

Richard Shorman

Chess

BETTER THAN KARPOV?

Botvinnik, whose chess camp for especially gifted youngsters was once attended by now world champion Anatoly Karpov, described 16-year-old Gary Kasparov as the most promising student he had ever taught, Karpov included.

When he was 16, Bobby Fischer finished third (shared) behind Tal and Gilgoric at Zurich, 1959. Boris Spassky at 16 placed equal fourth at Bucharest, 1953 behind Tolush, Petrosian and Smyslov. Last year, Kasparov won first prize at Banja Luka, Yugoslavia in his first international tournament ahead of 14 grandmasters, including Petrosian, Andersson, Smejkal and Browne.

Here is an annotated game by Kasparov to provide some insight into the depth and clarity of his play.

White: Gary Kasparov (Azerbaijan). Black: A. Butnorius (Lithuania). USSR Team Championships, Moscow, 1979.

Queen's Indian Defense

1	d4	Nf6	22	e4	Ba8
2	c4	e6	23	Bh4	Rd7(a)
3	Nf3	Bb4(a)	24	Rc3	Qh6(r)
4	Nbd2(b)	O-O	25	Qf1	Nc7
5	e3(c)	b6(d)	26	Rcf3!(s)	f5(t)
6	Bd3	Bb7	27	ef6!(u)	Rd6(v)
7	O-O	d5	28	f7	Kh7
8	a3	Bd2(e)	29	Be7	e5
9	Bd2(f)	Nbd7	30	Bf8(w)	ef
10	cd	Bd5(g)	31	Bd6(x)	Qd6
11	b4	c5	32	Qd3	Qe7
12	Rc1!(h)	cd(i)	33	Qc4(y)	Kh6(z)
13	Nd4	Ne5	34	Rf4(aa)	Ne6
14	Ba6!(j)	Ne4	35	Qc8(bb)	Qd6
15	Be1(k)	Qg5!(l)	36	Qh8	Kg6
16	f4	Qg6	37	F8N	Nf8
17	fe	Nc5	38	Qf8	Qd1(cc)
18	Bg3	Na6(m)	39	Kf2(dd)	Qd2
19	Nf5!(n)	Rae8(o)	40	Kg3	Qe1
20	Nd6	Re7	41	Kh3(ee)	Resigns
21	Rf4!(p)	h5			

(Annotations by international master Gary Kasparov, translated from "Shakhmaty v SSSR", No. 10, 1979, pp. 16 and 25)

(a) A perfectly acceptable alternative to 3 . . . b6 for Black in Queen's Indian set-ups.

(b) Of White's two roughly equal choices here, 4 Bd2 and 4Nbd2, I prefer the second.

(c) Miles — Gonza (1978) continued 5 a3 Bd2 6 Qd2 b6 7 g3 Bb7 8 Bg2 d6 9 0-0 Nbd7, and control over the square e4 allowed Black to maintain the balance.

(d) Another way to play is 5 . . . c5 6 a3 Bd2 7 Qd2 b6 8 Be2 d5 9 0-0 Ba6 10 dc bc 11 b3, with a small advantage. Also to be considered is the unassuming 6 dc Bc5 7 Bd3 Nc6 8 a3 a5 9 b3.

(e) On 8 . . . Bd6 unpleasant would be 9 b4 c5 10 bc bc 11 Rb1!

(f) Tempting is 9 Nd2, so as to play the bishop to b2 after 9 . . . Nbd7 10 cd ed 11 b4, e.g., 11 . . . c5 12 dc bc 13 Bb2, with an edge, but 10 . . . Nd5 11 Nf3 c5 would give Black a satisfactory game.

(g) Black's prospects are nil following 10 . . . ed 11 b4.

(h) Also possible was 12 dc bc 13 Bc3 Ne4 14 Bb2, inasmuch as White's two bishops compensate for the weakness of his king-side pawns after 12 . . . Bf3! 13 gf bc. Unconvincing is 12 Bc3? Ne4 13 Bb2 c4, etc.

(i) Black banks on his active minor pieces and the weakness of White's c4 square to give him good chances, but he underestimates the power of White's bishop pair in a progressively open position, as well as the weakness of his own c6 square. As a matter of fact, Black had nothing better, since 12 . . . Bf3 13 Qf3 cd 14 ed leads to a position where a draw would be the best he could hope for, while 12 . . . Rc8 is met by 13 Ba6!

(j) Firmly seizing control over the "c"-file. Weaker is 14 Be2 Ne4 15 Be1 Nd6!

