20 Q-R5+ and 21 PxP is still an easy win for White.

20 Q-R5 B-B5

Or 20 ... Q-K2 21 NxP PxP 22 NxP.

21 B-N3 P-R4

The 'beginner syndrome' already mentioned affects Bilek right to the

end. 21 ... Resigns and a hearty hand-shake was a far more gracious alternative to the text, but if he wished to continue for a few more moves the most stubborn defence was 21 ... R-QR2 22 P-N3 B-K6 though after 23

R-Q3 B-N3 24 R3-KB3 R-R2 25 N-N5 it is all over.

22 N-B7+! QxN

23 P-Q6 Resigns

Because of 23 ... Q-Q2 (23 ... Q-N2 24 P-Q7+! 24 RxB PxR 25 Q-K5+ etc.)

23 Amsterdam Interzonal 1964

White: Pachman

Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB4

This game was played in the 6th round when Tal's score was 2½/5, largely due to the artificial rigging of the draw practised at this time which meant that he had already met four of his Soviet colleagues. Hence the choice of opening could hardly have been anything else, especially against the Czech grandmaster noted for his accurate but not normally aggressive play.

2 P-KN3

Unusual, but playable. One possible answer is 2 ... P-Q4 3 PxP QxP 4 N-KB3 B-N5 5 B-N2 Q-K3+ 6 K-B1 B-R6 7 P-Q4 PxP 8 NxP Q-Q2 9 N-QB3 N-QB3 10 NxN QxN 11 Q-Q5 with equality. Pachman-Taimanov, Buenos Aires 1960.

2 ... N-QB3

3 B-N2 P-KN3

4 N-K2 B-N2

5 0-0 P-Q3

Best since after 5 ... N-B3 6 P-Q4 White would force the game into a form of the Sicilian Dragon which Tal has never been known to play in a serious game.

6 P-QB3 P-K4!

Black insists on preventing P-Q4. Perhaps White should now realise that he cannot achieve P-Q4 without making too many concessions. Then by 7 P-QB4 and 8 QN-B3 he could construct a sound position which it is hard to break down, and which would be much less congenial to Tal than the open position which soon arises.

7 P-Q3 KN-K2

8 B-K3 0-0

9 P-Q4

This is premature as Tal soon demonstrates. 9 N-Q2, or 9 N-R3 hurrying to complete development seems correct.

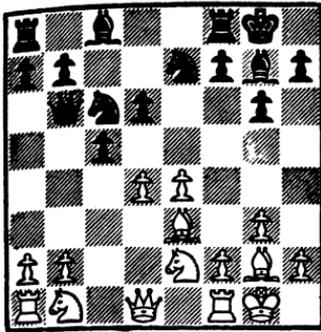
9 ... KPxP!

An improvement on 9 ... BPxP 10 PxP P-Q1 11 QN-B3 PxQP 12 KNxP PxP 13 NxN NxN 14 B-B5 QxQ 15 QRxQ R-Q1 with a level game. Pachman-Lehmann, Mariánské Lázně 1960.

10 PxP Q-N3!

Now White is embarrassed for a good move since 11 PxP PxP 12 QN-B3 QxP 13 R-QN1 Q-R6 14 R-N3 Q-R3! 15 BxP R-Q1 leaves Black with a nice initiative with Q-B5 or N-K4-Q6.

coming up. However this was a better alternative than the line chosen by White.



- 11 QN—B3 P×P
- 12 N—R4 Q—R4
- 13 NxP N—K4
- 14 B—Q2

Before Black goes N-B5 and B-Q2 exploiting the awkward posting of the enemy minor pieces.

- 14 ... Q—R3
- 15 B—N5

This to and froing with the bishop is a clear sign that White is in difficulties. However 15 B-QB3? would lose material after 15 ... P-QN4 16 P-B4 N-N5 17 P-K5 N-K6 18 Q-K2 NxB. White thus hopes to gain time by attacking a loose enemy minor piece. Tal however gets in first.

- 15 ... B—N5!
- 16 P—B3

Or 16 Q-N3 N/2-B3 17 NxN PxN

when the enemy queen will continue to be harried e.g. 18 B-K7 KR-N1 19 Q-B2 R-N5 20 N-B3 (20 P-N3 N-B6+ 21 BxN BxB attacking strongly on the white squares by Q-B1-R6) 20 ... N-B5 21 P-N3 N-R6.

- 16 ... N—Q6!

Tal in full flight. Now 17 PxB BxN+ 18 K-R1 N-B3 and 17 BxN BxN+ 18 K-R1 KR-K1 gives White no respite from the threats of N-B7+ or P-QN4, and 17 N-K2 B-Q2 is equally annoying. It is an interesting feature of the position that the crucial point is the comparative activity of the minor pieces. The isolated QP plays no real role.

- 17 BxN BxN+
- 18 K—R1 KR—K1
- 19 BxP?

A blunder. White can hang on by 19 B-B6! BxB 20 PxB when he had got rid of the N-B7+ threat for the moment. However his immobile bishop remains a handicap and after 20 ... B-Q5 21 Q-B3 N-K4 White still stands much worse.

- 19 ... B—Q2
- 20 Resigns

White had intended 20 N-B5 to save his two attacked pieces and had analysed only 20 ... QxB 21 NxN or 20 ... NxN 21 QxB. Only now did he see the third (and winning) candidate move 20 ... BxN when there follows 21 BxB NxN 22 P-QN4 N-Q6 or 22 ... B-R5 and Black remains a piece up.

24 Amsterdam Interzonal 1964

Black: Tringov Modern Defence

- 1 P—K4 P—KN3
2 P—Q4 B—N2
3 N—QB3 P—Q3
4 N—B3

A solid line from Tal instead of the more aggressive 4 P-B4 when however Black can try the "hedgehog" move 4 ... P-QB3 with rather more effect. This game was played in the last round and a solid opening seemed appropriate as Tal was not obliged to play for a win in order to qualify for the 1965 Candidates Matches.

- 4 ... P—QB3

4 ... N-KB3 transposes to more usual lines but the text making his queen more mobile and preparing P-QN4 if necessary is not as ridiculous as it seems at first sight. 4 ... B-N5 to put pressure on White's Q4 is also playable.

- 5 B—KN5 Q—N3

The beginning of a dubious manoeuvre that comes more and more to look like the rush of the Gaderene swine.

- 6 Q—Q2

What else would one expect from Tal?

- 6 ... QxNP?

He could still get a game of sorts by 6 ... B-N5 7 0—0—0 N-QR3.

- 7 R—QN1 Q—R6

- 8 B—QB4 Q—R4

- 9 0—0 P—K3

Naturally Black must try to keep lines closed given his backward development and must also avoid creating weak squares. The text weakens his Q3 so 9 ... Q-B2 looks a sounder alternative with the sort of

position that Steinitz liked to defend. Shamkovich in his recent book "*The Sacrifice in Chess*" (Moscow 1971) suggests 9 ... N-Q2 with the same idea, and if 10 P-K5 then 10 ... N-N3 and 11 ... P-Q4 but not 10 ... PxP? 11 KR-K1 PxP 12 BxKP Nx B 13 RxN+ etc.

- 10 KR—K1 P—QR3

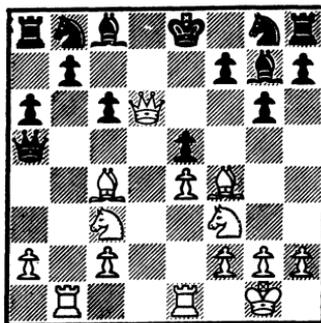
10 ... N-Q2 is met by 11 N-N5! QxQ 12 NxP+.

- 11 B—B4 P—K4?

The line opening he should avoid like the plague. 11 ... Q-B2 was still correct when Shamkovich gives 12 P-K5 P-Q4 13 BxQP! N-K2! 14 B-QN3 with advantage.

- 12 PxP PxP

- 13 Q—Q6!



A brilliant concept occupying the weak point and giving Black a choice of which minor pieces to capture. Tal likes to comment about such situations that Black can only take one piece at a time! Now if 13 ... PxB then

14 N-Q5! PxN 15 PxP+ B-K3 16 PxB P-B3 17 RxP threatening both 18 RxN+ and 18 RxB. Hence Black hurries to capture the knight before it can play to Q5 and thereby loses quickly. A Steinitz would have reasoned that the White queen was far too strongly placed and by 13 ... Q-Q1 or even better 13 ... B-B1!! would have sought exchanges that would have prevented the debacle that now follows. After 13 ... B-B1 Black does indeed threaten 14 ... PxB if the queen retreats so White is forced to exchange queens by 14 QxKP+ when he still has a big advantage because of his superior development which he can use in variations such as 13 ... B-B1 14 QxKP+ QxQ 15 BxQP-B3 16 B-Q4 N-Q2 17 N-KN5! or 17 P-K5 followed by 18 P-K6. To the best of my knowledge no annotator has ever pointed out this defensive possibility. All the commentators assumed that Black must lose

quickly by force.

13 ... QxN
14 KR-Q1 N-Q2

If 14 ... B-Q2 15 RxP or if 14 ... Q-R1 15 RxP! BxR 16 BxP+ KxB 17 N-N5+, 18 Q-K6+ and 19 Q-B7 mate. The text blocks the QB's defence of e6, so White can play the bishop sacrifice without sacrificing the rook first.

15 BxP+ KxB
16 N-N5+ K-K1
17 Q-K6+ Resigns

If 17 ... N-K2 then 18 Q-B7+ and 19 N-K6 mate while 18 ... K-Q1 19 N-B7+ K-B2 20 Q-Q6 mate is equally pretty.

This game looks for all the world like the 20th century equivalent of Morphy versus the Count and the Duke. It is hard to believe that Black was a grandmaster, (raised to that high rank two years previously) but in the last round of a long and tiring event strange things can happen!

25 USSR Team Championship 1964

White: Smyslov

English Opening

1 P-QB4 P-KN3
2 N-QB3 B-N2
3 P-KN3 P-QB4
4 B-N2 N-QB3
5 P-N3

Smyslov is fond of the double franchetto opening. Tal counters in a way which is considered one of Black's most promising lines

breaking symmetry and defending his Q4 square against a possible N-Q5 later.

5 ... P-K3
6 B-N2 KN-K2
7 N-R4

Another favoured idea of Smyslov giving up time to play later against weakened black squares.

7 ... BxB
8 NxB 0-0

Not 8...P-N3 9 P-Q4! PxP 10 N-B3
P-K4? 11 NxBP.

9 P-K3 P-Q4
10 N-B3

Smyslov-Fischer Palma Interzonal
1970 went 10 PxP NxP 11 N-K2 P-N3
12 P-Q4? B-R3! 13 PxP Q-B3! with a
powerful initiative for Black.

10 ... N-B4

Black does well to rule out P-Q4 as
10...P-N3 11 0-0 B-N2 12 P-Q4 would
give White good chances of playing
his knights to QB4 and Q4 after
appropriate pawn exchanges.

11 0-0 P-N3
12 N-QR4

This move seems a confession of
failure by White since he has to lose
more time to get a decent square for
the knight. However 12 P-Q4 BPxP
13 NxP QNxN 14 PxN B-R3! gives
Black good tactical chances.

12 ... B-N2
13 PxP PxP
14 P-Q3

The best pawn formation for
White as 14 P-Q4 PxP 15 P-KN4 (15
PxP Q-B3!) 15...N-R5 16 NxQP NxN
17 QxN NxB 18 KxN R-K1 19 N-B3
R-B1 20 QR-B1 RxN! 21 RxR R-K5
and 22 ... P-Q5 is good for Black.

14 ... Q-B3
15 Q-Q2 QR-Q1
16 KR-Q1 KR-K1
17 QR-N1

The plan of P-QR3, P-QN4 etc.
often comes in the English but here it
is out of place, and would have been
better tried as long ago as move five!
Simply 17 QR-B1 was correct.

17 ... N-Q3

Now Black has a flexible position
and is able to react vigorously to
White's logical moves e.g. 18 P-Q4
N-K5 or 18 N-B3 N-N5 19 P-QR3 P-
Q5.

18 N-K1 P-Q5!

19 P-K4

Otherwise 19...PxP and 20...N-N5,
but now Black has the advantage
since White's bishop is muffled in
effect and the QN still lacks a good
square.

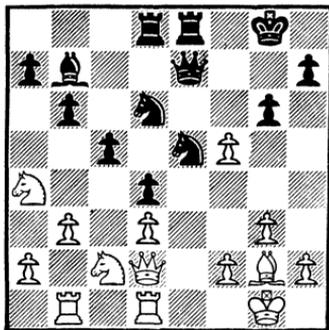
19 ... Q-K2

20 N-B2

Still playing for P-QN4, but the
plan proves too slow. 20 P-B4 to meet
20...P-B4 by 21 P-K5 is called for with
a playable game.

20 ... P-B4!

21 PxP N-K4!



Threatening 22...BxB 23 KxB Q-
N2+ with a strong attack.

22 P-B4 N-B6+

Now 22...BxB 23 QxB is all right
for White, but not the greedy 23 PxN
B-R1 24 PxN Q-QN2.

23 BxN BxB

24 R-K1 Q-K7!

Perhaps this was what White
missed when he played 20 N-B2.

25 RxQ RxR

26 QxR

With both players short of time

Smyslov takes the safe way. 26 Q-B1 R-N7+ 27 K-B1 RxRP 28 N-K1 B-Q4 29 R-N2 R-R8+ 30 K-B2 R-K1 leaves White with a wretched game with N-B4 or N-B2-R3-N5+ as threats hard to parry.

26 ... BxQ
27 N-N2

Again a sober defensive move is called for, since 27 PxP BxP 28 PxP+ KxP 29 R-QB1 R-K1 30 N-K1 B-N4 31 N-QN2 R-K7 32 N1-Q3 R-Q7 is very powerful. Black's QP in conjunction with the rook on the 7th, bishop on QB3 and N-B4-K6 would be much stronger than the three united pawns which are too far back to have much influence.

27 ... PxP

The right recapture reducing the mobility of White's K side pawn majority, and preventing N-QB4-K5.

28 R-K1 B-R4
29 N-B4

Not 29 R-K7 R-K1! 30 RxQR? R-K7!

29 ... NxN
30 NPxN R-K1

Black has no passed pawn as yet but the chance of attacking the enemy Q side pawns makes a minor piece ending very favourable to him.

31 K-B2 RxR
32 KxR

After this White once again begins to suffer from an immobile knight. Tal thinks 32 NxR hoping to play this piece to K5 was a better defensive chance.

32 ... K-Q2
33 K-Q2 K-K2
34 N-K1 P-QR3
35 P-QR4!

White does well to prevent P-QN4 and after 35...B-K1 36 P-R5 PxP 37 N-B3 the passed QRP is not too formidable. Black does better to keep the knight fettered and proceed

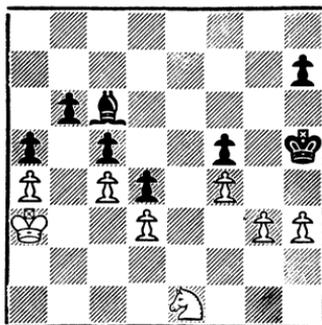
slowly.

35 ... P-R4
36 K-B2 B-K1
37 K-N3

Or 37 N-B3 BxP+ 38 K-N2 P-N4 39 PxP (39 N-K5 P-N5! with two united passed pawns) 39...BxP 40 N-K5 P-R5! (preventing K-N3) 41 K-B2 K-K3 and then K-Q4, P-B5 etc.

37 ... B-B3
38 K-R3 K-B3
39 K-N3 K-N3
40 K-R3 K-R4
41 P-R3

The adjourned position. Tal comments that on looking at it deeply he was surprised to find that if Black's KRP was at R3 a draw would be inevitable!



41 ... K-N3
42 K-N3 K-N2
43 K-R3 K-B3
44 K-N3 B-K1

Aiming for Q8. White still cannot get his knight to K5 since 45 N-B3 B-R4 46 N-K5 B-Q8+ 47 K-R3 K-K3 48 N-B6 B-B7 49 N-K5 P-R3 50 P-N4 B-Q8 is zugzwang.

45 N-N2 B-R4
46 K-B2 B-K7
47 N-K1 B-B8
48 N-B3

Or 48 P-R4 B-K7-R4 then B-K1-B3 and K-R4-N5 etc.

48 ... BxP

At last Black has managed to prepare an entry square for his king.

49 N—N5 B—N7

50 NxP+ K—N2

51 N—N5 K—N3

52 K—Q2 B—B3

53 K—B1 B—N7

53...BxP 54 N-B3 and 55 N-K5+ gives White good fighting chances.

54 K—Q2 K—R4

55 N—K6

Other defences fail e.g. 55 K-K2 K-N5 56 K-B2 B-B3 57 N-B7 BxP 58 N-R6+ K-R4 59 NxP B-Q2 60 N-Q6 P-R5 61 N-K4 P-R6 62 N-Q2 B-R5 and queens, or 55 N-B7 K-N5 56 N-R6+ KxP 57 NxP KxP 58 N-K7 K-K4 59 K-B2 (59 N-B8 B-B3 60 NxP K-Q3 and the knight is trapped) 59...K-K3 60 N-N6 B-B3 61 K-N3 K-B3 62 N-B4 K-B4 and forces his way to K6 to win the QP or QRP.

55 ... K—N5

56 N—B7 B—B3

57 N—Q5 KxP

58 N—K7 B—Q2!

It is much better for Black to leave play on both sides of the board.

59 N—Q5 BxP

60 NxP B—K1

Product of the fatigue induced by long endings! 60...B-B3 61 N-Q5 K-B6 62 N-K7 B-Q2 63 N-Q5 P-R5 is a simple win.

61 N—Q5 K—B6

62 N—B7 B—B3

63 N—K6 P—R5

64 NxBP P—R6

65 N—N3

Or 65 N-K6 P-R7 66 NxP+ KxP 67 N-B2 B-R5 68 N-R1 K-N6 69 K-K2 P-B5 70 K-B1 P-B6 71 P-Q4 B-Q2 and forces the KBP home with check.

65 ... P—R7

66 K—B1 KxP

67 K—N2 K—K6

68 N—R5 B—K1

69 P—B5 P—B5

Time surely to ring down the curtain.

70 P—B6 BxP

71 NxB P—B6

72 N—K5 P—B7

73 Resigns

The QP queens. Tal considers this long struggle one of the best games he has ever played.

26 USSR Team Championship 1964

Black: Lutikov

Queen's Pawn Counter Gambit

1 P—K4 P—K4

2 N—KB3 P—Q4

The Moldavian player has a quite good record against Tal and had been successful before with surprises in the opening, but here he 'overstrains the stick' to quote a Russian proverb.

3 PxP P—K5

4 Q—K2 P—KB4

The innovation. Book play is 4...Q-K2 5 N-Q4 Q-K4 6 N-N5 P-QR3 7 P-Q4! while there is the consistent but bold gambit 4...N-KB3 5 P-Q3 B-K2 6 PxP 0-0.

5 P—Q3 N—KB3

Not 5...QxP 6 QN-Q2 B-N5 7 P-B3 and wins the centre pawn (or 6...N-KB3 7 N-N5!).

6 PxP PxP
7 N-B3 B-QN5

No better is 7...B-K2 8 NxP 0-0 9 NxN+ BxN 10 P-B3 R-K1 11 B-K3 QxP 12 Q-B4 with quite inadequate compensation for the pawn given up by Black.

8 Q-N5+ P-B3

Played after long thought, Black must have now realised that although he had played a gambit it was White who was going to get the attack.

9 QxB PxN
10 B-KN5 PxQP
11 0-0-0 N-B3
12 Q-R3

It was also strong to go 12 Q-B5 though Black could then cut his losses by going for an exchange of queens by 12...Q-K2.

12 ... B-K3

Now 12...Q-K2 13 NxP QxQ 14 N-B7+ and 15 PxQ leaves Black in a dubious state with 16 B-KB4 coming up.

13 B-QB4

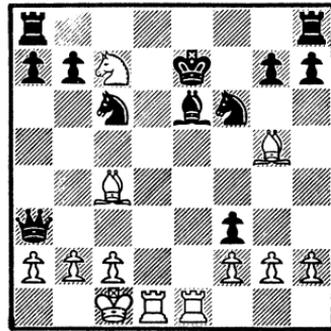
Embarras de richesse. 13 R-K1 and 13 N-N5 were also very good. However Tal prefers to go for a combination involving a queen sacrifice.

13 ... Q-K2
14 NxP QxQ

Obviously not 14...BxN 15 KR-K1.

15 N-B7+ K-K2
16 KR-K1!

White could get a good ending by 16 BxB! (16 PxQ? BxB) 16...Q-Q3 (Queen elsewhere 17 R-Q7+ K-B1 18 R-B7+ K-N1 19 RxN mate) 17 RxQ KxR 18 B-B4+ N-K4 19 NxR KxB 20 N-B7+ K-B4 21 BxN KxB 22 N-N5 but the text is far more forcing.



16 ... Q-B4

Other queen moves are worse e.g. 16...Q-Q3 17 RxQ KxR 18 NxB and 19 B-KB4+ is a very nasty threat, while 16...Q-R4 17 RxB+ K-B1 18 B-B4 R-Q1 19 RxR+ NxR 20 B-Q6+ K-B2 21 R-K5+ K-N3 22 RxQPxP 23 B-Q3+ allows White to prevent the pawn from queening by an eventual R-KN5.

17 RxB+ K-B1
18 RxN+! PxR
19 N-K6+ K-K2

Not 19...K-K1 when the rooks cannot be united and there will soon be a nasty threat to pin by B-N5.

20 NxQ PxB
21 R-Q7+ K-B3
22 R-Q6+ K-K2

If the king advances to B4 then 23 PxP robbing the monarch of a flight square and ready to continue the attack by B-Q3+ or R-B7+.

23 R-K6+ K-Q1

Or 23...K-B1 24 PxP intending 25 NxP or R-B6+.

24 NxP+ K-B2

Or 24...K-Q2 25 B-Q5 N-Q5 26 N-B5+ K-B2 27 BxR NxR 28 NxN+ K-Q3 29 NxP RxB 30 NxP.

25 B-Q5! N-N5

The only way to keep the game going was 25...PxP 26 RxN+ KxN 27 R-KN6+ K-B2 28 RxNP QR-K1 and White still has to work a bit to realise

his material advantage of B+3P v R.

26 BxP QR-K1

27 N-B5 NxP+?

This loses the knight, as exchanging rooks loses the KNP there was little hope left.

28 K-N1 RxR

Or 28...N-N5 29 P-B3 RxR (29...N-Q6 30 RxR) 30 NxR+ K-Q2

(30...K-Q3 31 NxP N-Q6 32 N-B7+) 31 N-B5+.

29 NxR+ K-Q2

30 N-B5+ K-Q3

31 N-Q3

The most accurate and Black ^{now} resigned. 31 N-R6 or 31 N-N7 also win, but 31 N-K4+ K-K4 32 KxN p. N5 is not so clear.

27 Kislovodsk 1964

Black: Liberzon Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB4

2 N-KB3 N-QB3

3 P-Q4 PxP

4 NxP N-B3

5 N-QB3 P-K3

A rather old-fashioned system against which White is supposed to get a slight but persistent advantage.

6 KN-N5

Tal has always been well known for his wide opening knowledge and goes straight away into the main line. If he had been worried about falling into a prepared line he would probably have played the promising pawn sacrifice line 6 B-K2 B-N5 7 0-0! BxN 8 PxB NxP 9 B-Q3! and if 9...NxQBP then 10 Q-N4 etc.

6 ... B-N5

7 P-QR3

Again the main line. 7 B-KB4 NxP! 8 N-B7+ K-K2 is a fascinating gambit line, whose depths have not yet been thoroughly plumbed though Black has good chances.

7 ... BxN+

8 NxB P-Q4

9 PxP NxP

Allowing Tal to get the sort of piece play game which he loves. 9...PxP 10 B-Q3 0-0 or even 10...P-Q5 11 N-K2 B-B4 are lines which Tal would not have liked to face — he has always been an advocate of playing with the isolated QP rather than against it.

10 B-Q2!

10 NxN QxN! 11 QxQ PxQ is very drawish despite White's two bishops.

10 ... 0-0

Not 10...NxN 11 BxN QxQ+ 12 RxQ which is in White's favour especially in view of his Q side pawn majority, and the difficulty Black has in getting his QB into play. However in view of White's powerful next move Black should have tried 10...Q-R5 when since 11 B-Q3 0-0 12 0-0 N-K4 is pretty drawish White has to try 11 Q-B3 to castle long. Nor is 10...P-K4 an improvement e.g. 11 Q-R5 0-0 12 B-Q3 N-B3 13 Q-R4 P-K5 14 B-QB4 N-Q5 15 0-0-0 B-N5 16 B-KN5! when Black's initiative peters out and White has powerful threats. Tal-Peterson Latvian Championship

1965. (See Winning Practice 12 for the end of this game).

11 Q—R5! N×N
 Too complaisant, Tal suggests 11...Q-B3 though after 12 B-Q3 Q-K4+ 13 Q-K3! White stands better. Nor is 11...N-B3 12 Q-R4 Q-Q5 very effective in view of 13 B-KN5 R-Q1 14 QxQ R×Q 15 B-Q3 P-QN3 16 0-0-0 B-N2 17 N-N5-R-KN5 18 B×N with a superior ending (analysis by Boleslavsky).

12 B×N P—K4
 13 B--Q3 P—KN3

Deciding to weaken his black squares in return for a tempo 13...P-KR3 looks slightly sounder.

14 Q—R6 Q—B3
 15 0—0!

The point of Black's last two moves was to meet 15 0-0-0 by 15...B-B4 whereas now 15...B-B4 is strongly met by 16 P-B4 B×B 17 P×B with pressure on the long black diagonal. Tal commented that he did not fancy the ending resulting from 17...Q-N2, and would have preferred 16 B×B Q×B 17 P-B4 keeping queens on and hoping for the error 17...QxQBP? 18 P×P N-Q1 19 P-K6! N×P 20 QR-K1 and 21 R×N.

15 ... Q—N2
 16 Q—K3

Again rejecting a favourable ending (16 QxQ+ KxQ 17 P-B4 and 18 QR-K1 or 18 B-K4) to keep alive tactical chances such as 16...B-K3 17 P-B4 P-B3 18 P×P N×P 19 B×N P×B 20 R×R+ R×R 21 QxRP or 18...P×P 19 B-N5! Black therefore decides he must radically prevent P-B4 despite the weaknesses which appear on his white squares.

16 ... P—KN4
 17 P—KR4 P—KR3

Not the illogical 17...P×P when after 18 P-B4 P-R6 19 R-B2 and 20 K-R2 White has excellent attacking

prospects.

18 P×P P×P
 Or 18...Q×P 19 P-B4! P×P 20 R×P.
 19 P—B3

Preparing K-B2, R-KR1 etc. 19 P-B4?! NP×P 20 R×P P×R 21 QxBP P-B3 22 B-B4+ K-R2 23 K-B2 fails to 23 ... Q-R3!

19 ... B—K3
 20 K—B2 N—Q5
 21 QR—K1

Before Black can get in B-B4 or N-B4 closing the dangerous White square attacking diagonal at the cost of a pawn.

21 ... N—B3

Naturally not 21...P-B3? 22 B×N winning a piece.

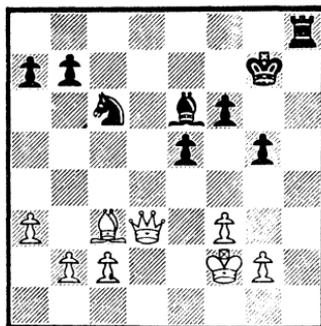
22 R—KR1

Not to be bought off by the KP!

22 ... P—B3

Whereas after the weakening 22 ... P-B4 White would take the KP with much more effect.

23 R—R7 Q×R
 24 B×Q+ K×B
 25 Q—Q3+ K—N2
 26 R—KR1 R—R1
 27 R×R R×R



Now the win is a matter of technique.

28 Q—Q6 R—K1
 29 P—QN4 P—R3

30 P—R4 K—B2
 31 Q—Q3 K—N2
 32 P—N5 R—Q1
 33 Q—K4 B—Q4

Such positions with queen versus rook and minor piece are not easily won. White must tack about and open lines, while Black can spin the process out quite a long time.

34 Q—KN4 PxP
 35 PxP N—K2
 36 B—N4 N—N3
 37 B—R5 R—QR1

Or 37...R-Q3 38 Q-B8 showing the point of White's 36th.

38 Q—Q7+ B—B2
 39 B—Q8! N—B5
 40 K—N1

Bringing the king to his safest possible square.

40 ... R—R7

41 Q—B5 N—Q4

42 P—QB4 R—R1

Not 42...RxP+ 43 K—R1 winning a piece.

43 Q—Q7 N—B5

44 Q—K7 R—R8+

Or 44 ... N-R4 45 P-B5 forcing the pawn home.

45 K—R2 R—R7

46 QxP+ K—N1

47 QxNP+ B—N3

48 QxP RxP+

49 K—R1 R—Q7

50 QxN RxB

51 Q—B7

and with the loss of his last pawn coming up Black decided to call it a day.

28 Kislovodsk 1964

Black: Fuchs

Q.G.D., Slav Defence

1 P—Q4

Tal does not always play 1 P-K4. Here he wished to avoid the favourite E. German response of 1...P-K3 which, championed by Uhlmann, has been their favourite and much researched defence for two decades.

1 ... P—Q4
 2 P—QB4 P—QB3
 3 N—QB3 N—B3
 4 P—K3 B—B4

Black in his turn produces a surprise. Tal had expected a Meran variation and had something prepared.

5 PxP PxP
 Not 5...NxP 6 B-B4 P-K3 7 KN-K2

threatening P-K4 or N-N3 (Alekhine-Opocensky Paris 1925).

6 Q—N3 Q—N3

Another attempt to throw Tal out of his stride, 6...B-B1 is correct (6 P-QN3? 7 B-N5+ winning the QP) when after 7 N-B3 P-K3 8 N-K5 N-B3 9 P-B1 White has a powerful position.

7 NxP NxN
 8 QxN Q—N5+

In his notes Tal confesses that only at this point did he remember that in a 1957 match Denmark-USSR Student Team and Trainers a game Averbakh-Enevoldsen had gone 9 B-Q2 QxNP 10 Q-N5+ with 9

favourable ending. Fuchs had seen the whole idea in a game Uhlmann-Enevoldsen, and must have thought Black could equalise.

9 B-Q2 QxNP
10 R-B1

The game was played in the last round, Tal and Shtein were level on points with Averbakh half a point behind, so Tal welcomes the chance to play a more complicated line.

10 ... B-Q2

He must not allow B-N5+ or R-B8+ (10...P-K3??).

11 N-B3 P-K3
12 Q-B4 N-B3
13 B-K2

White thought a long time here since 13 B-Q3 N-N5 14 B-K4 R-B1 15 QxR+ BxQ 16 RxB+ was very tempting. Tal in fact claims to have analysed a further ten moves deep without being sufficiently convinced by it. Hence the more mature approach of the text, agreeing to exchange queens in a more favourable form than Averbakh against Enevoldsen.

13 ... B-N5

Black could try the tricky 13...R-B1 14 0-0 N-K4 but after 15 NxN! RxQ 16 NxR QxRP 17 R-R1 Q-B7 18 RxP Black's lack of development is too serious for him to survive long. (18...P-QN1 19 R-B1 or 18...B-K2 19 R-R8+ B-Q1 20 R-B1 and 21 N-Q6+ or 21 B-QN4).

14 BxB QxR/5+
15 QxQ NxQ
16 R-B7!

The threat of 17 N-K5 must be met and White can afford to ignore the threat to the RP (16...NxP 17 N-K5 R-Q1? 18 NxB RxN 19 B-N5 or 17...B-R5 18 RxBP 0-0-0 19 K-Q2 etc.).

16 ... B-B3
17 N-K5 0-0

Even worse is 17...BxP 18 R-N1 B-Q4 19 RxKNP with two fearsome rooks on the seventh.

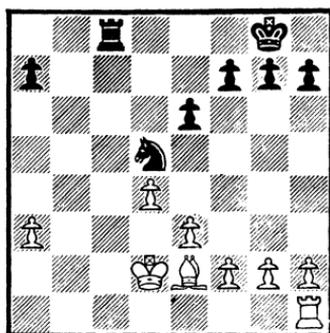
18 NxB PxN

Black could put up a tougher resistance by 18...NxN hoping for 19 RxNP QR-N1! but after 19 0-0 QR-N1 20 R-N1 White wins a pawn (20...N-R4 21 R-N5) or leaves Black terribly passive (20...N-Q1 21 B-B3).

19 P-QR3 N-Q4

A Bitter necessity as after 19...N-B7+ 20 K-Q2 NxRP 21 R-R1 N-N4 22 RxQBP the QRP is lost at once and the knight is not well placed.

20 RxQBP KR-B1
21 RxR+ RxR
22 K-Q2



One of those rare examples where Tal is called upon to show endgame technique, though not of a very high order since he has an extra pawn and a good bishop.

22 ... P-N3
Not 22...R-B6? 23 P-K4.
23 B-B3 N-N3
24 R-QB1 RxR

Otherwise the rook comes to the seventh.

25 KxR K-B1

In such endings one has to watch out for the knight being trapped (25...N-B5 26 B-K2! NxRP? 27 B-Q3).

26 K-B2 K-K2
27 K-B3 P-QR4

92 Appointment with Destiny

28 P—KR4

The king has been shut out by knight and pawn so a K sideadvance is called for.

28 ... P—R3

29 P—K4 P—B3

30 P—K5

Before he gets his KP fixed on the same colour as his bishop by 30 ... P—K4.

30 ... K—B2

31 B—B6 K—K2

32 P—B4 K—B2

33 P—N3 K—K2

34 P—N4 P—N4

Otherwise P—N5 fixing all the pawns for attack by his bishop.

35 PxP+ KxP

36 BPxP+ PxP

37 P—R5 K—N2

38 P—Q5! PxP

39 K—Q4 N—B5

40 B—N5!

More convincing than 40 P—R4 K—B3 and 41 ... N—K4.

40 ... N—Q3

40 ... NxP 41 B—Q3 is hopeless as 41 ... N—B5 must be played to avoid having the knight trapped and then 42 BxN PxB 43 KxP is a won k-p ending.

41 B—Q3 N—K1

42 B—B5 N—B3

43 K—K5 Resigns

The threat of 44 P—R6+ forces the knight to retreat and Black's pawns are going to disappear while the king is always tied down to the square of the KRP (43 ... N—N1 44 KxPN—R3 45 B—K6 K—B3 46 K—Q6 etc.).

29 32nd USSR Championship 1964-65

Black: Krogius

Ruy Lopez

1 P—K4 P—K4

2 N—KB3 N—QB3

3 B—N5 P—QR3

4 B—R4 N—B3

5 0—0 B—K2

6 R—K1 P—QN4

7 B—N3 0—0

8 P—B3 P—Q3

9 P—KR3 N—N1

10 P—Q4 QN—Q2

11 B—N5 B—N2

12 QN—Q2 P—KR3

13 B—KR4 N—R2

14 B—N3 B—KB3

15 Q—K2 N—N4

16 QR—Q1 R—K1

16 ... NxN+ seems more logical after all his efforts to get the knight to KN4. Then after 17 NxN Q—K2 Black has a solid position. As an example of the richness of Tal's fantasy his second Koblents pointed out that Tal had analysed in that event the amusing win 18 PxP PxP 19 N—R4 BxN 20 BxB P—N4? 21 Q—R5 (threat 22 Q—N6+) K—N2 P—N4? 21 Q—R5 (threat 22 Q—N6+) K—N2 22 BxNP! PxB 23 RxN QxR 24 QxNP+ K—R2 25 Q—R5+ K—N2 26 R—K3 R—KN1 27 R—B3 and if 27 ... QR—KB1 then 28 Q—N5+, 29 Q—R4+ and 30 R—N3+. However this variation is certainly not

forced

17 P x P N x N+
18 N x N P x P

This leaves a nasty pin on the Q file so 18 ... KB x P is better.

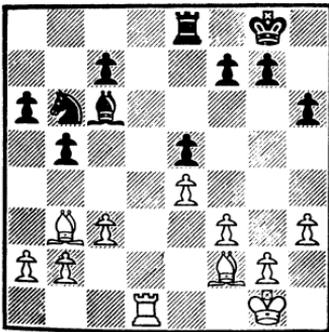
19 N—R4!

Now the real game begins!

19 ... B x N
20 Q—N4 N—B3
21 R x Q N x Q
22 R x QR B x R
23 B x B N—B3
24 P—B3

As a result of the tactics White has a promising ending with two strong bishops in a fairly open position.

24 ... N—Q2
25 B—KB2 B—B3
26 R—Q1 N—N3?



Black's last three moves were designed to block the Q file against an entry by the White rook, and yet suddenly Black allows an entry at his Q3. Why? The answer is to be found in one of Krogius' books on the psychology of chess — "*Chelovek v. Shakhmatak*" 1967 (*The Human Element in Chess*) — where he comments "Black has the inferior position, but there is no reason for any panic yet. He should consider playing 26 ... K-B1 followed by K-K2.

White could hardly break through then despite his two far-ranging bishops ... In analysing the variations arising from 26 ... N-N3 I naturally considered 27 B x N but after that move I thought that only 28 B-Q5 was a possible follow-up, as my QBP remained where it was in my mental analysis. ... I remember how I gazed at the board in surprise after Tal's 28 R-Q6. ... I simply could not believe my eyes, but it remained a fact that the QBP which it was so essential to have on its original square had in fact quitted that square in accordance with the rules of chess."

Krogius then goes on to discuss this common phenomenon in mental analysis and gives it the name of "residual image."

27 B x N P x B
28 R—Q6 R—QB1
29 R—K6

A pretty move that emphasises the strength of the Lopez bishop, but there was also a more prosaic winning line 29 B-Q5 B x B 30 P x B R-B4 31 R x NP R x QP 32 R x RP R-Q8+ 33 K-R2 R-Q7 34 P-N4 and 35 R-R5 with two united passed pawns on the Q side.

29 ... P x R
30 B x P+ K—B1
31 B x R P—QR4
32 K—B2 K—K2
33 P—QN4 P x P
34 P x P K—B3
35 K—K3 P—N4
36 P—N3 B—K1
37 P—B4 NP x P+

This makes White's task easier. Black should have left the pawn structure unchanged, thus denying the use of KN3 to the enemy king.

38 P x P B—B3
39 K—B3 B—K1
40 P—R3 B—R4+

41 B—N4 B—K1
 42 K—N3 B—B2
 43 B—Q7 B—B5
 44 K—B3 B—B8
 45 B—B8 B—B5
 46 K—K3 B—B2
 47 B—Q7
 A little cat and mouse play never

comes amiss in an ending and often induces inaccuracies in the defence.
 47 ... B—B5
 48 P—KR4 K—K2
 And Black resigned without playing on as 49 B-B8 wins (49 ... K-Q3 or 49 ... K-B3 50 B-R6 and then 51 P-R4 winning a second pawn).

30 32nd USSR Championship 1964-65

Black: Vasiukov Caro-Kann Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB3
 2 N—QB3 P—Q4
 3 P—Q4 PxP
 4 NxP N—Q2
 5 N—KB3

A typical psychological nuance. As Black rarely plays the Caro-Kann Tal chooses an older line which, as he put it, demanded considerable experience of Caro-Kann play to meet successfully.

5 ... KN—B3
 6 N—N3 P—K3
 7 B—Q3 P—B4
 8 0—0 PxP
 9 NxP B—B4
 10 N—B3

More logical than 10 N-N3 B-N3 (Bilek-Smyslov, Olympiad 1964) when the knight blocks White's pawn majority. The knight is kept nearer the K side for an attack on the black monarch.

10 ... 0—0
 11 Q—K2 P—QN3
 11 ... Q-B2 preventing 12 B-KB4 is better.

12 B—KB4 B—N2

The lack of experience mentioned above begins to show itself. Black should harass the enemy bishop by 12 ... N-Q4 13 B-KN5 and after 13 ... Q-B2 14 Q-K4 comes 14 ... KN-B3! as after 15 QxR B-N2 Black may even stand better as the White rooks cannot be easily deployed due to the absence of an obvious target.

13 QR—Q1

Not 13 P-B4 Q-B1 followed by 14 ... Q-B3 whereas after the text the Black queen can be driven away from its QB3 by B-QN5.

13 ... N—Q4
 14 B—KN5 Q—B2
 15 N—R5!

Threatening 16 P-B4 N-N5 (16 ... KN-B3 17 NxN+ NxN 18 N-K5 with strong pressure) 17 BxP+ KxB 18 RxN QxR 19 N-K5 Q-Q5 20 N-B6+ and 21 Q-R5+ mating quickly.

15 ... K—R1!

Vasiukov now plays an accurate series of moves to repulse the main threats. The KRP cannot now be captured with check and as his KN²

is a weak point he prepares to play R-KN1 to bolster up that point.

16 B-K4 P-B3!

He cannot play 16 ... P-B4 as after 17 BxN BxB 18 N-B4 the apparently strong 18 ... B-B5 (19 QxB? BxP+) loses to 19 RxN!

17 B-R4

17 B-KB4 looks strong, but after 17 ... NxB 18 NxN QxN! 19 BxB QR-Q1 20 QxP N-K4! White has no advantage as 21 RxR RxR 22 NxN? loses to 22 ... QxBP+.

17 ... B-Q3

Now Black has only to get in N-B4 and he would have taken over the initiative.

18 P-B4 B-R3!

Now White has to play forcefully as 19 B-Q3 N-B5 20 NxN BxN 21 QxP N-B4 is not good for him due to the loss of the QBP. 19 BxRP fails to 19 ... KxB 20 Q-K4+ K-R1! 21 QxP BxBP. Hence ...

19 NxNP! KxN

Not 19 ... N-B5 20 Q-Q2.

20 N-Q4 N-B4

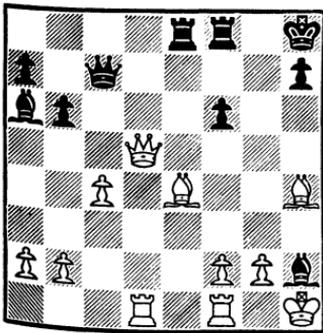
21 Q-N4+ K-R1

22 NxP NxN

23 QxN QR-K1

24 QxN BxP+

25 K-R1



All this was practically forced after the knight sacrifice. Now Black has a

difficult choice. 25 ... BxP loses to 26 Q-KB5 threatening 27 R-Q7 or 27 BxP+. He should probably try 25 ... QxP and after 26 QxQ BxQ 27 KR-K1 White's slight advantage in the ending is probably not enough to force a win.

25 ... Q-B5

Very tempting as it attacks both bishops, but Black must have underestimated the strength of White's next move.

26 Q-KR5 QxKB

Not 24 ... RxB 25 R-Q7.

27 KR-K1

27 QR-K4 was stronger so that the rook cannot be taken with check later on.

27 ... Q-N3

Taking the two rooks for the queen would leave his king exposed to attack on the black squares which his white square bishop cannot defend.

28 QxQ

Tal's initial intention some moves back was 28 BxP+ QxB (not 28 ... K-N1 29 Q-Q5+ Q-B2 30 RxR RxR 31 KxB with advantage) 29 RxR but now he found that after 29 ... B-Q3 30 RxR+ QxR! 31 R-K1 QxP Black is quite safe and even has serious threats of his own.

28 ... PxQ?

Another curious psychological point. Vasiukov was seriously short of time and had concentrated all his attention on the variations beginning 28 BxP+, and now is so glad to exchange queens that he fails to see that the intermediate 28 ... RxR+ leaves a drawn ending with equal material and opposite bishops.

29 BxP+

Now however White remains a pawn ahead and his bishop is very actively placed.

29 ... K-N1

30 R×R R×R
 31 K×B B×P
 32 R—Q7 R—K3!

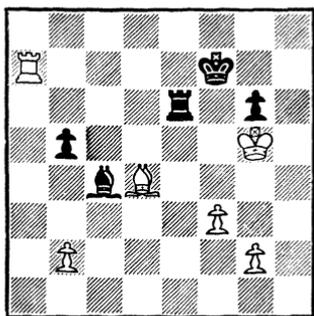
Guarding his KNP as if 33 R-N7+
 K-B1 34 R×NP? K-B2! 35 R-N4 B-K7!

33 B—B3 B×P
 34 R×P B—B5
 35 K—N3 B—Q1

Typical time trouble play
 proceeding from one move to the
 next without any clear plan.

36 P—B3 K—B1
 37 B—Q1 P—QN4
 38 K—B4 B—B5
 39 K—N5 K—K1
 40 R—R8+ K—B2
 41 R—R7+

The sealed move. Despite the
 opposite bishops Black cannot hold
 the position as all White's pieces
 cooperate in the attack.



41 ... K—K1
 42 P—QN4 B—Q1
 43 R—R3 K—B2
 44 P—N4 R—K7
 45 B—B5 R—K1
 46 K—R6 R—K3
 47 R—Q3 B—B3
 48 R—Q8 R—K1
 49 R—Q4!

The position White has been
 aiming for. His threat to win the
 KNP by 50 R-B4+ forces Black into
 an awkward defensive position in
 which he will have to move his king
 away from its present good defensive
 position.

49 ... R—K3
 50 P—B4 K—K1

Or 50 ... B-K1 51 R-Q8 R-K8 52 R-
 R8 and then 53 R-R7+.

51 K—N7 B—K5
 52 B—N6! B—B6
 53 R—Q8+ K—K2
 54 R—Q3+ B—K7

Or 54 ... B×P 55 B-Q8+ K-K1 56 B-
 N5 and the long threatened mating
 net finally enmeshes its victim.

55 B—Q8+ K—K1
 56 R—Q2 R—K6
 57 B—N5 B—Q6
 58 P—B5 Resings

The rook is attacked and if 58 ... R-
 N6 then 59 P-B6 and the pawn
 queens — 59 ... B-B5 60 P-B7+ B×P 61
 R-Q8 mate.

31 Latvian Championship 1965 Black: Zhuravlev Old Indian Defence

1 P—QB4

Tal in his notes joked that up to 1963 he was not an invariable 1 P-K4 player, but as he had had to write notes on the Botvinnik-Petrosian 1963 match in which not a single Kings Pawn was played he had gone 1 P-K4 regularly in protest (!) in the two years following the match. Now he had got bored with that!

1 ... P—K4
2 N—QB3 N—KB3
3 P—KN3 P—B3

The Keres system which Tal had used with little success in his 1961 match with Botvinnik.

4 N—B3 P—Q3

Taking fright and agreeing to play a cramped defence rather than follow up logically with 4 ... P-K5 5 N-Q4 P-Q4.

5 B—N2 B—K2
6 0—0 0—0
7 P—Q4 Q—B2

Why commit the queen so early? 7 ... QN-Q2 is the standard move, whereas now Tal can bring the game to life by a sharp line.

8 P—B5

Objectively 8 P-K4 is best, but the text makes more demands on Black's own chess ability than on his memory! Thus 8 ... QP x P 9 P x K P or 8 ... KP x P 9 P x P B x P 10 N x P R-Q1 11 Q-B2 are in White's favour (11 ... B x P? 12 RP x B R x N 13 N-N5).

8 ... QN—Q2
9 BP x P B x P
10 B—N5 B—K2

The threat was 11 P x P N x P 12 B x N or 11 ... B x P 12 N x B with two bishops in an open position.

11 Q—B2 Q—R4
12 B—Q2

It is an interesting comment on the care with which leading players build up their position in the opening that the clocks now showed 1 hour 10 minutes taken by White compared to one hour by Black. The text seems not quite as good as 12 P-QR3 P x P 13 P-QN4 Q-N3 14 N-QR4 Q-N4 15 P-R3 preventing the harried queen from getting to KR4.

12 ... P x P
13 N x P Q—R4
14 N—B5 B—Q1

Less good is 14 ... B-B4 15 N-QR4, but now that White has ruled out B-QB4 he can play the following cramping move to prevent N-K4.

15 P—B4 P—KN3!

Black must drive away the knight and play to free his queen. 15 ... B-N3+ 16 P-K3 achieves nothing, and 15 ... N-N3 16 P-K4 is clearly good for White.

16 N—KR4 N—N5

The queen would merely get from the frying pan into the fire after 16 ... Q-QB4+ 17 K-R1 N-N5 18 N-B3 N-B7+? 19 R x N Q x R 20 P-K3.

17 N—K4!

The move Tal based all his hopes on 17 N-B3 would simply lose the exchange to 17 ... B-N3+ 18 K-R1 N-B7+.

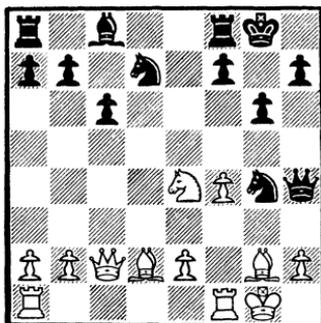
17 ... B x N

After 20 minutes thought which left Black only quarter of an hour for his remaining 23 moves Black goes wrong and allows Tal his expected attack on the weakened black squares. The correct defence was 17

... QN-B3 when after 18 N-N5 P-KR3 the embattled queen is still safe while after 18 N-QB5 N-Q4 Black can still hold his own.

18 PxB QxP

18 ... Q-KB4 was a better idea as Black now has no answer to a series of forceful moves.



19 P-KR3 KN-B3

20 N-N5!

A powerful knight that cannot be dislodged (20 ... P-KR3? 21 B-K1 Q-R4 22 B-KB3 the final triumph of one of White's main ideas).

20 ... N-N3

21 P-K4 B-K3

At this point Black had only five minutes left on his clock compared to Tal's 55 minutes!

22 B-QB3

Now White finally reveals his trump.

22 ... KN-Q2

23 QR-Q1 QR-Q1

A logical move, but the little noticed factor of the unguarded QRP soon plays an important part. After 23 ... B-B5 playing for the trap 24 B-K1? Q-R3 25 RxN? BxR. White would keep up the tension by 24 R-B2 and then continue P-N3 and P-R1 in the game.

24 P-N3! KR-K1

25 P-R4

Driving the enemy back on all fronts, and exploiting the fact that the knight still cannot be driven away (25 ... P-B3? 26 B-K1 Q-R3 27 NxB RxN 28 P-R5 N-R1 29 Q-B1 N-B2 30 P-B5).

25 ... Q-R3

Now Black had just a minute left for the last 15 moves.

26 P-R5 N-QB1

27 B-N2

The battery 28 Q-B3 is prepared, and 27 ... P-B3 still is not playable.

27 ... Q-B1

Hoping for 28 ... Q-B4+ but now that the knight no longer has to be guarded White can push forward with the KBP.

28 P-B5 PxP

29 PxP B-Q4

30 BxB PxB

31 Q-N2!

Not 31 P-B6 Q-B4+. 31 RxP was playable but the text is much stronger, especially against an opponent whose flag is about to fall.

31 ... Q-B4+

32 B-Q4 Resigns

32 ... QxP 33 N-K6 mate is a pretty picture of a finish.

32 4th Game, Match 1965 Black: Portisch French Defence

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-K3 |
| 2 | P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 3 | N-QB3 | N-KB3 |

An unusual move in modern praxis where 3 ... B-N5 is almost de rigueur.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 4 | B-N5 | PxP |
| 5 | NxP | QN-Q2 |

Now the opening choice becomes clearer since in this system Petrosian scored a quick win against Tal at Curacao 1962.

- | | | |
|---|-------|------|
| 6 | NxN+ | NxN |
| 7 | N-B3 | P-B4 |
| 8 | B-QB4 | |

This natural developing move is much better than the artificial 8 Q-Q3 which Tal produced after an hour's thought in Curacao. Then after 8 ... B-K2 9 BxN BxB 10 Q-N5+ B-Q2! 11 QxNP R-QN1 12 QxRP RxP 13 B-Q3 PxP Petrosian's strong QP and two bishops gave him a quick win.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 8 | ... | PxP |
| 9 | 0-0 | B-K2 |
| 10 | Q-K2 | P-KR3 |

In playing the Rubinstein variation Black does best to act in accordance with the Steinitzian principle of not touching any of the pawns in front of his king. 10 ... N-Q4 playing for exchanges seems best, or else the ambitious 10 ... 0-0 11 KR-Q1 Q-N3 12 NxP QxP 13 N-B5 B-Q1 and White may not have enough compensation for the pawn.

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 11 | B-B4 | 0-0 |
| 12 | QR-Q1 | B-Q2 |

We now come to a most curious state of affairs showing how difficult it can be at times to reconcile

differing versions in chess reports. In his notes to this game Tal mentions his games with Petrosian and Benko from Curacao, quotes a few moves from the former after Black's 5th move and concludes "I could not recall the move order of the latter game (since Curacao I have been trying to forget all the games I played there!)" How successful the effort was can be seen that he has repeated the Benko game! According to the Curacao bulletin Tal now intended to go 13 NxP but picked up his rook instead!

- 13 RxP

13 NxP is quite strong e.g. 13 ... N-Q4 14 B-K5 B-KB3 15 BxN PxP 16 BxB QxB 17 P-QB3 or 17 Q-R5 with play against IQP and bad bishop. Tal chose the text after half an hour's thought. It is more aggressive than 13 NxP, but it is strange indeed that during these thirty minutes a game played only three years before did not surface from his subconscious!

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 13 | ... | Q-N3 |
| 14 | Q-Q2! | |

The Tal-Benko game went 14 R-Q3 B-N4 15 BxB QxB 16 N-K5 QxP 17 R-KN3 KR-B1 18 BxP B-B1 19 Q-K3 QxBP 20 R-K1 R-B2 21 P-KR3 QR-B1? (21 ... N-K1!?) 22 BxP BxB 23 RxB+ KxR 24 Q-N5+ with an attack worth at least a draw, though Benko soon went wrong and then lost on time.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 14 | ... | B-B3 |
|----|-----|------|

Now it was Portisch's turn to think for forty minutes, faced as he was by the first deviation from his prepared line and by the obvious

threat of 15 BxRP. The main alternative was 14 ... KR-B1 when 15 BxRP PxB 16 QxP QxR 17 NxQ RxB 18 R-Q1 N-N5 is not clear, but simply 15 B-QN3 intending P-B3 and B-B2 leaves White with all his K side threats unimpaired.

15 BxRP

Punishment for the inaccuracy at move 10!

15 ... N-K5

The only good defence. 15 ... PxB 16 QxP BxN 17 Q-N5+ K-R1 18 R-R4+ N-R2 (18 ... B-R4 19 B-Q3 and 20 RxB+) 19 QxB threatening 20 Q-B6+ or 20 B-Q3 is a quick win for White as is 15 ... BxN 16 BxNP.

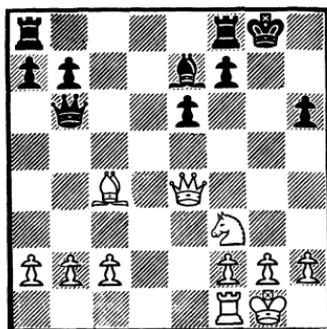
16 Q-B4 PxB

17 RxN

The hasty 17 QxRP leaves nothing more than a draw after 17 ... QR-Q1 18 BxP RxR! 19 B-B5 N-B3 20 Q-N5+.

17 ... BxR

18 QxB



Portisch thought for nearly an hour in this difficult position. Black has a very slight material advantage, but the presence of opposite coloured bishops gives White a strong initiative in view of Black's broken K side. The threats are 19 B-Q3 or 19 N-

K5 or 19 Q-B4 according to how Black reacts. Thus 18 ... QxP 19 N-K5 is a quick win for White (19 ... B-B3 20 B-Q3 or 19 ... K-N2 20 BxP PxB 21 Q-N6+ etc, picking up two pawns and a bishop). Tal suggests 18 ... B-B3 19 B-Q3 KR-Q1 20 Q-R7+ K-B1 21 QxRP+ K-K2 (21 ... B-N2 22 Q-B4 and 23 N-N5) as the best defence. White continues 22 P-QN3 R-R1 23 Q-B4 and with two pawns for the exchange can confidently face the future. 18 ... Q-B3 19 Q-N4+ K-R1 20 N-K5 is much in White's favour so Portisch decides to give back the exchange.

18 ... QR-Q1

19 P-QN3!

White does better to nurse his permanent positional advantage than to surrender it for a mess of potage by 19 B-Q3 RxB 20 QxR QxNP when Black is not too badly off.

19 ... B-B4

Tying the enemy rook down for the moment.

20 Q-B4

Simply 20 P-B3 preventing B-Q5 and preparing P-QN4 is the most accurate continuation of the attack.

20 ... K-N2

21 Q-K5+ P-B3

Or 21 ... K-R2 22 Q-B6 and Black lacks a good move.

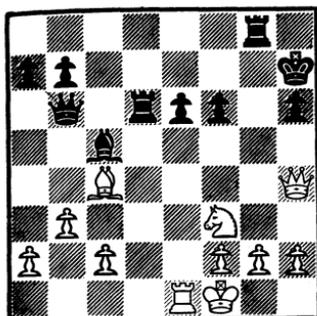
22 Q-N3+ K-R2

23 R-K1 R-KN1?

The tension tells! 23 ... R-Q3 24 N-R4 R-KN1 25 Q-B3 (not 25 B-Q3+ P-B4 26 BxP+ PxB 27 R-K7+ K-R1 28 Q-K5+ R-B3 and Black is winning) 25 ... P-B4 (25 ... K-N2 26 N-B5+! PxN 27 Q-N3+ 28 QxR mate) 26 K-B1 leaves White with a lot of pressure, but 23 ... B-N5! would save the draw. Tal originally intended answering this by 24 BxP BxR 25 B-B5+ K-R1 26 Q-N6 BxP+ (26 ... QxP+

27 K-R1 Q-B8+ 28 N-N1) 27 K-B1 R-Q8+ 28 K-K2 Q-K6+ 29 KxR, but then discovered the awful flaw 28 ... R-K8+! and Black mates first! Thus after 23 ... B-N5! White must force a draw by 24 P-B3 BxP 25 N-R4 BxR 26 Q-N6+ etc.

