First Grandmaster of the Soviet Union A Chess Biography of Boris Verlinsky

Sergei Tkachenko

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Chapter I

THE SOURCES

Childhood Mysteries

The biographical genre has certain conventions: one has to write about the birth of the protagonist, their childhood, youth, etc. This makes it easier for the readers to see the person's whole upbringing path, with all the successes and setbacks. So, we are going to follow the same conventions!

The first Soviet grandmaster Boris Markovich (Berl Mordukhovich) Verlinsky was born on 27th December 1887 (8th January 1888 New Style) in the county town of Bakhmut of the Ekaterinoslav Governorate, which is now sadly famous throughout the world for quite different reasons.

The site "Judaism and Jews" explains that "the surname Verlinsky originated from the German city Berlin. Apparently, an ancestor of the bearer of this surname was born in Berlin."

But Berlin is quite far from Bakhmut! How exactly did the ancestors of our protagonist get from the center of Europe to a small county town in the south of the Russian Empire?

Unfortunately, fully tracing their movement proved to be impossible. The archives keep their silence!

Long before Boris Verlinsky was born, the Ekaterinoslav Governorate was included in the so-called Pale of Settlement. Many Jewish families moved there from the western reaches of the Empire, forming settlements and small communities of Jewish farmers (yes, they did exist). However, the surviving documents of the Bakhmut *Uyezd* of the mid-19th century do not mention a Jewish merchant or lower middle class resident named Verlinsky. It's possible that during the war, when the region was occupied by the Wehrmacht, many documents (especially concerning Jewish life) were destroyed.

I placed great hopes on the rabbinate birth records – in addition to birth and circumcision dates, they contain parents' names. But there was nothing either! The surviving books had no data on Boris' birth. I still harbored hopes that some synagogue close to Bakhmut did register Verlinsky's birth. However, the searches also yielded nothing: the documents of the settlements around Bakhmut contained no mention of the birth of the future grandmaster.

My last recourse was the central archive of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic", to where some Bakhmut *Uyezd* documents were moved after 2014. But this was only another disappointment. Three months after my request,



Bakhmut Market Square, pre-1917.

I received an official letter from Donetsk (yes, this was possible before the 2022 invasion), signed by the archive director and chief archivist:

"We hereby inform you that the birth registries of the Bakhmut synagogue of 1887–1888 do not contain any mention of the birth of Verlinsky Boris Markovich.

There was no information on the family of Verlinsky B. M. or their place of residence in the archive documents."

And so, the only source that can help us is the surviving autobiographical sketch of Verlinsky himself: "My Encounters with World Champions" (*Shakhmaty v SSSR*, No. 1, 1951), published posthumously.

"I was born in Bakhmut, in the south of Russia," he wrote in his memoir, and moved to Odessa together with my parents when I was still a child."

Unfortunately, he did not mention the reasons for the move. It's possible that Jewish pogroms in the Bakhmut *Uyezd* at the end of the 19th century had something to do with that. Here's what *Obzor Ekaterinoslavskoi Gubernii za* 1892 god (*Ekaterinoslav Governorate 1892 Review*) tells us about one such massacre that happened in early August: "A several thousand-strong mob of workers destroyed the tea house built during the cholera times (*there was an outbreak in the uyezd at the time – Auth.*), ravaged Jewish shops, stores and warehouses; frightful looting ensued. Men, women, children – everyone

grabbed what they could. At 8 p.m., a fire started... The market square was fully engulfed by fire at night."

The official sources say that 80 Jews were killed in that pogrom. The synagogue and a hotel were burned down. Seven apartment blocks, 182 shops and 11 drinking houses were looted.

This tragedy happened in Yuzovka (currently, Donetsk), 80 kilometers away from Bakhmut. The chilling news immediately made the rounds in the entire *uyezd*, acquiring more bloody details in the minds of frightened people. Subsequently, some Jewish families moved from the Bakhmut *Uyezd* to quieter places in Southern Russia. Perhaps Verlinsky's parents were among them. Did the migrants find a quieter life in the new place? I'm not so sure!

Or maybe the poor harvests in the Ekaterinoslav Governorate were to blame. Odessa, a port city, had much better food supply.

