

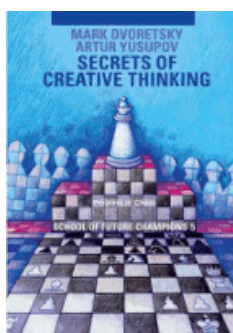


COLUMNISTS

The Instructor

Mark Dvoretsky

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Pay Attention to your Opponent's Resources Part Two

In each of the examples we looked at in the [June 2009 column](#), the center of gravity lay in the search for a hidden tactical resource for our opponent that was capable of upsetting our plans. In practice tactics are usually closely intertwined with strategy: in order to make the best choice, it's important not only to find specific moves, but also to evaluate their consequences and to sense the dangers that lie in store for us on one path or another. Let's investigate a few games and fragments in which the problem of taking into account and correctly evaluation the opponent's possibilities arose for the players on more than one occasion.

Dvoretsky – Ludolf
Viljandi, 1971



[FEN "r3nrk1/3b2bp/1qnp1p1/6B1/ppp1P1P1/3P1N1P/PPP1N1B1/1R2QR1K w - - 0 18"]

1.?

Black intended to destroy my pawn chain with the move 18...b3. Then 18.dc Qc5 was favorable to him with the threats of 19...Rxf3 and 19...Qxc4.

So how to avoid opening up a file on the queenside, favorably for my opponent? The problem was solved by means of a positional pawn sacrifice.

18.d4! Nxd4?

He shouldn't have accepted the sacrifice, as the black king falls under a decisive attack. Underestimation of the opponent's possibilities sometimes manifests itself in precisely this form: not a concrete blunder, but failing to understand the disadvantages or dangers of the position into which the player is going.

19.Nexd4 Bxd4 20.Nxd4 Rxf1+ 21.Qxf1 Qxd4 22.e5! d5 (22...Qxe5 23.Bh6 +-)

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ECO A

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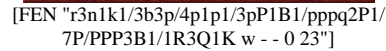
ECO B

by Chess Informant



Chess Informant #107

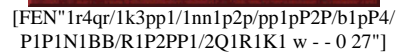
by Chess Informant



If I make the natural move 23.Bh6?, Black defends by means of 23...Qc5! 24. Qf4 Ng7 with a subsequent 25...Rf8 or 25...Qf8. It's vital to take control of the c5-square.

On 23...Ng7 or 23...Nc7 the moves 24.Qf6 and 25.Rf1 are decisive.

Russian Championship, Moscow, 2008



Black's position is difficult, there's absolutely nothing for him to do. The advance g7-g5 leads to the creation of multiple weaknesses on the kingside, and the same can also be said about the move f7-f5 (which at the moment is impossible anyway, as the b8-rook comes under attack). There are also almost no chances to start play on the opposite side of the board; for example, an immediate 27...b4 is easily refuted by means of 28.ab ab 29.cb Nxd4 30.Qa1 or 29...Nxb4 30.Rxa4 Nxa4 31.Qa3.

The situation turns out to be very simple: if Black has no serious response to f2-f4, then it should be played immediately; if there is a response, then the pawn march must be prepared. If Ernesto Inarkiev had thought about his opponent's possible reaction, even for a moment, he undoubtedly would have understood everything and played 27.Bh4!, retaining all the advantages of his position. But, unfortunately, concentrating on his own plans, Ernesto often forgets about his partner and allows dangerous counterplay.

27.f4? f5!

It becomes clear that in the event of 28.ef gf, the g3-bishop comes under attack. After 29.Bh4 f5 the position stabilizes, and Black gets the strong maneuver Nb6-c8-d6-e4.

The commentary on White's next two moves illustrates one of the most important aspects of an attentive attitude towards your opponent's possibilities: prophylactic thinking.

28.Qd1?!

Obviously Black intends to play g7-g5. White will take the h-pawn en passant, his opponent can take on g6 with his queen, but he would prefer to put the knight from getting to g6 it made sense to play 28.Bh4!, after 28...g5 29.hg Qxg6 preserving better chances. Although, of course, White's advantage has significantly decreased over the last few moves.

28...Ne7!



[FEN"1r4qr/1k2n1p1/1n2p2p/pp1pPp1P/b1pP1P2/P1P1N1BB/R1P3P1/3QR1K1 w - - 0 29"]

1.?

