

# A Legend On the Road



**Bobby Fischer's 1964 Simul Tour**

**John Donaldson**

**2nd Edition, Revised & Enlarged**

# A Legend on the Road

Bobby Fischer's 1964  
Simultaneous Exhibition Tour

Second Edition

**John Donaldson**



2005

Russell Enterprises, Inc.  
Milford, CT USA

A Legend on the Road

© Copyright 2005

John Donaldson

All Rights Reserved

ISBN: 1-888690-25-9

Published by:  
Russell Enterprises, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5460  
Milford, CT 06460 USA

<http://www.chesscafe.com>  
[info@chesscafe.com](mailto:info@chesscafe.com)

Cover design by Janel Lowrance

Printed in the United States of America



# Table of Contents

Bobby Fischer's 1964 Simul Tour	4
Introduction to the Second Edition	5
Introduction to the First Edition	7
<b>February 1964</b>	14
Detroit	
Rochester	
Waltham	
Montreal	
Quebec City	
Toronto	
<b>March 1964</b>	36
Westerly	
Fitchburg	
Hartford	
Richmond	
Washington, D.C.	
New York	
Pittsburgh	
Cleveland	
Toledo	
Chicago	
Baton Rouge	
New Orleans	
Houston	
Little Rock	
Hot Springs	
<b>April 1964</b>	108
Wichita	
Ogden	
Hollywood	
San Francisco	
Sacramento	
Davis	
Santa Barbara	
Santa Monica	
Las Vegas	
Denver	
<b>May 1964</b>	160
Cheltenham	
Boston	
Milwaukee	
Flint	
Columbus	
Cicero	
Indianapolis	
New York	
State College	
<b>Bibliography</b>	194
<b>Index of Players, ECO Codes, &amp; Openings</b>	195

# Bobby Fischer's 1964 Simul Tour

## February

9	Detroit	51 (+47, -2, =2)
15	Rochester	75 (+69, -1, =5)
20	Waltham	40 (+39, -0, =1)
23	Montreal	55 (+46, -5, =4)
24	Montreal (clock simul)	10 (+10, -0, =0)
25	Quebec City	48 (+48, -0, =0)
27	Toronto	50 (+40, -4, =6)

## March

1	Westerly	47 (+44, -1, =2)
2	Fitchburg	56 (+49, -5, =2)
3	Hartford	55 (+49, -2, =4)
5	Richmond	50 (+44, -4, =2)
8	Washington, D.C.	65 (+52, -4, =9)
?	New York	30 (+30, -0, =0)
15	Pittsburgh	53 (+50, -1, =2)
18	Cleveland	51 (+51, -0, =0)
19	Toledo	55 (+50, -3, =2)
22	Chicago	71 (+56, -4, =11)
23	Chicago	54 (+49, -1, =4)
25	Baton Rouge	5 (+5, -0, =0)
25	Baton Rouge	2 (+2, -0, =0) vs. Acers
26	New Orleans	75 (+70, -3, =2)
28	Houston	57 (+51, -3, =3)
29	Little Rock	36 (+36, -0, =0)
30	Hot Springs	1 (+1, -0, =0) vs. Allbritton

## April

4	Wichita	40 (+38, -1, =1)
8	Ogden	63 (+60, -1, =2)
12	Hollywood	50 (+47, -1, =2)
13	San Francisco	50 (+38, -4, =8)
15	Sacramento	50 (+47, -2, =1)
16	Davis (clock simul)	10 (+10, -0, =0)
18	Santa Barbara	52 (+49, -2, =1)
19	Santa Monica	50 (+45, -3, =2)
??	Las Vegas (exact date unknown)	35 (+34, -0, =1)
26	Denver	55 (+50, -1, =4)

## May

3	Cheltenham	73 (+70, -2, =1)
10	Boston	53 (+50, -1, =2)
14	Milwaukee	57 (+48, -4, =5)
16	Flint	58 (+53, -0, =5)
18	Columbus	50 (+48, -0, =2)
20	Cicero	50 (+44, -1, =5)
21	Indianapolis	50 (+48, -1, =1)
24	New York	34 (+34, -0, =0)
31	State College	50 (+49, -0, =1)

Total (known games)

2022 (+1850, -67, =105) (94%)

# Introduction to the Second Edition

This edition contains all the material relating to Fischer's 1964 tour that previously appeared in the first edition of *A Legend on the Road* and *The Unknown Bobby Fischer*, plus original material I've gathered for this volume. New highlights include the rediscovery of a forgotten visit to Indianapolis by Bobby and remembrances of simulms by Jude Acers (Baton Rouge and New Orleans), Carl Branan (Houston), C. Richard Long (Little Rock), Marty Lubell (Pittsburgh), and Michael Morris (San Francisco). There are several new photographs and documents relating to the tour.

