# First Grandmaster of the Soviet Union A Chess Biography of Boris Verlinsky

Sergei Tkachenko

# First Grandmaster of the Soviet Union: A Chess Biography of Boris Verlinsky

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119	Verlinsky	Zagoriansky	Fragment	1945
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121	Verlinsky	Bronstein	English Opening A16	1945
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### Chapter I

#### THE SOURCES

## **Childhood Mysteries**

The biographical genre has certain conventions: one has to write about the birth of the protagonist, their childhood, youth, etc. This makes it easier for the readers to see the person's whole upbringing path, with all the successes and setbacks. So, we are going to follow the same conventions!

The first Soviet grandmaster Boris Markovich (Berl Mordukhovich) Verlinsky was born on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1887 (8<sup>th</sup> January 1888 New Style) in the county town of Bakhmut of the Ekaterinoslav Governorate, which is now sadly famous throughout the world for quite different reasons.

The site "Judaism and Jews" explains that "the surname Verlinsky originated from the German city Berlin. Apparently, an ancestor of the bearer of this surname was born in Berlin."

But Berlin is quite far from Bakhmut! How exactly did the ancestors of our protagonist get from the center of Europe to a small county town in the south of the Russian Empire?

Unfortunately, fully tracing their movement proved to be impossible. The archives keep their silence!

Long before Boris Verlinsky was born, the Ekaterinoslav Governorate was included in the so-called Pale of Settlement. Many Jewish families moved there from the western reaches of the Empire, forming settlements and small communities of Jewish farmers (yes, they did exist). However, the surviving documents of the Bakhmut *Uyezd* of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century do not mention a Jewish merchant or lower middle class resident named Verlinsky. It's possible that during the war, when the region was occupied by the Wehrmacht, many documents (especially concerning Jewish life) were destroyed.

I placed great hopes on the rabbinate birth records — in addition to birth and circumcision dates, they contain parents' names. But there was nothing either! The surviving books had no data on Boris' birth. I still harbored hopes that some synagogue close to Bakhmut did register Verlinsky's birth. However, the searches also yielded nothing: the documents of the settlements around Bakhmut contained no mention of the birth of the future grandmaster.

My last recourse was the central archive of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic", to where some Bakhmut *Uyezd* documents were moved after 2014. But this was only another disappointment. Three months after my request,



Bakhmut Market Square, pre-1917.

I received an official letter from Donetsk (yes, this was possible before the 2022 invasion), signed by the archive director and chief archivist:

"We hereby inform you that the birth registries of the Bakhmut synagogue of 1887–1888 do not contain any mention of the birth of Verlinsky Boris Markovich.

There was no information on the family of Verlinsky B. M. or their place of residence in the archive documents."

And so, the only source that can help us is the surviving autobiographical sketch of Verlinsky himself: "My Encounters with World Champions" (*Shakhmaty v SSSR*, No. 1, 1951), published posthumously.

"I was born in Bakhmut, in the south of Russia," he wrote in his memoir, "and moved to Odessa together with my parents when I was still a child."

Unfortunately, he did not mention the reasons for the move. It's possible that Jewish pogroms in the Bakhmut *Uyezd* at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century had something to do with that. Here's what *Obzor Ekaterinoslavskoi Gubernii za 1892 god (Ekaterinoslav Governorate 1892 Review)* tells us about one such massacre that happened in early August: "A several thousand-strong mob of workers destroyed the tea house built during the cholera times *(there was an outbreak in the uyezd at the time – Auth.)*, ravaged Jewish shops, stores and warehouses; frightful looting ensued. Men, women, children – everyone

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grabbed what they could. At 8 p.m., a fire started... The market square was fully engulfed by fire at night."

The official sources say that 80 Jews were killed in that pogrom. The synagogue and a hotel were burned down. Seven apartment blocks, 182 shops and 11 drinking houses were looted.

This tragedy happened in Yuzovka (currently, Donetsk), 80 kilometers away from Bakhmut. The chilling news immediately made the rounds in the entire *uyezd*, acquiring more bloody details in the minds of frightened people. Subsequently, some Jewish families moved from the Bakhmut *Uyezd* to quieter places in Southern Russia. Perhaps Verlinsky's parents were among them. Did the migrants find a quieter life in the new place? I'm not so sure!

