

Karpov's confidence trick

ANATOLY KARPOV has won yet another super-grandmaster tournament. The 28-year-old world champion from Leningrad cruised through a category 15 (average Elo rating 2605) tournament in Tilburg, Holland, outpacing three of his prospective world championship challengers due to participate in the forthcoming candidates matches.

Going into the final round at Tilburg, Karpov on 6½ points could have been caught for first place if he drew with Vassily Smyslov, and Oleg Romanishin dealt Spassky his first defeat.

Shortly after the session, started Karpov did an astonishing thing. Not wishing to have to grind out a win unless absolutely necessary, he told the arbiter he was going for a walk! Half an hour later he returned, looked at the position and judged (correctly) that Romanishin would beat Spassky — and sat down and beat Smyslov.

The draw for the candidates matches has now been made. Outspoken Soviet defector Viktor Korchnoi is pitted (again) against his bitter rival Tigran Petrosian of the USSR. Hungarian Lajos Portisch meets Russian Boris Spassky, while the two most inexperienced players at this level, Robert Hubner of West Germany and Andreas Adorjan of Hungary, are due to play each other. Mikhail Tal, despite his fluctuating health, is favourite to beat Soviet compatriot Lev Polugayevsky because of the magnificent chess he has produced lately, reminiscent of his most brilliant days as world champion.

One of Karpov's finest games from Tilburg was his slaughter of Dutchman Gennadi Sosonko

SICILIAN DEFENCE

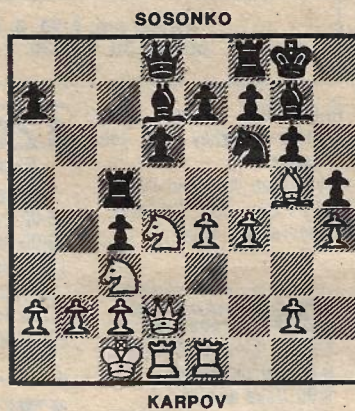
KARPOV	SOSONKO
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	d6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nf6
5. Nc3	g6
6. Be3	Bg7
7. f3	Nc6
8. Qd2	

Karpov is meeting the Dragon variation with the Yugoslav attack — once a favourite of American former world champion Bobby Fischer.

8. . . .	0-0
9. Bc4	Bd7
10. h4	h5

Impeding White's mating machine of h5. Bh6 followed by h×g6. B×g7 and Qh6. Another major line runs 10...Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.0-0-0 Nc4.

11. 0-0-0	Ne5
12. Bb3	Rc8
13. Bg5	Rc5
14. Rhe1	b5
15. f4	Nc4
16. B×c4	b×c4



17. B×f6!

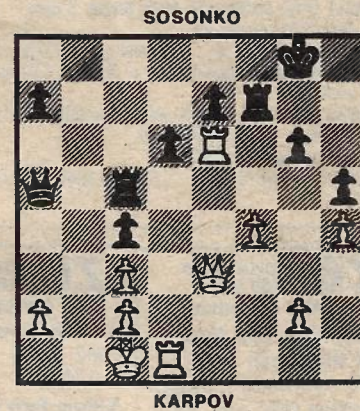
A switch in move order from 17.e5 Qb6! 18.B×f6 18.e×f6 e×f6 traps the bishop! 18...Rb8! with a big advantage to Black as in Zuidema-Sosonko, Holland 1976.

Karpov claimed after the game that his new move order refuted the whole 10...h5 variation.

17. . . .	B×f6
18. e5	Bg7
Naturally not. 18...B×h4 19.Rh1, while if 18...d×e5 then 19.f×e5 B×e5 20.R×e5 R×e5 21.Nf3! wins material.	
19. e6	Bc8
20. e×f7 ch	R×f7
21. Ne6	B×e6
22. R×e6	Qa5
23. Qe3!	

By delaying the pawn capture R×g6 a move, Karpov makes time to bring his queen into the fray.

23. . . .	B×c3
24. b×c3	



24. . . .	Q×a2
25. R×g6 ch	Kf8
26. Qe4	Qa6
27. Rd5	

27.Qa8 ch is met by 27...Rc8, but now the combined might of White's heavy pieces hounding the Black king is just too much.

The defensive attempt 27...Qc6 now loses to 28.R×c5! Q×e4 29.Rc8 check-mate.

27. . . .	Rf6
28. R×c5	R×g6
29. R×h5	

A queen endgame after 29.Q×g6 Qal ch 30.Kd2 d×c5 31.Q×h5 Qf1 would have given Sosonko chances of survival.

29. . . .	d5
30. R×d5	Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER

Tilburg 1979

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1. KARPOV, USSR	-	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	½	½	1	7½
2. ROMANISHIN, USSR	½	-	½	½	½	0	1	1	1	½	½	1	7
3. PORTISCH, Hungary	½	½	-	½	1	½	½	0	½	½	1	1	6½
4. SAX, Hungary	½	½	½	-	0	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	6
5. LARSEN, Denmark	0	½	0	1	-	0	½	1	1	½	1	0	5½
6. SOSONKO, Holland	0	1	½	½	1	-	½	0	0	1	½	½	5½
7. SPASSKY, USSR	½	0	½	½	½	½	-	½	½	1	½	½	5½
8. TIMMAN, Holland	½	0	1	0	0	1	½	-	½	½	½	1	5½
9. HORT, Czechoslovakia	0	0	½	½	0	1	½	½	-	½	½	1	5
10. HUBNER, W. Germany	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	-	½	1	5
11. KAVALEK, USA	½	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	-	½	4½
12. SMYSLOV, USSR	0	0	0	0	1	½	½	0	0	0	½	-	2½