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Chess News, Moves in Mail Games

By **GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI**

- No. 218—1.KN-B3 2.N-KB3
- No. 217—2.P-QB3 3.P-B4
- No. 219—4.O-O 5.P-Q4
- No. 222—2.N-QB3 3.B-N5
- No. 223—3.P-Q4 4.P-K5
- No. 224—3.N-KB3 4.B-N5

FOR THE STUDENT

Here is a line of play in the Italian Opening that you will not find in any theoretical book. I have played it on and off for the last twenty years in simultaneous exhibitions especially, where the move catches my opponent unawares, and seldom if ever do they find a good solution to the problem posed them, then and there! The last victim to this "Koltanowski" line was Henry Gross, Co-Champion of California. The game was played in a recent simultaneous exhibition in San Francisco:

White: George Koltanowski. Black: Henry Gross.

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|----------|-------|-----------|------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K4 | 6. BxB | PxB |
| 2. N-KB3 | N-QB3 | 7. P-Q4 | PxP |
| 3. B-B4 | B-B4 | 8. PxB | B-N3 |
| 4. O-O | P-Q3 | 9. P-Q5!? | |
| 5. P-B3 | B-K3 | | |

And there you have it! The text-move seems to be contrary to the rule. White who has the center, with the Black Bishop on QN3 blocked, opens up the file not only for this Bishop, but seems to drive the Black Knight to a better square. Is my move good? The theoretical continuation is N-B3. Before you jump to any conclusions let us look some more at what went on in the above game.

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|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|
| 9. | PxB | 10. PxB | N3-K2 |
| If 10 . . . N-K4 then 11.NxN, PxN: | | | |
| 12.Q-R5ch | wins a pawn. | | |
| 11. N-N5 | Q-Q2 | 12. N-K6 | K-B2 |
| Not 12 . . . P-N3 as 13.QB3 "kills." | | | |
| 13. R-K1 | N-B3 | 16. Q-B3 | BxB |
| 14. N-B3 | P-KR3 | 17. RxB | NxQP |
| 15. B-K3 | KR-K1 | | |

This loses fast. The best continuation here would have been 17 . . . P-B3. White could then have continued with either QR-K1, PxB; or even R-Q1. We will let the student decide which would have been best. Why not study the whole line, plus the above position, and write me what you think of the "Koltanowski" variation 9-P-Q5!? and how you would have continued on move 18 had Black played 17 . . . P-QB3! We shall publish those lines we consider of general interest to all students! Let us return to the game:

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|---------|------|---------------------------|-----------|
| 18. NxN | RxB | 21. NxR | QxN |
| 19. RxR | QxR | 22. Q-B5 | and Black |
| 20. NxB | Q-B1 | resigned soon afterwards. | |