

Korchnoi Year by Year

Volume IV (1992-2016)

Hans Renette and Tibor Karolyi

Korchnoi Year by Year: Volume IV (1992-2016)

Authors: Hans Renette and Tibor Karolyi

Typesetting by Andrei Elkov

Front cover: Korchnoi playing against Karpov at Mainz on 9 August 2005 during Wolfgang Unzicker's 80th Birthday Tournament. Photo taken by and courtesy of Harmut Metz

© Elk and Ruby, Hans Renette and Tibor Karolyi, 2025. All rights reserved

Follow us on Twitter/X: @ilan_ruby

www.elkandruby.com

ISBN 978-1-916839-08-3 (black and white hardback), 978-1-916839-67-0 (colour hardback), 978-1-916839-07-6 (black and white paperback)



At the 2011 San Sebastian tournament, 18 April. Photo by David Llada

Contents

Index of Games	4
Introduction: From Enemy to Friend – by Hans Renette	9
1992	22
1993	48
1994	74
1995	109
1996	139
1997	162
1998	192
1999	219
Photos	238
2000	273
2001	297
2002	322
2003	354
2004	373
2005	389
2006	405
2007	428
2008	445
2009	468
2010	483
2011	495
2012 – 2016	509
Final Words	526
Epilogue – by Tibor Karolyi	527

Index of Games

Game	White	Black	Opening	Year
462	Korchnoi	Alterman	Fragment	1992
463	Piket	Korchnoi	Queen's-Indian Defence	1992
464	Speelman	Korchnoi	Fragment	1992
465	Franzoni	Korchnoi	Fragment	1992
466	Korchnoi	Beliavsky	Ruy Lopez	1992
467	Adianto	Korchnoi	Fragment	1992
468	Korchnoi	Spraggett	Fragment	1992
469	Korchnoi	Piket	King's Indian Defence	1992
470	Korchnoi	Tiviakov	Fragment	1992
471	Gelfand	Korchnoi	Fragment	1992
472	Korchnoi	Kasparov	King's-Indian Defence	1992
473	Defize	Korchnoi	Fragment	1992
474	Korchnoi	Ulibin	Fragment	1992
475	Korchnoi	I. Sokolov	English Opening	1993
476	Mikhalevski	Korchnoi	Fragment	1993
477	Korchnoi	Huzman	Grunfeld Opening	1993
478	Korchnoi	Illescas	Fragment	1993
479	Korchnoi	Pigusov	Fragment	1993
480	Wolff	Korchnoi	French Defence	1993
481	Hansen	Korchnoi	Fragment	1993
482	Stohl	Korchnoi	Fragment	1993
483	Serper	Korchnoi	English Opening	1993
484	Korchnoi	Seirawan	Fragment	1994
485	Korchnoi	Nijboer	King's-Indian Defence	1994
486	Korchnoi	Vyzmanavin	Nimzo-Indian Defence	1994
487	Korchnoi	Sion	Fragment	1994
488	Korchnoi	Vaisser	Fragment	1994
489	Korchnoi	Plachetka	King's-Indian Defence	1994
490	Karpov	Korchnoi	Fragment	1994
491	Timman	Korchnoi	Fragment	1994
492	Korchnoi	Winants	Fragment	1994
493	Korchnoi	Lutz	Semi-Slav Defence	1994
494	Gelfand	Korchnoi	Nimzo-Indian Defence	1994
495	Korchnoi	Bischoff	English Opening	1994
496	Korchnoi	Nogueiras	Catalan Opening	1994
497	Korchnoi	Greenfeld	English Opening	1995
498	Ashley	Korchnoi	Caro-Kann Defence	1995
499	Korchnoi	Grosar	English Opening	1995
500	Korchnoi	Beliavsky	Fragment	1995
501	Korchnoi	Epishin	Slav Defence	1995
502	Korchnoi	M. Gurevich	Fragment	1995

