

# Supertournaments won by Viktor Korchnoi

Supertournament (as well as Supergrandmaster) is relatively new and dynamic term, invented by the chess community, *there is no unequivocally, conclusively definition.*

It usually means a World Elite Chess Tournament – in status and strength (both!) – and is mostly but not necessarily modeling

- an *international* competition  
(meaning without national championships even if strong as in the USSR, Russia or U.S.)
- an *invitational* closed contest (all-play-all / round robin)  
(meaning without Open Festivals held in a swiss system, a highly questionable restriction)
- in *classical chess* otb  
(meaning no rapid, blitz games and/or (other) combined events; no correspondence chess)
- including or excluding *official* qualification stages for a World Chess Championship cycle (Zonal, Interzonal, Candidate's tournament or match, Grand Prix; FIDE, GMA, PCA, etc.)
- furthermore it is debatable whether tournaments with four or less players (Quadrangulars or Triangulars) should be considered as a type of their own (a so-called Mini-Tournament)  
\*all depends on how you count\*

**More than 60 international invitation grandmaster tournament triumphs in classical chess** (supertournaments in terms of modern standards are highlighted in yellow colour, less known tournaments do include a link for the final standings)

**Bucharest 1954** (winning at first tournament abroad, ahead of Nezhmetdinov, IM title by FIDE)

**Hastings 1955/56** (winning with F. Olafsson, ahead of Ivkov, Taimanov, Darga; first individual participation in the west, Viktor Korchnoi is awarded the GM title by FIDE)

Kraków International 1959 (<http://polbase.w.interiowo.pl/it.html>)

**Buenos Aires (150th Anniversary May Revolution) 1960** (alongside with Reshevsky). Competing in the Aula Magna of the Faculty of Medicine, where Bobby Fischer, already a Candidate in the previous year, is doing unexpectedly bad, coming in below 50%, amongst others Szabo on third position, Rossetto, Taimanov, Guimard, Evans, Olafsson, Unzicker, Gligoric, Benko, Uhlmann, Ivkov, Pachman, Wexler (beating Fischer), Wade (beating Korchnoi), and legendary Eliskases. Rossetto and Guimard were awarded the GM title by FIDE.

Córdoba (Argentina) International 1960 ([www.365chess.com/tournaments/Cordoba\\_1960/](http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/Cordoba_1960/))

**Budapest (Maróczy Memorial) 1961** (2 points ahead of Bronstein)

**Havana (Capablanca Memorial) 1963** (ahead of joint 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Geller, Pachmann, and Tal; 22 participants playing in a round robin, those were the days!)

**Yerevan 1965** (international tournament in the Armenian city Yerevan, organized to honour their World Champion Petrosian, who was shared second with Stein; Portisch as best foreigner as fifth)

**Gyula (Asztalos-Memorial) 1965**, performing stratospheric 14.5/15p.!

Viktor Korchnoi is no. 1 of the world in historical ELO (chessmetrics by Jeff Sonas) after winning Gyula (Asztalos Memorial), August 1965.

**Bucharest 1966** \*

**Sochi (Chigorin Memorial) 1966** (Polugaevsky took second, Spassky tied for joint fifth place) \*

**Budva 1967** (ahead of Tal, Gligoric, and Geller: USSR vs. YUG exceptionally played as an individual tournament) \*

**Leningrad International (50th Anniversary October Revolution) 1967** (ahead of Kholmov, Barcza, Taimanov) \*

**Wijk aan Zee (Hoogovens) 1968** (won at first participation!, starting with eight wins in a row, winning full three points ahead of the next guys, the trio Portisch, Hort, and Tal) \*

**Palma de Mallorca 1968** (featuring reigning World Champion Petrosian, his Challenger Spassky, Gligoric, and of course Larsen, the Palma de Mallorca tournament title defender from 1967) \*

**Sarajevo (Bosna) 1969** \*

**Luháčovice (International Czechoslovak Championship) 1969** (ahead of Keres) \*

**Havana (Capablanca Memorial) 1969** (with Suetin, ahead of Gligoric, Donner, Uhlmann) \*

\* Korchnoi achieved a **stretch of nine wins** in individual international (invitation or official) tournaments out of ten consecutive entries between 1966 and 1969!