Or maybe the poor harvests in the Ekaterinoslav Governorate were to blame. Odessa, a port city, had much better food supply.

Grandmaster Yuri Lvovich Averbakh shared some details of Verlinsky's youth in Odessa in his book *A Chess Player's Life in the System*, which he got straight from the primary source: "Verlinsky had a perfect pitch, and his parents wanted to make a child conductor out of him. This ended badly: he got sick with meningitis, which led to a substantial loss of hearing and speech impediment."

Averbakh's hint led me to search for Odessa's music schools that taught conducting and instruments (according to eyewitness accounts, Boris Verlinsky was a decent violin and piano player).

Some small private schools aside, musical education in late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Odessa was monopolized by the musical college of the Odessa chapter of the Russian Imperial Music Society. However, the archive documents of the Odessa Conservatory, which was established in 1913 on the basis of that college, do not mention Verlinsky either. The archivist told me that almost the entire pre-revolutionary archive of the conservatory was destroyed during the Civil War.

Interestingly enough, the heyday of this temple of music coincided with Boris Markovich's childhood and youth. This happened thanks to the work of the famous Czech violin player, composer and conductor Josef Karbulka, who moved to Odessa in 1895. A "music fever" flared up in the city, and so it's not surprising that some Odessa chess players studied music in their childhood.

I should point out one important fact from Averbakh's memories: he said that Boris Verlinsky suffered from a "substantial loss of hearing" due to meningitis. The thing is, some chess resources erroneously claim that Boris Verlinsky was born deaf. This is wrong! The deafness was caused by the disease he suffered. I cannot imagine any parents who could send their boy to study music knowing well that he was deaf.

What is meningitis? Simply put, it's an inflammation of protective membranes of the brain and spinal cord. Before the antibiotics era, the disease was fraught with menacing complications, including paralysis, mental illness, epilepsy, full loss of hearing and even death. Sad statistics show that before the mid- $20^{\rm th}$  century, the death rate of meningitis was above 90%.

Meningitis was especially dangerous for children, because it led to arrested development and nervous system damage. But sometimes this disease produced a reverse effect. There are known cases of meningitis that led to the emergence of incredible memory capacity and phenomenal calculation skills after recovery. For instance, world chess champions Alexander Alekhine and Mikhail Tal also suffered from meningitis in their childhoods.

Where did Verlinsky's parents live after moving to Odessa? My long-standing endgame study co-author and friend, Odessa chess player Nikolai Vasilyevich Rezvov (1921–2013), would tell me stories about his childhood and youth. Sometimes I compared his memories with official sources. Almost everything was spot on!

Once he mentioned Verlinsky's nephew, who lived near Shevchenko Park. Nikolai Vasilyevich remembered that, after moving to Moscow in the early 1920s, Boris Markovich would return to Odessa each summer "to enjoy the sea." During these visits, he would stay in his nephew's room.

"Oh, not these guests from the capital city again!" the annoyed man would complain.

Armed with this information, I started to search for the house where the Verlinsky family lived. And this time, the search was successful! The address book *Vsya Odessa* (*Whole Odessa*), published by L. A. Lisyansky in 1911, mentioned an assistant attorney named Israel Mordukhovich Verlinsky.

Subsequent investigations showed that he was Boris' older brother. His address was 26 Bazarnaya Street. Indeed, this was not far from Shevchenko Park!

The history of this building is full of mysteries! It was built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the author of the project is unknown. Some Odessa architecture experts think that the decorations of the block look like a work of Adolf Minkus. Other historians ascribe the authorship to the architect Mavriky Reinhertz.

In any event, this building had been owned by Iosif Schwartz and then other members of his family since 1900.

In addition to the Verlinsky family, teachers, doctors and merchants lived in it. There were some small shops on the ground floor, selling meat, bread and other groceries (including Bakhmut salts). There was also a drugstore that dealt in various mixtures and ointments.