Game	White	Black	Opening	Year
503	Korchnoi	Timman	Fragment	1995
504	Korchnoi	Diepeveen	Fragment	1995
505	Korchnoi	Kosashvili	Fragment	1995
506	Ballmann	Korchnoi	Fragment	1995
507	Brunner	Korchnoi	Fragment	1996
508	Pelletier	Korchnoi	Fragment	1996
509	Korchnoi	Kengis	Fragment	1996
510	Korchnoi	Lepelletier	English Opening	1996
511	Korchnoi	Bacrot	Fragment	1996
512	Serper	Korchnoi	English Opening	1996
513	Korchnoi	Bator	Queen's Gambit Declined	1996
514	Korchnoi	Hector	Fragment	1996
515	Hernandez	Korchnoi	Fragment	1996 (m/2)
516	Hernandez	Korchnoi	Fragment	1996 (m/8)
517	Korchnoi	Onischuk	Fragment	1997
518	Korchnoi	Short	Fragment	1997
519	Korchnoi	Timman	Fragment	1997
520	Tyomkin	Korchnoi	Fragment	1997
521	Korchnoi	Finkel	Fragment	1997
522	Korchnoi	Greenfeld	Fragment	1997
523	Korchnoi	Svidler	King's Indian Defence	1997
524	Beliavsky	Korchnoi	Fragment	1997
525	Korchnoi	Ye	Caro-Kann Defence	1997
526	Korchnoi	Bacrot	Fragment	1997
527	Korchnoi	Kavalek	Fragment	1997
528	Epishin	Korchnoi	Fragment	1997
529	Korchnoi	Hernandez	Old Indian Defence	1997
530	Korchnoi	Ponomariov	Fragment	1998
531	Korchnoi	Shaked	English Opening	1998
532	Miton	Korchnoi	Fragment	1998
533	Korchnoi	Pavasovic	Fragment	1998
534	Korchnoi	Sutovsky	Grunfeld Defence	1998
535	Korchnoi	Nikolic	Fragment	1998
536	Korchnoi	Kozul	Fragment	1998
537	Korchnoi	Yusupov	English Opening	1998
538	Lobron	Korchnoi	Fragment	1998
539	Korchnoi	Torre	Fragment	1998
540	Korchnoi	Forster	Fragment	1998
541	Spassky	Korchnoi	Fragment	1999 (m/3)
542	Korchnoi	Spassky	Fragment	1999 (m/8)
543	Nijboer	Korchnoi	Fragment	1999
544	Korchnoi	Xie Jun	Fragment	1999
545	Korchnoi	Sadler	Fragment	1999

Game	White	Black	Opening	Year
546	Korchnoi	Dvoretzky	Fragment	1999
547	Korchnoi	Kachiani-Gersinska	Fragment	1999
548	Korchnoi	Dolmatov	Dutch Defence	1999
549	Gabriel	Korchnoi	Reti Opening	1999
550	Vogt	Korchnoi	Fragment	1999
551	Korchnoi	Zhu Chen	Fragment	1999
552	Korchnoi	Sammalvuo	Fragment	1999
553	Van Wely	Korchnoi	Fragment	2000
554	Korchnoi	Piket	Fragment	2000
555	Korchnoi	Thipsay	King's Indian Defence	2000
556	Korchnoi	Van Wessel	Fragment	2000
557	Korchnoi	I. Sokolov	Fragment	2000
558	Romanishin	Korchnoi	Fragment	2000
559	Korchnoi	Aleksandrov	Fragment	2000
560	Galliamova	Korchnoi	Fragment	2000
561	Korchnoi	Ioseliani	Fragment	2000
562	Torre	Korchnoi	Fragment	2000
563	Korchnoi	Kotsur	Fragment	2000
564	Korchnoi	Beshukov	Fragment	2001
565	Korchnoi	Smirnov	Fragment	2001
566	Korchnoi	Ionov	Fragment	2001
567	Gelfand	Korchnoi	Slav Defence	2001
568	Korchnoi	Grischuk	Fragment	2001
569	Kharlov	Korchnoi	Fragment	2001
570	Korchnoi	Jakubiec	Fragment	2001
571	Korchnoi	Bruzon	Fragment	2001
572	Galliamova	Korchnoi	Fragment	2001
573	Korchnoi	Psakhis	Fragment	2001
574	Korchnoi	Varga	Fragment	2002
575	Korchnoi	Solak	Modern Defence	2002
576	Korchnoi	Bologan	King's Indian Defence	2002
577	Korchnoi	Fridman	Slav Defence	2002
578	Korchnoi	Luther	Catalan Opening	2002
579	Korchnoi	Yusupov	Slav Defence	2002
580	Korchnoi	Balinov	Grunfeld Defence	2002
581	Vallejo	Korchnoi	Fragment	2002
582	Korchnoi	Pelletier	Fragment	2002
583	Krasenkow	Korchnoi	Fragment	2002
584	Naiditsch	Korchnoi	Spanish Opening	2002
585	Korchnoi	Kotsur	Fragment	2002
586	Sasikiran	Korchnoi	Fragment	2002
587	Korchnoi	Macieja	Fragment	2002
588	Naumkin	Korchnoi	Grunfeld Defence	2003

