



# Chess Interschool

## National Finals

### Breaking Communication

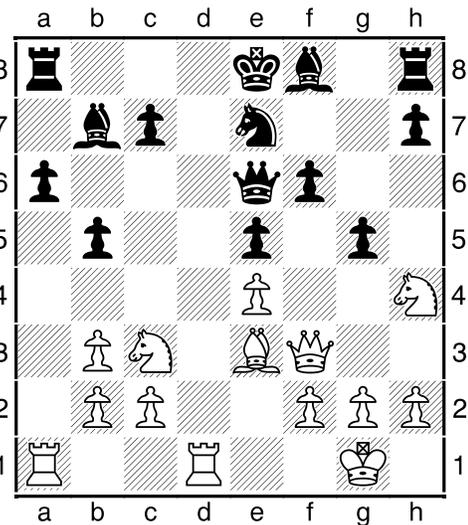
by Daniel Holten

When your pieces fail to communicate with each other the game can very quickly get out of hand. Pieces working as a team to control and attack or defend squares will always be far stronger than single pieces trying to work alone. That is why it can be a great strategy to try and force the opponents pieces to develop to unusual squares or find a way to cut them off from one another. It works especially well if the pieces are incapable of crossing your divide to come to the defence of the king!

**Spassky, Boris**  
**Taimanov, Mark**  
*Moscow, 1955*

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5** Ruy Lopez! **3...a6** main line move [3...Nf6; 3...Bc5] **4.Ba4 b5** Moving pawns permanently weakens squares **5.Bb3 Na5** A very rare variation trying to snatch the bishop pair... it's amazing that such a crass golden rules breakage is even playable **6.0-0** a much better decision... take advantage of the position by doing what your opponent is not doing (development) [It's very tempting to rush a sacrifice here 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Nxe5+ Ke7 8.d4 But white has at best... an unclear attack] **6...d6** secures e5 which is black's strong point **7.d4** trying to open the position **7...Nxb3** stealing the long term strategic advantage of the bishop pair **8.axb3** opening the rook (pieces developed on starting squares) **8...f6** this is playable because white is missing his white squared bishop! [8...exd4 this natural move allows the e4 pawn to invade the black camp later in the

game] **9.Nc3** Nxb5 a strong threat because of the pin on the a6 pawn **9...Bb7 10.Nh4!** exceptional move taking advantage of the weakness on the Kingside [if 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Qe2 and what next??] **10...Ne7** Black pieces are simply not capable of working together.. how do they communicate? [Threatening 10...-- 11.Qh5+ g6 12.Nxg6] **11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qf3 Qd7 13.Rd1** Effectively cutting the board in half! **13...Qe6 14.Be3** Finally developing the Queen's bishop eyeing c5 to trade off e7 allowing knights to outposts f5, d5... the weakness of the early b5 move finally becomes apparent! you can't move back to b6 where the pawn would be far more useful :( **14...g5** further weakening of squares [14...g6 and black still has resilient defence 15.Bc5 Rd8 16.b4 Bh6 17.Rxd8+ Kxd8 18.Rd1+ Kc8 19.Qd3 Kb8± for instance and the king may just scramble Queenside]





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**15.Nxb5!** [not so good 15.Qh5+ Qf7 16.Qxf7+ Kxf7 Black = endgame with bishop pair; same problem 15.Nf5 Nxf5 16.exf5 Bxf3 17.fxe6 another endgame :) **15...axb5 16.Qh5+ Qf7** [16...Ng6?? 17.Nxg6 (17.Rxa8+ Bxa8 18.Nxg6 Qf7 19.Qh3 Qxg6 20.Qd7#) 17...hxg6 18.Qxh8] **17.Rxa8+ Bxa8 18.Rd8+ Kxd8 19.Qxf7 gxh4 20.Qxf6** and black has a slight material advantage but no chance of holding onto his pawns **20...Rg8 21.f3** very patient **21...h3 22.g3 Ke8** and now the mop up begins **23.Qxe5 Rg6 24.Qxb5+ Bc6 25.Qb8+ Kf7 26.Qxc7 Rf6 27.Bg5 Re6** [27...Rxf3 28.Bxe7 Bxe7 29.Qxc6] **28.b4 Kg8 29.Qb8 Ng6 30.Kf2 Ne5 31.b5 Be8 32.Be3 Bd6 33.Qc8 Kf7 34.b6 Rf6 35.Bf4 Bd7 36.b7** a very cute way of ensuring the piece for the pawn **36...Be6 37.Bxe5 Bxe5 38.b8Q Bxc8 39.Qxe5** and black resigns as he has no way of stopping the pawns. Black's awkward development proves to be his eventual downfall. **1-0**

Tal, one of the greatest attacking players of all time knew exactly how to disconnect his opponent's pieces from the defence...

