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FIDE Election 2006



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Around the Globe

FM Eric Schiller



World Championship Reunification Match

At long last the world championship situation will be settled over the board as Vladimir Kramnik and bustling Veselin Topalov have agreed to play a match under FIDE auspices for \$1.2 million and the title of World Chess Champion. The 12-game match will be played from September 21st through October 13th in Elista, Russia. Games will be played on September 23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 30th, October 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th (tie-breaks), 2006. The prize fund will be divided equally, regardless of who wins the match. Official word came from FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who issued the following release on April 13, which is, incidentally, Garry Kasparov's birthday:

Al Ain City, 13 April 2006

Dear chess friends,

Today is a historic day for our sport! After months of consultations with both players, I am pleased to announce that the World Championship match Topalov vs. Kramnik will be held 21 September - 13 October 2006 in Elista, the capital of Kalmykia. Both players and their managers have agreed with all the technical details of the match, which will consist of 12 games, and the prize fund will be a guaranteed minimum amount of 1 million US dollars.



Kirsan Ilyumzhinov (© Frits Agterdenbos)

This great match will undoubtedly end any confusion about the World Championship status after the unfortunate schism which occurred in 1993. In the beginning of my first term as FIDE President, back in 1995, I promised to work for unity within FIDE in all aspects. As for the World Championship title, it was not easy to satisfy all demands of the involved parties during all these years but we always kept our principles and actions within the true spirit of our motto GENS UNA SUMUS. Today our efforts have been justified!



We are all looking forward to this great event, the World Chess Championship Match 2006. I would like to stress once more that we shall definitely continue to work for a strong and

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united FIDE. As we have already done for the past 10 years.

May the best player win!

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov
FIDE President

The players have agreed to commit to the latest version of FIDE's annual championship tournament, to which the winner of the match will be invited. That event will take place in 2007 in Mexico, which recently stepped up its presence in international chess by hosting the first half of the Linares super tournament this year. The format will be similar to that of the championship tournament of 2005.

Despite his illness, Kramnik has an ambitious schedule for the second half of this year including the strong tournament in Dortmund in July, the match against Apollo, and a face-off with a computer program later in the fall.



Bessel Kok (© Frits Agterdenbos)

Bessel Kok, who is running against incumbent Ilyumzhinov for the FIDE presidency, issued the following statement on the reunification:

Over the last few days, I have been flooded with telephone calls and electronic messages

asking me to comment on the recently announced match between Veselin Topalov and Vladimir Kramnik. I was aware that Joel Lautier had been working on this and I must thank him and anybody else who worked hard for this reunification match.

My initial reaction was of great joy for the players as well as for the whole chess world! At long last the possibility exists for a match to be played, thereby resolving the split that has been in force for the eleven year duration of Ilyumzhinov's administration.

It was four long years ago that I hosted a conference in Prague. My goal was to heal the split besieging the chess world and resolve the impasse. The conference resulted in the Prague Agreement, that bound the parties to a unification match in ... 2003!

After re-reading the announcement I began to worry as important details were missing. What are the conditions and rules under which this match will be played? Does the FIDE consider this to be the final outcome of the Prague Agreement? Or is this match merely a response to Ilyumzhinov's announcement that anyone possessing a 2700 rating has the possibility to challenge the World Champion? Alternatively, is it to be a friendly match only?

Further worrying concerns are raised in case Vladimir Kramnik wins the match. If the match is for the official World Championship, would he then participate in the 2007 Championships? If the answer is yes, this raises a new question: According to the rules of the current cycle, Veselin Topalov, the number one rated player would be out of the 2007 Championship.

Is it smart or is it stupid that the highest rated player in the world could be potentially excluded? Wouldn't such a circumstance put the validity of the 2007 Championship in

doubt? Who is responsible for creating rules that discourage unification by excluding the strongest players from competing in future Championship events?

FIDE should not give the impression that the electoral gain of announcing this match prevails over the need for correct and adequate information, especially for the other top Grandmasters. Is the match to be sponsored by Ilyumzhinov or another source? Would the match be played if I were to win the FIDE Presidential election in Turin in June? Has the prize money been transferred to the FIDE accounts insuring the match will be played regardless of the election outcome?

Once again, I am delighted that Veselin Topalov and Vladimir Kramnik can contest a match but the FIDE must communicate all details of the event; address the questions made above; confirm that the financing has been properly secured; that the players have signed an agreement and last but not least that the chess world will not suffer another disappointment.

Bessel Kok

The announcement of the world championship unification match may have an effect on the current FIDE elections. To catch up on developments in the political arena you can visit the web sites of the two slates: Kirsan Ilyumzhinov:

<http://www.chessfidelity.com> vs. Bessel Kok:
<http://www.rightmove06.org>.

I think that I share the view of many in the chess world that the reunification of the World Championship title is an important and essential step in order to restore some stability to the title itself. However, FIDE's tournament-of-the-year method of determining future champions does not sit well with anyone who believes that the world chess championship should be contested in the traditional manner involving a lengthy match. The fact that the event this year is just 12 games is

disappointing, but understandable because in the modern world things do have to move along more quickly and a number of changes have been made to chess tournaments to reduce the time and cost of hosting events. However, it is not the wishes of the public that determine policy, and we will just have to wait to see what emerges.

The Editors of *Chess Chronicle*, are not indifferent to the politics of the FIDE election campaign. They also recognize the right of FM Schiller not only to hold a position regarding the election but also his right -- indeed, duty -- to express this position. However, it is necessary to state that neither the position of Bessel Kok nor that of FM Schiller may be taken as expressing the position of *Chess Chronicle*.

New Grandmasters

This month FIDE awarded 16 players the coveted title of International Grandmaster: Jurij Tihonov (BLR), Andrey Zhigalko (BLR), Pascal Charbonneau (CAN), Jianchao Zhou (CHN), Zoran Jovanovic (CRO), Davor Rogic (CRO), Viktor Laznicka (CZE), David Arutinian (GEO), Konstantine Shanava (GEO), Peter Horvath (HUN), Magesh C.Panchanathan (IND), Vasile Sanduleac (MDA), Jan Werle (NED), Constantin Lupulescu (ROM), Sergei Krivoshey (UKR), and Yaroslav Zinchenko (UKR).



Euro King and Queen (© Frits Agterdenbos)

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Here and There

Congratulations to the new European Champion Zdenko Kozul (CRO), who won the event with an impressive 2791 performance! The new Queen of Europe is Ekaterina Atalik (TUR) with a performance of nearly 2550. She's the wife of GM Suat Atalik. A most formidable pair of players! The ACP tour is underway, and it is no surprise that "The Lion" Aronian is king of the beasts, running away with the field.

The splendor of the Royal Game was seen in the Indian Championships, with a massive 21 player round robin! Surya Ganguly won the marathon with 14/20. In an age when tournaments are shrinking to ten players or less, it is great to see an old fashioned biggie. Even the last place finisher scored 6.5, so no one was humiliated.



GM Conquest Stuart (© Pascal Villalba)

GM Stuart Conquest seems to have seriously unretired and showed his former potential in a first place (by tie-breaks on 7/9) finish at the venerable San Sebastian tournament with a performance over 2600. The sibling rivalry between Spanish IMs Alberto and Ivan Andres Gonzales ended up with them tied for 6th with 6.5 points. There was another return to the chessboard at the 44th Doeberl Cup in

Canberra, Australia, where FM Igor Goldenberg came back from an 18-year hiatus to win the event ahead of several GMs. Eugene Perelshteyn finally got a bit of luck at the Foxwoods tournament, leaving the casino with a his third GM norm and a tie for first, with GMs Ilya Smirin and Loek Van Wely.



FM Igor Goldenberg (©Amiel R. Rosario)

Food for Thought

Here is an interesting passage from John Dickson Carr's short story "The Murder in Number Four". Chess and solving crimes have often been linked, but the author takes a very different view, pointing out that to be a good detective, you have to be able to play chess blindfold and backwards!

A chess game can be a terrible and enthralling thing, when you play it backwards and blindfolded. Your adversary starts out with his King in check, and tries to move his pieces back to where they were at first; that's why you can't apply rules or mathematical laws to crime. The great chess player is the one who can visualize the board as it will be after his move. The great detective is the one who can visualize the board as it has been when he finds the pieces jumbled. He must have the imagination to see the opportunities that the criminal saw, and act as a criminal would act. It's a great, ugly, terrific play of opposite imaginations. Nobody is more apt than a detective to say a lot of windy, fancy things about reasoning, and deduction, and logic. He too frequently says 'reason' when he means 'imagination'. I object to having a cheap, strait-laced pedantry like reason confused with a far greater thing.

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Wolfgang Unzicker

We just received a sad news of the passing of the great German grandmaster Wolfgang Unzicker (25 June 1926–20 April 2006). He was distinguished by the fact that he remained an amateur player, sticking to the legal profession. At the same time, he managed to dominate the German chess scene just after World War II. Unzicker led the Western German side at the Olympiads from 1950 through 1978, with 10 of those appearances on first board. Even after he turned 81, Unzicker was often found playing chess for his local team. Perhaps, his best result was an equal first-place finish with Boris Spassky at the 1965 tournament in Sochi. He was also impressive in his appearance at the Piatigorski cup in 1966.



Unzicker with Karpov, Chess Classic 2005, (© Thilo Gubler)

Unzicker was definitely a classical player, sticking with king pawn openings as white and using primarily Nimzo-Indian, Queens Indian, and double king pawn openings as Black. The Spanish Game was a particular favorite and his handling of both sides was exceptional. I will leave it to those who knew him to contribute insights into his character

and personality. Here is a particularly impressive game played late in his career.

Notes by FM Eric Schiller

B34-

 **Unzicker, Wolfgang**
 **Rausis, Igor**

International Tournament, Daugavpils 1990

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♗×d4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6

This form of the Dragon has the drawback that White can capture at c6 and drive the knight back to g8. That slows down Black's castling. If Black doesn't get the king to safety, the results can be brutal, as here.

6.♗×c6 b×c6 7.e5 ♗g8 8.♕c4 ♕g7 9.♕f4 ♖a5

Black targets the e-pawn, but a clever reply thwarts that plan by exploiting the weakness of f7.

10.♖f3!

This move creates the most problems for Black and White's record with it is phenomenal, scoring over 80%. Black isn't managing to castle, so the f7 square is the logical target.

10...f6

10...♕×e5? allows the tactic
11.♕×f7+ ♖×f7 12.♕×e5+ ♗f6

13.♖f4 and Black is in serious trouble. For example, 13...♖f8

14.0–0 ♕g8 15.♖fe1 ♗h5 with a great game for White, in Gavrilov-. Vulfson, Russia 1990, where 16.♖h4 would have been the strongest move, keeping an eye on f2.

11.♕g3 ♕a6

That's one way to get rid of the bad bishop!

12.b4!

Not so fast!

12...♖b6 13.b5!

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A small but excellent move, based on the pin on the pawn at c6.

13...♙b7

13...♙b5?? 14.♙b5 cxb5 15.♚xa8+

14.0-0

White has completed development, with the rooks connected. Black has at least two moves to go and they aren't easy to find!

14...♞c8

14...cxb5 15.♙d5 ♙c6! 16.♞ab1! a6 17.a4 ♞c8

18.axb5 axb5 probably was best, as there isn't any way to finish developing. 19.♘b5 ♙xb5 20.c4 is no big deal. 20...♞c5 21.♞xb5 ♞xb5 22.cxb5 e6. It isn't pretty, but Black may hang on because the bishop at g3 doesn't do much.

15.♘a4!

White's initiative is a serious advantage.

15...♚a5



15...♚d4 16.♚b3! ♘h6 17.♞ad1 is just miserable for Black.

16.♘c5

A tempting move, building the pressure at d7 that eventually leads to the win of the game. Nevertheless, White might have targeted the light squares first. 16.♚b3 was the most accurate move here.

16...♙a8?

16...♚b4!? is a resource that may have been underestimated. I don't see any way to preserve the advantage.

17.♙xg8 ♚xc5 18.♚b3 ♙d8 (18...e6 19.♙xe6 is given by Unzicker, but is it so simple? 19...dxe6 20.♚xe6+ ♚e7 21.♚xe7+ ♙xe7 22.exf6+ ♙xf6 23.bxc6 Bxc6 should be an easy win for Black.) 19.exf6 (19.♚f7 ♚d5) 19...♙xf6 (19...exf6

20.♞ad1!+- Unzicker.) 20.♚f7 d5 21.♞fe1 cxb5 22.♚f8+ ♙d7 23.♙e6+ is given by Unzicker, the point being that 23...♙c6 is met by 24.♙xc8 but (24.♚h6 ♙xa1 25.♙xc8 ♞xc8 26.♚xh7 ♙d7 27.♞xa1 ♚xc2 28.♞e1 ♚e4!! The queen is taboo because of the back rank.) 24...♙xf8!? (24...♙xc8 25.♚f7 ♙xa1 26.♞xa1 ♙f5) 25.♞e6+ ♚d6 and the pieces fly off the board: 26.♙xb7+ ♙xb7 27.♙xd6 ♙xa1 28.♞xe7+ ♙c6 29.♙g3 White has a small advantage thanks to the rook on the seventh rank, but Black should be able to hold the draw without much effort.

17.♚b3! ♘h6



18.♘d7!

The knight sacrifice exposes the weak light squares.

18...cxb5

18...♙xd7 loses to a pretty line. Unzicker showed 19.♙e6+ ♙c7 20.♙xc8 ♙xc8 21.♚e6+ ♙d8 22.♞fd1+ ♙e8 23.♚c8+ ♙f7 24.e6#!

19.♙xb5 ♙c6

19...♞c3 20.♘xf6+! ♙f8 21.♘d7+ ♙e8 22.♘c5+ ♙f8 23.♘e6+ ♙g8 24.♚a4 ♚xa4 25.♙xa4 gives White a winning endgame.

20.♘xf6+!

The knight gets to sacrifice itself again! A neat trick!

20...♙xf6

20...exf6 21.♚e6+ ♙f8 22.♚xc8+ White wins.

21.♙xc6+ ♞xc6 22.exf6 Black resigned.

Looking Back at the 2006 Women's World Championship



GM Susan Polgar

The 2006 Women's World Championship took place from March 10 to March 27, 2006 in the beautiful city of Ekaterinburg, Russia. The field started with 64 qualifiers.

After six grueling rounds of knockout, a new Women's World Champion was crowned. Xu Yuhua of China became a very deserving winner. She defeated Xuan Thanh Khiết Hoang (VIE), Anna Ushenina (UKR) and then four straight Russians: Tatiana Kosintseva, Ekaterina Kovalevskaya, Svetlana Matveeva, and Alisa Galliamova to become the 11th Women's World Champion.

one of my pre-tournament favorites along with Humpy Koneru, of India. Congratulations to Xu, a new World Champion and a Mom to be!