Game	White	Black	Opening	Year
589	Vassallo	Korchnoi	Fragment	2003
590	Korchnoi	Gretarsson	Slav Defence	2003
591	Korchnoi	Adams	Fragment	2003
592	Stefansson	Korchnoi	Fragment	2003
593	Lunev	Korchnoi	Fragment	2003
594	Korchnoi	Rodchenkov	English Opening	2003
595	Korchnoi	Akopian	Nimzo-Indian Defence	2003
596	Korchnoi	I. Sokolov	Fragment	2003
597	Korchnoi	Van der Stricht	Fragment	2003
598	Korchnoi	Lukin	Fragment	2004
599	Vasiukov	Korchnoi	Fragment	2004
600	Korchnoi	Skembris	Fragment	2004
601	Korchnoi	Mark Tseitlin	English Opening	2004
602	Korchnoi	Nevednichy	King's Indian Defence	2004
603	Korchnoi	Rowson	English Opening	2004
604	Korchnoi	Moskalenko	Catalan Opening	2004
605	Korchnoi	Carlsen	English Opening	2004
606	Baumgartner	Korchnoi	Fragment	2005
607	Korchnoi	Sutovsky	English Opening	2005
608	Korchnoi	Podgaets	Fragment	2005
609	Kargin	Korchnoi	Fragment	2005
610	Korchnoi	Spassky	Fragment	2005
611	Korchnoi	Beliavsky	Fragment	2005
612	Korchnoi	Gluzko	Fragment	2005
613	Mista	Korchnoi	Fragment	2005
614	Rustemov	Korchnoi	Fragment	2005
615	Korchnoi	Carlsson	Queen's Indian Defence	2006
616	Boehnisch	Korchnoi	Four Knights Opening	2006
617	Korchnoi	Baramidze	Fragment	2006
618	Zhukova	Korchnoi	Fragment	2006
619	Korchnoi	Pelletier	Fragment	2006
620	Korchnoi	Landenbergue	Fragment	2006
621	Klundt	Korchnoi	Fragment	2006
622	Tatai	Korchnoi	Fragment	2006
623	Korchnoi	Hort	Fragment	2006
624	Galstian	Korchnoi	Fragment	2007
625	Korchnoi	Mkrtchian	Fragment	2007
626	Harika	Korchnoi	Fragment	2007
627	Korchnoi	Tukmakov	Fragment	2007
628	Jakovljevic	Korchnoi	Fragment	2007
629	Korchnoi	Hickl	Pirc Defence	2007
630	Gligoric	Korchnoi	Fragment	2007
631	Korchnoi	Gashimov	English Opening	2008

