

several tempi. He plays the preparatory Qd7 to have the option of answering a white Qg4 with f5.

5. Nf3! Karpov is in a line known to be slightly inferior for Black, but Geller is not hanging around to try to refute any Karpov improvement. His Nf3 hasn't been seen before in master chess — and that's not bad for a fifth move between two top class grandmasters!

- 5. b6
- 6. Bd2 Ba6
- 7. Bxa6 Nxa6
- 8. O-O Nb8
- 9. Ne2 Be7
- 10. Rc1 b5
- 11. Nf4

Black's last move was to prevent c4. Geller, probing for weaknesses, now intends 12. Nh5 in reply to 11 . . . Nh6.

- 11. h5
- 12. b3 Ba3
- 13. Rb1 a5
- 14. c4! c6
- 15. c5!

Normally a positional blunder, because it lock's White's own bishop in, here this move makes Black's position untenable. Karpov is undeveloped on the king-side, his bishop shut out of the action on a3 and his king is in the centre. He attempts to extract his bishop by desperate means.

- 15. Bb4
- 16. Bc1 a4
- 17. Nd3 Ba5
- 18. bxa4 bxa4
- 19. Qxa4

Geller picks up the loose pawn and after Karpov's inaccurate next move begins a combination that thrilled spectators watching on the huge demonstration boards.

- 19. Qa7?
- 20. Bg5 Bc7
- 21. Rxb8 ch! Qxb8
- 22. Qxc6 ch Kf8
- 23. Nf4 Ra7

Karpov thinks he can weave his way out of the complications, and after his next move he appears to have succeeded in forcing the exchange of queens.

- 24. Nh4! Qe8

Geller seems to have misjudged his attack and all knight sacrifices on g6 just fail. But Geller is not one to offer the world champion a mere knight!

- 25. Qxe6!!

It appears to take blows of this force to put Karpov on the canvas.

- 25. fxe6
- 26. N(h)g6 ch Qxg6
- Or 26 Kf7 27. Nxh8 ch Kf8 28. N(f)g6 ch.
- 27. Nxg6 ch Ke8

- 28. Nxh8 Ra4
- 29. Rd1 Ne7
- 30. Bxe7 Kxe7
- 31. Ng6 ch Kf7
- 32. Nf4 Bxe5

By refusing to capture the a pawn, Karpov has put up maximum resistance. But the experienced Geller, two pawns up and not in the least perturbed, now concludes effortlessly.

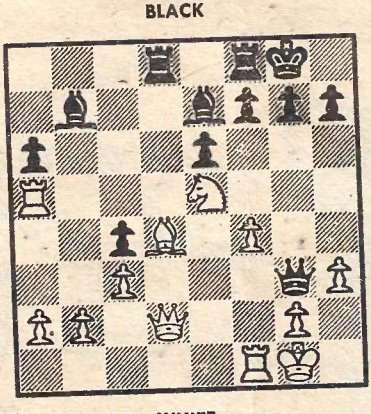
- 33. dxe5 Rxf4
- 34. Rc1 Ke8
- 35. c6 Kd8
- 36. c7 ch Kc8
- 37. g3 Ra4
- 38. Rc6 Rxa2
- 39. Rxe6 g5

- Or 39 Kxc7 40. Re7 ch and wins the pawn on g7.
- 40. Rd6 Rd2
- 41. e6 Kxc7
- 42. e7! Resigns.

On 42 . . . Re2 43. Rxd5 Rxe7 44. Rxg5 White has a simple theoretical win.

A smooth technical performance by Efim Geller, but at the same time a violent, power-filled clash between two giants of the chess arena.

International Grandmaster, I. Bilek; Hungary (white) v International Grandmaster L. Stein; USSR (black).



White's last move was 22, N(f3)e5. How does the alert Stein enable this game to appear as a miniature (25 moves or less) in Raymond Keene's book, "Leonid Stein — master of attack"?

SOLUTION: Bilek's last move was a blunder and Stein shot out with 22 . . . Rxd4! The white queen is overloaded — 23, Qxd4 allows Qxg2 mate. Stein elucidates: 22, cxd4 Bb4. 24, Ra3 Qxa3! White resigned as he loses a piece.

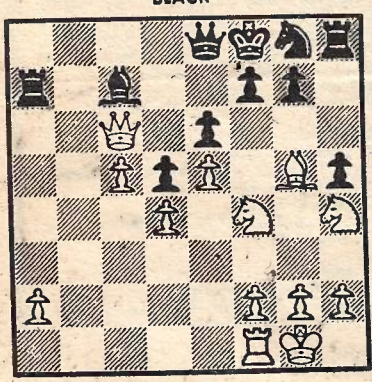
MURRAY CHANDLER

Chess Battle of the giants

"I WILL CONTINUE to play" was Anatoly Karpov's statement when he won the world championship in 1975. And he has, with a remarkable string of victories throughout the world. Karpov has gained first place in every tournament bar one that he has played in since winning his title. In his many

tournament games in that period Karpov lost only two of them, one to Andersson in Milan and the other to Torre in Manila.

Karpov is so difficult to beat partly because of his safe style. He wins long, drawn out endings rather than sharp tactical battles,



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- 27. Nxg6 ch Ke8

which can occasionally backfire. Another difficulty in registering the full point against him is that he chooses his openings carefully and knows a lot about them. That is why when Karpov produced a French Defence instead of his normal Ruy

Lopez, against Geller in this year's USSR championships, he caused a stir. But Geller wasn't psychologically beaten — far from it! Karpov no doubt had an improvement ready on an existing line, but Geller shrewdly jumped in first and found a new move himself.

- Russia 1976
- FRENCH DEFENCE
- E. Geller A. Karpov (IGM)
- 1. e4 e6
- 2. d4 d5
- 3. Nc3 Bb4
- 4. e5 Qd7!?
- Black's plan is to play b6 and Ba6, exchanging his bad bishop, but at the cost of