The knockout format can be very exciting and it is good in events such as the World Cup, but definitely not in the world championship. The World Championship



Women's World Chess Championship 2005-2006					
List of Qualifiers per January 2006					
NO	Name	Title	FED	Jan06	Qualified
1	Stefanova, Antoaneta	gm	BUL	2499	Women's World Champion 2004
2	Koneru, Humpy	gm	IND	2537	semi-finalist of WWCC 2004
3	Cramling Pia	gm	SWE	2515	Dresden 2004
4	Kosteniuk, Alexandra	gm	RUS	2514	top average
5	Chiburdanidze, Maya	gm	GEO	2511	semi-finalist of WWCC 2004
6	Xu, Yuhua	wgm	CHN	2502	reserve top average
7	Lahno, Kateryna	m	UKR	2500	Kishinev 2005
8	Zhu, Chen	gm	CHN	2482	top average
9	Kosintseva, Nadezhda	m	RUS	2480	Kishinev 2005
10	Vijayalakshmi, Subbaraman	m	IND	2479	Zone 3.2, from Cont. Champ
11	Kosintseva, Tatiana	m	RUS	2479	Dresden 2004
12	Socko, Monika	m	POL	2475	Dresden 2004
13	Cmilyte, Viktorija	m	LTU	2475	Kishinev, reserve player
14	Zhao, Xue	wgm	CHN	2473	reserve top average
15	Qin, Janying	wgm	CHN	2469	Zone 3.5
16	Galliamova, Alisa	m	RUS	2467	reserve top average
17	Dembo, Yelena	m	GRE	2461	Kishinev 2005
18	Skripchenko, Almira	m	FRA	2461	Kishinev 2005 (after TB)
19	Kovalevskaya, Ekaterina	m	RUS	2458	runner-up of WWCC 2004
20	Mkrtchian, Lilit	m	ARM	2453	Kishinev 2005

In the final round, Xu won the four game match, by the score of 2½-½ to clinch the title, collecting full points in both games with the black pieces. She was

is meant to select the best player and a two game knockout round, followed by rapid and blitz games, is too much of a gamble. It relies too much on the element of luck.

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21	Dzagnidze, Nana	m	GEO	2452	Dresden 2004
22	Krush, Irina	m	USA	2447	Zone 2.1
23	Javakhishvili, Lela	m	GEO	2444	Kishinev, reserve player
24	Zhukova, Natalia	wgm	UKR	2432	Dresden 2004
25	Khurtsidze, Nino	m	GEO	2430	Kishinev 2005
26	Matveeva, Svetlana	m	RUS	2428	Kishinev 2005
27	Korbut, Ekaterina	wgm	RUS	2427	World Junior Champion 2004
28	Arakhamia-Grant Ketevan	m	GEO	2426	Dresden 2004
29	Danielian, Elina	m	ARM	2423	Kishinev 2005
30	Paehts, Elizabeth	m	GER	2422	World Junior Champion 2005
31	Zaiatz, Elena	m	RUS	2422	Kishinev 2005
32	Radziewicz, Iweta	m	POL	2421	Kishinev 2005
33	Kononenko, Tatiana	wgm	UKR	2417	Kishinev 2005
34	Sebag, Marie	m	FRA	2415	Kishinev 2005
35	Peng Zhaoqin	gm	NED	2407	Dresden 2004
36	Foisor Cristina-Adele	m	ROM	2402	Dresden 2004
37	Zielinska Marta	wgm	POL	2398	Kishinev 2005
38	Ushenina Anna	wgm	UKR	2398	Kishinev 2005 (after TB)
39	Vasilevich, Irina	m	RUS	2386	Kishinev, reserve player
40	Wang, Yu	wgm	CHN	2385	Cont.Championship
41	Shen, Yang		CHN	2380	Zone 3.5
42	Turova (Slavina) Irina	m	RUS	2379	Dresden 2004
43	Amura, Claudia	wgm	ARG	2366	Cont.Champ reserve
44	Ovod, Evgenja	m	RUS	2366	Kishinev, reserve player
45	Ruan, Lufei		CHN	2361	Zone 3.5
46	Pina, Sulennis	wgm	CUB	2358	Cont. Championship
47	Houska Jovanka	m	ENG	2355	Dresden 2004
48	Lujan, Carolina	wgm	ARG	2346	Zone 2.5
49	Purtseladze Maka	m	GEO	2341	Kishinev 2005
50	Aketaeva, Dana	wgm	KAZ	2330	Zone 3.4
51	Kursova, Maria	wgm	RUS	2319	President's nominee
52	Pourkashiy, Atousa	wgm	IRI	2296	Zone 3.1
53	Ju, Wenjun		CHN	2290	Cont.Championship
54	Meenakshi, Subbaraman	wgm	IND	2289	Cont.Championship
55	Berezina-Feldman, Irina	m	AUS	2285	Zone 3.6
56	Hou, Yifan	wfm	CHN	2269	Zone 3.5
57	Arribas, Maritza	wgm	CUB	2261	Zone 2.3
58	Zapata, Karen	wgm	PER	2218	Zone 2.4
59	Hoang, Xuan Thanh Khiet	wgm	VIE	2195	Zone 3.3
60	Rivera, Ingris		COL	2128	Cont.Champ reserve
61	Khoudgarian, Natalia	wgm	CAN	2106	Zone 2.2
62	Sohair Farid, Basta	wgm	EGY	2083	Cont. Championship
63	Sabure, Tuduetso	wgm	BOT	2072	Cont. Championship
64	Mezioud, Amina		ALG	1989	Zone 4.1



FIDE organized a double round-robin tournament to determine the overall world championship in San Luis last year, so I am unsure why the Women's World Championship continues to use the knockout system. I certainly hope that this will be changed in the next cycle.

In the first round, quite a number of shocking upsets occurred. Big names such as Lahno, Nadezhda Kosintseva, Socko, Zhao, Dembo, Skripchenko and Paehtz all lost.

Round 1		
Zapata, Karen (2218)	1½-½	Lahno, Kateryna (2500)
Hou, Yifan (2269)	1½-½	Kosintseva, Nadezhda (2480)
Ju, Wenjun (2290)	1½-½	Socko, Monika (2475)
Kursova, Maria (2319)	1½-½	Zhao, Xue (2473)
Lujan, Carolina (2346)	1½-½	Dembo, Yelena (2461)
Houska, Jovanka (2355)	1½-½	Skipchenko, Almira (2461)
Ruan, Lufei (2361)	1½-½	Mkrtchian, Lilit (2453)
Ushenina, Anna (2398)	3-1	Korbut, Ekaterina (2427)
Peng, Zhaoqin (2407)	4-2	Paethtz, Elisabeth (2422)



And ready...

17.e5 dxe5 18.♖xe5 ♖g7

18...♗e7? 19.♔xf6; 18...♗g8 19.♗f3

and White simply uses the pin along the h2-b8 diagonal to win material!

19.♗xh6+! ♗g8

19...♗xh6 20.♗xf7+ ♗g7 21.♗xd8 ♗xd8 22.♗xc7

20.♗xf7! ♗xh6

20...♗xh6 21.♗xg6#

21.♗xd8 ♗xd8 22.♗xc7 ♗f5 23.♗xf5 gxf5 1-0

Important upsets also occurred in Round 2. Defending champion Stefanova bowed out at the hands of IM Radziewicz, and GM Koneru, the top rated player in the tournament, lost in the rapid playoff to the French star IM Sebag.

A43- Modern Benoni

♖ Cramling, Pia (2515)

♜ Basta-Sohair, Farid (2083)

WWCC 2006, Ekaterinburg, (1.2)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 c5 3.d5 e6 4.c4 exd5 5.cxd5 d6

6.e4 g6 7.♗d3 ♗g7 8.0-0 0-0 9.h3

A harmless looking setup, but it is this line that drove away many Benoni fans from the Black side of this opening. The idea is simple, to prevent the development of Black's light squared bishop to g4.

9...♗e8

The crucial test is 9...b5.

10.♗e1 ♗a6 11.♗c3 ♗c7 12.a4 a6 13.

♗f4

This is an ideal position for White. The bishop is pressuring Black's d6 pawn, which makes it difficult for the Black piece to pass the d7 square. White is also preparing slowly the e4-e5 breakthrough in the center.

13...h6 14.♗d2 ♗h7 15.♗h2 ♗b8 16.♗f4

An unusual, but good, move.

16...♗f8

Round 2		
Radziewicz, Iweta (2421)	3-1	Stefanova, Antoaneta (2499)
Sebag, Marie (2415)	3-1	Koneru, Humpy (2537)
Peng, Zhaoqin (2407)	1½-½	Cramling, Pia (2515)
Hou, Yifan (2269)	2-0	Zhukova, Natalia (2432)
Ju, Wenjun (2290)	2½-1½	Dzagnidze, Nana (2452)

B19- Caro-Kan Classical

♖ Xu, Yuhua (2502)

♜ Ushenina, Anna (2398)

WWCC 2006, Ekaterinburg, (2.2)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♗d2 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♗f5 5.♗g3

♗g6 6.h4 h6 7.♗f3 ♗d7 8.h5 ♗h7 9.♗d3 ♗xd3

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10. ♖×d3 e6 11. ♔d2 ♜gf6 12. 0-0-0 ♙e7 13. ♖e2 0-0 14. ♜b1 ♖b6

After the immediate 14...c5 White now answers with the surprising pawn sacrifice



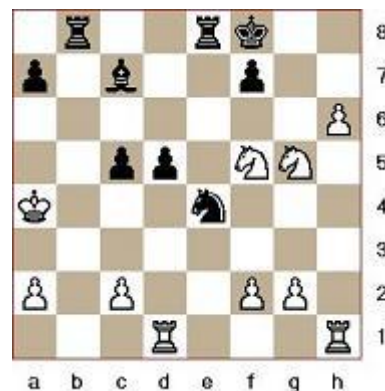
ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

15. d5!? exd5? (After the normal capture with 15... ♜xd5!, White responds with 16. ♜e4!? c4!? 17. g4 ♖b6 18. g5 h×g5 19. h6 f6 20. ♙e3 ♖a6 21. h×g7 ♜×g7 22. ♜f×g5 f×g5 23. ♙×g5 ♙×g5 24. ♜×g5 ♜7f6 25. ♜×e6+ ♙f7 26. ♜g5+ ♙g7 27. ♖×d5 ♜×d5 28. ♖h7+ ♙g6 29. ♖h5+ ♙f5 30. ♜f7+ Nijboer-Gagunashvili, 2004.) 16. ♙×h6! g×h6 17. ♜f5 ♖e8 18. ♜×h6+ ♙f8 19. ♜g5 (Also interesting was 19. ♜×f7!? ♙×f7? 20. ♜g5+ ♙g8 21. ♖e6+ ♙g7 22. h6+ ♙g6 23. g4!, followed by ♖f5 mate.) 19... ♖b6 20. ♖f3 ♜e5 21. ♖g3!



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

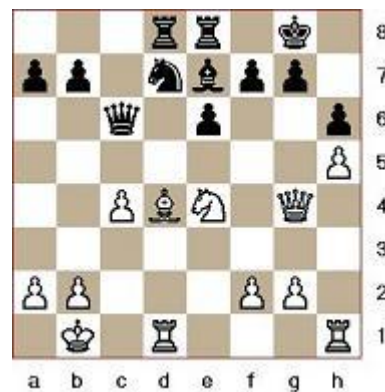
Threatening 22. ♜h7+ ♜×h7 and 23. ♖g8 mate! 21... ♙d6 22. ♜f5! White has renewed the threat of 23. ♜h7+. 22... ♖×b2+! The best chance! 23. ♙×b2 ♜c4+ 24. ♙b3! ♙×g3 25. h6!! ♜a5+ 26. ♙a4 b5+ 27. ♙×a5 ♙c7+ 28. ♙×b5! ♖ab8+ 29. ♙a4! ♜e4!



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

The last try. 30. ♖×d5! ♜c3+ 31. ♙a3 ♜b5+ 32. ♙b2 ♜d4+ 33. ♙c3 ♜b5+ and Black resigned 1-0 Jobava-Bareev, Rethymnon, 2003. Two fascinating games

15. c4 ♖fe8 16. ♜e5 ♖ad8 17. ♙c3 c5 18. ♜×d7 ♜×d7 19. ♜e4 c×d4 20. ♙×d4 ♖c6 21. ♖g4



21... ♙f8?

It remains to be seen how Xu planned to improve on the following game from the last Olympiad: 21... e5 22. ♙c3 ♜f6 23. ♜×f6+ ♙×f6 24. ♖×d8 ½-½

Ye Jiangchuan - Izoria, Calvia, 2004.

22. ♙f6 ♖c8 23. ♖h3!

An important move to get another piece to the attack. 23. ♙×g7!? ♙×g7! (23... f5? 24. ♖×d7!! ♖×d7 (24... f×g4 25. ♜f6#) 25. ♜f6+ ♙f7 26. ♖g6+) 24. ♖×d7 ♖ed8! (24... ♖×d7 25. ♜f6+; 24... ♙f8 25. ♖hd1) 25. ♜f6+ ♙f8 26. ♖×f7+ (26. ♜h7+ ♙g8) 26... ♙×f7 27. ♖g6+ ♙f8 28. ♜h7+ ♙g8 29. ♜f6+= 23... ♖×c4

23... ♙h8 24. ♖×d7 ♖×d7 25. ♖g3 23... ♙h7 24. ♖g3 ♜×f6 25. ♜×f6+ 23... ♜c5 24. ♜d6 24. ♖c3 ♖b5 25. ♖×d7 ♙h8

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25...♔×d7 26.♙×g7 ♙×g7 27.♘f6+
26.♖×f7 1-0

In Round 3, the remaining top seed was knocked out. The Russian women's champion and runner-up of the 2001 World Knockout Championship GM Kosteniuk lost badly to IM Cmilyte. She was lucky to escape with a draw in the first game. In the second game, Cmilyte completely dominated the game, with the White pieces.