24 Q-R4 R-Q3
25 K-B1



The quiet king move relieving both his queen and rook (from defence against back row mate) is good enough, but Tal's second Koblents pointed out a more forcing way, namely 25 P-B3 P-QR4 26 P-QR3! and the threat of 27 P-QN4 forces a decisive weakening e.g. 26 ... BxRP 27 QxBP R-N3 28 Q-B4 and 29 N-R4 or 26 ... R-B3 27 QxBP BxP+ 28 K-B1

RxB 29 RxP or 26 ... P-B4 27 P-QN4 PxP 28 RPxP R-N5 29 Q-K7+ R-N2 30 PxB QxP 31 Q-B8 R-N1 32 Q-B7+ R-N2 33 N-N5+! PxN 34 Q-R5+ K-N1 35 RxP RxR 36 BxR+ K-B1 37 Q-R8+ K-K2 38 QxR+ KxB 39 QxKNP with a very favourable queen ending (39 ... QxQBP? 40 Q-K3+ wins).

25 ... P-B4
26 P-KR3 R-N3

Portisch was very short of time and misses his best chance — 26 ... Q-B3 to prevent White's next move. However, after 27 Q-B6 White should win without too much trouble.

27 P-KN4!

Now 27 ... PxP 28 PxP Q-B3 29 N-K5 wins as Black has no checks. 27 ... Q-B3 is the best defence (28 N-K5? Q-R8+ 29 K-K2 Q-K5+ 30 K-B1 Q-R8+ perpetual check) when 28 PxP QxN (28 ... PxP 29 R-K7+ K-R1 30 Q-B4) 29 PxR+ KxP 30 B-Q3+ K-B2 31 R-K4 looks good enough to win.

27 ... R-Q2
28 RxP!

Much better than 28 BxP BxP!

28 ... R-Q8+
29 K-N2 RxR
30 BxR PxP

30 ... QxB? loses to the knight form.

31 QxNP R-Q1
32 N-K5 Resigns

Final victory for the white square attack!

33 7th Game, Match 1965 White: Portisch Nimzoindian Defence

1 P-Q4 N-KB3
2 P-QB4 P-K3

3 N-QB3 B-N5
4 P-K3 O-O

5 N—B3 P—B4
6 B—K2

In playing this move White indicates that he is hoping to isolate the enemy QP and then press on it along the Q file. 6 B-Q3 is normal when White is thinking more in terms of a K side attack.

6 ... P—Q4
7 0—0 BPxP

Crossing White's plan which would be realised after 7 ... N-B3 8 BPxP KPxP 9 Pxp or 8 ... KNxP 9 NxN QxN? 10 P-QR3 B-R4 11 Pxp. Avoiding the isolated pawn by 7 ... N-B3 8 BPxP BPxP is bad for Black after 9 PxN PxN 10 Q-N3 Q-K2 11 N-K5 B-Q3 12 N-B4 NPxP 13 Pxp B-B4 14 B-KB3. Bronstein-Szabo, Candidates 1953.

8 KPxP N—B3
9 B—N5 B—K2

Now it is Black who aims to saddle his opponent with the isolated QP. White can avoid this by 10 P-B5 when Black intended 10 ... N-K5 11 BxB QxB and White's Q side pawn majority will be countered by a pawn push in the centre by P-B3 and P-K4 or by P-B4, P-KN4 etc as in a Dutch Defence.

10 QR—B1 P—QN3
11 BxN

Very insipid play. 11 Pxp is the only move now to retain some opening initiative e.g. 11 ... KNxP 12 NxN BxB (Tal's intention since 12 ... QxN? 13 BxB NxN 14 N-K5 and 15 B-B3 is awkward to meet) 13 NxN QxKN (13 ... QxQN 14 NxRP KxN 15 B-B3) 14 N-B7 B-N2! 15 P-B4! (15 NxN NxP 16 P-B3 QxR! 17 QxN Q-B3 or 15 P-Q5 QR-Q1 16 Q-R4 N-K2) 15 ... Q-N3 16 NxR NxP 17 R-KB2 and Black has inadequate compensation for the exchange, or 11 ... Pxp 12 N-K5! with pressure.

11 ... BxB

12 Pxp Pxp
13 Q—R4

The wrong move order. 13 B-N5 B-N2 14 KR-K1 to force a piece outpost on K5 was called for.

13 ... B—N2
14 KR—Q1

Preparing to go B-R6 without losing his centre pawn, but after Black's strong reply this is ruled out, as well as B-N5.

14 ... P—QR3!
15 Q—N3 R—K1
16 B—B1 N—R4

With the fixed centre pawns each player aims for knight outposts at K5 or QB5.

17 Q—B2 R—QB1
18 R—K1

White continues retracting moves. 18 P-QN3 P-N4 19 Q-Q2 was the sound way to play it however.

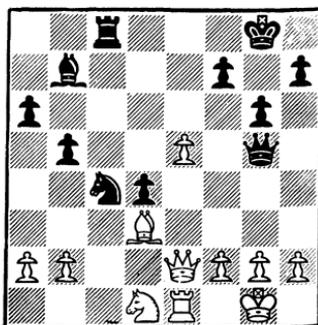
18 ... RxR
19 RxR N—B5
20 B—Q3 P—N3
21 Q—K2 P—QN4

The possession of an outpost is worth more than the open file along which there are no entry points.

22 N—K5 BxN

Leaping at the chance to activate his QB but 22 ... Q-N3 gradually increasing the pressure while keeping the two bishops is better.

23 PxB P—Q5
24 N—Q1 Q—N4



Both players are affected hereabouts by the tensions of these short matches. 24 ... Q-Q4 as given later by Tal keeps a clear advantage e.g. 25 B-K4? QxB 26 QxQ BxQ 27 RxB NxNP or 25 P-B4 N-K6 26 NxN PxN 27 R-Q1 QxRP.
25 P-B4?

A nervous attempt to attack. 25 P-KN3 would keep White's disadvantage minimal (25 ... NxKP? 26 P-B4! N-B6+ 27 QxN BxQ 28 PxQ R-B8 29 K-B2). Not however 25 P-B3 R-K1 26 BxN PxB 27 QxP BxP 28 Q-KB1 BxN 29 RxB QxP with a winning ending.

- 25 ... QxBP
- 26 P-K6 B-Q4!
- 27 R-B1

Or 27 P-K7 R-K1 and 28 ... B-K3 winning the KP.

- 27 ... Q-N4
- 28 PxP+

Or 28 RxP N-K4 29 R-B2 BxKP and then R-B8 or B-N5 become serious threats.

- 28 ... BxP
- 29 P-QN3 N-K4
- 30 P-QR4

The temptation to do something aggressive is very great but the text is merely weakening. Despite the pawn down White had to look for a sound positional scheme and 30 B-K4 fills the bill since it threatens a possible B-N7 and even more important prepares N-N2-Q3 playing for a sound blockade of the QP.

- 30 ... B-Q4

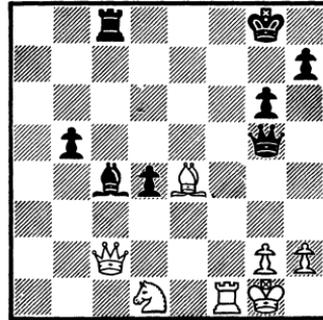
The threat of 31 ... NxB is very awkward to meet, especially as Portisch was in time trouble.

- 31 B-K4

Not 31 P-N3 B-N2 32 PxP NxP 33 QxN Q-Q4.

- 31 ... BxP
- 32 PxP B-B5
- 33 Q-QB2 PxP

White is two pawns down and has no real tactical chances. In time trouble he played on till the end of the playing session.



- 34 B-Q5+ K-N2
- 35 BxB PxB
- 36 Q-K4 R-Q1
- 37 P-R4 Q-N6
- 38 Q-N7+ R-Q2
- 39 Q-B8 R-KB2
- 40 RxR+ KxR

Hankering after his own mating possibilities by N-N5 Tal avoids the simple 40 ... NxR when 41 QxP loses the knight and the advance of the passed pawns decides quickly.

- 41 Q-B7+ K-K3

This was the sealed move and Portisch resigned the game the following day after he had already lost the 8th game and thereby the whole match. 42 Q-B8+ K-Q4 43 Q-N7+ K-B4 leaves White with no chances of perpetual check since the king can find safety on QN6 or QB7.

It is an interesting point, bearing in mind the rules about "hand quitting the piece", whether 41 ... K-K3 should be considered a move in the strict sense, if play is not continued. Certainly many sources would have given 41 Q-B7+ and

Resigns, since only the judge and the player sealing would know what was written in the envelope. Many games

are thus reported "a move short" in newspapers and this version is often passed on as the definitive one.

34 6th Game, Match 1965

Black: Larsen

Alekhine's Defence

Alekhine's Defence

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P—K4 | N—KB3 |
| 2 | P—K5 | N—Q4 |
| 3 | P—Q4 | P—Q3 |
| 4 | N—KB3 | |

Tal never seems to play the Four Pawns Attack — not even in a lightning tournament against me at Hastings in 1964!

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 4 | ... | PxP |
|---|-----|-----|

A remarkable move drawing the knight to a good square in the hope that it can soon be exchanged or profitably attacked.

- | | | |
|---|-----|------|
| 5 | NxP | P—K3 |
|---|-----|------|

In the 4th game Larsen played the provocative 5 ... N-Q2 inviting 6 NxP KxN 7 Q-R5+ K-K3, but after long thought Tal played 6 B-QB4 and, as he himself relates, spent the rest of the game regretting the decision. Shamkovich subsequently wrote an article "Why Tal Trembled" trying to prove a forced win for White but not everyone was convinced and a long controversy erupted on the pages of various chess magazines. Larsen doesn't take the same risk twice, but returns to the move he played against Ivkov in the 8th and last game of the quarter final match. 5 ... P-KN3 seems Black's best move and was adopted by Larsen in 1967.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 6 | Q—B3 |
|---|------|

Ivkov played 6 Q-R5 P-KN3 7 Q-B3 Q-K2 when Black has KN2 for his bishop. In showing this game to Tal Ivkov recommended the text as the strongest move though he gave 6 N-Q2 as a sound alternative.

- | | | |
|---|-----|------|
| 6 | ... | Q—B3 |
|---|-----|------|

At first sight this is a game by two beginners, as one player threatens mate with his queen, and the other's response is to move his queen too! However 6 ... N-KB3 7 B-K3 N-Q2 8 N-B3 NxN 9 PxN N-Q2 is strongly met by 10 0-0-0.

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 7 | Q—KN3 | P—QR4 |
|---|-------|-------|

Not 7 ... N-Q2? 8 B-KN5 Q-B4 9 B-Q3.

- | | | |
|---|-------|------|
| 8 | N—QB3 | N—N5 |
|---|-------|------|

Or 8 ... B-N5 9 B-Q2, or 8 ... N-Q2 9 N-K4 Q-Q1 (9 ... Q-B4 10 B-Q3) 10 P-QB3 NxN 11 QxN and Black remains badly cramped.

- | | | |
|---|-------|------|
| 9 | B—N5+ | P—B3 |
|---|-------|------|

It is no better to play 9 ... N-Q2 10 B-R4 B-Q3 11 P-QR3 N-R3 12 N-K4 and the KNP at least is lost.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 10 | B—R4 | N—Q2 |
|----|------|------|

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 11 | 0—0 |
|----|-----|

Preparing the subsequent piece sacrifice; otherwise he would have played 11 N-K4 Q-B4 12 P-KB3 NxN 13 PxN B-Q2 14 P-QR3 N-Q4 15 B-B2.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 11 | ... | NxN |
|----|-----|-----|

12 P×N Q—N3
 13 Q—B3

A question of style. Nine out of ten masters would go 13 Q×Q P×Q 14 N—K4 here with a fine ending due to Black's weak KP and hobbled QB. Tal continues aiming for the king!

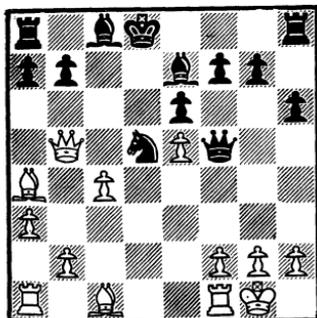
13 ... Q—B4
 14 Q—K2 B—K2

Last move this would have been met by 14 P—QR3 N—Q4 15 N×N KP×N 16 Q×QP.

15 P—QR3 N—Q4

15 ... N—R3 16 N—N5! P×N? 17 B×P+ and 18 B—Q3 wins queen.

16 N—N5! P×N
 17 Q×P+ K—Q1
 18 P—QB4



The critical choice for Black is where to move his knight to or whether to surrender it at once. Tal had anticipated 18 ... N—B5 19 R—Q1+ K—B2 20 R—Q7+ B×R 21 Q×B+ K—N1 22 Q×B Q×P 23 B—K3 N—N3 24 Q×BP Q—B3 25 B—K8! Q—K2 (25 ... N—K4 26 B—B4) 26 Q×N R×B 27 B—B5! Q—Q2 28 B—Q6+ K—B1 29 P—B5 with excellent winning prospects — the rooks are very immobile. 18 ... N—N3 was the best defence when 19 R—Q1+ K—B2 20 Q—R5 K—N1! is all right for Black, but 19 Q—R5! at once yields good

winning prospects e.g. 19 ... K—B2 20 P—B5 K—N1 21 P×N P×P 22 Q—N5 R—Q1 23 Q—B4 when 23 ... R×B 24 Q×R B—Q2 25 Q—KB4! gives inadequate compensation for the exchange.

18 ... Q×KP
 19 P×N B—Q3

To block the Q file as 19 ... P×P 20 R—Q1 B—Q3 21 P—KN3 gives White a lot of pressure though 21 ... P—Q5! playing to exchange queens will put up a good fight.

20 P—KN3 Q×QP
 21 Q—K2

From now on White harrasses the enemy king and queen without mercy.

21 ... K—K2

Or 21 ... B—Q2 22 B×B K×B 23 R—Q1 and 24 B—B4.

22 R—Q1 Q—QR4

Or 22 ... Q—K4 23 Q—Q3 Q—Q4 24 Q—QB3 reaching the game position.

23 Q—N4 Q—KB4

23 ... P—K4 looks a better prospect, but then 24 Q×P! Q×B (24 ... B—K3 25 B×P R×B 26 Q×R Q×B 27 Q—N5+ P—B3 28 Q—N7+ B—KB2 29 R×B!) 25 B×P R×B 26 Q×R B—B2 27 QR—B1 yields a winning attack.

24 Q—QB4 Q—QB4
 25 Q—Q3 Q—Q4
 26 Q—QB3 B—K4

The offers of a queen exchange must now cease since 26 ... Q—K4 27 B—B4! wins a piece by an intermediate check.

27 Q—K1 Q—B4
 28 B—Q2

Both sides have been too busy to get their QBs out — and Black never even manages it. Certainly a game out of the ordinary!

28 ... K—B3
 29 QR—B1 Q—N3
 30 B—K3

Hoping for 30...Q×P? 31 P—B4 when the bishop cannot quit the long

diagonal.

30 ... Q—R3
31 Q—N4 P—QN4

Or 31 ... Q-K7 to avoid loss of his queen when 32 R-Q2 Q-R4 33 R-B5 is decisive (33 ... P-QN3 34 RxB).

32 BxNP Q—N2

33 P—B4 B—N1
Or 33 ... B-B2 34 Q-B3+ and 35 B-B6.

34 B—B6 Resigns
A game for the Amazons. Tal made 12 queen moves, Larsen an unlucky 13!

35 10th Game, Match 1965

Black: Larsen Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4
2 N—KB3 N—QB3
3 P—Q4 PxP
4 NxP P—K3

A flexible move that leaves Black with a reasonable choice of systems according to how White reacts. In recent years Black has been successful with the idea of KN-K2 followed by NxN and then N-QB3.

5 N—QB3 P—Q3
6 B—K3

Guarding his knight so that the queen becomes more mobile.

6 ... N—B3
7 P—B4

This and the next move form a much sharper system than the older 7 B-K2 and 8 0-0 since White already takes up an aggressive posture and retains the option of castling long.

7 ... B—K2
8 Q—B3 0—0

This variation was tried a great deal in the middle sixties and the consensus of opinion was that 8... P-K4 was a better defensive try e.g. 9 NxN PxN 10 PxP PxP (10 ... N-N5 is complicated by playable) 11 B-QB4

0-0 12 P-KR3 (120-0 N-N5 13 QR-Q1 NxN!) 12 ... B-K3 13 BxB PxN 14 Q-K2 (14 0-0 N-Q4 15 Q-K2 NxN 16 QxN Q-N3) 14 ... R-N1 15 0-0 (15 R-QN1 R-N5) 15 ... RxP with reasonable chances, Hubner-Petrosian, match 1971.

9 0—0 Q—B2
Not 9 ... P-QR3 when 10 P-K5! follows with advantage (10 ... PxP?? 11 NxN). After 9 ... B-Q2 10 B-K2 and a subsequent P-KN4 White has good attacking chances.

10 KN—N5
Best, since after 10 P-KN4 NxN 11 RxN P-K4 12 R-B4 BxP! Black has a good game.

10 ... Q—N1
11 P—KN4 P—QR3
12 N—Q4 NxN
13 BxN P—QN4

Too slow. The obvious 13 ... P-K4 is correct though it takes great courage and deep analysis to play it. The best play for both sides is then considered to be 14 P-N5 B-N5! 15 Q-N2 PxN 16 PxN PxN 17 PxN PxP+ 18 K-N1 BxR 19 PxR (Q)+ QxQ 20 B-B4 B-R4 21 Q-R3 P-N3 22 Q-Q7 and

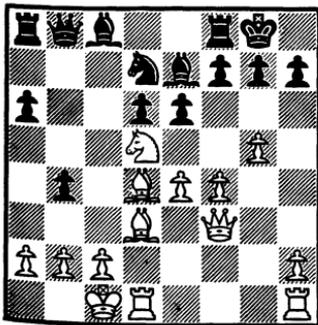
Black has a sound position.

- 14 P—N5 N—Q2
15 B—Q3

The slower 15 P-QR3 P-N5 16 PxP QxP 17 Q-R5 N-B4 18 R-N1 R-N1 gives Black plenty of counter attacking chances.

- 15 ... P—N5
15 ... B-N2 is less provocative.
16 N—Q5!

As Tal commented later, having rejected one good sacrificial attempt in an earlier game of the match he had no doubt that in this decisive last game he must take his chances. The move is remarkable for the fact that it is a positional sacrifice. White has no forced or forcing sequence of moves to follow it. He merely speculates that the enemy pieces on the Q side will find it hard to come to the defence of the king. The move caused a real stir in the chess world. Nikitin wrote a long article some months later trying to prove that the sacrifice was unsound, Shamkovich reacted to this some time later by an even longer article arguing that it was sound. Tal's comment was "I don't know, but I would play it again!"



- 16 ... PxN
Or 16 ... R-K1 17 N-B6+ PxN 18 PxP BxP (18 ... B-B1 19 P-K5 PxP 20

BxP+ KxB 21 Q-R5+ B-R3 22 QxP+ or 18 ... NxP 19 KR-N1+ and 20 Q-N3 with decisive effect) 19 P-K5 PxP 20 PxP with a powerful attack.

- 17 PxP P—B4

The initial threat was 18 Q-K4. 17 ... N-B4 loses to 18 BxP+ KxB 19 Q-R5+ K-N1 20 BxP KxB 21 Q-R6+ K-N1 22 P-N6 PxP 23 QxP+ K-R1 24 KR-N1 and 17 ... R-K1 leads to the same combination but with the slightly different ending 23 ... K-B1 24 KR-N1 B-B3 25 Q-R7. The chief alternative to the text is 17 ... P-N3! when White has many tempting attacking lines but none seems clearly decisive e.g. 18 Q-R3 N-B3 19 Q-R6 N-R4 20 B-K2 R-K1 22 BxN B-B1 winning the queen or 18 P-KR4 N-B4 19 P-R5 NxP+ 20 RxB N-B4 21 PxP BPxP! 22 RxP! KxR 23 R-K3 Q-B2 24 Q-K2 R-R2!! (The flight square at K1 must not be blocked) 25 BxR B-Q1 26 B-Q4 K-N1 27 Q-R2 Q-KR2. The best try seems to be 18 QR-K1 B-Q1 19 Q-R3 N-K4 (B-N3? 20 BxP! BPxB 21 R-K7) 20 Q-R6 B-N3! 21 PxN BxB 22 R-K4 B-B7! 23 R-B1 Q-R2 24 P-K6 B-N2! and the situation remains tense. All these variations of course are based on the analyses of Nikitin and Shamkovich.

- 18 QR—K1 R—B2

Or 18 ... B-Q1 19 BxNP! KxB (19 ... R-B2 20 B-R6 and then R-K8+ followed by Q-R5) 20 Q-R5 and despite the two extra pieces Black has no good defence against the threat 21 Q-R6+ K-N1 22 P-N6.

- 19 P—KR4

It is remarkable how White can continue to proceed so slowly. 19 BxBP N-K4! eases the defence.

- 19 ... B—N2

- 20 BxBP

Here too this move is not the most accurate. 20 P-N6 PxP 21 P-R5 opens lines in a decisive way e.g. 21 ... P-N4

22 BxBP B-KB3 23 PxP! BxP+ (23 ... BxB 24 B-K6 N-K4 25 RxN) 21 K-N1 Q-KB1 (24 ... N-B1 25 P-R6!) 25 B-K6 etc.

20 ... RxB

Or 20 ... N-B1 21 Q-K4 Q-Q1 22 BxP+ NxB 23 P-N6!

21 RxB N-K4!

Not 21 ... BxP 22 RxP+ K-B1 23 Q-R5 nor 21 ... R-B2 22 RxR KxR 23 P-N6+ PxP 24 P-R5 opening lines.

22 Q-K4 Q-KB1

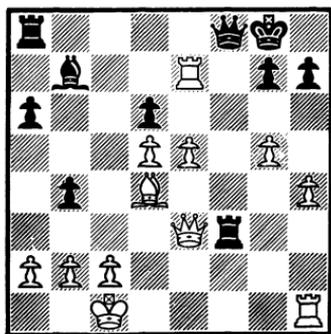
Black has finally got his queen over to the defence of the king but White in the meantime has won back material without losing his initiative.

23 PxN R-B5

After 23 ... R-B8+ 24 RxR QxR+ 25 K-Q2 White has no problems.

24 Q-K3 R-B6

A better chance was 24 ... BxP 25 PxP RxB 26 QxR BxR 27 P-N3 and the passed QP is at least as strong as a piece (27 ... B-B3 28 QxNP and the passed pawns roll on).



25 Q-K2 QxR

Presumably Larsen originally intended 25 ... Q-B5+ 26 Q-Q2 R-B8+ 27 RxR QxR+ 28 Q-Q1 QxQ+ but after 29 KxQ PxP 30 BxP or 29 ... BxP 30 PxP White's pressure on KN7 combined with his passed pawn is enough to win. With both sides short of time Larsen decides to keep it complicated. 25 ... BxP 26 PxP R-B2 27 Q-K5 is an easy win for White.

26 QxR PxP

27 R-K1 R-Q1

After 27 ... R-KB1 28 RxP! QxR 29 QxR+ KxQ 30 BxR BxP 31 B-Q6+ White will win the opposite coloured bishop ending because he will force two united passed pawns.

28 RxP Q-Q3

Or 28 ... Q-Q2 29 Q-K3 K-B2 30 B-B5.

29 Q-B4 R-KB1

Not 29 ... BxP 30 R-K8+.

30 Q-K4 P-N6

Giving up a pawn for a couple of checks. There was no real defence to the threat of 31 R-K7.

31 RPxP R-B8+

32 K-Q2 Q-N5+

33 P-B3 Q-Q3

34 B-B5! QxB

35 R-K8+ R-B1

Or 35 ... K-B2 36 Q-K6 mate.

36 Q-K6+ K-R1

37 Q-B7!

Resigns. A tactical end to a tactical game par excellence. Black can avoid mate only by 37 ... Q-B7+ 38 QxQ when his rook is pinned. Hence 38 ... RxR 39 Q-B7 R-QN1 40 Q-B7 and a piece is lost.

36 2nd Game, Match 1965 White: Spassky Sicilian Defence

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2 | N-KB3 | P-K3 |
| 3 | P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4 | NxP | P-QR3 |
| 5 | N-QB3 | Q-B2 |
| 6 | B-Q3 | N-QB3 |

The typical Sicilian move 6 ... P-KN4 is too early e.g. 7 0-0 B-N2 8 R-KN1! N-QB3 9 NxN QxN 10 P-QR4! P-N5 11 N-Q5 N-B3 12 B-Q2 with advantage to White, Tal-Gipslis XXV USSR Ch. 1958.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 7 | B-K3 | N-B3 |
| 8 | 0-0 | P-QN4 |

Here this is playable. The main alternatives are 8 ... B-Q3 and 8 ... N-K4.

- 9 N-N3

A modest retreat. In the 6th game Spassky played the more incisive 9 NxN QxN 10 P-QR3 B-B4 11 P-K5 B-N2 12 Q-B3! QxQ 13 PxQ N-Q4 14 N-K4 with some advantage.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 9 | ... | B-K2 |
| 10 | P-B4 | |

The point of his last move as B-B4 pinning the knight at Q4 has been ruled out.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 10 | ... | P-Q3 |
| 11 | Q-B3 | 0-0 |

The soundest, leaving his QB at home so that he can meet 12 Q-R3 by 12 ... P-K4 with gain of time.

- 12 P-QR4

12 P-K5 looks a typically strong central breakthrough based on the weakness of the long white diagonal but then Black has the surprising counter 12 ... PxP 13 PxP NxP! (13 ... QxP? 14 B-KB4!) 14 QxR QN-N5 15 R-B3 (15 B-KB4 Q-N3+ and 16 ... B-N2) 15 ... QxP+ 16 K-B1 Q-R8+ 17 B-N1 N-R7+ 18 K-B2 KN-N5+ 19 K-N3

B-Q3+ with a very powerful attack (I. Zaitsev).

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 12 | ... | P-N5 |
| 13 | N-K2 | P-K4 |
| 14 | P-B5 | P-Q4! |

Black must play actively in the centre before White gets in P-KN4-N5.

- 15 N-N3

Not 15 PxP P-K5 16 BxKP N-K4 17 Q-K4 B-Q3 (compare this breakthrough idea with the similar one in game 68, Bokuchava-Tal).

- 15 ... N-QR4

A bold move over which Tal thought nearly 40 minutes. 15 ... P-Q5? unties White's hands, but after the post mortem Tal came to the conclusion that 15 ... B-N2 16 PxP N-N1 17 N-K4 QN-Q2 was a better idea.

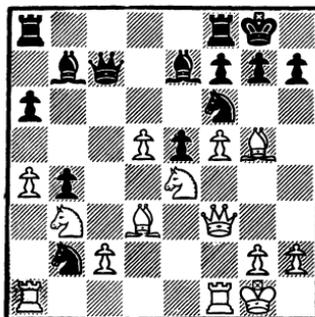
- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 16 | PxP | B-N2 |
| 17 | N-K4 | |

Hoping for 17 ... NxP 18 NxN QxN 19 P-B6 with a fine attack on the king.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 17 | ... | N-B5 |
| 18 | B-N5 | |

Keeping up the tension, though the simple 18 NxN+ BxN 19 B-K4 deserved consideration.

- 18 ... NxNP



110 Appointment with Destiny

A remarkably bold move typical of Tal, and also quite typically it calls forth a blunder by White.

19 P-Q6?

White overlooks that after 19 ... QxQP 20 BxN there is the saving move 20 ... Q-N3+. The correct move was 19 BxN BxB 20 N(3)-B5 BxP 21 NxB+ PxN 22 QxB KR-Q1 23 N-K6 Q-R2+! 24 Q-B5 PxN 25 QxQ RxQ 26 PxP NxB 27 PxN K-N2 with a superior ending to Black though the presence of two rooks gives White good drawing chances.

19 ... QxQP

20 NxQ

Playing for opposite coloured bishops; 20 NxN+ BxN 21 QxB BxB is also very good for Black.

20 ... BxQ

21 RxB BxN

22 BxN PxB

23 B-K4 QR-B1

24 P-R5 B-N1!

Not fearing 25 B-N7 RxP 26 BxP B-R2+ 27 K-R1 R-Q1 when the QRP can be blockaded by the black square bishop and threats of KR-Q7 and R-B6 loom up.

25 P-N3 KR-Q1

26 R-K1 B-R2+

27 K-N2 R-Q3

Finally making B-N7 harmless and preparing to go after White's main weakness by N-B5-R6.

28 KR-B1 N-B5

29 K-R3

Or 29 K-B3 N-R6 30 R-K2 R-B6+ 31 K-N2 R-Q2 and R2-B2.

29 ... N-K6

30 R-B3 NxQBP

First 30 ... R-B6 was technically more accurate.

31 R-QB1! R-B5

32 R-Q3!

Much better than 32 BxN R(Q)-B3 33 N-R1 B-Q5 etc.

32 ... B-Q5

The saving move.

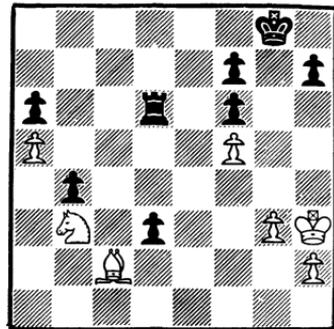
33 RxN

In time trouble it was probably better to fish in troubled waters by 33 N-Q2 R-B2 34 N-N3 keeping up the tension. However after 34 ... R(Q)-Q2 35 R-Q2 N-R6 36 RxR RxR 37 NxR PxN 38 RxP R-B5 39 R-Q8+ K-N2 40 B-Q3 R-B4 41 R-QN8 RxRP 42 RxP N-N4 Black still has some winning chances.

33 ... RxR

34 RxB PxB

35 BxR P-Q6



Two minor pieces, unaided by the distant king, cannot now cope with the many tasks demanded of them.

36 B-Q1 R-Q4

37 K-N4

Or 37 K-N2 RxBP 38 P-N4 R-K4! 39 K-B2 K-B1 and strolls through to the Q side as the cut-off king is no help. 37 B-N4 P-Q7 38 B-Q1 R-K4! 39 NxP R-Q4 is also a quick loss.

37 ... R-K4!

38 K-B4 R-K7!

39 P-R4 P-R4

40 N-B5

Or 40 K-B3 R-K8 winning the bishop.

40 ... R-K8

Spassky now sealed 41 BxP but resigned during the adjournment because of the variation 41 ... P-Q7 42

**NxP P-Q8 (Q) 43 BxQ RxB 44 N-B5
R-QR8 45 P-R6 R-R4 46 N-Q3 P-N6.**
One of Tal's few (three) wins against

his close friend in serious play,
though they have played hardly at all
in the last decade.

1966-69 THE SLOW DECLINE

1966 was a busy year for Tal. A popular visitor to Yugoslavia he scored a good result at Sarajevo but fell ill again during the Kislovodsk tournament to record his worst tournament performance since Curacao 1962. Nevertheless his sound play on top board for Latvia in the USSR Team Championship ensured his selection for the Havana Olympiad as high as board three. This was rather high especially if one considers that after his successes in 1964 Tal had been dropped from the Olympiad side of that year. Unless health was the reason it is hard to avoid the conclusion that ideology played its part — Tel-Aviv 1964 was considered to be an unsuitable place for the Latvian Jew whereas Havana 1966 was much more favoured from an ideological point of view.

1967 was also quite a successful year, the main event being the all grandmaster event in Moscow from which only Botvinnik, Fischer and Larsen were missing of the world's elite. His rather spotty victory over his bogeyman, Petrosian (47) is worthy of note. At the end of the year Tal shared first place in the Soviet Championship, a 13 round Swiss of 130 participants — rather too few rounds for a fully satisfactory result. Tal and Polugaevsky scored 10/13 but their projected six game match for the gold medal of champion was never played.

In 1968 things went less well. At Beverwijk none of Tal's five wins came against the top half of the table and a blunder losing a piece against Ciric left the Latvian in a tie with Hort and Portisch well behind Korchnoy. After being behind at the half way stage of his Candidates match with Gligoric in Belgrade Tal won by a rapid burst, but then was faced with his most difficult opponent and the only surprise of the Korchnoy-Tal match was that the Leningrad player did much worse than the previous scores of the two players between themselves would portend.

1969 was the nadir of Tal's career. He could share only 6-10th places at the very start of the year in a comparatively weak Soviet Championship and then in Holland came his catastrophic loss to Larsen in the play-off match for 3rd place in the 1968 Candidates. Finally in the USSR Championship at the end of the year he could come only equal 14th, a terrible blow since this event was also the Soviet Zonal Tournament.

37 Sarajevo 1966

Black: Ong Yok Hwa
Sicilian Defence

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2 | N-KB3 | P-Q3 |
| 3 | P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4 | NxP | N-KB3 |
| 5 | N-QB3 | P-QR3 |
| 6 | B-KN5 | P-K3 |
| 7 | P-B4 | QN-Q2 |

7 ... B-K2 is more common as it is safer to try and get the king into safety than concentrate on Q side development.

The alternative 7 ... Q-N3 leads to one of the most controversial lines of modern opening theory. The text, too, leads to critical variations which have been analysed twenty or more moves deep. In other words hardly a line to choose against Tal!

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 8 | Q-B3 | Q-B2 |
| 9 | 0-0-0 | P-QN4 |

A further provocative move but quite in the spirit of the variation. The Indonesian player decides to conduct a theoretical duel!

- 10 P-K5!

Of course,

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 10 | ... | B-N2 |
| 11 | Q-R3 | PxP |
| 12 | NxKP! | PxN |
| 13 | QxP+ | B-K2 |
| 14 | BxN! | |

Removing a key defender at just the right time. 14 BxP is not so convincing as after 14 ... PxB 15 NxP Q-B3 16 N-Q6+ K-Q1 17 PxP (so far Ney-Darga, Beverwijk 1964) Black can probably draw by Pachman's recommendation 17 ... N-Q4 (Darga played 17 ... K-B2 and lost. Sokolsky recommends 17 ... N-K5) 18 NxB+ QxN 19 BxB+ NxB 20 RxN+ QxR 21 R-Q1 when White's advantage may

not be enough to win.

- 14 ... NxB

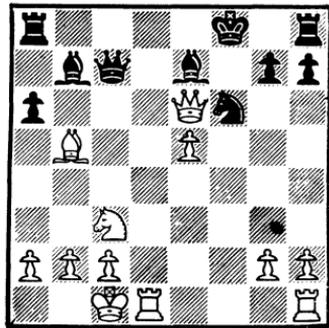
14 ... PxB is better, but after 15 B-K2 P-KR4 16 N-Q5 BxN 17 RxB White has good winning chances.

- 15 BxP+ K-B1

Or 15 ... PxB 16 NxP Q-B3 17 N-Q6+ QxN (17 ... K-Q1 18 NxB+ K-B2 19 QxB+) 18 RxQ P-K5 19 KR-Q1 threatening 20 R-Q7 wins easily.

- 16 PxP!

Not 16 B-B4 B-N5 17 PxP R-K1 driving the queen off.



- 16 ... B-R6?

Loses at once. 16 ... B-B1 to drive the queen away is better but White can then win by 17 N-Q5! NxN (17 ... BxQ 18 NxQ and White remains two pawns up) 18 QxN threatening both 19 QxR and 19 KR-B1+. White has the alternative 17 Q-B6! Q-R2 18 PxN PxP 19 B-B4 and wins (Richardson-Mostowfi postal game 1965-66). To judge from the timing of the games neither Tal nor Keith

Richardson knew of the other's efforts in this field! If instead 16 ... BxP then 17 B-B4! wins easily (Richardson-N. Littlewood, British Championship 1968). Finally if 16 ... PxB then 17 PxN PxP 18 R-Q7 Q-B4

19 R-B1 wins.

17 PxN

Resigns. R-Q7 is a decisive threat (17 ... B-B1 18 Q-K8 mate or 17 ... R-Q1 18 RxR+ QxR 19 R-Q1 Q-B1 20 R-Q7).

38 Sarajevo 1966

Black: Gasic

Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3
3 P-Q4	PxP
4 NxP	P-KN3
5 N-QB3	B-N2
6 B-K3	N-B3
7 B-QB4	Q-R4

One of the moves on which Black pinned his hopes in the sixties' revival of the Dragon Variation. The strength of the text is that White is forced to castle K side so abandoning the Rauzer attacking idea of Q side castling followed by a K side pawn storm. Thus 8 Q-Q2 is met by 8 ... NxP! 9 NxQN QxN! winning material (8 ... Q-N5 is also good), while 8 N-N3 Q-N5! or 8 P-B3 Q-N5 9 B-N3 NxB 10 NxN BxN+ 11 PxB QxP+ 12 K-K2 QPxN are also in Black's favour as 13 B-Q4? loses to 13 ... P-K4. The weakness of the text is that the queen may be exposed, as indeed happens in this game.

8 0-0 0-0

9 B-N3

9 N-N3 is a strong alternative, as after 9 ... Q-B2 10 P-B4 P-Q3 11 B-K2 (moving out of a possible discovered attack and preventing 11 ... N-KN5) we get a position from the older

method of treating the Dragon in which the Q is probably misplaced at B2.

9 ... P-Q3

10 P-KR3 B-Q2

11 P-B4 QR-B1

The favourite line in recent years has been 11 ... NxN 12 BxN B-B3! and after the usual reply 13 Q-Q3 Black by the mysterious rook move, 13 ... QR-Q1 deters White from playing P-K5.

12 Q-B3

Gufeld and Lazarev think White's best is to avoid the exchange of knights by 12 N-B3.

12 ... Q-R4

A dubious position for the queen as Tal soon proves, but as the Russian proverb states "Once you've said 'A' you have to follow it by saying 'B'". Having failed to play the soundest line at move eleven he has to think up a way of preventing P-N4 with a strong attack.

13 Q-B2 N-R4

The only good move here is 13 ... P-QN4 when R. Byrne-Shtein from the same tournament went 14 KNxP NxP 15 NxN QxN 16 N-N3 and now Boleslavsky thinks 16 ... K-R1

(instead of 16 ... P-QR4 17 P-QR4 Q-N5 18 P-B5 K-R1 19 QR-Q1 with advantage to White as actually played) should leave Black with a playable game as 17 P-B5 lets Black win a pawn after 17 ... BxBP 18 NxB QxN 19 QxQ PxQ 20 RxP P-K3.

14 KN-K2 P-N3
15 P-B5! P-KN4

To keep lines closed near his king and to provide an extra square for his queen at KR3 as 16 N-B4 was already a serious threat to the Black Boadicea.

16 Q-N3 P-KR3
17 Q-R2!

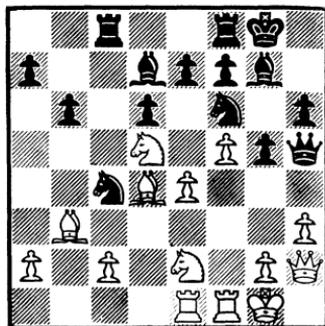
Now P-KN4 becomes a serious threat to restrict the queen even further.

17 ... N-B5
18 B-Q4 NxNP

Now it is an English proverb that seems more appropriate — "In for a penny, in for a pound."

19 QR-K1 N-B5
20 N-Q5!

A threat that is always 'on' in a situation of this sort. White attacks the KP and so forces the exchange of a key Black defender.



20 ... NxN
21 P-N4!

Reducing the queen's mobility even further before recapturing the knight.

21 ... BxB+
Or 21 ... Q-R5 22 B-B2.
22 NxB Q-R5
23 PxN N-K1
24 RxN!

Resigns. Clearly 24 ... PxR 25 N-B3 loses the queen while if 24 ... R-B6 threatening 25 ... RxRP or 25 ... R-N6+ then 25 N-B3 RxN 26 RxR PxR 27 QxP with a winning position as if 27 ... R-K1 then 28 Q-B7 and with the Black queen still a bystander Black is helpless e.g. 28 ... B-B1 29 P-Q6.

39 Sarajevo 1966

Black: Pachman

Reti Opening

1 N-KB3

Just occasionally a change is as good as a rest. Against a leading authority on the opening a surprise move has increased value.

1 ... P-Q4
2 P-QB4 P-K3

3 P-KN3 N-KB3
4 B-N2 B-K2
5 0-0 0-0
6 P-N3

After castling Black is normally keen to take the QBP as then Q-R3 does not come with check and White

has to exert himself more to recover the pawn than after 5 ... P×P 6 Q-R4+.

6 ... P—B4
7 B—N2 N—B3

The pawn wedge 7 ... P-Q5 may look strong, but White would be happy to face that more since he could reply either 8 P-QN4 Q-N3 9 P-QR3, or 8 P-Q3 followed by P-K3 producing a sort of reversed modern Benoni. 8 P-K3 straight away might be even more forcing as after 9 ... P-Q6? 10 N-K5 the advanced QP would only be a source of worry to Black, as it cannot be easily supported.

8 P×P

White did not really fear 8 ... P-Q5, so the restrained 8 P-K3 intending the follow-up P-Q3, Q-K2, R-Q1, N-B3 and so on (favoured by Botvinnik in his last years before retirement) is quite good. However Tal as usual prefers to get going rather than simply wait.

8 ... P×P

Agreeing to an isolated pawn, so the opening is now clearly settled as a Tarrasch Defence to the QGD. 8 ... N×P would leave it a Reti-Catalan with play probably going 9 N-B3 B-B3 10 R-B1 N×N 11 B×N P-K4 (Reti-Romanovsky, Moscow 1925) when Black aims to get a grip on Q5 while his QBP may well come under attack, though Golombek's 10 Q-B1 may well be better than Reti's move.

9 P—Q4 N—K5
10 QN—Q2 B—B3

Pachman probably felt quite happy at this stage as he has good play for his pieces and it is hardly Tal's speciality to aim for minor piece exchanges which is normally the only way to demonstrate that the IQP is weak.

11 N×N P×N

12 N—Q2

So Tal agrees that he wants something livelier.

12 ... B×P

Not so good is 12 ... N×P 13 N×P N-B6+ 14 B×N B×B 15 R-N1 B-R6 (15 ... Q×Q 16 KR×Q B-R6 17 N-Q6 with N-B4 in the offing) 16 Q-B2 followed by KR-Q1 and White has a very promising position. An important alternative was 12 ... P-K6 13 BP×P P×P but as Keene points out the open KB file gives White attacking prospects after 14 B×N P×B 15 N-K4 since if 15 ... P×P then 16 N×B+ P×N 17 Q-B1. Or if 15 ... B-R6? 16 N×B+ P×N 17 R-B4, and it is the Black king position which is definitely weaker.

13 B×B P×B
14 N×P R—K1
15 Q—Q2

So after all it is reduced to steady play against the IQP, though even here Tal manages to provide a dynamic touch.

15 ... B—B4
16 N—B5 Q—K2

Black's counterplay in such positions is based on pressure along open lines.

17 QR—B1 QR—B1

It seems illogical after his last move not to play 17 ... Q×P But after 18 Q×Q R×Q 19 N×P N-K2 (to guard the bishop against 20 N-Q6) 20 R-B7! White has the better of it e.g. 20 ... P-Q6 21 N-Q6 R-Q1 22 R×N R×R 23 N×B R-K7 24 R-Q1 R×RP (24 ... P-Q7 25 K-B1 QR-K1? 26 N-K3) 25 B-Q5! K-B1 26 B-B4 P-Q7 27 N-K3 and the passed pawn is no great danger.

18 Q—B1 B—N3
19 KR—Q1

Tal played this after only 40 minutes' reflection. Naturally he did not wish to defend the KP by a passive move such as 20 KR-K1 and

so he found the text which leaves some tricky tactical possibilities open.

19 ... P—N3?

Played after long thought, but wrong. Black had to pluck up his courage and play 19 ... QxP when after 20 NxP N-K4! White's threat of N-Q6 has been met. Play could then continue 21 QxQP N-Q6 (21 ... RxR 22 RxR N-B6+ 23 BxN QxB 24 N-Q6! is in White's favour as B-K5 is prevented, and the pin 24 ... R-Q1 is broken by 25 QxRP playing for back row mate) 22 R-R1! with some advantage to White as Black's initiative does not seem enough compensation for the pawn.

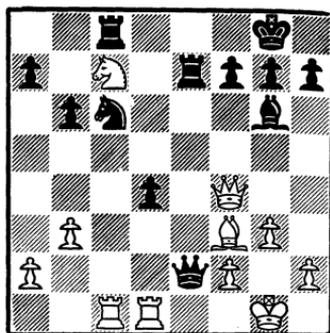
20 N—R6 QxP

21 N—B7 R—K2

22 B—B3!

Both players had foreseen this position, and Pachman had intended going 22 ... Q-K4 with apparently a level game. Only now however did the Czech grandmaster see that after 23 RxN QxQ White does not automatically recapture the queen but goes 24 N-Q5 threatening back row mate. Then 24 ... RxR 25 NxR+ K-B1 26 PxQ leaves the rook en prise to both enemy minor pieces. Or 24 ...

KR-K1 25 PxQ, or 24 ... KR-B2 and because of the knight fork at K7 White can simply reply 25 PxQ yet again remaining a piece up!



22 ... QxR+
23 RxQ KRxN
24 R—QB1 P—KR4
25 K—N2

A quiet waiting move, showing that Tal feels no need for force matters. 25 ... P-Q6 26 P-QN4 would soon end Black resistance, so after such a marvellous combination Black felt it churlish to play on and much more interesting to go and analyse it all in the players room!

26 ... Resigns

40 Sarajevo 1966

Black: Ciric

Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4

2 N—KB3 N—QB3

3 B—N5

This game was played in the 11th

round when Tal was 1½ points behind the tournament leader Ciric, and so Tal chooses a slightly unusual move to avoid well-known

lines and simplification.

3 ... Q-N3

Nowadays, after a lot of experience in the last few years, it is considered that Black's best is not to expose his queen thus, but to play for minor piece development by 3 ... P-KN3 4 0-0 B-N2 5 R-K1 (or 5 P-B3 N-B3 6 P-K5 N-Q4 7 P-Q4 P x P 8 P x P 0-0) 5 ... N-B3 6 N-B3 0-0 7 P-K5 N-KN5 with near equality.

4 N-B3 P-K3

To rule out 5 N-Q5. 4 ... N-B3 5 P-K5 N-KN5 6 N-Q5! Q-Q1 7 Q-K2 P-K3 8 N-B3 Q-B2 9 B x N QP x B 10 P-Q3 rather favours White.

5 0-0 N-Q5

6 B-R4

Playing to provoke the following over-ambitious manoeuvre from Black. Compare with Bronstein-A. Zaitsev, Berlin 1968 which went 2 N-QB3 P-K3 3 N-B3 N-QB3 4 B-N5 N-Q5 when Bronstein now retreated his bishop to Q3!

6 ... Q-R4?!

7 P-QR3 P-QN4

The only logical sequence to Black's last two moves. 7 ... N-KB3 8 P-QN4 P x P 9 P x P Q x P (9 ... B x P? 10 B x P+) 10 B-R3 is a sample of how White can gain plenty of development for a pawn against quieter play.

8 P-QN4!

Now Tal has just the sort of wild position needed to ensure that Black cannot easily play for a draw. A decisive result now seems certain.

8 ... Q-N3

Or 8 ... P x P 9 P x P Q x P 10 R-N1 winning the QNP. Clearly Black does best to keep a pawn guarding his knight for as long as possible.

9 P x P B x P

10 R-N1 P-QR3

11 N x N B x N

12 N-K2 N-B3

13 P-Q3

Now Black is first to have to retreat his bishop as 13 ... 0-0 14 P-QB4 wins a pawn.

13 ... B-K4

14 P-QB4 B x P+

Or 14 ... Q-B2 15 P-B4 P x B 16 P x B N-N5 (16 ... Q x KP 17 B-N2 Q-KN4 18 B x N P x B 19 N-B4) 17 P-Q4 Q x BP 18 N-B4 with decisive effect, while there is an equally good alternative in 15 P x P P x P 16 R x P B x P+ 17 K-R1 B-Q3 18 R-N5! 0-0 19 N-Q4.

15 K x B Q-B2+

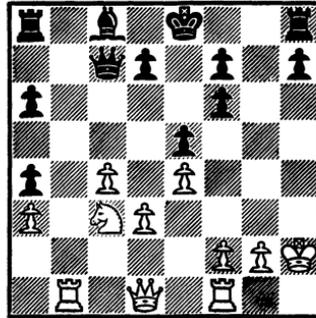
16 B-B4 P-K4

A regrettable but necessary weakening for Black.

17 B-N5 P x B

18 B x N P x B

19 N-B3



White's grip on the white squares and safer king position give him a clear advantage. The sum total of Black's queen manoeuvre begun at move three is a serious lack of development.

19 ... B-N2

20 Q-B3

The QRP can wait. Tal hopes for 20 ... K-K2 21 R x B Q x R 22 N-Q5+ with a winning attack.

20 ... R-KN1

- 21 QxP R-N3
 22 Q-B5
 22 RxB is not convincing as yet.
 22 ... K-K2
 23 P-N3 QR-KN1
 24 RxB

Having safeguarded his king White can now play this, though the banal 24 NxP should also win.

- 24 ... QxR
 25 R-QN1 Q-B1

The back row has to be guarded (25 ... Q-B3? 26 N-Q5+ K-Q3 27 R-N6 or 26 ... K- back row 27 R-N8+).

- 26 QxKP+ R-K3
 27 N-Q5+ K-B1
 28 Q-B4

Too intent on the threat of 29 R-N8. 28 Q-Q4! keeping the king imprisoned would leave Black with no decent move since 29 R-N4 and then 30 Q-N2 becomes a fearsome threat quite apart from picking up a pawn or two on the Q side.

- 28 ... K-N2
 29 K-N2

Now he has to come at Black on the other side and leave his Q side in jeopardy.

- 29 ... Q-B4
 30 R-KR1 QxRP
 31 Q-N5+ K-B1

Not 31 ... K-R1 32 N-B6! RxN 33 QxR/6+ R-N2 34 R-R5 Q-B1 35 R-R5 P-R6 36 Q-QB3 etc. nor 31 ... R-KN3 32 Q-K5+ P-B3 33 Q-B7 R-KB1 34 QxP+ R-B2 35 RxP+ etc.

- 32 Q-K3 Q-Q3

Black's only hope is to push the QRP. Defensive measures such as 32 ... R-R1 33 Q-Q4! or 32 ... P-R3 33 RxP are not so troublesome to meet.

- 33 RxP P-R6
 34 R-R1 R-K4

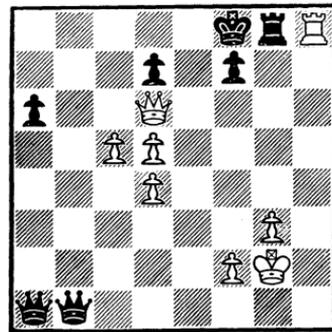
The enemy knight is enemy number one and must be removed. 34 ... P-R7 35 R-R1 Q-R6 36 Q-Q2 is clearly hopeless.

- 35 P-Q4 RxN
 36 KPxR Q-N5
 37 P-B5!

37 R-R1 QxP gives Black drawing chances because of the diminution of material.

- 37 ... P-R7
 38 Q-K5! Q-N8
 39 R-R8! P-R8 (Q)
 40 Q-Q6+ Resigns

A pretty finish worthy of a diagram.



Black could not have saved himself earlier e.g. 39 ... RxR 40 QxR+ K-K2 41 P-Q6+ K-K3 42 Q-K5 mate, or 39 ... Q-KN3 40 Q-N8+ K-K2 41 RxR Q-K5+ (41 ... QxR 42 QxQ P-R8 = Q 43 P-Q6+ K-B3 44 Q-R8+ etc.) 42 P-B3 Q-B7+ 43 K-R3 Q-B4+ 44 K-R4 Q-B3+ 45 K-N4 QxQP+ 46 K-R3 K-B3 47 Q-Q6+ K-B1 48 P-N4+.

41 Kislovodsk 1966

Black: Hamann

Sicilian Defence

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2 | N-KB3 | P-K3 |
| 3 | P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4 | NxP | P-QR3 |

The Kan variation of the Paulsen. In former times 5 P-QB4 was thought to give White the advantage, but this was shown not to be so in a number of games by Kan and Moiseev in the fifties and early sixties.

- | | | |
|---|-------|------|
| 5 | N-QB3 | Q-B2 |
| 6 | B-K2 | |

Another parting of the ways. Many players prefer 6 P-KN3, and 6 B-Q3 is a more active way of posting the KB.

- | | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| 6 | ... | N-KB3 |
| 7 | 0-0 | B-N5 |

Too ambitious a move, especially against Tal. As the course of this game shows the consistent follow-up to this move which is to capture twice on c3 leads Black into grave difficulties due to his backward development and black square weaknesses. 7 ... N-B3 is the natural developing move.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 8 | B-KN5?! |
|---|---------|

A theoretical innovation offering a pawn to break up Black's K-side. The experiment has never been repeated as far as I can establish, and Moiseev does not consider the move in this exhaustive monograph on the Paulsen System. The normal line of play would be 8 Q-Q3 N-B3 9 NxN QPxN 10 P-B4 threatening 11 P-K5 (Olafsson-Pilnik, match 1957).

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 8 | ... | BxN |
| 9 | BxN | PxB |

Not 9 ... BxP 10 BxNP BxR (10 ... R-KN1 11 NxP! QPxN 12 BxB with

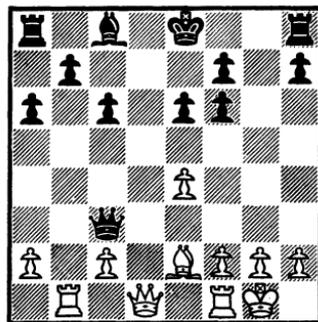
advantage because of his powerful bishops) 11 BxR B-B6 12 Q-Q3! and 13 Q-KR3 followed by 14 QxRP is a winning threat.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 10 | PxB | QxP |
|----|-----|-----|

Consistent, but foolhardy. 10 ... N-B3 would give him a chance to complete his development, perhaps by an ultimate Q-side castling, though I prefer White's game after 11 B-R5 intending Q-N4 or 11 Q-Q2 P-KR4 12 Q-K3 intending P-KB4 followed by Q-N3 or even 13 Q-R3.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 11 | R-N1 | N-B3 |
| 12 | NxN | QPxN? |

12 ... QxN does not look appetising because of 13 B-B3 when the threat of 14 P-K5 poses the question yet again of how Black is to develop his bishop. However 12 ... NPxN is better as 13 Q-Q6 is not clear. Black could reply 13 ... Q-K4 or even risk 13 ... QxBP as the immediate fireworks by 14 BxP? work out badly — 14 ... BxB (not 14 ... RxB 15 R-N8) 15 R-N8+ RxR 16 QxR+ K-K2 17 QxR BxR. After the text quick retribution follows along the open Q file.



- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 13 | R-N3 | Q-B4 |
|----|------|------|

14 Q-Q2! P-KR4
 To prevent 15 Q-R6.
 15 R-Q1! K-K2
 If 15 ... K-B1 then 16 R-Q3 in-
 tending 17 R-Q8+ 18 RxR and 19 Q-
 R6+, while 15 ... Q-K2? 16 R-Q3 is

even worse. How Black must wish he
 hadn't opened the Q file!

16 R-Q3 Q-N3
 To prevent 17 R-Q8.
 17 P-K5! Resigns
 If 17 ... PxP 18 Q-N5+.

42 USSR Team Championship 1966

Black: Botvinnik

Caro-Kann Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB3

In this only meeting over the board
 between the great players after their
 world title matches both remain true
 to their opening preferences.

2 P-Q4 P-Q4

3 PxP PxP

4 P-QB4

Whereas Tal for the first time tries
 the Panov-Botvinnik against one of
 the originators of the system. One
 would have thought that Tal with
 his love for open play and liking for
 the IQP would have played this
 much more frequently.

4 ... N-KB3

5 N-QB3 P-KN3

More ambitious than 5 ... P-K3.
 Botvinnik was in marvellous form in
 this event and having beaten
 Smyslov, Keres and Spassky in pre-
 vious rounds was ambitious to
 improve his score even further. How-
 ever after the event he grumbled that
 at a time when Soviet workers were
 going over to a five day week the
 chess players didn't have any rest
 days. It was significant then that in
 the round before this one he had let
 Geller off with a draw after being
 several pawns up. Still without his

renowned fighting spirit Botvinnik
 would not be Botvinnik ... even at the
 age of fifty-five!

6 Q-N3 B-N2

A forced sacrifice as 6 ... PxP 7 BxP
 P-K3 8 P-Q5 or 8 B-KN5 first give
 White an excellent game (8 B-KN5
 QxP 9 N-B3 Q-Q1 10 R-Q1 QN-Q2
 11 B-N5 and the threats of 12 N-K5 or
 12 Q-R4 intensifying the pins are
 very strong).

