

MONTREAL 1979, FIRST HALF

	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1 KARPOV (USSR)	2705	—	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	6½
2 PORTISCH (Hungary)	2640	½	—	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	6
3 TAL (USSR)	2615	½	½	—	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	6
4 LJUBOJEVIC (Yugoslavia)	2590	0	½	½	—	½	½	1	½	1	1	5½
5 HUBNER (West Germany)	2595	½	0	½	½	—	½	½	½	1	1	5
6 TIMMAN (Holland)	2625	0	½	½	½	½	—	½	½	½	1	4½
7 HORT (Czechoslovakia)	2600	½	0	½	0	½	½	—	½	1	½	4
8 SPASSKY (USSR)	2640	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	—	0	1	3½
9 LARSEN (Denmark)	2620	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—	1	2½
10 KAVALEK (USA)	2590	0	½	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	—	1½

Chess

The greatest in Montreal

THE "MAN and His World" Chess Challenge Cup in Montreal was possibly the strongest tournament of all time. Certainly, boasting an average Elo rating of 2622, it was the highest category event since the ratings system began.

Every one of the 10 invited

players held a special distinction — each has been in the top 10 players in the world at least once during the past 10 years.

The tournament was a double-round event, each player meeting each opponent twice, once with White and once with Black. Hungarian Grandmaster Lajos Portisch took an early lead, but was hauled back by world champion Anatoly Karpov, who held the lead at the half-way stage.

It must have been a strange feeling for world-class players Bent Larsen and Lubomir Kavalek to suffer a string of defeats and find themselves at the bottom after the first half, but somebody has to come last!

The Montreal tournament, organised by Kavalek and sponsored by La Presse, the leading newspaper there, and the Government of Quebec, may signal the beginning of a new big-time chess league.

Following on the heels of Lone Pine, California, which put up \$45,000 in prize-money, Montreal offered a staggering \$110,000 prize fund, at last putting chess in a similar bracket to tennis or golf.

The prizes ranged from \$25,000 for first down to \$4000 for last place. Of course the normal free travel and accommodation were also provided.

Additionally, there was a \$1000 brilliancy prize offered and the pleasing percentage of excellent wins shows that even at this level chess is nowhere near being exhausted.

I don't think the following game will win the brilliancy award, but it's an interesting brevity. Larsen makes a single error of judgment and the game's all over in less than two hours!

SICILIAN DEFENCE

M. TAL	B. LARSEN
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nf6
5. Nc3	d6
6. Bg5	e6
7. Qd2	Be7
8. 0-0-0	a6
9. f4	Qc7?

Normal here is 9...Bd7 with the idea of ...b5. Larsen may have been playing more riskily than usual because he had only half a point out of four at this stage, but now he is subjected to one of Tal's famous onslaughts against the Sicilian.

10. Be2	Nxd4
11. Qxd4	b5?!
12. e5	dxe5
13. fxe5	Nd5

Larsen obviously had pinned his hopes on this move, as 14.Nxd5 is met by 14...Bxg5 ch.

14. Bxe7	Nxc3
15. Bf3!	

It is White's move.

Naturally he cannot play 1.Nxf5 (to exploit the pin) because of 1...Bh7 pinning the knight. But simply 1.Kc3 would have left Korchnoi with a workable advantage in the endgame. Attempting to nail his man to the floor immediately, Korchnoi overpresses.

1. c6?! b5
2. Bd3 Bf7
3. Nxf5?

Black was threatening ...Be8 but this sacrifice to gain

connected passed pawns is easily refuted.

3. ... exf5
4. Bxf5 ch Ne6
5. Bg4 Nhg7
6. f5 h5!
7. fxe6 Bg6 ch

Did Korchnoi miss this simple zwischenzug? Now he is just a piece for two pawns down in the ending — too much even if your name is Korchnoi.

