

# 12-year-old takes on Tal, emerges victor

Mikhail Tal had been warned: watch out for the kid.

When Tal arrived at the Framingham Chess Club a few weeks back, a companion warned him about 12-year-old Bobby Seltzer, who would be one of the 30 players facing him. "He's no novice," Tal was told. The former world champion smiled.

The ending of this tale is no great surprise; young Bobby, who probably needs an annex at his West Roxbury home for all his trophies, upended Tal convincingly.

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## Tom Zuppa YOUR MOVE

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In this case, it was the middle of the story that carries the punch line. Tune in and see:

Tal-Seltzer, Sicilian Defense: 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cd 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bg5 e6 7. f4 Be7

The alternative 7...b5, the Polugaevsky Variation, is not for the weak of heart.

8. Qf3 Qc7 9. O-O-O h6 10. Bh4 Nbd7 11. Be2 g5 12. fg Ne5 13. Qg3 Rg8

The critical moment. This position is known to theory, but not known to Bobby at the time. The stem game is a shocker: Tal-Fischer, Zurich 1959. This was the first game ever between the soon-to-be champ Tal, age 19, and the future champ Fischer, age 16.

Tal tried to attack in that game,

but Fischer repulsed the effort: 14. g6 Nxc6 15. Rhf1 Nxc4 16. Qxh4 Rg6 17. Bd3 Ng4 18. Qh5 Ne4 19. Nf3 Qc5 and the game petered out into a draw.

Young Bobby wasn't aware of what he had done, but Tal was. He moved almost immediately.

14. gf?!

As it turns out, a dubious Queen sacrifice. Perhaps Tal feared an innovation? In any case, Bobby refutes the idea well, and wins going away.

14... Rxc3 15. hg Bf8 16. Nf3 Ng4 17. Rd2 b5 18. Nd4 Ne5 19. Bh5 b4 20. Nce2 Qa5 21. Nb3 Qxa2

The beginning of the end. White has no counterplay on the Kingside, while Black is brewing up a Queenside storm.

22. Rd4 a5 23. Rhd1 a4 24. Nc5 Nc4 25. Rxc4 Qxc4 26. Nd3 a3 27. b3 Qb5 28. Bf3 Qa5 29. Kb1 a2+ 30. Ka1 Ba6 31. g4 Bxd3 32. Rxd3 Qe5+ 33. Nd4 Qc5 34. Be1 e5 35. Nf5 Qc2 36. Rd1 Ra3 37. Ne3 Qc5 38. Nd5 Rxb3 39. Be2 Qc2 White resigns.

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