

## Richard Shorman

# Chess

A 10-board chess match between the USSR and the rest of the world resulted in a narrow victory for the Soviets, whose all-star team included the present world champion and four ex-champions, by a score of 20½-19½.

Excerpts from grandmaster Mikhail Tal's on-the-spot commentary have been translated and abridged from "Sovetsky sport" (March 31, 1970):

"American grandmaster Robert Fischer has astounded the entire chess world with his achievements and eccentric behavior for more than a decade. In Belgrade, Yugoslavia, site of an historic team match between the Soviet Union and the best representatives from around the world, he created a sensation of a different kind.

"Danish champion Bent Larsen, who has registered outstanding tournament successes during the past several years, refused to play on board two. To the surprise of everyone, the temperamental young American said that he had nothing against switching places with Larsen. 'Sure, I know I'm stronger,' remarked Fischer casually, 'but maybe Larsen is right, too.'

"Following some four hours of play, the tournament hall rang with applause for Fischer's fine win over former world champion Tigran Petrosian. Even though Fischer has not participated in international chess competition for more than a year, he seems to be in superb form.

"The quiet opening did not appear very dangerous for Petrosian, but another half-dozen moves evinced a radical change in the situation. Fischer's attack suddenly took on menacing proportions and Petrosian's uprooted king began looking for a safer place to live."

White: Robert Fischer (USA). Black: Tigran Petrosian (USSR).

Belgrade, 1970.  
 Caro-Kann Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB3	21 P-B5!	NxN
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	22 PxN	BxKP
3 PxP	PxP	23 PxP	B-KB3
4 B-Q3	N-QB3	24 PxP	BxKBP
5 P-QB3	N-B3	25 N-B3	BxB
6 B-KB4	B-N5	26 NxB	N-B3
7 Q-N3	N-QR4	27 N-N6ch	BxN
8 Q-R4ch	B-Q2	28 BxB	K-K2
9 Q-B2	P-K3	29 Q-B5	K-Q1(e)
10 N-B3	Q-N3	30 QR-K1	Q-B4ch
11 P-QR4	R-B1(a)	31 K-R1	R-B1
12 QN-Q2	N-B3	32 Q-K5	R-QB2
13 Q-N1	N-KR4	33 P-QN4!	Q-B3
14 B-K3	P-KR3	34 P-B4!	PxP
15 N-K5	N-B3(b)	35 B-B5	KR-B2
16 P-R3	B-Q3	36 R-Q1ch	KR-Q2
17 0-0	K-B1(c)	37 BxR	RxB
18 P-KB4	B-K1	38 Q-N8ch	K-K2
19 B-KB2(d)	Q-B2	39 QR-K1ch	Resigns
20 B-R4	N-KN1		

(a) Perhaps 11 . . . N-N6 deserves preference.

(b) Black's position deteriorates rapidly after this move. Petrosian had intended to play 15 . . . NxN 16 PxN B-B4, but suddenly realized that Fischer wins a piece with 17 P-R5 Q-B2 18 P-KN4. Only after the game was over did Petrosian discover that his calculations contained a fatal flaw. He had thought that 18 . . . BxB 19 PxB QxKP 20 PxN QxPch 21 B-K2 was perfectly safe for White, since his queen cannot be prevented from entering the game via Q3. But Black can play 21 . . . B-N4, which Petrosian mistakenly believed impossible because in his mind White's QRP was still on the fourth rank.

(c) In response to 17 . . . 0-0 Black feared 18 P-KN4.

(d) Fischer conducts hte attack with great vigor.

(e) Stiffer resistance is possible with 29 . . . KR-Q1, in order to seek shelter on the kind side, but Black was already in severe time trouble.