

About MACA

The Massachusetts Chess Association is an educational non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote chess in Massachusetts and represent the interest of chess players within the state to the governing body of chess in the United States, **The United States Chess Federation (USCF)**.

As part of its role as a state organization, MACA has programs in place to support the existing chess community as well as promote chess among schools and the general public. Highlights of these programs are:



Providing at least four major tournaments each year:

Massachusetts Open (State Championship)
Massachusetts Game/60 Championship
Greater Boston Open
Pillsbury Memorial



Running a scholastic program, which consists of a series of tournaments to determine the state's scholastic champions as well as "warm up" tournaments throughout the year. Free boards and sets are provided to schools and clubs through MACA's **Living Memorial Chess Fund (LMCF)**.

Quarterly publication of the award winning *Chess Horizons*, a journal of regional, national and international chess news and features.

Promotion and development of chess in correctional institutions through our Prison Chess program.

We hope you will chose to join MACA and enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that you are helping to promote chess throughout Massachusetts.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

(Includes Subscription to Chess Horizons unless otherwise noted.)

Adult: \$12.00; Life: \$175.00; Life (age 65 or older): \$100.00; Junior (under age 18): \$6.00.

Make checks payable to MACA and mail to:

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Dues are non-refundable

In the Father's Shadow

Vitaly Vatnikov

Throughout my life I have realized that my father, Josef Vatnikov, is a born chess fancier. He has been playing chess for 70 of his 80 years. He has repeatedly given written and oral explanations of how he regards the game to which he has devoted so much time. First of all he feels it is a family game which helps to develop children's thinking and offers relaxation to parents and grandparents.

Josef firmly believes that preschool children can start to learn chess. As proof, he has used his own family experience. In that sense it could be said that I was born a chess player. On that day, August 5, 1960 my father invited his friend, the eighth world champion Mikhail Tal, who not long before victoriously defeated Mikhail Botvinnik in a battle for the chess crown, to a family celebration.

The eternal question of what name to give the newborn child came up. Everyone agreed to name me after Josef's father who was killed by Nazis during the Holocaust. Quite unexpectedly, the resourceful grandmaster made a suggestion. Since my grandfather's name was "Chaim", Tal remarked: "In Hebrew it is "Lechaim" - life. This word is translated in Latin as "vita". The champion became animated, just as he would when putting together a combination on a chessboard. "Vita" plus "tal" are blended to form the new name: Vitaly. It is a chess name!"

Three years after my birth I met some outstanding grandmasters including world champions. For a month I was in the company of such chess celebri-

Child Quits School for Chess

The BBC reported that Peter Williams, a 7-year-old, of Alton in Hampshire, England was taken out of school to be educated at home by his parents in order to pursue his chess interests.

Apparently he is regarded as being one of the top juniors in his age category.



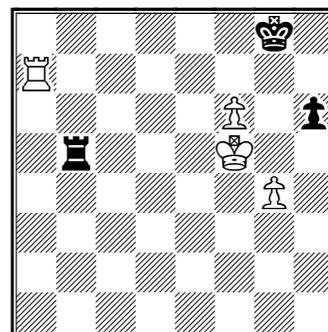
IM Josef Vatnikov (left) and Mikhail Tal (right)

ties as Mikhail Botvinnik, Vasily Smyslov, Paul Keres, Salo Flohr and others. They came to the Black Sea resort Suhumi where my father had organized an extraordinary chess festival. The apotheosis of this happy holiday was a colorful parade of hundreds of living chess pieces on the picturesque streets, led by real black and white knights. The famous guests reviewed the chess troops at the local stadium and I, a little boy beaming with joy, stood among them.

My mother, Faina, sheepishly acknowledging that Josef's activity made him too busy, decided to become my first chess teacher despite the fact that she did not play chess. We used a chess textbook from our home library and my mother gave me some elementary training. Later during my school days I visited many chess tournaments in Moscow. I acquainted myself with the most important chess events in the world and got to know a lot of nice people who played at the master level. It was my fate that I did not become a chess professional. I was a computer operator in Russia and now continue my productive work in America. My father was so busy that he never had time to teach me personally. That did not stop me and in order to learn more about chess I would watch my father and others play. Even just watching was a lesson!

Soon after Josef's eightieth birthday party, he took part in the traditional match between chess clubs of Spring-

field, MA, and New Briton, CT. The ending of his game against Rick Bauer (White) was instructive.