**Wijk aan Zee (Hoogovens) 1971** (ahead of Ivkov, Petrosian, Olafsson, Gligoric, second and last participation as USSR citizen)

**Hastings 1971/72** (with Karpov, ahead of Mecking, R. Byrne, Gligoric, Najdorf)

**Palma de Mallorca 1972** (with Panno, Smejkal, ahead of Andersson, Gheorghiu, Polugaevsky, Averbakh, Ljubojevic)

**Leningrad (IZT) 1973** (together with Karpov, this was the last international tournament with both Karpov and Korchnoi for more than a decade (!) because of the boycott established after Korchnoi emigrated)

**Amsterdam (IBM) 1976** (with Miles, emigration just minutes after this tournament)

**Montreux (Palace) 1977** (ahead of Flesch, Bhend, Ciric, Keene, Robatsch; the years of boycott...)

Beersheba 1978

**GP South Africa (Oude Meester, Quadrangular) 1979**, played in four cities

**Sao Paulo 1979** (with Ljubojevic)

**Buenos Aires (Konex-Canon) 1979** (again with Ljubojevic)

**Biel 1979** (at 12/13 with a 4.5 points lead above Wirthensohn, Unzicker, Sahovic, Partos)

**London (Phillips & Drew Kings) 1980** (with Miles, Andersson)

**Rome 1981** (winning 2.5 points ahead of Csom)

**Bad Kissingen 1981** (full three points ahead of Hort, Seirawan, then Sosonko)

**Rome 1982** (with Pinter)

Beersheba 1984 (with Kudrin)

**Wijk aan Zee (Hoogovens) 1984** (with Beliavsky, end of the Soviet boycott since 1976)

**Sarajevo (Bosna) 1984** (with Timman)

**Titograd (40th Anniversary of Liberation of the city) 1984** (with Velimirović, ahead of Tal, all three attacking players par excellence, it was Korchnoi's first classical game with Tal since 1975)

**Brussels (OHRA) 1985** (ahead of Spassky)

**Tilburg (Interpolis) 1985** (with Hübner, Miles, ahead of Polugaevsky, Ljubojevic, Timman)

**Zagreb (IZT) 1987**

Beersheba 1987 (with Speelman)

**Wijk aan Zee 1987** (with Short)

**Amsterdam (OHRA) 1988** (ahead of Nunn)

**Royan 1988** ([www.ajedrezdeataque.com/11%20Ajedrez%20Femenino/Torneos/Royan\\_88.htm](http://www.ajedrezdeataque.com/11%20Ajedrez%20Femenino/Torneos/Royan_88.htm))

**Clermont Ferrand (200th Anniversary of French Revolution) 1989** (shared)

Beersheba 1990

**Rotterdam (Euwe Memorial) 1990** (double rounded mini-tournament with four top ten players)

Korchnoi is sixty years young, according to the (then) regulations in a senior status; of course, that doesn't bother him to play on and win:

**Las Palmas 1991** (with Topalov and Franco Ocampos, ahead of Granda Zuniga, and Morovic)

Harlingen (Quadrangular) 1991 (ahead of Timman, Piket)

**Antwerp (European Capital of Culture celebration) Volmac, later labelled Lost Boys 1993**  
(with Piket, ahead of Christiansen)

**Ostrava International 1994** ([www.365chess.com/tournaments/Ostrava\\_1994/15804](http://www.365chess.com/tournaments/Ostrava_1994/15804))

**San Francisco "Pan Pacific" (50th Anniversary of the signing of the United Nations' charter in San Francisco) 1995** (ahead of Nunn, Gulko, DeFirmian, Hübner)

**Magistral de Madrid 1995** (aged 64 years; ahead of Salov, then ranked no. 3= of the world, in a field with seven top-25 players, including Timman and Short, both in the mid-1990s Challenger in a title match, Jussupow, Beliavsky, plus Judit Polgar)

**Malmö (Sigeman & Co) 1996** (ahead of Miles, exact twenty years after IBM-Amsterdam)

**St. Petersburg International 1997** (with Khalifman, Salov; beating Svidler in style)

**Enghien-les-Bains 1997** (with Bacrot)

**Sarajevo (Bosna) 1998** (third participation, third win, scoring in total at Bosna +20 =16 -1)

**Bad Homburg 1998** (first big international chess tournament to use the "soccer scoring", Korchnoi wins with 19 points, four points ahead of runner-up Svidler, already a top-ten player, followed by Jussupow and Torre with 13 points each)

