

CHESS

The Fischer- Spassky Games

for the World Championship of Chess



The complete match with analysis
by

SAMUEL RESHEVSKY

International Grandmaster and U.S. Chess Champion

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Foreword

Twenty-nine-year-old Robert Fischer of the U.S. defeated thirty-five-year-old Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union in the world chess championship match in Reykjavik, Iceland. It took Fischer twenty-one games out of a scheduled twenty-four games to become the new world chess champion. The final score was 12½–8½.

All eyes were on the so called ‘‘Match of the Century.’’ The chess and the non-chess world were waiting in great anticipation for this great battle, expecting to see chess of the highest caliber. Every game was expected to be an outstanding struggle, replete with brilliant combinations and masterful strategy and tactics.

True, there were several excellent games, but the match as a whole was disappointing. It was marked by blunders by both players. The blunders committed by Spassky were incredible. In two games, for example, Spassky overlooked a one-move combination. In the first, he was compelled to resign immediately, and, in the other, he threw away all chances for a win.

Fischer was also not in his best form. He made errors in a number of games. His play lacked brilliance, but his defense was excellent. He coasted along toward the end of the match, probably because of his commanding lead, being satisfied with draws.

Spassky’s poor performance was on the surface inexplicable. He won the first game. He gained a point in the second, when Fischer failed to show up for the game. He then began to play badly, making one error after another. Why?

I believe there are a number of reasons for Spassky's poor showing. First, there was the psychological factor. Fischer's public declarations before the match started that he was not going to show up for the match and his arrival at the last minute must have had an adverse effect on Spassky. Fischer's behavior and antics during the match were of no help to Spassky's morale, either.

Second, Fischer's great record of the past, especially against Soviet stars Taimanov and Petrosian, could have dampened Spassky's confidence.

Third, Spassky's preparation for the match was ostensibly inadequate. He expected his opponent to play only the king pawn opening when Fischer conducted the White pieces. But Fischer surprised him when he switched to the queen pawn opening. Spassky was definitely not at all prepared for the latter.

Spassky was also not well prepared with the White pieces. His handling of the queen pawn opening was comparatively weak. When playing White, he invariably obtained inferior positions in the opening. It was not before the later part of the match that Spassky finally realized that he was not getting anywhere with the queen pawn opening and switched to the king pawn opening. He had relatively better success with the latter, but he was not sufficiently prepared with White, either. He was unable to make up the deficit of three points.

Finally, Spassky was very slow in making decisions. He spent a lot of time in positions which did not require great consumption of time. Consequently, he found himself in time trouble frequently in situations where more time was essential.

SAMUEL RESHEVSKY

Game 1

Boris Spassky is reputed to be a slow starter. He likes to begin conservatively in the first few games and build up his play like a musical crescendo. He does not mind drawing the first game, as though he needed practice in order to reach his true form. He consequently elected a quiet variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defense set up by Robert Fischer. On his 15th move, Spassky could have continued aggressively but rejected it, and, instead, continued quietly, permitting his opponent to simplify by exchanging pieces, leading to a totally even endgame.

Fischer, dissatisfied with the prospect of a draw, grabbed a "poisoned pawn" which trapped his bishop—the worst blunder Fischer ever made. Fischer overlooked one move that Spassky could make. Fischer was compelled to give up the bishop for two pawns (three pawns are the equivalent of a bishop), which proved insufficient compensation. The crowd gasped with amazement when Fischer took the pawn. Fischer fought on after adjournment, but the position was untenable, and Spassky scored the first point.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-QB4	P-K3
3 N-KB3	P-Q4

4 N-B3	B-N5
5 P-K3	O-O
6 B-Q3	P-B4
7 O-O	N-B3
8 P-QR3	B-R4

More usual is 8 . . . QPxP; 9 BxP, B-R4; 10 B-Q3, which gives White a slight edge according to recent games in international tournaments. I myself have played that way on numerous occasions with good results. Fischer's move poses a problem for White: How to obtain an opening advantage (White, having the first move, is presumed to get some opening advantage).

9 N-K2?

With this move White declared that he was unable or unwilling to seek a continuation which would be, at least, somewhat promising. Superior was 9 BPxP, KPxP; 10 PxP, BxN (otherwise, White retains his extra pawn by P-QN4); 11 PxB, Q-R4; 12 P-B4 with a freer game because of the two bishops.

9 . . .	QPxP
10 BxBP	B-N3
11 PxP	QxQ

The correct reply; for if 11 . . . BxP; 12 Q-B2 would be threatening to win a pawn with 13 BxP, followed by QxB. Black would then play either 12 . . . B-N3 or 12 . . . Q-K2 and White would get the initiative with 13 P-K4 seizing the center with the double threat of P-K5 and B-KN5, giving him a substantial edge.

12 RxQ	BxP
13 P-QN4	B-K2
14 B-N2	B-Q2

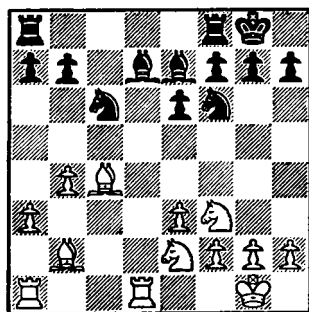
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 1

Position after Black's 14 . . . B-Q2

Black had to develop this bishop somehow. If he tried to do so by continuing 14 . . . P-QN3, he would have been faced with serious problems after: 15 QR-B1, B-N2; 16 BxN, BxB; 17 R-Q7, QR-N1; 18 B-N5 with great pressure. For if 18 . . . N-Q1; 19 R(B1)-B7, and if 18 . . . KR-B1?; 19 RxB, RxR; 20 BxN, R(N2)-B2; 21 P-N5, and wins.

15 QR-B1?

This leads soon to equality. More enterprising was 15 P-K4! offering White to get a bind in the center and inactivate Black's forces to the point of passivity. Of course, Black would not be able to capture the king pawn because White then captures the bishop with his rook. He would continue, then, 15 . . . KR-Q1; 16 P-K5, N-K1; 17 N-N3, QR-B1; 18 QR-B1, followed by N-K4, with excellent prospects. I don't understand why Spassky rejected this line!

15 . . .	KR-Q1
16 N(2)-Q4	NxN
17 NxN	B-R5!
18 B-N3	

The best course for White was now to simplify by exchanging pieces. 18 R-Q3, QR-B1 would pin both White's rooks, and 18 R-K1, QR-B1 would have given Black some pressure.

18 . . .	BxB
19 NxB	RxRch
20 RxR	R-QB1
21 K-B1	

The position was now perfectly even. Black could not hope for any play by placing his rook on the seventh rank (QB7) because White could easily dislodge the rook by playing R-Q2. In spite of this, Fischer played on.

21 . . .	K-B1
22 K-K2	N-K5

And now, Black was threatening the incursion with . . . R-B7ch. Therefore . . .

23 R-QB1	RxR
24 BxR	

Better than 24 NxR, P-QN4! followed by . . . N-Q3-B5 where the knight would be strongly posted.

24 . . .	P-B3
25 N-R5	N-Q3

Bad would be 25 . . . P-QN3 because of 26 N-B6, P-QR3; 27 N-N8, P-QR4; 28 P-B3, N-Q3; 29 N-Q7ch, winning a pawn.

26 K-Q3	B-Q1
27 N-B4	B-B2
28 NxN	BxN
29 P-N5	

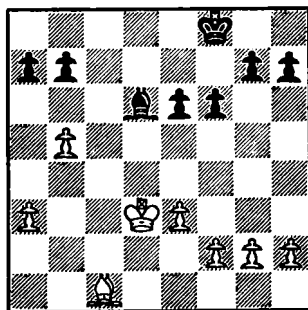
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 2

Position after White's 29 P-N5

To prevent Black from playing . . . P-QN4, which would make it impossible for White to advance his king to QB4 and to other squares on the queen side.

29 . . . BxKRP??

An incredible blunder. As we shall see soon, Fischer overlooked one move at the disposal of Spassky, which he really should have seen. In his desire to play for a win, Fischer became careless. The position was even. The correct move was 29 . . . P-QR3 with the following continuation: 30 PxP, PxP; 31 P-R3, K-K2; 32 K-B4, K-Q2, with White unable to make any headway.

30 P-N3

P-KR4

31 K-K2

P-R5

32 K-B3

K-K2

Now realizing that the bishop would be lost, Fischer tries to draw the game by bringing the king into the game as quickly as possible.

I believe that Fischer's miscalculation consisted of the following: he thought that he could save the bishop by now playing 32 . . . P-R6; 33 K-N4, B-N8; 34 KxP, BxP and that now the bishop could escape at K8; but overlooked that White could now trap the bishop with 35 B-Q2!

33 K-N2

PxP

34 PxP

BxP

35 KxB

K-Q3

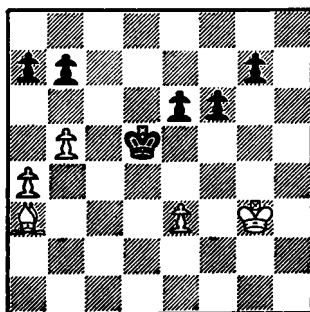
36 P-R4

K-Q4

37 B-R3

K-K5

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 3

Position after White's 37 B-R3

Unproductive would be 37 . . . K-B5 on account of 38 B-B8, P-KN3; 39 B-K7, P-B4; 40 K-B4, K-N6; 41 P-R5, K-R5; 42 P-R6, P-N3; 43 K-K5, KxP; 44 KxP, KxP; 45 K-B6, picking up the KN and KB pawns, and the king pawn could not be stopped from queening. The two passed pawns of Black could easily be stopped by the bishop with the Black king eventually being forced out of K1 square enabling White to promote his pawn to a queen.

38 B-B5

P-R3

39 P-N6!

The correct move. If 39 PxP, PxP, and Black would exchange its pawns for White's king pawn, and although White would remain with a bishop and a pawn to the good, the ending would still be a draw because White's bishop is on black squares and the square on which White's QRP has to queen is on a white square. White would, therefore, be unable to queen his pawn.

39 . . .

P-B4

Unavailing would be 39 . . . K-B4; 40 K-B3, P-N4; 41 B-K7, K-N3 (if 41 . . . P-N5ch; 42 K-N3, K-N4; 43 P-K4, winning the KNP); 42 K-K4, P-N5; 43 K-B4, P-B4; 44 K-K5, P-N6 (the only try; for if 44 . . . K-B2; 45 B-R4, etc.); 45 B-R4, P-N7; 46 B-B2, and White's king gets to QB7, capturing the QNP.

40 K-R4!

And now, the king was threatening to get to the QNP via KN5-6-KB7. It is interesting to note that if White's QRP were at QR5 instead of QR4, Black could easily have drawn by playing 40 . . . P-B5, getting rid of the

KP. He would then give up the KP and the KNP and place his king at Q2, with White unable to make any progress even though he would be a bishop to the good!

40 . . .	P-B5
41 PxP	KxP
42 K-R5	K-B4
43 B-K3	K-K4

If 43 . . . P-K4; 44 B-N5, P-K5; 45 B-K3, K-K4; 46 K-N5, K-Q4; 47 K-B5, winning the king pawn.

44 B-B2	K-B4
45 B-R4	P-K4
46 B-N5	P-K5
47 B-K3	

And so a position was reached after several moves, as in the previous note.

47 . . .	K-B3
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It is difficult to understand why Fischer continued to play at this point.

48 K-N4	K-K4
49 K-N5	K-Q4
50 K-B5	P-R4
51 B-B2	P-N4
52 KxP	K-B5
53 K-B5	K-N5
54 KxP	KxP
55 K-Q5	K-N4
56 K-Q6	Resigns

For if 56 . . . P-R5; 57 K-B7, K-R3; 58 B-B5, K-N4; 59 B-Q6, K-R3; 60 B-R3, and the NP would fall.

Game 2

Game 2 was forfeited by Fischer when he failed to show up for the game at the stipulated time.

Game 3

Being two points behind, Fischer resorted to the Benoni Defense with the Black pieces. This sharp defense offers both sides winning chances. I have played both sides of this opening and have had good results with both White and Black. A sharp, fighting encounter always occurs in the Benoni. On his 11th turn, Fischer introduced an innovation. Spassky appeared surprised. He took a long time in replying. He found the correct answer, but two moves later he neglected to elect a logical follow-up which would have given him the upper hand. Fischer took immediate advantage of his adversary's inaccuracy and seized the initiative. From thereon, Spassky was on the defensive. Fischer, at first, undertook action on the king wing, and when that side was stabilized, he shifted suddenly to the opposite side, finally effecting a passed queen bishop pawn with menacing threats. Spassky defended comparatively well in an inferior position. Fischer pressed on until his opponent was compelled to give up his king pawn in order to survive. An ending of queens and bishops of opposite colors was reached. Spassky seemed to have some drawing chances, but on his 41st move, he made an inexplicable hasty move which cost him the game immediately.

BENONI DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-QB4	P-K3
3 N-KB3	P-B4
4 P-Q5	

This move leads to the Benoni and is the sharpest continuation. More conservative is 4 N-B3 or 4 P-K3 in which White settles for an even game.

4 . . .	PxP
5 PxP	P-Q3

The main characteristic of this defense is that Black is saddled with an isolated queen pawn for which he obtains partial control of the king's file where his rook can apply pressure against White's king pawn, and his king bishop has freedom of action. Black's problem is the proper development of his QB. White's future is either in the center or on the queen side. It takes great tactical skill to get the upper hand. This applies to both sides in this complicated line.

6 N-B3	P-KN3
7 N-Q2	

A good alternative is 7 P-K4, followed by B-K2 and 0-0 in which White strives to seize control of the center and constricts the mobility of Black's forces. The object of the textmove is to apply immediate pressure against Black's QP with N-B4, followed by B-KB4.

Spassky correctly gave up his bishop for the knight, which is usually disadvantageous, but in this case Spassky received compensation in the fact that Black's king side pawns were broken up and Black's king's safety reduced. Fischer's immediate threat was . . . N-B5.

12 . . .	PxB
13 N-B4	N-K4
14 N-K3?	

This was poor judgment. White's idea was to eventually play N-KB5, but this was never to pass because Black's ensuing strategy prevented Spassky from carrying out his intention by making immediate threats against the king. Correct was 14 NxN, BxN; 15 B-K3, followed by an early P-B4. This would have given White a positional advantage.

14 . . .	Q-R5
15 B-Q2	N-N5

Forcing the exchange of knights, enabling Black to straighten out his pawn position. Interesting but unsound was 15 . . . N-B6ch!?!; 16 PxN, Q-R6; 17 N-N2, K-R1; 18 N-B4, QxBP; 19 Q-Q3, Q-N5ch; 20 Q-N3, and Black's attack would stall.

16 NxN

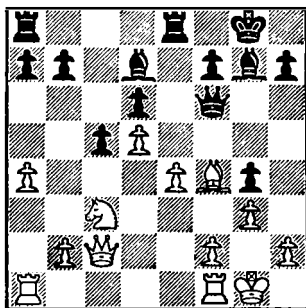
Unwise was 16 P-KR3 because of 16 . . . B-K4, where White would have weakened his king position unnecessarily.