Game	White	Black	Opening	Year
632	Ljubojevic	Korchnoi	Nimzo-Indian Defence	2008
633	Korchnoi	Sermier	Fragment	2008
634	Gashimov	Korchnoi	Fragment	2008
635	Korchnoi	Fridman	Caro-Kann Defence	2008
636	Korchnoi	Golubev	King's Indian Defence	2008
637	Jakovljevic	Korchnoi	Fragment	2008
638	Svidler	Korchnoi	French Defence	2008
639	Korchnoi	Kakageldyev	Grunfeld Defence	2008
640	Korchnoi	Berg	Queen's Indian Defence	2008
641	Korchnoi	Carron	Fragment	2009
642	Korchnoi	Zueger	Catalan Opening	2009
643	Völke	Korchnoi	Fragment	2009
644	Korchnoi	Sloth	Fragment	2009
645	Korchnoi	Trent	Fragment	2009
646	Wells	Korchnoi	Fragment	2009
647	Jackova	Korchnoi	Fragment	2009
648	Korchnoi	Spassky	Fragment	2009
649	Boehnisch	Korchnoi	Fragment	2010
650	Uhlmann	Korchnoi	Fragment	2010
651	Korchnoi	Huss	English Opening	2010
652	Korchnoi	Ekström	Fragment	2010
653	Korchnoi	Kurmann	Fragment	2010
654	Hort	Korchnoi	Fragment	2010
655	Korchnoi	Ehlvest	Fragment	2010
656	Korchnoi	Sepp	Fragment	2010
657	Caruana	Korchnoi	Spanish Opening	2011
658	Korchnoi	Wohl	Modern Defence	2011
659	Korchnoi	Sermier	Fragment	2011
660	Korchnoi	Gallagher	Fragment	2011
661	Korchnoi	Zaitsev	Fragment	2011
662	Korchnoi	Rodriguez	Neo-Grunfeld Defence	2012
663	Pap	Korchnoi	Fragment	2012
664	Korchnoi	Faibisovich	Queen's Gambit Declined	2012
665	Korchnoi	Gallagher	Fragment	2012
666	Korchnoi	Dubessay	Fragment	2012
667	Korchnoi	Vuilleumier	Nimzo-Indian Defence	2012
668	Korchnoi	Uhlmann	Fragment	2014
669	Uhlmann	Korchnoi	English Opening	2015

job. He would impress his colleagues when he spoke to them about his needs. At Ubeda, he shook his head and confessed to Yusupov that he hadn't sufficiently studied a line of the Nimzo-Indian, and when he missed a cheapo he promised to focus more on tactical exercises. When asked about the chess politics of the day, Korchnoi regretted the demise of the PCA and thought it bad that it had been dependent on just one person. He showed he could move with the times and had no objections to a novelty like a knock-out world championship.

At the Baden open, Korchnoi found three GM colleagues in the field: Tukmakov, Sher and Nemet, together with several IMs and local talents. For a long time, the field remained compact and, due to some draws against lesser gods, Korchnoi was unable to create a distance between himself and the opposition. Everything was decided in the final round. Korchnoi beat Liardet in just eleven moves (his shortest ever game, with the exception of one he won against Spassky, but then the latter was only ten years old). All other games on the top boards ended in draws, so with $7\frac{1}{2}/9$, Korchnoi ended solely in first spot.

Anyone who would have predicted the next scene in the early 1980s would have readily been moved to a mental home, but now, in April 1997, a mass of spectators (among them many people of a certain age, who had known him for decades), witnessed it live: "the greatest villain of all times and nations", Viktor Korchnoi, was walking around on the stage of the Chigorin Chess Club (Barsky). He was

not alone: another persona non grata – Genna Sosonko – was playing as well, while Boris Spassky visited his home city for the first time in fifteen years as a guest of honour. The "Absolute St. Petersburg Chess Championship", as it was officially called, could perhaps have been given a better name – Khalifman quipped: "Leningrad vs. St. Petersburg". All possible efforts were made to create a stellar field of players connected with the city, and for this purpose a considerable prize fund was put together. Even Yermolinsky and Kamsky were on the organisers' wish list, but they did not play.

