

Fischer World Champion... Finally Milestone For Bobby

By FRANK ANDERSON
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The World Chess Championship has changed hands from Russia to America, Bobby Fischer outplaying Boris Spassky to win the title by 12½-8½. The match was scheduled for a maximum of 24 games and lasted nearly that long. Twenty-one games were needed before Fischer had the required total to be crowned Chess Champion of the World.

Strangely enough, the final move in this great chess match was made by telephone. After the 21st game was adjourned, Spassky and his assistants analyzed the position overnight and concluded that it was lost. The next day when time came for resumption, Spassky placed a phone call resigning the game and the match.

It is not too unusual with adjourned positions such as this that are clearly lost for the losing player to telephone his resignation. On the other hand, a more sporting gesture would have been for Spassky to appear on the stage, resign, shake Fischer's hand and allow the photographers to have their field day. This, however, would have been difficult because of the increasing enmity between these two players.

Fischer does not have too many supporters who commend his sportsmanship behavior.

Spassky, as the match progressed, clearly was more and more annoyed at the ungentlemanly behavior of his opponent.

However, with the World Championship in his grasp, at last Bobby can relax and accept some of the multitudes of offers that have poured in. No doubt he will participate in numerous chess exhibitions, playing many games simultaneously, as well as competing in large scale tournaments internationally and perhaps even have a try at the movies.

19th Game

In the final days of competition Fischer continued to relentlessly move forward in his quest for the World Championship. The 19th game on Sunday was perhaps his most difficult test, for Spassky played his most brilliant game of the match. Replaying the game, this writer is amazed at how Fischer survived Spassky's brilliant onslaught. Truly Fischer is a defensive as well as an attacking genius, for not many players in the world could have battled Spassky to a draw in the manner Fischer employed.

For the second time in the match, Fischer played Alekhine's defense. Fischer played a few slightly weaker moves in the opening, allowing Spassky to build up a strong central pawn formation. Fischer's pieces were cramped and in attempting to break loose from Spassky's strangle-hold, Fischer allowed a brilliant knight sacrifice by Spassky.

This game undoubtedly will be deeply analyzed for many months to come. It is quite likely that Spassky missed a better chance that might have won the game for him, but Fischer's moves were precise and absolutely the

best. They needed to be, for without perfect defense, Fischer would have lost this 19th game. However, Fischer fought with amazing resourcefulness and managed to carefully pick up some of Spassky's advanced pawns. Spassky was a pawn ahead temporarily in the end game, but Fischer soon regained it, and in the final position, when they agreed to a draw, the game was completely even. An outstanding performance for both masters!

20th Game

The 20th game produced a wild melee in the opening stages. At one point a consecutive series of moves saw two queens, three bishops, a knight, and two pawns disappear from the board in a violent exchange. It was clear that Spassky was fighting desperately for a win to bring him back into the match. Fischer emerged from this tussle with a fairly solid position that he handled carefully. Spassky pushed forward with his pawns on both sides, hoping to steamroller Bobby into a mistake. Fischer didn't make an error, and in fact, managed to produce a blocked position that restricted Spassky's mobility with his wide ranging bishops. The game was adjourned in a position slightly favorable to Spassky. In a desperate attempt to win, Spassky stayed up all night with his assistants analyzing every conceivable plan to beat Fischer. The next day when he sat down at the board, they played another 16 moves, but Spassky could not break the Fischer defense. At game's end, Spassky sat at the board fingering the pieces and talking with the chief arbiter. It was clear that he had given his all to win but couldn't beat the American champion.

21st Game

The 21st game on Thursday gave Fischer his chance for chess immortality. For the

seventh time in the match the Sicilian Defense was played, this time by Fischer with the black pieces. Each time this fighting defense has been tried, the players have used entirely different variations in an attempt to upset their adversary. This was again the case today, for Fischer transposed into "The Four Knights Variation" and secured an open active position. However, Spassky had chances too, but the exhaustion of this match finally overtook him. Spassky wasn't at his best and made occasional weak moves, and Fischer took immediate strong advantage of each chance that came his way. In fact, Fischer created most of his own chances and, when the middle game complications gave him a chance to win a rook for a bishop and two pawns, he did not hesitate. Normally, the rook would not

be sufficient against such material force, but Fischer had a highly mobile position and swung his pieces across the board with violent accuracy. Fischer's play had to be accurate. First he had to restrain the three pawns on Spassky's queen side. If they could advance, Fischer might be in trouble. Then he had to advance his king into a more active position; also he had to create a passed pawn of his own. This pawn proved to be the winner, for its threat to advance and become a new queen was virtually unstoppable. With this fine play that is so characteristic of Fischer at his best, he played perfectly and soon Spassky's game was in shambles. They adjourned, but overnight analysis soon convinced Spassky his cause was hopeless and he telephoned his resignation. Fischer is the new World Champion.