16 . . .	PxN
17 B-B4	Q-B3
18 P-KN3	

18 Q-Q2 was more flexible as it would offer White the possibility of opening the KB file with P-B3. The textmove also tended to weaken the king position.

18 . . .	B-Q2
19 P-QR4	P-N3!

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 5

Position after White's 19 P-QR4

An excellent move! It assured Black the advance of his queen side pawns in an attempt to initiate serious action on that wing while maintaining pressure in the center. White's play from hereon became completely defensive. Note that 19 . . . P-QR3 would not have accomplished the same end because White could then have stopped the advance of the QNP with 20 P-R5.

20 KR-K1	P-QR3
21 R-K2?	

Q-Q3 in order to prevent the immediate advance of the QNP was necessary, and if 21 . . . Q-N3; 22 R-K2,

followed by doubling of the rooks on the king file. Fischer would then have more difficulty in obtaining promising play on the queen side.

21 . . .	P-N4
22 QR-K1	Q-N3
23 P-N3	R-K2
24 Q-Q3	R-N1
25 PxP	PxP
26 P-N4	

This turns out badly as it gives Black a strong passed pawn and paralyzes White so that he drifts into a "zugzwang" position. He should have tried 26 N-N1, and if 26 . . . P-N5; 27 N-Q2-B4, in which Black's QP would become a target.

26 . . .	P-B5
27 Q-Q2	QR-K1

White was now left without any constructive moves. He was compelled to make waiting moves, and that is usually bad and frustrating.

28 R-K3	P-R4
29 R(3)-K2	K-R2
30 R-K3	K-N1
31 R(3)-K2	BxN
32 QxB	RxP
33 RxR	RxR
34 RxR	QxR

An ending with bishops of opposite colors usually ends up in a draw even though one is a pawn ahead, but in this case, White's king was posted precariously, which gave Fischer winning chances.

35 B-R6

An incredible blunder, especially in view of the fact that the time control was over. He made this inexplicable reply almost immediately after Fischer made his 40th move, overlooking Fischer's answer which forced Spassky's immediate resignation. After 41 K-K1! it is not clear how Fischer could have won. If 41 . . . Q-KB6; 42 Q-K3, Q-R8ch; 43 K-K2, B-Q6ch; 44 K-Q2, QxQP; 45 K-B3, with good drawing chances, because White could exchange queens and still have a drawing position even though Black would be two pawns ahead. If 41 . . . P-B6; 42 Q-N5ch, B-N3; 43 Q-Q8ch, K-R2; 44 QxP, P-B7; 45 Q-B4, QxQP; 46 Q-Q2, Q-R8ch; 47 K-K2, and White could offer resistance.

41 . . .

B-Q6ch

42 Resigns

For if 42 K-K3, Q-Q8; 43 Q-N2, P-B6; 44 QxP, Q-B6ch, followed by mate.

Game 4

This was the first time Fischer was conducting the White pieces, and, as expected, advanced his king pawn two squares, which is his favorite weapon. He has had numerous successes with the king pawn opening against some of the greatest players in the world. He has studied the Ruy Lopez and the Sicilian Defense extensively and is one of the greatest exponents of these openings. The Russians were, of course, aware of this important fact, and they were ready for him. It must have taken months of study by a well-known group of Grandmasters to come up with an adequate defense, and they, indeed, did.

Spassky replied 1 . . . P-QB4, the Sicilian defense, making the first 13 moves rapidly. Fischer took a lot of time for the next few moves, but he was unable to acquire any opening advantage. Spassky soon sacrificed a pawn for which he obtained the two bishops and good play. He initiated an assault against White's king with excellent prospects, but missed a winning continuation on his 29th move, overlooking a finesse. Fischer managed to get a draw.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	P-Q3
3 P-Q4	PxP

4 N×P	N-KB3
5 N-QB3	N-QB3
6 B-QB4	

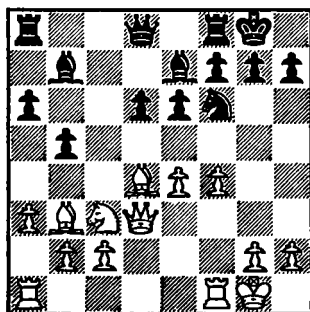
The Russians must have expected this move because Fischer invariably has resorted to this variation.

6 . . .	P-K3
7 B-QN3	B-K2
8 B-K3	O-O
9 O-O	P-QR3
10 P-B4	N×N
11 B×N	P-QN4
12 P-QR3	

12 Q-Q3 could be a better alternative.

12 . . .	B-N2
13 Q-Q3	P-QR4!

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 7

Position after White's 13 Q-Q3

This is the new move the Soviets came up with, and it is a good one. Black sacrifices a pawn for excellent play.

14 P-K5

There is nothing better. If 14 QR-K1, P-N5; 15 N-R4, B-R3; 16 B-B4, BxB; 17 QxB, R-B1 with equality. The usual move that Fischer likes to make in this kind of position is P-B5 but it would be refuted here by P-N5, winning the KP.

14 . . .	PxP
15 PxP	N-Q2
16 NxP	

Of course, not 16 QxP because of B-R3.

16 . . .	N-B4
17 BxN	

The only move, for if 17 Q-K3, B-N4; 18 Q-B2 (18 Q-N3, B-QR3 wins material), NxB; 19 PxN, B-R5; 20 Q-Q2 (if 20 P-N3, Q-Q4 threatening mate), B-N4, and White would have nothing better than to repeat moves. But Fischer would not be content to do anything like that, since he always plays for a win.

17 . . .	BxBch
18 K-R1	Q-N4

Well played! Spassky could have gotten equality by playing 18 . . . QxQ; 19 PxQ, B-R3; 20 N-B7 (20 B-B4, BxN; 21 BxB, B-Q5 would regain the pawn with an easy draw), BxQP; 21 NxR, BxR; 22 RxB, RxN, again with equality. But Spassky was playing for a win.

19 Q-K2

The logical continuation. The move protects both the K and KNP.

19 . . .	QR-Q1
20 QR-Q1	RxR
21 RxR	P-KR4

A fine move initiating a serious threat for the White monarch. Fischer had to contend with this pawn advancing to KR6.

22 N-Q6?

This turned out to be a costly waste of time. Mandatory was 22 N-Q4. The knight was badly needed for the king's defense.

22 . . .	B-R1
23 B-B4	P-KR5
24 P-R3	B-K6

Against 24 . . . Q-N6 (threatening . . . QxRPch), White had 25 R-Q3, but now the threat of 25 . . . Q-N6 needed attention. Therefore . . .

25 Q-N4	QxP
26 QxRP	P-N4!

A powerful move, threatening . . . K-N2 and . . . R-R1, to bolster the attack.

27 Q-N4	B-B4
28 N-N5	

The sacrifice of the knight at KB7 would fail: 28 NxP, KxN! 29 Q-R5ch (29 R-Q7ch, K-B3, and wins), K-K2; 30 Q-R7ch, R-B2; 31 Q-N8, B-Q3, and wins.

28 . . .	K-N2
29 N-Q4	R-R1??

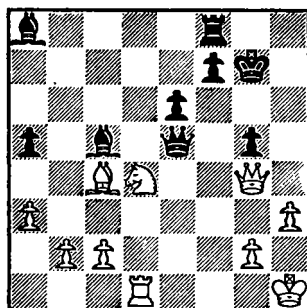
BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)**

Diagram 8

Position after White's 29 N-Q4

Tossing away the win. Spassky handled the game expertly up to this point, but here he overlooked one move at Fischer's disposal. Spassky could have won with 29 . . . R-Q1! attacking the knight which would have to be defended by 30 P-B3, then 30 . . . R-R1; 31 N-B3 (forced because of the threat of 31 . . . R-R5), BxN; 32 QxB, B-Q3; 33 K-N1, R-R5! and wins because the double threats of . . . RxB and . . . Q-R7ch followed by . . . R-B5ch could not have been parried.

30 N-B3

BxN

31 QxB

B-Q3

32 Q-B3!

The saving move which Spassky undoubtedly overlooked.

32 . . .

QxQ

33 PxQ

B-K4

Black regains his pawn, which gives him an easy draw. The result must have been very disappointing to the champion.

34 R-Q7	K-B3
35 K-N1	BxP
36 B-K2	B-K4
37 K-B1	R-QB1
38 B-R5	R-B2
39 RxR	BxR
40 P-QR4	K-K2
41 K-K2	P-B4
42 K-Q3	B-K4
43 P-B4	K-Q3
44 B-B7	B-KN6
45 P-B5ch	Drawn

Game 5

Disheartened by his mishandling of the 4th game, Spassky was not at all recognizable in the 5th game. Playing White, he handled the opening lackadaisically and emerged with the inferior position. He acquired two bishops against a bishop and a knight, which is usually advantageous, but not so in this case. His king bishop was completely inactive while his queen bishop was partly useful. Fischer's knight, on the other hand, was well posted, ready for a serious incursion into Spassky's territory.

Not realizing that Fischer's position was superior, Spassky attempted to play aggressively, thereby weakening his position further. The net result was that Fischer was able to accumulate minute advantages to the point that it required precise defense by Spassky to have a chance of holding the game. On his 27th turn, Spassky made an incredible blunder and resigned promptly after Fischer's reply.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-QB4	P-K3
3 N-QB3	B-N5
4 N-B3	P-QB4
5 P-K3	N-B3
6 B-Q3	BxNch

This move has been played before but very infrequently. More usual is 6 . . . 0-0; 7 0-0, P-Q4, leading to various lines and variations thoroughly analyzed. Fischer obviously wanted to steer away from the trodden path in order to upset his opponent psychologically. Judging from the conduct of the game, he did just that.

7 PxB

P-Q3

Necessary, in order to meet P-K4 with . . . P-K4.

8 P-K4

A normal-looking but questionable move because it immobilizes the king bishop. To be considered is 8 N-Q2, and if 8 . . . P-K4; 9 P-Q5, N-K2; 10 P-B4.

8 . . .

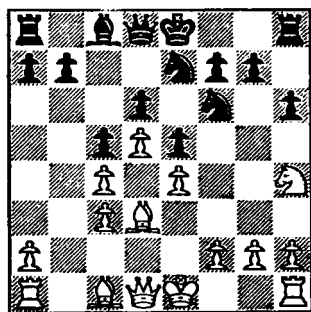
P-K4

9 P-Q5

N-K2

10 N-R4

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 8A

Position after Black's 10 . . . P-KR3

With the intention of continuing 11 B-N5, N-N3; 12 N-B5 with a strong bind.

10 . . .	P-KR3
11 P-B4?!	

An aggressive move which is not called for in this position. The textmove only tends to create a weak pawn for White—the KP. Wise was 11 P-B3 with an eventual N-B5.

11 . . .	N-N3!
----------	-------

An excellent reply. If Black decided to win a piece with 11 . . . PxP, he would have given Spassky an opportunity to launch a promising attack: 11 . . . PxP; 12 BxP, P-KN4; 13 P-K5! N-N5 (13 . . . PxP; 14 BxKP, attacking the knight); 14 P-K6 (or even 14 PxP) with excellent attacking chances.

12 NxN

Practically forced. For if 12 N-B5, BxN; 13 PxN, NxBP; 14 BxN, PxN; 15 0-0, 0-0; 16 RxP, N-Q2, followed by 17 . . . Q-B3 and 18 . . . N-K4 where the knight would be excellently posted.

12 . . .	PxN
13 PxP?	

Advisable was 13 0-0, 0-0; 14 P-B5 with even chances. The textmove destroyed any possible play for White. From here on, Spassky was on the defensive.

13 . . .	PxP
14 B-K3	P-N3
15 0-0	0-0
16 P-QR4?	

This only made this pawn a target later for Black's bishop. Prudent was 16 Q-Q2, followed by R-B3 and doubling of the rooks on the KB file.

16 . . .	P-QR4
17 R-N1	B-Q2
18 R-N2	R-N1
19 R(2)-KB2	Q-K2
20 B-B2	P-KN4
21 B-Q2	

There was no plausible continuation for White. He simply had to mark time and see what his opponent would do.

21 . . .	Q-K1!
22 B-K1	Q-N3
23 Q-Q3	N-R4
24 RxRch	RxR
25 RxRch	KxR
26 B-Q1?	

Allowing the knight to reach KB5 where it is powerfully posted. Why not 26 P-N3 to keep the knight out? With the suggested move, Fischer would have had great difficulty in scoring the point even though his position would be superior.

26 . . .	N-B5
27 Q-B2???	

An unbelievable mistake even for a Class A player. It can only be explained by the fact that Spassky was not himself that day.

27 . . .	BxP!
28 Resigns	

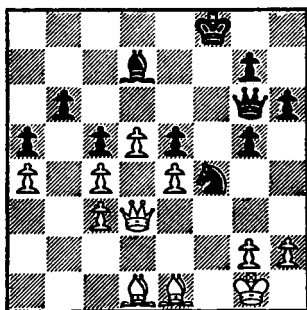
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 9

Position after Black's 26 . . . N-B5

For if 28 QxB, QxP, and the double threat of . . . QxB mate or . . . QxP mate could not be parried. And if 28 Q-Q2, BxB; 29 QxB, QxP, White would be hopelessly lost.

Game 6

Fischer surprised Spassky and everyone else with his choice of openings in this game. He opened with 1 P-QB4 instead of his pet first move of P-K4. This was perhaps the first time he ever resorted to this move. It certainly takes great courage to play a new opening at any time, especially when facing an opponent of Spassky's stature.

Spassky, after taking some time getting over the shock of the unexpected move, decided to select his usual line, the Tartakower Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined.

On his 14th move, Fischer introduced a novelty by playing his bishop to queen knight five. Spassky, who is reputed to know so much about this line, appeared disturbed. He took a long time for the reply, but he failed to come up with the correct plan. Fischer seized the initiative and advanced his king pawn where it exercised great pressure. He soon broke through Black's defenses by advancing his king bishop pawn, thereby making his king pawn free to advance further into Spassky's territory.

Spassky's forces were completely inactivated. He was called upon to use all of his resources to stem the onslaught of Fischer's pieces. Spassky was reduced to waiting and repeating moves. Fischer bided his time in carrying out his crushing plan.

11 R-B1	B-K3
12 Q-R4	P-QB4
13 Q-R3	R-B1

So far, nothing new. This position has arisen in numerous games.

14 B-N5

Usual is 14 B-K2. The purpose of the textmove is to provoke . . . P-R3.

14 . . .	P-R3
15 P x P!	

Well timed. The move gave Black hanging pawns. If, instead, White castled, Black could continue 15 . . . R-R2, forcing the bishop to retreat, and Black could then play . . . P-B5 with a satisfactory position.

15 . . .	P x P
16 0-0	R-R2??

A seriously tactical move from which Spassky never recovered. Correct was 16 . . . Q-N2, attacking the bishop. After its retreat, Black would continue . . . N-Q2, and White could not post his knight strongly at his Q4, as in the game.

17 B-K2	N-Q2
18 N-Q4!	

This move was possible because Black's queen was at K2. If the queen were at QN2, White would be unable to make this strong move, enabling him to get Black's bishop, thereby weakening Black's position.