After the exchange of pawns on g6, he has to reckon with h6-h5-h4. He would like to prevent this by putting his queen on h5, but the lack of defense for the g3-bishop allows his opponent to deliver the blow ...Nxe5!. White should make the prophylactic move 29.Kh2!, having in mind the variation 29...g5 30.hg Nxe5 (30...h5 31.Bh4 Nxe5 32.Bg5) 31.Qh5!.

29.Rf1?! g5 30.hg Nxe5

The situation has changed sharply. White's active possibilities are now limited, while his opponent intends to move his h-pawn forward, and later he'll also think about preparing the advance b5-b4. White's position remains defensible, but it's indisputable that with this development of events Black has complete possession of the initiative. That's why I think that Inarkiev was completely right in trying to halt what was an unfavorably developing situation for him with a positional piece sacrifice for two pawns.

31.Bxf5! ef 32.Nxf5 Ka6 33.Qf3?!

The latest inaccuracy. It was better to play 33.Bh2!?, intending 34.Qh5, and if 33...h5, then 34.Ne3 with a subsequent f4-f5.

33...h5!?

Nikita Vitiugov saw the variation 33...Rf8 34.Ne3 Ne7 35.f5 (a blockade on the f5-square can't be allowed) 35...Nxf5 36.Nxf5 Rxf5 37.Qxf5 Qxg3 38.Qf3 with approximately equal chances, but he decided that he had a right to fight for an advantage.

34.Ne3 h4 35.Bh2 h3 36.g4 Nh4 37.Qg3 Rb7! 38.f5 Ng2



[FEN"6qr/1r6/kn6/pp1pPP2/b1pP2P1/
P1P1N1Qp/R1P3nB/5RK1 w - - 0 39"]

1.?

39.g5?

The decisive mistake, again associated with inattention to his opponent's resources: Inarkiev overlooked Black's lethal forty-first move. Meanwhile, after 39.Nxg2 hg 40.Rf2 (on 40.Kxg2? both 40...Rbh7 41.Bg1 Qg5++ and 40...Rg7!? 41.Rf4 Rgh7 42.Bg1 Qg5++ are very strong) 40...Rbh7 41.Rxg2 Rh3 42.Qf4, White preserved his main trump card: the passed pawns on the kingside, and with them the hope for a favorable outcome to the battle.

39...Rh5 40.g6 Nxe3 41.Qxe3 Rf7!

One of the pawns is lost and the game quickly ends.

42.f6 Qxg6+ 43.Bg3 h2+ 44.Kh1 Rh3 45.Rf3 Bxc2 0-1

Anand - Ninov

World Junior Championship, Baguio, 1987



[FEN"r1bqnrk1/5ppp/p1npp3/6P1/lp2PP2/
1NNBQ3/PPP4P/2KR3R w - - 0 15"]

1.?

Choosing a square for the knight's retreat, White solves a purely positional problem, which, however, is also associated with the evaluation of his opponent's counterplay. By playing 15.Ne2 he plans to develop a pawn attack on the kingside, but Black still has a similar opportunity on the queenside. The alternative is a blockade of the enemy pawns with the move 15.Na4 with a transfer of the main battle to the center and to the queenside. What decision would you have made in the young Indian player's place?

Viswanathan Anand saw that after 15.Na4! Rb8 (otherwise the knight goes to b6) 16.e5! conquers the important c5-square and obtains an advantage, but he preferred a sharper route.

15.Ne2 a5 16.Nbd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4

In the game White's strategy was justified: there followed 17...Qb6?! 18.e5! +/- Bb7 19.Rhf1 de (19...a4 20.f5!) 20.fe Rd8? (the more stubborn 20...g6

led to a difficult endgame: 21.Nf5 Qxe3+ 22.Nxe3+/-) **21.Bxh7+! Kxh7 22.g6 + Kg8 23.Qh3 Nf6 24.ef fg 25.fg 1-0**

With opposite-side castling every tempo counts, and you have to act with the utmost energy, not letting material sacrifices stop you. Black obviously rejected the principled 17...a4! because of 18.Nc6 Qc7 19.Nxb4 a3 (otherwise 20.a3 with a subsequent Kb1 and c3) 20.b3.



[FEN"r1b1nrk1/2q2ppp/3pp3/6P1/1N2PP2/pP1BQ3/P1P4P/2KR3R b - - 0 20"]

1...?

