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Games

(01) Vasilevich, Irina (2370) - Girya, Olga (2441) [B12]
Moscow Open (girls students) Moscow (2), 03.02.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bf4 Ne7 6.Qd3 0–0 7.Nge2 b6 8.0–0–0 Ba6
9.Qe3 c5 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 Bxe2+ 12.Bxe2 c4


Black knights freely walk on the board, but white bishops doesn't. One of them looks into empty space, another rests the pawn barrier. 23.Re2 f5?! [Stronger was 23...g5 24.Be3 Qc6 25.Kb2 Nxh6 26.Bf2 Nf7 27.exd5 Nxd5 28.Bxe6 Nc3†] 24.g4?

As noticed in comments to the game Bruzon Batista – Roselli Mailhe (February Chesszone Magazine), such French variations have one feature: long castling is risky for white. Black closes the position and rushes the pawn mass. Sometimes even experienced chessplayers don't understand that two paired bishops aren't very useful here. 13.h4 [Olga Girya has positive experience: 13.Rhe1 Nbc6 14.Bg5 b5 15.exd5 exd5 16.Bf1 Re8 17.g3 a5 18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Rxe7 Qxe7 20.Re1 Qf6 with clear advantage for black / Michelle, C (2052) – Girya, O (2371) / Wch U20 Girls 2011] 13...Nbc6 14.h5 b5 15.h6 g6

xabcdefghy
right 24.exf5 exf5 25.g4 Nd6 26.g5 black knights already have no outposts] 24...fxe4 25.fxe4 cxb3 26.cxb3

(02) Savina, Anastasia (2339) - Vasilevich, Irina (2370) [A50]
Moscow Open (girls students) Moscow (1), 03.02.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]
Anastasia Savina is the winner of girls students Moscow Open. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.d5 Ne7 5.h4! Black planned to make comfortable placed pieces Ng6, Bc5, d6 – so white tries to stop that. Black has to move h7–h5, then the castling is on problem by him... 5...h5 6.Bg5 Ng6 7.e3

26...dxe4! Now the cherished c3 square is really achievable, so black bravely opens the lines. 27.Rxe4 Nd5 28.Bd2 Rc8+ 29.Kb2 Nc3 30.g5 [30.Bxc3 bxc3+ 31.Ka2 Ng5 32.Re3 Nf3 33.Qg3 c2 34.Rc1 Nxd4+] 30...Nxd1+ 31.Qxd1

31...Nd8! Trusting to the knight the role of pawn guard, black freed his other pieces from this care, so the game ends soon. 32.Bf1 Qc6 33.Bd3 Rf2 34.Kb1 Qd5 35.Be3 Rh2 36.Bc1 Rc3 37.Re2 Rh1 0-1

Debut is pleasant for white again. Black has a little space and bad–placed pieces... 17...0-0 18.cxd6 cxd6 19Nb6 Rae8 20.Kb1 Qd8 21.Nxd7 Qxd7

27.Rc1 Black knights sleep next to king, so white starts pawns movement on queenside easily... 27...Ra8 28.a3 Nd7 29.Rc6 Qb8 30.Ra6! Less pieces – easy
The game comes into calculating stage. White passed pawn finishes first...

37...Qxg2 38.a5 Qxf3 39.a6 Qe3 40.Rc7 f3 41.a7 Qe2 42.Qxe2 fx e2 43.Rc1 N b6 44.R e1 g5 45.hxg5 Kg6 46.Rxe2 Nfd7 47.Rc2 Nc5 48.Rc7 Kxg5

Good way to fight for initiative. White opens some lines for pieces and controls the center...

3...fxg4 4.e4 d6 5.h3 g3 Not giving active play for white rook and also turning white pawn out of center. So black has chance to control e5 outpost. 6.fxg3

48.Rc6 White beats opponent army by shuttle rook movements... 48...Nc5 49.Rc6 Na8 50.Rc8 Nb6 51.Rb8 Nca4 52.Ka3 h4 53.b3 1-0

6...g6N [Not solved problems 6...Nf6 7.Nc3 g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Bb5+ Kf8 10.e5 dxe5]

7...Nf6 8.Bg2 Nbd7 9.Nbc3 Bg7 10.Be3 Ne5 Debut is good for black.

