

Underrating success

"ANATOLY KARPOV has won yet another super-grandmaster tournament." This was the opening sentence from my January column reporting the Soviet world champion's most recent triumph in Tilburg, Holland, a sentence that could have been repeated many times over the past few years — and yet again now that he has just won at Bugojno in Yugoslavia.

The field as usual was truly world-class, with the erratic Danish Grandmaster Bent Larsen making a fine recovery from his poor London result and indeed being extremely unlucky not to come first on 7½ points. But what could he do — Karpov sat down and polished off Timman, Tal, Kavalek and Gligoric in an incredible finishing spurt to reach 8.

After gaining his title by default against Fischer in 1975, Karpov has done everything humanly possible to prove his position. In the process, with a successful title defence against Korchnoi and a string of tournament victories, Karpov has become possibly the most successful champion of all time. And yet in spite of all this there are still many, even very strong players, who belittle his achievements and even openly scoff at his style of play. Here we have a world champion —

clearly better than his contemporaries — still branded with the stigma of winning by default, through no fault of his own, five years previously.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

A. KARPOV	M. TAL
1. c4	e6
2. Nc3	d5
3. d4	c6
4. e3	Nf6
5. Nf3	Nbd7
6. Bd3	dxc4
7. Bxc4	b5
8. Bd3	a6?!/!?

This variation with 8...a6 (rather than 8...Bb7) has been rejuvenated lately with new resources being discovered for Black. After this game the original assessment of "better for White" may once more prevail.

- 9. e4
- 10. d5!
- 11. dxe6
- 12. exd7 ch
- 13. 0-0
- 14. Re1!

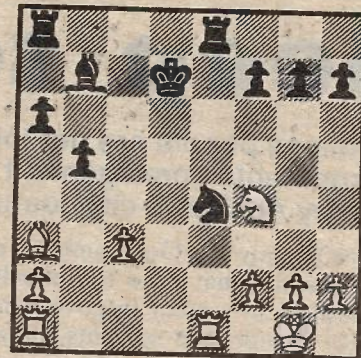
The latest idea, and probably the reason for Tal's entering this line, had been 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Re1 Rd8 16.e5 Ng4 17.Ne4 0-0 when Ljubojevic-Gligoric, sixth match game Yugoslavia 1979, went 18.h3? Bxe4 19.Rxe4 Nxf2! 20.Kxf2 Bxg5 21.Nxg5 Qf5. ch and Black won material. Instead 18.Qd2 gives a roughly equal position.

If 14...Rd8 one possibility is 15.e5 Ng4 16.Ne4 Bxe4 17.Rxe4 and now 17...Bc5? would lose a piece to 18.e6.

- 15. Ne5
- 16. Nxd3
- 17. Nf4

Gaining time by attacking the queen; 17.bxc3 is less clear after 17...Rd8.

- 17. . . .
- 18. bxc3
- 19. Qxd7 ch
- 20. Ba3!



Clearly life will not be easy in the centre for Black's stranded king.

- 21. Red1 ch
- 22. f3
- 23. Bd6 ch
- 24. c4!

In one stroke White rids himself of his only weakness and sets about destroying the Black king's sparse shelter. Now if 24...bxc4 White continues

- 25. Rab1 ch Kc6 26. Rb4.
- 24. . . .
- 25. cxb5
- 26. a4!
- 27. axb5
- 28. Rd4
- 29. Rad1
- 30. Be5

On 30...Rxd4 White wins two pawns with 31.Bxd4 ch Kxb5 32.Bxf6 gxf6 33.Rd7.

- 31. Rd6 ch
- 32. Rb1 ch
- 33. Rd4 ch
- 34. Nd3 ch

Mate would follow by 34...Kc6 35.Rc1 ch Kb6 36.Rb4 ch Ka7 37.Ral ch Ba6 38.Bd4 ch etc.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. KARPOV, USSR	-	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	1 8
2. LARSEN, Denmark	½	-	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	1 7½
3. TIMMAN, Holland	0	½	-	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	½	1 6½
4. ANDERSSON, Sweden	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	0	½	1	½	5½
5. LJUBOJEVIC, Yugoslavia	½	½	½	½	-	0	½	½	1	½	½	5½
6. POLUGAYEVSKY, USSR	½	½	0	½	1	-	½	½	½	½	½	5
7. HORT, Czechoslovakia	½	0	½	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	½	5
8. IVKOV, Yugoslavia	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	5
9. KURAJICA, Yugoslavia	½	½	0	1	0	½	½	½	-	0	½	1 5
10. TAL, USSR	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	-	½	½ 5
11. KAVALEK, USA	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	-	½ 4
12. GLIGORIC, Yugoslavia	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½ - 3½

MURRAY CHANDLER