This time around I would like to thank my editor Taylor Kingston and publisher Hanon Russell, as well as Jude Acers, Todd Bardwick, Frank (Kim) Berry, Gary Berry, Gary Bookout, Carl Brannan, Neil Brennen, Ojars Celle, Mark Donlan, C. Richard Long, Marty Lubell, Jeff Martin (John G. White Collection of the Cleveland Public Library), Hardon McFarland, Michael Morris, Robert Peters, Eric Tangborn and Val Zemitis for their help. I would especially like to thank Holly Lee. This book would not have been possible without their efforts.

I continue to be amazed at how warmly and vividly people remember Bobby's tour of forty years ago.

John Donaldson  
Berkeley, March 2005

## Explanation of Symbols

(O.G.) Indicates the source is the original game score itself.

All editor's notes are by John Donaldson, from either the first edition or *The Unknown Bobby Fischer*, unless indicated otherwise by "TK" (Taylor Kingston).

## Preface to *The Unknown Bobby Fischer*

The idea for *The Unknown Bobby Fischer* (1999) came shortly after the publication of *A Legend on the Road* (1994). The many readers who wrote me after the appearance of *Legend* offered a wealth of new material with games and anecdotes. Sometimes gold would appear in the most unexpected places.

Playing in the 1997 McLaughlin Memorial in Wichita, I was delighted to meet former Kansas Champion Robert Hart, who had kept his copy of the mimeographed bulletin of Bobby's 1964 visit to Wichita. I had heard rumors of this bulletin, but until Mr. Hart generously sent me the games, I feared that all existing copies had disappeared. My *Unknown Bobby Fischer* co-author Eric Tangborn and I, with the help of Erik Osbun, were able, using a little detective work, to convert 18 of the games (one score was unreadable) from sometimes questionable descriptive notation into playable algebraic. Only D Ballard's win, Fischer's sole loss in the exhibition, was previously known. The games from this exhibition offer a rare look at a typical Fischer simul — usually only a few wins and, more typically, his losses and draws, surface.

I would like to thank Denis Allan, D La Pierre Ballard, Frank (Kim) Berry, Jonathan Berry, Neil Brennen, Ross Carbonell, George Flynn, Steve Gordon, Gordon Gribble, Robert Hart, Holly Lee, David Luban, Richard Lunenfeld, Jerry Markley, Spencer Matthews, Robert Moore, The Mechanics' Institute (San Francisco) Library, Erik Osbun, Jack O'Keefe, Duane Polich, Nick Pope, Donald P. Reithel, Thomas Richardson, Hanon Russell, Andy Sacks, Macon Shibut, Eric Tangborn, Alex Yermolinsky and Val Zemitis for their help with this project.

John Donaldson  
Berkeley, October 1999

# Introduction to the First Edition

Transcontinental exhibition tours have a long and honored history in North America. World Champions Alexander Alekhine and José Capablanca were two of the first to make the 3,000-mile trek. A trek that was most useful for popularizing the game in distant outposts, where masters were all but nonexistent. Names like Reshevsky, Horowitz, Kashdan, Fine, and Marshall became better known to the chess public outside of New York as a result of their barnstorming. The touring masters were well received and taken care of. Horowitz, in particular, kept his struggling *Chess Review* alive by periodically hitting the road and spreading the word to the faithful.

Since World War II this type of tour has been increasingly rare. Various explanations could be offered but undoubtedly one major reason is the proliferation of weekend Swiss tournaments and the simultaneous decline of local chess clubs. The result is that in recent memory only Walter Browne's 1978 18-stop tour and the "Church's Chicken" tours of Larry Christiansen and Jack Peters come close to some of the classic treks of the past.

Between the great barnstormings of the 1930s and the late 1970s only one great tour was undertaken but it was arguably the greatest of them all. Not even Alekhine and Capablanca, who were in high demand — each made several major tours — ever came close to this granddaddy of road trips.

Starting in February of 1964 and going until the end of May, Bobby Fischer's only major exhibition tour was record-breaking in all aspects, from the number of players he played (close to 2000) to the fee he commanded (a then unheard-of \$250 an exhibition).

