

Richard Shorman

Chess

The Sicilian Defense ranks as the most popular answer to 1 P-K4 because of its fighting qualities rather than any claim to absolute soundness. Asymmetrical, dynamically balanced positions abound, producing exceptionally sharp and complex middlegames in which practical playing strength counts for more than book knowledge.

The notes to today's game are by Mikhail Yudovich, Jr., translated and condensed from the Soviet periodical, "Shakhmaty v SSSR" (Chess in the USSR), No. 4, 1970, pp. 9-10.

White: L. Gutman.

Black: D. Lapenis.

Baltic Championships, Riga, 1969.

Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	17 B-R3(b)	Q-N2(c)
2 N-KB3	P-Q3	18 KR-B1!(d)	0-0
3 P-Q4	PxP	19 P-B6	B-Q1
4 NxP	N-KB3	20 PxP	KxP(e)
5 N-QB3	P-QR3	21 Q-R5	NxP(f)
6 B-KN5	P-K3	22 BxP!	RxN(g)
7 P-B4	B-K2	23 Q-R6ch	K-N1
8 Q-B3	Q-B2(a)	24 P-N6	RxRch
9 0-0-0	QN-Q2	25 NxR	PxP
10 BxN	NxB	26 QxPch	K-R1
11 P-KN4	P-QN4	27 BxP	N-N4
12 P-N5	N-Q2	28 PxN	BxPch
13 P-QR3	R-QN1	29 QxB	RxB
14 P-KR4	P-N5	30 Q-Q8ch	K-N2
15 PxP	RxP	31 R-N1ch	Resigns
16 P-B5	N-B4		

(a) Recent tournament practice has tested the variation 8. . . P-R3 9 B-R4 Q-B2 10 0-0-0 QN-Q2. Black intends to push P-KN4 and, after exchanging White's KBP, to seize a strong post on K4 for his knight. True, this goal is attained at the price of weakening the king side and postponing full development, but White must proceed energetically or Black will obtain a good game. The most popular line continues 11 B-Q3 P-KN4 12 PxP N-K4 13 Q-K2 N-R2 (initiating the maneuver) N-R2-B1-N3) 14 N-B3 PxP 15 BN3 NB1 16 P-KR4 PxP 17 NxP R-KN1 18 BxN (White gets rid of the centralized enemy knight and begins active operations on the king side.) PxB 19 QR-B1 B-Q2 20 Q-R5 R-N2 21 Q-R8 R-R2 22 Q-N8, with advantage to White (Khlosushek—Klundt, Ibs, 1968), but 20 . . . B-N4ch 21 K-N1 B-QB3 improves Black's chances.

(b) Thus far the game has been played according to latest theory. With his own king in the center Black has opened the QN file and is massing for an assault against White's Q-side castled position. A sharp tactical battle will ensue in which general principles must be set aside in favor of concrete calculation of actual variations.

(c) Although 17 . . . Q-N2 has yet to undergo serious tournament examination, it is not new. Grandmaster Isaac Boleslavsky gives 18 P-N3 P-QR4 19 PxP PxP 20 KR-B1 in his opening manual, "Caro-Kann bis Sizilianisch" (Berlin, 1968, pg. 215), evaluating the position in White's favor.

(d) With Black's queen on N2 this move proves very strong. If 18 . . . RxP, then White builds up an irresistible attack by 19 PxP BxKP 20 BxB PxP 21 NxP NxN 22 Q-B7ch K-Q2 23 P-K5. Also insufficient is 18 . . . P-K4 because of 19 P-B6!

(e) No help comes from 20 . . . R-K1 21 Q-R5 RxP 22 Q-R6 B-K2 23 P-N6 BPxP 24 Q-B4 and White wins.

(f) If 21 . . . RxP, then 22 Q-R6ch K-N1 23 P-R5 with the fearsome threat of 24 P-N6.

(g) Or 22 . . . BxB 23 Q-R6ch K-N1 24 NxB.

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WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, 2058 D St. (Hayward Arts and Science Center). Monday and Friday, 8-12 p.m.

The Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave. (corner of A Street and Meekland Avenue), 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 first and third Friday of the month.