

Bobby Fischer

**The Career and Complete Games
of the American World Chess Champion**



by Karsten Müller

Foreword by Larry Evans

Opening Survey by Andy Soltis

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2009

Russell Enterprises, Inc.
Milford, CT USA

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Robert James Fischer
1943-2008
Eleventh World Chess Champion

1958

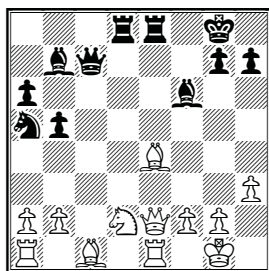
The March 5, 1958 issue of *Chess Life* listed Fischer's rating at 2626, behind only Reshevsky (2713).

Not much is known about the two training matches Fischer played in preparation for the Portoroz Interzonal. In the first match, the exact dates of which cannot be confirmed, Bobby had two hard-fought draws with Dragoljub Janosevic.

Match versus Janosevic Belgrade July

(124) Fischer – Janosevic, Dragoljub Ruy Lopez [C99]

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♞e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘a5 10.♗c2 c5 11.d4 ♗b7 12.♘bd2 c×d4 13.c×d4 ♞c8 14.♘f1 ♞c7 15.♗d3 d5!? 16.d×e5 ♘×e4 17.♘g3 f5!? An interesting pawn sacrifice. Black gets full compensation. 18.e×f6 ♗×f6 19.♘×e4 d×e4 20.♗×e4 ♞cd8 21.♞e2?! It is better to try to reduce the pressure by exchanging queens with 21.♞c2 ♞×c2 22.♗×c2 ♗×f3 23.g×f3 ♘c4 24.♗b3=. 21...♞fe8 22.♘d2 (D)

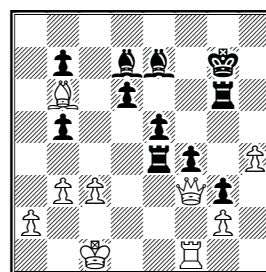


22...♞e5?! The queen is well placed on c7, so 22...♞e5 is better. 23.♞g4 ♞g5 24.♞f1?! 24.♞×g5 ♗×g5 25.♞f1 is more precise. 24...♞×g4?! In the endgame, White runs no risk. If the queens remain, e.g., 24...♞c5, White faces greater problems. 25.h×g4 ♗c8 26.f3 g6 27.♗c2?! 27.♗d5+!? is more active, e.g.,

27...♞f8 28.♘e4 ♗g7 29.♗d2 ♞×d5 30.♗×a5 ♗×b2 31.♗b4+ ♞g7 32.♘d6 ♞×e1+ 33.♞×e1 with the initiative. 27...♗e6 28.♘e4 ♗d4 29.♗e3 ♗×b2 30.♞ab1 ♘c4 31.♞×b2 ♘×b2 32.♘f6+ ♞f7 33.♘×e8 ♞×e8 34.♗c1 ♗c4+ 35.♞f2 ♞×e1 36.♞×e1 ♘d3+ 37.♗×d3 ♗×d3 ½-½

(125) Janosevic, Dragoljub – Fischer Sicilian Defense [B62]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♘×d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♞d3 ♗d7 8.f4 ♘c6 9.0-0-0 ♞c8 10.♞b1 ♗e7 11.♞g1?! 11.♘b3 or 11.♗e2 is more critical. 11...h6 12.♗h4 g5 13.f×g5 ♘g4 14.♘×c6 ♗×c6 15.♞e2 h×g5 16.♗g3 ♞b6 17.♞×g4 ♞×g1 18.♘d5 ♗×d5 19.♗b5+ a×b5 20.♞×g1 ♞c4! 21.b3 ♞×e4 22.♞d1 f5 23.h3 g4 24.♞d3 f4 25.♗f2 g3 26.♗d4 0-0 27.♞b2 ♞f5 28.c3 ♗c6 29.♞d1?! ♞f7 29...♞×d4!?, followed by ♗×g2, is a real alternative. 30.♞f1 e5?! 30...b4!?, with the point 31.c×b4?? ♞×d4 32.♞×d4 ♗f6-+, is a better try. 31.♗b6 ♞h5 32.♞f3 ♞h8 33.♞g4 ♞h6 34.♞c1 ♞g6 35.♞h5 ♞g7 36.h4?! ♗d7 37.♞f3?! (D)