7 PxP 0-0

8 KN-K2

8 P-KN3 can be met by the strong
 gambit 8 ... P-K3 while after 8 N-B3
 QN-Q2 9 B-KN5 N-N3 10 B-QB4 B-
 B4 11 R-Q1 N-K5! Tal-Bronstein
 XXIX USSR Championship 1961.
 Black is well on the way to a nice
 game.

8 ... N-R3

9 P-KN3

Now 9 ... P-K3 is less strong in
 view of the closed K file, so Black
 goes for his well tried device against
 Tal of offering a queen exchange at
 the same time aiming for N-QN5 and
 R-Q1 redoubling his attack on the
 forward QP.

9 ... Q-N3

10 QxQ! PxQ

- 11 B—N2 N—QN5
 12 0—0 R—Q1
 13 P—Q6!

Spassky's innovation in his match with Petrosian played three months before this encounter. 13 B-N5? QNxQP 14 NxN NxN 15 KR-K1 P-R3 (Walther-Petrosian Zurich 1959) is good for Black.

- 13 ... PxP

A vain attempt to improve on the Petrosian game which went 13 ... RxP! 14 B-B4 R-Q2 (preventing 15 B-B7) 15 KR-Q1 QN-Q4 (or 15 ... KN-Q4 16 P-QR3! NxB 17 NxN N-B7 18 QR-B1 NxQP 19 KN-Q5!) 16 B-K5 B-R3 17 P-QR3 P-K3 18 NxN NxN 19 R-Q3 B-N4 20 BxN! with a superior ending due to his threats to Black's Q-side.

- 14 B—N5

Taking control of the key Q5 square.

- 14 ... R—K1

Before White can play P-QR3 and N-Q5.

- 15 P—QR3 N—B3
 16 KR—K1 B—N5

Black's only counter play is against the QP.

- 17 BxN BxB
 18 N—Q5

With this move finally occupying Q5 with great effect White completes the plan begun on move 13.

- 18 ... B—Q1

18 ... BxN loses the exchange, 18 ... RxN a whole piece (19 NxB+ and 20 NxB) and meanwhile 19 N-B7 must be prevented.

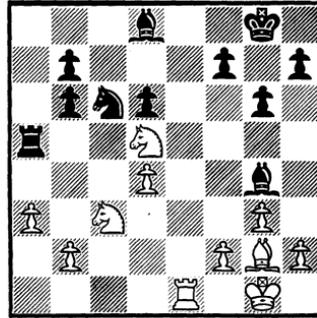
- 19 KN—B3

Threatening 20 N-N5 or 20 N-K4 as well as 20 RxR so the loss of the QP can be viewed with a light heart.

- 19 ... RxR+
 20 RxR R—R4

This should lose at once. 20 ... NxP was the lesser evil, though after 21 R-

K8+ (21 R-K4? N-B6+ 22 K-R1 N-K4 23 P-B4 P-B4) 21 ... K-N2 22 NxP R-R3 (22 ... R-N1 23 N3-Q5 and 24 N-B4) 23 N-B4 White gets two united passed pawns on the Q-side.



- 21 N—K3?

The fatigue begins to tell on the younger man as well as the older! Simply 21 R-K8+ K-N2 22 N-K3! B-Q2 23 BxN wins two pieces for a rook.

- 21 ... B—Q2
 22 N—B4 R—R1
 23 P—Q5 N—Q5
 24 NxQP

However this is good enough as the agile knights continue their good work with the help of the QP.

- 24 ... R—N1
 25 N—B4 P—B3
 26 N—K4 K—B1

Bringing up a potential reserve blockader. 26 ... P-QN4 only invites 27 N-B5!

- 27 P—R3 N—N6
 28 B—B1 P—QN4

Forcing a crisis, but losing more material.

- 29 N(B4)—Q6 P—B4
 30 R—K3! PxN

Or 30 ... N-R4 31 N-B5 winning material.

31 R×N K—K2

32 N×KP R—B1

Two pawns down. Enough seems enough.

33 P—N4 R—B8

34 K—N2 R—K8

35 P—B3

Safety first, but 35 N-B5 is more forcing.

35 ... R—Q8

36 P—Q6+ K—B2

37 B×P B—K3

38 R—B3 R—Q5

39 R—Q3 R×R

40 B×R B—Q4

41 N—B5

Avoiding an opposite coloured bishop ending.

41 ... P—N3

42 B—K4!

42 N moves K-K3 is much less clear.

42 ... B—K3

Or 42 ... B-R7 43 N-N7 B-B3 44 P-Q7.

43 N—Q3 B—N6

44 P—B4 K—K3

45 P—B5+ Resigns

43 Havana Olympiad 1966

White: Hort

Queen's Indian Defence

1 N—KB3 N—KB3

2 P—B4 P—B4

3 N—B3 P—K3

4 P—KN3 P—QN3

5 B—N2 B—N2

6 0—0 B—K2

A restrained opening, but in Olympiad matches the normal object is to win the games played with White and draw those with Black.

7 P—Q4 P×P

8 N×P

Too cautious. White has had generally good results with 8 Q×P N-B3 9 Q-B4 e.g. 9 ... 0-0 10 R-Q1 Q-N1 11 Q×Q Q-R×Q 12 B-B4 Q-R-B1 13 N-K5! P-Q3 14 N×N B×N 15 B×P B×QB 16 R×B B×B 17 K×B R×P 18 QR-Q1 with a slightly superior ending, Tal-Olafsson, Portoroz 1958.

8 ... B×B

9 K×B Q—B1

10 Q—Q3

Not 10 P-N3 P-Q4 and because of his unguarded QN White has to allow his QBP to become isolated (11 P-K3 P×P 12 Q-B3 QN-Q2 13 N-B6 Q-N2! and 14 ... R-QB1).

10 ... N—B3

11 N×N

11 P-N3 N-K4 12 Q-K3 Q-N2+ 13 K-N1 QN-N5 14 Q-Q2 P-Q4 is also a case of no problems for Black.

11 ... Q×N+

12 P—K4

Or 12 K-N1 R-QB1 13 P-N3 P-Q4.

12 ... 0—0

13 B—Q2 QR—B1

14 P—N3 KR—Q1

15 Q—B3

White had to take defensive measures against 15 ... P-Q4.

15 ... P—QR3

After 15 ... B-N5 16 KR-K1 White can defend his centre adequately (16

... P-Q4? 17 P-K5 N-Q2 18 PxP) so Black prepares the undermining move P-QN4.

16 KR-K1 P-Q3

16 ... P-QN4 17 P-K5 is double-edged, whereas after the text P-K5 will always work out badly because of the loose bishop at Q2.

17 QR-B1 Q-N2

18 Q-K2 R-N1

The fight for and against P-QN4 by Black.

19 P-QR4 QR-B1

20 B-B4 P-KR3

21 QR-Q1?

Leaving the knight inadequately guarded lets Black take the initiative. 21 KR-Q1 would keep it level.

21 ... P-Q4!

22 KPxP B-N5

23 B-Q2?

Too passive. The better chance was 23 B-K5 N-Q2 24 Q-B3 N-B4 (24 ... NxN 25 RxN BxN 26 QxB PxP 27 Q-B3!) 25 R-QN1 BxN 26 QxB PxP 27 Q-B3 with only slight advantage to Black.

23 ... PxP

24 Q-B3

Because of the vis-a-vis along the white diagonal 24 NxP loses a piece after 24 ... NxN 25 Q-B3 (25 PxN QxP+ 26 P-B3 BxB) 25 ... BxB 26 RxB N-B5+!

24 ... BxN

25 BxB N-K5

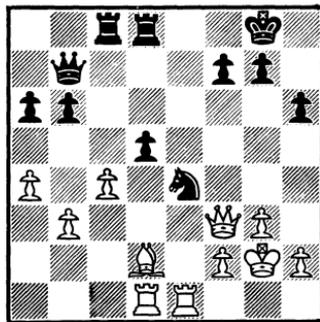
26 B-Q2

Not 26 RxP? RxR 27 QxN R-Q2 with a winning ending. White also has to prevent 27 ... N-N4.

See diagram next column

26 ... P-B4!

Black is able to safeguard his knight since now 27 QxP? R-B1 28 QxP+ QxQ 29 PxQ RxP+ 30 K-N1 RxB wins a piece, and meanwhile



there are threats of PxP or even P-Q5.

27 PxP RxP

28 B-K3 R-B6!

29 RxR QxR

30 R-Q1

Going for active play. 30 P-QN4 R-N6, or 30 P-KN4? PxP 31 QxP N-N4+ 32 P-B3? (32 K-N3 RxP) 32 ... RxB! are clearly unsatisfactory.

30 ... Q-K3

31 R-Q8+ K-R2

32 R-KB8 N-B3

32 ... P-N3 33 R-R8+!

33 P-QN4 R-N6

34 P-R5 PxP

35 PxP R-R6

Finally White must shed a pawn.

36 R-QR8 N-Q4!

This attack is the quick way to win. The QRP can safely be left a few moves.

37 R-KB8 P-B5!

The correct move order. After 37 ... NxB+ 38 PxN R-R7+ 39 K-R3 P-B5+ 40 Q-N4 Black must exchange queens into a possibly drawn ending as 40 ... QxP? 41 Q-B5+ is mate next move.

38 RxP

Now 38 PxP NxB+ 39 PxN RxKP winning the queen or mating.

38 ... NxR+

39 QxN RxP

40 P-R4 Q-Q4+

Now it was time for White to seal, but he preferred to resign.

44 Havana Olympiad 1966

Black: Bolbochan

Sicilian Defence

1	P—K4	P—QB4
2	N—KB3	N—QB3
3	P—Q4	PxP
4	NxP	P—K3
5	N—QB3	P—Q3
6	B—K3	N—B3
7	B—QB4	

This forms the Velimirovic attack, one of a number of sharp lines introduced in recent years by the temperamental Yugoslav. By guarding his knight on move 6 White prepares Q-K2 followed by 0-0-0 and a K-side pawn storm.

7 ...	B—K2
-------	------

Before castling it is too early to go 7 ... P-Q4 because of the pin 8 PxP PxP 9 B-QN5.

8	Q—K2	0—0
9	B—N3	P—QR3
10	0—0—0	Q—R4

The usual move is 10 ... Q-B2 guarding the QN so that P-QN4 can soon be played. Then follows 11 P-N4 (11 KR-N1 is a popular alternative) 11 ... N-QR4 (11 ... N-Q2! 12 P-KR4? N-B4 13 P-N5 P-N4 14 P-B3 B-Q2 with a nice game, Fischer-Larsen, Palma 1970 seems to indicate Black's best defensive line) 12 P-N5 NxB+ 13 RPxN N-Q2 14 N-B5!? PxN 15 N-Q5 Q-Q1 16 PxP and 17 P-B6 with a strong attack, Velimirovic-Sofrevsky, Yugoslav Championship 1965.

11	K—N1
----	------

With the queen at B2 White has no worries over 11 P-N4 NxN 12 RxN! P-K4 because of 13 R-B4 gaining a tempo. Now that Black has chosen a different tack Tal waits to see his opponent's further intentions before

deciding on P-N4 or KR-N1.

11 ...	R—K1
--------	------

A dubious move weakening his KB2 to no purpose. 11 ... B-Q2 was correct.

12	KR—N1	B—Q2
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After 12 ... NxN 13 BxN P-QN4 14 P-N4 P-N5 White has 15 P-N5 N-Q2 16 N-Q5! PxN (16 ... B-B1 17 N-B6+!) 17 BxQP R-N1 18 Q-R5 P-N3 (18 ... R-B1 19 P-N6 RPxP 20 BxP+ wins the queen) 19 BxP+ KxB 20 QxRP+ K-K3 21 QxP+ and wins.

13	P—N4	NxN
14	BxN	B—B3
15	P—N5	N—Q2

In such positions the normal attack manoeuvre is 16 Q-R5 combined with R-N3 or even Q-R6! However here 16 Q-R5 P-KN3 17 Q-R6 B-B1 (the one merit behind Black's 11th move) 18 Q-R4 N-K4 19 R-N3 P-R4! lets Black blunt the attack for a while so Tal plays a move that threatens Q-R5 and then R-R3 since the P-KN3 defence is now ruled out by QxRP+! KxQ R-R3+ and R-R8 mate.

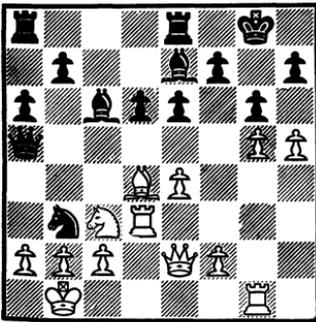
16	R—Q3	P—KN3
17	P—KR4	N—B4
18	P—R5!	

The opening of the KR file is White's only attacking avenue now, so he offers the sacrifice of the 'Soviet exchange' (a term used by Euwe to describe a sacrifice frequently occurring in Soviet games in which with a comparatively crowded board it is judged that a minor piece is as good as a rook).

18 ...	NxB
--------	-----

The Argentinian grandmaster re-

fused the offer after only a couple of minutes thought, since he commented after the game that 18... NxR 19 QxN would be hopeless for Black. In fact after 19 ... BxNP it is not so clear, and Tal intended either 19 PxN or even more sharp 19 PxP when 19 ... RPxP 20 R-R1 N-K4 (20 ... P-K4 21 Q-B3) 21 P-B4 K-N2 22 PxN PxP 23 Q-R2! or 19 ... N-K4 20 PxBP+ NxP (20 ... KxP 21 Q-R5+) 21 P-N6 are quick wins for White. The best defence is 19 ... N-B5 20 PxBP+ KxP 21 BxP! K-B1 (not 21 ... KxB 22 Q-N4+ nor 21 ... NxB 22 Q-B3+ K-N3 23 N-Q5 NxB 24 NxB+ mating) when White continues 22 Q-B3 BxNP 23 B-Q5 with a violent attack. Still it is easy to understand Bolbochan's decision on practical grounds since the KB must have seemed enemy number one is most variations.



19 RPxN! P-K4

At first sight 19 ... B-N4 to carry on exchanging minor pieces was better, and indeed would have been very effective against 19BPxN? as the rook would be *en prise* with check. Now, however, 19 ... B-N4 is met by 20 PxP! BPxP (20 ... RPxP 21 R-R3 P-K4 22 Q-N4 and 23 Q-R4) 21 Q-N4 BxR 22 QxP+ K-B1 23 PxB! BxP 24

QxP+ B-K2 25 Q-B4+ K-N1 26 Q-R6 B-B1 27 RxP+.

20 B-K3 Q-B2

Or again 20 ... B-N4 21 PxP BPxP 22 Q-N4 BxR 23 PxB with a powerful attack.

21 B-Q2 QR-Q1

22 R-R1

The other rook is needed to discourage P-Q4.

22 ... B-B1

23 Q-N4 P-QN4

Or 23 ... B-Q2 24 N-Q5 BxQ 25 NxQ winning the exchange.

24 Q-R4 P-N5

It was better to go 24 ... Q-N2.

25 N-Q1!

From KN4 the knight will deliver the K.O.

25 ... P-Q4

25 ... Q-N2 was still a better fighting chance.

26 N-K3 PxP

27 N-N4! P-B4

Or 27 ... PxR 28 N-B6+ K-R1 29 RPxP P-R3 30 P-N7+ BxP 31 NPxP B-B1 32 Q-N5 and mates.

28 N-B6+ K-B2

29 PxP+ K-K2

Or 29 ... PxP 30 Q-R7+ B-N2 31 QxB+ KxB 32 R-R7+ K-B1 33 RxQ which is why the queen would be better at QN2.

30 NxR

Here too the queen's position at QB2 leaves him no time to go 30 ... PxR.

30 ... RxN

31 PxP B-KN2

32 R3-R3 B-Q4

Rather pointless to go on, so much material down, but a chance to get a threat by R-QB1 is always tempting.

33 Q-R5 K-Q2

Pointless, but 33 ... R-QB1 34 BxP+ K-Q2 35 B-B3 is convincing enough.

34 QxR+ Resigns

45 Palma 1966

Black: Wade

Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4
 2 N—KB3 P—Q3
 3 P—Q4 PxP
 4 NxP N—KB3
 5 N—QB3 P—KN3
 6 B—K3 B—N2
 7 P—B3 N—B3

The main line of the Rauzer attack against the Sicilian Dragon, to which a great deal of attention has been paid in British chess circles in the last decade. This was doubtless the reason for Bob Wade's adoption of it — plus the fact that the game was played in the first round and Tal is a notoriously poor starter.

8 Q—Q2 0—0
 9 B—QB4 B—Q2
 10 P—KR4

White would like to conduct his attack on the KR file without giving Black an object to counter attack, so he doesn't castle yet.

10 ... R—B1
 11 B—N3 Q—R4
 12 P—R5

Black's last move was apparently intended to prevent this, but the bold Tal still goes ahead.

12 ... NxRP

The opening of the rook file is not as suicidal as it seems at first sight since Black gets the option of blunting the attack somewhat by piece exchanges.

13 P—N4 N—B3

A good alternative was 13 ... NxN 14 BxN (14 PxN? NxB 15 BPxN RxN!) 14 ... BxB 15 QxB N-B5 intending to block the attack and safeguard his knight by a subsequent Q-K4.

14 0—0—0 N—K4
 15 B—R6 BxB

Here a good alternative was 15 ... RxN to meet 16 BxB by 16 ... RxP+ forcing off queens, or 16 PxR by 16 ... NxBP! 17 NxN NxKP or 17 BxP+ KxB 18 NxN Q-R6+ 19 K-N1 NxKP with complicated play in which Black has plenty of play for his sacrificed material. Tal indicates that he would probably have replied 16 QxR when the exchange of queens considerably reduces White's attacking chances.

16 RxB

A theoretical innovation at the time reserving his queen for defence of the Q-side for the moment. 16 QxB RxN gives Black plenty of play.

16 ... RxN

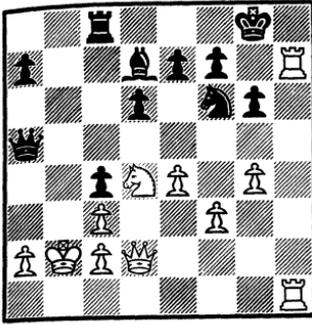
This exchange sacrifice has proved Black's best resource in many Dragon variations — another example of the 'Soviet exchange' referred to in game 44.

17 PxR R—B1
 18 K—N2 P—QN4

Although this forces the QN file open Black has no time to use it. 18 ... N-B5+ or 18 ... Q-N3 are correct when Black can hold his own in the tricky situations which arise. Thus Huguet-Wade, Monaco 1967 went 18 ... Q-N3 19 K-B1 Q-B4 20 K-N2 P-R4! 21 QR-KR1 and now 21 ... P-K3 would give Black a good game — a vindication of the British view that the Dragon is not busted by the Rauzer Attack.

19 QR—KR1 N—B5+
 20 BxN PxB
 21 RxRP!

White gets in first.



21 ... NxR

Or 21 ... R-N1+ 22 N-N3! NxR 23 Q-R6 P-K4 24 QxN+ K-B1 25 Q-R8+ picking up the unguarded rook.

22 Q-R6 P-K3

It looks more logical to go 22 ... P-K4 as in the last note, this time attacking the knight as well as reserving K3 for his bishop. Then however 23 P-N5 wins at once — see the actual game ending. Black does best to try 22 ... Q-K4! 23 QxN+ K-B1 24

P-B4 Q-N2 25 Q-R4 or 25 Q-R2 when Black's position, though unpleasant, still seems tenable.

23 P-B4!

Presumably Black had overlooked that White is not forced to take the knight at once, but can leave the king stuck on N1 while weaving the net ever tighter by preparing to control KB6.

23 ... P-K4

23 ... R-N1+ 24 K-B1 QxBP fails to 25 QxN+ K-B1 26 Q-R8+ K-K2 27 N-B5+ winning the queen, while 24 ... QxRP 25 P-N5! lets White complete the process of weaving the mating net.

24 P-N5! B-K1

To give a flight square on Q2 as the threat was 25 QxN+ K-B1 26 Q-R8+ K-K2 27 Q-B6+ and 28 R-R8 mate.

25 N-K6! Resigns

Black can avoid mate only by great material loss (25 ... PxN 26 QxN+ K-B1 27 Q-R8+ K-K2 28 R-R7+ B-B2 (28 ... K-Q1 29 Q-B6 mate) 29 Q-B6+ K-Q2 30 QxB+ K-B3 31 Q-N7+ etc.

46 Moscow 1967

White: Bilek

King's Indian Attack

1 N-KB3 N-KB3

2 P-KN3 P-QN4

Quite playable at this point since the pawn will not come under fire from the enemy KB in view of White's 'announced' fianchetto.

3 B-N2

Or 3 P-QR4 P-N5 4 P-Q3 B-N2 5

P-K4 P-Q3 and Black has a reasonable position, Petrosian-Spassky, World Championship 1966.

3 ... B-N2

4 0-0 P-K3

5 P-Q3 P-Q4

6 QN-Q2 B-K2

7 P-K4! 0-0

Black holds firm to his central position. After 7 ... P x P 8 N-N5 White would get the better of it in view of tactical threats to the unguarded QB.

- 8 Q-K2 P-B4
9 R-K1 N-B3
10 P-B3

One would expect 10 P-K5, but White decides to wait until he can back up this central thrust by P-Q4.

- 10 ... P-QR4

Black's usual counter against the Kings Indian attack. He holds the centre as best he can and advances pawns to open lines on the Q-side. His second move now shows up in a favourable light since normally in this variation Black might well have played P-QN4 in two stages.

- 11 P x P

Inconsistent. 11 P-K5 and then the standard attack by P-KR4, N-B1-R2-N4 seems called for. Black could not easily challenge the enemy KP by P-B3 since with his bishop not at QB1 his KP might well become weak.

- 11 ... P x P
12 P-Q4 Q-N3

Tal always likes to play with the isolated QP believing as he does in the power of mobile pieces.

- 13 P x P B x P
14 N-N3 KR-K1
15 Q-B2 P-Q5!

Going in for complications rather than face 15 ... R x R+ 16 N x R B-K2 17 B-K3 when White has a firm grip on the black squares.

- 16 Q-B5 R x R+
17 N x R R-K1
18 N-B3

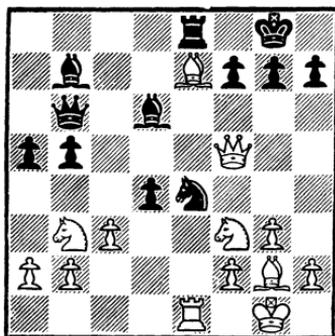
Playing to win the QP. 18 B-B4 B-KB1 19 N x QP (19 P x P? P-R5) 19 ... N x N 20 P x N B x B 21 K x B R-K7 lets Black take the initiative.

- 18 ... B-Q3
19 B-N5 N-K5

More complications rather than meekly acquiescing in 19 ... P x P 20 B x N P x B 21 P x P with Black's K-side broken up.

- 20 R-K1 N-K2
21 B x N

White draws back from the abyss, 21 R x N was the logical continuation since after 21 ... N x Q 22 R x R+ B-KB1 23 N-K5 White threatens both 24 N-Q7 and 24 R x B+. Tal gave after the game the likely continuation 23 ... Q-B2 24 B x B Q x B 25 N-B5 Q-Q4 26 QN-Q7 P-R3 27 N x B winning since 27 ... P x B allows mate by 28 QN-N6+ K-R2 29 R-R8. However two Siberian amateurs Sytnik and Tiurin gave 24 ... N-Q3! as better for Black since he threatens several pieces and can play P-B3 forking two more and giving his king more room. Then the improvement 24 B-Q8! was found since the Black queen now has too many defensive tasks to cope with.



- 21 ... P-N3!
22 Q-R3 P x P!

A remarkable counter attacking concept based on his Q-side pawns. Thus 23 B x B loses to 23 ... Q x P+ 24 K-R1 Q x R+! 25 N x Q N-B7+ 26 K-N1 N x Q+ 27 B x N R x N+ 28 K-B2 P x P 29

N-Q2 R-Q8 and forces home a new queen.

23 R x N P x P!
 Chess is not like draughts — you are not forced to make captures! 23 ... B x R? 24 N-N5 P-R4 25 Q B x B B x B 26 Q-Q7! favours White.

24 R-K1
 Or 24 QN-Q2 B x R 25 B x B B-B4!, or 24 Q-R6 (playing for mate) 24 ... P-N8(Q)+ 25 B-B1 Q x R 26 N-N5? Q-R8 mate! or in this 26 B-B6 B-KB1.

24 ... R x B
 25 R-N1 P-R5
 26 QN-Q4?

White had to reconcile himself to 26 R x P! P x N 27 P x P defending his

second rank and reducing the threat of a Q-side pawn breakthrough.

26 ... B x N
 27 N x B R-K7
 28 R-KB1

Or 28 Q-B8+ K-N2 29 Q-B3+ B-K4! winning the queen or mating.

28 ... R x P!
 The passed pawn has the last laugh. If 29 N-N5 then 29 ... R x R + 30 K x R P-N8(Q)+ 31 K-K2 Q-QB7+ mating, or 29 R x R P-N8(Q)+ 30 B-B1 Q x P etc.

29 Q-B8+ K-N2
 30 Q-B3+ P-B3
 31 Resigns

A combinational masterpiece!

47 Moscow 1967

Black: Petrosian
Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4 P-K4
 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
 3 B-N5 P-QR3
 4 B-R4 N-B3
 5 0-0 B-K2
 6 R-K1 P-QN4
 7 B-N3 0-0
 8 P-B3 P-Q3
 9 P-KR3 N-QR4
 10 B-B2 P-B4
 11 P-Q4 N-B3
 12 QN-Q2 BP x P
 13 P x P B-N2

An unusual form of the closed Chigorin system, with which Petrosian had been successful in drawing with Tal in the latter's greatest tournament performance — the 1959 Candidates' Tournament.

14 N-B1
 14 P-Q5 seems preferable as then Black's QB is not too well placed. 14 P-R3 P x P left Black with a nice game in the 1959 encounter.

14 ... R-K1
 Petrosian thought a very long time over this move. 14 ... P x P suggests itself as after 15 N x P N x N 16 Q x N R-B1 17 N-K3 P-Q4! Black has good development, Tal intended answering 15 N-N3 leaving the recovery of the QP till later.

15 N-N3 P-N3
 16 B-R6 B-KB1
 17 Q-Q2

Slightly better was 17 B x B R x B 18 Q-Q2 K-N2 19 QR-Q1 with some central initiative.

Black holds firm to his central position. After 7 ... P x P 8 N-N5 White would get the better of it in view of tactical threats to the unguarded QB.

- 8 Q-K2 P-B4
 9 R-K1 N-B3
 10 P-B3

One would expect 10 P-K5, but White decides to wait until he can back up this central thrust by P-Q4.

- 10 ... P-QR4

Black's usual counter against the Kings Indian attack. He holds the centre as best he can and advances pawns to open lines on the Q-side. His second move now shows up in a favourable light since normally in this variation Black might well have played P-QN4 in two stages.

- 11 P x P

Inconsistent. 11 P-K5 and then the standard attack by P-KR4, N-B1-R2-N4 seems called for. Black could not easily challenge the enemy KP by P-B3 since with his bishop not at QB1 his KP might well become weak.

- 11 ... P x P
 12 P-Q4 Q-N3

Tal always likes to play with the isolated QP believing as he does in the power of mobile pieces.

- 13 P x P B x P
 14 N-N3 KR-K1
 15 Q-B2 P-Q5!

Going in for complications rather than face 15 ... R x R+ 16 N x R B-K2 17 B-K3 when White has a firm grip on the black squares.

- 16 Q-B5 R x R+
 17 N x R R-K1
 18 N-B3

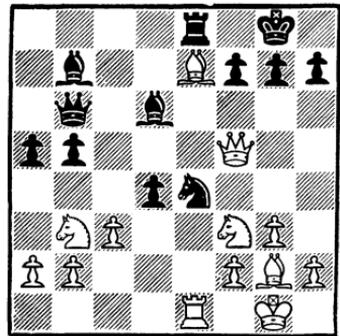
Playing to win the QP. 18 B-B4 B-KB1 19 N x QP (19 P x P? P-R5) 19 ... N x N 20 P x N B x B 21 K x B R-K7 lets Black take the initiative.

- 18 ... B-Q3
 19 B-N5 N-K5

More complications rather than meekly acquiescing in 19 ... P x P 20 B x N P x B 21 P x P with Black's K-side broken up.

- 20 R-K1 N-K2
 21 B x N

White draws back from the abyss, 21 R x N was the logical continuation since after 21 ... N x Q 22 R x R+ B-KB1 23 N-K5 White threatens both 24 N-Q7 and 24 R x B+. Tal gave after the game the likely continuation 23 ... Q-B2 24 B x B Q x B 25 N-B5 Q-Q4 26 QN-Q7 P-R3 27 N x B winning since 27 ... P x B allows mate by 28 QN-N6+ K-R2 29 R-R8. However two Siberian amateurs Sytnik and Tiurin gave 24 ... N-Q3! as better for Black since he threatens several pieces and can play P-B3 forking two more and giving his king more room. Then the improvement 24 B-Q8! was found since the Black queen now has too many defensive tasks to cope with.



- 21 ... P-N3!
 22 Q-R3 P x P!

A remarkable counter attacking concept based on his Q-side pawns. Thus 23 B x B loses to 23 ... Q x P+ 24 K-R1 Q x R+! 25 N x Q N-B7+ 26 K-N1 N x Q+ 27 B x N R x N+ 28 K-B2 P x P

N-Q2 R-Q8 and forces home a new queen.

23 R×N P×P!

Chess is not like draughts — you are not forced to make captures! 23 ... B×R? 24 N-N5 P-R4 25 Q-B×B B×B 26 Q-Q7! favours White.

24 R-K1

Or 24 QN-Q2 B×R 25 B×B B-B4!, or 24 Q-R6 (playing for mate) 24 ... P-N8(Q)+ 25 B-B1 Q×R 26 N-N5? Q-R8 mate! or in this 26 B-B6 B-KB1.

24 ... R×B

25 R-N1 P-R5

26 QN-Q4?

White had to reconcile himself to 26 R×P! P×N 27 P×P defending his

second rank and reducing the threat of a Q-side pawn breakthrough.

26 ... B×N

27 N×B R-K7

28 R-KB1

Or 28 Q-B8+ K-N2 29 Q-B3+ B-K4! winning the queen or mating.

28 ... R×P!

The passed pawn has the last laugh. If 29 N-N5 then 29 ... R×R+ 30 K×R P-N8(Q)+ 31 K-K2 Q-QB7+ mating, or 29 R×R P-N8(Q)+ 30 B-B1 Q×P etc.

29 Q-B8+ K-N2

30 Q-B3+ P-B3

31 Resigns

A combinational masterpiece!

47 Moscow 1967

Black: Petrosian

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4 P-K4

2 N-KB3 N-QB3

3 B-N5 P-QR3

4 B-R4 N-B3

5 0-0 B-K2

6 R-K1 P-QN4

7 B-N3 0-0

8 P-B3 P-Q3

9 P-KR3 N-QR4

10 B-B2 P-B4

11 P-Q4 N-B3

12 QN-Q2 BP×P

13 P×P B-N2

An unusual form of the closed Chigorin system, with which Petrosian had been successful in drawing with Tal in the latter's greatest tournament performance — the 1959 Candidates' Tournament.

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15 N-N3 P-N3

16 B-R6 B-KB1

17 Q-Q2

Slightly better was 17 B×B R×B 18 Q-Q2 K-N2 19 QR-Q1 with some central initiative.

17 ...	NxQP
18 NxN	BxB
19 QxB	PxN
20 QR-Q1	R-QB1
21 B-N1	

A confession that White has nothing better than to hang on to his centre after the inaccuracy at move 17. The attempt to exploit his queen's position at KR6 by 21 B-N3 BxB! 22 NxB RxN 23 RxR NxR 24 BxP+ would hardly produce anything better than perpetual check (if that!), while 22 RxP B-B7 or 22 Q-B4 B-B3 23 RxR+ BxR are perfectly satisfactory for Black.

21 ...	R-K3
22 RxP	Q-K2
23 Q-N5	

The only good answer to the pressure on the KP (23 Q-K3 QR-K1, whereas now 23 ... QR-K1 24 N-B5).

23 ...	R-B4
24 Q-K3	R-B5?

Missing a tactical point. 24 ... P-Q4 produces great complications after 25 P-K5 N-Q2 26 P-B4 P-B3 27 Q-Q2 PxP 28 P-B5 R-KB3 29 R-KN4, so 24 ... R-B1 or 24 ... N-R4 were better moves.

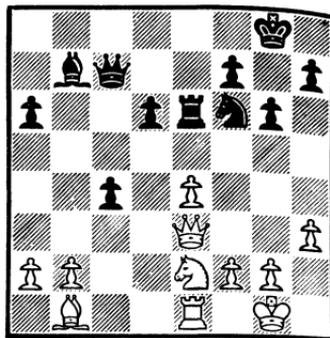
25 RxR	PxR
26 N-K2!	

Suddenly White takes back the initiative since his KP is now quite safe (26 ... BxP 27 N-Q4 BxB 28 NxR PxN 29 RxB with a won ending, or 27 ... R-K4 28 P-B4).

26 ...	Q-B2
--------	------

Defending against a possible irruption by Q-N6 or N-Q4-B6. Both sides were now short of time and in what follows White aims to free his bishop by P-K5 rather than play the quieter plan N-B3, Q-Q4 and R-Q1 playing on his opponent's weak pawns.

See diagram next column.



27 N-Q4	R-K4
28 N-B3	R-QB4
29 R-QB1	

He must prevent P-B6.

29 ...	Q-B3
--------	------

This renders the P-K5 dubious, so White tacks about a little.

30 N-Q4	Q-K1
31 R-K1	R-K4
32 N-B3	R-K3
33 Q-N6	BxP?

Black had little time left and in such a tense situation it is no wonder that he goes wrong. 33 ... Q-K2 with the threat of 34 ... P-Q4 is correct when White continues 34 N-Q4 R-K4 35 P-B4 R-QB4 36 P-QN4 and the situation remains very complicated.

34 N-Q4	
---------	--

Petrosian had calculated that this move was impossible in view of the variation 34 ... BxB 35 NxR B-B4 overlooking 36 Q-Q8! breaking the pin (but not 36 Q-Q4 Q-K2).

34 ...	N-Q4
--------	------

After 34 ... R-K4 35 QxQP the pin on the K file is decisive since White has P-B3 or N-B6 coming up.

35 QxRP	R-K2
---------	------

Not 35 ... BxB 36 NxR B-B4 37 QxBP BxN (37 ... N-B3 38 Q-B3, 37 ... N-N3 38 Q-Q4) 38 QxN.

36 Q-B6	
---------	--

The most exact. 36 QxQP BxB 37

RxB R-K8+ 38 RxR QxR+ 39 K-R2
 Q-K5 is nothing like so clear.
 36 ... N-B3
 Or 36 ... QxQ 37 NxQ R-B2 38 BxB
 remaining a piece up.
 37 QxQP R-K3
 Black played this move with his
 flag about to fall, but he had no satis-

factory alternative (37 ... K-N2 38 P-B3, or 37 ... R-Q2 38 QxN).
 38 NxR Resigns
 Not a particularly good or harmonious game, but it deserves inclusion as Tal's only win in serious play against the Armenian since 1957.

48 Moscow 1967

Black: Bronstein

Centre Counter Gambit

1 P-K4 P-Q4

Few grandmasters ever try this move. Bronstein, however, has always had a wide opening repertoire, and the positions which arise from this opening normally demand accurate treatment from White to maintain his slight initiative. As the game itself shows White finds it hard to get an attack going so it was a reasonably good psychological chance against Tal.

2 PxP N-KB3
 3 N-KB3 NxP
 4 P-Q4 P-KN3

A modern way of pressing on White's centre. The older move 4 ... B-N5 leaves the QNP undefended and after 5 P-B4 N-N3 (5 ... N-KB3 is more accurate here) 6 P-B5! BxN (6 ... N-Q4 7 Q-N3 BxN 8 QxP! winning material safely) 7 QxB N-Q4 8 Q-QN3! P-QN3 9 B-KN5 Black's position is poor (Suetin-Shamkovich XXXII USSR 1965). However by Boleslavsky's recent suggestion 6 ... KN-Q2! 7 Q-N3 N-QB3 8 B-K3 P-K4! Black can attempt

to rehabilitate the early bishop sortie.

5 P-B4 N-KB3

Rather illogical since the action of his fianchettoed bishop will now be weakened. The retreat to QN3 seems the better choice.

6 N-B3 B-N2

He could try 6 ... B-N5 before White rules the pin out. However the move would hardly be an improvement with the knight not at QN3 since after 7 B-K2 N-B3 8 B-K3 White can answer 8 ... BxN by 9 BxB. Had the knight been at QN3 then Black could play 8 ... NxBP — a considerable difference!

7 P-KR3 0-0
 8 B-K3 QN-Q2

Now the QB has few prospects, but after 8 ... B-B4 9 B-K2 QN-Q2? 10 P-KN4! the piece would only be exchanged off under poor circumstances (10 ... B-K3 11 N-KN5 or 10 ... B-K5 11 P-N5 BxN 12 BxBN-K1 13 Q-Q2 threatening both 14 BxP and 14 P-KR4.)

9 Q-Q2 P-B3
 10 B-K2 R-K1
 11 R-Q1

From Tal one might have expected 11 0-0-0 but as the whole game shows he is in the mood to play a sound constricting game. The initial task is to try to prevent P-K4.

11 ... Q-R4
12 0-0 P-QR3?

Illogical. Black's only chance of freedom was 12 ... P-K4 even though after 13 P-Q5 White stands better since the Black QB is still a problem piece.

13 P-R3 Q-Q1

A clear admission that he has lost the opening struggle.

14 Q-B1 P-N3
15 N-K5 B-N2
16 P-B5!

Ensuring that the enemy QB remains passive.

16 ... Q-B2
17 B-KB4 Q-B1
18 B-B4 NxN?

A typical feature of cramped positions is that the defender finally feels he must exchange pieces even when the recapturing man proves to be as equally awkward as the one he replaces, 18 ... P-K3 is terribly weakening, so the pawn sacrifice 18 ... N-Q4 19 BxN Px B 20 NxN QxN 21 PxP Q-B3 22 B-B7 P-K4 hoping for 23 PxP? P-Q5 looks a slightly better chance.

19 PxN N-Q4

Now the sacrifice comes to nothing because White has the open Q file for his rook, but there was little choice (19 ... N-Q2? 20 P-K6 or 19 ... N-R4 20 B-KR2 B-B1 — else 21 P-KN4 — 21 N-R4! P-QN4 22 N-N6 Q-B4 23 B-Q3 or 22 ... Q-N1 23 P-K6).

20 BxN! Px B
21 PxP Q-K3

Now 21 ... P-Q5 fails to 22 RxP Q-B3 23 N-Q5! and 21 ... Q-B3 to simply 22 NxP.

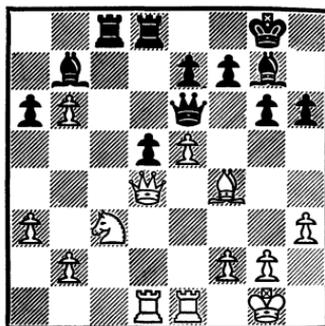
22 Q-K3 QR-B1

23 KR-K1 KR-Q1
24 Q-Q4!

Preparing to meet 24 ... R-B5? by 25 QxR PxQ 26 RxR+ B-KB1 27 B-R6 hence Black's next move.

24 ... P-R3

After 24 ... R-B3 White has no need to play 25 N-R4 since he can safely go 25 NxP (25 ... QR-B1 26 N-B6+! or 25 ... K-R1 26 N-B7! RxQ 27 RxR Q-B1 28 KR-Q1 etc.). Perhaps 24 ... Q-QB3 to follow up 25 ... Q-B5 or 25 ... P-K3 was a better practical chance.



25 P-QN3 P-N4

A serious weakening, but Bronstein was already in time trouble and has no really good moves to hand.

26 B-N3 Q-QB3
27 R-QB1 P-K3
28 P-KR4! Q-B4

Trying to lessen the force of the coming attack on his king.

29 QxQ RxQ
30 N-R4 R-N4
31 R-B7 PxP
32 BxP R-N1
33 R-K3! P-Q5
34 R-N3 K-R1

Or 34 ... RxKP 35 B-B6 R-KN4 36 BxR Px B 37 N-B5 B-Q4 38 P-N7.

35 RxP BxKP
36 P-B4!

That normally reliable source^e

'Informator' claims that Bronstein resigned at this point. In fact this is a piece of good advice since 36 ... BxBP allows 37 B-B6 mate. With his flag about to fall Bronstein in fact made the following ten(!) superfluous moves.

36 ...	R—KN1
37 RxB	RxR
38 BxR	B—Q3

39 R—Q7	BxRP
40 P—N7	P—Q6
41 P—B5!	PxP
42 P—N8(Q)+	RxQ
43 B—K5+	

Hoping the flag would fall to stop the farce?

43 ...	K—N1
44 BxR	P—Q7
45 K—B1	Resigns

49 Budva 1967

Black: Geller
Ruy Lopez

1 P—K4	P—K4
2 N—KB3	N—QB3
3 B—N5	P—QR3
4 B—R4	N—B3
5 0—0	NxP
6 P—Q4	P—QN4
7 B—N3	P—Q4
8 PxP	B—K3
9 Q—K2	

Geller has chosen an open defence which he rarely uses, so Tal decides to try Keres' line in preference to the classical 9 P-B3.

9 ...	B—K2
10 R—Q1	0—0
11 P—B4	NPxP
12 BxP	B—QB4
13 B—K3	BxB
14 QxB	Q—N1

As is often the case in the Lopez Black is ahead in development but has to watch a number of weak points — here his QP and QRP.

15 B—N3	Q—N3
---------	------

As his QP is so weak he does better to relieve the pressure by driving White's bishop away, or exchanging

it. After 15 ... N-QR4 16 QN-Q2 Black got equality in the game Matanovic-Korchnoy (Sukhumi) 1966 by 16 ... Q-R2! threatening favourable exchanges.

16 Q—K2	QR—Q1?
---------	--------

He should play 16 ... N-K2 at once so as to have P-QB3 or P-QB4 available if necessary.

17 N—B3	NxN
18 PxN	N—K2
19 QR—N1	

This discovered attack threat shows why it would have been more accurate to have his queen on QR2 rather than QN3.

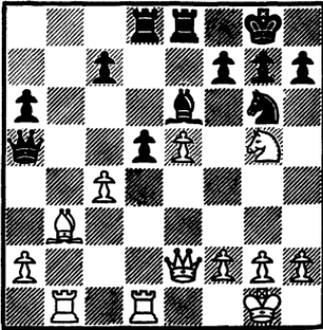
19 ...	Q—R4
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Not 19 ... B-B4? 20 B-B2 and now 20 ... Q-N3 21 N-R4 or 20 ... Q-K3 21 N-Q4.

20 P—B4	KR—K1
---------	-------

20 ... PxP 21 BxP BxB 22 QxB was better. Black's isolated Q-side pawns give him some disadvantage, but after the text White gets great pressure on the white squares.

21 N—N5	N—N3
---------	------



22 P×P B×P
 Black may have been hoping to

simplify and even get some pressure on White's centre pawn. White's next move certainly disillusioned him.

23 R×B! R×R
 24 Q—B3 Resigns

If 24 ... R-Q2 25 B×P+ K-B1 26 B×N+, or 24 ... QR×P 25 Q×P+ K-R1 26 Q-N8+! with a Philidor mate, or finally 24 ... KR×P 25 Q×P+ K-R1 26 P-KR4 (not 26 B×R Q-K8+ and it is White who is mated) and as 26 ... R×N fails to 27 Q-K8+ mating Black has no defence to the threat of 27 B×R Q×B 28 R-N8+.

50 Budva 1967

Black: Bogdanovic

Sicilian Defence

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 1 P—K4 | P—QB4 |
| 2 N—KB3 | P—Q3 |
| 3 P—Q4 | P×P |
| 4 N×P | N—KB3 |
| 5 N—QB3 | P—QR3 |
| 6 B—KN5 | P—K3 |
| 7 P—B4 | Q—N3 |

A bold choice against Tal who is known not only as a fine attacking player, but also as a keen student of crucial modern opening lines.

8 Q—Q2 Q×P

After 8 ... N-B3 9 0-0-0 N×N 10 Q×N Q×Q 11 R×Q (Keres-Parmo, Gothenburg 1955) White has a bind on the position.

9 R—QN1

At the time of writing, and under the strong impression made by the 11th game of the 1973 Spassky-Fischer match, 9 N-N3 is considered

very promising for White.

9 ... Q—R6

10 P—B5

Another question of preference.

The older 10 P-K5 (e.g. Keres-Fuderer, Gothenburg 1955) seems to have been neutralised by Fischer's 10 ... P×P 11 P×P KN-Q2 12 B-QB4 Q-R4! when minor piece sacrifices on K6 doesn't seem to work (see Mazzoni-Fischer, Monaco 1967 which went 13 N×P P×N 14 B×KP Q×P+ 15 Q-K3 Q×Q+ 16 B×Q N-QB3 17 N-Q5 B-Q3 with an easy win). 10 B×N P×B 11 B-K2 B-N2 12 0-0 or 12 P-B5 is another modern 'try'.

10 ... N—B3

Not 10 ... P-K4 11 B×N P×B 12 N-Q5 with a bind, nor 10...B-K2 11 P×P P×P 12 B-B4, nor 10 ... Q-B4 11 P×P P×P 12 B×N P×B 13 N-R4 B-R3 14

QxB QxN 15 N-N6 Q-B6+ 16 K-Q1 R-R2 17 Q-N7 R-B1 18 B-K2 threatening 19 B-R5+ (analysis by Matsukevich). 10 ... P-QN4 preparing Q-B4 without having to worry about N-R4-N6 may well be Black's best chance.

- 11 PxP PxP
- 12 NxN PxN
- 13 P-K5!

Following his policy of opening lines to the maximum possible extent.

- 13 ... N-Q4

13 ... PxP 14 BxN PxB 15 N-K4 leaves Black struggling e.g. 15 ... B-K2 16 B-K2 0-0 17 R-N3 Q-R5 18 P-B4 K-R1 19 0-0 R-R2 20 Q-R6 with a powerful attack (Gipslis-Korchnoy XXXI USSR Championship 1963).

- 14 NxN BPxN

After 14 ... KPxN the king is left more exposed than after the text. Then by 15 R-N3 QxP 16 Q-B3 P-B4 17 PxP White gets an over-whelming position (17 ... K-Q2 18 QxB BxP 19 B-N5+. etc Matsukevich).

- 15 B-K2 PxP
- 16 0-0 B-B4+
- 17 K-R1 R-B1
- 18 P-B4!

More line opening.

- 18 ... RxR+
- 19 RxR B-N2

Both players had been striving to get to this position, Black because he was relying on the game Fischer-Geller Monaco 1967 (played several months before this game, and therefore the last word in theory) and White because he was relying on Fischer's judgement & after the Geller game Fischer had been insistent that White must have the better of this position in view of his superior development.

- 20 Q-B2!

According to Gligoric Fischer

indicated this move in the post mortem with Geller but most of the bystanders thought 20 ... P-K5 was a sufficient defence. Fischer actually played 20 B-N4? PxP 21 BxP Q-Q6 22 Q-K1 B-K5 23 B-N4 but after 23 .. R-QN1 24 B-Q1 K-Q2 he was clearly losing. The text is very strong, and a clear vindication of Fischer's judgement is to be found in the fact that White has yet another strong line in Lilienthal's suggestion 20 B-Q1 threatening both 21 Q-Q3 and 21 Q-N2. There are then many possible lines, but it seems hard for Black to escape defeat e.g. 20 ... R-QB1 21 Q-K2 B-K2 22 Q-R5+ P-N3 23 QxRP or 20 ... P-K5 21 Q-B3 or 20 ... B-K2 21 BxB KxB (21 ... QxB 22 B-R4+ K-Q1 23 Q-R5+ K-B1 24 P-B5!) 22 Q-N5+ etc.

- 20 ... P-K5

Not 20 ... B-K2 21 B-R5+ P-N3 22 BxP+ PxB 23 QxP+ K-Q2 24 BxB nor 20 ... P-N3 21 B-N2 B-K2 22 Q-B2 0-0 23 BxP+ K-N1 24 BxB QxB 25 BxP BxB 26 PxB and the king is laid bare.

- 21 B-N4! B-K2

Not 21 ... Q-Q6? 22 Q-R4+ mating, nor 21 ... K-Q2 22 R-B7+ K-B2 23 PxP+, nor 21 ... B-QB1 22 R-Q1 with a powerful attack in both cases.

- 22 Q-B2

A winning switch of attack, just as Black thought he was getting his king into safety.

- 22 ... 0-0-0

Or 22 ... BxB 23 Q-B7+ K-Q1 24 QxB R-B1 25 BxP R-B2 26 Q-N8+.

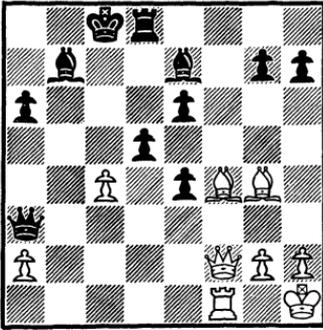
- 23 B-B4!

The winning move, as the king is now severely restricted in scope and 24 BxP+ becomes a decisive threat.

See diagram next column

- 23 ... B-Q3

- 24 BxP+ K-N1



Or 24 ... K-B2 25 R-QN1 BxB? 26 Q-N6+ mating or in this 25 ... Q-R4 26 BxP, while 25 P-B5 BxB 26 QxB+

K-B3 27 R-QN1 also yields a winning attack.

25 Q-N6 BxB
26 QxR+ K-R2
27 R-QN1

Naturally not 27 RxB because of back row mate.

27 ... Q-Q3
Or 27 ... B-K6 28 RxB+ KxR 29 BxP+ K-R2 30 Q-B7 mate.
28 BxP!

A nice final flourish liquidating into a won ending, as if 28 ... QxQ 29 RxB+ K-R1 30 R-Q7+.

28 ... BxB
29 QxQ BxQ
30 PxB Resigns

A theoretical battle lost!

51 4th Spartakiad 1967

White: Ufimstev
Modern Benoni

1 P-Q4 N-KB3
2 P-QB4 P-QB4
3 P-Q5 P-K3
4 N-QB3 PxP
5 PxP P-Q3
6 P-K4 P-KN3
7 N-B3 B-N2
8 B-K2 0-0
9 0-0 R-K1
10 N-Q2 N-R3

It is a moot point whether the knight should go here trying to provoke BxN by White when Black has good play on the QN file, or to Q2 as in the later game against Tukmakov (see game No. 64).

11 K-R1 N-B2

12 P-QR4 R-N1
13 P-B4

The veteran master from Uzbekistan has no fears and chooses an aggressive but loosening line. Fainter hearts would prefer 13 P-B3.

13 ... P-QR3
14 P-R5 B-Q2
15 B-B3 N-N4!

The correct response to White's 14th as NxN or N-Q5 are both serious positional threats if Black is given time.

16 P-K5

Neither side shows any fear of complications.

16 ... PxP

- 17 P x P R x P
 18 N—B4 R—B4

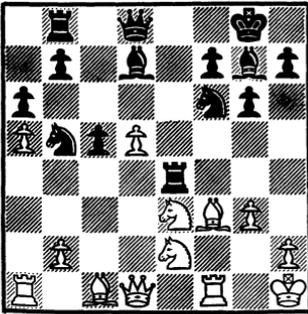
A strange square for the rook but it is better than a passive choice such as R-K1 when White has B-B4 as well as pressure on the KB file as in the Penrose-Tal game of 1960 to which we have referred before (see also No. 91 Beyen).

- 19 N—K3 R—B5
 20 N—K2 R—KR5

20 ... R-QN5 would put the rook on a square on which it is often well placed in the Benoni, but here White has in reply 21 N-B2 R-N6?! 22 N-K3 with a repetition of moves that Tal clearly wishes to avoid.

- 21 P—KN3 R—K5!

White has systematically driven the rook about the board and was presumably envisaging the honourable draw he would get from the variation of the last note. Tal prefers to sacrifice the exchange for White's best minor piece.



- 22 B x R N x B

Now White is at a loss for a good

plan as he cannot develop his QB effectively and has weak white squares especially on the K side. He decides to prevent B-N5 and B-R6 but thereby lets Black's other knight come to a fine central outpost.

- 23 N—KB4 N—Q5
 24 K—N2 Q—K2
 25 R—K1 P—R4
 26 R—R3 R—K1

Both sides concentrate their forces to the best of their ability, but Black clearly has the more harmonious formation and more control in the centre. The position is a fine example of the fact that on a crowded board a rook is not so clearly superior to a minor piece.

- 27 N—K2

Loses at once, but as the Russian saying puts it, "Yemu dorog khoroshy soviet" (Good advice is hard to find in a bad position). Possibly White even felt that giving up his queen for two minor pieces might relieve his game in the sense that on a still crowded board the Black queen could not be very mobile.

- 27 ... B—R6+

- 28 K x B

Or 28 K-N1 N-B6+.

- 28 ... N—N4!

The point! Mate is much more decisive than just winning the queen by 28 ... N-B7+.

- 29 Resigns

29 K-R4 QN-B6 mate or 29 K-N2 Q-K5+ and mate in two.

52 35th USSR Championship 1967**Black: Vasiukov****Alekhine's Defence**

1 P-K4 N-KB3
 2 P-K5 N-Q4
 3 P-Q4 P-Q3
 4 N-KB3

Tal never seems to play the Four Pawns attack against Alekhine's Defence.

4 ... B-N5

A quieter line than 4 ... P-KN3 which has been very popular in recent years.

5 B-K2 P-K3
 6 0-0 N-QB3

A provocative move as it gives White the chance of a subsequent P-Q5. 6 ... B-K2 is safer.

7 P-B4 N-N3
 8 PxP PxP
 9 P-QN3

White has the chance to complicate here by 9 P-Q5 when the crucial line as given by Bagirov is 9... PxP 10 PxP BxN 11 PxB! N-K4 12 B-N5+ N4-Q2 13 Q-Q4 Q-B3 14 R-K1+ K-Q1!

9 ... B-K2
 10 N-B3 0-0
 11 B-K3

Not 11 P-Q5 is not too clear since Black has 11 ... B-B3!

11 ... P-Q4

Considered premature by Boleslavsky but this judgement is not shared by the other Soviet authority on the defence the Baku master Bagirov. After Boleslavsky's 11 ... B-B3 Bagirov points out that 12 N-K4 is strong.

12 P-B5 N-Q2

Better than 12 ... N-B1 13 P-QN4 P-QR3 14 N-K5!, Robatsch-Hort, Venice 1969.

13 P-QN4 NxNP

14 R-N1 N-QB3
 15 RxP

The position Tal had been playing for. According to earlier theory White stood much better e.g. 15 ... BxN 16 BxB NxBP? 17 NxP! Nedeljkovic-Janosevic, Yugoslav Championship 1948, or 15 ... N-R4 16 R-N5 P-QR3 17 R-N1 B-B3 18 N-QR4 N-B5 19 BxN PxB 20 P-B6 Cheskauskas-Bagirov, Vladimir 1962.

15 ... R-N1!

Vasiukov's innovation which seems to equalise, since Black establishes his blockading knight very firmly on QB3 after the exchange of rooks.

16 RxR N2xR
 17 P-KR3

Perhaps 17 N-Q2 BxB 18 QxB intending 19 N-N3 is better when White's pawn at Q4 does not come under such severe pressure.

17 ... BxN
 18 BxB Q-R4

Not 18 ... BxP? 19 PxB P-Q5 20 Q-R4 remaining a piece up.

19 Q-Q3 B-B3

Vasiukov now offered a draw, but Tal declined.

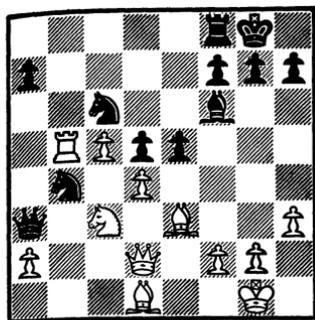
20 R-N1 N-R3
 21 R-N5 N(R3)-N5!

After this fine move it is not so clear who has the initiative on the Q side! 21 ... Q-R6 is not so good because after 22 B-K2 guarding the queen White threatens 23 NxP.

22 Q-Q2 Q-R6
 23 B-Q1

Not 23 N-N1 QxP 24 RxN QxQ²⁵ BxQ NxR 26 BxN R-N1!

23 ... P-K4!



This advance gives Black good counter chances.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-------|
| 24 | PxP | BxP |
| 25 | NxP | NxN |
| 26 | QxN | R—Q1! |

The point, since back row mate comes up in many variations from now onwards.

27 Q—N3

Not 27 Q-B3 Q-B6 28 Q-K2 Q-R8 29 B-Q2 QxP with the better of it for Black.

27 ... N—R4?

Too ambitious. This pseudo queen sacrifice should be replaced by the prosaic 27 ... QxP with equality. After the game Vasiukov found a much more complicated draw, namely 27 ... R-Q6 28 Q-B2 RxQB! 29 PxR QxP+ 30 Q-B2 (30 K-B1 B-Q5 draws) 30 ... B-R7+ 31 K-B1 Q-B8 and forces a draw by perpetual e.g. 32 Q-K2 Q-KB5+ 33 Q-B3 Q-B5+ 34 Q-K2 Q-B5+, or 33 Q-B2 Q-B8 with repetition.

28 Q—B2 N—B5

Missing White's next move. 28 ...

