

Richard Shorman

Chess

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

While Karpov and Korchnoi wage a battle of skill and nerves on a Philippine mountaintop, another world championship is under way on the shore of the Black Sea.

Women's world champion Nona Gaprindashvili now faces her toughest challenge since winning her crown in 1962 and successfully defending it in five title matches. Her rival is a 17-year-old schoolgirl with an international master's rating, named Maiya Chiburdanidze, who holds a 6-4 lead with only six games yet to play.

The match, which began Aug. 19, requires an even score or better for the champion to retain her title for the sixth time, but the challenger must win by at least 8½-7½ in order to become the new queen of chess.

Here are two games from the women's world championship which illustrate the high quality and extreme fierceness of the contest, recorded in streamlined coordinate chess notation (files letters "a" to "h", ranks numbered "1" to "8", always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to move; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

White: Maiya Chiburdanidze. Black: Nona Gaprindashvili.

Women's World Championship, 1st match game, Pit-sunda, 1978.

Ruy Lopez

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|----------|---------|------------|----------|
| 1 e4 | e5 | 14 Nd5 | Be3(g) |
| 2 Nf3 | Nc6 | 15 fe!(h) | Nf6 |
| 3 Bb5 | f5!?(a) | 16 Qc4(i) | Ne7 |
| 4 d3 | fe(b) | 17 Nc7!(j) | Rc8(k) |
| 5 de | Nf6 | 18 Ne6 | Rc4 |
| 6 O-O(c) | d6 | 19 Nd8 | Rc2 |
| 7 Nc3 | Be7 | 20 Rd6(l) | a6!(m) |
| 8 a3!(d) | Bg4 | 21 Bd3 | Rd2!(n) |
| 9 h3 | Bf3 | 22 Nb7 | Nc8 |
| 10 Qf3 | O-O | 23 Rd5 | Nb6 |
| 11 Qd3 | Kh8 | 24 Rd6 | Nc8 |
| 12 Be3 | Nh5(e) | 25 Rd5 | Nb6 |
| 13 Rad1 | Bg5(f) | 26 Rd6 | Drawn(o) |

(Annotations by grandmaster Yuri Razuvaev, translated from "64", No. 34, Aug. 24-30, 1978, pg. 8).

(a) The first surprise. The women's world champion has heretofore never employed the Schliemann Defense, which typically produces extremely sharp positions. The main line, according to theory, now begins with 4 Nc3. But the challenger decided to skirt a possible prepared opening variation and settled on a relatively calm continuation.

(b) Sometimes 4 . . . Nf6 is played, which, after 5 O-O, amounts to a transposition of moves.

(c) Weaker would be 6 Nc3, since Black would be able to activate her dark squared bishop: 6 . . . Bb4! 7 Qd3 d6 8 Bd2 Bc3 9 Bc3 O-o 10 O-O-O Qe8 11 h3 a6 12 Bc4 Be6 13 Rhel Bc4 14 Qc4 Kh8 15 Qe2 Nd7 16 Kbl b5, with a good game for Black (Nezhmetdinov — Bronstein, Tbilisi, 1959). An attempt to achieve an advantage by interfering with Black's king-side castling also fails: 6 Bc4 Bc5 7 O-o d6 8 c3 Bg4 9 b4 Bb6 10 a4 a5 11 b5 Ne7 12 Qb3 Bf3 13 Bf7 Kf8 14 gf Ng6, and Black stands better (Szabo — Bronstien, Moscow, 1956).

(d) "The Encyclopedia of Chess Openings" cites 8 Nd5, 8 Bc4 and 8 Qd3 here. The move played looks stronger, as White gains time over the usual 8 Qd3 Bg4 9 h3 Bf3 10 Qf3 O-o 11 Qd1 Kh8 12 Be3 Qe8.

(e) A natural desire to rid herself of the black squared bishop. The opening is over and White's pieces are more actively placed to pursue the initiative.

(f) Stronger than 13 . . . Nf4 in view of 14 Bf4 ef 15 Bc6 bc, and Black would have trouble defending her weak pawns.

(g) A debatable decision. In my opinion, there was no need to exchange right away. The simple move 14 . . . Rc8 deserved attention.

(h) Very well played. White does not fear doubled pawns, since White will profit from the opening up of the game.

(i) White's pressure mounts. On 16 . . . Nd5 would follow 17 Rf8 Qf8 18 ed, and the pawn on c7 cannot be saved. Gaprindashvili drastically sharpens the struggle.