18	Q-B1?
----	-------

Gets the queen out of play. Prudent was 18 . . . N-B3; 19 N x B, P x N.

19 NxB

PxN

20 P-K4!

A powerful stroke, which would not be possible if Black had played 18 . . . N-B3, instead of 18 . . . Q-B1.

20 . . .

P-Q5

20 . . . PxP was inadvisable because it would have given Black a miserable pawn formation. White would eventually have regained his pawn by concentrating on the KP.

21 P-KB4

Q-K2

22 P-K5

Now, White enjoyed a strong bind in the center. Spassky was already strategically lost.

22 . . .

R-N1?

Permitting White to place his bishop favorably. Black had to try to get his knight to Q4. Consequently, he should have continued 22 . . . N-N3, and if 23 B-B3, Q-Q2.

23 B-B4!

K-R1

23 . . . N-N3 fails on account of 24 Q-N3!

24 Q-R3

N-B1

From here on, Spassky was completely on the defensive.

25 P-QN3

P-QR4

26 P-B5

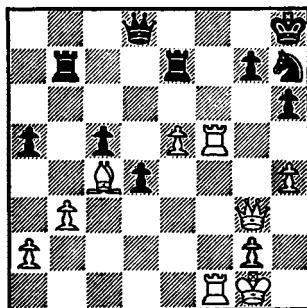
The breakthrough which enabled Fischer to bring all of his forces against Black's king.

26 . . .	PxP
27 RxP	N-R2
28 R(B1)-B1	Q-Q1

Directed at White's threat of R-B7.

29 Q-N3	R-K2
30 P-KR4	R(1)-N2
31 P-K6!	

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 11

Position after Black's 30 . . . R(1)-N2

Making possible R-B7 and Q-K5.

31 . . .	R(N2)-B2
32 Q-K5	Q-K1

Spassky was practically in "zugzwang."

33 P-QR4

White had plenty of time to do anything he pleased.

33 . . .	Q-Q1
34 R(1)-B2	Q-K1
35 R(2)-B3	

Fischer seemed to play a cat and mouse game at this point.

35 . . .	Q-Q1
36 B-Q3	Q-K1
37 Q-K4	

Threatening 38 R-B8ch, NxR; 39 RxNch, QxR; 40 Q-R7 mate.

37 . . .	N-B3
38 RxN	PxR
39 RxP	K-N1

Unavailing was 39 . . . Q-R4 because of 40 P-KN4, QxRP; 41 Q-R8ch, K-N2; 42 Q-B8 mate.

40 B-B4	K-R1
41 Q-B4	Resigns

If 41 . . . K-N1; 42 QxRP with the threat of 42 R-N6ch, and if the rook interposes, then P-K7ch would be decisive.

Game 7

After having little success with White with 1 P-Q4, Spassky decided to shift to the king pawn opening. Fischer relied on his favorite, the Sicilian Defense. He accepted the offer of the so-called "poisoned pawn."

A tense struggle followed. Spassky sacrificed three pawns and a bishop for attacking possibilities. Fischer defended accurately and repulsed Spassky's attack, winding up with a pawn plus.

Fischer's advantage should have netted him the point, but inexact strategy offered his opponent drawing chances. Spassky defended well and finally halved the point.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	P-Q3
3 P-Q4	PxP
4 NxP	N-KB3
5 N-QB3	P-QR3
6 B-KN5	

This move leads to lively play. A great amount of analysis has been done on this line, with no decision reached as to who stands better if both sides continue correctly. Fischer maintains that **Black** obtains an equal game, at least. Perhaps this match will decide one way or the other.

6 . . .	P-K3
7 P-KB4	Q-N3

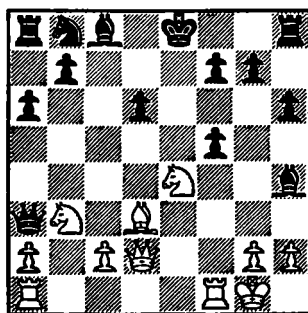
Another continuation is 7 . . . QN-Q2, followed by . . . B-K2 and . . . Q-B2 and . . . 0-0. Fischer prefers the textmove.

8 Q-Q2	QxP
9 N-N3	Q-R6

White was threatening to trap the queen with 10 P-QR4, followed by 11 R-R2.

10 B-Q3	B-K2
11 0-0	P-R3
12 B-R4	NxP
13 NxN	BxB
14 P-B5	PxP
15 B-N5ch!	

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 12

Position after Black's 14 . . . PxP

Sacrificing the bishop for the attack.

15 . . .

PxB

Accepting the challenge. Against 15 . . . K-K2, White could continue 16 Q-B3, PxB; 17 QxP, R-Q1; 18 QxRP, PxN; 19 QxBch with attacking possibilities.

16 NxPch

K-B1

Wisely giving back the piece. If 16 . . . K-K2; 17 NxNP, Q-R3 (17 . . . Q-R5 led to mate: 18 Q-Q6ch, K-K1; 19 N-B7 mate); 18 Q-N4ch, K-B3; 19 QxBch, K-N3; 20 P-R4 with more than sufficient compensation for the pawn.

17 NxB

N-B3

18 N-Q6

18 Q-Q7 offered better prospects: 18 . . . Q-R3 (to protect the QNP); 19 RxP; or 18 . . . N-K4; 19 QxNP(7), Q-R3; 20 QxQ, RxQ; 21 RxP with an approximately even position.

18 . . .

R-Q1

19 NxP(N5)

Q-K2

The correct decision. Black had better winning chances with the queens on the board.

20 Q-B4

P-KN3

21 P-R4

B-N4

22 Q-B4

B-K6ch

23 K-R1

P-B5

24 P-N3

White had to try to get rid of the advanced KBP because it supported the strongly posted bishop.

24 . . .

P-N4

The tempting 24 . . . N-Q5 was insufficient because of 25 N(5)xN, Q-K5ch; 26 R-B3, P-N4; 27 Q-Q3, Q-Q4; 28 P-B4, etc.

25 QR-K1	Q-N5
26 QxQ	NxQ
27 R-K2	K-N2
28 N-R5	P-N3
29 N-B4	N-Q4
30 N(B4)-Q6	B-B4

To be considered was 30 . . . K-N3 in order to keep White's knight out of the important square KB5.

31 N-N7	R-QB1
32 P-B4	N-K6
33 R-B3	NxP
34 PxP	P-N5
35 R-Q3	P-R4
36 P-R3	N-R4
37 N(7)-Q6	

The best try. Neither 37 NxN nor 37 NxB would give any promising play. The textmove, at least, offered White some action against the Black king.

37 . . .	BxN
38 NxB	R-B8ch
39 K-N2	N-B5

Attempting to exchange knights, since White's knight was more useful, but Spassky refused the offer.

40 N-K8ch	K-N3
-----------	------

Not 40 . . . K-B1; 41 R-Q8, threatening N-Q6ch or N-B6ch, regaining a pawn.

41 P-R4

The sealed move, and it was the best at White's disposal.

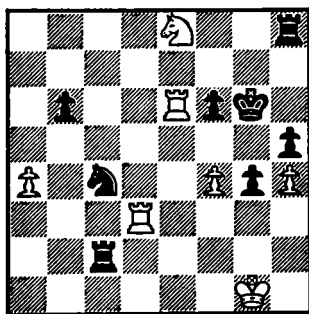
41 . . . P-B3

To meet the threat of 42 R-Q5-KN5ch.

42 R-K6 R-B7ch

43 K-N1 K-B4?

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 13

Position after White's 43 K-N1

Admitting the draw. With 43 . . . RxN! 44 RxR, K-B4, Black would have winning chances. If in this 45 R-Q4, N-Q7! threatening 46 . . . N-B6ch.

44 N-N7ch	KxP
45 R-Q4ch	K-N6
46 N-B5ch	K-B6
47 R(6)-K4!	

47 R-K1 looked tempting. It would threaten R-KB1ch, but Black would defend with 47 . . . R-N7ch; 48 K-R1 (48, K-B1, N-Q7ch) P-N6; 49 RxN, R-R7ch with perpetual check.

47 . . .	R-B8ch
48 K-R2	R-B7ch
49 K-N1	Drawn

Black had no choice, for if 49 . . . R-QB1; 50 R-B4ch, K-K7; 51 N-N3ch, K-K6; 52 R(4)-K4ch, K-B6; 53 R-Q3ch, followed by mate.

Game 8

Fischer, White, repeated his 4th game opening move—1 P-QB4. Spassky set up a symmetrical position, which usually leads to a draw.

The first 10 moves went along a well-established line. On his 11th turn, Fischer introduced a brand new move. It was not of any great significance, but it seemed to disturb Spassky. He took over an hour for his reply. No one present at the playing hall could explain why Spassky should spend so much time on the move.

Spassky's 11th move was an obvious one and the best reply. On his 15th move, he committed an incredible blunder, overlooking Fischer's immediate threat of winning the exchange. Spassky made another mistake on his 19th turn, after which the game was completely lost for him.

ENGLISH OPENING

<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-QB4	P-QB4
2 N-QB3	N-QB3
3 N-B3	N-B3
4 P-KN3	P-KN3
5 B-N2	B-N2
6 O-O	O-O
7 P-Q4	PxP

The symmetry is now broken. 7 . . . P-Q3 is possible.

8 N×P	N×N
9 Q×N	P-Q3
10 B-N5	B-K3
11 Q-B4	

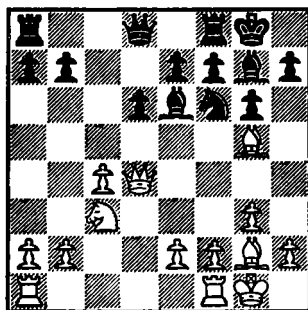
BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)**

Diagram 14

Position after Black's 10 . . . B-K3

It is incomprehensible why such a simple and perhaps awkward move should have bothered Spassky. Usual is 11 Q-Q3 to get out of the line of Black's king bishop. Black was threatening 11 . . . N-Q4, which would demolish White's queen side pawns.

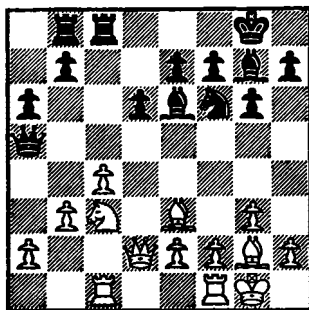
11 . . . Q-R4

The purpose of this move was to get the queen into play and to develop Black's king rook at QB1.

12 QR-B1

So that if Black attacked the QBP, White would be in a position to protect it with P-N3.

12	QR-N1
13 P-QN3	KR-B1
14 Q-Q2	P-QR3
15 B-K3	

BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)****Diagram 15**

Position after White's 15 B-K3

Setting the trap.

15 . . .	P-QN4??
----------	---------

Spassky fell for the trap.

16 B-R7

The QR has no square to go to.

16 . . .	PxP
17 BxR	RxB
18 PxP	BxP
19 KR-Q1	N-Q2??

This move loses an important pawn, after which Black

collapses completely. Black should have tried 19 . . . K-B1.

20 N-Q5	QxQ
21 NxPch	K-B1
22 RxQ	KxN
23 RxB	R-N8ch
24 B-B1	N-B4
25 K-N2	P-QR4

Spassky, being the fighter that he is, put up resistance, but the position was untenable, as Fischer easily illustrated.

26 P-K4

White's strategy was to dislodge Black's knight by effecting P-K5, after which White's rooks would be in a position to utilize their potential.

26 . . .	B-R8
27 P-B4	P-B3
28 R-K2	K-K3
29 R(2)-QB2	

Intending to play 30 R-B1, forcing the exchange of rooks, after which Black's resistance would collapse.

29 . . .	B-N7
30 B-K2	P-R4
31 R-Q2	

Intending 32 R-Q1.

31 . . .	B-R6
32 P-B5ch	PxP
33 PxPch	K-K4

If 33 . . . KxP; 34 RxP, K-K4; 35 R(4)-Q4, with the Black monarch in trouble.

34 R(4)–Q4

KxP

White was threatening 35 K–B3 and 36 R–Q5 mate.

35 R–Q5ch

K–K3

36 RxPch

K–K2

37 R–QB6

Resigns

Game 9

Spassky returned to the Queen Pawn Opening. A well-known variation developed. Fischer introduced a new move on his 9th turn. Spassky failed to come up with the correct plan in the opening.

Instead of concentrating in the center and attempting to initiate an assault against Black's king, which is the logical idea to pursue, Spassky shifted to the queen side. This gave Fischer time to exert pressure against White's weak queen pawn, diverting Spassky from carrying out his intention of creating active play on the queen side.

The net result was that Spassky was compelled to simplify. The resulting endgame offered no chances for either side.

QUEEN PAWN OPENING

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-Q4	N-KB3
2 P-QB4	P-K3
3 N-KB3	P-Q4
4 N-B3	P-B4
5 PxQP	NxP

5 . . . KPxP leads to the Tarrasch Defense. Apparently, Fischer does not favor this defense for Black. Spassky, who had used this defense successfully in his last world championship match against Petrosian, has abandoned it for some reason.

6 P-K4

The most recent reply. Spassky had used this continuation with good results in numerous events. The play emanating from 6 P-K3 offers White good prospects.

6 . . .	NxN
7 PxN	PxP
8 PxP	N-B3

More usual is 8 . . . B-N5ch, but Fischer, as usual, prefers to veer away from the trodden path.

9 B-QB4	P-QN4!
10 B-Q3	

Of course, not 10 BxNP because of 10 . . . Q-R4ch, winning the bishop.

10 . . .	B-N5ch
11 B-Q2	BxBch
12 QxB	P-QR3
13 P-QR4?	

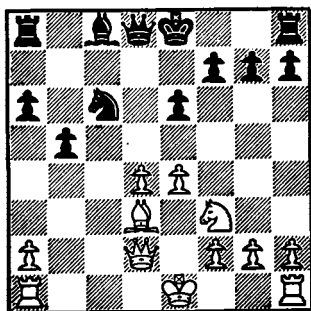
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 16

Position after Black's 12 . . . P-QR3

The wrong plan. Logical was 13 0-0, 0-0; 14 Q-K3, followed by 0-0 and placing the rooks on Q1 and K1 with the purpose of effecting an eventual P-Q5.

13 . . .	0-0!
14 Q-B3	

If 14 PxP, NxP; 15 PxP, NxNch; 16 PxN, BxP with the better game.

14 . . .	B-N2
15 PxP	PxP
16 0-0	

The black QNP was immune to capture. If 16 BxP, RxRch; 17 QxR, N-N5; 18 Q-N1, Q-R4; 19 B-K2, BxP!; 20 QxB, N-Q6 dis. ch; 21 K-B1 (21 K-Q1, NxPch), Q-R8ch; 22 B-Q1, QxBch; 23 N-K1, NxN; 24 QxN, QxP with excellent winning chances. If 16 RxR, QxR; 17 BxP, N-R2, regaining the pawn with the superior position.

16 . . .	Q-N3
17 QR-N1	P-N5
18 Q-Q2	

Giving up hope of an initiative. Worthy of consideration was 18 P-Q5, PxP; 19 PxP, PxQ (if 19 . . . Q-R4; 20 BxPch, and if 20 . . . KxB; 21 Q-B2ch, K-N1; 22 PxN); 20 RxQ, N-R4; 21 P-Q6 with complications favoring White.