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|------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 19TH MATCH GAME | | 15 P-K4 | P-QB3 | 36 P-B6 | RxBP |
| Akekhine's Defense | | 16 P-QN4 | NPxP | 37 R-R5 | P-R3 |
| White: Boris Spassky | | 17 NPxP | Q-R4 | 38 K-N3 | K-B3 |
| Black: Bobby Fischer | | 18 NxB | B-N4 | 39 K-B3 | R-B6ch |
| | | 19 B-R5 | BPxN | 40 K-B2 | R-E7ch |
| | | 20 BxPch | RxB | Draw Agreed | |
| <u>White</u> | <u>Black</u> | 21 RxB | Q-Q7 | | |
| 1 P-K4 | N-KB3 | 22 QxQ | BxQ | | |
| 2 P-K5 | N-Q4 | 23 QR-KG1 | N-B3 | | |
| 3 P-Q4 | P-Q3 | 24 PxB | PxP | | |
| 4 N-KB3 | B-N5 | 25 R-Q7 | B-K6ch | | |
| 5 B-K2 | P-K3 | 26 K-R1 | BxP | | |
| 6 O-O | B-K2 | 27 P-K6 | B-K4 | | |
| 7 P-KR3 | B-R4 | 28 RxBP | R-K1 | | |
| 8 P-B4 | N-N3 | 29 R-K1 | RxB | | |
| 9 N-B3 | O-O | 30 R-Q6 | K-B2 | | |
| 10 B-K3 | P-Q4 | 31 RxB | RxB | | |
| 11 P-B5 | BxN | 32 RxB | K-B3 | | |
| 12 BxB | N-B5 | 33 R-Q5 | K-K3 | | |
| 13 P-QN3 | NxB | 34 R-R5 | P-KR3 | | |
| 14 PxN | P-QN3 | 35 K-R2 | R-R3 | | |

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|------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| 20TH MATCH GAME | | 15 NwKN | KRxB | 36 R-B7ch | R-Q2 |
| SICILIAN DEFENSE | | 16 RxB | K-B1 | 37 RxBch | BxR |
| White: Bobby Fischer | | 17 KR-Q1 | K-K2 | 38 N-K1 | P-K4 |
| Black: Boris Spassky | | 18 N-QR4 | B-K1 | 39 PxB | PxP |
| | | 19 RxB | RxR | 40 K-Q2 | B-B4 |
| | | 20 N-B5 | R-N1 | 41 N-Q1 | K-Q3 |
| <u>White</u> | <u>Black</u> | 21 R-Q3 | P-QR4 | 42 N-K3 | B-K3 |
| 1 P-K4 | P-QB4 | 22 P-N3 | P-QN4 | 43 K-Q3 | B-B2 |
| 2 N-KB3 | N-QB3 | 23 P-QR3 | P-R5 | 44 K-B3 | K-B3 |
| 3 P-Q4 | PxP | 24 R-B3 | R-Q1 | 45 K-Q3 | K-B4 |
| 4 NxB | N-B3 | 25 N-Q3 | P-B3 | 46 K-K4 | K-Q3 |
| 5 N-QB3 | P-Q3 | 26 R-B5 | R-N1 | 47 K-Q3 | B-N3ch |
| 6 B-KN5 | P-K3 | 27 R-B3 | P-N4 | 48 K-B3 | K-B4 |
| 7 Q-Q2 | P-QR3 | 28 P-KN3 | K-Q3 | 49 N-Q3ch | K-Q3 |
| 8 O-O-O | B-Q2 | 29 N-B5 | P-KN5 | 50 N-K1 | K-B3 |
| 9 P-B4 | B-K2 | 30 N-K4ch | K-K2 | 51 K-Q2 | K-B4 |
| 10 B-K2 | O-O | 31 N-K1 | R-Q1 | 52 N-Q3ch | K-Q3 |
| 11 B-B3 | P-R3 | 32 N-Q3 | R-Q5 | 53 N-K1 | N-K3 |
| 12 B-R4 | NxB | 33 N(K)-B2 | R-Q4 | 54 K-B3 | N-Q5 |
| 13 BxB | NxQ | 34 R-B5 | R-Q4 | Draw Agreed | |
| 14 BxQ | NxB | 35 R-B3 | N-Q5 | | |

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|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 21ST MATCH GAME | | 16 QR-Q1 | KR-Q1 | 37 B-Q7 | R-QN8 |
| Sicilian Defense | | 17 B-K2 | QR-N1 | 38 B-K6 | R-N7 |
| White: Boris Spassky | | 18 P-QN3 | P-B5 | 39 B-B4 | R-R7 |
| Black: Bobby Fischer | | 19 NxB | BxN | 40 B-K6 | P-R4 |
| | | 20 RxB | BxPch | Resigns | |
| | | 21 KxB | RxB | | |
| <u>White</u> | <u>Black</u> | 22 BxP | R-Q7 | | |
| 1 P-K4 | P-QB4 | 23 BxP | RxBQBP | | |
| 2 N-KB3 | P-K3 | 24 R-KR2 | RxB | | |
| 3 P-Q4 | PxP | 25 BxR | R-Q1 | | |
| 4 NxB | P-QR3 | 26 P-R4 | R-Q7 | | |
| 5 N-QB3 | N-QB3 | 27 B-B4 | R-R7 | | |
| 6 B-K3 | N-B3 | 28 K-N3 | K-B1 | | |
| 7 B-Q3 | P-Q4 | 29 K-B3 | K-K2 | | |
| 8 PxB | PxB | 30 P-KN4 | P-B4 | | |
| 9 O-O | B-Q3 | 31 PxB | P-B3 | | |
| 10 NxB | PxN | 32 B-N8 | P-R3 | | |
| 11 B-Q4 | O-O | 33 K-N3 | K-Q3 | | |
| 12 Q-B3 | B-K3 | 34 K-B3 | B-R8 | | |
| 13 KR-K1 | P-B4 | 35 K-N2 | K-K4 | | |
| 14 BxB | QxB | 36 B-K6 | K-B5 | | |
| 15 QxQ | PxQ | | | | |