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Games

(01) Carlsen,M (2835) - Kramnik,V (2801) [E36]
7th Mikhail Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (1), 08.06.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0
5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d5 7.e3
Black has free and pleasant game. 13.b3 cxd4
14.Qxd4?! This is overconfident! [14.exd4!? Nc7 15.0-0 Re8 16.Bf4 with a minimum advantage, without much risk of losing.] 14...Nc5 15.Qd1 Qa6
16.Nf4? Sounds like a challenge! Like, chess laws haven't written to me, I can play like I want! And often this tactic works! Sleek elite GMs don't survive the intense struggle and 'inexplicably' lose positions with big advantage almost every round! But not this time! [Bad or good there, but White should have, at last, to attend the fate of His king: 16.0–0 Nxb3 17.Qxb3 Qxe2 18.Bb2 Qc4 19.Qd1!! with enough counterplay 19...Ne4 20.Qg4 Nf6 21.Qd1 Ne4=] 16...d4! Natural and strong! 17.b4 dx e3 [In case of 17...Nd5 18.Nxd5 Nxd3+ 19.Kd2 Nxf2 (19...dxe3+ 20.fx e3 Nxb4) 20.Qe2 dxe3+ 21.K e1 Qb7 despite numerous complications white safely rescued: 22.Qf3 Kh8 23.Nxe3 Qxf3 24.gxf3 Nhx1 25.Kf1 Rfc8 26.Kg1 Rc3 27.Kh1 Re8 28.Kg2 Rcx e3 29.Bxe3 Rx e3 30.Kf2 Rb3 31.Rc1 h6 32.Rc7 Rxa3 33.Rxf7] 18.bxc5 Qa5+ 19.Kf1 Rad8 20.Qc2 Qb5+ 21.Ke1 Qa5+ Here Black decides to roll up the fight, satisfied by perpetual check. In my opinion, could and should have to continue the game: [21...g5!]

1tR – vL – mK +R!
Famous GM and commentator S. Shipov offers here 22.fxe3! and explains that this position is not easy to estimate, even in the analysis. But in my opinion Black has clear edge! (inglorious knight’s retreat leads to tragic consequences for White: 22.Nh3? exf2+ 23.Kxf2 Ng4+ 24.Kg3 Rd3+ 25.Kxg4 Qd7+ (much harder to gain success after the quiet, and ‘decisive’ move 25...f6, proposed by strong GM, online commentator K. Sakaev 26.Qa2+ Kg7 27.Nf4! Re8 28.Bxf4 Qd7+ 29.Kh5 Qf8! (After inaccurate 29...Kh8 White close to save the game: 30.Qf7! (immediately loses 30.Nxf6 Rd3 31.Bxg5 Re2) 30...Rd4+ 31.Bf4 Qe7 32.Rd1, and game is closer to the draw than to the Black’s victory.) 28.Re1!!

Only chance for protection! To separate the Black monarch with his rook-defender White able to gift His own rook to His rival! (Bad is 28.Ne6+? Kg6 29.g3 Qa4+ 30.Bf4 Qe4 31.Kh3 g4+ 32.Kh4 Rx6) 28...Rx6 29.Nh5+ Kf8! (After inaccurate 29...Kh8 White close to save the game: 30.Qf7! (immediately loses 30.Nxf6 Rd3 31.Bxg5 Re2) 30...Rd4+ 31.Bf4 Qe7 32.Rd1, and game is closer to the draw than to the Black’s victory.) 28.Re1!! leads to a spectacular ending: 30...Kg6!! 31.Qe2 Qg5+! 32.Bxg5 fxg5+ 33.Kg4 h5#) 30.Qxh6+! Kg6 31.Qe2 Qg5+! 32.Bxg5 exchange heavy black pieces literally crushed the White’s army, and one queen here not pay off: 31.Qxd3 Qxd3 32.Rae1 Qg6+ 33.Kg4 Qxh6+ и т.д.) 26...Qf5! 27.Qxd3 Qxd3 28.Bxg5 h6 29.Bf4 Kh7+ 22...gx4 23.Rf1 Nd7 24.Rfx4 Ne5 25.Rb1 (25.a4 Qd6 26.Ra2 Qxc2 27.Rxc2 Nd3+ 25...Qd3
26.Rf2 bxc5

