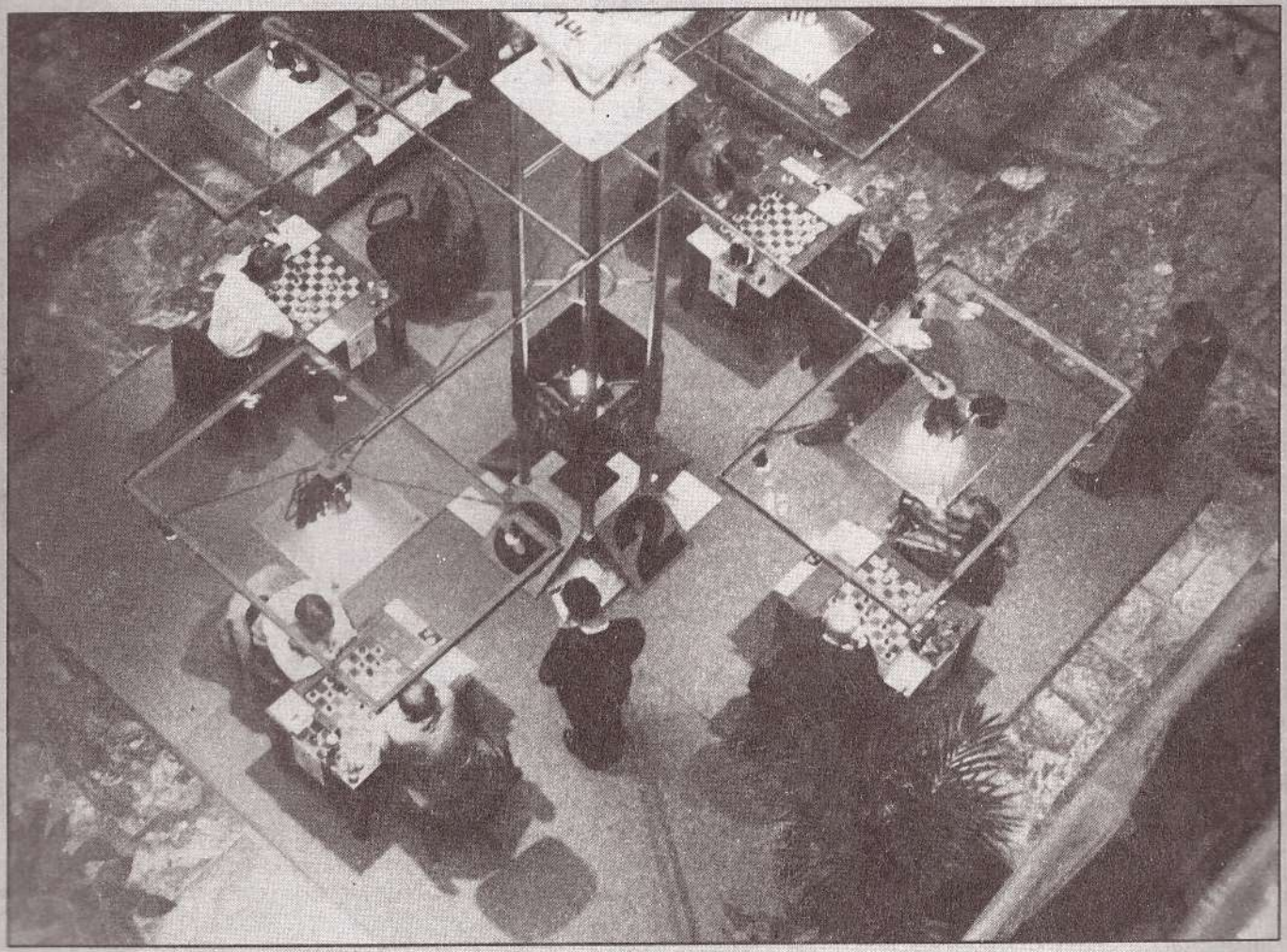
July 11, 1994 Volume 7, Issue 13 U.S. $3.50

The Best in Chess Every Two Weeks

INSIDE CHESS 13



Intel Quarterfinals

Kamsky, Anand, Short and Adams are the Winners

Kamsky, Anand, Short and Adams Win in New York

The $200,000 PCA Quarterfinal Playoffs were held in New York's Trump Tower June 6-18. All the participants agreed beforehand to split the pot evenly; so each had a $25,000 payday, and the winners will go on to make $50,000 apiece for the Semifinals.

Kamsky 4.5—Kramnik 1.5 ..... (p. 3)
Anand 5.0—Romanishin 2.0 ..... (p. 10)
Short OT—Gulko..... (p. 14)
Adams OT—Tiviakov ..... (p. 22)

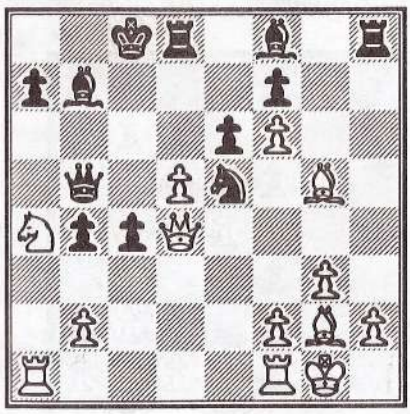
Annotations by GM Yasser Seirawan

The story behind this game was revealed in the match bulletins. Apparently, New York IM Jay Bonin has experimented with the following Queen sacrifice in some of his games. Gata is, of course, a fellow New Yorker and was able to out-prepare his opponent in this devilish variation.

Semi-Slav Anti-Meran D44

GM Gata Kamsky
GM Vladimir Kramnik
PCA New York (cm-1) 1994

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6 Bb7 12.g3 c5 13.d5 Qb6 14.Bg2 O-O-O 15.O-O b4 16.Na4 Qb5 17.a3 Ne5 18.axb4 cxb4 19.Qd4



I've passed over the preceding moves without comment, as they represent the current theory for this line, with which I'm unfamiliar. My erstwhile Slavophile Associate Editor IM John Donaldson is the expert in this area. Unfortunately, John is on the road at this time. Suffice to say, we now arrive at the crucial position.

White's last looks immediately overwhelming, as it hits Black's e5-Knight and a7-pawn. Overwhelming, that is, until you realize that ...Ne5-c6 is both legal and good. We now enter "Bonin territory."

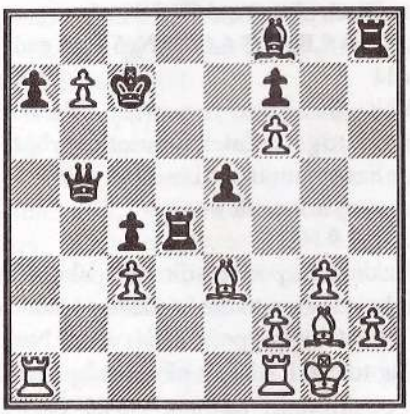
19...Nc6 20.dxc6! Rxd4 21.cxb7+ Kc7

GM Michael Rohde, in the bulletins, considers this the best move. Michael notes that the weaker 21...Kb8 was previously played.

22.Be3 e5!

Forced and good. If, for example, 22...Rd8? 23.Bxa7, it's not hard to see that the game will soon be over. The b7-pawn is a monster and White will win control over the b6-square. Black's last move is undoubtedly the reason that this whole Queen sacrifice idea hadn't been enthusiastically taken up by White. Two pieces for the Queen with an offside a4-Knight appears too speculative. But the position contains a lot of tricks!

23.Nc3!! bxc3 24.bxc3



An extraordinary position. White has but a Bishop and two pawns for his Queen! This brings up a contingent pet peeve of mine. In an article written for *Chess Life*, PCA Champion Garry Kasparov waxes eloquent about his brilliant game three from his 1990 match with Anatoly Karpov. In that game, Garry essayed a KID and sacrificed his Queen for two pieces. He was so full of excessive praise for his conception that it went beyond the bounds of good, or even bad, taste. Garry asserted it was possible perhaps in one game in a million to sacrifice one's Queen for two pieces. This is so plainly ridiculous that I'm surprised it survived the proofreaders. One has only to think of the Bronstein Queen sacrifice in the same KID to realize that sacrificing your Queen for two pieces is, in fact, rather common! I'd say one game in fifty is closer to the mark. If this were Garry's game, one shudders to think how he might describe the depth of this conception.

Okay. Pet peeve out of the way. The position is grim for Black, who has a lot of problems. He has to part with his d4-Rook and will have to face Rook, Bishop and, worst of all, the b7-pawn. It's possible that Black is lost, in which case this particular line of the Slav is in serious need of an overhaul.

24...Bc5

Forced.

25.cxd4!?

It's conceivable that this capture is premature. Winning a tempo with 25.Rfb1 looks better, but 25...Rd1+! 26.Rxd1 Bxe3 27.fxe3 Qc5 and Black is still kicking. Another try is 25.Rab1 Qa6 26.Rfe1!? I suspect, due to the forcing nature of the whole idea, that we are still in Gata's preparation and that he had worked out the following line at home.

25...Bxd4 26.Rfb1 Qc5

Because the Black Queen finds such a handsome c5-perch, I questioned White's capture on move twenty-five.

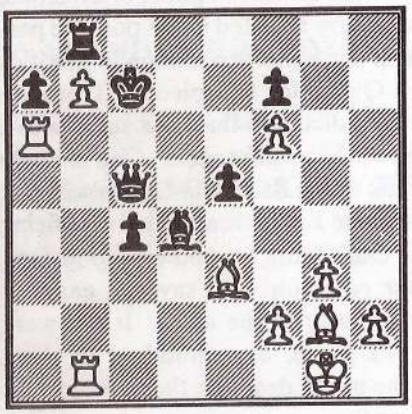
27.Ra6

With the threat of Ra6-c6+ and an

	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
Kamsky	1	1	½	½	½	1	4½
Kramnik	0	0	½	½	½	0	1½

eventual transposition into a Bishops-of-opposite-colors ending. Not a happy choice for Black, given the weak f7-pawn and White's kingside majority. Vladimir now avoids the line 27...Bxe3 28.Rc6+ (28.fxe3!?) 28...Qxc6 30.Bxc6 Bd4 31.Bd5 c3 32.Bxf7, intending Bf7-g6 with a big kingside.

27...Rb8



Inviting the Rook ending 28.Rc6+ Qxc6 29.Bxc6 Kxc6, when due to his queenside pawns, Black's chances aren't to be underestimated. Gata switches ideas.

28.Bc1!!

Very nice. The power of this move becomes obvious only when one realizes that Bc1-a3-d6 is lights out. Still, the reason that I like the move so much is because it's not easy to give up the f2-pawn – with check no less – and put your King into a potential coffin.

28...c3

Vladimir wasn't happy with the offered f2-pawn. It's clear that 28...Bxf2+ 29.Kh1 Bxg3 30.Ba3 Qd4 31.Bd6+ Qxd6 32.Rxd6 Kxd6 33.hxg3 lands Black in a lost ending.

29.Ba3 Qc4 30.Bd6+ Kd7

Black can't afford 30...Kd8? 31.Bxb8 c2 32.Bc7+ Kd7 33.Bh3+, when White's b-pawn queens with check.

31.Bc6+ Ke6 32.Bb5 Bxf2+

Black has no choice. White is threatening Bd6xb8 with discovered check!

33.Kxf2 Qd4+ 34.Kf1 Qe4 35.Re1 Qh1+ 36.Kf2 Qxh2+ 37.Kf3 Rxb7 38.Bxe5+ Rb6

Neither now nor on the following move is ...Ke6-f5 possible, as g3-g4+ wins the Queen.

39.Bc4+ Kd7 40.Rxa7+ Kc8

White's Rooks and Bishops weave a fine net. If 40...Kc6, then 41.Rc7 checkmate! The end comes suddenly.

41.Rc7+ 1-0

A good time to stop the clock. Otherwise 41...Kd8 42.Rd1+ Ke8 43.Bxf7+ and Rd1-d8 leads to mate. And 41...Kb8 42.Rxf7+ Kc8 43.Rc7+ Kb8 44.Rh7+ picks up Black's Queen. A pretty game which once again demonstrates the vital importance of having opening novelties in one's arsenal. It's as crucial as the quick draw was to western gunslingers.

English A17

GM Vladimir Kramnik
GM Gata Kamsky
PCA New York (cm-2) 1994

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3

Vladimir's move order is designed to avoid main line QID as well as the Nimzo-Indian Defense. Also by delaying d2-d4, White avoids the lines in the Romanishin variation where Black plays a quick ...Nf6-e4.

4...O-O 5.Bg2 c5 6.O-O Nc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4

White has done very well. He has managed to get a Catalan variation where Black has committed himself to ...Bf8-b4, which may not work out.

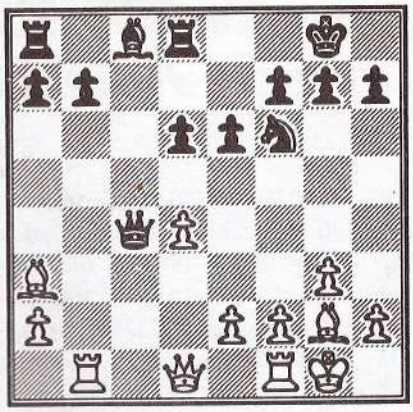
8...Qe7 9.Nc2

Tackling the position directly. Vladimir puts the question to the b4-Bishop. White also has interesting possibilities with 9.Ne4, hoping to catch Black's pieces misplaced. The positionally suspect 9.e4!? Qc5!? 10.Be3 Bxc3 11.Nb5 Qxc4 12.Nd6 offers compensation for the one or two pawns that White is tossing away.

9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 Rd8 11.Ba3 d6 12.Rb1

A sensible developing move, but one that fails to crack the whip. Crucial was 12.Nd4 Ne5 13.Qb3, with real chances of pressuring the d6-pawn.

12...Qc7 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Qxc4



Vladimir has achieved the kind of position he wanted: good piece play and attacking chances for a pawn. From Gata's perspective, the opening move order has given White a plus. Now at least he's got an extra pawn and perhaps things can balance themselves out.

15.Qd2 Qa6 16.Rb3 Rb8 17.e4 Bd7 18.Re1 Ba4 19.Rf3 Rbc8

Black has successfully developed his pieces and earned a pawn as well. A fine bargain. White, however, has the two Bishops, a nice center and is massed for a kingside blowout. White's compensation hinges on his ability to involve his a3-Bishop in the attack.

20.Bf1 Bb5! 21.Bh3 Qa4!

Preparing a counterattack with ...Rc8-c2. An idea such as 22.Rxf6 gxf6 23.Bc1 might work out for White, but 22...Qxa3! would be cool defense. Vladimir tries to make room for the a3-Bishop.

22.d5 Rc2 23.Qe3 exd5 24.e5 d4!

Gata reacts well under fire. He avoids 24...dxe5? 25.Be7, which allows White to bring his Bishop into the attack.

25.Qg5

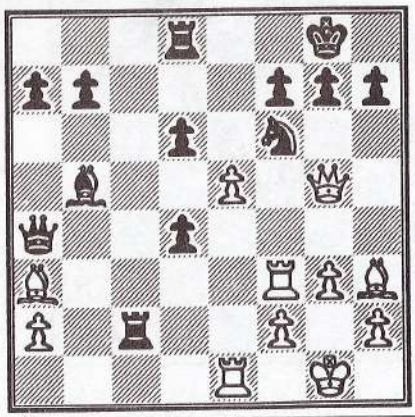




photo by: Kevin Dyke

PCA Commissioner Bob Rice with The Donald and The Marla.

White appears to be on the verge of breaking through.

25...Re2!

But this is a show stopper. White is forced to throw in a Rook to keep the attack alive, but it now seems doubtful. As in boxing, a good defense can be a powerful offense.

26.exf6 Rxe1+ 27.Bf1 Rxf1+ 28.Kg2 Rg1+ 29.Kh3

Walking the plank. Otherwise 29.Kxg1 Qd1+ allows a quick mate.

29...Bd7+ 30.Kh4 g6 31.Qh6

It looks like White wins, but Gata had calculated a defense.

31...d3+ 32.Rf4 Qxf4+ 33.Qxf4

A forced recapture: 33.gxf4? Rg4+ 34.Kh3 Rg5+! 35.Kh4 Rh5+ cold-heartedly stops the mate.

33...Rh1!

A standup shot. Now White has to worry about his own King.

34.g4 h6! 35.Kh3 g5 36.Qd4 d2 37.Qxd2 Rg1 38.f3 Bb5 0-1

A sterling example of defense by Gata. This puts him up 2-0 in a stunning surprise.

Semi-Slav Anti-Meran D43

GM Gata Kamsky
GM Vladimir Kramnik
PCA New York (cm-3) 1994

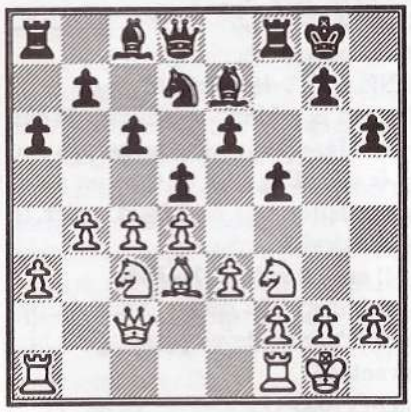
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 h6!?

It appears the Botvinnik Gambit (5...dxc4) is in the repair shop after taking a beating in game one. The text gains Black the two Bishops, but gives up space and time. Players who don't want to get immersed in complexities of the Gambit, like it as a secondary defense.

6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 Nd7 8.Bd3 Qd8 9.O-O Be7 10.a3 O-O 11.Qc2 a6 12.b4!?

Thus far, the players have been trying to outfox one another. Gata doesn't want to play e2-e4, because Black would answer with ...d5xc4 and ...b7-b5. Instead, he wants to force Black to declare how he wants to develop.

12...f5!?



Fortunately for Vladimir, this move isn't as bad as it looks. He wants to play a Dutch Defense with White having given up his dark-squared Bishop. Fair enough, but his queenside looks horribly weak.

13.Na4

Gata could also keep a long-term plus by simple means, e.g., 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Bd7 16.Ne2 Rc8 17.Qb2, but decides to play for more.

13...Bd6 14.Nc5 Qf6

Now it is possible to answer c4xd5 with ...e6xd5!, keeping the c-file closed. The gamble with 12...f5 hasn't hurt.

15.Rac1 g5 16.Qc3 g4 17.Nxd7 Bxd7 18.Ne5 Be8 19.f4!

Not a happy move, but a necessary one. The text seems objectionable, since it gives the bad e8-Bishop a role in the game. Still, I view 19.f4! as a wise precaution. White can try to force matters on the queenside with c4-c5 and an eventual b4-b5, but that would give Black a free hand on the kingside. It wouldn't be too long before White would be staring at ...f5-f4 and lots of worries.

19...gxf3 20.Rxf3 Kh8 21.Rh3 Rg8 22.Rf1 Rg5

Black is still trying to develop an attack and he might do so if given the time to play ...Qf6-g7 and develop his a8-Rook.



23.e4!

A move that is very much in sync with 18.f4! Gata isn't content to await developments. He is trying to force the action as much as possible, hoping that this will land him in control of the fight.

23...dxe4 24.Bxe4 Bh5!

Not a moment too soon. Vladimir is just in time to develop his e8-Bishop, otherwise White would play Be4-f3 and measure his opportunity for b4-b5.

25.Bf3 Bxf3 26.Rfxf3

As 26.Rxh6+?? Qxh6 27.Nf7+ Kh7 28.Nxh6 Rxg2+ wins for Black.

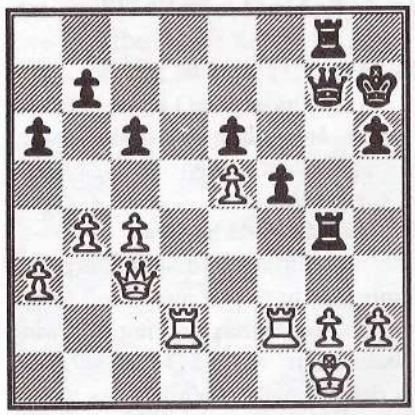
26...Kh7 27.Rf2?

Both players have played very forcefully to this point. The indecisive 27.Rf2? is not in the spirit of the position. After 27.Rfg3! Rag8 28.Rxg5 Rxg5 (28...Qxg5 29.Rg3) 29.Re3 Qg7 30.Qc2!, White has a plus. The text skips a heartbeat and turns a plus into a minus.

27...Bxe5! 28.dxe5 Qg7 29.Rd3

Gata must have assumed that his control of the d-file was more important than Black's control of the g-file.

29....Rg8 30.Rdd2 Rg4!



And this is the rub. In fact, a lot can be learned from studying this position. Black can use the g-file for operations, whereas White has to be concerned about

three weak pawns: the c4-, e5- and g2-pawns. Black will use his h6-pawn as a battering ram. A dream would be to force g2-g3, when the attack would move ahead quickly, indeed. Gata is on the verge of seeing his game slip away, but now we see one of the youngster's great strengths in action. He simply bears down and refuses to lose!

31.Rfe2 Kh8?

Pretending that he knows where his King belongs. Black can't possibly know the answer to that question, at least at this juncture. What is critical, however, is to introduce the h6-pawn at once. For Black to win, this little guy has to step up and be a hero. 31...h5 and ...h5-h4 was needed.

