

Belyavsky rewarded

ALEXANDER BELYAVSKY is ranked among the top 10 in the Soviet Union and he showed why at the 1980 Bucharest International Tournament by winning by three points. Although clearly the favourite it was not expected he would score such a string of victories against a good field. His result was one-and-a-half points in excess of the new 2600 Grandmaster norm.

At 28 Belyavsky belongs to the same fine young generation of Soviet Grandmasters as World Champion Anatoly Karpov, and the subtle but unmistakable touch of true world class showed in his games, in Romania. I found it instructive to watch his handling of certain types of complicated middlegame positions, and how he reaped rewards from the Karpovian tactic of sustained pressure and moving quickly in the opponent's time-pressure.

Results: Belyavsky (USSR) 12½, 1; Suba (Rom) 9½, 2; Ghinda (Rom) 8½, 3; Ionescu (Rom) 8½, 4; Chandler (NZ) 8, 5; Prandsetter (Cz) 8, 6; Grozpeter (Hun) 7½, 7; Spiridonov (Bul) 7½, 8; Stoica (Rom) 7½, 9; Foisor (Rom) 7, 10; Ghitescu (Rom) 7, 11; Ciociltea (Rom) 6½, 12; Kojder (Pol) 6½, 13; Grigorev (Bul) 5½, 14; Stefanov (Rom) 5½, 15; Grunberg (Rom) 4½, 16.

Being the only Westener in an Eastern European event was quite daunting when I arrived, but Bucharest turned out to be a most amiable site. Visits to the various clubs and schools impressed on me just how deeply the game of "Sah", as they know it, is ingrained in their culture. The terribly slow service in restaurants was a problem until I hit upon the idea (not mentioned in guide books) of starting a game of chess with the waiter, who would subsequently never stray far from the table!

Romania 1980

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE

A. BELYAVSKY (USSR)	N. SPIRIDONOV (Bulgaria)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. g3!?	Bb4 ch

Against White's third move, Black has several options — one good one being 3...c5 4.d5 with a transposition to a reasonable variation of the Benoni defence.

4. Bd2	Qe7
5. Bg2	0-0
6. Nf3	Bxd2 ch
7. Qxd2	

Recapturing with the queen is standard practice in these systems — White's queen's knight is best placed on c3.

7. ...	d6
8. Nc3	e5
9. 0-0	Bg4

9...e4 is not possible due to 10.Ng5. That Belyavsky is no stranger to this opening can be seen from the game Belyavsky-Balashov (Lvov 1978) which went 9...Re8 10.e4 Bg4 11.d5 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 c5 13.a3 Nbd7 14.Bg2 a6 15.Qe2 Rab8 16.Rfcl g6 17.b4 Kg7

18.h4 Qd8 19.Bh3 with considerable advantage to White.

10. Rac1!	c6
11. e4	Bx13
12. Bxf3	exd4
13. Qxd4	c5

A radical, but playable, alternative to 13...Nbd7 14.Bg2 Ne5 15.b3 when White stands slightly better due to the weakness of Black's d-pawn. With the text Spiridonov aims to gain an outpost for his knight on d4 in return for dooming his d-pawn to backwardness.

14. Qd2	Nc6
15. Bg2	a6?!
16. Rfe1	Qc7?

Now or on the last move... Nd4 should have been played, for example: 16...Nd4 17.Ne2 Nxe2 ch 18.Rxe2 Rfd8 with the idea of... Nd7! to f8 to e6, or... Ne8! to c7 to e6, in both cases the second knight lands on the fine outpost of d4.

17. Nd5!	Qd8
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Since 17...Nxd5 18.cxd5 Nd4? 19.Qxd4! and white wins a piece.

18. Ne3	Nd4
19. Nf5!	Nxf5
20. exf5	Qc7
21. Rc3	

Seemingly in order to pile up on Black's d-pawn with Rd1 and Rd3, but White's intentions are actually more aggressive.

21. ...	Rad8
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22.g4!	h6
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22...Nxg4 loses to 23.Rg3 Ne5 24.Qh6 f6 25.Bd5 ch Kh8 26.Qxh7 ch! etc. Now Belyavsky begins a direct kingside assault in which the doubled pawn on f5 inhibits Black's defence.

23. g5	hxg5
24. Qxg5	Rfe8
25. Rd1	Nh7
26. Qh5	Nf6
27. Qh4	Re5
28. Rh3	Kf8
29. f4!	Rxf5?

The Bulgarian cracks under pressure. Best was 29...Re2 when 30.Kf1! would still have given White a strong attack.

30. Qh8ch	Ke7?
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Better 30...Ng8 although after 31.Rg3 g6 32.Bd5 it is doubtful whether Black has a satisfactory defence to 33.Rxg6.

31. Re3 ch	Re5
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Or 31...Kd7 32.Qxg7 Kc8 33.Bh3 Rg8 34.Qxg8 ch! Nxg8 35.Re8 ch Kd7 36.Rxg8 Ke6 37.Rg5 and White gets two rooks and a knight for the queen.

32. fxe5!	Resigns
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On 32...Rxh8 33.exd6 dbl ch regains the queen, remaining a rook up.

MURRAY CHANDLER