

The grooming of Garri

IT HAS BEEN shown that a player aspiring to world championship class starts with an advantage if he learnt how to play at a tender age. Both former world champion Jose Capablanca and the current title-holder Anatoly Karpov grasped how the pieces moved at the age of four simply by watching their fathers play. Bobby Fischer was a late starter at six — though the American genius did make up time by becoming the world's youngest grandmaster at 15.

After learning the rudiments a potential champion usually displays above average (though not necessarily outstanding) ability until the early teens. Then comes the surge that makes the chess world sit up and take notice. This pattern was particularly evident with the Soviet Union's outstanding young player for the present, 18-year-old Garri Kasparov. He was 12 when I first met him in France in 1976; he was clearly alert and quick-minded, but there was no other hint he would be a grandmaster by 16.

The young Kasparov's talent was apparent at age six when he solved a puzzle his father couldn't do, and at age 10 he was invited to join Mikhail Botvinnik's famous chess school. Under Botvinnik's guidance (which Karpov had also benefited from), Kasparov's play improved steadily. His big breakthrough came in 1979 when he won an international grandmaster tournament in Banja Luka, Yugoslavia.

Kasparov's latest success is his joint first equal in the 1981-82 USSR championship in Frunze. He tied with 21-year-old Lev Psakhis, who seems to be a rare example of a late developer. Psakhis, virtually unknown in the West before he tied for first in the previous championship, has now done it twice in a row — even bettering Kasparov in their individual encounter.

As both winners have ferocious styles there was no shortage of publishable games from Frunze. Here is my favourite.

BOGO-INDIAN DEFENCE

G. KASPAROV	A. YUSUPOV
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	Bb4 ch

The Bogo-Indian — Black plays for rapid development and hopes, if allowed, to swap his bishop for White's queen's knight.

4. Bd2	a5
5. g3	0-0
6. Bg2	b6
7. 0-0	Ba6!?
8. Bg5!?	

Offering a pawn sacrifice which Yusupov declines. The usual line here is 8.Ne5 when Black replies either 8...c6 or 8...Ra7.

8. ...	Be7
--------	-----

The question is — why did Black not play 8...Bxc4 here? Obviously there is some kingside danger, eg 8...Bxc4 9.Nfd2 Bd5 10.e4 Bc6

11.e5, but then 11...h6! and if 12.Bh4 g5 13.exf6 Qxf6! is not so bad for Black. Perhaps Kasparov had intended 9.Ne5 Bd5 10.e4 with compensation for the pawn.

9. Qc2	Nc6
10. a3	h6
11. Bxf6	Bxf6
12. Rd1	Qe7
13. e3	Rae8
14. Nfd2	g5?

This curious and weakening move must have been a severe provocation to Kasparov, who is famed for his sacrificial kingside assaults. Although White's pieces are not menacingly posted at present, Kasparov soon finds a way to activate them.

15. Nc3	Bg7
16. Nb5	Qd8
17. f4	Ne7
18. Nf3	Nf5
19. Qf2	c6
20. Nc3	gxf4
21. gxf4	Bxc4

This time Yusupov takes the pawn, realising he will have to brave the coming attack in any case.

22. e4	Nd6
23. Ne5	f5
24. Nxc4	Nxc4
25. b3	Nd6
26. e5	Nc8

Heading for the d5 square, via e7.

27. Bf3	Kh7
28. Bh5	Re7
29. Kf1	Rg8
30. Rg1	Bh8



31. Ne4!!

An astonishing knight sacrifice. The threat of 32.Nf6 ch leaves Black little choice over acceptance, so the path is freed for the advance of White's f-pawn.

31. ...	fxe4
32. f5!	

With terrible threats, including the further advance 33.f6. Unfortunately for Yusupov, he cannot prevent this by capturing on f5, as 33.Qxf5 ch would force mate next move.

32. ...	Rg5
33. Rxf5	hxf5
34. f6	Kh6

Trying to salvage the rook by 34...Re8 fails to 35.Qg2 threatening 36.Qxe4 ch. In the game Black must give back material, and remains with a wide-open king.

35. fxe7	Qxe7
36. Bf7	d6
37. Rf1	g4
38. Bxe6	Qxe6
39. Qh4ch	

Yusupov now lost by overstepping the time limit, but on 39...Kg7 40.Rf6 is in any case totally decisive.

MURRAY CHANDLER