

Richard Shorman

Chess

COMING ATTRACTION — HARRY KASPAROV

Qualifying for the 1978 USSR Championship at age 15 and achieving his first grandmaster result on his 16th birthday (by winning a tournament in Yugoslavia ahead of Petrosian, Smejkal, Andersson and Browne), Harry Kasparov is already being regarded as a prospective world champion.

Just how impressively he wins may be judged by the following game, with Kasparov's own comments providing an insight into the depth and sophistication of his play.

White: Lev Albur. Black: Harry Kasparov.

National Elimination Tourney, Daugavpils, 1978.

Benoni Defense

1	c4	Nf6	30	b3(m)	Qa2
2	Nc3	g6	31	Nc5(n)	Qd2(o)
3	d4	Bg7	32	Qb1	Bd4
4	e4	d6	33	Nd3	Qe3
5	Be2	O-O	34	Nb4	h5(p)
6	Bg5	c5	35	Qd1	h4
7	d5	h6	36	Nc2(q)	Qb3
8	Bf4	e6	37	Qd4	Qb1!(r)
9	de	Be6	38	Qg1	Qc2
10	Bd6	Re8	39	Qa7	Qd1
11	Nf3	Nc6	40	Qg1	Qg1
12	O-O	Qa5(a)	41	Kg1(s)	Kg7
13	Nd2(b)	Red8!(c)	42	Kf2	Kf6
14	Nb3(d)	Qb6	43	Ke3	Ke5
15	Na4(e)	Qb4	44	Kf3	f5
16	Bc4	Qc4	46	h3(t)	Kd5
17	Nb7	Ne4(g)	47	Kd3	Kc5(u)
18	Rc1	Qb5	48	Kc3	g4
19	Nd8	Rd8	49	Kd3	gh
20	Qc2!	Nd4!	50	gh	Kd5
21	Qe4	Ne2	51	Ke3	Ke5
22	Kh1	Nc1	52	Kf3	f4
23	Rc1	Rd6(h)	53	Kf2	Ke4
24	Qc2?(i)	Qg5!	54	Ke2	f3
25	Rd1?(j)	Qf5!(k)	55	Kf1	Kf5!
26	Qc1	Rd1	56	Kg1	Ke5(v)
27	Qd1	Qf2(l)	57	Resigns(w)	
28	Qg1	Qc2			

(Annotations by the winner, translated from "Shakmaty v SSSR," No. 1, 1979, pp. 23-24)

(a) All of this we played instantly. The fixed opening repertoire of grandmaster Alburt permits his opponents to prepare for him in detail. I prefer this queen move more than the usual 12 . . . Nd4. The "d"-file is kept open for a black rook, in order to accentuate the deficiencies of White's piece configuration along that file. Additionally, a recent game featuring 12 . . . Nd4 proceeded and concluded in White's favor: 13 e5 Nd7 14 Nd4 cd 15 Qd4 Ne5 16 Be5 Qd4 17 Bd4 Bd4 18 Rac1 Rad8 19 b3 Bc3 20 Rc3 Rd2 21 Bf3 (Alburt — Timoshchenko, Beltsy, 1977).

(b) The grandmaster made this move with undisguised satisfaction. Thus far, the knight maneuver has not been seen in master play, and so I had to solve a difficult task over the board. At home I had investigated fairly thoroughly the variation 13 a3 Red8 14 b4 cb 15 ab Qa1 16 Qa1 Ne4 (Yuferov — Gufeld, 1978) and 13 e5 Nd7 14 Nd5 Bd5. This analysis assisted me in rapidly finding the correct placement for the pieces.

(c) The right rook! The square e8 must be left free for the retreat of the knight. After 13 . . . Rad8 14 e5 Nd7 15 f4, White gets everything he wanted, a plus pawn and a positional superiority.

(d) But now, after 14 e5 Ne8! 15 Nb3 Qb6 16 Na4 Qb4 17 Nbc5 Be5 all the advantages side with Black. It is true that if, instead of 16 Na4, White plays 16 Nd5 Bd5 17 Bc5 Qc7 18 cd Be5 19 g3, he incurs no serious difficulties, but neither does he obtain an edge, and that is the crux of the issue under dispute at the moment.

(e) The undefended pawn may not be taken immediately, due to 15 Nc5 Rd6! 16 Qd6 Ne8!, but it must be taken sometime or Black will rid himself of the bishop on d6 in short order.

