



# Richard Shorman

## Pinning a knight

### PINNING AND WINNING A FETTERED KNIGHT

Exploiting a pinned piece ranks high on the list of tactical motifs, but seldom does a knight find its restraint so thoroughly taken advantage of as in the following game.

**White:** Ratmir Kholmov. **Black:** Lev Polugaevsky.

USSR Team Championship, Rostov-on-Don, 1980.

Sicilian Defense

1	e4	c5	15	bc	Qd3(k)
2	Nf3	e6	16	cb	Rb8
3	c3	Nf6(a)	17	Bb2	Rb7
4	e5	Nd5	18	Bd4	Nbd7(1)
5	d4	cd	19	Re3!	Qa6(m)
6	cd	d6(b)	20	Qc2	0-0?(n)
7	a3(c)	Bd7(d)	21	Rc3(o)	Rc7
8	Bd3	Bc6	22	Ne4	Rfc8
9	0-0	Nd7	23	Rd1!(p)	h6
10	Re1(e)	de!(F)	24	Bc5	Nc5(q)
11	de(g)	Be7	25	Nd6	Bd6
12	b4(h)	N5b6	26	ed	Rc6
13	Nbd2(i)	a5!	27	Rc1!(r)	Qa7
14	b5	Nc5!(j)	28	Nd4	Resigns

(Annotations by international grandmaster Ratmir Kholmov, translated from "Shakhmaty v SSSR", No. 8, 1980, pp. 2-3)

(a) A surprise. I was expecting 3 . . . d5, especially since I do not know of any way to obtain an openings advantage in this line. White achieved a plus in Kholmov — Korsunsky, Daugavpils, 1978 after 4 ed ed 5 Bb5 Bd7 6 Bd7 Qd7 7 0-0 Nf6 8 d4 Be7 9 Ne5 Qc8 10 Qa4 Nc6 11 Re1, but Black should have played 6 . . . Nd7.

(b) Less frequently played is 6...Nc6. A good example of what can happen to Black occurred in a miniature between Zaitsev and Donchenko, Dubna, 1976: 7 Nc3 d6 8 ed Bd6 9 Bc4 Nf6 10 0-0 11 Qe2 Be7 12 Rd1 Nb4 13 Ne5 Nbd5 14 Rd3 a6 15 Rg3 Re8 16 Qf3 Nc3 17 Rg7! Kg7 18 Qg3 Resigns.

(c) Also feasible is the natural 7 Nc3. After 7...Nc3 8 bc Nc6 9 ed Bd6 10 Bd3 Qa5? 11 0-0! Qc3 12 Rb1 Qa5 13 d5! Qd5 14 Rb5 Bc5 15 Qc2 b6 16 Be4 Qd7 17 Rd1 Qc7 18 Bf4!

(d) This move has supplanted 7 . . . Nc6, which involved Black in serious difficulties, e.g., 8 Bd3 Qa5 9 Bd2 Qb6 10 Nc3 Nc3 11 Bc3 de 12 de Bd7 13 0-0 h6 14 Qe2 (Velimirovic — Sax, Amsterdam, 1976).

(e) White conducted the game in gambit style in Rastianis — Chukaev, Kaunas, 1976, 10 Nbd2 Nf4 11 Bc2 de 12 Ne4 Ng6 13 Bg5 Qc7 14 Re1 h6 15 de, with very sharp and unclear play.

(f) An innovation that significantly strengthens the variation! The usual 10 . . . Be7 allows Black's counterplay in the center to be met full force.

(g) Better is 11 Ne5!, with a slight edge. Now White will be unable to defend the center squares from infiltration by Black's pieces.

(h) The prospect of seeing Black's pieces activated was most distasteful. Therefore, I decided on a risky pawn advance to deprive Black's knight of an important square. Interestingly, normal development by White here already causes problems, e.g., 12 Nbd2 Nc5 13 Bc2 Nf4.

(i) I rejected the natural and better 13 Nc3!, because I was worried about the consequences of a thrust to e5. However, analysis later demonstrated that there was nothing to fear, e.g., 13 . . . a5! 14 b5 Bf3 15 Qf3 Ne5!? 16 Re6 Qd4 17 Re2 Qc3 18 Bb2, with advantage to White. Or 16 . . . Bf6 17 Bf4 Qd4 18 R5el Qc3 19 Rac1 Qa3 20 Re6! Nr is 15 . . . Qc7 dangerous, on account of 16 Bb2 Ne5 17 Qg3, with an initiative for the pawn.

(j) The point of Black's counterplay. Nothing comes of 14 . . . Bd5 15 Ne4 or 14 . . . Bf3 15 Nf3 Nc5 16 Bc2.

(k) Overestimating his position. More circumspect is 15 . . . Nd3 16 cb Rb8 17 Re3! Rb7! (if 17 . . . Bc5, then 18 Ne4!) 18 Ne4 Rd7 19 Nd6, with equal chances.

