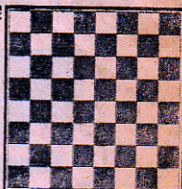


chess

by richard shorman



Eight candidates in the current series of matches to seed a challenger for Tigran Petrosian's world title have been paired off into two groups of four players: (1) Efim Geller — Boris Spassky, Bent Larsen — Lajos Portisch; (2) Svetozar Gligoric — Mikhael Tal, Viktor Korchnoi — Samuel Reshevsky.

Geller and Spassky began their ten-game match April 2 with a well-played draw (French Defense, Tarrasch variation, 21 moves). The hard fought second game was finally won by Spassky in fine style after Geller gave up his key Bishop for a sacrificial Rook.

White: Boris Spassky.

Black: Efim Geller.

Sukhumi, April 4, 1968.

2nd Match Game.

Sicilian Defense

(Notes by grandmaster Igor Bondarevsky in Sovetsky sport, April 6, 1968)

1 P-K4	P-QB4	20 QR-K1 (f)	B-B6
2 N-QB3 (a)	P-Q3	21 Q-B2	BxR
3 P-KN3	N-QB3	22 RxB	P-B3
4 B-N2	P-KN3	23 B-R6	R-B2
5 P-Q3	B-N2	24 P-N4	P-K3 (g)
6 P-B4	N-B3	25 N-R4	P-N4
7 N-B3	O-O	26 N-B3	PxP
8 O-O	R-N1 (b)	27 NPxP	K-R1
9 N-KR4	N-Q5	28 P-R4	P-N5
10 P-B5	P-QN4	29 N-R2	P-KN6 (h)
11 B-N5	P-N5	30 QxNP	NxP
12 N-N1 (c)	N-Q2	31 R-KN1	B-N2
14 K-R1	N-K4	32 B-B3	Q-Q2
13 N-Q2	P-QR4	33 B-R5	R-K2
15 R-QN1 (d)	P-R5	34 N-N4! (i)	R-N1
16 N/3-4-B3	N/4xN	35 Q-B2	N-Q5
17 NxN	N-N4 (e)	36 NxP	RxRch
18 Q-Q2	P-R6	37 QxR	Resigns (j)
19 PxRP	NxP		

(a) The closed variation, seldom seen today because it is less complex than modern lines in this opening and because the struggle begins in earnest only with the onset of the middlegame.

(b) Out of the opening, both sides start to put their respective plans in motion. Black, who controls the center, initiates a Queen-side pawn storm, while White tries to work up an attack on the King side, where his prospects are superior.

(c) White loses valuable time with this move, permitting Black to strengthen his position in the center.

(d) The Black cavalry is too active for White to keep up the pressure on the King side. The text move prepares to trade off the terrible Knights.

(e) Geller is intent upon playing **P-R6**, provoking a weakness in White's pawn structure. The plan involves loosening Black's hold on the center, however.

(f) Aware that the first round has been won by Black on the Queen side, Spassky boldly sacrifices the exchange to breathe new life into his waning King-side initiative.

(g) Detailed analysis of this position will probably reveal a better defensive plan. But over the board and with only limited time available Geller could not easily meet the demands of the position.

(h) Leads to an exchange of pawns, after which White obtains a strong attack along the open **KN** file.

(i) Beautiful! If **34 ... QxP**, then **35 N-K3!** and **36 B-N7ch**, e.g., **35 ... QxB** **36 B-N7ch** **K-N1** **37 BxPch** **Q-N3** **38 QxP**, etc.

(j) Mate is inescapable after **37 ... Q-Q1** **38 B-K8**.

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RAPID TRANSIT TOURNAMENT

The Hayward Chess Club will conduct a rapid transit tourney (ten seconds a move) on Monday, April 15, at 8 p.m. Entry fee is only 35 cents. Monthly winner receives a certificate, annual winner a trophy.

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WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, 2058 D St. (Hayward Arts and Science Center). Monday and Friday, 8-11 p.m.

Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave. (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.), Hayward. Evenings, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Ask for Harold James.

The Fremont Chess Club, School St., Niles (located in the Niles Community Center close to Niles High School). Monday, 7-11 p.m.

The Newark Chess Club, Cedar Blvd. (located in the Newark Community Center). Friday, 7-10 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets (in the old library of the Carnegie Building). Evenings, the first and third Friday of the month.