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Chess

Alekhine's formula for punishing a violation of elementary opening principles was to break a few rules more! His anonymous opponent in this demolition job specifically requested that his name not be handed down to chess posterity.

White: Alexander Alekhine.

Black: Amateur.

Simultaneous Exhibition, Vienna, 1936.

Center Game

1 P-K4	P-K4	10 P-KR3!! (i)	Q-B3 (j)
2 P-Q4	P-KB3? (a)	11 N-KB3! (k)	B-K2 (l)
3 PxP	PxP?? (b)	12 Q-N4ch!!	BxQ
4 Q-R5ch (c)	K-K2 (d)	13 PxBch	KxP
5 QxPch	K-B2	14 N-R2ch	K-R4
6 B-B4ch	P-Q4! (e)	15 N-B1ch	K-N5
7 BxPch	K-N3	16 B-K6ch! (m)	QxB
8 Q-N3ch! (f)	K-R4 (g)	17 P-B3mate (n)	
9 B-B7ch! (h)	P-N3		

(a) To play such a move against Alekhine must require complete innocence or colossal nerve. Liquidating the enemy pawn center by 2 . . . **PxP** offers the best theoretical chance for full equality, but it also draws Black (perhaps unwillingly) into an open game of White's choosing.

(b) However consistent and natural it may appear, this move ruins everything for Black. Rushing to the aid of the white squares weakened by the advance of the **KBP** (with 3 . . . **Q-K2**) is his only hope.

(c) What a difference a check makes! Compare with the similar, yet opposite, situation after 1 **P-K4 P-K4 2 Q-R5?** "One hardly expects games that are works of art in a simultaneous exhibition with 35 or 40 opponents," observed Alekhine. "On the other hand," he pointed out, "the games sometimes possess a piquant attraction, and students might learn a lot from examination of the sort of mistakes that are committed against me."

(d) Now that he has a lost position, Black sees all the threats and plays perfect chess to the very end. Of course, 4 . . . **P-N3** loses slower but surer to 5 **QxKPch** and 6 **QxR**.

(e) An unthinking 6 . . . **K-N3** provokes instant checkmate.

(f) With two healthy pawns in the bag plus a winning attack against Black's impoverished king, Alekhine might well have relaxed and let routine technique do its work. He provides us with a brilliant model of efficient king hunting instead. "The challenge to White," Alekhine noted, "is to force mate in the minimum number of moves."

(g) Avoiding 8 . . . **K-B3 9 B-N5ch**.

(h) Essential to White's plan for closing off the king's retreat while restricting his mobility.

(i) No matter against whom, Alekhine insists upon finding the best possible move. This one is extra fine, threatening mate in three by 11 **Q-N4ch!! BxQ 12 PxBch KxP 13 B-K6mate!**

(j) Necessary, as 10 . . . **Q-R5 11 Q-K5ch** forces 11 . . . **B-B4 12 QxBch Q-N4 13 QxQmate**.

(k) Coupling the obvious threat of 12 **B-N5** and 13 **Q-R4** mate with the thematic 12 **Q-N4ch BxQ 13 PxBch KxP 14 B-K6ch! QxB 15 R-R4mate**. Black may have guarded against the first in his reply without even realizing that he was covering the second as well, but there is a third threat that cannot be stayed.

(l) Alekhine announced mate in six here.

(m) Prevents the queen from giving up her life to prolong the agony (16 **P-B3ch QxP 17 PxQch KxP**).

(n) In the course of punishing Black's opening errors White's queen and **KB** moved four times each, plus three more for the **KN**, and castling was not even considered.

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, Palma Ceia Park (corner of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way in old Palma Ceia village). Monday and Friday, 8-12 p.m.

The Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave. (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.), Hayward. Evenings, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The Fremont Chess Club, 36025 Fremont Blvd. (Westridge Park Community Center). Thursday, 7-11 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets (in the old library of the Carnegie Building). Evenings, the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.