

George Koltanowski's

50 Shortcuts to Chess Victory

Celebrating his 50th Year as Chess Editor of The Chronicle

*International Grandmaster
Blindfold Champion of the World*

GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI

Chess Editor of the

San Francisco Chronicle



A Message from George Koltanowski

I have just begun writing my daily chess column for The San Francisco Chronicle for the 50th year!

They tell me that this is another world record and I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the management and staff of The San Francisco Chronicle and to the chess clubs, organizers and chess players for sending me their announcements, reports, games, problems and stories.

It has been a wonderful thing the many chess friends we have made!

A special thanks to my Leah for her patience and understanding.
Merci beaucoup to all!

George Koltanowski
San Francisco, May 1997

George Koltanowski

50 Shortcuts to Chess Victory

- 1 1.g4 e5 2.f3 Qh4mate (The Fool's mate.) This has its counter-part with
- 2 1.e4 g5 2.Bc4 f6 3.Qh5mate
- 3 The one tried most often by beginners is the famous Scholar's Mate: 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Qh5 Nc6 4.Qxf7mate
- 4 I have often caught opponents napping with the following trap: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6 3.Nxe5 fxe5 4.Qh5+ Ke7 [See if 4...g6 5.Qxe5+ Qe7 6.Qxh8 and wins] 5.Qxe5+ Kf7 6.Bc4+ Kg6 7.Qf5+ Kh6 8.d4+ g5 9.h4 d6 10.hxg5+ Kg7 11.Qf7mate
- 5 Here we see a Queen's sacrifice that leads to trouble: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.0-0 Nd4 6.Nxe5 Bxd1 7.Bxf7+ Ke7 8.Nd5mate
- 6 When I started to play I was puzzled by the following: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5 and wondered why I could not play 6.Nxd5 until I discovered that Black would play: Nxd5 7.Bxd8 Bb4+ and win.
- 7 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.dxe5 Bxf3 [If 4...dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nxe5 etc.] 5.Qxf3 dxe5 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Qb3 b6 8.Bxf7+ Ke7 9.Qe6mate (From a blindfold exhibition in Spain.)
- 8 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Bd3 Bg6? 5.e6 fxe6 6.Bxg6+ hxg6 7.Qg4 Kf7 8.Nf3 wins easy.
- 9 A mistake often made by beginners in the Petroff's Defense: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4? 4.Qe2 d5 5.d3 Nc5? 6.Nc6+ double check.



George Koltanowski (foreground) wins the world's championship in blindfold chess at Edinburgh, Scotland, September 20, 1937. He played 34 games over 13-1/2 hours, winning 24 games, drawing 10 and losing none.

