

Bodies and brains

THE USSR Spartakiad is a sort of internal Olympic games, with the various republics competing against one another in a variety of sports including football, volleyball, boxing, archery and athletics. But one marked difference to the world Olympics is the inclusion of chess, and this year 45 Grandmasters and over

100 International Masters and Soviet "Masters of Sport" were under the spotlight indoors.

A dazzling array of superstars, including world champion Anatoly Karpov and former world champions Boris Spassky, Tigran Petrosian, Mikhail Tal and Vassily Smyslov, were representing 17

teams in total. One Western reporter, perhaps at his first chess event, wrote about how awesome it was to be "surrounded by so many brains"!

The Ukraine finished first, followed by Moscow, the Russian Republic and Leningrad. In fact Moscow and Leningrad are geographically part of the Russian Republic, but because of the republic's size the three teams compete separately in the Spartakiad.

Matches were played over seven men's and two women's boards. The Ukrainian squad

certainly had their share of intellect, as all the men were top Grandmasters! How's this for a rundown: Romani-shin, Belyavsky, Kuzmin, Tukmakov, Dorfman, Mikhailchishin and Savon!

Young Garri Kasparov was also there, representing Azerbaidzhan, and again trounced poor Lev Polugayevsky in one of the matches, as he did in the Soviet championship late last year. Being on board two, though, he never had a chance to meet Karpov who scored 4½/7 towards Lenin-

grad's fourth place.

Karpov did however suffer a sensational first-round defeat at the hands of a relatively little-known player, Ivan Ivanov.

SICILIAN DEFENCE

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| I. IVANOV | A. KARPOV |
| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | e6 |
| 3. d4 | cxd4 |
| 4. Nxd4 | a6 |

The Kan system. Most common now is 5.Bd3, but Ivanov may have wanted to avoid these main lines, on which Karpov has just written analysis for the American book firm RHM.

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| 5. Nc3 | b5 |
| 6. Bd3 | Bb7 |
| 7. 0-0 | Ne7 |
| 8. Kh1 | Nbc6 |
| 9. Nxc6 | Nxc6 |
| 10. Qg4! | |

Inhibiting the development of Black's king's bishop. Karpov drives the queen off with an aggressive gesture.

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| 10. . . . | h5!? |
| 11. Qe2 | Ne5 |
| 12. f4 | Ng4 |
| 13. Rf3 | Qh4 |
| 14. h3 | Bc5 |
| 15. Bd2 | g6?! |

Black's mustering of forces on the kingside would be justified after 15...Nf2 ch 16.Kh2 Ng4 ch etc, with a draw by perpetual check.

I do not think Karpov declined this opportunity for any objective reasons in the position, but rather because he felt compelled to strive for more than a draw against his little-known opponent.

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| 16. Rxf1 | Qe7 |
| 17. a3 | f5 |
| 18. Re1 | Qf8 |

Protecting f5 in the face of substantial pressure along the e-file. On 18...Kf7 Ivanov could try the exchange sacrifice with 19.b4 Bd4 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Bxf5 Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Nf2 ch 23.Kh2 Qf6 24.Ne4 Nxe4 25.Bxe4. An interesting alternative is 18...0-0.

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| 19. b4 | Bd4 |
| 20. a4 | Rc8 |
| 21. Nd1 | Qf6 |
| 22. c3 | Ba7 |
| 23. axb5 | axb5 |



24. exf5!

An intuitive exchange sacrifice which need not be analysed too deeply. White gets a pawn, the bishop pair and Black's king stuck in the centre as obvious good compensation.

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| 24. . . . | gxf5 |
| 25. Bxb5 | Bxf3 |
| 26. Qxf3 | Rc7 |

Or 26...Rb8 27.Qd5! with

overpowering threats on d7 and e6.

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| 27. c4 | Bd4 |
| 28. Qd5 | Kd8 |
| 29. Qd6 | Nf2 ch |
| 30. Nxf2 | Bxf2 |
| 31. Be3 | |

Preventing an exchange of queens by 31.Rd1 Qd4, and threatening the killer 32.Bb6. Karpov's reply is forced.

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| 31. . . . | Bxe3 |
| 32. Rxe3 | Qe7 |
| 33. Qd2 | Ke8 |

White's threat was 34.Ra3. Black seems to have weathered the worst of the storm with the

minor piece exchanges, but White's remaining queen, rook and bishop are active and Karpov's unwillingly nomadic king is still a serious problem.

On 35...Kd8 36.Ra3 is curtains, so Karpov works up counter-attacking chances at the cost of a second pawn.

But this is the wrong way to take it! Best is 36.Rxe6 ch Kd8 37.Re2 and Black cannot activate his queen's rook as in the game.

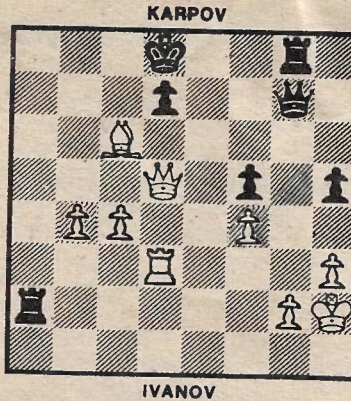
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| 36. . . . | Kd8 |
| 37. Qd5 | Ra7 |
| 38. Rd3 | |

Here 38.Re1 leads to a draw after 38...Ral 39.Rxa1 ch 40.Kh2 Qg7 41.Bxd7 Qg3 ch.

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| 38. . . . | Ra1 ch? |
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Time-trouble perhaps — or was Karpov still trying to win! Black should draw by 38...h4! (aiming for 39...Ral ch 40.Kh2 Qg3 ch mating) 39.Rd1 Ral. Ivanov's best would then be to allow a perpetual check, as the queen sacrifice 40.Qxg8 ch Qxg8 41.Rxa1 could hardly yield more than a draw.

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| 39. Kh2 | Ra2 |
| 40. Bc6! | |



An imaginative defence, which deals adequately with all Black's counter-threats and pushes him back onto the defensive.

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| 40. . . . | Ra7 |
| 41. Qc5 | Rc7 |
| 42. Qb6 | Resigns |

There is no answer to 43.Rxd7 ch, as 42...Kc8 is punished by 43.Qa6 ch Kd8 44.Qa8 ch Ke7 45.Re3 ch Kf6 46.Qa1 ch (46...Kg6 47.Rg3 ch, or 46...Kf7 47.Bd5 ch Kf8 48.Qa8 ch).

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