Grandmaster Yuri Lvovich Averbakh shared some details of Verlinsky's youth in Odessa in his book *A Chess Player's Life in the System*, which he got straight from the primary source: "Verlinsky had a perfect pitch, and his parents wanted to make a child conductor out of him. This ended badly: he got sick with meningitis, which led to a substantial loss of hearing and speech impediment."

Averbakh's hint led me to search for Odessa's music schools that taught conducting and instruments (according to eyewitness accounts, Boris Verlinsky was a decent violin and piano player).

Some small private schools aside, musical education in late 19th-century Odessa was monopolized by the musical college of the Odessa chapter of the Russian Imperial Music Society. However, the archive documents of the Odessa Conservatory, which was established in 1913 on the basis of that college, do not mention Verlinsky either. The archivist told me that almost the entire pre-revolutionary archive of the conservatory was destroyed during the Civil War.

Interestingly enough, the heyday of this temple of music coincided with Boris Markovich's childhood and youth. This happened thanks to the work of the famous Czech violin player, composer and conductor Josef Karbulka, who moved to Odessa in 1895. A "music fever" flared up in the city, and so it's not surprising that some Odessa chess players studied music in their childhood.

I should point out one important fact from Averbakh's memories: he said that Boris Verlinsky suffered from a "substantial loss of hearing" due to meningitis. The thing is, some chess resources erroneously claim that Boris Verlinsky was born deaf. This is wrong! The deafness was caused by the disease he suffered. I cannot imagine any parents who could send their boy to study music knowing well that he was deaf.

The Sources

What is meningitis? Simply put, it's an inflammation of protective membranes of the brain and spinal cord. Before the antibiotics era, the disease was fraught with menacing complications, including paralysis, mental illness, epilepsy, full loss of hearing and even death. Sad statistics show that before the mid-20th century, the death rate of meningitis was above 90%.

Meningitis was especially dangerous for children, because it led to arrested development and nervous system damage. But sometimes this disease produced a reverse effect. There are known cases of meningitis that led to the emergence of incredible memory capacity and phenomenal calculation skills after recovery. For instance, world chess champions Alexander Alekhine and Mikhail Tal also suffered from meningitis in their childhoods.

Where did Verlinsky's parents live after moving to Odessa? My longstanding endgame study co-author and friend, Odessa chess player Nikolai Vasilyevich Rezvov (1921–2013), would tell me stories about his childhood and youth. Sometimes I compared his memories with official sources. Almost everything was spot on!

Once he mentioned Verlinsky's nephew, who lived near Shevchenko Park. Nikolai Vasilyevich remembered that, after moving to Moscow in the early 1920s, Boris Markovich would return to Odessa each summer "to enjoy the sea." During these visits, he would stay in his nephew's room.

"Oh, not these guests from the capital city again!" the annoyed man would complain.

Armed with this information, I started to search for the house where the Verlinsky family lived. And this time, the search was successful! The address book *Vsya Odessa (Whole Odessa)*, published by L. A. Lisyansky in 1911, mentioned an assistant attorney named Israel Mordukhovich Verlinsky.

Subsequent investigations showed that he was Boris' older brother. His address was 26 Bazarnaya Street. Indeed, this was not far from Shevchenko Park!

The history of this building is full of mysteries! It was built in the second half of the 19th century, but the author of the project is unknown. Some Odessa architecture experts think that the decorations of the block look like a work of Adolf Minkus. Other historians ascribe the authorship to the architect Mavriky Reinhertz.

In any event, this building had been owned by Iosif Schwartz and then other members of his family since 1900.

In addition to the Verlinsky family, teachers, doctors and merchants lived in it. There were some small shops on the ground floor, selling meat, bread and other groceries (including Bakhmut salts). There was also a drugstore that dealt in various mixtures and ointments.

No. 80. Ruy Lopez C71 VERLINSKY – BOGATYRCHUK 7th Soviet Championship Moscow 1931, round 7 Annotated by N. Grigoriev

1.e4 e5 2.0f3 0c6 3.0b5 a6 4.0a4 d6 5.d4. White usually plays the preliminary 5.0xc6+, doubling the black pawns and getting a good game. After the game move, black manages to avoid doubled pawns.

5... 盒 **d7.** Modern theory recommends 5... b5.