Arnhem (Sonsbeek SNS, Quadrangular) 1999 (with Sadler)

**Biel 2001** (just a few months after Korchnoi's 70th birthday, double round robin super-tournament, victory as clear first ahead of established Svidler, Gelfand, Grischuk, Lautier, and Pelletier)

Basel (ITAG Masters, Quadrangular) 2003

**Paks (Marx Gyoergy Memorial) 2004** (drr, 6 players incl. Beliavsky, Portisch, Berkes and Acs)

**Banja Luka 2007** (Garry took Banja at his personal premiere aged 16, Viktor took Banja at his personal premiere aged 76)

Notable Open caps are including **Lone Pine, California 1981** (11th and last edition of this classic Open, sponsored by Louis D. Statham, engineer and inventor of medical instruments), Korchnoi participated as qualified Challenger, just a few months before the World Championship match was held, **U.S. Open Chess Championship at Pasadena 1983** with Christiansen (this legendary Open is lasting since 1900 without any break!), **Vienna (IBM) 1986** Invitation Open with four top ten players of the world, Korchnoi aged 55, wins (first on tie-break) shared with Beliavsky, ahead of luminaries such as Karpov, Spassky and Nunn, **Hamburg (Wichern-Open) 1995**, **Copenhagen Chess Festival** (traditionally known as **Politiken-Cup) 1996**, and three times (**1982, 1986** and the last edition in **1989**) at **Lugano**, an annually played international strong Open-Series in the 1980s.

\*This list is just a selection of Viktor Korchnoi's wins in Open tournaments\*

Plus **USSR champion 1960** (clear first) **in Leningrad, 1962** (clear first) **in Yerevan, 1964/65** (clear first) **in Kiev, 1970** (clear first) **in Riga** (all four times won outright, 16 participations). **Champion of Switzerland 1982, 1984, 1985, 2009, 2011** (five times out of eight participations, last title with 80 yrs 4 mths!!). **Netherlands national champion 1977**, in total ten national titles.

## Gallery of a unique Palmarès

For a full list of the more than 220 tournament, match and team wins of Korchnoi **in chess contests of grandmaster strength** (not counting club level, etc., without junior or senior tournaments), see:

**1st Prize chronology - [www.chessdiagonals.ch](http://www.chessdiagonals.ch) - Viktor Korchnoi** (click)

GM Viktor Korchnoi achieved **more than 220 first prizes** in international Invitation tournaments, international Open, tournaments, National Championships and FIDE official contests, matches, and team competitions, all of grandmaster strength, with a **64 years competitive chess tournament winning span** (stretching **more than 40 years of victories in world elite supertournaments**).

Included in this record are about 20 Rapid / Blitz tournament wins, that means, Viktor Korchnoi achieved **at least 200 first prizes in classical chess events.**

Junior or Senior contests are strictly *not counted* (even it's a Junior national champion, student gold team medal or a Senior World champion title), double-counting of team and individual first board prizes in the same event is excluded (exception: Chess Olympiads, official FIDE World and European Team Championships). Wins in only local tournaments obviously *do not count*.

Counting as well Junior and Senior, local club competitions, and all team / individual doubles, **would increase the number of won first prizes by Viktor Korchnoi to far more than 280+.**

This **timeframe** and **number of major chess tournament first prizes** are definitely a **benchmark!** There may be local players with more minor tournament wins (on club or college level), but not in international elite gm groups.

A world record on grandmaster level (of course, there are club players with more wins, but only in local / regional, Non-GM/IM events).

Compare for tournament \*series\*: [major events - www.chessdiagonals.ch](http://www.chessdiagonals.ch) (click)

This more general survey is presenting famous past and present major recurring individual international invitation tournaments in classical chess, especially **tournament series** (thus excluding official competitions, or national tournaments, matches or team events and first board prizes), focussing on closed elite tournaments **won at first participation** of Viktor Korchnoi, then elite tournament series won at second entry, and elite tournament cycles never won / never invited / never participated respectively.

