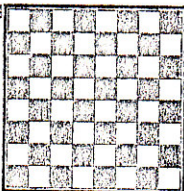


chess

by richard shorman



The Dragon Variation of the Sicilian Defense has been severely shaken, especially in the lower ranks, as a result of White's improved attacking technique in recent years. Black need not even make a bad move for the fatal storm to break over his King's head. Merely waiting too long before launching a vigorous counterattack often transforms White's aggressive build-up into an irresistible, almost mechanical, offensive.

White: Mark Watson. Black: Grant Metcalf.

CFNC Open Championships, Berkeley, Feb. 4, 1968.

Sicilian Defense

1	P-K4	P-QB4	12	P-KN4	N-B3
2	N-KB3	P-Q3	13	B-N3	N-K4
3	P-Q4	PxP	14	B-R6	BxB (e)
4	NxP	N-KB3	15	QxB	Q-R4
5	N-QB3	P-KN3	16	0-0-0	N-B5 (f)
6	B-K3	B-N2	17	N-Q5	KR-Q1
7	P-B3	N-B3	18	NxPch	K-R1
8	Q-Q2	0-0	19	N-Q5	N-R4
9	B-QB4	B-Q2	20	RxN	PxR
10	P-KR4 (a)	R-B1 (b)	21	N-B6	Resigns
11	P-R5 (c)	NxRP (d)			

(a) Premature, but hard to meet over the board. The "main line" runs 10 B—N3 Q—R4 11 0-0-0 KR—B1 12 K—N1 N—K4.

(b) Too slow. Black weathers the storm with 10...Q—R4 11 P—R5 N—K4 12 B—N3 NxRP 13 P—N4 N—KB3 14 0-0-0 KR—B1 15 B—R6 BxB 16 RxB RxN! 17 PxR R—QB1 18 K—N2 Q—N3 19 K—R1 Q—B4 20 Drawn (Fuchs-Hindle, Urnjacka Banja, 1967).

(c) Correct is 11 B—N3.

(d) Falling in with White's plans. Black gains time after 11...NxN 12 QxN NxRP.

(e) White has a winning attack after 14...N—B5 15 BxB RxB 16 BxB KxB 17 Q—R6ch K—N1 18 N—Q5!

(f) Black must play 16...RxN, preventing the Knight from reaching Q5, and hope for the best.

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CONCORD OPEN TOURNAMENT

The Concord Chess Club, with Jerry Long officiating, is sponsoring the second annual Concord Open Chess Championships Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 24-25, at the Concord Recreation Center, 2974 Salvio St. All of the entry fees collected from the Master/Expert Division will be returned in two cash prizes: 1st, 65 per cent; 2nd, 35 per cent. Prizes in classes A, B and C will be \$25 plus trophy for 1st, \$15 for 2nd, and \$10 for 3rd place. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the Junior Division (16 years and under with no rating above 1550). Entry fees for this five-round Swiss system tourney are \$10 plus CFNC dues for the M/E Division, \$5 plus CFNC dues for classes A, B and C, and \$3 for the Jr. Division. Round one starts at noon, Saturday, Feb. 24.

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CHECKMATE

Did you know that U.S. champion Bobby Fischer writes a chess column for the monthly magazine **Boys' Life**? Designed for the younger player, the column makes entertaining and instructive reading. Grandmaster Fischer also adds his personal touch by answering readers' questions and offering his opinion on various aspects of chess. **Boys' Life** is available at the Hayward Public Library for those unable to obtain it elsewhere.