Bobby, of course, had prior experiences with exhibitions. In fact, his first chess event was playing master Max Pavey in a simul at the Brooklyn Public Library in January of 1951. The first major exhibition Fischer gave, against 12 children, was written about in the Jan. 1956 issue of *Chess Review*.

Fischer's early opinion of simul play was not particularly high. A 1957 issue of *Parade* had this to say: "To make money, Bobby has taken on as many as 30 challengers simultaneously at \$1 a challenger. But such games, he says, 'don't produce good chess. They're just hard on your feet.'" Fischer's feelings about the quality of play changed in the following years with several games from the tour being featured in the *American Chess Quarterly* and the game with Celle chosen for inclusion in *My 60 Memorable Games*.

During the next six years Bobby gave several exhibitions, mostly in the New York area, but the only one that attracted any attention was one that was never held. The following announcement appeared in the first issue of the excellent but ill-fated *Chessworld*:



**Fischer** will attempt to break Gideon Stahlberg's 1941 record of 400 opponents Wednesday, November 27, 1963, 7:30 p.m., Grand Ballroom, Hotel Astor, Broadway and 44th, NYC. \$3 to play, \$1 to watch. Organized by CHESSWORLD.

Five days before the event it was cancelled because of the assassination of President Kennedy.

When 1964 began, Fischer was on a roll. The 20-year-old GM had just won his 6th U.S. Championship and he had done so in spectacular fashion, scoring 11-0! With the Amsterdam Interzonal scheduled for the spring there was much talk about Bobby's run for the World Championship.

The genesis of the tour appears to be the following letter, which appears courtesy of the Russell Collection.

From: Bobby Fischer  
To: Larry Evans  
Date: Sept. 15, 1963

Dear Larry,

Nice talking to you on the phone Saturday. About the books, if you send me a list please mark down what condition they're in. Another thing last December when you were in New York you said you were interested in setting up an exhibition tour if I brought my price down. How does \$300 strike you: 35-40 boards plus lecture on a game or two. I don't know what percentage or fee you would want for this but I think we can work that out if you agree to my terms above. If you're not interested, what with \$200 rolling in maybe you could set up something at one of the strip hotels for me.

By the way there IS one mistake in my next *Chess Life* article. I caught it when I was going over it for typographical errors. It's in my annotations to my game with Berliner. It was not too late to have it corrected but Joe said that I had better leave well enough alone since the people in Iowa where it's printed would probably mess it up altogether. If you catch it you're pretty good, but it can be argued that it is not actually a mistake.

I am mainly occupying my time by studying old opening books and believe it or not I am learning a lot! They don't waste space on the Catalan, Réti, King's Indian Reversed and other rotten openings.

Best of Luck in your real estate!  
Yours truly,  
/s/ Robert Fischer

Between that letter and the following February many details had to be worked out. One of the primary issues that had to be addressed was what sort of fee Bobby could command. Today, when Kasparov receives \$10,000 for a simul, it's difficult to put Fischer's 1964 fee of \$250 per exhibition in perspective, but the December 1964 *California Chess Reporter* (p. 50) does a pretty good job:

Fischer has set an unprecedented \$250 fee for his exhibitions. Relatively few years ago, the best players were lucky to get \$50 for a simultaneous display. Recently, a fee of the order of \$100 was in order. Our hat is off to Bobby for setting his fee at \$250 and for making it stick!

GM Larry Evans' father, Harry, who ran the business side of the *American Chess Quarterly*, was in charge of putting together the tour. Through the pages of *Chess Life* and the *ACQ* interested parties were given the conditions: \$250 for a fifty-board simul plus a lecture.

For the uninitiated, the latter might have seemed a throw-in but those who showed up to hear Fischer speak were in for a real surprise. New Yorkers, of course, knew what a fine lecturer Bobby was, but the rest of the country had never before had the chance to see him in action.

A real natural, Bobby was a first-rate commentator who managed the almost impossible task of keeping beginner and master alike entertained. Without exception, of the 30-odd people I contacted who played Fischer all agreed that he was an exceptional speaker who was both informative and entertaining, especially for someone who was only 20-21 years old.