32.c5!

One less weakness to worry about.

32...Qg5 33.Qb3 Qh4 34.Qe3

Avoiding the horrific 34.Qxe6?? Rxg2+ 35.Rxg2 Qe1—checkmate!

34...R8g7 35.Qf3 Kh7 36.Qe3 Qh5 37.Qf3 Qg5!

Winning the Queen for two Rooks by 37...Rxg2+? 38.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 39.Rxg2 is bad for Black due to his vulnerable King.

38.Qd3 Qf4 39.Rd1 Rh4! 40.g3 Rhg4

Mission accomplished. Vladimir has managed to provoke g2-g3. It's time to introduce the h6-fella.

41.Kh1 Qg5 42.Qe3 Qh5?

Black's Rooks are no longer ideal. He would like to play 42...Qg6 and press matters with the h6-pawn, but White could swap off a Rook by 43.Rd4. The text aims to prevent this. However, following 42...Qg6 43.Rd4 h5 44.Rxg4 Qxg4 45.Rf2 Rd7!, Black is still better due to the weak e5-pawn. A nice line might run 46.Rf4? Qd1+ 47.Kg2 Rd2+ 48.Kh3? Kg6, setting up ...Qd1-g4+.

43.Qf3 Qh3?

A classic mistake. The Queen shouldn't lead her battering ram. Returning with 43...Qg5 or 43...Qg6 is better for Black.

44.Re3 h5 45.Red3 h4 Draw

A strange moment to split the point. Vladimir may have just awakened to the realization that he has nothing following the Queen trade: 46.Qg2 Qxg2+ 47.Kxg2 with a draw in sight. While Gata wasn't lost at any point in the game, he got off far too lightly. Vladimir should be upset with himself for not getting more out of this ending.

English A35

GM Vladimir Kramnik
GM Gata Kamsky
PCA New York (cm-4) 1994

1.Nf3

The whole world was clued in to the fact that Vladimir, trailing by two points, had to win this game.

1...c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5!? 4.e3!

The text puts the most pressure on Black's opening. After 4.g3 g6 the players would be playing a Botvinnik pawn-triangle formation, which gives Black a solid game. Since move one, Black has been fighting for the control of the d4-square. White meets him there.

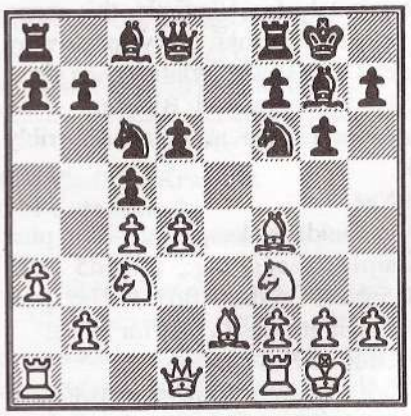
4...Nf6 5.a3!? d6 6.Be2 g6?

The text is asking for trouble. White plans d2-d4, opening the game up, and Black is spending a lot of time on pawn moves. Better was 6...Bf5 in order to meet d2-d4 with ...e5-e4.

7.d4! exd4 8.exd4 Bg7 9.Bf4

9.dxc5 dxc5 10.Qxd8+ Nxd8 11.Bf4 and White's freer development gives him an advantage.

9...O-O 10.O-O



Gata is facing enormous problems. Exchanging on d4 leaves him with a weak d6-pawn. He also faces White exchanging on c5 and playing Bf4-d6, clipping his c5-pawn. What to do?

10...Bf5?

Transposing into a bad Benoni position. Gata hates giving up material, but a line such as 10...cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Nh5 13.Qxd6 Nxf4 14.Qxf4 Be6 or 14...Bxc3 offers fair compensation.

11.d5

This is probably stronger than 11.dxc5 dxc5 12.Bd6 Re8 13.Bxc5 Ne4, which allows Black to activate his pieces.

11...Ne7 12.Nd2!

Preventing Black from exchanging any pieces, which would relieve his cramped position. Strategically speaking, Black is busted.

12...h6 13.h4?

Until now Vladimir has played with great finesse and understanding, but the text misses its mark by a Texas mile. Clearly, Black's pieces are entangled. All that's necessary now is to take away their remaining squares. White's most pointed would have been 13.g4 g5 (13...Bc8 14.Bg3 leaves Black choking for squares) 14.gxf5 gxf4 15.Bd3 Nd7 16.Qh5 Ne5 17.Be4 with Nc3-e2 in view.

13...Bc8 14.g3?

Makes no sense. Vladimir seems to be struggling with himself. He must decide whether to play for the attack with 14.g4 or to sit on the position and wait for a blunder. His inner turmoil produces another mistake.

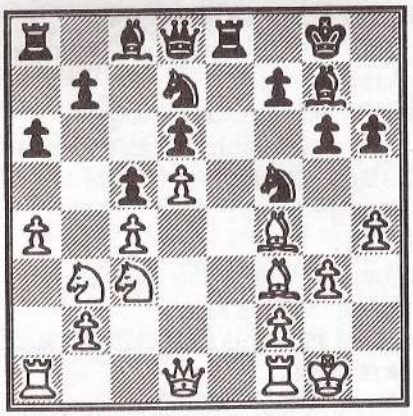
14...Nf5!

Remember when I said Black's pieces have no squares? It's no longer true. The f5-square makes an excellent outpost, thank you very much! The Benoni's nature is such that once Black gets the initiative, White's game can fall apart very quickly.

15.Nb3

Pathetic. White wants to stop ...Nf5-d4, but the b3-Knight is terribly misplaced. From a strategic win to a strategic horror—so quickly!

15...a6 16.a4 Re8 17.Bf3 Nd7!



Now Gata's position is really beginning to jell. With ...g6-g5 and ...Nd7-e5 it's game over. Black wins!

18.Qd2 Ne5 19.Bxe5

A terrible concession, but Vladimir wasn't enamored of 19.Be2 Nd4 20.Nxd4 exd4 21.Ne4 d3!, with a big advantage for Black.

19...Bxe5?!

Too frisky. Gata is counting on his good fortune to allow him to play ...Nf5xh4. After 19...Rxe5! 20.Bg2 Qb6 Black could

win control of the whole board.

20.Bg2 Bd7 21.Rae1 Qb6 22.Nc1 Bg7 23.b3

Despite White's woeful position, Black has to still win it.

23...Nd4

Another tempting line was 23...Qa5 24.Ne4 Qxd2 25.Nxd2 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1 Bc3 27.Rd1 Bxd2 28.Rxd2 Nd4 29.Rb2 b5, leading to a very nice plus for Black. Admittedly, no one wants to give up the g7-monster, but this line goes to show how nice Black's position is.

24.Re3 Bf5!?

I don't see anything wrong with grabbing a pawn: 24...Nxb3 25.Nxb3 (25.Qb2? Rxe3 26.fxe3 Qb4 wins) 25...Qxb3 26.Ne4 (26.Nb5? Rxe3 wins) 26...Qb6 27.a5 Qc7. White's got some chances, but should lose in the long run.

25.Ne4 Bxe4 26.a5!

An important *Zwischenzug*. White is able to neutralize the pressure against his b3-base.

26...Qc7 27.Rxe4 Rxe4 28.Bxe4 Re8 29.Bg2 b6 30.axb6 Qxb6

Gata is still better (compare Bishops) but he has lost the lion's share of his advantage.

31.Re1! Rxe1+ 32.Qxe1 Nxb3 33.Qe8+ Bf8 34.Qc6!

White's point. He now equalizes.

34...Qb4 35.Nxb3 Qxb3 36.Qxa6 Draw

A lucky escape for both players?

Semi-Slav Marshall D31

GM Gata Kamsky
GM Vladimir Kramnik
PCA New York (cm-5) 1994

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e6

Vladimir often uses this move order to get the kind of Slav variation that he wants. He runs the risk of the 4.e4 Gambit, but Gata wouldn't risk that line with a two point lead, right?

4.e4

Wrong! You've got to admire Gata's fighting qualities. He plays right into the teeth of Kramnik's pet lines.

4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 c5 9.Bc3 f6!?

A nice idea. Black reasons that White's compensation must lie on the dark squares. Therefore, he decides to deactivate the c3-Bishop.

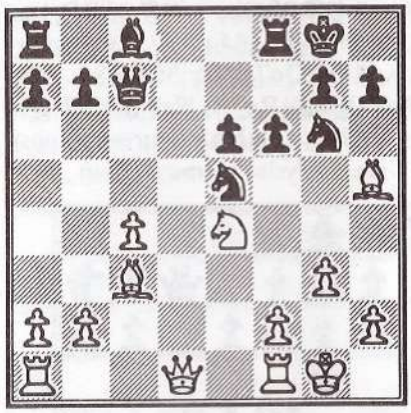
10.Nf3?!

This looks a little slow. White needs to crack his development whip as quickly as possible. The direct 10.Qd6 Nd7 (10...Qc6 11.Qg3 Kf7 12.Bh5+ g6 13.Bf3 favors White.) 11.O-O-O, intending Be2-h5+ and Bh5-f3, has a crispier feel.

10...Qf4 11.O-O Nc6 12.Nd2

This move shows that Gata isn't comfortable with the position of his pieces. Since his compensation for the pawn lies in his development advantage and his two Bishops, that compensation is slipping away. So Black's ...f7-f6 has reaped an additional benefit.

12...Nge7 13.Bh5+ Ng6 14.g3 Qc7 15.Ne4 O-O 16.Nxc5 Nce5 17.Ne4



Black has every reason to be pleased with his position. Safe King, fair development and soon, an extra pawn.

17...Qxc4!?

Playing for a tactical brawl. Vladimir is trying to entice Ne4-d6, hoping the Knight will be trapped. The crucial question is, Why didn't Black play 17...Rd8 first? Vladimir probably didn't like 18.Nd2 Nxc4 19.Rc1 b5 20.b3 Nxd2 21.Bxf6, when a lot of Black-colored pieces are *en prise*.

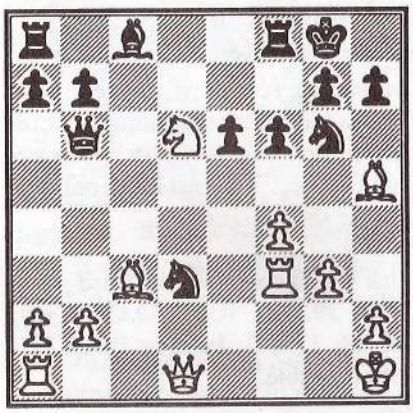
18.Nd6 Qa6 19.f4

An ugly, but necessary, move. In view of ...Rf8-d8, Gata has to keep lashing out wildly, hoping he will somehow land on his feet.

19...Nd3!?

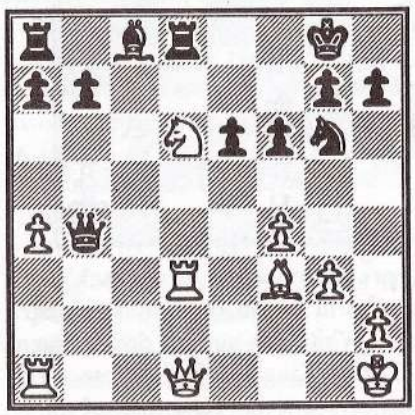
Not 19...Rd8?? 20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 fxe5 22.Bf7+ Kh8 23.Be8 and White wins. An alternative was 19...Nf7!? with a solid position.

20.Rf3 Qb6+ 21.Kh1!



Both players had certainly calculated this far from 17...Qxc4. Vladimir probably thought that he was winning, since 21.Kg2 Nxb2 is strong for Black. The text move looks unplayable, but 21...Nf2+ 22.Rxf2 Qxf2 23.Bd4 and 21...Nxb2 22.Bxb2 Qxb2 23.Rb3 Qf2 24.Ne4 both ensnare Black's Queen! Black decides to live with the White Knight on d6.

21...Nc5 22.b4 Na6 23.a4 Rd8 24.Rd3 Nxb4 25.Bxb4 Qxb4 26.Bf3



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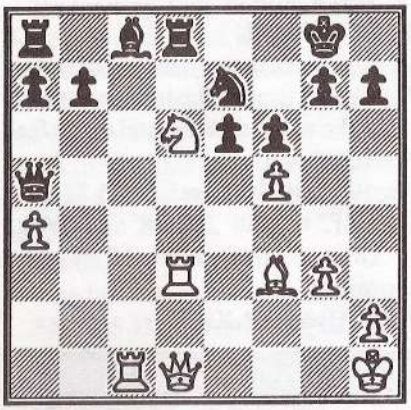
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Black has picked up a second pawn, but he won't be able to keep both. Instead, he hopes to force a few exchanges to ease the pressure and to keep one pawn for a good ending.

26...Qa5

Still concerned about his Queen. After 26...Rb8 27.a5 b6 28.a6, Black has reason to be worried.

27.Rc1 Ne7 28.f5!



Continuing to throw patties, Gata recognizes the futility of winning back the b7-pawn, when he'd still have a long and difficult defense. The text is the only way to increase the pressure.

28...Kf8

Black would choke on the third pawn: 28...Nxf5 29.Nxf5 Rxd3 30.Qxd3 exf5 31.Qd6 h6 32.Rc7, landing Black in a thicket of trouble.

29.Bg2

Continuing to play for the initiative. Cashing his chips with 29.fxe6 Bxe6 30.Nxb7 Rxd3 31.Qxd3 Qf5 relieves the pressure. The text introduces the idea of Qd1-h5.

29...g6 30.fxg6 hxg6



A pregnant moment. Black's c8-Bishop is still shut in, but he has two extra pawns. White has superb development and Black's King is a little loose. The conditions seem ripe for a tactical rip.

31.Qb3?

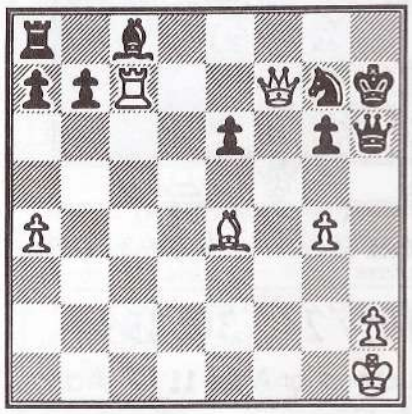
This move fails to address the needs of the position. Sometimes even Grandmasters blindly follow the precept, "Don't trade your attacking pieces for defensive ones." This fine piece of advice can sometimes be carried too far. In this particular position, White's Queen is playing a somewhat limited role. She needs to excel. Her Achilles' heel is the pressure that the d8-Rook is exerting on the d-file. Take the d3- and d8-Rooks off the board and the d1-Queen might well spring to life, moves such as Qd1-d4, ...Qa5-e5 and Qd4-h4 come to mind.

Therefore, 31.Ne4! Rxd3 32.Qxd3 unshackles the Queen and puts immediate pressure on Black's position. Here are some nice ideas:

a 32...Qe5? 33.Qd8+ wins. The Black Queen must defend the d8-square.

b 32...Kg7 33.Qd6 Nd5 (33...Nf5 34.Rc7+ Kh6 35.Qf8+ wins or 33...Nc6 34.Nxf6 Kxf6 35.Qf8+ and Rc1-c5+) 34.Nxf6 Kxf6 35.Qf8+ Ke5 36.Qg7+!? Kd6 (36...Nf6 37.Rf1) 37.Qf8+ with at least a perpetual. Besides 36.Qg7+, White could try for more.

c 32...Nd5 33.Nxf6 Nxf6 34.Qd6+ (34.Qxg6 Qf5 35.Qh6+ Kf7 36.Rf1 Qg6 holds) 34...Kf7 (34...Kg7? 35.Qe7+; 34...Kg8 35.Qe7 Nh5 36.Qe8+ Kh7 37.Be4 Qg5 38.Rc7+ Ng7 39.Qf7 Qh6 40.g4 lead to a rather picturesque position – see analysis diagram below) . . .



Analysis Diagram

. . . back to line **c**: 35.Rc7+ Bd7 36.Rxd7+ Nxd7 37.Qxd7+ Kf6 and Black has braved the storm.

Line **c** 32...Nd5 may be Black's best. But in this position, there are many ideas for White too: 33.Nc3 Nxc3 34.Rxc3 places the burden upon Black to develop his pieces. And don't forget about the hanging g6-pawn.

In short, I think the position after 30...hxg6 offers an excellent chance for players to exercise their attacking ideas. The upshot of all this is that Gata has excellent compensation for his two pawns.

31...Nc6 32.Nc4 Qc7 33.Rxd8+

Gata accomplishes the Rook exchange in less favorable circumstances. Black's Queen now serves a larger defensive function.

33...Qxd8?!

An understandable, if mistaken, recapture. Vladimir wants to block the h1-a8 diagonal and comfort his f6-pawn. Still, preference should have been given to 33...Nxd8, pinning along the c-file and preparing ...Nd8-f7, protecting the King. Compared with the analysis above, the Knight on f7 would serve much better than an e7-Knight. I don't see how White stops the moves, ...Nd8-f7, ...Kf8-g7 and ...Qc7-e7, guarding everything. An obvious loser for White is 34.Qa3+? Qe7 35.Nd6 Nf7, allowing Black to accomplish everything he longs for.

34.Rd1 Qe7

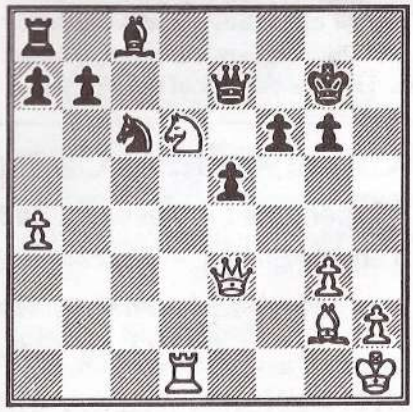
Bad for Black is 34...Nd4? 35.Qe3 e5 36.Nxe5, winning.

35.Nd6

Now White is back to having some compensation.

35...e5 36.Qe3 Kg7?

As White threatens Qe3-h6+, Vladimir was quick to cover the threat. He might've asked himself how strong the threat was. Best was 36...Bg4! 37.Qh6+ Qg7 38.Qxg7+ Kxg7 39.Rb1 Na5!, when Black will land in an ending a pawn to the good.



37.Qc5!

Undoubtedly, this powerful move was underestimated by Vladimir when he played ...Kf8-g7. White threatens Bg2xc6 and Nd6-f5+, among other things.

37...Bd7

Giving back both pawns to relieve the pressure. Black's last opportunity was 37...Kh7 38.Nxb7 (38.Bxc6 bxc6 39.Qxc6 Bg4) 38...Bxb7 39.Qxe7+ Nxe7 40.Bxb7 Re8 41.Rd7 Kh6, keeping an extra pawn in a drawn ending. The rest of the game goes smoothly for both sides.

38.Nxb7 Qxc5 39.Nxc5 Be8 40.Ne6+ Kf7 41.Nc7 Rc8 42.Nxe8 Kxe8 43.Rd6 Nd4 44.Rxf6 Ke7 45.Rf1 Rc4 46.Be4 g5 47.Rf7+ Kxf7 48.Bd5+ Kf6 49.Bxc4 e4 50.Kg2 e3 Draw

All the fireworks are over and the game is drawn. A fascinating struggle that clinched the match for Gata. When you can't win two pawns up, what can you expect?

English A32

GM Vladimir Kramnik
GM Gata Kamsky

PCA New York (cm-6) 1994

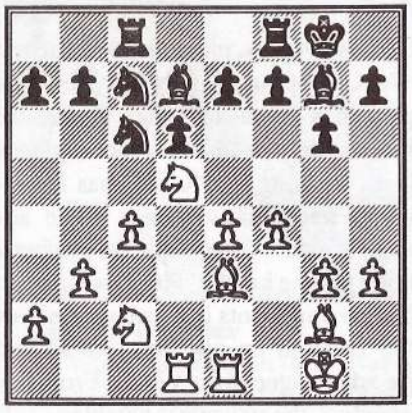
1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.g3 Qb6

Gata continues to challenge Catalan-type positions. A rather brave decision.

6.Nc2 d6 7.Bg2 g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.O-O O-O 10.b3

In my view, White already has an enormous advantage. Black's center will be under pressure for a long time to come and he has no real chances for counterplay.

10...Be6 11.e4 Bg4 12.Qe1 Rac8 13.h3 Bd7 14.Be3 Qa5 15.Nd5 Qxe1 16.Rfxe1 Ne8 17.Rad1 Nc7 18.f4



It's been difficult to comment on the previous moves, because Gata has made so many bad decisions. Okay, this is about as horrible a Maroczy Bind position as you'll ever see and Vladimir must win. But Gata hates to lose, so let the comments begin!

18...Rfd8

Black should avoid exchanging Knights on d5, since after exd5 the e7-pawn will be exposed.

19.Re2 Ne8?

A tactical oversight. Black didn't want to play 19...Kf8, since after 20.c5 dxc5 21.Bxc5 there are some unhappy things about the a3-f8 diagonal. Still, after 21...b6 Black is kicking. The move 19...Kf8 would be a prelude to keeping the position by defending the e7-pawn or sometimes playing ...Kf8-e8, fortifying the d-file.

20.Bxa7!

