

🇩🇪 **Unzicker Wolfgang** (26.06.1925 - 20.04.2006)



German Grandmaster (1954). Graduated in law and was an administrative judge in Munich. **He won seven West German Championships from 1948 until 1965.**

Wins in international tournaments: Augsburg 1946, Bad Nauheim (national) 1948, **Lucerne 1948/9**, **Heidelberg 1949**, Travemünde International 1950 (ahead of Bogoljubov), **Hastings 1950-51** (ahead of 2./3. Rossolimo, O'Kelly de Galway, ten players), **Lucerne 1951/2**, Munich (zonal) 1954, **Sochi (Chigorin Memorial) 1965** (with Boris Spassky; 16 players, among them 10 from the USSR), **Kremce 1967**, **Maribor 1967** (ahead of Reshevsky, 3.-5. Ivkov, Matanovic, Zinn, incl. Matulovic, Janosevic, Lengyel, Minev, Robatsch or veteran Pirc; 16 players), IBM-Amsterdam-B 1980 (with Ree), Almada (closed) 1988, Amsterdam Donner Memorial-B 1996 (with Gligoric, Smylsov)

He finished shared fourth in the very strong Santa Monica (Piatigorsky Cup) tournament in 1966 (at +2-1=14) with [Lajos Portisch](#); only [Boris Spassky](#), [Bobby Fischer](#), and [Bent Larsen](#) finished above Unzicker, who placed ahead of then reigning World Champion [Tigran Petrosian](#), [Samuel Reshevsky](#), [Miguel Najdorf](#), [Borislav Ivkov](#), and [Hein Donner](#). At [Hastings](#) 1969-70, Unzicker finished second (+4-0=5) after [Lajos Portisch](#) and ahead of [Svetozar Gligorić](#) and former World Champion [Vasily Smyslov](#). He finished second (+3-2=7) to [Viktor Korchnoi](#) at South Africa 1979.

Individual gold medal on board one at the Olympiad in 1950.

Wolfgang Unzicker shared the prize for best top-board score (+9 -1 =4) with [Miguel Najdorf](#) for his performance on first board for the West German team at the [Dubrovnik Chess Olympiad](#).

During the 1964 Tel Aviv Olympiad, he and his team (Unzicker, Darga, L. Schmid, Pflieger, plus Morlock, Bialas) went on to winning the Bronze medal after a sensational 3:1 team victory over the Soviet Union. Unzicker beat on top board former World Champion Smyslov.

In total, Wolfgang Unzicker participated in 13 Olympiads from 1950-82 (ten times on board one).

Chess columnist at the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Wolfgang Unzicker chose to be a lawyer and a judge by profession and was for many years the legal advisor to the German Chess Association.

“The world champion of amateurs”

Karpov used to call him “the world champion of amateurs” with at least one victory over Tartakower, Bogoljubov, Gligoric, Keres, Reshevsky, **Botvinnik**, **Smyslov**, **Tal**, **Fischer**, Larsen, Korchnoi, Timman, Ljubojevic, or Uhlmann, amongst others. He was a regular Top Twenty player in the 1950s and Top Fifty player in 1960s and 1970s.

In 2005, Unzicker celebrated his 80th birthday with his wife Freia, his three sons and their wives and three grandchildren, a rapid event with [Karpov](#), [Korchnoi](#) and [Spassky](#) took place in his honor.

Unzicker died on April 20, 2006, at the age of 81, during a holiday trip to Albufeira/Portugal.

Famous game:

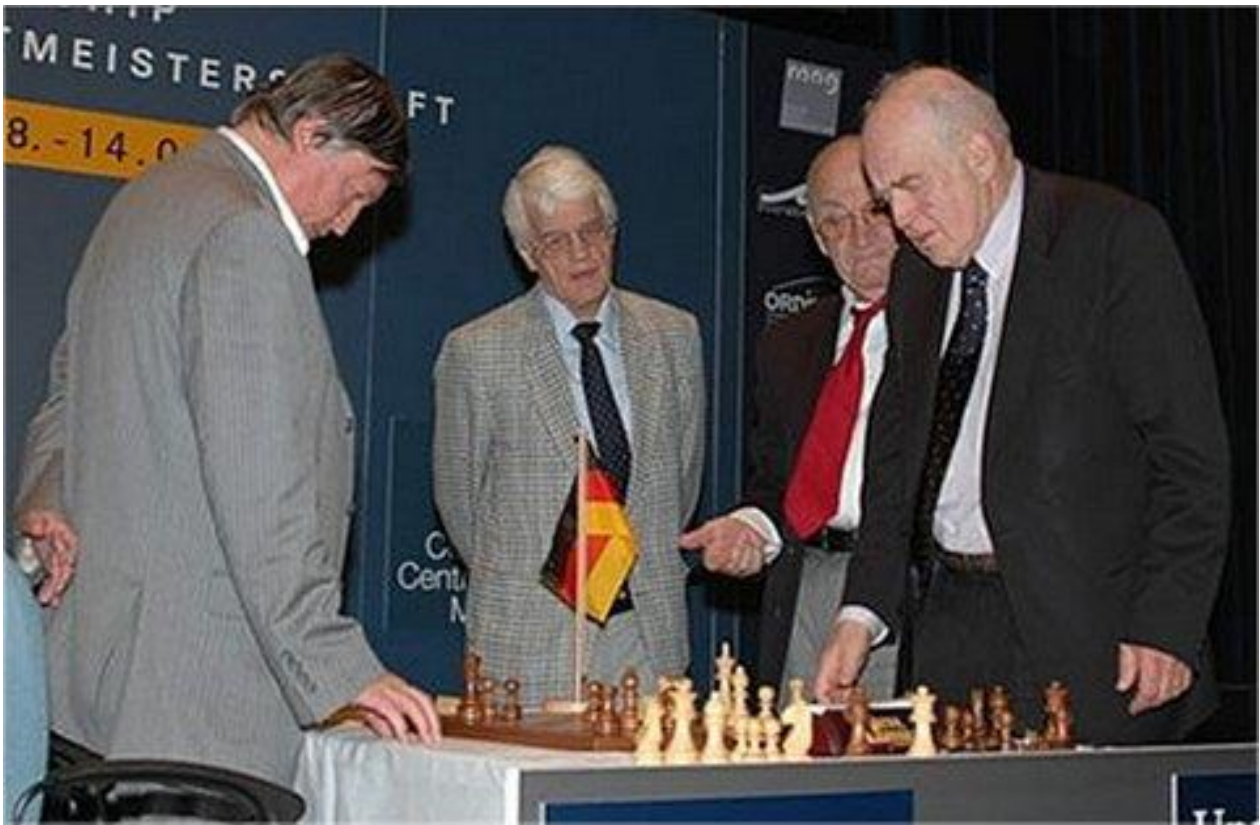
**Unzicker, Wolfgang - Keres, Paul
Alekhine Memorial Moscow, 1956**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 14.Nb3 Bb7 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bh4 Nb4 17.Bb1 Rac8 18.Re2 Nh5 19.a3 Nc6 20.d5 Nb8 21.Rc2 Qd8 22.Na5 Rxc2 23.Nxb7 Qc7 24.Qxc2 Qxb7 25.Bxe7 Rc8 26.Bxd6 Rxc2 27.Bxc2 f6 28.Bb3 Nf4 29.Rd1 Nd7 30.Rd2 Nb6 31.Bc7 Nc4 32.d6 Ne6 33.Ba5 Nc5 34.Bb4 Nd7 35.Rc2 a5 36.Bxa5 Qxe4 37.Nd2 Qd3 38.Rxc4 Kh7 39.Bc2 1-0