6. ▲ xc6. Only a few strong players would advocate a trade that gives black the bishop pair at the price of a freer game for white (the bishop pair in such a position is actually not an advantage until the position opens up completely; such a system does exist, and white plays for a positional bind). The majority prefer 6.c3 ④ f6 7. ▲ g5 ▲ e7 8. ④ bd2 0-0 9.0-0, and after 9... ▲ e8 a line that was used by Alekhine several times occurs. Black gets a very solid position in this line, but white's play is a bit freer.

6...≜xc6 7.⊘**c3 f6.** This move has a dual purpose:

1) to avoid the well-known lines that occur after 7...②f6 8.營d3 ②d7, with a difficult game for black;

2) to hold the center.

The disadvantages of this move clearly show in this game:

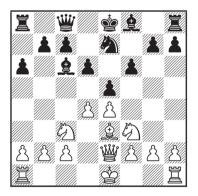
1) it restricts black's dark-squared bishop;

2) it weakens the kingside pawn position, which allows white to create an attack easily;

3) it hinders the development of black pieces, especially the knight – it loses the important f6 square.

8. 2 **e3** 2 **e7.** Another possible development method is 8...g6; however, white can easily prevent 2 h6 with the subsequent 2 h7 (as Alekhine played in his match against Bogoljubov), for instance, with the simple 9. 2 d2 and 10.0-0-0. After 8... g6, however, black's kingside weakens even further than in the actual game.

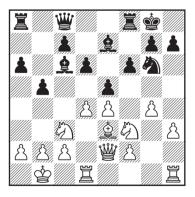
9.₩e2 ₩c8.



It's not easy for black to come up with a plan for further play to counteract white's impending attack on his short castled position, which he will eventually have to go for. The game move serves as the start of a complicated defensive-attacking system. The goal of this move is, first, to provoke the premature and timid h3 instead of the active h4, because black's threat \bigotimes g4 might be rather unpleasant. Secondly, this increases the pressure on white's only weakness, the e4 square (after b5 and bb7), provokes d5 and then enables black to open the c-file with c6, launching some activity. As the game continuation shows, black's attack comes too late, because his plan in this line is too unwieldy.

10.h3 (10.0-0-0! is more energetic) **10...** ② **g6 11.0-0-0 b5 12.** ③ **b1.** White still hasn't figured out on which side black will castle; otherwise, instead of this move that frees the c1 square (which actually turned out to be unnecessary), he would have immediately played 12.d5 with the subsequent 13.g4 and a very cramped position for black.

12... **e7 13.g4 0-0.** Forced to be bold! Unfortunately, black has no choice.



14. \exists **dg1.** White had a splendid move in the spirit of glorious attackers available, 14.h4!? $\blacksquare xg4$ 15.h5 $\bigtriangleup f4$ 16. $\pounds xf4 \blacksquare xf4$ 17.h6 g5 18. $\exists dg1$, with good compensation for the

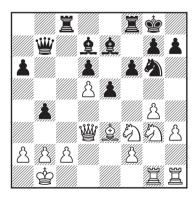
sacrificed pawn thanks to the black queen being out of play.

14...**^wb7 15.d5.** 15.^[∞] d2 is worse, since black can liberate his position with 15...d5.

15... ≜ d7 16. ⊮ d3. Freeing the square for the knight. However, the knight has a good square on d1 as well. So, white could push the h-pawn immediately, without losing time.

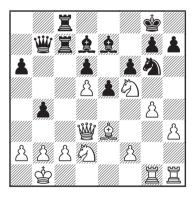
Indeed, after the immediate 16.h4, black's position would have been quite difficult. For instance: 16...b4 17.②d1 單fc8 18.h5 ②f8 19.盒c1 c6 20.②e3, also with a good game for white.

16...b4 17. $2 e^2$ c6 18. $2 g^3$ cxd5 19.exd5 \exists ac8. The computer recommends plunging into the depths of complications via 19...a5! 20. $2 f^5 \& b^5 21. @e4 \\ \equiv fc8 22. \\ 2 d^2 \\ b3! 23. \\ 2 xb3 \\ \equiv c4! 24. \\ @d3! \\ \equiv xg4 \\ 25. \\ @d2 \\ \equiv xg1 + 26. \\ \equiv xg1 \\ \& f8 \\ with \\ an unclear position.$



20. 0 **d2** \boxminus **c7 21.** 0 **f5** \boxminus **fc8.** Black has achieved all he wanted: he has opened the c-file, seized it with

major pieces and threatens to attack the c2 square. However, as white's strong answer shows, this is not all scary. Therefore, black should have concerned himself with the defense of the d6 square. It was simpler and stronger to play 21... 单b5 22. 響e4 and then 22... \[fc8. However, even in this case white has a very strong attack after 23.g5! For instance: 23... □xc2 24.gxf6 gxf6 25.h4. Therefore, it's better to play 23...fxg5 24. 2xg5 ≜f8 (not 24...≜xg5 due to 25.④xd6) 25. (ref)e3 a5 26.h4 with a difficult defense for black. This is all a consequence of poor opening play.

