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Chess

GRANDMASTER GAMES FROM MONTREAL

White: Boris Spassky.

Black: Mikhail Tal.

Montreal, 1979.

Queen's Indian Defense

1	d4	Nf6	13	dc(e)	bc
2	c4	e6	14	Qc3(f)	Rfe8
3	Nf3	b6	15	Rfd1(g)	d4
4	e3	Bb7	16	ed	cd
5	Bd3	d5	17	Qa5(h)	Ne5
6	b3	Bd6	18	Ne5	Be5
7	O-O	O-O	19	Nc4	Rd5
8	Bb2	Nbd7	20	Qd2(i)	Bh2!
9	Nbd2	Qe7	21	Kh2	Rh5!(j)
10	Rcl(a)	Rad8(b)	22	Kgl	Ng4
11	Qc2(c)	c5	23	Resigns(k)	
12	cd(d)	ed			

(Annotations by former world champion Mikhail Tal, translated from "64", No. 18, May 3-9, 1979, pg. 9)

(a) Spassky was clearly out for revenge after his loss to me in the first round, which is confirmed by his decision to seek complications in the opening here (such as 6 b3 indicates). An approximately equal position has been reached.

(b) More frequently played is 10 . . . Ne4 or 10 . . . c5, but I wished to have my opponent declare a square for his queen. On 11 Qe2 Black planned 11 . . . Ne4.

(c) Now the advance of the "c" pawn gains considerably in force.

(d) There is nothing wrong with this capture . . .

(e) But this exchange contains no danger for Black: even though he will have "hanging pawns," almost all of his pieces are poised for action on the king side.

(f) Virtually inviting Black to attack. "Just in case," Black first brings his last piece into play.

(g) If 15 Rcd1 instead, then 15 . . . c4!? 16 bc Bb4 would have to be taken seriously into account. I now resolved to go along with my opponent's design, which apparently, surprised him.

(h) Perhaps the losing move. White also obtains a bad game after 17 Qd4 Nc5, with powerful threats for Black, but fairly unclear play results from 17 Nd4. For "conscience's sake," I had prepared a reserve continuation, 17 . . . Qe5 18 N4f3 Qh5, with good compensation for the pawn. Of course, it was tempting to sacrifice the bishop with 17 . . . Bh2 18 Kh2 Ng4 19 Kg3 (or 19 Kgl Qh4 20 N4f3 Qf2 21 Khl Re5 22 Bf5 Ne3) Qe5 20 f4 (20 Kg4 gets White mated in four) Qe3 21 N4f3 Ndf6. It seems to me that Black has a sufficiently dangerous attack in this line, but Spassky had no choice other than to enter it. On a5 his queen, first of all, stands out of play and, secondly, permits Black to win a vital tempo on his 19th move.

(i) I confess to having worked out the finish only with 20 Ba3 Qe6 21 Qd2 Bh2 22 Kh2 Rh5 23 Kgl Rhl. The game concluded with a somewhat different variation based on the same theme.

(j) Spasskey may have counted solely on 21 . . . Ng4 22 Kg3 and overlooked 21 . . . Rh5, after which 22 Kg3 loses out of hand to 22 . . . Ne4.

(k) There is no defense to the twin shots of 23 . . . Qh4 and, even "louder," 23 . . . Rhl.

To be continued next week