

□ **Morphy,Paul**  
 ■ **Morphy,Alonzo**

New Orleans  
 [Hicks,E]

**C33**

1848

**1.e4** The strongest move on the board according to Fischer. Controls the center, threatens a pawn center, and unleashes two pieces. **e5** Good for the same reasons as good for white, and stops white from getting a pawn center. **2.f4** The King's Gambit. Morphy offers a pawn. In exchange he will get a strong center. **exf4** Black accepts. Whenever you can take something for free, unless you see a definite trap...take it. **3.Bc4** This move is necessary to make an escape square for the king. Click on the right d4 to see what happens if white tries for an immediate pawn center. [3.d4 Qh4+ 4.g3 fxe3 5.Nf3 g2+ 6.Nxe4 gxe1Q And white goes up a rook.] **3...Qh4+** White Cannot play g3. Do you see why? **4.Kf1** This is in white's plan. He moves his king and loses his castling rights, but now will take advantage of the queen being out early by attacking her with his developing knight. **Bc5** Threatening a checkmate. But this is a weak move because of white's next move. Can you see it? **5.d4** This is a powerful move which grabs the pawn center, stops the mate threat, and chases the bishop at the same time. Remember the best moves in chess accomplish multiple goals. **Bb6** Black is forced to move the same piece twice in the opening. For this reason B-C4 was weak. **6.Nf3** Developing with threats. It was for this reason that white allowed the king-moving check. **Qe7 7.Nc3** Developing, defending the pawn, and putting more pressure on the center. Now white has a pawn center, a dream to have in chess. **Nf6 8.Qd3** Defending the e4 square, developing the queen to a safe square, and putting more protection on that beautiful pawn center. **c6** Black gets ready for a d5 push, necessary to break up white's powerful center. This is a good plan by black. **9.Bxf4** Winning back the gambitted pawn, developing a piece, and controlling the center. Another critical

idea of this move which you will see the importance of later, is now the rook is able to slide over to the e file. **d5?** Although it is a good idea to break up white's strong pawn center, black has missed a critical tactic...can you see it yet? **10.exd5** White has a simple tactic which prevents black from taking the pawn. Can you see it yet? **0-0** The answer. If black would have taken the pawn, then white would have played R-e1 PINNING the queen to the king! Black castles to prevent this pin. **11.d6** Now white is up a pawn, and he is pushing that pawn down black's throat! **Qd8** The only good move for black. Can you see the position breaking move if he would have played Q-e7? **12.Re1** Rooks belong on the open files. The e file is the only open file and that is definitely where this rook belongs. He is threatening next move to play R-e7 and invade black's 7th rank. The 7th rank is the most powerful position for a rook. **Re8** Neutralizing the powerful white rook, and trying to keep him from coming to the 7th rank. **13.Ng5** Putting a second attacker on Alfred the pawn. **Rxe1+** Trading off the powerful rook and forcing the king to the center. **14.Kxe1 Qe8+** Now the black queen will own the e-file...but not for very long. **15.Kd2** This is an important move. White does this to clear the way for the rook. Now the rook can move over and take the critical e-file. Even though the king is in the center, black has no pieces developed that can attack him. **Be6** Anticipating the queen chasing R-e1, black blocks the file. **16.Re1** Morphy was famous for developing ALL of his pieces in most of his games. Now his last piece is in the game. Notice black is badly developed. R-e1 PINS the bishop to the queen. **Nbd7** Desperately trying to develop before getting beat up! **17.Nxe6** Too late...here comes the hammer-blow! **fxe6 18.Rxe6!** MUCH better than taking with the bishop. White threatens both the queen and a brutal discovered check. **Qd8 19.Re8#** Discovered Double Check mate. The moral of the chess game: The power of the pawn center. The power of the open file.

**1-0**