

□ Tal

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B75

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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 The Dragon Variation. Tal's amateur opponent dares to take the Wizard of Riga down a path of thoroughly researched opening variations. **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3** Securing the g4 square and preventing any attempt by Black to exchange his Knight for Tal's e3 Bishop. **Nc6 8.Qd2** Tal prepares to castle Queenside, and reserves himself options for where to post his King Bishop. **Bd7 9.0-0-0 Qa5 10.Kb1** Not simply to protect a2, but even here Tal is thinking in combinative style. By having his King on b1, the Knight on c3 is free to play to d5 in possible upcoming combinations, and when Black plays ...Qd2 there is no check, which allows Tal to play in-between moves such as Nf6+ or if Black's King is castled, Ne7+, before recapturing the Black Queen. **Rc8?** Black should have castled Kingside and then played Rfc8. The Queen Rook was already in place for a Queenside pawn advance. **11.g4** Now Black's option to castle Queenside is gone, and Kingside castling is too dangerous, as Tal has launched a pawn storm. **h6** Trying to ward off the invaders! **12.h4 a6** Black goes for attacking chances on the Queenside, but his tenth and eleventh moves have cost valuable time, furthermore, his king being uncastled leaves Black down a virtual Rook. **13.Be2** Connecting his rooks. **Ne5 14.g5 hxg5** [14...Ng8 Tal gave the following line to show that Black is already in bad shape: 15.Nb3 Qd8 16.Nd5 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.Na5 Ra4 19.Bb6 Qc8 20.b3+-] **15.hxg5 Rxh1** Black believes his problems are over. He exchanges the undeveloped King Rook and finally has all his pieces working. Unfortunately, he did not take into consideration the resulting tactical situation he now faces against Grandmaster Tal. **16.gxf6!** This intermediate move forces Black to keep hanging himself. **Rxd1+** There is no way out, for if [16...Bxf6 17.Rxh1+- and Tal is up a whole piece.] **17.Nxd1!** Now Tal holds two huge double

threats. Qxa5 and fxc7. **Qxd2 18.fxc7!!** Black Resigns. Tal is threatening 19. g8=Q mate, and 18...Kd8 19.g8=Q Kc7 20.Qxc8! Bxc8 21.Bxd2 leaves Tal ahead by two pieces.
1-0