Round 3		
Sebag, Marie (2415)	4-2	Qin, Kanying (2469)
Cmilyte, Viktorija (2475)	1½-½	Kosteniuk, Alexandra (2514)
Matveeva, Svetlana (2428)	1½-½	Vijayalakshmi, Subbaraman (2479)

E37- Nimzo-Indian Classical

 **Cmilyte, Viktorija (2470)**
 **Kosteniuk, Alexandra (2540)**
WWCC 2006, Ekaterinburg, (3.2)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.♚c2 d5 5.a3
 ♘×c3+ 6.♚×c3 ♘e4 7.♚c2 c5 8.d×c5 ♘c6 9.e3
 ♚a5+ 10.♘d2 ♚×c5 11.♞c1 a5
 11...0-0 12.♘f3 ♚d6 13.♘d3 f5+=
 12.♘f3



12...♘×d2?!

A positional blunder. 12...♙d7 13.♙d3 ♘x d2

14. ♔×d2 d4+=

13. ♔×d2± d×c4?!

Losing more time. 13...0-0 14.cxd5 ♔xd5

15. xd5 exd5 16. b5 f5±

14. xc4 e5?!

Another positional blunder 14...0-0 15.♙xe6 ♔e7
16.♙xc8 ♖axc8+

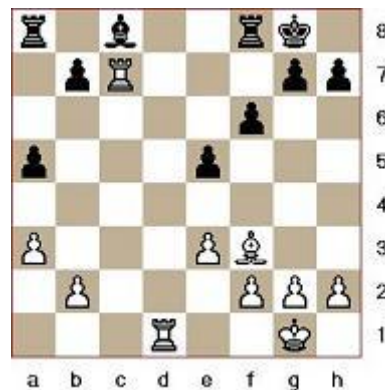
15.♙e2+- ♘×f3+

18.♖fd1 e5 19.♔c3 f6

19...♖e8 20.♖d5 f6 21.

20. ♖c7! ♕×c7 21. ♖×c7+-

RESEARCH DESIGN



21...♖b8?

21...♙e6 Sacrificing the pawn to open up some space was the best way to hold on: 22.♖×b7 ♖ab8 23.♗e7 ♖fe8

22.♖d6 b5 23.♖a7 a4 24.h4 ♘f5

24...♔h8 25.h5 b4 26.♖×a4 b×a3 27.b×a3+-

25.♙d5+ ♔h8 26.e4!

White has completely dominated the positional game so far.

26...♙c8 27.♖f7

27.♖c6 ♘b7 28.♖c7+-

27...♖e8 28.♖e7 ♜f8 29.♖c6 ♙b7 30.♖cc7 ♙x d5

31.exd5 ♖g8 32.h5

32.d6 h5 33.d7 ♖gd8 34.♖c6+-

32...h6 33.♖b7

33.d6 ♖gd8 34.d7 ♔g8 35.♖c6+-

33...♖g8 34.♖bc7 ♗g8 35.♖b7 ♗g8 36.♖a7 ♗g8
37.d6



37...♖b6? 38.d7 ♖bb8 39.f3 ♖gd8 40.♖b7 ♖a8
41.♖xb5 ♔g8 42.♖b6 ♖f8 43.♖be6 ♖ad8 44.♔f2
f5 45.♖xe5 f4 46.♖e4 1-0

In round 4, the remaining top seed once again was eliminated by the same giant killer. This was the only upset in the quarter-final. IM Cmilyte (2475) defeated the legendary Women's World Champion Chiburdanidze (2511) 3-1. After losing the first game to GM Chiburdanidze, IM Cmilyte bounced back to tie up the score by winning the second game. She then won both rapid playoff games against Maia. This kind of schedule is brutal for experienced players like Chiburdanidze. She basically had to play 3 games in one day against a much younger Cmilyte.

In the semi-final, there was no real surprise. All four players drew their first game. In the second game, WGM Xu Yuhua outplayed WGM Matveeva of Russia in a "should be" [drawn endgame](#) while IM Galliamova of Russia outplayed IM Cmilyte of Lithuania in a [slight edge endgame](#) to advance to the final match. It seemed that Xu and Galliamova controlled their nerves better in the second game.

On paper, the final seemed to be evenly matched. IM Galliamova was ranked No. 3 in the world and she was rated 2554 just a few years back. In the mean time, WGM Xu peaked at No. 6 in the world with a rating of 2507.

Unfortunately, the match ended in a completely lopsided win for Xu, Yuhua. Galliamova simply destructed in the final. Perhaps her nerve got the best of her. For example, it is hard to imagine that White can lose with the following position in game 1:

Galliamova, Alisa (2467) – Xu, Yuhua (2502)
WWCC 2006, Ekaterinburg, (6.1)



This position is after 17. ♖xf3. You cannot win the World Championship, losing such a position. The least you have to come away with is a draw.

In Game 3, it got even worse. She lost in the following position:

Galliamova, Alisa (2467) – Xu, Yuhua (2502)
WWCC 2006, Ekaterinburg, (6.3)



This position is after 24...♖c6. White is up a passed pawn on b6 and has a pair of bishops. This should have been enough to even up the match score. Instead, the match was suddenly over, giving the crown to Xu, Yuhua.

I often have been asked what the difference is between a World Champion and a runner-up. My answer is that one of the big differences is nerve. The other is who is hungrier to win. I think the

battle of nerves definitely decides this Women's World Championship final. Xu, Yuhua seemed to be at ease throughout the entire event. She was the only player who never trailed in any round.



Once again, congratulations to Xu, Yuhua, a new World Champion and a Mom to be!



Zweig and the Royal Game

Bill Wall

Stefan Zweig was born in Vienna on November 28, 1881 into a wealthy family. He earned a doctorate in philosophy from Vienna University. He first became known as a poet and translator. He later was a biographer, essayist, and short story writer. In the 1930s he was one of the most widely translated authors of the world.

In the 1930s the Nazis banned most of his work. He was driven into exile because he was a Jew and went to England in 1934. In 1940 he went to America and in August 1941 he moved to Petropolis, Brazil.

Disillusioned and isolated, Zweig committed suicide with his wife (Elisabeth Charlotte Lotte) on February 23, 1942. He was 60. Some question whether it was a suicide or murder. He did leave 11 farewell letters to suggest that he was suicidal. The cause of death was toxic substance ingestion.

His last work, published after his death, was *The Royal Game*. It was published in the March 1944 issue of the *Woman's Home Companion*. He wrote it in Petropolis, Brazil in January 1942. He called it *The Chess Novel* (*Schachnovelle*). Some consider this the finest novel about chess ever written.

He used two chess games to illustrate the psychology of Nazism. Czentovic, a semiliterate Yugoslav peasant chess champion of the world travels on ship from Europe to South America. He plays a game of chess with the passengers for \$250 a game. He wins the first game. He is about to win the 2nd game when one of the passengers, Dr. B, shows a forced draw. Dr. B is a Viennese lawyer and refugee who has recently escaped from a prison hospital. He was imprisoned and tortured by the Nazis in an attempt to force disclosure of some trust funds. Dr. B has started to play chess with himself in solitary confinement when he is arrested by the Gestapo. He took a chess book from one of the jailors pockets, a collection of 150 master chess games. He learns all the games by heart. He then starts to play chess games against himself, which ultimately drives him insane (chess poisoning).

After his escape and restoration to sanity, Dr B. avoided chess to prevent another breakdown. But the sight of the chess pieces and the chance to play a real person proved too great a temptation. He could not restrain himself from aiding the passengers

Requested to play a game by Czentovic, Dr. B first refused. But on learning that he was the world champion, he decides to play. Dr. B beats the world champion in the first game and Czentovic knocks all the pieces off the board. He challenges Dr. B for a second game (10 minutes per move).

continued on page.... #22

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Champions Match

IM Maslak Konstantin

Nisipeanu vs Topalov

A match between FIDE World Champion Veselin Topalov (BUL) and European Champion Dieter Nisipeanu (ROM) was played in Bucharest from April 6th to 9th, 2006. The Bulgarian World Champion won both games with White to take the victory by a 3-1 score.



No	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	Points
1	Topalov, Veselin	+82 2804	1/2	1	1/2	1	3.0
2	Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter	-82 2693	1/2	0	1/2	0	1.0



C67- Ruy Lopez Berlin

White: Nisipeanu, LD (2693)

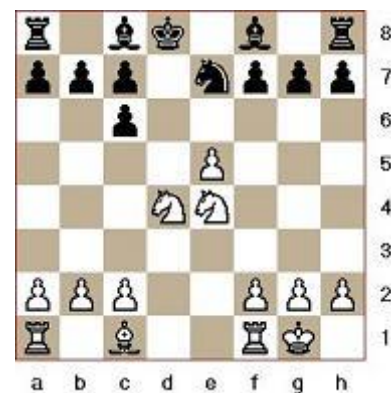
Black: Topalov, V (2801)

Champions Match. Bucharest (1)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♗f6 4.0-0 ♗×e4 5.d4
 ♗d6 6.♗×c6 d×c6 7.d×e5 ♗f5 8.♔×d8+ ♔×d8
 9.♗c3

The Berlin Defense. Nisipeanu has good statistics in this position: +2 =7 -0 (with the White pieces). Topalov: +1 =5 -3 (with the Black pieces).

9...♗e7 10.♗e4 h6 11.♗d4TN



Novelty! Nisipeanu avoids all theoretical lines already on the 11th move. But what did he want to do? The Knight on d4 is helping to provide the main active idea in this opening: e5-e6. If White achieves this push, Black will have problems with his king. Black should prevent it or move his king from center.



11...b6 12.♖d1 ♔e8

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After this move, the Black king will stay in the center.
 12...♔d7 13.e6 fxe6 14.♖xe6+ ♔c8
 15.♖xf8 ♖xf8± White has a very small edge here.
 The likely result is a draw. But Topalov probably is playing for a win.

13.♙f4 ♖g6 14.♙g3 ♙b7?!

Bd7 was more solid, without removing control from the e6 square

15.f4

15.e6! After this move, Black has serious problems:

15...♙e7 (15...♖c8 16.♖e1; 15...fxe6? 16.♖xe6)

16.exf7+ ♖xf7 17.♖f5. The Black pieces are separated, the pawn at c7 is under attack. At least, this was much better for White than the move made in the game.

15...a6

Black has prevented ♖b5 and is ready to play c5 now.

16.f5

16.♖f5!? After this move, it is not easy for Black to finish his development. White still has an advantage.

16...c5! 17.f×g6 c×d4

17...♙xe4!? 18.gxf7+ ♖xf7 19.e6+ ♖g6 20.♖e1

cxd4 21.♖xe4 ♙c5 22.♙f2 ♖he8. Black equalizes the position.

18.♖xd4

18.gxf7+ ♖xf7 19.♖xd4 ♙e6 20.♖e1 ♙e7. White has a clear extra pawn, but Black has two strong bishops and has blocked the e5 pawn. White's chances to win are very small.

18...fxg6 19.e6 ♖d8 20.♖ad1 ♖xd4 21.♖xd4 ♙xe4 22.♖xe4 ♙c5+ 23.♙f1 ♖f8+ 24.♙e1 ♙d6 25.♙xd6 cxd6 1/2–1/2

Finally, Black has equalized the position completely.

D37- QGD 5.Bf4

☐ Topalov, V (2801)

■ Nisipeanu, LD (2693)

Champions Match. Bucharest (2)

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♖f3 d5 4.♖c3 ♙e7 5.♙f4 c5 6.dxc5 ♖a6 7.cxd5 ♖xd5 8.♖xd5 exd5 9.e4!?TN



9.e3 ♖xc5 10.♙b5+ ♙d7 11.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 could transform the game into a popular position, where Black usually equalizes without serious problems. The Move of the in game is new and a lot more interesting.



9...0–0

9...dxe4 10.♖xd8+ ♙xd8 11.♙xa6 bxa6 12.♖d2±

10.exd5 ♙xc5 11.♙e2 ♙b4+

Interesting, but not best move. After 11...♖b4 Black could equalize position: 11...♖b4 12.d6 (12.0–0 ♖xd5 13.♙e5 ♙e6=) 12...♙e6 13.0–0 ♖d5 14.♙g3 ♙xd6=

12.♙f1!

Now Black can not take the pawn back.

12...♙d6 13.♙g5 ♖a5 14.a3 ♖c7

Black is trying to attack the d5 pawn; White is trying to save it.

15.♙c4 b5 16.b4 ♖b6 17.♙b3 a5

17...♖e8!? 18.♙e3 ♖xe3 19.fxe3 ♖xe3 with good compensation for exchange

18.♙e3 ♖b7 19.♙c5 ♙xc5??

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This absolutely was not necessary. Rd8 or Ra6 was much better. Now, White has a very strong pair of passed pawns.



20.bxc5 a4 21.♙a2 b4 22.axb4 ♖xb4 23.♙d4
♜a6 24.c6 ♖xd4

White will have a great advantage in the endgame, Black has anything better. The passed pawns are too strong and too close to eighth rank.

25.♜xd4 ♜b4 26.♙e2!



26.d6? After this move, Black has a fantastic draw:
26...♜d8! 27.d7 ♙xd7! 28.cxd7 ♜xd7 29.♜f3 ♜xa2
30.♜xa2 ♜d1+ 31.♜e1 ♜e8 32.♜e2 ♜a8! 33.f4 ♜a1
34.♙f2 a3 35.♜f1 a2 36.♜c2 ♜xf1+ 37.♙xf1 a1 ♖+
38.♜xa1 ♜xa1+=
26...♜xa2 27.♜xa2 ♙a6+ 28.♙d2 ♙c4 29.♜a3
♙xd5 30.c7±

This pawn will decide the game in White's favor.

30...♙e6 31.♜b5 ♙d7 32.♜d6 g6

32...♜a6 33.♜d3 a3 34.♜c4 and White wins the a3 pawn, saving the passed pawn on c7.

33.♜c1 ♙g7 34.♜c4 ♜a6 35.♜d4

35.c8 ♜ ♙e6 36.♜c7 ♜d8 should be winning for White, but it is hard to move knights from this position. Anyway, the game move is much easier.

35...♜a7 36.♜e8+! ♜xe8 37.♜xd7

White does not have a difficult win in this ending and Veselin shows it without any problems.

37...♜aa8 38.♙c3 ♙f6 39.♙b4 ♙e6 40.♜d4 ♙e5

41.♜c4 ♜ec8 42.♙b5 ♙d5 43.♜c2 1-0

B90- Sicilian Najdorf Variation

♖ Nisipeanu, LD (2693)

♜ Topalov, V (2801)

Champions Match. Bucharest (3)

The third game. This is the last White game for Nisipeanu and, probably, the last chance for him to win a game and equalize match. So the game should be very interesting.

1.e4 c5

Veselin does not want to repeat the Berlin endgame and chooses Sicilian Defense. We will see a great battle here!