QxRP was still correct though after 29 B-N5! QxQ 30 BxQ P-B3 31 RxN PxB 32 RxP White has a slight advantage.

29 B—N5

Now Black has great difficulties since 29 ... P-B3 lets his knight be taken with check and 29 ... R-Q5 30 B-K2 favours White as his QBP is now ready to advance.

29 ... Q—QB6

30 K—B1!

Finally putting an end to the back row mate problems.

30 ... P—B3

31 QxQ BxQ

32 B—N3 PxB

33 P—B6

With opposite coloured bishops in the ending the QBP is not necessarily a winning advantage. Black must now play 33 ... R-QB1 34 BxN+ K-B1 35 B-Q5 R-B2 and has good drawing chances. Instead he allows the pawn to come on one more square and loses quickly.

33 ... K—B1

34 P—B7! R-K1

Alas, now the back row threat is mercilessly exploited by White — 34 ... R-B1? 35 R-N8 N-Q3 36 B-K6 and wins.

35 R—N8 N—N3

36 B—R4 R—B1

37 B—Q7 B—K4

Or 37 ... NxB 38 RxR+ K-K2 39 R-K8+.

38 BxR BxP

39 R—N7 B—K4

40 RxRP Resigns

53 35th USSR Championship 1967**Black: Zhuravlev****Reti Opening**

1	N—KB3	P—Q4
2	P—B4	P—K3
3	P—KN3	

This game against Tal's Latvian colleague was played in the last round when Tal and Polugaevsky each has a score of 9/13. Instead of his usual 1 P-K4 Tal prefers a quiet opening.

3	...	N—KB3
4	B—N2	B—K2
5	0—0	0—0
6	P—N3	P—B4
7	B—N2	

In the early days of the Reti White, fearing P-Q5, used to play 7 PXP NXP 8 B-N2 when 8...B-B3 gives Black good chances of equalising.

7	...	N—B3
8	P—K3	P—Q5

Finally Black decides to commit himself, but 8...P-QN3 9 N-B3 B-N2 is sounder.

9	PxP	PxP
10	R—K1!	

Thus Tal gets a reversed Benoni, a position in which he has always felt at home because of the dynamic possibilities open to the player with the Q-side pawn majority.

10	...	R—K1
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10...P-Q6 is recommended in *Informator 5* by Spassky without any further analysis. Since that move is known to be double-edged for White in the opening sequence 1 P-Q4 N-KB3 2 P-QB4 P-K3 3 N-QB3 P-B4 4 P-Q5 PXP 5 PXP P-KN3 6 P-Q6 B-N2 it is not clear why it is appropriate here when White has a tempo up on the Modern Benoni.

Taimanov suggests Black must aim to support his pawn wedge by P-

B3 and P-K4 and therefore gives 10... N-K1 11 P-Q3 P-B3 12 P-QR3 P-QR3 13 Q-B2 P-K4 with unclear consequences, Taimanov-Grinpres, Leningrad 1970.

11	P—Q3	B—B1
12	P—QR3	P—QR4
13	N—K5!	NxN
14	RxN	N—Q2
15	R—QN5	

A well known Benoni manoeuvre. The rook lames the enemy Q-side and helps the advance of the QNP.

15	...	P—K4
16	N—Q2	

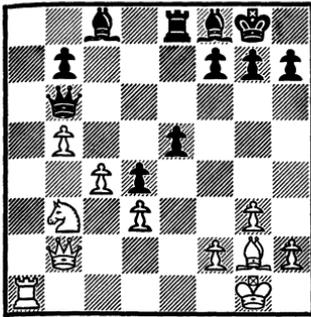
Much better than snatching the pawn by 16 BxNP BxB 17 RxB N-B4 18 R-N5 Q-Q2! when 19...Q-B4 is a threat, and 19 N-Q2 NxQP or 19 P-QN4 PXP 20 PXP RxR 21 BxR N-R3 would both be unsatisfactory for White.

16	...	R—R3
17	Q—K2	

The QP has to be guarded before the QNP can be taken, but by analogy again with the Benoni 17 Q-B2 seems more accurate preventing Black's 18th.

17	...	N—B4
18	P—QN4	N—R5
19	N—N3	PxP
20	PxP	NxB
21	QxN	R—N3
22	RxR	QxR
23	P—N5	

As a result of his slight inaccuracy at move 17 White's Q-side pawns have been driven into a rather rigid formation and his rook's pressure on QN7 has been nullified. Nevertheless the threats of R-R8 or Q-R2-R7 demand accurate play from Black.



23 ... B—KB4!
24 Q—K2 P—R3?

Too slow. Black should hammer away at White's one weakness by 24 ... Q-N3. After 25 B-K4 BxB 26 PxB White will blockade the enemy QP and hope to exploit the superior minor piece, but Black has a reasonable game.

25 B—K4 BxB?

A losing mistake as White now gains too much control of the white squares. 25 ... B-Q2 retaining his better bishop was a better chance.

26 QxB!

Of course only this recapture comes into consideration.

26 ... B—N5
27 R—R2 R—K3
28 R—K2 P—N3
29 Q—Q5!

Now Black's error at move 24 is clear. The blockade of the Q-side

pawns is broken and Black has no good defence against the combination of their advance with pressure on K5.

29 ... Q—R2
30 P—B5 Q—R5
31 Q—B4! Q—R6
32 P—N6

This is clearer than 32 P-B6 PxP 33 PxP RxP! 34 QxR QxN 35 RxP (35 Q-K4 B-Q3) 35 ... QxP when the ending with pawns on only one side is technically not easy.

32 ... B—B6
33 Q—Q5 P—R4
34 QxNP!

Doubtless it was seeing this pretty line that induced Tal to avoid the technical line at move 32 — a typical reaction from him!

34 ... QxN
35 Q—B8+ K—N2
36 P—N7 Q—Q8+
37 K—N2 QxR
38 P—N8(Q) K—B3

Tal had envisaged that his two queens would cooperate in a mating attack before Black could strike at KB2 by B-K8.

39 Q—R8+ K—B4
Or 39 ... K-N4 40 Q(N)-Q8+ P-B3 41 P-R4+ K-N5 (41 ... K-B4 42 Q-Q5 B-K8 43 Q-B3+) 42 QxBP! RxQ 43 QxR and forces mate.

40 Q(N)—N8 R—kB3
Or 40 ... P-B3 41 Q(R)-R7 Q-N5 42 Q-Q7.

41 Q(N)—N7 Resigns

54 **Beverwijk 1968****Black: Donner****French Defence**

1	P-K4	P-K3
2	P-Q4	P-Q4
3	N-QB3	B-N5
4	P-K5	P-QB4
5	P-QR3	BxN+
6	PxB	Q-B2
7	N-B3	

One would expect 7 Q-N4 from Tal, as in his famous 1960 win against Botvinnik in the first game of their match.

7	...	P-QN3
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To exchange his potentially bad bishop though in return White gains a lot of time.

8	P-QR4	B-R3
9	BxB	

9 B-N5+ is also feasible but after 9 ... BxB 10 PxB P-QR4 Black does not stand too badly. Tal's plan is to drive the QN back home and then force the opening of the position by pawn sacrifices.

9	...	NxB
10	Q-K2	N-N1

10 ... Q-B1 11 Q-N5+ K-Q1 12 0-0 is not pleasant for Black, while 10 ... PxP 11 Q-N5+ K-Q1 (11 ... K-B1 12 B-R3+ N-K2 13 QxN QxBP+ 14 K-K2 QxP+ 15 N-Q2 and 16 KR-QB1) 12 QxN QxBP+ 13 K-K2 leaves the rook safe (13 ... QxR? 14 B-N5+).

11	P-R5	NPxP
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11 ... N-Q2 seems sounder. Donner presumably did not anticipate Tal's 14th move.

12	B-R3	N-Q2
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Tal gives 12 ... N-K2 13 BxP N-Q2 as good enough for equality.

13	PxP	N-K2
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Development is clearly better than 13 ... NxBP 14 0-0 R-N1 15 Q-K3 when 16 B-Q6 and 16 KR-N1 are serious threats.

14	P-B6!	
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White must not let the diagonal be closed by 14 ... N-QB3.

14	...	QxBP
15	0-0	QxP

Not sheer greed, but the best defence against the threat of N-Q4-N5.

16	KR-Q1	N-QB3
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Since the main threat was still to get N-N5 in Black should offer the exchange of queens by 16 ... Q-B5 and if 17 Q-K3 then 17 ... N-KB4 keeping the enemy queen from penetrating to the QN file.

17	B-Q6	Q-B5
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17 ... 0-0-0 is a legal move but allows mate in one, while 17 ... P-B3 to evacuate the monarch to KB2 fails to 18 PxP QxKBP 19 Q-N5 R-QB1 20 Q-N7 Q-Q1 21 R-K1 K-B2 22 N-N5+ QxN 23 QxN+.

18	Q-K3	Q-K5
19	Q-N3	

Not 19 Q-N5 Q-N3.

19	...	N-N3!
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Not 19 ... N2xP? 20 NxN NxN 21 Q-N7.

20	P-B4!	
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Further line opening is needed as 20 Q-N5 Q-QB5! gets nowhere.

20	...	QxBP
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Not 20 ... NxBP? 21 Q-N7 nor 20 ... PxP 21 Q-N5 R-QB1 22 RxP or 22 Q-R6. Black could try 20 ... P-R5 but after 21 RxP! PxP (21 ... NxR 22 Q-N7) 22 QxN! PxQ 23 RxR+ N-Q1 24 R-B8 White has the decisive threats of 25 B-B7 and 25 R-B7.

21	Q-R3	Q-R3
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Before White goes 22 KR-QB1 Q-N4 23 R-B5.

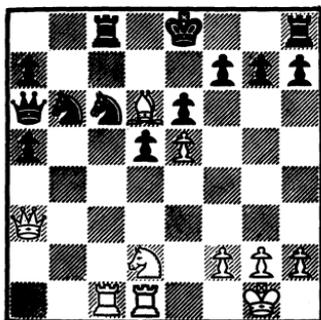
22	QR-B1	R-QB1
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An obvious move, but Sham-

kovich prefers 22 ... N-B5 23 Q-R4 R-QB1 when the threat of 24 ... N-N7 gives Black a breathing space.

23 N-Q2

Getting ready to swing the queen over to KN3 or to go N-N3-B5. Donner here offered a draw to see whether Tal was worried at being three pawns down. However Tal must have reasoned that such an unbalanced position must produce a decisive result and declined.



23 ... P-B3

Wrong in principle surely to open lines like this. Tal expected 23 ... N-Q5 when he intended, not as Donner thought 24 RxR+ QxR 25 QxP when 25 ... Q-Q2 provides a satisfactory defence but 24 K-R1! N-B4 (24 ... P-B3? 25 PxP PxP 26 Q-K3 P-K4 27 Q-

KR3!) when Shamkovich gives 25 RxR+ QxR 26 R-QB1 Q-Q1 27 B-B5 P-B3 28 QxP PxP 29 QxP N-Q2 30 B-R3 N-K2 31 R-B7 and White should win. Black's play could probably be improved, but the practical difficulties of the defender in such cases are enormous.

24 PxP PxP

25 Q-KB3 K-Q2

Despair! 25 ... K-B2 loses to 26 Q-R5+ K-N2 27 R-B3 and 25 ... N-Q2 to 26 Q-N4 when 27 Q-N7 is hardly to be parried. Thus Panov gives the catastrophic finish 26 ... K-Q1 27 QxP R-K1 28 QxQP Q-K7 29 N-B4 Q-K3 30 NxP! QxQ 31 N-N7 mate.

26 QxBP KR-K1

Or 26 ... KxB 27 N-K4+ K-B2 28 N-B5 Q-K7 27 Q-N7+ K-Q3 and once again the knight gives mate on QN7.

27 N-K4 N-K2

Or 27 ... PxN 28 Q-B7+ N-K2 29 BxN+ N-Q4 30 B-R4+ K-Q3 31 B-N3+ mating. The only way to prolong the game was 27 ... Q-K7 28 R-K1 QxN.

28 N-B5+ RxN

29 BxR N-B5

30 BxN Resigns

The game ends in a complete rout — 30 ... RxB 31 RxP+! N-Q3 32 R-B7+ KxR 33 QxR+ etc.

55 6th Game, Match 1968

White: Gligoric

Bogo-Indian Defence

1 P-Q4 N-KB3

2 P-QB4 P-K3

3 N-KB3

At this stage in the match the

Yugoslav grandmaster led by 3½-2½ and so needed two more points from five games to pass on to the semi-final stage of the Candidates

Matches. Hence he chooses a quiet line instead of his usual 3 N-QB3.

3 ... B-N5+

Tal too varies from his repertoire which would normally here be 3 ... P-B4 or 3 ... P-Q4 4 N-B3 P-B4.

4 B-Q2

Again a sign that White is quite happy to play a quiet game and keep his minimal lead intact. In recent years 4 QN-Q2 has been preferred with the ambitious idea of gaining the two bishops by a subsequent P-QR3 without having to suffer a doubled QBP.

4 ... P-QR4

Another attempt to give the game an unusual turn. 5 BxB PxP leaves White hampered on the Q-side by the effect of the open QR file, while after 5 P-QR3 BxB+ 6 QxB P-R5 Black already has a threat of N-B3-QR4.

5 N-B3 0-0

6 P-K3

Yet again quiet play. 6 P-KN3 deserves consideration, while 6 Q-B2! threatening 7 P-K4 is quite strong.

6 ... P-Q3

7 Q-B2 QN-Q2

8 P-QR3

Merely playing to prevent P-K4, whereas from White one normally expects something more vigorous. 8 0-0-0 looks promising, while 8 B-Q3 would avoid the slight white square weakness which now arises on his Q-side.

8 ... BxN

9 BxB Q-K2

Not 9 ... P-R5 at once as after 10 P-K4 Black cannot prevent 11 P-K5.

10 B-K2?

10 P-QN3 seems called for.

10 ... P-R5!

11 0-0 P-QN3

12 N-Q2 B-N2

13 P-K4

Rather ambitious after his previous quiet play. Simply 13 B-B3 was correct though after 13 ... BxB 14 NxP P-B4 Black has a nice game.

13 ... P-B4

14 P-K5?

This seems based on an error in analysis missing Black's 17th move. 14 P-B3 with a fairly level game is correct. Not however 14 P-Q5? which loses a pawn due to the vis-a-vis of Black's queen and the unguarded bishop at K2.

14 ... N-K1

15 P-B4

All as planned. 15 B-B3 was the right way to keep the position approximately even, though after 15 ... BxB 16 NxP BPxP 17 BxP PxP 18 NxP NxN 19 BxN N-Q3 White's QBP becomes an object of attack.

15 ... BPxP

16 BxP PxP

17 PxP NxP!

This does not win a pawn (17 BxN? Q-B4+), but leaves Black with active minor pieces. What is psychologically more important is that White feels uncomfortable having overlooked the move.

18 BxP N-Q3

19 B-Q4?

A fresh inaccuracy no doubt the result of the psychological uncertainty Gligoric was experiencing. 19 Q-B3 taking control of important central points was called for.

19 ... N-B4!

Exploiting the same diagonal check as two moves ago.

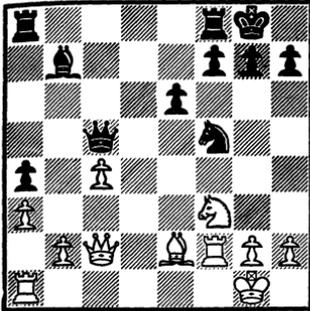
20 BxN

Or 20 Q-B3 Q-N4! 21 N-B3 NxP! 22 QxN (22 NxQ? NxB+ etc) 22 ... BxN 23 BxB QR-Q1 coming in on the 7th row, or 20 B-B2 Q-N4 21 N-K4 Q-N3! threatening 22 ... N-K6 with awkward threats.

20 ... Q-B4+

21 R-B2 QxB

22 N-B3 Q-B4



Black's pieces are aggressively posted, there is a threat of 23 ... N-K6 and then 24 ... N-N5 and in the long run White finds it hard to counter the pressure along the diagonal of the powerful enemy bishop.

23 Q-B3 KR-Q1
 24 Q-N4 Q-R2
 25 P-B5

This pawn soon becomes a source of worry, but if White does not close the black diagonal N-K6 will be decisive.

25 ... QR-N1
 26 Q-B3

Or 26 Q-N6 QxQ 27 PxQ R-Q3 28 B-Q1 R-R1 29 P-QN4 PxP e.p. 30 BxP RxNP with a probably won ending. The text is no better, as a pawn is lost even more quickly while

the pressure on the K-side persists.

26 ... QR-B1

27 R-Q1

Or 27 R-QB1 R-Q4.

27 ... RxR+

28 BxR RxP

29 Q-N4

In time trouble Gligoric hopes to divert Black by a threat to the QRP. 29 Q-Q2 is slightly better.

29 ... B-B3?

Black is diverted! 29 ... BxN! 30 PxB (30 BxB? R-B8+ mating) 30 ... N-K6 wins at once (31 BxP? R-B8+, or 31 Q-Q4 R-Q4! 32 QxQ RxB+ 33 R-B1 RxR mate, or 31 Q-R4! P-N4!). Tal only analysed 29 ... N-K6 30 R-Q2! R-Q4 31 RxR NxR+ 32 Q-Q4 or 30 Q-Q4? R-Q4.

30 Q-KB4 R-Q4

31 B-K2

Or 31 B-B2 N-K6 and the bishop is lost.

31 ... P-R3

32 N-K5

Not 32 B-B1 R-Q8.

32 ... B-R1

33 P-KN4

This loses a piece. The best practical chance was 33 NxP KxN 34 P-KN4 but after 34 ... R-Q5! 35 Q-B1 Q-N2! 36 B-B3 RxP+! 37 K-B1 Q-N4+ 38 B-K2 Q-Q4 39 B-B3 Q-Q6+ 40 B-K2 Q-R6+ Black wins.

33 ... P-N4!

34 Q-B4 RxN

35 Resigns

56 Gori 1968

Black: Gufeld

Pirc Defence

1 P-K4 P-Q3
 2 P-Q4 N-KB3

3 N-QB3 P-KN3
 4 B-KN5 P-B3

Preparing a safe square at Q4 in the event of 5. P-K5, and looking forward to Q-side expansion by P-QN4. The theory of this opening is still in its infancy, but it is remarkable how many liberties Black can allow himself.

5	Q-Q2	P-N4
6	B-Q3	B-KN2
7	N-B3	P-KR3
8	B-K3	N-N5
9	B-KB4	P-K4
10	PxP	PxP
11	B-N3	P-KR4

Not so much an aggressive move as an attempt to safeguard his knight and KP simultaneously. 11 ... N-Q2 12 P-KR3 KN-B3 13 NxKP NxN 14 BxN NxP will not do because of 15 BxN when the weak QBP is seen to be a fatal weakness.

12	P-KR3	P-R5
13	PxN	

After 13 NxRP RxN 14 BxR QxB 15 P-KN3 Q-R1 16 0-0-0 B-KR3! 17 P-B4 N-B3 (17 ... PxP 18 PxN!) 18 BxP B-Q2! Black miraculously hangs on, so Tal chooses another wild line in an attempt to punish Black for his opening eccentricities.

13	...	PxB
14	RxR+	BxR
15	Q-R6	PxP+
16	K-K2!	

After 16 KxP Q-B3 White's knight would be pinned, whereas now 16 ... Q-B3 17 BxP PxP 18 N-Q5 Q-N2 19 N-B7+ K-Q1 20 Q-Q2+ yields a strong attack e.g. 20 ... KxN 21 Q-R5+ K-B3 22 P-R4 B-R3 23 P-B4!

16	...	B-B3
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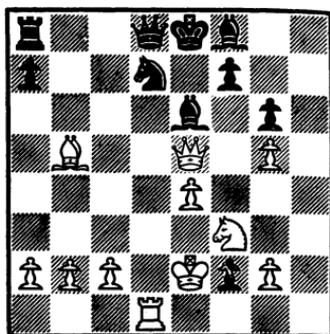
16 ... K-K2 to hang on to the KP is met strongly by 17 R-Q1 threatening 18 BxP.

17	P-N5	B-K2
18	Q-R8+	B-B1
19	QxP+	B-K3

Or 19 ... Q-K2 20 Q-B4 B-K3 21 P-

K5 N-Q2 22 N-K4 followed by 23 N-Q6+ with advantage.

20	NxP!	PxN
21	BxP+	N-Q2
22	R-Q1	



Is this Tal-Gufeld or Morphy-Aristocratic Allies? Black certainly has a difficult game and now makes a losing blunder. His best defence to the threats of 23 BxN+ and 23 RxN was 22 ... B-K2 when the queen ending resulting from 23 Q-R8+ B-B1 24 N-K5 QxP! 25 BxN+ BxB 26 NxB Q-N5+ 27 KxP QxR 28 QxB+ KxN 29 QxR QxP+ gives Black good drawing chances e.g. 30 K-N3 Q-Q6+ 31 K-R4 Q-K6 and it is hard for White to use his extra pawn in view of the threats to his king.

22	...	Q-K2?
23	RxN!	BxR
24	BxB+	KxB

Or 24 ... K-Q1 25 Q-R5+ forcing transposition into the game.

25	Q-Q5+	K-B2
26	QxR	Q-B4
27	P-B3	Q-B5+

Or 27	...	B-N2	28	Q-KN8!
28	KxP			B-B4+
29	K-N3			QxRP
30	Q-Q5			

A tempting move, but the resulting minor piece end has certain technical difficulties, so 30 Q-K8 is better when 31 N-K5 is a strong threat. Then if 30 ... B-Q3 White has 31 P-K5 B-B4 32 Q-N5, and 30 ... Q-K3 loses quickly in view of the weakness of the KNP.

30 ... QxQ
 31 PxQ K-Q3
 32 P-B4 B-K6
 33 P-N4

The pawn mass immobilises the enemy king and the attempt to break them up by 33 ... P-R4 34 PxP K-B3 fails to 35 P-R6 KxP 36 P-Q6.

33 ... P-QR3

Too slow. 33 ... B-B8 puts up a better resistance e.g. 34 K-N4 B-R6 35 P-N5 B-N7 (35 ... K-B4 36 N-K5 B-N7? 37 N-Q3+) 36 N-K1 B-B8 37 N-Q3 B-K6 and White has to give up his KNP to make progress (38 K-B3 BxP 39 K-K4 and 40 P-B5+).

34 K-N4 B-B8
 35 N-K1!

To strengthen his pawn mass by gaining more control over QB5 and then to force the advance by P-N3, N-B4 and P-B5+.

35 ... B-K6
 36 N-Q3 B-Q7
 37 P-N3 K-B2
 38 P-B5 K-Q2
 39 N-K5+ K-B1
 40 P-Q6! BxP
 41 P-Q7+ K-B2

Or 41 ... K-Q1 42 N-B6+ as in the game.

42 N-B6 KxP
 43 NxB P-R4
 44 N-Q3 Resigns

44 ... P-R5 45 N-N4 or 44 ... P-B3 45 K-B4 K-B3 46 K-K4 are hopeless.

An interesting side light on the accuracy of secondary sources is provided by this game. Yudovich in *Informator volume 6* claimed that Black resigned on his 37th move! The correct score is provided both by the Latvian magazine 'Sahs' and by *Shakhmatny Builleten*.

57 USSR Team Championship 1968

White: Hermlin

Benoni

1 P-Q4 N-KB3
 2 N-KB3 P-B4
 3 P-Q5 P-KN3
 4 N-B3

The variations arising out of 4 P-B4 are very well known to Tal, so the Estonian champion did well to play an independent line in which he hopes to use the QB4 square for his knights.

4 ... B-N2
 5 P-K4 P-Q3
 6 B-N5+

An unusual but playable move, to drive the enemy QN to a slightly passive square. The usual sequence is 6 B-K2 N-R3! 7 0-0 N-B2 8 R-K1 or P-QR4.

6 ... QN-Q2
 7 P-QR4 0-0

8 0-0 P-QR3
 9 B-K2 Q-B2

Tal's famous memory lets him down here, since in his notes to the game he failed to point out that this same position arose in Tal-Benko, Candidates Tournament 1959 from the Sicilian Defence — 1 P-K4 P-QB4 2 N-KB3 P-KN3 3 P-Q4 B-N2 4 P-Q5 etc. In that game Benko tried 9 ... R-N1 10 R-K1 N-K1 11 B-KB4 N-B2 12 B-KB1 P-QN4 and after 13 Q-Q2 R-K1 14 P-R3 N-B3 15 QR-Q1 B-Q2 16 P-K5 great complications arose in which Tal eventually won.

10 P-KR3 P-N3
 11 B-KB4 B-N2
 12 N-Q2 P-K4

Black must undertake something before White goes 13 N-B4 with an ideal position.

13 P x P e.p.

After this Black's dormant forces spring to life. 13 B-K3 N-K1 14 N-B4 P-B4 15 P x P P x P 16 P-B4 would leave White with the better prospects.

13 ... P x P
 14 N-B4

The precautionary 14 B-R2 would allow time for 14 ... Q-B3 and Black would achieve P-Q4 with a dynamic position.

14 ... N x P
 15 B x P N x B
 16 N x N

Too optimistic. 16 Q x N to force the exchange of queens would leave it fairly level.

16 ... B-QB3
 17 B-B4 B-Q5!

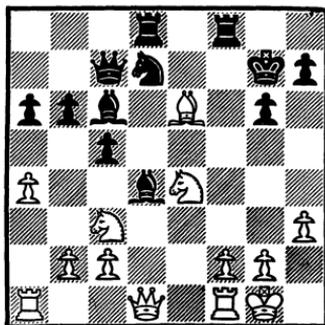
The pawn could not be guarded (17 ... R-B3 18 Q-K2) so Black plays a move that is particularly thematic in the Benoni.

18 B x P+ K-N2
 19 KN-K4

Not 19 N-B4 R x P 20 R x R R-KB1

and Black has everything he wants.
 19 ... QR-Q1!

A very difficult move to decide upon as it is clear that White could easily achieve positions in which N-K6+ is possible. However 19 ... N-B3 20 N x N R x N 21 N-Q5 or 19 ... QR-K1 20 B-Q5 B x B 21 N x B Q-B3 22 N5-B3! R x N? 23 N x R Q x N 24 P-B3 allow White to force simplifying exchanges, while the second variation suggests that Black must aim to embarrass White on the Q file.



20 B x N

The threat was 20 ... N-B3, and if 20 Q-K2 then 20 ... QR-K1 continues the process of embarrassing the queen. White has two other candidate moves in this position, namely 20 B-R2 to play for the knight fork on K6, and 20 Q-N4 seeking a safer square for the queen. After 20 B-R2 N-B3 21 N-KN5 Black's win of the queen by 21 ... B x P+ 22 R x B R x Q+ 23 R x R leaves him with no defence against N-K6, but Black has the better line 21 ... Q-N6! 22 N-K6+ K-R1 23 N-Q5 B x N! 24 B x B R x B 25 N x B Q-Q3! or 25 N x R R-N4. Hence by a process of elimination 20 Q-N4 must be played when Black has a pleasant choice between 20 ... N-B3 21 N x N R x N 22 N-Q1? P-

K2 R-K1, 20 ... N-K4 21 Q-N3 Q-N2
and 20 ... R-B5 21 Q-N3 Q-K4 22 BxN
RxB and Black exerts terrific pressure
on the enemy.

20 ... RxB

21 Q-K2

Or 21 Q-B1 R-K2 with great
advantage.

21 ... R-K2

22 Q-Q3

The only way to save the pinned
knight (22 QR-K1 KBxN).

22 ... Q-B5

23 QR-K1

Or 23 N-N3 BxP+ 24 K-R2 R-K6 25
N-K2 BxN+ 26 K-N1 B-R7+ 27 K-R1

Q-N4 wins.

23 ... KR-K1

Now a piece is won and the death
struggle begins.

24 Q-B3

Or 24 P-KN3 Q-B4 etc.

24 ... P-KN4

But not 24 ... Q-B4 25 N-Q6! RxB
26 NxR+ RxN 27 QxB.

25 N-K2 BxN

Again the accurate move, since 25
... QxN? 26 NxB QxR 27 N-B5+ K-R1
28 QxB QxR+ 29 K-R2 and White's
attack is very dangerous indeed since
mate in two is threatened.

26 Resigns

58 USSR Team Championship 1968

White: Mikenas

Pirc Defence

1 P-Q4 N-KB3

2 N-KB3 P-KN3

3 B-N5 B-N2

4 QN-Q2 0-0

Allowing White to force P-K4
which could be prevented by 4 ... P-
Q4. However Tal has been quite pre-
pared to play the Pirc/Robatsch/
Modern Defence in recent years as in
the following amusing miniature
from the 1972 Olympiad (Simon of
Luxembourg was White) 1 P-K4 P-
KN3 2 P-Q4 B-N2 3 N-KB3 P-Q3 4 N-
B3 N-KB3 5 B-QB4 0-0 6 B-N3 B-N5 7
P-KR3 BxN 8 QxB N-B3 9 Q-Q1 N-
Q2 10 N-K2 P-K4 11 PxP QNxP 12 0-
0 N-B4 13 N-N3? Q-R5! 14 R-K1 P-
QR4 15 P-R3 QR-K1 16 B-Q2? NxB
17 PxN N-Q6 18 R-KB1 BxP 19 R-R2
B-K4 20 Resigns.

5 P-K4 P-Q3

6 B-Q3

Not a very active square. Since 6 B-
QB4 can be met by 6 ... NxP 7 NxN P-

Q4 the most accurate move seems to
be 6 P-B3 and then if 6 ... P-B3 7 Q-B2
Q-B2 8 B-QB4 NxP White has 9 QxN
P-Q4 10 BxQP.

6 ... P-B3

7 0-0 Q-B2

8 R-K1 P-K4

9 PxP

After this Black has no opening
difficulties. 9 P-B3 seems preferable.

9 ... PxP

10 N-B4

Here 10 P-QR4 was called for.

10 ... P-N4!

White had expected the pawn to be
defended. Only now did he see 11
QNxP? R-K1 12 B-KB4 N-R4!
White's best reply is 11 N-K3. Instead
he lightheartedly gives up his better
bishop and from now on is
struggling on the black squares.

11 BxN BxB

12 N-K3 P-QR3

13 P-QR4 R-R2

Black's last two moves safeguard the QR file and the QNP which cramps White's game.

14 Q—Q2

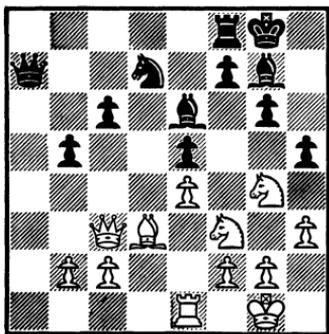
A rather neutral move. 14 N—Q2 intending the regrouping Q—K2, P—QB3 seems better calculated to meet Black's potential pressure on the Q file.

14 ... B—K3
 15 P—R3 N—Q2
 16 N—N4 B—N2
 17 PxP

Another drawback to White's 14th move is that he cannot now play 17 N—N5 because of 17 ... BxN 18 PxB B—R3 19 P—KN3 P—B3 or 19 P—KB4 PxP 20 N—R3 Q—K4 with a simple win.

17 ... RPxP
 18 RxR QxR
 19 Q—B3 P—R4

A vigorous rejoinder which Tal must have foreseen when making his 15th move. 20 N4xP NxN 21 NxN loses to 21 ... P—N5 22 NxQBP Q—N3 or even 22 ... PxQ 23 NxQ PxP and R—R1—R8 will be very strong.



20 N—K3 Q—B4
 21 N—N5

A strange decision. Black would certainly have the better game after 21 QxQ NxQ 22 N—N5? NxB 23 PxN (23 NxB loses a piece) 23 ... B—N6 and

24 ... R—Q1 or R1, but 22 R—Q1 and 23 N—K1 would be a more stubborn defence as now the doubled pawn is an object of attack.

21 ... QxQ
 22 PxQ B—R7!
 23 R—R1 R—R1

Black thus retains the two bishops as White cannot exploit the pin (the playing of a knight to QB1 is an awkward task).

24 N—Q1

Or 24 N—B1 B—R3 25 N—B3 R—R5 26 N3—Q2 B—K3 and White must abandon the rook file or give Black a winning passed pawn.

24 ... R—R6
 25 N—B3 N—B4
 26 N—N2

Before he is lamed by 26 ... N—R5 and then P—B3, B—B1 etc.

26 ... P—B3
 27 K—B1?

A losing blunder. He had to remain passive by 27 N—Q2 and then P—B3 waiting to see how Black would proceed (probably B—B1—Q3—B2—R4).

27 ... NxP!
 28 P—B4

Not 28 BxN B—B5+. Black now wins quickly as he gets his KB into play very quickly.

28 ... N—Q3!

Retaining the cramping effect of the QNP.

29 PxP PxP
 30 N—Q2 P—K5!
 31 NxP

Or 31 B—K2 P—B4.

31 ... NxN
 32 BxP

He could set a last trap by 32 BxN hoping for 32 ... P—B4? 33 RxB! RxR 34 B—Q5+ but 32 ... B—B5+ would destroy the illusion.

32 ... P—B4
 33 RxB N—Q7+!
 34 Resigns

59 36th USSR Championship 1968-69

Black: Tseshkovsky
English Opening

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P—QB4 | P—K4 |
| 2 | N—QB3 | N—QB3 |
| 3 | P—KN3 | P—KN3 |
| 4 | B—N2 | B—N2 |
| 5 | P—K3 | P—Q3 |
| 6 | KN—K2 | B—K3 |

The opening moves for White are hardly what one would expect from Tal, but in recent years he has played the closed openings much more frequently. Black's move is a little ambitious, 6 ... KN-K2 being considered best. White could try and exploit it by the vigorous 7 P-Q4! PxP (7 ... BxP 8 P-Q5! BxN 9 QxB QN-K2 10 Q-N5+) 8 NxP B-Q2 with pressure on the Q-side for White. Tal chooses a more restrained build up.

- | | | |
|---|-------|------|
| 7 | N—Q5 | Q—Q2 |
| 8 | Q—R4! | |

White must keep up the white square pressure. Now 8 ... QN-K2 to exchange knights is a gross blunder because of 9 NxP+, while 8 ... B-R6 is ruled out for the same reason.

- | | |
|-------|------|
| 8 ... | N—B3 |
|-------|------|

Inaccurate play. White has a clear plan on the Q-side (P-QN4-N5, or KN-B3-N5) and Black must seek his counter chances on the other side. Hence 8 ... KN-K2, or 8 ... P-B4 and then N-B3 seem correct, not blocking his KBP whose advance will be needed in many variations.

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 9 | 0—0 | 0—0 |
| 10 | KN—B3 | N—K1 |

An admission of his error at move 8. To get his KBP forward Black has to play his knight to a passive square.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 11 | P—B4 | P—B4 |
|----|------|------|

In the changed circumstances Black probably does better to refrain from this move and exploit the one

good point of his last move, which guarded QB2, by playing 11 ... B-R6 though after 12 P-QN4 White has some advantage.

- | | |
|----|------|
| 12 | P—Q3 |
|----|------|

Ruling out P-K5.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 12 ... | N—Q1 |
|--------|------|

Hoping to get rid of the nagging pressure of the enemy queen, but merely inviting the lady to go to just as formidable a post. After the opening inaccuracies Black has a most unpromising position. 12 ... R-B2 quietly awaiting developments may well be best.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 13 | Q—R3 | N—B2 |
|----|------|------|

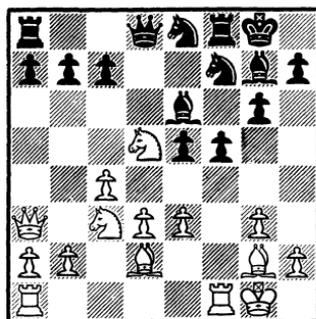
Not 13 ... P-B3? 14 N-N6.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 14 | B—Q2 | Q—Q1 |
|----|------|------|

A tortuous unwinding procedure to prepare 15 ... P-B3.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 15 | PxP | PxP? |
|----|-----|------|

Oversight or miscalculation? 15 ... NxP is called for though after 16 N-B4 B-B1 17 P-B5! White has a powerful initiative (17 ... PxP 18 QxBP NxP? 19 Q-Q5+ or 18 ... P-B3 19 P-Q4 N-N5 20 P-Q5!)



- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 16 | N—K7+ | K—R1 |
| 17 | BxP | N1—Q3 |

154 *The Slow Decline*

Black has to give up the exchange this way since 17 ... R-QN1? 18 N-B6 QxP 19 NxR QxB 20 N-Q5 P-K5 21 R-B2 is even less pleasant for him.

18 BxR QxB
19 N3-Q5 Q-K1

Speculating that he might trap the advanced knight by 20 ... P-B3.

20 Q-B5!

Now Black has nothing left and could well resign.

20 ... P-K5

21 B-B3 BxN

22 BxB+ KxB

23 NxB P-B3

24 Q-Q4+ Q-K4

Or 24 ... K-R3 25 N-B6 Q-K3 26 PxB, or 24 ... N-K4 25 N-N4! winning more material.

25 N-B4 R-K1

26 P-B5 QxQ

27 PxQ Resigns

60 36th USSR Championship 1968-69

Black: Gurgenzidze

Caro-Kann Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB3

2 P-Q4 P-Q4

3 N-QB3 P-QN4

If played by a beginner this move would be condemned straight away. Played by a grandmaster it gives food for thought on the rich variety of chess. Its point is to drive the enemy knight away, and to safeguard his own knight position at Q4 since White's P-QB4 is made more difficult.

4 P-QR3

After 4 P-K5 Gurgenzidze recommends 4 ... P-QR4. Tal naturally prefers to keep the position fluid. 4 B-Q3 P-N5 5 QN-K2 PxB 6 BxB N-B3 7 B-B3 P-KN3 gives Black a reasonable position.

4 ... PxB

5 NxP B-B4

Several rounds later Klovans-Gurgenzidze went 5 ... N-B3 6 NxN+ KPxB 7 P-QR4 P-N5 8 B-QB4 when White has good piece play, but his Q-side pawn majority is rather lamed.

6 B-Q3

Without the addition of the moves P-QN4 for Black and P-QR3 for White this gambit was heartily recommended by Tarrasch in his later years, but it was never popular. Since P-QN4 is a weakening move in an open position the gambit here is a stronger version e.g. 6 ... QxP 7 N-KB3 Q-Q4 8 Q-K2 and Black's development is severely handicapped.

6 ... BxN

7 BxB N-B3

8 B-Q3

Or 8 B-B3 P-K3 and then Q-B2, B-Q3, QN-Q2, 0-0 and P-K4 with a fair position.

8 ... P-K3

It was more feasible to go 8 ... QxP 9 N-B3 Q-Q1 10 Q-K2 P-K3 here since White, unlike in the variation 6 ... QxP, has fewer tactical chances such as N-Q6+ or N-QB3. The Georgian player chooses a more discreet course.

9 N-B3 B-K2
10 Q-K2

Waiting to see which side Black is going to castle before committing himself. Still the straightforward 10 0-0 and then R-K1 and N-K5 seems to save a tempo on the game.

10 ... QN-Q2
11 0-0 0-0
12 R-K1 R-K1
13 N-K5!

The unguarded QBP gives White time to prevent 13 ... N-B1 after which Black has a very solid K-side.

13 ... NxN

After 13 ... Q-B2 14 B-KB4 or even 14 NxKBP KxN 15 QxP+ K-B1 16 B-Q2 White has good prospects.

14 PxN N-Q4

Not 14 ... N-Q2 15 Q-K4.

15 Q-N4 P-QR4

To lame the Q-side by P-R5 but this allows White time to play a very strong move. 15 ... P-N3 is better when 16 P-KR4 BxKRP 17 P-KN3 B-K2 18 K-N2 P-KR4! gives better defensive chances than in the game, so much so that White might well have chosen the slower 16 P-KN3.

16 P-KR4! BxKRP

Otherwise 17 P-R5 and then 18 B-R6 B-B1? 19 BxNP or 18 P-R6 at once.

17 P-KN3 B-K2

18 K-N2 P-N3

Or 18 ... B-B1 19 R-R4 P-KB4 20 Q-R5! P-R3 21 Q-N6 when 21 ... K-R1 fails to 22 BxRP PxP 23 RxP+ BxR 24 R-R1 N-K6+ (24 ... N-B5+ 25 PxN R-KN1 26 RxB mate) 25 PxN Q-Q4+ 26 P-K4 and White forces mate.

19 R-R1 B-B1

Or 19 ... Q-B2 20 RxP! QxP (20 ... KxR 21 Q-R5+ K-N1 22 BxKNP PxP 23 QxP+ K-R1 24 B-Q2 etc) 21 RxP as in the game or even 21 BxKNP and wins.

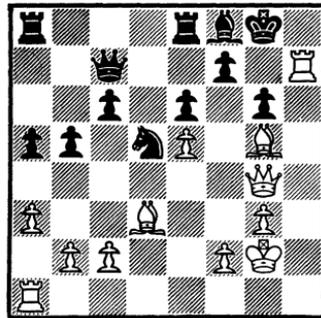
20 B-N5!

The move order 20 RxP KxR 21 B-N5 allows the piquant counter 21 ... N-K6+ 22 PxN Q-Q4+ 23 B-K4 QxP! and the attack cannot break through.

20 ... Q-B2

Or 20 ... B-K2 21 RxP! BxB 22 QR-R1 K-B1 23 BxKNP! wins. 20 ... N-K2 fails to 21 BxKNP BPxB (21 ... RPxB 22 B-B6 B-N2 23 Q-R4 and 24 Q-R8+) 22 RxP KxR 23 R-R1+ and 24 Q-R4 since after 24 ... Q-Q1+ 25 P-B3 there are no more checks.

21 RxP



The 'candidate move' which has figured in so many variations now becomes the actual move played. Acceptance of the sacrifice loses quickly e.g. 21 ... KxR 22 R-R1+ K-N1 23 Q-R4 B-N2 24 B-B6 with forced mate.

21 ... QxP

22 RxP!

The clearest.

22 ... KxR

23 BxP+ K-N1

Or 23 ... KxB 24 B-B4+ K-B3 25 Q-R4+ etc.

24 BxR B-N2

Forced since 24 B-B6+ was threatened.

25 B-Q7

To force the knight to a poor

square (25 ... K-B2 26 Q-B3+ K-N1 27 BxBP R-QB1 28 BxN etc).

25 ... N-B2

Or 25 ... N-K6+ 26 BxN Q-Q4+ 27 P-B3 QxKB 28 B-R6 R-K1 29 R-Q1 Q-K2 30 R-Q6! etc.

26 BxBP R-KB1

27 R-Q1 Q-QB4

No better are 27 ... QxNP 28 R-Q7 or 27 ... N-Q4 28 QxP+! QxQ 29 BxN QxB 30 RxQ BxP 31 RxP etc.

28 B-B3 QxQBP

29 R-Q7 R-B2

Both sides were too short of time for Black to consider resigning just

yet!

30 R-Q8+ R-B1

31 B-B6! Q-R2

32 B-K4 Q-R3

Or 32 ... Q-R1 33 Q-N6 picking up at least another pawn or forcing a simple ending (33 ... Q-R3 34 QxQ BxQ 35 RxR+ KxR 36 B-QB3 etc).

33 B-N5 Q-R1

34 R-Q7 Resigns

White could also win by 34 RxR+ KxR 35 Q-B4+. After the text the finish would be 34 ... R-B2 35 RxN! RxR 36 QxP+ R-B2 (36 ... K-K1 37 Q-Q6+) 37 B-N6.

61 36th USSR Championship 1968-69

Black: Cherepkov

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4	P-K4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3
3 B-N5	P-QR3
4 B-R4	N-B3
5 0-0	B-K2
6 R-K1	P-QN4
7 B-N3	P-Q3
8 P-B3	0-0
9 P-KR3	N-QR4
10 B-B2	P-B4
11 P-Q4	Q-B2
12 QN-Q2	N-B3

The oldest line in the Chigorin defensive system, recentralising the knight before deciding where the QB should be played to.

13 P-QR3

The normal moves are 13 P-Q5 or 13 PxBP. The text has been played a lot in modern chess since it was first suggested by Suetin as a useful move

for White in many closed Lopez positions. Its points are a. to rule out N-QN5 after a pawn exchange in the centre, b. to prepare Q-side play by P-QN4 and c. to prepare QR2 as a safe spot for the Lopez bishop, though in this particular game c does not apply.

13 ... N-Q2

Not the most accurate. 13...BPxP 14 PxP PxP comes into consideration, but White can recover the pawn and help his opening initiative by 15 N-N3 N-Q2 (here this move is more in place) 16 QNxP NxN 17 NxN B-B3 18 B-K3 N-K4 19 P-QN3 N-B3 20 R-QB1 according to Tal. Therefore best seems 13 ... B-Q2 and if 14 P-QN4 then 14 ... BPxQP 15 PxP QR-B1 16 B-N3 P-QR4 and with his QNP potentially guarded Black has

no reason to fear the opening of the Q-side.

14 P×KP P×P
15 P—QR4

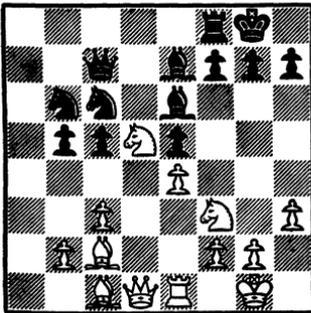
White now reverts to the Rauzer method of play (normally 13 P×BP P×P 14 P—QR4 R—N1 15 P×P P×P 16 N—B1 and then N—K3—Q5 or 14 N—B1 at once) in a position where Black has weakened his Q4 by the knight move to Q2 (which also blocks the Q file preventing a tempo gaining R—Q1). Hence in retrospect point d should not be added. 13 P—QR3 is a "high class waiting move."

15 ... N—N3

Hurrying to guard his Q4 but 15 ... R—N1 seems preferable.

16 P×P P×P
17 R×R N×R
18 N—B1 N—N3
19 N—K3 B—K3
20 N—Q5!

When White can achieve this move without losing a pawn he always gets the better of it in the Rauzer system since the newly opened diagonal for the KB combined with the pressure on the K file is very strong.



20 ... N×N
21 P×N R—Q1

22 B×P+

I assume Black missed this move when analysing seven moves ago.

22 ... K—B1

Placing his hopes on winning back the QP. After 22 ... K×B 23 Q—B2+ K—N1 24 P×B P×P 25 Q—N6 or 24 ... P—B3 25 Q—N6 B—B1 26 N—R4! White wins without too much trouble.

23 B—K4 Q—Q3

24 Q—B2

If Black had gone 22 ... K—R1 then 23 N—R2 threatening 24 Q—R5 with check would be very strong.

24 ... B×QP

25 B×B Q×B

26 Q—R7 B—B3

Or 26 ... B—Q3 27 Q—R8+ K—K2 28 Q×P, or 26 ... P—B3 27 N—R4 Q—N1 28 N—N6+ K—B2 29 Q—R5.

27 N—N5!

A nice knight manoeuvre whose aim is to play the piece to KB5. 27 ... B×N 28 Q—R8+ K—K2 29 B×B+ P—B3 30 Q×P+ Q—B2 31 B×P+ is now hopeless for Black.

27 ... N—K2

28 N—K4 N—N1

29 B—K3

A late developing move!

29 ... B—K2

Or 29 ... P—B5 30 B—B5+ B—K2 31 B×B+ N×B 32 Q—R8+ N—N1 33 R—K3 and then 34 R—N3 or 34 N—N5 as appropriate.

30 N—N3! R—Q3

The threat was 31 N—B5 B—B3 32 B—N5! and there seems no good defence e.g. 30 ... B—B3 31 N—B5 P—N3 32 B—R6+ N×B 33 N×N P—B5 34 R—K3 R—Q3 35 P—B4 P—K5 36 R×P, or 31 ... Q—N6 32 B—N5! The text allows a crisp finish.

31 N—B5 R—N3

32 Q×N+! Resigns

A family fork follows.

62 5th Game, Match 1969**White: Larsen****King's Indian Defence**

1	N—KB3	N—KB3
2	P—QB4	P—KN3
3	N—B3	B—N2
4	P—K4	P—Q3
5	P—Q4	0—0
6	B—K2	P—K4
7	0—0	N—B3
8	P—Q5	N—K2
9	N—K1	

The most complicated line at White's disposal. 9 P-QN4 or 9 N-Q2 are good alternatives.

9	...	N—Q2
10	N—Q3	P—KB4
11	B—Q2	

White envisages that his bishop will be needed at QN4 or QR5 for attacking purposes or at K1 for defensive purposes.

11	...	N—KB3
12	P—B3	P—B5

Tal at this stage in the match was 3-1 down so a bold attack on the K-side was called for by the circumstances of the match as well as the position.

13	P—B5	P—KN4
14	R—B1	N—N3
15	N—N5	

In an earlier game Larsen-Najdorf, Santa Monica 1966, Larsen played 15 PxP PxP 16 N-N5 R-B2 17 Q-B2 N-K1 18 P-QR4 and won by steady pressure on the Q-side. Here he varies the move order clearly trying to persuade Tal into 15 ... P-QR3 when White has either 16 N-R3 to play N-B4 and B-R5 exploiting the fact that the defence P-QN3 no longer works, or 16 PxP PxN 17 PxP Q-K1 18 N-N4 and White's pawns are compensation for the piece.

15	...	R—B2
16	PxP	PxP
17	Q—B2	P—N5!

Tal's prepared improvement on Najdorf's preventive move.

18	N—B7	PxP
19	PxP	

19 NxR PxB 20 R-B2? B-N5 21 N-B7 NxKP is clearly in Black's favour, while 19 BK2xP R-N1 is not particularly good for White since N-R5 will yield definite Black pressure. The text safeguards the KP more effectively.

19	...	B—R6
20	NxR	

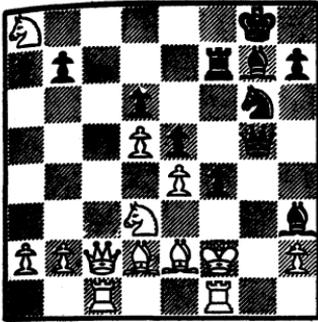
Taking up the challenge. The point of playing the knight to B7 is that when Black plays R-N1 White can then go N-K6 forcing off Black's better bishop (perhaps at the cost of a pawn — see an example of such play in the 1st game of the famous 1971 Taimanov-Fischer match). Hence 20 N-K6 comes into consideration here, but after 20 ... Q-N3+ 21 R-B2 N-B1 Black is able to carry on the attack (22 B-B1 BxN 23 PxP NxP threatening 24 ... N-Q5).

20	...	NxKP
21	PxN	

Larsen decides he is not too worried about drawing in view of his two point lead and with Tal as an opponent could he be sure that the draw would be taken? If White wants to fight on in view of his material advantage he has to try 21 N-K1 NxP 22 QxN BxR 23 BxB QxN 24 B-R3 with some white square play for the missing pawn, 21 K-R1? N-N6+! 22 PxN PxP threatening 23 ... Q-R5 or

23 ... P-N7+, and 21 N-B2 Q-N4+ 22 N-N4 NxB 23 QxN P-KR4 are not good for White.

21 ... Q-N4+
22 K-B2



Now the objectively correct continuation is 22 ... Q-R5+ 23 K-N1 Q-N4+ 24 K-B2 and a draw by perpetual check. In fact a game Averkin-Tal in the Soviet Championship played later in 1969 finished in that way. Now now thought an hour and a half before deciding to risk another line.

22 ... Q-N7+
23 K-K1 N-R5
24 B-K3?

White is a rook and a knight ahead, but he must still be very careful. The way to snuff out the attack was 24 N-B2 N-B6+ 25 K-Q1 N-Q5 26 Q-B3 and wins (26 ... P-B6 27 B-Q3 B-B4 28 B-K3 B-R5 29 BxN PxB 30 QxP).

24 ... QxKP

Not 24 ... PxB 25 RxR KxR 26 B-R5+ exchanging queens.

25 B-B2

As Larsen points out 25 NxBP is bad because of 25 ... QxB 26 NxB N-N7+ 27 K-Q1 RxR+ 28 BxR Q-K8 mate.

25 ... P-B6

26 BxN

Another of the enemy few destroyed but the remnant of his army keeps up the struggle.

26 ... QxQB+

Not 26 ... PxB 27 RxR QxB+? 28 R-B2, nor 26 ... BxR? 27 N-B2 (but not 27 KxB PxB+ 28 K-N1 R-B8+ 29 RxR Q-R8+! mating).

27 N-B2

Or 27 R-B2 PxB 28 QxKP P-K5 29 N-N4 B-Q5!

27 ... PxB

28 QxKP P-K5!

29 R-KN1

Larsen too had now become short of time, though he was not as badly off as Tal who had only three minutes left. 29 R-B7! making use of the stranded knight leaves White with a slight advantage after 29 ... BxR 30 KxB R-B4 31 R-B8+ K-B2 32 R-B4 preventing 32 ... B-Q5.

29 ... P-K6!

30 QxP R-K2

31 RxB+ KxR

32 R-B7 B-Q2

33 RxB

Savirfg his queen but what a change in the material situation from eight moves ago.

33 ... RxR

34 QxP?

The tension tells. 34 Q-QB3+ Q-B3 35 Q-KN3+ gives good drawing chances despite the knight cut off in the corner — Black's king too is very open.

34 ... R-K2+

35 K-Q1

35 K-B1 puts the king on a safer square. Larsen may still have had ideas of winning in view of the fact that Tal's flag was about to drop.

35 ... Q-QB5!

This accurate move corrals the king and is much better than the

obvious 35 ... Q-R4+.

36	Q-N6	Q-KB8+
37	K-Q2	R-K7+
38	K-B3	Q-B8+

39	K-Q4	Q-K6+
40	K-B4	R-B7+
41	Resigns	

The queen is lost.

63 37th USSR Championship 1969

Black: A. Zaitsev

French Defence

1	P-K4	P-K3
2	P-Q4	P-Q4
3	N-Q2	P-QB4
4	KN-B3	N-QB3
5	KPxP	KPxP
6	B-N5	Q-K2+

Capablanca's move which has never had a good reputation, though Spassky tried it against Geller in their 1968 Candidates Match, and managed to draw after a hard fight.

7	B-K2	Q-B2
---	------	------

Once White has avoided an exchange of queens there will soon be a threat by R-K1, but Spassky's 7 ... Pxp 8 0-0 Q-Q1 leaves the queen less exposed.

8	0-0	PxP
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8 ... N-B3 9 Pxp Bxp 10 N-N3 B-K2 is a much sounder line.

9	N-N3	B-Q3?
---	------	-------

Here it is imperative to complete development by 9 ... N-B3 10 QNxP B-K2 so that he does not have to waste time next move over preserving this bishop.

10	QNxP	P-QR3
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11	P-B4!	
----	-------	--

A dynamic idea suggested by Keres in his notes to Keres-Capablanca AVRO 1938 which in fact went 11 P-QN3 KN-K2 12 B-N2. Opening the centre straight away suits Tal fine!

(Compare with Game No. 71 Tal-Holm-Kapfenberg).

11	...	N-B3
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A further inaccuracy as White's next move shows. 11 ... Pxp was bad because of 12 Bxp KN-K2 13 NxN QxN 14 Q-N3 0-0 15 N-N5. 11 ... KN-K2 is best to meet 12 B-N5 by 12 ... P-B3. White would continue 12 Pxp Nxp (12 ... N-N5 13 Q-R4+ B-Q2 14 N-QN5 Q-N1 15 NxB+ QxN 16 Q-N3) 13 B-QB4 and then 13 ... QN-K2 14 Q-R4+ or 13 ... KN-K2 14 Q-N3 or 13 ... B-K3 14 NxB all with clear advantage.

12	B-N5!	
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Even stronger than 12 Pxp going into the last note.

12	...	N-K5
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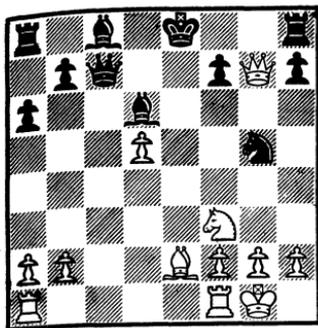
13	Pxp	NxN
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If 13 ... NxB 14 Pxn N-K3 then 15 Pxp! and as 15 ... Qxp leaves the KB *en prise* Black has to submit to 15 ... Bxp 16 Q-R4+ when he has to move his king or go into a lost ending by 16 ... Q-Q2.

14	QxN	NxB
----	-----	-----

15	Qxp!	
----	------	--

Black had been relying on 15 NxN Bxp+ 16 K-R1 B-K4 whereas now Black's game is completely broken up.



15 ... N×N+
 16 B×N R—B1
 17 QR—B1!
 Emphasising his lead in development.
 17 ... B×P+
 The late Alexander Zaitsev (1935-

1971) was noted for his courage and quick play, and here he decides to go down fighting by returning his material advantage in order to give more room to his queen. If 17 ... Q-Q2 then 18 KR-K1+ B-K2 (18... K-Q1 19 Q-B6+ B-K2 20 Q-N6+ K-K1 21 P-Q6) 19 Q-B6! (In *Informator* Petrosian gives the less accurate 19 P-Q6 Q×P 20 QR-Q1) with the decisive threat of 20 P-Q6.

18 K—R1 Q—Q3
 19 P—KN3 B×P
 20 P×B B—B4
 21 KR—K1+ Resigns

If 21 ... K-Q2 then 22 Q-N5! B-N3 23 R-K7+! K-N3 24 R-B7+ K×R 25 Q×Q+ K-N3 26 Q-Q6+ K-R2 (26... K-R4 27 Q-B5+ P-N4 28 B-Q1 and 29 P-QN4 mate) 27 Q-B5+ with an epaulette mate or win of the KR.