White intends Qd4. Anand gives two short variations:

20...Qc3 21.Qe1! Qb2+ 22.Kd2 *is clearly in White's favor – to Black's surprise he has little compensation for the pawn.*

20...Rb8 21.Na6 Bxa6 22.Bxa6 with a subsequent Bc4 – *White's position on the queenside is solid, as the poorly-positioned knight on e8 is unable to chase the white bishop away.*

Alas, Anand was inattentive towards his opponent's resources. The second variation contains a serious mistake: on 21.Na6? follows 21...Qb6!! 22.Qxb6 Rxb6, and the knight is lost. That's why White has to play 21.Qd2 Qc5 22.Na6 Bxa6 23.Bxa6 Nc7 with a subsequent 24...d5 – Black gets good compensation for the pawn. Then Anand would probably have regretted rejecting the accurate 15.Na4!

Khodos – Sergievsky
Voronezh, 1959



[FEN"2r1r1n1/6kp/p1pQ2p1/qpn1p3/2P1P3/2N2PP1/PP2N3/2KR3R b - - 0 19"]

1...?

A choice obviously has to be made between 19...bc and 19...b4.

The simple move 19...bc!, creating the extremely unpleasant threat of a knight check on d3, secured Black a winning position. The desperate 20.Nf4 (threatening 21.Rxh7+) 20...ef 21.Qd4+ doesn't work because of 21...Nf6! 22.Rxh7+ (22.e5 Rxe5!) 22...Kxh7 23.Qxf6 Nd3+ 24.Kb1 Qh5-+. And 20.Nd4 is refuted in exactly the same way.

Vladimir Sergievsky chose **19...b4?** counting on 20.Nb1? Rcd8! 21.Qxc6 Re6+. His choice was unsuccessful at least because the combination examined above, 20.Nf4!?, which didn't work with a black pawn on c4, here was enough for a draw. True, it was practically impossible to calculate and evaluate the arising complications precisely at the board.

20...ef (20...Nf6? 21.Rxh7+!!) 21.Qd4+ Kf8 (21...Nf6? 22.Rxh7+ Kxh7 23.Qxf6 Nd3+! 24.Kc2! Qh5 25.Rxd3+/- no longer works) 22.Rxh7 Re7 23.Rxe7 (on 23.Rh8?! the strong reply 23...Nd7! can be found) 23...Nxe7 24.Qf6 + Ke8



[FEN"2r1k3/4n3/p1p2Qp1/q1n5/1pP1Pp2/2N2PP1/PP6/2KR4 w - - 0 25"]

1.?

The direct 25.Qh8+?! Kf7 26.Qh7+ Kf8 doesn't give perpetual check and allows his opponent to repel the attack: 27.Qh8+ Ng8 28.Rd6! Nd3+! 29.Rxd3 (otherwise 29...Qe5) 29...bc or 27.Rd6 Nd3+! 28.Kb1 Qe5 29.Rxd3 bc-/ +.

25.e5! bc 26.Qh8+ Kf7 27.Qf6+ Kg8 28.Rh1 (if Black had deflected the rook with a check from d3 on the twenty-fifth move, then the e6-square would now be accessible to the queen) 28...Nd3+ 29.Kb1 c2+! 30.Kxc2 Nb4+ 31.Kc1! Nxa2+ 32.Kb1 Nc3+ 33.Kc2 Qa4+ (another small problem related to attention to the opponent's resources: 34.Kxc3? Nd5+! loses) 34.Kd3! Rd8+ 35.Kxc3 Qa5+ is much stronger, with perpetual check.

But it's not only about this: having advanced his pawn to b4, Black didn't foresee his opponent's brilliant reply, which allowed him to create a decisive attack.

20.Na4!! Nxa4 21.Qd7+ Ne7 22.Qe6 (threatening 23.Rxh7+) **22...h5**



[FEN"2r1r3/4n1k1/p1p1Q1p1/q3p2p/npP1P3/5PP1/PP2N3/2KR3R w - h6 0 23"]

1.?

And here German Khodos missed the opportunity to complete his attack impressively by means of 23.Rxh5!! gh 24.Rd6! with the deadly threat of 25.Qh6+ Kg8 26.Qg5+.

23.g4?! Nd5?!