2.♜f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♜xd4 ♜f6 5.♜c3 a6 6.♙e3
e5 7.♜de2

A strange move. Black is out of the book after this, but it is all that White can get here. Normal lines are: ♜b3 or ♜f3. Here, the knight will go to g3, but White spends two tempos on it. This is too slow against the Najdorf variation.

7...♜bd7 8.♜g3 g6 9.a4

Here was the last chance for White to develop his bishop to c4. Probably, Nisipeanu should try it. For example: 9.♙c4!? b5 10.♙b3 ♙b7 11.a4 b4 12.♜d5
9...♜c7!

Preventing ♙c4.

10.♜d3 ♜c5 11.♜c4 ♙e6 12.♜d5 ♙xd5 13.exd5
♜c8

White still is undeveloped. Black has no problems here.

14.b4 ♜cd7 15.♜xc7 ♜xc7 16.c4 h5!

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This is typical method with in such pawn structures. Black takes space on the kingside.

17.f3 a5

Black wants to play Nc5 . The a5 pawn is not so important.

18.bxa5 $\text{N}h6$ 19. $\text{N}b6$!

19. $\text{N}f2$ 0-0 20. $\text{B}b1$ $\text{B}a8$ 21. $\text{B}b5$ Nc5 =

19... $\text{N}b6$ 20.ax**b6 Bc5 21. $\text{N}d3$?**

A passive move. After 21. $\text{N}d3$, Black at the least is not worse. But 21.a5 was a lot more interesting. For example:

21.a5 $\text{N}e7$ 22.a6 $\text{B}a8$ 23.a7 $\text{N}e3$ (23... $\text{N}d7$ 24. $\text{N}e4$ $\text{N}e3$ 25. $\text{N}xc5$ Nxc5 26. $\text{N}d3$ Nxb6 27. $\text{N}d2$ Nc5 28. Nc2 Nxa7 . Black has a solid position here, but can fight only for a draw. White still would have chances for a win.) 24. $\text{B}a3$ $\text{N}d4$ 25. $\text{N}e2$ $\text{N}d7$ 26. $\text{N}xd4$ exd4 27. $\text{B}b3$ $\text{B}a5$ 28. $\text{B}b1$, with a very unclear position, which should be played, anyway. After the game move, White is fighting only for a draw.

21... $\text{N}e3$ 22.a5 $\text{N}d4$! 23. $\text{B}a3$ Bxa5 24. Bxa5 Nc3 + 25. $\text{N}e2$ Nxa5 26. $\text{B}b1$!

26. $\text{B}a1$ Nxb6 27. $\text{B}b1$ and after 27... Nc7 28. Bxb7 . White has a very drawish endgame on the board, because ... $\text{N}d7$?! Nc2 ! and ... $\text{N}a4$ are not good for Black.

26... $\text{N}d7$ 27. $\text{N}e4$?

Again, White could equalize with 27. $\text{B}a1$.

27... $\text{N}e7$ 28.c5 Nxc5 29. Nxc5 dxc5 30. $\text{B}a1$ Nxb6 31. $\text{B}b1$ Nc7 32. Bxb7 $\text{N}d6$ 33. $\text{B}a7$ Bb8 34. Nc4 f5

This is not a bad move, but Topalov definitely does not want to take even minimal risk. He could get good chances for a win after Bb2 +. 34... Bb2 + 35. $\text{N}d3$ Bxg2 36. $\text{B}a6$ + $\text{N}e7$ 37. $\text{B}a7$ $\text{N}d7$ 38. $\text{N}b5$ + Nc8 !±

35. $\text{N}d3$ Bb4 36. $\text{B}a6$ + $\text{N}b6$ 37. Nc3 e4 38.fxe4 fxe4 39. $\text{B}a8$ $\text{N}d7$ 40. Bg8 $\text{N}a5$ 41. Bg7 + Nc8 42. Bg8 + Nc7 43. $\text{B}a8$ $\text{B}a4$ + 44. $\text{N}b3$ Bb4 + 45. Nc3 $\text{B}a4$ + 46. $\text{N}b3$ 1/2-1/2



B65- Sicilian Rauzer

N Topalov, V (2801)

B Nisipeanu, LD (2693)

Champions Match. Bucharest (4)

1.e4 c5 2. $\text{N}f3$ d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Ng5 e6 7. $\text{N}d2$ $\text{N}e7$ 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.f4 Nxd4 10. Nxd4 $\text{N}a5$ 11.h4!?

This move was first played...by Nisipeanu against Temkin in 1995. Now, Veselin uses the idea against its originator. The idea of 11.h4 lies in the move in variation: $\text{N}d7$? e5! dxe fxe and a bishop on g5 defended by the h4 pawn.

11...e5 12. $\text{N}e3$ exf4

12... $\text{N}e6$!? 13.f5 Nxa2 A "computer move". But it is hard to find an advantage for White in this variation. For example: 14. $\text{B}h3$ (14. $\text{N}d2$? d5-+) 14... Bfc8 15. $\text{N}e1$ Nc4 and Black has very good counterplay on the queenside.

13. Nxf4 $\text{N}e6$ 14. Nxd6 Nxd6 15. Bxd6 Bac8

On Nxa2 ?! Topalov planned to play Bxf6 ! gxf6 and Bh3 winning 15... Nxa2

16.a3 Bc6 ?

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A bad move. Black destroys his own pawn structure and it absolutely was not forced. [16...Rxc3](#) 17. ♖xc3 ♗xc3 18. bxc3 ♜xe4 19. ♖d4+;
[16...♗c7](#) 17. ♖d3 ♗e5 And the activity of Black's pieces compensating a pawn.

17. ♖xc6 bxc6 18. ♙e2 ♞d7 19. ♖d1 ♗c7 20. g3
 Obviously, Black does not get enough compensate for the pawn. He has weaknesses on the queenside and has no objects of attack.

20...♖b8 21. ♗d4!?



Topalov wants to go into a very complicated position! This makes it a very hard decision for his human opponent, especially if we remember that a draw in this game equal to win in match for Topalov. Anyway, ♗d4 is the correct move. 21... ♗xg3 22. ♗xa7 ♜f6 23. ♙b1 h5 24. a4

This passed pawn can become a queen very fast, while the Black pieces are "eating" pawns on the other side.

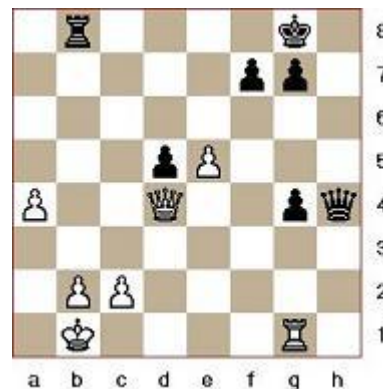
24... ♙g4 25. ♙xg4 h×g4 26. ♗d4!

26. a5?! ♗e5 and Black's passed pawn will become a queen, too, probably faster than White's.

26... ♗xh4

A mistake in a difficult position

27. e5 ♞d5 28. ♞xd5 cxd5 29. ♖g1!



Finally. The pawn on g4 is dead and Black will be without counterplay. The game is almost over.

29... ♗h2 30. ♖xg4 ♖c8 31. ♖xg7+!

An easy, but nice, combination. If 31... ♙xg7, then ♗g4+

31... ♙h8 32. ♖g4 ♖c4 33. ♗d1 ♖xg4 34. ♗xg4 ♗xe5 35. c3

It is an easy win for White, from here on.

35... ♙h7 36. ♗d4 ♗e6 37. a5 f5 38. b4 ♗e2 39. ♗xd5 ♙g6 40. ♗d6+ ♙g5 41. a6 f4 42. ♗c5+ ♙g4 43. a7 1-0

A nice game by Topalov. An interesting idea of Nisipeanu (11. h4!?) worked against him in this game.

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The Fundamentals

IM Cyrus Lakdawala



After nearly 40 years of experience playing chess, to me, the single most difficult skill to master in the game is to win a won game. First of all it's psychologically difficult. The natural tendency, when you are winning, is to relax and just enjoy the position. Your opponent, on the other hand has a mind similar to that of a hunted animal! He is desperately inventive, powered by lots of adrenaline! The most important thing to do when you are winning is to not relax, to try to anticipate all sources of counterplay for your opponent and, then, to shut them down. Here is a game I played in February 2006, in a Game/40 tournament, versus Dmitry Kishnevsky, a former master.

 **Lakdawala,C**
 **Kishnevsky,D**
Gambito 260, 2006

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0
6.♗e2

The mainline of the King's Indian runs: 6...e5 7.0-0
♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7

6...♘bd7 7.0-0 e5 8.♗e3 ♖e8

Black forces White to close the center. But the cost will be a misplaced rook on e8. Because Black needs ...f5 for kingside counterplay his rook would be better placed on f8. From this point on, the battle lines are drawn. White will operate on the queenside where he has more space, and Black will try to create threats on the White king with a kingside attack. This is the principle stating: play on the wing where you have more space.
[8...c6](#); [8...exd4](#); [8...♗g4](#);

9.d5 h6?

A mistake. He needs to move his f pawn, so he should use the opportunity to get a free kick on the e3 bishop, with 9...♗g4 10.♗g5 f6 11.♗d2 From this point, Black can mass his forces on the kingside, with moves like ...♗h6 and ...♗f8.(11.♗h4)

10.♗d2!

Stronger than 10.♗e1. With the Black rook on e8 his normal kingside attack is slower so White can use this knight more aggressively on the queenside, instead of using it for defense. From d2 the knight stops Black from playing ...♗g4 and will head for the c4 square, pressuring d6.

10...♗f8 11.c5 ♖e7 12.b4



One look at the position tells you something is wrong for Black. The White queenside attack is considerably advanced, while Black hasn't even begun kingside operations. If he tries the normal plan of ...f5, White will be faster there also.

12...g5

This leaves a big hole on f5, but the normal plan of playing for ...f5 is too slow here. For example: 12...♗h6 13.♖c1

[A\) 13...f5](#) 14.♗b5 f4 15.cxd6 cxd6 (15...♖f6 16.♗xc7+-) 16.♗xa7+-;

[B\) 13...a6](#) 14.♗c4 f5 15.cxd6 cxd6 16.♗b6 ♖b8

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17.b5± A rule of thumb of a King's Indian is: if White can trade off the light squared bishop on c8, Black's attack will run out of steam. The reason for this is that most of the Black pawns will be on dark squares, so the light squared bishop is, by far, the more valuable attacker.

13.♖c1 ♗d7 14.♘b5 ♗×b5

Unfortunately he must give up his best attacker with this swap. If he tries to hang on to the bishop, White wins material with 14...♖ec8 15.♘×a7! ♖×a7 16.c×d6 c×d6 (16...♙×d6 17.♗c5 traps the queen.) 17.♖×c8 ♗×c8 18.♗×a7

15.♗×b5 ♖ed8 16.♙c2 a6 17.♗a4!

The idea is to invade on c7, with the queen, without allowing Black ...♖d7 as a defense.

17...♘g4 18.c×d6 c×d6

18...♘×e3?? 19.d×e7 ♘×c2 20.e×d8♙+–

19.♗b6+–

The Black queenside is leaking badly on c7 and b6. Black has no choice but to try his luck with queen for 2 rooks here.

19...♖dc8

19...♙db8 20.♙d1! h5 21.♖c7 ♙f6 22.h3 ♘h6

23.♙×h5+– is even worse for Black than the game continuation.

20.♙×c8 ♖×c8 21.♖×c8 ♙f6 22.g3

To stop all tricks on h2 and f4.

22...♙g6 23.f3 ♘f6 24.g4!?

Shuts down the Black kingside counterplay.

24...h5 25.h3 ♙h7

25...♙h6 with the idea of ...♗h7 and ...♘g6 looks better but White handles that with 26.♖d8 h×g4 27.h×g4 ♙h4 28.♖f2 ♙g3+ 29.♗f1 ♗h7 30.♗e2 ♘g6 At last the knight reaches f4, but the Black queen is in over her head now and in great danger. 31.♘f1! ♘f4+ (31...♙f4 32.♗e3 Traps the queen also.) 32.♗d1 ♙g1 33.♖h2++– Wins the queen.

26.♗g2

Otherwise, White will just win the d6 pawn and push to queen.

26...♘×d5!?



This is the point I was talking about earlier. The hunted animal syndrome has kicked in and Black finds an inventive piece sacrifice to allow his queen into the fray. White must be very careful now.

27.e×d5 ♙d3 28.♘e4 ♙a3 29.♗d7!



Black's only source of counterplay would be to get in ...f5. The queenside pawns are not important here.

29...♙×a2+ 30.♖f2 ♙×d5 31.♗c7 h×g4 32.h×g4 f6 33.♗f5 ♗f7 34.♘×d6+ ♗g8

34...♗e7 35.♖e8#

35.♘e4 ♗h8

The White pieces are swarming over the Black king now. If he tries to run out of the box now, with 35...♗f7 36.♖d2 ♙b3 a tactical exercise: White to play and mate in all lines 37.♖d7+! ♘×d7 (37...♗g8 38.♘×f6+! ♗×f6 39.♗h7+ ♗h8 40.♖×f8+ ♙g8 41.♖×g8#) 38.♘d6+ ♗e7 39.♖e8#



Analysis Diagram

36.♔d6 1-0



If 36...♔g7 just 37.♔x8+ forks on f6.



Zweig and the Royal Game

During his second game against Czentovic, Dr B. breaks down. Dr B. announces a non-existent check to Czentovic's king. Dr. B is then forcibly prevented by the other passengers from continuing the game. Czentovic looks at the half finished game and remark, "Pity. The attack was quite well conceived. That gentleman is really exceptionally able. For an amateur."

The story has a lot of opposites such as educated vs uneducated, gentleman vs peasant, mania vs calmness, smart vs stupid, quick vs slow.

In his story, Zweig observes that chess is "more lasting in its being and presence than all books and achievements, the only game that belongs to all peoples and all ages of which none knows the divinity that bestowed it on the world to slay boredom, to sharpen the senses, to exhilarate the spirit."

In 1960 a movie, Die Schachnovelle, was made based on Zweig's *The Royal Game*.

Source: Bill Wall Chess Page



Chess Quotes

"Most gods throw dice, but Fate plays chess, and you don't find out til too late that he's been playing with two queens all along." Terry Pratchett quotes (*English Writer, b.1948*)

"The best chess-player in Christendom may be little more than the best player of chess; but proficiency in whist implies capacity for success in all these more important undertakings where mind struggles with mind." Edgar Allan Poe quotes (*American short-story Writer, Editor, Poet and Critic, 1809-1849*)

"Firstly, there is no such person as Death. Second, Death's this tall guy with a bone face, like a skeletal monk, with a scythe and an hourglass and a big white horse and a penchant for playing chess with Scandinavians. Third, he doesn't exist either." Neil Gaiman quotes (*English born American Novelist, Journalist, Screenwriter, Children's author and Comics writer of American Gods, amongst many others, b.1960*)

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Ivanchuk Palace

7th Euro Championship

GM Vassily Ivanchuk



B47- Sicilian Taminov

White Luther, T (2569)

Black Ivanchuk, V (2729)

7th Euro Ind. Ch., Kusadas, i (5)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3
♙c7 6.f4 a6 7.a4

A very rare move. The usual 7.♗e2 is quite playable.