Larry Evans, at right, and his father Harry organized the 1964 tour. Marshall Rohland, above, (1925-1994) was USCF Secretary in 1964. He served as President in the late 1960s when the USCF experienced record membership growth. (*California Chess Reporter*)



Photo by Nancy Roos

Typical was the response of Lew Hucks, who heard him in Washington, D.C.: “Bobby’s demonstration of the Botvinnik game from the Varna Olympiad in 1962 was the best demonstration of a chess game I have ever seen. He was witty and quite entertaining. I have always believed that many of the Fischer quotes, to which people have taken exception, would have been funny if you heard him say them in person.”

Normally when a player goes out on tour he usually shows the same game every evening but Bobby was different. Among the games he lectured on were: Botvinnik-Fischer, Varna Olympiad 1962; Fischer-Tal, 1959 Candidates (the game given in *My 60 Memorable Games*); Addison-Fischer, U.S. Ch. 1963-64; R. Byrne-Fischer, U.S. Ch. 1963-64; Fischer-Geller, Bled 1961; Fischer-Benko, U.S. Ch. 1963-64; and Fischer-Najdorf, Varna Olympiad 1964.

Every exhibitor sets his own conditions of play. Typically the master takes White on each board but after that things vary. The practice in the distant past was that the master’s move on a board wouldn’t be completed until he had made a move on the next board, a nice fail-safe measure against egregious blunders, but currently considered not very sporting. The major area of difference between exhibitors these days is usually in the area of passes — the question being whether they are allowed and if so how many.

The idea that players in the simul should have the opportunity for a little extra thinking time in critical positions would seem to be a fair one but in practice it can be abused. More than one exhibitor has been stuck with a player who quickly uses up his allotted passes and then conveniently “forgets” that fact.

At the beginning of the tour, in early February, it seems Bobby was quite liberal in his policies regarding passes and consulting, but this changed. Jude Acers, who organized Fischer’s visit to Louisiana, relates:

“A chess fan in Chicago had witnessed Fischer’s appearances and penned a harsh criticism of Fischer to my postal box. He never dreamed where it was going ... I simply turned from the box and HANDED THE POSTCARD TO FISCHER!!

“Fischer turned crimson with surprise at the ‘slow’ Fischer play the card cited ... ‘To begin with,’ said Fischer, ‘I allowed all those players unlimited passes all the way. They could think all they wanted on the moves. And this is the appreciation I get.’ After this Fischer allowed no passes.”

Fischer’s barnstorm generated a fair amount of publicity. Prior to the tour Bobby had not seen much of the country, his only trips west of the Mississippi being the 1955 U.S. Junior in Lincoln, the 1956 U.S. Open in Oklahoma City, the 1957 U.S. Junior in San Francisco, and the match with Reshevsky in 1961. What impression most chess players had of him could only be based on what they read

and journalists were not particularly kind to Fischer. The tour proved to be a bit of a revelation for a lot of American chess players who were pleasantly surprised when they got to meet their young champion up close.

One example is Cleveland Chess Association President Craig Henderson writing in the April 1964 *Cleveland Chess Bulletin*:

“A word about Bobby Fischer. A number of articles have appeared in various magazines criticizing him for his attitude toward tournament officials and others with whom he has dealt. For the record, Bobby cooperated completely with all arrangements that were made for him during his stay in Cleveland. There were no ‘incidents’ of any kind. Sometimes our own local players seem to be much more temperamental about their chess matches.”

Another is James Schroeder in the June 1964 issue of the *Ohio Chess Bulletin*. “After meeting Mr. Fischer in Cleveland and driving him to Toledo, I received such a favorable impression of him that I organized the exhibition in Columbus.”

Fischer had his own style of playing in exhibitions. The *California Chess Reporter* reports that he seemed to play his opponents on an individual basis, defeating the stronger opponents but giving big chances to the weaker ones.

A steadfast diehard of 1.e4, he played it invariably in his exhibitions with only one exception, 1.b4. What caused him to adopt the Orangutan is a mystery that defies an easy answer. The tour produced lots of study material for devotees of double King Pawn openings with Fischer departing from his beloved Ruy López to test out the white side of the Evans Gambit, Two Knights Defense, Vienna, and King’s Gambit.

While Kasparov is clinical in his preparation before a simul with sightseeing on the day of the event a no-no and ChessBase computer database review of the prospective opponents games *de rigueur*, Fischer was more relaxed. He was intense enough during the games, his 94% winning percentage over more than 2000 games one of the best results ever achieved, but he also found time to enjoy himself. He almost always stayed at the home of the local organizer and his mode of travel was a catch-as-catch-can with cars, trains, buses, and airplanes all being utilized.