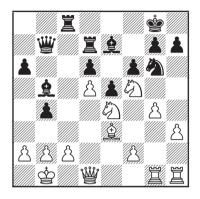


22. @e4! The attack on the weak d6 square balances out black's pressure along the c-file.

22... & **b5.** There's another defense, 22... & xf5 23.gxf5 f4 (other retreats are even worse) 24. & xf4 exf4 25. f3 with a strong attack, and black doesn't even have his only consolation – the bishop pair. After 25... \blacksquare xc2! with the subsequent h8 and & f8, black repels the attack and goes on the offensive. Instead of

25. # f3, white should prefer 25. $\exists c1$ with complicated play. 22... &xf5 is actually black's best choice in this position.

23.\#d1 \Zd7



24.g5. Looks very threatening, but this is not the strongest continuation of the attack. It was necessary to push the other pawn, 24.h4!, and black has insufficient defense. 24....≜f8 is quite unsightly: 25.h5 ④ h8 26.g5 with a rather pretty position for white. But what else can black do? He can't play 24...≜c4 25.h5 ≜xd5 26.hxg6 ≜xe4 27.≣xh7 ≣xc2 28.≣xg7+ №f8 29.≣f7+ №e8 30.≣xe7+ ≣xe7 31.ᡚxd6+, and wins. In short, after 24.h4! black's position is hopeless, and his opening play is therefore refuted.

In the computer's opinion, white gets a decisive advantage after the prophylactic 24.b3! c7 25.h4! with a formidable attack.

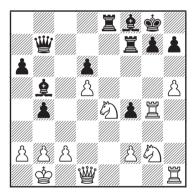
24...fxg5 25.≜**xg5** ≜**f8 26.h4.** Now this move lacks power.

26... \triangleq **c4! 27.** \triangle **e3** \equiv **f7.** Now we see the huge difference in power

between moving the pawn earlier and right now, when black has already seized the f-file.

28. \exists **g4.** White squeezes everything he can from the position, but the moment is already missed. *Verlinsky missed the opportunity to get an overwhelming position:* 28.*h5!* \bigcirc *f4* 29. &*xf4* \equiv *xf4* 30. \equiv *g4! h6* 31. \equiv *hh4!* \boxplus *f7* 32. \equiv *xf4 exf4* 33. \bigcirc *xc4* \equiv *xc4* 34. \boxplus *f3! etc.*

28... a b5 29.h5 a f4 30. a xf4 exf4 31. a g2 a e8. Before time control, black makes another correct move, but then the lack of time disrupts the normal flow of the game.



32.f3 [₩]c8? Black has managed to equalize with great defense and could have even seized the initiative himself. However, all his efforts are wasted because of this mistake. It was necessary to play 32...[∞] e5!, and white cannot play 33.[∞] xf4 due to 33...[∞] d7 34.[∞] gh4 [∞] e7, and the black bishop pair gets to work. After 32...[∞] e5!, white's position would have been difficult. The best reply is probably 33.h6 Ξ xd5, to muddy the waters with 34. Ψ g1.

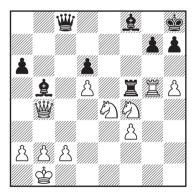
33. xf4. White wins an important pawn without any compensation.

33...≅xf4 34.⊘xf4 ⊎f5 35.⊎d2 ≡e5. Now this move lacks its old strength. It was better to simply defend the b4 pawn that was targeted by white.

36.□g1 含h8? No matter how bad the position is, making such moves is tantamount to immediate resignation. Black probably missed that he cannot meet 37.**□**g5 with 37...**◎**f7 because of 38.**②**g6, winning the exchange. It was necessary to play 36...a5, with a long resistance struggle ahead.

