

Richard Shorman

Chess

DANISH WORTH A GAMBLE

The most attractive feature of the Danish Gambit (1 P-K4 P-K4 2 P-Q4 PxP 3 P-QB3) is its extreme liveliness. From the very beginning the attacking party has, it will be found, exceptional scope for the employment of such powers of combination as he may possess. Black will by no means find it an easy task to set up a defense or to withstand the attack.

For White the object is quick development and a strong attack on the opponent's king, regardless of material cost. The best defense will attempt to develop quickly and to attack or exchange White's KP. If Black succeeds in assuming the initiative, he should have the better game. There are plenty of resources for both sides in this opening.

The real nature of attacking play is understood by few. To secure a mating net by means of a direct attack is always desirable, but as experience shows, is seldom attainable. With the White forces developed as they should be in the Danish Gambit, threatening direct and overwhelming assault, Black more often than not will set up weak spots in his formation while attempting to ward off the threats.

When the attacking player judges that his attack is not going to produce the results originally intended, then is the time to bear down upon the weak spots in the defender's camp. In the process of evading this fresh onslaught, Black may be forced to give up the material acquired in accepting the gambit. Thus, it may happen that White will find an opportunity of proceeding again on the lines of his original attack and of pressing it home with successful results.

The Danish Gambit offers little scope for strategy and, therefore, for the exercise of positional judgment, and for that reason masters of the first rank so seldom adopt it. Its study should not be neglected on that account, however. For it is an opening which affords an unlimited field for chess tactics.

Even the greatest master of positional play cannot afford to be unequipped with tactical skill. If only to be in a position to parry the tactics of an opponent and to carry out his positional scheme in such a way that the most subtle tactical wiles attempted against him cannot prevent its ultimate consummation.

From these considerations the Danish Gambit may be recommended as an ideal opening for gaining experience in both attack and defense and for laying the tactical foundation for position play.

(Abridged and edited remarks and annotations by Jules du Mont, "Chess Openings Illustrated: the Center Game and Danish Gambit," London, 1920).

White: Mieses.

Black: Dus-Chotimirski.

Prague, 1908.

Danish Gambit

1 P-K4	P-K4	13 O-O	B-B4
2 P-Q4	PxP	14 QR-N1	BxB
3 P-QB3	N-QB3(a)	15 QxB	NxB
4 PxP	P-Q4	16 PxN	N-B5
5 PxP	QxP(b)	17 P-K4(c)	RxP
6 N-KB3	N-B3	18 N-N5	QxN(d)
7 N-B3	B-QN5	19 QxR	N-Q7
8 B-K3	O-O	20 QxNP	Q-K6ch
9 P-QR3	BxN	21 K-R1	R-K1
10 PxB	N-KN5	22 QxBP	NxKR
11 B-Q3	R-K1	23 RxN	Q-B7
12 Q-Q2	N-R4	24 Q-QB4	Resigns

(a) An inferior way of declining the gambit is 3 . . . B-B4. In a game between Maczuzki and Mazzonali (from four simultaneous blindfold games by the winner) the play continued 4 B-QB4 Q-B3 5 N-B3 P-KR3 6 PxP B-N3 7 N-B3 N-K2 8 P-K5 Q-N3 9 B-Q3 P-KB4 10 PxPe.p. QxBP 11 N-K4 Q-B2 12 N-K5 Q-K3 13 Q-R5ch P-N3 14 Q-R4 N-B4 15 N-B6ch K-B1 16 BxN B-R4ch 17 K-B1 QxB, and White announced mate in 11!

(b) One of the standard variations has now been reached.

(c) This and the following move frustrate Black's design.

(d) If 18 . . . R-R5, then 19 R-B5 wins.

White: S. Rubinstein.

Black: H. M. Phillips.

Danish Gambit

1 P-K4	P-K4	11 Q-N4(b)	P-Q4
2 P-Q4	PxP	12 BxP	N-Q6ch
3 P-QB3	PxP	13 RxN	BxQ
4 B-QB4	P-Q3	14 BxKBPch	KxB
5 Q-N3	Q-B3(a)	15 N-K5ch	K-K3
6 NxP	P-B3	16 NxQ	R-R2
7 N-B3	N-Q2	17 P-B4	N-B3
8 B-KN5	Q-N3	18 P-B5ch	K-B2
9 P-KR4	P-KR4	19 R-Q8	P-N4
10 O-O-O	N-B4	20 KR-Q1	Resigns

(a) To be effective this move necessitates . . . P-KR3, and Black cannot afford the time. Correct is 5 . . . Q-K2 6 NxP N-KB3. The game Nyholm—Fahrni, Baden, 1914, proceeded 7 B-KN5 P-B3 8 O-O-O P-N4 9 B-Q3 (Here 9 NxP fails against 9 . . . PxN 10 B-Q5 Q-B2ch and 11 . . . NxB.) B-K3 10 Q-B2 Q-N2 11 P-B4 P-N5 12 P-K5 PxN 13 PxN QxPch 14 QxQ PxQch 15 K-N1 P-N3 16 N-B3 P-Q4, and Black won. This whole system of defense belongs to Chigorin, who used it after taking the third pawn.

(b) The beginning of a remarkable combination.

White: Marshall.

Black: Mlotkowski.

Danish Gambit

1 P-K4	P-K4	11 QN-Q2	O-O
2 P-Q4	PxP	12 R-B1	B-KN5
3 P-QB3	PxP	13 BxQN	PxB
4 B-QB4	P-Q4	14 N-K5	QR-Q1
5 BxP	PxP	15 QN-B4	NxP(a)
6 QBxP	B-N5ch	16 NxB	N-Q7ch
7 K-B1	N-KB3	17 NxN	RxN
8 Q-N3	Q-K2	18 N-R6ch	K-R1
9 N-KB3	N-B3	19 BxPch	KxB
10 P-QR3	B-QB4	20 N-B5ch	Resigns

(a) With this move Black initiates an unsound combination. His astute opponent sees further, however, and has his counter in readiness.

White: David Janowski.

Black: Emanuel Lasker.

Paris, 1909.

Danish Gambit

1 P-K4	P-K4	12 N-Q5	QxP(a)
2 P-Q4	PxP	13 R-K1	Q-Q3
3 P-QB3	PxP	14 Q-R5	P-QB3
4 B-QB4	PxP	15 N-B7	P-KN3
5 BxNP	N-KB3	16 Q-R6	QxN
6 P-K5	B-N5ch	17 BxPch	KxB
7 N-B3	Q-K2	18 QxRPch	K-B3
8 N-K2	N-K5	19 Q-R4ch	K-N2
9 O-O	NxN	20 R-K7ch	R-B2
10 BxN	BxB	21 Q-Q4ch	K-B1
11 NxB	O-O	22 Q-R8ch	Resigns

(a) Or 12 . . . Q-Q1 13 Q-R5 P-QB3 14 N-B6ch PxN 15 B-Q3 R-K1 16 QxRPch K-B1 17 Q-R8ch K-K2 18 QxPch K-B1 19 Q-R6ch K-N1 20 B-R7ch K-R1 21 B-N6ch K-N1 22 Q-R7ch K-B1 23 QxP-mate (Rasovsky—Mikyska, correspondence, 1908).

RUBY YUDACUFSKI BENEFIT FUND

The Northern California chess community has been saddened by the news that Ruby Yudacufski, popular tournament director of events held in Monterey and Sunnyvale, is seriously ill with cancer of the liver. Donations should be sent to Wayne Sewell, Treasurer, 628 Alameda Ave., Salinas, Calif. 93901.