

Slaughter of the comrades

THE PARALLEL interzonal tournaments in Riga and Rio de Janeiro form the second stage of an elaborate three-year cycle to select a challenger to world champion Anatoly Karpov. Thirty-eight participants from all over the world have qualified from geographically-arranged zonal tournaments, inaugurated in 1947 to give all a chance to stake their claim.

Only the top three players from each of the interzonals qualify for the eight-man candidates match series, joining automatic qualifiers Viktor Korchnoi, who unsuccessfully challenged Karpov in 1978, and Boris Spassky who lost to Korchnoi in the candidates finals.

These eight will then play knockout matches to determine the next challenger to the world crown.

Latvian Grandmaster Mikhail Tal started brilliantly in the Riga section, slaughtering four of his Soviet colleagues in the first four rounds. He disposed of Tsherkovsky, Romanishin, Polugayevsky and Kuzmin!

In fact Tal's massacre of his own kind made such an impression that at the Rio interzonal starting shortly afterwards, the Soviet delegation called the drawing of lots a farce and refused to play among themselves in the first three rounds! A solution was reached when they drew from several numbers while conforming to the Fide rule that participants from the same country should not meet in any of the last six rounds (to avoid possibilities of collusion).

ENGLISH OPENING

POLUGAYEVSKY	TAL
1. Nf3	c5
2. c4	Nf6
3. Nc3	d5
4. cxd5	Nxd5
5. e4 !?	

A complicated variation which Polugayevsky would probably not normally venture against the tactician Tal. However, White had been scoring fairly well in recent games with this line.

5. . . .	Nb4
6. Bc4	Be6

This odd-looking move, allowing Black's pawns to be doubled, has become quite standard ever since 6. . . Nd3 ch 7. Ke2! Nf4 ch 8. Kf1 was found to favour White. The point of the game continuation is to gain control of d3 and to displace White's king. Indeed the doubling of pawns even gives Black the f-file down which to attack, as is vividly illustrated!

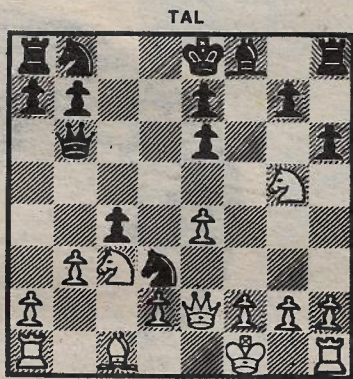
7. Bxe6	Nd3 ch
8. Kf1	fxe6
9. Ng5	Qb6!?

Polugayevsky may have based his choice of opening on a theoretically important recent game, Timman-Stean, Amsterdam zonal 1978, which had gone 9. . . Nc6 10. Nxe6 Qd7 11. Nxc5! Nxc5 12. Qh ch g6. 13. Qxc5 when Stean had some pressure for his two pawns, but in that game it fell short of sufficient compensation.

Tal's new move, apart from being a good psychological choice against

Polugayevsky, who has had a number of ghastly experiences when confronted with novelties in the opening, also seems to be remarkably strong!

10. Qe2	c4
11. b3	h6



POLUGAYEVSKY

12. Nf3
After 12. Qh5 ch Kd7 13. Nh3 cxb3 14. axb3 Qxb3 Black has an extra pawn and his bind; 15. Rb1 is nothing after 15. . . Qc4.

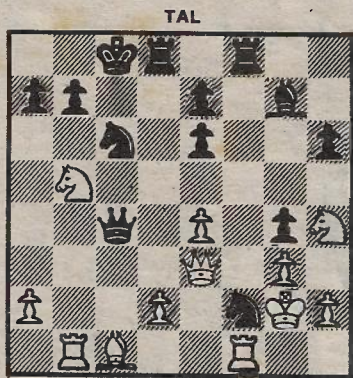
12. . . .	Nc6
13. bxc4	0-0-0
14. g3	

Tactics aimed at removing Black's knight on d3 fail — 14. Nd5 exd5 15. Qxd3 Nb4.

14. . . .	g5
15. Kg2	Qc5
16. Rb1	Bg7
17. Nb5	Qxc4
18. Qe3	Rhf8

That's the file! Now Poly cannot play 19. Nxa7 ch Nxa7 20. Qxa7 because of 20. . . Qxe4 winning. Instead he protects his f2 square, but Tal blasts his way in.

19. Rf1	g4
20. Nh4	Nxf2 !



POLUGAYEVSKY

21. Ng6
If 21. Rxf2 Rxf2 ch 22. Kxf2 Rf8 ch or 22. Qxf2 Qxe4 ch and the rook on b1 is hanging.

21. . . .	Rd3
22. Na3	Qa4
23. Qe1	Rdf3
24. Nxf8	Nd3
25. Qd1	

The true depth of Tal's beautiful conception can be judged from the variation 25. Qe2 Nd4 26. Qd1 Qxd1!! — swapping queens a rook down! — 27. Rxd1 Rf2 ch 28. Kh1 Nf3 with unpreventable mate.

25. . . .	Qxe4
26. Rxf3	gxf3 ch
27. Kf1	Qf5 !
28. Kg1	Bd4 ch
29. Resigns	

MURRAY CHANDLER