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'A Week Of Masterful Chess Play'

Fischer Takes A Strong Lead

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Bobby Fischer, the American challenger, has moved into the lead after this week's play in the World Chess Championship in Iceland. Fischer has five points after eight match games, with the World Champion Spassky securing three points. The match could continue over a two month period, with a maximum total of 24 games being played. However, the Champion only needs a tie match to hold his title, and therefore, 12 points for Spassky would do the trick. Fischer needs at least 12½ points to dethrone the Russian.

This week saw some masterful chess play. On Sunday, in the sixth game, Fischer demonstrated a new-found capability for psychological surprises. With the white pieces, he varied from his almost inevitable pawn to king four and played a Queen's Pawn opening. This was a completely new variation in Bobby's repertoire. From the play it is clear that this surprise upset Spassky, for the latter played a somewhat hesitant and passive defense. That is all the advantage that Fischer needed to score a magnificent positional and tactical victory after 41 moves.

The seventh match game on Tuesday was a tremendous fight with Spassky playing an extremely complicated tactical attacking game. Spassky's pawn to king four (a Fischer speciality) was met by the Sicilian Defense, a deep unbalanced opening needing great knowledge and precision by each player. The Russians clearly had prepared an innovation, but Fischer's defensive skill was revealed when he retained an extra pawn and secured a strong and probably winning position by the 20th move.

Spassky, now on the defensive, showed his fighting spirit and skill by holding Fischer to a draw after an arduous and difficult battle lasting 49 moves.

In Thursday's eighth game, Fischer again opened with his pawn to queen's bishop four, the same opening he had played in the sixth game. Spassky was better prepared for battle until the 11th move. Fischer pulled an innovative move that has never been seen in master chess when he moved queen to his king's bishop four square. The tension built up as Spassky took 63 minutes to answer this new move. For the rest of the game, Spassky was in time pressure and had far less time than Fischer to consider his moves in the complex ensuing struggle.

The championships are being followed at each move by a large local group of Fischer fans at Gulf Computer Sciences. When Spassky made a bad error on his 19th move, one chess analyst, Charles Coshov, said, "Fischer's pressure did it. Spassky has blundered!" The many onlookers at Gulf Computer Sciences' conference hall cheered. Spassky had to resign on his 37th move.

Fischer now is two points ahead in the struggle for the 1972 World Chess Championship.

The pressure of this match is enormous. At stake is not only a record purse of \$250,000, but the prestige of each player's country. It is estimated that more than 60 million chess players around the world are following this match, move by move. No where is the interest more widespread than in the countries of the competing players. Spassky's fans are many. More than one million players competed in the preliminaries and the final Russian championship tournament.

All players have an official ranking with various titles and grades. There are over four million classified players in Russia, compared with only 35,000 in the United States. The Russian state supports its professional chess players with handsome subsidies and national decorations. Leading chess players are treated in a similar manner to top artists in the West.

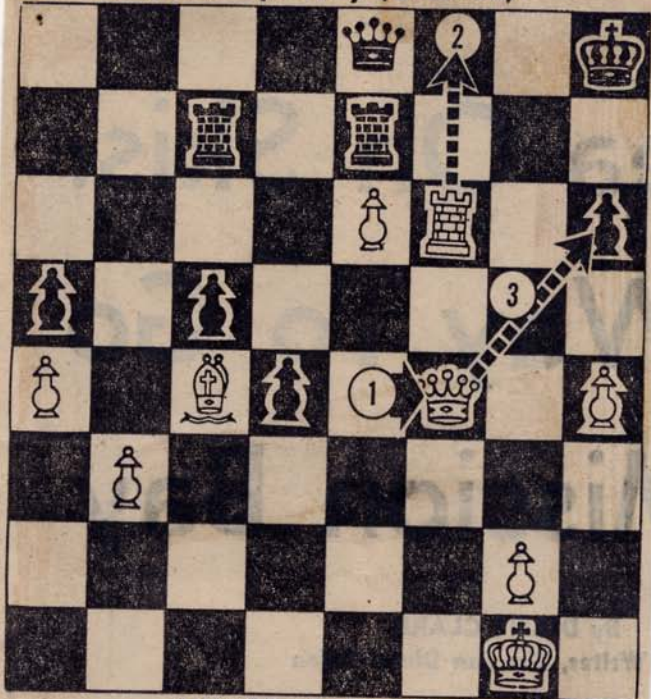
What qualities make a chess champion? Certainly the concentration which a Grandmaster brings to bear on the game is somewhat unworldly; but another quality is his unbeatable will to win. Spassky has both qualities in good measure, as well as persistence. This latter quality may be the most important factor in a chess player's success.