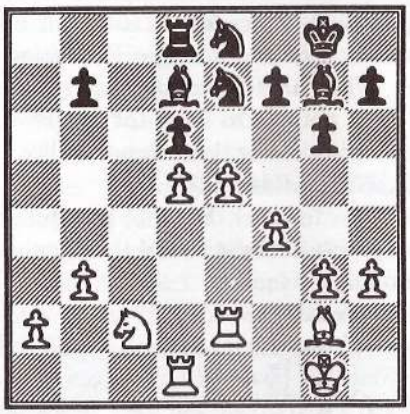
An enterprising sacrifice. White gets two pawns and a Rook for two pieces, but Black has no working space for his pieces.

20...e6 21.Bb6 exd5 22.cxd5 Ne7 23.Bxd8?

A lazy move. Combined with White's next move it appears to give Vladimir a totally overwhelming position. This might be true and it might not.

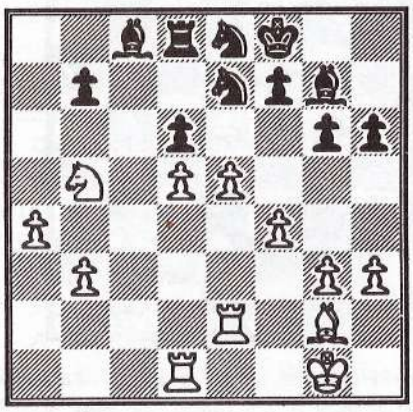
What is clear is that the c2-Knight needs a job. Quick, what's the best square? Put the steed on c4, and then watch the impact of e4-e5! Therefore 23.Na3!, preparing to occupy the c-file, is the nutcracker. If 23...Nc7?, then 24.e5 (24.Rc2!? Nb5 25.Bxd8 Nxa3!?) 24...Be8 25.Nc4 wins. Therefore, 23.Na3! Ra8 24.Bxd8 Rxd8 25.Rc2, planning Bg2-f1, gives White a big advantage.

23...Rxd8 24.e5



White's position does look impressive, but around here I began to have my doubts about how big White's advantage really is. The first problem is the g2-Bishop. Is it really so strong? And what about White's Rooks? Are they flogging Black on the open files? The truth is, the position is an optical illusion. White's center pawns look so massively powerful, we're convinced that White is winning! In fact, White's last move may well be a mistake! The f5-square could easily become a sturdy outpost for a Black Knight.

24...Kf8! 25.Nd4 Bc8 26.Nb5 h6! 27.a4



Take another look at the diagram. What has changed since the previous one? Not much, right? It seems as if White has improved his position by activating his Knight. This is true. But Black's previous "little" moves have set up the moment for a big step.

27...g5!

Not just ornery resistance, this is a real counterattack. White's center is falling apart fast. Black now threatens ...g5xf4 and ...Ne7-g6, winning! The once proud pawns are beginning to look overextended.

28.Rde1 gxf4 29.gxf4 Bd7

White was prepared to meet 29...Ng6? by 30.e6 and f4-f5. The text invites a capture on d6, when after ...Ne7-f5xd6 Black has the advantage.

30.Na3 Bf5! 31.Nc4 Ng6!

The tide is beginning to turn. Black's pieces are taking up active posts.

32.e6 fxe6!

Sterling defense. Gata didn't like activating the g2-Bishop, but the text avoids lines like 32...Bf6? 33.exf7! Ng7 34.Re8+ Nxe8 35.fxe8=Q+ Rxe8 36.Rxe8+ Kxe8 37.Nxd6+, winning.

33.dxe6 Ne7!

Now the e-pawn blockade is securely in place. Black needs to move his g7-Bishop, bring up his King and pick up the e6-pawn. The position is becoming "safe" for Black.

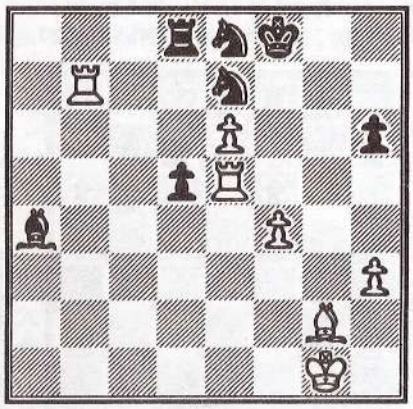
34.Rd1

If 34.Bxb7, then 34...Rb8 35.Bg2 Rxb3, trading off material, doesn't help White.

34...d5 35.Ne5 Bxe5!

Sometimes it is important to get rid of the piece that can hurt you. In this case the e5-Knight was dangerous to Black.

36.Rxe5 Bc2 37.Rd4 Bxb3 38.Rb4 Bc2 39.Rxb7 Bxa4



That does it. The draw is nearly in hand. Once Black plays ...Ne8-f6, it will be impossible to get to the dark squares.

40.Rh5

One last trick to be tried.

40...Nd6 41.Rc7 Be8!

Gata had to avoid 41...Ndf5?? 42.Rxf5+ Nxf5 43.Rf7+ with chances for White.

42.Rxh6 Kg7 43.Rh5?

A horrible illusion. Vladimir has pinned the e7-Knight, so I guess that he thought the Rook couldn't be captured. After 43.Rh4 Ndf5 44.Rg4+ Kf6 Gata has earned his draw.

43...Bxh5 44.Rxe7+ Kf6 45.Ra7?

Kramnik has a death wish. He could still draw with 45.Rd7 and Bg2xd5. Now the match comes to a stunning conclusion.

45...Ne4 46.f5 Kxf5 47.e7 Rg8 48.Rd7 Ke6 49.Rd8 Be8 50.Kh2 Nf6 0-1

A shocker. A sweep against Vladimir Kramnik is a fantastic achievement. My sincerest congratulations to Gata on a fine victory indeed.

Anand–Romanishin

Grunfeld Fianchetto D73

GM Oleg Romanishin
GM Viswanathan Anand

PCA New York (cm-1) 1994

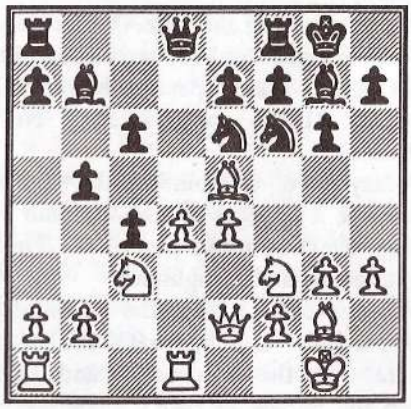
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6

Recently Vishy has taken to spelling his main line defense – the Slav – with the Grunfeld. Oleg has a tendency to play a kingside fianchetto versus the Grunfeld which makes Vishy's choice a little easier.

3.g3 Bg7 4.c4 d5 5.Bg2 dxc4!? 6.O-O!?

A surprising choice, as 6.Na3 c3 7.bxc3 is now considered to favor White. The text commits White to a gambit. An enterprising decision for the first game of the match.

6...c6 7.Nc3 O-O 8.h3 Na6 9.e4 b5 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Nc7 12.Bf4 Ne6 13.Be5



White has a nice center and good pieces for his pawn deficit. Black has an extra pawn and no weaknesses. It's a matter of taste, but I prefer Black.

13...Qb6 14.d5

This move spoils White's center, but his game has reached an impasse. How to proceed? Since Black is to put his Rooks in play and catch up in development, White has to force the play, else he will have nothing to show for his pawn. The text seems like the only possibility.

14...Nc5 15.Bd4 Nfd7!

In order to break the d4-b6 pin. Black is preparing exchanges and the occupation of the d3-square.

16.b4! cxb3

It's a pity to give up control over d3, but 16...Bxd4 17.Nxd4 Nd3 18.dxc6 Bxc6 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.e5 will cost Black an Exchange.

17.axb3 a5

A sensible move which stops b3-b4. The ambitious 17...b4? 18.Na4 fails, as does 17...Bxd4 18.Nxd4 b4 19.dxc6 bxc3 20.cxb7 Nxb7 21.Ra6, which is good for White.

18.Rac1 Rac8 19.Be3!?

Demonstrative of the futility of his strategy. White has gotten nowhere.

19...Bxc3

It's a pity to give up such a beautiful Bishop, but Black couldn't make lines like 19...Qa6 (19...b4 20.Na4 Qa6 21.Qxa6 Nxa6 22.dxc6 Bxc6 23.Rxc6 Rxc6 24.Rxd7 favors White) 20.dxc6 Bxc6 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.Rxd5 Nxb3 23.Rxc8 Qxc8 24.Qxb5 work out, so he plays to keep his extra pawn.

20.Rxc3 cxd5 21.exd5 b4 22.Rcc1 Ba6!?

Surprising. Vishy may have not liked the ending 22...Qa6 23.Qxa6 Bxa6 24.Nd4, when Nd4-c6 will cause problems.

23.Qa2 a4 24.bxa4 b3 25.Qd2 Qd6 26.Bf4 Qf6 27.Bg5 Qd6 28.Bf4 Qf6 29.Bg5 Draw

Seems like first round jitters with both players happy to get the first game behind them.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
Anand	½	**1**	**1**	½	½	½	**1**	**5.0**
Romanishin	½	**0**	**0**	½	½	½	**0**	**2.0**

Ruy Lopez Chigorin C96

GM Viswanathan Anand
GM Oleg Romanishin

PCA New York (cm-2) 199

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Na5

This line of play, introduced by former World Champion Vassily Smyslov, has long been a staple in Oleg's repertoire and he has won a number of model games with it. Sticking to this line has its advantages and disadvantages. The advantage is clear: Oleg is always playing a position that he knows. The disadvantage is that his opponents can arm themselves to the teeth in an opening that should prove advantageous for White. From this perspective, the struggle is heightened. If Vishy can't break this defense, *c'est la vie* to the White pieces.

10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Bb7!?

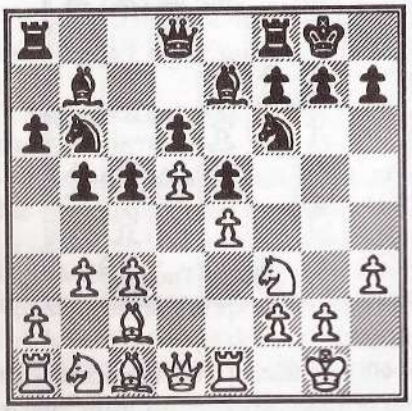
Practically forcing White's next move. Previously, 11...Qc7 was favored. Black reasons that if White closes the center with d4-d5, the c8-Bishop is well placed.

If White keeps the tension in the center, eventually Black will play ...c5xd4 with a hit against the c2-Bishop. A question of taste.

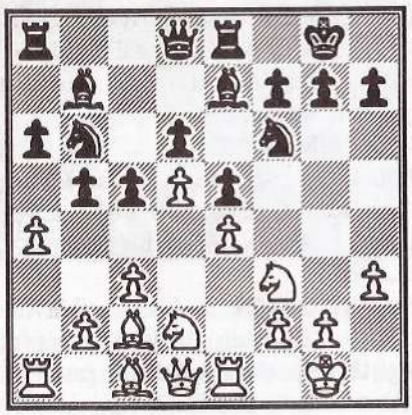
12.d5

Clamping down in the center. This is the prelude in hundreds of classical games whereby White ingeniously creates targets on the queenside with b2-b4 or a2-a4, or both! White reasons that Black will have to waste a lot of tempi bringing his a5-Knight and b7-Bishop back into play, which will make the above pawn levers possible.

12...Nc4 13.b3 Nb6



An interesting moment to compare positions. In the Breyer Variation: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Bc2 c5 13.a4 Re8 14.d5 Nb6 . . .



Analysis Diagram

. . . White has snuck in the moves a2-a4 and Nb1-d2 instead of the less useful b2-b3. Black has also played ...Rf8-e8. Thus, the game position from the Chigorin variation is superior to the above line in the Breyer. No wonder that Breyer players defer 12...c5 in favor of 12...Re8 to shore up the kingside.

14.a4 Bc8?!

This perfectly sensible move is, in fact, a missed opportunity. Black is happy to reposition his pieces in order to prove the soundness of his position. But both Spassky and Van der Sterren have proven the worth of a piece sacrifice in these types of positions. It would've been intriguing to have seen Vishy's reaction to 14...Nxe4! 15.Bxe4 f5 16.Bc2 e4!? 17.Nh2!? Nxd5, when Black has two pawns for his piece plus free play and the issue is unclear.

Finally, I offer another possibility in 14...Ne8!?, intending ...f7-f5 to loosen up the d5-pawn.

15.Be3 bxa4!? 16.bxa4 Nc4 17.Bc1 Na5

The Knight seems to have a genetic attraction for this square, but I simply don't understand Black's strategy. The opening of the queenside only favors White. What is the a5-Knight doing other than looking to exchange itself? Black's weaknesses, the a6-pawn and b6-square, aren't compensated for by the b3-square.

18.Qd3!?

Extremely ambitious. Vishy wants to play c2-c4, Bc1-d2 and Qd3-c3. This would force ...Na5-b7, when White plays a4-a5 with a strategic win. Easy as A, B, C. Naturally, Black can't allow this to happen and must play ...c5-c4 himself. The drawback of 18.Qd3 is that in provoking ...c5-c4 and ...Na5-b3, White may help Black solve his problems.

18...c4 19.Qe2

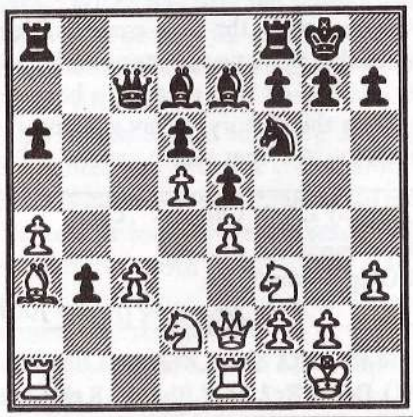
Confident that the intrusion ...Na5-b3 can be dealt with. Now White has another strategical win in mind: surround the c4-pawn by Bc1-a3-b4.

19...Qc7 20.Ba3 Nb3

Black has committed himself to this course. The only question is, Who has calculated further?

21.Bxb3 cxb3 22.Nbd2! Bd7

Since 22...Qxc3? 23.Rec1 Qa5 24.Nxb3 or 24.Nc4 Qd8 25.Nfxe5 work well for White.



23.Nxe5!

The start of a long-winded combination that has as its aim the destruction of Black's center. Vishy is prepared to allow Black to make progress on the queenside, confident that his trumps in the center will give him the advantage.

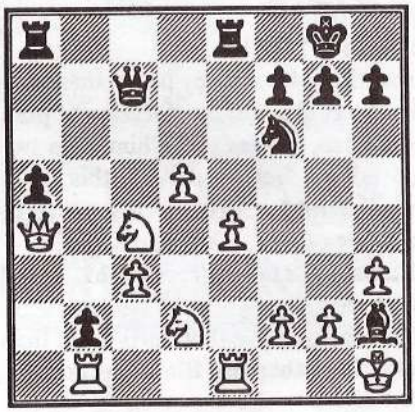
23...b2 24.Rab1 Bxa4 25.Qc4!

An excellent tactical shot. Vishy invites Black into a dreadful ending by 25...Qxc4 26.Nexc4. Oleg must therefore misplace his pieces.

25...Qa5 26.Bb4 Qb6 27.Qa2!

A very pretty Queen maneuver. Bad things have happened to Black. He faces a hit with Ne5-c4 or the simple grab Rb1xb2 with nothing to show for his pawn. It isn't too early to say that Black is busted.

27...a5 28.Nec4 Qc7 29.Bxd6 Bxd6 30.Qxa4 Bh2+ 31.Kh1 Rfe8



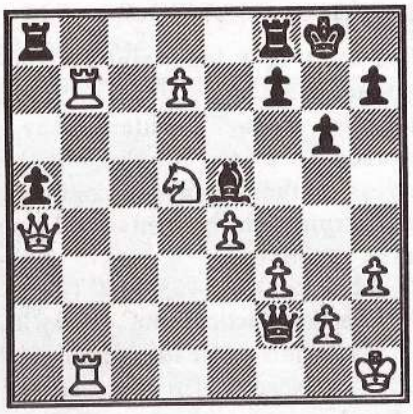
32.f3!?

An extraordinary move. It's easy to see that 32.Rxb2? Nxd5 costs White an important part of his center. The text says: "Look, I'm going to give you a few dark squares that won't help you. I'm just going to cement my extra two center pawns and collect the b2-critter later. What are you going to do about it?" Personally, I'd be loath to make such a move, but that's what chess is all about, a battle of ideas.

32...Nh5 33.Nf1 Bg3 34.Re2 Rec8 35.Nce3 Qxc3 36.Nf5 Qe5 37.Rexb2

Vishy's strategy has paid off. His King is safe, his center intact and he has good piece play. He is effectively two pawns ahead.

37...Bf4 38.Rb7 Bg5 39.d6 g6 40.d7 Rf8 41.Nd4 Ng3+ 42.Nxg3 Qxg3 43.Ne2 Qf2 44.Nc3 Bf4 45.Nd5 Be5



You've got to give Oleg credit. The middlegame hasn't been easy and he's trying to make the most of the dark squares. If he can get in ...Qf2-g3, there may yet be hope . . .

46.R7b3!

Deadly! The text not only stops 46...Qg3, it threatens 47.f4 and Rb3-f3 with a rout. Unfortunately, Black's Rooks are helpless to take part in the battle.

46...Qh4 47.Rf1!

Beautiful play. Vishy has managed to make the center the crucial zone of play. By doing so, he has given himself a two pawn edge. Before driving this point home, he first redresses his previous weakening of the dark squares.

47...Ra7 48.f4 Bg7 49.Rfb1 Raa8 50.Kh2 g5

The kind of move that hurts more than it helps, but otherwise Black has no play.

51.Rg3 h6

Since 51...gxf4 52.Rg4 Qd8 53.Qd4 f6 54.Nxf4 is no bargain.

52.Rf1!

White's pieces immediately flood to the weakened kingside.

52...Kh8 53.Rg4 Qh5 54.f5 Be5+

Black has achieved a magnificent e5-Bishop, but Vishy has seen that it won't last.

55.Kh1 f6 56.Ne7! Qf7 57.Ng6+ Kh7 58.Nxe5 fxe5 59.Rg3 Rfd8 60.Rd1 Ra7 61.Rgd3 g4 62.Qc6 1-0

A superb complete game by Vishy. He was in top form today.

Grunfeld Fianchetto D73

GM Oleg Romanishin
GM Viswanathan Anand
PCA New York (cm-3) 1994

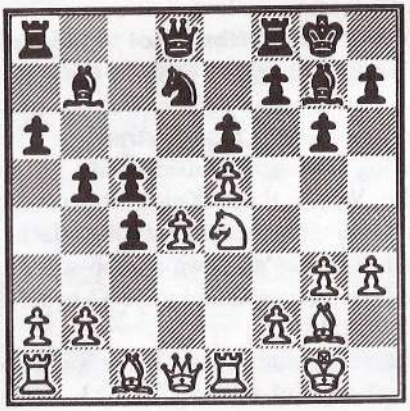
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 dxc4 6.O-O c6 7.Nc3 O-O 8.h3 b5!

I prefer this deviation over 8...Na6 as played in game one. Although Vishy drew comfortably, the text seems more appropriate. The Knight really doesn't belong on a6.

9.Ne5 a6!

Stopping Nc3xb5, while inviting 10.Nxc6? Nxc6 12.Bxc6 Bxh3 with a big advantage. Or, 10.a4 Bb7 11.axb5 axb5 12.Rxa8 Bxa8 13.Nxb5 cxb5 (13...N6d7!?) 14.Bxa8 N6d7 offers a comfortable equality.

10.e4 Bb7 11.Re1 Nbd7 12.Nxd7 Nxd7 13.e5 e6 14.Ne4 c5



Once again, Oleg's pawn sacrifice hasn't panned out. Black's a solid pawn up and it's White who is fighting for equality.

15.Nf6+ Bxf6 16.Bxb7 Ra7 17.Bg2 Bg7

An ideal Grunfeld for Black if there ever was one. Besides being a pawn up, White's center is in danger of imminent collapse. Terrible!

18.a4 Rc7 19.axb5 axb5 20.Ra8 Rc8 21.Rxc8 Qxc8 22.Bf4 cxd4 23.Qxd4 Nc5

Now it's game over. Extra pawn, good piece play . . .

24.Qd6 Nd3 25.Ra1 Qd8 26.Ra8 Qxd6 27.exd6 Nxf4 28.gxf4 Rxa8 29.Bxa8 Kf8 30.Bc6 b4 31.Bb5 c3 32.bxc3 b3 33.Bd3 Bxc3 34.Kg2 f5! 35.Kf3 Bb4 36.Bc4 b2 37.Ba2 Bxd6 38.Ke3 Kg7 39.Bb1 Kh6 40.Kf3 1-0

After reaching the time control, Oleg realized that there was no stopping Black after 40...Kh5 41 Kg3 g5 and so he gave up. With this victory, Vishy goes up by two points. Another match over?

