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

MIMIZO-INDIAN DELE	
A. BELYAVSKY (USSR)	N. SPIRIDONO (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

4.	Bd2	Qe7
5.	Bg2	0-0
	Nf3	B×d2 ch
7.	Q×d2	
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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 B×f3 12.B×f3 c5 13.a3 Nbd7 14.Bg2 a6 15.Qe2 Rab8 16.Rfc1 g6 17.b4 Kg7

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

10. Rac1!? c6 11. e4 B×f3 12. B×f3 e×d4 13. Q×d4 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 N×e2 ch 18.R×e2 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! Qd

Since 17... $N \times d5$ 18. $c \times d5$ Nd4? 19. $Q \times d4!$ and white wins a piece.

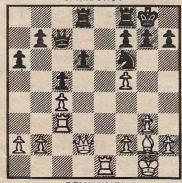
18. Ne3 Nd4 19. Nf5! N×f5 20. e×f5 Qc7

Seemingly in order to pile up on Black's d-pawn with Rdl and Rd3, but

White's intentions are actually more

agressive.

21. ... Rad8 SPIRIDONOV



BELYAVSKY

22.g4l h6
22...N×g4 loses to 23.Rg3 Ne5

24.Qh6 f6 25.Bd5 ch Kh8 26.Q×h7 ch! etc. Now Belyavsky begins a direct kingside assault in which the doubled pawn on f5 inhibits Black's defence.

23. g5 h×g5
24. Q×g5 Rfe8
25. Rd1 Nh7
26. Qh5 Nf6
27. Qh4 Re5
28. Rh3 Kf8
29. f4! R×f5?

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

30. Qh8ch Ke7?

Better 30...Ng8 although after 31.Rg3 g6 32.Bd5 it is doubtful whether Black has a satisfactory defence to 33.R×g6.

31. Re3 ch Re5

Or 31...Kd7 32.Q×g7 Kc8 33.Bh3
Rg8 34.Q×g8 ch! N×g8 35.Re8 ch Kd7
36.R×g8 Ke6 37.Rg5 and White gets
two rooks and a knight for the queen.
32. f×e5!
Resigns

On 32...R×h8 33.e×d6 dbl ch regains the queen, remaining a rook up.

MURRAY CHANDLER