On the board is the hack position from Al–

emy's system of Nimzo–Indian defense

which probably already known to each one. But here the leader of the world ranking

something mixed up and made a rare sus-
picious move, leading to a difficult position:

11...Nd7?! 12.Nge2 Ndxc5 [The 'brave'
pawn taking leads to very difficult situation
due to the unexpected maneuver of white
King: 12...Qxa2 [The 'brave' pawn taking leads to very difficult situation
due to the unexpected maneuver of white
King: 12...Qxa2}


15.bxc3 Qxc3 16.Qxc3 Bxc3 17.Nxd5 Ba5

dxe4 15.Qxe4+ Kf8 16.Bd6+ Kg7 17.Qd4+
f6 18.Rc4+–) 14.Nxc3 Nxc3+ 15.Qxc3 0-0

16.h4 g4 17.Bd3 with heavy initiative.]

13.a3 Bxc3+ 14.Nxc3 Nxc3 15.Qxc3

Qxc3+ 16.Rxc3 Ne4 17.Rc7 Nxg3

18.hxg3

S½–½

(02) Morozevich,A (2769) - Carlsen,M

(2835) [E35]

7th Mikhail Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (2),

09.06.2012

[IM Iljin, T]


5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 c5 8.dxc5

9.Bg3 Ne4 10.e3 Qa5 11.Rc1
Many commentators have evaluated this position as winning for White. Let’s see whether this is so. Of course, the white rooks, unlike the black colleagues, are very active. Encouraging also the presence of black central isolated pawn. But in any case, White can not relax yet, because in chance of any His carelessness, the opponent can quickly develop his pieces and equalize this ending. 18...Rb8 19.Bb5+
Correctly! The black monarch should be rejected to the less convenient camp. [The advance 19.f4 looks too early: 19...Be6 20.fxg5 Kg7! 21.Rc1 h5! , and triple white pawns only cause the regret. So the further play to win is unlikely to succeed.] 19...Kf8


24.b4?! And again – the superficial solution. [Very strong is the manuever 24.Be2! a5 25.Bh5 Be6 26.Rxb7 Rx b7 27.Rxb7 with excellent winning chances.] 24...a6 25.Bd3 a5!? 26.bxa5 Ra8 27.Bb5 Rx a5 28.a4 Ra8 29.Kc3 h5 30.Kb4 h4
31.Re8? Splashing out almost all the remaining edge. I can't understand how can White to trade His active rook on black piece, standing on the f8? [31.gxh4 gxh4 32.a5 Be6 33.Rxb7 d4 34.exd4 Bd5 35.Bc4 Bxg2++; White holds winning chances with 31.a5! Be6 32.Rxb7 d4 33.e4 (33.exd4 Bd5) 33...hxg3 34.fxg3 Ke5 35.a6 Kxe4 36.a7 Ke5 (36...d3 37.Rbd7) 37.Rb6 Rfd8 38.Bc6 Ra8 39.Bd7 Rc4+ 40.Kb5 Rc7 41.Rb8 Rxa7 42.Rxd8 Kf6 43.Rxe6+ fxe6 44.Bc6] 31...Rxe8 32.Bxe8 Be6 33.Bb5 d4 34.gxh4 gxh4 35.exd4 Bd5 36.f3 Rg8 37.Rc2 Ke7 38.a5 Kd6 39.Bc4 Bxc4


13...Bxa3 Black should not have to give a strong bishop for a knight standing on the edge of the board! Better is [13...e5!? 14.Nb3 e4 15.Bg2 Bg4 16.Qc2 Nc6] 14.bxa3 e5 15.Nb3 Qc7 16.Bg5!

Here are the first inconvenience of exchanging the black bishop! 16...Qxc4?! Black plays with the fire! [16...Be6!?] 17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Rc1 Qa4 19.Qd6! Queen went to God knows where, leaving unattended the king and the rest of the court. But white still has to work to create an attack because the loyal black knight is still on the lookout! 19...Ng6 20.Qxf6 Bh3 21.Re1 Rae8 22.Bxb7 Re6 23.Qg5 Re7 24.Bd5 Qxa3 25.Nc5 Kg7 26.Qh5 Bc8 27.Ne4