In his previous matches, Spassky has always had a slow start and produced a fast strong finish. In the past, something strange has happened to all of Spassky's chess rivals. Whether they were in excellent form or not, all of them were obviously not up to their usual standard when they met Boris over the chessboard. The explanation lies in Spassky himself. Even though he was not always at his best, his secret strength lay in his colossal skill in adapting himself to the different styles of his opponents and thus countering their plans most efficiently. From the match results to date, we can see that Spassky has his biggest challenge, for Fischer also has this fantastic adaptability and is meeting Spassky at his own game. Fischer must be careful, for Spassky has many facts. In previous matches, Spassky has revealed three. He can play gambits, he can attack or defend according to the needs of the position. He is not perfect — nobody is — but he has very good health and nerves and a strong will. An indication of this is his ability to give up heavy smoking and other bad habits during play.

The public views Spassky as a well-mannered and pleasant World Champion. The Icelandic newspapers adorn their front pages with photographs of the genial champion playing tennis, fishing for salmon, or attending a sporting event. Good looking, young and healthy, Spassky has no reason to complain of a life which has allowed him to live as at a perpetual banquet. He makes friends easily and is willing, for friendship's sake, to waste his time on trifles. All leading chess players must have a streak of ruthlessness in their style of play. How does the genial Spassky succeed in chess? When interviewed, he admitted that his muscles were tense when sitting at a chessboard. This gave him a pleasant psychological confidence, and with his great gift of summing up every position, he has within himself a remarkable inner-calmness.

Boris Spassky was born in Leningrad in 1937. At the age of 4, he learned to play chess by watching games played by older boys. When 9, young Spassky began regularly to attend meetings of the local chess club. His first chess teacher made a point of not allowing Spassky's interest to become too one-sided. He tried to broaden his horizons by selecting books for him to read, taking him to the theater, and giving him an active interest in sports. Boris early showed chess talent and at age 10, he played former World Champion Botvinnik in a simultaneous exhibition and won. Said Botvinnik: "This boy will become World Champion."

BLACK: Boris Spassky (U.S.S.R.)



WHITE: Bobby Fischer (U.S.A.)

Bobby Fischer's dominant position at the end of the sixth match game, played last Sunday, shows in the chart above. On his 41st move, Fischer moved his queen one square to the right (1) and Spassky resigned. Why? Because it was clear that Fischer was now in a position to threaten Spassky's black king on two fronts. Whatever Spassky's next move, Fischer could move his rook two squares up (2) . . . or his queen two squares diagonally to the right (3). Either move would be fatal to Spassky.