(l) An inaccuracy. Now the exposed position of Black's queen will permit White to carry out a rapid mobilization of his pieces, making Black's situation precarious. Essential was 18 . . . 0-0, and in the event of 19 Bc6 Bc5 20 Ne4 Qd1 21 Red1, sufficient for equality would have been 21 . . . Na4!

(m) No better is 19 . . . Qb5 20 a4! Qb4 21 Bc3! (21 Rb1? Qa4!)

(n) With 20 . . . a4! securing b5 for his rook, Black could have held. But now he falls victim to a pin from which there is no escape.

(o) The concentration of heavy pieces on the "c"-file proves lethal for Black. His knight has not a single retreat open to him.

(p) On 23 Nfg5 g6 24 Rac1 follows 24 . . . Bd8!, breaking the pin, while the answer to 24 Bc5 is 24 . . . Bg5! If 24 Nc5 instead, then 24 . . . Bc5 25 Ne4 Bd4!, and Black gains the upper hand due to the threat against the rook at a1.

(q) And not 24 . . . Bc5 25 Rd7!

(r) After 27 d7? Nd7! 28 Rc6 Rc6! the worst is over for Black. No improvement is 27 Ne5? Rd6! Nor does 27 Nd4? work, on account of 27 . . . Rd6! 28 Rc5, and now not 28 . . . Rcd8? 29 Qc3 Qa7 30 Rd2 e5 31 Nf3 Rd2 32 Nd2 Rd2! 33 Rc8!, but 28 . . . Rc5! 29 Qc5 Rd5 30 Qc2 Qd6, winning back the piece.

### CAPPS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The tenth annual Carroll M. Capps Memorial Chess Tournament will take place at the Mechanics' Institute Bldg., 4th floor, 57 Post St., in San Francisco, Nov. 14-16. Mike Goodall will direct the CalChess and USCF five-round Swiss system event in five playing divisions. The prize fund has been set at \$1,250, based on 70 entries, with \$500 to 1st overall, \$250 to 2nd, and \$125 to 1st in the Expert division, Category 1, 2, and 3. Entry fee for all divisions, if postmarked by Nov. 11 and sent to The Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post St., Rm. 407, San Francisco, Calif. 94104, is \$25; thereafter, \$30. Registration on site starts at 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14; round one begins at 7 p.m.

## GAMES FROM LOCAL EVENTS

White: Walter Dorne (2002). Black: Ray Gobetz (1851).  
 Labor Day Tmt., U.C. Berkeley, Aug. 30, 1980.

### Bird's Opening

1	b3	c5	14	Ne5	Qc7
2	e4	Nc6	15	Ng4	a4
3	Bb2	d6	16	Na4	Ne4
4	Bb5	e6	17	Be5	Bf6
5	f4	Nf6	18	Nc5	Nc5
6	Nc3	a6	19	Nf6	Kh8
7	Bc6	bc	20	Qh5	h6
8	Nf3	Be7	21	Rf3	Be5
9	0-0	0-0	22	fe	Nd7
10	Qe2	a5	23	Ng4	Qa5
11	rael	Ba6	24	Ref1	Kh7
12	d3	Kh8	25	Ng6	gh
13	Kh1	d5	26	Rf7	Resigns

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White: Joe Anderson (1846). Black: Julius Willis (1906).  
 Labor Day Tmt., U.C. Berkeley, Aug. 30, 1980. Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 Ba4 Nf6 6 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7  
 Bb3 0-0 8 c3 d5 9 ed Nd5 10 Ne5 Ne5 11 Re5 Nf6 12 d4 Bd6  
 13 Re1 Ng4 14 g3 Nh2 15 Kh2 Qh4 16 Kg1 Bg3 17 Bf7 Kh8  
 18 Qf3 Bh2 19 Kh1 Bg4 20 Qb2 Bf4 21 Kg1 Bh3 22 Qd5 Bh2  
 23 Kh1 Qf2 24 Qe4 Bg3 25 Resigns.

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White: Thomas Dorsch (2254). Black: Richard Valet (2000).  
 Labor Day Tmt., U.C. Berkeley, Aug. 30, 1980.

### gking's Indian Defense

1	c4	Nf6	16	Qc1	Bf6
2	Nc3	g6	17	f4	ef
3	e4	d6	18	Bh5	Bc3
4	d4	Bg7	19	Bc3	Nge5
5	Be2	0-0	20	Ne5	Ne5
6	Nf3	e5	21	Be5	de
7	0-0	Nc6	22	Qc3	Qf6
8	d5	Ne7	23	gf	gf
9	Ne1	Nd7	24	Rh1	Qg5
10	Nd3	f5	25	Kf1	f3
11	f3	f4	26	Rg1	Bh3
12	Bd2	g5	27	Kf2	Bg2
13	g4	fg	28	Bf3	Rf3
14	hg	Ng6	29	Qf3	Qd2
15	Kg2	h5	30	Resigns	