**Viktor Korchnoi beats nine undisputed Chess World Champions**  
(including all from **Botvinnik** to **Kasparov**) in classical chess

- Top Five player for more than twenty years
- Top Ten player for more than thirty years, consecutively from 1960 to 1990
- Top Hundred player of the world for near sixty years
- **Candidate ten times** (a cycle back then lasted three years), world record
- Qualified in Candidate Cycles 1960-1963, 1966-1969, 1969-1972, 1972-1975, 1975-1978, 1978-1981, 1981-1984, 1984-1987, 1987-1990, 1990-1993
- Korchnoi played a world record of **251 games as a Candidate**
- **Oldest National Champion ever** (Switzerland 2011, at age of 80)
- **Viktor Korchnoi beats players from five player generations**  
(from **Levenfish & Lilienthal** to **Carlsen & Caruana**)

Summary of **Viktor Korchnoi's Ranking in the World** (ELO chess rating),  
for a year-by-year survey, see sub-section:

**Viktor Korchnoi was Number One of the World in 1965,**  
**achieving his first no. 2 ranking in 1961 (Historical ELO), his last no. 2 in 1981 (Historical ELO & FIDE)**  
**Korchnoi aged 50, was still no. 2 in FIDE ELO only 5 points behind no. 1 and 55 points ahead of no. 3**

<b>First Top 5</b> Historical ELO (Sonas) <b>1960</b> September list	<b>Last Top 5</b> ELO (FIDE) in July - December <b>1989</b> , aged 58 yrs
<b>First Top 10</b> Historical ELO (Sonas) <b>1954</b> December list	<b>Last Top 10</b> ELO (FIDE) in January - June <b>1990</b> , aged 59 yrs
<b>First Top 20</b> Historical ELO (Sonas) <b>1954</b> February list	<b>Last Top 20</b> ELO (FIDE) in July - December <b>1999</b> , aged 68 yrs
<b>First Top 100</b> Historical ELO (Sonas) <b>1951</b> April list	<b>Last Top 100</b> ELO (FIDE) in Jan-Mar <b>2007</b> , exactly at 76 yrs!

Korchnoi appeared **near sixty years in the Top Hundred of the World**, frequently competitive playing each year  
Korchnoi appeared **more than thirty years in the Top Ten of the World**, consecutively from 1960 - 1990  
Korchnoi appeared **more than twenty years in the Top Five of the World**, consecutively from 1960 - 1982  
Korchnoi appeared **about fifteen years in the Top Two** (mostly behind Petrosian, then Fischer, then Karpov)

[World Ranking survey - www.chessdiagonals.ch](http://www.chessdiagonals.ch) - [Viktor Korchnoi](#) (click)

>> At the **age of 50**, Korchnoi was still **number two** (in the FIDE ELO list July - December 1981, with only 5 points behind number one, and 55 points ahead of number three).

>> At the **age of 58** (July-December 1989), Korchnoi was last in the **Top-Five** (only five points behind to position three).

>> At the **age of 68** (July-December 1999), Korchnoi was last in the **Top-Twenty** of the World.

>> At the **age of exact 76**, Korchnoi last made the ELO **Top-100**, in March 2007, and Mighty Vic was never a player who has "frozen" his rating by playing only a few games periodically.

>> At the **age of 80, Korchnoi beat a Super-GM with an ELO rating of 2700+** in classical chess (Caruana in Gibraltar 2011).

Korchnoi is by far the oldest player to beat an opponent of Super-GM strength in a competitive classical game. He is also supposed to be the oldest player to beat a Grandmaster in classical chess, winning against Joe Gallagher in the National Swiss Championship in 2012, meanwhile Mark Taimanov is the oldest player beating a Grandmaster, Korchnoi, in speed (rapid) chess.

## Gallery of Greats beaten by Viktor Korchnoi



Mikhail Tal, the great attacker, is in lifetime scores dominated with distinction by Viktor Korchnoi, the great counter-attacker (USSR championship in Moscow 1957, Tal becoming then the youngest Soviet Champion)

Viktor Korchnoi is undoubtedly the player with the most games and wins against grandmaster calibres in professional chess history.

Including simultaneous exhibitions all over the World, Korchnoi played maybe 20'000 games, more than 5'000 games in official events.

Korchnoi faced and beat great players from at least five chess generations (see more details below): from Levenfish & Lilienthal to Carlsen & Caruana.

Viktor Korchnoi is the only man on earth beating every of the eight non-disputed post-war II world chess champions from Botvinnik to Kasparov in a regular classical tournament or match game.

