

## Richard Shorman

# Chess

### SPASSKY EVALUATES COMBATANTS

Writing for the current issue of *Soviet Life* (Oct. 1974, pg. 59), former world champion **Boris Spassky** presented a personal glimpse into the backgrounds of the two players now battling in Moscow for a chance at the world title:

The final match of the challengers for the world chess crown promises to be both tense and dramatic. Meeting over the board are a talented young man whose name is associated with the future of chess, on one side, and an extra-class grandmaster of the older generation, on the other.

**Anatoli Karpov** turned 23 quite recently. I first met him nine years ago at a training session of a youth team of the Russian Federation in Vladimir, 110 miles from Moscow. The session was conducted by Grandmaster Igor Bondarevsky; I was his assistant. At the close of the two-week session Bondarevsky and I gave an alternate simultaneous exhibition. The interesting game with Karpov ended in a draw. Anatoli was then the youngest on the team, but he clearly surpassed his teammates in inventiveness and speed. Even then I was struck with the way he started the game and played it through and with his assurance and seriousness, unusual for a boy his age.

In subsequent years Karpov's talent developed even more. His manner of play was always based on a sober assessment of the position, and after the Alekhine Memorial (Moscow, 1971), where the young chess player tied experienced Leonid Shtein for first place, he made a long stride forward. He was bolder, inclined to take more risks, and became an excellent tactician. These virtues, added to his finished technique, steel nerves and will to win, made the young player a grandmaster with wonderful prospects.

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**Victor Korchnoi** is 20 years older than his rival. His strength is most evident in counterattack. Korchnoi has a flexible playing style, colossal energy and great capacity for work during a game. Returning from a major international tournament, he once said: "I used up enough nervous energy to light up a small hotel."

Korchnoi also has enviable persistence, tenacity in defense and ferocity in attack. Chess for him is first and foremost an arena for search and struggle. I believe that in solving problems that arise, he is less inclined to trust his intuition than concrete calculation. Korchnoi's ability to calculate variations far ahead and with precision also helps him in the end game.

It is noteworthy that Korchnoi has a fine understanding of the psychology of chess. Though it is true that in style he is more the tournament warrior than the match battler. He gets so absorbed in his ideas, in original schemes, that he does not always bother about the prosaics of chess. This is his vulnerable spot.

### 100 TENSE MINUTES

by  
 international grandmaster  
**Aleksei Suetin**

The twelfth game of the final candidates' match contrasted drastically with earlier encounters. In the first place, it proved surprisingly short both in number of moves and in the time consumed on them (in all, 100 minutes).

Secondly, refined maneuvering gave way to purely concrete calculation in an extremely sharp combinational confrontation. In addition, the battle was full of depth and intricacies, with the defense on a par with the skillfully conducted attack. Even the opening phase contributed something to the current theory of Tarrasch's defense.

**White: Anatoly Karpov.**  
**Moscow, 1974; Match Game No. 12.**

**Black: Viktor Korchnoi.**

#### French Defense

1 P-K4	P-K3	13 P-KR3	N-R4(d)
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	14 B-Q3	N-B5?!(e)
3 N-Q2	P-QB4	15 N-QN5!?(f)	Q-Q2!
4 PxQP	KPxP	16 BxN	PxB
5 KN-B3	N-QB3	17 KR-Q1!	N-B4!(g)
6 B-N5	B-Q3	18 QxBP	BxN
7 0-0	PxP?!(a)	19 PxB	NxB!(h)
8 N-N3	N-K2	20 PxN	QxP
9 QNxP	0-0	21 NxB	Q-N6ch
10 P-B3	B-KN5	22 K-B1	QxPch(i)
11 Q-R4	B-R4(b)	23 K-K1	Q-N6ch
12 B-K3(c)	Q-B2	24 Drawn(j)	

(Translated from "Sovetsky sport", Oct. 16, 1974)

(a) The same theoretical duel, but in a different sequence. It will soon become clear that the critical position from the eighth and tenth games may be reached in 11 instead of 12 moves.

(b) The critical position. Karpov varies with his next move.

(c) The tenth game continued (with a lag of one move) 13 B-Q3 P-KR3 14 B-K3 P-R3 15 KR-K1 Q-B2 16 P-KR3 N-R4 17 N-R4 N-B5 18 Q-B2 NxB 19 RxN, etc.

(d) This time, Korchnoi initiates piece play on the queen side without the preliminary pawn moves on the flanks.

(e) Korchnoi thought for quite a while over this move. Actually, it does not turn out to be the most consequential maneuver in this game by any means. Black's energetic knight move soon causes the play to take on a forced character.

(f) Karpov accepts the challenge. Having burned his bridges behind him, he now plunges into complications that very quickly reveal that Black's chances are clearly no worse than his own. Therefore, 15 Q-B2! deserved attention so that 15...NxB may be answered by 16 BxPch K-R1 17 PxN BxN (17...P-KN3 18 N-KN5!) 18 NxB P-KN3 19 N-N5 N-B4 20 BxP PxN 21 N-K6, with complications tending to favor White. In reply to 15 Q-B2! Black should probably play the more restrained 15...B-N3 16 BxB RPxB, even though White retains a minimal edge, which at the very least guarantees a prolonged positional struggle.

(g) Both players are looking hard for the very best tactical resources. If now 18 P-KN4, then 18...BxP! 19 PxN NxB 20 PxN QxPch, etc., yields a powerful attack. However, Black also threatens 18...BxN and 18...P-QR3, so White must continue the forced series. Beginning with move 15, Karpov and Korchnoi played at blitz tempo, which indicates that both of them had foreseen the combinational storm as far back as the 14th or 15th move.

(h) This piece sacrifice represents the logical culmination of Black's conception. Korchnoi thereby destroys the pawn cover around White's king and ensures the draw.

(i) Also sufficient is 22...Q-R6ch.

(j) Karpov offered, Korchnoi accepted.

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(With 14 rounds complete, Karpov still leads 2-0 over Korchnoi. Draws do not count toward the final score in the 24-game match, and five victories are needed to win outright.)

### CHES IN OAKLAND

The City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation sponsors chess activities at the F. M. Smith Recreation Center, 1969 Park Blvd. (near the southwest corner of Lake Merritt), Tuesday evenings from 7-11 p.m. The program is offered at no charge, chess sets provided (or bring your own); refreshments are available and chess instruction may be obtained on request. The center maintains a bulletin board to keep you up to date on chess news, upcoming tournaments, places to play, chess clubs to join, chess books, postal chess, etc. All classes of players are invited to attend, regardless of strength, rated or unrated. For further information, please phone 451-4639.

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