18 . . .	NxP
19 NxN	QxN
20 RxP	Q-Q2
21 Q-K3	

21 P-K5 would fail against 21 . . . KR-Q1, and if

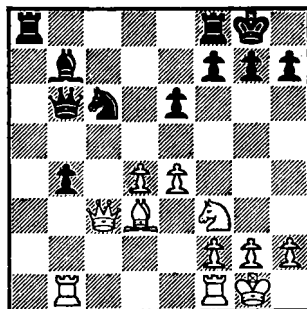
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 17

Position after Black's 17 . . . P-N5

22 R-N4, QxB; 23 Q-R6, QxRch!; 24 KxQ, R-R8ch;
25 K-K2, B-R3ch; 26 K-B3, R-Q6ch; 27 K-B4,
R-R5ch; 28 K-N5, PxQch.

21 . . . KR-Q1
22 KR-N1

Not 22 R-Q1?, QxB; 23 RxQ, R-R8ch with mate following. And 22 R-N3, B-R3 would lead to equality.

22 . . . QxB
23 QxQ RxQ
24 RxB P-N4
25 R-N8ch RxR
26 RxRch K-N2
27 P-B3 R-Q7
28 P-R4 P-R3

28 . . . PxP; 29 K-R2, and Black's double KR

pawn would be of no value. 28 . . . P-N5 would also be unproductive because of 29 PxP, R-Q5; 30 K-B2, RxP; 31 K-B3 with an easy draw.

29 PxP

PxP

Drawn

Game 10

Fischer, White, decided to try 1 P-K4, expecting the Sicilian Defense, for which he probably had an improvement over the 4th game. Spassky, suspecting this, answered with 1 . . . P-K4, which led to the Ruy Lopez. Both players reputedly know this opening backwards and forwards.

The opening drifted into the well-known Breyer Defense, which has enjoyed great popularity lately. Spassky handled it well, and Fischer had trouble with it.

Spassky sacrificed a pawn at an early stage in order to receive free play for his pieces. This he achieved, but made a tactical error on his 25th move, enabling Fischer to initiate an attack. Even then Spassky could have defended better than he did.

Fischer won the exchange. Spassky fought on, but to no avail.

RUY LOPEZ

<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-K4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3
3 B-N5	P-QR3
4 B-R4	N-B3
5 O-O	B-K2
6 R-K1	P-QN4
7 B-N3	P-Q3
8 P-B3	O-O
9 P-KR3	N-N1

Breyer's idea was to relocate this knight at Q2, in order to be in a position to strike at the center with . . . P-QB4 and also to develop the QB at QN2, where it will exert pressure on White's KP.

10 P-Q4	QN-Q2
11 QN-Q2	B-N2
12 B-B2	R-K1
13 P-QN4	

Another system is 13 N-B1-N3.

13 . . .	B-KB1
14 P-QR4	

The system adopted by White in this game is for the purpose of playing positionally with action directed at the center and the queen side pawns.

14 . . .	N-N3
----------	------

Spassky is provoking P-R5. He was content to lose a few tempi in order to close up the queen side.

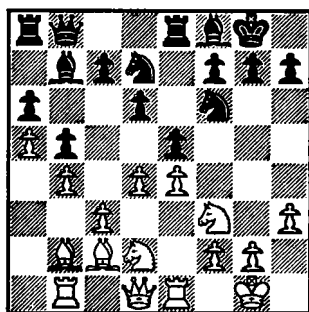
15 P-R5	QN-Q2
16 B-N2	Q-N1!

A hidden and clever move. Black was preparing the sacrifice of a pawn for freedom of movement.

17 R-N1	P-B4!
18 NPxP	QPxP
19 PxKP	QNxP
20 NxN	QxN
21 P-QB4	Q-B5
22 BxN	QxB

Better than 22 . . . PxB; 23 PxP, KR-Q1; 24 R-K3.

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 18

Position after White's 17 R-N1

23 P_xP KR-Q1
24 O-B1

Directed against the threat of . . . O-B6.

24 . . . Q-QB6
25 N-B3 QxP?

An amazing mistake, which handed over the initiative to Fischer. With 25 . . . PxP, Black could retain the advantage. For instance, if 26 RxP, B-R3; 27 R-N3, QxP, and if 26 N-N5 (threatening 27 NxBP, KxN?; 28 B-N3ch, winning the queen), Q-Q7.

26 B-N3!

Exerting pressure against Black's KBP, which posed a real problem for Black.

26 . . . P_xP
27 Q-B4 R-O2?

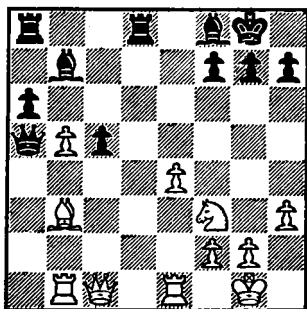
BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)**

Diagram 19

Position after White's 26 B-N3

The losing move. With 27 . . . P-B5, Black could have held his own: 28 BxP, PxB; 29 RxB, Q-R4, and if 30 N-K5, R-Q8; 31 RxR, QxRch; 32 K-R2, P-B3; 33 NxP, Q-Q5!

28 N-K5

Q-B2

29 QR-Q!

R-K2

If 29 . . . QR-Q1; 30 BxPch, RxB (leading to mate would be 30 . . . K-R1; 31 N-N6ch, PxN; 32 Q-R4 mate); 31 QxRch, QxQ; 32 NxQ, RxR; 33 RxR, KxN; 34 R-Q7ch, remaining the exchange ahead.

30 BxPch

RxB

31 QxRch

QxQ

32 NxQ

BxP

32 . . . KxN; 33 R-Q7ch.

33 RxB

Best. Inferior would be 33 N-R6ch (in order to break up Black's pawns on the king side), PxR; 34 RxB, P-B5, in which Black could accomplish something with his two connected passed pawns.

33 . . .	KxN
34 R-Q7ch	K-B3
35 R-N7	

Ordinarily, Black would have a good chance of survival with the bishop and the two pawns. But in this position, White was able to inactivate the passed pawns with his rook, and the endgame was, consequently, hopelessly lost.

35 . . .	R-R8ch
36 K-R2	B-Q3ch
37 P-N3	P-N5
38 K-N2	P-R4
39 R-N6	R-Q8

If 39 . . . K-B4; 40 R-R4 wins a pawn.

40 K-B3	K-B2
41 K-K2	R-Q4
42 P-B4!	

Now that Black is reduced to complete passivity, White is taking advantage of his pawn majority on the king side.

42 . . .	P-N3
43 P-N4	PxP
44 PxP	P-N4

A last desperate attempt at acquiring counter-play.

45 P-B5

Not 45 PxP?, B-K4; 46 P-N6ch, K-N2, with good chances for a draw.

45 . . .	B-K4
46 R-N5	K-B3
47 R(4) xP	B-Q5
48 R-N6ch	K-K4
49 K-B3!	R-Q1

49 . . . PxR; 50 R-K6 mate.

50 R-N8	R-Q2
51 R(4)-N7	R-Q3
52 R-N6	R-Q2
53 R-N6	Resigns

The knight pawn was lost, which would give White two powerfully connected free pawns. Black had no counter-play. The advance of Black's bishop pawn was impossible; for if 53 . . . P-B5; 54 R-N5ch, R-Q4; 55 R-K6 mate. An attempt at a perpetual check would also fail: 53 . . . R-QR2; 54 R-K8ch, K-Q4; 55 RxP, R-R6ch; 56 K-B4, with no more checks available for Black.

Game 11

Before this game started, Spassky was three points behind. Realizing the urgency of the situation, Spassky mustered all of his resourcefulness and played his best game of the match so far.

Playing White, Spassky opened with 1 P-K4. Fischer, undaunted, played the Sicilian Defense again. He took the “poisoned pawn,” and this time Spassky varied from the 7th game. He was obviously prepared for this variation this time.

Fischer played aggressively—too much so. He tried to set up a quick mating threat, but Spassky found the correct defense, and Fischer found himself in a precarious situation. His queen was suddenly trapped. He could not save it, and the rest was elementary.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	P-Q3
3 P-Q4	PxP
4 NxP	N-KB3
5 N-QB3	P-QR3
6 B-KN5	P-K3
7 P-B4	Q-N3
8 Q-Q2	QxP
9 N-N3	Q-R6
10 BxN	

Different from the 7th game, where Spassky played 10 B-Q3. The textmove makes more sense since it breaks up Black's pawn position on the king wing, making it dangerous for Black to castle on the king side.

10 . . .	PxB
11 B-K2	P-KR4

Preventing B-KR5, where the bishop would exert pressure on Black's KBP.

12 0-0	N-B3
13 K-R1	

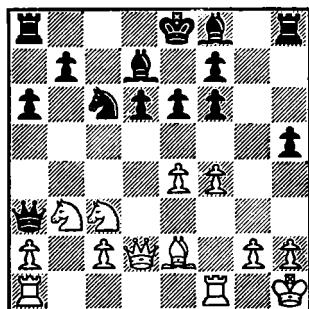
To get out of a possible check.

13 . . .	B-Q2
----------	------

Indicating that he might castle on the queen side.

14 N-N1!

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 20

Position after Black's 13 . . . B-Q2

A fine conception. White wants to advance his queen bishop pawn, in order to get a strong bind in the center; in addition, it serves to endanger Black's queen by reducing the squares available to it.

14 . . . Q-N5

If 14 . . . Q-N7; 15 P-QR3, followed by 16 N-B3 and 17 R-R2, trapping the queen.

15 Q-K3

Depriving Black's queen the flight square, QN3.

15 . . . P-Q4

The immediate threat was 16 P-QR3, Q-R5; 17 N-B3, and the queen would be lost. This explains the reason for Black's last move. The only other alternative to save the queen was 15 . . . Q-R5, so that if 16 P-QR3, N-K2; 17 N-B3, Q-B3.

16 PxP	N-K2
17 P-B4	N-B4
18 Q-Q3.	P-R5?

Trying to set up a mating trap: 19 . . . N-N6ch; 20 PxN, PxPch; 21 K-R1, B-B4ch; 22 N-Q4, P-K4, etc. Wiser was 18 . . . B-B4.

19 B-N4!

So that if 19 . . . N-N6ch; 20 PxN, PxPch; 21 B-R3.

19 . . . N-Q3?

White was threatening to play 20 BxN, giving Black a triple pawn. The textmove turned out badly. Preferable was 19 . . . N-R3.

20 N(1)-Q2

P-B4

21 P-QR3

Q-N3

Unavailing was 21 . . . Q-R5 because of 22 Q-B3, attacking the rook and, at the same time, intending to trap the queen with N-QB5.

22 P-B5

Q-N4?

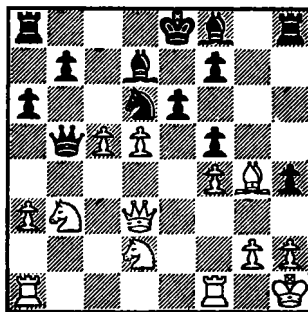
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 21

Position after Black's 22 . . . Q-N4

The only try was 22 . . . Q-Q1, but after 23 B-B3, B-N4; 24 Q-Q4 Black's position would be bad.

23 Q-QB3!

And now, White had three threats: he was attacking the KR with his queen, the knight was attacked and White was about to win Black's queen by playing 24 P-R4. Was there a way out for Fischer? There was not.

23 . . .	PxB
24 P-R4	P-R6

If 24 . . . Q-K7; 25 QR-K1, QxRch; 26 RxQ, and White wins more material.

25 PxQ	PxPch
26 KxP	R-R6

Why did Fischer continue with a queen down? Nobody had the answer!

27 Q-B6	N-B4
28 P-B6	B-B1
29 QPxP	BPxP
30 KR-K1	B-K2
31 KRxP	Resigns

This was the champion's first good game out of 11 games!

Game 12

The opening was certainly a surprise. Fischer, White, played, again, 1 P-QB4, and, once again, Spassky responded with the Queen Pawn Opening.

The opening turned into an old form of the Orthodox Variation. Up to Black's 16th move, the game went exactly as in the game Stahlberg-Capablanca, Margate 1936, an event in which I participated and won and also received the coveted title of Grandmaster. Spassky improved on Capablanca's 16th move and obtained approximate equality.

Fischer managed to get the two bishops against a knight and bishop for Spassky. He had a slight positional advantage, but Spassky's calm defensive tactics prevented Fischer from making any appreciable progress. The game ended in a draw after 55 moves.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-QB4	P-K3
2 N-KB3	P-Q4
3 P-Q4	N-KB3
4 N-B3	B-K2
5 B-N5	P-KR3
6 B-R4	O-O
7 P-K3	QN-Q2

8 R-B1	P-B3
9 B-Q3	PxP
10 BxP	P-QN4
11 B-Q3	P-R3

Intending to strike at the center with 12 . . . P-QB4.

12 P-R4

Preventing the freeing . . . P-QB4.

12 . . .	PxP
----------	-----

Better than 12 . . . P-N5; 13 BxN, PxP (13 . . . NxP; 14 N-K4 with advantage); 14 N-K4, P-KB4; 15 N-N3, P-B4; 16 P-Q5 with advantage.

13 NxP

Preventing, again, . . . P-QB4.

13 . . .	Q-R4ch
14 N-Q2	B-N5
15 N-B3	P-B4
16 N-N3	Q-Q1

In the Stahlberg-Capablanca game, the latter continued 16 . . . Q-N3. The textmove was superior because it did not allow White to win an important tempo by attacking the queen with the knight.

17 O-O	PxP
18 NxP	B-N2
19 B-K4!	

A very fine positional stroke. White wants to gain control of his QB6 square by forcing exchange of Black's queen bishop.

19 . . .	Q-N1!
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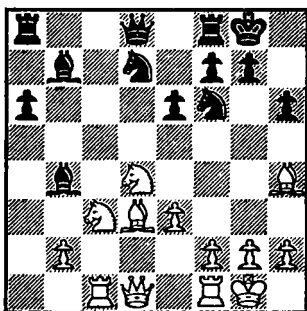
BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)**

Diagram 22

Position after Black's 18 . . . B-N2

One good move deserves another. Not 19 . . . BxN?; 20 BxB, R-N1; 21 N-B6, winning material. 19 . . . R-N1 was, however, another possibility. If 20 BxB, RxB; 21 N-B6, Q-N3; 22 N-R4, Q-N4.

20 B-N3

Q-R2

The queen was being chased, but, nevertheless, White could not benefit much.

21 N-B6

B(2)xN

22 BxB

QR-B1

23 N-R4

KR-Q1

24 B-B3

Black's reply to 24 Q-B3 (which appeared as a strengthening of the bind) would be 24 . . . N-N1, disposing of one of the bishops.

24 . . .	P-QR4
25 R-B6	

25 RxR, RxR; 26 Q-Q3 was more promising.

25 . . .	RxR
26 BxR	R-QB1
27 B-B3	

27 Q-B3 would be met satisfactorily by 27 . . . N-B4.

27 . . .	Q-R3
28 P-R3	Q-N4
29 B-K2	Q-B3
30 B-B3	Q-N4
31 P-N3	

Spassky was satisfied to repeat moves, but not Fischer.

