

Richard Shorman

Chess

TAL AND KARPOV TIE IN MONTREAL

With \$110,000 at stake, ten of the world's leading grandmasters met in Montreal, Canada for the first "Man and His World Chess Challenge Cup" tournament, Apr. 11-May 6. More than 10,000 spectators paid \$3.50 per round to watch the games as they were being played.

Lubomir Kavalek was the driving force behind the event, enlisting the enthusiastic support of Canadian publisher Roger Lemelin ("La Presse"), who then obtained substantial backing from major business concerns.

Respected Yugoslav grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, 56, directed the double round-robin competition, assisted by Kevin O'Connell of England. Results:

1st-2nd, Anatoly Karpov (2705), USSR, AND Mikhail Tal (2615), USSR, 12-6, \$21,500 each; 3rd, Lajos Portisch (2640), Hungary, 10½-7½, \$15,000; 4th, Ljubomir Ljubojevic (2590), Yugoslavia, 9-9, \$12,000; 5th-6th, Boris Spassky (2640), USSR, and Jan Timman (2625), the Netherlands, 8½-9½, \$9,000 each; 7th-9th, Vlastimil Hort (2600), Czechoslovakia, Robert Huebner (2595), West Germany, and Lubomir Kavalek (2590), USA, 8-10, \$6,000 each; 10th Bent Larsen (2620), Denmark, 5½-12½, \$4,000.

White: Mikhail Tal. Black: Bent Larsen.

Montreal, 1979.

Sicilian Defense

1 e4(a)	c5	12 e5(e)	de
2 Nf3	Nc6	13 fe	Nd5
3 d4	cd	14 Be7	Nc3(f)
4 Nd4	Nf6	15 Bf3!(g)	Ndl
5 Nc3	d6	16 Bd6	Qc4(h)
6 Bg5	e6	17 Qb6!(i)	Nf2(j)
7 Qd2	Be7	18 Bc6(k)	Bd7
8 0-0-0	a6(b)	19 Bd7	Kd7
9 f4	Qc7(c)	20 Qb7	Kd8
10 Be2(d)	Nd4	21 Qa8	Qc8
11 Qd4	b5	22 Qa7	Resigns(1)

(Annotations by former world champion Mikhail Tal, translated from "64", No. 16, Apr. 19-25, 1979, pp. 10-11)

(a) It is no easy matter preparing for Larsen, since the Dane has an unusually large opening repertoire. So I adopted the optimal decision of playing 1 e4 and waiting to see what would happen. . .

(b) In our 1969 match Larsen beat me twice after 8 . . . 0-0. But, considering my form at the time, Larsen could have felt fully confident with just about any variation.

(c) Theory recommends 10 Bf6, but I did not want to grant my opponent an opportunity to play out of a pawn formation to his liking (after 10 . . . gf).

(d) This continuation does not attempt to refute Black's variation, but his reaction proves most unfortunate. The normal response would be 10 . . . Bd7, to which I had planned 11 Nb3 0-0-0 12 Bf6 (Anyway!) gf 13 Bh5, occupying an important square with the bishop.

(e) A thematic thrust in such positions; after all, Black's king is still in the center.

(f) Larsen probably counted on this possibility. In fact, there are no longer any other choices, e.g., 14 . . . Ne7 loses instantly to 15 Nb5.

(g) A very important in-between move that achieves a clear advantage for White. Possibly, Larsen had intended to play 15 . . . Bb7, but upon closer inspection had realized that after 16 Bd6 Bf3 17 bc! White emerges with an extra piece. Extremely dangerous for Black would be 15 . . . Ke7 16 Qh4 f6 (16 . . . Ke8? 17 Bc6) 17 ef gf 18 Qb4 Kf7 19 bc, and it is very unlikely that Black can survive. The strongest move is 15 . . . Ne2. Both players had calculated through to the rook ending following 16 Be2 Qe7 17 Bf3 Bb7 18 Bb7 Qb7 19 Qd6 Rc8 20 Rd2 Qc6 21 Rhd1 Qd6 22 Rd6 Ra8 23 Rb6 (or 23 Rld3), which, although quite difficult, may not be completely hopeless for Black in view of his possible counterplay by h7-h5-h4 and a subsequent Rh5. The move Larsen actually selects loses fast.

(h) On 16 . . . Qa7 the game ends with 17 Bc5.

(i) Much more convincing than 17 Qc4 bc 18 Ba8 Ne3.

(j) In reply to 17 . . . Ne3 White would "be satisfied" with 18 Qe3. Now it does not pay to take the knight: 18 Qf2 Qf4 19 Kbl Bd7, and Black holds.

(k) Just as good is 18 Ba8.

(l) Black cannot simultaneously defend the squares e7 and f2.