Despite visiting over 40 cities in his four-month tour there were a few big cities that it seems Bobby didn’t get to. Particularly glaring by omission are St. Louis, Kansas City, and Miami. Lack of funds seems usually to have been the chief culprit. There are a few reports from places that were unable to arrange a visit from Fischer. The *Arizona Woodpusher* for May-June of 1964 has this to say under the headline **No Fischer in Phoenix**:

Club Secretary Ed Humphrey has been told by the Tours organization sponsoring the exhibition tours of Bobby Fischer that he has a full schedule. His

commitments in the Southwest are such that he will not be able to include Phoenix in his itinerary.

One wonders what Southwest cities are being referred to. Bobby gave documented exhibitions in Houston and Los Angeles (two). Was he in Albuquerque? Did he visit Mobile, Arizona, where his family lived for a short while before moving to Brooklyn?

The December 1963 issue of the *Georgia Chess Letter* discusses the possibilities of bringing Bobby down. Lacking a sponsor the suggestion is to have several members band together to guarantee Fischer his \$250 fee. Nothing seems to have come of it.

Two other areas with well-developed chess communities that didn't enjoy a visit from Bobby were the Pacific Northwest and Minnesota. Some accounts have Bobby giving an exhibition in Rochester, Minnesota, but that seems to be confusing it with the Rochester, New York, simul. According to master Curt Brasket and fellow Minnesotan George Tiers, Bobby was never in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

Of course, I most certainly have missed some exhibitions. The list of cities he visited shows some gaps, particularly for early May. The April 19, 1964, issue of the *Toledo Blade* mentions that Bobby's visit to that city on March 19 was the 21st stop on the tour. Should that be the case that means that five cities are unaccounted for (Toledo is number 16 on our list).

Researching this tour wasn't easy. The three national magazines *Chess Review*, *Chess Life*, and *Canadian Chess Chat* gave only spotty coverage. Surprisingly the *American Chess Quarterly*, which GM Larry Evans edited, Harry Evans managed, and to which Bobby frequently contributed, has very little on the tour.

State and club publications (e.g. *Dayton Chess News*) have yielded some gems of information but it is remarkable how few are readily available thirty years after the fact. The bibliography gives a list of sources consulted but an equally long one could be made of periodicals that were active in 1964 but are not in the John G. White Collection in Cleveland. Among these are the *Louisiana Chess Newsletter*, *Rhode Island Chess Bulletin*, and the Arkansas state publications. These magazines might well yield much valuable material.

Newspapers, particularly in the smaller cities, were quite helpful. While Horowitz's column in the *New York Times* and Kashdan's in the *Los Angeles Times* had surprisingly little information, papers like the *Fitchburg Sentinel* had excellent coverage.

But by far and away the best source of information for Fischer's great tour was the people who actually played him. I was very pleasantly surprised by the number of people who responded to my appeals for help and I would like to thank them:

*Chess Life* Editor Glenn Peterson for very generously giving me permission to use material from *Chess Review* and *Chess Life*. This proved to be an excellent starting point. Drs. Alice Loranth and Motoko Reece of the John G. White Collection of the Cleveland Public Library were extremely helpful in making their extensive collection of state publications available.

I would especially like to thank John Blackstone and Eric Osbun for sharing their Fischer files with me. These contained over a dozen unpublished games. Hanon Russell was very kind in allowing me the run of his vast archives which proved most useful in gaining some perspective on the tour.

Joe Sparks, Editor of *Chess Horizons*, did yeoman's service in going through Jim Burgess' column in the *Boston Globe*. Without his efforts the exhibition in Boston would have remained a mystery and several games from Fitchburg would have been unavailable.

Jim Warren, of APCT, came up with some rare items, the *Illinois Chess Bulletin* and the bulletin of the Chicago Industrial Chess League, which proved to be real finds yielding a large number of new games.