Ruy Lopez Chigorin C96

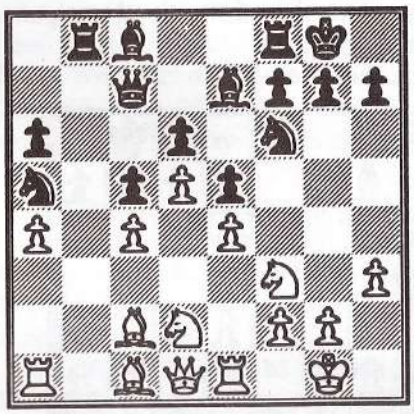
GM Viswanathan Anand
GM Oleg Romanishin
PCA New York (cm-4) 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Bb7 12.d5 Nc4 13.b3 Nb6 14.a4 Bc8 15.Be3 bxa4 16.bxa4 Nc4 17.Bc1 Na5

So far a repetition of game two. In that game, Vishy tried 18.Qd3, winning a sharp encounter. With a two point lead, Vishy has second thoughts about walking into Oleg's preparation and so deviates.

18.Nbd2 Qc7 19.c4 Rb8

Inhibiting Bc1-b2-c3. As I mentioned in my notes to game two, Black has to avoid having his a5-Knight driven back.



20.Ra2!?

It will be difficult, if not impossible, for White to make progress on the queenside without gaining control of the b-file. The immediate 20.Rb1 Rxb1 21.Bxb1 Bd7 22.Bb2 Rb8 23.Bc3 is more accurate.

20...g6!

While trying to create an impasse on the queenside, Oleg also ensures his kingside pieces of activity. While the f6-Knight is nice, it performs a limited and, indeed, obstructionist role. The text prepares to advance the f7-pawn.

21.Bb2 Nh5 22.Bd3

Anticipating the need to line up the Bishop and Queen along the a5-e1 diagonal, White shores up his c4-pawn.

22...Bd8

Prophylaxis. Black ensures that the a5-Knight is adequately protected, though this is perhaps a little too cautious. The immediate 22...Bd7, in order to double Rooks on the b-file and then play ...Be7-d8 when necessary, was possible. Black may have feared that a migration of pieces to the queenside would have allowed White operations on the opposite wing.

23.Bc3 f6 24.Bf1 Qg7!?

An unexpected reshuffle. I thought that Oleg had been planning ...Nh5-g7 and ...f6-f5.

25.Qc2 Rf7! 26.Rb1 Rxb1 27.Qxb1 Rb7

28.Rb2 Rxb2 29.Qxb2 Qb7 30.Qc2

Vishy has been unable to make any impression on Black's solid position.

30...Nf4 31.Kh2 Bd7 32.Ne1 Be8 Draw

A well-played game, but a draw only brings Vishy closer to victory. From a theoretical standpoint, Black had no trouble.

Grunfeld Fianchetto D76

GM Oleg Romanishin
GM Viswanathan Anand
PCA New York (cm-5) 1994

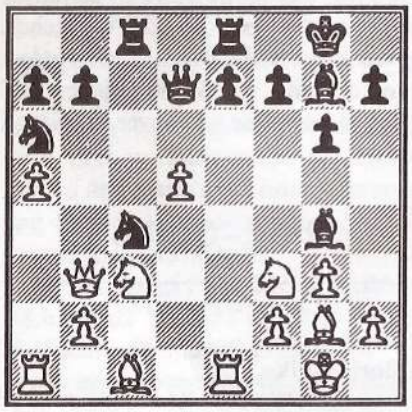
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5

Oleg's treatment in games one and three hadn't made much of an impression.

5...Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.e4!? O-O 8.O-O Bg4 9.d5 Qd7

Preventing h2-h3. Black has done well. He is ready to undermine White's center by ...c7-c6 and complete his development. Conversely, I don't see what's so good about White's position. He's pushed his center, but so what? What about development? What attracted Oleg to this position?

10.Nc3 c6 11.a4 cxd5 12.exd5 Na6 13.a5 Nc4 14.Qb3 Rac8 15.Re1 Rfe8



White's position is looking distinctly dubious. The c1-Bishop can't move due to the *petite combinaison* ...Nc4xb2. White is without an active plan. I prefer Black.

16.Ng5 Ne5 17.Na4

Ahem. A sure sign that something's gone wrong. White had to stop ...Na6-c5, but this is a sad solution.

17...Bf5 18.Ne4 Nc4 19.Nac3 Nd6 20.Be3 Bxe4 21.Nxe4 Nxe4 22.Bxe4 Draw

Black has a plus after 22...Nc5, but a draw brings Vishy half-a-point closer to winning the match. A poor showing with the White pieces by Oleg.



photo by: Jerry Bibuld

Vishy Anand was in the driver's seat all the way in his match.

Ruy Lopez Chigorin C99

GM Viswanathan Anand
GM Oleg Romanishin
PCA New York (cm-6) 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 Bg4!?

A move with a bad reputation, but it isn't a bad idea to mix defenses to keep your opponent off balance.

9.d3?!

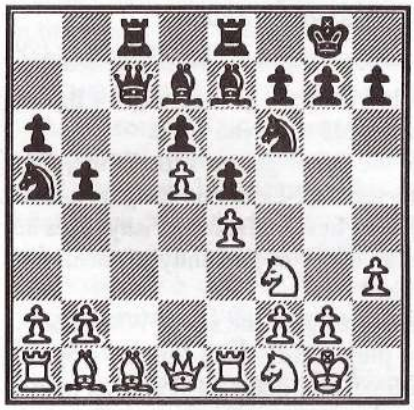
Inexact. White should play 9.h3!, immediately putting the question to the g4-Bishop. White's failure to do this gives Black the option of later retreating along the h3-c8 diagonal. Why did Vishy omit 9.h3! Perhaps 9.h3! Bxf3 was a cause of his worry, but that's hard to believe. In any case, from White's perspective, after 9.h3 Bh5 10.d3, the Knight swing Nb1-d2-f1-g3 is promising.

9...Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.h3 Bd7 12.d4 Qc7

Transposing back into classical main lines. White has won the tempo h2-h3, but given it back by d2-d3-d4.

13.Nbd2 cxd4 14.cxd4 Rc8 15.Bb1 O-O 16.Nf1 Rfe8 17.d5

This immediate latching down in the center is a bit of a concession, as Black's minors are well posted to meet this center lock. Normal was 17.Ng3 or 17.Ne3. Both offer White a little more, but those lines also carry a measure of risk for White, as the shot ...d6-d5 always has to be taken into account.



17...Nh5!

An excellent rejoinder. When the center is locked, play on the wings becomes paramount. The queenside features have yet to be determined; so that leaves the kingside, which helps explain Vishy's choice of d4-d5. Given a free hand, White could try g2-g4 and Nf1-g3 heading for the f5-square. Black is quicker off the starting blocks and heads for the f4-square himself.

18.Bd3

Avoiding 18.Nxe5 Qxc1 19.Qxc1 Rxc1 20.Rxc1 dxe5, with two pieces for the Rook.

18...Bf6

The immediate jump 18...Nf4, seeking exchanges, was interesting.

19.Ne3 Nf4 20.Bf1! g6 21.Bd2 Bg7 22.Rc1 Qb6 23.b4!

Excellent. White grabs as much space as he can. He hopes to crowd the a5-Knight out of the game. Black will have to prepare the f7-square for the

beleaguered steed.

23...Rxc1 24.Qxc1 Nb7 25.Qb1 Rc8 26.Rc1 Rc7 27.Ng4?

Looks like a tactical oversight. With 27.Kh2, intending g2-g3, White can expect an advantage.

27...Nd8 28.Ne3!?

Vishy was having second thoughts about 28.g3!? Nxh3+ 29.Bxh3 h5, which sharpens the game up.

28...Qb8

Perhaps the immediate 28...f6 and ...Nd8-f7 was to be preferred.

29.Rxc7 Qxc7 30.Qb3 f6 31.Nd1 Nf7 32.Qa3

Inviting repetition. Oleg complies.

32...Qc2 33.Nc3 Ng5 34.Nxg5 Qxd2 35.Nf3 Qc2 36.Ne1 Qd2 37.Nf3 Draw

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Grunfeld Fianchetto D72

GM Oleg Romanishin
GM Viswanathan Anand
PCA New York (cm-7) 1994

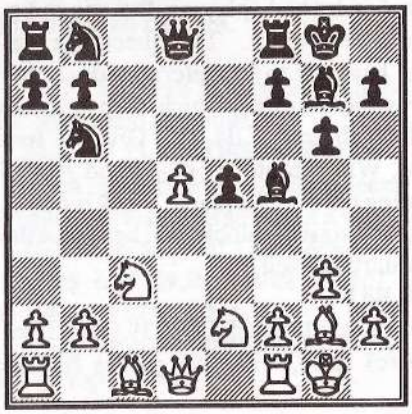
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nb6 7.Ne2

In the other games with White, Oleg preferred Ng1-f3. Is the Knight so much better off here? Hardly. Vishy takes advantage of the opportunity at once.

7...e5!

Equalizing on the spot. White should now play 8.Be3 O-O 9.Na3, stopping ...Nb6-c4, and defer d4-d5 for as long as possible.

8.d5? O-O 9.O-O c6 10.Nbc3 cxd5 11.exd5 Bf5



Oleg's willingness to play these types of positions – passed d5-pawn – is surprising. If Black sticks a Knight on d6, he's better and that's all there is to it. Plus, White has another problem, what is the e2-Knight doing?

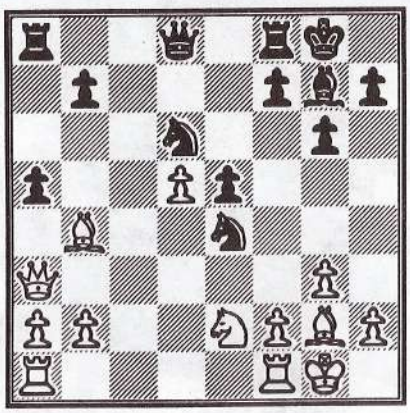
12.Ne4 Bxe4! 13.Bxe4 Nc4

Very straightforward. Vishy goes for the blockading Knight and an easy game.

14.Qb3 Nd6 15.Bg2 Nd7 16.Bd2 Nc5!?

Energetic play by Vishy as he embarks on a pawn sac. With the modest 16...Qb6 Black has the edge.

17.Qa3 Nce4 18.Bb4 a5



A critical position that will determine the entire course of the game.

19.Be1?

Backing away from the challenge. For better or worse, White had to play 19.Bxe4 axb4 20.Qxb4 Ra6, though Black would have tremendous compensation for the pawn. After the text, it's play on one goal.

19...Nc4!

Finding the correct piece arrangement for his Knights. White is strategically lost.

20.Qd3 Ned6 21.Bc3 e4 22.Qc2?

Oleg seems to have given up. White is worse after 22.Bxe4 Nxb2 23.Bxb2 Bxb2 etc. The text offers even less hope.

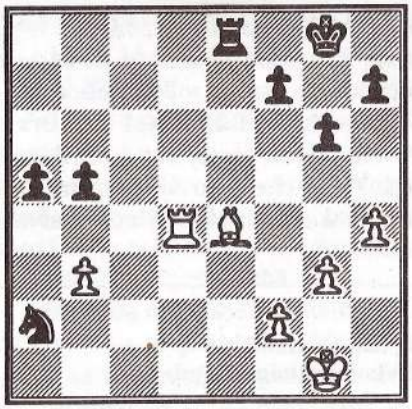
22...Bxc3 23.Qxc3 Re8 24.b3 Ne5 25.Nd4 Rc8 26.Qe3 Ng4 27.Qe2 Nf6

The d5-pawn has become ripe for the plucking. White's position is a disaster. Also, note the weak c3-square.

28.Rad1 Qb6 29.Nc2 Nb5 30.Qe3

The bulletins indicate that Oleg offered a draw at this point, giving the match up. Vishy declined, apparently going for the extra rating points. Of course, the position is terrible for White and playing for the rating makes sense, but the primary objective is to win the match. In any case, Vishy's technique was up to the task.

30...Qd6 31.Rd2 Nxd5 32.Qh6 Qe5 33.Re1 Nbc3 34.Ne3 Nxe3 35.Qxe3 Qc5 36.Qf4 Re7 37.Qf6 b5! 38.h4 Rce8 39.Qd4 Qxd4 40.Rxd4 Nxa2 41.Rexe4 Rxe4 42.Bxe4



42...Nc1!

The last nail in the coffin.

43.Bf3 Nxb3 44.Rd7 Nc5 45.Ra7 a4 46.Bd5 Ne6 47.Rb7 Rd8 48.Ba2 Rd2 49.Bxe6 fxe6 50.Rxb5 a3 51.Ra5 a2 52.Kg2 Kf7 53.g4 Ke7 54.Kf3 Kd6 55.Ke3 Rb2 56.f3 Kc6 57.Kd3 Kb6 58.Ra8 Kc5 59.Rc8+ Kd5 60.Ra8 Rh2 61.Ra5+ Kc6 62.Kc4 Kb6 63.Ra8 Rf2 64.h5 gxh5 65.gxh5 Rh2 66.h6 Rc2+ 67.Kd3 Rf2 68.Kc4 Rxf3 69.Rxa2 Rf4+ 70.Kd3 Rh4 71.Rc2 Rxh6 72.Ke4 Rg6 73.Ke5 h5 74.Rh2 Rh6 75.Kf4 Kc5 76.Kg5 Rh8 77.Kf6 Kd5 78.Kg7 Ra8 79.Rxh5+ e5 80.Kf6 Rf8+ 81.Kg5 e4 82.Kg4+ Kd4 83.Rh7 e3 0-1

So, a fine victory by Vishy as he moves on to the next stage of the PCA matches. Oleg has a right to be dissatisfied. He lost the match with the White pieces and seemed to be worse whenever he played them.

Short–Gulko

Caro-Kann B17

GM Nigel Short
GM Boris Gulko
PCA New York (cm-1) 1994

1.e4 c6!?

Boris has defended the French and Spanish and even Sicilians for most of his career. The Caro seems a recent addition. Nigel's pet variation, the Advance (derisively referred to by Jan Timman as the "Short Defense" to the Caro) has been largely defanged lately. This couldn't have escaped Boris's notice in his preparations.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3

A moral victory for Boris? Certainly not! I'm sure he would have been happier to face the Advance line (3.e5).

3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7

This solid, flexible move seems to be currently favored over the Classical 4...Bf5 lines.

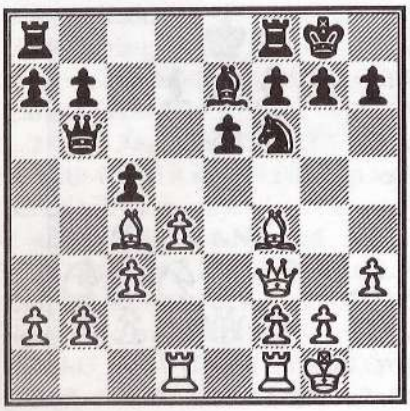
5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+

In this, the first game of the match, Nigel decides to go slow. The text promises only a slight space advantage to the first player. Not much of an advantage, but the kind of game that probably suited Nigel's mood.

6...Nxf6 7.Bc4 Bf5 8.O-O e6 9.h3 Be7

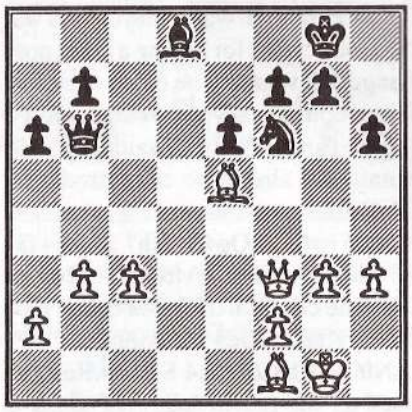
Perhaps this is a bit too solid. More venturesome is 9...Bd6, saving the e7-square for the Queen.

10.c3 O-O 11.Qe2 c5 12.Bf4 Be4 13.Rad1 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qb6



White has done well. He has emerged from the opening with the two Bishops and good development, enough for a persistent plus. Black's position is quite solid, however. Precisely the kind of position that is tailor-made for swapping pieces and leaving the opponent scratching his head and wondering what happened to his advantage.

15.dxc5 Bxc5 16.Rd2 Rfd8 17.Rfd1 Be7 18.b3 Rxd2 19.Rxd2 a6 20.g3 h6 21.Be5 Rd8 22.Rxd8+ Bxd8 23.Bf1!



Well played. White has allowed a number of exchanges to take place to reposition his light-squared Bishop on the long diagonal. With quiet play he has managed to precipitate a crisis.

23...Qa5!

A fine decision. Boris jettisons a pawn in order to achieve Bishops of opposite colors. His active pieces will give him excellent compensation for his pawn.

24.Bxf6

Nigel has no choice but to accept the sacrificed pawn: 24.Bd4? e5! 25.Be3 Qxc3 is fine for Black.

24...Bxf6 25.Qxb7 Qxc3 26.Qxa6 Bd4 27.Kg2 Qd2?!

Boris has managed to achieve just the type of counterplay he hoped for when sacrificing the pawn. He wants to force the exchange of Queens, as he feels the Bishops-of-opposite-colors ending is drawn. The text is a little hurried. Black should play 27...g6 or 27...g5 and ...Kg8-g7. Black should NOT then play ...h6-h5, as the h-pawn would become a clear target in the Bishops-only ending.

28.Qa8+ Kh7 29.Qf3 Kg8

Certainly not 29...Qxa2 30.Qe4+, picking up the d4-Bishop.

30.a4 g6! 31.Bb5 Qc3

Achieving his ending. Not surprisingly, White isn't able to do much with his connected passed pawns.

32.Qxc3 Bxc3 33.Kf3 Kf8 34.g4 Ke7 35.Ke2 f5! 36.Kd3 Be1 37.f3 fxg4 38.fxg4 h5 39.Kc4 hxg4 40.hxg4 Kd6 41.b4 g5 42.Be8 Bd2 43.Bf7 Be1 44a5 Bd2 45.Kb5 Kc7! 46.Bxe6 Be1 47.Bf7 Bd2 48.Be8 Be1 49.Ka4 Kd6 50.b5 Kc5 51.b6 Bd2 52.b7 Bf4 53.Kb3 Bb8 54.Kc3 Kd6 55.Bb5 Kc7 56.a6 Draw

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
Short	½	**0**	**1**	½	½	½	½	½	**4**
Gulko	½	**1**	**0**	½	½	½	½	½	**4**

Overtime (Two G/30 matches)

	1	2	1	2
Short	½	½	**1**	½
Gulko	½	½	**0**	½

English A29

GM Boris Gulko
GM Nigel Short

PCA New York (cm-2) 1994

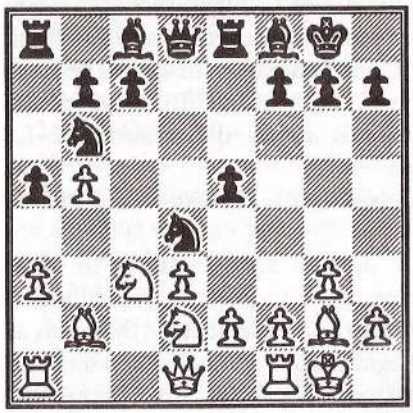
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6

This reversed Dragon variation has confused me for a mighty long time. Black often gets perfectly playable positions and scores horribly with them. It couldn't have escaped Boris's notice that in this year's VSB tournament, Nigel lost as Black in this line to Jan Timman.

7.O-O Be7 8.a3 O-O 9.b4 Re8 10.d3 Bf8

A reasonable setup for the Black pieces, but I wouldn't endorse it. To my mind, the crucial question in this line is what Black does with his f-pawn. He can either move it to f5 and play for a kingside attack, in which case the f8-Rook is well placed, or play ...f7-f6, keeping the center intact, and put a Rook on the d-file. Nigel's setup seems to be a mixture of these ideas, including keeping the King less vulnerable. Nothing wrong with that, but what does Black do with his Queen? In the ...f7-f6 lines, the Queen might slide to the f7-square. In the ...f7-f5 lines the decision is easy too; she goes after White's King.

11.Bb2 a5 12.b5 Nd4 13.Nd2!?



A critical juncture. White reasons that 13.Nxd4? exd4 is excellent for Black, as the e8-Rook is then beautifully placed.

But there is nothing terribly wrong with allowing Black to exchange Knights on f3, 13.a4 (guarding the b3-square by preventing ...a5-a4) 13...Nxf3+!? 14.Bxf3 Bh3 15.Bxb7, resulting in the kind of Exchange sacrifice Dragon players exult in.

Boris likely rejected 13.a4 for two reasons. After 13.a4 c5! 14.bxc6 bxc6 Black might get good squares for his pieces, considering that the b4-square is unprotected. Additionally, by opening up the long diagonal at once, White puts a halt to ...Bc8-g4 ideas and quick development for Black.

13...a4

Heightening the conflict. Safer was 13...c5 14.bxc6 (14.e3!?) 14...Nxc6 and development of the queenside. In considering this line, Nigel was likely troubled by the opening of the b-file.

14.e3 Ne6 15.Nf3 Nc5?

A continuation of his policy of not committing his f-pawn. A better choice, however, was 15...f6 16.Qe2 with an advantage to White. The text allows a petite combination that opens up the game for White's pieces.