#### No. 80. Ruy Lopez C71 VERLINSKY – BOGATYRCHUK

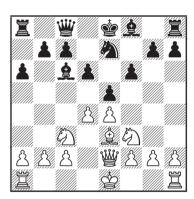
7<sup>th</sup> Soviet Championship Moscow 1931, round 7 Annotated by N. Grigoriev

- 1.e4 e5 2. 163 166 3. 155 a6 4. 16 a4 d6 5.d4. White usually plays the preliminary 5. 16 xc6+, doubling the black pawns and getting a good game. After the game move, black manages to avoid doubled pawns.
- 5... d7. Modern theory recommends 5...b5.
- 6. Acc6. Only a few strong players would advocate a trade that gives black the bishop pair at the price of a freer game for white (the bishop pair in such a position is actually not an advantage until the position opens up completely; such a system does exist, and white plays for a positional bind). The majority prefer 6.c3 Af6 7. Ag5 Ae7 8. Abd2 0-0 9.0-0, and after 9. Ae8 a line that was used by Alekhine several times occurs. Black gets a very solid position in this line, but white's play is a bit freer.
- **6...**≜**xc6 7.**②**c3 f6.** This move has a dual purpose:
- 1) to avoid the well-known lines that occur after 7... 16 8. 43 147, with a difficult game for black;
  - 2) to hold the center.

The disadvantages of this move clearly show in this game:

1) it restricts black's dark-squared bishop;

- 2) it weakens the kingside pawn position, which allows white to create an attack easily;
- 3) it hinders the development of black pieces, especially the knight it loses the important f6 square.
- 8. ≜e3 ②e7. Another possible development method is 8...g6; however, white can easily prevent ②h6 with the subsequent ②f7 (as Alekhine played in his match against Bogoljubov), for instance, with the simple 9. ⊎d2 and 10.0-0-0. After 8... g6, however, black's kingside weakens even further than in the actual game.

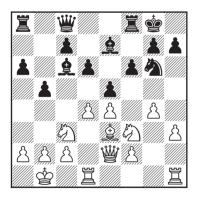


It's not easy for black to come up with a plan for further play to counteract white's impending attack on his short castled position, which he will eventually have to go for. The game move serves as the start of a complicated defensive-attacking system. The goal of this move is, first, to provoke the premature and timid h3 instead of the active h4, because black's threat  $g_4$  might be rather unpleasant.

Secondly, this increases the pressure on white's only weakness, the e4 square (after b5 and \begin{array}{c} b7), provokes d5 and then enables black to open the c-file with c6, launching some activity. As the game continuation shows, black's attack comes too late, because his plan in this line is too unwieldy.

10.h3 (10.0-0-0! is more energetic) 10... 2g6 11.0-0-0 b5 12. ★b1. White still hasn't figured out on which side black will castle; otherwise, instead of this move that frees the c1 square (which actually turned out to be unnecessary), he would have immediately played 12.d5 with the subsequent 13.g4 and a very cramped position for black.

12... e7 13.g4 0-0. Forced to be bold! Unfortunately, black has no choice.



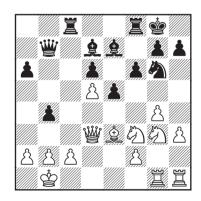
sacrificed pawn thanks to the black queen being out of play.

**14... ⊎b7 15.d5.** 15. **⊘** d2 is worse, since black can liberate his position with 15...d5.

**15... ≜ d7 16. ⊌ d3.** Freeing the square for the knight. However, the knight has a good square on d1 as well. So, white could push the h-pawn immediately, without losing time.

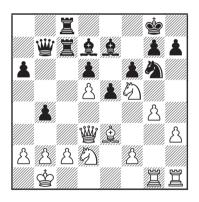
Indeed, after the immediate 16.h4, black's position would have been quite difficult. For instance: 16...b4 17.∅d1 ﷺ fc8 18.h5 ∅f8 19.ଛc1 c6 20.∅e3, also with a good game for white.