SIXTH MATCH GAME		33 P-R4		QxQ1	22 Q-B4	B-K6ch	*2 N-QB3	N-QB3
Queen's Gambit Declined		34 R(1)-B2		Q-K1	23 K-R1	P-B5	3 N-B3	N-B3
White: Bobby Fischer		35 R(2)-B3		Q-Q1	24 P-N3	P-N4	4 P-KN3	P-KN3
Black: Boris Spassky		36 B-Q3		Q-K1	25 QR-K1	Q-N5	5 B-N2	B-N2
White		37 Q-K4		N-B3	26 QxQ	NxQ	6 O-O	O-O
Black		38 RxN		PxR	27 R-K2	K-N2	7 P-Q4	PxP
1 P-QB4	F-K3	39 RxB	K-N1	28 N-R5	P-N3	8 NxB	NxN	NxN
2 N-KB3	F-Q4	40 B-B4	K-R1	29 N-B4	N-Q4	9 OxB	P-Q3	P-Q3
3 P-Q4	N-KB3	41 Q-B4	Resigns	30 N(B)-Q6	B-B4	10 B-N5	B-K3	B-K3
4 N-R3	B-K2			31 N-N7	R-QB1	11 O-B4	O-R4	O-R4
5 B-N5	O-O			32 P-B4	N-K5	12 QR-B1	QR-N1	QR-N1
6 P-K3	F-KR3			33 R-B3	NxP	13 P-N3	R(B1)-B1	R(B1)-B1
7 B-R4	P-QN3			34 PxB	P-N5	14 O-O2	P-QR3	P-QR3
8 P-P	NxP			35 R-Q3	P-R4	15 R-K3	P-QN4	P-QN4
9 BxB	QxB			36 P-R3	N-R4	16 B-R7	PxB	PxB
10 NxN	FxN			37 N(7)-Q6	BxN	17 BxR	RxB	RxB
11 R-B1	B-K3			38 NxB	R-B8ch	18 PxB	BxP	BxP
12 Q-R4	P-QB4			39 K-N2	N-B5	19 R(KB1)-Q1	N-Q2	N-Q2
13 Q-R3	R-B1			40 N-KBch	K-N3	20 N-O5	OxO	OxO
14 B-N5	P-R3			41 P-R4	P-B3	21 NxBch	K-B1	K-B1
15 PxB	FxB			42 R-K6	R-B7ch	22 RxD	KxN	KxN
16 O-O	R-R2			43 K-N1	K-B4	23 RxB	P-NBch	P-NBch
17 B-K2	N-Q2			44 N-N7ch	KxB	24 B-B1	N-B4	N-B4
18 N-Q4	Q-B1			45 R-Q4ch	K-N6	25 K-N2	P-OR4	P-OR4
19 NxB	PxN			46 N-B5ch	K-B6	26 P-K4	B-P8	B-P8
20 P-K4	P-Q5			47 R(6)-K4	R-B8ch	27 P-B4	P-B3	P-B3
21 P-B4	Q-K2			48 K-R2	R-B7ch	28 R-K2	K-K3	K-K3
22 P-K5	R-N1			49 K-N1	Draw	29 R(2)-QB2	B-N7	B-N7
23 B-B4	K-R1				Agreed	30 B-K2	P-KR4	P-KR4
24 Q-R3	N-B1					31 R-O2	B-P6	B-P6
25 P-QN3	P-QR4					32 P-B5ch	KxP	KxP
26 P-B5	PxB					33 PxBch	K-K4	K-K4
27 RxB	N-R2					34 R(4)-O4	KxB	KxB
28 QR-B1	Q-Q1					35 P-O5ch	K-K3	K-K3
29 Q-N3	R-K2					36 RxBch	K-K2	K-K2
30 P-KR4	R(N)-N2					37 R-O86	Resigns	Resigns
31 P-K6	R(N)-B2							
32 Q-K5	Q-K1							

SEVENTH MATCH GAME

Sicilian Defense
White: Boris Spassky
Black: Bobby Fischer

White	Black
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	P-Q3
3 P-Q4	PxP
4 NxB	N-KB3
5 N-QB3	P-QR3
6 B-KN5	P-K3
7 P-B4	Q-N3
8 Q-Q2	QxP
9 N-N3	Q-R6
10 B-Q3	B-K2
11 O-O	P-R3
12 B-R4	NxB
13 NxN	BxB
14 P-B5	PxB
15 B-N5ch	PxB
16 NxBch	K-B1
17 NxB	N-B3
18 N-Q6	R-Q1
19 NxB(N5)	Q-K2
20 Q-B4	P-QN3
21 P-R4	B-N4

EIGHTH MATCH GAME

English Opening
White: Bobby Fisher
Black: Boris Spassky

White	Black
1 P-OB4	P-OB4