



COLUMNISTS

Checkpoint

Carsten Hansen

**Reviewed this month:**

A Complete Guide to the Grivas Sicilian
by Efstratios Grivas

How to Play the Najdorf Vol.1
(DVD) by Garry Kasparov

The Paulsen System B40-B49
(CD) by Norbert Summerbauer

The Sveshnikov Reloaded
by Dorian Rogozenko

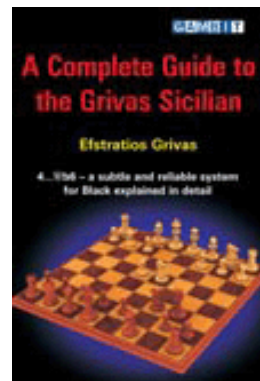
New In Chess Yearbook Vol. 76
by Genna Sosonko (ed.)

Naming Rights

This month we'll look at four recently published works on the Sicilian Defense, as well as the most recent New in Chess Yearbook.

A Complete Guide to the Grivas Sicilian by Efstratios Grivas, Gambit Publications 2005, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Softcover, 144 pp., \$23.95

To be perfectly honest, I had no idea which line in the Sicilian this book surveyed until I saw the cover. I am more familiar with the moniker – the 4...Qb6 Sicilian. However, having perused the book several times and having checked my database, I found that Grivas, the Greek Grandmaster who authored this work, has played this variation extensively. Now that he's written a book about it, this allows Grivas to name the opening after himself. After all, many variations in the annals of chess have been named after players who only fleetingly used the lines, if at all, nor really participated in the development of the opening.



So what do you when an opening is named after you and it comes time to identify the many sidelines? Grivas' solution was to use names from Greek mythology; not at all logical and not particularly relevant, but interesting nonetheless. In the

chapter introductions he briefly explains why he chose each name for that particular line.

The contents are divided as follows:

- 1 White's 5th Move Deviations: The Medusa Variation (13 pages)
- 2 White's 6th Move Deviations: The Eros Variation (7 pages)
- 3 The Fianchetto 7 g3 Line: The Cyclops Variation (5 pages)
- 4 The 7 Bg5 Line: The Poseidon Variation (8 pages)
- 5 The 7 a3 Line: The Hestia Variation (11 pages)
- 6 The 7 Qe2 Line: The Hera Variation (7 pages)
- 7 The 7 Be2 Line: The Fates Variation (3 pages)
- 8 Black's 7th Move Deviations: The Teiresias Variation (8 pages)
- 9 The 9 a4 Line: The Hermes Variation (9 pages)
- 10 The 11 Bd2 Line: The Apollo Variation (5 pages)
- 11 The 8 f4 Line: The Dionysus Variation (7 pages)
- 12 The 10 Qe2 Line: The Athena Variation (7 pages)
- 13 The 10 Qf3 Line: The Zeus Variation (28 pages)
- 14 Illustrative Games: Warrior's Guns - Mars (13 pages)

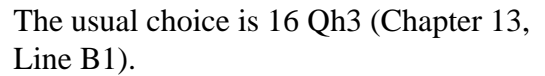
When you browse the lines in this book, you really start wondering who, other than serious chess players, can consider playing such variations, because there appears to be a fair amount of material that needs to be memorized. Yet, a careful look will reveal a number of lesser lines that can easily be employed, along with a huge number of new ideas and suggestions recommended by the author. Prior to reading this book I was of the opinion that 4...Qb6 was a wasted move because White would be likely to retreat his knight to b3 anyway. Then White would kick the queen back to c7 with Be3 and develop the light-squared bishop directly to d3, with an ideal attacking position; while Black would still be toiling with his development. This turns out to be a total misinterpretation of the opening, but one that is easy to make unless you understand the intricacies, especially since White doesn't even have to play his bishop to e3, because Black will play ...Qc7 anyway.

Let's have a look at a game by Grivas, showing how versatile and sharp the lines can be, while also demonstrating Black's resources. The notes are those by Grivas in the book:

Kotronias,Vasilios (2530) - Grivas,Efstratios (2485) [B82]

Athens [CH: In my database the place is listed as "Zouberi zonal"] 1993

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Qb6 5 Nb3 Nf6 6 Nc3 e6 7 Bd3 d6 8 Be3 Qc7 9 f4 a6 10 Qf3 Be7 11 0-0-0 b5 12 Kb1 Nd7 13 g4 Nb4 14 g5 Bb7 15 Rhf1 0-0 16 h4



This erroneous decision gives the black pieces far more freedom. White should continue 17 Rc1, avoiding the threat of 17...Nxc2! 18 Kxc2 b4!.