Korchnoi was easily the main attraction. In the beginning, his results were not too impressive – he won in round one against Tseitlin but then lost to Khalifman in round four, scoring draws in between and in the following games. His relentless energy was only rewarded between rounds seven and ten. In round seven, he played an absolute masterpiece against Peter Svidler. Svidler later declared to Chess24: "He played a fantastic game against me. At one point, in a position which looked very promising for him, he paused for about an hour, looking for a forced solution. That obviously also gave me an hour to calculate things, and I spent the entire hour looking for something for him and couldn't find a forced win. I was just about beginning to think that I might survive it, and then he finally sort of woke up and blitzed out an about 10-move sequence which does win by force. A very unusual and a very beautiful sequence. I like chess played well, even if it's played well against me, perhaps even more so when it's played

against me, because I'm a participant then. I said as much to him after the game and he took it rather well. I think he liked it when people complimented him when he played chess well – which was often.” Svidler said to him when he resigned: “‘If I had a hat, I would take it off to you!’ I said it in complete sincerity, I was such an effusive young man. Korchnoi loved me ever since.” For this game, Spassky awarded the beauty prize to his long-time antagonist.

Game 523

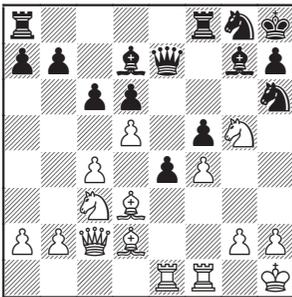
V. Korchnoi – P. Svidler

St Petersburg (7), 1997

King's Indian Defence (E94)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 0-0 5.♙e2 d6 6.♗f3 e5 7.0-0 ♘bd7 8.♙e3 ♚e7 9.♚c2 ♖g4 10.♙g5 f6 11.♙d2 c6 12.d5! f5 13.♘g5!

Korchnoi plays a predictable move as he had previously reached this position in a game: 13.exf5 gxf5 14.♘g5 ♘df6 15.f3 ♗h6 16.♙d3 (16.c5!?) 16...♙d7 17.♚ae1 ♙h8 18.♙h1 ♗fg8 19.f4 e4 (After 19...♘f6 White had a small edge.)

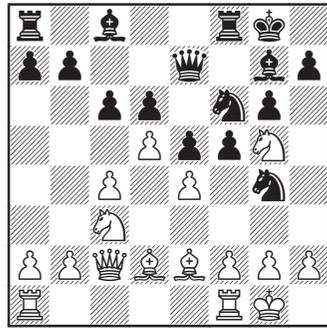


20.♗cxe4! fxe4 21.♙xe4 (After 21.♚xe4!? ♚d8 22.dxc6 bxc6 23.♗xh7

White had a nice advantage.) 21...cxd5 22.♙xd5 ♙f5 23.♚xe7 ♙xc2 24.♚xb7 ♚ab8 25.♚xg7 ♙xg7 26.♗e6+ ♙g6? (26...♙f7! would lead to a more or less balanced position.) 27.♗xf8+ ♚xf8 28.♚f3. Korchnoi got a big advantage in the game Korchnoi-Mestel, Beer Sheba 1984, and went on to win.

13...♘df6

This move gives Black a pretty bad, almost losing position, but it would not be much better after 13...♘c5 14.b4 or 13...♗b6! 14.♚b3 either. Maybe this game shows why Svidler did not become an even greater player, as his position is already very bad. It is odd that the opening went wrong for him in this game.



14.f3!

This is a novelty. Korchnoi's move gives White an even bigger advantage than 14.h3, which was played in Treppner-Tischer, Germany 1980. White could have also tried the even stronger move 14.c5! as well.

14...♗h6 15.c5!

Korchnoi opens up the diagonal for his bishop.

15...cxd5

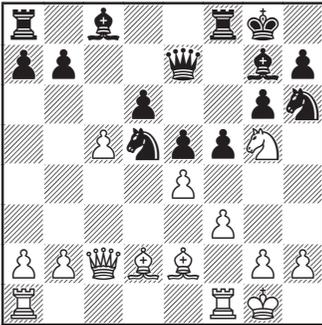
After 15...dxc5 16.dxc6 b6 (or 16...bxc6 17.♗a4) 17.♗d5 or 15...♙h8 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.cxd6 ♚xd6 18.♙e3

Black's position is on the verge of lost.

16. ♖xd5!