Gallery of the Nine undisputed World Chess Champions, beaten in classical chess games when they were Grandmaster at least once by Viktor Korchnoi:

**Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Fischer, Karpov, Kasparov, and Carlsen** (who is considered as the 16th World Chess Champion since Steinitz in modern history)

In beating nine <undisputed> World Chess Champions in classical games, Korchnoi is catching up **Paul Keres, the other all-time-great uncrowned king of chess**, and **Alexander Beliavsky** (with Korchnoi having the highest number of classical game wins against future, reigning or past World Chess Champions). As pointed out, Viktor Korchnoi is the only player to beat all eight consecutive World Chess Champions from Botvinnik to Kasparov.

Source:

**Gallery of Greats, beaten by Viktor Korchnoi:** <http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/402840515>

> **First win of Korchnoi against (future) World Champion:**

1952 versus GM Smyslov at Moscow, 20th USSR Championship

> **Latest win of Korchnoi against (future) World Champion:**

2004/05 versus GM Carlsen at Drammen (with Carlsen beating Shirov)

> **Oldest great player against whom Korchnoi won (1953):**

GRIGORY LEVENFISH, born 1889, GM 1950 (GM title inauguration)

> **Youngest great player (ELO 2700+) against whom Korchnoi won (2011):**

FABIANO CARUANA, born 1992, GM since 2007

Age difference between Korchnoi and Caruana is 61 and a half years, the same delta as it would be between Schmeling and Tyson 😊

There are even later born players beaten by Korchnoi under regular tournament conditions in classical chess, but these players are at that time too young to be considered at very Super-GM level, among others: Hou Yifan, born 1994 (at Paks, Marx Gyoergy Memorial, her ELO was then 2523), or Lars Rindlisbacher, born 1996 (at the Legends vs. Geneva match in Geneva, that means a difference of 65 years to his swiss fellow who made then an IM norm).

Facing five generations!

Viktor Korchnoi, "the Rolling Stone of Chess" **faced and beat players from at least five chess generations:** from **Levenfish & Lilienthal** as well as Najdorf, Reshevsky, Keres and Botvinnik, to the coeval generation of Petrosian, Tal, Polugaevsky, Stein, Spassky, Larsen and Fischer to Karpov to Kasparov until the days of **Carlsen & Caruana** including among others Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Shirov, Svidler, Topalov, Leko, Judit Polgar, Vallejo Pons, Ponomariov, Bacrot, Grischuk, and Gashimov.

- i. winning against the **Pre-War warriors**, already playing competitively before / during World War II, notable players faced and *beaten by Viktor Korchnoi* include among others mentioned Levenfish (born 1889), Lilienthal (born 1911); then Lisitsin, Sokolsky, Mikenas, Barcza, Golombek, Rossolimo, Bondarevsky, Nezhmetdinov, Stahlberg, Pirc, Prins, Paoli, Denker, Flohr (born 1908), Najdorf (born 1910), Reshevsky (born 1911), Keres (born 1916), and Botvinnik (born 1911)
- ii. winning versus all of **the rising Soviet Post-War youngsters**: Smyslov, Bronstein, Geller, Petrosian, Tal, Polugaevsky, Stein, Spassky, as well as versus **Fischer**, Larsen & Co. and all the best of **the Rest of the World**
- iii. winning versus the **Karpovian generation** and his seconds, with Karpov 20 years younger
- iv. winning versus the **Kasparovian generation**, characterized by its revolution of the openings, meanwhile Kasparov 32 years younger than Korchnoi — be aware, they met first (apart from a clock simultaneous) when Korchnoi was already older than fifty years
- v. winning versus **the Engine kids**:

beating with about 40 plus year-odds vs. elite players as Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Shirov, Svidler, Adams, Topalov, Leko, and Judit Polgar; beating with about 50 plus year-odds vs. elite players as Vallejo Pons (born 1982), Ponomarev (born 1983), Bacrot (born 1983), Grischuk (born 1983), Gashimov (born 1986, R.I.P. 2014), Carlsen (born 1990), and Caruana (born 1992).

### **Lifetime scores of Viktor Korchnoi:**

Korchnoi (1931) has a plus lifetime - score against the giants of "his generation": Petrosian (1929), Spassky (1937) and overwhelmingly versus Tal (1936);

apart from these three world chess champions Spassky, Petrosian and Tal, Viktor Korchnoi has also a (frequently dominating) plus lifetime score in a <substantial> number of encounters, vs. most of the top-players of his prime decades, <among others> Averbakh, Taimanov, Suetin, Gligoric, Szabo, Barcza, Ivkov, Filip, Unzicker, Uhlmann, Matanovic, Donner, Geller, Stein, Polugaevsky, Gheorghiu, Mecking, Benko, Panno, Torre, Hort, Portisch (narrowly), Fridrik Olafsson, Larsen, Ljubojević, Hübner, Miles, Timman, Yusupov. Viktor Korchnoi is even with Beliavsky, slightly behind Short, and younger stars, with still a <substantial> overall plus score versus about forty years youngsters such as Akopian, Lautier or Piket.

