

Chess

SPASSKY BEATS FISCHER

A powerful Soviet team headed by world champion Boris Spassky won the XIX Chess Olympics held in Siegen, Germany. Final scores in the premier division were USSR — 27½ points, Hungary — 26½, Yugoslavia — 26, USA — 24, Czechoslovakia — 23½, West Germany — 22, Argentina and Bulgaria — 21½, East Germany — 19½, Rumania — 18½, Canada — 17½, and Spain — 16.

The long-awaited contest between Spassky and America's uncrowned champion, Robert Fischer, took place in the sixth round. Fresh from astonishing tournament successes in Zagreb and Buenos Aires, Fischer had not confronted the Soviet grandmaster across the board since Spassky assumed the world title in 1969.

White: Boris Spassky.
Siegen, 1970.

1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-QB4	P-KN3
3 N-QB3	P-Q4(a)
4 PxP	NxP
5 P-K4	NxN
6 PxN	B-N2
7 B-QB4	P-QB4
8 N-K2	N-B3
9 B-K3	O-O
10 O-O	Q-B2(b)
11 R-B1	R-Q1
12 P-KR3 (c)	P-N3
13 P-B4	P-K3
14 Q-K1	N-R4(d)
15 B-Q3	P-B4(e)
16 P-N4!	PxKP(f)
17 BxP	B-N2
18 N-N3	N-B5
19 BxB!	QxB
20 B-B2	Q-B3

Black: Robert Fischer.
Gruenfeld Defense.

21 Q-K2	PxP
22 PxP	P-QN4
23 N-K4	BxP
24 N-N5	BxBch (g)
25 RxB	R-Q3
26 R-K1	Q-N3
27 N-K4!(h)	R-Q5
28 N-B6ch	K-R1(i)
29 QxP	R-Q3
30 Q-K4	R-KB1
31 P-N5	R-Q7
32 R-KB1	Q-B2(j)
33 RxR	NxR
34 Q-Q4	R-Q1(k)
35 N-Q5ch	K-N1
36 R-B2	N-B5
37 R-K2! (1)	R-Q3
38 R-K8ch	K-B2
39 R-B8ch	Resigns (m)

(a) Fischer reputedly reserves the Gruenfeld for special occasions.

(b) Intending 11 . . . R-Q1 and incidentally threatening 11 . . . PxP 12 PxP NxP along with an indirect attack on White's KB.

(c) Criticized as a loss of tempo by Gligoric and recommended by Ivkov in "Informator No. 6" (Chessman Quarterly, January-February 1970, pg. 162; see also pp. 161-168 for an extensive survey of the Exchange Variation.).

(d) Gligoric — Smyslov, Yugoslavia-USSR, 1959, saw Black realize his opening aims after 14...B-N2 15 Q-B2 N-R4 16 B-Q3 P-B4! 17 P-K5 P-B5 18 B-B2 N-B3 19 P-N4 N-K2.

(e) Ill timed, as white need not surrender his Q5 and shield Black's backward KP by playing 16 P-K5.

(f) Lets Spassky take over the initiative. Black manages to hold his position together with 16...P-B5 17 B-B2 N-B3, e.g., 18 NPxP NPxP 19 PxP PxP 20 N-N3 N-K2.

(g) Better is 24...B-B3, retaining a K-side defender, since the KP dies in any event.

(h) And not 27 NxKP R-Q7 28 Q-B3 R-K1, with a good game for Black.

(i) Best. If 28...K-N2, then 29 QxP QxQ (29...R-Q3 30 N-K8ch RxN wins the exchange in view of the alternatives of 30 . . . K-R1 31 Q-B7 and 30...K-R3 31 P-N5ch K-R4 32 Q-N4 mate) 30 RxQ K-B2 31 R/2 K2 RxP 32 NxP.

(j) Preventing 33 Q-K7.

(k) Fischer probably felt that the ending after 34 . . . Q-N3 35 QxQ PxQ 36 R-B1 K-N2 37 R-B6 N-B5 38 P-QR4! was lost, e.g., 38...N-R6 39 R-B3 P-N5 40 R-QN3 N-B7 41 R-N2 R-B1 42 N-Q5. Even so, the net result could not have been worse than what happened in the game.

(1) With the unanswerable threat of 38 R-K8ch. This time 37...Q-N3 definitely loses; 38 R-K8ch RxR (or 38...K-B2? 39 QxQ NxQ 40 RxR) 39 NxQ NxN 40 Q-B5, and the wicked witch overpowers her disjointed foes.

(m) Chess etiquette dictates resignation just prior to the execution). There is no arguing 39...KxR (39...K-K3 40 NxQch) 40 Q-R8ch K-B2 41 QxPch K-B1 42 NxQ. This defeat must have hurt Fischer in more ways than one, but it is also easy to draw the wrong conclusions from only one game.