

Richard Shorman**Chess**

White: Boris Spassky. Black: Robert Fischer.
World Championship, Match Game. No. 19.
Reykjavik, August 27, 1972.
Alekhine's Defense

1 P-K4	N-KB3	21 RxR	Q-Q7!(1)
2 P-K5	N-Q4	22 QxQ(m)	BxQ
3 P-Q4	P-Q3	23 R-1-KB1	N-B3
4 N-KB3	B-N5(a)	24 PxP	PxP
5 B-K2	P-K3	25 R-Q7(n)	B-K6ch
6 0-0	B-K2	26 K-R1	BxP(o)
7 P-KR3	B-R4	27 P-K6	B-K4(p)
8 P-B4	N-N3	28 RxQP	R-K1
9 N-B3	0-0(b)	29 R-K1	RxP
10 B-K3	P-Q4(c)	30 R-Q6	K-B2(q)
11 P-B5	BxN(d)	31 RxN	RxR
12 BxB(e)	N-B5	32 RxB	K-B3
13 P-QN3(f)	NxB	33 R-Q5	K-K3
14 PxN	P-QN3	34 R-R5	P-KR3
15 P-K4	P-QB3	35 K-R2	R-R3
16 P-QN4	PxBP	36 P-B6	RxBP
17 NPxP	Q-R4	37 R-R5	P-R3
18 NxP!(g)	B-N4!(h)	38 K-N3	K-B3
19 B-R5!?(i)	BPxN(j)	39 K-B3	R-B6ch
20 BxPch	RxB(k)	40 Drawn	

(Notes by international grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi, translated from "Sovetsky sport", Aug. 29, 1972, pg. 4)

(a) In the eleventh game Fischer played 4 . . . P-KN3.

(b) This position is considered better for White. Some 10 years ago Spassky's current trainer, Efim Geller, convincingly demonstrated White's superiority to me in a game that went 10 PxB PxB 11 B-B4! Spassky's method also leads to an advantage for White, however.

(c) On 10 . . . N-B3 White has 11 PxB PxB 12 P-Q5.

(d) If 11 . . . N-B5, then 12 BxN PxB 13 Q-K2, winning a pawn.

(e) Here 12 PxB deserves attention, since 12 . . . N-B5 13 BxN garners a pawn as in the previous variation, while 12 . . . N-B1 13 P-B4 yields White a considerable space advantage. Spassky's choice was probably prepared analysis.

(f) If 13 B-B1, then 13 . . . P-QN3 gives Black good counterplay on the queen side.

(g) Quiet continuations produce nothing tangible. White's knight is not so easy to defend. On 18 R-B1 or 18 Q-Q2 Black responds with 18 . . . B-N4! White's 18 Q-K1 meets 18 . . . B-R5 and 18 Q-Q3 N-R3 allows Black to develop his pieces comfortably. The knight sacrifice is based on White's lead in development and is also designed to create a powerful pawn center.

(h) In case of 18 . . . KPxN 19 PxB White's center pawns ensure an enduring and very dangerous initiative.

(i) Better may have been 19 P-KR4!, as 19 . . . BxB grants White a positional plus by withdrawing his knight to K3, while 19 . . . B-R3 would be answered by 20 N-K7ch K-R1 21 R-N1.

(j) If 19 . . . P-N3, then 20 N-B6ch. Black cannot then play 20 . . . BxN because of 21 PxB and capturing the bishop brings on a mating attack. Finally, 20 . . . K-N2 makes even 21 Q-N4 possible, with serious threats that would be difficult for Black to ward off.

(k) Not 20 . . . K-R1? PxB, and White must win.

(l) This way Fischer manages to repel an irresistible looking attack. Bad is 21 . . . B-K6ch 22 K-R1 KxR 23 Q-R5ch K-K2 24 R-KB1 N-Q2 25 Q-B7ch K-Q1 26 P-B6! and Black cannot save himself from the mating threats. It was possible to play 21 . . . N-B3 here, but this move has a different aspect entirely, producing a complex struggle in which Black would be striving to usurp White's initiative. But for the past several games Fischer has been steering exclusively for draws in order to preserve his lead in points, and so the knight move, with its attendant risks, did not appeal to him.

(m) The queen trade is practically forced in view of Black's threat of capturing the QP with check.

(n) Originally I thought that White could play sharper with 25 P-K6, but later I saw that Black has a satisfactory defense in 25 . . . R-K1 26 R-B7 NxQP 27 P-K7 N-K3. Insufficient here is 25 R-7-B3 NxQP 26 R-Q3 B-N5.

(o) The resultant ending appears drawn. Fischer levels the game with a series of precise moves.

(p) Another fine defensive move. Poor would be 27 . . . BxP on account of 28 R-B1. On 27 . . . R-K1 White presses his offensive with 28 R-Q6, and it is this maneuver that Black prevents. Now White's KP dies.

(q) Less accurate would have been 30 . . . RxR 31 PxB K-B2 because of 32 R-QB1, and White wins the QRP. The rest of the game requires no comment.

CHess TOURNAMENT

USCF National Secretary Martin Morrison, assisted by Elwin Meyers, will direct the West Coast Open, Nov. 18-19, at the Student Union building (4th floor), University of California, Berkeley. A total prize fund of \$1,050 in three divisions (M-E-A, B and C-D-E) will be awarded to the winners of the four-round Swiss system event.

Entry fee is \$5 for divisions B through E and \$15 for the M-E-A division. Registration will take place at 10:00-10:45 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 18 (late entries subject to a \$2 penalty), with round one scheduled for 11:15 a.m. Please bring sets and clocks. Call Martin Morrison, 582-1973, for additional information.