

□ Spassky, Boris
 ■ Aftonomov, Alex
 Soviet Junior Qualifiers
 [Hicks, E]

D28
 2300
 2200
 1949

1.d4 Gary Kasparov's favorite move. Spasky was 12 years old at the time of this game! **d5** The simplest way for black to keep white from playing a pawn center. **2.c4** The most commonly played move. c4 looks like a gambit but it isn't. If black plays ppx, it is easy for white to win the pawn back and get a pawn center. For that reason black rarely takes the pawn. **dx c4** Accepted! Rarely played. Usually black will give the pawn back...lets see... **3.Nf3** White is being patient, knowing he can play for the pawn at any point. Black can hold the pawn, but only with giving up lots of attention. **Nf6** Developing a piece and controlling the center. Most importantly it prevent's white from getting a pawn center. **4.e3** Attacking c5. **e6** Black opts to let the pawn fall and keep building his position...probably a wise choice. **5.Bxc4** White takes the pawn and gains time by developing is bishop at the same time. **c5** Challenging white's center. **6.0-0** Castle often, castle early. All the past world champions follow this advice! **a6** A slow move. Black would have been wise to do a more developing move. **7.Qe2** Queens when developed in the opening usually go to ultra-safe squares like c2, e2,d2, where they are still hidden away, but yet out of the way of the rooks. In this case, Spasky has cleared the way for his rook to grab the soon to be open d-file. **Nc6** Developing a piece, controlling the center, and putting more pressure on the critcal d4 pawn. **8.Nc3** Staking counter claim to critical center squares and developing a piece. **b5** Grabbing queenside space, clearing the way to develop the bishop to b7, and doing it with TEMPO. **9.Bb3 Bb7** A nice place for the bishop since it was blocked in by the e6 pawn on c8. **10.Rd1** Putting the rook on the critcal d file. Although it is not an open file, you can bet your britches it will be soon. **cx d4** **11.ex d4** White opts to open

the queen's file instead of playing the more natural 11. Nxp which would have opened the d-file (see the line to the right) Spasky is planning to use the d pawn, backed by the rook, as a wedge to split apart black's position. **Nb4** Planning to blockade the pawn with N (b)d5. **12.d5!?** Prevents the BLOCKADE, and assures that the d-file will after all open. **Nbx d5** It's a no-brainer to accept the gambitted center pawn. Remember, center pawns are positionally important. **13.Bg5!** PINNING one of the protectors of the PINNED d5. This move therefore puts indirect pressure on the pinned piece. **Be7** Breaking the pin. **14.Bxf6** REMOVING THE DEFENDER **gxf6** **15.Nxd5 Bxd5** **16.Bxd5 ex d5** **17.Nd4!** From this powerful square, the knight is threatening to pressure the PINNED bishop. Also the rooks are poised to protect the bishop at the same time. If black does not do something desperate to break the pin, the bishop will fall. Notice the King cannot castle without losing the bishop and is therefore stuck in the middle. **Kf8** **18.Nf5!** Applying decisive pressure. Although black is up in material, he is losing because of white's mounting attacks, and black's poor positioning. **h5** Desperately creating running squares for the king. [18...Rg8 19.Rxd5 Qxd5 20.Qxe7#] **19.Rxd5 Qxd5** **20.Qxe7+ Kg8** **21.Qxf6** Black resigns since he cannot stop both threats which are Qg7mate and Nd7 forking king and queen.

1-0