16.Nxe5! Rxe5

An admission of an error in calculation. Nigel probably thought that White's last move wasn't possible due to 16...Nb3, which leaves the e5-Knight and a1-Rook *en prise*. But 17.Nxa4 Nxa1 18.Nxb6 cxb6 19.Qxa1 nets White two pawns for his Exchange and his Bishops rake the board, leaving Black with hardly any counterplay.

17.d4 Rg5?!

A rather bizarre move, but understandable. In the ensuing ending, Black's lone trump is his control of the c4-square and his desire to play ...Nb6-c4. Thus, Black wants to recapture on c5 with his Rook, quite an optimistic aim. The alternative 17...Re8 18.dxc5 Bxc5 19.Ne4 Bf8 20.Rac1 is admittedly unattractive for Black.

18.dxc5 Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Rxc5 20.Rd8 f6?

So, despite all his efforts to avoid moving the f-pawn, Nigel finally gets around to it. Unfortunately, the text is an oversight too. Nigel had to stop mucking about and develop his queenside: 20...Be6 21.Rxa8 Nxa8 22.Bxb7 Nb6 jettisons a pawn, but offers some compensation. The text is a prelude to walking into a roundhouse right.

21.Rfd1 Kf7 22.R1d4 Ke7 23.h4 Nc4?

Black hasn't awakened to the fact that not many of his pieces can move.

24.R8d5! 1-0

A simple move that rocks the house. Nigel may have been pondering his chances following 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Nxa4 Rxb5 26.Rxc4 Ra8 etc. No matter, the text is *finito*. A nice effort by Boris, but Nigel played as if he had just tumbled out of bed. He was unable to calculate anything in this one.

Caro-Kann B17

GM Nigel Short
GM Boris Gulko

PCA New York (cm-3) 1994

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4

In this second try, Nigel chooses a more serious line against the Caro.

5...Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 8.Bb3 h6 9.N5f3 a5 10.c3 c5 11.a3

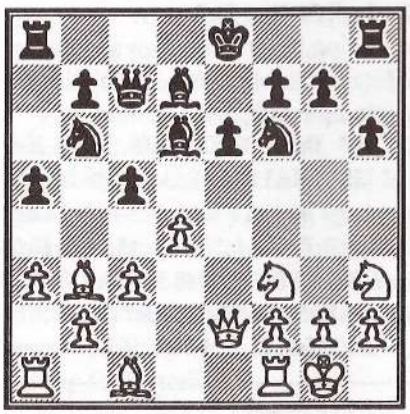
Interestingly enough, Nigel takes up an idea Kasparov tried against Karpov in Linares '94. *(See* IC *7:6:26-27.)*

11...Qc7 12.Nh3!?

A much better move than Kasparov's 12.Ne5? Ironically, the text is what White usually tries to avoid in this line, but Nigel reasoned that by developing his pieces with tempi, the temporary displacement of the h3-Knight wouldn't matter.

12...Bd7 13.O-O Bd6?

A very bad move that allows White to develop his pieces with tempo. A line such as 13...cxd4 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Rad1 O-O 17.Rxd4 Qc5 gives Black a fair enough position.



14.dxc5

An awkward moment for Boris. It is apparent that something has gone wrong, since either recapture will result in a lot of free hitting by White.

14...Qxc5?!

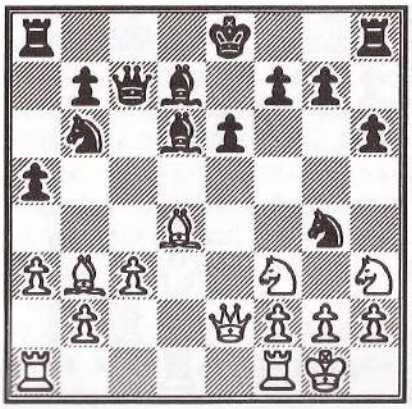
Boris only makes things worse by avoiding the exchange of dark-squared Bishops. Better was 14...Bxc5 15.Bf4 Bd6 16.Bxd6!? Qxd6 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.Ne5, though still nice for White.

15.Be3 Qc7 16.Bd4!

Daring Black to castle, a challenge that he declines.

16...Ng4?

Some moves are destined to fail. This one is a case in point. While I'm no fan of Black's position, he should try 16...a4 17.Ba2!? Ra5 to put up some semblance of a fight.



17.Nd2!

Very nice. Nigel invites 17...Nxh2 18.Rfe1, which will ensnare the h2-Knight. Since 17...Bxh2+ 18.Kh1 f5 19.Bxe6 is terrible, Black can only retreat ignominiously.

17...Nf6 18.Kh1

Stopping Black's ...Bd6xh2 threat, while preparing a possible Nh3-g1-f3. Now Boris faces a dilemma. What to do with his King?

18...O-O?

Tigran Petrosian was a player who was always given credit for having a great nose for danger. It was said he could see a bad position coming several *rounds* away! The same cannot quite be said for Boris. The mate can almost be calculated after 18...O-O?

19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qg4+ Kh7 21.Ne4 f5

No choice here. After 21...Be5 or 21...Be7 the classical trick 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Bc2+ Kh8 24.Qe4 is a winner.

22.Nf6+ Kh8 23.Qh4 Kg7 24.Rad1

Since all the moves following 18...O-O were forcing, it's safe to assume that Boris had a lot of confidence in his next move . . .

24...Be5 25.Nh5+ Kh7 26.f4 Bh8 27.Ng5+ 1-0

. . . confidence which was obviously misplaced! Nigel wraps things up nicely after 27...hxg5 (27...Kg6 28.Rd3 and Rd3-g3 wins) 28.Nf6+ Kg6 29.Qh5+, leaving Black with a choice of how to get mated. A brutal game that Boris was never really in. With this one, Nigel ties the score.

Nimzo-Indian E54

GM Boris Gulko
GM Nigel Short
PCA New York (cm-4) 1994

1.c4 c6!?

Nigel also tried the Slav Defense in his 1993 PCA match with Kasparov. The text is an invitation to either the Slav or the Caro. Boris probably felt that Nigel had even more limited experience with the Caro than the Slav.

2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4!?

With 4.cxd5 it is easier to trap an inexperienced Caro player.

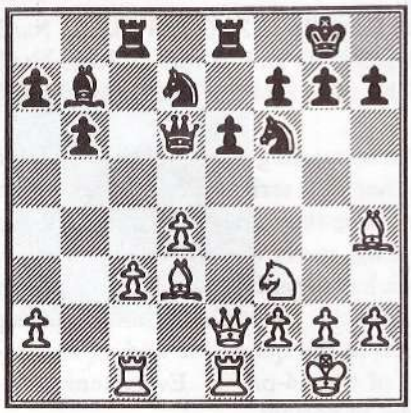
4...Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4

Transposing to a Nimzo-Indian Defense, Rubinstein variation. This particular line is a favorite of Karpov's.

7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 O-O 9.O-O b6 10.Bg5 Bb7 11.Re1 Nbd7 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.Bd3 Re8!?

One of those general purpose useful moves. Possibly 13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qc7 is more accurate, but Black doesn't lose anything by the text.

14.Qe2 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qc7 16.Bh4 Qd6



Played in the style of Anatoly Karpov. Black prevents c3-c4 (due to ...Bb7xf3), while menacing ...Qd6-a3, pressuring the queenside.

17.Ba6?!

Admittedly, the b7-Bishop isn't bad, but I don't like the idea of voluntarily trading away the advantage of the two Bishops. Preferable was 17.Bg3 Qa3 18.c4 with a pull for White.

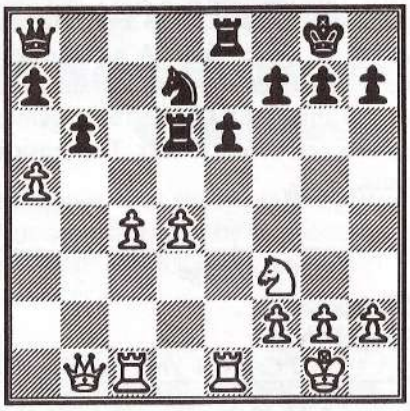
17...Bxa6 18.Qxa6 Qb8

Stronger was 18...Qc6! 19.c4 Ne4!, playing for ...Ne4-d6.

19.c4 Qa8 20.a4!

Trying to create a b6-pawn weakness. The position seems too reduced for White to be ambitious.

20...Ne4 21.Qb5 Rc7 22.Qb1 Nd6 23.Bg3 Rc6 24.Bxd6 Rxd6 25.a5



White has achieved what he wanted on the queenside, but it's not enough.

25...Rc8 26.Qb5 Qc6 27.Qb4 Qc7!

Reminding White of his own c4-pawn weakness.

28.axb6 axb6 29.h3 Rc6 30.Qb5 h6 31.Rc2 Qd6 ^2.Ra1 R6c7 33.Ra6 Qf4 34.Ra1 Draw

A correct game. Since winning one game apiece, the players have settled down to trench warfare.

Caro-Kann B17

GM Nigel Short
GM Boris Gulko
PCA New York (cm-5) 1994

1.e4 c6

Shaken, but not deterred, Boris sticks with the Caro.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 8.Bb3 h6 9.N5f3 a5 10.c3 c5 11.a3 Qc7 12.Nh3 Bd7 13.O-O cxd4!

Not repeating his mistake of 13...Bd6? seen in game three. Boris felt that he had made sufficient repairs to try this line again.

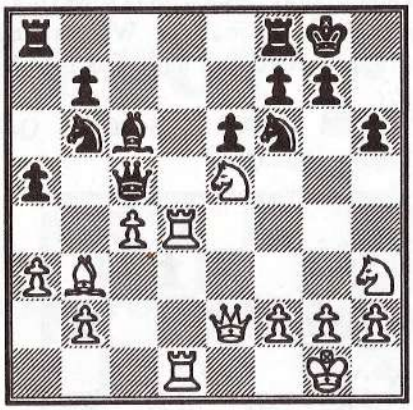
14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Rad1 O-O 17.Rxd4 Qc5!?

Trying to challenge the d-file by 17...Qc7 18.Rfd1 Bc6 19.Ne5 Rad8 20.Nxf7!? would be dangerous for Black.

18.Rfd1 Bc6 19.Ne5 Bd5

Blocking the b3-Bishop from lines like the one above.

20.c4 Bc6



A rather crucial position for this whole line of play by White. Both players have a number of bad minor pieces. But White's control of the d-file and the fine e5-steed lead me to believe that he has an edge.

21.Qe3

A very Nigel Short-type move. He likes making small moves that knit his position together a little tighter all the time. The text prepares, among others, Nh3-f4-d3, trying to expose the b6-Knight to a discovered attack.

21...a4 22.Bc2 Ra5!

Trying to keep White's pieces as tangled as possible. It is crucial that Black keep White from reorganizing his pieces. The h3-Knight would swing to b4 and the c2-Bishop to f1. Then Black is done.

23.Nd3

Not what White was hoping for. Now the c2-Bishop is prevented from reaching the f1-square. But 23.f4? Nbd7 24.Nd3 Qa7 is good for Black. And 23.Re1 Nbd7 boots the e5-Knight just the same.

23...Qe7

Now the moves ...e6-e5 and ...Nb6-d7 should concern White.

24.Nb4 Qc5

Hitting the c4-pawn and preparing ...e6-e5. Boris invites a repetition. I don't see anything wrong with 24...e5, grabbing some central space.

25.Nd3 Qe7 26.Re1

Avoiding the repetition. This is not to say Nigel is playing to win. He is playing White and wants to keep the pressure on. Both Kasparov and Karpov are superb at keeping the pressure on with White.

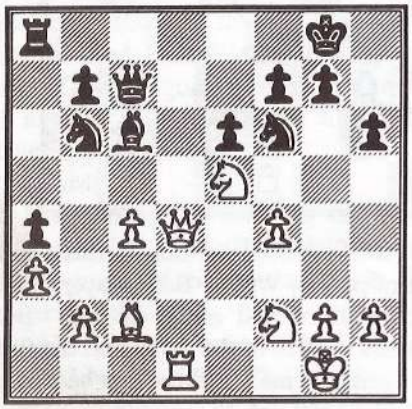
26...Nbd7 27.Qd2 Raa8

Both players rewind their pieces.

28.f4

A damned ugly move. White had two worries: what to do with the h3-Knight and how to stop ...e6-e5. 28.f4 solves both problems, but at a real cost. White's King is seriously weakened and so is the e4-square.

28...Rfd8 29.Nhf2 Nb6 30.Ne5 Qc7 31.Rd1 Rxd4 32.Qxd4



Both players can be pleased. White has kept the d-file, and his e5-Knight. Black has exchanged one pair of Rooks, lessening the danger on the d-file, and provoked f2-f4. Because of White's handicapped queenside majority, the position is about equal.

32...Rc8!

Preparing ...Bc6-e8, hitting the c4-pawn. Black has found his source of counterplay.

33.Qd6

A major concession. Exchanging Queens nullifies White's spatial advantage. Perhaps the positional gamble 33.c5 (giving up the d5-square) 33...Nbd5 34.N2d3 Ra8!? 35.Nxc6 Qxc6 36.Ne5 could have been tried.

33...Be8! 34.Qxc7 Rxc7 35.Rd4 Kf8

Black is very close to complete consolidation, when White will have to show concern about some pawn weaknesses.

36.Nfd3 Nfd7

Preparing ...f7-f6 in order to win the c4-pawn.

37.Nxd7+ Rxd7 38.Rxd7 Bxd7 39.Ne5 Be8 40.c5!

Just in time. White cannot allow ...Kf8-e7-d6-c5; he might lose!

40...Nd5

Calculating the pawn ending 40...Nd7 41.Nxd7+ Bxd7 42.Be4 Bc6 43.Bxc6 bxc6 must've been tough work. Both sides have candidate passed pawns, but White's a-pawn could rule the day.

41.g3

Another sharp alternative was 41.Be4 Nxf4!? 42.Bxb7 Ke7, when both players have their majorities.

41...b6!

Getting rid of the b7-weakie. Black now has a comfortable draw.

42.cxb6 Nxb6 43.Kf2 Ke7 44.Ke3 f6 45.Nd3 Kd6 46.Kd4 Bg6 47.Bd1 Be8 48.h4 Bc6 49.b3 Draw

After 49...axb3 50.Bxb3 g5! 51.hxg5 hxg5 52.fxg5 e5+! 53.Ke3 fxg5, there's not a lot of pieces left. A hard-fought game which does much to advance the theory of this line. Of the three games left, Boris gets White in two. The tension mounts.

Slav Exchange D13

GM Boris Gulko
GM Nigel Short

PCA New York (cm-6) 1994

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.e3 Nf6 6.Nc3 a6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.Nge2 e6 9.O-O Bd6 10.f3 Draw

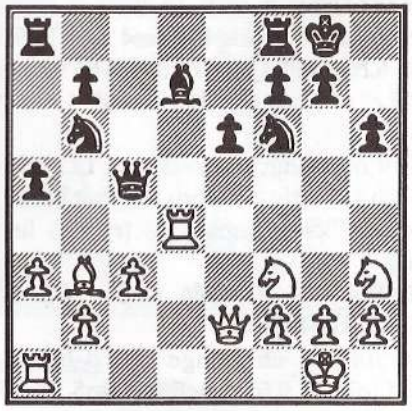
Why such a short draw? Boris may have been ill or drained of energy. Or he may have wanted to play the last game of the match as White and roll the dice then, hoping he would make it through game seven unscathed.

Caro-Kann B17

GM Nigel Short
GM Boris Gulko

PCA New York (cm-7) 1994

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Ng5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 8.Bb3 h6 9.N5f3 a5 10.c3 c5 11.a3 Qc7 12.Nh3 Bd7 13.O-O cxd4 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.Rfd1 O-O 17.Rxd4 Qc5



As often happens in matches – especially long ones – the players argue a particular opening position. Their very own *tabia*. It seems Nigel and Boris are both satisfied with this position.

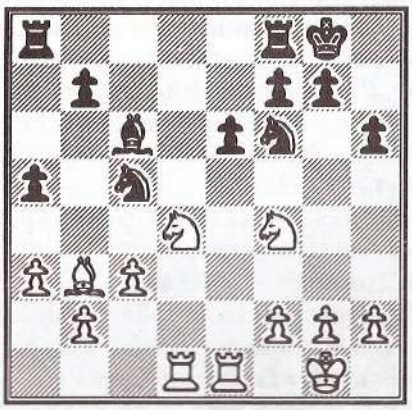
18.Nf4

Nigel deviates first. In game five, Nigel tried 18.R1d1 Bc6 19.Ne5, all sensible moves. In that game, however, he had trouble with his h3-Knight. He decides to solve this problem at once.

18...Qb5

A normal reaction. Black reduces his problems by exchanging pieces.

19.Qxb5 Bxb5 20.Re1 Nbd7! 21.Rdd1 Bc6 22.Nd4 Nc5



Black has achieved a fine game with natural moves.

23.Bc2 Be4

Boris is heading for a draw at warp speed. Another approach was 23...Rfc8, inviting imbalances. White's queenside structure invites exploitation.

24.Bxe4 Nfxe4 25.f3 Nf6 26.Nd3 Nxd3 27.Rxd3 Rfd8 28.Re5 Rd5 29.Rxd5 Nxd5 30.Nb5 a4 31.Rd4 Kf8 32.Kf2 Ke7 33.Ke2 g5

An interesting ending has arisen from a rather dull series of exchanges. Both sides have their majorities and while the a4-pawn sticks out like a sore thumb, Black has to push his kingside as quickly as possible. White is planning a King march to the queenside and an annexation of the a4-pawn. Every tempo becomes important.

34.g3?!

This one gives every appearance of a lost tempo. Better was 34.Kd2, preparing c3-c4 and a King march to b4.

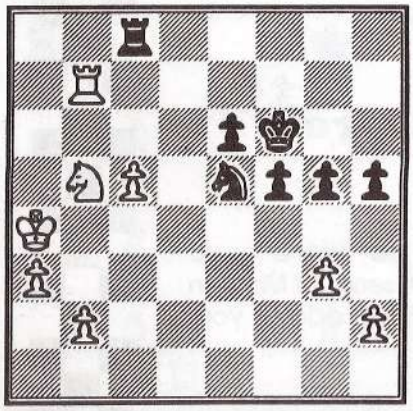
34...f5 35.Kd3 h5 36.c4 Nf6 37.Rd6!? Nd7!

Stopping the threatened Rd6-b6. This move also prepares ...Nd7-e5, hitting the weakened f3-pawn.

38.Kc3 Rc8 39.Kb4 Ne5

Black is beginning to play for a win. An easy draw was available with 39...f4 (fixing the f3-pawn) 40.gxf4 gxf4 41.Rd4 Ne5 42.Re4 Nxf3 43.Rxf4 Nxh2 44.Rh4 Nf3 etc.

40.c5 Nxf3 41.Rb6 Ne5 42.Rxb7+ Kf6 43.Kxa4



Nigel has overplayed his hand. Both sides have passed pawns, but Black's are further advanced.

43...f4?

This looks like a tactical miscalculation. I don't like this move. There was no reason not to play 43...Rxc5, eliminating White's most dangerous passer. One might misanalyze a particular position, but when in doubt, take a pawn! Boris was too anxious to push his passer.

44.gxf4 gxf4 45.b4! f3 46.Nd6!

Nigel is back in the game and just in time, too!

46...Rg8 47.Kb3 Rg4

Preventing the d6-Knight from stopping the f3-pawn. White has to bring his Rook to the rescue.

48.Rb8 Kg7 49.Rb7+ Kf6 50.Rb8 Kg7 51.Rb7+ Draw

Boris' nerve was shattered, else he might have tried 51...Kf6 52.Rb8 Kg5 53.Rf8 Rf4 54.Rg8+ Kh4 55.Rg1 Kh3 56.b5 Kxh2 57.Rc1 f2 58.c6 f1=Q 59.Rxf1 Rxf1 60.c7 Rc1 61.b6 (61.c8=Q Rxc8 62.Nxc8 h4 wins) 61...Nd7 62.c8=Q (62.b7 Nc5+ wins) 62...Rxc8 63.Nxc8 h4 and Black wins.

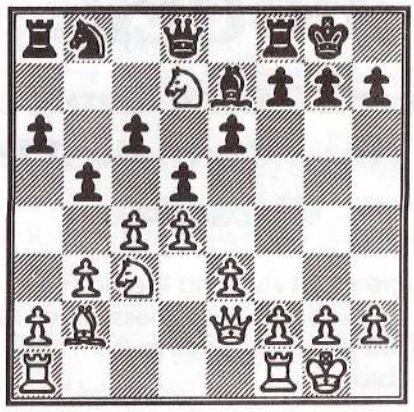
While Nigel is to be commended on his courage, his judgement might be questioned. As for Boris, he had his sights trained on a draw. He saw it, he took it.

Slav D15

GM Boris Gulko
GM Nigel Short

PCA New York (cm-8) 1994

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.b3 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.Ne5 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Be7 10.O-O O-O 11.Bb2 Nfd7 12.Nxd7



Draw

(0:37-0:27)

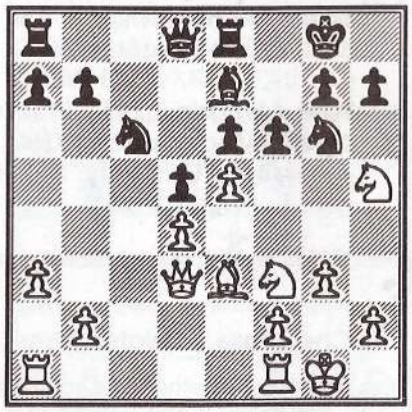
Extraordinary. Boris didn't try anything with his last two Whites. Perhaps he was tired or had decided to just roll the dice in a tiebreaker. Whatever his reasons, I heartily disagree with the strategy.

