

chess

by richard shorman



Botvinnik may be the last of the truly great chess champions who in his prime towered head and shoulders above all his competitors. Today's game aptly illustrates the flexible thinking that has kept him in the forefront of the chess world these many years.

Original notes by the winner translated from *Shakhmatnoe tvorchestvo Botvinnika* (Botvinnik's Creative Chess) by V. D. Baturinsky.

White: Mikhail Yudovich. Black: Mikhail Botvinnik.

1966 Moscow Team Championships.

Robatsch Defense

1 P-K4	P-KN3	18 N-K5	BxN!(i)
2 P-Q4	P-Q3	19 QPxB(j)	N-B4
3 N-QB3	P-QB3	20 Q-B2...k)	P-KR4
4 P-B4(a)	B-N2	21 P-QN4	R-KN1(1)
5 B-K3(b)	Q-N3	22 R-N1	P-R5(m)
6 R-N1(c)	P-KB4	23 B-K1	K-B2
7 N-B3	N-Q2!(d)	24 P-N5	R-N2
8 PxP	PxP	25 Px-P	BxP
9 B-Q3	N/2-B3	26 N-K2	P-K6(n)
10 Q-K2	N-R3	27 Q-B1	R1-KN1
11 P-KR3(e)	B-Q3	28 P-N4(o)	PxPe.p.ch
12 0-0	Q-B2	29 Bx-P	P-Q5
13 N-KN5	P-Q4(f)	30 R-N4	NxB
14 B-Q2	Q-Q3(g)	31 RxN	QxP
15 K-R2	N-K5	32 RxRch	RxR
16 N-B3(h)	Q-N3	33 Resigns	
17 BxN	BPxB		

(a) This move makes little sense without a Black Knight on KB3.

(b) White is already experiencing some difficulty. If 5 N-B3 then Black answers effectively with 5... B-N5.

(c) Not a particularly attractive move, which incidentally precludes Queen-side castling, but what else is there? Taking advantage of White's undefended QB, Black obtains a strong point for his pieces by pushing P-KB4.

(d) Black's prime concern is to develop QN properly. This Knight is headed for KB3, while the KN will forego its usual station to enter the game by way of KR3. As before, P-K5 cannot be enforced, i.e., 8 P-K5 PxP 9 BPxP NxP 10 NxN BxN 11 N-R4 Q-R4ch. Nevertheless, White should refrain from trading off his KP, since it facilitates Black's control of White's K4.

(e) Preparing a possible P-KN4.

(f) White's seemingly active flank move with his Knight allows Black to carry out his plan for the occupation of K5.

(g) It is essential that K3 be defended. Premature would be 14... N-K5 because of 15 Q-R5ch.

(h) Admitting that his 13th move was wrong. Now 16 Q-R5ch is pointless, since Black simply replies 16... Q-N3.

(i) Black succeeds in posting a Knight on KB4, which practically foreordains the outcome of the game.

(j) Perhaps 19 BPxB N-B4 20 Q-B2 P-KR4 21 N-K2 is a bit better. White's KBP just gets in the way of his pieces.

(k) Equivalent to resignation. Apparently White's last hope is 21 P-KN4 N-Q5 22 Q-K3 (22 P-B5 Q-N2 23 P-B6 Q-B2) N-B6ch 23 RxN, but after 23... PxR he cannot play 24 PB5 (24 QxBP QxBP) because of 24... BxP.

(l) Threatening to win a piece by 22... P-K6.

(m) Renewing the threat of P-K6 (23... P-K6 24 BxP Q-N6ch).

(n) All that remains is to play the QR to KN1 and open the long diagonal for Black's Bishop.

(o) Nothing can save White now.

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PENINSULA OPEN TOURNAMENT

A total of \$500 and 10 trophies will be awarded in four divisions at the Fourth Annual Peninsula Open Chess Tournament, April 26-27, in the LERA main auditorium, Sunnyvale. A junior event for players under 16 will be held separately. Entry fee is \$10 in the Open Division plus USCF-CFNC membership, \$7 in the CFNC "A", "B" or "C" sections plus CFNC membership, and \$3 plus CFNC membership in the junior divisions. International Master George Koltanowski will direct this five-round Swiss system event, which begins at noon (1 p.m. for juniors), Saturday, April 26.

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SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION

USCF chess master Jude Acers will take on all comers in simultaneous exhibition, Monday, April 28, at 8 p.m., at the Hayward Chess Club, 2058 D St. A lecture will precede the actual demonstration of the master's skill. Board fee is only \$1.