(j) Avoiding 17 Qc7 Qc7 18 Nc7 Rfc8 19 Ne6 Rc2, with mutual chances. The ending that arises after 17 Qc7 Ned5 18 Qd8 Rfd8 19 ed Rac8 20 c3 Rc5 21 Be2 Rd5 22 Rd5 Nd5 23 Rf7 favors White.

(k) In case of 17 . . . a6 White wins with 18 Na8 ab 19 Qe6, etc.

(l) Probably stronger is 20 Nb7 Rb2 21Nd6, and White has an extra pawn, even though doubled and weak.

(m) In a difficult position Gaprindashvili comes up with a surprising tactical idea. If 20 . . . Rb2, then 21 Bc4, and Black falls under a powerful attack.

(n) The black rook "skewers" three white pieces on the "d" file!

(o) White cannot evade a repetition of moves.

White: Maiya Chiburdanidze. Black: Nona Gaprindashvili.

Women's World Championship, 9th match game, Pit-sunda, 1978.

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|------------|---------|------------|----------|
| 1 e4 | e5 | 14 Nd5 | Be3(g) |
| 2 Nf3 | Nc6 | 15 fe!(h) | Nf6 |
| 3 Bb5 | f5½?(a) | 16 Qc4(i) | Ne7 |
| 4 d3 | fe(b) | 17 Nc7½(j) | Rc8(k) |
| 5 de | Nf6 | 18 Ne6 | Rc4 |
| 6 O-O(c) | d6 | 19 Nd8 | Rc2 |
| 7 Nc3 | Be7 | 20 Rd6(l) | a6!(m) |
| 8 a3!(d) | Bg4 | 21 Bd3 | Rd2!(n) |
| 9 h3 | Bf3 | 22 Nb7 | Nc8 |
| 10 Qf3 | O-O | 23 Rd5 | Nb6 |
| 11 Qd3 | Kh8 | 24 Rd6 | Nc8 |
| 12 Be3 | Nh5(e) | 25 Rd5 | Nb6 |
| 13 Rad1 | Bg5(f) | 26 Rd6 | Drawn(o) |
| 1 e4 | d6 | 21 Na4 | Ne4 |
| 2 d4 | Nf6 | 22 Qd3 | Nd6(i) |
| 3 Nc3 | g6 | 23 Nb6 | Qb7 |
| 4 g3 | Bg7 | 24 Nd5 | Rc6(j) |
| 5 Bg2 | O-O | 25 c5 | Nc8(k) |
| 6 Nge2 | Nbd7 | 26 b4 | e6 |
| 7 O-O | c5 | 27 Nb6 | e4(l) |
| 8 h3 | a6 | 28 Qd2! | Nb6 |
| 9 Be3 | Qc7 | 29 cb | Bc3 |
| 10 Qd2!(a) | cd(b) | 30 Qd7 | Rb6(m) |
| 11 Nd4 | Ne5 | 31 Bb6 | Qb6 |
| 12 b3 | Nc6(c) | 32 a3 | Be5(n) |
| 13 Nc6(d) | bc | 33 Kg2 | e3 |
| 14 Rad1 | Bb7 | 34 fe | Qe3 |
| 15 Na4 | c5(e) | 35 Qd3 | Qg5 |
| 16 e5! | de(f) | 36 Rf3 | Rc8 |
| 17 Bb7 | Qb7 | 37 Rd2 | Kg7(o) |
| 18 Nc5 | Qc8(g) | 38 Rf7! | Kh6 |
| 19 Kh2 | Ra7(h) | 39 h4! | Resigns |
| 20 c4 | Rc7 | | |

(Condensed notes by grandmaster Ratmir Kholmov, translated from "64", No. 38, Sept. 21-27, 1978, pg. 9).

(a) Stronger than 10 f4 cd 11 Bd4 e5.

(b) Better is 10 . . . Rb8!, and if 11 g4, then 11 . . . b5.

(c) The game resembles a Sicilian Defense, but with extra tempi for White.

(d) Since trades ease the defense, preferable is 13 Rfd1.

(e) Black must play 15 . . . Nd7 here.

(f) After 16 . . . Ne8 17 Bb7 Qb7 18 ed ed 19 Qa5 White possesses an indisputable advantage.

(g) More active is 18 . . . Qf3 to meet 19 Rfel with 19 . . . h5.