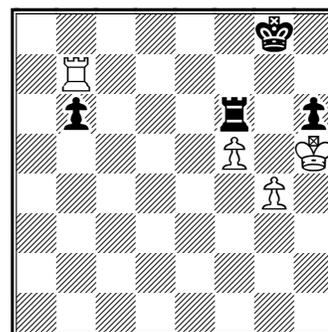


White to Move

There followed 64.Kg6 Rg5+ 65. Kxh6 Rxc4 66.Rg7+ Kh8! Black anticipated this move. It's stalemate if White takes Black's rook! 67.f7 Rh4+ (67...Rg6+ also stalemates) 68.Kg6 Rg4+ 69. Kf6 Rf4+ Draw.

In the case of 64.Ke6 Josef was going to play 64...Rb6+ 65.Ke7 Rb8 66.f7+ Kg7. The White rook cannot abandon the seventh rank. The computer checked 66.g5 hxg5 67.Ke6 g4 68.Kf5 g3 69.Rg7+ Kf8 70.Rxc3 Rb5+ 71.Kg6 Rb1. The White rook cannot leave the g-file because of Black's continuous checks, for example, 72.Rg5 Ra1 73.Kf5 Rf1+ 74.Ke6 Re1+ 75.Re5 Rxe5+ 76.Kxe5 Kf7 and every beginner should know how to reach a draw - 77.Kf5 Kf8!

Josef has shown his fans a similar ending he played in the world senior championship that took place in Germany in 1993.



White to Move

My father had the white pieces and after 1.Re7!! his opponent, Wolfgang

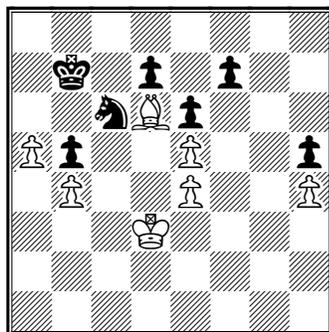


Abendroth of Germany, resigned after prolonged meditation.

If 1...Rc6 2.Re6 Rc1 3.Rxb6 Kg7 4.Rg6+ Kh7 5.Rxh6+ and wins. No better is 1...Kf8 2.Re6 Rxe6 (2...Kf7 3.Rxf6 Kxf6 4.Kxh6 b5 5.g5+) 3.fxe6 b5 4.Kxh6 b4 5.g5 b3 6.g6 b2 7.g7+ Ke7 8.g8Q b1Q 9.Qf7+ Kd6 10.e7! Qc1+ (10...Qh1+ 11.Kg7 Qg1+ 12.Kf8) 11.Kh7! (11.Kg7? Qg5+ 12.Kf8 Qh6+ 13.Kg8 Qg5+) 11...Qh1+ 12.Kg8 Qg1+ 13.Kf8 and the second Queen is ready!

1.g5? (instead of 1.Re7) 1...hxg5 2.Kxg5 Rc6 3.f6 Rc1 gives only a draw.

Josef said that when he left his native Russia during the last days of 1991 he thought about what he could give to this country and the gift was chess. His first tournament in America was held in the summer of 1992 in Chicopee, western Massachusetts. One of the more enjoyable moments of the competition came when my father, the state's newest resident International Master, gave an interesting lecture between rounds. Specifically, he explained an ending that he had just played as Black against Brian Wall.



Black to Move

Josef found an unexpected salvation in a difficult situation: 1...f6! 2.exf6 Nd8 3.Kd4 Kc6 4.a6 (4.Bc5 d6! 5.Bb6 e5+ 6.Kd3 Nf7 led to a draw) 4...Kb6! (4...Kxd6? is impossible because of 5.a7 Nc6+ 6.Kd3 Nxa7 7.e5+! A "mine" field, White wins) 5.a7 Kxa7 6.Be7 (If 6.Kc5? Black wins: 6...Nb7+ 7.Kxb5 Nxd6+ 8.Kc5 Nf7) 6...Nf7 7.Kc5 Ka6 8.Bd8 Kb7 (8...Nxd8? 9.Kd6!) 9.Bb6 Ka6 10.Bc7 Kb7 11.Bh2 Ka6 12.Bg3 Kb7 13.Kxb5 Ka7 14.Bh2 Kb7 15.Kc5 Ka6 16.b5+ Ka7 17.Bg3 Kb7 18.b6+ Ka6 19.Bc7 Kb7 20.Kb5 Nh8 21.Bd6 Nf7 22.Kc5 Ka6 Draw.