64 37th USSR Championship 1969

White: Tukmakov

Modern Benoni

1 P—Q4 N—KB3
 2 P—QB4 P—B4
 3 P—Q5 P—K3
 4 N—QB3 P×P
 5 P×P P—Q3
 6 P—K4 P—KN3
 7 N—B3 B—N2
 8 B—K2 0—0
 9 0—0 R—K1

The Benoni was Tal's favourite defence as Black in his early career but after some devastating losses in it, e.g. against Penrose at the 1960 Olympiad, and against Korchnoy in the 1962 USSR Championship he

played it much less in the sixties, preferring the Nimzoindian and King's Indian defences.

10 N—Q2 QN—Q2
 11 P—B3

Opening systems are partly a question of taste. Tal prefers the aggressive 11 P-B4 for White here, but the text has been popular in recent years as it keeps a firm grip on the position by safeguarding the KP and preparing to play the standard N-B4 and then, if appropriate, B-B4 so as to tie Black down to the defence of the QP.

11 ... P—QR3

12 P—QR4 Q—B2
13 Q—N3

An unusual type of move in this position, apparently intended to rule out P—QN4 by Black even more surely. However the queen soon comes under attack, so 13 Q—B2 to put the piece on a less exposed square, or 13 N—B4 look better moves.

13 ... N—K4
14 P—R5 R—N1!
15 N—Q1 N—R4

Now Black is ready to strike on either wing with P—B4 or P—QN4. Since 16 ... N—B5 is also threatened White finally has to return to the move rejected earlier.

16 N—B4 P—B4
17 P×P B×P!

Presumably White had considered this move impossible and only expected 17 ... P×P when it takes Black a long time to exploit the open KN file. The text robs the queen of a safe haven at QB2 and challenges White to win the piece.

18 P—N4 NxN
19 BxN

After 19 QxN B—Q2 threatening 20 ... B—N4 Black stands well.

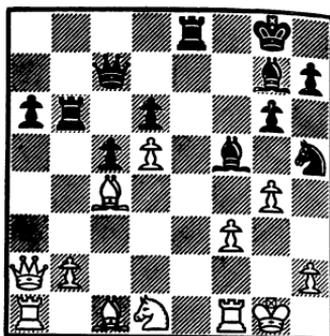
19 ... P—QN4
20 P×P e.p.

Or 20 PxB PxB 21 QxP R—N5 22 Q—B2 (22 Q—Q3 R—Q5) 22 ... Q—B2 23 P×P P×P 24 N—B3 B—K4 with good attacking chances on the K-side. White chooses to persist in his attempts to win a piece.

20 ... RxP
21 Q—R2

After the game Tal suggested 21 Q—R3 R—N5 22 P—N3 as better. The idea is to play an early R—R2 (naturally Black will hardly play 22 ... B×R) to defend the K-side, and to meet 21 ... B—Q5+ by 22 B—K3. However Tukmakov could hardly foresee that his king was soon to be in such grave

danger.



21 ... B—Q5+
22 K—N2

Or 22 K—R1 Q—K2! followed by 23 ... Q—R5 with a powerful attack by 24 ... B—K4 or R—K8. 22 N—B2 is met, as in the game, by 22 ... Q—KN2 and if 23 P×N? then 23 ... P×P+ 24 K—R1 B×N 25 R×B R—K8+ 26 B—B1 B—R6 27 P—N3 B—N7+ winning.

22 ... Q—KN2!
23 N—B3

Taking either piece loses, e.g. 23 P×N P×P+ 24 K—R1 B—R6 or 23 PxB P×P+ 24 K—R1 (24 K—R3 R—K6!! 25 B×R B×B 26 NxN N—B5+ 27 K—R4 Q—R3 mate or 26 P—B4 Q—N5 mate) 24 ... K—R1 25 R—QN1 (25 P—N3 B×R) 25 ... R—KN1 26 P—N3 Q—N8+ mating.

23 ... B—Q2

At last the piece gets away scot free as 24 P×N? P×P+ 25 K—R1 B—R6 26 P—N3 QB×R is an easy win.

24 B—Q2 KR—N1
25 QR—N1 N—B3

The other long threatened piece returns home. In the meanwhile White has made no progress at all, whereas Black has strengthened his pressure in many directions. Thus the QP will soon be threatened.

26 KR—K1 Q—B2
27 P—N3?

A blunder in a lost position. 27 R-KB1 is best, but after 27 ... B-B1 and 28 ... B-N2 the final outcome is not in doubt.

27 ... NxNP!
28 N-K4
Or 28 PxN Q-B7+ 29 K-R3 Q-B6+

mating.

28 ... N-K4

29 Resigns

White is a pawn down and will lose more material (29 B-K2 B-B4 or 29 P-B4 Q-B4 30 N-N3 Q-R6+ 31 K-R1 N-N5).

1970-72 PAINFUL REHABILITATION

At the end of 1969 Tal had a kidney out and his results immediately improved. At the Tbilisi tournament at the turn of the year he played some sparkling games, and then he won the Georgian Championship despite having to complete his schedule a week early in order to join the Soviet team making its preparations for the Match of the Century in Belgrade at Easter. However rehabilitation was still far from complete since playing as low as board nine he could score only 50% against the Argentinian veteran Najdorf. A disappointment also awaited him in the newly inaugurated USSR Cup at Dnepropetrovsk where after eliminating Bagirov and Gufeld he was knocked out by Savon thus only reaching the last eight. (The event was won by Bronstein who himself had thought it up — four game matches being played and ties being resolved by two games at a time limit of one hour per game or, in the final analysis, by tossing a coin).

Finally he played some nice games in the Sochi special event where experienced grandmasters like himself, Korchnoy, Suetin, Shamkovich and so on were pitted against some of the better younger masters such as Tukmakov, Kuzmin and Podgaets.

In 1971 the two Estonian tournaments (Tallin and Parnu) were competent rather than outstanding performances, but at Leningrad later in the year Tal's fighting spirit was shown in its best light as he and Smyslov were the only ones of the established favourites to chase Savon who was putting up the performance of a lifetime.

The Alekhine Memorial in November and December was not so good a performance despite the strong opposition. After winning the Alekhine brilliancy prize for the Uhlmann game (83) Tal got bogged down in the same morass of draws as the other players.

1973 began with further disappointments. Tal was nominated for both the Wijk aan Zee (January) and Teesside (April/May) Grandmaster Tournaments but failed to turn up for either because of ill health. Then at the Estonian resort of Viljandi first prize had to be conceded to Dvoretzky, a little known Moscow master, largely because

of a half point thrown away in the middle of the tournament. Since 1972 was the year of great concentration on the question of good conditions of play it is perhaps worth while going into greater detail concerning Tal's loss to Uusi. The game was adjourned in a position in which Tal had a fairly clear drawing line and, seeing that attempts to play for more all lost, Tal decided to offer a draw at breakfast on the morning when the game was to be played off. Tal then explains that he could not find his opponent around when he got up, and so had to take a half-hour's(!) walk through hilly country to reach the playing room. On the way his thoughts got mixed up, he failed to offer a draw, and then played the move which the night before he had rejected! (See *Winning Practice* 18).

However these slight disappointments were swept away by the three excellent performances in the second half of the year. At Sukhumi in a heat wave which shrivelled up the hopes of all the foreign players, including Hubner, Tal came first ahead of Savon and Taimanov. Then at the Olympiad he made the best individual score of all the 350-odd competitors. Finally after a quiet start in the Soviet Championship (six draws in which he was pawns up in nearly every one!) a burst of 10½/12 brought him his fourth gold medal (1957, 1958, 1967 and 1972) as Soviet Champion. It must be admitted that in some respects he was favoured as he was playing hors concours in this Zonal event, having been seeded to the 1973 Interzonal by virtue of his high Elo rating (2620). As he himself put it the other players were aiming merely to qualify by coming in the top three or four whereas he had a clearer and more restricted aim in mind. Nevertheless it must be admitted that a large number of the Soviet elite were missing from this event, so it was with interest that the chess world waited to see how Tal would fare against the sterner opposition that awaited him in 1973.

Finally in November he made the best score of all the assembled grandmasters in a special event in which Smyslov, Petrosian, Spassky, Bronstein and Karpov played clock simultaneouses against the six best schoolboys from the main centres of Soviet Chess — the sort of popularisation event which Tal loves.

65 Tbilisi 1969-70

Black: Suetin

Sicilian Defence

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2 | N-KB3 | P-K3 |
| 3 | P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4 | NxP | P-QR3 |
| 5 | B-Q3 | N-K2 |
| 5 ... | N-QB3 is more natural. | |
| 6 | N-QB3 | QN-B3 |
| 7 | N-N3 | N-N3 |
| 7 ... | N-R4 making room for the KN at QB3 is a better idea. | |
| 8 | 0-0 | P-N4 |
| 9 | B-K3 | P-Q3 |
| 10 | P-B4 | B-K2 |
| 11 | Q-R5! | |

Punishment for Black's 5th move. Now if 11 ... 0-0 White has ready the quick attack on the king by 12 R-B3 and then R-R3.

- | | |
|--------|------------|
| 11 ... | B-B3 |
| 12 | QR-Q1! BxN |

This cannot be right as the bishop was a good piece which was needed both for defence of his K-side and pressure on White's Q-side. 12 ... Q-B2 was worth a try.

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 13 | PxB | Q-B2 |
| 14 | R-Q2! | QN-K2 |

Black's opening system is dubious as White has achieved a very threatening position. The text is intended to get in P-Q4 should White double rooks on the backward QP. It also threatens the forward QBP, but Black could hardly hope to divert Tal from his attacking plans with such a gesture.

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 15 | N-Q4! | B-Q2 |
|----|-------|------|

Defending against the threat of 16 BxP+ PxB 17 NxNP. If Black tries 15 ... QxP then 16 P-B5 PxP (16 ... N-K4 17 PxP as the KBP is pinned or 16 ... N-B1 17 PxP attacking KB7 with

queen and rook) 17 PxP N-K4 18 P-B6 PxP 19 RxP threatening the QP and also intending 20 R-R6 and 21 RxP getting at the king from the side.

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 16 | P-B5! | |
|----|-------|--|

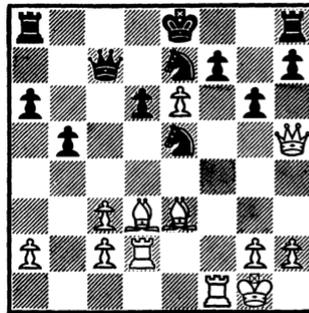
This breakthrough proves immensely strong.

- | | | |
|--------|-------|------|
| 16 ... | PxP | |
| 17 | PxP | N-K4 |
| 18 | N-K6! | |

This move would not have been so strong in the variation given after Black's 15th move as it would let the enemy queen participate in the defence of the K-side along the diagonal c3/g7. Now however the Black queen is threatened as well as the KNP so Black has no choice.

- | | | |
|--------|-----|-------|
| 18 ... | BxN | |
| 19 | PxB | P-KN3 |

Suetin has clearly relied on this to provide temporary relief. Instead he is shattered by a temporary queen sacrifice. He could have got the king into temporary safety by 19 ... 0-0-0 but after 20 PxP QR-B1 21 P-QR4 White should win without much trouble.



20 QxN! P x Q

21 P×P+ Resigns
 21 ... K-B1 22 B-R6 mate, or 21 ... K-Q2 (or 21 ... K-Q1) 22 B-B5+ wins e.g. 22 ... K-B3 23 B-K4+ N-Q4 24 B×N+

K-Q3 25 B×R+ K-K2 26 B-N5+ and queens the pawn with check leaving Black with bare queen against two rooks and two bishops.

66 Tbilisi 1969-70

Black: Haag

Q.G.D., Slav Defence

1	N-KB3	N-KB3
2	P-B4	P-B3
3	P-Q4	P-Q4
4	N-B3	P×P
5	P-QR4	B-B4
6	P-K3	P-K3
7	B×P	B-QN5
8	0-0	QN-Q2
9	N-R4!	

Even Fischer, that most constant supporter of 1 P-K4, has begun varying his opening move by trying (in 1970) 1 P-QN3 (against Tukmakov at Buenos Aires, and against Mecking and Filip at Palma) and then 1 P-QB4 in the epic 1972 match against Spassky. All through his career however Tal has been prepared to play a QP type of opening, but he normally starts by 1 N-KB3 so as to rule out certain lines such as the Grunfeld and Nimzoindian. He certainly knows everything there is to know about the openings he plays, and the text has the recommendation of having been played by Botvinnik in the 12th game of his 1954 match with Smyslov. After 9 ... 0-0? 10 P-B3! B-N3 11 P-K4 White had the advantage. 9 Q-K2 is also playable, while Taimanov gives 9 Q-N3 P-QR4 10 N-R2 as strong.

9	...	B-N5
10	P-B3	N-Q4?

Now Black gets the worst of it. 10 ... B-KR4 looks more logical so as to meet 11 P-N4 by 11 ... N-Q4 12 Q-K1 B-K2! 13 N-N2 B-N3 and the value of the pawn advance in front of White's king is not clear.

11	P×B	Q×N
12	Q-B3	

This strong attacking move is the key to Furman's idea and enables White to put some life into what is normally a rather tame opening variation.

12	...	0-0
13	B-Q2	P-QR4
14	B-N3	

A useful waiting move, in case he wants to exchange knights late without his KB being attacked.

14	...	B-Q3
15	P-N3	Q-Q1
16	P-K4	

This central advance makes White's advantage clear.

16	...	N-N5
----	-----	------

This prevents 17 B-B2 with strong threats along the white diagonal leading to KR7, but the knight is clearly "out of it" from other points of view. If Black realised how badly

he was placed he would have tried 16 ... Q-N3 17 P-xN QxB 18 P-xBP P-xP 19 QxP Q-N3! hoping to exchange queens into an ending where White's Q-side majority is not so easily exploited and he also has a doubled pawn on the other wing. White might then do best to keep up the tension by 20 Q-K4 as 20 QxN gives Black a lot of play by 20... KR-Q1! 21 Q-N5 QxP+ 22 R-B2 B-B4 23 B-K1 QR-N1 and if 24 R-Q1? (better 24 Q-K2) QxQR! winning.

17 QR-Q1 R-B1

17 ... P-QB4 at once looks a better chance. This move and his next are very passive and positively invite a vigorous response from the man who never needs an invitation anyway!

18 B-K3 K-R1

19 P-N5 P-KN3

Otherwise 20 Q-R5 but now there is another object of attack.

20 K-N2 K-N1

21 P-R4 Q-K2

22 P-K5 B-N1

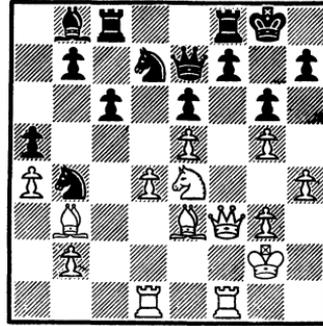
23 N-K4

See diagram next column

The terrible hole at KB6 now far outweighs the weakness at Q5.

23 ... P-QB4

Much too late. 23 ... N-Q4 was certainly a move more in line with the



teachings of the great defender Steinitz.

24 N-B6+ NxN

Further inconsistency. Since his last move was played to weaken White's QP he should have gone down fighting by 24 ... K-N2 when 25 P-R5 followed by opening the KR file should win but Black is not so bereft of counter chances as he is after White's fearsome pawn at KB6 plays the role of a piece.

25 NPxN Q-Q2

26 Q-B4 K-R1

27 PxP N-Q6

Ending not with a bang but with a whimper. 27 ... Q-B3+ would at least let him play a few more moves.

28 Q-K4 KR-Q1

29 B-QB2 Resigns

A whole piece is lost.

67 Tbilisi 1969-70

White: Spiridonov

King's Indian Defence

1 N-KB3 P-KN3

2 P-Q4 B-N2

3 P-QB4 P-Q3

4 N-B3 N-KB3

5 P-K4 0-0
 6 B-K2 P-K4
 7 0-0 QN-Q2

Good psychology! 7 ... N-B3 has been analysed and played so extensively in the past decade and a half that for winning purposes a reversion to the older main line is a sensible decision.

8 P-Q5

This releases the tension in the centre too quickly. The semi-waiting move 8 R-K1 intending to give extra protection to his KP by 9 B-B1 is generally preferred. Then if 8 ... R-K1 White can close the centre in the knowledge that the Black rook is somewhat misplaced to back up the standard counter of P-KB4.

8 ... N-B4
 9 Q-B2 P-QR4
 10 N-Q2

It is a moot point whether the knight is better posted here or at K1.

10 ... B-R3!
 11 N-N3 BxB
 12 NxN?

Black's bishop, although formally 'bad', is still a useful piece and White should go 12 QRxB though after 12 ... KN-Q2 he has lost all opening initiative.

12 ... B-R3
 13 N-Q3 N-Q2
 14 B-N4

Now White is thinking in terms of getting rid of a bishop that is the same colour as two of his fixed centre pawns. 14 P-B3 preparing to take up a defensive attitude on the K-side is probably best. In the first game ever played in this variation, Petrosian-Geller 1949, White tried for immediate Q-side play by 14 P-QR3 but after 14 ... P-KB4 15 P-QN4 N-B3 16 N-N2 BPxP Black had much the better of it as 17 NxP NxN 18 QxN B-B4 19 Q-B3 P-K5 20 Q-QN3 B-N2 is

very strong.

14 ... P-KB4
 15 B-R3 Q-R5!

The bishop now finds itself awkwardly placed.

16 QR-K1 N-B3
 17 P-B3 R-B2

Keeping up the tension and preparing to double rooks before opening a file on the K-side.

18 Q-B2 Q-R4
 19 P-B5

White has achieved his thematic advance on the Q-side, but his pieces are too passively placed to be able to back the advance up by further pressure.

19 ... BPxP
 20 BxB P-K6!
 21 Q-B2 RxB
 22 Q-R4

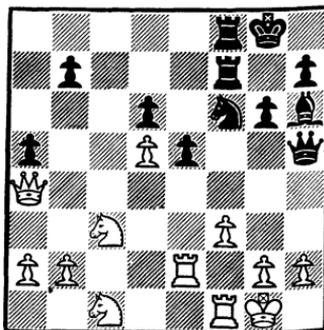
At last White gets a threat of his own, but while the queen's away the storm clouds gather round her consort on the other side of the board.

22 ... QR-B1
 23 PxP

If 23 QxP then 23 ... P-K5 24 PxKP N-N5 25 P-KR3 N-B7 with decisive threats.

23 ... PxP
 24 N-B1 P-K7!
 25 RxP

Or 25 N(1)xP B-K6+ 26 K-R1 N-N5 27 P-KR3 N-B7+ 28 K-R2 RxP! wins.



25 ... N-N5!
 The pawn sacrifice has pinned White's BP so that this powerful attacking move is now feasible.

26 P-KR3 N-K6
 27 KR-K1

After 27 KR-B2 Black has 27 ... N-B4 threatening both 28 ... BxN and 28 ... B-K6, and if 28 P-KN4 then simply 28 ... Q-N4 followed by 29 ... N-Q5 with great pressure on the KBP.

27 ... P-QN4!

A diversionary pawn sacrifice that White does best to refuse by 28 Q-K4 though after 28 ... N-B4 threatening 29 ... N-N6 or 29 ... N-Q5 Black is still winning. 27 ... R-B5 at once is met by 28 N-K4!

28 QxNP

Or 28 NxP R-B5 29 Q-R3 RxP! 30 PxR RxP with a winning attack, e.g. 31 RxN BxR+ 32 RxB Q-N4+ mating.

28 ... RxP!

29 PxR QxBP
 30 N-Q3.

The threat was the further sacrifice 30 ... Q-B8+! 31 RxQRxR+ 32 K-R2 B-B5 mate.

30 ... Q-N6+
 31 K-R1 QxP+
 32 K-N1

Or 32 R-R2 R or Q-B8+.

32 ... P-K5.

The most decisive as it gains the use of KB5 for the bishop if White retreats his knight from Q3. 33 N-B1 R-B8+ 34 ... QxR+ and 35 ... B-B5 mate.

33 NxP R-B8+
 34 RxR QxR+
 35 K-R2 QxR+
 36 N4-B2 B-B5+!
 37 Resigns

37 NxB QxQ or 37 K-R3 Q-R4 mate or 37 K-R1 Q-B8 mate.

One of Tal's best attacking games of recent years.

68 Poti 1970

White: Bokuchava Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB4
 2 N-KB3 P-K3
 3 P-Q4 PxP
 4 NxP P-QR3

The Paulsen system has been a favourite with Tal for a number of years now. Black creates an asymmetrical position right from the start so as to ensure a tense fight.

5 N-QB3

In recent years 5 B-Q3 has been very popular so that White can guard

his KP without having to worry about B-QN5 pinning his QN which often emerges via Q2.

5 ... Q-B2
 6 B-K2

Rather tame. 6 P-KN3 is a more ambitious alternative, but 6 B-K3 is inexact because of 6 ... B-N5.

6 ... N-KB3

Very few opening books consider this move, which is a good reason to adopt it. Nearly all authorities give 6

... N-QB3 and consider the text will transpose into this main line. Not the case here where Tal leaves his queen's pressure unmasked on the QB file and develops his QN at Q2.

7 P-QR3

The inexperienced Georgian decides to play passively, which is just what Tal likes. 7 0-0 B-N5 8 Q-Q3 N-B3 9 P-QR3 seems better calculated to retain some initiative for White, but not 8 B-Q2 N-B3 when Black has no special problems.

7 ... P-QN4

8 0-0 B-N2

9 Q-Q3

After 9 B-B3 P-Q3 Black has ruled out the advance P-K5 without which White cannot hope to achieve much in these variations.

9 ... P-Q3

10 P-B4 QN-Q2

11 B-B3

Now this is more a defensive measure against 11 ... N-B4 than an attacking gesture.

11 ... R-B1

12 B-Q2 B-K2

13 QR-K1

The point of his last move otherwise 12 B-K3 would have been more natural.

13 ... 0-0

14 Q-K2 Q-N1

Preparing his next move, and ready to meet 15 P-K5 which White has telegraphed with his last few moves by 15 ... PxP 16 PxP B-B4! hence White's reply.

15 K-R1 R-B5

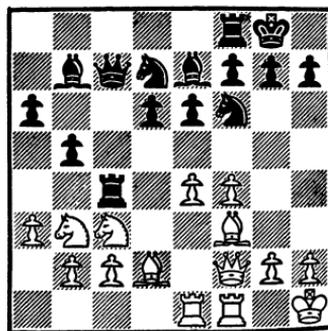
16 N-N3

White still cannot enforce P-K5, which indicates that his slow opening (P-QR3, Q-Q3-K2) was at fault. The text at least gets the knight off prise (if I may coin a bastard term) with gain of time by reason of the threat of 17 N-R5.

16 ... Q-B2

17 Q-B2

Further time wasting. 17 P-K5 was the only logical move. White must have rejected it because of 17 ... PxP 18 PxP N-Q4 19 NxN (19 N-R5?! NxN! wins) BxN 20 BxB PxB 21 P-K6 (the normal attacking move in such positions) 21 ... N-B3 and now White has no significant attacking chances and has to watch his QB2 as well as a possible R-K5 or N-N5. However after 22 P-B3 preparing a strong point on Q4 White has a reasonable position (22 ... N-N5 23 P-N3) and has got rid of his immobile centre pawns which in the game soon turn out to be a source of concern.



17 ... B-R1

Preparing the advance of his Q-side pawns by R-N1, P-QR4. P-N5.

18 Q-N3

Once again White threatens P-K5, but Black finally rules it out after which the queen is made to look rather silly so 18 R-K3 preparing KR-K1 and defence of his main weakness was called for.

18 ... P-K4!

19 P-B5 R-K1

A distant preparation for P-K5.

20 Q—B2 B—B1
 21 R—K2
 Too late!
 21 ... P—Q4!
 22 NxQP BxN
 The right capture as the KN is reserved for higher things.
 23 PxB P—K5
 24 KR—K1 N—K4
 Lovely play, sacrificing a second pawn in the hope of 25 BxP QN-N5 which wins the KB because of the mate threat.
 25 B—B4 PxB
 26 RxN

Or 26 BxN N-N5 27 Q-N3 (27 BxQ NxQ+ 28 K-N1 RxR winning material) 27 ... RxB! 28 RxR P-B7! and the rear rook is overloaded. The game continuation is an echo of the same theme.
 26 ... N—N5
 27 Q—N3
 Or 27 QxP NxR 28 Q-N3 RxB! 29 QxR N-Q6!
 27 ... NxR
 28 BxN
 Or 28 RxN RxR 29 BxR P-B7!
 28 ... P—B7
 30 Resigns

69 Match of the Century, Belgrade 1970

Black: Najdorf

Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4
 2 N—KB3 N—QB3
 3 P—Q4 PxP
 4 NxP P—K3
 5 N—QB3 Q—B2
 6 P—KN3

In the first round of this famous match Tal played 6 B-K3 P-QR3 7 B-Q3 N-B3 8 0-0 and got a nice attacking position but failed to break through. Here he chooses an opening system which had served White well a few months before in the XXXVII USSR Championship.
 6 ... P—QR3
 Not 6 ... N-B3 7 KN-N5! Q-N1 8 B-KB4 N-K4 9 B-K2! B-B4 10 BxN QxB 11 P-B4 Q-N1 12 P-K5 with advantage (Fischer-Tal, Bled 1961).

7 B—N2 N—B3
 A modern wrinkle is 7 ... KN-K2

intending NxN followed by N-B3.
 8 0—0 P—Q3
 Not 8 ... NxN 9 QxN B-B4 10 B-B4 with advantage e.g. 10 ... P-Q3 11 Q-Q2 P-R3 12 QR-Q1 P-K4 13 B-K3, Fischer-Taimanov, match 1972. The text is a finesse to avoid a centre opening system much employed in recent years (8 ... B-K2 9 R-K1 P-Q3 10 NxN PxN 11 P-K5! PxP 12 RxP with good prospects). Tal aims to force a similar weakening of the enemy Q-side pawns by a different method.
 9 R—K1 B—Q2
 10 NxN PxN
 Or 10 ... BxN 11 N-Q5! BxN 12 PxB P-K4 13 P-KB4 with pressure.
 11 N—R4! P—K4
 An inaccuracy. He can cross White's plan by 11 ... R-QN1 12 P-

174 Painful Rehabilitation

QB4 P-B4 keeping his pawn formation intact.

12 P-QB4 B-K2?

12 ... P-B4 is still called for.

13 P-B5! 0-0

Or 13 ... P-Q4 14 PxP NxP 15 BxN! PxB 16 N-N6 R-Q1 17 QxP and Black has inadequate compensation for the pawn in view of his loose KP and uncastled state.

14 PxP BxP

15 B-N5

White has achieved his object and weakened the enemy Q-side. From now on, however, as Tal admits in his notes, he failed to push the advantage home properly. 15 B-K3 was clearly the right move.

15 ... B-K2

16 Q-B2 P-R3

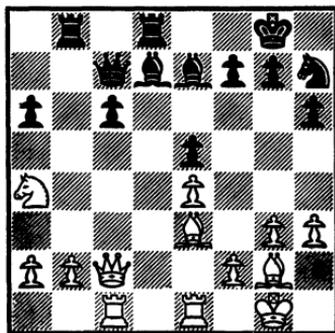
17 B-K3 QR-N1

18 QR-B1 KR-Q1

19 P-KR3

Another pointless move. 19 B-B5 was the obvious and good move.

19 ... N-R2!



Intending N-N4-K3-Q5.

20 B-B5 B-K1

21 KR-Q1

Finally deciding that only by major exchanges can he make much progress in exploiting the weak pawns.

21 ... RxR+

22 RxR N-N4

23 BxB QxB

24 N-B5 N-K3?

Black falls in too complaisantly with his opponents' intentions. 24 ... R-N4 gives more counter play, e.g. 25 NxP R-R4 or 25 R-QB1 N-K3 26 NxN QxN 27 P-N3 R-N5 28 B-B1 R-Q5! with good defensive chances.

25 NxN QxN

26 P-N3 Q-K2

27 Q-B3 R-N5!

The best chance against the threat of Q-R5, since 27 ... Q-B2 28 B-B1 forces Black into a thoroughly passive position.

28 P-KR4

Not 28 P-R3 R-Q5 29 RxR PxR 30 QxQP QxRP 31 Q-Q8 K-B1. The text aims to go B-R3 and then in the previous variation B-Q7 will prove decisive.

28 ... P-B3

Guarding the KP but weakening his white squares seriously. 28 ... P-KR4 and then P-N3 looks a sounder defence.

29 R-Q3!

Preparing Q-Q2. A drawback to Black's last move is seen at once in the variation 29 ... P-QB4 30 R-Q5 P-B5 31 P-R3! RxNP 32 QxBP and wins by the appropriate discovered check.

29 ... K-R2

30 B-R3 B-N3

31 R-Q7 Q-B1

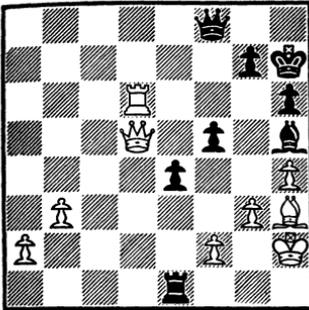
32 QxBP RxKP

33 QxRP R-K8+

34 K-R2 P-B4

Black has burnt his bridges to get a counter attack, but finds that it is not so easy to conduct it since 34 ... P-K5 loses to 35 P-R5 BxP 36 Q-R5 forking, while 34 ... B-K5 35 B-N2 offers nothing. 34 ... P-R4 intending 35 ... P-K5 is possibly his best chance.

35 R-Q6
 Setting a trap in time trouble
 instead of the prosaic 35 Q-R5 R-K7
 36 R-Q2.
 35 ... B-R4?
 Better 35 ... Q-B2 when White
 returns to 36 Q-R5 etc.
 36 Q-Q3 P-K5
 37 Q-Q5



Now it is clear that it is White who has the attack on the K-side, since 37 ... B-B6 can be met either by 38 BxP+

K-R1 39 P-KN4 R-R8+ 40 K-N3 R-N8+ 41 K-B4 RxB+ 42 K-K3 or the more prosaic 38 QxP+ QxQ 39 BxQ+ P-N3 40 BxP+ K-N2 41 P-KN4 R-R8+ 42 K-N3 etc.
 37 ... B-N5
 38 R-Q8 Q-B3
 39 Q-N8+

Checking to gain time on the clock. In a less nervous situation Tal would have found 39 P-R5! with a mating net.

39 ... K-N3
 40 Q-K8+ K-R2
 41 BxB

Now 41 P-R5 BxP! is not the same as two moves ago (39 P-R5 BxP 40 BxP+).

41 ... PxB
 42 Q-N8+ K-N3
 43 R-KB8 Q-K2

Najdorf sealed this move, but resigned without playing on since 44 R-K8 is decisive (44 ... Q-B4 45 R-K6+ K moves 46 Q-B7+).

70 Kapfenberg 1970

Black: Kolarov

Caro-Kann Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB3
 2 P-Q4 P-Q4
 3 N-QB3 P-KN3

A comparatively new system of play. Black normally plays PxP to make White's QP a potential object of attack on the Q file, so why not fianchetto first to increase this pressure. If White crosses this plan by 4 P-K5 then he may get an inferior version of the French Defence as was shown in Fischer-Petrosian 3rd

game Match of the Century 1970 which continued 4 ... B-N2 5 P-B4 P-KR4 6 N-B3 B-N5 7 P-KR3 BxN 8 QxB P-K3.

4 N-B3 B-N2
 5 P-KR3

Master opinion seems to be that this move to prevent B-N5 is the most accurate at this point.

5 ... PxP

Black cannot easily temporise with this any longer, as otherwise he

cannot achieve even a reasonable imitation of development (5 ... N-B3 6 P-K5 KN-Q2? PxB! PxP or 7 B-Q3 first threatening P-K6 and White has good attacking prospects.

6 NxP N-Q2

Not 6 ... N-B3 7 NxN+ and Black must agree to a doubled pawn or allow 8 B-KR6.

7 B-QB4 KN-B3

8 NxN+ NxN

9 0-0 0-0

10 R-K1 B-B4

White has a reasonably straightforward plan of strengthening his pressure by moves like B-KN5, P-B3 Q-N3 and doubling rooks on the K file. In reply Black aims to nullify some of the pressure by offering the exchange of white square bishops. 10 ... N-Q4 intending 11 ... B-K3 and then 12 ... N-B2 is an alternative but White can always sacrifice the exchange on K6 with effect, as in the actual game.

11 N-K5 B-K5

12 B-KN5 B-Q4

13 B-Q3

Naturally Tal plays to keep bishops on while retaining the option of driving away the enemy bishop by P-QB4. Hence Black should consider 13 ... P-QN4 met by 14 P-QN3 renewing the threat, or else 13 ... Q-Q3 intending QR-Q1 with pressure on the QP. To move the bishop yet again seems illogical.

13 ... B-K3

14 P-QB3 N-Q2

Perhaps this was the point of the last move. Black having closed out the rook's pressure on the K file and in particular against his K2 challenges the outpost knight.

15 N-B3!

Sacrifices on KN6 lead to nothing whereas now the exchange sacrifice on K6 is very strong.

15 ... R-K1

15 ... N-B3 was better as White soon shows that Black's KN2 needs protection.

16 RxB! PxB

17 Q-K2 P-K4

Although this opens the QB4/KN8 diagonal for White it is Black's best chance as after 17 ... N-B1 18 R-K1 followed by P-KR4-R5 and N-K5 Black's K-side would be broken up without Black having any redress.

18 B-B4+ K-R1

19 PxB Q-B2

Hoping for 20 R-K1 P-K3 followed by N-B1 with some defensive prospects.

20 B-B7! R-KB1

21 P-K6 N-B3?

Missing White's strong reply. 21 ... N-K4! is correct going to exchange pieces when White cannot win a second pawn by 22 NxN BxN 23 BxKP? because of 23 ... B-R7+ 24 K-R1 QxB 25 KxB RxB exploiting the newly arisen pin on the K file. White would have to content himself with 23 R-K1 B-N2 (23 ... B-B3? 24 BxB PxB 25 P-K7 RxB 26 P-K8Q+) 24 Q-K4 threatening 25 Q-KR4 with a powerful attack.

22 Q-B4!

Now 23 Q-KR4 followed by BxP is a powerful threat.

22 ... Q-R4

23 R-K1

After 23 Q-KR4 RxB! 24 PxB Q-Q4 Black re-establishes material equality, so White prepares R-K5 or even N-K5 followed by Q-KR4 or by NxP+.

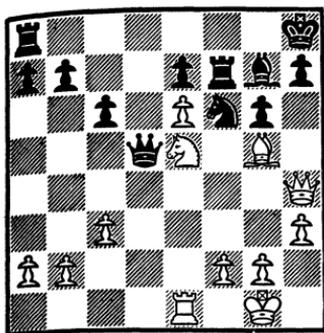
23 ... Q-Q4

24 Q-KR4 RxB

25 N-K5!

A lovely surprise. Black does not manage to get rid of the powerful enemy KP since both 25 ... QxKP 26

NxP+ and 25 ... KR-B1 26 NxP+ K
N1 27 NxP+ lose the queen.



25 ... N—R4
26 NxR+ K—N1
27 BxP

It looks all over but Black's next move sets a little trap into which Tal falls.

27 ... R—K1
28 N—Q6?

The quick way to win was 28 Q-QN4 P-N3 29 Q-Q6 retaining his two extra pawns.

28 ... B—B3!
29 BxB QxN
30 B—N5 RxP
31 Q—QB4

Fortunately this pin still leaves White clearly winning.

31 ... N—N2
32 Q—N3

With various threats such as 33 QxP, 33 B-R6 and 33 R-Q1. Black can parry all three by 32 ... Q-Q4 breaking the pin and attacking both rook and bishop, but after 33 QxQ PxQ 34 RxR NxR 35 B-K3 White has a won ending.

32 ... K—B1?
A time trouble slip.

33 R—Q1 Q—K4
34 B—R6 R—Q3

Or 34 ... R-K2 35 R-Q8+, or 34 ... P-N3 35 Q-R3+ R-K2 36 R-Q7 Q-K8+ 37 K-R2 Q-K4+ 38 P-KB4 exchanging twice on K7 and so winning the knight.

35 RxR Resigns

71 Kapfenberg 1970

Black: Holm

French Defence

1 P—K4 P—K3
2 P—Q4 P—Q4
3 N—Q2

The more discreet Tal of recent years, though the move has brought him some striking quick wins e.g. against Uhlmann (Game No. 83) and the late Alexander Zaitsev (Game No. 63).

3 ... P—QB4
4 KN—B3 N—QB3
5 KPxP KPxP

6 B—N5 Q—K2+
7 B—K2 PxP

Trying to improve on Zaitsev's 7 ... Q-B2.

8 0—0 Q—Q1
Now following Spassky.

9 N—N3 B—Q3
10 QNxP KN—K2
11 P—QN3

11 P-B3 was tried by Geller against Spassky but the Keres idea of fianchettoing the QB is much better cal-

culated to give White attacking chances. (See Keres-Capablanca AVRO 1938 as mentioned in the notes to the Zaitsev game, and also Keres-Stahlberg, Buenos Aires 1939 which went 1 P-K4 P-K3 2 P-Q4 P-Q4 3 N-Q2 P-QB4 4 KPxP QxP 5 KN-B3 PxP 6 B-B4 Q-QB4? 7 0-0 N-QB3 8 Q-K2 N-B3 9 N-N3 Q-N3 10 R-Q1 B-B4 11 P-QR4 P-QR4 12 NxN QxN 13 P-QN3! N-Q4 14 B-R3 KN-N5 15 B-N2 with great black square pressure).

11 ... 0-0
12 B-N2 N-N3
13 P-B4!

Black's last move threatened to exploit the absence of the QB from its original diagonal by 13 ... N-B5 so 14 Q-Q2 looked a reasonable move (14 ... B-QN5? 15 NxN) preparing a siege of the QP. Tal however plays a much more dynamic move agreeing to dissolve the enemy QP, but at the same time gaining various tactical opportunities from the resulting open lines.

13 ... QN-K2

The more Black studied this position the more he realised how uncomfortable it was for him. Thus 13 ... PxP? loses material at once to 14 NxN PxN 15 Q-Q4 P-B3 16 QR-Q1 B-K4 17 QxP+. 13 ... NxN 14 QxN loses the QP. 13 ... N-B5 14 PxP NxQP 15 NxN PxN 16 R-B1 leaves Black with a chronically sick pawn. It becomes clear that Black's 12th move seriously weakened his centre.

14 R-B1 N-B5

Stubbornness. 14 ... PxP 15 N-QN5 B-N1 playing to exchange queens was a better try.

15 P-B5! B-N1
16 R-K1 NxB+

Otherwise 17 B-B1 and the whole knight manoeuvre begins to look rather pointless.

17 QxN N-N3

It was better to stop White's breakthrough by 17 ... N-B3 though after 18 NxN PxN 19 N-Q4 B-N2? 20 N-B5! or 19 ... B-Q2 20 Q-R6! White stands clearly better.

18 P-B6 PxP

There was no reasonable alternative e.g. 18 ... P-N3 19 B-R3 B-Q3 20 P-B7 Q-Q2 21 BxB QxB 22 N-QN5 when the passed pawn is immensely strong, or 18 ... N-B5 19 Q-Q2 and the knight is merely another tactical weakness.

19 NxP Q-Q3
20 B-Q4 B-N5

At first sight Black has finally completed development and even got a counter threat but now Tal strikes.

21 B-B5 Q-B5

21 ... QxN 22 BxR or 21 ... BxN 22 BxQ BxQ 23 NxN! leave Black material down.

22 N-K7+ K-R1

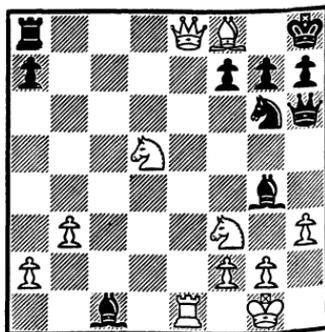
Staking everything on the counter attack against the KRP. 22 ... NxN 23 QxN B-B2 loses a piece after 24 B-K3.

23 NxP Q-R3
24 P-KR3 B-B5

Or 24 ... N-R5 25 PxN NxN+ 26 QxN Q-R7+ 27 K-B1 Q-R8+ 28 K-K2 R-K1+ 29 N-K3 winning the QR.

25 BxR BxR
26 Q-K8!

This coup deserves a diagram.



26 ... R \times Q
 Or 26 ... B \times N 27 Q \times R Q-N4 28 B-
 K7+

27 R \times R B-Q2
 28 R-Q8 Resigns
 (28 ... B-KN4 29 B-K7+).

72 USSR Cup 1970 Black: Bagirov Caro-Kann Defence

1 P-QB4

Playing to avoid the Alekhine Defence on which Bagirov is now the leading Soviet authority.

1 ... P-QB3

2 P-K4 P-Q4

3 KP \times P P \times P

4 P-Q4 N-KB3

Now we have, by transposition, the Panov attack against the Caro-Kann.

5 N-QB3 P-K3

A sounder line than 5 ... N-B3 6 B-N5 Q-N3?! 7 P \times P QN \times P (Polugaevsky-Bagirov XXXVI USSR Ch. 1968) when 8 N-B3! would be quite strong.

6 N-B3 B-K2

7 P \times P

Naturally enough Tal prefers the attacking chances associated with the isolated QP to 7 P-B5 0-0 8 B-Q3 P-QN3 9 P-QN4 P-QR4 10 N-QR4 KN-Q2! 11 P-N5 P \times P 12 P \times P P-K4 with a tense struggle in which White has to play for an ending to try and prove the strength of his Q-side pawns.

7 ... N \times P

After 7 ... P \times P 8 B-N5+ N-B3 9 N-K5 White keeps the initiative.

8 B-Q3

The alternative 8 B-QB4 was once very popular but the text is more in

accordance with Tal's style as it "looks towards the king."

8 ... N-QB3

9 0-0 0-0

10 P-QR3

Tal got nowhere against the same opponent in the 1967 Spartakiad after 10 R-K1 B-B3 11 B-K4 QN-K2. The text prevents N-QN5 and so prepares the possible battery B-N1 and Q-Q3.

10 ... N \times N

To get pressure against the hanging pawns. 10 ... N-B3 is more passive, but guards the K-side better.

11 P \times N B-B3

12 Q-K2 B-Q2

12 ... P-K4? fails to 13 P \times P N \times P 14 N \times N B \times N 15 Q-K4! P-KN3 (15 ... P-B4 16 B-QB4+) 16 Q \times B Q \times B 17 B-R6, and 12 ... P-QN3? to 13 Q-K4 so 12 ... P-KN3 is superior to the passive text which leaves the QB with few prospects.

13 R-N1 P-QN3

Or 13 ... Q-B2 14 Q-K4 P-N3 15 B-KB4.

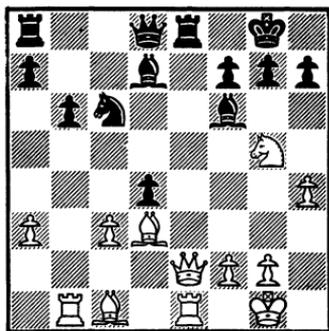
14 R-K1 R-K1

To force P-K4 which, played at once, fails, e.g. 14 ... P-K4 15 P \times P N \times P 16 N \times N B \times N 17 B \times P+! (17 Q \times B R-K1!) 17 ... K \times B 18 Q-R5+ K-N1 19 R \times B and then R-K4-KR4 or B-N5 with a strong attack on the wea-

kened K-side.

15 P—KR4 P—K4
Not 15 ... BxRP? 16 Q—K4.
16 N—N5 P—P

Battle is joined! 16 ... BxN 17 BxB P-B3 18 Q-R5 yields a powerful attack e.g. 18 ... PxB 19 BxP+! K-B1 20 B-N6!, while the same applies to 16 ... P-KR3 17 Q-K4 PxN 18 Q-R7+ K-B1 19 PxNP and 16 ... P-N3 17 B-QB4 R-KB1 18 Q-B3! PxP 19 NxBP RxN 20 B-KR6! and the threat of 21 BxR+ KxB 22 Q-Q5+ cannot be parried (20 ... B-K1 21 RxB+ QxR 22 QxB).



17 BxP+ K—B1

Not 17 ... K-R1 18 B-K4 when 19 NxP+ is an additional threat. After the text Black hoped that White's pieces would 'hang' awkwardly, but this factor is not as important as king safety.

18 B—K4 BxN
Exploiting the pin by 18 ... B-B4 fails to 19 Q-R5 P-N3 20 Q-R7 B-N2 21 P-R5 BxB 22 P-R6!

19 BxB P—B3
20 Q—R5! RxB!

Black's only chance as 20 ... PxB 21 PxP N-K4 22 B-Q5! is a quick win.

21 RxR K—N1?

The only good chance of resisting was 21 ... B-B4 when Tal envisaged 22 BxP! QxB 23 Q-R8+ K-B2 24 QxR BxR 25 R-K1 QxRP (25 ... Q-N3 26 P-B3 P-Q6 — 26 ... BxP? 27 Q-K8+ — 27 RxB QxR 28 PxQ P-Q7 29 Q-N7+!) 26 PxP! Q-N5! 27 P-B3 BxP 28 Q-K8+ K-B3 29 Q-KB8+ K-N3 30 QxB QxQ 31 PxQ NxP 32 R-K7 with some winning chances despite great diminution of material. 21 ... PxB? 22 PxP and 23 P-N6 lets White force home an attack in a few moves.

22 B—Q2 B—K1
23 Q—KB5 B—B2
24 R—N4 K—R1
25 R—K1

Continuing to play for mate. Either here or at his previous move PxP is a simple technical win.

25 ... Q—Q3
26 P—R5 R—Q1

Not 26 ... N-K2 27 Q-K4! R-K1 28 QxP QxP 29 R4-K4 with a killing pin.

27 R—N3 Q—Q2
28 Q—B4 Q—Q3
29 Q—R4 P—Q6
30 R—K4 N—K4

Hoping for 31 P-R6 P-KN4 32 BxP? PxB 33 QxP R-KN1! 34 QxN+ QxQ 35 RxQ RxR 36 PxR P-Q7 queening. Tal decides he must now return to the centre as the game cannot be won on the K-side alone.

31 P—K4 N—B5
32 R—Q4 Q—K2

Not 32 ... NxB 33 RxQ RxR 34 Q-N4.

33 Q—N4 R—KN1
34 R3xP QxP
35 B—K1

Keeping up the tension while his opponent's flag is up.

35 ... Q—B8
36 Q—K2 P—B4
37 P—R6 R—K1

Or 37 ... PxP 38 RxN BxR 39 Q-

K5+ R-N2 (39 ... K-R2 40 QxP+ K-R1
41 Q-B6+ etc) 40 R-Q7.

38 R-Q8 RxR
39 RxR+ K-R2
40 R-Q7 B-N3

41 PxP Resigns

The threat is 42 P-N8(Q)+ and
after 41 ... Q-K6+ 42 QxQ NxQ 43 B-
B2 N-N5 44 B-Q4 N-R3 45 P-N8(Q)+
KxQ 46 R-KN7+ it is all over.

73 Sochi 1970

Black: Kupreichik Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB4
2 N-KB3 P-KN3
3 P-Q4 PxP
4 NxP B-N2
5 P-QB4

Tal has only rarely favoured the
Maroczy bind, preferring the quicker
development 5 N-QB3 (see game no.
38 Tal-Gasic).

5 ... N-QB3
6 B-K3 N-R3

A line in which Black keeps the
option of either N-KN5 or P-KB4,
but the latter move does not have a
good reputation as although it
undermines a strong point in
White's centre it also weakens
Black's position.

7 B-K2 P-Q3

After White's last move (instead of
the slightly less accurate 7 N-QB3)
Black can no longer play N-KN5.

8 N-QB3

The normal move is 8 Q-Q2
forcing 8 ... N-KN5 9 BxN BxB
and only then 10 N-QB3 0-0 11 0-0 Q-R4
12 P-B4 and White is already threa-
tening to expand by P-B5. However
the restrained text is also quite good.

8 ... 0-0
9 0-0 P-B4
10 PxP NxN

10 ... BxN has also been tried when
White does best to reply 11 BxN RxP
12 Q-Q2 with potential threats to the
exposed Black rook and along the K
file.

11 BxN BxB
12 QxB NxP
13 Q-Q2 B-Q2

White has the better of it as he can
exert pressure along the two open
centre files on Black's hanging
pawns. Moreover he has a strong out-
post at Q5 and the advance of the
KBP in conjunction with the ex-
change of black square bishops has
left Black's king position somewhat
weak.

14 B-B3 B-B3
15 B-Q5+ K-N2
16 KR-K1 P-K4

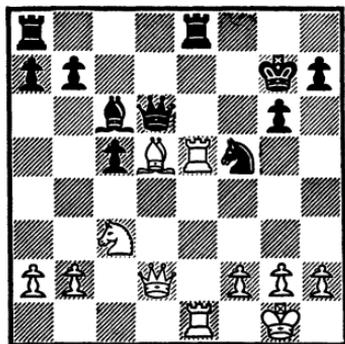
A far reaching decision to gain a
central outpost for his knight in
return for weakening his QP. Tal
reacts energetically by dissolving this
weakness in return for increased
pressure along the K file.

17 P-B5! PxP

Pinning White's bishop as other-
wise a bishop exchange would leave
Black's Q-side pawns isolated.

18 RxP Q-Q3
19 QR-K1 KR-K1

Black must have assessed this position as defensible since he controls his K1 and K2. There is however a third entry point on the open file.



- 20 R—K6! RxR
 21 RxR Q—Q2
 22 Q—B4!

A difficult move to envisage in advance. Now 22 ... BxB is forced as 22 ... R-K1 loses a piece to 23 Q-K5+ K-R3 24 QxN and 22 ... R-KB1 allows 23 Q-K5+ K-R3 24 P-KN4 N-Q5 25 Q-K3+ K-N2 26 R-K7+.

- 22 ... BxB

- 23 Q—K5+ K—B2
 Or 23 ... K-N1 24 NxB Q-Q1 or R5
 25 P-KN4 wins.

- 24 R—B6+ K—N1

Black has forced his opponent to occupy the square KB6 with his rook which temporarily rules out a later N-B6+ by White, but this finesse is not good enough to save the game.

- 25 NxB Q—R5

This crude threat of mate merely forces White to play a strong move. 25 ... R-K1 was correct and then White has to transpose into the ending by 26 RxP+! PxR 27 N-B6+ K-B2 28 NxQ RxN 29 NxR+. After 29 ... K-B3 30 P-B4 White's three to one K-side pawn majority ensures him an easy win.

- 26 P—KR3!

Preparing P-KN4 to dislodge the defensive knight.

- 26 ... R—Q1

Or 26 ... R-K1 27 R-K6 RxR 28 QxR+ K-N2 29 P-KN4 N-Q5 30 Q-K7+! K-R3 31 P-N5+ K-R4 32 QxP+ KxP 33 P-B4+ K-B4 34 Q-B7+ K-K5 35 N-B3+ winning the queen.

- 27 RxN Resigns

If 27 ... PxR 28 Q-K6+ and 29 Q-B6+ forces mate.

74 Sochi 1970

White: Gulko

Grinfeld Defence

- 1 P—Q4 N—KB3
 2 P—QB4 P—KN3
 3 N—QB3 P—Q4
 4 PxP NxP
 5 P—K4 NxN
 6 PxN B—N2

- 7 B—QB4 0—0
 8 N—K2 P—QB4
 9 0—0 N—B3
 10 B—K3 Q—B2

The main line used to be 10 ... PxP 11 PxP B-N5. The text is a less direct

way of putting pressure on the white centre and has become popular since Fischer's adoption of it twice against Spassky. Tal, by the way, rarely plays the Grunfeld, his last two games with it being against Larsen in 1965 and against Kan in 1954!

11 Q—B1

11 R-B1 is the normal move as in Spassky's games against Fischer at Santa Monica 1966 and Siegen 1970. The text aims at exchanging black square bishops by 12 B-KR6.

11 ... B—Q2

12 R—N1

White changes his mind, as after 12 B-KR6 Black can force the exchange of queens in a simple way by 12 ... P x P 13 B x B K x B 14 P x P N-R4 or in a complicated way by 12 ... B x B 13 Q x B P x P 14 P x P N x P 15 B x P+ R x B 16 N x N Q-B5. Then in the ending Black could play to exploit his Q-side pawn majority. However 12 B-B4 is better than the text, so Black should probably have played 11 ... P x P first.

12 ... P x P

13 P x P QR—B1

13 ... N-R4 was still possible but Black plays to keep queens on, and threatens 14 ... N x P.

14 B—QN5 Q—R4

15 Q—N2

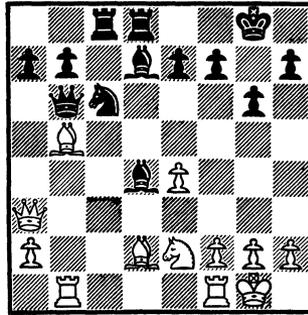
Black's last move renewed the threat of N x P and now, rather than play his queen to squares where it is a tactical weakness, Shamkovich prefers 15 Q-K1 and if 15 ... Q x Q 16 KR x Q P-QR3 then 17 B x N B x B 18 P-Q5 and White may still have equality.

15 ... KR—Q1

16 B—Q2 Q—N3

17 Q—R3 B x P!

The beginning of tactical melee in which Black has seen deeper than his opponent.



18 B x N B—QB4!

The tactical weakness of White's queen at QR3 now becomes apparent. Gulko had only analysed 18 ... B x P+ 19 K-R1 Q x B (19 ... B-QB4 20 Q-KB3 winning a piece) 20 R x B Q x P 21 R-K1 when the piece is worth more than three pawns in this position with a lot of material still left on the board.

19 R x Q

19 Q moves Q x B and White is a pawn down with no compensation.

19 ... B x Q

20 B x B R x B

21 B—N4

Formally speaking this leaves White with the material advantage of two minor pieces for rook and pawn but Black's rooks are particularly active. The alternative ending resulting from 22 R-N3 R x B 23 R x B R x N 24 R x P R x KP 25 R x P R-R1 or R-B7 might well be drawn but the presence of both pairs of rooks makes it harder for the defending side than if it were a simple ending with one rook each.

21 ... P x R

22 B x B R—B5!

More accurate than 22 ... K-R1 23 B-B1 R x P 24 N-B3 and 25 N-Q5 with good drawing chances.

23 N—N3?

The losing error. White's problem is to combine his knight and bishop effectively whereas the text takes the knight towards the edge of the board. The correct defence was 23 P-B3 and if 23 ... R-B7 (23 ... R-Q7 24 R-B1!) then 24 K-B2 R2-Q7 25 R-K1 K-B1 26 K-K3 RxB 27 N-B3! R/R-B7 28 N-Q5 with active pieces at last.

23 ...	R—R5
24 B—B1	RxRP
25 B—K3	R—N7

Now the passed pawn can advance without hindrance.

26 R—B1	P—QN4
27 K—B1	P—N5
28 K—K1	P—N6
29 R—B3	P—R4
30 P—K5	

30 N-K2 rectifying his earlier error is slightly better but after 30 ... R-N8+ 31 R-B1 RxR+ 32 BxR R-B2 (threatening 33 ... RxB+) 33 K-Q1 R-B7 and then 34 ... R-R7 the threat of 35 ... P-

N7 wins.

30 ...	R—Q4
31 N—K4	R—N4!

Now the passed pawn will roll on again. 31 ... RxP? 32 N-Q2! is not a win because 32 ... R-QN4! loses a rook after 33 R-B8+ K-N2 34 B-Q4+.

32 P—K6

A better chance lay in 32 R-B8+ K-N2 33 B-Q4 but after 33 ... R-N8+ 34 K-Q2 R-Q4 Black will soon force the surrender of a piece for his passed pawn.

32 ...	R—N8+
33 K—Q2	P—N7
34 B—Q4	

A blunder that brings the game to a swift end. White should try 34 R-B8+ K-N2 35 B-Q4+ P-B3 36 N-B3 though after 36 ... R-QB8 37 NxR P-N8(Q) 38 RxR QxN the win is only a question of time.

34 ...	R—Q8+
35 Resigns	

75 Sochi 1970

Black: Podgaets Alekhine's Defence

1 P—K4	N—KB3
2 P—K5	N—Q4
3 N—QB3	NxN
4 NPxN	

A classical approach, typical of Tal — "Capture towards the centre, build up a strong pawn centre." Keres prefers 4 QPxN which is positionally more risky since if it comes to an ending Black has a pawn majority on the K-side.

4 ...	P—Q3
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It is a moot point which move is

Black's best here. 4 ... P-QB4 comes into consideration and a number of authors consider 4 ... P-Q4 5 P-Q4 P-QB4 as the soundest line since thereby Black prevents excessive line opening which normally favours the player with the initiative. Still the text is the one normally favoured by the books.