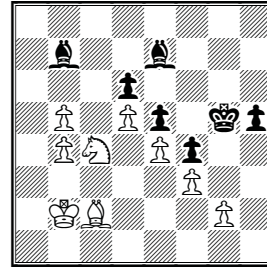


37...♗c6?! 37...d5!? gives Black better winning chances, e.g., 38.♗c7 ♞c6 39.♗×e5+ (39.♗b8 ♗f6) 39...♞×e5 40.♞×f4 ♞f5 (40...♞×c3+?! is answered by 41.♞d1) 41.♞×g3+ ♞g6. 38.♞h5 ♞h6 39.♞g4+ ♞g6 40.♞h5 ½-½

Match versus Janosevic			
	1	2	Total
Janosevic	½	½	1-1
Fischer	½	½	1-1

**Match versus Matulovic
Belgrade
July 20-26, 1958**

In this second training match, this time against Matulovic, four games were played. Fischer won 2½-1½, but the scores of three of the games are missing.



(126) Matulovic, Milan – Fischer
King's Indian Defense [E87]

1.c4 ♖f6 **2.♗c3** g6 **3.e4** ♗g7 **4.d4** d6 **5.f3** e5 **6.d5** ♗h5 **7.♗e3** f5 **8.♖d2** ♖h4+ **9.♗f2** ♖e7 **10.0-0-0** 0-0 **11.♗ge2** ♗d7 **12.♗g3** ♗xg3?! Fischer's play on the kingside will not as good as White's on the queenside. 12...♗f4 seems to be more critical. **13.hxg3** f4 **14.g4** b6 **15.♗d3** a5 **16.♗c2** ♗a6 **17.b3** ♖fb8 **18.♖e2** ♗f6 **19.a3** ♖g7 **20.b4** axb4 **21.axb4** b5?! This does not achieve the desired opening of the queenside. But good advice is already hard to give. **22.cxb5** ♗c8 **23.♖b2** ♗b6 **24.♖a1** ♖xa1 **25.♖xa1** ♗h4 **26.♗g1** h5?! **27.gxh5** gxh5 **28.♖a7** ♖b7 **29.♖xb7** ♗xb7 **30.♗a4** ♖d8 **31.♖f1** ♖g6 **32.♗xb6** cxb6 **33.♖g1** ♖c7? 33...♖b8 **34.♖xb6** ♗d8 **35.♖f2** ♗c8 is more tenacious. **34.♖xb6** ♖xb6 **35.♗xb6** ♗e7 **36.♗c4** ♖g5 (D)

37.♗a5? 37.b6 ♖h4 **38.♗a4** ♖g3 **39.♗c6** ♗c8 **40.♗d7+-** is the right move order. **37...♗c8?** Fischer misses the moment. 37...♗a8 **38.b6** ♖h4 **39.♗a4** ♖g3 **40.♗c6** ♗d8 is the last chance to fight for a draw. **38.b6** ♖h4 **39.♗a4!** The b6-pawn will decide the day. The hasty **39.b7?** ♗xb7 **40.♗xb7** ♖g3= spoils it. **39...♖g3** **40.♗d7** ♗b7 **41.♗h3** 1-0

**Portoroz Interzonal
Portoroz, Yugoslavia
August 5-September 10, 1958**

For the first time, Fischer entered upon the grand international chess stage. He had qualified for the Interzonal by virtue of his win in the 1957/58 U.S. Championship. The fifteen-year old Bobby more than held his own, finishing tied for fifth and sixth places with Iceland's Fridrik Olafsson



Fischer at the start of his game against Neikirkh at Portoroz.

Portoroz Interzonal, August 5-September 10, 1958

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total
1 Tal	x	½	½	1	½	½	½	0	½	1	½	1	1	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	1	13½
2 Gligoric	½	x	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	13
3 Petrosian	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	0	1	1	1	½	1	12½
4 Benko	0	½	½	x	½	1	½	1	1	½	½	0	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	12½
5 Olafsson	½	1	½	½	x	1	0	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	12
6 Fischer	½	½	½	0	0	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	12
7 Bronstein	½	½	½	½	1	½	x	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	0	½	1	11½
8 Matanovic	1	½	0	0	½	½	½	x	0	1	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1	11½
9 Averbakh	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	1	x	0	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	½	½	1	11½
10 Szabo	0	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	1	x	½	½	1	½	0	½	1	1	1	1	1	11½
11 Pachman	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	x	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	11½
12 Panno	0	0	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	11
13 Filip	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	½	½	x	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	1	11
14 Sanguinetti	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	x	1	½	1	1	½	1	½	10
15 Neikirkh	½	0	½	½	1	½	½	½	0	1	0	½	0	0	x	0	½	1	1	½	1	9½
16 Larsen	0	0	1	½	0	0	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	½	1	x	1	1	½	0	1	8½
17 Sherwin	½	1	0	½	1	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	x	1	0	1	1	7½
18 Rossetto	0	0	0	½	1	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	0	0	0	0	x	1	½	1	7
19 Cardoso	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	1	0	x	1	1	6
20 De Greif	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	0	0	½	1	0	½	0	x	0	4½
21 Fuster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	2

