

Chess

SPARRING WITH BOTVINNER

Since he was an infrequent participator in tournament play, Botvinnik sought to sharpen his chess skills by means of rigorous training games against dangerous opponents.

His favorite sparring partner for such private encounters was Soviet grandmaster Ragozin, who could be relied upon to maintain strict secrecy with respect to prepared opening lines, psychological stratagems, adjourned game analysis and the like.

That these practice sessions worked to their mutual advantage may be inferred from future events. Botvinnik went on to become world champion, while Ragozin later captured the world correspondence chess title.

White: Vyacheslav Ragozin. Black: Mikhail Botvinnik.
Training game, Moscow, 1947.

King's Gambit Accepted

1 P-Kr	P-K4	19 N-K4(m)	NxN
2 P-KB4(a)	PxP	20 BxN	N-B3
3 N-KB3	P-Q4(b)	21 B-B2	B-N3
4 PxP	N-KB3	22 B-R4(n)	R-K5
5 B-N5ch	P-B3	23 P-QN3(o)	B-R2
6 PxP	PxP	24 B-B3	RxR
7 B-B4(c)	N-Q4(d)	25 QxR(p)	N-K5
8 0-0(e)	B-Q3	26 B-N2	P-B4(q)
9 B-N3(f)	0-0	27 Q-R1	R-B2
10 P-B4(g)	N-B3	28 B-K5	R-K2(r)
11 P-Q4	P-B4(h)	29 BxB	QxB
12 P-Q5	B-N5(i)	30 Q-N2	P-N4
13 N-B3	P-QR3(j)	31 B-B6	P-N5
14 Q-K1(k)	QN-Q2	32 N-K1	N-N4
15 B-B2	P-R3	33 N-Q3	P-B6
16 Q-R4	Q-B2	34 P-N4	R-K7
17 B-Q2	QR-K1	35 Resigns(s)	
18 QR-K1	B-R4(1)		

(Annotations by Mikhail Botvinnik, translated from "Shakhmatnoe tvorchestvo Botvinnika", vol. 3, Moscow, 1968, pp. 386-88)

(a) Our training games for the Chigorin Memorial also served as preparation for the forthcoming world championship match-tournament in 1948. Inasmuch as Reuben Fine and Paul Keres could be expected to play the King's Gambit in this contest, it was necessary to have some defenses ready against this opening.

(b) A mild surprise for my coach. Theory regards this move as weak, 3 . . . N-KB3 being preferred.

(c) So far, all book. In the game Nimzovich—Schweinburg (1934), White obtained the advantage after 7 . . .

B-Q3 8 Q-K2ch Q-K2 9 QxQch KxQ 10 P-Q4 B-KB4 11 N-K5 BxN 12 PxB.

(d) This system I had prepared seemed more logical than 7 . . . B-Q3. But no one played the King's Gambit in the match-tournament of 1948 and David Bronstein, who was known to favor it in the past, decided not to use it against me in the world championship match of 1951. I began to think that I had wasted a lot of preparation time on this opening, when at the end of 1952 during the XX USSR Championship Bronstein did spring the King's Gambit on me and I had a chance to test this idea.

(e) Bronstein continued 8 P-Q4, which is weaker.

(f) Now Black is all right. Should White try 9 Q-K2ch or 9 R-K1ch Black can respond 9 . . . B-K3 without fear of 10 N-Q4, if only because of 10 . . . Q-N3. Some time later Boris Spassky discovered 9 N-B3! B-K3 10 N-K4, which preserves White's opening edge, and the variation disappeared from tournament practice.

(g) This advance does not endanger Black. After he has safely castled, the centralized knight is no longer needed there. Now Black's plan consists in first blocking the center and then exploiting his king-side pawn majority.

(h) The same idea was executed in the game with Bronstein. Since White cannot hold his Q4 square, he is compelled to push by.

(i) Black completes his development unhindered, while the forward KBP severely cramps White.

(j) White must not be permitted to eject Black's valuable KB by N-QN5.

(k) White thinks he has an obligation to attack the king. After all, he did play the King's Gambit! In fact, however, Black has all the attacking chances, since his pieces occupy the key squares on the king side.

(l) To begin his offensive Black has only to remove his bishop to KN3.

(m) Exchanging this knight for Black's QN (the QN because a black knight remains on KB3) yields Black control over the center.