37.□**g5 wc8 38. wxb4.** With two extra pawns, white's task is not too difficult.

38...**¤f**5



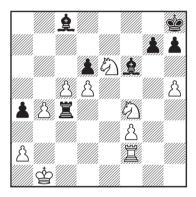
39. \exists **g4.** It was simpler to play 39. \exists xf5 \forall xf5 40. \bigcirc c3 with the subsequent 41. \forall e4, centralization and consolidation.

There was an even simpler win: $39.\textcircled{0}e6! \equiv xf3 \ 40. \equiv g1 \ h6 \ 41. \boxplus d4$

*"c*4 42.*"xc*4 *≜xc*4 43.*⁽²⁾d*2, *curtains*.

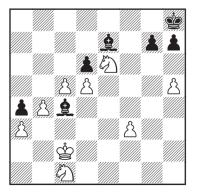
39...ec4 40.exc4 axc4 41.Oc3 a5 42.b3 aa6 43.Oe4 ac8 44.Og5 ae7 45.Oge6 af6. Black does everything he can to reanimate his bishops, but nothing helps.

46.c4 ≦e5 47.≦g2 ≦e3 48.≦f2 a4 49.b4 ≦c3 50.c5 ≦c4. This is all good, but not enough.



51.^②**d3 ≅c3 52.**^③**df4.** To win time, obviously.

52...罩c4 53.④d3 罩c3 54.④df4 罩c4 55.④d3 罩c3 56.罩d2 盒a6 57.④c1 罩c4 58.a3 盒e7 59.罩c2 罩xc2 60.當xc2 盒c4.



For a moment, it seems that black has managed to achieve something, but...

61.c6! 单xd5 62.④d4 单d8 63.④ce2 单b6 64.④c3. The maneuvers of the white knights are rather harmonious.

64.... ⁽¹⁾ **f7** 65. ⁽²⁾ d3 ⁽²⁾ xh5 66. ⁽²⁾ d5 ⁽²⁾ g6+ 67. ⁽²⁾ c3 ⁽²⁾ xd4+ 68. ⁽²⁾ xd4 ⁽²⁾ e8. Black resigned without waiting for white's reply.

"Round 8. After a sharp, intense struggle with a lot of interesting Yudovich tactical points. spectacularly sacrificed an exchange to Verlinsky in a Queen's Gambit and got a strong attack. After a few moves, white regained the exchange and put strong pressure on the weakened black king's position. Verlinsky's superb defense gave white a lot of problems. In his search for the win, Yudovich rejected an opportunity to repeat moves, made a number of inaccuracies and ultimately lost."

Standings at halfway: Riumin 7/8; Verlinsky 6; Bogatyrchuk, Botvinnik 5.5. As you see, the three players who were included at the last moment had got ahead in the race! What would happen in the second half of the tournament?

"Round 9. In Verlinsky – Botvinnik (French Defense), white sacrificed a pawn in the middlegame to open up the a1-h8 diagonal for his bishop. In severe time trouble, white missed the win, got a worse position

All-Russian Amateurs Tournament

| No. | Players | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | Points | Prize |
|-----|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Levitsky | ٠ | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16½ | 1 |
| 2 | Flamberg | 0 | ٠ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14½ | 2 |
| 3 | Izbinsky | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 131/2 | 3 |
| 4 | Langleben | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | ٠ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 13 | 4-5 |
| 5 | Rosenthal | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | ٠ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 13 | 4-5 |
| 6 | Verlinsky | $^{1}\!/_{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ٠ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 121/2 | 6-8 |
| 7 | Lurye | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | ٠ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 121/2 | 6-8 |
| 8 | Shapiro | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 121/2 | 6-8 |
| 9 | Bogoljubov | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | ٠ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 12 | 9-10 |
| 10 | A.Kubbel | 1 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | ۲ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 9-10 |
| 11 | A.Romanovsky | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| 12 | Lebedev | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | |
| 13 | Malyutin | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ۲ | 1 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 10 | |
| 14 | Rosenkrantz | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | ٠ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 91/2 | |
| 15 | List | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | |
| 16 | Ostrogsky | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 0 | ٠ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | |
| 17 | Kosolapov | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1/2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 1/2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ۲ | 1/2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | |
| 18 | Frenkel | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | |
| 19 | Surnin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | ٠ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 71/2 | |
| 20 | Eljashov | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | ٠ | 0 | 0 | 6½ | |
| 21 | Evtifeev | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1/2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ٠ | 1 | 51/2 | |
| 22 | Konstansky | 0 | 0 | 1/2 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | ٠ | 5 | |