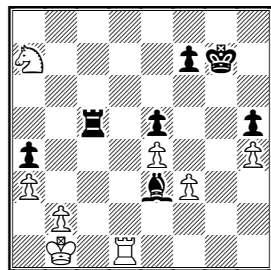
at 12-8. The result qualified him to play in the 1959 Candidates' Tournament, the winner of which would go on to meet reigning world champion Mikhail Botvinnik in a match for the title.

(127) Fischer – Neikirkh, Oleg
Ruy Lopez [C67]

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♟f6 4.0-0 ♟e4 5.d4 ♟d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♟f5 8.♞e2?! White should enter the Berlin endgame with 8.♞xd8+ ♞xd8. 8...♟d4! 9.♟xd4 ♞xd4 10.♟c3 ♙g4 11.♞e3 ♞xe3 12.♙xe3 ♙b4 13.♟e4 ♙f5 14.c3 ♙xe4 15.cxb4 a5 16.bxa5 ♞xa5 ½-½

(128) Fuster, Geza – Fischer
King's Indian Defense [E86]

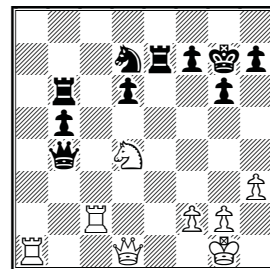
1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 e5 6.♟ge2 0-0 7.♙e3 c6 8.♞d2 ♟bd7 9.d5 cxd5 10.♟xd5 ♟xd5 11.♞xd5 ♟c5?! 11...♟b6 and 11...♟f6 are the main lines. 12.0-0-0 ♞a5 13.♞xd6 ♟e6 14.a3 b5?! 14...♞d8 15.♞b4 ♞xd1+ 16.♞xd1 ♞d8+ is better at least from a practical point of view. 15.♙d2 ♞a4 16.♞b4! Taking the sting out of Black's attack. 16...♞b8? 16...♙a6 17.♟c3 ♞xb4 18.axb4 bxc4 19.b3 ♞ab8 20.♟d5 c3 offers better chances to survive. 17.♞xa4 bxa4 18.♙b4 ♞d8 18...♞e8 19.♟c3 ♟d4 20.♙d6 ♞b7 21.c5 ♙e6 22.♙a6 ♞d7 23.♟b5± 19.♞xd8+ ♟xd8 20.♟c3 ♙d7 21.♙d6 ♞a8 22.c5? White is not ready for this advance yet. He should just strengthen his position with, e.g., 22.♟d5 first. 22...♟b7 23.♙b5 ♙xb5 24.♟xb5 ♟xc5! 25.♙xc5 ♞c8 26.♟xa7? This pawn grab puts the knight too far offside to have any real hopes to win. After 26.♟c3 ♞xc5 27.♞d1, White's forces are much better coordinated. 26...♞xc5+ 27.♞b1 ♙h6! 28.♞d1 ♞g7 29.g4 ♙e3 30.h4 h5 31.gxh5 gxh5 (D)



32.♞d3?? 32.b4 axb3 33.♞b2 ♙d4+ 34.♞xb3 ♞c3+ 35.♞b4 ♞xf3 36.♟c6 draws. 32...♞c1+ 33.♞a2 ♙xa7 34.♞d7 ♙d4 35.f4 ♞c2 36.♞a1 ♞d2 0-1

(129) Fischer – Rossetto, Hector
Ruy Lopez [C99]

