

CHESS BARBS

FLASH! VIA SLOW-PADDLING YAK FROM ICELAND--

FISCHER WINS!!!!

by Jude Acers (US senior master)
ROBERT FISCHER,
WORLD CHAMPION!

In the 21st match game Fischer reverted back to the Sicilian Defense after some interruption, although it was a new variation for him (the Paulsen system). Spassky used a lot of time on his clock, but he still played the opening inexactly and Black took the initiative.

Under pressure, Spassky correctly sacrificed his rook for a bishop and pawn. An ending was reached in which White's two passed pawns, supported by his bishop, seemed to assure a draw. But Spassky's errors permitted Fischer to set up a passed pawn of his own on the opposite flank. Whereas the white pawns were held back by the enemy rook, the black pawn threatened to advance down the side of the board.

Finally, at adjournment Spassky sealed a weak move and, when analysis proved that further resistance was useless, he resigned the game without resuming play. With a score of 12 1/2-8 1/2 Fischer thus won the scheduled 24-game match and is the new chess champion of the world.

White: Boris Spassky. Black: Robert Fischer. World Championship, Match Game No. 21. Reykjavik, Iceland, Aug. 31, 1972. Sic-

ilian Defense.

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 a6(A) 5 Nc3 Nc6(B) 6 Be3 Nf6 (C) 1 Bd3 d5!7(D) 8 ed ed(E) 9 0-0(F) Bd6 10 Nc6(G) bc 11 Bd4(H) 0-0 12 Qf3(I) Be6 13 Rfel(J) c5(K) ● \$ Bf6 Qf6 15 Qf6 gf 16 Rad1 Rfd8(L) 17 Be2(M) Rab8 18 b3 c4(N) 19 Nd5!(O) Bd5 20 Rd5 Bh2-ch(P0) 21 Kh2 Rd5 22 Bc4 Rd2 23 Ba6 Rc2 24 Re2 Re2 25 Be2 Rd8 26 a4!(Q) Rd2 27 Bc4 Ra2(R) 28 Kg3 Kf8 29 Kf3 Ke7 30 g4?(S) f5 31 gf f6 32 Bg8 h6 33 Kg3 Kd6 34 Kf3?(T) Ral(U) 35 Kg2 Ke5 36 Be6 Kf4 37 Bd7 Rb1(V) 38 Be6 Rb2 39 Bc4 Ra2(W) 40 Be6 h5(X) 41 Resigns.

(Annotations are by international grandmaster Anatoly Karpov, translated from "64" No. 36, Sept. 8-14, 1972, pg. 10.)

(A) The Paulsen variation. With such a wide lead in the match (3 points!) Fischer evidently thought it unwise to wade into the sharpest lines of the Sicilian Defense and so chose one of the quietest continuations possible, since even "half points" bring the challenger victory. This game marks the first time that Fischer has played the black side of a Paulsen system.

(B) Now considered strongest. Black's idea is to skip Qc7 in case of 6 g3, as in the Fischer-Taimanov match, by 6...d, and if 7. Bg2, then 7...Bd7.

(C) Theory judges 6...Qc7 and

6...Nf6 equal. After 7 Be2 both transpose into the same position. On other moves for White 6...Qc7 is the more elastic continuation, since Black's knight sometimes comes into play via e7. The match has demonstrated the challenger's broad opening knowledge, and he allows the transposition of moves with a special purpose in mind. In the variation with 7 Bd3, a favorite of Spassky's, he has prepared a new idea.

(D) Strictly speaking, the theoretical novelty comes not here but on Black's following move.

(E) The point. Formerly, 8...Nd5 was played in this position, and White secured the better chances with 9 Nc6 bc 10 Bd4. Now the game takes on the quality of a French Defense with an isolated pawn on d5, in which Black's counterplay sufficiently compensates the weakness of his center pawn. It is worth mentioning in passing that Spassky more often finds himself contending with an isolated pawn than against one.

(F) Grandmaster Furman's suggestion of 9 Qe2 Be7 10 f3 followed by Qf2 and 0-0, with active play in the center, deserves attention; castling long is also possible in this line, but such moves are for lovers of sharp sensations. The mechanical textmove permits Black to deploy his bishop actively.

