

The Russians wipe the board

THE EUROPEAN Teams' Championship recently held in Moscow resulted in total domination of the event by the Russians in an almost frightening display of superiority over the rest of Europe.

The squad of Karpov, Petrosian, Polugayevsky, Tal, Balashov, Geller, Romanishin, Tseshkovsky, Dorfman and Sveshnikov collected every individual prize as well, bar one — and the failure in that case was former world champion Tigran Petrosian! Trailing the Soviets came Hungary, followed by Yugoslavia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and West Germany with England bringing up the rear.

On first board World Champion Anatoly Karpov thrashed all opposition on his way to an incredible 5/5. The consummate ease with which he disposed of one of his challengers for the world title leaves him looking almost invincible, and certainly I can see no-one in the world today likely to dethrone him.

Moscow 1977.
USSR v Hungary

King's Indian Attack
L. Portisch A: Karpov

1. Nf3	Nf6
2. g3	b6
3. Bg2	Bb7
4. 0-0	e6
5. d3	d5
6. Nbd2	Nbd7

In Kochiev v Ivanov, USSR first league in 1976, Black tried 6... Be7 but 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 Nxe4? 9.Ne5! Resigns was the continuation, due to the fact that after 9... Nd6 10.Bxb7 Nxb7 11.Qj3 Black loses a piece as White threatens mate on f7 in addition to the threat to the knight. Karpov considers that his next move gives him complete equality.

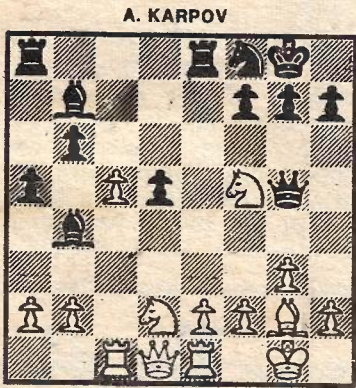
7. Re1	Bc5!
8. c4	0-0
9. cxd5	exd5
10. Nb3	Bb4

If 10... Bd6 White has 11.Nbd4 Re8 12.Nb5. Eg 12... Bb4 13.Bf4! Bxe1 14.Qxe1 and Black will have great trouble holding on to the exchange.

11. Bd2	a5
12. Nbd4	Re8
13. Rc1	c5
14. Nf5	Nf8
15. d4?!	Ne4
16. dxc5?	

Now Portisch is definitely losing, but 16.a3 Bxd2 17.Nxd2 Qf6 still leaves Karpov very well off.

16. . . .	Nxd2
17. Nxd2	Qg5!
18. Nd6	



A. KARPOV

L. PORTISCH

18.Ne3 fails to 18... Rxe3
19.fxe3 Qxe3 ch 20.Kh1 bxd2.

18. . . . Bxd2
19. Nxb7

Or (a) 19.h4 Qh6 20.Nxe8
(20.Nf5 Qf6) 20... Rxe8
21.c6 Ba6;

(b) 19. h4 Qh6 20.Nxb7
Bxc1! 21.Qxc1 Rxe2 winning
quickly. eg 22.Bxd5 Rae8!

(c) 19.c6 Ba6 20.f4 Qe7 (But
not 20... Be3 ch 21.Kh1 Qe7
22.Bxd5!) 21.Nxe8 Qe3 ch!

19. . . . Bxe1

NZ LISTENER, June 11, 1977

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20. Qxe1	Rxe2
21. Qxe2	Qxc1 ch
22. Qf1	Qd2!

Black has a winning position and now Karpov concludes matters with unerring precision. If Portisch plays 23.c6 Karpov picks up the advanced pawn with 23... Rc8 24.Qb5 Qc1 ch.

23. cxb6	Rc8
24. Resigns	

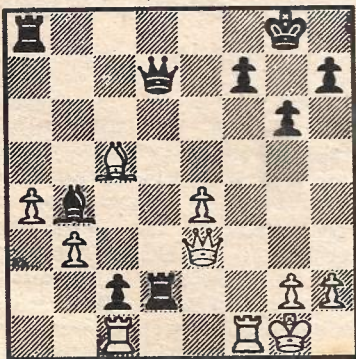
Portisch sees the threatened 24... Rc1 pinning his queen cannot be parried, for on

24. Qb5 Karpov has
24... Rc2!

One possible Karpov challenger is Boris Spassky, who, despite having his appendix out midway through the match, managed to beat Vlastimil Hort. For a change, this Candidates' match was a good natured affair, with Hort even allowing Spassky to use one of his rest days when the Russian had used his quota. Hort, however, would have good cause to complain of his luck in the match and indeed in the final game he lost on time in a winning position.

Put yourself in his shoes. You have nine seconds to find the combination which wins Black the game and keeps him in the fight for the World Championships. On your marks . . . get set . . . go!

V. HORT (Czechoslovakia)



B. SPASSKY (USSR)

SOLUTION: 1... Q-g4
Another good pressure move — patzer seeks a check, gives a check. This one just happens to win a rook. 3.Rf1Bxc5 4.Qxc5 Rxc1 5.Rxc1 Qd1 ch! and Black wins. Hort's problem lay in the fact that he didn't have nine seconds, in fact his flag had just fallen. Spassky drew the next day and so joined up with Korchnoi, Polugayevsky and Portisch.

M. CHANDLER