5 P—KB4	PxP
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Still following the main book line. 5 ... P-KN3 is a more restrained line. e.g. 6 P-Q4 B-N2 7 B-Q3 0-0 8 N-B3

P-QB4 9 0-0 QP x P 10 QP x P! N-B3 11 Q-K1 Q-R4 12 B-K3 B-B4 13 Q-R4 QxBP 14 B-Q2 Q-R6 15 BxB PxP 16 N-N5 P-KR3 17 R-B3 Q-R5! and Black succeeded in beating off White's premature attack. Saverymuttu-Cafferty, British Championship 1968. Tal-Gedevanishvili, Poti 1970 went (by transposition) 5 ... P-K3 6 P-Q4 P-QB4 7 N-B3 BP x P 8 BP x P PxP 9 BP x P B-N5+ 10 B-Q2 Q-R4 11 B-Q3 N-B3 12 0-0 BxB 13 NxB Q-B6 14 R-B4! 0-0 15 K-R1 N-K2 and 16 N-K4 Q-N7 17 R-N1 now yielded a winning attack (see Winning Practice for the finish).

6 PxP Q-Q4

Or 6 ... B-B4 7 Q-B3 Q-B1 8 B-Q3 BxB 9 PxP P-K3 10 Q-N3 with attacking chances. Taimanov-Tolush, Leningrad 1948 or 6 ... N-B3 7 P-Q4 B-B4 8 R-N1! with white square pressure.

7 P-Q4 P-QB4

8 N-B3 N-B3

9 B-K2 B-N5

Black tries hard to generate central pressure. Relaxing the tension by 9 ... PxP 10 PxP B-N5 lets White guard his QP by a subsequent P-B3 when Black still has to struggle for equality.

10 0-0 PxP

Finally biting the sour apple since 10 ... P-K3 11 N-N5! BxB 12 QxB PxP 13 NxBP R-KN1 14 P-B4! Q-B4 15 Q-R5! leaves Black in a parlous state.

11 PxP P-K3

Or 11 ... 0-0-0 12 P-B3 P-B3 13 Q-R4 Q-R4 14 Q-N3 Q-N3 15 QxQ PxQ 16 PxP KP x P 17 R-N1 and White has the better of it with pressure on the QNP and B-Q3 followed by N-Q2-B4 and B-KB4+ coming up. Duckstein-Kavalek, Sarajevo 1967. The pawn snatch 11 ... BxN 12 BxB QxQP+ 13 QxQ NxQ 14 BxP R-QN1 (14 ... R-Q1 15 P-B3! N-K7+ 16 K-K2

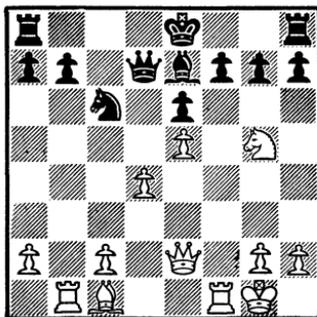
NxB 17 B-B6+ wins) 15 R-N1 is a quick win as 16 P-B3 and then 17 B-B6+ cannot be prevented (15 ... K-Q1 16 B-K3 K-B2 17 BxN RxP 18 RxR+ KxR 19 RxP with a bind as well as the extra pawn).

12 R-N1 Q-Q2

13 N-N5! BxB

14 QxB B-K2

Black, behind in development, must play with great care. 14 ... NxQP 15 Q-K4 or 14 ... QxP+ 15 B-K3 and then 16 NxBP are greatly in White's favour.



15 P-B3

White has to moderate the tempo of his attack because 15 NxBP 0-0 16 N-Q6 NxQP and 17 ... BxN is quite good for Black.

15 ... BxN

16 BxB P-KR3

After 16 ... 0-0 17 Q-N4 the threat of 18 B-B6 is serious, but Black may be able to hang on by 17 ... K-R1 18 R-B3 P-B4 19 PxP e.p. PxP 20 B-R6 R-KN1 grim though this looks.

17 B-B1!

A most effective switch back causing Black to defer castling yet again (17 ... 0-0 18 Q-N4 K-R2 19 Q-R5 and 20 R-B6!)

17 ... N-K2

18 Q-B3 N-Q4

19 P-B4

The start of a remarkable pawn push. 19 B-R3 R-QB1 is quite playable for White.

19	...	N-N3
20	P-B5	N-Q4
21	P-B6!	PxP
22	B-R3	

Now that all possible counter play on the QB file has been ruled out this move is very strong. Black now has no defence.

22	...	P-KB4
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22 ... 0-0-0 is a legal move but after 23 B-Q6 N-N3 24 P-QR4 or 23 ... N-B2 24 KR-B1 the fight is over at once.

23	PxP	PxP
24	R-N3	K-Q1

When all is lost remember the ghost of Steinitz!

25	KR-N1	R-R2
26	Q-N3!	

The clincher, threatening both 27 Q-N8+ and 27 R-N8+.

26	...	N-N3
27	RxN	PxR
28	Q-KN8+	Q-K1
29	QxR	RxB

By a miracle Black has maintained material equality, but an even more important factor is king safety. However surveying the board quickly Black saw 30 RxP R-R1 (30 ... Q-Q2 31 R-N8+ K-B2 32 R-N7+) 31 R-N7 R-B1 32 Q-N7 forcing mate, and so resigned before Tal could play his 30th move. *Informator 10* and the *Alekhine Defence* book by Eales and Williams gives the ending as 29 QxR Resigns, but I prefer to follow the version given by Shamkovich in his article on the Sochi event in the bulletins of the XXXVIII USSR Ch.

76 Tallinn 1971

White: Barcza

Barcza Opening

1	N-KB3	P-KN3
2	P-KN3	B-N2
3	B-N2	

These first three moves are the hallmark of the Kings Indian Attack which Barcza has played so often that some opening books call the opening system by his name. After 1 ... P-K3 2 P-KN3 P-Q4 3 B-N2 N-KB3 4 0-0 B-K2 Barcza normally plays into the Reti-Calalan by 5 P-B4, while other transpositions are also possible. Here however the opening goes along fairly original lines.

3	...	P-Q3
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4	P-Q3	
---	------	--

4 P-Q4 looks more vigorous, but Barcza prefers the restrained style.

4	...	P-K4
5	P-K4	N-QB3
6	N-B3	KN-K2!

Of course Tal plays to avoid symmetry and aims at an early P-KB4.

7	B-K3	
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It is not clear whether this is the start of a good plan. 7 0-0 would enable White to defer the decision about what to do for a move since 7 ... P-KR4? is a pointless reply —

White's K-side is too strongly policed by minor pieces for such a premature attack to come to anything. In fact after 7 0-0 we would transpose into two earlier Barcza-Tal games (Zurich 1959 — drawn in 41 moves — and Havana 1963 — won by Tal in 45) so Barcza was clearly trying to vary.

7 ... 0-0
8 Q-Q2

This is dubious from a positional point of view, since by referring to the pawn structure it can be seen that White 'threatens' to exchange his better bishop for Black's worse one. This could only be good if White intended to follow up with P-KR4-R5 exploiting the absence of a defending knight at KB3, but this is hardly in Barcza's style. Since after 8 0-0 P-B4 White would already have to face up to the threat of P-B5 it seems best for him to play 8 P-Q4 despite the slight loss of time this move involves.

8 ... N-N5

Now White is in a dilemma. 9 B-R6 loses, not to 9 ... BxB? 10 QxB NxP+ 11 K-Q2 NxR 12 N-KN5! but to simply 9 ... NxP+. 9 0-0-0 P-QB4 followed by P-QR3 and P-QN4 lets Black get a powerful attack so eating humble pie by 9 0-0 or 9 BxN was necessary.

9 N-K2

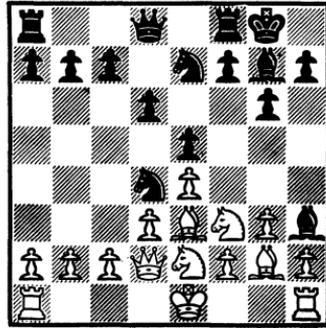
In the close Sicilian which this opening resembles the text is a method of removing Black's central knight. Here however it is a monumental blunder which Tal exploits at once.

9 ... B-R6!

See diagram next column

10 KNxN

The alternatives are hopeless — 10



0-0 NxKN+ 11 BxN BxR or 10 BxN BxB or 10 QNxN BxB 11 R-KN1 PxN 12 NxP P-QB4! (clearer than 12 ... B-R6 13 P-KN4 threatening 14 R-N3) 13 N-N3 B-B6 14 P-KN4 P-B4!

10 ... BxB

11 R-KN1 PxN

12 NxP P-QB4

As in the last note Black takes care not to get his bishop, which has done such good work, trapped.

13 N-N5 B-KB6

14 P-KN4 P-Q4

He could play 14 ... P-B4 15 NPxP PxP 16 B-R6 N-N3, or 14 ... Q-Q2 and 15 ... BxKNP, but prefers to give up a pawn in order to avoid a temporarily defensive posture.

15 BxP R-B1

16 B-R3

16 BxP seems a more sensible move once he has decided to play on a piece down. The pin on the knight can easily be ignored.

16 ... PxP

17 PxP

Or 17 NxP R-R1 18 N-N5 RxB! 19 NxR BxQNP 20 R-N1 BxN 21 RxP? P-K6! 22 PxP BxR.

17 ... Q-N3!

Vigorous play, shattering White's illusions that he was getting somewhere with his threat of exchanging queens followed by BxN.

18 BxN
Or 18 N-B3 RxN! 19 PxR R-Q1
etc.

18 ... QxN
19 BxR QxNP
20 BxB KxB

Black has given back all his extra material, and formally speaking is

now the exchange and a pawn down, but has decisive threats against the king. White in fact now resigned seeing that 21 R-Q1 RxP 22 Q-B1 (22 Q-Q4+ QxQ 23 RxQ R-B8+) 22 ... R-K7+ or 21 R-QB1 R-Q1! 22 Q-K3 QxBP, or 21 Q-B1 Q-B6+ 22 K-B1 Q-B5+ are all hopeless.

77 Tallinn 1971

White: Ney

Modern Benoni

1 P-Q4 N-KB3
2 P-QB4 P-B4
3 P-Q5 P-KN3

In his younger days Tal would have automatically replied 3 ... P-K3 but he has used the true form of the Modern Benoni much less in the last decade, and here gets back into it in a roundabout way.

4 N-QB3 B-N2
5 N-B3 0-0
6 P-K4 P-Q3
7 B-B4 P-QR3

White's last move had prevented P-K3, so the text prepares P-QN4, the alternative way of challenging White's central pawn chain.

8 P-QR4

Not 8 B-K2 P-QN4 9 PxP PxP 10 BxNP because of 10 ... NxKP and Black has the initiative.

8 ... Q-R4
9 B-Q2

Again necessary as 9 Q-Q2 is a self pin of the QRP and there follows 9 ... P-QN4! 10 BPxP PxP 11 BxNP

NxKP! 12 NxN.
9 ... P-K3
10 B-K2 PxP
11 BPxP

Choosing to return to a Modern Benoni in which White's QB and Black's queen are on slightly unusual squares. In the most recent praxis White has had good results with the alternative 11 KPxP when Black probably does best to play 11 ... B-B4 12 0-0 Q-B2 or 12 ... Q-Q1 intending 13 ... N-K5. The recapture 11 NxP gets nowhere after 11 ... Q-Q1 12 B-N5 N-B3 and 13 ... B-K3 when White must lose his outpost at Q5 and the weakness of the Black QP is not too easy to exploit.

11 ... R-K1
12 0-0 B-N5

Playing to strengthen his grip on the pivot point at K4. White should probably reply 13 P-R3 BxN 14 BxB to be followed by Q-B2, B-K2, P-B4 and QR-K1 always aiming for the typical White breakthrough of P-K5

or P-B5 or both—the plan with which Penrose beat Tal at Leipzig in 1960. The neutral reply does not form part of any plan.

13 R—K1 Q—B2

He cannot yet develop the remaining minor piece because of 13 ... QN-Q2 14 N-QN5! Q-N3 15 P-R5 winning the QP with gain of time.

14 Q—B2 QN—Q2

15 QR—Q1

Another colourless move just like his 13th move. Shamkovich suggests 15 QR-B1 to deter a subsequent P-B5 by Black.

15 ... QR—N1

16 P—QN3 BxN

17 PxB

The die is now cast. Tal presumably expected 17 BxB when 17 ... P-QN4 gets his Q side majority rolling. The text intends P-B4 followed by B-B3 when Black has few prospects of getting pressure on the K side, so immediate action is called for.

17 ... P—B5!

A superb positional pawn sacrifice which White does best to refuse by 18 P-N4 to deny the knight a crucial pivot square. 18 BxP P-QN4! 19 PxP PxP 20 BxP (20 NxP RxN) 20 ... RxB1 is very strong for Black.

18 PxP N—K4

19 N—N1

White should realise how dangerous his situation has become and prepare to defend his K side by Shamkovich's 19 R-QB1 and 20 N-Q1.

19 ... QR—B1

20 N—R3 Q—Q2

An ambitious move, but 20 ... Q-K2 is better and if 21 B-B4 then 21 ... N-R4 22 B-N3 Q-B3 etc., while if White continues as in the game 21 P-B4 N4-N5 22 P-B3 then 22 ... NxKP is a stronger version of the actual

game.

21 P—B4

Not 21 K-N2 N-R4 22 P-B4 N-N5 23 P-B3 N-B7! 24 KxN Q-R6 with a fierce attack (25 K-N1? B-Q5+ mates).

21 ... N4-N5

22 P—B3

Quite all right if followed up properly. 22 B-KB3 is also playable, when Black has to change direction by 22 ... P-QN4.

22 ... NxKP

Tal is not the man to retreat!

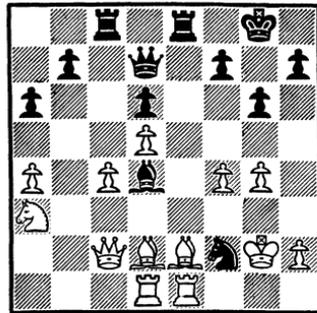
23 PxN (N4)

The right move, since 23 PxN (K4) B-Q5+ 24 K-N2 N-B7 25 P-B5 (otherwise 25 ... Q-R6+) 25 ... RxKP yields a very strong attack. Note that Ney who uses algebraic notation would find the choice easier to think about and write down, the choice being between 23 fg and 23 fe.

23 ... B—Q5+

24 K—N2 N—B7

If the queen was on K2 then 24 ... Q-R5 would be a win, whereas Black needs further sacrifices now to break through. The main threat of the text is 25 ... RxB!



25 B—QB1?

Preventing 25 ... RxB and guarding his loose knight with gain of time. However 25 B-KB3 playing

for piece exchanges was the right move, when Black probably has nothing better than 25 ... NxR with the worst of it, because 25 ... NxP 26 RxR+ RxR, 27 R-KB1! (preventing 27 ... N-B7) is clearly in White's favour e.g. 27 ... R-K6 28 N-N1 P-KR4 29 P-R3 Q-K2?! 30 PxN R-K7+ 31 K-N3! R-R7 32 P-N5 etc. according to Shamkovich's analysis.

25 ... B-B4
26 P-R3

This loses quickly, though Black retains a strong attack after 26 B-B3 NxP or 26 R-B1 NxP 27 R-B3 N-R3 and 28 ... N-B4.

26 ... Q-K2
A decisive move with play on the K file (27 P-N5 NxR 28 QxN Q-K5+ etc) as well as the murderous threat of 27 ... Q-R5.

27 B-B3 Q-R5
28 R-R1 NxR/R1
29 RxN R-K8!

A decisive entry, as now if 30 K-R2 then 30 ... B-B7.

30 RxR QxR
31 P-R4 R-K1
32 Resigns

The threat of 32 ... Q-N8+ 33 K-R3 BxN 34 BxB R-K6 cannot be parried. (32 B-Q1 Q-N8+ 33 K moves R-K8).

78 Tallinn 1971

Black: Vooremaa

Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB4
2 N-KB3 P-K3
3 P-Q4 PxP
4 NxP P-QR3
5 B-Q3 N-QB3
6 B-K3

The chief alternative is 6 NxN with which both Spassky and Fischer gained some opening advantage in their games against Petrosian (World Championship match 1969 and Candidates' Final Match 1971 respectively).

6 ... N-B3
7 0-0 Q-B2

Black can try 7 ... P-Q4 by analogy with the last game of the Spassky-Fischer match 1972. However in that game White had his knight on QB3 and his king uncastled — a fundamental difference in White's favour as he can

continue 7 ... P-Q4 8 PxP NxP 9 NxN PxN (9 ... NxB 10 NxQ NxQ 11 NxBP!) 10 B-Q4! If in this game Black tries the alternative 8 ... PxP then 9 NxN PxN 10 R-K1! followed by P-QB4 and N-B3 with much more pressure on Black's centre than in the Spassky-Fischer game.

8 N-QB3

Straightforward play in Tal's style. 8 N-Q2 retains the option of N-B4 to go in at QN6 later, or of QN-B3 guarding the KRP and preparing a cramping strategy by P-QB4.

8 ... B-Q3
9 K-R1!

Much better than playing a weakening pawn move e.g. 9 P-KN3 P-KR4! 10 P-B4? N-KN5! with a Black win or 9 P-B4? NxN 10 BxN BxP with advantage. 9 P-KR3 is possible, but the text speculating on

when the piece is more valuable than three pawns, is the most unpleasant for Black to meet.

9 ... P—KR4

The Estonian like most of his compatriots is a sharp player and decides to play a double edged line recommended by Moiseyev rather than 9 ... B-B5 when 10 BxB QxB 11 N3-K2 Q-B2 12 P-KR3 P-Q3 13 P-QB4 gives White control of more space.

10 P—B4

Moiseyev only considered 10 B-K2? BxP! 11 P-KN3 P-R5 12 NxN QPxN 13 KxB PxP+ 14 K-N2 R-R7+ 15 K-B3 N-R4 or 10 NxN QPxN 11 P-B4 N-N5 12 B-Q2 etc. Tal keeps the tension while denying Black attacking chances.

10 ... N—KN5

Or 10 ... NxN 11 BxN?! BxP (11 ... P-K4 12 PxP BxP 13 BxB QxB 14 R-B5 Q-B2 15 P-K5 N-N5 16 Q-B3 NxKP 17 R-K1 P-Q3 18 N-Q5 with a powerful attack) 12 BxN PxP 13 Q-B3 B-K4! and Black has a solid position, so Tal intended the bolder 11 P-K5 BxP 12 PxP QxP 13 Q-Q2 N-N5?! 14 B-KB4 with good play for the two pawns.

11 Q—B3

Not 11 B-N1 NxN 12 BxN BxP 13 Q-B3? B-K6 threatening mate as well as the loose bishop.

11 ... NxB

12 QxN Q—N3

Not 12 ... B-B4 13 NxP! Nor 12 ... NxN 13 QxN BxP 14 Q-B2! (14 QxNP B-K4!) 14 ... BxP 15 QxP+ etc. It would appear after the text that Black has a considerable initiative on the black squares, but his lack of development will soon tell once White has neutralised the temporary initiative.

13 QN—K2 P—K4

A radical measure to prevent P-K5.

In view of Tal's unexpected riposte Black should have considered playing for exchanges and normal development by 13 ... NxN 14 NxN B-B4 15 P-B3 P-Q3.

14 Q—N3 PxN?

After this Black should lose quickly. 14 ... NxN 15 PxP NxN (15 ... B-B4 16 QxP R-B1 17 N-B4 and then 18 NxP or 18 N-Q5, or else 15 ... B-B1 16 Q-B2 Q-N3 17 NxN favour White) 16 QxP R-B1 17 PxP (17 BxN Q-Q5) 17 ... N-Q5 18 P-K5 N-K3 19 Q-R6 is no improvement as White's advanced pawns are well worth a piece in view of the threat of 20 QxP and then doubling rooks on the KB file. The correct defence is Gufeld's suggestion of 14 ... PxP! 15 QxNP B-K4 16 Q-N5 BxN 17 NxP N-K2 18 N-Q5 Q-Q3! though after 19 B-B4 White retains attacking chances.

15 QxP R—B1

16 P—K5 B—K2

Continuing to guard the rook, as after 16 ... B-N1 17 N-N3 Q-Q1 18 QR-K1! followed by N-B5 or NxP Black cannot avoid quick loss.

17 P—B5 P—B3

Or 17 ... Q-B2 18 P-B6 B-B4 19 N-B4 NxP 20 QR-K1 P-Q3 21 N-N6! and wins due to the double pin.

18 N—B4 R—B2

Black's best chance now was 18 ... NxP when White could continue along the lines of the last note by 19 QR-K1 followed by 20 N-N6 or else go into a very favourable ending by 19 QxB+ KxQ 20 N-Q5+ K-Q3 21 NxQ R-QN1 22 B-K4. 18 ... PxP 19 P-B6! is a quick win.

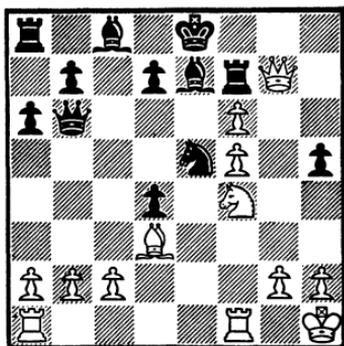
19 PxP!

A beautiful queen sacrifice that should win at once.

19 ... N—K4

Not 19 ... RxQ 20 PxR K-B2 21 N-Q5 (21 P-B6 at once is also strong) 21 ... Q-B4 22 P-B6 BxP (22 ... QxN 23

PxB+ KxKP 24 R-B8, or 22 ... B-B1 23 B-N6+! K-N1 24 PxB=Q+ QxQ 25 QR-K1, or 22 ... K-N1 23 NxB+ NxN 24 P-B7+) 23 RxB+ KxP 24 R-N6+ K-R1 25 R-K1 Q-B1 26 R-KB1 and the queen must be given up to avoid mate.



20 B-B4?

Tal said after the game that this was a finger slip and that he intended 20 Q-R8+ B-B1 (20 ... R-B1 21 QxP+ etc.) 21 QR-K1 P-Q3 22 B-B4 and wins in a few moves. After the inaccurate text White keeps only a slight advantage.

20 ... NxB

21 Q-N8+ B-B1

Or 21 ... R-B1 22 Q-N6+ (22 P-B7+ K-Q1 23 N-N6 is also good) 22 ... R-B2 23 PxB QxQ 24 PxQ RxP (24 ... R-N2 25 N-Q5) 25 NxP and the advanced KNP is too strong.

22 NxP

Not 22 QR-K1+ N-K6.

22 ... N-Q3

Defending the rook against the threat of 23 N-N7+.

23 QR-K1+ K-Q1

24 R-K7! Q-N4

Not 24 ... RxR 25 PxR+ KxP 26 Q-

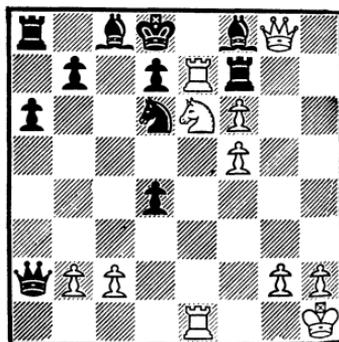
N5+ K-B2 27 Q-N6+ K-K2 28 Q-B6+ K-K1 29 R-K1+.

25 KR-K1 Q-Q4?

This eases White's task considerably. 25 ... Q-R4 ties the rooks down, and does not let White transfer his knight with gain of time. Then White must play 26 R-R1 to prevent the enemy queen guarding the attacked rook from QR2. There follows 26 ... RxR 27 PxR+ (27 QxB+? R-K1 28 QxN Q-K8+! mates) 27 ... KxP 28 P-B6+ K-Q1 29 QxB+ K-B2 30 N-N7 Q-Q4 and Black has good counter chances.

26 N-B4! QxRP

27 N-K6+!



27 ... QxN

Or 27 ... PxN 27 RxR NxR 29 QxB+ K-B2 30 QxN+ B-Q2 31 PxP R-Q1 32 Q-K7 with an easy win.

28 PxQ RxP

29 R-B7 Resigns

One of Tal's most complicated games of recent years.

79 USSR Team Championship 1971

Black: Giterman

Bogo-Indian Defence

1 P—Q4 N—KB3
 2 P—QB4 P—K3
 3 N—KB3

Since Tal quite likes the Nimzo-Indian as a sound defence (he comments that his second Koblents "put his veto" on the Kings Indian for the 1965 match with Portisch!) he prefers not to meet it.

3 ... B—N5+

A nice question of nomenclature is involved here. Everyone in the West knows that this is the form of Indian Defence introduced by Bogoljubow, but some Soviet authors prefer to avoid the name of the 'renegade' so they tend to call it Queens Indian if Black should later go P—QN3, or else Queens Gambit, as the Soviet bulletin does here, on the strength of Black's 4th move. Why, then, by the same argument, shouldn't the sequence 1 P—Q4 N—KB3 2 P—QB4 P—K3 3 N—QB3 B—N5 4 P—K3 P—Q4 be called Queens Gambit? A *reductio ad absurdum!*

4 QN—Q2

This gives White better chances of a complex struggle than 4 B—Q2.

4 ... P—Q4
 5 Q—R4+ N—B3
 6 P—K3

Trying to improve on Petrosian-Gipslis, Moscow 1967 which went 6 P—QR3 B—K2 7 P—K3 B—Q2 8 Q—B2 0-0 9 P—QN3! with the more harmonious development for White.

6 ... 0—0
 7 B—Q3 PxP!

A better defensive system than that adopted by Gipslis as Black now gets in the freeing P—K4.

8 BxBP B—Q3
 9 0—0 P—K4
 10 P—Q5 N—K2
 11 P—K4 N—N3

It is not clear whether this stress on his knight forepost at KB5 is the best line since Tal ultimately beats off the K-side pressure generated in this way. Black might try the plan N—K1, P—KN3, P—KB4 etc. Normally in the positions which arise with the formation B—Q3, P—K4 Black has a solid defensive base on Q3 but here White can quickly remove this by N—B4. Compare with the game Vizantiadis-Spassky, Siegen Olympiad 1970 which went 1 P—Q4 P—Q4 2 P—QB4 PxP 3 N—QB3 P—K4 4 P—Q5 P—QR3 5 P—QR4 N—KB3 6 B—N5 QN—Q2 7 P—K4 P—R3 8 BxN? NxB 9 BxP B—QN5 10 Q—B2 0-0 11 N—B3 B—Q3 12 0-0 N—R4 13 N—K2 B—N5 14 N—Q2 Q—N4 15 N—KN3? N—B5 when the plan of K-side attack worked out well due to the absence of White's better, black square, bishop. Even in that game however Spassky had to go P—KN3 and P—KB4 to force the win!

12 R—K1! N—R4
 13 B—B1!

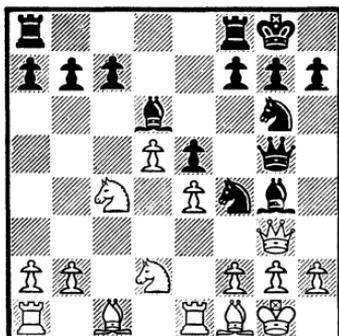
Freeing QB4 for the knight and defending the king in the most reliable way.

13 ... N4—B5
 14 N—B4 B—N5
 15 Q—N3 Q—B3
 16 KN—Q2!

Tal in the slightly unusual role of defender. 16 QxP? N—R6+ gives Black a very strong attack.

16 ... Q—N4
 17 Q—N3!

Now Black's attack peters out as 17 ... N-R4 18 N-B3 forces the exchange of queens.



17 ... Q-R4
18 NxB PxN
19 P-B3 B-B1

The bishop at Q3 was a strong defender, but the pawn which replaced is a weak base and after 19 ... B-Q2 20 N-B4 would be lost at once.

20 N-B4 R-Q1
21 B-Q2 Q-R3

The threat was 22 B-N4 and 21 ... P-N4 22 N-R5 is an awful prospect for Black.

22 QR-B1 N-R5

Still struggling to attack, but without the cooperation of the rooks the threats do not have enough 'weight'. 22 ... P-N4 is now met by 23 N-K3 and 24 R-B7, but not 23 N-R5 N-R6+!

23 Q-B2 Q-B3
24 R-K3!

Now the attacking knights get into

a tangle because 25 P-KN3 becomes a threat (24 P-KN3? N-R6+! 25 BxN NxP+ 26 K-N2 N-N4! and wins a pawn, 27 QxQ BxB+ 28 K-N1 PxQ, or 27 BxN BxB+ 28 K-N1 QxB).

24 ... N-R5-N3
25 R-R3 P-KR4

A despairing attempt to make something of his advanced knight position, but all he does is rob himself of a vital flight square. 25 ... P-QR3 is called for, but after 26 N-N6 R-N1 27 R-B7 and 28 R3-B3 White wins quickly.

26 N-N6 R-N1
27 NxB QRxN
28 P-KN3 Resigns

Black can save the knight only by 28 ... RxR 29 BxR Q-N4 30 K-R1 N-Q6! 31 BxQ NxQ+ 32 K-N1 P-B3 and now 33 B-Q2 N-Q8 34 R-N3 R-QB1 35 B-K2 R-B7. Both players must have seen however that apart from the much superior ending resulting from 33 KxN PxB 34 RxB White has in fact the cunning 30 Q-N2! winning a piece in all variations e.g. 30 ... NxQ 31 BxQ P-B3 32 B-Q2 or 30 ... N-R5 31 BxN! PxB 32 PxN.

Although Tal's Latvian team Daugavas was not strong enough to qualify for the top section of six sides his Moldavian opponent Giterman was a worthy foeman and won his other four games in the second section.

80 39th USSR Championship 1971

White: Nikolaevsky

English Opening

1 P-QB4 P-KN3
2 N-QB3 B-N2

3 P-KN3 N-KB3
4 B-N2 0-0

5 P-Q3

A move characteristic of the shadow boxing of flank openings. White retains options over where to develop his KN and can follow up where appropriate by either P-K3 or P-K4.

5 ... P-Q3
6 R-N1 P-K4
7 P-K4

White's reasoning here seems to be that the system P-K4 and KN-K2 is effective against P-K4 by Black, but not so good against P-QB4. However, White's last move only has point if White goes P-QN4 and attacks on the Q side for which purpose he does best to leave his KB's diagonal unimpeded.

7 ... N-B3
8 KN-K2 N-KR4!

Black exploits the tempo loss at move 6 (or the White mixing of systems) to be the first to get in P-KB4.

9 0-0

After 9 P-B4 PxP 10 NxP NxN 11 BxN (11 PxN Q-R5+) 11 ... N-Q5 Black has a promising position with greater scope for his bishops than White enjoys.

9 ... P-B4
10 PxP PxP!

Being able to retake with pawn in such positions is normally an advantage. The resulting pawn front robs the enemy minor pieces of squares and leaves open further dynamic advances such as P-K5 or P-B5. White hurries to stop the latter.

11 P-B4 N-K2
12 P-Q4

Challenging Black's pawn front before Black can play N-N3 and B-KR3 with serious pressure, but the sequence 12 B-Q2 N-N3 13 N-Q5 P-B3 14 KN-B3 playing for piece exchanges seems a better prospect, as

White now gets no prospects at all on the Q side in view of the strong enemy passed pawn.

12 ... P-K5
13 P-Q5 P-B4!

Robbing the enemy knights of Q4 unless White is prepared to give Black more prospects of a pawn advance in the centre.

14 PxP e.p.?

His last chance of justifying his rook move in the opening was 14 P-QN4.

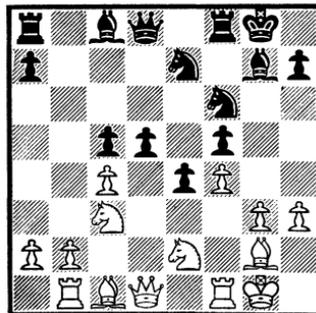
14 ... PxP
15 N-Q4?

After this Black clearly gets the better of it as the knight is quickly driven back. 15 B-K3 is correct when 15 ... P-B4 is bad because of 16 N-N5.

15 ... N-B3
16 P-KR3

White probably cannot afford this and should try the strictly defensive 16 B-K3 N-N5 17 N-B2 though after 17 ... NxN 18 NxN Q-N3 Black stands clearly better.

16 ... P-B4!
17 KN-K2 P-Q4!



18 PxP

Naturally 18 ... P-Q5 cannot be allowed but now Black has a new way of activating his pieces by B-QR3-Q6.

18 ... N2xP
 19 Q—R4 Q—N3
 Renewing the threat of B-QR3.
 20 P—KN4?

White finally loses patience and opens the game, when he stands worse. Possibly he did not so assess the position and thought that his breaking open the long white diagonal would be in his favour. Patient defence by 20 K-R2 B-QR3 21 KR-K1 was called for.

20 ... NxN
 21 NxN PxP
 22 NxP

Not 22 PxP NxP 23 NxP? B-Q5+ 24 N-B2 Q-KR3! and wins.

22 ... NxN
 23 BxN B—Q5+
 24 K—R2

Naturally 24 K-R1 B-QN2 was not what White wanted.

24 ... P—N6+!

The winning move. White had

presumably only assumed the continuation would be 24 ... B-QN2 25 BxB QxB 26 PxP.

25 KxP K—R1!
 26 P—N4?

Allowing a quick end. Naturally 26 BxR Q-K3 27 P-B5 (27 R-R1 Q-K7) 27 ... R-N1+ 28 K-R2 Q-K7+ is also an immediate loss, but 26 Q-B6 would prolong the game a little e.g. 26 ... R-KN1+ 27 K-R2 (27 K-B3 QxQ 28 BxQ BxRP 29 BxR BxR and wins the KB by B-N7+) 27 ... Q-Q1 28 P-QN4 (to pin the KB; 28 QxR loses to 28 ... Q-R5 29 R-B3 Q-K8) 28 ... R-N1 29 Q-KR6 (29 B-QN2 BxB 30 RxB B-N2 31 Q-K6 R-K1) Q-K2 30 B-B3 B-B4 31 R-N3 P-B5 32 R-R3 B-Q6 33 R-R1 R-QN3 34 Q-R5 R3-KN3 35 B-N4 Q-K7+.

26 ... Q—K3

27 Resigns

(27 BxR QxP mate or 27 B-KN2 R-KN1+ 28 K-R2 RxB+).

81 39th USSR Championship 1971

Black: Bronstein

Caro-Kann Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB3
 2 P—QB4 P—Q4
 3 KPxP PxP
 4 P—Q4

Tal's favourite method of meeting the Caro-Kann nowadays.

4 ... N—KB3
 5 N—QB3 N—B3

A move not considered very good by the books.

6 B—N5 B—N5?

A move specially prepared for this

encounter, yet Tal refutes it with some ease. 6 ... PxP 7 P-Q5 N-K4 8 Q-Q4 has been known to be good for White since the 1934 Botvinnik-Flohr match. 6 ... P-K3 7 P-B5 B-K2 8 B-N5 also favours White, so the best chance for Black is to take his courage in both hands and play 6 ... Q-R4?! as Tal did against Heuer some half a year later (See game 87).

7 B—K2

The few opening books which

consider this line give 7 P-B3 for White after which Bronstein may have intended 7 ... B-K3 8 P-B5 P-KN3 when the presence of the pawn on KB3 prevents White getting his knight to its most natural square. The text seems stronger.

7 ... BxB

Now 7 ... B-K3 fails to 8 B-B3 and White wins material by a pawn fork on Q5 (8 ... N-QR4 9 PxP B-Q2 10 Q-K2 threatening 11 P-QN4).

8 KNxB PxB

Or 8 ... P-K3 9 PxB PxB 10 BxN PxB 11 Q-N3 with a wretched position for Black.

9 P-Q5 N-K4

10 0-0

What more could Tal ask for—full mobilisation while Black still has to decide how to get his bishop working.

10 ... P-KR3

The most natural move is 10 ... P-K3 but then comes 11 BxN PxB (11 ... QxB 12 Q-R4+ N-Q2 13 PxB and 14 QR-Q1) 12 Q-R4+ Q-Q2 13 N-N5 R-B1 14 PxB PxB 15 KR-Q1 N-Q6 16 QR-B1! P-QR3 17 RxP! RxR (17 ... PxN 18 RxR+ QxR 19 QxP+ and 20 QxN) 18 QxR QxN (18 ... NxNP? 19 N-B7+ wins) 19 QxQ PxQ 20 RxN with a favourable ending. 10 ... P-KN3 was prepared for Bronstein by his second Murey, but at the board he found that after 11 P-Q6! PxB (11 ... B-N2 12 PxB QxQ 13 QRxQ followed by N-Q5 or N-N5 according to circumstances) 12 BxN QxB 13 N-Q1 Q-Q1 14 Q-R4+ N-Q2 (14 ... N-B3 15 N-Q4 B-N2 16 NxN PxN 17 QxP+ K-B1 18 QxBP with a dominating position) 15 KR-K1 B-N2 16 KN-B3+ K-B1 17 QxBP Black stands badly.

11 B-B4

In the last note White's attack was based on pawn sacrifices, whereas now he has to 'pay' nothing for his

fun since the bishop has been driven to a good square from where it reinforces White's threats against QB7.

11 ... N-N3

Or 11 ... QN-Q2 12 N-N5 R-B1 13 NxP R-R1 14 N-N5 R-B1 15 KN-Q4 P-KN3 16 R-K1 threatening 17 N-Q6 mate.

12 Q-R4+ Q-Q2

13 QxBP R-B1

14 Q-N3 P-K4

A despairing attempt to develop his K side, but he merely "opens the windows" for White. However 14 ... NxN 15 NxN P-KN4 is refuted by 16 N-K6 and if 16 ... PxN 17 PxB Q-B3 18 QR-B1 threatening 19 N-K2.

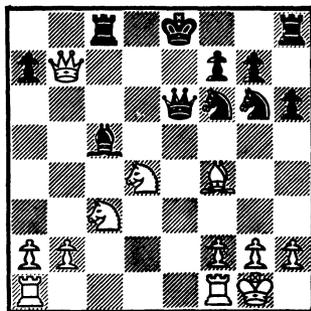
15 PxB e.p. QxB

Or 15 ... PxB 16 KR-Q1 and 17 N-N5.

16 QxB P-B4

17 N-Q4!

White could aim to win by steady play since he is already a pawn up, but the powerful text soon finishes it.



17 ... BxN

Or 17 ... Q-Q2 18 KR-K1+ N-K2 19 QxQ+ NxQ (19 ... KxQ 20 QR-Q1) 20 N-B5 K-B1 21 NxN BxN 22 N-Q5 with an easy win.

18 QR-K1 0-0

Hopeless, just as is 18 ... B-K4 19 BxB 0-0 20 BxN QxB 21 QxRP or 18 ... N-K4? 19 BxN BxB 20 RxB!

19 R x Q P x R
20 B—Q6 KR—Q1
21 B—B7 R—B1
22 N—N5!

The bishop has to be harried otherwise threats might arise against KB2.

22 ... B—K4

Or 22 ... B-B4 23 R-QB1 B-N3 24 NxP etc.

23 BxB NxB
24 QxRP N—Q4
25 Q—Q4 N—KN3
26 P—KR4

Always useful to make a hole for the king.

26 ... N(3)-B5
27 Q—K4

Resigns. A pretty one-sided game!

82 39th USSR Championship 1971

Black: Krogius

Ruy Lopez

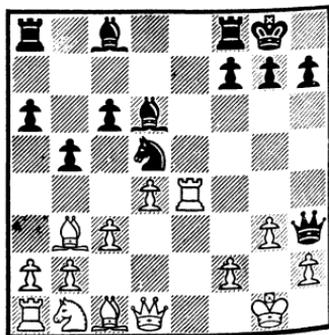
1 P—K4 P—K4
2 N—KB3 N—QB3
3 B—N5 P—QR3
4 B—R4 N—B3
5 0—0 B—K2
6 R—K1 P—QN4
7 B—N3 0—0
8 P—B3

Tal has normally been prepared to meet the Marshall Gambit.

8 ... P—Q4
9 PxP NxP
10 NxP NxN
11 RxN P—QB3
12 P—Q4 B—Q3
13 R—K1 Q—R5
14 P—N3 Q—R6

The starting point of the crucial line of the variation. In his 1965 match with Spassky Tal tried the orthodox 15 B-K3 B-KN5 16 Q-Q3 QR-K1 17 N-Q2 R-K3 18 P-R4 in the first game, but after 18 ... Q-R4 19 PxP RPxP 20 P-QB4 PxP 21 NxP B-N5 22 KR-QB1 B-K7 23 B-Q1 QxP+ Spassky drew without much

difficulty. 23 ... BxQ 24 BxQ BxN 25 RxB NxB 26 PxN B-Q7 is an even simpler draw. In the fifth game Tal deviated much earlier by 12 BxN PxB 13 P-Q4 B-Q3 14 R-K3 Q-R5 15 P-KR3 Q-B5 16 R-K5 Q-B3 17 R-K1 Q-N3 18 Q-B3 B-KB4 when Spassky again succeeded in drawing. Hence the search for a radically new idea.



15 R—K4!

White makes a virtue out of

necessity. His last move seemed wholly weakening, but it does have the positive advantage of giving White, who lacks good squares for his pieces on the K side, a jumping off point at KR4 for his rook. According to Suetin the move was suggested as long ago as 1938 by Yudovich who suggested the possible continuation 15 ... N-B3 16 R-R4 Q-Q2 17 B-N5 B-K2 18 Q-Q3 with advantage to White.

15 ... Q-Q2

Purely defensive play cannot be right. The other moves tried so far are 15 ... P-N4 16 Q-B3! (16 BxP Q-B4!) 16 ... P-KB4 (16 ... B-KB4 17 BxN PxB 18 R-K3 B-K5 19 RxB PxR 20 Q-B6! with a strong attack for the exchange) 17 R-K5! BxR 18 BxN+ with advantage and 15 ... B-Q2 16 B-B2 P-R3 17 N-Q2 QR-K1 18 Q-B1 N-B3 19 QxQ BxQ 20 RxR (Tal-Shtein, Spartakiad 1967) when Black has enough play for his pawn. This line was then improved for White by 16 P-QB4! PxP 17 BxP QR-K1 18 N-Q2 N-B3 19 R-R4 Q-B4 20 N-B3 with advantage (Sakharov-Peterson, Trade Union Championship, Leningrad 1969). The latest MCO (11th edition 1972) quoting Ken Smith gives 16 P-QB4 N-B3 17 R-R4 Q-B4=, but after 18 B-B2 Q-K3 19 P-Q5 BPxP 20 PxQP Q-K2 (20 ... QxP? 21 BxP+ K-R1 22 B-K4+) 21 N-B3 or 21 B-N5 Black seems to have no compensation for his lost pawn. Korchnoy suggests 15 ... B-N2.

16 N-Q2 N-B3

17 R-R4 B-N2

Taking up Korchnoy's suggestion two moves later. If Black had time to play P-QB4 and Q-B3 then he would have reasonable prospects, but his K side too has to be watched due to the

pressure of the rook at KR4.

18 N-B3 QR-K1?

Inconsistent. 18 ... P-B4 is correct when the hasty queen exchange 19 PxP BxBP 20 QxQ NxQ leaves Black with nice open lines for his pieces e.g. 21 B-Q1 QR-Q1 22 B-B4 N-B3 threatening 23 ... N-K5 or 23 ... RxB+. However after 19 B-N5! Q-B3 20 BxN QxN (20 ... PxB 21 P-Q5) 21 QxQ BxQ 22 PxP BxBP 23 B-Q4 or 19 ... Q-B4 20 B-KB4 BxB 21 RxB Q-R6 22 Q-KB1 (22 PxP N-N5!) White still has some advantage.

19 B-N5!

Catching up with development and preparing a powerful attack on the king.

19 ... N-K5

Not 19 ... P-B4 20 BxN PxB (20 ... Q-B3? 21 P-Q5) 21 PxP Q-B3 22 PxB QxN 23 QxQ BxQ 24 R-KB4 winning, but 19 ... N-Q4 would prevent the rout that follows. Play would then probably go 20 Q-Q3 P-R3 21 BxN! (21 B-B2 P-KB4) 21 ... BPxB 22 B-B4 BxB (22 ... P-N4? 23 BxP!) 23 RxB R-K5 24 N-K5 and with his superior minor piece and extra pawn White has a technical win.

20 B-B2! P-KB4

Or 20 ... P-QB4 21 PxP! and wins since it is White's attack that gets in first after 21 ... NxB 22 NxN P-R3 23 Q-Q3 P-N3 24 RxP Q-B3 25 RxP+.

21 B-N3+ R-B2

Equivalent to resignation but if 21 ... K-R1 then 22 N-K5! BxN 23 RxP+ and mates.

22 B-KB4 Resigns

White will take the exchange, exchange pieces or go N-K5 and Black has no prospects since 22 ... P-B4? 23 PxP lets White win at least a piece.

83 Moscow 1971**Black: Uhlmann****French Defence**

1 P—K4 P—K3
 2 P—Q4 P—Q4
 3 N—Q2 P—QB4

Uhlmann used to favour 3 ... N-KB3 4 P-K5 KN-Q2 but in recent years he has come to employ the less constricting text, which normally leads to IQP positions for Black that would have delighted the heart of that older generation German Dr. Tarrasch. In the Hastings 1972-73 tournament Uhlmann played 3 ... P-QB4 in no less than five games out of eight with Black!

4 KN—B3 N—QB3
 5 B—N5

A move favoured by Alekhine to try and avoid the simpler positions which arise from 5 KPxP KPxP 6 B-N5 B-Q3 7 0-0 PxP 8 N-N3 N-K2 9 QNxP 0-0 10 P-KR3 NxN 11 QxN B-KB4 when Black has good equalising prospects Tukmakov-Uhlmann, Hastings 1972-73.

5 ... QPxP

Six rounds later against Shtein Uhlmann chose this same move, so he must think it best. 5 ... BPxP 6 NxP B-Q2 7 NxN BxN 8 BxB+! PxP 9 P-QB4! N-B3? (9 ... P-Q5 10 0-0 P-QB4 11 P-B4 is a lesser evil) 10 Q-R4! Q-Q2 11 P-K5 N-N5 12 N-B3 was much in White's favour in a game Tseitlin -Vaganian XXXIX USSR Ch. played just before this event.

5 ... N-B3 seems a reasonable move for Black.

6 NxP B—Q2
 7 B—N5

Carrying on with his emphasis on open piece play, Shtein preferred the consolidation of the centre by 7 B-K3

when Black got a perfectly satisfactory game by 7 ... Q-R1+ 8 N-B3 PxP 9 NxP B-N5 10 0-0 BxN 11 PxB KN-K2! (but not the pawn pinch 11 ... QxBP? 12 NxN PxN 13 B-Q4! — Uhlmann by now had learnt his lesson!).

7 ... Q—R4+
 8 N—B3 PxP
 9 NxP

The bolder attacking attempt 9 BxN BxB 10 QxP achieves little after 10 ... BxN 11 PxB QxB 12 Q-R4+ P-N4! (12 ... K-K2 13 R-Q1 with nasty threats — 13 ... R-Q1 14 Q-R3+! etc.) 13 NxP K-K2! and now that the knight fork by N-K4 has been ruled out Black can play his king to comparative safety on KB3 if need be.

9 ... B—N5

This and the next move are very risky. Black can exploit the unguarded QB to gain a developing tempo by 9 ... B-K2 10 Q-Q2 N-B3! and if 11 0-0 then 11 ... N-K5! with useful simplification (12 QNxN QxQ 13 BxQ NxN 14 BxB+ KxB 15 KR-Q1 K-B3! or 12 KNxN PxN 13 NxN QxQ 14 BxQ PxB). Not however 10 ... BxB 11 QxB etc.

10 0—0 BxN
 11 PxB QxBP

It looks sounder to try 11 ... KN-K2 when Black has to move his king (12 QBxN KxB — 12 ... NxP? 13 BxB+ KxB 14 NxP+ KxN? 15 R-K1+ K-B3 16 Q-Q6+ wins — 13 R-K1 K-B1) but has a fairly sound position thereafter since it is hard for White to generate much pressure on the black squares. 11 ... P-QR3 is not so good because of 12 BxN BxB 13 NxP QxB (13 ... PxN

still 14 Q-Q6!) 14 Q-Q6! N-K2 15 KR-Q1! NxN (15 ... PxN? 16 Q-Q7+ and 17 Q-Q8+ mating) 16 Q-Q7+ K-B1 17 QxNP recovering the piece with a strong initiative.

12 N-B5!

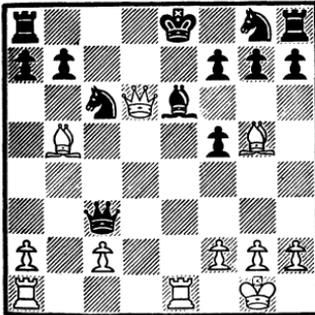
This move must have come as a thunderbolt.

12 ... PxN

Or 12 ... Q-B4 13 N-Q6+ K-B1 14 NxBP and White despite the threats to his minor pieces keeps material level and retains the initiative (14 ... B-K1 15 Q-Q6+ QxQ 16 NxQ and 17 KR-K1).

13 R-K1+ B-K3

14 Q-Q6



A paralysing move with its threat of 15 QR-Q1 and then 16 Q-Q7+ or 16 BxN+ (17 Q-Q8+) or 16 RxB+ according to circumstances.

14 ... P-QR3

The alternatives are 14 ... N-B3 15

QR-Q1 P-KR3 (15 ... P-QR3 16 RxB+ PxR 17 QxP+ K-B1 18 B-QB4 N-Q1 19 RxN+ and 20 Q-B7 mate) 16 QBxN PxB (16 ... QxB 17 BxN+ PxB 18 QxBP+ K-K2 19 Q-N7+) 17 RxB+ PxR 18 QxP+ K-B1 19 R-Q7 Q-R8+ 20 B-B1 and mates, and 14 ... P-B3 15 QxB1+ K-B1 (15 ... K-Q1 16 B-KB4!) 16 B-KB4 (16 B-QB4 N-K4!) 16 ... KN-K2 17 B-Q6 and wins.

15 B-Q2!

Unfortunately for Uhlmann White also has this switchback bishop move in addition to the other three threats (mentioned in the note after 14 Q-Q6) 15 B-QR4 P-QN4 16 B-Q2 Q-B5 17 B-N3 R-Q1! is all right for Black.

15 ... QxP

Black must maintain guard of his QN.

16 B-N4!

Not 16 QR-B1 QxR 17 RxQ PxB and if 18 RxN then 18 ... R-Q1! and suddenly it becomes clear that White has overreached himself.

16 ... PxB

17 Q-B8+ K-Q2

18 KR-Q1+!

Accurate to the end as 18 QR-Q1+ K-B2 19 QxR N-B3! 20 B-Q6+ K-N3 21 QxR N-K5 gives Black counter play (22 B-N3 P-B5!).

18 ... K-B2

19 QxR Resigns

Now 19 ... N-B3 20 QxR N-K5 21 B-K1! leaves Black with no further hope. This game deservedly won the prize for "the best attack played in the style of Alekhine."

84 Moscow 1971**Black: R. Byrne****Sicilian Defence**

1 P—K4 P—QB4
 2 N—KB3 N—QB3
 3 B—N5 P—K3

An unusual move allowing White to double the QBP at once. 3 ... P-KN3 is the best according to current opinion.

4 0—0

4 BxN is quite playable e.g. 4 ... NPxB 5 0-0 N-K2 6 P-Q3 (6 P-K5 comes into consideration as in this 1973 game) 6 ... N-N3 7 N-B3 B-K2 8 N-K2 0-0 9 P-QN3 P-Q3 10 P-B4 P-B4 11 PxP PxP and now not 12 N-B4 NxN 13 BxN P-N4! 14 B-B1 P-N5 15 N-K1 P-B5 Steinitz-Winawer, Paris 1867 but Pachman's 12 P-Q4! B-B3 13 R-N1 with potential pressure on the enemy centre pawns.

4 ... KN—K2
 5 R—K1 P—QR3
 6 BxN

6 B-B1 by analogy with the Lopez is also feasible.

6 ... NPxB

An illogical recapture after his 4th move. After this Black is always struggling to arrange his centre pawns in such a way as to avoid weaknesses. 6 ... NxN is correct when White continues not 7 N-B3 P-Q3 8 P-Q4 PxP 9 NxP B-K2 10 B-K3 0-0 with equality. Cafferty-Kurajica Montilla 1972, but 7 P-Q4 PxP 8 NxP B-K2 9 NxN! NPxN 10 P-K5 Gurgendze-Radev Tbilisi 1971.

7 P—K5!

A nasty pawn wedge as a preliminary to a black square attack which ultimately leaves Black with a bad QB.

7 ... N—N3

8 P—QN3! B—K2
 9 B—R3 0—0
 10 P—Q4

After the typical Nimzovich manoeuvre N-B3-R4 hoping for Q-B1-N2-B3 Black would get counter chances on the K side (as in the Steinitz-Winawer game) by P-B3.

10 ... PxP
 11 QxP P—B3
 12 BxB QxB
 13 QN—Q2 PxP

After 13 ... P-QR4 14 N-B4 B-R3 15 N-Q6 Black would also be left with a most unpromising position.

14 NxP NxN

14 ... R-B5? loses a pawn after 15 NxN RxQ 16 NxQ+ K-B1 17 N-B3.
 15 QxN P—Q3
 16 Q—K4

Black has finally straightened his pawns out but is still left with weaknesses. However there are no attacking chances for White who must manoeuvre for strong points so Byrne may well have felt not too unhappy at having jockeyed Tal out of his favourite type of position.

16 ... B—Q2

With a white square bishop Black should be aiming at placing his pawns on black squares to improve the mobility of his bishop. Since 16 ... P-K4 or 16 ... P-B4 are losing blunders the best defence seems 16 ... Q-N2 or 16 ... Q-QB2 preparing one or other pawn advance. However 17 P-KB4! would then still leave White in control.

17 QR—Q1 QR—Q1
 18 Q—Q3

With three pawn islands against

White's two Black has permanent problems in trying to activate his pieces.

18 ... Q—B2

Not 18 ... P-Q4 19 N-B4.

19 Q—N3 Q—B4

The modern master knows very well that he must try not to be tied down to the defence of weak pawns, but must strive for active counter play with his pieces.

20 N—B4!

Inviting 20 ... QxQBP 21 R-Q2 Q-B4 22 RxQP Q-B7? 23 R-Q2 and 24 KR-Q1 with a decisive bind on the Q file and on the black squares.

20 ... P—Q4

Forced, but now Black is left with very weak black squares and a permanently feeble bishop.

21 N—K3 Q—B5

22 N—N4! QxQ

23 RPxQ K—B2

24 P—QB4 B—K1

After 24 ... PxP 25 PxP White is ready to invade at Q6 or QN6 with his rooks (or even R-K5-QR5).

25 R—Q4!

Ready for 26 P-B5 and 27 R-R4.

25 ... P—B4

26 R—Q2 P—Q5

27 QR—K2 R—Q3

27 ... P-Q6? 28 R-Q2 loses the QP at once.

28 N—K5+ K—K2

29 N—Q3!

Although the point is not often made in Soviet literature (pre-

sumably because of a dislike of the Baltic Germans) one has to remember that the great advocate of blockade strategy was, like Tal, born and bred in Riga.

29 ... R—B4

Or 29 ... R-QB3 30 R-K5 winning a pawn at once.

30 P—KN4 R—N4

31 N—K5!

Now the rook defending the pawn has been driven into the Valley of Death.

31 ... P—Q6

32 R—Q2 R—Q5

Short of time Black makes a despairing attempt to stir it up.

33 P—N3

Renewing the threat of 34 P-B4. 33 N-B3 R4xP 34 NxR RxN 35 R-K3 B-N3 is less clear.

33 ... P—KR4

34 P—B4 RxNP

35 NxR PxN

36 P—B5!

White does best to rule out B-N3.

36 ... B—B3

Or 36 ... B-B2 37 PxP BxP 38 R-K3.

37 RxP+ K—Q2

38 R—N6 B—K5

39 RxP+ K—Q3

40 P—B6

Black now went to play 40 ... K-K3 but was unable to complete the move and stop his clock before his flag fell. After 40 ... K-K3 the simplest win is 41 P-B7 K-K2 (41 ... R-Q1 42 R-N8) 42 R-KB2.

85 Soviet Olympiad 1972

Black: Danov

Catalan

1 P—Q4 P—Q4
 2 P—QB4 P—K3
 3 N—KB3 N—KB3
 4 P—KN3 PxP

One of the more active defences against the insidious pressure generated by the "second Spanish Opening" (The Ruy Lopez is called the Spanish in the majority of European languages).

5 B—N2 QN—Q2

Black can try to hang on to the pawn by 5 ... P—QR3 or even 5 ... P—QN4 but White then gets plenty of compensation, and Tal would be very happy to play such a gambit!

6 0—0 P—B4

By removing the centre pawn Black gets some freedom of action in the centre, but still has the problem of how to free his QB.

7 N—R3

7 Q—B2 is a good alternative.

7 ... PxP

8 QNxP B—B4

The Tadzhikstan top board attempts to improve on 8 ... N—N3 9 N×N Q×N 10 N×P B—Q2 11 N—N3 R—Q1 12 B—K3 Q—R3 13 Q—Q4 P—QN3 14 B—B4 B—N4 15 Q—B3 R—QB1 16 B—B7! B—K2 17 B—B6+ K—B1 18 N—Q4 with advantage to White, Tal-Chernikov USSR Team Ch. 1966.

9 NxP N—N3

10 NxN BxQN

11 N—N5

The start of an amusing tactical skirmish. 11 B—K3 N—N5 is good for Black.

11 ... BxP!+

He must not allow 11 ... 0-0 12 N—Q6.

12 KxB Q—N3+
 13 N—Q4 P—K4
 14 P—K3 PxN
 15 QxP

Seeking to remove a defender of Black's tender spot at QN2.

