

Chess is My Life

Autobiography and Games

Viktor Korchnoi



Viktor Korchnoi has been a professional chess player all his life. Now, at the age of 46, he is again bidding strongly to challenge Karpov for the World Championship. Last year he caused a sensation by defecting from the Soviet Union.

This autobiography, by the world's number 2 chessplayer, provides a uniquely revealing portrait of life at the top of international chess – of the pressures and frustrations, as well as the successes and excitements that are the bread-and-butter of a grandmaster's working life. In particular, he reveals why it was that so unpolitical a chessplayer felt that he had no choice but to leave his family and his motherland.

Korchnoi also gives the reader an insider's blow-by-blow account of all the great post-war tournaments in which he took part, as well as an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the leading players whom he knew intimately. The key encounters that he describes appear among the carefully selected games – over 70 in all – some of which the author has annotated in depth especially for this volume. Together text and games represent the definitive portrait of one of the great fighters in twentieth-century chess.

176 pages
72 diagrams

The jacket illustration, of Korchnoi playing Polugayevsky at Evian 1977, is reproduced by courtesy of Popperfoto

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