

CHESS

The new wave

by Murray Chandler

THE YOUNG RUSSIANS Andrei Sokolov and Artur Yusupov will clash in the next stage of the World Championship Candidates matches, after crushing their respective opponents in round one. In Minsk, central USSR, Sokolov's match against Rafael Vaganian ended after only eight games (out of 10 maximum) when the 22-year-old seized an unbeatable 6-2 lead. Yusupov's victory took nine games against Holland's Jan Timman in Tilburg but, if anything, was even more impressive. His 6-3 demolition of the West's sole remaining challenger was total, in spite of a first-game hiccup. I make him favourite over Sokolov, and his current form could even set problems for Karpov or Kasparov in the Candidates final.

The names Sokolov and Yusupov are not yet as well known as those of such legendary Soviets as Botvinnik, Tal and Spassky, but they may be soon. They represent the cream of a new Soviet generation, although their styles and personalities are markedly different. The dashing Sokolov is quite gregarious (for a Russian abroad, anyway), full of zest and enthusiasm. Over the board he often experiments, but tempers his imagination with a steel discipline. At 26 the gentle giant Yusupov exudes solidity on and off the board, in spite of a wild beard that contrasts vividly with his neat Moscow suit. Yusupov is a dangerous openings-specialist too (in the Open Ruy Lopez variation for example), and it is here Sokolov may face the critical test.

World champion Garry Kasparov's refusal to play the immediate return title-match demanded by Anatoly Karpov has forced a postponement until August. In theory, the winner of the Yusupov-Timman match will meet the loser of K-K, and the winner of this challenges the other K for the world title. In practice it looks as though this current world championship cycle, scheduled to finish this year, will last well into 1987.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Yusupov	0	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	1
Timman	1	½	½	½	0	0	0	½	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sokolov	½	1	1	½	½	½	1	6
Vaganian	½	0	0	0	½	½	½	0

Here is the gruesome game nine of the Tilburg match, with Timman desperately fighting to come back.

GRUNFELD DEFENCE

A YUSUPOV J TIMMAN

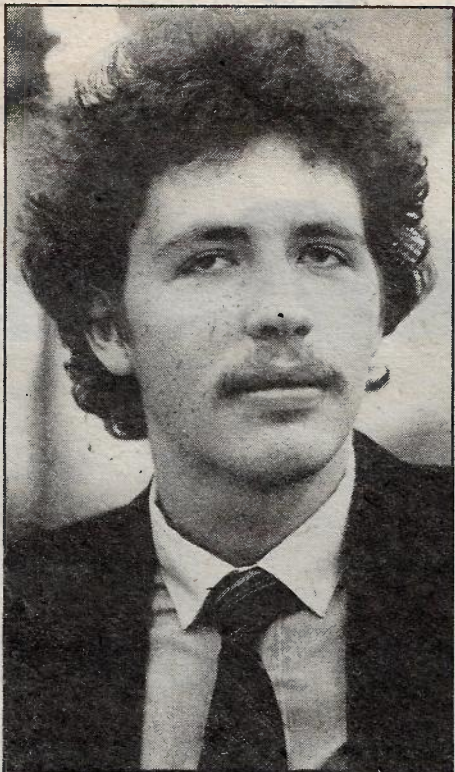
1. d4
 Winning with Black against a strong opponent is harder against 1. d4 than 1. e4. The Benoni, King's Indian or Grunfeld Defences, though dynamic, do not offer the same open counter-play as a Sicilian.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1. ... | Nf6 |
| 2. c4 | g6 |
| 3. Nc3 | d5 |
| 4. cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 5. e4 | Nxc3 |
| 6. bxc3 | Bg7 |
| 7. Bc4 | b6 |

The Smyslov system.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 8. Qf3! | 0-0 |
| 9. Ne2 | |

In game seven Yusupov had played instead 9. e5 Bb6 10. Bd5 (10. Qxa8 Bxc4 is too dangerous) c6 11. Bb3, and won with a kingside attack in only 19 moves.



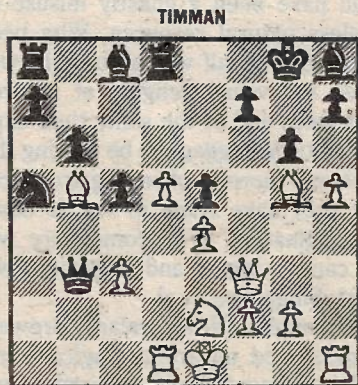
CATHERINE JACG

Andrei Sokolov: dashing but disciplined.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 9. ... | Nc6 |
| 10. h4 | Na5 |
| 11. Bd3 | e5 |
| 12. Ba3 | Re8 |
| 13. h5 | Qd7 |
| 14. Rd1 | Qa4? |

After playing months of qualification events, Timman cannot be blamed for this last defiant pawn grab. The objectively correct 14. ... Qg4 would force a queen exchange, resulting in an almost certain draw — and elimination from the world championship cycle.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 15. Bc1 | c5 |
| 16. d5 | Qxa2 |
| 17. Bh6 | Bh8 |
- If 17. ... Bxh6, then 18. hxg6 attacks the bishop and threatens mate with 19. Qxf7.
- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 18. Bb5 | Rd8 |
| 19. Bg5 | Qb3 |



YUSUPOV,

An appalling position for Black. White can take the exchange, but Yusupov cleans up with a straightforward rook sacrifice instead.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 20. hxg6 | f×g6 |
| 21. R×h7 | K×h7 |
| 22. Qf7 ch | Bg7 |
| 23. Bf6 | Rg8 |
| 24. Be8! | Resigns |

25. Qxg6 ch is a killing threat, and 25. ... Bf5 runs into 26. e×f5 Ra×e8 27. Q×g6 ch Kh8 28. Qh6 checkmate.