White could feel happy after the mistaken continuations: 17...fxg6? 18 Qh3!
or 17...hxg6? 18 h5!.

After 18 gxh7+ Kh8! White's attack would run out of steam..

19 Nd4!? should have been preferred, Black can answer 19...Qa5 or 19...Nc5.

Black seizes the initiative and weakens White's pawn-structure

Or 24 Rc1 Qd7! 25 Qxd7 Bxd7 26 Rxc8+ Bxc8 27 Nb6 Be6 with a better endgame for Black.

Now Black wishes to get an endgame as soon as possible, because of his pawn structure. White is obliged to seek complications, keeping the queens on the board.

With threats such as 31 Bxh6 or 31 Nd4 and Nf5.

A last try, as after 31 Bxh6 Nxb2 32 Rxf6 Nxd1 33 Rg6 Qd3+ or 31 Nd4 Bxd4 32 Bxd4 Qc4! 33 Rxf7 Rxf7 34 Qg1 Ne5 35 Bxe5 Qe4+ White loses in simple fashion.

31...Rxf6 32 Nd4 Qc4 33 Ne6 R8f7 34 Bd4

There was no longer any salvation for White in 34 b3 Qc3! 35 Bd4 Rf2!.

34...Nf4! 35 Qh1 Nxe6!

The simplest. By returning part of the material advantage, Black gets a won endgame without allowing any complications.

36 Bxf6 Rxf6 37 dxe6 Rxe6

This endgame with two extra pawns is the result of the correct strategic and tactical handling of the position by Black.

38 Rc1 Qe4+ 39 Qxe4 Rxe4 40 Rc8+

Or 40 Rc6? a5 41 Rxd6 Re5!.

40...Kf7 41 Ra8 Re5 42 Rxa6 Rxh5 43 Rxd6 g5 44 Kc2 g4 45 Kd3 g3 46 Ke2 Rf5 47 Rd3 Rf2+ 48 Ke1 Rxb2 49 Rf3+ Ke7 50 Rxg3 Rxa2 51 Rb3 Ra4 52 Kd2 h5 53 Kc2 Kf6 54 Kb2 Kg5 55 Rg3+ Kf4 56 Rd3 Ra5 57 Rd4+ Kg5 58 Rxb4 Rc5 59 Rd4 h4 60 Rd3 Kh5 61 Kb1 Kg4 62 Rd4+ Kg3 0-1

White resigned due to 63 Rd3+ Kg2 64 Rd2+ Kf3 65 Rd3+ Ke2 66 Rh3 Rb5 67 Kc2 Kf2 68 Kd2 Kg2 69 Ra3 h3.

A very nice game indeed; if you feel tempted to learn more about this opening this is best source available. Still, I wish there had been supplementary explanations regarding the strategic elements and general planning. The few comments that do exist mostly pertain to the strength of single moves or their alternatives, and this hinders readers at the lower end of the rating scale. Otherwise, this book is useful for anyone rated 1700 and above.

My assessment of this book: 

[Order](#) *A Complete Guide to the Grivas Sicilian*
by Efstratios Grivas

How to Play the Najdorf Vol.1 (DVD) by Garry Kasparov, 2005 ChessBase GmbH, Figurine Algebraic Notation, DVD-ROM, Total Running Time: 170 minutes, \$34.95

A couple of months ago I quite enthusiastically [reviewed](#) the first DVD from the so-called Mr. Kasparov series on the Queen's Gambit Declined. Neither that nor the current DVD will help you to learn enough of the theoretical details to play these lines with confidence, but that was never the idea. It is to enjoy the medium and be entertained while learning some of the fundamentals of these fascinating openings.




As most players probably know, Kasparov is the king of the Najdorf Variation and he has helped nurture the development of this opening, much as Fischer did before him. Kasparov even took up the mantle of playing the Poisoned Pawn Variation. However, the lines covered on this DVD aren't all that relevant to the average player because the Poisoned Pawn and Gothenburg Variations are rare customers below master level.