→ Replay in Chessgames: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1072626>

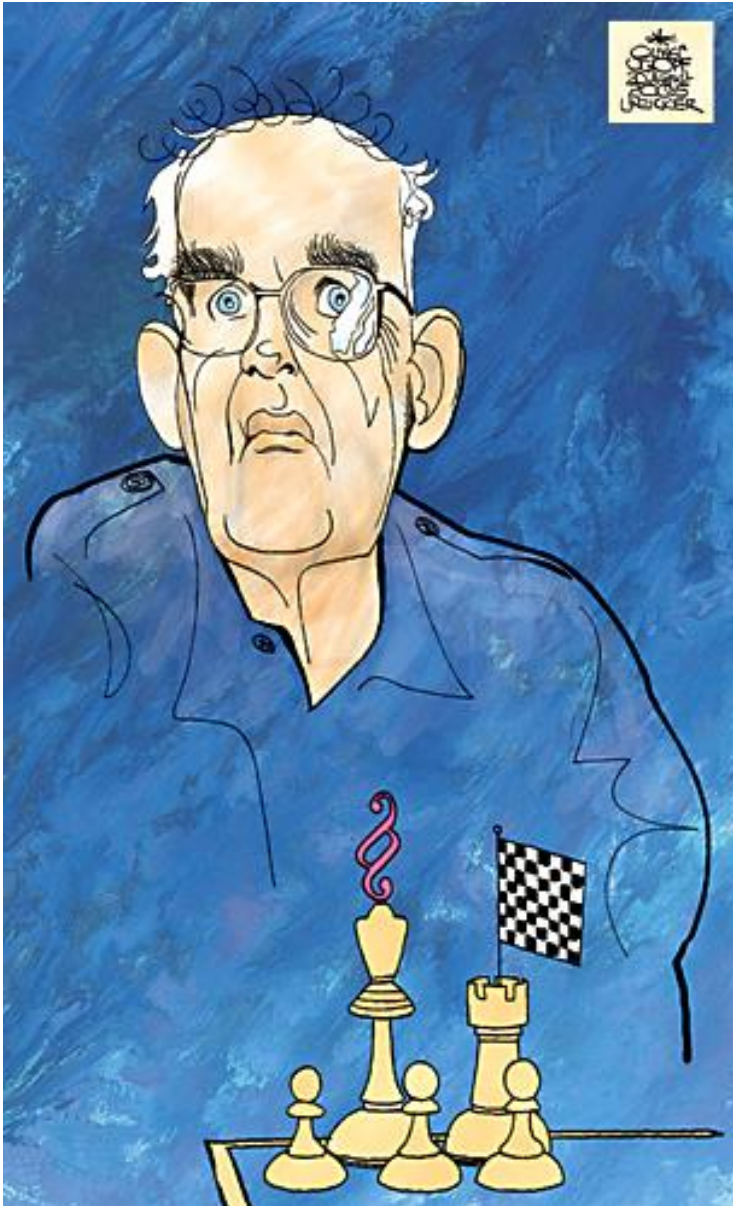


Unzicker playing Uhlmann at the Olympiad in Leipzig 1960, and in later years



Unzicker Gala in Mainz 2005 (Karpov, legendary Referee Lothar Schmid, Korchnoi, Unzicker)

Cartoon by Oliver Schopf:



link: http://www.oliverschopf.com/html/d_archiv/schach/schach_allgemein/schach_unzicker.html

Sources:

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=11236> (Chessgames)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Unzicker (Wikipedia)

Further reading:

<https://de.chessbase.com/post/vlastimil-hort-wolfgang-unzicker> (Erinnerung von Vlastimil Hort)