Odessa Championship

15 February – 9 March 1912

| No. | Players | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Points | Prize |
|-----|------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---|---|-------------|---|---------------|-------------|----|--------|-------|
| 1 | Verlinsky | ٠ | 1 | $1/_{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 81/2 | 1 |
| 2 | List | 0 | • | $1/_{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 71/2 | 2 |
| 3 | Laurent | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 51/2 | 3 |
| 4 | Galperin | 0 | 0 | 1 | • | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4-5 |
| 5 | Sonin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ٠ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4-5 |
| 6 | Magazanik | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ٠ | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 41/2 | 6 |
| 7 | E. Ratner | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | ٠ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | Karavodin | 0 | 0 | 1/2 | 0 | 0 | $^{1}/_{2}$ | 0 | ٠ | $^{1}/_{2}$ | 0 | 11/2 | |
| 9 | Dolberg | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $^{1}/_{2}$ | • | _ | 11/2 | |
| 10 | Nezhintsev | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | _ | • | 1 | |

| | • | | | | | | - | | | |
|-----|------------|-------|-----|------|-------------|---------------|----|-----|-----|--------|
| | Odessa, Se | epter | nbe | er – | - O | cto | be | r 1 | 913 | 3 |
| No. | Players | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Points |
| 1 | Verlinsky | 1 | 0 | 1 | $^{1}/_{2}$ | $^{1}/_{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 2 | Laurent | 0 | 1 | 0 | $^{1}/_{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

Champions Match

All-Russian Tournament for the Strongest Amateurs St. Petersburg, 8 – 16 December 1913

| No. | Players | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Points | Prize |
|-----|-----------|-----|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|---|---------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Evenson | • | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6½ | 1 |
| 2 | Smorodsky | 0 | ٠ | + | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 3 | Verlinsky | 1/2 | _ | ٠ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 41/2 | 3 |
| 4 | Langleben | 0 | 1 | 0 | ٠ | 0 | 1 | $^{1}/_{2}$ | 1 | 31/2 | 4-5 |
| 5 | Rozanov | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | ۲ | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 31/2 | 4-5 |
| 6 | Rosenbaum | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ٠ | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| 7 | Rosenthal | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $^{1}/_{2}$ | 0 | ٠ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 11/2 | |
| 8 | Gartman | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $^{1}/_{2}$ | • | 1/2 | |

Odessa Championship

17 June – 25 July 1918

| No. | Players | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | Points | Prize |
|-----|--------------|---------------|---|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Vilner | • | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | + | + | 1 | 121/2 | 1 |
| 2 | Verlinsky | 0 | • | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | + | 1 | 1 | 11 | 2 |
| 3 | Gonsiorovsky | 0 | 0 | ٠ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | + | 1 | 9 | 3-4 |
| 4 | Lerner | 0 | 0 | 1 | • | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | + | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 | 3-4 |
| 5 | Sukhov | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | ٠ | 1 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 1 | + | 8 | 5 |
| 6 | Brodsky | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | • | 1 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | + | 1 | 71/2 | 6-7 |
| 7 | Butalov | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | ٠ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | + | $\frac{1}{2}$ | + | 71/2 | 6-7 |
| 8 | Laurent | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | • | _ | 0 | 1 | 1 | _ | + | 1 | 7 | |
| 9 | E. Ratner | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | + | ٠ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | + | 1 | 7 | |
| 10 | D. Russo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | • | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | |
| 11 | Vasyutinsky | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | ٠ | 0 | 1 | 1 | + | 6 | |
| 12 | Rosenman | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $1/_{2}$ | 0 | 0 | 1 | $^{1}/_{2}$ | 1 | • | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | + | 6 | |
| 13 | Grinberg | _ | _ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | _ | _ | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ٠ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0 | 2 | |
| 14 | Dolberg | _ | 0 | _ | _ | 0 | _ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | _ | _ | 0 | 0 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | • | _ | 2 | |
| 15 | Iglitsky | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | _ | 0 | _ | 0 | 0 | 0 | _ | _ | 1 | _ | ٠ | 11/2 | |