The contents are divided as follows:

- 1 Introduction (12:37)
- 2 Possible Deviations (9:43)
- 3 6.Bg5 Nbd7 (18:35)
- 4 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qf3 (19:21)
- 5 Gothenburg Variation (19:59)
- 6 Poisoned Pawn Variation 9.Rb1 (19:36)
- 7 Poisoned Pawn Variation 13.e5 (22:46)
- 8 Poisoned Pawn Variation 13.Be2 and 9.Nb3 (27:49)
- 9 Poisoned Pawn Variation 8.Nb3 (17:24)

Watching this DVD will not really prompt anyone to adopt these lines because you have to memorize hundreds of moves in different variations while risking everything. Kasparov himself acknowledges this fact, and he encourages the viewer to explore these lines with the help of a computer, or even several computers, since there are numerous novelties that have yet to be discovered, and many flaws to be overturned in existing theory.

The presentation of the material on this DVD isn't as fluent and doesn't flow as smoothly in comparison with the first DVD in the series, and some of the sequences should have been re-shot, simply because Kasparov spends too much time searching for the right words. However, I'm still looking forward to seeing Vol. 2 on the Najdorf, mainly because Kasparov will then be covering lines that are far more relevant to the average chess player and the knowledge to be gained will be more useful.

My assessment of this DVD: 

[Order](#) *How to Play the Najdorf Vol.1*
(DVD-ROM) by Garry Kasparov

The Paulsen System B40-B49 (CD) by Norbert Summerbauer, 2005 ChessBase GmbH, Figurine Algebraic Notation, CD-ROM, \$34.95

The Austrian international master Norbert Summerbauer isn't a well-known player, but with this CD he is making quite a name for himself. He ably covers the entire 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 complex of variations, which includes both the Kan and Taimanov Variations, as well a number of sidelines, in very systematic fashion. He doesn't seem to have missed a detail. Every conceivable pawn structure is discussed, typical plans for either side, advantages and disadvantages for each line, statistical facts, move orders and just about everything else.



Let's look at the contents:

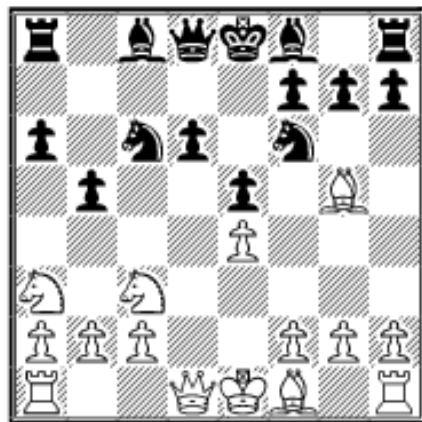
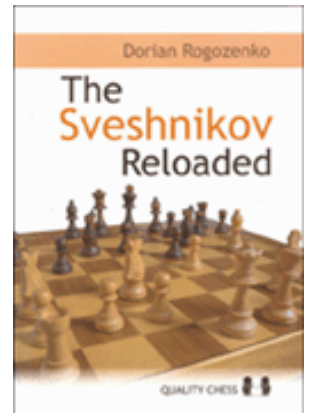
- 34 very thorough database texts
- 330 games annotated by the author
- a specially prepared database of 3,725 games done by the author
- a huge database with a total of 89,275 games
- a training database with exercises to all levels of players, from easy to extremely difficult
- a database of the author's own games with the opening

Here's a fascinating battle where the author plays the black pieces. The game is annotated in detail on the CD-ROM itself:

Schlosser,Michael (2342) - Sommerbauer,Norbert (2419) [B42]
LL Wien (5.1), 22.01.2005

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Bd3 Bc5 6 Nb3 Be7 7 Qg4 g6 8 Nc3 d6 9 a4 Nd7 10 a5 b5 11 axb6 Ne5 12 Qe2 Nxd3+ 13 cxd3 Qxb6 14 Na5 Bd7 15 Be3 Qc7 16 0-0 Nf6 17 Rfc1 Qb8 18 Nc4 0-0 19 Nb6 Ra7 20 Nxd7 Rxd7 21 Rxa6 Rb7 22 Na4 d5 23 f3 dxe4 24 dxe4 Bd6 25 g3 h5 26 Nb6 Rc7 27 Rca1 Bc5 28 Bxc5 Rxc5 29 b4 Rc7 30 Kg2 h4 31 Qf2 Qb7 32 Qd4 Rc2+ 33 Kh3 hxg3 34 hxg3

I'm deeply impressed by the amount of work done by the author. There is an abundance of material to enjoy on this CD and it is the best I have received from ChessBase in quite a while. My



flowing like lava. Therefore, this opening should really only be adopted by the most ambitious players, correspondence chess players, and others who have far too much time on their hands.