I would also like to thank the following individuals for taking time to help me. I apologize if anyone has inadvertently been left out: Jude Acers, Robin Ault, D La Pierre Ballard, Robert Barry, Alan Benson, Gary Berry, Roger Blaine, Frank Brady, Curt Brasket, Steve Brandwein, Richard Cantwell, Bob Ciaffone, Frank Cunliffe, Harold Dondis, Tom Dorsch, Bob Dudley, Alex Dunne, Sheila Gilmartin, Peter Grey, Lou Hays, Elliot Hearst, Ken Hense, Mark Holgerson, Lewis Hucks, Rabbi Steven Katz, IM Larry Kaufman, Wesley Koehler, Anthony Koppány, Barry Kraft, Harry Lyman, Tony Mantia, Henry Meifert, Najeed Mejas, George Mirijanian, Robert Moore, Bob Nasiff, Roger Neustaedter, Ross Nickel, Jack O'Keefe, John Ogni, John Owen, Richard Reich, Bill Robertie, Sid Rubin, Andy Sacks, Macon Shibut, Steve Shutt, Jeremy Silman, Chuck Singleton, Jennifer Skidmore, Joe Sparks, Peter Tamburro, Robert Tanner, Keith Vickers, Ed Westing, Edmund Wheeler, and Val Zemitis. This book would have been much poorer without their help. It goes without saying that any mistakes are my responsibility.

One hope of this book is that it will inspire further research. I would be very interested in hearing from readers with additional information on Fischer's tour. They can do so by writing to me c/o *Inside Chess*, P.O. Box 19457, Seattle, WA 98109.

This book is dedicated to Bobby Fischer, who has done so much for American chess.

IM John Donaldson  
Seattle, February 1994

February 1964

## Detroit, February 9

+47, =2, -2

On tour, Bobby Fischer put on a simultaneous display at the Chess-Mate Gallery in Detroit against 51 players, including several masters and numerous experts. He won 47 games, drew two and lost only two. That he would make a showing of this sort was no doubt expected, but the outstanding feature of the exhibition was the extraordinary rapidity of his play, insofar as he is reported to have consumed no more than an average of six minutes per game! (*Chess Review*, April 1964)

### The Man Behind the Legend by William Wilcock

Since the day when Robert Fischer first appeared on the American Chess scene he has been a controversial and misunderstood figure. A certified and authentic chess genius, capable of being classed with the greatest. It has been Fischer's misfortune to appear as something less than a hero to the general public.

Reporters and magazine writers, some of whom must have read about chess for the first time on the morning of their meeting with Fischer, have written articles that portray Bob as (a) a colossal egotist, (b) a moody illiterate, (c) a brash, overbearing young man, (d) a dreamer from an ivory tower and (e) a sullen young genius.

Dr. Howard Gaba, CCLA's Second Vice-President, scoffs at these labels. "Robert Fischer at twenty years," Dr. Gaba writes, "is six feet, two inches tall, lanky but well-proportioned and well-muscled. He is pleasant in appearance with a quiet, even-tempered manner."

The rest of Dr. Gaba's letter follows:

Early in February, Robert Fischer staged a tremendous chess exhibition in Detroit. Over Sunday and Monday of that weekend we had him as our house guest. My wife, my son Arthur, my daughter Joanne, and I felt honored to have him with us for so many pleasant hours.

Fischer is not, as reports have it and many people seem to think, completely wrapped up in chess. He took a great interest in Arthur's demonstration of some old Edison cylinder phonographs. This led to a conversation on antiquities and relics which ended in a visit to Greenfield Village, the well-known Museum display near Detroit with its world-wide collection of historical objects.

The rest of the time at our home we watched TV, listened to the radio and recordings, including the Edison cylinders, talked a little, ate a little, and relaxed.

Away from the exhibition he played no chess but we did talk about the game. Robert learned chess quite early in life but did not take it up seriously until he

February 1964

began to visit the chess clubs. From then on his progress was rapid.

He has a photographic mind and can play a long game through from the score mentally, holding the main position in his mind while making side excursions into the footnotes. He can play one game blindfolded easily but has not pushed the development of playing multiple games *sans voir* though he felt it within his power.

His development against experts and masters is well recorded and his growth, mentally, has actually only started. At present he reads the major chess publications from all over the world and is in complete command of current master theory.

Fischer feels that he has no control over articles written about him and seems to be becoming philosophical about the situation. The pieces in the local press seemed, in the main, to be by writers who had not taken too much time to interview Fischer.

Fischer faced one of the strongest gatherings in Detroit in the last fifteen years. In spite of the strong opposition and the numerous consultation games Fischer lost only two games during the evening. He played fast and at the end of the exhibition the 200 people present seemed to realize that they had seen a great show by a great chess player.

One incident attracted favorable attention from the spectators. A player resigned in a position that could have been drawn, as Fischer pointed out. He then refused the win, credited the player with the draw and signed his score sheet to that effect.