31 . . .	B-K2
32 B-K2	Q-N5

Strange, Black's queen has been moving one square at a time for a number of moves!

33 B-R6	R-B3
34 B-Q3	N-B4

Better was 34 . . . B-Q3, and if 35 Q-B3, R-B1; 36 B-R6, R-N1.

35 Q-B3	R-B1
36 NxN	

36 R-B1 would be met by 36 . . . R-Q1.

36 . . .	BxN
37 R-B1	R-Q1
38 B-B4	Q-Q7!

Causing White's rook to get out of play.

39 R-B1

B-N5

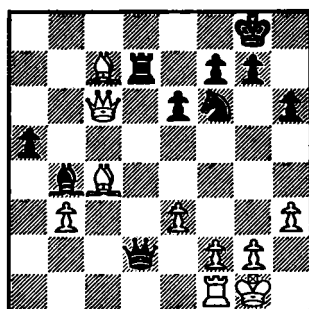
40 B-B7

R-Q2

White's roving bishops have not been able to achieve anything substantial.

41 Q-B6

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 23

Position after White's 41 Q-B6

The sealed move, threatening to annoy the rook, once again, with 42 B-N5.

41 . . .

Q-B7!

Pinning White's king bishop. It also enabled Black's rook to reach the seventh rank.

42 B-K5

Not 42 BxRP?, BxB; 43 Q-R8ch, B-Q1. If 42 Q-R8ch, K-R2; 43 BxRP, Q-R7, winning the bishop.

42 . . .	R-Q7
43 Q-R8ch	K-R2
44 BxN	PxB

Fischer was able to break up Black's king pawn formation, but this was not sufficient to offer him any advantage.

45 Q-B3	P-B4
46 P-N4	Q-K5
47 K-N2	K-N3
48 R-B1	B-R6
49 R-QR1	B-N5
50 R-QB1	B-K2

Now, Spassky refused to repeat moves. Does that tell us anything?

51 PxPch	PxP
52 R-K1	RxPch
53 KxR	B-R5ch
54 K-K2	QxQch
55 KxQ	BxR
Drawn	

Game 13

Spassky, as White, resorted to the king pawn opening. Fischer, trounced in the 11th game when he played the Sicilian Defense, employed psychology and played the Alekhine Defense, which, if memory serves, he had never used against a strong adversary.

Spassky was so befuddled that he misplayed the opening. On his 13th turn, he was compelled to give up a pawn, for which he obtained a superficial bind on the center. He was able to restrict the movement of Fischer's pieces. In a cramped position, Fischer defended precisely. Pieces were exchanged, leading to an ending of rooks and bishops of opposite colors. Fischer was two pawns ahead at adjournment.

The most exciting phase of the game occurred after adjournment when Spassky and his assistants found a unique line, and the fireworks began. Spassky played excellently up to a certain point. On his 69th move, he made an inferior move and threw away the draw he was fighting for so hard.

ALEKHINE DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	N-KB3
2 P-K5	N-Q4
3 P-Q4	P-Q3
4 N-KB3	P-KN3
5 B-QB4	

Another line is 5 P-B4, N-N3; 6 PxP, BPxP; 7 N-QB3.

5 . . .	N-N3
6 B-N3	B-N2
7 QN-Q2	

So that after 7 . . . PxP; 8 PxP, Black would not be able to exchange queens.

7 . . .	0-0
8 P-KR3	

To prevent 8 . . . B-N5, pinning the knight.

8 . . .	P-QR4
9 P-QR4?	

Preferable was 9 P-QR3, leaving a flight square for the KB after it is attacked by . . . P-QR5.

9 . . .	PxP
10 PxP	N-R3
11 0-0	N-B4
12 Q-K2	Q-K1!

Winning a pawn.

13 N-K4

There was no way of saving the QR pawn; for if 13 Q-N5, QxQ; 14 PxQ, B-Q2, attacking the pawn, which would be indefensible.

13 . . .	N(3)xP
14 BxN	NxB
15 R-K1	

Spassky discards 15 Q-B4, B-Q2; 16 QxP, B-QB3; 17 R-K1, Q-Q1, with the better prospects. He probably overestimated his position.

15 . . .	N-N3
16 B-Q2	P-QR5
17 B-N5	P-R3
18 B-R4	B-B4
19 P-KN4	

19 N-Q4 looks more promising. If 19 . . . BxP; 20 NxN, PxN; 21 N-N3, BxP; 22 NxP, with attacking possibilities. White was a pawn down. Sharp play was mandatory.

19 . . .	B-K3
----------	------

19 . . . BxN; 20 QxB would give White dominating influence of the board.

20 N-Q4	B-B5
21 Q-Q2	Q-Q2

Black managed to get his pieces into play.

22 QR-Q1	KR-K1
23 P-B4	B-Q4
24 N-QB5	

White appeared to have a reasonable position, but because of the exposure of his king, White was not in a position to undertake vigorous action against Black's king position. Consequently, White had no choice but to pursue a positional course.

24 . . .	Q-B1
25 Q-B3	P-K3
26 K-R2	

More promising was 26 B-N3 (in order to make P-B5 possible), and if 26 . . . N-Q2; 27 NxN, QxN; 28 P-B5, KPxP; 29 PxP, PxP; 30 R-KB1, threatening NxP,

and Black could not play 30 . . . BxP because of 31 BxB, RxB; 32 Q-N3ch, winning the rook.

26 . . .	N-Q2
27 N-Q3	P-QB4
28 N-N5	Q-B3
29 N-Q6	QxN
30 PxQ	BxQ
31 PxB	P-B3

To prevent B-K7.

32 P-N5	RPxP
33 PxP	P-B4
34 B-N3	K-B2
35 N-K5ch	NxN
36 BxN	

The play of both sides was forced.

36 . . .	P-N4
37 R-KB1	

White's threat now was 38 R-B4-R4-R7ch.

37 . . .	R-R1!
38 B-B6	

Bad would be 38 BxR, RxB, and Black would pick up White's QP easily and have an easy win.

38 . . .	P-R6
39 R-B4	P-R7
40 P-B4	

So that White's bishop would control the QR1 square.

40 . . .	BxP
41 P-Q7	B-Q4

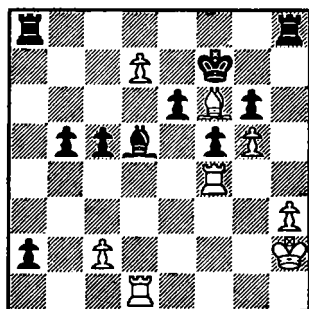
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 24

Position after Black's 41 . . . B-Q4

The adjourned position, an unusually complex one. The experts gave Spassky practically no chance of drawing.

42 K-N3!

The sealed move. It threatened 43 R-KR4, and if the rook on KR1 moved, then R-R7ch, with, at least, a perpetual check.

42 . . . R-R6ch

Preferable was 42 . . . P-K4; 43 BxP, K-K3, with complications.

43 P-QB3

43 K-B2 would not suffice because of 43 . . . R(6)xP; 44 P-Q8(Q), RxQ; 45 BxR, P-K4 and the rook would be trapped.

43 . . .	R(1)-R1
44 R-KR4	P-K4

To avoid the perpetual check.

45 R-R7ch	K-K3
46 R-K7ch	K-Q3
47 RxP	RxPch
48 K-B2	R-B7ch
49 K-K1	KxP

A remarkable endgame. The analysts of both sides did a thorough job.

50 R(5)xBch	K-B3
51 R-Q6ch	K-N2
52 R-Q7ch	

52 R-K6 was tempting, but after 52 . . . R-QB1; 53 B-K5, R-B3; 54 R-Q7ch, K-B1, it would not leave White much play.

52 . . .	K-R3
53 R(7)-Q2	RxR
54 KxR	P-N5
55 P-R4	K-N4
56 P-R5	P-QB5
57 R-QR1	

Parrying the threat of 57 . . . P-B6ch, followed by 58 . . . P-R8(Q).

57 . . .	PxP
58 P-N6	P-R5
59 P-N7	

Unsatisfactory was 59 BxP, P-B6ch; 60 K-B2 (60

K-Q3, R-Q1ch), K-B5, followed by . . . P-N6ch with telling effect.

59 . . .	P-R6
60 B-K7	R-KN1
61 B-B8	

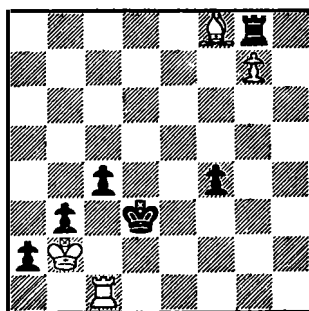
The rook is locked in, and yet Black still has winning chances.

61 . . .	P-R7
62 K-B2	K-B3
63 R-Q1!	

The king shall not pass!

63 . . .	P-N6ch
64 K-B3	P-KR8(Q)
65 RxQ	K-Q4
66 K-N2	P-B5
67 R-Q1ch	K-K5

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 25

Position after Black's 68 . . . K-Q6

68 R-QB1	K-Q6
69 R-Q1ch??	

The losing move. It must have been heartbreaking for Spassky to have defended so magnificently up to this point and then throw away the game with one move. The correct move was 69 R-B3ch, K-Q5 (if 69 . . . K-K7; 70 RxBP, P-B6; 71 R-B6, P-B7; 72 R-K6ch, K-Q6; 73 R-KB6, etc.); 70 R-B3, P-B6ch; 71 K-R1, P-B7; 72 RxPch, K-B6 (72 . . . K-Q6; 73 R-B1, K-Q7; 74 K-N2); 73 B-N4ch, K-Q6; 74 R-B1, RxP; 75 K-N2, and Black would not be able to make headway.

69 . . .	K-K7
70 R-QB1	P-KB6
71 B-B5	

If 71 RxP, P-B7; 72 R-K4ch, K-B6; 73 R-K6, P-B8(Q) and wins.

71 . . .	RxP
72 RxP	R-Q2!

If 75 BxP, R-Q8; 76 R-QR4, R-N8ch; 77 K-B3, KxB, and wins. If 75 R-B4, RxB; 76 RxR, K-K7; 77 R-K4ch, K-B6; 78 R-K8, P-B8(Q); 79 R-B8ch, K-K7; 80 RxQ, KxR; 81 K-R1, K-K7; 82 K-N2, K-Q7; 83 K-R1, K-Q6; 84 K-N2, P-R8(Q)ch; 85 KxQ, K-B6; 86 K-N1, P-N7; 87 K-R2, K-B7, and wins.

The winning move which Spassky must have overlooked.

73 R-K4ch	K-B8
74 B-Q4	P-B7
Resigns	

Game 14

Fischer, White, returned to 1 P-QB4. Spassky, as in previous games, stuck to the Queen's Pawn opening. Fischer selected on his 5th move B-B4, instead of B-N5, which he played in the other games.

The well-known Tarrasch Variation, in which Spassky was saddled with an isolated queen pawn, offered little play for either side. Fischer had a slight positional advantage but with little prospect of making headway. The position was approximately even. Fischer, however, was not content with equality and pressed too vigorously. As a consequence, he made a tactical error on move 18. Spassky seized the initiative immediately, even though Fischer remained with the two bishops.

Fischer was compelled to exchange queens in order to extricate himself from a bad situation but lost a pawn in the process. Spassky had good winning chances in the ensuing endgame, but, on move 27, as has been his custom, committed a blunder, overlooking a one move combination, returning the pawn and giving up all hope for a win. The game was drawn after 40 moves.

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING

Fischer

White

- 1 P-QB4
- 2 N-KB3
- 3 P-Q4

Spassky

Black

- P-K3
- P-Q4
- N-KB3

4 N-B3	B-K2
5 B-B4	0-0
6 P-K3	P-QB4

The best reaction to White's set-up. However, also possible is 6 . . . P-B3; 7 B-Q3, QN-Q2, leading to a form of the Orthodox Variation.

7 PxBP	N-B3
--------	------

There's no rush in recapturing the pawn—White cannot defend it satisfactorily.

8 PxQP	PxP
9 B-K2	BxP
10 0-0	B-K3
11 R-B1	R-B1

Although Black has an isolated queen pawn, White cannot exert pressure against it. The position is even. Fischer probably chose this variation because of his commanding lead of 3 points and was reluctant to assume any unnecessary risk.

12 P-QR3

Black's queen pawn was immune to capture. For if 12 NxP, NxN; 13 RxB, NxB; 14 PxN, BxP with the better position.

12 . . .	P-KR3
13 B-N3	

Now, Black's pawn was threatened. Consequently, Black's reply.

13 . . .	B-N3
14 N-K5	N-K2!

Spassky was inviting complications. He could have simplified with 14 . . . P-Q5; 15 NxN, RxN; 16 PxP, BxP with perfect equality. For if in this 17 B-B3, R-N3, and White could not continue 18 N-R4? because of 18 . . . B-N6, winning the knight.

15 N-R4

N-K5

Both knights are attacking bishops.

16 RxR

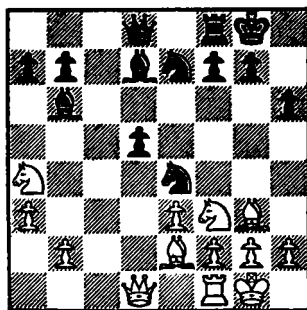
BxR

17 N-KB3

B-Q2!

18 B-K5?

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 26

Position after Black's 17 . . . B-Q2

In his desire to retain the two bishops, Fischer overlooked Black's sharp reply. Wise was 18 NxB, QxN; 19 Q-Q4, QxQ; 20 NxQ, R-B1; 21 B-Q3, with a balanced position.

18 . . .	BxN!
19 QxB	N-QB3
20 B-KB4?	

Overestimating his position and, therefore, still unwilling to give up the two bishops' advantage. Imperative was 20 B-Q4.

20 . . .	Q-B3!
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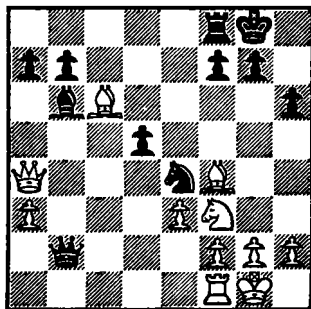
Now, White was in trouble. The dual threats are (1) the queen knight pawn is attacked, (2) Black is threatening to trap White's queen bishop with 21 . . . P-N4; 22 B-N3, P-R4-5. White is unable to parry the two threats satisfactorily.

21 B-QN5

If 21 Q-N3, P-Q5; 22 Q-Q5, R-K1, with good play.

21 . . .	QxP
22 BxN	N-B6!

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 27

Position after White's 22 BxN

The move Fischer probably overlooked. It wins a pawn by force.

23 Q-N4

No better was 23 B-K5 because of 23 . . . NxQ; 24 BxQ, PxB.

23 . . .	QxQ
24 PxQ	PxB
25 B-K5	N-N4

25 . . . N-R7 would be a mistake because of 25 . . . R-N1, and the knight would be imprisoned.

26 R-B1	R-B1
27 N-Q4	

Setting up a trap, and Spassky bit for it.

