

chess

by richard shorman



Because of an inferiority in actual playing strength some chess players, rich in imagination but poor in chess technique, rarely get a chance to prosecute new ideas against stronger opponents. A chess master can stifle most amateurs' attempts at originality by steadfastly adhering to the principles of positional attrition.

But this observation need not hold true for a clash between two lesser lights. In today's game, for example, lax defense permits White to demonstrate the full potential of an intriguing opening innovation.

White: Lupe Lopez. Black: Jerry Friedman.
Hayward Chess Club, March 4, 1968.

French Defense

1 P-K4	P-K3	7 NxP	N-K2 (d)
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	8 B-Q3	O-O
3 N-QB3	B-N5	9 O-O	QN-B3 (e)
4 P-QR3 (a)	BxNch	10 N-N5	N-N3 (f)
5 PxB	PxP	11 Q-R5	P-KR3
6 P-B3 (b)	PxP (c)	12 NxBP	Resigns (g)

(a) This forcing move is not nearly so bad as it looks. In return for his sacrificed Pawn White obtains the two Bishops, stabilizes the center, and secures a temporary initiative. For his part, Black must react very energetically to exploit White's loss of tempi. Incidentally, 4 P-QR3 was successfully employed in two world championship matches, Alekhine-Euwe, 1935, and Smyslov-Botvinnik, 1954.

(b) An original move, unbooked and untested in master play. White wants to open the game and utilize superior development for a swift assault against the enemy King. Both Alekhine and Smyslov played 6 Q-N4 here.

(c) Black's alternatives (6...P-K6, 6...N-KB3, 6...P-KB4) also leave White some pull on the position. Similar action occurs in the Blackmar Gambit, 1 P-Q4 P-Q4 2 N-QB3 N-KB3 3 P-K4 PxP 4 P-B3.

(d) Strategically fatal. The Knight belongs on KB3 in spite of the pin (B-KN5) and the latent threat of demolition along the KB file (RxN).

(e) If now 9...N-Q2, to bring a Knight to KB3 after all, then White crashes through with 10 N-N5 N-KB3(?) 11 RxNI PxR 12 Q-R5.

(f) White meets 10...P-KR3 with 11 Q-R5 as in the game. Many a strong player would give his eye teeth for such a perfect attacking position against worthy opposition.

(g) A bit too soon to resign, perhaps, but 12...RxN 13 RxR KxR 14 QxNch K-B1 15 P-QR4! followed by 16 B-R3 and 17 R-KB1 proves the point.

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RAPID TRANSIT TOURNAMENT

The Hayward Chess Club will conduct a rapid transit tourney (ten seconds a move) on Monday, April 1, at 8 p.m. Entry fee is only 35c. Monthly winner receives a certificate, annual winner a trophy.

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WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, 2058 D St. (Hayward Arts and Science Center). Monday and Friday, 8-11 p.m.

Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave. (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.), Hayward. Evenings, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Ask for Harold James.

The Fremont Chess Club, School St., Niles (located in the Niles Community Center close to Niles High School). Monday, 7-11 p.m.

The Newark Chess Club, Cedar Blvd. (located in the Newark Community Center). Friday, 7-10 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets (in the old library of the Carnegie Building). Evenings, the first and third Friday of the month.