One of the strongest Michigan players is Morrie Wiedenbaum, a rated USCF master. When I'm lucky I win from him perhaps ten percent of the time. Among his victims at one time or another are masters Bisguier, Popel, Poschel, Burgar, Finegold and Dreibergs.

Fischer played seven games of five-minute speed chess with Wiedenbaum, at which the latter is very good. Fischer made a clean sweep of the games, seeming to win them in systematic style, a pawn or so falling to him about every five moves. In nearly every game Morrie ended up a full queen down or its equivalent.

Of his visit with us I will say only that I enjoyed it and I hope Robert did, too. We were left with a feeling that he was an unusually alert and intelligent young man. He is quietly but deeply religious, carrying a Bible with him on his travels and reading it regularly.

From his speech and action you can see that he is strongly competitive in his chess and brilliant. As his career has already been it should be more so in the future. (*The Chess Correspondent*, July, 1964)

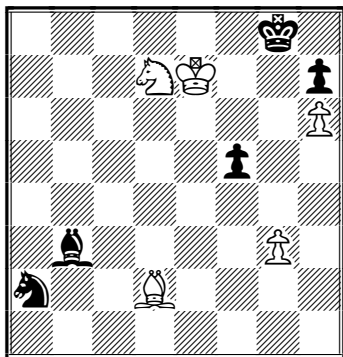


(1) King's Gambit C36

Fischer - J. Witeczek

Detroit (simul), February 9, 1964

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 d5 4.exd5  
 ♘f6 5.♙b5+ c6 6.dxc6 ♘xc6 7.d4  
 ♙d6 8.O-O O-O 9.♙xc6 bxc6  
 10.♘e5 ♙xe5 11.dxe5 ♖b6+  
 12.♗h1 ♘d5 13.♖e2 ♙a6 14.c4  
 ♖d4 15.♘a3 ♞fe8 16.♖f2 ♖xf2  
 17.♞xf2 ♞xe5 18.♙d2 ♘b6  
 19.♙xf4 ♞e4 20.b3 ♙b7 21.♞d1  
 a5 22.h3 ♞e7 23.♞fd2 f6 24.♙d6  
 ♞d7 25.♙c5 ♞ad8 26.♞xd7 ♞xd7  
 27.♞xd7 ♘xd7 28.♙d6 ♘e5  
 29.♙c7 ♘d3 30.♙xa5 ♘c1  
 31.♙d2 ♘xa2 32.♖g1 ♖f7  
 33.♖f2 ♖e6 34.b4 ♖d6 35.g3  
 ♙c8 36.h4 ♙f5 37.♖e3 ♖e5  
 38.b5 cxb5 39.♘xb5 ♙e6 40.c5  
 ♙d7 41.♘d4 ♖d5 42.c6 ♙c8  
 43.c7 ♖c5 44.♘e2 ♖b6 45.♘f4  
 ♖xc7 46.♘h5 ♙g4 47.♘xg7 ♖d8  
 48.♖f4 ♙d7 49.♘f5 ♖e8 50.♘d4  
 ♖f7 51.♖e4 ♖g6 52.♖d5 ♙e8  
 53.♖e6 ♙f7+ 54.♖e7 ♙d5  
 55.♘e6 ♙c4 56.♘f8+ ♖g7 57.h5  
 ♙b3 58.h6+ ♖g8 59.♘d7 f5



60.♘f6+ ♖h8 61.♖f8 ♙e6  
 62.♘d5 1-0 (Detroit News, Feb. 16,  
 1964)

Fischer's exploitation of the trapped  
 knight on a2, in view of the greatly re-

duced material, was most instructive.  
 The following game is a smooth techni-  
 cal effort by Fischer, who occupies  
 the hole on d5 (c4, ♘b1!, ♘c3, ♘cd5)  
 a step ahead of Black.

(2) Caro-Kann Closed B10

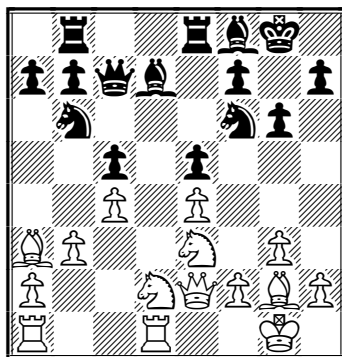
Fischer - J. Richburg

Detroit (simul), February 9, 1964

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.♘d2 e5 4.♘gf3  
 ♘d7 5.g3 ♘gf6 6.♙g2 g6 7.O-O  
 dxe4 8.dxe4 ♙g7 9.♖e2 O-O  
 10.b3 ♖c7 11.♙a3 ♞e8 12.♘c4  
 c5?!