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♟f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♙b3 ♙e7 7.♞e1 0-0 8.h3 d6 9.c3 ♟a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♞c7 12.♟bd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♙b7 14.♟f1 ♞ac8 15.♞e2 ♟c6 16.♟g3 ♞fe8 17.♙g5 17.d5!? is better as otherwise Black can always play for d6-d5 himself, e.g., 17...♟b4 18.♙b3 a5 19.a3 ♟a6 20.a4. 17...g6 18.♞c1?! 18.d5 ♟d4 19.♟xd4 exd4 20.♞xd4 ♟xd5 21.♙xe7 ♟f4 22.♞d2 ♞xe7=. 18...♞b8?! This is a good opportunity to open the position with 18...exd4 as 19.♟xd4?! is met by 19...♟h5 20.♙xe7 ♟xg3 21.fxg3 ♞xe7. 19.♞d2 a5 20.a3 exd4 21.♟xd4 ♟xd4 22.♞xd4 ♞c4 23.♞d1?! ♟d7?! Both players miss the tactical line 23...♟h5 24.♙h6 ♟xg3 25.fxg3 ♞ec8 26.♙d3 ♙f8 which gives Black a slight initiative. 24.♙xe7 ♞xe7 25.♞d2 ♞c6 26.b4 ♞c7 27.♟e2 axb4 28.♟d4 ♞b6 28...bxa3? 29.♟xc6 ♙xc6 30.♞xd6 ♟e5 31.♞d8+ ♞e8 32.♞xe8+ ♙xe8 33.♙b3 plays into White's hands. 29.axb4 ♞c4 30.♙b3 ♞xb4 31.♞b2 ♞g7 32.♞bb1 ♙xe4 33.♙c2 ♙xc2?! A very brave decision to continue. Objectively it was better to play 33...♞a3 34.♞a1 ♞b4 35.♞ab1 with a draw by repetition. 34.♞xc2 ♞a4 35.♞a1 ♞b4? 35...♞e1+ 36.♞xe1 ♞xd4 37.♞c7 ♟e5 is necessary. (D)



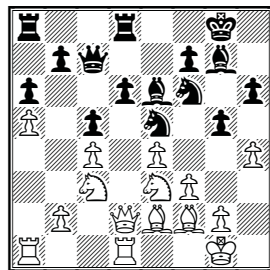
36.♟c6? 36.♞g4 and it is over as Black's queen cannot escape the deadly discovered check and 36...♞e1+ is simply met by 37.♞h2+- . 36...♞xc6 37.♞xc6 ♞e6 38.♞b1 ♞e4 39.♞cc1 39.♞c7!? 39...♞e5 40.♞c2 ♞b7

41.♖b3 41.♗b2!? ♟f6 42.♖c4 creates more pressure. 41...♟c5 42.♖b4 ♟e6 43.♗c3 ♟g8 44.♗c8+ Without queens, the black pawns will always provide counterplay. So 44.♗d3!? ♖g5 45.g3 ♖f5 46.h4 may be better, as White's queen helps attacking the pawns and the black king. 44...♗xc8 45.♖xc8+ ♟g7 46.g3 ♖d5 47.♖b8 ♟d4 48.♟g2 h5 49.♖b2 ♟f6 50.♖d2 ♟e5 51.♖f8 51.♖b7 ♖c5 52.♖xf7 b4 53.♖b7 ♖c4 should be drawn as well. 51...♟e6 52.f4+ ♟e4 53.♖xd5 ♟xd5 54.♖xf7 b4 55.f5 gxf5 56.♖xf5+ ♟c4 57.♖xh5 b3 58.♖f5 b2 59.♖f1 ♟c3 60.h4 ♟c2 61.♖f2+ ♟c3 62.♖f1 ♟c2 63.♟f3 d5 64.♖f2+ ♟c3 65.♖f1 ♟c2 66.h5 b1♟ 67.♖xb1 ♟xb1 68.h6 ♟c2 69.h7 ♟g5+ 70.♟e3 ♟xh7 71.♟d4 ♟f6 72.g4 ♟xg4 73.♟xd5 ½-½

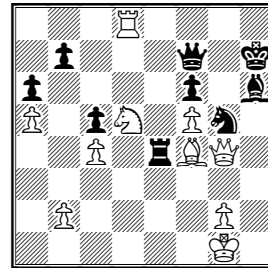
The first of many meetings between the Hungarian émigré and Fischer. The two would eventually become good friends, and see a lot of each other, particularly when Fischer lived for a while in the 1990s in Budapest.

