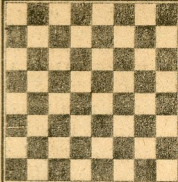


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chess

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by richard shorman



Some of Botvinnik's best training games appear in print for the first time in a Soviet three-volume series compiled by V. D. Baturinsky, *Shakmatnoe tvorchestvo Botvinnika* (Botvinnik's Creative Chess, Moscow, 1968, vol. 3). Here is an artistic sample of the former world champion's skill with his original (translated) comments appended. White: Semyon Furman. Black: Mikhail Botvinnik. Training game, February 1961. Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	17 B-N6	Q-K1
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	18 Q-Q5(g)	B-R3(h)
3 P-Q4	PxP	19 R-B2	N-B5
4 NxP	P-KN3	20 QxNP(i)	B-K3
5 P-QB4	B-N2	21 N-N2	R-N1
6 B-K3	N-B3(a)	22 Q-R6	R-R1
7 N-QB3	N-KN5	23 Q-N7	R-N1
8 QxN	NxN	24 Q-R6(j)	NxP!(k)
9 Q-Q1	N-K3(b)	25 QxP	B-R6
10 R-B1	P-Q3	26 R-Q1	Q-Q2
11 B-Q3	B-Q2	27 R-Q3	N-K6!(l)
12 0-0	B-QB3	28 PxN	Q-N5ch
13 P-QN4(c)	0-0	29 K-B2	P-B4(m)
14 B-N1	P-QR4(d)	30 P-K5	P-B5
15 P-N5(e)	B-Q2	31 P-K4	P-B6
16 N-R4	R-B1(f)	32 Resigns	

(a) This was the opening of the game, Smyslov-Botvinnik, Moscow, 1956. I wanted to test a defensive system often used by Larsen and Petrosian.

(b) Parting with the above-mentioned game, where 9 . . . P-K4 was played.

(c) The most active plan, placing Black in a difficult position. Of course, energetic play has its drawbacks when your opponent finds counter-attacking chances.

(d) A standard reaction: now that White's Rook has been cut off from the QR file, this advance gains in strength. In this case, however, it involves considerable risk.

(e) Naturally, White refuses to open the QR file, preferring to cramp Black's pieces instead.

(f) Black has lost his bearings. Simplest for White now is 17 N-N6 R-B2 18 N-Q5, and Black probably does best by giving up the exchange by 18 . . . R-B4, since 18 . . . R-B1 19 B-N6 Q-K1 20 BxP looks even worse.

(g) Thus far Furman has played well, achieving a clear advantage for his efforts. After 18 BxP, for instance, 18 . . . BxP fails against 19 N-N6, or 18 . . . RxP 19 RxP BxP 20 N-N6, or lastly, 18 . . . R-R1 19 B-B3 and Black stays a Pawn down. Apparently in no great hurry to take the Pawn, White tries to win a tempo first: 18 . . . N-B5 19 Q-Q2 (19 . . . B-R3 20 B-K3)

(h) Now Black's troubles are behind him. If 19 R-B3, then 19 . . . N-B5 threatening 20 . . . N-K7ch.

(i) The Queen should return to Q1.

(j) Already White is willing to draw, but Black is not so amicably disposed.

(k) An eye for an eye! White has seen to the destruction of Black's Queen side, so Black returns the favor by playing havoc with the enemy King side while five White pieces are still stationed on the opposite flank. After 25 KxN Q-Q2 26 K-R1 R-R1, Black wins back his piece and retains a strong attack.

(l) Intercepting the line of the Rook rushing to the defense of the King.

(m) The advance of this Pawn squelches all hope of escape for the White King.

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CONCORD OPEN TOURNAMENT

The Concord Recreation Dept. and the Central Calif. Chess Assoc. (CCCA) are sponsoring the 3rd annual Concord Open Chess Championships at the Concord Recreation Center, 2974 Salvio St., Feb. 15-16. Prizes in the USCF divisions are Expert-Master, \$50, Best "A", \$35, Best B", \$25, and Best "C", \$20. (All cash prizes may increase or decrease depending on the total number of entries.) Trophies will be awarded in the Junior Section, open to all players 12 years of age or younger who have less than a "B" rating (1,600). Entry fee for the USCF Open Division is \$5 plus USCF membership and \$2 for the Junior Section. Jerry Long will direct the five-round Swiss system event, which begins Saturday, Feb. 15, at 12:30 p.m.