

 Romanishin Oleg M. (10.01.1952)



Born 10 January 1952 in Lviv. Ukrainian Grandmaster (1976). Graduated in foreign languages. **European Junior Champion 1972-73** at Groningen. Member of the Soviet team which won the World Student Team Championship in 1974 and 1976. **USSR Vice Champion in 1975** (half a point behind Petrosian) and clear **third in 1981** (behind joint winners Psakhis and Kasparov), **Member also of the team which won the match USSR vs. Rest of the World in 1984** (as substitute player with three different appearances). A participant in the Olympiad of 1978 for the USSR (team silver) and from 1992 until 2000 consecutively for Ukraine (one silver and two bronze team medals). Oleg Romanishin won in the European Team Championship in 1977, 1980 and 1983 six gold medals, three times in a row with the USSR (both team and individual board gold).

“A player striving for original, not trite decisions” said Averbach. With an aggressive style, Oleg Romanishin (“draws make me angry”), achieved several notable tournament victories (selection): Odessa (USSR-championship semifinal) 1974, **Novi Sad 1975**, **Yerevan International 1976** (ahead of joint Gulko and Savon), **Dortmund 1976** (ahead of Flesch, followed by Miles), **Hastings 1976-77** outright, **Leningrad (October Revolution 60th Anniversary) 1977** (best on tie-break, tied with Tal, ahead of Smyslov, Vaganian and reigning World Champion Anatoly Karpov, 18 players), Gausdal (Open) 1979 clear first, **Polanica Zdroj (Rubinstein Mem) 1980** as clear first, **Lvov 1981** (joint with Tal), Jurmala 1983 (+9=4), **Moscow International 1985** outright (above Vaganian, Tukmakov, Sveshnikov, Geller, Razuvaev, Polugaevsky, Dolmatov, Ivkov, Ftacnik, Speelman), **Reggio Emilia 1985-86** equal first (with Andresson as best on tie-break and Ljubojevic), **Yerevan (Petrosian Mem) 1986** (with Psakhis as best on tie-break, ahead of 3. Tal), **Debrecen (Barcza Memorial) 1990**, Gyor (HUN-ch Open) 1990 finishing a clear two points above the rest, **Polanica Zdroj (Rubinstein Mem) 1992** (ahead of Korchnoi), **Altensteig GM 1992** (ahead of 2.-4. Ribli, Kindermann, Schlosser), followed by some wins of moderate or smaller events on the grandmaster circuit, eg. Solin / Split GM 2004, Calcutta (Open, Alekhine Chess Club) 2004 (Abhijit Kunte, India was first on tie-break, Romanishin alongside the co-winners Aleksej Aleksandrov, Belarus, Ni, Hua, China, Ehsam, Ghaem Maghami, Iran, and Surya Sekhar Ganguly, India), Roma Hotel Petra 2005, Heviz, Hungary, GM Mini tournament 2010 (joint with Miton), **Roseto International Chess Festival (Open) 2010**, clear first, **Warsaw (MetLife Najdorf Mem, Open) 2012** clear first

At **Tilburg in 1979**, Romanishin was clear runner-up half a point only behind Karpov (and ahead of many great players of its time, namely Portisch, Sax, Larsen, Spassky, Timman, Sosonko, Huebner, Hort, Kavalek, and Smyslov on sole last place in this twelve player round robin super-tournament). At **Dortmund in 1982**, Romanishin took sole second (after Hort).



In nine appearances in the USSR Championships between 1974 and 1983, as mentioned, his best place was second shared with Boris Gulko, Mikhail Tal, and Rafael Vaganian in 1975 (+7=5-3), half a point behind Tigran Petrosian.

However, Oleg Romanishin has never made it into the FIDE Candidates but was a **PCA Candidate in 1993** (via PCA Qualifying Tournament in Groningen, then losing in New York 1994 the quarter-final to Anand who won 5:2, and went on to win the whole cycle 1993-1995 to become Challenger of Kasparov in 1995). Romanishin remains a regular competitor in Open Festivals.

In 1977, he was ranked third in the annual Chess Oscar Award (only behind Karpov and Korchnoi, ahead of 4. Tal, 5. Miles, 6. Larsen, 7. Spassky, 8. Hort, 9. Portisch, 10. Petrosian).

Best ELO rating: 2615 in 1993 (FIDE), 2735 in 1975 (SONAS chessmetrics)

Best ELO ranking: 11th, January 1977 (FIDE yearly list), 5th, January 1975 (SONAS monthly list)

Famous game:

Romanishin, Oleg M (2485) vs. Petrosian, Tigran V (2645)

USSR, 43th Championship, played in Yerevan, 1975

(Petrosian won the national title, but lost to Romanishin who shared second place)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.e4 Bb7 5.Bd3 d6 6.Bc2 c5 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Be7 9.O-O O-O 10.b3 Nc6 11.Bb2 a6 12.Kh1 Qc7 13.f4 Rad8 14.Rc1 Qb8 15.Rf3 g6 16.Nd5 exd5 17.exd5 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Rde8 19.f5 Bd8 20.Qh4 Re5 21.Qh6 Qc7 22.Rg3 Bc8 23.Bxe5 dxe5 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.Bxg6 Ng4 26.Bh5 Rf6 27.Qd2 Rf4 28.d6 Qg7 29.d7 Bb7 30.Qxf4 **1-0**

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1107067>

Biggest success: Leningrad (October Revolution 60th Anniversary) 1977, together with Tal (Romanishin best on tie-break), ahead of 3. Smyslov, 4./5. Vaganian and Karpov, then reigning World Champion, etc. (18 players): <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=80489>

<http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-1107.html> (Chess Network Company)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=14173> (Chessgames)

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

<http://interviews.chessdom.com/oleg-romanishin-scacchierando> (Insightful Interview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0zHI9J24L4> ("A sit down with Oleg Romanishin", video interview recorded at the Univé Chess Open in 2014 by www.Chess.com)



Photo: CNC

Nielsen vs. Romanishin, European Individual Championship 2011