

The first blow

SEVEN SUCCESSIVE draws in a match where draws don't count might have seemed dull stuff to an outside observer at the kick-off to the Karpov-Korchnoi duel.

But, at the convention centre itself where the games were played, the atmosphere was a stimulating one for chess enthusiasts. Viktor Korchnoi produced several opening innovations in the first

few games and when the challenger had White in games 3 and 5, everyone felt sure he would score the first victory after gaining a big advantage each time.

But young 27-year-old Anatoly Karpov defended well in true world champion style, and in round 8 he reaped the rewards of patience when Korchnoi went off on a tangent with a dubious fianchetto on the 10th move that led to his downfall.

As there is a casino at Korchnoi's Pines Hotel, his risky play led someone to remark that he had mistaken the con-

vention centre for the poker table.

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP
Baguio City, Philippines

RUY LOPEZ

A. Karpov USSR V. Korchnoi stateless

1. e4

Karpov shoved his king's pawn forward quickly. This was moments after Korchnoi had appeared on stage and offered the customary handshake. Karpov indicated "nyet" — the favourite word in the Soviet negotiations in Baguio — and in so doing broke a pre-match agreement that the players would shake hands. Angrily Korchnoi

blitzed through his first few moves.

1 . . . e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 a6
4 Ba4 Nf6
5 0-0 Nxe4

Choosing, once again, the open variation of the Ruy Lopez.

6 d4 b5
7 Bb3 d5
8 dxe5 Be6
9 Nbd2

The two earlier open Lopez in the match had continued 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0 11. Bc2 Bf5 12.Nb3 Bg4 13.Nxc5 Nxc5 14.Re1 when Korchnoi had innovated with a new move in each game — 14 . . . d4!? in the 2nd match

game and 14 . . . Bh5!? in the 4th. In both cases he drew easily, so this time Karpov decided to get off the beaten track first.

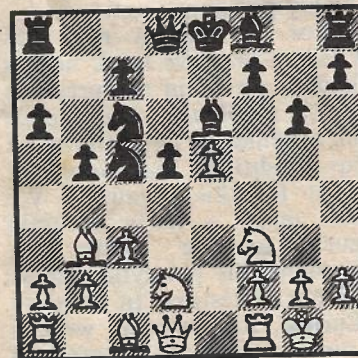
9 . . . Nc5
White was threatening 10.Nxe4.

10.c3 g6?

This was entirely Korchnoi's strange idea and he hadn't even told his seconds he would play it. Ironically it was Korchnoi who wrote the encyclopaedia section on the open Lopez, and he mentioned this move, giving it an !? — meaning an interesting and untried move. After this debacle some disappointed fans sarcastically commented that next time he'd

know the correct sign to put. Correct is 10 . . . d4.

KORCHNOI



KARPOV

11 Qe2 Bg7
12 Nd4! Nxe5

This pawn grab is the idea behind the fianchetto, but from now on Korchnoi is subjected to a ruthless assault.

13 f4 Nc4
14 f5 gxf5
15 Nxf5 Rg8
16 Nxc4 dxc4
17 Bc2 Nd3

17 . . . Qd5 immediately may give better chances of survival.

18 Bh6! Bf8

Grandmasters Robert Byrne and Miguel Najdorf thought maybe Korchnoi could play 18 . . . Bxh6 19.Nxh6 Rg6, but White has 20.Nxf7! Qe7 21.Bxd3 cxd3 22.Qe4 Qc5 ch 23.Rf2! Rb8 (or 23 . . . Qd5 24.Qxd5 Bxd5 25.Ne5) 24.Ne5 Rf6 25.Nxd3 and White is material up with a raging attack. GM Raymond Keene suggested 18 . . . Bh8!?

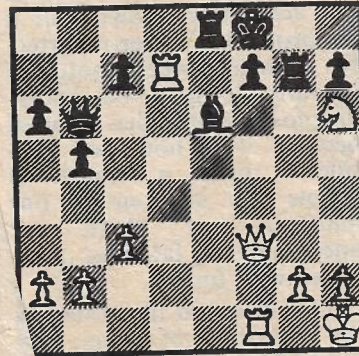
19 Rad1 Qd5
20 Bxd3 cxd3
21 Rxd3 Qc6

Karpov has regained his pawn and Black's poor king is caught in the crossfire of White's major pieces.

22 Bx18 Qb6 ch
23 Kh1 Kx18
24 Qf3 Re8
25 Nh6 Rg7
26 Rd7!!

Seizing a decisive occupation of the seventh rank. Taking the rook with 26 . . . Bxd7 is taboo because of the beautiful queen sacrifice 27.Qxf7 ch! Rxf7 28.Rxf7 checkmate.

KORCHNOI



KARPOV

. . . Rb8
Nxf7 Bxd7
Nd8 dis.ch. Resigns

ven with desperate sacrifice Black can delay mate by three moves.

MURRAY CHANDLER