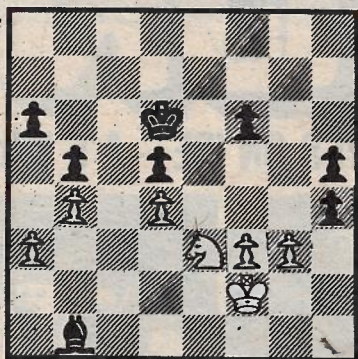


# Champion performance

MURRAY CHANDLER

**N**OBODY could have predicted the incredible start to the world championship clash between Anatoly Karpov and Garri Kasparov, which left the reigning champion Karpov 4-0 up after only nine games. Everything had pointed to a tremendous battle between two grandmasters of different generations and different playing styles, but roughly equal strength. So what happened? After winning a brisk 31-move Sicilian in game three Karpov ground out a win in a superior rook ending as Black in game six. The young challenger's advisers recommended another time-out (each player is allowed three per 25 games). But apparently Klara Kasparova, Garri's mother, felt her son should play game seven the very next day . . . He did, and lost again. In game nine, desperately trying to stem the tide, Kasparov fell victim to a move of outstanding beauty in an apparently drawn endgame.

KASPAROV



KARPOV

In this position Kasparov had just played pawn takes pawn (46...g×h4), no doubt calculating 47. g×h4 Bd3 and White's king cannot easily penetrate the Black position. But his 33-year-old opponent produced the amazing move 47.Ng2!! After 47...h×g3 ch 48.K×g3 Ke6 (or 48...Bg6 49.Nf4 Bf7 50.Kh4) 49.Nf4 ch Kf5 50. N×h5 White had regained his pawn with a decisive advantage.

So after nine games, Karpov needed only two more wins to keep his title. The question was: what had happened to the fiery Kasparov, the most stunning talent since Bobby Fischer? Kasparov's second in Moscow, Josef Dorfman, put the disastrous start down to unjustified over-confidence on the part of the 21-year-old challenger. Other experts queried Kasparov's opening preparation, and his inability to find anything against the Queen's Indian defence with White. The chess correspondent of the *London Times*, Harry Golombek, intimated a sinister plot. "Perhaps Kasparov has been warned not to play well," he wrote, a suggestion which received condemnation from the Western correspondents who were actually in Moscow. There was no evidence (apart from the score itself) to support the septuagenarian Golombek's allegations, which included the surprising statement "Karpov is playing indifferently".

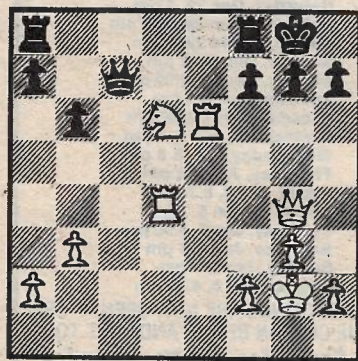
The unfortunate thing about this not infrequent sort of article is that a biased or misinformed commentator can persuade

others that Karpov, world champion for nine years, barely knows how the pieces move. The youthful Kasparov may have been lulled by such propaganda before the match. I wonder if he still believes it now?

A missed chance for the challenger in game 16, following a spate of draws.

G. KASPAROV	A. KARPOV
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	b6
4. g3	Ba6
5. b3	Bb4 ch
6. Bd2	Be7
7. Bg2	c6
8. Bc3	d5
9. Nbd2	Bb7
10. Ne5	0-0
11. e4	Na6
12. 0-0	c5
13. e×d5	e×d5
14. Re1	c×d4
15. B×d4	Nc5
16. Ng4	d×c4
17. N×c4	B×g2
18. K×g2	N×g4
19. Q×g4	Bf6
20. Rad1	B×d4
21. R×d4	Qc7
22. Nd6	Ne6
23. R×e6!	

KARPOV



KASPAROV

*A dangerous exchange sacrifice with the idea of 23...f×e6 24.Q×e6 ch Kh8 25.Rc4! and 26.Nf7 ch will follow.*

23. . . .	h5
24. Qe4	f×e6
25. Q×e6 ch	Kh7
26. Rd5	g6
27. Ne4	Rad8
28. Ng5 ch	Kg7
29. Qe4	Rfe8
30. Qd4 ch?	

*Missing 30.Ne6 ch R×e6 31.Qd4 ch! (in time-trouble both players had probably calculated only 31. Q×e6? Qb7) and White must be winning.*

30. . . .	Kg8
31. R×d8	R×d8
32. Qf6	Rd6
33. Qf4	Qc6 ch
34. Kh3	Qd7 ch
35. Kg2	Qc6 ch
36. Kh3	Qd7 ch
37. Kg2	

Draw agreed.