Korchnoi's problem is choosing which way to get a huge advantage. Another choice is 16. ♖b5! dxc5 17. exd5 ♜f7 18. d6 ♜xd6 19. ♖xc5 ♜fe8 20. ♖xd6 ♜xd6 21. ♙c4+ ♚h8 22. ♖f7+ ♖xf7 23. ♙xf7 and Black loses.

16... ♖xd5



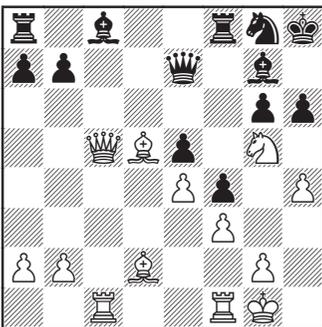
17. ♙c4!

The bishop becomes a powerhouse, and it will virtually win the game.

17... ♜f4?!

17... dxc5 would be slightly more tenacious. 18. ♙xd5+ ♚h8 19. ♖ac1 ♜g8 20. ♖xc5 h6 21. ♖xe7 ♜xe7 22. ♖f7+ ♚g8 23. ♙b3 ♖xf7 24. ♖c7 ♙f6 25. f4 and White still wins.

18. ♙xd5+ ♚h8 19. h4 dxc5 20. ♖ac1 ♜g8 21. ♖xc5 h6



22. ♖xe7!

Korchnoi finds the way to win.

22... ♖xe7 23. ♖f7+!

Not 23. ♖e6 ♜xd5 24. exd5 (24. ♜xf8 ♜e7 25. ♖c7 ♙xf8) 24... ♙xe6 25. dxe6 ♖fe8 26. ♖c7 ♖xe6 27. ♖xb7 ♖b6 28. ♖xb6 axb6 29. a3 e4 30. fxe4 g5 and Black holds.

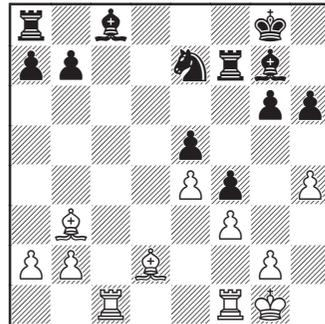
23... ♚g8

23... ♚h7 24. ♙b4 ♖e8 (24... ♜xd5 25. ♙xf8) 25. ♜d6 (25. ♖c7 also wins.) 25... ♖d8 26. ♙xb7 and White wins.

24. ♙b3!

Korchnoi's move gives him a clear cut win according to my program. 24. ♖xh6+ ♚h7 25. ♖g4! (25. ♖f7? ♜xd5) 25... ♜xd5 26. exd5 ♖d8 would give Black a glimmer of hope.

24... ♖xf7



25. ♖c7

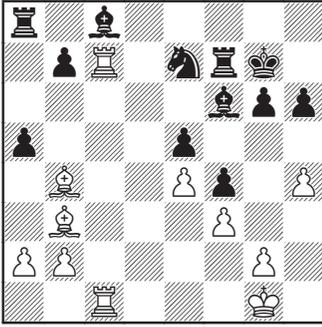
Korchnoi ties up Peter with a natural move.

25... ♙f6

On 25... ♙f8 26. ♙b4 would win, or 25... ♚f8 26. ♙b4 ♙f6 27. ♖d1.

26. ♙b4 ♚g7 27. ♖fc1 a5

If 27... ♙xh4 28. ♙xf7 ♚xf7 29. ♙xe7 ♙xe7 30. ♖xc8 and White wins.



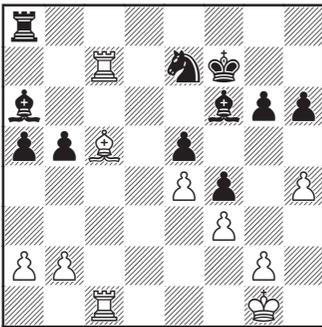
28.♙a3!

Korchnoi avoids a pitfall, as 28.♙d6? ♖a6 would keep Black in the game.

28...b5

If 28...♙xh4 29.♙xf7 ♔xf7 30.♙xe7 White would win.