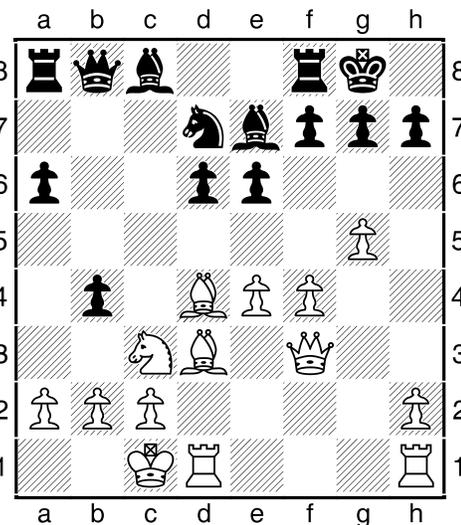
**Tal, Mikhail**

**Larsen, Bent**

*Bled, 1965*

**1.e4 c5** The Sicilian! **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6** looking for Paulsen or Taimanov variations?.. these are middle range variations not passive or super aggressive like Dragon or Najdorf **5.Nc3 d6** Scheveningen variation... this is extremely passive for black. Not something you usually want to do against a renowned attacker [5...Qc7; 5...a6] **6.Be3 Nf6 7.f4** very aggressive **7...Be7 8.Qf3 0-0 9.0-0-0** white has strong control over the key d5 square

which is often weak for black in the Sicilian defence due to lack of a c pawn **9...Qc7 10.Ndb5** attacks the queen but is essentially an exchange of tempo as the knight must retreat also [a nice dynamic line for white.. 10.g4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 e5 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Qg3 Nxg4 14.Nd5 Qd6] **10...Qb8 11.g4 a6 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.Bxd4** a small but good start to Tal's plan to leave his opponents pieces stranded on the Queenside of the board away from defense of the black king **13...b5 14.g5 Nd7 15.Bd3** The plan to cut the black pieces from defence of the black king continues **15...b4**



**16.Nd5** a massive positional sacrifice... (a classic Sicilian sacrifice on d5!) [16.Ne2 is a very acceptable retreat] **16...exd5** [if black tries to simply save the bishop 16...Bd8 17.Nf6+! and the game is clear 17...Nxf6 (17...gxf6 18.gxf6 Kh8; 17...Bxf6 18.gxf6 Nxf6+-) 18.gxf6 g6 19.e5 dxe5 20.fxe5+-] **17.exd5** and Tal has successfully sliced the board in half through use of his d5 sacrifice. A very deep and massive positional advantage. **17...f5 18.Rde1** [if en passant 18.gxf6 Bxf6 Black starts to shut off the

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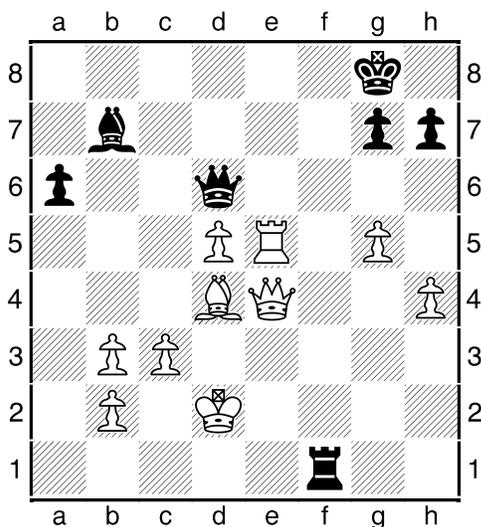


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attack] **18...Rf7** opens f8 and defends e7, g7  
**19.h4** a luxurious move, but black simply has no way back into defence of the king  
**19...Bb7** trying to open up some communication **20.Bxf5 Rxf5 21.Rxe7** and the pressure is too much **21...Ne5** giving the piece back to try for a defence but now he's 2 pawns down [the obvious defence fails miserably **21...Rf7 22.Rxf7 Kxf7 23.g6+ hxg6 24.h5 Qf8 25.Qe4 Qe7 26.Qxg6+ Kg8 27.h6+-]** **22.Qe4 Qf8 23.fxe5 Rf4 24.Qe3 Rf3 25.Qe2** no more attack **25...Qxe7 26.Qxf3 dxe5 27.Re1** pins galore **27...Rd8 28.Rxe5 Qd6 29.Qf4** threatens discovered attack Re8+ winning Queen **29...Rf8 30.Qe4** crazy centre **30...b3 31.axb3 Rf1+ 32.Kd2 Qb4+ 33.c3 Qd6**

together on the Queenside desperately floundering around trying to get back across Tal's great diagonal divide. **1-0**



**34.Bc5** a cute tactic to finish the game by decoying the queen from defence of e6 [keep the king netted don't let him out with a move like **34.Re8+ Kf7**] **34...Qxc5 35.Re8+ Rf8** [35...Kf7 36.Qe6#] **36.Qe6+ Kh8 37.Qf7** and the rook is overloaded... White's sacrifice pays off with his pieces working as a team while the black pieces huddled

Chess