16...b4 17. © e2 c6 18. © g3 cxd5 19.exd5 \( \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \alpha \text{cd5} & \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \alpha \text{cd5} & \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \alpha \text{cd5} & \text{computer} \\ recommends & plunging & into & the \\ depths & of complications via 19...a5! \\ 20. \begin{array}{l} \b



**20.**  $\triangle$  **d2**  $\equiv$  **c7 21.**  $\triangle$  **f5**  $\equiv$  **fc8.** Black has achieved all he wanted: he has opened the c-file, seized it with

major pieces and threatens to attack the c2 square. However, as white's strong answer shows, this is not all scary. Therefore, black should have concerned himself with the defense of the d6 square. It was simpler and stronger to play 21...\$b5 22.\dogse e4 and then 22...\(\beta\)fc8. However, even in this case white has a very strong attack after 23.g5! For instance: 23... \(\begin{align} \pm\\ \axc2 24.\,\gxf6 \\gxf6 \\gxf6 25.\hd.\\ \ext{Therefore,} \end{align}\) it's better to play 23...fxg5 24.\(\delta\)xg5 åf8 (not 24... åxg5 due to 25. ∅xd6) 25.9\e3 a5 26.h4 with a difficult defense for black. This is all a consequence of poor opening play.

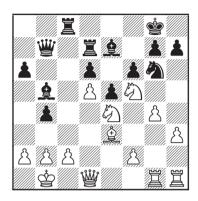


**22. @e4!** The attack on the weak d6 square balances out black's pressure along the c-file.

22... ♠ b5. There's another defense, 22... ♠ xf5 23.gxf5 ♠ f4 (other retreats are even worse) 24. ♠ xf4 exf4 25. ∰ f3 with a strong attack, and black doesn't even have his only consolation – the bishop pair. After 25... ☒ xc2! with the subsequent ♠ h8 and ♠ f8, black repels the attack and goes on the offensive. Instead of

25. #f3, white should prefer 25. #c1 with complicated play. 22... \$\textit{x}\$f5 is actually black's best choice in this position.}

23.₩d1 \( d7\)



24.g5. Looks very threatening, but this is not the strongest continuation of the attack. It was necessary to push the other pawn, 24.h4!, and black has insufficient defense. 24...\$\textstyle{\textstyle{1}}\$f8 is quite unsightly: 25.h5\$\textstyle{\textstyle{1}}\$h8 26.g5 with a rather pretty position for white. But what else can black do? He can't play 24...\$\textstyle{1}\$c4 25.h5\$\textstyle{2}\$xd5 26.hxg6\$\textstyle{2}\$xe4 27.\$\textstyle{2}\$xh7\$\textstyle{2}\$xc2 28.\$\textstyle{2}\$xg7+\$\textstyle{2}\$f8 29.\$\textstyle{2}\$f7+\$\textstyle{2}\$e8 30.\$\textstyle{2}\$xe7+\$\textstyle{2}\$xe7 31.\$\textstyle{2}\$xd6+, and wins. In short, after 24.h4! black's position is hopeless, and his opening play is therefore refuted.

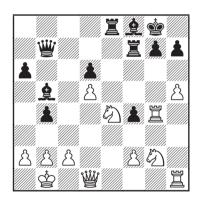
In the computer's opinion, white gets a decisive advantage after the prophylactic 24.b3! \(\begin{aligned}
\text{w} c7 25.h4! \\
\text{ with a formidable attack.} \end{aligned}

**24...fxg5 25.axg5 af8 26.h4.** Now this move lacks power.

26...2c4! 27.2e3 2f7. Now we see the huge difference in power

between moving the pawn earlier and right now, when black has already seized the f-file.

28... ♠ b5 29.h5 ♠ f4 30. ♠ xf4 exf4 31. ♠ g2 ☐ e8. Before time control, black makes another correct move, but then the lack of time disrupts the normal flow of the game.



32.f3 \*\*c8? Black has managed to equalize with great defense and could have even seized the initiative himself. However, all his efforts are wasted because of this mistake. It was necessary to play 32...\$\textstyle{\textstyle{2}}\textstyle{2}\textstyle

probably 33.h6 \( \begin{aligned} \times \text{xd5}, to muddy the waters with 34.\( \begin{aligned} \text{g1}. \end{aligned} \)

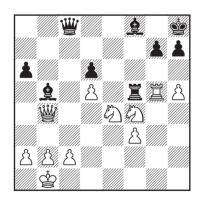
**33. Exf4.** White wins an important pawn without any compensation.