15 ... Q—K3

Naturally Black tries to leave White with his weak KP, though such is the dynamism of Tal's play that he soon employs this weakness as a battering ram in the centre!

16 B—Q2 B—Q2

Black overestimates his initiative, inviting White to go 17 BxP R—Q1 with the double threat of 18 ... B—N4 and 18 ... Q—R6. Naturally Tal prefers to prevent K side castling so Black should have played 16 ... 0-0 17 B—QB3 N—N5+ 18 K—K2 Q—R3 with counter chances in view of White's awkwardly placed king.

17 B—N4 B—B3

18 QR—Q1 P—KR4

Still too optimistic, since White's king is the more safely placed of the two monarchs. The safe line was to go for exchanges by 18 ... BxB 19 KxB Q—K5+ 20 K—N1! QxQ 21 PxQ 0-0-0 or 21 RxQ R—Q1 even though his KR may only be deployed via KR3. 18 ... N—N5+ is less good since after 19 K—N1 BxB (19 ... QxP+? 20 QxQ NxQ 21 KR—K1) 20 QxNP QxP+ 21 KxB Q—K7+ (21 ... Q—K5+ 22 K—R3) 22 K—R3 N—B7+ (22 ... QxP+ 23 KxN P—KR4+ 24 K—B3) 23 K—R3 N—B7+ (22 ... QxP+ 23 KxN P—KR4+ 24 K—B3) 23 RxN QxQR Black's short lived attack comes to an ignominious end

(24 Q—K5+ K—Q2 25 R—Q2+).

19 K—N1

Now that Black has put a unit to guard his KN5 there is a genuine threat of 19 ... N-N5+.

19 ... P-R5?

Missing his last chance to exchange bishops and queens.

20 P-K4!

A central action will always carry more punch than a flank one in an open position. Now Black tries to arrange a black square blockade, but this is soon broken.

20 ... P x P

21 P x P N-Q2

22 R-B5!

Better than 22 Q x N P Q-R3 or 22 ... 0-0-0.

22 ... P-B3

Or 22 ... 0-0-0 23 Q x R P and then 24 B-Q6 or R5.

23 Q-B3 N-N3

The threat was 24 R-Q6 Q-B2 25 R x B! with a strong attack.

24 R-Q6 Q-B5

25 Q-Q2

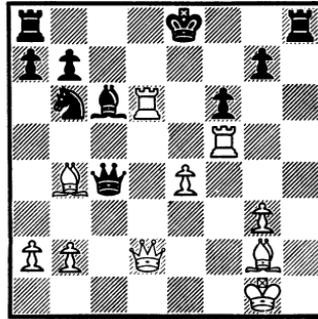
White has concentrated his forces, drawn off the potential blocker and is ready to advance 26 P-K5.

See diagram next column

25 ... N-Q2

25 ... B x P? 26 R-B5.

26 P-N3 Q-B2



Or 26 ... Q-R3 27 P-K5! N x P 28 R x N+ P x R 29 R x B! P x R 30 Q-Q6 K-B2 31 B-Q5+!

27 P-K5! Q-N3

Equivalent to resignation, but other moves also lose e.g. 27 ... B x B 28 P-K6 or 27 ... N x P 28 R x N+ P x R 29 R x B R-Q1 30 R-Q6 or 27 ... N-B1 28 P-K6 Q-B2 29 B-R5 Q-B1 30 R-B5.

28 R-K6+ Resigns

A clash of sources occurs here. The Soviet bulletin gives the ending as above, Informator gives 28 ... K-Q1 and Resigns. After 28 ... K-Q1 the clearest win is 29 R x B P x R (29 ... Q x R 30 P-K6) 30 P-K6 Q-K1 31 Q-Q6! P-R4 (31 ... R-QB1 32 B-R5+) 32 P-K7+ K-B1 33 Q x P+ K-N1 34 Q-N7 mate—the final triumph of the h1/a8 diagonal.

86 Soviet Olympiad 1972 White: Mukhin Nimzoindian Defence

1 P-Q4 N-KB3
2 P-QB4 P-K3

3 N-QB3 B-N5
4 P-K3 0-0

5 N—K2

Rubinstein's original idea of playing to avoid at all costs a doubled QBP.

5 ... P—Q4
6 P—QR3 B—K2
7 N—B4

The usual move is 7 PxP when Black can play for exchanges by 7 ... NxP 8 Q-B2 N-Q2 9 P-KN3 NxN 10 PxN P-QB4, or try the more complicated 7 ... PxP 8 N-B4 P-B3 9 B-Q3 P-QR4 10 0-0 N-R3 11 P-B3 Q-B2 12 R-K1 P-B4 (Polugaevsky-Tal USSR Championship 1958). The text is a comparatively recent idea.

7 ... P—B3
8 B—Q3

8 P-QN3 preparing to recapture with pawn seems to have more bite. 8 P-QN4 is also playable e.g. 8 ... QN-Q2? 9 P-B5! P-K4 10 PxP NxKP 11 B-N2 with some advantage, Hort-Shamkovich Tbilisi 1969-70.

8 ... PxP
9 BxP QN-Q2
10 N—Q3

Preventing P-K4, but Black's next move leaves him with complete equality. The way to play if he wanted to keep his opening initiative was 10 BxP PxB 11 NxP Q-K1 12 NxR (12 N-B7 Q-N3 13 NxR QxP favours Black) 12 ... NxN 13 0-0 followed by advancing his central pawns to try to cramp Black.

10 ... P—B4!
11 PxP

Not 11 P-Q5 N-N3.

11 ... NxP
12 NxN BxN
13 QxQ

White is clearly playing to draw. 13 Q-K2 or 13 Q-B2 are more ambitious.

13 ... RxQ
14 P—QN4

A slight inaccuracy leaving his

two developed pieces rather exposed on the QB file. 14 B-Q2 was the safe move.

14 ... B—K2
15 B—N2 B—Q2
16 K—K2

This would have been playable last move to be followed by B-Q2, whereas now 16 0-0 was better as the king is now exposed to threats.

16 ... QR—B1
17 B—Q3?

Apparently a quite sound move, yet White gets into great difficulties now. 17 B-N3 would leave him with a playable game.

17 ... B—B3
18 P—B3 N—Q2!

With the strong threat of 19 ... N-K4 followed, if possible, by N-B5.

19 N—K4

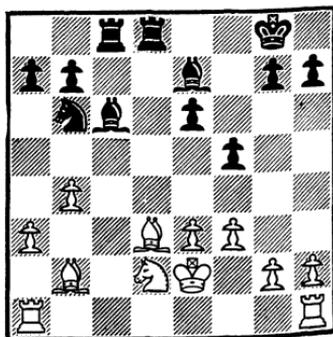
Or 19 P-N5 N-K4 20 PxB (20 B-N1 is slightly better) 20 ... NxB 21 PxP R-N1 with a clear advantage.

19 ... P—B4
20 N—Q2?

This loses. 20 N-B2 to guard the tender spot at his Q3 would leave some defensive chances, though after 20 ... B-QN4! threatening 21 ... R-B7+ Black has a marked initiative.

20 ... N—N3

With the grave threat 21 ... RxB!



21 B—Q4

Closing the file. 21 P-N5 RxB! 22 PxB QR-Q1 23 B-Q4 RxN+! 24 KxR P-K4 25 PxP (25 P-B7 R-Q2 26 QR-QB1 N-B1) 25 ... PxB 26 KR-QB1 PxB+ 27 KxP R-N1 is a variation showing that Black can successfully burst open the Q file, so Petrosian in 'Informator' gives 21 N-N3 N-R5 22 B-Q4 B-Q4 with slight advantage to Black, overlooking 21 ... RxB! 22 KxR B-N4+ 23 K-Q2 (23 K-Q4 B-KB3 mate) 23 ... N-B5+ 24 K-B1 NxKP+ 25 K-Q2 (25 N-B5 P-QN3 or 25 K-N1 N-B7 26 R-QB1 B-Q6 27 K-R2 B-N4 winning at least a pawn) 25 ... R-B7+ 26 KxN RxB and Black stands well.

21 ... P-K4!
22 B-B5

Clearly not 22 BxN RxB! and 23 ... B-QN4, while if 22 BxKP then 22 ... RxB 23 KxR B-N4+ 24 K-Q4 N-R5 weaving a mating net with the probable continuation 25 K-Q5! K-B2 26 B-Q4 B-KB3 27 BxB PxB! and now all the flight squares to left and right are firmly covered. The king must continue forward to his doom by 28 K-Q6 R-B3+ 29 K-Q5 R-B2!! 30 N-K4 R-Q2+ 31 N-Q6+ K-K2 finis.

22 ... RxB!

As Kotov commented in his famous book "Think like a Grandmaster" the task of analysis is eased by the fact that what is a 'candidate' (i.e. plausible) move in

one situation will also tend to figure in other positions akin to the first one.

23 KxR

Or 23 BxB B-N4 24 B-B5 (24 P-QR4 R-B7!) 24 ... N-R5 25 KR-B1 RxRP+ with a won ending.

23 ... B-N4+

24 K-B2 N-R5

Now Black wins material while still keeping up his attack.

25 K-N3

After 25 K-N1 we get variations like the game, while 25 K-Q1 B-KB3 26 P-K4 P-QN3 27 B-K3 R-B6 28 B-B2 N-N7+ 29 K-K1 N-Q6+ 30 K-K2 R-B7 31 K-Q1 (31 B-K1 B-N4) 31 ... B-QR5 is decisive.

25 ... P-QN3

26 N-B4

Or 26 BxB R-B6+ 27 K-R2 R-B7+ 28 K-N1 (28 K-N3 R-N7 mate) 28 ... B-Q6. If the king had gone to N1 at move 25 then the winning sequence would be 26 BxB B-Q6+ 27 K-R2 R-B7+ 28 K-N3 P-QN4 29 QR-QN1 (29 N-B4 R-B6+) 29 ... RxN.

26 ... PxB

27 NxP PxP

28 QR-B1 N-B4+

29 KxP P-QR3!

Guarding the QB so that now more material is won by Black (30 K-R5 N-N6+ or 30 P-QR4 N-Q6+).

30 Resigns

87 Viljandi 1972

White: Heuer

Caro-Kann Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB3

A strange choice, but Tal knew he

was up against a strong tactician who had little taste for a slow

positional struggle. Tal comments for the record that he had last played the move in a serious game in the 1954 Riga Championship.

2 P—Q4 P—Q4
3 P×P P×P
4 P—QB4 N—KB3
5 N—QB3 N—B3

A move that is supposed to be inferior to 5 ... P-K3 safeguarding the centre.

6 B—N5 Q—R6?!

After 6 ... P-K3 7 P-B5 a positional struggle ensues in which White plays to exploit his Q side majority. The text aims at seizing the initiative by the line 7 BxN KPxB 8 P×P B-QN5 9 P×N BxN+ 10 PxB QxP+ 11 K-K2 0-0 with a strong attack. White does better by 9 Q-Q2 BxN 10 PxB QxQP 11 N-B3 with an unbalanced position in which White's QP may prove very strong as the blockading queen can be driven away. However after the game Heuer commented that in 20 years of playing the Panov-Botvinnik attack he had never met the text and so chose to avoid forcing variations in which his opponent was presumably better versed. After 7 Q-Q2 P-K4! Black has good chances.

7 N—B3 B—N5

In a lightning game against Shamkovich in 1971 Tal had tried 7 ... N-K5 but the text putting pressure on the QP is unpleasant for White to meet.

8 B—K2

Or 8 BxN KPxB 9 P×P B-N5 10 R-B1 (10 Q-Q2 BxKN 11 PxB BxN 12 PxB QxQP with advantage) 10 ... QxQP 11 B-K2 and now Black can simply castle short when he threatens to take the QRP quite safely.

8 ... P×P

9 BxN

Now White no longer has any

hope of an opening initiative. 9 P-Q5 is the move to try, to disrupt the opponent's development.

9 ... KPxB!

10 P—Q5 BxN!

11 PxB

Again White had a more ambitious choice in 11 BxB when his supported passed pawn is worth something. The text leaves the K side too weak.

11 ... 0—0—0!

The king will be reasonably safe on QN1 and the most important factor anyway will be Black's initiative.

12 0—0

12 P-B4 robbing the knight of K4 seems slightly better.

12 ... B—Q3!

The knight still refuses to give way (13 P×N? Q-KN4+ 14 K-R1 Q-B5 and the queen must be given up to prevent mate).

13 BxP

Or 13 P-B4 N-K2! (13 ... BxP? 14 B-N4+ K-N1 15 Q-B3 winning a piece).

13 ... Q—N5

14 Q—N3

Obviously 14 B moves? Q-KR5 is a quick loss.

14 ... N—K4

15 N—N5

A bold attempt to repair his fortunes by a headlong attack, but there was little choice as exchanging queens loses a pawn, and 15 QR-B1 NxP+! 16 K-N2 N-Q7 liquidates nicely for Black.

15 ... K—N1

16 KR—B1

This rook, hoping for an exchange of queens when the QR file would be opened.

16 ... Q—Q7

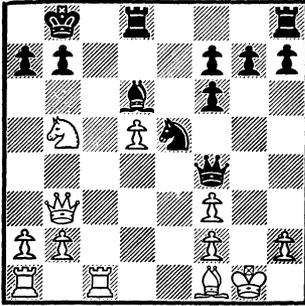
17 B—B1

Too ambitious, 17 Q-K3 would force the exchange of queens at the

cost of a pawn and leave Black serious technical difficulties (opposite coloured bishops, devalued K side pawn mass versus passed QP).

17 ... Q-B5

Now Black is first to get home with his attack.



18 B-N2

White has no time for 18 NxB since 18 ... NxP+ wins the queen (19 K-N2 Q-N5+ 20 K-R1 Q-N8 mate).

18 ... N-N3

19 Q-K3

Or 19 NxB QxN 20 R-Q1 N-B5 and the contrast between the minor pieces is a glaring one.

19 ... QxP+

20 K-B1 P-N3

21 R-B6

At first sight White has good counter chances, as if 21 ... N-B5 then 22 RxP+! K-R1 23 RxB (23 R-N8+ BxR) 23 ... QxB+ 24 K-K1 QR-K1 25 R-K6! or 25 R-Q8+.

21 ... B-B4!

At the cost of a bishop Black diverts the rook to a less threatening position.

22 RxB N-B5

23 NxP

A last fling.

23 ... QxB+

24 K-K1 KR-K1

25 N-B6+ K-R1

26 N-K7

The queen is pinned so 26 R-R5+ is no good.

26 ... NxP!

27 RxN

Or 27 Q-R3+ K-N1 and White is finished.

27 ... RxR

28 Resigns

88 Viljandi 1972

Black: Hermlin

King's Indian Attack

1 P-KN3 P-QB4

2 B-N2 N-QB3

3 N-KB3 P-KN3

4 0-0 B-N2

Who would suppose that a game with such a tame opening would

turn out to be a miniature?

5 P-Q3 P-K4

If the game were now to continue 6 P-B4 KN-K2 we would get an orthodox line of the English opening. Tal's temperament

however shows itself and he decides to enforce P-KB4 in an attempt to prove that Black's last move was not strictly necessary (after all White had already shown that he was not planning to force P-Q4).

6 N-R4 P-Q4

Too optimistic, since the QP soon becomes an object of attack. 6 ... P-Q3 keeping the centre firm, or 6 ... KN-K2 retaining options were sounder.

7 N-QB3 B-K3

Or 7 ... P-Q5 8 N-K4 Q-N3 (8 ... P-N3? 9 NxBP) 9 N-Q6+ and 10 N-B4. It was still sounder for Black to go 7 ... KN-K2 and prepare to castle.

8 P-K4 KN-K2?

After this third inaccuracy Black has a very difficult game as White opens the centre when Black is still uncastled. Black should aim to close it by 8 ... P-Q5 when after 9 N-Q5 KN-K1! 10 B-N5? 0-0 White has nothing (11 N-B7+ K-R1 12 P-KB4 P-KR3 winning material safely, or 11 B-B6 BxB 12 NxN+ K-N2 winning a pawn). After the superior 10 NxN QxN White cannot play 11 P-KB4 at once (11 ... PxP 12 BxP P-KN4) and so Black has a perfectly playable game, proving that White's 6th move was not particularly good.

9 PxP NxP

10 N-K4! Q-K2

This exposes the queen to attack. 10 ... P-N3 is correct when there is no way for White to exploit the long white diagonal at once. (11 P-QB4 KN-K2 12 Q-R4 or 12 B-N5 0-0!).

11 P-QB4!

Now it is a completely different story as the knight is driven to a less harmonious post than K2.

11 ... N-B2

Or 11 ... N-B3 12 Q-R4 0-0 13 B-N5! with a pin that cannot easily be broken.

12 B-K3 N-Q5?

Black's only hope of counterplay was along the Q file, so the text, robbing him of this chance and allowing the enemy queen into play with gain of time is clearly wrong. 12 ... N-R3 provides a reasonably sound defence.

13 Q-R4+ B-Q2

14 Q-R3 N2-K3

Snatching the exchange would give White a nice initiative and adequate material compensation in the form of two pawns e.g. 14 ... N-B7 15 QxBP QxQ (15 ... NxR? 16 QxN N-B7 17 B-B5 and 18 N-Q6+) 16 BxQ NxR 17 N-Q6+ K-K2 18 NxQNP+ and 19 RxN.

15 BxN! KPxB

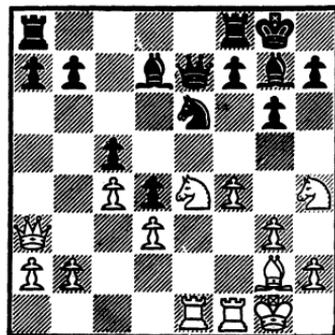
Or 15 ... BPxB 16 N-Q6+ K-B1 17 BxP R-QN1 18 B-Q5 with a clear win.

16 QR-K1 0-0

16 ... P-B4? would be a gross blunder because of 17 NxQBP.

17 P-B4

Black's position is now most awkward due to the vis-a-vis of rook and queen on the K file. Thus 17 ... P-B4? fails to 18 N-N5 K-R1 (18 ... Q-Q3? 19 NxN BxN 20 RxB! QxR 21 B-Q5) 19 BxP QR-N1 20 B-Q5 R-B3 21 QxRP. The queen cannot leave its post without abandoning the QBP.



17 ... B-QB3

Or 17 ... KR-B1 18 P-B5 PxP 19 NxBKP Q-B1 20 N5-Q6 etc.

18 P-B5 BxN

He could try the trickier 18 ... PxP 19 NxBKP Q-B2, but after 20 NxBP! BxB 21 NxN PxN (21 ... Q-B3? N-K7+) White has the neat liquidation into an easily won ending by 22 Q-K7! QxQ 23 NxQ+ K-R1 24 KxB RxR

25 KxR R-KB1+ (25 ... R-K1 26 RxP B-B1? 27 N-N6+) 26 K-N2 R-B3 27 N-B8 etc.

19 PxN! Resigns

The queen is lost after 19 ... BxB 20 PxP+ and Black comes out too much material down after 20 ... RxP 21 RxQ RxR+ 22 KxB or 21 ... BxR 22 RxR.

89 Sukhumi 1972

Black: Ree

English Opening

1 N-KB3 N-KB3
2 P-B4 P-KN3
3 N-B3 P-B4
4 P-Q4

Tal prefers a more open fight than that arising from the hyper-sophisticated 4 P-KN3 followed by R-QN1, P-QR3, P-QN4 etc. In his seven games with White at the Black Sea event Tal went 1 P-K4 three times 1 N-KB3 twice and 1 P-QB4 twice but in the last four he generally followed up with an early P-Q4.

4 ... PxP
5 NxP N-B3
6 P-KN3

The normal move here is 6 P-K4 transposing to a Maroczy Bind variation of the Sicilian.

6 ... B-N2
7 B-N2 0-0
8 0-0 Q-R4

A dubious queen rally. The recommended sequence for Black is 8 ... NxN 9 QxN P-Q3 but perhaps Ree was put off this by the easy win scored by Fischer against Spassky by 10 B-N5—a game played less than

three weeks before Sukhumi began. 8 ... Q-N3 has also been played but after 9 N-B2! P-Q3 10 P-N3 N-K4 11 P-KR3 and 12 B-K3 White has more control of the centre. The gambit 8 ... P-Q3 9 NxN PxN 10 BxP R-N1 also comes into consideration.

9 N-N3!

Playing to get a bind on the Q side. The move was almost forced by Black's threat of 9 ... Q-B4 when the QBP would have proved hard to defend.

9 ... Q-R3

This leaves the queen subject to further attack by the enemy minor pieces. 9 ... Q-N5 is open to the same objection (10 P-B5 P-N3 11 B-N5 PxP 12 BxN and 13 N-Q5) so 9 ... Q-R4 is best when 10 P-B5 P-N3 11 PxP PxP 12 B-K3? fails to 12 ... N-KN5.

10 P-B5

It looks tempting to go 10 N-N5 but then 10 ... Q-R5 lets the queen out of the cage within which she is now confined.

10 ... P-N3

11 P-K4!

Black's basic positional defect apart from the queen position is the absence of a pawn at Q3 to hold up the advance P-K5. The text is also part of the queen harrying scheme since R-K1 can follow when B-N2? removing a vital flight square will be met by B-KB1.

11 ... P x P

Trying to cut the Gordian knot. 11 ... B-N2 12 R-K1! favours White, 11 ... R-Q1 loses a piece to 12 P-K5 N-K1 13 B x N and 11 ... Q-N2 12 P-K5 N-K1 13 N-Q5 is most unpleasant (13 ... B x P 14 N x P+ or 13 ... P-Q3? 14 N x P+). Hence 11 ... R-N1 is best though after 12 B-B4 R-N2 13 R-K1 Black is still driven from pillar to post (13 ... Q-B5 14 R-QB1).

12 P-K5 N-K1

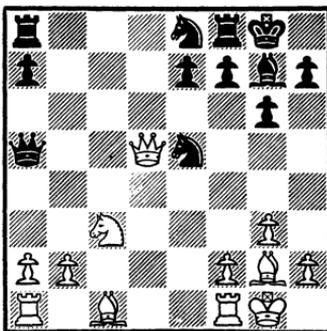
13 N x P Q-R4

Or 13 ... Q-B5 14 B-K3 B x P 15 B-Q5 Q-QN5 16 N-Q3 Q-N1 (16 ... Q-Q3? 17 B-B5 wins) 17 N x B Q x N 18 B-R6 Q-B3 19 N-K4 and White has a very strong initiative (and the exchange — if he wants it!) in return for his pawn.

14 N x P B x N

15 Q x B N x P

16 Q-Q5!



16 Q x KP R-N1 would leave Black

not too badly placed, whereas the liquidation forced by the text produces an easily won ending.

16 ... Q x Q

17 N x Q R-Q1

Or 17 ... R-N1 18 N x P+ K-R1 19 R-N1 N-Q6 20 B-K3 with an easily won ending.

18 N x P+ K-R1

19 R-N1 N-KB3

20 N-B6

With two bishops on an open board White is eager to exchange pieces.

20 ... N x N

21 B x N N-N5

Or 21 ... R-B1 22 B-B3 R-B7 23 B-Q1 expelling the intruder.

22 P-N3 R-Q3

23 B-KN2 R-B1

24 P-KR3 N-K4

25 B-K3 P-QR3

Black cannot occupy the seventh row because of his weak back rank (25 ... R-B7 26 QR-B1). 25 ... P-QR4 may be just a little more accurate.

26 KR-Q1 N-Q6

Seeking counter play Black ties himself down to more commitments. 26 ... R-K3 avoiding exchanges and keeping the QRP guarded would put up a longer resistance.

27 B-KB1 R1-Q1

27 ... R-B6 leaves the pin still on.

28 P-QN4 Resigns

White will simply go P-QR4 and P-N5 if Black does nothing, or alternatively R-N3-R3 since the last move fixed the QRP. Hence 28 ... N-N7 is forced, but then comes 29 R x R R x R 30 R-B1 P-R3 31 R-B8+ K-R2 32 R-QR8. A game typical of the later Tal beating his opponent from a closed opening by pure positional play. Particularly untypical of the Tal of years ago is his eagerness to exchange pieces (see moves 16 and 20).

90 Sukhumi 1972

Black: Suttles

Modern Defence

- 1 P—K4 P—KN3
 2 P—Q4 P—Q3
 3 N—KB3 B—N2
 4 B—QB4 P—QB3

Typical of the Canadian's style of play. In the first twenty or so moves of the game he likes to develop slowly behind a pawn mass deployed on the third and fourth ranks — and as Black mainly on the third!

- 5 B—N3

A precaution against P-Q4 or N-KB3 and if N-QB3 then NxP! and P-Q4.

- 5 ... N—B3
 6 QN—Q2

The usual move is 6 Q-K2 to deter P-Q4, and prepare P-K5. Long experience with the opening indicates that in any event to develop the piece on QB3 combined with B-QB4-N3 is too rigid — White is almost certain to need P-QB3 and B-B2 later on.

- 6 ... 0—0
 7 0—0 B—N5?

Coming into the opponent's half of the board so early is hardly Suttles' usual strategy, and it is certainly wrong here. The restrained 7 ... Q-B2 is called for.

- 8 P—K5! PxP

Or 8 ... N-Q4 9 P-KR3 B-B4 10 R-K1 with pressure on the K file.

- 9 PxP N—Q4

Now 9 ... KN-Q2 is clearly bad either because of 10 Q-K1 and then 11 P-KR3 or the more straightforward 10 P-K6 BxKP (10 ... PxP 11 Q-K1) 11 BxB PxP 12 Q-K2 N-B4 13 N-N3 QN-R3 14 P-B3 and the doubled KP

will prove a permanent nagging weakness.

- 10 P—KR3 BxN
 Or 10 ... B-B4 11 N-Q4!
 11 NxB P—K3

After this White has a clear plan of attacking on the black squares, especially KB6. 11 ... N-R3 is less weakening.

- 12 Q—K2 Q—B2
 13 R—K1 N—Q2
 14 P—B4 N—K2

It was a little better to ease his cramped game by 14 ... N-N5 15 P-R3 N-B4! 16 B-B2 NxB.

- 15 B—N5 KR—K1
 16 QR—Q1 P—QR4

Just like Larsen, Suttles is a great lover of flank pawn advances. Here the point is to go P-R5 and R-QR4 with pressure on the KP so Tal distracts an attacker of the KP by his next move.

- 17 B—QR4! N—QB4
 18 B—B2 QR—Q1
 19 P—R3 RxR

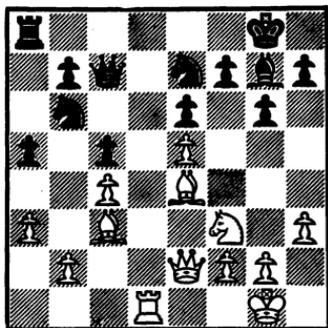
Trying to prevent 20 P-QN4 by 19 ... P-R5 loses a pawn after 20 B-K3. 20 RxR N—Q2

It looks more consistent to go 20 ... R-Q1 playing for further exchanges, but after 21 P-QN4 PxP 22 PxP N-R3 23 R-N1 White still has pressure, while 22 ... RxR+23 QxR N-R3 24 P-N5! PxP 25 PxP N-N5 26 Q-Q6 favours White e.g. 26 ... QxB 27 Q-Q8+ 28 BxN and mates.

- 21 B—B4 N—N3
 22 B—Q2

At last the probing bishop finds a weakness.

22 ... R—R1
 23 B—B3 P—QB4
 24 B—K4



White has gradually manoeuvred himself into a position where Black is tied down on the Q side and White can plan to invade the Q file by P-QN3, Q-Q2 and Q-Q6. The best defence was to attack the KP by 24 ... N-B3 when after 25 BxN QxB 26 N-N5 and 27 Q-B3 or 27 N-K4 White keeps the better game. Instead Black lets a piece get out on a limb.

24 ... N—R5
 25 B—K1 N—B3
 26 BxN!

The introduction to a far from obvious combination based on the weak back rank.

26 ... QxP
 27 BxP RxP
 28 R—Q8+ B—B1
 29 Q—Q2

The vital tempo gain.

29 ... Q—B2

To prevent 30 Q-Q7. After 29 ... Q-N3 30 Q-Q7 (30 R-K8 K-N2 31 Q-N5 QxP 32 Q-B6+ K-N1 33 N-N5 Q-N8+ 34 K-R2 Q-B4 35 NxKP! is also a win) 30 ... QxP 31 Q-K7 Q-B8+ 32 K-R2 Q-R3 33 N-N5 Q-N2 the further sacrifice 34 NxRP wins.

A rook retreat would allow 30 Q-R6.

30 R—K8 K—N2

Or 30 ... N-N3 31 Q-R6 N-Q2 32 N-N5! mates.

31 Q—N5

Finally penetrating to the spot weakened at move eleven!

31 ... R—R2

After 31 ... P-R3 32 Q-B6+ K-N1 33 N-R4 the sacrifice on KN6 decides e.g. 33 ... Q-Q2 34 NxP QxR 35 Q-R8 mate. Another attractive finish comes after 32 ... N-N3 33 Q-B6+ K-N4 34 N-N5 R-R4 35 NxKP RxR 36 NxQ attacking rook and knight.

32 Q—B6+ K—N1

33 N—N5 Q—Q2

34 R—Q8

The most accurate as after 34 RxB+ KxR 35 NxRP+ K-N1 36 Q-R4 K-N2 37 N-B6 Q-B3! there is no mate, while 34 R-N8 N-N3 35 NxRP Q-Q8+ 36 K-R2 N-Q2 37 Q-R4 Q-R4 38 RxB+ K-N2! is far from clear.

34 ... P—N3

Revealing the point of his 31st move, but he is now lost on material. However 34 ... Q-B2 loses as before to 35 NxKP.

35 RxQ RxR

36 P—QN3 B—N2

37 Q—B3 P—R3

Informator rather annoyingly implies that Black resigned at this point. The Central Chess Club bulletin and "The Chess Player" give the true score.

38 Q—R8+ B—B1

39 N—K4 R—Q8+

40 K—R2 N—N7

41 N—Q6 N—Q6

42 Q—B3 Resigns

Both rook and KBP are en prise. This game deservedly won the Brilliancy Prize at Sukhumi.

91 Skopje Olympiad 1972

White: Beyen

Modern Benoni

1 P—Q4 N—KB3
 2 P—QB4 P—B4
 3 P—Q5 P—KN3

Already encouraging White to mix it by 4 P-Q6 when simply 4 ... N-B3 gives Black a good game.

4 N—QB3 B—N2
 5 P—K4 0—0
 6 B—Q3

6 P-K5 N-K1 followed by 7 ... P-Q3 leaves White's centre over-extended

6 ... P—K3
 7 KN—K2 P×P
 8 BP×P P—Q3
 9 0—0

White has chosen a good opening system in which after 9 ... P-QR3 10 P-QR4 Q-B2 11 P-R3 QN-Q2 12 P-B4 R-K1? White gets a good game by preparing the breakthrough P-K5 followed by P-B5 as in Penrose-Tal, Leipzig Olympiad 1960.

9 ... P—N3

Leaving the rook at KB1 for the moment in case his KB2 should come under attack later as in the Penrose game, and preparing B-QR3 or P-QR3 and then P-QN4. Black also retains the option of N-R3.

10 B—KN5 P—KR3
 11 B—KB4

Preventing QN-Q2, but 11 B-R4 is slightly stronger as 11 ... P-KN4 12 B-N3 N-R4 to remove the bishop lets White break the game open straight away by 13 P-B4—one of the points of the KN-K2 variation. In fact after 11 B-R4 Black's best is 11 ... B-R3 12 P-B3? (12 P-B4!) BxB 13 QxB P-QR3 14 QR-K1 QN-Q2 15 P-B4 Q-B2 16 N-N3 P-B5 with equality (Brilla-

Banfalvi—Suetin, Debrecen 1961).

11 ... B—R3
 12 P—QR4 R—K1

Now that White has allowed himself to be diverted from the natural plan of P-B4 and P-K5 this rook move is appropriate.

13 P—R3 Q—K2
 14 N—N3 P—B5

A key move in the Benoni for Black preparing to advance his Q side majority, as well as getting a good square for a knight at QB4.

15 B—B2 QN—Q2
 16 Q—Q2 Q—B1

Another typical Benoni move to avoid a vis-a-vis on the K file of queen and enemy rook. 16 ... K-R2 would be weaker since Black must retain the option of P-KN4 without having to worry about P-K5 with check.

17 B—K3 N—B4
 18 P—B3?

Much too passive and inconsistent. 18 P-B4 at once or 18 QR-K1 and then 19 P-B4 were much better.

18 ... KN—Q2
 19 P—B4 N—N6

Tal is so worried about the breakthrough 20 P-K5 P×P 21 P-B5 that he hurries to mix it on the other side and even gives up a pawn there.

20 B×N

If White's QR were already on K1 then Q-B2 would be a good move enhancing his potential pressure on the KB file.

20 ... P×B
 21 R—B3 QR—B1

22 P—R5

Without the KB the old plan of P-K5, P-B5 has lost in strength (there is no longer a threat of BPxKNP followed by BxKNP) so White changes direction.

22 ... P—QN4

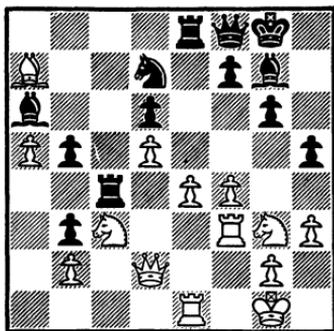
Hanging on to the pawn by 22 ... B-B5 23 PxP PxP 24 R-R7 leaves Black with a passive position.

23 BxP R—B5!

24 R—K1

Not 24 R-R3? P-N5, so White overprotects his KP in preparation for N-Q1 followed by RxP.

24 ... P—R4



Now if 25 P-R4 to prevent the knight being driven away, Black has 25 ... B-B3. Since White's passive reply gives away the central KP in return for the less significant QNP White should have plucked up his courage and tried 25 P-K5 PxP 26 P-B5 forcing Black to counter equally energetically by 26 ... P-K5 and after 27 QNxKP (not 27 KNxKP P-N5! 28 PxP? PxN 29 PxP+ QxP!) 27 ... N-K4 28 R-B4 R-B7 29 Q-Q1 White has attacking chances to make up for the loss of the QNP.

25 N—B1 P—N5

26 N—Q1 N—B3

Taking the KP at once is also good but the text gives White more

options and therefore more chances of going wrong in the last hour of play.

27 N—B2 NxKP

28 NxN R1xN

29 RxR RxR

30 RxP

With so much wood cleared from the board the bishops find much more scope for their activity, but Black must proceed with direct threats.

30 ... Q—K2

31 B—B2

Naturally not 31 Q-KB2 R-K8 but in his anxiety to rob the rook of this entry square White makes a losing error. 31 B-K3 was correct not fearing 31 ... B-B5 because of 32 RxP! BxN 33 RxR and though Black can win the QNP by a subsequent Q-N8+ the unblocked white QRP is a grave menace. Black does better to play 31 ... Q-N2 when he has good compensation for his pawn.

31 ... R—K7!

32 QxP

Completely losing his head. 32 Q-Q1 is essential though after 32 ... RxP it is Black who has the more dangerous passed pawn.

32 ... RxB!

33 KxR Q—K7+

34 K—N3 QxN

35 QxP B—Q5

The bishops create a mating attack before White can make any use of his passed pawns.

36 P—B5

Or 36 K-R4 K-N2 preparing 37 ... B-B3+.

36 ... Q—K8+

36 ... B-B7+ would win the queen by discovered check or force mate but the text is also good enough. (37 K-B4 B-K4+! 38 QxB P-N4+ or 37 K-B3 Q-K7+ and then 38 ... B-K4+).

37 Resigns

92 Skopje Olympiad 1972

White: Liebert

King's Indian Defence

1	N—KB3	N—KB3
2	P—B4	P—KN3
3	P—KN3	B—N2
4	B—N2	0—0
5	0—0	P—Q3
6	P—Q4	N—B3

A rather unusual move from Tal since after 7 P-Q5 N-QR4 8 N-B3 P-B4 we get a Yugoslav form of the King's Indian which Tal plays very rarely as he prefers to challenge in the centre by the older move P-K4.

7	N—B3	B—N5
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Now that White has retained his options Black chooses the Simagin variation which gives up the two bishops in return for play on the black squares. 7 ... P-K4 or 7 ... P-QR3 are playable alternatives.

8	P—KR3
---	-------

This lets Black go into a variation in which his chances seem quite good. White should decide on 8 P-Q5 when after 8 ... N-QR4 9 N-Q2 P-B4 we have a Yugoslav variation in which the bishop may well be misplaced at N5, while 8 ... BxN 9 PxB N-QR4 or K4 10 Q-K2 gives White good prospects on the K file and he can subsequently dissolve his doubled pawn by P-B4-B5.

8	...	BxN
9	BxB	N—Q2
10	P—K3	

After 10 BxN? Black can use the QN file, and has the safer king position to boot. The first trial of the line was at Zurich 1953 when Najdorf-Petrosian went 10 B-N2 NxP 11 BxP R-N1 12 B-N2 P-QB4? with advantage to White, but after Geller's improvement (at the same tournament against Najdorf) 12 ... R-

N5! 13 P-K3 N-K3 retaining QB4 for his knight Black got the better of it 14 Q-K2 BxN! 15 PxB R-R5 16 R-N1 N3-B4 Cvetkovic-Velimirovic, Yugoslavia 1961.

10	...	P—K4
11	P—Q5	N—K2
12	P—K4	P—KB4

White has kept the knight from a strong outpost at Q5, but Black is quick to get pressure on the K side in a semi-closed position in which bishops are not particularly mobile.

13	B—N2
----	------

Toying with the idea of P-B3 to recapture on K4 with a pawn and so prevent N-KB4-Q5. He could leave the bishop at its post hoping to go to KN4 and then K6. Play could continue 13 B-Q2 N-KB3 14 P-QN4 Q-Q2 15 P-KR4 R-B2 16 Q-R4 QxQ 17 NxQ PxP 18 B-N2 P-QN4! 19 N-B3 PxP 20 QR-B1 R-N1 with a tense fight in which White will soon recover the sacrificed pawns (Meching-Korchnoy, Sousse Interzonal 1967).

13	...	N—KB3
14	PxP	

Deciding to block Black's expansion by a different method, often used in such King's Indian positions e.g. by P-KB4. After 14 P-B3 N-R4 15 K-R2 P-B5 16 P-KN4 N-N6 17 R-KN1 Black would try to break it open by P-KR4 etc.

14	...	PxP
----	-----	-----

More ambitious than 14 ... NxBP 15 N-K4! N-Q5 16 B-K3 with a likely sterile opposite coloured bishops middle game.

15	P—B4	N—Q2
16	K—R2	

218 Painful Rehabilitation

After 16 P×P B×P! 17 B-B4 N-KN3 White would be forced to exchange bishops and would be left with an inferior bishop restricted by the fixed pawn at Q5.

16 ... N-KN3
17 B-K3 K-R1
18 Q-Q2 P×P!

Black does well to avoid 18 ... P-K5 19 N-K2 when 20 N-Q4 will be an awkward move to meet and White has the clear plan of preparing the break P-KN4.

19 P×P

Not 19 B×BP N×B 20 R×N? B-R3, while 20 Q×N B-K4 21 Q-Q2 R-KN1 gives Black a strong attack on the tender spot at KN6.

19 ... Q-R5
20 QR-K1 R-B2

Anticipating the sequence 21 B-Q4 R-KN1 concentrating his forces for a blow at KN6.

21 N-K2 R-KN1
22 N-Q4

Better 22 R-B3 with defence in depth of KN3.

22 ... N2-K4!

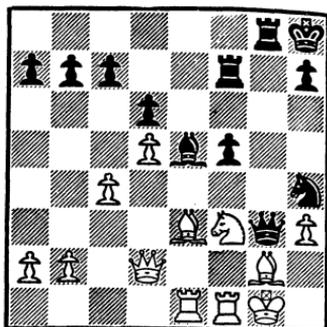
Just as White was going to play the impressive looking move 23 N-K6 Tal produces an excellent sacrifice which White should refuse by 23 P-N3 N-N5+ 24 K-N1 N×B 25 Q×N when White has approximate equality e.g. 25 ... N-B1 26 N-B3 Q-N6 27 N-N5 Q×Q+ 28 R×Q B-Q5 29 N×R+ K-N2 30 N-N5 etc.

23 P×N B×P+
24 K-N1

Or 24 K-R1 Q-N6 25 N-B3 (25 K-N1 N-R5) 25 ... N-R5 26 N×B P×N and White is strangely helpless against the threat of 27 ... P-B5 and 28 ... P-B6 e.g. 27 B-K4 P×B! 28 R×R N-B6 29 R×N Q×R6+ 30 K-R2 Q-N6+ 31 K-R1 Q×P+ 32 Q-R2 Q-B6+.

24 ... Q-N6
25 N-B3 N-R5

A piece down Black calmly offers the exchange of either remaining minor piece, since 26 N×B P×N 27 R-K2 P-B5 28 B×RP P-B6 is a winning line.



26 N×N Q-R7+
27 K-B2 B-N6+
28 K-B3 B×N
29 B-Q4+ B-B3
30 Q-KB2

Or 30 B×B+ R×B 31 Q-KB2 P-B5! (31 ... R3-N3? 32 Q-Q4+ R3-N2 33 R-KN1 Q-N6+ 34 K-K2 R-K1+ 35 K-Q1 R×R+ 36 R×R Q×B? 37 R-K8 mate) 32 R-KN1 R-N6+ 33 K-K4 P-B3 34 Q-Q4 R-N3 35 B-R1 (35 B×P Q-B5+) 35 ... Q-QB7+! 36 Q-Q3 (36 K-K3 P-B7) 36 ... R-K3+ and mates or wins a lot of material.

30 ... B-K4!

Closing the K file (with subsidiary threats of R-N6+ or Q-B5+) so that White is now in grave trouble.

31 R-KR1

Or 31 B×B+ P×B 32 R-KN1 R2-N2 and 33 ... R-N6+.

31 ... Q-B5+
32 K-K2 Q×B
33 Q×Q B×Q

In time trouble White hoped that the opposite coloured bishops would

give him good drawing chances. However there is a glaring contrast in the mobility of the bishops in view of the pawn formation. 33 ... RxB? 34 Q-B2 loses the exchange for Black.

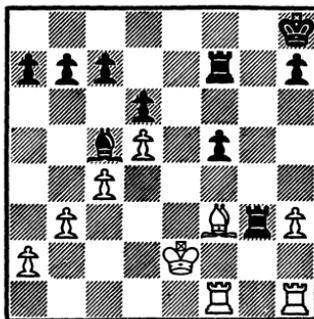
34 B-B3 R-N6

35 P-N3 B-B4!

Now that the bishop is put on a guarded square the threat is 36 ... R-K2+ winning the wretched bishop whose immobility has hamstrung White for the last few moves.

36 R/K1-KB1?

Or 36 B-R5! R-K2+ 37 K-Q1 RxR+ 38 KxR R-QB6 39 B-Q1 R-B8 40 K-Q2 R-R8 41 P-QR4 K-N2 when White is badly tied up, but can still put up a fight. The text however lets Black finish smartly by combining his pieces for an attack on the king.



36 ... R-K2+

37 K-Q2 R-K6

38 B-Q1

Or 38 B-R5 R-N7+ 39 K-Q1 R-Q6+ 40 K-B1 B-R6+ 41 K-N1 R-N7+ 42 K-R1 R6-Q7 and mates.

38 ... R-N7+

39 K-B1 R-B6+

40 K-N1 B-R6

41 Resigns

The end would be 41 B-B3 R-N7+ 42 K-R1 R6-B7.

See diagram next column

93 40th USSR Championship 1972

White: Alburtt

Queen's Pawn

1 P-Q4 N-KB3

2 N-QB3 P-Q4

3 B-N5

The Veresov variation which contains a number of little known pitfalls for both sides. White prepares the subsequent advance P-K4 either by P-B3 or by P-K3 and B-Q3 and in a number of variations is prepared to give up his QB to saddle his opponent with weak pawns e.g. 3 ... P-B4 4 BxN KPxB (the wrong recapture 5 P-K4! N-B3 6 KN-K2 B-

K3 7 P-KN3 with great pressure on the enemy QP.

3 ... QN-Q2

Generally considered best. Black avoids the awkward doubled pawn arising from 3 ... B-B4 4 BxN KPxB 5 P-K3 and 6 B-Q3 when his bishops are handicapped by the rigid pawn formation, as well as the gambit 4 P-B3 QN-Q2 5 P-K4?! (5 NxP NxN 6 P-K4 is also playable). If 3 ... P-B3 4 BxN NPxB 5 P-K3 P-K4 then 6 Q-R5! P-K5 7 P-B3 P-KB4 8 PxP BPxP?

9 Q-K5+ Resigns, Wade-Kinzel, Olympiad 1962.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 4 | P-B3 | P-B3 |
| 5 | P-K4 | PxP |
| 6 | PxP | P-K4! |
| 7 | PxP | Q-R4! |

The point of Black's last few moves, giving up a pawn to break up the enemy centre and gain the two bishops. Allowing the exchange of queens was much tamer and hardly in Tal's style.

8 PxN

8 N-B3? N3xP is clearly good for Black.

- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 8 | ... | QxB |
| 9 | PxP | BxP |
| 10 | Q-Q2 | |

In return for his pawn Black has great pressure on the black squares which is not much minimised by the exchange of queens, but 10 N-B3 BxN+ 11 PxB Q-K6+ 12 B-K2 QxP+ 13 N-Q2 N-B4 14 0-0 B-K3 leaves White even worse off than after the text.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 10 | ... | QxQ+ |
| 11 | KxQ | N-B4 |
| 12 | B-Q3 | B-K3 |
| 13 | N-B3 | 0-0-0 |

Black has considerable pressure along the open files due to the presence there of his majesty the enemy king. Thus 14 N-KN5 playing for exchanges would lose a pawn at once after 14 ... B-B5.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 14 | K-K2 | P-N4 |
|----|------|------|

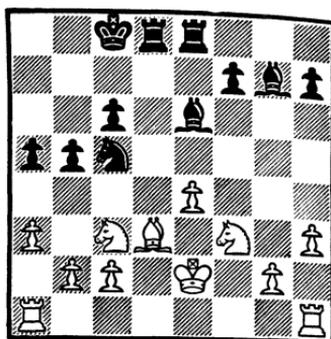
Robbing the bishop of more squares and preparing to drive away the well placed enemy knight by P-N5 when the KP and QNP are both vulnerable.

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 15 | P-QR3 | P-QR4 |
| 16 | P-R3 | |

To prepare 17 N-N5 which if played at once would be met by 16 ... B-N5+ driving the king about the board.

16 ... KR-K1

Keeping up the tension since after 16 ... P-N5 17 PxP PxP 18 N-Q1 White threatens to exchange a pair of rooks by 19 R-R8+.



17 KR-Q1

There is still no time for 17 N-N5 because of 17 ... P-B4 e.g. 18 NxRP? PxP 19 NxKP B-B4 winning a piece, or 18 NxB RxN 19 K-B3? PxP+ 20 NxP R-B1+ and again a piece is lost.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 17 | ... | P-B4 |
| 18 | P-K5 | |

18 PxP BxP+ would involve losing back the pawn in a way that would leave Black two powerful bishops in an open position. The text leaves Black with his isolated KBP and speculates on getting pressure on the K file.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 18 | ... | N-Q2 |
| 19 | R-K1 | BxP! |

White was hoping for 19 ... NxP 20 NxN BxN 21 K-B3 with good chances of further simplifying exchanges e.g. 21 ... BxN 22 PxB B-Q2 23 P-B4 or 21 ... B-N2 22 R-K2 and doubles rooks while his bishop still eyes the KBP.

20 K-B2

Or 20 NxB NxN when the enemy king cannot move to B3 or B2 and lacks a constructive move (21 QR-Q1? NxB 22 PxN B-N6+ or 21 K-Q2 B-B5 22 R-K3 NxB winning a pawn).

20 ... B—B3

He must prevent 21 N-N5 and also preserve his two bishops.

21 R—K3 N—B4

22 QR—K1 K—Q2

To free the knight from the defence of the bishop. White could still put up a good fight now by 23 N-K2! and if 23 ... BxP 24 N-B4 with an indirect attack on the KBP. Instead, tired out by the unpleasant task of having to defend throughout despite being White, the Ukrainian seizes the chance to play a 'combination' that seems to win R+2P for B+N while keeping up the pressure on the K file.

23 NxP? P—B5!

Not 23 ... NxB+ 24 RxN+, whereas

the intermediate move of the text forcing the rook from the defence of the bishop wins material.

24 R—K5 NxB+!

25 PxN PxN

26 RxP R—QN1

27 N—K5+?

In his haste to avoid the king being shut in after 27 RxP RxP+ White loses more material.

27 ... K—Q3

28 RxP B—R5+

29 Resigns

A nice game to win after having drawn six consecutive games in which Tal had been pawns galore up. As he commented after the game, "It looks as if it's easier for me to play a pawn down!"

94 40th USSR Championship 1972

Black: Zilbershtein

Caro-Kann Defence

1 P—K4 P—KN3

2 P—Q4 P—QB3

3 P—QB4

Deciding to avoid a possible improvement on the game with Kolarov (No. 70).

3 P—Q4

Black could stick to the Modern Defence by 3 .. P-Q3, but prefers to offer Tal a chance to go into the Panov Attack against the Caro-Kann by 4 KPxP PxP 5 N-QB3 N-KB3 but Tal prefers yet again to by-pass his opponent's intention.

4 P—K5

Although White can get a weak QP after this advance his dynamic

chances must not be underestimated (e.g. P-KR4-R5 since Black cannot go N-KB3). The position should be compared with Tal-Golombek, Munich Olympiad 1958, which opened 1 P-K4 P-QB3 2 P-Q4 P-Q4 3 P-K5 B-B4 4 P-QB4 PxP 5 BxP P-K3 when Black has firmer control over his Q4 than can be achieved in this particular game.

4 ... B—N2

5 N—QB3 N—KR3

6 P—KR4?!

An attacking gesture that provokes a weak response from Black — the sort of thing one comes to expect from Tal's opponents! 6 N-B3 B-N5!

is quite nice for Black as is 6 B-B4 P-B3 7 Q-Q2 N-B2! so 6 PxP PxP 7 Q-N3 to force 7 ... P-K3 seems worthy of consideration (7 ... N-B3 8 QxQP NxQP 9 BxN! BxB 10 QxQ+ KxQ 11 R-Q1 or 9 ... QxQ 10 NxQ BxB 11 B-Q3 and the threat 12 N-B7+ provokes some concessions).

6 ... B-K3

An anti-positional idea whose sole point seems to be to snatch a hot pawn. 6 ... P-B3 meeting a flank diversion by play in the centre is much better.

7 N-R3

White could also get a good game by 7 PxP BxQP 8 KN-K2 and 9 N-B4, but why attempt to divert Black from a clearly unprofitable operation?

7 ... PxP

8 N-B4 B-Q4

A slightly better chance may well be 8 ... Q-Q2 since after the text White has fewer worries over his QP, and after 9 NxB QxN Black renews the threat of P-B3 with play in the centre.

9 P-QN3! PxP

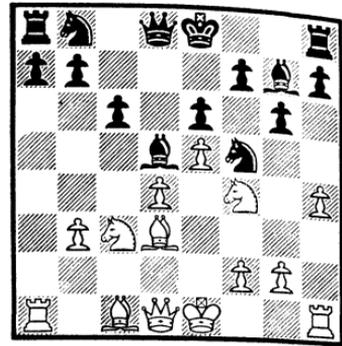
10 PxP P-K3

Only in this way can Black hope to develop his QN.

11 B-Q3 N-B4?

Now Black is clearly much worse off. In such unbalanced positions it is very difficult to hit upon the right move. 11 ... 0-0 meets with the striking reply 12 QNxB BPxN (to develop by N-QB3) 13 N-R5!! achieving a strong attack on the black squares by 14 NxB since 13 ... PxN 14 QxP N-B4 15 P-KN4 is a win for White. 11 ... Q-N3 is countered by 12 KNxB BPxN (12 ... KPxN 13 B-R3) 13 N-N5 and 14 N-Q6, so Black should consider either 11 ... N-Q2 or the determined 11 ... BxKNP! 12 NxB QxP 13 B-N2 QxKP+ and Black has four pawns for the piece and can

castle into comparative safety.



12 BxN KPxB

Or 12 ... NPxB 13 N-R5 etc.

13 B-R3 B-B1

Forced, since Black cannot leave his king in the centre while White goes 14 QNxB PxN 15 Q-B3 or 15 P-K6.

14 BxB KxB

15 Q-Q2

Much stronger than 15 QNxB PxN 16 Q-B3 N-B3! White threatens 16 KNxB PxN 17 Q-R6+ K-N1 18 P-R5, and if Black prevents this by 15 ... P-KR4 then 16 QNxB PxN 17 Q-N4+ winning material e.g. 17 ... K-N2 18 QxP N-Q2 19 QxQP N-N3 20 Q-N7 renewing the threat of N-K6+ or 17 ... Q-K2 18 QxQ+ KxQ 19 NxQP+ K-Q1 20 N-N6.

15 ... B-K3

16 R-Q1 Q-K2

To hold up the break through 17 P-Q5 by the threat to the KP. 16 ... BxP 17 R-QN1 B-K3 18 RxP is worse.

17 R-R3

A remarkable feature is that after his gesture at move six White never goes P-KR5. This rook is needed at K3 to support the push P-Q5.

17 ... N-R3

Or 17 ... BxP 18 R-N1 B-K3 (18 ... B-Q4 19 QNxB PxN 20 NxQP and 21 Q-N4+) 19 P-Q5! is quite similar to the game.

18 P—Q5! P×P
 19 KN×QP B×N
 Or 19 ... Q-Q2.
 20 N×B Q×P+

Equivalent to resignation. Since his 17th move ruled out both N-B7 and Q-N4+ Black should refuse the invitation to open the K file and go 20 ... Q-Q2.

21 R—K3 Q—Q3
 No better are 21 ... Q-R7 22 Q-Q4 R-KN1 23 N-B6 R-N2? 24 Q-Q8+ mating, or 21 ... Q-N2 22 N-B7! N×N 23 Q-Q8+ with the same outcome.

22 Q—B3 P—B3
 Or 22 ... R-KN1 23 N-B6 Q-N5 24 N×P mate.

23 N—B7!

Now that Black has made more room round his king 23 N×P is less effective. Black now resigned without waiting for 23 ... Q×N 24 Q×P+ K-N1 (24 ... Q-B2 25 Q×R+ or more prettily 25 R-Q8+ R×R 26 Q×KR+ Q-N1 27 Q-B6+ Q-B2 28 Q×R+) 25 R-K7 Q-R4+ 26 K-B1 Q-N4+ 27 K-N1. A genuine Tal 'special'!

95 40th USSR Championship 1972

Black: Mukhin Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4
 2 N—KB3 P—Q3
 3 P—Q4 P×P
 4 N×P N—KB3
 5 N—QB3 P—QR3
 6 B—QB4

The most popular move is 6 B-KN5 but remarkably enough Tal has not played it much recently.

6 ... P—K3
 7 B—N3 P—QN4

Bold, but playable. The point is not so much to go P-N5 and snatch the KP, which was shown to be very risky in Fischer-Tal, Candidates 1959 (8 P-B4 P-N5 9 N-R4 N×P 10 0-0 P-N3? 11 P-B5! NP×P 12 N×BP! etc) but to develop his QB on its most aggressive square.

8 0—0 B—N2
 9 R—K1 QN—Q2
 10 B—N5 N—B4?

Mukhin from the Central Asian

republic of Kazakhstan is (along with Balashov) one of the graduates from the five year course on the theory and history of chess in the Central State Institute of Physical Culture in Moscow. The course set up in 1966 includes anatomy, physiology and psychology as applied to sport so one can perhaps understand Tal's comment after the championship "I don't know whether they do a course on openings at the IPC but I saw no other player in the championship get so many lost games from the opening" (In fact the Alma-Ata player fought back magnificently and lost only two of these games in the end!). The text has been known as an error since Honfi-Tatai, Monaco 1968 which went 10 ... N-B4 11 B-Q5 P-R3 12 B×B N×B 13 B-R4 R-B1 14 P-R4 P-N5 15 N-Q5 P×N 16

PxP+ K-Q2 17 N-B6 RxN 18 PxR+ KxP 19 P-QB3 with advantage. The correct defence is not 10 ... B-K2? 11 BxP PxB 12 NxKP Q-R4 13 NxP+ K-B2 14 N-B5, but 10 ... P-R3 11 B-R4 and now not 11 ... N-B4? 12 B-Q5 PxB 13 PxP+ K-Q2 14 P-QN4 N-R5 15 NxN PxN 16 P-QB4 K-B1 17 QxP Q-Q2 18 Q-N3 P-N4 19 B-N3 N-R4 20 P-B5! PxP 21 PxP QxP (21 ... BxP 22 P-B6!) 22 R-K8+ and won in a few moves (Fischer-Rubineti, Palma Interzonal 1970) but 11 ... P-N4 12 B-N3 N-K4 with a tense position.

11 B-Q5

Tal's memory was slightly at fault here since he commented: "I took no particular pleasure in winning this game, because all I had to do to achieve a winning position was to repeat the moves of Fischer-Rubineti."

11 ... P-N5

12 BxB NxB

13 N-Q5!

A wonderful example of the thematic sacrifice on Q5 against the Sicilian. This time the offer cannot be refused as the QNP is en prise, and with the white squares weakened by the exchange of white square bishops there is also a piquant threat of 14 BxN PxB 15 N-B6 Q-B1 16 NxBP mate!