7...♘f6

An original idea. Black provokes 8.e5. 7...d6

8.e5 ♘d5! 9.♘xd5 exd5

Now it turns out that the doubled pawns are only temporary and the pawn at d7 will be exchanged for the pawn at e5.



Front Jobava - Anastasian, in the background you can see Ivanchuk, but not Luther. (© Frits Agterdenbos)

10.♘f5

White has a wide range of options. 10.♗e3 d6 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.♗d4 dxe5 13.♗xe5 ♗d6 14.♗xg7 ♖g8 15.♙e2+ (15.♗d4 ♗f5 16.♗d3 ♗xd3 17.♙xd3 ♖xg2 18.0-0-0 ♗xf4+ 19.♗b1↑) 15...♗e6 16.♗e5 (16.f5 ♖xg7 17.fxe6 fxe6) 16...♗xe5 17.♙xe5 ♙xe5+ 18.fxe5 ♖g5 19.♗d2 ♖xe5

An alternative possibility is 10.♘b3 d6 11.exd6 ♗xd6 12.♙xd5 0-0

10.♘f3 d6 11.♙xd5 dxe5 (11...♘b4 12.exd6 ♗xd6 13.♙e4+ ♗d8 14.♗f2 ♘xc2 15.♖b1 ♗e8 16.♙c4 ♗f5) 12.♗c4 (12.fxe5? 12...♘b4) 12...♗e6 13.♙e4 f5 14.♙e2 ♗xc4 15.♙xc4 e4 16.♘e5 ♗d6 17.♙e6+ ♙e7 18.♙xe7+ ♗xe7

10...d6! 11.exd6 ♗xd6

12.♘xd6+

12.♘xg7+?! 12...♗f8 13.♘h5

A) 13...♖g8 14.f5! 14...♗xf5

15.♗h6+ ♗e7 16.♙xd5 ♖g6 leads to complications. (16...♘b4 17.♙xf5 ♘xc2+ 18.♗d1 ♘xa1 19.♗d3→) 17.♗e3 ♘b4 18.♙xf5 ♘xc2+ 19.♗f2 ♘xe3 (19...♘xa1 20.♗d3∞!) 20.♗xe3 ♗f8

B) 13...♗f5

B1) 14.♗e2 ♖g8 (14...♘b4 15.0-0 ♘xc2 16.♘g3∞) 15.0-0 ♘d4 16.♘f6 ♙e7!

B2) 14.♗d3 14...♗xd3 15.cxd3 ♖e8+ 16.♗f1 ♗b4 17.♗d2 ♙a5 18.♗xb4+ ♙xb4 seems dangerous.

12...♙xd6 13.♗d3

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13.♔e2 0-0 14.0-0 ♕f5 15.c3 ♖fe8 16.♖h1 ♜ad8 and Black has a good game.

13...♖c5 !?

Of course this carries some risk but I wanted to fight for the initiative. [13...♖c7+](#) 14.♖e2 ♜b4; [13...♜b4](#) 14.0-0 0-0 15.♕e3 d4?! 16.c3! And now not 16...dxe3, because of 17.♕xh7+

During the game, [13...0-0](#) didn't appeal to me but it might have been simpler.

14.♖e2+



14...♔d8! 15.♖f2 ♜e8+ 16.♖f1 d4!?

With neither king castled the play becomes creative.

16...♖xf2+ 17.♖xf2 ♜b4 18.♖d1

17.♖h4+!?

White makes the game even sharper. [17.b4?!](#)

17...♜xb4 18.♕b2 ♜xd3 (18...♜c6 19.c3 ♕f5 20.♖d1 ♕xd3+ 21.♖xd3 ♜e4 22.♖f3 ♖f5 23.g3 ♖e7 24.cxd4 ♖f8) 19.cxd3 ♜e3

[A\) 20.♖g1](#) ♕f5 (20...♖xd3 21.h3 ♖b4 22.♖h2 ♖d2 23.♖h4+ ♖e7 24.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 25.♕a3+ ♖f6 26.♖hd1) 21.h3 ♜c8

[B\) 20.♖h4+](#) 20...f6 21.♖xh7 ♖d6 22.♖xg7 ♕f5 23.♖g1 ♜c8

[17.f5!?](#) 17...♕d7 18.♕d2∞ with sharp play.

17...f6

Worthy of consideration is 17...♖c7!? 18.♖xh7 ♕e6 The bishop is headed for d5! 19.♕d2 (19.♖xg7 ♕d5! xg2) 19...♖h8 20.♖e4 ♕d5 21.♖f5

♖h5 22.♖g4 (22.♖xh5? 22...♕xg2+) 22...♖ah8 23.♖g1 ♖b8 didn't look bad, either.

18.♖xh7 ♜b4 19.♕d2

19.h3 ♜xd3 20.cxd3

[A\) 20...♕f5](#) 21.♖xg7 ♕xd3+ 22.♖g1 ♜e2

23.♖xf6+ ♖d7 (23...♖c7 24.f5!) 24.♖f7+

[B\) 20...♕d7!](#) 21.♖xg7 ♖f5 22.♖g3 ♜c8 leads to an advantage for Black.

19...♜xd3 20.cxd3 ♕f5!?

This is a risky move and leads to sharp play. I didn't want to settle for a draw after 20...♖f5

21.♖xf5 ♕xf5 22.♖f2 ♜c8 23.♖ac1 ♖d7

21.♖xg7 ♕xd3+ 22.♖g1



22...♜c8

[22...♖b6](#) 23.♖d1 ♜c8 24.h4 ♜c2!? (24...♜c5

25.♖h2 ♖c8; 24...♖e2 25.♖h3 ♕e4 26.♖g3 d3+

27.♖h2+-) 25.♖h3 ♕e4 26.♖g3 ♖c8 and the major battle lies ahead.

[22...♖e2](#) deserved serious consideration. 23.♖xf6+ ♖c7 24.♖c1 ♕c2 25.♖g5 ♖c6 (25...♖xg5 26.♖xc2+ ♖d7 27.fxg5 d3 28.♖c4 ♖xd2 29.h4 is not so clear.) 26.f5 ♖ae8 27.h4 ♖b8 28.♖h3±

23.h4

23.♖xf6+ ♖c7 24.♖c1 ♕c2 25.♖g5 ♖c6 26.h4 ♖b8 yields nothing.

23...♖e2

At this time White was beginning to struggle with the clock. 23...♖b6 would have kept open the possibility of fighting on two lines. Similar variations might have been seen, as with 22...♖b6:

24.♖h3 ♕e4?

An error, but it wasn't easy to see the combination coming. 24...♖×d2 25.♖×d3 ♖×d3 26.♗h8+ ♔c7 27.♗h7+ ♔b8 28.♗×d3

A) 28...♗h5!? 29.g3 ♗g4 30.♖e1 (30.♔g2 ♖e8--+) 30...♗h3 Despite the extra pawn, White is fighting for the draw.

B) 28...♗d5 29.♖e1 ♖g8 30.g3 ♗d7, threatening the pawn at a4.

24...♔c2 would have been the logical continuation. 25.♖g3 d3+ 26.♔h1 ♖×d2 27.♗f7+-

25.♗×f6+ ♔c7 26.♖c1

26.♗g7+ ♔b8 27.♖c1 ♔c2 28.♖d3! 28...♗h5

26...♔c2



27.b4

27.♖d3?! It wasn't easy to calculate the variations, especially in tremendous time pressure. White would liquidate the main threat, the pawn at d4. 27...♔b8 28.♗×d4

A) 28...♗c6 29.♗d6+ ♗×d6 30.♖×d6 ♔e4 (30...♖g8 31.♔f1 ♖g×g2 32.♖d8+!! 32...♔a7 33.♔e3+!! 33...b6 34.f5+-) 31.♔f1 ♖×g2 32.♖e1! 32...♖g6 (32...♔f3 33.♖e3 ♔c6 34.♖×c6 ♖×d2 35.♖×c8+ ♔×c8 36.♖e2+-) 33.♖×g6 ♔×g6 34.♖e6+-

B) 28...♗×d4+ 29.♖×d4 ♖g8

B1) 30.♔e1 ♖g×g2+ (30...♖e×g2+! 31.♔f1 ♔f5 32.♖d8+ ♖×d8 33.♔×g2±) 31.♔f1 ♔f5 and it is hard for White to win.

B2) 30.♔f1!! 30...♖g×g2 31.♖d8+ ♔c7

(31...♔a7 32.♔e3+ b6 33.f5+-) 32.♖×c2+ ♔×d8 33.♔a5+-

27...♗c4 28.♖g3?

28.♔e1!? is playable, though, after 28...d3! White would still face problems.

28...♖×d2 29.♗e5+ ♔b6 30.♖g7 ♔a7--+

It turns out that Black comes out ahead, with an extra piece.

31.b5 d3 32.♔h2

32.b×a6 ♔×a6--+

32...♖e2 33.♗d6 ♖e6 34.♗d7 ♗×f4+ 35.g3 ♗f2+

36.♔h1 ♗f3+ 37.♔g1 ♖e2 38.b6+ ♔b8 0-1

An exciting fighting game, in which there were many mistakes and some sloppy play.



Fischer says....

You know I'm finished with the old chess because it's all just a lot of book and memorization you know.

The old chess is too limited. Imagine playing cards, black jack for example, and every time the dealer has the same starting hand you have the same starting hand. What's the point?

I have nothing to do with politics. I came here (Yugoslavia) to play chess and nothing else.

I despise the media.

Is it against the law to kill a reporter?

They like to write only bad things about me.

I'm not as soft or as generous a person as I would be if the world hadn't changed me.

I think it's almost definite that the game is a draw theoretically.



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Learn from the Masters

7th Euro Championship

Notes by

GM Aleksandr Moiseenko

D45-Semi Slav



Moiseenko,A (2662)

Iskusnyh,S (2510)

7th Euro Ind. Ch., Kusadasi (3)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 e6 5.e3 a6!?

The main line in this variation is ♖b7, but a6 is also popular 6. ♖e5!? This move was created by the great Akiba Rubinstein in 1926, in a game against Arpad Vaida.

6... bd7

Another opportunity for Black is 6...c5

7.f4 ♖b4

7...dxc4 8.♙xc4 b5 9.♙b3 ♙b7 10.♔f3 ♔c7

11. h3↑ Rubinstein-Vaida 1926

8. ♖d3 dxc4 9. ♖xc4 c5?

9...♖e4 10.0-0! ♜xc3 11.bxc3 ♙xc3 12.♞b1, with good compensation for the pawn. Probably, the best continuation for Black was 9...b5 10.♙b3 ♙b7 11.0-0 c5 12.♚e2, with mutual chances

10.0-0 cxd4

10...b5 11.♔f3 ♚b8 12.♞c6 ♜b7 13.♙d5! ♙×c6
(13...♙c7 14.♞×b8 ♞×d5 15.♞×d7 ♞×c3 16.♔g4
♙×d7 17.b×c3 ♜×c3 18.♔×g7 ♞f8 19.♞b1±)
14.♙×c6 0-0 15.a3 ♜a5 16.♞e2±

11.exd4 b6 **12.**b3 **0-0**

Now, White has a very comfortable position. The knight on e5 is very strong and all White's pieces are ready to attack the kingside.

13.♔h1!



A good prophylactic move before the attack.

13...♙d7? 14.f5! ♙e7

14...exf5 15.♘xf7 ♖xf7 (15...♔e7 16.♔e1 ♘e4
17.♞xe4! fxex4 18.♙g5+-) 16.♙xf7+ ♔xf7
17.♚b3+ ♙e6 18.♚xb4+-

15. ♔f3!?

I spent a lot of time in the calculation of interesting variations with ♖f7 and chose solid ♔f3 15. ♖xf7 ♕xf7 (15... ♖xf7 16. fxe6+-) 16. fxe6 ♙xe6

A) 17. ♔h5+ ♕g8 (17...g6 18. ♔xh7+ ♕e8
19. ♔xg6+ ♕f7 20. ♕xf7+ ♖xf7 21. ♖e4+-)
18. ♕xe6+ ♔h8 19. ♔e5±

B) 17.d5 17... ♖bxd5 18. ♗xd5 ♕g8 19. ♗xf6+ ♜xf6 20. ♖xd8+ ♜xd8 21. ♜xf6 ♕xb3 22. ♜f1 ♕c4 23. ♜e1± I thought this position gave a big advantage, but this advantage is not easy to realize.

15...♘bd5

15...exf5 16.♔xb7 ♖b8 17.♔xa6 ♘g4 18.♙f4+-
16.♙g5

White puts more and more pressure on Black's position.

16...♙c6 17.f×e6 f×e6 18.♔h3 ♚d6 19.♞c4!+-

Now White is winning!

19...♔c7

19...♔d7 20.♞b6!+-

20. ♔×e6+ ♔h8 21. ♞e5 ♞d6?

A blunder, but the position already is lost.
 21...♖xc3 22.bxc3 ♕e8 (22...♘g8? 23.♔xg8+!
 ♖xg8 24.♗f7# 22...♖ae8 23.♕xf6 ♕xf6?! 24.♗g6+!
 h×g6 25.♔h3+ ♕h4 26.♔xh4#) 23.♕f4+-
22.♗×d5 1-0

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Notes by GM Zviad Izoria

B48-Sicilian Taimnov

 **Izoria, Z (2647)**
 **Gagunashvili, M (2555)**
 7th Euro Ind. Ch., Kusadasi (2)

I met my old opponent Merab in the second round. We have lots of games played against each other from childhood, yet, somehow, we were trying to surprise each other in the opening.



R2: Bartel-Jobava, Izoria-Gagunashvili (© Frits Agterdenbos)

1.e4

I guess this was the first surprise for Merab.

1...c5 2.♘f3 e6

The first surprise for me. I expected him to play the Sveshnikov System. So here we were even:)

3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 ♖c7 6.♙e3 ♗f6

Black is trying to avoid the ♖d2-0-0-0 system, but this move has its advantages along with its disadvantages.

7.f4!

This move forces Black to play ♙b4. If, for example, 7...d6 8.♖f3, with the idea of 0-0-0, is quite unpleasant.