Black couldn't allow the capture of the pawn on h5, creating the threat of h5-h6+: 23...Nxb2? 24.gh or 23...Qc7? 24.gh! is lost (but not 24.Rd7? Nc5!+-). However, 23...Nc5! 24.Qxe5+ was significantly stronger than the move in the game, and now not 24...Kg8? 25.Kb1 Nd5 (25...b3 26.a3 Nf5!? 27.Qf6 Ng7 28.gh!+-) 26.Qg5+-, but 24...Kf7!, leaving the g6-pawn defended by the king. 25.Kb1 Nd5! 26.Qg3 b3 27.a3 h4! 28.Rxh4 Nf6 with the idea of 29...Rcd8 is no longer dangerous; 25.Qf4+ Kg8 leads to an unclear and, evidently, approximately equal position.

24.Qd7+



[FEN"2r1r3/3Q2k1/p1p3p1/q2np2p/npP1P1P1/5P2/PP2N3/2KR3R b - - 0 24"]

1...?

The primitive 24...Ne7? gave White a very important tempo to continue his attack, and the game quickly ended.

25.gh Qc5

Neither 25...Rcd8 26.Qe6 Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1+- nor 25...Nc5!? 26.Qd6 g5 27.Ng3! Kf7 28.Nf5+- saved him.

26.Qe6! (threatening 27.h6+) **26...Ng8 27.Rd7+ Re7 28.Rxe7+ Qxe7 29.Qxc8 Qg5+ 30.f4 Qg2 31.Rg1 1-0**

Let's go back to the position in the last diagram. As indicated by Vadim Zviagintsev, Black's best practical chance was to switch to a counterattack, for the sake of which he shouldn't have minded even sacrificing a rook.

24...Re7!! 25.Qxc8 (25.Rxd5 Rxd7 26.Rxa5 Nxb2! 27.Kxb2 Rd2+ 28.Kb3 Rxe2 29.gh c5! leads to a playable rook ending for Black) 25...b3!



[FEN"2Q5/4r1k1/p1p3p1/q2np2p/n1P1P1P1/1p3P2/PP2N3/2KR3R w - - 0 26"]

B?

White has a big choice, the variations that arise are fairly complicated and it doesn't take long to get lost in them. White would be lost with 26.ed? ba 27.Kc2 Qb4 28.Qxc6 Qxb2+ 29.Kd3 Qa3+ 30.Kd2 e4! 31.fe Nc5+- and 26.a3?! Qc5 27.Kb1 Nxb2!? (27...Ndb6 or 27...Qf2 are also possible) 28.Kxb2 Nb6. Not bad is 26.ab!? Nab6 27.Qb8!, although the position that arises doesn't

look safe for White and so going into it isn't easy. The most energetic and strong is 26.Rxh5!! gh 27.gh Nf6 (27...Qc5 28.ab+-) 28.Qf5 Rf7 29.ab Nc5 30. Kc2, retaining excellent winning chances.

I suggest that you solve a new test to train your ability to pay attention to your opponent's resources.

Test One

1. Nunn - Portisch

Reykjavik, 1988



[FEN"7k/2pr1p1p/p1pq1p1Q/4pP2/1nP5/1P6/P5PP/2B1R1K1 b - - 0 30"]

1...?

2. Lputian – Petursson

World Team Championship, Lucerne, 1993



[FEN"5rk1/1b2qppp/pp2p3/4n3/1P1NP3/P1r2P2/3R1QPP/R4BK1 w - - 0 21"]

1.?

3. Junge – Ahrens

Lübeck, 1939



[FEN"4r1k1/1b1nq2p/2ppp2Q/6pP/2P1P1B1/2N5/PP4P1/2K2R2 b - - 0 20"]

1...?

4. Tseshkovsky - Miles

Palma de Mallorca, 1989



[FEN"q2b3k/6pp/2bp4/1p1Np3/1P1r2P1/
1P2N2P/2Q2P2/3R2K1 w - - 0 33"]

1.?

5. Fernandez – Marino

Spanish Championship, Zamora, 1996



[FEN"2r2rk1/pp2bppp/q7/3pN3/3P4/
1R3Q2/PP3PPP/R5K1 b - - 0 19"]

1...?

6. Adams – Anand

Hilversum, 1993



[FEN"2rq1rk1/5ppp/p3p2b/1p1nP3/1P1N3P/
P2P2P1/1B3Q1K/4RR2 w - - 0 26"]

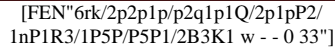
1.?

Solutions

1. Nunn – Portisch

Black has to parry the threat Re1-e4-h4. In the game he ignored it. To be more precise, not the threat itself, but a small combination associated with it.