11.b3 Bd7 12.Qd2


Rxf1+ 28.Qxf1 Nd7 29.Bd5 Qf8 30.Re3 e5 31.Rf3 e4 32.Rf6 e3 33.Qf4 e2 34.Kf2 Qe8 35.Ke1 Rd7 36.Ra6 Qd7 37.Rd6 Qc7 38.Qf6 Re8 39.h4 Kf8 40.g5 Qe7 41.Qf4 Kg7 42.Rc6 Qd7 43.Rxc5 Qa7 44.Qc7 Re7 45.Qxa7 Rxa7 46.Kxe2 white wins end-game] 20.Nf4 g5? It’s clear "no way". [Original way to initiative was 20...Bh6! 21.Nd5 Bxe3+ 22.Qxe3 Nxd5 23.exd5 Qa6 and black has strong pair Queen+knight]


30...Nd5? [30...h6 was harder] 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.Nxg7 Qxg7 33.Qxg7+ Maybe, the players was in time trouble. [Fast win 33.Qd8+ Kf7 34.Bxd5+-] 33...Kxg7 34.Bxd5 Now black didn’t want to play hard rook endgame, so resigned. 1–0

(04) Eliseev,Urii (2525) - Sethuraman,S.P. (2538) [B80] Moscow Open (students) Moscow (6), 07.02.2013 [IM Sitnikov, A]
Urii Eliseev is the winner of students Moscow Open. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.g4 h6 10.0–0

10...b4?! This decision is hasty. White has development advantage, so gets better chances in future fight. [More common 10...Bb7 11.h4 b4 12.Nce2 d5 13.Bh3 dxe4 14.g5 hxg5 15.hxg5 exf3 with unclear play] 11.Nce2 Qc7 12.h4 d5?!

19...N7b6?N This variation isn’t new. Such way has repeatedly led the black in the abyss... [Even if the best 19...Bb7 20.fxe4 N5b6 21.Qxb4 0–0 22.Qb3 black is bad / Jarmula, L (2149) – Zaczek, J (2096) / Warsaw Najdorf Memorial op–A 2012] 20.fxe4 Nf4 21.Nxf4 Qxf4+ 22.Kb1 Black
hasn't defence from the number of threats... 22...Bg4 [22...Qc7 23.Qxb4 Nd7 24.Rxd7 Kxd7 25.Rxf8+ –] 23.Qxb6 Bxd1 24.Qc6+

Interesting pawn sacrifice. This variation came into practice few years ago. White prepares d4–d5 and then Ne5, so black wants to control e5 outpost... 12...f6 13.0–0!? [White took nothing after 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.b4 Be7 15.Qb3 0–0 16.0–0 Rac8 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.Be1 Qa4 / Bacrot, E (2714) – Meier, G (2663) / FRA–chT Top 16 GpA 2010] 13...cxd4 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Qb3 Be7 [Defence is more clear after 15...Kf7 16.Re4 Qa4 with equality] 16.c5 Rxc5 17.Rxc5 Bxc5 18.Rxe6+ Kd8

19.Re1 White has good compensation – black king placed badly... 19...Qd5 20.Qd3 Nd7 21.b4 Bb6 22.a4
22...a6? [After right 22...Re8 23.Rxe8+ Kxe8 24.Qxh7 Kf8 white's advantage is on doubt] 23.a5 Ba7 24.Bf4 Nb8 [Not helps 24...g5 25.Bg3 and white has winning attack, because bad is 25...Re8 due to 26.Bc7+] 25.Bxb8 Bxb8 26.Nxd4 Qd6 27.Ne6+ Ke7 28.Nc5+ Kf7 29.Qc4+ Kg6 30.g3

Black king fell in danger and black pawns are weak... 30...h5 31.Qe4+ Kh6 32.Qxb7 Qd2 33.Re7 Qd1+ 34.Kg2 h4 35.Qd7 Bd6 36.Ne4 1-0

(06) Hovhannisyan, Robert (2630) - Eliseev, Urii (2525) [B58]
Moscow Open (students) Moscow (7), 08.02.2013

26.f3?! Three times white doesn’t use the important square for knight. [26.Bxh3 Qxh3 27.Qe4 and then Ne3 with great advantage] 26...Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Rf5 28.Rdf2 b6 29.c4 Rg5

30.f4?! So high strength reserve in white’s position! He still has some advantage. [Stronger 30.Qa3 Nf4+ 31.Nxf4 exf4 32.Qxd6 and black hasn’t compensation] 30...Rgf5 31.Qe2? But this demarche already loses all advantage... [31.Qe4 exf4 32.Nxf4 Nxf4+ 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 34.Rxf4] 31...Qxe2 32.Rxe2 exf4 33.gxf4 b5 34.b3 bxc4 35.bxc4 Nh4+ 36.Kg3 g5
37.Re7? Position is equal, but it isn’t good idea to lose the piece... 37...Rxd5 38.Rxa7 Rd4 39.Kg4 Ng6 40.Kxg5 Nxf4 41.Kh6 Rf6+ 42.Kg5 Rg6+ 43.Kf5 Ng2 0–1

(07) Belous, Vladimir (2553) - Mozharov, Mikhail (2510) [A30]
Moscow Open (students) Moscow (7), 08.02.2013
[IM Sitnikov, A]

