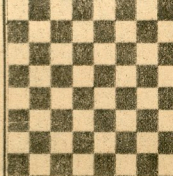


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chess

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by richard shorman



International grandmaster and current challenger for the world champion's title Boris Spassky has passed very conceivable test of chess ability on his way to the summit. Here, he walks willingly into a prepared opening variation and demolishes his opponent's carefully contrived analysis. Abridged notes by the winner in the March 1969 issue of **Soviet Life**.

White: Boris Spassky (USSR).

Black: Dragoljub Ciric (Yugoslavia).

Ninth World Students' Team Championships, Marianske Lazne, Czechoslovakia, 1962.

Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	16 K-N3	B-K3(i)
2 N-KB3	N-KB3	17 R-B4(h)	RxN
3 P-K5	N-Q4	18 NxB	Q-N3ch
4 N-B3	P-K3	19 QxB(j)	R-K6ch
5 NxN	PxN	20 R-N4	QxQch
6 P-Q4	N-B3	21 BxR	R-K1
7 PxP	BxP	22 K-B2	R-K2
8 QxP	Q-N3	23 R-B4	Q-K4
9 B-QB4	BxPch	24 B-N3	P-KN4
10 K-K2	O-O(a)	25 R-K1	K-N2
11 R-B1	B-B4	26 R-B3	P-B3
12 N-N5	NxP(b)	27 R-Q1	P-N5
13 QxN(c)	P-Q4(d)	28 K-N1	Resigns
14 QxP(e)	R-K1ch(f)	29 B-Q4	
15 K-B3Q	Q-B3ch	B-Q3ch	

(a) Ciric is a cool-headed, steady player who usually employs reputable and dependable opening systems. His selection of such a sharp variation caught me "flat-footed." I felt that my opponent had prepared a surprise of some kind, but it was too late to retreat. After 8 **QxP** White can hardly refrain from tactical complications if he wants to fight for an advantage in the opening.

(b) This is a surprise indeed! Black normally replies 12 . . . **N-Q5ch** with the object of moving the Knight back to **K3**. It isn't much of a pleasure coping with prepared analysis, carefully thought out in a calm atmosphere at home. Even when the analysis contains a flaw, finding it over the board within the time limit is no easy matter. No wonder, then, that I pondered my next move for over an hour before finally making up my mind.

(c) Unquestionably the most crucial moment of the game. If "calm" Ciric sacrifices a piece, it means that he has analyzed in detail all possible continuations. I accepted the challenge not so much because I had figured out all the variations as because my intuition prompted me to think that my opponent's scheme was not correct.

(d) The idea behind the piece sacrifice is that Black swiftly mobilizes his forces and attacks the rival King stranded in the middle of the board.

(e) Less convincing is 14 **BxP**, e.g., 14 . . . **B-N5ch** 15 **R-B3** (15 **K-K1 QR-K1** 16 **BxPch K-R1** 17 **BxR Q-R4ch**!) **Q-N4ch** 16 **P-B4 QR-K1!** 17 **N-K6 PxN** 18 **BxPch BxB** 19 **RxRch BxR** 20 **QxQ BxPch**, and Black wins.

(f) A little better for Black would be 14. . . **B-N5ch** 15 **R-B3!** **QR-Q1** 16 **Q-K4 BxRch** 17 **PxB P-N3**.

(g) Stronger than 15 **N-K4 B-K3** 16 **QxB/4 QxQ** 17 **NxQ BxBch**.

(h) Evidently my rival overlooked this reply in his home analysis, probably reckoning only on 17 **B-B4 R-K6ch**, and White loses.

(i) Black cannot keep up the attack because of the danger to his venerable **KB2** square.

(j) The decisive blow in an exciting game.

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FOUR-MAN SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Oakland Chess Club will sponsor its second annual four-man sectional chess tournament Sunday, March 30, at the CACA Lodge, 303 Eighth St. (corner of Eighth and Harrison, three blocks from downtown Oakland). Players will be placed in four-man sections for a three-round, Round Robin tournament on the basis of their CFNC or USCF affiliation and their current chess rating. Each section winner will receive a trophy and a number of door prizes will be presented. Entry fee is \$3 (plus membership) for a USCF or CFNC section. Round one begins at 10 a.m.