Gross error at the crucial moment! [it is possible that He could be saved by playing 32...Qc5 33.Ne4 Qe7 34.Qxe7+ Rxe7 35.Nxf6 Kxf6 36.Rxe7 Kxe7; on the contrary, poor is 32...Bf5? 33.g4! (33.Qe8?
Rff7 34.Bxf7 Rxf7 35.Re7 Rxe7 36.Qxe7+ Kg8) 33...Bxg4 34.Ne4 Rc1+ 35.Kg2 Qd8 36.Rb3! with decisive effect.] 33.Rf3 1-0

(04) Frolyanov,D (2564) - Sjugirov,S (2625) [B14] 65th ch-RUS HL Tyumen RUS (2), 17.06.2012 [IM Iljin, T] 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 Panov Attack – is an infrequent visitor to the higher GM echelons. [An experienced professionals now disparage the Caro–Kann defense by good–old 3.e5 ] 3...cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 relatively fresh, ideological continuation! [The options 5...e6 or; 5...Nc6 have too much theory.] d5. 6.Qb3 The major version! White immediately begins to ask awkward questions about the central black infantryman. 6...Bg7 7.cxd5 0-0 8.Nge2


It's not so easy to find a satisfactory continuation for White here. 15.Be2 (Bad is
optymistic 15.Nxd5 Rxd5 16.Bxg5 Bg4!


28.bxc5? This admits the sharp activization of the rival’s rook. [28.Rc1!?] 28...Ra4
29.Qc2 Rc4 30.Qd3 Qxc5 All the black pieces have developed great activity. Despite the formal equality of the material, the Black’s advantage similar to a decisive one. 31.h3 Rc2 32.Qe4 [An attempt to distract the opponent by motion the passed pawn ‘a’ fails: 32.a4 Bd4 33.a5 Nf4 34.Bxf4 Bxf2+ 35.Kh1 gxf4 36.Nd2 Rc1 37.Rxc1?! Qxc1+ 38.Nf1 Ba7! 39.Kh2 Qc5+] 32...Bf6 33.Qf3 [33.Bb4 Qc8 (33...Qc6 34.Nd2 Nxb4 35.axb4×) 34.Nd2? Nxb4 35.Qxb4 Bc3] 33...Rb2 34.Bc3 No longer willing to suffer 34...Qc2! 35.Nd2 [35.Qd1 Nxe3! 36.fxe3 Qxg2#] 35...Nxe3 36.Ne4 Nxf1 37.Nxf6+ Kf8 38.Nd7+ Ke7 39.Ne5 Qf5 40.Nc6+ Kd6 0-1

(05) Dubov, Danii (2569) - Potkin, V (2642) [D10]
65th ch–RUS HL Tyumen RUS (3), 18.06.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bd3 It’s curious and fresh idea to postpone the develop of knight on c3 to avoid Meran or another options which connected with capturing c4-pawn and advancing b7-b5-b4 with a tempo. 4...e5 And here are some downsides to White’s last move – it allows the opponent for an immediate promotion his central pawn to e5. [4...Bg4 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.c5 Qxb3 7.axb3 e5 8.f3 Bh5 9.b4 and White is slightly better.] 5.Nc3 e4 Natural,
though requiring continuation. [More accurate is 5...exd4 6.exd4 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Bd6]

6.Bc2

6...Be7?! This move is not too fit with the previous one. Better is to develop black bishop to the active position: [6...Bd6 7.f3 0-0 (7...exf3 8.Nxf3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 This position has arisen in one of the GM A. Morozevich games (black). White missed a key point in the game and lost. It's pity moment because the game was able to get into the tablet combinations! White should play now 10.cxd5 cxd5]

[7.f3 exf3 8.Nxf3 Bg4 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qd3]


Rc8 18.Re2 Ng5 19.Be1 Ne6? Knight jumps back and forth cannot give good service for Black. [Yes, the move 19...Nge4 once lost: 20.Nxd5; but it still worth to wait: 19...Qd7 ] 20.Bh4 g5 21.Bg3 g6 22.Ref2 Ng7

23.h3 The mocking prevention! Black’s situation is helpless, and the opponent decides to savor the position longer. [The active 23.Be5! leads to an immediate spectacular victory 23...Ng4 24.Bxd5 Nxf2 25.Qxg6l] 23...g4 24.Be5 Ng5 It is known that in a bad position all moves are bad. But now is a lightning defeat! 25.Nxd5 Nxd5

26.Rxf7! Here Black quite timely has given up. Despite the huge material advantage, His position crumbled into small pieces! 26...Rxf7 27.Qxg6+ Rg7 28.Qxh5 Bf8 29.Bxg7 Bxg7 30.Bxd5 etc.