14.g4 Nc5 15.Bf2 g6! This move protects f5 square and prepares d6-d5, then some squares will be weak for white, so black can get a good counterplay. 16.b4 [After 16.f5 gxf5 17.gxf5 e5 18.Nb3 Kh8 19.Nxc5 bxc5 20.Re3 Rg8 21.Rg3 white hardly can transform his small advantage into something real] 16...Ncd7


19...Nexg4! Now white defenceless 20.Qf3

(08) Fominykh,Maria (2284) - Khlichkova,Tatiana (2171) [A04]  
Moscow Open (women) (8), 09.02.2013  
[IM Sitnikov, A]

1.Nf3 f5 2.d3 Nf6 3.e4 d6 4.exf5 Bxf5 5.d4 This position is met in GM games sometimes. But white lose tempo, so hard to took advantage... 5...Nc6 6.Bd3 Bg4

7.h3N [7.c3 e5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bf7 10.g5 Nd7f / Baglaev, E (2099) – Fomichenko, S (2265) / Chigorin Memorial 20th 2012] 7...Bh5 8.g4 If black moves d7-d5, then white plan has no sense. So white chases black bishop. Then white tries to make long castling... 8...Bf7 9.g5 No back way! 9...Nh5 10.g6!? hxg6 11.Ng5

16...c6?! [Black solved all problems by 16...Qe8 threatening Qc6, and then exchanging queens] 17.f4?! Kd7?! [White should play 17. Nc3, but pawn move is weak, because after 17...Qb6! no defence against threats Qb2 or Nc2] 18.fxe5 Qa5+ 19.Nc3?! [Better 19.Nd2 looking on d4 square] 19...Qxe5 20.Kd2 Nf5 21.Rae1 Nxe3 22.Rxe3 Qf4 23.Rf1 Qh6
24.Bg6? This game shows only white's sports passion. Not enough for victory. Better was to move king out of c1-h6 diagonal... 24...d5 25.Kd3 d4! 26.Bf5+ Kd8 27.Re6 dxc3 28.Kxc3 Nd5+ [Evacuation 28...Kc7! 29.Qh2+ Kb6 leads to black victory] 29.Kb3 Qh4


34...Rh5? [Simply win 34...Rb8 35.Qa5+ Ke8 36.Rxc4 Qd6+] 35.Qg3? [Suddenly white pieces got new life: 35.Qxh5 Nhx5 36.Rxf8+ Ke7 37.Rxa8 c3+ 38.b4 Nf4 39.Bb3 Nd3 40.a3 and no more than draw for black] 35...c3+ 36.Bc4 Qd7 Now white hopeless. 37.Rd1 Nd5 Even so. But sure black could take the rook. 38.Rxd5 Rxd5 39.Bxd5 Qxd5 40.Qc7+ Ke8 41.Rxc3 Qxa2+ 42.Ra3 Bxa3 43.Qc6+ Kf7 44.Qf3+ Kg8 45.Qxa8+ Bf8+ 46.Kb5 Qb3+ 47.Ka5 Qb4+ 0-1

(09) Smeets,Jan (2631) - Fedorchuk,Sergey (2643) [B32]
Daniel Noteboom memorial (5), 10.02.2013 [IM Sitnikov, A]
12...Rb8N Every tempo is important here, so black immediately turns to the main plan Nd7–b6 and pawns moving. 13.0–0–0 Nb6 14.Kb1 Bd7 15.h4 [Also good is 15.f5 with further Bh3, Rfh1, Ne2–f4] 15...b4 16.Ne2 a5 17.Ned4 a4 18Nb5 Qb7 19.Nc1

30...Bd5? [Black could make draw by 30...Nxa2 31.Bd4 (31.Kxa2 Bd5+ 32.Kb1 Rb8 33.Bd4 e3 34.Rh4 exd2) 31...Bc5
34.Ka1 Be6 Now black wins easy. 35.Qxe6+ fxe6 36.Kb1 Qa6 37.Rc3 Qa2+ 38.Kc1 Qa1+ 39.Kd2 Qxb2+ 40.Kd1 Qxc3
41.Bd2 Qc2+ 42.Ke2 Qd3+ 43.Ke1 Nc2+ 44.Kd1 e3 45.Kc1 Qxd2+ 46.Kb2 Nd4+ 47.Kb1 Qc2+ 48.Ka1 Nb3# 0-1

(10) Naiditsch,Arkadij (2716) - Caruana,Fabiano (2757) [C68] GRENKE Chess Classic (8), 15.02.2013


Black is ready to go forward. 43.Qe3 Re7 44.Ng4 h5 45.Qh6+ Kg8 46.Nf6+ Kf7 King rushes on winning trip. 47.Qh7+ Ke6 48.Qg8+ Kxe5 49.Re1+ Kd4 0-1
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