

# Given the sac

IN COMMON with other great players, the 18-year-old Soviet grandmaster Garri Kasparov has formed his own distinctive style of play. Particularly noticeable is his willingness to sacrifice material — usually a pawn — to seize the initiative.

Two remarkable games from the previous Soviet championships show that his energetic approach has more depth than mere bluff. The unlucky victim in the first, played in round 13, was grandmaster Gennadi Timoshenko. On move 24 of a known line in the Slav defence Kasparov sacrificed a knight for two pawns — and apparently only vague chances against his opponent's king.

Kasparov scored a crushing victory, but the other participants in the championship pooh-poohed the soundness of his idea. Evgeny Sveshnikov even publicly offered to repeat the opening against Kasparov later in the tournament if Kasparov would give up the knight again.

Before that opportunity arose, however, Josef Dorfman got in first. Confidently he accepted Kasparov's knight. Six moves later he unveiled his "improvement" on the Timoshenko game. Thirteen moves after that he was forced to resign. Following this debate, Sveshnikov had to inform Kasparov that, regretfully, he would have to retract his offer!

Here is how it all happened:

## SLAV DEFENCE

<b>G. KASPAROV</b>	<b>G. TIMOSHENKO</b>
1. d4	d5
2. c4	c6
3. Nf3	Nf6
4. Nc3	e6

With 4... e6 Black signals his willingness to enter the Meran variation, starting 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5. White's most aggressive way to cut across this system is with the line Kasparov now enters — the so-called Anti-Meran.

5. Bg5!	dxc4
6. e4	b5
7. e5	h6
8. Bh4	g5
9. Nxc5	

This purely temporary piece sacrifice forms the main line of the Anti-Meran.

9. ...	hxc5
10. Bxc5	Nbd7
11. exf6	Bb7
12. g3	c5
13. d5	Qb6!
14. Bg2	0-0-0
15. 0-0	b4
16. Na4	Qb5

Theoretically Black has good compensation for his pawn minus in this "book" position. If light-squared bishops are exchanged (by White playing dxe6 for example) then the semi-open h-file and his opponent's weakened king position usually give Black good attacking prospects. Furthermore, Timoshenko's mass of queenside pawns, apart from being a formidable asset in any endgame, also provide a protective buffer for his king in the middlegame.

17. a3!	...
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Undeterred, Kasparov starts chipping

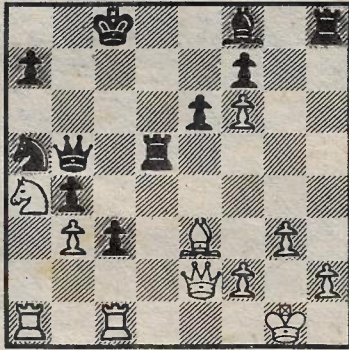
away at the supposedly impenetrable barrier.

17. ...	Nb8
18. axb4	cxb4
19. Be3	Bxd5
20. Bxd5	Rxd5
21. Qe2	Nc6
22. Rfc1	Na5
23. b3!	...

So that on 23... Nxb3 24. Rxc4ch Kb7 25.Qc2! threatening 26.Rc7ch mating.

23. ...	c3
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There! Now the c-file must surely be closed, Mr Kasparov.



## 24. Nxc3!!

An extremely bold and essentially positional sacrifice to open lines for White's major pieces.

24. ...	bxc3
25. Rxc3 ch	Kd7

Not 35... Kb7 36.Qc2 Bd6 37.b4!

26. Qc2	Bd6
27. Rac1	Qb7
28. b4	Qxb4!
29. Rb1!	Qg4
30. Bxa7	e5
31. Qa2!	Rd1 ch
32. Rxd1	Qxd1 ch
33. Kg2	Qh5
34. Qa4 ch	Ke6
35. h4!	

This cancels out the h-file threats, and suddenly Timoshenko finds his knight on a5 stranded — 35... Nb7 36. Qb3 ch.

35. ...	Qe2
36. Qxa5	Ra8
37. Qa4	Kxf6
38. Qd7	Kg7
39. Rf3	Qc4
40. Qxd6	Rxa7
41. Qxe5 ch	Kh7
42. Rf5	Qc6 ch
43. Kh2	Resigns

The Dorfman disaster was identical up to move 30:

30. ...	Be5
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Dorfman intends to maintain the important rook on d5.

## 31. Rc5!

A hard riposte to anticipate but very logical. At the cost of exchanging one of his own attacking men White forces removal of the key defender.

31. ...	Rxc5
32. Bxc5!	Nc6
33. Qd3 ch	Kc8
34. Rd1!	Nb8
35. Rc1	

The lack of co-ordination between Black's pieces is quite curious. Like Timoshenko, Dorfman finds he is compelled to part with his extra piece.

35. ...	Qa4
36. Bd6 ch	Nc6
37. Bxe5	Rd8
38. Qb1	Rd5
39. Qb8 ch	Kd7
40. Qc7 ch	Ke8
41. Qxc6 ch	Qxc6
42. Rxc6	Rxe5
43. Rc8 ch	Resigns

43... Kd7 44.Rf8 gives a winning rook and pawn endgame.

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