Dorian Rogozenko is a grandmaster who has represented Moldova and Rumania, and he helped prepare Ruslan Ponomarev for his aborted match against Kasparov. Rogozenko has played the opening on numerous occasions since the beginning of the 1990s after he saw one of his favorite players, Tseshkovsky, get demolished in brutal fashion by Kharlov, using the Sveshnikov Sicilian. In addition to these credits, Rogozenko also authored a CD for ChessBase on the Sveshnikov Sicilian back in 2000.

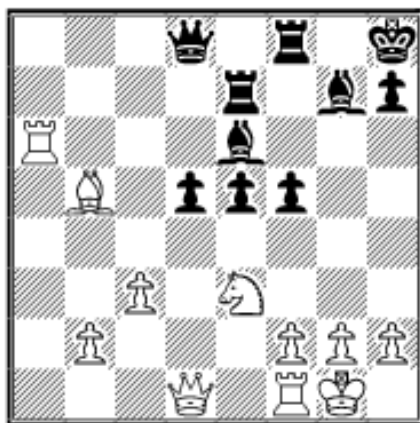
This book is everything I could have hoped for and I, for one, am quite comfortable with a guide like this to steer us through the dangers and pitfalls of the Sveshnikov. There are no less than 38 chapters, so let's just look at an outline of how the material is divided:

- Part I: Early Deviations (5 chapters - 20 pages)
- Part II: - 9.Nd5 - The Positional Line (10 chapters - 74 pages)
- Part III: 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 - The Main Line [CH: Introductions and 10...Bg7] (4 chapters - 30 pp)
- Section 1: The 10...f5 System [CH: Introduction + 11.Bxb5 & 11.g3] (3 chapters - 16 pages)
- Section 2: The 10...f5 System met by 11.c3 (3 chapters - 70 pages)
- Section 3: The 10...f5 System met by 11.Bd3 (13 chapters - 118 pages)

When an author writes about an opening he plays there is always some concern regarding how much he has decided not to mention, or what ideas he has kept to himself or cut short so he doesn't reveal too much, but the evidence of this practice doesn't seem apparent in this book. In fact, I wish that all books were written as thoroughly as this one. The first few chapters gives you enough information to play the opening with confidence, then Part II and especially Part III, provide an exhaustive exploration of the subject that leaves no analytical stone unturned. Plus Rogozenko discusses the strategic and tactical considerations and the historical development of the lines, along with when and why they became popular.

The presentation is based around complete games, but without repeating the opening moves, so no space is wasted. Furthermore, the coverage is built up in variation trees, thus ensuring that all lines are included and nothing has escaped Rogozenko's attention. An example of his thorough work can be seen in the following excerpt from page 213 in the note after the following moves:

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bg5 a6 8 Na3 b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6 10 Nd5 Bg7 11 c3 f5 12 exf5 Bxf5 13 Nc2 0-0 14 Nce3 Be6 15 Bd3 f5 16 0-0 Ra7 17 a4 Ne7 18 Nxe7+ Rxe7 19 axb5 axb5 20 Bxb5 d5 21 Ra6 Kh8



The main game continued **22 Qa4**.

Rogozenko's note first covers the idea behind 22 Qa4 and he discusses two other alternatives: 22 Qh5?! and 22 Nc2. But then follows the sequence I want to show you:

22 f4 This was played in Hector-Rogozenko, Gothenburg 2004. In my annotations I wrote that 22 f4 is the most logical move. My considerations were based on the fact that White's need to prevent the advance of Black's pawns represents a priority for White.

However, there are always different opinions. In Aagaard's view [CH: Jacob Aagaard, the editor for Quality Chess and a fine author on his own right], 22 f4 is not logical at all, and even dubious, because 'advancing pawns in front of your own king and losing material in the process is not the classical way to view such situations.' Well, maybe I was too optimistic about Black's attacking prospects and White does not need to take such extreme measures (yet), but there is a difference between 'losing material' and sacrificing the exchange trying to prevent an upcoming attack. As for classical views, I doubt that in modern chess a pawn advance in front of one's king in order to stop the opponent's avalanche can be regarded as breaking a classical rule. These 'classical views' are generally a very shaky subject and I do not think that one should use such terminology without taking into consideration all the features of the position. Otherwise, in the Sveshnikov we'll end up concluding that 5...e5 is already a mistake. The above game continued: 22...d4 23 cxd4 exf4 24 Rxf4 Bc8 25 Ra3 Bh6 26 Rf3 f4 27 Nc2 Bg4 28 b4 Bxf3 29 Rxf3 Qb6 30 Qd3 Bg7 with mutual chances.

