

Richard Shorman

Chess

Others may have been misled into thinking that Fischer's 6-0 shut-out against Taimanov was easy . . . but not the embattled players!

"All the games were difficult," admitted Fischer after the match, "and were not one-sided over the board."

"The games were much more difficult than the final results showed," Taimanov concurred. "But I have not made such mistakes since my childhood."

White: Mark Taimanov. Black: Robert Fischer.
World Championship Candidates' Series, Vancouver, 1971.
Gruenfeld Defense

1 P-Q4	N-KB3	25 PxP	PxP
2 P-QB4	P-KN3	26 Q-Q6(j)	R-B1(k)
3 N-QB3	P-Q4	27 P-R5	B-B1
4 B-N5	N-K5	28 Q-Q2	B-K2
5 B-R4	NxN	29 B-Q5	Q-B2
6 PxN	PxP	30 BxB	QxB
7 P-K3	B-K3	31 Q-Q7	K-B2(l)
8 R-N1	P-N3	32 QxP	PxP
9 B-K2!(a)	B-R3(b)	33 P-K4(m)	Q-B3(n)
10 N-B3	P-QB3	34 R-Q7(o)	QxP
11 N-K5	B-N2(c)	35 P-R3	P-R5
12 P-B4	B-Q4	36 B-B2(p)	K-B1
13 0-0	N-Q2	37 P-B4	P-R6!
14 NxP/4	0-0	38 QxRP	R-R1
15 P-R4(d)	P-QB4	39 Q-N2	K-K1
16 N-K5(e)	NxN	40 Q-N5	K-B1
17 QPxN	P-B3	41 R-Q1	QxKBP
18 R-N2!	B-K3(f)	42 BxP	BxB
19 R-Q2	Q-B2(g)	43 QxBch	K-N2
20 B-N4!(h)	Q-B1!	44 R-KB1(q)	Q-K5(r)
21 B-B3	R-N1	45 Q-B7ch	K-R3
22 Q-K2	R-Q1	46 RxP?(s)	Q-Q5ch
23 R/1-Q1	RxR	47 R-B2	R-R8ch
24 QxR(i)	Q-K1	48 Resigns	

(Condensed notes by former world champion Mikhail Tal, translated from "64," No. 23, June 4-10, 1971, pp. 6-7, 16)

(a) Mecking tried 8 N-B3 B-N2 9 B-K2 unsuccessfully against Fischer at Buenos Aires last year. Taimanov's move is a lot trickier since 9 . . . B-N2 meets with 10 B-B3 P-QB3 11 N-K2, followed by N-B4.

(b) Black no longer fears 10 B-B3 P-QB3 11 N-K2 because of 11 . . . 0-0 12 N-B4 BxN or 12 . . . B-B1, threatening 13 . . . P-KN4.

(c) An attempt to hold the pawn by 11 . . . P-QN4 leads to serious problems after 11 B-B3 Q-N3 12 P-Q5!

(d) With the unpleasant threat of 16 N-Q2 and 17 P-K4, not feasible earlier because of . . . BxRP.

(e) Now that Black has played P-QB4 White must take the weakness of his own Q4 into account, so he modifies his plan.

(f) The threat was 19 R-Q2, winning a piece.

(g) Black's troubles would be over if he were able to move a rook to Q1. Taimanov shows how hard it is to enforce.

(h) Equally unattractive for Black now are 20 . . . BxB 21 QxB QR-Q1 (21 . . . PxP 22 Q-K6ch K-R1 23 R-Q7) 22 R/1-Q1 RxR 23 Q-K6ch! K-R1 24 RxR R-Q1 25 PxP! PxP 26 BxB and 20 . . . P-B4 21 B-B3, shutting in Black's KB.

(i) To my mind, 24 RxR looks more dangerous, e.g., 24 . . . Q-K1 (or 24 . . . Q-B2 25 PxP PxP 26 Q-Q1) 25 Q-R6 PxP 26 QxRP PxP 27 B-QB6! Q-QB1 27 BxP.

(j) White must have placed great hopes on this incursion by the queen. But Fischer repulses this foray, too.

(k) Preventing 27 Q-B7. Black is not afraid of 27 B-N7 B-B1! 28 Q-Q2 R-N1.

(l) Of course the white rook cannot be permitted access to the seventh rank and 31. . . QxPch? loses to 32 B-B2.

(m) White agrees to give up the KP for the open file.

(n) And not immediately 33. . . QxP 34 R-K1 R-QR1 35 Q-B7.

(o) Black threatened 34. . . R-QR1.

(p) Hitting the QEP restrains Black's RP: 36. . . P-R6 37 BxB RxB 38 QxR P-R7 39 Q-R7 39 Q-R7 Q-K8ch 40 K-R2 P-R8-Q 41 RxBch.

(q) White's passed pawn counts for little so long as his king safely is involved. Perhaps 44 Q-Q5 improves somewhat on the textmove.

(r) Much more active than 44. . . Q-K4, requiring exact play in the ensuing rook ending. The black queen exercises maximum mobility on K5 and incidentally sets a simple trap, which Taimanov quite unexpectedly falls into.

(s) Just incredible! Did White really think that his opponent had simply overlooked the loss of a pawn?

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According to a UPI report from Moscow, June 8, reigning world chess champion Boris Spassky told the Communist Party newspaper "Pravda" that American Bobby Fischer has the best chance to wrest away his crown. "These chances, however, may remain nothing but chances," Spassky said. "Fischer still has to play Bent Larsen of Denmark, who is a battle-scarred fighter. His sporting, fighting qualities are superior to those of Fischer. But Fischer has the advantage of being a chess master."