Josef Vatnikov (extreme left), Shelby Lyman (center), and Mikhail Botvinnik (right).

I remember one player was pleased to be paired against Josef when he learned his first result. This man was warned "Vatnikov was no pushover, he is a strong player." Josef won this second game against Rick Bauer who later published an enthusiastic review about Vatnikov's chess power.

The well known American chess journalist Shelby Lyman related: "During a period of four years from 1977 to 1980, I visited the Soviet chess Mecca three times – twice as leader of a group of American chess enthusiasts. We met many world-famous grandmasters, including the sixth World Champion and true chess Olympian, the late Mikhail Botvinnik. The Botvinnik encounter at Moscow State University was arranged by Dr. Josef Vatnikov, trainer of the University chess team. I spoke to Dr. Vatnikov, I knew only that he had emigrated to the U.S. and had seen occasional articles in English written with his characteristic humor and style. Apparently, he has approached life in his new homeland with typical zeal."

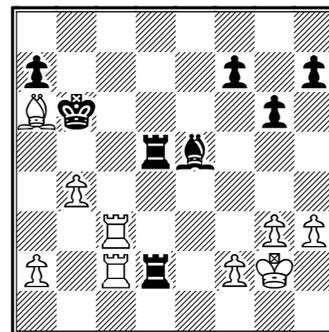
Shelby Lyman described the sudden-death rapid game that gave Josef his most revered title in Western Massachusetts in 1997.

White: Josef Vatnikov

Black: Patrick Sciacca
Alekhine's Defense

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Qd2 Bg4 10.Be2 Nc6 11.b3 d5 12.c5 Nd7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 e6 15.0-0 Nxc5 16.dxc5 d4 17.Bg5 dxc3 18.Qxd8 Nxd8 19.Bxd8 Raxd8 20.Bxb7 Rd2 21.c6 Be5 22.Rae1 Bc7 23.Re3 c2 24.Rc3 Rfd8 25.g3 R8d3

26.Rc4 Kf8 27.Rc5 Ke7 28.Ba6 Rd5 29.Rc3 Kd6 30.b4 e5 31.Kg2 e4 32.Rc1 e3 33.Rxe3 Kxc6 34.Rc3+ Kb6 35.R1xc2 Be5



36.Rc6 Mate.

Josef's life path has taken several directions because of his various interests and talents. He has worked in the fields of chess, municipal government and state's rights, the legal problems of sports, and journalism. But "chess is my life," he says. And I believe he could have moved from the second highest title of international master to grandmaster if it hadn't been for a run-in with the KGB, the Soviet intelligence agency, after which he was not allowed to go abroad to play in international tournaments for many years.

Meanwhile Josef was one of a group of law scientists from Moscow State University to work on the last Soviet Constitution of 1977. "We used the American Constitution as a model", he says. "And the United Nations. It was good but the Soviet Constitution was only a constitution on paper. There were laws but they were not followed."

My father has been a journalist for about 60 years, publishing two books on chess and writing numerous articles. His weekly chess columns for major Russian newspapers illustrated that country's national fascination with the game. He reckons that during the last decade of living in Russia he received a million letters from readers wanting to talk about chess.

A former professor at the Moscow State University and Doctor of Law, he could not find an equivalent position in America. However, as a chess player of a high level, an experienced chess

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53rd New Hampshire Open

Bob Messenger

The 53rd New Hampshire Open took place July 26-27, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel in Merrimack, NH. GM Alexander Ivanov scored 3.5-0.5 to take first place. Runners-up with 3-1 tallies were IM William Paschall, IM Joseph Fang, and national experts Kevin Cotreau and Javier Segovia.

Fang and Cotreau each were the top scoring New Hampshire residents, so they are the 2003 New Hampshire champions.

Eighty players competed in the four-section tournament. Bob Messenger organized and directed the tournament for the New Hampshire Chess Association.

Notes by Christiansen

White: Ivanov, A (2604)

Black: Fang, J (2322)

[B12] 53rd New Hampshire Open Merrimack, NH (3), 27.07.2003

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Be3

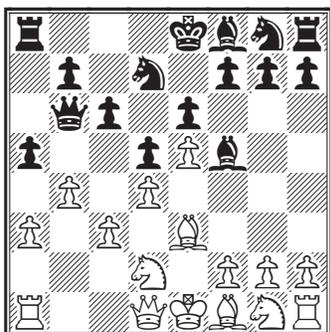
This line is quieter than 4.Nc3 e6 5.g4 etc, but often leads to spectacular complications in the early middlegame. White aims to support his center and grab space later on the kingside with well-timed g2-g4 and g2-g4 ideas.

