

Richard Shorman

Chess

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Nona Gaprindashvili, 34, the only national woman grandmaster in history, won the women's world championship for the fifth consecutive time, confirming once again her total dominance over all rivals. Her match score versus 26-year-old Nana Aleksandria, a three-time USSR women's champion, was a lopsided 8½-3½, which included but one drawn game during the two-month struggle.

White: Nana Aleksandria Black: Nona Gaprindashvili.
Women's World Championship, Erevan, 1975; 12th Match Game

Center Counter Defense

1 P-K4	P-Q4	18 Q-B2	K-R1
2 PxP	N-KB3	19 R-Q1	RxRch
3 B-N5ch	B-Q2	20 KxR	Q-Q2ch
4 B-B4(a)	B-N5	21 K-B1	Q-B4
5 P-KB3	B-B4(b)	22 N-Q2	B-R6ch
6 P-KN4	B-B1	23 K-N1	R-Q1(f)
7 N-B3	P-B3!(c)	24 N-N3	NxN
8 PxP	NxBP	25 RxN	P-QN3
9 P-Q3	P-K4(d)	26 R-N1	B-B4!(g)
10 P-N5	N-KR4	27 BxB	RxN!
11 N-K4	B-K2	28 QxQ	BxQch
12 N-K2	O-O	29 K-B1	R-B7ch
13 P-B3(e)	N-R4	30 K-Q1	PxB
14 B-K3	NxB	31 R-K1	P-B3
15 PxN	Q-B2	32 P-B4	RxQRP
16 P-N3	B-KR6	33 PxP	PxP
17 R-KN1	QR-Q1	34 Resigns (h)	

(Notes translated from "64", No. 49, Dec. 5-11, 1975, pg. 2)

(a) This variation was met four times during the match. White will try either to maintain the extra pawn or to secure the initiative while Black is engaged in recovering it. In the two games that Gaprindashvili won back the pawn White succeeded in seizing the initiative, but where Black declined material equality the advantage shifted hands.

(b) Of course, retiring the bishop to QB1 immediately makes no sense. It is better to wait until White has first been induced to play the rather unesthetic move, P-KN4.

(c) Black pushed this pawn forward in the sixth match game after a preliminary 7 . . . P-QR3 8 P-QR4 P-B3, when Black obtained a good position with 9 PxB NxBP. Aleksandria improved for White in the eighth match game by—8 P-N5 (instead of 8 P-QR4) P-N4 9 B-N3 KN-Q2 10 P-Q4. This time Black sacrifices the pawn before the knight can be driven away.

(d) A similar position arises after 1 P-K4 P-Q4 2 PxB N-KB3 3 P-QB4 P-B3 4 PxB NxP 5 P-Q3 P-K4, with the obvious difference here that White's P-KB3 and P-KN4 are to Black's advantage.

(e) Leads to new weaknesses. Better would have been 13 B-K3 N-R4 14 B-N3.

(f) Gaprindashvili exploits her clear positional plus in fine style.

(g) The crushing blow! White's exposed king is fatal.

(h) A worthy finish for the match.

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Here are some more active games played in the women's championship, recorded in streamlined coordinate chess notation (files lettered "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: Nona Gaprindashvili. Black: Nana Aleksandria. Women's World Championship, Pitsunda, 1975; 1st Match Game. French Defense 1 e4 e5 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nfd7 5 f4 c5 6 Nf3 Nc6 7 Be3 cd (More consistent with Black's usual objective to increase pressure against the center is 7 . . . Qb6.) 8 Nd4 Nc5 9 Qd2 a6 10 0-0-0 Qa5 (Black only appears to have attacking chances on the queen side, while White builds up a real concentration of force in the center and menaces f4-f5.) 11 Kb1 Bd7 12 Be2 Rc8 (To 12 . . . b5 White simply responds 13 Bf3.) 13 Bf3 (Stronger is 13 f5!, with a powerful attack after 13 . . . Ne5 14 fe fe 15 Bf4!) Na4 14 Na4 Qa4 15 c3 (Perhaps 15 Rhe1 followed by f5 was more to the point.) Be7 16 Nb3 Nd8 (Black should have played 16 . . . Na5.) 17 Qf2 Bb5 18 Nd4 Nc6 19 f5! Nd4 (Or 19 . . . Ne5 20 fe!) 20 Bd4 a5 21 f6 gf (If 21 . . . Bf8, then 22 Bd5 ed 23 d6!) 22 ef Bd6 23 Rhe1 Bc4 24 b3 Qb5 25 Kc2! Ba3 26 bc Rc4 (On 26 . . . Qb2 White escapes and wins with 27 Kd3 dc 28 Ke3!) 27 Rb1 Qa4 28 Rb3 Kd7 29 Kb1 Rhc8 30 Be2! b5 31 Qf3 b4 32 Bc4 dc 33 Be5!! Resigns (Black loses fast to both 33 . . . cb 34 Qb7 and 33 . . . Qb5 34 Rd1 Ke8 35 Qg3. Condensed notes by IGM Aivar Gipslis, translated from "Shakhmaty Riga", No. 23, Dec. 1975, pp. 14-15.)