Caro-Kann Advance B12

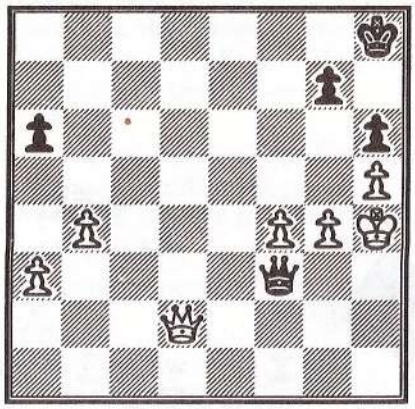
GM Nigel Short
GM Boris Gulko

PCA Playoff G/30 (1-1) 1994

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.c3 c5 6.a3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Ne7 8.Be3 Nec6 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Be7 11.Nc3 Nd7 12.O-O O-O 13.Ne2 Re8 14.Nf4 Nf8 15.g3 Ng6 16.Nh5 f6!?



17.exf6 Bxf6 (:08) **18.Rad1** (:12) **Rf8 19.Kg2 Be7! 20.Nf4! Nxf4+ 21.Bxf4 Bf6 22.Rfe1 Qd7 23.h4 Rae8 24.Re2 Nxd4! 25.Nxd4 e5 26.Bxe5 Bxe5 27.b4 Bxd4 28.Rxe8 Rxe8 29.Qxd4 Rd8 30.Re1!? a6 31.Re5 h6 32.Kh2** (:22) **Qf7** (:15) **33.f4!** (:27) **Kh8** (:25) **34.h5! Qf6 35.Kh3 Qf7 36.g4 Qd7 37.Kg3 Qf7 38.Qb6 Qf8 39.Qxb7 d4 40.Qe4 d3 41.Rd5 d2 42.Qd3 Rxd5 43.Qxd5 Qg8 44.Qxd2 Qb3+ 45.Kh4 Qf3!**



46.a4 Qh1+ 47.Kg3 Qg1+ 48.Kf3 Qh1+ 49.Qg2 Qa1 50.Qe2 Qxa4 51.Qe4 Qb3+ 52.Kf2 Qb2+ 53.Kg3 Qc3+ 54.Kh4 Qd2 55.g5 hxg5+ 56.fxg5 Qd8 57.Qe5 Kg8 58.h6 gxh6 59.Qe6+ Kf8 60.Qxh6+ Kf7 61.Qh7+ Ke6 62.Qe4+ Kf7 63.Qf5+ Kg7 64.Qe5+ Kg6 65.Qe6+ Kg7 66.Qxa6 Draw

On Short's offer.

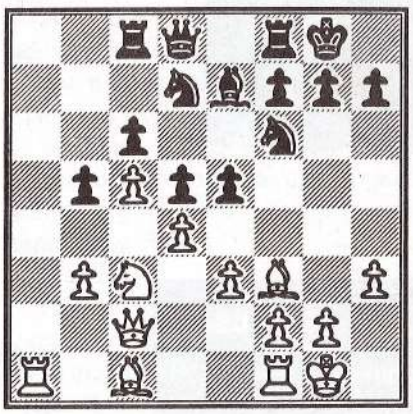
Nigel must've been very short of time at this point.

Slav D15

GM Boris Gulko
GM Nigel Short

PCA Playoff G/30 (1-2) 1994

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 b5 6.b3 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Be7 10.O-O O-O 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.a4 Rc8!? 13.axb5 axb5 14.c5?! (:04) **e5** (:05)



As I well know, French Defense players can't resist the temptation to play it reversed, but that doesn't necessarily produce wonderful results. What's going

on with the c1-Bishop?

15.Bd2 Ra8! 16.Na2! Qc7 17.Nb4 exd4!? 18.exd4 Rfe8 19.Be3?! (:09)

Better was 19.Nd3 playing for Bd2-f4.

19...Nf8! (:14) **20.Qb2 Qb7 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.Ra1 Ne6 23.Ra2 Kf8!? 24.Qa1 Rxa2 25.Qxa2 Ke8 26.g3 g6 27.Kg2 Bd8 28.Be2 Nd7!** (:19) **29.Bd3 Bf6 30.Nc2** (:14) **Nb8 31.f4!? Qa6 32.Qxa6 Nxa6 33.f5 Ng7 34.g4 g5!**

Closing down the position for good.

35.Kf3 h6 36.Ke2 Bd8! 37.Bd2 Kd7 38.Ne1 f6 39.Nf3 Ne8 40.h4 Kc8 41.h5 Draw

On Gulko's offer. (0:19-0:22)

Caro-Kann Advance B12

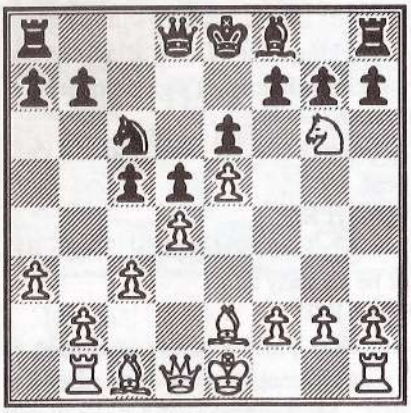
GM Nigel Short
GM Boris Gulko

PCA Playoff G/30 (2-1) 1994

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5

Interestingly enough, in the playoffs, Nigel returns to an old favorite that has brought him a bundle of victories.

3...Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.c3 Ne7? 6.Nh4 Bxb1? 7.Rxb1 c5 8.a3 Nbc6 9.Be2 Ng6 10.Nxg6 (:05)

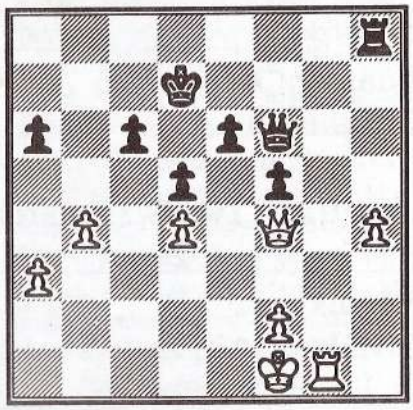


This looks wrong, but Nigel approaches these positions with his own peculiar brand of logic. He reasons that because Black's kingside is now disturbed, the chances of a center counterattack by ...f7-f6 are lessened. Plus, the kingside can now be prized open by h2-h4-h5.

10...hxg6 11.Be3 cxd4 12.cxd4 Be7 13.g3! Qd7 14.b4 f5!? 15.exf6 gxf6 16.h4 f5 17.Qd2 Bf6 18.Kf1!?

Nigel aims directly for the position he wants. His idea is to play h4-h5 when ...g6-g5 is unplayable. I suspect he missed Boris' next move.

18...Qg7! 19.Bb5 g5! 20.Rc1 Rc8 21.Rg1! gxh4!? 22.gxh4 Qf7 23.Bg5 a6 24.Bxc6+ Rxc6 25.Rxc6 bxc6 26.Qf4 Kd7 27.Bxf6 Qxf6



The position looks to be a hard slog, but Nigel's next move proves that he has the initiative.

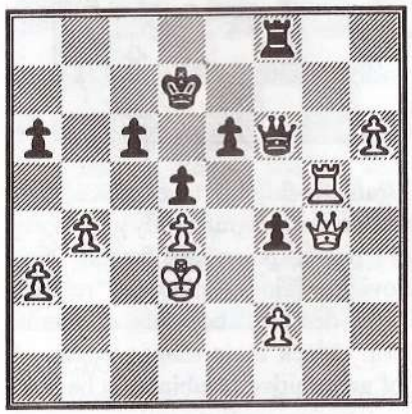
28.Rg5! Qh6 29.Qg3! Re8 (:13) **30.Ke2!?** (:21)

Nigel wasn't sure about the pawn ending: 30.Rg7+ Re7 31.Rxe7+ Kxe7 32.Qg5+ Qf6 33.Ke2 Kf7 34.Qxf6+ Kxf6 35.Ke3 e5 36.dxe5+ Kxe5 37.f4+ Kf6 38.Kd4, when White appears to be winning. White loses nothing with the text.

30...Qf6 31.Kd3 f4

Black has no active play. He also has to worry about Qg3-e5 and getting smothered.

32.Qg4 Rh8 33.h5! Rf8 34.h6!



For some time now, White has had a grip on the position. Now he tries to crack the position open.

34...Rf7

Since 34...Qxh6 35.Rg6 is hopeless.

35.Rg6 Qf5+ 36.Qxf5 Rxf5 37.Rg7+ Kd6 38.h7 Rh5 39.Ke2 Rh3 40.Ra7 e5 41.Rxa6 f3+ 42.Ke3 exd4+ 43.Kxd4 Rxh7 44.b5 Rh4+ 45.Ke3 Kc5 46.bxc6 Kb5 47.c7 Rc4 48.Rd6 Rxc7 49.Rxd5+ Kc4 50.Rd4+ Kc5 51.Rf4 Rb7 52.Kxf3?

Myopic. Nigel sees that he wins with his f-pawn. But 52.Rxf3 allows him to win with his a-pawn and f-pawn.

52.Rb3+ 53.Kg4 Rxa3 54.Rf6!

Cutting the King off the sixth. This is more convincing than 54.Re4 cutting the King off the e-file.

54...Kd5 55.f4 Ra1 56.Rb6 Ke4 57.Re6+ Kd5 58.f5 Rg1+ 59.Kh5 Rg2 60.Kh6 Rg1 61.Re2! Rf1 62.Kg6 Rg1+ 63.Kf7 Kd6 64.f6 Kd7 65.Kf8 Kd8 66.Rd2+ Kc7 67.f7 Kc8 68.Rd5 Kc7 69.Ke7 Re1+ 70.Kf6

(0:28-0:28)

1-0

A superb game by Nigel. He was in control from start to finish. Now the pressure was on Boris to find the equalizer.

QGD Exchange D35

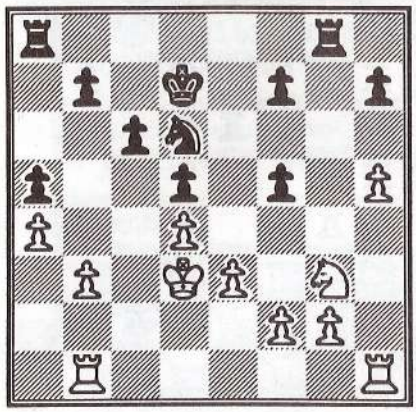
GM Boris Gulko
GM Nigel Short

PCA Playoff G/30 (2-2) 1994

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5

The only players that can beat Nigel from this position seem to be named Kasparov and Karpov.

5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Qf3 Bg6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.Kd2 Nd7 11.Bd3 Nb6 12.b3 Ba3! 13.Nge2 Kd7 14.Ng3 Nc8 15.h4 Nd6 16.h5 Bxd3 17.Kxd3 Bb2 18.Rab1 Bxc3 19.Kxc3 Rhg8 20.Kd3 (:06) **a5!?** (:06) **21.a4 f5!**



A very nasty move that completely spoils White's chances to do something. White would've liked nothing more than to play Rh1-h4-f4, but ...Nd6-e4 ruins everything.

22.Rh2 Ne4 23.Nxe4 fxe4+ 24.Ke2 f5 25.f3 Ke6 26.Rf1 Rg3 27.fxe4 fxe4 28.Rf4 Rag8 29.Kf2 h6 Draw

(0:12-0:12)

A tough game. You've got to tip your hat to Nigel, he played terrifically well in the playoff games. As for Boris, he's left wondering why he didn't take his shot in game eight.

Adams–Tiviakov

Caro Kann B17

GM Sergey Tiviakov
GM Michael Adams

PCA New York (cm-1) 1994

1.e4 c6

The second Caro of the round. Seems to be catching on.

2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Ng3

This tempo loser doesn't promise White any advantage either.

6...e6 7.Bd3 c5 8.O-O cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bc5!

It's important to chase the d4-Knight to a less active square.

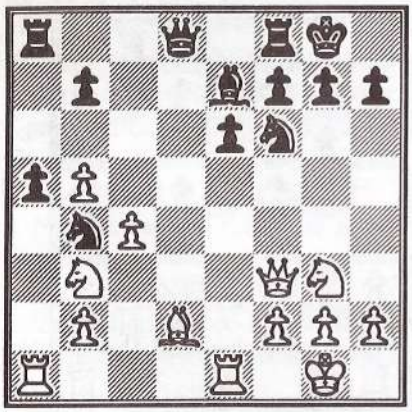
10.Nb3 Be7 11.Re1 O-O 12.Qf3!

A good square for the Queen. White readies a quick Ra1-d1 and hopes his development will earn him a plus.

12...a5!? 13.a4! Nb6 14.Bd2 Nbd5 15.Bb5!

By crafty play, Sergey has managed to gain a plus on the Queenside. White wants to play c2-c4 and improve the scope of his pieces. Black is in danger of being suffocated.

15...Bd7 16.c4 Bxb5 17.axb5 Nb4



A critical position. While White has seemingly improved his queenside structure, the c4-pawn could prove vulnerable to a direct hit on the c-file. Another distraction is the fork ...Nb4-c2. The question is, Should White care? He sees that 18.Qxb7 will earn him two apparently powerful passed pawns for a mere Exchange. Such a sacrifice "feels" right and simply has to be played.

18.Qxb7 Nc2 19.Rxa5 Nxe1 20.Rxa8 Qxa8 21.Qxa8 Rxa8 22.Bxe1

The text position was easy to calculate. Clearly, both players came to different conclusions. Mickey had calculated one move further.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
Adams	1	1	0	0	½	1	0	½	4
Tiviakov	0	0	1	1	½	0	1	½	4

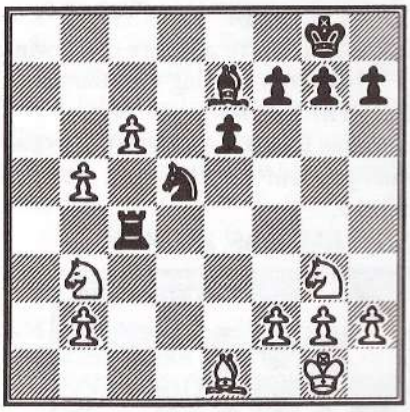
Overtime (Two G/30 matches and one G/15 match)

	1	2	1	2	1	2
Adams	½	½	½	½	½	1
Tiviakov	½	½	½	½	½	0

22...Ra4!

Hmm. This one seems to cast a doubt over the whole sacrifice. Since 23.Nd2 Bb4 24.Ngf1 Ra1 fails to protect White's game, the pawn must march forward.

23.c5 Rc4! 24.c6 Nd5



A dramatic shift has taken place. Now Black's Rook is magnificently placed and White's passed pawns are frozen. Now Nimzovich's famous dictum: "restrict, blockade, destroy," becomes a genuine concern. Black is no longer worse. A case of an intuitive combination backfiring?

25.Nf1 Kf8 26.Ne3 Nxe3 27.fxe3 Ke8 28.Bc3 Bc5 29.Kf2 Bb6

A new blockader appears to deal with White's queenside pawns. Black only needs to play ...f7-f6 and ...Ke8-d8 and White will be in serious trouble.

30.Kf3?

Far too lackadaisical. White had to try 30.Ke2 and a quick Ke2-d3 in order to dislodge the mighty c4-Rook.

30...Kd8 31.Bxg7

Neither does 31.Nd2 Rc5 32.Ne4 Rxb5 33.Nd6 Rh5 promise White salvation.

31...Rb4 32.Nd4 Bxd4 33.Bxd4 Rxb5 34.Ke4?

Stunned by the turn of events, Sergey makes it easy for his opponent. White should now focus on trying to make a draw. The best chance is to bring the White King to the kingside. For example, 34.e4 Kc7 35.Bc3 Kxc6 36.Kg4, with the idea of e4-e5, offers drawing chances. It may not be enough to save the game, but it was necessary.

34...Kc7 35.Bc3 Kxc6 36.g3?

Sergey completely fails to realize that the only side that Black can win the game on is the kingside! Once Black establishes a kingside grip, it's game over.

36...Kd6?!

The immediate 36...Rf5 and ...Rf5-f2 was best.

37.Kd3?! Rf5

Now 37...Rh5 38.h4 Rf5! 39.g4 Rf2 would be an easy win.

38.Ke4 Rf2!

After this, Black's win is as simple as A, B, C, a dramatic turnaround after the opening. Mickey's use of his Rook will become a textbook example of how to handle passed pawns.

39.Be5+ Kc6 40.g4 f5+! 41.gxf5 exf5+ 42.Kd4 Rxb2 43.Bg3 Rb5! 44.e4

Black threatened 44...Rd5+ 45.Kc4 Rd1, when White's King is cut off from the kingside. Black would run his King around to the h5-square and eventually to f3 and win.

44...Rb4+ 45.Ke5 fxe4 46.Bf4 Rc4 47.Bh6 Rc2 48.Kxe4 Rxh2 49.Bf4 Rg2 50.Kf3 Rg6 51.Bg3 h5 52.Kf4 Kd5 53.Be1 Rg4+ 54.Kf3 Ke6 55.Bg3 Kf5 56.Bb8 h4 57.Bh2 h3 58.Bg3 Rg6 59.Kf2 Ke4 0-1

A nice start for Michael, with a victory as Black.

Sicilian Rossolimo B51

GM Michael Adams
GM Sergey Tiviakov
PCA New York (cm-2) 1994

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+

A venerable way of avoiding sharp Sicilians. Especially useful when your opponent is booked to the gills in the Dragon.

3...Nc6?! 4.O-O Bg4?! 5.h3 Bh5?!

Black is making an awful lot of questionable moves early in the opening. In my view, Black has misplaced his Bishop, allowed White to keep a potent Bishop and has ceded the center. Not bad for just getting started.

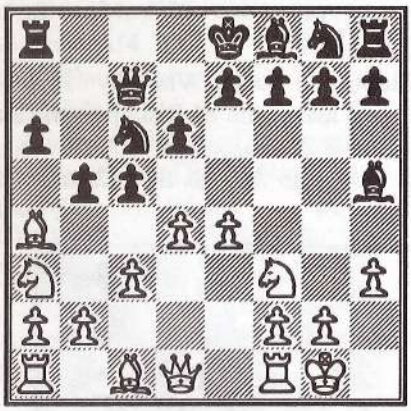
6.c3!

Preparing d2-d4 with a near winning advantage.

6...Qb6?!

It was time for some lame improvisation with 6...a6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 e6, but White has a big edge.

7.Na3 a6 8.Ba4 Qc7 9.d4 b5



10.Nxb5!

Not surprisingly, this blow is simply crushing. Sergey has so badly mishandled the opening that this sacrifice is no surprise.

10...axb5 11.Bxb5 O-O-O

The only chance to resist. Black can't afford an exchange of pawns, which would open the c-file. Disasters await: 11...Ra5 12.a4 Rxb5 13.axb5 Nd8 14.Ra8 is crushing or 11...Kd8 12.dxc5 is a third pawn with a raging attack. So the only thing left is this ugly decision.

12.b4!?

One of the drawbacks in White's position is that he has such a juicy range of choices, that he forgets to win the game.

It would've been hard for me to resist a line such as 12.Qa4 Nb8 13.dxc5 Bxf3 14.gxf3 dxc5!? 15.Bg5 h6 16.Rfd1!? (16.Bh4 is also very strong) 16...Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 hxg5 18.Ba6+ Nxa6 19.Qxa6+ Qb7? 20.Qa5, winning. The point of this little line is that it's White's *development* that is going to overrun Black and push him off the board. Moves such as Qd1-a4, Bc1-g5 and a Rook to the d-file are so natural.

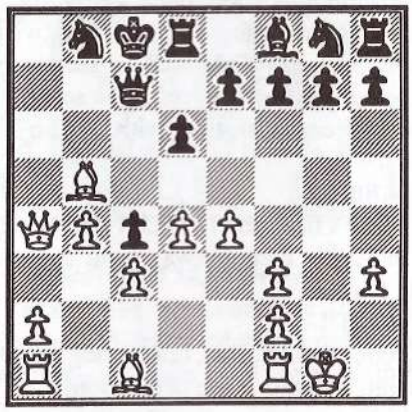
The text—a desire to involve a pawn storm in the attack—is notoriously at odds with piece play. White has to be careful, because this mixture might not work. Unfortunately for Black, he is so underdeveloped that he is unable to meet *either* a pawn or piece attack.

12..Bxf3 13.gxf3 Nb8 14.Qa4!?

And now I don't understand this move. Why not 14.bxc5 (the point behind b2-b4, opening up the b-file) 14...dxc5 (What else?) 15.Rb1 e5 16.Qa4 Rd6 17.dxe5 (opening up the d-file) 17...Rg6+ 18.Kh2 Qxe5+ 19.f4 followed by Rf1-d1? It wins. Once again, this is a line where piece play is preferred over a pawn storm. Mickey seems unwilling to throw his forces at Black's King.