33... xf4 34. xf4 wf5 35. d2 ze5. Now this move lacks its old strength. It was better to simply defend the b4 pawn that was targeted by white.

36. □g1 ♠h8? No matter how bad the position is, making such moves is tantamount to immediate resignation. Black probably missed that he cannot meet 37. □g5 with 37... □f7 because of 38. □g6, winning the exchange. It was necessary to play 36...a5, with a long resistance struggle ahead.

37.\(\subseteq g5 \overline{\psi} c8 38.\overline{\psi} xb4.\) With two extra pawns, white's task is not too difficult.

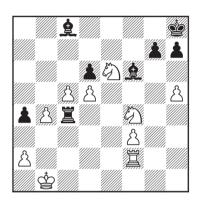
38...**ℤ**f5



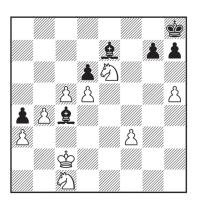
**39.□g4.** It was simpler to play 39. □xf5 ⊎xf5 40. ○c3 with the subsequent 41. ⊎e4, centralization and consolidation.

There was an even simpler win:  $39.\triangle e6! \equiv xf3 + 40.\triangle g1 + h6 + 41.\triangle d4$ 

@c4 42.@xc4 @xc4 43.@d2, curtains.



**51.**  $\bigcirc$  **d3**  $\square$  **c3 52.**  $\bigcirc$  **df4.** To win time, obviously.



For a moment, it seems that black has managed to achieve something, but...

61.c6!  $2 \times d5$  62. $0 \times d4$   $2 \times d8$  63. $0 \times ce2$   $2 \times b6$  64. $0 \times c3$ . The maneuvers of the white knights are rather harmonious.

64... \$\hat{2}\$ f7 65. \$\hat{2}\$ d3 \$\hat{2}\$ xh5 66. \$\hat{2}\$ d5 \$\hat{2}\$ g6+ 67. \$\hat{2}\$ c3 \$\hat{2}\$ xd4+ 68. \$\hat{2}\$ xd4 \$\hat{2}\$ e8. Black resigned without waiting for white's reply.

"Round 8. After a sharp, intense struggle with a lot of interesting Yudovich tactical points, spectacularly sacrificed an exchange to Verlinsky in a Queen's Gambit and got a strong attack. After a few moves, white regained the exchange and put strong pressure on the weakened black king's position. Verlinsky's superb defense gave white a lot of problems. In his search for the win, Yudovich rejected an opportunity to repeat moves, made a number of inaccuracies and ultimately lost."

Standings at halfway: Riumin 7/8; Verlinsky 6; Bogatyrchuk, Botvinnik 5.5. As you see, the three players who were included at the last moment had got ahead in the race! What would happen in the second half of the tournament?

"Round 9. In Verlinsky – Botvinnik (French Defense), white sacrificed a pawn in the middlegame to open up the a1-h8 diagonal for his bishop. In severe time trouble, white missed the win, got a worse position

#### **All-Russian Amateurs Tournament**

## St. Petersburg, October – November 1911

No.	Players	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Points	Prize
1	Levitsky	<b>♦</b>	1	1	1/2	0	1/2	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	16½	1
2	Flamberg	0	<b>♦</b>	1/2	0	1/2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1/2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$14\frac{1}{2}$	2
3	Izbinsky	0	1/2	<b>♦</b>	0	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1/2	131/2	3
4	Langleben	1/2	1	1	<b>♦</b>	1	1	0	0	1	1/2	1	1	1/2	0	1	0	1/2	1/2	1	0	1	1/2	13	4-5
5	Rosenthal	1	1/2	1/2	0	•	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	13	4-5
6	Verlinsky	1/2	0	0	0	1	<b>♦</b>	0	1	0	1	0	1/2	1	1	0	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	$12\frac{1}{2}$	6-8
7	Lurye	1	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	•	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	$12\frac{1}{2}$	6-8
8	Shapiro	0	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>♦</b>	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	1	1	1	121/2	6-8
9	Bogoljubov	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	•	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	9-10
10	A.Kubbel	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	<b>♦</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	12	9-10
11	A.Romanovsky	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>♦</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	11	11
12	Lebedev	0	0	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>♦</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	0	1	10	
13	Malyutin	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>♦</b>	1	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	
14	Rosenkrantz	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	<b>♦</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	$9\frac{1}{2}$	
15	List	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>♦</b>	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	9	
16	Ostrogsky	1/2	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1/2	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	0	<b>♦</b>	0	1/2	1	0	1	1	9	
17	Kosolapov	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	<b>♦</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	1	8	
18	Frenkel	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	<b>♦</b>	1	1	0	1	8	
19	Surnin	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	$\blacklozenge$	1	0	1	$7\frac{1}{2}$	
20	Eljashov	0	0	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	<b>♦</b>	0	0	$6\frac{1}{2}$	
21	Evtifeev	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	•	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$	
22	Konstansky	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1/2	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	1/2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>♦</b>	5	