- 10** 1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4! and White has the better game!
- 11** 1.d4 c5 2.c4 cxd4 3.Nf3 e5 4.Nxe5? Qa5+ and Black gains a piece. That could happen in the Sicilian Defense too:
- 12** 1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 e5 4.Nxe5? Qa5+
- 13** 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bc4 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nb5 e6 8.Bxd5 exd5 9.Qxd5 Qxd5 10.Nc7+ etc.
- 14** 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nde2 Bc5 7.f3 Qb6 8.Qd3 Nb4 White resigns, he will lose his queen or be mated.
- 15** A common one in the Ruy: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 Nxd4 7.Nxd4 exd4 8.Qxd4 c5 9.Qd5 Be6 10.Qc6+ Bd7 11.Qd5 c4 and wins.
- 16** 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.Be3 Nd7 10.Ne2 Nde5! wins.
- 17** 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Bd3 Qxd4 6.Nf3 Qd8 7.Qe2 Nf6 8.Nxf6+ gxf6 9.Bxf5 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qxf5 11.0-0-0 Qe6 12.Qd3 Qxa2 13.Qd8+ Kxd8 14.Ba5+ (double check and mate next move.)
- 18** Ever fallen into this one? 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qc6? 4.Bb5 or
- 19** 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nd4 4.Nxe5? Qg5 and Black wins.
- 20** 1.e4 c6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 d5 4.e5 Nfd7? 5.e6 fxe6 6.Qh5+ etc.
- 21** 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 f6 4.Nh4 g5? 5.Qh5+ Ke7 6.Nf5mate
- 22** 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 d5 5.Bd3 Ne4 6.Ne2 Qh4 7.g3 Ng5 8.gxh4 Nf3+ 9.Kf1 Bh3mate
- 23** 1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.c4 Nf6 5.h3 Nxd5 6.cxd5 Qh4+ 7.Ke2 Bc5 8.Qe1 Bg4+ 9.Nf3? exf3+ 10.Kd1+ Qxe1+ 11.Kxe1 f2mate
- 24** 1.e4 e5 2.d4 Nc6 3.d5 Nce7 4.f4 d6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Nc3 Ng6 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Bb5+ c6 9.dxc6 Bxd1 10.cxb7+ Ke7 11.Nd5+ Ke6 12.f5mate
- 25** 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxe4 4.Nc3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 f6 6.0-0 c6 7.Nxe5 d5 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.Qxh8 dxc4 11.Bh6 wins.
- 26** 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 b5 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.Qf3 wins.
- 27** 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nd2 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.h3? Ne3 and it's all over but the shouting!
- 28** 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4 Be7 5.dxe5 dxe5? 6.Qd5 wins.
- 29** 1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Nf3 Nd7 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bf4 e5? 8.Qb3 with a winning position.
- 30** 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nf6 4.c5 Nd5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bc4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Bxc5 8.d4 Qh4 9.Bd3 Be7? 10.g3 wins.
- 31** 1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.d4 g4 6.Nfd2? Qh4+ 7.g3 Qxg3+ 8.hxg3 Bxg3mate
- 32** 1.e4 e6 2.Ne2 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Ng3 Qh4 5.d4 Nf6 6.c3 Nc6 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.Qe2+ Be6? 9.Nf5 Qg4 10.f3 wins.

Koltanowski vs. Humphrey Bogart

French Defense

White
G. Koltanowski

1. e4 e6
2. d4 d5
3. exd5 exd5
4. Bd3 Nf6
5. Ne2 Bg4
6. 0-0 Bd6
7. f3 Be6
8. Bf4 0-0
9. Nd2 Nc6
10. c3 Ne7
11. Bxd6 Qxd6
12. f4 c5
13. Nf3 Nf5!
14. Qd2 Ne4!
15. Qc1 R(a)c8
16. dxc5 Qxc5+
17. N(2)d4 Nxd4
18. Nxd4 Rc7
19. f5 Bd7
20. Bxe4 dxe4
21. Qf4 Re8

Black
H. Bogart

22. R(a)e1 Re5
23. Rxe4 Rxe4
24. Qxe4 Bc6
25. Qe3 Re7
26. Qg3 Re8
27. f6 g6
28. Qh4 h5
29. Re1 Rxe1+
30. Qxe1 Qd6
31. Nxc6 Qxc6
32. Qe7 Qc8
33. h3 Qc6
34. b4 Qxc3
35. Qe8+ Kh7
36. Qxf7+ Kh6
37. Qe7 Qc1+
38. Kf2 Qf4+
39. Ke2 Qc4+
40. Kf3 Kg5?
41. f7+ Resigns



In 1952, Humphrey Bogart, one of the strongest chess-playing actors, played George Koltanowski in a blindfold game.

33 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Rc1 Qa5 7.a3? Ne4 8.Bf4 Nxc3 9.Rxc3 Bxa3 wins.

34 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Ne7 5.Nxe5 c6 6.Nc4 d6 7.Ba4 b5 wins.

35 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6 3.Nxe5 Qe7 4.Qh5+? g6 5.Nxg6 Qxe4+ 6.Be2 Qxg6 wins.