(130) *Benko, Pal – Fischer*
King's Indian Defense [E81]

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♟g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 e5 6.♟ge2 0-0 7.♟g5 exd4 A very risky strategy as it gives White a solid center. 8.♟xd4 ♟c6 9.♟c2 ♟e6 10.♟e2 h6 11.♟h4 g5 12.♟f2 ♟e5 13.♟e3 c6 14.0-0 ♗a5 15.♗d2 15.♗xd6? ♖ad8 16.b4 (16.♗e7 ♖d7) 16...♗a3 17.♗xe5 ♟g4 opening the position for Black. 15...♖fd8 16.♖fd1 a6?! The first step in the wrong direction, as it weakens the b6-square. Black should play actively: 16...♟h5 17.g3 ♗b4. 17.a4 ♗c7 18.a5 c5?! The immediate 18...♗e7 would not create further weaknesses. 19.h4 (D)



19...♗e7? The queen is not able to defend the kingside now. The knight is better suited for the job: 19...♟g6 20.hxg5 hxg5 21.♟ed5 ♟xd5 22.exd5 ♟f4 23.♟f1 ♟h7 but White is nevertheless for choice of course. 20.hxg5 hxg5 21.♟f5! ♟xf5 22.exf5 g4?! 23.♟h4! ♟f8?! 23...♟c6 24.fxg4 ♟d4 25.♟f3+- 24.fxg4 ♟exg4 25.♟xg4 ♟xg4 26.♗g5 ♟f6 27.♖d3 ♟h7 28.♗g4 f6 29.♟d5 ♗f7 30.♖e1 ♖e8 31.♖de3 31.♖e6!? is even better. 31...♖e5 32.♟g3 ♖xe3 33.♖xe3 ♖e8 34.♖e6 ♟g5 35.♖xd6 ♖e4 36.♖d8+ ♟h7 36...♖e8 37.♟c7+- 37.♟f4 ♟h6 37...♖e8 38.♗h4+ ♟g8 39.♖xe8+ ♗xe8 40.♟xg5 fxg5 41.♗xg5 ♗e5 42.b3+- (D)



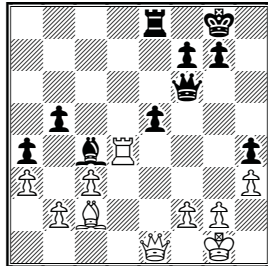
38.♖d7! ♖e1+ 38...♗xd7 39.♟xf6+- 39.♟f2 ♟e4+ 40.♟xe1 ♗xd7 41.♗g6+ 1-0

Seven years before this game, Bronstein had lost a world championship match to Botvinnik. Bronstein remained one of the most popular, and creative grandmasters throughout his long career.

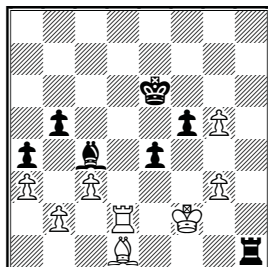
(131) *Fischer – Bronstein, David*
Ruy Lopez [C92]

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.♟b5 a6 4.♟a4 ♟f6 5.0-0 ♟e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♟b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♟d7 10.d4 ♟b6 11.♟e3 ♖b8 12.♟bd2 ♟f6 13.d5 13.♟c2 and 13.♟f1 are the main lines. 13...♟a5 14.♟c2 ♟ac4 15.♟xc4 ♟xc4 16.♟c1 c6!? A typical way to fight against White's center. 17.dxc6 ♗c7 18.♟h2 Quite slow. 18.a4!? is critical, e.g., 18...bxa4 19.♟xa4 ♟xb2 20.♟xb2 ♖xb2 21.♖b1. 18...♗xc6 19.♟g4 ♟e7 20.♟e3 ♟e6 21.♗e2 ♖fd8 22.♖d1 ♟xe3 23.♟xe3 a5 24.♟d3 a4 25.a3 ♟f6 26.♟c2 d5 27.exd5 ♟xd5 28.♗g4 ♟e6 29.♗g3 ♟c4

30. ♖g5 ♜e8?! A bit too refined. 30... ♗xg5
31. ♗xg5 f6 is more natural and slightly better
for Black. **31. ♗xg5 ♜xg5 32. ♜d2 ♜bd8**
33. ♜ad1 ♜xg5 34. ♜xg5 h5 35. ♗e3 ♗f4
36. ♗e1 h4?! **37. ♜d4 ♗f6 (D)**