27 . . .	P-B3??
----------	--------

It is most incredible that the world champion would make an oversight involving a one move combination! The correct continuation was 27 . . . NxN; 28 BxN, K-B1; 29 BxB, PxB; 30 K-B1, K-B1, with good winning chances. Also 27 . . . BxN; 28 BxB, K-B1 would offer Black winning chances.

28 BxP	BxN
--------	-----

If 28 . . . PxB; 29 NxN with an even position.

29 BxB	NxB
30 PxN	R-N1
31 K-B1	

Not 31 RxP because of 31 . . . P-QR4, followed by 32 . . . PxP, getting a strong passed pawn. Of course, not in this, 32 PxP, R-N8ch.

31 . . .	RxP
32 RxP	RxP
33 R-R6	K-B2
34 RxPch	

It is an easy draw now.

34 . . .	K-B3
35 R-Q7	P-R4
36 K-K2	P-N4
37 K-K3	R-K5ch
38 K-Q3	K-K3
39 R-KN7	K-B3
40 R-Q7	K-K3
Drawn	

Game 15

Playing White, Spassky opened with his king pawn. Fischer, although he defeated the champion with the Alekhine Defense in the 13th game, reverted to his favorite, the Sicilian Defense.

On his 7th move, Fischer varied from previous games of this opening. Instead of continuing 7 Q-N3, going for the "poisoned pawn," he continued 7 . . . B-K2. Spassky, apparently prepared for this, was able to get an overwhelming position. White's 13th move, bishop takes knight, posed a real problem for the challenger.

He had three ways of recapturing the bishop. None was favorable for him. He finally decided to give up a pawn.

The champion had a won position but made several inferior moves, permitting Fischer to build up a strong attack. Only superb defense saved Spassky from defeat. The game ended in a draw.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	P-Q3
3 P-Q4	PxP
4 NxP	N-KB3
5 N-QB3	P-QR3
6 B-KN5	P-K3

7 P-B4	B-K2
8 Q-B3	Q-B2
9 0-0-0	

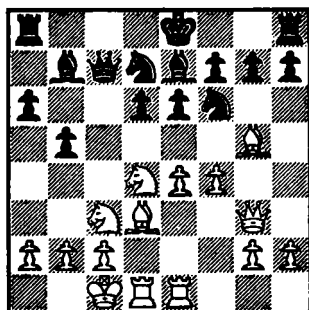
This is an announcement that Spassky was not playing for a draw. Castling on the queen side is usually a strong indication of intended aggressive action.

9 . . .	QN-Q2
10 B-Q3	P-N4
11 KR-K1	B-N2
12 Q-N3!	

A very strong move, which presented Fischer with a difficult problem. If he castled on the king side, White would obtain a powerful attack with 13 P-K5.

12 . . .	0-0-0
----------	-------

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 28

Position after White's 12 Q-N3

The only alternative, which also has drawbacks. But the monarch could not remain in the middle of the board.

Against 12 . . . P-N5, to drive the knight away from the center, White could continue energetically with 13 N-Q5!, PxN; 14 PxP, and if 14 . . . K-B1; 15 N-B5, attacking the bishop, and if Black defends by playing 15 . . . R-K1, then 16 B-R6 would be crushing. Consequently, Fischer decided to try his luck on the other wing. But this also had drawbacks.

13 BxN

NxB

13 . . . PxB would have left Black with a poor pawn structure and an inactive king bishop. 13 . . . BxB would be unwise because of 14 BxP, PxB (14 . . . BxN; 15 BxNch, followed by 16 RxB, remaining with a pawn to the good); 15 N(Q4)xNP, followed by NxPch, with a clearly won position.

14 QxP

The question is what did Black have for the pawn? The answer is that he had nothing for it.

14 . . .

QR-B1

15 Q-N3

This retreat of the queen was necessary because of the threat of 15 . . . KR-N1, attacking the queen and king knight pawn.

15 . . .

P-N5

16 N-R4

KR-N1

Why did not Fischer try to regain the pawn with 16 . . . Q-R4; 17 P-N3, N-R4; 18 Q-B2, NxP and White could not capture the knight because of B-N4, winning the queen? The answer is that after

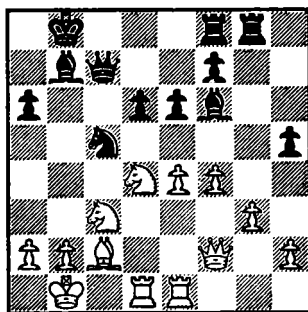
18 . . . NxP, White would play 19 BxP, BxB (if 19 . . . QxB; 20 QxN); 20 N-B6, Q-B2; 21 NxBch, QxN; 22 QxN.

17 Q-B2	N-Q2
18 K-N1	K-N1
19 P-B3	N-B4
20 B-B2	PxP

Unproductive was 20 . . . NxN; 21 BxN, PxP; 22 R-QB1, Q-R4; 23 B-B6, with good play for White.

21 NxBP	B-KB3
22 P-KN3	P-KR4
23 P-K5?	

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 29

Position after Black's 22 . . . P-KR4

A questionable idea, because it made the pawn at K5 a target for Black's forces. Spassky was too eager to open lines quickly. Wiser was either 23 R-K3, followed by

N-R4, or 23 R-QB1, followed by N-R4, opening the queen bishop file for action of the rooks, without permitting White to have any counter-play.

23 . . .	PxP
24 PxP	B-KR1!

The bishop here exerted pressure on White's king pawn. Unwise would be 23 . . . BxP; 24 N(Q4)-N5, PxN; 25 NxNP, Q-N3; 26 RxB, QxN; 27 RxN with an easily won position.

25 N-B3

25 Q-K3 was to be considered, and if Black tried to win the king pawn with 25 . . . N-Q2; 26 B-K4 would force the exchange of Black's queen bishop. Black would win the queen pawn, but Black's king would be exposed to White's pieces.

25 . . .	R-Q1
26 RxRch	RxR
27 N-KN5	

Unfortunately for White, he could not continue 27 N-K4 (in an attempt to simplify by forcing the exchange of pieces) because of 27 . . . NxN; 28 BxN, BxBch; 29 RxB, R-Q8 mate.

27 . . .	BxP
28 QxP	

Bad would be 28 NxBP, BxN; 29 PxB, R-KB1 with a nasty pin.

28 . . .	R-Q2
29 QxRP?	

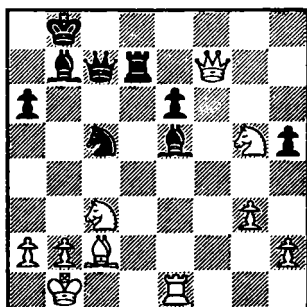
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 30

Position after Black's 28 . . . R-Q2

This gave Fischer too many attacking chances. Wiser was to bring the queen back to the aid of the king by playing 29 Q-B2, and if 29 . . . BxN; 30 PxB. And now, Black could have two possibilities: (1) 30 . . . Q-N3ch; 31 B-N3, with no difficulty, (2) 30 . . . N-Q6; 31 BxN, RxB; 32 Q-B4, with some winning chances.

29 . . .	BxN
30 PxB	Q-N3ch
31 K-B1	Q-R4

Now, White's king was dangerously exposed, and the two pawns were attacked.

32 Q-R8ch	K-R2
33 P-QR4	

The only defense. Black's queen had to be kept out of White's QR3, QR2, where it would menace the king's

safety. The moves from here to the 40th move were made in rapid succession, as both players had little time left.

33 . . .	N-Q6ch
34 BxN	RxB
35 K-B2	R-Q4
36 R-K4	R-Q1

36 . . . RxN; 37 Q-Q4ch, followed by 38 RxP, with the attack over. All winning chances would be lost for Black, because all White would have to do to get a draw would be to exchange queens, and the ending would be a theoretical draw.

37 Q-N7

Protecting the knight and pinning the bishop.

37 . . .	Q-KB4
38 K-N3	

Getting out of the pin.

38 . . .	Q-Q4ch
----------	--------

Fischer could have better winning chances with 38 . . . R-Q8.

39 K-R3	Q-Q7
40 R-QN4	Q-B8ch
41 R-N2	Q-R8ch
42 R-R2	Q-B8ch
43 R-N2	Q-R8ch
Drawn	

If either played differently, he would get into trouble.

Game 16

Conducting the White pieces, the challenger returned to the king pawn opening. Spassky replied with 1 . . . P-K4, discarding the Sicilian Defense.

Fischer played the Ruy Lopez, choosing the Exchange Variation, a quiet line, which usually leads to quiet positions, offering little play for either side. Apparently, Fischer was not in a fighting mood, being content with his comfortable lead of three points.

Spassky tried to complicate matters. He managed to outplay his opponent. Fischer defended well. Although the champion won a pawn, he was unable to utilize the extra pawn to any extent, because he was saddled with triple queen bishop pawns.

In the resultant endgame, Spassky remained with a pawn ahead, but this was not sufficient to score the point.

RUY LOPEZ

<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-K4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3
3 B-N5	P-QR3
4 BxN	QPxB
5 0-0	

Not 5 NxP because of either 5 . . . Q-Q5, or 5 . . . Q-N4, regaining the pawn with advantage.

5 . . .	P-B3
6 P-Q4	B-KN5
7 PxP	QxQ
8 RxQ	PxP
9 R-Q3	B-Q3

The play up to now is well known. It first occurred in a game, Fischer-Smyslov, in which the latter continued 9 . . . BxN; 10 RxB, PxP, with an even position. The Russians were prepared for this line and came up with an even better continuation for Black.

10 QN-Q2	N-B3
----------	------

Also playable is 10 . . . P-QN4, preventing 11 N-B4. The textmove is better.

11 N-B4	NxP
12 QNxP	

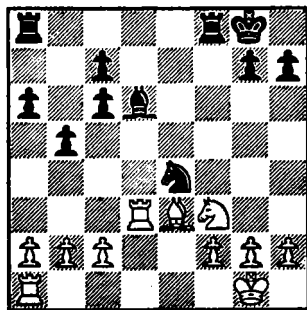
If 12 KNxP, B-K3 (12 . . . B-K7; 13 R-K3 would be bad for Black); 13 R-K3, KBxN; 14 NxB (14 RxN, BxN, with equality), 0-0-0, with a good game.

12 . . .	QBxN
13 NxB	0-0

The reason Black did not castle on the queen side was because he wanted to have the opportunity to initiate action on that wing. If he castled on that side, it would preclude that, because the king would be subject to attack when the queen side pawns were advanced.

14 B-K3	P-QN4!
---------	--------

Black was saddled with doubled bishop pawns, and so he decided to undertake action to nullify that disadvantage.

BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)****Diagram 31**

Position after Black's 14 . . . P-QN4

15 P-B4?

A premature advance. It is true that if 15 . . . PxP; 16 R-Q4 would regain the pawn with a fine position, but Black was not forced to take the pawn. Better was 15 N-Q2 (in order to drive away Black's well-posted knight), N-B4 (if 15 . . . NxN; 16 RxN, leaving little play for Black); 16 R-B3, N-R5; 17 RxP, NxP; 18 B-Q4, N-R5; 19 N-K4 with good play.

15 . . . QR-N1!

A very fine move, enabling Black to open the queen knight file for action.

16 R-QB1

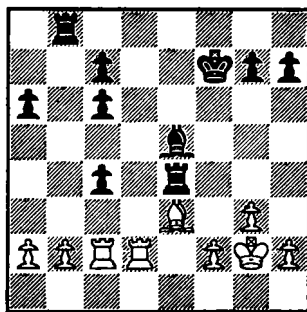
A good alternative was 16 PxP enabling Black to undouble his bishop pawn by recapturing the pawn with the bishop pawn, but the suggested move would keep Black's QR out of play for awhile.

16 . . .	PxP
17 R-Q4	KR-K1
18 N-Q2	

Disposing of the nasty knight.

18 . . .	NxN
19 RxN	R-K5
20 P-KN3	B-K4
21 R(1)-B2	K-B2
22 K-N2	RxP!

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 32

Position after White's 22 K-N2

An interesting move, but was it sufficient to win?

23 K-B3

23 RxR, P-B6; 24 R(N2)-B2, PxR; 25 RxQP, K-K3
would offer Black better chances.

23 . . .	P-B6
24 KxR	PxR
25 RxQP	R-N4

25 . . . RxR would offer Black no winning chances. Black's passed queen bishop pawn could not be advanced advantageously.

26 R-B2

Regaining his pawn.

26 . . .

B-Q3

27 RxP

R-QR4

28 B-B4

R-R5ch

29 K-B3

R-R6ch

29 . . . BxB; 30 PxB, RxRP; 31 RxPch, K-N3; 32 R-B6ch, K-R4; 33 R-B5ch, K-R3; 34 R-B6ch, P-N3; 35 P-B5 would lead to nothing for Black.

30 K-K4

RxP

31 BxB

PxB

32 RxP

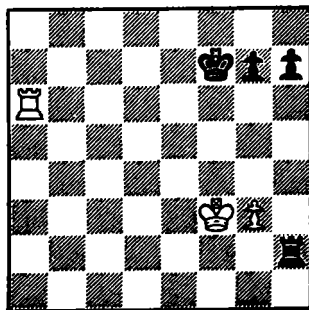
RxP

33 RxP

RxP

34 K-B3

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 33

Position after White's 34 K-B3?

The position is a theoretical draw. Curiously enough, the players refused to call it a draw and played 26 more moves before a draw was agreed upon. The rest of the moves are insignificant.

34 . . .	R-Q7
35 R-R7ch	K-B3
36 R-R6ch	K-K2
37 R-R7ch	R-Q2
38 R-R2	K-K3
39 K-N2	R-K2
40 K-R3	K-B3
41 R-R6ch	R-K3
42 R-R5	P-R3
43 R-R2	K-B2
44 R-B2ch	K-N4
45 R-B7	P-N3
46 R-B4	P-R4
47 R-B3	R-KB3
48 R-R3	R-K3
49 R-KB3	R-K5
50 R-R3	K-R3
51 R-R6	R-K4
52 K-R4	R-K5ch
53 K-R3	R-K2
54 K-R4	R-K4
55 R-N6	K-N2
56 R-N4	K-R3
57 R-N6	R-K8
58 K-R3	R-R8ch
59 K-N2	R-QR8
60 K-R3	R-R5
Drawn	

Game 17

The 17th game was interesting and exciting. Spassky made a strong bid for a win.

Conducting the White pieces, Spassky relied on the king pawn opening, again. This is really his forte. The king pawn opening lends itself more to combinative play than the queen pawn opening. It is only recently that Spassky has shifted from the former to the latter.

Fischer, again, tried to surprise the champion by playing 1 . . . P-Q3, a move he had never used in serious play. Spassky played enterprisingly, sacrificing a pawn early in the game for attacking possibilities.

Just as Spassky seemed to build up an attack, Fischer calmly gave up a rook for a bishop, relieving the pressure exerted by his opponent. The ensuing endgame was intricate.

After adjournment, a prolonged struggle was expected, but after five moves the game was drawn by a repetition of moves three times. This was surprising to all, in view of the fact that Spassky was behind three points in the match. Apparently, the champion and his second felt that the position offered very small winning chances, and that if he pressed too hard, Fischer might win, and Spassky's chances of retaining the title would vanish completely.

