

Richard Shorman

Chess

Chess master Viktor Kupreychik, a 21-year-old student from Minsk, placed dead last in the 1969 USSR Championships. His failure was attributed to excessive aggression, however, and not to any lack of ability for playing well.

What he did to grandmaster (and former world champion) Mikhail Tal last month in Sochi more than illustrates the point.

White: Viktor Kupreychik.

Black: Mikhail Tal.

Sochi, October 1970.

Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	17 P×QP	N-N1
2 N-KB3	P-Q3	18 B-Q4	P-N3(h)
3 P-Q4	P×P	19 R-B3	B×P
4 N×P	N-QB3	20 R-3-K3	B-Q1(i)
5 N-QB3	N-B3	21 Q-R4!(j)	QN-Q2
6 B-QB4	Q-N3(a)	22 Q-R6	Q-N2
7 N-N3	P-K3	23 R-N3!	N-B4(k)
8 B-K3	Q-B2(b)	24 N×N	P×N
9 P-B4	P-QR3	25 P-B5!	P×B
10 B-Q3	P-QN4	26 BP×P	BP×P
11 P-QR3(c)	B-K2	27 B×NP	K-R1(1)
12 Q-B3	B-N2	28 Q×Rch	N-N1
13 0-0	R-QB1(d)	29 B-B5	R-N1
14 QR-K1	0-0(e)	30 R-K8	Q-KB2
15 Q-R3	P-N5(f)	31 R-R3!	Resigns
16 N-Q5!(g)	P×N		

(a) Designed to steer the game away from the Sozin attack (6 . . . P-K3 7 B-N3 or 7 B-K3) and into something more to Tal's aggressive tastes.

(b) This loss of tempo is of no consequence, as White loses a move later on retreating his bishop to Q3.

(c) In his pre-tournament preparation Kupreychik probably learned of Tal's preference for this defense and of the improvement for Black (omitting the "lost tempi") after 10 Q-B3 B-K2 11 0-0 B-N2 (stronger than 11 . . . 0-0, according to Moiseev, because of 12 P-N4! P-N5 13 N-K2 P-Q4 14 P-K5 N-K5 15 NN3!) 12 Q-R3 0-0 13 QR-K1 QR-Q1 14 P-N4. Now, rather than driving White's QN to a better square by 14 . . . P-N5, Black has 14 . . . N-QN5! (ridding himself of a dangerous enemy bishop) 15 P-N5 N-Q2 16 P-B5 N×B 17 P×N P-N5 18 N-K2 P×P 19 P×P, with counterplay based upon control of the long white diagonal, e.g., 19 . . . Q-B7 20 B-B4 N-K4 21 N-2-K4 Q×NP or 19 . . . R-B1 20 R-B1 Q-Q1 21 Q-N3 K-R1 followed by . . . N-K4 (Alexander Nikitin, "Sitsilianskaya zashchita," Moscow, 1969, pp. 60-61). The text move prevents . . . N-QN5.

(d) In view of what happens this rook (or 13 . . . KR-Q1) should play to Q1 instead.

(e) The jumping-off point into the middlegame. Similar positions occur in the Taimanov, Modern Paulsen and Schveningen Variations.

(f) Provokes a real Tal-like response!

(g) Even if ultimately proven wrong, this beautiful sacrifice has the practical merit of throwing Black on the long-term defensive.

(h) Under such pressure 18 . . . QN-Q2 19 R×B B×P 20 B-KB5 QR-Q1 21 P-N4 B-K3 22 B×B P×B 23 R×KP Q×P could not have been worse.

(i) Trying to return the piece here in hopes of breaking the attacks falls on 20 . . . QN-Q2 21 R×B Q-Q1 (21 . . . KR-K1? 22 B×N) 22 Q-R4 K-N2 23 R×N!

(j) Forcing Black's reply so that . . . N-QB3 cannot challenge White's powerful QB.

(k) Whatever salvation exists must reside in 23 . . . B-N3, eg., 24 P-B5 B×Bch (not 24 . . . B×N first due to 25 BP×P B×Bch 26 K-R1 BP×P 27 B×NP with an easy win) 25 N×B N-K4 26 BP×P BP×P (26 . . . N×P? 27 N-B5) 27 N-B5 R-QB2 (if 27 . . . N×B, then 28 R-K7), and White's offensive slowly disintegrates

(1) The only move short of resigning, since 27 . . . P×B 28 R×Pch K-B2 29 R-N7 mates.

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SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION

International grandmaster Walter Browne will take on all comers in the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, 57 Post St., San Francisco, on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. Board fee is \$3; spectators admitted free.