

Chess

TAL'S SCHOOL OF ATTACK

Here is an excellent example of how the attack against the Caro-Kann Defense must be conducted. Tal's every move contains a threat and drains blood and strength from his opponent like a vampire. True, where there's an attack, there's defense also. But Tal is able to pose difficult and complicated problems such that the possibility of the opponent finding a wrong solution is too great.

White: Mikhail Tal. Black: Miroslav Filip. Moscow, 1967. Caro-Kann Defense

1 e4	c6(a)	15 Ne5	Rd8(l)
2 d4	d5	16 Ne4(k)	Ne4
3 Nc3	de	17 Be4	Bc8(l)
4 Ne4	Nd7	18 Qh5(l)m	Ng6(l)n
5 Nf3(b)	Ngf6	19 Nf7(l)o	Kf7
6 Ng3(l)c	e6	20 Qh7	e5(p)
7 Bd3	Be7	21 Rd8	Rd8
8 Qe2(d)	c5	22 Qh5(l)q	Qe6(r)
9 O-O(e)	O-O	23 h3(s)	Bc5(t)
10 Rd1	cd(f)	24 Kh1(l)u	Bd4(V)
11 Nd4	Re8	25 Rd1	Rd6(w)
12 b3(g)	Qb6	26 Ba3	Ra6(x)
13 Bb2	Nf8(h)	27 Rd4!	Resigns(y)
14 Nf3(l)	Bd7		

(Introductory remarks and annotations by international grandmaster Pe'ar Trifunovic, edited from "Chess Review", Oct. 1967, pp.315-16).

(a) Dr. Filip is a noted expert in the Caro-Kann. Even for him, however, it is inadvisable to adopt it against the king of attack.

(b) Tal's return to the old way tends to confirm that 5 Bc4 Ngf6 6 Ng5 e6 may not be so efficacious for White as was once thought.

(c) The only move that poses Black the problem of equalizing. All other replies have already been solved in opening theory.

(d) White prepares 9 Bd2 or 9 Bg5 and 10 0-0-0.

(e) But now Tal changes his mind, having found that 9 Bd2 Qb6 is too slow for him.

(f) This trade has been criticized as premature. However, White stands better after the recommended line 10 . . . Qc7 11 c4 (threatening 12 d5) cd 12 Nd4 Nc5 13 Bc2.

(g) A second bishop gets ready to line up against Black's king.

(h) Playing 13 . . . Nc5 to eliminate one of the white bishops fails in the face of 14 Bc4! Na4? 15 ba Qb2 16 Nb5, with the double threat of 17 Rab1 and 17 Nc7.

(i) Shifting the knight to much more dangerous position on e5.

(j) Black has placed his pieces well and now prepares the principal strategy of the Caro-Kann, to trade down pieces after . . . Bc8.

(k) Also good is 16 Nh5 Bc8 17 Nf6 Bf6 18 Nc4 Qc7 19 Bf6 gf, etc., but Tal means to make more of the position and therefore shuns a tiresome, though favorable, endgame.

(l) Against Tal this retreat represents a threat to exchange off both of his rooks by 18 . . . Rd1 and 19 . . . Rd8.

(m) Seems very simple, but it is surprising how dangerous this move really is.

(n) The only adequate defense. On 18 . . . g6 White wins with 19 Ng4 (threatening 20 Nh6mate) f6 20 Bf6!, or if 18 . . . f6 instead, then 19 Bh7! Nh7 20 Qf7 Kh8 21 Ng6mate. But now how does White continue? Many masters would cease playing for a win here, as everything is defended, but not Tal! He finds a way to pose one problem more.

(o) This combination is probably only good enough for a draw, but Black must prove it!

(p) Again, everything is defended.

(q) Threatening 23 Be5 and forestalling 22 . . . Qf6 due to 23 f4! Rh8 24 Bg6 Kg8 25 Qe5, etc.

(r) Black, who has struggled to find 22 defendings moves, seems to have forgotten about attacking moves. He might have saved himself with 22 . . . Rd2 23 Rf1 Bc5 24 Bc3 Rf2 25 Qg6 Qg6 26 Bg6 Kg6 27 Rf2 Bf5 28 Be5 Bc2, entering a drawish ending of opposite colored bishops, notwithstanding his loss of a pawn.

(s) White has time to prevent the intended 23 . . . Qg4.

(t) He ought to guard his knight by 23 . . . Rd6, then free his king by 24 . . . Kf8. There are plenty of possibilities for both sides, but the chances favor White, who has two pawns for his knight and will win the pawn at e5. Tal gives the following variation as an example: 23 . . . Rd6 24 Re1 Kf8 25 Re3 Nf4 26 Qe5 Qe5 27 Be5 Rd1 28 Kh2 Bd6 29 Bd6 Rd6 30 Rf3 Rf6 31 Rc3, whereafter White gains further material, enough for a win.

(u) Now White is ready for 25 f4.

(v) Black has become quite tired. He still has more chances with 24 . . . Rd6 first.

(w) The simple pin break by 25 . . . Bb6 leads into 26 Rd8 Bd8 27 f4!

(x) Or 26 . . . Rd8 27 Rd3 and 28 Rf3, etc.

(y) After 27 . . . ed (27 . . . Ra3 28 Bd5!) 28 Bd5 Ra3 29 Qf5! Ke7 30 Be6 Be6 31 Qg6 all is clear.

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Anyone desiring a postpaid copy of this copyrighted wall calendar should mail \$3.50 to Bryce Perry, P.O. Box 11306-A, Palo Alto, Calif. 94306.

FOR OCCASIONAL RELIEF: KEEP ON ATTACKING!

White: Frisco Del Rosario (1363). Black: Kerry Lawless (2026). Capt. Anchovy's Chess Club, San Leandro, ladder game, Sept. 25, 1978. Petroff's Defense 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 d4 ed 4 e5 Ne4 5 c3 dc 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Qd4 Nc3 8 bc Nc6 9 Qe3 Be7 10 Bc4 O-O 11 O-O d6 12 Rd1 Bg4 13 Ba3 Bf3 14 ed Bd1 15 de Ne7 16 Be7 Qd7 17 Bf8 Kf8 18 Qe4 Re8 19 Qh7 Re1 20 Bf1 Qg4 21 Qd3 Kg8 22 Qd8 Kh7 23 Qd3 f5 24 f3 Qa4 25 Qf5 Kg8 26 Qc8 Kh7 27 Qb7 Qc4 28 Qe4 Re4 29 Bc4 Rc4 30 Rd1 Rc3 31 Rd2 a5 32 Kf2 a4 33 Ke2 c5 34 Kd1

c4 35 Rc2 Ra3 36 Kc1 c3 37 Kd1 Kg6 38 Ke2 Kf5 39 Ke3 Ke5 40 h4 Kd5 41 Kd3 Ke5 42 g4 Kf4 43 Ke2 g6 44 Kf2 Ke5 45 Ke3 Kd5 46 h5 gh 47 gh Kc4 48 h6 Rb3 49 ab ab 50 Rc3 Kc3 51 h7 b2 52 h8Q Kc2 53 Qb2 Resigns.

THE KING'S IMMUNITY

In earliest Sanskrit chess, the king could be captured. His capture, however, ended the game — just as it would-have terminated the war on a battlefield. To avoid accidental and premature game endings, the Persians introduced the practice of warning the player that his monarch was under attack by calling out "king" (which in Persian was "shah") — a call from which our word "check" is directly descended.

(From "A Short History of Chess" by Henry Davidson, New York, 1949, pg. 22)