36 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Be7 5.c3 dxc3 6.Qd5 Nh6 7.Bxh6 0-0 8.Bc1 Nb4 9.Qd1 c2

37 1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Bc4 Be7 7.Qh5 0-0 8.Ne2 g6? 9.Qf3 Nd7 10.Bh6 Re8 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Qb3mate!

38 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Be7 7.Qc2 Ne4? 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Qxc8+ Qd8 11.Bb5+ wins.

39 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.Nbd2 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bg2? Bxf2+ 8.Kxf2 Ng4+ 9.Ke1 Ne3 10.Qa4+ Bd7 wins.

40 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Qd3 Nf6 6.Nd2 Ng4 7.g3 Qf6 8.N4f3 Nce5 9.Qc3 Bb4! wins.

41 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Nc3 dxc3 8.Bxd5 Be6 9.Rxe4? Ne7 wins.

- 42** 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 c6 4.e4 Qb6
5.Nbd2 Qxb2 6.Nc4 Qb4+ 7.c3
Qxc3+ 8.Bd2 and wins.
- 43** 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Qc2 d5 4.cxd5
Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6 6.Nc3 Qxd4 7.Nb5
Qb4+ 8.Bd2 Qa4 9.b3 wins.
- 44** 1.d4 c5 2.dxc5 e6 3.e4 Bxc5 4.Nc3
Qf6 5.Nf3 b6 6.e5 Qf5 7.Bd3 Qg4
8.h3 Qxg2 9.Rh2 Bxf2+ 10.Ke2 Qg3
11.Ne4 and wins.
- 45** 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 exf4 4.e5 Qe7
5.Qe2 Ng8 6.Nf3 d6 7.Nd5 Qd7
8.exd6+ Kd8 9.dxc7+ and wins.
- 46** 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.d4 g4
5.Bxf4 gxf3 6.Qxf3 Qf6 7.Nc3 Ne7
8.Nb5 Na6 9.Bxc7 Qxf3 10.Nd6mate
- 47** 1.e4 c5 2.Ne2 Nc6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nbc3
g6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 d6 7.f3 Qb6
8.Be3 Qxb2 9.Na4 Qa3 10.Bc1 Qb4+
11.Bd2 Qa3 12.Nb5 and wins.
- 48** 1.e4 e6 2.d4 Qf6 3.e5 Qf5? 4.Bd3 and
wins.
- 49** 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.e5 Nd5 7.Qg4 g6
8.a3 Qa5? 9.axb4 Qxa1 10.Nb3 and
wins.
- 50** 1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.d4 cxd4
5.cxd4 Bxb1? 6.Rxb1 Qa5+ 7.Bd2
Qxa2 8.Bc3 and wins (as 9.Ra1 is
threatened.)

Chess Records Set by George Koltanowski

- **British Record for Simultaneous Blindfold Play:**
Bath, England, 1934. Won 14 and drew 7 in 8 hours of play.
- **World Record for Simultaneous Blindfold Play:**
Edinburgh, Scotland, September 20, 1937.
Won 24, drew 10 in 13-1/2 hours of play.
- **Consecutive Blindfold Play:**
San Francisco, California, December 2, 1951. Played 50
games sequentially, 10 seconds a move, in 8-1/2 hours.
Won 43, lost 2, drew 5.

San Francisco, California, December 4, 1960. Played 56
games sequentially, 10 seconds a move, in 9 hours.
Won 50, lost 0, drew 6.
- **Over-the-Board Simultaneous Play:**
San Francisco, California, December 4, 1949, 271 games
(started with 37 boards), played in 12 hours.
Won 251, lost 3, drew 17.

Los Angeles, California, May 22, 1955, 110 games played
simultaneously, in 12 hours. Won 89, lost 4, drew 17.

George Koltanowski

George Koltanowski has set and holds a remarkable number of national and world records in the chess world. He has written his daily chess column for The San Francisco Chronicle since May 1948, producing more than 17,800 columns to date.