29.♙c5 ♙a6 30.♙xf7 ♔xf7



31.h5! 1–0

Korchnoi opens up the sixth rank for his rook with devastating effect. Svidler resigned, as on 31...gxh5 32.♙xe7 ♙xe7 33.♖1c6 ♔f8 34.♖xh6 Black loses at least one of his bishops.

Khalifman: “After the game Svidler was shocked. He told me later: ‘Look what’s going on: in 1984 Korchnoi played quite well, now he plays even better, so what

will happen in 2010?’” Peter’s words were witty indeed, but the game also had much to do with his own weak preparation.

After another draw, Korchnoi beat Sakaev and Epishin in succession. The encounter with the former was a bit of a grudge game, for Korchnoi had criticized Sakaev before the tournament for a lack of fighting qualities. Sakaev was tested by a novelty. He initially fought well, but then weakened his kingside and was devastated in a swift attack.

In the tenth round, Epishin played a novelty, but he followed up badly. His position was soon worse and he stood no chance from then on. Suddenly, with one more round to go, the long-time leader Khalifman had been caught up by Salov and Korchnoi, with the latter having the better chances for victory as his co-leaders were to meet in round eleven. Their game indeed ended in peace. To the surprise of many, Korchnoi didn’t try at all against Komarov, one of the players suffering in this event. It bothered him that the game was played at an early hour and he felt luck was leaving him – Korchnoi realised it was time to stop fighting. As a result, he was one of three players sharing first place.

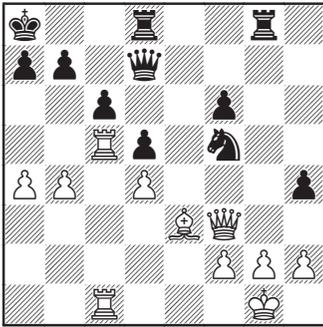
From 5 until 15 May, Korchnoi defended first board for Switzerland at the 11th team championship in Pula (five years after its previous edition in Debrecen). As the countries were responsible for covering their teams’ costs, several strong players remained absent. Still, Russia – with far lesser names than usual – was close to

victory, and only England had a better tie break at the end. Switzerland, scoring mostly rather even results, ended 13th-17th out of 33 countries. Korchnoi played in all nine rounds. Timman beat him in round five, but with victories against Stanec and Beliavsky he moved into a slight plus score.

Game 524

A. Beliavsky – V. Korchnoi

European Team Championship, Pula
(9), 1997



24...h3

The pawn on h3 will be unpleasant for the white king.

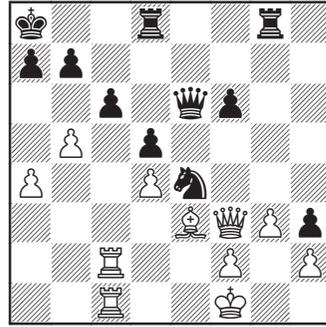
25.g3 ♖e6 26.♔f1!

Beliavsky senses the danger. 26.b5? ♗h4! 27.♖f4 ♖g4 (27...♗g2 28.♖f3) 28.♖c7 ♗f3+

a) 29.♔h1 ♖c8 30.♖h7 ♖h4!! 31.♖d3 and Black's advantage is very big after 31...♖hh8 or 31...♖e4.

b) 29.♔f1 ♗xh2+ 30.♔g1 ♖c8 31.♖h7 ♗f3+ 32.♔h1 (32.♔f1 ♖xg3! wins.) 32...♗xd4 33.♗xd4 ♖xd4 and Black would be a pawn up.

26...♗d6 27.b5 ♗e4 28.♖5c2



28...c5!

A pretty move.

29.dxc5?

Beliavsky takes the pawn, so he probably misses something. If 29.♖e2 c4 30.♖f4 ♖g5 31.♖f3 the game looks balanced. Or if 29.♖f4! ♖ge8 (The position would be even after 29...c4 30.f3 ♗d6 31.♖e2 or 29...♖g4 30.♖c7 ♖c8 31.♖h7 ♖gg8 32.dxc5 ♖h8 33.♖g7 ♖hg8 with a repetition.) 30.f3 ♗xg3+ 31.hxg3 ♖xe3 32.♖xe3 ♖xe3 33.♔f2 and White keeps the position together.