13 ... PxN

14 PxP+

White had a feasible alternative in 14 P-K5 PxP 15 RxP+ K-Q2 16 P-QB4 but, as is often the case, a Russian proverb abrogated to themselves by Soviet annotators seems to fill the bill here, "Om gobra, gobra nye ischut" ("People don't seek to improve on the good" or "Let well alone").

14 ... K-Q2

Or 14 ... B-K2 15 N-B6.

15 P-QB3!

To open the QB file after the king has been checked to QB2.

15 ... P-N6

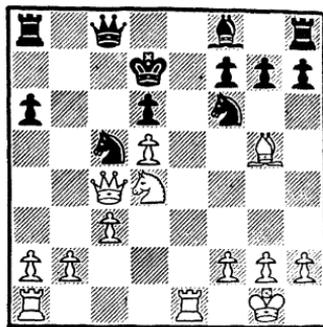
16 QxP N-B1

17 Q-B4

With the decisive threat of 18 p. QN4.

17 ... Q-B1

Or 17 ... R-B1 18 P-QN4 QN-K5 19 QxP! NxB 20 Q-R4+ K-B2 21 Q-R4-K-B2 21 Q-R7 mate — a pretty picture indeed, and a variation which was largely instrumental in deciding Tal's choice of 14th move.



18 N-B6

To rule out a possible exchange of queens and to prepare the winning line 19 R-K3, then QR-K1 and R-K7+ mating.

18 ... P-R3

19 BxN PxB

20 R-K3 K-B2

21 P-QN4 R-KN1

Moving the knight loses the queen to 22 N-R7 (K7)+. Black decides to make one aggressive gesture before calling it a day. Tal, as is his wont, now wrote down his move 22 PxN on the score sheet, but before he could make it on the board Black resigned as 22 ... Q-N5 23 PxP+ KxP 24 QxQ RxQ 25 R-Q1 produces a very one-sided ending, and 22 ... PxP 23 Q-B1+ B-Q3? 24 R-K7+ is an even grimmer prospect.

1973 RECENT EVENTS

1973 began in the same fortissimo tempo with which 1972 had ended as Tal took another first prize in a strong tournament, this time at Wijk aan Zee on the Dutch coast. As in the Soviet championship two months before Tal started slowly with draws predominating, but he did not lose patience and finished strongly without having to say "I resign" to anyone. His game with Donner is a fine tactical fight. This performance was surpassed a month later in the Estonian capital of Tallin where once again he took first prize, undefeated, in an even stronger tournament than in Holland. One merely has to enumerate the names of some of the competitors to see the strength of the event — Spassky attempting to make his comeback after the Fischer defeat, Polugaevsky, Keres, Bronstein, Balashov, Ulf Andersson...

This continuing success story meant that after his undeserved loss to Uusi at Viljandi (see winning practice No. 18) Tal had stretched his unbeaten run to no less than 82 games. It is only fitting that this book should close with the excellent attacking game against Spassky that decided first place — is this the shape of things to come?

96 Wijk aan Zee 1973**Black: Donner****English Opening**

1 P—QB4 P—QB4

2 N—KB3 N—KB3

3 N—B3 N—B3

Probably the best chance of equalising. 3 ... P-KN3 4 P-K3 N-B3 (a move too late!) 5 P-Q4 PxP 6 PxP P-Q4 7 PxP KNxP 8 Q-N3! favours White e.g. 8 ... NxN 9 B-QB4! P-K3 10 PxN B-N2 11 B-R3 B-B1 12 0-0 BxB 13 QxB Q-K2 14 Q-B1 0-0 15 Q-R6 with good attacking chances, Tal-Pohla Viljandi 1973.

4 P—Q4 PxP

5 NxP P—Q4?!

Theory only recognises 5 ... P-K3 when White proceeds either by the sedate 6 P-KN3 or the ambitious 6 KN-N5.

6 Q—R4

Donner doubtless had hoped to inveigle Tal into the imbroglio which arises from the text. Portisch-Donner Amsterdam 1969 went 6 PxP NxP 7 KNxN PxN 8 B-Q2! NxN 9 BxN QxQ+ 10 RxQ P-B3 11 P-KN3 P-K4 12 B-N2 B-Q2 13 0-0 and White went on to show that the broken Q side could be a serious disadvantage.

6 ... Q—N3

Best since the gambit 6 ... P-K3 7 NxN PxN is refused by 8 PxP! PxP 9 B-N5! (whereas 8 QxP+ B-Q2 9 Q-R6 P-Q5 and 10 ... B-N5+ is unclear), and 6 ... Q-Q2 allows White a small endgame advantage by 7 PxP NxP 8 QNxN QxN (8 ... NxN 9 QxN P-K3 10 P-K4 or the vastly more exciting 9 N-B7+ when each side wins the enemy QR and then tries to extricate the cornered knight) 9 NxN as in the Portisch game.

7 KN—N5 P—K3

Not 7 ... P-Q5 8 N-Q5 NxN 9 PxN

P-QR3 (9 ... N moves 10 N-B7+ or 10 N-Q6+) 10 P-K4! preventing 10 ... QxN when Black will have to sink to the level of 10 ... R-QN1 11 PxN PxN 12 BxP and White wins. However 7 ... PxP was also playable e.g. 8 B-K3 Q-Q1 9 R-Q1 B-Q2 or 8 B-B4 P-K4 9 B-N5 B-K3! and White has nothing. These variations as well as the actual course of the game cast some doubt on Tal's 6th move.

8 B—B4 P—K4

9 PxP PxB

10 QxBP

White now wins material but his defective K side development is a cause for concern. 10 PxN PxP 11 N-Q4 B-Q2 is quite nice for Black.

10 ... N—QN5

Black could also try the ambitious 10 ... B-QB4 but after 11 N-B7+ K moves 12 0-0-0! White has the better of it. Snatching material by 12 NxR would allow Black a powerful counter in 12 ... QxP followed if necessary by 13 ... B-QN5 or QR6.

11 N—B7+ K—Q1

12 NxR Q—R4

Not 12 ... N-B7+ 13 K-Q2 QxNP 14 Q-B7+ K-K1 15 QxB+ K-K2 16 R-QN1 N-K5+ 17 NxN QxR 18 P-Q6 mate! However 12 ... Q-B4 keeping an eye on the KBP and preparing B-Q3 also came into consideration. Both players naturally had already expended much time in the calculation of these various complicated lines.

13 0—0—0

The king is in grave danger on this side of the board. Since 13 R-B1 QNxQP 14 Q-Q2 B-QN5 15 P-B3 R-K1 16 P-K4 B-Q2 leaves White still

exposed to grave danger the best chance of retaining an advantage was 13 R-Q1 when 13 ... N-B7+ 14 K-Q2 N-QN5 15 P-K4 allows consolidation in the centre, while after 13 ... Q-B4 as in the game then White can go 14 P-Q6! hamstringing Black's development (14 ... N-B7+? 15 K-Q2 BxP 16 KxN B-B4+ 17 K-B1 N-K1 18 P-K4 and wins).

13 ... Q-B4!
14 P-K4

There is no time to try and consolidate since 14 K-N1 B-Q3 15 Q-N5 P-KR3! 16 QxNP B-B4+ 17 P-K4 NxKP! 18 QxR+ K-Q2 gives Black a very powerful attack.

14 ... NxRP+
15 K-B2 NxN
16 PxN B-Q3!

Now White has problems unless he plays his next move. Retreating the queen would leave his knight doomed in the long run.

17 P-K5 NxP
18 Q-QB4

Once again White had an awkward choice to make. 18 Q-Q4 B-B4+ 19 B-Q3 QxQ 20 PxQ N-N5+ 21 K-B3 NxB 22 PxB allows him to get the knight out but after 22 ... NxP 23 QR-KB1! N-K5+! 24 K-N2 NxP 25 R-R1 P-QR3 26 N-N6 Black has two pawns for the exchange. Even Tal was not eager to emulate Chigorin by playing his king to Q4 in a middle game, but objectively this may have been his best chance e.g. 18 RxN QxR 19 PxB Q-R7+ 20 K-Q3 B-B4+ 21 K-Q4! with a most unclear position (compare the king position with Chigorin-Caro 1898).

18 ... B-B4+

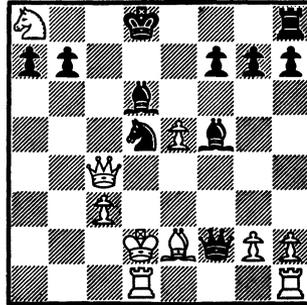
Not 18 ... QxP+ 19 K-N3 and finally White is safe (19 ... B-K3 20 RxN).

19 K-Q2

White has to block the effect of his

rook on the Q file since 19 K-B1 (19 K-N3? Q-R6 mate) 19 ... Q-R6+ 20 K-Q2 R-K1! is clearly good for Black.

19 ... QxP+
20 B-K2



The culminating point of this tense battle. Black now goes wrong as he lets the enemy king slip away into safety. The surprising 20 ... B-B4 is correct allowing the knight to be taken with check, but still denying the enemy king a safe square at K1. After 21 QxN+ K-B1 the threat is to give perpetual by 22 ... Q-K6+ 23 K-K1 Q-B7+ and White seems unable to prevent this e.g. 22 Q-B3? R-Q1+ 23 K-B1 B-R6 mate, or 22 K-B1? B-K6+ 23 K-N2? QxB+ 24 K-R1 or R3 B-K3, or 22 QR-KB1 Q-K6+ 23 K-K1 (23 K-Q1 R-Q1) 23 ... QxP+ 24 Q-Q2 Q-R8+ 25 B-Q1 R-Q1 or in this 25 Q-Q1 Q-B6+ and perpetual, or finally 22 KR-B1 Q-K6+ 23 K-K1 QxP+ 24 Q-Q2 QxP and White has no clear way to untangle his pieces since there are threats of R-K1 or K-N1 to contend with (or even 24 ... QxP 25 RxB Q-R5+! still with a perpetual check.) Short of time Donner can be forgiven for missing this.

20 ... Q-K6+?
21 K-K1 BxP

22 RxN+

Now White has no problems since his own attack now comes to fruition and he is able to give a clear answer to the question posed throughout the game, "Whose king stands worse?"

22 ... K-K2

23 N-B7 BxP+

24 K-Q1 B-K5

25 B-B3!

Much better than just forcing

queens off by 25 Q-B5+ when Black has several pawns for the missing rook.

25 ... Resigns

25 ... BxR loses the queen to a knight fork, while 25 ... BxB+ 26 PxB QxP+ 27 Q-K2+ forces queens off in a better way than the last note. Tal however would certainly have preferred the finish 27 K-B2. QxR/8 28 Q-B5+ K-B3 23 Q-Q6 mate.

97 Wijk aan Zee 1973

Black: Langeweg Sicilian Defence

1 P-K4 P-QB4

2 N-KB3 P-K3

3 P-Q4 PxP

4 NxP N-QB3

5 N-QB3

Since the first game of the Fischer-Petrosian match 1972 the previously popular 5 N-N5 P-Q3 6 B-KB4 P-K4 7 B-K3 N-B3 8 B-N5 has been avoided because of Petrosian's 8 ... B-K3 9 QN-B3 P-QR3 10 BxN PxP 11 N-R3 P-Q4!

5 ... Q-B2

6 B-K2 P-QR3

Once thought essential in all P-K3 variations of the Sicilian this move can be omitted in some sequences, but here is probably necessary because after 6 ... P-Q3 7 KN-N5 Q-Q1 (or 7 ... Q-N1) 8 B-KB4 P-K4 9 B-K3 P-QR3 10 N-R3 N-B3 (10 ... P-QN4 11 N-Q5!) 11 B-N5 B-K3 12 N-B4 White is tempi up by comparison with the Fischer-Petrosian line.

7 0-0 N-B3

8 B-K3 P-Q3

9 P-B4 B-K2

10 Q-K1 0-0

11 Q-N3

So, by transposition we reach an older form of the Scheveningen (i.e. with P-QR3 instead of 5 ... P-Q3 6 B-K2 N-B3 7 0-0 B-K2 8 B-K3 0-0 9 P-B4 Q-B2 10 Q-K1?! NxN 11 BxN P-K4! with reasonable chances). General theory is that Black has to play very exactly in order not to come under severe pressure on the K side.

11 ... NxN

12 BxN P-QN4

13 P-QR3 B-N2

14 QR-K1

In the few games played in this variation in recent decades the normal move has been 14 K-R1 and then 14 ... KR-Q1 15 B-Q3 N-K1 (15 ... P-K4? 16 PxP N-R4 17 Q-K3 PxP 18 B-N6) 16 QR-K1 B-KB1 17 Q-R3 B-B3 18 P-K5 P-N3 19 N-K4 with good attacking chances, Smyslov-Kotov, Candidates 1950. Tal prefers the straightforward text, which is a harmless transposition.

14 ... B-B3

Preparing P-QR4 and then P-N5.

15 B-Q3 QR-Q1

A serious inaccuracy. Once White has permitted N-R4 by moving his bishop to Q3 Black should try 15 ... P-K4! 16 PxP N-R4 when 17 PxP NxQ 18 PxQ NxR or 17 Q-R3 PxP 18 QxN PxB 19 P-K5? P-N3 are good for him. After 17 Q-B2 PxP 18 B-N6 Q-Q3 Black has a perfectly playable game.

16 K-R1 Q-N2

With the rook on Q1 Black loses the exchange after 16 ... P-K4? 17 PxP N-R4 18 Q-B2 PxP 19 B-N6.

17 Q-R3!

Taking up the Smyslov attacking plan when Black's defensive chances are rather diminished by the lack of harmony in his pieces (B-B1 or N-Q2-B1 as defensive plans are ruled out by the presence of the rook at KB1). The immediate threat is 18 P-K5.

17 ... P-N3

17 ... P-R3 looks the better defence since 18 P-K5 or a later P-KN4 both expose White along the long white diagonal, and the former move also gives scope to the rook at Q1. White would probably continue 18 P-B5 P-K4 19 B-K3 hoping for a piece sacrifice at KR6 but after 19 ... K-R2 Black has a better defensive position than in the game.

18 P-B5 P-K4

19 B-K3 KR-K1

Not 19 ... NxP? 20 NxN BxN 21 BxB QxB 22 P-B6!

20 B-N5!

Now the demerits of Black's 17th move are very clear.

20 ... N-R4

Black's pieces lack harmony (the stupidly placed rook at Q1 in particular) so he has to make grave concessions on the K side that lets Tal's attack come zooming in.

21 P-B6 B-KB1

22 Q-R4

22 P-KN4 hoping for 22 ... N-B5 23 RxN PxR 24 B-R6 R-K3 25 P-N5 fails to 22 ... P-R3, so Tal guards his KP in preparation for a possible B-K2, and his K4 to prepare N-Q5 without having to fear BxN followed by P-K5.

22 ... P-R3

23 B-B1 P-R4

Thematic, but the knight does not even wait to be driven from QB3! Black is hopelessly placed but perhaps 23 ... K-R2 would provide a more stubborn defence.

24 N-Q5! R-Q2

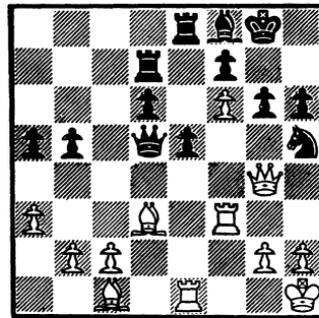
Guarding his KB2 since 24 ... BxN 25 PxB QxP loses at once to 26 BxKNP PxB 27 P-B7+.

25 R-B3 BxN

A time trouble error, but White was preparing R-R3 and B-K2 when he breaks through on the KR file to which there was no good defence in the long run.

26 PxB QxP

27 Q-KN4!



A decisive tempo gain.

27 ... R-K1

Or 27 ... Q-K3 28 B-B5.

28 BxKNP! PxB
 29 QxP+ N—N2
 Or 29 ... B-N2 30 QxN BxP 31
 RxNB! RxR 32 Q-K8+ and 33 QxR.
 30 BxP

Perhaps in analysing the position some moves back the Dutchman hoped that the pin on the KBP would

save him. The text shatters these illusions, since the threats now include 31 BxN and 31 P-B7+ K-R1 32 BxN+ BxB 33 P-B8(Q)+ mating.
 30 ... Resigns

If 30 ... R-KB2 then 31 QxR+ KxQ 32 PxN+ K-N3 33 P-N8 (Q)+ KxB 34 R-R3 mate.

98 Tallinn 1973

White: Westerinen

Sicilian Defence

1 P—K4 P—QB4
 2 N—KB3 P—K3
 3 P—QN3

A move first recommended by the veteran Israeli master Czerniak, but he normally played it on the second move.

3 ... N—KB3

Westerinen-Shtein, Tallin 1971, went 3 ... N-QB3 4 B-N2 KN-K2 5 B-K2 N-N3 6 P-Q4 PxP 7 NxP B-N5+ 8 N-QB3 0-0 9 0-0 P-Q4 with a fairly level game which White won after a long fight.

4 P—K5 N—Q4
 5 B—N2 B—K2
 6 P—B4 N—B2

Since White's last move weakened his Q3 and Q4 squares Black would be expected to go 6 ... N-N5 ready to go KN-B3, P-Q3, N-Q2 etc, with strong central pressure. Tal explains that he was following a game of Westerinen's in the Skopje Olympiad — a game whose score Tal came across only just before the start of the round!

7 N—B3 P—B3
 8 N—K4 PxP
 9 KNxP 0—0
 10 P—Q4

It was rather naive of Tal to expect the Finnish master to carry on repeating the moves of Westerinen-Kaplan, Skopje, which went 10 Q-N4? N-K1! (preparing to harry the enemy pieces) 11 B-Q3 P-Q3 12 N-KB3 P-K4 13 Q-R5 B-B4! 14 0-0-0 N-QB3 15 B-N1 Q-Q2 when Black has an excellent game which he soon won after a blunder by White.

10 ... PxP

Or 10 ... P-Q3 11 N-KB3 PxP (11 ... N-B3 is slightly better) 12 QxP! P-K4 13 Q-K3 with pressure to come on the Q file.

11 QxP B—N5+
 12 K—Q1

Too ambitious. Simply 12 B-B3 BxB+ 13 QxB or 12 ... N-B3 13 NxN BxB+ 14 QxB would leave White with a nice game. If he was determined to keep his QB then 12 K-K2 was rather better than the text as

soon becomes apparent.

12 ... P—Q3!

Now it is like the Kaplan game again with White's pieces being driven back since 13 N—QB6? P—K4! lets Black come out of it a piece up. If White had his king at K2 then he could try 13 P—QR3 PxN 14 QxQ (or 14 QxKP Q—K2 15 PxB N—B3 16 Q—N3 with some attacking chances) 14 ... RxQ 15 PxB N—B3 with a fairly level game.

13 N—Q3 P—K4

14 Q—K3 B—R4!

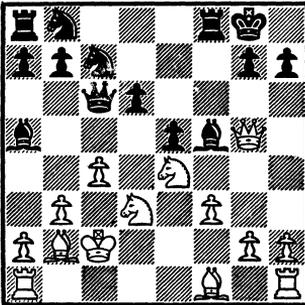
Black retains his bishop which forces the king of useful squares and prepares to attack by 15 ... P—Q4.

15 Q—N5 Q—Q2

16 K—B2 Q—B3!

This modest move harmonising his forces is better than complicating by 16 ... P—N4 17 R—Q1 PxP 18 NxKP Q—B4 19 BxP+ P—Q4 20 RxP etc.

17 P—B3 B—B4



The clouds gather near the king. White's best chance was probably 18 B—K2 when Tal intended building up threats by 18 ... QN—R3.

18 N—N3 B—KN3

Could the Finn have been hoping for 18 ... N—K3? 19 NxB! NxQ 20 N—K7+?

19 R—B1 QN—R3

20 B—R3

Or 20 P—QR3 N—B4 21 P—N4? NxN 22 BxN QxBP+.

The only way to prolong the game was 20 K—Q1 when the double pin is broken. However Black could then prepare P—Q4 at the appropriate moment and White could hardly hope to survive with his king stuck in the middle.

20 ... N—N4!

21 K—N2

Or 21 B—N2 N—N5+.

21 ... NxB

22 Q—K3

Or 22 KxN BxN! 23 BxB Q—B4+ 24 K—N2 Q—Q5+ 25 K—B2 N—N5+.

22 ... N—N5

Going for the kill instead of just remaining a piece up by 22 ... BxN 23 BxB B—N5.

23 KxN BxN

24 BxB Q—R3

25 Resigns

He has no stomach for 25 K—N2 B—N3 26 Q—K4 QxP+ 27 K—B3 B—Q5+ 28 KxN P—QR4+ and 29 ... QxP mate.

99. Tallinn 1973

White: Timman

King's Indian Defence

1	P-Q4	N-KB3
2	P-QB4	P-B4
3	P-Q5	P-KN3
4	N-QB3	B-N2
5	P-K4	P-Q3
6	N-B3	0-0
7	B-K2	P-K4

A rather unusual move in this position. Black normally tries to transpose into a Modern Benoni by 7 ... P-K3 when White can get nothing by 8 PxP BxP 9 0-0 N-B3 10 B-N5 or B4 because of 10 ... Q-N3! and Black has a nice grip on the black squares and good development to compensate for the backward QP. However 8 B-N5! would be a strong move to have to meet, so Tal prefers a closed form of the Kings Indian in which he attacks on the K side and hopes that the advanced QBP will form a barrier to White's normal Q side expansion by P-QR3, P-QN4, P-B5 (here impossible!) etc.

8 0-0

After this 'neutral' move Black's idea works out well. More promising is 8 B-N5 to exact concessions on the K side from Black in return for the advance of the KBP e.g. 8 ... P-KR3 9 B-Q2 N-K1 (9 ... N-R3 retaining options seems better) 10 P-KR4! P-B4 11 P-R5 P-KN4 12 PxP BxP 13 B-K3 N-KB3 14 N-Q2 when White's control of the K4 pivot point is very useful (Petrosian-Nikolaevsky, Kiev 1957).

8	...	N-K1
9	N-K1	N-Q2
10	N-Q3	P-B4
11	P-B4	

Double edged but after 11 P-B3 p. B5 Black's attack may well arrive the earlier because the traditional White breakthrough by P-QB5 cannot be forced (12 P-QR3 P-KN4 13 P-QN4 P-N3! etc.).

11 ... Q-K2

As Tarrasch commented long ago it is normally the case that whoever breaks the tension first in such pawn positions gets the worst of it.

12 KPxP

Waiting for 12 B-B3 comes into consideration.

12 ... NPxP

13 K-R1

Clearly White is uncertain how to proceed; a dilemma which is the direct result of his 8th move. 13 PxP Pxp (13 ... NxP 14 N-B4!) 14 B-Q2 N-Q3! leaves Black with a nice flexible position.

13 ... P-K5

14 N-B2 BxN!

Excellent judgement. White was planning the regrouping Q-B2, N-Q1-K3 and then P-KN3, P-KR3 and P-KN4 finally undermining the 'limited pawn chain' K5/KB4. After the text the KP is subject to less pressure and White's QB becomes a particularly bad piece blocked by the rigid pawns at QB3 and KB4.

15 PxB N2-B3

16 B-K3

After 16 P-N4 Pxp 17 NxNP NxN 18 BxN BxB 19 QxB+ N-N2 20 P-B5! White would gain some scope for his QB but Black can improve on this by 18 ... N-N2! playing to control his KB4. White decides to prepare the

break by P-KR3.

16 ... K-R1
 17 P-KR3 R-KN1
 18 Q-Q2

18 P-N4 loses a pawn because of the ultimate queen check on R5 by Black. Hence White has to just sit and wait while Black prepares an onslaught along the KN file.

18 ... N-N2
 19 N-Q1 N2-R4
 20 BxN

Giving up the better bishop is another step on the downward path, since it also gives more scope to the enemy queen at present tied down by the blocking knight at KB3. 20 B-B2 was better, and if 20 ... N-N5? then 21 PxN PxP 22 P-N3! and the threats are at an end. After 20 ... N-N6+ 21 BxN RxB 22 N-K3 White has guarded most of his weak spots and Black might well have to open a war on two fronts by P-QN4 to try and make something of his advantage.

20 ... NxB
 21 B-B2 B-Q2
 22 B-K1 QR-KB1

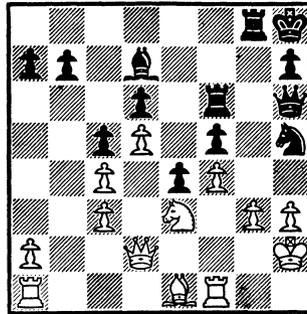
Now Black's build up proceeds smoothly towards a victorious conclusion, doubling rooks and attacking no less than four weak spots in the enemy position — KN2, KN3, KB4 and QB3.

23 N-K3 Q-B3
 24 K-R2 Q-R3
 25 P-N3 R-B3

See diagram next column

26 R-KN1 R3-N3

Unfortunately the attempt to mate by 26 ... NxBP 27 PxN QxRP+ fails to 28 KxQ R-R3+ 29 B-R4. Hence



Black builds up the pressure on the KN file hoping for a later sacrifice to bring his inactive bishop into the action by P-KR5.

27 R-N2

Otherwise 27 ... NxBP wins at once due to the pin on the KN file.

27 ... NxBP.

Still!

28 PxN QxBP+

29 K-N1

Or 29 K-R1 RxR 30 NxR Q-B8+ 31 K-R2 P-K6 32 Q-QB2 (32 NxP Q-N8 mate) 32 ... P-K7.

29 ... Q-B6!

30 Q-KB2

Not 30 RxR RxR+ 31 N-N2 (31 K-R2 P-B5 32 N-N4 BxN 33 PxB R-R3+) 31 ... P-K6 32 Q-QB2 P-K7.

30 ... QxP

31 R-N1

Or 31 RxR RxR+ 32 N-N2 P-B5.

31 ... P-B5

32 R-N2 P-B6!

33 Resigns

If 33 RxR RxR+ 34 N-N2 then 34 ... P-K6! is the prettiest of Black's winning possibilities.

100 Tallinn 1973

White: Spassky
Nimzoindian Defence

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1 | P-Q4 | N-KB3 |
| 2 | P-QB4 | P-K3 |
| 3 | N-QB3 | B-N5 |
| 4 | B-N5 | |

This game was played in the 13th round when Tal led the field by two points and Spassky's only chance of second place (and thereby rehabilitation sufficient to justify a return match with Fischer) was to win. Hence the choice of a double edged line which Spassky has often used since he learnt it from his first trainer V. Zak.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 4 | ... | P-KR3 |
| 5 | B-R4 | P-B4 |
| 6 | P-Q5 | P-QN4 |

Just what one would expect from Tal. Calmer souls would prefer 6 ... P-Q3 when Black should equalise without too much trouble.

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 7 | QPxP | |
|---|------|--|

The main line is the counter gambit 7 P-K4 P-Q3 (7 ... P-N4 8 B-N3 NxKP 9 B-K5 0-0 10 Q-R5 P-Q3 11 B-Q3 NxN 12 QxRP N-K5+ 13 K-B1 PxP 14 BxN P-B4 and White's attack is only worth perpetual check, or 9 Q-B3 BxN+ 10 PxP KPxP 11 PxQP 0-0 12 B-Q3 P-B4 and Black stands no worse) 8 QPxP BxP 9 PxP QN-Q2 with chances for the sacrificed pawn as in the actual game.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 7 | ... | BPxP |
| 8 | PxP | P-Q4 |
| 9 | P-K3 | 0-0 |
| 10 | N-B3 | |

Spassky is following his game with Liebert at Sochi 1967 which went 8 ... 0-0 9 P-K3 P-Q4 10 N-B3 QN-Q2 11 B-Q3 P-K4? 12 B-B5! P-K5 13 B-K6+ K-R1 14 BxP NxP (Bold, but inadequate) 15 BxQ NxN 16 PxN BxP+ 17 N-Q2 RxP 18 R-QB1 B-R4

19 0-0 and Black soon resigned. Tal demonstrates a better line of play for Black, so perhaps the text should be replaced by 10 P-QR3 to ease the pin or even 10 B-Q3 P-Q5 11 P-QR3 B-R4 12 KPxP BPxP 13 P-QN4.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 10 | ... | Q-R4 |
| 11 | BxN | |

He must not allow 11 ... N-K5.

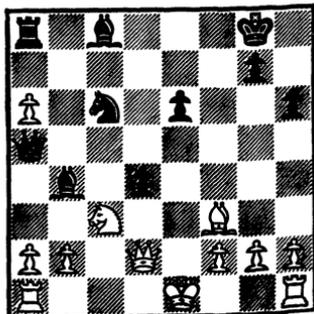
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|----|-------|-----|
| 11 | ... | RxB |
| 12 | Q-Q2? | |

This intensifies the effect of the pin since the QR is now unguarded and P-QR3 would no longer threaten the bishop. After 12 Q-B1 P-QR3 13 PxP BxP 14 BxB QxB 15 P-QR3 White would ease the pressure somewhat, and he could also consider 12 R-B1 QxRP 13 R-B2 P-R3 14 N-K5 Q-R4 15 PxP and if 15 ... BxP then 16 BxB QxB 17 N-Q3 and he can castle at last.

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 12 | ... | P-R3 |
| 13 | PxP | N-B3! |
| 14 | B-K2 | P-Q5! |
| 15 | PxP | RxN! |

From being two pawns down Black wins material and is left with two fearsome bishops.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 16 | BxR | PxP |
|----|-----|-----|



17 0—0

Relying on his own counter pin on the long white diagonal, 17 BxN at once loses to 17 ... PxN and 17 R-QB1 is playing with fire, not because of 17 ... PxN 18 PxP B-R6 19 BxN or R-QN1 but because of 17 ... BxP! 18 BxN R-Q1 and despite the extra rook White is hopelessly placed e.g. 19 P-QR3 PxN 20 Q-K3 PxP+ 21 PxB PxR (Q)+ 22 QxQ QxP+ or in this 20 QxR+ QxQ 21 PxB Q-B6.

17	...	PxN
18	PxP	BxBP
19	Q—Q6	RxP
20	BxN	B—N5!

Black had to see this far when making his 14th move, perhaps even a bit further as his KB comes under an awkward pin on the QB file. 20 ... B-K4 was bad because of 21 Q-K7 RxB 22 Q-K8+.

21	Q—N8	RxB
22	QR—B1	B—B4
23	R—B2	Q—R5

He could relieve the back row pin by 23 ... K-R2 but the text is better since it guards his rook and prepares to attack on the K side. Black cannot hope for a simple ending in view of the few pawns he has left and the absence of a passed pawn.

24	Q—N3	Q—KB5!
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In all the early sources in which this game appeared Black's move appeared as 24 ... Q-KN5 when, as Petrosian pointed out in '64' White can draw by 25 Q-N5 R-B2 26 Q-N8 R-B3 27 Q-N5. The text threatens the weak spot at KB7 (25 KR-B1? BxP+) and guards QN1 so that 25 Q-N5 is met by 25 ... Q-Q3.

25	Q—N3
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White plays correctly for the exchange of queens, but Black can avoid it. 25 Q-KB3! is better, attacking the rook, when after 25 ... Q-QB2 26 R1-B1 White has a

permanent pin. Hence Black has to go into the ending and after Shamkovich's suggested continuation 25 ... QxQ 26 PxQ P-K4 27 K-R1 (27 KR-B1 R-N3+ 28 K-R1 B-N2! or 28 K-B1 B-R3+) 27 ... B-N2 28 R-QN1 R-QN3 29 RxR BxP+ 30 K-N1 BxR 31 P-QR4 K-B2 32 P-R5! BxRP 33 R-B5 reducing material to the three K-side files it is not clear whether Black can win though he still has good chances. (Remember that in the 1961 title match with Botvinnik Tal showed his virtuosity with the bishops in the ending by winning the very rare ending K+ 2B versus K+N)!

25	...	Q—B4!
26	KR—B1	B—N2
27	Q—KB3	

After 27 Q-N8+ Black can offer his bishop by 27 ... K-R2 since 28 QxB BxP+ is the thematic blow which figures time and again in the play hereabouts. Korchnoy suggested 27 P-KR3 as a better move but Shamkovich's 27 ... B-Q3! yields a winning attack after 28 Q-QN3 RxR 29 QxR Q-KN4 or 29 RxR Q-K5.

27	...	Q—N4
28	Q—QN3	

Not 28 Q-KN3 BxP+! 29 KxB (29 QxB QxR+) RxR+ 30 RxR Q-KB4+, nor 28 P-KR4? QxRP 29 RxB RxR attacking the queen. 28 P-KR3 to play 29 Q-N4 has been suggested by Korchnoy but then 28 ... R-B2 29 Q-N4 Q-K4 and 30 ... B-Q3 continues with the K side attack.

28	...	R—B2
29	P—N3	

Both 29 QxP+ R-B2 and 29 Q-KR3 BxP+ 30 KxB Q-B5+ 31 K-K1 (31 K-N1 Q-Q5+ 32 K-B1 B-R3+) 31 ... Q-K5+ 32 K-Q1 B-R3! are convincing wins for Black. As played White loses in a slightly more prolonged way.

29	...	BxP+!
----	-----	-------

30 KxB Q-B3+

A quicker way was 30 ... Q-KB4+
31 K-N1 (31 K-K1 Q-K5+) 31 ... Q-K5
reaching the position after the 35th
move in the actual game.

31 K-K1

Or 31 K-N1 Q-Q5+ 32 K-B1 R-B2+
33 K-K1 Q-K5+ 34 R-K2 Q-R8+ 35 K-
Q2 R-Q2+ 36 K-B2 R-QB2+.

31 ... Q-K4+

32 K-B1

Or 32 K-Q1 Q-Q5+ 33 K-K1 Q-N8+
34 K-K2 QxP+ 35 K-K1 Q-R8+ 36 K-
K2 Q-K5+ 37 K-Q1 R-Q2+ 38 R-Q2
Q-R8+ 39 K-K2! Q-N7+! wins.

32 ... B-R3+

33 K-N1

Or 33 K-N2 Q-K5+ 34 K-N1 (34 K-
R3 RxR 35 QxR B-B8+!) 34 ... B-N2!
as in the game.

33 ... Q-Q5+

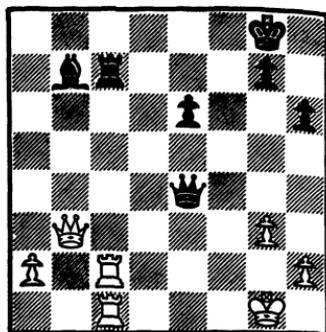
34 K-N2 Q-K5+

35 K-N1 B-N2!

Mission achieved!

see diagram next column

36 P-KR4



The ponderous rooks cannot help
the defence and huddle together for
safety while the king perishes.

36 ... Q-R8+

37 K-B2 R-B2+

38 K-K2

Or 38 K-K3 Q-K5+ 39 K-Q2 R-Q2+
and mates.

38 ... Q-K5+

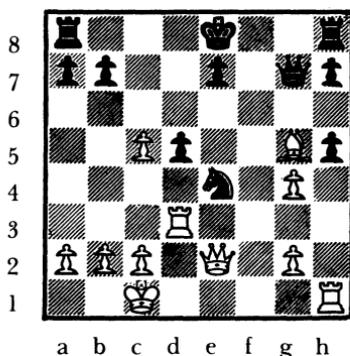
39 Resigns

The queen is lost after 39 Q-K3 B-
R3+ 40 K-Q2 R-Q2+.

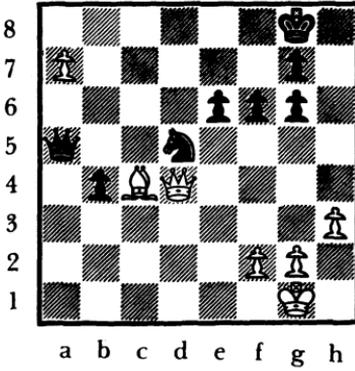
FIND THE WINNING CONTINUATION!

This part of the book gives the reader a chance to test his own chess if he is so inclined. Below are twenty-one positions from Tal's games and you are invited to work out for yourself the conclusion. Alternatively you can simply play over the solutions and enjoy some typical Tal play.

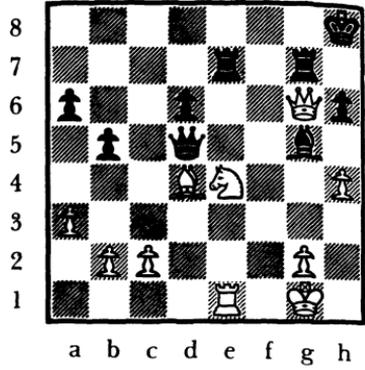
Position 18 is slightly different from the rest. Here Tal is Black and he fails to find the correct line and so loses a game which he should have held. The reason for the inclusion of this position is to be found with the solution.



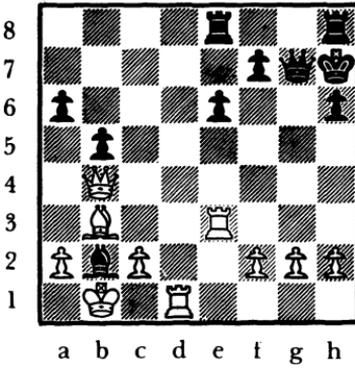
1 White to move.



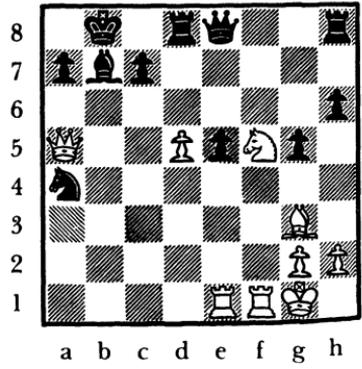
2 White to move.



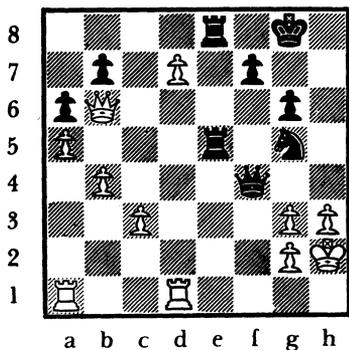
3 White to move.



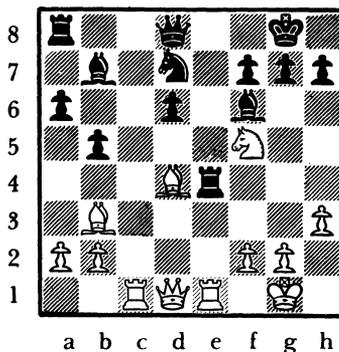
4 White to move



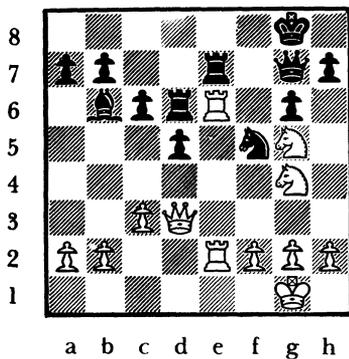
5 White to move



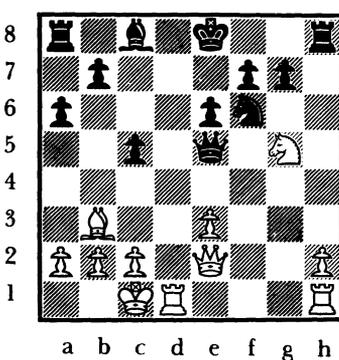
6 Black to move.



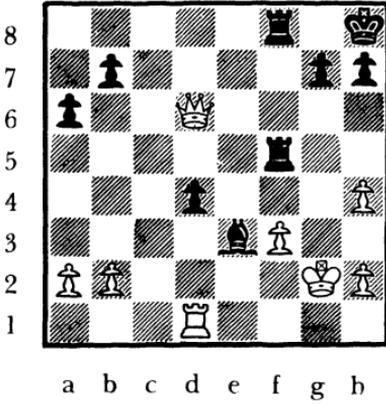
7 White to move.



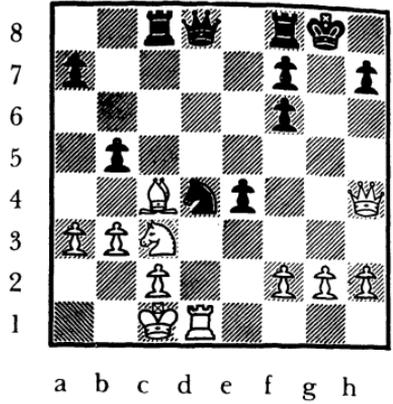
8 White to move



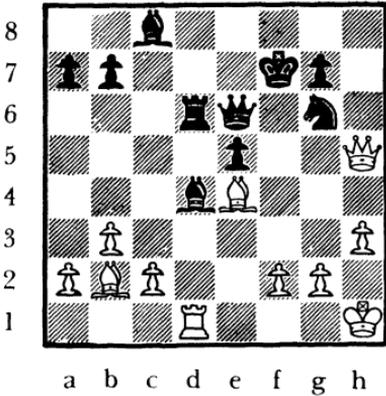
9 White to move.



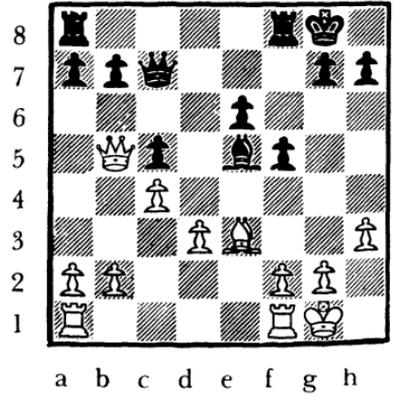
10 Black to move.



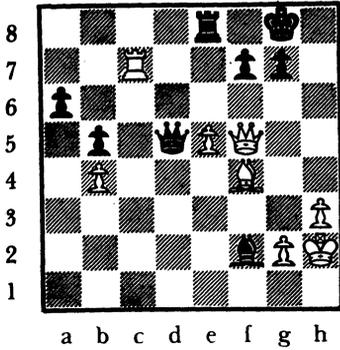
11 White to move.



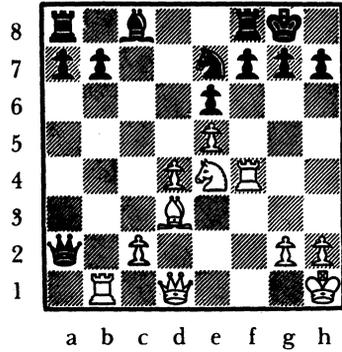
12 White to move.



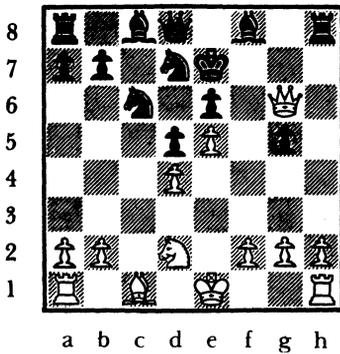
13 Black to move.



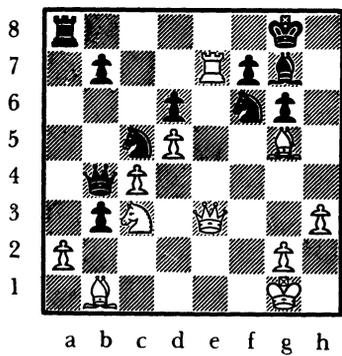
14 White to move.



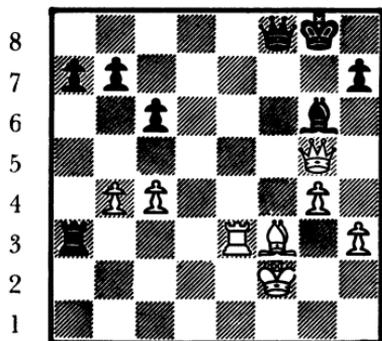
15 White to move.



16 White to move.

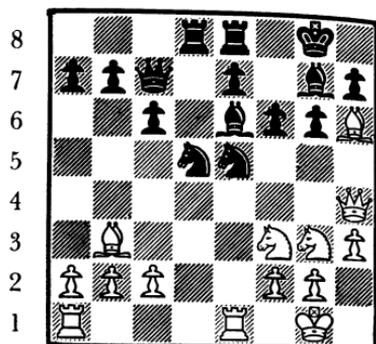


17 White to move.



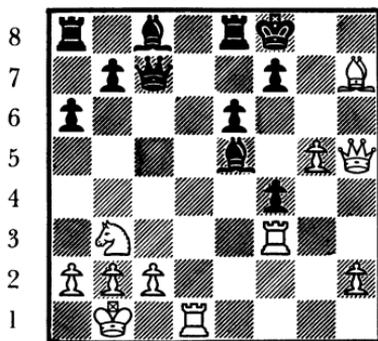
a b c d e f g h

18 Black to move.



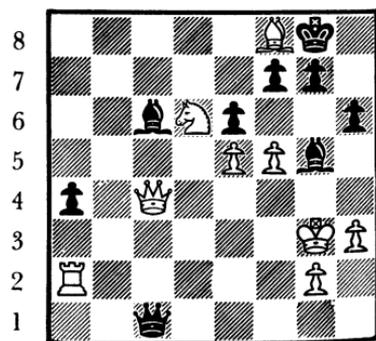
a b c d e f g h

19 White to move.



a b c d e f g h

20 White to move.



a b c d e f g h

21 Black to move.

SOLUTIONS

1 Tal-Campomanes, Olympiad 1960. 23 Rxd5 Nxc5 24 Qb5+ Kf7 25 Rf1+ Kg6 26 Qd3+ Kh6 27 Rh1 1-0.

2 Tal-Botvinnik, Match 1961. 44 Bb5 b3 (Hoping for 45 Bc6 b2) 45 Qa4! 1-0 (45 ... Qxa4 46 Bxa4 Nb6 47 Bxb3 and 48 Ba4 etc.)

3 Tal-Olafsson, Bled 1962. 30 Bxc7+ Rxc7 31 Qxd6 (31 Qh5? Be3+) Qxd6 32 Nxd6 Bxh4 33 Re8+ Rg8 (33 ... Kh7 34 Nf5 Rg4 35 Re6) 34 Nf7+ Kg7 35 Rxc8+ Kxc8 36 Nxc6+ Kh7 37 Nf5 Bg5 38 b3 Kg6 1-0.

4 Tal-Barcza, Olympiad 1962. 24 Rg3 Qe5 (24 ... Qf6 25 Qe4+) 25 f4 Qe2 26 Kxb2 a5 (26 ... Qxd1 27 Qe4+ f5 28 Qb7+ mates) 27 Rd7! 1-0 (27 Rhf8 28 Qd4 e5 29 Bxf7 exd4 30 Bg8+ Kh8 31 Rh7 mate.)

5 Tal-Mnatsakanian, USSR Champ. 1962. 30 Bxe5 Qd7 (30 ... Rh7 31 Bxc7+ followed by 32 Rxe8 and 33 Qxa4) 31 Bxh8 Rxh8 32 Ral Nb6 33 Qxa7+ Kc8 34 d6! 1-0 (35 Ne7+ is too strong).

6 Holmov-Tal, Moscow Lightning Champ. 1963. 38 ... Nf3+ 39 Kh1 (39 gxf3 Re2+) 39 ... Qxc3 40 dxe8(Q)+ Rxe8 41 Qd6 Re5 42 gxf3 Qxh3+ 43 Kg1 Qg3+ 44 Kf1 Qxf3+ 45 Kg1 Rg5+ 46 Kh2 Qg2 mate.

7 Tal-Johannsson, Reykjavik 1964. 22 Nxd6! (Not 22 Bxf7+ Kh8! 23 Rxe4 Bxe4 24 Nxd6 Bxd4 25 Qxd4 Qg5) 22...Rxd4 (22...Rxe1+ 23 Qxe1 Bxd4 24 Nxf7 Qf6 25 Rc7!) 23 Nxf7! Rxd1 (23...Qf8 24 Qh5 Rh4 25 Ne5+ Kh8 26 Ng6 mate) 24 Nxd8+ Bd5 25 Rcxdl Bxb3 26 Rxd7 1-0.

244 Solutions

8 Tal-Quinones, Interzonal 1964. 23 Rxe7 Nxe7 24 Ne6 1-0 (24...Qf7 25 Nh6+; 24...Qh8 25 Nh6 mate).

9 Tal-Benko, Interzonal 1964. 19 Rd8+! Ke7 (19...Kxd8 20 Nxf7+ wins queen) 20 Rxh8 Qxg5 21 Qd2 1-0 (21...Nd5 22 c4!).

10 Kapengut-Tal, Latvian Champ. 1965. 28 ...Rxf3 29 Rxd4 Rf2+ 30 Kg3 (30 Kh1 Rf1+ 31 Kg2 R8f2+ 32 Kg3 Rg1+ and 33 ... Rf3+ mate.) 30 ... R2f6! 0-1 (31 Qd5 Bxd4 32 Qxd4 Rg6+ 33 Kh3 Rf3 mate.)

11 Tal-Peterson, Latvian Champ. 1965. 20 Nd5 bxc4 (20 ... Rc6! 21 Qxe4! Re6 22 Qg4+ Kh8 23 Nf4 with many threats) 21 Nxf6+ Qxf6 (21 ... Kg7 22 Qg5+ Kh8 23 Qh6) 22 Qxf6 Ne6 23 b4 and soon won.

12 Tal-Filip, Moscow 1967. 26 Ba3 Ra6 (26 ... Rd8 27 Rd3 and 23 Rg3) 27 Rxd4! 1-0 (27 ... exd4 28 Bd5 Rxa3 29 Qf5+!).

13 Gurgenidze-Tal, Gori 1968. 17 ... f4 18 Bxc5 Rf5! 19 f3 (19 Ba3 f3 20 g3 Bd4 21 Q moves Qxg3+ mates) 19 ... Bf6 20 d4 b6 wins a piece.

14 Tal-Holmov, USSR Champ. 1969. 35 Rc8 Rf8 (35 ... Rxc8? 36 Qxc8+ and 37 Qc2+ wins a piece) 36 Bg5! 1-0 (36 ... Bb6 37 Rxf8+ and 38 Qc8+).

15 Tal-Gedevanishvili, Georgian Ch. 1970. 18 Nf6+ gxf6 (18 ... Kh8 19 Rh4 h6 20 Qc1 and 21 Rxh6+) 19 Bxh7+ Kh8 (19 ... Kxh7 20 exf6!) 20 Rh4 Kg7 21 Qc1 Ng8 22 Bxg8 1-0.

16 Tal-Sotnikov, 'simul, Riazan 1970. 13 Nc4! Bh6 (13 ... Nb6 abandoning the queen is better.) 14 Bxg5+ Bxg5 15 Qg7+ Ke8 16 Nd6 mate.

17 Tal-Solmanis, Riga Lightning Champ. 1971. 1 Bxg6 bxa2 (1 ... fxc6 2 Rxg7+ and 3 Qe7) 2 Bxf6! a1(Q)+ 3 Kh2 Qaxc3 (3 ... Bxf6 4 Qh6) 4 Bxf7+ Kh7 (4 ... Kf8 5 Re8+) 5 Bg6+! and mate in two.

18 Uusi-Tal, Viljandi 1972. 42 ... Rxe3 43 Qxe3 Qxb4 44 Qxa7 Qd2+ draws. Tal played 42 ... Ra2+ 43 Kg3 Qxb4? when 44 c5 forces a win, but White preferred 44 Re8+ Kf7 45 Qe5 Ra3 46 Qe6+ Kg7 47 Rg8+ Kh6 48 g5+ Kxg5 49 Qe5+ and mates.

This position is somewhat different from the others in this section, as is indicated in the introduction on page 237. It is quoted here solely because there is a small but interesting story behind it. The game was played in a tournament at Viljandi in Estonia and the part of the game we quote was played in an adjourned session. When writing about this game in a Russian periodical, Tal mentioned that his hotel was about half an hour away from the playing hall, on foot! No transport was available apparently and the walk involved several steep climbs. Tal is no athlete by anybody's standards and has suffered several quite serious illnesses over the past decade so it is not surprising that his play in the adjourned session was below par. Criticisms of the playing arrangements in tournaments are frequently made and there it is sometimes implied that conditions in Western events are inferior to those-elsewhere. This story serves to balance the picture a little.

19 Tal-Timman, Olympiad 1973. 18 Rxe5 fxe5 19 Ng5 Bf6 (19 ... Bc8 20 Bxg7 and 21 Qxh7+) 20 Nxe6 1-0.

20 Tal-Shamkovich, USSR Champ. 1972. 25 Rxf4 Bxf4 (25 ... f5 26 gxf6 Bxf4 27 Bg6) 26 Qh6+ Ke7 27 Qf6+ Kf8 28 g6 Bh6 29 Rf1 1-0 (29 ... Rd8 30 Qh8+ Ke7 31 Rxf7+ Kd6 32 Qd4+ Kc6 33 Qc5 mate).

21 Botterill-Tal, European Team Champ. Bath. 43 ... Qe3+ 44 Kg4 (44 Kh2 Bf4+ 45 Kg1 Qe1+) 44 ... Bh4! 45 Be7 (45 Kxh4 Qg5 mate; 45 Qf4 h5+; 45 Nxf7 Qg3+ 46 Kh5 Be8! mates) 45 ... Bxe7 46 Nxf7 (46 Qxc6 h5+ and 47 ... Qg5 mates) 46 ... h5+ 47 Kxh5 Be8 48 Kg4 exf5+! 49 Kxf5 g6+ 50 Kg4 (50 Kxg6 Qg5 mate) 50 ... Bd7+ 0-1.

Tal and Elo

The need for an international Rating List has been felt for a long time to help assess comparative performances in different tournaments. The world ruling body FIDE has now adopted the system worked out by Professor Arpad Elo of the United States.

On this rating scale 2400 is the international master standard, 2500 the grandmaster standard and 2600 the standard of 'world class' player or world championship contender.

The system is of comparative recent origin and its corrected figures do not always fit neatly into calendar years. Nevertheless the figures below give a good idea of how Tal fell to his lowest ebb in 1969 and then began a climb back. For comparison we give the ratings of the three leading players of the last few years.

	1966-68	1969	1970	1971	1972
Fischer	2720	2720	2725	2760	2785
Spassky	2690	2670	2690	2690	2660
Petrosian	2650	2650	2640	2640	2645
Tal	2610	2590	2610	2620	2625

The last figure (2625) only covers play up to the middle of 1972. A later corrected figure up to the end of 1972 puts Tal on the 2655 mark and his results at Wijk aan Zee and in particular at Tallin should have put him above Petrosian and Spassky, but still well below Fischer who is the only player in the history of the game ever to have gone above 2750.

Index of Players

The numbers refer to games

Alburt	93
Averbakh	6
Bagirov	72
Bannik	12
Barcza	76
Beyen	91
Bilek	15, 22, 46
Bogdanovic	50
Bokuchava	68
Bolbochan	44
Botvinnik	4, 42
Bronstein	48, 80
Byrne R	84
Cherapkov	61
Ciric	40
Danov	85
Donner	54, 96
Fuchs	28
Gasic	39
Geller	49
Ghitescu	14
Giterman	79
Gligoric	55
Gufeld	56
Gulko	74
Gurgenidze	8, 60
Haag	66
Hamann	41
Hecht	10
Hermlin	47, 88
Hetman	16
Heuer	87
Hodos	13
Holm	71
Hort	43
Ong Yok Hwa	37
Kolarov	70
Krogius	29, 82

250 *Index of Opponents*

Kupreichik	73
Langeweg	97
Larsen	34, 35, 62
Letelier	17
Liberson	27
Liebert	92
Littlewood N	20
Lutikov	26
Matanovic	19
Mikenas	58
Mohrlock	9
Mukhin	86, 95
Najdorf	2, 69
Ney	77
Nikolaevsky	81
Pachman	23, 38
Padevsky	18
Parma	7
Petrosian	47
Podgaets	75
Portisch	32, 33
Ree	90
Smyslov	25
Spassky	36, 100
Spiridonov	67
Suetin	65
Suttles	89
Taimanov	11
Thorbergsson	21
Timman	99
Toran	5
Tringov	24
Tseshkovsky	59
Tukmakov	64
Ufimtsev	51
Uhlmann	83
Unzicker	1, 3
Vasiukov	30, 52
Vooremaa	78
Wade	45
Westerinen	98
Zaitsev A	63
Zhuravlev	31, 53
Zilbershtein	94

Index of Openings

The numbers refer to games

King's Pawn Openings

QP Counter Gambit	26
Ruy Lopez	1, 3, 6, 8, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 29, 47, 49, 61, 82
Alekhine Centre Counter	34, 52, 75 48
Sicilian	2, 7, 9, 11, 16, 22, 23, 27, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 44, 45, 50, 65, 68, 69, 73, 78, 84, 95, 97, 98
Caro Kann	4, 30, 42, 60, 72, 81, 87
French	18, 32, 54, 63, 71, 83
Pirc/Robatsch/Modern	15, 24, 56, 58, 70, 90, 94

Queen's Pawn Openings

Queen's Gambit Accepted	13
Queen's Gambit Declined	28, 39, 66
Queen's Pawn Veresov System	93
Catalan	85
Nimzoindian	38, 86, 100
Bojoltjubow	55, 79
Queen's Indian	10, 43
King's Indian	21, 62, 67, 92, 99
Old Indian	31
Grunfeld	74
Benoni	51, 57, 64, 77, 91

Flank Openings

English	5, 25, 59, 80, 96
Reti	53, 89
King's Indian Attack	46, 88
Barcza Opening	76