Richard Shorman

Chess

KREJCIK THE GREAT

Reti, Spielman, Tartakover, Grunfeld, Schlechter and Vidmar were all world renowned products of the famed "Vienna school of chess." But who remembers their fearless and gifted nemesis, Dr. Prof. Josef Krejcik?

Born in 1885, the great Krejcik frequented the Wiener Schachklub and the Cafe Central in Vienna for 50 years playing hundreds of games with Vidmar, Tartakover, Konig, Kmoch, Spielman, Albin, Wolf and many others.

Though he seldom left his beloved Vienna due to a heart ailment, Krejcik nonetheless earned the respect of his more illustrious peers. He won brilliancy prize games against Grunfeld and Wolf, beat Vidmar in fine style, held Reti and Tartakover to desperate draws and even had Lasker dead to rights before succumbing to a mirage.

A "Monster-Blitz" tournament of over 100 players held in Vienna, 1922 finished with Krejcik and Alekhine among those tied for fifth through eighth. Between 1920 and 1930, he never lost a game as a Vienna team member in regular inter-city matches versus Munich and Budapest.

For sheer beauty and depth of play, Krejcik's "Game of a Lifetime" deserves to go down in history on a par with Anderssen's "Evergreen Partie."

White: Josef Krejcik   **Black: Konrad Krobot.**
Cafe Viktoria, Vienna, Feb. 24, 1908.
Center Game

1	P-K4	P-K4	15	KR-N1!!	P-N4
2	P-Q4	PxP	16	NxP!	PxN
3	QxP	N-QB3	17	B-B3	P-R4(c)
4	Q-K3	P-KN3	18	R-Q6!!	PxR(d)
5	B-Q2	B-N2	19	PxP	PxP(e)
6	N-QB3	KN-K2	20	BxBch	KxB
7	0-0-0	0-0	21	N-B7ch	N-N3
8	P-B4	P-QR3	22	RcNch!	KxR
9	N-B3	P-B4	23	P-B5ch	K-B3
10	B-B4ch	K-R1	24	Q-R4ch	KxP
11	N-KN5	Q-K1	25	Q-N5ch	K-K5
12	PxP	RxP(a(	26	NxPch	K-Q5
13	P-KN4	R-B1	27	P-B3mate(f)	
14	Q-R3	P-R3(b)			

(Notes by Austrian master Josef Krejcik, translated from his book, "Mein Abschied vom Schach", Berlin, 1955, pp. 35-36)

(a) On 12 . . . PxP Black's bishop would never command the diagonal leading to White's KR3 and after 12 . . . NxP Black loses the exchange following the trade of queens.

(b) Now comes the finest move of the game, the full meaning of which will become clear later.

(c) After 17 . . . N-KN1 White wins some very pretty variations: I. 18 QR-K1! QN-K2 19 BxBch KxB 20 BxN KxB (20 . . . RxB 21 Q-B3ch) 21 QxP R-B2 22 R-N3! Q-B1 23 NxR! QxN (23 . . . KxN 24 Q-R7ch and either 24 . . . K-B3 25 RxN! or 24 . . . K-K1 25 KR-K3) 24 R-KR3 Q-N2 25 QxQch, etc.; II. 18 QR-K1! QxRch 19 RxQ PxB 20 BxBch KxB 21 Q-B3ch N-B3 22 N-K4 P-Q4 (22 . . . RxP 23 NxN! R-R8ch 24 K-Q2 RxR 25 N-R5ch K-B2 26 Q-B6ch and mates, or 22 . . . P-N4 23 PxP PxP 24 NxN RxN 25 R-B1 and wins) 23 NxN P-Q5 24 QxBP RxN 25 R-K8, etc. The "Suddeutschen Schachblatter" commented, "This game contains a particularly demonic combination!"

(d) The penalty for refusing the rook is a queen sacrifice at R5 and mate by the rook at R6, whereas accepting the rook offer bottles up the power of Black's defensive bishop at QB1. If 18 . . . N-KN1 or 18 . . . PxB, then White wins with 19 PxP. The strength of 15 KR-N1!! will now be revealed . . .

(e) Here White announced mate in eight moves. Later, however, the veteran master Johannes Berger demonstrated a mate two moves sooner, beginning with 23 Q-N3ch.

(f) A problem-like mate! On 26 . . . K-B6 would have followed 27 Q-N3mate.