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White (Nana Aleksandria. Black: Nona Gaprindashvili. Women's World Championship, Pitsunda, 1975; 2nd Match Game. Pirc Defense 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Be2 Bg4 6 0-0 0-0 7 h3 Bf3 8 Bf3 Nc6 9 Ne2 e5 10 c3 Re8 11 d5 Ne7 12 c4 Nd7 13 Rel f5 14 Ng3 Nf6 15 Bd2 a5 16 b3 b6 17 Rc1 Qd7 18 a3 Kh8 19 Qc2 f4 20 Nf1 h5 21 Nh2 Rg8 22 b4 ab 23 ab g5 24 Qd1 Ra2 25 Bc3 g4 26 hg Bh6 27 gh Qh3 28 Ra1 Rf2 29 Kf2 Qh2 30 Ke2 (A very natural reaction, but either 30 Rg1 or 30 Rh1 would have left Black without resource, whereas now Gaprindashvili complicates matters by sacrificing her remaining rook.) Rg2 31 Bg2 Qg2 (Black could have interpolated 31 . . . Ne4 here with effect, e.g., 32 Kf1 Nf5 33 Re4 Ng3 34 Ke1 Qg2, and Black has a dangerous attack despite the disparity of material.) 32 Kd3 Ng4 33 Qe2 Qg3 34 Kc2 f3 35 Qd3 Qg2 36 Kb3 f2 37 Rh1 Ng8 38 Rh3 Bf4 39 Qf3 Qf3 40 Rf3 N8F6 41 Rf1 (Aleksandria consumed 42 minutes on her clock before sealing this move, the best one in the position.) Be3 42 Re3 Ne3 43 Rf2 Neg4 44 Rg2 Ne3, 45 Re2 Neg4, 46 Ka4 Kh5 47 Kb5 Ng3 48 Rg2 Ne4 49 Rg4 Nc3 50 Kc6 e4 51 Kc7 e3 52 Kd6 e2 53 Rg1 Ne4 54 Kc7 Nd2 55 Rel Resigns (Notes translated from "Sovetsky sport," Oct. 25, 1975).

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White: Nona Gaprindashvili. Black: Nana Aleksandria. Women's World Championship, Pitsunda, 1975; 3rd Match Game. Vienna Game 1 e4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e5 (That White's opening came as a surprise may be gleaned from the 10 minutes used on this move . . .) 3 g3 Bc5 (. . . and the 25 minutes expended on this one.) 4 Bg2 0-0 5 d3 Re8 6 Nge2 Nc6 7 0-0 Nd4 8 h3 c6 9 Kh2 Ne2 10 Qe2 d5 11 Bg5 de 12 Ne4 Be7 13 Nf6 Bf6 14 Bf6 Qf6 15 f4 Bd7 16 f5 b6 17 Rael Rac8 18 Be4 c5 19 h4 Bc6 20 Qg2 (Stronger would have been 20 Qf2, in order to answer 20 . . . Be4 with 21 Re4 Rcd8 22 Rfe1, and White's queen guards the "f" pawn.) Be4 21 de Rcd8 22 Re2 Rd4 23 Kh3 Red8 24 g4 Qd6 25 Rff2 Rd1 26 g5 Qd4 27 g6 hg 28 fg fg 29 Qg6 Rh1 30 Kg2 Rh4 (With 30 . . . Qd1 White must take a draw by Qf7 and Qh5.) 31 Rf7 Rh7 (Missing 31 . . . Rg4 and 32 . . . Kf7, which would still draw.) 32 Ref2 Resigns (Nothing can be done about the threat of 33 Rf8 and 34 Qe6. Notes translated from "Sovetsky sport," Oct. 28, 1975.)