

Richard Shorman

Chess

Nana Aleksandriya was only 19-years-old when in 1969 she won this spirited contest, along with the tournament, from veteran Yugoslav women's champion Milunka Lazarevic.

White: Milunka Lazarevic. Black: Nana Aleksandriya.
Belgrade, 1969.

Alekhine's Defense

1 P-K4	N-KB3	18 Q-R3	R-R3
2 P-K5	N-Q4	19 N-Q6ch(k)	BxN
3 N-QB3(a)	NxN(b)	20 PxB	R-N3(1)
4 NPxN(c)	P-Q3(d)	21 R-K2	0-0-0
5 B-B4(e)	P-Q4!(f)	22 B-K5	P-R5
6 B-K2	P-QB4	23 Q-R3	P-B3
7 P-KB4	N-B3	24 QxRP(m)	PxB
8 N-B3	B-N5	25 Q-R8ch	K-Q2
9 R-QN1	Q-B2	26 RxPch	K-K1
10 0-0	P-K3(g)	27 Q-R7	P-R6!
11 P-B4(h)	PxP!	28 R-K7ch	K-B1
12 N-N5(i)	BxB	29 R-B7ch	K-N1
13 QxB	B-K2	30 R-B2	RxPch
14 N-K4	N-Q5!	31 K-B1	RxRch
15 Q-N4(j)	N-B4	32 KxR	Q-N7ch
16 B-N2	Q-B3	33 K-K1	Q-N8ch
17 KR-K1	P-KR4!	34 K-K2	N-Q5mate

(a) One of the oldest, yet newest, of White's weapons against Alekhine's Defense. Comparatively little analyzed in past decades, 3 N-QB3 has evoked grandmaster trials from Keres, Tal and (Robert) Byrne in recent years.

(b) Black sometimes defends with 3 . . . P-K3, which results in a plus for White after 4 NxN PxN5 Q-B3! P-QB3 6 P-Q P-Q3 7 B-Q3 (better than 7 Q-N3 PxP 8 PxP B-B4, rightly adjudged good for Black by Boleslavsky in "Caro-Kann bis Sizilianisch") PxP 8 PxP B-K3 9 N-K2 N-Q2 10 Q-N3 P-KN3 11 0-0 B-N2 12 P-KB4 N-B4 13 P-B5 (Gruenfeld).

(c) Capturing with the QP is supposed to be stronger, based on 4 . . . P-Q3 5 N-B3 N-B3 6 B-QN5! B-Q2 7 Q-K2 (Rolf Schwarz, 'Aljechin-und Nimzowitsch-Verteidigung,' Hamburg, 1969, pp. 152-53).

(d) According to "Chessman Quarterly" (Nov.-Dec. 1969, pg. 153), "4 . . . P-Q4 appears at present to be Black's soundest continuation, asserting a claim to a share of the center." As evidence the game Zaitsev—Vasyukov (1969 USSR Championship) is presented, won by Black after 5 P-Q4 P-QB4 6 N-B3 N-B3 7 P-KR3(?) P-K3 8 B-Q3 PxP 9 PxP N-N5 10 0-0 NxN 11 QxN B-Q2. But Max Euwe dug up a 20-year-old improvement for White (Guldin—Kopylov, USSR, 1947), beginning with 7 B-K2 P-B5 8 0-0 ("Schach-Archiv," May 1970, code 15d, no. 2). Boleslavsky recommends 4 . . . P-QB4 5 P-KB4 N-B3 6 N-B3 P-Q4, in order to answer 7 P-Q4 with 7 . . . P-B5 and 7 P-B4 by 7 . . . P-Q5 ("Shakhmatny byulleten," No. 2, 1971, pg 34).

(e) Certainly a novelty at this point, but not for long, as Black's reply transposes into the last part of the previous note. Latest tournament practice continued 5 P-KB4! PxP 6 PxP Q-Q4 7 P-Q4 P-QB4 8 N-B3 N-B3 9 B-K2 B-N5 10 0-0 PxP 11 PxP P-K3 12 R-N1 Q-Q2 13 N-N5! (Tal—Podgaets, Sochi, 1970).

(f) Not 5 . . . PxP? 6 Q-R5 P-K3 7 QxKP N-B3 8 Q-N3 (rather than give Black's QB useful work by 8 B-N5 B-Q2), with initiative to White.

(g) The position resembles a French Defense, except that Black's QB has been liberated from behind the pawn wall.

(h) Wrong pawn. Of course, 11 P-Q4 is correct, but White's prospects for an advantage are just about nil after 11 . . . P-B5.

(i) Now she realizes that 12 BxP N-Q5 actually favors Black, so the time has come to provoke complications.

(j) What began as a "temporary" pawn sacrifice has suddenly become a genuine loss. If 15 QxP, then White pays the price of 15 . . . P-QN4! 16 Q-Q3 R-Q1.

(k) The measure of White's despair is revealed in this decision to open lines for bishop and rook even at the cost of more material. Passive waiting does not suit Lazarevic's aggressive style, however.

(1) And definitely not 20 . . . QxP? 21 QxN.

(m) Play is virtually forced from here to checkmate. An attractive game by Aleksandriya, who is now leading 2-0 in a match with Lazarevic as part of a cycle to produce a challenger for women's world champion Nona Gaprindashvili.

WHERE TO PLAY

The Hayward Chess Club, Palma Ceia Park (corner of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way in old Palma Ceia village).

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

The Fremont Chess Club, 36025 Fremont Blvd. (Westridge Park Community Center). Thursday, 7-11 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets (in the old library of the Carnegie Building). Evenings, the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.