

5/8/77

Chess

MASTER ANNOTATIONS

USCF master Max Burkett of Oakland not only edits and publishes game score bulletins from California tournaments, but he also participates in local chess competitions to generate games of his own.

To assist players who have neither the personal chess libraries nor research time for in-depth analysis of games, Burkett has supplied detailed notes to an instructive 20-mover that propelled him from expert to master last year.

White: Harry Radke (2238). Black: Max Burkett (2197).
Fremont Open, 1976.

Ruy Lopez

1 P-K4	P-K4	11 P-B4?(j)	P-B4(k)
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	12 P-Q5	N-B5
3 B-N5	P-QR3	13 PxB(1)	PxP
4 BxN	QPxB	14 N-R2	RxNl
5 O-O(a)	B-KN5(b)	15 KxR	Q-R5ch
6 P-KR3!	P-KR4!(c)	16 K-N1	O-O-O(m)
7 P-Q3(d)	Q-B3!	17 N-B3	PxN
8 QN-Q2!(e)	N-K2!(f)	18 P-KN3(n)	Q-R4
9 R-K1!(g)	N-N3!(h)	19 R-K3	R-R1
10 P-Q4!(i)	B-Q3	20 Resigns(o)	

(Annotations contributed by the winner)

(a) The Barendregt variation, considered weak until the early 1960's.

(b) The alternative, 5...P-B3, has been played many times, and for a while supplanted the text as the favorite defense to the system. Current opinion favors White after 6 P-Q4 B-KN5 7 P-B3 B-Q3 8 QN-Q2 N-R3 9 Q-N3 (Keres) and after 6 P-Q4 PxP 7 NxP P-QB4 8 N-N3 QxQ 9 RxQ B-Q3 or 9...B-Q2 10 B-B4 0-0-0 11 N-B3 B-K3 12 RxRch KxR 13 P-QR4 BxN 14 PxB N-K2 15 R-Q1ch, as in Vitolinsh—Kakageldiyev, USSR, 1972) 10 N-R5 N-R3 (Shmit gives 10...P-QN4 11 P-QB4! N-K2 12 B-K3 P-B4 13 N-N3 an edge for White.) 11 BxN PxP 12 N-B4 B-K2 13 N-B3 K-B2 14 N-Q5 B-K3 15 NxB KxN 16 N-K3 (Bagirov-Keres, USSR, 1967).

Less usual are 5...Q-B3 6 P-Q4 PxP 7 B-N5 Q-N3 8 QxP; 5...B-Q3 6 P-Q4 PxP 7 QxP P-B3 8 P-K5; 5...N-K2 6 P-Q4 PxP 7 NxP Q-Q3 8 B-K3 Q-N3 9 N-Q2 P-KB4 10 PxP BxP 11 N(2)-B3 O-O-O 12 N-R4 Q-B3 13 N(R4)xB (Georgadze—I. Zaitsev, USSR, 1972); and 5...Q-Q3 6 P-QR4 N-K2 7 N-R3 N-R3 N-N3 8 N-B4 Q-K3 9 P-QN3 P-QB4 10 P-B3 (Bednarski—Pytel, Poland, 1973), with some advantage to White in all cases.

(c) The point of Black's setup. White must endure the pin, as after 7 Px8 PxP White dare not move the knight due to 8...Q-R5. Less good for Black is 6... BxN 7 QxB Q-B3 8 Q-KN3 B-Q3 9 P-Q4! Q-N3 10 QxQ RPxQ 11 PxP BxP 12 N-Q2 O-O-O 13 N-B4 (Sanguinetti—Matanovic, Varna, 1962).

(d) The most usual move. Some Bay Area players, notably Bob Hammie, have tried to gain a tempo by 7 R-K1 (striving to push the pawn to Q4 in one step). Black can circumvent this intention by 7...B-QB4! 8 P-Q3 Q-B3 9 QN-Q2 (For 9 B-K3 BxN 10 QxB QxQ 11 PxQ B-Q3!, see the note to White's eighth move.) 0-0-0 10 N-N3 BxN 11 QxB QxQ 12 PxQ B-Q5 13 NxB PxN 14 B-B4 N-K2, with equality. The pawn sacrifice, 7 P-Q4, is no longer played, because of 7...BxN 8 QxB QxP! 9 R-Q1 Q-B5 10 Q-B5 Q-K3 11 QxQch PxQ 12 B-K3 N-B3 13 N-Q2 N-Q2 14 N-B4 B-K2 15 R-Q3 O-O-O, and Black has the better game. Black also equalizes after 7 P-B3 Q-B3 8 P-Q4 BxN 9 QxB QxQ 10 PxQ PxP 11 PxP O-O-O 12 B-K3 P-KB4 (Marovic).

