



INTRODUCING THE...

BENONI &
FRENCH
DEFENCES

Two 30 minute talks by

BYRON JACOBS

GAMES FOR " BASIC PRINCIPLES IN THE MODERN BENONI "

PETROSIAN - RASKOVSKY USSR champ.76

1d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 ed: 5 cd: d6 6 e4 g6 7 Nf3 Bg7
8 Be2 0-0 9 0-0 Re8 10 Nd2 Nbd7 11 a4 Ne5 12 Qc2 Nh5 13 Bh5: gh:
14 Nd1 b6 15 Ra3 Ba6 15 Rh3 Bf1: 17 Nf1: b5 18 Nde3 ba: 19 Nf5
Nf6 20 Rh5: Be5 21 g3 Rb8 22 Nle3 a3 23 ba: Qb6 24 Qd2 Qb3 25
Ng4 Rb7 26 Kg2 Qc4 27 Ne5: Qe4:+ 28 f3 Qe5: 29 Nh6+ Kf8 30 Re5:
Re5: 31 Ng4 1-0.

In such lines, it is usually best to aim to neutralise black's threats, and hope for long term positional advantages. Attempts to crush black quickly can rebound, as the following game demonstrates.

POLUGAEVSKY - NUNN, SKARA 1980

1d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 ed: 5 cd: d6 6 e4 g6 7 Nf3 Bg7
8 Be2 0-0 9 0-0 Re8 10 Nd2 Nbd7 11 Qc2 Ne5 b3 Nh5 13 Bh5: gh: 14
Bb2 Bd7 15 Rael Qh4 16 f4 (Very ambitious - white hopes to trap
the black queen at the end of a tactical sequence. A more restrained
approach is 16 Re3 defending laterally) Ng4 17 Nf3 Bd4+
18 Kh1 Nf2 19 Rf2: Qf2: 20 Qcl (White hopes to trap the queen,
but black has sufficient resources. If instead 20 Qbl. then Bf5
is a good reply) Bh3! 21 Rgl Kf8 22 Nd4: cd: (Black now decides
the game with accurate calculation) 23 f5 dc: 24 Qc3: Re4: 25
gh: Ke8 26 Qd3 Rel 27 Rel: Qel:+ 28 Kg2 Rc8 29 f6 Kd7 30 Qh7:
Qd2+ 31 Kg3 Qd5: 32 Kh4 Re8 0-1.

There are many benoni lines where white attempts to crush black quickly. These are usually dangerous, but are okay for black if he knows the theory. In the following game, white plays e5 very quickly, black defends inaccurately and white gains a very powerful attack.

MAFFEO-PASTOR USA 1973

1d4 Nf6 2c4 c5 3d5 e6 4Nc3 ed: 5cd:d6 6e4 g6 7f4 Bg7 8e5 Nfd7
9Ne4 de: 10Nd6+ Ke7 11 Nc8:+ Qc8: 12 d6+ Kf8 (White has
disturbed the black king, but his own development lags)
13 Nf3 e4 14 Ng5 h6 15 Nf7: (Attempting to maintain the
initiative) Kf7: 16 Bc4+ Kf8 17 f5 g5? (A mistake -
17 Nc6, hurrying to complete development, is good for black)
18 Qd5 Ne5 19 f6 (Now white crashes through) Bf6: 20 0-0 Kg7
21 Rf6: Kf6: 22 Bg5:+ Kg6 23 Qe5: hg: 24 Rf1 (Black has
extra material, but it is not participating in the game)
Rf8 25 Qe4:+ Kh6 26 Bf7 Rf7: 27 Rf7: Qh8 28 Qe6+ Kh5
29 Qh3+ Kg6 30 Qh8: Nc6 31 Qh7 1-0

In the next game, white tries to tie black to the defence of the d6 pawn, but, in keeping with the spirit of the defence, black jettisons it to gain active counterplay.

DONNER-PLANINC WIJK-AN-ZEE 1973

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 ed: 5 cd: d6 6 Nf3 g6 7 Nd2
Bg7 8 Nc4 0-0 9 Bg5 h6 10 Bf4 (hoping for the passive reply
Ne8) b6 11 Bd6: Re8: 12 Bg3 Ne4 13 Ne4: Re4: 14 e3 b5 15 Nd6
Rb4 (Black has a very active position) 16 Bb5: Bf8 17 Bc6 Ba6
18 Ba8: Rb2: 19 Qa4 Qf5 20 Rcl Bd6 21 f4 Qf5 22 e4 Re2+ 23
Kd1 Qh5 0-1

A drastic example of what can happen if white treats the Benoni with too little respect.