(k) The two bishops must be preserved, as after 15 f3 Nd2 16 Qd2 Qe7! 17 e4 Bb7 18 Bb7 Qb7 chances are equal, e.g., 19 f4 Ng6 20 f5 Ne5!

(l) Black tries to solve his problems tactically, but he falls out of the frying pan into the fire. On the other hand, the natural 15 . . . Nd6 also leaves White on top after 16 Qe2! Nf5 17 Bc3.

(m) And not 18 . . . Qe4 due to 19 Qe2 Na6 20 Rf4! Qe5 21 Rg4, and White wins a piece. Now, however, Black appears to have achieved a reasonable position.

(n) Exploiting the circumstance that his knight is immune from capture (since after 19 . . . ef 20 Qd5 the difference in strength between the bishop at g3 and the knight at a6 would be too great), White plants it on d6, where it will powerfully restrict the mobility of Black's pieces and facilitate the push e3-e4.

(o) Very bad would be 19 . . . Qg5 because of 20 h4! Qd8 21 Nd6.

(p) Bringing the rook to the fourth rank for the attack on the enemy king and to prepare for stacking White's heavy pieces on the "f"-file for pressure against the f7 pawn. In addition, Black must guard against the threat of 22 Rg4 Qh6 23 Bf4 Qh5 24 Rg7, etc.

(q) Inferior is 23 . . . f6 24 ef gf 25 Rc3, with a strong attack for White.

(r) On 24 . . . Nc7 White had in mind the following plan of action: 25 Rg3 Qh7 (25 . . . Qh6 26 Bg5 Qh7 27 Rh4 g6 28 Bf6) 26 Rg5!? g6 27 Qa4 b5 28 Qa7, with decisive advantage after either 28 . . . Nd5 29 Qd7 Nf4 30 Qb5 or 28 . . . f5 29 ef6 Rd6 (29 . . . Nd5 30 f7) 30 f7 Rf7 31 Qb8.

(s) Also forceful would be 26 Rg3 Ne8 27 Bg5 Qh7 28 Ne8 Re8 29 Bf6 g6, but in this case Black would retain some semblance of play.

(t) Black can hardly afford to grant White an additional two tempi by 26 . . . Qg6 27 Rg3 Qh7 28 Bf6 g6, although White does not have to follow this course, but may prefer an immediate 27 Bf6 instead.

(u) Calculating this continuation cost me more than 30 minutes, even though it was clear that the resulting complications must favor the better mobilized forces. All the while I searched for the clearest path to victory.

(v) The other defense, 27 . . . e5!?, encounters an effective refutation in 28 Qc4 Kh7 (Bad is 28 . . . Bd5 29 ed ef 30 Nf5) 29 fg ef 30 Nf5! (Not so clear is 30 gfQ Qf8.), and Black loses his queen, e.g., 30 . . . Rd1 31 Rf1 Rf1 32 Kf1 Qe6 33 gfN, etc.

(w) In case of 30 Rf5 Black has some saving chances after 30 . . . Rf7 31 Rf7 Rg6, and then . . . Ne6.

(x) Weaker is 31 Be7 Rf6! 32 f8Q Rf8 33 Bf8 Ne6 or 32 Bf6 Qf6 33 Rf4 Qd4 34 Kh1 Ne6 35 f8Q Nf8 36 Rf8 Be4, with technical difficulties for White, which I wanted to avoid by holding on to the e4 pawn for the endgame. The move 31 Rf4? is repelled by 31 . . . Rf6!

(y) Sufficiently strong would have been 33 Qd7 Qd7 34 f8N, etc., but I had decided not to trade queens.

(z) If 33 . . . Ne6, then 34 Qe6! Totally hopeless is 33 . . . b5 34 f8Q Qf8 35 Qc7 Be4 36 Rf4 Qe8 37 Rf7 Qg8 38 Qa7, etc.

(aa) Unnecessary complications. The simplest win was 34 F8Q Qf8 35 Qc7 g5 36 Rd3.

(bb) Now 35 Qe6 Qe6 36 f8Q Be4 is no longer so clear.

(cc) Or 38 . . . Qd4 39 Kf1 Qd1 40 Kf2 and so forth, as in the game.

(dd) Also good would have been 39 Rf1 Qd4 40 Qf2 Qe4 41 Qf7 Kh6 42 Qf4 Qf4 43 Rf4, with a winning endgame, but I had long since decided not to surrender the pawn at e4.

(ee) The pawn on e4 is indirectly guarded by virtue of 41 . . . Be4 42 Qe8 (which explains why the queen checked at h8 earlier). Here Black adjourned the game but then resigned without resuming play.