Born September 17, 1903, in Eastern Europe, Mr. Koltanowski moved to Antwerp, Belgium when he was a child and was groomed for the life in the diamond trade. Beginning chess at age 14, he became national chess champion of Belgium at 20 and won the title three more times.

Mr. Koltanowski soon learned to play blindfold chess, and became a phenomom in Europe. In September 1937, he attempted an unprecedented feat of playing 34 blindfold games simultaneously against a strong contingent of chess players at the Edinburgh Chess Club in Scotland. Over 13-1/2 hours he succeeded in winning 24 games and drawing 10. This record still stands and bestowed on him the title of the World Blindfold Chess Champion.

He found himself in Guatemala when war broke out in Europe and spent the war years in Central America, then came to the U.S. after the war. He moved to California, married his wife Leah, and became a U.S. citizen.

Mr. Koltanowski joined The San Francisco Chronicle in May 1948 and has been writing his daily column ever since. He has worked tirelessly to promote chess over the



George Koltanowski

last 50 years, touring, teaching and writing books and articles. For many years he has toured the country giving chess lectures and performing his famous Knight's Tour. He has also been America's premier tournament director, organizing countless matches and

directing more than 20 U.S. Open tournaments.

In 1960, he set another world record by playing 56 consecutive rapid-transit games blindfolded - without losing a game.

George Koltanowski's credits are extraordinary: he helped found the international chess federation FIDE; he introduced the Swiss system into American chess tournaments; he served as president of the U.S. Chess Federation for three years; and was one of the three original inductees into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. He has been awarded the titles of International Grandmaster and "Dean of American Chess."

His column in the San Francisco Chronicle is the longest-running chess column in California and remains the only daily chess column in the country.

How to Read Chess Notation

The games in this brochure are written in algebraic notation. On a chessboard, the horizontal rows (called ranks) are numbered from 1 to 8, starting from the rank nearest White. The vertical columns (called files) are lettered from a to h, starting at White's left. The intersection of the horizontals and the verticals give the individual squares their names. The pieces are noted: K=king, Q=queen, R=rook, B=bishop, and N=knight. Pawns have no symbol, and are simply described by the squares to which they move. Captures are indicated by "x" and checks are indicated by "+" or "ch". Castling kingside is written "0-0", queenside "0-0-0", and en passant as "e.p."

K = King Q = Queen

R = Rook B = Bishop

N = Knight

0-0 = castle kingside

0-0-0 = castle queenside

x = "takes" or "captures"

e.p. = en passant

+ or "ch" = check

++ or "mate" = checkmate

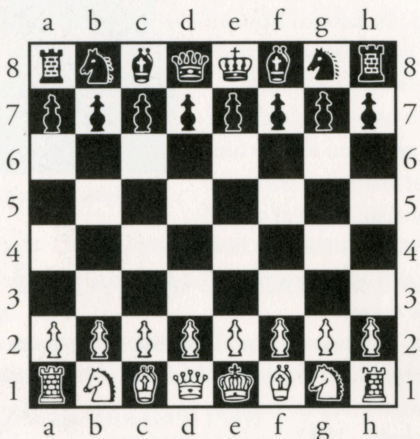
! = good move

? = bad move

Example:

e4 = pawn moved to square e4.

Rxb5+ = rook takes the piece on square b5, putting the king in check.



Chess Books Written by George Koltanowski

- Colle System
- Chess Chats
- With the Chess Masters
- Blindfold Chess Genius
- Practical Chess
- My Castles in Spain
- Chessnicdotes-I
- Chessnicdotes-II
- TV Chess
- En Passant
- In the Dark
- Chess Annual
- Adventures of a Chess Master
- Practical Play of the Max Lange Attack
- San Antonio (1972 International Tournament)
- Checkmate (edited by Milton Finkelstein)

Koltanowski has also written six chess books in Flemish, two in French and one in Spanish. His book *Colle System* was recently cited as one of the three best chess books in the world. Writer Robert Martin said, "the *Colle System* is a blueprint for the entire game...taking the reader from the opening, through middlegame play into the endgame."