Against the 20-years younger Karpov and the 32-years younger Kasparov he has a minus overall lifetime - score, also against older fellows Keres, Bronstein and Smyslov (not including Korchnoi's two wins in blitz at Herceg Novi 1970 balancing the score); and naturally Korchnoi is in lifetime scores behind 44-years younger Kramnik, and clearly behind Anand (no wins).

Korchnoi tied legendary Bobby Fischer (+2=2-2;+1-1 in blitz); he tied also Botvinnik (+1=2-1).

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### **Trivia:**

From the 22 competitors (including two substitutes), regarded at that time to be the strongest Chess Grandmasters, playing in the 'USSR vs. Rest Of The World: Match of the Century' at Belgrade in Spring 1970, Viktor Korchnoi beat during his career all ! 🏆 other than himself, of course.

Against 17 of them (Larsen, Portisch, Hort, Gligoric, Reshevsky, Uhlmann, Matulovic, Najdorf, Ivkov, Olafsson, Spassky, Petrosian, Polugaevsky, Geller, Taimanov, Tal, and Stein), Korchnoi has a plus lifetime record, twice an equal score (against Fischer and Botvinnik) and only against two a negative lifetime record (Keres and Smyslov, in classical chess).

# A man and his passion - some chess geography

From Amsterdam to Zagreb, from Buenos Aires to Yerevan, ...

No other player in professional chess circuit was so busy beating such a bunch of chess fellows from different generations, have a look at **Viktor's globetrotting list** of first prizes added below and enjoy (t)his journey of memorable chess summits!

## 120+ !! Cities with Tournament, Team and/or Match Wins of Victorious Viktor:

Wijk aan Zee (Netherlands, the "Wimbledon" of yearly recurring chess top tournaments), Tilburg, Amsterdam, The Hague, Leeuwarden, Nijmegen, Harlingen, Arnhem, Rotterdam, Leningrad / Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Tbilisi, Kiev, Odessa, Poltava, Cheliabinsk, Molotov (today: Perm), Smolensk, Sochi, Suzdal, Sverdlovsk (today: Yekaterinburg), Tomsk, Volgograd, Voroshilovgrad (today: Luhansk), Sukhumi, Frunze (today: Bishkek), Riga, Tallinn, Yerevan, Copenhagen, Malmö, Uppsala, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Belgrade, Titograd (today: Podgorica), Zagreb, Rijeka, Skopje, Ohrid, Budva, Gyula, Paks, Budapest, Bucharest, Kraków, Krynica-Zdrój, Beersheba, Hastings, Bath, London, Paris, Enghien-les-Bains, Clermont-Ferrand, Val Maubuee, Royan, Roquebrune, Évian, Nice, Auxerre, Cannes, Antwerp, Brussels, Las Palmas, Palma de Mallorca, Banyoles, Marbella, Madrid, Merano, Arvier (Aosta Valley), Ciocco (Tuscany), Genoa, Rome, Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Dresden, Siegen, Oberhausen, Bad Kissingen, Bad Homburg, Solingen, Münster, Kaiserslautern, Vienna, Velden, Kapfenberg, Prague, Ostrava, Luhačovice, Česká Třebová, Rogaška Slatina, Havana, Curaçao, Montreal, Toronto, New York City, San Francisco, Pasadena, Lone Pine (California), Augusta (Georgia), Mérida (Yucatán), Córdoba, Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Viña del Mar, Kapstadt, Johannesburg, Mauren (Principality of Liechtenstein), San Bernardino, Silvaplana, Arosa, Grächen, Leukerbad, Baden (Argovia), Basel, Berne, Lucerne, Lugano, Montreux, Biel, Geneva, Zurich, Wohlen and Wenzhou (Zhejiang, China), among others.