(06) Alekseev,Evgeny (2677) - Prizant,Ja (2524) [E09]
65th ch−RUS HL Tyumen RUS (3), 18.06.2012
[IM Iljin, T]
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c6 3.c4 e6 4.Nbd2 White apparently fears the options with the capture of the c4−pawn and makes cheesy knight’s move, not really applying for opening advantage. [More natural looks 4.Qc2 but the thing: here too there is a sharp and extensive theory after 4...dxc4 5.Qxc4 b5 6.Qc2 Bb7] 4...Nf6 5.g3 Be7 6.Bg2 0−0 7.0−0 Nbd7 8.Qc2 b6 9.e4 Bb7 10.e5 Ne8 11.b3 [11.cxd5?! cxd5 12.Nb1 (Another plan – to transfer the knight−wanderer on e3: 12.Re1 Rc8 13.Qd1 Nc7 14.Nf1) 12...Rc8 13.Nc3] 11...c5 Timely undermining the center! 12.Bb2 Rc8 13.dxc5 Nxc5

17.Nd4 Qd7 18.cxd5 Bxd5


1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Be7 5.b3 0–0 6.Bd3 c5 7.0–0 cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6

This relatively rare opening system is attractive for White. 9.Bb2 Furthermore, this choice is almost always – a surprise for the opponent, which gives additional benefits. 9...b6 10.Nbd2 Nb4 11.Bb1 Ba6 12.Re1 Rc8 13.a3 Nc6


20.Rxc6 And this is the excesses! White should just regain the pawn: [20.Bxd5 Ne5 21.Nxe5 Rxc1 22.Qxc1 Bxe5 23.Qc6!=] 20...Rxc6 21.Nd4

31...Qe3! 32.Qg1 Qxg1+ 33.Kxg1 Bc5+ Bishop walks on c3, and White resigned. 0-1
21...Rfc8 [More precisely is 21...Rc3 which could lead to non-standard endgame with some preponderance of Black: 22.b5 (22.Nf5?! exf5 23.Rxe7 Bxe7 24.g3 Rxa3 25.Bb1 Rb8 with clear edge) 22...Rfc8 23.bxa6 Rc1 24.Qxc1 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Bf4] 22.Nxc6 Rxc6 23.Bxd5 Rc8

24.Qa4?? Alas, even high level Grandmasters are just people. How many times all repeated: the window leaf! The window leaf!! The window leaf!!! After the text move, Black licked His lips and ate the bishop: 24...exd5! 25.Nf3 Be2 [Also enough for win is 25...Qb7 26.Nd4 Bd3] 26.Nd4 [26.h3 Bxf3!] 26...Qe5 [More spectacular is 26...Bg4 ] 27.g3 Qxd4 28.Rxe2 Bf8 29.Kg2 Qc4 30.Rd2 Bh6 31.Rd1 Qe2

32.Rf1 Qe4+ 33.Kh3 Qe7 34.Qa6 On top of that, He caught the exchange of queens and rather late surrendered. 34...Qe6+ 0-1

(08) Ponomariov,R (2726) - Caruana,F (2775) [B51]
40th GM Dortmund GER (2), 14.07.2012 [IM Iljin, T]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6 4.0-0 Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6 6.a3 a6 7.Bf1 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 [Of course, He does not want to exchange the strong bishop on the enemy's knight, but the alternative 8...Bh5 leads to unpleasant position for Black after the active replica 9.g4! Bg6, and now – 10.d4! cxd4 (unsatisfactory as 10...Nx e4? 11.d5 Nb8 12.Rxe4 Bxe4 13.Qa4++; and 10...Bxe4? 11.Rxe4 Nxe4 12.d5) 11.cxd4 d5 12.exd5 (Not bad is 12.e5!? Ne4 13.e6 fxe6 14.Nc3 And Black can not complete development without material loss. The best chance is to give the pawn back: 14...e5 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Ng5 Nxd4 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Rxe4 g6 19.Be3 Bg7 20.Bxd4 exd4 21.Qb3 but now also the initiative is on White's side.It is not so easy for Black to divert his king in a safe place.) 12...Nxd5 13.Nc3 e6 It would seem, and what's next? Black seemed to be firmly entrenched at the d5-square. But this impression is deceptive. 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bg2 Rd8