(G) A questionable exchange that strengthens Black's position in the

center. White can fight for the advantage by 10 h3 with the idea of Nce2, c3 and Bf4 or 10 Be2 and relocating the bishop on f3.

(H) After 11 Bg5 White could have obtained a position from the Scotch Game. The bishop on d4 is poorly placed, as it comes under fire from Black's pawns.

(I) Careless. Now Fischer could have created dangerous threats with 12...Ng4 13 h3 Qh4, but he still prefers "a bird in the hand" to "two in the bush": Shunning tactical complications, he contents himself with a small advantage.

(J) Defending against 13...Ng4.

(K) Forcing the game into a favorable ending for Black.

(L) Indirectly guarding the pawn on d5 and preparing to advance the center pawns.

(M) White could also have defended with 17 Na4, but Spassky is setting up a sacrifice of the exchange to ensure a positional draw.

(N) Black must push ahead or else White will actually take command after 19 Bf3.

(O) The only try, but adequate. The threat was 19...Bb4.

(P) Black gets his rook trapped after 20...cb 21 ab Bh2ch 22 Kh2 Rd5 23 Ba6 Rd2 24 Bd3 Rf2 25 Kg3.

(Q) White starts his passed pawns moving. If 26...Rd2 27 Bc4

Rf2, for example, then the pawns become extremely menacing after 28 a5.

(R) The rook has to keep a close watch over the white pawns. Here the simplest way to achieve a draw is 28 Kg3 followed by f4, Kf3 and Kg3.

(S) A serious positional mistake that allows Black to exercise his only winning chance by giving up the forward "f" pawn in order to create a passed "h" pawn. Still correct is 30 Kg3 and 31 f4.

(T) Another error, after which White probably has a lost game. With 34 f4 White could have formed an unassailable fortress by denying the important center square e5 to the black king.

(U) Threatening an unpleasant march of the "h" pawn after 35...Rg1. White's subsequent moves are practically forced.

(V) Black has mobilized his king, while his rook successfully copes with White's bishop and passed pawns.

(W) After 39...Kf5 the passed pawn would play to a6 and compel all of Black's pieces to gravitate toward it.

(X) In this position the game was adjourned (with 41 Bd7 as the sealed move) and Spassky resigned without resuming play. Of course, White cannot save the game after 41 Bd7, but even the best move, 41 Kh3, leaves Black with good winning chances after 41...Rf2.

LERA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Ted Yudacufski directed the 6-round, USCF and CFNC tournament held over the Thanksgiving Day weekend (Nov. 24-26) at the LERA Main Auditorium, opposite Sunnyvale.

USCF Open Division

1st, Borel Menas, Daly City, 5 1/2-1/2, \$75; 2nd, Ira Pohl, Santa Cruz, 4 1/2-1 1/2, \$50; 3rd, Mike Ewell, Sunnyvale, 4-2, \$25; 1st "A", Jim Hurt, Saratoga, 4 1/2-1 1/2, \$50; 2nd "A", Gene Lee, Mt. View, 4-2, \$25.

USCF Booster Division

1st "B", Stewart Scott, Sunnyvale, and F. W. Goss, Redwood City, 4 1/2-1 1/2, \$82.50 each; 1st "C", Marcial Padua, San Jose, 5-1, \$70; 2nd "C", Wayne McClintock, Oakland, and Geoffrey Fong, Los Altos, 4 1/2-1 1/2, \$17.50 each; 1st "D", Glenn Griggs, San Jose, 4 1/2-1 1/2, \$30; 1st Unrated, Henk DeWilde, Berkeley, 6-0(1), \$40; 2nd Unrated, David Hearn, Santa Clara, 4 1/2-1 1/2, \$25.

CFNC "C" Division

1st, Rick Frye, San Jose, and Hans Dirks, Sunnyvale, 5-1, \$30 plus trophy each; 2nd, Perry Price, Palo Alto, Robert Joslin, Redwood City, and Sandy Long, Los Altos, 4 1/2-1 1/2, trophy each.

Berkeley Barb Dec 1-7, 1972