White: Johannes Berger. **Black: Josef Krejcik.**
Wiener Schachklub, Vienna, 1907.
Albin Counter Gambit

1 P-Q4	P-Q4	12 R-K1	B-B4!(b)
2 P-QB4	P-K4	13 BxB	P-Q6ch
3 PxKP	P-Q5	14 K-B1	Q-R5!!
4 P-K4(a)	B-QB4	15 Q-Q2	QxP
5 P-B4	P-KB3	16 BxQP	Q-R8ch
6 PxP	NxP	17 K-K2	QxPch
7 B-Q3	N-B3	18 K-Q1	QxNch
8 P-QR3	P-QR4	19 B-K2(c)	Q-N6ch
9 N-KB3	0-0	20 Q-B2	N-B7ch
10 0-0	R-K1	21 K-Q2	B-K6mate
11 P-K5	N-KN5		

(Notes by Austrian master Josef Krejcik, translated from his book, "Mein Abschied vom Schach", Berlin, 1955, pp. 33-34)

(a) And not 4 P-K3? B-N5ch 5 B-Q2 PxP! 6 BxB PxPch 7 K-K2 PxN(N)ch!, etc.

(b) A beautiful sacrifice, the acceptance of which leads to a wonderfully swift conclusion. Schlechter cites this game as a source in "Bilguer's Handbuch".

(c) The alternatives are 19 Q-K2 N-B7ch 20 K-Q2 QxPch 21 K-B3 Q-Q5ch 22 K-B2 RxP, etc. or 19 K-B2 N-Q5ch 20 K-B3 N-KB7! 21 P-N3 B-N5ch 22 PxB PxPch 23 KxN NxB! 24 RxR P-B4mate.

White: Josef Krejcik. **Black: Franz Klar.**
Olmutz, 1907.
Vienna Game

1 P-K4	P-K4	13 B-K3	BxP(c)
2 N-QB3	N-KB3	14 B-B2	Q-B5
3 P-B4	P-Q4	15 R-K1	N-Q2
4 PxKP	NxP	16 R-R4	Q-B3
5 N-B3	B-KN5	17 B-N4!	K-Q1
6 B-K2(a)	BxN	18 BxN	BxN(d)
7 BxB	Q-R5ch	19 R-KB4!!	Q-Q3(e)
8 P-N3	NxNP	20 RxP	BxR(f)
9 PxN	QxPch	21 QxB	P-KR3(g)
10 K-B1	B-B4(b)	22 Q-R5ch	Q-B2
11 P-Q4!	BxP	23 B-R4ch	P-N4
12 Q-K2	P-QB3	23 Q-B3	Resigns

(Notes by Austrian master Josef Krejcik, translated from his book, "Mein Abschied vom Schach", Berlin, 1955, pg. 34)

(a) Speilmann used to play 6 Q-K2 here.

(b) Dr. Perlis versus Kopsa (Barmen, 1905) continued 11 Q-K2. White finds a stronger move.

(c) Or 13 . . . BxN 14 PxB QxP 15 R-R5 Q-K2 16 Q-R2! N-Q2 17 R-K1, with a crushing attack. If, in this line, Black plays 15 . . . P-KB4, then White wins after 16 Q-Q3 P-KN3 (16 . . . 0-0 17 B-Q4 and 18 R-K1) 17 B-Q4 Q-N6 18 R-K1ch K-Q1 19 B-B6ch K-B1 20 BxR PxR 21 QxPch.

(d) Now begins a brilliancy prize winning combination. Grandmaster Spielmann, the best Vienna Game expert in the world, regarded this game as one of the finest Vienna Games he had ever seen.

(e) If 19 . . . QxR, then 20 Q-K7ch K-B2 21 B-K8ch wins. Or 19 . . . BxR 20 RxQ PxR 21 B-R3! and 22 Q-N4, with the same result.

(f) And not 20 . . . B-B3 because of 21 Q-K8ch, etc.

(g) The threat was 22 B-R4ch followed by 23 B-N3!

SHORT SHRIFT

White: Helmer. Black: Krejcik. Vienna, 1917. Budapest Gambit 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 de Ng4 4 f4 Bc5 5 Nh3 Nh2! 6 Rh2 Qh4 7 Kd2 d5! 8 Qb3 Bh3 9 Qh3 Qf4 10 Kc2 Qf1!! 11 Qc8 Ke7 12 Qh8 Qe2 13 Bd2 Nc6! 14 Qa8 Nb4 15 Kb3 Qc4 16 Ka4 b5 17 Ka5 Bb6mate.