

The champions compete

RUSSIAN DEFECTOR versus USSR hero is just one of the explosive candidates' matches starting now. Victor Korchnoi and Tigran Petrosian are two of eight players fighting for the right to challenge Anatoly Karpov for his

precious World Champion title.

The other six include former world champion Spassky, who has agreed to play his match in Reykjavik, of all places! This is, of course, where he lost his title to Bobby Fischer in their

historic 1972 encounter.

Tigran Petrosian (USSR) v Victor Korchnoi (Stateless)

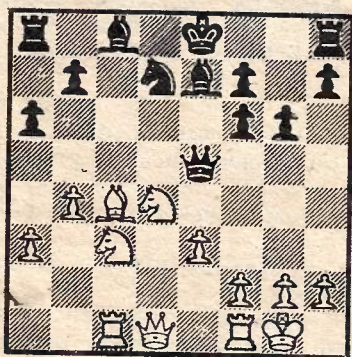
Two players who hate one another because of a bitter dispute in the last candidates' series were drawn to play

again, this time in Italy. Last time Korchnoi complained of his opponent's foot tapping rocking the table and the incident flared until Petrosian retired ill, 3½/1½ down.

Petrosian is incredibly difficult to beat. Korchnoi is a

fighter: brilliant on tactics, resourceful in defence.

V. KORCHNOI



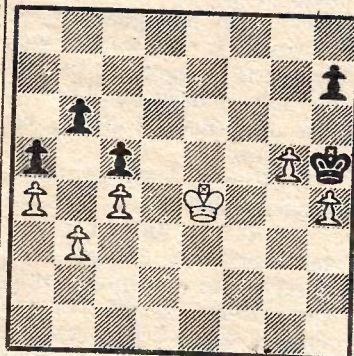
T. PETROSIAN

Candidates 1962, Curacao:

1. f4! Qb8
- (After ... Qxe3 ch 2.Kh1 the dual threat of 3.Nd5 and Re1 is too strong.)
2. Bxf7 ch Kxf7
3. Qb3 ch Ke8
4. Nd5 Bd6
5. Ne6 b5
6. Ndc7 ch! Ke7
7. Nd4! Kf8
- (7... Bxc7 8. Nc6 ch Kf8 9.Nxb8 Bxb8 10.Qe6! or 7... Qxc7 8.Rxc7 Bxc7 8.Qe6 ch Kf8 9.Qc6! Ra7 10.Ne6 ch etc.)
8. Nxa8 Resigns

An impressive display from the former world champion. In the following example Korchnoi, having used tactics in the middle-game to win a pawn, converts his advantage by means of a subtle finesse.

T. PETROSIAN



V. KORCHNOI

Candidates 1974, 3rd Match game.

1. Kf5! Kxh4
2. g6! hxg6
3. Kxg6 Kg4
4. Kf6 Kf4
5. Ke6 Ke4
6. Kd6 Kd4
7. Kc6 Kc3
8. Kxb6 Kxb3
9. Kb5! Resigns

Henrique Mecking (Brazil) v Lev Polugayevsky (USSR)

These two are evenly matched, with both of them possessing a clear positional style, but both can also break out sharply into tactics and this is sure to produce entertaining chess at the mountain resort in Switzerland where they are due to play. I predict however that the young, clear-headed but temperamental Brazilian will topple the well-prepared but sometimes unreliable Polugayevsky.

1. Be5	f5	7. Qf6 ch	Ke8
2. Bb8	Rb7	8. d5	Rf8
3. Qe5!	Rg8	8... bxc3	9. d6
4. g5	b4	9. Qc6 ch	Qd7
5. Qf6 ch	Ke8	If 9... Kf7	then 10. Qxc4
6. Qxc6 ch	Kf7	10. Bd6	Rf7
<i>(6... Qd7 fails to 7. Rxe7 ch</i>		11. Bxe7	bxc3
<i>Kxe7 8. Qf6 ch and 6... Rd7</i>			
<i>to 7. Nd5.</i>			

11... Qxc6 12. Bc 5 ch
 or 11... Rxe7 12. Rxe7 ch
 Kxe7 13. Qf6 ch with 14. Rel ch
 to follow.

12. Bb4 dis. ch Resigns
 The candidates' matches
 this year are decided in the
 quarterfinal matches by the

winner being the first person
 to win four games. Draws do
 not count. The series promises
 to produce numerous top class
 games from seven mammoth
 struggles.

MURRAY CHANDLER

**Boris Spassky (USSR) v
 Vlastimil Hort (Czechoslovakia)**

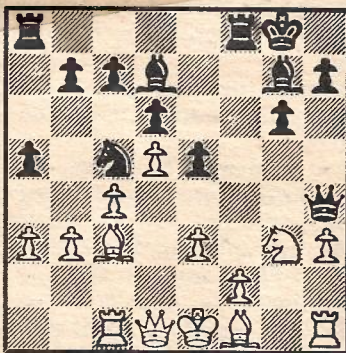
I think Spassky, a replacement for Fischer, can win this match if he can reach some of the dazzling heights of expertise he has scaled in the past. Hort is looking quite formidable however and has been on top form of late, so, as in all the other matches, the outcome is still very much in doubt. Spassky's decision to play in Iceland was surprising.

**Bent Larsen (Denmark) v
 Lajos Portisch (Hungary)**

Rotterdam will be the scene of a tremendous fight between these two, who have played many times before. The only time they have met in a match, though, was at the 1968 Candidates', in which Larsen won 5½/4½ — and I think he can do it again. If anything, Larsen can win almost on sheer confidence alone! Portisch is a hard-working, extensively prepared opponent who will undoubtedly be ready to take anything the Dane can give out, but Larsen has never lost a match to anybody other than former world champions.

Occasionally he comes unstuck badly, though, and if Portisch can grab his chance as he did in the following game Larsen could be in trouble.

L. PORTISCH



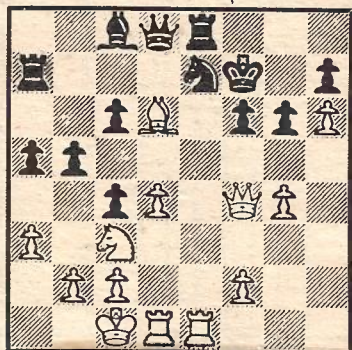
B. LARSEN

Larsen has fatally neglected his development after opening 1.b3, and now Portisch winds up, on his 19th move:

1. ... Rxf2
2. Kxf2 Ne4 ch
3. Kgl Qxg3 ch
4. Bg2 Qxe3 ch
5. Resigns

Here is an instance where Larsen's unusual opening idea pays off and the Hungarian can put up little resistance.

L. PORTISCH



B. LARSEN