(f) Notwithstanding the material equality, the position after 16 Nac5 Ne8 17 a3 Qb6 18 Na4 Rd6 19 Nb6 Rd1 20 Na8 Rd8 21 Nc5 Nd4 apparently favors Black, in view of the activity of his pieces.

(g) The first consequence of White's knight to a4 is the fall of a valuable pawn. Now follows the concluding phase of the complications, which Black had to have foreseen when making his 13th move.

(h) After a brief skirmish the ranks of the combatants have been much depleted, but the opening balance (extra pawn for White, activity for Black) remains undisturbed.

(i) The final move in White's home analysis and, as demonstrated subsequently, the first serious inaccuracy. White should release his heaviest piece from minor duties and play 25 b3 instead, not fearing 25 . . . Rd2 26 Qa8 Kh7 27 Qa7 Qf5 because of 28 Qc5. Naturally, the activity of Black's pieces would probably insure him from losing, but his material deficit coupled with the absence of real objects of attack would hardly permit any thoughts of winning.

(j) A natural move and a losing one. White ought to seek a draw in a position without queens by 26 Qc5.

(k) I will long remember this hard-working queen, which finally causes the collapse of White's dreams. Now White can only hope that his opponent will be lax on the road to victory.

(l) The material balance has been restored, but the difference in the activity of the pieces poses an ever growing danger for White. An attempt to guard the queen-side pawns by 29 Qb1 would probably leave White's king helpless against the advance h6-h5-h4-h3, but it was nonetheless his best try.

(m) Of course not 30 Qa7 Qd1 31 Qg1 Qa4, which ends the fight abruptly.

(n) The pawn is still immune: 31 Qa7 Qb3 32 g3 Qf3 33 Kg1 Qe4!, and the White king gets mated.

(o) Better would have been 31 . . . Qc2!, completely shutting off the knight.

(p) Black evidently could have set about trapping the knight with 34 . . . a5 35 Nc6 Bc3, but I had already settled on the march of the "h"-pawn.

(q) On 36 h3, Black's 36 . . . Be5 followed by . . . Qg3 is decisive.

(r) It was still possible to throw the win away with 37 . . . Qc2? 38 Qd8 Kg7 39 Qd4.

(s) In preparing for one of my sessions at Botvinnik's chess school, I had to conduct a thorough study of king and pawn endings; I was therefore aware of the winning procedure here.

(t) No better for White is 46 Kf3 g4 47 Ke3 f4 48 Ke2 Ke4 49 Kf2 Kd3 50 Ke1 Ke3 51 Kf1 g3, when he loses after 52 Kg1 Ke2 53 Kh1 f3 54 gf Kf2 or 52 hg hg 53 Ke1 Kd3 54 Kf1 Kd2 55 Kg1 Ke2 56 Kh1 f3 57 gh Kf2 or 52 h3 Kd2 53 Kg1 Ke2, etc.

(u) Black can also win by 47 . . . f4 48 Kd2 Kd4 49 Ke2 Ke4 50 Kf2 f3 51 gf Kf4.

(v) The last two moves are not very hard to find if one knows the principle of distant opposition or the finish of an old game between Fahrni and Alapin, cited in various end-game books.

(w) Since after 57 Kf1 Ke4! 58 Kf2 Kf4 59 Kf1 Kg3 White loses his pawn on h3.

White: Harry Kasparov. Black: A. Butnoryus. USSR Team Championship, Moscow, 1979. Queen's Indian Defense 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Bb4 4 Nbd2 0-0 5 e3 b6 6 Bd3 Bb7 7 0-0 d5 8 a3 Bd2 9 Bd2 Nbd7 10 cd Bd5 11 b4 c5 12 Rac1 cd 13 Nd4 Ne5 14 Ba6 Ne4 15 Be1 Qg5 16 f4 Qg6 17 fe Nc5 18 Bg3 Na6 19 Nf5 Rae8 20 Nd6 Re7 21 Rf4 h5 22 e4 Ba8 23 Bh4 Rd7 24 Rc3 Qh6 25 Qf1 Nc7 26 Rcf3 f5 27 ef Rd6 28 f7 Kh7 29 Be7 e5 30 Bf8 e1 31 Bd6 Qd6 32 Qd3 Qe7 33 Qc4 Kh6 34 Rf4 Ne6 35 Qc8 Qd6 36 Qh8 Kg6 37 F8N Nf8 38 Qf8 Qd1 39 Kf2 Qd2 40 Kg3 Qe1 41 Kh3 Resigns.