Grandmaster Korchnoi also played legendary chess battles, winning games but not winning the whole tournament, or only drawing a match in (devoid of team events with Switzerland):

Baguio City, Manila, Sousse, Kolkota, Groningen, Linares, Barcelona, Pamplona, Reggio Emilia, Herceg Novi, Rovinj, Ptuj, Polanica-Zdrój, Donetsk, Elista, Monte Carlo, Montpellier, Dortmund, Drammen, Oslo, Stockholm, Haninge, Reykjavik, Saint John, Las Vegas, Gibraltar, Horgen, a.o.

Source: **Globetrotting of Viktor Korchnoi**: <http://www.chessdiagonals.ch/402840514>

## Seven World Chess Champions as teammates

Korchnoi's teammates in various team competitions cover no less than seven undisputed World Chess Champions:

**Karpov, Spassky, Petrosian, Tal, Smyslov, Botvinnik,**  
and **Euwe** (with Volmac Rotterdam).

Note:

Euwe (1901-1981) and Korchnoi (1931-2016) played 1979 in the same team at the 2nd European Chess Club Cup (held decentralised): [www.olimpbase.org/1979c/1979volm.html](http://www.olimpbase.org/1979c/1979volm.html)

Of course, Viktor Korchnoi faced most of the mentioned players also as opponent in national and / or international team events, ie. Botvinnik in 1960, December (Moscow vs. Leningrad, Korchnoi beat Botvinnik 1.5-0.5) or then reigning World Champion Petrosian in 1965 (Moscow vs. Leningrad, Korchnoi beat Petrosian without mercy 2-0).

Korchnoi also faced **Kasparov** three times in direct encounters during team tournaments:

> 1982 in Lucerne at the Chess Olympiad (USSR vs. Switzerland, Karpov taking a rest his second round in a row, a famous win for young Garry as replacement on board one)

> 1988 in Madrid at the 3rd USSR vs. REST OF THE WORLD Match, Rapid in Scheveningen System. Korchnoi and Kasparov drew their individual game, they were the only players to remained unbeaten in an elite field, Korchnoi, by far the oldest player, scored the individual best performance of all: <http://www.olimbase.org/1988g/1988in.html> (scroll down for full cross table)

> 1992 in Debrecen at the European Chess Championship, Korchnoi already above sixty years but still dangerous to everyone, a fascinating, complicated and disputed draw in the King's Indian lines: <https://www.chess.com/article/view/an-examination-of-the-mar-del-plata-with-9ne8> (annotations by Bryan Smith, GM who grew up in Alaska, please scroll down the page)

## Benchmarks by Korchnoi

- **64 years winning span in competitive closed chess tournaments** from USSR Junior Championship 1947 to Suzdal (Botvinnik Veterans Mem) Rapid 2011, followed by further first prizes as individual best and team winner (Legends vs. CEG, Geneva) 2012 or winner in friendly matches vs. Uhlmann, Leipzig 2014 and vs. Taimanov, Lucerne 2015
- **More than 50 years winning span as National Champion** (USSR 1960 to SUI 2011)
- **More than 40 years winning span of supertournaments** from Hastings 1955/56 and Buenos Aires 1960, followed by frequent supertournament victories in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, up to Madrid 1995, Sarajevo (Bosna) 1998 and Biel 2001, clear first as a septenarian, all opponents being near forty to more than fifty years younger than Viktor Korchnoi
- **Longest winning span of 19 years at Wijk aan Zee** from 1968 (first participation) & 1971 (second participation) to 1984 & 1987
- **About 2000 won games against major opponents** (not counting simul exhibitions): Viktor Korchnoi is undoubtedly the player with the most wins against grandmasters in professional chess history
- **More than 220 victories in major chess tournament, match and team events** (for full achievement with more details, see also the different categories of 1st Prizes chronology, major tournaments, prominent opponents and corresponding listings)

In his youth, Korchnoi played and beat GM Grigory Levenfish (born 1889).

In his own twilight years, he played and beat GM Fabiano Caruana (born 1992).

A 103-year span - is that unique?

At a total of 174 years, Korchnoi vs. Taimanov (in November 2015, Swiss Chess Museum). This is the oldest combined aggregate ever for a chess match between grandmasters!

**A winning span as National Champion of incredible 51 years (USSR 1960 to SUI 2011). World Record!**

Viktor Korchnoi is the only man on earth beating every of the eight undisputed post-war II world chess champions from Botvinnik to Kasparov, always in a regular classical tournament or match game, in total beating nine undisputed World Chess Champions, a non-surpassed record held with Keres and Beliavsky.

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