16.Bg5! f6 (In case of 'pattern" 16...Be7? White gains the clear edge practically by


31...Nxd2? The only serious Karuana's mistake in this game but with fatal consequences. [But it was a great resource in Black's possession: 31...Qb7! , protecting both knights and attacking the rival's Queen. After 32.Qa6 Qxa6 33.Bxa6 Ra8 White Bishop is under unpleasant pin, which allowed Black to easily equalize the game] 32.Qxd5 Nxf1

White slowly reinforces His position with simple, leasurable play. At the same time as the Black's counter-play is not observed. 15...Na4 16.Re2 Qa5 17.Rc1 Rad8 18.Rec2 Qc7 19.b3 Nb6 20.a4!

(09) Kamsky,G (2744) - Le Quang Liem (2693) [A31]
ACP Golden Classic Amsterdam NED (1), 14.07.2012
[IM Ilijin, T]

10.Ne3! In this type of position the main thing for White is to control the d5-square. 10...Ne4 11.Ned5 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bc5 13.Bg2 d6 14.Be3 It is useful for White to trade the dark-squared bishops. 14...Bxe3 15.Nxe3 Be6 16.0-0 Ke7 To run with king in the center in the middle of the game – not the best prescription for the health of His Majesty! [He needs to act modestly: 16...Qc7 17.Qd3 Rd8 although here it is certainly pleasant game for White.] 17.Qd3 Rc8 18.Rab1 Qc7 19.f4 Na5

23...Qe8 than 24.Qg4 Kf8 25.fxe5 dx e5 26.Rb6! Rc7 27.Qg5 with total smash, which begins on the F6-square.] 24.Rxf4 Rc5 25.Rxf6 Beautiful, but simple final blow! 25...gx f6 [25...Kxf6 26.Rf1+ Ke7 27.Rf7+] 26.Qf7+ Kd8 27.Qxf6+ Kc7 28.Qxh8 Here it's time to give up, but the 'fight' goes on! 28...Qe7 29.e4 Qd7 30.Rf1 Kd6 31.Rf7 Qa4 32.Qd8+ Ka7 33.Qxd6 Qa3 0–0 (10) Gustafsson, J (2629) - Kramnik, V (2799) [E94]
40th GM Dortmund GER (2), 14.07.2012 [IM Iljin, T] 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 So, we had a King's Indian defense on board. You ask, what is so surprising? But very striking is the fact that V. Kramnik, the most ardent opponent of King's Indian, plays it now with black after sixteen years break! 7.Be3 The favourite Gustafsson's option in current position. 7...c6 Another suddenness! It's far from the popular continuations. Black has a big choice here: [7...Ng4; 7...exd4; 7...Qe8; 7...h6 etc.] 8.0-0 [More logical and strong looks 8.d5 It's the right time to capture the space. White makes a move that leads to the emasculation of the position, counting only on a minimal advantage.] 8...exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.f3 d5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Rc1

17...Nc6! Black instantly made the strong and unexpected move – under a several hits – a serious blow to the enemy’s mind! [Also possible is 17...Na6 with the same ideas, but the text is stronger!] 18.Nc2! The best option! Position is very difficult. White must have spent a lot of time to shovel a whole heap of options to find the strongest. [Just blunder is 18.dxc6? Rxe3; Not good is also 18.Nxc6 Rxe3 19.Kf2 Rxe2+ 20.Kxe2 bxc6 Curious is 18.Ne6 but Black has the strong continuation 18...Nb4! (18...Bxe6?! 19.dxc6 bxc6 20.Kf2) 19.Nc7 Nxa2 (19...Rxe3 20.Nxa8 Bf5) 20.Nxe8 Nxc1 21.Rxc1 Bb2 22.Rd1 a2 23.Nd6 a1Q 24.Rxa1 Bxa1 and Black has to win.] 18...Rxe3! Without giving the slightest respite! 19.Nxe3 Nb4

24...a2! To give up the bishop with check – the easiest way to victory! 25.Rxc8+ Kg7 26.Rc1 Nxd5 27.Rd1 Nxe3 And White resigned due to 28.Rxd4 a1Q 29.Kxe3 Qg1+ and White unlikely can build some kind of fortress. 0-1

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