

The next superstar?

I FIRST MET the Russian junior Garri Kasparov in the world under-18 tournament in France 1976. This year he was not able to take part in the event — but not, as in my case, because of his age. For at 15 Kasparov has become the greatest Russian find since Karpov, and the USSR senior championship clashed

with the kiddies' tournament. The USSR championship is the strongest national tournament in the world, and places are highly sought after by all aspiring Soviet players. Almost every player is a top-class Grandmaster, although an amusing point is that participants cannot gain GM or IM norms, as there are no

foreigners competing! Kasparov qualified for the premier event with a first place in the "Otkrochniy" ahead of such players as Ivanov, Albut and Kuprichik. Now, having gained 8½/17 in the USSR's strongest tournament, and demolishing Lev Polugayevsky among others in the process, he seems set to become the next Soviet superstar. My impression of Kasparov three years ago was of an alert, talented player who revelled in rattling off tactical

variations. But in that junior event he was prone to rash decisions, and it appeared he would be stronger if he could curb his enthusiasm somewhat. Evidently he has done something like that! Now that young Garri has well and truly caught the attention of the USSR chess federation there is some speculation whether he will be allowed to play extensively abroad. The Russians may be wary of the psychological implications of several early losses to a non-Soviet future

world championship contender whom Kasparov could conceivably be facing for the supreme chess honour in a few years' time. As for me, I can rest comfortably. Beating the lad when he was 13 must give me a lasting psychological advantage if ever we meet in a Baguio City of the future!

A game from the Soviet champs:

USSR 78/79 QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

Mikhail Tal	Efim Geller
1 c4	e6
2 d4	d5
3 Nc3	Nf6
4 Bg5	Be7
5 e3	0-0
6 Nf3	h6
7 Bxf6	Bxf6
8 Rc1	c6
9 Bd3	Nd7
10 cxd5	exd5!

The more unusual recapture is 10... cxd5.

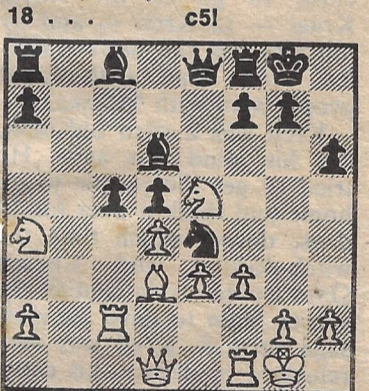
11 b4 Be7
This appears to be new. After 11... a6 12.a4 a5 13.b5 White holds an advantage.

12 b5	Ba3
13 Rc2	Bd6
14 0-0	Nf6
15 bxc6	bxc6
16 Na4?	

Simply the normal advance White generally plays for in such positions, 16.e4! would give Geller great problems. Possibly Tal had reasoned that the line he chose was equally as good positionally and he may have missed Black's reply, ignoring the attack on the c-pawn.

16... Ne4!
So that with 17.Rxc6 Bd7 18.Rc1 Qa5, Black regains the pawn.

17 Ne5 Qe8
18 f3
18.Nxc6 is impossible, as once again Black has 18... Bd7. After the move played Geller sparked off a series of complications rather than accept a passive position after 18... Nf6 19.f4.



Hitting the knight on a4.
19 fxe4 cxd4!
20 Ng4!
Not 20.exd4 Qxa4 21.Rxc8? Qxd4 ch (21... Qxd1 22.Rxf8 ch and then 23.Rxd1), whereby Black wins. Now the threat of a discovery on the Queen is really on, and Geller dare not capture the knight immediately, ie. 20... Qxa4 21.Rxc8! winning a piece.

46th USSR CHAMPIONSHIP, TOP LEAGUE, TBILISI, DECEMBER, 1978.

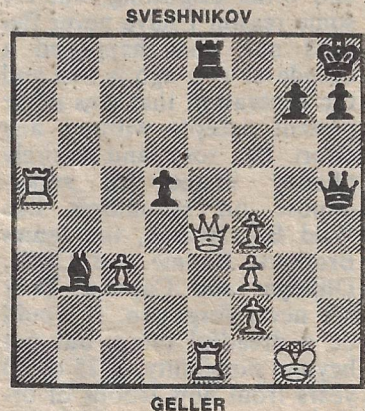
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1 TAL	-	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	11
2 TSESHKOVSKY	½	-	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	0	1	½	1	½	1	1	½	11
3 POLUGAYEVSKY	½	½	-	½	½	1	1	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	10
4 GEORGADZE	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	9½
5 BELYAVSKY	0	0	½	½	-	½	1	½	0	½	1	½	1	½	1	0	½	1	9
6 GELLER	½	½	0	½	½	-	1	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	9
7 ROMANISHIN	½	½	0	½	0	0	-	0	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	0	9
8 SVESHNIKOV	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	-	½	1	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	9
9 KASPAROV	½	0	1	½	1	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	0	0	½	0	1	1	8½

20... dxe4
21 Bc4 Bxg4
Still the sequence is forced — 21... Qxa4 gets mauled by 22.Bxf7 ch! Kh8 23.Nxh6, fatally exposing Black's king.
22 Qxg4 Qxa4
23 Rxf7 Rxf7
24 Bxf7 ch Kxf7
25 Qf5 ch Ke7

A deceptive position: 25... Kg8 in fact loses to 26.Qd5 ch Kh7 27.Qxe4 ch g6 28.Qb7 ch! and wins. Either the bishop or the rook will fall with check, and the resulting position will be disastrous for Black. Correct defence, however, secures Geller the draw.

26 Qxe4 ch Kd7
27 Qb7 ch Ke6
28 Qe4 ch Kd7
Draw agreed.

GRANDMASTER Evgeney Sveshnikov's favourite defence is the Pelikan variation of the Sicilian, often known now as the Pelikan/Sveshnikov due to his efforts in the line. The diagrammed position was reached from the opening, after Black had followed the typical strategy of a kingside assault with pieces, having sacrificed the exchange in the process. Efim Geller has just made a fatal error by playing 1.R(b1)e1?? — based on the idea that if rook captures queen a back-rank mate is on, while pawn-takes-queen loses Black's queen as well. But Black has a devastating move that won immediately — what was it? (Black to play.)



Solution: 1... Qg6 ch! 2. White resigns. White is a rook down after 2.Qxg6 Rxe1 ch 3.Kg2 hxg6, while 2.Kh2 dxe4 wins, as Black's queen can no longer be captured.

MURRAY CHANDLER

NZ LISTENER, March 17, 1979

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
10 BAGIROV	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	½	-	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	8	
11 GULKO	½	1	½	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	-	½	½	½	½	½	½	8	
12 MAKARICHEV	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	½	½	8	
13 TIMOSHCHENKO	½	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	1	½	½	½	-	½	1	0	½	8	
14 RAZUVAYEV	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	0	7½	
15 TUKMAKOV	½	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	-	1	½	7½	
16 MIKHALCHISIN	0	0	½	½	1	0	0	½	1	½	½	½	1	½	0	-	½	7½	
17 DORFMAN	0	0	0	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	-	1	6½
18 KUZMIN	0	½	0	½	0	0	1	½	0	0	½	½	½	1	½	½	0	-	6