

CHESS BARBS BOBBY'S CONVINCER

By JUDE ACERS (U.S. Senior Master)

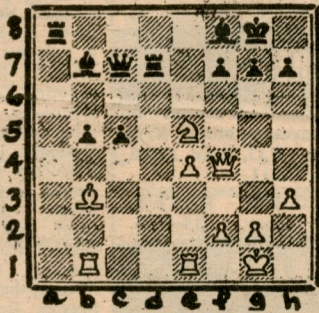
Fischer's outstanding past performances on the White side of the Ruy Lopez have earned him the right to be considered the world's foremost authority on this complex opening.

Against Spassky in the 10th game of their grueling title match Fischer gave a superb exhibition, combining intricate positional maneuvering with sharp combinational blows aimed at the enemy king. The result was one of the most convincing victories achieved by Fischer in the series.

Spassky must have been impressed, too, for he dropped the Ruy Lopez from his opening repertoire as Black until game no. 16.

White: Robert Fischer. Black: Boris Spassky. World Championship, Match Game No. 10. Reykjavik, Iceland, August 3-4, 1972. Ruy Lopez 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6(A) 8 c3 0-0 9 h3 Nb8(B) 10 d4 Nbd7 11 Nbd2(C) Bb7 12 Bc2(D) Re8 13 b4 (E) Bf8(F) 14 a4(G) Nb6(H)

15 a5(I) Nbd7(J) 16 Bb2(K) Qb8? (L) 17 Rb1(M) c5(N) 18 bc dc(O) 19 de Ne5 20 Ne5 Qe5 21 c4 Qf4(P) 22 Bf6(Q) Qf6 23 cb Red8(R) 24 Qcl(S) Qc3(T) 25 Nf3 Qa5?(U) 26 Bb3(V) ab 27 Qf4 Rd7(W)



Position after 28...Qc7.

28 Ne5 Qc7(X) 29 Rbd1 Re7(Y) 30 Bf7ch Rf7(Z) 31 Qf7ch Qf7 32 Nf7 Be4 33 Re4(AA) Kf7 34 Rd7ch Kf6 35 Rb7(BB) Ralch 36 Kh2 Bd6ch 37 g3 b4 38 Kg2 h5 39 Rb6 Rdl 40 Kf3 Kf7(CC) 41 Ke2 Rd5 42 f4(DD) g6 43 g4 hg 44 hg(EE) g5(FF) 45 f5 Be5 46 Rb5(GG) Kf6(HH) 47 Reb4 Bd4(II) 48 Rb6ch Ke5 49 Kf3(JJ) Rd8 50 Rb8(KK) Rd7(LL) 51 R4b7 Rd6 52 Rb6 Rd7 53 Rg6(MM) Kd5 54 Rg5 Be5 55 f6 Kd4 56 Rbl Black resigns(NN).

(Annotations to the game are by international grandmaster Svetozar Gligorich, adapted from the Icelandic magazine, "Skak".)

(A) Spassky used the Marshall Attack (7...0-0 8 c3 d5!) against Fischer at Santa Monica in 1966, but times have changed and the variation has since been exhaustively analyzed.

(B) The Breyer line, one of Spassky's favorites. Black tries to shore up his weak queen-side pawns and prepare for flexible development of his minor pieces.

(C) Fischer used to play 11 Nh4, which would come as no surprise to his opponent. A sharp line is 11 c4, that Fischer employed versus Portisch in Santa Monica, 1966.

(D) Covering the "e" pawn while freeing squares for a pawn offensive on the queen side.

(E) Spassky obtained very little against Unzicker (again, Santa Monica, 1966) with 13 Nf1 Bf8 14 Ng3 g6 15 Bf5 h6 16 Bd2 Bg7. The textmove was first tried in the games Suetin -- Tringov, Titovo Uzice, 1967, and Balashov -- Podgaets, Moscow, 1967. The most recent example with this move is Parma -- Unzicker, Berlin, 1971.

(F) The logical response. At one time or another 13...a5, 13...ed and 13...d5 have all been played, but Spassky's move is more logical.

(G) The same position occurred in the game Balashov -- Podgaets, Moscow, 1967. Parma conducted a different experiment, opting for 14 Bb2 Nb6 15 a3, threatening 16 c4.