## Odessa Championship

## 15 February – 9 March 1912

No.	Players	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Points	Prize
1	Verlinsky	<b>♦</b>	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	81/2	1
2	List	0	•	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2}$	2
3	Laurent	1/2	1/2	•	0	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$	3
4	Galperin	0	0	1	•	0	1	0	1	1	1	5	4-5
5	Sonin	0	0	0	1	•	0	1	1	1	1	5	4-5
6	Magazanik	0	0	0	0	1	•	1	1/2	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$	6
7	E. Ratner	0	0	0	1	0	0	•	1	1	1	4	7
8	Karavodin	0	0	1/2	0	0	1/2	0	•	1/2	0	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
9	Dolberg	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	•	_	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
10	Nezhintsev	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	_	<b>♦</b>	1	

#### **Champions Match**

## Odessa, September – October 1913

No.	Players	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Points
1	Verlinsky	1	0	1	1/2	1/2	1	0	0	4
2	Laurent	0	1	0	1/2	1/2	0	1	1	4

## All-Russian Tournament for the Strongest Amateurs

St. Petersburg, 8 – 16 December 1913

No.	Players	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Points	Prize
1	Evenson	•	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	$6\frac{1}{2}$	1
2	Smorodsky	0	•	+	0	1	1	1	1	5	2
3	Verlinsky	1/2	_	<b>♦</b>	1	0	1	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$	3
4	Langleben	0	1	0	<b>♦</b>	0	1	1/2	1	3½	4-5
5	Rozanov	0	0	1	1	<b>♦</b>	0	1/2	1	3½	4-5
6	Rosenbaum	0	0	0	0	1	<b>♦</b>	1	1	3	
7	Rosenthal	0	0	0	1/2	1/2	0	•	1/2	1 1/2	
8	Gartman	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/2	•	1/2	

## **Odessa Championship**

17 June – 25 July 1918

No.	Players	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Points	Prize
1	Vilner	•	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	+	+	1	$12\frac{1}{2}$	1
2	Verlinsky	0	•	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	+	1	1	11	2
3	Gonsiorovsky	0	0	•	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	+	1	9	3-4
4	Lerner	0	0	1	<b>♦</b>	0	1	1	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	+	$\frac{1}{2}$	9	3-4
5	Sukhov	0	0	1	1	•	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	+	8	5
6	Brodsky	0	1	0	0	0	•	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	+	1	71/2	6-7
7	Butalov	0	0	1	0	1	0	•	1	0	0	1	1	+	$\frac{1}{2}$	+	71/2	6-7
8	Laurent	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	•	-	0	1	1	_	+	1	7	
9	E. Ratner	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	+	•	1	0	0	1	+	1	7	
10	D. Russo	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	0	•	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	7	
11	Vasyutinsky	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	0	0	1	0	•	0	1	1	+	6	
12	Rosenman	0	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	•	1/2	0	+	6	
13	Grinberg	_	_	0	0	1	0	_	_	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	•	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	
14	Dolberg	_	0	_	_	0	_	1/2	_	_	0	0	1	1/2	•	_	2	
15	Iglitsky	0	0	O	$\frac{1}{2}$	-	0	-	O	O	0	_	_	1	-	•	11/2	