Black seeks counterplay with either the ...c6-c5 break or ...f7-f6. Players who have played this system as White include such notables as Kasparov, Grischuk, Short and Gelfand.

4...e6

4...Qb6 5.Qc1 Nh6!? with ...Bg6 followed by ...Nf5 has been successfully employed by Yevgeny Bareev.

5.Nd2 Nd7 6.c3 Qb6 7.b4 a5 8.a3



This seems to be a novelty. 8.Qa4 is the usual move, when Black might consider 8...Qa7 as played once by V. Bologan.

8...f6

Black wastes no time in attacking the White spearhead.

9.Be2 Ne7 10.Ngf3 Ng6!?

A logical and dynamic continuation here would be 10...Bg6! followed by ...Nf5 to attack the anchor of White's formation—the dark squared bishop. Fang's continuation is also playable—if followed up correctly.

11.h3!?

Ivanov plans to embarrass the “problem bishop” with a g2-g4 spike. But the slowness of the move should enable Black to generate counterplay.

11...Qc7

11...fxe5 12.Nxe5 Ngxe5 13.dxe5 Qc7 14.f4 (14.g4 Bg6 15.f4 also looks good) leads to a clear advantage for White because of his far superior minor pieces.

12.g4 Be4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Nd2 f5?

This is too slow. Black must react with the energetic 14...axb4 15.axb4 Rxa1 16.Qxa1 fxe5 17.Qa2!? (17.Nxe4 exd4 is O.K. for Black) exd4 18.Qxe6+ Kd8 19.Bxd4 c5! (19...Nf4 20.Qf7 favors White) with good counterplay.

15.Qb3

Ivanov takes aim at the sickly e6 pawn, but what about his bishop on f4?

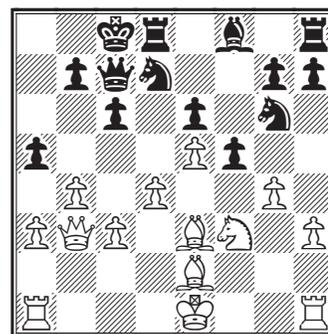
15...0-0-0?

15...f4 16.Ne4 (16.Qe6+ Be7 17.Ne4 Ndf8! is quite O.K. for Black) fxe3 17.Nd6+ Kd8 18.Ng5 exf2+ 19.Kxf2 Qb6 20.Nf7+ Kc7 21.Nxh8 Nxh8 22.Bd3 keeps White on top, but offers far more play than the game continuation.

16.f4!

White not only meets the threat of ...f4, but he also strengthens his grip on the center.

16...exf3 17.Nxf3



Things get ugly now.

17...f4 18.Bf2 Be7 19.Qxe6 Rhe8 20.Qf5 Kb8 21.0-0

White has an extra pawn, a massive center and the bishop pair and the far safer king.

21...Nb6 22.Rfc1 Nd5 23.Qe4 axb4 24.axb4 Rf8 25.b5 c5 26.c4 Ne3 27.b6 Qc6

27...Qxb6 28.Rfb1 Qc7 29.d5 is devastating.

28.d5 Qd7 29.Qb1 1-0

Vatnikov continued

coach, and a journalist, he energetically tried to popularize chess in the U.S.

Josef is known in the chess world as a former chief trainer at the Moscow State University and head of its chess club for over 25 years. This club produced many great and near-great chess competitors, including the twelfth World Champion Anatoly Karpov.

Dr. Vatnikov now shares his unique chess pedagogical experience with his chess friends and pupils, especially by publishing a lot of articles in American chess magazines and local newspapers. He participated in five inter-

national tournaments in Europe as the representative of the U.S., and many chess competitions in America.

One day I asked him when his friendship with players of a grandmaster caliber began. “In the hard military summer of 1941 I met the future outstanding grandmaster David Bronstein quite by chance,” he remembered. “We met in a Chechen village both running away from Hitler’s occupation. The whole day we discussed then our chess problems. In ten years Bronstein drew his world championship match with Mikhail Botvinnik (12:12).”

Josef added: “I want people to fight only on the chess board.”