14...c4

Doing everything possible to keep the position closed. Unfortunately, the text costs Black another tempo, one he would prefer to spend on development.



15.d5!

A fine move. White is now committed to his pawn rolling scheme. He envisions playing Bb5-c6 and pushing his b-pawn up the board. This plan is irresistible.

15...Nf6 16.Be3 Nfd7 17.Bc6 e6 18.b5

Decisive. Black is completely helpless to prevent White's intended queenside storm.

18...exd5 19.exd5 Nb6 20.Qb4 Be7 21.a4 Bf6 22.a5 Nxc6 23.bxc6 Nxd5 24.Qb5 Rde8 25.Bb6 1-0

The last nail in the coffin. Sergey can't stop Qa4-a6+ and a subsequent mate down the b-file. A horrible game by Tiviakov puts him two points behind. The match is over before it begins (or so it seems).

Caro-Kann B17

GM Sergey Tiviakov
GM Michael Adams
PCA New York (cm-3) 1994

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+!?

Trailing by two points, Sergey surprises by playing for only a small edge.

6...Nxf6 7.Nf3 Bf5 8.Qe2 e6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.O-O-O!?

Sharpening the game considerably. Since the c4-Bishop sticks out like a sore thumb, castling queenside takes a bit of courage. Being two points behind makes this risky decision a bit easier.

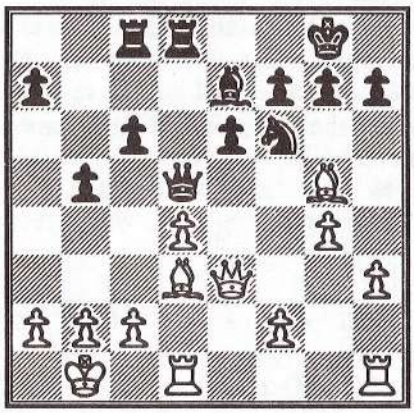
10...Bg4?!

A "solid" reaction. In this line Black often exchanges off this Bishop, fearing that it will be unemployed on the h7-b1 diagonal. I'm not so sure this fear is justified. White will likely play Kc1-b1, when the f5-Bishop will always work. I prefer 10...h6 (preparing the h7-home for the f5-Bishop) 11.Bh4 Nd7 (stopping the hop Nf3-e5) 12.Bg3 (blocking the g-pawn) 12...b5 13.Bb3!? O-O, when Black's queenside attack should come first.

11.Kb1 O-O 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 b5 14.Bd3 Qd5 15.Qe3 Rac8?!

A preparatory move for ...c6-c5, which currently would favor White. I'd prefer 15...Rfd8 and pressure the d4-pawn.

16.g4 Rfd8



A dramatic difference has arisen between the game continuation and the note to Black's tenth move. White's King is nicely protected and White has begun his kingside attack. Conversely, Black is a long way from creating any meaningful queenside play.

17.f4! Kf8?

Black is worried about f4-f5 and wants to threaten the d4-pawn, but this move doesn't help matters. Better was 17...c5 18.dxc5 Qxc5 19.Qxc5 Rxc5 20.f5, when White has a nice ending. The text gives White a nice middlegame. Much more dangerous!

18.f5! h6?

A tactical oversight. Once again 18...Qxd4 19.fxe6!? Qxe3 20.Bxe3 fxe6 21.Bxa7 is a better ending for White.

19.Bxh6 Qxd4 20.Bxg7+

20.fxe6 is also very strong and would transpose into the above ending with a missing Black h-pawn.

20...Kxg7 21.Qg5+ Kf8 22.Qh6+ Ke8 23.fxe6 Bf8 24.exf7+ Ke7 25.Qg6

A nice quiet move. Black is left facing a check on the e-file.

25...Rd5 26.c3 Qf4 27.Rhe1+ Re5 28.Qf5 1-0

The finish might be 28...Qxf5 29.Bxf5 Rxe1 30.Rxe1+ Kd8 31.Bxc8 Kxc8 32.Re8+, with a decisive material advantage for White. A much-needed victory for Sergey.

Queen's Indian E18

GM Michael Adams
GM Sergey Tiviakov
PCA New York (cm-4) 1994

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7

Despite his youth, Sergey has a classical approach to the openings. Not many of the top GMs go into the older lines of the QID, preferring variations with ...Bc8-a6.

6.Nc3 O-O 7.O-O Ne4 8.Bd2 f5

A favorite move of Viktor Kortchnoi.

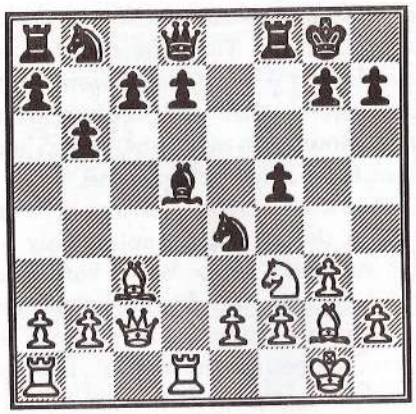
9.d5

9.Ne1 and 9.Qc2 offer only equality.

9...Bf6 10.Qc2!?

An enterprising pawn sacrifice that is considered bad by theory. The variation normally runs 10.Rc1 Na6 11.Be1 Qe7 12.Nd4 Nac5 13.b4 Nxc3 14.Rxc3 Ne4 15.Rd3 with a sharp game in view.

10...Bxc3 11.Bxc3 exd5 12.cxd5 Bxd5 13.Rfd1



This line is so old that it had me thumbing through *Informant 6*! Both Matanovic and Parma dismiss White's sacrifice as being much better for Black.

13...c6?

Naturally, Bruno Parma didn't play this move, but preferred the retreat 13...Bb7 in order to push his c- and d-pawns forward. After 13...Bb7, Bukic continued with the lame 14.b3, got a bad game and lost. I don't see White's compensation after 13...Bb7 either.

The problem with the text is that it doesn't "feel" right. The e4-Knight and d5-Bishop look good, but it's easy to envision them being undermined with moves such as Nf3-h4 and an Exchange sac on d5. After the text, I can see lines that give compensation; with 13...Bb7, I don't.

14.Bb4

White's first benefit of ...c7-c6, he gets to move his Bishop away from capture with tempo.

14...d6?!

Better was 14...Re8, reinforcing the e4-Knight. Knights crave protection!

15.Nh4

Suddenly, White has two very real threats: Nh4xf5, and f2-f3 and e2-e4 routing Black's pieces.

15...Na6 16.Ba3 Qg5

The only way to meet White's threats is to give back a pawn.

17.Bxe4 fxe4 18.Bxd6 Rf7 19.Ng2 Qf6 20.Bf4 g5 21.Be3 Nc7

An unusual position has arisen. Both players have their trumps. Mickey has the dark squares, Sergey the light. I favor White's position for two reasons: better structure and safer King.

22.Qc3 Qf5

Black has to avoid trading Queens, e.g. 22...Qxc3 24.bxc3 h6 25.h4! Rg7 26.Bd4 and White introduces the possibility of Ng2-e3 and c3-c4, booting the d5-Bishop.

23.a4 Ne6 24.b4!

Black now faces another problem: b4-b5 will undermine his d5-Bishop. The underpinnings of Black's position are beginning to crumble.

24...Raf8

Desperate positions demand difficult decisions. The text aims for ideas such as ...Ne6-f4 or ...Rf6-h6 and ...Qf5-h3. But White is coming so fast on the queenside, it's clear the kingside attack isn't going to work and will likely backfire.

25.b5 cxb5 26.axb5 Rc7!

Abandoning the "attack." Sergey tries to keep the position by reminding White that his b5-pawn is now a target.

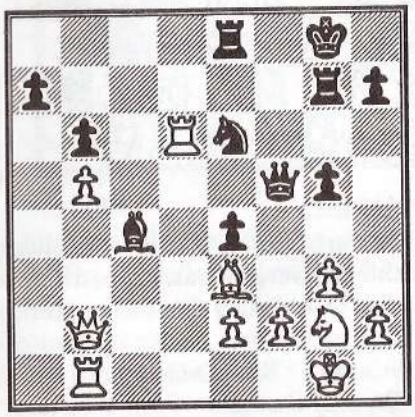
27.Qb2 Bc4 28.Rd6 Re8 29.Rb1

Black has reached an impasse. How to continue, especially with time pressure looming? In such moments it's natural to lash out with a desperado attack.

29...Rg7!?

Hoping to fluster White by ...Ne6-f4. The text leaves the c4-Bishop in the air. Better was 29...h6, sitting tight.

30.Rc6 Bd5 31.Rd6 Bc4 32.Rc6 Bd5 33.Rd6 Bc4



34.Bxb6?!

An attractive move. Other temptations exist as well: 34.Bd4 Rg6 35.Ne3 Qh3 36.Nxc4 Rh6 37.f3 Qxh2+ 38.Kf1 Qxg3 and White can't defend.

Black's game is held together by a thread. Nearly all his pieces are performing double duty, the classic setting for an overworked piece tactic. In my view, White's b1-Rook needs to increase its involvement in the game. If he could play Rb1-b4, it would be very nice indeed. Therefore, 34.Qd2!, intending Rb1-b4, gets my vote. The b5-pawn is untouch-

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able – Rd6-d5. In passing, after 33...Bc4, 34...Nf4 wasn't a threat, since 35.gxf4 gxf4 36.Bxf4 Qxf4 37.Qxg7+ costs Black material.

34...Nf4!

A move both forced and good. Bad is 34...axb6 35.Ne3 Qh3 36.Nxc4 Nf4 37.Ne3 and White can defend.

35.Be3 Nxe2+ 36.Kh1 Bd3 37.Ra1 Qxb5 38.Qxb5 Bxb5 39.Rxa7??

A time-trouble howler that gives away a piece. With 39.h4! White should draw despite his pawn minus.

39...Rxa7 40.Bxa7 Ra8

Oooops. Ye olde weak back rank. Mickey must've felt sick.

41.Rd5 Rxa7 42.Rxg5+ Kf7 43.Ne3 Ra1+ 44.Kg2 0-1

Ouch! From plus two to even. This match is a roller coaster ride for both players.

Ruy Lopez Worrall C86

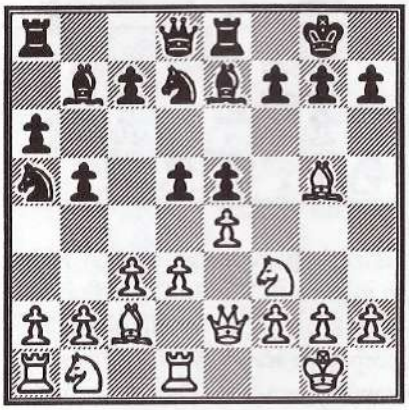
GM Sergey Tiviakov
GM Michael Adams
PCA New York (cm-5) 1994

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Qe2

The Worrall Attack has been a enjoying a bit of a vogue lately. For one thing, it dodges the Marshall Gambit.

6...b5 7.Bb3 O-O 8.c3 d5 9.d3 Re8 10.Rd1 Bb7 11.Bg5 Na5 12.Bc2 Nd7!

Looks like a nice equalizer.



13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.b4 Draw

Black has no problems following 14...dxe4 15.dxe4 Nc4 with a dull ending in view – a respite from the wars in the previous games.

Sicilian Alapin B22

GM Michael Adams
GM Sergey Tiviakov
PCA New York (cm-6) 1994

1.e4 c5 2.c3!?

This move has long been a favorite of Sveshnikov and is the current rage.

2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Be3!? cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.Nc3 Qd6 9.a3 Be7 10.Bd3 O-O 11.O-O b6 12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Rad1 Rad8!?

Keeping the f8-Rook unemployed.

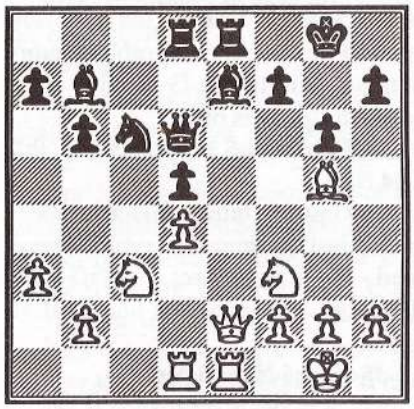
14.Bg5 g6 15.Bc4

Trying to find a better diagonal on which to operate.

15...Rfe8 16.Rfe1 Nd5?

All Black achieves with this is a passive middlegame. The prophylactic retreat 16...Qb8, preparing ...Nf6-h5, was best. Also bad was 16...Nh5? 17.d5! with advantage.

17.Bxd5 exd5



18.Qd2!

White's point. He shifts his strategy from playing for mate to playing on the dark squares and against the "bad" b7-Bishop. Anatoly Karpov is a master at handling the White pieces in this type of position.

18...f6

Sergey isn't anxious to allow the exchange of Bishops which would weaken his kingside dark squares.

19.Bf4 Qd7 20.b4!

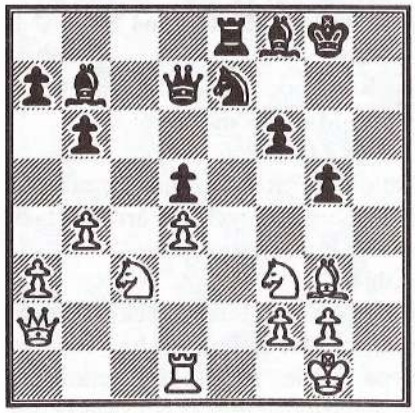
An excellent move combining defense and offense. It stops any ambitions of ...Nc6-a5-c4 or ...Bb7-a6, while setting up Qd2-a2.

20...g5?

In tennis this would be called an unforced error. Black should play 20...Bf8, trying for ...Nc6-e7 and ...Bb7-a6-c4.

21.Bg3 Bf8 22.h4! h6 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Qa2 Ne7?

Missing White's point. Black had to play 25...Nd8 and cover up with ...Nd8-f7.



26.Ne4!

Cowabunga! This is a real back-breaker.

26...Bg7 27.Nd6 Rd8 28.Rc1! Bc6 29.Qe2! Ba8 30.Qd3!

I really like Mickey's last few moves, his pieces have taken over all the crucial squares. Particularly sad is the septic a8-Bishop. White's task in the next few moves will be to continue grabbing more space and activate the f3-Knight. Strategically the game is over.

30...Bf8 31.b5 Bh6 32.Re1 Rf8 33.Nh2! Bg7 34.Nf1

For the last few moves, Black has been helpless, just pushing his pitiful pieces around. He now realizes that Nf1-e3-f5 spells doom and so makes one final attempt . . .

34...f5 35.Be5 Ng6 36.Ng3

. . . which is nicely refuted.

36...Bxe5 37.dxe5 Nh4

The ending 37...Nxe5 38.Rxe5 Qxd6 39.Rxf5 Rxf5 40.Nxf5 Qe5 41.Nd4 isn't so much an ending as the end. The text doesn't change matters either. It allows a cute finish.

38.Ndxf5! Nxf5 39.e6 Qh7 40.Nxf5 Bb7 41.e7 Re8 42.Re6 Bc8 43.Qxd5 1-0

A convincing win that regains the lead for Adams.

Ruy Lopez C85

GM Sergey Tiviakov
GM Michael Adams

PCA New York (cm-7) 1994

1.e4

A serious game. For Sergey, it's do or die. Trailing by a point, he needs to win today. Winning with Black in the last game is asking too much.

1...e5

Ahh. Mickey is going for the redoubtable Marshall Gambit. One loss with the Caro was enough.

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Bxc6

The Ruy Lopez Delayed Exchange is a good anti-Marshall measure.

6...dxc6 7.Qe2!?

The older 7.Re1 is usually preferred, but since Sergey plays the Worrall Attack, his choice is understandable.

7...Bg4?!

A debatable decision. Black's structure is compromised, but he has the two Bishops. Giving one up is questionable. The standard reaction 7...Nd7 was better.

8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 O-O

The players have arrived at a position very similiar to Ivanchuk–Short from the 1994 VSB tournament. Refer to IC 7:11:11-12 for a detailed evaluation of this position.

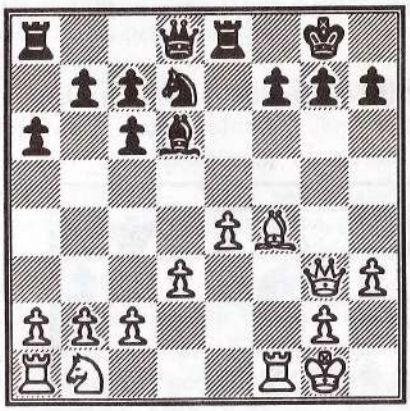
10.d3 Nd7 11.Qg3 Re8?

A bad error. It's pretty clear that White intends f2-f4 in order to achieve a structural plus. Black should try to respond to this by ...f7-f5. Therefore, 11...Bd6 and ...Qd8-e7, preparing the counter ...f7-f5, were necessary.

12.f4!

Why, certainly! White now activates his f1-Rook and c1-Bishop. Such a bargain.

12...exf4 13.Bxf4 Bd6



This Bishop exchange is what Mikey had in mind with 11...Re8. He reasoned that after the trade he would play ...Nd7-e5, accept a structurally inferior position, but draw the game. He hadn't counted on the game continuation.

14.Bxd6! cxd6 15.Qxd6 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Qxb2

It's easy to see why Adams misevaluated this position. Why would White want to trade a crystal-clear structural advantage for a tactical melee? Because Sergey had realized that by . . .

17.Na3!

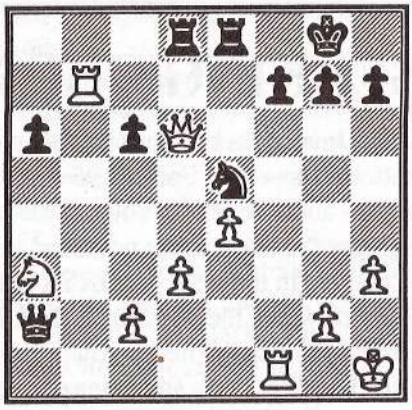
. . . he has a double threat, Qd6xd7 and Ra1-b1xb7, activating a Rook. White is much better.

17...Ne5 18.Rab1 Qxa2 19.Rxb7

This capture really breaks up the queenside team. White has regained his structural advantage, while activating his pieces.

19...Rad8?

An oversight that makes his position worse. Black had to play 19...f6 in order to take the sting out of d3-d4. No one likes to weaken his second rank, but it wasn't a voluntary decision.



20.Re7!

A powerful move which threatens Qd6xe5, clipping the Knight.

20...Rf8 21.Qc5 Ng6 22.Ra7

Picking on the queenside weakies.

22...h6 23.Rxa6 Ra8 24.Qxc6 Rxa6 25.Qxa6 Kh7?

Two pawns down, the game is over. Still, this strikes me as a bit too cooperative. Better resistance was offered by 25...Qb2, though Black should still lose in the long run.

26.d4!

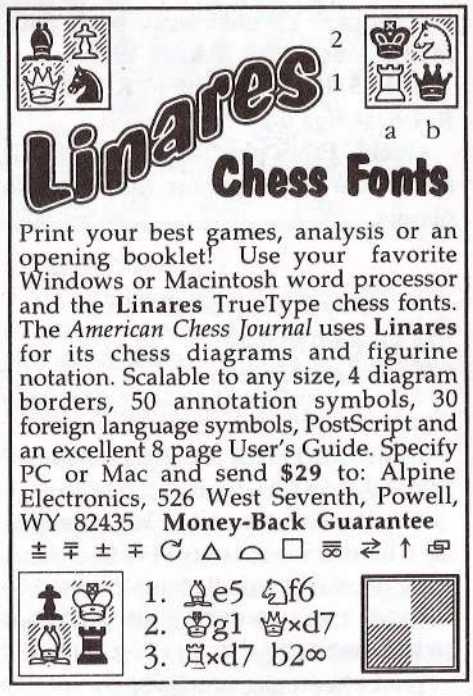
The perfect way to unwind the pieces. Queen takes up residence on d3 and pushes her charges to promotion.

26...Re8 27.Qd3 Kg8 28.Nc4 Rc8 29.Ne3 Qb2 30.e5

A question of taste. I would greedily have played 30.c4, getting the doggies moving.

30...Qc3 31.Qe4 Re8 32.Nf5 Qc4 33.Re1 Qc3 34.Nd6 Re7 35.Rf1 Qa3 36.c4 1-0

As Alekhine wrote, "The quickest way to win the game is to fall for the



opponent's trap." Mickey had prepared ...Qa3xd6, which fails to Qe4-a8+. Still, he might have tried it. An impressive win by Sergey who came through when he absolutely had to.

Sicilian Alapin B22

GM Michael Adams
GM Sergey Tiviakov
PCA New York (cm-8) 1994

1.e4 c5 2.c3

This line worked in game six.

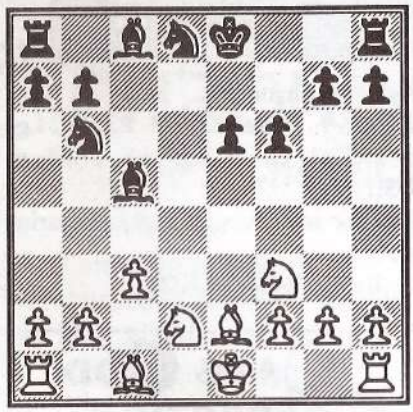
2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4!? Nb6 6.Be2

A rather tame continuation. Mickey's approach to this game seems to be to play without risk and avoid the kind of game that Sergey likes to play—whatever that may be!