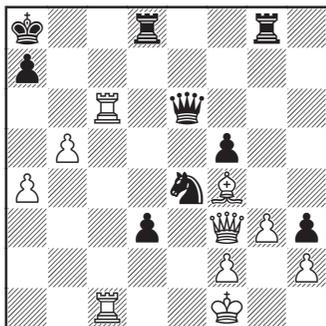
29...d4 30.♖c4 f5!

A good move, although 30...♖d5! would win quickly. 31.♔g1 (31.♖xd4 ♗d2+) 31...dxe3 32.♖xe4 e2 33.♖xe2 f5.

31.♗f4 d3

The d-pawn is far too strong. Black also wins with 31...♖d5! 32.♔g1 d3 33.c6 bxc6 34.bxc6 d2. Sosenko wrote: "He liked positions with a passed pawn, and would push it further forward, without worrying that it might become a weakness. 'What did Levenfish teach? That a passed pawn needs to advance!' he would say."

32.c6 bxc6 33.♖xc6



33...♔d5!

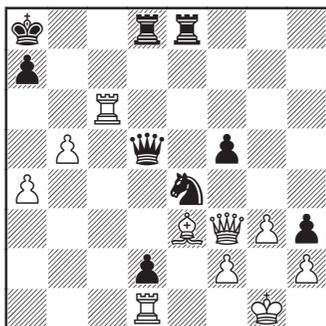
Korchnoi threatens to win the white queen.

34.♔g1 d2! 35.♖d1 ♕ge8!

This move reveals that White has problems with the back rank as well.

36.♗e3

If 36.♖c2 ♘c3! 37.♗xd5+ ♖xd5 38.♖cx2 ♗xd1 Black wins.



36...f4!!

This sweet move ends the game.

37.♖xd2

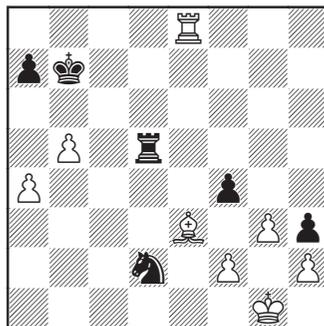
Belivsky's move leads to an endgame a piece down. Other moves also lose: 37.gxf4 ♖g8+, 37.♗xf4 ♘g5 or 37.♗xf4 ♗c3.

37...♗xd2 38.♖c8+

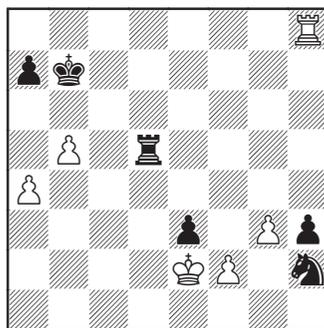
Pretty, but not effective.

38...♔b7 39.♗xd5+ ♖xd5

40.♖xe8



40...♘f3+ 41.♔f1 ♘xh2+ 42.♔e2
fxe3 43.♖h8



43...♘g4 0-1

Belivsky resigns, as if 44.fxe3 h2 Black wins after 45.♔f3 ♖d1 or 45.e4 ♖c5.

In the penultimate round at Pula, Korchnoi faced Cvitan of Croatia – a player who solely defended with the King's Indian. Facing this opening, Korchnoi was always a little aggressive. They played a long variation and he moved instantly, almost not allowing his opponent to press the clock. He thus wanted to show his opponent that he knew it all. And when he stopped banging, he was often worse – but this game ended in a draw.



Odesa, 4 January 2007. Viktor was commentating at the ACP World Cup tournament being held there. Courtesy of the Odesa Regional Chess Federation



Odesa, 3 July 2007. At the opening ceremony of the Geller Memorial with Vladimir Tukmakov. Courtesy of the Odesa Regional Chess Federation



Odesa, 3 July 2007. At the opening ceremony. Courtesy of the Odesa Regional Chess Federation



Odesa, 4 July 2007. Playing against Vladimir Tukmakov. Courtesy of the Odesa Regional Chess Federation