Weakening the d5-square. See White's  
 17th move.

13.♞fd1 ♙f8 14.♘fd2 ♞b8  
 15.♘e3 ♘b6 16.c4 ♙d7



17.♘b1!

Heading for d5. Fischer's knowledge  
 of the structure e4 and c3 versus ...e5  
 and ...c5 is unparalleled. During his  
 career he has won many games with it  
 both as White (usually via the Ruy) and  
 Black (King's Indian). For a recent ex-  
 ample of Bobby's knack for finding the  
 right knight maneuver to crack the en-  
 emy position see the first game of his  
 1992 match with Spassky where ♘g3-  
 f1-d2-b1 intending ♘a3 did the trick.

17...♖bd8 18.♜c3 a6 19.♖ac1  
♜c8 20.♜d5 ♜b×d5 21.c×d5 b5  
22.♜×c5! ♖b8

If 22...♜×c5 White has 23.b4 recovering the piece with much the better game.

23.♜×f8 ♖×f8 24.♖c6 ♜e8  
25.♖dc1 ♜d6 26.♖d2 ♖g7 27.f4  
f6 28.♖b2 e×f4 29.g×f4 ♖g8  
30.e5 f×e5 31.f×e5 ♜f5 32.♜g4  
♖h8 33.e6+ ♜g7 34.♖c7 1-0 (*Detroit News*, Feb. 16, 1964)

The following game is an amusing miniature in which Fischer disposes of his opponent in convincing fashion.

(3) King's Gambit C30

Fischer - J. Jones

Detroit (simul), February 9, 1964

1.e4 e5 2.f4 f6? 3.f×e5 ♜c6 4.d4  
♜e7 5.e×f6 g×f6 6.♖h5+ ♖f8  
7.♜c4 ♖e8 8.♜h6+ 1-0 (*Detroit News*, Feb. 16, 1964)

(4) French Winawer C19

Fischer - H. Kord

Detroit (simul), February 9, 1964

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♜c3 ♜b4

"I may be forced to admit that the Winawer is sound. But I doubt it! The defense is anti-positional and weakens the kingside." — Fischer, *My 60 Memorable Games*.

4.e5 ♜e7 5.a3 ♜×c3+ 6.b×c3 c5  
7.a4 ♖a5 8.♜d2 ♜bc6 9.♜f3 c4!?

Conventional wisdom holds that Black should hold off on this move and maintain the tension in the center, while de-

veloping with 9...Bd7. The text has had a bad reputation since the 1940s, but is not an easy nut to crack.

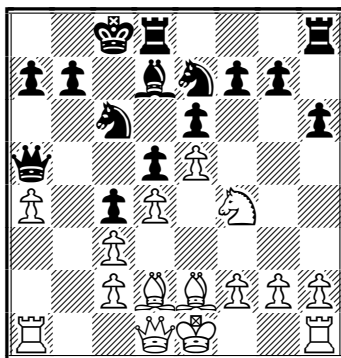
10.♜g5

The classical way of answering 9...c4, but 10.g3 is probably equally good.

10...h6 11.♜h3 ♜d7

Black can try to cut across White's plan of ♜h3-f4-h5 with 11...♜g6, but after 12.♜e2, intending 13.♜h5, White has the advantage.

12.♜f4 O-O-O 13.♜e2



This move is natural, but 13.♜h5, attacking g7 and restraining ...f7-f6, is more thematic. Black might then try 13...♖c7, meeting 14.♜×g7 with 14...♜×e5. White should answer 13...♖c7 with 14.♜e2 and a slight edge.

13...f6 14.e×f6 g×f6 15.O-O e5 16.  
♜h5 ♖f8 17.♖h1 ♖b8 18.♖ab1  
♖a8 19.♖c1 ♖c7 20.♜×h6 ♖f7  
21.d×e5 ♖7h7 22.♜g7 ♖×h5  
23.♜×h5 ♖×h5 24.♜×f6 ♜×e5  
25.♖f4 ♜7g6 26.♜×e5 ♖×e5  
27.♖×e5 ♜×e5 28.a5 ♖b8 29.h3  
♖c7 30.♖g1 b5?