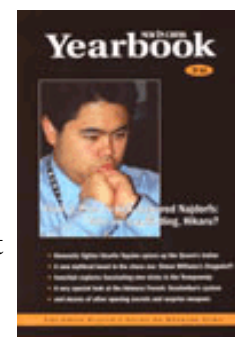
This was a good philosophical discussion and just one of many throughout the book. The Sveshnikov Sicilian is very difficult to understand from a classical perspective because traditional values and understanding of the middlegame take a back seat to dynamically balanced situations where there are numerous positions that seem to give an obvious advantage to one side, but transpire to be just the opposite. This is fascinating stuff. In fact, this opening is based so much on dynamic counterplay that you will not only learn nearly everything there is to know about the opening, but you will also gain a tremendous understanding of dynamic chess and learn about modern chess understanding as a whole. I have gained a much better grasp of these types of positions, where material is readily sacrificed to win the initiative or limit your opponent's.

This book is one of the most fascinating opening books I have read and I highly recommend it. It will be the one which all future books on the Sveshnikov will be measured against. It's another great effort from the author and this publisher.

My assessment of this book: 

New In Chess Yearbook Vol. 76 by Genna Sosonko (ed.), 2005 Interchess BV, Figurine Algebraic Notation, Softcover, 244 pp, \$27.95

The cover of this volume features the young American champion Hikaru Nakamura and asks the question: “From 2.Qh5 to well-prepared Najdorfs: Who are you kidding, Hikaru?” which relates to the regular feature Sosonko’s Corner, in which editor Genna Sosonko discusses early queen moves in the opening. As usual Sosonko finds an interesting angle to the issue. The headline also refers to Nakamura’s try at an extremely complicated line in the Najdorf, as White against Gelfand in Biel, where at least the first 20 moves were prepared from home. This is discussed in a letter from Gelfand in the Forum section.



Another contribution to the Forum section comes from Edward Dearing who takes issue with the “review” Tiviakov wrote in the previous volume on Dearing’s book *Play the Sicilian the Dragon*. Dearing makes it look like Tiviakov barely opened the book, and he presents some excellent points, which is perhaps why Tiviakov chose not to answer. There are many other interesting contributions in this section, both from amateurs and from world class players, all with something relevant to say.

The meat and potatoes of the yearbooks are the surveys and they continue to improve. This time it starts with a bang with a survey by the English international master Simon Williams, who covers a complex hybrid of the Dragon and Najdorf in the Sicilian while presenting both the strengths and the weaknesses. The former by showing how he played it himself against Shirov, and the latter by telling us the best way for White to play and what Black needs to work on in order to continue playing this line. There then follows two excellent surveys on the English Attack, by Olthof and Greenfeld respectively, both have great introductory texts and provide well-annotated games to supplement the coverage.

The high level surveys continue with Tiviakov showing how he handles the Sicilian as White, Sveshnikov displaying some of his games in the Advance French, and the Greek GM Tzermiadianos proclaiming the line 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6 4 d4 Nf6 5 Nf3 a6 6 g3 b5 to be refuted. He played it with black at the European Championship in Warsaw and ran into a nasty surprise on move 12. It seems he missed some crucial details in a line that he had prepared exceptionally deeply.

There is another great survey by Scherbakov on a variation in the Alekhine, 1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 Nf3 dxe5 5 Nxe5 Nd7, and now 6 Nxf7, which is the move Tal avoided when Larsen played the line against him in the Candidates match in 1965. Scherbakov tells us the story how he and a young player he was coaching at the Russian Junior Championship, Pavel Ponkratov, prepared the line as white and the progress they made as they gradually began to unravel the secrets of the variation. I can easily mention another dozen or so surveys that merit closer inspection, but I will leave it up to you to check them out. If you are an ambitious

or serious chess player you'll want to read every issue, otherwise you simply miss out on way, way too much. This is another great yearbook from the New in Chess team.

My assessment of this book: 

 **TOP OF PAGE**

 **HOME**

 **COLUMNS**

 **LINKS**

 **ARCHIVES**

 **ABOUT THE
CHESS CAFE**

[\[ChessCafe Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Review\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Study\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2005 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

"**The Chess Cafe®**" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.