38. ♗e4?! Pseudo-active. 38. ♜g4 is called for.
38... ♗g6 39. ♜d2 39. ♗xh4?! ♗xh4 40. ♜xh4 ♜d8
41. ♗xa4 f5 is risky because of White's offside
rook. **39... ♗f4 40. ♜d1 ♗xg5 41. ♗xg5 ♗f8**
42. ♜d7 ♜b8 43. ♗g3 h×g3 44. f×g3 ♗e6
45. ♜d2 ♗e7 45... ♗xh3?! 46. ♜h2 ♗c8
47. ♜h8+ ♗e7 48. g4= **46. h4 f5 47. ♗c2 ♜h8**
48. ♗f2 ♗c4 49. ♗e3 ♗e6 50. ♜f2 ♗d6!?
The start of a triangulation to create some sort of
zugzwang. **51. ♜d2+ ♗e7 52. ♜f2 ♗e6**
53. ♜d2 g5!? A creative winning try. **54. h×g5**
♜h3 55. ♗f2 ♜h2+ 56. ♗e1 Of course not
56. ♗e3?? f4+-+. **56... ♜h1+ 57. ♗f2 e4**
58. ♗d1 (D)

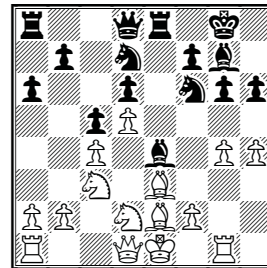


58... ♜f1+?! 58... ♗f7 is more dangerous, but
White should be able to hold, e.g., 59. ♗e3 ♗g6
60. g4 ♗xg5 61. gxf5 ♗xf5 62. ♜f2+ ♗e5 63. ♗g4
♜e1+ 64. ♗d2 ♜g1 65. ♜f5+ (65. ♗e2? ♜g3+-)
65... ♗d6 66. ♜f6+. **59. ♗e3 ♜e1+ 60. ♗f2**
♜f1+ 61. ♗e3 ♜e1+ 62. ♗f2 ½-½

One of the bearers of the Soviet standards, Yuri
Averbakh is considered by many to be one of the
greatest endgame theoreticians ever. He would
eventually head the USSR Chess Federation in
the mid-1970s.

(132) Averbakh, Yuri – Fischer
King's Indian Defense [E74]

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♗c3 ♗g7 4. e4 d6
5. ♗e2 0-0 6. ♗g5 h6 7. ♗e3 c5 8. d5 e6
9. h3 exd5 10. exd5 ♜e8 11. ♗f3 ♗f5 12. g4
12. 0-0 is the solid alternative. **12... ♗e4 13. ♜g1**
♗bd7 14. ♗d2 a6 15. h4 (D)



15... b5! Fischer demonstrates good feeling for
the dynamics. But not 15... ♗a5?!, 16. ♗f1. **16. g5**
b4 17. g×f6 b×c3 18. ♗xg4 ♜xg4 19. f×g7
♗xh4 20. ♗f1 c×b2 21. ♜b1 and a draw was
agreed in this unclear probably dynamically
balanced position, e.g., 21... ♜ae8 22. ♗f3 ♜xe3
23. fxe3 ♜xe3 24. ♜xb2 ♗xc4+ 25. ♗g2 ♗e5
26. ♜b3 ♗d3 27. ♜f1 ♗xg7 28. ♗a1+ ♜e5
29. ♗g1 ♗f4 30. ♜xd3 ♗g3+=. ½-½

Another creative genius, Danish grandmaster
Bent Larsen is probably best (and unfortunately)
known for the 6-0 whitewashing at the hands of
Fischer in their 1971 semi-final Candidates'
Match. Fischer's talent notwithstanding, for a
couple of years in the mid- to late 1960s, Larsen
was considered the strongest player in the West.

(133) Fischer – Larsen, Bent
Sicilian Defense [B77]

1. e4 c5 2. ♗f3 d6 3. d4 c×d4 4. ♗x♗d4 ♗f6
5. ♗c3 g6 6. ♗e3 ♗g7 7. f3 0-0 8. ♗d2 ♗c6
9. ♗c4 ♗x♗d4 10. ♗x♗d4 ♗e6 11. ♗b3 ♗a5
12. 0-0-0 b5 13. ♗b1 b4 14. ♗d5 ♗x♗d5
15. ♗x♗d5?! 15. exd5 ♗b5 16. ♜he1 a5 17. ♗e2
♗xe2 18. ♜xe2 with a slightly better endgame,
as Tal played against Larsen in Zürich 1959, is
the way to go. **15... ♜ac8?!** A very brave decision
to play for a win. 15... ♗x♗d5 16. ♗xg7 ♗c3+
17. ♗xc3 bxc3 18. ♗xc3 ♗xc3 19. bxc3 ♜fc8 is
completely equal. **16. ♗b3 ♜c7!** The a-pawn
must be preserved **17. h4 ♗b5 18. h5 ♜fc8**