Richard Shorman

Chess

History does repeat in chess, despite seemingly endless possibilities for variety. Recognition of this fact helps explain why so many players spend so much time learning chess theory.

David Lewis, a strong class "B" player from Berkeley, recently reached a winning position in under 10 moves that has been known and analyzed for over a century. The question was whether or not Lewis had done his chess homework.

He had, and a splendid little combination, complete with queen sacrifice, was the brilliant result.

White: Ventura Negrete (Fremont Chess Club; USCF rating, 1560).

Black: David Lewis (Berkeley Chess Club; USCF rating, 1758).

CCCA Winter League Match, Round 1, Board 2, Nov. 3, 1972.

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4	P-K4	9 B-KR4(f)	P-N4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	10 B-N3	P-KR4!(g)
3 B-N5	P-QR3	11 NxNP(h)	P-R5!(i)
4 B-R4	N-B3	12 NxP	PxB!!
5 P-Q3(a)	P-QN4	13 NxQ(j)	B-KN5
6 B-N3	B-B4(b)	14 Q-Q2(k)	N-Q5
7 O-O(c)	P-Q3(d)	15 RPxP(l)	N-B6ch!
8 B-N5?(e)	P-R3	16 Resigns (m)	

(a) An old fashioned way of handling the White side of the Ruy Lopez preferred by Anderssen and occasionally used by Steinitz, among others.

(b) Already, Black has virtually equalized.

(c) Not actually a mistake, but 7 B-K3 (Keres) is more to the point.

(d) Shrewdly refraining from castling until White declares his QB.

(e) The root cause of White's sudden demise. Chigorin observed in 1900 with characteristic insight, "Chess games sometimes repeat from beginning to end when an inexperienced player makes a move in the opening, which looks quite natural or even very strong, that, in reality, leads to defeat." White's bishop on KN5 merely presents Black with a target for the rapid-fire advance of his K-side pawns.

(f) Had White suspected the catastrophic consequences of this move, he would gladly have accepted an inferior position by either 9 BxN or 9 B-K3.

(g) The immediate threat to trap White's aspiring bishop forebodes much greater trouble ahead.

(h) Steinitz analyzed this alternative to 11 P-KR4 in a game versus Serafino Dubois, the strongest Italian player of his day, at the London Chess Congress of 1862. Dubois placed fifth in this tournament, in front of Steinitz (6th), Blackburne, Lowenthal and others, but later lost to Steinitz in match play (3 wins, 5 losses, 1 draw). After 1 P-K4 P-K4 2 N-KB3 N-QB3 3 B-B4 B-B4 4 0-0 N-B3 5 P-Q3 PQ3 6 B-KN5? P-KR3 7 B-R4 P-KN4 8 B-N3 P-KR4! 9 P-KR4! (not 9 P-KR3 P-N5) Steinitz continued 9 . . . B-KN5! 10 P-B3 (or 10 PxP P-R5 11 B-R2 N-R2! — Tartakover) Q-Q2 11 P-Q4 PxQP 12 P-K5 (a resourceful simplifying maneuver) PxKP 13 BxKP NxB 14 NxN Q-B4, and Black scored heavily on the open KR file when Dubois tried 15 NxB? instead of the relatively better 15 Q-R4ch K-B1.

(i) Calmly ignoring the "deadly" knight fork and concentrating on the King. White is lost.

(j) Should White opt for the rook by 13 NxR, Black can win more or less according to taste: (A) 13 . . . B-KN5 14 Q-Q2 Q-K2 15 N-N6 Q-R2 16 P-KR3 N-Q5 17 Q-N5 N-K7ch 18 K-R1 QxPch 19 PxQ B-B6mate (Tartakover); (B) 13 . . . Q-K2 14 N-B7 (to block 14 . . . Q-R2) P-Q4 15 P-XQP QxN 16 PxN Q-R2 17 P-KR3 N-KN5 (Schiffers): (C) 13 . . . Q-K2 14 N-B7 RxPch 15 RxB PxRch 16 KxP N-N5ch 17 K-N3 Q-B3 18 Q-B3 QN2 (Romanov).

(k) Returning the queen (14 NB3, 14 NxN, 14 N-B7 or 14 QxB) just delays the inevitable, e.g., 14 QxB (more involved than 14 NxN PxBPch 15 K-R1 BxQ 16 RxB N-KN5 17 P-KR3 N-K6 or 14 N-B7 R-R4 15 QxB NxQ 16 PxP N-Q5 17 N-B3 P-B3 18 P-R3 P-Q4 — Romanov) NxQ 15 NxN BxPch! 16 RxP (forced) PxPch! (overlooked by Schiffers) 17 K-R1 NxR mate.

(l) Knorre — Chigorin, Petersburg, 1874, concluded 15 N-B3 (guarding against 15 . . . N-K7ch 16 K-R1 RxPmate) N-B6ch! 17 PxN BxP 18 Resigns. Black got off easy after 15 P-KR3 in Ashley — Tollit, Birmingham, 1923, with 15 . . . N-K7ch 16 K-R1? RxPch! 17 PxR B-B6mate. However, 16 QxN(!) BxQ 17 N-B7 keeps the fight going, at least until Black finds something like 17 . . . R-R4 18 N-B3 BxR 19 RxB BxPch 20 K-R1 N-N5 21 N-Q1 N-R7! 22 RxB PxR 23 NxBP N-B8 24 N-N4 K-K2 25 K-N1 N-Q7 26 B-Q5 R-KB1, with the double threat of 27 . . . P-B3 and 27 . . . RxN. Nikolai Poltaranov offers 15 P-KR3 PxPch 16 RxP N-K7ch 17 K-R1 BxR 18 N-B7 RxPch! 19 PxR B-B6ch 20 K-R2 B-N8mate in "Shakhmaty v SSSR" (No. 2, 1971, pg. 27), a fine checkmate but analytically incomprehensible at White's moves 16-18.

(m) The whole game is an object lesson on the evils of pinning an opponent's knight before he has castled, and Black's combination, once seen, will never be forgotten.

CCCA GRAND PRIX CHAMPIONSHIP

The Berkeley Central YMCA, 2001 Allston Way, will be the site for the Central California Chess Association's third annual Grand Prix Championship, Feb. 17-19. A total prize fund of $2,000 (based on 150 entries) will be awarded to winners in seven playing categories. Entry fee for all divisions is $15 ($10 to new USCF members), Martin Morrison and Elwin Meyers will direct the USCF rated, 7-round Swiss system event. Round one begins at approximately 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 17. Bring sets and clocks. For additional information, telephone 582-1973.

CHESS WORKSHOP

The prestigious Mechanics' Institute Chess Club has agreed to sponsor a chess workshop at the Navy YMCA, 166 Embarcadero, in San Francisco (by the corner of Mission and Embarcadero), every Sunday from 2-6 p.m. An unusual feature of the workshop is the serving of a free dinner to all participants, Alexander Sienkievich, member of the Mechanics' Institute, donates his time to direct the many chess activities and to provide instruction in basic chess skills.