(H) New and promising. Black puts the question to his opponent regarding future queen-side operations. The continuation 14...c5 15 bc ed (or 15...dc 16 de 17 Ne5 Re5 18 f4 with a better position for White) 16.cd dc would be unclear

(Balashov -- Podgaets, Moscow, 1967).

(I) There is nothing in 15 ab ab for White.

(J) Black's pieces take up their previous posts without having wasted time on pawn moves. White has problems finding an effective plan of development because of the pressure on his "e" pawn.

(K) The only way to mobilize his forces. After 16 d5 c6 17 c4 bc 18 dc Bc6 19 Nc4 Qc7 Black gets good counterplay.

(L) Again, ready for 17 d5 c6 18 c4 bc 19 dc Bc6 20 Nc4 Qb4. Now the queen may give additional protection to Black's "e" pawn or prepare for the doubling of rooks, but such maneuvers look rather artificial.

(M) To guard the weak "b" pawn after a possible break by c4. White is also set for 17...c5 18 bc dc 19 de Ne5 20 Ne5 Qe5 21 c4.

(N) Since 17...Qa7 18 c4! would not work well for Black, he tries his only chance for an active fight.

(O) And not 18...ed 19 cd dc 20 e5, opening diagonals leading to the Black king.

(P) All forced. Black's counter-attacking chances rest with Rad8.

(Q) Liquidating the threats and aiming to win a pawn or to improve his position on the queen side.

(R) The alternative was 23...Rad8, but Black does not fear 24 e5 Qg5!, winning. The pin on the "d" is annoying.

(S) Parrying Black's Qc3 before it proves too strong.

(T) Intending to win back the

pawn.

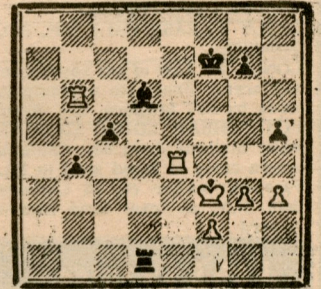
(U) Leaves the king side unprotected. Better was 25...ab.

(V) Good enough is 26 ba Ba6 27 e5, but White prefers to start immediate offensive operations.

(W) The only chance. White wins easily on 27...c4 28 Bc4 bc 29 Rb7 Qh5 30 g4!

(X) Again, the only way to hold off the knight.

(Y) Or 29...Rad8 30 Bf7ch Rf7



Position after 40...Kf7.

31 Qf7ch Qf7 32 Kf7 Be4 33Ng5, and White wins.

(Z) Of course not 30...Kh8?? 31 Ng6ch hg 32 Ch4mate.

(AA) White loses a precious tempo by 33 Nh6ch that must be used to stop Black's passed pawns: 33...gh 34 Re4 c4!

(BB) The best way to immobilize the pawns.

(CC) The game was adjourned here, White sealing his 41st move.

(DD) Preventing Be5. On his 38th turn Black could have placed his bishop on the long black diagonal (instead of 38...h5), but it could hardly have helped him after 39 f4 Bd4 40 g4.

(EE) Threatening 45 g5 and R-b7-d7 with a deadly pin. Therefore Black struggles desperately to gain greater space and freedom for his bishop.

(FF) The best out. Instead of being slowly strangled, Black puts his bishop on a key square and looks for counterplay.

(GG) Homing in on another Zugzwang position, i.e., 46...Kf6 47 Rg7! (besides the threat of 47 Reb4!).

(HH) Yet Black does not find a better choice. The end is near: 47 Reb4 cb 48 Rd5 b3 49 Re5! Ke5 50 Kd3 and White wins the king and pawn ending.

(II) An unexpected move! Black has surrendered a pawn but activated his pieces and now tries one more chance to save the game.

(JJ) With a mate threat on e6 and preventing 49...Kf4.

(KK) Keeping Black off the "h" file.

(LL) Not 50...cb 51 Rd8 b3 52 Rb8 b2 53 Rb5ch and 54 Ke4 with an easy win for White.

(MM) The clincher. Black's "g" pawn is doomed, while his passed pawn on the queen side offers insufficient counterchances.

(NN) If 56...Bf6, Rd1ch wins.