7...♙b4 8.♗db5 ♖a5 9.e5 a6

9...♗e4 10.♖d3 ♗xc3 (10...f5 11.exf6 ♗xf6 12.♙e2±) 11.bxc3 ♙e7 12.g3 a6 13.♗d6+ ♙xd6 14.exd6 b5 15.♙g2 ♙b7 16.0-0 According to the game Inarkiev – Khalifman, Khanty Mansyisk, 2005, White's chances are better.

10.♗d6+ ♙xd6 11.♖xd6 ♗e4 12.♖d3 ♗xc3 13.♙d2! TN



Until now, this position had been played only in one game.

13.♖xc3 ♖xc3+ 14.bxc3 f6 15.exf6 gxf6 16.c4± Karjakin, S - Volokitin, A, Spain 2005; White got a very pleasant endgame, but my move is even stronger.

13...♗xe5 14.♖d4!

After the game, Merab told me that he missed this strong reply in his home analyses. 14.♖xc3 ♖xc3

15.♙xc3 ♗g6 16.f5 ♗h4 17.♙xg7 ♗g8 18.f6 ♗f5 19.♙d3 ♗xg7 20.♙xh7 ♗h5 21.♙xg8 ♗xf6 22.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 23.0-0∞

14...♗g6

14...♖d5 is even more dangerous for Black. For example, 15.♖xc3! ♖e4+ 16.♙e2 ♗g6 17.♖xg7 ♖xg2 18.♖f1 ♖xh2 (18...♖f8 19.♙b4±) 19.0-0-0! ♖xe2 20.♖de1 ♖g4 21.f5+–

15.♙xc3 ♖f5 16.♖xg7!

16.g3!? f6 17.0-0-0∞

16...♖xf4

16...♖e4+ 17.♙e2 ♖f8 18.♖xh7±

17.♙e2 ♖f8 18.♖f1 ♖e4 19.♖xh7!?

19.♖f2! This move might be stronger. 19...♗f4 20.♖d1 ♗xe2 21.♖xe2 ♖g6 22.♖e5±

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19...e5□



20.0-0-0! ♖xe2 21.♖fe1 ♖b5

21...♖g4 22.♙xe5 d5 23.♙d6+ ♙e6 24.♖xd5→

22.♙xe5 ♘xe5 23.♖h5! d6

23...♙d8!? 24.♖xe5 ♖b6 25.♖c5 ♖f6 26.♖c3→

24.♖xd6 ♙e7 25.a4!

A very strong move, after which the Black queen remains unprotected.

25...♖c4

25...♙xd6 26.axb5 f6 27.♖h4!±

26.♖xe5+ ♙e6 27.b3?!

27.♖e4! was winning at once 27...♖a2 28.c4!! The move unfortunately, I did not see. 28...♖a1+

29.♙c2 ♖xa4+ 30.♙c3+–

27...♖c8?!

27...♖b4 This move would be the last hope for Black, but, anyhow, White is much better after 28.♖ed1!±

28.♖e3!+–

After this move everything seems to be over.

28...♖g8 29.♖c3 ♖xc3 30.♖xe6+ fxe6 31.♖xc3

The rest is not so interesting

31...♖xg2 32.♖b4+ ♙f6 33.♖xb7 ♖gg8 34.a5 e5

35.♖f3+ ♙e6 36.h4 ♖gf8 37.♖g4+ ♙d6 38.h5

♖ae8 39.♖b4+ ♙e6 40.♖c4+ ♙f5 41.♖xa6 e4

42.♖g6+ ♙f4 43.♙d2! ♙f3 44.♙e1 e3 45.a6 e2

46.a7 ♙e3 47.♖g1+ ♙f4 48.b4 ♖f5 49.♖f2+ ♙g5

50.a8♖!

50.♖g2+ ♙xh5 51.a8♖?? ♖f1+ 52.♖xf1 exf1♖+

53.♙xf1 ♖xa8–+

50...♖xa8 51.♖g2+ 1-0

D44-Slav Anti Meeran

□ Izoria,Z (2647)

■ Bartel,M (2554)

7th Euro Ind. Ch., Kusadasi (8)

This game was played in the eighth round after a free day. We both had time to prepare something new. We were both +2, and after my five draws in a row, it was very important to win this game:)

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.d4 dxc4

The first surprise for me. Mateusz never had played this line before.

5.e4 ♙b4 6.♙g5 b5!? 7.a4 c6 8.e5 h6 9.exf6 h×g5

10.f×g7 ♖g8 11.g3 g4!?

Until this move, we played very quickly. This move was part of his preparation. After the game, I found only one game with 11...g4 in my database.

11...♙b7 12.♙g2 c5 (12...♘d7 also is possible.)

13.0-0 g4 14.♘h4 ♙xg2 15.♘xg2 ↑

Ivanchuk - Vallejo Pons, Linares, 2006.

12.♘d2!TN



A very strong reply, which, as Mateusz said, he missed during the preparation. 12.♘e5 ♖d5!±;

12.♘h4?! was played in the game Tiomkin - Gonzales Andora 2000 12...c5 13.♙g2 cxd4 14.0-0

dxc3 15.♖xg4 cxb2 16.♖ad1 ♖c7 17.♙xa8 bxa4±

12...♖xd4 13.♙g2 bxa4

13...♖e5+ was, maybe, even worse 14.♙f1!↑ ♖d4

(14...♙b7 15.♘xb5±) 15.axb5 ♙b7 16.♖a4 ♙xc3

17.bxc6±

14.0-0 ♖xg7

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14...a3 was better. I was going to play 15.♖de4 ♗×g7 16.♞×a3

15.♞×a4! a5

15...♙×c3 16.♖e4! is the best, I think, (16.b×c3 ♗×d2 17.♞fd1 ♗×c3 18.♙×c6+ ♙d7 19.♙×d7+ ♖×d7 20.♗×d7+ ♖f8 21.♞×a7 ♞e8±) 16...♙×b2 17.♞ad1 ♗b6 (17...♗e5 18.♗b4±) 18.♖d6+ ♖f8 19.♖×c8!? ♗c7 20.♗b4+ ♖g8 21.♗×b2 ♗×c8 22.♞d6±

16.♞fd1→ ♖e7 17.♖de4 ♗b6

17...♗e5? 18.♖a2+–

18.♖a2!?

There were many possibilities here, but this one attracted me most.

18...♙b7

♞18...♖a6 19.♗c2 probably leads to the same;

♞18...♙a6 19.♖×b4 a×b4 20.♗c2± (20.♖d6±)

19.♗c2 ♖a6 20.♗×c4 ♞gg8?!

20...f5 21.♖ec3 ♖f6!± was the only chance for Black, after which I would have to work hard to find something valuable.

21.♗c1! ♖c7?!

♞21...♙c5 22.♗f4 ♞ad8 23.♗f6+ ♖e8 24.♖ac3!?±

22.♖×b4! a×b4

22...♗×b4 23.♞a4! ♗b5 24.♗f4 ♖e8 25.♞ad4+–

23.♗f4 ♖e8

23...f5 24.♞×a8 ♙×a8 25.♗d6+ ♖f7 26.♗e5+–

24.♖f6!



24.♞d7+ ♖×d7 25.♗×f7+ was winning, as well, but my move is stronger and the idea is really beautiful.

Blackburne Classics

Blackburne, J

Schlechter, K

[C30] - Leipzig International Leipzig, 1894

1.e4 e5 2.f4 ♙c5 3.♖f3 d6 4.♙c4 ♖f6 5.d3 ♖c6 6.c3 0–0 7.b4 ♙b6 8.a4 a6 9.f×e5 d×e5 10.♙g5 ♗d6 11.♖a3 ♖e7 12.♙b3 ♙e6 13.♙×f6 g×f6 14.♖c4 ♙×c4 15.d×c4 ♗×d1+ 16.♞×d1 ♞ad8 17.c5 ♞×d1+ 18.♖×d1 ♞d8+ 19.♖e2 ♙a7 20.a5 c6 21.♞f1 ♖g6 22.g3 ♙b8 23.♖d2 ♖g7 24.♖c4 ♖e7 25.♖e3 ♙c7 26.♞d1 ♞×d1 27.♙×d1 ♖f8 28.♖d3 ♖e8 29.♙g4 ♖d8 30.♖f5 ♖g8 31.♖c4 ♙b8 32.♙h3 ♙c7 33.♖d3 ♙b8 34.♖e3 ♙c7 35.♖f3 ♙b8 36.♖g4 ♙c7 37.♖h5 ♖e8 38.♖d6+ ♙×d6 39.c×d6 ♖d8 40.♙f5 1–0

Gunsberg & Dobell

Chapman & Blackburne

[C31] Consultation Hastings, 1895

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.d4 ♖f6 4.e×d5 e×d4 5.♗×d4 ♗×d5 6.♗e3+ ♙e6 7.♖c3 ♗c5 8.♙d3 ♖c6 9.f5 ♗×e3+ 10.♙×e3 ♙d7 11.0–0–0 ♖e5 12.♙d4 ♖×d3+ 13.♞×d3 0–0–0 14.♖ge2 ♙×f5 15.♞f3 ♙g6 16.♞×f6 g×f6 17.♙×f6 ♙h6+ 18.♖b1 ♞he8 19.♙×d8 ♞×d8 20.♞d1 ♞×d1+ 21.♖×d1 ♙e4 22.g3 ♙f3 23.♖dc3 ♙e3 24.b3 ♖d7 25.♖c1 a6 26.♖d3 ♖e6 27.♖e1 ♙c6 28.♖d1 ♙g1 29.h3 ♙h2 30.g4 ♙g3 31.♖d3 ♙g2 32.♖3f2 ♖f6 33.♖c1 ♖g5 34.♖d2 ♙×f2 35.♖×f2 ♖f4 36.♖e2 ♖g3 37.♖e3 ♙×h3 38.♖×h3 ♖×h3 39.♖f4 f6 40.c4 c5 41.♖f3 h6 42.a3 a5 43.♖f4 ♖g2 0–1

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Understand Chess

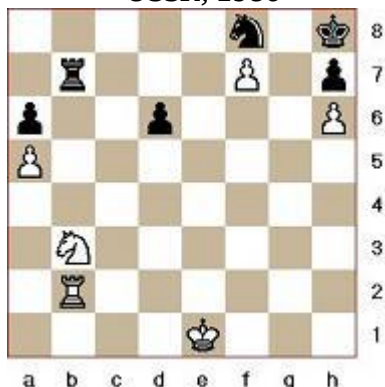
GM Victor Gavrikov



The Piece is out of Play

In such situations the piece (or sometimes a few pieces) is isolated from other forces, because of the pawn configuration. The following examples show how dangerous this can be.

Kozikov - Bezman
USSR, 1986



1. ♖f2!!

The knight sacrifice allows White to keep his f7 pawn after which Black king will never escape from the corner.

1... ♖×b3 2. ♖g2

The mating threat forces Black to exchange rooks.

2... ♖b1+ 3. ♕f2 ♖b2+ 4. ♕g1 ♖×g2+ 5. ♕×g2 ♖g6 6. ♕f2 ♖f8 7. ♕e3 ♖e6 8. ♕d3 d5 9. ♕e3

White king comes to b6 winning by the way Black's d pawn. **1-0**

Olausson - Gavrikov
Gothenburg Cup, 2001, (5)

25... ♔g6



26. ♖d4?

This wrong exchange leads to the isolation of the White knight on e1 from the queenside. Correct was 26.c3 with a worse, but playable position, for White.

26... ♖×d4 27. ♖×d4 ♖c3!

Blocking the pawn on c2, after which White practically plays without a knight.

28. ♕f1 ♖b8 29. a4?

Weakens the queenside.

29... b4 30. ♕b5 ♖bc8 31. ♖d2 ♕e6 32. ♖b1 ♕f7 33. ♖b2

White is planning to prevent f5-f4 by ♖g2, but I have completely different intentions.

33... ♕e7 34. ♖g2 ♖g4 35. ♕e2 ♖e5 36. ♕d1 ♖8c6 37. ♕e2 h6 38. ♖a2 ♖d6!

Black pretends that he is going to play 39...d4 40.exd4 ♖c6 and prepares the following action.

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39.♖a1



39...♘c4!!

Exploiting the drawback of the a2-a4 advance, Black creates a passed pawn, which decides the game.

40.bxc4 dxc4 41.♖xd6 ♔xd6

Now it is obvious that the maneuver ♖c6-d6 allowed me to activate my king to support the b pawn.

42.♘e1 ♔c5 43.♖d1 b3 44.♖a1 ♔b4 45.cxb3 cxb3 46.♖d1 b2 0-1

 Sharif, M
 Flear, G
 France, 1994

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘d5 5.♙xc4 ♘b6 6.♙d3 ♘c6 7.♙e3 ♙e6 8.♘c3 ♔d7 9.♘ge2 0-0-0



10.♖c1!?

Inviting Black to win a pawn.

10...♘xe5?

As a result of the following exchanges, the Black bishop on f8 will be out of play. The correct continuation was 10...f6, with sufficient counterplay.

11.dxe5 ♔xd3 12.♙xd3 ♖xd3 13.♘f4 ♖d7 14.♘xe6 fxex6 15.♙xb6 axb6 16.h4! g6 17.f4



Locking up Black's bishop.

17...♙h6

17...h6 can be met by 18.♘e2 ♖g8 19.g3 g5 20.h5!

18.g3 ♖d3 19.♖g1 ♖hd8

19...♖xg3 20.♖xg3 ♙xf4 21.♘e2+

20.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 21.♘xd1 ♖d4 22.♘f2 ♖c4

22...♙xf4 23.gxf4 ♖xf4 24.♖g4±

23.♘d3 ♖c2 24.♖f1

Planning ♖f2.

24...♖g2 25.♖f3 ♖g1+ 26.♙e2 ♖g2+ 27.♘f2 ♖g1

28.♖a3! ♙b8 29.♙f3 ♖f1?

This allows White to exchange the rooks, after which Black is helpless in fight, with a single king against his opponent's king and knight. Necessary was 29...♖a1

30.♖d3! ♙c8 31.♖d1 ♖xd1 32.♘xd1+- ♙d7

33.♘c3 ♙c6 34.b4 ♙g7 35.♙e4 ♙h6 36.a4 ♙g7

37.g4 ♙h6 38.g5 ♙g7 39.♙d4 h6 40.♙c4 ♙f8

41.♘b5 ♙d7 42.♘d4 ♙g7

Or 42...c6 43.a5 and the king comes to c5.