6...d6 7.exd6 e6

White may have a slight plus after 7...e5 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Qxd6 12.Be3, as Black's b6-Knight is a bit misplaced.

8.d4 Bxd6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Qxd8+ Nxd8 11.Nbd2 f6!



A nice multi-purpose move. Black prepares to set up the pawn chain e5-f6-g7, thereby restricting the f3-Knight. In positions with opposite pawn majorities, the player who uses his majority better gains the advantage. White needs to decide how he wants to use his queenside. Ideally, he would like his own picket fence extending from a3-b4-c5.

12.O-O Bd7 13.Rd1 Nf7 14.c4

Just as Black's f6-pawn is restricting the f3-Knight, so White wants to return the favor against Black's b6-Knight.

14...Be7 15.Ne4 O-O-O (0:30)

A very important moment. This decision doesn't signal castling on opposite sides with berserk attacks to follow. Rather, the text fights for central control. I don't want to second-guess White's decision to castle short on move twelve, but in the fight for good piece development, Black has gained tempi by castling long.

16.Be3 Bc6 17.Nc5 e5 18.Rxd8+

After the immediate 18.Ne6, 18...Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 g6 or 19...Na4!? questions the wisdom of the Knight invasion.

18...Rxd8

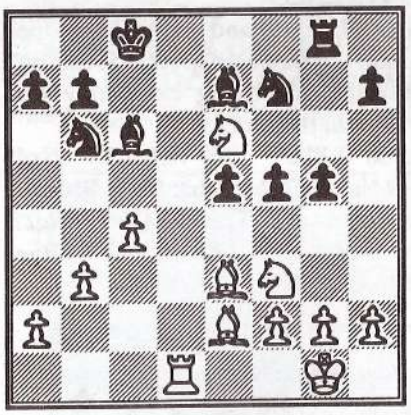
A challenging recapture.

19.Ne6 Rg8 (0:46)

20.b3 f5!?

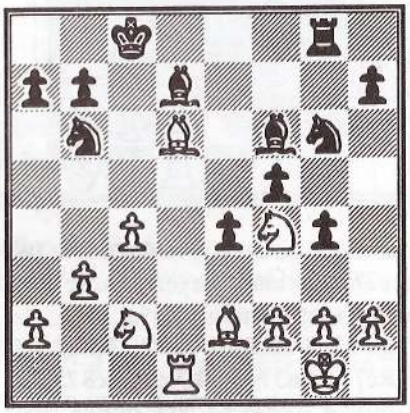
Considerably sharpening the game. This move indicates that Black is playing for an advantage. The f6- and e5-pawns were doing a fine job, where they were. Another approach was to play 20...Nd7 followed by ...Nf7-d8 and finally ...Be7-c5. After a number of unavoidable exchanges, Black would have an easy game. The text intends a pawn storm.

21.Rd1 g5 (0:58)



Going for the gusto.

22.Bc5 Bf6 23.Ne1 g4 24.Bd3! e4 25.Be2 Ne5 26.Nc2 Bd7 27.Nf4 Ng6 28.Bd6 (1:28)



Black's kingside actions cannot be considered a success. White's pieces have all found good squares, whereas the b6-Knight is still confined by White's queenside.

28...Na8 29.Nd5 Bd8 30.Nce3

The immediate 30.g3, keeping the f4-square in reserve, may have been bettter.

30...Nb6 31.Nf4 Bg5!

A vital move. Black cannot allow the f4-square to remain an outpost for White's pieces indefinitely.

32.g3 Bxf4 33.Bxf4 Nxf4 34.gxf4 Na8

Black continues to have problems with his b6-Knight.

35.Rd6?

A surprising mistake. I'd rate White's chances of winning as pretty good because of Black's bad Bishop on d7. Several ideas come to mind, a King march to h6; a possible Exchange sac to take out the f5-base and by extension Black's whole structure; or the natural 35.c5, extending the influence of the e2-Bishop. A sample line might run 35.c5 Nc7 36.Bc4 Rg6 37.Kg2, with advantage to White.

35...Rg6 36.Rxg6!? hxg6

This ugly exchange has helped Black considerably. Mickey must've calculated his King marching to g5 and winning the game, i.e., 36.Kg2 Nc7 37.Kg3 Kd8 38.Kh4 Ke7, missing 39.Kg5? Ne6+, which picks up the f4-pawn.

37.Nd5 Kd8 38.h3

Draw

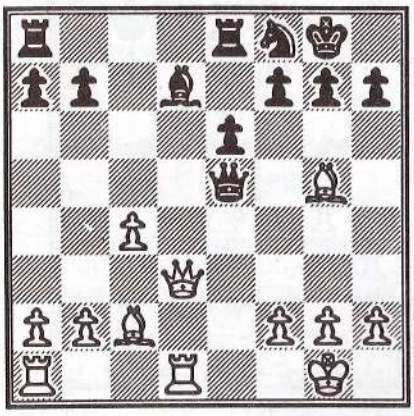
(1:55-1:57)

On Adams' offer.

Caro-Kann B17

GM Sergey Tiviakov
GM Michael Adams
PCA Playoff G/30 (1-1) 1994

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Ng3 e6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.Qe2 c5 10.Rd1 Qc7 11.c4 Re8 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Bc2 Ncd7 14.Ng5 Nf8 15.N3e4 Bd7 16.Nxf6+ Bxf6 17.Qd3 Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Qe5



19.Qd2 Bc6 20.b3 f6 21.Be3 Rad8

22.Qe2 Ng6 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Rd1 Re8 25.f3 a6 26.Qf2 Qc7 (:20) 27.h4! (:17) Nf4 28.b4! e5 29.c5 Rd8 30.Bb3+ Kh8 31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.Qd2 Qxd2 33.Bxd2 Ne2+ 34.Kf2 Nd4 35.Bc4 g6 36.Bc3?! Bb5 37.Bd5 Bc6 38.Bxc6 Nxc6 39.Ke3 Kg7 40.Ke4 Kf7 41.Kd5 Ke7 42.a4 Kd7 43.g4 Ne7+ 44.Kc4 h5 45.b5 axb5+ 46.axb5 Ke6 47.Bd2 f5 48.gxh5 gxh5 49.Bg5 Nd5 50.Bd8 e4 51.fxe4 fxe4 52.Ba5 Ne3+ 53.Kd4 Nf5+ 54.Kxe4 Nxh4 55.Be1 Nf5 56.Bf2 Ne7 57.Bh4 Nf5 58.Be1 h4 59.c6 Draw

Trompowsky D00

GM Michael Adams
GM Sergey Tiviakov
PCA Playoff G/30 (1-2) 1994

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.e3 Be6 5.g3 f5 6.Bd3!? c6 7.Nd2 Nd7 8.Ne2 Bd6 9.O-O O-O 10.c3 Nf6 11.Qc2 Ne4 12.Nf4 Bxf4 13.exf4 b6 14.Nf3 f6 15.Rfe1 Bf7 16.Nd2 Re8 17.Nf1 g6 18.Rad1 Qc7 19.Ne3 Rad8 20.Re2 Rd7 21.Rde1 c5 22.Qd1 Qc6 23.h4 a5 Draw

On Adams' offer – (0:11-0:10)

After this boring game, the players now settled down to their second pair of overtime games. Michael again relies upon the Caro, eschewing the Marshall for now.

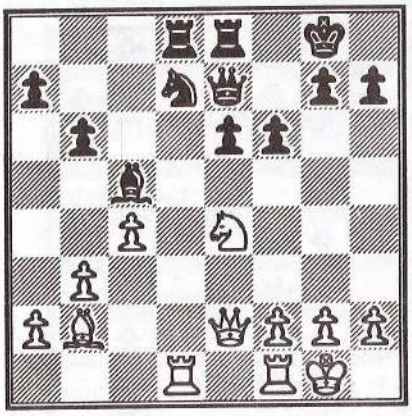
Caro-Kann B17

GM Sergey Tiviakov
GM Michael Adams
PCA Playoff G/30 (2-1) 1994

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Ng3 e6 7.Bd3 Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.b3 c5 10.Bb2 b6!

Black has comfortable equality.

11.Qe2 Bb7 12.c4 Re8 13.dxc5 Bxc5!? 14.Ng5 Qe7 15.Rad1 Rad8 16.N5e4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 (:10)18.Nxe4 (:12) f6!



Since game eight the players have chosen positions with majorities for both sides. This match could be dubbed the "Match for the Best Majority."

19.Rd3! Nf8 20.Nxc5 Qxc5 21.Rfd1 Rxd3 22.Qxd3 e5 23.Qd5+ Qxd5 24.Rxd5 Re7!

Sterile equality yet again.

25.Kf1 Rd7 26.Ke2 Kf7 27.Kd3 Ke6 28.Ba3 Ng6 29.Rxd7 Kxd7 30.g3 f5 31.Bb4 Ke6 32.f3 h5 33.a4 h4 34.a5 bxa5 35.Bxa5 hxg3 36.hxg3 (:19) Ne7 (:22) 37.Bc3 g6 38.b4 a6 39.Bd2 Nc8 (:25) 40.f4 (:21)Nd6 41.fxe5 Kxe5 42.Bf4+ Ke6 43.Kd4 Ne4 44.b5 axb5 45.cxb5 Kd7 46.Kd5 Nc3+ 47.Kc5 Ne4+ 48.Kd4 Nd6 49.b6 Nb7 50.Kd5 Kc8 51.Ke6 Nc5+ 52.Kd6 Nd3 53.Kc6 Nb4+ 54.Kb5 Nd3 55.Kc4 Nf2 56.Kd5 Kb7 57.Ke6 Ne4 58.Kf7 Nxg3 Draw

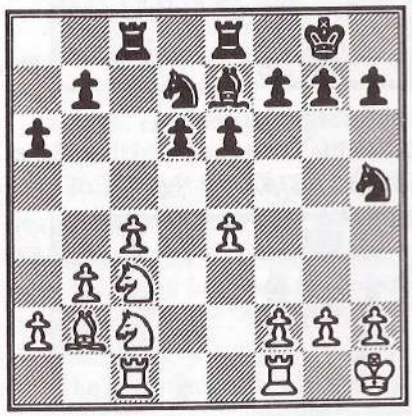
Sicilian Rossolimo B52

GM Michael Adams
GM Sergey Tiviakov
PCA Playoff G/30 (2-2) 1994

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3

No 2.c3 Sicilian and definitely no Open Sicilian. Adams respects Tiviakov's reputation for being extremely well prepared in the Dragon.

2...d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.O-O Ngf6 6.Qe2 e6 7.b3! Be7 8.Bb2 O-O 9.c4 a6 10.d4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Qb6 12.Nc2?! Rac8 13.Nc3 Rfe8 14.Kh1 Qa5 15.Rac1 Qh5 16.Qxh5 Nxh5



A classical hedgehog ending. For two dynamic attacking players, these guys sure play a lot of endings!

17.g3 Nhf6 18.Rfd1 Red8 19.Kg2 Kf8 20.f3 Rc7 21.Ba3 Ne8 22.Ne3 Rdc8 23.Ne2 Nc5 24.Bb4 b6! 25.h4 Nf6 26.Bc3 Ncd7 27.Bb2 Nc5 28.g4 Nfd7 29.g5 Ne5 30.Rc2 Nc6 31.Rcd2 b5 32.cxb5 axb5 33.Nd4 Nxd4 34.Bxd4 Ra8 35.Rc2 Rcc8 36.Rdc1 Rcb8 37.Rd1 Na6 38.Bc3 Rb7 39.Be1 Ke8 40.f4 Nc5 41.Kf3 Rba7 42.Rdd2 Ra6 43.Bf2 (:17) Bd8 (:14)Draw

Ruy Lopez C85

GM Sergey Tiviakov
GM Michael Adams
PCA Playoff G/15 (1) 1994

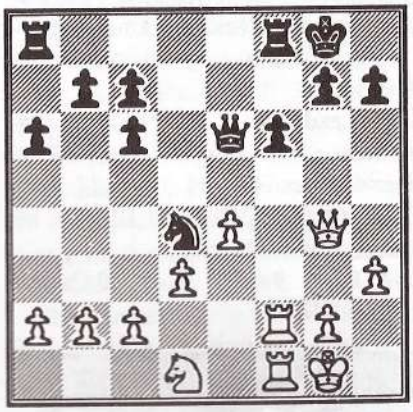
1.e4 e5!?

Marshall anyone?

2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.Qe2 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 O-O 10.d3 Nd7 11.Qg3 f6!?

Avoiding 11...Re8? as played in game seven. I still don't like this position for Black.

12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Nc5 14.Nc3? Ne6 15.Be3 Bc5 16.Bxc5 Nxc5 17.Rf5 Ne6 18.Raf1 Nd4 19.R5f2 Qe7 20.Nd1 Qd6 21.Qg4 Qe6



Endgame anyone?

22.Qxe6+ Nxe6 23.Ne3 Rad8 24.g4 Rfe8 25.Kg2 c5 26.Kg3 b5 27.b3 c6 28.Rf5!?

Another idea was 28.Ra1, preparing a2-a4.

28...Re7 29.h4 h6 30.Kf2?

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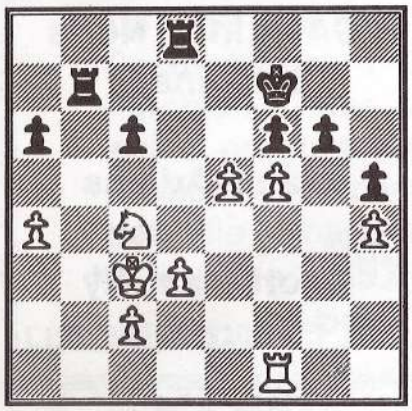
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Allows a tactical shot. Again the simple 30.Ra1 or even 30.h5, securing the f5-square, give White a large advantage.

30...c4! 31.bxc4 bxc4 32.Nxc4 Nd4 33.Ne3? (:06) Nxf5 34.gxf5 Rb7 35.Nc4 Rb4? (:07)

Black should win after 35...Rdb8 36.Ke3 Rb1 37.Rf2 Rh1.

36.Ke3 h5 37.a3 Rb5 38.Kd2 Kf7? 39.Kc3 g6? 40.a4 Rb7 41.e5!



Mickey has played the last few moves so dreadfully, he has to be careful that he doesn't lose on the spot!

41...fxe5 42.Nxe5+ Kf6 43.Nxg6 Rd5 (:10) 44.Nf4 Rxf5 45.Nxh5+ Kg6 46.Nf4+? Kh6 47.Kd2 Rbf7

Black could consider 47...Rb4 and pick off the a-pawn.

48.Ke3 Re7+ 49.Kd2 (:09) c5 50.Rf2 Ref7 51.Ke3 Re7+ 52.Kf3 Ref7 53.Kg4 R5f6 54.Kg3 Rg7+ 55.Kf3 Rgf7 (:13) 56.Ke4 Re7+ 57.Kf3 Ref7 58.Ke4 Draw

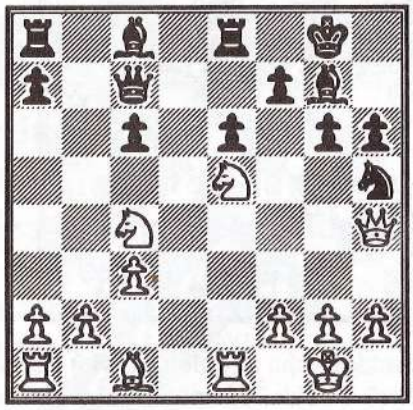
Setting up the classical showdown. Whoever wins the next game qualifies to fame and fortune . . .

Sicilian Alapin B22

GM Michael Adams
GM Sergey Tiviakov

PCA Playoff G/15 (2) 1994

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Be2 d6 7.exd6 e6 8.d4 Bxd6 9.O-O O-O 10.Bd3 g6!? 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Nbd2 Nd5 14.Nc4 Qc7 15.Be4 Nf4 16.Qe3 Nh5 17.Qh6 Re8 18.Ng5 Nf6 19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Re1 Bf8 21.Qh4 h6!? 22.Nf3 Nh5 23.Nfe5 Bg7



24.g4

An honest-to-goodness attacking position. Mickey decides to have a go at Sergey's King. Another possibility was 24.Bxh6 Bxh6 25.g4, winning a pawn.

24...Nf4 25.Bxf4 g5 26.Bxg5 hxg5 27.Qxg5!?

Allowing some scary complications.

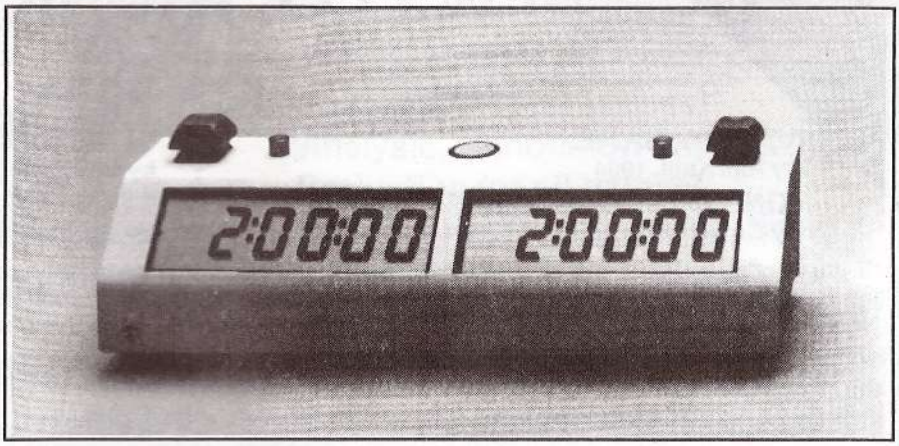
27...f6 28.Qh5 Ba6! 29.Nd6 Red8! 30.Nef7 Rxd6 31.Nxd6 Qxd6 32.Rad1 Qe7

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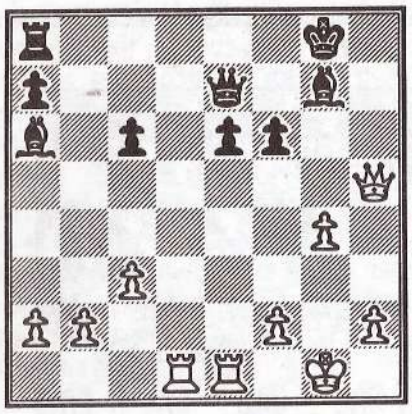
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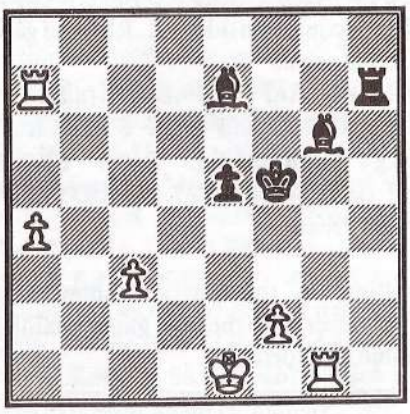


Suddenly the question is, Who stands better? Black's Bishops have a great deal of latent potential. The tension mounts.

33.b3 e5 34.Qf5 Bc8 35.Qe4 Bb7 36.Qb4? c5 37.Qc4+ Kf8 38.Qd3 Re8 39.Qd7 Kf7 40.Qxe7+ Rxe7 41.Rd3 c4 42.Rg3 Ke6 43.h4 Bh6? 44.g5 fxg5 45.hxg5 Bg7 46.g6 Kf5 47.Rd1 Bf6 48.bxc4 Rg7 49.Kf1 Ba6 50.Rf3+ Kg5 51.Rg3+ Kf4 52.Rd6 Bxc4+ 53.Kg2 Bh4 54.Rh3 Kg4 55.Re3 Kf5 56.Rf3+ Kg4 57.Re3 Be7!

A justified attempt to play on or a mistake?

58.Rd7 Kf5 59.Rg3 a6 60.a4 Be6 61.Rc7 Bd5+ 62.Kf1 Ke6 63.Ke1 Be4!? 64.Ra7 Bxg6 65.Rxa6+ Kf5 66.Ra7 Rh7 67.Rg1



The moment of truth. Black probably draws with 67...Bb4, picking up the c3-pawn.

67...e4??

The howler.

68.Ra5+ Kf4 69.Rxg6 Rh1+ 70.Ke2 Ra1 71.Rg7 Ra2+ 72.Kf1 Bh4 73.Rf7+ Kg4 74.Re5?

A little more exact was 74.Ra8 followed by Ra8-g8+.

74...Rxa4 75.Re8 Bg5 76.Rg8 Ra5 77.Rfg7 Kf4 78.Rxg5 Rxg5 79.Rxg5 Kxg5 80.Ke2 Kf4 81.c4 Kf5 82.Ke3 Ke5 83.c5 Kd5 84.c6 Kxc6 85.Kxe4 Kd6 86.Kf5 Ke7 87.Kg6 Ke6 88.f4 Ke7 89.f5 Kf8 90.Kf6 Ke8 91.Kg7 Kd7 92.f6 1-0

1-0 in 104 (0:14-0:14)

A brutal end to an extremely hard fought match. Both players are to be congratulated. ■

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