(n) In case of 22 BxB PxP Black gets in P-N4-N5 immediately.

(o) No better would be 23 RxR, and 23 B-N3 is totally unconvincing.

(p) If 25 RxR N-K5, then White's queen is out of play.

(q) Now the advance of the KNP cannot be parried. Nor does the trade of black-squared bishops save White, since Black can bring his K4 square under control.

(r) Just in time.

(s) On 35 PxQBP follows 35 . . . N-R6ch and mate next move.

GOLDEN GATE OPEN RESULTS

Master Division

1st-2nd, Peter Biyiasas (2423), Vancouver, and Walter Browne (2548), Berkeley, 4½-1½, \$487.50 each; **3rd-4th**, Larry Christiansen (2507), Modesto, and Yasser Seirawan (2410), Seattle, 4-1, \$162.50 each; **5th-7th**, Zaki Harari (2225), San Francisco, Viktors Pupols (2331), Bremerton, and Larry Remlinger (2321), Pasadena, 3½-2½, \$16.66 each.

Expert Division

1st-2nd, Victor Baja (2101), San Francisco, and Craig Mar (2082), Oakland, 5-1, \$237.50 each; **3rd-5th**, Charles Crittenden (2102), Northridge, Vitaley Radaikin (1899), San Francisco, and David Taylor (2103), San Diego, 4½-1½, \$75 each.

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White: Thomas Dorsch (2136). **Black:** Dave Jellison (2024). Golden Gate Open, San Francisco, July 3, 1977. Alekhine's Defense 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 c5 4 c3 cd 5 Bc4 Nb6 6 Bb3 dc 7 Nc3 Nc6 8 Bf4 d6 9 ed e5 10 Nb5 ef 11 Nc7 Kd7 12 Og4 Kd6 13 Qf4 Ne5 14 Na8 Kc6 15 Ba4 Na4 16 Qa4 b5 17 Qe4 Qd5 18 Qd5 Kd5 19 Nf3 Bd6 20 0-0-0 Kc6 21 Rd6 Kd6 22 Rd1 Kc6 23 Ne5 Kb7 24 Nf7 Rf8 25 Nd6 Ka8 26 Re1 Kb8 27 Re7 Rf6 28 Nc8 Kc8 29 Ra7 Rf2 30 Rg7 h6 31 hr Kb8 32 a3 Ka8 33 g4 Rh2 34 h5 Kb8 35 Rg6 Rg2 36 Rh6 Rg4 37 Rb6 Kc7 38 Rb5 Kc6 39 Rf5 Resigns.

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White: Richard Freggiaro (Unr.). **Black:** Farzin Shokouh (Unr.). Golden Gate Open, San Francisco, July 2, 1977. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Be7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Nbd7 10 g4 b5 11 Bf6 Nf6 12 g5 Nd7 13 a3 Bb7 14 h4 Rc8 15 Bh3 d5 16 ed Bd5 17 Nd5 ed 18 Rhei g6 19 Qe3 Qd6 20 Nb5 Qc5 21 Qc5 Rc5 22 Nd6 Kf8 23 Nf7 Kf7 24 Bd7 Rd8 25 Be6 Kf8 26 f5 Rc4 27 fg hg 28 Rf1 K38 29 Bf7 Kd7 30 Rd5 Kc7 31 Rd8 Bd8 32 Bc4 Resigns.

White: Larry Remlinger (2321). **Black:** Robert Newbold (2316). Golden Gate Open, San Francisco, July 3, 1977. Pirc Defense 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Be2 0-0 6 0-0 Bg4 7 Be3 Nc6 8 d5 Bf3 9 Bf3 Ne5 10 Be2 c6 11 f5 Ned7 12 dc bc 13 Qel Rb8 14 b3 Qc7 15 Rd1 Rfe8 16 Kh1 Qa5 17 Bf3 c5 15 e5 de 19 Bc6 ef 20 Bf4 Rbd8 21 Nb5 Qb6 22 Bd7 Rd7 23 Rd7 Nd7 24 Nd6 Rf8 25 Qe7 Qd8 26 Bg5 Qe7 27 Be7 Rb8 28 Rf7 c4 29 Bh4 cb 30 cb Rb4 31 Be1 Rb6 32 Rd7 Bf8 33 Ne4 Rc6 34 g3 Re6 35 Rd4 Bg7 36 Rc4 Resigns.