43.♙b5 ♙f8 44.♘b3! 1-0

After 44.♘b3! ♙g7 45.a5 hxc5 46.hxc5 bxa5

47.♘c5+ ♙c8 48.bxa5 White wins the e6 pawn and the game.

Upsurge in the Open Spanish

IM Larry Kaufman

There has been a marked upsurge in popularity recently for the Open defense to the Spanish (Ruy Lopez) among strong grandmasters. It has been employed already this year in just 3 ½ months by Atalik, Fressinet, Graf, Leko, Vallejo, Ivan Sokolov, Jussupow, and Korneev, to name only grandmasters over 2600 FIDE. Furthermore, there has been a marked increase in the use of 5.d3 to prevent the Open. This article will discuss what's behind these developments, which conceivably could threaten the viability of 1.e4 as White's best try for advantage.



The opening moves are

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗x e4 6.d4 b5 7.♙b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♙e6



Let's start with a look back. Until around 1980, the main move was 9.c3. It was generally felt that 9...♙c5 was more promising for Black than 9...♙e7. Then it was discovered that 9.♗bd2 was more effective against 9...♙c5, while likely to transpose against 9...♙e7, and that the supposedly best reply, 9...♗c5, was not really so good. If all this is so, then 9.♗bd2 is better than 9.c3 and it became the main move. While the last two statements still appear to be true, the first is now in doubt, as 9...♙e7 is looking better than before. If Black really wants to play 9...♙e7, then there is no difference between 9.♗bd2 and 9.c3 if White plays the other move next, as he usually does. Since good defenses have been found recently to White's other main move,

9.♙e3, it now appears that the evaluation of **9.♗bd2 ♙e7 10.c3 0-0** is critical for the line.

The main line runs **11.♙c2 f5 12.♗b3 ♔d7 13.♗bd4** (13.♗fd4 usually transposes) **13...♗xd4 14.♗xd4 c5 15.♗xe6 ♔xe6 16.f3 ♗g5 17.a4.**

Surprisingly, Black actually has a plus score from this position in games with a 2400+ average rating. Here the two main continuations are 17...g6, refusing to concede the a file and the current favorite 17...♖ad8, conceding one file, but supporting the potential passed pawn. After **17...♖ad8 18.axb5 axb5**



White usually plays **19.♙h1**. Now Vallejo Pons and Fressinet, very strong grandmasters, both played **19...f4** recently. Karjakin-Vallejo, Young Masters, 2006 continued **20.♙d2 c4 21.♖a5 ♔c6 22.♔a1 ♙c5** and Black is doing fine. He soon picked off the artificially isolated pawn on e5 and won quickly. Mastrovasilis improved, with **20.♖a7 ♖f7 21.♔e2 c4 22.b3 ♙c5 23.♖xf7 ♔xf7 24.bxc4 bxc4 25.♖d1**

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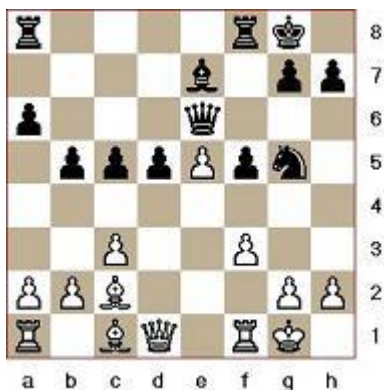
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♞e6 26.♚e1 g6, against Fressinet in the 2006 European Championship, when chances appear about even with Black's superior pawn structure offsetting the bishop pair. However Black soon won the e5 pawn and the game, just as in the Vallejo game. It seems to me that after 19...f4, White has no advantage.

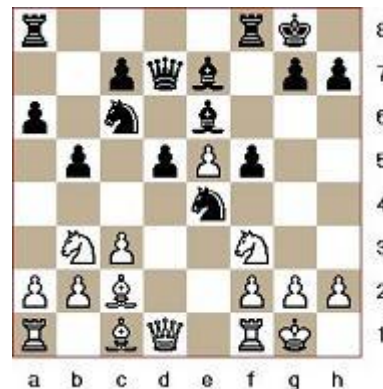
One obvious idea for White is to take the knight before ...f4 makes that impossible. Sofia Polgar - Unzicker, Bad Homburg 1996, continued 19.♙xg5 ♙xg5 20.f4 ♙e7 21.♖h1 and White is slightly better according to Khalifman, although the game was soon drawn after 21...♙h8 22.♞a7 d4 23.cxd4 ♞xd4 24.♚f3 ♞d2 25.♞f2 ♞d7, with only a cosmetic advantage for White. Since no one has played this way again as White in the last decade, it would appear that no improvement for White has been found. Another try is 19.♚e2 c4 20.♙e3 b4 21.♚d2 b3 with equal chances (Beliavsky-Tarjan, Santa Fe, Bogata 1979), with Black's space advantage offsetting the bishop pair.

White can omit a4 and instead play



17.♙xg5 ♙xg5 18.f4 ♙e7 19.♚f3. Brkic-Fressinet, Kusadasi, 2006 continued 19...♞ad8 20.♞ad1 c4 21.♙h1 ♙c5 22.♞d2 ♞d7 23.♞fd1 ♞fd8 24.b3 g6 25.h3 h5 26.♙h2 ♙g7 27.a4 b4, with equality. White erred by 28.a5?! d4 and Black should have won later, but finally drew.

Earlier, White can attempt to give



13.♞fd4 ♞xd4

Independent significance by recapturing with the pawn. After 14.cxd4 a5 15.f3 a4 16.fxe4 axb3 17.♙xb3 fxe4 18.♙e3 ♞xf1+ 19.♚xf1 c6, a draw looks likely, as it is difficult for either side to undertake much. Note that the same position can also be reached by 12.♞d4 ♞xd4 13.cxd4 ♞d7 14.♞b3 a5 etc., as happened in Prasad-Sundararajan, ONGC Cup 2006, which, indeed, was drawn. White tried 15.♙d2 in Bologan-Ivan Sokolov, Stepanavert 2005 but after 15...a4 16.♞c1 f4 17.f3 ♞xd2 18.♚xd2 c5 19.♞e2 c4 Black has the better chances, though White held a draw.

Moving further back, White can show off his knowledge of the *en passant* rule by



12.exf6 ♞xf6. White usually continues 13.♞b3 (13.a4 b4= or 13.♞e1 ♞d7 14.♞f1 ♙g4 or 13.♞g5 ♙g4 14.f3 ♙c8 are all fine for Black) 13...♙g4 14.♚d3 and now 14...♚d6 is a new move by GM Alon Greenfeld (previously 14...♚d7 was usually played, which is also okay). Dvoirys replied 15.♙g5 ♞e4 16.♙xe7 ♞xe7 17.♞bd2? ♞xd2 18.♚xh7+

♔f7 19.♘g5+ ♔e8 20.♖fe1 but Black forced a queen trade by 20...♙h6 and, with a piece for a pawn, soon won (rapid game, Beer Sheva, 2006). It seems to me that, after the *en passant* capture, Black's superior development at least should offset the theoretical weakness of the c5 square.

On move 11, White can leave the bishop on b3 and play



11.♙e2, which prevents f5 and keeps the pressure on d5. Anand tried this twice in this year's Melody Amber Blindfold tournament in Monte Carlo. Both games continued 11...♘c5 12.♘d4 ♘xb3 13.♘2xb3 ♙d7 14.♘xc6 ♙xc6 15.♙e3 ♙c4. Now, Anand played 16.♖fe1 against Vallejo, but after 16...♖fc8 17.♙d2 c5 Black was doing well and had the sunny side of an eventual draw. Against Leko, Anand improved with 16.♙d2 and after 16...♙g4 17.♙c5 obtained a positional advantage and won. Therefore, I think that Black would do better to follow the old game Mecking-Korchnoi, 1974, which continued 15...♙f5 (instead of 15...♙c4) 16.♖fd1 ♙g6 17.♘d4?! (better 17.♙c5 ♖ae8=) 17...♙d7 18.b4 ♙e4 19.♙d2 ♙xe2 and Black has a small edge, due to the bishop pair, though White drew.

Another option on move 11 is 11.♘d4. Ponomarev-Ivan Sokolov, Poikovsky, 2006, continued 11...♘xd4 12.cxd4 ♘xd2 13.♙xd2 c5 14.dxc5 ♙xc5 15.♙h5. Now, the natural 15...♖c8 looks about equal, instead of the game move 15...♙d4, which, however, sufficed to draw.

Yet another choice is 11.♖e1 ♘c5 12.♙c2 d4 13.cxd4 (13.♘e4 dxc3 14.♘xc5 ♙xd1 15.♖xd1 ♙xc5 16.bxc3 ♖fd8 is pleasant for Black, who won in Hoffmann-Krasenkow, Budapest 2004, while 13.♘b3 dxc3 14.bxc3 ♙xd1 15.♖xd1 ♘a4! favors Black.). Seres-Grafl, Budapest 2004 continued 13...♘xd4 14.♘xd4 ♙xd4 15.♙h5 ♘d3 16.♘e4 g6 17.♙d1, when 17...♘xe1 18.♙xd4 ♘xc2 would have favored Black.

White can also aim for an early endgame after 9.♘bd2 ♙e7 by



10.♘xe4 dxe4 11.♙xe6 fxe6 12.♘g5. After 12...♙d5 13.♙h5+ g6 14.♙g4 ♙xg5 15.♙xg5 ♘xe5 16.♙g3 ♘f7 17.♙f6 0-0 18.♖ad1 ♙f5 19.♙c3 c5 White had just enough compensation for the pawn to claim equality, and a draw resulted in Zoltan Almasi - Ivan Sokolov, Bundesliga, 2005.

Now, we come to the other major ninth move,



9.♙e3. Then, 9...♙e7 10.c3 (note that 9.c3 ♙e7 10.♙e3 transposes) 10...0-0 11.♘bd2 ♙d7 12.♖e1 ♘xd2 (not 12...f5?! with which I lost to Smirin last

year in Minneapolis, but a good alternative is 12.♖ad8 13.♙c2 ♙f5 14.♜xe4 ♙xe4 15.♙xe4 dxe4 16.♞xd7 ♞xd7 17.e6 fxe6 18.♜d2 ♜e5 19.♜xe4 ♜d3. Now, Dominguez-Bruzon, Santa Clara, 2006, was soon drawn after 20.♞e2 ♞f5. But perhaps a bit better was 20...c5 21.g3 ♞d5 when Black's more active pieces fully offset his one isolated pawn.) Predojevic-S.Atalik, Kusadasi, 2006, continued 13.♙xd2 (13.♞xd2 ♜a5 14.♙g5 ♙xg5 15.♞xg5 ♜xb3 16.axb3 ♙g4 17.♜h4 was Inarkiev-L'Ami, Kusadasi, 2006. Then 17...c5 18.h3 ♙e6 19.♜f3 a5 looks about equal.) 13...♖ad8 14.♜d4 ♜xd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.dxc5 ♙xc5 17.♞c1, and now 17...♙g4 18.♞c2 ♞c8 19.♞d3 ♙f5 20.♞g3 ♞fe8 looks pleasant enough for Black, as his pieces are more active and his "d" pawn, though isolated, is also passed. Instead, White can simplify by 12.♜xe4 dxe4 13.♞xd7 ♙xd7 14.e6 ♙xe6 15.♙xe6 fxe6 16.♜d2 ♜e5 17.♜xe4 ♜c4 18.♙c1 ♞f5 19.♞e1 ♞d8 20.b3 ♜d6 as in Erenburg-Fressinet, Reykjavik, 2006. Black's superior development offsets his inferior pawn structure and a draw soon resulted. A third choice is 12.♙c2 f5! 13.exf6 ♜xf6 14.♞b1 ♜h8! 15.b4 (15.♞e1 ♙d6 16.♜b3 ♙g4 17.♜c5 ♞f7 or 15.♜b3 ♜g4 16.♜c5 ♙xc5 17.♙xc5 ♞xf3! 18.gxf3 ♜ge5, with full compensation; or 15.♙f4 ♜e4 16.♙e3 ♜xd2 17.♜xd2 ♙f5 ;or 15.♙g5 ♙d6 16.♙h4 ♙g4; or 15.♜g5? ♜g4! 16.♜xh7?! ♞f5! In every case Black has an equal or superior position.) 15...♙b6 16.a4 ♞ae8 17.axb5 axb5 18.♞e1 ♙g4= (L'Ami-De Jong, Kilversum, 2006). As usual in the Open, Black's superior development compensates for the fact that his queenside is somewhat crippled.

Another White option worth covering is 9.♞e2, which was popular over twenty years ago but is rare now. After 9...♙e7 10.♖d1 ♜a5 (The main line is 10...0-0 11.c4 bxc4 12.♙xc4 ♙c5 with near-equality, but I like the text, Black's latest try in GM chess.) Goloshchapov-Mamedyarov, Izmir 2004 continued 11.♜bd2 ♜xb3 12.axb3 ♜xd2 13.♙xd2 0-0 14.♜d4 (better seems 14.b4 ♙g4 15.h3 ♙h5 when Black's bishop pair offsets his pawn weaknesses) 14...c5 15.♜c6 ♞c7 16.♜xe7+ ♞xe7 17.b4! cxb4 18.♞e1 a5 19.♞xa5! ♞xa5 20.♙xb4 ♞c7 21.♙xa5 ♞xc2 22.♞d2 ♞c8. Black's superior

piece placement gives him a tiny edge, though the game should be drawn. After a later blunder, Black won.

A new try for White is 9.a4 b4 10.♙e3. Gashimov-L'Ami, Kusadasi, 2006 continued 10...♙e7 11.♜bd2 0-0 12.♞e2 ♜xd2 13.♙xd2 ♜a5 14.♙a2 c5 15.c3 b3 (15...bxc3 16.bxc3 ♞d7 looks about even) 16.♙b1. Now instead of the game continuation 16...♜c4?! 17.♙f4 ♞d7 18.♙d3 ♙f5, which lost a pawn, but still drew, 16...♞d7 directly looks equal.

Finally, let's look at the rather harmless



6.♞e1 ♜c5 7.♜c3 (or 7.♙xc6 dxc6 8.♜xe5 ♙e7 9.d4 ♜e6 10.♙e3 0-0 11.♜c3 f6 12.♜f3 f5 13.d5 cxd5 14.♞xd5 ♞xd5 15.♜xd5 ♙d6=) 7...♙e7 8.♜d5 0-0 9.♙xc6 dxc6 10.♜xe7+ ♞xe7 11.d4 ♜e6 12.♜xe5 ♞d8 13.c3 as in Hamdouchi-Delchev, Belfort, 2004. Now, simplest is 13...c5 14.♜f3 (14.d5 c6 15.c4 ♞c7 favors Black) cxd4 15.♜xd4 ♞f8=. A better try is 12.♞xe5 f6 13.♞e1 ♞f7 14.♞d3 ♙d7 15.♙d2 ♖ad8 26.♞b3 ♙c8 with just a cosmetic edge for White. Black will untangle by ...♞fe8 and ...♜f8.