8. Kc3 hxg4
9. hxg4 Nxe6
10. Nf4 Nxf4

11. Bxf4 Be4
12. Kd4 Bxc6
13. e6 Bf3
14. g5 Bg4
15. Kd5 Bh5
16. Ke4 Bg6 ch
17. Kd5 Kb7
18. Ke5 c5
19. bxc5 Kc6
20. Bd2 Bh7
21. Be3 Bd8
22. Bd2 Bg6
23. Be3 a5
24. Bd2 Kxc5

At last the king can capture the pawn, as Bb4 ch is not possible. Korchnoi tries a last trick.

25. e7 Bxe7
26. Ke6! Bd6!

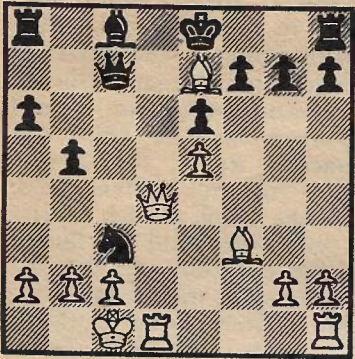
If 26...Bd8 protecting the a-pawn then 27.Kd7! Bb6 28.Be3 ch draws!

27. Bxa5 Kc6
28. Kf6 Be4
29. g6 Bxa3
30. Kf7 b4
31. Resigns

If 31.Bxb4 Bxb4 32.g7 then 32...Bd5 ch 33.Kg6 Bg8 and White cannot queen the pawn.

MURRAY CHANDLER

LARSEN



TAL

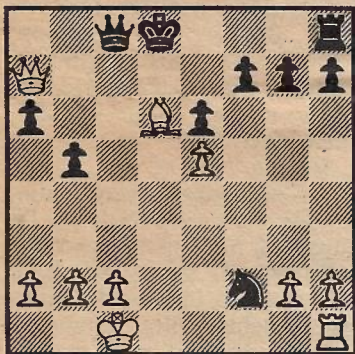
Now Black is really in hot water. He cannot capture with 15...Kxe7 due to 16.bxc3! with the idea of 16...Bb7 17.Qd6ch or 16...Rb8 17.Qb4ch and 18.Rd6. Meanwhile everything is hanging.

15... Nxd1
Larsen gives 15... Ne2ch 16.Bxe2 Oxe7 17.Bf3 Bb7 18.Bxb7 Qxb7 19.Qd6 Rc8 20.Rd2 Qc6 21.Rhd1 Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Ra8 23.Rb6 h5 24.Rdd6 h4 25.Rxa6 Rxa6 26.Rxa6 Rh5 and now 27.Ra5 Rxe5 28.a4 with superior rook ending, e.g. 28...Re2 29.axb5 Rxb5 30.b6 Kd7 31.Rc5 and White wins.

16. Bd6 Qc4
Or 16... Qa7 17.Bc5.

17. Qb6 Nf2
18. Bc6ch Bd7
19. Bxd7ch Kxd7
20. Qb7ch Kd8
21. Qxa8ch Qc8
22. Qa7 Resigns

LARSEN

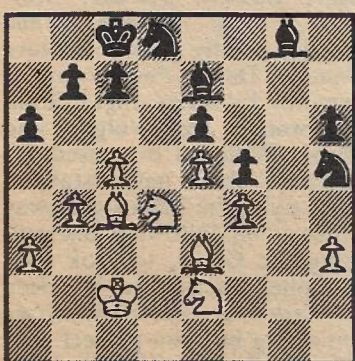


TAL

Black's king is hopelessly exposed and he is losing the knight on f2. Times at the end: Tal 47 minutes and Larsen 61!

The following position is from the Louis D. Statham tournament in Lone Pine, where Viktor Korchnoi was among 27 Grandmasters chasing the \$15,000 first prize. Unfortunately, in uncompromisingly attempting to win every game, he dropped several points, including this one in round six against William Lombardy.

LOMBARDY



KORCHNOI