PIRC-ROBATSCH DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-Q3
2 P-Q4	P-KN3
3 N-QB3	N-KB3
4 P-B4	B-N2
5 N-B3	P-B4

Black must strike at the center immediately; otherwise, White would be in a position to strangle Black with the stronghold he would acquire in the center.

6 PxP

An alternative is 6 P-Q5, which leads to a different pattern in the middlegame.

6 . . .	Q-R4
7 B-Q3	

White must return the pawn. Bad would be 7 PxP, NxP, regaining the pawn with an excellent position.

7 . . .	QxBP
8 Q-K2	0-0
9 B-K3	Q-QR4
10 0-0	

The last three moves by White were normal developing moves.

10 . . .	B-N5
----------	------

Black was willing to give up his bishop for the knight, because the bishop could not be utilized satisfactorily in the coming middlegame.

11 QR-Q1

The champion took a comparatively long time for this move, and yet it does not seem to be the best. A better alternative was 11 Q-K1 with the threat of N-Q5 or with the idea of bringing the queen to KR4. Another possible move was 11 P-QR3, with an eventual P-QN4, driving the queen away.

11 . . .	N-B3
12 B-B4	

For the purpose of activating this bishop. Choice of the textmove was predicated on the idea of sacrificing a pawn for aggressive action.

12 . . .	N-R4
----------	------

Preventing P-KR3 on account of . . . N-N6.

13 B-N3	
---------	--

Provoking Fischer to take the pawn.

13 . . .	BxQN
14 PxB	QxBP

Accepting the challenge. Black's monarch was now more exposed to Spassky's contemplated assault.

15 P-B5	N-B3
16 P-KR3	BxN
17 QxB	N-QR4

Fischer's idea was to dispose of the dangerous king bishop, which could have caused him concern. 17 . . . N-K4; 18 Q-B4, P-QR4 was worthy of consideration.

18 R-Q3	Q-B2
19 B-R6	NxB

20 BPxN

Q-B4ch

21 K-R1

Q-K4!

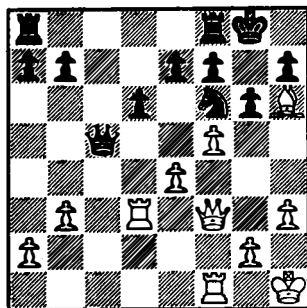
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 34

Position after White's 21 K-R1

Fischer decided to give up the exchange—an excellent idea! He realized that after 21 . . . KR-B1; 22 PxP, RPxP; 23 P-KN4, threatening P-N5, would be fatal for him.

22 BxR

RxB

23 R-K3

Protecting the king pawn, giving Black the opportunity to seize control of the queen bishop file with the next move. This important fact justified Black's sacrifice of the exchange.

23 . . .

R-B1

24 PxP

RPxP

25 Q-B4

Black's queen was too well posted, and White had to force the exchange of queens.

25 . . .

QxQ

If Black moved his queen, White would proceed strongly with P-K5.

26 RxQ

N-Q2

Heading for the stronghold K4.

27 R-B2

Preventing . . . R-B7.

27 . . .

N-K4

28 K-R2

R-B8

29 R(3)-K2

N-B3!

Blocking the bishop file so that White's rook could not penetrate into Black's home ground.

30 R-B2

R-K8

31 R(KB2)-K2

R-QR8

32 K-N3

K-N2

33 R(B2)-Q2

R-KB8

To prevent the king from reaching KB2. The well posted rook was hindering White's progress. It might be called a "nuisance rook."

34 R-KB2

R-K8

35 R(KB2)-K2

R-KB8

36 R-K3

P-QR3

37 R-QB3

R-K8

38 R-B4

R-KB8

39 R(2)-QB2

R-QR8

40 R-B2

R-K8

The adjourned position. Although White has material advantage, he is saddled with an isolated king pawn. In addition, Black's rook is well posted, so that White's rooks could not be utilized to their fullest. White's

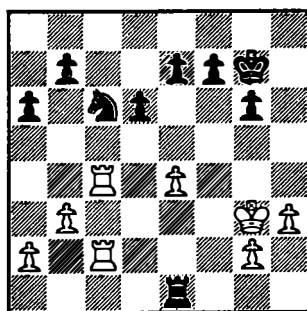
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 35

Position after Black's 40 . . . R-K8

available plans were: (1) To try to establish a passed king rook pawn. (2) To try to bring his king to KB2, his rooks to QN2 and K2, and attempt to exchange rooks at K1. If this could be done, White would have winning chances. (3) To try to bring his king to the queen side and advance his queen side pawns. (4) He could play R-QN2 in an attempt to advance his QNP.

41 R(KB2)-B2

Better was 41 P-KR4, to prevent Black's next move.

41 . . .	P-KN4
42 R-B1	R-K7
43 R(1)-B2	R-K8
44 R-B1	R-K7
45 R(1)-B2	Drawn

Apparently, Spassky and his assistants concluded, after exhaustive analysis, that the winning chances were too small to warrant the risk of losing.

Game 18

The 18th game was a fierce and interesting struggle. Fischer, White, opened with the king pawn. Spassky resorted to the Sicilian Defense, which he had not used since the third game of the match. The variation in this game was, however, different from the one in the third game. Fischer varied on his 6th move, playing B-KN5 instead of B-QB4, his favorite move.

On his 8th turn, Fischer castled on the queen side, indicating he was ready for a fight. Spassky advanced his queen side pawns, indicating his intention to attack. On his 18th move, Spassky closed the queen knight file, giving up the attack. This came as a great surprise to all.

A positional type of struggle arose. Fischer seemed to have the upper hand, after Spassky made a few questionable moves. Fischer won a pawn in the middlegame. Spassky never castled and was forced to bring his king to a safe haven on the queen side.

The resultant endgame was difficult and complex. Fischer was in a position to try something but elected to play safely and resorted to a repetition of moves. The game was drawn after 47 moves.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	P-Q3*

3 N-B3	N-QB3
4 P-Q4	PxP
5 NxP	N-B3
6 B-KN5	

6 B-QB4, Fischer's favorite continuation, had little success in the third game, and so Fischer varied in this game. As it turned out, he didn't fare so well with this move, either.

6 . . .	P-K3
7 Q-Q2	P-QR3

To prevent White from playing 8 KN-N5, exerting pressure on Black's queen pawn.

8 0-0-0	B-Q2
9 P-B4	B-K2
10 N-B3	P-N4

Announcing that he was not going to sit back and take it. Spassky declared by this move that he was going to fight back.

11 BxN	PxB
--------	-----

Assessing the position at this point, Black has a poor pawn structure, but, in return, he has attacking prospects.

12 B-Q3	Q-R4
---------	------

Threatening 13 . . . P-N5, which would win the queen rook pawn.

13 K-N1	
---------	--

Meeting the threat.

13 . .	P-N5
--------	------

14 N-K2

Q-QB4

15 P-B5

Offering a pawn.

15 . . .

P-QR4

Declining the offer. After 15 . . . PxP; 16 PxP, BxB; 17 BxB, QxB; 18 N-B4, White would have been able to post his knight at Q5, with devastating effect.

16 N-B4

Exerting pressure on the king pawn.

16 . . .

P-R5

If 16 . . . P-K4; 17 N-Q5, with telling effect.

17 R-QB1

R-QN1

18 P-B3

P-N6?

Allowing White to close the queen side. Spassky was afraid that if he played 18 . . . Q-N3, White would continue B-B4, attacking Black's king pawn. To be considered was 18 . . . N-K4 (preventing B-B4) and if 19 PxP, QxNP; 20 QxQ, RxQ; 21 R-B7, B-Q1; 22 R-R7, R-QN1, followed by . . . B-N3.

19 P-QR3

N-K4

20 KR-B1

N-B5

21 BxN

QxB

22 QR-K1

K-Q1

The monarch is fleeing. With all the artillery piling up on the king file, it was prudent to place the king on a safer square.

23 K-R1

A waiting move. More logical was to undertake something with 23 P-KN4.

23 . . .	R-N4
24 N-Q4	R-R4
25 N-Q3	

Black was threatening 25 . . . P-K4, winning a knight.

25 . . .	K-B2
26 N-N4	P-R4

Preventing White's queen from penetrating Black's territory via KR6.

27 P-N3

Still waiting for Black to do something. Worthy of consideration would be 27 Q-K3-KN3-KN7.

27 . . .	R-K4
28 N-Q3	R-QN1
29 Q-K2	

Unwise would have been 29 NxR, QPxN; 30 N-B3, B-B3, and the bishops would have become very strong.

29 . . .	R-R4
----------	------

Black could not have allowed capture of the rook in view of the fact that the queens would have been exchanged, lessening Black's pressure.

30 PxP	PxP
31 R-B2	P-K4

A courageous advance. Black could have continued quietly 31 . . . R-KN1, and White could not have

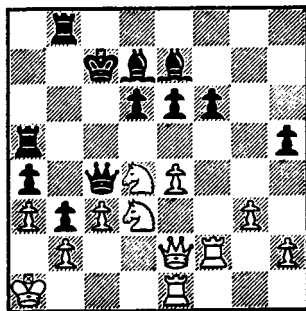
BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)**

Diagram 36

Position after White's 31 R-B2

undertaken anything, but Spassky became impatient, not that the textmove was bad.

32 N-B5

BxN

33 RxB

P-Q4

The freeing move, opening the queen file for action.

34 PxP

QxQP?

A misjudgment. Of course, not 34 . . . RxP, because of 35 N-B4, QxQ; 36 NxRch, etc. But correct was 34 . . . R-Q1; 35 N-B4, QxQ; 36 RxQ, K-Q3; 37 NxP, RxP; 38 R-K1, K-K3; 39 R(5)-B1, R-Q7, with good chances for Black.

35 N-N4

Q-Q2

36 RxRP?

Better would have been 36 Q-B4ch, K-N3; 37 RxRP, and if 37 . . . BxN; 38 QxBch, with winning chances.

36 . . .

BxN

The threat was 37 N-R6ch, winning the exchange. Black also had to contend with 37 Q-B4ch. Since the knight was well posted, Black used good judgment in disposing of the knight for a poorly posted bishop.

37 BPxB

It is usually wise to take toward the center, but, in this case, 37 RPxB would have enabled Black to advance his queen rook pawn later, with telling effect.

37 . . .

R-Q4

38 R-B1ch

K-N2

39 Q-K4

R-QB1

40 R-QN1

40 RxR would have lost to 40 . . . KxR; 41 R-R8ch, K-B2, and Black's threat of 42 . . . R-Q8ch could not have been parried.

40 . . .

K-N3

41 R-R7

R-Q5

42 Q-N6

42 RxQ, RxQ; 43 R-Q6ch, R-B3; 44 RxRch, KxR, with even chances.

42 . . .

Q-B3

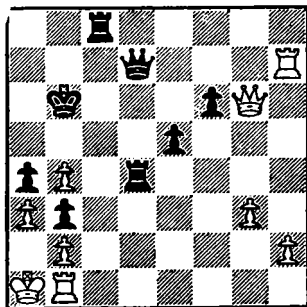
The sealed move. Bad would have been 42 . . . Q-K3 because of 43 Q-N7, with the serious threats of Q-N7 mate or Q-R7ch. Possible was 2 . . . Q-Q3, and if 43 Q-N7, R-B2, and if Black could exchange queens and rooks, the endgame would approximately even.

43 R-KB7

R-Q3

44 Q-R6

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 37

Position after White's 42 Q-N6

With the threat of 45 Q-K3ch, R-Q5; 46 Q-B2, winning the bishop pawn.

44 . . . Q-KB6
45 O-R7

Black was intending to advance his king pawn.

45 . . . Q-B3
46 Q-R6 Q-KB6
47 Q-R7 Q-B3

Drawn

Although a pawn ahead, Fischer decided against taking chances by playing for a win. Chances for victory were not too bright. White's king was in the corner and subject to mating nets. White's rook was needed to protect the king; the rook was, therefore, out of play. A try for White could have been: 48 P-KR4, in an attempt to advance this pawn. Black would have countered by advancing his king pawn. To assess the result would require lengthy analysis.

Game 19

The 19th game was probably the most exciting and interesting of the match so far. Spassky, White, stuck to his king pawn opening. Fischer, for the second time in the match, selected the Alekhine Defense. Fischer, however, varied from the 13th game by continuing 4 . . . B-N5, instead of 4 . . . P-KN3.

Spassky failed to obtain an opening advantage. On his 18th turn, Spassky sacrificed a knight. Fischer appeared prepared for this unexpected stroke. He replied almost immediately, declining the gift.

Spassky then continued his sparkling effort by offering a rook, which, if taken, would have given Spassky a fierce attack. Fischer refused to fall into the trap. Instead, he defended coolly and staved off defeat by forcing the exchange of queens, which disposed of all attacking threats.

The resultant endgame consisted of Spassky having two rooks and four pawns against Fischer's rook, knight, bishop and three pawns. A draw was agreed upon after 40 moves.

ALEKHINE DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	N-KB3
2 P-K5	N-Q4
3 P-Q4	P-Q3

4 N-KB3	B-N5
5 B-K2	P-K3
6 0-0	B-K2
7 P-KR3	B-R4
8 P-B4	N-N3
9 N-B3	0-0

Black could have won a pawn with 9 . . . PxP; 10 NxP, BxB; 11 QxB, QxP, but after 12 R-Q1, Q-R5; 13 N-N5, N-R3; 14 Q-B3, Black would be in trouble because both Black's KBP and QNP would have been under attack.

10 B-K3

Worthy of consideration would be 10 PxP, PxP (10 . . . BxP or 10 . . . QxP; 11 P-B5, winning a piece); 11 P-QN3.

10 . . . P-Q4

It is interesting to note that Black moved his queen bishop twice and his queen pawn twice with impunity. It is usually imprudent to move a piece more than once in the opening.

11 P-B5

Unwise would have been 11 PxP, NxP, leaving White's queen pawn isolated without compensation for White; neither would 11 P-QN3 have been good because of 11 . . . PxP; 12 PxP, N-B3, with the queen and queen bishop pawns insecure.

11 . . . BxN!
12 BxB

A possibility would have been 12 PxB, KN-Q2 (12 . . . N-B5; 13 BxN, PxB; 14 Q-R4, winning a

pawn); 13 P-B4, P-B4; 14 PxPe.p., NxKBP; 15 B-Q3, attempting to undouble the bishop pawns with P-B5.

12 . . . N-B5
13 P-QN3

A questionable move, giving up the two bishops. Preferable was 13 B-B1, followed by 14 P-QN3, driving away the knight.

13 . . . NxB
14 PxN

Spassky enjoyed a temporary bind in the center, but, with bishops of opposite colors, prospects for a win were reduced considerably.

14 . . . P-QN3

An immediate step toward weakening White's hold on the center.

15 P-K4

Unappetizing would have been 15 P-QN4, P-QR4; 16 P-R3, RPxP; 17 RPxP, RxR; 18 QxR, B-N4; 19 R-K1, N-B3, with good play for Black.

15 . . . P-QB3

Fischer wisely kept the position closed. In favor of White would have been 15 . . . NPxP; 16 KPxP, BPxP; 17 P-Q6, winning material.

