

MURRAY CHANDLER

Disciplinary action

THE NATURE of Garri Kasparov's brisk 13-game match win over Vassily Smyslov in Vilnius, Soviet Lithuania, has silenced his critics. Although Kasparov was expected to beat his 62-year-old opponent in the Candidates Final, many still considered the brilliant young Soviet Grandmaster too immature seriously to worry Anatoly Karpov. His risky, complicated and optimistic style of play would be like grist to a technically-merciless Karpovian mill, it was argued.

Kasparov responded in Vilnius with a display of restrained but powerful positional chess worthy of a Capablanca — or a Smyslov, for that matter. He won games three, four, nine and 12, and conceded no defeats as he cruised to his 8½-4½ point victory. The boy from Baku, at 21 years old the youngest challenger yet, had qualified to fight Karpov for his World Championship title.

It should be a fantastic match between the supremely successful World Champion and the prodigy. Karpov, still only 32 years old, is ruthless, practical and unequalled in technique. Kasparov is aggressive, dynamic — and disciplined, as the Smyslov match demonstrated. Naturally both players respect the other's ability, but the subtle psychological warfare had already begun before Vilnius. Karpov on Kasparov: "He uses a lot of energy trying to analyse everything out completely. He is very sure when he knows a position he gets from his fantastic home preparation. But when he encounters a new sort of position, he can feel quite uncomfortable." Kasparov on Karpov: "His style of play is very dry. He does not like losing and he does not take risks."

There is real feeling behind this rhetoric too. Kasparov appears to nurse a private grievance against the champion, whom he believes has hindered some of Kasparov's international tournament invitations. Certainly Karpov has studiously avoided playing in the same tournaments as his young rival and opposed the introduction of a two-year world championship cycle (instead of every three years). Nevertheless Fide, the World Chess Federation, persisted and wry comments are now being heard that soon Anatoly may have reason to be grateful. Time will tell.

Here is the ninth game from Vilnius, in which Garri masterfully exploits an endgame initiative.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT

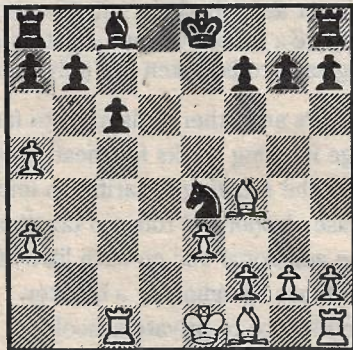
| G. KASPAROV | V. SMYSLOV |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. d4 | d5 |
| 2. Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 3. c4 | c6 |
| 4. Nc3 | e6 |
| 5. Bg5 | Nbd7 |
| 6. e3 | Qa5 |
| 7. cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 8. Qd2 | Bb4 |
| 9. Rc1 | e5 |

, Deviating from 9...0-0 played in game three. Smyslov's idea is to meet 10. dxe5 with 10...Nc5! (threatening...Ne4).

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| 10. a3! | Bd6 |
| 11. dxe5 | Nxe5 |
| 12. Nxe5 | Bxe5 |
| 13. b4! | |

Sparking off a series of exchanges; now 13...Qxa3 is bad due to 14. Nxd5 cxd5 15. Bb5 ch.

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| 13. ... | Bxc3 |
| 14. Qxc3 | Nxc3 |
| 15. bxa5 | Ne4 |
| 16. Bf4 | |



At first glance it is not clear if White is even better in this endgame; although he has the bishop pair his queenside pawns are doubled. But Kasparov's subsequent handling of the position is remarkable. White's two queenside pawns easily contain Black's three, and it is the kingside pawn majority that tells.

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| 16. ... | 0-0 |
| 17. f3 | Nf6 |
| 18. e4 | Re8 |
| 19. Kf2 | a6 |
| 20. Be2 | Be6 |
| 21. Rb1 | Re7 |
| 22. Rhd1 | Rae8 |
| 23. Rb2 | Bc8 |
| 24. Rbd2 | Rd7 |
| 25. Rxd7 | Nxd7 |
| 26. g4 | Nc5 |
| 27. Be3 | Nd7 |
| 28. g5 | Ne5 |
| 29. Bd4 | Ng6 |
| 30. Kg3 | Nf8 |

The great endgame artist Smyslov must sit idly by as White's kingside pawns advance.

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| 31. h4 | Rd8 |
| 32. f4 | Be6 |
| 33. Bc3 | Rxd1 |
| 34. Bxd1 | Nd7 |
| 35. f5 | Bc4 |
| 36. h5! | h6 |
| 37. gxh6 | gxh6 |
| 38. e5 | Nc5 |
| 39. Kf4 | Bd5 |
| 40. Bc2 | f6? |

On the last move of the time control, Smyslov cracks and allows White the creation of a protected passed pawn.

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| 41. e6! | Kg7 |
| 42. Bb4 | Nb3 |
| 43. Ke3 | c5 |
| 44. Bc3 | Resigns |

Adjournment analysis showed Black is quite lost, although material remains level. E.g. 44...c4 45. Be4! Bxe4 46. Kxe4 and the King marches up to usher the e-pawn to promotion.