So it seems that as of this writing, Black experiences no significant problems in the Open if he plays the lines recommended here. If White is forced to avoid the Open by 5.d3, it is not at all clear that there is any advantage to choosing the Spanish over the Italian game with d3. In some lines they actually transpose as ♙-b5-a4-c2 and ♙-c4-b3-c2 are equivalent. Can White find a way to trouble Black in the Open, or will we see an increase in Scotch and Italian games?

Strategy and Practice

GM Dejan Antic

Theoretical discussions in modern chess sometimes require playing odd positions that seem to contradict basic chess principles. One such opening is the Chigorin Defense, in which Black gives up away his pair of bishops and leaves White with a strong pawn center. As compensation, Black hopes for quick development of his pieces to active squares and growing tactical possibilities.

In the game to follow, we'll see the practical side of all strategic motives in realistic situations.

D07-QGD Chigorin

Antic,D (2519)
Miladinovic,I (2609)
SCG First League, men's,
Vrnjacka Banja, SCG, 2005

1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♘c6 3.cxd5

A logical move. With his previous move 2...♘c6, Black drops the usual concept of a stable center, with 2...e6 or 2...c6. Therefore, White's advantage in the center is obvious. Furthermore, Black's queen is exposed to developing tempos of White's pieces. Alternatives for 3.cd5 are 3.♘c3 and 3.♗f3.

3...♙xd5 4.e3 e5 5.♗c3 ♘b4 6.♙d2 ♙xc3 7.bxc3
♘f6 8.f3 e4



The first important moment in the game. Black decides to block his opponent's mobile pawn chain in the center. Other moves don't prove to be good in the practice. Anyway, we have to trust GM Miladinovic's evaluation, as he is one of the preeminent experts on the Chigorin Defense. 8...♙d6 9.♙d3 0-0

10.♗e2 ♙e6 11.0-0 b6 12.♙c1 ♖ad8 13.♙e1 ♗d7 14.♙h4 f6 15.♖d1 ♗de8? 16.d5 ♙xd5 17.♙e4 ♗e7 18.c4 c6 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.♙xd5+ ♗xd5 21.♙c4 1:0, Borsuk, K-Volovikov A, Alushta, 2005; 8...0-0 9.e4 ♙d6 10.d5 ♗b8 (10...♗e7!?) 11.c4 ♗a6 12.♗e2 ♗c5 13.♗c3 c6 14.♙e3 b6 15.♙e2 ♙b7 16.0-0 ♖ad8 17.♙c2 ♗h5 18.♖fd1 ♙g6 19.♙f1 ♗f4 20.♖d2 ♙h5 21.♖ad1 ♖d6 22.g3 ♖g6 23.♖f2 ♙c8 24.dxc6 ♙h3 25.♗d5 ♖g5 26.♙xf4 ♙xf1 27.♙xg5 1:0, Timoshenko, G-Franssila,T, Rethymnon, 2003. As we can see in these games, Black failed to resist White's strong central pawns with the tactically.

9.c4 ♙d6 10.♙b1

Idea of GM Boris Avrukh, played for the first time in the 2000 Olympiad, against GM Miladinovic. White won that game, but the line has been improved since then. The idea, besides ♙b1, is simple. The queen increases pressure on the center, trying to break the blockade. In some lines the b7 pawn also is sensitive, but probably, the most important threat is d5, with ♙b4! to follow and White gains possession of this important diagonal.

10...♙f5



11...d2! TN

A very elastic continuation, keeping the tension in the center. This might be an important theoretical novelty and a standard for White's play in this system. Other moves don't give any advantage to White 11.f4 0-0 12.d2 a5 (12...f8 13.h3 h5 14.b2 a5 15.a3 d7 16.c3 c6 17.a4 b5 Avrukh B.-Peek M., Amsterdam 2001) 13.g3 d7 14.e2 d7 15.0-0 f8 16.c2 c6 Hoang T.-Botsari A.M., Bled Olympiad 2002, with a successful blockade of the center and strong counterplay. Obviously the position of Black's bishop on f5 is very solid. The Idea behind 11.d2 is to ruin the coordination of Black's pieces and, above all, to force the bishop on f5 to move to g6, where it cannot control the g4 square.

11...g6?!

Logical but not good enough. Black should have tried... 11...xf3!? 12.f5 fxe2 13.ex2 0-0



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

A) 14.b1?! f8 15.d5 (15.b7 dxd4! 16.exd4 d4) 15...d4

B) 14.d5

B1) 14...e7!?

15.d3 (15.f4?! f4 16.exf4 d4! 17.b1 b6 18.f3 f8! 15...c6 (15...f8 16.b1 b6 17.0-0 g6 18.c3 d4 19.d4) 16.b1 b5 17.cxb5 d5 18.d5 cxd5 19.0-0±;

B2) 14...e5 15.b1 f8 16.0-0 b6 17.c3

a3 18.d4 xa2 19.f2 A Paradox, but true. In spite of the bishop pair and a strong center, White does not get much of an advantage. Black uses tactics to block the position and reduce the power of White's bishops, even with open files and diagonals. In previous analyses, we have seen that White has problems to establish good coordination of his pieces. Anyway, it seems that White is slightly better with various possibilities later in the game.

12.f4 0-0 13.d5 d7 14.d4 a5

Here, Black misses a better move... 14...c6 15.b7 f8 16.a6 b6 17.a5!;

14...c5! 15.b5 d7 16.a4! (16.e2 a6 17.c3 b5!) 16...a6 17.c3 f5 18.e2 d4! 19.exd4 (19.d1?! b5) 19...e3 20.c1 cxd4 21.ex3 dxc3 (21...dxe3 22.fxe3 f8 23.d2) 22.c3 ac8 23.0-0 f8 (23...xd5?? 24.d4 f6 25.d7 dxd7 26.f5) 24.f1 dxd5 25.a3 e7 26.cxd5 fxe3+ 27.fxe3 fxe3 28.g4± Of course, this is only one of the possible lines. Still, it seems that Black is creating serious strategic problems for White.

15.e2

This is the point. Black' bishop is misplaced on g6 and this developing move brings up the powerful threat of g4! next.

15...f5 16.b2 dxd4 17.d4

White has established perfect coordination of his pieces. Besides the g4 threat, White will be able to increase pressure on the a1-h8 diagonal and emphasize the absence of Black's dark bishop. The strong pawn center, pair of bishops and potential kingside attack give an obvious advantage to White.

17...h5



18.g4?

This is classical chess blindness. Better are [18.♔f1!?](#)

A) 18...♔g4 19.h3 ♔d7 20.g4! ♖fe8 21.♔c3 c5 (21...c6 22.g5 ♜h5 23.♖g1!±) 22.♚d2±;

B) 18...♜e8! 19.♚×e4 (19.h3 f5) 19...♜f6 20.♚d4 ♖fe8!±;

C) 18...♜d7 19.g4 ♔×g4 20.♖g1 ♜f6 21.♔c3 c5 22.♚e5±;

[18.♔×h5!](#) ♜×h5 19.g4 ♜f6 20.g5 ♜d7 21.♔c3



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

21...f6 (21...♚g6 22.h4→) 22.g×f6 (22.♚×e4 ♖ae8 23.♚d4 ♖e7±) 22...♜×f6 23.♖g1 ♖f7 24.♖b1 b6 25.♖b2 ♖d8 26.♖bg2±



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

26...b5 ([26...c6](#) 27.d×c6; [26...c5](#) 27.d×c6) 27.c×b5 White's advantage has permanent character and Black can only wait. Any counterplay attempt will fail. Even though Black has defending potential, precise and persistent play by the White side would prove that Black could hardly hold his position. Finally, White would be able to use all of the strategic pluses in his position.

18...Bxg4 19.Rg1

19.♔×g4 ♜×g4 20.♖g1 f5!

19...Bxe2 20.Kxe2 Ne8

Things are getting complicated now... 20...♖a6 21.♔c3 ♖d8 22.♖ab1±

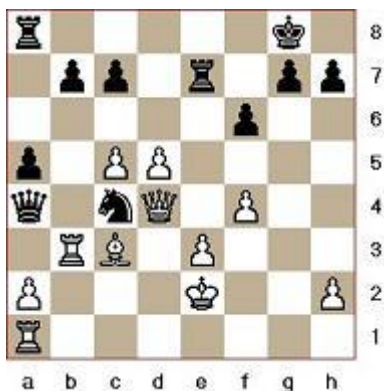
21.♔c3 f6 22.♚×e4

Taking the pawn in this kind of position while heavy pieces are still on the board, is not really necessary. It gives Black the possibility to open up the game and organize counterplay on the e-file. The right moment for taking the e4 pawn would be after the eventual trade of the queens in some endgame or semi-endgame. Something like that should have followed if White had continued with the logical plan on move 18. Nevertheless, after the blunder, White is practically forced to even up the material and the game has a different character. White now has to take care of the light squares!

22...♖f7 23.♚d4

23.♚e6 ♚c5 24.♚e4 ♜d6 25.♚d4 ♚a3!

(25...♚×c4+ 26.♚×c4 ♜×c4 27.e4 b5 28.♖ab1 b4 29.♔d4±) Δ26.♖gb1 ♖e7 27.♖b3 ♚a4 28.c5 ♜c4!±



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

23...Rd8!?

An attempt at active play. Other moves also lead to giving complicated game. 23...Qa6!? 24.Qd3 Rd8 25.Rad1

A) 25...c5 26.e4!

(26.f5 Qd6 27.Rg4

Re8) 26...Qd6 27.e5

Qxc4 (27...Re7 28.e6 Qxc4 29.f5!?) 28.exf6

ΔRe8+ 29.Qf2 Qe3 30.Rd2 c4 31.Qd4 Qf5

32.Qc5 Qd6 33.Re2! g6 34.Rxe8+ Qxe8 35.Re1±;

B) 25...f5 26.c5 Qh6 27.Rg2 Qh3 28.Qf2 b6∞



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

Even with the king in the center, the position is unclear, because of the poor coordination of Black's heavy pieces.

24.Qxa5 Qa6 25.Qb4 f5 26.Qc3

Best! Keep the knight out of game, no matter what! Black cannot play Qf6-e4 because of the fragile g7 square and a1-h8 diagonal.

26...c6



27.Qd3!

An extraordinary reaction! White gives material back, but with the exchange of queens. In the forthcoming endgame, White's king is safe and Black's tactical threats disappear. This is a classical example of material advantage being transformed into a positional one and vice versa.

27...cxd5 28.cxd5

28.c5 Qh6 29.Rg2 Qc7 30.Qd4 Qe6 31.Rag1 Rc8∞

28...Qxd3+

28...Qh6 29.Rg2 Qc7 30.Rag1 Qxd5 31.Qc4 Qh5+ 32.Qf2 Qh4+ 33.Qf3 g6 34.a4∞



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

This is an interesting attempt to keep the queens on the board. The position is quite uncommon, with good possibilities for both sides. Black's main problem is his clumsy knight on c7, which can hardly find a way to the e4 square.

29.Qxd3 Rxd5+ 30.Qd4 Qd6

Finally, the knight is about to reach the important e4 square. However, without queens on the board,

White king is extremely safe in the center. Open play on both wings and the strong bishop neutralize the activity of Black's pieces.

31.♖g1 ♖d7 32.a4 ♕f7 33.♗ab1 h6 34.h4 ♕g6
35.♕e2 ♕h5



Obviously, Black is playing very ambitiously, but this attitude incurs certain risks.

36.♗g1! ♖e4

36...♗a5 37.♗b4 g6 38.♕f3 ♖f7 39.♗b6±
37.♗b6

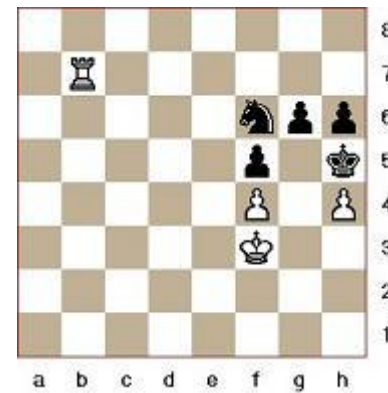


37...♗d4!

This temporary sacrifice and the removal of the "terrible" Bishop bring Black to a safe harbor. In spite of White's material advantage, the Black knight dominates White's very weak pawn structure. An excellent demonstration of the transformation of material into activity!

38.e×d4 ♖c3+ 39.♕d3

39.♕f3 ♖×a4 Δ40.♗b5 g6 41.d5 ♖c3 42.♗b3
♖×d5 43.♗d1 ♖f6 44.♗×d7 ♖×d7 45.♗×b7 ♖f6



ANALYSIS DIAGRAM

39...♖d5 40.♗b5 ♕×h4

40...♖×f4+ 41.♕c4 (41.♕e3 ♖d5+ 42.♕f3 g5

43.h×g5 h×g5∞) 41...g6 42.♗h1±

41.♗×d5 ♗×d5 42.♗×g7 ♗a5 1/2-1/2



Finally, a draw. 42...♗a5 43.♕c4 (43.♗b7 ♗×a4
44.♗g7 ♗a3+ 45.♕c4 ♗f3 46.d5 ♗×f4+ 47.♕d3 ♗f1
48.♕e2 ♗f4 49.d6 ♗d4 50.d7 f4 51.♕f2 h5 52.♕f3
♕h3 53.♗f7 ♕h2)

A) 43...♗×a4+ 44.♕d5 b5 45.♕e5 b4 46.d5 b3
47.d6 ♗a1 (47...♗b4 48.d7 ♗b8 49.♗g1+–) 48.♗b7
(48.♗g2 ♗d1) 48...♕g4 49.♗×b3 ♗e1+ 50.♕d4 ♗e8
51.♕d5 ♕×f4 52.d7 ♗d8 53.♕d6 h5 54.♕c7 ♗h8 5
5.♗b8 ♗h7 56.♕c6 ♗×d7 57.♕×d7 h4;

B) 43...b6! 44.♕b4 (44.♗b7 ♗×a4+ 45.♕d5 ♕g4)
44...♗d5

Resume: I hope this game has shown some practical methods of fighting against pawn supremacy in the center. Anyway, the Chigorin Defense is an interesting opening in which we can practice some of the important strategic motives. I hope the reader will be able to extract valuable lessons from this instructive game.

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