16 P-QN4 NPxP
17 NPxP

17 P(Q4)xP would have weakened White's pawn at K5.

17 . . . Q-R4
18 NxP!

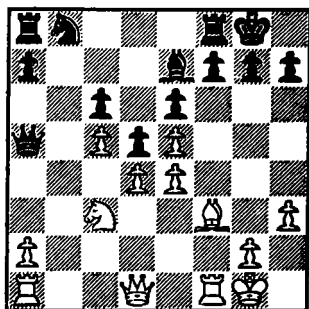
BLACK (Fischer)**WHITE (Spassky)**

Diagram 38

Position after Black's 17 . . . Q-R4

An unexpected sacrifice. It was a sound stroke and took all of Fischer's resourcefulness to meet it successfully.

18 . . . B-N4!

One good move deserves another! Fatal for Black would have been 18 . . . BPxN; 19 PxP, PxP (19 . . . N-Q2; 10 P-Q6, etc.); 20 BxP, N-Q2; 21 BxR, RxB; 22 RxB! KxR; 23 Q-B3ch, and wins.

19 B-R5!

Another most unexpected surprise. But as brilliant as the textmove appeared, a better try would have been 19 P-N3, with the idea of continuing 20 P-KR4, driving away the bishop from its favorable square and permitting White's knight to get to either K7 or KB4.

19 . . .	BPxN
20 BxPch	RxB

Best. If 20 . . . K-R1; 21 P×P, P×P; 22 B×P, and wins.

21 R×R

Q-Q7

Forcing the exchange of queens and stopping the assault, assuring himself a draw. But why not 21 . . . Q-Q1! White would then have had to demonstrate what he had for the two pieces sacrificed.

22 Q×Q

If White had persisted in the attack by playing 22 Q-B3, he would have lost: 22 . . . Q×Pch; 23 K-R2, Q×KPch; 24 P-N3, Q-N7ch, and wins.

22 . . .

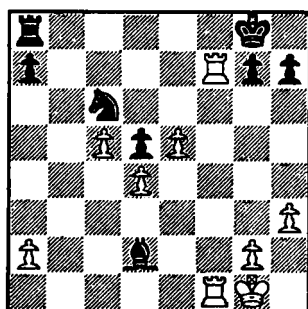
B×Q

23 QR-KB1

N-B3

Finally, Black's remaining pieces came into play.

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 39

Position after Black's 24 . . . P×P

24 PxP?

Here, Spassky missed a worthwhile try: 24 R-B7, NxQP; 25 R(1)-B7, B-R3; 26 PxP, PxP; 27 RxRP, R-N1; 28 R(R7)-N7, R-R1; 29 P-N4! threatening P-N5, winning the bishop.

24 . . .	PxP
25 R-Q7	B-K6ch
26 K-R1	BxP
27 P-K6	B-K4
28 RxQP	R-K1

The king pawn was lost, after which there was no hope of victory for White.

29 R-K1	RxP
30 R-Q6	K-B2

The saving move for Black.

31 RxN	RxR
32 RxB	K-B3
33 R-Q5	K-K3
34 R-R5	P-KR3
35 K-R2	R-R3

Black had to win back the pawn, and the remaining moves were meaningless.

36 P-B6	RxBP
---------	------

Of course, not 36 . . . RxRP; 37 R-QB5, and wins.

37 R-R5	P-R3
38 K-N3	K-B3
39 K-B3	R-B6ch
40 K-K2	R-B7ch
Drawn	

Game 20

Fischer, White, stuck to the king pawn opening. Spassky relied on the Sicilian Defense. The same variation as in the 18th game developed. On his 10th move, Fischer varied and played B-K2, instead of N-B3.

Fischer having castled on the queen side, Spassky decided to castle on the opposite wing. A tense fight was anticipated at that point, but Fischer's 12th move compelled his opponent to exchange pieces, including the queens. An endgame was reached, which appeared to be a simple draw.

Spassky, however, decided not to exchange the last rook. Fischer, obviously content with a draw, started playing the endgame too passively, giving his adversary an opportunity to seize the initiative.

At adjournment, Spassky had a slight positional advantage. He tried to tempt Fischer to play for a win, but he declined the invitation and just kept his pieces at home base, defending. Spassky was unable to break through Fischer's defensive set-up, and a draw was agreed upon after 54 moves.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Spassky</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3
3 P-Q4	PxP

4 N×P	N-KB3
5 N-QB3	P-Q3
6 B-KN5	P-K3
7 Q-Q2	P-QR3
8 0-0-0	B-Q2
9 P-B4	B-K2
10 B-K2	

In the 18th game, Fischer continued here 10 N-B3. The textmove was intended to play this bishop to KB3.

10 . . . 0-0

More usual is 10 . . . Q-B2.

11 B-B3

Now that the king pawn is protected, White is threatening an eventual P-K5.

11 . . . P-R3
12 B-R4

12 B×N was another possibility. White now had two plans: (1) to put pressure on Black's queen pawn, (2) to initiate an assault on the king wing with an eventual P-KN4. Black was, therefore, practically compelled to simplify with the next move.

12 . . . N×P
13 B×B N×Q
14 B×Q N×B

If 14 . . . N×N; 15 B×P with advantage.

15 N×N(B3) KR×B
16 R×P K-B1
17 KR-Q1 K-K2
18 N-QR4

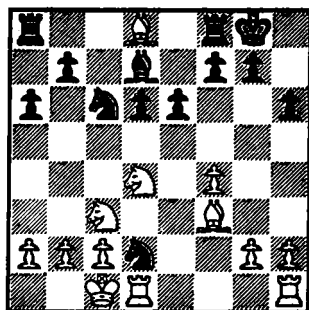
BLACK (Spassky)**WHITE (Fischer)**

Diagram 40

Position after White's 14 BxQ

Threatening to penetrate via QN6 or QB5.

18 . . .	B-K1
19 RxR	RxR
20 N-B5	R-N1!

Refusing to go into a dead drawn position. He could have played 20 . . . RxRch; 21 KxR, N-Q1 with approximate equality.

21 R-Q3

A good alternative was 21 R-K1, intending P-B5, and if 21 . . . K-Q3; 22 N-K4ch.

21 . . .	P-QR4
22 R-N3	P-QN4

After 22 . . . P-QN3, White would have been in a position to force a draw with 23 N-R6, R-N2; 24 N-B5, etc.

23 P-QR3	P-R5
24 R-QB3	

Superior was 24 R-K3, threatening P-B5.

24 . . .	R-Q1
25 N-Q3	P-B3
26 R-B5	

More logical was the idea to dispose of Black's knight with 26 N-N4.

26 . . .	R-N1
27 R-B3	P-KN4

Spassky was attempting to utilize his majority of pawns on the king wing.

28 P-KN3	K-Q3
29 N-B5	

Worthy of consideration was 29 N-B2, threatening N-K4ch or N-N4.

29 . . .	P-KN5
30 N-K4ch	K-K2
31 N-K1	R-Q1
32 N-Q3	R-Q5
33 N(4)-B2	P-R4

Black has improved his position since move 20. Fischer was playing too passively during that time.

34 R-B5	R-Q4
35 R-B3	N-Q5

Black had no other promising plan.

36 R-B7ch	R-Q2
-----------	------

Possible was 36 . . . B-Q2, with complications, but the players had little time left.

37 RxRch

BxR

38 N-K1

To prevent the incursion of Black's knight via KB6.

38 . . .

P-K4

39 PxP

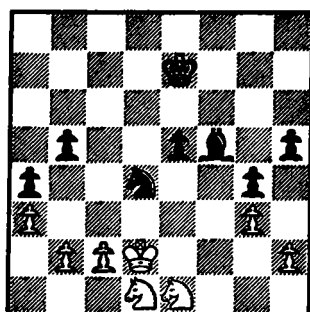
PxP

40 K-Q2

B-B4

41 N-Q1

BLACK (Spassky)



WHITE (Fischer)

Diagram 41

Position after White's 41 N-Q1

The adjourned position. Black stood better. Fischer was on the defensive. White had to guard his king rook pawn with one of his knights. Analysis showed that White could defend adequately. Black's only hope for victory was to establish a passed king bishop pawn and penetrate into White's fourth rank, but even this, if achieved, would have been insufficient if White defended accurately.

41 . . .

K-Q3

42 N-K3

B-K3

43 K-Q3	B-B2
44 K-B3	

44 K-K4, B-N3ch, and wins.

44 . . .	K-B3
45 K-Q3	

White was just marking time, waiting for his opponent to undertake something.

45 . . .	K-B4
46 K-K4	K-Q3
47 K-Q3	

Black was enticing his opponent to play for a win with 47 N-B5ch. After 47 . . . NxN; 48 KxN, K-Q4, Black would have stood better because of the penetration of his king and the possibility of advancing his king pawn.

47 . . .	B-N3ch
48 K-B3	K-B4
49 N-Q3ch	K-Q3

Unproductive would have been 49 . . . BxN; 50 KxB.

50 N-K1	K-B3
51 K-Q2	K-B4
52 N-Q3ch	K-Q3
53 N-K1	N-K3
54 K-B3	N-Q5
Drawn	

Game 21

Spassky, White, opened with the king pawn. Fischer, although having had success with the Alekhine Defense twice, surprised his opponent again by returning to the Sicilian Defense. But this time he played 2 . . . P-K3, which he had never played before in any serious competition.

On his 7th turn, Fischer introduced a new move. The opening turned into a form of the Scotch Opening. Fischer was saddled with an isolated pawn but obtained free play for his pieces.

On his 14th move, Spassky gave up one of his bishops for a knight and exchanged queens, thereby weakening Fischer's pawn structure on the king side. In return, Fischer was left with the two bishops.

In the middlegame, Spassky sacrificed the exchange, giving up a rook for a bishop and a pawn, acquiring two passed pawns on the queen wing. Fischer's rook was placed behind these two pawns, stopping their advance. The endgame was even. But Spassky pressed too hard for a win and weakened his pawn position on the king side. Fischer, thereby, was left with a dangerous free king rook pawn. Spassky resigned after 40 moves.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

<i>Spassky</i>	<i>Fischer</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1 P-K4	P-QB4
2 N-KB3	P-K3

3 P-Q4	PxP
4 NxP	P-QR3
5 N-QB3	N-QB3
6 B-K3	N-KB3
7 B-Q3	P-Q4!?

Usual are 7 . . . Q-B2, or 7 . . . P-QN4, or 7 . . . P-Q3; the textmove is dubious, but, as a surprise, playable.

8 PxP	PxP
-------	-----

Black now had an isolated QP, but his queen bishop was freed for action.

9 0-0	B-Q3
10 NxN?	

This supported Black's queen pawn. Wiser was 10 P-KR3, 0-0; 11 R-K1, R-K1; 12 Q-Q2.

10 . . .	PxN
11 B-Q4	0-0
12 Q-B3	B-K3

A blunder would have been 12 . . . B-N5 because of 13 BxN, BxQ; 14 BxQ, RxB; 15 PxB. Interesting was 12 . . . N-N5; 13 P-KR3, Q-R5, with complications.

13 KR-K1	P-B4
14 BxN	

Preferable was 14 B-K5, BxB; 15 RxB, with a slight positional edge.

14 . . .	QxB
----------	-----

Not 14 . . . PxB; 15 Q-R5.

15 QxQ

PxQ

16 QR-Q1

White was attempting to exert pressure on the queen pawn. The immediate threat was 17 B-B4. Consequently, Black's reply.

16 . . .

KR-Q1

Protecting the king bishop.

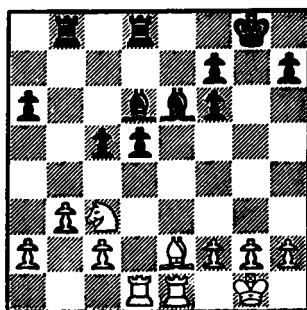
17 B-K2

QR-N1

18 P-QN3

P-B5?

BLACK (Fischer)



WHITE (Spassky)

Diagram 42

Position after White's 18 P-QN3

Threatening . . . B-QN5. Safer was 18 . . . P-Q5.

19 NxP!

A fine conception, but insufficient for a win.

19 . . .

BxN

20 RxB

BxPch

21 KxB

RxR

22 BxP

R-Q7

23 BxRP

RxQBP

Not 23 . . . RxKBP; 24 B-Q3, with White having three passed pawns and an easily won position.

24 R-K2

This must have been the move Spassky banked on.

24 . . .

RxR

25 BxR

R-Q1!

Necessary, in order to get the rook behind White's queen side pawns, stopping their advance.

26 P-R4

R-Q7

27 B-B4

R-R7

Not 27 . . . RxP because of 28 P-R5, R-R7; 29 P-R6, followed by 30 P-QN4, and Black's king would not have been in time to stop these pawns. After the textmove, White found that he was not in a position to make any progress. A very curious position!

28 K-N3

K-B1

29 K-B3

White was embarking on a dangerous course in attempting to win. The correct course was to be satisfied with a draw. He should have held the position by playing 30 P-B4, followed by moving his king back and forth to KB3 and KN3, and Black could not have made any headway.

29 . . .

K-K2

30 P-KN4?

This gave his opponent an opportunity to establish a dangerous passed king rook pawn.

30 . . .	P-B4!
31 P×P	P-B3
32 B-N8	P-R3
33 K-N3	K-Q3
34 K-B3	

A better defense was 34 P-B4 or 34 P-B3.

34 . . .	R-R8
35 K-N2	K-K4
36 B-K6	K-B5
37 B-Q7	R-QN8
38 B-K6	R-N7
39 B-B4	R-R7

After 39 . . . K×P; 40 P-R5, R-R7; 41 P-R6, White would have had excellent chances of drawing.

40 B-K6	P-R4
41 B-Q7 and Resigns	

Spassky could have put up resistance after adjournment. Fischer's threat would have been to place his king at his KN5 and advance his king rook pawn. Spassky's only defense would have been to post his bishop on the diagonal KR1-QR8. When Black had his king at KN5 and his pawn at KR4, Spassky could have had his bishop at Q5 or QB6, so that when Black played . . . P-R5, White could have continued B-B3ch, driving the king away and not allowing . . . P-R6ch. After Black captured the KBP, his winning chances would still have been difficult.

About the Author

Samuel Reshevsky was born in Poland in 1911. He learned the moves of chess when he was four years old by watching his father play with his friends. He arrived in the U.S. in 1920 after touring European countries, displaying his skill which included blindfold exhibitions.

In 1934, he became the U.S. chess champion, a title he won eight times. In 1935, he received the title of Grandmaster in Margate, England, where he won first prize in an International Tournament in which world champion, Raul Capablanca participated, and defeated him in their individual encounter. Reshevsky has participated in many international competitions with commendable results.

In 1952, Reshevsky played board number one on a U.S. team against a Soviet team. He defeated Michail Botvinnik, the world champion, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

In 1960, Reshevsky defeated Robert Fischer in a match. After 11 games the score was tied $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$; Fischer refused to continue, and Reshevsky won the match by forfeit.

Reshevsky has written several books on chess. He also has written for newspapers and magazines, including the New York Times and the old Herald Tribune.

