

■ Gurevich, Mikhail (22.021959)



Belgian Grandmaster (1986) born in Ukraine, then USSR, who immigrated to Belgium in 1991 when he was a top ten ranked player of the world (peaking as shared no. five in 1990 and 1991).

**Soviet Champion in 1985, Belgian champion in 2001, Turkish champion in 2006 and 2008.**

Gurevich was a member of the Soviet team which won the Gold at the World Team Championship in 1989, a member of the Belgian national team at the 1992 Chess Olympiad and of the Turkish team at the same competition in 2006. FIDE Senior Trainer and writer.

Misha started to learn chess at the age of 7. He was for the first time invited to play the USSR Junior when he was 15 years, a tournament which was won by Garry Weinstein or later Kasparov.

He became Champion of Ukraine in 1984 and qualified for USSR semi-finals in Lvov where he finished 2-5th behind Vassily Ivanchuk. The result qualified him for the first League in Sverdlosk which he won.

In 1985 as a simple Soviet Master, he participated at the USSR Championship (and Zonal) in Riga and shared the first place with Alexander Chernin and Viktor Gavrikov (a play-off saw all games end in draw) ahead of many grandmasters. This result gave him the title of Soviet Champion and Grandmaster of USSR. Unfortunately due to his “Jewish nationality” and having relatives in Israel, Misha was not allowed to travel abroad and missed numerous tournaments including the Interzonal of Taxco (Mexico) in 1985, where he strangely was not nominated, contrary to the lesser placed Andrei Sokolov, and Balashov.

Forced to stay at “home” he played six international tournaments in USSR and won five of them!

Finally, during the Perestroika, Michael got some rights to travel to “Socialist countries” like Cuba, Hungary, and Yugoslavia and easily got International Grandmaster title in 1986. Recognized as a strong player, **Gurevich was invited by World Champion Garry Kasparov to join his team from 1986 in Leningrad till New York / Lyon 1990.**

Misha was also a member of the Soviet team which won the Gold medal at European Team 1989 and World Team Championship in Luzern 1989.

Qualified for the Manila Interzonal 1990 (in swiss system), he faced a tragic situation when needing 0,5 points out last two rounds, he became sick and lost both games to Vishy Anand and Nigel Short who will finally manage to become a challenger.

Reaching the 5th in the World ranking it was the right time to look for freedom. Misha decided to immigrate to the West and thanks to the support of Willy Iclicki and Bernard Lacrosse, Gurevich established with his family in Belgium in 1991 and later in 1998 got the Belgian citizenship.

**In 2001, Mikhail Gurevich won the Belgian Championship in Charleroi with a perfect 9/9 score!**

For some time, he settled to Turkey, living today in Belgium again.

Talented Misha is also well known for his kindness and appreciated by all players.

**Best results:** Winner of at least fifty international chess events, his main victories include **Jurmala GM 1895** (joint with Tal), **Tbilisi (4<sup>th</sup> Kotov Memorial 1985)**, played at various venues, **Baku GM 1986**, Havana (Capablanca Memorial) - B 1986, **Moscow GM 1987**, **Tallinn GM International (10<sup>th</sup> Keres Memorial) 1987**, then closed in classical chess, **Reggio Emilia 1988/89** (outright, ten players including Andersson, Georgiev, Ribli, Sax, Ehlvest, Ivanchuk, and Anand), Tel Aviv closed 1988 (at 10,5 out of 11), **Bern Invitation 1989**, **Philadelphia, World Open 1989** (shared), **Moscow GMA Qualification, Open 1990** (shared, with Speelman as best on tie-break), **Munich (SKA-Mephisto) 1992** (ahead of joint seconds Gelfand, Hübner), **Lost Boys, Open in Antwerp 1997**, again in Antwerp **1999** (shared), and **Lost Boys, Open then in Amsterdam 2000** (shared), Belfort GM Masters 1998 and 2003, European Club Champion with “Panfox Breda” 1998, Cap d’ Agde – B, Rapid 2000, **Esbjerg, North Sea Cup 2000** (joint with Svidler, ten players, closed competition), Pardubice Open 2000, Wijk aan Zee - B 2001, Metz Open 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, Reykjavik, Rapid Open 2003 (not to mix with the Hrokurinn tournament the same year), Istanbul Festival 2006 and 2007, Leon, Rapid Open 2009 (shared).

A participant in the World Cup 2000, 2005 and 2007. Mikhail Gurevich qualified to the 3rd round of the World Championship 2000 in New Delhi where he was stopped by Alexey Shirov. In 2007, Mikhail Gurevich lost the 1/8 final World Championship match to Peter Leko 3½-1½.

Co-editor of *FIDECHESSE* he wrote also: *Queen’s Indian Defence: Kasparov System* (1992).

Famous game:

**Gurevich, Mikhail 2435 vs. Giorgadze, Tamaz 2500**

Kotov Memorial 4<sup>th</sup>, 1985 in Tbilisi

1.d41...d5 2.c42...e6 3.Nc33...Be7 4.Nf34...Nf6 5.Bg55...h6 6.Bxf66...Bxf6 7.e37...O-O 8.Qc28...Na6 9.Qd29...b610.cxd5 10...exd5 11.Bb511...Bb7 12.Qe212...Nb8 13.O-O13...a6 14.Ba414...Nc6 15.Rad115...b5 16.Bc216...Re8 17.Qd217...Ne7 18.Ne518...Nc8 19.Qd319...g6 20.Nxf720...Kxf7 21.Qxg6+21...Kf8 22.e422...dxe4 23.Bb323...Nd6 24.f324...e325.Ne 425...e2 26.Qg8+26...Ke7 27.Qh7+27...Kf8 28.Nxd628...Bg7 29.Qg8+ 1-0

Replay: <http://www.365chess.com/game.php?gid=2151438> (365chess.com)

Jan-04-17  **diagonal**: Biggest international tournament win of Mikhail Gurevich, Reggio Emilia 1988/89: [http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc\\_...](http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc_...)

**His highest world ranking was a tie for fifth place** on the January 1990 and January 1991 FIDE half-year rating lists (with Elo ratings of 2645 and 2650 respectively - a nominal rating no longer enough for the Top Hundred today).

He was a top ten ranked player from 1988 to 1991, then dipped, climbing again into the top twenty in the early 2000s.

Sources:

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<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=13915> (Chessgames)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail\\_Gurevich\\_\(chess\\_player\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Gurevich_(chess_player)) (Wikipedia)

<http://persona.rin.ru/eng/view/f//30114/mikhail-gurevich> (Portrait)

<http://tartajubow.blogspot.ch/2016/09/mikhail-gurevich-vs-yefim-geller-and.html> (Portrait)

[http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc\\_storia/data/1988-89.htm](http://www.ippogrifoscacchi.it/tdc_storia/data/1988-89.htm) (Reggio Emilia 1988/89)

<http://www.olimpbase.org/1988g/1988in.html> (USSR vs. Rest of the World, Rapid in Madrid 1988)

Gurevich (+4=3-1), Kasparov, and Korchnoi (both unbeaten +3=5), scored the best individual point / percentage result at 5.5/8, followed by Chernin 5, Andersson, Dolmatov, Portisch 4.5, Beljavsky 4, Hjartarson, Ljubojević, Nogueiras 3.5, etc. Sole Kasparov and Korchnoi were unbeaten.

Mikhail Gurevich (peak ranking no. 5= of the world in January 1990 (shared with Salov) and again in January 1991 (shared with Bareev, and Ehlvest) had a splendid appearance, but his fine results from Madrid in 1988 (as all games) were *not rated*, because at that time, there was no rapid / blitz rating!