Chess

Going for the jugular

THE LIFTING of the Soviet boycott against exile Viktor Korchnoi could mean a year of magnificent tournament clashes, if Wijk aan Zee is anything to go by. That annual Dutch tournament, the first to benefit from Moscow's change of heart, was this year the site of a remarkable battle between Korchnoi and Russian Alexander Belyavsky. Playing in aggressive, slashing style they both scored seven wins and six draws to tie for first, 2½ points clear of their nearest rival. For the 52-year-old Korchnoi, Wijk aan Zee was the first top tournament the Soviets had officially agreed to play in with him since he defected in 1976. He made the most of it. Final scores of this significant event were: 1-2, Belyavsky and Korchnoi 10 points; 3, Nikolic (Yugoslavia) 7½; 4, Andersson (Sweden) 7; 5-9, Adorjan (Hungary), Hubner (West Germany), Miles (England), Tukmakov (USSR) and van der Wiel (Holland) 6½; 10, Sosonko (Holland) 6; 11, Ree (Holland) 5½; 12, Torre (Philippines) 5; 13, Ligterink (Holland) 4; 14, van der Sterren (Holland) 3½.

For 32-year-old Belyavsky, a former world junior champion, this joint first

Alexander Belyavsky: sophisticated caveman.

Camera Press

was his finest international result, though his appearances in the West have been few. The respect his fellow grandmasters hold for him can be judged by comments made when the pairings for the Candidates matches were known. Belyavsky was pitted against genius (I've run out of adjectives for him) Garri Kasparov in the quarter-finals of the world championship qualifying matches — many thought this clash should have been the Candidates final. Garri won and went on to beat Korchnoi too, so the result at Wijk aan Zee says much about his abilities as well. In fact Kasparov, only 20, has now deposed world champion Anatoly Karpov from his number one spot in the latest international rankings. In the women's rating list the promising Swedish girl Pia Cramling has also pushed the women's world champion Maya Chiburdanidze into second place.

The third place of Predrag Nikolic at Wijk aan Zee also deserves attention. He hails from the now familiar town of Sarajevo in Yugoslavia and, only 23, has been steadily improving over the past two years. The losses to both Korchnoi and Belyavsky indicate that what he most lacks is experience at the top level, for these two are adept at carving up inaccurate play. The vicious Belyavsky, in particular, is not someone you'd play either side of a Sicilian defence against in some dark Russian alley. In this week's Belyavsky win, top English Grandmaster Tony Miles avoids the Sicilian but still runs into some top-notch Soviet opening preparation — with gruesome consequences.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

A. MILES	A. BELYAVSKY
1. c4	e6
2. Nc3	d5
3. d4	Nf6
4. Nf3	Be7

At first thought the solid Queen's Gambit might not seem the right opening for Belyavsky's primeval style, but he can be a pretty sophisticated caveman.
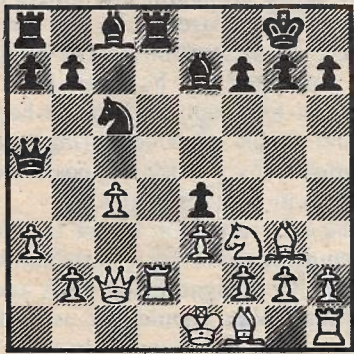
5. Bf4	0-0
6. e3	c5
7. d×c5	B×c5
8. Qc2	Nc6
9. a3	Qa5
10. Rd1	Be7
11. Rd2	

This subtle novelty (instead of 11. Nd2) was first played, with success, by Hungarian Lajos Portisch in the 1982 Mexico Interzonal.

11 ... Ne4!?

Not a new idea, but Belyavsky's interpretation of the pawn sacrifice appears to be original. Unknown to Miles a game Bareev-Goldin, USSR 1983, had continued from this position 12.N×e4 d×e4 13.Q×e4 f5 14.Qc2 e5 with unclear play.

12. N×e4	d×e4
13. Q×e4	Rd8!
14. Qc2	e5
15. Bg3	e4!

A second pawn sacrifice on e4! Black develops his last remaining pieces with tempo while the White king remains stuck in the centre. Yet it must be remembered that if Miles were to escape with only one of his extra pawns Belyavsky would probably lose the endgame.

16. Q×e4	Bf5
17. Qf4	R×d2
18. N×d2	Rd8
19. e4	Bg4!

See what I mean by vicious? 20.Q×g4 loses instantly to 20...Q×d2 mate, and meanwhile 20...Bb4 21.a×b4 Qa1 ch is threatened, not to mention 20...Bg5.

20. c5	Nb4!
21. f3	g5!

The final body-blow; 22.Q×g4 Nc2 ch forces mate in two more moves.

22. a×b4	Qa1 ch
23. Ke2	g×f4
24. B×f4	Be6
25. Be5	Qc1
26. Bc3	Bg5
27. Resigns	

MURRAY CHANDLER