(e) White still cannot take the bishop, since 8 PxB? PXP 9 N-N5 (but not 9 B-N5? Q-N3 10 NxP Q-R2) Q-R3 10 N-KR3 Q-R4 11 K-R2 B-K2 12 N-B3 PxN 13 P-KN3 N-B3 is in Black's favor. Playable, however, is 8 B-K3 BxN 9 QxB QxQ 10 PxQ B-Q3! 11 K-N2! (better than 11 K-R1 P-KB4 12 PXP N-K2 13 R-N1 0-0 14 N-Q2 RxPand 11 K-R N-K2 12 R-N1 N-N3 13 N-B3 K-Q2! 14 R-N5 QR-K1 15 QR-KN1 R-K3 16 R-B5 R-B3!) N-K2 12 R-N1 P-B3 13 K-B1 P-KN4 14 N-Q2 K-B2 15 K-K2 P-R4 16 P-QR4 N-N3, and, once again, Black has secured an equal position.

(f) On 8 ...P-QN4, White answers 9 N-N3. Worse is 8... P-KN4? 9 N-B4! BxN 10 QxB QxQ 11 PxQ P-B3 12 P-KR4! PXP 13 P-B4. Finally, 8... O-O-O? proves disastrous following 9 PxB PXP 10 N-R2 N-R3 (forced) 11 N-N3 (to prevent 11...B-B4) Q-R5 12 BxN QxB 13 QxPch K-N1 14 Q-R3 R-Q3 15 N-N4 (Paul Whitehead—Pamela Ford, Fremont Open, 1977).

(g) Playing 9 N-B4 BxN 10 QxB QxQ 11 PxQ N-N3! leads to nothing for White, while 9 P-QN4? N-N3 10 PxB PXP 11 P-KN3 N-B5 12 N-R4 RxN 13 PxR QxP is weak. But 9 P-B3 N-N3! 10 R-K1 B-Q3 is unclear.

(h) Tatai—Jean, Monte Carlo, 1967 continued 9...BxN 10 NxB 0-0-0 11 B-K3 R-Q2 12 Q-Q2 N-N3 13 P-QN4, with White on top.

(i) The bishop remains immune from capture: 10 PxB? PXP 11 N-R2 RxN! 12 N-B1 (not 12 KxR? on account of 12... Q-R5ch 13 K-N1 B-B4! 14 R-K3 BxR 15 PxB K-K2!) B-B4! 13 B-K3 BxB 14 RxB R-R4!

(j) This move is patently inferior (as is 11 P-B3 N-B5!). But how does Black proceed against 11 PxB! RPXP 12 N-R2 RxN 13 QxP! (far superior to 13 KxR QxP or 13 N-B1 P-N6 14 PxNP R-R1 15 P-B3 or 13 P-KN3? R-R4! 14 QxP R-N4 15 Q-R5 N-B5) Q-R5! 14 QxQ RxQ, especially, since, according to Fischer, 15 PXP, 15 P-KN3 and 15 N-B3 are all advantageous to White? In a static sense, this assessment is true, because if Black plays passively and allows all the pieces to be traded off he will reach a lost king and pawn ending. Imagine, for instance, that Black takes the path of least resistance, after 15 PXP, by 15...BxP? 16 N-B3 R-R4 17 NxB NxN 18 B-B4 0-0-0 19 BxN RxB 20 P-KB3 R(4)-K1 21 QR-Q1 RxR 22 RxR R-Q1? 23 RxRch KxR.

A position has been reached that represents the successful culmination of White's strategy, for he now wins by 24 K-B2 K-K2 25 K-K3 K-K3 26 K-Q4 P-R4 (to stop the paralyzing 27 P-R4) 27 P-KB4 P-B3 28 P-B5ch! K-Q3 29 P-K5ch! PXPch 30 K-K4 P-R5 31 P-KN4 P-QN4 32 P-N5 P-N5 33 P-N6 (threatening 34 P-B6) K-K2 34 P-B6) K-K2 34 KxP P-B4 35 P-B4 P-N6 36 P-R3 P-B3 37 P-B6ch PXPch 38 K-B5, etc.

Fortunately, Black has dynamic instead of static moves at his disposal, e.g., (I) 15 PXP NxP 16 N-N3 P-KN4 17 B-Q2 P-B3 18 B-B3 0-0-0; (II) 15 P-KN3 R-R4 16 P-QB3 PXP 17 PXP O-O-O 18 N-B3 B-N5 19 R-Q1 N-K4! 20 K-N2! NxN 21 KxN P-KB4; (III) 15 N-B3 R-R4 16 PXP NxP 17 NxN BxN 18 P-QB3 0-0-0 19 B-K3 P-R4! Each of these prepared variations offers Black even chances.

(k) This direct reaction to the threat of 12 P-B5 is best.

(l) White has no option, as Black menaces 13...BxP 14 PxB Q-N3ch.

(m) With the direct threat of 17... R-R1 and 18... Q-R8 mate.

(n) If 18 BxN or 18 PXP, then 18... R-R1 wins.

(o) White sees that 20 QxP Q-R7ch 21 K-B1 Q-R8ch 22 QxQ RxQ is checkmate.

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, Palm Ceia Park (corner of Miami Avenue and Decatur Way; phone, 783-9904). Monday and Friday, 8-12 p.m.

The Fremont Chess Club, 40204 Paseo Padre Parkway (near City Hall at Lake Elizabeth). Wednesday, 7-11 p.m.

The San Leandro Chess Club, 205 Dutton Ave. (Washington School cafeteria). Monday, 7-11 p.m.