

Richard Shorman

Chess

Original notes by the winner translated from "Shakhmatnos tvorchestvo Botvinnika" (Botvinnik's Chess Art) compiled by V. D. Baturinsky (Moscow, 1966, vol. 2, pp. 241-42).
White: Mikhail Botvinnik. Black: Paul Keres.
World Championship Match Tournament, The Hague, 1948.
Nimzo-Indian Defense

1 P-Q4	N-KB3	13 B-N2	PxP(e)
2 P-QB4	P-K3	14 P-K4!	B-K3
3 N-QB3	B-N5	15 R-B1	R-K2(f)
4 P-K3	0-0	16 QxP	Q-B2(g)
5 P-QR3	BxNch	17 P-B5	PxP
6 PxB	R-K1(a)	18 RxP	Q-B5(h)
7 N-K2	P-K4	19 B-B1	Q-N1
8 N-N3	P-Q3	20 R-KN5(i)	QN-Q2
9 B-K2	QN-Q2(b)	21 RxPch!	KxR
10 0-0	P-B4	22 N-R5ch	K-N3(j)
11 P-B3!(c)	BPxP(d)	23 Q-K3	Resigns(k)
12 BPxP	N-N3		

(a) Next round, Reshevsky played the strongest move against me, 6 . . . P-B4. White deploys his Knight to K2 in opposition to Black's planned P-K4-K5.

(b) More logical may be 9 . . . P-B4 followed by N-B3.

(c) The misplaced Knight begins to take its toll. Lack of pressure on his Q4 lets White get in P-K4.

(d) Keres regularly exchanged these pawns in the Nimzo-Indian, but here he only activates White's QB and undoubles his opponent's pawns.

(e) An obvious oversight, probably based on 14 PxP P-Q4! Instead, White concentrates on Black's vulnerable KN2.

(f) Too passive. Preferable is 15 . . . R-QB1 16 QxP N-R5 17 B-R1 N-B4.

(g) Thoughtless. With two powerful bishops, the open lines must favor White.

(h) A few commentators stated that 18 . . . Q-Q1 might save Black, but after 19 Q-K3 (Also good is 19 QxQch RxQ 20 BxN PxB 21 N-R5.) White's threats cannot be parried long.

(i) Decisive, as 20 . . . N-K1 loses to 21 N-R5 P-N3 22 NxPch.

(j) The back rank offers no more protection.

(k) Checkmate follows. Black stopped his clock with only seconds to go.

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THE SUPERLATIVE BOTVINNIK

Botvinnik first certified his right to the world's championship in 1948 by finishing three points ahead of the field in a picked five-man, 20-round, match tournament to determine Alekhine's successor.

Then, twice in succession, he successfully defended his title against Bronstein (1951) and Smyslov (1954).

Smyslov came back to dethrone him in 1957 only to be ousted in turn a year later.

In 1960 Botvinnik was laid low by Tal's explosive combinations and the world believed the era of Botvinnik had come to an end. But the 1961 return match saw him bounce back to score an overwhelming triumph. Never in the history of chess had a world champion recovered his crown twice.

Then Petrosian beat him in a grueling title bout in 1963 and, when the FIDE ruled against a re-match, Botvinnik finally bowed out of world championship competition.

Today, at 58, his great fighting qualities are still intact. With Geller, he placed equal first at Beverwijk, 1969, in a 1-a graded event made up of ten grandmasters and six international masters. "Botvinnik was in wonderful form," wrote Harry Golombek, "He held the lead from start to finish and was the only player to go through the tournament undefeated."

Morphy, Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, and Botvinnik. The record speaks for itself.