31...c5?? 32.Re4! Rg8

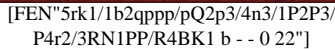


Just one defense is left: **31...Rg8! 32.Re4 Rg7!**, leading to an unclear position. On 33.Bd2 (with the idea of Be1-h4) it's possible to reply 33...Nd3 or 33...Nc2.

2. Lputian – Petursson

The c3-rook is quite dangerous. It was worth exchanging it off with the move **21.Rc2!**, preserving approximate equality.

But forcing the rook out doesn't work: on 21.Ne2? a combination followed on the theme of a double attack 21...Rxf3! (if 22.gf, then 22...Qg5+ 23.Ng3 Qxd2!). White replied 22.Qxb6.



22...Bxe4? doesn't work because of the reciprocal double attack 23.Qd4!
Sufficient for a win is 22...Nc4!?, but the ingenious path that Petursson chose
is also good.

22...Qg5!? 23.Qxb7 Rh3!! 24.Qa7 Nf3+ 25.Kf2 Nxd2 0-1

3. Junge – Ahrens

White has no direct threats, and so, according to the computer, Black has several almost equally good possibilities. Human logic differs from computer logic: we rarely pay attention to "abstract" moves, we're usually trying to carry out some kind of idea. From that point of view **20...Bc8!** seems logical, preparing for the knight to come out to the center **21...Ne5**.

An immediate 20...Ne5? is refuted by 21.Bxe6+! (21...Qxe6 22.Rf8+!). The game ended like this: 21...Kh8 22.Bf5 (22.Rf6!?, 22.c5!? dc 23.Rf5) 22...Rf8 (22...Nxc4? 23.Bg6+-) 23.Rd1 Rxf5? (23...Nxc4 24.Bxh7 Qg7 25.Qxg7+

Kxg7 is more stubborn) 24.ef 1-0

The passive 20...Nf8? 21.e5! (21.Rf6!?) 21...d5 (21...de 22.Ne4) 22.Rf6 Qg7 23.Qxg7+ Kxg7 24.h6+ Kg8 25.Na4+- is also unsatisfactory.

4. Tseshkovsky – Miles

White's position is strategically concerning. He has to choose and accurately calculate the best way of creating counterplay.

33.Rxd4! ed 34.Qf5! was essential.



[FEN"q2b3k/6pp/2bp4/1p1N1Q2/
1P1p2P1/1P2N2P/5P2/6K1 b - - 0 34"]

On 34...Bh4, as indicated by Anthony Miles, there follows 35.Nc7! with an unclear position. In the event of 34...h6!? 35.Qf8+ Kh7 36.Qf5+ Kg8 37.Qe6+ Kh8 the checks end, but White maintains the tension by means of 38.Nf4! Bg5 (38...Be4 39.f3!) 39.Ng6+ Kh7 40.Qf7! (but not 40.Nf1? Bh1! 41.Nf8+ Qxf8 42.Kxh1 Qf3+ 43.Kg1 d3) 40...Be4! 41.Nf8+ Kh8 42.Nf1 d3 43.f3! d2 44.Ne6! Bf6 45.Nxd2 unclear.

Another tactical idea is 33.Rc1? Bxd5 34.Qc8, which Vitaly Tseshkovsky implemented in the game, and it turned out to be a mistake.



[FEN"q1Qb3k/6pp/3p4/1p1bp3/1P1r2P1/
1P2N2P/5P2/2R3K1 b - - 0 34"]

1...?

Both 35.Nxd5 and 35.Qxa8 Bxa8 36.Rc8 are threatened. However, his opponent finds an elegant retort.

34...Rc4!! 35.Rxc4 bc 36.Qd7 Qa1+ 37.Nf1 cb 38.Qxd6 Bg8 0-1

5. Fernandez – Marino

The typical tactical blow on the theme of deflection 19...Qxa2?? was refuted by 20.Qd1! Black had to resign immediately.

It made sense to exchange off the strong e5-knight by playing **19...Bd6!** If 20.Qxd5, then 20...Qxa2! now works.

6. Adams – Anand

According to Anand, his opponent should have chosen **26.Nb3!** "White has a good outpost on c5, and this circumstance compensates for Black's theoretical structural advantage; the position remains approximately equal."

An attempt to exchange off the "bad" bishop by means of 26.Bc1? is a mistake because of 26...Rxc1! 27.Rxc1 Ne3-/+.

