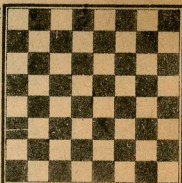


chess

by richard shorman



THE EL LOPEZ GAMBIT

Lupe Lopez, Hayward, recently added a new opening gambit to the pages of chess theory. Here is his latest effort to prove the soundness of his idea in practice.

White: Lupe Lopez.

Black: Lance Thomson.

Hayward Chess Club Match Game, July 15, 1968.

French Defense

1	P-K4	P-K3	13	BxNch	BxB
2	P-Q4	P-Q4	14	RxB	KxR(i)
3	N-QB3	B-N5	15	Q-R5ch	P-N3
4	P-QR3(a)	BxNch	16	R-B1ch	K-K1
5	PxB	PxP(b)	17	Q-K5ch	K-Q2
6	P-B3(c)	P-K4(d)	18	R-B7ch	K-B1
7	B-K3	PxBP(e)	19	Q-K6ch	N-Q2
8	NxP(f)	P-K5	20	B-N5(j)	Q-K1
9	N-N5	B-B4(g)	21	R-K7	Q-Q1
10	B-QB4	N-KR3	22	RxP	R-K1(k)
11	O-O	B-N3	23	Q-N4	Resigns
12	NxBP(h)	NxN			

(a) Offering the KP in return for an open game with attacking chances.

(b) Black may transpose into regular French Defense lines by 5 . . . P-QB4.

(c) The "El Lopez" Gambit, or so this continuation has been dubbed by the modest young man playing White. So far as I can ascertain from standard works on openings, his claim to fame for the originality of this move is legitimate.

(d) Since the game has come to resemble a Blackmar Gambit, Black tries a proven recipe against that system. Unfortunately for Black, the similarity is only superficial, viz., 6 . . . P-K4 costs a tempo; Black's most effective defense against the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, . . . P-KN3 and . . . B-N2, is impossible here; White's QP has been strengthened as a result of the exchange on QB3. The best line at this stage appears to be 6 . . . P-QB4 7 B-K3 (not 7 BPxP Q-R5ch) N-QB3! and White must search for a way to complete his K-side development.

(e) Risky business but Black has already committed himself. White's game is superior after 7 . . . N-QB3, e.g., 8 P-Q5 N/3-K2 9 PxP N-KB3 10 B-Q3 O-O 11 N-B3 B-N5 12 O-O N-B1 13 Q-K1 R-K1 14 Q-N3.

(f) Recapturing with the Queen deserves consideration: 8 QxP N-QB3 9 R-Q1! Q-B3 10 B-QN5 QxQ 11 NxQ, with a big lead in development for White (11 . . . B-N5 12 PxP!).

(g) Virtually loses by force, as White aptly demonstrates. Correct, of course, is 9 . . . N-KB3 and Black holds his own.

(h) Neatly destroying Black's illusions about King safety.

(i) A Rook up and a King down . . .

(j) Just when Black appears to have escaped the worst, White forces new avenues of attack.

(k) If 22 . . . Q-K1 again, then 23 QxNch! QxQ 24 RxRch Q-K1 (24 . . . Q-Q1 25 RxQmate) 25 RxQch K-Q2 26 RxR wins everything.

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OAKLAND SUMMER TOURNAMENT

The Oakland Chess Club will sponsor its fifth annual summer tournament Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-25, at the Oakland Central YMCA, 2101 Telegraph Ave. Trophies and book prizes will be awarded in three classes, Expert-A, B and C. Numerous other prizes will be presented during the course of the tournament. Entry fee for this 5-round Swiss system event is \$4 plus CFNC membership. Round one begins promptly at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 24.