

Richard Shorman

Chess

FISCHER SWAMPS TAIMANOV 6-0

In an unprecedented feat of chess prowess Robert Fischer overwhelmed his Soviet adversary, grandmaster Mark Taimanov, by a score of 6-0. Fischer now advances to the semi-finals, where he will meet Bent Larsen of Denmark, who defeated East Germany's Wolfgang Uhlmann in their elimination match, 5½-3½.

Robert Huebner, West Germany, withdrew from the world championship candidates' series following a seventh round loss to Tigran Petrosian, Soviet Union. The official tally stands at 4-3 in favor of Petrosian.

Grandmasters Viktor Korchnoi and Yefim Geller, both of the USSR, fought a fierce battle with Korchnoi emerging the winner, 5½-2½. He now faces Petrosian in a semi-final contest to determine an eventual challenger for current world champion Boris Spassky.

White: Mark Taimanov.

Black: Robert Fischer.

World Championship Candidate Series, Vancouver, 1971.

King's Indian Defense.

1 P-Q4	N-KB3	22 BxN	PxB
2 P-QB4	P-KN3	23 R-Q1	Q-K2
3 N-QB3	B-N2	24 R-K6	Q-B4ch
4 P-K4	P-Q3	25 K-B1	KR-Q1(j)
5 N-B3	0-0	26 RxRch	RxR
6 B-K2	P-K4	27 Q-R4	Q-B8ch
7 0-0	N-B3	28 K-B2	B-KB1
8 P-Q5	N-K2	29 P-QN4(k)	B-K5
9 B-Q2(a)	N-K1	30 R-K8(1)	B-B3
10 R-B1	P-KB4	31 QxB(m)	QxQ
11 Q-N3(b)	P-N3(c)	32 RxR	Q-B3
12 PxP	PxP	33 R-B8	Q-K2
13 N-KN5	NKB3(d)	34 K-B1	K-R2(n)
14 P-B4	P-KR3(e)	35 N-Q4	B-N2
15 PxB	PxB	36 N-N5(o)	B-K4
16 P-B5!(f)	N-3xP	37 P-QR3	Q-Q2
17 NxN	NxN	38 R-QR8	P-B6!
18 PxB	RPxB	39 PxB	BxB
19 R-B6!(g)	K-R1	40 K-N2	Q-K2ch!(p)
20 N-B3(h)	B-N2	41 KxB	Q-K5ch
21 R-N6	N-B5!(i)	42 Resigns	

(Annotations are by former world champion Mikhail Tal, translated from "64," No. 22, May 28-June 3, 1971, pp. 4-5)

(a) Continuing the theoretical duel.

(b) An improvement over the first match game, in which Taimanov played 11 P x P P x P 12 N-KN5.

(c) Black stops P-B5 but weakens his Q-side white squares. More cautious is 11 . . . K-R1.

(d) After 13 . . . P-KR3 14 N-K6 B x N 15 P x B Q-B1 16 P-B5! NP x P 17 N-N5 White has a beautiful position for the pawn. Fischer's move also leads to trouble, however.

(e) Objectively stronger is 14 . . . P-K5, but White then retains the advantage in a relatively quiet situation. Fischer may have entered into this forced variation without foreseeing White's 19th move.

(f) The queen exerts more and more pressure against Black's king on 16 . . . P x N (16 . . . K-R1 17 P-Q6! does not change matters) 17 P-Q6ch K-R1 18 P x N Q x P 19 P x P RP x P White may choose between 20 B x P and 20 N-N5.

(g) Brilliantly refuting Black's idea, who is now unable to support his centralized knight. Neither can he play 19 . . . P x N because of 20 B-QB4 K-R1 21 B x N P-B5 (or 21 . . . P-N5) 22 R-QB3! with the decisive threats of 23 B x R and 23 R-R3ch. Black makes his only move.

(h) Taimanov pondered this move for nearly an hour to no avail. Why he rejected the natural 20 Q-KR3! is still unclear, since 21 R x Pch can be parried only by 20 . . . R-B3 and 20 . . . N-B3. In the first instance White brings his white-squared bishop into play with great effect (21 B-Q4), while the black-squared bishop becomes active in the second case (21 B-QB3). Comparatively best for Black is 20 . . . N-B3 21 B-QB3 B-Q2! (21 . . . Q-K2 22 N-B3 N-N5 23 N-R4!) 22 N-K6 B x B 23 R x B Q-Q2, but White has a definite edge after 24 R x KP (24 Q x BP N-R2! is less convincing), e.g., 24 . . . N-N5 25 R-Q1 Q-B2 26 R-5-Q5. Retreating the knight makes it easy for Fischer to repulse the attack and keep his material plus.

(i) Now Black's king is perfectly safe.

(j) With one pair of rooks gone White will feel the weakness of his back rank.

(k) The threat was 29 . . . B-B4ch.

(l) An attempt to complicate the play somewhat by sacrificing the queen for rook and bishop. A little better is 30 Q-N5, although Black still wins after 30 . . . Q-K6ch 31 K-K1 (31 K-B1 R-Q8ch! 32 B x R B-Q6ch 33 B-K2 Q-B8ch) Q-B6ch 32 K-B2 B x P 33 R-K8ch R x R 34 Q x Rch K-R2.

(n) The bishop's entry into the game gives Black an irresistible attack. The rest is simple.

(o) If 36 N x P, then 36 . . . Q-Q2, but not 36 . . . Q-K3 37 B-Q3.

(p) The most forceful way to win.

THE LAST GAME

White: Robert Fischer.

Black: Mark Taimanov.

World Championship Candidates' Series, Vancouver, 1971.

Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	23 Q-Q3	R-B1
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	24 Q x QP	Q x Q
3 P-Q4	P x P	25 R x Q	P-Q4
4 N x P	P-K3	26 N-B3	B-B4
5 N-N5	P-Q3	27 R-Q2	R-B5
6 B-KB4	P-K4	28 P-KN3	R-B5
7 B-K3	N-KB3	29 N-K2	R-QR5
8 B-N5	B-K3	30 P-QR3	K-Q2
9 N-1-B3	P-QR3	31 K-N2	P-N4
10 B x N	P x B	32 P-QB3	P-QR4
11 N-R3	N-Q5	33 N-Q4	P-N5
12 N-B4	P-B4	34 N-N3	B-N3
13 P x P	N x KBP	35 RP x P	P x P
14 B-Q3	QR-B1	36 P-QB4	K-B3
15 B x N	R x N	37 P-B5	B-B2
16 B x B	P x B	38 N-Q4ch	K-Q2
17 Q-K2	R-Q5	39 P-B4	P-K4
18 0-0	Q-N4	40 P-B6ch	K-B1
19 QR-Q1	Q-B4	41 N-N5	R-R7
20 R x R	P x R	42 P-B5	B-Q1
21 N-K4	B-K2	43 R x P	Resigns
22 R-Q1	Q-K4		